Evaluation of Ductile-Brittle Transition Behavior with Neutron Irradiation in Nuclear Reactor Pressure Vessel Steels Using Small Punch Test



Abstract

A small punch (SP) test was performed to evaluate the ductile-brittle transition temperature before and after neutron irradiation in reactor pressure vessel (RPV) steels produced by different manufacturing (refining) processes. The results were compared to the standard transition temperature shifts from the Charpy test and Master Curve fracture toughness test in accordance with the ASTM standard E1921. The samples were taken from 1/4t location of the vessel thickness and machined into a 10x10x0.5mm dimension. Irradiation of the samples was carried out in the research reactor at KAERI (HANARO) at about 290 oC of the different fluence levels respectively. SP tests were performed in the temperature range of RT to -196oC using a 2.4mm diameter ball. For the materials before and after irradiation, SP transition temperatures (TSP), which are determined at the middle of the upper and lower SP energies, showed a linear correlation with the Charpy index temperature, T41J. Tsp from the irradiated samples was increased as the fluence level increased and was well within the deviation range of the unirradiated data. The TSP had a correlation with the reference temperature (T0) from the master curve method using a pre-cracked Charpy V-notched (PCVN) specimen

가 , 가 가 . Charpy index temperature ASME K_{IC} 가 가 ASTM . standard E1921 Master curve [1-3]. , $K_{JC}=100MPa\sqrt{m}$ (K_{JC}) master curve K_{IC} curve reference temperature, T₀ T_0 . . , 가 가 . 가 가 _ , , SP fracture appearance transition temperature (FATT) ductile-brittle transition temperature (DBTT) [4-9]. Foulds SP [10]. 가 , .

가 .

Master curve

ASTM standard E1921

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가

1.

4 가 SA508 Cl.3 1 가 SA508 Cl.2 Linde 80 flux .

가 10x10x0.5mm . 1

. 1.7×10^{19} $5.0 \times 10^{19} \text{n/cm}^2$ NRI 290°C .

1 . 가 , LVDT 1mm/min . SP

SP -6 가 SP Weibull [8].

3.

1.

2 SP		S	Р		. SP
					SP
(TSP)		SP		3	SP
		Charpy index	temperature(T _{41J} ,	T _{68J})	
	, SP				-

(DBTT)

			$T_{\text{CVN}}(\mathbf{K}) =$	$T_{SP}(K),$				
	α	mechanical correlation	factor .				ά	
~			. Mn-Mo-Ni		α			
3		α=2.43			. α=2.	3~2.73		
					(Upper	shelf	energy)	
		가						

Linde 80 weld flux SP

SA533B Cl. 1(JRQ)

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, 1/4t

가 , , SP 가 . , 6 Weibull SP . , ,

2. 6 -150°C -180°C KFY4 SP - . 7 - 7 , . 7 4 SP

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 8
 SP

 .
 , KFY5
 SP

, SP .

 $T_{41J}(K) = 2.43 T_{SP}(K)$ 9 SP Master curve
reference temperature, T_0 .
7!
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7!
.

. , (local cleavage fracture stress) [11-13]. SP Master curve



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Types	ID	Chemistry (wt%)				USE (J)	T _{68J} (°C)	T _{41J} (°C)
		Ni	Cu	Р	С			
SA508C1.3	KFY3	0.78	0.06	0.008	0.18	239	7.2	-3.3
	KFY4	0.78	0.06	0.007	0.19	281	-9.4	-21.5
	KFU4	0.86	0.03	0.006	0.18	282	-28.5	-24.6
	KFY5	0.92	0.03	0.007	0.21	267	-34.0	-44.7
	U4W	0.13	0.03	0.011	0.08	300	-9.4	-24.6
SA533B1	JRQ	0.84	0.14	0.017	0.18	207	-5.9	-19.6
SA508Cl.2	K1	0.73	0.07	0.010	0.22	238	-28.1	-38.0
Linde 80 flux weld	K1W	0.61	0.23	0.012	0.10	91	28.9	-14.6

 Table. 1 The chemical compositions and the standard fracture properties for the RPV steels studied in the present work.



Fig. 1. The schematic illustration of the small punch test jig.



Fig. 2. Comparison of SP energy curves for the RPV steels.



Fig. 3. Charpy index temperatures vs. T_{SP}.



Fig. 4. Master curve transition temperature (T_0) vs. T_{SP} .



Fig. 5. The change of T_{SP} as a function of the specimen quantity.



Fig. 6. SP load-displacement curves for KFY4 steels before and after irradiation.



Fig. 7. The SP energy changes as a function of the testing temperature for the three materials before and after irradiation (E>1MeV): (a) KFY4, (b) KFU4, (c) KFY5, (d) KFU4W



Fig. 8. The correlation between the T_{SP} and Charpy T_{41J} for the materials before and after irradiation.



Fig. 9. T_{SP} - T_0 correlation