§12. Analysis of J_c Properties in High Magnetic Fields for Low Activation Superconducting Wires

Hishinuma, Y.,
Takeuchi, T. (NIMS)

It is necessary to consider the neutron irradiation effect on superconducting magnets of an advanced fusion reactor beyond the ITER project. V-based compound and alloy may be applied for a future fusion magnet because they have shorter decay time of induced radioactivity compared with Nb-based superconductor. We approach V_3Ga compounds as V-based low activation and high magnetic field superconducting materials for fusion application.

V_3Ga compounds have high upper critical magnetic fields (H_{c2}) above 20 T and better mechanical property than Nb-based compound. And then, the commercial processing of Nb_3Sn such as "Bronzed process" was developed by diffusion process of the V_3Ga wire. Although V_3Ga compound was older material compared with Nb-based material, we think that V_3Ga will have high potential performances for the fusion application. However, critical current density (J_c) properties of V_3Ga compound are lower than that of Nb-based superconductors and are insufficiency for the fusion magnet. No substitution effects of V_3Ga compound such as Ti substitution into the Nb_3Sn phase will be mainly caused by the lower J_c property. In order to improve superconducting property of V_3Ga compound, we have developed the new processing using high Ga content Cu-Ga compound and metal V matrix. In this study, we measured the superconducting properties under the high magnetic field using various High-Field Superconducting Magnet systems in Tsukuba Magnet Laboratory of National Institute for Materials Science (TML-NIMS).

V_3Ga compound mono-cored and multifilamentary wires were prepared by the high Ga content Cu-Ga compound (Ga:30at%~64at%) powder (filament) and metal V tube (matrix) through the Powder-In-Tube (PIT) process. These Cu-Ga compound powders were packed into V tubes, and then these precursors were cold-drawn to wire having 1.0mm diameter. The multifilamentary wires were also made by the restacking of mono-cored wire into V tube and restacked precursors were cold-drawn to wire having 1.0mm diameter. These wires were sintered in a vacuum. The thicker V_3Ga phase compared with conventional process was formed along the interface between V matrix and Cu-Ga powder filament.

Fig.1 shows that the magnetic field dependence of critical temperature (T_c) property in the Cu-30at%Ga/V mono-cored wire. From the results of T_c measurments, optimum heat treatment condition of mono-cored wires was 700℃for 50h and maximum T_c value was obtained to be about 15 K which was same property compared with conventional process. It was known that H_{c2} value was estimated by the formula shown in Fig.1 in the case of A15 phase. H_{c2} value was obtained to be 22.8 K and this value was 1.5 T higher than that of conventional process without substitution. Fig.2 shows that J_c-B performances of various high Ga content V_3Ga wires. In generally, H_{c2} value was shown by the extrapolation of Kramer plot ($Jc^{1/2}B^{1/4}$). H_{c2} property was depended on the Ga content into the precursor wires. And optimum Ga content was 50 at%Ga. These results suggested that the new processing using high Ga content Cu-Ga compound powder was one of the effective methods to improve superconducting property of V_3Ga compound wires. We thought that V_3Ga compound had clear possibility of candidate materials for Nb-system superconductor though the progress of further process optimization.

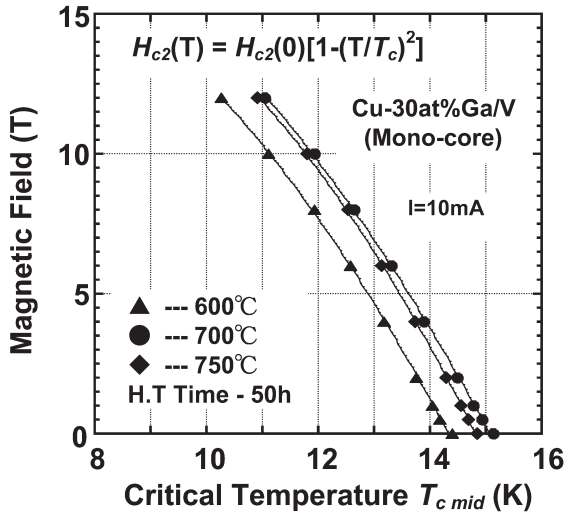

Fig. 1 The relationship between critical temperature and applied magnetic field on the Cu-30at%Ga/V mono-cored wire.

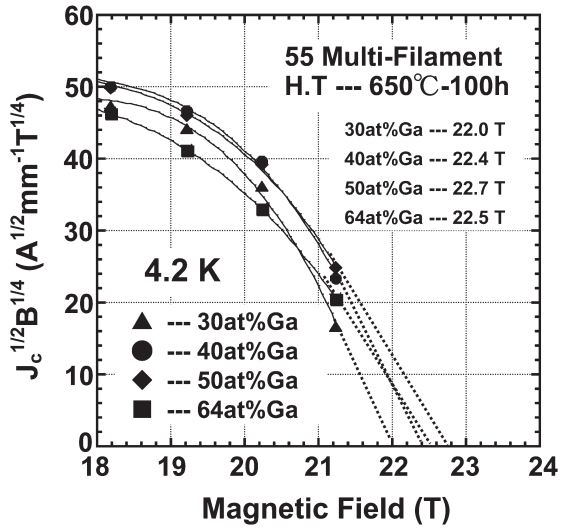

Fig.2 H_{c2} properties of the V_3Ga multifilamentary wires using various high Ga content compound estimated by Kramer formula.