



International Journal for Innovative Engineering and Management Research

A Peer Reviewed Open Access International Journal

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IJIEMR Transactions, online available on 20th Sept 2021. Link

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DOI: 10.48047/IJIEMR/V10/I09/36

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Volume 10, Issue 09, Pages: 332-339

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EVALUATING THE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF SUBMERGED FRICTION STIR WELDED JOINT COPPER PLATES (UNS-C11000)

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Abstract

Friction stir welding is a process of joining two plates at solid state by atomic diffusion, which uses heat generated by the relative motion between tool and work piece. In this paper joining of copper plates (UNS-C11000) has carried out using friction stir welding under coolant. Formation of residual stresses was eliminated by subsequent cooling of welding portion and tool by liquid coolant such as submerged welding technique. In this process weld joint is protected by the atmospheric corrosion immediately after weld and also reduces residual stresses by dissipating heat generated by the tool and work piece. By this process mechanical properties like tensile stress, impact strength are increased with decreasing in hardness and also grain size improved to reduce residual stresses.

Keywords: Submerged Friction Stir Welding, Copper Alloys, Microstructure Studies, improvement in Mechanical Properties.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Fabrication the joining of metals has been an important issue for several decades. Generally, many problems are faced in traditional fusion welding in welding of different metals and alloys. Welding defects like inclusions cracks, porosity and voids during fusion welding, significantly affect the quality of the welds. Friction stir welding (FSW) is the new solid state welding technique introduced in 1990s.

Friction stir welding (FSW) is the process is competent enough to weld materials which are difficult to weld or cannot be welded by fusion welding process.

The main aspect in these processes is the temperature remains below the melting point of the material automatically defects associate with the fusion welding processes is not present in this FSW process which leads to the increasing in the mechanical properties and less effected by the environmental existing in fusion welding process. FSW is initially developed on aluminium alloy subsequently it is employed for many other similar and dissimilar and also employed for metals, nonmetals and alloys.

Generally the main application of FSW is ship building aerospace, railway, and automobile.

In FSW uses non-consumable rotating tool is plunged into the work piece as the force is applied vertically downward. The friction between the tool and work piece increases temperature which is used for atomic fusion welding. Produced temperature is good enough to soften the work piece which gets plastically deformed easily.

Submerged friction stir welding (SFSW) is the modified version of friction stir welding (FSW). Coolant or water is applied over the work piece about a few mm. Water or some coolants mixed with water is employed to reduce the temperature developed during the welding process. Due to dynamic recrystallization in owing process to serve plastic leads to fine grain size in the stir region. Deformation results in change in microstructure. Basically, in submerged friction stir welding (SFSW) the weld is performed under water or coolant. During submerged friction stir welding (SFSW) high amount of heat is absorbed by the water or coolant transmitted to the work piece. As a result mechanical properties and micro structure changes.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Factors Affecting SFSW

Mechanical properties and micro structural of the material completely depends upon many factors that affecting the material flow rate and temperature distribution.

Few major factors affecting SFSW are

1. Tool Geometry:

Tool geometry plays an important role in the FSW

- a) Tool material- M2 is a high-speed steel in tungsten–molybdenum series
- b) Tool pin profile

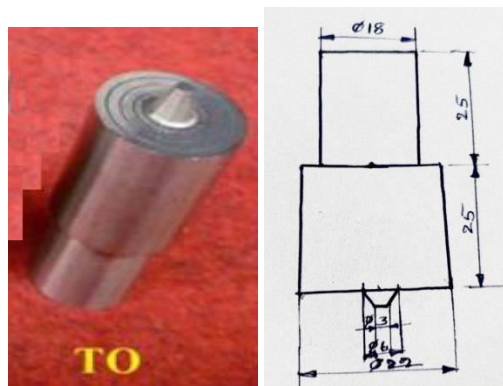


Fig-1: Tool dimensions

- c) Tool speed-1000 rpm
- d) Feed (transverse rate)- 25mm/min

2. Welding Parameters:

Level of water above the plates to be welded plays a critical role in heat dissipating rate during welding. (water level 5 mm above the plates)

3. Joint Design: butt joint



Fig-2: Arrangement of plates for butt joint

4. Work piece:

Two copper plates (UNS-C11000).
Dimensions- 200*10*5 (length * breath * thickness)



Fig-3: Plates for welding

5. SFSW set up:

End milling machine of 15hp motor and 3000 rpm and 25kN is used for friction stir welding. Water is allowed to flow 5mm above the work piece to be welded. T-bolts and c-clams are used to hold the work piece. Work holding fixtures can move in X, Y and Z axis. max operational speed of spindle is 3000 rpm.



Fig-4: plates after clamping for welding.



Fig-5: Maintaining 5mm water level above the plates to be welded.

3. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The work piece is clamped rigidly on the table by using fixtures T-bolts and clamps. Abutt joint is prepared by using SFSW on the work piece.

Speed: 1000 rpm.

Feed (transverse): 25mm/min



Fig-6: pieces after welding (back portion).



Fig-6: pieces after welding (front portion).

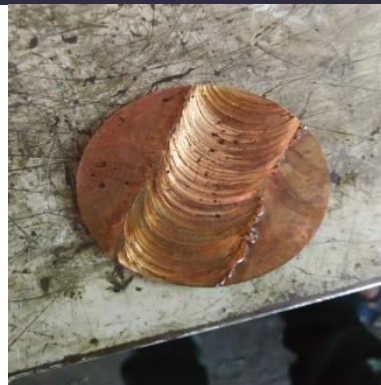


Fig-9: Specimen for hardness test

4. PREPARING SPECIMEN FOR TESTING

Specimens are prepared according to ASTM standards by using CNC wire cutting machine.



Fig-7: CNC monitor indicating tool path.



Fig-9: Specimen for tensile test according to ASTM standards.



Fig-8: Thread cutting of specimen.



Fig-10: Specimen for microscopic structure.

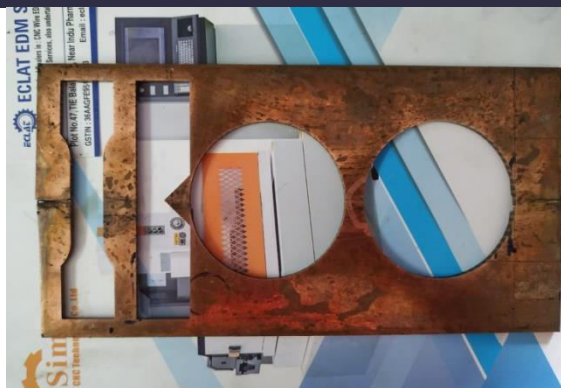


Fig-11: Welded plate after cutting specimen.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The tests are performed at room temperature by using UTM, Impact test (charpy), micro Vickers hardness tester and metallurgical micro scope.

a) Tensile test (UTM2.5-21)

Width of the specimen (mm): 11.92
 Thickness of the specimen (mm): 2.90
 Cross section area (mm²): 34.57
 Ultimate tensile load (N): 8513
 Ultimate tensile strength (N/mm²): 246.27

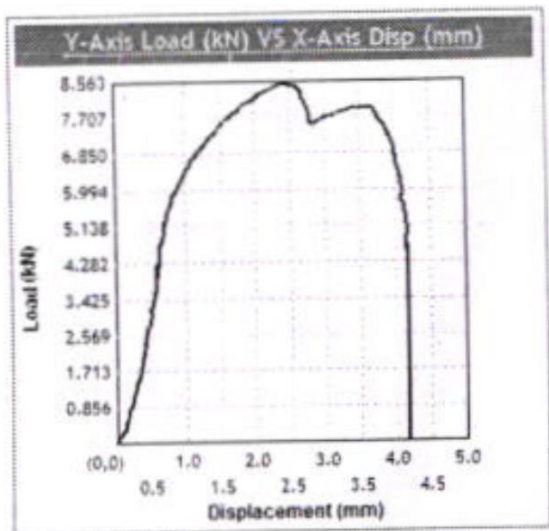


Fig-11: Stress-strain diagram of the specimen.

Observation: Comparatively the tensile strength of the specimen increased to some extent while compared to normal FSW (according ref: 1).

b) Impact test:

Notch type: V
 Notch angle: 45⁰
 Specimen size (mm): 10*2.5*55
 Test type: Charpy
 Test temperature (°C): room temperature
 Notch depth: 2mm
 Absorbed energy (J): 10

Observation: impact strength is reduced compared to normal FSW.

c) Micro Vickers Hardness Test.

Equipment: HMVG-XY-D 1631153A0692
 Test Location: On Surface
 Type of Indenter Diamond
 Test force (kgf.) 0.1
 On Base Metal: a) 101, b) 103 and c) 101
 On weld: a) 157 b) 158 and c) 157
 Observation: hardness is reduced to some extent

d) Microstructure Examination.

Equipment: Microscope
 Specimen orientation: Cross Section
 Etchant: Potassium dichromate
 Magnification: 100X
 Observation: Weld-Microstructure shows elongated copper grains with coarse inter-metallic particles aligned in the direction of stirring. weld is well fused and freedom from cracks, porosities and other linear defects. HAZ--Microstructure shows fine copper grains with randomly distributed inter-metallic particles in the copper matrix.



@HAZ

Fig 12: Micro structure of base metal after welding.



@WELD

Fig 13: Micro structure of weld portion after welding

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Submerged Friction stir welding method is applied to join copper plates and acquired results are as follows

1. Weld is formed by SFSW is defect free with speed 1000 rpm, 25mm/min feed at room temperature.

2. The work piece is submerged in the water during welding such that heat dissipation rate is more while compared to normal FSW.
3. Residual stresses are reduced to the maximum extent such that the weld joint is stress free to some extent.
4. Slightly softened portion was formed in the weld zone in spite of smaller grain size compare to that of base metal.
5. Hardness of SFSW copper weld zone mainly depended on the density of dislocation rather than grain size.

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International Journal for Innovative Engineering and Management Research

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