

EFFECT OF SHOULDER TO PIN DIAMETER
RATIO ON MECHANICAL AND
MICROSTRUCTURAL PROPERTIES OF
FRICTION STIR WELDED MAGNESIUM
ALLOY AZ31B

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SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

We hereby declare that we have checked this thesis and in our opinion, this thesis/project* is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science.

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STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

DF	Degree of freedom
f	number of factor
MS	Mean square
MS_E	mean square error
N	number of the experiment
n_c	number of centre point
PRESS	predicted sum of squares
q	number of independent variables
R^2	ratio of the sum of squares of the predicted responses to the sum of squares of observed responses
RMS_E	root mean square error
S	standard error of regression
SS	total sum of squares
SS_E	sum of squares of residual
SS_R	regression sum of squares
X_i	Input variable
X_i^2	Square of variable
Y	responses
β_0	constant
β_i	first order regression coefficient
ζ	distance of axial points

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANN	Artificial neural network
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
AS	Advancing side
BM	Based metal
CCC	Central Composite Circumscribed
CCD	Central composite design
CCF	Composite face-centered
CCI	Central Composite Inscribed
DF	Degree of freedom
DOE	Design of experiment
EDM	Electrical Discharge Machining
FSW	Friction stir welding
GA	Generic algorithm
GMAW	Gas metal arc welding
GTAW	Gas tungsten arc welding
HAZ	Heat affected zone
LOF	Lack of fit
MEP	Mean effect plot
MIG	metal inert gas
PD	Pin diameter
PD	Pin diameter
PL	Pin length
RS	Retreating side
RSM	Response surface method
SD	Shoulder diameter
SD	Shoulder diameter
SEM	Scan Electronic microscope
SZ	Stir zone
TIG	tungsten inert gas
TMAZ	Thermomechanically affected zone
TRS	Tool rotational speed
UTS	Ultimate tensile strength
WS	Welding speed

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ABSTRAK

Pengurangan berat dalam industri automotif dan kapal terbang adalah satu keutamaan dalam meningkatkan ekonomi bahan api dan mengurangkan pencemaran alam sekitar. Sejak kebelakangan ini, aloi magnesium semakin penting sebagai bahan struktur ringan untuk aplikasi automotif. Kaedah kimpalan pelakuran konvensional aloi magnesium menghasilkan beberapa kecacatan seperti keliangan dan retak panas, yang menyebabkan sifat mekanik bahan merosot. Kimpalan geseran kacau (FSW) mampu menyambungkan aloi magnesium tanpa lebur, dan dengan itu, ia boleh menghapuskan masalah yang berkaitan dengan pemejalan. Kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada kesan nisbah diameter bahu kepada pin pada mata alat kimpalan geseran kacau kepada aloi magnesium AZ31B. Dua keping aloi AZ31B dengan ketebalan 2 mm telah dikimpal dengan menggunakan mesin kisar konvensional. Nisbah bahu kepada pin diameter mata alat yang digunakan dalam eksperimen ini adalah 2.25, 2.5, 2.75, 3, 3.33, 3.66, 4.5, 5 dan 5.5. Kelajuan putaran dan kelajuan kimpalan yang digunakan dalam kajian ini adalah masing-masing 1000 rpm dan 100 mm / min. Eksperimen ini telah dijalankan mengikut reka bentuk eksperimen dengan menggunakan rekabentuk komposit pusat (CCD) dari kaedah gerak balas permukaan (RSM). Sifat-sifat mekanikal FSW telah dinilai dengan menggunakan ujian tegangan dan kekerasan. Berdasarkan kekuatan tegangan muktamad (UTS) keputusan eksperimen, model matematik telah dibangunkan bersama-sama dengan pengoptimuman parameter. Analisis logam telah dijalankan menggunakan mikroskop optik, dan mikroskop imbasan elektron (SEM). Keputusan menyatakan bahawa kekuatan tegangan tertinggi adalah di nisbah bahu kepada pin 3.33 dengan 241.39 MPa dan kecekapan kimpalan 91% daripada logam asal. Kekuatan tegangan terendah adalah di nisbah bahu kepada pin 5.5 dengan 158.11 MPa dan kecekapan kimpalan 60% daripada logam asal. Menurut analisis statistik, parameter yang paling mempengaruhi adalah diameter pin (PD) diikuti dengan diameter bahu (SD). Model matematik telah dibangunkan dengan ketepatan sehingga 0.034% ralat sisihan piawai. Ketepatan parameter dioptimumkan dengan membandingkan ramalan dan eksperimen adalah 0.46% dengan kekuatan tegangan 243.102 MPa dan kecekapan kimpalan 92% daripada logam asal pada nisbah bahu kepada pin 3.1. Butiran sama dimensi yang dapat diperhatikan di TMAZ dan zon kacau menunjukkan ubah bentuk plastik sepenuhnya. Saiz butiran zon kacau (SZ) meningkat dengan penurunan nisbah bahu kepada pin daripada nisbah 3.1-5.5 kerana input haba yang lebih tinggi. Saiz butiran di zon terkena haba (HAZ) pada kekuatan tegangan yang lebih tinggi adalah 10.234 μm manakala saiz butiran HAZ pada tahap paling rendah kekuatan tegangan adalah 54.31 μm . Adalah diperhatikan bahawa, kecacatan permukaan gahar dan kecacatan permukaan pari-pari terhasil apabila input haba yang berlebihan digunakan. Kekerasan SZ pada nisbah 3.1 adalah lebih tinggi daripada SZ pada nisbah 5.5 yang masing-masing 90.97HV dan 71.73HV. Kesimpulannya, AZ31B aloi magnesium telah berjaya dikimpal dengan menggunakan kimpalan geseran kacau. Nisbah diameter bahu kepada pin memberi kesan kepada sifat-sifat mekanikal dan mikrostruktur FSW kepada AZ31B. Nisbah optimum bahu kepada pin menunjukkan kekuatan tegangan yang lebih tinggi bagi saiz butiran samadimensi dan halus yang menunjukkan kekerasan yang lebih tinggi.

ABSTRACT

Weight reduction in automotive and aircraft industries is a main concern in improving fuel economy and reducing environmental pollutions. Recently, magnesium alloys are constantly gaining importance as lightweight structural materials for automotive applications. Conventional fusion welding methods for joining magnesium alloys produce some defects such as porosity and hot crack, which deteriorate their mechanical properties. Friction stir welding (FSW) is capable of joining magnesium alloys without melting, and thus, it can eliminate problems related to solidification. This research focuses on the effect of shoulder to pin diameter ratio on friction stir welding of magnesium alloy AZ31. Two pieces of AZ31 alloy with thickness of 2 mm were friction stir welded by using conventional milling machine. The shoulder to pin diameter ratio used in this experiment are 2.25, 2.5, 2.75, 3, 3.33, 3.66, 4.5, 5 and 5.5. The rotational speed and welding speed used in this study are 1000 rpm and 100 mm/min respectively. This experiment was conducted according to the design of experiment by using the central composite design (CCD) from a response surface method (RSM). Mechanical properties of FSW AZ31B were evaluated by using a tensile and hardness test. Based on the ultimate tensile strength (UTS) results, mathematical model was developed together with a parameter optimization. Metallurgical analyses were conducted using an optical microscope, and scanning electron microscope (SEM). Result stated that highest UTS at shoulder to pin ratio of 3.33 with 241.391 MPa and weld efficiency of 91 % from based metal. The lowest tensile strength was at shoulder to pin ratio of 5.5 with 158.11 MPa and weld efficiency of 60 % from based metal. According to statistical analysis, the most influenced parameter was the pin diameter (PD) followed by the shoulder diameter (SD). The mathematical model was developed with accuracy up to 0.034% standard deviation error. The accuracy of optimized parameter by comparing the prediction and experimental was 0.46% with tensile strength 243.10 MPa and weld efficiency of 92 % from based metal at shoulder to pin ratio 3.1. Equiaxed grains were observed at the thermomechanically effected zone (TMAZ) and stir zone (SZ) indicating fully plastic deformation. The grain size of stir zone increased with decreasing shoulder to pin ratio from ratio 3.1 to 5.5 due to higher heat input. The heat affected zone (HAZ) grain size at higher tensile strength is 10.234 μm while HAZ grain size at lowest tensile strength is 54.31 μm . It is observed that, surface galling and faying surface defect is produced when excessive heat input is applied. It was found that SZ hardness at ratio 3.1 is higher than SZ at ratio 5.5 that are 90.97HV and 71.73HV respectively. In conclusion, the magnesium alloy AZ31B was successfully welded by using friction stir welding. Shoulder to pin diameter ratio give effect to the mechanical and microstructural properties of AZ31B FSW. The optimum shoulder to pin ratio shows higher tensile strength with fine and equiaxed grain size that indicate higher hardness.

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