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**DETERMINATION OF INFLUENCE OF**  
**ELECTROLYTE COMPOSITION AND IMPURITIES**  
**ON THE CONTENT OF  $\alpha$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  PHASE IN MAO-**  
**COATINGS ON ALUMINUM (p. 6–13)**

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Coatings with a thickness of about 100  $\mu\text{m}$  were obtained by microarc oxidation of technically pure aluminum and aluminum alloyed with copper and zinc in an alkaline silicate electrolyte at a current density of  $\sim 20 \text{ A/dm}^2$ . The results of studying the surface morphology, phase composition, and hardness of MAO coatings are presented. The change parameters were the electrolyte composition and the concentration of alloying (Cu and Zn) elements. This study was carried out because the currently available data are not enough to understand the nature of the influence of the chemical composition of the aluminum alloy and electrolysis conditions (in particular, electrolyte composition) on the mechanism and kinetics of  $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  transformation. Without understanding this, a directed change in the structural state and properties of MAO coatings becomes impossible. As a result of the studies, it was found that during microarc oxidation of aluminum alloys in an alkaline electrolyte with the addition of liquid glass ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3$ ) of various concentrations, the strengthened layer consists of oxides  $\alpha$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and mullite  $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ . The data of x-ray diffraction analysis of the coatings indicate the crystal structure of the coatings. It was established that aluminum alloying with copper and zinc significantly affects the phase composition of the coating, changing the quantitative ratio of the phases in a nonlinear manner. The highest content of the  $\alpha$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase (up to 60 vol. %) is achieved by Cu doping. The highest hardness of MAO coatings is achieved using an electrolyte with a composition of 1 g/l KOH and 6 g/l  $\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3$  in aluminum alloys with a copper content of more than 3 %, and zinc – 2–3 %. It is established that the mechanism of formation of the phase composition should be associated with stabilization and destabilization of the  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase. Therefore, to achieve high

hardness, it is necessary to choose those alloying elements that affect the destabilization of  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , which ensures the formation of the  $\alpha$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase (corundum). In this regard, it was revealed that  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  cations contribute to the destabilization of the  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase, and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  cations lead to stabilization of the  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  phase at a Zn content  $> 3 \%$ .

**Keywords:** microarc oxidation, anodic-cathodic mode, electrolyte composition, alloying, phase composition, corundum.

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**DETERMINATION OF THE PECULIARITIES OF OBTAINING COATINGS OF DIFFERENT HARDNESS ON STRUCTURAL STEEL AT DIFFUSION METALIZATION (p. 14–24)**

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The features of obtaining coatings on carbon steel, structural steel St 3 are studied during diffusion metallization – simultaneous saturation of steel with boron, chromium and aluminum (boron chromium aluminizing), without the use of special heat treatment. The basic compositions of powder mixtures are established using the simplex lattice method, which make it possible to obtain boride structures of increased hardness, phases of a solid solution of boron, chromium and aluminum in Fe $\alpha$  and the predicted depth of the surface layer on the surface of carbon steel. The characteristic features of the microhardness formation of the surface layer of coatings are established depending on the composition of the saturating mixture. An important factor is established for the effect of aluminum on the microhardness of the surface layer in multicomponent systems. Its presence contributes to the formation of solid solutions. New data are obtained on the formation of surface layers during steel saturation with boron, chromium and aluminum, and the conditions for obtaining layers of high hardness and high ductility are determined. The optimal areas for the formation of coatings of various structures and depths by the simplex planning method are found. As optimization factors, let's use the relative planes occupied by borides and solid solution, as well as the depth of the surface layers. It is clearly shown how the structure of surface layers changes depending on the quantitative relations between the components of saturating mixtures. The graphical dependences of the boride phase, the phase of the solid solution and the depth of the layer, on the composition of the saturating mixture during diffusion metallization (boron chromium aluminizing) allow to improve the process in order to obtain coatings with increased wear resistance on the surface of carbon steel.

**Keywords:** chemical-thermal treatment, diffusion metallization, structure, microhardness, wear resistance, boride phase.

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**DETECTING PATTERNS OF STRUCTURE**  
**FORMATION AT VARIOUS TYPES OF METAL**  
**MACHINING (p. 22–30)**

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This paper reports a research into influence of different types of thermal cutting, namely argon-plasma, air-plasma, and oxygen-flux cutting, on regularities in the formation of a thermal impact zone and structure formation in the cutting area. The formation of structural components of the heat-treated layers has been analyzed in detail in terms of depth of the thermal impact zone after different types of thermal cutting for steels of varying degree of doping. It was established that the result of thermal cutting is the formation of conditional sections, which are characterized by different structural components depending on the chemical composition of steels and the type of treatment. This paper describes patterns in the phase and structural transformations at thermal cutting of steels. The effect of a thermal cutting technique is shown on the formation of structural components both in the zone of melting and at sections near a main metal. The influence of the cutting technique on the depth of melted and transitional sections is given. The phenomena associated with the process of crystallization after cutting are described. The influence of cooling rate on the structure of metals in the cutting zone was considered in detail for a wide range of steel grades. The basic regularities of structure formation at the crystallization of a melted metal in the cutting zone depending on a chosen thermal cutting technique were established. The effect of a thermal cutting technique on change in the microhardness of cut surface and the depth of thermally treated layers is shown. It has been demonstrated that choosing an air-plasma-cutting method as a technological operation makes it possible to considerably reduce the depth of a thermal impact zone and microhardness in a cutting zone compared to argon-plasma and oxygen-flux cutting. The efficiency of the technological process of air-plasma cutting has been proven in comparison with other considered methods due to the reduction of depth in the thermal impact zone, which predetermines lower labor and economic expenses for the further machining of a cut surface. This reduces the production of parts and assemblies from structural steels of large thickness, for which high-performance thermal cutting is applied. Implementation of the established research results under industrial conditions would make it possible to significantly improve the efficiency and productivity of the technological process by obtaining high quality of the surface.

**Keywords:** thermal cutting, thermal impact zone, cutting speed, crystallization, metallographic analysis.

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**TENSILE STRENGTH AND FATIGUE**  
**CRACK GROWTH RATE OF CHAMFERED**  
**AND CLAMPED A6061 FRICTION WELD**  
**JOINTS (p. 31–39)**

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Friction welding is a solid-state joining technique. It is suitable to be used to join a round bar of aluminum that has problems in joining. This paper reports measurements of the tensile strength and fatigue crack growth rate of a continuous drive friction welding (CDFW) joint of aluminum alloys A6061. The CDFW process was conducted by using the round bar A6061 machined to form a chamfer angle and applying a clamping process before the upset stage. Various chamfer angles of 0, 30, 45, and 60 degrees were machined on the stationary round bar. In order to increase the tensile strength and to reduce the fatigue crack growth rate of the CDFW joint, round clamps were applied on the CDFW joint. CDFW process was conducted with the revolution speed of 1,100 rpm, the initial compression force of 3.9 kN during friction stage for 4 seconds, and an upset force of 28 kN for 60 seconds. The specimens of friction weld joints were machined to shape the specimens of tensile strength testing and fatigue crack growth testing. Fatigue crack growth testing was performed using a cantilever rotary bending machine. The testing results show that using a small chamfer angle together with the round clamp produced a CDFW joint that exhibited higher tensile strength than the joint without chamfer or clamping. The specimen created with a chamfer angle of 30 degrees and the clamping method had the highest tensile strength and the the slowest fatigue crack growth rate among the samples studied. This result was caused by smaller heat input as a result of using a small one-sided chamfer together with two stages of plastic deformation from the clamping process and upset process during CDFW. The fatigue crack growth rate is also confirmed by macro and scanning electron microscope imaging of the fracture surfaces. The area of fatigue crack growth of the specimen with higher tensile strength is wider than the specimen with lower tensile strength. The striations are also observed more clearly in the fracture surface of the specimen with the highest tensile strength and the the slowest fatigue crack growth rate, namely the specimen, which has a chamfer angle of 30 degrees with clamping.

**Keywords:** Aluminum, Continuous Drive Friction Welding, Tensile Strength, Fatigue Crack Growth Rate, Fracture Surface.

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**APPLICATION OF MULTIPLE CORRELATION ANALYSIS METHOD TO MODELING THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CRYSTALS (ON THE EXAMPLE OF GALLIUM ARSENIDE) (p. 39–45)**

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The use of modern applied computer programs expands the possibility of multicomponent statistical analysis in materials science. The procedure for applying the method of multiple correlation

and regression analysis for the study and modeling of multifactorial relationships of physical characteristics in crystalline structures is considered. The consideration is carried out using single crystals of undoped gallium arsenide as an example. The statistical analysis involved a complex of seven physical characteristics obtained by non-destructive methods for each of 32 points along the diameter of the crystal plate. The data array is investigated using multiple correlation analysis methods. A computational model of regression analysis is built. Based on it, using the programs Excel, STADIA and SPSS Statistics 17.0, statistical data processing and analytical study of the relationships of all characteristics are carried out. Regression relationships are obtained and analyzed in determining the concentration of the background carbon impurity, residual mechanical stresses, and the concentration of the background silicon impurity. The ability to correctly conduct multiple statistical analysis to model the properties of a GaAs crystal is established.

New relationships between the parameters of the GaAs crystal are revealed. It is found that the concentration of the background silicon impurity is related to the vacancy composition of the crystal and the concentration of cents EL2. It is also found that there is no relationship between the silicon concentration and the value of residual mechanical stresses. These facts and the thermal conditions for the formation of point defects during the growth of a single crystal indicate the absence of a redistribution of background impurities during cooling of an undoped GaAs crystal.

The use of the multiple regression analysis method in materials science allows not only to model multifactor bonds in binary crystals, but also to carry out stochastic modeling of factor systems of variable composition.

**Keywords:** correlation and regression analysis, multiple regression, gallium arsenide, crystal structure.

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**DEGRADATION OF CDTE SC DURING OPERATION: MODELING AND EXPERIMENT (p. 46–51)**

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The mechanisms of CdTe SC degradation during operation are experimentally studied. Two mechanisms of degradation of such solar cells are identified. The first is the generation of defects in the transition region, which is caused by excess charge carriers and defects. The second is the increase in the back barrier. The study of the current-voltage and voltage-capacitance characteristics of solar cells allowed proposing a model of degradation of solar cells based on CdTe. It is found that the presence of copper in the back contact is associated with better initial efficiency, but also the fastest degradation during operation. In accordance with the proposed model, the occurrence of additional elementary defects as a result of dissociation of three types of point defect complexes ( $\text{Cu}_i^+ - 2\text{Cu}_{\text{Cd}}^-$ ),  $(\text{V}_{\text{Cd}}^- - \text{Cu}_i^+)$ ,  $(2\text{Cu}_{\text{Cd}}^- - \text{V}_{\text{Te}}^+)$  is explained. Shunting of the  $n$ - $p$  heterojunction and phase transformations from the  $p^+ - \text{Cu}_{2-x}\text{Te}$  side due to electrodiffusion of  $\text{Cu}_{\text{Cd}}^-$  with  $p$ -CdTe at the  $n$ -CdS/ $p$ -CdTe and  $p$ -CdTe/ $p^+ - \text{Cu}_{2-x}\text{Te}$  boundaries is considered. On the other hand, the diffusion of  $\text{Cu}_i^+$  (interstitial copper) into the absorber volume is possible. Electrodiffusion of defects from heterojunctions to the absorber volume is possible, which leads to the compensation of effective acceptor centers and a decrease in the lifetime of minority charge carriers and, accordingly, a decrease in  $J_{ph}$ . In addition, there is a growth of shunting metal chains along the longitudinal grain boundaries of  $p$ -CdTe between  $n$ - $p$  and  $p$ - $p^+$  heterojunctions and the possibility of appearance of high-resistance phases of the Cu-Te system. The proposed model explains the possibility of occurrence of the  $p^+ - \text{Cu}_{2-\delta}\text{S}$  phase on the CdS/CdTe boundary, which constrains the passage of the photoactive part of the solar spectrum in  $p$ -CdTe.

**Keywords:** cadmium telluride, solar cell degradation, output parameters, light-emitting diode characteristics.

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**DETERMINING THE RATIONAL COMPOSITION OF TRIBOLOGICALLY ACTIVE ADDITIVE TO OIL TO IMPROVE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBOSYSTEMS (p. 52–64)**

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The conducted studies of the formation of the rational composition of a tribologically active additive to basic oil showed the possibility to improve the characteristics of tribosystems. It was revealed that this tribologically active additive enables the formation



of tribological properties that ensure normal working conditions for the operation of the mated parts of a tribosystem. Based on the optimization of technical condition of a tribologically active additive, the rational values of each of its components were obtained. Optimization was carried out on condition that the magnitude of wear should be minimized, while critical load and welding load should be maximized. Based on the experimental database, on a four-ball friction machine, the equations for each of the response functions of the resulting features were obtained. The obtained regression equations and values of desirability function of the order of 0.698 allow determining the composition of a tribologically active additive: metakaolin, dispersive clay powder from Katerynivka deposit, sodium oleate, hydroxide of lithium and sulfur. It was established that when using the obtained tribologically active additive under laboratory conditions, the decrease in the wear of samples by 26.8 %, the increase in critical load by 17.2 %, the increase in welding load by 4.89 % were observed. Analysis of the experimental data shows that it is possible to use the proposed tribologically active additive in contact loading at the contact up to 1078 N and at peak overload up to 2,372 N.

Research results give grounds to argue that the proposed tribologically active additive makes it possible to improve the characteristics of tribosystems. It can be useful for service and motor transport companies during technical servicing and in production of composite oil.

**Keywords:** tribologically active additive, geomodifier, wear, sulfur, lithium soaps, sodium soaps, metakaolin, welding loading.

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