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LOW TEMPERATURE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES
202 STAINLESS STEEL PARENT METAL AND WELDMENTS

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MTP-M-S&M-M-61-12

Ву

O. Y. Reece

ABSTRACT

Low temperature mechanical properties were determined on annealed 202 stainless sheet (0.066" thickness). Tests were made on both parent metal and weldments in the temperature range of $+80^{\circ}$ F to -450° F. The alloy has an ultimate tensile strength of 220,000 psi at the temperature of liquid nitrogen (-320°F), and 190,000 psi at the temperature of liquid helium (-450°F). This high strength, combined with a minimum elongation of 20%, indicates that this alloy is suitable for low temperature structural applications.

Weldments with 308 stainless steel filler metal attained strength values equivalent to or greater than those of the parent metal.

Test on 0.134" thickness sheet, 50% cold worked, gave strength values 30 to 55% higher than those obtained on the annealed sheet. Weldments in the cold worked material with 308 filler metal attained an ultimate tensile strength of 70 to 100% of that of the cold worked sheet, depending upon the test temperature.

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CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	2
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	2
EQUIPMENT AND TEST PROCEDURE	3
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	3
CONCLUSIONS	4
REFERENCES	20

TABLES

Table		Page
ı	Nominal Composition of 202 Stainless Steel	6
II	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet 0.066" Thickness, Parent Metal	7
117	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066" Thickness, Transverse Welds, Flush Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler	8
IV	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066" Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler	9
V	Mechanical Properties, Parent Metal, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.134" Thickness, 50% Gold Worked	10
Vï	Sheet, 0.134" Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler,	11
	VAND COTA MOTRAGE	1.

FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Low Temperature Tensile Cryostat and Accessory Equipment	12
2	Low Temperature Tensile Cryostat Showing Extensometer Probes and Extensometer	13
3	Diagram of Tensile Cryostat and Extensometer	14
4	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066" Thickness, Parent Metal	15
5	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066" Thickness, Transverse Welds Flush Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler	16
6	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066" Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler	17
7	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.134" Thickness, 50% Cold Worked	18
8	Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.134" Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler, 50% Cold Worked	19
	JOW COTA MOTVER	17

LOW TEMPERATURE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES 202 STAINLESS STEEL PARENT METAL AND WELDMENTS

SUMMARY

Low temperature mechanical properties were determined on annealed 202 stainless sheet (0.066" thickness). Tests were made on both parent metal and weldments in the temperature range of $+80^{\circ}F$ to $-450^{\circ}F$. The alloy has an ultimate tensile strength of 220,000 psi at the temperature of liquid nitrogen (-320°F), and 190,000 psi at the temperature of liquid helium (-450°F). This high strength, combined with a minimum elongation of 20%, indicates that this alloy is suitable for low temperature structural applications.

Weldments with 308 stainless steel filler metal attained strength values equivalent to or greater than those of the parent metal.

Test on 0.134" thickness sheet, 50% cold worked, gave strength values 30 to 50% higher than those obtained on the annealed sheet. Weldments in the cold worked material with 308 filler metal attained an ultimate tensile strength of 70 to 100% of that of the cold worked sheet, depending upon the test temperature.

INTRODUCTION

An extensive evaluation of the low temperature mechanical properties of engineering alloys which show promise for space vehicle applications is currently in progress in the Engineering Materials Branch, Structures and Mechanics Division. This report covers the investigation of one of the materials selected for evaluation, type 202 stainless steel. Both parent metal and weldments were tested in the temperature range of +80°F to -450°F. A previous report¹ presented data on room temperature and elevated temperature mechanical properties of this alloy. Although the composition of 202 stainless steel suggests applications at moderately elevated temperature, use of the alloy at very high temperatures is limited due to a tendency toward oxidation and carbide precipitation. A study of the mechanical properties in the temperature ranges previously tested suggested that, although manganese was detrimental at higher temperature, an increase in toughness and ductility should be experienced at low temperature.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Type 202 is an austenitic chromium-nickel-manganese stainless steel, not hardenable by heat treatment and possessing similar mechanical properties and corrosion resistance to type 302 stainless steel. The development of the alloy resulted from national efforts to conserve nickel; therefore, manganese has been substituted for a major portion of the nickel (Table I). Manganese imparts excellent toughness at ambient and low temperatures; however, the manganese reduces resistance to oxidation at elevated temperatures. A sufficient amount of nickel is retained in the alloy to maintain good impact strength and structural stability². Because of a tendency toward oxidation at high temperatures, 202 is not recommended for applications above 1500°F.

Carbide precipitation, with possible associated intergranular corrosion, is experienced within the temperature range of 800-1650°F. These carbides can be dissolved by an annealing treatment at 1900°F, and the resulting homogeneous material will not be subject to intergranular corrosion. Compared to the 300 series austenitic stainless steels, room temperature mechanical properties of 202 are considerably higher; thus, it was anticipated that this factor, coupled with favorable low temperature properties, may offer a solution to certain design requirements.

No low temperature applications have been reported for 202 stainless steel in the literature, nor have data been published concerning low temperature mechanical properties.

EQUIPMENT AND TEST PROCEDURE

Tensile tests were conducted in a low temperature tensile cryostat designed at this Center for evaluation of metals at temperatures down to -450°F. The tensile cryostat is essentially a four-walled cylindrical container having two vacuum jackets separated by liquid nitrogen. Over-flow nitrogen is passed through the lid of the cryostat before venting to the atmosphere. The test setup and equipment are shown in figures 1, 2, and 3.

Temperature was sensed by copper-constantan thermocouples and controlled by a controller-recorder, which actuates a solenoid valve located between the dewar, containing the cryogenic liquid, and the tensile cryostat. At intermediate temperatures, in the range of +80 to -320°F, a double walled cylindrical canister with spray holes around the inner periphery was inserted into the cryostat, and cryogenic liquid sprayed onto the test specimen. At -320°F, the specimens were pulled while submerged in liquid nitrogen. Below -320°F, the specimens were tested in a mixture of gaseous and liquid helium.

A minimum of three tensile specimens were tested at each temperature; however, during several tests, unreliable stress-strain curves resulted. In these instances, the reported average was taken from two specimens.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tensile properties of annealed 202 stainless steel (Table II and figure 4) increased as temperature decreased from room temperature to -450°F. Ultimate tensile strength reached a maximum at -320°F and dropped significantly at -450°F, although the ultimate tensile strength at -450°F was still 90% higher than at room temperature. The moderately high ultimate tensile strength, combined with an elongation of 20% (2.0" gage length) at liquid helium temperature, indicates that this alloy merits consideration for low temperature applications.

Test panels, fusion welded with 308 stainless steel filler and having both flush and intact weld beads, were evaluated in the temperature range of +80 to -450°F. Flush weldments are those having both build-up and penetration machined flush with the original thickness. This is frequently necessary in order to provide proper fit-up of structural components and has considerable effect upon the weld efficiency.

Generally, welds are left "intact", or with full penetration and slight build-up added purposely for additional strength. Careful attention should be given to both the condition of the parent metal and the characteristics of the filler metal where flush machining is considered. Room temperature tensile properties of flush weldments (Table III and figure 5) were lower than those of the parent metal; however, the tensile properties at $-450^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$ were equal to or greater than those of the parent metal. These tests indicated that the flush bead resulted in a predominance of failures in the weld fusion zone at temperatures down to $-320^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$.

The ultimate tensile strength and yield strength of intact weldments (Table IV and figure 6) was equal to or greater than that of the parent metal at all temperatures, except at -450°F, in which case failure occurred at the interface of the fusion and heat affected zone. Originally this persistent 100% plus weld efficiency was thought to be partially due to experimental error; however, similar results obtained in a second series of tests indicates that this strength increase may be attributed to thermal effects from welding. It is apparent that some strengthening occurred within the 2 inch gage length of the transverse welded specimens and it was established that 100% weld efficiences are realistic for this alloy at both ambient and low temperatures.

The ultimate tensile strength of the 50% cold-worked 202 stainless steel sheet (Table V and figure 7) was (30 - 55%) above that of the annealed sheet. Elongation of the 50% cold-worked sheet remained at about 20% throughout the range of test temperatures. This was true for both the parent metal and welded test specimens at -320°F. Weldments of the 50% cold worked sheet had an ultimate tensile strength equivalent to 89% of that of the parent metal sheet (Table VI and figure 8). The gain in ultimate tensile strength is offset by the drop in yield strength experienced in the welded sheet; therefore, it is questionable if any advantage could be realized by fabricating with the cold-worked sheet.

CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that type 202 stainless steel offers excellent possibilities as a low temperature structural alloy. The alloy appears to be a logical contender for current applications using 300 series stainless steels, such as 301, 302 or 304. Carbide precipitation in weldments must be considered on the same basis as for 300 series stainless steels until additional work is completed to establish this relative susceptibility.

Room temperature tensile and yield strengths are approximately doubled at liquid nitrogen temperature with only a slight decrease in strength where the temperature is lowered to that of liquid helium.

TABLE I

NOMINAL COMPOSITION OF 202 STAINLESS STEEL

Carbon	0.15 Max.
Manganese	7.50 - 10.00
Phosphorous	0.060 Max.
Sulphur	0.030 Max.
Silicon	1.00 Max.
Chromium	17.0 - 19.0
Nickel	4.00 - 6.00
Nitrogen	0.025 Max.
Iron	Remainder

TABLE II

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

202 STAINLESS STEEL SHEET, 0.066" THICKNESS, PARENT METAL

Temperature or + 80		Ultimate Strength psi 100,800	Yield Strength 0.2% Offset psi 46,500	Yield Strength 0.1% Offset psi 40,200	Proportional Limit psi 35,300	Elongation % in 2 in.	Location GL
+ 80		101,500	57,000	40,200	32,400	56.0	GL
+ 80	Ave.	102,200 101,500	47,800 47,100	$\frac{42,400}{40,900}$	$\frac{30,364}{32,700}$	57.5 56.8	GL
0		127,600	56,400	49,300		58.0	GL
0		130,600	56,000	48,500		56.0	${f GL}$
0	Ave.	$\frac{129,500}{129,200}$	54,700 55,700	47,100 48,300	~	$\frac{58.0}{57.3}$	GL
- 50		139,500	59,900	53,900		50.0	GL
- 50		140,400	60,200	54,700		52.0	${f GL}$
- 50		139,500	62,900	56,900		<u>50.0</u>	GL
	Ave.	139,800	61,000	55,200		50.7	
-100		151,700	65,000	59,300		40.0	GL
-100		157,700	72,700	69,300		40.0	GL
-100	Ave.	158,700 156,000	$\frac{72,800}{70,200}$	68,900 65,800		$\frac{40.7}{40.7}$	GL
-200		176,400	77,700	72,600	61,000	43.5	GL
-200		175,900	78,800	73,500	62,200	44.0	${f GL}$
-200		175,600	68,300	72,600	57,900	<u>43.5</u>	GL
	Ave.	176,000	78,300	72,900	60,400	43.7	
-320		230,700	83,000	72,900	68,100	51.0	GL
-320		228,300	94,100	83,000	62,800	52.0	${ t GL}$
-320	A	234,700	87,800 88,300	79,600	62,800	$\frac{52.0}{51.7}$	GL
	Ave.	231,200	88,300	78,500	64,600	21./	
- 450		191,100	108,900	100,800	78,600	22.0	OGL
-450		220,700	109,300	100,800	79,300	27.5	GL
- 450		207,300	114,600	106,100	81,300	25.0	OGL
	Ave.	206,400	111,000	102,600	79,700	25.0	

GL = Gage length

OGL = Outside the gage length

TABLE III

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

202 STAINLESS STEEL SHEET, 0.066" THICKNESS, TRANSVERSE WELDS, FLUSH BEAD, 308 STAINLESS STEEL FILLER

Temperature OF	Ultimate Strength psi	Yield Strength 0.2% Offset psi	Yield Strength 0.1% Offset psi	Proportional Limit psi	E1. In 2 In.	Fracture Location
+ 80	98,600	47,600	37,300	11,900	30	Fusion
+ 80	96,300	53,500	43,300	16,000	28	Fusion
+ 80	<u>97,200</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>34,800</u>	<u>11,400</u>	<u>32</u>	Fusion
	Ave. $97,400$	48,200	38,500	13,100	30	
0	119,100				38.0	Fusion
0	112,300	49,000	37,900	12,900	34.5	Fusion
0	121,100	55,300	<u>47,800</u>	<u>23,100</u>	<u>37.0</u>	Fusion
	Ave. 120,800	52,150	42,800	18,000	36.5	
~ 50	138,000		~		41.0	Fusion
- 50	139,100	61,000	52,700	20,800	37.0	Fusion
- 50	139,600	<u>59,000</u>	51,700	27,300	<u>40.0</u>	Fusion
	Ave. 138,900	60,000	52,200	24,100	39.3	
-100	163,100	62,200	54,000	26,200	42.0	Fusion
-100	159,700	69,800	60,200	29,300	42.0	Fusion
-100	159,100	63,000	56,100	30,300	<u>45.5</u>	Fusion
	Ave. 160,600	65,000	55,700	28,600	41.5	
-200	182,200	70,000	60,000	28,900	42.0	Parent Metal
-200	183,800	75,800	66,900	30,400	41.5	Parent Metal
-200	183,000	71,500	<u>66,900</u>	<u>38,000</u>	42.0	Parent Metal
	Ave. 183,000	72,400	64,600	32,400	41,8	
-320	229,200	81,600	70,100	35,000	40.0	Fusion
-320	227,500	78,800	68,800	33,600	46.5	Parent Metal
-320	228,500	77,600	63,800	<u>33,600</u>	<u>48.0</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. $228,400$	79,300	67,600	34,100	44.8	•
-450	217,900	103,400	96,000	74,000	23.0	Parent Metal
-450	212,600	99,100	90,500	69,000	25.5	OGL/PIN
-450	195,200	104,500	97,000	80,000	<u>25.0</u>	FUZ/HAZ
	Ave. $208,600$	102,300	94,500	74,300	25.0	

OGL = Outside the gage length

FUZ/HAZ = Interface of the fusion and the heat affected zone.

TABLE IV

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

202 STAINLESS STEEL SHEET, 0.066" THICKNESS, TRANSVERSE WELDS, INTACT BEAD, 308 STAINLESS STEEL FILLER

Temperature OF	Ultimate Strength psi	Yield Strength 0.2% Offset psi	Elongation % In 2 In.	Fracture Location
+ 80	111,400	57,900	46.0	Parent Metal
+ 80	106,100	54,700	49.5	Parent Metal
+ 80	104,900	<u>54,300</u>	<u>49.5</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 107,500	55,600	48.3	
0	131,200	54,500	53.0	Parent Metal
0	130,700	57,700	55.0	Parent Metal
0	126,100	<u>57,700</u>	<u>50.0</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 129,300	56,600	52.6	
- 50	145,000	63,400	53.0	Parent Metal
- 50	142,900	66,000	48.0	Parent Metal
- 50	141,900	61,700	<u>48.5</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 143,300	63,700	49.8	
-100	160,100	74,900	44.5	Parent Metal
-100	158,100	73,700	$\epsilon \sim 0$	Parent Metal
-100	<u>157,200</u>	<u>71,800</u>	<u>.</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 158,500	73,500	4 6.3	
-200	177,200	80,100	42.0	P ant Metal
-200	178,500	79,500	43.0	F lent Metal
-200	<u>175,400</u>	77,100	<u>44.0</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 177,000	78,900	43.0	
-320	229,800	80,500	45.0	Parent Metal
-320	230,600	80,300	43.0	Parent Metal
-320	<u>230,000</u>	<u>89,400</u>	<u>47.0</u>	Parent Metal
	Ave. 230,100	83,400	45.0	
-450	174,300	114,000	19.5	FUZ/HAZ
- 450	199,400	108,000	23.0	OGL/PIN
- 450	193,000	95,000	<u>22.0</u>	FUZ/HAZ
	Ave. 188,900	105,700	21.5	

FUZ = Fusion zone

HAZ = Heat affected zone

FUZ/HAZ = Interface of the fusion and heat affected zone

OGL = Outside the gage length

PARENT METAL

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

202 STAINLESS STEEL SHEET, 0.134" THICKNESS, 50% COLD WORKED

TABLE V

Temperature or		Ultimate Strength psi	Yield trength 2% Offset psi	Yield Strength .1% Offset psi	ngation 2 In.	
+ 80		155,100	139,100	125,500	22.0	GL
+ 80		157,400	140,100	127,100	21.0	GL
+ 80	Ave.	156,100 156,200	140,500 139,900	125,800 126,100	20.0 21.0	GL
-200		214,500	146,800	134,400	26.0	GL
-200		208,500	145,100	130,500	24.0	GL
-200	Ave.	221,000 214,700	150,800 147,600	141,100 135,300	26.0 25.2	GL
-320		287,000	158,200	144,800	28.5	GL
-320		287,100	161,000	148,800	28.5	GL
-320		284,600	145,700	<u>131,700</u>	28.5	GL
	Ave	286,200	154,600	141,800	28.5	
-450		282,700	183,000	170,200	19.5	GL
- 450		284,000	177,700	$\frac{162,700}{166,150}$	21.0	GL
	Ave	. 283,350	180,350	166,450	20.3	

GL = Gage length

TABLE VI

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES
202 STAINLESS STEEL SHEET, 0.134" THICKNESS, TRANSVERSE WELDS, INTACT BEAD, 308 STAINLESS STEEL FILLER, 50% COLD WORKED

Temperature op	Ultimate Strength psi	Yield Strength 0.2% Offset psi	Yield Strength 0.1% Offset psi	Proportional Limit psi	E1. In 2 In.	Fracture Location
+ 80 + 80 + 80	114,300 113,300 109,900 Ave. 112,500	51,600 55,400 53,800 53,600	23,600 49,900 <u>47,400</u> 40,300	25,400 26,900 25,600 26,000	17.0 20.0 22.0 19.6	HAZ FUZ/HAZ FUZ
- 50 - 50 - 50	175,800 176,100 176,900 Ave. 176,300	63,100 75,200 71,900 70,100	56,700 65,900 68,700 63,800	43,300 49,400 46,400	25.0 24.0 26.0 25.0	HAZ HAZ HAZ
-100 -100 -100	187,800 182,800 <u>193,400</u> Ave. 188,000	67,800 59,400 77,000 68,100	59,700 51,600 68,700 60,000	34,300 29,000 38,800 34,000	24.0 24.5 24.0 24.2	HAZ HAZ HAZ
-200 -200 -200	226,000 206,600 227,100 Ave. 219,900	71,900 75,500 87,300 78,200	62,700 66,300 64,500	26,900 30,000 <u>33,100</u> 30,000	21.5 16.0 18.0 18.5	HAZ FUZ FUZ
-320 -320 -320 -320 -320	267,300 240,000 218,000 278,000 269,000 Ave. 255,400	87,900 76,500 92,600 73,400 82,600	78,300 83,900 62,900 75,000	37,700 35,700 49,100 35,900 39,600	18.5 15.0 13.0 24.0 23.0 18.7	FUZ FUZ FUZ HAZ HAZ

FUZ = Fusion zone

HAZ = Heat affected zone

FUZ/HAZ = Interface of the fusion and heat affected zone

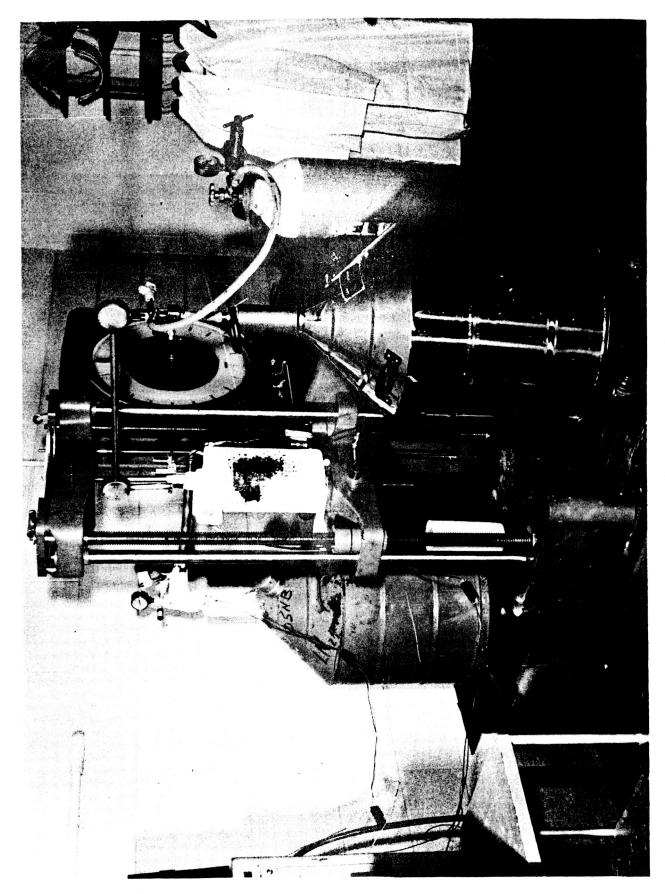


Fig 1 Low Temperature Tensile Cryostat and Accessory Equipment

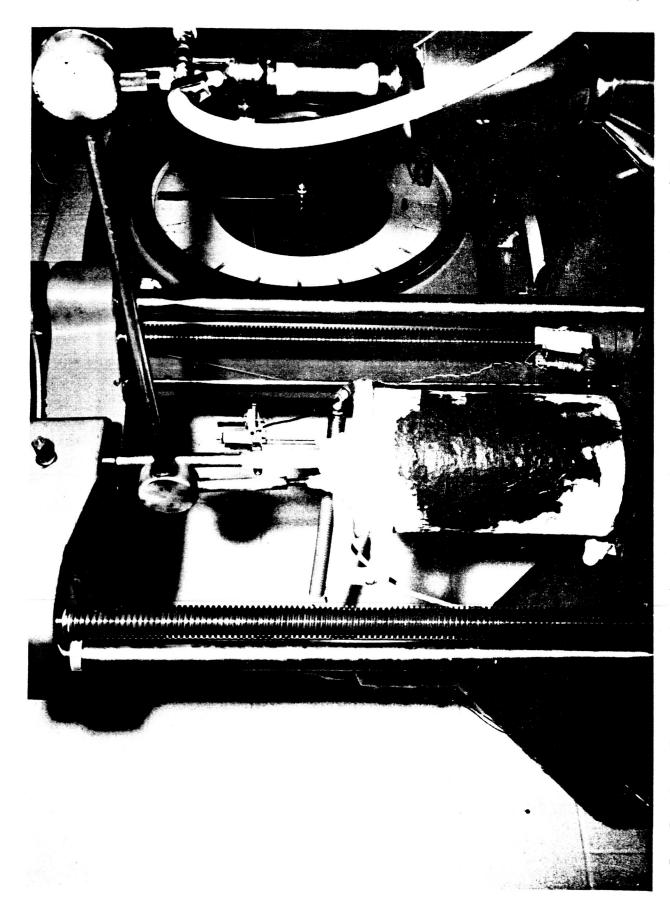


Fig 2 Low Temperature Tensile Cryostat Showing Extensometer Probes and Extensometer

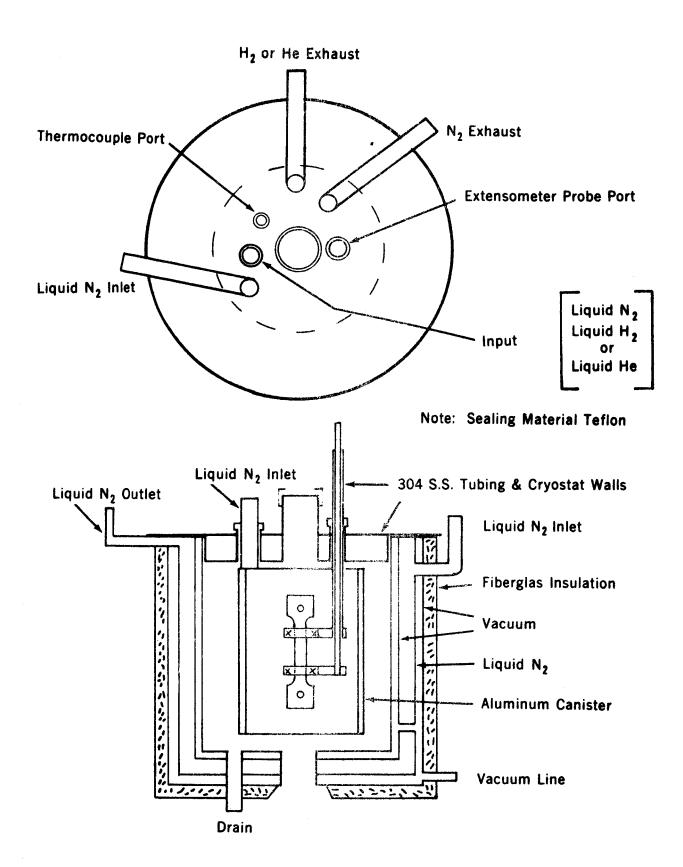


Fig. 3 Diagram of Tensile Cryostat and Extensometer

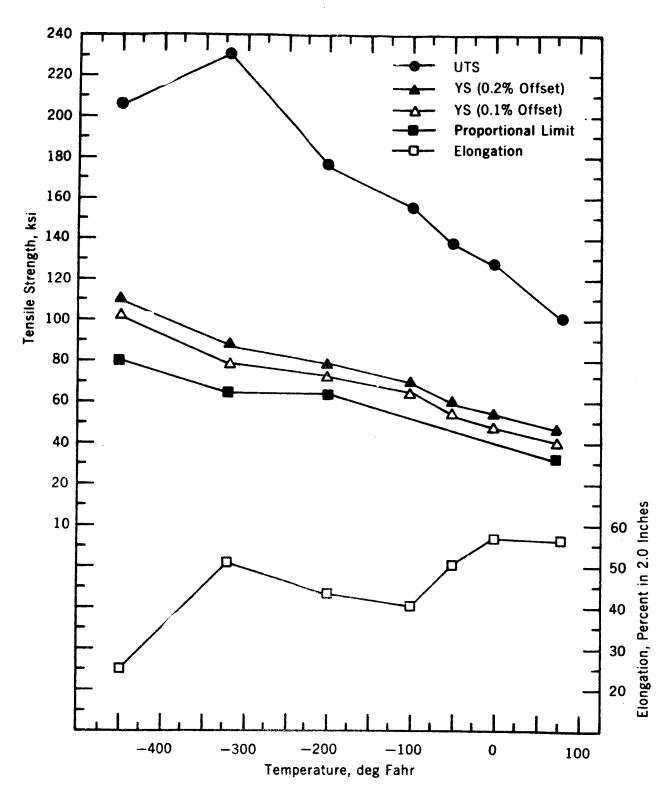


Fig. 4 Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066 Inch Thickness, Parent Metal

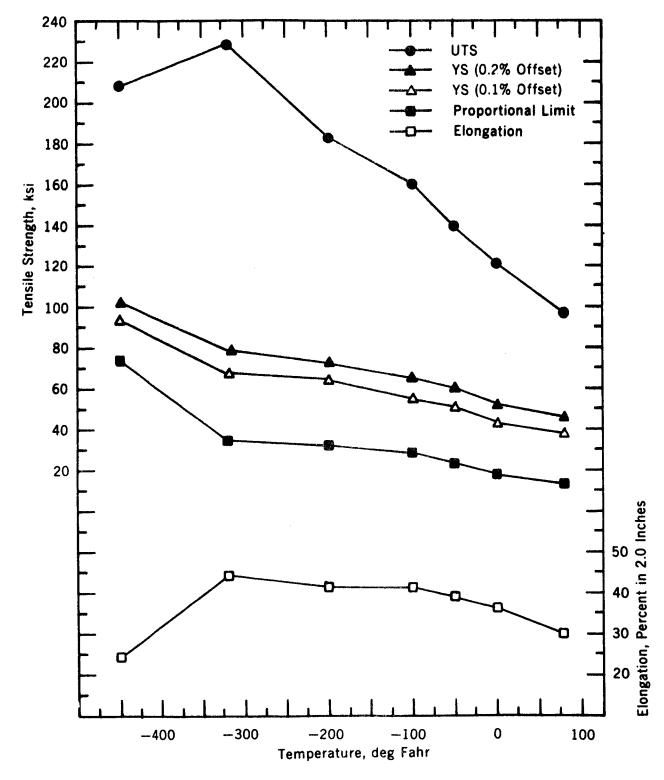


Fig. 5 Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066 Inch Thickness, Transverse Welds, Flush Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler

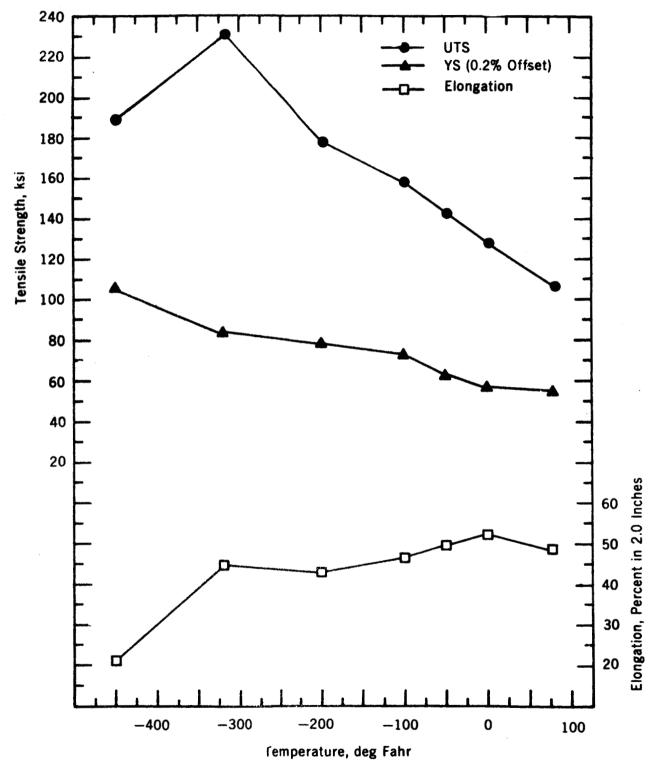


Fig. 6 Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.066 Inch Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler

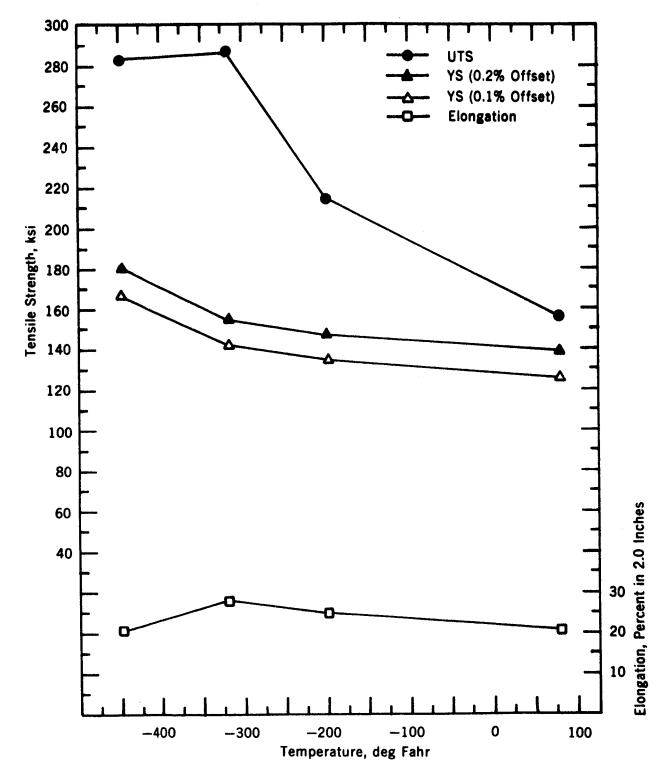


Fig. 7 Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.134 Inch Thickness, 50 Percent Cold Worked

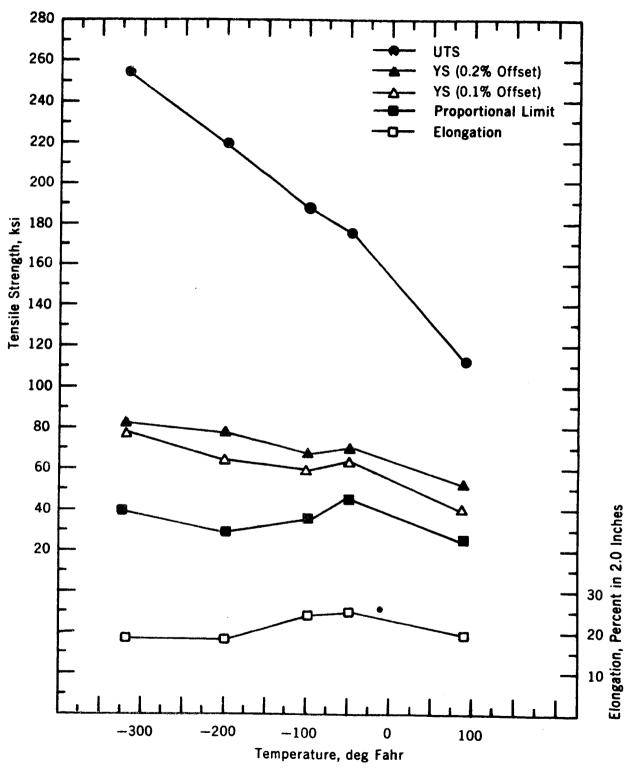


Fig. 8 Mechanical Properties, 202 Stainless Steel Sheet, 0.134 Inch Thickness, Transverse Welds, Intact Bead, 308 Stainless Steel Filler, 50 Percent Cold Worked

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 - 2. Alloy Digest, Stainless Steel, SS-65, December 1957.

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