

Metals II

Anne Mertens

Outline

- Introduction
 - Summary of previous lecture
 - Controlling the structure of a material
- Driving force for structural change
- Kinetics I: diffusive transformation
- Kinetics II: nucleation
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

Introduction

Summary of previous lecture

Summary of Lecture I

- Aim: select the best material for a given application
- Many \neq criteria must be taken into account
 - Physical properties (density, conductivity...)
 - Mechanical properties (yield stress, fatigue...)
 - Corrosion resistance
 - Bio-compatibility
 - Processability, formability
 - Cost
 - ...



Summary of Lecture I

- Aim: select the best material for a given application
 - Many \neq criteria must be taken into account
- ⇒ Need for a methodology
- ⇒ Need for database of materials properties

Data for metals

Table 1.6 Properties of the generic metals

Metal	Cost (UK£ (US\$) tonne ⁻¹)	Density (Mg m ⁻³)	Young's modulus (GPa)	Yield strength (MPa)	Tensile strength (MPa)
Iron	100 (140)	7.9	211	50	200
Mild steel	200-230 (260-300)	7.9	210	220	430
High-carbon steel	150 (200)	7.8	210	350-1600	650-2000
Low-alloy steels	180-250 (230-330)	7.8	203	290-1600	420-2000
High-alloy steels	1100-1400 (1400-1800)	7.8	215	170-1600	460-1700
Cast irons	120 (160)	7.4	152	50-400	10-800
Copper	1020 (1330)	8.9	130	75	220
Brasses	750-1060 (980-1380)	8.4	105	200	350
Bronzes	1500 (2000)	8.4	120	200	350
Nickel	3200 (4200)	8.9	214	60	300
Monels	3000 (3900)	8.9	185	340	680
Superalloys	5000 (6500)	7.9	214	800	1300
Aluminium	910 (1180)	2.7	71	25-125	70-135
1000 Series	910 (1180)	2.7	71	28-165	70-180
2000 Series	1100 (1430)	2.8	71	200-500	300-600
5000 Series	1000 (1300)	2.7	71	40-300	120-430
7000 Series	1100 (1430)	2.8	71	350-600	500-670
Casting alloys	1100 (1430)	2.7	71	65-350	130-400

[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

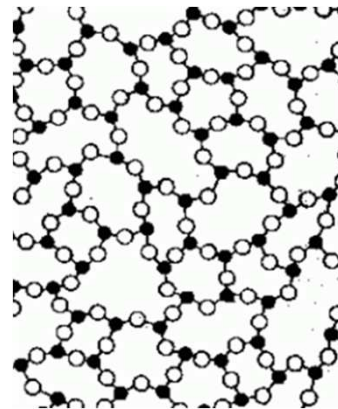
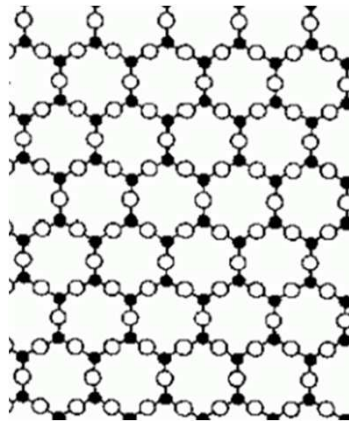
Structure-insensitive

VS

structure-dependent

Summary of Lecture I

- Materials with desired properties
- Some properties of metals are **structure-dependent**
 - Crystalline vs amorphous structure

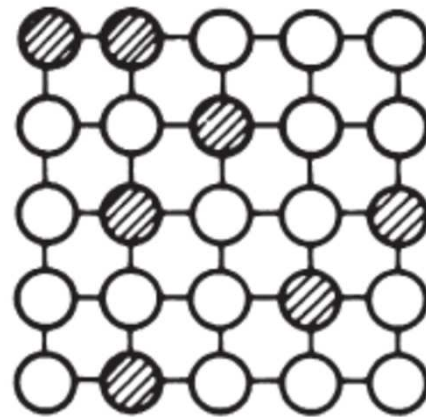


[<http://www.majordifferences.com/2013/02/difference-between-crystalline-and.html#.Wb42e9E69PY>]

Summary of Lecture I

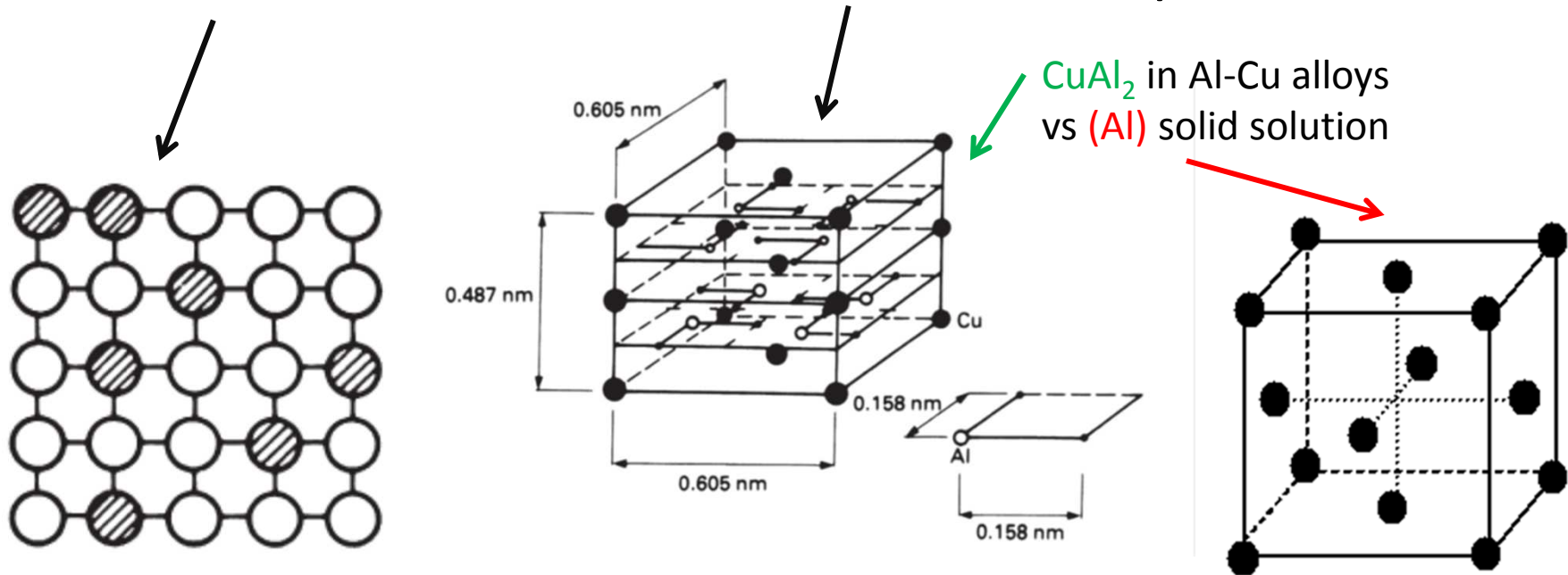
- Materials selection to fulfill desired properties
- Some properties of metals are **structure**-dependent
 - Phase = region of material with homogeneous properties (uniform physical and chemical properties)
 - Example 1: liquid water + ice = 2 different phases
 - Example 2: Cu fully dissolved in Al = 1 phase

Solid solution



Summary of Lecture I

- Materials selection to fulfill desired properties
 - Some properties of metals are **structure**-dependent
 - Phase = region of material with homogeneous properties
- Phases: solid solution, intermetallic compounds...

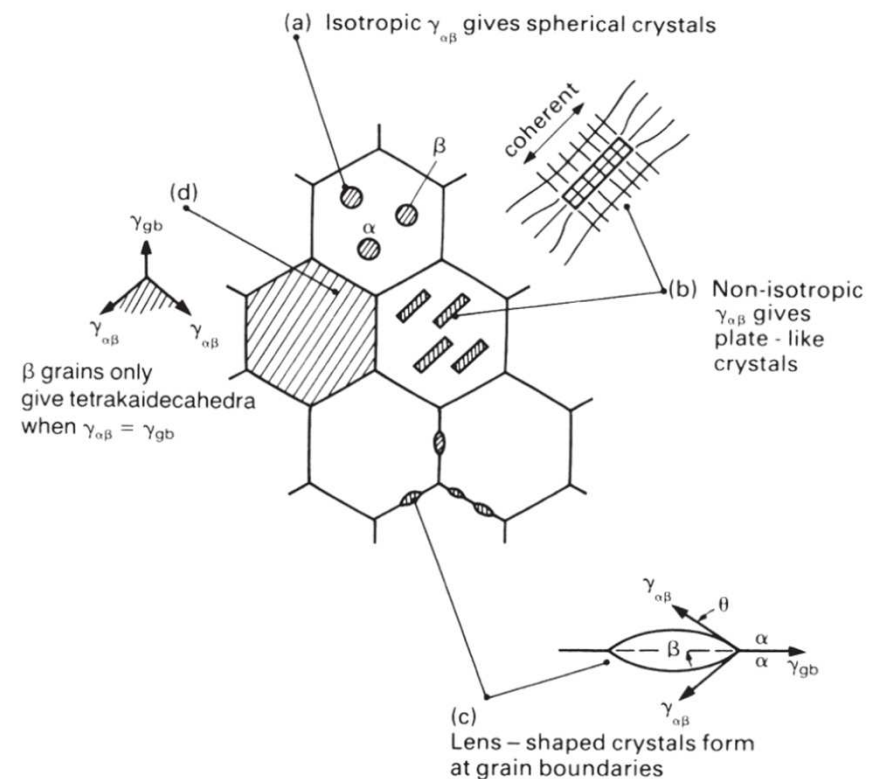


[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

[<http://deuns.chez.com/sciences/cristallo/cristallo2.html>] 8

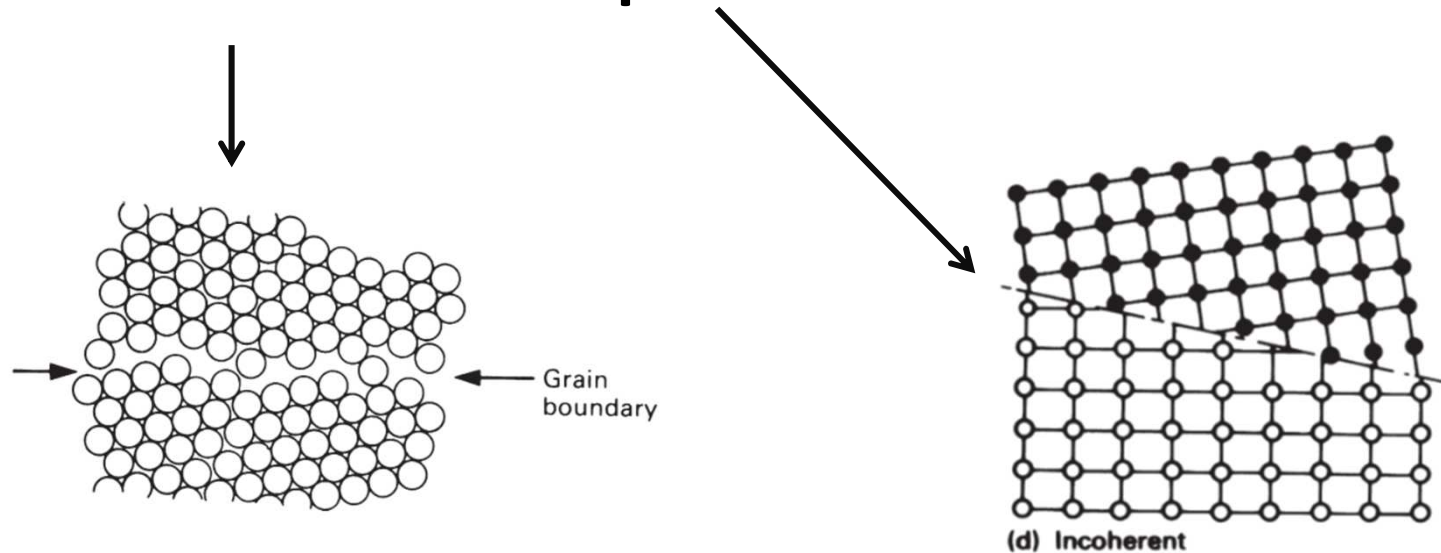
Summary of Lecture I

- Materials selection to fulfill desired properties
- Some properties of metals are **structure-sensitive**
 - Metals are often polycrystalline material
 - Individual crystal = grain
 - ⇒ **Grain size and shape**



Summary of Lecture I

- Materials selection to fulfill desired properties
- Some properties of metals are **structure-sensitive**
 - Grain size and shape
 - **Grain and interphase boundaries**

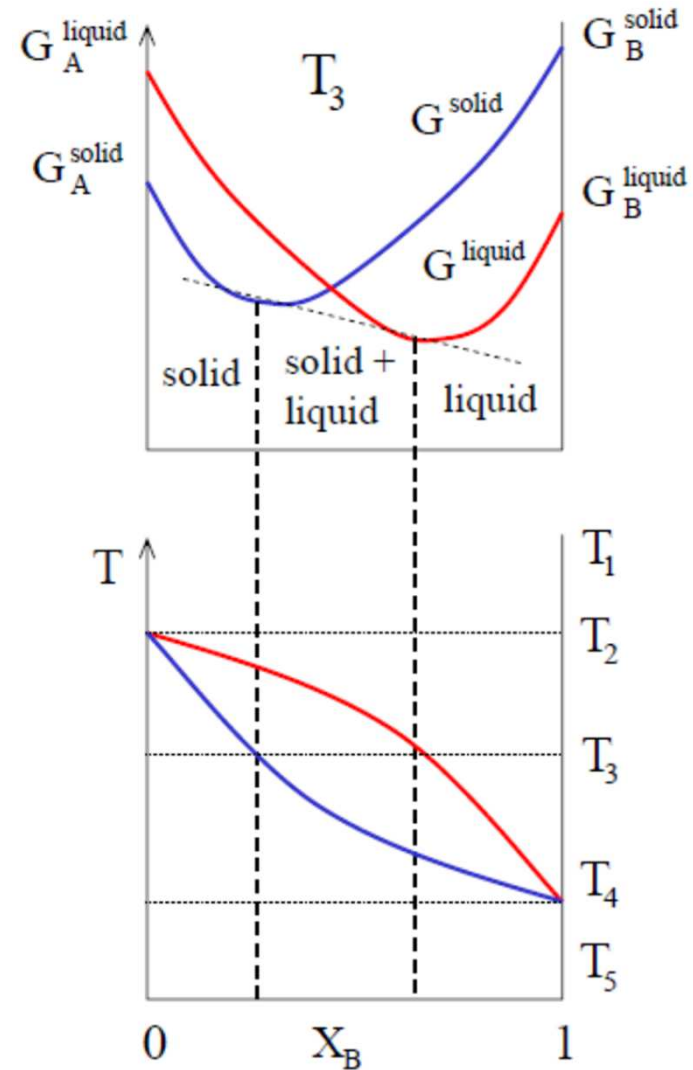


Summary of Lecture I

- Materials selection to fulfill desired properties
- Some properties of metals are **structure**-sensitive
 - Crystalline vs amorphous structure
 - Phases (solid solution, intermetallic compounds...)
 - Grain size and shapegrain and interphase boundaries
- How can we control the structure?
 - **Equilibrium** (or stable) structure:
by playing with the **chemical composition**

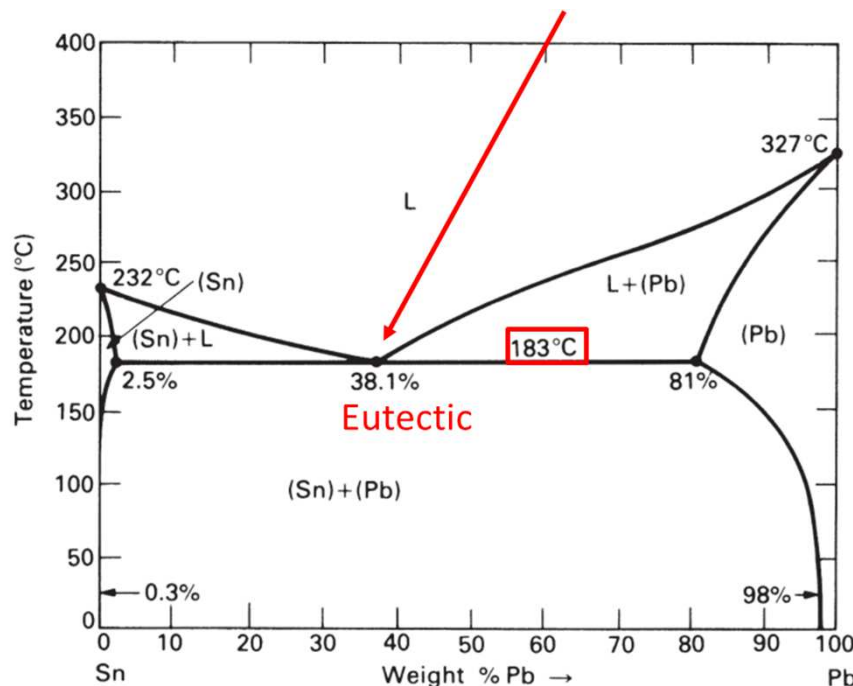
Summary of Lecture I

- How can we control the structure?
 - **Equilibrium** structure:
A system is in equilibrium when its energy is minimized
Equilibrium = G minimum with G: enthalpy
 - **Phase diagram**



Summary of Lecture I

- How can we control the structure?
 - **Equilibrium** structure:
by playing with the **chemical composition**
e.g.: use the Pb-Sn phase diagram to select a solder material with low melting temperature



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Introduction

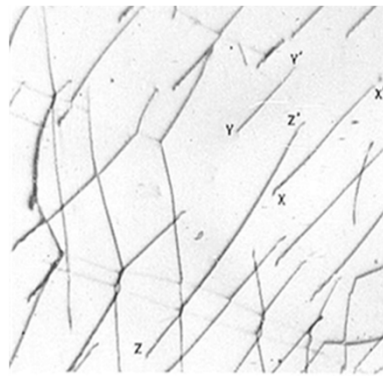
How can we control the structure of
a metallic material?

⇒ Playing with structural change

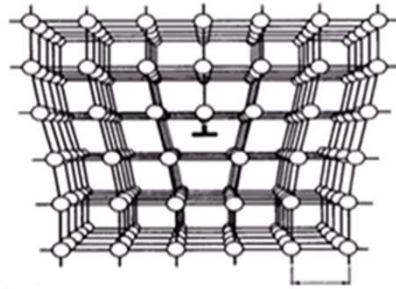
Playing with structural change

- Example 1: plastic deformation

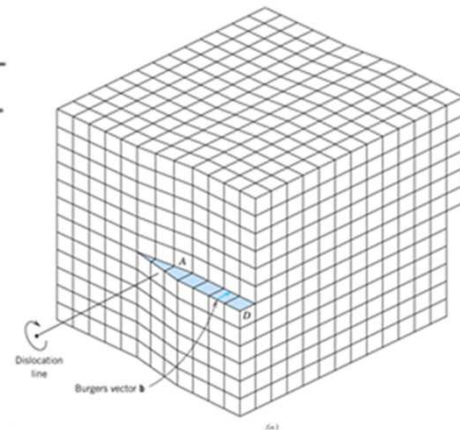
Creation and propagation of crystalline defects



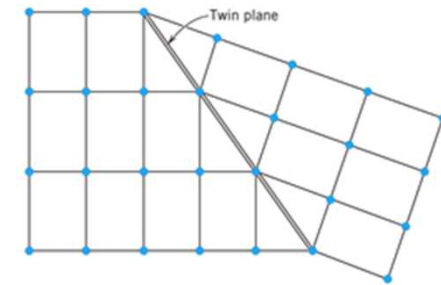
30.000 x
Dislocations (TEM)



Edge dislocation



Screw dislocation



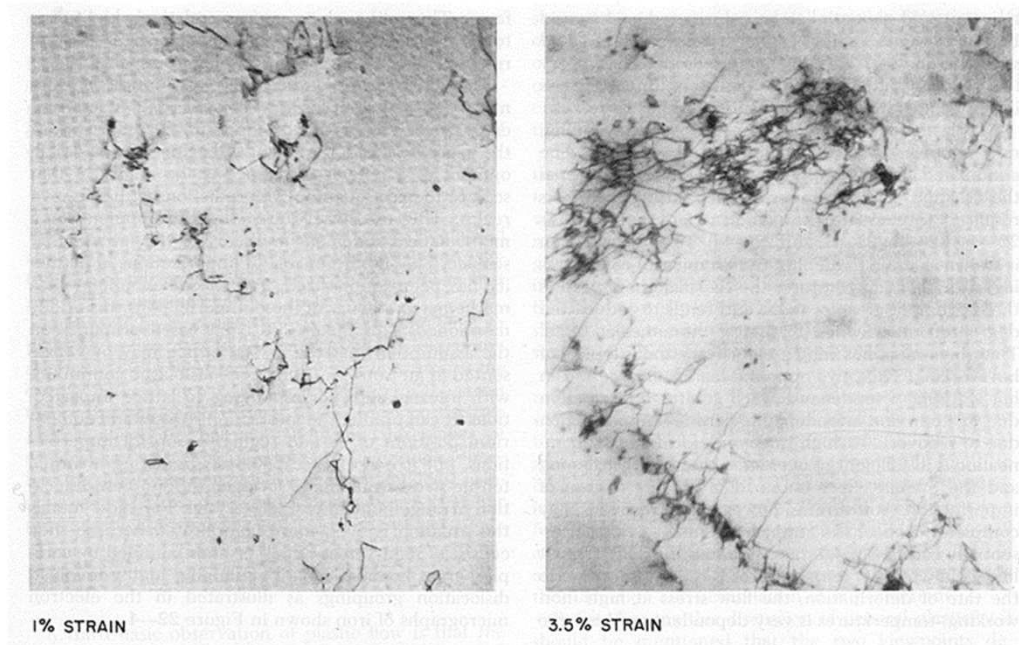
Twin

Plastic deformation occurs by dislocations glide

Playing with structural change

- Example 1: plastic deformation

Creation and propagation of crystalline defects

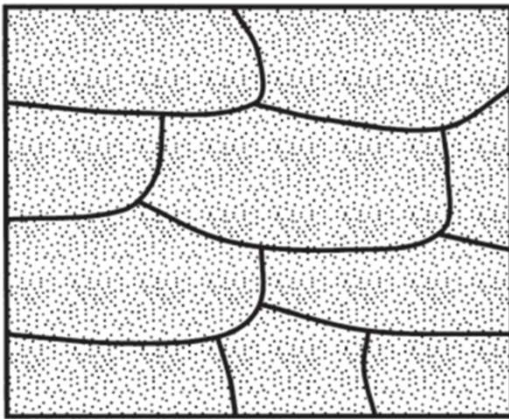


Dislocations density \uparrow
 \Rightarrow Entanglement
 \Rightarrow Dislocations glide
more difficult
 \Rightarrow Strength \uparrow
 \Rightarrow **Work hardening**

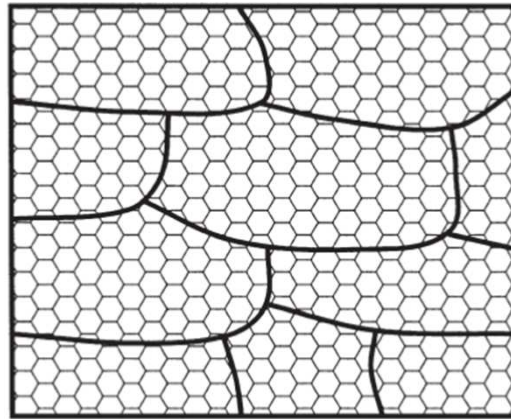
Playing with structural change

- Example 1: plastic deformation

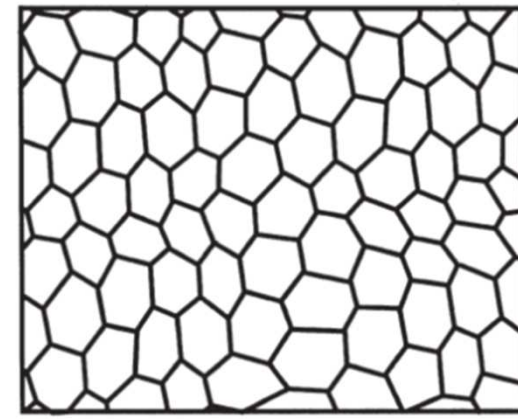
Recovery and recrystallisation



Deformed structure



Recovery = organisation
of crystalline defects



Recrystallization =
formation of new grains

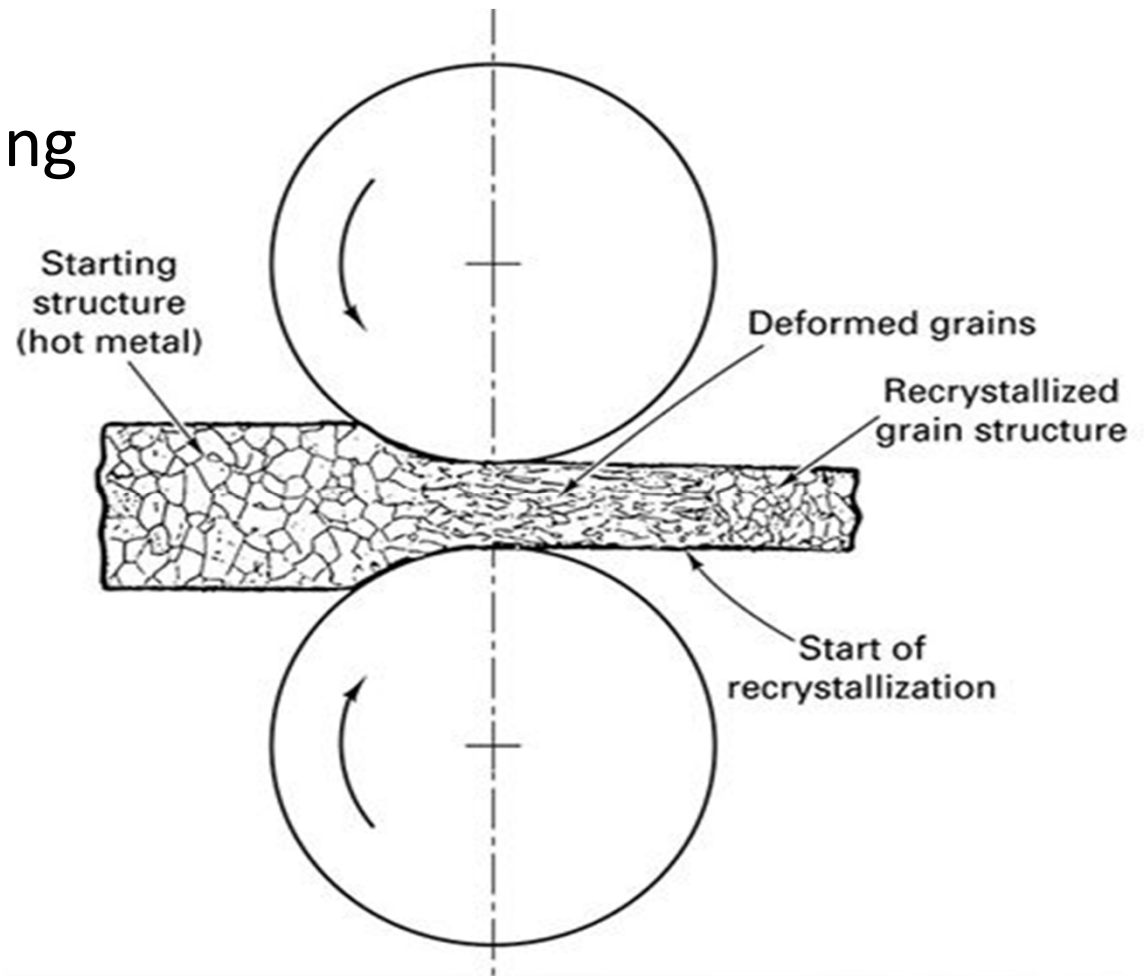
≠ structures ⇒ ≠ properties

Grain size has a strong
influence on properties!

Playing with structural change

- Example 1: plastic deformation

Practically: hot rolling

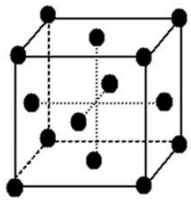


Playing with structural change

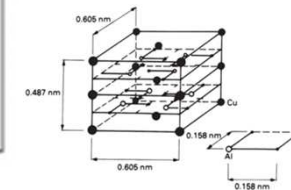
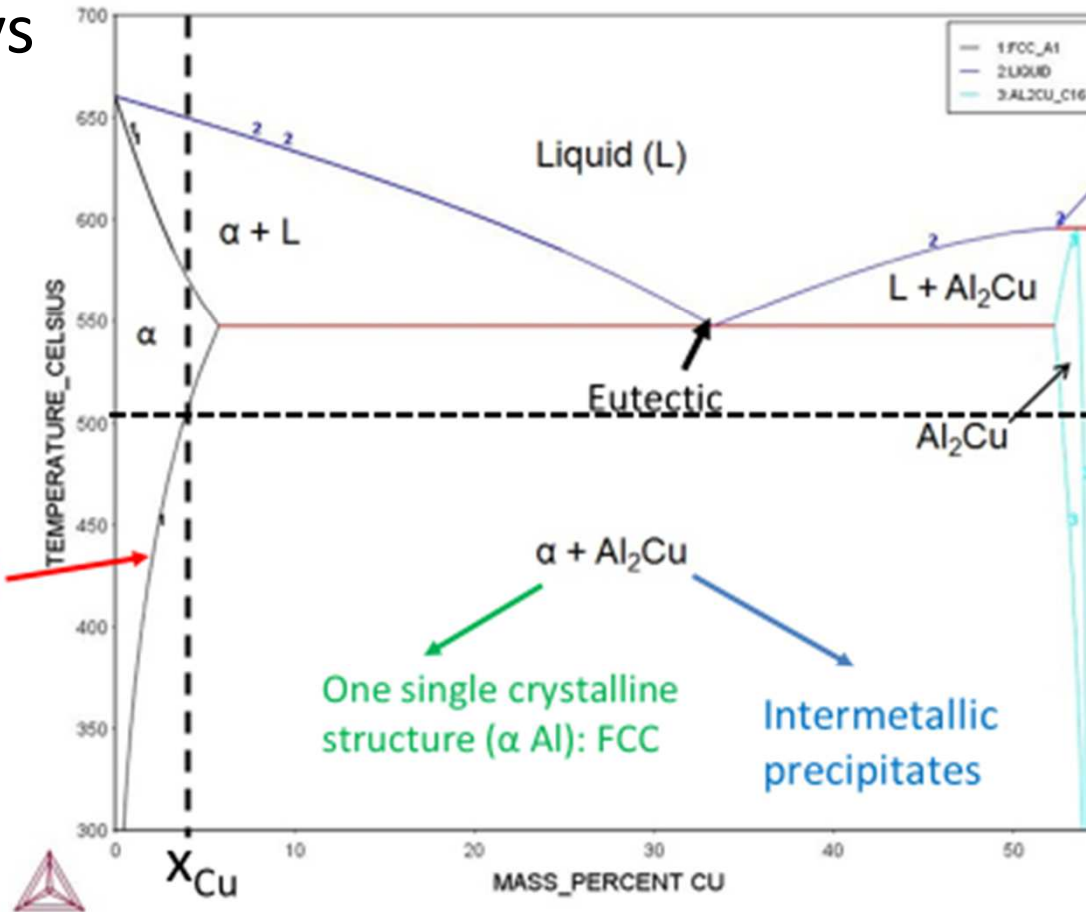
- Example 2: Intermetallic compounds

Al-Cu alloys

Miscibility gap -
Solubility of Cu in Al
decreases with T



FCC Al



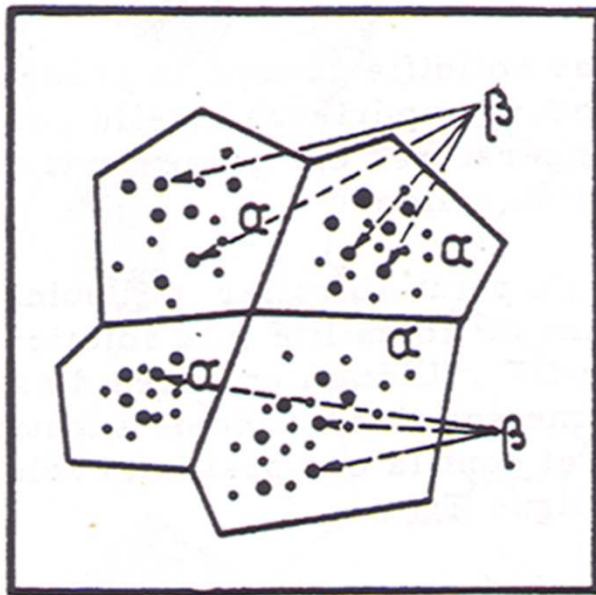
Al₂Cu

Playing with structural change

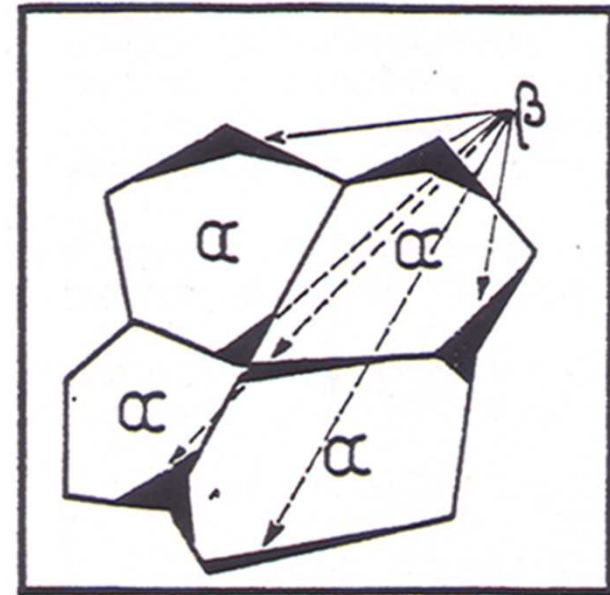
- Example 2: Intermetallic compounds

Al-Cu alloys

Finely distributed intermetallics give more efficient strengthening than coarse precipitates



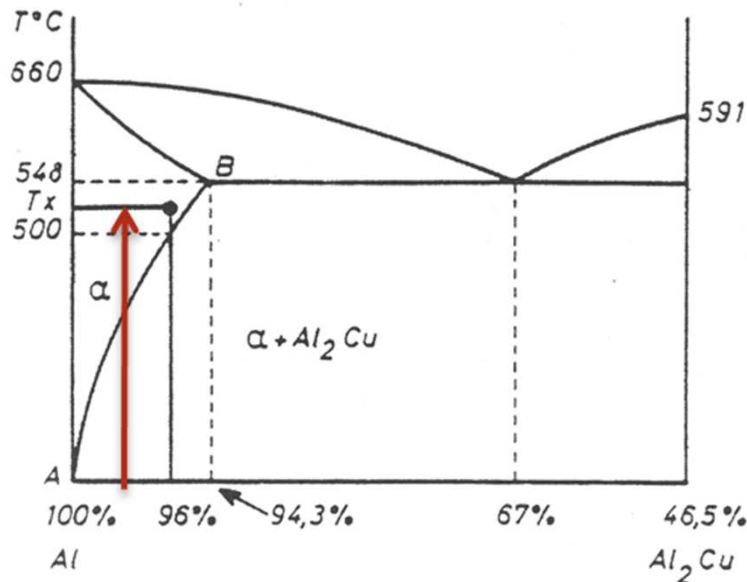
stronger than



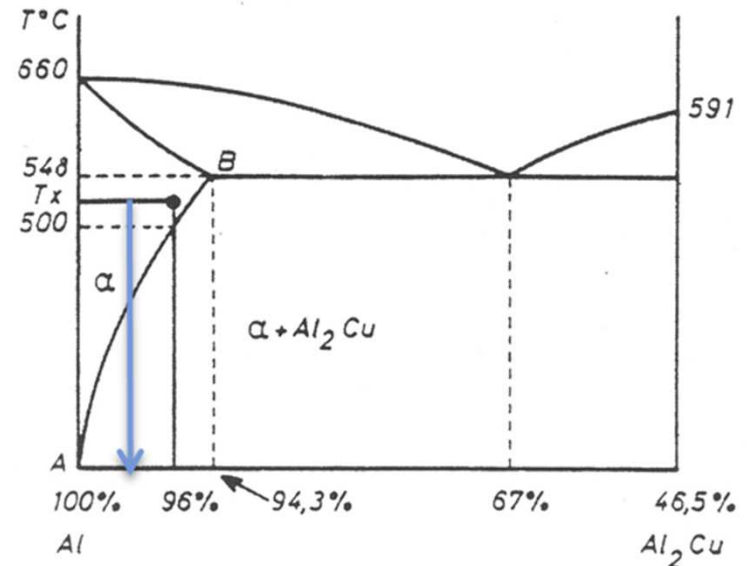
Playing with structural change

- Example 2: Intermetallic compounds

Heat treatment to control the formation of Al_2Cu and obtain optimized properties



1. Solution treatment

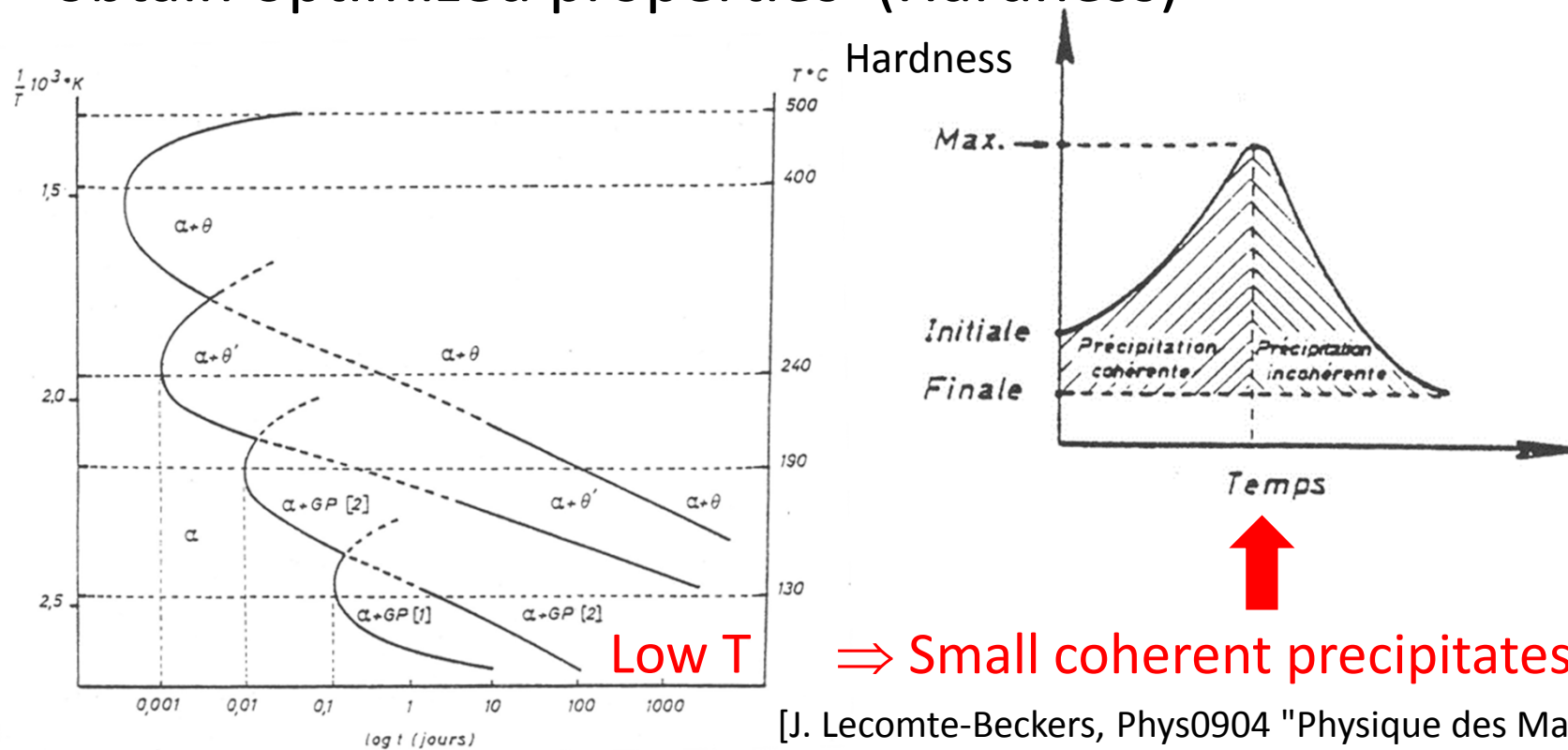


2. Quench (to keep Cu in solid solution)

Playing with structural change

- Example 2: Intermetallic compounds

Heat treatment to control the formation of Al_2Cu and obtain optimized properties (Hardness)



[J. Lecomte-Beckers, Phys0904 "Physique des Matériaux"]

3. Ageing (formation of intermetallic Al_2Cu precipitates)

Outline

- Introduction
- Driving force for structural change
 - General principles
 - Applications to phase transformations
- Kinetics I: diffusive transformation
- Kinetics II: nucleation
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

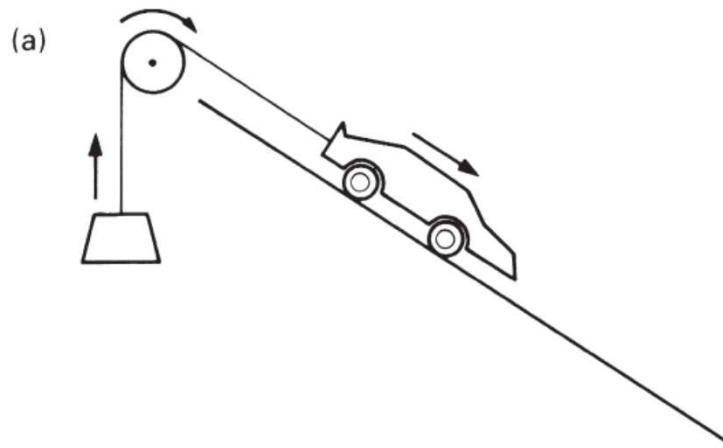
Driving force for structural change

When is it possible to change the structure of metallic materials?

Conditions for change

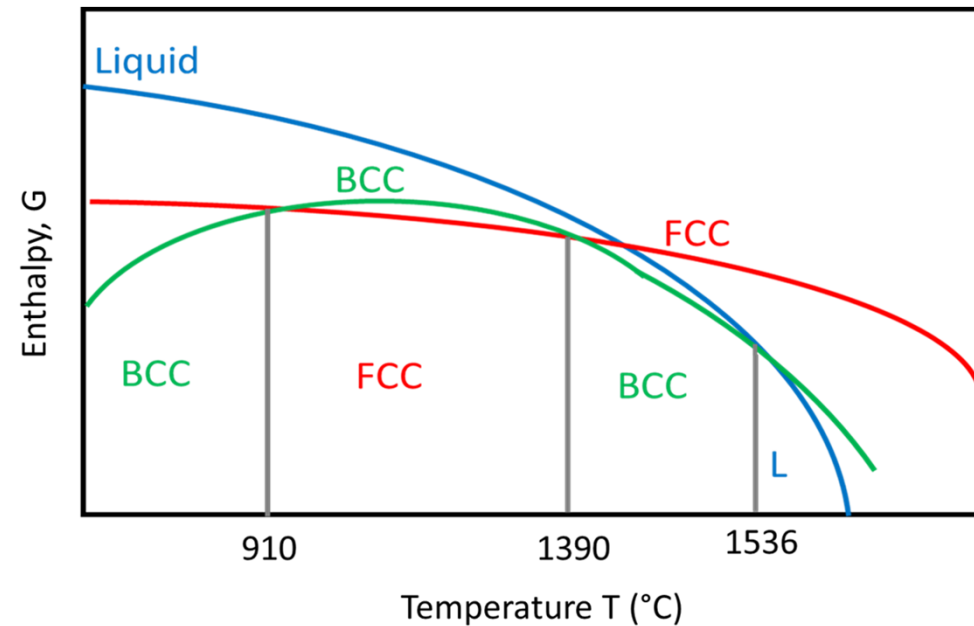
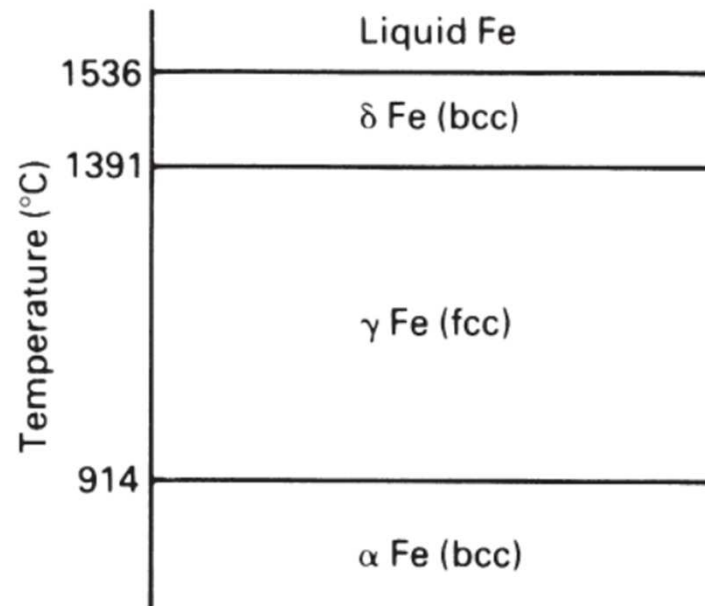
- Structural change is **possible** when there is a **driving force** for change
- Driving force = energy available for change or to do work

E.g.: Potential energy for a car moving downhill



Conditions for change

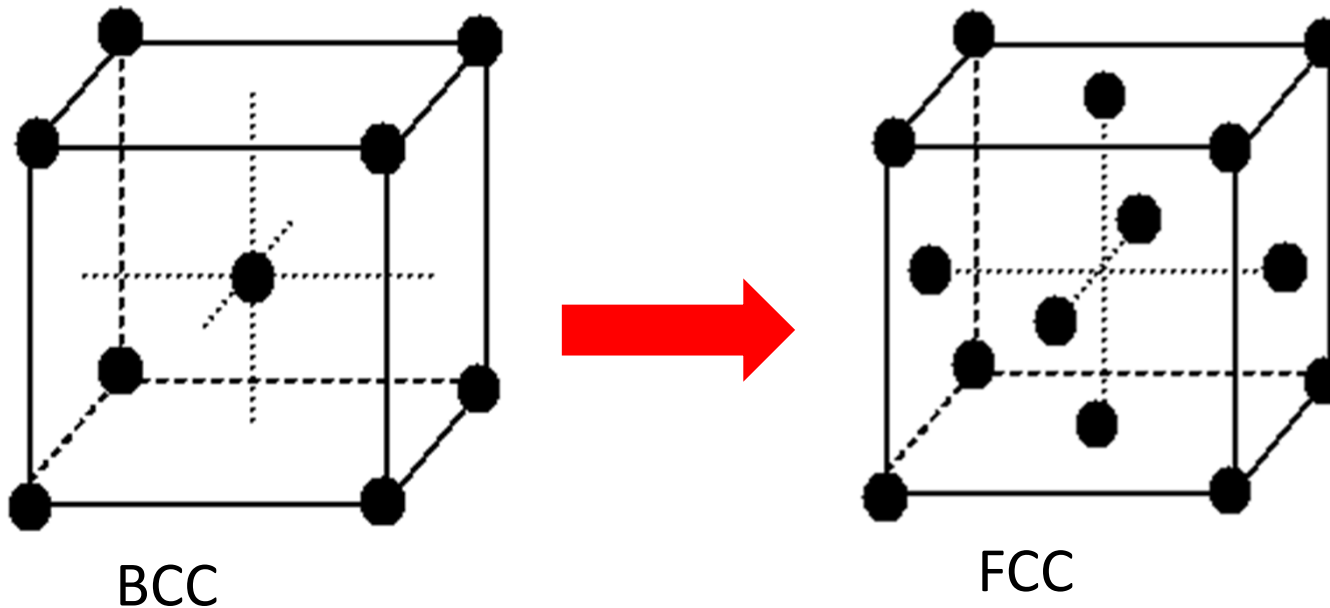
- Structural change is **possible** when there is a **driving force** for change
- Driving force = minimizing the free enthalpy for the allotropic transformations of pure Fe



Conditions for change

- To change from BCC to FCC structures, atoms need to move

⇒ Diffusion, rate = $f(T)$



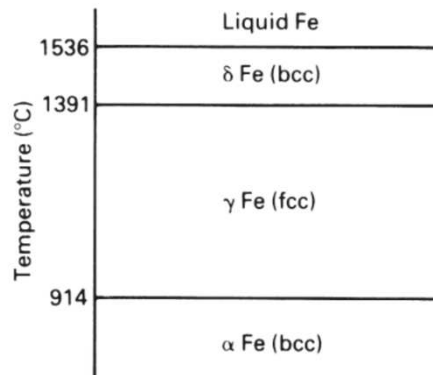
Conditions for change

- Structural change is **possible** when there is a **driving force** for change
- Even if there is a driving force, change may not occur at a measurable pace/speed

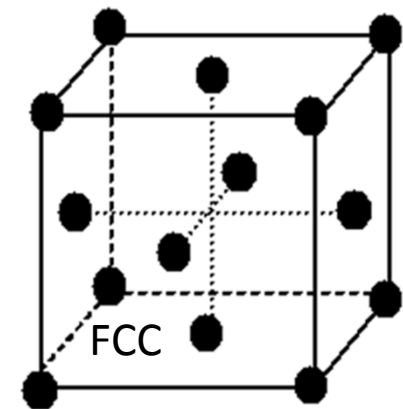
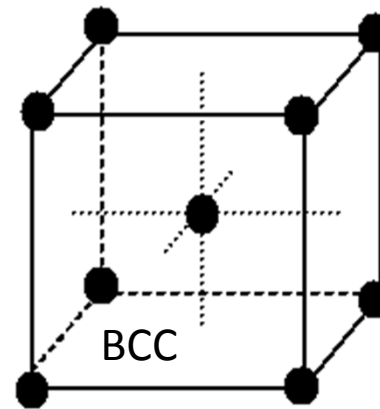
⇒ Route or mechanism for transformation?

⇒ Kinetics!

↘ Atomic diffusion, rate = $f(T)$



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]



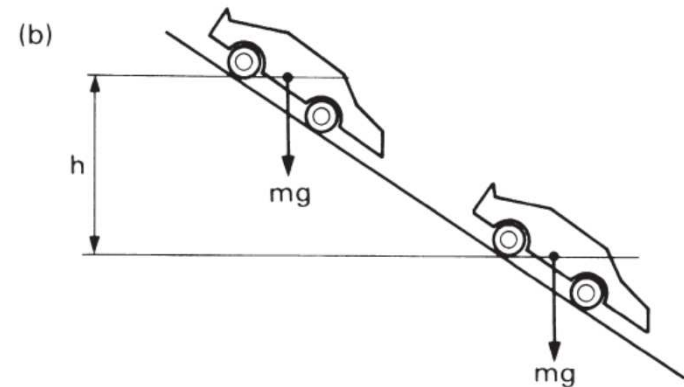
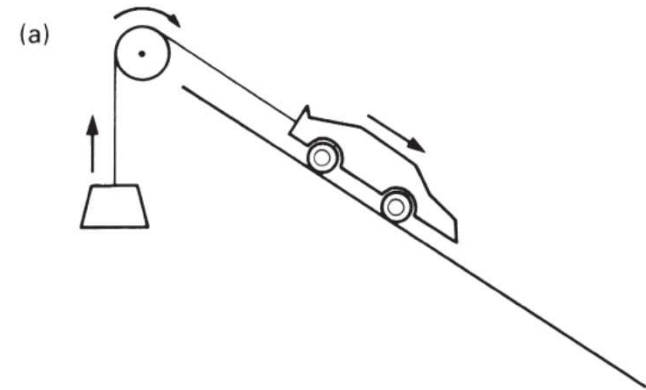
[<http://deuns.chez.com/sciences/cristallo/cristallo2.html>]

Driving force

For a car moving downhill

$$W_f = mgh$$

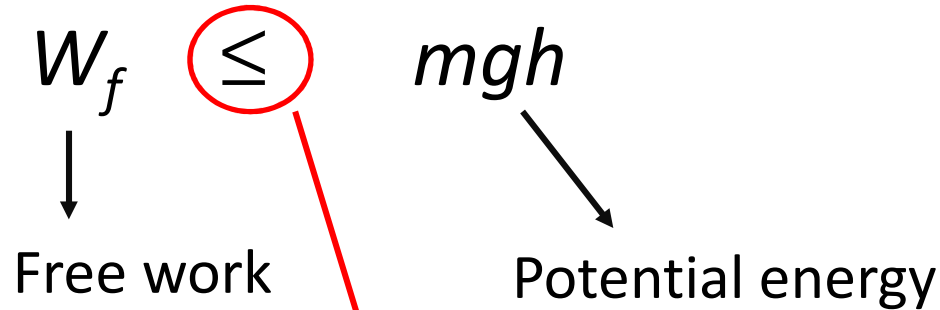
Free work Potential energy



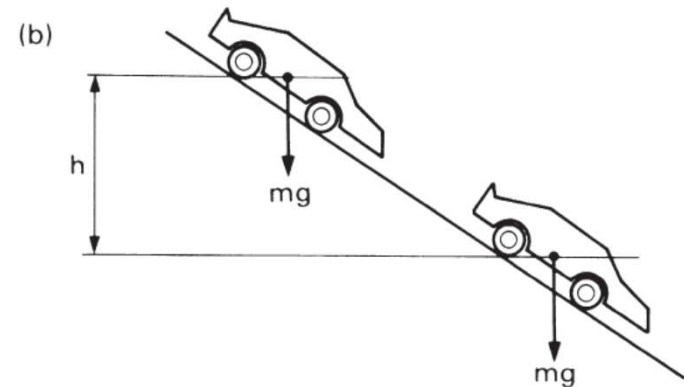
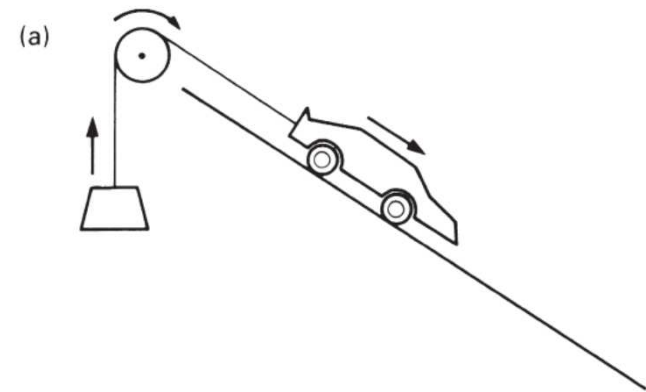
[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Driving force

For a car moving downhill



Part of the energy available will be lost (friction in wheel bearings, air resistance...)



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

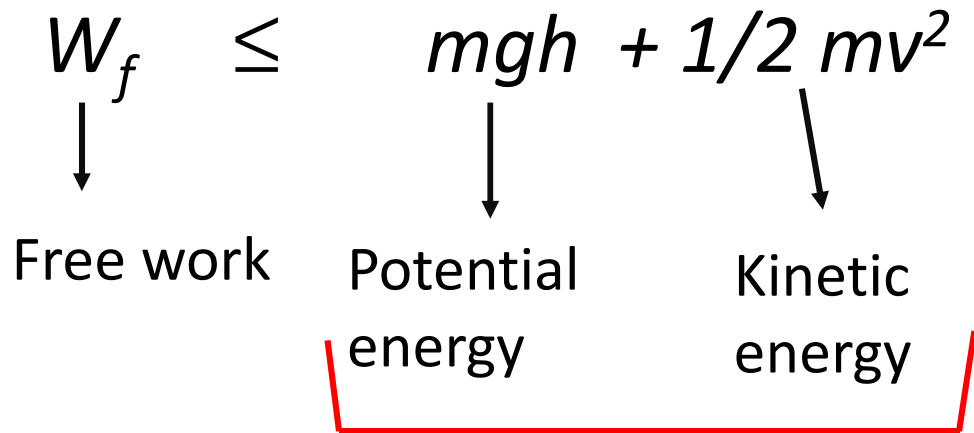
Driving force

For a car moving downhill
with an initial velocity v

$$W_f \leq mgh + \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

↓ ↓ ↓

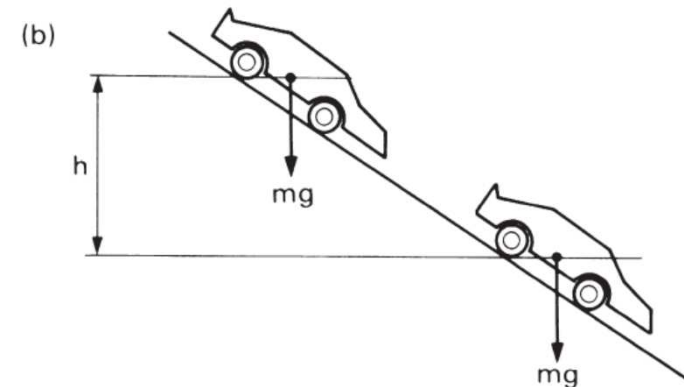
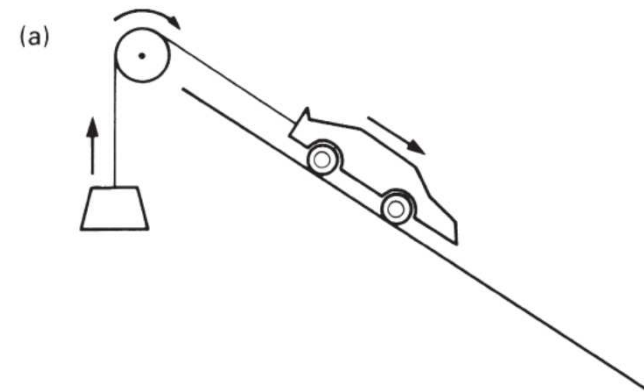
Free work Potential energy Kinetic energy



External energy

$-\Delta N$

Directed (non-random) movement



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Driving force

Generally:

$W_f \leq$
↓
Free work

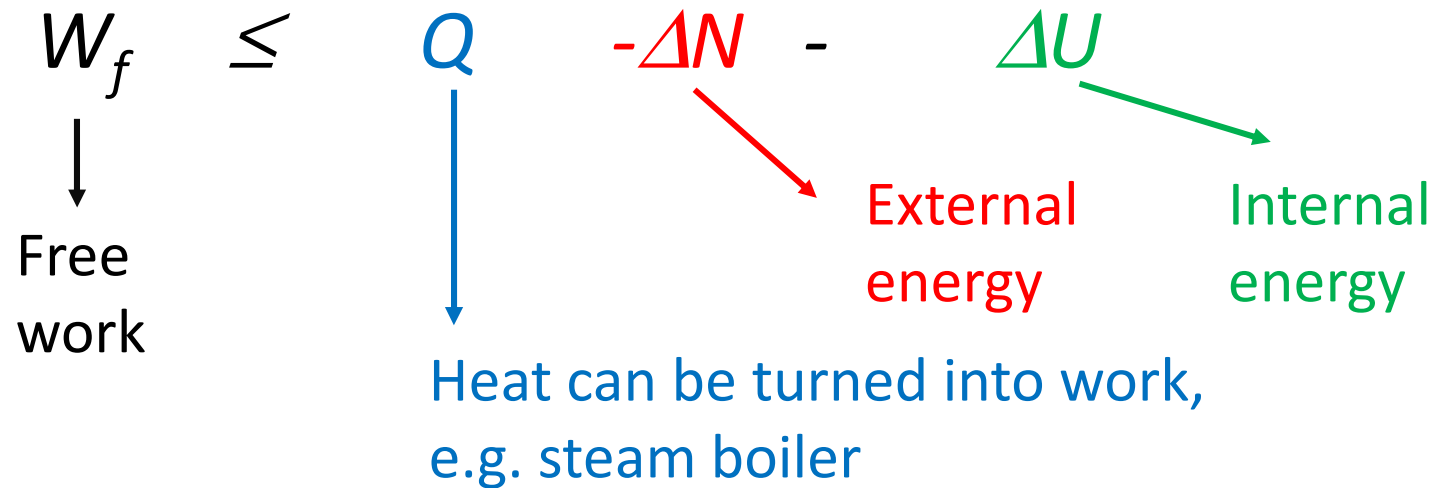
$-\Delta N$ -
↓
External
energy

ΔU
↓
Internal energy

- intrinsic to the material
- chemical energy, thermal energy stored in atomic vibrations, elastic strain energy...

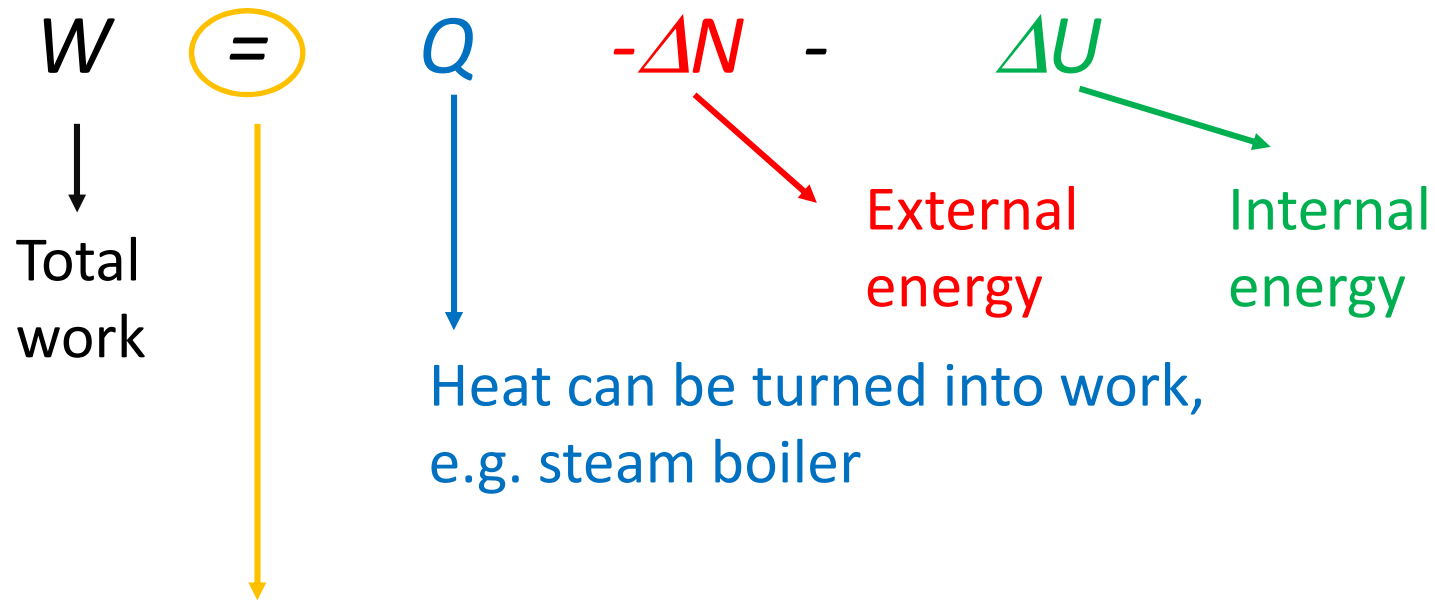
Driving force

Generally:



Driving force

Generally:



Any energy lost in one way must re-appear somewhere else
1st law of thermodynamics = conservation of energy

Driving force

$$T_0, p_0 = \text{cst}$$

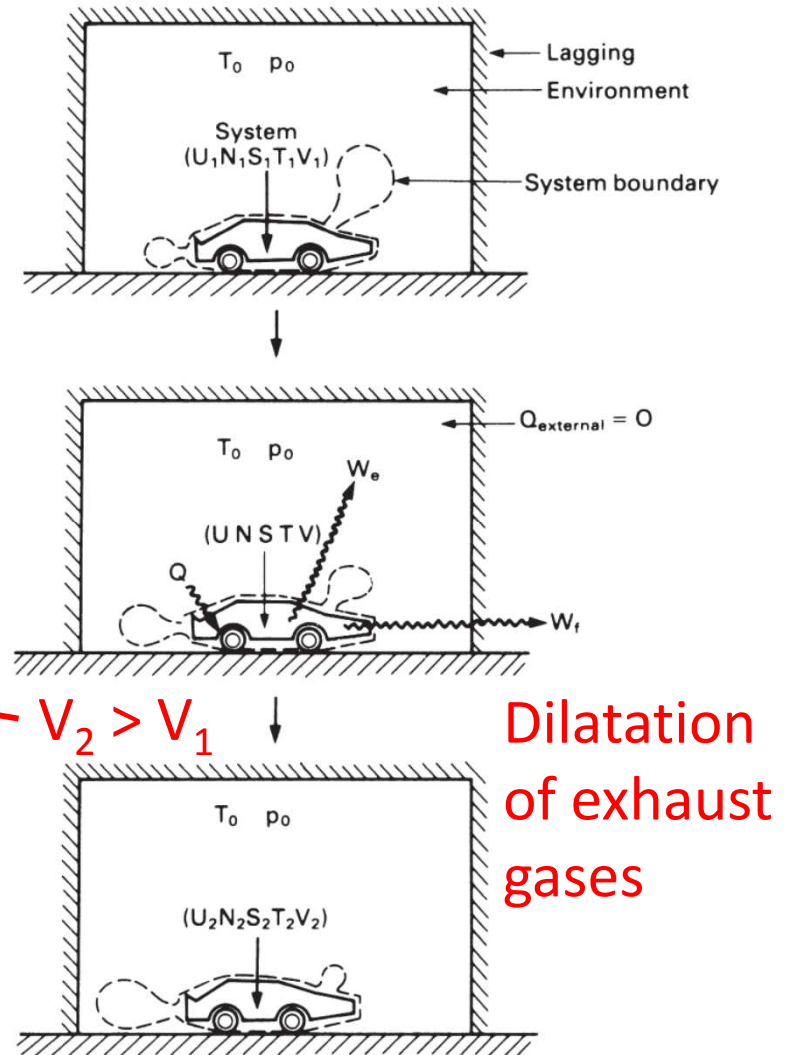
What about W_f (free work)?

$$W = Q - \Delta N - \Delta U$$

$$W = Q - (U_2 - U_1) - (N_2 - N_1)$$

$$W_e = p_0 (V_2 - V_1)$$

$$W_f = W - W_e$$



Driving force

What about W_f (free work)?

$T_0, p_0 = \text{cst}$

$$W = Q - \Delta N - \Delta U$$

$$W = Q - (U_2 - U_1) - (N_2 - N_1)$$

$$W_e = p_0 (V_2 - V_1)$$

$$W_f = W - W_e$$

$$W_f = Q - (U_2 - U_1) - p_0 (V_2 - V_1) - (N_2 - N_1)$$

Reversibility ?

Reversible change: **2nd law of thermodynamics**

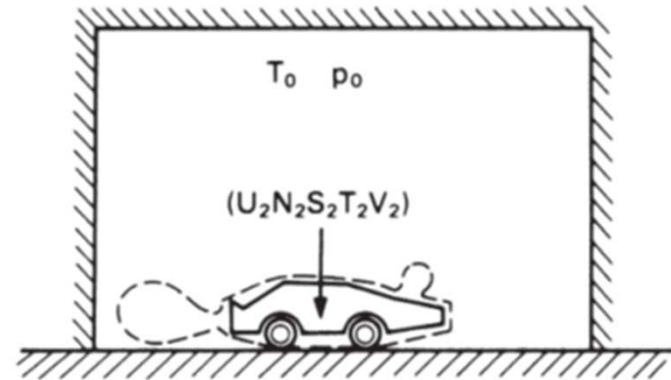
$dS = dQ/T$ with **S: entropy**

$$S_2 - S_1 = \int_Q \frac{dQ(T)}{T}$$

But we don't know $dQ(T)$!?

$$(S_2 - S_1)_{\text{car}} = - (S_2 - S_1)_{\text{environment}} \longrightarrow T_0 \text{ cst !}$$

$$(S_2 - S_1)_{\text{car}} = - (S_2 - S_1)_{\text{environment}} = Q/T_0$$



Driving force for reversible change

$$\Delta S = Q/T_0$$

Then

$$W_f = Q - (U_2 - U_1) - p_0 (V_2 - V_1) - (N_2 - N_1)$$

can be rewritten as

$$W_f = -\Delta U - p_0 \Delta V + T_0 \Delta S - \Delta N$$

*⇒ How much free work is available for driving a **reversible change***

Driving force for reversible change

$$W_f = -\Delta U - p_0\Delta V + T_0\Delta S - \Delta N$$

One can also write:

$$A = U + pV - TS \quad \text{where } A: \text{availability}$$

$$H = U + pV \quad \text{where } H: \text{enthalpy}$$

$$G = H - TS \quad \text{where } G: \text{free enthalpy}$$

Stability and metastability

Reminder of Lecture 1

Intuitively:

A system is in equilibrium when it exhibits **no further tendency to change with time**

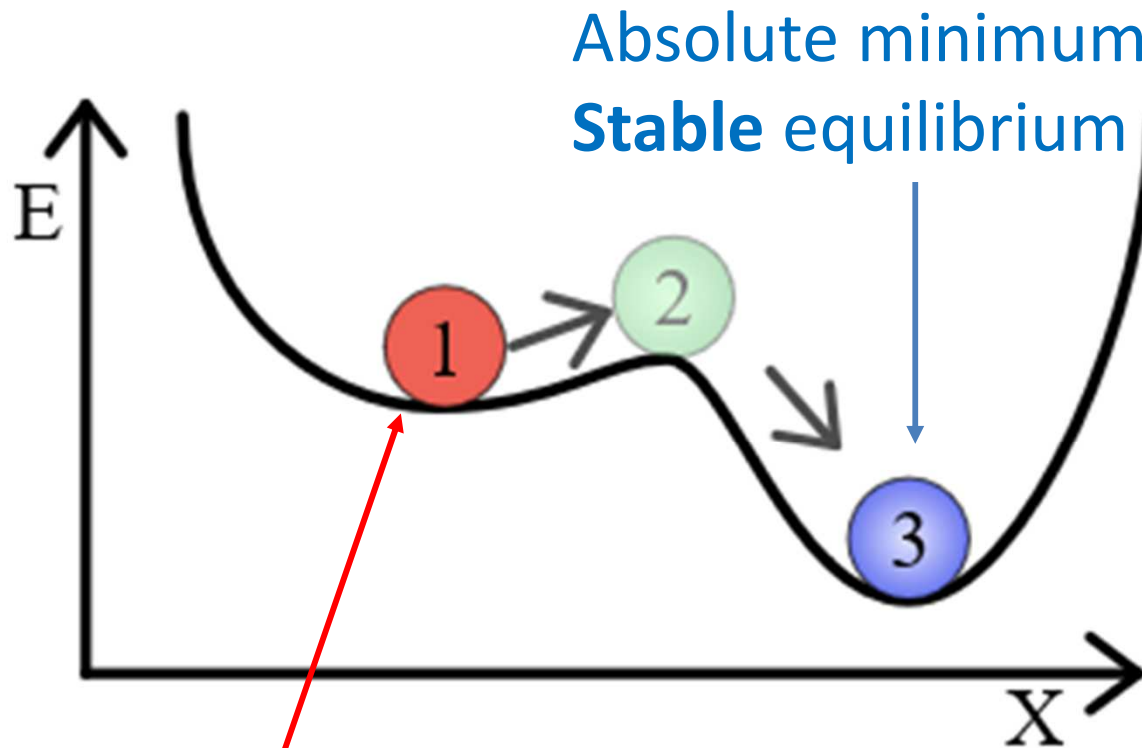
Thermodynamics:

A system is in equilibrium when its energy is minimized

Equilibrium = **G minimum** with G: free enthalpy

Stability and metastability

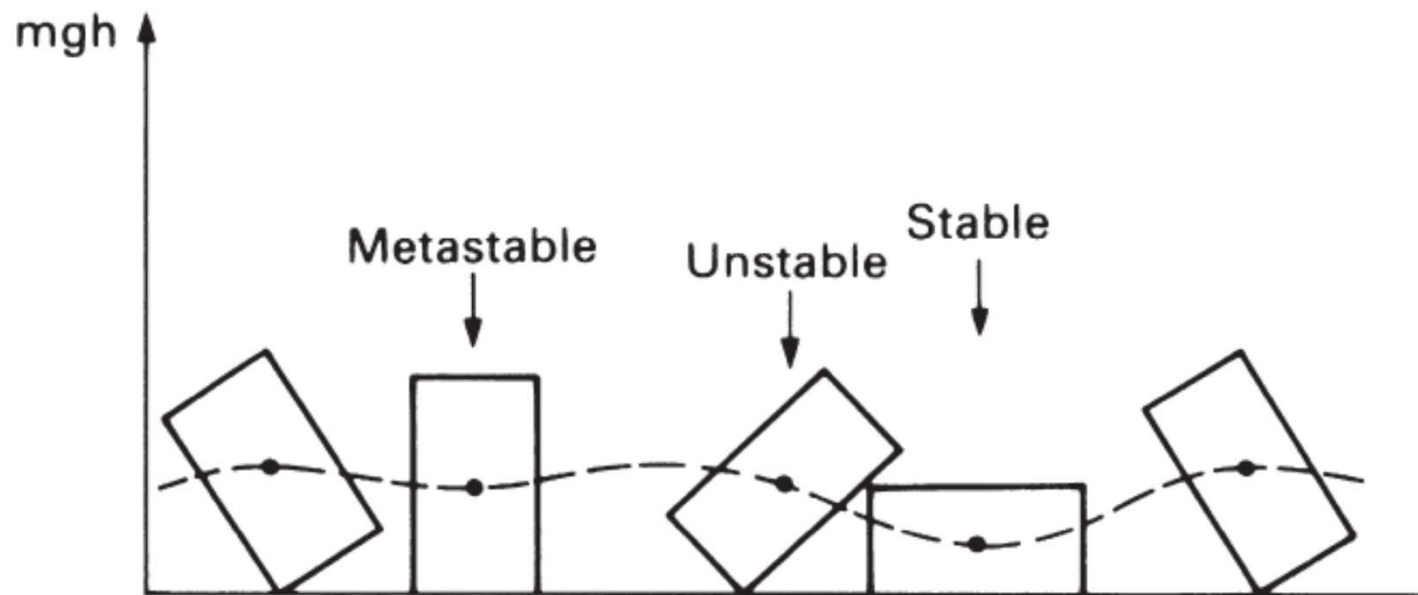
Equilibrium = **G** minimum



Relative minimum
Metastable equilibrium

Stability and metastability

In the simple case where the energy of the system is expressed as **potential energy**



Outline

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When is it possible to change the structure of metallic materials?
 - General principles
 - Applications to phase transformations
- Kinetics I: diffusive transformation
- Kinetics II: nucleation
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

Driving force for solidification

Water solidifies into ice (T, p cst)

- If $p = 1 \text{ atm}$, $T_m = 273 \text{ K}$
- Mixture of water and ice is in equilibrium

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G = 0 &= (U + pV - T_m S)_{\text{ice}} = (U + pV - T_m S)_{\text{water}} \\ &= (H - T_m S)_{\text{ice}} = (H - T_m S)_{\text{water}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta H = T_m \Delta S \text{ with } \Delta H: \text{"latent heat of solidification"}$$

Driving force for solidification

Water solidifies into ice (T, p cst)

- If $p = 1 \text{ atm}$, $T = \mathbf{272 \text{ K (just below } T_m)}$
- Water has a tendency to freeze

$$W_f = -[(H-TS)_{ice} - (H-TS)_{water}] > 0$$

$$W_f = -\Delta H + T\Delta S$$

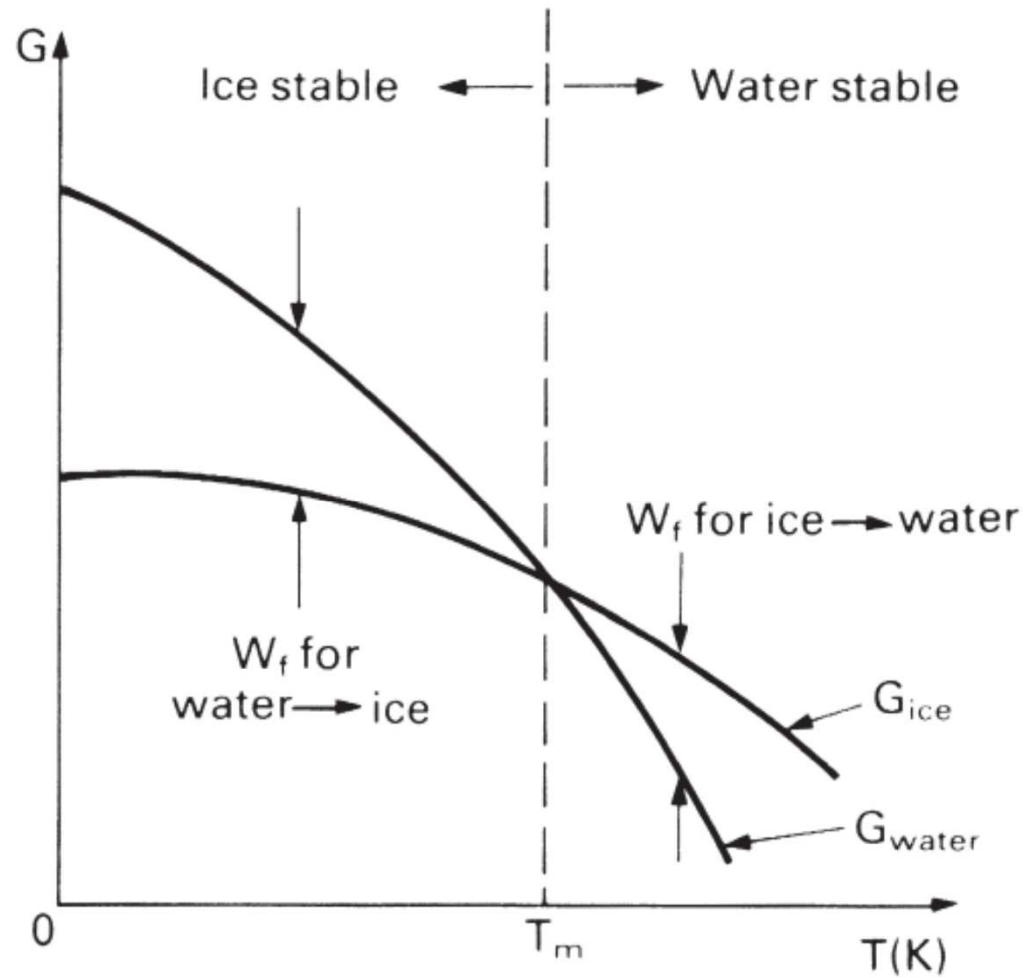
Assuming that ΔH and ΔS do not change much with T

$$W_f(T) = -\Delta H + T(\Delta H/T_m)$$

From calorimetry experiments, $\Delta H = -334 \text{ kJ kg}^{-1}$

$$W_f = 1,22 \text{ kJ kg}^{-1}$$

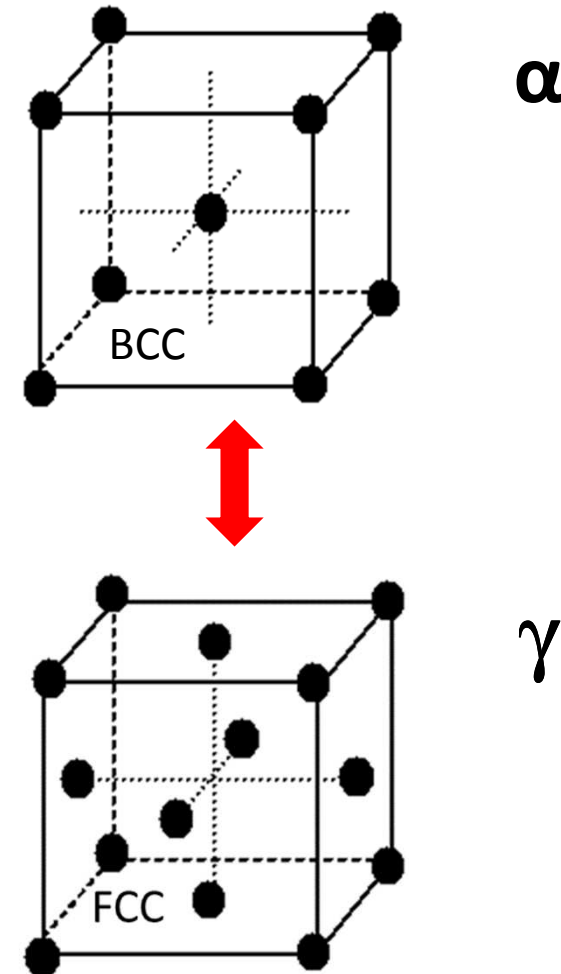
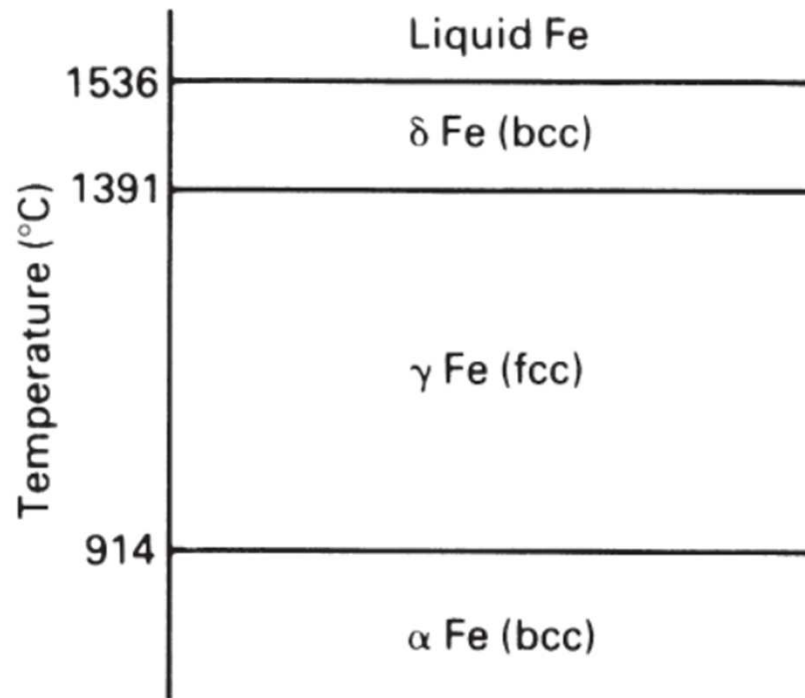
Driving force for solidification



Driving force for solid-state phase transformation

Same approach for

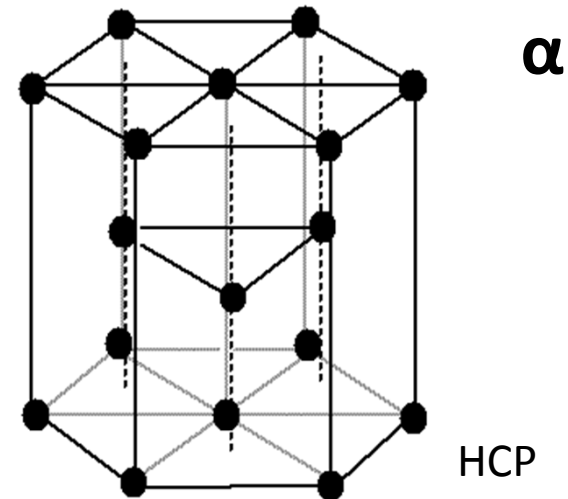
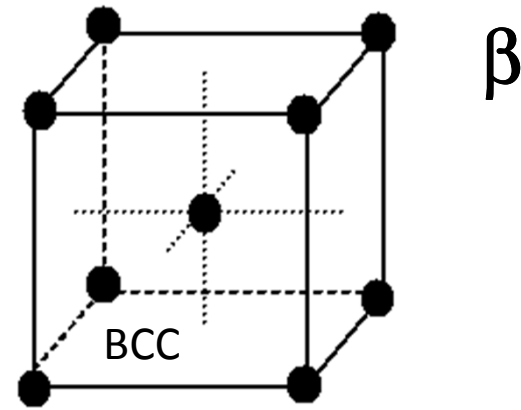
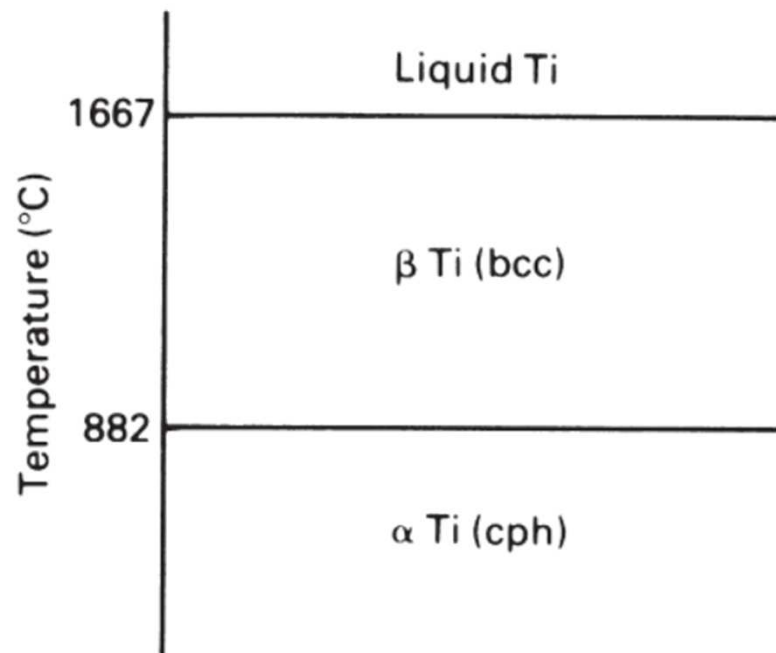
- the α - γ transition in Fe



Driving force for solid-state phase transformation

Same approach for

- the α - β transition in Ti



Driving force for solid-state phase transformation

Same approach for

- the α - γ transition in Fe
- the α - β transition in Ti

$$W_f(T) = -\frac{\Delta H}{T_e} (T_e - T)$$

with T_e the temperature at which the 2 solid phases are in equilibrium

Driving force for solid-state phase transformation

$$W_f(T) = -\frac{\Delta H}{T_e} (T_e - T)$$

with $T_e = 1155$ K and $\Delta H = -3,48$ J mol⁻¹
for the $\alpha - \beta$ transition in Ti

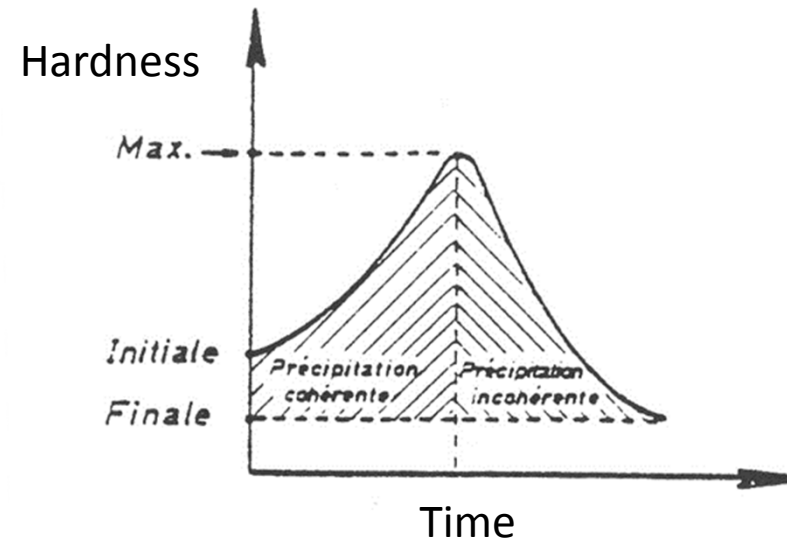
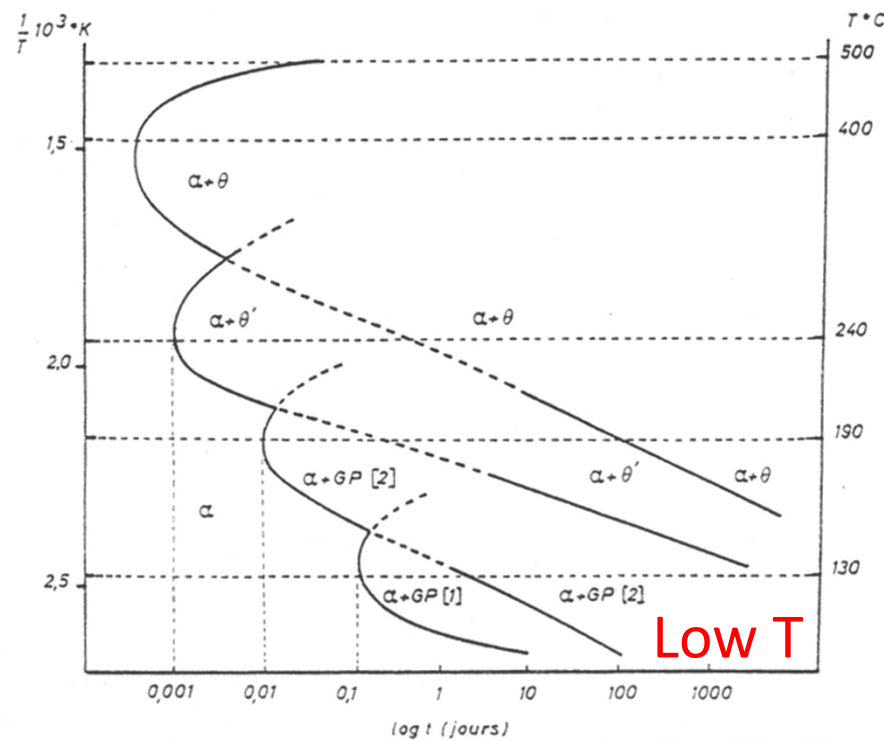
$\Rightarrow W_f = 3,0$ J mol⁻¹ for a T departure from T_e of 1 K

$\Rightarrow W_f$ for solid-state transformation are $\sim 1/3$ of W_f for solidification

Precipitate coarsening

Heat treatment to control the formation of Al_2Cu and obtain optimized properties (Hardness)

→ Why do we need to control the heat treatment?



⇒ Small coherent precipitates

Precipitate coarsening

Driving force = Reducing the area of interface between the precipitates and the matrix

Assuming γ : energy of interface per unit area

For a precipitate with radius r ,
the interfacial energy is: $4\pi r^2 \gamma$

Precipitate coarsening

Driving force = Reducing the area of interface between the precipitates and the matrix

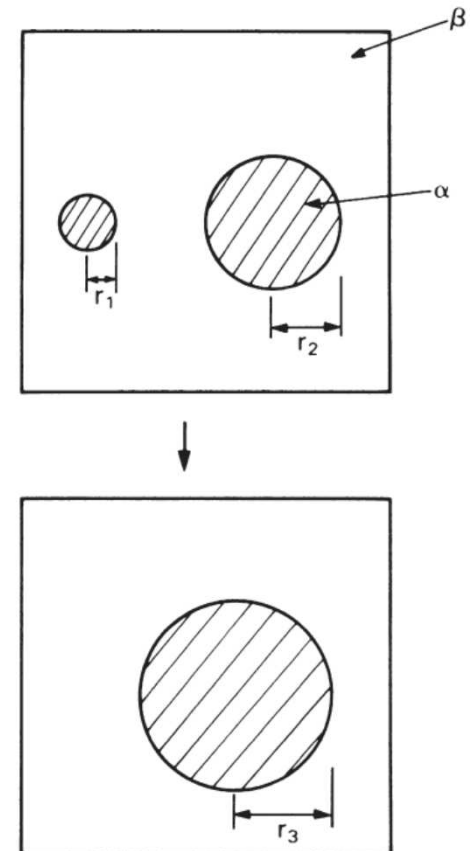
$$\Delta A = 4\pi r_3^2 \gamma - 4\pi r_1^2 \gamma - 4\pi r_2^2 \gamma$$

Conservation of volume:

$$\frac{4}{3}\pi r_3^3 = \frac{4}{3}\pi r_1^3 + \frac{4}{3}\pi r_2^3$$

⇒

$$\Delta A = 4\pi\gamma[(r_1^3 + r_2^3)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (r_1^2 + r_2^2)]$$



Precipitate coarsening

$$\Delta A = 4\pi\gamma[(r_1^3 + r_2^3)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (r_1^2 + r_2^2)]$$

When $r_1 = r_2/2$

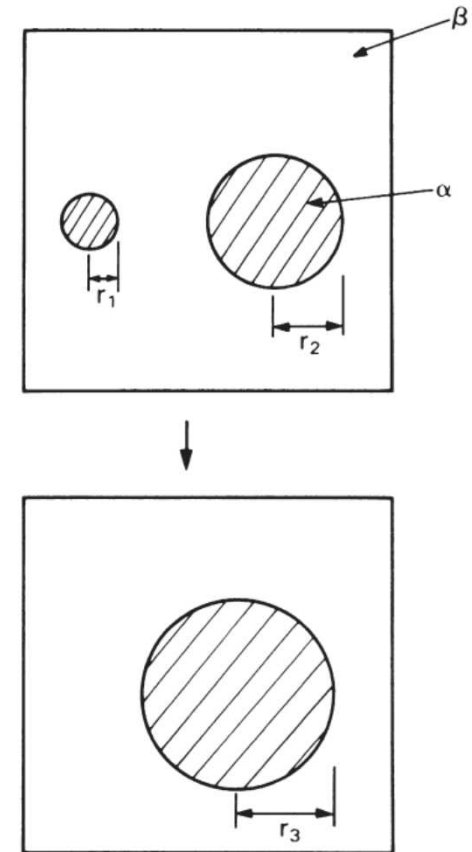
$$\Rightarrow \Delta A = -4\pi\gamma(-0,17r_2^2)$$

For incoherent precipitates,

$$\gamma = 0,5 \text{ J m}^{-2}$$

$$\text{If } r_2 = 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

$$\mathbf{W_f = 7 \text{ J mol}^{-1}}$$



Precipitate coarsening

For incoherent precipitates,
 $\gamma = 0,5 \text{ J m}^{-2}$, and if $r_2 = 10^{-7} \text{ m}$

$$W_f = 7 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$$

It is a challenge to avoid coarsening!

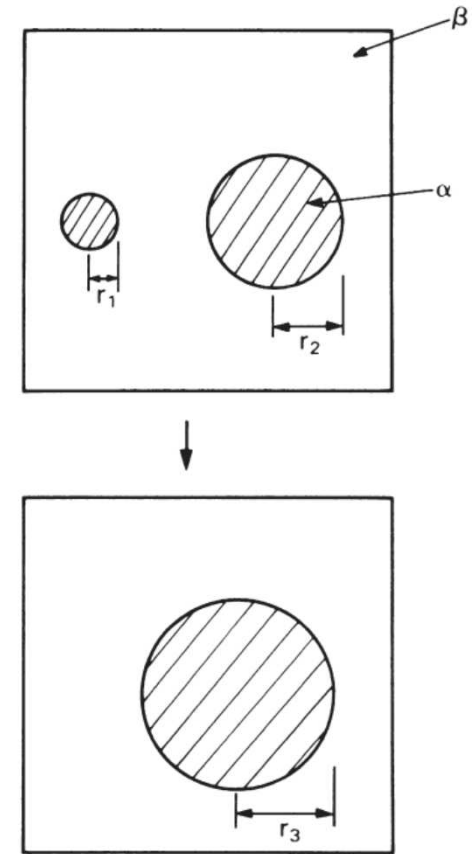
One first possible way:

For coherent precipitates,

$$\gamma = 0,05 \text{ J m}^{-2}$$

$$W_f = 0,7 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$$

⇒ Select alloying elements for coherent precipitation



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Other solid state changes

- Grain growth:

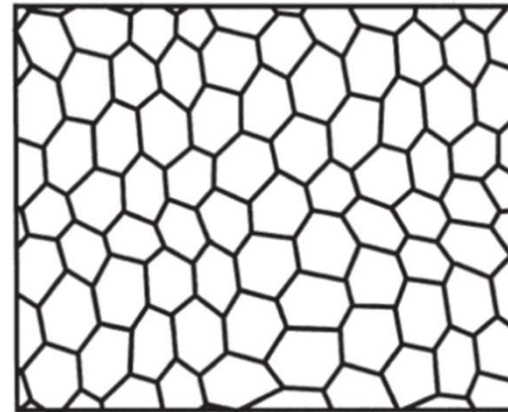
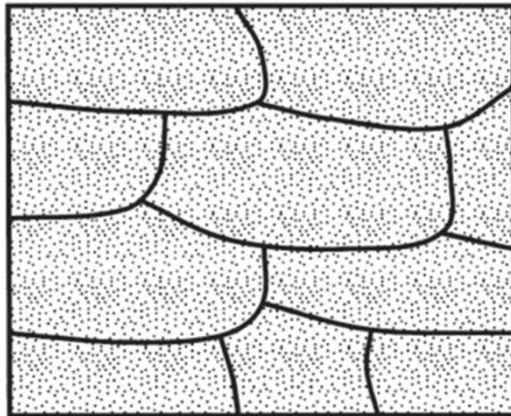
Grain boundary energy per unit area

$$\gamma = 0,5 \text{ J m}^{-2}$$

- Recrystallisation:

Strain energy per unit volume $\sim 15 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$

Deformed
structure



Recrystallised
new strain-
free grains

Orders of magnitude

Table 5.1 Driving forces for structural change

<i>Change</i>	$-\Delta G$ ($J mol^{-1}$)
Chemical reaction – oxidation	0 to 10^6
Chemical reaction – formation of intermetallic compounds	300 to 5×10^4
Diffusion in solid solutions (dilute ideal solutions: between solute concentrations $2c$ and c at 1000 K)	6×10^3
Solidification or melting ($1^\circ C$ departure from T_m)	8 to 22
Polymorphic transformations ($1^\circ C$ departure from T_e)	1 to 8
Recrystallisation (caused by cold working)	≈ 15
Precipitate coarsening	0.7 to 7
Grain growth	2×10^{-2}

Outline

- Introduction
- Driving force for structural change
- **Kinetics I: diffusive transformation**
- Kinetics II: nucleation
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

Kinetics of structural change:

1 - diffusive transformations

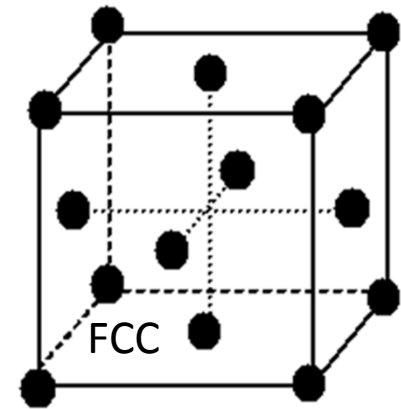
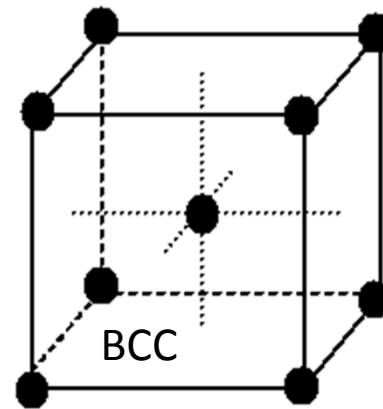
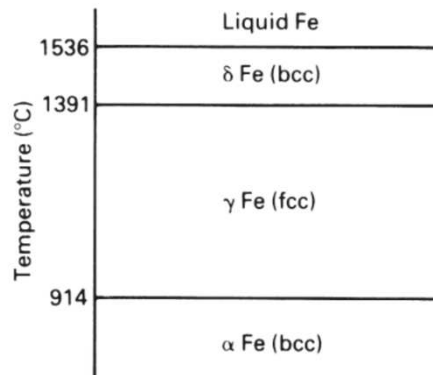
Speed of change?

- Structural change is possible when there is a driving force for change
- Even if there is a driving force, change may not occur at a measurable **pace/speed**

⇒ **Route or mechanism for transformation?**

⇒ **Kinetics!**

Atomic diffusion, rate = $f(T)$



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

[<http://deuns.chez.com/sciences/cristallo/cristallo2.html>]

Kinetics of solidification

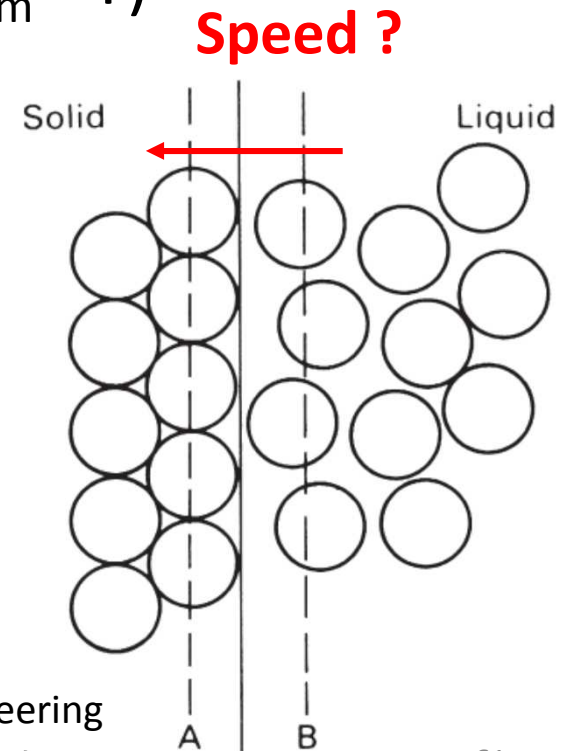
Reminder: driving force for solidification

$$W_f = - \Delta G$$

$$\Delta G \cong \frac{\Delta H}{T_m} (T_m - T) \text{ for small } (T_m - T)$$

Kinetics of solidification:

How fast do atoms diffuse due to that driving force?



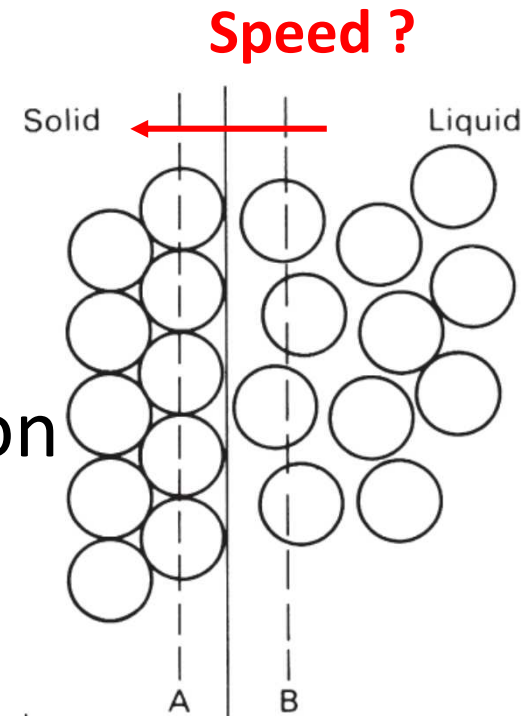
Kinetics of solidification

Kinetics of solidification:
How fast do atoms diffuse ?

Atoms vibrate due to thermal agitation

A given atom has a probability p to possess an energy higher than $q=3kT_m$

$$p = e^{-q/kT_m}$$



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Kinetics of solidification

Based on probabilistic considerations, the solidification rate is given by:

$$v \approx \frac{d}{6h} e^{-q/kT} \frac{\Delta H(T_m - T)}{T_m}$$

with

d : molecular/atomic diameter

h : Planck's constant

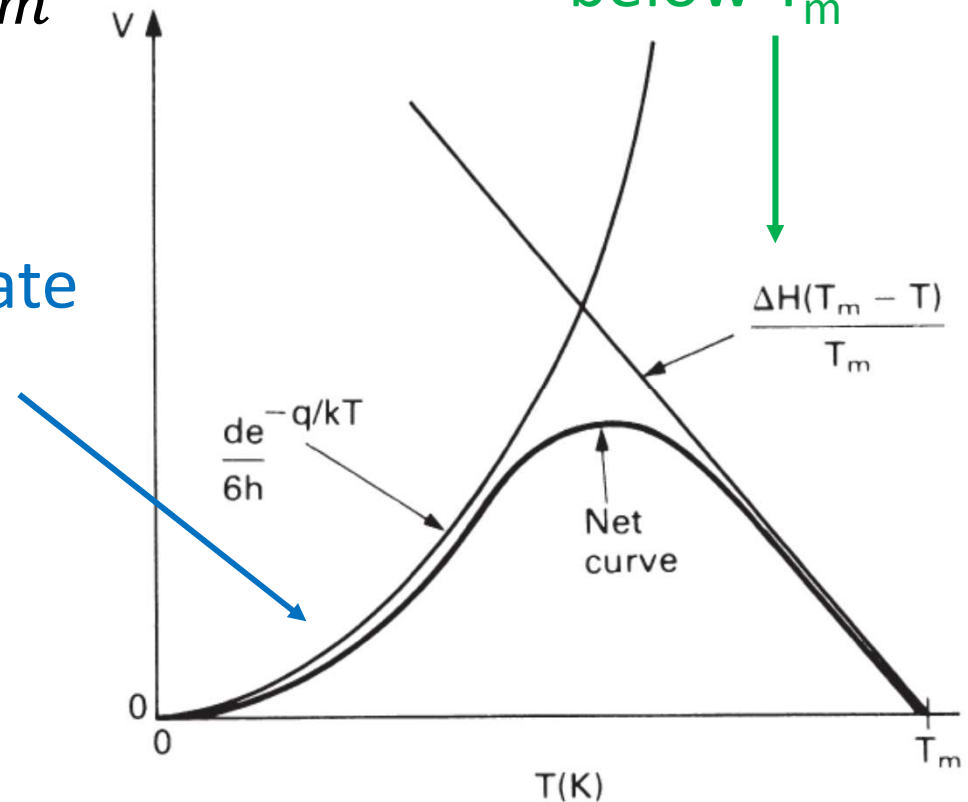
Kinetics of solidification

Solidification rate:

$$v \approx \frac{d}{6h} e^{-q/kT} \frac{\Delta H(T_m - T)}{T_m}$$

1st, solidification rate increases below T_m

2nd, solidification rate decreases when T decreases further



Kinetics of solid-state phase change

Driving force:

$$\Delta G \cong \frac{\Delta H}{T_e} (T_e - T)$$

Transformation rate:

$$v \approx \frac{d}{6h} e^{-q/kT} \frac{\Delta H (T_e - T)}{T_e}$$

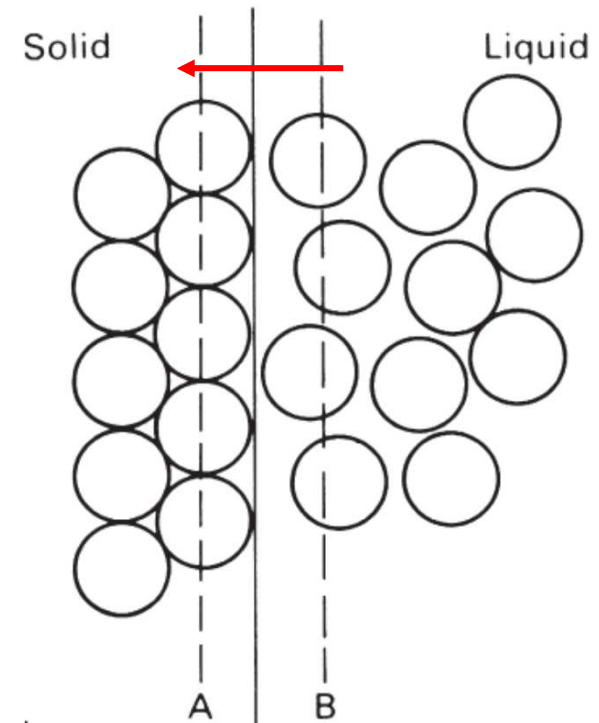
for a diffusive transformation

Kinetics of diffusive transformation

Movement of atoms between 2 phases

⇒ The **2 phases are already present**

⇒ There are **pre-existing nuclei** of the "new" phase



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones,
Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Outline

- Introduction
- Driving force for structural change
- Kinetics I: diffusive transformation
- **Kinetics II: nucleation**
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

Kinetics of structural change:

2 - nucleation

Kinetics of diffusive transformation

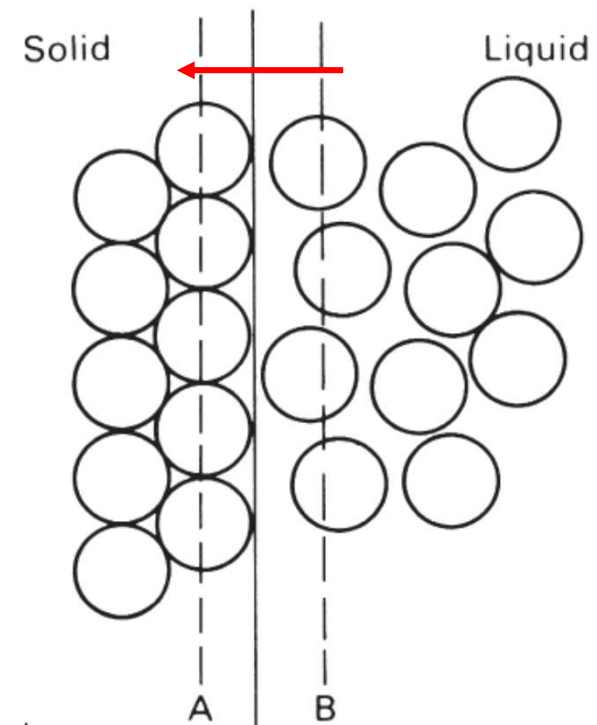
Movement of atoms between 2 phases

⇒ The **2 phases are already present**

⇒ Nuclei of the "new" phase

⇒ 2 possible mechanisms for nucleation:

1. Homogeneous
2. Heterogeneous



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones,
Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Homogeneous nucleation

In a liquid, thermal agitation may bring together a small group of atoms to form a tiny crystal

1. If $T > T_m$, this tiny crystal will disappear
2. If $T < T_m$, this tiny crystal may remain stable and grow

⇒ What is the probability of finding a stable nucleus at $T < T_m$?

Homogeneous nucleation

What is the probability of finding a stable nucleus at $T < T_m$?

- Driving force: $\Delta G \cong \frac{\Delta H}{T_m} (T_m - T)$, accounting for the volume of the nucleus with radius r :

$$\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \frac{\Delta H}{T_m} (T_m - T)$$

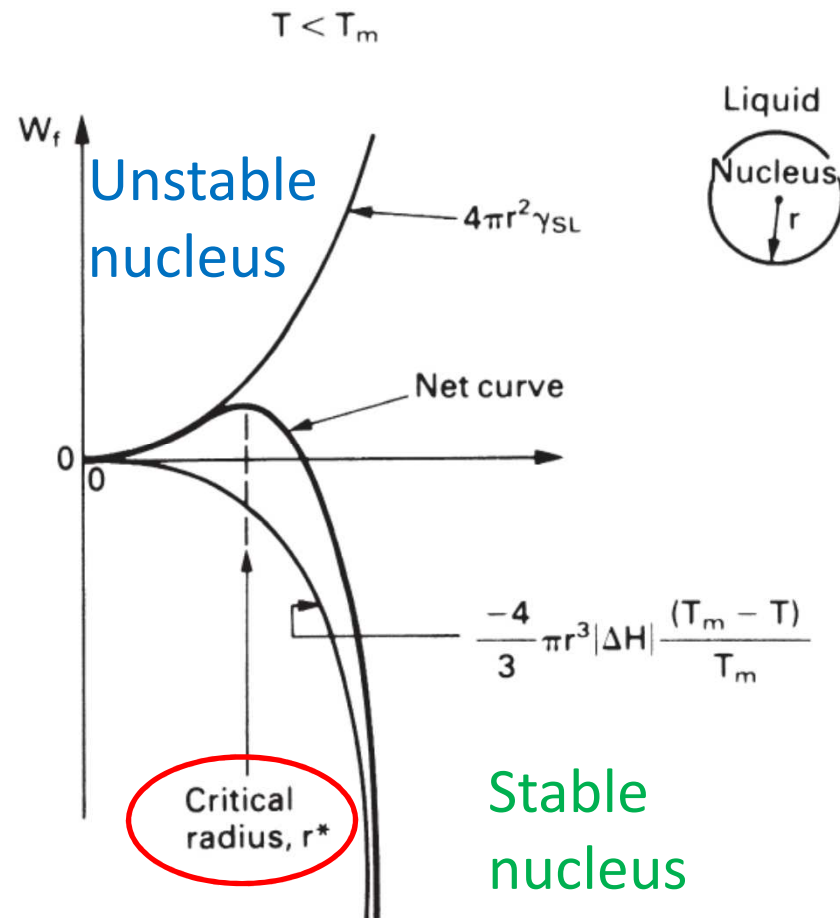
- Work to create the solid-liquid interface:

$$4\pi r^2 \gamma_{sl} \longrightarrow \text{Interfacial energy}$$

Homogeneous nucleation

Work of nucleation

$$W_f = 4\pi r^2 \gamma_{sl} - \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \frac{\Delta H}{T_m} (T_m - T)$$

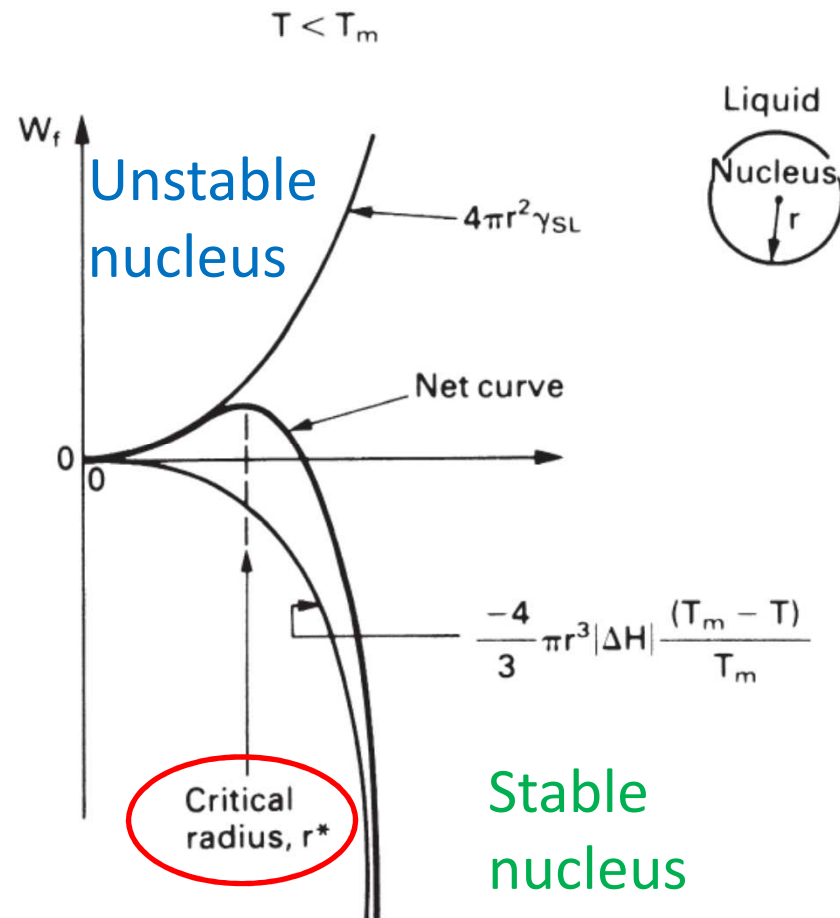


Homogeneous nucleation

Critical radius:

$$\frac{dW_f}{dr} = 0$$

$$r^* = \frac{2\gamma_{sl}T_m}{|\Delta H|(T_m - T)}$$



Homogeneous nucleation

Critical radius: $r^* = \frac{2\gamma_{sl}T_m}{|\Delta H|(T_m - T)}$

Formation of a nucleus that is big enough is not likely!

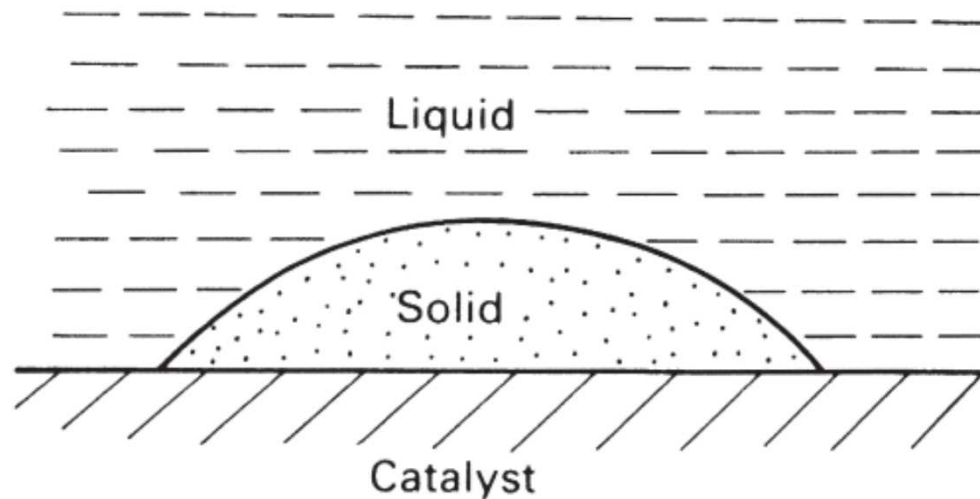
For homogeneous nucleation to happen,
 $(T_m - T) \approx 100 \text{ K}$ i.e. huge undercooling!

\Rightarrow Heterogeneous nucleation much more frequent!

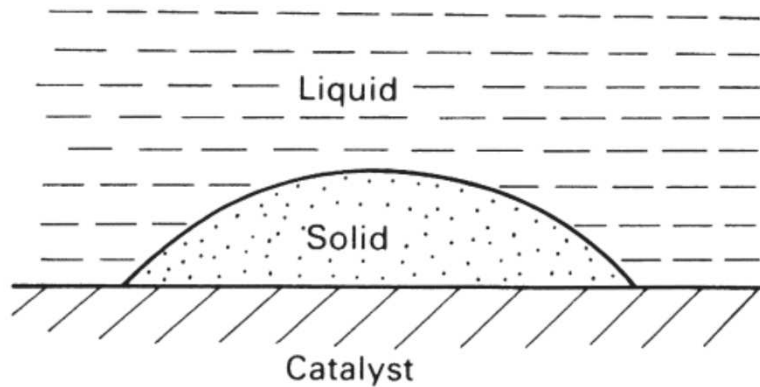
Heterogeneous nucleation

"Dirt" particles act as solid catalysts for nucleation

Pre-existing particle helps stabilise solid nuclei



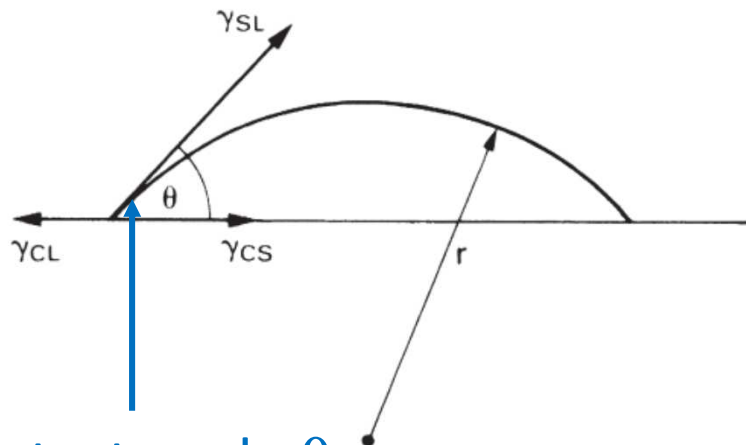
Heterogeneous nucleation



Critical radius

$$r^* = \frac{2\gamma_{sl}T_m}{|\Delta H|(T_m - T)}$$

is the same as for
homogeneous nucleation



Contact angle θ

But the volume of the
critical nucleus is \neq !

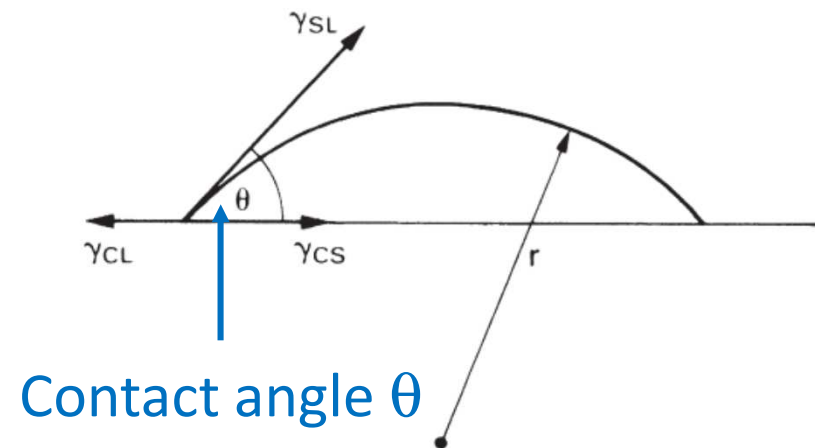
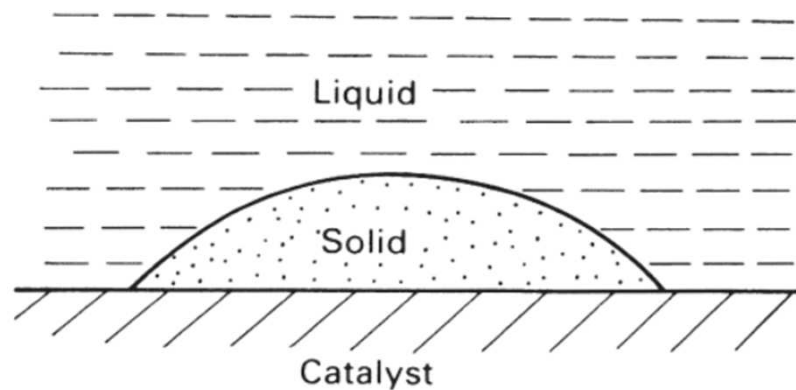
Nucleus = spherical cap

Heterogeneous nucleation

Volume of critical nucleus:

$$V_{het}^* = \frac{2}{3}\pi(r_{het}^*)^3 \left\{ 1 - \frac{3}{2}\cos\theta + \frac{1}{2}\cos^3\theta \right\}$$

$$\text{While } V_{hom}^* = \frac{4}{3}\pi(r_{hom}^*)^3$$



Heterogeneous nucleation

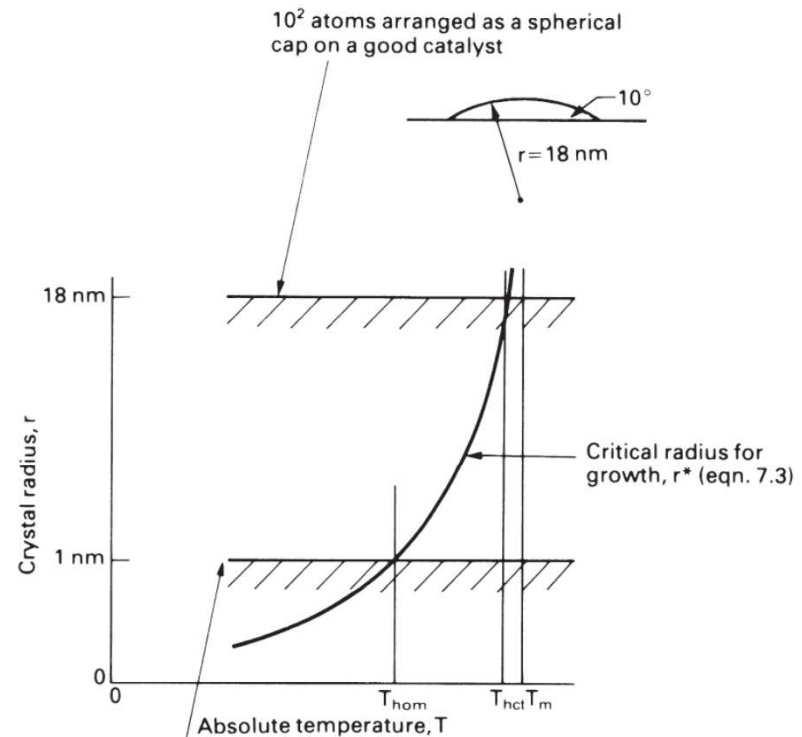
Take a nucleus formed by 10^2 atoms and $\theta = 10^\circ$

V_{het}^* and V_{hom}^*

$\Rightarrow r_{het}^*$ and r_{hom}^* ?

$$r_{het}^* = 18,1 r_{hom}^*$$

\Rightarrow Heterogeneous nuclei are always bigger!



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Heterogeneous nucleation

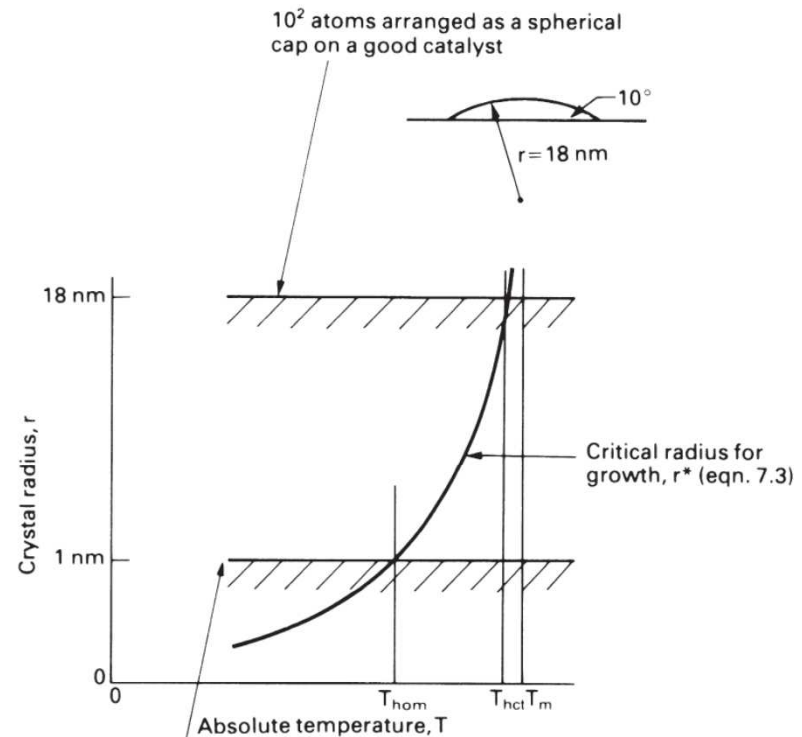
Take a nucleus formed by 10^2 atoms and $\theta = 10^\circ$

$$r_{het}^* = 18,1 r_{hom}^*$$

⇒ Undercooling:

$$T_m - T_{het} = \frac{T_m - T_{hom}}{18,1}$$

$$\approx 5K$$



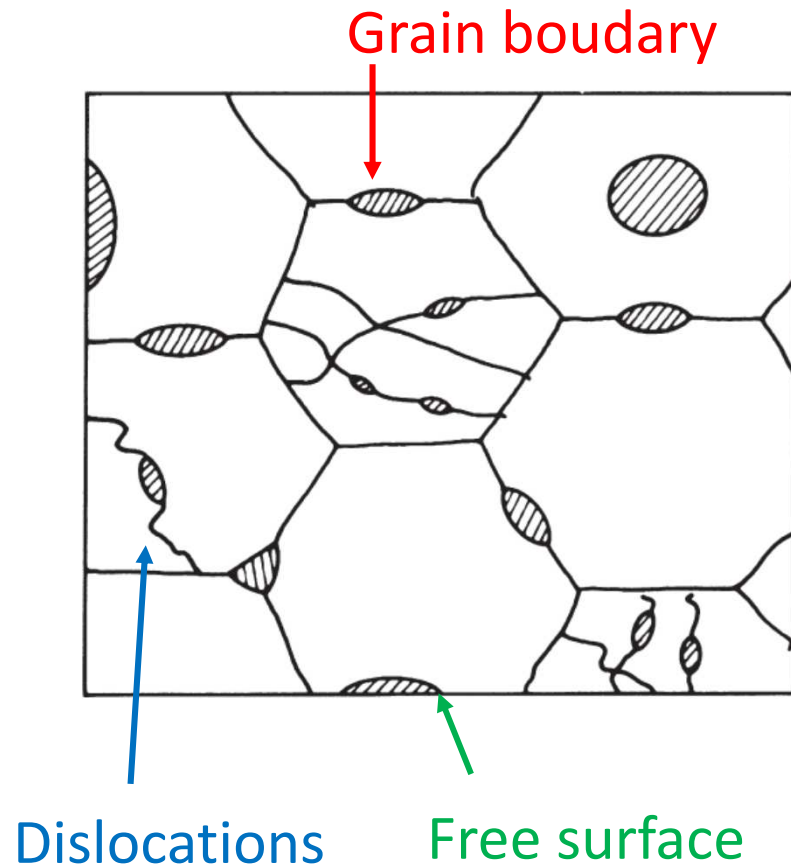
10^2 atoms arranged as a sphere



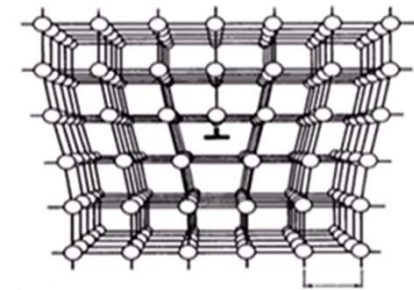
[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Nucleation in solids

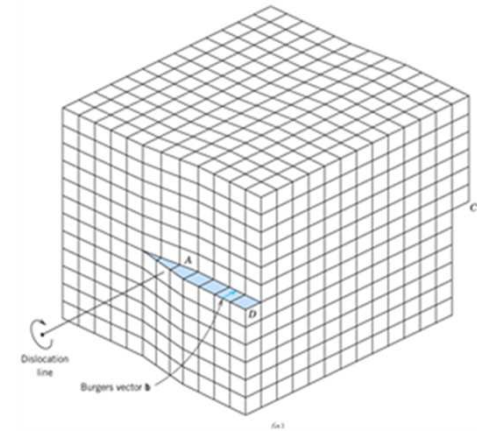
- Heterogeneous nucleation on crystalline defects



Dislocations (TEM)



Edge dislocation



Screw dislocation

Outline

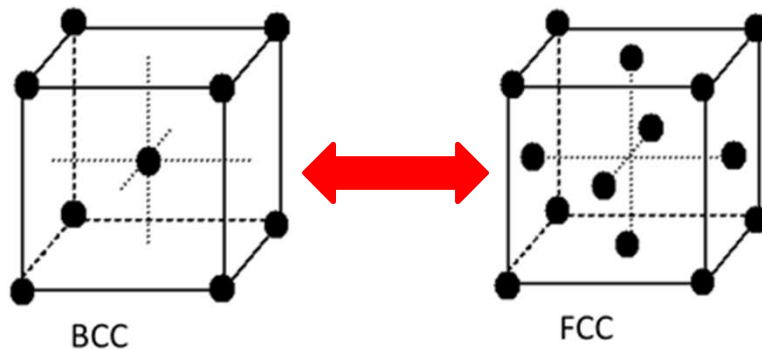
- Introduction
- Driving force for structural change
- Kinetics I: diffusive transformation
- Kinetics II: nucleation
- Kinetics III: displacive transformation

Kinetics of structural change:

3 - displacive transformations

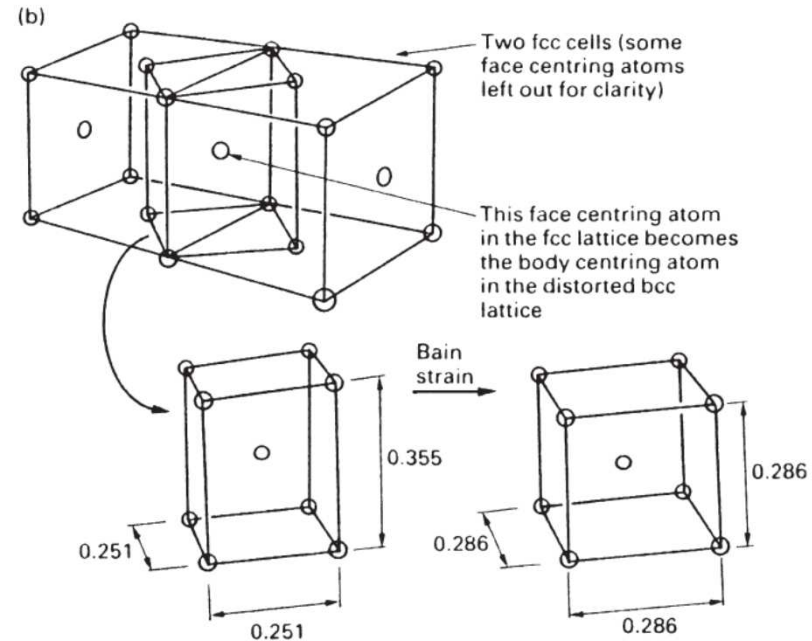
Reminder "Physics of Materials"

Phase transformations in steel may occur by **≠ mechanisms**



[<http://deuns.chez.com/sciences/cristallo/cristallo2.html>]

Diffusion



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Coordinated shuffling of atoms ← **Displacement**

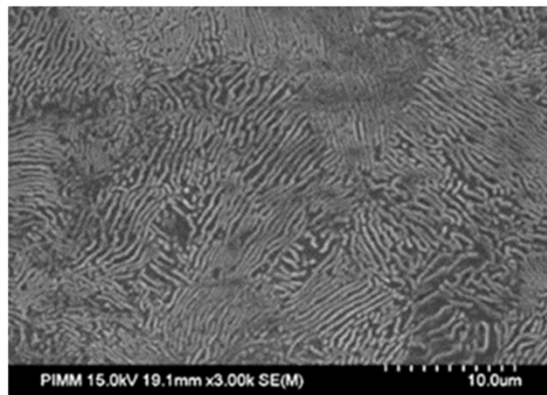
Transformations in C steels

[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones,
Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Table 8.1 Mechanical properties of 0.8% carbon steel

Property	As-received	Heated to red heat and water-quenched
H (GPa)	2	9 High hardness
σ_{TS} (MPa)	600	Limited by brittleness
ϵ_f (%)	10	≈ 0

Diffusion
⇒ Pearlite

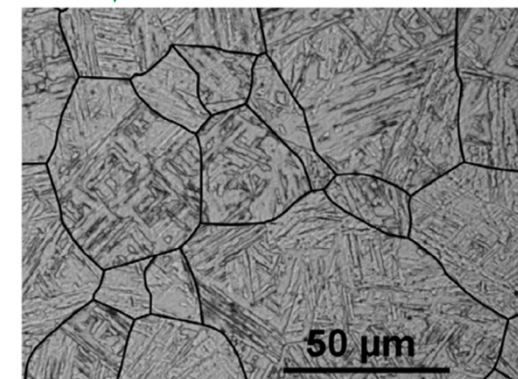


[Baczmanski et al., MSF, 2014]

Same chemical composition,
but different structures

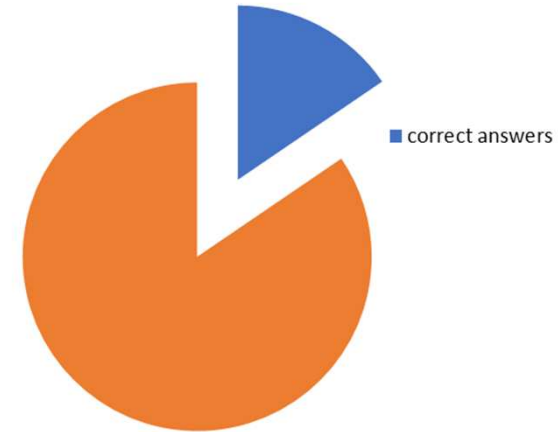
⇒ **Different mechanical properties**

Displacement
⇒ **Martensite**



[Christien et al., Mater. Char., 2013]

Martensite



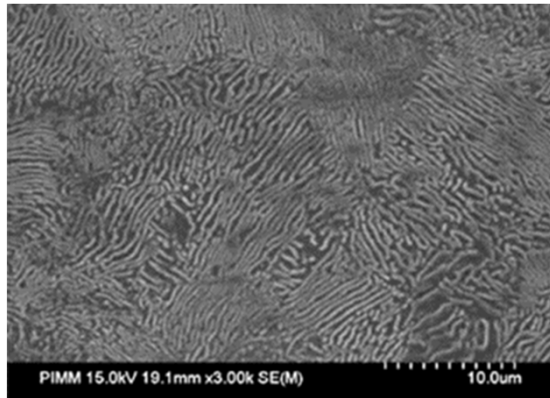
- *What is martensite in steel?*

⇒ **18% of correct answers in last week test!**

- Martensite = metastable phase that forms after **fast cooling** (quench) of C steel
- It forms by a **displacive** mechanism.
- It is very **hard** and **brittle**.

Transformations in C steels

Diffusion \Rightarrow Pearlite

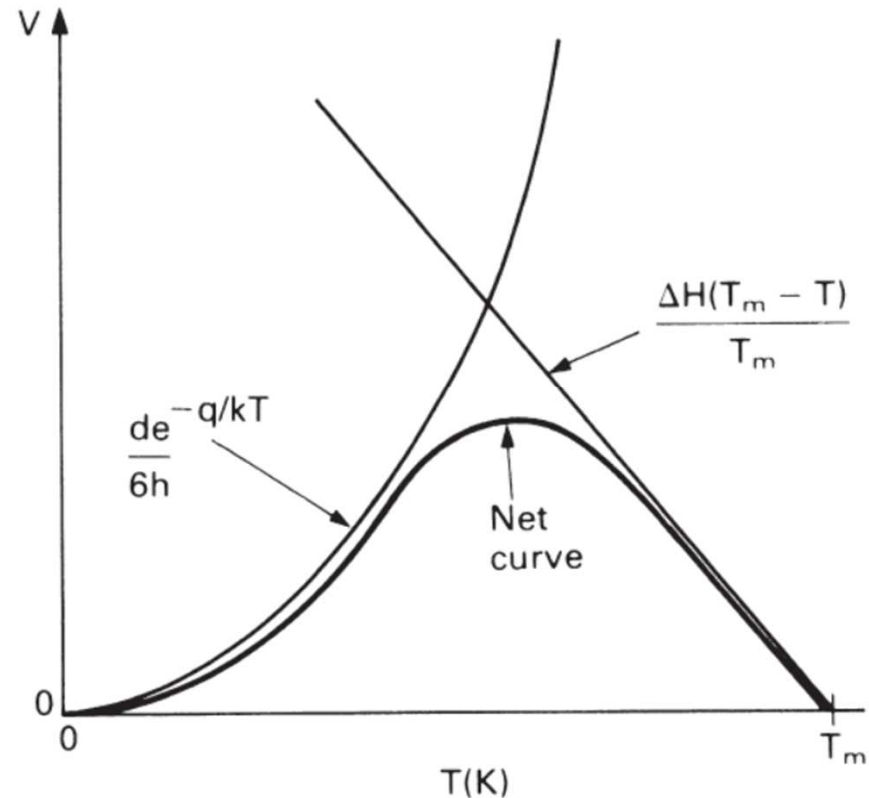


[Baczmanski et al., MSF, 2014]

Diffusion is thermally activated!
Interface velocity varies with T

What is the overall rate of transformation (transformed volume per second)?

Interface velocity



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Transformation in C steels

Diffusive transformation: Overall rate of transformation

- We know the interface velocity
- We need to know the area of interface
 - area of interface = f(number of nuclei)
 - Fewer nuclei means smaller interfacial area and a smaller transformation rate

⇒ **Overall rate \propto number of nuclei * interface velocity**

Transformation in C steels

Overall rate \propto **number of nuclei** * **interface velocity**

(varies with T)



Does it vary with T?

For heterogeneous nucleation on grain boundaries:

$$r^* = \frac{2\gamma_{\alpha\beta}T_e}{|\Delta H|(T_e - T)} \quad : \text{critical radius } \downarrow \text{ when } T \downarrow$$

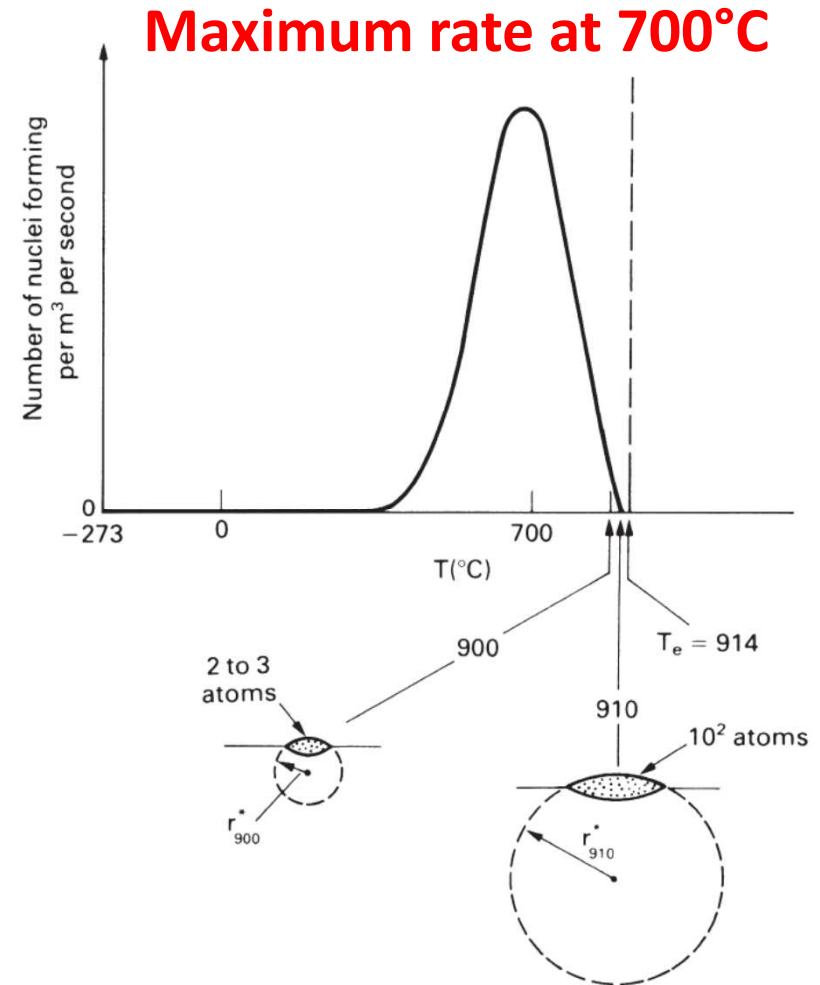
However, when $T \downarrow$, thermal energy and agitation \downarrow , and so does the probability of forming a nucleus

Transformation in C steels

Number of nuclei

- Critical radius \downarrow when $T \downarrow$
- Thermal energy and agitation \downarrow

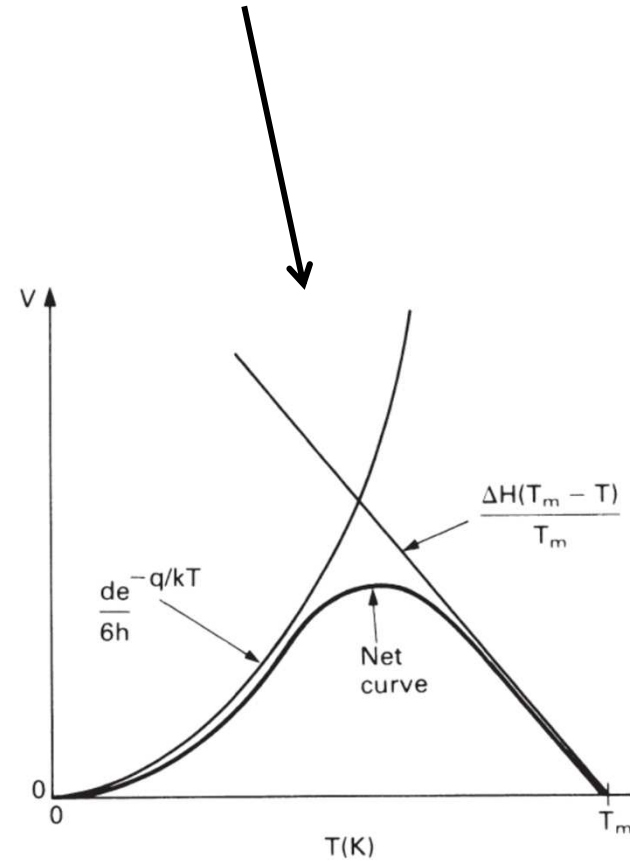
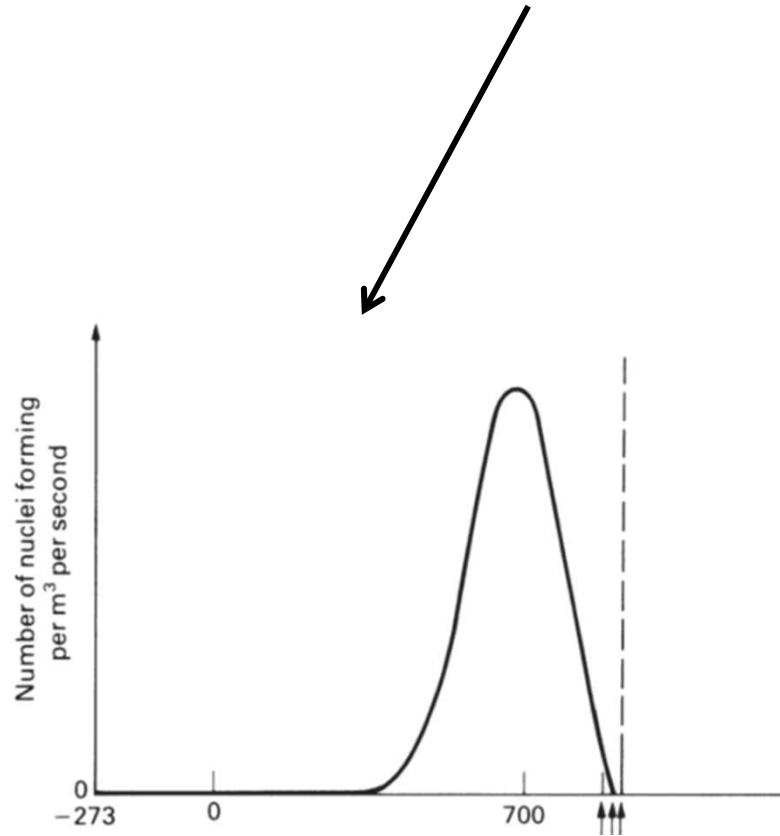
\Rightarrow Probability of forming a nucleus \downarrow



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones,
Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

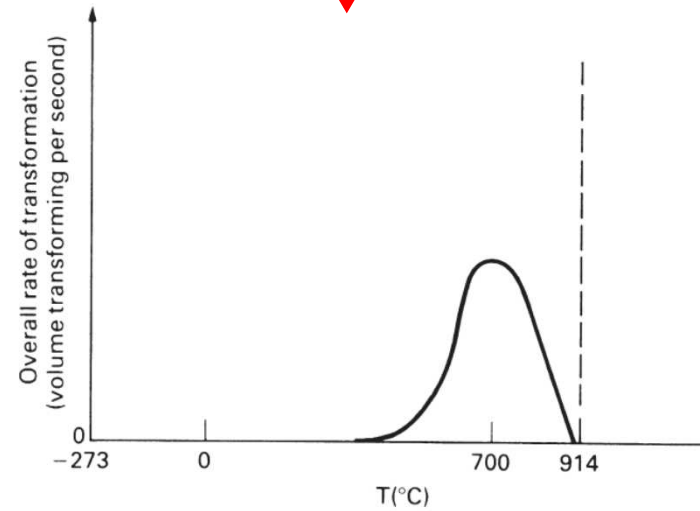
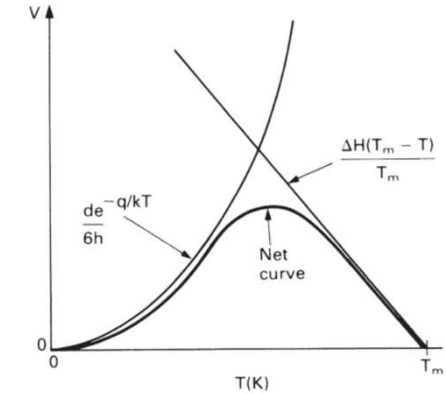
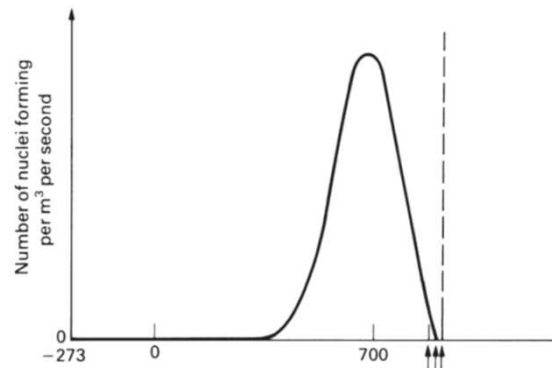
Transformation in C steels

Overall rate \propto number of nuclei * interface velocity



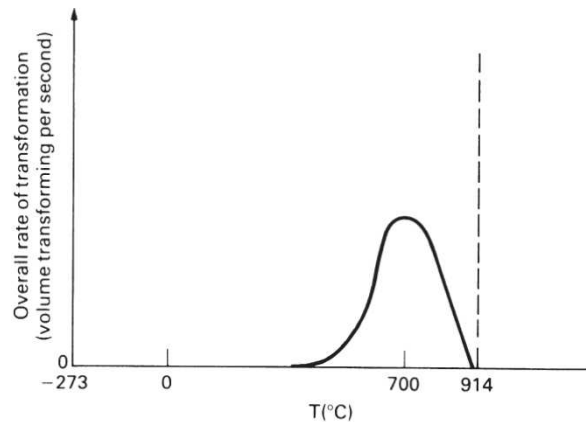
Transformation in C steels

Overall rate \propto number of nuclei * interface velocity

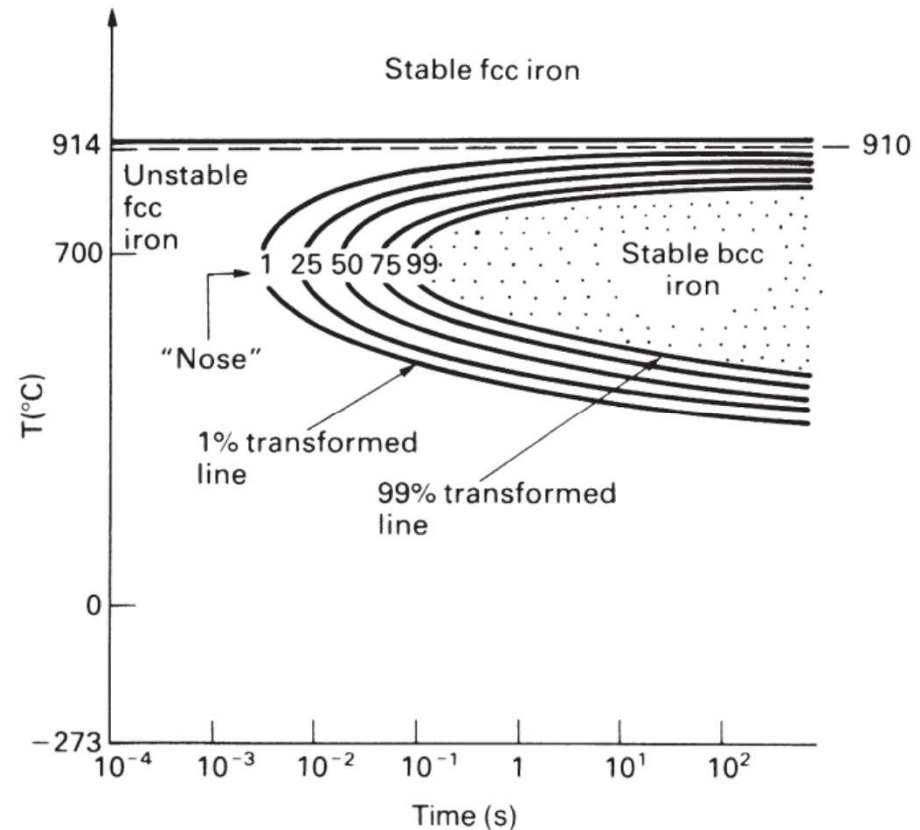


Transformation in C steels

Overall rate \propto number of nuclei * interface velocity



TTT Diagram

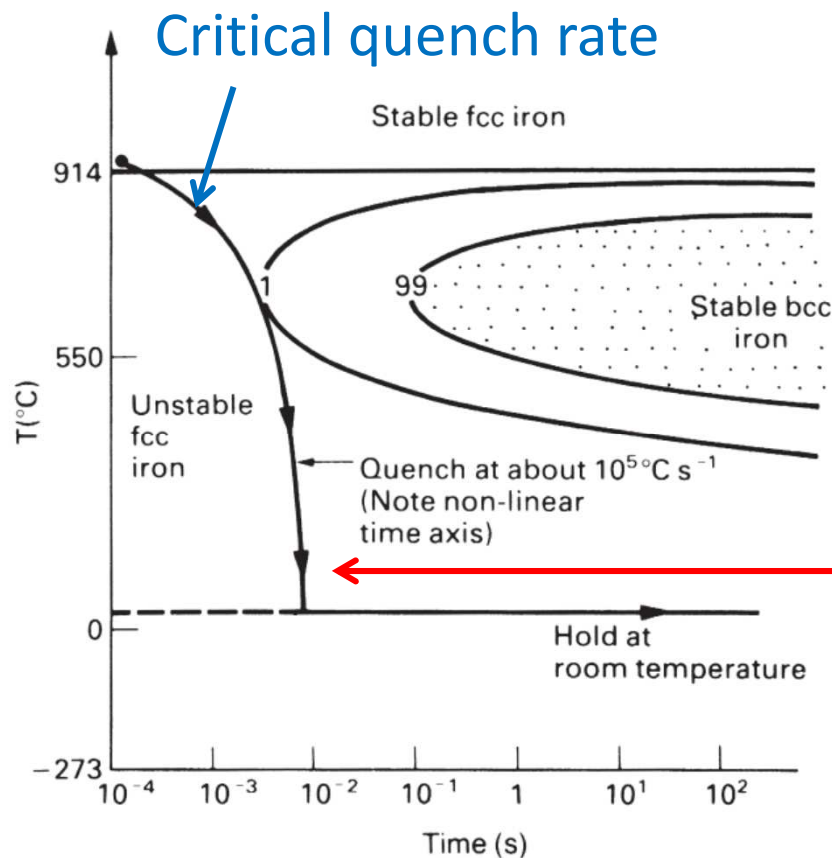


(See course "Physics of Materials")

Practically, overall kinetics for diffusive transformations are described by "C-curves".

Transformation in C steels

For a displacive transformation to occur, diffusive transformation should not take place!



Driving force for transformation becomes so high that the transformation occurs

- without diffusion
- by coordinated shuffling of atoms at speed \sim sound

→ Athermal transformation

(See course "Physics of Materials")

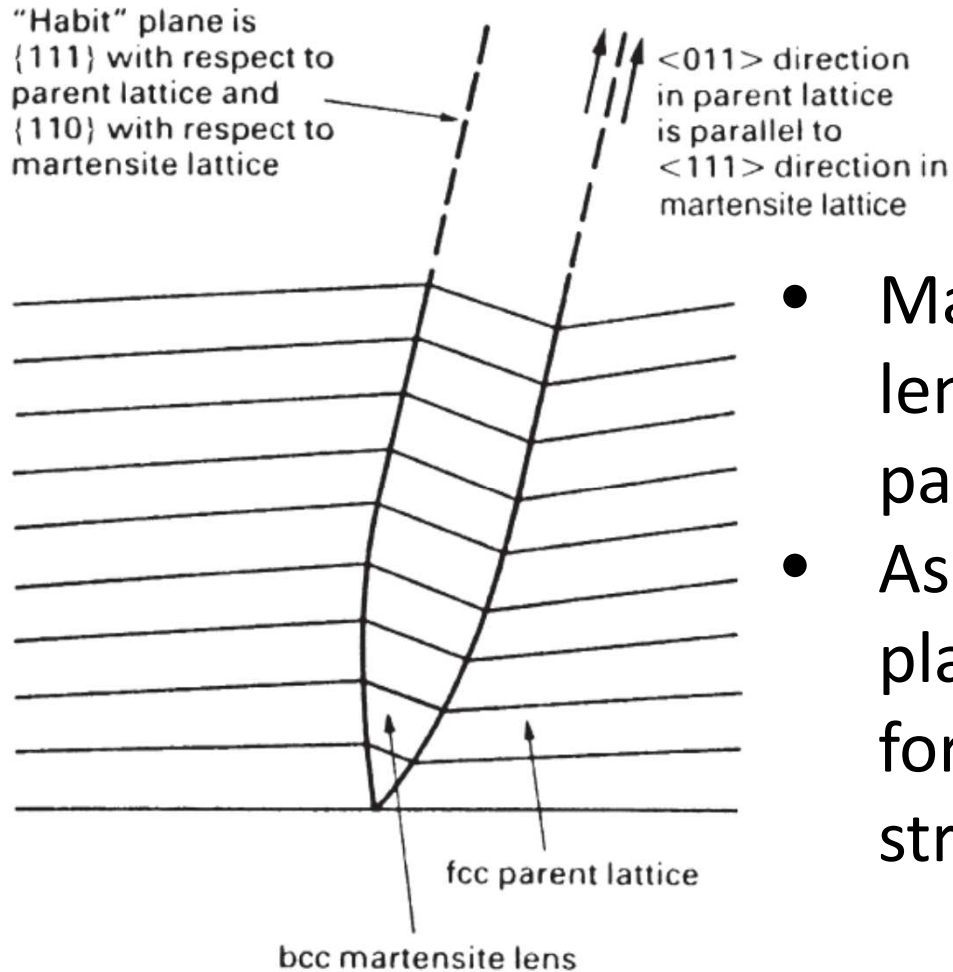
Transformation in C steels

Displacive vs diffusive transformations

Table 8.2 Characteristics of transformations

Displacive (also called diffusionless, shear, or martensitic)	Diffusive
Atoms move over distances \approx interatomic spacing.	Atoms move over distances of 1 to 10^6 interatomic spacings.
Atoms move by making and breaking interatomic bonds and by minor "shuffling".	Atoms move by thermally activated diffusion from site to site.
Atoms move one after another in precise sequence ("military" transformation).	Atoms hop randomly from site to site (although more hop "forwards" than "backwards") ("civilian" transformation).
Speed of transformation \approx velocity of lattice vibrations through crystal (essentially independent of temperature); transformation can occur at temperatures as low as 4 K.	Speed of transformation depends strongly on temperature; transformation does not occur below $0.3 T_m$ to $0.4 T_m$.
Extent of transformation (volume transformed) depends on temperature only.	Extent of transformation depends on time as well as temperature.
Composition cannot change (because atoms have no time to diffuse, they stay where they are).	Diffusion allows compositions of individual phases to change in alloyed systems.
Always specific crystallographic relationship between martensite and parent lattice.	Sometimes have crystallographic relationships between phases.

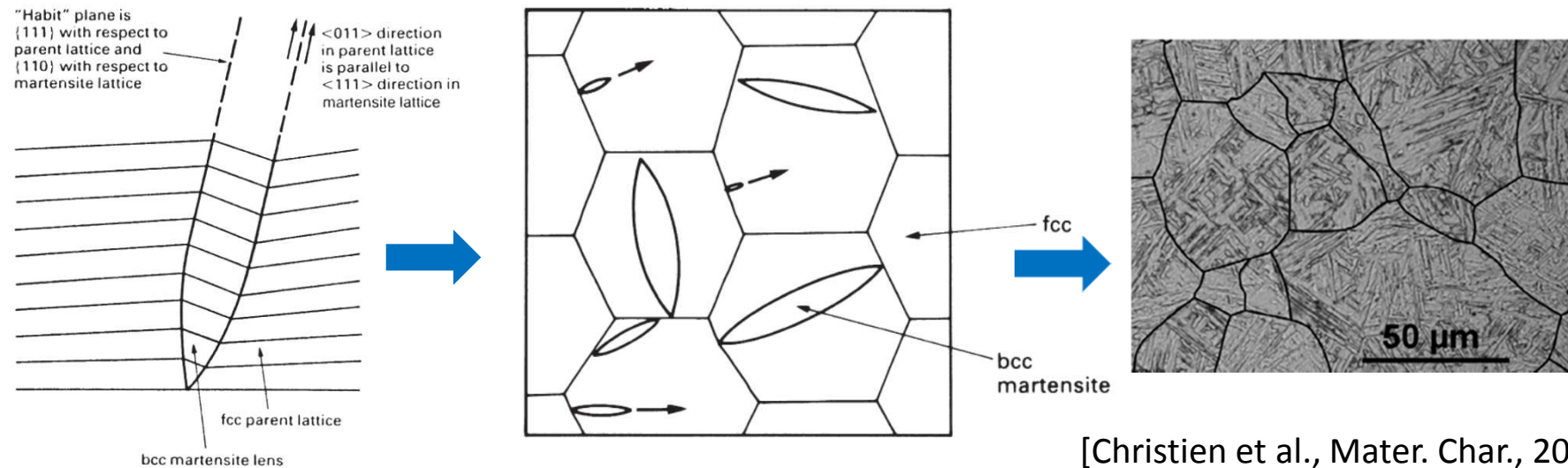
Martensitic transformation in C steels



- Martensite forms as lenses coherent with the parent FCC lattice
- As the lenses grow, lattice planes distort: driving force is consumed as strain energy

Martensitic transformation in C steels

Typical morphology in laths or needles



[M.F. Ashby and D.R.H. Jones, Engineering Materials, vol. 2]

Summary

Materials selection: desired properties

⇒ Materials properties may be

- structure independent ($E, c_p \dots$)
- structure dependent (σ_y , fatigue resistance...)

⇒ Controlling/changing the structure

- Is change possible? → Driving force
- Is change measurable? → Kinetics → Mechanisms
 - Diffusion
 - Displacement
 - Nucleation

} Assume the pre-existence then
growth of nuclei of the new phase