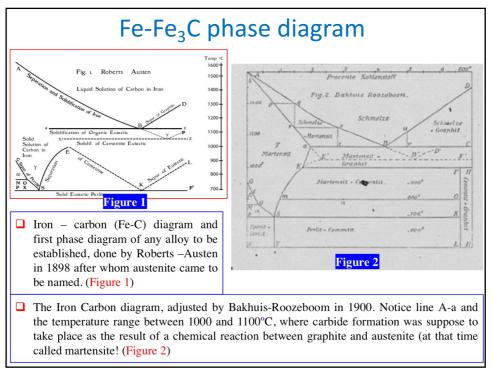
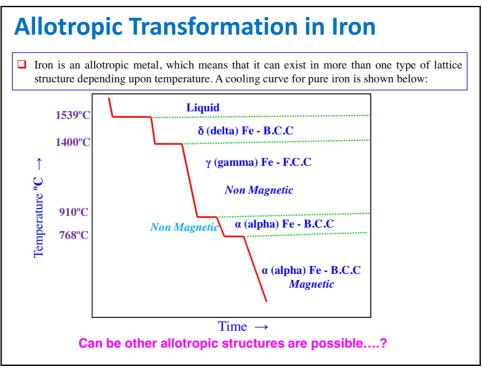


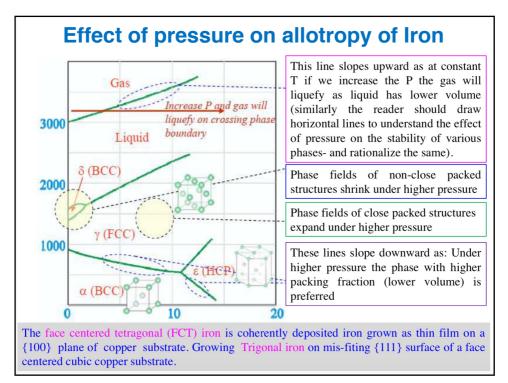
## Classification of Transformations

- Phase transformations can be classified as homogeneous (transformations which take place through spinodal mechanism in which transformation takes place throughout the material) and heterogeneous (transformations which take place through nucleation and growth mechanism in which transformation takes place heterogeneously at a few places in the material at the start of the transformation).
- □ Transformations can also be classified as diffusional (or, so called, `civilian') and diffusionless (or, so called `military') depending on the mechanism. In civilian transformations, the nucleation and growth take place via diffusion assisted atomic motion. On the other hand, in the military transformation, the nucleation and growth is by shear and shuffle of atoms by less than one atomic displacement and the movement of all the participating atoms is coordinated.
- □ There are transformations which are thermally activated (which typically are based on diffusion) while there are others which are athermal.
- □ The transformations can also be diffusion controlled or interface controlled.
- Transformations can also be differentiated based on whether the interfaces formed are glissile or nonglissile.
- □ In some transformations there are compositional changes while in some other there are no composition changes.
- Further, transformations which are diffusional can either involve long range diffusion or short range diffusion.



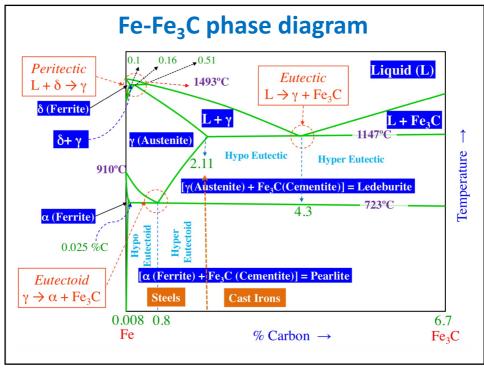


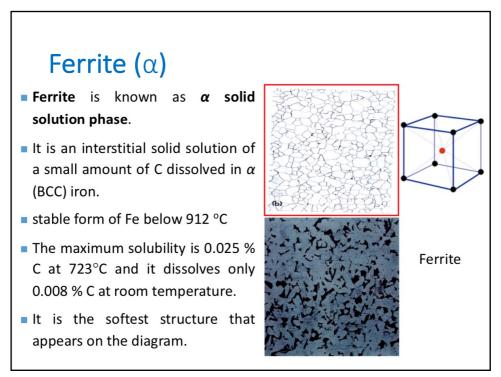


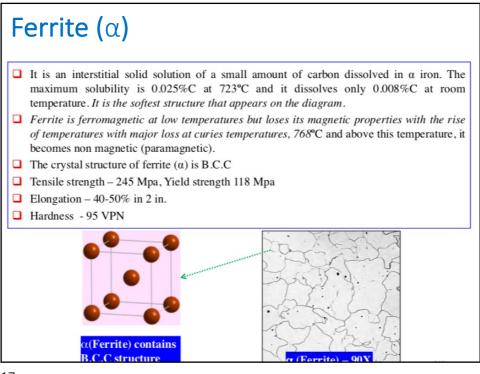


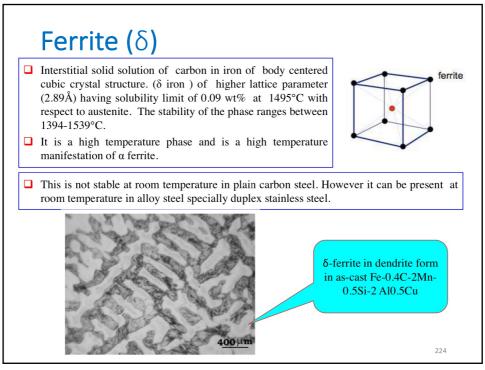
### Fe-Fe<sub>3</sub>C phase diagram

- □ The Fe-C (or more precisely the Fe-Fe<sub>3</sub>C) diagram is an important one. Cementite is a metastable phase and 'strictly speaking' should not be included in a phase diagram. But the decomposition rate of cementite is small and hence can be thought of as 'stable enough' to be included in a phase diagram. Hence, we typically consider the Fe-Fe<sub>3</sub>C part of the Fe-C phase diagram.
- □ In the phase diagram, temperature is plotted against composition. Any point on the diagram therefore represents a definite composition and temperature. The phase diagram indicates the phases present and the phase changes that occur during heating and cooling. The relative amounts of the phases that exist at any temperature can also be estimated with the help of lever rule.
- □ A portion of the Fe-C diagram the part from pure Fe to 6.67 wt.% carbon (*corresponding* to cementite,  $Fe_3C$ ) is technologically very relevant.
- □ Cementite is not a equilibrium phase and would tend to decompose into Fe and graphite. This reaction is sluggish and for practical purpose (at the microstructural level) cementite can be considered to be part of the phase diagram. Cementite forms as it nucleates readily as compared to graphite.
- Compositions upto 2.1%C are called steels and beyond 2.1% are called cast irons. *In reality the calssification should be based on 'castability' and not just on carbon content.*
- □ Heat treatments can be done to alter the properties of the steel by modifying the microstructure  $\rightarrow$  we will learn about this in coming chapters.



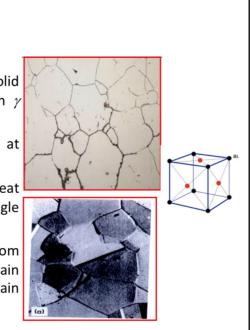


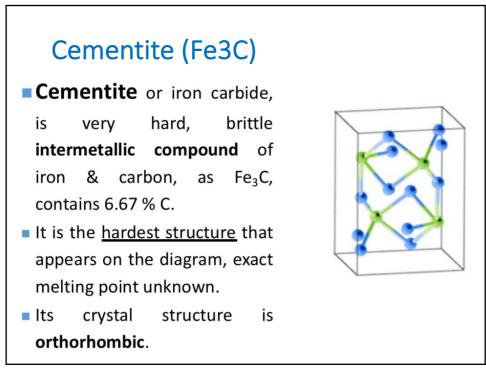


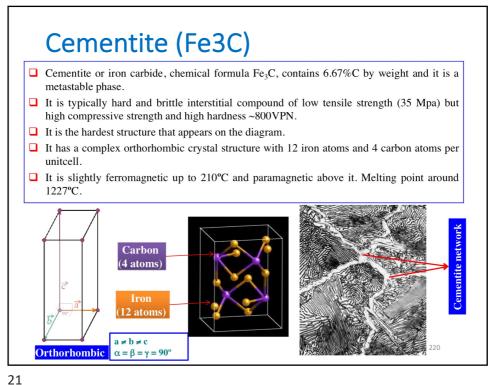


## Austenite ( $\gamma$ )

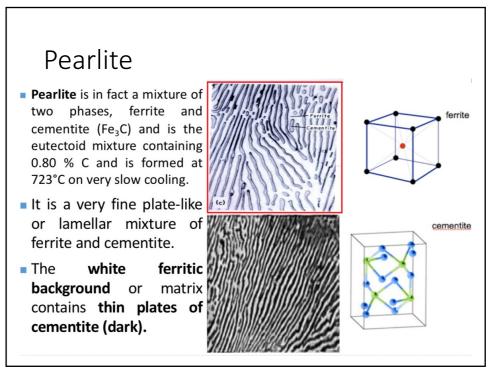
- Austenite is an interstitial solid solution of Carbon dissolved in γ (FCC.) Fe.
- Maximum solubility is 2.0 % C at 1130°C.
- High formability, most of heat treatments begin with this single phase.
- It is normally not stable at room temperature. But, under certain conditions it is possible to obtain austenite at room temperature.

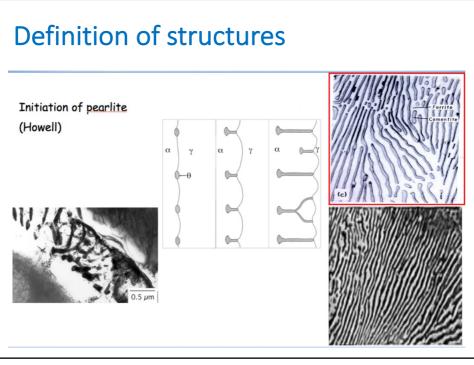


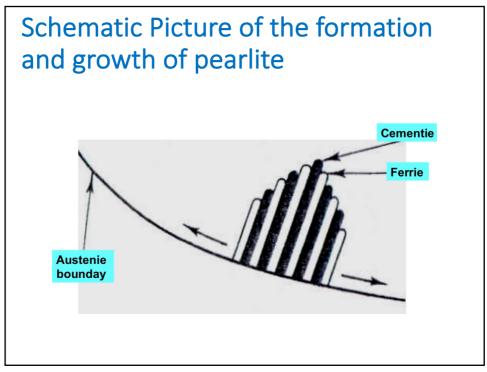


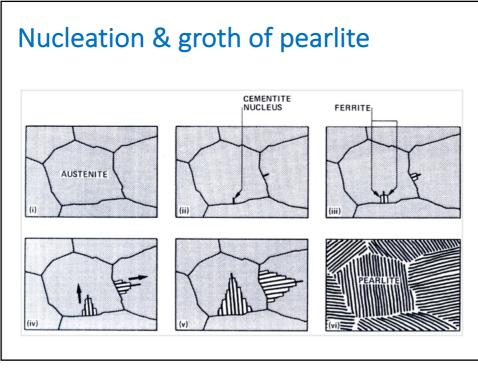


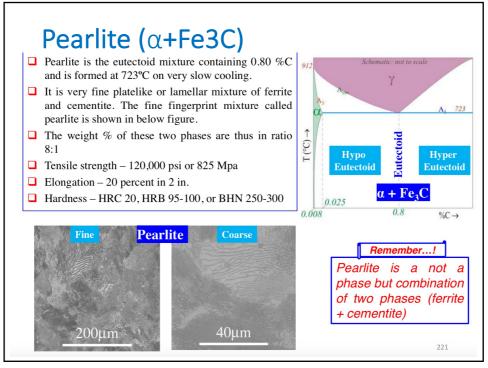
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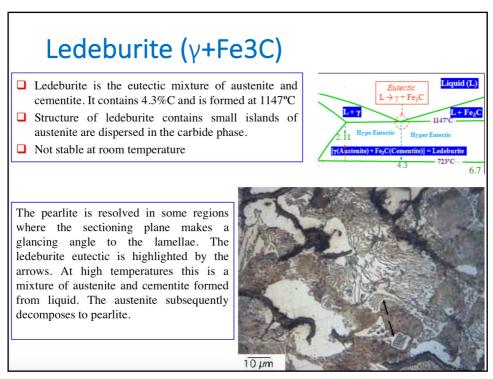


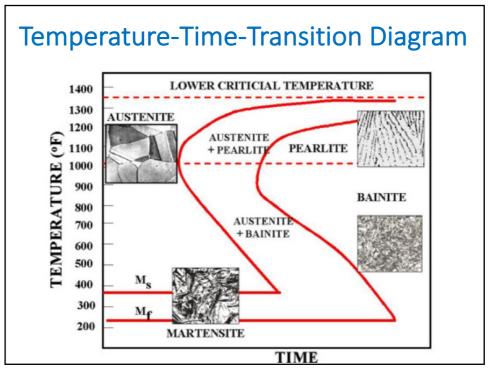


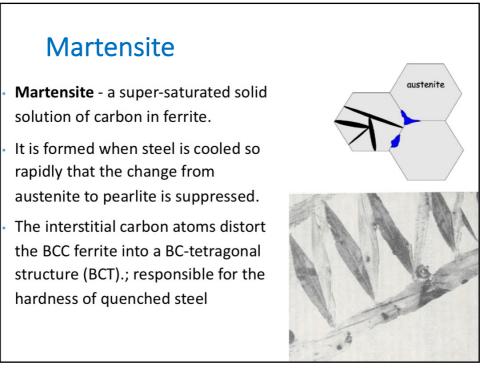


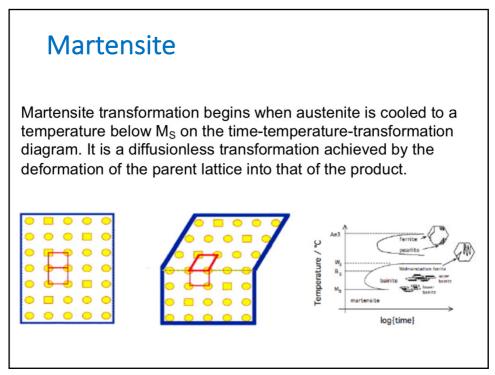










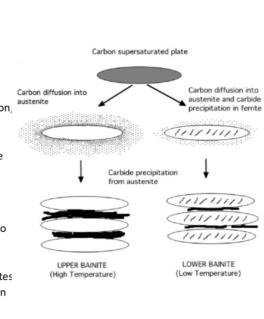


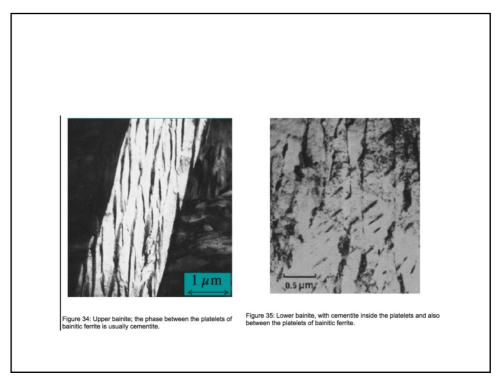
## Bainite

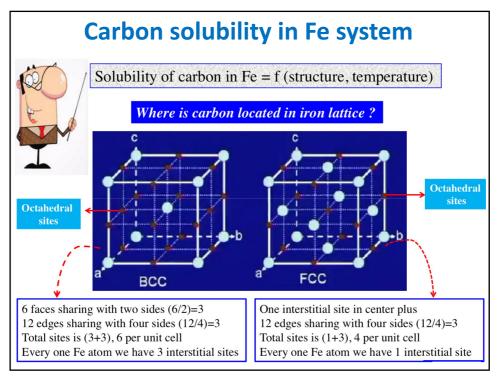
**Bainite**- The atomic mechanism of bainite is similar to that of martensite.

Plates of bainite form without any diffusion, but shortly after transformation, the carbon partitions into the residual austenite and precipitates as cementite between the ferrite platelets - this is the structure of upper bainite

Lower bainite is obtained by transformation at a lower temperature; the carbon partitioning is then slower, so some of the excess carbon has an opportunity to precipitate inside the ferrite plates and the rest of it precipitates from the carbon-enriched austenite as in upper bainite, Fig. 34.

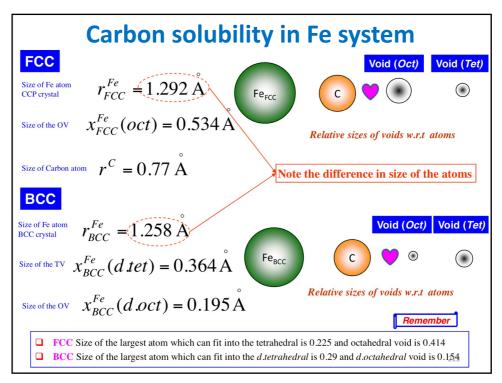






## Why concentration of carbon in $\alpha$ -Fe with BCC structure is less than $\gamma$ -Fe with FCC structure?

- G FIRST LET US CONSIDER FCC STRUCTURE (γ-Fe)
- □ Packing factor of FCC lattice 0.74
- □ This indicates the presence of voids. Let us discuss it more elaborately.
- □ In a FCC crystal there are mainly two types of voids:
- Tetrahedral: coordination number (CN) is 4. That means the void is surrounded by 4 atoms.
- Octahedral: CN is 6. That means the void is surrounded by 6 atoms.
- □ There are 8 tetrahedral voids in a unit cell. That means 2 voids per atom.
- □ There are 4 octahedral voids in a unit cell. That means 1 void per atom.
- □ However, impurities prefer to occupy octahedral voids.
- Because the ratio of the radius of the tetrahedral void to atom is 0.225 and the same for the octahedral void is 0.414.
- □ The ratio of the radius of the carbon atom (size is 77 pm) to Fe (when it has FCC crystal) is 0.596.
- □ So when a carbon atom occupies any void, lattice will be distorted to increase the enthalpy.
- Distortion will be less if it occupies the octahedral voids.
- □ Although it increases the enthalpy, carbon atoms will be present up to a certain extent because of the gain in entropy, as explained previously, which decreases the free energy<sub>4</sub>



# Why concentration of carbon in $\alpha$ -Fe with BCC structure is less than $\gamma$ -Fe with FCC structure?

- □ Packing factor of BCC lattice 0.68. So total void in a BCC unit cell is higher than FCC cell.
- □ However, there are 12 (6 per atom) tetrahedral and 6 (3 per atom) octahedral voids present. This number is higher than the number of voids present in a FCC unit cell.
- Unlike voids in FCC lattice, in a BCC lattice the voids are distorted. That means if an atom sits in a void, it will not touch all the host atoms.
- □ The ratio of the radius of tetrahedral void to atom is 0.29 and the radius of octahedral void to atom is 0.155.
- □ The ratio of the radius of the C atom (size is 77 pm) to Fe (when it has BCC crystal) is 0.612. So it is expected that in a BCC unit cell, impurities should prefer tetrahedral voids.
- However, although the octahedral void size is small, planar radius which has 4 atoms on the same plane is 79.6 pm, which is larger that the C atom size. That means it needs to distort only other two atoms.
- □ On the other hand if C sits in the tetrahedral void it has to distort all four atoms. So in  $\alpha$  Fe with BCC unit cell C occupies the octahedral voids
- Now the octahedral void size in g-Fe (FCC) is higher than a-Fe (BCC). So naturally the distortion in a BCC cell will be higher and the activation energy for impurities to occupy a void in a BCC cell also will be higher.
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- □ This is the reason that we find much lower solubility limit of C in a-Fe.

