

A Review on Tensile, Microhardness and Microstructural Properties of Aluminum AA2219 Alloy Joints Obtained by Friction Stir Welding Process

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Abstract

A high strength of aluminium alloy is entitled AA2219. It has been majorly used in aircraft and the construction of cryogenic fuel tanks in missiles. A novel solid-state joining technique named as friction stir welding (FSW) has been proven to be capable of joining advanced materials like AA2219 alloy with better quality of joints. Various researchers are studied the joint properties of FSW and reported better corrosion resistance, natural heat protection, microstructural and mechanical properties. This review study emphasizes various joint characteristics of AA2219 alloy, such as tensile, microhardness, and microstructural characteristics of joints are obtained by FSW.

Keywords: AA2219 aluminum alloy; FSW; Tensile properties; Hardness; Microstructure; Joint characterization.

1 Introduction

In the aircraft industry, utilizing light weight metals like aluminium and its alloys reduces overall weight. The 2000 series aluminium alloys are extensively used in aircraft and automotive applications. AA2219 is recognised for its max strength ratio and resistance to stress corrosion cracking. A set of alloys designated as AA2219-T87 is frequently used in missiles, including NASA's spacecraft [1-2]. Strong metallic alloys are challenging to join by conventional fusion welding techniques. It can be welded using this environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technique [3-6]. When joining metals by using traditional welding methods, flaws are arising such as fractures, porosity, fine micro-structure, and the production of brittle intermetallic compounds may occur [7-9]. Friction stir welding (FSW) can produce a high-quality joints and defect-free welds [10-12]. Wide industrial utilization are considering copper, due to its high thermal and electrical

conductivity, great chemical stability, toughness, and plasticity. FSW is becoming a viable alternative to fusion welding for joining metallic materials, Lee et al [13]. The very first researcher conducted research on copper's FSW. When compared to base metal, the nugget region grain size is fine and evenly distributed, Ashwath et al [14]. FSW joints work hardening behaviour was investigated. With increase welding speed, in the stir region and heat affected region the grain size are decreased. Lin et al [15]. When the qualities of pure copper plate friction stir welded with tungsten inert gas (TIG) were evaluated, it was discovered that FSW of copper created a more effective weld than TIG. Further, Noor et al [16] reported AA2219 and AA7475 dissimilar aluminum alloy and observed that in nugget zone there is a lot of grain refinement. Kamalbabu et al [17] reported FSW study on AA2219/PP and evidenced irregular shape area and a minor interfacial irregularity may be observed in the thread hole of the hybrid AA2219/PP interface. Anderson et al. [18] 2219-T87

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a combination of plasticity induced crack and uneven crack propagation rates of the base material were related to roughness-induced cracks. The change in crack development was not due to residual stresses. Srinivasan et al. [19] investigated a study on AA2219-T87 the enhancing structure and provides in the nugget areas are dissolving and coarsening. Moreover, Chen et al. [20] reported FSW study on AA2219-T62 is a thermal-mechanical technique that does not require bulk fusion and can be used to join all common aluminium alloys without causing liquid cracking, solidification cracking, porosity and other problems. The effect of variations in numerous operating conditions, like surface oxide, upon its joint's characteristics can be determined. Fig.1 shows the applications for FSW in various industries.

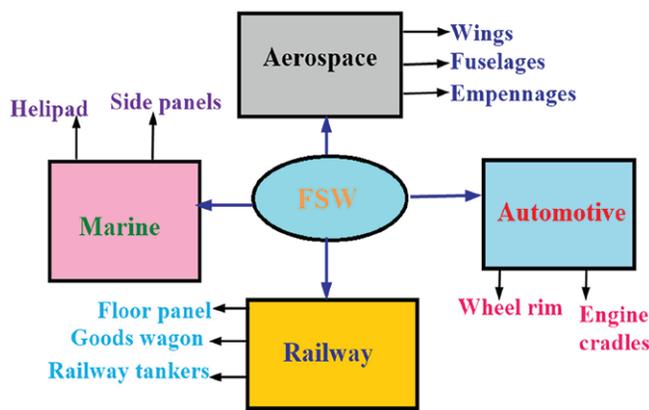


Figure 1: Industrial applications of FSW

2.0 Brief Review of FSW

The Welding Institute (TWI) developed the FSW process in 1991. Like traditional welding, the FSW process does not require melting of base metals, which saves energy [21]. FSW acts on the simple and direct concept, as shown in Fig.2.

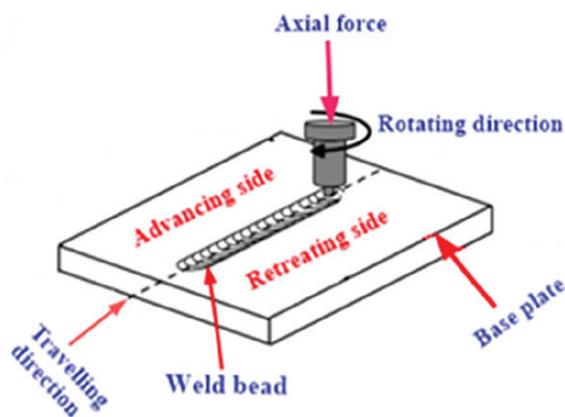


Figure 2: Principle of FSW

Rotating tool with a shoulder and pin is connected into the plates' abutting edges and moving throughout the joint line. It has a number of benefits. Furthermore, the procedure does not necessitate the use of filler wire, gas shielding, or expert technicians. There is no smoke, porosity, spatter, or significant post-weld shrinkage using the FSW method. There is no usage of a shielding gas or flux [22].

3.0 FSW Tool

Specially FSW tools consist of two different sections, such as shoulder and pin, as shown in Fig.3. The pin is plunged into the base plate and shoulder. It upholds along with the work surface. This shoulder contact generates frictional heat as the pin "stirs" the material is to be welded. The typical shapes for tool pin may be triangular, cylindrical, square, or conical [23].

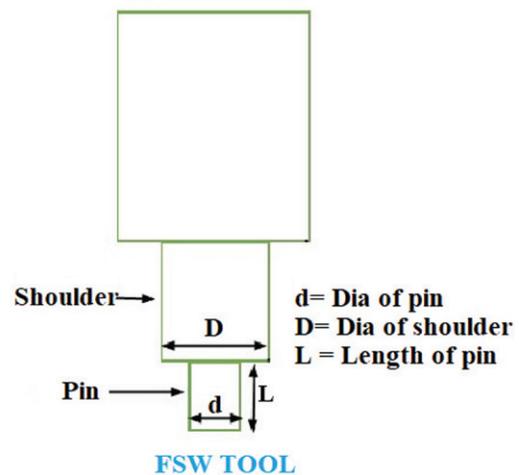


Figure 3: FSW tool nomenclature

4.0 Microhardness characterization

Research on FSW microhardness measurements for various weld joints is reviewed and evidence on reinforcement dispersion and improvement of many phases is provided. Observed that different microhardness profile have been observed. Arora et al [24] suggested a study on AA2219 dissolution of precipitates detected in the thermo-mechanically affected region (TMAZ), while in the heat-affected zone (HAZ), harden (rough) precipitate has observed. Koilraj et al. [25] reported 2219 T87 and AA5083 H321 at the weld nugget region undisturbed base material,

there was a gradual decrease in hardness on the advancing side. The microhardness of the weld nuggets region is significantly lower than parent material. Noor et al. [16] reported a FSW study on AA2219 and AA7475 and suggested that there is a definite contact between the TMAZ and stir region. The material flows downward in nugget region, and that grains are elongated in advancing side are under more stress than RS. Various traverse speed along with distance have been considered for plotting the hardness profile as shown in Fig.4.

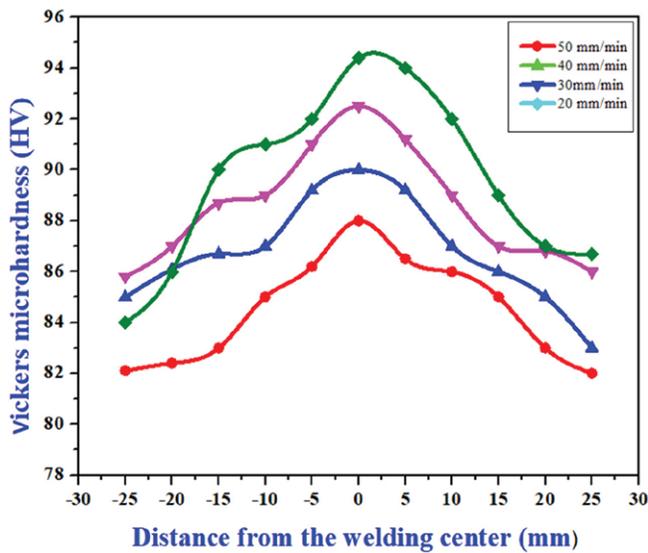


Figure 4: Microhardness variations based on traverse speed

5.0 Tensile Strengths

FSW of tensile characteristics for various weld joints are studied and here are explained a few of them. Initially Liu et al. [15] reported zigzag line had no effect on cracked particles scattered in a dispersion and irregular pattern across the microstructure, the FSW joints made of AA2219 alloy. Further Chen et al. [20] studied FSW properties of AA2219 alloys are significantly impacted by the initial surface qualities. The yield strength is maximum in nugget region than the TMAZ. The characteristics of FSW of aluminum, magnesium, silicon alloy joints were compared and reported to fail at kissing bond in the nugget region/TMAZ. Similarly, Tao et al. [26] suggested that kissing bond had any effect on ultimate tensile strength (UTS). The grains are equally dispersed in the stir region and elongated in TMAZ. They also mentioned that whether the zigzag line affected the failure mode of FSW joints were dependent on two factors. The first was a continuous zigzag line with minimal disturbance. The other was a hardness profile that was fairly uniform, with no noticeable lower hardness zone. Only if both term is fulfilled then a zigzag line fracture occurs during tension.

6.0 Microstructure Characterization

Many researchers are carried out FSW study on AA2219 alloy and broadly explained about changes in microstructural region such as nugget region, TMAZ, HAZ and parent

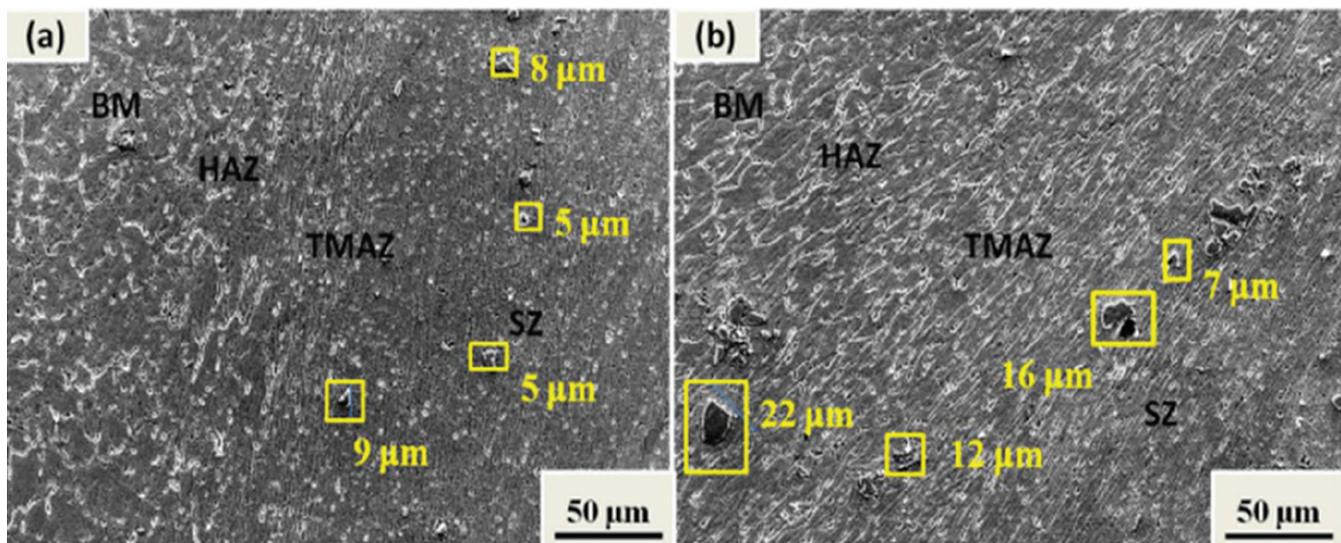


Figure 5: SEM micrograph of various zones are shown on the (a) advancing (b) retreating side respectively [2]

material. So here are discussed a few of the researcher's opinion on microstructure characterization.

Li et al. [27] reported FSW study of AA2219-T6 and observed, the pin tool with respect to their shoulder diameter dominate the microstructural deformation of weld formation. The main function of the centered non-rotational shoulder is to keep plasticized materials out of the stirring zone and to maintain the weld's contour. The rotation speed rises from 500 to 1000 rpm, the weld width at the upper surface of the weld almost same. Further, Arora et al. [24] explained a study on AA2219. The nugget zone is made up of fine equiaxed grains that dynamically recrystallize, and it was discovered that the nugget zone has a higher hardness than the base material. Fig.5 shows SEM micrograph of various zones are shown on the advancing and retreating side respectively. Koilaraj et al. [25] reported a study on AA2219 alloy. There were a lot of precipitate second phase intermetallic particles in the basic materials. On the advancing side, TMAZ causes strongly irregular grains in TMAZ/HAZ, with little change in grain structure in the weld nugget region.

Moreover, Yanying et al. [28] investigated the high strength AA2219 alloy and improves the properties in nugget region. The fracture occurs at TMAZ. Arunkumar et al. [29] discussed CuAl_2 dissolution precipitates and separates the high density of grain boundaries, resulting in sound joint quality. Many studies have shown that welding input parameter are the major effect on the weld joint properties.

7.0 Conclusion

In this review, for AA2219 and its various tempering conditions of FSW were effectively utilized. FSW has been proven to an innovative method for improving grain structure. The grain structure at the nugget region was characterised by fine and uniform distribution of particles. Joints created at various traverse speeds exhibit different macrostructures. There are various traverse speeds that results in defect-free sound joints. Microstructural zone are classified into nugget region, TMAZ, HAZ and parent material. The grains are equally dispersed throughout the nugget and thermo mechanical affected region.

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