Crystal Structure and Formation Energy of ε-carbide Using First Principles Calculations

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Introduction

- Martensite (α ') $\rightarrow \epsilon$ -carbide $\rightarrow \eta$ -carbide $\rightarrow \chi$ -carbide \rightarrow Cementite (θ)
 - Fe_{2.4}C Fe₂C Fe_{2.5}C Fe₃C
- Silicon promotes the formation of ε-carbide below 520 K.

S. S. Nayak et.al, Materials Science and Engineering A. 498, pp.442-456(2008)



• ε-carbide forms without redistribution of Si.

S. J. Barnard, G. D. W. Smith, Proceedings of the solid-solid phase transformation., pp.881(1981)

• No initial partitioning of Si between ϵ , θ and martensite

S. S. Babu, K. Hono, T. Sakurai, Metal Mater. Trans. 25A (1994) p. 499

FLAPW method

E. Wimmer, H. Krakauer, M. Weinert, and A. J. Freeman, *Phys. Rev. B* 28, 864 (1981) and references therein. M. Weinert, E. Wimmer, and A. J. Freeman, *Phys. Rev. B* 26, 4571 (1982).



Wave Function Expansion $\psi_{k,v}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{|\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}| \leq K_{max}} c^{\mathbf{G}}_{k,v} \varphi_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{K},\mathbf{r})$

 $\varphi_{G}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} e^{i(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G})\cdot\mathbf{r}} , \mathbf{r} \in \text{Interstitial} \\ \sum_{lm} [A_{lm}^{\nu} u_{l}(r) + B_{lm}^{\nu} \dot{u}_{l}(r)] \times Y_{lm}(\theta,\varphi), \mathbf{r} \in \text{MT sphere } v \end{cases}$

Calculation Parameters

E. Wimmer, H. Krakauer, M. Weinert, and A. J. Freeman, *Phys. Rev. B* 28, 864 (1981) and references therein.
M. Weinert, E. Wimmer, and A. J. Freeman, *Phys. Rev. B* 26, 4571 (1982).
Perdew, J. P., Burke, K., Ernzerhof, M., *Phys. Rev. Let.* 77,3865 (1996)

- All-electron Full-potential LAPW method
- Generalized Gradient Approximation for Exchange-Correlation Potential
- Plane-Wave Cutoff : 21 Ry
- Star-Function Cutoff : 340 Ry
- k-points : 88 Fe_{2.4}C, 365 (Fe₁₁M)C₅
- Muffin-tin Sphere : Fe, Si, Al , Mn (2.04 a.u.), C (1.30 a.u.)
- Mixing Method : Broyden

Epsilon Carbide



Formula Unit	Fe _{2.4} C(Fe ₂ C~Fe ₃ C)
Structure	hexagonal
Space group	P6 ₃ 22 or P6 ₃ /mmc
а	4.767 Å
С	4.354 Å
c/a	0.913

S. Nakagura, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn, 14 (1959) 186.

Fe₃C and Fe₂C (ε-carbide)

a	4.661 Å (-2.3%)	a	4.785 Å (+0.3%)
a	4.661 Å (−2.3%) 4.294 Å (−1.4%)	a c	4.785 Å (+0.3%) 4.321 Å (−0.8%)
a c c/a	4.661 Å (−2.3%) 4.294 Å (−1.4%) 0.9213	a c c/a	4.785 Å (+0.3%) 4.321 Å (−0.8%) 0.903

$$\Delta E = \frac{E(Fe_6C_2) - 6 \times E(Fe) - 2 \times E(C)}{8} = 5.09 \text{kJ/mol} \qquad \Delta E = \frac{E(Fe_6C_3) - 6 \times E(Fe) - 3 \times E(C)}{9} = 7.00 \text{kJ/mol}$$

Fe_{2.4}C (ε-carbide)



а	4.740 Å (−0.6%)
С	8.631 Å (−0.9%)

$$\Delta E = \frac{E(Fe_{12}C_5) - 12 \times E(Fe) - 5 \times E(C)}{17} = 6.24 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

Results



System	a (Å)	c (Å)	c _h /a _h	
Measured, ε	4.767	8.708	1.582	
Fe ₃ C	4.661(-2.3%)	8.588 (-1.4%)	1.596	
Fe _{2.4} C	4.740(-0.6%)	8.631(-0.9%)	1.577	
Fe ₂ C	4.785(+0.3%)	8.642(-0.8%)	1.564	

Si, Al and Mn Substitution







a 4.7303Å (−0.2%)	a 4.742Å (+0.0%)	a 4.738 Å (−0.1%)
c 8.5901 Å (−0.5%)	c 8.685 Å (+0.6%)	c 8.664 Å (+0.4%)
$\Delta E = 9.08$ kJ/mol	$\Delta E = 4.98$ kJ/mol	$\Delta E = 4.40$ kJ/mol

Results





∆E (kJ/mol)	ε-carbide	cementite	
pure-carbide	6.24	5.38	
Si substituted	9.08(+2.84)	7.70(+2.32)	
Al substituted	4.98(-1.26)	4.53(-0. 85)	
Mn substituted	4.40 (-1.84)	5.07(-0. 31)	

Orientation Relationship

H. K. D. H. Bhadeshia, Bainite (1992)

 $(101)_{\alpha'} \parallel (10\underline{1}1)_{\epsilon} (211)_{\alpha'} \parallel (10\underline{1}0)_{\epsilon} [011]_{\alpha'} \parallel [0001]_{\epsilon} (\underline{11}1)_{\alpha'} \parallel (1\underline{2}10)_{\epsilon}$



Summary

- First Principles Calculation can be applied for hypothetical crystal structure.
- Si addition increases the formation energy of θ and ϵ -carbide.
- The formation energy calculation : ε -carbide $\rightarrow \theta$
- The role of silicon in transition of carbide : Reducing the misfit
- Manganese addition : stable ε-carbide

Thank You !!

Equilibrium Calculation



Appendix A - DFT

• Hohenberg-Kohn Theorem : The ground state property is a functional of electron density.

$$E[n] = \int V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot n(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} + \langle \psi | T + V_{ee} | \psi \rangle$$
$$E[n] \geq E_{GS}, E[n_{GS}] = E_{GS}$$

• Kohn-Sham Equation : Introducing the non-interacting fictitious particle.

$$E[n] = \int V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot n(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} + T[n] + \frac{1}{2} \int V_{C}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot n(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} + E_{xc}[n]$$
$$\frac{\delta E[n]}{\delta n} = V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{\delta T[n]}{\delta n} + V_{C}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{\delta E_{xc}[n]}{\delta n} = \mu$$
$$\frac{\delta E[n]}{\delta n} = \frac{\delta T[n]}{\delta n} + v_{eff}(\mathbf{r}) = \mu \qquad v_{eff}(\mathbf{r}) = V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) + V_{C}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{\delta E_{xc}[n]}{\delta n}$$
$$\left[-\frac{1}{2} \nabla^{2} + v_{eff}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_{i}(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_{i} \psi_{i}(\mathbf{r}) \qquad n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\psi_{i}(\mathbf{r})|^{2}$$

First-Principles Calculation



Formation Energy



Ternary Phase Diagram at 773K



Equilibrium Phase Diagram at 723K





Gibbs Free Energy of Al-carbide



Density Functional Theory



Blugel, S. Bihlmayer, G., Computational nanoscience: Do it yourself, 31:85-129 (2006)