























Fig. 16—SEM micrograph of Ti-rich carbide layer along grain boundaries following 1000°C (1832°F) heat treatment for 1 h

likely that these precipitates were present prior to the 1000°C (1832°F) heat treatment.

The high-aspect-ratio precipitates situated along the boundary near the top of the micrograph shown as Fig. 16A are representative of the TiC which has formed during the heat treatment. An EDS spectrum taken at the boundary (Fig. 16B) reveals the titanium enrichment at this point. The adjacent matrix, however, is essentially titanium-free (Fig. 16C) and exhibits only isolated TiC precipitates.

#### Rationale for Hot Cracking Susceptibility of Alloy 800

The mechanism, which has been proposed to explain the onset of hot cracking in alloy 800, involves the segregation of titanium, silicon, niobium, and carbon to fusion zone grain and subgrain boundaries; it also involves the interaction of these elements along the boundary during the final stages of solidification. The

Varestraint test represents a reproducible weldability test which isolates the influence of welding variables and mechanical restraint from heat-to-heat variations in chemical composition.

Reference to Table 1 reveals that the four materials have nearly equivalent titanium concentrations and that the variation in carbon concentration is small. All the materials contained only trace concentrations of niobium. Note, however, that the silicon content of heat A is much greater than that of heats B and E and nearly double that of heat D. Thus (based on the hot cracking mechanism which has been proposed) it appears that, among the four heats of alloy 800 evaluated in this investigation, the difference in silicon content accounts for the variation in hot cracking susceptibility as measured by the Varestraint test.

This conclusion is consistent with the results of Lingenfelter (Ref. 4), who found that a 34Ni-20Cr alloy with 1.25 wt-% Si

was far more susceptible to hot cracking than commercial alloy 800. Backman *et al.* (Ref. 6) also suggested that the cracking susceptibility of 30Ni-20Cr alloys could be controlled if the Si content was reduced below 0.25 wt-%.

The detrimental influence of silicon on the hot cracking resistance of alloy 800 weldments is further substantiated by the results of the fractographic and microprobe analyses. Silicon-rich particles were nearly absent on both the fracture surface and the metallographic surface of the materials with low relative crack susceptibility (heats B, D, and E).

Reference to Table 3 reveals a large increase in the number of (Ti, Si)-rich particles when comparing the fusion zone constituents of heats A and B. The increase in Si-rich particle density is further proof of the importance of silicon as a segregant along solidification boundaries where it serves to influence the hot cracking behavior of the alloy.

Despite the increase in particle density, it appears that most of the silicon which partitions to the liquid along the fusion zone grain boundaries remains within the liquid phase rather than forming a precipitate. The Auger results shown previously in Fig. 10 reveal that silicon is present in relatively large concentrations, both at the hot crack surface and to a depth of nearly 100 nm (0.000004 in.) below that surface. The increase in the level of silicon in the crack susceptible heat A sample (Fig. 10A) relative to the heat E sample (Fig. 10B) supports the premise that the silicon content may dictate the hot cracking behavior of the four heats which were evaluated.

Wolstenholme (Ref. 2) has proposed that increasing the titanium content should improve the resistance to hot cracking by controlling the carbon through the precipitation of Ti-rich carbides. In fact, the presence of "free" titanium on the hot crack surface indicates that the titanium is not completely efficient in combining with the carbon. As a result, additional titanium, while possibly serving to tie up more carbon, would undoubtedly increase the "free" titanium in the last liquid to solidify. The tendency for titanium to form a low melting eutectic with Fe-base alloys (Fig. 13) suggests that additional titanium would not reduce the hot cracking susceptibility of alloy 800. This theory is supported by the results of Canonico *et al.* (Ref. 5).

The effect of titanium may be at least as influential as silicon with regards to the cracking susceptibility of alloy 800. Unfortunately, since the titanium concentration of the four heats is nearly equivalent, the relative effect of titanium variations could not be quantitatively assessed. During the course of the investigation, it was observed that the actual titanium concentration of the weld fusion zone was less





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