

Review on Defects in Hot Forging Process- Investigation

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Abstract: The major defects in the formation of under fills due to air pocket between the forging and the tool, there is no information about modeling of such defects using FEA software. Therefor attempts are required to develop the numerical simulation of analyzed process. Review study is performed for the formation of laminated crack defect established in the upsetting of heavy disk shaped forging. The numerical stimulation review is studied along with distribution of stress, equivalent strain and strain rate. The distribution diagram of the stress state evaluation is reviewed to study the unconditioned deformation under trilateral compression. This is the main reason leading to laminated crack defect. In large product surface crack are removed by hot scarfing process after stopping the forging process temporarily. In addition the forging process introduces large defects has an effect on the fatigue strength. This helps to determine the aspects of the surface integrity which are the most influential in the fatigue. The main review is relevant to surface roughness, large defects, residual stresses, micro structure and hardness. The main objective of this paper is to review the mechanism of these defects generation and the investigation performed for its analysis.

Keywords: Hot forging, forging defect, surface crack, laminated crack, finite element method

1. Introduction

Forging is a deformation processing of materials through compressive stress. It is carried out either hot or cold. Forging is a hot working process and the metal is heated to the proper or required temperature to get the plastic deformation. Heating of a material to proper temperature is essential. Due to excessive temperature, burning of a material destroy cohesion between atoms. Hot forging is done at temperatures above recrystallization temperatures, typically $0.6 T_{melt}$, or above, where T_{melt} is melting temperature. Warm forging is done in the temperature range: $0.3 T_{melt}$ to $0.5 T_{melt}$ (Table.1). Hot forging requires lower loads, [21] because flow stress gets reduced at higher temperatures. Strain rates in hot working may be high – 0.5 to 500 s⁻¹. Strains in hot forging are also high – true strains of 2 to 4. Forging technology has been mastered quite well, the correct manufacture of forgings with complicated shapes (connecting rods, worm gears, constant-velocity universal joints, turbines, levers, etc.) which satisfy the customers' high quality expectations, requires much experience from the designers, technologists and machine operators. In times of increasing international competitiveness forging companies try to reduce the amount of scrap parts by stable processes [18]. Stable processes can be achieved by a careful process design using numerical methods. In each of the stages in the forging process there is a risk that an error will occur, resulting in a flaw a forging defect.[16] For this reason several CAD/CAM/CAE tools (usually based on FEM and physical modeling) and special measuring-control systems are used to design and optimize the whole forging process.[21,16]

Table.1.Forging Temperature of Various Materials

Sr No.	Material	Forging Temperature	
		At start in 0 ^o C	At start in 0 ^o C
1	Mild Steel	13300	800
2	Medium Carbon Steel	1250	820
3	High Carbon Steel	1180	850
4	Wrought Iron	1300	900
5	Stainless steel	1300	920
6	High Speed Steel	1300	950
7	Cu and its Alloys	850	680
8	Al and Mg Alloys	480	350

2. Investigation of actual forging Defects

2.1 Identify defects in selected die forging processes

In die forging processes the proper spacing of cross-sectional areas along the length of the straight axis of the preform (slug) and the preparation of the latter through forming is highly important for the proper filling of the cavity die by the

material. Most of the cases the most common forging defects (underfills, folds) are the result of the improper geometry and/or incorrect position of the preform or the slug on the die insert. The ways in which defects propagated in the numerical model and in the physical model were compared. Numerical FEM modeling is used mainly to determine the optimal shape and dimensions of the preform and the slug. This is required when the forging has a complicated shape, as in the case of turbine blades, toothed gears, forked forgings, etc [19]. Most researchers and experienced forging engineers are inclined to agree that the most common forging defects (underfills, folds)[1] are the result of the improper geometry and/or incorrect position of the preform or the slug on the die insert. Such errors are often due to the unavailability of a particular bar section from the steel works or the lack of proper equipment resources for slug preparation. There are plenty of studies and papers on the selection, design and optimization of billet geometry, but only a few works are devoted to the application of numerical FEM modeling to the analysis of the causes of forging defects. Numerical FEM modeling is used mainly to determine the optimal shape and dimensions of the preform and the slug. This is required when the forging has a complicated shape, as in the case of turbine blades, toothed gears, forked forgings, etc. Today forges most often use numerical software based on FEM [3] to analyze the problem connected with the improper geometry and/or position of the preform. The producers of the current computing packages equip them with ever new functions enabling even better and more complete analyses of plastic working processes, making it possible, e.g., to detect defects in forgings and to analyze the durability of the tooling.[1,3]

Best example for these defects i.e. underfills the operations of forging lever, the operations of forging lever and complicated in their shape conducted in Forge Jawor were subjected to analysis. Fig.1. Then numerical thermomechanical models were built for the two forging processes and numerical FEM simulations were run using the Forge 2011 computing package. [1, 3]



Fig.1. Lever forging after trimming

2.1.1 Defects in analyzed Lever forging

The macroscopic examinations of the lever forging showed numerous defects in the form of folds and cavity die underfills. Fig.2 show the forging with a marked underfill and Fig.3 show a place with a lap.[12]

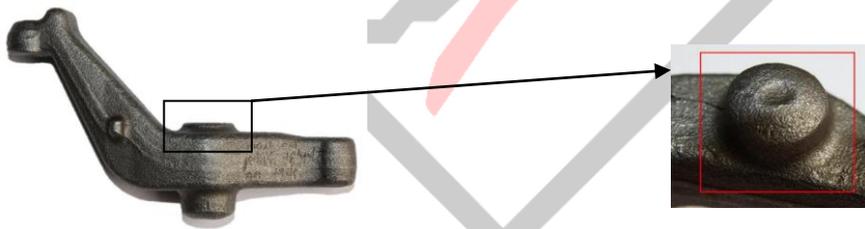


Fig. 2. Defects in lever forging: Underfill in lever forging.



Fig. 3. Defects in lever forging: lap in lever foot

Underfills also occur in the forging head. In addition, an extensive lap, caused by the improper flow of the material, appears in the lever foot. Structural examinations of the lap in the plane perpendicular to the crack the structure of the forging to be typical of hypoeutectoid steel. The occurrence of oxides and bits of scale coming from the forging surface in this place can cause further cracking and damage to the element.[23]

2.1.2 Modeling and numerical simulations

For the purpose of a more in-depth analysis of the causes of defects, numerical simulations were carried out using the finite element method. 3D models of the tools (the die inserts were modeled as elements with heat exchange) and the preforms were built. The ambient temperature and the temperature of the forging were assumed to amount to 30 °C and 1150 °C, respectively. Carbon steel C45 and hot-work tool steel 1.2344 were used for respectively the forged material and the die inserts. The material specifications, i.e. thermal expansion, specific heat, thermal conductivity were taken from the Materials Forming Properties Database. The studies covered the temperatures: 650 °C, 750 °C, 850 °C, 1000 °C and 1150 °C and the strain rates: 0.1 s⁻¹, 1 s⁻¹ and 10 s⁻¹. The temperatures and the strain rates were selected on the basis of an analysis of the industrial processes of forging. The coefficients of heat exchange between the billet and the tools and with the environment were assumed to amount to respectively 30 W/mm² K and 0.35 W/mm² K.[1,7]

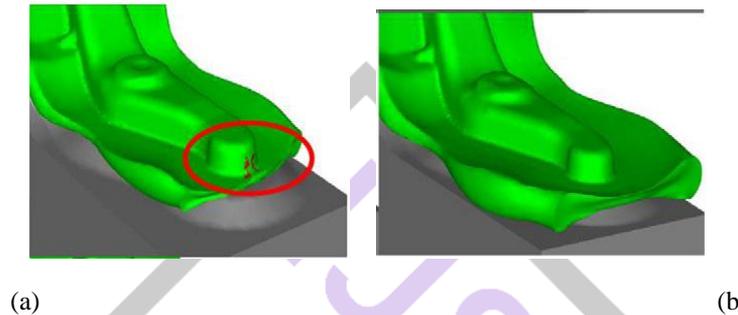


Fig. 4. a) Forging moved 28 mm away from die end — lap at process end, revealed by folds function,
b) Forging moved 10 mm away — no folds.

A preliminary analysis of the FEM simulation results revealed that the position of the initial material has a significant influence on the proper filling of the cavity die. In the first case (Fig. 4a), when the billet is moved 28 mm away from the bottom insert cavity die, a lap appeared in the lever foot. This is caused by the curling of the material in the final stage of preliminary forging. Through the next numerical simulations, in which the distance from the end of the cavity was changed at every 2 mm, the optimal preform position was selected whereby folds no longer appeared in the lever foot. [23] The flow of the material was significantly improved when the slug was positioned at a distance of 10 mm from the end of the bottom insert cavity die (Fig. 4b). FEM simulations showed that the further shifting of the preform towards the end of the insert would result in an underfill in the upper part of the forging (the lever head). Fig. 4a shows the stages in the appearance and growth of folds in the tested element, revealed by the folds function.[1,23]

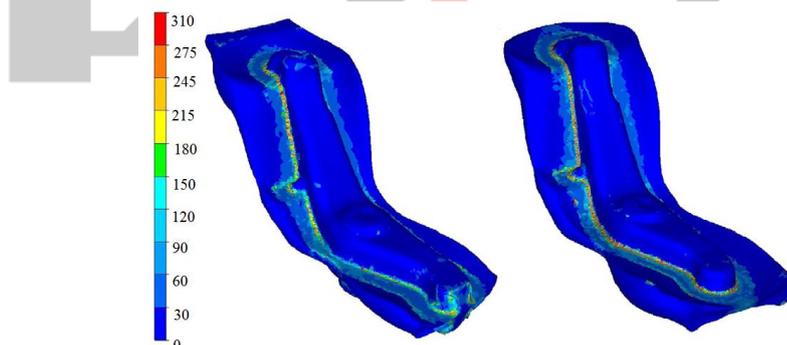


Fig. 5. Rate of flow during preliminary forging: a) lever with lap, b) lever without lap.

The material flow shown in Fig. 4 as well as the rate of material flow Fig. 5 for the different billet positions confirm the risk that a lap may appear in the lower part of the lever. An analysis of the simulation results shows that as the pressure in the closed space increases, it becomes more difficult to fill the die insert, which may result in underfills in the forging (Fig. 2).[1,23]

2.2 Laminated crack defect

The forming of the disk-shaped forgings is carried out by forging, and mainly upsetting. In the upsetting process, the defects of the cast dendritic microstructure and shrinkage porosity [27] will be fixed by larger forging ratio in order to improve the quality of forgings. According to the theory of plasticity, if friction is ignored, the upsetting between flats can be simplified to be the single compression. However, the existence of friction leads to complex changes of the stress–strain state in

the forgings, many problems cannot be solved, and even cannot be qualitatively analyzed. Therefore, there were some misunderstandings on the upsetting of cylinder between flats in a long period of time, namely state of tri-lateral compressive stresses is always produced in the centre of deformation body, regardless the ratio of height to diameter (transient state) of the forging.[25-28]

2.2.1. Criterion of ductile fracture

Aiming at failure mode of engineering materials and structures, many kinds of strength theories have been proposed. Besides, many scholars have proposed different forms of expression on criterion of ductile fracture about local material failure of work piece in metal plastic forming process. Different damage results were obtained and shown in Table 2 after the finite element models of cylinder upsetting between flats were carried out using the above criterions. Table 2 shows the damage distributions in symmetry plane using different criterions of material ductile fracture in the upsetting process. Through the comparison of the above results, it can be found, except Freudenthal Criteria, [27] that other criteria's damage results are basically larger within circumferential drum area. The maximum principal stress is regarded as dominant mechanics factor of material failure for most of these criteria, which can describe crack on the surface of drum-type area of the upsetting cylinder. However, it cannot explain the laminated crack defect within the forgings. Freudenthal Criteria reflects the plastic work of material deformation. When the effect of friction is ignored during upsetting, cylindrical workpiece is the single compression deformation, and the laminated crack defect will not occur, but the plastic work evenly distributes in the work piece, and large value can be achieved too. To summarize, this criterion cannot be used for the defect.[26,27]

Table 2. Processing and simulation parameters.

$\text{Osakada: } \int (\bar{\sigma} + a\sigma_m - b) d\bar{\epsilon} \quad (x) = \begin{cases} x(x \geq 0) \\ 0(x < 0) \end{cases}$	$\text{Brozzo: } \int \frac{2\sigma^*}{3(\sigma^* - \sigma_m)} d\bar{\epsilon}$
$\text{Cockcroft \& Latham: } \int \bar{\sigma} \sigma^* d\bar{\epsilon}$	$\text{Freudenthal: } \int \bar{\sigma} d\bar{\epsilon}$
$\text{Normalised Cockcroft \& Latham: } \int \frac{\sigma^*}{\bar{\sigma}} d\bar{\epsilon}$	$\text{Rice \& Tracy: } \int \bar{\sigma} e^{\alpha \bar{\epsilon}} d\bar{\epsilon}$

σ^* is the maximum principal stress, $\bar{\sigma}$ is equivalent stress, σ_m is average stress, and $\bar{\epsilon}$ is equivalent strain.

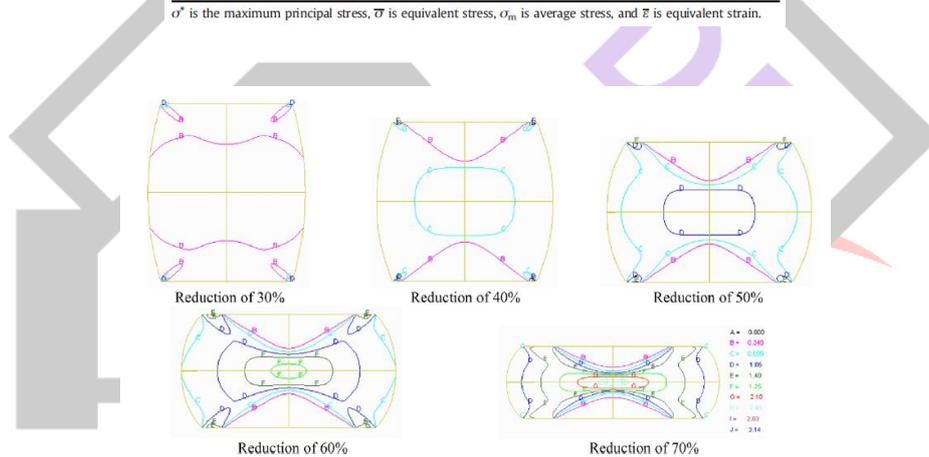


Fig. 6. Contour line distribution of the equivalent strain.

By the above qualitative analysis, deformation in the front of the rigid area has a significant effect on the production of laminated crack defect. Finite element simulation of the forging process is used for further research on the deformation mechanism of the front of rigid area under large reduction. Based on the analysis of equivalent strain of forgings during upsetting, the contour line distribution of the equivalent strain in Fig. 6 indicates that with the increase of reduction, contour line around cone-shaped top of the rigid area becomes dense, this means that the gradient of equivalent strain increases. Especially after reduction reaches 60% and 70%, contour line in front of the rigid area increases and becomes very dense. The equivalent strain rate on the central axis (ϵ), as shown in Fig. 7, is similar to the distribution of equivalent strain, namely the change of ϵ from the top to the horizontal symmetry first slowly, then faster, and then slowly increases again. After reaching a certain value, it remains basically unchanged. In the range away from the horizontal symmetry plane, equivalent strain rate remains relatively high. For instance, under reduction of 40%, the value of ϵ increases with the increase of reduction in a large unchanging range of equivalent strain rate, but the scope of the unchanging reduces. It indicates that deformation rapidly increases within a very small region close to the horizontal symmetry plane when a larger reduction is applied. So, it is consistent with the analysis results of equivalent strain.[25-27]

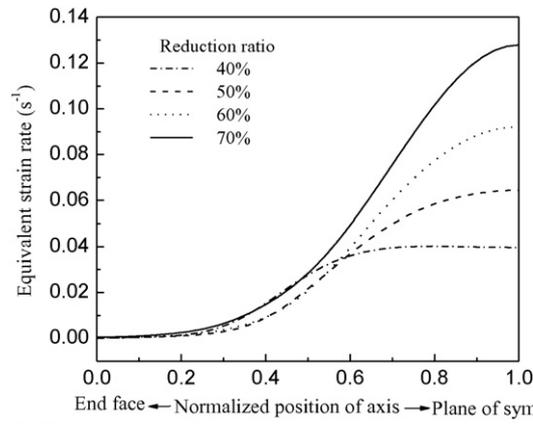


Fig. 7. Distribution of equivalent strain rate in axial direction.

2.2.2. Experimental verification

In order to verify reasonableness and accuracy of the combination model, casting aluminum rod with size of $\Phi 38 \times 80$ mm is used in upsetting test in this study. Work piece is preheated to 300 °C, different reductions, respectively 50% and 65%, were carried out in the upsetting and the results are shown in Fig. 8.[17,27]



Fig. 8. Upsetting results under different reductions.



Fig. 9. Simulation result of morphology and distribution of laminated crack.

According to simulation results of finite element modeling based on experimental conditions, the corresponding values located at the peak of equivalent strain rate gradient on the axis are selected as critical parameters. After modeling with reduction of 65% was carried out, the simulation result of crack morphology distribution was obtained and shown in Fig.9. The upsetting test work piece was anatomized along the central axis, and observed along the central axis under the optical microscope after polishing the section. The work piece with reduction of 50% is not unusual, however, crack was found in work piece with reduction of 65%, as shown in Fig. 9. Black spots in the base material shown in Fig. 10 are the forged porosity defects. At the position of severe deformation in the axial direction, including drastic changes in the spatial location and deformation rate, pores are torn to expand and form crack.[4,5] Even for homogeneous materials without flaws, this location is also prone to be damaged under the same conditions. Fig. 10 shows the location and morphology of cracks, coinciding well with the simulation result, which indicates that the determining method of expression and threshold of model can be used to predict the laminated crack defects in upsetting process.[27,28]

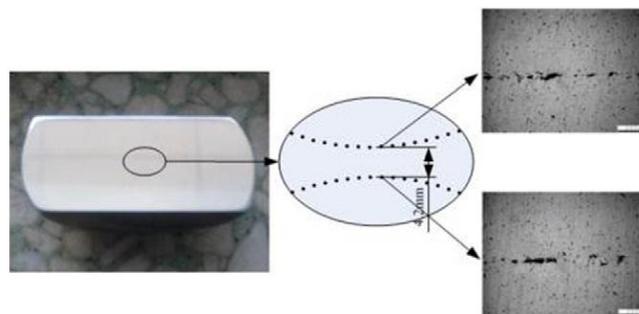


Fig. 10. Experimental result of morphology and distribution of laminated crack.

2.3. Surface crack generation in large hot forging process

Since surface cracks are regarded as significant defects, suppression of the surface crack generation is important issue. There are various factors for crack generation, such as reduction ratio, forging temperature, anvil shape, ingot surface integrity and so on. When tensile stress is applied to minor defect during forging operation, it is expected that a crack will be generated from the minor defect which is regarded as a stress concentration point. It is important to prevent minor defect generation on the surface. Cross section shape of the billet was square. The billet was heated upto 1250 °C and was kept 1hr. After that it was cooled down to about 800 °C. 800 °C was the temperature [10] that was observed a lot of surface defects in actual cogging process. Then, the billet was forged 23% reduction ratio. The billet was cut at the center of the longitudinal cross-section after the cogging test.[9,10]

Table.3. Chemical composition of test material (SF60) (wt%).

C	Si	Mn	Cr
0.45	0.25	0.80	0.15

The cross-sectional shape and metal flow of billet obtained from the experiment are shown in Fig. 11. It shows minor defect was occurred at anvil lap part. Since minor defect area had metal flow, it was suggested the possibility of preventing minor defect generation by metal flow control.[8,9]

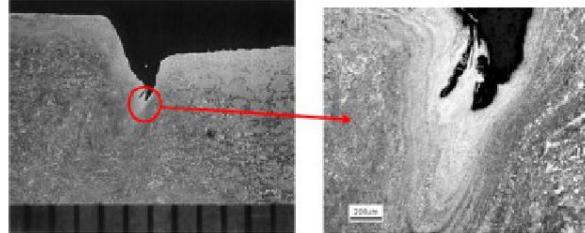


Fig. 11. Cross-sectional shape and metal flow of billet obtained from experiment.

In order to confirm deformation behavior of forged surface, simulation is applied to the cogging process using FE analysis. [12]The calculated result is good agreement with experiment one. The deforming behavior of forged surface obtained from FE analysis is shown in Fig. 12. It shows that the minor defect was formed at anvil lap part by material flow with stroke during forging.[13]

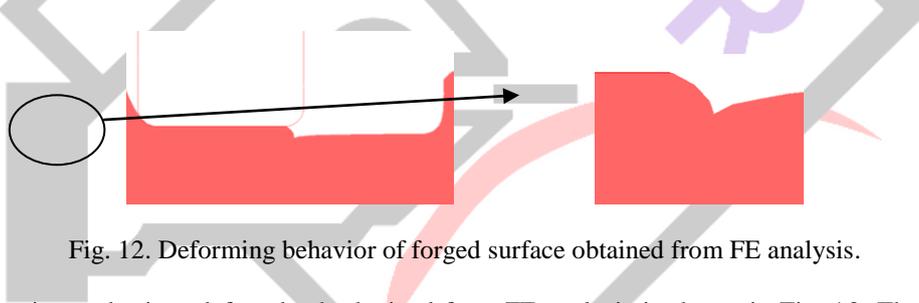


Fig. 12. Deforming behavior of forged surface obtained from FE analysis.

Relation between reduction and minor defect depth obtained from FE analysis is shown in Fig. 13. The minor defect depth is increased with increase of reduction. When the reduction is 150 mm, on the other hand, the minor defect [14, 15] depth is reduced with increase of edge radius. Since the edge part shape of forged surface come close to flat with increase of edge radius, the minor defect depth was reduced. In order to organize, therefore, the relation between the edge part shape on forged surface and minor defect depth, aspect ratio was defined. The definition of the aspect ratio illustrated in Fig. 13. The aspect ratio is the parameter that the edge part shape was regarded as quantitative value. The minor defect depth is increased with increase of aspect ratio. In order to minimize surface crack generation, the anvil edge shape which can minimize aspect ratio is effective.[14,15]

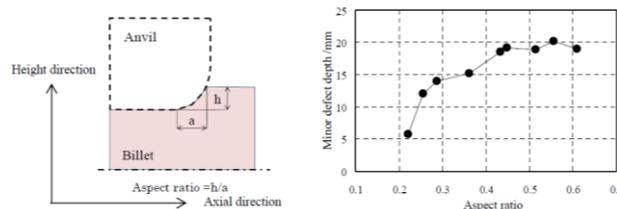


Fig. 13. Definition of aspect ratio and relationship between aspect ratio and minor defect depth.

2.4. The analysis of an abnormal crack of a forging plate

The plate was produced and hot forged by a steel company. Forging process was carried out as following: start-forging temperature was 1150⁰ C and finish-forging temperature was 850⁰ C. When forging process was finished, annealing process was carried out. The crack was found several days after that when the buyer received the plate. It was the user’s authorization that we do failure analysis for the failure 12Cr13 steel plate. The size of the plate we received is like 200 mm x 200

mm x 30 mm. The crack is shown in Fig.14 and it crosses the plate. The plate shown is cut from a forging ingot and the crack is about 1.5 in. in depth. [20, 22]



Fig. 14. Crack position and depth in the forging plate.

2.4.1. Evaluation Fracture Mechanism

Fractographic valuation constitutes a powerful analytical technique dedicated to identify the fracture mechanism in the context of failure analysis of machine components. The overall view of the fracture surfaces observing by SEM of the forging plate is presented in Fig. 15. Fractography characteristics shown in Fig. 15 indicate the intergranular feature and cleavage feature[11] of the fracture surface, which means it, is brittle fracture. Cleavage fracture is a transgranular, low-energy fracture that occurs primarily by separation of atomic bonds on low-index atomic planes.[25,26]

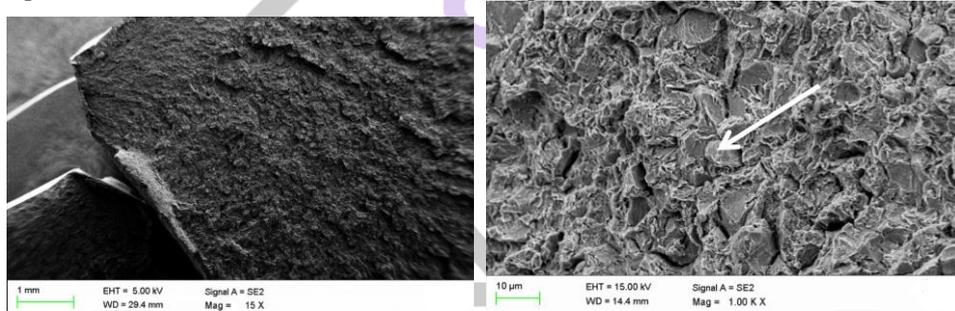


Fig.15. Fractography characteristics of forging plate.

A sample was cut from the plate fracture zone. This sample was metallographically prepared and observed in an optical microscope, in no etched and etched conditions. The microstructure, without etching, revealed low quantity of defects such as micro-pores and non-metallic inclusions. Measured and specified compositions of the plate are shown in Table 4. It can be seen the overall composition of the forging plate is in accordance with the standard value. The distributions of composition were examined respectively by using electron probe microanalysis (EPMA-1600), as shown in Fig.16. It is obvious that there is phosphorus segregation in the failed steel.[24,29]

Table.4. Chemical composition of the forging plate, wt. %.

Material	C	S	Si	Mn	P	Cr	Ni	Cu
Obtained	0.14	0.0019	0.79	0.68	0.019	12.85	0.59	0.014
Expected	≤0.15	≤0.030	≤1.00	≤1.00	≤0.040	11.50-13.50	≤0.60	-

This forging 12Cr13 stainless steel is caused by phosphorous segregation. Phosphorous segregation weakens the bond strength of grain boundary and crack initiates from phosphorous segregation grain boundary when forging. It is important to dephosphorizing the steel and uniform the structure.

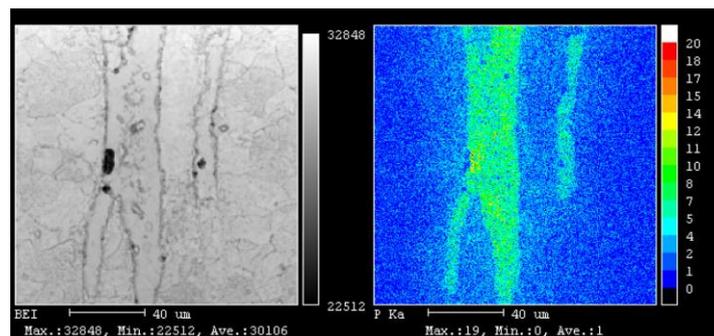


Fig.16. Distributions of composition nearby the crack.

3. Discussions

In the presented paper improper position of the preform (the lever forging simulation) and the improper flow of the material have been identified as the causes of defects. The results of the structural examinations and the numerical simulations have a utilitarian character and indicate a need for identifying the causes of folds and underfills in the cavity die in hot forging processes. By eliminating forging defects or limiting their occurrence to a minimum one can significantly reduce the production costs. The identification of the causes of defects is needed to properly design the technological process and eliminate the defects. In order to properly design the forging process so that it enables the manufacturing of a series of repeatable forgings free of defects one must select optimal process parameters, properly design and manufacture (which includes the choice of a material and its thermal treatment) the tools and optimize the shape of the preform and the slug. The number and complexity of the factors having a bearing on the correctness of the forging process make their assessment difficult. Numerical modeling proves to be highly valuable for identifying heterogeneous deformations complicated in their shape, which often pass unnoticed during regular visual inspections in the forge.

It was proposed that the difference of deformation gradient in the upsetting process of large forgings will lead to inhomogeneity of order and speed of metal flow, and poor compatibility of material deformation, which is the main reason of laminated crack defect. According to gradient of equivalent strain and gradient of strain rate, a combined estimation model of laminated crack defect was established and successfully obtains morphology and distribution of laminated crack in the centre of forgings. The reliability criterion of the model is verified by aid of physical simulation experiment of small forgings. In addition, it was found the minor defect depth correlate with the edge shape of anvil. In order to minimize surface crack generation, the anvil edge shape which can minimize aspect ratio is effective. However, optical microstructure and SEM also indicate element segregation around crack zone, which turns out to be P segregation tested by EDS and EPMA. It is illustrated above that phosphorus harms ductility by segregating to grain boundaries.

4. Conclusions

Forging process produces final products in very short time with little or no scrap. Thus there is saving in energy and material. Forgings sometimes cost more than parts produced by other processes but it gives more reliable parts with better mechanical and metallurgical properties. Since defects causes high rejection rates, it is important to move any process in the direction of eliminating all imperfections as part of an effective continuous improvement program it is better to understand and control the process so as to avoid defects rather than scrapping the defective parts during final inspection.

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