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Synthesis of Aluminum-Magnesium Silicide (Al-Mg_2Si) Alloys and Study of their Mechanical Properties

Sundaramoorthy R[1], R. Ravindran[2]

[1]*Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Hindusthan Institute of Technology,Coimbatore,Tamilnadu, India.*
[2]*Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Mahalingam College of Engg. & Technology, Pollachi, Tamilnadu, India.*

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Abstract

Now a days in the coupé industries a hurried growth of utilization of Aluminum-magnesium silicide (Al-Mg_2Si) alloys for automotive applications is based on the combination of superior strength of properties, stumpy density, low down coefficient of thermal expansion and grand wear resistance. For this reason of aluminum-magnesium silicide (Al-Mg_2Si) alloys are more attractive as composite structural materials in all utilization where weight diminishing is of superior concern. In coupé applications weight diminishing will be improve the performance characteristics of vehicles by falling the rolling resistance and energy of acceleration, thus diminishing the fuel consumption and in addition a dwindling of the greenhouse gas CO_2 will be achieved. The progression in the field of application makes the study of their wear in and tensile performance of farthest importance. In this present investigation, Aluminum based alloys containing 5%, 10%, and 15% weight of magnesium silicide alloys be synthesize using stir casting method. Compositional investigation and tensile studies of different samples of same masterpiece have shown near uniform distribution of magnesium silicide in the prepared alloys. Tensile tests are carried out with universal testing machine. The ultimate tensile strength has blown up with increase in magnesium silicide proportions.

Introduction

Aluminum- magnesium silicide alloys are arranged with dissimilar weight percentage of magnesium silicide by stir (swirl) casting route in an induction heating furnace. Samples of dissimilar dimensions were cut in favour of different tests. Their composition was analyzed with the assist of an optical emission spectrometer. The microstructures of the samples were pragmatic under a scanning electron microscope. The hardness was calculated with the Vickers hardness testing apparatus. The tensile properties are obtained by conducting tensile tests on universal testing apparatus.

Alloy

An alloy is a substance that has metallic properties and is produced by combination of two or additional chemical elements of which in any case one is a metal. The metallic atoms must control in its chemical composition and the metallic attachment in its crystal constitution. Usually, alloys have dissimilar properties from those of the component rudiments. An alloy of a metal is completed by combining it with one or additional other metals or non-metals that frequently enhances its properties. For example, steel is strengthening than iron which its most important element. The important properties, such as density and conductivity, of an alloy may not change to a great extent from those of its component elements, but engineering properties for instance tensile strength and shear strength may be significantly different from those of the ingredient materials [1].

Aluminum alloys

At the present years aluminum alloys are broadly used in coupé industries. This is mainly due to the actual requiring weighting reduction for extra diminish of fuel utilization. The characteristic alloying elements are Cu, Mg, Mn, Sic, and Zn. Surfaces of aluminum alloys have a luminous sheen in dehydrated atmosphere due to the formation of a protecting layer of aluminum oxide. Aluminum alloys of the 4xxx, 5xxx and 6xxx series, containing main rudimentary additives of Mg and Si, are now being used to change steel panels if various coupé industries. Because of such reasons, these alloys were subject of rather a lot of scientific studies in the earlier period [2].

Properties of Aluminum alloys

A broad range of physical and mechanical properties are able to obtain from very pure aluminum. The different properties are:

(i) Aluminum has a density of concerning 2.7g/cc which is one third (roughly) the rate of steel.
(ii) Not like steel, aluminum prevents progressive corrosion by development of a defensive oxide layer on its surface on disclosure to air.
(iii) Aluminum alloys show, superb electrical and thermal conductivities. The thermal conductivity of aluminum is two times that of copper (for the same influence of both materials used) [3].

Aluminum- Magnesium Silicide alloy

Aluminum-Magnesium Silicide alloys are of superior significance to engineering industries as they show the elevated strength to weight ratio, elevated wear resistance, low down density, stumpy coefficient of thermal expansion etc. Magnesium Silicide imparts elevated fluidity and stumpy shrinkage, which effect in superior cast ability and weld ability [4]. Al-Mg2Si alloys are-

Corresponding author. Tel. +91- 9790400642
E-mail address: sundaramoorthy89@gmail.com

a) Warmth treatable
b) Superior flow characteristics, average strength
c) Simply joined, particularly by brazing and soldering

Properties of Aluminum-Magnesium Silicide are as follows:

(i) Thermal augmentation is reduced significantly by Mg2Si
(ii) Magnetic vulnerability is merely somewhat decreased by Mg2Si
(iii) The lattice limit is decreased somewhat by Mg2Si
(iv) Mach incapability is reduced because of the hardness of the Mg2Si

Even though many investigations live in literature and base on top of discussion, it is obvious that there is sufficient scope for additional research of Al- Mg2Si alloys particularly their mechanical properties. So the objectives of this study are;

(i) Preparation of Al- Mg2Si alloys
(ii) Toward study of their microstructure.
(iii) Toward of their mechanical properties

Experimental

Preparation of the alloys

Al-Mg_2Si alloys with changeable magnesium silicide percentage were ready by melting commercially unadulterated aluminum (99.6%) along with commercially unpolluted magnesium silicide in a graphite crucible in a soaring incidence induction furnace and the melt was detained at 730 °C in regulate to attain uniform composition [5]. Every melt was stimulated for 130s later than the adding of the modifier, detained for 15 to 20 min and next poured into a crucible graphite mould bounded by fireclay bricks. The cast samples were of 80 mm length, 20 mm wide and 10 mm height. The laboratory stir (swirl) - casting arrangement shown in below Fig. 1.

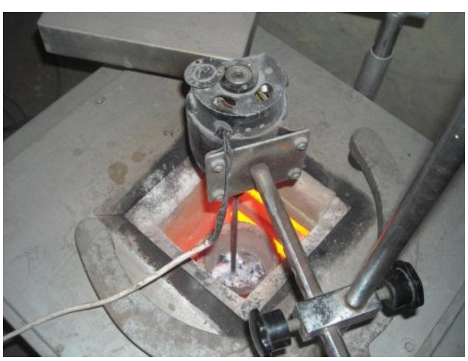


Figure 1: Stir (swirl) casting set up

The next Table 1 shows the weight of Al and Mg_2Si full in grams, in favour of the research of Al-5% Mg_2Si, Al-10% Mg_2Si and Al-15% Mg_2Si alloys.

Table 1: Composition of Mg_2Si alloys

SI.No	*Material*	*Al (in gms)*	*Mg_2Si (in gms)*
1	Al-5% Mg_2Si	250	12.5
2	Al-10% Mg_2Si	250	25.0
3	Al-15% Mg_2Si	250	37.5

The substance of the chemical compositions cast alloys were identified by means of optical emission spectrometer. The samples were cylindrical size of 15 mm diameter and 10 mm height. Here, excitation is completed by a spark and the investigation of the spectrum of frequencies of emitted electromagnetic rays is done to recognize the rudiments. Table 2 shows the substance (chemical) compositions of the dissimilar weight proportions of Al-Mg_2Si alloys.

Table 2: Chemical Compositions

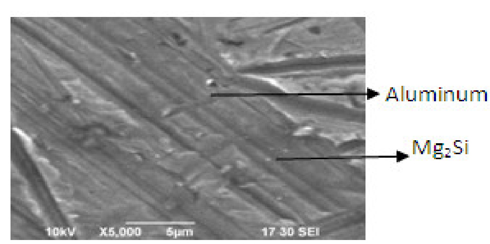
Aluminum Alloys	Al-5% Mg_2Si (wt%)	Al-10% Mg_2Si (wt%)	Al-15% Mg_2Si (wt%)
Mg_2Si	5.001	10.002	15.002
Fe	0.156	0.150	0.13
Cu	0.006	0.002	0.004
Mn	0.009	0.008	0.006
Zn	0.037	0.021	0.018
Ti	0.015	0.010	0.017
Ni	0.001	-	-
Ca	0.002	0.002	0.001
B	0.001	0.001	0.001
Bi	-	0.001	-
V	0.003	0.003	0.003
Co	0.001	0.001	0.001
Sb	0.001	0.001	0.001
Ga	0.014	0.014	0.014
P	0.001	-	-
As	0.001	0.001	0.001
Al	94.74	89.77	84.77

Results and Discussion

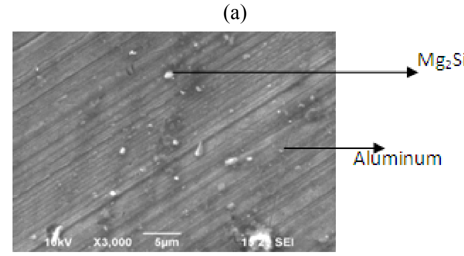
Dissimilar tests like compositional study, microstructure, tensile check, macro hardness analysis on Al-Mg_2Si alloys were taken out. The outcomes obtained from these investigations are reported, analyzed along with discussed.

Microstructure

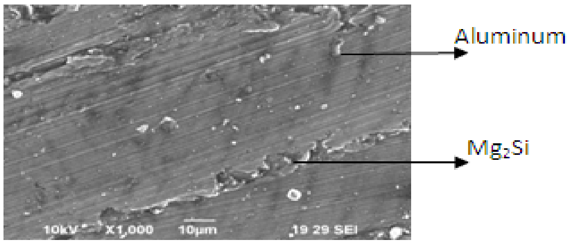
Micro-structural description studies were completed to view the microstructure of samples outside. This is completed by using scanning electron microscope [6]. The Al-Mg_2Si samples of dissimilar weight composition were mechanically refined using regular metallographic techniques prior to the test. Characterization is prepared in etched setting. The imagery was taken in secondary electron (SE) mode. This investigation was concluded by a scanning electron microscope is shown in Fig. 2 a, b and c for Al-5% Mg_2Si, Al-10% Mg_2Si and Al-15% Mg_2Si respectively.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 2: Microstructures of (a) Al-5% Mg_2Si (b) Al-10% Mg_2Si and (c) Al-15% Mg_2Si Samples

Figure 2a shows an ocular micrograph of Al-5% Mg_2Si alloy and it might be seen to relatively rounded particles of aluminum are crystallized, which are bounded by well eutectic magnesium silicide. Now magnesium silicide has networked constitution. The micrograph of Al-10% magnesium silicide alloy in Fig. 2b shows the minor change of the eutectic magnesium silicide particles. The magnesium silicide has rounded particles. It might be seen in Fig. 2c that the extent of minor change of the eutectic magnesium silicide augmented as the magnesium silicide content of the alloy augmented further than the eutectic composition.

Here the most important magnesium silicide appears as uncouth polyhedral particles. Also presence of most important magnesium silicide is also experiential in the Al-10% Mg_2Si and Al-15% Mg_2Si alloys, even though the bulk and size fraction of the most important magnesium silicide is extra in Al-15% Mg_2Si, as compared to Al-10% Mg_2Si alloys [7].

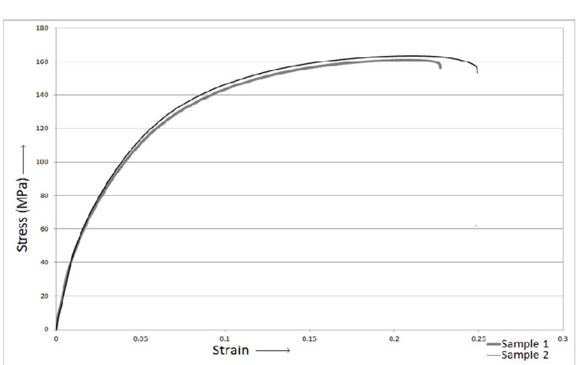
Tensile test

Since the load and elongation standards, achieved from the universal testing machine [8], related engineering stress and engineering strain be considered along with plotted to get stress vs. strain curves for dissimilar samples of Al-5% Mg_2Si, Al-10% Mg_2Si, and Al-15% Mg_2Si alloys are shown in Fig. 3a, 3b and 3c.

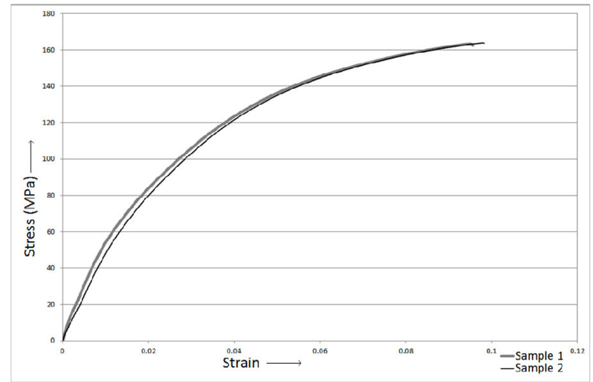
The eventual tensile strength and entirety elongation for the first sample of Al-5% Mg_2Si were establish to be 160.81 MPa and 23.72 % correspondingly. The eventual tensile strength and entirety elongation for the second sample of Al-5% Mg_2Si were establish to be 161.84 MPa and 25.12 % correspondingly.

The eventual tensile strength and entirety elongation for the first sample of Al-10% Mg_2Si were establish to be 162.21 MPa and 9.51 % correspondingly. The eventual tensile strength and entirety elongation for the second sample of Al-10% Mg_2Si were establish to be 162.31 MPa and 9.71 % correspondingly.

The eventual tensile strength and entirety elongation for the first sample of Al-15% Mg_2Si were found to be 173.13 MPa and 11.84 % correspondingly. The ultimate tensile strength and total elongation for the second sample of Al-15% Mg_2Si were establish to be 171.38 MPa and 9.54 % correspondingly.



(a)



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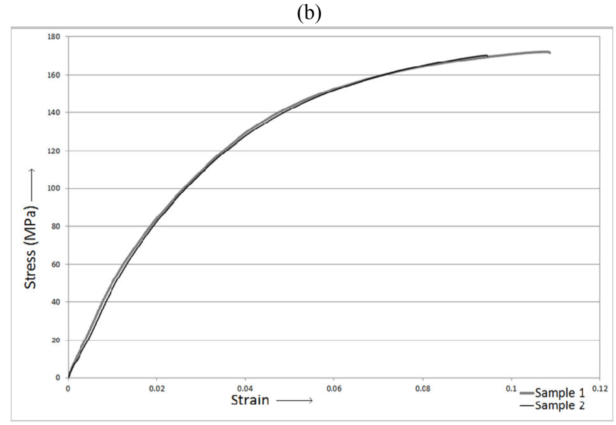

(c)

Figure 3: Stress-strain curve for (a) Al-5% Mg_2Si, (b) Al-10% Mg_2Si and (c) Al-15% Mg_2Si samples

Vickers Hardness

The macro hardness analysis of every samples be carried out using a Vicker's hardness testing machine with a reside time of 15sec and functional load of 4 kgf (P) through the tests [9]. For all composition, four indentations be taken and average value is tabulated in below Table 3.

Table 3: Vickers hardness number of different Al- Mg_2Si alloys

Composition	Diameter One (in μm)	Diameter Two (in μm)	VHN	Average VHN
Al- Mg_2Si - 5%	429.5	428.4	47.9	50
	419.4	414.3	50.8	
	423.4	416.4	50.1	
	415.6	412.4	51.2	
Al- Mg_2Si- 10%	369.8	373.1	64.5	63.6
	367.4	384.4	62.9	
	374.9	376.8	62.9	
	371.6	373.8	64.1	
Al-Mg_2Si- 15%	368.3	371.4	69.2	70.4
	360.3	363.9	72.1	
	363.4	366.3	71.1	
	370.7	368.8	69.2	

Figure 4 shows the differences in Vickers hardness number of Al-5% Mg2Si, Al-10% Mg2Si and Al-15% Mg2Si and VHN average values. The Vickers hardness numbers for Al-5% Mg2Si, Al-10% Mg2Si and Al-15% Mg2Si are found to be 50, 63.6 and 70.4 respectively. It is shows that hardness of the Al- Mg2Si alloy boost up with the improve in the weight percentage of Mg2Si. This may be by reason of the increase of Mg2Si amount, which is harder [10].

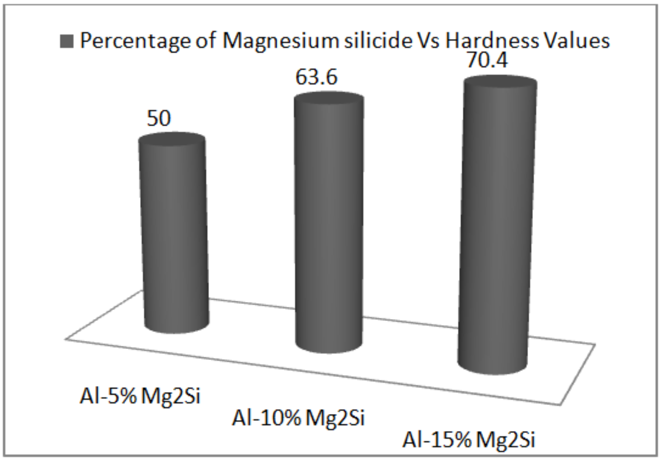

Figure 4: Variation of hardness along with their standard deviation

Conclusions

The conclusions haggard from the conducted investigations are as follows:

(i) The prepared aluminium-magnesium silicide alloys have homogenous allocation of Mg_2Si throughout the cast.
(ii) The amount of primary magnesium-silicon increases with the increase in Magnesium Silicide amount in the cast.
(iii) Yield strength and ultimate tensile strength increases with the increase of weight percentage of magnesium silicide.
(iv) Total elongation decreases with the increase of weight percentage of magnesium silicide.
(v) Hardness of the Al-Mg_2Si composite increases with the increase in amount of Mg_2Si present.

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