



铅铋堆候选结构材料的液态金属脆化行为研究进展

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摘要: 铅冷快堆 (Lead-cooled Fast Reactor, LFR) 作为第四代核反应堆之一, 因铅铋共晶合金 (Lead-Bismuth Eutectic, LBE) 优异的热物理和中子学性能被广泛关注, 但其结构材料与液态 LBE 的相容性问题仍制约其发展。液态金属脆化 (Liquid Metal Embrittlement, LME) 作为关键挑战之一, 导致结构材料在特定环境下的伸长率和疲劳寿命显著降低, 这严重威胁反应堆的安全性和可靠性。本研究围绕 LFR 结构材料的 LME 问题, 详细介绍了主要候选结构材料—铁素体/马氏体钢、含 Al 铁素体钢、奥氏体钢及含 Al 奥氏体钢在高温液态 LBE 中的 LME 行为, 明确了各种材料的 LME 敏感性。针对 LME 这一极具挑战性的问题, 从温度、氧浓度、应变速率、预暴露及冶金状态等影响因素入手, 归纳了各影响因素对 LME 的影响及影响机理的研究现状。最后, 基于现有研究结果对 LME 机理理解方面进行了展望。

关键词: 铅冷快堆; 铅铋共晶合金; 液态金属脆化; 结构材料; 影响因素

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Research Progress on Liquid Metal Embrittlement Behavior of Candidate Structural Materials for Lead-Bismuth Reactors

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Abstract: As one of the fourth-generation nuclear reactors, the Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR) has garnered significant attention owing to the superior thermophysical and neutron properties of the Lead-Bismuth Eutectic (LBE). However, the compatibility between its structural materials and liquid LBE remains a critical barrier to its advancement. Liquid Metal Embrittlement (LME), one of the most prominent challenges, markedly diminishes the elongation and fatigue life of structural materials under specific conditions, thereby jeopardizing the safety and reliability of the reactors. This paper focuses on the LME issue in LFR structural materials, elucidating the LME behavior of key candidate structural materials—ferritic/martensitic steel, aluminum-containing ferritic steel, austenitic steel, and aluminum-containing austenitic steel in high-temperature liquid LBE, while clarifying their respective sensitivities to LME of various materials. To address this formidable challenge of LME, the paper examines various influencing factors, including temperature, oxygen concentration, strain rate, pre-exposure, and metallurgical state, summarizing the current understanding of how these factors affect LME and their underlying mechanisms. Finally, based on existing research findings, the paper provides an outlook on the future prospects for enhancing the comprehension of the LME mechanism.

Key Words: Lead-cooled Fast Reactor; Lead-bismuth Eutectic; Liquid Metal Embrittlement; Structural Materials; Influencing Factors

在“双碳”的背景之下, 清洁核能的发展对助力“双碳”目标的实现发挥着举足轻重的作用^[1-2]。铅冷快堆 (Lead-cooled Fast Reactor, LFR) 作为第四代反应堆之一, 是目前重点发展的堆型。得益于铅铋共晶合金 (Lead-Bismuth Eutectic, LBE) 低熔点、高沸点及良好中子性能等特性使 LFR 在安全性、核燃料处理和小型化方面具有独特优势^[3-5]。然而, 在高

温铅铋环境中结构材料与 LBE 不兼容, 会导致结构材料性能退化及早期失效, 这严重阻碍了铅基反应堆的发展, 是铅基反应堆实现商业化运行之前必须攻克的技术瓶颈^[6-8]。

结构材料与高温 LBE 的相容性问题主要包括液态金属腐蚀 (Liquid Metal Corrosion, LMC) 和液态金属脆化 (Liquid Metal Embrittlement, LME)^[6,9]。

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LMC是指结构材料在高温液态LBE中发生的溶解腐蚀或氧化腐蚀,腐蚀类型取决于液态LBE中的氧含量^[9-11]。在富氧条件下一般以氧化腐蚀为主,在贫氧条件下以溶解腐蚀为主,目前的主要策略之一是通过合适氧浓度的控制确保试样表面形成薄且具有保护作用的氧化膜^[12-15]。LME是指结构材料在LBE中伸长率或疲劳寿命显著降低的现象,该现象在350℃最为显著^[6,16],并且其敏感性受很多因素的影响,如材料种类^[6]、温度^[17]、应变速率^[18-19]、LBE含氧量^[16,20]及冶金状态^[21]等。因此,LME的发生是一个非常复杂的现象。现有研究结果显示保护性氧化膜虽然能对LME存在一定的抑制作用,但不能有效避免LME的发生^[22],这主要归因于两方面,其一是氧化膜在应力作用下容易剥离,往往会造成LBE与结构材料的直接接触^[23],其二是目前工业化控氧存在困难,很难保证各处氧浓度均在控制范围之内^[6]。因此,对LME现象的充分理解对预防反应堆结构材料早期失效策略的制订至关重要。此外,相较于结构材料LMC现象较为充足的理解,LME现象的研究和理解明显不足,因此,本研究主要关注结构材料的LME。

LFR现有候选结构材料主要分为T91系的铁素体/马氏体(Ferritic/Martensitic, F/M)钢,含Al铁素体钢,316系的奥氏体钢和含Al奥氏体钢(Alumina-Forming Austenitic, AFA)等^[24-27]。这几种材料均拥有各自的优势和不足。从使用温度的角度来看,T91系F/M钢和316系奥氏体钢适合550℃以下服役温度;含Al铁素体钢和AFA钢适合550℃以上更高服役温度的需要^[28-30]。因此,主要以这几种材料的LME行为及研究现状进行综述,着重总结各种材料LME的特点及各影响因素对LME的影响,阐明当前LME机理研究的新动态。

1 F/M钢的LME

F/M钢的LME研究主要以T91钢为研究对象。T91钢在高温液态LBE环境中进行慢应变速率拉伸(Slow Strain Rate Tension, SSRT)试验时,通常表现为伸长率的显著下降,而抗拉强度和屈服强度一般无明显变化,如图1(a)所示^[17]。LME现象一般在试验温度为350℃时最为显著^[31-34],在此温度下不仅会导致T91钢在SSRT试验中伸长率的降低,还会显著缩短其疲劳寿命^[35]。因此,350℃被认为是LME效应最为敏感的温度。

相较于伸长率和疲劳寿命在LBE环境中的显

著降低,T91钢的蠕变性能似乎不受LME的影响^[36-39]。Yurechko等^[40]对T91钢在450℃含氧 10^{-7} mass%液态LBE中进行蠕变试验,在外加应力390 MPa的条件下蠕变断裂寿命为23 711 h,远高于空气中8 760 h的寿命。作者认为在较低温度下形成的双层氧化膜对T91钢具有很好的保护作用,且没有发现LME的存在。Li等^[41]对SIMP钢在300~500℃饱和氧液态LBE进行的应力腐蚀试验也证明了在低温300℃形成的氧化膜能够避免液态LBE的润湿及防止裂纹的萌生。虽然以上结果显示低温(≤ 450 ℃)液态LBE可能不会发生LME,但目前350℃左右,容易发生LME的温度范围,对F/M钢蠕变性能的研究十分有限,缺乏系统、更长时间对比研究,是否会发生LME有待进一步的研究论证。对于更高温度(≥ 500 ℃)液态LBE环境下F/M钢的蠕变性能,已有相关报道^[37-38,40,42]。总体来看,随着温度升高,液态LBE显著缩短了蠕变断裂时间。例如,Xiao等^[42]对CLA16钢在550℃下的蠕变试验显示,在LBE环境中二次蠕变速率比空气中高5~7倍。尽管饱和氧LBE中的二次蠕变速率低于低氧环境,但仍为空气中的5倍以上,如图1(b)所示。虽然蠕变性能显著降低,但断口形貌未观察到解理或沿晶断裂的脆断特征,表明550℃LBE环境下的蠕变测试中未发生LME。蠕变性能的降低可能主要归因于高温液态LBE对试样表面腐蚀损伤及其对裂纹萌生的促进作用。

2 含Al铁素体钢的LME

虽然FeCrAl合金在LME方面的研究较为有限,但结果均显示出FeCrAl合金具有较高的LME敏感性⁴³⁻⁴⁵。Gong等^[43,46,47]对FeCrAl合金做了较为系统的报道,例如,采用SSRT试验研究了FeCrAl合金在150~500℃贫氧LBE中的LME敏感性^[43],结果表明,伸长率随温度变化的曲线呈现出“塑性谷”,谷底位于350℃。该现象说明FeCrAl合金和F/M钢类似,在150~450℃会发生LME。此外,Gong等^[43]的研究结果表明,FeCrAl合金比T91类合金的LME敏感性更强。对此,作者认为一方面Al的合金化导致裂纹尖端的位错迁移率和塑性降低,另一方面含Al钢生成的氧化物更脆,可能会更早开裂,从而更容易与LBE润湿。Gong等^[46]还研究了三种FeCrAl合金在350℃贫氧和富氧的液态LBE中的LME行为,与其他两种合金相比,Al含量较高的Fe10Cr6Al合金的总伸长率损失最大,LME敏感性最高,如图2所

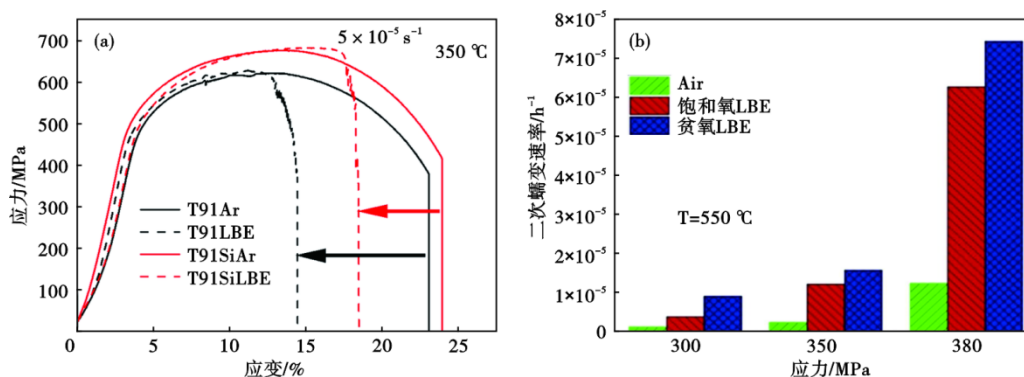


图1 (a)T91 钢在 350 °CLBE 和 Ar 中的工程应力-应变曲线, (b)CLA16 钢在 550 °C 不同应力与测试环境下的二次蠕变速率
Fig. 1 (a) The engineering stress-strain curves of T91 steel tested at 350 °C in liquid lead-bismuth eutectic (LBE) and argon (Ar) environments, (b) the secondary creep strain rates of CLA16 steel at 550 °C under various stress levels and testing conditions

示。作者认为较高的 Al 含量、表面氧化物的连续性和较大的晶粒尺寸可能共同导致了 Fe10Cr6Al 较强的 LME 敏感性。这也表明, Al 可以使 FeCrAl 合金更容易受到 LME 的影响, 因此, Al 的过量添加应该受到限制。

3 奥氏体钢的 LME

与 F/M 钢相比, 奥氏体钢在高温液态 LBE 中不管是伸长率、疲劳寿命还是断裂韧性均表现出对 LME 不敏感的特征^[48-51]。例如, Stergar 等^[52]利用 SSRT 试验研究了 316 L 奥氏体钢在 350 °C LBE 和辐照作用下的 LME 敏感性, 结果显示 316 L 钢没有发生 LME 的迹象, 如图 3 所示。Kalkhof 等^[53]研究了 316 L 钢在 260 °C LBE 环境下的低周疲劳试验, 也没有观察到液态 LBE 对奥氏体钢脆化的证据。虽然也有研究显示 LBE 环境中疲劳寿命会受到一定影响^[54-55], 但通过断口形貌观察未见 LME 发生的解理和沿晶断裂的典型特征, 因此, 作者认为应该是腐蚀缺陷和 LBE 对裂纹扩展的辅助作用。与 F/M 钢类

似的是, 奥氏体钢在高温液态 LBE 环境中的蠕变性能也会受到明显损伤行为^[56-57]。例如, Gong 等^[56]对 15-15Ti 钢在 550、600 °C LBE 环境下的蠕变试验结果显示, 二次蠕变速率分别为相同温度下空气环境中的 56 倍和 6 倍。但这并不归因于 LME, 而是表面腐蚀驱动的蠕变性能失效。因此, 虽然奥氏体钢的 LME 敏感性低, 但仍需更多关注 500 °C 以上腐蚀损伤和应力耦合的失效形式。

除了传统的奥氏体材料外, Yamamoto 等^[58]提出的含 Al 奥氏体钢 (AFA) 也被作为 550 °C 以上铅铋堆的候选结构材料。对于 AFA 钢 LME 敏感性的研究较少, Masari 等^[59]评估了三种新型多相氧化铝形成钢 (AFMAR-10-10、AFMAR-10-13、AFMAR-12-14) 在高温 Pb 环境的机械性能, 三种材料均未观察到 LME 的发生。而 Petersso 等^[60]对 AFA941、AFA942 和 AFA5 三种 AFA 钢的研究结果显示, 似乎在 570 °C 以上存在有限的 LME 现象。表现为次生裂纹和局部晶间断裂, 但对总伸长率影响较小。此外,

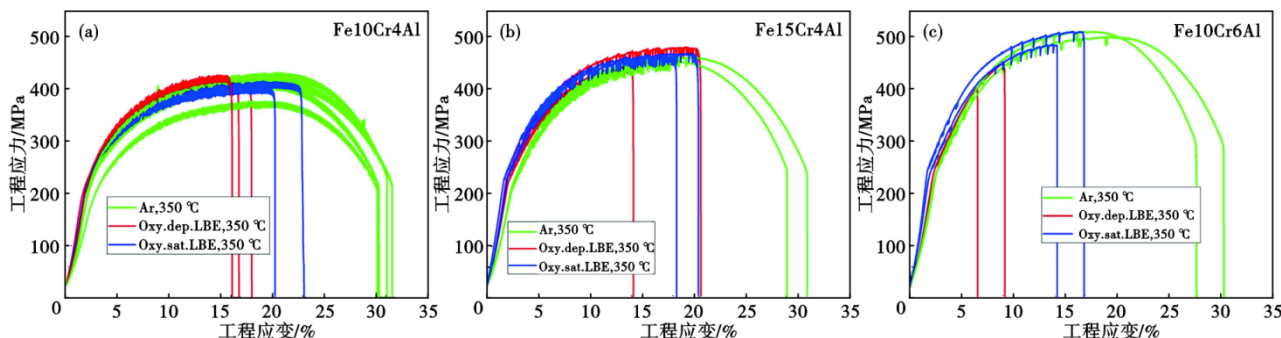


图2 在 350 °C 下, Fe10Cr4Al (a)、Fe15Cr4Al (b) 和 Fe10Cr6Al (c) 合金在氩气、贫氧和富氧液态金属冷却剂 (LBE) 中的工程应力-应变曲线
Fig. 2 Engineering stress-strain curves of the Fe10Cr4Al (a), Fe15Cr4Al (b) and Fe10Cr6Al (c) alloys tested in Ar, the oxygen-depleted and-saturated LBE at 350 °C.

Serre 等^[61]利用小冲压试验(Small Punch Test, SPT)在 350、450 °C LBE 环境测试了两种原始状态的 AFA 钢(AFA3 和 AFA8),均未发生 LME,但 AFA8 在经历 650 °C 时效 1 008~5 044 h 后显示出了 LME 敏感性,作者认为这与时效后出现富 W 相沉淀有关。总体来看,AFA 钢是否对 LME 敏感性低暂时尚不能过早论断,还需进一步研究证实。

4 LME 的影响因素

4.1 温度

现有 LBE 环境中 F/M 钢的 SSRT 实验和疲劳实验结果表明,温度对 LBE 环境中的力学性能存在显著影响^[22,35,62-64]。具体表现为伸长率和疲劳寿命随温度变化在 200~500 °C 出现“塑性谷”或“疲劳寿命谷”,谷底一般出现在 350 °C 左右,如图 4(a)所示^[63]。也就是说 LME 在中间温度较为严重,而在较低和较高温度下,LME 敏感性明显较弱。

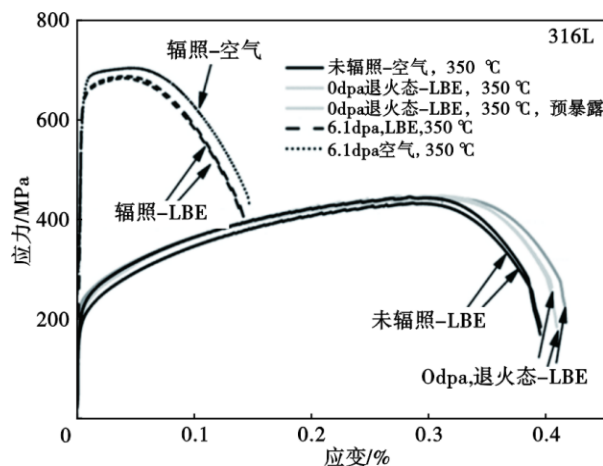


图 3 在不同环境下对辐照与未辐照 316 L 材料进行的拉伸试验结果

Fig. 3 Results of tensile tests on irradiated and non-irradiated 316 L materials under different environments

对于 F/M 钢在液态 LBE 中断裂机制随温度的变化,Gong 等^[22,63]对疲劳断口的分析结果显示,在所

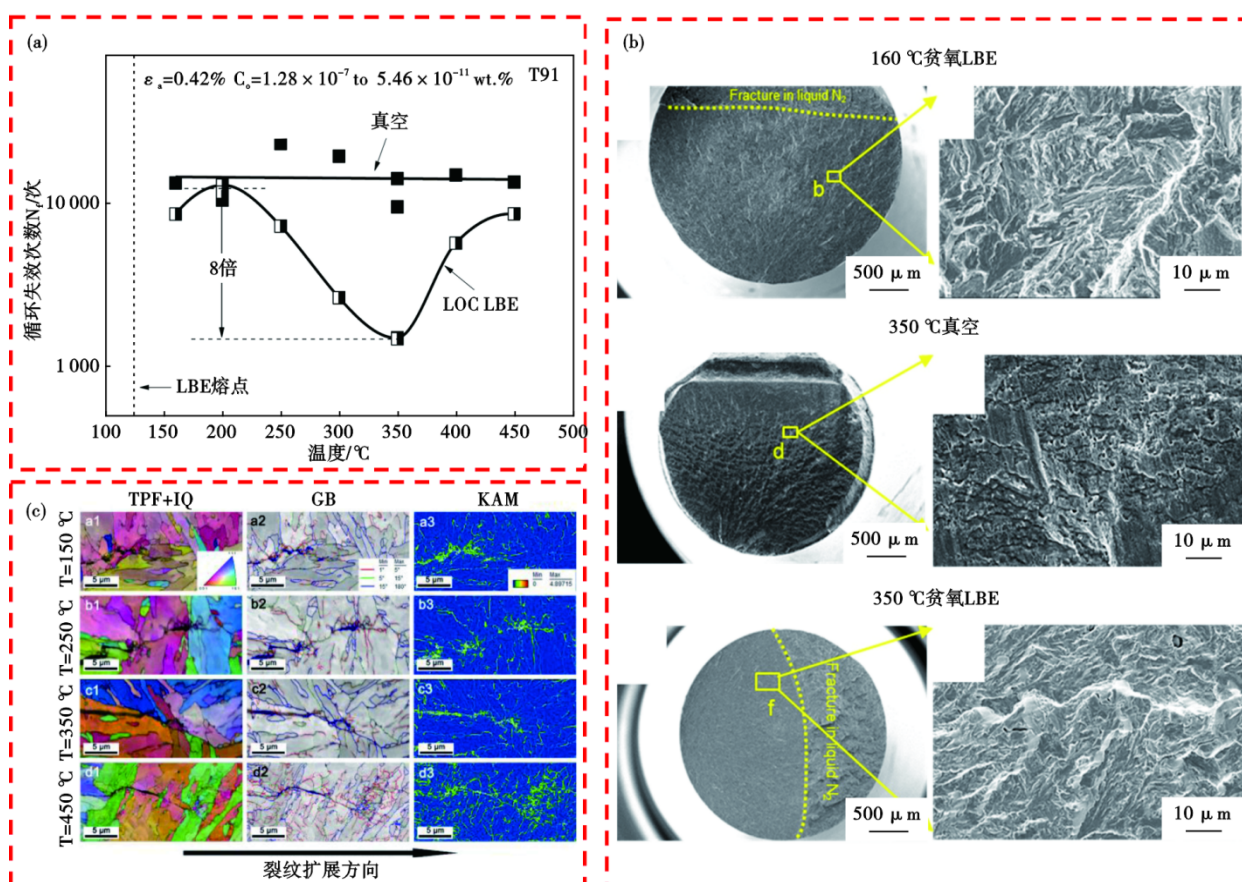


图 4 (a)9Cr1Mo 钢在 LBE 及真空环境中疲劳寿命随温度的变化;(b)T91 钢在真空和 LBE 环境中疲劳断口形貌;(c)T91 钢在 150~450 °C 的液态 LBE 中疲劳裂纹尖端的 EBSD 分析

Fig. 4 (a) Variation of fatigue life of 9Cr1Mo steel with temperature in LBE and vacuum environments ; (b) fatigue fracture morphology of T91 steel in vacuum and LBE environments ; (c) EBSD Analysis of fatigue crack tip in T91 Steel exposed to liquid LBE at temperatures spanning 150 °C– 450 °C

有温度下,低氧LBE环境下测试的试样均呈现出准解理断裂特征,如图4(b)所示^[22],且观察到真空环境中疲劳裂纹壁附近的马氏体板条已转变为非常细小的等轴亚晶,而LBE环境中并未观察到这种微观结构的变化,裂纹尖端周围的塑性变形十分有限。据此,作者认为LBE环境中的裂纹扩展以穿晶或穿板条断裂为主。此外,Xue等^[35,64-65]也观察到在未发生LME的温度下,试样裂纹尖端发生大量塑性变形,晶粒严重细化,而发生LME的试样则未出现明显的晶粒细化现象。通过断口细致表征分析得出脆性断裂宏观上表现为穿晶,但在裂纹尖端前的有限塑性变形区微观上沿着变形诱导的低角度晶界(LAGBs, Low-Angle Grain Boundaries)(主要为 $1^{\circ}\sim 5^{\circ}$ sub-GBs)开裂,如图4(c)所示^[64]。

对于伸长率和疲劳寿命随温度变化出现的“塑性谷”或“疲劳寿命谷”的原因,此处以谷左侧和谷右侧为名分开解释。对于谷左侧的形成原因,Liu等^[62]认为与液态LBE与材料的润湿性有关,温度太

低无法发生润湿,不会出现LME,随温度升高提高了材料与LBE的润湿性,发生了LME。此外,Xue等^[64]研究发现,150~450℃条件下T91钢疲劳裂纹尖端塑性变形区均存在Pb-Bi原子的润湿现象,并在LAGBs处观察到Pb-Bi偏析与析出,如图5(a)所示。在高温350、450℃下,LAGBs处进一步形成有序Pb/Bi-Fe超结构,如图5(b)所示,而150℃时无此现象,作者归因于温度提升增强LBE润湿性,促进原子吸附及超结构形成,致使高温条件下的LME敏感性显著高于低温。但该现象仍需进一步研究去验证。除了润湿性外,还有研究认为疲劳寿命谷左侧的形成与动态应变时效(Dynamic Strain Aging, DSA)有关^[17,35,65],DSA引起应变局部化,可能增加液态金属在350℃的敏感性,而150℃低温下不会发生DSA,因此,低温LME敏感性较弱。但DSA与LME之间的关系还缺乏更直接的证据支持,这方面还需要做大量工作。

对于谷右侧的形成原因,有研究^[22,62,65]认为与

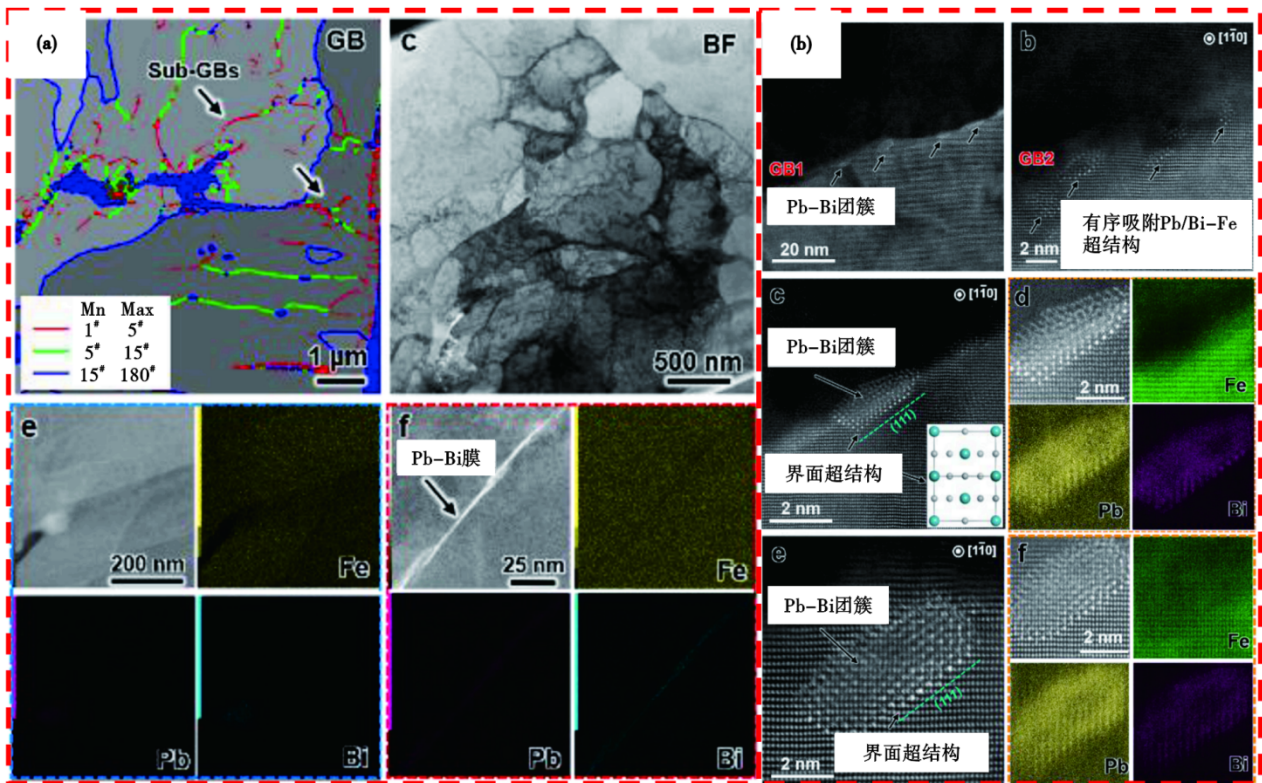


图5 在150~450℃液态LBE中T91钢测试试样疲劳裂纹尖端的纳米尺度分析:(a)在150℃的液态LBE中测试试样疲劳裂纹尖端的STEM和TKD图像;(b)Pb-Bi原子和Pb-Bi聚集物不连续地分布在GB1和GB2处的球差校正HAADF-STEM图像

Fig. 5 Nano-scale characterization of fatigue crack tips in T91 steel specimens tested in liquid LBE at 150 °C~450 °C : (a) STEM and TKD images of the crack tip region in specimens tested in liquid LBE at 150 °C; (b) aberration-corrected HAADF-STEM image revealing the discontinuous distribution of Pb-Bi atoms and Pb-Bi aggregates at grain boundaries GB1 and GB2

材料韧性恢复有关。当温度进一步提高时,材料的韧性得以恢复,韧性断裂主导断裂模式,LME消失。也有研究^[22,63]认为高温会导致LBE与固态金属的脱附动力学增加,在高温下LBE的脱附过程可能抑制其与裂纹尖端的紧密接触,从而造成疲劳寿命的恢复,但仍然缺乏相关的证据支持。

4.2 氧浓度

现有研究结果显示,液态LBE中的含氧量对结构材料的LME敏感性有显著影响^[20,22,64,66-67]。图6(a)描述了T91钢在300℃饱和氧与贫氧LBE中的SPT试验结果,可见在饱和氧LBE中的断裂能始终高于贫氧LBE,但两者断裂能之差随位移速率的增加而减小^[20]。类似的结果在图6(b)中350℃液态LBE中的疲劳试验中也可看到,即饱和氧浓度LBE中测试的疲劳寿命显著高于贫氧测试条件,并且两者之差随应变速率和应变幅的增加而明显减小^[67]。此外,图6(c)描述了在160~450℃氧浓度对T91钢疲劳寿命的影响,可见饱和氧测试条件虽然能够明显改善疲劳寿命的LME敏感性,但似乎不影响LME敏感性随温度变化的基本趋势^[22]。

在350℃下,不同氧浓度液态LBE中测试试样的断口均呈现准解理断裂特征,如图7(a)(b)所示。其中,高氧浓度下断口存在多个裂纹萌生点,而低氧浓度下仅观察到了单个裂纹萌生点^[67]。除此之外,Gong等^[67]还发现高氧浓度下疲劳裂纹通常在高度为20 μm的挤出-侵入处萌生。而低氧浓度下裂纹萌生的挤出-侵入处高度仅为2 μm。基于以上结果,Gong等^[22]认为氧化膜在疲劳裂纹萌生阶段发挥着重要作用,并在此基础上提出了三种模型来描述

高氧LBE存在时低周疲劳(Low Cycle Fatigue, LCF)载荷下氧化物膜的行为,如图7(c)所示。在低总应变范围,循环不可逆性诱发表面挤压-侵入,但由于氧化膜保持完整且循环应力未达到其破裂阈值,基体免受LBE侵蚀如图7(c)I所示。当氧化膜被循环载荷损伤时,LBE中的氧原子可扩散至裂纹处修复损伤,低应变率条件可保障修复所需扩散时间如图7(c)II所示。较高总应变范围导致氧化膜局部破裂,LBE渗入基体诱发LME效应,促使裂纹快速萌生扩展如图7(c)III所示。

4.3 应变速率

应变速率对T91钢在LBE中LME的敏感性存在竞争机制。低应变率延长液态金属与裂纹尖端的润湿时间,促进LME进程;但同时也增强氧化膜损伤修复能力和应力松弛作用,抑制裂纹萌生。一些学者的实验结果^[18,20,62,68]支持前一种主导机制。例如,Ye等^[20]通过SPT试验发现,降低应变速率加剧了T91钢在贫氧LBE中从塑性到脆性的转化;Liu等^[62]采用SSRT试验证实慢应变速率扩大了“塑性谷”的温度范围。此外,Wang等^[16]也通过SSRT试验揭示了低应变速率可以显著促进T91钢LME的发生,且低应变速率下的试样整个表面都呈准解理断裂特征,而高应变速率下没有这种特征。然而,Gong团队^[22,67]在低周疲劳实验中发现了矛盾的应变速率效应。在高应变幅下,氧浓度和应变速率对疲劳寿命无显著影响;而在低应变幅(0.41%~0.43%)时,高氧环境中的低应变速率反而提高了疲劳寿命。他们认为高应变幅加速了氧化膜破损,促使LBE直接接触基体;而在低应变幅条件下,低

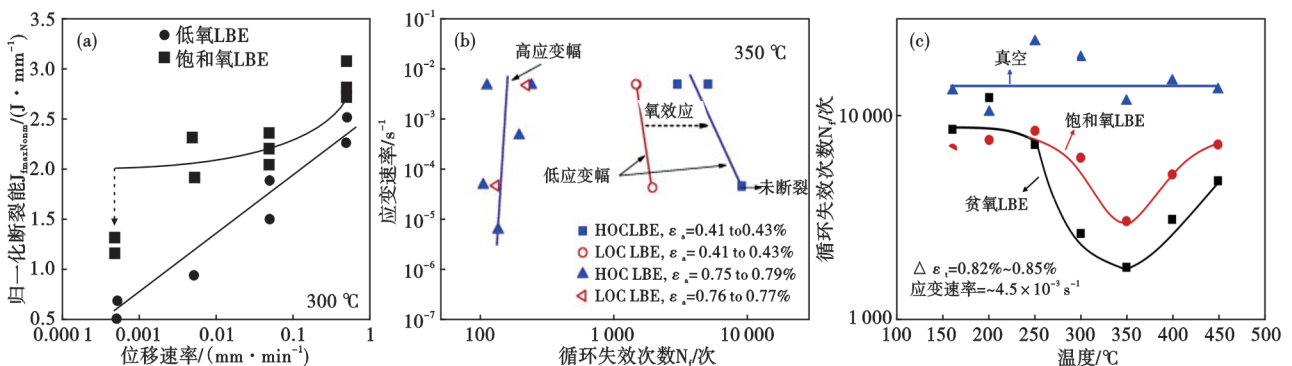


图6 LBE中溶解氧浓度与LME敏感性的关系:(a)不同含氧LBE中T91钢断裂能随位移速率的变化,(b)饱和氧和低氧环境中应变速率和疲劳寿命的曲线,(c)饱和氧和低氧LBE环境下疲劳寿命随温度的变化

Fig. 6 The correlation between dissolved oxygen concentration in LBE and the sensitivity of LME: (a) variation of fracture energy absorption of T91 steel in LBE with different oxygen contents with displacement rate, (b) curves of strain rate and fatigue life in high-oxygen and low-oxygen environments, (c) variation of fatigue life with temperature in high-oxygen and low-oxygen LBE environments

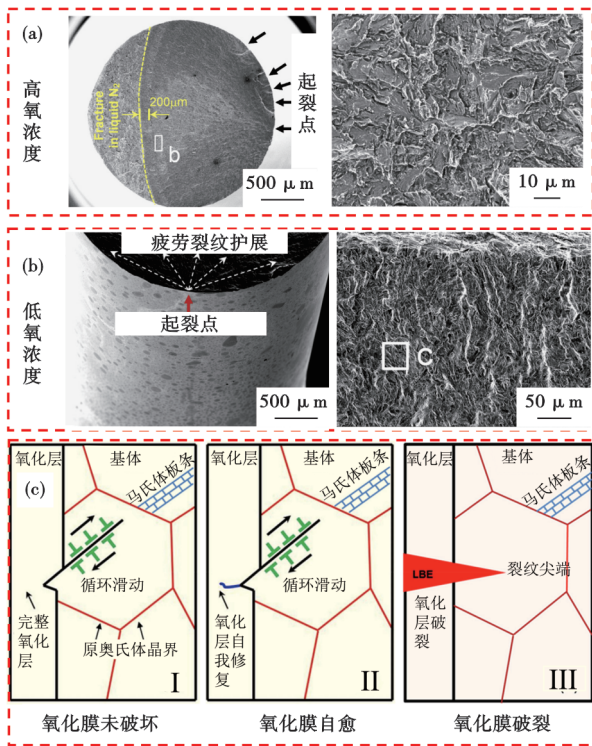


图7 T91钢在高氧浓度(a)和低氧浓度(b)LBE环境下的疲劳断面形貌,(c)T91试样表面氧化作用诱发疲劳裂纹的三种机制示意图

Fig. 7 (a) and (b) Fatigue fracture surface morphology of T91 steel in LBE environments with high and low oxygen concentrations, respectively, (c) schematic illustration of the three mechanisms of fatigue crack initiation induced by surface oxidation of T91 specimens

应变速率允许氧化膜损伤及时修复。但Xue等^[69]在550℃氧饱和LBE中发现,当应变速率从0.4 s⁻¹降至0.004 s⁻¹时,疲劳寿命衰减了85%,断面塑性特征也随之消失,这与Gong等人在高氧环境中得出的结论形成了显著分歧。

目前,较多研究认为,无论氧浓度高低,随应变速率降低,LME敏感性增加。一种观点认为低应变速率使LBE与裂纹尖端充分作用,促进LME敏感性。Wang等^[16]则强调应变速率主要影响裂纹萌生阶段,裂纹一旦形成,扩展速度对加载速率的依赖性较小。低应变速率下,晶间氧化加剧并与循环载荷协同作用,促进疲劳裂纹萌生和扩展。Gong^[22,27]等人认为高应变幅时,金属表面氧化物易被破坏,导致LME发生;低应变幅时,氧化膜不易破坏且有时间修复。争议点集中在氧化膜自修复与脆化进程的竞争平衡,由于LME影响因素较多,需要进一步研究明确应变速率对LME敏感性影响的边界条件及内在机理。

4.4 预暴露

在高温下将试样暴露于液态LBE一般会存在两种情况。当暴露于贫氧LBE时,还原性环境会溶解表面原生氧化层,导致液态金属直接润湿基体表面并增强LME敏感性^[6]。早期研究表明,这一润湿性提升过程会诱发力学性能明显退化。例如,Vogt^[70,54]等发现T91钢在300℃贫氧LBE中的疲劳寿命显著降低,并将其归因于贫氧LBE预腐蚀引发的溶解缺陷,如图8(a)所示^[54],促使裂纹提前形核。类似地,Fazio等^[71]对比了T91和316钢在贫氧LBE中暴露1500h后,在400℃Ar气氛中的力学性能,结果显示T91钢的伸长率明显降低,而316L的降低很小,作者认为是T91钢LME敏感性高的缘故,但该研究未明确腐蚀的作用。还有Gamaoun等^[72]发现将T91钢在525℃贫氧LBE中暴露1个月后,试样表面区域出现体积分数为0.5%的空腔,且空腔密度与外加拉伸应力呈正相关,并证实这种空腔是由液态LBE润湿导致的物理损伤过程。综上所述,贫氧LBE既能增强LBE与材料的润湿性,又能通过化学或物理损伤降低材料性能,但需要区分LME和其他损伤的影响。

当暴露于富氧LBE时,由于试样表面会生成氧化膜,从而阻止LBE与材料的直接接触,降低LME敏感性^[70,73]。此外,内氧化层对外部裂纹的侵入具有一定的阻碍作用,如图8(b)所示^[70]。最近,Zhou等^[74]报道了T91钢在350~550℃饱和氧LBE中暴露100~1000h后,在室温下进行拉伸试验的结果。结果显示总伸长率明显升高,如图8(c)所示。作者认为,氧化层(尤其是内层)作为物理屏障,能够阻碍位错滑移至表面,减缓应变局局部化,增加位错存储密度,从而提高强度与均匀伸长率。然而,目前关于预先暴露形成氧化层对力学性能影响的研究仍然较为有限,预暴露形成的氧化膜对力学性能的作用还需要在更多试验条件下进行研究。

4.5 冶金状态

F/M钢的LME敏感性还会受到材料的热处理工艺的影响^[17,75-76]。Long等^[17]对经过不同回火温度(500、600、760℃)的T91钢分别在空气和LBE中进行SSRT试验,测试温度范围为150~500℃。在两种环境中测试的总伸长率随温度的变化如图9所示,可见随着回火温度的降低,“塑性谷”温度范围更大,深度更深。这表明LME敏感性随回火温度的降低而加剧。Serre等^[75-76]基于不同回火温度下的SPT

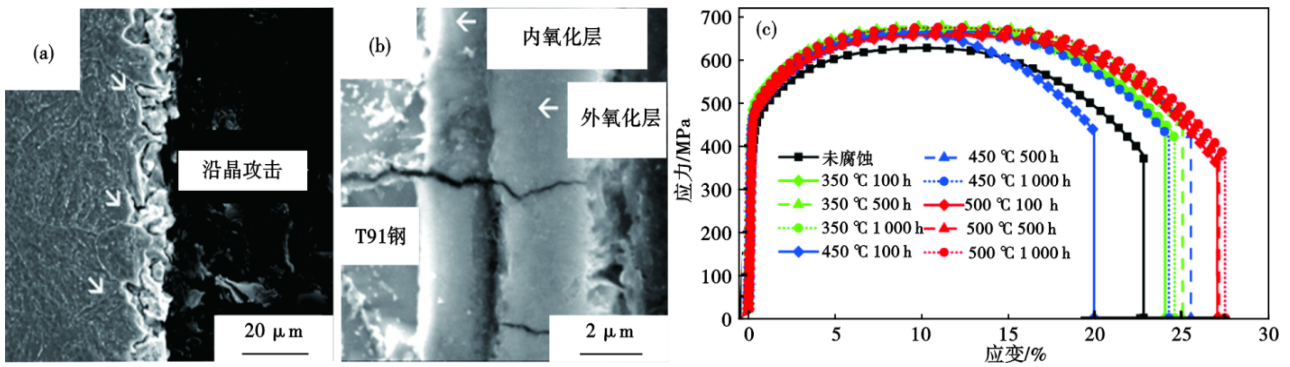


图 8 (a) T91 F/M 钢在 600 °C 下预暴露于贫氧($w[\text{CO}] < 10^{-10} \%$)液态 LBE 613 h 后的图像, (b) T91 F/M 钢在 470 °C 饱和氧液体 LBE 中预暴露 502 h 后的 SEM 图像, (c) T91 钢在不同条件下暴露于液态铅铋共晶合金(LBE)的工程应力-应变曲线
 Fig. 8 (a) SEM micrograph of T91 F/M steel after pre-exposure to oxygen-depleted ($w[\text{CO}] < 10^{-10} \%$) liquid LBE at 600 °C for 613 hours, (b) SEM micrograph of 91 F/M steel after pre-exposure to oxygen-saturated liquid LBE at 470 °C for 502 hours, (c) engineering stress-strain curves of T91 steel exposed to liquid lead-bismuth eutectic alloy (LBE) under various experimental conditions

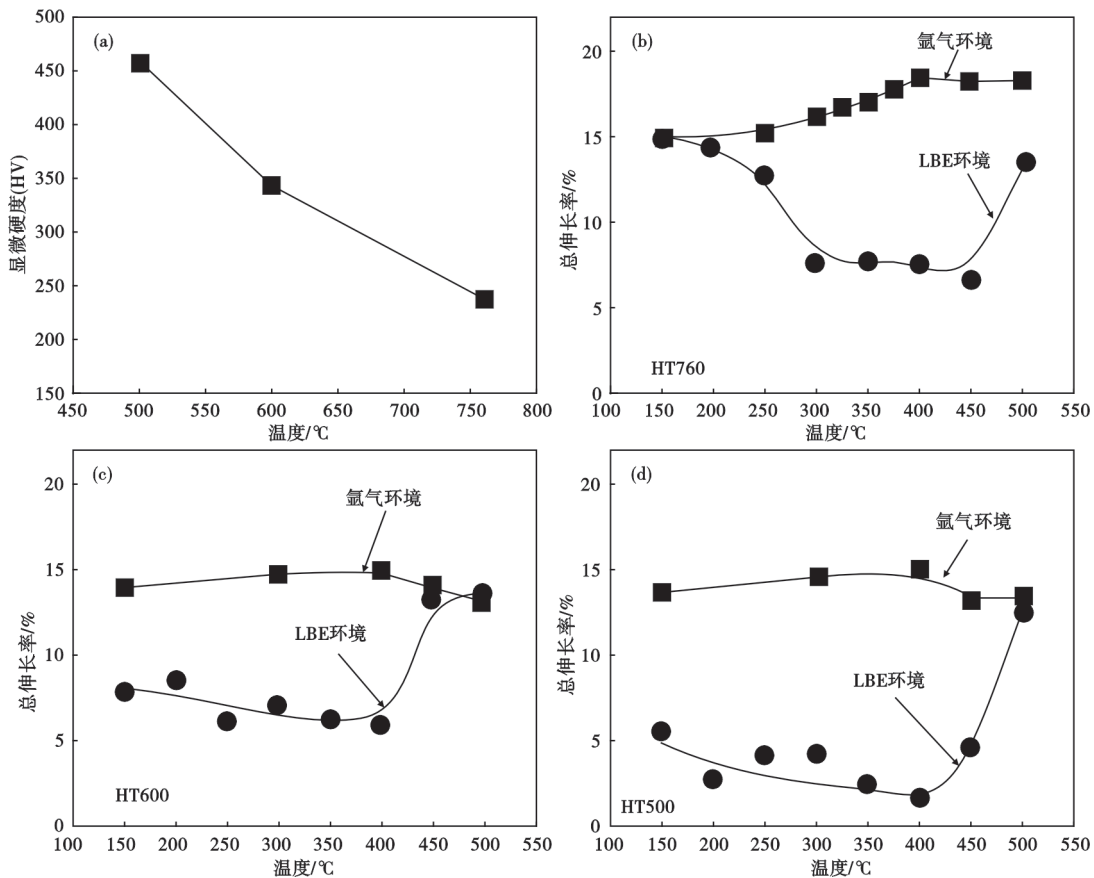


图 9 (a) 回火温度与显微硬度变化的关系; 在氩气和液态金属铅铋合金中测试的 HT760(b)、HT600(c) 和 HT500(d) 试样的总伸长率与测试温度的关系
 Fig. 9 (a) Micro-hardness changes versus tempering temperature; total elongation versus testing temperature for the HT760(b), HT600(c) and HT500(d) specimens tested in Ar and LBE condition

试验得出高硬度材料更容易发生 LME。对于热处理温度对 LME 敏感性的影响机理, Long 等^[17]认为随着回火温度降低, 强度增加, LBE 润湿的裂纹尖端因原子键弱化效应导致断裂应力降低。不过, 在机理

理解方面还需更深入地研究以提供更直接的证据。强度、硬度等对 LME 敏感性影响的内在机理的理解有助于揭示 F/M 钢的 LME 机理, 在这方面还有大量工作要做。

5 结论和展望

本研究介绍了 LFR 主要候选结构材料的 LME 行为,并归纳了 LME 各种影响因素的研究现状。F/M 钢和含 Al 铁素体钢均具有较强的 LME 敏感性,其中,含 Al 铁素体钢由于 Al 的加入,LME 敏感性要强于 F/M 钢,因此,应限制 Al 含量的过量添加。而奥氏体钢和 AFA 钢的 LME 敏感性较弱。LME 受温度、氧浓度、应变速率和冶金状态等影响较大。LME 敏感性随温度变化呈现“塑性谷”或“疲劳寿命谷”,具体原因目前仍然存在争议;氧化膜对材料 LME 的保护作用需要综合氧浓度和应变速率来考虑,氧化膜的自愈和 LBE 侵入的竞争关系的边界条件仍未厘清;冶金状态(如材料硬度、组织和析出相)对 LME 的影响研究不足。未来研究可以围绕以下几个方面展开。

1) 目前对于 F/M 钢这类 LME 敏感性高的材料

在 350 °C 中温条件下力学性能的关注较多,但对于 F/M 钢和奥氏体钢在更高温(≥ 500 °C)下由腐蚀和应力耦合造成的影响关注意明显较低。未来研究可加强腐蚀和应力耦合对力学性能影响机理的研究。

2) F/M 钢在液态 LBE 环境中力学性能随温度变化出现的“塑性谷”或“疲劳寿命谷”现象应重点阐明其与 DSA、润湿性和韧性之间的内在关系,这对于理解 LME 现象十分关键。

3) 氧化膜对 LME 具有一定的抑制作用,但这种保护作用能够发挥的条件,包括温度、氧浓度和应变速率等,还需要进一步明确。

4) 现有研究也显示出冶金状态对 LME 敏感性的显著影响,AFA 钢中析出相似乎显示出增强 LME 敏感性的倾向,可针对硬度、组织和析出相对 LME 影响方面做进一步研究。

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