



Fundamental of Metal Casting

Manufacturing Processes-1, IE 252

Dr M. Eissa

College of eng.

KSU



FUNDAMENTALS OF METAL CASTING

- Overview of Casting Technology
- Heating and Pouring
- Solidification and Cooling



Solidification Processes

Starting work material is either **a liquid** or is in a **highly plastic condition**, and a part is created through **solidification of the material**

Solidification processes can be classified according to engineering material processed:

- Metals
- Ceramics, specifically glasses
- Polymers and polymer matrix composites (PMCs)

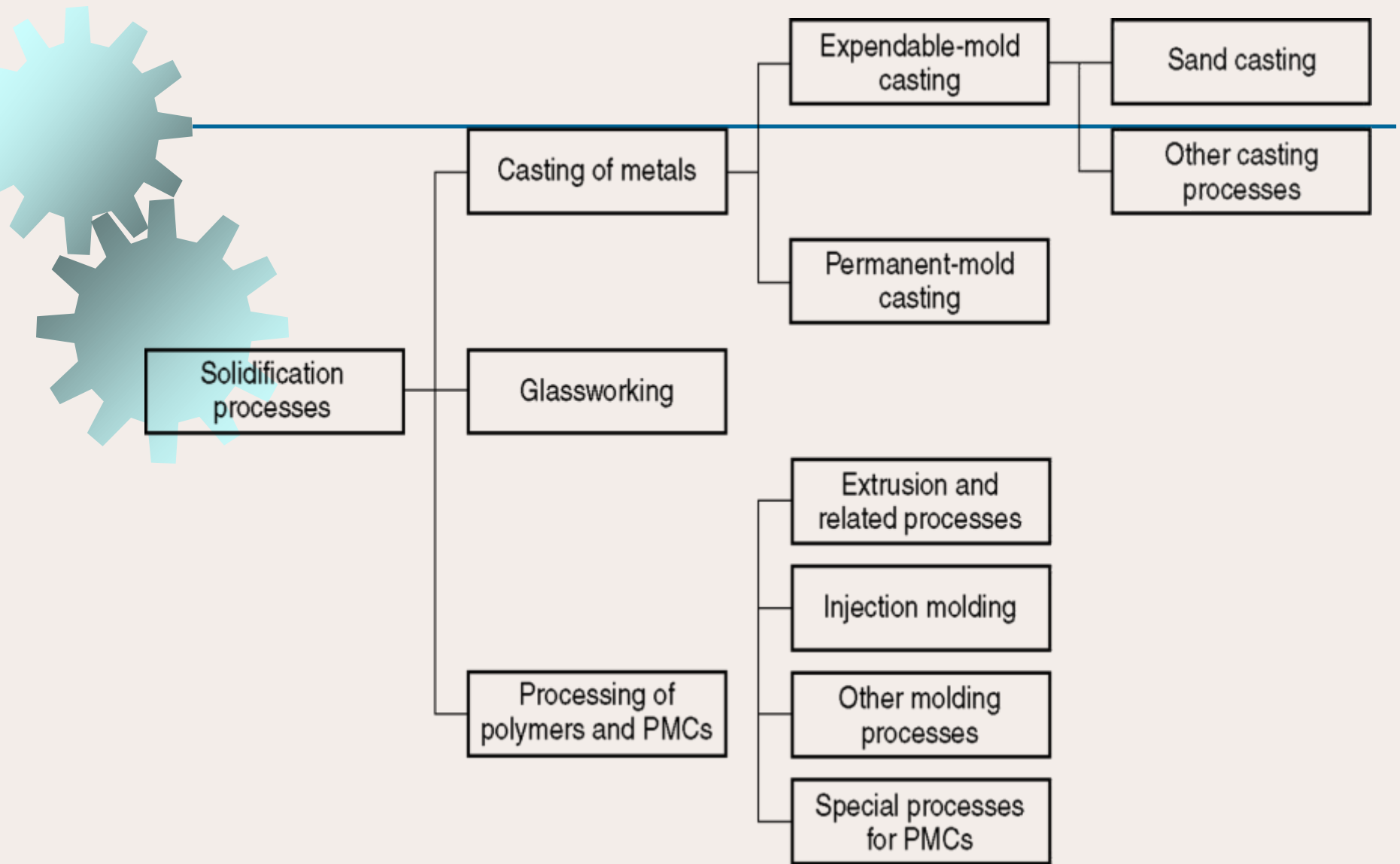


Figure 10.1 Classification of solidification processes.



Casting

Process in which molten metal flows by gravity or other force into a mold where it solidifies in the shape of the mold cavity

The term *casting* also applies to the part made in the process

Steps in casting seem simple:

1. Melt the metal
2. Pour it into a mold
3. Let it freeze

Capabilities and Advantages of Casting



- Can create complex part geometries
- Can create both external and internal shapes
- Some casting processes are net shape; others are near net shape
- Can produce very large parts (even 100 tons!)
- Can be performed on any metal that can be heated to the liquid state
- Some casting methods are suited to mass production



Disadvantages of Casting

- Limitations on mechanical properties
- Poor dimensional accuracy and surface finish for some processes; e.g., sand casting
- Safety hazards to workers due to hot molten metals
- Environmental problems

Parts Made by Casting

All varieties of metals can be cast, ferrous and nonferrous



Big parts

- Engine blocks and heads for automotive vehicles, wood burning stoves, machine frames, railway wheels, pipes, church bells, big statues, pump housings



Small parts

- Dental crowns, jewelry, small statues, frying pans

Overview of Casting Technology

Casting is usually performed in a **foundry**



Foundry = factory equipped for making molds, melting and handling molten metal, performing the casting process, and cleaning the finished casting

Workers who perform casting are called *foundrymen*



The Mold in Casting

Contains cavity whose geometry determines part shape

- Actual size and shape of cavity must be slightly oversized to allow for shrinkage of metal during **solidification and cooling**
- Molds are made of a variety of materials, including **sand, plaster, ceramic, and metal**

Open Molds and Closed Molds

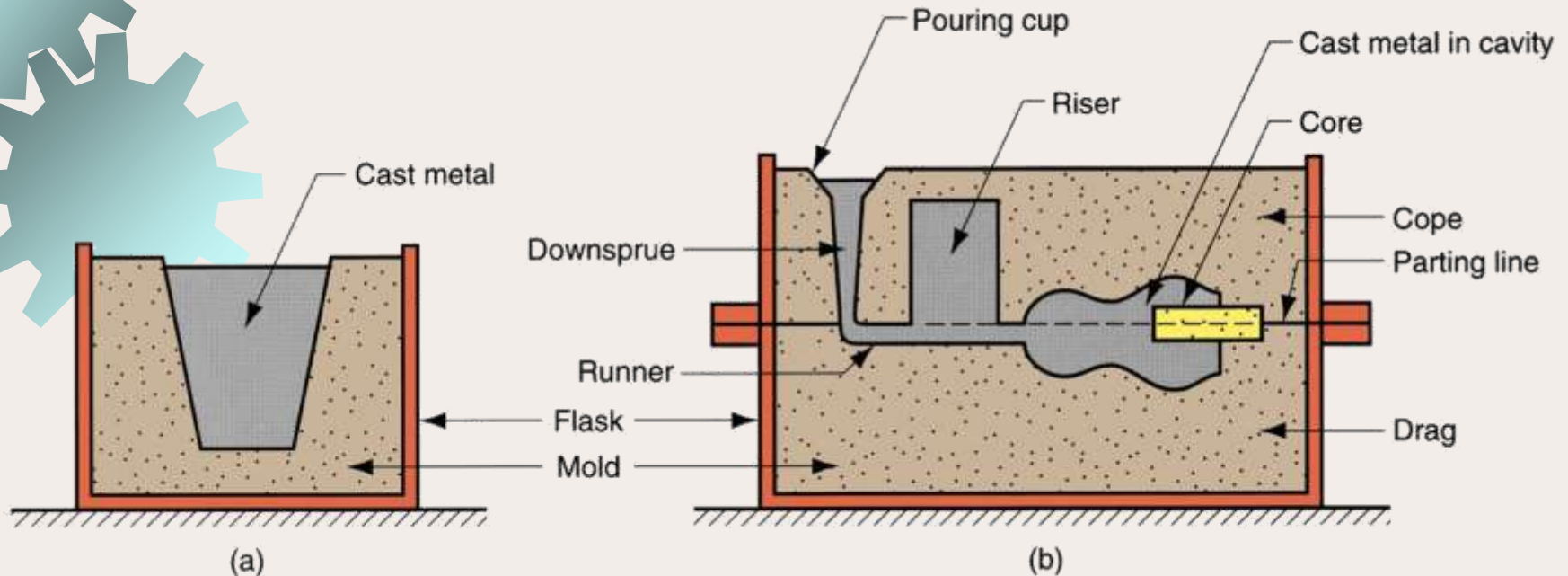


Figure 10.2 Two forms of mold: (a) open mold, simply a container in the shape of the desired part; and (b) closed mold, in which the mold geometry is more complex and requires a gating system (passageway) leading into the cavity.



Two Categories of Casting Processes

Expendable mold processes – uses an expendable mold which must be destroyed to remove casting

- Mold materials: sand, plaster, and similar materials, plus binders
- Example: Sand casting

Permanent mold processes – uses a permanent mold which can be used over and over to produce many castings

- Made of metal (or, less commonly, a ceramic refractory material)
- Example: Die casting

Advantages and Disadvantages

Expendable mold process

After the metal hardens, the mold must be scarified in order to recover the casting.

More complicated geometries are possible with expendable mold processes.



Permanent mold process

Part shapes in permanent mold processes are limited by the need to open the mold.

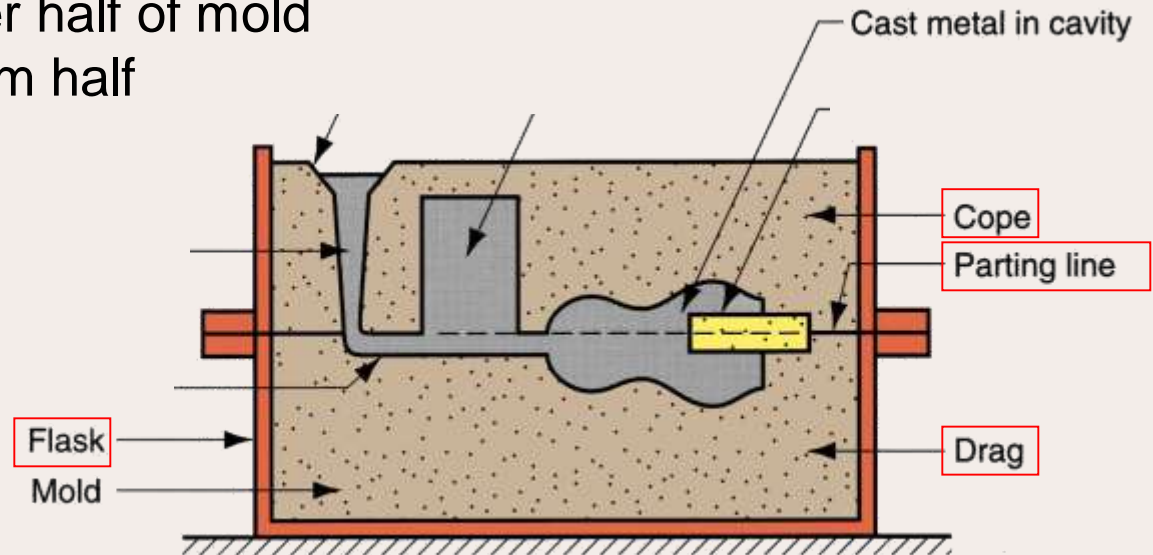
Permanent mold processes are more economic in high production operations.

Sand Casting Mold

Mold consists of two halves:

Cope = upper half of mold

Drag = bottom half



(b)

Mold halves are contained in a box, called a *flask*

The two halves separate at the *parting line*

Figure 10.2 (b) Sand casting mold.



Forming the Mold Cavity

Mold cavity is formed by packing sand around a *pattern*, which has the shape of the part

When the pattern is removed, the remaining cavity of the packed sand has desired shape of cast part

The pattern is usually oversized to allow for shrinkage of metal during solidification and cooling

Sand for the mold is moist and contains a binder to maintain its shape

Forming the Mold Cavity

<http://www.metalwebnews.com/howto/furnace1/cast-iron.html>

One half of the pattern is placed at the bottom.



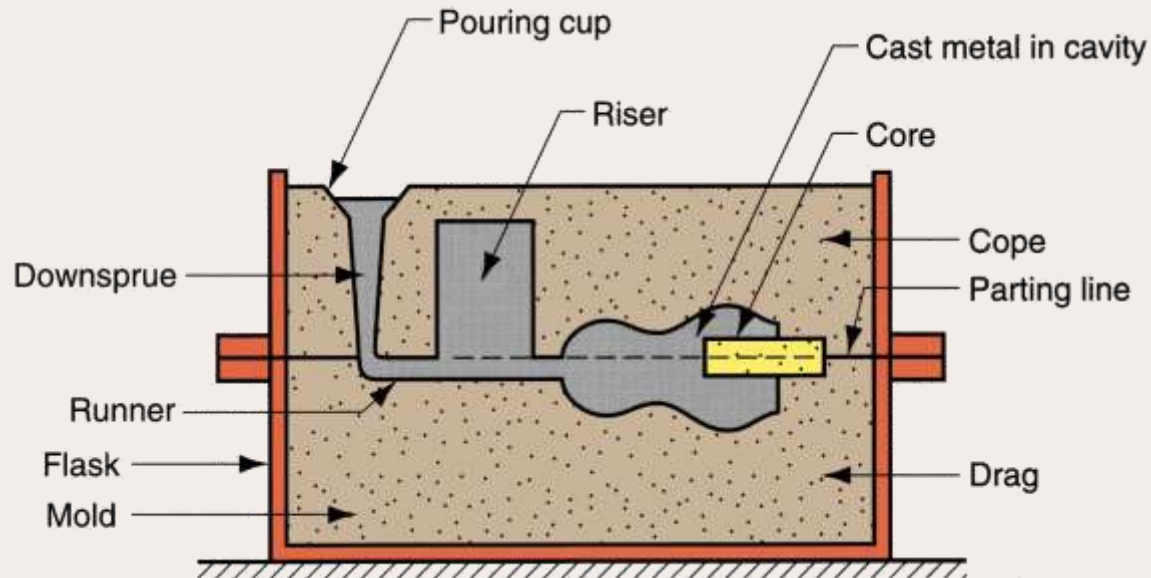
Open the mold and remove the pattern before pouring the metal

Use of a Core in the Mold Cavity

The mold cavity provides the external surfaces of the cast part

In addition, a casting may have internal surfaces, determined by a **core**, placed inside the mold cavity to define the interior geometry of part

In sand casting, cores are generally made of sand

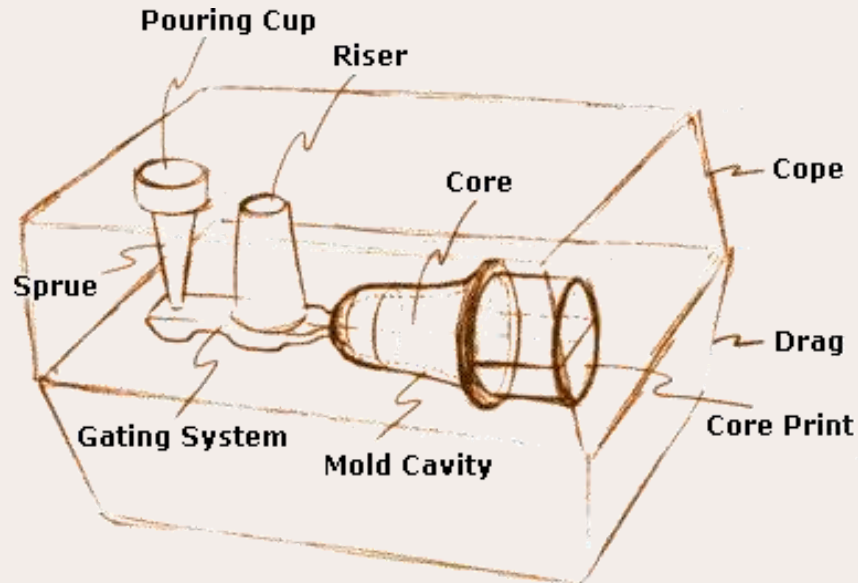


Gating System and Riser

At the top of downsprue, a *pouring cup* is often used to minimize splash and turbulence as the metal flows into downsprue

Channel through which molten metal flows into cavity from outside of mold consists of a *downsprue*, through which metal enters a *runner* leading to the main cavity

Riser is a reservoir in the mold which is a source of liquid metal to compensate for shrinkage of the part during solidification

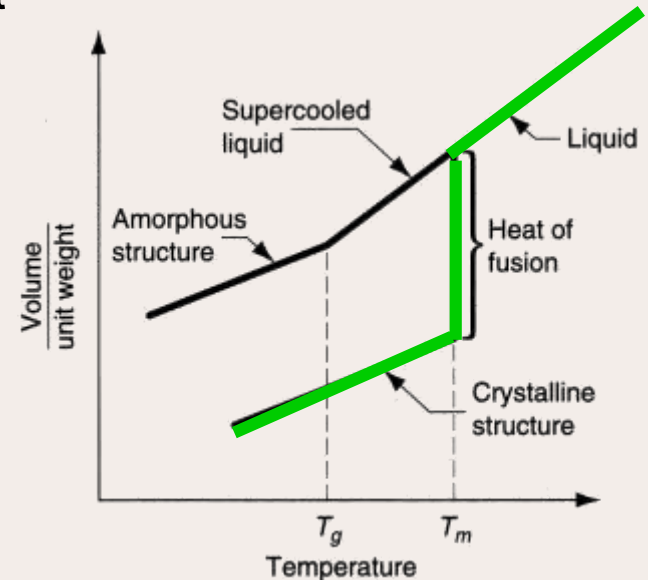


Heating the Metal

Heating furnaces are used to heat the metal to molten temperature sufficient for casting

The heat required is the **sum of**:

1. Heat to raise temperature to melting point
2. Heat of fusion to convert from solid to liquid
3. Heat to raise molten metal to desired temperature for pouring





Pouring the Molten Metal

For this step to be successful, metal must flow into all regions of the mold, most importantly the main cavity, before solidifying

Factors that determine success

- Pouring temperature
- Pouring rate
- Turbulence



Solidification of Metals

Transformation of molten metal back into solid state

Solidification differs depending on whether the metal is

- A pure element or
- An alloy

Cooling Curve for a Pure Metal

A **pure metal** solidifies at a constant temperature equal to its freezing point (same as **melting point**)

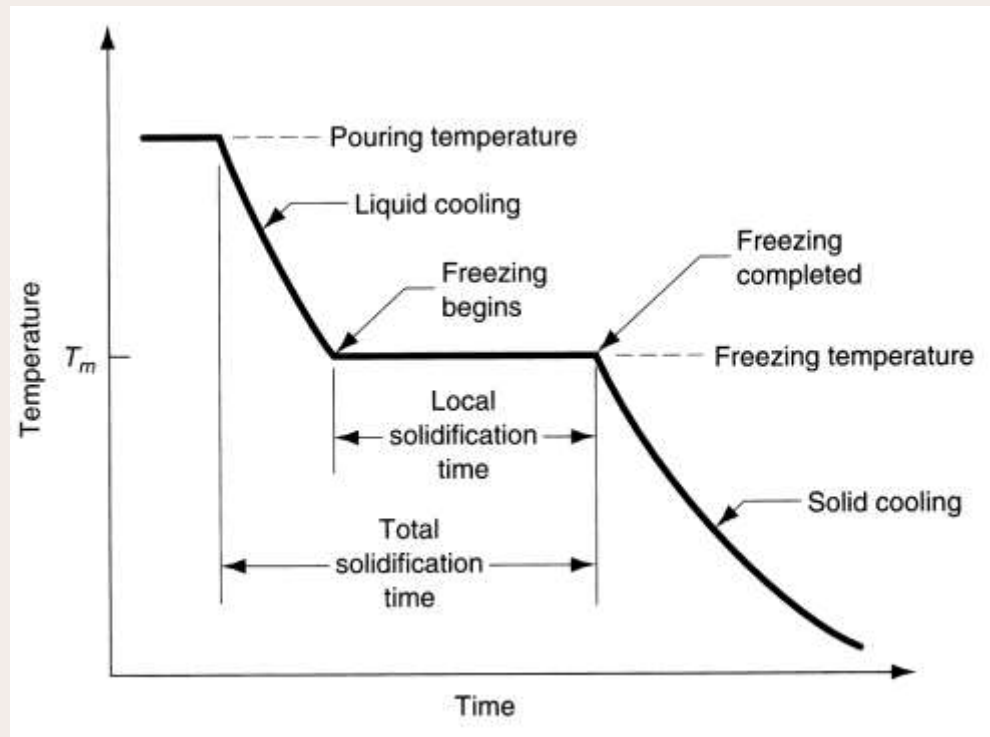


Figure 10.4 Cooling curve for a pure metal during casting.

Solidification of Pure Metals

Due to chilling action of mold wall, a thin skin of solid metal is formed at the interface immediately after pouring

Skin thickness increases to form a shell around the molten metal as solidification progresses

Rate of freezing depends on heat transfer into mold, as well as thermal properties of the metal

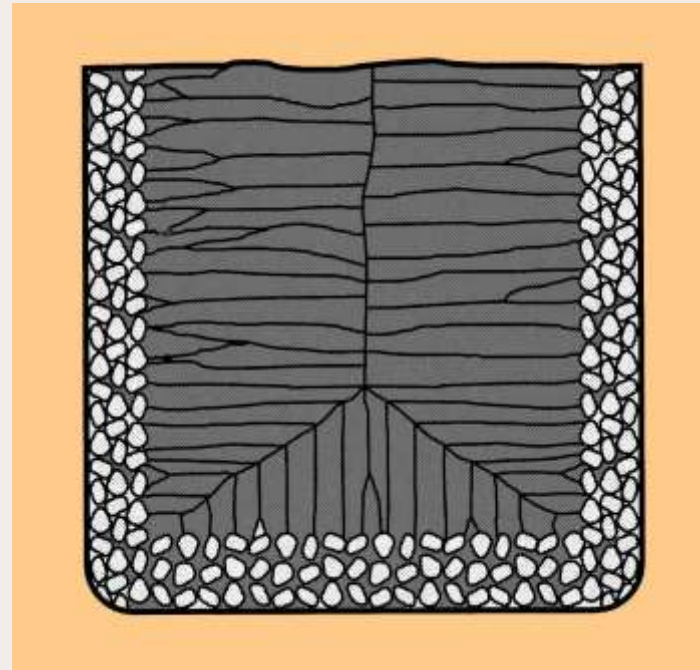


Figure 10.5 Characteristic grain structure in a casting of a pure metal, showing randomly oriented grains of small size near the mold wall, and large columnar grains oriented toward the center of the casting.

Solidification of Alloys

Most alloys freeze over a temperature range rather than at a single temperature

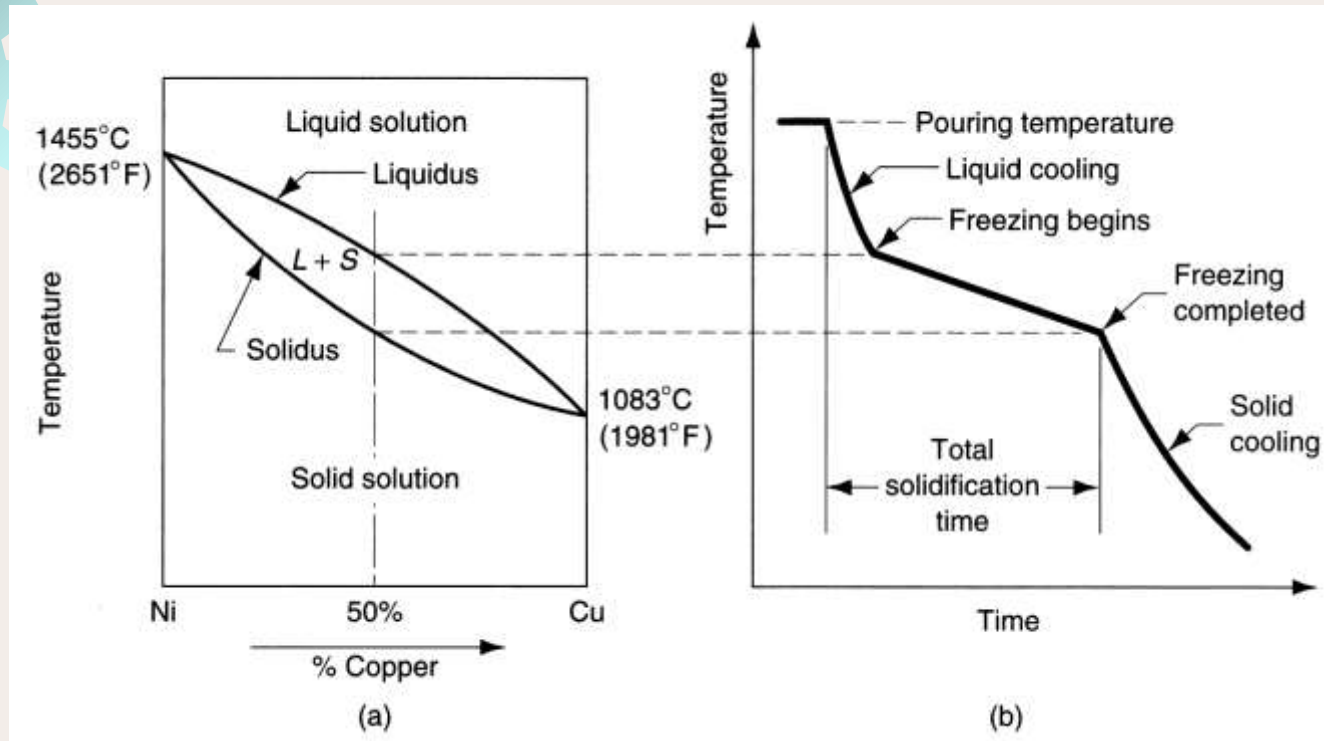


Figure 10.6 (a) Phase diagram for a copper-nickel alloy system and (b) associated cooling curve for a 50%Ni-50%Cu composition during casting.

Solidification of Alloys

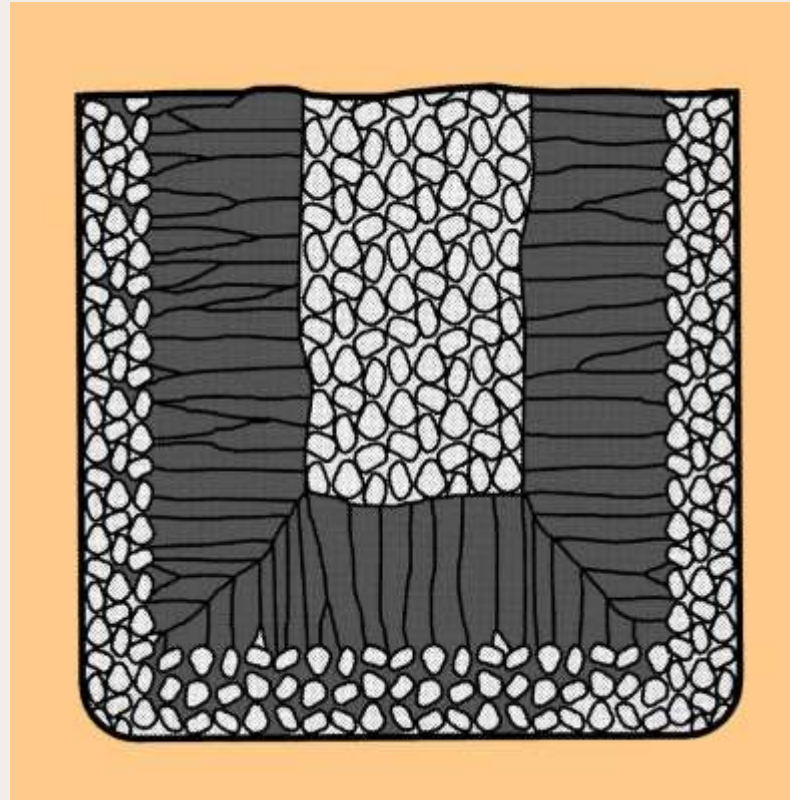


Figure 10.7 Characteristic grain structure in an alloy casting, showing segregation of alloying components in center of casting.



Solidification Time

Solidification takes time

Total solidification time T_{TS} = time required for casting to solidify after pouring

T_{TS} depends on size and shape of casting by relationship known as *Chvorinov's Rule*

$$TST = C_m \left(\frac{V}{A} \right)^n$$

where TST = total solidification time;

V = volume of the casting;

A = surface area of casting;

n = exponent with typical value = 2; and

C_m is *mold constant*.



Mold Constant in Chvorinov's Rule

Mold constant C_m depends on:

- Mold material
- Thermal properties of casting metal
- Pouring temperature relative to melting point

Value of C_m for a given casting operation can be based on experimental data from previous operations carried out using same mold material, metal, and pouring temperature, even though the shape of the part may be quite different



What Chvorinov's Rule Tells Us

A casting with a higher volume-to-surface area ratio cools and solidifies more slowly than one with a lower ratio

- To feed molten metal to main cavity, T_{ST} for riser must be **greater than** T_{ST} for main casting (molten metal solidifies in riser after the molten metal is solidified in the main casting)



How do they control this?!!

Since mold constants of riser and casting will be equal, design the riser to have a larger volume-to-area ratio so that the main casting solidifies first

This minimizes the effects of shrinkage



Solidification Shrinkage

Occurs in nearly all metals because **the solid phase has a higher density than the liquid phase**

Thus, solidification causes a reduction in volume per unit weight of metal

Exception: Do you know any metal which expands during solidification?!

Cast iron with high C content

Graphitization during final stages of freezing causes expansion that counteracts volumetric decrease associated with phase change

Shrinkage in Solidification and Cooling

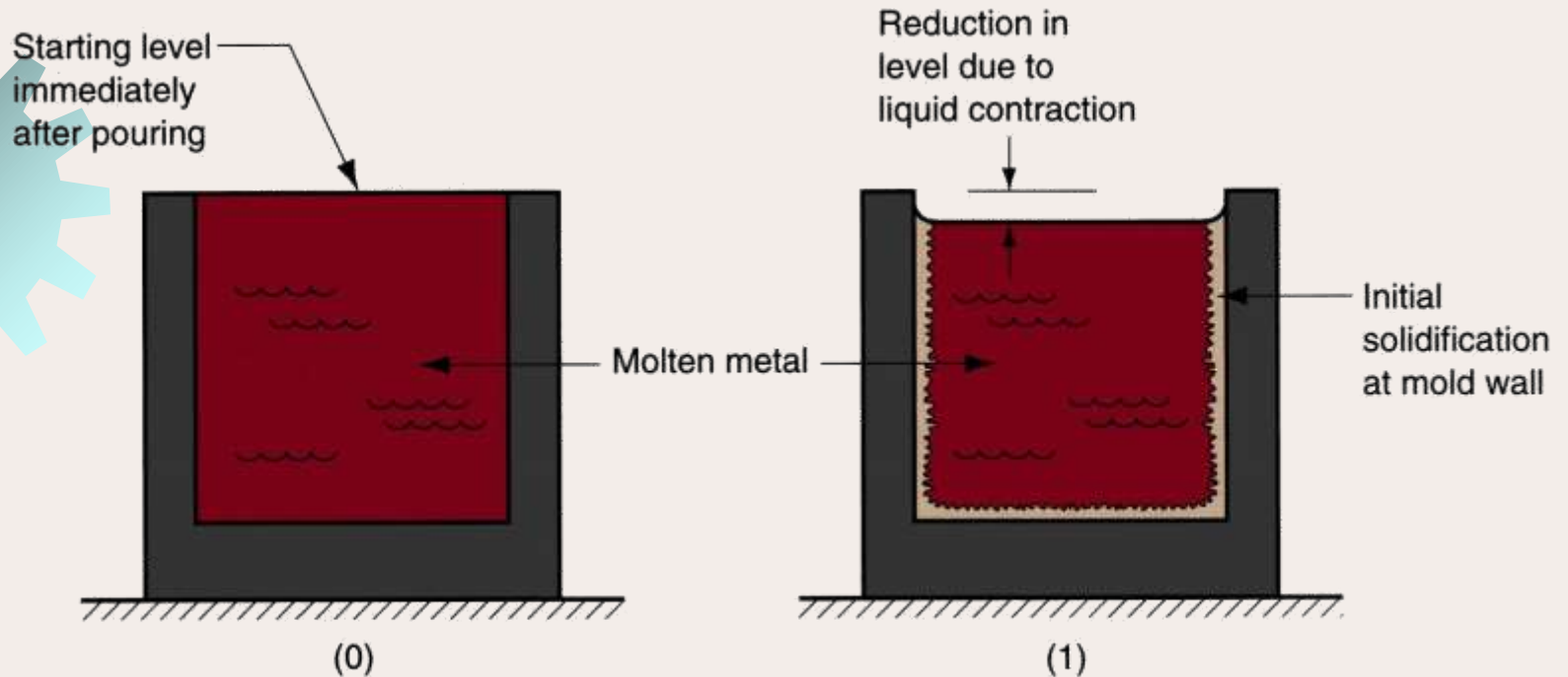


Figure 10.8 Shrinkage of a cylindrical casting during solidification and cooling: (0) starting level of molten metal immediately after pouring; (1) reduction in level caused by liquid contraction during cooling (dimensional reductions are exaggerated for clarity).

Shrinkage in Solidification and Cooling

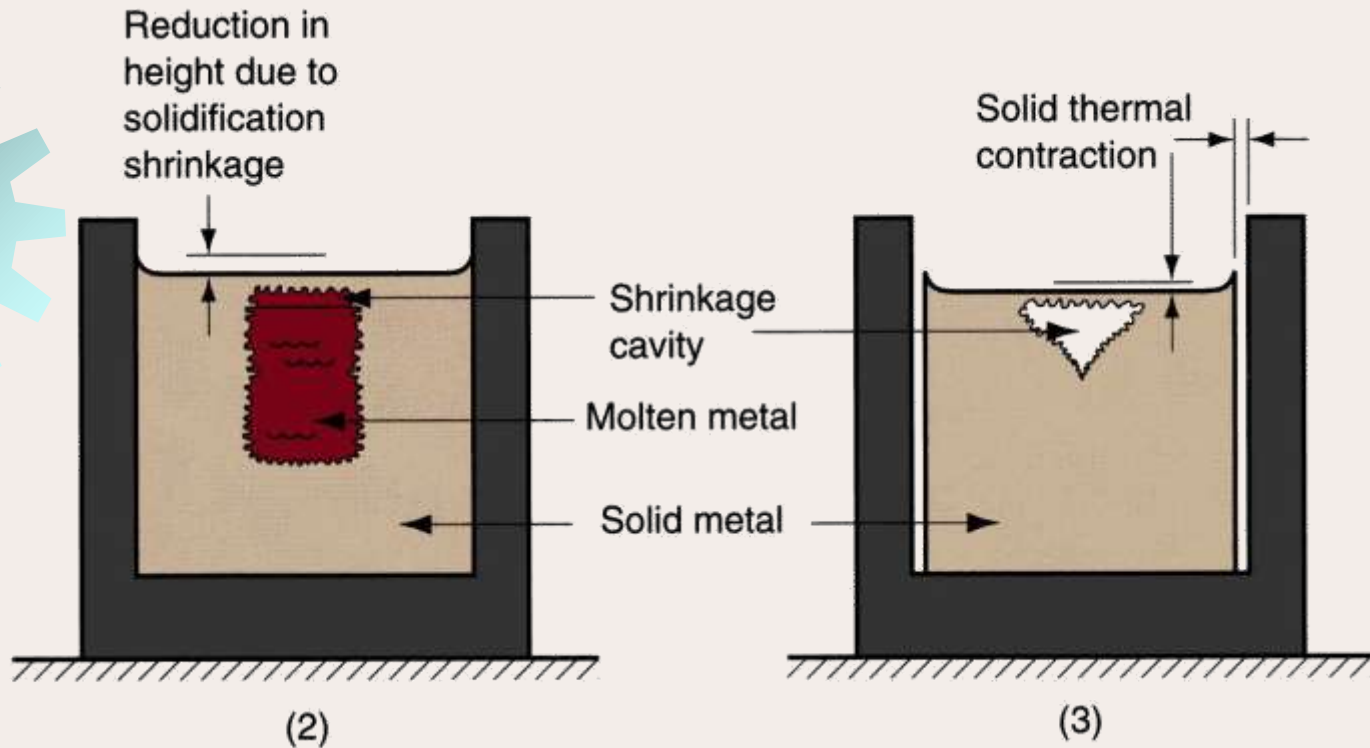


Figure 10.8 (2) reduction in height and formation of shrinkage cavity caused by solidification shrinkage; (3) further reduction in height and diameter due to thermal contraction during cooling of solid metal (dimensional reductions are exaggerated for clarity).



Shrinkage Allowance

Patternmakers account for solidification shrinkage and thermal contraction by making mold cavity oversized

Amount by which mold is made larger relative to final casting size is called *pattern shrinkage allowance*



Directional Solidification

To minimize damaging effects of shrinkage, it is desirable for regions of the casting most distant from the liquid metal supply to **freeze first** and for solidification to progress from these remote regions toward the riser(s)

Thus, molten metal is continually available from risers to prevent shrinkage voids

The term *directional solidification* describes this aspect of freezing and methods by which it is controlled



Achieving Directional Solidification

Desired directional solidification is achieved using Chvorinov's Rule to design the **casting itself**, its **orientation in the mold**, and the **riser system** that feeds it

Locate sections of the casting with lower V/A ratios away from riser, so freezing occurs first in these regions, and the liquid metal supply for the rest of the casting remains open

External Chills

Chills - internal or external heat sinks that cause rapid freezing in certain regions of the casting

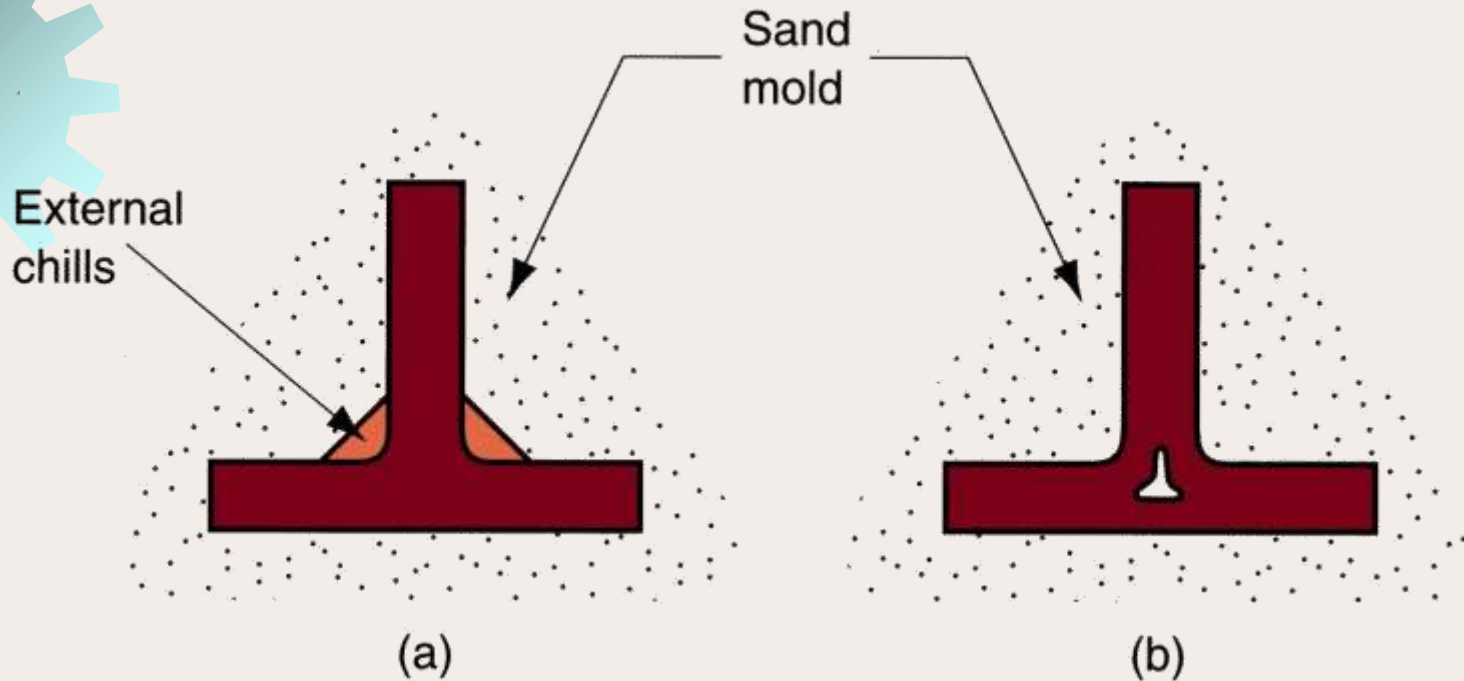


Figure 10.9 (a) External chill to encourage rapid freezing of the molten metal in a thin section of the casting; and (b) the likely result if the external chill were not used.



Riser Design

Riser is waste metal that is separated from the casting and remelted to make more castings

To minimize waste in the unit operation, it is desirable for the volume of metal in the riser to be a minimum

Since the geometry of the riser is normally selected to maximize the V/A ratio, this allows riser volume to be reduced to the minimum possible value