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Predicting Microstructure-Property Relationships in Structural Materials via Multiscale Models Validated by In-Situ Synchrotron Observation

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Predicting Microstructure-Property

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Why simulate Microstructural Evolution (ICME)? To track genome evolution across length scales and processes



I've modelled alloy processing for 25 years - What lessons have I learned?

- 1. When using multi-scale, through process modelling (or ICME), there are sufficient unknown parameters one can tune, you usually get the answer you want...
- 2. For structural materials, it is not only the innate alloy properties, but also how you manufacture the component that matters

I.e. Nurture can be more important than Nature if you want to get the most out of a Material's Genome. 3

Typical number of Nurturing steps...



With Rolls-Royce; Special Metals & Wyman-Gordon Univ. of Cambridge (Tin) and Birmingham (Ward)

During Nurturing!

Kermanpur, Tin, Lee, JOM 56(3) 2004, 72-78. or Tin, Lee, et al Met. Trans. A., 2005.

Is optimising *Nature*, then providing good *Nurturing* enough?

 1989 Kegworth air crash, caused by fan blade loss, manufacturing defect



 1985, Manchester, failed combustor weld repair porosity



Lesson 3 - Lifing is often limited by a deviant microstructural feature, rather than the average, even though it may have the same genome...

My Conclusion...

The Materials Genome Project needs to map out not only the average behaviour, but also the distribution in behaviour, including the rebels







Example 1: Predicting deviant microstructures in Ni-based SX turbine blades blades: or *the Freckle Rebel*





Beckermann, Flemings Symposium, 2001

Solidification of Ga-25wt%In alloy, G .5K/mm, R 8.1 μ m/s

X-ray In-situ observation, Courtesy HZDR,DE



N Shevchenko et al 2012 Mater. Sci. Eng. 33 012035 $\mu \text{MatIC Simulation}$



www3.imperial.ac.uk/advancedalloys/

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μ**MatIC Simulation**



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Upwards liquid flow increases solute concentration in the channel with local remelting, remelting secondary arms and stopping primary arms

wt% Ga <u>www3.imperial.ac.uk/advancedalloys/</u>



Example 2 Understanding why eating your spinach is not always good for your strength, or predicting Fe-intermetallic Rebels...

Why worry about deviant microstructures like pores and Fe-intermetallics?





And they alter formability during manufacturing

Yi, J.Z. et al. Met. Trans. 34A, 2003.

What needs to be simulated?

Solute partitioning (Si & H) at solid/liquid front

Intermetallic nucleation And growth

Growth restricted by solid



For speed we model with $10\mu m$ elements, and approximated anisotropy

- nanometres > Empirical fn Nucleation:
- Dendrite tip radius: 1 micron ->
- Fs>0.5, approximate...
- Coarsening: <u>10 microns > Borderline...</u>
- <u>10 microns</u> Fs>0.5, ~Scheil Solute diffusion:

btwn dendrites

- H diffusion: 100 microns
- 10-100's microns \checkmark Pores:
- 10-100's microns \checkmark Intermetallics:

100-1000 microns 🗸

Grain size:



Synchrotron CT Characterization of Fe Intermetallic Morphology compared to model prediction



How do we capture the genome and span scales? Via model-based constitutive equations

1000's micromodel predictions

Regression Fit

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$$\ln L_{\max} = b_0 + b_1 \ln t_s C_{Fe}^{min}$$

and statistical variation

Challenges:

- 1. Improved statistical tracking of multi-variant distributions
- 2. Fitting highly coupled phenomena (e.g. Pressure)

Coupling deviant microstructure to Lifing



Li et al, MCWASP 2006, MMTA 2007

Crack Initiators



Maximum size of deviant microstructures: Pores or Fe-rich intermetallics - L_{max}

Gao YX et al., Acta Mat, 2005 Li P et al., AEM, 2006

Challenges: models for flow stress of each phase, interface strength and adding debonding model, etc...

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Does it work?

Accurate prediction of failure location was achieved (deviant feature - pores).



In situ observation shows Fe reduces hot forming/increases hot-tearing of A319, why?



0.2wt.%Fe

0.6wt.%Fe

Comparison of analysis techniques



We can directly compare to predicted influence of triaxiality on localisation of damage



1st hypothesis, the intermetallics reduce interdendritic flow – we can use image based modelling to directly simulate the flow



275 µm



275 µm

Dendrite

Dendrite + Intermetallics

Flow Simulation results – <10% reduction in flow



Geometry file	k [um^2]	k [d]	Input pressure [Pa]	Output pressure [Pa]	Flow rate [um^3.s^-1]	Viscosity [Pa.s]
Without Plate	178.5231	180.88853	130000	100000	4.87E+11	0.001
With Plate	167.14487	169.35954	130000	100000	4.86E+11	0.001

Synchrotron imaging with direct simulations demonstrated flow is only a minor effect, so now we need another hypothesis!





275 µm

However, the synchrotron observations helped answer other questions: 1. when/where do the intermetallics nucleate, and 2. do pores nucleate on intermetallics



Cooled at 3° C/min

Do pores nucleate on intermetallics?



Cooled at <u>3° C/min</u>

Conclusions

- In situ observation shows us the kinetics of microstructural formation, clarifying dominate mechanisms and causality
- Nurture can matter as much as Nature
- We need to look out for the rebels when during the Materials Genome Initiative

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Questions?



