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## An Analytical Model for Laser Reflow Soldering of an Electronic Component

*Analytic predictions of solder joint integrity are in good agreement with observations from an actual application*

BY D. U. CHANG

**ABSTRACT.** An analytical model for laser reflow soldering of a thick-film ignition module is presented in this paper. The analytical model is used to better understand the effect of process variables on soldering. The process variables investigated include beam power, beam on-time, beam spot diameter, preheat temperature, and specimen materials and configurations. Conclusions drawn from the model analysis are compared against experimental results for verification. The model was found useful in understanding the process and developing an optimum soldering schedule for manufacturing.

### Introduction

Lasers provide high-intensity, controllable sources of heat for material processing, ranging from heat treating to welding and cutting. Successful applications (Refs. 1-8) are characterized by unique advantages of the laser such as precision, excellent product quality, high productivity, low manufacturing cost and easy automation.

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Even with these advantages, a good understanding of the process variables and their effects is necessary before a potential application can be successfully implemented. An analytical model would be helpful in this regard.

This paper presents an analytical model that can be used in laser soldering studies for better understanding and control of the process. The intention of this paper is not to present an exhaustive experimental soldering study, but to present an example of how an analytical model can be used effectively to understand the process for better design, control and manufacture of particular components.

The particular process under investigation was laser reflow soldering of a thick-film ignition module—Fig. 1.

A summary of the previous experimental results will be presented first. Then, the critical thermal radius concept (Ref. 9) developed earlier will be expanded for use in the analysis of the effect of beam power, beam on-time, beam spot diameter, preheat temperature and other process variables, as well as the materials' thermal properties. Comparisons will be made between analytical predictions and actual experimental data to assess the validity of the model. Lastly, the usefulness of the model will be discussed.

### Results of Previous Experiment

Presented below is the summary of an experimental investigation of laser reflow soldering for joining electrical leads to printed circuits of an automotive electronic component (Ref. 3).

### Specimen

The specimen was an electronic module, with nine terminal leads, which was to be soldered to a hybrid thick-film circuit—Fig. 1. Eight leads were to be joined to solder pads on an alumina

### KEY WORDS

Alumina Substrate  
Beryllia Substrate  
c-radius Equation  
Ignition Module  
Reflow Soldering  
Melting Efficiency  
Power vs. Time  
Thermal Radius  
Thick-Film Circuit  
Analytical Model















13. Thermalloy Inc. Bulletin 79-HS-5, Semi-conductor accessories.

14. Copper Development Association, Inc. Alloy data. *Alloy Data 10a*.

cm s°C)  
 Melting point = 320°C  
 Boiling point = 1740°C  
 Alumina: 94% nominal Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Ref. 13)  
 Specific heat = 0.21 (cal/g°C) at 100°C  
 Density = 3.62 (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)  
 Thermal conductivity = 0.029 (cal/cm s°C) at 200°C  
 Beryllia: 99.5% minimum BeO (Ref. 13)  
 Specific heat = 0.25 (cal/g°C)

Density = 2.85 (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)  
 Thermal conductivity = 0.35 (cal/cm s°C) at 150°C  
 Terminal lead: SAE CA 260 Brass (70 Cu = 30Zn) (Ref. 14)  
 Specific heat = 0.09 (cal/g°C) at 20°C  
 Density = 8.53 (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) at 20°C  
 Thermal conductivity = 0.29 (cal/cm s°C) at 20°C  
 Melting point = 955°C

## Appendix

Solder: 10Sn-88Pb-2Ag (Refs. 10-12)  
 Specific heat = 0.033 (cal/g°C)  
 Density = 10.9 (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)  
 Thermal conductivity = 0.0868 (cal/

## Correction

Figure 13, on page 248-s of the August 1987 *Welding Journal* Research Supplement, published as part of the article entitled "An Investigation of Weld Hot Cracking in Duplex Stainless Steels," by D. E. Nelson, W. A. Baeslack III and J. C. Lippold, omitted the following tabular material:

	Nominal Composition	FZ Matrix (Ferrite) (4)	FZ Grain Boundary (Austenite) (3)	Hot Crack Tip (Austenite) (1, 2)
Chromium	24.90	25.94	25.79	25.32
Silicon	0.54	0.42	0.45	0.61
Manganese	1.05	1.08	1.24	1.42
Nickel	5.39	5.27	6.26	8.17
Molybdenum	3.13	3.30	2.80	3.65
Copper	1.72	1.51	1.80	2.50
Phosphorus	0.023	0.03	0.03	0.11
Sulfur	0.001	0.04	0.04	0.06

This table was intended to be used for reference to describe the photograph that was published as Fig. 13.

## WRC Bulletin 324 June 1987

### Investigation of Design Criteria for Dynamic Loads on Nuclear Power Piping By R. J. Scavuzzo and P. C. Lam

The objective of this report was to present the experimental work on 304 Stainless Steel Schedule 40 pipes and to evaluate the ability of finite element programs to predict measured responses. Finite element analyses and measured data were also compared to closed form functional solutions. Results of the study indicated that the piping neither damaged nor showed evidence of large plastic deformation, although the code dynamic allowable stress limit was exceeded.

Publication of this report was sponsored by the Subcommittee on Dynamic Analysis of Pressure Components of the Pressure Vessel Research Committee of the Welding Research Council. The price of WRC Bulletin 324 is \$16.00 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.