

ISIJ International

Instructions to Authors

ISIJ International is a monthly publication of the Iron and Steel Institute of Japan (ISIJ). Timely and original contributions are welcome from both ISIJ members and non-members from around the world.

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Aims and Scope

ISIJ International is a peer-reviewed open access journal dedicated to the publication of research addressing fundamental and technological aspects of iron, steel and related engineering materials. Articles describe the properties, structure, characterization and modelling, processing, fabrication of iron and steel, as well as report on associated environmental issues. Papers covering subjects other than steel materials and Ti alloys not clearly related to steel materials are deemed unlikely of interest to readers and may be Out of Scope.

The following aspects of the science and engineering of iron and steel are of particular interest:

- I Fundamentals of High Temperature Processes
- II Ironmaking
- III Steelmaking
- IV Casting and Solidification
- V Instrumentation, Control, and System Engineering
- VI Chemical and Physical Analysis
- VII Forming Processes and Thermomechanical Treatment
- VIII Welding and Joining
- IX Surface Treatment and Corrosion
- X Transformations and Microstructures
- XI Mechanical Properties
- XII Physical Properties
- XIII New Materials and Processes
- XIV Social and Environmental Engineering

Topical special issues are published each year for the benefit of the journal's broad international audience.

Manuscript Types

The journal publishes Regular Articles, Review Articles, Short Articles and Notes, all of which are subject to peer review. Note that once a manuscript has been submitted, the article type cannot be changed. The initial submission must be withdrawn and resubmitted as a new article type.

Regular Articles

Regular Articles document original and significant results that contribute to the extension of knowledge and promotion of our understanding of iron and steel. Regular Articles are expected to be within 10 printed pages (approximately 10000 words, including tables, figures and other sections) in length. They must be presented in such a way that qualified workers can replicate the key elements on the basis of the information provided.

Review Articles

Review Articles are extensive surveys on a specific subject in which previously published information is compiled, analyzed, and discussed. Reviews are usually invited by the Editorial Board, but authors may also submit them voluntarily.

Short Articles

Papers that briefly report original research results and technical findings that require rapid publication. They are a maximum of 5 printed pages (approximately 5000 words, including tables, figures and other sections). The results of peer review should be provided within approximately 3 weeks.

Notes

Notes are a maximum of 5 printed pages (approximately 5000 words, including tables, figures and other sections) and can take various forms. They may describe:

- (a) new research and techniques in a condensed form;
- (b) opinions or perspectives about topics of interest to readers; or
- (c) criticisms or additional proofs and interpretations in connection with articles previously published in the journal.

Journal & Ethics Policies

ISIJ International welcomes manuscript submissions from authors based anywhere in the world. The journal upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. The availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints').

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

All authors must declare on the prescribed input screen that the manuscript is unpublished, not considered for publication by any other journal, and prepared by themselves. Authors must also affirm that they agree to the submission of the manuscript to *ISIJ International*, and that they agree to the policies and procedures laid out in this Instructions to Authors, including the copyright regulations and page charges.

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they must first withdraw it from the journal. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor believes may not comply with the journal's policies.

Originality

Submissions to the journal must be original works. Manuscripts (including doctoral dissertations) published on the Internet, such as in institutional repositories, shall be treated as though they have already been published. The journal may use Crossref's 'Similarity Check' plagiarism service to screen manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the editors' discretion.

Preprints

To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal allows authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers, either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript should be posted on the preprint server.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

When submitting a manuscript which is also posted on a preprint server, authors should prepare the manuscript in the journal format and disclose the preprint posting information (registered server name, DOI, the type of CC license chosen, etc.).

Referring to preprints (except conference proceedings) are not permitted in principle. If it is absolutely necessary to refer to any preprint, it may be accepted to include it in a footnote in the text.

Scooping

When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers after the date of submission to *ISIJ International*.

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor.

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In consonance with the position statement of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the journal does not allow artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted tools/technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs), chatbots, or image creators to be listed as author or co-author. Those tools cannot be responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work, thus they do not meet the criteria for authorship of the journal.

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Authors may digitally manipulate or process images, but only if the adjustments are kept to a minimum, are applied to the entire image, meet community standards, and are clearly described in the manuscript. All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

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Authors must disclose the source of publicly available data and materials, such as public repositories or commercial manufacturers, by including accession numbers or company details in their manuscript, as appropriate.

Authors may make their own data and materials available by linking via DOI from their manuscript to relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and should be made publicly available by the publisher's version release date. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least three years from the publisher's version release date in the journal.

The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

Animal/human experimentation

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki, its revisions, and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions. Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research.

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Author competing interests and conflicts of interest

In the interests of transparency, the journal requires all authors to declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an author's ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Authors are requested to provide the statement for conflict of interest and should list funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section of their manuscript.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. The journal encourages authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including *ISIJ International*, with Portico in a dark archive (see <https://www.portico.org/publishers/jstage/>). In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

Received and accepted dates

The date when the manuscript is submitted via ScholarOne and assigned an ID is the 'received date'. The date when the Editorial Board of *ISIJ International* decides to accept the manuscript for publication is the 'accepted date'.

Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-anonymized peer review. When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned to an Associate Editor who assigns two reviewers to assess each manuscript. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise, reputation and previous experience as peer reviewers.

Upon receipt of the two reviewers' reports, the Associate Editor makes the first decision on the manuscript. If a manuscript is deemed to have a good probability of acceptance after minor or major revision, the Associate Editor may ask the authors to revise it accordingly. Otherwise, it may be rejected.

If the decision is to request revision of the manuscript, authors are requested to return revisions within 3 weeks. After 3 months, revised manuscripts may be treated as new submissions. The Associate Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have followed the Associate Editor's and the reviewers' comments on the original manuscript.

The Associate Editor then makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for making the final decision on each manuscript.

The members of the Editorial Board act in advisory roles, providing feedback as reviewers and making suggestions to improve the journal. In cases where the Editor-in-Chief is an author on a manuscript submitted to the journal, a member of the Editorial Board is responsible for making the final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected without regard to geography and need not belong to the journal's Editorial Board. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are invited within approximately 1 week of an article being submitted. Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within 3 weeks (2 weeks for Short Articles) of accepting

the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

Acceptance criteria

It is the responsibility of the *ISIJ International* Editor-in-Chief to maintain and develop the journal's profile and reputation. The Editor-in-Chief has the final responsibility for ensuring that journal content meets the Aims and Scope: articles must present research on iron, steel, or related engineering materials. The presented research must be original, logical, and of scientific and technological merit. The following acceptance criteria underpin the decision on each submission.

To be accepted for publication in the journal, a manuscript must meet several, if not all, of these acceptance criteria:

1. The manuscript provides an original insight into an important issue within the field of iron and steel research.
2. The new insight is a valuable scientific or technological contribution to the field.
3. The new insight is used by the author(s) to contribute to the development of application technologies or fundamental theories.
4. The methods used to produce the new insight are appropriate and described in a way that is understandable across disciplines.
5. The ways in which the data and methods answer the research questions and support the conclusions are explained logically and clearly, and the methods are applied rigorously.
6. The author(s) make clear connections to prior works in the field or from other fields, highlighting the novelty to iron and steel research.

Editorial independence

As the journal owner, the Iron and Steel Institute of Japan (ISIJ) has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The ISIJ will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific or technical merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests.

Appeals

Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by

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Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors will not:

- disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure
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- use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
- use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization.

Conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, or having a financial stake in the work or its publication.

Members of the journal's Editorial Board undertake to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An editor who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the relevant manuscript and is replaced by a new editor.

Errata and retractions

The journal recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of published literature.

A published article that contains an error may be corrected through the publication of an Erratum. Errata describe errors that significantly affect the scientific integrity of a publication, the reputation of the authors, or the journal itself. Authors who wish to correct a published article should contact the Editorial Office with full details of the error(s) and their requested changes. In cases where co-authors disagree over a correction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Correction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

A published article that contains invalid or unreliable results or conclusions, has been published elsewhere, or has infringed codes of conduct (covering research or publication ethics) may be retracted. Individuals who believe that a published article should be retracted are encouraged to contact the journal's Editorial Office with full details of their concerns. The Editor-in-Chief will investigate the issue and, if the appeal is deemed sufficiently reasonable, contact the authors of the published article for their response on the issue. In cases where co-authors disagree over a retraction, the Editor-in-Chief may consult the Editorial Board or external peer reviewers for advice. If a Retraction is published, any dissenting authors will be noted in the text.

The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief who is an author on a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review process. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

A manuscript authored by an editor of *ISIJ International* is subject to the same high standards of peer review and editorial decision making as any manuscript considered by the journal.

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As part of their responsibilities, reviewers agree to maintain the confidentiality of unpublished manuscripts at all times. By accepting the invitation to review a manuscript, reviewers agree not to:

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- reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript
- discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved in the review process
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Reviewers are prohibited from uploading the manuscript to software, online translation service, or AI-assisted tools/technologies where the confidentiality is not assured. It is required to disclose to the journal if any AI-assisted tools or technologies are used to facilitate the review. Reviewers should be aware that generative AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased.

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A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence a reviewer's ability to assess a manuscript impartially. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias. Reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Editor, who will determine the best course of action. The invitation letters sent to reviewers are intended to ensure that the journal fulfills the promise of satisfactorily resolving any conflicts of interest.

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The journal charges 12600 Japanese yen per article page for all article types (Regular Articles, Review Articles, Notes) and relevant taxes are added to the total amount. Authors of accepted manuscripts will be invoiced for the APC before publication of their manuscript.

Color is free online; if authors request color in the print version, the fee is 33000 Japanese yen per page (plus relevant taxes). More details are available in the Figures section below.

In the event that the authors have not paid the APC or other relevant fees before publication, all processes for any other manuscripts associated with any authors will be suspended until full payment is confirmed by ISIJ.

Waiver policy

Waivers are provided automatically when the corresponding author is from a “Group A” Research4Life country. In cases of demonstrated financial hardship, the journal will consider a pre-submission application for a waiver from any corresponding author to isijint@isij.or.jp. Applications cannot be made after the peer review process has begun.

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All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal’s online submission system, ScholarOne: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/isijint>. The original or revised manuscript text may be uploaded as a Microsoft Word file, but a Word file is required for the final manuscript text. Figures may be submitted separately in several other formats such as jpg and tif.

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Manuscript Preparation

Style and format

All articles should comprise the following sections, in this order: (1) title page (using the application form), (2) synopsis and key words, (3) text (excluding figures and tables), (4) supporting information summary, (5) statement for conflict of interest, (6) acknowledgment(s), (7) nomenclature, (8) appendices (excluding figures and tables), (9) references, (10) tables and figures (including figures and tables in the appendices), and (11) , tables, figures or still images in supporting information, etc.

The Title Page of manuscripts should be filled in with the completed application form, and the other manuscripts should be prepared using the ISIJ International template.

In addition to the application form and the template, the following files should also be submitted where applicable:

- (1) high-resolution electronic data files of figures (including graphical abstracts) (if the figures in the template are not clear)
- (2) Electronic data file of the table (if the table included in the template is an image)
- (3) Data file of Supporting Information (if Supporting Information is to be included)

Pages must be numbered consecutively with the Synopsis and Key words as page 1. Additionally, the total size of files uploaded to the online submission review system should be less than 19.5MB, excluding the Supporting Information file.

English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. Both the US and British styles and spelling are permitted, but only one format must be used consistently. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript proofread by a native English speaker or an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear owing to unsatisfactory English, it may be rejected without peer review.

Length

Authors must adhere to the specified page or word limits. Manuscripts exceeding these limits may be returned to the authors, prior to review, in order to be shortened.

Abbreviations

Each abbreviation should be defined in parentheses together with its non-abbreviated term when it first appears in the text (except in the Title and Abstract).

Units

The standard SI units must be used. Non-SI units should be confined to those that have been approved for use with SI units by the Editorial Board (refer to the annexed table).

Title page

The Title Page should be substituted with the application form (PDF file). Upload the completed application form file to the system before the main Word file.

Synopsis

The Synopsis must state briefly and clearly the main objective, scope, and findings of the work within 250 words. A maximum of 6 key words should be included after the Synopsis. Abbreviations should not be used for key words.

Manuscript text

The text in a Regular Articles must include sufficient details to enable the readers to reproduce the results. The appropriate literature should be referred to.

Supporting Information

The “Supporting Information” section must be made to briefly explain its content after the main text when it is supplied.

Statement for conflict of interest

Authors are requested to declare any conflicts of interest related to the conduct of this research.

Acknowledgements

This section should be brief. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section. Acknowledgements of companies or organizations that were asked to proofread or review the manuscript should not be included.

Nomenclature

If necessary, explanations of terms, symbols, etc. can be listed.

Appendices

Appendices may be attached if necessary. The following points should be noted.

- a) The appendices must be referred in the body of the text.
- b) The appendices must be entitled next to the heading of the appendix.
- c) Figures, tables, and equations in the appendix must be listed as Fig. A1, A2..., Table A1, A2..., and Equations (A1), (A2).... Figures and tables in the appendices should be grouped together after the figures and tables in the main text.
- d) References in the Appendix must be numbered consecutively after the references in the main text.
- e) The references cited in the main text and appendices must be listed together in the "References" section after the appendices.

References

References must be numbered consecutively. Reference numbers in the main text and appendices should be typed as superscripts with a closing parenthesis, for example, Gibbs¹⁾, Einstein^{2,3)}, and Newton⁴⁻⁶⁾. List all references at the end of the text.

- a) Include the names of all the authors with the surnames appearing last.
 - b) In addition, if the language of the reference is other than English, the language must be specified at the end of each reference. For example, if a reference is in Japanese, "(in Japanese)" must be included at the end the reference.
 - c) If the reference has a digital object identifier (DOI), the uniform resource locator (URL) of the DOI must be clearly given at the end as shown in the sample entry. In addition, if the book does not have a DOI but has an ISBN, the ISBN should be listed in place of the DOI.
 - d) Citations of general-purpose software manuals are not acceptable.
 - e) Including AI-generated material as the primary source in the reference is not allowed.
- Refer to the following examples for the proper format.

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Use the standard abbreviations for journal names given in the International Standard ISO 4. Give the volume number, the year of publication, and the first page number, URL of the relevant DOI. Examples:

- 1) M. Kato, S. Mizoguchi and K. Tsuzaki: *ISIJ Int.*, **40**(2000), 543.
<https://doi.org/10.2355/isijinternational.40.543>
- 2) S. Suzuki and K. Suzuki: *CAMP-ISIJ*, **5**(1992), 1433 (in Japanese).
- 3) S. Suzuki and K. Suzuki: *CAMP-ISIJ*, **21**(2008), 111, CD-ROM (in Japanese).
- 4) E.Mazanek and M.Wyderko: *Stahl Eisen*, 89 (1969), 863 (in German).

2) Books (Include Proceedings of International Conferences)

Give the title, the volume number, the abbreviated name of the conference title if any, the editor's name if any, the publisher's name, the place of the publisher's headquarters, the year of publication, and the page number, URL of the relevant DOI or ISBN, or if none, the URL in place of the DOI. If the publisher's location is unknown, no entry is required.

Examples:

- 5) W. C. Leslie: *The Physical Metallurgy of Steels*, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, (1981), 621. ISBN978-0070377806
- 6) U. F. Kocks, A. S. Argon and M. F. Ashby: *Progress in Materials Science*, Vol.19, ed. by B. Chalmers, Pergamon Press, Oxford, (1975), 1.

- 7) Y. Chino, K. Iwai and S. Asai: Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Electromagnetic Processing of Materials, EPM 2000, ISIJ, Tokyo, (2000), 279, CD-ROM.
- 8) A. D. Rollet, U. F. Kocks, J. D. Embury, M. G. Stout and R. D. Doherty: Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Strength Metals and Alloys, Vol. 1, ICSMA 8, ed. by P. O. Kettunen et al., Pergamon Press, New York, NY, (1989), 433. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-034804-9.50065-6>

3) Dissertations

Give category of dissertation, the university's name, the degree year, the page number, URL, access date. Example:

- 9) S. Ono: Ph.D. thesis, Tokyo Institute of Technology, (2000), <http://www.titech.ac.jp/Thesespdfs/speck.pdf>, (accessed 2006-02-01).

4) Standards

Give standard number: year of designation, article/thesis title. Examples:

- 10) JIS L 1902: 2008, Testing for antibacterial activity and efficacy on textile products (in Japanese).
- 11) ISO 14404-1: 2013, Calculation method of carbon dioxide emission intensity from iron and steel production -- Part 1: Steel plant with blast furnace.

5) Websites

URL citations that are judged to be continuous and of reliable public organizations/agencies are permitted only if documents are not officially published or are difficult to obtain. In such cases, provide the (title of the document), the (publication date), URL, (accessed date).

Examples:

- 12) T. Tanaka: President's message, the Iron and Steel Institute of Japan, <https://www.isij.or.jp/about/message/>, (accessed 2019-09-25).
- 13) Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan: White Paper, (Annual Report on the Environment, the Sound Material-Cycle Society and Biodiversity in Japan 2018), (June 5, 2018), <https://www.env.go.jp/en/wpaper/index.html>, (accessed 2019-07-22).
- 14) Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, White Paper, (Annual Report on Energy, FY2018 Annual Report on Energy (Energy White Paper 2019), (June 7, 2019), https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/about/whitepaper/2019pdf/whitepaper2019pdf_2_1.pdf, (accessed 2020-01-07).

Tables

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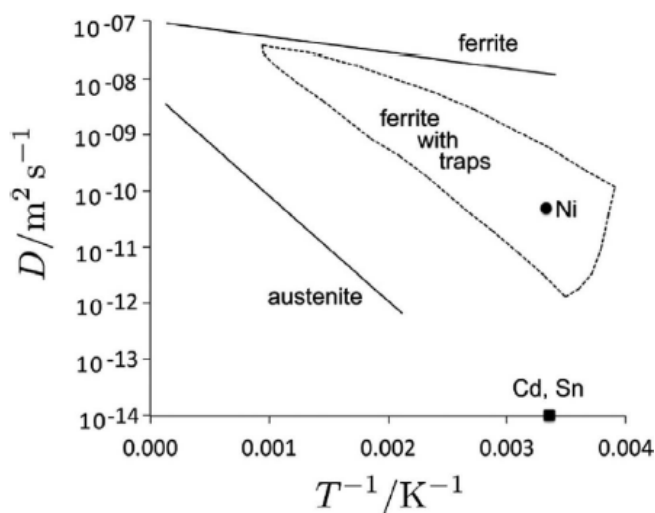


Fig. 2. Diffusion coefficient of hydrogen in ferrite and austenite as a function of temperature. Reprinted from Bhadeshia.³²⁾ Copyright (2016) The Iron and Steel Institute of Japan.

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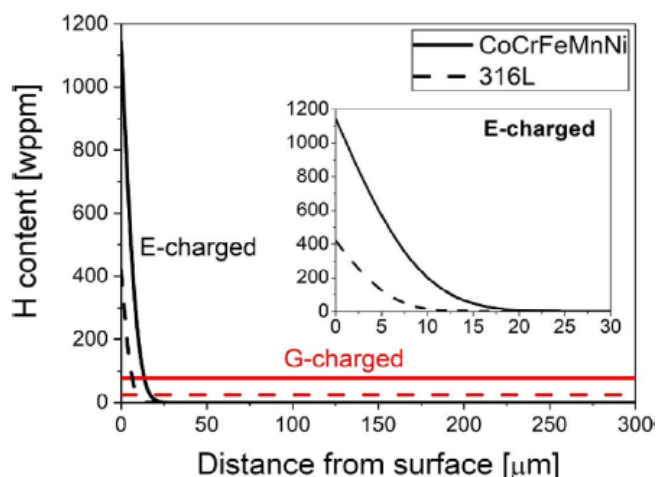


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To contact the Editorial Office or the Editor-in-Chief, please write to:

ISIJ Editorial Office

Tekko Kaikan(5F) 3-2-10
Nihonbashi-Kayabacho
Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0025
JAPAN

Email: editol@isij.or.jp

Webpage: <https://isijint.net/>

Fax: +81-3-3669-5934

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