Computer Color Mapping of Configuration of Goss Grains after Transverse Cold Rolling in Grain Oriented Silicon Steel

By Yukio INOKUTI,** Chizuko MAEDA** and Yo ITO**

Synopsis

In order to elucidate the formation of Goss grains after transverse cold rolling in a grain oriented silicon steel, computer color mapping was performed by using orientation information of Kossel diffraction patterns taken in advance in the recrystallized grains.

For computer color mapping in the vicinity of the steel surface after first stage cold rolling in the transverse direction and the subsequent intermediate annealing, the formation of Goss grains is very scarce and the size of these primary grains is much larger than that after a first straight cold rolling. Also, for similar computer color mappings after a second stage cold rolling in the transverse direction and the subsequent decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing, the formation of Goss grains is strongly inhibited. This inhibition has a decisive influence in conjunction with the cold rolling directions in the first and second stages: the previously generated Goss grains disappear by the transverse cold rolling. The preferential formation and inheritance of the celebrated Goss nuclei, which can be inherited by the structure memory from the original hot rolled silicon steel, are considered to be accomplished in cold rolling parallel to the hot rolling direction.

I. Introduction

Potential nuclei for Goss secondary recrystallization are generated in the strain free, highly oriented Goss areas in the vicinity of the surface of hot rolled silicon steel.1~5 These highly oriented Goss areas of secondary nuclei are inherited by the structure memory in the vicinity of the steel surface after the decarburization and primary recrystallization treatment, following the first cold rolling, intermediate annealing and the second cold rolling.

In the subsequent secondary recrystallization annealing, the colonies of primary recrystallized Goss grains in the vicinity of steel surface show preferential growth6~8 which is accomplished by a competitive growth of large primary Goss grains with the low angle boundaries. These colonies (secondary nuclei) consume the other primary recrystallized grains and grow into giant-size (3~8 mm) secondary grains.

It was important to ascertain whether this hypothesis for the nucleus formation mechanism; inheritance and preferential growth of the celebrated Goss secondary grains is well performed in actual conditions. For this purpose, an attempt was made to examine the formation of Goss grains after removing strong Goss textures by grinding both the surface of hot rolled sheet9 and also after cold rolling in the transverse direction in the first and second stages.10 It has been shown that the perfection of Goss secondary grains after treatment by these two methods is not satisfactory in comparison with the ordinary processing. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the mechanism by which these two treatments influence the formation of Goss grains.

The object of the present work was to make computer color mapping of the configuration of Goss grains after transverse cold rolling in a grain oriented silicon steel. This was accomplished by use of the orientation information of Kossel diffraction patterns taken in advance for recrystallized grains.

II. Specimen Preparation and Experimental Procedure

The starting materials used in the present investigation were hot rolled sheets10 of about 2.7 mm thickness. The chemical composition of this material was C: 0.044 %, Si: 3.35 %, Mn: 0.070 %, Se: 0.020 %, Sb: 0.025 % and Mo: 0.013 %. Recently, the silicon content in steel has been increased from 3.0 to 3.35 %, to minimize the iron loss in steel product. Molybdenum11 has also been added to silicon steels to inhibit the intergranular fracturing during slab soaking or hot rolling; to strengthen the Goss texture in the vicinity of steel surface during hot rolling, and to obtain a thin and smooth film of forsterite (Mg2SiO4) after final annealing. The significance of the addition of other inhibitors such as MnSe and Sb has already been described,13 as well as the method for producing silicon steel containing these elements13 and the slab soaking and hot rolling methods.14 The important points in the production of silicon steel are to keep impurities as low as possible, to decompose and dissolve all the selenides during slab soaking, and to provide a fine dispersion of MnSe precipitates during hot rolling.

To elucidate the effects of cold rolling direction on the formation of Goss texture, specimens were first cold rolled in the first stage about 70 % reduction in the direction parallel (L direction) or transverse (C direction) to the hot rolling direction. All specimens were immediately annealed for 3 min at 950°C in an atmosphere of 50%H2+50%N2 mixed gas, and cold rolled in the second stage to the final thickness of 0.3 mm. A diagram of these combinations of rolling direction in the first and second cold rollings of Specimens A~D is shown in Fig. 1. After the

* Based on the paper presented to the 110th ISIJ Meeting, October 1985, S1322, at Niigata University in Niigata. Manuscript received on September 18, 1986; accepted in the final form on December 12, 1986. © 1987 ISIJ

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decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing for 5 min at 820°C in wet H₂ gas, the specimens were subjected to secondary recrystallization annealing for 50 h at 850°C in flowing Ar gas.

To elucidate the effects of the cold rolling direction on the formation of Goss texture, texture variations from the first cold rolling to decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing were measured at a depth of 1/10 thickness of sheet below the steel surface and at the midsection by the transmission Kossel (TK) technique and pole figure method. The method of specimen preparation for pole figure method has already been reported; the preparation of a thin specimen for TK examination of the region just below the steel surface after an intermediate annealing or the decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing is given. Specimens of 0.8 X 30 X 30 mm³ after the decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing were mechanically ground to about 180 and 70 µm in thickness from one surface, respectively, chemically polished in a 3%HF + H₂O₂ mixed solution until about 15 µm thickness, and finally etched with 3% nital. Representative areas of the microstructure were selected and the orientations of primary grains were examined in detail by using a TK apparatus. The details of such TK examination and analysis have been reported previously.

The computer color mapping of crystallographic orientation of the primary recrystallized grains after an intermediate annealing and the decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing was performed by an image processing analyzer. Orientation analysis of Kossel diffraction patterns, which had been taken for each primary grain, was performed by using a computer chart. In the computer chart, angle (γ), forming an indexed arbitrary diffraction plane relative to the rolling plane, and angle (φ) forming by the intersection of these two planes and the rolling direction, were drawn by the computer in advance. The color mappings of primary recrystallized grains in terms of the orientations of normal and rolling directions (N.D. and R.D.) were prepared by an image analyzer (Luzex 5000 manufactured by Nireco Co.,) and directly photographed from the color display. Data (γ, φ), determined by a chart from Kossel diffraction patterns, was converted by computational processing into the parameters necessary for an indication on a unit triangle of stereographic projection showing N.D. for the crystallographic plane and R.D. for the crystallographic direction. (The unit triangle is shown in each lower part of each color mapping.) Three primary colors, blue (001), red (011), and green (111) representing the crystallographic planes of grains were blended at linear 256 levels corresponding to the angle of deviation from each vertex. In a similar way, the three colors for [001], [011], and [111] for the crystallographic directions of grains were blended at logarithmic 256 levels. In the latter case, that is, for the crystallographic direction of grains the color blend at the logarithmic 256 levels was based on consideration of the preferential formation of primary grains of [001] alignment in the rolling direction. The boundary of all primary grains was classified by computational processing according to three categories in which the deviation angles of the N.D. and R.D. of mutual grains were photographed with the width of 1 pixel within 10°, 2 pixels within 25°, and 3 pixels for more than 25° on the display. This method of representation for the grain boundaries has been reported. Further, in order to make the brightness of displayed colors uniform, the contrast enhance was averaged.

### III. Experimental Results

#### 1. Formation of Texture due to the Difference of Cold Rolling Direction

Figure 2 shows (100) pole figures at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after cold rolling of the first stage and subsequent intermediate annealing. Figure 3 shows textures measured similarly at the center of sheet thickness. The R.D. of the (100) pole figures in Figs. 2 and 3 denotes that of the first cold rolling, in which Specimens C and D are different from the ordinal hot rolling direction. Figures 4 and 5 show (100) pole figures of a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the sheet surface and those of the center of the sheet thickness, respectively, after cold rolling of the second stage and subsequent decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing. Table 1 (p. 305) lists the principal texture components at a depth of 1/10 thickness below the surface and at the center of thickness, under the various conditions seen in Specimens A-D in Figs. 2 to 5.

From Fig. 2 and Table 1, the principal texture components in the vicinity of surface after the first stage cold rolling in the ordinal direction and the subsequent intermediate annealing are [111]<110> and strong [hk0]<001>, whereas those after the first stage cold rolling in the transverse direction and the subsequent intermediate annealing are [111]<110>, and [111]<112> and [100]<011>, respectively. These texture variations are consistent with the experimental results obtained by the cold rolling and recrystallization of Fe-3%Si single crystals. As seen in Fig. 4 (p. 305) and Table 1, the principal texture components in the vicinity of surface after the second stage cold rolling of the ordinal direction (Specimen A) and the subsequent decarburization and recrystallization annealing are...
Fig. 2. (100) pole figures at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface of Specimens A~D after cold rolling of the first stage and intermediate annealing.

Fig. 3. (100) pole figures at the center of the steel sheet of Specimens A~D after cold rolling of the first stage and intermediate annealing.
This texture variation is in good agreement with the experimental results,\textsuperscript{9,10,18} that have been done to clarify the inheritance mechanism by the structure memory of Goss texture from the original hot rolled silicon steels. The principal texture components in the vicinity of surface after the second stage cold rolling are {100}⟨011⟩ and {110}⟨112⟩ for Specimen B, {111}⟨112⟩ for Specimen C, and {111}⟨110⟩ and strong {111}⟨112⟩ for Specimen D. It should be noted that the texture in the vicinity of the surface of Specimens A and C after decarburization and

Table 1. Principal texture components at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface and at the center of the steel sheet in Specimens A−D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>1st cold rolling</th>
<th>Intermediate annealing</th>
<th>2nd cold rolling</th>
<th>Decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specimen A (Standard)</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨112⟩</td>
<td>$S$ Strong [hk0⟩⟨001⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨112⟩, [100⟩⟨011⟩, C [011⟩ fiber texture</td>
<td>$S$ Strong [hk0⟩⟨001⟩, C [110⟩⟨001⟩, [111⟩⟨112⟩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen B (L→C)*</td>
<td>C Strong ⟨011⟩ fiber texture</td>
<td>C [001⟩⟨126⟩, [210⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [100⟩⟨011⟩, [110⟩⟨112⟩, C [011⟩ fiber texture</td>
<td>C [110⟩⟨001⟩, [111⟩⟨112⟩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen C (C→G)*</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨110⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨112⟩, [100⟩⟨011⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨112⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [110⟩⟨001⟩, [111⟩⟨012⟩, C [110⟩⟨112⟩</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen D (C→L)*</td>
<td>$C$ [100⟩⟨011⟩, [421⟩⟨012⟩</td>
<td>$C$ [421⟩⟨012⟩</td>
<td>$S$ [111⟩⟨110⟩, [100⟩⟨011⟩, C [011⟩ fiber texture</td>
<td>C Weak [111⟩⟨112⟩, Weak [410⟩⟨140⟩</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$S$: Surface, C: Center
* See diagram of cold rolling direction in the first stage 1 and the second stage 2 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4. (100) pole figures of a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface of Specimens A−D after cold rolling of the second stage, and decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing.
primary recrystallization annealing, develops to permit the development of Goss secondary grains, in a similar way, but that the Goss component which consists \langle hkl \rangle \langle 001 \rangle component A is much stronger in Specimen A than in Specimen C. As a result, perfection of the Goss secondary grains in Specimen A is more advanced than that in Specimen C.\textsuperscript{(10)}

On the other hand, as can be seen in Fig. 3 and Table 1, the principal texture components at the center of thickness after the first stage cold rolling in the ordinal direction and the subsequent intermediate annealing are a strong RD//\langle 011 \rangle fiber texture, and \langle 001 \rangle \langle 126 \rangle \langle 210 \rangle, respectively, whereas those after the first stage cold rolling in the transverse direction and the subsequent intermediate annealing are \langle 100 \rangle \langle 011 \rangle and \langle 421 \rangle \langle 012 \rangle, respectively. In the second cold rolling and subsequent decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing shown in Fig. 5, the texture formed in the center of the sheet thickness manifests no noticeable variations which could be attributed to the difference of cold rolling direction; such variation, on the other hand, can be seen in the vicinity of surface.

2. Computer Color Mapping

1. Computer Color Mapping of Primary Recrystallized Grains after the First Stage Cold Rolling in the Transverse Direction and Subsequent Intermediate Annealing

Figures 6 and 7 show computer color mappings of the N.D. and R.D., respectively, of the primary recrystallized grains after cold rolling of first stage in the transverse direction and subsequent intermediate annealing. From Figs. 6 and 7 there is no formation of Goss grains, where large primary grains of \langle 110 \rangle \langle 112 \rangle, \langle 100 \rangle \langle 001 \rangle and \langle 100 \rangle \langle 011 \rangle orientations are formed. Also, the size of primary grains in this area is several times as that in straight cold rolling. The grain boundary of each grain manifests a large grain boundary width of 3 pixels for more than 25°. It should be noted that cold rolling in the transverse direction and subsequent intermediate annealing inhibits the formation of Goss grains and weakens the inhibition of the normal grain growth during an intermediate annealing.

2. Computer Color Mapping of Primary Recrystallized Grains after Decarburization and Primary Recrystallization Annealing

Figures 8 and 9 (p. 308) show computer color mappings of the N.D. and R.D., respectively, of the primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after the treatment of Specimen C in Fig. 1. It is evident from Figs. 8 and 9 that the colonies of Goss grains form in a diagonally elongated area with about 200 µm in width, and the grain boundaries of each Goss grain in this elongated area possess not only low angle boundaries, but also high angle boundaries. The formation of Goss grains in Specimen C is quite different from that in Specimen A\textsuperscript{(8)}, where Goss grains form preferentially in defined and elongated areas toward the rolling direction with the low angle boundaries within 10°.

Figures 10 and 11 show the respective computer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd cold rolling</th>
<th>Decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing</th>
<th>2nd cold rolling</th>
<th>Decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specimen A</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Specimen B</td>
<td>RD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen C</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Specimen D</td>
<td>RD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 5. \langle 100 \rangle pole figures at the center of the steel sheet of Specimens A~D after cold rolling of the second stage, and decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing.
Fig. 6. Computer color mapping of N.D. of the primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after cold rolling of the first stage in the transverse direction and subsequent intermediate annealing.

Fig. 7. Computer color mapping of R.D. of the primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after cold rolling of the first stage in the transverse direction and subsequent intermediate annealing.
Fig. 8.
Computer color mapping of N.D. of primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after the treatment of Specimen C in Fig. 1.

Fig. 9.
Computer color mapping of R.D. of primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after the treatment of Specimen C in Fig. 1.
Fig. 10. Computer color mapping of R.D. of primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after the treatment of Specimen 13 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 11. Computer color mapping of R.D. of primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 the sheet thickness under the steel surface after the treatment of Specimen B in Fig. 1.
color mappings of the N.D. and the R.D. axes of the primary recrystallized grains at a depth of 1/10 thickness below the surface after the treatment in Specimen B in Fig. 1. As will be seen in Figs. 10 and 11, formation of Goss grains is scarce and many grains with (111)<(112) orientation are formed. The Goss grains in this area occur isolated, making high angle boundaries as wide as 3 pixels for more than 25°. It should be noted that alternate cold rolling in the transverse direction in Specimen B makes it to decrease drastically the formation of Goss grains in the vicinity of surface of silicon steel sheet.

IV. Discussion

It has been reported that the perfection of Goss secondary grains is inhibited by removing both sides having two strong Goss textures in the vicinity of surface of hot rolled sheet and by the first or second stage cold rolling in the transverse direction. Because there is no available experimental technique to measure the orientation of small areas of 5 to 10 µm and the small strains in primary and secondary grains, no experimental evidence to allow confident assertions concerning the formation of Goss grains has been obtained.

In the previous TK experiments of each process from the hot rolling to finished product of secondary grains, the origin of Goss secondary grains has been found to be small strain-free areas with accurate Goss orientation where the Goss nuclei, 100 to 300 µm wide and 100 to 1 000 µm long, are surrounded by small and accurate Goss areas (polygonized grains) elongated in the rolling direction at a depth of about 1/10 thickness below the surface of the hot rolled sheet. With respect to the formation mechanism of nuclei of secondary grains with Goss orientation which is unstable in the cold rolled state, the origin of nuclei of Goss secondary grains has been considered to be well protected by the polygonized matrix grains of Goss orientation. If an egg is taken as a metaphor, the “white” of an egg is the strained and polygonized matrix grains of Goss orientation and the “yolk” is the small strain-free areas of accurate Goss orientation.

In the subsequent cold rolling parallel to the hot rolling direction the small areas of Goss nuclei of the “yolk”, which are protected by the polygonized Goss matrix grains of the “white”, can be elongated in the direction of cold rolling by preserving the original state of as hot rolled. This state can be inherited until the decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing prior to the secondary recrystallization treatment, throughout the first cold rolling, intermediate annealing and second cold rolling. This inheritance mechanism of nuclei of Goss secondary grains has been designated as the “structure memory”.

In the present computer color mapping in Figs. 8 and 9, the Goss areas of the “yolk” have formed in a diagonally elongated area due to the absence of a protective polygonized Goss matrix; this structure, the “white” of the metaphorical egg has been broken in the first stage cold rolling in the transverse direction. Because the Goss orientation is unstable in cold rolling, the grain boundaries of Goss grains in this area after an intermediate annealing possess not only low angle boundaries but also high angle boundaries. Therefore, the preferential formation of Goss grains in the vicinity of surface is considered to be strongly inhibited by destruction of the polygonized Goss matrix grains in the transverse cold rolling.

The question remains why the present computer color mappings in Figs. 10 and 11 indicate absence of the colonies of Goss primary grains retaining a trace of Goss areas of the “yolk”. The double cold rolling alternately in the transverse direction are considered to cause the destruction of the formation zones of nuclei of Goss secondary grains; consequently only isolated Goss grains form. Therefore, in order to inherit successfully to the nuclei of Goss secondary grains from the original hot rolling up to the decarburization and primary recrystallization treatment, it is indispensable to cold roll in the same direction as the hot rolling. In addition, in such cases, the steel surface prior to cold rolling should be preserved in the original state without a treatment which weakens the Goss texture such as the grinding of steel surface.

Finally, it is to be pointed out that cold rolling in the transverse direction weakens the inhibition of normal grain growth during an intermediate annealing. As the normal grain growth is influenced by the inhibitors in silicon steel, detailed study to clarify this problem is needed.

V. Conclusions

The results of the present study can be summarized as follows.

1) Computer color mapping of primary recrystallized grains after cold rolling in the transverse direction and subsequent annealing in a grain oriented silicon steel provides the detailed information on the formation of Goss grains.

2) In computer color mapping after the first stage cold rolling in the transverse direction and subsequent intermediate annealing, the formation of Goss grains is very scarce and the size of these primary grains is much larger than that for the first straight cold rolling.

3) From computer color mapping after cold rolling of second stage in the transverse direction and subsequent decarburization and primary recrystallization annealing, the formation of Goss grains is found to be strongly inhibited. This inhibition has a decisive influence in conjuncture with the cold rolling direction at the first and second stages; the generation of Goss grains is destructed by the transverse cold rolling.

4) The preferential formation and inheritance of celebrated Goss nuclei, which can be inherited by the structure memory from original hot rolled silicon steel, can be accomplished in the cold rolling parallel to the hot rolling direction.
REFERENCES


