

Heat Source for TIG Welding Modelling

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Abstract - A new model of heat source applicable to TIG welding is proposed. The model uses three calibration parameters - efficiency, effective heating spot radius and heat source concentration factor. Based on the experimental results, the model was calibrated and the results obtained for the form of penetration were compared with the experimental ones

Keywords - TIG welding, modelling; heat source; calibrating parameters; calibrating methods; experimental results.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the tasks that need to be solved within computer welding mechanics is thermal. Based on the obtained solution, such basic characteristics of the technological process are determined as: cooling time from 800[°C] to 500[°C] $t_{8/5}$; residence time of the metal above certain critical temperatures; obtained structures in the heat affected zone; determining the expected hardness in the joint area; the influence of the preheating temperature, determining the optimal one, etc. In addition, the solution of the thermal problem is the basis of the analysis of the obtained temporary and residual stresses, deformations and distortions in the welded structure. TIG welding is a widely used method in the welding of high-alloy corrosion-resistant steels. One of the steps that needs to be implemented in the simulation modelling of the process is the calibration of the heat source model. The ISO / TS 18166 standard makes it possible to do this by welding specimens and experimentally determining the shape and dimensions of the melting zone. The mathematical model uses calibration parameters, which are determined in such

way that the shape and dimensions of the melting zone calculated by solving the model correspond as much as possible to the experimentally obtained results. The welding mode parameters, geometric dimensions of the samples and thermal properties of the basic and additional materials cannot be used as calibrating parameters. This means that the calibration parameters in practice refer to the heat source and heat dissipation from the welded specimens. There are different heat sources models published (table 1) – surface [1 ÷ 9], volume [10 ÷ 21], by combination of both types and those in which the modelling of the welding arc and the heating of the sample is calculated together [22 ÷ 25]. In TIG welding, the shape of the weld is usually obtained without inflection (Fig. 1a), but in some modes and mainly depending on the arc pressure, it is possible to obtain a curve with an inflection point (Fig. 1b).

II. HEATH SOURCE

In this study a new heat source is proposed, which is suitable for welds without inflection and also a method for its calibration. The heat flux is represented by the superposition of two normally distributed heat sources:

$$q(r) = q_{eff} \frac{A}{2} \left[\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(r-r_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) + \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(r+r_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \right] = q_{eff} Af(r) \quad (1)$$

where q_{eff} is the effective heat output, $f(r)$ is a heat flux distribution function and A is a norming multiplier to be determined by the condition

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$$\int_0^{\infty} Af(r)2\pi r dr = 1$$

The final result for the norming multiplier is obtained after solving the last equation:

$$A = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{r_0^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) + \pi r_0 \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{r_0}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}\right)} \quad (2)$$

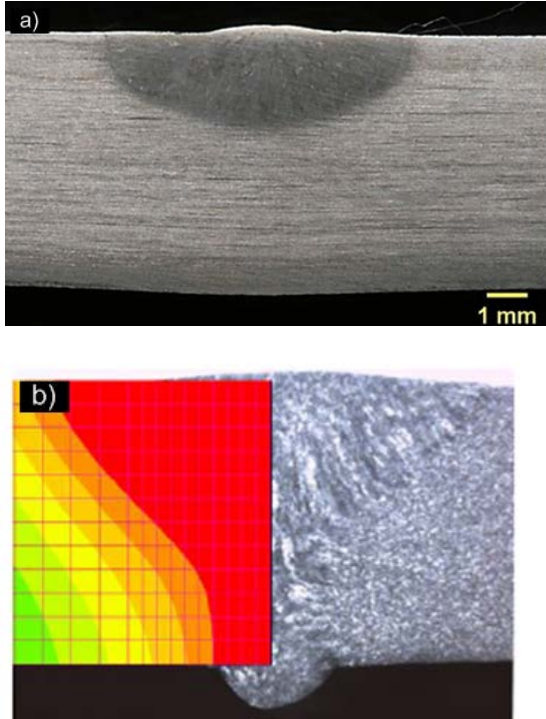


Fig.1. Two possible forms of penetration in TIG welding: seam shape without inflection point [26] – (a); weld shape with inflection [16] – (b).

For the use of the heat source it is convenient to define the effective heating radius r_{arc} and coefficient of deviation of the heat source from a normally distributed circular heat source $\alpha_{arc} = r_0/r_{arc}$ - distribution coefficient. These two parameters, as well as the efficiency, are determined by calibrating the thermal model in relation to the experimental results in the specific case of realization of the welding process. They determine q_{eff} and $\sigma = 3.r_{arc}$. At such selected ratios $r_0/\sigma = \alpha_{arc}/3$. The influence of the coefficient α_{arc} on the heat flow distribution is shown in Fig.2.

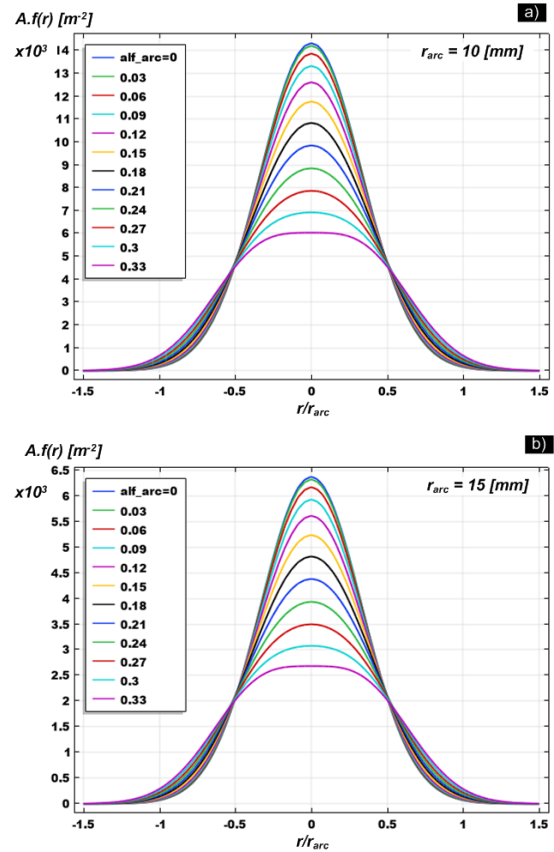


Fig.2. Influence of the heat source distribution coefficient on the heat flux density.

III. METHODOLOGY FOR THE THERMAL MODEL CALIBRATION

The calibration of the thermal model is performed by comparing experimental and simulation results. The simulation model must have calibration parameters to be determined on the basis of this comparison. The material characteristics, the geometry of the specimens and the parameters of the welding mode cannot be used as such. Usually the calibration parameters refer to the heat source. In this case, these are the efficiency (η), the effective radius of the heating spot (r_{arc}), and the distribution coefficient (α_{arc}). The comparison of the experimental and numerical results can be performed on the basis of experimentally recorded temperature cycles at several points of the welded specimens or the shape of the penetration determined by metallographic analysis. In the considered example the second variant is used. Beads with the welding mode of interest are performed on a plate with a thickness equal to the thickness of the welded parts in the structure and from the same material from which the structure is made with dimensions sufficient to reach a quasi-stationary process (Fig.3). The depth of penetration (h_p) and the width of the weld (b_w) are determined by making metallographic macrosection from the area of the established quasi-stationary process.

TABLE I. HEAT SOURCES.

Heat flux equation in the heat source coordinate system, [W/m ²]	Calibrating parameters	Welding process	Source
$q(r) = \frac{\eta UI}{\pi r_H^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{r_H^2}\right)$	$\eta = 0.65$ r_H ¹⁾	TIG	[1]
$q(r) = \frac{\eta UI}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$	$\eta = 0.7$ $\sigma = 0.5;1;2;3;4[mm]$	TIG	[2]
$q(r) = q_m \exp(-Cr^2)$	$q_m; C$ ¹⁾	MAG	[3]
$q(r) = \frac{3\eta UI}{\pi a^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)$	$\eta = 0.9$ r_a ¹⁾	MIG	[4]
$q(r) = \frac{\eta UI}{2\pi R_N^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2R_N^2}\right)$	$\eta = 0.85$ $R_N = 1.2[mm]$	TIG	[6]
$q(r) = k \frac{\eta UI}{2\pi R_N^2} \exp\left(-\frac{3r^2}{R_N^2}\right)$	$\eta = 0.7$ - determined by comparison $R_N = f(b_W)$ - determined as: 6.6[mm]	GMAW	[7]
$q(\xi, y, z) = \begin{cases} \frac{6r_f Q}{a_{hf} b_h \pi} \exp\left(-3\left(\frac{\xi^2}{a_{hf}^2} + \frac{y^2}{b_h^2}\right)\right) \\ \frac{6r_b Q}{a_{hb} b_h \pi} \exp\left(-3\left(\frac{\xi^2}{a_{hb}^2} + \frac{y^2}{b_h^2}\right)\right) \end{cases}$	$Q = \eta IU$ $r_f = \frac{a_{hf}}{a_{hf} + a_{hb}}$ $r_b = \frac{a_{hb}}{a_{hf} + a_{hb}}$ $\eta = 0.656$ $a_{hf} = 2.43[mm]$ $a_{hb} = 6.96[mm]$ $b_h = 2.96[mm]$ Parameters are determined by optimization task using records from thermocouples	GMAW	[8]
2 heat sources one above the other	Parameters not specified.	TIG	[9]
$q = \begin{cases} \frac{6\sqrt{3}\eta U I f_f}{\pi\sqrt{\pi} a_f b c} \exp\left(-3\left(\frac{x^2}{a_f^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}\right)\right) \\ \frac{6\sqrt{3}\eta U I f_r}{\pi\sqrt{\pi} a_r b c} \exp\left(-3\left(\frac{x^2}{a_r^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2}\right)\right) \end{cases}$	Goldak's model with parameters f_f, f_r, a_f, a_r, b, c , It is not shown how the parameters are determined.	TIG	[10] ÷ [12], [15], [18]
	The parameters are set expertly in proportions	TIG and MIG	[13], [14]
	No values specified	SAW	17
		TIG	16
		TIG	19
		TIG and MIG	20
		MIG	21

¹⁾ the determination method and values aren't specified

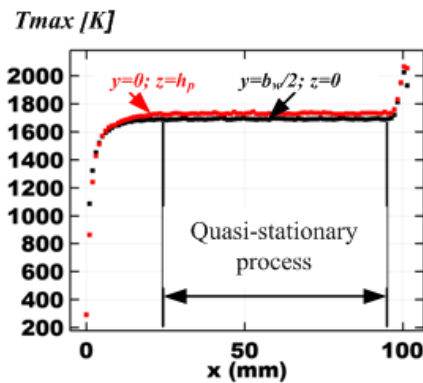


Fig.3. Maximum temperature reached for two lines parallel to the weld axis

A mathematical model is being developed to describe the realized welding process using the same geometry, material characteristics and welding mode. A simulation model is being realized, which solves the thermal task, and at the last moment of time for which the solution is performed, the heat source is in the zone of the quasi-stationary state. In the geometry of the model, two (or more) straight lines (l_1 and l_2) are drawn, parallel to the axis of the weld (Fig.4). One of these lines (l_1) is located in the upper plane of the welded specimens and is at a distance $b_w/2$ from the weld axis (passes through the point representing the width of the weld). The second line (l_2) is at a distance h_p from the upper surface of the welded specimens (in the direction of the depth of penetration) in a plane passing through the weld axis and perpendicular to the upper surface of the welded specimens - passes through the point determining the depth of penetration. The

temperature change along these two lines at the last moment of solving the task is shown in Fig.5. For this two lines the maximum of the temperatures for this moment are determined - T_{1max} and T_{2max} . The calibration parameters are found by solving an optimization problem with the following objective function (T_s is the solidus temperature):

$$\Phi(\eta, \alpha_{arc}, r_{arc}) = \left(\frac{T_{1max} - T_s}{T_s} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{T_{2max} - T_s}{T_s} \right)^2 \Rightarrow \min \quad (3)$$

or

$$\Phi(\eta, \alpha_{arc}, r_{arc}) = \max \left(\left| \frac{T_{1max} - T_s}{T_s} \right|, \left| \frac{T_{2max} - T_s}{T_s} \right| \right) \Rightarrow \min \quad (4)$$

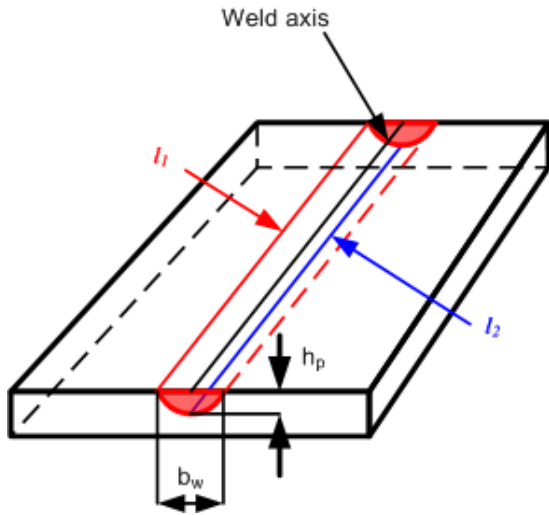


Fig.4. Lines passing through the points representing the width of the weld and the depth of penetration.

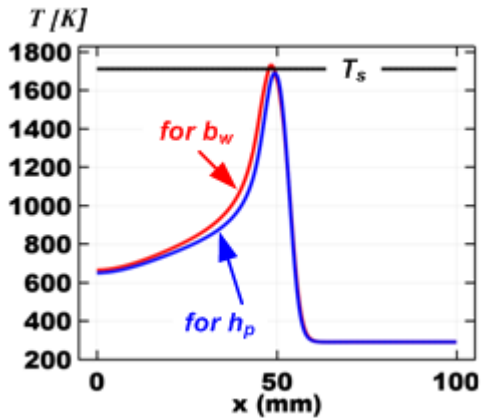


Fig.5. Temperature on the lines passing through the control points.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS.

To verify the operability of the proposed heat source and methodology for calibration of the heat model, experiments were performed by TIG welding of steel AISI 304. The chemical composition of the base metal is given in Table 2. The size of the samples is 6x100x100[mm]. The welding modes used and the obtained seam dimensions are given in Table 3. Fig. 6 shows one of the measured depths of penetration and the width of the seam [29]. For mode №5, three of the measurements used to obtain averaged results are shown.

TABLE II. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF BASE METAL [26].

alloying element	C	Mn	Si	Cr
concentration [wt.%]	≤ 0.08	≤ 2.0	≤ 0.75	18÷20
alloying element	Ni	S	P	N (ppm)
concentration [wt.%]	8÷10.5	≤ 0.030	≤ 0.035	≤ 1100

TABLE III. WELDING MODES AND WELD DIMENSIONS.

No of mode	I _w	U _a	V _w	b _w	h _p
	[A]	[V]	[cm/min]	[mm]	[mm]
1	180	14.9	30	7.609	1.44
2	180	14.9	12	11.518	3.112
3	80	10.6	30	2.801	0.438
4	80	10.6	12	4.025	1.006
5	130	12.7	21	6.536	1.082

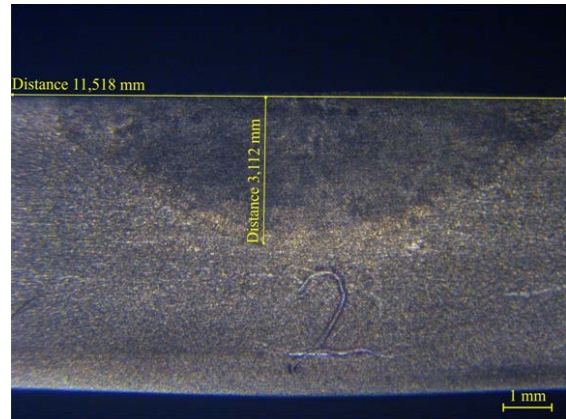


Fig.6. Measurement of the depth of penetration and the width of the weld – mode No 2

V. TASK FORMULATION, RESULTS AND ANALYSIS.

The geometry of the considered example is shown in Fig.7. The welding process starts from point A and the arc moves along the weld line to point B. As an initial condition, a temperature of 20°C is set (the ambient temperature). The heat dissipation is realized through all surfaces of the welded plates, taking into account convective and radiative heat exchange with the environment. The heat flux as a result of convective heat transfer is calculated according to Newton's law, and the radiative heat dissipation according to Stefan-Boltzmann's law. The heat source is in accordance with the described

model. The properties of the material are set as function depending on the temperature [27, 28]. The latent heat of fusion is set to - 260 [J / g].

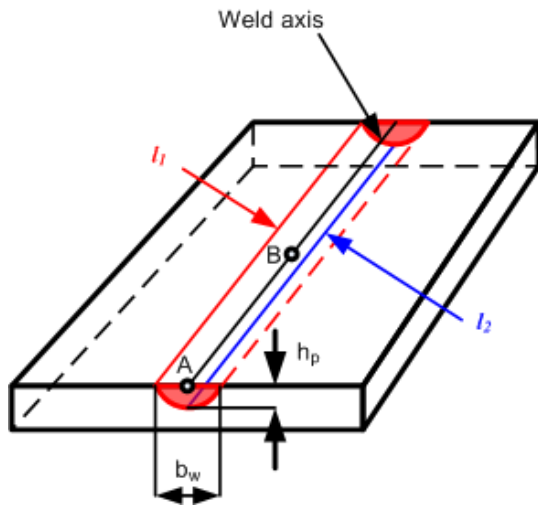


Fig. 7. Scheme of the process.

The optimization task is solved in two steps. In the first, the Monte Carlo method is applied and the objective function (4) is used. The obtained results, sorted by the value of the objective function are shown in Table 3. The points in the vicinity of which the best results were subsequently obtained are marked in red.

TABLE IV. MONTE CARLO OPTIMIZATION RESULTS (THE 10 BEST RESULTS ARE SHOWN).

η	α_{arc}	r_{arcs} [m]	Objective
<i>Mode No 1</i>			
0.62676	0.139	0.0075832	5.46E-04
0.6094	0.13694	0.0073976	5.72E-04
0.62289	0.28289	0.0071283	0.0010461
0.61545	0.23455	0.0066467	0.0015075
0.57382	0.21983	0.0072608	0.0018074
0.62579	0.22084	0.0068466	0.0019563
0.59112	0.15505	0.0068379	0.0025963
0.56749	0.03058	0.0076471	0.0030009
0.6433	0.12597	0.0077456	0.0034908
0.5398	0.27738	0.0059873	0.0039021
<i>Mode No 2</i>			
0.677227	0.172152	0.010408	1.93E-05
0.677551	0.227982	0.01017	1.66E-04
0.673553	0.032447	0.011367	2.86E-04
0.676452	0.063054	0.01104	2.93E-04
0.673522	0.12447	0.010174	3.35E-04
0.668108	0.045558	0.01194	3.47E-04
0.663445	0.039103	0.010712	5.68E-04
0.662133	0.169945	0.010963	6.36E-04
0.69563	0.148558	0.010328	6.91E-04
0.664232	0.201248	0.01089	8.66E-04
<i>Mode No 3</i>			
0.50787	0.16785	0.0028655	0.018412
0.52683	0.24217	0.002547	0.034804
0.60598	0.27434	0.0026486	0.074806
0.62347	0.20201	0.0029766	0.083158
0.65912	0.24004	0.0029185	0.095695

0.56873	0.079754	0.0029584	0.10973
0.5627	0.22405	0.0024966	0.11367
0.53239	0.24011	0.0022298	0.13301
0.69648	0.24806	0.0028376	0.15896
0.57409	0.22704	0.0023784	0.16116
<i>Mode No 4</i>			
0.60604	0.024693	0.0039079	0.00019048
0.57302	0.29392	0.0025921	0.00041417
0.60379	0.18183	0.003491	0.0005629
0.60144	0.045476	0.0034605	0.0012541
0.57667	0.16285	0.0036141	0.0019396
0.553	0.1964	0.0028921	0.002158
0.56408	0.11388	0.0037442	0.0027833
0.58814	0.15727	0.0029328	0.0028145
0.54868	0.11754	0.0036368	0.0036115
0.6	0.15	0.003	0.0041204
<i>Mode No 5</i>			
0.69837	0.27549	0.0058725	0.002596
0.64512	0.13544	0.0064706	0.002700
0.65704	0.25307	0.0069043	0.003926
0.62645	0.13075	0.0063511	0.004416
0.63179	0.28696	0.0063072	0.004522
0.61746	0.10342	0.0069153	0.005871
0.63154	0.25310	0.0067578	0.006330
0.59855	0.21107	0.0057579	0.006370
0.60833	0.17786	0.0066699	0.007518
0.59348	0.01467	0.0068286	0.009056

Within the second step of the optimization process in the vicinity of the five points with the best result from the first one optimization was performed using the objective function (3). One such result is shown in Table 5. As final results for the value of the calibration parameters are accepted those in which within the second step of the optimization process the lowest values of the objective function are reached (Table 6). The obtained solutions are illustrated in Fig.8. Comparing the data from Table 3 and Table 6, it can be said that for the considered cases the effective radius of the arc is approximately equal to the experimentally obtained width of the weld.

TABLE V. SEQUENCE OF THE OPTIMIZATION PROCESS.

No	η	α_{arc}	r_{arcs} [m]	Objective
1	0.60000	0.05000	0.00346	0.0018896
2	0.60000	0.06200	0.00346	0.0012531
3	0.60000	0.06680	0.00346	0.0010112
4	0.60000	0.06680	0.00386	3.85E-04
5	0.60000	0.06200	0.00386	4.78E-04
6	0.62832	0.06680	0.00386	0.0022941
7	0.57168	0.06680	0.00386	0.0026606
8	0.60000	0.06872	0.00386	3.97E-04
9	0.60000	0.06488	0.00386	3.72E-04
10	0.60000	0.06296	0.00386	3.64E-04
11	0.60000	0.05912	0.00386	3.43E-04
12	0.60000	0.05144	0.00386	3.14E-04
13	0.60000	0.03608	0.00386	3.21E-04
14	0.60000	0.06680	0.00386	3.85E-04

TABLE V – conti nued

No	η	α_{arc}	r_{arcs} [m]	Objective
15	0.60000	0.05758	0.00386	3.29E-04
16	0.60000	0.04530	0.00386	2.55E-04
17	0.60000	0.03915	0.00386	3.35E-04
18	0.60000	0.04530	0.00335	0.0027515

19	0.63625	0.04530	0.00386	0.0054476
20	0.56375	0.04530	0.00386	0.0034804
21	0.60000	0.04775	0.00386	2.63E-04
22	0.60000	0.04284	0.00386	2.47E-04
23	0.60000	0.04038	0.00386	3.43E-04
24	0.60000	0.04284	0.00365	7.23E-05
25	0.60000	0.04284	0.00345	0.0012105
26	0.63625	0.04284	0.00365	0.0086474
27	0.56375	0.04284	0.00365	0.0019852
28	0.60000	0.04530	0.00365	4.25E-05
29	0.60000	0.04775	0.00365	5.85E-05
30	0.60000	0.04530	0.00386	2.55E-04
31	0.60000	0.04530	0.00345	0.0012202
32	0.63625	0.04530	0.00365	0.0081506
33	0.56375	0.04530	0.00365	0.0019982
34	0.57046	0.04530	0.00368	0.0014195
35	0.58818	0.04530	0.00366	1.79E-04
36	0.59527	0.04530	0.00366	1.21E-05
37	0.59745	0.04530	0.00366	2.17E-07
38	0.61195	0.04530	0.00366	8.00E-04
39	0.58295	0.04530	0.00366	4.92E-04
40	0.59745	0.04628	0.00366	5.31E-07
41	0.59745	0.04431	0.00366	7.89E-08
42	0.59745	0.04333	0.00366	3.15E-08
43	0.59745	0.04136	0.00366	4.50E-07
44	0.59745	0.04333	0.00382	3.02E-04
45	0.59745	0.04333	0.00349	4.27E-04
46	0.62645	0.04333	0.00366	0.00359
47	0.56845	0.04333	0.00366	0.0017057
48	0.59745	0.04530	0.00366	2.17E-07
49	0.59684	0.04333	0.00366	3.24E-06
50	0.59721	0.04333	0.00366	1.38E-05
51	0.59740	0.04333	0.00366	4.80E-06
52	0.60905	0.04333	0.00366	4.61E-04
53	0.58585	0.04333	0.00366	3.18E-04
54	0.59745	0.04412	0.00366	5.87E-08
55	0.59745	0.04254	0.00366	1.55E-07
56	0.59745	0.04333	0.00372	1.95E-05
57	0.59745	0.04333	0.00359	1.16E-04
58	0.60209	0.04333	0.00366	5.93E-05
59	0.59281	0.04333	0.00366	5.05E-05
60	0.59745	0.04333	0.00366	3.15E-08

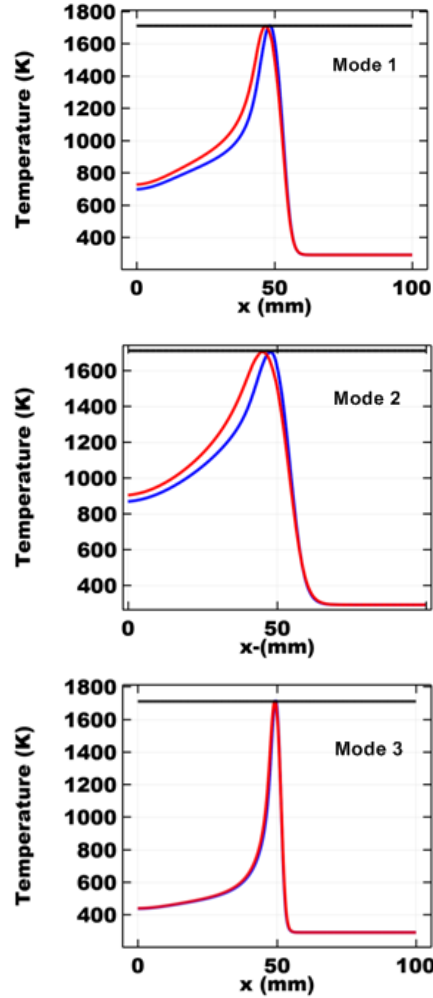


Fig.8. Solidus temperature (black) and temperature along the control lines - I1 (blue) and I2 (red) at the last moment for which the calculation was performed.

TABLE VI. RESULTS OF THE OPTIMIZATION PROCESS.

No of mode	η	α_{arc}	r_{arc} , [mm]	Objective
1	0.61848	0.16669	7.58	7.53E-08
2	0.68373	0.18469	10.41	1.39E-07
3	0.53322	0.26737	2.9766	1.25E-05
4	0.59745	0.04333	3.6567	3.15E-08
5	0.67603	0.2969	5.8135	6.29E-05

In order to check whether the solutions obtained in the described way adequately represent the temperature field, the numerical results are compared with the experimental ones. Fig. 9÷12 shows a comparison for the first 4 modes. Fig. 13 shows the comparison of the calculated result with the experimental ones for three of the welds produced with mode 5. From these figures it can be seen that the form of penetration predicted by the model coincides well with the experimentally obtained one.

VI. CONCLUSIONS.

A new model of the heat source suitable for TIG welding is proposed. As calibration parameters used by the model are: efficiency, the effective radius of heating of the product from the arc and the coefficient accounting the heat source concentration. In the framework of the conducted researches it was established that the effective radius of the arc is approximately equal to the obtained width of the bead. A method of model calibration based on solving an optimization problem has been developed. The form of penetration predicted by the model was compared with experimental results and was shown to have a good match.

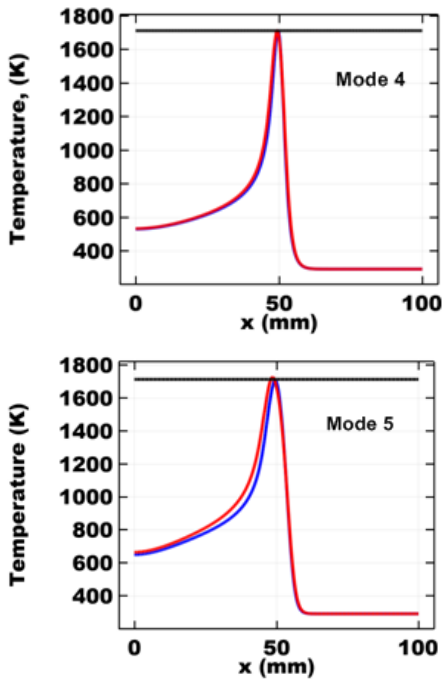


Fig.8. – continued

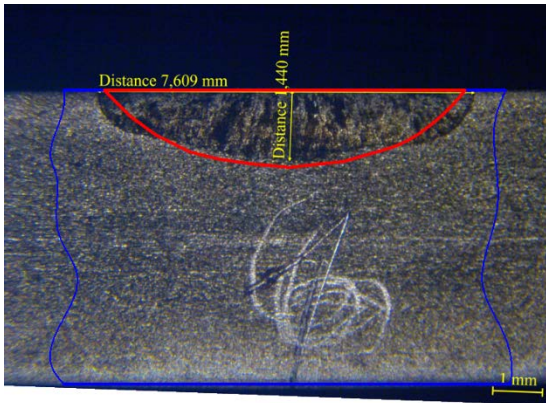


Fig.9. Comparison of the obtained results for mode No1

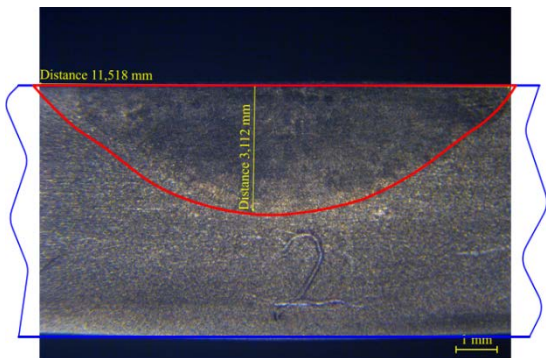


Fig.10. Comparison of the obtained results for mode No2

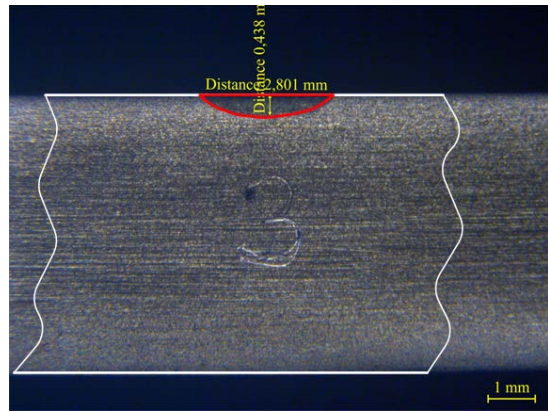


Fig.11. Comparison of the obtained results for mode No3

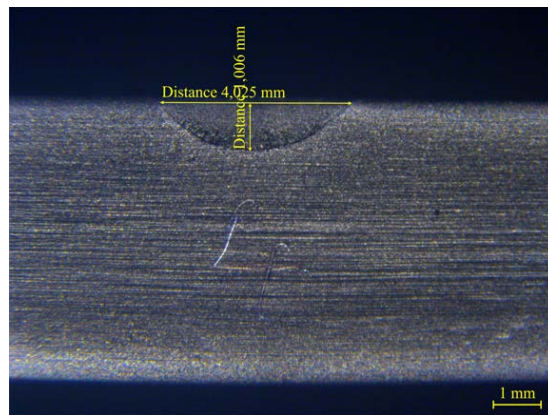
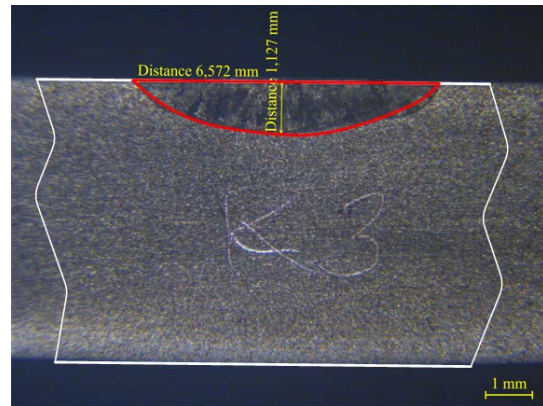


Fig.12. Comparison of the obtained results for mode No4



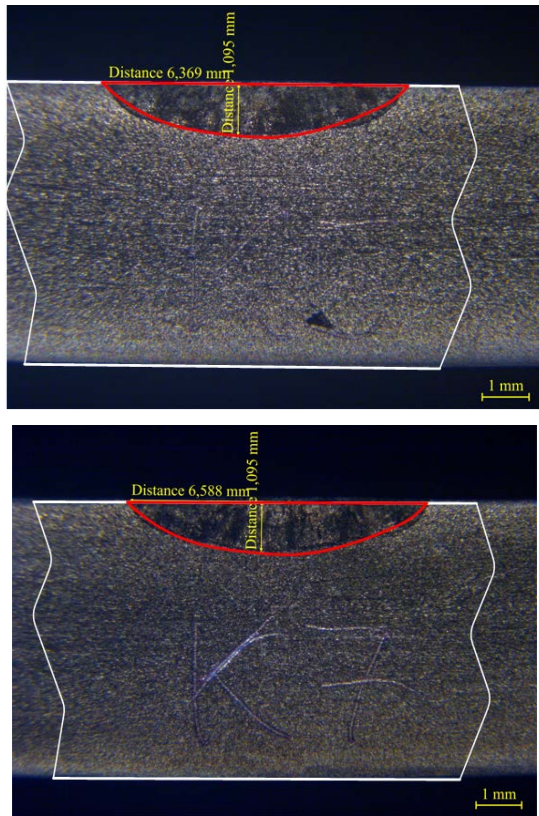


Fig.13. Comparison of the obtained results for mode No5

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