DEFECTS AND PHASE TRANSFORMATIONS IN COBALT FERRITES

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DEFECTS AND PHASE TRANSFORMATIONS IN COBALT FERRITES

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ABSTRACT

Defects and phase transformations in ferrimagnetic cobalt ferrites, with a Co/Fe ratio between 0.54 and 0.76 have been studied by means of high voltage transmission electron microscopy. The origin and characterization of ion radiation damage, ferrimagnetic domains, dislocations, and phase transformations in air and in the electron microscope are discussed.

Chemical polishing and subsequent irradiation of specimens in the 650 kV microscope produces defects in the crystal surface facing the gun. These defects are mainly spherical oxygen vacancy clusters, but occasionally small prismatic vacancy loops are formed. The projected saturation defect concentration is about $2 \times 10^9$ per cm$^2$.

Existing multiple beam dynamical theory has been used to quantitatively compare computed and actual dislocation images. It has been found that under the proper diffracting conditions, dislocation can be characterized by the spacing of the subsidiary image fringes parallel to the dislocation line, so that the magnitude of the Burgers vector can be determined directly. The dislocation partials are at most 50A apart. The usefulness of the transmitted beam image, with systematic higher order reflections operating is shown. This method appears to be preferable over the kinematical weak beam method, when the foil is of normal thickness.
Ferrimagnetic domains have been observed in single phase specimens, when the foils were symmetrically oriented with respect to the field of the objective lens. The domain wall images have been found to be in agreement with the contrast that is expected from 90° Bloch walls. The configuration and motion of these 90° walls has been shown to depend on the foil geometry, and on the presence of mechanical stresses.

Phase transformations in the reducing atmosphere of the microscope have been examined in detail. It has been shown that these transformations are due to the loss of oxygen from the specimen surface. A time dependent gradient in the cation/anion ratio is developed from the surface of the transforming foil, and initially cobalt metal, containing less than 5 at% iron, has been found to form at the specimen surface. At the same time a very high density of small (30-40Å) cobalt-\(\text{wüsite}\) particles precipitates deeper inside the foil. This (\(\text{Co,Fe}\))\(\text{O}\) has been found to form by a homogeneous transformation. Wedge shaped foils have been observed while transforming, illustrating the dynamical nature of the transformations. After prolonged heating, the foil has been found to consist of cobalt metal grains, and an iron rich spinel matrix. The cobalt grains consist of a mixture of cubic and hexagonal cobalt.

It has been shown that (\(\text{Co,Fe}\))\(\text{O}\) precipitates in cobalt ferrite, after heating in air at 1230°C. The precipitates initially are shaped as square prisms and are fully coherent up to a size of at least 1200Å. Between 1200 and 1500Å they lose coherency, and also become more or less spherical in shape. The nature of the semi-coherent interface has been discussed in detail. The presence of undissociated interface dislocations has been shown. Micropores were found to migrate along with the semi-
coherent interfaces. Their origin has been discussed. A possible mechanism by which the precipitates lose coherency has been described.
I. INTRODUCTION

During the last fifteen years transmission electron microscopy has proven its unique usefulness in establishing the relation between the microstructure and the mechanical properties of metals and alloys. It is unfortunate that the electron microscope has not yet established itself in the field of ceramics, where the main tools, beside mechanical testing, remained the optical microscope, or the X-ray diffractometer. More recently the scanning electron microscope has been utilized, but this technique is limited to the characterization of surfaces. One of the reasons that the ceramist usually confines himself to experimental correlations with the macroscopic aspects of the substructure (which in itself has great merit, and is of vital importance to the manufactures of ceramic materials) is that nearly all practical ceramics have an exceedingly complex, multiphase microstructure, from which electron transparent foils are notoriously difficult to prepare. With the commercial introduction of high voltage microscopes, and the development of new foil preparation techniques, such as ion bombardment, most of the experimental difficulties prohibiting a more fundamental characterization of defects and microstructure in ceramic materials, have been overcome. The lack of observations and general information on the sub-micron scale revealed by transmission electron microscopy, makes such a study necessarily of an exploratory nature. To avoid complications, it is also preferable to use single crystals of the ceramic material if they are available.

In the present study defects and phase transformations have been examined in single crystals of cobalt ferrites, by means of high voltage
transmission electron microscopy. This cubic oxide has been selected for a number of reasons: Cobalt ferrite has a spinel structure. Presently, about thirty different cations are known to form spinels with oxygen, and it is hoped that some of the information about cobalt ferrite obtained here, would be relevant to this large class of crystals. Also, cobalt ferrite is ferrimagnetic, and for this reason has found applications in the electronics industries. Conventionally, grain size or porosity has been used to control the magnetic properties of polycrystalline ferrites, but it is likely that heat treatments, producing the proper two phase microstructure, could lead to magnetic materials with highly desirable properties. Compared to mechanical properties the field of microstructural relationship with magnetic properties has hardly been explored.

The main emphasis in this thesis is on the phase transformations. This is currently indeed a point of great interest, since, just as for metallic systems, control of mechanical and electronic properties is possible by the introduction of the appropriate microstructure. At the same time, defects that are well characterized in metals (such as dislocations, or radiation damage produced in the foil during observation in the microscope) need to be examined again in ceramics. While much of the theory of electron image formation can be applied straightforwardly to any crystal, it still has to be made sure that certain contrast effects are not just due to the peculiarities of the crystal structure, rather than to the nature of the defect itself. It seems to the author that meaningful analysis of defects, such as narrowly dissociated dis-
locations, can only be done if a complete, many beam computer analysis is performed together with the imaging experiments.

Cobalt ferrites are ferrimagnetic, and in a way, magnetic domains can also be classified as defects. A study of domain configurations in the thin films that were examined in the electron microscope, has therefore been included.

The survey nature of the present study made it necessary to describe and analyze many observations. The analyses have given together with the observations, so as to avoid repetition and impractical cross reference in a separate discussion at the end of all experimental observations. Therefore, each major section has been treated separately, and a summary and conclusions has been given after each one of them. It is hoped that this format improves the clarity of the presentation. A chapter giving some properties, and background about cobalt ferrites has been included. Some general considerations concerning the relevance of this work in the general framework of ceramics have been made in the final discussion.
II. BACKGROUND

A. Crystal Properties

Cobalt ferrites have a spinel structure. Spinels are most easily conceived if attention is focused on the oxygen sublattice. The oxygen sublattice is face centered cubic. The octahedral and tetrahedral interstices are partially filled with the cations cobalt and iron. Cobalt ferrites are inverse spinels, which means that the trivalent ions prefer the tetrahedral sites rather than the regular octahedral sites. The cation distributions in these spinels have been investigated by many workers. Still it is not completely clear why one spinel is regular, and another one is inverse. At any rate, the strong preference of cobalt to be in octahedral sites is well established for cobalt ferrite. Information of the possible ordering of the cations on the octahedral sites is not available, but some octahedral ordering is known for other ferrites. The difficulty in detecting ordering is that the scattering factors of cobalt and iron are very close. Below is listed the sequence of occupation of the tetrahedral and octahedral sites, when cobalt is progressively substituted for iron in magnetite. The subscript $T$ refers to the tetrahedral interstitial positions, the subscript $O$ refers to the octahedral ones.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Fe}^{3+}_T & \ (\text{Fe}^{2+} \ \text{Fe}^{3+})_O \ 0_4 \ \ \text{magnetite} \\
\text{Fe}^{3+}_T & \ (\text{Co}^{2+} \ \text{Fe}^{3+})_O \ 0_4 \\
\text{Fe}^{3+}_T & \ (\text{Cu}^{2+} \ \text{Co}^{3+})_O \ 0_4 \\
\text{Co}^{3+}_T & \ (\text{Co}^{2+} \ \text{Co}^{3+})_O \ 0_4 \ \ \text{cobalt spinel}
\end{align*}
\]
This distribution is shown schematically in Fig. 2, according to Muller et al.\textsuperscript{5}

The lattice parameters of cubic oxides in the system cobalt-iron, are largely determined by the oxygen ions. The fcc oxygen sublattice parameter for all these phases is around 4.1 Å. This was an obstacle to the identification of the phases by electron diffraction. Also, non-stoichiometry occurred in the phase transformations studied here, and this again complicated direct diffraction analysis, since it also affects the lattice parameters. In general, however, the nature of the cubic oxides other than the matrix spinel could be deduced from the detailed geometry of the diffraction patterns. What could not be determined was the exact composition of the phases that were present through measurement of the lattice parameters. In certain cases, it has been possible to make estimates of the composition of the reactants less directly.

B. Phase Diagram

In the literature, two somewhat different phase diagrams are available for one atmosphere of air. Figure 1a is the one suggested by Aukrust and Muan\textsuperscript{6}; Fig. 1b is the one reported by Robin.\textsuperscript{7} No data are available for other oxygen partial pressures. Although this information would have been valuable here, no attempt was made to make a comprehensive study of the phase diagram of Co-Fe-O\textsubscript{2} for any range of oxygen partial pressures. This is not the intention of the present work.

C. Magnetic Properties

An enormous amount of work has been done on the magnetic properties of spinel ferrites, and most of this has been summarized in a good review paper up to 1968 by Broesse van Groennau et al.\textsuperscript{4}
Cobalt ferrites are ferrimagnetic. In ferrimagnetic spinels, the magnetic moments of the ions on the octahedral sublattice are anti-parallel to those of the tetrahedral sublattice. In the perfect spinel the octahedral sublattice contains twice as many atoms as the tetrahedral one, so that a spontaneous magnetic moment is present. In Table I the Curie and Néel temperatures are listed of some cubic oxides, together with their saturation moments, $M_s$.

**TABLE I.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>$T_C$ or $T_N$ in °K</th>
<th>$M_s$ emu/g</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
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<tr>
<td>$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>91(0°K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>75(0°K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>-paramagn at RT-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{FeO}$</td>
<td>198</td>
<td></td>
<td>-paramagn at RT-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{CoO}$</td>
<td>293</td>
<td></td>
<td>-anti ferro magn. below RT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The value of the saturation magnetization of the spinels is temperature dependent below the Curie temperature. $M_s$ decreases the closer the measurement is made to the Curie temperature.\(^\text{10}\)

Substitution of iron by cobalt in $\text{Co}_{1-x}\text{Fe}_{2+x}\text{O}_4$ rapidly reduces the Curie temperature when $x < 0$. Addition of cobalt to magnetite increases the anisotropy in the favored $(100)$ directions.\(^\text{11}\) Note also that the Néel temperature of cobalteous oxide is about 100°K higher than that of wüstite. The mixed solid solution oxides $(\text{Co,Fe})O$ may have a spontaneous magnetic moment.
below their Neél temperature, since the magneton number of an Fe\textsuperscript{2+} ion is larger than that of a Co\textsuperscript{2+} ion. The spontaneous magnetic moment of these uncompensated antiferromagnetic oxides should depend strongly on the degree of cation order.

D. Point Defect Chemistry

The point defect chemistry of spinels like cobalt ferrite has been studied in detail by Schmaltzreid, Tretjakow, and others.\textsuperscript{5,12,13} It appears to be a rather complicated subject. Only the points of importance will be discussed here. Of particular interest is what happens when the partial oxygen pressure in equilibrium with the crystal is reduced. The effect of this can be most easily understood if quasi-chemical reactions of the following kind are considered:

\[
6 \text{Fe}^{3+} + 3 \text{VO} + \text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 = 9 \text{Fe}^{2+} + 3 \text{O}_2(g) \ldots
\]

where \(\text{Fe}^{2+}_0\) = divalent iron on octahedral interstice

\(\text{VO}_0\) = vacant octahedral site

The reaction actually states that when the oxygen partial pressure is lowered above magnetite, crystal is destroyed. The produced cations of lower positive valence are placed in vacant octahedral interstices. For CoFe\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{4}, the reduction reaction will read:

\[
2 \text{Co}^{3+}_0 + 4 \text{Fe}^{3+}_0 + 3\text{VO} + \text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4 = 6 \text{Fe}^{2+}_0 + 3 \text{Co}^{2+}_0 + 3 \text{O}_2(g)
\]

In principle, the concentrations of all the ions and vacancies can be determined. In practice, however, the various equilibrium constants relating the ion and vacancy distributions are nearly impossible to calculate theoretically, and experimentally very difficult to assess, since there are so many variables. Schmaltzreid succeeded in expressing the concentration of the vacancies on the tetrahedral sites, \([\text{VT}]\), as a func-
tion of the trivalent octahedral cobalt and the octahedral vacancies:

\[ [\text{V}_\text{T}] = K_1 (1 - [\text{Co}^{3+}_0])^{-1} [\text{V}_0] \quad (3) \]

where \( K_1 \) is a constant depending on the temperature and the Co/Fe ratio only. As the crystal is reduced, Eq. 2 states that \([\text{Co}^{3+}_0] \) decreases, and according to Eq. 3, the ratio of the vacancy concentration \([\text{V}_\text{T}]/[\text{V}_0] \) should decrease. In other words, when the oxygen partial pressure, in equilibrium with a cobalt ferrite spinel, is reduced, the octahedral sites should become more populated than the tetrahedral sites. At the same time Schmaltzreid's calculations show that the cation vacancy concentrations are proportional to the 2/3 power of the oxygen partial pressure that is in equilibrium with the spinel. Schmaltzreid et al. assumed that the oxygen sublattice would essentially be unaffected by the oxygen partial pressure. It should be noted that large oxygen non-stoichiometries are in general not supported by these oxide crystals. If the oxygen pressure is such that large non-stoichiometries would result, a phase transformation will take place instead, in which a phase with higher cation/anion ratio is formed. As an example:

\[ 3 \text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4 = 2 \text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 + 3 \text{CoO} + 0_2(g) \ldots \quad (4) \]

A difficulty that is not reflected by the quasi-chemical approach to the point defect situation is that reaction equations such as Eq. 2 and 4, cannot give information on exactly how the oxygen leaves the crystal when a reduction or a transformation occurs. At any rate, a gradient of increasing ratio of metal to oxygen should exist from the bulk towards the surface of the oxide that is being reduced. In principle, this gradient can be realized in two different ways: either by a metal ion excess or by an oxygen ion deficiency. In the case of the cation excess, the crystal
should lose oxygen only at its very surface, and the excess metal ions (of lower valence according to Eq. 2) diffuse inward. If, on the other hand, the reduction creates an oxygen ion deficiency, then oxygen vacancies would be diffusing into the crystal from the surface. The same questions arise when metal is oxidized, and unfortunately no unanimous agreement on the mechanism of oxidation can be found in the literature. For the oxidation of cobalt Valensi, and Arkharov et al. support the oxygen vacancy mechanism, while Gulbransen and Andrew find agreement with Wagner's theory. Bergstein also speaks of "oxygen diffusing through the crystal" upon reduction or oxidation of copper iron spinels. According to Wagner it is the cations that are active during oxidation or reduction. While a certain concentration of oxygen vacancies must exist in any oxide crystal, the present author finds the arguments in favor of Wagner's theory more compelling, although the observations in this study can be explained either way. If the oxygen non-stoichiometry consists of excess cations, then a study of the oxygen diffusivity as a function of oxygen pressure may confirm this. Indeed, with the cation excess model, the oxygen diffusivity should be relatively independent of oxygen partial pressure, since it is reasonable that oxygen diffuses by a vacancy mechanism over its own sublattice only. The author is not aware of such a study in the literature. As far as phase transformation is concerned, with the cation excess model the rates should be controlled by the mobility of the faster moving cations, or maybe by the rate at which the oxygen desorption at the crystal surface takes place. The diffusion rates of the metal ions will depend on the vacancy concentrations in the cation sublattice, which, as was pointed out earlier, is a function of the oxygen partial pressure.
III. EXPERIMENTAL

Specimens were obtained from the Airtron-Litton Industries, in the form of small single crystals with a diameter of 2 to 3 mm. Analysis of the crystal composition was done by first reducing the crystals to metal by heating them in hydrogen. Then the Co/Fe ratio was determined with the standard chemical techniques. The composition of the crystals varied between $\text{Co}_{1.05}\text{Fe}_{1.95}^4$ and $\text{Co}_{1.29}\text{Fe}_{1.71}^4$. The as-received crystals were annealed for about fifty hours in the solid solution range at 900°C. Then they were air cooled. The specimens were ground down to platelets with a thickness of about 75 micron, and subsequently polished. A chemical polishing technique was used similar to the one reported by Lewis\textsuperscript{19} for magnesium aluminate spinels. The platelets were immersed in hot phosphoric acid kept at a temperature of about 400°C. When the platelets had dissolved to about 1/3 of their original size, electron transparent regions could usually be found at their edges. The chemical polishing took five to ten minutes. Immediately after the polishing, the specimens were washed in boiling water, and then in alcohol. The foils were examined in a 650 kV Hitachi transmission electron microscope.

Some phase transformation were followed \textit{in situ}, with the use of a hot stage specimen holder. The temperature was controlled indirectly by fixing the power input to the furnace type heater of the hot stage specimen holder. Calibration of the hot stage was therefore necessary. The calibration was carried out in a vacuum bell jar, and the temperature of a specimen was measured with a thermocouple, as a function of power input and time. The calibration curve, Fig. 3a, shows that the temperature of
the specimen rises to near equilibrium in about 15 min. The curves were determined by turning the power input suddenly to a desired value, and by adjusting the controls such that the power input remained constant in time. Figure 3b shows the equilibrium temperature of the hot stage versus the power input. The maximum cooling rate from 740°C is shown in Fig. 3c.

Since the atmosphere composition was of fundamental importance in hot stage transformations, it was analyzed at the specimen stage level with a Varian partial pressure gauge. The total pressure for gases with a mass between 1 and 70 was measured to be about $5 \times 10^{-6}$ Torr. Figure 4 shows the readout of the gage, from which the partial pressures could be calculated. Water vapor was the main gas phase, which is common in unbaked vacuum systems. The partial pressures of the most important components in the specimen neighborhood have been listed in Fig. 4. Note that the atmosphere was not in equilibrium, since it contained more free hydrogen than free oxygen. The presence of this free hydrogen (and also the helium) may be explained by the dependence of the pumping rate of the diffusion pumps, on the molecular weight of the gas that is being pumped. Low molecular weight gases are pumped less efficiently. It was expected that, when in situ transformations were carried out, this atmosphere would react to equilibrium at the hot specimen surface. The result was then that the excess of hydrogen together with the water vapor, determined the actual oxygen partial pressure. For a given temperature, the oxidizing power of the atmosphere could be found from the ratio $H_2/H_2O$. For most of the hot stage experiments, this ratio was between 0.1 and 0.05. Such an atmosphere would e.g. at 500°C reduce CoO to metallic cobalt, but it would not reduce FeO.
No special attempt was made to control the atmosphere of the electron microscope. The composition of this atmosphere did indeed not remain constant over extended periods (days), so in order to have comparable transformation data, the hot stage experiments were carried out when the prevailing atmosphere were comparable.
IV. OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. Radiation Induced Defects

It is well known that the observation of materials in a transmission electron microscope can lead to artificial introduction of defects. These defects, that are not characteristic of the original bulk crystal, are produced by the electron beam or by negative ions that are accelerated together with the electrons. This radiation damage can be very serious if the electrons are accelerated above a certain typical threshold value. As an example, stacking faults images in Al-1% Ag alloys are rapidly perturbed by primary electron knock-on damage, when the electron beam is accelerated above 500 kV.\(^\text{20}\) The radiation damage, whether produced by electrons or ions, usually manifests itself in the specimen as very small defect clusters. It might be difficult to distinguish these defects clusters from small precipitates that result from phase transformations. The behavior of single phase crystals of cobalt ferrite during the observation in the high voltage microscope, must be examined for this reason.

Numerous small defects were found in all the ferrites that were observed in the 650 kV electron microscope for any length of time. Figure 5 shows the distribution of the defects around a nearly perfect conical etch pit. The observations were made at an accelerating voltage of 650 kV, and this allows the foils to be electron transparent with good resolution up to about 1 micron, for \(\mathcal{g} = 440\). When the number of defects per unit area was counted in this foil it was found that the projected defect density was invariant over the entire range of thicknesses. The defect images have black and white lobes, with a line of no contrast dividing the lobes.
These kinds of images typically result from the matrix strain field around defects that are too small to be resolved directly. The contrast of such defects was first discussed by Ashby and Brown,\textsuperscript{21} and subsequently examined in more detail, particularly with regard to depth dependence, by several authors, e.g., Rühle et al.\textsuperscript{22} The direction of the white-to-black contrast may be characterized by a vector $\vec{q}$ (see Bell and Thomas).\textsuperscript{23} Consideration of the direction of the line of no contrast $LC$, $\vec{q}$, and $\vec{g}$, can for certain foil orientations allow the immediate identification of the displacement vector associated with the defect. $LC$ and $\vec{q}$ have been defined in the insert in Fig. 5. In this bright field image $\vec{q}$ is the same for every defect, suggesting that they are all located near the top or near the bottom surface of the foil. In the many foils that were examined these defects were found with uniform projected density right up to the foil edges. At 650 kV the extinction distance for $440$ reflections was calculated to be about $800\text{Å}$ for cobalt ferrites, so that it may be assumed that the defects are located within half an extinction distance from either surface. Further information must come from a comparison of bright and dark field images.\textsuperscript{23} Image contrast calculations according to the procedures set up by Bell and Thomas\textsuperscript{24} for a systematic twelve beam dynamical case at 650 kV, showed that, as far as strain contrast from small defects is concerned, the same rules applied as were worked out by Ashby the Brown for a two beam case at 100 kV, when the defects are within half an extinction distance from the surface. Bright and dark field images are compared in Figs. 6a and 6b. Note that $\vec{q}$ is in the same direction in both bright and dark field. From these observations it could be concluded that the defects were all near the surface of the foil that
is facing the electron gun, and that they were of the vacancy type. For most of the defects LC is perpendicular to the operating diffraction vector $\mathbf{g}$, while the direction of $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ is antiparallel to $\mathbf{g}$. Some defects, for which LC is not perpendicular to $\mathbf{g}$, have been marked L: For these defects LC is along the [110] direction while $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ is still antiparallel to $\mathbf{g} = \frac{4}{3[04]}$. This strongly suggests that the marked defects are vacancy loops on the (111) plane. The magnitude of the Burgers vectors has not been determined, but the loops are probably perfect prismatic loops with $b = a/2[110]$. Figures 7a and 7b show two dark field images with different 440 operating vectors. A loop found in this area is marked L. For the majority of the defect images LC is at all times perpendicular to $\mathbf{g}$ while at the same time $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ is antiparallel to $\mathbf{g}$. It must be concluded that the large majority of the defects are spherical vacancy clusters, while only occasionally a prismatic loop is formed.

The increase in projected defect density with constant irradiation in the microscope has been followed. Figures 8a to 8d show how the defect density changes with time. The diffracting vectors are different 440 reflections. This again allows distinction between loops and spherical clusters. A loop that was found in this area has been marked L. Note that the defects retained their character within the observations interval: there was no switch from spherical cluster to loop, or conversely. The projected defect density versus time is plotted in Fig. 9. These observations showed that the projected defect density saturated at about $2 \times 10^9$ per cm$^2$, after about 20 minutes of observation. This kind of behavior was quite similar to that observed by Makin on copper.$^{20}$ In the present case the clusters did not continue to grow, however, beyond a radius of
about 100Å, at least within the period of observation. In appearance, the defects were similar to those resulting from the ion bombardment of some fcc metals. The oxygen vacancies needed for the formation of the defects were probably introduced during the foil preparation. Indeed, during polishing in hot phosphoric acid, hydrogen is produced on the surface of the dissolving crystal. The hydrogen reduces the crystal over a very small depth, which catalyzes the dissolution. The precipitation of the vacancies would then be stimulated by the radiation damage produced during observation in the microscope. The radiation damage resulted from the impact of accelerated ions; it was unlikely that it would originate in primary electron knock-on events, since then the defects should appear simultaneously in the top and the bottom surface of the foil. Also, the defects formed with equal density in parts of the foil that were not electron irradiated. The accelerated ions were probably formed from the gases that were present in the microscope atmosphere, and were most probably oxygen ions from dissociating water vapor, and nitrogen ions.

Upon heating in the hot stage the defects slowly disappeared at about 400°C. Above these temperatures phase transformations occurred in the foil and the behavior of the clusters could no longer be followed.

Defect clusters were also observed to form during observation at liquid nitrogen temperatures. These defects are shown in Fig. 10. Since there were no tilting facilities available for the cold stage, the number of diffraction experiments that could be carried out were very limited. Still, it seems that the strain fields of the defects are not
quite spherical. Instead, the strain contrast indicates that at this temperature small stacking fault tetrahedra form (strain contrast from small tetrahedra has been discussed by Chik.\textsuperscript{26}) This change of defect character with temperature is not clearly understood, unless one would assume that the stacking fault energy decreases with decreasing temperature.

In summary:

(a) Damage produced by the impingement of accelerated ions stimulates the precipitation of vacancy clusters in the surface of the specimen that is facing the electron gun of the transmission electron microscope. The oxygen vacancies that are needed for the formation of these clusters are probably produced by surface reduction during the polishing in hot phosphoric acid.

(b) The ions that stimulate the defect formation are most likely to be nitrogen ions, and oxygen ions from the dissociation of the gases that are present in the microscope atmosphere.

(c) Near room temperature the defects are nearly all spherical vacancy clusters, while occasionally a perfect prismatic vacancy loop is formed. There is no switch from spherical clusters to loops, or conversely. At low temperatures, the indications are that small stacking fault tetrahedra are more frequent. The defects can be electrically neutral by a reduction in valence of the neighboring cations.

(d) As with certain metals, care must be exercised in electron microscope analyses of lattice defects in ceramic materials. In the present case, the radiation induced defects must be distinguished from characteristic defects and small precipitates. The maximum projected density of the noncharacteristic defects is about \(2 \times 10^9\) per \(\text{cm}^2\), which
clearly allows the study of other defects of interest in the foils without interference.

B. Dislocations

Dislocations in oxide crystals have been somewhat neglected by the ceramist, mainly because most highly ionic crystals are very brittle, even up to high temperatures. The efforts in studies of mechanical properties of ceramics have therefore been concentrated on crack formation and propagation on a macroscopic scale. Dislocations play a fundamental role in the mechanical behavior of oxide materials, as they do in metals, and the details of the dislocation structure itself should be of great importance with regard to high temperature deformation, fracture, or creep. Detailed contrast experiments have therefore been carried out to determine the degree of dissociation of dislocations in cobalt ferrite spinels.

The geometry of dislocation dissociation in the spinel lattice has been discussed in detail by Hornstra. Following considerations made for corundum by Kronberg, Hornstra advanced arguments for a four-fold dissociation of a perfect dislocation in spinels. The main arguments are that local electroneutrality can only be maintained in the four-fold dissociated configuration and that in nature spinels are found that are twinned on \{111\} planes. This observation of twinning in natural spinels was seen as evidence for the presence of Shockley partials. The dislocation reactions are shown in Fig. 11. For two-fold dissociation the bounding partials have identical Burgers vectors both equal to \(a/4\{110\}\). They are bounding a stacking fault in the cation sublattice only, since the fcc oxygen sublattice has actually half the lattice parameter of the spinel.
lattice. Two-fold dissociation was observed in magnesium aluminate
spinels, and the nature of the cation stacking fault has been discussed
by Lewis. For the four-fold dissociation the two outer pairs of Schockley
partials bound a compound fault: an intrinsic stacking fault in the oxygen
sublattice plus a fault in the cation sublattice. In this fault, the
cations would have moved to their favored crystal coordination. This
process was termed synchroshear by Kronberg, since it requires the simulta-
taneous diffusional displacement of cations when the dislocation is moved
through the crystal. Such a dislocation would be self pinning.

The cobalt iron spinels examined here were grown by a flux method,
and contained only few dislocations. Figure 12 shows a network of dis-
locations that was found in this material. The occurrence of networks of
this kind immediately rule out that the network dislocations would be
Shockley partials, since the oxygen stacking faults cannot be accomodated.
Other isolated dislocations that were found, Fig. 13, appeared not to be
resolvably two-fold dissociated either, contrary to what might be expected
from the considerations made by Hornstra. No diffracting conditions
could be found where fault contrast between dislocation pairs was in
evidence. This in itself is already a strong indication that the iso-
lated dislocations do not have a Burgers vector of a/\sqrt{110}, but a more
positive conclusion could be drawn if the magnitude of the Burgers vector
could be determined more directly. Generally a method is used for this
where the dislocation crosses an extinction contour. In strictly two
beam diffracting conditions, as can be more closely approximated in 100 kV
electron microscopes, the distinction between \( \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 1 \) and \( \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 2 \) is
relatively clear when the deviation parameter \( w_g = 0 \). For \( \hat{g} \cdot \hat{b} = 1 \) the dislocation images exhibit one fringe, while for \( \hat{g} \cdot \hat{b} = 2 \) there are two fringes. At 650 kV the Ewald sphere has appreciably less curvature than at 100 kV, and it is usually not possible to produce two-beam diffracting conditions. Instead the specimen should be tilted such that a single crystal zone is reflecting. The image analysis with such a set of systematic reflections requires the application of a many beam dynamical theory. An incremental solution of the many beam dynamical equations has been worked out by Bell and Thomas\(^{24}\), and was used in the present analysis.

In Fig. 14 a microphotometer tracing of the dislocation shown in the insert, is compared with calculated profiles. In principle a direct comparison between a microphotometer tracing of an image and its calculated (or actual) intensity profile, is not a correct procedure, since for high energy electrons the emulsion density on the photographic plate is linearly related to the incident electron intensity\(^{27}\) (and not logarithmically as is the case for photons).\(^{32}\) Instead, an intensity profile should be compared with a densitometer tracing. There are, however, numerous factors that can affect the actual image profiles, diffuse scattering in particular. The effect of the diffuse scattering, which has not been incorporated in the computer simulations, is to proportionately increase the low intensity levels much more than the near background ones. As a result, the relative differences of the intensity extremes of the actual image profiles will be much less pronounced than the theoretical ones.

The exponential response of the microphotometer to emulsion densities\(^{31}\),
exaggerates the intensity minima, and suppresses the maxima. The result is that the microphotometer partially compensates for the effect of diffuse scattering, so that this tracing actually appears to be closer to the calculated image profiles than a densitometer tracing. The position, however, of the relative minima and maxima should not be affected by the diffuse scattering. It is then better to think of the dislocation image as a set of fringes parallel to the dislocation core, for which the fringe spacings is more characteristic than the fringe intensities. The criterion of agreement of fringe spacing between calculated and actual images will then be the basis for determining the value of $\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{b}$. The operating vectors in a set of systematic reflections are labeled $\mathbf{g}_1, \mathbf{g}_2$, etc. and their corresponding dimensionless deviation parameters are $w_1, w_2$ etc., as is schematically in Fig. 15. The profiles for various values of $\mathbf{g}_1 \cdot \mathbf{b}$, and for various values of $w_1$ are then calculated. Other parameters are foil thickness, absorption coefficients, and position of the dislocation. In the analyzed dislocation images the foil thickness was determined by counting the number of extinction fringes when $w_{440} = 0$. The extinction distance for a 440 reflection is about 800Å. The first order extinction distances are rather large; 2600Å for a 400 reflection, and 2150Å for a 440 reflection. The scattering potentials were calculated from the scattering factors of the perfect spinel lattice. The program for calculating scattering factors is available.*

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In Fig. 14, the direction of the Burgers vector was determined by the usual diffraction experiments. With the diffraction geometry of Fig. 19, only $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 1$ and $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 2$ are possible. From the fringe spacings of the image, it can be concluded immediately that the value of $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 2$. A comparison between a calculated and an actual dislocation image forced with $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 1$, is shown in Fig. 16; in this image the geometry is such that $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 1$ for the undissociated dislocation. Note that the microphotometer tracing agrees in appearance quite well with the calculated intensity profile. The reason for this phenomenon was discussed earlier. Figure 16 shows an unexpected double peak in the image near the core of the dislocation. The doubling of the central fringe is only observed when the image is in focus, so that electrical charges on the dislocation, or possible magnetic inhomogeneities near the core cannot be responsible. So there is no way in which a splitting of the central fringe can be accounted for in an undissociated dislocation, even if this image is from a pure edge dislocation, and the calculated profiles are for pure screws. Instead, it must be concluded that this dislocation is probably slightly dissociated, with a partial separation of about 50 to 100Å. It is possible that the extent of the dissociation depends on the temperature at which the dislocation was introduced. It is interesting to compare the results of the direct beam imaging with higher order reflections operating, to the high resolution technique that images $-\vec{g}$ when $+\vec{g}$ is on the reflecting sphere. A high resolution weak beam experiment is shown in Fig. 17. As is immediately clear, the high resolution is only obtained in portions where the foil is very thin, and
deteriorates rapidly with increasing thickness. At the node in Fig. 17, the foil is about 2000Å thick. Also, the effective extinction distance in the weak beam mode is of the order of 100Å, which complicates the image analysis tremendously. Nevertheless, the weak beam method is extremely useful when the experimental conditions are favorable. In the more general case, the high order bright field images seem more informative, and deserve more attention than they are currently given in the literature.

All the above information confirms that the cation stacking fault energy is high, and that the dislocations are at most separated by about 50Å. For accurate measurements of dislocation spacings of this order, an in depth study of the contrast from closely spaced dislocations is necessary.

The ferrites that were examined here had a composition that ranged from Co/Fe = 0.54 to 0.76. The present observations do not of course rule out that for spinels outside this composition interval, the dislocations are indeed more widely separated. It is believed, however, that it can be taken as a general rule that the oxygen stacking fault energies are very high in strongly ionic crystals. This generalization is supported by observations on a number of different oxides. 35-40

In summary:

(a) The usefulness of the transmitted beam images with higher order reflections on the Ewald sphere was shown. This method seems more generally applicable than the weak beam imaging technique which applies only to thin foils.

(b) The actual and the computed images were quantitatively compared. A systematic twelve beam dynamical program was used in the analysis.
(c) For the same \( w_1 \), the fringe spacings of the dislocation images are characteristic for the value of \( \vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} \), where \( \vec{g}_1 \) is the lowest order reflection (not necessarily the strongest) of a systematic set.

(d) The dislocations in cobalt ferrite are not dissociated more than 0.50A, indicating that the cation stacking fault energy is high. No stacking faults in the oxygen sublattice were observed.

C. Ferrimagnetic Domains

In the absence of strong applied fields, all large magnetic crystals contain magnetic domains. In metals, such as cobalt and iron, these domains have usually been imaged in the electron microscope with the Lorenz method.\(^\text{30}\) This is essentially an out of focus technique, in which use is made of the differently directed Lorenz forces in adjacent domains on the probing electron beam. The specimen is usually lifted out of the objective lens, so that it interacts less with the magnetic field of this lens. This method has the unavoidable drawback that crystal defects and domain walls cannot be observed simultaneously. In the present study the ferrimagnetic cobalt ferrite foils were in the regular specimen position, and consequently, as will be discussed below, only 90° domain walls could be present. 90° walls can be imaged in focus, so that it would be possible to observe interactions between defects and domain walls more clearly. These interactions were not studied this time, but the observed ferrimagnetic domains, and their behavior in the thin films of cobalt ferrite will be described in some detail. To the author's knowledge, electron microscope observations of ferrimagnetic domain walls in cobalt ferrites have not been reported in the literature yet, and
even good in focus images of 90° walls in other materials are very few.

1. Relative Importance of the Magnetization and the Magnetostriiction on the Electron Image Formation

The maximum change in the deviation parameters $\bar{g}$, caused by the saturation magnetization $\bar{M}$ inside the ferrimagnetic domains, can be estimated for a certain foil thickness. For the geometry where the magnetization vectors are in the plane of the foil, and anti-parallel across a domain wall, the difference in direction of the probing electron wavefronts at the bottom surface of the foil will be maximum. In all other cases, the effect of the $\bar{M}$ on the electron image is less. The angular deflection of the electron beam $^{30}$ is seen in Fig. 18.

$$\phi = \frac{4\pi e\lambda t}{h} M/c h$$

where

- $e$ = electron charge in esu
- $c$ = velocity of light in cm sec$^{-1}$
- $h$ = Planck's constant in erg sec
- $\lambda$ = electron wavelength, 0.0118Å at 650 kV.
- $t$ = foil thickness in cm
- $M$ = saturation magn. 400 Gauss/cm$^3$

For a foil of 2000Å thick, observed at 650 kV, $\phi$ is found to be equal to $3.1 \times 10^{-5}$ radians. So even in the most favorable case only a slight elongation of the diffraction spots is to be expected when a diffraction pattern is taken from a region containing a ferrimagnetic domain wall.

If observed in the condition where $g = 440$ (extinction distance $\xi_{440} = 800Å$), the change in the dimensionless deviation $w$, for a foil of about 2000Å thick is:
Generally, a lattice contraction accompanies magnetic ordering. This effect is called magnetostriction. While in metals the effects of magnetostriction on the electron images usually can be neglected, this appears not to be the case in cobalt ferrites. The magnetostriction constant for ordering of the spins in (100) directions, $\lambda_{100}$, determined by Bozorth et al.\textsuperscript{41} for a ferrite of composition Co$_{0.8}$Fe$_{2.2}$O$_{4}$ is:

$$\lambda_{100} = 5.9 \times 10^{-4}$$

$\lambda_{100}$ expresses the fractional change in lattice parameter. This lattice contraction makes the spinel unit cell slightly tetragonal, giving rise to a coherent domain wall boundary at the magnetic domain wall. For a 180$^\circ$ Bloch wall there is no difference in lattice orientation upon crossing the wall, and magnetostriction does not contribute to the image of that wall. Of importance then is contrast from a 90$^\circ$ wall. The geometry of such a wall is analyzed in Fig. 19. Comparable considerations were made for antiferromagnetic walls by Remaut et al.\textsuperscript{42} To make a coherent twin boundary on the diagonal plane, the lattices have to be rotated with respect to each other. The lattice rotation across the domain wall is:

$$\alpha = 2 \arctg \left( \frac{\lambda_{100}}{\sqrt{2}} \right), \text{ which since } \alpha \text{ is small, can be approximated well by: }$$

$$\alpha = \sqrt{2} \lambda_{100} = 8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad}$$

(9)

If the axis of rotation is contained in the foil plane, this will give rise to a change in $w$, for $g = 440$:

$$\Delta w = 0.43$$
This is a very significant change, and for $90^\circ$ Bloch walls all the contrast effects can be attributed to the magnetostriction.

2. Influence of the Field of the Objective Lens on the Spin Arrangements

Measurements of Bozorth et al.\textsuperscript{11} have shown that in cobalt ferrites the magnetization vectors, $\vec{M}$, inside the domains have a strong preference for the $\langle 100 \rangle$ directions. This was also pointed out by Hoselitz\textsuperscript{11} who remarked that the addition of cobalt ions to a ferrite spinel should strongly increase the anisotropy in favor of magnetic ordering in the $\langle 100 \rangle$ directions. Since all the foils examined in the electron microscope were well above 1500Å thick only Bloch walls were to be expected. The presence of the magnetic field of the objective lens (7000 Gauss at the specimen) will have a strong influence on the arrangements of the magnetization vectors in a thin film observed in the electron microscope. The position of the specimen in the field of the objective lens is shown schematically in Fig. 20. The magnetic energy density, $U$, of a piece of ferrite with a magnetization $\vec{M}$ per unit volume\textsuperscript{13}, when placed in the field $\vec{H}_{\text{obj}}$ of the objective lens:

$$U = -\vec{M} \cdot \vec{H}_{\text{obj}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

$U$ is the minimum when $\vec{M}$ is parallel to $\vec{H}_{\text{obj}}$. The preferred arrangement of the magnetization vectors in the different ferrimagnetic domains will be such that the components of $\vec{M}$ which are anti-parallel to $\vec{H}_{\text{obj}}$ will be minimal. For this reason $90^\circ$ walls are preferred over $180^\circ$ walls. For a (111) foil the $90^\circ$ domain structure then consists of a combination of magnetization vectors as shown in Fig. 21. For such a foil stress free domain walls have to be in (110), (101) or (011) planes, as can be derived
by considering Fig. 19. It should also be noted that, since the magnetic field of the objective lens is particularly strong in a high voltage microscope (7 k Gauss at specimen) it may be possible that the direction of magnetization in the different ferrimagnetic domains is somewhat deviated from (100) directions.

The above considerations account for the facts that only 90° walls were observed in the specimens, and that in some foils unusual, non-equilibrium configurations were present. These observations are described in more detail below.

3. Observations of Ferrimagnetic Domain Walls

In most specimens ferrimagnetic domain walls were observed. A special difficulty was present in the determination of the orientation of the domain walls planes, since they move when the specimen was tilted. In Fig. 22, however, the domain wall plane could be determined. This micrograph shows contrast from two overlapping domain walls in a wedge shaped foil. The orientation of the walls followed from a geometrical analysis:

In the (323) surface of the foil, the trace of the wall is in the [101] direction. This gives as possibilities either a (010) plane for a 180° wall or a (101) for a 90° wall. The projected width of the domain wall, measured along the 10th extinction contour, is 22000Å. In this image \( \bar{g} = \bar{0} \bar{4} \) and with \( \nu_{0}4 \) almost equal to zero, \( \xi_{440} \) can be calculated to be about 800Å. At the 10th extinction contour the foil would then be about 8000Å thick. The geometry is shown in a stereographic projection, Fig. 23. The angle between the direction of measurement in the wall and the direction of measurement on the surface is either 56° for a (010)
wall, or 18° for a (101) wall. The foil thicknesses derived from these angles was correspondingly 34000Å or 7500Å. It was clear that in this case the ferrimagnetic domain wall must have been on the (101) plane, indicating that the magnetization vectors in the adjacent domains were indeed at 90° to each other. Further information about the direction of $\hat{M}$ came from the nature of the fringe contrast at the domain boundaries. Contrast from coherent domain boundaries has been discussed by Gevers et al. Since the domain wall plane was known, the top and the bottom of the wall could be indicated, and from the nature of the extreme fringes, the change in $\hat{s}$ across the boundary was found. In Fig. 24 the direction of $\hat{M}$ is indicated so as to be in agreement with the observed fringe contrast. Note that the nature of the extreme fringes is opposite for the two walls. This was just as expected, since the sign of $\Delta \hat{s}$ is opposite upon crossing the different walls, see Fig. 25. Note also that $\hat{M}$ in the different domains always has a component parallel to $\hat{H}_{\text{obj}}$ as followed from the discussion in the previous section. Most of the observed domain walls had a sawtooth configuration. This is especially clear in Fig. 26. These configurations arise when the surface of the foil is not an exact plane with low Miller indices. Note that the geometry of the arrangement of the walls indicates the presence of three different directions of $\hat{M}$. Such configurations are only found when the foil is in a near (111) orientation.

The mobility of the domain walls is illustrated in Fig. 27a and b. These micrographs also indicate how the domains grow. Most commonly observed is a domain growth as depicted below:
Note that in Fig. 28b, the zigzagging in the lower part of the image has a pitch as low as 0.25 micron. For such rapid zigzagging, the walls cannot be resolved directly, since they interfere with each other in the image formation; their presence can, however, be derived from the oscillation of the extinction contour. These observations evidence that zigzag walls can exist on a scale much finer than has been observed so far with the most sophisticated Bitter techniques. It is interesting to note that in this case the domain wall motion is nearly perpendicular to the direction of growth. Borrowing the terminology of the dislocation theory one might say that this wall would be of the screw type. The equivalent of an edge dislocation would then be when the domain growth is parallel to the domain wall displacement, as is shown below.

Doubling of Kikuchi lines due to the lattice rotation across the domain wall was observed. In Fig. 28, a selected area diffraction pattern of an area A inside a domain, and an area B containing a Bloch wall are compared. The brighter circular area B corresponds to the area
isolated by the field limiting aperture. The double and parallel Kikuchi lines for the area B, evidence that the crystal rotation is about an axis perpendicular to the wall trace, and nearly in the plane of the foil. For such a configuration, the magnetization vector rotates over only 90°, which is the π/2 wall orientation of the lowest magnetic energy. Such a configuration can only exist in thin foils where the lattice rotation can be accommodated by buckling. If the specimen increases in thickness, the elastic energy associated with a π/2 domain wall of the type observed here would quickly become very high.

Figure 29 shows some domains in the 440 dark field. Note that the walls have a sawtooth configuration near the foil edges. The edges were also observed to be the nucleation sites of new domains, when the foil was tilted. The domain walls do not seem to be confined to the same plane, over large distances, although this is elastically not favorable. The buckling of the domain walls may have been due to imposed elastic stresses that can arise in a specimen mounted for observation, to surface orientation dependent demagnetization fields, or to long range composition fluctuations.\textsuperscript{45}

The magnetic domain wall images have a line of symmetry in wedged crystals. The position of this line of symmetry was called the "diffraction center" by Gevers et al.\textsuperscript{44} The diffraction center is located in the foil at a depth determined by

\[ \sigma_1 t_1 = \sigma_2 t_2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (11)
where the parameter $\sigma_1$ is more or less proportional to the deviation parameter $s_1$ in the top part of the foil. $\sigma_2$ is similarly related to $s_2$ in the bottom part of the foil.

$$t_1 = \text{distance from the top surface to domain wall, along the foil normal}$$

$$t_2 = \text{distance from the domain wall to bottom surface.}$$

When the crystal is rotated around the symmetrical position, $s_1 = s_2$, the diffraction center moves in accordance with Eq. 11. This rotation can also be realized by elastically bending the foil. This allows the examination of the effect of an elastic stress on the domain wall configuration.

The effect of a mechanical stress on the domain wall configuration is shown in Fig. 30. Inspection of the position of the diffraction center shows that the foil is elastically bent around an axis that is perpendicular to the wedge fringes. The tetragonality induced by the magnetic ordering causes a slight rotation across the coherent domain wall, as was described earlier. The sense of the rotation depends on the sign of $\Delta s$. The bending of the foil was due to mechanical constraints imposed when the specimen was clamped between the mounting grids, or maybe also to contamination stresses. The segments that tended to work against mechanical constraints were narrower than the other ones, so that the total elastic energy was lowered. This caused the succession of wide and narrow domains.
In summary:

(a). Magnetostriction contributes most to the electron imaging of 90° ferrimagnetic domain walls in cobalt ferrites. The contribution of the Lorentz effect to these images can be neglected.

(b). The field of the objective lens was 7 kilo Gauss at the specimen. Due to this high field, only 90° Bloch walls could occur in the foil, and then only when the foil normal was nearly contained in \(\{110\}\) planes.

(c). The fringe contrast of the 90° walls was in very close agreement with the one predicted by the theory. This confirmed that the domains were also tetragonal twins, where the tetragonality was caused by the magnetostriction. From the nature of the fringe constant, and the direction of \(H_{\text{obj}}\), the magnetization vectors could be found unambiguously.

(d). The motion of zigzag walls through the specimen was shown. The pitch of the zigzagging changed during the displacement of the wall, possibly due to interaction with the local foil geometry. A pitch as small as 0.25 micron was observed. This evidenced that zigzagging can occur on a much finer scale than observed earlier with high resolution Bitter techniques.

(e). Doubling of Kikuchi lines was observed in diffraction patterns taken from areas that contained 90° Bloch walls. The doubling of the Kikuchi lines was due to the lattice rotation that accompanies tetragonal twinning.

(f). Wall configurations were observed that cannot exist in thick specimens, due to the high elastic energy that would be associated with
(g). Elastic bending of the foil produced a succession of wide and narrow domains. This effect was due to magnetostriction, and the possibility of lowering the elastic energy of the system by changing the wall configuration.

D. Phase Transformations

Phase transformations were studied in cobalt ferrite samples that were transformed in two different environments: in air, and in the atmosphere of the electron microscope (hot stage). The hot stage experiments will be discussed first.

1. Transformations at Reduced Oxygen Partial Pressure:
   Hot Stage Experiments

Foils of cobalt ferrite with a Co/Fe ratio between 0.54 and 0.76, were transformed in the hot stage of the electron microscope. It turned out that in this composition interval there was no significant difference in the morphology and nature of the hot stage transformations. For this reason, these experiments will not be discussed separately. The composition of the microscope atmosphere, at the temperatures at which the hot stage experiments were carried out, was strongly reducing, and as the heating proceeded, the specimen lost oxygen to its surroundings. The details of the reduction were discussed earlier. As a consequence, so long as equilibrium has not been established, a dynamic situation prevails in the specimen. The excess cations created at the decomposing crystal surface diffuse into the specimen, so that a time dependent cation excess gradient is present. The local deviation from stoichiometry is the main driving force of the phase transformations. Evidence of this may be seen in the fact that foils heated in air at the same temperature, did not contain any precipitates, even after 60 min. of heating.
During the hot stages transformations the foil may simultaneously exhibit different phase transformations at different depths. The images of the transforming foils will have to be interpreted bearing this situation in mind. Somewhat arbitrarily, the transformations have been divided into three stages: the early, intermediate, and final stage. The purpose of this distinction was mainly to facilitate the presentation.

It needs to be pointed out that although the hot stage was calibrated, still large uncertainties existed in the actual temperature at which the annealings in the microscope were carried out. For this reason, the hot stage work can only be considered as giving rather approximative quantitative information. The temperature uncertainties prohibited measurements of transformation kinetics.

1. The Early Stages

When the precipitates were small, and the reactions proceeded rapidly, the transformation could be said to be in the early stage. The duration of this stage depended strongly on the temperature at which the transformation was carried out, and on the judgement of the observer. The observations were made on foils that had not been electron irradiated prior to the transformation, although this precaution seemed to make little difference. It should be pointed out that care should be exercised in the examination of phase transformations in the high voltage electron microscope, since Nes has recently observed electron radiation induced precipitation in high purity silicon. For short transformation times the observations were made after the specimen had cooled from the transformation temperature. For these brief heatings, the effective annealing time and
temperature had to be derived from heating and cooling curves of the hot stage, Fig. 3.

The aspect of a foil transformed for about 3 min at 500°C, is shown in Fig. 31. Inspection of this image reveals that there are two different types of precipitates. For the present, the larger precipitates will be called Type 1, while the very small ones are Type 2.

Of particular interest is the location in the foil of these apparently different types of precipitates, their identification and orientation relationships, and finally, the nature of the phase transformations involved. These points are discussed in succession below.

a. Location of the precipitates in the foil

It is possible to locate the precipitates in the foil, by taking two images of the same area, with approximately the same diffracting conditions, but such that there is a difference of about 10° in the specimen tilt between the two images. The two images then constitute a stereo pair. The axis of tilt should be perpendicular to the operating reflection. It was found that an angle of tilt of about 5° was better suited for the achievement of the stereo effect, possibly because of the high defect density, and the large foil thickness (compared to the foils suitable for 100 kV electron microscopy). A stereo pair taken under these conditions is shown in Fig. 32. Study of this pair with stereo viewers showed that the transformations were taking place at different levels in the specimens. The Type 1 precipitates were actually located very near or on the top and the bottom surface. The Type 2 precipitates were located deeper inside the foil, and were separated from the surface reaction zone by an apparently precipitate free region. The geometry of
the reaction zones is shown in Fig. 33. The Type 1 precipitates have an apparent size of about 400Å, and are separated about 1500Å on the average. The Type 2 precipitates in the inner reaction zone have a diameter of about 30 to 40Å and seem to be separated in the average approximately 150Å. The estimated precipitate density in the inner reaction zone was then about $3 \times 10^{17}$ cm$^{-3}$. This was quite high. With these approximate data a rough estimate of the volume transformed, was only 1%.

It is worth mentioning that near the very edge of the foil, where it is less than 1000Å thick no precipitates of Type 2 were observed. This again showed the merit of high voltage transmission electron microscopy. In the thin foils that are to be used in 100 kV instruments, the Type 2 precipitation mode might be missed entirely.

b. Identification, and orientation relationships of the precipitates

With the conditions prevailing during the hot stage transformations, only oxides could form that had an anion to cation ratio that was smaller, or at most equal to that of the original spinel matrix. This greatly facilitated the identification of the precipitates by means of electron diffraction, and out of the large number of oxides that could form in the Co-Fe-0 system, only a few had to be considered.

The identification of the different precipitates was carried out by examining numerous reflections in dark field. It should be noted that the use of a 5 micron objective aperture was mandatory, since most reflections of one kind of precipitate were usually very near others. The procedure in such a complicated case, where several phases are present at the same time, is to postulate the presence of a certain type of precipitate, and then to verify this postulate by constructing the corresponding
diffraction pattern. If the reflections in the actual diffraction pattern agree with the postulates, then final identification comes from imaging every individual diffraction spot. This rather laborious procedure was adopted.

From a scrutiny of diffraction patterns, and concurrent dark field imaging it appeared that the Type 1 precipitates were a mixture of cubic and hexagonal cobalt metal. The Type 2 precipitates were a cobalt-wüstite phase. These findings are examined in more detail below.

The actual diffraction pattern (enlarged to about 10 times its original size) of a 100 foil transformed for 3 min at 500°C in the hot stage, is shown in Fig. 34a. The solution is shown in Fig. 34b. The circular area of higher intensity around h₁ in Fig. 34a, is an image of the 5 micron objective aperture. Reflections of the hexagonal cobalt are marked h. They are all 10₁₁ type reflections. They have not been indexed, since they cannot be labeled unambiguously. The cobalt-wüstite reflections could not be resolved at the lower order reflections. For higher order reflections though they could indeed be separated, as is shown in Fig. 35. The arrows in this figure point towards the center of the diffraction pattern. The sodium chloride type phase is the only one in this system that has a lattice parameter that is slightly larger than half the lattice parameter of the spinel matrix, fitting these diffraction results. It has not been possible to even estimate the Co/Fe ratio in this cobalt-wüstite phase, since the lattice parameters of CoO and FeO differ by only 1%.

In Fig. 36 the various precipitates are imaged. The diffraction spots that were isolated with the objective aperture, and hence were
contributing to the dark field images, are shown in the inserts. Although a matrix reflection is included in Fig. 36b, matrix contrast is low. This was achieved by placing the $040_m$ on the reflecting sphere, and then imaging the $040_m$ cluster of reflections. Under those conditions good image contrast can be obtained from small defects. This method is similar to the weak beam method that has been used for separating close partial dislocations.\(^\text{34}\) In Fig. 36c only the Type 1 precipitates shown. Note that the "satellites" to the main reflections are really reflections from the metallic cobalt precipitates. They do not arise from a particular spacial arrangement of the cobalt-wüstite precipitates; otherwise, these precipitates would also be imaged. Figure 36d again shows the cobalt metal phase, this time imaged with a $10\overline{1}$\(_{\text{n}}\) type reflection, \(h\). Note that many precipitates in this dark field image have flat sides that are parallel to the \(\{110\}\) directions of the matrix. In Fig. 37 another area in a 100 foil treated as above, is shown. In Fig. 37b, the "weak beam" technique was used once more to image the cobalt-wüstite precipitates with their $020_w$ reflection. Note again that the precipitates are randomly distributed.

The cobalt-wüstite phase was topotactic with the spinel matrix. Since the oxygen sublattice parameter difference was only 1.5% the precipitates were likely to be completely coherent with the matrix. The oxygen sublattice was then continuous throughout the two phase crystal.

The orientation relationship between the cubic cobalt metal, \(c\), and the matrix \(m\), was also simple:

\[
\begin{align*}
(001)_c & \parallel (00\overline{1})_m \\
[100]_c & \parallel [100]_m
\end{align*}
\]
The orientation relationship between the hexagonal cobalt and the matrix was found to be:

\[(0001)_h \parallel (111)_m\]
\[[2\bar{1}0]_h \parallel [1\bar{1}0]_m\]

This relationship was also observed between cobalt spinel that forms on hexagonal cobalt, when the metal was oxidized.\(^7\)

Since the cubic cobalt had the same orientation as the matrix, it followed that

\[(0001)_h \parallel (111)_c\]
\[[2\bar{1}0]_h \parallel [1\bar{1}0]_c\]

This orientation relationship was also found when cubic cobalt transformed to its hexagonal form, or conversely. The hexagonal cobalt was then most likely formed from the cubic cobalt, when the crystal was cooled after the hot stage annealing. The hexagonal cobalt should form on \(\{111\}\) planes of the cubic metal. Evidence of this was found in Fig. 36d: the flat sides of the precipitates coincide with the trace of \(\{111\}\) planes in the (001) foil plane. Better information about the structure of the cobalt precipitates was obtained at a later transformation stage when the precipitates were large. The presence of hexagonal and cubic cobalt at room temperature indicated that, according to the cobalt-iron phase diagram,\(^8\) the metallic precipitates contained less than 5% iron.

c. Nature of the phase transformation

Phase transformations is one of the most intensely studied areas in materials science. The current effort is largely focused on the early stages. In spite of the enormous amount of work that has been done in the past, it was only very recently that some unified views emerged concerning
the early stages of decomposition. All nucleation phenomena are describable in terms of composition and displacement fluctuation models which are more easily treated in their Fourier space. At the same time it gets more difficult to make a clear distinction between one kind of transformation or the other, especially when the supersaturations are large. Beyond the nucleation stage the understanding of phase transformations seems considerably better, and detailed treatments can be found in Christian's book.

Recently, Fine has given a review of decomposition in non-metallic solid solutions. While homogeneous transformations are very rare in metallic systems, examples may be found in oxide ceramics when transformations occur by transport of the cation interstitials. This is e.g. the case when magnesioferrite spinel precipitates in MgO that is supersaturated with iron. In our case the situation was more or less reversed, since now a cobalt-wüsite phase precipitated in a spinel matrix. The observed density of the precipitates was for the present treatment about a factor of 10 higher (that is $3 \times 10^{17}$ per cm$^3$, see earlier) than what was found for the magnesioferrites precipitates in MgO. Also no preferred precipitation at dislocations was observed, as is clear from an examination of Fig. 38. The reason for this truly homogeneous transformation was possibly that the cation diffusion rates were considerably enhanced by the low oxygen partial pressure prevailing during the transformations. This was discussed in the section on point defect chemistry. Enhanced diffusion at dislocations is likely to be of small significance when the diffusion rates in the bulk are high. It was also pointed out in the previous section that the cobalt-wüsite particles precipitate ran-
domly, so that a spinodal like decomposition has to be ruled out. Spinodal decomposition with $\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial c^2} < 0$ is actually very unlikely, since the precipitate has a different crystal structure than the parent phase.

It is difficult to make any reliable conclusions regarding the nature of the decomposition leading to the formation of metallic cobalt, since this transformation occurred on the surface of the specimen. These metallic particles were most likely formed through a heterogeneous decomposition since the difference between the two phases involved was more drastic. Note that foil edges and surface steps got preferentially decorated, as is shown in Fig. 39a and B. Steps such as shown in Fig. 39b were frequently found on the surfaces of specimens that were accidentally cleaved. Part of this decoration effect was probably due to faster loss of oxygen at these geometrically more favorable sites. Locally the reaction would then proceed at a somewhat higher rate.

Note that very high coercive forces should accompany a microstructure such as the one found in the early stages. The coercive force should be especially high below the Néel temperature of the cobalt-wüstite phase.

2. The Intermediate Stages

As the heating continued, the transformations proceeded to the intermediate stage. It was expected that the precipitates that were nucleated in the early stages would continued to grow, except where the changing anion-cation ratio had changed sufficiently so as to locally cause a different phase relation. Thus, for the present geometry further reduction of the foil should lead to continued growth of the surface metallic phase, and to shrinkage of the spacial extent of the inner reaction zone that
was containing the cobalt-wüstite precipitates. A clear impression of what was going on in the intermediate stages came from the observation of transforming, wedged crystals. In such a crystal, the shrinkage of the inner reaction zone should manifest itself in the images as a receding boundary. At the moving boundary between the precipitate free zone and the inner reaction region, the \((\text{Co,Fe})_2\text{O}\) particles should shrink, and eventually dissolve completely. Inside the reaction zone, these particles should continue to grow. All of this can be observed in the sequence Fig. 40a to d. In this series a wedge shaped foil was imaged while transforming, after the early stages had passed. The foils were heated for 120 min. before the sequence was started. This allowed the hot stage to get stable, so that the observations could be made at temperature. The numbers in the micrographs refer to the elapsed time in minutes. Note that the cobalt-wüstite particles show double arc strain contrast. Such a particle has been marked with a black arrow. As the transformation proceeds, and the inner reaction zone shrinks, this precipitate shrinks in size, and finally dissolves completely after 140 min. Other cobalt-wüstite precipitates that were not so close to the moving boundary may be seen to have increased in size somewhat. An example of such a precipitate is marked with a white arrow. The precipitate density could be estimated from the spacing of the particles, and is found to be about \(2 \times 10^{16}\) per cm\(^3\). This is about an order of magnitude less than the precipitate densities that was observed in the early stages. At the same time compared to the early stages, the precipitate size has clearly increased. The size could be estimated from the strain contrast,\(^{21}\) and was found to be on the average 150Å in diameter. At this time then the volume fraction of the cobalt-
wûstite phase in the inner reaction region is about 5%. The volume fraction of the transformed material would, in the middle of the inner reaction region, still be increasing because the crystal was further reduced when the heating in the electron microscope atmosphere was continued.

The strain contrast of the cobalt-wûstite particles is examined in more detail in Fig. 41. These images typically result from the strain field of coherent particles so that it must be concluded that the cobalt-wûstite particles are completely coherent with the matrix spinel, at least up to this size. At all times the line of no contrast is perpendicular to the operating reflection, so that the matrix strain fields surrounding the precipitates are spherically symmetrical. The strain field images are not black-white lobed, since the precipitates are not close to the surface. For this reason, the sign of the strain field could not be found from the examination of electron images. However, the particles were identified earlier, as cobalt-wûstite and since this cubic phase has an oxygen sublattice parameter that is slightly larger than that of the matrix, the strain fields must be compressive. Note also that the inner reaction region is not separated from the precipitate free zone by a sharp and distinct interface. This is because the spinel matrix only changes composition when the (Co,Fe)O precipitates, and does itself not change crystal structure.

The large precipitates in Fig. 41., were identified in the previous section as a highly cobalt rich metallic phase. In a simplified way the decomposition in the reducing atmosphere of the microscope of a cobalt ferrite into highly cobalt rich metal and highly iron rich spinel can be
written as follows:

\[ 3 \text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4 = 3 \text{Co(s)} + 2 \text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4(s) + 2 \text{O}_2(\text{gas}) \ldots \]  

All the ferrites spinels have about the same molar volume, since their lattice parameters are very close. The volume of the three moles of cobalt that are formed when three moles of cobalt ferrite are decomposed according to the above scheme, does not compensate for the loss of 1 mole of ferrite, so that an over all reduction of about 25% in volume occurs upon complete transformation. This significant volume reduction was reflected in the transforming foils by the formation of holes in the matrix spinel around the growing metal particles. The effect was especially pronounced at the foil edge, where the surface to volume ratio was particularly high, (see Fig. 40). The metal precipitates remained attached to the matrix, and actually did move around somewhat so as to keep in physical contact. This motion, which was more or less determined by the local geometry, slowly destroyed the orientation relationship between the matrix and the metallic precipitates.

3. The Later Stages

In the later stages the foil was near equilibrium with the surrounding atmosphere, and only grain growth (which appeared to be a very slow process here) occurred. With the prevailing atmosphere and heating conditions, the foil consisted of a very highly cobalt rich metallic phase, and a spinel phase which was consequently very high in iron content. The foil thickness was a strong factor in determining how rapidly the specimen approached the later stages. This is illustrated in Fig. 42, which is an image of a wedge shaped foil after heating for 150 min. at 550°C. The foil edge is at the left. Note that in the thicker
part of the foil, at the right, the coherent cobalt-wustite particles are still present in the inner reaction zone. The diffraction pattern was taken from the entire area. The deterioration of a definite orientation relationship between the matrix and the metallic precipitates is evident from this diffraction pattern, since many non-systematic precipitate reflections are present. The internal structure of the metallic phase is shown in Fig. 43. Occasionally it was possible to isolate a single precipitate in the field limiting aperture, as was the case in Fig. 44. In a diffraction analysis of such a precipitate it was useful to apply a technique where pairs of diffraction patterns were examined, one focused and one defocused. The analysis showed that this precipitate consisted of cubic and hexagonal cobalt, such that the $(0001)_{\text{hex}} \parallel (111)_{\text{cub}}$. This orientation relationship was already found in the early stages, where the internal structure of the surface precipitates could not be resolved adequately, and confirmed the earlier conclusion that the hexagonal cobalt was formed from the cubic phase upon cooling of the specimen after transformation. Another kind of substructure in the cobalt metal precipitates is shown in Fig. 45. In this micrograph, a highly cobalt rich precipitate is exactly in the 110 orientation. The diffraction pattern shows streaking perpendicular to the observed substructure. Close examination of these streaks revealed that they actually consist of a succession of discrete spots superimposed on the less intense streaks. The spacing of the spots in the diffraction pattern corresponded to the substructure spacing in the precipitate. A further analysis showed that origin of the diffraction effect is due to the almost periodic micro-twinning or faulting of the cubic cobalt precipitate, with a periodicity of about 45Å.
4. **Hot Stage Transformations in Less Reducing Atmospheres**

As was mentioned in the experimental section, the composition of the microscope atmosphere did not remain constant over extended periods. Whether or not free metal was thermodynamically possible at a certain temperature, depended critically on the excess hydrogen present. This excess was variable, and in fact, occasionally excess oxygen was found instead. This excess oxygen partial pressure was usually in the order of $10^{-7}$ or $10^{-8}$ Torr, and free metal should not be formed in that case. It was then to be expected, that growth and coarsening of the wustite type precipitates would just continue as the transformation proceeded. This was indeed the case, as is shown in Fig. 46 for a foil that was transformed for 10 min. at about 650°C in an effective oxygen partial pressure of about $2 \times 10^{-8}$ Torr. It is interesting to note that the precipitates seemed to be periodically arranged. Often this periodic arrangement is interpreted as evidence of a spinodal decomposition. However, periodic arrangements are not necessarily conclusive evidence of spinodal decomposition, as was shown in the work of Ardell and Nicholson.\(^{53}\) They found modulated arrangements of precipitates in the Ni-Al system when the transformation was in the coarsening stage, but random precipitates in the early stages. The reason for the development of periodic arrangements was due to the elastic interactions between the growing precipitates. In the present case, it was observed that the (Co,Fe)O particles initially formed randomly. The apparent periodic arrangement that was observed in Fig. 46 must then originate from elastic interactions upon coarsening, just as was the case for the $\gamma'$ precipitates in the Ni-Al system; they cannot be considered as evidence of a spinodal decomposition.
In summary:

(a). Hot stage transformations are of a highly dynamic nature. The transformations are due to the loss of oxygen from the sample surface. The excess cations formed in this way diffuse into the sample, creating a time dependent cation/anion gradient from the surface.

(b) In the early stages a very high density of (Co,Fe)O precipitates forms. The decomposition is homogeneous, and involves mainly the transport of cations from the crystal surface.

(c). Cobalt metal, containing less than 5 at.% Fe, is formed at the crystal surface. After cooling from the transformation temperature, hexagonal cobalt is found. The hexagonal cobalt forms from the cubic one by a twinning or faulting reaction.

(d). All orientation relationships are simple.

(e). Examination of transforming wedged crystals show the existence of the different reaction zones. Spherically symmetrical strain contrast was observed at the (Co,Fe)O precipitates.

(f). The growing metal grains slowly destroy their original orientation relationship with the matrix, since they remain in physical contact with the matrix that is consumed.

(g). In the later stages the internal structure of the cobalt grains was examined in more detail. In some cases quasi-periodical twinning or faulting is observed, giving rise to long streaks in the diffraction patterns.

(h). Very high coercive forces are expected for thin foils that are treated to contain a two phase structure as is found in the early stages.
For hot stage transformation in partial oxygen pressure of 2 \(10^{-8}\) Torr, at 650°C, no free metal forms and the (Co,Fe)O phase continues to grow. In this coarsening stage the precipitates are arranged in a modulated structure. The modulated structure is a result of strain interactions, and does not result from spinodal decomposition.

E. Transformations In Air

1. Annealings at 670°C

Single crystalline specimens with a Co/Fe from 0.54 to 0.76 kept at 670°C for up to two weeks, failed to show precipitates. Numerous foils were examined but there was no trace of a eutectoid decomposition of the matrix spinel into hematite and a very cobalt rich spinel, as Fig. 1a might suggest.

2. Annealings at 720°C

Crystals with a composition of Co\(_{1.29}\)Fe\(_{1.71}\) were heated for several days at 720°C. The phase diagram, Fig. 1a suggests that a decomposition into two spinels should occur. While Takahashi and Fine\(^5\) have reported a spinodal decomposition for higher cobalt contents in this miscibility gap, no precipitation was observed for crystals with a Co/Fe ratio of 0.76. Single crystals with a higher Co/Fe were unfortunately not available.

In view of the above observations, it seemed that the phase diagram suggested by AuKrust and Muan,\(^6\) is in error. The recent observations of Takahashi and Fine\(^5\) also confirmed this, and all the evidence now indicates that the phase diagram reported by Robin\(^7\) is the more correct one.

3. Annealings at 1230°C

Crystals with a Co/Fe ratio of 0.76 were annealed for a series of times at 1230°C. For this temperature the phase diagram shows equilibrium.
between the spinel $\text{Co}_{1.18}\text{Fe}_{1.82}O_4$, and the sodium chloride type $(\text{Co}_{0.82}\text{Fe}_{0.18})O$. Neglecting the oxygen non-stoichiometry, the transformation reaction reads, according to the lever rule,

$$\text{Co}_{1.29}\text{Fe}_{1.71}O_4 \rightarrow 0.26(\text{Co}_{0.82}\text{Fe}_{0.18})O + 0.91(\text{Co}_{1.18}\text{Fe}_{1.82})O_4$$

$$+ 0.10 \text{O}_2(g) \uparrow$$

(13)

Oxygen non-stoichiometry, which is very likely to occur at this high transformation temperature, would slightly alter the amount of oxygen gas formed per mole of spinel that is transformed. Equation 13 shows that after complete transformation the $(\text{Co,Fe})O$ precipitates occupy about 7 vol.% of the crystal. Since the transformation reactions were of the same nature as in the hot stage experiments, certain similarities might be anticipated. The cation mobility could be estimated from the data of Schmaltzreid et al.$^{14,15}$ At $1230^\circ\text{C}$, the diffusion coefficient of cobalt would be about $10^{-9}$ cm$^2$ sec$^{-1}$, so that after 100 sec, the mean diffusion distance of this cation would be about 1 mm, so that, as was the case in the hot stage transformations, a reaction zone should develop from the specimen surface. Again, the transformation depended on the long range cation diffusion, since at all temperatures oxygen is the slower diffusing component. In view of this gradient phenomenon, it was difficult to measure precipitate growth rates, since the material from which the foil was eventually prepared could not be located accurately with respect to the surface of the bulk sample. Still, the general trend of size increase for longer isothermal annealing times should be preserved.

a. 10 minutes at $1230^\circ\text{C}$ in air

$(\text{Co,Fe})O$ precipitates formed in $\text{Co}_{1.29}\text{Fe}_{1.71}O_4$, upon heating for 10 min. at $1230^\circ\text{C}$ in air. Some of these precipitates are shown in Fig. 48,
with two different operating reflections. Weak structure factor contrast observed when \( \mathbf{g} = 800 \), indicated that the precipitates were in fact orthorhombic prisms, bounded by \{100\} planes. The images exhibited double arc contrast, which typically results from the strain field of coherent precipitates. Note that the line of no contrast, LC, takes on an "S" shape, when \( \mathbf{g} = \perp \mathbf{g} \). In principle, the contrast effects should follow from the work of Sass et al.\(^5\) These authors calculated the strain field electron images of coherent cuboid particles, for a limited number of diffracting conditions. The images of the orthorhombic prisms observed here, should correspond to their images, when the precipitates are viewed with the long axis parallel to the electron beam. A precipitate satisfying this orientation is imaged under several diffracting conditions in Fig. 48. In the top left micrograph, the deviation from the exact Bragg condition is large, and the shape of the precipitate can be observed directly from the weak structure factor contrast. When the direction of the imaging reflection is not along a principal axis of the particles, the asymmetry of the strain contrast fringes is in agreement with the predictions of Sass et al. In particular, the appearance of a "notch" in the line of no contrast, LC, is confirmed. The shape of LC can now be understood more clearly, since the present observations, Fig. 47 and 48, show that the peculiar images originate in the tendency of LC to follow the symmetry of the coherency fields, regardless of the direction of the operating reflection. Note that this is somewhat different from the strain contrast images of small prismatic loops. As was discussed by Thomas and Bell,\(^2\) for prismatic loops, LC is perpendicular to the operating vector \( \mathbf{g} \), when the angle between the direction of the Burgers vector of these
loops, and \( g \) exceeds 15°.

The size of these coherent prisms varied in the same specimen; the largest coherent precipitate found had a size of 1200\( Å \).

In a foil of identically treated material, precipitates were observed as shown in Fig. 49. The precipitates now exhibit moire fringe contrast. They are actually arranged along a dislocation. A tentative explanation of this "string of beads" morphology may be as follows: The dislocation would end on the free surface of the treated crystal. The lower left part of this dislocation in Fig. 49 would be further away from the free specimen surface, so that the precipitates that were formed there were smaller than the ones closer to the surface.

Regardless of the location of the dislocation this observation evidenced that the wustite precipitates nucleated heterogeneously at 1230°C in air. The different morphologies, and the range in size also supported the idea that the transformations proceeded from the surface, and that a gradient in cation concentration was present, just as for the hot stage transformations.

b. **60 minutes in air at 1230°C**

Precipitates of (Co,Fe)O found in cobalt ferrites that were transformed in this way are shown in Fig. 50. The precipitates lost perfect coherency with the matrix as is evident from the interface contrast. Isolated particles are more or less spherical. Other precipitates that are elongated or odd shaped probably formed by coalescence of several precipitates. Note also that the particles are connected by a few dislocations. The smallest precipitate that exhibited this type of interface contrast was about 1500\( Å \) in diameter.
Inspection of the images of the matrix-precipitate interface reveals several features that need to be examined in more detail. This will be done in a later section.

c. **Annealings for more than 60 minutes in air at 1230°C**

Longer annealing in air of the same material apparently did not lead to much change in the morphology of the precipitates. The same size and distribution was found in crystals that were transformed for 20 hours, or for six days at 1230°C. An example of precipitates in cobalt ferrite (Co/Fe = 0.76) annealed for 20 hours, is shown in Fig. 51. The similarity with Fig. 50 is striking. The diffraction pattern from the area encircled in this micrograph, again shows the succession of single and double spots, confirming that the precipitate is (Co,Fe)O.

A short summary of the transformation events, based on the observations, is: (1) coherent precipitates of (Co,Fe)O are formed initially. The precipitates remain coherent up to a size of at least 1200Å. No dislocations are found in conjunction with the coherent precipitates. (2) The precipitates lose coherency somewhere between 1200 and 1500Å. (3) A small number of dislocations is invariably associated with the incoherent precipitates.

4. **The Precipitate Interface**

Interfaces in metallic systems have been studied e.g. by Weatherly and Nicholson. The interface between the (Co,Fe)O and cobalt ferrite matrix are now examined in the same light.

a. **Moiré fringes and dislocation**

For the examination of interfaces, some geometries are more favorable than others, and a large number of foils had to be prepared, until this
favorable geometry was obtained. An extra difficulty was that the precipitates were so large that they often intersected the foil surface. In each case the actual geometry had to be determined.

In Fig. 52 precipitates that appeared to be completely inside the foil, are shown with two different operating reflections. The diffracting conditions are such that systematic sets of reflections are operating, and so only the lowest order reflection, \( g_1 \), is marked. The fringes are always perpendicular to the operating reflections, indicating that they are of the moiré type. The detailed interpretation of the fringes is highly complicated, since their intensity (not their position) depends in a complex way on the depth of the interface in the foil. These and other characteristics of moiré fringes were discussed in great detail by Gevers.\(^{57}\)

The interface exhibited some other features in addition to moiré fringes, as is clear from Fig. 53. The geometry of this precipitates is drawn in perspective in Fig. 53b. The wedged surface of the foil intersects the precipitate in the shaded areas. Of interest are the "light patches" seemingly at the precipitate interface, as well as the particular fringe structure encircled and marked 2. The "light patches" are discussed later.

As is well known, semi-coherent interfaces can be described in terms of misfit dislocations. Imaging of interface dislocations can be very difficult, especially if their spacing is small, and when moiré fringes are present simultaneously. The area marked 2 in Fig. 53a contains what might be interface dislocations. One of the simplest experiments to distinguish between interface dislocations and moiré fringes
is to tilt the specimen over a small angle in the electron microscope.
so that the deviation parameter, $s$, of the operating reflection is slightly
changed. As Gevers$^{57}$ has pointed out, this should cause moiré fringes
to shift. Images of dislocations don't exhibit this effect. Such
a tilting experiment is shown in Fig. 54. The "light patches" can be
considered as fiducial marks. Examination of these images shows that
after a small angle of tilt towards the exact Bragg condition, from $s_1$
to $s_2 < s_1$, the line images have not shifted. This confirms immediately
that they are indeed dislocation images, and not moiré fringes. Upon
further tilting to $s_3 = 0_1$, the moiré fringes appear. The imaged dis-
locations are parallel to the trace of the $[110]$ direction, indicating
that they have a strong edge component. Screws with $b \parallel [110]$ would be
out of contrast with $g$ parallel to the $[001]$ direction. The spacing of
these misfit dislocations is about $340\AA$. Assuming that the Burgers
vector, of these dislocation is $1/2 a_{\text{matrix}}^{[110]}$, gives for the present
misfit a dislocation spacing of about $280\AA$. If the dislocations would
have a Burgers vector equal to $1/2 a_{\text{precipitate}}^{[110]}$, then the dislocation
spacing should be about $140\AA$. The Burgers vector of the misfit disloca-
tions is then most likely $1/2 a_{\text{matrix}}^{[110]}$, with the "extra half plane"
in the matrix (since the precipitate has the larger lattice parameter). It
is quite common to find an interface misfit dislocation spacing that is
somewhat larger than the theoretical one. Some reasons for this were
given by Weatherly et al.$^{56}$ Another reason is quoted at the end of the
next paragraph, and is due to the nature of the "light patches".

It is interesting to note that there still may be an easier way to
check if dislocations are present at the interface when strong moiré fringe
contrast is superimposed parallel to the dislocations. The technique would consist in a comparison of under and over focused images. When the focal length of the objective lens is changed, the moiré fringes shift just enough to be detectable while observing on the screen. Dislocations do not. The different focusing behavior of moiré fringes and dislocations is clear in Fig. 55. Figure 55a–c shows the moiré fringes superimposed on the dislocations, while Fig. 55d–f shows dislocations only. The degree of under and over focusing is the same in both sets. Note that the moiré fringes have half the spacing of the dislocations. It may be interesting to further study the difference in the spacial variation of these images. These effects, although not reported in the literature yet, are not examined further now.

b. Micropores at the interface

The "light patches" at the interface were somewhat curious. It was not possible to obtain any diffraction from these defects, and their intensity always remained close to that of the surrounding background, regardless of the diffracting conditions, both in bright and dark field. Four different imaging conditions are shown in Fig. 56. It must be concluded that these "light patches" are in fact micropores that have developed at the matrix-precipitate interface during the phase transformation. The pores are indeed exactly at the interface, as can be seen in Fig. 53. Some pores, located just where the foil intersects the interface, are marked 1. No pores were ever found behind the matrix-precipitate interface, so that they must be migrating along with it. It is very doubtful that they would form upon cooling of the sample from the transformation temperature, since the cooling rates were several hundred degrees per
minute. Migration of gas bubbles filled with fission gas, formed in copper irradiated with high doses of thermal neutrons, has been observed by Barnes et al. 58 indicating that the migration of such large defects was not extraordinary.

The formation of micropores during the transformation can only be explained by a mechanism which involves the transport of oxygen vacancies. A tentative mechanism of their formation would be as follows: In Eq. 13 the overall transformation reaction was given, and it was pointed out that the formation of the cobalt-wüstite precipitates was controlled by the long range cation diffusion from the free surface of the crystal. At 1230°C, however, this is a simplification, since the mobility of the oxygen vacancies must be sufficient to participate, at least to a small extent, in the precipitation phenomenon. Part of the gradient in cation/anion ratio must then be realized by the inward diffusion of oxygen vacancies. These oxygen vacancies, $V_{ox}$, are created at the surface of the heated crystal by reactions such as

$$4 \text{Fe}^{3+} + 2 \text{O}^{2-} = \text{O}_2(\text{gas}) + 2 V_{ox} + 4 \text{Fe}^{2+} \ldots \text{(14)}$$

Both the oxygen vacancies and the divalent cations diffuse toward the precipitate, where the phase transformation is continuing. The growing cobalt-wüstite precipitate consumes a large amount of divalent cations, but it can not incorporate the oxygen vacancies. As the precipitate increases in size, an excess of oxygen vacancies would then build up in the crystal matrix, near the spinel - (Co,Fe)O interface. Since these oxides cannot support large deviations from stoichiometry, the oxygen vacancies will have to cluster, probably first as vacancy loops, and later as
actual voids. The climb of these vacancy loops is limited by the requirement that they have to remain at the interface to accommodate the difference between matrix and precipitate lattice parameters. The dislocations and the micropores then act as effective oxygen vacancy sinks, allowing the further participation of oxygen in the transformation. Once a free surface is present internally, a reaction such as expressed by Eq. 13 can take place. This would on the one hand increase the pore size somewhat, but on the other hand it would fill the pore with oxygen gas. When the equilibrium oxygen pressure has been reached, this reaction must cease. The presence of oxygen gas in the micropores might be inferred from their nearly spherical shape. The partial pressure of the oxygen gas should be sufficient to overcome the tendency of the pores to be bounded by low indices crystallographic planes. This tendency is due to the anisotropy of the surface energy. A rough estimate of the pore volume showed that they took up about 0.3% of the volume of the precipitate. This was certainly not sufficient to compensate for the overall 2.5% decrease in volume that accompanied the transformation but it was direct evidence of the participation of the oxygen ions in the phase transformation. The presence of the micropores may partly account for the larger than calculated spacing of the interface dislocations.

c. Mechanism of the loss of coherency

Loss of coherency of growing precipitates was discussed by Weatherly et al. Several mechanisms have to be considered:

1. A punching mechanism in which one loop is emitted into the matrix, when one loop is being formed at the interface.
2. Interface dislocations are supplied by sources in the matrix.

3. Interface dislocations are supplied by sources inside the precipitate.

4. Dislocations are nucleated at the interface by collapse of point defect aggregates.

These four possibilities are now examined in the framework of the experimental observations.

Although there are examples of systems in which punching occurs, see e.g. Eikum and Thomas, mechanism 1 did not seem to be operating during the growth of the (Co,Fe)O precipitates. The dislocation density that was observed in the neighborhood of the large precipitates was too low to be in agreement with the punching model. Also, a minimum amount of misfit, about 4% between the lattice parameters of the precipitate and the matrix, seems to be necessary. In the present cases, this misfit was only 1.5%.

Since the dislocation density in the crystal was low at the start of the transformation, it was highly unlikely that the misfit dislocations would be supplied from the matrix. For this reason, mechanism 2 was discarded.

Mechanism 3 requires the nucleation of a dislocation loop inside the precipitate. No defects, such as stacking faults, were found in the (Co,Fe)O precipitates when they were fully coherent, and it is though that the nucleation of a loop in the perfect precipitate has a rather high energy barrier.

The present observations indicated that the mechanism involving collapse of the point defects at the precipitate surface was the one by
which the precipitate lost coherency. This was highly likely, in view of the observation of the micropores at the matrix-precipitate interface. As was suggested earlier, the transformation-produced oxygen vacancies would accumulate near the interface, finally collapsing into vacancy type loops. The loops could expand by climb along the precipitate surface, thus reducing the interstitial type strcct field that surrounded the coherent particle. Once a loop was nucleated, the creation of more interface dislocations would follow in a more or less catastrophic way, as was suggested by Weatherly and Nicholson. Occasionally, a dislocation might be produced, by plastic deformation of the precipitate surroundings, as was suggested by the observation of the few dislocations that invariably seems to accompany the semi-coherent precipitates.

In summary:

(a). The present observations on cobalt ferrites heated in air, did not support the phase diagram suggested by Aukrust and Muan, they were in agreement with the phase diagram reported by Robin.

(b). Annealing in air of cobalt ferrites with a Co/Fc ratio of 0.76 caused the precipitation of (Co,Fe)O. These precipitates were initially coherent, and appeared as small square prisms. They lost coherency when they had reached a size between 1200 and 1500Å.

(c). Moiré fringes, dislocations and micropores were observed at the matrix-precipitate interfaces.

(d). The misfit dislocations were shown to have a Burger vector of 1/2 a matrix (110), and they did not appear to be dissociated.
(e) The formation of micropores at the precipitate interfaces was direct evidence of the participation of oxygen vacancies in the transformation process. The pores also migrated along the moving interface. Their shape indicated that they were filled with oxygen.

(f) A mechanism for the pore formation was proposed. It involved the rejection of oxygen vacancies by the cobalt-wustite phase.

(g) The mechanism of loss of coherency was discussed. Loss of coherency of the precipitates was probably initiated by the nucleation of vacancy loops due to oxygen vacancy clustering at the interface. Occasionally, some dislocations would be produced, possibly by plastic deformation of the matrix spinel.
V. FINAL DISCUSSION AND REMARKS

The same approach that is now standard in metallurgical investigations has been followed in the study of defects and phase transformations of a ceramic oxide. The success of the entire work depended greatly on the availability of the proper research facilities: the 650 kV transmission electron microscope. While much of the general knowledge that has been obtained about defects and phase transformations in metallic systems can be straightforwardly applied to ceramic oxides, some significant differences should be borne in mind. Most metal oxides are strongly ionic due to the large electronegativity of oxygen, and as a consequence, charge neutrality plays a very important role. The creation of vacancies or interstitials in the cation sublattice of the spinel oxide, affects the anion sublattice as well (and conversely) making the point defect chemistry quite complicated. Coulomb bonding between ions is also of a much longer range than short range metallic bonding, and this is probably why even relatively small deviations from the stoichiometric cation/anion ratio will have a drastic effect. Evidence of this is found more widely as methods of investigation improve, and non-stoichiometric oxide crystal that some time ago were thought to be single phase, contain on closer examination extended structural defects that accommodate the cation or anion deficiencies. Prime examples are found in the oxides of transition metals of the titanium, vanadium and chromium groups. Not always is the accommodation of non-stoichiometry as spectacular as in these shear type oxides, and in the case of cobalt ferrite an imposed increase in cation to anion ratio is simply accommodated by the precipitation of a phase.
with a higher cation to anion ratio: cobalt-wustite. The strong, long range interactions between the ions on different sublattices, makes that phase transformations in oxides can be strongly influenced by the prevailing oxygen partial pressure. Most phase transformations involving a change in the metal/oxygen ratio must then proceed in a layer like fashion from the free surface of the crystal. Whether or not these layers exhibit discrete interfaces will depend on the nature of the transformation. A distinct interface is most likely to develop when the oxygen partial pressure is such that the matrix completely transforms into a new phase, and when the transformation product has a different lattice symmetry than the matrix. Typical examples of layer growth can be observed during the high oxygen partial pressure oxidation of metals. The layering effect poses so many manufacturing problems that properties of practical oxide ceramics are normally controlled by variation of grain size and porosity or by addition of inert inclusions. Also, transformation strains are not easily accommodated, since most ceramic oxides remain intrinsically brittle up to high temperatures, so that precipitates often nucleate cracks. In this thesis it has been shown that a second phase can be precipitated in cobalt ferrite, without destruction of the matrix by transformation strains. The practical relevance of such transformations, however, must be confined to thin film applications. This is not really a great drawback, since thin films are widely used in microelectronics, and two phase oxides films produced by controlled oxidation or reduction, may be of great use. Precipitation can then be added as an extra parameter in optimizing the performance of such thin film devices.
One of the technologically interesting properties of cobalt ferrites (and many other iron spinels) is that they are ferrimagnetic. Magnetic properties are largely controlled by the mobility of the domain walls, just as mechanical properties are determined by the mobility of dislocations. The motion of the domain walls can be impeded by two basically different interactions: interactions with internal strain fields, or interaction with non-magnetic particles. When a second phase is present in the form of finely dispersed coherent particles, the interaction of the strain fields of the particles with the magnetostriction that accompanies magnetic ordering may be sufficient so as to affect the domain wall mobility very significantly. This second phase may be magnetic also. An undesirable effect is that the magnetization vectors will be deviated by the presence of the internal strain fields, thus leading to a decrease in the magnetic susceptibility. This effect would not be present if the second phase is completely incoherent, so that internal strain fields are absent. In that case, though the second phase should be non-magnetic or anti-ferrimagnetic. Anti-ferrimagnetic particles are of special interest since they can very effectively pin the neighboring ferrimagnetic matrix through exchange anisotropy. A decrease in magnetic susceptibility is then to be expected as resulting from the decrease of the volume fraction of the ferrimagnetic material, from the presence of demagnetization fields, or from closure domains around large precipitates. Dijkstra and West found experimentally that particles of a size equal to the thickness of the domain wall were most effective. This is in agreement with a simple analysis. For a 180 degree wall in cobalt ferrite, this would be about 250Å; for a 90° wall this would be
about half. An even distribution of particles of this size is difficult to achieve, unless the decomposition is of a particular nature. In general a spinodal transformation, or large supersaturations are required to produce a high density of nuclei of the second phase. Examination of the phase diagram in air, Fig. 11, shows that there is a possibility of spinodal decomposition. A spinodally decomposed material seems to be the ideal for a device in which magnetic switching is to occur by coherent spin rotation. The magnetic properties of fine grained polycrystalline cobalt ferrites that have been spinodally decomposed have been examined very recently by Takahashi and Fine\textsuperscript{54} and coercive forces of up to 20 k Oe at 77°K were reported. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain single crystals in the composition range required for a spinodal decomposition in air. In the present work, at reduced oxygen partial pressures, very high densities (3×10\textsuperscript{17} per cm\textsuperscript{3}) of second phase particles were produced by a homogeneous transformation, and it is quite likely that two phase films with such a microstructure would have magnetic properties that are highly desirable. Confirmation has to come from actual magnetic measurements on one micron thick foils of cobalt ferrite that have been heated for 3 to 5 minutes in a reducing H\textsubscript{2}O/H\textsubscript{2} atmosphere.
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33. W. H. Stobbs, private communication.
FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1a. Phase diagram at 1 atm of air.\textsuperscript{6}

Fig. 1b. Phase diagram at 1 atm of air.\textsuperscript{7}

Fig. 2. Schematic octahedral cation distribution.\textsuperscript{5}

Fig. 3. Calibration curves for the hot stage.

Fig. 4. Partial pressure gage readout. The partial pressures of the
most important gases in the electron microscope are listed.

Fig. 5. Defect distribution around a nearly perfect conical etch pit.
The projected defect density is uniform. The foil is about
one micron thick at the outer thickness fringes.

Fig. 6. Bright and dark field pair of defects.

Fig. 7. Defects imaged with two different operating vectors. A loop
is marked L.

Fig. 8. Charge of projected defect density with time of observation.
The spherical clusters do not change to loops, and conversely.

Fig. 9. Observed projected defect density versus time.

Fig. 10. Defects formed during electron microscope observation at liquid
nitrogen temperatures. The contrast indicates that now small
tetrahedra are formed, instead of spherical clusters.

Fig. 11. Dislocation dissociation in spinel, Hornstra.\textsuperscript{27}

Fig. 12. Dislocation network in cobalt ferrite. This configuration
excludes wide fourfold dissociation.

Fig. 13. Dislocations in cobalt ferrite do not seem to be twofold
dissociated.

Fig. 14. Comparison between calculated and actual dislocation images.
The magnitude of the Burgers vector is found from the fringe
spacings, not from their intensity $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 2$ for this image.

Fig. 15. Diffraction geometry for a systematic set of reflections.

Fig. 16. Computed and calculated dislocation images with $\vec{g}_1 \cdot \vec{b} = 1$.

The splitting of the central image fringe must be due to narrow twofold dissociation.

Fig. 17. Dislocation image in high resolution weak beam mode. At the node, the foil is about 2000 Å thick. High resolution is only obtained in the thin part of the foil.

Fig. 18. Deflection of electron beam by Lorentz forces, and consequent change in deviation parameter $s'$.

Fig. 19. Geometrical construction showing lattice rotation at coherent tetragonal twin boundary. The angle of rotation $\alpha$, is determined by the magnetostriction parameter, $\lambda_{100}$.

Fig. 20. Specimen in the field of the objective lens. $H_{\text{obj}} \cong 7$ kgauss at the specimen.

Fig. 21. All magnetization vectors must have a component nearly equal, and parallel to $H_{\text{obj}}$, if domains are to be observed.

Fig. 22. Overlapping ferrimagnetic domain walls. The domain wall plane can be derived from a geometrical analysis of this image.

Fig. 23. Geometrical analysis of Fig. 22.

Fig. 24. Ferrimagnetic domain walls in cobalt ferrite.

Fig. 25. Schematic arrangement of the domain walls, and magnetization vectors in Fig. 24. The change in $s$ is indicated at the walls, together with the resultant change in fringe nature.

Fig. 26. In this (111) foil, three different magnetization vectors are present, as was illustrated in Fig. 21.
Fig. 27. Motion of zigzag walls. A reference point has been marked. Note in B, that the pitch of the zigzaging can be as low as 0.25 micron, as is evidenced by the oscillations in the extinction contour.

Fig. 28. Doubling of Kikuchi line evidences a lattice rotation across the wall. This particular configuration is only possible as long as the foil can accommodate the rotation by buckling.

Fig. 29. The 90° block walls are not necessarily planar. The foil edges are the nucleation sites of new domains.

Fig. 30. Effect of an elastic bending stress on the domain arrangement.

Fig. 31. Two types of precipitates are observed in a foil of cobalt ferrite, after heating for 3 min at 500°C, in the electron microscope.

Fig. 32. Stereo pair of area in Fig. 31. Study of this pair will show that the larger precipitates are on the foil surfaces, while the very small ones are deeper inside the foil.

Fig. 33. Location of the precipitates in a foil heated for 3 min at 500°C, in the hot stage of the electron microscope.

Fig. 34a. Diffraction pattern of area shown in Fig. 31.

Fig. 34b. Solution to Fig. 34a.

Fig. 35. Resolution of the cobalt-wüstite reflections at higher order reflections.

Fig. 36. Bright and dark field imaging of precipitate reflections. The reflections isolated by the objective aperture are encircled. Note that in d, the flat sides of the precipitates are parallel to <100>.
Fig. 37. Dark field images of indicated reflections. The very small precipitates (~ 30–40 Å) are (Co,Fe)O, the larger ones are a mixture of hexagonal and cubic cobalt. Note that the (Co,Fe)O precipitates randomly.

Fig. 38. No preferential decoration of dislocations by the (Co,Fe)O phase is observed. This indicates that the nucleation of this phase is homogeneous.

Fig. 39. Decoration of foil edges, and surface steps by cobalt metal.

Fig. 40. Time sequence showing how the reaction proceeds in a wedge shaped foil. The elapsed time is indicated. Note the shrinking of the inner reaction zone. Note also how the matrix is consumed around the growing cobalt particles, especially at the foil edge.

Fig. 41. Strain contrast of the (Co,Fe)O precipitates with three different operating vectors. The contrast indicates that the particles are spherical and coherent.

Fig. 42. Transforming foil showing the deterioration of the orientation relationship between the metal and the matrix, in the later stages.

Fig. 43. Cobalt grains in late transformation stage show clear substructure.

Fig. 44. Analysis of a cobalt grain shows that the substructure is due to the presence of cubic and hexagonal cobalt.

Fig. 45. Cobalt grain showing nearly periodic twinning or faulting. The substructure acts as a phase grating, giving rise to a succession of very closely spaced diffraction spots.
Fig. 46. Modulated \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O precipitate arrangements can be found after transformation, if the transformation to metal + spinel does not occur. The modulation does not originate in spinodal decomposition.

Fig. 47. \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O precipitates as small square prisms, bounded by \{100\} planes, when cobalt ferrite is heated for 10 min at 1230°C in air. Note the particular shape of the line of no contrast when \(g = 440\).

Fig. 48. Contrast of prism of \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O, when viewed end on. Agreement is formed with theory.\(^{55}\)

Fig. 49. Decoration of dislocation by \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O shows that the transformation is heterogeneous at 1230°C in air. Note that there is still evidence of strain.

Fig. 50. Large precipitates of \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O in cobalt ferrite after heating for 60 min at 1230°C in air. Note the presence of a few dislocations, and the peculiar interface contrast.

Fig. 51. After 20 hours at 1230°C, the precipitate morphology has changed little. The diffraction pattern of the encircled area identifies the precipitates as \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O.

Fig. 52. Moiré fringes at precipitate interfaces with two different diffracting vectors.

Fig. 53. Large \((\text{Co,Fe})\)O precipitate at the foil edge. The geometry is drawn in perspective. The foil surfaces intersect the precipitate in the shaded areas. "Bright spots" at the interface are marked 1. Possible interface dislocations are marked 2.

Fig. 54. Tilting experiment showing the presence of interface dislocations.
Fig. 55. Focusing experiment showing possibility of distinguishing between moiré fringes and dislocations.

Fig. 56. Diffraction experiments showing that the "bright spots" are actually micropores at the matrix-precipitate interface.
Figure 1a
Figure 1b
Figure 2
Figure 3
total pressure: $5.2 \times 10^{-6}$ Torr

partial pressures:

$\text{H}_2\text{O}: 3.4 \times 10^{-6}$ Torr

$\text{N}_2: 6.5 \times 10^{-7}$ Torr

$\text{H}_2: 4.8 \times 10^{-7}$ Torr

$\text{He}: 4.4 \times 10^{-7}$ Torr

$\text{O}_2: 1.1 \times 10^{-7}$ Torr

Figure 4
Figure 6
Figure 7
\[
\frac{a}{2} [\overline{1}0] \rightarrow \frac{a}{4} [\overline{1}0] + \frac{a}{4} [\overline{1}0]
\]

\[
\frac{a}{4} [\overline{1}0] \rightarrow \frac{a}{12} [2\overline{1}1] + \frac{a}{12} [1\overline{2}1]
\]

Figure 11
Figure 12
Figure 14
Figure 15

EWALD SPHERE

- g_{-1}
- 000
- g_{1}
- g_{2}
- g_{3}

XBL 708-1672
Figure 16
Figure 20
Figure 21
Ferrimagnetic domains

Figure 22

Domain wall contrast

XBB709-4343
Figure 25
Figure 26
Figure 27
Figure 33

1- type 1 precipitates in surface layer
2- precipitate free region
3- inner reaction zone with type 2 precipitates

XBL 709-6569
Figure 34b
Figure 39
Figure 40
Figure 41
Figure 42
Figure 44

Hexagonal cobalt

Cubic cobalt

500 Å

XBB709-3936
Figure 45
Figure 48
Figure 50
Figure 52
Figure 53

spinel matrix

\((\text{Co,Fe})_0\) precipitate
Figure 54
Figure 55
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