

Zr-2.5Nb

b-Zr

Behavior of b-Zr Decomposition and Diametral Creep of Zr-2.5Nb Pressure Tubes with Neutron Irradiation

150

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가 Zr-2.5Nb 가 가 ,
 10 가 inlet, middle outlet TEM β-Zr ,
 가 β-Zr off-cut .
 가 Zr-2.5Nb β-Zr 가 , 4
 가 Zr-2.5Nb β-Zr Nb 49-82 % 가 ,
 623-670 K 120 MPa β-Zr 가 β-Zr Nb 가
 Zr-2.5Nb , 가 Zr-2.5Nb

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to investigate the microstructural evolution of Zr-2.5Nb tubes with neutron fluence and temperature and its effect on the in-reactor creep of the Zr-2.5Nb tubes with the operational time. To this end, we investigated the phase decomposition of β-Zr with the elevation in a Zr-2.5Nb tube irradiated in the Wolsong Unit1 for a 10-year operation. To find out the effects of neutron fluence and temperature on the β-Zr decomposition, three tube rings that were taken from the inlet, middle and outlet parts of the irradiated tube were subjected to TEM analyses on thin foils and the carbon replicas with extracted particles along with the off-cut tube ring. Neutron irradiation suppressed the decomposition of β-Zr phase while a thermal effect speeds it up especially at the outlet part of the tube exposed to the highest channel temperature. To evaluate the effect of β-Zr decomposition on the creep of pressure tubes, supplementary creep tests were conducted at temperatures ranging from 623 to 673 K under 120 MPa on the Zr-2.5Nb sheets made with different Nb contents in the β-Zr phase from 49 to 82 %. A degree of decomposition of the β-Zr phase or the Nb content in the β-Zr phase governs the creep of the Zr-2.5Nb sheets. Based on these results, the acceleration of the in-reactor creep of the Zr-2.5Nb tubes is suggested after a long-term operation.

1.

가 Zr-2.5Nb delayed hydride cracking,
 (sag),
 [1-2]. hydride blister
 [3]. 가

Zr-2.5Nb 1

α -Zr β -Zr

가 α -Zr Nb β -Zr

Zr Nb 가 β -Nb [4]. β -Zr α -Zr

β -Nb 가

[5]. 1 Zr-2.5Nb 가 Zr-2.5Nb

β -Zr 가

가

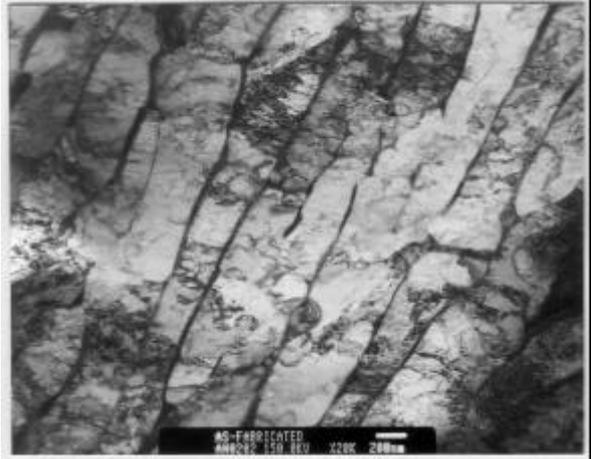


Fig. 1. Initial Microstructure of a Zr-2.5Nb tube operating in the Wolsong Unit 1 (Before Irradiation).

2.

1 10 off-cut

가

inlet, middle outlet 170 mm ring

β -Zr (phase decomposition) 3 ring

275.4 to 302.1 °C, 6.84×10^{21} to 8.9×10^{21} n/cm² (E>1MeV)

(1). β -Zr 가 , β -Zr Nb 가

: TEM α -Zr β -Zr Nb

carbon replicas carbon

SADP (Selected area diffraction pattern) Nb

가 β -Zr Nb , Zr-2.5Nb 4

β -Zr β -Zr Nb , Zr-2.5Nb 가 (2) [6].

Zr-2.5Nb β -Zr Nb carbon replicas β -Zr EDS

25 mm

, 623-673 K 120-150 MPa

Table 1. Operating conditions of the examined tube.

Location	Distance from the Inlet (cm)	Temperature (°C)	Fast neutron fluence (E>1MeV) ($\times 10^{21}$ n/cm ²)
Inlet	173-190	275.4	7.66
Middle	266-283	285.5	8.91
Outlet	456-483	302.1	6.84

Table 2. Manufacturing processes to make Zr-2.5Nb sheets with different Nb contents in the β -Zr phase.

Process	P1	P2	P3	P4
Procedures	Ingot-homogenization treatment at 1323 K-hot rolling at 1132 K-final cold rolling (30%)-final anneal at 723 K for 24h	Ingot-homogenization treatment at 1323 K-hot rolling at 1132 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-homogenization 1132 K and water quench-final cold rolling (30%)-final anneal at 723 K for 24 h	Ingot-homogenization treatment at 1323 K-hot rolling at 843 K-intermediate anneal at 865 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-final cold rolling (50%)-final anneal at 723 K for 24 h	Ingot-homogenization treatment at 1323 K-hot rolling at 973 K-intermediate anneal at 953 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-cold rolling-intermediate anneal at 865 K-final cold rolling (50%)-final anneal at 723 K for 24 h

3.

1 1 10 Zr-2.5Nb β -Zr
 Griffiths 가 (Pickering) 2-12
 X-ray β -Zr β -Zr Nb
 Griffiths β -Zr flux 가 가 가 (inlet outlet)
 [7]. X-ray carbon
 replicas β -Zr , outlet
 β -Zr inlet outlet 가 가 β -Zr 가
 Carbon replicas β -Zr 가 가
 , β -Zr Nb 가

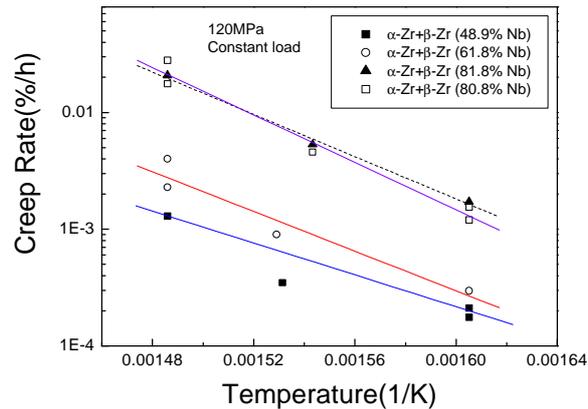
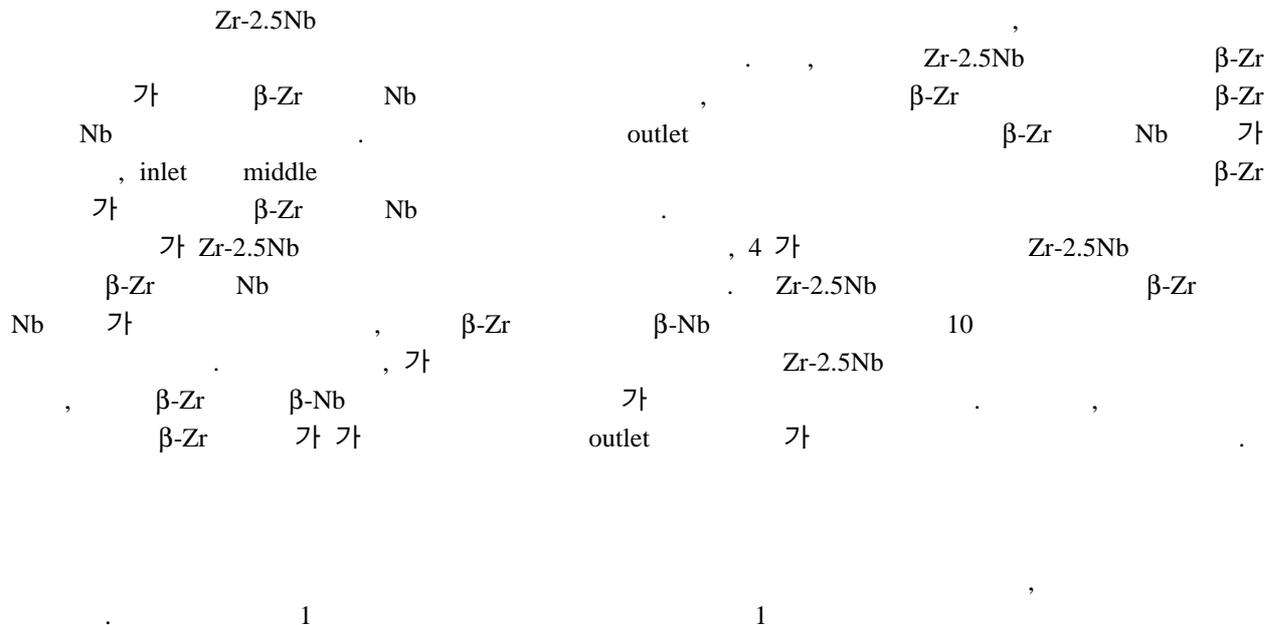


Fig. 3. Creep Rate of the Zr-2.5Nb sheets made with 4 different manufacturing processes under the applied stress of 120 MPa and temperatures of 350 to 400 °C.

4.



5.

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