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공학박사 학위논문

Evolution of {100} texture induced by  
surface nucleation during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$   
phase transformation in electrical steel

전기강판 재료에서 감마  $\rightarrow$  알파 상변태를 이용한  
표면핵생성 및 {100} 집합조직 형성 연구

2023년 2월

서울대학교 대학원

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정 용 권

Evolution of {100} texture induced by  
surface nucleation during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$   
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이 논문을 공학박사 학위논문으로 제출함

2023년 2월

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# Abstract

## Evolution of $\{100\}$ texture induced by surface nucleation during $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$ phase transformation in electrical steel

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Previously, it was shown that the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture could be evolved when the specimen is under the appropriate stress during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation. Here the effect of the various process conditions on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was examined. The texture evolution was affected by the magnitude of tensile stress, the furnace atmosphere, the heat treatment time (or grain size) and the cooling rate. In Fe-1wt%Si, the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was 78.3% under the H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere with a flow rate of 1000 standard cubic centimeter per minute (sccm) whereas it was 16.2% under the N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere with a flow rate of 1000 sccm. The

marked decrease in the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture under the  $N_2$  atmosphere is believed to be related with the surface oxidation of the specimen. In Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni, the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was 8.9% when the specimen was heat treated at 1100 °C for 5 min whereas it increased to 66.0% when the specimen was heat treated for 6 h. This increase of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture is believed to be related with the increase in the grain size. Under the optimum processing condition, the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture could be increased to as high as 92.6% in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni.

In order to study the effect of the uniaxial compressive stress on the development of a cube-on-face texture, two sheet samples were heat treated with different positions to have a different self-load, resulting in a different stress. One specimen was heat treated at 1120 °C for 60 min with the broad face positioned horizontally to the specimen holder and the other specimen was heat treated with the broad face positioned vertically to the specimen holder with the other condition being the same. The former produced a weak  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, being only 30.9% whereas the latter produced a strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, being 81.1%. We found out that such a texture difference is related to the difference in the nucleation barrier coming from the stress disparity. Based on this understanding, specimens with a different percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture could be manufactured. The measurements of magnetic properties showed that the specimen with 78.4% of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and 3.2% of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  had  $B_{50} = 1.75$  and  $W_{15/50} =$

2.19, but the specimen with 0.7% of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and 81.3% of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  had  $B_{50} = 1.61$  and  $W_{15/50} = 2.50$ . The results show that the magnetic flux density of  $B_{50}$  was increased by 8.7% and the eddy current loss of  $W_{15/50}$  was decreased by 12.4% due to the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture.

**Keyword** : Electrical steel; Phase transformation; Cube-on-face;  $\{100\}$ ; Texture; Electron backscattering diffraction (EBSD)

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# Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Electrical steel & cube-on-face texture	
Chapter 2. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by tensile stress in Fe-1wt%Si.....	5
2.1. Experimental procedure	
2.2. Results	
2.3. Discussion	
Chapter 3. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by tensile stress in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni.....	22
3.1. Experimental procedure	
3.2. Results	
3.3. Discussion	
Chapter 4. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by compressive stress in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni.....	41
4.1. Experimental procedure	
4.2. Results and discussion	
Chapter 5. Conclusions.....	59

Bibliography.....60

Abstract in Korean.....63



## List of Figures

**Figure 2.1.** Schematics showing (a) the specimen suspended in the vertical tube furnace and (b) the numbered locations for EBSD analysis with their stress values indicated.

**Figure 2.2.** EBSD inverse pole figure normal direction (ND) maps of (a) position 1, (b) position 12 and (c) position 19 of Fe-1wt%Si in Fig. 2.1b heated for 5 min at 1100 °C. (d)–(f) are orientation distribution functions (ODFs) at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).

**Figure 2.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 1 of Fe-1wt%Si in Fig. 2.1b heated for 5 min at 1100 °C under the flowing gas of (a) H<sub>2</sub> 100 sccm and (b) N<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a) and (b).

**Figure 2.4.** Cross-sectional TEM images of Fe-1wt%Si heated for 5 min at 1100 °C under the flowing gas of (a) H<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm, (b) H<sub>2</sub> 100 sccm and (c) N<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm.

**Figure 3.1.** Schematics of the heat treatment in Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni with varying (a) holding time and (b) cooling rate.

**Figure 3.2.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 1 of Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b heated at 1100 °C for (a) 5 min, (b) 3 h and (c) 6 h. (d)–(f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).

**Figure 3.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 19 of Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b heated at 1100 °C for (a) 5 min, (b) 3 h and (c) 6 h. (d)–(f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).

**Figure 3.4.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of (a) position 1 and (b) position 19 of Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b cooled at 16.7 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a) and (b).

**Figure 3.5.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of (a) position 1 and (b) position 19 of Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b cooled at 0.1 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C. (c)–(d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section,

respectively, for (a) and (b).

**Figure 4.1.** Schematics showing how specimens were placed during heat treatment. The 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face of the specimens lay (a) horizontally and (b) vertically to the nickel plate.

**Figure 4.2.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying horizontally to the nickel plate, which were held at 1120 °C in H<sub>2</sub> for (a) 1 min, (b) 15 min, and (c) 60 min. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

**Figure 4.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying vertically to the nickel plate, which were held at 1120 °C in H<sub>2</sub> for (a) 1 min, (b) 15 min, and (c) 60 min. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

**Figure 4.4.** (a) The average grain size of  $\alpha$  varying with the holding time at 1120 °C for the specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying vertically (red circle) and horizontally (black square) to the

nickel plate. (b) Percentages of {100} (red triangle and rhombus) and {111} (blue circle and square) varying with annealing time. Solid and dashed lines represent the specimens with the 80 mm × 40 mm face, respectively, lying vertically and horizontally to the nickel plate.

**Figure 4.5.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens annealed at 700 °C for 60 min in H<sub>2</sub> with the 80 mm × 40 mm face lying (a) horizontally and (b) vertically to the nickel plate. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a) and (b), respectively.

**Figure 4.6.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens for measurement of magnetic properties. (a) 78.4%, (b) 35.6% and (c) 0.7% of {100}. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

# List of Tables

**Table 2.1.** Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , the average grain size of all grains and that of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe-1wt%Si heat treated for 5 min at 1100 °C.

**Table 3.1.** Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , the average grain size of all grains and that of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni heated for 5 min, 1 h, 3 h and 6 h at 1100 °C. (See Fig. 3.1a for the heating cycle)

**Table 3.2.** Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , the average grain size of all grains and that of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni heated for 6 h at 1100 °C. (See Fig. 3.1a for the heating cycle)

**Table 4.1.** Magnetic properties of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni alloys with a different texture.

# Chapter 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Electrical steel & cube-on-face texture

Electrical steel is divided into two kinds according to applications. One is grain-oriented electrical steel [GO], which is used for fixed applications such as transformers on the power pole. The other is non-oriented electrical steel [NO], which is used for rotating application such as an electric motor for automobile, generator and so on. In terms of energy efficiency, both GO and NO steels have the optimum orientation arrangement.  $\{110\}\langle 001\rangle$  and  $\{100\}\langle 0vw\rangle$ , which are called, respectively, a Goss texture and a cube-on-face texture, are optimal, respectively, for GO and NO steel [1].

The development of the strong Goss texture has been studied extensively [2–8] and well established now with the mass production for applications [9]. In comparison, the development of the cube-on-face texture has been studied only by a few, far from being in the production stage. The reason would be that there is no systematic and economic way to produce it. However, the vehicles run by the gasoline engine are being replaced by the motor-driven vehicles and in the near future all the vehicles will be replaced by motordriven ones. Therefore, the development of the energy

efficient motors becomes increasingly important. Here, the development of the cube-on-face electrical steel plays an important role [10–16].

Tomida et al. [17] made the first report showing the possibility of preparing the  $\{100\}$  texture by vaporizing Mn at the surface and subsequently decarburization process using  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation. However, the process has not been commercialized because it took the long process time and required the high vacuum condition. To overcome such disadvantages, Sung et al. [18] used the continuous cooling heat treatment for the  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation and could produce the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture under the oxygen partial pressure low enough to inhibit the surface oxidation of the specimen. And they also reported that anisotropic elastic modulus in Fe could affect evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. In the direction of minimization of strain energy,  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was favored to evolve on surface.

Under the continuous cooling heat treatment for the  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation, Kwon et al. [19] reported that the friction stress caused by difference in thermal expansion between steel and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  plates was an important factor for the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fe-1wt%Si. Ahn et al. [20] also reported that the tensile stress caused by the self-load during heat treatment could induce the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni. However, further studies are necessary to find out the specific

process conditions for the optimal evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture.

In this thesis, the variables such as the magnitude of tensile stress, furnace atmosphere, heat treatment time (or grain size) and cooling rate were examined with respect to the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. Under the optimum condition determined from these experiments, the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen with 92.6%  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture could be prepared.

In our preliminary experiment, it was shown that when  $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation occurs under the compressive stress, the grain size remarkably increased and produced the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. Since the stress on the specimen is an important factor for the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture development, a new method was devised to produce the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. Here, a specimen was heat treated at 1100 °C with the broad face vertically positioned to induce the high compressive stress in a uniaxial direction by a self-load. The specimen produced a high percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. To check if the high percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture should come from the compressive stress or not, another specimen was heat treated with the broad face horizontally positioned. In this case, the specimen produced only a low percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. The purpose of this thesis is to study how the compressive stress affects the texture evolution of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in Fe-Si steel and a texture evolution



affects magnetic properties.

# Chapter 2. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by tensile stress in Fe-1wt%Si

## 2.1. Experimental procedure

Ingots of Fe-1wt%Si, which were prepared using induction melting, were hot rolled to 2.3 mm and cold rolled to 0.35 mm thickness. We measured the temperature of the  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation during cooling using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) (TGA/DSC1, Mettler Toledo) and determined  $A_{r3}$  and  $A_{r1}$  temperatures to be  $\sim 975$  °C and  $\sim 952$  °C, respectively, for Fe-1wt%Si.

To study the effect of the magnitude of the tensile stress on the development of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, we hanged the specimens in the vertical tube furnace during the heat treatment as shown in Fig. 2.1a, where the uniaxial tensile stress was applied to the specimen by self-load. In this way, the applied tensile stress would be different depending on the vertical position of the specimen. The quartz cylindrical tube of 50 mm diameter of the vertical furnace was 1500 mm long with a uniform temperature zone of  $\sim 400$  mm. Since the length of the tube is sufficiently long, the gas flow such as  $H_2$  supplied during the experiment is not expected to affect the temperature in the uniform zone. At the bottom of the specimen, the

tensile stress would be zero and continue to increase with increasing vertical position, reaching the maximum stress of 15,190 Pa at the top of the specimen. To estimate the stress, we divided the weight by the cross-section area of the specimen. The length between each position and the specimen end was measured and used to determine the weight of each position.

The specimen size was 200 mm (height)  $\times$  20 mm (width)  $\times$  0.35 mm (depth). As shown in Fig. 2.1b, the specimen was equally divided into 20 segments indicated by the numeric numbers in the ascending order. The 400 mm uniform zone of the vertical tube furnace was long enough for the 200 mm long specimen to be in the uniform zone during the heat treatment. The texture development of the segment of position 1, which was at the bottom, and the segments of position 7 ~ position 13 and position 19 was analyzed using the electron back-scattered diffraction (EBSD) (EDAX, Hikari) and TSL OIM Analysis 7 software to determine the grain size and orientations.

During heat treatment of the Fe-1wt%Si specimen, H<sub>2</sub> gas (99.9999%) was supplied at the flow rate of 1000 standard cubic centimeter per minute (sccm). The specimens were heated at 10 °C/min, held for 5 min at 1100 °C, cooled down to 950 °C for 2 h, which corresponds to the cooling rate of 1.25 °C/min, and then cooled in the furnace. Additionally, in order to see the effect of the heat treatment atmosphere, some Fe-1wt%Si specimens were heat

treated under H<sub>2</sub> (99.9999%, 100 sccm) and N<sub>2</sub> (99.9999%, 1000 sccm). Dew points of H<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>, which were measured using a dew point detector (GFTH 200, Greisinger), were −35.5 °C and −34.2 °C, respectively. And the oxide layer formed on the specimen surface was analyzed by Cs corrected monochromated TEM/STEM (Themis Z, Thermo Fisher).

## 2.2. Results

Figure 2.2a–c show the inverse pole figure (IPF) ND maps of the Fe–1wt%Si specimen heat treated for 5 min at 1100 °C, respectively, for the position 1, 12, and 19 of Fig. 2.1b. Figure 2.2d–f show the corresponding orientation distribution function (ODF) maps sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Based on the Brandon criteria of  $\{hkl\} \pm 15^\circ$ , percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  of Fig. 2.2a–c were, respectively, 78.3, 29.2 and 15.0% and those of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were, respectively, 3.6, 17.8 and 26.3%. Average grain sizes of Fig. 2.2a–c were 242, 190 and 192  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. And the data for the other areas were summarized in Table 2.1. As the position of the specimen changes from the bottom to the top, percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  decreased and percentages of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  increased.

On the other hand, Sung et al. [18] reported that the oxygen partial pressure, which would affect the oxidation of the specimen surface, was important in the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. Considering this, we studied the effect of the atmospheric condition, which was expected to affect the surface oxidation, on the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture evolution in Fe–1wt%Si. Figure 2.3a and b show IPF ND maps of the specimen heat treated under  $\text{H}_2$  100 sccm (99.9999%) and  $\text{N}_2$  1000 sccm (99.9999%), respectively for the position 1. Figure 2.3c and d show the corresponding ODF maps

sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in Fig. 2.3a and b were, respectively, 20.9 and 16.2% and those of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were, respectively, 16.6 and 42.3%. The average grain sizes of Fig. 2.3a and b were 263 and 111  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively.

To observe the thickness of the oxide layer on the specimen surface, cross sections of the specimens of Fig. 2.3a and b were observed by TEM. For comparison, the cross section of the specimen of Fig. 2.2a, which was heat treated under  $\text{H}_2$  1000 sccm (99.9999%), was also observed by TEM. In order to distinguish and protect the oxide layer, the specimen surface was coated by Pt followed by carbon coating. The cross section was prepared by focused ion beam (FIB) (SMI3050SE, SII Nanotechnology) before TEM observation. Figure 2.4a–c show the cross sectional TEM images of the specimens for Figs. 2.2a and 2.3a, b, respectively. The white areas in the lower part of Fig. 2.4a–c are the specimen and the black areas in the upper part are carbon. The spherical black areas inside the white area in Fig. 2.4b and c are due to the unwanted contamination during the FIB process. It should be noted that unwanted contamination did not come from the specimen nor from heat treatment but come during the specimen preparation for TEM observation, more specifically, from gallium ion source during the FIB etching. The narrow whitish strip in the boundary between the white and black areas is Pt. The thin regions between the whitish strip and the white area are the oxide layer. The EDS

mapping of this layer consisted of Si and O, implying that the layer should be the silicon oxide. The source of Si would be from Fe-1wt%Si.

The oxide layer of Fig. 2.4a is as thick as 17–27 nm, which might have formed after the specimen was taken out of the furnace at room temperature. The thickness of the oxide layer of Fig. 2.4b is not uniform. In certain areas, it is as thick as ~35 nm but in other area, it was as thick as ~229 nm. On the other hand, the thickness of the oxide layer of Fig. 2.4c is relatively uniform as ~113 nm. Figure 2.4a–c are for the specimens of Figs. 2.2a and 2.3a, b which have, respectively, 78.3, 20.9 and 16.2% of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. It should be noted that the specimens of Fig. 2.4a–c were taken from the position 1 of Fig. 2.1b. Therefore, they are under the same condition of tensile stress and differ only in the state of the surface oxidation.

## 2.3. Discussion

### 2.3.1. Effect of Tensile Stress on the Evolution of the {100}<0vw> Texture

Since the temperature would be uniform along the specimen in Fig. 2.2 the positions of 1, 12 and 19 (See Fig. 2.1b) are expected to differ only in the tensile stress. Therefore, Fig. 2.2, where percentages of {100}<0vw> were 78.3, 29.2% and 15.0%, respectively, at the specimen positions of 1, 12 and 19, indicates that the increase of tensile stress inhibits the evolution of the {100}<0vw> texture. The tensile stress would affect the nucleation barrier. Since the molar volume of  $\alpha$  with the body centered cubic (bcc) lattice is larger than  $\gamma$  with the face centered cubic (fcc) lattice, the  $\alpha$  nucleus would be under the compressive stress when  $\alpha$  nucleates from  $\gamma$ . The nucleation barrier considering the strain energy during the solid-state nucleation is expressed as Eq. (1).

$$\Delta G^* = \frac{16\pi\sigma^3}{3(-\Delta f_v + \Delta f_s)^2}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the  $\alpha/\gamma$  interfacial energy,  $\Delta f_v$  is the volume free energy difference between  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ , and  $\Delta f_s$  is the strain energy. For



elastically isotropic materials,  $\Delta f_s$  is expressed as Eq. (2).

$$\Delta f_s = 4G\delta^2V, \quad (2)$$

where  $G$  is a shear modulus,  $\delta$  is a lattice misfit and  $V$  is the volume. Since the shear modulus  $G$  is proportional to the Young's modulus  $E$ , the strain energy  $\Delta f_s$  would be proportional to  $E$ .

When the tensile stress is applied by self-load as shown in Fig. 2.1a, it would decrease the compressive stress during the nucleation of  $\alpha$  from  $\gamma$ , thereby decrease the nucleation barrier and increase the nucleation rate. This aspect is revealed in Fig. 2.2, where average grain sizes were 242, 190 and 192  $\mu\text{m}$  at the positions of 1, 12 and 19, respectively. The small grain size indicates the higher nucleation rate, which again indicates the low nucleation barrier.

Then, why is the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture affected by the tensile stress or the position of the specimen? In relation to this, it was reported that the Young's modulus  $E$  is minimum indirections in Fe [18]. Therefore, the  $\alpha$  nucleus with  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  would have a minimum nucleation barrier if the nucleation takes place on the surface, as previously suggested by Lee et al. [21] and Sung et al. [18]. This means that if nucleation of  $\alpha$  is made to occur exclusively on the surface and these nuclei are made to grow to the entire specimen, the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture would be evolved.

The problem is that nucleation of  $\alpha$  can occur not only on the surface but also in the bulk. In the polycrystalline bulk, the nucleation barrier decreases in the order of grain boundaries, triple junction lines and four grain corners [22]. Although the nucleation barrier at the triple junctions on the surface would be small, it may be comparable to the nucleation barrier at four grain corners in the bulk. Since the number of four grain corners decreases with increasing grain size, the large grain size would make the surface nucleation dominant, which would favor the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture.

If the tensile stress, which would decrease the compressive stress of  $\Delta f_s$  in Eq. (2) and thereby decrease the nucleation barrier, induce the nucleation at the four grain corners in the bulk, the nuclei would not have the misorientation of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ . Therefore, the tensile stress would have an adverse effect on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. This analysis can explain the largest percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture of Fig. 2.2a, which is taken at the position 1 with the lowest tensile stress.

Considering the high percentage (78.3%) of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fig. 2.2a, the small tensile stress has a beneficial effect on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in comparison with the normal specimen without any stress. In relation to this result, Kwon et al. [19] reported that the small tensile shear stress is favorable for the development of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture during the  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$

phase transformation in Fe-1wt%Si. They observed that 76.0% of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was developed in the Fe-1wt%Si specimen placed between alumina plates during cooling from 1100 °C. They attributed the evolution of the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture to the frictional stress coming from the difference in the thermal expansion coefficient between the specimen and the alumina plate. The frictional stress would induce the small tensile shear stress. If stress wasn't applied on the specimen, the percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  was only 11.6%. They suggested that the small tensile shear stress decreased the nucleation barrier on the surface, favoring the nucleation of grains with  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations on the surface.

### 2.3.2. Effect of Heat Treatment Atmosphere on the Evolution of the $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ Texture

Comparing the oxidation layers shown in Fig. 2.4 for the specimens of Fig. 2.2a and 2.3a, b with their percentages of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, we can say that the oxidation layer had an adverse effect on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, which was also reported by Sung et al. [18]. According to the analysis in sect. 2.3.1, the nucleus of  $\alpha$  with  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations on the surface contributes to the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. The surface oxidation layer would make it difficult for  $\alpha$  with

$\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations to nucleate on the surface. The experimental fact is that the specimen heated under 1000 sccm  $H_2$  has 78.3%  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and that under 100 sccm  $H_2$  has 20.9%  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ . TEM observation of the cross section of the two specimens shows that the specimens heated under 1000 and 100 sccm  $H_2$  have, respectively, oxide layers of 17–27 nm and 35–229 nm. From these results, we think that the surface oxidation layer was completely removed by reduction for the specimen heated under 1000 sccm  $H_2$  during heat treatment and an oxidation layer of 17–27 nm must have been formed after the specimen was taken out from the furnace. In the case of the specimen heated under 100 sccm  $H_2$ , however, the oxidation layer was only partly removed and the removal rate was non-uniform, considering the non-uniform thickness of 35–229 nm. The complete and partial removal of the oxide layer, respectively, under 1000 and 100 sccm  $H_2$  would come from the difference in the driving force for reduction. The dew point, which is determined by the partial pressure of  $H_2O$  and  $H_2$ , would be different between 1000 and 100 sccm  $H_2$  [23]. The rate of non-uniform removal under 100 sccm  $H_2$  might be related to some uncertain kinetic factors, which are difficult to identify. The grain size of Fig. 2.3a is larger than those of Figs. 2.2a and 2.3b. The processing parameter that might be responsible for the difference in the grain size would be the difference in the flow rate of gas. It should be noted that the flow rate of 100 sccm  $H_2$  is 10 times as low as those of Figs. 2.2a and 2.3b. Since an appreciable amount of

heat would be consumed to heat the gas at room temperature to the temperature of the hot zone, the high flow rate could decrease the actual temperature of the heat-treated specimen. Therefore, one possibility for the large grain size in Fig. 2.3a would be that the actual temperature of the specimen of Fig. 2.3a would be higher than those of Figs. 2.2a and 2.3b during heat treatment.

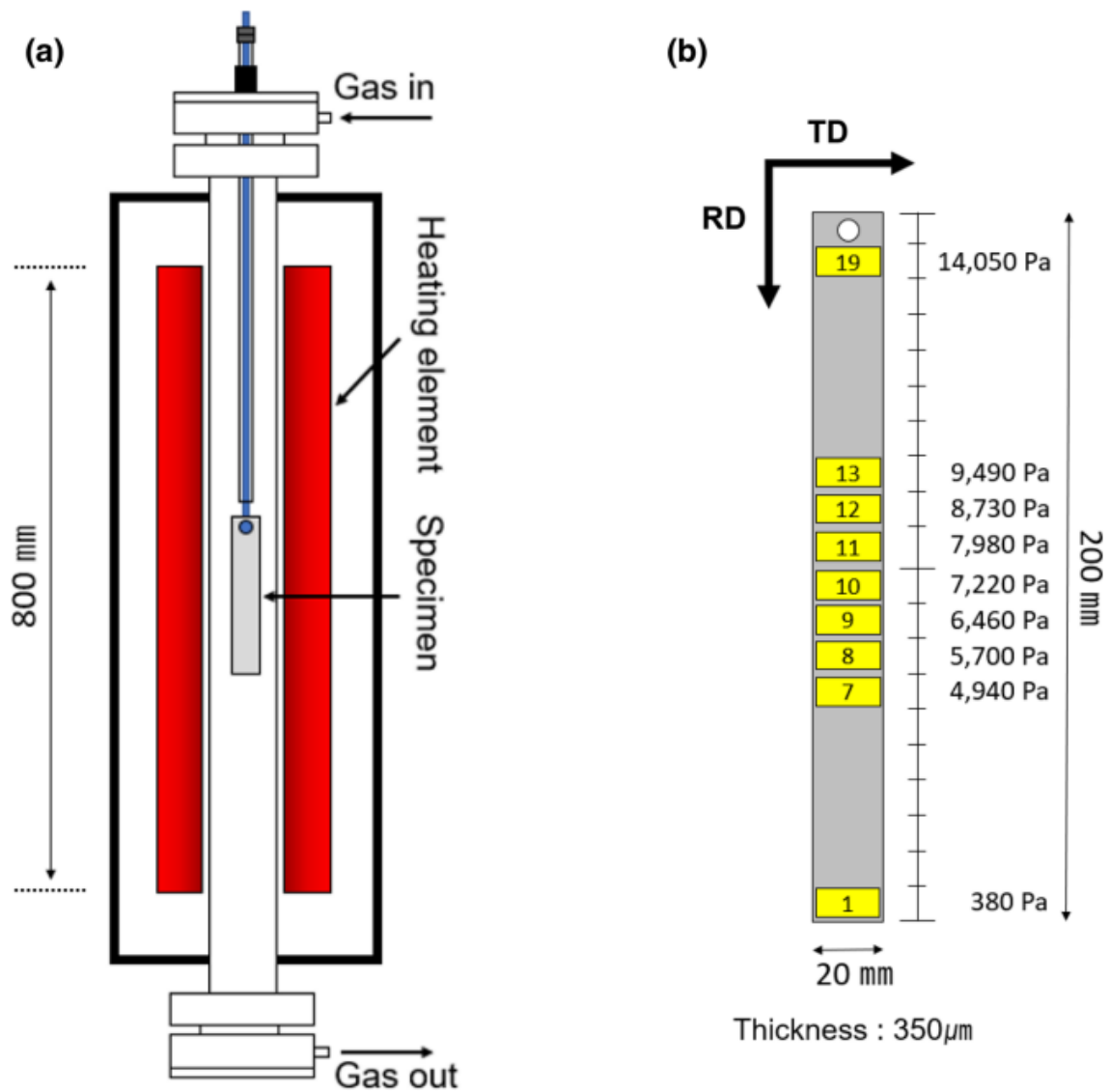
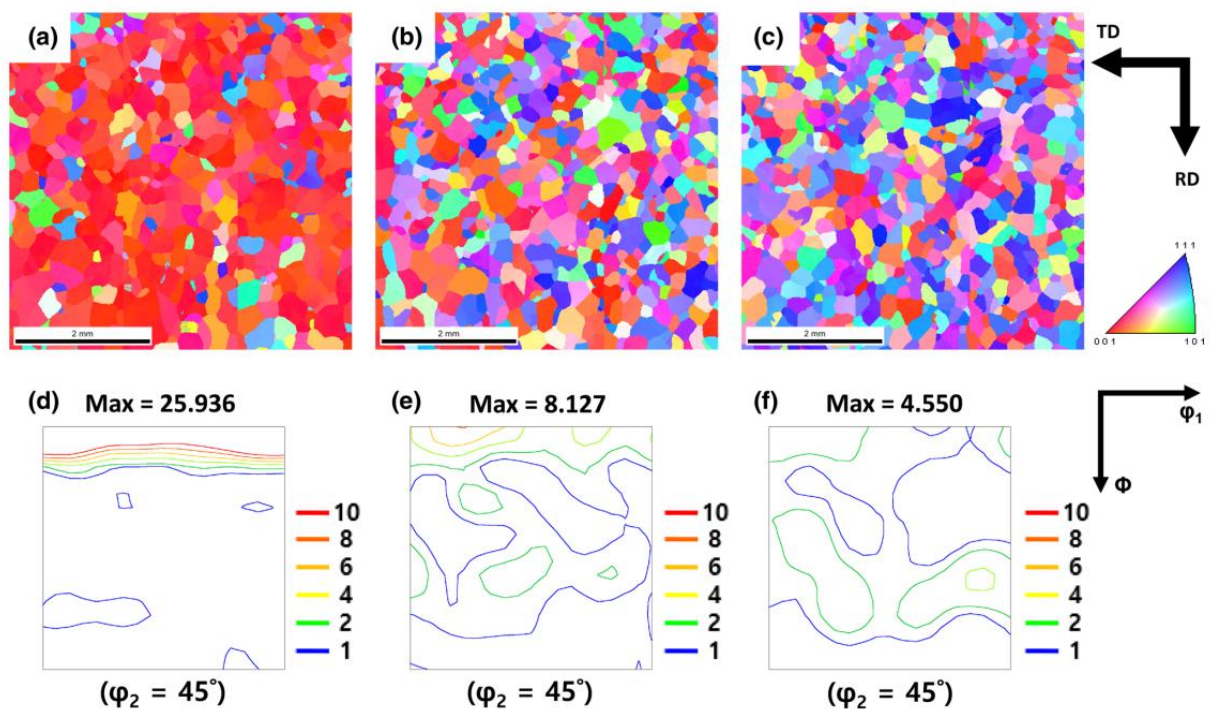
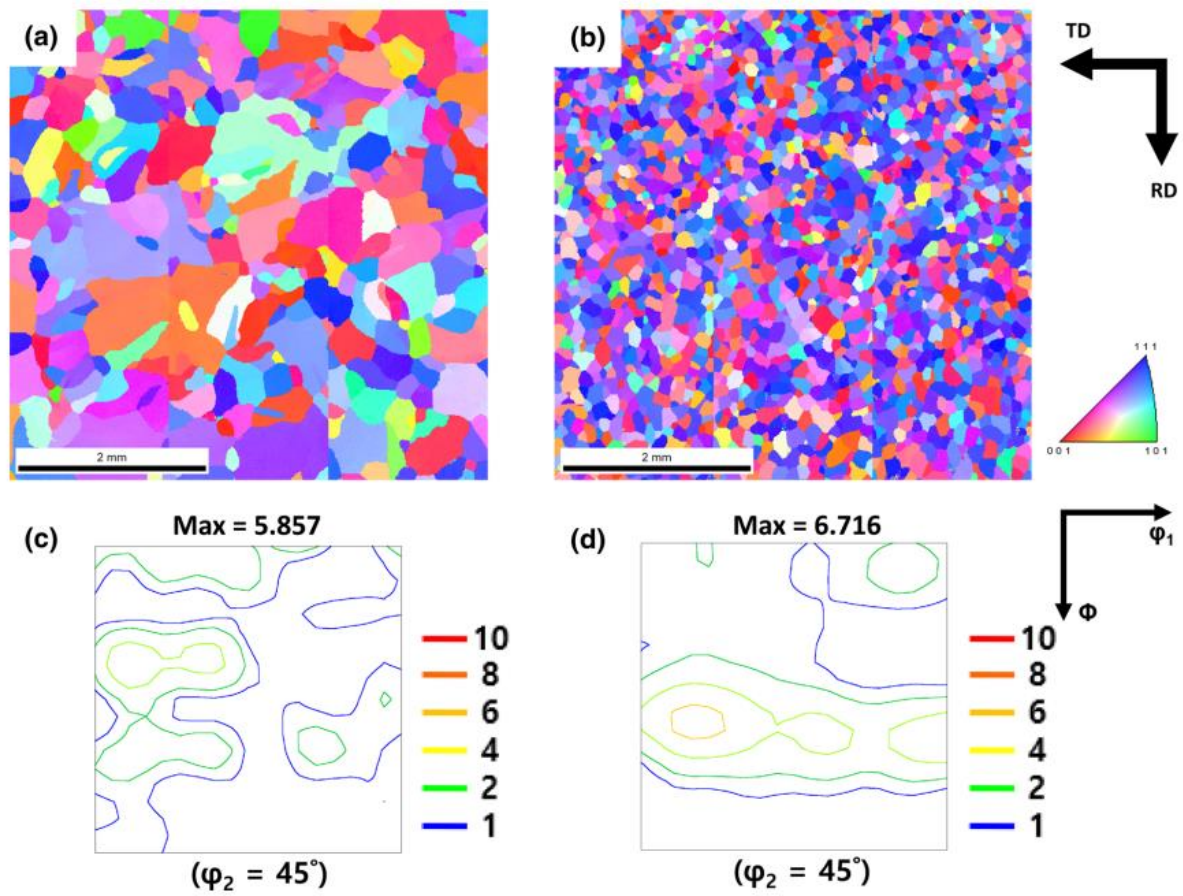


Figure 2.1. Schematics showing (a) the specimen suspended in the vertical tube furnace and (b) the numbered locations for EBSD analysis with their stress values indicated.

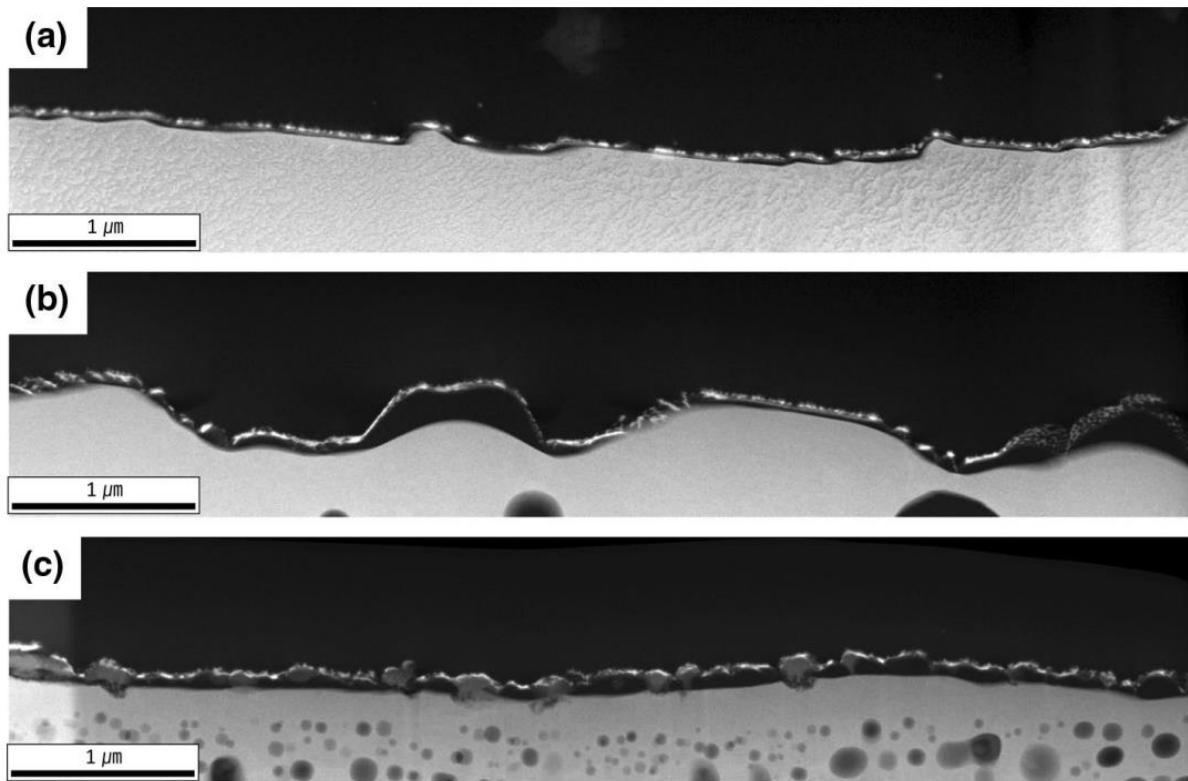


**Figure 2.2.** EBSD inverse pole figure normal direction (ND) maps of (a) position 1, (b) position 12 and (c) position 19 of Fe-1wt%Si in Fig. 2.1b heated for 5 min at 1100 °C. (d)–(f) are orientation distribution functions (ODFs) at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).



**Figure 2.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 1 of Fe-1wt%Si in Fig. 2.1b heated for 5 min at 1100 °C under the flowing gas of (a) H<sub>2</sub> 100 sccm and (b) N<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a) and (b).





**Figure 2.4.** Cross-sectional TEM images of Fe-1wt%Si heated for 5 min at 1100 °C under the flowing gas of (a) H<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm, (b) H<sub>2</sub> 100 sccm and (c) N<sub>2</sub> 1000 sccm.

Position of analysis	{100} $\pm 15^\circ$ , (%)	{111} $\pm 15^\circ$ , (%)	Grain size, ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Position 19	15.0	26.3	192 (181)
Position 13	17.0	25.1	197 (191)
Position 12	29.2	17.8	190 (206)
Position 11	60.6	7.6	216 (244)
Position 10	67.6	4.9	217 (242)
Position 9	69.9	6.5	219 (249)
Position 8	72.8	6.1	230 (262)
Position 7	73.6	4.9	230 (256)
Position 1	78.3	3.6	242 (272)

**Table 2.1.** Percentages of {100}<0vw> and {111}<uvw>, the average grain size of all grains and that of {100}<0vw> misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe-1wt%Si heat treated for 5 min at 1100 °C.

# Chapter 3. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by tensile stress in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni

## 3.1. Experimental procedure

Ingot of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni, which was prepared using induction melting, was hot rolled to 2.3 mm and cold rolled to 0.35 mm thickness. In the Fe-Si binary phase diagram, the composition limit of Si for the single  $\gamma$  phase region is about 1.6wt% at 1100 °C. The two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region is approximately in the composition range of 1.6–1.85wt%Si at 1100 °C. This means that if we use an Fe-2wt%Si specimen, the composition should be in the single  $\alpha$  phase region at 1100 °C. This is why we added 1wt%Ni to the 2wt%Si specimen, which made the specimen be in the single  $\gamma$  phase region at 1100 °C. We measured the temperature of the  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation during cooling using the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) (TGA/DSC1, Mettler Toledo) and determined  $Ar_3$  and  $Ar_1$  temperatures to be  $\sim 955$  °C and  $\sim 928$  °C, respectively, for Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni.

The Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens were heat treated under the same conditions as those of Fe-1wt%Si except that the holding time

in the  $\gamma$  region at 1100 °C was varied as 5 min, 1, 3, 6 h under H<sub>2</sub> (99.9999%) at the flow rate of 1000 sccm. Additionally, to study the effect of the cooling rate during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation on the texture evolution, some specimens were cooled under two additional conditions: being cooled at rates of 16.7 and 0.1 °C/min during cooling from 1000 to 900 °C/min after the specimens were held for 6 h at 1100 °C and cooled at 1.25 °C/min from 1100 to 1000 °C. Schematics of the heat treatment were represented in Fig. 3.1.

## 3.2. Results

Since the core loss of the electrical steel is decreased with increasing Si content, the effect of the tensile stress on the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was studied also in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni. Figure 3.2a-c show the IPF ND maps of the position 1 (See Fig. 2.1b) for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated for 5 min, 3 and 6 h at 1100 °C (See Fig. 3.1a). Figure 3.2d-f show the corresponding ODF maps sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  of Fig. 3.2a-c were, respectively, 8.9, 27.5, and 66.0% and those of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were, respectively, 55.5, 27.8 and 7.3%. Average grain sizes of Fig. 3.2a-c were 117, 222 and 262  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively.

The result of the position 19 (See Fig. 2.1b) for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen is shown in Fig. 3.3. Figure 3.3a-c show the IPF ND maps and Fig. 3.3d-f show the corresponding ODF maps sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  of Fig. 3.3a-c were, respectively, 10.7, 15.3 and 18.0% and those of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were, respectively, 59.2, 38.6 and 28.4%. Average grain sizes of Fig. 3.3a-c were, respectively, 109, 212 and 246  $\mu\text{m}$ . And the data of the other areas are summarized in Table 3.1 and 3.2.

The effect of the cooling rate during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  transformation on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was studied in Fe-2wt%Si-

1wt%Ni. In the previous experiments for Figs. 3.2 and 3.3, the specimen was cooled from 1100 to 950 °C at 1.25 °C/min and then cooled in the furnace (See Fig. 3.1a). Considering the  $A_{r3}$  and  $A_{r1}$  temperatures of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni analyzed by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and the ferrite peak of  $\alpha$ -{002} during cooling analyzed by in-situ XRD [24], the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region is estimated to be in the temperature range of 1000–900 °C for the given composition. In the new cooling condition, the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens were cooled from 1100 to 1000 °C at 1.25 °C/min. Then the specimens were divided into two: one is cooled in the furnace, which would produce the cooling rate of 16.7 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C, and the other is cooled from 1000 to 900 °C at 0.1 °C/min and then cooled in the furnace (See Fig. 3.1b).

Figure 3.4 is for the specimens cooled at 16.7 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C, which corresponds to the highest cooling rate during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  transformation. Figure 3.4a and b show, respectively, IPF ND maps of the positions 1 and 19 (See Fig. 2.1b). Figure 3.4c and d show the corresponding ODF maps sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Percentages of {100}<0vw> in Fig. 3.4a and b were, respectively, 92.6 and 66.3% and those of {111}<uvw> were, respectively, 1.5 and 12.6%. The average grain sizes of all grains and {100}<0vw> misorientation in Fig. 3.4a were, respectively, 327 and 349  $\mu\text{m}$ . The average grain sizes of all grains and {100}<0vw> misorientation in Fig. 3.4b were, respectively, 348 and 427  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Figure 3.5 is for the specimen cooled from 1000 to 900 °C at 0.1 °C/min and then cooled in the furnace, which corresponds to the slowest cooling rate during  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  transformation. Figure 3.5a and b show IPF ND maps of the positions 1 and 19 (See Fig. 2.1b). Figure 3.5c and d show the corresponding ODF maps sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$ . Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in Fig. 3.5a and b were, respectively, 48.8 and 20.2% and those of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were, respectively, 24.8 and 32.4%. The average grain sizes of all grains and  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in Fig. 3.5a were, respectively, 278 and 286  $\mu\text{m}$ . The average grain sizes of all grains and  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in Fig. 3.5b were, respectively, 257 and 245  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### 3.3. Discussion

#### 3.3.1. Effect of Grain Size on the Evolution of the $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ Texture in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni

Under the same heat treatment condition, the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture changed drastically between Fe-1wt%Si and Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni. The possible reason would be the difference in the grain size, which is 242  $\mu\text{m}$  in Fig. 2.2a and 117  $\mu\text{m}$  in Fig. 3.2a. The reason why the grain size of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni is much smaller than that of Fe-1wt%Si would come from the solute drag effect of additional Ni and Si of the former. As analyzed in Sect. 2.3.1, the small grain size would increase the number of four grain corners and thereby increase the nuclei without  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations, which would have an adverse effect on the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture.

If this analysis is correct, the increase in the grain size of the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens would increase the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture [20]. The grain size can be increased simply by increasing the heat treatment time. In agreement with this analysis, Fig. 3.2a-c show that the percentages of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture were 8.9, 27.5 and 66.0%, respectively, for the grain sizes of 117, 222 and 262  $\mu\text{m}$  at the position 1.



In Fig. 3.3 for the position 19 (See Fig. 2.1b), however, there was no correlation between the grain size and the percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. In this case, the overall percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture is below 20.0%, which is attributed to the high tensile stress. It appears that the above analysis does not apply to the case under the high tensile stress.

The surface nucleation of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  depends not only on the grain size but also on the tensile stress. Considering the grain size alone, the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture would be similar between the positions 12 and 19 in Fig. 2.2 (See Fig. 2.1b). Considering the tensile stress, however, the position 19 has higher tensile stress than the position 12 in Fig. 2.2. Therefore, 29.2% of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture at the position 12, which is higher than 15.0% at the position 19, would be attributed to the lower tensile stress at the position 12 in Fig. 2.2.

On the other hand, the grain size of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation would increase with its decreasing nucleation rate on the surface. And the nucleation rate on the surface would increase with increasing tensile stress. Therefore, the grain size of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation would increase with decreasing position number in Fig. 2.1b of the specimen. This expectation agrees with the grain size of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation measured at each position number of the specimen shown in the parenthesis in Table 2.1.

### 3.3.2. Effect of the Cooling Rate During $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$ Transformation on the Evolution of the $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ Texture

Among the three cooling conditions chosen for the specimens of Fig. 3.2c (or Fig. 3.3c), Figs. 3.4 and 3.5, the cooling rate at 16.7 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C produced the highest percentage, 92.6%, of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture for the position 1. The lowest cooling rate at 0.1 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C produced the lowest percentage of 48.8% for the position 1 (See Fig. 2.1b). Then, how does the cooling rate affect the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture? As mentioned earlier, the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region is estimated to be in the temperature range of 1000–900 °C for Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni.

At the high cooling rate of 16.7 °C/min, the specimen could not finish the transformation from  $\gamma$  to  $\alpha$  in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region at all and the untransformed  $\gamma$  would fall into the single  $\alpha$  phase region. Then, the untransformed  $\gamma$  would undergo massive transformation to  $\alpha$ . If pre-existing nuclei are mainly formed on the surface and thereby have mainly  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations, they would grow fast to an entire specimen by massive transformation [25]. Then, the high percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture would be evolved.

At the lowest cooling rate of 0.1 °C/min, however, the specimen stayed roughly for 1000 min in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region, where

the transformation would occur very slowly by the long range diffusion. Even if pre-existing nuclei with  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientations are mainly formed on the surface, they grow only slowly by the long range diffusion in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region. During this period, additional nucleation would occur at low nucleation barriers such as four grain corners in the bulk. If so, the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture would decrease and the average grain size would decrease because nucleation takes place inside the bulk. This analysis would explain the lowest percentage, 48.8%, of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fig. 3.5a. It would also explain that the grain size in Fig. 3.5a is smaller than that in Fig. 3.4a although the cooling time is much longer in Fig. 3.5a than in Fig. 3.4a.

It should be noted that the cooling rate of 16.7 °C/min produce a relatively high percentage of 66.3% of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture even at the position 19 (See Fig. 2.1b), which is under the high tensile stress and turns out to be an adverse condition for the evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in this study. Comparing Fig. 3.2c (or Fig. 3.3c), Figs. 3.4 and 3.5, the cooling rate in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region is very important in inducing the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. The high cooling rate of 16.7 °C/min in combination with the small tensile stress could produce the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture as high as 92.6%. To our knowledge, 92.6% would be the highest percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture reported so far in Fe-2wt%Si.

The average grain sizes of Figs. 3.4b and 3.5a, b are, respectively, 348, 278 and 257  $\mu\text{m}$ . Then, why is the grain size of the specimen in Fig. 3.4b, which was cooled rapidly at 16.7  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ , much larger than those of the specimens in Fig. 3.5a and b, which were cooled slowly at 0.1  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ ? Normally, the specimen cooled more slowly has a grain size larger than that cooled rapidly.

To explain the larger grain size of the rapidly cooled specimen in Fig. 3.4b than that of slowly cooled one in Fig. 3.5b, we need to assume that the nucleation rate should decrease with increasing cooling rate. The driving force for the transformation from  $\gamma$  to  $\alpha$  starts to form when the temperature of the specimen falls into the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region and continues to increase as the temperature decreases. In the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region, where the equilibrium composition of the parent  $\gamma$  phase and the newly produced  $\alpha$  phase is different, the driving force for the transformation from  $\gamma$  to  $\alpha$  is used by long range diffusion. During cooling in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region, the driving force exists for both nucleation and growth of  $\alpha$ . Therefore, nucleation can occur at the site of a low nucleation barrier such as four grain corners and three grain edges. During cooling in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region, lots of nuclei would be formed at four grain corners or three grain edges.

Since the transformation from  $\gamma$  to  $\alpha$  by long range diffusion is so slow that the transformation would not complete during cooling in

the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region even at 0.1 °C/min. An appreciable amount of the parent  $\gamma$  phase would remain untransformed even when the temperature of the specimen falls into the single  $\alpha$  phase region. In the single  $\alpha$  phase region, the composition of the parent  $\gamma$  becomes the same as that of the newly produced  $\alpha$  and then the untransformed  $\gamma$  would be transformed to  $\alpha$  by massive transformation. However, the grain size would be relatively small because of a large number of nuclei formed in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region during a long residence time.

When the specimen is cooled rapidly at 16.7 °C/min, however, the specimen resides in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region for a relatively short time before it falls into the single  $\alpha$  phase region. The residence time in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region is short, the number of  $\alpha$  nuclei would be relatively small. When the specimen falls into the single  $\alpha$  phase region, most  $\gamma$  would be untransformed and a relatively small number of  $\alpha$  nuclei would grow rapidly by massive transformation. As a result, a relatively large grain size would be produced. This explanation can also be applied to the grain size (327  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the rapidly cooled specimen (16.7 °C/min) in Fig. 3.4a, which is larger than that (278  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the slowly cooled specimen (0.1 °C/min) in Fig. 3.5a.

As to the reason why the percentage of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in the rapidly cooled specimen in Fig. 3.4b is as high as 66.3%, which is much higher than 20.2% in the slowly cooled

specimen in Fig. 3.5b, the relative percentage of the nuclei of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation on the surface is larger than that of the nuclei of non-cube misorientations at four grain corners or three grain edges in the bulk.

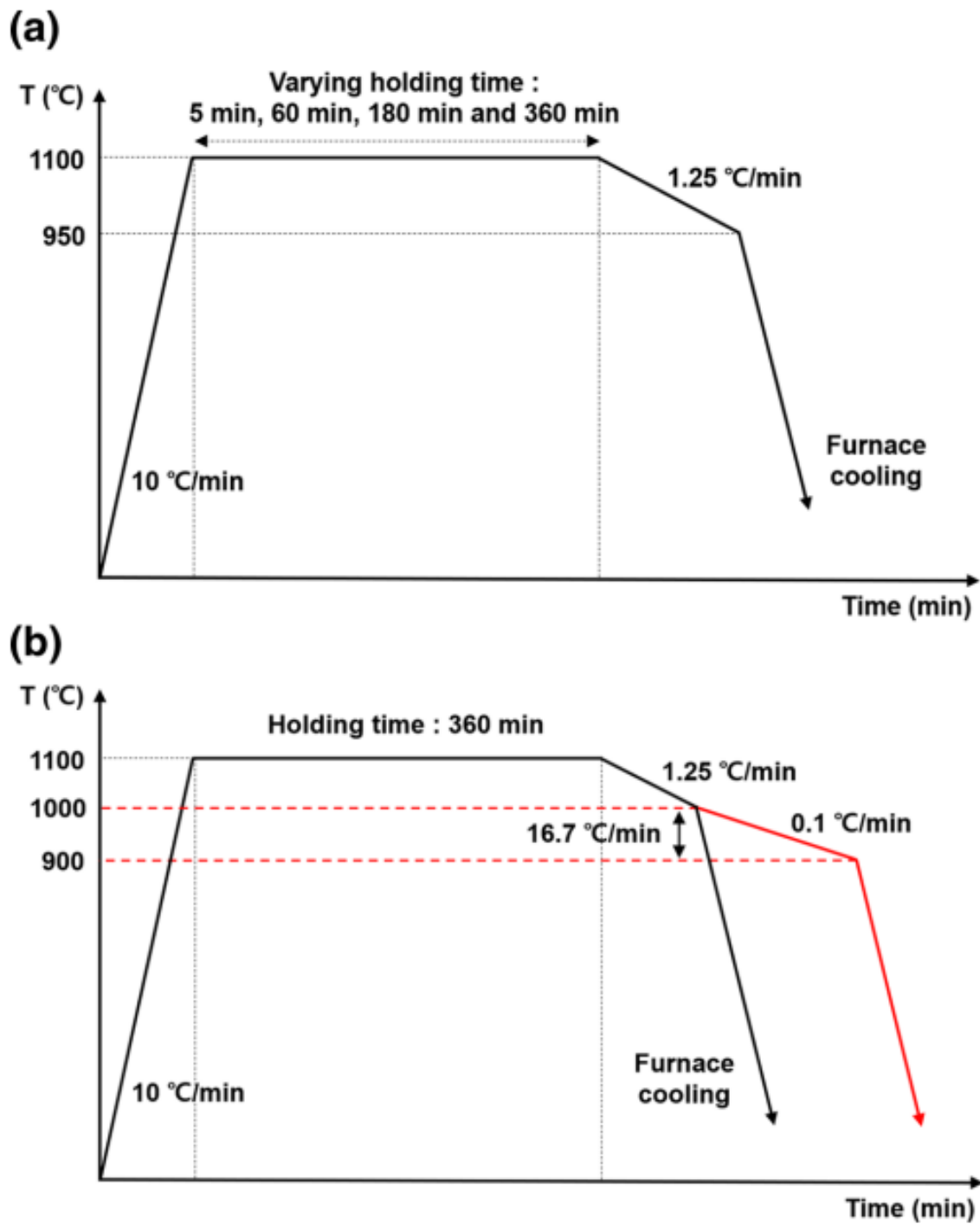


Figure 3.1. Schematics of the heat treatment in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni with varying (a) holding time and (b) cooling rate.

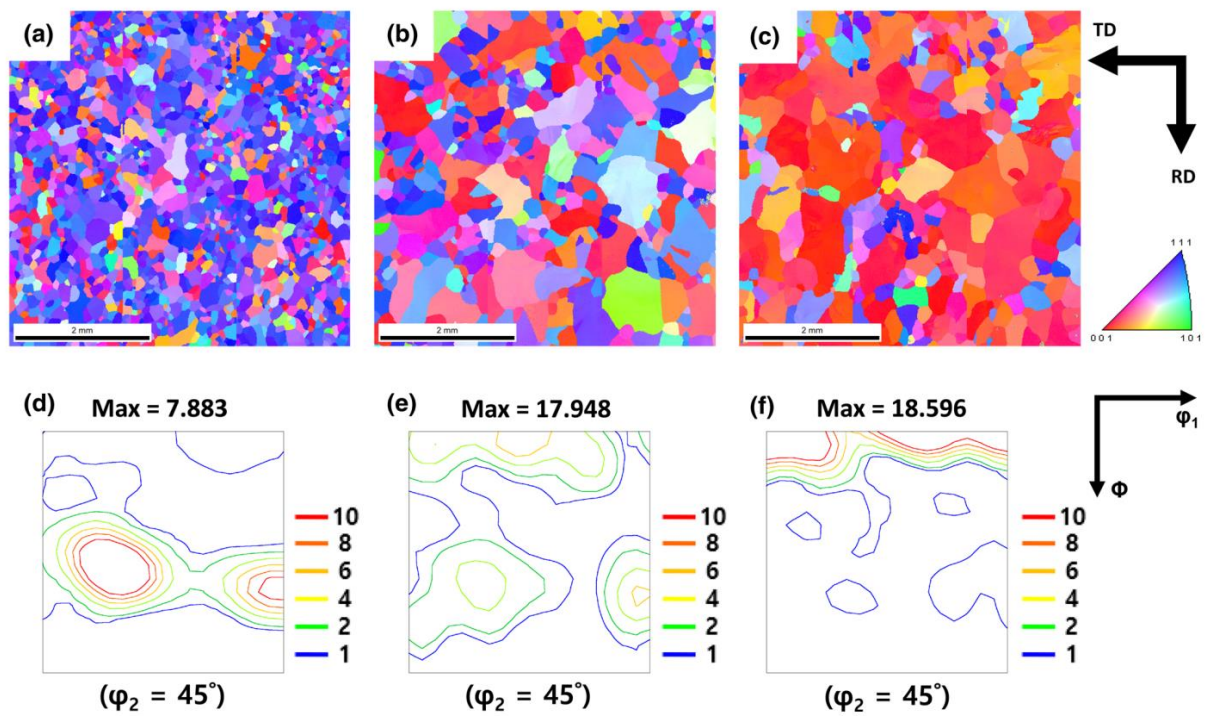
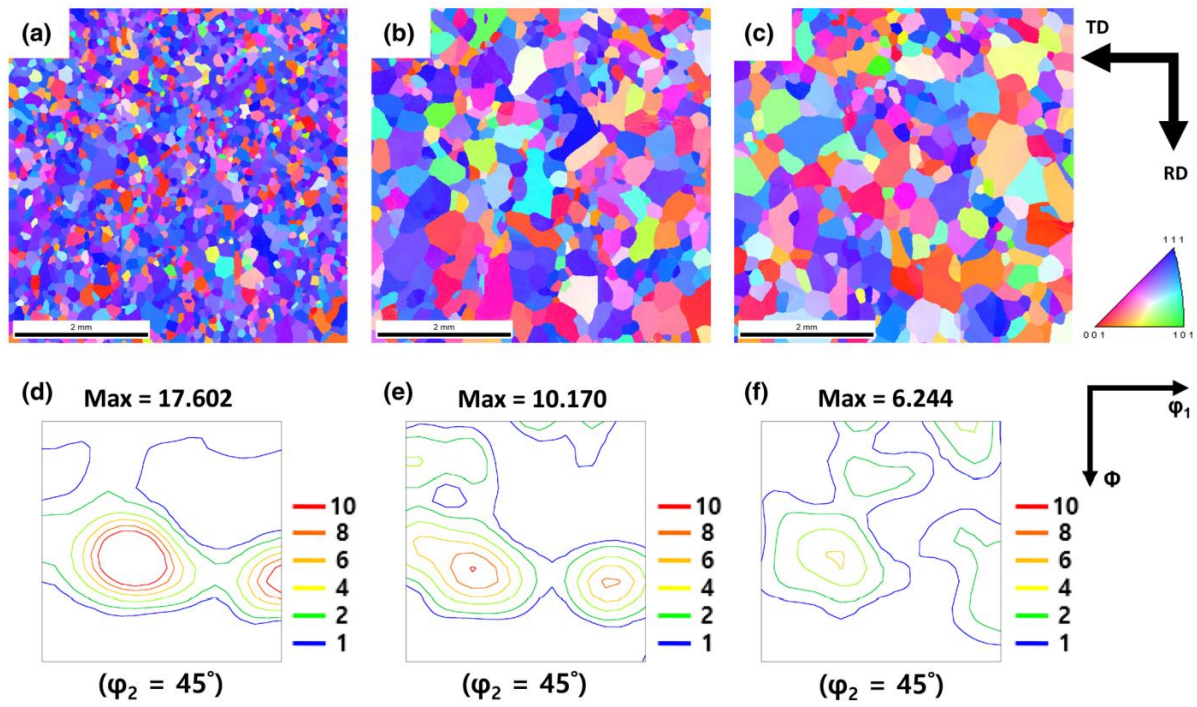
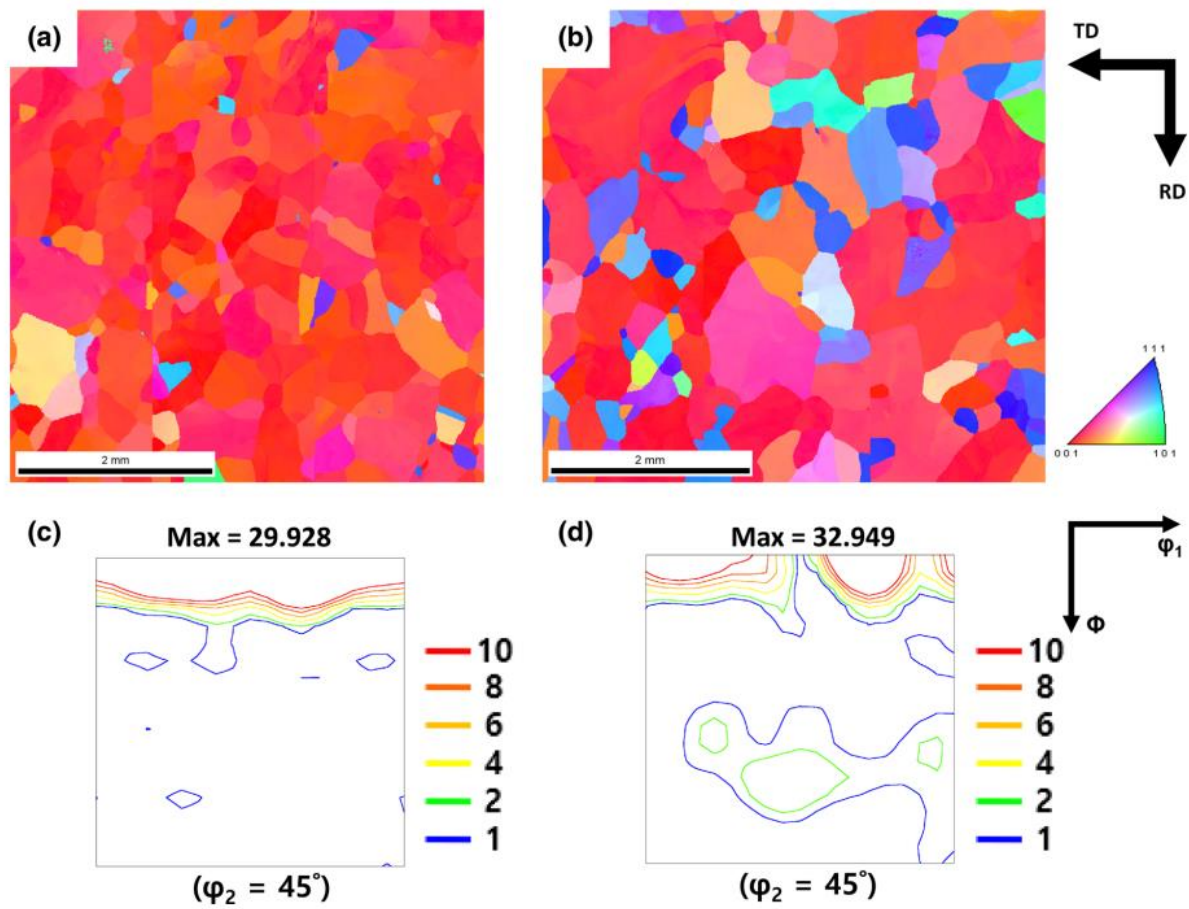


Figure 3.2. EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 1 of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b heated at 1100 °C for (a) 5 min, (b) 3 h and (c) 6 h. (d)–(f) are ODFs at  $\phi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).

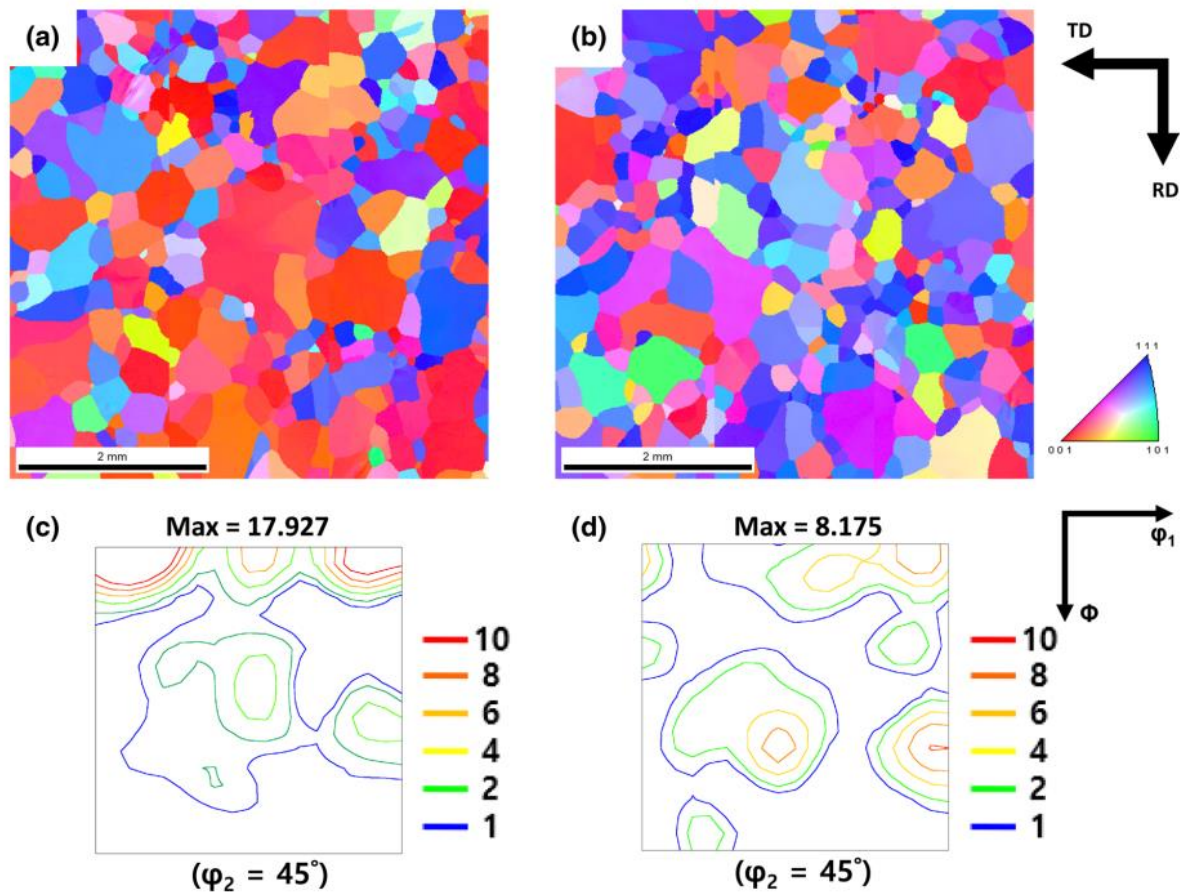




**Figure 3.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of position 19 of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b heated at 1100 °C for (a) 5 min, (b) 3 h and (c) 6 h. (d)–(f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a)–(c).



**Figure 3.4.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of (a) position 1 and (b) position 19 of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b cooled at 16.7 °C/min from 1000 to 900 °C. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a) and (b).



**Figure 3.5.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of (a) position 1 and (b) position 19 of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni in Fig. 2.1b cooled at 0.1 °C /min from 1000 to 900 °C. (c)–(d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section, respectively, for (a) and (b).

	5 min	1 h	3 h	6 h
<i>{100} ± 15°, (%)</i>				
Position 19	10.7	11.9	15.3	18.0
Position 13	9.4	13.2	16.2	13.3
Position 7	10.5	11.0	22.2	45.6
Position 1	8.9	17.0	27.5	66.0
<i>{111} ± 15°, (%)</i>				
Position 19	59.2	42.6	38.6	28.4
Position 13	61.7	45.3	37.0	30.6
Position 7	53.5	43.2	32.4	22.3
Position 1	55.5	37.6	27.8	7.3
<i>Grain size, (μm)</i>				
Position 19	109 (97)	154 (124)	212 (176)	246 (241)
Position 13	102 (89)	150 (142)	218 (208)	244 (250)
Position 7	114 (105)	175 (148)	236 (201)	279 (298)
Position 1	117 (102)	162 (159)	222 (249)	262 (299)

**Table 3.1.** Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , the average grain size of all grains and that of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe–2wt%Si–1wt%Ni heated for 5 min, 1 h, 3 h and 6 h at 1100 °C. (See Fig. 3.1a for the heating cycle)

Position of analysis	{100} $\pm 15^\circ$ , (%)	{111} $\pm 15^\circ$ , (%)	Grain size, ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Position 19	18.0	28.4	246 (241)
Position 13	13.3	30.6	244 (250)
Position 12	18.9	22.4	236 (239)
Position 11	23.7	31.7	238 (212)
Position 10	22.8	26.7	244 (228)
Position 9	27.4	29.4	253 (246)
Position 8	34.3	24.1	268 (266)
Position 7	45.6	22.3	279 (298)
Position 1	66.0	7.3	262 (299)

**Table 3.2.** Percentages of {100}<0vw> and {111}<uvw>, the average grain size of all grains and that of {100}<0vw> misorientation in parentheses for each position of Fe–2wt% Si–1wt%Ni heated for 6 h at 1100 °C. (See Fig. 3.1a for the heating cycle)

# Chapter 4. Evolution of $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ texture induced by compressive stress in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni

## 4.1. Experimental procedure

An ingot of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni, which was manufactured by vacuum induction melting, was used as a starting material. The ingot was hot rolled to 2.3 mm and cold rolled to 0.35 mm thickness. Sheet specimens of 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm  $\times$  0.35 mm were prepared for heat treatment.

To check the effect of uniaxial compressive stress on the development of a cube-on-face  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, specimens were positioned in two different ways during heat treatment as shown in Fig. 4.1. One specimen was positioned in such a way that the broad 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lay horizontally to the nickel plate as shown in Fig. 4.1a, in which case the uniaxial stress on the center of the specimen is 13.3 Pa, being sufficiently small. The other specimen was positioned in such a way that the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lay vertically to the nickel plate as shown in Fig. 4.1b, in which case the uniaxial stress on the center is 1519 Pa, being larger than that in Fig. 4.1a by almost 100 times. The stress on the Ni substrate is 26.6 Pa and 3038 Pa, respectively, in Fig. 4.1a and b. Since the

sample of  $10 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm} \times 0.35 \text{ mm}$  for EBSD measurements was taken out from the center of the specimen, the stress on the sample is 13.3 Pa and 1519 Pa, respectively, in Fig. 4.1a and b. The stress on the top is zero and increases to the maximum toward the bottom. The reason why the nickel plate is used to support the specimen is to minimize the effect of the shear stress between the specimen and the plate arising from the difference in the thermal expansion coefficient [20].

In order to find out the optimum holding time in the  $\gamma$  phase region needed for the development of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture, each specimen was held for 1 min, 15 min and 60 min after being heated to  $1120 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  of the  $\gamma$  phase region at  $10 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ . Then, the specimens were cooled to  $970 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 120 min followed by being cooled to room temperature in the furnace. In our previous work on in-situ X-ray diffraction of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni [24], the ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) two phase region started at  $\sim 900^\circ\text{C}$  and the  $\gamma$  single phase region started at  $\sim 1000^\circ\text{C}$ . Therefore,  $1120^\circ\text{C}$  and  $970^\circ\text{C}$  are expected to be, respectively, in the  $\gamma$  single phase region and the ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) two phase region. We observed that recrystallization of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni steel occurred at  $\sim 700^\circ\text{C}$ . The grain size after recrystallization was  $17.5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , being similar regardless whether the specimens was placed horizontally (Fig. 4.1a) or vertically (Fig. 4.1b)), but the high uniaxial stress (Fig. 4.1b) turned out to produce the grain size much larger than that of the low uniaxial stress (Fig. 4.1a) after  $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation. Then, how can the



uniaxial stress increase the percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture?

We could think of two possible causes for the increase of the grain size. One would be that the uniaxial stress increases the barrier for nucleation of  $\alpha$  from  $\gamma$  during cooling due to the increase of the strain energy, which is proportional to the Young's modulus. Since  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  grains on the surface have the lowest Young's modulus, their nucleation would be favored, increasing the cube-on-face texture. The other would be the recrystallization of  $\alpha$  during heating, which would increase the  $\gamma$  grain size. In order to find out which of the two is the cause for the increase of the grain size, the specimens positioned in Fig. 4.1a and b were heated only to 700 °C of the  $\alpha$  phase region at 10 °C/min, held for 60 min, cooled to room temperature in furnace. In this heat treatment, only recrystallization would occur without the phase transformation between  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ .

To study the effect of the percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  on the magnetic properties, three specimens with different percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were prepared. For measurements of magnetic flux density and core loss, specimens with the size of 60 mm  $\times$  60 mm  $\times$  0.35 mm were prepared. The first and second specimens were prepared by annealing at 1120 °C for 60 min with the 60 mm  $\times$  60 mm face, respectively, vertical (as shown in Fig. 4.1b) and horizontal (as shown in Fig. 4.1a) to the nickel plate. The third specimen was prepared under the same condition as the first specimen except that it was annealed at 970 °C for 60 min, which is



the ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) two phase region. The magnetic flux density at 5000 A/m ( $B_{50}$ ) and the core loss  $W_{15/50}$ , which was determined at a magnetic flux density of 1.5 T and 50 Hz, were measured by the MPG200D instrument (BrockHaus Measurements).

The texture evolution after the heat treatment was analyzed by electron back-scattered diffraction (EBSD, EDAX/Hikari) attached to a field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM, SU5000, HITACHI). The EDAX/TSL software was used to analyze the orientation relationship. The specimen surface was polished in < 100  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness to the final stage of colloidal silica (OP-s, 0.04  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

## 4.2. Results and discussion

Fig. 4.2a and d shows, respectively, the inverse pole figure (IPF) normal direction (ND) map and the orientation distribution function (ODF) sectioned at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated with the broad face horizontal to the nickel plate at 1120 °C holding for 1 min, cooled to 970 °C for 120 min and cooled to room temperature in the furnace. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 11.1% and 62.6%, respectively, which were determined using the criteria of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle \pm 15^\circ$ . Fig. 4.2b and e shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 1120 °C for 15 min with the other condition being the same as that of Fig. 4.2a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 17.5% and 49.7%, respectively. Fig. 4.2c and f shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 1120 °C for 60 min with the other condition being the same as that of Fig. 4.2a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 30.9% and 37.0%, respectively. The average grain sizes of Fig. 4.2a, b and c were 144  $\mu\text{m}$ , 156  $\mu\text{m}$  and 170  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively, which was determined by converting the grain area into the diameter using an image analyzer software (EDAX/TSL software).

Fig. 4.3a and d shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF

for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated with the broad face vertical to the nickel plate at 1120 °C for 1 min, cooled to 970 °C for 120 min and cooled to room temperature in the furnace. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 65.9% and 16.5%, respectively. Fig. 4.3b and e shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 1120 °C for 15 min with the other condition being the same as that of Fig. 4.3a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 77.8% and 4.8%, respectively. Fig. 4.3c and f shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 1120 °C for 60 min with the other condition being the same as that of Fig. 4.3a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 81.1% and 2.1%, respectively. The average grain sizes of Fig. 4.3a, b and c were 168  $\mu\text{m}$ , 196  $\mu\text{m}$  and 237  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. Fig. 4.4a, where the average grain size of  $a$  is plotted against the holding time, shows how horizontal and vertical positions of the specimens affect the grain size.

Figs. 4.2 and 4.3 show that entirely different textures were developed according to the specimen position. The percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  was 11.1% in Fig. 4.2a but it increased abruptly to 65.9% in Fig. 4.3a. The percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fig. 4.2 was increased from 11.1% to 17.5% and 30.9% with increasing holding time from 1 min to 15 min and 60 min, respectively, but the dominant texture was still  $\gamma$  fiber. In Fig. 4.3, however, the percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  was increased from 65.9% to 77.8% and 81.1% with

increasing holding time from 1 min to 15 min and 60 min, respectively. The percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in both Figs. 4.2 and 4.3 has increasing tendency with holding time but the major texture was different between Figs. 4.2 and 4.3. This aspect is shown in Fig. 4.4b, where the percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  are plotted against holding time.

Our previous research [20] showed the development of a strong cube-on-face texture when a slight tension was applied by self-load during heat treatment. A strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was developed in Fe-1wt%Si by heat treatment for 5 min at 1100 °C. However, a strong  $\gamma$  fiber texture was developed when the specimen composition was changed to Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni under the same condition. This different behavior between Fe-1wt%Si and Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni was attributed to the grain size difference. If the grain size of  $\gamma$  is relatively small in the  $\gamma$  phase region, the number of four grain corners with a very low nucleation barrier is relatively large. Since the nucleation of the  $\alpha$  grain with  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  is favored only on the surface, the large number of four grain corners, which would increase the number of nuclei inside the bulk compared to that on the surface, would provide the unfavorable condition for the development of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. If the grain size of  $\gamma$  is relatively large, however, the development of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture is favored. This aspect was supported by the previous experiment that the strong  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  texture was changed to the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture when the holding time

was increased from 5 min to 24 h, resulting in the pronounced increase of the grain size [20].

Comparing the stress between horizontal and vertical positions, the compressive stress applied to the cross-sectional area of the specimen center is 13.3 Pa in Fig. 4.1a whereas it is 1519 Pa in Fig. 4.1b. Figs. 4.2 and 4.3 show that the high compressive uniaxial stress is responsible for the development of the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture. The strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fig. 4.3 cannot be explained by the large grain size because the  $\gamma$  nuclei would be under the tensile stress during  $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$  transformation because  $\gamma$  has a lower molar volume than  $\alpha$  and therefore the compressive uniaxial stress would decrease the nucleation barrier and increase the number of nuclei, thereby decreasing the grain size. Therefore, the larger grain size in Fig. 4.3 than in Fig. 4.2 would result from  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  transformation during cooling rather than from  $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$  transformation during heating. During cooling, the compressive uniaxial stress would increase the nucleation barrier and decrease the number of nuclei, thereby increasing the grain size.

One possible cause for the effect of the high uniaxial stress on the strong  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture in Fig. 4.3 would be to increase the barrier for nucleation of  $\alpha$  from  $\gamma$  during cooling due to the increase of the strain energy, which is proportional to the Young's modulus. As mentioned before,  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  grains on the surface have the lowest Young's modulus and thereby their nucleation would be

favored, increasing the cube-on-face texture.

There is another possible effect of the compressive stress. This would be that the compressive stress may induce recovery or recrystallization in such a way to increase the grain size. To confirm this possibility, the two specimens, one of which has the position of Fig. 4.1a and the other of which has the position of Fig. 4.1b, were heated to the recrystallization temperature of 700 °C and held for 60 min, then cooled to room temperature in the furnace.

Fig. 4.5a and c shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF of the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 700 °C with the position of Fig. 4.1a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 6.5% and 61.0%, respectively. Fig. 4.5b and d shows the IPF ND map and the ODF of the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 700 °C with the position of Fig. 4.1b. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 9.7% and 57.1%, respectively. The average grain sizes of Fig. 4.5a and b were 17.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 18.4  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. The texture and the grain size in Fig. 4.5a and b are not much different, indicating that the large grain size in Fig. 4.3 does not come from recovery or recrystallization but come from the phase transformation.

However, if only the grain size is considered, Fig. 4.2c with the grain size of 170  $\mu\text{m}$  should have a higher percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  than Fig. 4.3a with the grain size of 168  $\mu\text{m}$ . Therefore, a much higher percentage of 65.9%  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in Fig. 4.3a than

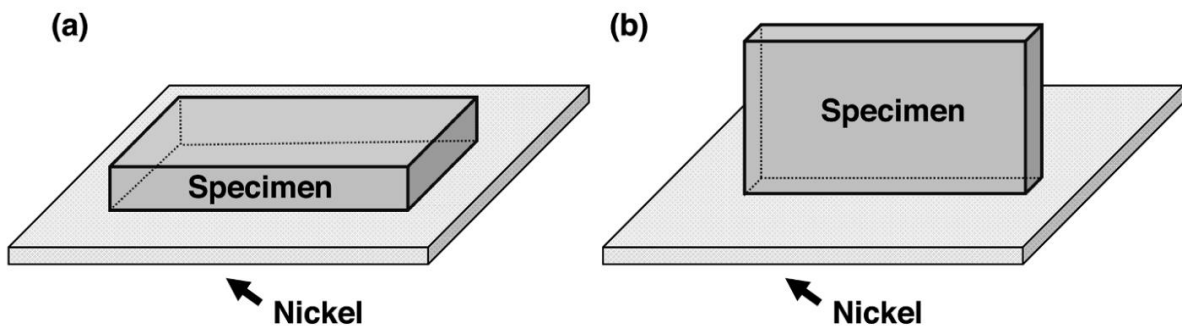
30.9%  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in Fig. 4.2c cannot be explained by the grain size alone. This means that the high compressive stress has an additional effect. One possibility we can think of is that the inhibition effect of the compressive stress on nucleation is larger in the bulk than on the surface. As a result, the surface nucleation of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  becomes dominant.

Based on understanding of the texture development, we could prepare the specimens with different percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  in the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni alloy. Then, we studied how the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture could affect the magnetic properties such as magnetic flux density and iron loss. For this, three Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens of 60 mm  $\times$  60 mm  $\times$  0.35 mm with different percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  were manufactured as shown in Fig. 4.6. Fig. 4.6a and d shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated with the position of Fig. 4.1b at 1120 °C holding for 60 min, cooled to room temperature in the furnace. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 78.4% and 3.2%, respectively. Fig. 4.6b and e shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated with the position of Fig. 4.1a with the other condition being the same as that of Fig. 4.6a. Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 35.6% and 26.9%, respectively. Fig. 4.6c and f shows, respectively, the IPF ND map and the ODF for the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen heat treated at 970 °C for 60 min, cooled to room temperature in the furnace.

Percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  were 0.7% and 81.3%, respectively. The average grain sizes of Fig. 4.6a, b and c were 235  $\mu\text{m}$ , 170  $\mu\text{m}$  and 127  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively.

Table 4.1 shows the magnetic properties of the Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens with different percentages of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ . Fig. 4.6a, which has the maximum percentage, 78.4%, of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and the minimum percentage, 3.2%, of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , produces the highest magnetic flux density of  $B_{50} = 1.75$  and the lowest iron loss of  $W_{15/50} = 2.19$ . Fig. 4.6b, which has 35.6% of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and 26.9% of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , produces  $B_{50} = 1.69$  and  $W_{15/50} = 2.34$ . Fig. 4.6c, which has the minimum percentage, 0.7%, of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  and the maximum percentage, 81.3%, of  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$ , produces  $B_{50} = 1.61$  and  $W_{15/50} = 2.50$ . These results show that the magnetic properties strongly depend on the percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$ .





**Figure 4.1.** Schematics showing how specimens were placed during heat treatment. The  $80\text{ mm} \times 40\text{ mm}$  face of the specimens lay (a) horizontally and (b) vertically to the nickel plate.

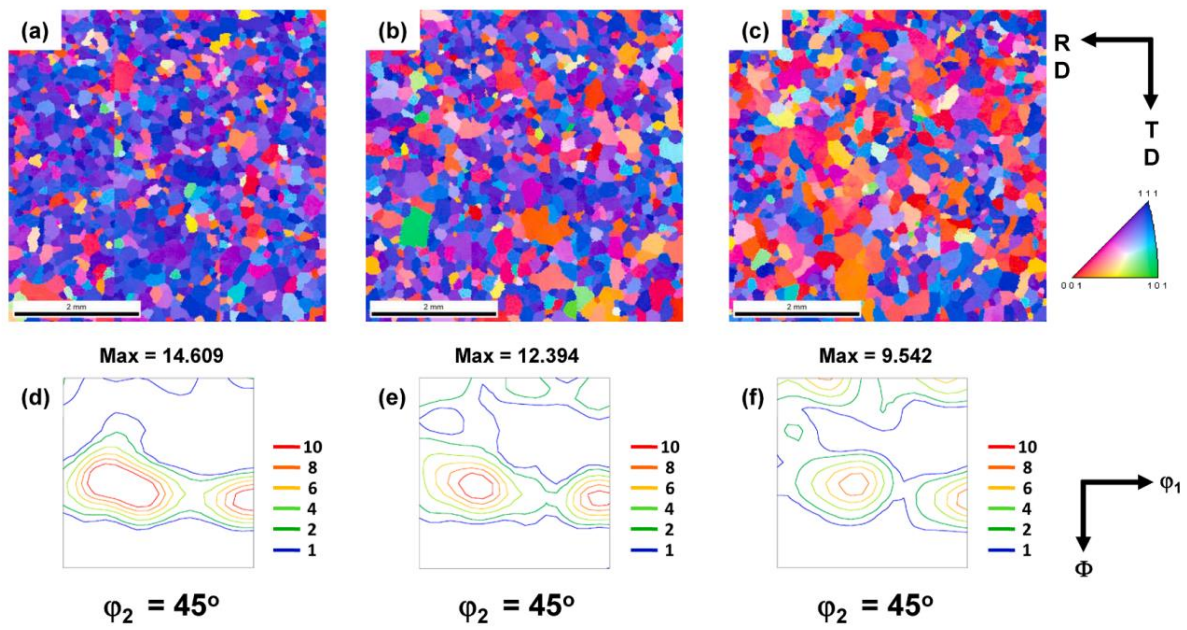
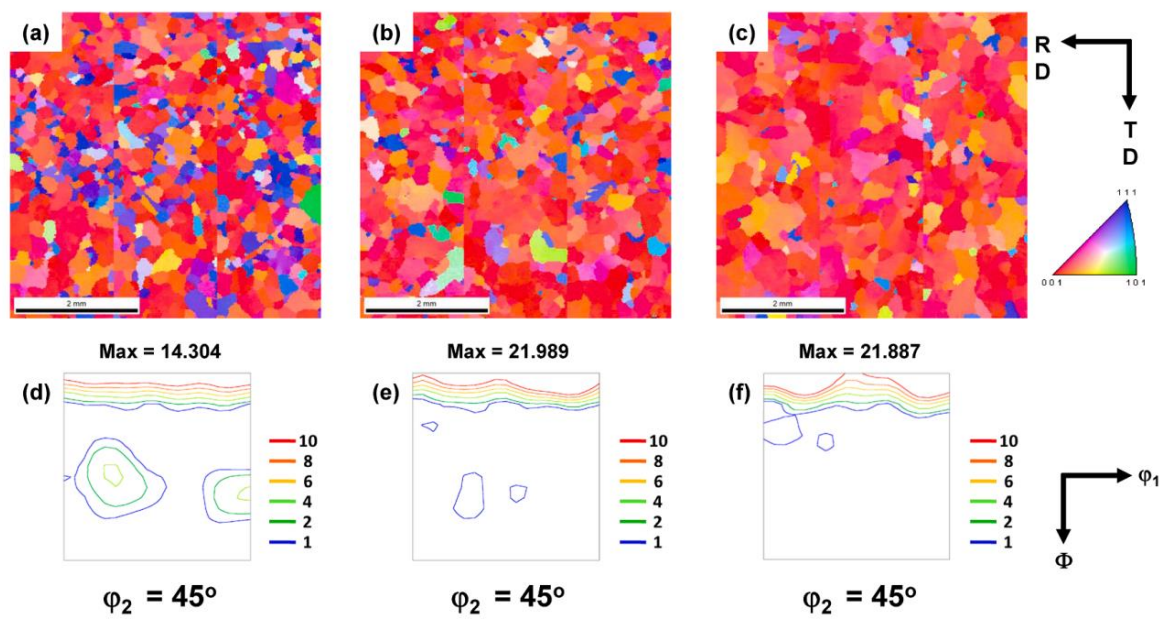
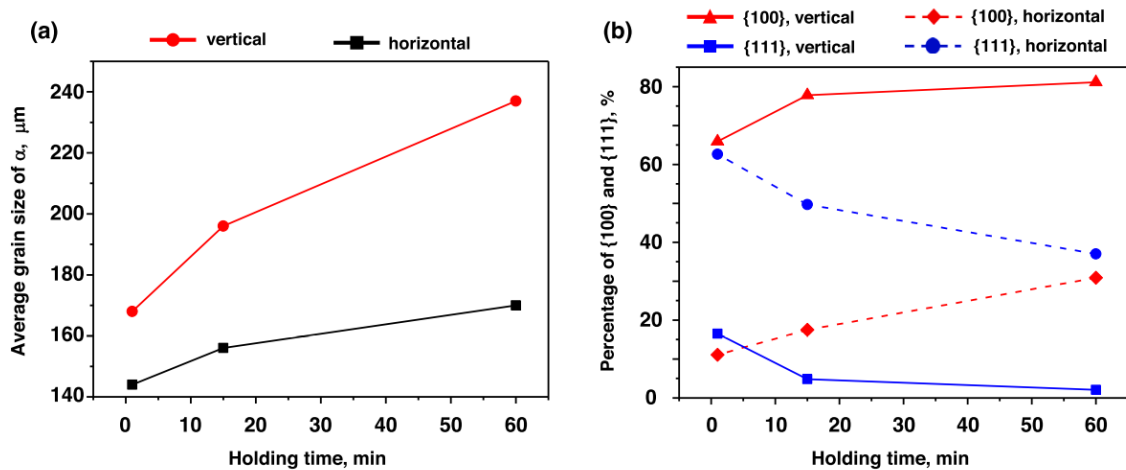


Figure 4.2. EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying horizontally to the nickel plate, which were held at 1120 °C in H<sub>2</sub> for (a) 1 min, (b) 15 min, and (c) 60 min. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\phi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.



**Figure 4.3.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying vertically to the nickel plate, which were held at 1120 °C in H<sub>2</sub> for (a) 1 min, (b) 15 min, and (c) 60 min. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.



**Figure 4.4.** (a) The average grain size of  $\alpha$  varying with the holding time at 1120 °C for the specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face lying vertically (red circle) and horizontally (black square) to the nickel plate. (b) Percentages of {100} (red triangle and rhombus) and {111} (blue circle and square) varying with annealing time. Solid and dashed lines represent the specimens with the 80 mm  $\times$  40 mm face, respectively, lying vertically and horizontally to the nickel plate.

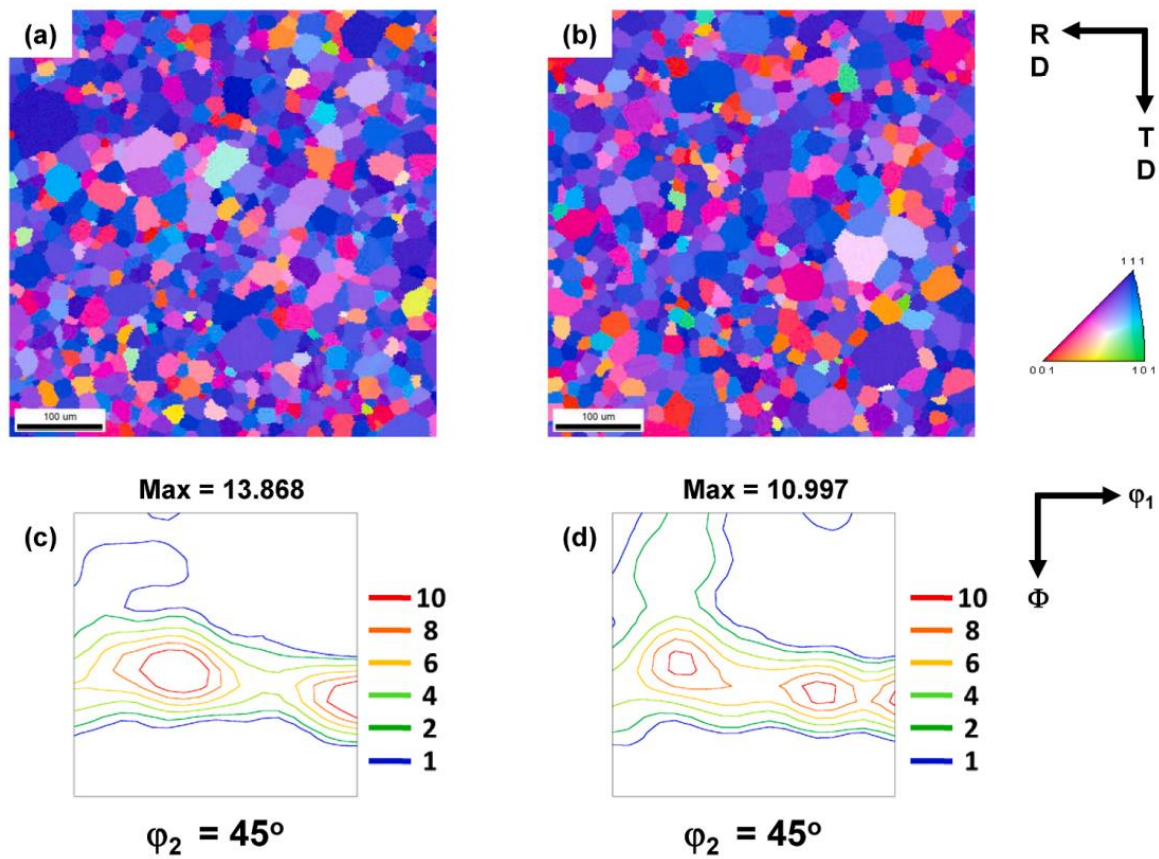
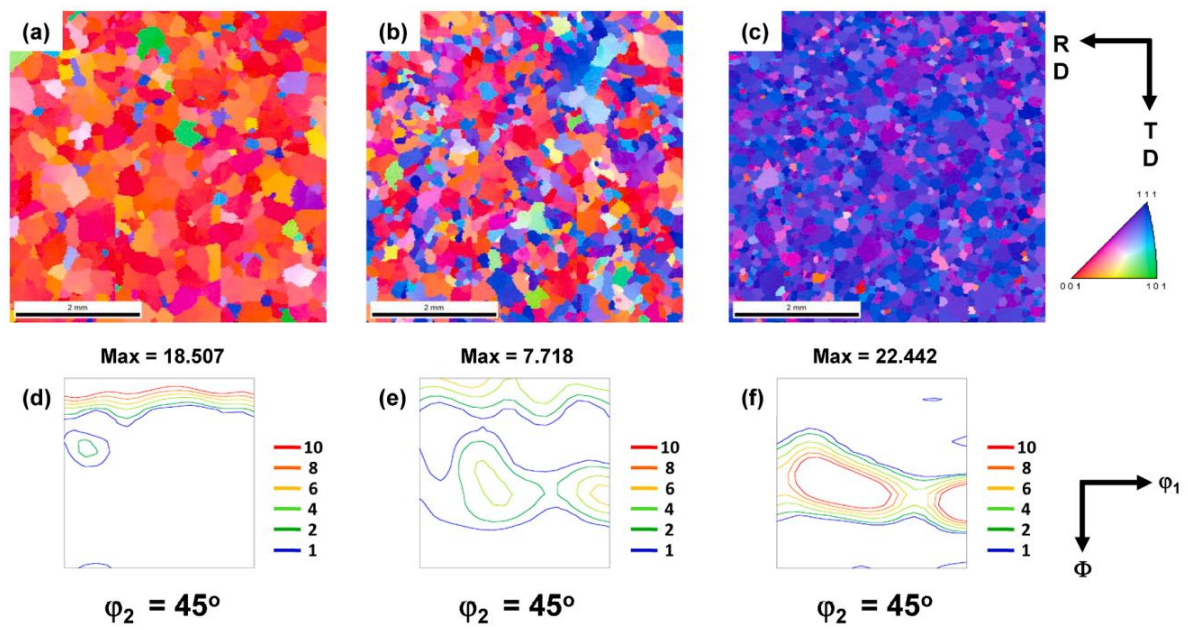


Figure 4.5. EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens annealed at 700 °C for 60 min in H<sub>2</sub> with the 80 mm × 40 mm face lying (a) horizontally and (b) vertically to the nickel plate. (c) and (d) are ODFs at  $\varphi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a) and (b), respectively.



**Figure 4.6.** EBSD inverse pole figure ND maps of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimens for measurement of magnetic properties. (a) 78.4%, (b) 35.6% and (c) 0.7% of {100}. (d), (e) and (f) are ODFs at  $\phi_2 = 45^\circ$  section for (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

	$\{100\}\pm 15^\circ$	$\{111\}\pm 15^\circ$	$B_{50}$	$W_{15/50}$
Fig. 4.6a	78.4%	3.2%	1.75	2.19
Fig. 4.6b	35.6%	26.9%	1.69	2.34
Fig. 4.6c	0.7%	81.3%	1.61	2.50

**Table 4.1.** Magnetic properties of Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni alloys with a different texture.



## Chapter 5. Conclusions

- The evolution of the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture was favored by the small tensile stress, non-oxidizing atmosphere, large grain size and the high cooling rate in the two phase ( $\alpha + \gamma$ ) region. The Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen prepared under the small tensile stress and flowing  $H_2$  at 1000 sccm at the cooling rate of 16.7 °C/min with the grain size increased by 6 h heat treatment at 1100 °C produced the  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  texture as high as 92.6%
- A compressive stress imposed on the specimen, depending how the specimen is positioned during heat treatment, was shown to affect the evolution of the cube-on-face texture in Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni. The specimen positioned with the broad face vertical to the specimen holder has the larger percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  than that with the broad face horizontal to the specimen holder. Based on this result, specimens with a different percentage of  $\{100\}\langle 0vw \rangle$  could be manufactured. The Fe-2wt%Si-1wt%Ni specimen with 78.4% of  $\{100\}$  and 3.2% of  $\{111\}$  had excellent magnetic properties of  $B_{50} = 1.75$  and  $W_{15/50} = 2.19$ . However, specimen with 0.7% of  $\{100\}$  and 81.3% of  $\{111\}$  had relatively poor magnetic properties of  $B_{50} = 1.61$  and  $W_{15/50} = 2.50$ .



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## 요약(국문 초록)

### 전기강판 재료에서 감마 → 알파 상변태를 이용한 표면핵생성 및 {100} 집합조직 형성 연구

전기강판 재료는 크게 방향성 전기강판과 무방향성 전기강판으로 분류된다. 방향성 전기강판의 경우 일반적으로 변압기용 소재로 쓰이며 한 방향으로 배향돼 있는 {110}<001>, Goss 집합조직을 사용한다. Goss 집합조직은 한 방향으로 자기적 특성이 우수하다. 반면 무방향성 전기강판의 경우 대표적으로 전기자동차 모터 혹은 발전기용 소재에 사용되는데 이때 가장 이상적인 집합조직은 {100}<0vw>, cube-on-face 집합조직이다. Cube-on-face 집합조직은 회전 방향으로 자기적 특성이 균일하면서 우수하다. Cube-on-face 집합조직은 ND 방향으로 <100>, 동시에 ND와 수직인 방향으로는 랜덤하게 배향돼 있다.

연구가 활발히 진행돼 있고 상용화된 Goss 집합조직과는 달리 cube-on-face 집합조직은 연구가 부족한 실정이다. Cube-on-face 집합조직은 꿈의 재료로 알려져 있다.

본 연구는 “감마 → 알파 상변태 열처리시 시편에 응력을 가하게 되면 핵생성장벽이 낮은 {100} 핵이 표면에 유도되고 더불어 벌크 내부보다 표면에 핵생성이 우세하다면 {100}<0vw> 집합조직 형성”에 대한 가설을 제시한다. 인장응력 혹은 압축응력을 가하여 cube-on-face 집합조직 형성의 핵심인 표면핵생성 연구를 하였다.

주요어 : 전기강판; 상변태; 큐브 온 페이스; {100}; 집합조직; EBSD

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