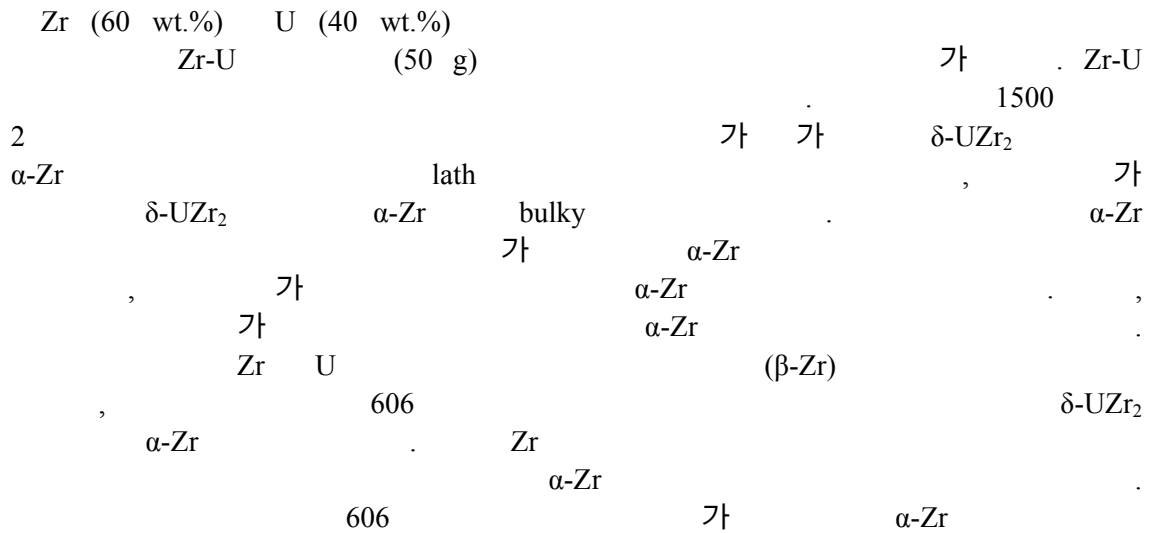


## Zr-U

## Effects of Sintering Conditions on the Microstructures of Sintered Zr-U Alloys

150



## Abstract

The effects of sintering conditions on the microstructures of sintered Zr-U alloys were evaluated. The microstructures of Zr-U alloys (50 g-scale) appeared to be almost affected by the cooling rate during thermal travel for sintering. During cooling after holding at 1500 °C for 2 hours, it was revealed that the  $\alpha$ -Zr particles in the  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> matrix were finely dispersed in the grain boundary as the cooling rate increased. In addition, the results of the observation on the distribution of  $\alpha$ -Zr particles in the sintered alloys showed that little segregation of Zr-elements was observed when the rapid cooling rate was adopted. However, the slow cooling rate induced the locally high concentration of Zr-elements. It would be attributed to the diffusion of Zr-elements from the high-temperature zone to low-temperature one due to the thermal distribution in the sintered alloy during cooling. It is thus concluded that the rapid cooling rate after sintering of Zr-U alloy would be useful not only to induce the finely dispersed  $\alpha$ -Zr particles in the  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> matrix, but it also effective to avoid the segregation of Zr-elements.

1.

가

UO<sub>2</sub>

가

가

가

[1-4].

U-Zr

Zr

가 UO<sub>2</sub>

가

가

[5].

가

가

가

[6].

U-Zr

U

U

가

creep

porosity  
pore가

fission product

swelling

U

pore

[6].

Zr

billet

(U-Zr )

U-Zr

Zr

[7-8]. U-Zr

δ

[9]

Zr-U

[10]

Zr-U

[11]

가

[12].

Zr  
Zr-U

Zr-U

Zr-U

Zr

U

가 Zr-U  
가

2.

Zr-U 1 Zr-U Zr U , 가 U  
U-derby U  
sieving 125  $\mu$ m  
48  $\mu$ m Zr hydriding-dehydriding  
sieving 125  $\mu$ m Zr  
100 4000 ppm 1  
U Zr (40 wt.% U + 60 wt.% Zr) 100 g  
Vial-mixer 75 rpm  
2 press cylindrical  
Pressing 5,096 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup> 가 Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coating  
load-holding time 20 가 1500 2  
Zirconia 가 4가 2 Zr-U  
1500 100 1.8, 3.6, 5.4 10.8 /min  
XRD (X-ray diffraction)  
SEM (scanning electron microscope)

3.

3.1. Zr-U

3 Zr U / /  
1500 2  
4 1500 2 U-Zr XRD  
pattern  $\alpha$ -Zr (hcp, a=0.3232 nm, c=0.5147 nm)  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub>  
(hcp, a=0.3080 nm, c=0.5030 nm) U  
가 U 가 U  
1500 2  
5 U-Zr [13]. 60  
wt% Zr 40wt%U  $\alpha$ -Zr  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> ,  $\alpha$ -Zr

10%  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub> 90%  
 1500  $\beta$ -Zr  
 606  $\gamma$ -U  $\beta$ -Zr  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub>  $\alpha$ -Zr 가

3.2. 가 Zr-U  
 6 Zr-U Zr-U  $\delta$ -UZr<sub>2</sub>  
 $\alpha$ -Zr  $\alpha$ -Zr 가 가  
 10.8 /min (6a).  $\alpha$ -Zr  $\alpha$ -Zr 가 lath ,  
 $\alpha$ -Zr ( lath bulky bulky Zr-rich 가  
 ( 6b). 가 1.8 /min 가 bulky 가 가

Zr Zr , 가 Zr

bulky 7 Zr-U 가 가 Zr U 가  
 Zr-U 가 가

8 Zr-U 가 가 가 가  
 가 Zr-U 가 가  $\alpha$ -Zr annealing 가 가

3.3. Zr-U 9 Zr-U Zr 가 Zr

1.8 /min 가 base plate Zr Zr 가  
 ( 9a). Zr Zr  $\gamma$

$\delta$  Zr  $\delta$  Zr Zr 606 [14].  
 Zr 가 가 plate

가 가 Zr Zr  
 가 10.8 /min ( 9d). Zr Zr  
 가 가 Zr Zr

Zr-U

4.

Zr (60 wt.%) - U (40 wt.%)  
 가 Zr-U (50 g) 가  
 가 가 δ-UZr<sub>2</sub> α-Zr lath  
 , 가 δ-UZr<sub>2</sub> α-Zr bulky 가  
 α-Zr , 가  
 α-Zr , 가  
 α-Zr Zr U  
 (β-Zr) , 606  
 δ-UZr<sub>2</sub> α-Zr Zr α-  
 Zr 606  
 가 α-Zr

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Table 1. Chemical composition of Zr-powder

Zr	H (max.)	O (max.)	N (max.)	Hf	Fe	Al	Cl
Bal.	100	4000	700	100	205	14	80

(ppm)

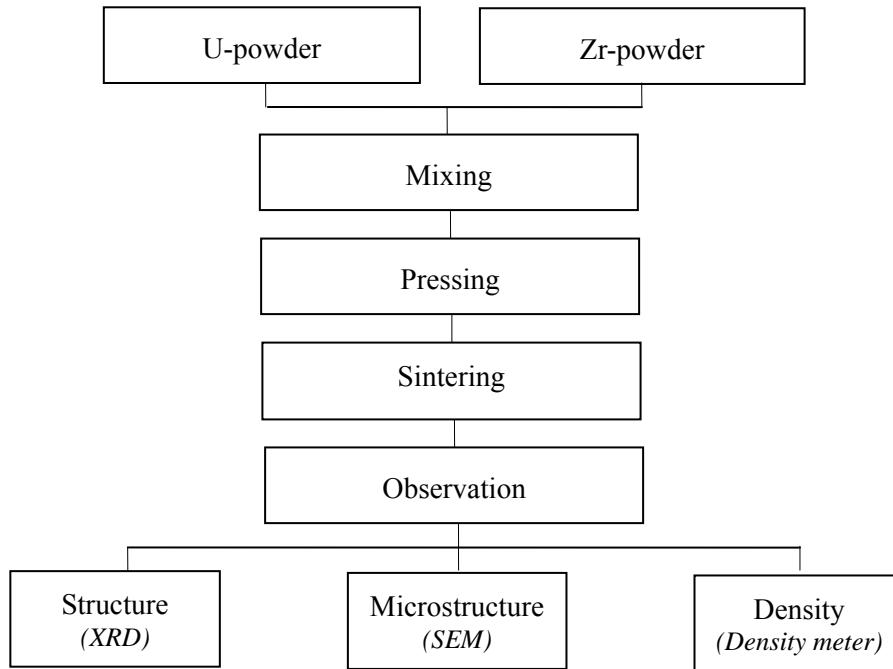


Fig. 1. Experimental procedures on the preparation and observation of the sintered Zr-U alloys.

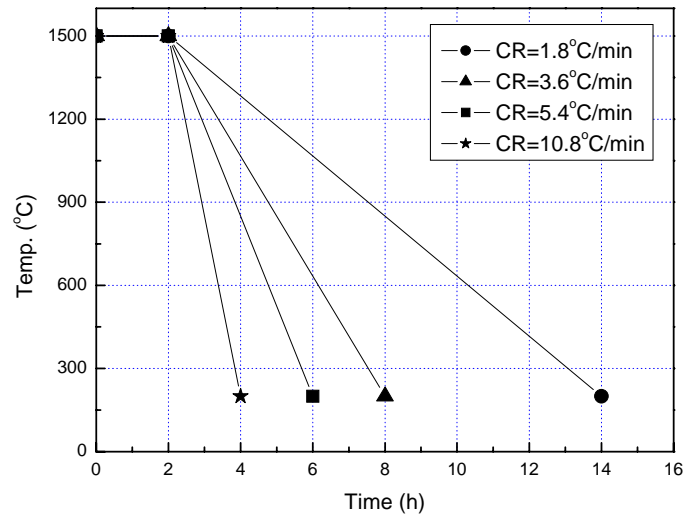


Fig. 2. Cooling rates after holding at 1500 for 2 hours.



Fig. 3. Zr-U alloy sintered at 1500°C in high vacuum for 2 hours.

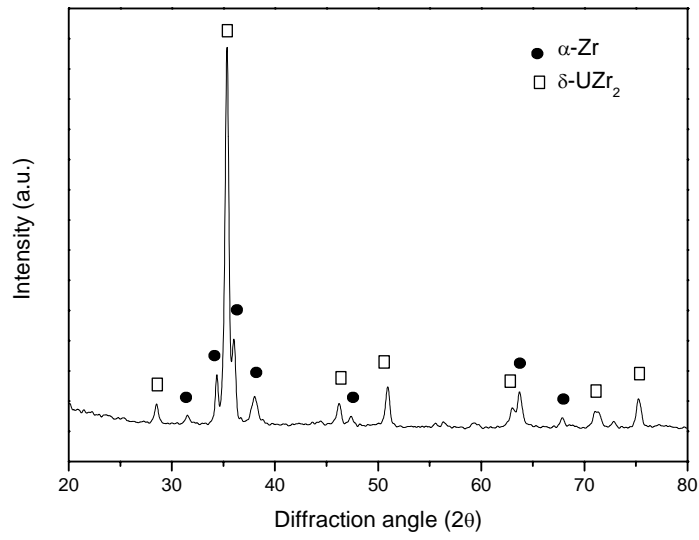


Fig. 4. X-ray diffraction pattern on the sintered U-Zr alloy.

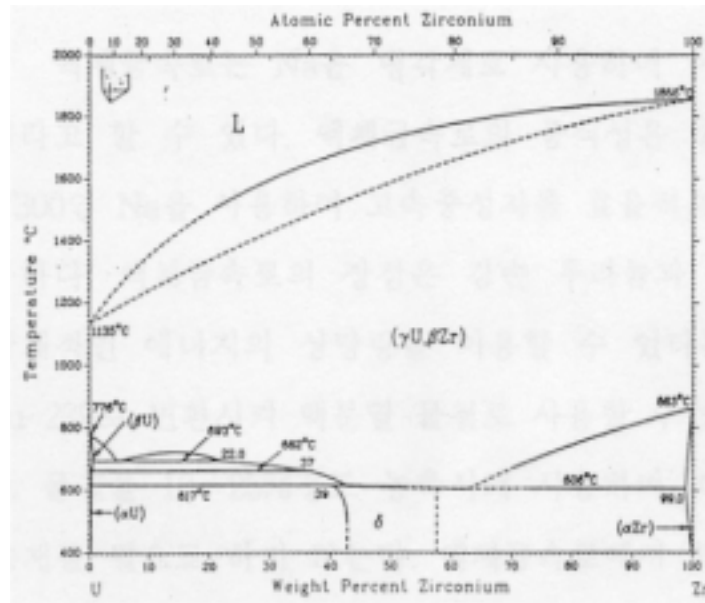


Fig. 5. Equilibrium phase diagram of Zr-U binary system [13].



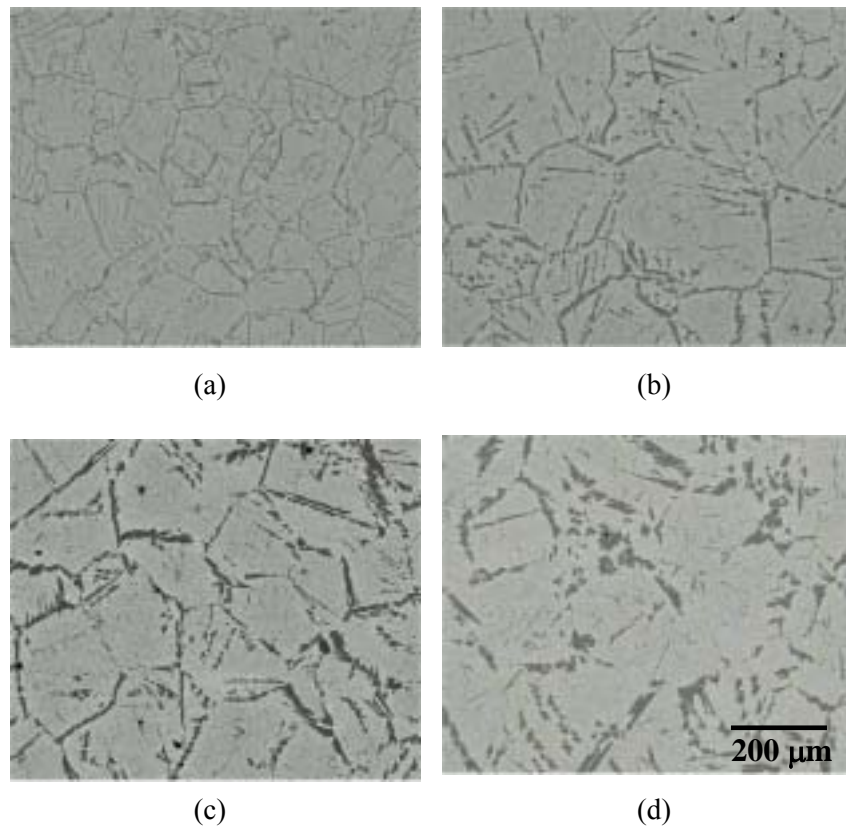


Fig. 6. Microstructures of Zr-U alloys with cooling rates of (a) 10.8, (b) 5.4, (c) 3.6 and (d) 1.8 °C/min after sintering at 1500°C for 2 hours.

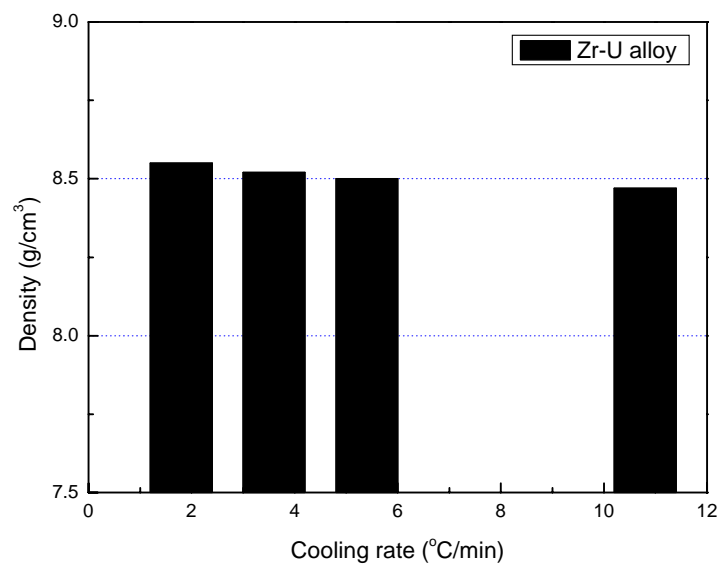


Fig. 7. Effects of cooling rate on the density of sintered Zr-U alloys.

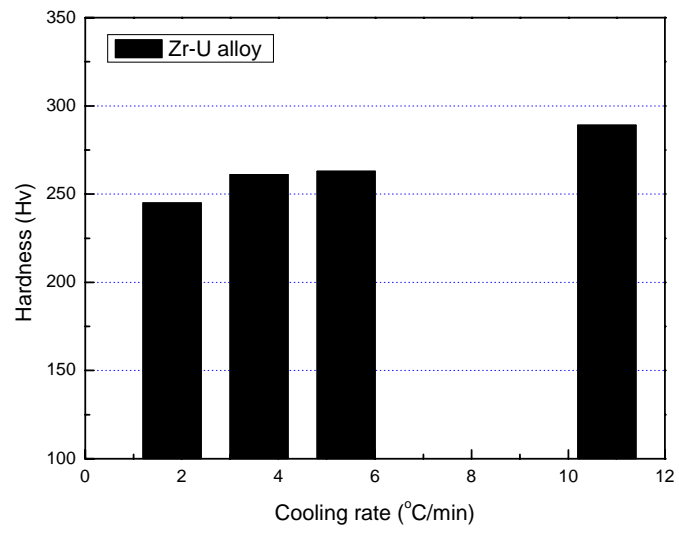


Fig. 8. Effects of cooling rate on the hardness of sintered Zr-U alloys.

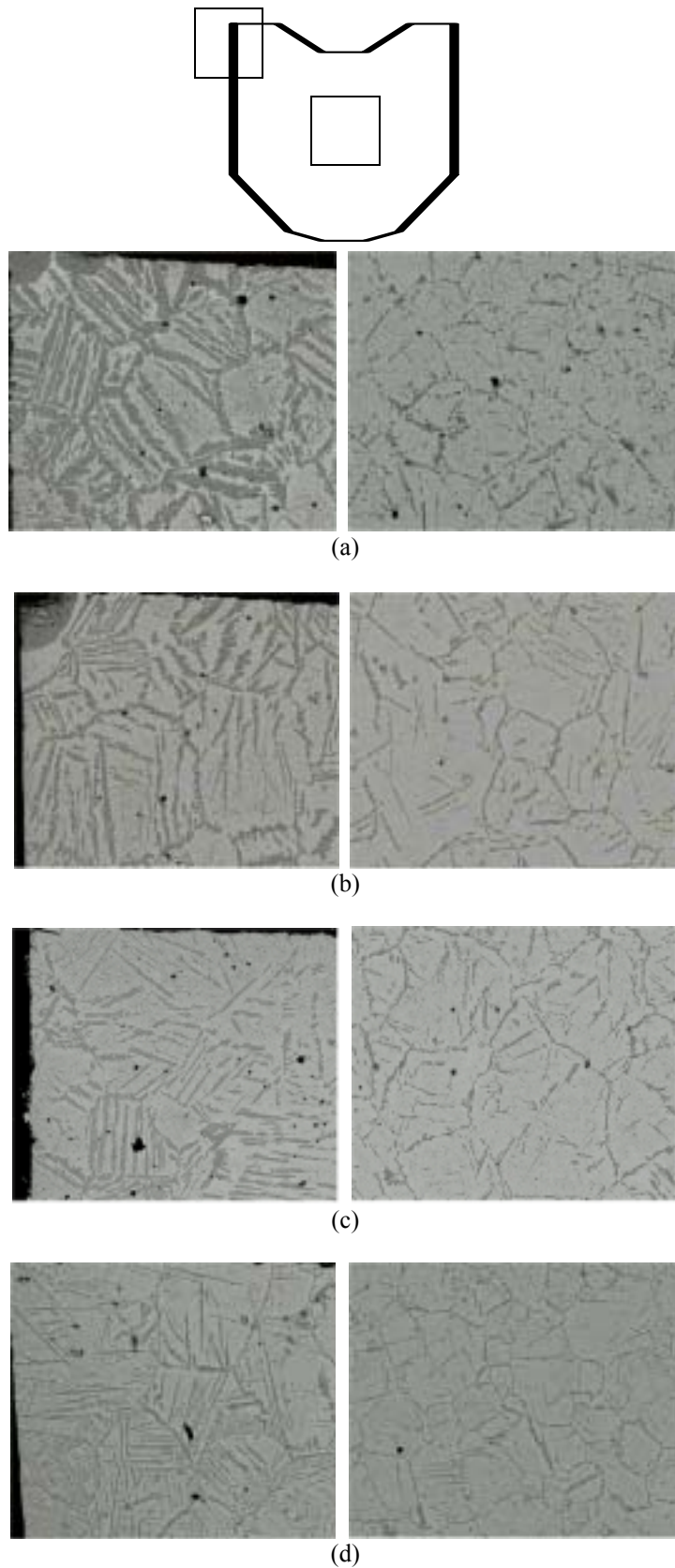


Fig. 9. Microstructures of sintered Zr-U alloys with cooling rates of (a) 1.8, (b) 3.6, (c) 5.4 and (d) 10.8 °C/min after sintering at 1500°C for 2 hours.