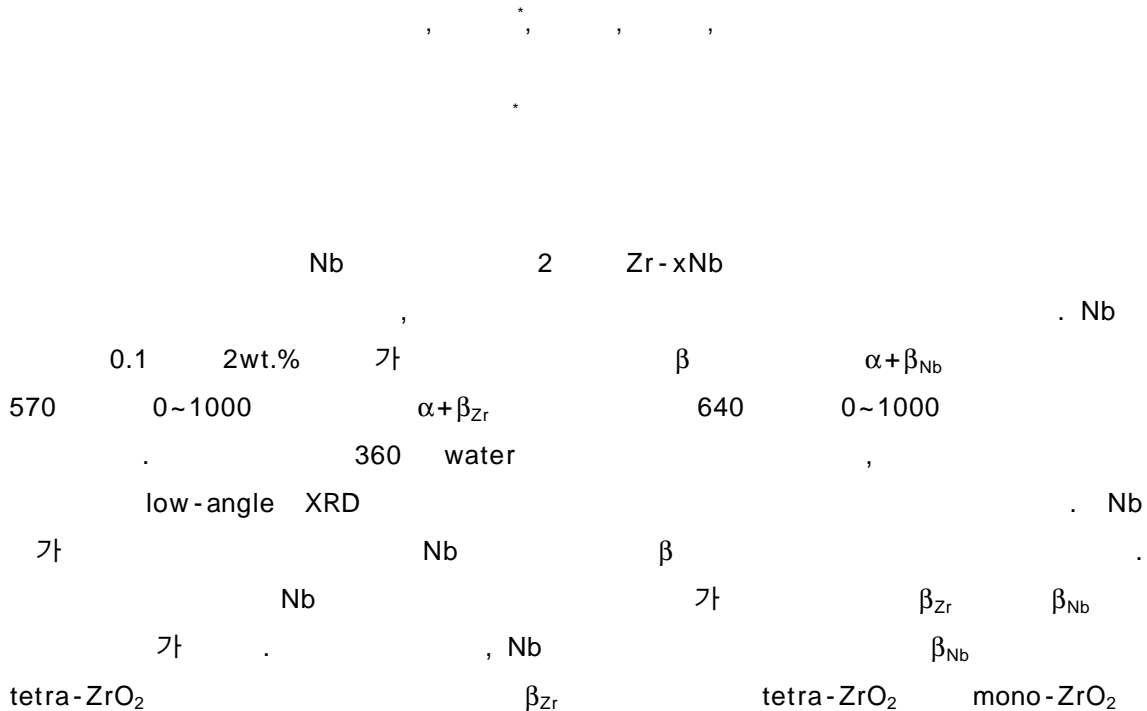


## Zr-xNb

## Oxidation behavior with annealing condition of Zr-xNb alloys



## Abstract

To investigate the effect of soluble-Nb and second-phase on the corrosion and oxide characteristics of Zr-xNb alloys, the corrosion and oxide characterization test were performed. The specimens have different Nb content in the range from 0.1 to 2wt.% which were heat-treated at 570 °C for from 0 to 1000 hours to get the  $\alpha + \beta_{Nb}$  phase and at 640 °C for from 0 to 1000 hours to get the  $\alpha + \beta_{Zr}$  phase after  $\beta$ -quenching. The specimens were tested in water at 360 °C and the oxide characteristics of corroded sample having equal thickness were investigated by using low-angle XRD. The corrosion behavior of Zr-xNb alloys affected by the soluble-Nb and formed  $\beta$  phase. The good corrosion resistance was showed when the Nb content was an equilibrium soluble state in matrix and the corrosion resistance was reduced when the  $\beta_{Nb}$  phase was formed rather than  $\beta_{Zr}$  phase. From the oxide analysis, the soluble-Nb and  $\beta_{Nb}$  phase would stabilize the tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>, while the  $\beta_{Zr}$  phase would accelerate the

transformation from the tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub> to mono-ZrO<sub>2</sub>.

1.

Zr  
가  
Zircaloy-4 PWR 가  
Zircaloy-4 [1-4].  
Nb 가 Nb 가  
Zr-based , Nb 가  
[5,6].  
β<sub>Zr</sub> 가 β<sub>Nb</sub> [7,8].  
Nb 2 Jeong Nb 가 Zr  
β<sub>Nb</sub> β<sub>Nb</sub> α  
Nb [9].  
Zr 가 Nb β  
Nb 0.1~2 wt.%  
가 β<sub>Nb</sub> 570 0~1000  
β<sub>Zr</sub> 640 0~1000 β (β<sub>Nb</sub>)  
β<sub>Zr</sub> )  
XRD

2.

2 Zr Nb  
0.1~2 wt.% , 1 VAR  
300g button ingot  
1020 20min β-quenching 1  
β<sub>Nb</sub> 570 0~1000  
β<sub>Zr</sub> 640 0~1000  
TEM-EDS  
SiC , HF(5%),  
HNO<sub>3</sub>(45%), H<sub>2</sub>O(50%) pickling  
360 18MPa 가 static autoclave

가 가 .

low -  
 angle XRD 30 mg/dm<sup>2</sup>

가 , 가

Low-angle XRD 2°

scan speed 0.5°/min .

3.

3.1

2 3 Nb  
 2 570 ,

Nb 가 Nb 가

Nb 가 β 2 . β

Martensite plate 가 Ms 가 [10]. quenched

2

Nb 가 가 가

high-Nb 가 가 3

640 570

가 0.2 Nb

570

high-Nb 가

Nb 가 , TEM

4 quenching α+β<sub>Nb</sub> 570

5, 50 0.2, 0.8 1.5 wt.% Nb 가

0.2Nb 가 . 0.8Nb

가

1.5Nb 가 twin

Nb

5 α+β<sub>Zr</sub> 640 5,

50 0.2, 0.8 1.5 wt.% Nb 가

570 가 twin

가 가

가 . 가 50  
, 0.8 wt.%  
가 .  
6 . 570 50 1.5Nb  
. 640 50 1.5Nb  $\beta_{Nb}$   
 $\beta_{Zr}$  .  
3.2 Nb 가  
7 Nb 가  
가 . 7 (a) 570  
90 , quenched Nb 가  
. high-Nb  
가 가 50  
1000  
7 (b) 640 90  
570 quenched  
가 640  
high-Nb 가  
가 8 Nb 가 Nb 가  
가 8 (a) 570 low-  
Nb 0.1, 0.2 wt.%  
quenched Nb 가 Nb  
가 7 (a)  
.  $\alpha + \beta_{Nb}$  570  
Nb 8 (b) 640 570  
. high-Nb Nb  $\beta$   
Nb 가 .  
570 가 ,  
 $\beta_{Zr}$   $\beta_{Zr}$   
 $\beta_{Nb}$  .

, Nb 가 Zr  
 $\beta$   
 Nb  $\alpha$  가 640  
 $\beta_{Zr}$  570  $\beta_{Nb}$   
 $\beta_{Zr}$  가

3.3  
 Low - angle XRD  
 Zr PBW(pilling-bedworth ratio)가

1.56  
 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>가 , tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>  
 가 [13]. 9 570 50  
 1.5Nb  
 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub> mono-ZrO<sub>2</sub> peak  
 10 0.2, 0.8, 1.5Nb 가 570  
 640 50 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>  
 0.2Nb  
 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub> , 0.8Nb tetra-  
 ZrO<sub>2</sub> 1.5Nb  $\beta_{Nb}$   
 570 ,  $\beta_{Zr}$   
 640  
 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>  
 Nb Nb  $\beta$   $\alpha$  가  
 tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>

4.  
 Nb 가 Nb  $\beta$

1. , Nb 가 가  
 ,  $\beta_{Nb}$  , Zr(NbFe)<sub>2</sub>  $\beta_{Zr}$

2. , Nb  $\beta_{Nb}$  tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub>  
 , Zr(NbFe)<sub>2</sub>  $\beta_{Zr}$  tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub> mono-  
 ZrO<sub>2</sub>

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Table 1. Alloy composition and heat-treatment of Zr-Nb binary alloys

Alloy	Heat - treatment
Zr-xNb (x= 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 wt.%)	(a) 570 ( $\alpha+\beta_{Nb}$ region) x 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000h (b) 640 ( $\alpha+\beta_{Zr}$ region) x 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000h

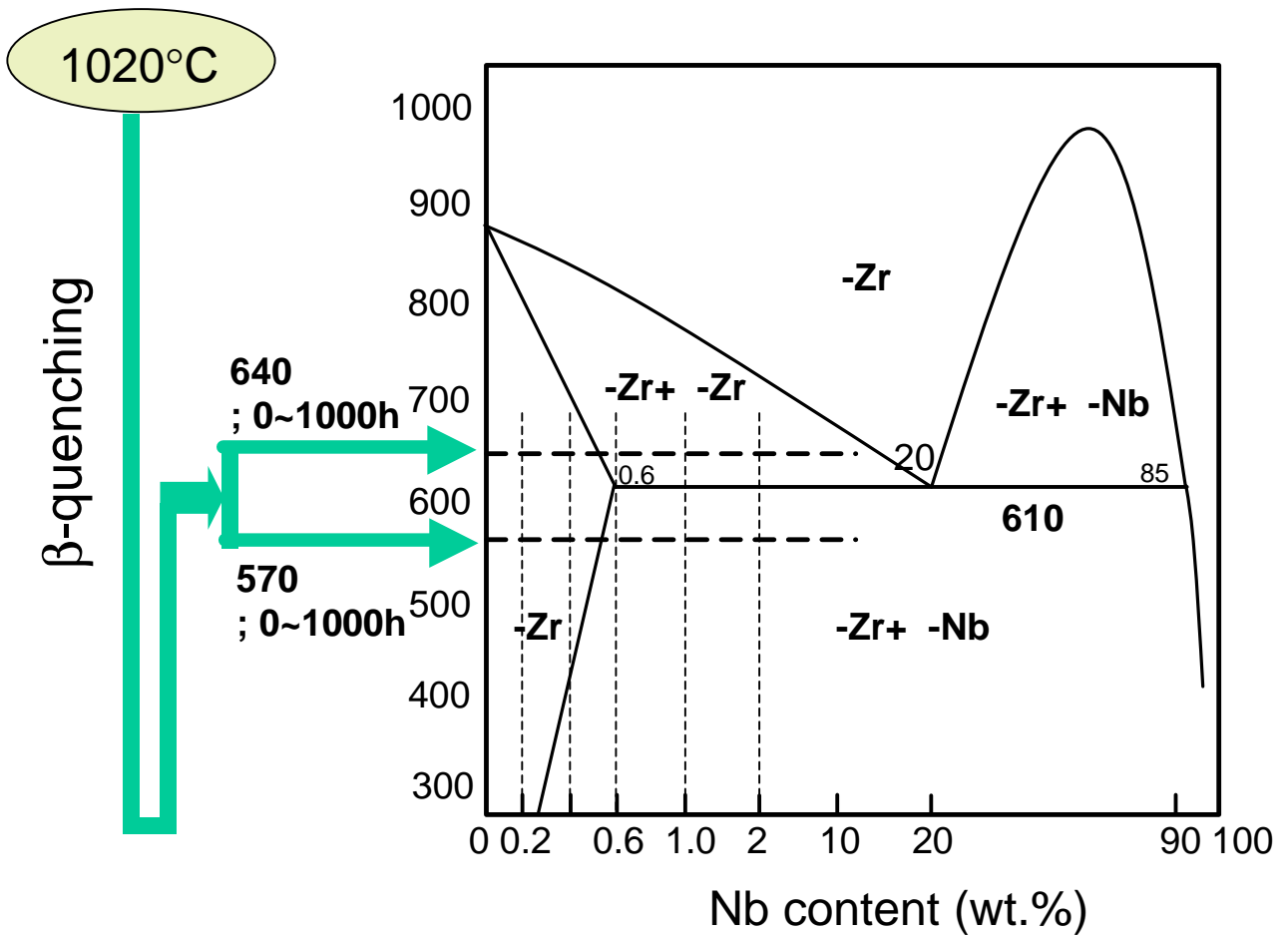


Fig.1 Experimental procedure showing the annealing condition and Nb-content.

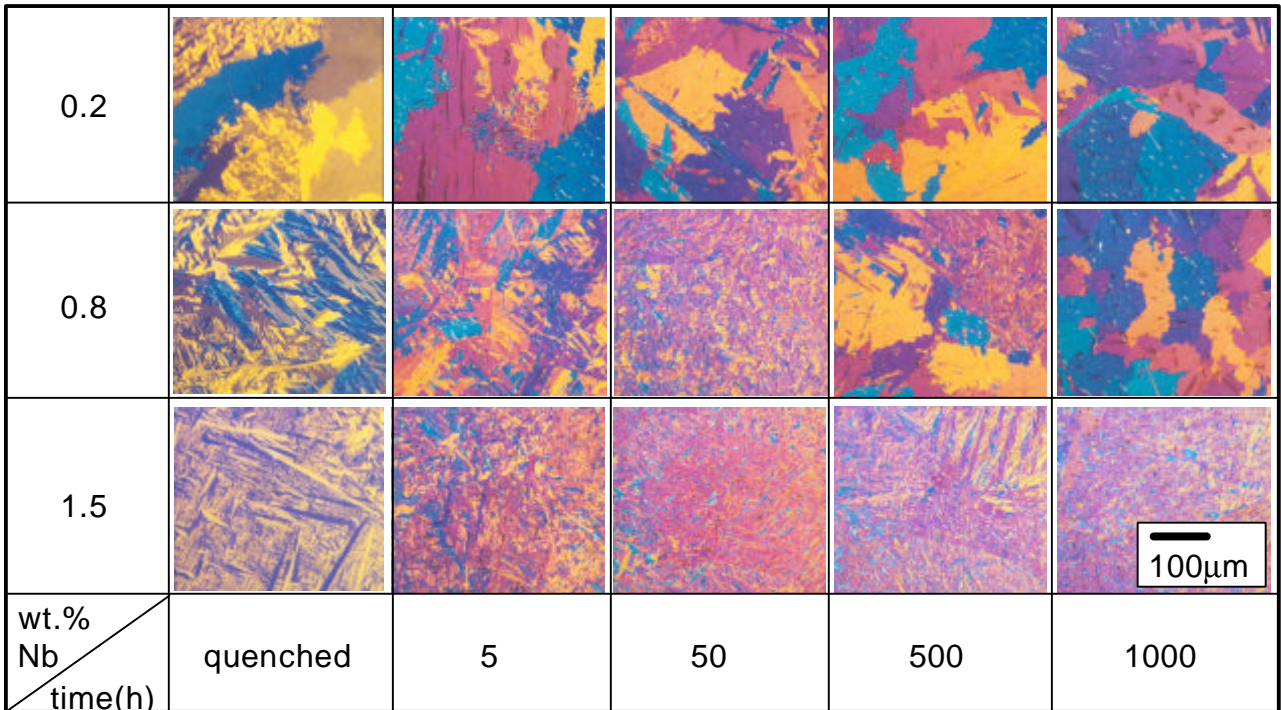


Fig.2 Microstructures of Zr-xNb alloys with annealing temperature at 570 for 0 to 1000hr

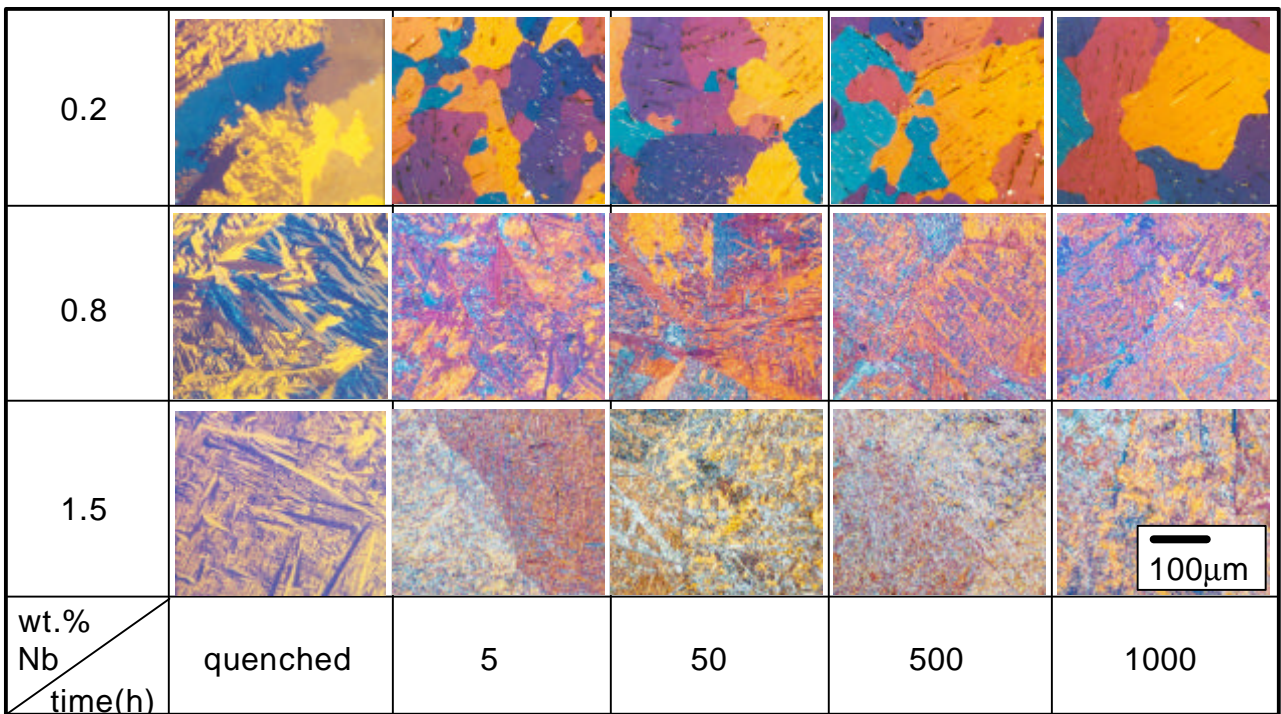


Fig.3 Microstructures of Zr-xNb alloys with annealing temperature at 640 for 0 to 1000hr



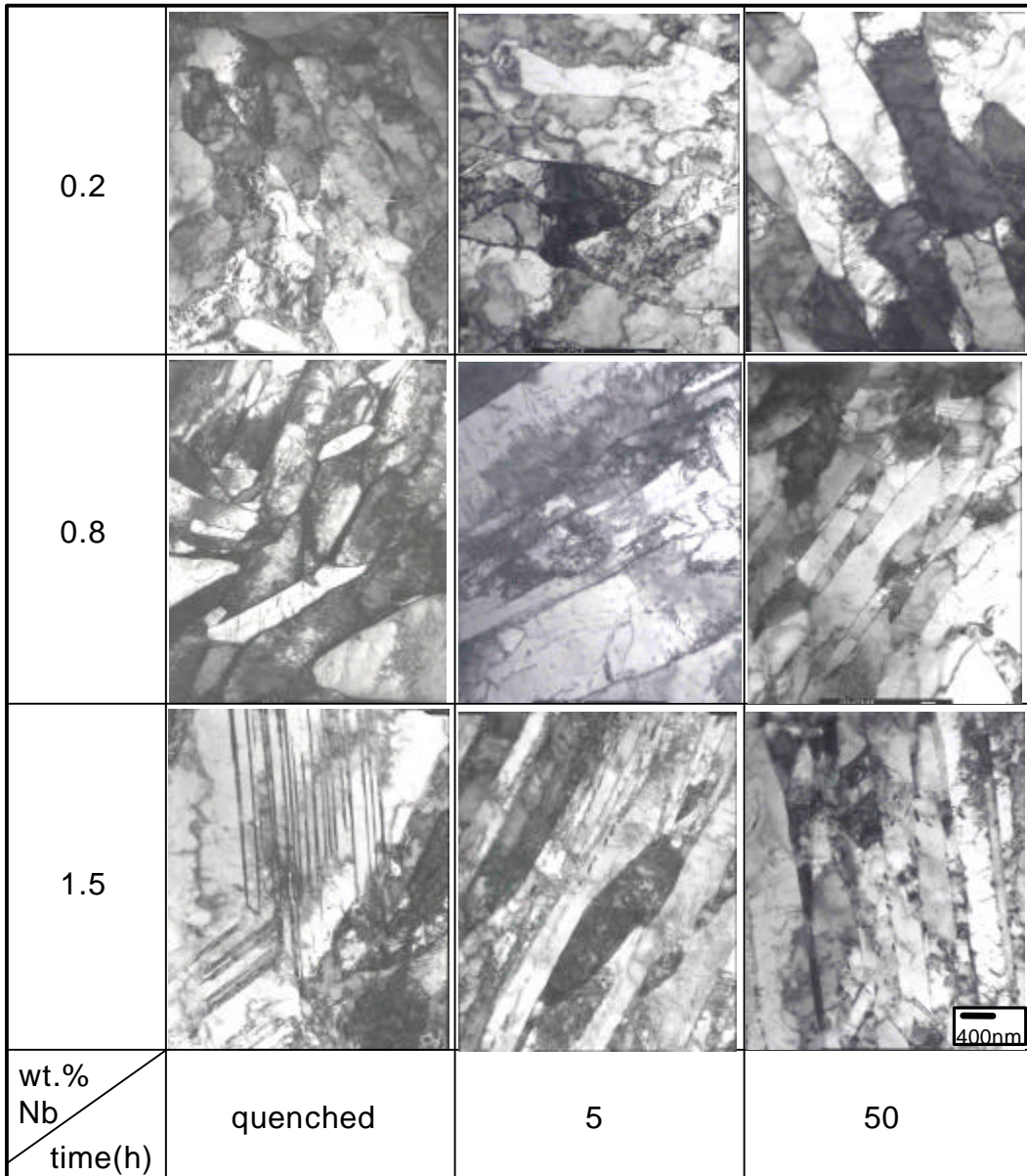


Fig.4 TEM micrographs of Zr-xNb alloys with annealing temperature at 570 for 0 to 50hr

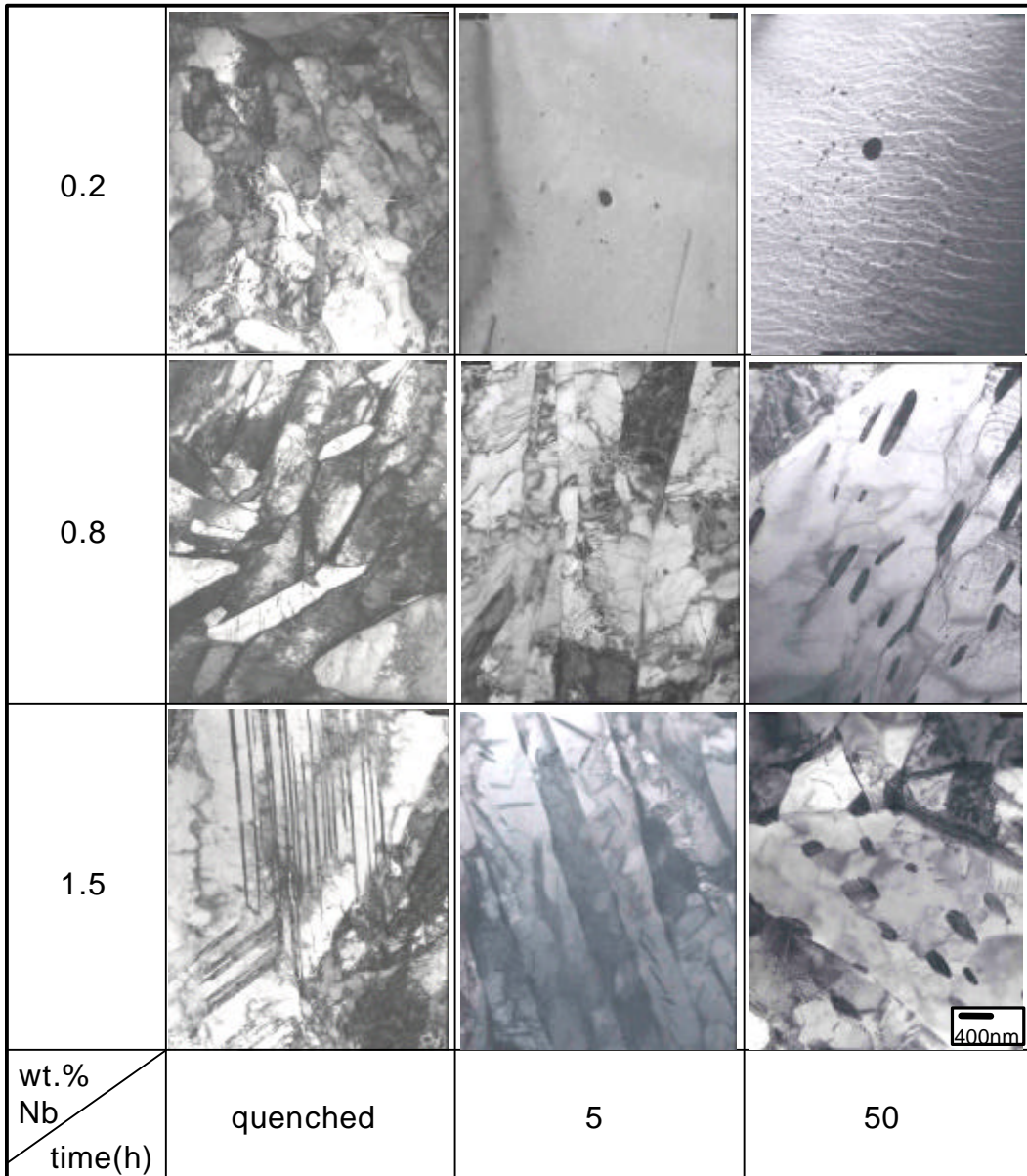


Fig.5 TEM micrographs of Zr-xNb alloys with annealing temperature at 640 °C for 0 to 50hr

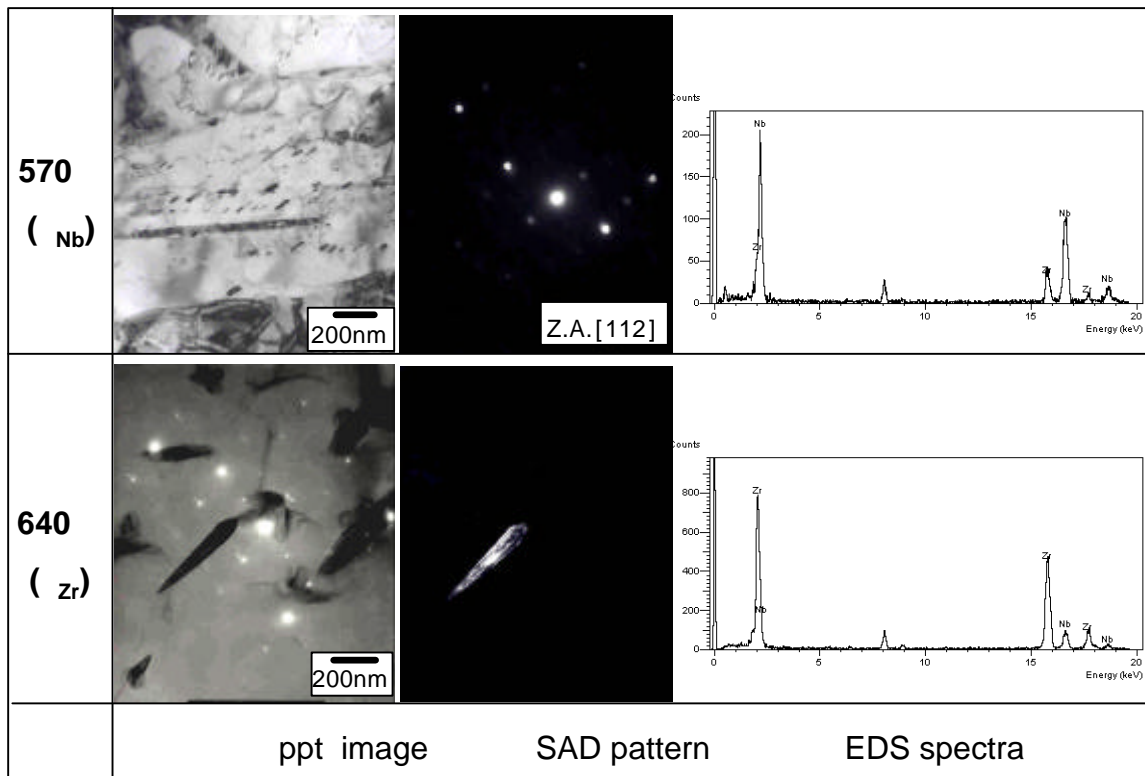
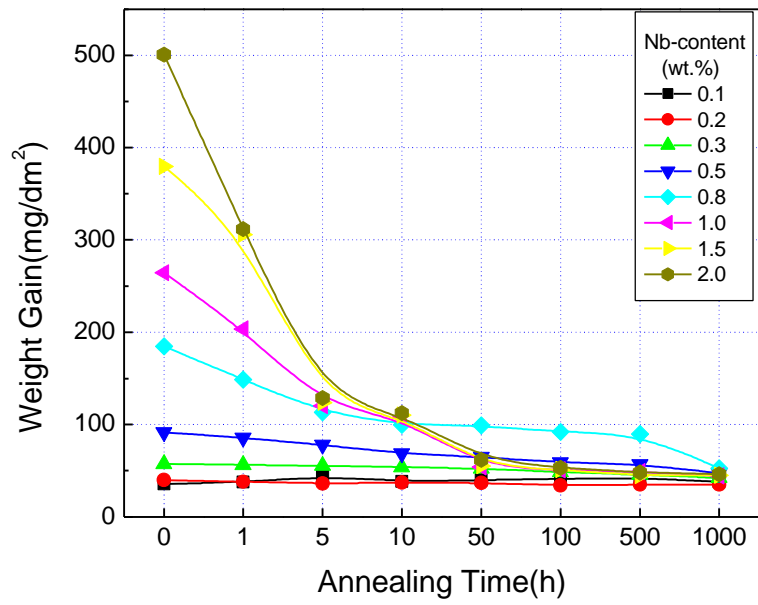
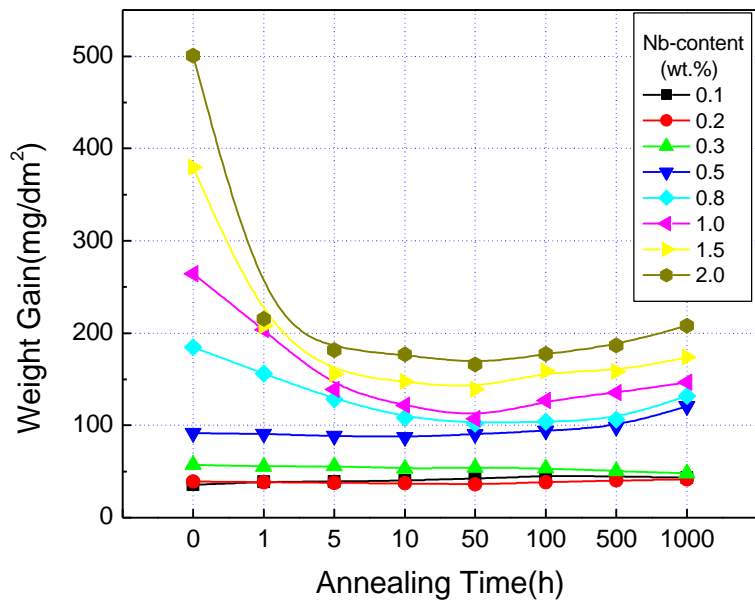


Fig.6 Second phase precipitates in Zr-1.5Nb alloys with annealing temperature at 570 and 640 for 50hr

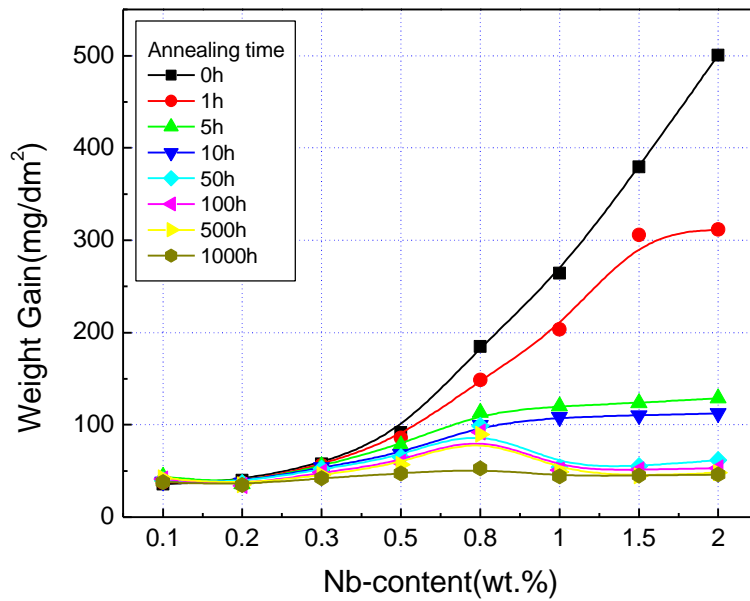


(a)

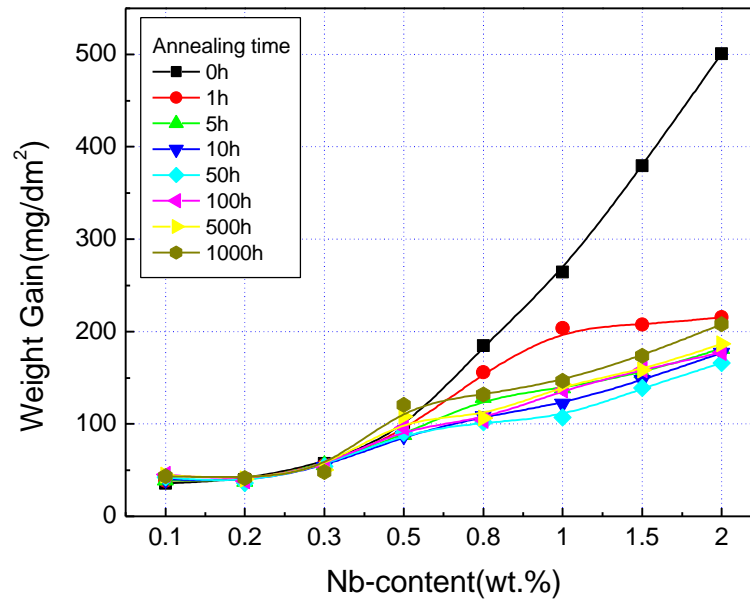


(b)

Fig.7 Corrosion behavior of annealing time vs weight gain on Zr-xNb alloys at 360 °C in water for 90 days; (a) 570 °C annealing and (b) 640 °C annealing



(a)



(b)

Fig.8 Corrosion behavior of Nb-content vs weight gain on Zr-xNb alloys at 360 °C in water for 90 days; (a) 570 °C annealing and (b) 640 °C annealing

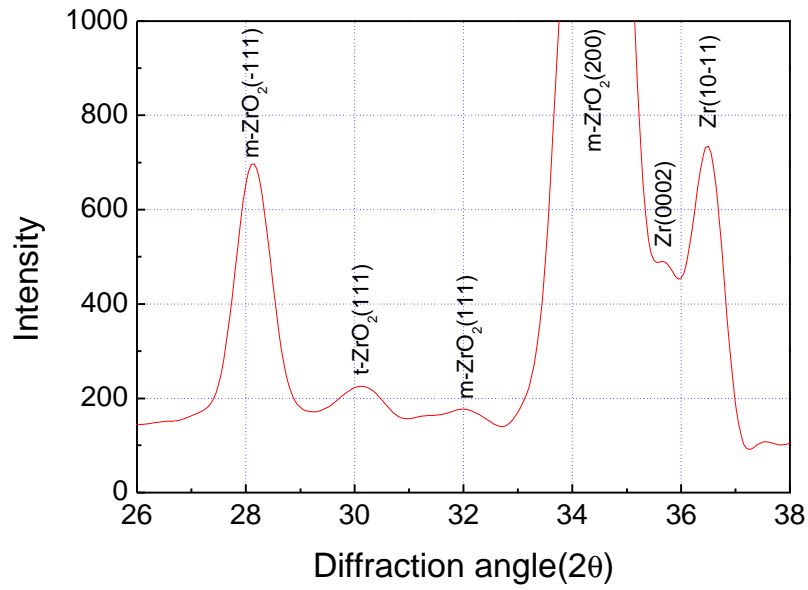


Fig.9 Diffraction pattern on zirconium oxide of Zr-1.5Nb alloy formed in water at 360 (570 x 50hr annealing)

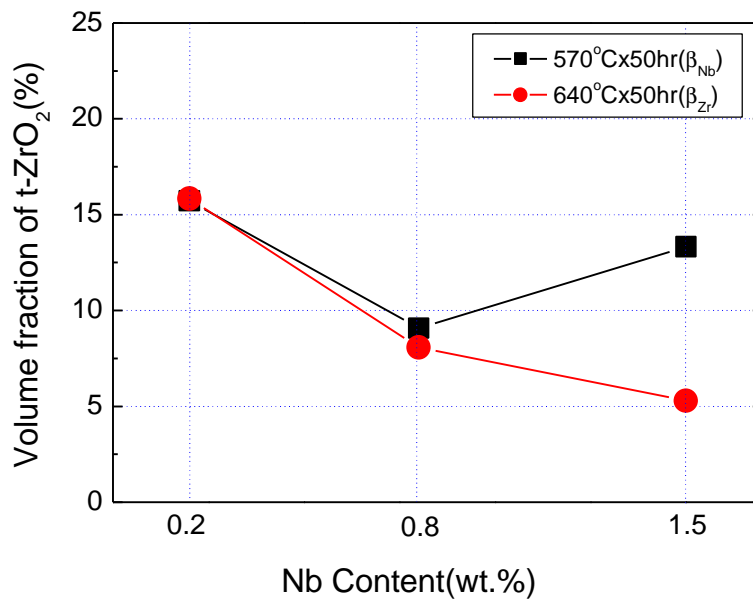


Fig.10 Volume fraction of tetra-ZrO<sub>2</sub> at equal weight gain of zirconium oxide at pre-transition (570&640 x 50hr annealing)