

QP980 钢脉冲激光-TIG 复合搭接焊接头的成形及力学性能

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摘要 基于铜基焊丝 CuSi3Mn1, 采用钨极惰性气体保护焊(TIG)和激光-TIG 复合焊方法开展了 QP980 钢搭接焊接头的成形、组织与力学性能研究。结果表明: 搭接焊接头由熔焊区、钎焊区和热影响区组成; TIG 焊接头只有上基板发生部分熔化, 而激光-TIG 复合焊接头的上下基板均发生了部分熔化; 随着电弧电流增大, 两种接头的接触角均减小, 钎焊区长度均增加; 脉冲激光的加入可以进一步降低接头的接触角, 增加钎焊区长度; 接头熔焊区以铜基体为主, 内部分布着富铁小岛和富铁颗粒; 钎焊区的铜基体中分布着少量富铁颗粒。随着电弧电流增加, TIG 和激光-TIG 复合焊接头的拉剪载荷均增加; 在相同的电弧电流下, 激光-TIG 复合焊接头的拉剪载荷更高; 当激光功率为 240 W、电弧电流为 140 A 时, 搭接焊接头的拉剪载荷可达 12.4 kN; 接头断裂位置均位于焊缝处, 断裂路径由钎焊区扩展到熔焊区。本文研究表明, 增加钎焊区长度能够强化接头性能, 接头中的强化相为富铁小岛和富铁颗粒。

关键词 激光技术; QP980 钢; 接触角; 激光-TIG 复合焊; 搭接连续焊; 接头成形

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1 引言

为应对全球变暖, 汽车轻量化成为必然趋势。先进高强钢(AHSSs)不但可以实现汽车轻量化, 而且在提高汽车安全性等方面具有显著优势。以 QP980 钢为代表的第三代 AHSSs 适用于制造各种汽车零部件, 如交叉构件、纵梁、B 柱增强件、基梁、保险杠增强件^[1]。焊接是汽车结构的重要连接方式, 因此, 有必要开发出与 QP980 钢配套的先进焊接技术。

目前, 国内外对 QP980 钢焊接的研究主要集中在激光对接焊上^[2-5]。文献表明, 激光对接焊的接头可以达到母材强度, 虽然存在较窄的软化区, 但断裂位置在母材上。Xue 等^[5]通过模拟和实验研究, 进一步解释了拉伸过程中亚临界热影响区既具有约束作用, 又可使应变集中随着应力的增加由亚临界热影响区向母材转移。一些学者也研究了其他的焊接方法, 如搅拌摩擦对接焊^[6]、电阻点焊^[7-10]和激光点焊^[11-12], 但由于热影响区软化、接头应力集中和成形缺陷等问题, 断裂位置为软化区或焊缝区。Fan 等^[8]在研究 QP980 钢的电阻点焊时发现熔化区气孔缺陷是其主要缺陷, 熔核两侧有明显的裂纹。Ramachandran 等^[10]通过实验对比了单脉冲和双脉冲点焊工艺, 结果表明, 单脉冲点焊接头断口呈现为沿熔合边界的脆性断裂, 而双脉冲点焊接

头断口呈现沿粗晶区的混合模式破坏。Zhang 等^[11]研究了 QP980 钢远程激光点焊接头的力学性能和断裂行为, 结果发现断裂位置均在焊缝上, 焊缝的组织形貌与力学性能具有一致性。搭接连续焊是车身结构生产中的一种常见焊接形式^[13-14], 但目前针对 QP980 钢薄板搭接连续焊的研究仍比较缺乏, 且主要集中于冷金属过渡电弧焊(CMT)上^[15-16]。姜喜铭^[16]研究了 QP980 钢的 CMT 搭接连续焊接(采用 GHS-90 焊丝), 结果显示: 当焊接速度为 370 mm/min 时, 接头成形良好, 但接头的接触角较大, 导致接头的余高较大; 由于存在亚临界热影响区回火软化效应, 接头的断裂位置位于软化区。

针对 QP980 钢电弧搭接连续焊存在的接头润湿性差以及热影响区软化的问题, 笔者提出了激光-钨极惰性气体保护焊(TIG)复合焊技术+低熔点焊丝的全新焊接方法。激光-TIG 复合焊接技术具有热输入低、改善接头润湿性^[17-19]和成形^[20-21]的优点。采用低熔点的 CuSi3Mn1 作为焊丝可以有效降低焊接热输入, 从而在较低的电弧电流下降低热影响区的软化程度, 并使接头具有良好的润湿性。本文对比分析了 QP980 薄板 TIG、激光-TIG 复合搭接连续焊接头的形貌, 研究了接头的组织及性能强化机制, 为推进 QP980 激光-TIG 复合搭接焊技术的应用提供了理论和技术基础。

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2 试验材料及方法

采用尺寸为 100 mm×80 mm×1 mm 的 QP980 钢试样进行焊接试验,表 1 为 QP980 钢的化学成分。填充材料选用直径为 0.9 mm 的 CuSi3Mn1 焊丝,表 2 为 CuSi3Mn1 焊丝的化学成分。QP980 钢的抗拉强度为 1120 MPa;CuSi3Mn1 焊丝的抗拉强度为 374 MPa,硬度为 89.6 HB。焊接前先分别用丙酮和砂布对母材进行脱脂和研磨处理。

表 1 QP980 钢的化学成分

Table 1 Chemical composition of QP980 steel

Element	Mass fraction / %
Fe	Bal.
C	0.2.
Mn	2.41
Si	1.31
Ni	0.08
Al	0.06
S	<0.03
P	<0.01

表 2 铜基焊丝的化学成分

Table 2 Chemical composition Cu-base filler wire

Element	Mass fraction / %
Cu	Bal.
Si	2.9
Mn	0.8
Fe	0.02

采用搭接焊的方式对 QP980 钢进行焊接。图 1(a) 为激光-TIG 复合焊接试验装置示意图。采用激光在前、电弧在后的焊接模式,焊接方向如图 1 所示。激光电源选用 Nd:YAG 脉冲固体激光器,其平均功率为 800 W,聚焦光斑直径约为 0.6 mm。采用 TIG 氩弧焊机(OTC AVP-500P)作为电弧热源,该焊机配有 TIG

送丝机(DAIHEN HC-71D)。上下基板搭接接触部分的长度为 10 mm,无间隙。激光束垂直作用于基板, TIG 电极与基板、激光束之间的夹角均为 45°。焊丝与基材之间的角度为 25°。钨电极尖端距上基板 2 mm,钨电极尖端与激光束的水平距离为 1 mm。采用纯度为 99.99% 的氩气(Ar)作为保护气体,气体流量为 15 L/min。TIG 的电流模式选择直流;脉冲激光的脉宽设置为 3 ms,频率设置为 34 Hz。焊接参数如表 3 所示,其中焊接速度(W_v)固定,以电弧电流(I)和激光功率(P_L)为主要变量,送丝速度(V_f)随 TIG 电弧电流(I)的变化而变化。

表 3 焊接参数

Table 3 Welding parameters

Sample number	P_L / W	I / A	W_v / (mm·min ⁻¹)	V_f / (mm·min ⁻¹)
S1		100	600	3000
S2		110	600	3500
S3		120	600	4000
S4		130	600	4500
S5		140	600	5000
S6	240	100	600	3000
S7	240	110	600	3500
S8	240	120	600	4000
S9	240	130	600	4500
S10	240	140	600	5000

焊接接头的横截面打磨抛光后用硝酸乙醇溶液(硝酸和乙醇按体积比为 4:96 配制而成)进行腐蚀处理。采用配备有能谱仪(EDS)的扫描电子显微镜(SEM, ZEISS SUPARR 55)对接头的微观组织进行观察。采用电子显微硬度计测试接头的显微硬度,使用金刚石菱形压头施加 9.8 N 的压力,保载时间为 10 s。拉伸试验如图 1(b)所示,采用 DN300 万能试验机,以 1 mm/min 的恒定速度对各焊接参数下的试样进行 3 次拉伸测试。

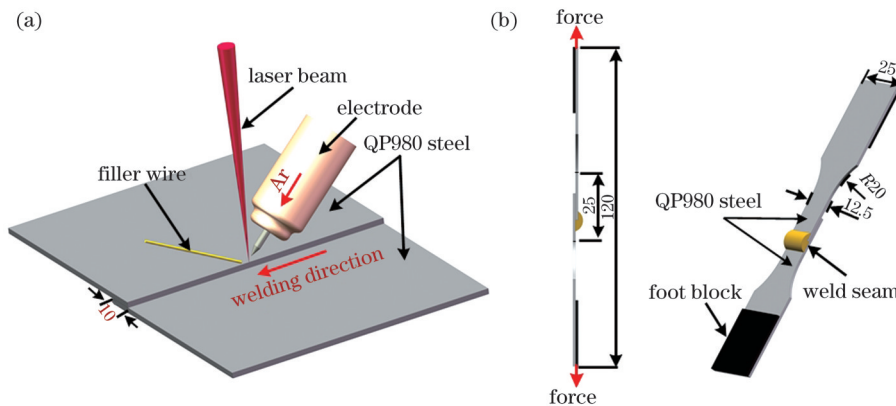


图 1 焊接及拉伸测试示意图。(a)焊接示意图;(b)拉伸测试示意图

Fig. 1 Welding and tensile test schematics. (a) Welding schematic; (b) tensile test schematic

3 结果与讨论

3.1 接头成形

图 2 为 TIG 和激光-TIG 复合搭接连续焊接头横截面的对比图。上下基板会存在一定的间隙,而填充金属的熔点大大低于母材,因此焊接过程中填充金属会在毛细作用下进入间隙(定义为钎焊区)。在 TIG 焊接条件下,电弧能量密度小,大部分电弧能量用于熔化焊丝,因此接头具有上基板部分熔化、接触角大和润湿性差的特征。引入脉冲激光后,激光在下基板上形成“匙孔”,因此复合焊接接头的上下基板均发生部分熔化。以激光-TIG 复合焊的接头特征为例,接触角

(θ)、熔覆金属铺展长度(S)和钎焊区长度(W)的尺寸定义如图 3 所示。接头的焊缝熔化部分定义为熔焊区(zone 1)。钎焊区定义为 zone 2。图 4 为接头尺寸特征测量结果,可见:随着电弧电流增加,两种焊接接头的 θ 均呈减小的趋势, S 和 W 均呈增大的趋势。随着电弧电流增加,熔深逐渐增加,直至焊透下基板。在相同的电弧电流下,激光-TIG 复合焊接头的 θ 小于 TIG 焊接头的 θ , S 和 W 均大于 TIG 焊接头的 S 和 W 。这一结果表明激光-TIG 复合焊接头的润湿性好于 TIG 焊接头。激光具有减小 θ 、增大 S 和 W 的作用。激光的加入提高了电弧能量的利用率,因此激光-TIG 复合焊接熔池的中心温度更高。熔覆金属的润湿性随着温度

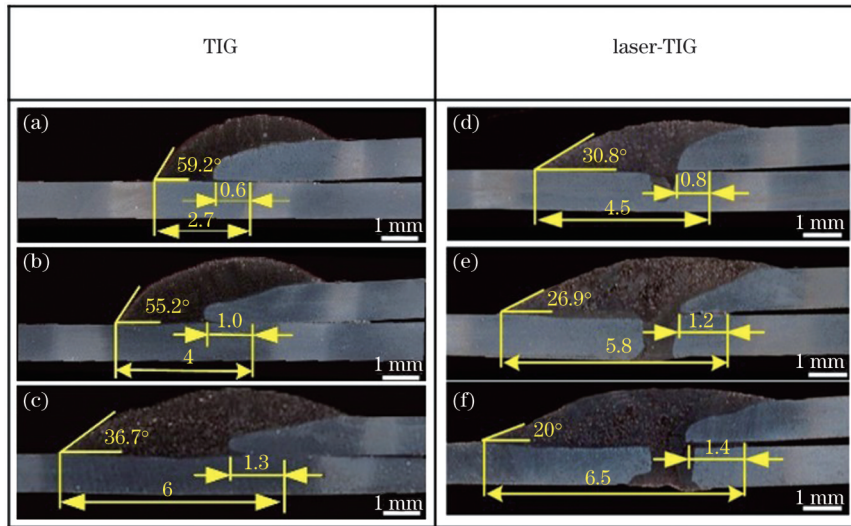


图 2 TIG 和激光-TIG 复合焊接头截面的对比图。(a) S1; (b) S3; (c) S5; (d) S6; (e) S8; (f) S10

Fig. 2 Comparison of TIG and laser-TIG hybrid welded joints cross-sections. (a) S1; (b) S3; (c) S5; (d) S6; (e) S8; (f) S10

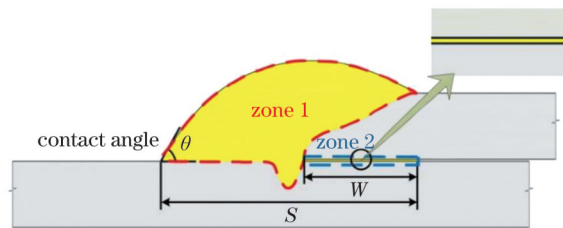


图 3 激光-TIG 复合焊接接头示意图

Fig. 3 Schematic of laser-TIG hybrid welded joint

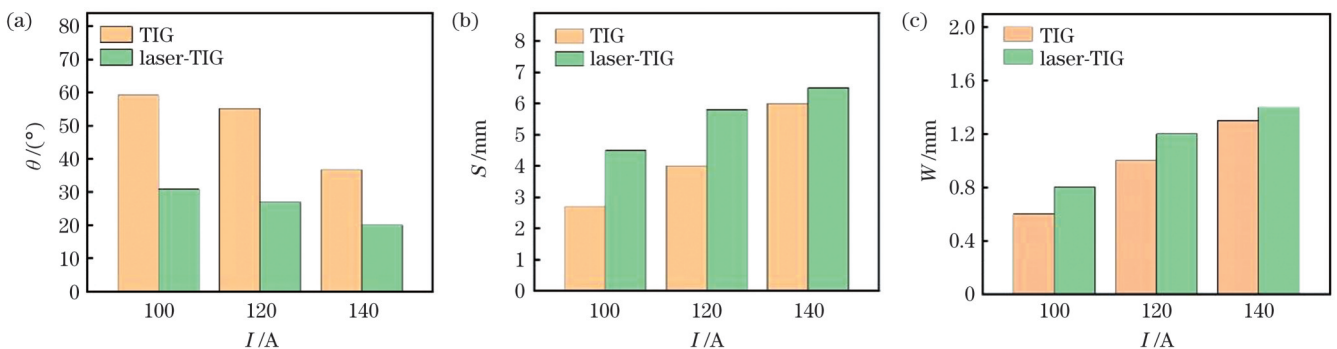


图 4 不同焊接电流下的接头尺寸变化。(a) 接触角; (b) 铺展长度; (c) 钎焊区长度

Fig. 4 Joint size change under different welding currents. (a) Contact angle; (b) spread length; (c) brazing zone length

的升高而增加,因此接头的 θ 减小、 S 和 W 增大。

3.2 接头的微观结构

图 5 为 S10 接头各区域的显微组织。QP980 母材由板条马氏体、铁素体和奥氏体组成。由图 5(b) 可以看出,熔焊区的微观组织以铜基组织为主,小岛状组织分布其中。热影响区包含三个区域,依次为超临界热影响区、临界热影响区和亚临界热影响区。由于在高温区停留的时间不同,马氏体长大

的程度不同,所以在超临界热影响区观察到了晶粒大小不同的马氏体,晶粒粗大的区域为粗晶区,如图 5(c) 所示,晶粒细小的区域为细晶区,如图 5(d) 所示。临界热影响区局部区域的奥氏体不完全化使得临界热影响区包含残余奥氏体、马氏体和铁素体。亚临界热影响区没有奥氏体化,所以主要由回火马氏体(原马氏体析出碳化物)、铁素体和残余奥氏体组成。

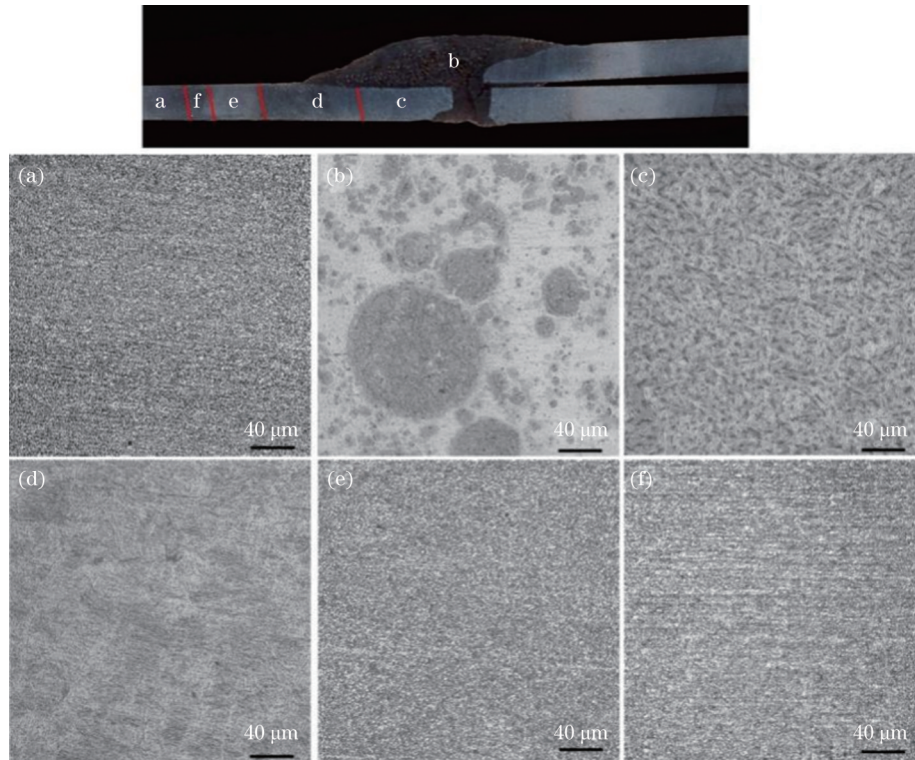


图 5 激光-TIG 复合焊接头的微观组织。(a)母材;(b)熔焊区;(c)粗晶区;(d)细晶区;(e)临界热影响区;(f)亚临界热影响区

Fig. 5 Microstructures of laser-TIG hybrid welded joint. (a) Base material (BM); (b) fusion welding zone; (c) coarse-grain zone; (d) fine-grain zone; (e) intercritical heat-affected zone (HAZ); (f) subcritical HAZ

图 6(a) 为试样 S10 在扫描电镜下的焊缝截面宏观图及区域划分示意图。表 4 为不同相的元素含量。选取图 6(b) 所示的钎焊区中间位置进行放大观察,可见钢/铜钎焊区有明显的金属间化合物(IMC)层。IMC 层的形成表明钎焊区发生了冶金反应。点 1 和点 2 的扫描结果表明钎焊区的析出相为富铁颗粒,元素分析结果表明该相为 Fe-Si 相。图 6(c) 为富铁颗粒在 IMC 层析出的过程。其过程为:铜液向界面层渗透,如白色箭头所示;富铁颗粒向铜液方向生长,如绿色箭头所示;最终富铁颗粒脱离界面层向钎焊区中间迁移。富铁颗粒分布在铜基钎焊区,钎焊区在第二相强化效应下得以强化。

接头熔焊区存在大量的富铁小岛和富铁颗粒,如图 6(d) 所示。由点 3 所示的扫描结果可知富铁小岛主要为 Fe-Si 相。焊缝中存在的大量富铁小岛使得焊缝中的铜基填充金属由于第二相强化效应而强化。熔焊区的界面如图 6(e) 所示,可以看到靠近界面区有大量

的富铁小岛和富铁颗粒,界面附近有大量的枝晶。图 6(e) 中的紫色箭头表示熔融铁融入液态铜,黄色箭头表示液态铜渗透到熔融铁中。结果表明,随着熔融铁和液态铜的相互作用,凝固过程中先析出大量铁枝晶,铁枝晶在液态铜内部结晶,通过形成枝晶层以及 IMC 层使熔焊区界面得到强化。

图 7 为激光-TIG 复合焊接头形成过程示意图。焊接过程中,在电弧等离子体压力和熔滴的撞击作用下,熔池上表面呈凹形。在熔池内部,部分熔融 QP980 钢被熔池内的强对流分离,并移动到熔池中心,然后与周围熔融的铜混合,在熔池强对流作用下形成混合熔体。对于较大块的熔融 QP980 钢而言,由于其熔点高于铜,且熔池冷却速度较快,因而熔融 QP980 钢优先凝固,并在与周围熔融铜^[22]完全混合之前形成富铁小岛的宏观偏析。对于较小的熔融 QP980 钢而言,其形成的富铁熔体以小球形存在于富铜基体中,并优先凝固形成富铁颗粒。在熔池中,未分离和严重变形的熔

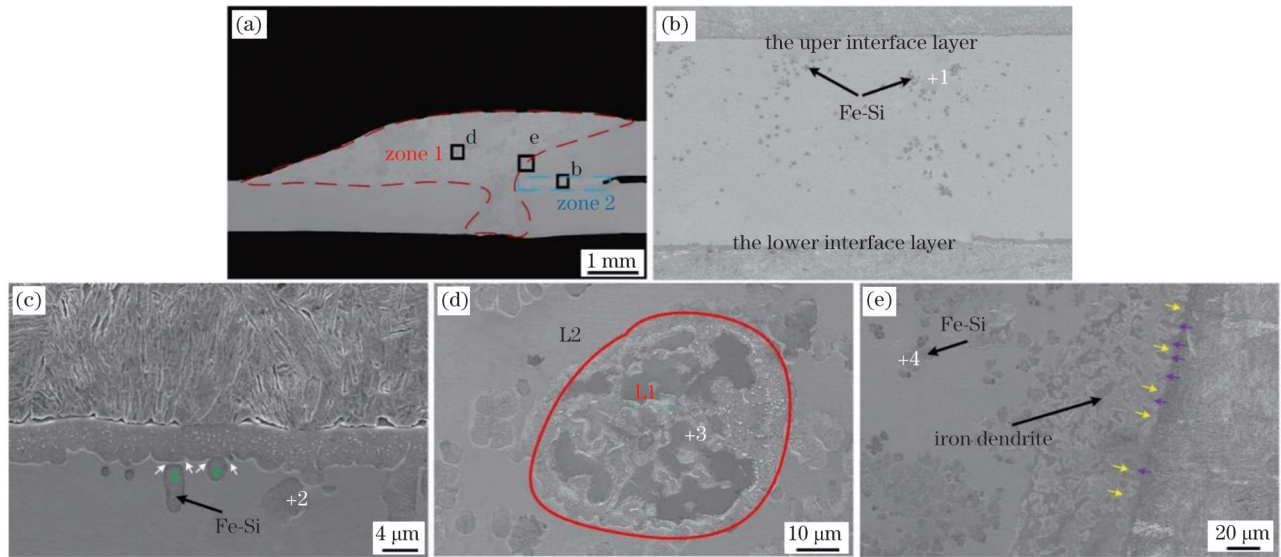


图 6 扫描电镜下 S10 接头焊缝的宏观图及区域放大图。(a)焊缝的宏观图；(b)钎焊区；(c)钎焊区上界面放大图；(d)熔焊区放大图；(e)熔焊区界面放大图

Fig. 6 Macroscopic view and regional magnification views of S10 weld captured by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). (a) Macro picture of the weld; (b) brazing zone; (c) enlarged view of the upper interface of the brazing zone; (d) enlarge view of fusion welding zone; (e) enlarged view of fusion welding zone interface

表 4 图 6 中标记相的化学成分

Table 4 Chemical composition of marked phases in Fig.6

Point number in Fig. 6	Atomic fraction / %		
	Fe	Cu	Si
1	79.37	3.98	16.64
2	80.32	2.88	16.79
3	78.58	3.96	17.45
4	80.16	7.98	11.85

融 QP980 钢残留在未熔融的母材上,由于 QP980 钢的快速冷却形成了一层铁树枝晶层。基板与熔池不断地发生元素扩散行为,因此,下基板位于熔池周围的表面和钎焊区形成了薄薄的界面层。在整个过程中,接头中发生 Fe 元素和 Cu 元素互相扩散,因此接头的熔焊区和钎焊区均发生了固溶强化。

以焊缝中心为原点,分别测量上下基板的显微硬度,测量结果如图 8 所示。可以看到不同区域的硬度差异明显。焊缝中心的硬度较低,这是由于采用铜基

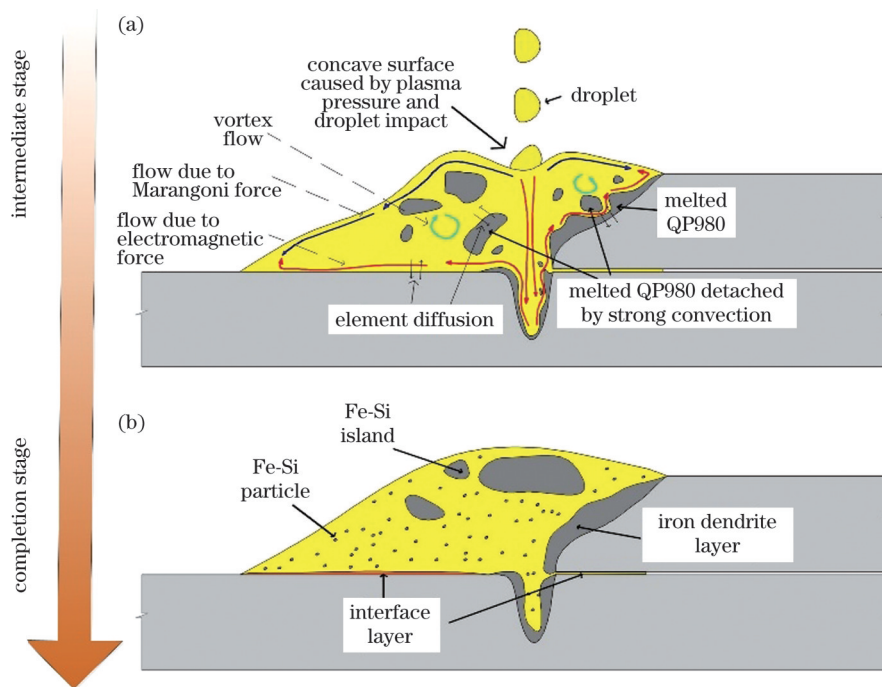


图 7 激光-TIG 复合焊接接头形成过程示意图。(a)焊接过程中；(b)焊接结束

Fig. 7 Schematics of laser-TIG hybrid welded joint formation. (a) During the welding process; (b) welding completion

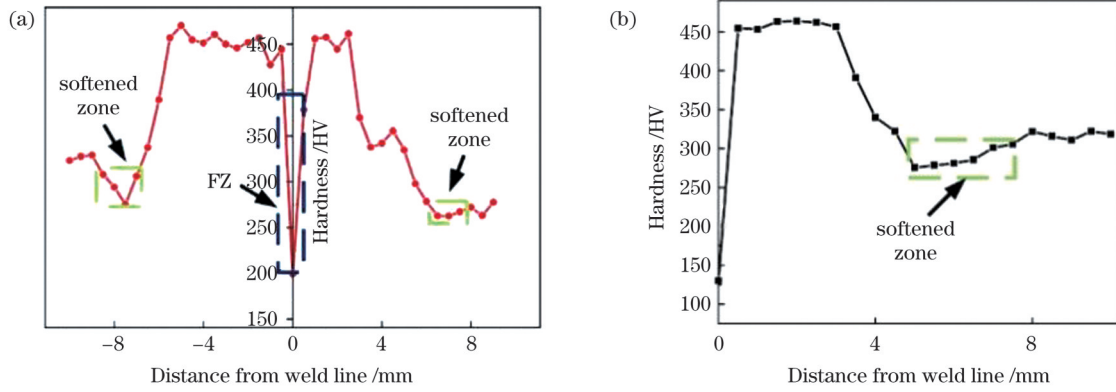


图 8 焊接接头的硬度分布曲线。(a)下基板;(b)上基板

Fig. 8 Hardness distribution curves across the welded joint. (a) Lower sheet; (b) upper sheet

焊丝焊接,焊缝以较软的铜基组织为主。远离焊缝的热影响区硬度先升高而后降低,这是由于超临界热影响区中存在由残余奥氏体转变而成的大量马氏体,因而硬度较高,而软化区由于生成了回火马氏体而出现硬度降低。

3.3 接头的力学性能

图 9 为拉伸试验结果。从拉剪载荷曲线中可以看出,在相同的电弧电流下,激光-TIG 复合焊接头的拉剪载荷更高。随着电弧电流增加,TIG 和激光-TIG 复合焊接头的拉剪载荷均增大,但拉剪载荷的差距在逐渐减小。在大电流下,激光-TIG 复合焊对接头强度的提升不再具有明显优势。当激光功率为 240 W、电流为 140 A 时,试样 S10 的拉剪载荷为 12.4 kN。

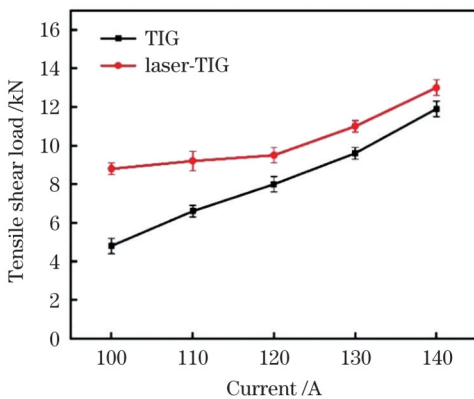


图 9 拉剪测试结果

Fig. 9 Tensile shear test results

图 10 为接头的断裂位置和断裂路径图。所有接头均断裂于焊缝区域。由于重叠搭接的特殊形状,在试样侧边添加了垫块[如图 1(b)所示],以尽可能确保同轴拉伸。然而,在试验中观察到了试样倾斜。首先,在钎焊区的尾部,较大的应力集中引起裂纹开裂,之后裂纹沿着钎焊区向熔焊区扩展,最终受试样宏观倾斜的影响,断裂路径偏向熔焊区。在相关的搭接焊接头拉伸试验中也观察到了相同的倾斜现象和断裂路径^[23]。

裂纹起始于钎焊区,因此钎焊区的成形直接关系到接头的力学性能。接头的强化机制分析如下:随着

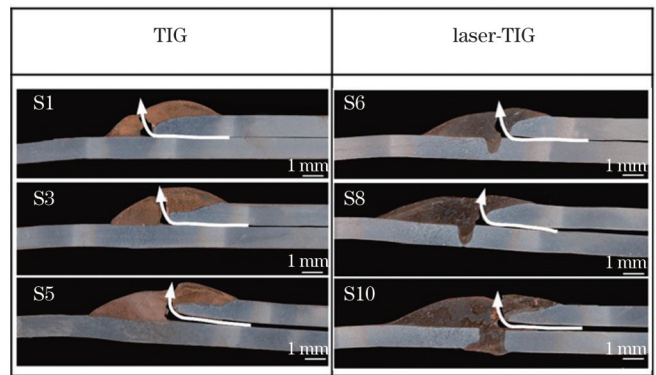


图 10 断裂位置和断裂路径图

Fig. 10 Fracture location and path diagrams

电弧电流从 100 A 增大到 140 A,热输入增加,接头的润湿性提高,钎焊区长度 W 呈增大趋势。 W 的增大使得钎焊区的承载面积增加,因此接头的拉剪载荷增大。在拉伸过程中,接头偏转导致钎焊区应力集中的地方更易开裂,较长的 W 有限制接头偏转的作用。同时,增加电弧电流可使基板熔化量增加,导致接头中的强化相(富铁小岛和富铁颗粒)增多。因此,随着电弧电流增大,接头的拉剪载荷呈现上升趋势。引入脉冲激光后,电弧受到吸引和压缩,能量更集中,利用率提高^[24],接头的润湿性增加;激光的搅拌作用进一步促进熔覆金属铺展,接头钎焊区长度 W 增大;同时,基板的熔化量增加,熔焊区和钎焊区的强化相增多^[25]。因此,在相同的电弧电流下,激光-TIG 复合焊接头的力学性能优于 TIG 接头。电弧电流与脉冲激光热源的位置直接关系到激光对电弧的吸引和压缩作用^[26]。在本试验中,钨极与激光的相对位置固定,当电弧电流超过最佳参数后,随着电弧电流增加,激光对电弧的吸引和压缩作用减弱^[26];随着电弧电流进一步增大,激光对熔池温度的提升作用减弱,激光对接头润湿性的改善作用越来越小,进而接头性能的提升幅度越来越小。在较大的电弧电流下,钎焊区长度 W 的差距减小,因此接头性能的差距减小。激光的加入一方面能有效降低润湿角,获得成形良好的焊接接头,使接头更加符合工业应用需求;另一方面,激光的加入会在 100~140 A 的电弧电流参数

范围内大幅提升搭接焊接头的抗剪性能,拓宽工艺参数窗口,同样具有实际意义。以上分析对于后续进一步利用激光-TIG控制接头成形质量进而提升QP980钢搭接焊接头的性能具有一定的指导意义。

4 结 论

笔者提出了激光-TIG复合焊+低熔点焊丝的全新焊接方法,并开展了QP980搭接焊接头成形、组织和强化机制的研究。接头由熔焊区、钎焊区和热影响区组成。对于TIG焊,接头的上基板发生部分熔化;引入脉冲激光后,激光-TIG复合焊接头的上下基板均发生部分熔化。随着电弧电流增加,两种接头的接触角降低,钎焊区长度增加。由于加入了激光,激光-TIG复合焊接头的接触角进一步降低,并且钎焊区长度进一步增加。

熔焊区的微观组织以铜基组织为主,富铁小岛和富铁颗粒分布其中;钎焊区分布着富铁颗粒。这些表明强化相为Fe-Si相。接头软化发生在亚临界热影响区,该区域的微观组织为回火马氏体、铁素体和残余奥氏体。

随着电弧电流增加,两种接头的拉剪载荷均增大。在相同的电弧电流下,激光-TIG复合焊接头的拉剪载荷更高。所有接头均断裂在焊缝处,断裂路径由钎焊区扩展至熔焊区,钎焊区长度和接头强度具有一致性。增大电弧电流和引入激光均会增加钎焊区长度,提高接头的力学性能。随着电弧电流增加,钎焊区长度的差距减小,因此两种接头力学性能的差距减小。

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Forming and Mechanical Properties of Pulsed Laser-TIG Hybrid Lap Welded Joints for QP980 Steel

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Abstract

Objective Lightweight cars have become an inevitable trend for coping with global warming. A large number of advanced high-strength steels (AHSSs) have been developed to improve lightweight, safety, and other aspects. Third-generation AHSSs, represented by QP980 steel, are suitable for a variety of automotive parts, such as cross members, stringers, B-pillar reinforcements, base beams, and bumper reinforcements. Welding is an important joining method used in the production of automotive structures. Therefore, it is necessary to develop advanced welding technology for QP980 steel.

Methods A new welding method using laser-TIG hybrid welding technology and a low-melting-point welding wire was developed. The lap contact portion of the substrate was 10 mm without gaps. The laser beam acted vertically on the substrate, and the angle between the TIG welding wire and substrate or laser beam was 45° . The welding wire was placed 25° away from the substrate. Ar (99.99% purity) was used as a shielding gas. The TIG current was used in DC mode. A scanning electron microscope equipped with an energy spectrometer was used to observe the microstructures and fracture surface morphologies of the welded joints. An electron microhardness tester was used to determine the microhardness variations in the joint. The sample tensile parameters were tested three times using a DN300 universal testing machine at a constant speed of 1 mm/min.

Results and Discussions For the same arc current, the contact angle θ is smaller for laser-TIG welded joints than for TIG welded joints, and molten metal spread length S and brazing zone length W are larger than those for TIG welded joints (Fig. 4). The results showed that the wettability of the laser-TIG-welded joint was better than that of the TIG welded joint. The laser improved the arc energy utilization, and the melt-pool temperature was higher. The higher the temperature, the better the wettability of the molten metal. The cracks started from the brazing zone (Fig. 10); therefore, the formation of the brazing zone was directly related to the mechanical properties of the joint. The analysis of the joint strengthening mechanism was as follows: the arc current increases from 100 A to 140 A, and the increase in W increased the bearing zone of the brazing zone and the total load of the joint. During the tensile process, the deflection of the joint causes the stress concentration in the brazing zone to crack more easily. A longer W also limits the deflection of the joint. Simultaneously, with an increase in the current, the melting amount of the substrate increased, and the strengthening phase (Fe-rich islands and Fe-rich particles) of the joint increased. Therefore, with the increase of the current, the ultimate tensile shear load of the joint increases. After the laser was introduced, the attraction and compression effects of the laser on the arc concentrated the arc energy and improved the wettability of the joint. Simultaneously, the melting amount of the substrate increased, and the strengthening phases in the fusion welding and brazing zones increased. Therefore, the performance of the laser-TIG hybrid welded joint was better than that of TIG welded joint under the same arc current. With an increase in current, the attraction and compression effects of the laser on the arc are weakened, and the length gap of W decreases under a larger current; thus, the gap in the joint performance decreases. Based on the above analysis, it is important to further improve the performance of the lap welded joint of QP980 steel by using laser-TIG control joint forming.

Conclusions A new welding method for laser-TIG hybrid welding technology and a low-melting-point wire were developed to investigate the QP980 lap welded joint formation, organization, and strengthening mechanisms. Macroscopic morphology: the joint consists of the fusion welding, brazing, and heat-affected zones; owing to the addition of the laser, the contact angle of the laser-TIG hybrid welded joint is further reduced, and the length of the brazing zone is further increased. The microstructure of the fusion welding zone is dominated by a copper-based organization with Fe-rich islands and Fe-rich particles distributed among them, and the brazing zone is distributed with Fe-rich particles. The tensile shear load for both welding methods increase with the increase of arc current; the laser-TIG hybrid welded joint has a higher tensile shear load for the same arc current. Increasing the arc current and introducing a laser increase the length of the brazing zone and improve joint performance.

Key words laser technique; QP980 steel; contact angle; laser-TIG hybrid welding; lap continuous welding; joint forming