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中厚钢板小圆孔的高功率 CO₂ 激光切割工艺研究

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摘要: 为解决高功率 CO₂ 激光切割广泛用于面板、模板制作的中厚钢板小圆孔时存在的切割质量差的问题, 采用 Rofin DC025 板条 CO₂ 激光切割系统, 对 6mm 厚的 A3 钢板进行了 $\varnothing 5\text{mm}$ 小孔的激光切割工艺研究。系统研究了激光功率、切割速度和氧气压力对切割质量的影响, 分析了切割前沿温度分布对切割质量的决定作用。结果表明, 当激光功率为 1kW、切割速度为 1.0m/min、氧气压力为 $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ 时可获得最佳切割效果, 解决了中厚钢板小圆孔的高功率 CO₂ 激光切割时存在的切割质量差的问题。

关键词: 激光技术; 中厚钢板小圆孔; 工艺研究; 切割质量

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Technological study on high power CO₂ laser cutting of small hole on middle-thick steel plates

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Abstract: Aiming at the cutting quality problems of high power CO₂ laser cutting of small hole on middle-thick steel plates, the cutting technology of small hole on middle-thick steel plates was studied by using Rofin DC025 slab CO₂ laser cutting system. At the same time, the effects of laser power, cutting speed and oxygen pressure on cutting quality were also studied. The key effect of temperature on cutting quality was analyzed. The results show that the best cutting quality can be obtained at the conditions of laser power 950W, cutting speed 1.0m/min, the oxygen pressure $1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$. The cutting quality problems of high power CO₂ laser cutting of small hole on middle-thick steel plates have been solved.

Key words: laser technique; small hole on middle-thick steel plate; technological study; cutting quality

引 言

激光切割以其所具有的优越性在精密加工行业获得了广泛应用。例如, 激光切割各种微小型部件以及各种精密的模板和面板, 已具有逐步取代传统加工方法的趋势。因此, 激光切割技术已开始应用于航空航天、电子、食品、医药、纺织、汽车工业等方面, 其市场潜力十分巨大^[1-3]。

中等厚度的低碳钢板因其优良的性能而广泛地应用于工业领域。特别适合用于生产制作精密模板、面板的材料。传统生产模板、面板一般采用开模具和冲压的方法。但当批量较小或面板厚度超过 4mm 时, 传统方法的成本会变得很高, 激光切割就成为一种理想的替代手段。一般而言, 激光切割的面板或模板上都

存在大量的深径比不大于 2 的小孔 (包括圆孔、方孔和其它异形孔)。这些小孔切割质量的好坏是整个面板或模板质量好坏的关键。

迄今为止, 采用 CO₂ 连续激光切割厚板和采用 CO₂ 脉冲激光打孔 (深径比远大于 2) 的工艺及机理国内外已有不少研究报道^[4-6], 但对于在中厚板上用激光切割的方法加工深径比不大于 2 的小孔的工艺研究报道却很少。为此, 作者采用 Rofin DC025 板条 CO₂ 激光切割系统对中厚钢板小圆孔的激光切割工艺进行了探讨。

1 试验设备及材料

激光切割系统采用意大利 PRMA 3 维 CO₂ 激光加工系统, 如图 1 所示, 切割系统由数控机床和激光器两部分组成, 激光器为 Rofin-Sinar 公司的 DC025 型 2500W CO₂ 激光器。功率范围 250W ~ 2500W。既可连续工作, 也可脉冲工作。聚焦后光斑直径为 $\varnothing 0.2\text{mm}$, 使用的切割喷嘴孔径为 $\varnothing 1.5\text{mm}$, 切割辅助

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Fig 1 Prima laser cutting system

气体为氧气,切割时焦点位于工件表面下方约 1mm。

实验中选用厚度为 4mm 和 6mm 的低碳钢板 (A3),规格为 200mm ×200mm,本文中除特别注明外,所有图形的加工材料均为 A3。

通过改变不同的激光工艺参量来探讨影响切割质量的规律。选用 10 种不同的速度 (0.9m/min ~ 3.6m/min),在特定参量下利用微机控制其一次加工 10 个 Ø5mm 小孔,孔间距为 15mm。用光学显微镜观察小孔断面形貌并照相。

2 激光切割工艺参量对切割质量的影响

2.1 激光功率对切割质量的影响

从图 2 可以看出,在切割速度 (3.6m/min)和氧气压力 (3.5 ×10⁵ Pa)一定的条件下,切割断面表面粗糙度随激光功率的增加而减小,当激光功率约为 1kW 时,粗糙度最小,此后,粗糙度随激光功率的增加而增大。图 3 是切割断面金相图。

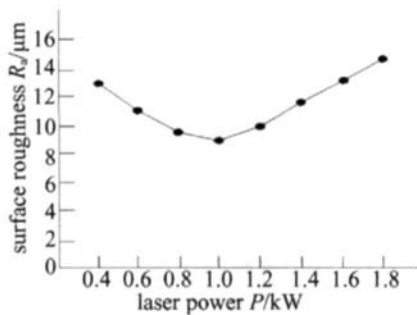


Fig. 2 Effect of laser power on surface roughness

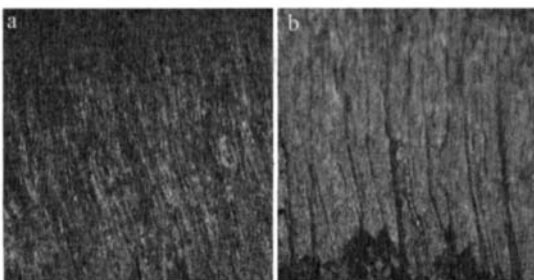


Fig. 3 Metallography comparison diagram under various laser power
a—laser power 1000W(40 ×) b—laser power 1800W(40 ×)

2.2 切割速度对切割质量的影响

从图 4 可以看出,在激光输入功率 (1kW)和氧气压力 (3.5 ×10⁵ Pa)一定的条件下,切割断面粗糙度随切割速度的增加变化不大。图 5 是切割断面金相图。

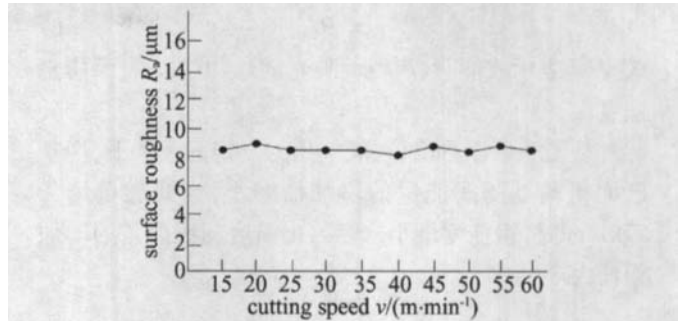


Fig. 4 Effect of cutting speed on surface roughness

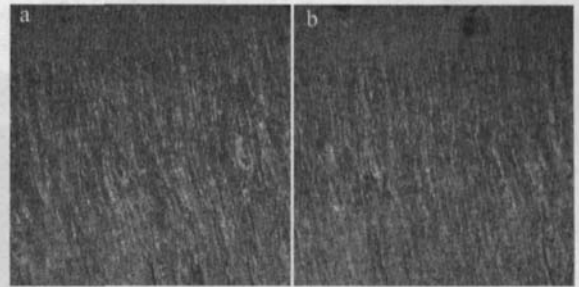


Fig. 5 Metallography comparison diagram under various cutting speed(40 ×)
a—cutting speed 1.0m/min b—cutting speed 3.6m/min

2.3 辅助气体压力对切割质量的影响

从图 6 可以看出,在激光功率 (950W)和切割速度 (1.0m/min)一定的条件下,切割断面粗糙度随氧气压力的增加而减小,当氧气压力约为 1.2 ×10⁵ Pa 时,粗糙度最小,此后,粗糙度随氧气压力的增加而增大。图 7 是切割实物图。

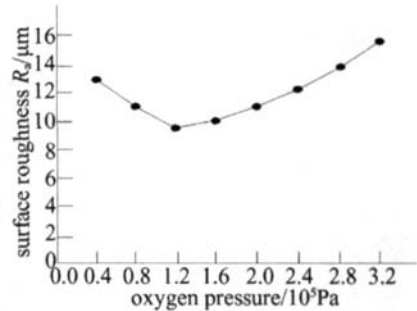


Fig. 6 Effect of oxygen pressure on surface roughness

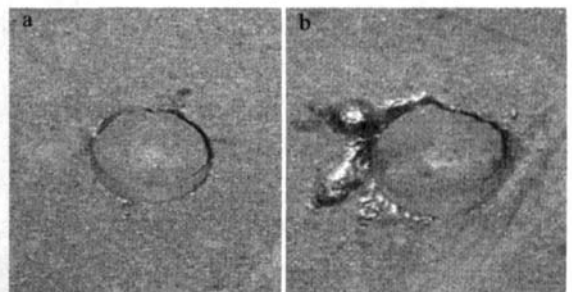


Fig. 7 Cutting quality comparison diagram under various oxygen pressure
a—oxygen pressure 1.2 × 10⁵ Pa b—oxygen pressure 3.6 × 10⁵ Pa

2.4 激光切割输入线能量对切割质量的影响

在氧气压力一定 (1.2 ×10⁵ Pa)的条件下,综合考虑激光功率、切割速度对切割质量的影响引入激光切割线能量输入的概念:

$$J = P/v \quad (1)$$

式中, J 表示线能量, P 表示激光输入功率, v 表示切割速度。

从图 8可以看出,在氧气压力一定的条件下,切割断面粗糙度随线能量的增加而减小,当线能量约为 57kJ/m时,粗糙度最小,此后,粗糙度随线能量的增加而增大。

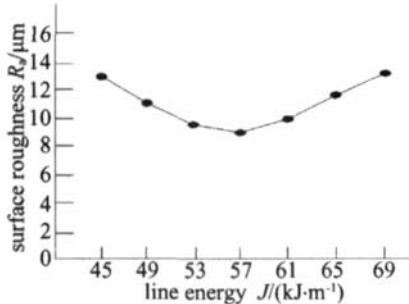


Fig 8 Effect of Line energy on surface roughness

3 分析与讨论

激光切割是功率密度很大的热加工,在切割过程中,激光能量会不可避免地向切割点的周边领域辐射和传导。显然,在这种能量辐射过程中会由于与切割点的空间相对位置不同而形成温度梯度。这种温度梯度的函数分布与材质、材料厚度、切割轨迹、切割工艺参量和激光束的质量密切相关。

这种温度梯度的函数分布对切割质量起着决定性的影响。切割点附近材料表面的温度越高,材料对激光的吸收率就越高^[7],导致该点得到的激光能量就越多,远远超出了正常切割该点所需的激光能量,显然该点附近的热影响区会偏大;且该点会被多余的能量“烧蚀”;该点处的切缝会变宽。该点的切割质量当然就越差;反之,则该点的切割质量就越好。因此,控制切割点附近材料表面的温度就显得至关重要。显然,在材料相同、切割轨迹相同、使用同一束激光进行切割的情况下,切割材料表面温度的分布就只与切割的工艺参量相关了。

3.1 激光输入能量对切割前沿温度分布的影响

参考文献 [8]中给出了切割过程中切割点附近的材料表面温度与切割速度和激光功率在辅助气体(氧气)压力一定条件下的函数关系表达式。下面几个式子表示一定条件下切割前沿温度与激光功率和切割速度的函数关系式。由理论公式知道,激光切割前沿温度与激光功率 P 和加工速度 v 均有关,故设:

$$T = f [P \exp(-v)] \quad (2)$$

把材料系数等数字化后,可设待求的函数关系式为:

$$T = \alpha P \exp(-v) + b \quad (3)$$

式中, α 可看作 P, v 对 T 的影响, b 看作其它一些参量的影响。把实验数据的 T, P, v 值代入(2)式,得到一系列方程式,用最小二乘法求该系列方程组对应正规方程组的解,最后求得在特定条件下的经验公式:

$$T = 5.1728 P e^{-v} + 828 \text{ C} \quad (4)$$

依据(4)式得到温度与激光功率和切割速度的关系图,如图 9所示。

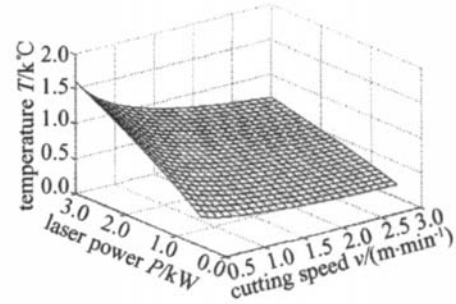


Fig 9 Three-dimensional relation of laser power, cutting speed and temperature

图 9是切割前沿温度与激光功率和切割速度 3维关系示意图,从图中可以看出,在 P/v (即切割线能量)恒定的情况下,对于基于小孔效应的激光切割而言,减小激光功率较增加切割速度对降低切割前沿温度的效果更加明显,因为图中曲线有由里向外倾斜的趋势,这样使得左轴相对右轴参量影响更大。

需要说明的是,上述由实验数据推导出来的经验公式只是在特定的条件下求得的,需做更多的实验和分析,把激光加工中的各项工艺参量及材料的系数都考虑进去,建立一个广泛意义上的公式,真正对验证理论模型有用处,同时对激光加工表面温度可进行更为简捷和准确的计算。

3.2 氧气压力对切割前沿温度分布的影响

在激光功率和切割速度一定的条件下,氧气压力对切割前沿温度的影响也不可忽视。氧气在切割过程中有 4种作用:除渣、保护镜片和喷嘴、发生放热反应帮助切割和冷却激光作用区^[9-12]。图 10反映了氧气压力对切割前沿温度的影响。

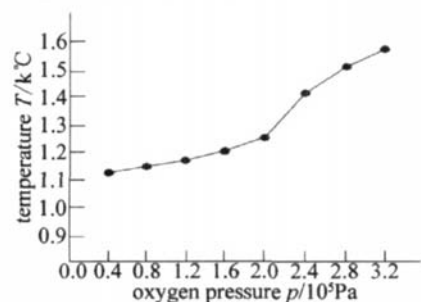


Fig 10 Effect of oxygen pressure on temperature

从图 10可以看出,当氧气压力小于 $2 \times 10^5 Pa$ 时,切割前沿温度升高缓慢,但当氧气压力超过 $2 \times 10^5 Pa$

时,切割前沿温度迅速升高。这是因为当气压较低时,气体流量低,发生放热反应帮助切割的热量较少,温度升高缓慢。此时,在激光功率和速度不变的情况下,热影响区较小,缝宽较小,切割质量较好。反之,当气压过高时,发生放热反应帮助切割的热量较多,温度迅速上升。在其它参量不变的情况下,输入到工件的有效能量大大增加,引起切割点“烧蚀”,大大降低了切割质量。

4 结 论

对中厚钢板小圆孔的高功率 CO₂ 激光切割工艺进行了试验研究,得到了较好的切割质量及优化工艺参量。当激光功率为 1kW、速度为 1.2m/min、氧气压为 1.2×10^5 Pa、离焦量为 -1mm 时,切割线能量为 57kJ/m,在 6mm 厚的 A3 钢板上切割 $\varnothing 5$ mm 小孔可以获得最佳的切割效果。在激光切割面板或模板上(中厚板)的深径比不大于 2 的小孔时,采用小功率、慢速度和低气压的工艺参量可以避免切割点附近局部温度过高,获得最佳的切割效果。

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