



# Characterization of Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe Alloy Hot Deformation Behavior Through Processing Map

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The isothermal compression tests of Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe (at.%) alloys were executed under a deformation temperature range of 950–1,100°C with a strain rate range of 0.001–1 s<sup>-1</sup> for a total height reduction of 0.5. The isothermal compression deformation behavior was investigated based on flow stress curves and dynamic model analysis. The processing map of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy was obtained for the optimum hot process parameters. The calculated value of Q (activation energy) was 634.5 kJ/mol. The constitutive model of the alloy was constructed. Based on DMM and the Prasad flow instability criteria, the hot processing map was established with a strain of 0.7. The deformation mechanisms were interpreted by microstructural observation within both stability and instability zones. A processing map showed a stable region under a deformation temperature range of 950–1,100°C with a strain rate range of 0.001–1 s<sup>-1</sup>. One certain maximum power dissipation efficiency value was ~43% and occurred at 950°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>. Another peak power dissipation efficiency value was about 58% at 1,050°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>. Both areas were the optimum processing regions. Furthermore, while the strain rate value exceeded 1 s<sup>-1</sup>, the alloy sustained a deformation instability phenomenon, such as a shearing band or flow localization.

**Keywords:** titanium alloy, constitutive model, processing map, hot deformation behavior, stress-strain curves

## INTRODUCTION

The Ti<sub>2</sub>AlNb-based alloy (Banerjee et al., 1988; Khadzhieva et al., 2014) combines low density, an improved oxidation resistance, and higher fracture toughness compared with the traditional TiAl and NiAl intermetallics (Feng et al., 2002; Yang et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2012). Therefore, Ti<sub>2</sub>AlNb intermetallics have been regarded as promising structural metals to be applied to aircraft engine components (Banerjee, 1997; Germann et al., 2005). The Ti-22Al-25Nb (at.%) and the Ti-22Al-27Nb alloys demonstrate excellent mechanical properties at high temperatures (Dey et al., 2010). Nb is an expensive and high-density additional beta-stabilizer element in Ti<sub>2</sub>AlNb alloys. The orthorhombic structure is able to dissolve most beta-stabilizer elements (Cai et al., 2018). Therefore, efforts have been made to reduce the Nb content of Ti<sub>2</sub>AlNb alloys by substituting Nb with other low-cost beta-stabilizer elements (Feng et al., 2002; Cao et al., 2006; Mao et al., 2007). The majority of the investigations were primarily concentrated

on the microstructure evolution, high-temperature mechanical properties, and practical engineering application of the modified  $Ti_2AlNb$ -based alloys in previous studies. Li et al. (Mao et al., 2000) studied the effects of the Ta element on the elevated-temperature comprehensive mechanical properties for  $Ti_2AlNb$ -based alloys. Emura et al. (Mao et al., 2007; Emura et al., 2010) discovered that the additions of Mo and Fe elements could effectively enhance the specific strength and also improve both the tensile and creep resistance at  $800^\circ C$ .

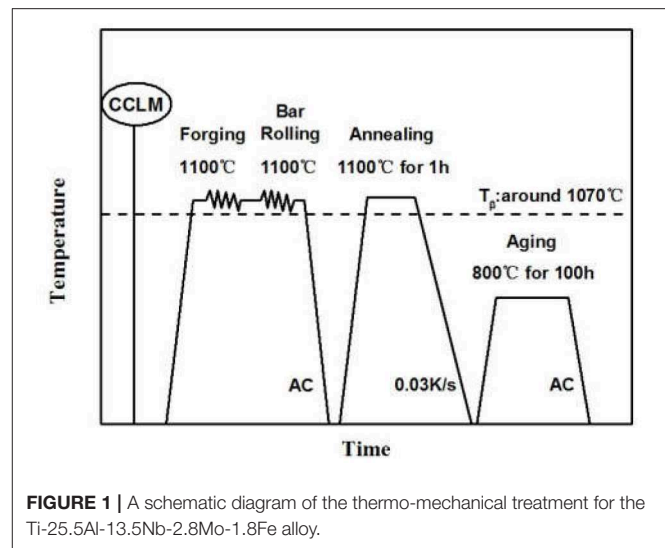
In general, the formation temperature of the  $Ti_2AlNb$ -based alloys ranges from  $950$  to  $1,000^\circ C$  (Boehlert et al., 1999; Yang et al., 2003). Following deformation, the workpiece is required to be heat treated within the (O+B2) phase region in order to obtain both the desired microstructures morphology and comprehensive mechanical properties. In contrast, it is proven quite difficult for the workpiece to deform at a high temperature due to both the corresponding poor workability and large deformation resistance. Moreover, the hot working technology parameters cannot be simply and accurately regulated in the course of isothermal deforming. Also, the mechanical properties are easily affected by the isothermal processing parameters and microstructure characteristics (Zong et al., 2006; Han et al., 2011a; Jia et al., 2011; Zhu et al., 2012). Both the control of accurate deformation parameters as well as an in-depth investigation of the isothermal deformation mechanisms are thus quite important. Until recently, there has been little investigation into  $Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe$  alloy hot deformation behavior.

In previous research, Y. Mao et al. proved that the multiple additions of beta-stabilizer elements Mo and Fe are effective in decreasing Nb content as well as enhancing tensile and creep strength at high temperatures (Mao et al., 2007). However, the hot deformation behavior of multiple Mo- and Fe-composition modified  $Ti_2AlNb$ -based alloys has hardly been investigated. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to study the hot deformation behavior as well as the optimization of the processing technology parameters of the  $Ti_2AlNb$  alloy with multiple additions of Mo and Fe. The flow stress curves, kinetics analysis, and processing map establishment combined with the microstructural observations of the alloy have been investigated. The influences of hot working technology parameters on the actual stress were clarified, and the Q value (deformation activation energy) was obtained. Moreover, the optimal processing technology parameters were obtained by the hot processing map and Prasad's instability criteria. The results were significant for the hot processing technology design and the flow instability phenomenon prevention.

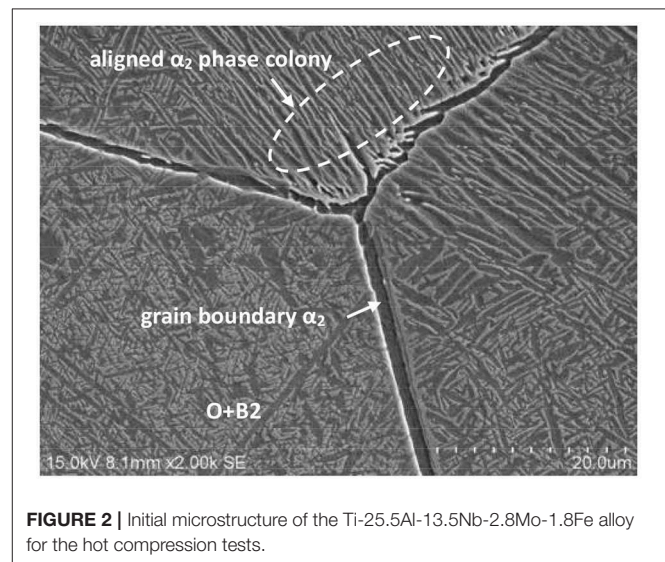
## MATERIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

### Material Preparation

The  $Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe$  alloy ingot ( $\Phi 70 \times 60$  mm) was remelted three times using Cold Crucible Levitation Melting (CCLM) in order to ensure composition uniformity. The thermo-mechanical treatment route is shown in **Figure 1**. As shown in **Figure 1**, the alloy square bars ( $12 \times 12 \times L$  mm) was



**FIGURE 1** | A schematic diagram of the thermo-mechanical treatment for the  $Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe$  alloy.



**FIGURE 2** | Initial microstructure of the  $Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe$  alloy for the hot compression tests.

prepared by the multi-step canned forging and rolling at  $1,100^\circ C$ . Subsequently, the bar was solution treated under  $1,100^\circ C/1$  h and consequent furnace-cooling (cooling speed:  $0.03K/s$ ) to room temperature. In the end, the bar was age treated under  $800^\circ C/100$  h, AC (Air Cooling).  $T_\beta$  was about  $1,070^\circ C$ .

The initial microstructure of the alloy consisted of high-sized  $\beta$  grains. There was an aligned  $\alpha_2$  phase colony that precipitated around the two sides of grain boundary. The grain boundaries were composed of an  $\alpha_2$  phase (dark contrast). The fine needle-like ordered orthorhombic structure (O phase), observed with a gray contrast zone, formed inside the grains, as presented in **Figure 2**.

### Hot Compression Test

The isothermal uniaxial compression testing was executed in Gleeble-3800 thermal simulator. The alloy square bars were machined into cylindrical specimens with  $\Phi 8 \times 12$  mm. The

specimens were deformed under the temperature range 950–1,100°C and strain rate range 0.001–1 s<sup>-1</sup>. The height reduction of each deformed specimen was 50%. Both graphite and the tantalum sheets were put between the specimen and the machine and died due to reducing friction. The deformed temperatures were monitored by a small thermocouple temperature sensor which was welded to the middle of the cylindrical specimen. The cylindrical specimens were heated to the setting temperature by using pulse current. The pre-set heating rate was 10°C/s, and the holding time was 5 min before isothermal uniaxial compression tests. Following deformation, the samples were water quenched in order for the compressed microstructures to be retained.

## Microstructure Observation

In order for the microstructural evolution to be observed, the compressed deformed samples were sectioned parallel to the compression axis. The severed surface was prepared for microstructural observation. The etching solution was the HF, the HNO<sub>3</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O (1:2:7, vol.%). The microstructure morphology observations were conducted by OM (Olympus / PMG3) and SEM (JSM 6700).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Flow Stress Curves

The flow stress experimental data (MPa) of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloys at various deformation conditions are listed in **Table 1**. The typical flow curves under various isothermal conditions are illustrated in **Figure 3**. Similarly to other titanium alloys (Zhang et al., 2016, 2018; Gao et al., 2019; Hua et al., 2019), the mechanical properties of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy were easily affected by the working technology parameters. From **Figure 3**, it clearly indicated that the flow curves exhibited a peak value under a comparatively lower true strain value, and this was followed by a decrease in the true strain value gradually increased. Consequently, the true stress value retained a constant level at the high-sized strains. Furthermore, it was also discovered that, while the deformed practical temperature elevated and the strain rate decreased, the true stress value gradually reduced. The flow-softening phenomenon was observed under both of the various deformation conditions. The flow stress curves demonstrated an obviously flow-softening trend under the deformation temperature that was lower than 1,050°C. Under a fairly high deformation temperatures, while the strain value gradually rose, the flow stress curves finally reached a relatively steady state. The reason is that deformation temperature played an dominant role due to the deformed specimen under the beta single-phase zone (Han et al., 2011b). Furthermore, the flow-softening behavior was attributed to the temperature increase, which resulted from the deformed adiabatic, dynamic recrystallization (DRX), or flow instability (Murty and Rao, 2000; Zeng et al., 2008). In addition, the flow stress curves displayed a discontinuous yielding phenomenon under the strain rate values exceeding 0.1 s<sup>-1</sup>. The reason for the discontinuous yielding is associated with dislocation pile-up and motion

**TABLE 1** | The flow stress experimental data (MPa) of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloys at various deformation conditions.

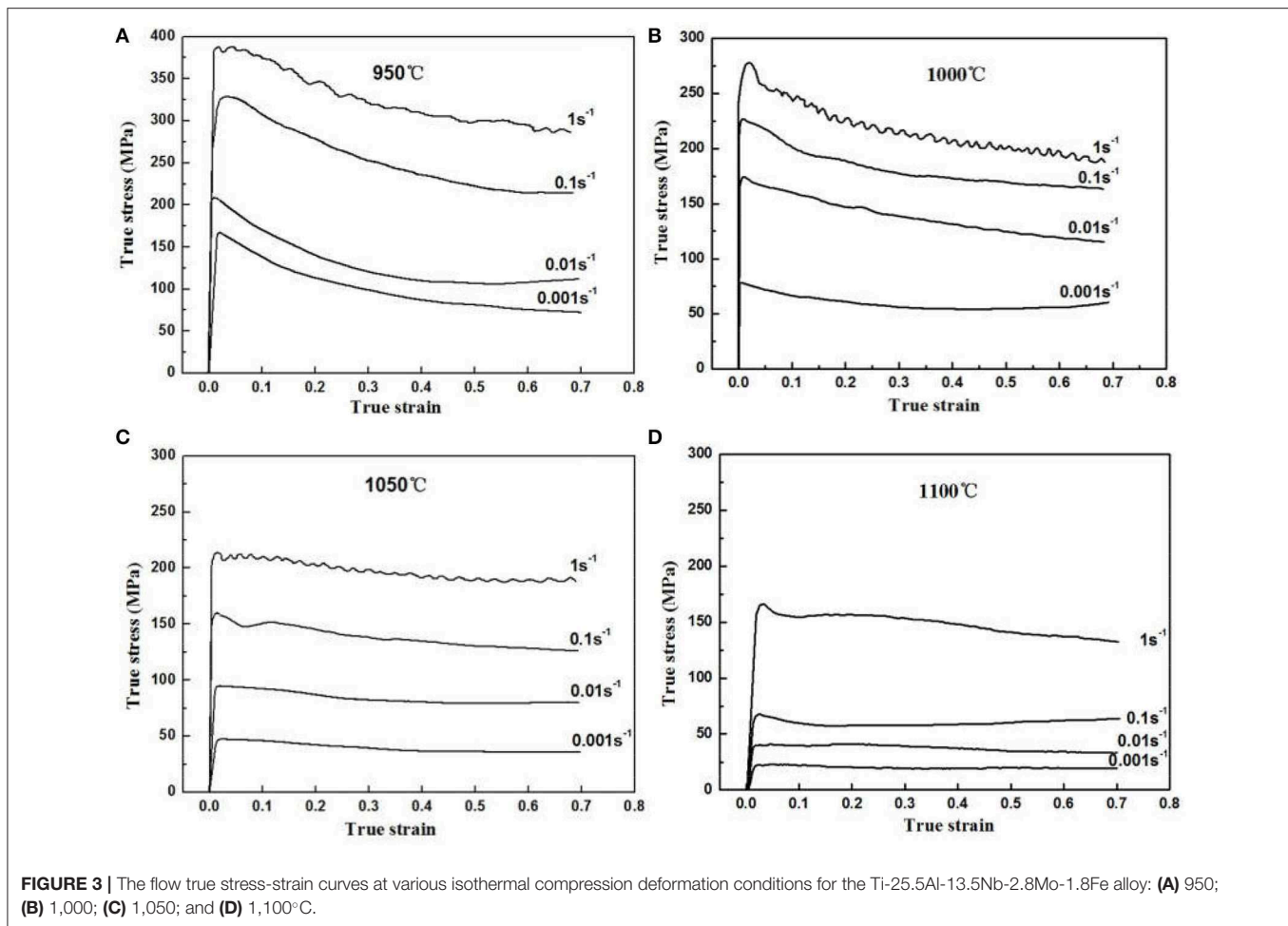
Strain	Strain rate (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Deformation temperature (°C)			
		950	1,000	1,050	1,100
0.2	0.001	112.6	61	41.6	19.7
	0.01	139.6	146	86.1	39.9
	0.1	278.4	188.4	144.8	58.1
	1	345.8	216.7	201.4	156.2
0.3	0.001	97.3	55.8	38.6	18.5
	0.01	120.2	137.7	82.1	37.8
	0.1	252.4	177.1	137.7	58
0.4	1	321.1	187.2	197.4	152
	0.001	85.6	53.8	35.6	18.5
	0.01	109.9	129.6	79	35.7
0.5	0.1	235.3	172.1	134.7	59
	1	309.4	168	190.3	146
	0.001	80	53.8	34.6	18.9
	0.01	107.2	122.5	78	34
0.6	0.1	221.8	169	129.6	60.3
	1	297.3	154.9	188.3	139.2
	0.001	74.4	54.8	34.5	18.2
	0.01	106.7	111.4	79	33.4
0.7	0.1	213.3	165	127.6	61.7
	1	294.2	141.7	188.2	136.5
	0.001	71.9	60.7	34.6	18.5
	0.01	111	104.2	79	32.7
0.8	0.1	213.5	162.8	125.6	64
	1	284.9	135.5	187.2	130.8

(Wei et al., 2017). Similar phenomena were observed in Ti-22Al-25Nb alloys (Mao et al., 2000). Additionally, it was interesting to note that the curves demonstrated an obvious serrate oscillation feature under a higher strain rate value (=1 s<sup>-1</sup>). The reason for this feature was the evidence of non-uniform deformation as well as crack generation (Zeng et al., 2008).

In general, the flow-compressed curves describe the connection between the compression strength and deformation amount. In contrast, the true stress-strain curves might demonstrate different characteristics, including steady-state flow softening or oscillation at various working parameters. In general, the steady-state flow feature of the curves exhibited a dynamic recovery (DRV) or superplasticity (Prasad and Seshacharyulu, 1998a; Prasad et al., 2001). Similarly, the flow softening was associated with adiabatic heating, lamellar globularization, or dynamic recrystallization (DRX) (Prasad et al., 2000). Subsequently, the significantly precise hot deformation mechanisms were confirmed.

### Kinetic Analysis

A hyperbolic-sine Arrhenius model is utilized to reveal the connection of different working parameters description in



metallic during hot plastic processing (Khomei and Dehghani, 2010; Zhang et al., 2012). This model can be presented as:

$$\dot{\epsilon} = A[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]^n \exp(-Q/RT) \quad (1)$$

While the flow stress value is low ( $\alpha\sigma < 0.8$ ), Equation (1) could be simplified as:

$$\ln(\sinh \alpha\sigma) \quad (2)$$

When the flow stress value is high ( $\alpha\sigma > 1.2$ ), Equation (1) could be expressed as:

$$\dot{\epsilon} = A_2 \exp(\beta\sigma) \exp(-Q/RT) \quad (3)$$

$A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $A$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $n$ ,  $n'$  are the constants;  $Q$  is the activation energy (kJ/mol);  $R$  is the gas constant (kJ/mol K<sup>-1</sup>);  $\dot{\epsilon}$  is the strain rate (s<sup>-1</sup>);  $T$  is the absolute temperature (K);  $\sigma$  is the flow stress (MPa); and  $\alpha = \beta/n$ .

Equation (3) was translated into the following model by taking natural logarithm:

$$\ln(\dot{\epsilon}) = \ln(A) + n \ln(\sinh(\alpha\sigma)) - Q/RT \quad (4)$$

The plots of  $\ln \dot{\epsilon}$  vs.  $\ln \sigma_p$  under different temperatures are exhibited in **Figure 4**. It was indicated that the  $n$  value depended on two important processing parameters, which were mainly the deformation temperature and the strain rate value (Medeiros et al., 2000; Liu et al., 2009).

If this relationship was ignored, the average  $n$  value was calculated as  $\sim 5.12$ .

The plots of the vs. the  $\ln(\sinh \alpha\sigma)$  and the plots of the  $\ln(\sinh \alpha\sigma)$  vs. the  $1,000/T$  are presented in **Figures 5A,B**. By Equation (4), the rearrangement and differentiation to the  $1/T$ , the activation energy of deformation could be worked out by using the Equation (5):

$$Q = R \left\{ \frac{\partial \ln \dot{\epsilon}}{\partial \ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]} \right\}_T \times \left\{ \frac{\partial \ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]}{\partial (1/T)} \right\}_{\dot{\epsilon}} \quad (5)$$

where  $\partial \ln \dot{\epsilon} / \partial \ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  is referred to the gradient of the  $\partial \ln \dot{\epsilon}$  vs.  $\ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  under various  $T$  (temperature) and  $\partial \ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)] / \partial (1/T)$  is referred to the gradient  $\ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  vs. the reciprocal of  $1/T$  under various rates of deformation. The  $Q$  value was calculated as be 634.5 kJ/mol in 950–1,050°C.

The activation energy value was related to the flow stress sensitivity under different working conditions. According to

Equation (5), the activation energy mean value was 634.5 kJ/mol, which was just in the range of the mean values of the Ti-22Al-25Nb alloys (436.23–788.77kJ/mol) reported by Zeng

et al. (Xiong et al., 2012a). It could be reasonably considered that the high Q value was associated with the globularization of the lamellar microstructures or the dynamic recrystallization. Consequently, we could reasonably predict that this material could more easily be processed at high deformation temperatures than the Ti-22Al-25Nb. The temperature compensated strain rate parameter Z (Huang and Logé, 2016) is provided by:

$$Z = \dot{\epsilon} \exp(Q/RT) \tag{6}$$

By the natural logarithm consideration of each side, Equation (6) was translated into the following style:

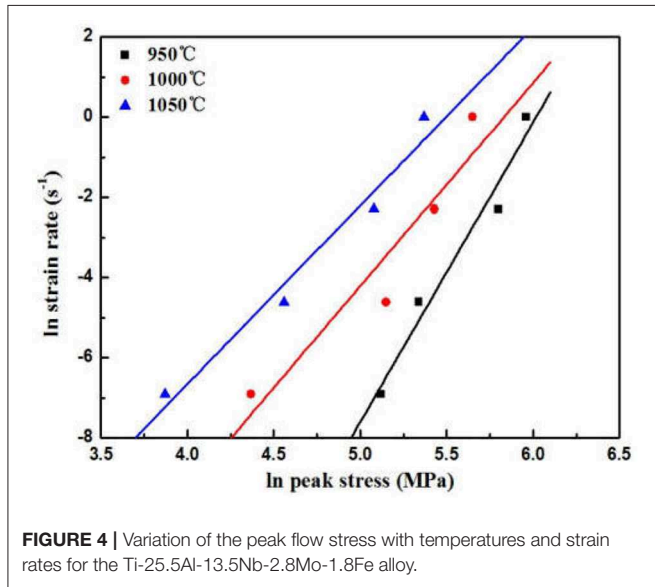
$$\ln Z = \ln A + n \ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)] \tag{7}$$

The intercept is corresponding to the value of the ln A (Figure 5C). Finally, the constitutive model of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloys could be presented as:

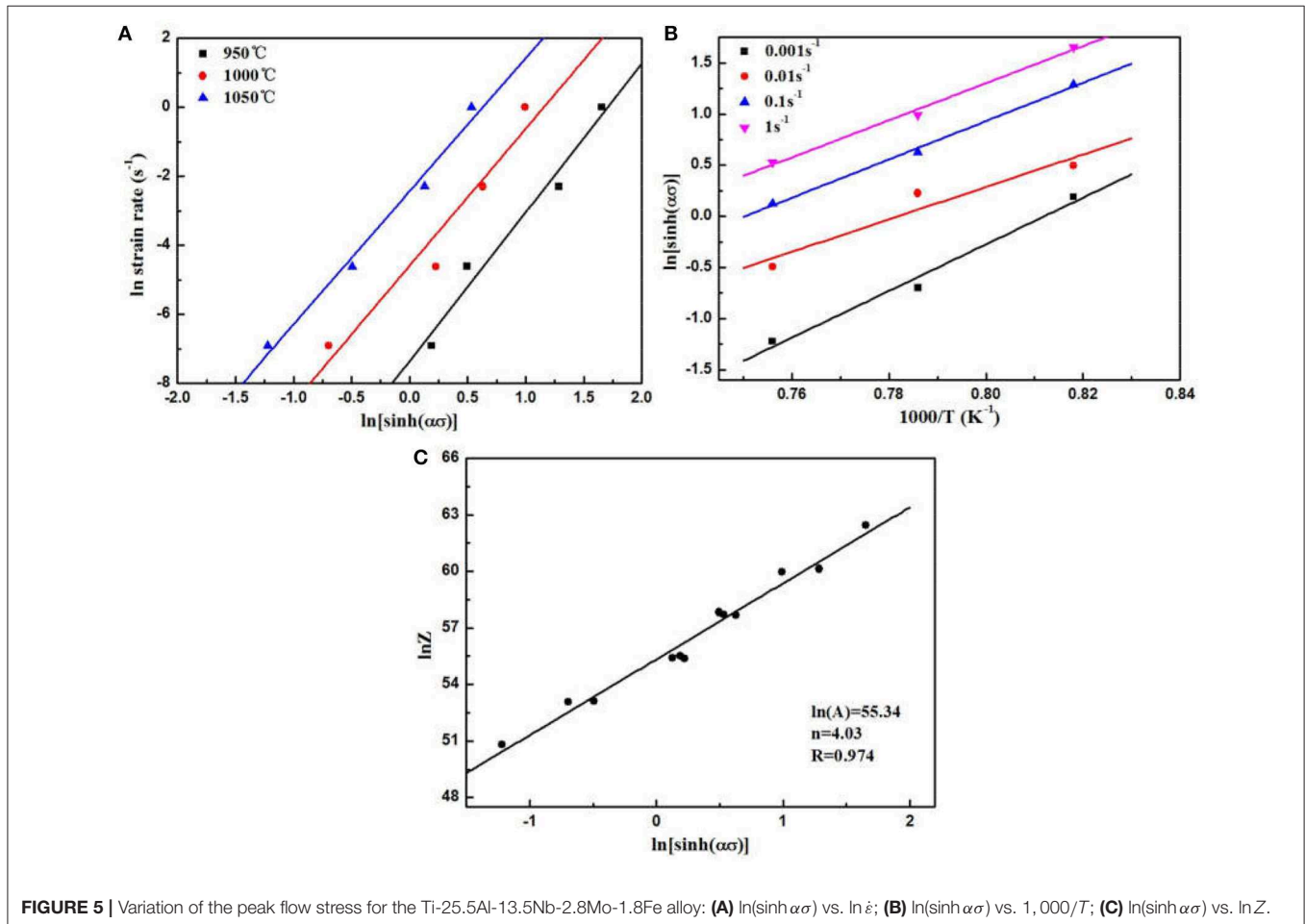
$$\dot{\epsilon} = 1.14 \times 10^{25} [\sinh(0.00712\sigma)]^{5.12} \exp(-634.5/RT) \tag{8}$$

### Processing Map

The processing map approach is usually utilized for the purposes of hot processing of many ferrous and nonferrous metals



**FIGURE 4** | Variation of the peak flow stress with temperatures and strain rates for the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy.



**FIGURE 5** | Variation of the peak flow stress for the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy: (A)  $\ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  vs.  $\ln \dot{\epsilon}$ ; (B)  $\ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  vs.  $1,000/T$ ; (C)  $\ln[\sinh(\alpha\sigma)]$  vs.  $\ln Z$ .

(Sivakesavam and Prasad, 2003; Murty et al., 2005; Zeng et al., 2006; Ning et al., 2010, 2011; Jia et al., 2011), where the work piece was deemed as a power dissipater. The total absorbed power  $P$  of the deformed work piece should be decided by:

$$P = \sigma \dot{\epsilon} = \int_0^{\dot{\epsilon}} \sigma d\dot{\epsilon} + \int_0^{\sigma} \dot{\epsilon} d\sigma = G + J \quad (9)$$

where  $G$  is the dissipater content and  $J$  is the dissipater co-content.

In general, the strain rate sensitivity parameter ( $m$ ) has a close relationship with the total absorbed power ( $P$ ). The total absorbed power ( $P$ ) is divided into the dissipater content ( $G$ ) and the dissipater co-content ( $J$ ). In addition, the strain rate sensitivity parameter ( $m$ ) could be provided through the equation, which is  $m = \partial \log \sigma / \partial \log \dot{\epsilon}$ . Regarding an ideal linear dissipater ( $m = 1$ ), the  $J$  is calculated to be the corresponding maximum value, using the equal  $J_{\max} = \sigma \dot{\epsilon} / 2$ . Hence, the power dissipation efficiency ( $\eta$ ) could be defined as the  $J/J_{\max}$ :

$$\eta = \frac{J}{J_{\max}} = \frac{2m}{m+1} \quad (10)$$

The power dissipation efficiency ( $\eta$ ) combined with the deformation temperature and the strain rate constitute a portion of the hot processing map, which is called the power dissipation map (Sakai et al., 2014). On the whole, when the value of power dissipation efficiency ( $\eta$ ) in some regions is high, it indicates that the zone is appropriate for hot processing (Xin et al., 2016).

The flow instability map is another part of the hot processing map. In this region, the power is often consumed by the manner of heat. The typical microstructural features for the flow instability map correspond to both shear deformation bands and flow localization appearances. Generally, five instability criteria exist, and they are utilized in the description of the instability regions. These criteria are the Prasad, the Murty, the Semiatin, the Gegel and the Malas (Xiong et al., 2010). Ma et al. (Xiong et al., 2012a) discovered that the Semiatin criterion under-predicted the instability regions, while the Gegel and Malas criterion over-predicted the instability regions for the Ti-17 alloys during hot compression. The flow plastic instability maps proposed by the Prasad criteria demonstrated analogous zones to the flow instability maps of the Murty criterion. Zeng et al. (Xiong et al., 2012b) investigated the hot deformation behavior and the hot processing map of Ti-22Al-25Nb alloys based on the Murty criterion. In this work, the flow instability map was established by the procedure described by the Prasad criteria.

The flow plastic instability behavior will appear if:

$$\xi(\dot{\epsilon}) = \frac{\partial \ln[m/(m+1)]}{\partial \ln(\dot{\epsilon})} + m < 0 \quad (11)$$

In Equation (11),  $\xi(\dot{\epsilon})$  represents a dimensionless value. The variation of  $\xi(\dot{\epsilon})$  combined with the deformation temperature and the strain rate constitute another portion of the hot processing map, which is defined as an instability map.

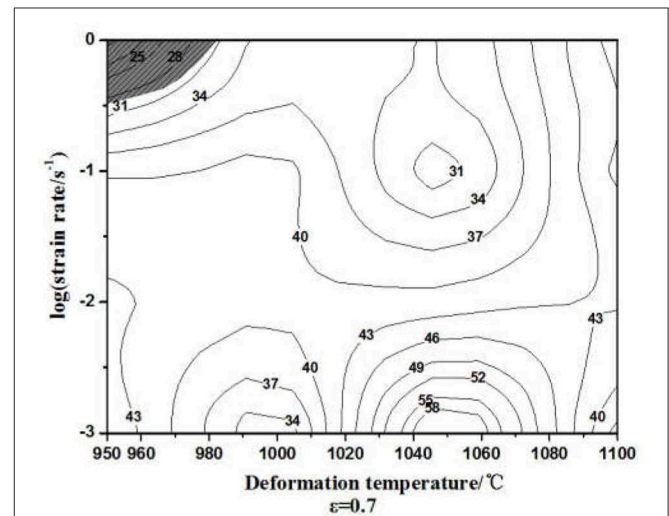
Therefore, by the processing map utilization, the hot processing technology could be designed and controlled for

the isothermal processing parameters optimization as well as the expected mechanical properties and microstructure morphology acquisition.

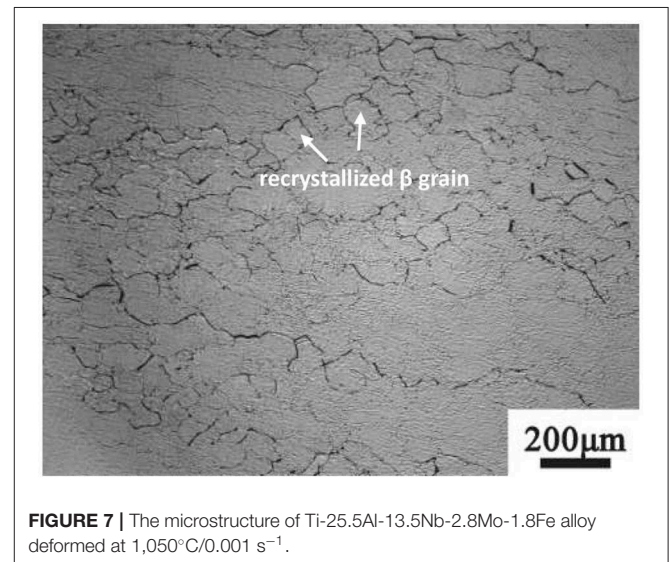
**Figure 6** presented the hot processing map of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy under a strain of 0.7.

As shown in **Figure 6**, there were two typical regions. It is interesting to be found that the two peak  $\eta$  value regions easily occurred at a fairly small strain rate ( $<1.0 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, the flow plastic instability regions also easily appeared under the same conditions.

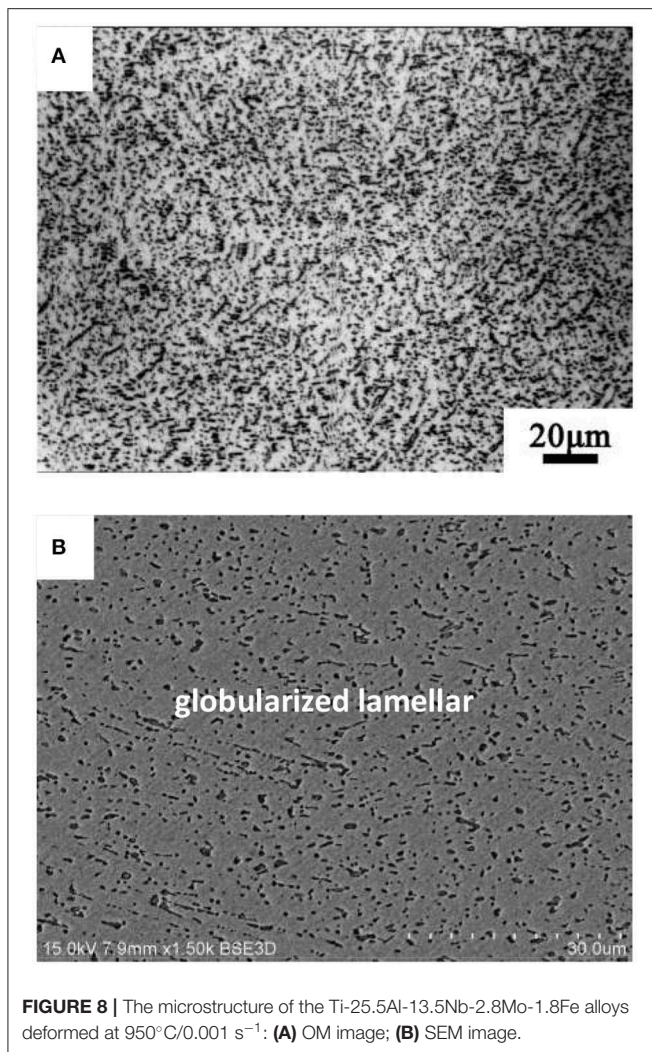
Specially, the peak  $\eta$  value of  $\sim 58\%$  occurred at  $1,050^\circ\text{C}/0.001 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and these were the optimum processing conditions. Semiatin et al. (Prasad and Seshacharyulu, 1998b; Semiatin et al., 1999; Lee et al., 2008; Zhu et al., 2012) found that the Ti64



**FIGURE 6** | The Processing map of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloys under a strain of 0.7.



**FIGURE 7** | The microstructure of Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy deformed at  $1,050^\circ\text{C}/0.001 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .



alloy with a lamellar initial microstructure was suitable for hot working under the conditions of fairly high deformation temperatures and fairly low strain rates. It could be reasonably concluded that this phenomenon had an internal relationship with the DRX (Poletti et al., 2008) or the superplasticity (Krishna et al., 1997; Khamei and Dehghani, 2010). Therefore, the region occurrence at 1,000–1,050°C and 0.001–0.1 s<sup>-1</sup> could be explained due to dynamic recrystallization. **Figure 7** presented the deformed microstructure morphology under 1,050°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>. It was found that there was a mass of newly generated small recrystallized grains. Furthermore, the B2 original grain boundaries gradually transformed into a peculiar serrated characteristic. Sivakesavam and Prasad (Sivakesavam and Prasad, 2002) found that the dynamic recrystallization was composed of two competing processes: nucleation and growth. In general, the dynamic recrystallization can provide fairly excellent workability to many metallic materials through the simultaneous microstructural refinement. Therefore, the hot processability of the alloy could be enhanced under this deformation condition.

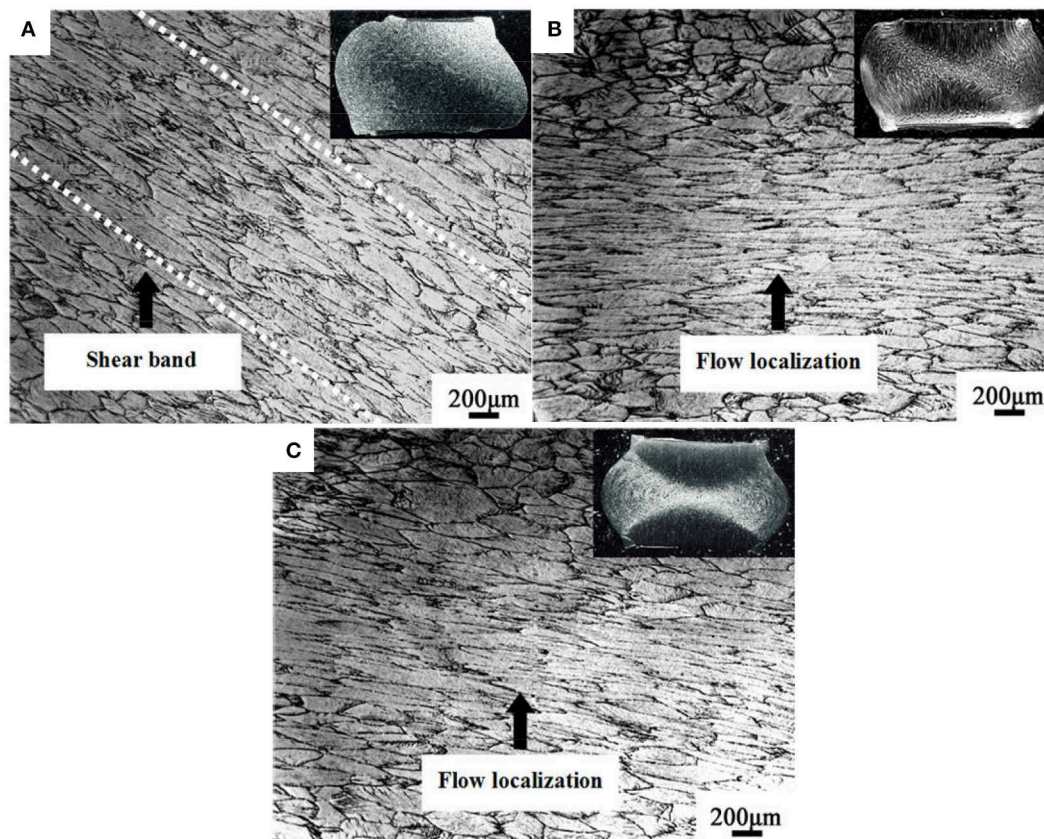
A second region with a maximum  $\eta$  value of 43% under 950°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup> exists. It could be regarded as an optimized working domain of Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloys. **Figure 8** demonstrates the hot deformed microstructure morphology received under 950°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>. As seen from **Figure 8**, both a globularization and a kinking of the lamellar  $\alpha_2/O$  existed. The  $\alpha_2/O$  phase microstructure morphology changed from laths to the equiaxed grains as the strain increased. Therefore, the globularization mechanism of the  $\alpha_2/O$  lamellar was similar to the other Ti alloys. The lamellar globularization procedure is described here. The hot deformed microstructure is broken up into low-sized regions through either the shearing band or the sub-grain. Consequently, the  $\beta$  phase wedges into the lamellar boundary in order for total separation to be observed. This phenomenon could be reasonably interpreted as a kind of DRX (Semiatin et al., 1999; Prasad et al., 2001). Therefore, the globularization occurrence ability could also be deemed as an optimized working condition (Seshacharyulu et al., 1999; Song et al., 2009) during hot plastic deformation. In this work, the optimal deformation temperature consideration occurred at the ( $\alpha_2 + \beta/B_2+O$ ) phase region in order for the present material to obtain a certain globularization microstructure and reach the appropriate comprehensive mechanical properties (Cowen and Boehlert, 2006). Therefore, the optimized working technology parameters were obtained at both lower temperatures (950–1,000°C) and lower strain rates (<0.01 s<sup>-1</sup>).

Previous studies (Hofmann and Blum, 1995; Prasad et al., 2001; Khamei and Dehghani, 2010) have shown that when the strain rates were higher than 1 s<sup>-1</sup>, the flow plastic instability phenomenon could be induced by shearing belts or cracks. **Figures 9A–C** demonstrates the hot compressed microstructures morphology under 950°C/1 s<sup>-1</sup>, 950°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup>, and 1,000°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup>. **Figure 9A** presents the shearing band exhibiting 45 degree toward the compressive direction due to the appearance of localized deformation temperature increase. Prasad et al. (Zhu et al., 2012) also considered that when the titanium alloys deformed at a fairly high strain rate condition, the flow plastic instabilities phenomenon could be occurred by the shearing band appearance.

The flow localization under 950°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup> and 1,000°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup> is presented in **Figures 9B,C**. It could be concluded that the shearing band and the flow plastic localization might contribute to the occurrence of the flow plastic instability phenomenon.

## CONCLUSIONS

The isothermal compression tests of Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe (at.%) alloys were executed under the deformation temperature range of 950–1,100°C with the strain rate range of 0.001–1 s<sup>-1</sup> for a total height reduction of 0.5. The isothermal compression deformation behavior was investigated based on flow stress curves and dynamic model analysis. The processing map was obtained for the



**FIGURE 9 |** The microstructures obtained in the instability region of the Ti-25.5Al-13.5Nb-2.8Mo-1.8Fe alloy: **(A)** Shear band at 950°C/1 s<sup>-1</sup>; **(B)** flow localization at 950°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup>; and **(C)** flow localization at 1,000°C/10 s<sup>-1</sup>.

optimum hot process parameters. Several main conclusions were drawn:

1. The flow stress value was significantly sensitive to temperatures and strain rates during the hot working. When the temperature increased, or the strain rate value decreased, the flow stress value reduced accordingly.
2. The calculated value of  $Q$  (activation energy) was 634.5 kJ/mol for the alloy deformed in ( $\alpha_2$ +B2+O) and ( $\alpha_2$ +B2) phase zone, under 0.001–1 s<sup>-1</sup>. The constitutive model was constructed.
3. Based on DMM and the Prasad flow instability criteria, the hot processing map was established with strain of 0.7. The peak  $\eta$  value was ~58% at 1,050°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>, demonstrating DRX. Also, the other appropriate hot working parameter was 950°C/0.001 s<sup>-1</sup> in the ( $\alpha_2$ +B2+O) phase region, occurring lamellar globularization.
4. While the strain rate value exceeded 1 s<sup>-1</sup> and the deformation temperature was lower, the alloy sustained deformation instability phenomenon, such as adiabatic shear band or flow localization. Such an instability phenomenon should be prevented.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The datasets generated for this study are available on request to the corresponding author.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JC wrote the article. ZD performed the ingot melting. XZ performed the hot compression testing. WZ performed the microstructure observation. JG performed the constitutive equation and created the processing map. JL performed the technical guidance.

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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