

Fig. 8—Backscattered electron image of thin-plate casting showing the pattern of microsegregation. Light areas are enriched in hafnium. Dendrite core regions are enriched in nickel and are two-phased

with the dendrite cores, and it presumably is the disordered phase. Figure 8 indicates that the microstructure of the casting is inhomogeneous, and that while hafnium segregation to grain boundaries is apparent in some areas, its occurrence at these sites is not a general feature. The grain boundaries of the casting are more or less randomly distributed throughout the solidification substructure.

HAZ cracks like those shown in Figs. 6 and 7 were broken open, by notching specimens near crack tips and fracturing by impact, so that their internal surfaces were exposed and could be examined in the SEM. Figure 9 shows the appearance of a HAZ crack surface. The intergranular nature of the crack is apparent, and there is no indication that failure was associated with liquation due to either segregation or dissolution of second-phase particles along the grain boundaries.

Tensile Tests

The results of room-temperature tensile tests of IC-50 weldments made in wrought material are given in Table 3, along with typical tensile properties of recrystallized IC-50 sheet. The orientation of the test specimens was such that the weld axis was either perpendicular (transverse) or parallel (longitudinal) to the tensile axis, as indicated in Table 3. The EB weld specimen had gauge dimensions of 19.0 × 6.4 × 4.4 mm (0.75 × 0.25 × 0.17 in.). The transverse GTA weld specimens had gauge dimensions of 19.0 × 4.8 × 1.3 mm (0.75 × 0.19 × 0.05 in.). The EB weld specimen and the transverse GTA weld specimens all fractured across the fusion zone. The fracture appearance of the EB weld specimen is shown in Fig. 10, and its dimpled appearance indicates that the fusion zone failed by ductile void coalescence. The longitudinal GTA weld specimens had gauge

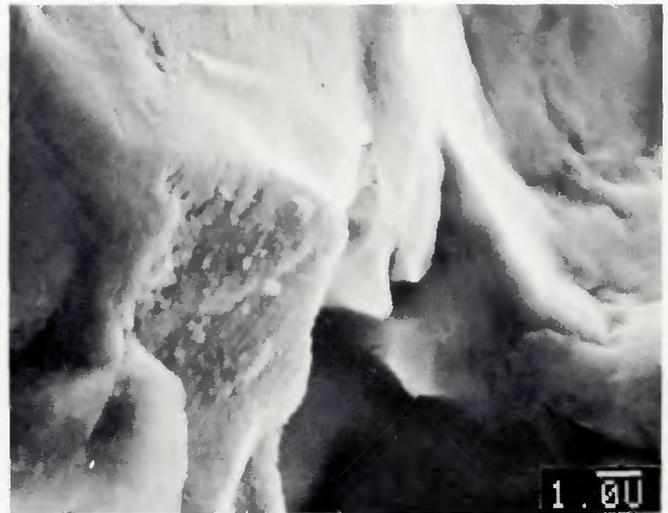


Fig. 9—SEM micrograph of grain surfaces from a crack in the heat-affected zone of the thin-plate casting

dimensions of 12.7 × 3.6 × 0.7 mm (0.5 × 0.14 × 0.03 in.). The bead width of these welds was slightly less than the tensile specimen gauge width so that the entire weldment was tested. One specimen was given a postweld heat treatment of 1 h at 950°C (1742°F) before testing. All of the longitudinal GTA weld specimens broke in the gauge section.

Discussion

A plot of weld cracking frequency (Fig. 11) taken from the work of David and co-workers (Ref. 9) shows that crack-free welds were not obtained in Ni₃Al alloys containing only boron as an intentional addition. Comparison with our data from IC-50 indicates that the hafnium addition

Table 3—Results of Tensile Testing IC-50 Weldments

Specimen	Condition	Proportional Limit (MPa)	Tensile Strength (MPa)	Elongation (%)
EB, T	AW	140	1057	24
GTA, T	AW	142	1294	28
GTA, L	AW	318	1292	34
GTA, L	PWHT	311	1413	43
Base		200–350	1380	40–50

EB = electron beam weld.
 GTA = gas tungsten arc weld.
 T = tensile axis perpendicular to weld axis.
 L = tensile axis parallel to weld axis.
 AW = as-welded.
 PWHT = postweld heat treated.

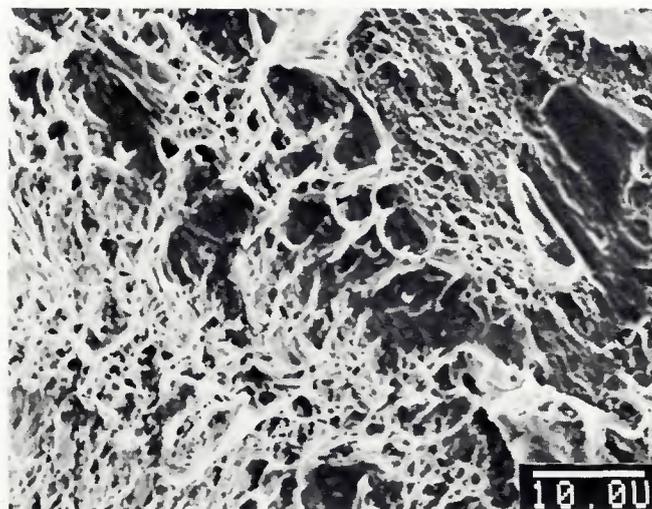


Fig. 10—SEM micrograph of fractured weld showing evidence of ductile void coalescence in fusion zone

