

# AS3020: Aerospace Structures Module 2: Aircraft Materials

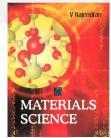
Instructor: Nidish Narayanaa Balaji

Dept. of Aerospace Engg., IIT-Madras, Chennai

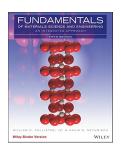
August 11, 2025

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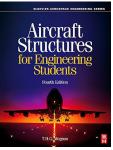
- Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve
  - Failure Mechanisms
- Materials Used in Aircrafts
  - Metallic Alloys
- 3 Introduction to Material Science
  - Metallic Crystal Structure
  - Phase Diagrams
  - Aluminum and its Alloys



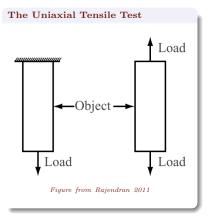
Chapters 2, 9, 11 in Rajendran (2011)



Chapters 3, 5, 9-11 in Jr and Rethwisch (2012)



 $\begin{array}{c} Chapters \ 11, \ 15 \ in \ Megson \\ (2013) \end{array}$ 



#### Terminology

- Proportionality Limit;
- Elastic Limit;
- Yield Point;
- 4 Ultimate Strength;
- Fracture Point;
- 6 Elongation at Failure;

#### **Ductile Fracture**

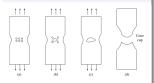


Figure from Rajendran 2011

#### Ductile Material Stress-Strain Curve low carbon steel

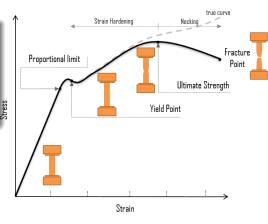
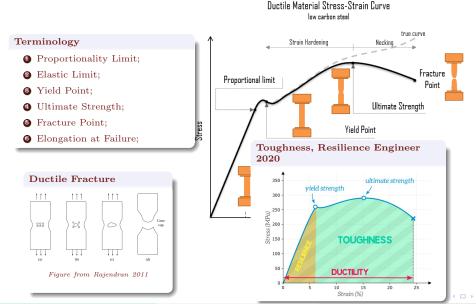


Figure from Connor 2020



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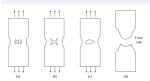
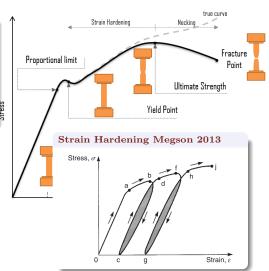


Figure from Rajendran 2011

# Ductile Material Stress-Strain Curve



#### Terminology

- Proportionality Limit;
- Elastic Limit;
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#### Classifications

- Brittle, Ductile
- Non-dissipative: Elastic, Hyper-elastic
- Dissipative: Elastic-perfectly plastic, Bi-linear elastoplastic, etc.

#### Ductile Material Stress-Strain Curve low carbon steel

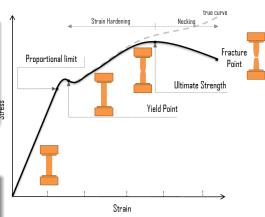


Figure from Connor 2020

1. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve

#### "Griffith Theory" of brittle fracture

- Theoretical fracture stress  $\sim \frac{E}{5} \frac{E}{30}$  (steel  $\sim \frac{E}{1000}$ )
- Fracture occurs when  $E_{strain} = E_{surface}$
- Crack propagates when  $\frac{dE_{strain}}{dL} = \frac{dE_{surface}}{dL}$

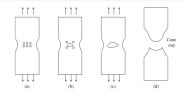
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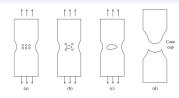
Ductile Fracture Raiendran 2011

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#### Ductile Fracture



Ductile Fracture Rajendran 2011

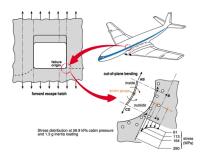
Sr. No	Brittle Fracture	Ductile Fracture		
1.	It occurs with no or little plastic deformation.	It occurs with large plastic deformation.		
2.	The rate of propagation of the crack is fast.	The rate of propagation of the crack is slow.		
3.	It occurs suddenly without any warning.	It occurs slowly.		
4.	The fractured surface is flat.	The fractured surface has rough contour and the shape is similar to cup and cone arrangement.		
5.	The fractured surface appears shiny.	The fractured surface is dull when viewed with naked eye and the surface has dimpled appearance when viewed with scanning electron microscope.		
6.	It occurs where micro crack is larger.	It occurs in localised region where the deformation is larger.		

Ductile vs Brittle Fracture Rajendran 2011

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1. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve

..over 90% of mechanical failures are caused because of metal fatigue  $\mathit{What}$  Is  $\mathit{Metal}$  Fatigue? 2021...



The De Havilland Comet The deHavilland Comet Disaster 2019 [lecture]

1. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve

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2019 [lecture] A more recent example (2021 United Airlines Boeing 777) DCA21FA085.Aspx 2024. [video]

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Fatigue Crack Propagation: Beech Marks



Figure from Fatique Physics 2024

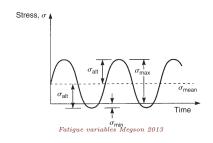


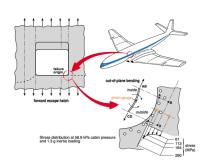
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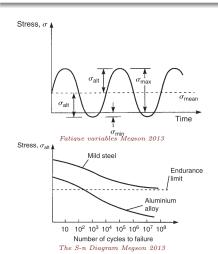


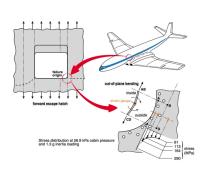


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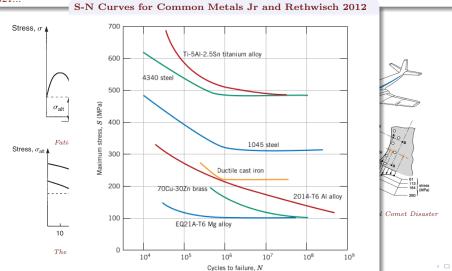




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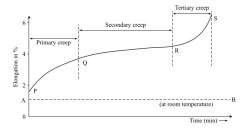
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- Constant stress applied over a long time
- High temperature phenomenon (> $\sim 30-45\%$  of melting point)



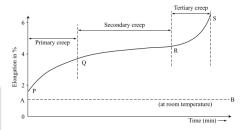
Creep curve Rajendran 2011

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#### Examples

Zinc Melts at 
$$\sim 420^{\circ}$$
 C  $(T_{creep} \sim 145^{\circ}$  C)



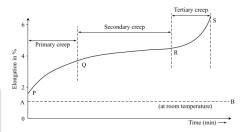
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Creep curve Rajendran 2011

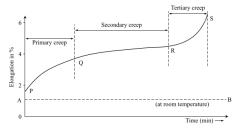
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Titanium  $T_{creen} \sim 650^{\circ} \text{ C}$ 



Creep curve Rajendran 2011

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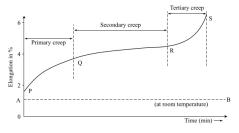
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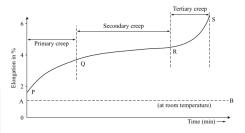
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Tin 
$$T_{creep} \sim 80^{\circ} \text{ C}$$

Steel, AA 
$$T_{creep} \sim 400^{\circ} \text{ C}$$



Creep curve Rajendran 2011

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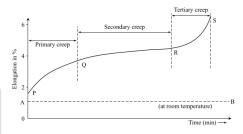
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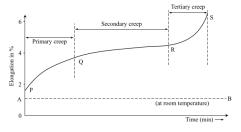
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Super-Alloys

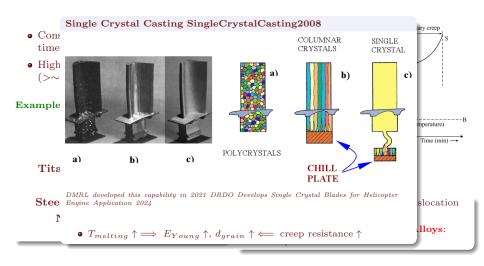


Creep curve Rajendran 2011

- Fundamentally related to grain dislocation movement.
- Single crystal solutions: Super-Alloys:  $T_{creep} > 1000^{\circ} \ {\rm C}$

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1. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve



# 2. Materials Used in Aircrafts 2.1. Metallic Alloys

#### Main Considerations

- ullet Strength-to-weight ratio;
- Stiffness, Strength;
- Toughness, resistance to fast crack propagation;
- Fatigue life;
- Thermal behavior ("Superalloys")



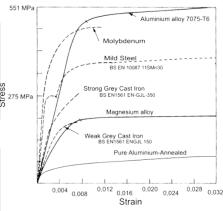
2.1. Metallic Alloys

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#### Metallic Alloys/"Solutions"

Fe Alloys C, Ni, Co, Mo, Ti, Mn, Si, S, P  $(C \uparrow, Ductility \downarrow)$ 



Stress strain curve of common metals What Is a Stress-Strain Curve? 2024

2.1. Metallic Alloys

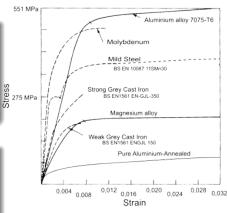
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Stress strain curve of common metals What Is a Stress-Strain
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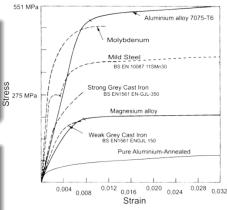
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Ti Alloys Al, V



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# 551 MPa Aluminium alloy 7075-T6 Molybdenum $\rho \ (\mathrm{kg \ m-3}) \ E \ (\mathrm{GPa}) \ \sigma_u \ (\mathrm{GPa})$

Alloy	ρ (kg m-3)	E (GPa)	$\sigma_u$ (GPa)
Fe	7800	200	1
A1	2700	69	0.7
Ti	4400	120	1.26

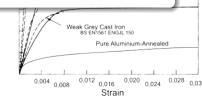
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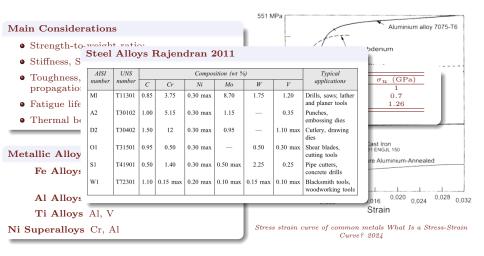
Ti Alloys Al, V

Ni Superalloys Cr, Al



Stress strain curve of common metals What Is a Stress-Strain Curve? 2024

2.1. Metallic Alloys



# 2.1. Metallic Allor Aluminum Alloys Rajendran 2011

ů ů					
	Sr .No	Alloy	Composition	Properties	Applications
	1.	Duralumin	Al = 94% Cu = 4% Mg, Mn, Si, Fe	High tensile strength and high electrical conductance Soft enough for a workable period	Sheets, tubes, cables, forgings, rivets, nuts, bolts, etc.
Main Conside			0.5% each	after it has been quenched.  Specific gravity = 2.8	Airplanes and other machines.
• Strength-to				Melting point = 923 K Brinell hardness;	nonmagnetic instruments like
• Stiffness, S				Annealed = 60 Age hardened = 100	surgical and orthapaedic.
• Toughness, propagation	2.	Y-Alloy	Al = 92.5% Cu = 4% Ni = 2%	Strength at 573 K is better than aluminium. High strength and hardness at high	Components like piston cylinder heads, crank cases of internal
$\bullet$ Fatigue life			Mg = 1.5%	temperature. Easily cast and hot worked.	combustion engines and die casting, pump rods, etc.
• Thermal be	3.	Hindalium	Cu = 4.5% Si = 0.8% Mn = 0.8% Mg = 0.5%	Strong and hard. Cannot be easily scratched. Can take fine finish. Does not absorb much heat and thus	House bold equipments like pressure vessels, pipes, food and
Metallic Alloy			Al = 93.4%	saves fuel while cooking. Can be easily cleaned.	chemical handling storages.
Fe Alloys				Do not react with the food acids. Low cost (about one-third of stainless steel).	
Al Alloys	4.	Magnelium	Al = 85 to 95% Cu = 0 to 25%	Light weight and high tensile strength annealed state :	Gearbox housings, vehicle door handles,
Ti Alloys			Mg = 1 to 5.5% Ni = 0 to 1.2%	200 MNm <sup>-2</sup> Cold worked state :	luggage racks, coffee- grinder parts and
Ni Superalloy:			Sn = 0 to 3% Fe = 0 to 0.9% Mn = 0 to 0.03% Si = 0.2 to 0.6%	280 MNm <sup>-2</sup> Elongation annealed state: 30% Cold worked state: 7% Alloy is brittle, Castability poor,	ornamental fixtures.
				Machinability good and easily welable.	



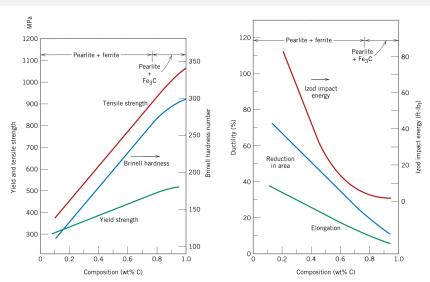
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• Thermal be	3.	Hindalium	c s Pages 353-359 in Megson 2013.			
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## Mechanical Behavior of Steel

2. Materials Used in Aircrafts

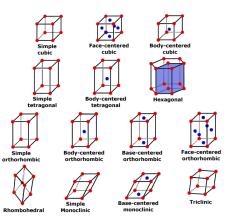


As Carbon Content↑, Strength↑, but Ductility↓ Jr and Rethwisch 2012

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#### 3. Introduction to Material Science

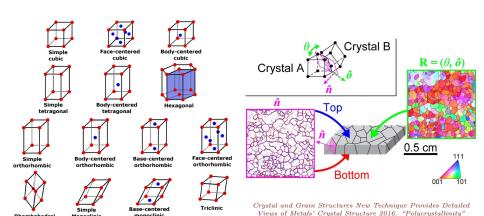
#### 3.1. Metallic Crystal Structure



Types of crystal structures in metals Sparky 2013

#### 3. Introduction to Material Science

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Types of crystal structures in metals Sparky 2013

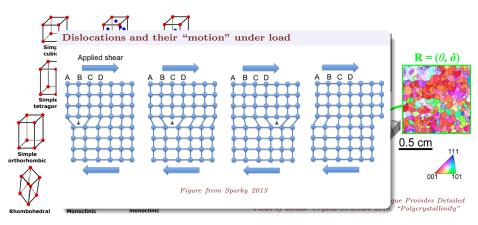
monoclinic

Monoclinic

Rhombohedral

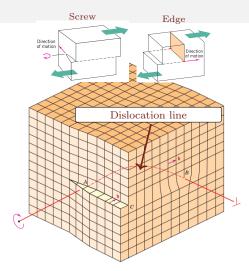
### 3. Introduction to Material Science

3.1. Metallic Crystal Structure



Types of crystal structures in metals Sparky 2013

- The ability of a metal to deform plastically depends on the ability of its disloications to move.
- Restricting or hindering dislocation motion renders a material harder and stronger.



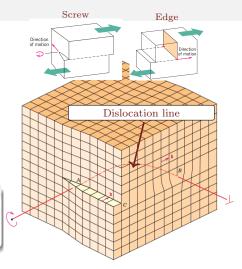
Figures from Jr and Rethwisch 2012

3. Introduction to Material Science

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### Material Strengthening

- Grain size reduction
- Solid-solution (alloys)
- 3 Strain hardening



Figures from Jr and Rethwisch 2012

3. Introduction to Material Science

#### Screw

#### Edge

### Grain Size Reduction

- Grain boundaries act as <u>barriers to dislocation movement</u>
- The abi plastica disloicat
- Restrict motion stronger

### Material St

- Grain si:
- Solid-sol
- 3 Strain h

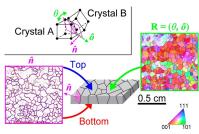


Figure from New Technique Provides Detailed Views of Metals' Crystal Structure 2016

• Hall-Petch Equation:

$$\sigma_y = \sigma_0 + k_y d^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

• Controlled by heat-treatment (rate of solidification, etc.)

 $\blacktriangleleft \;\; \square \;\; \blacktriangleright$ 

3. Introduction to Material Science

Screw

Edge

### Grain Size Reduction

• Grain boundaries act as barriers to dislocation movement Solid-Solution Alloying

- Substitutional/interstitial impurity addition
- Impurities redistribute lattice strains

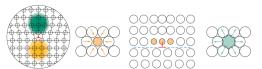


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- Grain si
- 2 Solid-sol
- Strain h
- Solutes have a tendency to distribute around imperfections in host lattice
- ullet Greater stress necessary for dislocation movement  $\Longrightarrow$  Greater strength and hardness
- Controlled by heat-treatment (rate of solidification, etc.)

3. Introduction to Material Science

#### Screw

#### Edge

### Strain/Work Hardening aka Cold Working

- Increased yield stress with plastic deformation
- The "price" that we pay is reduced ductility
- The abi plastica disloicat
- Restrict motion stronger

#### Material St

- Grain si
- Solid-sol
- Strain h

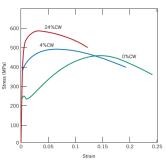


Figure from Jr and Rethwisch 2012

- As plastic work is done, dislocations increase in size/move closer. It takes higher stress to move bigger/more numerous dislocations.
- Annealing undoes this.



# 3.2. Phase Diagrams 3. Introduction to Material Science

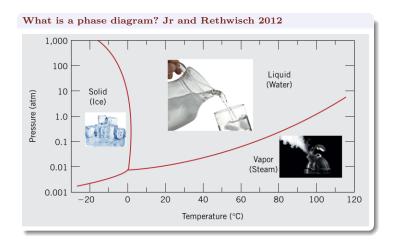
Mechanical properties are a direct consequence of microstructures, which are direct consequences of thermal histories.

4 □ ▶

# 3.2. Phase Diagrams

3. Introduction to Material Science

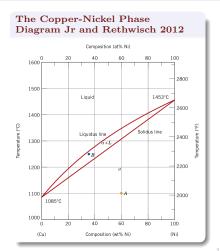
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# 3.2. Phase Diagrams: Isomorphous Alloys

3. Introduction to Material Science

Mechanical properties are a direct consequence of microstructures, which are direct consequences of thermal histories.

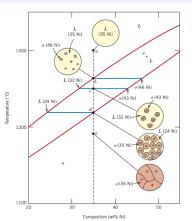


#### 3. Introduction to Material Science

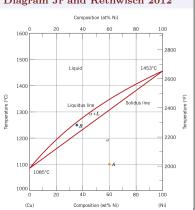
Mechanical properties are a direct consequence of microstructures, which are direct consequences of thermal histories.

# Equilibrium Cooling Jr and Rethwisch 2012

3.2. Phase Diagrams: Isomorphous Alloys



### The Copper-Nickel Phase Diagram Jr and Rethwisch 2012

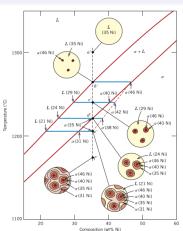


# 3.2. Phase Diagrams: Isomorphous Alloys

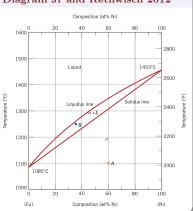
3. Introduction to Material Science

Mechanical properties are a direct consequence of microstructures, which are direct consequences of thermal histories.

#### Non-Equilibrium Cooling Jr and Rethwisch 2012



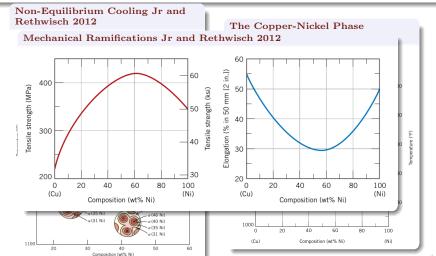
# The Copper-Nickel Phase Diagram Jr and Rethwisch 2012 Composition (at% Ni)

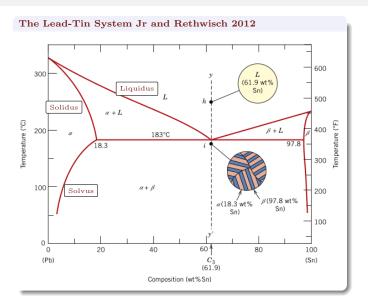


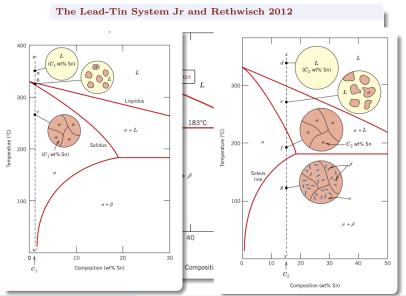
3.2. Phase Diagrams: Isomorphous Alloys

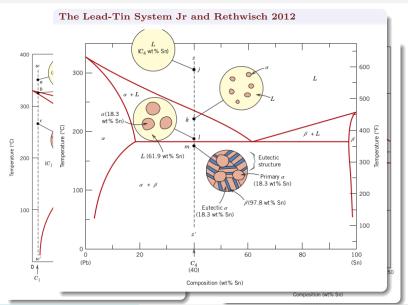
#### 3. Introduction to Material Science

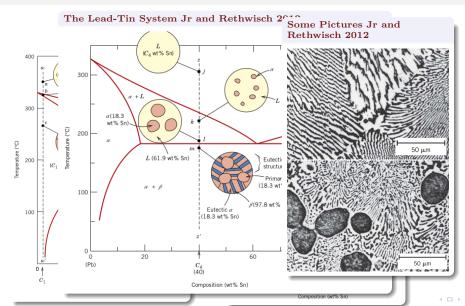
Mechanical properties are a direct consequence of microstructures, which are direct consequences of thermal histories.







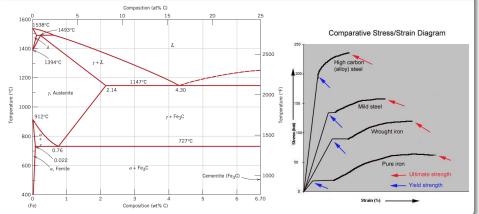




# 3.2. Phase Diagrams

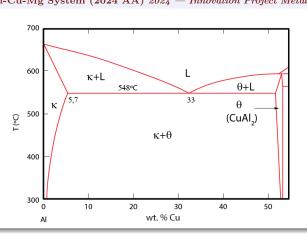
3. Introduction to Material Science

### The Iron Carbon System Jr and Rethwisch 2012

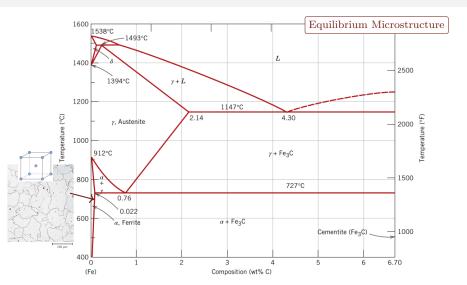


# 3.2. Phase Diagrams 3. Introduction to Material Science

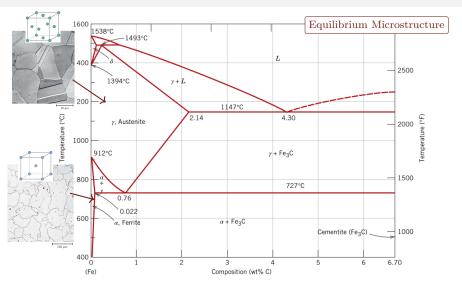
# The Al-Cu-Mg System (2024 AA) 2024 — Innovation Project Metallographic Atlas 2024

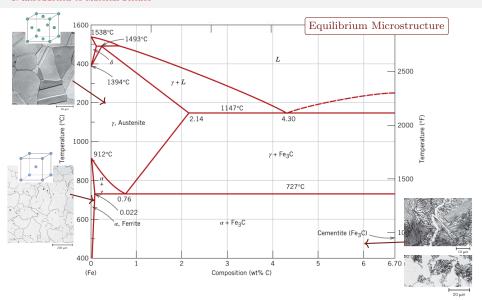


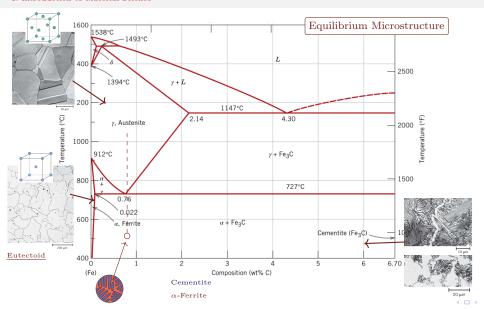


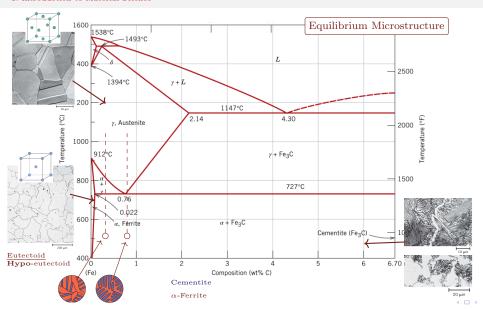


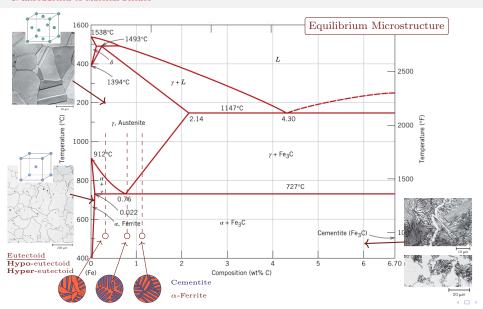




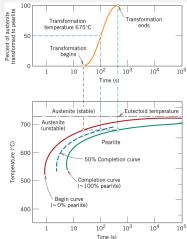






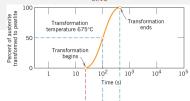


- 3. Introduction to Material Science
  - $\bullet$  Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T<727^\circ$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.



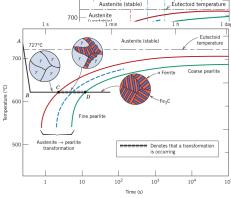
- Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^{\circ}$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.
- When cooled at higher temperatures, we get thick lamellae 

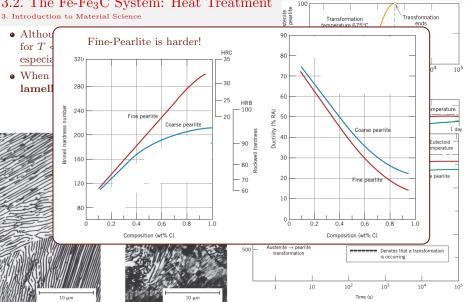
  coarse pearlite



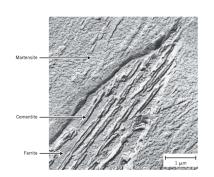


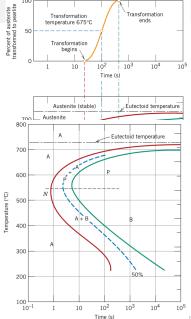






- Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^{\circ}$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.
- When cooled at higher temperatures, we get **thick** lamellae  $\implies$  coarse pearlite
- For  $T \in (215^{\circ} \text{ C}, 540^{\circ} \text{ C})$ , Bainite (Ferrite + Cementite) is formed





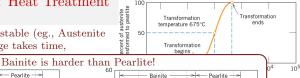
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# 3.2. The Fe-Fe<sub>3</sub>C System: Heat Treatment

3. Introduction to Material Science

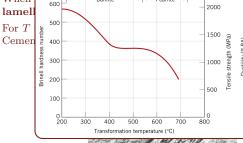
• Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^{\circ}$  C), phase-change takes time,

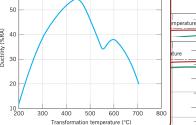
Bainite

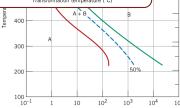


• When lamel  $\bullet$  For T

especia



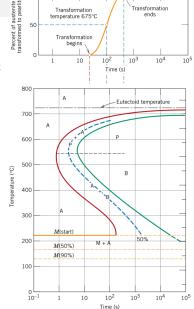


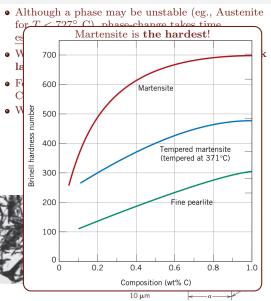


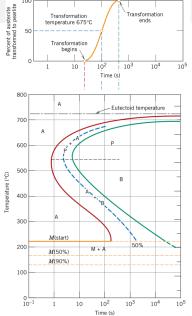
- Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^{\circ}$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.
- When cooled at higher temperatures, we get thick lamellae  $\implies$  coarse pearlite
- For  $T \in (215^{\circ} \text{ C}, 540^{\circ} \text{ C})$ , Bainite (Ferrite + Cementite) is formed
- When quenched to ~ambient, Martensite
  - "Diffusion-less" transformation
  - Super-saturated carbon solution
  - Non-equilibrium, time-independent

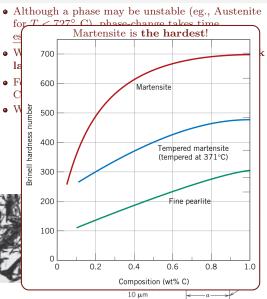


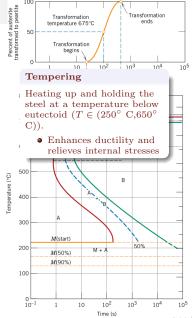




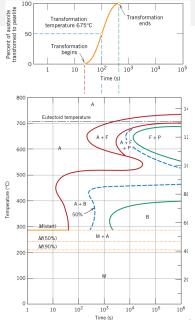








- Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^\circ$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.
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- When quenched to ~ambient, Martensite
  - "Diffusion-less" transformation
  - Super-saturated carbon solution
  - ullet Non-equilibrium, time-independent
- The presence of other alloy content changes these curves



3. Introduction to Material Science

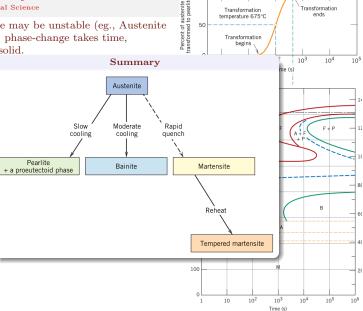
• Although a phase may be unstable (eg., Austenite for  $T < 727^{\circ}$  C), phase-change takes time, especially when solid.

 When cooled a lamellae  $\Longrightarrow$ 

• For  $T \in (215^{\circ})$ Cementite) is f

- When quenche
- "Diffusion-
  - Super-satu:
  - Non-equilit

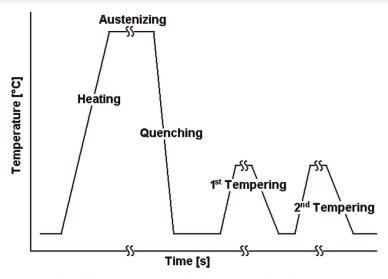
• The presence o curves



100

# 3.2. The Fe-Fe<sub>3</sub>C System: The Heat Treatment Process

3. Introduction to Material Science



A typical heat treatment process involving Austenizing, quenching and tempering

# 3.3. Aluminum and its Alloys

Introduction to Material Science

				ties				
Aluminum Association Number	UNS Number	Composition (wt%) <sup>a</sup>	Condition (Temper Designation)	Tensile Strength [MPa (ksi)]	Yield Strength [MPa (ksi)]	Ductility [%EL in 50 mm (2 in.)]	Typical Applications/ Characteristics	
Wrought, Non-Heat-Treatable Alloys								
1100	A91100	0.12 Cu	Annealed (O)	90 (13)	35 (5)	35-45	Food/chemical handling and storage equipment, heat exchangers, light reflectors	
3003	A93003	0.12 Cu, 1.2 Mn, 0.1 Zn	Annealed (O)	110 (16)	40 (6)	30-40	Cooking utensils, pressure vessels and piping	
5052	A95052	2.5 Mg, 0.25 Cr	Strain hard- ened (H32)	230 (33)	195 (28)	12-18	Aircraft fuel and oil lines, fuel tanks, appliances, rivets, and wire	
	Wrought, Heat-Treatable Alloys							
2024	A92024	4.4 Cu, 1.5 Mg, 0.6 Mn	Heat-treated (T4)	470 (68)	325 (47)	20	Aircraft structures, rivets, truck wheels, screw machine products	
6061	A96061	1.0 Mg, 0.6 Si, 0.30 Cu, 0.20 Cr	Heat-treated (T4)	240 (35)	145 (21)	22-25	Trucks, canoes, railroad cars, furniture, pipelines	
7075	A97075	5.6 Zn, 2.5 Mg, 1.6 Cu, 0.23 Cr	Heat-treated (T6)	570 (83)	505 (73)	11	Aircraft structural parts and other highly stressed applications	
			Cast, Hea	t-Treatable A	lloys			
295.0	A02950	4.5 Cu, 1.1 Si	Heat-treated (T4)	221 (32)	110 (16)	8.5	Flywheel and rear-axle housings, bus and aircraft wheels, crankcases	
356.0	A03560	7.0 Si, 0.3 Mg	Heat-treated (T6)	228 (33)	164 (24)	3.5	Aircraft pump parts, automotive trans- mission cases, water-cooled cylinder blocks	
			Aluminu	m-Lithium Ai	lloys			
2090	-	2.7 Cu, 0.25 Mg, 2.25 Li, 0.12 Zr	Heat-treated, cold worked (T83)	455 (66)	455 (66)	5	Aircraft structures and cryogenic tankage structures	
8090	-	1.3 Cu, 0.95 Mg, 2.0 Li, 0.1 Zr	Heat-treated, cold worked (T651)	465 (67)	360 (52)	-	Aircraft structures that must be highly damage tolerant	

"The balance of the composition is aluminum.

Source: Adapted from ASM Handbook, Vol. 2, Properties and Selection: Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials, 1990. Reprinted by permission of ASM International, Materials Park, OH. Mechanical Properties

# 3.3. Aluminum and its Alloys

Introduction to Material Science

Aluminum Association Number	UNS Number	Composition (wt%)a	Condition (Temper Designation)	Mechanical Properties			
				Tensile Strength [MPa (ksi)]	Yield Strength [MPa (ksi)]	Ductility [%EL in 50 mm (2 in.)]	Typical Applications/ Characteristics
			Wrought, Non-	-Heat-Treata	ble Alloys		
1100	A91100	0.12 Cu	Annealed (O)	90 (13)	35 (5)	35-45	Food/chemical handling and storage equipment heat exchangers, light reflectors
3003	A93003	0.12 Cu, 1.2 Mn, 0.1 Zn	Annealed (O)	110 (16)	40 (6)	30-40	Cooking utensils, pressure vessels and piping
5052	A95052	2.5 Mg, 0.25 Cr	Strain hard- ened (H32)	230 (33)	195 (28)	12-18	Aircraft fuel and oil lines, fuel tanks, appliances, rivets, and wire
			Wrought, H	eat-Treatable	Alloys		
2024	A92024	4.4 Cu, 1.5 Mg, 0.6 Mn	Heat-treated (T4)	470 (68)	325 (47)	20	Aircraft structures, rivets, truck wheels, screw machine products
6061	A96061	1.0 Mg, 0.6 Si, 0.30 Cu, 0.20 Cr	Heat-treated (T4)	240 (35)	145 (21)	22-25	Trucks, canoes, railroad cars, furniture, pipelines
7075	A97075	5.6 Zn, 2.5 Mg, 1.6 Cu, 0.23 Cr	Heat-treated (T6)	570 (83)	505 (73)	11	Aircraft structural parts and other highly stressed applications
			Cast, Hea	t-Treatable A	lloys		
295.0	A02950	4.5 Cu, 1.1 Si	Heat-treated (T4)	221 (32)	110 (16)	8.5	Flywheel and rear-axle housings, bus and aircraft wheels, crankcases
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Designation	Description
	Basic Tempers
F	As-fabricated-by casting or cold working
0	Annealed-lowest strength temper (wrought products only)
Н	Strain-hardened (wrought products only)
W	Solution heat-treated—used only on products that precipitation harden naturally at room temperature over periods of months or years
T	Solution heat-treated-used on products that strength stabilize within a few weeks-followed by one or more digits
	Strain-Hardened Tempers <sup>a</sup>
H1	Strain-hardened only
H2	Strain-hardened and then partially annealed
H3	Strain-hardened and then stabilized
	Heat-Treating Tempers <sup>b</sup>
T1	Cooled from an elevated-temperature shaping process and naturally aged
T2	Cooled from an elevated-temperature shaping process, cold worked, and naturally aged
T3	Solution heat treated, cold worked, and naturally aged
T4	Solution heat treated and naturally aged
T5	Cooled from an elevated-temperature shaping process and artificially aged
T6	Solution heat treated and artificially aged
T7	Solution heat treated and overaged or stabilized
T8	Solution heat treated, cold worked, and artificially aged
T9	Solution heat treated, artificially aged, and cold worked
T10	Cooled from an elevated-temperature shaping process, cold worked, and artificially aged

<sup>b</sup>Additional digits (the first of which cannot be zero) are used to denote variations of these 10 tempers.

"Two additional digits may be added to denote degree of strain hardening.

Source: Adapted from ASM Handbook, Vol. 2, Properties and Selection: Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials, 1990.Reproduced with permission of ASM International, Materials Park, OH, 44073.

Temper Designations (Table 13.7 from Jr and Rethwisch 2012)

"The balance of the composition is aluminum.

Source: Adapted from ASM Handbook, Vol. 2, Properties and Selection: Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials, 1990.Reprinted by permission of ASM International, Materials Park, OH.

### Summary

Module 2: Aircraft Materials

- Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve
  - Failure Mechanisms
- Materials Used in Aircrafts
  - Metallic Alloys
- Introduction to Material Science
  - Metallic Crystal Structure
  - Phase Diagrams
  - Aluminum and its Alloys

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