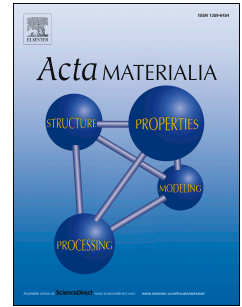


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Spatially resolved localization and characterization of trapped hydrogen in zero to three dimensional defects inside ferritic steel

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Keywords: high strength steel, hydrogen, trapping, activation energy, traps, hydrogen embrittlement, thermal desorption spectroscopy, scanning Kelvin probe, SKPFM, ferritic steel

Abstract

In this work, localized hydrogen (H) detection measurements were conducted on a model ferritic (Fe 5 wt.-% Ni) steel which enables a systematic study of 0- (vacancies), 1- (dislocations), 2- (grain boundaries) and 3- (inclusions) dimensional defects, induced by varying mechanical and thermal treatments, without changing the chemical composition of the material.

Spatially resolved detection with Scanning Kelvin Probe Force Microscopy (SKPFM) as an electrochemical technique with a resolution on a nanometric scale in combination with Thermal Desorption Spectroscopy (TDS) and microstructure characterization using electron microscopy indicated a domination of at least two trapping sites. Step by step the dominating H trapping sites were identified as dislocations and vacancies with estimated desorption energies of 29 ± 5 and 38 ± 5 kJ·mol⁻¹. Furthermore, voids, inclusions and their interface to the matrix were found to be trapping sites binding low

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