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Tensile stress-strain behavior of metallic alloys

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Abstract: Tensile stress-strain curves of five metallic alloys, i.e., SKH51, STS316L, Ti-6Al-4V, Al6061 and Inconel600 were analyzed to investigate the working hardening behavior. The constitutive parameters of three constitutive equations, i.e., the Hollomon, Swift and Voce equations, were compared by using different methods. A new working hardening parameter was proposed to characterize the working hardening behavior in different deformation stages. It is found that Voce equation is suitable to describe stress-strain curves in large strain region. Meanwhile, the predicting accuracy of ultimate tensile strength by Voce equation is the best. The working hardening behavior of SKH51 is different from the other four metallic alloys.

Key words: constitutive equation; tensile stress-strain behavior; piecewise fitting; coordinate transformation

1 Introduction

It is significant to predict plastic deformation in describing stress-stain curve by using constitutive equation. Furthermore, applying appropriate constitutive equation is especially important to predict tensile properties and to access structural integrity during service [1]. Classical constitutive equations include Hollomon [2], Voce [3], Ludwigson [4] equations and so on. More recently, a "H/V" hardening model [5] was introduced, which combined Hollomon and Voce forms by a linear weight temperature-dependent factor. Many researchers [6-9] took strain rate and temperature into account to study constitutive equations of metallic alloys. Power-law type constitutive equations are more suitable for describing tensile stress-strain curves of bodycentered cubic (BCC) metals [5]. Exponential-type constitutive equations are suitable for describing tensile stress-strain curves of most face centered cubic (FCC) metals at room temperature [10]. All classical constitutive equations failed to describe working hardening behavior accurately in two distinct stages, and then a piecewise Ramberg-Osgood equation was proposed [11]. SAMUEL [12] revealed the limitations of Hollomon and Ludwigson equations in assessing strain hardening parameters of stainless steel, aluminum, pure nickel, etc. SAINATH et al [13] studied the applicability of Voce equation in describing tensile working hardening behavior of P92. As the characteristics of working hardening behavior vary during plastic deformation of some materials, empirical and phenomenological constitutive equations may not describe stress–strain curves well.

Efforts were made to study the nature of working hardening behavior [14,15] in plastic deformation. In the course of plastic deformation of a metal, dislocations always move simultaneously and some of them compete with each other. Therefore, dislocations motion is the physical nature of working hardening. MONTEIRO and REED-HILL [16] investigated the two deformation stages in stress-strain curve of pure titanium, and concluded that the growth of uniform dislocation distribution and cell structure formation are responsible for the two deformation stages, respectively. Due to a more complex post-yield behavior, simplified empirical equations cannot precisely describe the stress-strain curve. However, UGent models can successfully describe it by using piecewise fitting [17]. In plain carbon steels, the *n* value depends only on the interparticle spacing of cementite, which is related to two parameters, the volume fraction and the particle size. Strain hardening

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and softening processes are competitive during the plastic deformation and the generation and annihilation of dislocation happen. Therefore, metallic alloy presents different hardening stages in the working hardening rate-stress curve [18]. A Kocks-Mecking type curve [14] of strain hardening rate versus net flow stress presents different deformation stages for different materials. These stages occurred in Kocks-Mecking type are related to dislocation mobility, cross-slip of dislocations, dynamic recovery and microstructure characteristics [19]. A very convenient method to distinguish deformation stages in the stress-strain curves is the Crussard-Jaoul (CJ) analysis where $d\sigma/d\varepsilon_p - \varepsilon_p$ data are plotted in lg-lg coordinates. Constitutive parameters play a great role in estimating some mechanical properties, such as yield strength (YS), ultimate tensile strength (UTS) and fracture strain. The exponent n plays a crucial role in sheet metal forming. Therefore, microstructure evolution during work hardening is closely related to the manufacture and application of materials.

It is very important to notice that constitutive equation is crucial to predict the plastic deformation. It can be embedded in the finite element method simulations. Therefore, great attention should be given to the constitutive parameters of working hardening behavior. In this work, different deformation stages were distinguished in three coordinate transformations and then piecewise fitting was applied to investigate the working hardening behavior. In addition, the constitutive parameters of three typical constitutive equations for five metallic alloys were investigated. A new working hardening parameter was applied to compare the working hardening behavior in different deformation stages. Furthermore, the predictive accuracy of YS and UTS by using different methods was discussed.

2 Methods

2.1 Constitutive relations

One of the important empirical equations to characterize stress-strain curves of metallic alloy is Hollomon power law:

$$\sigma = K_{\rm H} \varepsilon_{\rm p}^{n_{\rm H}} \tag{1}$$

where $K_{\rm H}$ is the strength coefficient and $n_{\rm H}$ is the strain hardening exponent.

If experimental stress-strain curve follows the Hollomon equation, it can be recognized as a straight line in such two equations [11]:

$$\lg \sigma = \lg K_{\rm H} + n_{\rm H} \lg \varepsilon_{\rm p} \tag{2}$$

$$\lg \theta = \lg(K_{\rm H}n_{\rm H}) + (n_{\rm H} - 1)\lg \varepsilon_{\rm p}$$
(3)

where θ is working hardening rate; $n_{\rm H}$ and $K_{\rm H}$ can be determined from slope and intercept of ordinate in Eqs. (2) and (3).

Since a good approximation is only restricted to the area of large plastic strain, the Hollomon equation is too simplistic to describe the full-range behavior of some metals. SWIFT [20] proposed another power-law equation, introducing a parameter ε_0 , which accounts for a possible pre-strain:

$$\sigma = K_{\rm s} (\varepsilon_{\rm p} + \varepsilon_0)^{n_{\rm s}} \tag{4}$$

where n_s and K_s are strain hardening exponent and strength coefficient. If experimental stress-strain curve follows the Swift equation, the stress-strain curve in a double logarithmic plot of θ against σ related to "modified C–J analysis" [16] is linear, and it is expressed as

$$\lg \theta = \lg(n_{\rm s} K_{\rm s}^{1/n_{\rm s}}) + (1 - \frac{1}{n_{\rm s}}) \lg \sigma$$
⁽⁵⁾

According to this equation, n_s and K_s can be determined from the slope and intercept. However, ε_0 cannot be obtained from linear fitting of Eq. (5).

Hollomon and swift equations both follow power law, while Voce [3] proposed an exponential relation which is fundamentally different from power-law type models. It is expressed as

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 - \sigma_0 A \exp(-\beta \varepsilon_p) \tag{6}$$

where σ_0 is saturation stress and A, β are material coefficients. In Eq. (6), the flow curve is deemed as a transient form of the flow stress from some starting value to the saturation value corresponding to some equilibrium structures under a given strain rate and temperature [1]. This equation is applicable to characterize the material that follows a linear relation in a plot of θ - σ referred to Ref. [21]:

$$\theta = \beta(\sigma_0 - \sigma) \tag{7}$$

This equation can determine the coefficients σ_0 and β from the slope and intercept. A cannot be obtained from the linear fitting of this equation. Voce-type models approach a saturation stress at large strain, while power-law models are unsaturated at large strain [2].

The three transformations (lg θ vs lg ε_{p} , lg θ vs lg σ and θ vs σ) are convenient to distinguish the deformation stages. Since some parameters (ε_0 and A) cannot be determined by linear fitting, the original constitutive equations can be used to piecewise fit experimental stress-strain curves. In order to comprehensively evaluate the working hardening behavior for the power-law relations, we define a working hardening parameter χ_P as

$$\chi_{\rm P} = \frac{\partial \sigma^{1/n}}{\partial \varepsilon_{\rm p}} = K^{1/n} \tag{8}$$

To predict yield strength (YS) and ultimate tensile strength (UTS), the calculation methods of YS and UTS by three constitutive equations are summarized in Table 1. The calculation methods of YS are based on the definition and the calculation methods of UTS are based on the instability condition:

$$\theta = \sigma$$
 (9)

Table 2 gives tensile properties of five metallic alloys [22] from true stress–strain curves.

2.2 Fitting methods

Tensile stress strain curves [22] of five metallic alloys, SKH51 (carbon steel), STS316L (austenite-based stainless steel), Ti–6Al–4V (Ti alloy), Al6061 (Al alloy) and Inconel600 (Ni base Superalloy) were analyzed, as shown in Fig. 1. True total strain was transformed into true plastic strain by subtracting elastic strain (σ_t/E). Then, data fitting was processed with least square regression. Fitting data points were chosen from YS to UTS in full range fitting. Additionally, data points of piecewise fitting were chosen from different deformation stages. To obtain reasonable results, the data points in three transformations of lg θ vs lg ε_p , lg θ vs lg σ and θ vs σ were smoothened. The predictive accuracy of YS and UTS by using piecewise fitting and full range fitting were compared respectively.

 Table 1 Calculation methods of yield strength and ultimate tensile strength by three constitutive equations

Method	Yield strength	Ultimate tensile strength			
Hollomon equation	$\sigma_{\rm s} = K_{\rm H} \cdot (0.002)^{n_{\rm H}}$	$\sigma_{\rm u} = K n_{\rm H}^{n_{\rm H}}$			
Swift equation	$\sigma_{\rm s} = K_{\rm s} \varepsilon_0^{n_{\rm s}}$	$\sigma_{\rm u} = K (n_{\rm s} - \varepsilon_0)^{n_{\rm s}}$			
Voce equation	$\sigma_{\rm s} = \sigma_0 - \sigma_0 A$	$\sigma_{\rm u} = \sigma_0 \beta / (1 + \beta)$			

 Table 2 Elastic modulus, yield strength and ultimate tensile

 strength data for some samples [22]

	Elastic	Elastic YS data			UTS data		
Sample	modulus/	True	Stress/	True	Stress/		
	GPa	strain	MPa	strain	MPa		
SKH51	222	0.0022	290	0 1101	705		
(tempered)	223	0.0033	280	0.1181	/85		
STS316L	109	0.0025	205	0 4524	040		
(annealed)	198	0.0033	303	0.4324	949		
Ti-6Al-4V	110	0.0104	020	0.0050	1007		
(solution-treated)	110	0.0104	930	0.0858	1097		
A16061	70	0.0057	250	0.0509	200		
(solution-treated)	/0	0.0057	259	0.0508	298		
Inconel600	170	0.0044	405	0 2715	085		
(annealed)	170	0.0044	403	0.2/13	703		



Fig. 1 Outline of different fitting methods for experimental stress-strain data

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In the piecewise fitting, constitutive parameters were obtained by original equations rather than linear equations. The reason is that predictive accuracy of the constitutive parameters from linear fitting is less accurate than that fitted by original equation. Generally, constitutive parameters fitted in deformation stage I and final deformation stage were used to predict YS and UTS, respectively. In addition, in order to make discontinuous points transform into continuous points in the piecewise fitting, a weighted fitting was used. Experimental data were analyzed by applying the commercial software Origin Pro 8.0 SRO (Origin Lab Co., MA). Table 3 gives all constitutive parameters and predictive accuracy by Hollomon, Swift and Voce equations with piecewise fitting and full range fitting.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Analysis of deformation stages for metallic alloys

Figure 2(a) presents true stress-true plastic strain curve of SKH51 and the linear fitting result for data points of $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The stress-strain curve shows power law type strain hardening without turning point. It can be observed that two deformation stages occur in the transformation of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (Fig. 2(b)), and three deformation stages exist in other two transformations of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (Fig. 2(c)) and θ vs σ (Fig. 2(d)). In addition, there are some differences between the transition regions in the two transformations ($\lg \theta vs \lg \sigma$ and $\theta vs \sigma$). This indicates that the working hardening behavior is different under different scales. In carbon steel, the interparticle spacing of cementite is considered as the mean free path (MFP) of dislocation motion, and the *n* value of metals is proportional to the MFP [23]. Sensitivity to stress and strain of materials is the reason that different deformation stages occur in different coordinate transformations.

Figure 3(a) presents true stress-true plastic strain curve of STS316L and the linear fitting result for data points of $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The true stress-true plastic strain curve of STS316L shows linear-type strain hardening and it presents obvious working hardening behavior. It can be observed that three deformation stages occur in the transformation of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (Fig. 3(b)), while two deformation stages exist in other two transformations lg θ vs lg σ (Fig. 3(c)) and θ vs σ (Fig. 3(d)). In addition, there are small differences between transition regions in the two transformations ($\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ and θ vs σ), which are different from the transitions in the transformation of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. This indicates that the working hardening mechanisms reflected by the two transformations of $\lg \theta$ vs lg σ and θ vs σ are the same. The transformation from planar slip to cross slip systems and dynamic recovery is the reason why stages occur in related coordinate systems [12].

Table 3 Constitutive parameters in Hollomon, Swift and Voce equations fitted to stress-strain points with piecewise fitting and full range fitting by using original equation

		<u> </u>	<u> </u>			SiA			Vaaa			
Sample	Stage	Hollomon			Swift			Voce				
	~81	$n_{\rm H}$	K _H /MPa	R	n _s	K _s /MPa	ε_0	R	σ_0	σ_0^*A	β	R
SKH51	Ι	0.312	1977	0.9992	0.316	1992	0.00013	0.9997	497	335	214	0.997
	II	0.216	1307	0.9885	0.139	1089	-0.00961	0.9999	701	438	63.4	0.9999
	III	-	-	-	0.0977	995	-0.0232	0.9998	816	336	20.9	0.9999
	Full	0.230	1361	0.9778	0.204	1275	-0.0016	0.9892	760	487	47.2	0.9913
STS316L	Ι	0.064	474	0.9774	0.090	520	0.00143	0.998	363	71	157	0.9937
	II	0.204	830	0.9965	0.5371	1352	0.0699	0.9999	1359	1030	2.02	0.9998
	III	0.390	1276	0.998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Full	0.333	1185	0.9552	0.524	1348	0.0636	0.9998	1365	1035	2	0.9991
Ti-6Al-4V	Ι	0.00726	981	0.9939	0.0271	1089	0.00185	0.9932	957	38.8	356	0.991
	II	0.0324	1138	0.9935	0.0939	1381	0.0137	0.9999	1122	195	24.9	0.9999
	III	0.0641	1291	0.9996	0.0612	1282	-0.00049	0.9998	_	_	_	_
	Full	0.0519	1239	0.9653	0.0839	1347	0.0107	0.999	1123	194	24.7	0.9996
Al6061	Ι	0.0321	314	0.9996	0.0343	318	6.00E-05	0.9996	261	25	977	0.9981
	II	0.0487	343	0.9995	0.0686	367	0.00373	0.9998	303	49.4	49.8	0.9989
	III	0.062	362	0.9993	_	_	_	_	-	-	-	_
	Full	0.0505	347	0.9813	0.0738	372	0.0054	0.9985	306	49	41.5	0.9984
Inconel600	Ι	0.0399	539	0.8846	0.0822	643	0.00154	0.9985	441	63.3	282	0.9955
	II	0.244	1297	0.9915	0.458	1738	0.0405	0.9999	1240	832	4.50	0.9999
	III	0.339	1554	0.9987	0.148	1310	-0.12	0.9995	-	-	-	_
	Full	0.264	1351	0.9553	0.427	1670	0.0348	0.9995	1245	836	4.45	0.9997

Deformation stages 1, 2 and 3 represent piecewise fitting using original equations in different deformation stages observed from related coordinate transformations; 'Full' represents full range fitting with typical original equations



Fig. 2 True stress–strain curve and linear fitting in $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ transformation (a), and deformation stages in $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (b), $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (c) and θ vs σ (d) transformations for SKH51



Fig. 3 True stress–strain curve and linear fitting in $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ transformation (a), and deformation stages in $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (b), $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (c) and θ vs σ (d) transformations for STS316L

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Figure 4(a) presents true stress-true plastic strain curve of Ti-6Al-4V and the linear fitting result for data points of $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The YS is higher, while its working hardening behavior is not significant. The reason is Ti alloys are hard-deformation materials, as shown in Fig. 4(a). It can be observed that three deformation stages occur in the two transformations of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (Fig. 4(b)) and $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (Fig. 4(c)), while two deformation stages exist in the transformation of θ vs σ (Fig. 4(d)). The deformation stages in the transformation of θ vs σ are different from the deformation stages in the two transformations (lg θ vs lg $\varepsilon_{\rm p}$ and lg θ vs lg σ). This indicates that the applicability of Voce equation is different from the other two equations. The uniform dislocation multiplication and the formation of cell structure are the reasons why stages exist in corresponding coordinate transformations for pure titanium [16]. In addition, the growth of grain size is an important factor in strain hardening for Ti-6Al-4V [24].

Figure 5(a) presents true stress-true plastic strain curve of Al6061 and the linear fitting result for data points of $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The true stress-true plastic strain curve (Fig. 5(a)) of Al6061 also presents linear-type strain hardening. It can be observed that three deformation stages occur in the transformation of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (Fig. 5(b)), and two deformation stages exist in the two transformations of $\lg \theta vs \lg \sigma$ (Fig. 5(c)) and $\theta vs \sigma$ (Fig. 5(d)). It is similar to the deformation stages of STS316L. Annihilation and generation of the dislocation are related to the deformation stages of aluminum alloys [25].

Figure 6(a) presents true stress-true plastic strain curve of Inconel600 and the linear fitting result for data points of $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The stress-strain curve exhibits obvious working hardening behavior and large plasticity. It can be observed that three deformation stages occur in the deformation stages of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (Fig. 6(b)) and $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (Fig. 6(c)). In addition, two deformation stages exist in θ vs σ (Fig. 6(d)). The situation of deformation stages is similar to the deformation stages of Ti-6Al-4V. The difference between deformation stages is also related to dislocation mechanism, and the decrease of strain hardening index with stress is a result of dynamic recovery [26].

From the deformation stages in three coordinate transformations for five metallic alloys, it can be observed that the deformation stages of SKH51 are different from the other four metallic alloys. The difference of physical mechanism between two transformations ($\lg \theta vs \lg \varepsilon_p$ and $\lg \theta vs \lg \sigma$) is the sensitivity of stress and plastic strain to work hardening behavior. In this case, experimental stress–strain data are



Fig. 4 True stress-strain curve and linear fitting in $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ transformation (a), and deformation stages in $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (b), $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (c) and θ vs σ (d) transformations for Ti-6Al-4V



Fig. 5 True stress–strain curve and linear fitting in $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ transformation (a), and deformation stages in $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (b), $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (c) and θ vs σ (d) transformations for Al6061



Fig. 6 True stress–strain curve and linear fitting in $\lg \sigma$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ transformation (a), and deformation stages in $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ (b), $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ (c) and θ vs σ (d) transformations for Inconel600

converted into two transformations and the deformation stages may be different.

On the other hand, the difference between two transformations ($\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ and θ vs σ) is that the former is conducted by a logarithm analysis. Even if there is no significant deformation stage in the coordinate transformation of θ vs σ , the deformation stages may exist in the transformation of $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$. The linear fitting conditions of the three coordinate transformations ($\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$, $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$ and θ vs σ)

reflect that the applicability of constitutive equations in low and large strain regions may be different. As noted in Table 3, it is found that Swift equation is the most suitable to describe the stress–strain curves in low strain region and Voce equation is the most suitable to describe the stress–strain curves in large strain region.

3.2 Constitutive parameters

As can be observed in Fig. 7, constitutive parameters $(n_{\rm H}, n_{\rm s} \text{ and } \beta)$ of three typical constitutive



Fig. 7 Comparisons of constitutive parameters in three constitutive equations with different methods: (a) SKH51; (b) STS316L; (c) Ti-6Al-4V; (d) Al6061; (e) Inconel600 (Number (1, 2, 3 and 4) represent different methods, as shown in Fig. 1; I, II and III represent different deformation stages)

equations were compared by different methods for five metallic alloys. For the analysis of $n_{\rm H}$, there are two methods, one of which is full range fitting by Hollomon equation and the other is full range fitting of the data points on $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$. The difference between two methods is small for five metallic alloys. $n_{\rm H}$ determined by fitting the data points on $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$ in different deformation stages is changed a lot. However, $n_{\rm H}$ determined by fitting original constitutive equations is gradually changed and it shows small difference from the previous two full range fitting methods. $n_{\rm H}$ decreases in the different deformation stages of SKH51 by original equations, and it increases for the other four metallic alloys. This indicates that the working hardening behavior of SKH51 is different from the other four metallic alloys. $n_{\rm H}$ fitted by full range fitting is equal to the average of all parameters by piecewise fitting in deformation stages. However, it is meaningful to obtain strain hardening index in all stages for guiding sheet metal forming.

For the analysis of $n_{\rm s}$, the difference between piecewise fitting with linear equation and original equation is small. The downward trend of $n_{\rm s}$ for SKH51 is different from the other four metallic alloys. The reason is that working hardening behavior of carbon steel is different from other alloys. In order to evaluate the constitutive parameter β , it is transformed to $\ln \beta$ so as to compare with $n_{\rm H}$ and $n_{\rm s}$ under the same scale.

For the analysis of $\ln \beta$, the difference between piecewise fitting with linear equation and original equation is small in large strain region. The difference can be observed in final deformation stage for SKH51 and in deformation stage II for the other four metallic alloys. However, the difference is large in deformation stage I. In addition, the difference between full range fitting with original equation and piecewise fitting in final stage is small except for SKH51. This indicates that the difference of fitting by Voce equation between low and large strain region is significant. There are three deformation stages for SKH51 and two deformation stages for other four metallic alloys, and those are also related to strain hardening characteristics of materials. For the different deformation stages in three coordinate transformations (lg θ vs lg ε_p , lg θ vs lg σ and θ vs σ), the constitutive parameters of these stages are also different.

Figure 8 shows tendency of working hardening parameters χ_P for five metallic alloys. The constitutive parameters (*K* and *n*) were chosen from the piecewise fitting results in different deformation stages of two transformations (lg θ vs lg ε_p and lg θ vs lg σ). For different deformation stages in the two transformations, ln χ_P was used to comprehensively evaluate the different working hardening behaviors. Figure 8(a) shows that ln χ_P exhibits decreasing tendency in the different stages of lg θ vs lg ε_p for five metallic alloys. Figure 8(b) shows that ln χ_P exhibits fluctuant tendency in the deformation stages of lg θ vs lg σ . This indicates that the sensitivity of work hardening behavior to stress and strain is different. χ_P obtained by full range fitting is close to the lowest value of piecewise fitting, which indicates that full range fitting cannot reflect the complete characteristics of working hardening behaviors.



Fig. 8 Comparisons of $\ln \chi_p$ in different stages: (a) $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \varepsilon_p$; (b) $\lg \theta$ vs $\lg \sigma$

3.3 Yield strengths and ultimate tensile strengths

Figure 9 shows the predicting accuracy of YS and UTS with piecewise and full range fitting by Hollomon, Swift and Voce equations, respectively. For the comparisons between piecewise and full range fitting, piecewise fitting is better than full range fitting to estimate YS with Hollomon equation. In addition, piecewise fitting is almost better than full range fitting to estimate UTS for five metallic alloys, because the entire tensile stress strain behavior contains different strain hardening stages. Therefore, piecewise fitting is better than full range fitting to estimate UTS. In addition, piecewise fitting is meaningful and accurate based on deformation stages in different coordinate transformations.



Fig. 9 Predicting accuracy of yield (a) and ultimate tensile (b) strengths using piecewise (P) and full (F) range fitting by three equations for five alloys (H—Hollomon equation; S—Swift equation; V—Voce equation)

For the comparisons of the three typical constitutive equations, Voce equation is the best equation to estimate YS and UTS. Hollomon equation is the worst equation to estimate YS and UTS. The reason is that Hollomon equation itself has unsaturated characteristic of strain hardening and the number of constitutive parameters is less than that of the other equations, while Voce equation has saturated characteristic of strain hardening in large strain region. In addition, Swift and Voce equations start from YS and Hollomon equation starts from 0. That is why the stronger the strain hardening is, the larger the predicting error of YS by Hollomon equation is.

For the comparisons of five metallic alloys, SKH51 is different from the other four metallic alloys to estimate YS and UTS. Its predicting error is larger except for estimating UTS by Voce equation, because the working hardening behavior of SKH51 is different from the other four metallic alloys, as shown in Figs. 2–6.

4 Conclusions

1) The Voce equation is suitable to describe

stress-strain curves in large region. Piecewise fitting with original equations is more reasonable than full range fitting to determine constitutive parameters. The constitutive parameters with full range fitting are close to those in the final stages with piecewise fitting.

2) The deformation stages of SKH51 in the three transformations are different from the other four materials. Different working hardening behaviors are found in different coordinate transformations (lg θ vs lg ε_p and lg θ vs lg σ).

3) The predicting accuracy of UTS by using Voce equation is best and the predictive error is about $\pm 5\%$. Full range fitting is more accurate than piecewise fitting to predict YS with Swift and Voce equations.

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金属合金的拉伸应力-应变行为

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摘 要:利用拉伸应力-应变曲线分析 5 种合金,SKH51、STS316L、Ti-6Al-4V、Al6061 和 Inconel600 的加工硬 化行为。通过 Hollomon、Swift 和 Voce 本构模型对材料的实验数据进行拟合、比较与加工硬化特征分析,提出 新的预测拉伸变形各阶段加工硬化行为的表征参数及其在不同坐标体系下的表现形式。研究表明,Voce 模型更适 合用于描述大应变条件下的拉伸应力-应变关系,其预测抗拉强度的精度高于 Hollomon 和 Swift 模型。另外,SKH51 合金在拉伸变形过程中出现的加工硬化行为明显异于其他 4 种合金。

关键词:本构方程;拉伸应力-应变行为;分段拟合;坐标变换

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