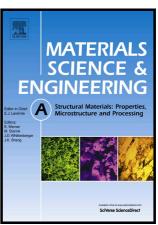
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Microstructure characterization and mechanical behavior of laser additive

manufactured ultrahigh-strength AerMet100 steel

Xianzhe Ran^{a,c}, Dong Liu^{a,b,c}, An Li^{a,b,c*}, Huaming Wang^{a,b,c}, Haibo

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Abstract

Ultrahigh-strength AerMet100 steel thick plate was fabricated by laser additive manufacturing process. The as-deposited microstructures of the test steel were characterized using optical microscopy (OM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD). The mechanical properties were then examined using vickers-hardness test and tensile test. Results indicate that the as-deposited microstructures of the steel mainly consist of grain boundary allotriomorphic ferrite (GBA), grain interior irregular proeutectoid ferrite, plate-like upper bainite, needle-like lower bainite and retained austenite, which result in a good strength and some ductility anisotropy. The low deformation compatibility of specimen at the transverse direction (perpendicular to the deposition direction) mainly ascribes to the poor cracking resistance of the prior-austenite columnar grain boundary with coarse GBA phases. Compared to the almost intergranular cracking taken place in the transverse tensile specimen, the fracture mode of the longitudinal tensile specimen is a mixed mode of the predominant transgranular cracking and minor intergranular cracking.

Keywords: Laser melting deposition; Laser additive manufacturing; AerMet100 steel; Microstructure; Mechanical behavior

1 Introduction

Ultrahigh-strength steel (UHSS) is a class of structural steel with the yield strength above 1350MPa[1]. AerMet100 steel, 23Co14Ni11Cr3Mo, is a high Ni-Co series secondary hardening UHSS. Generally, it is normally used at a slightly overaged condition (tempered at 482° C for 5 hours) with the microstructures of unrecovered highly dislocated Fe-Ni martensitic laths/packets, extremely fine homogeneously dispersed M_2 C (M=Cr, Mo, Fe) alloy carbides and thin film-like

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