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# The B2-B19' orientation relationships and their continuums revealed by EBSD and TKD observations of NiTi alloys

#### A confirmation that we must revise the PTMC

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EBSD = Electron BackScatter Diffraction TKD = Transmission Kikuchi Diffraction (= t-EBSD, EFSD) OR = Orientation Relationship PTMC = Phenomenological Theory of Martensitic Crystallography

# Motivations of the study:

1. Three years ago, I started to teach "phase transformations" to Bachelor students. Necessarily, I included a part about shape memory alloys, and one of their most classical representative alloy: Ni-Ti. I was teaching as most of us teach this, by showing schematic pictures as the one on the right hand side:



However, as I have a long experience of EBSD, I decided to look inside literature to find experimental EBSD maps showing the B2 austenite  $\rightarrow$  B19' martensite transformation during tensile tests of superelastic NiTi, or the B19' variant re-orientation effect during deformation of a martensitic NiTi alloy. I knew that NiTi have been widely studied, and I found numerous TEM and HRTEM studies, **but to my big surprize I could not find any EBSD map of B19' martensite**! So, I decided to do the job myself.

2. The classical theory used to explain/describe the complex microstructure of B19' martensite is the **Phenomenolgical Theory of Martensite Crystallography** (PTMC) born in the 1950s. I have started to doubt about PTMC and this paradigm nearly 10 years ago when I started to study fcc-bcc martensitic transformation in steels. Before explaining why, let me make a very brief summary of what is PTMC.

#### Phenomenological Theory of Martensite Crystallography (1/3)



#### Phenomenological Theory of Martensite Crystallography (2/3)

Version 2: Wechsler, Lieberman & Read 1953 Mathematically equivalent to version 1



with  $\mathbf{F}_A$  and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  two <u>distortion</u> variants

In addition the volume change should be conserved:  $det(\mathbf{F}_A) = det(\mathbf{F}_B) = det(\mathbf{IPS})$ 



$$\Leftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{F}_A - \mathbf{F}_B = \mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{n}$$

#### Phenomenological Theory of Martensite Crystallography (3/3)

PTMC suffers from important problems:

- They are **phenomenological** (they do not describe how the atoms move)
- They rely on the exact values of the lattice parameters, which, to me, has never been not confirmed by experience.
- The equations lead to some solutions that are discarded just because they do not fit with the experiments reported in literature.
- They are not as "predictive" as it is often claimed.
- The **rotational degree(s) of freedom** noted R or Q depends on the pair of "correspondence" variants (actually stretch variants) that is considered! In the modern version of PTMC, they are

Rotation  $Q_{ij}$  required to get a coupling between different variants *i* and *j*Rotation  $J_{ijkl}$  required to get a coupling the habit plane variants (*i*,*j*) and (*k*,*l*)

 $\rightarrow$  Very complex. When does it stop?

• They are intrinsically built on the hypothesis that the twinning relation between the variants should be a **simple shear**.

#### Shifting the simple shear paradigm (1/5)

The main issue for simple shear: the atoms in the lattice ! Friction due to steric effect, one should expect  $\tau_c \# \mu/30$  if lattice distortion is an <u>"instantaneous"</u> simple strain



#### Shifting the simple shear paradigm (2/5)

#### **Hypothesis 2:**

The initial problem comes from the current assumption that all the atoms should move «instantaneously», which is impossible

# Phase transformation / deformation imagined as a wave (soliton)



- The lattice distortion is not based on simple strain, or IPS, as in PTMC.
- No dislocation, no disconnection involved in the mechanism.
- This "transformation wave" can go at the speed of sound.
- Accommodation is spread on large distances. It can be discretised into sets of dislocations/disconnections at lower speeds or in small volumes (when the martensite product or the twin reaches an interface).



# Shift of paradigm: angular distortion instead of simple strain

<u>My point of view:</u> Dislocations are just accommodation defects generated by the formation of martensite in the surrounding austenite; they are not intrinsically essential to the transformation. In small free crystals, the transformation can be imagined without dislocation.





Cayron, C. Shifting the Shear Paradigm in the Crystallographic Models of Displacive Transformations in Metals and Alloys. Crystals. **2018**, *8*, 181.

#### Shifting the simple shear paradigm (5/5)

#### Application to fcc-bcc martensitic transformation in steels



**Fcc-bcc** distortion with K-S OR explained with hard-spheres. The continuity is given by a unique parameter, the angle,  $\beta = (PO, PK)$  that changes from 60° (bcc) , X =  $\frac{1}{2}$ , to 70.5° (fcc), X = 1/3. Movie at http://lmtm.epfl.ch/research.

#### Application to conventional and unconventional deformation twinning in magnesium





The habit plane of the green twin is  $\{10\overline{1}2\}_t // \{21\overline{3}2\}_p$  $\rightarrow$  It is not a invariant plane, so it is

not a shear plane!

Cayron, C. Shifting the Shear Paradigm in the Crystallographic Models of Displacive Transformations in Metals and Alloys. Crystals. **2018**, *8*, 181.

#### Methodology for the EBSD and TKD on NiTi alloys

#### Material:

- Straight 50Ni-50Ti bars of 10 mm × 2 mm sections were used in this study.
- Ms = 45 °C, Mf = 35 °C, As = 60 °C, and Af = 90 °C.
- The shape memory effect was confirmed by deforming the bars and checking that they come back to their initial straight shapes when dropped into hot water.

#### Sample preparation:

- EBSD samples prepared by electropolishing with A3 electrolyte from Struers at 20 V and 10 °C, or using a lab-made solution of 10% perchloric acid + 30% butanol + 60% methanol at 30 V.
- TEM samples used for TKD prepared by mechanically polishing down to 100 μm and punching to obtain discs of 3 mm diameter. Then electropolished at –15 °C with a dual-jet TenuPol electropolisher from Struers with the A3 electrolyte at 20 V, or with nitric 30% acid + 70% methanol solution at 40 V.

#### Facilities and conditions:

- SEM: Gemini450 SEM (Zeiss , Germany).
- EBSD and TKD : CMOS Symmetry system processed with Aztec software (Oxford Instruments, UK).
- Current 15 nA and accelerating voltage 20 kV for EBSD and 30 kV for TKD.

## Software for Data treatment:

- Simulations of the orientation variants and their pole figures: GenOVa
- B2 parent austenite reconstruction, disorientation histogram (angles and axes), traces of the habit planes: ARPGE.

#### Phases:

- B2: cubic m3m, a = 3.015 Å.
- B19': monoclinic 2/m, a = 2.89 Å, b = 4.12 Å, c = 4.62 Å, and  $\beta$  = 96.8° for B19'.





Orientation map of B19'

Reconstructed B2 grains + retained B2 phases (ARPGE)

Disorientation histogram between the B19' martensite inside their prior parent B2 grains (ARPGE)

#### EBSD on NiTi alloys (3/3)

The B2-B19' orientation relationships (OR) can be determined from the pole figures



•	OR A:	$(010)_{B19'}//(110)_{B2} \& [001]_{B19'}//[\overline{1}10]_{B2}$
•	OR C:	$(010)_{B19'}//(110)_{B2} \& [100]_{B19'}//[001]_{B2}$
•	OR AQ:	$(010)_{B19'}//(110)_{B2} \& [101]_{B19'}//[\overline{1}11]_{B2}$
•	OR CQ:	(010) <sub>B19'</sub> //(110) <sub>B2</sub> & [101] <sub>B19'</sub> //[111] <sub>B2</sub>
•	OR I:	$(11\overline{1})_{B19'}//(101)_{B2}$ and $[011]_{B19'}//[010]_{B2}$

#### Simulation of EBSD pole figures and disorientation histogram (1/3)

#### Simulation of the variants associated with the different ORs (GenOVa)

List of Operators

Op. 0 = 0 Deg

Op. 1 = 90.0 Deg / [0 8 7] Op. 2 = 180 Deg / [0 0 1]

Op. 3 = 90.0 Deg / [0 8 7]

Op. 4 = 120. Deg / [101]

Op. 5 = 120. Deg / [40-3]

Op. 6 = 90.0 Deg / [11 0 1]

(Minimum Rotation)

OR A

Pole figures of the variants





#### List of operators between variants

List of Operators (Minimum Rotatio

Op. 0 = 0 Deg

**OR** continuum

Op. 1 = 90.0 Deg / [5 30 27]

Op. 3 = 90.0 Deg / [5 30 27]

Op. 4 = 120. Deg / [403] Op. 5 = 120. Deg / [-101]

Op. 6 = 90.0 Deg / [100]

Op. 2 = 180 Deg / [106]

on)	(Minimum Rotation)	(Minimum Rotation)		
	Op. 0 = 0 Deg	_		
	Op. 1 = 89.9 Deg / [18-7]			
	Op. 2 = 173. Deg / [13 0 1]			
	Op. 3 = 179. Deg / [0 0 1]			
	Op. 4 = 89.9 Deg / [-1 8 7]			
	Op. 5 = 124. Deg / [10 0 9]			
	Op. 6 = 120. Deg / [17 1 16]			
	Op. 7 = 116. Deg / [60-5]			
	Op. 8 = 6.58 Deg / [9 0 1]			
	Op. 9 = 120. Deg / [16 1 -12]			
	Op. 10 = 120. Deg / [16 1 -12]			
	Op. 11 = 90.0 Deg / [0 4 3]			
	Op. 12 = 90.4 Deg / [5 40 36]			
	Op. 13 = 90.0 Deg / [0 1 1]			
	Op. 14 = 90.0 Deg / [0 1 1]			
on)	Op. 15 = 120. Deg / [17 1 16]			
	Op. 16 = 90.0 Deg / [0 4 3]			
	Op. 17 = 90.4 Deg / [5 40 36]			
	Op. 18 = 83.4 Deg / [13 0 1]			
	Op. 19 = 90.0 Deg / [13 0 1]			
	Op. 20 = 96.5 Deg / [13 0 1]			
	Op. 21 = 116. Deg / [1 0 1]			
	Op. 22 = 123. Deg / [-403]			
	Op. 23 = 90.0 Deg / [13 0 1]			
		_		

ORI

List of Operators





#### Simulation of EBSD pole figures and disorientation histogram (2/3)



#### Simulation of EBSD pole figures and disorientation histogram (3/3)

**OR A/AQ** is the predominant OR in the EBSD map.

ORA is actually that used to illustrate the B2 $\rightarrow$  B19' lattice distortion in Otsuka, K.; Ren, X. Physical metallurgy of Ti-Ni-based shape memory alloys. *Prog. Mat. Sci.* 2005, *50*, 511–678.

**OR AQ** is for me the **"natural" OR** because it established a parallelism between the dense planes and dense directions:

 $(010)_{B19'}//(110)_{B2} \& [101]_{B19'}//[\bar{1}11]_{B2}$ 

as the KS OR in bcc martensite in steels, or Burgers OR in hcp martensite in Ti alloys.



# TKD on NiTi alloys (1/3)



= 2 µm; B19' IPFx; Step=9, 198 nm; Grid942x691

#### TKD on NiTi alloys (2/3)



#### TKD on NiTi alloys (3/3)



The "dice-5" feature in EBSD becomes a "four-fold cross" in TKD. The TKD pole figures confirm the continuum of ORs that were just inferred from the EBSD histograms but that was not directly visible in the pole figures.



Simulations with all the variants generated by the ORs A, AQ, C, CQ, I, and A-C with GenOVa

Let us calculate the distortion matrices associated to the different ORs , and let us see if we can predict the habit planes (with big hopes for ORA).

1. The correspondence matrix is the same for all the ORs A, AQ, C, CQ, I (because they are all very close). It is:

$$\mathbf{C}^{\mathrm{B2}\to\mathrm{B19'}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. The orientation relationship matrix depends on the OR. Let us calculate it for ORA, by considering again Otsuka and Ren scheme.

$$\mathbf{T}_{A}^{\text{B2}\rightarrow\text{B19}\prime} = \left[\boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{\text{B2}} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{\text{B19}}\right] \left[\boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{\text{B19}} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{\text{B19}\prime}\right]$$

with  $\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{B2} \to \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{B19} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{b_{B19'}}{a_{B2}} & \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{c_{B19'}}{a_{B2}} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{b_{B19'}}{a_{B2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{c_{B19'}}{a_{B2}} \\ \frac{a_{B19'}}{a_{B2}} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and  $\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{B19} \to \boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}^{B19'} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Sin(\beta_{B19'}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ Cos(\beta_{B19'}) & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$ 



$$\rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{A}^{B2 \rightarrow B19'} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.128 & 0.966 & -1.084 \\ -0.128 & 0.966 & 1.0834 \\ 0.951 & 0. & 0. \end{bmatrix}.$$

# 3. The distortion matrix $\mathbf{F}^{B2}$ results from the fundamental equation

$$\mathbf{C}^{B19' \to B2} = \mathbf{T}^{B19' \to B2} \mathbf{F}^{B2} \qquad \text{where } \mathbf{C}^{B19' \to B2} = (\mathbf{C}^{B2 \to B19'})^{-1} \text{ and } \mathbf{T}^{B19' \to B2} = (\mathbf{T}^{B2 \to B19'})^{-1}$$
$$\rightarrow \mathbf{F}_{A}^{B2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.025 & -0.059 & 0.128\\ -0.059 & 1.025 & -0.128\\ 0. & 0. & 0.951 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# 4. We calculate $\mathbf{F}^{B2}$ for all the ORs we determined in EBSD

0.

OR	Distortion Matrix	F <sup>B2</sup>	Eigenvectors of $(\mathbf{F}^{B2})^* = (\mathbf{F}^{B2})^{-t}$	fully invariant but ju
А	$\mathbf{F}_{A}^{\text{B2}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.025 & -0.059 \\ -0.059 & 1.025 \\ 0. & 0. \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.128 \\ -0.128 \\ 0.951 \end{array} \right]$	{0,0,1}, {1,1,0}, {0.417, -0.417, 0.807}	distortion. Mathematically, it is eigenvectors of the reciprocal distortion
AQ	$\mathbf{F}_{AQ}^{B2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.025 & -0.059 \\ -0.059 & 1.025 \\ -0.0016 & 0.0016 \end{bmatrix}$	$\left[\begin{array}{c} 0.130\\ -0.130\\ 0.951 \end{array}\right]$	{0.012, -0.012, 0.999}, {1,1,0}, { <b>1</b> , - <b>1</b> , <b>2</b> }	
С	$\mathbf{F}_{C}^{\text{B2}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.021 & -0.053 \\ -0.055 & 1.021 \\ 0.057 & -0.057 \end{bmatrix}$	5 0. 0. 7 0.958]	{-0.397,0.397,0.827}, {1,1,0}, {-1,1,0}	matrix.
CQ	$\mathbf{F}_{CQ}^{\rm B2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.022 & -0.056 \\ -0.056 & 1.022 \\ 0.083 & -0.083 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.054 \\ -0.054 \\ 0.966 \end{array} \right]$	<b>{</b> −1,1,2 <b>}</b> , {1,1,0 <b>}</b> , {0.642, −0.642, 0.420}	habit planes
Ι	$\mathbf{F}_{I}^{\text{B2}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.020 & 0.\\ -0.118 & 1.0268\\ 0.0287 & 0. \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0939 \\ -0.135 \\ 0.954 \end{array}$	{0.293,0., -0.956}, {0.713,0.125,0.690}, {1,0,1}	

studies of martensitic transformations, we came to think that the habit plane is not nvariant but just ated by the tion. ematically, it is a ectors of the ocal distortion

#### Crystallography of B2 $\rightarrow$ B19' transformation – *without PTMC* – (3/4)

For OR AQ (the natural OR) the lowest index expected habit planes is  $(1\overline{1}2)_{B2}//(10\overline{1})_{B19'}$ Is this "prediction" in agreement with the EBSD maps?

*Trace of the*  $(10\overline{1})_{B19'}$  *planes (plotted by ARPGE)* 



#### Crystallography of B2→B19' transformation – *without PTMC* – (4/4)

*Trace of the*  $(10\overline{1})_{B19'}$  *planes (plotted by ARPGE)* 





Very good agreement, even better than with the experimental habit planes reported in literature  $(0.39, 0.48, 0.78)_{B2}$  or the habit plane  $(0.215, 0.405, 0.888)_{B2}$  calculated by PTMC

#### Explanation of the continuum of orientation of the B19' martensite An alternative of the PTMC (1/3)

For me, the OR AQ is the **"natural" OR**, and the other ORs are **"closing-gap" ORs**. Let me explain with a simple 2D square ( $\gamma$ ) –parallelogram ( $\alpha$ ) transformation



- (a) If we assume that  $\mathbf{a}_{\alpha}//\mathbf{a}_{\gamma}$  is the "natural" OR, there are four orientation variants. However, there exist incompatibilities between them. The incompatibilities can be accommodated by closing-gap ORs linked to the natural OR by continuous distortion fields
- (b) Closing-gap OR  $(1,0)_{\alpha 1}//(1,0)_{\alpha 3}//(1,0)_{\gamma}$  and associated rotation gradients between the variants  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_3$ . This new OR "cures" the broken symmetry  $m_{\gamma}^{\gamma}$ .
- (c) Closing-gap OR (1, 1)<sub>α1</sub>//(1, 1)<sub>α2</sub>//(1, 1)<sub>γ</sub> and associated rotation gradients between the variants α<sub>1</sub> and α<sub>2</sub>. This new OR "cures" the broken symmetry m<sup>γ</sup><sub>xy</sub>.

#### Explanation of the continuum of orientation of the B19' martensite An alternative of the PTMC (2/3)

For NiTi alloys, the closing-gap ORs are:

- OR A is the closing-gap OR from AQ that "cures" the lost mirror symmetry on a plane (001)<sub>B2</sub>. It restores the contact between two AQ distortion variants that are linked by the common correspondence plane (001)<sub>B2</sub>→(100)<sub>B19'</sub>.
- OR C obeys the same rule and can be understood as the closing-gap OR that re-establishes the contact between the correspondence direction  $[001]_{B2} \rightarrow [100]_{B19'}$ . The continuum A-C is the elastic accommodation between the natural OR AQ and its two derivatives A and C.
- We also think that the ORs CQ and I derive from other lost symmetry elements such as the  $<110>_{B2}$  two fold axes

#### PTMC vs our approach:

- The PTMC also uses the notion of compatibility between the variants, but the PTMC has never considered a natural OR. Actually, ORs are just adjustment parameters in PTMC.
- The PTMC imposes that a simple shear link (rank-one connection) between the variants.



#### Conclusion

### Experimental results:

- The complex and intricate microstructure of B19' martensite in shape memory NiTi alloys is generally studied by TEM and explained with the PTMC.
- Here, we used EBSD and TKD to investigate a polycrystalline NiTi alloy composed of B19' martensite.
- The EBSD maps show the martensite plates and reveal the coexistence of different ORs.
- The TKD maps show the "twins" and confirm the continuum of orientations suspected from EBSD.
- The predominant OR in EBSD is AQ:  $(010)_{B19'}/(110)_{B2}$  and  $[101]_{B19'}/[\overline{1}11]_{B2}$
- Other co-existent ORs were observed (A, C, CQ, I).

#### Interpretation:

- The experimental results are interpreted with an approach alternative to PTMC.
- The OR AQ is the "natural" OR since the dense directions and dense planes of B2 and B19' phases are parallel.
- The ORA/AQ was used to automatically reconstruct the prior parent B2 grains in the EBSD and TKD maps.
- From the distortion matrix associated with the OR AQ, we calculated that the habit plane could be  $(1\overline{1}2)_{B2}//(10\overline{1})_{B19'}$ .
- The traces of these planes are in good agreement with the EBSD maps.
- The ORs A, C, CQ and I are "closing-gap" ORs derived from the natural OR to allow the compatibility between the distortion variants.
- Each of them restores a parent symmetry element between the variants that was lost by distortion but preserved by correspondence.

#### For more details:

#### Open Access Article

# What EBSD and TKD Tell Us about the Crystallography of the Martensitic B2-B19' Transformation in NiTi Shape Memory Alloys

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