

激光冲击对18CrNiMo7-6齿轮钢 气体渗碳影响研究*

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[摘要] 以18CrNiMo7-6齿轮钢为材料,首次探索激光冲击预处理对气体渗碳效率及组织与性能影响及作用机理,旨在获得组织性能优良的高效气体渗碳新技术。采用金相显微镜、粗糙度仪、维氏显微硬度计等对激光冲击及气体渗碳后表层特性及性能进行测试分析。研究表明,激光冲击预处理使气体渗碳效率显著增加。相同气体渗碳条件(910°C+4h强渗碳)下,渗碳层由1.24mm增加到1.49mm,即渗碳效率提高约20%。同时,激光冲击后气体渗碳试样表层硬度从680HV_{0.05}提高到700HV_{0.05},且截面硬度梯度下降平缓,从而可提升渗碳层与基体结合力。对激光冲击后表层特性分析表明,激光冲击预处理对气体渗碳的促进作用机理为:试样表面粗糙度从0.12μm增大到0.57μm,且表层形成了厚度约220μm的变形层,同时表层晶粒显著细化,这些因素的综合作用促进了活性C原子在表面吸附及向内扩散。

关键词: 激光冲击;18CrNiMo7-6;气体渗碳;预处理;渗碳效率

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18CrNiMo7-6是一种低碳表面硬化钢,广泛应用于变速箱齿轮,通过对其进行表面渗碳或渗氮,可获得高表面硬度、耐磨性、接触疲劳强度等^[1-3]。目前,提高齿轮表面硬度、耐磨性、接触疲劳强度等综合性能的表面改性方法主要包括:渗碳、渗氮、氮碳共渗等。其中气体渗碳可获得比渗氮厚得多的硬化层深,广泛用在大型齿轮表面改性领域。然而,传统气体渗碳存在渗碳周期长、能源消耗大的问题。因此,提高齿轮钢气体渗碳效率一直是研究者关注的课题^[4-8]。

近年来,将喷丸或喷砂作为气

体渗碳预处理得到了快速发展^[9-12]。

工件经喷丸或喷砂预处理后,表层产生的晶格畸变有利于促进随后气体渗碳过程中C原子的吸附与扩散,从而有效提高气体渗碳效率。

激光冲击强化(Laser Shock Peening, LSP)是通过强激光诱导的冲击波在金属表层产生塑性变形,使表层位错密度增加,提高工件表层硬度和抗疲劳性,同时产生残余压应力的新型表面强化技术^[13-15]。相对于喷丸或喷砂表面预处理方法,激光冲击强化具有非接触、无热影响区、能耗低、可控性强及强化效果显著等突出优点。由此,本课题组预测,激光冲击强化可能比喷丸或喷砂预处理对气体渗碳具有更显著的促进作用。

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为此,本研究首次采用激光冲击作为气体渗碳前预处理,探索其对气体渗碳效率及组织性能的影响,旨在获得效率显著提升且组织性能优良的高效快速气体渗碳新技术。

试验材料与方法

试验材料为 18CrNiMo7-6 钢,其化学成分(质量分数,%)为: 0.18C、0.21Si、0.70Ni、1.72Cr、0.26Mo,其余为 Fe。采用线切割将 18CrNiMo7-6 钢切割成尺寸为 10mm×10mm×5mm 的试样,再对其进行调质处理。将经过调质处理后的试样分别用 240~2000 目的 SiC 砂纸进行打磨抛光,并置于无水乙醇中进行超声波清洗 15min,以得到洁净的试样表面。

激光冲击处理在西北有色金属研究院完成,设备为 Nd: YAG 高功率激光冲击强化装置。具体步骤和工艺参数为:将试样装夹到激光冲击装置上,约束层为 2mm 厚的流动水介质,吸收层为 0.1mm 厚的碳黑胶带,搭接率为 50%。激光冲击工艺参数为:激光波长 1064nm,光斑直径 3mm,脉冲宽度 15ns,激光能量 5J。

激光冲击后对试样进行气体渗碳,具体步骤为:将试样放入气体渗碳多用炉中,升温到 800°C,保温 2h,保持 0.4% 碳势进行渗碳,然后升温至 910°C,保持碳势 1.15% 进行 4h 强渗碳,再降低碳势到 0.68% 进行 4h 扩散,随后炉冷至 825°C,保温 2h 后取出试样放入 50°C 油中冷却。气体渗碳具体工艺流程如图 1 所示。

采用 DMI-3000M 型光学显微镜观察试样渗层的组织形貌;TIME[®]3200 手持式粗糙度仪对 LSP 处理前后的试样分别进行了表面粗糙度测量,取样长度 L 为 0.8mm,评定长度为 $5L$,测量标准为 ISO 国际标准,滤波方式为 R_c ,量程为 $\pm 80\mu\text{m}$;采用 HXD-1000TMC 型显微硬度计对硬度进行测量,所用载荷为 50g,保

压时间为 15s,离表面相同距离测量 3 个数据点,取平均值为该距离的硬度值,并由截面硬度曲线测量计算渗碳层深,渗碳层深为硬度为 550HV_{0.05} 处到表面的距离^[10]。采用 HT-600 摩擦磨损试验机,在 200r/min 转速和 2mm 旋转半径下,对磨时间 20min,载荷为 200g 进行磨损试验,磨损试验后采用金相显微镜观察磨痕形貌。

结果与分析

1 激光冲击后表面粗糙度和表面形貌

激光冲击处理后试样表层产生

塑性变形,改变了表面微观形貌。图 2 为激光冲击处理前后试样的表面形貌。可以看出,激光冲击后试样表面不如冲击前那样光滑平整,形成了大量微凹坑。通过对试样表面粗糙度测量,得出激光冲击前试样表面粗糙度为 0.12 μm ,激光冲击处理后试样表面粗糙度的显著增大到 0.57 μm 。表面粗糙度的提高有利于提高渗碳过程中活性碳原子在表面吸附。

2 激光冲击后截面硬度分析

图 3 为激光冲击处理前后试样的截面硬度曲线。可以看出,与未经

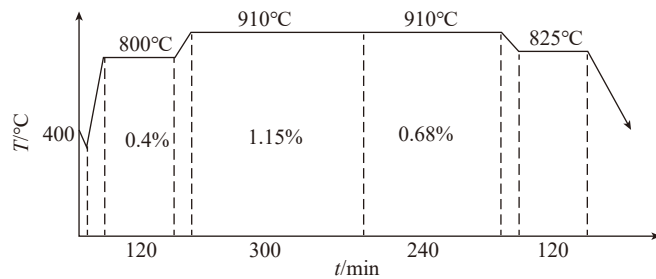


图1 气体渗碳流程图

Fig.1 Flow chart of gas carburization

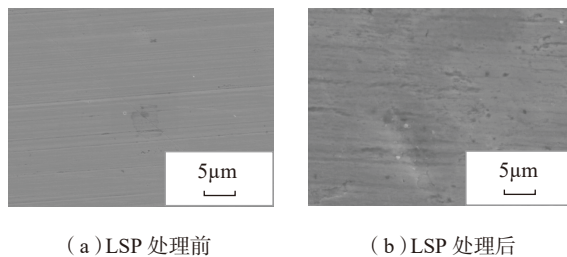


图2 激光冲击处理前后试样表面形貌

Fig.2 Surface morphology of sample before and after laser shock treatment

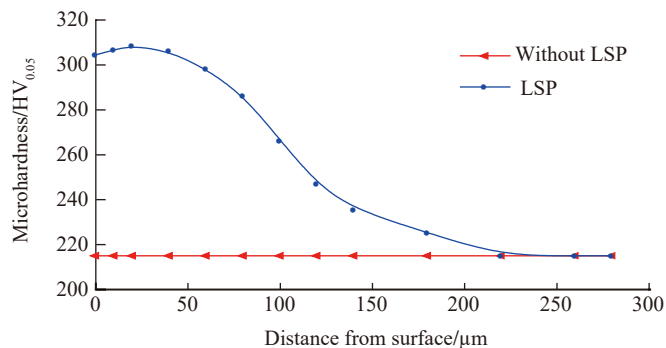


图3 激光冲击处理前后试样的截面硬度曲线

Fig.3 Cross-section hardness curve of sample before and after laser shock treatment

激光冲击处理试样相比,激光冲击试样表层得到强化,表面硬度明显提高,比基体提高约 $95\text{HV}_{0.05}$;同时,厚度约 $220\mu\text{m}$ 区域内硬度都不同程度提高,说明激光冲击处理使表层约 $220\mu\text{m}$ 深度范围内产生了塑性变形,且越靠近表面,显微硬度越高,说明塑性变形程度越大,位错密度越高;随着距表面距离增加,显微硬度缓慢降低,达到非变形区域后硬度为基体硬度。

3 显微组织分析

图4为激光冲击处理前后试样表面晶粒度及气体渗碳后显微组织。其中,图4(a)为对应无激光冲击预处理;图4(b)为对应激光冲击预处理。可以看出,激光冲击使试样表面晶粒显著细化,从而使表面自由能提高,促进C原子在表面吸附。同时,由于C原子沿晶界扩散速度大大高于晶内扩散,晶粒细化将有利于提高C原子扩散速度,从而提高气体渗碳速度。

4 截面显微硬度分析

图5给出了有无激光冲击预处理条件下气体渗碳试样的截面显微硬度。可以看出,试样表面硬度由表及里逐渐降低,相比于未经激光冲击预处理的试样,激光冲击试样表面硬度略高且硬度梯度下降变缓。同时,相同气体渗碳条件下,可获得更高的渗碳层深,渗层深度由 1.24mm 增加到 1.49mm ,即渗碳效率提高了约20%,渗碳层深以硬度为 $550\text{HV}_{0.05}$ 处到表面的距离为准。

5 耐磨性分析

为直观比较激光冲击对气体渗碳试样耐磨性的影响,对试样进行了磨损试验并对比分析磨痕形貌。图6为有无激光冲击预处理条件下气体渗碳试样的磨痕形貌。可以看出,未经激光冲击预处理试样表面产生了严重的划痕和平行的沟槽,而经过激光冲击预处理的试样,形成了较小的磨痕,且表面比较平整。

由此说明,激光冲击预处理使试样耐磨性提高。

机理讨论

上述研究结果表明,在相同气体

渗碳工艺条件下,激光冲击预处理后气体渗碳效率显著增加。同时,激光冲击后气体渗碳试样表层硬度从 $680\text{HV}_{0.05}$ 提高到 $700\text{HV}_{0.05}$,且截面硬度梯度下降较缓,可提升渗碳层与

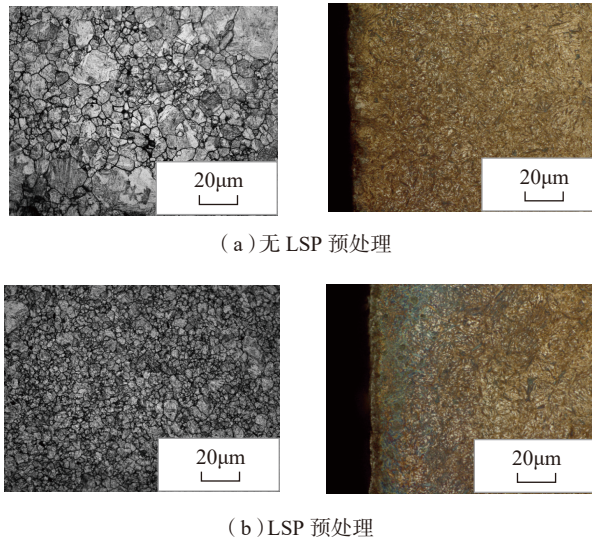


图4 激光冲击处理前后试样表面晶粒度及气体渗碳后显微组织

Fig.4 Surface grain size and microstructure of sample before and after laser shock treatment

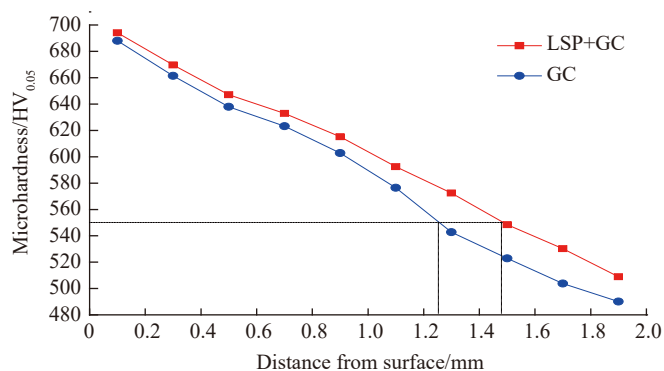
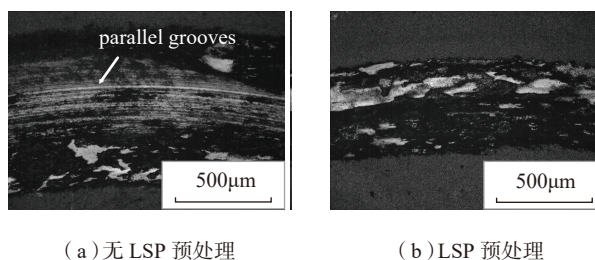


图5 有无激光冲击预处理条件下气体渗碳试样的截面显微硬度

Fig.5 Cross-section microhardness of a gas carburized sample with or without laser shock pretreatment



(a) 无 LSP 预处理

(b) LSP 预处理

图6 有无激光冲击预处理条件下气体渗碳试样的磨痕形貌

Fig.6 Morphology of gas carburized samples with or without laser shock pretreatment

基体结合力。

结合激光冲击处理对试样的表面形貌特性及截面硬度影响,可以得出激光冲击预处理提高气体渗碳效率和性能的作用机理为:

(1) 激光冲击使表面粗糙度提高,特别是表层晶粒细化,因而表面自由能增加,有利于活性 C 原子在试样表面吸附。

(2) 激光冲击产生的变形层内形成了大量亚晶界和位错密度等微观晶体缺陷,由扩散理论可知, C 原子沿亚晶界及位错等晶体缺陷的扩散速度大大高于体扩散速度,因而激光冲击有利于提高 C 原子向基体内的扩散速度,从而使变形层内具有较高的 C 浓度。

结论

采用现有气体渗碳工艺流程对 18CrNiMo7-6 齿轮钢进行气体渗碳,通过添加激光冲击预处理工序,研究激光冲击对气体渗碳的影响及作用机理,得出如下结论:

(1) 激光冲击使试样表面粗糙度提高,从 0.12 μm 增大到 0.57 μm ,有利于活性 C 原子吸附。

(2) 激光冲击处理后形成了厚度约 220 μm 的变形层,表层硬度提高,从而有利于活性 C 原子吸附和向内扩散。

(3) 激光冲击对气体渗碳具有良好的促进作用。相同渗碳工艺条件下,渗碳层厚度由 1.24mm 提升到 1.49mm,相当于渗碳效率提高了约 20%。

(4) 激光冲击后气体渗碳试样具有更高的表面硬度、缓和的截面硬度梯度,同时耐磨性提高。

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Effect of Laser Shock Peening on Gas Carburizing for 18CrNiMo7-6 Gear Steel

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[ABSTRACT] 18CrNiMo7-6 gear steel was selected as the material and laser shock peening was primarily used as a pretreatment prior to gas carburizing, the aim of which is to improve the efficiency and further enhance the properties after gas carburizing. Optical microscope, surface roughness tester and Vickers micro-hardness tester were used to investigate the surface characteristics after laser shock peening and gas carburizing. The results show that under the same gas carburizing process of 910°C+4h, gas carburizing efficiency can be effectively enhanced by the pretreatment of laser shock peening, the carburizing layer increases from 1.24mm to 1.49mm, and the carburizing efficiency increases by around 20%. At the same time, the surface hardness is increased from 680HV_{0.05} to 700HV_{0.05}. Especially, laser shock pretreatment can make the cross sectional hardness gradient decreased gently, thus enhance the bonding force between carburized layer and matrix. The mechanism why laser shock peening has significant effect on gas carburizing is as below: the surface rough increases from 0.12μm to 0.57μm, a deformation layer with thickness of about 220μm was formed after laser shock peening, and with much finer grain size. All the above factors are beneficial for absorption and diffusion inward of carbon atoms.

Keywords: Laser shock peening; 18CrNiMo7-6; Gas carburizing; Pretreatment; Carburizing efficiency

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(上接第39页)

Experimental Study on Surface Integrity and Fatigue Performance of Dissimilar Material Stack-Structured Holes Manufactured by Different Processing Method

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[ABSTRACT] In order to study the effect of the dissimilar material stack-structure on the surface integrity and fatigue properties of holes, under the stacked condition, φ8.36mm holes were prepared by different processes, such as drilling & reaming, burnishing, and split sleeve cold expansion (SSCX). The surface morphology, surface roughness, residual stress and microstructure were investigated. Fatigue test and fracture surface analysis were performed. The results show that burnishing forms obvious material pile-up at the end of the interlayer hole and introduces circle-shaped micro-crack around the 7B04-T6 hole, while SSCX imparts micro-crack in the region corresponding to sleeve split. Under fatigue loading conditions in present paper, burnishing increases the fatigue life (99.9% survival rate, 95% confidence) of 7B04-T6 and TA15 hole structures by 0.01 times and 0.63 times, and SSCX with interference value of *A* increases that of 7B04-T6 hole by 3.25 times but reduces that of TA15 holes, while SSCX with interference value of *B* increases that of 7B04-T6 and TA15 by 18 times and 3.30 times, respectively. The fatigue sources of the three types of hole all originate from the hole wall or corner, and never start from the micro cracks of cold expansion or burnishing.

Keywords: Stack-structure; Hole; Burnishing; Split sleeve cold expansion; Surface integrity; Fatigue performance

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