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Super strong and highly ductile low alloy multiphase steels

consisting of bainite, ferrite and retained austenite

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Abstract

A moderately high carbon (0.61%) high silicon steel was subjected to a newly designed

heat treatment cycle consisting of continuous cooling for different duration after austenitization

followed by austempering at 300, 350 and 400°C to form a very high strength and highly ductile

multiphase steels with microstructures consisting of varied amounts of ferrite (formed during

continuous cooling), bainite (formed during austempering) and retained austenite. Steels with

very high strength up to (tensile strength ~ 1100-2000 MPa) along with excellent ductility

(elongation ~ 10 - 32%) were obtained. Effect of continuous cooling duration on ferrite content,

amount of carbon diffused in the prior austenite grains, variation of carbon content in the

retained austenite (c_y) and its volume fraction (V_y) has been analyzed. Finally, structure property

correlation has been established.

Keywords: Mixed phase steel; Retained austenite; Bainite.

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