

# Mechanisms of metastable phase transformations in Al-Cu alloys with additions of Si, Ti and B

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## Abstract

Different metastable phases formed during thermal treatment of Al-Cu alloys were investigated by combination of HRTEM, TEM+EDS and HRSEM techniques. The based Al - 4.97 wt. % Cu - 0.56 wt. % Ag alloy (A201) was modified by different additions of Si, Ti and B. Microstructure and mechanical properties were studied in the as-cast, solution treated (at 550°C for ~20 hours) and aged (at 170°C up to 32 days) conditions. The precipitation sequence during aging was the following: supersaturated solid solution (SSSS)  $\rightarrow$  GP zones  $\rightarrow$   $\theta''$   $\rightarrow$   $\theta'$  +  $\Omega$   $\rightarrow$   $\theta$ . During the early stages of aging GP zones are nucleated as single layers of Cu parallel to {100} planes of the  $\alpha$ -Al matrix. Then these GP zones are united and generate the metastable  $\theta''$ - CuAl<sub>3</sub> phase consisting of several single atomic layers of Cu, each of them separated by three atomic layers of Al. The Ag, Ti and B additions resulted in nucleation of metastable semi-coherent  $\theta'$  phase formed at {111}  $\alpha$ -Al planes. The Si addition increased nucleation of GP zones and inhibited  $\Omega$  phase. The following aging resulted in  $\theta''$  transformation to semi-coherent metastable  $\theta'$ - CuAl<sub>2</sub>. The mechanism of this transformation is discussed. The next step of microstructure evolution is diffusional dissolution of  $\theta''$  precipitates in the presence of more stable  $\theta'$  and  $\theta$  phases. The maximum microhardness corresponded to simultaneous formation of semi-coherent  $\theta'$  and  $\Omega$  precipitates. After extended aging, the  $\theta'$  transforms to stable incoherent BCT  $\theta$ -phase.

## Biography

Nalan Özdemir has her expertise in biochemistry, especially separation and purification of enzymes, enzyme immobilization, preparation and characterization of enzyme-inorganic hybrid nanostructures. Dr. Özdemir is the founder of the Biochemistry Division at Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science- Erciyes University/TURKEY. She began her

studies about synthesis and also characterization of organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. Dr. Özdemir has done many projects and published several articles about organic-inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. Dr Özdemir's work still continues in this area.