COLD DRAWING OF AUSTENITIC

STAINLESS STEEL WIRE

By

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1953

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

in Mechanical Engineering

from the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1953

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ABSTRACT

The drawing of austenitic stainless steel and brass wire has been studied. Experimental variables were reduction in area, temperature, and draw speed. For stainless steel, the effects of changes in all variables on drawing stress and drawing limit (drawability) were determined; deformation efficiency was measured at room temperature only. Drawing stress, deformation efficiency and drawability were determined for 70-30 brass at room temperature and at one speed.

Values for the coefficient of friction in wire drawing were calculated from experimental data using established wire drawing theories.

Cambridge, Massachusetts May 25, 1953

Professor Earl B. Millard Secretary of the Faculty Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, I hereby submit this report, entitled "Cold Drawing of Austenitic Stainless Steel Wire."

Respectfully yours,



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his sincere gratitude to Professor W. A. Backofen and to Professor E. R. Marshall for their fine advice, inspiration, and encouragement.

In addition, the author would like to express his gratitude to all those in the Metals Processing Laboratory for their advice and assistance. A special word of appreciation to Gordon Powell for his extensive advice and assistance.

INTRODUCTION

Much work has been done in the past on the wire drawing process. There are three major wire drawing theories developed by Hill and Tupper, Davis and Dokos, and Sachs. They all agree that when friction work and redundant work are zero the work done in drawing is equal to the work done in tensile stretching.

H. G. Baron and F. C. Thompson ⁽¹⁾ in comparing the three theories state that that of Davis and Dokos appears to be the most accurate and will give reliable values of the coefficient of friction if redundant work is small or zero.

G. D. S. MacLellan ⁽²⁾ had adapted this theory to include the effect on draw stress of friction in the bearing section of a die—an important consideration that had been ignored previous to MacLellan's work.

These theories all relate the draw stress to die half-angle, coefficient of friction, reduction in area, and mechanical properties of the material. A simpler tool for analysis of the wire drawing process is the Deformation Efficiency concept. This defines an Efficiency γ equal to the ratio of the work done in tensile stretching to the actual work done in the process. The work in tensile stretching is equal to the area under the true stress—true stress curve of the material drawn. The work actually expended in the process can be shown to equal the drawing stress or the drawing load divided by the cross sectional area of the wire after drawing.⁽³⁾ This gives a reasonably good picture of the process if consistent drawing conditions are maintained.

Limited work has been done on the drawing of stainless steels, which are unique in that cold working induces a transformation of the austenite to martensite. It was the purpose of this thesis to obtain new and additional data pertaining to the martensite transformation and its role in the drawing process.

Since lower temperatures tend to promote the martensite transformation, it was decided to carry out some experiments at sub-zero temperatures.

EXPERIMENTAL MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND PROCEDURES

Materials

The materials used in the experiments were:

1) commercial stainless steel rod-type 304; 0.250 inches in diameter; annealed in a hydrogen atmosphere for fifteen minutes at 1950°F. Analysis:

Phos. Sulphur Nickel Chromium Moly. Carb. Mang. 8.81 .045 .45 .028 .011 18.50 .14 2) The experimental foundry prepared a melt of stainless steel to the specifications of type 301. This material was hot forged to 5/16 in. round stock, then wire drawn in the laboratory to 0.250 inches in diameter, then anealed in a hydrogen atmosphere for fifteen minutes at 1950°F. No chemical analysis is available for this material.

3) 70-30 Brass--received annealed; 0.250 inch diameter.

Equipment

A simple experimental setup was employed. A testing machine was used to draw the wires through the dies. The pointed end was gripped in the moving head and the wire was pulled through the dies, which sat on a steel block fitted snugly into the stationary head of the machine. The drawing load could then be measured on the balancing arm of the machine.

Two coolant reservoirs consisting of a two-inch diameter steel tubing brazed to an annular section of three-inch steel round were used. These were bolted to the steel die holder and held the coolant used in the low temperature tests around the dies and undrawn portion of the wire. A one-inch layer of asbestos was used to insulate the eight-inch length of tubing.

The following equipment was used:

1) A series of six tungsten carbide dies with diameters of 0.230, 0.212, 0.196, 0.181, 0.167, and 0.154 inches. With a rod of 0.250 initial diameter, these dies give the following respective reductions in area: 15.3%, 28.1%, 38.5%, 47.7%, 55.4%, and 62.1%. The half-die angles and bearing lengths measured with a special profilometer at the American Steel and Wire Works in Worcester, Massachusetts, were found to be:

Red in Area (%)	Die Diameter (in.)	Die Half Angle (degrees)	Bearing Length (in.)
15.3	0.230	7.0	0.101
28.1	0.212	9.6	0.096
38.5	0.196	6.5	0.072
47.7	0.181	7.2	0.058
55.4	0.167	8.0	0.074
62.1	0.154	7.1	0.057

2) A Tinius-Olsen Testing Machine-60,000 pound capacity to apply and measure the drawing load. The following head speeds were available: 7.0 in./min, 1.12 in./min, and 0.28 in./min.

3) A die holder to position the dies in the testing machine and to keep the drawing load directed along the axis of the rod and perpendicular to the die cross section.

4) Templin grips (8,000 pound capacity) to draw the pointed wire through the dies.

5) Two "coolant reservoirs" to hold the low temperature baths used in some of the experiments.

6) Swaging machine to point the test specimens prior to drawing.

Procedures

The experiments were carried out in the following manner. An approximately 12-inch length of annealed rod was pointed in swaging dies, lubricated with Molykote Z, * and then inserted through the drawing die and fastened in the Templin grip. Load was applied slowly until the grip was taut, so as to eliminate any possible shock effects. Load was then applied at the desired head speed. Load readings were taken at regular intervals (thirty second or one minute).

In the large reductions it was necessary to put a point of two diameters on the specimen, one slightly smaller than the exit diameter of the die and the other slightly larger. The larger section of the point was drawn through the die and the test stopped. The small diameter was then cut off and a grip secured on the newly-drawn section. The test was then continued. This procedure was necessary because the stress of the material and a drawing limit would be indicated of smaller magnitude than the actual value.

Two series of low temperature tests were run on the stainless steels, one with dry ice and acetone for a coolant, and the other with liquid notrogen as a coolant. The steady state temperatures reached were -75°C and -185°C respectively as measured with a pentane thermometer. Each specimen was pulled through the die for a short distance to seal the opening. The coolant reservoir was then fastened to the die holder and the appropriate coolant added. When the coolant and specimen reached an equilibrium temperature, the test was resumed. Temperature measurements

*Molykote Z, a commercial lubricant for working of stainless steel, manufactured by the Alpha Corporation of Greenwich, Connecticut, was used on all of the tests.

were made simultaneously with load measurements. Coolant was added as needed during the test to maintain the required temperature. The liquid nitrogen had to be poured very steadily or large fluctuations in load were evidenced.

Tensile tests on the 304, 301, and brass were performed to obtain the true stress—true strain relationships. These curves were graphically integrated to get the relationship between the minimum work to bring about a given change in volume in tensile stretching and the true strain. These values were used in the calculations to obtain the efficiencies and coefficient of friction in wire drawing.



KEY TO SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM

- 1) Die holder
- 2) Base of coolant reservoir
- 3) Insulation around coolant reservoir
- 4) Tube of coolant reservoir
- 5) Coolant
- 6) Bolt
- 7) Lead gasket
- 8) Die
- 9) Stationary head of testing machine
- 10) Pointed end of specimen
- 11) Templin grips
- 12) Moving head of testing machine

RESULTS

Effect of Reduction in Area on Efficiency

The deformation efficiency increases as the reduction in area increases. This is due to a smaller percentage of friction work being wasted in the process. Thus, a heavy pass will be more efficient from the point of energy expended, than a series of lighter passes which give the same final diameter.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between Deformation Efficiency and Reduction in Area and also Natural Strain for 304, 301, and Brass.

Figure 2 shows the True Stress-True Strain relationship of 304, the Minimum Work-True Strain relationship and the Drawing Stress-True Strain relationship.

The inner section of the extrapolated Drawing Stress curve and the True Stress-True Strain curve should give the drawing limit of the material, for the drawing stress cannot exceed the tensile stress without fracture taking place. The intersection for 304 is at a strain of about 1.0 or a reduction in area of 63.2%. In Figures 3 and 4 which are the corresponding curves for 301 and Brass, we get drawing limits upon extrapolation of 62% for the 301, and 67% for the Brass.

However, in our wire drawing experiments we found that we could draw successfully all these materials through the 55.4% die, and that they would fracture if we attempted to bring about a 62.1% reduction in area. Thus, the drawing limit at room temperature for these materials is somewhere between 55.4% and 62.1%.

We can explain this seeming discrepancy in the following way: 1) Our values of drawing stress are computed by using the Average Drawing Load. While the Average Per Cent deviations are small, an

occasional load reading would exceed the average load by a considerable amount. Also, higher values than the average load were recorded at the start of many of the tests. This was probably due to the fact that sliding friction is less than static friction, and an increase in temperature in the die due to deformation and friction occurs as the test proceeds, and less martensite is formed. These values were discounted when computing the average drawing load, the average per cent deviation, and the average drawing stress (average drawing load/final area of wire). 2) A uniform stress distribution across the drawn cross section has been assumed. It is suspected that this may not be true, and therefore, a higher stress than that actually calculated is experienced in the wire and fracture occurs before our estimated drawing limit is reached. 5) It is difficult to extrapolate the drawing stress curve with much preciseness.

The most we can say on the drawability of these materials is that it is bracketed somewhere between 55.4% and 62.1%, perhaps in the order of increasing drawability: 301, 304, and Brass.

Effect of Head Speed on Efficiency

Figure 5 shows the relationship between Deformation Efficiency and Reduction in Area for 304 measured at three different head speeds. The fact that these curves cross would seem to indicate that the material is rate sensitive; rather than a trend in efficiency versus head speed being indicated, it is more likely that the mechanical properties of the material are changing with changing head speed.

Effect of Low Temperature on Efficiency

The drawing stresses increase for the same reduction as the

temperature decreases.

Figure 6 shows the affect of low temperatures on the drawing stresses for 304.

Figure 7 shows the affect of low temperatures on the drawing stresses for 301.

In our wire drawing experiments at the dry ice and acetone Temperature and at the nitrogen temperature, we found that we could draw both stainless steels through the 38.5% die and that they would fracture if we attempted to bring about a 47.7% reduction in area. However, these values present a fictitious picture of the drawing limit of stainless steel at low temperatures. It was impossible to maintain the drawn portion at the temperature of the die and undrawn portion in the coolant reservoir. The material fractured at a point which was at a higher temperature than that at which the wire drawing process was being carried out. At room temperature the fracture would normally occur at a point just outside the die exit. At dry ice and acetone temperatures the fracture occurred at a point approximately four inches from the die, and at the liquid nitrogen temperature the fracture occurred at a point just outside the grips. Since stainless steel is much stronger at lower temperatures than at room temperature, the drawing limit realized is less than that expected if low temperature could be maintained throughout the specimen.

The 304 specimens drawn at liquid nitrogen temperature are much more magnetic than any of the other specimens. This indicates a larger degree of martensite transformation. The 301 specimens drawn at liquid nitrogen temperature show very little magnetism and thus a

smaller degree of transformation has taken place. The effect of this martensite transformation can be seen by comparing the drawing stress curves for the two materials at liquid nitrogen temperature.

Values of deformation efficiency cannot be given because no information on the true stress-true strain characteristics of the materials is available for the low temperatures at which the tests were performed.

Values of the Coefficient of Friction in Wire Drawing

Symbols used

A				Cross-sectional area of wire
T				Length of hearing section
L	۹	۲		THE OU OF DESITING DECOTOR
8.			۲	Die semi-angle
Wt				Draw stress (work done per unit volume)
Yl				Initial yield stress in Davis and Dokos approximation
				to the tensile true stress-true strain curve
K				Slope of above relation
M				Coefficient of friction
-				Design lead without considering houring length
Y		۰	۲	Drawing load without considering bearing teng on
P	۲	۲	۲	Drawing load taking bearing load into consideration
D	۲	٠	۲	Diameter
1		۲		L/D
Y				Yield stress
Cont	0.01.			Deferre deferrention
SUI	III	XT	۲	DETOLE GELOLING FLOR
Sut	ffi	x 2		After deformation

Davis and Dokos theory is

 $P = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu \cot \alpha}\right) \left\{ \left[1 - \left(\frac{A_z}{A_z}\right)^{\mu \cot \alpha}\right] \left(Y_{,} - \frac{K}{\mu \cot \alpha}\right) + K \log \frac{A_z}{A_z} \right\}$

assuming that Y is a linear function of natural strain

 $Y = Y_{i} + K \log \frac{A_{i}}{A_{i}}$

MacLellan takes into consideration the bearing length and his equation is

 $P_{t} = A_{2} Y_{2} (1 - e^{-4\mu l}) + P \cdot e^{-4\mu l}$

Upon examination of these theories we find that the only quantity which we cannot measure is the coefficient of friction. The drawing load is known. The initial and final areas can be measured, and the die angle and length of bearing section can be gotten from the profilometer information. The values of Y1, and Y2, and K can be taken from the true stress--true strain relations for the respective materials.

Using a solution involving successive approximations by trial and error insertion of values for the coefficient of friction until the calculated drawing load equals the measured drawing load gives the following values:

	Coe	filcient of	iriction	
Red in Area	Davis and	Dokos	MacLell	an
	Brass	304	Brass	304
15.3	0.21	0.31	640-010-210-200	dig-to-to-to-aut
38.5	0.10	0.18	Cale-Trap Clab-Shee	0.12
55.4	0.08	0.25	0.05	0.20

It can be seen that the effect of the bearing length on the value of the coefficient of friction is appreciable.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Deformation Efficiency increases with reduction in area.
- 2) Drawing speed has a very slight effect on drawing stress and may have an effect on deformation efficiency.
- 3) Drawing stress increases with decreasing temperature for a given reduction in area.
- 4) The drawing limit at room temperature for 304, 301, and brass lies between 55.4% and 62.1%.
- 5) By the use of established wire drawing theories we can calculate the coefficients of friction in drawing of stainless steel and brass to be in the range of = 0.05 to 0.20.
- 6) Molykote Z is a satisfactory lubricant for drawing stainless steel wire at the head speeds used in these experiments.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The following problems would be a logical extension of this work:

1) Investigation of the relation of the amount of martensite transformation as a function of reduction in area and its effect on the drawing process by X-ray or magnetic techniques.

2) The effect that working stainless steel at low temperature has on its material properties at room temperature.

3) Investigation of the true stress-true strain relationships at low temperatures and the affect of temperature on the deformation efficiency.

4) Investigation of the effect that prestraining the test specimens has on the drawing process, i.e., making successive reductions on the same wire.

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MATERIAL 304

Room Temperature Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

Head Speed 7.0 ins/min

3

1.12 ins/min

0.28 ins/min

Red	Average	Average	Average	Defor-	Average	Average	Average	Defor-	Average	Average	Average	Defor-
in Area	Force	Deviation	Stress	Effi-	Force	Devisition	Stress	Effi-	Force	Deviation	Stress	Effi-
				ciency				ciency				ciency
(%)	(lbs)	(%)	(psi)	(%)	(lbs)	(%)	(psi)	(%)	(lbs)	(%)	(psi)	(%)
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7 55.4 62.1	1253 2007 2614 2955 3228	1.55 0.91 0.26 1.37 0.71 FRA	30,100 57,000 86,500 115,000 148,000 CTURE	33.2 45.6 53.2 60.8 66.2	1232 2014 2627 3125 3437	0.68 0.36 0.64 1.21 0.58 FRAC	29,600 57,100 87,200 122,000 157,000 TURE	33.8 45.6 53.2 60.8 66.2	1110 1895 2516 2998 3402	1.92 0.57 0.49 0.48 0.30 FRACT	26,700 53,700 83,300 116,700 155,000 URE	37.4 48.4 85.2 60.0 63.2

MATERIAL 304

Temperature--Dry Ice & Acetone (-77°C) Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

Head Spe	ed.	7.0 ins/	min]	12 ins/mi	in	C	.28 ins/min	
Red in Area (%)	Average Draw Force (1bs)	e Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)	Average Draw Force (lbs)	e Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)	Average Draw Force (lbs)	Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7	3519	1.71 FRACTURE	116,500	1809 2881 3721	1.47 3.61 0.83 FRACTURI	43,500 81,600 123,200	1689 2925 3760	1.29 0.64 1.06 FRACTURE	40,700 82,900 124,500

Temperature--Liquid Nitrogen (-189°C) Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

1.12 ins/min

Red in Area (%)	Average Draw Force (1bs)	Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7	2110 3765 4888	3.37 4.02 1.50 FRACTURE	50,700 107,000 162,000

MATERIAL 301

Room Temperature Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant-Molykote Z

Head S	peed	7.0	ins	/min
--------	------	-----	-----	------

-9%.

1.12 ins/min

0.28 ins/min

	Red	Average	Average	Average	Defor-	Average	Average	Average	Defor-	Average	Average	Average	Defor-
	in	Draw	Deviation	Draw	mation	Draw	Deviation	Draw	mation	Draw	Deviation	Draw	mation
	Area	Force		Stress	Effi- ciency	Force		Stress	Effi-	Force		Stress	Effi-
	(%)	(lbs)	(%)	(ngi)	(%)	(lbs)	(%)	(ngi)	(%)	(1be)	(%)	(noi)	(9)
	(10)	(LEND)	(10)	(hor)		(200)	(70)	(hor)	(10)	(200)	(10)	(hor)	(10)
- Carlo	15.3	1478	4.06	35,500	36.6	1256	1.87	30,200	43.1	1483	1.27	35,600	36.5
- Chinash	28.1	all the second second		and an		2372	1.49	68,100	45.6	2173	2.69	61,400	50.5
-	38.5	3075	0.89	102,000	51.0	2906	1.05	96,400	53.9	2839	0.72	94,000	55.3
-	47.7	and designed and		1907 (1990-1977) (1973 (1993 (1995 (1995 (1995		3480	0.84	135,400	57.7				Consequences and
	55.4	3739	0.90	171,000	62.5	3664	0.19	167,300	63.9	Guessemen	Q12 Q12 Q12 Q12 .	8000-6000 4000 4000 4000 4000	
	62.1	an Carrier and the state of the state	FRAC	TURE			FRACT	URE			FRACT	URE	

Temperature--Liquid Nitrogen (-189°C) Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

Head S	peed.	1.12 ins/min				
Red in Area (%)	Average Draw Force (1bs)	Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)			
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7	2506 3189 4167	1.45 3.45 3.12 FRACTURE	60,300 90,600 138,000			

Temperature--Dry Ice & Acetone (-77°C) Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

Head	Speed	1.12 in	ns/min
Red in Area (%)	Average Draw Force (1bs)	Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7	2148 3105 3718	3.00 2.28 0.83 FRACTURE	51,700 88,000 123,000

MATERIAL 70-30 BRASS

Room Temperature Tungsten Carbide Dies Lubricant--Molykote Z

Head Speed		1.12		
Red in Area (%)	Average Draw Force (lbs)	Average Deviation (%)	Average Draw Stress (psi)	Deformation Efficiency (%)
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7 55.4 62.1	742 1173 1498 1677 1891	0.42 1.50 0.57 0.50 0.33 FRACTU	17,800 33,200 49,600 65,300 86,300 RE	44.9 54.2 64.5 73.5 76.4

Red	Area After Draw	Natural Strain	Energy/Vol. in "Homogeneous" Deformation (inlbs/cu. in.)		
in Area*			304	301	Brass
(%)	(sq. ins)	(in/in)			
15.3 28.1 38.5 47.7 55.4	.04.6 .0353 .0302 .0257 .0219	0.166 0.329 0.485 0.647 0.806	10,000 26,000 46,000 70,000 98,000	13,000 31,000 52,000 78,000 107,000	8,000 18,000 32,000 48,000 66,000

VALUES USED IN CALCULATIONS OF DRAW STRESSES AND DEFORMATION EFFICIENCIES

*Initial Area = .0491 sq. ins.