

KITTIRAT WORAKHUT: INFLUENCES OF TITANIUM ON SOLIDIFICATION BEHAVIOR
MICROSTRUCTURE AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES IN GRAY CAST IRON.

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This research investigates the influence of titanium on the solidification behavior, microstructure, and mechanical properties of gray cast iron. The addition of titanium was found to enhance the mechanical properties of gray cast iron. However, research on the wear properties of titanium-alloyed gray cast iron remains limited. The experimental procedure involved producing sample specimens and analyzing cooling curves for near eutectic compositions with varying titanium contents ranging from 0.033 to 0.349 wt%. The microstructures were examined using optical microscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Titanium containing compound particles were analyzed by Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS). Tensile strength, hardness, and wear resistance tests were conducted in accordance. The results revealed that at a titanium content of 0.033%, the minimum eutectic undercooling temperature (T_{EU}) was 1130.69 °C, while the maximum eutectic recalescence temperature (T_{ER}) was 1161.78 °C. The lowest recalescence interval (ΔT_r) was 5.09 °C, and the highest maximum cooling rate (MCR) of -2.21 °C/s occurred at 0.132%Ti. The graphite content exhibited a similar trend across compositions. The addition of titanium promoted the formation of Type D graphite and partially coarse graphite. At 0.033%Ti, the predominant matrix structure was pearlite; however, when titanium content increased to 0.132%, the pearlite fraction decreased to 20.8%. Titanium carbide (TiC) particles tended to form in interdendritic area, with the number of TiC particles increasing proportionally to titanium content in both dendritic and interdendritic areas. The tensile strength significantly increased from 133.04 MPa to 184.67 MPa at 0.033% and 0.132%Ti, respectively. The maximum hardness value of 200.46 HB was observed at a titanium content of 0.222%, which did not correspond directly with the tensile strength. Wear resistance was evaluated based on the friction coefficient, volume loss, and specific wear rate. The lowest values 0.206, 0.316 mm³, and 3.16×10^{-5} mm³/Nm, respectively were obtained at 0.132%Ti.

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