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水淬预处理对铁道机车用轴承钢组织与力学性能的影响

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摘要: 对铁道机车用轴承钢锻坯进行水淬预处理, 再分别对锻坯和水淬预处理钢进行奥氏体化+等温淬火处理, 研究了水淬预处理对轴承钢显微组织和力学性能的影响。结果表明: 轴承钢锻坯的显微组织为珠光体+铁素体, 水淬预处理后组织变为马氏体+少量铁素体; 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后, 锻坯和水淬预处理钢中都出现了细长贝氏体板条束和块状马氏体/奥氏体(M/A)岛, 水淬预处理钢中的贝氏体板条束更细小, M/A岛数量更多且尺寸更小; 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后, 水淬预处理钢的抗拉强度和屈服强度较锻坯分别提高了8.68%和17.07%, 冲击功也高于锻坯, 但两者的断后伸长率相近。

关键词: 轴承钢; 锻坯; 水淬预处理; 显微组织; 力学性能

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Effect of Water Quenching Pretreatment on Structure and Mechanical Properties of Bearing Steel for Railway Locomotive

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Abstract: Forging stock of bearing steel used for railway locomotive was pretreated by water quenching. The forging stock and water quenching pretreated steel were subjected to austenitizing and isothermal quenching. The effect of water quenching pretreatment on the microstructure and mechanical properties of the bearing steel was studied. The results show that the microstructure of forged bearing steel was composed of pearlite and ferrite, and after water quenching pretreatment was composed of martensite and a little ferrite. After austenitizing and isothermal quenching, slender bainite slat bundles and massive martensite/austenite (M/A) islands appeared in both forging stock and water quenching pretreated steel. The bainite slat bundles in the water quenching pretreated steel were smaller, and M/A islands were more in amount and smaller in size. The tensile strength and yield strength of the water quenching pretreated steel after austenitizing and isothermal quenching were 8.68% and 17.07% higher than those of the forging stock, respectively, and the impact energy was also higher than that of the forging stock. But the elongation after fracture of the two was similar.

Key words: bearing steel; forging stock; water quenching pretreatment; microstructure; mechanical property

0 引言

在铁道机车轴承钢的生产过程中,需将钢材加工成所需形状后再进行奥氏体化、等温淬火等热处理,

以达到所要求的力学性能^[1]。轴承用Fe-0.18C-1.6Si-1.2Mn贝氏体钢通常先经过铸造、热锻等工艺来获得所需的形状,再进行热处理(等温淬火等)以调整其显微组织,从而获得所需的力学性能。热处理前轴承钢不同的初始显微组织会显著影响热处理后的显微组织和力学性能^[2-3],但目前相关的研究报道还较少^[4-7]。因此,作者以铁道机车用轴承钢锻坯为试验对象,通过水淬预处理改变其初始显微组织,研究了不同组织轴承钢经过奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后的

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显微组织、拉伸性能和冲击性能。研究结果有助于了解初始组织状态对热处理态组织与性能的影响规律,并为轴承钢的工业化生产提供一定的理论参考。

1 试样制备与试验方法

试验原料为吉林吉钢钢铁集团有限公司提供的铁道机车轴承用 Fe-0.18C-1.6Si-1.2Mn 钢锻坯,尺寸为 40 cm×50 cm×150 cm,锻造温度为 980~1 180 ℃,锻造后空冷至室温。采用电感耦合等离子发射光谱法测得试验钢的化学成分如表 1 所示。

表 1 试验钢的化学成分

Table 1 Chemical composition of tested steel

元素	C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Ni	Mo	Fe
质量分数/%	0.18	1.69	1.28	0.010	0.004	1.82	0.50	0.36	余

采用线切割法从锻坯上加工出尺寸为 25 cm×45 cm×125 cm 的矩形坯料,将坯料置于 CarboliteGero HTK 型箱式电阻炉中进行 945 ℃×20 min 奥氏体化处理,水淬至室温,得到水淬预处理钢。使用 Gleeble 3500 型热模拟试验机测得锻坯和水淬预处理钢的马氏体开始转变温度分别为 375,366 ℃,据此将等温淬火温度设定为 385 ℃。在锻坯和水淬预处理钢上分别取尺寸为 $\phi 5$ mm×8 mm 的圆柱体试样,使用 Nabertherm LHT08/18 型热处理炉进行 945 ℃×20 min 奥氏体化处理,水淬至室温后使用箱式炉和 DM-75-8 型井式盐浴炉进行 385 ℃×60 min 等温淬火处理,介质为质量比 1:1 的硝酸钾和亚硝酸钠。

采用线切割方法加工出尺寸为 10 mm×10 mm×10 mm 的金相试样,依次经过砂纸打磨、机械抛光和体积分数 4% 硝酸乙醇溶液腐蚀(观察晶粒形貌则采用沸腾的饱和苦味酸溶液腐蚀)后,使用奥林巴斯 GX 71 型光学显微镜(OM)和 SU-500 型扫描电子显微镜(SEM)观察显微组织。使用扫描电子显微镜附带的电子背散射衍射(EBSD)组件进行 EBSD 表征,试样需在机械抛光后使用体积分数 10% 高氯酸+90% 无水乙醇溶液进行电解抛光。使用 Image-Pro plus 软件测量晶粒的平均尺寸^[8]。使用 D8 ADVANCE 型 X 射线衍射仪(XRD)进行物相分析,采用铜靶, K_{α} 射线,步进扫描方式,扫描步长为 0.02°。取透射电镜试样,打磨至 50 μ m 后冲压成直径 3 mm 的薄片,使用 Tenupol-5 型双喷离子减薄仪在体积分数 8% 高氯酸+92% 冰乙酸混合溶液中、-45 ℃ 条件下进行双喷减薄,使用 JEOL-

2100 型透射电子显微镜(TEM)观察微观形貌。取如图 1(a)所示拉伸试样,根据 GB/T 228.1—2010,使用 MTS-810 型万能材料试验机进行室温拉伸试验,拉伸速度为 2 mm·min⁻¹。取如图 1(b)所示冲击试样,根据 GB/T 229—2020,使用 JB-300B 型摆锤冲击试验机进行室温冲击试验。拉伸和冲击试验各测 3 个试样取平均值。

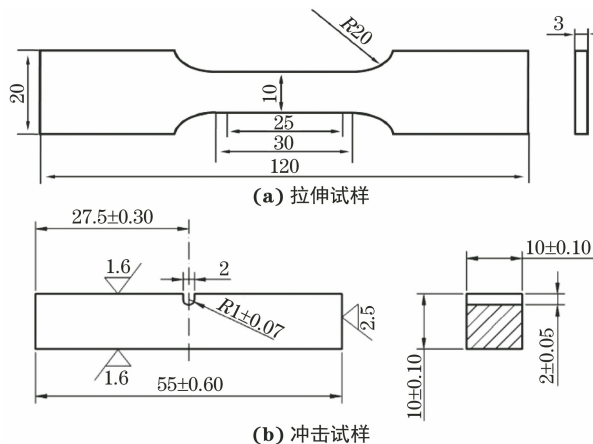


图 1 拉伸和冲击试样的形状和尺寸

Fig.1 Shape and size of tensile (a) and impact (b) specimens

2 试验结果与讨论

2.1 显微组织与物相组成

由图 2 可见,轴承钢锻坯的显微组织为珠光体和铁素体,水淬预处理后的显微组织为马氏体和少量铁素体。

由图 3 可见:轴承钢锻坯经过奥氏体化处理后,基体中出现了尺寸不等的奥氏体晶粒,平均晶粒尺寸为 35.7 μ m;水淬预处理并经奥氏体化处理后,晶粒明显细化,平均晶粒尺寸为 8.7 μ m。由此可见,水淬预处理有助于减小轴承钢奥氏体化后的奥氏体晶粒尺寸。

由图 4 可见,经奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,锻坯和水淬预处理钢的基体组织均为针状贝氏体铁素体(BF)+细长板条贝氏体(LB)+马氏体/奥氏体(M/A)岛,同时存在颗粒状残余奥氏体以及位于板条状贝氏体间的薄膜状残余奥氏体(A_f)。相比于未水淬处理的锻坯,水淬预处理钢中的贝氏体组织更细小,M/A 岛数量更多且尺寸更小。这是因为奥氏体化处理后水淬预处理钢的奥氏体晶粒较为细小,板条贝氏体的形核和长大无法穿越奥氏体相界,贝氏体组织的粗化与长大受到抑制^[9-11];此外,奥氏体晶粒细化会增加晶界数量,从而增加 M/A 岛形核位置,因此 M/A 岛数量增多且尺寸减小。

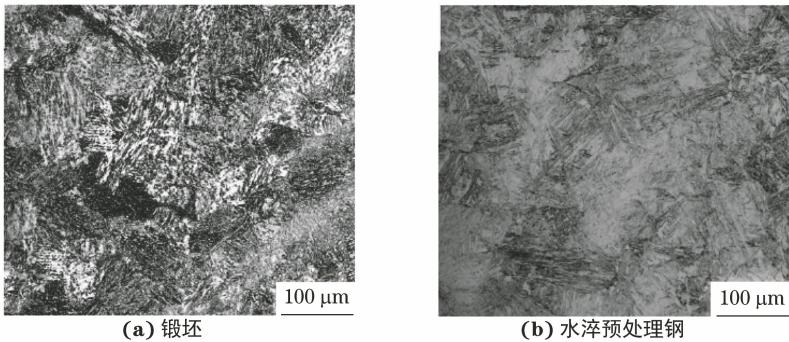


图 2 锻坯和水淬预处理钢的显微组织
Fig.2 Microstructures of forging stock (a) and water quenching pretreated steel (b)

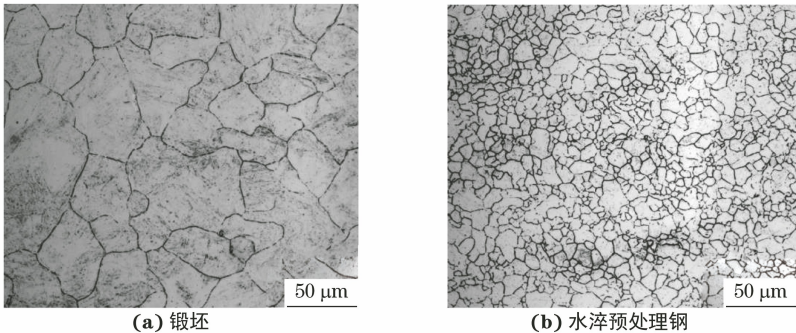


图 3 奥氏体化处理后锻坯和水淬预处理钢的晶粒形貌
Fig.3 Grain morphology of forging stock (a) and water quenching pretreated steel (b) after austenitizing treatment

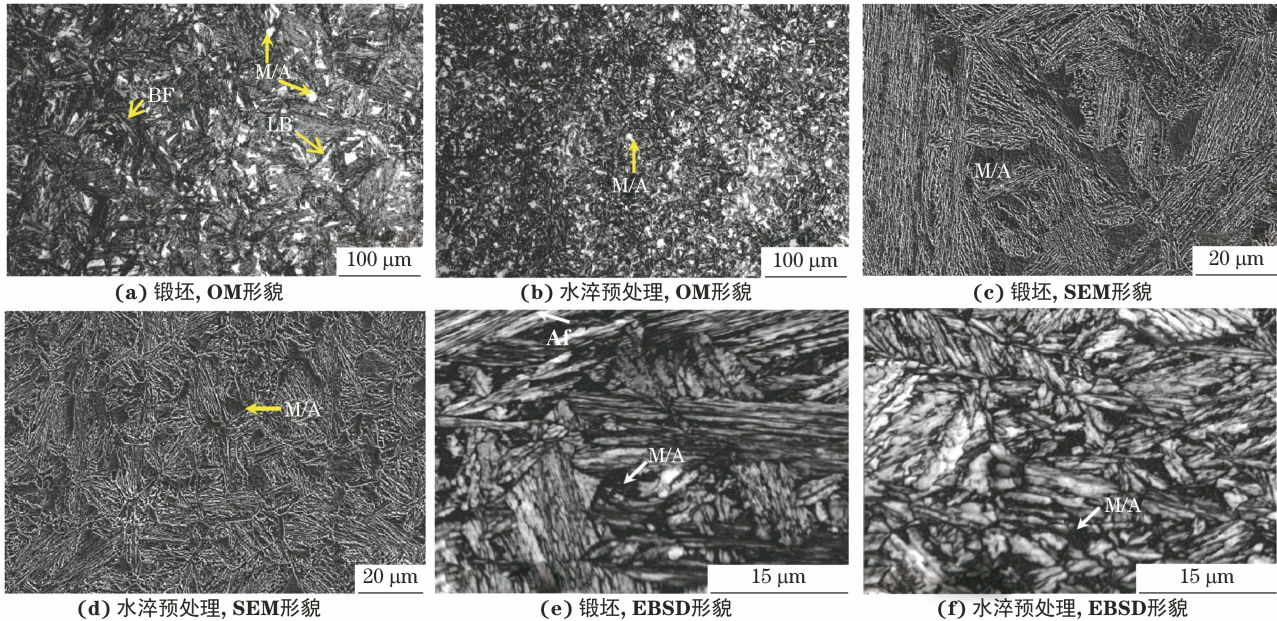


图 4 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后锻坯和水淬预处理钢的显微组织
Fig.4 Microstructures of forging stock (a, c, e) and water quenching pretreated steel (b, d, f) after austenitizing and isothermal quenching treatment: (a–b) OM images; (c–d) SEM micrographs and (e–f) EBSD micrographs

由图 5 可见:经过奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,锻坯中 M/A 岛的尺寸主要在 6~10 μm 、平均尺寸约为 7.9 μm ,而水淬预处理钢的 M/A 尺寸主要在 0~6 μm 、平均尺寸约为 3.5 μm ,且未出现尺寸在

10 μm 以上 M/A 岛组织;锻坯中尺寸在 0.5~5 μm 和大于 5 μm 的 M/A 岛的面积分数分别约为 3.4% 和 9.2%,水淬预处理钢中尺寸在 0.5~5 μm 和大于 5 μm 的 M/A 岛的面积分数分别约为 11.5% 和

3.2%。由此可见,水淬预处理有助于减小 M/A 岛的尺寸并增加 M/A 岛的面积分数。

由图 6 可见:锻坯组织中的薄膜状残余奥氏体分布在贝氏体铁素体板条束间,未发现明显碳化物的存在;水淬预处理钢的组织与锻坯相似,但贝氏体板条相对更短,这与前文的 OM 和 SEM 观

察结果相吻合。选取 TEM 照片 20 张,采用截距法^[12]统计得到锻坯和水淬预处理钢中的贝氏体铁素体板条真实厚度分别为 (232 ± 42) , (209 ± 33) nm。由此可见,水淬预处理有助于减小奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后轴承钢中的贝氏体铁素体板条的真实厚度。

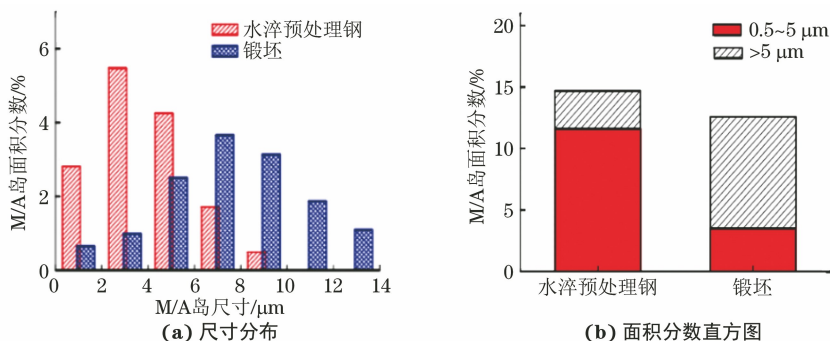


图 5 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后锻坯和水淬预处理钢中 M/A 岛的尺寸分布和面积分数直方图

Fig. 5 Size distribution (a) and area fraction histogram (b) of M/A island in forging stock and water quenching preheated steel after austenitizing and isothermal quenching treatment

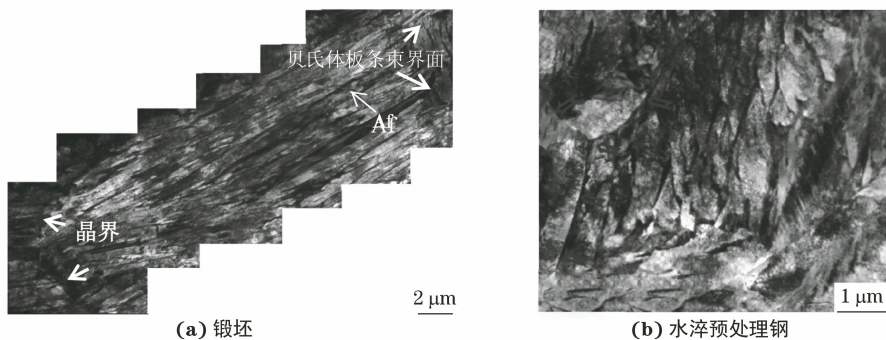


图 6 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后锻坯和水淬预处理钢的 TEM 形貌

Fig. 6 TEM morphology of forging stock (a) and water quenching pretreated steel (b) after austenitizing and isothermal quenching

由图 7 可见,奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,锻坯和水淬预处理钢均主要由 $\alpha + \gamma$ 相组成。根据文献[13]的方法计算得到锻坯和水淬预处理钢中残余奥氏体体积分数分别为 9.2% 和 8.5%。由此可见,水淬预处理不会改变等温淬火后轴承钢的物相组成,但会减小残余奥氏体体积分数。这可能是因为水淬预处理细化了奥氏体晶粒,使得等温淬火过程中更多的奥氏体转变为二次马氏体而减少了残余奥氏体含量^[14]。

2.2 力学性能

由图 8 和表 2 可知,奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,水淬预处理钢的抗拉强度和屈服强度较锻坯分别提高了 8.68% 和 17.07%,但两者的断后伸长率相近。此外,水淬预处理钢的冲击功也高于锻坯。由此可见,水淬预处理有助于提高等温淬火态轴承钢的室温强度和冲击韧性,但对断后伸长率的影响

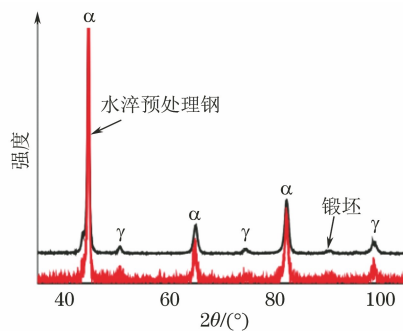


图 7 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后锻坯和水淬预处理钢的 XRD 谱

Fig. 7 XRD patterns of forging stock and water quenching pretreated steel after austenitizing and isothermal quenching

不大。

轴承钢锻坯的显微组织为珠光体+铁素体,经过水淬预处理后转变为马氏体+少量铁素体,且晶粒尺寸较小。晶粒细化可以提升材料的屈服强度^[15],

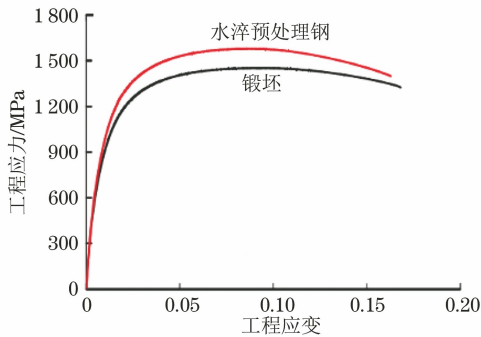


图8 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后轴承钢的工程应力-工程应变曲线

Fig.8 Engineering stress-engineering strain curves of bearing steel after austenitizing and isothermal quenching

表2 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后轴承钢的室温力学性能

Table 2 Room temperature mechanical properties of bearing steel after austenitizing and isothermal quenching

材料	屈服强度/ MPa	抗拉强度/ MPa	断后伸长 率/%	冲击功/ (J·cm ⁻²)
锻坯	703±5	1 463±4	17.9±0.2	80±5
水淬预处理钢	823±6	1 589±5	17.5±0.3	97±5

且塑性变形能分散到更多晶粒内,从而提高塑性和韧性^[16]。与锻坯相比,奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后水淬预处理钢中的贝氏体板条束更短,残余奥氏体体积分数略有减少。由于无碳化物贝氏体中的贝氏体板条束相当于有效晶粒^[17],因此水淬预处理钢的强度增大,而断后伸长率基本不变。此外,水淬预处理钢中M/A岛的数量更多且尺寸更小,贝氏体板条束更短,晶粒更加细小,裂纹扩展阻力相对更大^[18],并且裂纹扩展至晶界时消耗的能量更多^[19],因此,淬火预处理钢的冲击韧性提高。

3 结 论

(1) 轴承钢锻坯的显微组织为珠光体+铁素体,水淬预处理后的显微组织为马氏体+少量铁素体;经过奥氏体化处理后,锻坯和水淬预处理钢的平均晶粒尺寸分别为35.7、8.7 μm。

(2) 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,锻坯和水淬预处理钢中均出现了细长贝氏体板条束和块状M/A岛,水淬预处理钢中的贝氏体板条束更细小,M/A岛数量更多且尺寸更小。

(3) 奥氏体化+等温淬火处理后,水淬预处理钢的抗拉强度和屈服强度较锻坯分别提高了8.68%和17.07%,两者的断后伸长率相近;水淬预处理钢的冲击功也高于锻坯。

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