

Microstructural Tuning of Cr-Si Alloys for High Temperature Applications above 1200°C

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Motivation Cr-Si-alloys

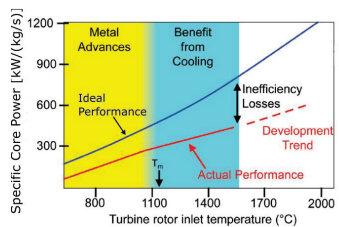
today: Ni-base superalloys

melting temperature Ni: 1455°C
working temperature: < 1150°C

future candidates: refractory alloys

melting temperature Cr: 1907°C

$Cr_{ss}-Cr_2Nb(Ta)$ $Cr_{ss}-Cr_3Si$
toughening strengthening

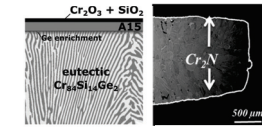


Thermal efficiency over temperature, after [1]

Motivation Alloying Elements

Ge, Si

• Enhanced oxidation & nitridation resistance



100h @ 1200°C, syn. air [2]

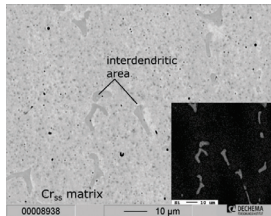
Mo

• Improves creep resistance of $(Cr,Mo)_3Si/(Cr,Mo)_5Si_3$ [3]
• Increases RT ductility of Cr [4]

Pt

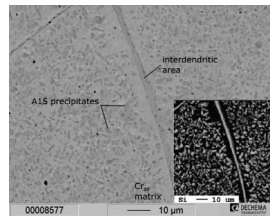
• Cr + Pt form A15 Cr_3Pt
• Dissolution and reprecipitation of A15 phase strongly T dependent → heat treatability

Microstructural evolution of Cr-Si alloys



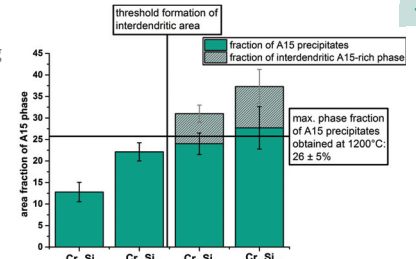
$Cr_{91}Si_9$ [at. %] as-cast condition

annealing
100h @
1200°C
Ar (~10⁻² Pa)



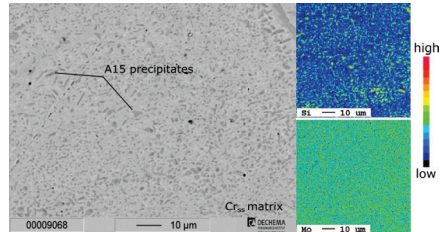
$Cr_{91}Si_9$ after annealing

- Increasing Si content → increasing A15 phase fraction (A_{15})
- Interdendritic areas are coarse, precipitates are fine and homogeneously distributed
- High fraction of precipitates + low interdendritic area = ideal mechanical properties



A15 phase fraction of Cr-Si alloys after 100h @ 1200°C

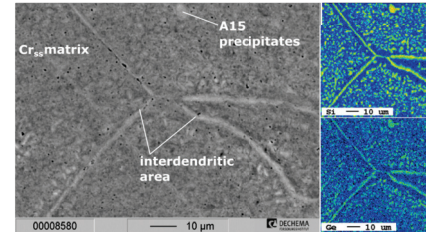
$Cr_{90}Si_8Mo_2$



Microstructure after annealing (100h @ 1200°C): BSE image and EPMA element maps

- Mo is equally dissolved in A15 (2.0 ± 0.1 at.%) and Cr_{ss} (2.0 ± 0.1 at.%)
- Mo maintains fine homogeneous A15 precipitates due to a decrease in the diffusion kinetics (atomic radius, Mo distribution)

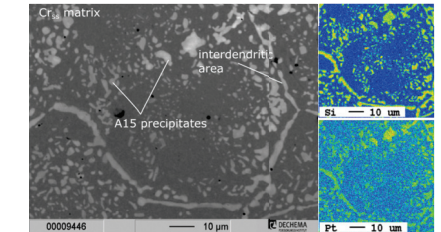
$Cr_{91}Si_7Ge_2$



Microstructure after annealing (100h @ 1200°C)

- Ge and Si show mutual substitutability in both A15 and Cr_{ss} phases
- Ge decreases amount of interdendritic phase
- Ge substitution leads to the highest phase fraction of A15 precipitates

$Cr_{91}Si_7Pt_2$

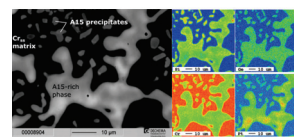


Microstructure after annealing (100h @ 1200°C)

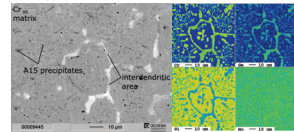
- Pt is predominantly an A15 phase former
- Up to 2 at.% Pt and Si are mutually substitutable in A15
- Pt leads to coarsening of the microstructure

Quaternary Alloys

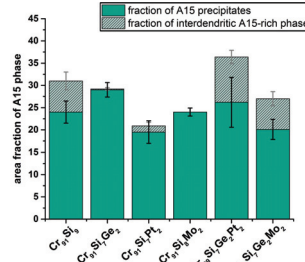
- All alloys consist of Cr_{ss} and A15 → offers targeted microstructural design
- Effects of elements on ternary alloys are also observed in the quaternary system:
- Chemical distribution
- Phase fractions of A15 precipitates and interdendritic areas
- Lattice parameter change



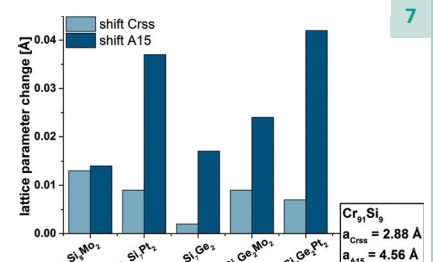
$Cr_{89}Si_7Ge_2Pt_2$ after annealing



$Cr_{89}Si_7Ge_2Mo_2$ after annealing



A15 area fraction of quaternary and ternary alloys after 100h @ 1200°C



Lattice parameter change determined by XRD