Fatigue of Metals Copper Alloys

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Temperature Profile of HDS Structure



Stress Profile of HDS Structure



CLIC Number of Cycles

f = 100 Hz 24 hours / day 30 days / month 9 months / year 20 years

=> Total lifetime: 5*10¹⁰ Cycles

Fatigue

- Occurs when a material experiences lengthy periods of cyclic or repeated stresses
- Failure at stress levels much lower than under static loading
- Fatigue is estimated to be responsible for approximately 90% of all metallic failures
- Failure occurs rapidly and without warning
- There is no fixed ratio between materials Yield- and Fatigue Strength
- Normally the ratio varies between 30-60%
- Fatigue Strengths are usually average values

S-N Curve

Normally data from the fatigue tests are plotted at *S*-*N curve*. As stress *S* versus the logarithm of the number of cycles to failure, *N*.

When the curve becomes horizontal, the specimen has reached its *fatigue (endurance) limit*, ferrous and titanium alloys.

This value is the maximum stress which can be applied over an infinite number of cycles.

The fatigue limit for steel is typically 35 to 60% of the tensile strength of the material.

<u>Fatigue strength</u> is a term applied for nonferrous metals and alloys (Al, Cu, Mg) which do not have a fatigue limit.

The fatigue strength is the stress level the material will fail at after a specified number of cycles (e.g. 10^7 cycles). In these cases, the S-N curve does not flatten out.

<u>Fatigue life</u> N_f , is the number of cycles that will cause failure at a constant stress level.





- Grain size
- Corrosion
- Frequency
- Vacuum



The effect of air and water vapor on the fatigue life of annealed copper.

- Grain size
- Corrosion
- Frequency
- Vacuum
- The Average Mean Stress



- Grain size
- Corrosion
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- The Average Mean Stress
- Ductility (at small values of N)
- Surface finish (Notch effect)
- Microstructure ('Notch effect')
- Temperature (Strength decreases increasing the temperature. Exception confirms the rule...)

Pure Copper Properties, annealed and cold worked



	Annealed	Cold Worked
Ultimate Tensile Strength [MPa]	240	380-415
Yield Strength [MPa]	70	345-380
Fatigue Strength at 10 ⁸ cycles [MPA]	75	126

Figure. S-N curves of pure copper, Annealed and Cold Worked.

How alloying elements affect the properties of copper

• Alloying can increase the strength, hardness, electrical and thermal conductivity, corrosion resistance or change the color of a metal.

- The addition of a substance to improve one property may have unintended effects on other properties.
- The best way to increase the electrical and thermal conductivity of copper is to decrease the impurity levels.



Influence of impurities on the electrical conductivity \varkappa and specific electrical resistance ϱ_e of pure copper (Pawlek and Reichel, 1956).



General overview of corper alloys. Relation between Brinell hardness, HB10 (strength, R_m) and electrical conductivity, \varkappa (DKI, 1976) \bigcirc = hardened material; + = hard-drawn material.

Effect of temperature on the softening of copper alloys



Properties of some Copper Alloys

(Outokumpu Poricopper Oy)

Name	CDA	Acronym	Thermal Conductivity at 20 C [W/(m*K)]	Electrical Resistivity at 20 C [µOhm*cm]	Yield Strength Cold Worked 84% 24 C [MPa]	Yield Strength Annealed 24 C [MPa]	Fatigue Strength Cold Worked Number of Cycles[300x10 ⁶]
Oxygen-free Copper	C10200	Cu-OF	394	1.7241-1.70	341	54.5	117
Silver-Bearing Oxygen-free Copper	C10400	Cu-OFS	394	1.74-1.71	373	-	103
Electrolytic Tough-Pitch Copper	C11000	Cu-ETP	394	1.7241-1.70	345	49.6	117
Copper-Chromium	C18200	Cu-Cr1	301-343	2.3-2.0	520	-	193
Cadmium Copper	C16200		360	1.92	474	83	205
Cupro-Nickel		Cu Ni25	33.5	34	530	140	269
Aluminum Bronze		Cu Al5	75.4-83.7	10	441	186	131
Zirconium Copper	C15000	Cu-Zr	367	1.86	414	80	241

Comparison of Potential Copper Alloys

Alloy name	Cu OFE	Cu Cr	Cu Cd	Cu Zr
ΔT [°C] (HDS Structure)	71	88	80	77
$\sigma_{Thermal}$ (Thermal Stress of HDS Structure) [MPa]	234	305	244	263
$\sigma_{Fatigue}$ (Fatigue Strength at 10 ⁸ cycles) [MPa]	117	193	205	241
$\sigma_{ m Thermal}$ / $\sigma_{ m Fatigue}$	2	1.58	1.19	1.09

Ultrasonic Fatigue Testing



UIP250 Ultrasonic Processor 250 Watts

Frequency: 24 kHz

 $86*10^6$ Cycles / hour $2*10^9$ Cycles / day $1.5*10^{10}$ Cycles / week $5*10^{10}$ Cycles / 3.5 weeks



- Make specimens from different materials.
- Adjust different stress levels.
- Create conditions as realistic as possible. (Vacuum etc.)
- => Generate the S-N curves.