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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Measurement of the Keyhole Entrance and Topside Weld Pool

Geometries in Keyhole Plasma Arc Welding with Dual CCD Cameras

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Graphical abstract



Abstract: Dual cameras were employed to observe the complete topside weld pool from the lateral side and to capture the keyhole entrance from the rear view in plasma arc welding. By image registration, the images were fused into a cohesive whole in the same physical coordinate system. Weld pool and keyhole behaviors were studied under different welding parameters. Possible interaction mechanisms between plasma arc, gas flow, liquid metal and keyhole were discussed. Instant and significant influences on the keyhole entrance shape and geometries originated in the changed forces applied on the surrounded liquid metal.

Keywords: keyhole entrance, topside weld pool, keyhole plasma arc welding, image registration, visual sensing.

1 Introduction

As a high energy-density welding method, the constrained arc in keyhole plasma arc welding (K-PAW) could join medium-thickness plates in one pass without any groove. High efficiency with lower cost of this technology makes it possess many advantages over laser beam welding

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