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論文内容要約

Chapter 1 : Introduction

Steel sheet is one of the indispensable structure materials for the modern automobile industry due to its excellent mechanical properties which are available at a low cost. However, the low level of corrosion resistance is a problem in its service life. Therefore, investigation to improve the corrosion resistance of steel sheets is very important.

The coating method performed by dipping the steel sheet into molten Zn or Al alloys is one of post-treatments for steel sheets to improve the corrosion resistance in these days. The typical coating method is well-known as hot-dip galvanizing (GI) / galvannealing (GA) or hot-dip aluminizing (HDA). In hot-dipping method, intermetallic compound (IMC) layers are formed at the interface and mainly affect the corrosion resistance of coated steel. Therefore, formation behavior of IMC layers at the interface must be controlled for improving the life time. In order to understand the interface reactions in solid / liquid phases such as formation sequence and growth rate, the equilibrium phase diagram is important as fundamental data. Figure 1 shows

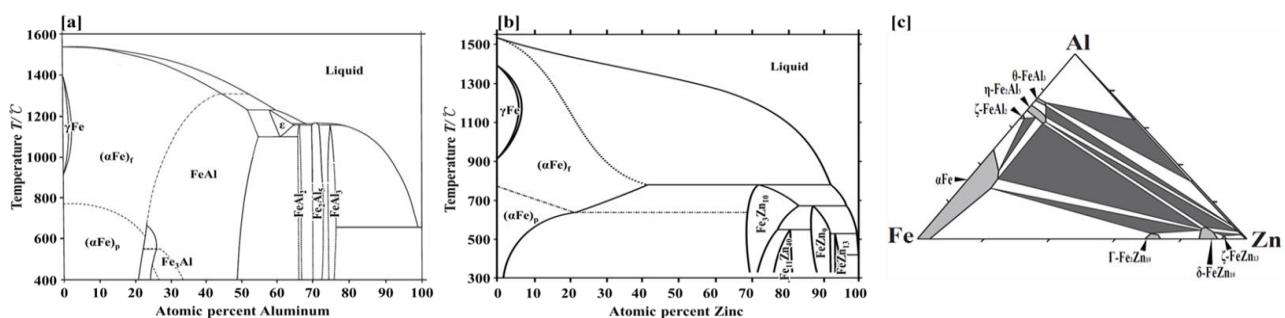


Figure 1 Previously assessed (a) Al-Fe [1], (b) Zn-Fe [2] and (c) Fe-Zn-Al [3] phase diagrams.

the phase diagrams of Al-Fe, Zn-Fe binary and Fe-Zn-Al ternary systems assessed by Kattner *et al.* [1], Burton *et al.* [2], Perrot *et al.* [3], respectively. Whereas widely received and used, these equilibrium phase diagrams have not been precisely determined by the alloying method due to the several problems. Owing to the strong tendency of oxidation in Al alloy, phase equilibria between IMCs in the Al-rich portion of Al-Fe binary system have not been studied precisely even though their importance related to the HDA process was widely recognized. On the other hand, in the phase diagrams of Zn-Fe based alloys, it is much difficult to determine the phase equilibria by alloying method, because of difficulty in fabrication of Fe-Zn alloys by

conventional methods, since the boiling point of Zn (at 1.013×10^5 Pa), $T_b = 906^\circ\text{C}$ is extremely lower than the melting temperature of Fe, $T_m = 1536^\circ\text{C}$. Therefore, most of experimental data on phase equilibria including the solubility range of each IMC phase were determined by the diffusion couple (DC) method.

As describe above, although the hot-dip coating such as HDA and GI / GA process is recognized to be a promising method to improve the performance of steel sheet, fundamental research subjects, such as phase diagrams, interfacial reactions, mechanical properties of IMC layers, etc. have not been completed sufficiently even in the Al-Fe and Zn-Fe binary systems. Considering lack of the fundamental knowledge related to the hot-dip coating process, the following subjects were investigated in the present thesis.

- Experimental determination of phase diagrams of the Al-Fe and Zn-Fe binary systems, and Fe-Zn-Al ternary system by alloying method
- Investigation of Hardness of IMC phases in the Zn-Fe binary system
- Study on the interfacial reaction between solid Fe and molten Zn

Chapter 2 : Experimental determination of phase diagram of the Al-Fe binary system

In this chapter, the phase equilibria of the Al-rich portion in a composition range between 48 and 90.3at.% Al in the Al-Fe binary system were experimentally determined by conventional heat-treatment, the DC method and thermal analysis. Figure 2 shows the phase diagram experimentally determined for Al-rich portion of Al-Fe binary system. Solubility ranges of the ζ -FeAl₂, η -Fe₂Al₅ and θ -Fe₄Al₁₃ phases in Al-Fe binary system are asymmetrical, and single-phase regions of the η and θ phases tended to incline toward the Fe-rich side with increasing temperature. In order to determine the equilibrium composition of the ε -Fe₅Al₈ phase, whose microstructure in two-phase alloys above the eutectoid temperature cannot be frozen even by rapid quenching, the DC method and thermal analysis was applied. The solubility of ε phase deviates to Fe-rich direction and the invariant reaction temperature of $\varepsilon \rightarrow \alpha + \zeta$ is also slightly higher than temperature previously reported by Kattner *et al.* [1]. On the other hand, the unidentified invariant reaction of θ phase was concluded by thermal analysis of DSC to be a peritectic reaction, Liquid + $\eta \rightarrow \theta$.

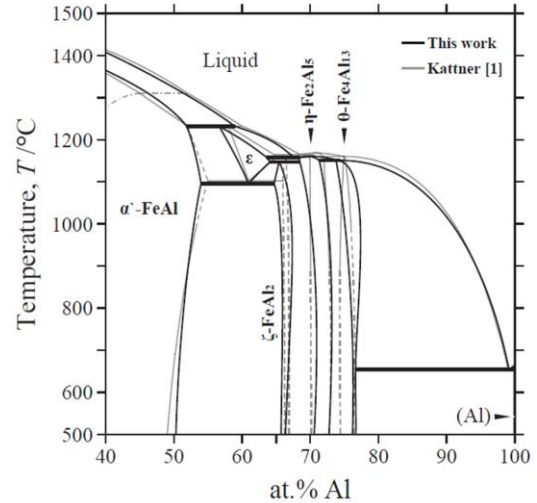


Figure 2 Experimentally determined phase diagram of Al-rich portion of the Al-Fe system

Chapter 3 : Determination of phase diagram of the Zn-Fe binary system

In this chapter, phase equilibria for αFe , $\Gamma\text{-Fe}_3\text{Zn}_{10}$, $\Gamma_1\text{-Fe}_{11}\text{Zn}_{40}$, $\delta_{1k}\text{-FeZn}_7$, $\delta_{1p}\text{-FeZn}_{10}$, $\zeta\text{-FeZn}_{13}$ and liquid phases were determined by alloying method, employing a multi-step melting technique under vacuum and a 95%-argon-5% hydrogen atmosphere. Figure 3 shows the phase diagram of Zn-rich portion of Zn-Fe binary system determined. It is seen that the solubility ranges of IMCs determined in the Zn-rich portion entirely deviate to the Fe-rich portion in comparison with the Zn-Fe phase diagram assessed by Burton *et al.* [2]. In the present study, it was confirmed that the $\delta_{1p}+\delta_{1k}$ two-phase structure appears and that an eutectoid reaction, $\delta_{1p} \rightarrow \delta_{1k} + \zeta$, exists in the temperature range between 455°C and 445°C.

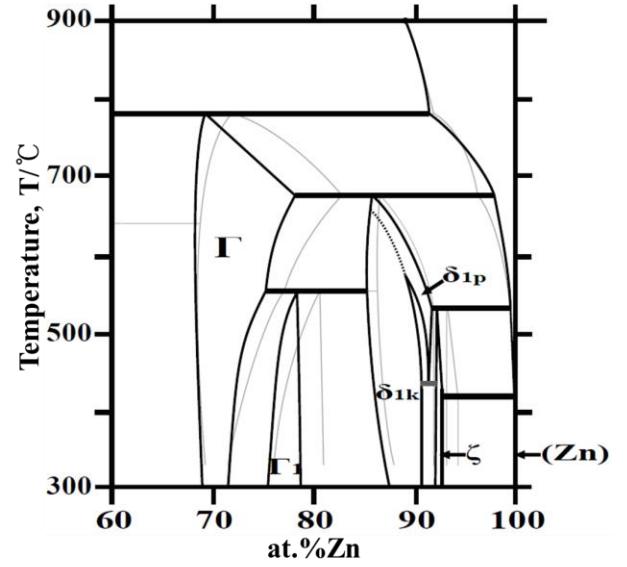


Figure 3 Experimentally determined Zn-Fe phase diagram in the present work.

Chapter 4 : Determination of phase diagram of the Fe-Zn-Al ternary system

In this chapter, phase equilibria at 450°C in the Fe-Zn-Al ternary phase diagram were experimentally determined by the alloying method. The existing regions of three phase equilibria in Fe-Zn-Al ternary phase diagram are almost coincident with the phase diagram previously reported by Perrot *et al.* [3], but the solubility ranges are fairly different. Especially, the Γ_2 phase, which is formed in the liquid phase after a long reaction time in DC, was clearly observed in the alloy specimens as shown in figure 4, and it was confirmed that the single phase region is smaller than the previous result.

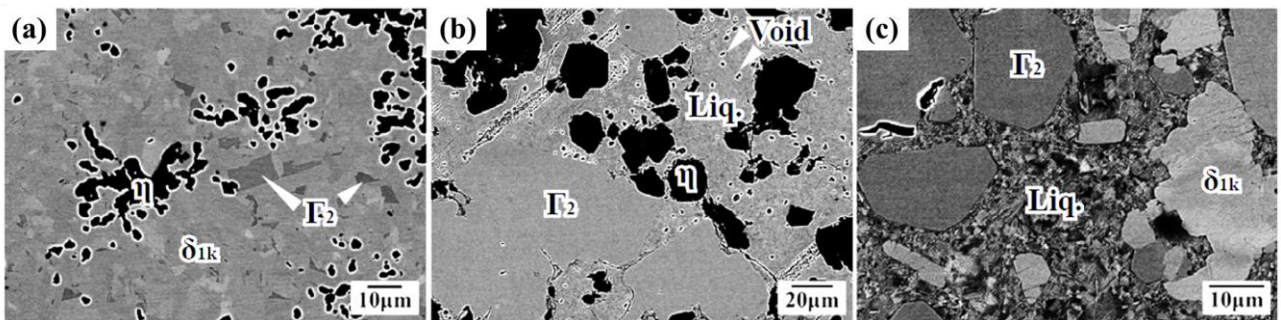


Figure 4 BSE images obtained from the ternary phase of Γ_2 in (a) 82.8at.%Zn-8.2at.%Fe-9at.%Al, (b) 93.1at.%Zn-3.9at.%Fe-3at.%Al and (c) 86.3at.%Zn-3.7at.%Fe-10at.%Al alloys annealed at 450°C.

Chapter 5 : Investigation of hardness of IMC phases in the Zn-Fe and Fe-Zn-Al systems

In this chapter, the hardness of IMCs in the Fe-Zn binary and the Fe-Zn-Al ternary systems was evaluated from each phase in the multi-phase alloys obtained by the alloying method. In the Fe-Zn binary system, the hardnesses of Γ_1 , δ_{1p} and ζ hardly depend on temperature and composition, but those of the Γ and δ_{1k} show an obvious composition dependence. On the other hand, although some of the hardness data are missing, that of each IMC formed in the Fe-Zn-Al ternary system is slightly lower than that of the same IMC in the Fe-Zn binary system. On the other hand, the brittleness of each IMC in the ternary system is much higher than that in the binary system.

Chapter 6 : Experimental study on the interfacial reaction between solid Fe and molten Zn

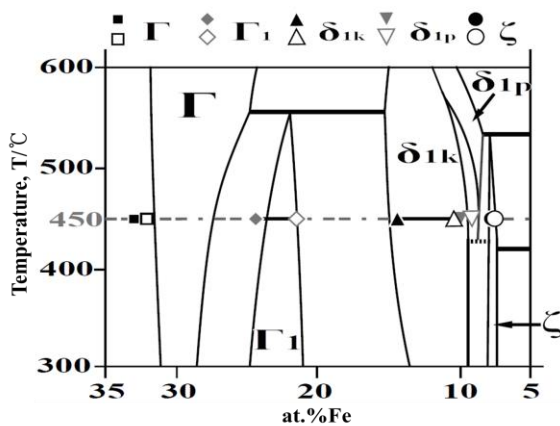


Figure 5 Interface compositions of IMC layers after hot-immersion for 5days. Measured values are plotted on the experimentally determined equilibrium phase diagram by alloying method

In this chapter, the formation behavior of IMC layers in the Fe / Zn interface was investigated by a simple dipping experiment, in which considering the preheating of steel plate before dipping and the suppression of convection in molten Zn at the time of dipping were considered. Especially, formation behavior of the IMCs in the initial stage was clarified and the deviation from the equilibrium concentration in the interface composition after various dipping time was also carefully examined by microstructural observation and FE-EPMA/WDS analysis. It was found that Γ was firstly formed and then δ_{1k} , ζ , δ_{1p} and Γ_1 were formed in order of precedence. Meanwhile, while interface

concentrations of Γ_1 , δ_{1k} , ζ and liquid were gradually closed to their equilibrium compositions, those of Γ and δ_{1p} did not reach the equilibrium composition even by long time dipping as shown in figure 5. Especially, the interface composition of Γ is extremely deviated from the equilibrium one to Fe-rich direction after long reaction time for 5days.

Chapter 7 : Conclusion

In this chapter, the contents of chapter 1 through 6 are summarized.

Reference

- [1] U.R Kattner, B.P Burton, Phase diagrams of binary iron alloys, H. Okamoto, ASM International, Materials Park, OH, 1993. P.12.
- [2] B. P. Burton, P. Perrot, Phase Diagram of Binary Iron Alloys, ed. By H. Okamoto, ASM Int., Material Park, OH, (1993) 459
- [3] P. Perrot, J. C. Tissier, J. Y. Dauphin, Z. Metallkde., 83 (1992) 11