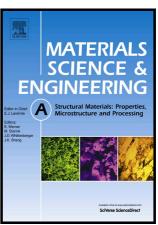
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Austenite stability and mechanical properties of a low-alloyed ECAPed TRIP-aided steel

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Abstract

Equal channel angular pressing (ECAP) and post-ECAP heat treatment were conducted on a Fe-

1.38Mn-0.67Si-0.56Al-0.014Nb-0.18C transformation-induced plasticity (TRIP) aided steel. The

microstructure of unECAPed TRIP sample was mainly composed of polygonal ferrite, bainite,

retained austenite (RA) and lath martensite, while lath martensite was not observed in ECAPed

TRIP samples. The stability of retained austenite (RA) for unECAPed TRIP sample was mainly

influenced by the carbon content in RA, while for ECAPed TRIP steel, it was dominated by the size

of RA. Comparing the mechanical properties of the unECAPed samples with the ECAPed samples,

the ultimate tensile strength (UTS) changed slightly, but the total elongation (TEL) increased from

25.6% to 39.8%. The 4 passes ECAPed TRIP sample exhibited excellent mechanical properties with

the product of tensile strength and total elongation (PSE) of 29.4 GPa %, which was a consequence

of TRIP effect and cooperative deformation of ferrite, bainite and austenite.

**Keywords:** ECAP deformation, Austenite stability, TRIP effect, Mechanical properties

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