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CCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Investigation of temperature dependent microstructure evolution of

pure iron during friction stir welding using liquid CO2 rapid cooling

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Abstract The microstructure evolution of pure iron during friction stir welding was

reconstructed by an ingenious experimental design, in which the rapid cooling friction

stir welding combined with the tool "stop action" technique and the subsequent

short-time annealing were adopted to "freeze" the transient microstructure during the

stirring and reproduce the normal cooling during conventional friction stir welding,

respectively. The microstructure evolution during the stirring and normal cooling was

investigated along the material flow path and in the annealed "frozen" weld zone by

high-resolution electron-backscatter-diffraction technique. The results show that the

continuous and discontinuous dynamic recrystallizations occur simultaneously at the

severe deformation stage in front of the tool both under low and high heat input

conditions. However, during the material flow, the microstructure evolution involves the

plastic deformation, recrystallization, high angle boundaries migration and dynamic

recovery under the low heat input condition, while in a dynamic balance of deformation,

recrystallization and grain growth under the high heat input conditions. At the cooling

stage, normal grain growth occurs both for the low and high heat input welding

conditions, while it is very limited for the low heat input condition.

Keywords: Friction stir welding; Rapid cooling; Annealing; Microstructure evolution;

Pure iron

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