2014 Spring

"Advanced Physical Metallurgy" - Bulk Metallic Glasses -

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1

4 *Synthesis of Bulk Metallic Glasses*

Metallic glasses: produced by rapidly solidifying metallic melts to cooling rate about 10⁶K/s BMG : Produced by relatively slow solidification rates of about 10³ K/s or less

4.2 Principles of Rapid Solidification Processing: huge departure from equilibrium

4.3 General Techniques to Achieve High Rates of Solidification : "Energize and quench"

4.4 Melt Spinning: the most commonly used method to produce long and continuous rapidly solidified ribbons, wires, and filaments

4.5 Bulk Metallic Glass

1) Suppression of homogeneous nucleation: Alloy Selection: Consideration of $T_{\rm rg}$

2) Suppression of Heterogeneous nucleation: very important in suppressing the nucleation

4.5.1 Flux Melting Technique : immersed in molten oxide flux

4.5.2 Role of Contamination

Zirconium and Titanium based BMG: very sensitive to the presence of impurities

Ex) - high oxygen contents reduced the supercooled liquid region (oxygen content $\rightarrow T_g^{\uparrow} \& T_x^{\downarrow}$) and changed the crystallization behavior (formation of quasicrystals) & (oxygen content $\uparrow \rightarrow$ incubation time) in Zr based BMGs.

Scavenger effect: addition of strong oxide-forming elements \rightarrow reduce oxygen content in the melt \rightarrow GFA \uparrow

4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.1 Water-Quenching Method : simplest of the quenching methods used for centuries to harden steel (by transforming the soft austenite to the hard martensite phase) CR~ about 10-100 K/s

4.6.2 High-Pressure Die Casting

: offer high solidification rates (because heat is extracted more rapidly by the metal mold due to <u>good contact</u>), high productivity, low casting defect, and possible to produce more complex shapes even in alloys with a high viscosity

4.6.6 Squeeze-casting Method

Push the molten alloy through hydraulic high pressure into the Cu mold until the liquid alloy completely solidified → Undercooling to much below the equilibrium solidification temperature

2) Pressure Effects Different molar volume 을 가진 두 상이 평형을 이룰 때 만일 압력이 변한다면 평형온도 T 또한 압력에 따라 변해야 한다.



Fig. 1.5 Effect of pressure on the equilibrium phase diagram for pure iron

4

4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.3 Copper Mold Casting : most common and popular method to produce BMGs



FIGURE 4.7

Schematic diagram of the equipment used to prepare bulk metallic glassy alloys by the copper mold wedge-casting technique. (Reprinted from Inoue, A. et al., *Mater. Trans., JIM*, 36, 1276, 1995. With permission.)

Solidification Analyses of Bulky Zr₆₀Al₁₀Ni₁₀Cu₁₅Pd₅ Glass Produced by Casting into Wedge-Shape Copper Mold

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The liquid-crystalline transformation behavior during continuous cooling and the transformation-induced structure were examined for a $Z_{tq}A_{1q}N_{1q}N_{1q}C_{1s}pd_{2}$ molten alloy which was ejected into a wedge-shape cavity in a copper mold. The wedge-shape cavity has a constant depth of 50 mm and different vertical angles (θ) ranging from 5 to 15 degrees. The ejection temperature of the molten alloy was also changed in the range of 1273 to 1573 K. The cast structure consists only of a glassy phase in the θ range smaller than 10 degrees and changes to a mixed structure consisting of glassy and none-quilibrium crystalline Zr_2N and Zr_2Cu phases in the higher θ range. The glass transition temperature and crystallization temperature of the cast metal glass are 683 and 778 K, respectively, which agree with those for the melt-spun glassy ribbon. The start (Cs) and termination (Ct) points for the transformation from the supercooled liquid to crystalline phases during continuous cooling were determined from the thermal analytical data obtained at different sites in the wedge-shape cavity and the continuous-cooling-transformation (C.C.T.) curves were constructed. The nose temperature (T_{e}) and the time (t_{e}) up to the nose point in the C.C.T. curves were 1018 K and 0.93 s respectively. The critical cooling rate for glass formation defined by ($T_m - T_n$)/ t_s is evaluated to be 110 K/s. Further, the time interval between Cs and Ct is as short as 0.2 s and the fast growth reaction is attributed to the easy formation of the nonequilibrium crystalline phases and the increase in temperature caused by the precipitation-induced recalescence.

(Received May 11, 1995)

25um



Fig. 4 Optical micrographs taken from the regions (a and b) in the transverse cross section of the cast $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ alloy with the wedge shape of $\theta = 12.5$ degrees.







Fig. 8 Temperature-time curves at different sites (a) to (e) in the Fig. 10 Continuous-cooling-transformation (C.C.T.) curves for the transverse cross section of the cast Zr₆₀Al₁₀Ni₁₀Cu₁₅Pd₅ alloy with the wedge shape of $\theta = 12.5$ degrees. T_{g} , T_{x} and eutectic temperature (T_e) are also shown for reference.

transformation from supercooled liquid to crystalline phases for a Zr₆₀Al₁₀Ni₁₀Cu₁₅Pd₅ alloy. The Cs and Ct represent the start and termination points of the transformation, respectively.

R_c: 110K/s



FIGURE 4.8

(a) Variation of the constitution of the alloy as a function of the height of the sample from the bottom of the wedge, d_c and the vertical angle, θ . The figure shows the region of formation of the fully glassy phase when the $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ alloy was ejected into the copper mold cavity at a temperature of 1473 K. (b) Variation of d_c with ejection temperature of the molten metal for the $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ alloy cast into a wedge-shaped mold with a vertical angle $\theta = 12.5^{\circ}$. (Reprinted from Inoue, A. et al., *Mater. Trans., JIM*, 36, 1276, 1995. With permission.)

Bulk sample: rod

Injection casting

 Simple casting method for preparing bulk samples

- Cooling medium : Cu mold with water cooling

 Max. cooling rate for rod sample with D=5mm : ~10 K/s D=3mm : ~10² K/s



Injection cast BMG samples

- Cu₄₇Ti₃₃Zr₁₁Ni₆Sn₂Si₁
 Alloy samples with
 diameter from 2 to 6 mm
- Cooling rate can be controlled by changing cavity diameter of mold.
- Cooling rate (R_c) $R_c = K(T_m - T_g)/(r^2C)$ $= 10/r^2$ (cm)

K : Thermal conductivity C : Specific heat capacity



Nano Structured Material Lab

Bulk sample: tube Centrifugal Casting Method

Seoul National University







Mechanical Metallurgy & Advanced Materials Processing Laboratory

Bulk sample: Plate Strip casting of amorphous alloys





Developed in Postech, 2004

Thickness : 1 to 4 mm

Amorphous alloy or Amorphous + Crystalline Composites * 최근 개발 내용 (RIST)

1. 2006-03-15-RIBA_503_소형주조-냉각 : Fe계 비정질 판재 twin roll strip casting 공정으로 제조 (gas+ moisture 급냉 공정 추가)

- 2. Fe-42Ni_용탕인출공정
 - : 용탕인출 공정(melt drag / single roll strip casting) 공정으로 invar 합금판재 제조

3. 저융점_고속_Melt drag (MD)
: MD 공정을 이용한 벌크비정질(LM1B) 합금판재 제조







4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.5 Suction-Casting Method : another popular method of synthesizing BMGs



FIGURE 4.11

Schematic diagram of the arc melting/suction casting apparatus. (Reprinted from Gu, X. et al., J. Non-Cryst. Solids, 311, 77, 2002. With permission.)



4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.7 Arc-Melting Method

Who can explain the clear difference between two movies?



ZrCuAl alloy with purified Zr

ZrCuAl alloy with non-purified Zr



0 s 13 s 18 s Crystallization 3 s 14 s 19 s 6 s 15 s 20 s 9 s 16 s 21 s 11 s 17 s 22 s

ZrCuAl alloy with purified Zr

ZrCuAl alloy with non-purified Zr

Materials Transactions, Vol. 48, No. 6 (2007) pp. 1363 to 1372 Special Issue on Materials Science of Bulk Metallic Glasses-VII ©2007 The Japan Institute of Metals

Glassy Solidification Criterion of Zr₅₀Cu₄₀Al₁₀ Alloy

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Fig. 6 Cooling curves of arc-melted Zr₅₀Cu₄₀Al₁₀ ingots with crystal Zr and sponge Zr.

Drawback in Arc Melting:

the ease of heterogeneous nucleation due to incomplete melting of the alloy at the bottom side that is in contact with the copper hearth



OM images of an arc-melted 20-g $Zr_{50}Cu_{40}Al_{10}$ ingot with crystal Zr (a) and magnified partial images (b~e).

Drawback in Arc Melting

<u>Cold Spot</u> (position) Interface between molten alloy and Cu hearth

Cold Spot (act)

Spring of crystalline particles

Cold Spot should be controlled !





Crystalline Particles observed in cast Zr-Cu-Al BMGs



4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting

4.6.4 Cap-Cast Technique: bringing a metallic cap into contact with the molten metal, and applied a small pressure of about $1 \text{ kN} \rightarrow \text{high CR}$



FIGURE 4.9

Schematic diagrams comparing the (a) arc melting, (b) tilt casting, and (c) cap-cast techniques used to produce bulk metallic glassy alloys.

 $Zr_{55}Cu_{30}Ni_5Al_{10}$ $D_{max} = 16$ mm using conventional metallic mold casting $\rightarrow D_{max} = 30$ mm using cap-casting technique : GFA \uparrow

New Tilt-Cast Machine for Centimeter Sized BMG





FIGURE 4.10

High-resolution transmission electron micrographs of cap-cast Zr₅₅Cu₃₀Ni₅Al₁₀ glassy alloy of 30 mm diameter. The micrograph was recorded from the center of the sample at the site 10 mm from the bottom of the casting. No fringe marks are seen even on a nanometer scale, suggesting that the whole sample was fully glassy.

How to control the Cold Spot in Arc Melting/Casting1



Cold shut / An Advantage of Arc Tilt Casting

Tilt Casting has an advantage to restrict the formation of cold shut, because of much smaller change of surface area of molten alloy during casting than other casting techniques..



Cold shut, which probably acts as crack initiation site and contributes crack propagation, is regarded as a discontinuous plate defect formed by two streams of liquid meeting.



JPN Patent No. 4164851



Automatic Production Process of BMGs

- Human Error → Automatic Production Process
- Depending on Technical Skill ↑
- Homogeneity → small quantity, melting: long time, flipping: many times

1. Automatic Weighing Machine [Patent preparation]
 ↓

 Automatic Arc-Melt Furnace [2009-118159]
 ↓

 3. Automatic Casting Machine [2008-283129]
 ↓

Almost 30 master alloy ingots (1 kg) can be produced within 7 hours.... ~100 alloys/day

Automatic Weighing Machine for BMG Master Alloys



Tohoku Techno Arch Co. Ltd http://www.t-technoarch.co.jp/en/index.html

~100,000 US\$

Automatic Arc-Melt Furnace for BMG Master Alloys



Reference; <u>http://www.diavac.co.jp/</u>

Automatic Casting Machine for BMGs



Tohoku Techno Arch Co. Ltd http://www.t-technoarch.co.jp/en/index.html

Squeeze Casting Technique



[Patent submitted]

Automatic Casting Machine for BMGs



Enveloped Cast Technique for BMG Parts (hip joint)

For biomedical use





Stainless Steel (core)

Ball head was covered by BMG with enveloped casting (thickness 3 mm)

4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.8 Unidirectional Zone Melting Method

Materials Transactions, JIM, Vol. 35, No. 12 (1994), pp. 923 to 926

RAPID PUBLICATION

Preparation of Bulky Zr-Based Amorphous Alloys by a Zone Melting Method

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A bulk amorphous $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ alloy was prepared by the zone melting method using an arc-type heat source. The bulk amorphous alloy prepared on the copper hearth has a rectangular parallelepiped shape with a thickness of 10 mm, a width of 12 mm and a length of 170 mm. A majority of the region except the bottom and side edge regions contacted with copper hearth consists of an amorphous phase. The cooling rate achieved by the zone melting method is high enough to cause an amorphous hase in the Zr-based alloy where heterogeneous nucleation is suppressed. The amorphous phase subjected to continuous heating exhibits a distinct glass transition, followed by a wide supercooled liquid region and then an exothermic peak due to crystallization. The success of producing the bulk amorphous alloys by the zone melting method implies the possibility of the continuous production of the bulk amorphous alloys and seems to accelerate the subsequent progress of amorphous alloys.







Fig. 3 X-ray diffraction pattern taken from the central region of a bulky $Z_{rag}Al_{1g}Nl_{1g}Cu_{1g}Pd_{2g}$ alloy ingot in a rectangular parallelepiped shape with a thickness of 10 mm, a width of 12 mm and a length of 170 mm.







Fig. 1 Schematic illustration of the zone melting equipment using an arc electrode as a heat source which was used for the preparation of a bulk amorphous alloy ingot. (a) front view, (b) lateral view.

"Alloy solidification" - Solidification of single-phase alloys

* No Diffusion on Solid, Diffusional Mixing in the Liquid



When the solid/liquid interface is within ~D/R of the end of the bar the bow-wave of solute is compressed into a very small volume and the interface composition rises rapidly leading to a final transient and eutectic formation.



FIGURE 4.13

Optical micrograph of the unidirectionally zone-melted $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ alloy ingot showing the presence of some crystals in a glassy matrix. One can notice a large volume fraction of larger (about 200 µm in size) crystals in the region close to the bottom of the ingot that is about 2mm away from the copper hearth. Materials Transactions, JIM, Vol. 36, No. 11 (1995), pp. 1398 to 1402

RAPID PUBLICATION

Solidification Condition of Bulk Glassy Zr₆₀Al₁₀Ni₁₀Cu₁₅Pd₅ Alloy by Unidirectional Arc Melting

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The relation between the formation of a glassy phase and the solidification parameters of moving velocity of liquid/solid interface (V), temperature gradient (G) and cooling rate (R) was examined for a $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_3$ alloy, with the aim of clarifying a solidification condition for formation of R bulk glassy alloy by a unidirectional arc-melting method. The glassy phase was obtained in the condition of V > 4 mm/s, G > 4 K/mm and R > 40 K/s. The decrease in G causes the formation of equiaxed dendrites, oriented dendrites and cell structure. The supercooling for the present alloy was measured to be as large as 385 K at a low cooling rate of 40 K/s. The large supercooling ability is presumably due to the formation of a highly dense random packed structure where the nucleation of a crystalline phase and the atomic rearrangement for growth reaction are difficult. The glass formation of the present multicomponent alloy in the unidirectional arc melting method seems to be dominated by the ease of the supercooling ability rather than the achievement of high cooling rate.



Fig. 2 Change in the temperature of the unidirectionally arc-melted $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_3$ ingots as a function of distance from the center of arc electrode in the case of an arc current of 200 A.

Table 1 Various solidification parameters which were experimentally measured for the unidirectionally arc-melted $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ ingots.

4 (A)	V (mm/s), (gas)	ΔX (mm)	Δ <i>T</i> (K)	G _{S/L} (K/mm)	G _{Nose} (K/mm)	R _{S/L} (K/s)	R _{Nose} (K/s)
200	1, Ar	102	245	0.1	33	0.1	33
	1, He	65	335	3.5	57	3.5	57
	10, He	75	345	3.0	63	30	630
250	1, Ar	105	245	0.5	36	0.5	36
	1, He	68	295	4.0	55	4.0	55
	10, He	77	365	4.0	60	40	600
300	1, Ar	108	245	0.2	40	0.2	40
	1, He	73	315	3.5	54	3.5	54
	10, He	91	380	3.5	59	35	590
350	1, Ar	115	245	0.1	47	0.1	47
	1, He	75	305	2.0	52	2.0	52
	10, He	98	375	2.0	56	20	560



Fig. 1 Schematic illustration of the method to measure the solidification parameters of the moving velocity of the liquid/solid interface (V=dx/dt) and temperature gradient (G=dT/dx) in a unidirectional arc melting technique.



Fig. 3 Relation among the transverse cross sectional structure, arc current, moving velocity of liquid/solid interface and flowing gas for the unidirectionally arc-melted $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ ingots.

Fig. 4 Relation among the solidification structure, the moving velocity of liquid/solid interface (V), temperature gradient (G) and cooling rate ($R = V \times G$) for the unidirectionally arc-melted $Zr_{60}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{15}Pd_5$ ingots. The closed and open circles represent the experimental points where crystalline and glassy phases are



R_c: 40 K/s

- Critical cooling rate is <u>not</u> a absolute physical value.
- It is a variable value by preliminary treatment of the molten alloy before vitrification.

4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.6.9 Electromagnetic Vibration Process

Apply vibrations

10 s

10 s

- : <u>Electromagnetic and stationary magnetic fields</u> could act as powerful vibrating forces in the melt \rightarrow destroy clusters of strong local order and consequently eliminates the opportunity for the crystalline phases to nucleate \rightarrow GFA \uparrow
- Increasing the magnitude of the magnetic flux density and/or applying these vibrations for longer time helps in the destruction of these clusters. On the other hand, by increasing the rest time between melting and water spraying, the molten alloy is having enough time to reform the clusters, and therefore the GFA of the alloy is decreased.→ need to control the process parameters



nature materials | VOL 4 | APRIL 2005 |

Figure 3 The effect of applied time of the electromagnetic vibrations to the liquid state on optical micrographs. The magnetic flux density was B = 10 T. Applied time of the electromagnetic vibrations after the onset of the water spray, shown in d, was locked on 10 s, but applied time before that was as follows: a, t = 0 s, b, 2.5 s and c, 10 s.

Figure 4 The effect of rest time between the end of the electromagnetic treatment and the onset of the water spray on optical micrographs. The magnetic flux density was B = 10 T. The electromagnetic vibrations were applied for 10 s to the liquid state, shown in d, and rest time between the end of the electromagnetic treatment and the onset of the water spray was changed as follows: a, t = 1 s, b, 9 s and c, 60 s.

4.6 Bulk Metallic Glass Casting Methods

4.8 Mechanical Alloying

: another popular technique to synthesize amorphous phases in a number of alloy system

[Cons] Multi-step process

→ need to be consolidated in SCLR by some of conventional or innovative methods through application of pressure and/or temperature

[Pros] wide composition ranges

- → used to easily produce amorphous phases in those systems where conventional melting and casting methods prove difficult or impossible
- → Combination of small particle size, reduced diffusion distances across the lamellar structure, fresh surfaces and interfaces, coupled with a slight rise in temperature → increased atomic diffusivity and therefore alloying occurs
- → Kinetics of microstructural refinement: depends on the mechanical properties of the powder, type of the milling used, ball to-powder weight ratio, and the milling temperature

Grinding Medium (stainless steel or Tungsten carbide or other hard mater.) : subjected to shear, impact, or other type of mechanical force



FIGURE 4.15

(a) Ball–powder–ball collision of powder mixture during MA and (b) deformation characteristics of representative constituents of starting powders in MA. Note that the ductile metal powders (metals A and B) get flattened, while the brittle intermetallic and dispersoid particles get fragmented into smaller particles.

TABLE 4.3

Some Selected BMG Alloy Compositions Produced in a Glassy Condition by MA

Alloy Composition	Mill	BPR	Time for Amorphization (h)	Reference
Fe ₇₂ Al ₅ Ga ₂ C ₆ B ₄ P ₁₀ Si ₁	Planetary ball mill AGO-2U	10:1 or 20:1	8–12	[78]
$Fe_{60}Co_8Zr_{10}Mo_5W_2B_{15}$	SPEX mill	10:1	20	[79]
$Fe_{42}Ge_{28}Zr_{10}B_{20}$	SPEX mill	10:1	10	[80]
$Fe_{42}Ge_{28}Zr_{10}C_{10}B_{20}$	SPEX mill	10:1	8	[80]
$Mg_{65}Cu_{20}Y_{10}Ag_5 + ZrO_2$	Planetary mill	_	_	[81]
$Nb_{50}Zr_{10}Al_{10}Ni_{10}Cu_{20}$	Fritsch P5	14:1	200	[82]
Ta55Zr10Ni10Al10Cu15	Tumbler mill	25:1	300	[83]
$Ti_{60}Al_{15}Cu_{10}W_{10}Ni_5$	Tumbler mill	30:1	200	[84]
V45Zr20Ni20Cu10Al25Pd25	Tumbler mill	25:1	200	[85]
$Zr_{52}Al_6Ni_8Cu_{14}W_{20}$	Tumbler mill	60:1	200	[86]

Powder to BMG

