

REVISED: SEPTEMBER 1971
AUTHOR: J. R. KATTUS

NONFERROUS ALLOYS

1. GENERAL
This heat treatable magnesium alloy is produced in the form of extrusions only. It is used primarily in the T5 condition (artificially aged), but is also sometimes used in the F condition (as extruded). At temperatures above 350 F, it has the highest strength - both short-time and long-time - of all magnesium extrusion alloys; at lower temperatures AZ80A-T5 and ZK60A-T5 are stronger. HM31A has good formability and excellent weldability. Its primary uses are in aerospace and missile applications that require strength in the range 350 to 800 F. Its corrosion resistance is similar to that of other magnesium alloys, surface coatings being needed for long-time protection.
- 1.01 Commercial Designation
HM31A
- 1.02 Alternate Designations
HM31XA (obsolete).
- 1.03 Specifications
AMS 4388B (F condition)
AMS 4389C (T5 condition)
MIL-M-8916A
- 1.04 Composition
Table 1.04.
- 1.05 Heat Treatment
1.051 T5 condition: Artificially age as extruded (F condition) at 415 to 435 F 16 hours, air cool (3).
1.052 O condition, full anneal: 850 F, 1 hour in furnace atmosphere containing 0.7 percent minimum SO₂ or 3 percent minimum CO₂, air cool (3).
1.053 Stress relief after forming and after welding: 800 F, 1 hour in furnace atmosphere containing 0.7 percent minimum SO₂ or 3 percent minimum CO₂, air cool (3).
- 1.06 Hardness
T5 condition: 63 Brinell hardness No. (4).
- 1.07 Forms and Conditions Available
Produced only in the form of extrusions mostly in the T5 condition (artificially aged) and to a limited extent in the F condition (as extruded). Forms in regular production are rod, bar, solid shapes, structural shapes, and precision extrusions. Tubing and other hollow and semi-hollow shapes can also be produced for special requirements (5).
- 1.08 Melting and Casting Practice
(see AZ31B, Code 3601, section 1.08)
- 1.09 Special Considerations
1.091 Exposures to temperatures through 600 F for periods of 1000 hours cause negligible change in short-time room and elevated temperature properties and cause very little drop in creep strength of HM31A-T5 (6).
1.092 Considerable data obtained on this alloy in the T5 condition show that both room and elevated temperature mechanical properties are sensitive to extrusion section size, strength decreasing with increasing size. This characteristic has not been thoroughly studied and documented in the F condition.
2. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES
- 2.01 Thermal Properties
2.011 Melting range, 1121-1202 F (7).
2.012 Phase changes. In the as cast condition an unidentified compound forms a network at the grain boundaries. Mechanical working causes the network to break up, and high temperature treatment causes it to coalesce, but there is no metallographic evidence of solution and precipitation due to thermal treatments (8).
2.0121 Time-temperature-transformation diagrams.
2.013 Thermal conductivity, Figure 2.013.
- 2.014 Thermal expansion.
2.0141 Mean coefficient of thermal expansion from 68 to 392 F, 14.9×10^{-6} per F (5).
2.015 Specific heat, Figure 2.015.
2.016 Thermal diffusivity, Figure 2.016.
- 2.02 Other Physical Properties
2.021 Density, 0.0652 lb per cu in (7).
2.022 Electrical properties, Table 2.022.
2.023 Magnetic properties. Non-magnetic.
2.024 Emissance.
2.025 Damping capacity. At a stress equal to 0.1 F_{ty} the specific damping capacity of HM31A-F is 5.0, which is a medium level compared with other magnesium alloys (9).
- 2.03 Chemical Properties
2.031 Corrosion resistance.
2.0311 The galvanic and general corrosion characteristics of HM31A are similar to those of AZ31B, Code 3601, sections 2.0311 and 2.0312.
2.0312 The resistance of HM31A to stress corrosion is somewhat superior to that of AZ31B, Code 3601, section 2.0313.
2.032 Safety precautions should be directed to the prevention of fires, burns, and explosions (see HZ32A, Code 3408, section 2.032).
- 2.04 Nuclear Properties
2.041 Thorium is a radioactive metal. For comments on precautions required by this characteristic see HZ32A, Code 3408, sections 2.041 and 2.042.
2.042 The high nuclear cross section caused by the manganese content of this alloy make it unsuitable for applications where shielding is not wanted.
3. MECHANICAL PROPERTIES
- 3.01 Specified Mechanical Properties
Table 3.01.
- 3.02 Mechanical Properties at Room Temperature
3.021 Tension.
3.0211 Stress-strain diagrams (see Figures 3.03111, 3.03112, 3.03113).
3.0212 Tensile properties for T5 and F conditions, Table 3.0212.
3.0213 Effect of exposures at elevated temperatures on tensile properties at room temperature, Figure 3.0213.
3.022 Compression.
3.0221 Stress-strain diagrams (see Figure 3.03211 and 3.03212).
3.0222 Compressive strength for T5 and F conditions, Table 3.0222.
3.0223 Effect of exposures at elevated temperatures on compressive yield strength at room temperature, Figure 3.0223.
3.023 Impact (see Figure 3.0331).
3.024 Bending.
3.025 Torsion and shear.
3.0251 Shear strength of different section sizes, Table 3.0251.
3.026 Bearing.
3.0261 Bearing properties of different section sizes, Table 3.0261.
3.027 Stress concentration.
3.0271 Notch properties.
3.0272 Fracture toughness.
3.028 Combined properties.
- 3.03 Mechanical Properties at Various Temperatures
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3.0311 Stress-strain diagrams.
3.03111 Stress-strain curves at room and elevated temperatures for extrusions in T5 condition, Figure 3.03111.
3.03112 Stress-strain curves at room and elevated temperatures for extrusions in F condition, Figure 3.03112.
3.03113 Complete stress-strain curves at low temperatures for extrusions in F condition, Figure 3.03113.
3.0312 Effects of temperature on tensile properties, Figure 3.0312.

	Mg
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1.5	Mn

HM31A

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3.0223 Effect of exposures at elevated temperatures on compressive yield strength at room temperature, Figure 3.0223.
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	Mg
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HM31A

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HM31A

- 3.0313 Elevated temperature tensile properties at various strain rates, Figure 3.0313.
- 3.032 Compression.
- 3.0321 Stress-strain diagrams.
- 3.03211 Stress-strain curves in compression at room and elevated temperatures for extrusions in T5 condition, Figure 3.03211.
- 3.03212 Stress-strain curves in compression at room and elevated temperatures for extrusions in F condition, Figure 3.03212.
- 3.0322 Elevated temperature compressive yield strength of extrusions, Figure 3.0322.
- 3.033 Impact.
- 3.0331 Charpy V-notch impact properties at low temperatures, Figure 3.0331.
- 3.034 Bending.
- 3.035 Torsion and shear.
- 3.0351 Effect of temperature on single-shear strength, Figure 3.0351.
- 3.036 Bearing.
- 3.0361 Effect of test temperature on bearing properties, Figure 3.0361.
- 3.037 Stress concentration.
- 3.0371 Notch properties.
- 3.0372 Fracture toughness.
- 3.038 Combined properties.

- 3.04 Creep and Creep Rupture Properties
- 3.041 Short-time isochronous stress-strain curves for extrusions in T5 condition after rapid heating to test temperatures of 500, 600, 700, and 800 F, Figure 3.041.
- 3.042 Isochronous stress-strain curves for extrusions in F condition after 3 hours exposure at test temperatures of 500, 600, 700, and 800 F prior to loading, Figure 3.042.
- 3.043 Isochronous stress-strain curves for extrusions in F condition after 3 hours exposure at test temperatures of 300 and 400 F prior to loading, Figure 3.043.
- 3.044 Short-time isochronous stress-strain curves for extruded tubing in F condition after 5 seconds exposure at test temperatures of 500, 600, 700 and 800 F prior to loading, Figure 3.044.
- 3.045 Effect of temperature on 100 hour creep strength for various extensions, Figure 3.045.

- 3.05 Fatigue Properties
- 3.051 Rotating beam fatigue properties, Figure 3.051.

- 3.06 Elastic Properties
- 3.061 Poisson's ratio, 0.35 (4)(5).
- 3.062 Modulus of elasticity.
- 3.0621 Effect of temperature on modulus of elasticity, Figure 3.0621.
- 3.0622 Compressive tangent modulus curves at room and elevated temperatures, Figure 3.0622.
- 3.0623 Compressive secant modulus curves at room and elevated temperatures, Figure 3.0623.
- 3.063 Modulus of rigidity, 2.4×10^3 ksi (4).

4. FABRICATION

- 4.01 Formability
- 4.011 HM31A can be formed by any of the processes commonly applied to extruded shapes. At room temperature the formability is limited, the minimum bend radius being about seven times the thickness. At the maximum recommended forming temperature of 800 F (1 hour maximum time at temperature), the formability is good, the minimum bend radius being 2.5 times the thickness. Stress relief in accordance with section 1.053 is recommended after severe forming operations (5)(13)(14).

- 4.02 Machining and Grinding
- 4.021 This alloy, like other magnesium alloys, has exceptionally good machinability, which enables it to be machined at high speeds and feeds. For further details, see HZ32A, Code 3408, sections 4.021 and 4.022.
- 4.022 The alloy can be chem-milled with sulfuric, nitric, or hydrochloric acid of 5 percent strength or greater (15).

- 4.03 Welding
- 4.031 HM31A has excellent weldability by arc and electric-resistance methods. For arc welding E233A magnesium alloy filler metal is generally used except when joining to an aluminum containing magnesium alloy, in which instances AZ92A or AZ61A are suitable filler alloys. Stress relief in accordance with section 1.053 is recommended after welding. For further details see AZ31B, Code 3601, section 4.031(5)(17).
- 4.032 Effect of temperature on tensile properties of extrusions, both unwelded and with transverse butt welds made by inert-gas-shielded tungsten-arc process, Figure 4.032.
- 4.04 Surface Treatment
- 4.041 The extrusions are normally oiled by the producer with a light corrosion inhibiting oil for protection during shipment and storage (1)(2).
- 4.042 For a discussion of the various surface treatments that can be applied for corrosion protection, see HZ32A, Code 3408, sections 4.042 and 4.043.

TABLE 1.04

Alloy	HM31A	
Source	(1)(2)	
Element	Percent	
	Minimum	Maximum
Thorium	2.5	3.5
Manganese	1.2	-
Impurities, each	-	0.1
Impurities, total	-	0.3
Magnesium	Balance	

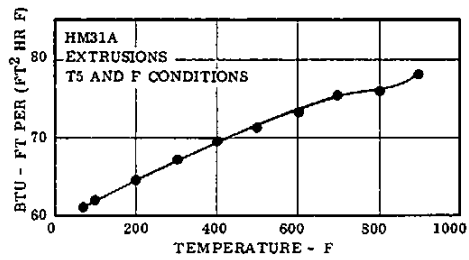


FIG. 2.013 THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY. (5)(7)

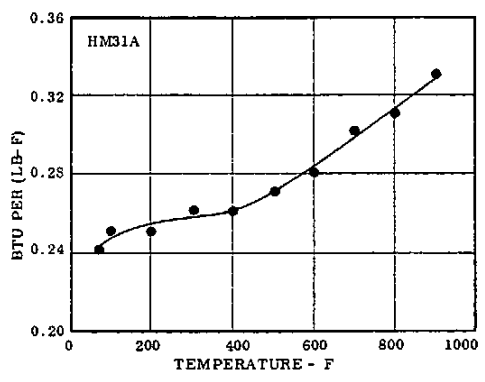


FIG. 2.015 SPECIFIC HEAT. (5)

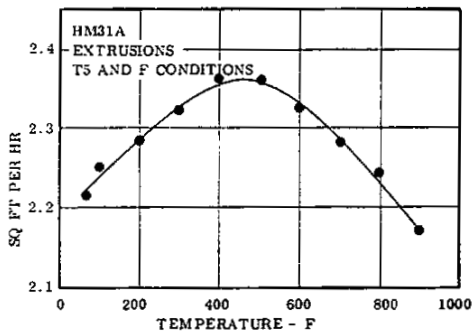


FIG. 2.016 THERMAL DIFFUSIVITY. (5)(7)

TABLE 2.022

Alloy		HM31A					
Source		(5)(7)					
Condition	Temp- F	Electrical Conductivity			Electrical Resistivity		
		percent IACS	megmhos per in ³		microhm - in		
		F	T5	F	T5	F	T5
	63	26.2	30.4	0.384	0.446	2.60	2.24
	100	24.7	28.8	0.363	0.424	2.76	2.36
	200	21.8	24.7	0.321	0.364	3.12	2.75
	300	19.6	21.5	0.289	0.316	3.46	3.16
	400	17.8	19.3	0.262	0.285	3.82	3.50
	500	16.3	17.6	0.240	0.259	4.17	3.86

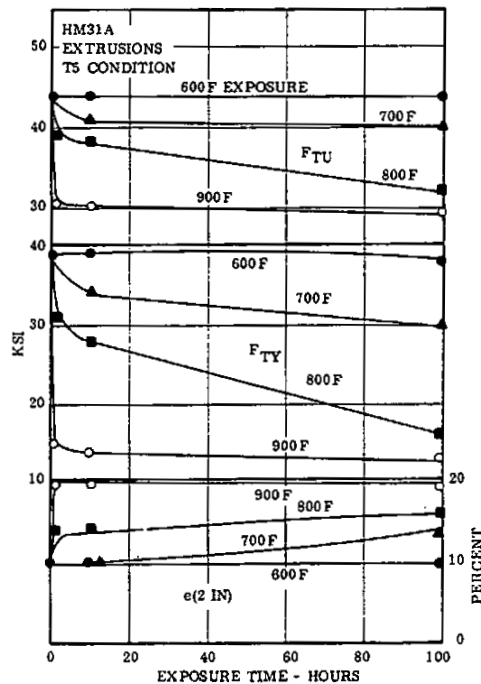


FIG. 3.0213 EFFECT OF EXPOSURES AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES ON TENSILE PROPERTIES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. (5)

TABLE 3.01

Alloy		HM31A			
Form		Extrusions			
Size		4 square inches, maximum cross section			
Condition	Source	F _{TU} - ksi min	F _{TY} - ksi min	e(2 in) min	F _{CY} * - ksi min
T5	(2)	37.0	26.0	4	19.0
F	(1)	37.0	26.0	4	-

* Compression specimens oriented in longitudinal direction.
Orientation of tensile specimens not specified.

TABLE 3.0212

Alloy		HM31A			
Form		Extrusions			
Size		4 square inches, maximum cross section			
Condition	Source	F _{TU} - ksi	F _{TY} - ksi	e(2 in)	
T5	(5)	44	39	10	
F	(10)	42	33	10	

TABLE 3.0222

Alloy		HM31A	
Form		Extrusions	
Condition	Cross section sq in	Source	F _{CY} ksi
T5	1.000 max	(5)	27
T5	1.000-3.999	(5)	23
F	4.000 max	(10)	27

Mg
3 Th
1.5 Mn

HM31A

Mg
3 Th
1.5 Mn

HM31A

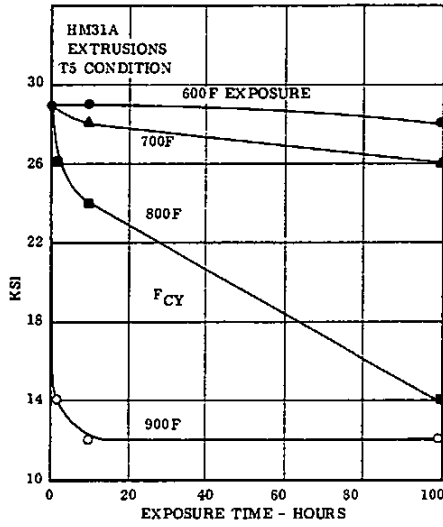


FIG. 3.0223 EFFECT OF EXPOSURES AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES ON COMPRESSIVE YIELD STRENGTH AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. (5)

TABLE 3.0251

Alloy	HM31A
Condition	T5
Form	Extrusions
Source	(5)
Cross section, sq in	F_{su} - ksi
1.000 maximum	27
1.000-3.999	22

TABLE 3.0261

Alloy	HM31A	
Condition	T5	
Form	Extrusions	
Source	(5)	
Cross section, sq in	F_{bru}^* - ksi	F_{bry}^* - ksi
1.000 maximum	68	45
1.00-3.999	58	42
* $e/D = 2.5$		

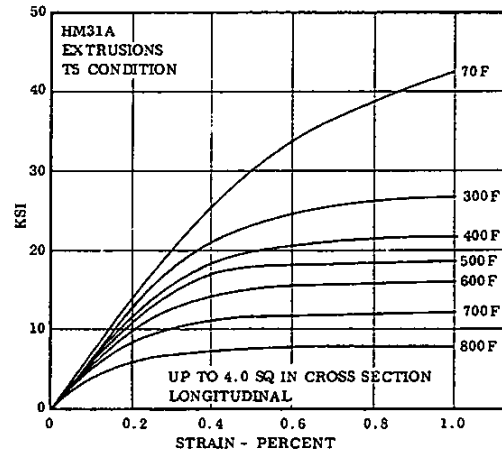


FIG. 3.03111 STRESS-STRAIN CURVES AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN T5 CONDITION. (5)

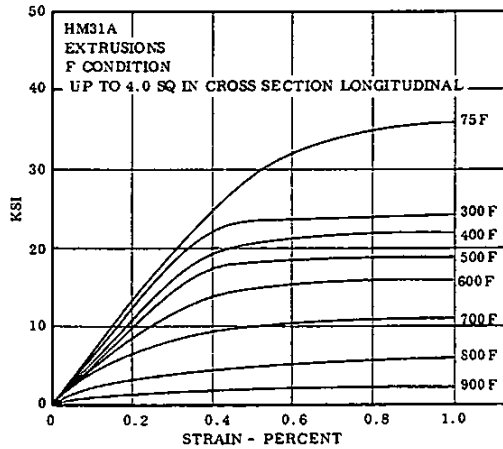


FIG. 3.03112 STRESS-STRAIN CURVES AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN F CONDITION. (6)

	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

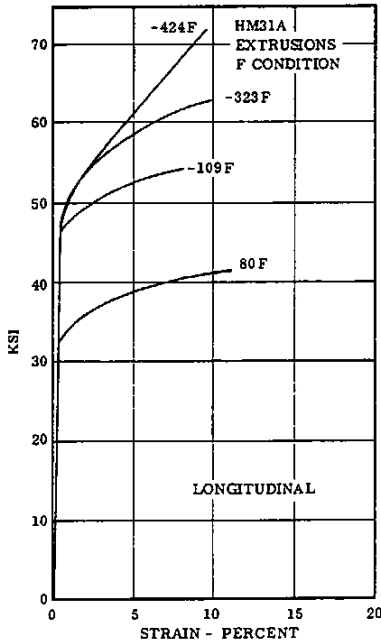


FIG. 3.03113 COMPLETE STRESS-STRAIN CURVES AT LOW TEMPERATURES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN F CONDITION. (11)

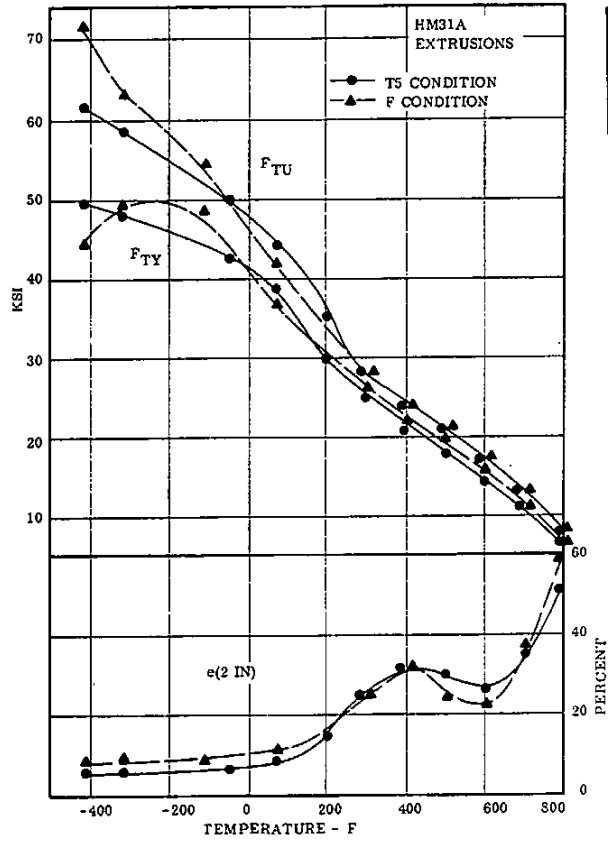


FIG. 3.0312 EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE ON TENSILE PROPERTIES. (5)(11)(18)(19)

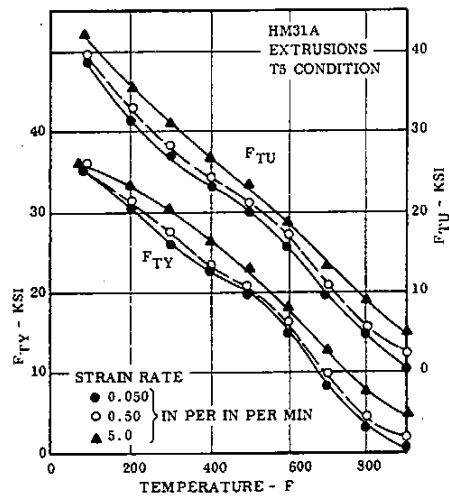


FIG. 3.0313 ELEVATED TEMPERATURE TENSILE PROPERTIES AT VARIOUS STRAIN RATES. (5)

	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

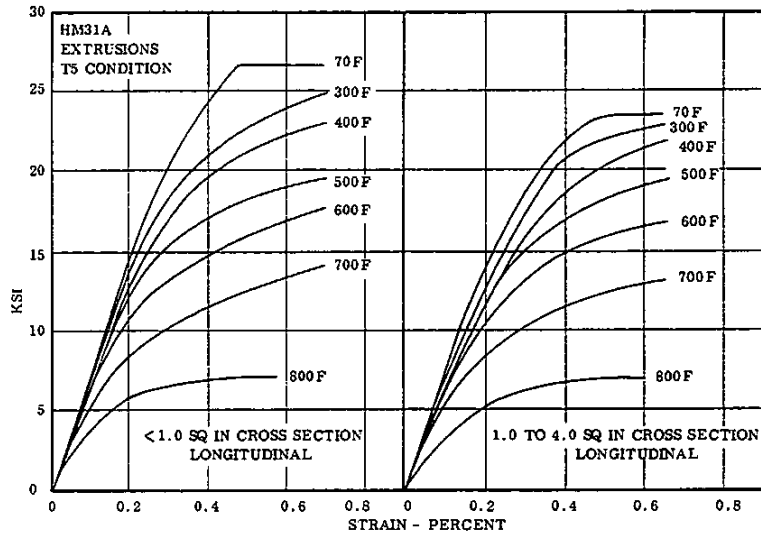


FIG. 3.03211 STRESS-STRAIN CURVES IN COMPRESSION AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN TS CONDITION. (5)

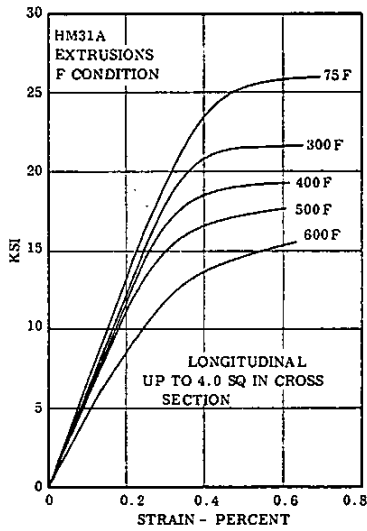


FIG. 3.03212 STRESS-STRAIN CURVES IN COMPRESSION AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN F CONDITION. (6)

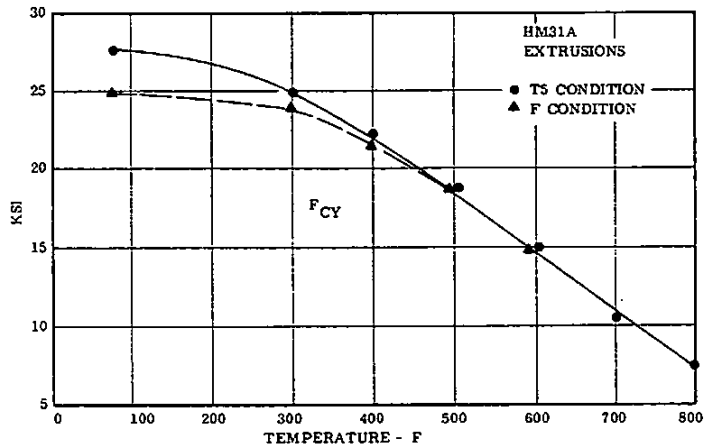


FIG. 3.0322 ELEVATED TEMPERATURE COMPRESSIVE YIELD STRENGTH OF EXTRUSIONS. (5)(6)

	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

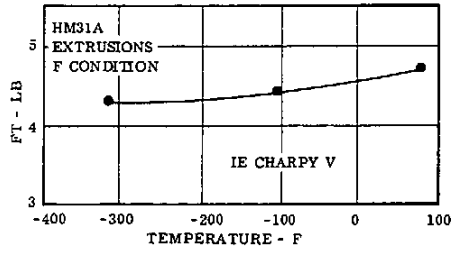


FIG. 3.0331 CHARPY V-NOTCH IMPACT PROPERTIES AT LOW TEMPERATURES. (11)

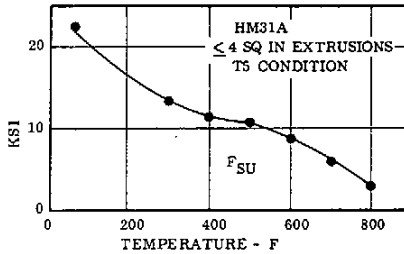


FIG. 3.0351 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON SINGLE SHEAR STRENGTH. (6)

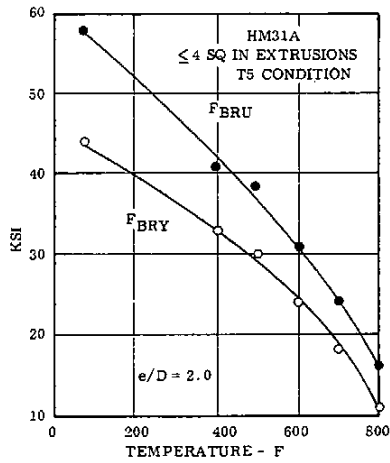


FIG. 3.0361 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON BEARING PROPERTIES. (6)

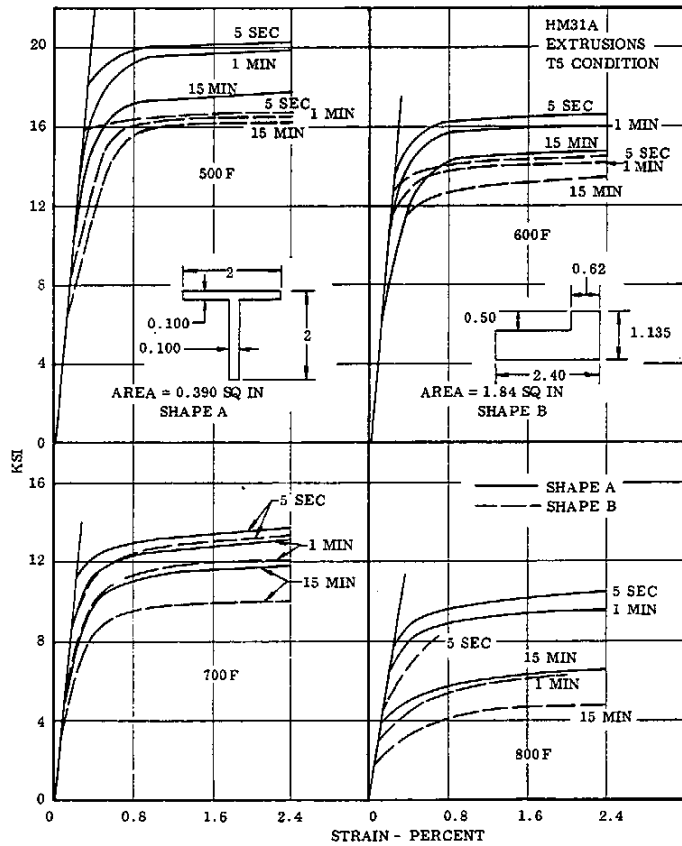


FIG. 3.041 SHORT-TIME ISOCHRONOUS STRESS-STRAIN CURVES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN T5 CONDITION AFTER RAPID HEATING TO TEST TEMPERATURES OF 500, 600, 700, AND 800 F. (5)

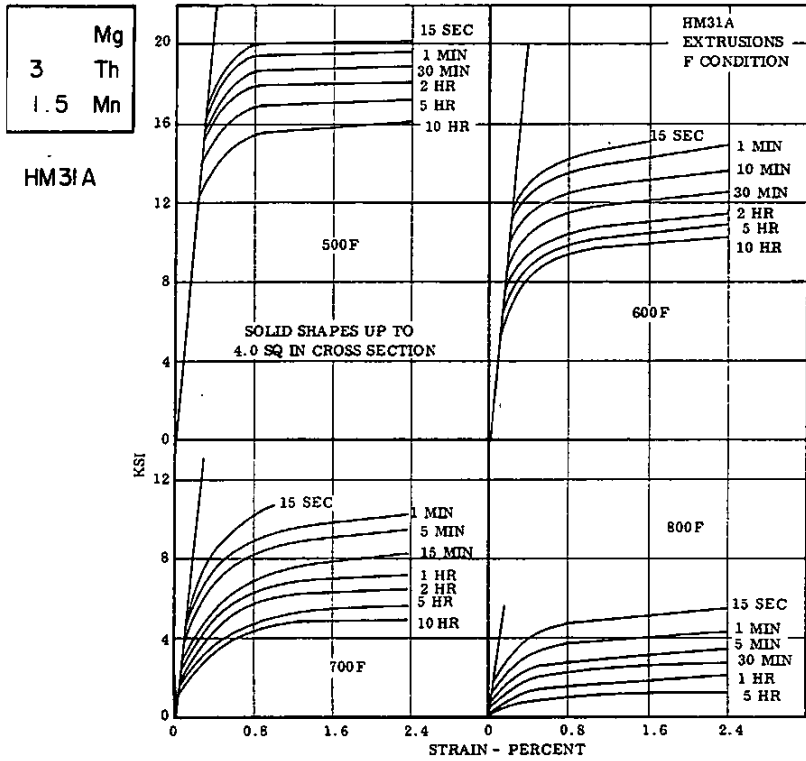


FIG. 3.042 ISOCHRONOUS STRESS-STRAIN CURVES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN F CONDITION AFTER 3 HOURS EXPOSURE AT TEST TEMPERATURES OF 500, 600, 700, AND 800F PRIOR TO LOADING. (6)

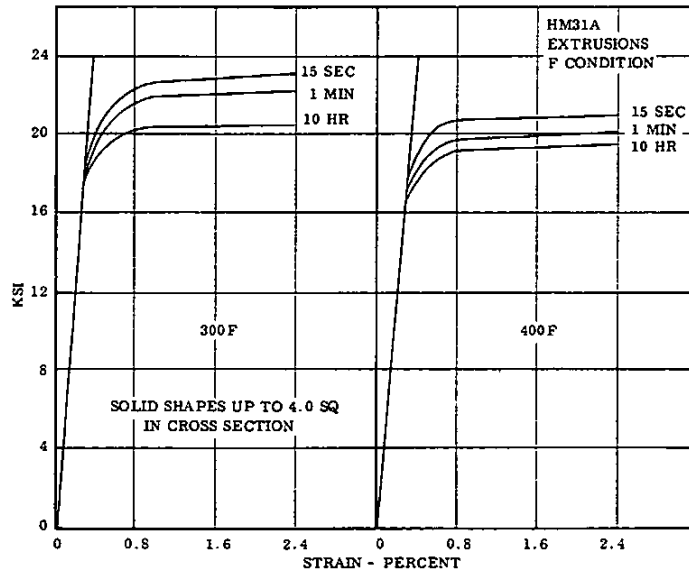
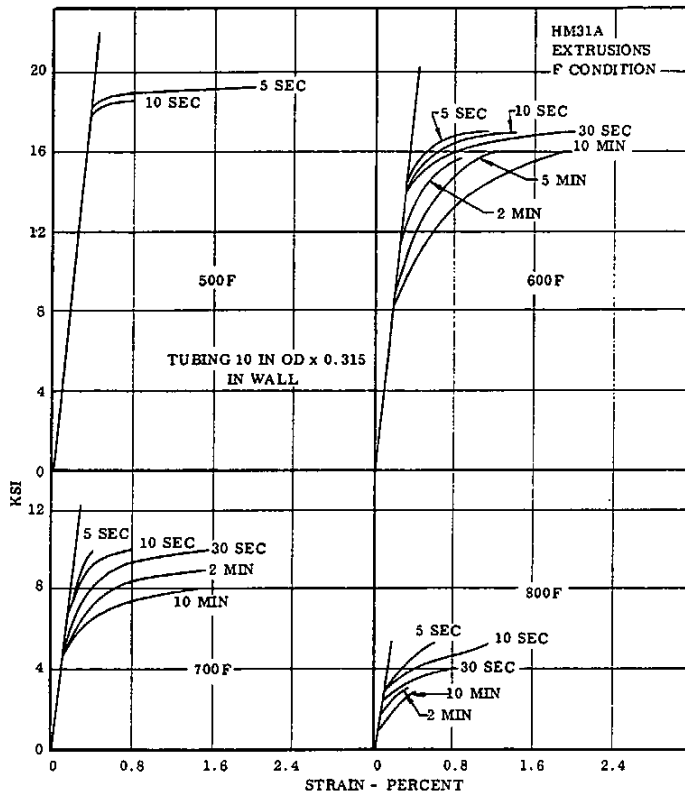


FIG. 3.043 ISOCHRONOUS STRESS-STRAIN CURVES FOR EXTRUSIONS IN F CONDITION AFTER 3 HOURS EXPOSURE AT TEST TEMPERATURES OF 300 AND 400F PRIOR TO LOADING. (6)



	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

FIG. 3.044 SHORT-TIME ISOCHRONOUS STRESS-STRAIN CURVES FOR EXTRUDED TUBING IN F CONDITION AFTER 5 SECONDS EXPOSURE AT TEST TEMPERATURES OF 500, 600, 700, AND 800 F PRIOR TO LOADING. (6)

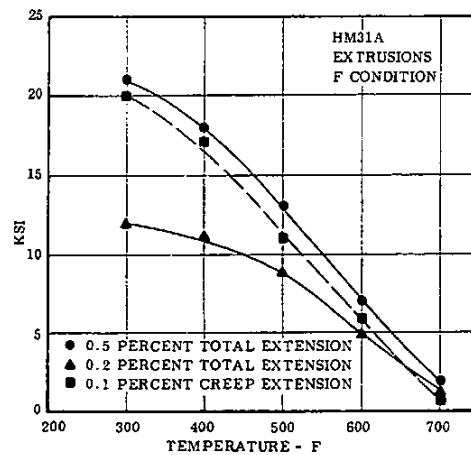


FIG. 3.045 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON 100 HOUR CREEP STRENGTH FOR VARIOUS EXTENSIONS. (6)

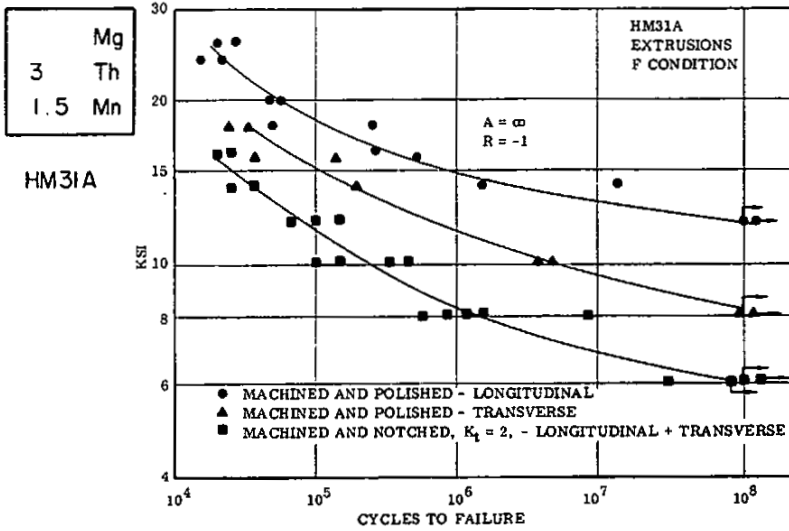


FIG. 3.051 ROTATING BEAM FATIGUE PROPERTIES.

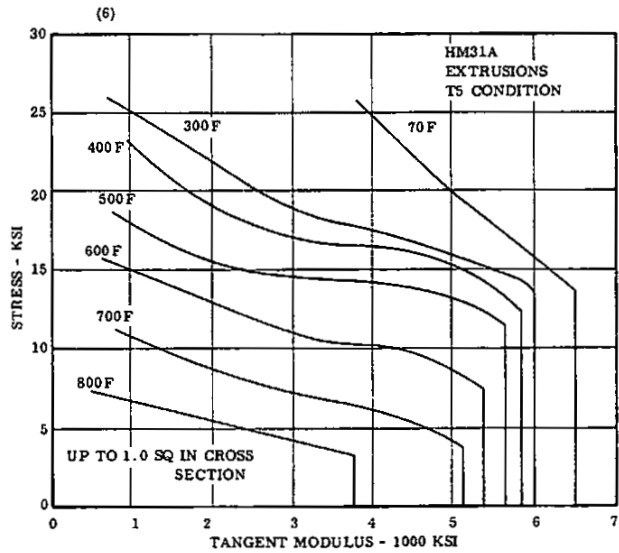


FIG. 3.0622 COMPRESSIVE TANGENT MODULUS CURVES AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES. (5)

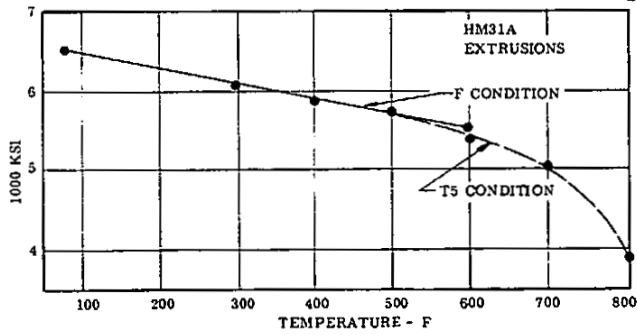


FIG. 3.0621 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON MODULUS OF ELASTICITY. (5)(12)

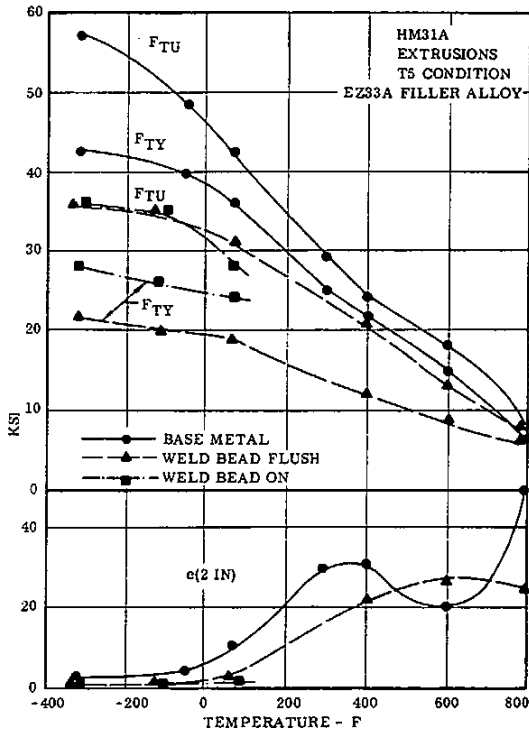


FIG. 4.032 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON TENSILE PROPERTIES OF EXTRUSIONS, BOTH UNWELDED AND WITH TRANSVERSE BUTT WELDS MADE BY INERT-GAS-SHIELDED TUNGSTEN-ARC PROCESS. (5)(6)(16)

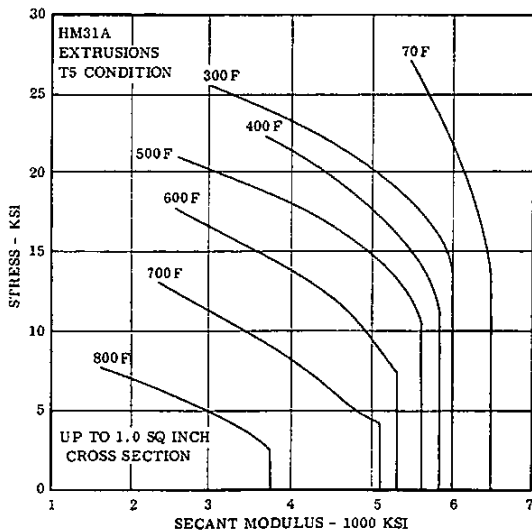


FIG. 3.0623 COMPRESSIVE SECANT-MODULUS CURVES AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES. (5)

	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

REFERENCES

1. AMS 4385B, HM31A-F (May 1, 1968).
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8. Leontis, T. E., "Properties of Magnesium-Thorium and Magnesium-Thorium-Cerium Alloys," Jr of Metals, Volume 4, (1952) pp. 287-294.
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10. "Shop Guide for Elevated Temperature Magnesium Alloys," Bulletin No. 141-204, Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan (March 1959).
11. Reed, R. P., Mikesell, R. P. and Greeson, R. L., "Some Mechanical Properties of Magnesium Alloys at Low Temperature," ASTM STP 287, pp. 61-73 (1961).
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16. "Low Temperature Properties of Various Magnesium Alloys," Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan (1958).
17. "Arc Welding Magnesium," Form 141-300-67, Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan (1967).
18. Vorhees, H. R. and Froeman, J. W., "Elevated Temperature Properties of Aluminum and Magnesium Alloys," ASTM STP 291 (1960).
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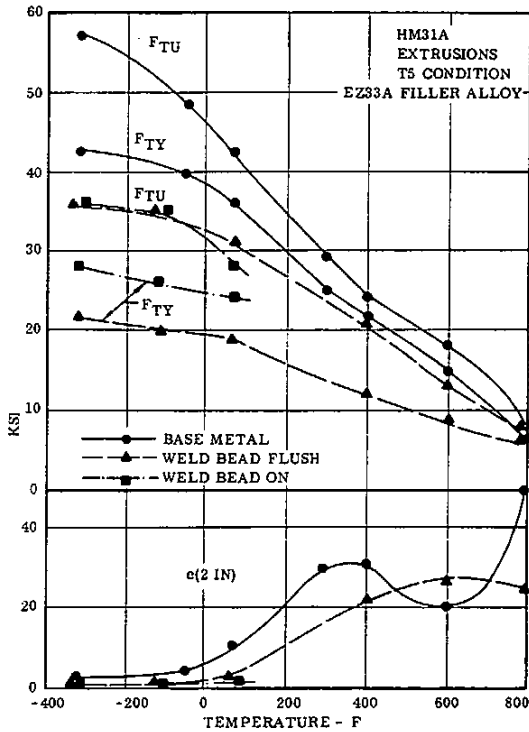


FIG. 4.032 EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON TENSILE PROPERTIES OF EXTRUSIONS, BOTH UNWELDED AND WITH TRANSVERSE BUTT WELDS MADE BY INERT-GAS-SHIELDED TUNGSTEN-ARC PROCESS. (5)(6)(16)

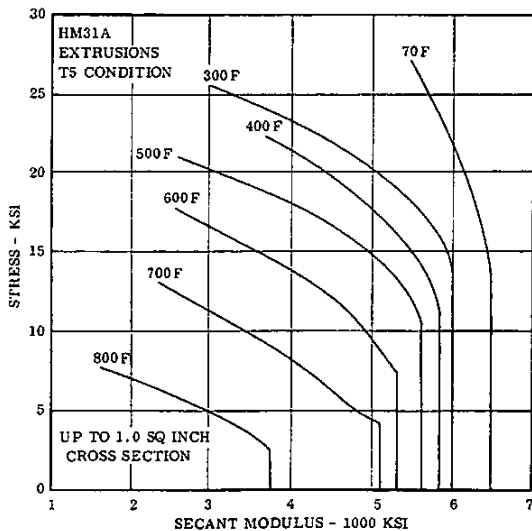


FIG. 3.0623 COMPRESSIVE SECANT-MODULUS CURVES AT ROOM AND ELEVATED TEMPERATURES. (5)

	Mg
3	Th
1.5	Mn

HM31A

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1. AMS 4385B, HM31A-F (May 1, 1968).
2. AMS 4389C, HM31A-T5 (May 1, 1968).
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14. "Forming Magnesium, Part 3," Form No. 141-307-66, Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan (1966).
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17. "Arc Welding Magnesium," Form 141-300-67, Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan (1967).
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