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Influence of Artificial Ageing Conditions on the Microhardness of Aluminium Alloy

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Influence of artificial aging conditions on the microhardness of aluminium alloy

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Abstract

This study examines the influence of tempering parameters (temperature and time) on the mechanical properties and microstructural characteristics of an extruded aluminium alloy. The alloy was tempered under varying conditions, and its hardness and tensile strength were measured to assess performance. Microstructural analysis was conducted using optical microscopy (OM) to evaluate grain structure and precipitate distribution. The results reveal that tempering temperature plays a critical role in modifying precipitation kinetics and dislocation density, directly affecting strength properties. An optimal tempering window was identified, balancing hardness and tensile response without compromising structural integrity. These findings contribute to the optimization of post-extrusion heat treatments for aluminium alloys in industrial applications.

Keywords: Aluminium alloy, tempering, extrusion, mechanical properties, microstructure, precipitation hardening