

. J D S P T U S V D U V S B M B O E . F D I B O J D B M 1 S P Q F S U
. B O V G B D U V S F E C Z 4 F M G Q S P Q B H B U J O H) J H I U

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Received August 16, 2016; Accepted October 12, 2016; Published October 20, 2016

Citation: Amiour Y, Zemmour K, Vrel D (2016) Microstructural and Mechanical

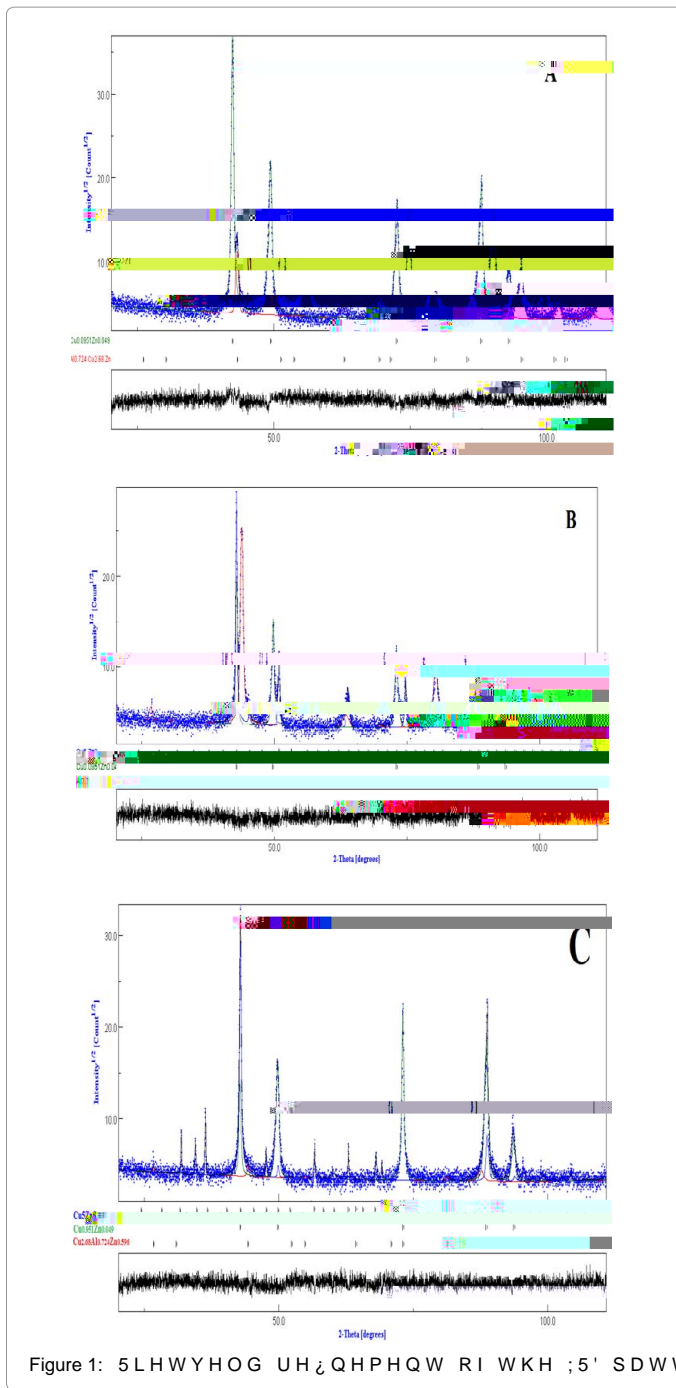


Figure 1: 5LHWYHOG UH₂QPHQW RI WKH ;5' SDWWHUQ RI WKH VDP SOHV \$ % DQG &

The relative density of the green compacts is between 71% of theoretical density.

The sample must be of a certain length and starting density in order to allow a good propagation observation: the length has to be great enough so a clear distinction between ignition zone and normal SHS propagation could be made; a natural suggestion for the starting density would be to increase it as much as possible, to facilitate initial sintering, but above 80% of the theoretical density, the thermal conductivity of the sample increases too much, and the ignition of the sample becomes difficult (in our experiment, we targeted an initial density ranging from 60 to 70%; the pressure is not measured, it is increased until the final

of χ^2 , and the R factors (Profile factor, R_p =Bragg factor, and R_w =crystallographic factor) [15]. When these parameters reached their minimum value, the best fit to the experimental diffraction data is achieved, and the crystal structure is regarded as satisfactory [15].

Figure 4 shows the Rietveld refinement of XRD patterns Cu-Al-Zn samples at room temperature. As shown in Figure 1, in sample A, only two phases can be indexed with cubic structure. However for the samples B and C, other additional peaks appear indicating the formation of a new phase. The new phase can be identified as Zn_3Cu phase with face-centered cubic structure. We note that the shape memory effect (SME) observed in these alloys was always accompanied with the presence of a major CuZnAl phase. The crystal lattice parameters, grain size and amount of each phase in samples deduced from Rietveld refinement are listed in Table 2.

Mechanical analysis

The as-cast samples A, B and C have been first subjected to tensile test in order to determine the maximum value of the unit loading to render evident the shape memory effects and the pseudoelastic behaviour. The A, B and C samples presented similar values of the tensile strength, ranging between 220 MPa and 300 MPa. After that, the sample A was subjected to loading-unloading cycles on the tensile testing machine at a temperature of 20°C.

Figure 5 shows the loading-unloading curves of alloys with 0.06% pre-strain at room temperature. The sample A shows that for a unit loading of 300 MPa close to the run-out limit on this alloy, a permanent strain ϵ_p of about 1% have been obtained. This strain is much lower than the value of 6% which can be obtained for a Ni-Ti-Fe alloy stressed under the same conditions [17], is close to the value specific to the Cu-Zn-Al alloys [18]. The sample B shows, after the first tensile loading-unloading cycle, a pseudoelastic curve with a total specific elongation of $\epsilon_t=4\%$ and a pseudo-elastic annealing with $\epsilon_{ae}=3.33\%$ and a plastic over strain ϵ_p .

from a possible structural model. In the first step of refinement, the global parameters, such as background and scale factors, were refined. In the next step, the structural parameters such as lattice parameters, profile shape and width parameters, preferred orientation, asymmetry, isothermal parameters, atomic coordinates, and site occupancies were refined in sequence. The fitting quality of the experimental data is assessed by computing the parameters such as the 'goodness

The C sample subjected to tensile loading-unloading tests showed a characteristic curve with a plastic overstrain of 1.52% (which is higher than the values obtained for the A and B alloys), as well as a non-linear elastic recoverable strain of 1.48%, which is smaller than the one for the B alloy, but higher than the one for the A alloy.

After the first tensile loading-unloading cycle samples from A, B, and C, alloys have been subjected to a dilatometric analysis within temperature range 20-140°C after having previously been tensile strained up to values of the tensile unit loading lower than the breaking strain and to values corresponding to the permanent strain (ϵ_p) of about 1%. Obviously, it follows that this alloy shows no shape memory effect within the positive temperature range, but this

effect might be present at negative temperatures, its critical transition points being placed below 0°C. This hypothesis is also backed up by the aspect of the loading-unloading curve presented in Figure 5, which shows a typical pseudoelastic twinning curve usually resulting within the austenitic temperature range exceeding the critical temperature M_d corresponding to the maximum temperature of stress induced martensite (SIM).

The significant changes done on the level of the concentration of the components (Zn, Al) as compared to the A and B alloys, lead to the drift of the critical transition points within the positive temperature range, and therefore to the occurrence of a shape memory effect (Figure 7).

Figure 5 shows the Brinell hardness of B and C alloys. One observes that the plastic deformation and the hardening treatment did not result in a significant modification of the values and critical points as compared to the as-cast state, indicating the homogenisation of alloys.

Conclusion

For the studied Cu-Zn-Al alloys, a narrow-range modification of the stoichiometry (chemical composition) does not result in important alteration of the unit tensile loading, but it leads to significant differences with respect to the pseudoelastic properties and shape memory effect:

- Both the A and B alloys present a pseudoelastic austenitic twinning curve at the room temperature and do not show a shape memory effect at positive temperatures.

- The increasing of Zn concentration to 13%wt and Al concentration to 12.9%wt. results in the shape memory alloy (C) within the positive temperature range (0-140°C).

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Citation: Amiour Y, Zemmour K, Vrel D (2016) Microstructural and Mechanical Properties of Cu-based Alloy Manufactured by Self-propagating High-temperature Synthesis Method. J Powder Metall Min 5: 144. doi:[10.4172/2168-9806.1000144](https://doi.org/10.4172/2168-9806.1000144)
