



## 2 Compression behavior of porous NiTi shape memory alloy

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### 9 Abstract

10 Porous NiTi alloy with several different porosities was processed by spark plasma sintering. The compression behavior of the  
11 porous NiTi was examined with the aim of using it possibly as a high energy absorbing material. A model for the macroscopic com-  
12 pression behavior of porous shape memory alloy (SMA) is presented in this work, where Eshelby's inhomogeneous inclusion method  
13 is used to predict the effective elastic and superelastic behavior of a porous SMA based on the assumption of stress–strain curve. The  
14 analytical results are compared with experimental data for porous NiTi with 13% porosity, resulting in a reasonably good  
15 agreement.

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17 *Keywords:* Porous NiTi; Eshelby's method; Compression behavior; Spark plasma sintering

### 19 1. Introduction

20 Over the last two decades shape memory alloys  
21 (SMA) have attracted great interest in various applica-  
22 tions ranging from aerospace [1] and naval [2] to surgical  
23 instruments, medical implants and fixtures [3,4]. The use  
24 of SMAs has promoted extensive research on developing  
25 SMA constitutive models.

26 Among SMAs, NiTi alloy has been used most exten-  
27 sively due to its large flow stress and shape memory ef-  
28 fect (SME) strain. Most recently, porous NiTi have  
29 attracted increasing attention for possible application  
30 in medical implant devices and as high energy absorp-  
31 tion structural material. The progress in manufacturing  
32 and characterization of the porous NiTi SMA has been  
33 reported by a number of researchers [5–9]. Li et al. [5,6]  
34 fabricated porous NiTi SMA by combustion synthesis

method, the stress–strain curves in their work show that 35  
the porous NiTi synthesized by this method is brittle. Li 36  
et al. [7] also fabricated the porous NiTi from powder 37  
sintering; they show that there is no stress plateau in 38  
the stress–strain curve and the material is still brittle. 39  
Kim et al. [8] produced porous NiTi by self-propagating 40  
high temperature synthesis (SHS), and again the porous 41  
NiTi fabricated by this method is brittle. Lagoudas et al. 42  
[9] used the hot isostatic press (HIP) method. The stress– 43  
strain curve in their work exhibits brittle behavior. Since 44  
these previous studies on porous NiTi exhibited poor 45  
ductility, it is necessary for us to develop a better 46  
processing method which provides porous NiTi with 47  
higher ductility. Therefore, the spark plasma sintering 48  
(SPS) method [10] is introduced in this work. The pre- 49  
alloy NiTi raw powders of superelastic grade (Ni 50.9 50  
at.%–Ti 49.1 at.%) are loaded into a graphite die and 51  
pressed to the desired pressure and then a huge on-off 52  
pulsed current is induced through the die and stacked 53  
powder particles. Under the condition of pulsed current 54  
heating, powder particles are activated to a high energy 55

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state and neck formation easily occurs at low temperature in very short time compared with ordinary sintering processes like hot press (HP), HIP or SHS. Moreover, the effect of spark discharge purifies the surface of powder particles, which guarantees neck formation and high quality of sintered materials. The above features of SPS meet our demand for preparing porous NiTi using NiTi alloy powders.

In order to optimally design the microstructure and properties of the porous SMAs, it is important to build a simple, yet accurate model to describe its microstructure–mechanical behavior relation. If a porous NiTi is treated as a special case of a particle-reinforced composite, one can apply a micromechanical model based on Eshelby's method with Mori–Tanaka mean-field (MT) theory [11–17] and self-consistent method [18,19]. Both methods have been used to model macroscopic behavior of composites with SMA fibers [20,21]. Young's modulus of a porous material was modeled by using the Eshelby's method with MT theory [22].

In this paper, Eshelby's equivalent inclusion method with Mori–Tanaka mean-field theory is used to predict the stress–strain (SS) curve of a porous NiTi under compression where the superelastic deformation corresponding to the second stage of the SS curve is accounted for. Then the predicted SS curve is compared with the experimental data of the porous NiTi specimen processed by SPS.

## 2. Experimental results of NiTi specimens processed by SPS

We have processed three different types of specimens by spark plasma sintering (Dr. Sinter SPS-515S, Sumitomo Coal Mining Co., Japan). Fig. 1 is a schematic drawing of the SPS device. An ingot of NiTi alloy (Ni 50.9 at.% and Ti 49.1 at.%) was made by Sumitomo

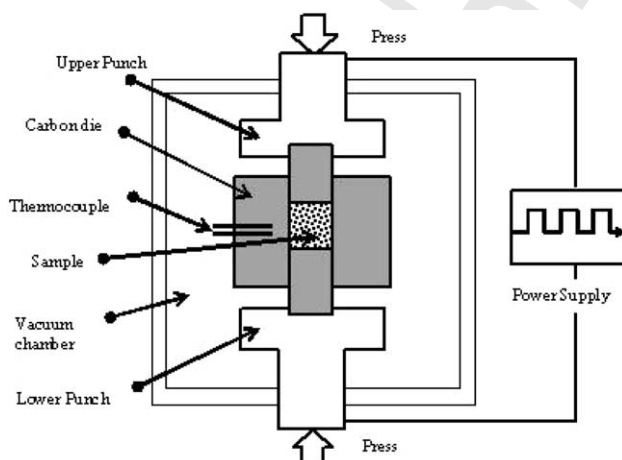


Fig. 1. A schematic drawing of SPS device.

Metals, Osaka, Japan, which was then shipped to Fukuda Metals, Kyoto, Japan, where the plasma rotating electrode process (PREP) was used to process NiTi powders. The average diameter of the NiTi powders processed by PREP is 150  $\mu\text{m}$ . The advantage of SPS is to provide strong bonding among superelastic grade NiTi powders while the relatively low sintering temperature is maintained for only 5 min, thus avoiding any undesired reaction products that would be produced by a conventional sintering method. A summary of three types of specimens is given in Table 1. All these specimens were subjected to the same heat treatment (320  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 30 min, water quench) to convert them to superelastic grade. Their transformation temperatures were measured from differential scanning calorimeter chart (Perkin–Elmer, DSC6 model):  $A_s$  (austenite start),  $A_f$  (austenite finish),  $M_s$  (martensite start) and  $M_f$  (martensite finish).

The porosity of the specimens was measured by the formula,  $f_p = 1 - m/(\rho V)$ , where  $V$  and  $m$  is the volume and mass of the porous specimen, respectively. The density  $\rho$  in this work is the density of NiTi, i.e. 6.4  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  as measured by the mass–density relation, i.e.  $\rho = m_D/V_D$ , the unit of  $\rho$  is  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ , where  $V_D$  and  $m_D$  is the volume and mass of the dense NiTi specimen, respectively. The porous specimens had a functionally graded microstructure (FGM), i.e. NiTi powders of smaller size are purposely distributed near the top and bottom surfaces while the larger sized NiTi powders are located in mid-thickness region, Fig. 2. The 13% porosity NiTi specimen exhibited continuous NiTi phase throughout the thickness directions with porosity centered at mid-plane (Fig. 2(b)) while in the 25% porosity specimen porosity is distributed through the thickness, with less towards the top and bottom surfaces (Fig. 2(a)).

Two kinds of compressive tests were conducted by using Instron tensile frame (8521 model System) to obtain the stress–strain curves of both dense and porous NiTi. Two different testing temperatures were used: room temperature (22  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and a temperature 15–25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  higher than the austenite finish temperature ( $A_f$ ). The porous specimens with porosity of 13% and 25% as well as the dense specimen were all tested under static compressive load (loading rate  $10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ).

### 2.1. Compressive curves of NiTi SMA at room temperature (22 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Specimens were cut by electrical discharge machining (EDM) from the as-SPS processed disks. As-EDM cut specimens were all subjected to the same heat treatment (320  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , for 30 min, water quenched) to convert them to superelastic grade. Fig. 3 shows the compressive stress–strain curves of 13%, 25% porosity and dense (no porosity) specimens. Among those curves, the 25% porosity exhibits lowest flow

Table 1  
NiTi specimens processed by spark plasma sintering

Name of sample	Porosity by volume percentage	Spark plasma processing conditions	Transformation temperatures (°C)
Dense NiTi	0	850 °C under 50 MPa, 5 min	$A_s = 23.88$ , $A_f = 43.12$ $M_s = 36.05$ , $M_f = 23.09$
13% porous NiTi	13%	800 °C under 25 MPa, 5 min	$A_s = 19.3$ , $A_f = 38.82$ $M_s = 20.65$ , $M_f = 5.39$
25% porous NiTi	25%	750 °C under 5 MPa, 5 min	$A_s = 14.59$ , $A_f = 33.29$ $M_s = 23.24$ , $M_f = 2.55$

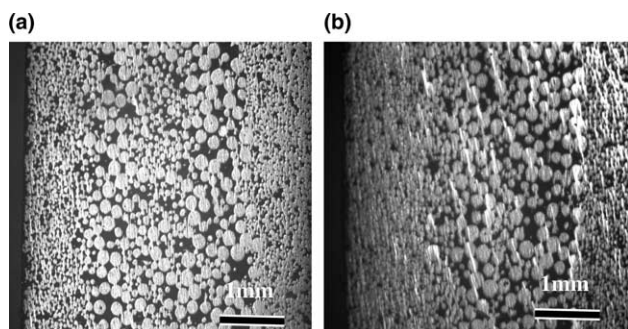


Fig. 2. Microstructure of porous NiTi specimens: (a) 25% porosity; (b) 13% porosity.

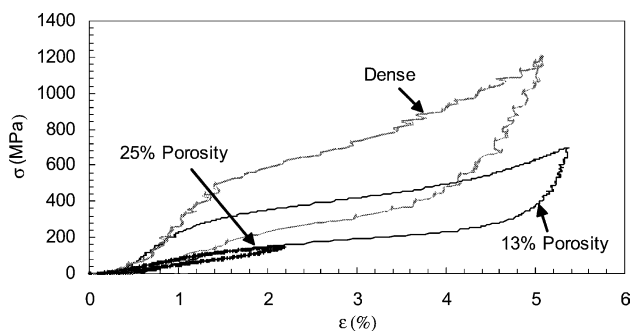


Fig. 3. Compressive stress–strain curve of specimens tested at room temperature.

145 stress level and less superelastic loop behavior, while  
146 both the 13% porosity and dense specimens clearly  
147 exhibit large superelastic loops and also high ductility.  
148 The main reason for good superelastic behavior of the

13% porosity NiTi specimen processed by SPS is the  
rather continuous connectivity between adjacent NiTi  
powders of SE grade in the high porosity region  
(mid-section). In the case of the 25% porosity NiTi  
specimen, such connectivity is not established in the  
mid-section, i.e. there is non-uniform connectivity. In  
addition, presumably some large NiTi powder particles  
are clustered, some of which may have converted to  
unwanted brittle intermetallics; this would have been  
caused by excess local high temperature during the  
SPS process. When stress is large enough, collapse of  
imperfect necking structure among large NiTi particles  
of 25% porosity exhibits low strength rather than super-  
elastic property. From the results of the compression  
testing, we selected the 13% porosity specimen as a  
representative porous NiTi while the dense specimen  
is used as a reference NiTi processed by the same SPS.

Fig. 4(a)–(c) are the optical micrographs of the side  
section view of 13% porosity specimen before compression  
test, and those tested up to 5% compressive strain  
and unloaded, and 7% compressive strain and unloaded.  
If these micrographs are referred to the compressive  
stress–strain curves of Fig. 3, Fig. 4(a) and (b) corre-  
spond to the compressive strains of 0% and 5%, respec-  
tively, and the superelastic strain of up to 5% was  
actually realized as shown by Fig. 4(b). Fig. 4(c) demon-  
strates the plastic deformation of particles in the 13%  
porosity specimen that was loaded up to 7% and then  
unloaded. This is due to the martensitic phase. The results  
of Fig. 4 support the assumption that superelastic  
NiTi powder in the SPS-processed and heat treated con-  
dition deforms superelastically, contributing to the high

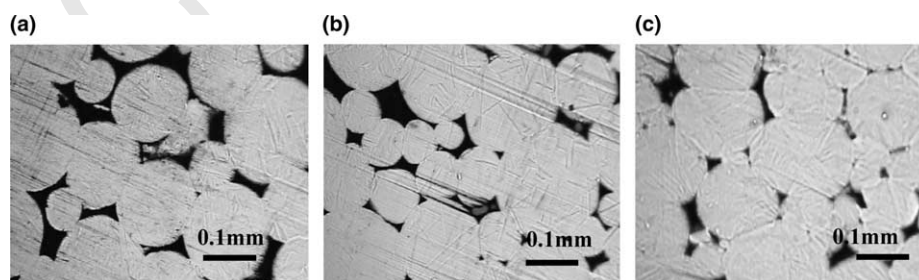


Fig. 4. Side view of 13% porosity: (a) before compression; (b) compressed up to 5% and unloaded; (c) compressed up to 7% and unloaded.



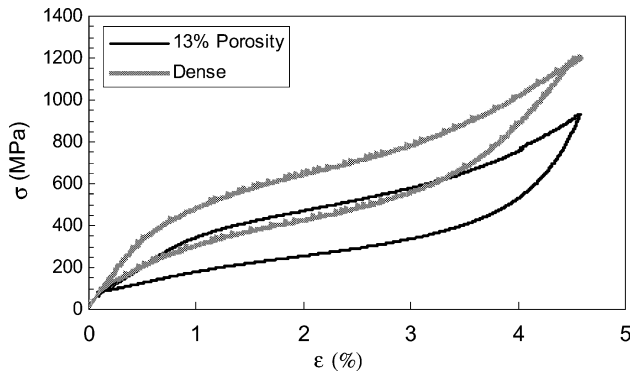


Fig. 5. Compressive stress–strain curves of 13% porosity and dense samples tested at 58 °C.

181 ductility of the porous NiTi. On the other hand, the  
182 microstructure of the 25% porosity samples is not as  
183 sound as that of the 13% porosity ones; the compressive  
184 stress–strain curve of the 25% porosity NiTi exhibits  
185 much lower flow stress.

### 186 2.2. Compressive stress–strain curves of dense and 13% 187 porosity specimens tested at temperature higher than $A_f$

188 Both 13% porosity and dense specimens are tested  
189 under compression at testing temperature higher than  
190 their austenite finish temperatures. The compressive  
191 stress–strain curves of the 13% porosity and dense NiTi  
192 specimens are given in Fig. 5. The compressive stress–  
193 strain curves tested at  $T > A_f$  (Fig. 5) more clearly exhibit  
194 a superelastic loop at higher flow stress level than  
195 that for those tested at room temperature (Fig. 3). This  
196 is due to the fact that NiTi exhibits superelastic behavior  
197 at higher flow stress level more obviously at a higher  
198 testing temperature.

### 199 3. Modeling of the compressive stress–strain curves of 200 porous NiTi

201 This model assumes piecewise linear SS curve of  
202 superelastic NiTi. This idealized SS curve is illustrated  
203 in Fig. 7, where the first linear part  $A_iB_i$  corresponds  
204 to the elastic loading of 100% austenite phase, the sec-  
205 ond linear part  $B_iD_i$  is the stress-induced martensite  
206 transformation plateau,  $D_i d_i$  is unloading of 100%  
207 martensite phase,  $d_i b_i$  is the reverse transformation  
208 lower plateau, final linear part is  $b_i A_i$ , elastic unloading  
209 of 100% austenite phase. The subscript ‘i’ in Fig. 7 de-  
210 notes dense ( $i = D$ ) or porous NiTi ( $i = P$ ). The stress–  
211 strain curve consists of two portions; one is the load-  
212 ing curve, and the other is the unloading curve. First  
213 we will model the loading curve, and then the unload-  
214 ing curve is simulated in the same manner as the load-  
215 ing curve.

### 3.1. Loading curve

216  
217 The compressive stress–strain curve of 13% porosity  
218 specimen of Fig. 5 exhibits three stages: first stage  
219  $A_iB_i$  (100% austenite phase); second stage upper pla-  
220 teau  $B_iD_i$  (stress-induced martensite phase); and third  
221 stage  $D_i d_i$  (100% martensite phase). Although the  
222 compressive stress–strain curves for these three stages  
223 are not piecewise linear, we assume in the second  
224 model that in each stage it is linear. Then we attempt  
225 to simulate three piecewise linear portions by a simple  
226 model based on Eshelby’s effective medium model  
227 with Mori–Tanaka mean-field theory. Let us denote  
228 the slopes of the linearized first, second and third  
229 stages of porous NiTi are  $E_{M_s}$ ,  $E_T$  and  $E_{M_f}$ , respec-  
230 tively, where the subscripts  $M_s$ , T and  $M_f$ , respec-  
231 tively, denote the first stage with martensite start  
232 (equivalently 100% austenite phase), the second line-  
233 arized slopes with tangent modulus and the third stage  
234 with martensite finish, i.e. 100% martensite phase. The  
235 stresses at the transition between the first and second  
236 stages and between the second and third stages are de-  
237 noted by  $\sigma_{M_s}^P$  and  $\sigma_{M_f}^P$ , respectively, where the super-  
238 script ‘P’ denotes the porous NiTi. Therefore, the  
239 calculation of the moduli  $E_{M_s}$ ,  $E_T$  and  $E_{M_f}$  as well as  
240 the martensitic transformation start stress  $\sigma_{M_s}^P$  and  
241 martensitic transformation finish stress  $\sigma_{M_f}^P$  is the key  
242 in this modeling work. It is noted in the second model  
243 that no uniform strain and stress in the matrix NiTi is  
244 assumed.

#### 3.1.1. Critical stresses

245  
246 The start and finish martensitic transformation stres-  
247 ses  $\sigma_{M_s}^P$ ,  $\sigma_{M_f}^P$  can be obtained by the relation in Eq. (1) as  
248

$$\sigma_{M_s}^P = (1 - f_p) \sigma_{M_s}^D, \quad (1a)$$

$$\sigma_{M_f}^P = (1 - f_p) \sigma_{M_f}^D, \quad (1b)$$

250  
251  
252 where  $\sigma_{M_s}^D$  and  $\sigma_{M_f}^D$  are, respectively, the start and finish  
253 martensitic transformation stress that are averaged in  
254 the matrix domain.  
255  
256

#### 3.1.2. Stiffness of the first and third stages

257  
258 Mochida et al. [22] obtained the formula based on  
259 Eshelby’s model with Mori–Tanaka mean-field theory  
260 to calculate the Young’s modulus of a porous material  
261 is given by  
262

$$\frac{E^P}{E^D} = \frac{1}{1 + \eta f_p}, \quad (2)$$

263 where for spherical pores,  $\eta$  is given by  
264

$$\eta = \frac{15}{7(1 - f_p)}. \quad (3)$$

265  
266  
267 Brief derivation of Eqs. (2) and (3) is given in Appendix  
268 A.  
269  
270

## 271 3.1.3. Stiffness of the second stage

272 The Young's modulus ( $E$ ) of a NiTi with transforma-  
273 tion  $\varepsilon_T$  is estimated by

$$274 E(\varepsilon_T) = E_A + \frac{\varepsilon_T}{\bar{\varepsilon}}(E_M - E_A), \quad (4)$$

277 where  $E_A$ ,  $E_M$  are the Young's modulus of 100% auste-  
278 nite and 100% martensite phase, respectively, Fig. 6, and  
279  $\bar{\varepsilon}$  is the maximum transformation strain, and it is given  
280 by

$$281 \bar{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon_{Mf} - \frac{\sigma_{Mf}}{E_M}. \quad (5)$$

284 Eq. (4) is valid for both dense and porous NiTi, thus we  
285 can rewrite Eq. (4) using Eq. (5) as

$$286 E^i = E_A^i - \frac{E_A^i - E_M^i}{\varepsilon_{Mf}^i - \sigma_{Mf}^i/E_M^i} \varepsilon_T, \quad (6)$$

289 where the superscript 'i' denotes  $i = D$  (dense) or  $P$  (por-  
290 ous). In order to obtain the slope of the linearized sec-  
291 ond stage of compressive stress–strain curve of a

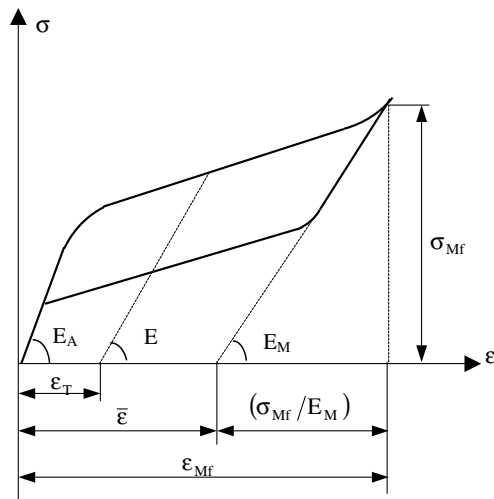


Fig. 6. Stress–strain curve of porous or dense sample.

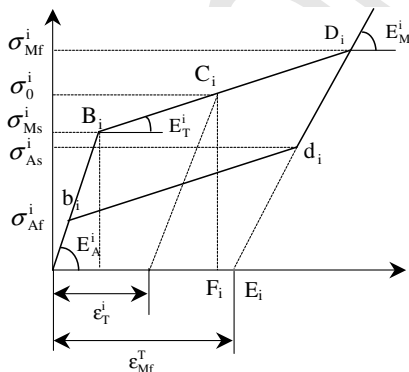


Fig. 7. Idealized stress–strain curve with three stages (subscript or superscript 'i' denotes either porous or dense NiTi).

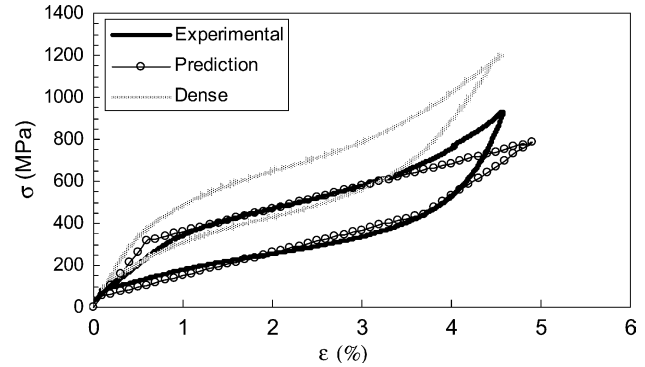


Fig. 8. Comparison of model and experimental stress–strain curves.

porous NiTi, we consider the equivalency of strain energy 292  
density. However, in the case of the second stage, 293  
the macroscopic strain energy density of a porous NiTi 294  
should be evaluated from the trapezoidal area of Fig. 7, 295  
i.e.  $B_iC_iF_iH_i$ , where  $i = P$  for an arbitrary transformation 296  
strain  $\varepsilon_T^P$ . Therefore, the macroscopic strain energy 297  
density of porous NiTi with  $\varepsilon_T^P$  calculated graphically from 298  
Fig. 8 is given by 299

$$300 W = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_{M_s}^P + \sigma_0^P) \left( \varepsilon_T^P + \frac{\sigma_0^P}{E_{AM}} - \frac{\sigma_{M_s}^P}{E_{M_s}} \right), \quad (7)$$

where  $\sigma_{M_s}^P$  is the start martensitic transformation stress 303  
of porous NiTi composite,  $\sigma_0^P$  is an applied stress,  $\varepsilon_T^P$  304  
is the strain corresponding to  $\sigma_0^P$ , Fig. 7. Since there is 305  
no transformation strain in pores, the transformation 306  
strain for porous NiTi  $\varepsilon_T^P$  is the uniform transformation 307  
strain in the matrix i.e. dense NiTi,  $\varepsilon_T^D$ , 308

$$309 \varepsilon_T^P = \varepsilon_T^D \equiv \varepsilon_T. \quad (8)$$

The above macroscopic strain energy density is set 311  
equal to the microscopic strain energy density that is cal- 312  
culated from the Eshelby's inhomogeneous inclusion 313  
method [11,12] 314

$$315 W = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^{m-1} \sigma_{ij}^0 \sigma_{kl}^0 + \frac{1}{2} f_p \sigma_{ij}^0 \varepsilon_{kl}^*, \quad (9)$$

where the corresponding Eshelby's problem provides the 318  
solution for  $\varepsilon_{ij}^*$  as 319

$$320 \varepsilon_{kl}^* = \varepsilon_{kl}^T - \frac{1}{1 - f_p} (\mathbf{S}_{klmn} - \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^{m-1} \sigma_{ij}^0. \quad (10)$$

Substituting Eq. (10) into Eq. (9), the microscopic strain 323  
energy density,  $W$  is given by 324

$$325 W = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{ij}^0 \varepsilon_{ij}^0 + \frac{1}{2} f_p \sigma_{ij}^0 \left[ 2\varepsilon_{ij}^T - \frac{1}{1 - f_p} (\mathbf{S}_{ijkl} - \mathbf{I})^{-1} \varepsilon_{kl}^0 \right]. \quad (11)$$

Since the porous NiTi is subjected to uniaxial load, i.e. 328  
 $\sigma_{ij}^0 = \{0 \ 0 \ \sigma_0^P \ 0 \ 0 \ 0\}^T$ , and  $\varepsilon_{ij}^T = \{v\varepsilon_T \ v\varepsilon_T \ -\varepsilon_T \ 0 \ 0 \ 0\}^T$  329  
and the pores are assumed to be spherical, thus Eq. 330  
(11) can be reduced to 331

$$332 W = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_0^P \varepsilon_0 + \frac{1}{2} f_p \sigma_0^P \left[ 2\varepsilon_T + \frac{15}{7(1 - f_p)} \varepsilon_0 \right], \quad (12)$$

335 where  $\varepsilon_0$  is the macroscopic strain of the porous NiTi,  
336 and it is related to applied stress  $\sigma_0^P$  as

$$337 \varepsilon_0 = \frac{\sigma_0^P}{E_{AM}}. \quad (13)$$

340 Substituting Eq. (13) into Eq. (12), the microscopic  
341 strain energy density  $W$  of porous NiTi is finally reduced  
342 to

$$343 W = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\sigma_0^P)^2}{E_{AM}} + \frac{1}{2} f_p \sigma_0^P \left[ 2\varepsilon_T^P - \frac{15}{7(1-f_p)} \frac{\sigma_0^P}{E_{AM}} \right], \quad (14)$$

346 where  $E_{AM}$  is the Young's modulus of dense (matrix)  
347 NiTi with  $\varepsilon_T$ .

348 By equating the macroscopic strain energy density  
349 Eq. (7) to the microscopic strain energy density  
350 Eq. (14), and using Eq. (6) with  $i = P$ , we obtained  
351 an algebraic equation of second-order in terms of  $\varepsilon_T$   
352 as

$$354 A(\varepsilon_T)^2 + B\varepsilon_T + C = 0, \quad (15)$$

355 where

$$A = \frac{(\gamma\sigma_0^P + \sigma_{M_s}^P)(1-\beta)}{\varepsilon_{M_s}},$$

$$357 B = \gamma\sigma_0^P + \sigma_{M_s}^P + \frac{\sigma_{M_s}^P(1-\beta)(\sigma_{M_s}^P + \sigma_0^P)}{E_{M_s}\varepsilon_{M_f}},$$

$$359 C = \frac{(1-\alpha)(\sigma_0^P)^2 - (\sigma_{M_s}^P)^2}{E_{M_s}}$$

360 and

$$362 \alpha = 1 - \frac{f_p}{1-f_p} (S_{3333} - 1)^{-1}, \quad \beta = \frac{E_{M_f}}{E_{M_s}}, \quad \gamma = 1 - 2f_p.$$

363 Solve for  $\varepsilon_T^P$  that corresponds to the second kink point,  
364  $D_P$ , in Fig. 7

$$366 \varepsilon_T = \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}. \quad (16)$$

367 The tangent modulus of the porous NiTi is the slope  
368 of the second portion of the stress–strain curve shown in  
369 Fig. 7, thus,  $E_T$  can be expressed in terms of transforma-  
370 tion strain and the stresses

$$372 E_T = \frac{\sigma_0^P - \sigma_{M_s}^P}{\varepsilon_T}. \quad (17)$$

373

### 374 3.2. Unloading curve

375 During unloading, the porous NiTi material under-  
376 goes transformation (martensite phase to austenite  
377 phase). Before the applied stress reaches the critical va-  
378 lue  $\sigma_{A_s}^P$ , the matrix NiTi remains 100% martensite phase  
379 (first stage of the unloading SS curve in the modeling

Table 2  
Input data

$\sigma_{M_s}^D$ (MPa)	$\sigma_{M_f}^D$ (MPa)	$\sigma_{A_f}^D$ (MPa)	$E_A$ (GPa)	$E_M$	$\varepsilon_{M_s}$	$\varepsilon_{M_f}$
400	720	300	75	31	0.004	0.032

curve). When the applied stress is decreased to  $\sigma_{A_s}^P$ , re- 380  
verse transformation starts. The reverse transformation 381  
finishes when the stress reaches another critical value 382  
 $\sigma_{A_f}^P$ , thereafter the porous NiTi material remains 100% 383  
austenite. Therefore, the slopes of the first and third 384  
stages of the unloading curve are the Young's modulus 385  
of the 100% martensite and 100% austenite phase, 386  
respectively. The slope of the second stage is the same 387  
as that of the loading curve. Therefore, the Young's 388  
moduli of the unloading curve are related to those of 389  
the loading curve as 390

$$E_{A_s} = E_{M_f}, \quad (18a) \quad 392$$

$$E_T^u = E_T, \quad (18b) \quad 394$$

$$E_{A_f} = E_{M_s}, \quad (18c) \quad 396$$

where  $E_T^u$  is the slope of the second stage of the unload- 397  
ing curve. The superscript 'u' denotes unloading where 398  
those without superscript are the slopes of loading 399  
curve. 400

The start and finish austenite transformation stresses 401  
of porous NiTi  $\sigma_{A_s}^P$  and  $\sigma_{A_f}^P$  are related to the correspond- 402  
ing stresses of the dense NiTi and 403

$$\sigma_{A_s}^P = (1-f_p)\sigma_{A_s}^D, \quad (19a) \quad 405$$

$$\sigma_{A_f}^P = (1-f_p)\sigma_{A_f}^D, \quad (19b) \quad 407$$

where  $\sigma_{A_s}^D$  and  $\sigma_{A_f}^D$  are start and finish austenite transfor- 408  
mation stresses of the dense NiTi, respectively. First we 409  
assume that the dense NiTi matrix is isotropic with Pois- 410  
son's ratio  $\nu^A = \nu^M = 0.33$ . The input data which are 411  
measured from the idealized compressive stress–strain 412  
curve of Fig. 5 are shown in Table 2. 413

## 414 4. Conclusion

Porous and solid NiTi specimens are processed by 415  
spark plasma sintering where two different porosities 416  
are used, 13% and 25%. The 13% porosity NiTi appears 417  
to possess a sound microstructure with high ductility 418  
while the 25% porosity NiTi specimens exhibit much 419  
lower stress flow than that of the 13% porosity. 420

Then the compressive stress–strain curve of the 13% 421  
porosity NiTi is simulated by a model which is based 422  
on piecewise linear stress–strain curve. This model pre- 423  
dicts the piecewise SS curve with the flow stress level 424  
close to the experimental SS curve. 425

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431 **Appendix A**

432 The Eshelby's inhomogeneous inclusion problem  
433 with Mori–Tanaka mean-field theory provides the total  
434 stress field given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 435 \quad \sigma_{ij}^0 + \sigma_{ij} &= \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^m [\varepsilon_{kl}^0 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{kl} + \varepsilon_{kl} - (\varepsilon_{kl}^* - \varepsilon_{kl}^T)] \\
 &= \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^m (\varepsilon_{kl}^0 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{kl} + \varepsilon_{kl} - \varepsilon_{kl}^{**}) \\
 437 \quad &= \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^p (\varepsilon_{kl}^0 + \bar{\varepsilon}_{kl} + \varepsilon_{kl}), \quad (A1)
 \end{aligned}$$

438 where  $\mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^m$  and  $\mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^p$  are the elastic stiffness tensor of ma-  
439 trix and pores, respectively.  $\sigma_{ij}$  and  $\varepsilon_{kl}$  are stress distur-  
440 bance and strain disturbance due to existence of pores,  
441 respectively.  $\bar{\varepsilon}_{kl}$  is the average strain disturbance in the  
442 matrix due to the pores, and  $\varepsilon_{ij}^*$  is fictitious eigenstrain  
443 which has non-vanishing components. To facilitate the  
444 Eshelby's formula, let us introduce  $\varepsilon_{kl}^{**}$  defined by

$$446 \quad \varepsilon_{kl}^{**} = \varepsilon_{kl}^* - \varepsilon_{kl}^T. \quad (A2)$$

447 For the entire composite domain, the following relation  
448 always holds:

$$449 \quad \sigma_{ij}^0 = \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^m \varepsilon_{kl}^0. \quad (A3)$$

452 From Eshelby [10] the strain disturbance is related to  $\varepsilon_{mn}^{**}$   
453 as

$$454 \quad \varepsilon_{kl} = \mathbf{S}_{klmn} \varepsilon_{mn}^{**}. \quad (A4)$$

457 Requirement that the integration of the stress distur-  
458 bance over the entire body vanishes leads to

$$459 \quad \bar{\varepsilon}_{kl} = -f_p (\mathbf{S}_{klmn} \varepsilon_{mn}^{**} - \varepsilon_{kl}^{**}), \quad (A5)$$

462  $\mathbf{S}_{klmn}$  is Eshelby's tensor for pores given in Appendix B.  
463 A substitution of Eqs. (A3)–(A5) into Eq. (A1) and use  
464 of  $\mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^p = 0$  (due to pore) provide a solution for  $\varepsilon_{kl}^{**}$ ,

$$466 \quad \varepsilon_{kl}^{**} = -\frac{1}{1-f_p} (\mathbf{S}_{klmn} - \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{C}_{ijkl}^{m-1} \sigma_{ij}^0. \quad (A6)$$

467 The equivalency of strain energy density of porous

$$469 \quad \frac{\sigma_0^2}{2E^p} = \frac{\sigma_0^2}{2E^D} + \frac{f_p}{2} \sigma_0 \varepsilon_{33}^{**}, \quad (A7)$$

where the applied stress  $\sigma_0$  is assumed to be along  $x_3$ -  
axis. 470 471

**Appendix B. Eshelby's tensor for sphere inclusion** 472

$$S_{1111} = S_{2222} = S_{3333} = \frac{7-5\nu}{15(1-\nu)}, \quad 473 475$$

$$S_{1122} = S_{2233} = S_{3311} = S_{1133} = S_{2211} = S_{3322} = \frac{5\nu-1}{15(1-\nu)}, \quad 477$$

$$S_{1212} = S_{2323} = S_{3131} = \frac{4-5\nu}{15(1-\nu)}. \quad 479 480$$

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