

THE MODELLING OF TEMPERATURE-DEPENDENT STRESS- -STRAIN CURVES FOR WELDABLE STEELS

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Abstract. The calculation of stresses in the steel elements subjected to the thermo-mechanical loads requires taking into account the influence of temperature on mechanical properties of a material, including the stress-strain curve. The simplified and extended computational models of temperature-dependent tensile curves have been discussed. The methodology of the stress-strain curve construction in the entire temperature range of the solid state of the material has been proposed. The considerations are illustrated by the examples of calculated stress-strain curves in different temperatures for S235 and S355 welding steels.

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1. Introduction

In the thermomechanical states calculation of constructions and machine parts made from metals, their alloys and composite materials, the mechanical properties of the material depending on temperature, including tensile (compression) curves, are used [1-5]. These properties are determined based on the results of a static tensile test performed at different temperatures. In this area, intensive research of mechanical properties of steel are carried out [6-8], also due to their resistance to fire [9].

2. Modelling of the stress-strain curve

Stress-strain dependencies can be defined in the form of curve points (Fig. 1) [8, 10]. Often, other parameters of the tensile curve as a function of temperature are

used, such as the longitudinal modulus (Young modulus) E , strain hardening modulus, yield stress σ_0 and tensile strength TS . In the elastic range ($\sigma < \sigma_0$), the stress-strain function is described in accordance with Hooke's law:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon, T) = E(T)\varepsilon \quad (1)$$

where: σ - stress value of tension curve, ε - strain, T - temperature, σ_0 - yield stress, E - Young modulus.

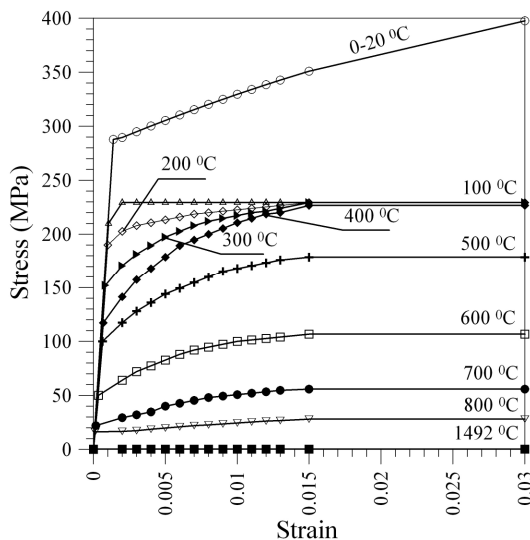


Fig. 1. Tensile curves depending on the temperature for S235 steel [10]

In the elastic-plastic range, the tensile curve is described by a function or by a strain hardening modulus. The strain hardening functions were the subject of researchers' interest in the first half of the 20th century. Ludwik [11] began a modelling of the stress-strain curve and described it with following function:

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + K_L \varepsilon^{n_L} \quad (2)$$

where σ represents stress, σ_0 yield stress, ε plastic strain, K_L and n_L are the experimentally determined parameters. In turn, Hollomon [12, 13] suggested a function:

$$\sigma = K_H \varepsilon^{n_H} \quad (3)$$

Swift [14] regarding Hollomon's law introduced the constant into the strain term:

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 + K_S \sigma^{n_S} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma = K'_S (\varepsilon + \varepsilon_0)^{n'_S} \quad (4)$$

where ε_0 , K_S , K'_S , n_S and n'_S are the parameters.

The function generating the tensile curves can be described in the form:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon, T) = \sigma_o(T) + \sigma_{sh}(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_0, T) \quad (5)$$

where: σ_o - limit of elasticity or yield stress, σ_{sh} - strain hardening function, ε_0 - the strain corresponding to yield stress σ_o determined by the dependence:

$$\varepsilon_0(T) = \frac{\sigma_o(T)}{E(T)} \quad (6)$$

When using the strain hardening modulus, which is the tangent of the angle of inclination of the function to the axis ε (Fig. 2a), this module is defined as follows:

$$\sigma_{sh}(T) = \frac{TS(T) - \sigma_o(T)}{\varepsilon_{\max}(T) - \varepsilon_0(T)} \quad (7)$$

In the case of elastic - ideal plastic material $\sigma_{sh}(T) = 0$, the tensile curve is straight parallel to the axis ε (Fig. 2b).

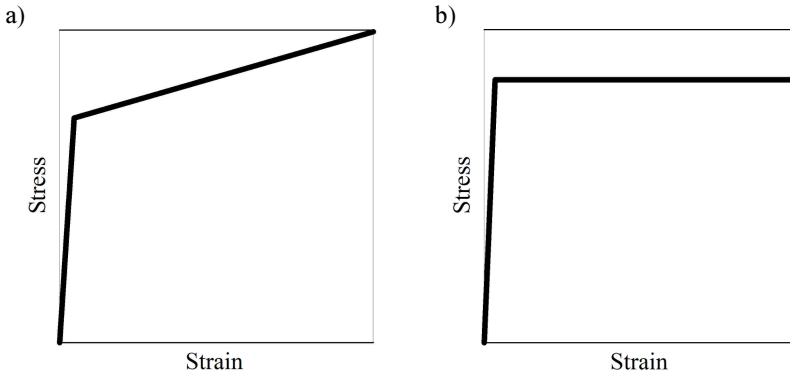


Fig. 2. Stress-strain curves: a) with strengthening, b) without strengthening

The calculation of stress as a function of strain and temperature first requires the determination of stress-strain curve points for a given temperature T or its parameters: Young modulus $E(T)$, strain hardening modulus, yield stress $\sigma_o(T)$ and tensile strength $ST(T)$ or ultimate tensile strength $UST(T)$. The searched curve can be determined based on the curves defined for the temperatures closest to the considered temperature, meaning the determination of parameters of the stress-strain curve for temperature $T > T_1$ and $T < T_2$, where T_2 and T_1 denote temperatures for which the tensile curves are known (defined). In the case of curve description by the points, the searched curve at the desired temperature T is calculated for individual points, using the proportionality principle, according to the relationship (Fig. 3):

$$\sigma_i(T) = \sigma_i(T_1) + \frac{\sigma_i(T_2) - \sigma_i(T_1)}{T_2 - T_1} (T - T_1) \quad (8)$$

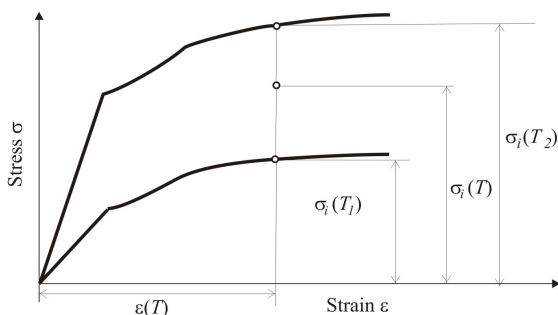


Fig. 3. Interpolation of stress-strain curve points

Regardless of the description method of the stress-strain curve, the stress values in the elastic range are determined analogously to the equation (1) according to Hooke's law:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon, T) = E(T)\varepsilon \quad (9)$$

In the elastic-plastic range, the stress value is determined depending on the description of the curve. In the case of the curve description by points, we start the calculation of strain values for strain ε by determining the points of the curve ε_i and ε_{i+1} (Fig. 4), between which there are strain value ε . The stress value is calculated from the dependence:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon, T) = \sigma_i(\varepsilon_i, T) + \frac{\sigma_{i+1}(\varepsilon_{i+1}, T) - \sigma_i(\varepsilon_i, T)}{\varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_i} (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_i) \quad (10)$$

In the case of describing the strain hardening curve with the function, the stress value is determined in accordance with the formula:

$$\sigma(\varepsilon, T) = \sigma_o(T) + \sigma_{sh}(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_0, T) \quad (11)$$

In numerical methods, the dependencies $E = E(T)$ and $\sigma_0 = \sigma_0(T)$ are often used. Figures 4 and 5 show diagrams of these relations for steel S235JR [15] and S355J2H [9].

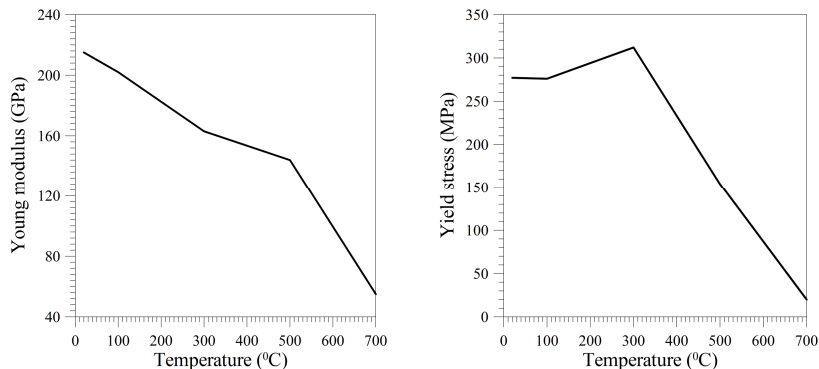


Fig. 4. Young's modulus and yield strength as a temperature function for S235JR steel

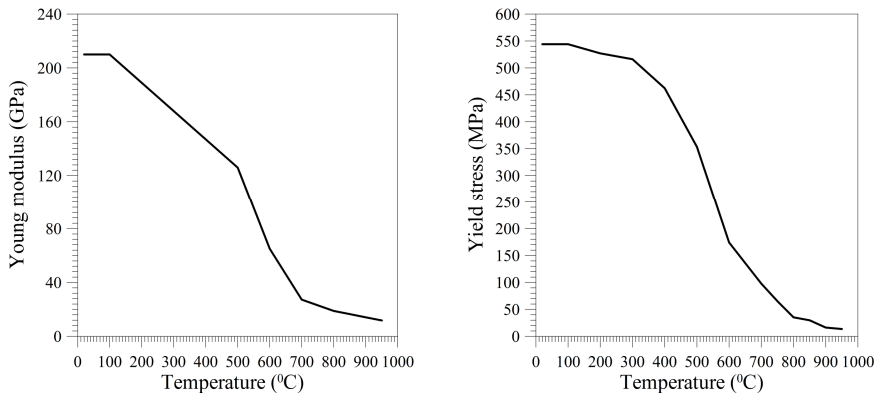


Fig. 5. Young's modulus and yield strength as a temperature function for S355J2H steel

3. Example of computations

In the example of computations, the models of tensile curves of S355J2H as a function of temperature based on the results of experimental studies contained in the research report Outinen et al. [6] is presented. The parameters of Swift's and Hollomon's equations were determined in [16]. The comparison of the stress-strain curves described by Swift and Hollomon laws for the temperature 500°C with the experimental results and the curves obtained by interpolation from 400°C and 600°C in Figure 6 is presented.

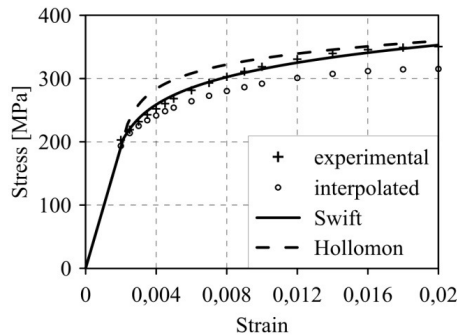


Fig. 6. The comparison of the stress-strain curves described by Swift and Hollomon laws for the temperature 500°C with the experimental results and the curves obtained by interpolation

4. Conclusions

The methods of determination of tensile (strain hardening) curves proposed in the work allow one to develop approximate strain-stress characteristics of steels

at different temperatures. A verification of the correctness of developed models of strain-stress curves is difficult. Models developed with the methods described in the paper are difficult to consider as fully compatible with the real tensile curves, but are sufficiently suitable for use in the modeling of thermomechanical states of metals and their alloys. One of the indirect ways may be to compare the measured stresses in real elements with those calculated on the basis of the developed models.

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