

Investigating the Effects of Welding Processes on Tensile Stress and Strain Properties of Welded Mild Steel Plates Using Statistical Analysis

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Abstract: As test samples, mild steel plates with thicknesses of 0.5 mm, 0.6 mm, 0.7 mm, 0.8 mm, 0.9 mm, and 1.0 mm were made. After welding these test samples underwent Tensile Stress and strain tests with the Built Welding Robot and Manual Electric Arc Welding Machine. Both data collected from tensile stress and tensile stress were analyzed and the data produced from Electric Arc welding operations, the Robot welding operations and un-welded plates (control) were compared with one another. The analyses of the data obtained from the developed welding robot, manual electric arc welding and un-welded (control) mild steel plates of different thicknesses were carried out for tensile stress and strain. The descriptive statistics, ANOVA analysis, test of homogeneity of Variances and Post Hoc test (Least Significant Differences) were the statistical tools deployed using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS version 2016). The results showed that the robot welding sample produced gave the lowest tensile stress while the un-welded samples (CONTROL) gave the highest. The un-welded (CONTROL) samples gave the highest tensile strain values while the lowest was given by the developed robot welding samples. Finally, it was evident from the analyses results that the welding processes have significant impact on the tensile stress and strain properties of the welded mild steel plates and that good welding quality can be achieved more with the developed welding robot.

Keywords: Welding Processes, Tensile Stress, Tensile Strain, Mild Steel, Statistical Analysis

1. Introduction

At weld toes the crack initiation and early propagation is controlled by the distribution of local stress around the weld. Its fatigue analysis and evaluation already has a very long history [1]. Several researchers, including Peterson, Manson and Haibach, carried out initial investigations in the 1960's to link the frequency of fatigue to a local stress or strain measured at a certain point close to the weld toe, for example at a distance of 2 mm [2]. While the characteristic strength of fatigue associated with this local stress shows a relatively low dispersion, it has been shown that it is indeed influenced by the local notch at the weld toe and is not independent of

the local notch geometry [3]. Studies of relatively thick tubular joints found that the local notch effect of the weld toe has an effect on the stress in the region up to $0.3-0.4 \cdot t$ (t -plate thickness) away from the weld toe. This led to the development of the well-known hot-spot stress method in the 1970s, with the concept of reference points for stress assessment and extrapolation at certain distances away from the weld, which depend on the thickness of the plate or shell. This research investigation showed that the assessment of tubular joints fatigue strength due to their complex joint geometry and high local bending of the tubular walls was effective [4].

Early 1980s also saw first attempts to apply the technique

to welded joints on boards. Due to the local structural geometry of ship hull data, remarkable investigations were carried out in Japan to examine the stress concentration [5]. The construction stress was obtained by linearization of the stress via the thickness of the plate from finite-element analyses. Some investigations described structural stress at the hot spot (welded toe) as the surface stress that can be measured at the hot spot in accordance with the theories used in engineering structures [6]. He has shown that structural stress can be evaluated either by surface extrapolation or linearization, e.g. through the thickness of the wall, to exclude the local non-linear stress peak caused by the weld toe.

A generalized hot-spot stress approach was developed for plate structures in the early 1990's using Radaj's efficient notch stress approach and applied it to complex welded structures [7, 8]. Specific guidelines on the determination of stress for fatigue analysis of welded components were provided. However, some experiments showed that the resulting stresses are still influenced by the meshing of finite elements and the properties of elements [9]. Additional recommendations were provided for finite element modeling and hot-spot stress assessment, the latter based on detailed round-robin stress analysis of several aspects. For in-plane notches such as welded edge gussets, where plate thickness is no longer a valid parameter for defining the reference points for stress evaluation, special considerations have been shown to be important [10, 11]. In these cases, alternate methods were suggested for the hot-spot stress analysis, using absolute distances for the reference points [12, 13]. A systematic guidance for an approach to structural hot-spot stress is currently being prepared [14].

Radaj's structural stress description (1990) was used to measure the structural stress directly from the finite-element results at the weld toe position using elementary structural mechanics principles [15]. Several say and prove insensitivity to the mesh, however, mainly on 2D basic joints [15, 16]. The various approaches for structural stress assessment were explained in more detail and contrasted with each other. Afterwards, numerous 2D and 3D examples demonstrated their implementation, demonstrating the similarity of the approaches and addressing the question, how far mesh-insensitivity can be achieved [17]. It has been emphasized that the structural stress approach was limited to the fatigue strength assessment of weld toes, where cracks start from the surface of the structure [18]. Cracks beginning from the root are not protected by completely penetrated welds and require a separate evaluation method [19].

Statistics is an integral component of engineering research from concept initiation to project reporting and it affects all

facets of the research process, from data collection and management to review and interpretation. The application of statistics to the welding sciences, and especially in our area of interest, has become more widespread and complex to investigate the effects of welding processes on tensile stress and strain properties of welded mild steel plates.

Statistical methods involved in conducting a study include the planning, design, data collection, analysis, meaningful interpretation and reporting of the research findings. The statistical analysis gives value to the meaningless numbers, breathing life into useless results. The findings and inferences are correct only when use is made of proper statistical tests. This article will attempt to familiarize the reader with the basic methods of science adopted while performing this science.

2. Instruments Deployed for the Experiments

The following instrument was deployed for carrying out experiments of mechanical properties on the welded and unwelded mild steel plates of different thickness as shown in Figure 1 [20].

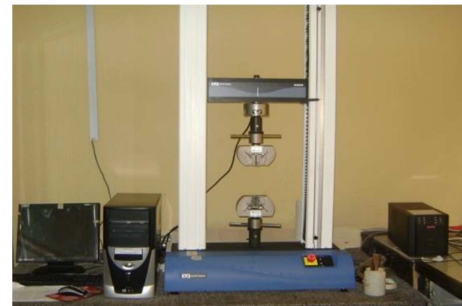


Figure 1. Universal Instron Machine, Model 3369, Maker (Instron).

3. Tensile Test on Different Thicknesses of Mild Steel Plate Specimens with Manual, Developed Robot Welding and Control Operations

The results and analyses of the tensile strength test of unwelded mild steel plates for different thicknesses without welding operation, which serves as control specimens are shown in Table 1. The aim of the test was to determine the tensile stress and tensile strain of the welded and unwelded mild steel samples.

Table 1. Tensile test on different thicknesses of mild steel plate specimens with manual, developed robot welding operations and without welding operation (control).

Specimen/Gauge (mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)
	Control		Robot welded		Manually welded	
0.5	99.70493	0.05733	87.54535	0.021948	90.7051	0.031908
0.6	146.54387	0.10733	58.59743	0.019532	129.383	0.053734

Specimen/Gauge (mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)	Tensile Stress (MPa)	Tensile Strain (mm/mm)
	Control		Robot welded		Manually welded	
0.7	175.13934	0.11200	109.8256	0.016946	125.627	0.03533
0.8	212.69445	0.17067	136.078	0.028058	177.957	0.085466
0.9	269.31944	0.14333	222.047	0.0134	234.374	0.050264
1.0	303.98739	0.19733	129.6537	0.030838	279.6685	0.045502

Figure 2 shows variation in tensile stress on weld and un-welded mild steel plates (specimens) of different sizes in which the un-welded (CONTROL) samples gave the highest. Developed robot welding sample gave the lowest. This was

expected of the developed robot welding samples given their comparatively higher hardness and lower extension values over both the electric arc welding and un-welded (CONTROL) Samples.

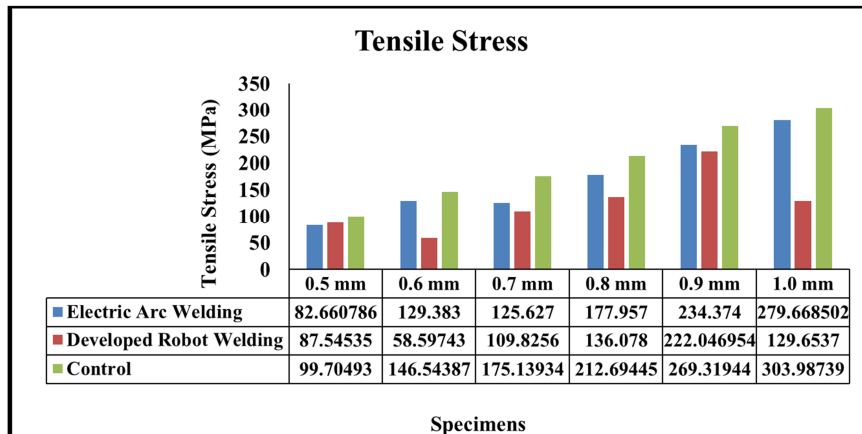


Figure 2. Tensile Stress of Welded and Un-welded Mild Steel Plate Specimen for the Tensile Strength Test.

Figure 3 shows the variation in tensile strain on welded and un-welded mild steel plates (specimens) of different sizes in which the un-welded (CONTROL) samples gave the highest values while developed robot welding samples gave

the lowest. This was expected since developed robot welding samples had comparatively higher hardness, lower extension and lower tensile stress values over both the electric arc welding and un-welded (CONTROL) values.

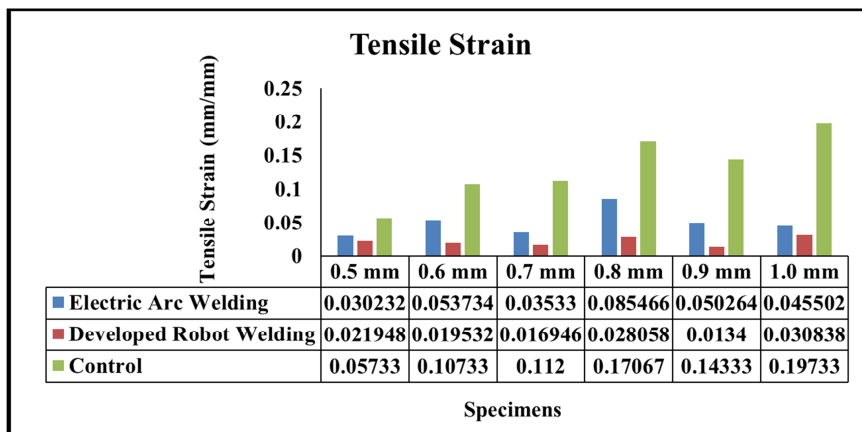


Figure 3. Tensile Strain of Welded and Un-welded Mild Steel Plate Specimen for the Tensile Strength Test.

4. Statistical Analyses Results and Discussion

The statistical tools adopted in this research include; descriptive statistics, ANOVA analysis, test of homogeneity of Variances and Post Hoc test (Least Significant Differences) while the software deployed for the analysis is Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS version 2016).

4.1. Statistical Analysis of the Tensile Stress of Welded and Un-Welded Mild Steel Plate Specimens

Tables 2, 3 and 4 show the statistical analysis of the tensile stress of welded and un-welded mild steel plate specimens. Table 2 reveals the descriptive statistics of the tensile stress in which the developed robot welding samples collectively have the lowest mean value of 123.96, standard deviation value of 55.85 and variance value of 3119.22. Table 3 shows homogeneity of variance among tensile stresses of the

samples in which the result reveals that there is no variation in the tensile stresses among the tests of the samples since p-value is 0.526. Table 4 shows in the ANOVA test result that

there is no significant difference in the tensile stresses of the samples since p-value is 0.185.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of the Tensile Stress of the Samples.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Control	6	201.23	76.56	5861.43	31.26	120.89	281.57	99.70	303.99
Electric Arc Welding	6	171.61	74.12	5493.77	30.26	93.83	249.39	82.66	279.67
Developed Robot Welding	6	123.96	55.85	3119.22	22.80	65.35	182.57	58.60	222.05
Total	18	165.60	73.01	5330.46	17.21	129.30	201.91	58.60	303.99

Table 3. Test of Homogeneity of Variances among Tensile Stress of the Samples.

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig. (p-value)
0.671	2	15	0.526

Table 4. ANOVA Test of the Tensile Stress of the Samples.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F calc.	Sig. (p-value)	F critical
Between Groups	18237.16	2	9118.58	1.89	0.185	3.68
Within Groups	72371.16	15	4824.74			
Total	90608.32	17				

4.2. Statistical Analysis of the Tensile Strain of Welded and Un-Welded Mild Steel Plate Specimens

Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 show the statistical analysis of the tensile strain of welded and un-welded mild steel plate specimens. Table 5 reveals the descriptive statistics of the tensile strain in which the developed robot welding samples collectively have the lowest mean value of 0.022, standard deviation value of 0.007 and variance value of 0.001. Table 6 shows homogeneity of variance among tensile strains of the samples in which the

result reveals that there is variation in the tensile strains among the tests of the samples since p-value is 0.008.

Table 7 shows in the ANOVA test result that there is significant difference in the tensile strains of the samples in which developed robot welding operation gave the lowest tensile strains compared with electric arc welding and un-welded (CONTROL) since p-value is 0.001. Table 8 shows the mean difference of -0.109 between developed robot welding and un-welded (CONTROL) samples and -0.028 between developed robot welding and electric arc welding samples.

Table 5. Descriptive Statistics of the Tensile Strain of the Samples.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
						Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Control	6	0.131	0.050	0.0025	0.020	0.079	0.184	0.057	0.197
Electric Arc Welding	6	0.050	0.019	0.0004	0.008	0.030	0.070	0.030	0.085
Developed Robot Welding	6	0.022	0.007	0.0001	0.003	0.015	0.029	0.013	0.031
Total	18	0.068	0.056	0.0036	0.013	0.040	0.096	0.013	0.197

Table 6. Test of homogeneity of variances among Tensile Strain of the samples.

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig. (p-value)
6.724	2	15	0.008

Table 7. ANOVA Test of the Tensile Strain of the Samples.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F calc.	Sig. (p-value)	F critical
Between Groups	0.039	2	0.019	19.84	0.001	3.68
Within Groups	0.015	15	0.001			
Total	0.053	17				

Table 8. Post Hoc test: Least Significant Differences (LSD) for Tensile Strain multiple Comparisons between the Samples.

(I) Samples	(J) Samples	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. (p-value)	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Control	Electric Arc Welding	0.081*	0.018	0.001	0.043	0.120
	Developed Robot Welding	0.109*	0.018	0.001	0.071	0.148
Electric Arc Welding	Control	-0.081*	0.018	0.001	-0.120	-0.043
	Developed Robot Welding	0.028	0.018	0.139	-0.010	0.067
Developed Robot Welding	Control	-0.109*	0.018	0.001	-0.148	-0.071
	Electric Arc Welding	-0.028	0.018	0.139	-0.067	0.010

5. Conclusion

The robot welding sample produced gave the lowest tensile stress while the un-welded samples (CONTROL) gave the highest. The un-welded (CONTROL) samples gave the highest tensile strain values while the lowest was given by the developed robot welding samples. This implies that the ratio of the deformation to the initial dimension of the material is lesser with the developed robot welding samples when compared with the manual arc welding samples and the un-welded samples. While the un-welded samples exhibited the highest amount of deformation under stress. Therefore, it is evident that the welding processes have significant impact on the tensile stress and strain properties of the welded mild steel plates and that good welding quality can be achieved more with the developed welding robot.

6. Recommendation

For a minimum deformation and a good arc welding quality, the developed welding robot with its comparative advantages is therefore recommended for automation of welding processes.

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