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Research on Yb:YAG laser beam power distribution used in hybrid processes

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Hybrid laser – arc welding



Summary

A part of pumped laser energy in in solid state lasers converts to a heat that acts as the heat source inside the laser material. This heat source contributes to the non-uniform temperature distribution in the gain medium which is dependent on the gain medium configuration and cooling geometry. This contributes to the radial heat dissipation and induces no desirable thermal lensing effects influencing beam shape, quality and output power stability. The above and many other issues concerning energetic characteristic of a laser beam are currently under particular investigation in the field of mathematical modelling and experimental research.

The major aim of this work is the determination of the influence of Yb:YAG laser beam power distribution on the formation of fusion zone in laser-arc hybrid welded plate made of S355 steel. The laser beam heat source is modelled on the basis of geostatistical kriging interpolation method. The electric arc is modelled using classic Goldak's heat source power distribution. Hybrid heat source energetic parameters are assumed with respect to experimental research on Yb:YAG laser beam characteristics as well as on electric arc current and voltage obtained during the real heating tests. Numerically predicted temperature field obtained for different hybrid heat source parameters is partially verified by experimental results.