

per-nickel (90-10 or 70-30) or nickel-copper (70-30) electrodes or filler metals. Due to the wide range of composition in the electrodes, there is also a wide range of permissible iron dilution in the resulting weld deposits, but the effects of iron dilution have not yet been fully documented. The lack of data on the effect of iron dilution on the seawater performance of Cu-Ni weldments is a problem since 1) organizations in several countries will soon establish standards for the welding of clad offshore structures and desalination plants, and 2) if Cu-Ni cladding of ships develops into a commercial practice, it will also require standards for permissible iron dilution in weld deposits.

There are several ways in which iron content can render a Cu-Ni weldment unsuitable for service: 1) excessive iron can affect the physical integrity, or soundness, of the weld metal; 2) iron can adversely affect mechanical properties of the joint; and 3) it can lower the corrosion resistance of the weldment. In this paper, two levels of iron dilution in Cu-Ni weldments are determined. The first, higher dilution level established is the level required to fail a visual inspection; the second, and lower, iron level established in this work is the level at which the weldment corrosion resistance becomes inadequate.

Both bulk chemical analysis and microprobe data were used to measure iron dilution. The corrosion rate data for the iron-diluted weldments are presented based on measurements made using simulated weld deposits galvanically coupled to CA706 and compared to actual weldments exposed in seawater.

Experimental Procedure

The iron dilution levels required to produce visibly defective welds were established by welding with 90-10 Cu-Ni and 70-30 Cu-Ni electrodes into weld grooves that had been machined into CA706 (90-10 Cu-Ni) clad steel plates. The cladding thickness was 2.5 mm (0.10 in.) and the steel plate was 25.4 mm (1.0 in.) thick. Various amounts of heat input were used to establish different levels of iron dilution in the weld. When a weld was made that was visibly defective due to cracking or porosity, then its bulk composition was analyzed by removing the top third of the weld deposit for chemical analysis to determine the level of iron dilution which caused the surface discontinuity. Once a level of iron dilution that caused the discontinuities was established, then this level was used as a maximum iron dilution.

In the case of the 70Ni-30Cu electrode, it was necessary to set an arbitrary iron dilution limit. Because the nickel-rich side of the system has a much greater iron



Fig. 2—Example of galvanically coupled simulated weld pin and CA706 plate

solubility than does the copper-rich side of the system, visible weld discontinuities would not be expected until the weld metal iron content was much too high to produce a weldment resistant to seawater corrosion.

Since the corrosion testing was to be done by immersion in seawater, the actual corrosion test coupons could not be made from CA706 clad steel, because the steel would be too difficult to isolate from the seawater; and if not totally isolated, the steel would galvanically protect the entire Cu-Ni weldment. Therefore, the test specimens had to be made of solid CA706 with a simulated iron-diluted weld either attached to or made across the specimen. This was accomplished in two ways: 1) one set of specimens was made from pieces of CA706 in which iron rods were placed at the bottom of machined grooves, and 2) welds were then made over the iron rods to achieve the proper iron dilution. The other set of specimens consisted of blanks of CA706 coupled to pins of artificial weld metal. The artificial weld metal was made by extracting rods of molten metal from heats of Cu-Ni containing predetermined levels of iron. In both cases, the ratio of the surface areas of the CA706 baseplate to the weld bead was kept at 25:1 to allow a direct comparison of galvanic data and actual weld exposure data. Examination of the cast pin microstructure and the actual weldment microstructure shown in Fig. 1 indicates that the segregation pattern in the pin was similar to that of the weld.

The two types of seawater corrosion test specimens described above are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Fresh seawater was used in 400-L (106-gal) tanks replen-



Fig. 3—Example of iron-diluted weld bead specimens used for seawater exposure testing

ished at a rate of 2 L/min (0.5 gal/min); all tests lasted at least 60 days and were done at two different temperatures—17.5°C (63.5°F) and 27.2°C (81.0°F). Both corrosion potential and weight loss were measured as functions of time.

Bulk chemical analysis samples removed from the upper one-third of the weld were used to determine the levels of iron dilution in the weld bead, while microprobe measurements were used to determine the amounts of iron segregation in the weldments. Metallographic examinations of the weldments were performed to document the effects of segregation on the weld microstructure.

A separate set of weldments was made and tested to determine the effects on tensile and bend properties of Cu levels that were acceptable from a corrosion standpoint. While gross degradation of properties was not expected, there was concern that bend ductility in particular would be reduced by iron dilution.

Results

Welding

Representative samples of the actual welds made into CA706 clad steel plate are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The weld in Fig. 4 was made with 70Cu-30Ni (MON-EL¹ Welding Electrode 187), while the weld in Fig. 5 was made with 90Cu-10Ni (UTP² 389 welding electrode). In Fig. 4, one of the weldments has a number of

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2. Trademark of UTP Welding Materials, Inc.

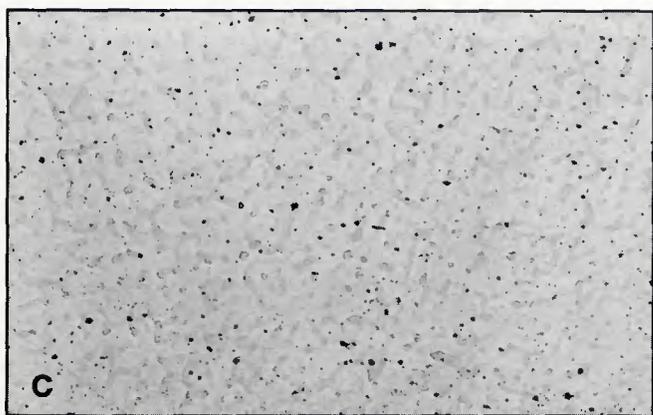
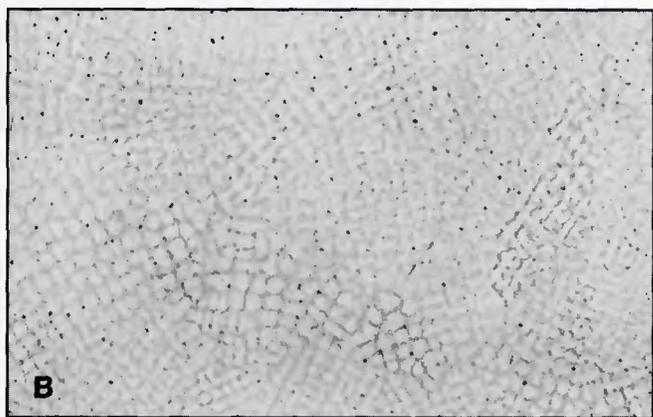
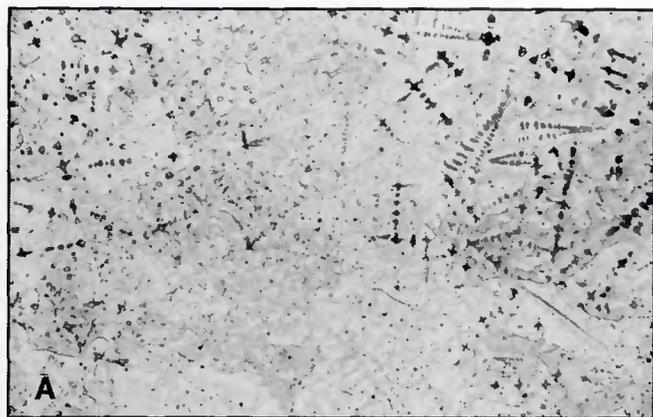


Fig. 6—Microstructures of the weldments containing one-half the maximum amount of iron used for seawater exposure testing. A—The 90Cu-10Ni deposit with 5.1% Fe; B—the 70Cu-30Ni deposit with 7.5% Fe; C—the 70Ni-30Cu deposit with 9.2% Fe

Metallographic Examination

Figures 6 and 7 show the effects of iron dilution on the microstructures of the weldments. In Fig. 6, the microstructures of weld metals at the half-maximum iron dilution level are compared for each welding electrode, while in Fig. 7, the effect of the maximum iron dilution is demonstrated. Both the 70Cu-30Ni and 70Ni-30Cu welding electrodes produced deposits which are single phase at the half-maximum and maximum iron content, while the 90Cu-10Ni electrode produced a two-phase microstructure at

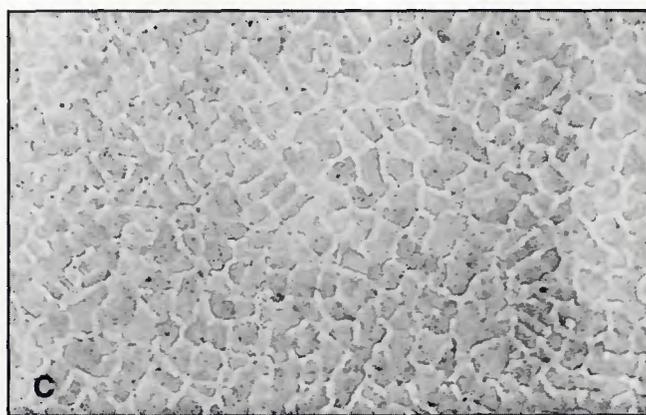
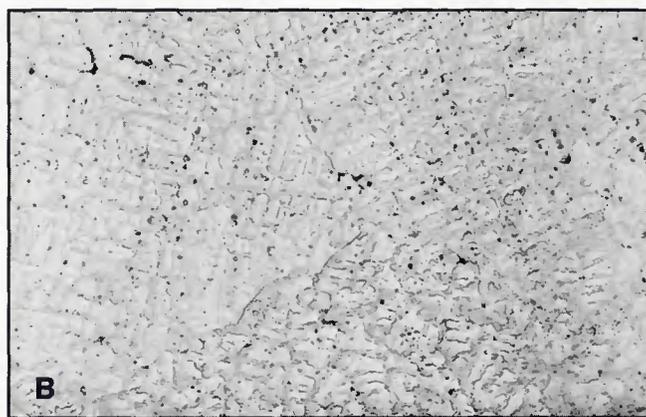
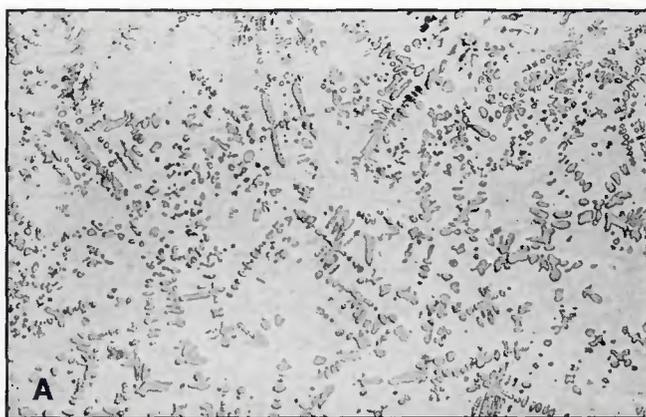


Fig. 7—The microstructures of the weldments containing the maximum amount of iron dilution used for seawater exposure testing. A—The 90Cu-10Ni deposit with 11.7% Fe; B—the 70Cu-30Ni deposit with 14.1% Fe; C—The 70Ni-30Cu deposit with 11.8% Fe

both the maximum and half-maximum iron dilution levels.

Table 2 presents the results of the microprobe analysis done on the material shown in Figs. 6 and 7. In all cases, there was a marked degree of segregation, even in the welds which retained a single-phase structure. Similar results were found by Van Dyck (Ref. 9) and Rockel (Ref. 10). The bulk iron content in one of the 70Ni-30Cu deposits was 11.8%, but the iron level found in the microprobe analysis varies from a minimum of 5.4% to a maximum of 13.8%. Similarly, in one of the 70Cu-30Ni deposits, the bulk iron

level was 14.1%, but the minimum was 5.0% and the maximum was 18.2%. The greatest segregation was found in the 90Cu-10Ni deposit with an 11.7% bulk iron dilution, which segregated to a minimum of 2.9% and a maximum of 64.0%, as would be expected since it was a two-phase structure.

Corrosion Testing

The actual weldments were tested by immersion in quiet seawater at 1-m (3.3-ft) depth for up to 525 days, during which time the temperature varied from 5°C



Fig. 8—CA706 welded with Ni-Cu alloy with 11.8% iron dilution after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater

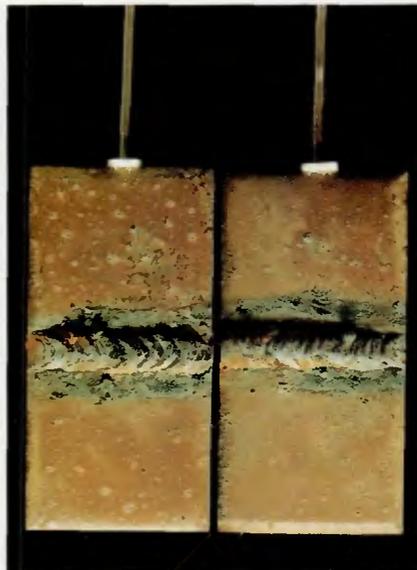


Fig. 9—CA706 welded with 70-30 Cu-Ni with 14.1% iron dilution after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater



Fig. 10—CA706 welded with 90-10 Cu-Ni with 11.7% iron dilution after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater

(41°F) to 30°C (86°F). Results of these tests appear in Figs. 8 through 10. Note that there is minimal evidence of iron oxide (rust) on the 70-30 Cu-Ni and 70-30 Ni-Cu weld deposits (Figs. 8 and 9), while the 90-10 Cu-Ni deposit shows a heavy red deposit on the weld bead—Fig. 10. In

most cases, the corrosion product showing on the higher Ni deposits can be traced either to welding craters which were not backfilled or to a slight amount of undercutting. In any case, the higher Ni weldments contained as much or more iron with considerably less rusting evi-

dent, and the rusting that is evident can be attributed to the way in which the specimens were made.

The cast pins that were made to simulate the compositions and structures of weld deposits containing various amounts of iron were placed in quiet



Fig. 11—90-10 Cu-Ni simulated weld deposit pins after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater (left to right: 1.7% Fe, 3.5% Fe and 6.9% Fe)



Fig. 12—70-30 Cu-Ni simulated weld deposit pins after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater (left to right: 0.8% Fe, 5.5% Fe and 9.6% Fe)

Fig. 13—Ni-Cu alloy simulated weld deposit pins after 60-day exposure in quiet seawater (left to right: 2.5% Fe, 7.1% Fe, 11.3% Fe, 25.6% Fe and 19.7% Fe)



WRC Bulletin 318 September 1986

The primary objective of this Bulletin, which contains two papers, is to present a comprehensive picture of the research work conducted to establish the current techniques and procedures for specifying the ferrite content of austenitic stainless steel weld metal and measuring its level.

Factors Influencing the Measurement of Ferrite Content in Austenitic Stainless Steel Weld Metal Using Magnetic Instruments

By E. W. Pickering, E. S. Robitz and D. M. Vandergriff

This report describes a program conducted under the auspices of the Welding Research Council (WRC) Subcommittee on Welding Stainless Steel to identify the optimum procedure for the preparation of austenitic stainless steel weld samples for Ferrite Number (FN) determination.

Measurement of Ferrite Content in Austenitic Stainless Steel Weld Metal Giving Internationally Reproducible Results

By E. Stalmasek

This report is a summary of the results of 14 years' work by the IIW Commission 2 in the field of ferrite content measurement, done prior to 1978.

The publication of these reports was sponsored by the Subcommittee on Welding Stainless Steel of the High Alloys Committee of the Welding Research Council. The price of WRC Bulletin 318 is \$24.00 per copy, plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. Orders should be sent with payment to the Welding Research Council, Suite 1301, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

WRC Bulletin 319 November 1986

Sensitization of Austenitic Stainless Steels: Effect of Welding Variables on HAZ Sensitization of AISI 304 and HAZ Behavior of BWR Alternative Alloys 316NG and 347

By C. D. Lundin, C. H. Lee, R. Menon and E. E. Stansbury

The research described in this report was undertaken to derive a better understanding of the HAZ sensitization response of 304, 304LN, 316NG and 347 austenitic stainless steels. The results are directly applicable to both the as-welded and long-time service behavior of these austenitic stainless steels.

Publication of this report was sponsored by the Subcommittee on Welding Stainless Steel of the High Alloys Committee of the Welding Research Council. The price of WRC Bulletin 319 is \$24.00 per copy, plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. Orders should be sent with payment to the Welding Research Council, Suite 1301, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

WRC Bulletin 320 December 1986

Welding Metallurgy and Weldability of High Strength Aluminum Alloys

By S. Kou

A literature survey was conducted to gather the information available on the welding metallurgy of high strength aluminum alloys, and its effect on their weldability. Both conventional high strength aluminum alloys and newer products, e.g., powder metallurgy aluminum alloys, Al-Li alloys and Al-matrix composites, are included in this report.

Publication of this report was sponsored by the Aluminum Alloys Committee of the Welding Research Council. The price of WRC Bulletin 320 is \$12.00 per copy, plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. Orders should be sent with payment to the Welding Research Council, Suite 1301, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.