

FIG. 1

Stereographic projection of habit planes observed at 90 kb.

SHOCK INDUCED MARTENSITIC TRANSFORMATIONS

IN BCC Fe-Mn

A. Christou*

Materials Science Division

U. S. Naval Weapons Laboratory

Dahlgren, Virginia

(Received April 2, 1970)

1. Introduction

Recent experiments have shown that BCC α -iron transforms to a close-packed phase under shock pressures^(1,2). The effect of dynamic pressure produced by intense shock waves on the pressure volume relations was first studied by Bancroft, Peterson and Minshall⁽³⁾. The nature of the high pressure phase which must form and revert in the order of 10^{-6} seconds has not been established. Static experiments however, have shown that in pure iron, at room temperature, the high pressure phase is hexagonal close packed ϵ ^(4,5).

The addition of alloying elements to iron modifies the temperature pressure diagram, and the stability of the γ or ϵ fields can be increased by the addition of manganese. Consequently, the shock loading of the Fe-Mn alloys which have been subzero quenched to form α -martensite (α'), results in a pressure induced $\alpha' \rightarrow \gamma$ transformation for the Fe-7.37 wt % Mn alloy and $\alpha' \rightarrow \epsilon$ for the Fe-14 wt % Mn alloy. It is the object of this paper to report the morphology and crystallographic features of the α' to γ and α' to ϵ transformations.

2. Experimental Methods and Results

The Fe-Mn alloys were austenized for five hours at 950°C and then quenched to 77°K. This subzero quench produced 86% α -martensite in the alloys. Foil specimens of the alloys, 3 cm by 3 cm were shock loaded to peak pressures of 90, 150 and 300 kb using the driver plate technique⁽⁶⁾. Thin foils suitable for transmission electron microscopy were prepared from

* Work supported by ARPA and NWL independent Research funds.