

纳米/超细晶奥氏体不锈钢腐蚀机制研究进展

王晓梅^{1,2}, 刘芳荣¹, 张尧¹, 陈爱英¹, 潘登¹

(1. 上海理工大学 材料科学与工程学院, 上海 200090; 2. 上海电机学院 机械学院, 上海 200240)

摘要: 晶粒细化作为强化金属材料的有效方法受到了研究者的广泛关注, 其具有高强度、高硬度和良好的耐磨性等特点。同时, 晶粒细化对奥氏体不锈钢的腐蚀性能及腐蚀机制影响也得到了广泛的关注。综述了纳米及超细晶奥氏体不锈钢材料的耐腐蚀性能研究进展, 着重讨论了超细尺度结构, 包括晶粒大小、相组成、孪晶等对不锈钢耐腐蚀性能影响的最新进展。

关键词: 不锈钢; 纳米结构; 晶界; 腐蚀机制

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Research Progress of Corrosion Resistance for Nano/Ultrafine-grained Austenite Stainless Steel

WANG Xiao-mei^{1,2}, LIU Fang-rong¹, ZHANG Yao¹, CHEN Ai-ying¹, PAN Deng¹

(1. School of Material Science & Engineering, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai 200090, China;

2. School of Mechanical Engineering, Shanghai Dianji University, Shanghai 200240, China)

Abstract: The grain refinement of austenite stainless steel is widely studied due to its enhanced mechanical properties, such as high strength, high hardness and good wear resistance. Meanwhile, the effect of nanocrystallines (NC) and ultrafine grains (UFG) on corrosion performance also attracts more attention. This paper focuses its attention mainly on the corrosion mechanism of the stainless steel with NC/UFG microstructure. The latest developments of corrosion mechanisms of the refined austenite stainless steels are introduced involving the microstructures of grain size, phase composition and twin.

Key words: stainless steel; nanostructure; grain boundary; corrosion mechanism

不锈钢的突出特点是良好的耐腐蚀性^[1-2], 但主要不足是表面强度和硬度低以及耐磨性差^[3]。提高不锈钢强度最有前景的强化方式是超细晶化。根据 Hall-Patch 关系式可知, 晶粒越细, 晶界数量大幅度增加, 材料的强度和硬度越高^[4]。晶粒细化后不锈钢的“不锈”性能好坏无疑是决定其实际应用前景的重要因素。而具有超细尺度组织的金属材料其耐蚀性必然表现出不同之处。

本工作首先综述了目前制备纳米及超细晶不锈钢的常用方法及其微观结构特点。在此基础上, 介绍了所产生的超细晶结构对耐腐蚀性能的影响及其腐蚀机制, 着重分析了晶粒尺寸、相变夹杂和晶界结

构等微观组织特征对耐腐蚀性能的影响。

1 纳米/超细晶不锈钢的制备方法

强烈塑性变形 (Severe Plastic Deformation, SPD)^[5-7] 是制备超细晶块状金属材料的有效方法, 包括等通道转角挤压 (Equal Channel Angular Pressing, ECAP)、高压扭转 (High Pressure Torsion, HPT)、累积叠轧焊 (Accumulative roll-bonding, ARB) 等。一般来说, 采用强烈塑性变形的方

法处理不锈钢, 其晶粒尺寸通常在 10~150 nm^[8-10]。纳米晶尺度 (晶粒尺寸 < 100 nm) 的不锈钢, 常采用磁控溅射 (magnetron sputtering)^[11-12]、表面机械研磨 (Surface Mechanical Attrition Treatment, SMAT)^[13]、喷丸处理^[14] 等方法获得。例如, Tao 等^[15] 采用表面机械研磨的方法制备出晶粒尺寸为 10 nm 表面纳米晶结构, 其主要由马氏体相构成。不同方法处理奥氏体不锈钢后的微观结构见表 1。其中: USP-Ulsonic shot peening; DPD-Dynamic

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通信作者: 陈爱英 (1973-), 副教授, 博士, 从事纳米金属材料制备及变形机制研究, 13818676985, xiaomeiwang1121@sina.cn

plastic deformation; LSP-Laser shock processing; CR-Cold rolling; NC-Nanocrystalline; SF-Stacking fault。

表 1 不同方法制备的纳米/超细晶奥氏体不锈钢微观组织的特点

Tab. 1 Microstructure of stainless steel prepared by different processes

Materials	Processing	Microstructures	d/nm	Ref.
304	SMAT(50 Hz)	NC, α' , Twin, planar dislocation arrays	10(α')	[16]
316L	USP	NC, dislocations	10	[17]
316L	SMAT(50 Hz)	$\gamma+10\% \alpha'$, NC, stacking faults, Twins	20	[18]
316L	DPD	NC, deformation twins	33	[19]
316L	SMAT	γ , NC, twins, SF, dislocation arrays	40	[20]
304	Multiple LSP	planar dislocation arrays, SF, dislocation lines, dislocation tangles	50	[21]
304	SMAT(20 kHz)	$\gamma+\alpha'+\epsilon$, NC/UFG Twin, Dislocation arrays	200(γ)	[22]
304	ECAP(700 °C)	NC	200	[23]
316L	CR(90%)	Elongated grains, Twins	100~2 000	[24]

从表 1 中可以看出,奥氏体不锈钢在晶粒细化过程中的变形结构非常复杂,伴随着相变、第二相夹杂、晶界偏析、孪晶等结构转变。在不同变形条件下,会发生 $\gamma \rightarrow$ dislocation slip, $\gamma \rightarrow$ twin, $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$, $\gamma \rightarrow \epsilon$, $\gamma \rightarrow \epsilon \rightarrow \alpha$ 等复杂的变形机制,直接影响晶粒细化尺度和最终的变形结构,进而影响材料的腐蚀机制。

2 纳米/超细晶化对不锈钢腐蚀性能的影响

影响不锈钢“不锈性”最为关键的因素是表面钝化膜的紧密度和稳定性。如果钝化膜比较疏松且不稳定,晶界扩散作用明显,那么耐蚀性变差。反之,如果自钝化能力强的元素在样品表面富集,形成紧致稳定的钝化膜,才会使耐腐蚀性得到改善。不同细化结构对腐蚀性能的影响如下所述。

2.1 晶粒尺寸的影响

传统的腐蚀理论认为,晶界处原子活性高,因此晶界是腐蚀的活性区,晶界体积比增加意味着参与反应的原子数量增加,从而会加剧材料的腐蚀速率。与传统腐蚀理论预示的晶粒细化使腐蚀性能降低不同,细晶结构往往会表现出良好的耐腐蚀性能。例如,Zheng 等^[25]采用 ECAP 制备超细晶 304 不锈钢,不同道次之后获得样品的动态极化曲线如图 1 所示,由图 1 可见,晶粒细化之后耐蚀性能得到了明显的改善。八道次和四道次的极化曲线相近,这是因为经过四道次之后晶粒细化已经趋于饱和(80~

120 nm)。Ye 等^[26]使用磁控溅射的方法在 309 不锈钢表面制备出晶粒尺寸约 50 nm 的纳米晶,腐蚀性能测试结果表明纳米晶层大大改善了耐腐蚀性,他们认为这是由于纳米尺度晶粒促进了铬元素在样品表层的均匀分布,降低了钝化区间氧化膜的载流密度以及氧化膜的溶解速率。有学者总结了 304 奥氏体不锈钢材料晶粒尺寸和腐蚀性能之间的关系,提出随着晶粒尺寸的减小,材料的耐腐蚀性能提高^[27],这个结论在镁合金、铝合金中得到了试验验证^[28-29]。但是在其他的金属体系中是否适用还有待于进一步系统深入的研究。

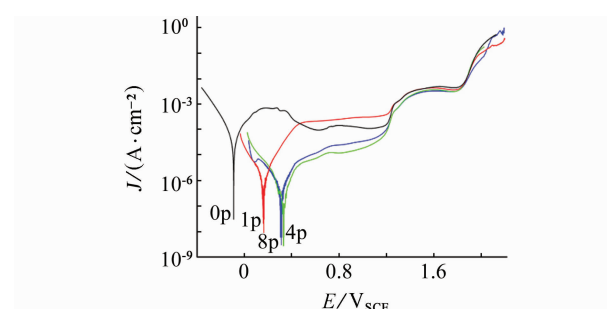


图 1 ECAP304SS 在 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 溶液中的动态极化曲线^[25]

Fig. 1 Dynamic polarization curves of ECAPed 304 SS samples in 0.5 mol/L H_2SO_4 solution^[25]

纳米/超细晶不锈钢材料由于高密度晶界而易于形成比较紧致而稳定的钝化膜^[30-31],从而具有更好的耐腐蚀性能。大量晶界成为自钝化能力好的元素向表面富集的“通道”,促进了金属表面钝化膜的形成。同时,还有学者提出,利用特定的晶界结构^[32-36]分布可以改善金属材料的耐腐蚀性能。

2.2 相变夹杂的影响

晶粒细化的同时往往伴随着相变,如 ϵ 、 α' 马氏体相变^[22,35]。不同的相之间容易产生电偶腐蚀,从而加剧腐蚀的速度。叶威等^[12]使用磁控溅射在玻璃基体上制备出由两种相组成的(单相 α 和双相 $\alpha+\gamma$)的不锈钢纳米涂层(晶粒尺寸小于 50 nm)。并采用动电位极化、电化学阻抗技术及扫描电子显微镜等研究了两种不锈钢纳米涂层的电化学腐蚀性能。结果表明:双相纳米涂层的耐腐蚀性能较单相涂层差,其钝化膜的载流离子密度远远大于不锈钢单相钝化膜,使钝化膜的离子传输能力大大增强,从而降低了钝化膜的稳定性。马氏体相变对超细尺度不锈钢腐蚀性能的不利影响在 316L 不锈钢材料中也有报道^[37]。

2.3 晶界结构的影响

对于中低层错能面心立方的不锈钢,在塑性变形过程中以及后续的热处理,会形成高密度的孪晶界结构。孪晶界是一种特殊的重合位置点阵(Coincident Site Lattice,简称 CSL),而 CSL 晶界可改善材料的抗晶间腐蚀能力。例如,Hu 等^[38]利用“晶界工程(Grain Boundary Engineering,简称 GBE)”^[39-41]通过形变热处理工艺引入高比例的 CSL 晶界的方法优化 304 不锈钢,并研究了其腐蚀性能,腐蚀失重曲线见图 2。经过优化后,微观组织中出现了大量的超细尺度孪晶。由图 2 可以看出,低 Σ CSL 晶界比例增加,腐蚀速率降低。Lu 等^[42]使用 SMAT 处理 316L 不锈钢,首次针对其梯度微观组织中的纳米孪晶层进行了研究,从极化曲线测试结果可以看出,高密度的纳米晶界促使铬等元素在晶界处集聚,造成晶内贫铬的现象,由此认为孪晶界凭借其低的晶界自由能可以明显改善材料的耐腐蚀性能。

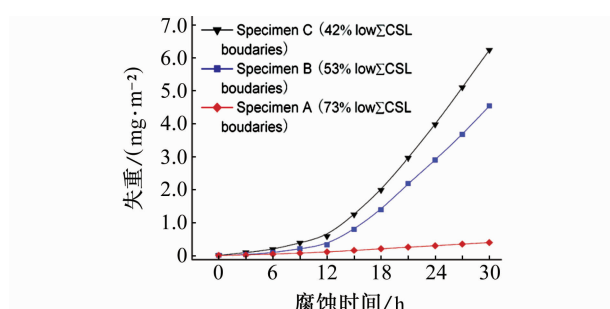


图2 具有不同低 Σ CSL 晶界比例的 304SS 样品的失重结果^[38]

Fig. 2 Weight losses vs. exposure time for the specimens with different proportion of low Σ CSL boundaries^[38]

2.4 表面质量的影响

不同的块状纳米金属制备工艺会得到不同表面质量的样品,例如等通道转角挤压后样品表面容易出现细小裂痕,表面机械研磨则会使样品表面出现凹凸不平。因此,晶粒细化后样品的表面质量也会对其耐腐蚀性能产生较大的影响。T. Balusamy 等^[43]采用 SMAT 工艺细化 304SS,结果发现在 0.6 mol/L NaCl 溶液中,具有较大表面粗糙度的超细晶样品耐腐蚀能力变差,而且使用更大的直径和更长的处理时间会导致表面粗糙度以及缺陷的增加,从而使耐腐蚀性进一步下降。类似的结论在其他合金系统中也有相关的报道^[44-47]。例如 Laleh 等^[44]研究了 SMAT 工艺参数和微观组织及其耐腐

蚀性能的关系,发现较小直径的钢球(2 mm)有利于大大降低腐蚀速率(由原始样品的 0.084 mm/a 降低为 0.005 2 mm/a),而较大直径钢球会增加样品的表面缺陷及表面粗糙度,大大加快腐蚀速率。

3 存在问题及未来发展

为了满足现代工业中大尺寸结构件的要求,研发具有足够尺寸及较好耐腐蚀性能的超细晶奥氏体不锈钢材料是目前不锈钢研究领域的重点,也是扩大高强度超级不锈钢实际应用领域的有效途径。由于采用细晶强化不锈钢影响了不锈钢的“不锈”性能。其中,影响最为显著的因素包括超细尺度晶粒、相变夹杂、晶界类型转变以及表面质量变化等。细化晶粒有利于改善材料的耐蚀性能。相变会促进电偶腐蚀的发生,从而加剧多相不锈钢材料的腐蚀状况。高比例的 CSL 晶界可以大大改善不锈钢材料的抗晶间腐蚀能力,而细化工艺后恶化的表面质量会加速其钝化膜地溶解速率。

目前,纳米/超细晶不锈钢材料耐腐蚀性能的研究中,主要存在以下几个问题及发展方向:

(1) 纳米/超细晶奥氏体不锈钢材料的腐蚀性能主要取决于钝化膜的形成和质量,但对钝化膜的成分、形成机理、结构等的研究还停留在推理阶段,未能利用试验手段对其进行深入分析和验证。未来需要进一步深入分析纳米/超细晶奥氏体不锈钢的腐蚀及钝化机制,为改善其耐腐蚀性提供理论基础;

(2) 对高温等严苛环境下,纳米/超细晶奥氏体不锈钢材料的腐蚀机制及氧化行为的研究很少。对于高温强酸强碱等极端条件下,需要对纳米/超细晶不锈钢的腐蚀性能展开研究,进一步扩大其应用领域;

(3) 适用于奥氏体不锈钢材料的超细尺度微观组织与腐蚀性能的耦合关系未能有效建立,还需要进一步研究,从而为改善纳米/超细晶不锈钢的耐腐蚀性提供研究方向。

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