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显微 CT 在 C/SiC 微结构表征中的初步应用

The Preliminary Application of MicroCT on Microstructure
Characterization of C/SiC

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摘要

连续纤维增韧碳化硅陶瓷基复合材料(CMC-SiCs)具有耐高温、低密度、高比模、抗氧化和抗烧蚀等优异性能,使其成为新一代高温结构材料。化学气相渗透法(CVI)是目前唯一商业化制造 CMC-SiCs 的方法,但 SiC 基体的致密化周期长,非均匀沉积产生密度梯度,尤其是材料内部的残余孔隙,显著影响材料机械性能。对 CMC-SiCs 开展微观结构研究有助于改进 CVI 工艺,提升材料机械性能。而传统平面分析技术如扫描电子显微镜(SEM)和透射电子显微镜(TEM)的试样制备过程往往易破坏材料的本征结构,且信息局限于二维尺度,阻碍了结构研究的力度。因此,利用无损技术对 CMC-SiCs 进行三维尺度的结构观察具有重要的意义。

本文以 CVI 法制备的碳纤维增韧碳化硅陶瓷基复合材料(C/SiC)为研究对象,采用显微 CT 为主要研究手段,系统观察了 C/SiC 在不同尺度的三维结构特征,分析了 C/SiC 的孔隙形成机制和 SiC 沉积形貌的影响因素;探索了 C/SiC 高温蠕变前后孔隙率及微裂纹的变化;研究了干氧和湿氧环境下 C/SiC 材料表面 SiC 涂层的氧化行为,为探索 C/SiC 服役性能变化及其制备改性提供了实证数据。主要内容与结果如下:

1、观察了 2D C/SiC、3D C/SiC、碳布沉积体、Mini-C/SiC 的重构形貌。结果表明:显微 CT 能有效地分辨碳纤维预制体的沉积形貌以及在不同热处理条件下的氧化形貌,能有效检测 C/SiC 内部微米级尺度的缺陷。

2、重构了 3D C/SiC 的孔隙形貌,探讨了 CVI 过程的气体传输特征。结果表明:节点树枝状孔隙结构是由于 CVI 过程中预制体对沉积气体的传输存在滞留作用造成的,预制体内外压力差对 SiC 沉积物的表面颗粒尺寸有显著影响。

3、探索了含 B_xC 基体改性 2D C/SiC 试样高温蠕变前后的孔隙率及微裂纹变化。结果表明:自愈合组元 B_xC 对孔隙有愈合作用,蠕变过程中材料表面的裂纹仅在垂直于蠕变应力方向的扩展,而在数量上没有增加。

4、研究了 1300°C 干氧和湿氧环境中 3D C/SiC 表面 SiC 涂层的氧化特征。结果表明:氧化产物 SiO_2 沿 SiC 涂层表面和厚度方向皆呈非均匀分布,干氧条件下非均匀氧化的深度可达约 19 μm ,而湿氧中的非均匀氧化深度约为干氧条件的 1.5 倍。

关键词: 显微 CT C/SiC 复合材料 微观结构

Abstract

Continuous fiber reinforced silicon carbide matrix composites (CMC-SiCs), are considered as the most promising thermo-structural materials due to their long durability, high specific strength, high specific modulus, enhanced oxidation resistance, good ablation resistance. Chemical vapor infiltration (CVI) has been demonstrated to be a very effective and matured enough preparation method to fabricate CMC-SiCs. However, the main problems associated with CVI are the long time periods that are usually required to reach the desired densification level, the nonuniformity of the densification profile in the final product, and particularly the densification process is incomplete, leaving a residual porosity in the composite that has a strong effect on its mechanical behavior. Thus, research on the microstructure of CMC-SiCs helps improve the CVI process and enhance the mechanical properties. Traditional imaging techniques namely scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) which usually destroy intrinsic structure of the sample during sample preparation, can only reveal the surface or two-dimensional morphology. Furthermore, the two-dimensional sections provide limited information for structure research. Consequently, it is very significant for do research on nondestructive characterization three-dimensional structure CMC-SiCs.

In this thesis, targeting carbon fiber reinforced SiC-matrix composites (C/SiC) fabricated by CVI, the microstructure of C/SiC was mainly characterized using commercial X-ray microcomputed tomography (MicroCT). Three dimensional structure features of C/SiC in different scales were observed systematically. The formation mechanism of porosity and the influence factors on the deposition morphology of SiC was investigated. The variation of porosity and microcrack in C/SiC composite under high temperature creep environment were explored. The oxidation behavior of C/SiC composite under dry and wet oxidation environment was investigated. It provides empirical data for exploring the service performance and improving preparation process. The major results are listed below:

1、The deposition morphology of 2D C/SiC and 3D C/SiC and Mini-C/SiC and carbon fabric composite were observed. Results show that MicroCT can facilitate characterization of the fabric and the oxidation morphology of C/SiC in different heat treatment conditions. And the internal geometry of flaws in micrometer scale in C/SiC were examined effectively by MicroCT.

2、Three-dimensional structure of 3D C/SiC composites was reconstructed, and the gas transport property during CVI was discussed. Results show that the “node-bond” porosity structure was revealed for a gas retention and viscous flow formation at the preform in CVI. Pressure difference in the preform has significant influence on the particle size of surface morphology of SiC deposition.

3、The variation of porosity and the microcracking in 2D C/SiC composites with boron carbide self-sealing matrix composites under high temperature creep environment was investigated. Results show that the boron carbide self-sealing matrix has influence the porosity, and surface microcrack only propagate longitudinally.

4、The oxidation morphology of 3D C/SiC composites annealed in 1300°C dry and wet oxidizing environment were investigated. Results show that inhomogeneous oxidation in the SiC coating is identified by reconstructed images of the surface coating at different depth. There exists oxidant products of SiO₂ at the 19μm depth of SiC coating were confirmed in the dry oxygen. And the oxidation depth in wet oxygen was 1.5 times deeper than in dry oxygen.

Key Words: MicroCT; C/SiC composite; Microstructure

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