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Resistance Spot Welding and the Effects of Welding Time and Current on Residual Stresses

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Highlights

- We developed an electrical-thermal-mechanical FE model to analyze RSW.
- the effects of welding current and time on nugget size and residual stresses are investigated
- With increase in welding time, pressure decreases in the central area and rises in the edge of the contact region.
- Radial residual stress is compressive in the surface of weld nugget region, and becomes tensile in the edges and outside of weld nugget.
- Welding current has more effect on residual stresses in comparison with welding time.

Abstract

A 2-D finite element model is developed based on fully-coupled electrical-thermal and incrementally-coupled thermal-mechanical analysis. The growth rate of the weld nugget as a function of welding time and current is studied. Comparison of the predicted results with the experimental data shows good agreement. Contact area variations and pressure distribution between the sheets' faying surface and electrode-sheet interfaces during the welding process are studied. Compressive radial residual stress on the surface of the specimen obtained in the center region of the nugget while it becomes tensile and rises

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