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[Fusion of Physical Metallurgy and Data Science]

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Development of Advanced Structural Materials by combining Physical Metallurgy and Data Science

Enhancement of strength of structural materials meets the requirements in many applications, and especially contributes to the improvement of the resource and energy problem from the body-in-white weight reduction of automobiles. To enhance deformability of structural materials without losing strength, our lab aim to develop a new structural materials with enhanced performance by characterizing defects, deformation, and fracture in structural metals and alloys with a help of data-driven material science.

① In-situ Observation of Local Deformation and Phase Transformation Kinetics of Metals

Difference in surface relief effects between bainitic ferrite (left) and Widmanstatten ferrite (right) has been clarified from the in-situ measurement conducted using a newly developed Digital Holographic Microscope. The apparatus enables us to measure surface profile of a sample with several nanometer accuracy in real time.

② Estimation of internal properties of Al alloys from EBSD data and phase-field model using data assimilation

Data assimilation has been applied to clarify the mechanism controlling the recrystallization behavior of industrial pure aluminum. In this example, grain structures obtained during heat treatment using EBSD analysis and a phase-field model are applied. The precipitation and strain energy stored in each grains are estimated.

③ Unsupervised machine learning applied for automatic identification of steel microstructures

Unsupervised machine learning models are applied to identify the constituent microstructures of steels, such as ferrite side plate, bainite, and martensite, from optical micrographs. It has been demonstrated that efficient classification and identification can be performed by the combination of CNN and other machine learning algorithms.

④ Identification of phase transformation kinetics using sparse modeling

A Bayesian approach has been used for applying the best kinetic model explaining transformation kinetics and mechanical properties of low-carbon steels under different continuous cooling conditions only from experimental and simulation data. It is shown that the method clarifies the underlying physics efficiently without intensive metallographic observations.