ENHANCEMENT OR SUPPRESSION OF STRUCTURAL PHASE TRANSITION IN Ti$_{1-x}$Al$_x$N BY PRESSURE AND STRESS

Svetlana A. Barannikova$^{1,2}$, Albina M. Zharmukhambetova$^3$, Anton Yu. Nikonov$^4$, Andrey I. Dmitriev$^5$, Alena V. Ponomareva$^6$ and Igor A. Abrikosov$^{7,8}$

$^1$Institute of Strength Physics and Materials Science, Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science, Tomsk, Russia, bsa@ispms.tsc.ru, http://www.ispms.ru/

$^2$Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia, bsa@ispms.tsc.ru, http://persona.tsu.ru/

$^3$Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia, almura@sibmail.com, http://persona.tsu.ru/

$^4$Institute of Strength Physics and Materials Science, Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science, Tomsk, Russia, nikonov@usgroups.com, http://www.ispms.ru/

$^5$Institute of Strength Physics and Materials Science, Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science, Tomsk, Russia, andr23@yahoo.com, http://www.ispms.ru/

$^6$National University of Science and Technology MISIS, Moscow, Russia, alenaponomareva@yahoo.com, http://www.misis.ru/

$^7$Linköping University, IFM, Campus Valla, 581 83, Linköping, Sweden, igor.abrikosov@ifm.liu.se, http://www.ifm.liu.se/theomod/theophys/

$^8$National University of Science and Technology MISIS, Moscow, Russia, iabrikosov@misis.ru, http://www.misis.ru/

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Multiscale approach allows one to capitalize on the success of the modern first-principles simulations, and to use quantum mechanics calculations to determine essential materials parameters for the use in higher-level models. We demonstrate that by means of computer experiment it is possible to create data-bases of relevant materials parameters which are difficult, expensive or impossible to obtain in physical experiments. Example of this approach is given for Ti and Zr-based alloys. They are attractive for technological applications. Hexagonal closed packed (hcp)Zr-based alloys represent a material system widely used in nuclear energy applications, e.g. as fuel cladding materials. hcp Ti alloys do not have high strength, but the show strong hardening during cold deformation. Their disadvantage is reduced technological plasticity. With the aim to assist knowledge based design of new Ti and Zr-based alloys, we carry out ab initio simulations of effect of chemical composition and pressure on mixing enthalpies and elastic properties of binary and multicomponent Ti-Al-V-Mo and Zr-Nb systems and determine conditions for their thermodynamic and mechanical stability. Using the calculated parameters, we establish a significant correlation between the product of the macroscopic parameters of localized plastic flow auto-waves in deforming alloys, their length and propagation rate and the product of the microscopic (lattice) parameters of these materials, the spacing between close-packed planes of the lattice and the rate of transverse elastic waves. We therefore demonstrate that ab initio simulations can be used for the prediction of parameters of localized plastic flow auto-waves in deforming alloys.