DEVELOPMENT OF SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS - CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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Our Goals – Materials, Infrastructure, Applications

• **Materials:**
  – Develop new shape memory alloys ranging from cryogenic to high temperature for use in adaptive structures, and lightweight, solid-state actuation systems.
  – Adjust material properties through alloying, processing, and thermo mechanical understanding.
  – Identify methods to establish good stability, durability, workability, and work output amongst others.

• **Infrastructure:**
  – Develop laboratory testing capability and methods to evaluate and characterize SMA properties/performance.
  – Generate material(s) data sheets and databases
  – Determine test standards/methodologies
  – Component or subcomponent testing/modeling

• **Applications:**
  – Identify/build applications to benefit the aeronautics and space design challenges
  – Design methodologies
  – Commercialization
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Design “The” material

Design “WITH” material
SMA Labs: Thermomechanical Testing

Cold Temperature Testing

Capabilities:
- 5-22 kip load capacity
- Temperature: -125 °C to 500 °C
- Servohydraulic & electromechanical
- Load, stroke, strain control
- Tension and compression

Durability Testing
- Uniaxial loading (tensile loading)
- Torsion (torque tubes)
- Fast cycling times (5 minutes cycle)

Multiaxial Testing

Capabilities:
- Axial-Torsion loading
- Optical strain measurement
- Temperature > 600 °C
- Torque rating: 220 N-m
- Force rating: 22 kN

Uniaxial High Temperature Testing

Capabilities:
- Laser strain measurement
- High temperature extensometers
- Tension/compression
- Force rating: 5-22 kip
Melting & Processing

Mechanical Alloying

Vacuum Induction Melting

Vacuum Hot Press

Welding and Joining
Analytical Sciences

Hitachi S4700-FESEM

AURIGA™ Cross-Beam Microscope

Philips CM200 TEM

JEOL 8200 Electron Probe
Development of Shape Memory Alloys: Challenges and Lessons Learned
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**High transformation temperatures**
- Above 100 °C
- Good work output
- Thermal stability

**Durability**
- Loading history
- Functional fatigue
- Structural fatigue

**Modeling**
- Micromechanics
- Phenomenological
- Evolutions/transients

**Workability/Processing**
- Ductility
- Composition control
- Heat treatment

**Dimensional stability**
- Cyclic stability
- Stress-strain relationship

**Certification**
- Testing standards
- Material certification
- Database
### Metals
- NiTi, NiTiFe, NiTiNb, NiTiCu, NiTiPd, NiFeGa, NiTiCo CuZn, CuZnAl, CuAlNi, CuAlNiMn, CuSn, FePt, FeMnSi, FeNiC
- NiTiHf, NiTiZr, TiNiPd, TiNiPt, ZrRh, ZrCu, ZrCu NiCo, ZrCuNi CoTi, TiMo, TiNb, TiTa, TiAu, UNb, TaRu, NbRu, FeMnSi

### Magnetic/Ferromagnetic
- NiMnGa, FePd, NiMnAl, FePt, Dy, Tb, LaSrCuO, ReCu, NiMnIn, CoNiGa

### Ceramics
- ZrO2 (PSZ), MgO, CeO2, PLZT, PNZST

### Polymers
- PTFE, PU, Poly-caprolactone, EVA + nitrile rubber, PE, Poly-cyclooctene, PCO–CPE blend
- PCL–BA copolymer, Poly(ODVE)-co-BA, EVA + CSM, PMMA, Copolyesters, PET-PEG

### Others
- Thin films, hybrids…

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55 Years after Nitinol Discovery
Development of Shape Memory Alloys: NiTi –Based HTSMAs

NiTiHf

(a)

σ = 100 MPa

strain (%)
temperature (°C)

Heating
Cooling

1st heat
unload

NiTi –Based HTSMAs
Development of Shape Memory Alloys: HTSMAs Summary

Maximum Work Output (J/cm³) vs. Transformation Temperature (°C)

- Binary NiTi
- NiTiHf(X)
- NiTiPt
- NiTi-30Pd
- NiTiPd
- NiTiAu
- 55NiTi
Development of Shape Memory Alloys: Challenges and Lessons Learned

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How to make the material/actuator stable?

- **Solution 1**: Thermomechanical “training” (e.g., cycling, reverse loading…)
- **Solution 2**: Alloying and microstructural control (e.g., precipitation hardening, Ni-content…)
Microstructural Control towards Stability

**Electron diffraction**

**In situ diffraction**

**Outcome**

55NiTi

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Development of Shape Memory Alloys: How about Durability/Fatigue?

- Loss of actuation strain
- Shifts in transformation characteristics (Hysteresis, temperatures…)

![Graph showing strain vs. temperature for cooling and heating](image)
Durability Assessment Underway…

Data exists up to 1000’s of cycles, how about 1M cycles?

Currently collecting durability data on NiTiHf tubes
Durability Assessment Underway…

\[ \text{Austenite Angle} - \text{Martensite Angle} = \text{Actuation Angle} \]

\[ \text{Strain Actuation} \, \frac{1}{\alpha} \, (\text{Cycle Count} \times \text{MPa per load}) \]
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Processing and Workability of HTSMAs

NiTiPt

Induction Melt + Homogenization

Extrusion

Multiple-Pass Extrusion
60 mil NiTi-20Pt rod

Wire Grinding
44 & 5 mil NiTiPt

Wire Drawing
5 mil NiTiPt wire
Processing and Workability of HTSMAs

NiTiHf

High temperature extrusion proved to be problematic (C. Wojcik 2008)

Successful hot rolled button (C. Wojcik 2008)

Successful hot extrusion (rods and tubes)
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Certification and Test Standards

ASTM Standards for biomedical and or superelastic
- F2004-05
- F2005-05
- F2063-05
- F2082-06
- F2516-07
- F2633-07

ASTM Standards for SMA Actuation
- None
Certification and Test Standards

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ASTM Standards for SMA Actuation
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Deliver the first ever regulatory agency-accepted material specification and test standards for shape memory alloys as employed as actuators for commercial and military aviation applications
Promoting Growth of SMA Technologies....
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Research and Understanding of Shape Memory Alloys

1. Applied Research
2. Alloy Processing & Development
3. Testing and Modeling
4. Applications
Complex Responses, Many Responses

Uniaxial (tension/compression)

- Isothermal monotonic
- Isothermal cyclic
- Isobaric cyclic
- Isostrain cyclic

Multiaxial

- Isothermal cyclic
- Geometries
  - Proportional/non-proportional loading
  - 3D strain measurement
  - Torque/force/twist/displacement control capability

Torsion

Control mode: torque/load

- Heating
- Cooling

Hot grip testing

Durability

- New frames for durability testing are underway
  - Durability analysis of sample and components
  - Generate data for existing materials
**Materials – High and Low Temperature SMA**

**Low Temperature SMAs**
- NiTi
- NiTiFe
- NiTiCo/Cr
- NiTiCu
- NiTiHf/Zr

**High Temperature SMAs**
- NiTiHf
- NiTiZr
- NiTiPd
- NiTiPt
- NiTiAu
Design of Actuators - Torque tubes example

Material and geometry effects

Possible Stress Gradients
Some SMA Components
Shape Memory Alloy Applications

**Space**

**SMA Bellows**
- Dynamic sealing
- Fluid handling
- Flexibility (structure alignment)

**SMA Spring Tire**
- Superelastic technology
- Lunar rovers
- Terrestrial tires

**SMA Docking Coupling**
- Cryogenic transfer coupling
- Orbital propellant depots
- Propellant handling/protection

**SMA Thermal Switch**
- Thermal management
- Clean & spark-free operation
- Passive or active control

**SMA Bearings**
- Corrosion resistant
- Non-galling properties
- High yield

**SMA rock splitters**

RXN
Shape Memory Alloy Applications

Aeronautics

Adaptive Fan Blade
- Embedded SMA actuators
- Aerodynamic efficiency
- Specific fuel consumption reduction

SMA Cellular Structures
- Airframe and engine components
- Morphing airfoils
- Light weight trusses

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission.
- SMA Pinpullers (From TiNi Aerospace) were used to secure and release deployables

Variable Area Nozzle
- High bypass turbofan
- SMA torque tubes provide flap rotation
- Engine noise reduction
Shape Memory Alloy Applications
Non-Aerospace Potential

Oil and Gas Industry
- SmartRAM™ actuators (LMP)
- SMA couplings (Aerofit Inc)
- Deep-water valves/shut off valves
- Self-torquing fasteners

Medical Industry
- Surgical tools
- Stents and implants
- Glasses frames

Automotive Industry
- Louvers
- Quiet actuators
- Door handle

Other Applications
- Home appliances
- Electronics
- Transportation
- Air conditioners
NASA SMA Team and Collaborators

SMA Team at NASA GRC

• Othmane Benafan
• Santo Padula II
• Glen Bigelow
• Anita Garg
• Darrell Gaydosh
• Timothy Halsmer
• Ron Noebe
• (Branch Chief: Joyce Dever)
Thank You