

**MECHANICAL AND STRUCTURAL PROPERTIES
OF SOME ALUMINIUM BINARY ALLOYS**

THESIS

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N O T E

Beside the work conducted in this thesis the candidate had studied advanced M.Sc. courses in Physics during one year.

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- 2- X-ray and Metal physics.
- 3- Electronic measurements.
- 4- Numerical analysis and computer programmes.
- 5- Statistical analysis.
- 6- Electrodynamics and quantum mechanics.

He had passed on examination in these courses.

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C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgement	1
Abstract	2
 CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION 	
1.1.1- Precipitation Hardening in Metals and Alloys	1
1.1.2- Precipitation Reaction	2
1.2- X-ray Diffraction Patterns	4
1.3- Transmission Electron-Microscopy	6
a) Analysis of Dislocation Images	6
b) Identification of a second phase	8
Creep Theories	9
1.4- Transient Creep Theories	9
1.5- Exhaustion Theories	10
1.6- Logarithmic Power Creep Theory	11
1.7- Work-Hardening Theories	12
1.8- Parabolic Creep Theories	12
1.9- Lattice Friction Theory of Creep	13
1.10.1-Dislocation Intersection Theories of Creep	14
1.10.2-Dislocation Cross-Slip Theories of Creep	16
1.11- Steady-State Creep Theories	17
Viscous Creep Theories	19
1.12- Vacancy Diffusion Creep Theories	19
1.13- Dislocation Creep Theories For Alloys	20
1.14- Dispersion-Hardening Dislocation Creep Theory.	22

	<u>Page</u>
1.15- Effect of Alloying on Strength and Creep characteristic	23
1.16.1- Strengthening by Second-Phase Particles	24
1.16.2- Impenetrable Particles	26
1.16.3- Deformation Particles	27
1.17- Aluminium-Silver Phase Diagram	29
1.18- Previous work	31
1.19- Aim of the present work.	33

CHAPTER II

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

2.1- Investigated Materials	35
2.2- The Creep Machine	37
2.3- The Electric Furnace	38
2.4- Loading of the Test Sample	39
2.5- Isochronal Creep Measurements	39
2.6- Isothermal Creep Measurements	40
2.7- Vickers Micro-Hardness Tester	41
2.8- Microhardness Measurements	42
2.9- Grain Diameter Measurements	44
2.10- Description of the Transmission Electron Microscope	44
2.11- Preparation of the Samples for Electron-Microscope.	45
2.12- X-ray Examination	46

CHAPTER III

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

3.1- Isochronal Creep	49
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3.2- Effect of G.P. Zones Formation on Transient Creep. 51
3.3- Effect of G.P. Zones Formation on Isothermal Creep
and Microhardness Characteristics 52

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

4.1- Isochronal Creep Tests 56
4.2- Effect of G.P. Zones Formation on Isothermal Tran-
sient Creep of Both Alloys 58
4.3- Isothermal Creep and Microhardness
Kinetics of G.P. Zones Formation and Steady State
Creep 59
4.4- X-ray and Microscopy Investigation 61

CONCLUSION 63

REFERENCES 65

ARABIC SUMMARY

ABSTRACT

The formation and dissolution of G.P. zones in based aluminium silver alloys containing 2 wt. % Ag and 5 wt. % Ag were studied by tracing the changes in hardness and creep behaviour after isochronal and isothermal ageing in temperature range 140-250°C.

The effect of isochronal aging of quenched Al-2 wt % Ag and Al-5 wt % Ag on the steady creep was determined in the temperature range (120 - 350°C), with measuring the steady strain rate ($\dot{\epsilon}_{st}$) for a period of 2 min. at a temperature series, 20°C apart. Two and three successive steady strain rate stages were found in the disintegration of quenched (supersaturated) samples depending upon the ageing temperature. The first stage involves the formation and subsequent dissolution of G.P. zones. The second stage involves the formation and subsequent dissolution of metastable γ' -phase. The third stage involves growing of stable γ -phase. The G.P. zones formation dependence of transient creep in both alloys was studied on wire samples which had been given different heat treatments in the G.P. zones. The time-temperature dependence of transient creep strain ϵ_{tr} was described by

$$\epsilon_{tr} = \beta \tau_{tr}^{-1} \quad (1)$$

where (β) is the transient creep parameter, (t_{tr}) is the transient creep time and n is the creep time exponent.

The pronounced decrease in the transient creep parameter (β) from 6.5×10^{-2} to $0.5 \times 10^{-2} (\text{mm}^{-1})^n$ was attributed to the formation of G.P. zones. The increase in the time exponent (n) from 0.05 to 0.6 could be due to the coarsening and increased interparticle spacing of G.P. zones.

The analysis of the isothermal hardness results showed that Vickers hardness peaks taking place at ageing time 45 min. were associated with the coalescence of G.P. zones; confirmed by a drop in V.H.N. peak.

The analysis of the isothermal creep results showed that the steady strain rate peaks taking place at ageing temperature $250 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ were associated with the maximal partial dissolution of G.P. zones.

Optical, electron metallographic examinations and X-ray analysis, after isochronal ageing from 120-140°C and isothermal ageing at 140°C revealed growth of spherical G.P. zones and corroborated by a remarkable drop in the grain size, in the integral X-ray intensities and broad lines of waterices.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Precipitation Hardening in Metals and Alloys:

The necessary condition for precipitation from solid solution is merely the existence of a sloping solvus line⁽¹⁾.

There is no doubt that virtually any metal can be made to precipitation harden by the addition of a properly chosen alloying element.

The entire process of producing a precipitation - hardened alloy may be divided into three parts :

- (1) Choice of the composition⁽²⁾,
- (2) Solution heat-treating, and
- (3) Precipitation heat-treating, see Fig. (1).

In some cases the precipitation may occur in a reasonable time at room-temperature, and the alloy is then said to be naturally aging.

Usually it is necessary to age the alloy artificially by holding it in a temperature⁽³⁾. The exact temperature used for the precipitation heat treatment is determined by two factors :-

- (1) The time for appreciable reaction, and
- (2) The property of principal interest.

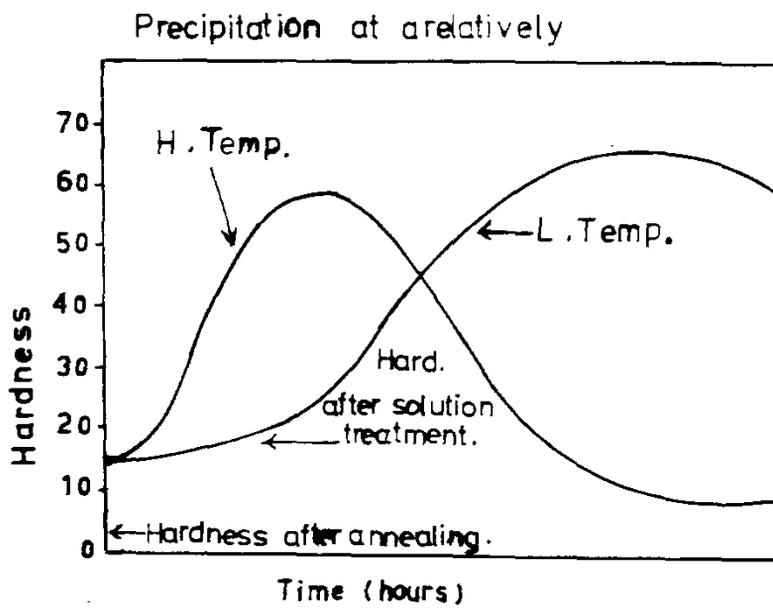


Fig. (1). The course of hardening during precipitation heat treatment at two different temperatures.

(2)

The time factor must be of reasonable length for industrial heat treatment, ⁽⁴⁾ (The higher the temperature, the shorter the time). In regard to the second factor it should be understood that different properties change at different rates during precipitation. For example, the strength properties tend to reach higher maximum values at lower precipitation temperatures. See Fig. (2).

Properties such as hardness attains a maximum value during precipitation at a given temperature and then gradually decreases as a result of overaging ^(5,6). See Fig. (1).

Precipitation hardening is the most important method of strengthening nonferrous metals by solid - state reaction. ⁽⁷⁾

It is especially useful for aluminium, the principal metal of this class, and both cast and wrought aluminium alloys are precipitation hardened ⁽⁸⁾.

1-1-2 Precipitation Reactions :

The processes of nucleation and subsequent growth have been especially thoroughly studied for precipitat-

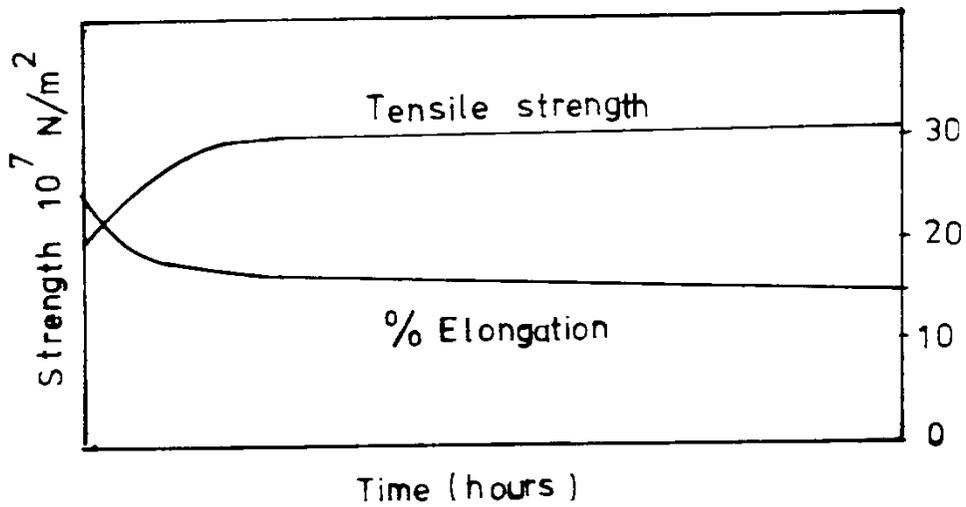


Fig. (2). Property changes during the precipitation heat treatment of aluminium alloy (Al-5.6 % Zn - 2.5 % Mg - 1.6 % Cu) sheet at 120°C.

ion reactions. The first step in producing a precipitation reaction is solution heat treatment⁽⁹⁾.

In addition to putting the silver atoms in the α -phase of Al-Ag alloy, this treatment produces a high fraction of vacancies.

During rapid cooling from high to room-temperature, virtually all these vacancies may come out of solution by one of various processes⁽¹⁰⁾. The process of most interest is the formation of tiny clusters of vacancies, for example, four vacancies in the configuration of spherical.

The number of these vacancy clusters is so enormous that their mean spacing ($\bar{\lambda}$) is only some tens Angstroms. If each sphere serves as the nucleus of a G.P. zone⁽¹¹⁾, see Fig. (3), a time of about several minutes and hours is required to complete this stage of precipitation.^(12,13)

During the initial distribution of G.P. zones, if the temperature is increased so as to be somewhat above the G.P. solvus, the G.P. zones gradually disappear, where a phenomenon known as reversion. This behaviour demonstrate that G.P. zones are an equilibrium phase⁽¹⁴⁾.