The iron – silicon system has been studied extensively for several decades and is best known for its magnetic properties and use in transformers and motors. These alloys are interesting because of the frequent observations of the preferential (abnormal) growth of grains of specific orientations that enhance such magnetic properties. In this work, abnormal grain growth (AGG) was studied in an Fe-1%Si alloy using automated Electron Backscattered Diffraction (EBSD). Industrially processed samples temper rolled to 0%, 1.5% and 8% were annealed in air for various times followed by quenching in water. A few grains were observed to grow abnormally while the matrix remained essentially static and did not coarsen. The driving force for AGG in this material was determined to originate from the stored energy of deformation. This stored energy was evaluated by examining intragranular orientation gradients that showed drastic reductions for the abnormally large growing grains. The following figure shows an example of AGG in a sample of the Fe-1%Si alloy.

Fig. 1.0: Abnormal growth in a sample of Fe-1%Si alloy.

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