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## An experiment-based model of combined hardening and non-hardening embrittlement in an interstitial free steel

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## Abstract

The fracture appearance transition temperatures (FATTs) are evaluated for the samples of a Nb-stabilized and P-strengthened interstitial free (IF) steel. Based on the measurements, the combined effect of hardening and phosphorus grain boundary segregation on the embrittlement of the steel is investigated. Both hardening and P boundary segregation can raise the FATT of the steel, causing hardening embrittlement and non-hardening embrittlement, respectively. Meanwhile, the grain size influences both kinds of embrittlement, i.e., there is a synergistic effect between grain size and hardening or P boundary segregation on the FATT of the steel. With the aid of the Taylor expansion along with the experimental data, a combined hardening and non-hardening embrittlement equation is established, being expressed as FATT = $2.1C_{p} + 3.48\sigma_{s} - 22.36d^{1/2} + 0.64(C_{p} - 14)(d^{1/2} - 3.06) + 0.896(\sigma_{s} - 14)(d^{1/2} - 3.06) - 0.896(\sigma_{s} - 14)(\sigma_{s} - 1$ 13.7, where FATT is the fracture appearance transition temperature in  $^{\circ}C$ ,  $C_{p}$  is the phosphorus boundary concentration in at.%, s is the yield strength in 10MPa, and d is the grain size in mm. A comparison of the calculated and measured FATTs is made, demonstrating that the calculated FATTs are well consistent with the measured ones. Keywords: Embrittlement; Grain boundaries; Segregation; Metals and alloys

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