

Hydrogen-Enhanced Martensitic Transformation and Twinning under Rolling of AISI 321 Austenitic Stainless Steel

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Abstract. In this paper, we study the effect of hydrogen pre-charging (in a 1N H₂SO₄ solution with a CS(NH₂)₂ as a recombination potion, at current densities of 10, 100 and 200 mA/cm², for 5 hours) on the microstructure and phase composition of a type AISI 321 austenitic stainless steel during room-temperature rolling. Hydrogen pre-charging enhances the contribution of mechanical twinning to the fragmentation of the structure and assists to $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha'$ and $\gamma \rightarrow \varepsilon$ transformations during rolling. Both, twinning and martensitic transformations, are dependent on hydrogen pre-charging regime: an increase in a current density during pre-charging of the specimens causes a decrease in the thickness of twin plates, increases the density of twin boundaries and fraction of α' -martensite in the structure of the rolled specimens. The formation of a high density of $\Sigma 3^n$ boundaries (twin and ε -martensite) prevents the formation of a misoriented grain structure in austenite during rolling of steel specimens. Hydrogen pre-charging provides faster kinetics of $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha'$ phase transformation in metastable steel AISI 321 during rolling.

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