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Multiscale thermomechanical approaches to SMA behaviour

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Abstract : This paper presents, in a synthetic way, several works performed on shape memory alloys (SMAs). Three scales of description are used according to whether one seeks to numerically predict the possible microstructural configurations of phases in equilibrium or the behavior of a mono- and polycrystal of SMA during a phase transition.

Keywords: SMA, phase transition, thermomechanical coupling, multiscaling.

1. INTRODUCTION

Shape memory alloys (SMAs) may undergo remarkable microstructural transformations: they may change the structure of their crystallographic lattice under mechanical and/or thermal loading. This transformation, called martensitic transformation, is displacive in the sense that it corresponds to a collective displacement of atoms. From a thermodynamic point of view, it belongs to the family of first order phase transitions insofar as it is accompanied by a latent heat of phase change. SMAs are being closely studied at the present time, for various reasons. From a fundamental point of view, researchers have found in the SMAs an amazing example of solid-solid phase transition, the domain of which is generally close to room temperature and thus is relatively easy to observe. From a more practical point of view, the number of industrial applications, using SMAs properties, grows day by day.

Three length scales can be introduced to study the SMA behaviour. The *microscopic* length scale corresponds to the crystal lattice, and is about several times the size of the unit cell; it can also be related to the *representative volume element* (RVE) of the continuous medium that is associated with the lattice. As for the *mesoscopic* and *macroscopic* length scales, they correspond to the RVEs of mono and polycrystal, respectively.

Since this transformation is able to generate a large variety of phase mixtures, some authors have systematically studied the possible microstructural arrangements (twinning) or rearrangement mechanisms due to straining (variants reorientation) when the material is in mechanical and thermodynamic equilibrium [Ball *et al.*, 1987].

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Others are interested in the phase transition itself and in its correlation with more macroscopic effects: pseudoelasticity, self-accommodation, one-way or two-way shape memory effects, aging, etc. They are many experimental tests, mathematical modelling or numerical works on these matters. Many of these studies are directly related to engineering purposes and industrial applications, [Patoor *et al.*, 1994].

This paper gathers and tries to synthesize the researches, performed by several teams at LMGC, which concern the thermomechanical behaviour of SMAs. In section 2 we recall the thermodynamic concepts and results used in this paper, then we will present investigations into the three scales of description. In section 3, following works of Ball and James, we show numerically computed examples of twinned microstructures. At this scale of description, the symmetries of the crystal lattice and the material frame-indifference principle will be invoked to introduce non-convex potentials having multiple wells. Section 4 will be devoted to research performed at the mesoscopic scale. Two examples of “micro-meso” passage will be pointed out ; they will be based on a (quasi)convexification procedure of the thermodynamic potential. The goal here will be the deduction, from microstructural considerations of section 3, of the properties of mesoscopic (quasi-convex) potentials. A third example, more inspired by experimental results obtained on monocrystalline samples, will deal with the pseudoelastic behaviour of SMAs. We will underline the strong coupling that represents the mechanism of phase change, and the important role played by the temperature variations, particularly those induced by the latent heat. This model of monocrystal will be used, in section 5, to numerically predict the behaviour of a set of grains considered as a RVE for the polycrystal. Comparisons between calculations and experiments will be shown, considering at the same time the mechanical, thermal, and energy aspects of the phase transition.

2. A CONVENIENT THERMOMECHANICAL FRAMEWORK

Currently many physicists or chemists like to introduce phase transitions as unstable thermodynamic phenomena [Kondepudi *et al.*, 1998]. The instability is in the sense defined by the Gibbs-Duhem criterion [Glansdorff *et al.*, 1971] and is invoked in a wide range of situations [Papon *et al.*, 1999]. Deduced from an analysis of the entropy source, the thermodynamic instability is related to a change of the convexity of the thermodynamic potentials and may consequently imply a non-monotonic mechanical behaviour. In such a context, the reversibility assumption is necessary to derive the famous equal-area rule due to Maxwell which enables us to determine the phase diagram. These ingredients have been widely exploited for describing the martensitic transformation [Müller *et al.*, 1991], [Abeyaratne *et al.*, 1993].

In what follows, we have chosen other ways for determining the microstructures corresponding to the possible phase mixtures at equilibrium or for introducing the phase change mechanisms in the constitutive equations. We will first assume that the phase transition is a quasi-static process possibly accompanied by irreversibilities. A convenient thermomechanical framework is the *Continuum Thermodynamics* [Germain,

1973] that postulates the local state axiom. More particularly, we will use the formalism of generalised standard materials [Germain *et al.*, 1983] for which the constitutive equations can be derived from a thermodynamic potential and a dissipation potential. The interest of modelling phase transition into such a framework is at least twofold. Theoretically, it gives a convenient mathematically consistent background to predict phase change for any thermomechanical loading. In other words, it is able to include, in the same model phase diagram, properties and kinetics of phase change induced by stress and/or temperature variations. Of course, when only stable equilibrium states of phase mixture are considered, the dissipation potential is no longer necessary and a thermostatic framework is sufficient. Experimentally, energy balance construction facilitates the interpretation of thermal and calorimetric phenomena accompanying the phase change. Besides, it leads to a better understanding of certain pseudoelastic effects such as the hysteresis loops of the stress-strain curves [Chrysochoos *et al.*, 1993].

To describe the martensitic transformation at meso or macrolevel, the following variables are often chosen to characterise the thermodynamic state of each volume element : T the absolute temperature, ε a strain tensor and x_1, \dots, x_n , n variables describing the phase mixture.

If W denotes the specific Helmholtz free energy, the Clausius-Duhem inequality defines the intrinsic dissipation d_1 and the thermal dissipation d_2 , both supposed to be separately positive :

$$\begin{cases} d_1 = \sigma : D - \rho W_{,\varepsilon} : \dot{\varepsilon} - \rho W_{,x_i} \dot{x}_i \geq 0 \\ d_2 = -\frac{q}{T} \cdot \text{grad}T \geq 0 \end{cases},$$

where σ is the Cauchy stress tensor, D the Eulerian strain rate tensor, ρ the mass density, and q the heat influx vector. The dot stands for the material time derivative.

The equality $d = d_1 + d_2 = 0$ characterises reversible thermodynamic processes.

The intrinsic dissipation per unit volume d_1 is the difference between the inelastic energy rate $w'_{in} = \sigma : D - \rho W_{,\varepsilon} : \dot{\varepsilon}$ and the stored energy rate $w'_s = \rho W_{,x_i} \dot{x}_i$. Deduced from both principles of thermodynamics, the local heat conduction equation is

$$\rho C_{\varepsilon,x} \dot{T} + \text{div} q = d_1 + \rho T W_{,T,\varepsilon} : \dot{\varepsilon} + \rho T W_{,T,x_i} \dot{x}_i + r_e,$$

where $C_{\varepsilon,x}$ denotes the specific heat capacity at constant ε and $(x_i)_{i=1,n}$, while r_e stands for the external heat supply. The intrinsic dissipation d_1 , the thermoelastic coupling term $\rho T W_{,T,\varepsilon} : \dot{\varepsilon}$ and the rate of latent heat $\rho T W_{,T,x_i} \dot{x}_i$ have been collected in the right hand member of the heat equation. Taking into account an isotropic conduction of heat ($q = -k \text{grad}T$), we underline that the left hand side becomes a partial derivative operator applied to the temperature. This property has been experimentally used to deduce the distribution of heat sources w'_{ch} from temperature charts by the use of infrared techniques [Chrysochoos *et al.*, 2000]. The volume heat source is defined by the equation :

$$w'_{ch} = d_1 + \rho T W_{,T,\varepsilon} : \dot{\varepsilon} + \rho T W_{,T,x_i} \dot{x}_i.$$

We emphasise that the rate of latent heat is here defined as the heat source related to the thermomechanical couplings between temperature and state variables characterising the phase mixture. An interesting property can be directly derived from the energy balance when a mechanical hysteresis loop is associated with a thermodynamic cycle of duration C . In [Peyroux *et al.*, 1998], we showed that :

$$A_h = \oint_C \sigma : D \, dt = \oint_C w'_{ch} \, dt,$$

where A_h is the energy associated with the hysteresis area. This result shows that the presence of a mechanical hysteresis is not only due to dissipative effects, but also to thermomechanical coupling mechanisms. The experimental investigations confirmed the main role played by the temperature on the mechanical behaviour [Chrysochoos *et al.*, 1995]. In fact, even during quasi-static loading, the temperature variations induced by the latent heat are of the same order of magnitude as the transition domain “width”. Consequently, we emphasized that these variations strongly modify the kinetics of an apparent stress-induced phase change and we claimed that the transformation is to be considered *a priori* as an anisothermal process. The thermomechanical couplings and the heat diffusion generate a time-dependence on SMA behaviour, to which we will return in the last sections of this paper.

3. ATTEMPTS AT MULTISCALE MODELLING

3.1. Microscopic scale

3.1.1. A variational model for microstructures

A neat description, which has its origins in the work of J. L. Ericksen, can be found in [Ball *et al.*, 1987], [Ball *et al.*, 1992], [James *et al.*, 1989] and roughly summarized as follows. Under the Cauchy and Born rule [Ericksen, 1984], an abstract continuous medium is associated with the crystalline lattice. This medium is assumed to be thermoelastic. In the framework of the finite transformations, the free energy density function W depends on the temperature T and on the gradient of deformation F . This density function inherits some properties of a crystalline lattice encountering phase transitions:

i) W is frame indifferent:

$$W(QF, T) = W(F, T), \forall (Q, F, T) \in O_3^+ \times M_3^+ \times R^+,$$

O_3^+ is the set of all rotations, M_3^+ the set of all square matrices of order 3 with positive determinant,

ii) W has a finite number of potential wells:

at each T , there exists a finite number $m(T)$ of symmetric, positive definite matrices of order 3, $U_i(T), i = 1, m$, such that the minimizers of $W(., T)$ are the orbits $O_3^+ U_i(T), i = 1, m$. For instance « at each temperature greater than T_c , the minimizers of

$W(\cdot, T)$ are $O_3^+ U_A(T)$ corresponds to the existence of the austenite state at a temperature greater than the transition temperature T_c . While « at each temperature lower than T_c , the minimizers of $W(\cdot, T)$ are $O_3^+ U_{M_i}(T)$, $i=1, k$ » corresponds to the existence, at each temperature below T_c , of the martensite state which appears in k *variants*, k being the index of the symmetry group of the martensite lattice in the symmetry group of the austenite lattice. Of course, the minimizers of $W(\cdot, T_c)$ are the $k+1$ orbits $O_3^+ U_A(T)$, $O_3^+ U_{M_i}(T)$, $i=1, k$.

Finding stable equilibrium configurations of a piece of monocrystal at a *uniform* temperature T , with for instance a displacement boundary condition on its whole boundary, leads to the determination of the exact minimizers of the total energy

$$I(\varphi) = \int_{\Omega} W(\nabla\varphi(x)) dx$$

on the reference configuration $\bar{\Omega}$ for all admissible deformations φ . Here, the temperature acts as a parameter, thus the variable T is, from now on, omitted in this section. In many situations, because of the numerous potential wells, the previous problem has no solutions. The (weak) limits of the minimizing sequences of I do not minimize I , and they have to develop finer and finer oscillations. The fact that these spatial oscillations correspond to the observed microstructures is the basic assumption of this theory.

Our own contribution is confined to the determination of microstructures by *numerical* energy minimization. The aim of our numerical experiments is to check if minimizers of the discrete problems, which always exist, account for the microstructures. We denote by Y the microscopic domain of observation, and F the mesoscopic gradient of deformation (i. e. the average on Y of the microscopic gradient of deformation).

3.1.2. Numerical experiments at microscale

In contrast with most previous computations [Collins, 1993] we do not use, in this part, either finite elements or gradient-like algorithms, but a method using a trigonometric interpolation and a decoupling of the deformation fields from their gradients. Saddle points of an augmented Lagrangian:

$$L(\varphi, q; \lambda) = \int_{\Omega} \left\{ W(q) + \lambda : (\nabla\varphi - q) + \frac{r}{2} |\nabla\varphi - q|^2 \right\} dx, \quad r > 0$$

are obtained by an Uzawa algorithm:

$$L(\varphi^{n+1}, q^{n+1}; \lambda^n) \leq L(\varphi, q; \lambda^n) \text{ and } \lambda^{n+1} = \lambda^n + r(\nabla\varphi^{n+1} - q^{n+1}).$$

This method is worthwhile, since a step of a relaxation procedure to minimize $L(\cdot, \cdot; \lambda^n)$ involves a global linear problem of Laplace type, and *local* nonlinear problems of minimization of a quadratic perturbation of W in a suitable set of matrices. Moreover, to compute the microstructures, we take advantage of being free to choose the domain of

computation and, to a certain extent, the boundary conditions. With Y cubic and a boundary condition of place, we can use a trigonometric interpolation on a grid of order N , rather than finite elements. This method avoids storing a stiffness matrix and the fast Fourier transform algorithm (FFT) is faster than solving the linear system involved by finite elements.

For our numerical two-dimensional experiments [Licht, 97] we have chosen an Ericksen-like energy density function [Collins, 93]:

$$W(F) = \tilde{W}(C), \quad C = F^T F$$

$$\tilde{W}(C) = k_1 [\text{tr} C - 2 - \delta^2]^2 + k_2 [C_{12}^2 - \delta^2]^2 + k_3 [C_{11} - C_{22} - \delta^2]^2, \quad k_1, k_2, k_3, \delta > 0.$$

If $F = xS^+ + (1-x)S^-$, $0 < x < 1$, $S^\pm = I \pm \delta e_2 \otimes e_1$, the microstructure is *unique* [Ball *et al.*, 92] and is a single twinned laminate orthogonal to e_1 with phases corresponding to the wells S^+ , S^- in proportions x , $1-x$. Thus a *valuable* test of this numerical method is to check if minimizers φ_N of the discretized problem account for this microstructure.

Figures 1a (resp.1b) displays $\psi(\nabla\varphi_N)$ for the case $x = 1/3$ and $N=16$ (resp. $N=32$) where, as proposed by [Collins, 93],

$$\psi(F) = \left| F^T F - (U^+)^2 \right| / \left(\left| F^T F - (U^+)^2 \right| + \left| F^T F - (U^-)^2 \right| \right).$$

Except of course in the vicinity of ∂Y , where φ_N must satisfy the boundary condition $\varphi_N(y) = Fy$, $\nabla\varphi_N$ essentially takes the values S^+ and S^- in vertical layers in proportions x and $(1-x)$. Whereas φ_N depends strongly on N , the distribution of the values of $\nabla\varphi_N$ does not.

Thus, our numerical method gives the microstructure on the scale of the grid, but these nice results were obtained through initial fields with oscillations of the same wavelength as the expected microstructure. Random initialization (Fig.1c) gives a less regular distribution of S^+ and S^- , but the horizontal proportions are still about x and $(1-x)$. Even with slowly decreasing random perturbation of the updating of the multiplier λ , we did not succeed in avoiding this kind of local minimum (Fig.1d), however the average proportions of the *vertical layers* are x and $(1-x)$. Figures 1e-1h concern the case in which $x = 1/2$ and S^\pm are replaced by $S^\pm R$, $R \in O_3^+$. When $R^T e_1$ is compatible with the grid, twinning is once more obtained.

Nevertheless trigonometric interpolation seems more flexible than piecewise affine finite elements for capturing slanting oscillations, because of the Hadamard jump condition. But as in [Collins, 93], we never succeeded in trapping laminates of order two (layers within layers)!

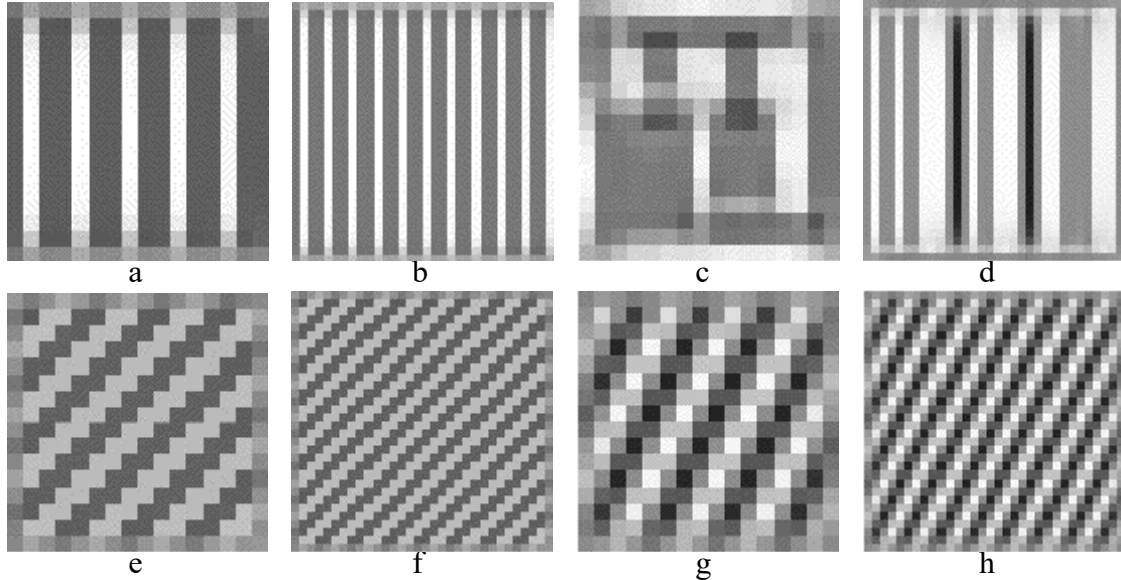


Figure 1 ; Examples of microstructures

Similar results may be obtained with a more rudimentary model in the context of small perturbations. Frémond's model may be related to the Khachatryan-Roytburd-Shalotov theory; Kohn [Kohn, 1991] showed that this last theory is the geometrically linear analogue of the one developed by Ball and James in the context of finite deformations [Ball *et al.*,1992]. The free energy density function is then a function of the small strain tensor ε . The frequency of the oscillations of the layered microstructure depends on the mesh. Due to the choice of the residual stress tensor (introduced below) $\alpha \tau$ parallel to I , the orientation of the microstructure is arbitrary [Pagano, 1998].

3.2 Mesoscopic scale

3.2.1 Quasiconvexification and scale transition

If the material is assumed to be non dissipative, a first proposal for the mesoscopic strain energy density function is the quasiconvexification of the microscopic density function. The justification for this rests on the mechanical interpretation of two mathematical properties of the minimizing sequences of the total energy that were invoked in section 3.1.1, [Dacarogna, 82]. First their (weak) limits describe the average, say *mesoscopic*, state of a grain due to the convergence of the gradient averages in every subdomain. Next, these limits do not minimize the true total energy, but a total energy whose density is the quasiconvexification QW of the true density W :

$$QW(F) = \text{Inf} \left\{ \frac{1}{|Y|} \int_Y W(F + \nabla u(y)) dy, u = 0 \text{ on } \partial Y \right\},$$

$QW(F)$ is the infimum of the average of the strain energy for deformations whose average gradient is F . Thus the mesoscopic behavior of the monocrystal is not described

by the true (microscopic) energy density function W but by an *apparent* density QW . The main difficulty with this approach is the computation of QW . Another approach is to propose a strain energy density W through phenomenological considerations and to check if it is quasiconvex (i. e. $W = QW$!).

3.2.2 An academic two-phase phenomenological modeling

Many phenomenological models of two-phase shape memory material incorporate a so-called interaction term $W^I = h x(1-x)$ in the free energy; x is a phase proportion and h a non-negative function of the temperature. Thus, if the material is assumed to be non-dissipative, the strain energy is not a convex function of the linearized strain ε . This lack of convexity generates controversies which may lead to a rejection of the previous structure of W^I ; we showed [Licht, 2000] that *if h is not too large* the previous structure provides a *good* model.

We confine our attention to the case of two linearly thermoelastic phases with different stress-free strains a_i but with the same elastic stiffness A ; the *energy density function of each phase* is

$$W^i(\varepsilon, T) = \frac{1}{2} A(\varepsilon - a_i(T)) : (\varepsilon - a_i(T)) + w_i(T),$$

and a common proposal for a family of free energies and strain energies of the mixture is

$$W_h(\varepsilon, x, T) = \frac{1}{2} A(\varepsilon - a_x) : (\varepsilon - a_x) + w_x + h x(1-x),$$

$$\bar{W}_h(\varepsilon, T) = \text{Min}\{W_h(\varepsilon, x, T), 0 \leq x \leq 1\},$$

a_x (resp. w_x) is the convex combination in proportions x and $(1-x)$ of a_i (resp. w_i).

Let $H = \text{Min}\left\{\frac{1}{2} A(a-z) : (a-z), z = k \otimes_s v, k, v \in R^3\right\}$, $a = a_2 - a_1$.

Through Fourier analysis as in [Kohn, 91], it can be shown that

$$\bar{W}_h(\varepsilon, T) \text{ is convex if and only if } h \leq 0,$$

$$\bar{W}_h(\varepsilon, T) \text{ is not convex but quasiconvex if and only if } 0 < h \leq H,$$

$$\bar{W}_h(\varepsilon, T) \text{ is not quasiconvex if and only if } H < h.$$

Of course the second case does not occur if $H=0$, that is to say, if the stress-free strains are compatible. Thus the good range for h (\bar{W}_h quasiconvex or convex) depends strongly on the compatibility of the a_i . On the other hand, incorporating a term like W^i in a more rational definition of the macroscopic energy of a mixture like

$$\text{Inf} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{|Y|} \int_Y \left\{ \chi(y) W^1(e(u(y))) + (1-\chi(y)) W^2(e(u(y))) \right\} dy, \\ \chi \text{ characteristic function, } \int_Y \chi(y) dy = x|Y| \text{ and } u(y) = \varepsilon y \text{ on } \partial Y; e = \nabla_s u \end{array} \right\},$$

yields a free energy equal to W_{H+h} . Thus quasiconvexity of \underline{W}_{H+h} implies $h \leq 0$ which agrees with a proposal by [James *et al.*, 1993] for mismatch energy.

Moreover, if $0 < h \leq H$, the function $\underline{W}_h(\cdot, T) - \Sigma : \cdot$ has a double-well structure for suitable Σ , so that the total mechanical energy of a body subjected to a uniform surface loading may have two strong local minimizers. Thus in some displacement-controlled tests, a negative slope of the stress-strain response curve of a specimen can be observed, while in some load-controlled test a kind of hysteresis occurs.

We also proved that approximations of the previous local minimizers can be obtained by classical finite element methods.

3.2.3 D. C. algorithm: a convenient numerical tool

The previous approach may be extended to a three phase mixture, as is usual for some models of SMAs with an austenitic phase (proportion x_0) and two variants of martensite (proportions x_- and x_+). We assume that the stress-free strain of the austenite is zero ($a_0 = 0$) and the stress-free strains of the martensites are opposite ($a_- = -a$ and $a_+ = a$). Similarly the term $w_-(T)$ is equal to $w_+(T)$ and we define $c(T) = w_+(T) - w_0(T)$. To relate this formulation with others ([Frémond, 1987, Raniecki *et al.*, 1992]), it is useful to introduce a residual stress tensor τ and to express the stress-free strain with respect to it, to the elastic tensor A and a scalar function $\alpha(T)$ of the temperature: $a = \alpha A^{-1} \tau$. We have then 3 interaction terms between 2 phases, h_{0-} , h_{0+} and h_{-+} . But it seems natural enough to suppose that $h_{0-} = h_{0+} = h_0$. By choosing $h_+ = 4h_0 = 2G$ [Leclercq *et al.*, 1996, Pagano *et al.*, 1999], the previous analysis about a two-phase mixture is preserved and the convexity and quasiconvexity properties may be recovered with respect to the single parameter G . Consequently, a family of free energies of the mixture may be expressed as follows:

$$W_G(\varepsilon, x, T) = \frac{1}{2} A(\varepsilon - a_x) : (\varepsilon - a_x) + w_x + h(x_+ - x_-)^2,$$

where

$$a_x = a_x(T) = (x_+ - x_-) \alpha A^{-1} \tau, \quad h = h(T) = \frac{1}{2} (G(T) - \alpha(T)^2 \tau : A^{-1} \tau).$$

Similarly to the 2-phase mixture, we can then distinguish 2 important values G_c and G_q which are determined according to our assumptions. For a bidimensional modeling, the isotropic elastic tensor (λ and μ the Lamé coefficients) and $\tau = \text{diag}(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ we have,

$$G_c = \frac{-\alpha^2}{4\mu(\lambda + \mu)} \left[(\lambda + \mu) (\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2) - 2\lambda \tau_1 \tau_2 \right] \text{ and}$$

$$G_q = \begin{cases} G_c & \text{if } (\lambda + 2\mu)\tau_1 - \lambda\tau_2 < 0 \text{ and } \lambda\tau_1 - (\lambda + 2\mu)\tau_2 < 0 \\ \frac{-\alpha^2}{\lambda + \mu} \max(\tau_1^2, \tau_2^2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

by convexification and quasiconvexification of the bulk energy proposed by Frémond, which corresponds to G equal to zero [Frémond, 1987]. By neglecting dissipative effects, we define the bulk energy density as the marginal function of the free energy for all admissible volume proportions ($x=(x_+, x_-)$ belongs to the simplex C , $C = \left\{ 0 \leq x^\pm, x^+ + x^- \leq 1 \right\}$): $MW_G(\varepsilon, T) = \min\{W_G(\varepsilon, x, T); x \in C\}$.

This bulk energy density is then a three-well or a two-well potential with five or three regimes described below. For an efficient numerical treatment it is useful to split it into the difference between two convex functions [Pagano *et al.*, 1998]; the first is quadratic, represents the bulk energy density of the austenitic phase and does not depend on G :

$$MW_G(\varepsilon, T) = W_a(\varepsilon, T) - W_b(\varepsilon) \text{ with } W_a(\varepsilon, T) = W_0(\varepsilon, T) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon : A\varepsilon + w_0(T).$$

If $c > \frac{G}{2}$, the second convex function presents five regimes:

$$W_b(\varepsilon) = \begin{cases} -\alpha\tau : \varepsilon - c & \text{if } \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \leq -c - \frac{G}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2G} \left(\alpha\tau : \varepsilon + c - \frac{G}{2} \right)^2 & \text{if } -c - \frac{G}{2} \leq \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \leq -c + \frac{G}{2} \\ 0 & \text{if } \alpha|\tau : \varepsilon| \leq c - \frac{G}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2G} \left(\alpha\tau : \varepsilon - c + \frac{G}{2} \right)^2 & \text{if } c - \frac{G}{2} \leq \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \leq c + \frac{G}{2} \\ \alpha\tau : \varepsilon - c & \text{if } \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \geq c + \frac{G}{2} \end{cases}.$$

If $c \leq \frac{G}{2}$, we recover a two-well potential with three regimes:

$$W_b(\varepsilon) = \begin{cases} -\alpha\tau : \varepsilon - c & \text{if } \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \leq -G \\ \frac{1}{2G} (\alpha\tau : \varepsilon)^2 + c + \frac{G}{2} & \text{if } \alpha|\tau : \varepsilon| \leq G \\ \alpha\tau : \varepsilon - c & \text{if } \alpha\tau : \varepsilon \geq G \end{cases}.$$

To reproduce local instabilities inherent to phase transition [James, 1987, Zhong *et al.*, 1996], we search for only a local minimum of the total energy Π on a domain Ω which may still be split into two convex parts, including the bulk energy and the work of the external loading $l(v)$:

$$\Pi(v) = \phi_1(v) - (\phi_2 \circ \varepsilon)(v),$$

$$\phi_1(v) = \int_{\Omega} W_a(\varepsilon) dx - l(v) \text{ and } \phi_2(\varepsilon) = \int_{\Omega} W_b(\varepsilon) dx.$$

This decomposition leads us quite naturally to introduce a type II Lagrangian according to the terminology of Auchmuty [Auchmuty, 1989], depending on the Fenchel conjugate function of ϕ_2 , and associated with a min-min problem:

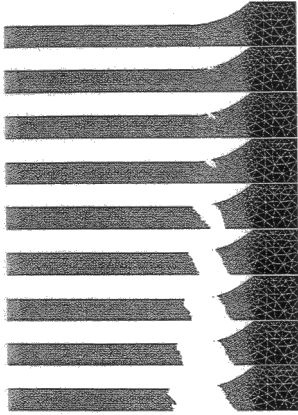
$$L_{II}(v, \tau_2) = \phi_1(v) + \phi_2^*(\tau_2) - \int_{\Omega} \tau_2 : \varepsilon(v) dx.$$

The D.C. algorithm [Stavroulakis *et al.*, 1993] consists in constructing a minimizing sequence of L_{II} descending, alternately, in the primal variable and the dual one.

D.C. algorithm: (u^0, σ_2^0) given, with $(u^{n-1}, \sigma_2^{n-1})$ known, determine successively u^n, σ_2^n as follows :

$$\text{Step 1: } L_{II}(u^{n-1}, \sigma_2^{n-1}) \leq L_{II}(v, \sigma_2^{n-1}), \forall v \in U_{ad},$$

$$\text{Step 2: } L_{II}(u^n, \sigma_2^n) \leq L_{II}(u^n, \tau_2), \forall \tau_2 \in U_{ad}.$$



As an example of application (figure 2), numerical simulations [Pagano *et al.*, 1999] on a tensile test showed a propagation of the phase transition initialized at the connection zone of the sample and spreading out over the gauge length in accordance with some recent experiments.

Figure 2 ; Evolution of phase transition during the loading

3.2.4 The phase change: a thermomechanical coupling mechanism

In a previous paragraph, we pointed out the properties of the quasiconvex energy QW . This energy was deduced from an analysis at a microscopic scale. Another way to identify the mesoscopic potential is based on experiments on monocrystalline samples. The phenomenological features we saw led us to consider a convex energy at this scale. The confrontation between the micro and meso approaches and the phenomenological one was profitable. In this section, we present the retained mesoscopic free energy $W(T, \varepsilon, x_k)$ and the derived constitutive equations of the monocrystal, in order properly to describe different phenomena such as pseudoelasticity, reorientation effect and thermomechanical couplings accompanying the phase change.

The experiments [Balandraud, 2000] were carried out on a monocrystalline CuZnAl specimen. First, uniaxial load-unload tests were performed in the “low temperature region” (typically 22°C). The apparent permanent strain observed in Figure 3 can be recovered by a heating-cooling process under zero stress. This effect, induced by martensite variant reorientation, leads us to consider, at low temperatures, a non-strictly convex property of the marginal energy :

$$\underline{W}(T, \varepsilon) = \underset{x_k}{\text{Min}} W(T, \varepsilon, x_k).$$

Note also that, once the reorientation strain is annealed, the stress, the strain and the temperature recover their initial values. Therefore, and from a thermomechanical point of view, we do not refer to plasticity to explain reorientation strain.

Another interesting test concerns pseudoelasticity. If the load-unload is imposed in the “high temperature region” (typically 30°C), we can observe (Figure 4a) a hysteresis loop in the strain-stress diagram that must be studied in the light of the thermodynamic framework presented in part 2. Moreover, temperature variations of the sample can be observed (Figure 4b) around the prescribed value (the temperature of the environmental chamber). These variations, though small, are induced by significant heat sources. Energy balance makes it possible to split the volume heat source w'_{ch} into a part due to dissipative effects and another one due to thermomechanical coupling mechanisms. In all the tests performed, the first part was always small compared to the second (<2%).

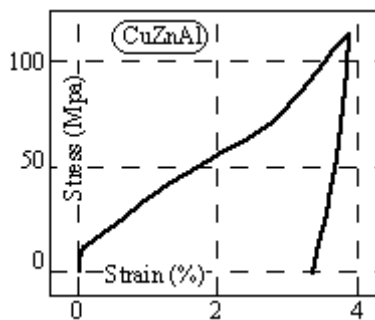


Figure 3 ; Stress-strain curve in a reorientation test

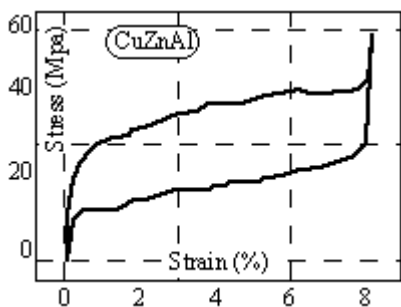


Figure 4a ; Stress-strain curve in a pseudoelastic test

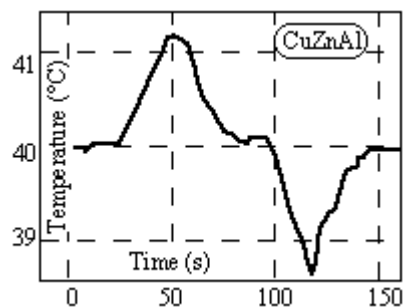


Figure 4b ; Temperature variation in a pseudoelastic test

Note that, for all uniaxial tests performed, we did not observe non-monotonous stress-strain curves. In all cases where non-monotonous load-displacement curves occurred, strain localization effects were seen (propagation of transformation band, [Wattrisse,1999, Balandraud, 2000]). All these remarks lead us to consider phase change in SMAs as an anisothermal process, and to use a quasiconvex energy density function. For the sake of simplicity and without any data on multiaxial behaviour, we chose a convex function to suitably describe the behaviour in terms of the kinetics of phase change. The retained free energy W is

$$W(T, \varepsilon, x) = W^{el}(T, \varepsilon, x) + W^{pc}(T, \varepsilon, x) + I_C(x).$$

Here I_C is the characteristic function of admissible values of x , and

$$W^{el}(T, \varepsilon, x) = \frac{1}{2} A (\varepsilon - \varepsilon^{pc}(x) - \alpha T) : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon^{pc}(x) - \alpha T) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\rho C}{T_0} + \alpha A \alpha \right) T^2,$$

where the subscript pc stands for phase change, and $\varepsilon^{pc}(x) = x_1 \beta^1 + x_2 \beta^2 + \dots + x_n \beta^n$.

The values β^k characterise the phase change strain associated with the variant k and derive directly from microscopic studies of the crystallographic lattice.

$$W^{pc} = \frac{L}{T_0} (T - T_A) (x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n),$$

with L the latent heat and T_0 the reference temperature.

Now, in the formalism of standard materials, a choice of a dissipation potential ϕ leads to complementary laws, and the writing of intrinsic dissipation gives the expression for the transition domain:

$$-A \left[\varepsilon - \alpha \theta - x_k \beta^k \right] : \beta^k + \rho \frac{L}{T_0} (T - T_A) \in -\rho \partial_{\dot{x}_k} \phi - \rho \partial_{x_k} I_C, \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

where $\partial_s f$ stands for the partial sub-differential of f with respect to s .

In the particular case of a zero dissipation potential ϕ , the last expression reduces to

$$-\sigma : \beta^k + \rho \frac{L}{T_0} (T - T_A) \in -\rho \partial_{x_k} I_C, \quad k = 1, \dots, n,$$

and represents the transition domain in a temperature-stress plane (T_A is the zero stress transition temperature). Figure 5 represents the numerical results obtained in a pseudoelastic test by using this model. The hysteresis loop is correctly predicted, and the temperature variations are consistent with experiment.

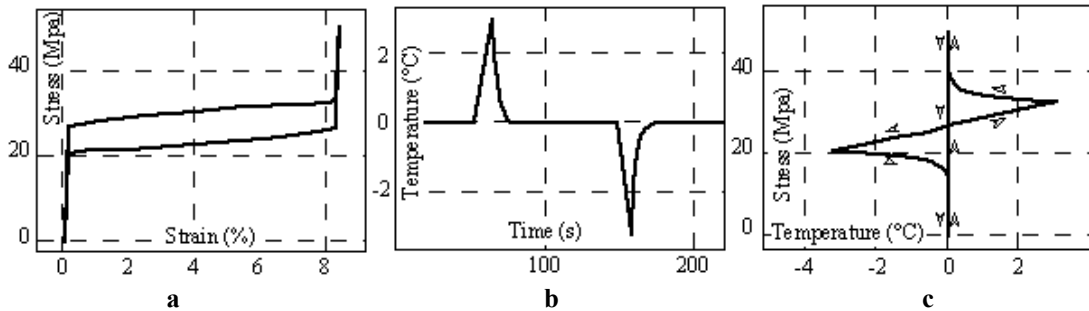


Figure 5; *a) hysteresis due to thermomechanical couplings, b) temperature variations due to “stress-induced” phase change, c) thermodynamic path in the phase diagram corresponding to the load-unload anisothermal cycle.*

Even if thermal effects due to dissipation are difficult to measure, it is legitimate to suppose that a slight irreversibility accompanies the phase change. To test the influence of slight dissipation, we chose

$$\phi(\dot{x}_1, \dot{x}_2, \dots, \dot{x}_n) = \frac{1}{2} K_v (\dot{x}_1^2 + \dot{x}_2^2 + \dots + \dot{x}_n^2).$$

The existence of terms in \dot{x}_k in the expression for the transition diagram expresses a dependence on the sense of transformation (M→A or A→M). Figure 6 shows that this slight dissipation has significant effects on the size of the hysteresis loop area, while the temperature evolutions with and without dissipation are hardly distinguishable.

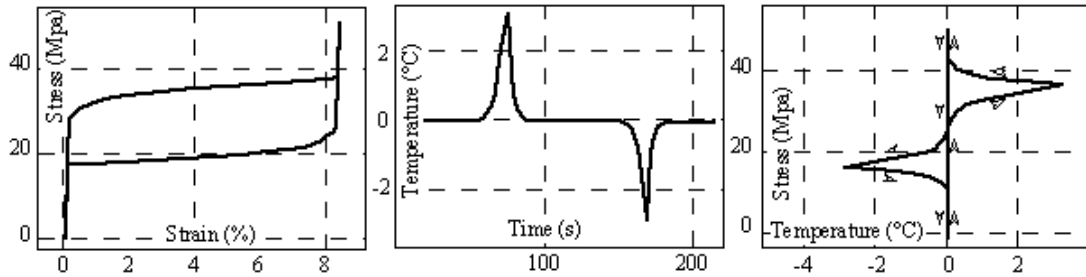


Figure 6; *a) hysteresis due to thermomechanical couplings and to a slight intrinsic dissipation, b) temperature variations due to a “stress-induced” dissipative phase change, c) corresponding path in the phase diagram.*

These constitutive equations and the heat equation have been included in a finite element program to simulate the fully coupled thermomechanical behavior of monocrystalline SMAs [Peyroux, 1998, Balandraud, 2000]. It allows a correct prediction of pseudoelasticity, reorientation effect and recovery strain, it predicts phenomena such as asymmetry in tension-compression tests, time effects due to heat diffusion, inducing “relaxation”.

3.3 Macroscopic scale; towards modeling of the polycrystal behaviour

3.3.1. Macroscopic variables

We now focus on the macroscopic behaviour of a SMA polycrystalline aggregate. We suppose that each grain behaves as a monocrystal, and the aim of this part is to derive the homogenized thermomechanical characteristics of the material.

The first assumption is that the macroscopic behavior can be derived from the thermomechanical response of a representative volume element (RVE). The observation of a polycrystalline sample by means of electronic and optical microscopy, allowed us to gather data on the crystallographic texture, the shape and the statistical representation of the grains in the RVE. (Figure 7)

In the following, we will consider that all the grains differ only by their crystallographic orientation.

It is established [Suquet, 1984] that for microscopic constitutive equations containing internal variables, “the homogenized law does not reduce to a single equation” on the macroscopic domain. “The knowledge of the macroscopic law requires as data the

(mesoscopic) state variables”. An alternative and pragmatic attitude is to link the macroscopic thermomechanical variables together, by prescribing thermomechanical loading and numerically solving the problems on the RVE. The RVE is considered as a virtual sample, and the finite element code as a virtual thermomechanical testing device.

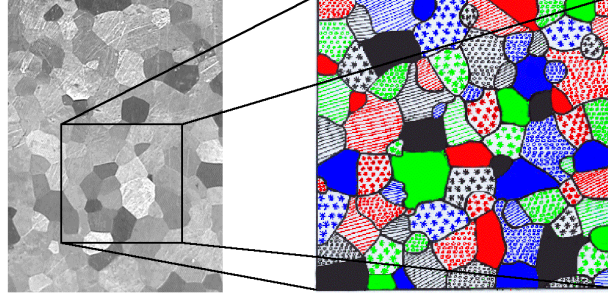


Figure 7; RVE of a polycrystalline sample of CuZnAl SMA obtained by image analysis; Different colors stand for different crystallographic orientations

The set of variables used at the mesoscopic level is (T, ε, x_k) , and additional variables such as the stress tensor σ or the heat influx vector q , can be deduced from the initial set owing to the transition diagram or the heat equation.

On the macroscopic level, we consider the classic and natural macroscopic strain and stress tensors E and Σ defined as average values of ε and σ :

$$E = \langle \varepsilon \rangle \text{ and } \Sigma = \langle \sigma \rangle.$$

At first we assume a quasi-homogeneous mesoscopic temperature field, the value of which is identified with the macroscopic temperature. Recall that the quasi-homogeneity of the temperature field does not imply the homogeneity of its gradient.

At this point E^{PC} , part of macroscopic strain due to phase change, is given by

$$E^{\text{PC}} = E - A^{-1}\Sigma - \alpha(T - T_0).$$

It remains to define X : macroscopic equivalence to the volume proportion of phase change. Deriving \bar{L} , macroscopic latent heat, from $\bar{\rho L} = \langle \rho L \rangle$, we can propose as a definition of X : $\bar{\rho L X} = \langle \rho L x \rangle$. This macroscopic proportion has to be regarded as an energy indicator of the advancement of phase change. The value of X is 0 if the polycrystal is completely austenitic, and 1 if completely martensitic. On the other hand a value between 0 and 1 can be reached under several microscopic configurations.

3.3.2 Some numerical results on the macroscopic behavior of a polycrystalline SMA

A convenient set of macroscopic variables being established, we present in this part some results of finite element simulations on the RVE.

First, we performed a so-called pseudoelasticity test consisting of a load-unload path at a room temperature upper than T_A and the different results are plotted in Figure 8. The imposed strain is increased from point a to point d , and maintained at a certain level

between points *b* and *c*. In the particular stage *bc*, we can observe the role played by the thermomechanical couplings. The material keeps on transforming (X increases), the stress relaxes while the temperature returns to the imposed value. Now, concerning the entire test, the evolution of the different variables is consistent with experimental results obtained on polycrystalline SMA. This macroscopic behaviour is of course different to the monocrystalline one and corresponds to the particular ordering of grains chosen in the RVE.

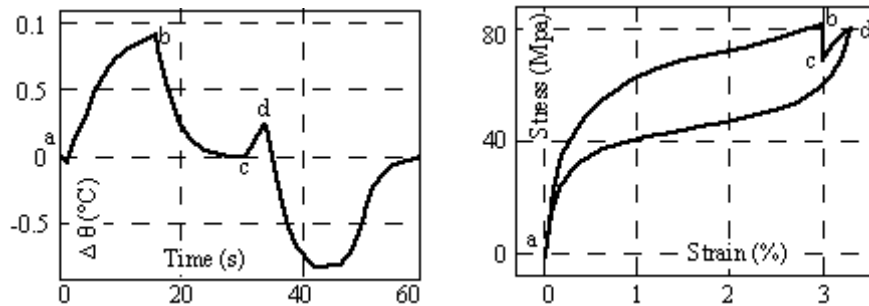


Figure 8; Pseudoelastic “numerical” test

From Figures 7 we can deduce some interesting points in the macroscopic transition domain. If we perform this analysis at several room temperatures, we obtain isovalues of transformation in the stress-temperature plane (Figure 9). An interesting result is that, according to the slope of the isovalues, it appears to be difficult to reach a complete transformation under reasonable stresses. In fact, some grains in the RVE have a non-compatible crystallographic orientation with respect to the imposed stress, while others transform easier. Note that taking into account a non zero dissipation leads to “moving lines” with regard to the direction of transformation.

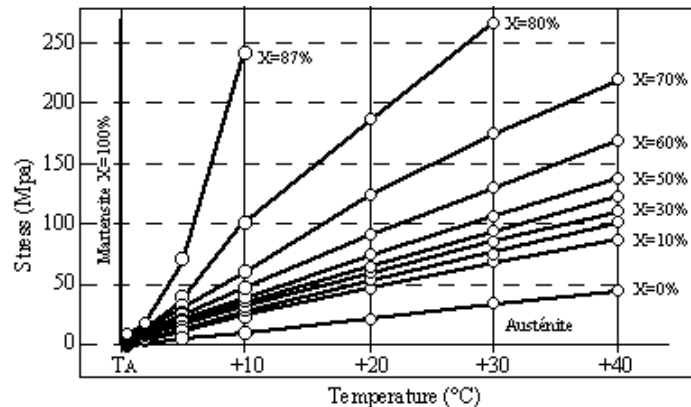


Figure 9 ; Phase diagram for uniaxial tension test performed ; $T \geq T_A$ and $d_I=0$.

The possibilities of this approach have been widely developed in [Balandraud, 2000]. For instance, low-temperature tests allowed determining the value of the macroscopic recoverable strain due to variants reorientation at zero-stress. This numerical tool could also be used to investigate multiaxial behavior of polycrystalline SMAs and to study the influence of various dissipation potentials. Finally, this approach giving access to

mesoscopic behaviour, the evolution of phase change in each grain might be soon correlated with optical observations to check the consistency of this multiscale modeling.

4. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

We have tried to present the different points of view developed at the LMGC concerning the understanding of the SMA behaviour. This variety of approaches comes from the different analysis methods and from the chosen scales of description. Even though certain theoretical concepts were borrowed from other works in the literature, all our approaches led to original numerical tools. From an experimental point of view, the LMGC has developed for more than ten years infrared image processing techniques allowing us to perform calorimetric balances. For of SMAs, these tools made it possible to observe the strong thermomechanical coupling that the martensite transformation represents. At meso and macroscopic scales, the experiments highlighted the quasi-static and slightly dissipative character of the kinetics of this solid-solid phase transition.

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