
Effect of Ti additive and preparation procedure on the temperature and decomposition kinetics of the MgH₂ phase in the synthesized mechanical alloys

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Abstract: The mechanical alloy Mg + 10 wt.% Ti and two mechanical alloys MgH₂ + 10 wt.% Ti were synthesized by a reactive mechanical alloying (RMA) method, but in different ways. The influence of doping and the preparation procedure of mechanical alloys (MAs) on the hydrogen sorption properties, temperature and decomposition kinetics of their MgH₂ phase was investigated by isobaric thermodesorption spectroscopy at a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa. The desorption kinetics of the milled MgH₂ + 10 wt.% Ti are faster than in the case of the ball milled Mg + 10 wt.% Ti. It was found that the manner of obtaining a mechanical alloys by reactive milling of MgH₂ + 10 wt. % Ti powder mixture rather than Mg + 10 wt. % Ti powder mixture to improve the kinetic characteristics. The role of Ti as an alloying element in improving the hydrogen desorption kinetics of MAs obtained by various preparation procedures was studied. The stabilizing effect of Ti on the nanocrystalline structure and growth of the crystallites (grains) of the MgH₂ phase during the cycling was also evaluated. It has been established the practical absence of the influence of Ti additive and the manner of obtaining MAs on the its thermodynamic stability.

Keywords: mechanical alloy, hydrogen-sorption properties, kinetics, thermal stability, hydride phase.

1. Introduction

Recent research on materials for hydrogen storage has been largely devoted to magnesium hydride MgH₂ and its alloys obtained by mechanochemistry [1-8]. The synthesis of magnesium dihydride, MgH₂, with low temperature and high kinetics of its dissociation, high hydrogen capacity and cyclic stability (i.e. with properties that are very important for the practical use of MgH₂) is a problem, despite a significant number of studies aimed at solving it [9, 10].

Most often, the problem of obtaining of MgH₂ with several desired characteristics is realized by mechanical dispersion of commercial hydride in the presence of various catalytic additives (e.g., 3d

and 4d transition metals [3, 4, 11-18] and their oxides [19-26], fluorides [27-29], intermetallic compounds, nontransition metals such as Al, Cu, Zn, In and Sn, graphite, etc. [30-39]). Many researchers use the different approaches to mill Mg powder with the above mentioned additives in a hydrogen atmosphere (reactive milling) or in an inert atmosphere followed by its direct hydrogenation from the gas phase [1, 5, 9, 10, 40-56].

The majority of researchers are focused on the search for ways to solve the problem of improving the kinetics of magnesium hydrogenation and MgH₂ dehydrogenation [14, 57-64]. Various methods are used to prevent the negative influence of the oxide/hydroxide surface layer on dissociative chemisorption processes and hydrogen recombination, and to reduce the diffusion paths in the solid matrix by minimizing the grain size. Mechanical dispersion processes of commercial MgH₂ or Mg with various catalytic additives under inert or hydrogen atmospheres are widely utilized for this purpose. The influences of the nature of the additive and its structure, as well as the mechanical activation treatment, on the kinetic properties of the MgH₂ hydride phase of mechanical alloys are currently gaining increasing attention [65-77]. The authors [77] report on the effect of Ti-based catalysts (nano-Ti, nano-TiO₂, and Ti₂Fe₂O_x suboxide powders) on hydrogen absorption during reactive milling and desorption in vacuum during further cycling. It was shown that when selecting alloying elements and additives for magnesium, their possible negative effect on the hydrogen capacity of MA, reversibility of the hydrogenation/dehydrogenation process, and stability of the resulting nanostructures [78] should be taken into account. The effect of the preparation procedure, size factor, chemical state of the surface at decreasing temperatures, as well as the improvement of the decomposition kinetics of the MgH₂ phase of mechanical alloys has been shown [79-81].

It should be noted that a noticeable positive effect of the influence of a small addition of 5–10 wt. % transition metal (e.g., Ti, Ni, Fe, etc.) on the hydrogen capacity and the rate of the cyclic process of sorption/desorption of hydrogen from MgH₂ phase was observed by the researchers during the preparation (synthesis) both by reactive grinding of commercial MgH₂ powder with the addition of TM, and by grinding magnesium metal powder with the same TM additive. At the same time, attention should be paid to the different conditions for obtaining hydrogen sorption characteristics and the kinetic curves of hydrogen desorption from mechanical alloys obtained by different of the above manners. By this we mean the different temperatures and hydrogen pressures at which the kinetic curves of hydrogen desorption of MA were obtained. This fact practically does not allow to make a correct comparison of the experimental data received by various researchers and to define a way and conditions of reception of MAs which are capable to provide the best and stable hydrogen sorption and kinetic characteristics under the cycling conditions.

The purpose of this work was to study the role of the manner and conditions of production, as well as the size factor, in reducing the temperature and improving the decomposition kinetics of the nanosized MgH₂ phase of Mg–Ti mechanical alloys obtained by various manners, but one method - reactive mechanical alloying (RMA).

A probable dependence of the improvement in the hydrogen sorption and kinetic characteristics of MgH₂ phase on the manner of its preparation and the additives nature and structure of the additives was expected. The study of this dependency was also the purpose of this work.

2. Materials and methods

Commercial powders of Mg (Alfa Aesar <100 μm, 99.8% purity metal basis) and Ti (purchased from the Zaporizhzhya Titanium-Magnesium Industrial Plant with a purity of 99.98 % and particle size of 6 μm) were used as raw materials. Three mechanical alloys of magnesium with an addition of 10 wt.% Ti, denoted as MA1, MA2, MA3, were synthesized by reactive mechanical alloying (RMA) in different manners. Mechanical alloy MA1 was obtained by reactive milling of Mg powder with Ti for 20 h, while mechanical alloy MA2 was obtained by reactive milling of MgH₂ powder (obtained by hydrogenation of Mg powder from the gas phase) with Ti additive under the same milling conditions. Mechanical alloy MA3 was prepared by a different process. MgH₂ was obtained by

reactive milling of magnesium powder for 10 h, after which 10 wt.% Ti was added and reactive milling was continued under a hydrogen atmosphere for a further 10 h. The total reactive milling time in the latter case, as in the case of MA1 and MA2, was 20 h. For comparison, MgH₂ powder without Ti addition (sample MA4) was obtained under the same conditions of reactive milling of magnesium powder in a hydrogen atmosphere for 20 h. Mechanical alloying by reactive milling of all powder mixtures was carried out in a Retch PM 100 planetary ball mill with 10 mm steel balls in a hydrogen atmosphere at a pressure of 1.2 MPa and a speed of 450 rpm. The weight ratio of balls to powder was 20:1. Direct hydrogenation from the gas phase (HGP) of MA1–MA4 was performed at a 5.0 MPa hydrogen pressure and 400 °C in the reactor after synthesis of the samples.

An automated computerized DRON-3M diffractometer was employed for X-ray phase and structure analysis of the samples. X-ray diffraction patterns were obtained using Cu K α - radiation with a graphite monochromator. The profiles of the diffraction lines were plotted with a scan step of 0.10 and 20 s exposure at each point of the spectrum. The crystal lattice parameters and the unit cell volume of the MgH₂ phase in the obtained MAs were analyzed using the Full Prof software Powder Cell 2.4 (<https://powdercell-for-windows.software.informer.com/2.4/>). The size of the crystallites (grains) of the MgH₂ phase in all MAs was determined by the approximation method according to the Selyakov-Scherrer equation $D_{h,k,l} = 0.94 \lambda / \beta \cos \theta$. The changes in the size of the powder particles during the mechanical milling process were studied using a Super-Probe 733 scanning electron microscope (not shown).

Investigations of the effect of Ti on the thermal stability, kinetics of hydrogen desorption from the MgH₂ phase were performed by thermodesorption spectroscopy (TDS) on a custom-made automatic computerized apparatus of the original design of V.D. Dobrovolsky [5]. The equipment allows to obtain spectra and curves of hydrogen thermodesorption from hydride by the isobaric method, i.e. to measure the volume of desorbed hydrogen from a sample heated at a given rate in a hydrogen medium at its constant reactor pressure of 0.1 MPa.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. X-ray diffraction analysis

X-ray diffraction patterns of samples MA1, MA2, MA3 after their synthesis by the RMA method are shown in fig. 1 and after their direct hydrogenation from the gas phase in fig. 2. Information on the phase composition of the MA samples obtained by RMA and after hydrogenation from the gas phase (HGP) is given in Table 1.

As can be seen from Fig. 1 and Table 1, samples MA1, MA2, MA3 are composed of MgH₂ with a tetragonal structure, TiH₂ and MgO phases. All MAs show no changes in their phase composition after the first hydrogenation/dehydrogenation cycles from the gas phase (fig. 2).

Table 1. Phase composition of MAs after RMA and after the first 5 cycles of HGP

Mechanical alloys	Phase composition	
	RMA	HGP
MA1 (Mg+10wt.% Ti)	MgH ₂ , TiH ₂ , MgO	MgH ₂ , TiH ₂ MgO
MA2 (MgH ₂ +10wt.% Ti)	MgH ₂ , TiH ₂ , MgO	MgH ₂ , TiH ₂ , MgO
MA3 (MgH ₂ +10wt.% Ti)	MgH ₂ , MgO, TiH ₂	MgH ₂ , TiH ₂ , MgO,
MA4 (Mg without Ti)	Mg, MgH ₂ , MgO	Mg, MgH ₂ , MgO

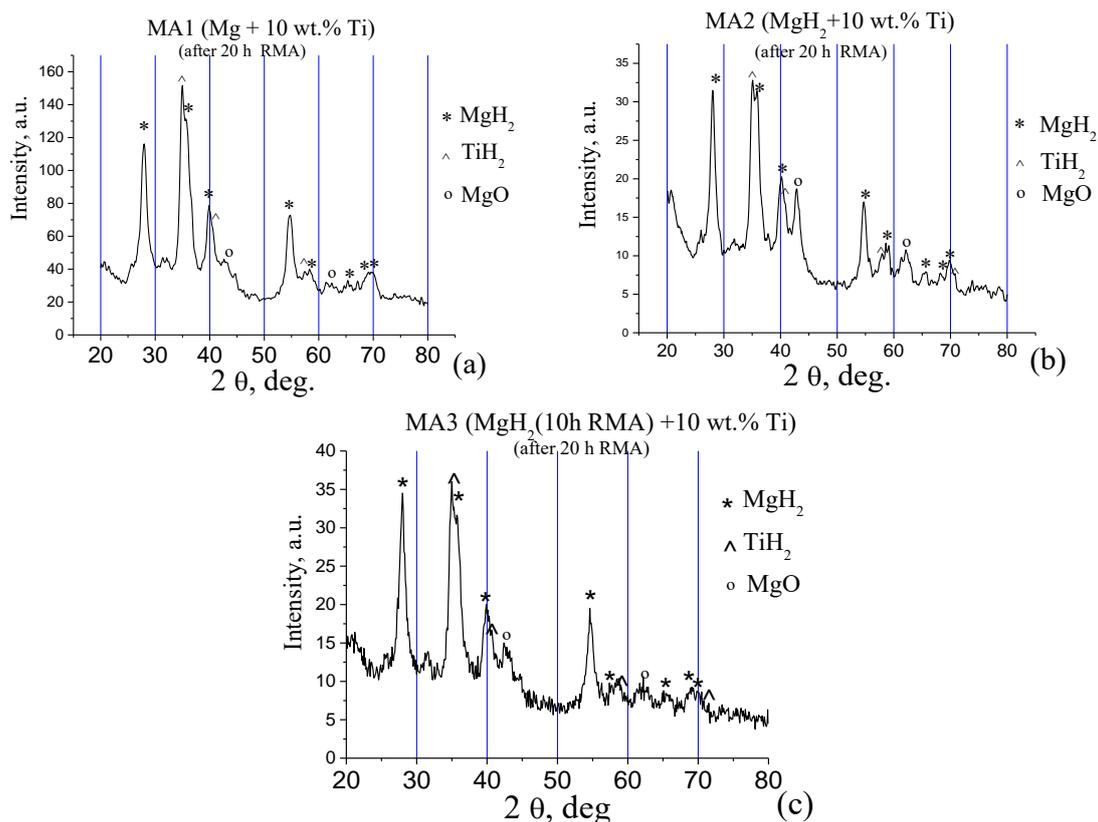


Fig. 1. X-ray diffraction patterns of mechanical alloys after their synthesis by the RMA method: (a) - MA1; (b) - MA2; (c) - MA3.

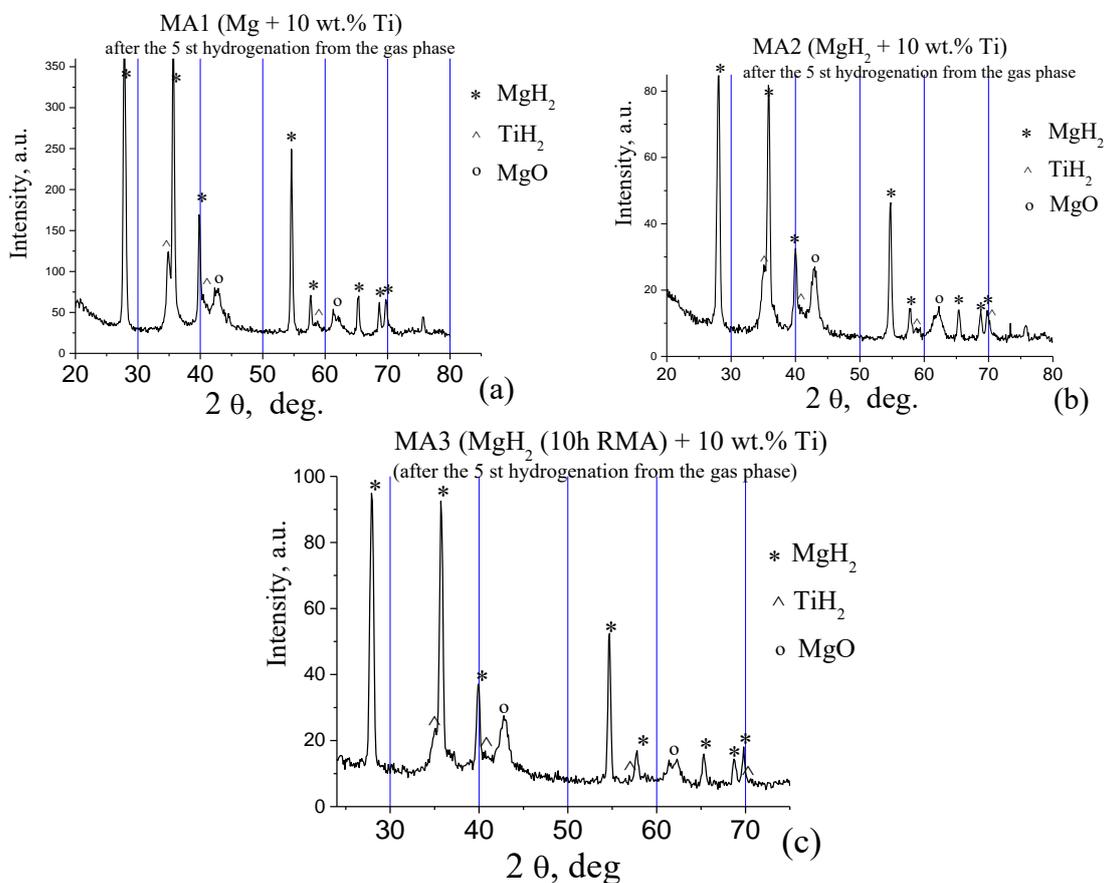


Fig. 2. X-ray diffraction patterns of mechanical alloys after their direct hydrogenation from the gas phase: (a) - MA1; (b) - MA2; (c) - MA3.

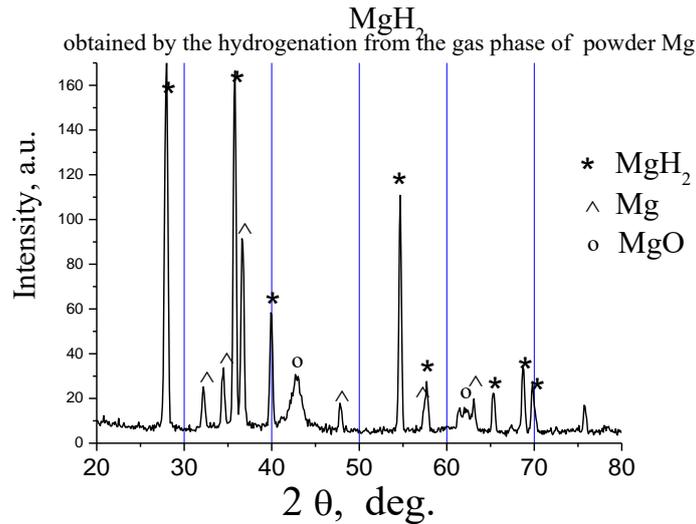


Fig. 3. X-ray diffraction pattern of a non-commercial MgH_2 specimen.

Fig. 3 shows the X-ray diffraction pattern of the non-commercial MgH_2 powder used to obtain the MA2 sample. This hydride was obtained by direct hydrogenation from the gas phase of magnesium powder with an average particle size of $100 \mu\text{m}$ at a temperature of 400°C and a hydrogen pressure of 5 MPa in the reactor.

The crystal lattice parameters and the unit cell volume for the MgH_2 phase of the MA1-MA4 samples are listed in Table 2. The data on the average particle sizes of MA1, MA2, and MA3 powders, determined on the basis of the experimental data of scanning electron microscopy after their synthesis (RMA), and the data on the crystallite (grain) size of the MgH_2 phase in all MAs are given in Table 3.

Table 2. Crystal lattice parameters and unit cell volume of the MgH_2 phase formed in MA after RMA and after the first 5 cycles of HGP.

Mechanical alloys	$a, c - \text{\AA}; V - \text{\AA}^3$	
	after RMA	after HGP
MA1	$a = 4.4618$ $c = 3.0411$ $V = 60.541$	$a = 4.5089$ $c = 3.0175$ $V = 61.346$
MA2	$a = 4.5020$ $c = 3.0200$ $V = 61.209$	$a = 4.5154$ $c = 3.0224$ $V = 61.623$
MA3	$a = 4.4971$ $c = 3.0122$ $V = 60.918$	$a = 4.5126$ $c = 3.0199$ $V = 61.496$
MA4	$a = 4.5232$ $c = 3.0161$ $V = 61.707$	$a = 4.5140$ $c = 3.0195$ $V = 61.526$

Table 3. Crystallite size and average particle size of the nanosized MgH₂ phase formed in Mas after 20 h of RMA and after the first 5 cycles of HGP.

Mechanical alloys	Crystallite size, nm		D _{avg.} , μm
	after RMA	after HGP	RMA
MA1 (Mg+10wt. % Ti)	8.1	30.5	0.4
MA2 (MgH ₂ +10wt. % Ti)	11.4	31	0.35
MA3 (MgH ₂ +10wt. % Ti)	12.6	31.8	0.4
MA4 (Mg without Ti)	12	142	0.69

As can be seen from Table 3, the size of crystallites (grains) of the MgH₂ phase after the first 5 cycles of the hydrogenation from the gas phase was found to be 30.5 nm, 31 nm, 31.8 nm, and 142 nm for MA1, MA2, MA3, and MA4, respectively, using the obtained X-ray diffraction patterns and the approximation method according to the Selyakov-Scherrer equation $D_{h,k,l} = 0.94 \lambda / \beta \cos \Theta$. There is an interesting and important fact to be noted in the analysis of the data presented in Table 3. After 5 cycles of heating/cooling of samples MA1, MA2, MA3 during their HGP, the grain size of the MgH₂ phase increased by 3.76, 2.72, and 2.52 times, respectively. However, under the same conditions of cyclic heating/cooling of the MA4 sample (without Ti), an increase in the grain size of from 12 nm to 142 nm (almost 12 times) can be observed. This observation allows a meaningful conclusion to be drawn about the influence of Ti on the stability of the performance characteristics in the studied Mg-based mechanical alloys with Ti additive. By preventing the growth of MgH₂ crystallites (grains), Ti ensures the stability of the nanostructure during cyclic operation and thus the stability of the operating kinetic and hydrogen sorption characteristics.

3.2. Thermal behavior of mechanical alloys MA1, MA2, MA3

In order to determine the effect of the Ti doping procedure on the thermal stability and decomposition temperature of the obtained MA1-MA4 samples, the hydrogen desorption process was studied by the TDS method at a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa in the reactor and a sample heating rate of 3 deg/min. The hydrogen desorption isobars obtained during the first heating after RMA of the MA1-MA4 samples are shown in fig. 4, while those obtained after the first hydrogenation from the gas phase are depicted in fig. 5.

Using the obtained hydrogen desorption isobars shown in fig. 4 and fig. 5, the hydrogen capacity and the onset temperature of hydrogen desorption (T_{onset}) for the MgH₂ phase were determined during heating of the MA1-MA4 samples, both after RMA synthesis and after direct hydrogenation from the gas phase (HGP). The data obtained are presented in Table 4. From analyzing the first hydrogen desorption curves, it was found that as a result of reactive milling for 20 h of magnesium mixtures with the addition of 10 wt.% Ti, hydrogen capacities of 5.6 wt.%, 5.5 wt.%, 5.5 wt.% and 7.4 wt.% can be achieved for samples MA1, MA2, MA3 and MA4, respectively.

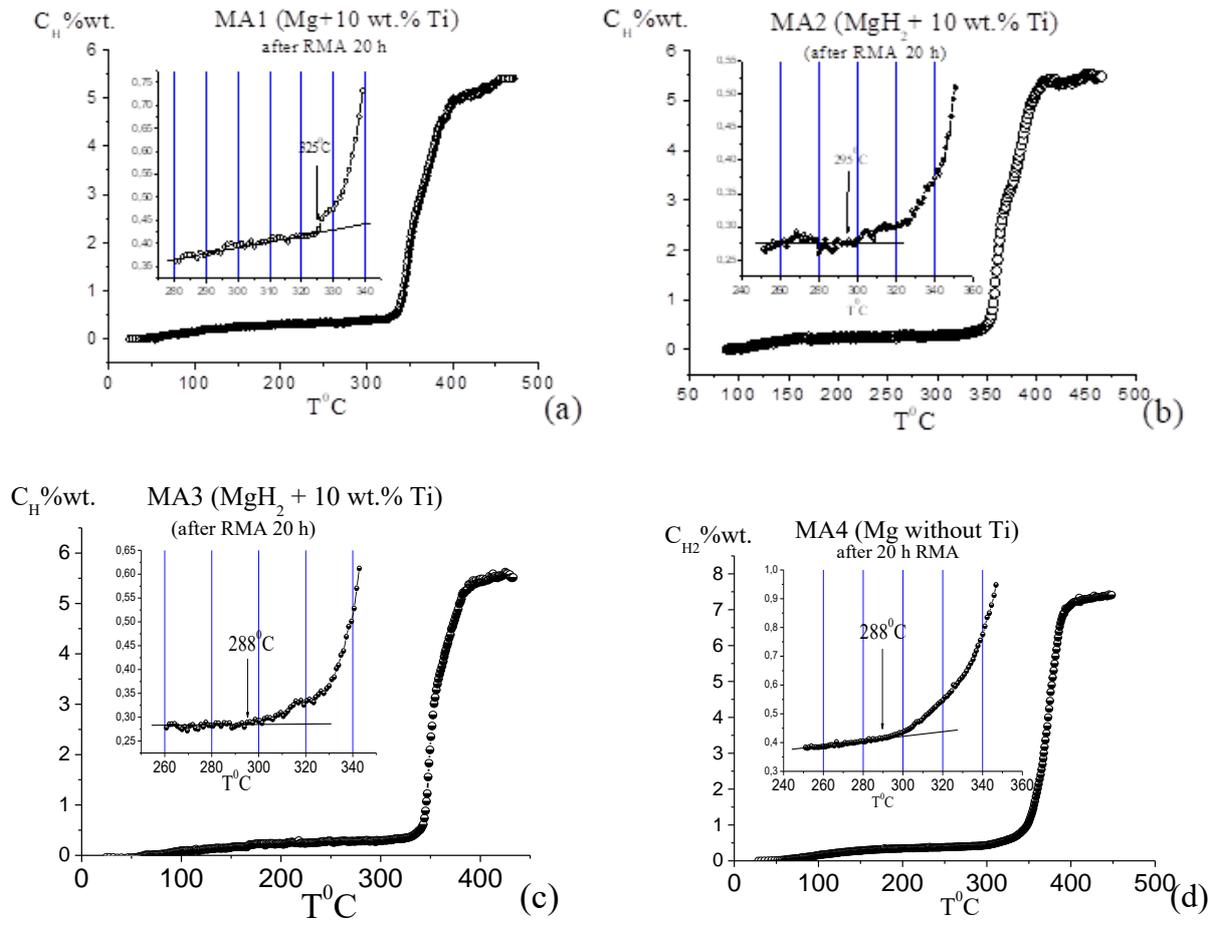


Fig. 4. Hydrogen desorption isobars obtained after synthesis by RMA method of mechanical alloys: (a) - MA1; (b) - MA2; (c) - MA3, (d) - MA4.

Table 4. Onset temperature of hydrogen desorption (T_{onset}) for the MgH_2 phasein MA1-MA4 samples and their hydrogen capacity.

Mechanical alloys	after RMA		after HGP, 1st cycle hydrogenation	
	T_{onset} , °C	C_{H_2} , wt. %	T_{onset} , °C	C_{H_2} , wt. %
MA1(Mg + 10 wt % Ti)	325	5.6	315	5.3
MA2(MgH ₂ +10 wt % Ti)	295	5.5	307	5.1
MA3(MgH ₂ + 10 wt % Ti)	288	5.5	310	5.2
MA4(Mg without Ti)	288	7.4	290	6.3

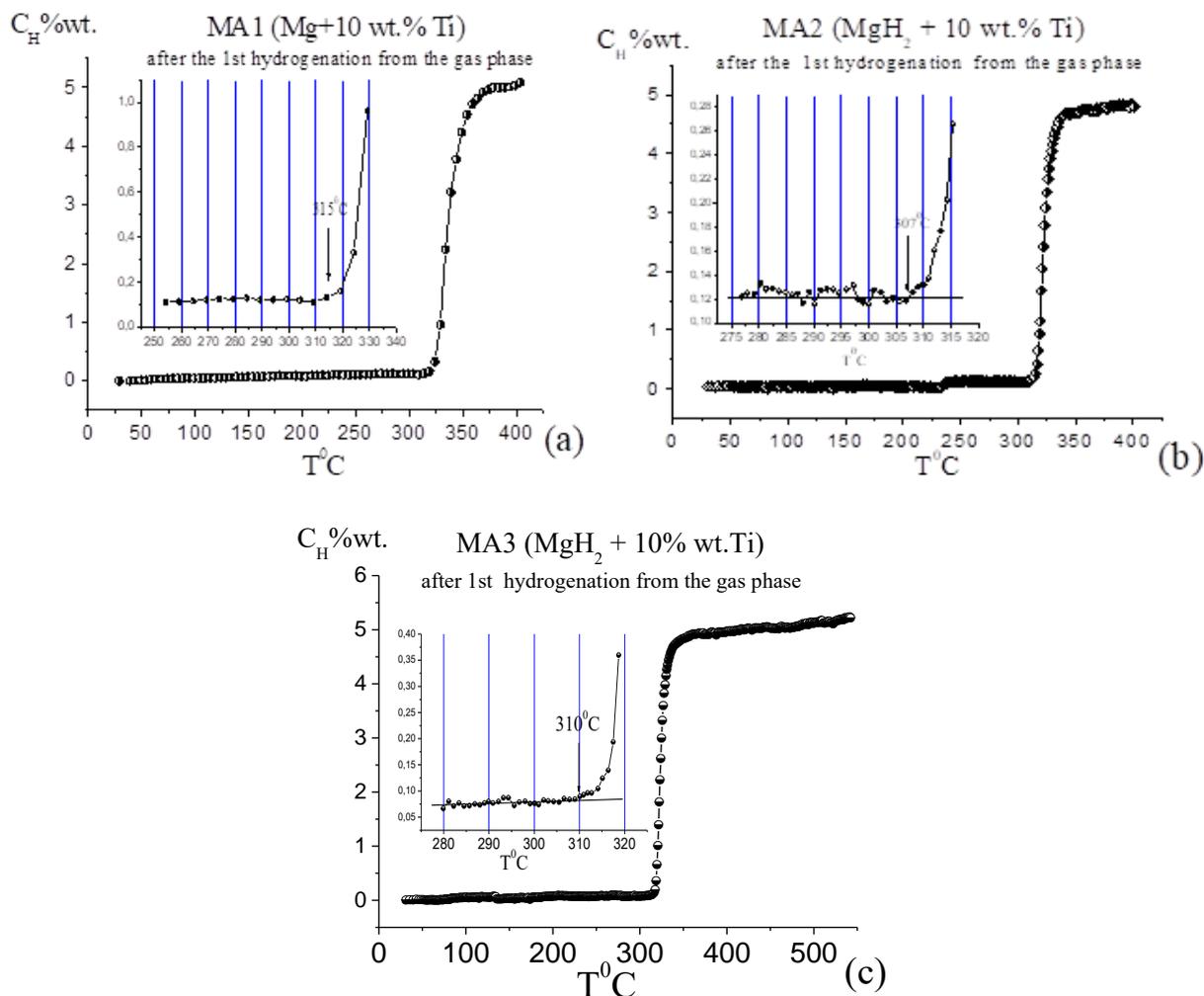


Fig. 5. Hydrogen desorption isobars after the first direct hydrogenation from the gas phase of mechanical alloys: (a) - MA1; (b) - MA2; (c) - MA3.

As can be seen from fig. 4 and fig. 5 and also from the data listed in Table 4, the onset temperature (T_{onset}) was 325°C, 295°C, 288°C, and 288 °C for samples MA1, MA2, MA3, and MA4, respectively, after their synthesis by RMA. After the first HGP of these MAs, T_{onset} was determined to be 315°C, 307°C, 310°C, and 290 °C, respectively. It is noteworthy that these temperatures can be considered as the onset temperatures of hydrogen desorption for the main hydride phase (MgH_2), while the onset temperature of TiH_2 cannot be detected due to its low concentration in samples MA1-MA3. When comparing in Table 4 the T_{onset} values for the undoped MA4 sample (288 °C at a hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa) with those for MA1-MA3, we can see that there is virtually no effect of the Ti additive and the preparation procedure on the onset temperature, and the associated onset temperature of the MgH_2 phase decomposition can be stated for all MAs. We also did not observe the expected decrease in the equilibrium decomposition temperature of the MgH_2 phase for the above mechanical alloys at a hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa (288 °C according to [6]), which would indicate a decrease in the thermodynamic stability of the MgH_2 phase due to its mechanical alloying with Ti. In our opinion, the explanation for the absence of a decrease in the thermodynamic stability of MgH_2 with the addition of Ti may be due to the fact that no solid solution of Ti in magnesium was formed under the conditions used to obtain the MAs. The evidence for this can be seen in the fact that $Mg(Ti)H_2$ hydride was not obtained according to the XRD data (Table 1), while the presence of the TiH_2 phase in the composites MA1-MA3 can be attributed to the substantial amount of Ti. As can be seen from Table 2, the decrease in the unit cell volume of the MgH_2 phase is not observed for MA1-MA3 with respect to that of the MA4 sample, indicating that no $Mg(Ti)H_2$ was formed under the synthesis conditions.

3.3. Hydrogen desorption kinetics from mechanical alloys MA1, MA2, MA3 obtained by different techniques

The hydrogen desorption kinetics from the MgH_2 phase after HGP was studied for all synthesized MAs at temperatures of 310 °C and 330 °C and a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa in the reactor. Isobaric-isothermal kinetic curves of hydrogen desorption for the samples MA1 - MA3 at a temperature of 330 °C are shown in fig. 6. Table 5 summarizes the data for the release time of half of the total amount of hydrogen ($\tau_{1/2}$) and the total amount of hydrogen (τ_f) for all MAs. Fig. 7 shows the curve of the hydrogen desorption kinetic from the mechanical alloy MA4 (without the addition of Ti) obtained under the same conditions as the mechanical alloy MA1.

Table 5. Time (min) of release of half ($\tau_{1/2}$) and total amount of hydrogen (τ_f) from mechanical alloys at temperatures of 310 °C, 330 °C and constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa.

Mechanical alloys	310 °C		330 °C	
	$\tau_{1/2}$	τ_f	$\tau_{1/2}$	τ_f
MA1 (Mg + 10wt. %Ti)	8,5	25	4.7	14
MA2 (MgH_2 +10 wt. % Ti)	5,2	14	3.1	13
MA3 (MgH_2 + 10 wt. % Ti)	-	-	2.9	9
MA4 (Mg without Ti)	55	160	30	80

The analysis of the experimental data presented in Table 5 allows to conclude that the addition of 10 wt.% Ti to magnesium during the synthesizing of the MA1, MA2, MA3 samples significantly improves the hydrogen desorption kinetics from the nanosized MgH_2 phase of these alloys. This is evidenced by the experimentally recorded 6-fold, 6-fold and 9-fold reduction of the total desorbed hydrogen release time for MA1, MA2 and MA3, respectively, at a constant temperature of 330 °C and a constant pressure of 0.1 MPa compared to the time of release of the total amount of hydrogen in the case of MA4. A similar effect of improving hydrogen desorption kinetics by the addition of Ti to Mg and to MgH_2 was observed in studies [40,41,43,73,77,82-85] and [3,4,68,70,86-88], respectively. The analysis and comparison of the data presented in Table 5 for the samples MA1 and MA2 allows us to state that a method of reactive milling of the MgH_2 +10 wt.% Ti powder mixture (rather than milling a powder mixture of Mg +10 wt.% Ti) gives the best kinetic characteristics among the synthesized mechanical alloys. As shown in Table 5, the time required to release half of the total hydrogen ($\tau_{1/2}$) from the sample MA1 (Mg + 10 wt.% Ti) and its total amount (τ_f) at the temperature of 330 °C is 4.7 min and 14 min, respectively. For the sample MA2 (MgH_2 + 10 wt.% Ti), these values are 3.1 min and 13 min, respectively.

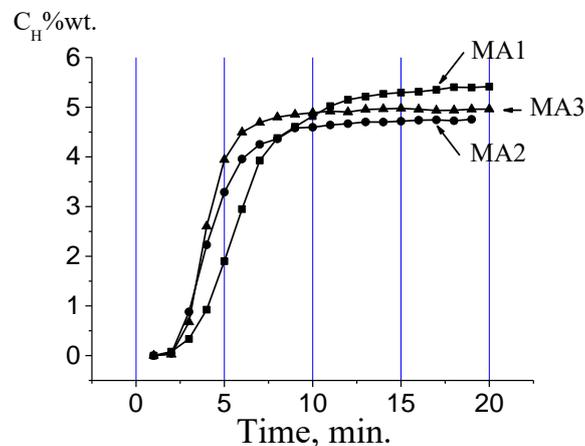


Fig. 6. Kinetic curves of hydrogen desorption of mechanical alloys MA1, MA2, MA3 obtained at the temperature of 330 °C and a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa in the reactor.

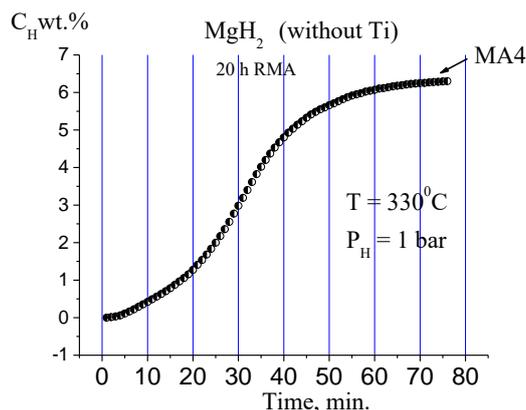


Fig. 7. Kinetic curve of hydrogen desorption of mechanical alloy MA4 obtained at the temperature of 330 °C and a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1 MPa in the reactor.

To explain this result, the size of the crystallites (grains) of the MgH_2 phase was calculated to be 31 nm and 30.5 nm for MA2 and MA1, respectively, using the obtained X-ray diffraction patterns and the approximation method according to the Selyakov-Scherrer equation $D_{h,k,l} = 0.94 \lambda / \beta \cos \Theta$ after the first 5 cycles of HGP (Table 3). On the basis of these data, which indicate that the crystallites of the samples MA2 and MA1 are almost identical in size, it is logical to assume that the faster kinetics of hydrogen desorption from the MgH_2 phase in MA2 ($MgH_2 + 10$ wt.% Ti) is not due to the smaller grain size (and correspondingly shorter diffusion paths for hydrogen atoms) compared to the grain size of the MgH_2 phase in MA1 ($Mg + 10$ wt.% Ti). As can be seen from Table 3, the crystallite (grain) size of the MA3 sample is 31.8 nm and differs little from those of MA1 and MA2. Thus, according to the data in Tables 3 and 5 (with respect to the size of the crystallites (grains) d (nm) and the time of release of the total amount of hydrogen τ_f (min) in MA1, MA2, MA3), it can be said that there is no correlation between the release time of the total amount of hydrogen from these MAs and their crystallite (grain) size, which depends on the synthesis procedure.

The superior hydrogen desorption kinetics of MA2 compared to MA1 is also not related to the different chemical state of the surface of these mechanical alloys. As we have previously reported [46, 80], the addition of 10 wt.% Ti to magnesium does not change the charge state of the magnesium atoms on the surface of the mechanical alloy because the values of the XPS Mg 2p and Mg 2s core-level binding energies do not change within the accuracy of the measurement when proceeding from the MA sample (without the addition of titanium) to the MA with 10 wt.% Ti sample. Moreover, the smaller size of the titanium particles and the greater quantity of ultrafine titanium particles covering each magnesium particle, the better performance of this transition metal as a dispersant, which prevents agglomeration of magnesium particles and allows to obtain a disperse powder of mechanical alloy more rapidly. In our case, titanium becomes very brittle in the early stages of reactive milling due to the formation of titanium hydride and rapidly reduces its particle size. In the next process of cyclic hydrogenation/dehydrogenation, titanium hydride plays the role of a catalyst that significantly accelerates the reaction of magnesium hydrogenation and magnesium hydride dehydrogenation and can act as a "hydrogen pump" [1].

The analysis of the hydrogen desorption kinetic curves shown in Fig. 6, which belong to MA1 and MA2 and have a sigmoid character, allows us to notice their difference. Thus, a longer induction period (up to 3 minutes) of magnesium seed formation due to diffusion can be observed at the beginning of the MA1 curve than at the beginning of the MA2 curve. It can also be seen that the linear part of the MA1 curve from the value of $C_H = 1$ wt.% to the value of $C_H = 4$ wt.% has a greater slope than the slope of the corresponding part of the MA2 curve, and thus a lower average rate $\Delta C_H / \Delta t$ of hydrogen desorption from the MgH_2 phase of MA1 than from the MgH_2 phase of MA2. Assuming that for both mechanical alloys MA1 and MA2 the formula $dC_H / dt = kC^n$ is valid, where k is the rate constant, the following conclusion can be made. The experimentally observed higher slope of the linear part of the kinetic curve MA1 corresponds to a lower hydrogen desorption rate and a lower rate

constant and consequently, a higher activation energy of hydrogen desorption from the MgH_2 phase for the mechanical alloy MA1 than for the alloy MA2.

Thus, the results of our experimental investigations allow us to speak about the different influence of the manner of obtaining on the hydrogen desorption kinetics of the nanosized MgH_2 phase of the mechanical alloys MA1 and MA2. This difference can be seen immediately in the kinetic curves MA1 and MA2 of the hydrogen desorption rate $V = \Delta C_H / \Delta t$ at times $t = \tau_{1/2}$, as shown in Fig. 6. Thus, the value of the hydrogen desorption rate in the case of MA1 was $V = 0.95 \text{ wt.\% / min}$, and in the case of MA2 it was $V = 1.38 \text{ wt.\% / min}$, i.e. 1.45 times higher than in the case of MA1. Note that the same conditions were used to perform the experiment and record the kinetic curves MA1 and MA2 (constant temperature (330 °C) and constant hydrogen pressure (0.1 MPa)).

A reasonable explanation for the different kinetics of the cyclic hydrogenation / dehydrogenation process of the mechanical alloys $\text{Mg} + 10 \text{ wt.\% Ti}$ and $\text{MgH}_2 + 10 \text{ wt.\% Ti}$, in our opinion, can be made by taking into account the influence of the manner of obtaining of these MAs not only on the structure and properties of the main MgH_2 phase, but also on the structure and properties (and their possible change during cycling) of the catalytically active TiH_2 phase formed as a result of RBM.

In our previous publications [89, 90], we reported the effect of a 20 min mechanical treatment in a high-energy mill on the thermal firmness and thermodynamic stability of TiH_2 powder studied by the TDS method at the temperatures of the onset of hydrogen desorption and γ - β phase transformation. After the indicated mechanical treatment of the TiH_2 powder produced in the factory, the release of hydrogen from it during the heating process started already at the temperature of 150–200 °C, in contrast to the temperature of 420–450 °C during the heating of the initial TiH_2 sample. The isobaric hydrogen desorption curve of TiH_2 processed in a planetary ball mill was found to be shifted to lower temperatures by more than 100 degrees compared to the curve of the initial hydride [89].

Therefore, we assume that the TiH_2 phase formed during the synthesis of MA2 may differ from that formed in the MA1 alloy due to different preparation procedures that affect the structural state, grain size, chemical surface state of the particles and, most importantly, the catalytic activity. In turn, the high catalytic activity of titanium hydride, which plays the role of a catalytically active center in the cyclic process of decomposition of the MgH_2 phase in the MA2 mechanical alloy, can provide a high rate of recombination of atomic hydrogen and its transport from the MgH_2 lattice to the gas phase and, consequently, the nucleation process and growth of the metallic magnesium phase.

4. Conclusions

Three mechanical alloys of magnesium with an addition of 10 wt.% Ti, denoted as MA1, MA2, MA3, were synthesized by one method of reactive mechanical alloying (RMA), however in different manners. The MA1 alloy was obtained by RMA of Mg powder with Ti for 20 h, while MA2 was prepared by RMA of $\text{MgH}_2 + 10 \text{ wt.\% Ti}$ powder (MgH_2 was obtained by hydrogenation of Mg powder from the gas phase) under the same milling conditions. In turn, MA3 was obtained by RMA of Mg powder for 10 h to synthesize MgH_2 , then 10 wt.% Ti was added and reactive milling was continued in a hydrogen atmosphere for another 10 h.

The hydrogen capacity, thermal stability, and hydrogen desorption kinetics of the MgH_2 phase in the obtained MAs were investigated by thermodesorption spectroscopy at a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1MPa.

The time required for desorption of half and total amount of hydrogen from MA1, MA2, MA3 at a constant hydrogen pressure of 0.1MPa and temperature of 330 °C was determined. The manner of obtaining a mechanical alloys by reactive grinding of $\text{MgH}_2 + 10 \text{ wt. \% Ti}$ powder mixture rather than $\text{Mg} + 10 \text{ wt. \% Ti}$ powder mixture has been shown to improve the kinetic characteristics.

The role of Ti as an alloying element in improving the hydrogen desorption kinetics of MAs obtained by different manners was studied. The stabilizing effect of Ti on the nanocrystalline structure and growth of the crystallites (grains) of the MgH_2 phase during the cycling was also evaluated. It

was found that the thermodynamic stability of the obtained MAs is not affected by the Ti additive and the preparation procedure.

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