## Zr-U/Zr-Nb

## Influence of Heat-treatment on the Microstructures and Hardness of Zr-U/Zr-Nb Extruded Rods



## Abstract

Influence of heat-treatment at 590 and 700°C on the microstructures and hardness of Zr-40wt.%U/Zr-1wt.%Nb extruded rods were evaluated. In the case of Zr-U fuel, the heat-treatment at 590°C induced little change in the microstructure. However, the hardness was reduced abruptly, and then constantly maintained as the heat-treatment time increased. The heat-treatment at 700°C revealed to dissolve the  $\alpha$ -Zr phase into the  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> matrix, providing the crystalline change from  $\alpha$ -Zr to  $\beta$ -Zr phases. However, there was little change in the microhardness. In the case of Zr-Nb cladding, the heat-treatment at 590°C resulted in the phenomena of grain growth with the decrease in the hardness. The heat-treatment at 700°C induced the increase of hardness as a result of the precipitation of  $\beta$ -Zr phases in the grain boundary. On the other hand, the interdiffusion coefficients (D) in the Zr-U/Zr-Nb interface appeared to be  $1.1-1.6 \times 10^{-15}$  and  $4.0-4.5 \times 10^{-15}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s at 500 and 700°C, respectively.

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, U U U . 가 . 가 . 3 U-Zr [6]. 60 wt% Zr 40wt%U  $\alpha$ -Zr  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> , α-Zr  $10\% \quad \delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> 90%  $(\gamma$ -U,  $\beta$ -Zr) γ-U β-Zr 606 δ-UZr<sub>2</sub> 가 α-Zr ( 2). 3.2. Zr-Nb 4 Zr-Nb rod . Zr-Nb Zr-Nb rod 가 extrusion . (Hv) 155 5 Zr-Nb XRD . Zr-Nb  $\alpha$ -Zr (hcp, a=0.3232 nm, c=0.5147 nm) . α-가 . pilgering 650 , 580 2 annealing 610-860 6 Zr-Nb . Zr-1Nb 가  $\alpha$ -Zr  $\beta$ -Zr , 610 α-Zr β-3.3. Zr-U/ZrNb 7 Zr-U/ZrNb Zr-. Nb Zr-U pore . α-Zr 3.4. 가 8 590 가 가 . Zr-U 가 α-Zr 가 α-Zr [10-11]. 가 9 700 4000 . 700 α-Zr dissolution U-Zr 3) ( , 가 700  $(\gamma$ -U,  $\beta$ -Zr) α-Zr δ-UZr<sub>2</sub> 10 . 590

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<b>7</b> [		, 590		/00	<b>∠</b> [				·	



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Fig. 1. Microstructure of sintered Zr-U alloy.



Fig. 2. X-ray diffraction pattern on the sintered U-Zr alloy.



Fig. 3. Equilibrium phase diagram of Zr-U binary system [6].



Fig. 4. Microstructure of Zr-Nb alloy.



Fig. 5. X-ray diffraction pattern on the Zr-Nb alloy.



Fig. 6. Equilibrium phase diagram of Zr-Nb binary system.



Fig. 7. Microstructures of Zr-U/Zr-Nb extruded rods; (a) transverse and (b) longitudinal sections.



Fig. 8. SEM-BEI images of Zr-U fuel after heat-treatment at 590 for (a) 0, (b) 1000, (c) 2000 and (d) 4000 hours.



Fig. 9. SEM-BEI images of Zr-U fuel after heat-treatment at 700 for (a) 0, (b) 500, (c) 1000, (d) 1500, (e) 2000 and (f) 4000 hours.



Fig. 10. Effects of heat-treatment on the hardness of Zr-U fuel in Zr-U/Zr-Nb extruded rod.



Fig. 11. X-ray diffraction patterns of Zr-U alloy after heat-treatment at 590 and 700 for 4000 hours.



Fig. 12. Microstructures of Zr-Nb cladding after heat-treatment at 590 for (a) 0, (b) 500, (c) 1000, (d) 1500, (e) 2000 and (f) 4000 hours.



Fig. 13. Microstructures of Zr-Nb cladding after heat-treatment at 700 for (a) 0, (b) 500, (c) 1000, (d) 1500, (e) 2000 and (f) 4000 hours.



Fig. 14. Effects of heat-treatment on the hardness of Zr-Nb cladding in Zr-U/Zr-Nb extruded rod.





Fig. 15. X-ray diffraction patterns of Zr-Nb cladding after heat-treatment at (a) 590 and (b) 700 .



Fig. 16. SEM-BEI images of Zr-U/Zr-Nb interface after heat-treatment at 590 for (a) 2000 and (b) 4000 hours.



Fig. 17. SEM-BEI images of Zr-U/Zr-Nb interface after heat-treatment at 700 for (a) 2000 and (b) 4000 hours.



Fig. 17. Variation of thickness of reaction layer in Zr-U/Zr-Nb interface with time.