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Journal of Alloys and Compounds 297 (2000) 294–302

Journal of  
ALLOYS  
AND COMPOUNDS

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# Martensitic transformation of a Ti-rich $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$ shape memory alloy

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Received 6 February 1999; accepted 13 September 1999

## Abstract

$\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy undergoes a  $\text{B2} \leftrightarrow \text{B19}'$  one-stage martensitic transformation with  $M_s \approx 100^\circ\text{C}$ . This alloy exhibits about 90% shape memory recovery even though many  $(\text{Ti,Zr})_2\text{Ni}$  particles exist around  $(\text{Ti,Zr})\text{Ni}$  grain boundaries. The  $\text{B19}'$  martensite structure is calculated with  $a=0.295$  nm,  $b=0.408$  nm,  $c=0.491$  nm and  $\beta=97.4^\circ$ . Martensitic transformation temperatures decrease with increasing aging time at  $300^\circ\text{C}$ . This feature is a result of the aging effect of point defects/atoms rearrangement in  $\text{B2}$  phase. Thermal cycling can also decrease transformation temperatures while increasing the hardness of the alloy. The strengthening effects of aging and thermal cycling on the  $M_s$  ( $M^*$ ) temperature of  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy can be represented by the equation  $M_s = T_0 - K \Delta\sigma_y$ . Experimental results indicate that martensitic transformation temperatures of  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy can be more effectively depressed by aging than by thermal cycling. © 2000 Elsevier Science S.A. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** Martensitic transformation; Shape memory; Titanium alloy

## 1. Introduction

TiNi alloys are known as the most important shape memory alloys (SMAs) due to their excellent shape-memory effect and pseudoelasticity. However, they are limited to use at temperatures lower than  $150^\circ\text{C}$  because their martensitic transformation starting temperature,  $M_s$ , is usually lower than  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . High-temperature SMAs with an  $M_s$  temperature higher than  $100^\circ\text{C}$  have been extensively researched due to their potential applications. It is well known that  $\text{Ti}_{50}\text{Ni}_{50-y}\text{X}_y$  ternary SMAs with  $\text{X}=\text{Pd}$ ,  $\text{Pt}$  or  $\text{Au}$  have an  $M_s$  temperature much higher than  $100^\circ\text{C}$  and exhibit an one-way shape memory effect [1–3]. However, the high cost of precious metals will limit the practical applications of these SMAs. For this reason, other ternary  $\text{TiNiX}$  SMAs of lower costs need to be investigated. Among them, the most prospective candidates are  $\text{TiNiZr}$  and  $\text{TiNiHf}$  alloys with  $\text{Zr}$  and  $\text{Hf}$  replacing  $\text{Ti}$  in these alloys.

Three phases,  $(\text{Ti,Zr})\text{Ni}$ ,  $(\text{Ti,Zr})_2\text{Ni}$  and the  $\lambda_1$  phase are

observed in Ti-rich  $\text{Ti}_{53-x}\text{Ni}_{47}\text{Zr}_x$  alloys with the  $\text{Zr}$  content in the range of 5–20 at.% at room temperature [4]. Here,  $\lambda_1$  phase is a  $\text{TiNiZr}$  ternary solid solution and the  $(\text{Ti,Zr})\text{Ni}$  phase can exhibit the  $\text{B2} \leftrightarrow \text{B19}'$  martensitic transformation with the  $M_s$  temperature in the range of  $60^\circ\text{C} \sim 260^\circ\text{C}$  [4]. Hsieh et al. [5] reported that the lattice parameters of martensitic phase  $\text{B19}'$  by using the XRD, TEM and Riverted method [6] are dependent on the  $\text{Zr}$  content in  $\text{Ti}_{50.5-x}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_x$  SMAs with  $\text{Zr}$  content in the range of 1–20 at.% at room temperature. Meanwhile, Mulder et al. [7] reported that the  $M_s$  temperatures above  $120^\circ\text{C}$  can be obtained in  $\text{TiNiZr}$  alloys with  $\text{Zr}$  content above 10 at.% and  $\text{Ni}$  content below 49.5 at.%. They also found that the decrease in transformation temperatures in the thermal-cycled  $\text{Ti}_{31.5}\text{Ni}_{48.5}\text{Zr}_{20}$  alloy is affected by the  $(\text{Ti,Zr})_2\text{Ni}$  precipitates.

It has been confirmed that the transformation characteristics of Ti-rich binary  $\text{TiNi}$  SMAs can be affected by various thermo-mechanical treatments, such as thermal cycling, aging and cold rolling [8]. However, few reports have been made on Ti-rich  $\text{TiNiZr}$  ternary alloys [9] whose transformation behaviors and shape-memory characteristics are affected by different thermo-mechanical treatments. In

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the present study, we aim to understand the general characteristics of a Ti-rich  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  ternary alloy, including transformation temperatures, microstructures and internal friction properties, etc. The variation of martensitic transformation temperatures with aging time and the effect of thermal cycling on this alloy will also be discussed.

## 2. Experimental procedure

The conventional tungsten arc melting technique was employed to prepare the  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  (at.%) alloy. Titanium (purity 99.7%), nickel (purity 99.9%) and aluminum (purity 99.9%), totaling about 120 g, were melted and remelted at least six times in an argon atmosphere. A pure titanium button was used as a getter during the arc melting. Weight loss during melting was negligibly small. The as-melted ingots were homogenized at  $950^\circ\text{C}\times 72$  h and then quenched in water. They were swaged at  $800^\circ\text{C}\times 1$  h and then annealed at  $850^\circ\text{C}\times 1$  h. Specimens were cut into several plates with a low speed diamond saw, and then annealed at  $900^\circ\text{C}\times 1$  h and finally quenched in water. After the annealing treatment, two experimental procedures were conducted. First, several plates were sealed in evacuated quartz tubes and aged at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 1–240 h and then quenched in water. Second, several more plates were subjected to thermal cycling  $N$  times from  $0^\circ\text{C}$  to  $300^\circ\text{C}$  with  $N=1\sim 100$  cycles. Specimens for electrical resistivity measurement (size:  $50\text{ mm}\times 1\text{ mm}\times 1\text{ mm}$ ), DSC measurement, internal friction test (size:  $110\text{ mm}\times 4\text{ mm}\times 1\text{ mm}$ ), hardness test, shape recovery test and microstructure observation were carefully cut from plates treated using the above procedures.

Martensitic transformation temperatures were measured by using a four-probe electrical resistivity. The temperature range for electrical resistivity test was from  $25^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+250^\circ\text{C}$ . DSC measurements were made with a Dupont 9990 thermal analyzer equipped with a quantitative scanning system 910 DSC cell for controlled heating and cooling runs on samples encapsulated in an aluminum pan. The running temperature range was from  $0^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+200^\circ\text{C}$  with a heating and cooling rate of  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ . An internal friction (IF) test was carried out with a SINKU-RIKO 1500 M/L series inverted torsion pendulum in the temperature range from  $-150^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+250^\circ\text{C}$ . The temperature rate was precisely controlled at  $2^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  and the test frequency was approximately 1 Hz. Specimens for the hardness test were first mechanically polished and then subjected to measurement in a microvickers hardness tester with 500 g load at room temperature. For each specimen, the average hardness value was taken from at least five test readings. The microstructure observations were made using optical microscope (OM) and transmission electron microscope (TEM). The shape recovery measurement was performed as described earlier by Lin et al. [10]. A quantitative analysis of the chemical composition of the

phases was performed by using a JOEL JXA-8600SX electron probe microanalyzer (EPMA) equipped with a WDX analysis system. TEM specimens were prepared by electropolishing at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  with an electrolyte consisting of 20%  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and 80%  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  by volume. Selected area diffraction patterns (SADPs) and TEM images were examined using a JEOL-4000FX microscope equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) system.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Transformation behavior in $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$ alloy

Fig. 1 shows the experimental results of electrical resistivity versus temperature for the annealed  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. The notation for the determination of martensitic transformation temperatures,  $M_s$ ,  $M_f$ ,  $A_s$  and  $A_f$ , in Fig. 1 follows the example established by Hwang et al. [11]. The martensitic transformation starts at  $M_s$  ( $\approx 100^\circ\text{C}$ ), where the resistance is at a minimum but increases quickly until  $M_f$  ( $\approx 75^\circ\text{C}$ ) is reached. Upon heating from  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , the resistance increases up to  $A_s$  ( $\approx 135^\circ\text{C}$ ), where the slope of the curve changes and continuously decreases down to  $A_f$  ( $\approx 175^\circ\text{C}$ ). This stage corresponds to the reverse transformation from martensite to B2 parent phase.

Fig. 2a shows the TEM bright field image of martensite in annealed  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. Figs. 2b–d are SADPs of Fig. 2a, in which the foil is tilted to parallel the  $[100]_M$ ,  $[01\bar{1}]_M$  and  $[11\bar{1}]_M$  direction, respectively. Han et al. found that lattice parameters of martensite in  $\text{Ti}_{36.5}\text{Ni}_{48.5}\text{Hf}_{15}$  alloy is a monoclinic structure with  $a=0.293$  nm,  $b=0.411$  nm,  $c=0.473$  nm and  $\beta=100.4^\circ$  [12]. The SADPs of this annealed alloy coincide with those of Han's results. Therefore, based on Fig. 2 and Ref. [5], we can calculate the martensite structure of  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy and find

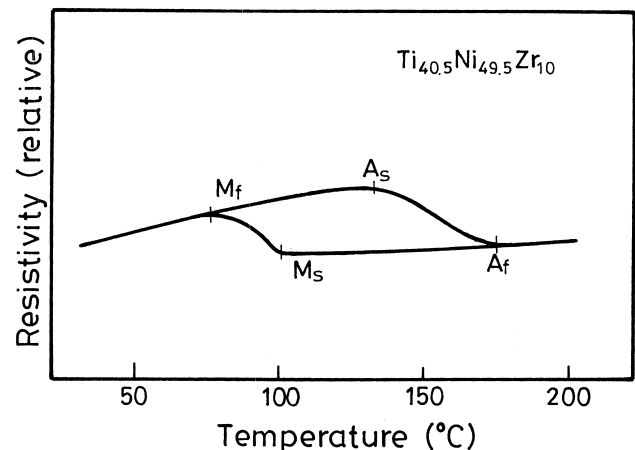


Fig. 1. Electrical resistivity versus temperature curve for  $900^\circ\text{C}\times 1$  h annealed and water quenched  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy.

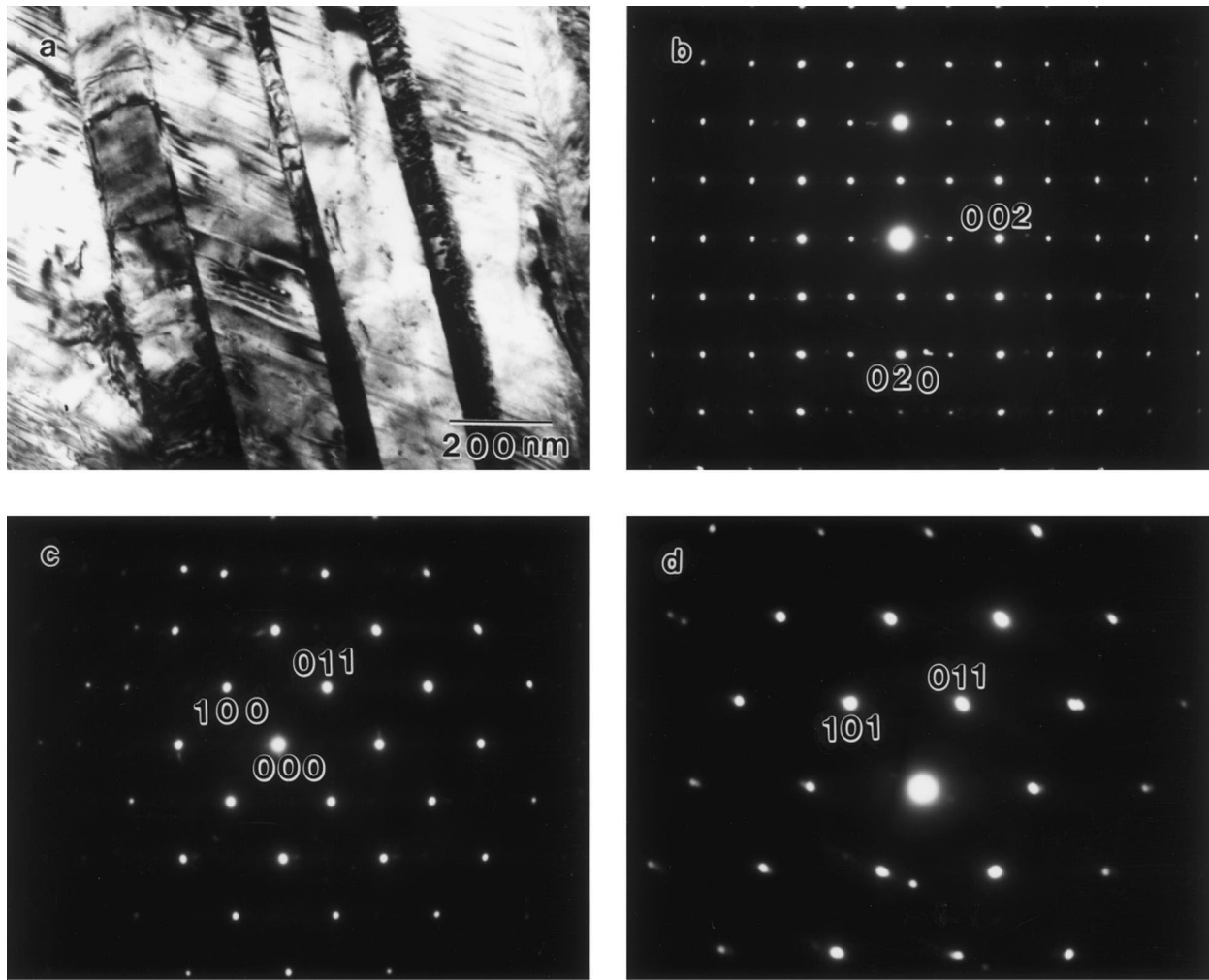


Fig. 2. (a) TEM bright-field image of as-annealed  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. (b) SADP of (a) with  $[100]_{\text{M}}$  zone axis, (c) SADP of (a) with  $[01\bar{1}]_{\text{M}}$  zone axis, (d) SADP of (a) with  $[11\bar{1}]_{\text{M}}$ .

that it is also a monoclinic B19' structure in which  $a=0.295$  nm,  $b=0.408$  nm,  $c=0.481$  nm and  $\beta=97.4^\circ$ .

Fig. 3 shows the OM microstructure of  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. A great number of second phase particles are found around B2 grain boundaries. The chemical compositions of matrix and second-phase particles found using EPMA analysis are  $(\text{Ti,Zr})\text{Ni}$  and  $(\text{Ti,Zr})_2\text{Ni}$ , respectively, as shown in Table 1. In spite of the existence of many particles, this alloy still exhibits rather good shape recovery, which can reach about 90%, as shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 5a and b show the IF test result and plot the frequency  $f$  (shear modulus) and  $Q_{\text{max}}^{-1}$  versus temperature of the annealed  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. In Fig. 5b, there is one peak  $P_{\text{C}}$  at  $84^\circ\text{C}$  on cooling and one peak  $P_{\text{H}}$  at  $151^\circ\text{C}$  on heating. Both peaks, which correspond to the minimum of frequency  $f$  shown in Fig. 5a, indicate the minima of the shear modulus. The peak  $P_{\text{R}}$  appearing at  $-38^\circ\text{C}$  which does not correspond to the minimum of frequency  $f$  is proposed to be a relaxation peak. The relaxation peak is suggested to be associated with the interaction of disloca-

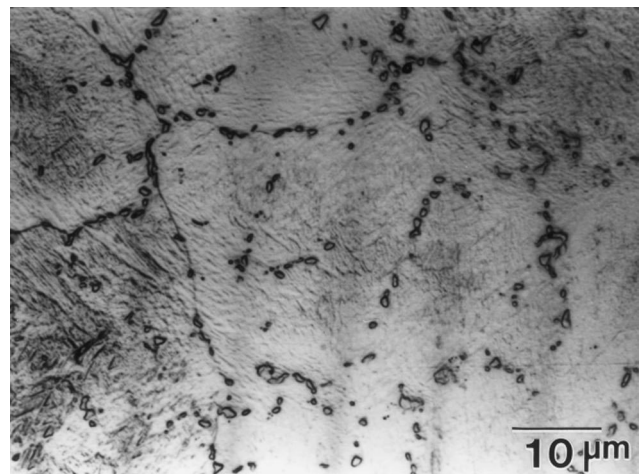


Fig. 3. Optical micrographic microstructure of as-annealed  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy.

Table 1  
EPMA analysis for  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy annealed at  $950^\circ\text{C}\times 72\text{ h}$

$\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$ alloy	Composition (at.%)		
	Ti	Ni	Zr
Matrix	40.81	49.01	10.18
Second phase	56.52	33.19	10.29

tions and point defects [13], and is independent of the martensite and premartensite transformations [14]. The temperature difference  $\Delta T$  between  $P_H$  and  $P_C$  is approximately  $67^\circ\text{C}$  for this alloy, which is larger than that of  $\text{Ti}_{51}\text{Ni}_{49}$  alloy ( $\Delta T=41^\circ\text{C}$ ) [8]. This feature indicates that the Zr atoms solid-soluted in Ti-rich TiNi alloy will result in a different chemical free energy between binary TiNi and ternary TiNiZr SMAs. The height  $Q_{\max}^{-1}$  ( $3.12\times 10^{-2}$ ) of internal friction peak,  $P_C$ , in Fig. 5 is lower than that of  $\text{Ti}_{51}\text{Ni}_{49}$  alloy ( $Q_{\max}^{-1}=5.2\times 10^{-2}$  with the same specimen size) [8]. This characteristic show that the solid solution hardening in Ti-rich TiNiZr alloys may decrease the mobility of twin plates in the martensite and that of the interfaces between martensite and parent phase. From Figs. 1, 2 and 5, one can find that the transformation sequence of martensite in  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy is the  $\text{B2}\leftrightarrow\text{B19}'$  one-stage transformation.

### 3.2. Effects of aging and thermal cycling on Ti-rich $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$ alloy

Fig. 6a and b show the same plots as Fig. 5, but now for the alloy aged at  $300^\circ\text{C}\times 120\text{ h}$ . In Fig. 6b, there is one peak  $P_C$  on cooling, and one peak  $P_H$  on heating in the first cycle. Peaks  $P_C$  and  $P_H$  are associated with the martensitic transformation. A well-shaped relaxation peak  $P_R$  appears at  $-27^\circ\text{C}$ , which does not correspond the minimum of frequency of  $f$  in Fig. 6a. The plots of different aging

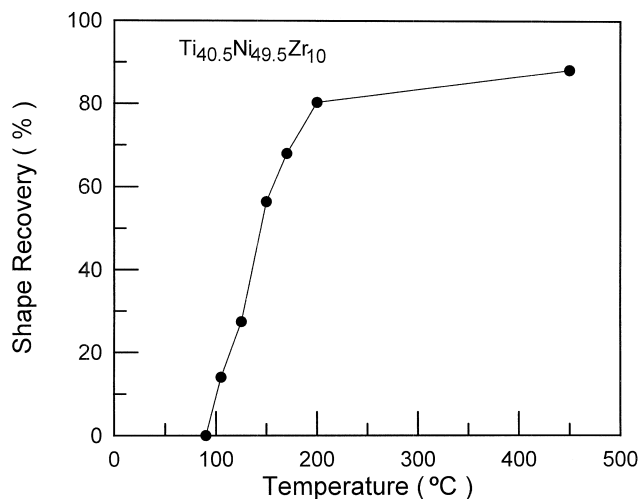
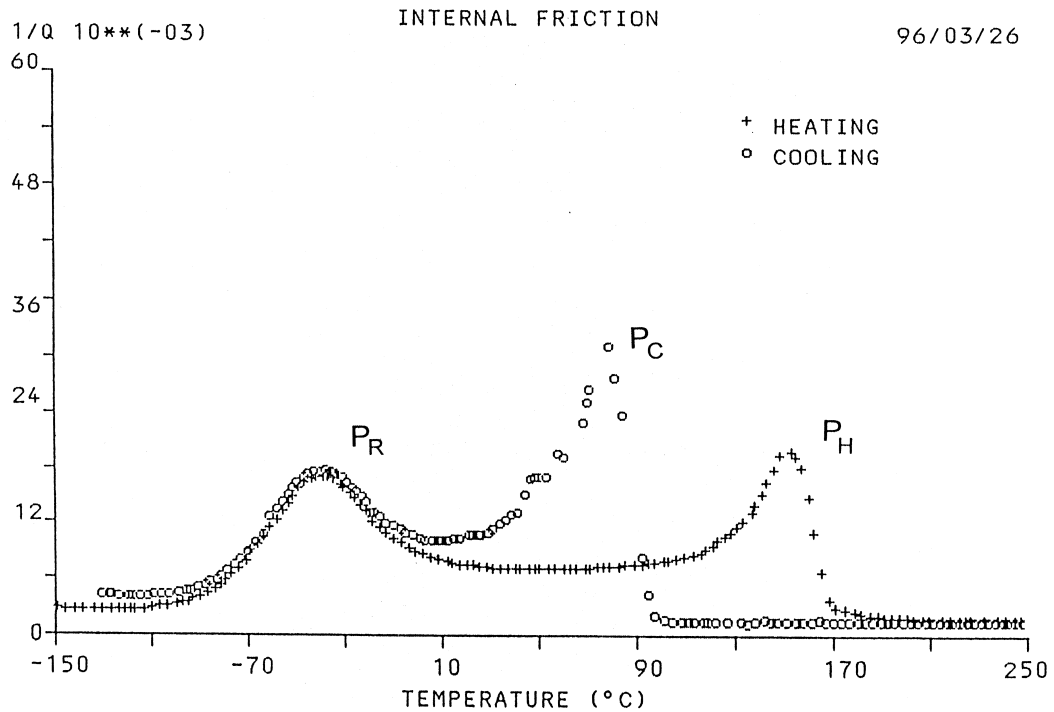
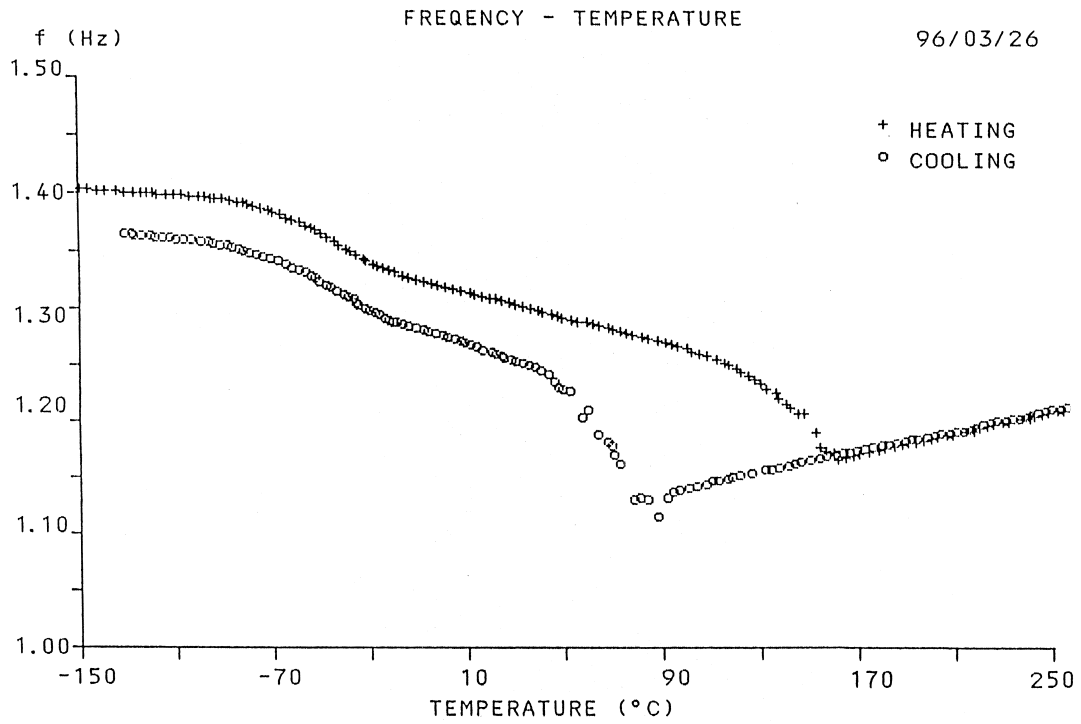


Fig. 4. Shape recovery versus heating temperature for  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy.

times of this alloy are similar to those of Fig. 6, except that the temperatures  $P_C$ ,  $P_H$  and  $P_R$  and the magnitude of  $Q_{\max}^{-1}$  are different, and are thus omitted here.  $P_C$ ,  $P_H$ ,  $P_R$  versus the aging time of this alloy derived from the internal friction test are plotted in Fig. 7. From Fig. 7,  $P_C$ ,  $P_H$  and  $P_R$  are all affected by aging time. Fig. 8 shows that the Hv hardness of the  $300^\circ\text{C}$  aged  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy increases significantly in the first 40 h and then gradually levels off with further aging.

Fig. 9a shows a TEM bright-field image of the  $\text{B19}'$  martensite in a  $300^\circ\text{C}\times 240\text{ h}$  aged  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. Fig. 9b shows the SADPs taken from the martensite plate having fine striations at area E of Fig. 9a, in which the foil is parallel to  $[110]_M$  direction. No extra reflection spot can be observed in Fig. 9 except for the  $(001)_M$  compound twins. Thus, the fine striations are traces of  $(001)_M$  twin plates. The  $(001)_M$  compound twins and  $[011]_M$  type II twins are the substructures of the martensite in the aged  $\text{Ti}_{36.5}\text{Ni}_{48.5}\text{Hf}_{15}$  alloy, which have many defects such as dislocations [15]. Similar microstructures can also be observed in Fig. 9. Compared with Figs. 9 and 2,  $(001)_M$  twin planes of the aged specimen are more dense than those of the annealed one. This result may indicate that  $(001)_M$  compound twins of the aged specimen have a lower stacking fault energy than those of the annealed one. From Fig. 7, transformation temperatures of  $P_C$  and  $P_H$  decrease with increasing aging time, most likely a result of the following aging effects: (i) The interstitial atoms (such as H, O, etc.) can be solid-soluted in specimens during the arc melting process and excess vacancies can be obtained by quenching the annealed specimen at  $900^\circ\text{C}$ . The aging process causes the interstitial atoms to rearrange and eliminate excess vacancies. Therefore, the interfaces between parent phase and martensite during the martensitic transformation may be impeded by these point defects in aged specimens. (ii) The Zr atoms replace Ti atoms in  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy due to the isomorphologic solid solution effects of Ti and Zr atoms in the Ti–Zr binary phase diagram [16]. The excess quenched-in-vacancies can promote atomic rearrangement of Ti and Zr atoms in the B2 parent phase during the aging process. This reordered process may introduce microstrain field/lattice distortion and result in the hardness increment, as shown in Fig. 8. The lattice distortion will hinder the mobility of twin plates in martensite and/or that of interfaces between the martensite and parent phase. The aged specimens have finer  $(001)_M$  compound twins and more dislocations, as shown in Fig. 9, most likely a result of the above mentioned aging effects of (i) and (ii).

Table 2 shows the DSC forward peak temperature  $M^*$  and the hardness Hv of the thermal-cycled  $\text{Ti}_{40.5}\text{Ni}_{49.5}\text{Zr}_{10}$  alloy. From Table 2, the  $M^*$  temperatures decrease, but the hardness Hv increases with increasing thermal cycling, resulting from the effect of dislocations induced by thermal cycling, as proposed in thermal-cycled binary TiNi SMAs [17].



SAMPLE : Ti40.5Ni49.5Zr10  
H.T. CONDITION : SWAGED + 850 $^{\circ}$ C\*1HR

Fig. 5. (a) Frequency,  $f$ , and (b) internal friction,  $Q_{\max}^{-1}$ , versus temperature for the annealed Ti<sub>40.5</sub>Ni<sub>49.5</sub>Zr<sub>10</sub> alloy. Peaks  $P_C$  and  $P_H$  are associated with the martensitic transformation and peak  $P_R$  is a relaxation one.

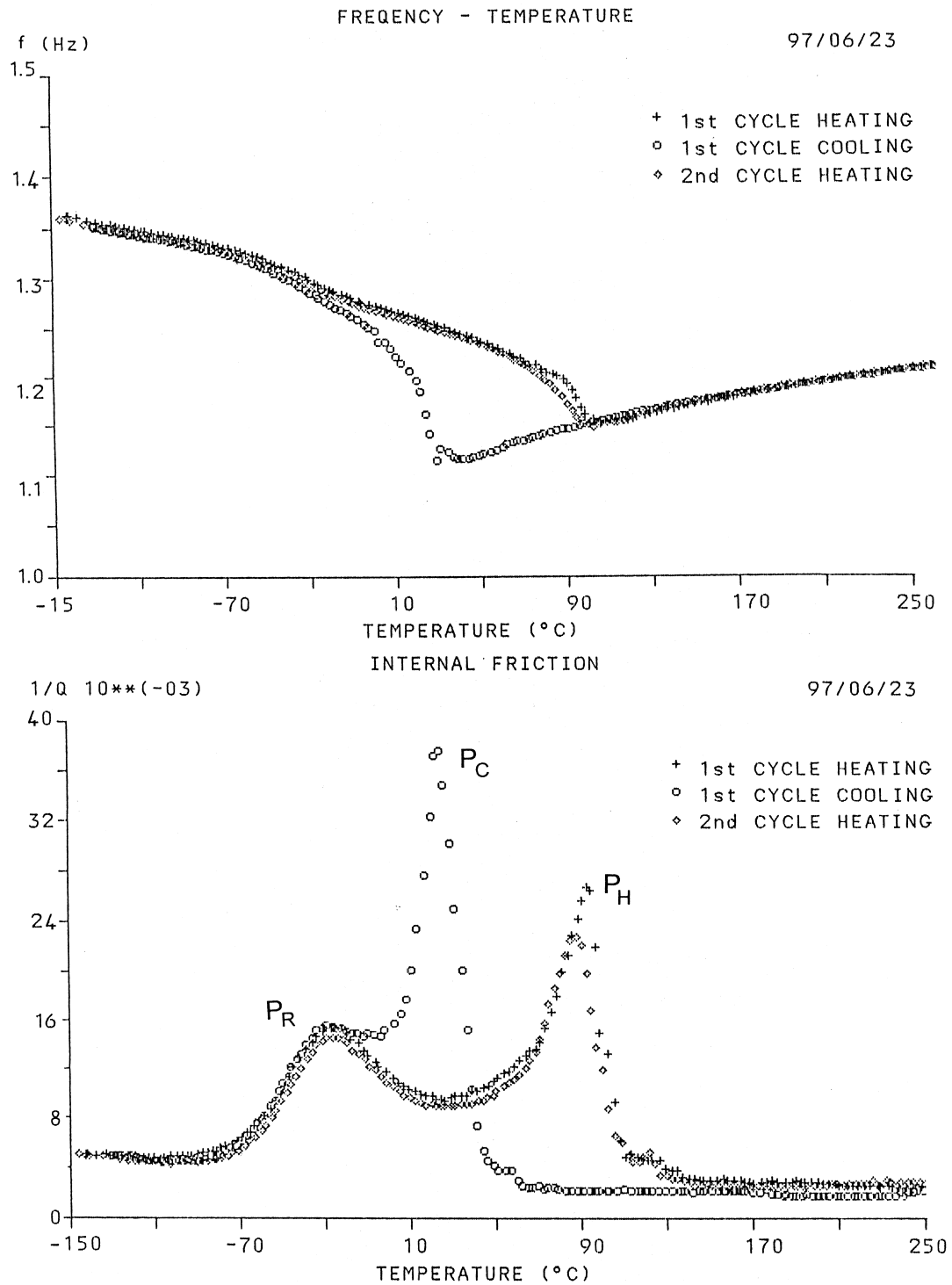


Fig. 6. (a) Frequency,  $f$ , and (b) internal friction,  $Q_{\max}^{-1}$ , versus temperature of Ti<sub>40.5</sub>Ni<sub>49.5</sub>Zr<sub>10</sub> alloy aged at 300°C for 120 h. Peaks P<sub>C</sub> and P<sub>H</sub> are associated with the martensitic transformation and peak P<sub>R</sub> is a relaxation one.

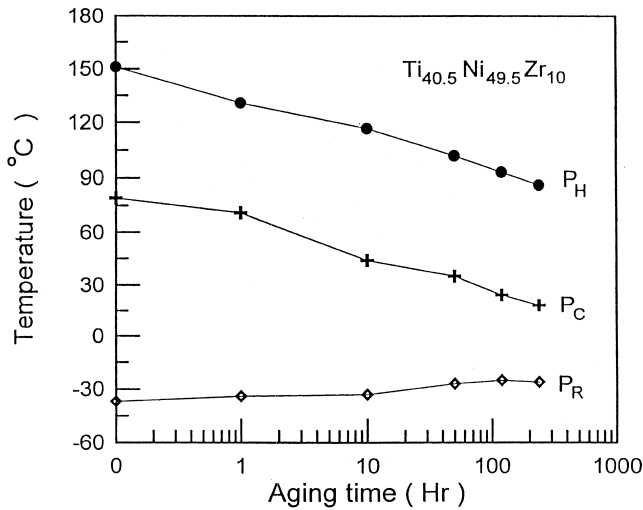


Fig. 7. The peak temperatures of  $P_H$ ,  $P_C$  and  $P_R$  versus aging time for  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy aged at  $300^\circ C$ .

3.3. Strengthening effects in the aged and thermal-cycled Ti-rich  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy

Fig. 10 shows the curves of DSC peak temperature  $M^*$  vs. hardness  $H_v$  for the thermal-cycled and aged  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy. The results of the thermal-cycled Ti-rich  $Ti_{51}Ni_{49}$  alloy are also plotted in Fig. 10. It was pointed out that any strengthening mechanism which impedes the transformation shear can lower transformation temperatures because martensitic transformation involves a shear process [18,19]. This feature can be expressed by Eq. (1).

$$M_s = T_o - K \Delta\sigma_y \tag{1}$$

The constant  $K$  contains the factors of proportionality between the critical shear stress and the yield stress  $\Delta\sigma_y$ ,

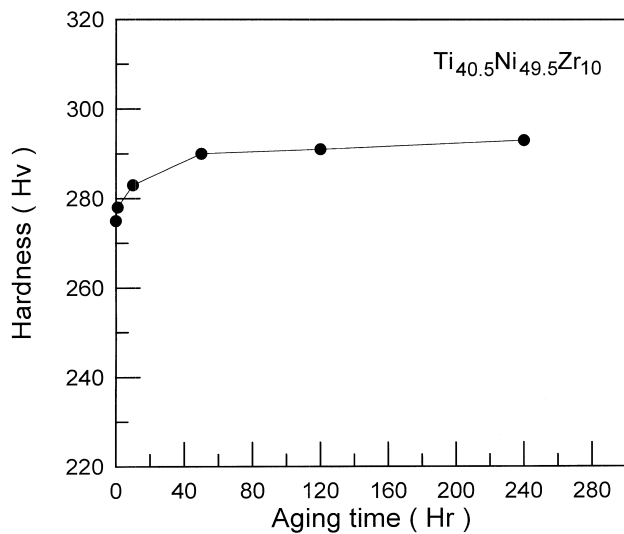


Fig. 8. Hardness versus aging time for  $300^\circ C$  aged  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy.

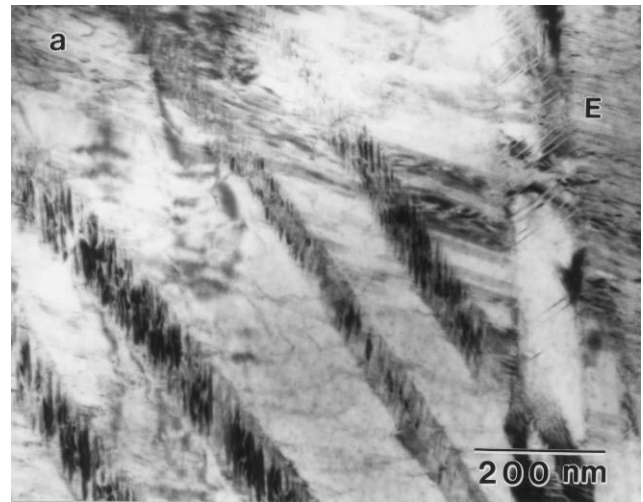


Fig. 9. (a) TEM bright-field image of  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy aged at  $300^\circ C$  for 240 h. (b) SADP taken from area  $E$  in (a), showing  $(001)_M$  compound twins with  $[110]_M$  zone axis.

the equilibrium temperature  $T_o$  is a function of the chemical composition, and the yield stress  $\Delta\sigma_y$  is considered to be proportional to the hardness.

In this study, thermal cycling and aging processes do not change the alloy's composition, hence  $T_o$  is a constant. In addition, thermal cycling and aging can cause the alloy's

Table 2

DSC forward peak temperatures  $M^*$  and hardness  $H_v$  for various thermal cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy

Thermal cycles ( $N$ )	$Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$ alloy	
	$M^*(^\circ C)$	Hardness (Hv)
1	84	273
2	78	286
10	66	300
20	58	310
50	54	322
100	50	330

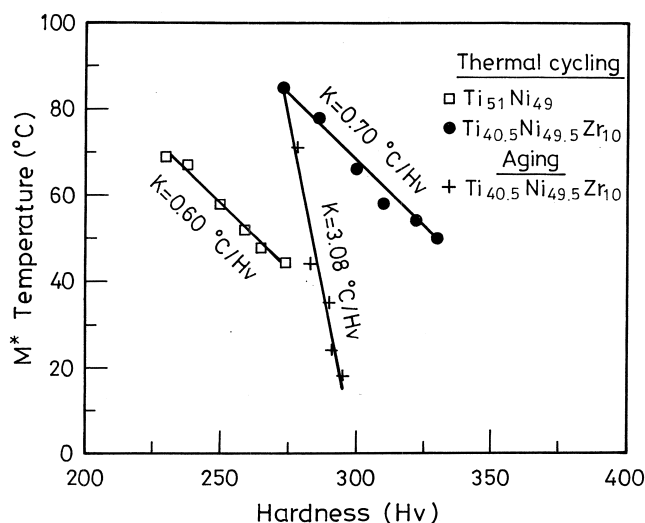


Fig. 10. The  $M^*$  temperature versus hardness Hv for thermal cycled and aged  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy. The data for the thermal cycled  $Ti_{51}Ni_{49}$  alloy are also included.

hardness to increase, as shown in Fig. 8 and Table 2. Therefore, both thermal cycling and aging can raise the yield stress  $\Delta\sigma_y$ . As derived from Eq. (1), this feature causes the  $M^*$  ( $M_s$ ) temperature to be lowered, as shown in Fig. 10. Upon carefully examining Fig. 10, it can be seen that the constant  $K$  of thermal-cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy is slightly larger than that of thermal-cycled  $Ti_{51}Ni_{49}$  alloy. We propose that the  $K$  value is related to the inherent hardness of annealed TiNi binary or TiNiX ternary alloys. The greater the annealed hardness is, the larger the  $K$  value will be. For example, the thermal-cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy has its annealed hardness at 273 Hv and its  $K$  value at  $0.70^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ , which is larger than that of thermal-cycled  $Ti_{51}Ni_{49}$  alloy (230 Hv,  $K=0.60^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ ). In other words, the depression of  $M_s$  ( $M^*$ ) temperature by the strengthening mechanism is stronger for the alloy having a higher annealed hardness.

The constant  $K$  of the thermal-cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy ( $K=0.70^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ ) is smaller than that of the aged one ( $K=3.08^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ ). This feature is a result of different strengthening mechanisms, because the former strengthening originates from the thermal-cycled induced dislocations and the latter one results from the aging effects of point defects and atoms rearrangement in B2 phase. The fact that  $K=3.08^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv} \gg K=0.70^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$  also indicates that the martensitic transformation temperatures of  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy can be more effectively depressed by aging in B2 phase than by  $B2 \leftrightarrow B19'$  thermal cycling.

#### 4. Conclusion

1. The annealed  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy undergoes  $B2 \leftrightarrow B19'$ , one-stage martensitic transformation with  $M_s \approx 100^\circ\text{C}$ . Many second phase particles  $(Ti,Zr)_2Ni$

are found around the grain boundaries of  $(Ti,Zr)Ni$  matrix. Despite the existence of many second phase particles, this alloy still exhibits good shape recovery which can reach about 90%. The B19' martensite structure is calculated as  $a=0.295$  nm,  $b=0.408$  nm,  $c=0.491$  nm and  $\beta=97.4^\circ$ .

2. Transformation temperatures of  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy decrease and the hardness increases with increasing aging time at  $300^\circ\text{C}$ . This characteristic is related to the aging effects of point defects and atoms rearrangement in B2 phase. Besides, finer plates formed in  $(001)_M$  compound twins for longer aged specimens may relate to these aging effects.
3. Transformation temperatures decrease and the hardness increases in the thermal-cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy. The strengthening effect of thermal cycling and aging on transformation temperatures of this alloy is found to follow the equation  $M_s = T_0 - K \Delta\sigma_y$ . Experimental results show that  $K$  values are associated with the alloy's annealed hardness. The Ti-rich  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy has solid-soluted Zr atoms and has a higher annealed hardness than the  $Ti_{51}Ni_{49}$  alloy, and thus has a higher  $K$  value. Besides, the constant  $K$  of thermal-cycled  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy ( $K=0.70^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ ) is smaller than that of aged one ( $K=3.08^\circ\text{C}/\text{Hv}$ ). This result indicates that martensitic transformation temperatures of  $Ti_{40.5}Ni_{49.5}Zr_{10}$  alloy can be more effectively depressed by aging in B2 phase than by  $B2 \leftrightarrow B19'$  thermal cycling.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dr. T. S. Chou, Steel and Aluminum R and D Department, China Steel Corporation, for his great assistance with the internal friction measurement. The financial support of this study is provided by the National Science Council (NSC), Republic of China, under Grant No. NSC 86-2216-E002-033, is also sincerely appreciated.

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