

Alloy Physics A Comprehensive Reference

I hope this book will be useful to at least two groups of individuals: the nonspecialist reader with a general knowledge of solid-state science and seeking an introduction to the theory and practice of the Hall effect in metals, and the specialist seeking a contemporary review of the relevant literature. The literature has been surveyed thoroughly up to the middle of 1970, while the more accessible journals have been followed to late 1970. I have been selective in cases where there is a great volume of literature, particularly in the case of old or obscure measurements of low accuracy, but in all cases I have tried to present the reader with sufficient information to judge whether a particular reference matches his interest and is therefore worth tracing. I compiled the book from reading the original publications, but inevitably there will be errors arising in transcription or inadvertent omissions. I hope the reader finding these will be charitable enough to write to me. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the numerous useful discussions I have had at various times with associates and colleagues, particularly Drs. Mme M. T. Beal-Monod, J. E. A. Alderson, R. D. Barnard, T. Farrell, and P. Monod. Their influence appears at various points in the text-although, of course, they must not be held responsible for anything I have written.

This 21st Century Nanoscience Handbook will be the most comprehensive, up-to-date large reference work for the field of nanoscience. Handbook of Nanophysics, by the

same editor, published in the fall of 2010, embraced as the first comprehensive reference to consider both fundamental and applied aspects of nanophysics. This follow-up project has been conceived as a necessary expansion and full update that considers the significant advances made in the field since 2010. It goes well beyond the physics as warranted by recent developments in the field. The fifth volume in a ten-volume set covers exotic nanostructures and quantum systems. Key Features: Provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date large reference work for the field. Chapters written by international experts in the field. Emphasises presentation and real results and applications. This handbook distinguishes itself from other works by its breadth of coverage, readability and timely topics. The intended readership is very broad, from students and instructors to engineers, physicists, chemists, biologists, biomedical researchers, industry professionals, governmental scientists, and others whose work is impacted by nanotechnology. It will be an indispensable resource in academic, government, and industry libraries worldwide. The fields impacted by nanoscience extend from materials science and engineering to biotechnology, biomedical engineering, medicine, electrical engineering, pharmaceutical science, computer technology, aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, food science, and beyond.

This most comprehensive and unrivaled compendium in the field provides an up-to-date account of the chemistry of solids, nanoparticles and hybrid materials. Following a

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valuable introductory chapter reviewing important synthesis techniques, the handbook presents a series of contributions by about 150 international leading experts -- the "Who's Who" of solid state science. Clearly structured, in six volumes it collates the knowledge available on solid state chemistry, starting from the synthesis, and modern methods of structure determination. Understanding and measuring the physical properties of bulk solids and the theoretical basis of modern computational treatments of solids are given ample space, as are such modern trends as nanoparticles, surface properties and heterogeneous catalysis. Emphasis is placed throughout not only on the design and structure of solids but also on practical applications of these novel materials in real chemical situations.

This book gives an overview of the physics of Heusler compounds ranging from fundamental properties of these alloys to their applications. Especially Heusler compounds as half-metallic ferromagnetic and topological insulators are important in condensed matter science due to their potential in magnetism and as materials for energy conversion. The book is written by world-leaders in this field. It offers an ideal reference to researchers at any level.

The choice of a material for a certain application is made taking into account its properties. If, for example one would like to produce a table, a hard material is needed to guarantee the stability of the product, but the material should not be too hard so that manufacturing is still as easy as possible - in this simple example wood might be the

material of choice. When coming to more advanced applications the required properties are becoming more complex and the manufacturer's desire is to tailor the properties of the material to fit the needs. To let this dream come true, insights into the microstructure of materials is crucial to finally control the properties of the materials because the microstructure determines its properties. Written by leading scientists in the field of microstructural design of engineering materials, this book focuses on the evolution and behavior of granular microstructures of various advanced materials during plastic deformation and treatment at elevated temperatures. These topics provide essential background and practical information for materials scientists, metallurgists and solid state physicists.

The revised second edition of this established text offers readers a significantly expanded introduction to the effects of radiation on metals and alloys. It describes the various processes that occur when energetic particles strike a solid, inducing changes to the physical and mechanical properties of the material. Specifically it covers particle interaction with the metals and alloys used in nuclear reactor cores and hence subject to intense radiation fields. It describes the basics of particle-atom interaction for a range of particle types, the amount and spatial extent of the resulting radiation damage, the physical effects of irradiation and the changes in mechanical behavior of irradiated metals and alloys. Updated throughout, some major enhancements for the new edition include improved treatment of low- and intermediate-energy elastic collisions and

stopping power, expanded sections on molecular dynamics and kinetic Monte Carlo methodologies describing collision cascade evolution, new treatment of the multi-frequency model of diffusion, numerous examples of RIS in austenitic and ferritic-martensitic alloys, expanded treatment of in-cascade defect clustering, cluster evolution, and cluster mobility, new discussion of void behavior near grain boundaries, a new section on ion beam assisted deposition, and reorganization of hardening, creep and fracture of irradiated materials (Chaps 12-14) to provide a smoother and more integrated transition between the topics. The book also contains two new chapters. Chapter 15 focuses on the fundamentals of corrosion and stress corrosion cracking, covering forms of corrosion, corrosion thermodynamics, corrosion kinetics, polarization theory, passivity, crevice corrosion, and stress corrosion cracking. Chapter 16 extends this treatment and considers the effects of irradiation on corrosion and environmentally assisted corrosion, including the effects of irradiation on water chemistry and the mechanisms of irradiation-induced stress corrosion cracking. The book maintains the previous style, concepts are developed systematically and quantitatively, supported by worked examples, references for further reading and end-of-chapter problem sets. Aimed primarily at students of materials sciences and nuclear engineering, the book will also provide a valuable resource for academic and industrial research professionals. Reviews of the first edition: "...nomenclature, problems and separate bibliography at the end of each chapter allow to the reader to reach a straightforward understanding of the

subject, part by part. ... this book is very pleasant to read, well documented and can be seen as a very good introduction to the effects of irradiation on matter, or as a good references compilation for experimented readers." - Pauly Nicolas, Physicalia Magazine, Vol. 30 (1), 2008 "The text provides enough fundamental material to explain the science and theory behind radiation effects in solids, but is also written at a high enough level to be useful for professional scientists. Its organization suits a graduate level materials or nuclear science course... the text was written by a noted expert and active researcher in the field of radiation effects in metals, the selection and organization of the material is excellent... may well become a necessary reference for graduate students and researchers in radiation materials science." - L.M. Dougherty, 07/11/2008, JOM, the Member Journal of The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society. Covering fundamental research as well as real-world applications, this first book on CMAs at an introductory level treats everything from atomistic details to surface processing. Comprehensive, self-contained chapters provide readers with the latest knowledge on the most salient features of the topic, selected in terms of their relevance to potential technological applications. Edited by one of the most distinguished authorities on quasicrystals and this most important of their subclasses, the contributions elucidate aspects of CMAs from a particular viewpoint: physical and chemical characteristics in the sub-nanometer regime, mesoscale phenomena, preparation and processing of thin films, and large-scale engineering properties. The

whole is rounded off by a look at the commercial potential of CMA-based applications. For PhD students and lecturers alike.

Bringing together the concerted efforts of the multicomponent materials community in one decisive reference work, this handbook covers all the important aspects from fundamentals to applications: thermodynamics, microscopic processes, solidification, simulation and modeling. As such, it provides a vital understanding of melt and solidification processes, treating all simulation techniques for continuous and discrete systems, such as molecular dynamics, Monte Carlo, and finite elements calculations.

Combining previously unconnected computational methods, this monograph discusses the latest basic schemes and algorithms for the solution of fluid, heat and mass transfer problems coupled with electrodynamics. It presents the necessary mathematical background of computational thermo-fluid dynamics, the numerical implementation and the application to real-world problems. Particular emphasis is placed throughout on the use of electromagnetic fields to control the heat, mass and fluid flows in melts and on phase change phenomena during the solidification of pure materials and binary alloys. However, the book provides much more than formalisms and algorithms; it also stresses the importance of good, feasible and workable models to understand complex systems, and

develops these in detail. Bringing computational fluid dynamics, thermodynamics and electrodynamics together, this is a useful source for materials scientists, PhD students, solid state physicists, process engineers and mechanical engineers, as well as lecturers in mechanical engineering.

A teaching tool intended to complement existing books on the theory of materials science, metallurgy, and electron microscopy, this text focuses on metals and alloys. It visualizes key structural elements common to crystalline materials, including crystal lattice imperfections, along with the principles and steps involved in the microstructure deve

This book is an eye-opening treatise on the fundamentals of the effects of radiation on metals and alloys. When energetic particles strike a solid, numerous processes occur that can change the physical and mechanical properties of the material. Metals and alloys represent an important class of materials that are subject to intense radiation fields. Radiation causes metals and alloys to swell, distort, blister, harden, soften and deform. This textbook and reference covers the basics of particle-atom interaction for a range of particle types, the amount and spatial extent of the resulting radiation damage, the physical effects of irradiation and the changes in mechanical behavior of irradiated metals and alloys.

One of the first books to cover advanced silicon-based technologies, *Advanced Silicon and Semiconducting Silicon Alloy-Based Materials and Devices* presents important directions for research into silicon, its alloy-based semiconducting devices, and its development in commercial applications. The first section deals with single/mono crystalline silicon, focusing on the effects of heavy doping; the structure and electronic properties of defects and their impact on devices; the MBE of silicon, silicon alloys, and metals; CVD techniques for silicon and silicon germanium; the material properties of silicon germanium strained layers; silicon germanium heterojunction bipolar applications; FETs, IR detectors, and resonant tunneling devices in silicon, silicon germanium, and d-doped silicon; and the fascinating properties of crystalline silicon carbide and its applications. The second section explores polycrystalline silicon. It examines large grain polysilicon substrates for solar cells; the properties, analysis, and modeling of polysilicon TFTs; the technology of polysilicon TFTs in LCD displays; and the use of polycrystalline silicon and its alloys in VLSI applications. With contributors from leading academic and industrial research centers, this book provides wide coverage of fabrication techniques, material properties, and device applications. III-V semiconductors have attracted considerable attention due to their applications in the fabrication of electronic and optoelectronic devices as light-

emitting diodes and solar cells. Because of their wide applications in a variety of devices, the search for new semiconductor materials and the improvement of existing materials is an important field of study. This new book covers all known information about phase relations in ternary systems based on III-V semiconductors. This book will be of interest to undergraduate and graduate students studying materials science, solid state chemistry, and engineering. It will also be relevant for researchers at industrial and national laboratories, in addition to phase diagram researchers, inorganic chemists, and solid state physicists. Detailed theoretical study and a practical survey for solid-state physicists, engineers, graduate students. Ferromagnetism and ferrimagnetism, magnetization and domain structure, much more. 227 figures. /div The result of a fruitful, on-going collaboration between academia and industry, this book reviews recent advances in research on oxide scale behavior in high-temperature forming processes. Presenting novel, previously neglected approaches, the authors emphasize the pivotal role of reproducible experiments to elucidate the oxide scale properties and develop quantitative models with predictive accuracy. Each chapter consists of a detailed, systematic examination of different aspects of oxide scale formation with immediate impact for researchers and developers in industry. The clear and stringent style of

presentation makes this monograph both coherent and easily readable. This book provides a cohesive overview of innovations, advances in processing and characterization, and applications for high entropy alloys (HEAs) in performance-critical and non-performance-critical sectors. It covers manufacturing and processing, advanced characterization and analysis techniques, and evaluation of mechanical and physical properties. With chapters authored by a team of internationally renowned experts, the volume includes discussions on high entropy thermoelectric materials, corrosion and thermal behavior of HEAs, improving fracture resistance, fatigue properties and high tensile strength of HEAs, HEA films, and more. This work will be of interest to academics, scientists, engineers, technologists, and entrepreneurs working in the field of materials and metals development for advanced applications. Features

- Addresses a broad spectrum of HEAs and related aspects, including manufacturing, processing, characterization, and properties
- Emphasizes the application of HEAs
- Aimed at researchers, engineers, and scientists working to develop materials for advanced applications

T.S. Srivatsan, PhD, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Akron (Ohio, USA), earned his MS in Aerospace Engineering in 1981 and his PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 1984 from the Georgia

Institute of Technology (USA). He has authored or edited 65 books, delivered over 200 technical presentations, and authored or co-authored more than 700 archival publications in journals, book chapters, book reviews, proceedings of conferences, and technical reports. His RG score is 45 with a h-index of 53 and Google Scholar citations of 9000, ranking him to be among the top 2% of researchers in the world. He is a Fellow of (i) the American Society for Materials International, (ii) the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and (iii) the American Association for Advancement of Science. Manoj Gupta, PhD, is Associate Professor of Materials at NUS, Singapore. He is a former Head of Materials Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department and Director Designate of Materials Science and Engineering Initiative at NUS, Singapore. In August 2017, he was highlighted among the Top 1% Scientists of the World by the Universal Scientific Education and Research Network and in the Top 2.5% among scientists as per ResearchGate. In 2018, he was announced as World Academy Championship Winner in the area of Biomedical Sciences by the International Agency for Standards and Ratings. A multiple award winner, he actively collaborates/visits as an invited researcher and visiting and chair professor in Japan, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, China, the United States, and India.

Solid State Physics

Spawned by growing interest in ultrasonic technology and new developments in ultrasonic melt processing, the Second Edition of *Ultrasonic Treatment of Light Alloy Melts* discusses use of ultrasonic melt treatment in direct-chill casting, shape casting, rapid solidification, zone refining, and more, exploring the effects of power ultrasound on melt degassing, filtration, and refinement in aluminum and magnesium alloys. The fully revised and restructured Second Edition: Contains new, in-depth coverage of composite and nanocomposite materials Provides a historical review of the last century of ultrasonic applications to metallurgy Emphasizes the fundamentals, mechanisms, and applications of ultrasonic melt processing in different light-metal technologies Features new chapters on ultrasonic grain refinement, refinement of primary solid phases, and semi-solid processing of billets with nondendritic structure Includes significant updates reflecting results obtained over the past two decades on different scales, from laboratory to full-scale industrial implementations Complete with many new figures and examples, *Ultrasonic Treatment of Light Alloy Melts, Second Edition* delivers a comprehensive treatise on ultrasonic melt processing and cavitation, presenting essential guidelines for practical use and further development of the technology.

This work is a classic reference text for metallurgists, material scientists and crystallographers. The first edition was published in 1965. The first part of that edition was revised and re-published in 1975 and again in 1981. The present two-part set represents the eagerly awaited full revision by the author of his seminal work, now published as Parts I and II. Professor Christian was one of the founding fathers of materials science and highly respected worldwide. The new edition of his book deserves a place on the bookshelf of every materials science and engineering department. Suitable thermal and mechanical treatments will produce extensive rearrangements of the atoms in metals and alloys, and corresponding marked variations in physical and chemical properties. This book describes how such changes in the atomic configuration are effected, and discusses the associated kinetic and crystallographic features. It deals with areas such as lattice geometry, point defects, dislocations, stacking faults, grain and interphase boundaries, solid solutions, diffusion, etc. The first part covers the general theory while the second part is concerned with descriptions of specific types of transformations.

Unique in its approach, this introduction to the physics of creep concentrates on the physical principles underlying observed phenomena. As such it provides a resource for graduate students in materials science, metallurgy, mechanical

engineering, physics and chemistry as well as researchers in other fields. Following a brief mathematical treatment, the authors introduce creep phenomena together with some empirical laws and observations. The mechanisms of creep and diffusion under varying experimental conditions are subsequently analysed and developed. The second half of the text considers alloying in greater detail as well as exploring the structure and properties of superalloys and stress effects in these materials.

In this completely revised edition, all the chapters have been updated to reflect the current state of crystal growth kinetics. At the same time, fifteen percent additional content now allows coverage of computer-assisted modeling of second-order phase changes, microstructure development, novel data and images of coarsening mechanisms, with the most significant single addition being breakthrough results on spinodal decomposition -- published here for the first time in book form. The refined didactical approach with a streamlined presentation now allows readers to grasp the kinetic concepts even more easily, coherently introducing the field of kinetic processes, especially those involved in crystal growth, and explaining such phenomena as diffusion, nucleation, segregation and phase transitions at a level accessible to graduate students. In addition to the basic kinetic concepts, the textbook presents modern applications

where these processes play a major role, including ion implantation, plasma deposition and rapid thermal processing.

This fifth edition of the highly regarded family of titles that first published in 1965 is now a three-volume set and over 3,000 pages. All chapters have been revised and expanded, either by the fourth edition authors alone or jointly with new co-authors. Chapters have been added on the physical metallurgy of light alloys, the physical metallurgy of titanium alloys, atom probe field ion microscopy, computational metallurgy, and orientational imaging microscopy. The books incorporate the latest experimental research results and theoretical insights. Several thousand citations to the research and review literature are included. Exhaustively synthesizes the pertinent, contemporary developments within physical metallurgy so scientists have authoritative information at their fingertips. Replaces existing articles and monographs with a single, complete solution. Enables metallurgists to predict changes and create novel alloys and processes. Covering the latest research in alloy physics together with the underlying basic principles, this comprehensive book provides a sound understanding of the structural changes in metals and alloys -- ranging from plastic deformation, deformation dynamics and ordering kinetics right up to atom jump processes, first principle calculations and simulation techniques. Alongside fundamental topics,

such as crystal defects, phase transformations and statistical thermodynamics, the team of international authors treats such hot areas as nano-size effects, interfaces, and spintronics, as well as technical applications of modern alloys, like data storage and recording, and the possibilities offered by materials design. Semiconductors and dielectrics are two essential materials found in cell phones and computers, for example, and both are manufactured by growing crystals. Edited by the organizers of the International Workshop on Crystal Growth Technology, this ready reference is essential reading for materials scientists, chemists, physicists, computer hardware manufacturers, engineers, and those working in the chemical and semiconductor industries. They have assembled an international team of experts who present the current challenges, latest methods and new applications for producing these materials necessary for the electronics industry using bulk crystal growth technology. From the contents: * General aspects of crystal growth technology * Compound semiconductors * Halides and oxides * Crystal growth for sustaining energy * Crystal machining

Semiconductors and Semimetals has distinguished itself through the careful selection of well-known authors, editors, and contributors. Originally widely known as the "Willardson and Beer" Series, it has succeeded in publishing numerous landmark volumes and chapters. The series publishes timely, highly

relevant volumes intended for long-term impact and reflecting the truly interdisciplinary nature of the field. The volumes in Semiconductors and Semimetals have been and will continue to be of great interest to physicists, chemists, materials scientists, and device engineers in academia, scientific laboratories and modern industry. Written and edited by internationally renowned experts Relevant to a wide readership: physicists, chemists, materials scientists, and device engineers in academia, scientific laboratories and modern industry The first book entirely dedicated to the topic emphasizes the relation between basic research and actual processing technologies. As such, it covers complex microstructures down to the nanometer scale, structure/property relationships and potential applications in key industries. From the contents: * Constitution * Thermophysical Constants * Phase Transformations and Microstructures * Deformation Behaviour * Strengthening Mechanisms * Creep * Fracture Behaviour * Fatigue * Oxidation Resistance and Related Issues * Alloy Design * Ingot Production and Component Casting * Powder Metallurgy * Wrought Processing * Joining * Surface Hardening * Applications and Component Assessment

Scope and Purpose Although conductors based on the Al5 intermetallic compound Nb Sn 3 possess desirable high-field superconducting properties,

manufacturing and handling difficulties, coupled with the tendency of their critical current densities to degrade rapidly under stress, have generally restricted their use to fairly straightforward, usually small-scale solenoidal-magnet applications. Likewise the A15 compound VGa, which has a wider critical strain ϵ_c window than NbSn but a uniformly lower upper critical field, has not entered widespread service. Strain has been found to have no measurable influence on either the critical fields or the critical current densities of compound superconductors with B1 and C15 crystal structures, but as yet they are still in the research and development stages. On the other hand, conductors using the binary alloy Ti-Nb or multi component alloys based on it, because of their relative ease of manufacture, excellent mechanical properties, and relatively low strain sensitivities, are now being pressed into service in numerous large-scale devices. Such conductors are being wound into magnets for use in energy storage, energy conversion (i. e. , generators and motors), and high-energy particle detectors and beam-handling magnets. of cold-rolled or drawn Ti-Nb-alloy wire for superconducting The use magnet applications was first proposed in 1961. During the ensuing ten years, while progress was being made in the development of Cu-clad filamentary-Ti-Nb-alloy conductors, Ti-Nb and other Ti-base binary transition-metal (TM) alloys were being employed as model systems

in the fundamental study of type-II superconductivity.

This encyclopedia, written by authoritative experts under the guidance of an international panel of key researchers from academia, national laboratories, and industry, is a comprehensive reference covering all major aspects of metallurgical science and engineering of aluminum and its alloys. Topics covered include extractive metallurgy, powder metallurgy (including processing), physical metallurgy, production engineering, corrosion engineering, thermal processing (processes such as metalworking and welding, heat treatment, rolling, casting, hot and cold forming), surface engineering and structure such as crystallography and metallography.

Keep current with the evolving technology of dental materials! Phillips' Science of Dental Materials, 13th Edition provides comprehensive, up-to-date information on the materials used in cosmetic and restorative procedures in dentistry. It introduces the physical and chemical properties that are related to selection and use of dental biomaterials, including their composition, mechanical properties, manipulative variables, and the performance of dental restorations and prostheses. This edition adds three new chapters and hundreds of new full-color photographs. Written by dental scientists Chiayi Shen and H. Ralph Rawls along with prosthodontist Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw, this leading text/reference helps dentists select the right materials for oral

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procedures and helps dental labs ensure high-quality restorations. 500 full-color photos and illustrations show concepts, dental instruments, and restorations. Key terms are defined at the beginning of each chapter, covering terminology related to dental biomaterials and science. Critical thinking questions stimulate thinking and emphasize important concepts and principles. Logical, five-part organization of chapters makes the content easier to read and understand, with units on General Classes and Properties of Dental Materials, Direct Restorative Materials, Indirect Restorative Materials, Fabrication of Prostheses, and Assessing Dental Restorations. Balance between materials science and manipulation bridges the gap of knowledge between dentists and lab technicians. Major emphasis on biocompatibility serves as a useful guide to the principles and clinical implications of restorative materials safety. Diverse and respected pool of contributors lends credibility and experience to each dental science topic. NEW! Three new chapters are added: Digital Technology in Dentistry, In Vitro Research of Dental Materials, and Clinical Research of Restorations.

This ASM Handbook is the most comprehensive collection of engineering information on this important structural material published in the last sixty years. Prepared with the cooperation of the International Magnesium Association, it presents the current industrial practices and provides information and data about the properties and performance of magnesium alloys. Materials science and engineering are covered, including processing, properties, and commercial uses.

High-performance alloys that can withstand operation in hazardous nuclear environments are critical to presentday in-service reactor support and maintenance and are foundational for reactor concepts of the future. With commercial nuclear energy vendors and operators facing the retirement of staff during the coming decades, much of the scholarly knowledge of nuclear materials pursuant to appropriate, impactful, and safe usage is at risk. Led by the multi-award winning editorial team of G. Robert Odette (UCSB) and Steven J. Zinkle (UTK/ORNL) and with contributions from leaders of each alloy discipline, *Structural Alloys for Nuclear Energy Applications* aids the next generation of researchers and industry staff developing and maintaining steels, nickel-base alloys, zirconium alloys, and other structural alloys in nuclear energy applications. This authoritative reference is a critical acquisition for institutions and individuals seeking state-of-the-art knowledge aided by the editors' unique personal insight from decades of frontline research, engineering and management. Focuses on in-service irradiation, thermal, mechanical, and chemical performance capabilities. Covers the use of steels and other structural alloys in current fission technology, leading edge Generation-IV fission reactors, and future fusion power reactors. Provides a critical and comprehensive review of the state-of-the-art experimental knowledge base of reactor materials, for applications ranging from engineering safety and lifetime assessments to supporting the development of advanced computational models. The study of phase transformations in substitutional alloys, including order disorder

phenomena and structural transformations, plays a crucial role in understanding the physical and mechanical properties of materials, and in designing alloys with desired technologically important characteristics. Indeed, most of the physical properties, including equilibrium properties, transport, magnetic, vibrational as well as mechanical properties of alloys are often controlled by and are highly sensitive to the existence of ordered compounds and to the occurrence of structural transformations.

Correspondingly, the alloy designer facing the task of processing new high-performance materials with properties that meet specific industrial applications must answer the following question: What is the crystalline structure and the atomic configuration that an alloy may exhibit at given temperature and concentration? Usually the answer is sought in the phase-diagram of a relevant system that is often determined experimentally and does not provide insight to the underlying mechanisms driving phase stability. Because of the rather tedious and highly risky nature of developing new materials through conventional metallurgical techniques, a great deal of effort has been expended in devising methods for understanding the mechanisms controlling phase transformations at the microscopic level. These efforts have been bolstered through the development of fully ab initio, accurate theoretical models, coupled with the advent of new experimental methods and of powerful supercomputer capabilities.

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