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Crystal plasticity and phenomenological approaches for the simulation of deformation behavior in thin copper alloy sheets

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Abstract

In the expanding context of device miniaturization, forming processes of ultra thin sheet metals are gaining importance. Numerical simulation of these processes requires accurate material modeling. In this study, both the phenomenological modeling approach and the crystal plasticity finite element method (CPFEM) are considered. Theoretical definitions of both models, numerical implementation as well as their parameter identification procedures are outlined. Subsequently they are compared on a one to one basis, mainly with regards to their ability to predict mechanical responses for a variety of strain loading paths.

Keywords: A. Sheet metal forming B. Phenomenological modeling B. Crystal plasticity C. Finite elements
1. Introduction

The current trend for product and device miniaturization has promoted micro-scale manufacturing processes. The demand for microparts has significantly increased in the automotive and electronics industries. Due to their suitability for mass production, sheet metal forming processes are widely used in the manufacturing industry and have been applied to very thin sheets. However, microforming raises a number of challenges related to the size of the parts targeted and the submillimetric thickness of the sheet metals (Geiger et al. (2001)). Finite element based simulations are nowadays common engineering tools. They allow to assess manufacturability of parts and to achieve subsequent time savings at the process design stage. Yet, the quality and predictiveness of these simulations rely on several factors, among which is the material behavior model. Currently, two distinct material modeling approaches can be considered for sheet metal forming. On one hand, the so-called phenomenological models are based on discrete macroscopic experimental observations and the assumption of material homogeneity. The constitutive laws consist of sets of relations with parameters which are adjusted to reproduce the experimental data available. Commercial finite element packages include several phenomenological laws for material modeling. Following the still extensively used von Mises model, quite a number of functions have been proposed to take into account anisotropy in the prediction of plastic yield. Extensive descriptions of most of them can be found in Banabic (2010). Beyond the yield point, the material behavior is described using so-called isotropic and/or kinematic hardening. Power (Swift type) and exponential (Voce type) laws are commonly used isotropic models while kinematic hardening modeling can involve expressions that are linear (Prager type), saturating (Armstrong and Frederick (1966)), a mix of these two types (Chaboche (1991)) or more conceptually complex (Yoshida and Uemori (2003) and Yoshida et al. (2015), Haddadi et al. (2006), Barlat et al. (2011)) depending on the material response during mechanical tests and the required modeling accuracy. On the other hand, the so-called microstructural models are based on the crystal plasticity theory which can be traced back to the works of Taylor and Elam (1923) and Schmid et al. (1934) who related plastic flow in single crystals to crystallographic planes slip. This class of model incorporate material heterogeneity, at microscopic level, in constitutive relations. We will restrict ourselves in this paper to the crystal plasticity finite element method (CPFEM) models which were initiated when Peirce
et al. (1982) exploited the versatility of the finite element method to solve boundary value problems with crystal plasticity constitutive relations. Embedding the crystal plasticity theory into a finite element formulation enforces the equilibrium of the forces and compatibility of displacements between the grains of a polycrystal in a weak form through the principle of virtual work. The well known limitations (violation of equilibrium, assumptions on grains morphologies and interactions) of mean field models (Taylor (1938), Kröner (1961), Lebensohn and Tomé (1993), Van Houtte et al. (2005)) are overidden at the expense of a higher numerical cost. The unaltered growth of computing power over the last few decades has triggered an extensive use of CPFEM for various applications, in the research framework, Erieau and Rey (2004), Kim et al. (2012), Khadyko et al. (2015), Kim and Yoon (2015), Khan et al. (2015) as well as for industrial process simulations (Kalidindi and Anand (1992), Beaudoin et al. (1994), Grujicic and Batchu (2002), Li et al. (2008), Rousselier et al. (2009), Verma et al. (2013)). A thorough review of CPFEM features, applications and challenges can be found in Roters et al. (2010). Presently, although they provide a physically based simulation framework, CPFEM models are not available in commercial software. The phenomenological approach truly represents the standard constitutive modeling choice for industrial process simulations. Indeed, in addition to their computational efficiency, the latter approach has proven reliable and predictive enough for most industrial applications.

Nevertheless, when it comes to processes involving very thin sheet metals with a few grains in the thickness, usually termed as ultra-thin sheet metals, phenomenological models often fail to render material behavior (Engel and Eckstein (2002), Geißdörfer et al. (2006), Peng et al. (2007)). As there are few grains, the individual response of each grain which is driven from its orientation, size and shape, strongly influences the behavior of the part being formed. During processing, these sheet metals present a strong heterogeneity of deformation. In such a context, the phenomenological approach which is based on the assumption of deformation homogeneity becomes questionable. At the same time, CPFEM based process simulations become computationally conceivable as the number of grains is lower (Wang et al. (2009)). The present study examines a case where the macroscopical length-scale approaches the microstructural one but where scale separation is still workable. This paper aims at providing a one to one comparison of phenomenological and CPFEM based approaches in such a context. The ability of these approaches to predict the response of a copper alloy under differ-
Table 1: Chemical composition in mass percent of CuBe2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Be</th>
<th>Co</th>
<th>Ni</th>
<th>Fe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ent strain paths is investigated. First of all, the mechanical tests performed for the experimental characterisation of the considered material are briefly reported in Section 2. Hill (1948) and Bron and Besson (2004) anisotropic yield functions are considered in the phenomenological model and the developed parameter identification procedure is presented in Section 3. Then the adopted CPFEM framework, its embedment and numerical implementation as well as the parameter identification procedure are presented in Section 4. Comparisons of the two modeling approaches are performed in Section 5 and the main conclusions are presented in Section 6.

2. Experimental characterization

The studied material is the copper alloy CuBe2 whose chemical composition is given in Table 1. The cold rolled sheet is 0.1 mm thick and used in the micro-parts and connectors manufacturing industry. An industrial sheet metal grade is used for the experimental characterization, which is not annealed after cold rolling. The rolling direction of the sheet metal will be indicated RD, the transverse direction TD and the normal direction ND. Quantitative information on the microstructure was obtained from Electron BackScatter Diffraction (E.B.S.D.) scans. The microstructure was measured in the RD-TD and TD-ND sections. The device used in this study is a 7001 Field Electron Gun Scanning Electron Microscope from Jeol equipped with an Oxford EBSD CCD camera. EBSD data were post-treated with the software CHANNEL 5 from Oxford. The scanned areas were $320 \times 240 \mu m^2$ large and the step size was set to $0.3 \mu m$. No sensible microstructure gradient was observed and the grains were considered equiaxed. An EBSD map of the microstructure is shown in Fig. 1. The texture is marked and of Goss type. The experimentally measured average grain size was about $4 \mu m$. Although the maximum grain size was about $50 \mu m$, little dispersion was observed and the grain size was quite homogeneous leading to an average of 25 grains throughout the sheet thickness. These thin sheet metals provide a convenient framework for the upcoming models comparison as both phenomenological
and microstructural based models are still relevant. The influence of the reduction of the sheet thickness with respect to the grain size (T/D ratio) on models predictions will be assessed in future work.

In order to investigate the sheet behavior under different stress and strain paths, three types of mechanical tests were performed namely tensile tests, monotonic and Bauschinger shear tests and balanced biaxial tension. Strains were measured using Digital Image Correlation (DIC) system Aramis (GOM GmbH).

Figure 1: EBSD map of the industrial copper alloy CuBe2.

2.1. Tensile tests

A sample geometry was prepared according to ISO 6892-1 standard, similarly to Pham et al. (2015). In order to evaluate material anisotropy, room temperature monotonous tensile tests were performed at 0°, 45° and 90° from the RD. The tests were controlled by grip displacement and the strain rate was around $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. Each type of test was performed three times to ensure reproductibility of the results. Longitudinal $\epsilon_{xx}$ and transverse $\epsilon_{yy}$ logarithmic strains were recorded during the experiments. Plastic anisotropy coefficients $r_\alpha$ coefficients are used to quantify strain anisotropy. Strain anisotropy is quite pronounced especially in the sheet plane with a planar anisotropy coefficient $\Delta r = (r_0 + r_{90} - 2r_{45})/2 = 0.28$ and a normal anisotropy coefficient $\bar{r} = (r_0 + r_{90} + 2r_{45})/4 = 0.92$.

The influence of viscosity was studied by changing the strain rate during tensile tests in the RD. The strain rate was increased from $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$ (up to
2% of deformation) to $10^{-3}$ s$^{-1}$ (up to 4% of deformation) and $10^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ (up to 8% of deformation). Relaxation times of 60 s were imposed between the first two reloadings. Eventually, a relaxation time of 120 s was imposed and a strain rate of $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$ was applied to the specimen.

2.2. Shear tests

Shear tests were performed with the device presented in Thuillier and Manach (2009). Rectangular samples of dimensions $30 \times 15$ mm$^2$ were used. Monotonic and reversed (Bauschinger) shear tests were performed in the RD at a strain rate of $\dot{\gamma} = 8 \times 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. The shear strain $\gamma$ was obtained from the measured non diagonal component $\epsilon_{12}$ of the Green-Lagrange strain tensor as $\gamma = 2\epsilon_{12}$. The shear stress was calculated by $\sigma_{12} = F/S_0$ where $F$ is the load during the test and $S_0$ the initial gauge section.

2.3. Balanced biaxial tensile test

Material response at large strains and under a balanced biaxial strain state was investigated using a hydraulic bulge test (Zang et al. (2011)). A circular blank of a 60 mm gauge diameter was held on a circular die by a blank-holder fastened with screws. The blank was then deformed up to rupture by water pressure controlled with a sensor. The strain state on the sample surface was measured throughout the test. The curvature radius at the pole $R_{pole}$ was approximated by fitting a sphere over a selected area. A balanced biaxial stress state was assumed and the stress was then calculated using $\sigma = PR_{pole}/2e$ where $P$ is the hydraulic pressure and $e$ the current blank thickness.

The experimental stress-strain curves in the tensile test ($0^\circ$ to the RD), balanced biaxial tensile test and simple shear test are shown in Fig. 2. The flow stress and work-hardening rate of the balanced biaxial tensile test and uniaxial tensile test are similar, while much larger strains are reached with the biaxial and shear tests. Detailed experimental results will be further shown in the subsequent sections, in comparison to numerical predictions.

3. Phenomenological modeling and parameter identification

3.1. Constitutive model

As sheet metal forming involves large strains and material rotation, the constitutive equations need to be written in a finite deformation framework.
The following relations were implemented in the SiDoLo software (Cailletaud and Pilvin (1993)) which enables model development and inverse material parameter identification. To fulfill the material frame indifference requirement (principle of objectivity), the orthogonal rotating frame associated to the objective derivative of Jaumann (the so-called co-rotational frame) is considered as the main reference (Sidoroff (1982)).

3.1.1. Elastic-viscoplasticity

In its associated rotating frame, an objective derivative corresponds to a simple time derivative. Thus under the assumption of hypoelasticity, the constitutive elastic relation is written in an incremental form

\[ \dot{\sigma} = C : D^e, \]  

(1)

where \( \sigma \) is the rotation-compensated Cauchy stress tensor, \( C \) is the isotropic elastic modulus tensor which is expressed using the Young’s modulus \( E \) and Poisson’s coefficient \( \nu \) while \( D^e \) is the elastic part of the strain rate. The small-strain like splitting of the strain rate is assumed, leading to the following rate expression:

\[ D^e = D - D^p, \]  

(2)
where $D$ is the total strain rate and $D^p$ its viscoplastic part. The material is assumed to behave elastically in a domain bounded by a yield surface defined by

$$f(\sigma, X, R) = \bar{\sigma}(\sigma, X) - R = 0,$$

where $\bar{\sigma}$ is the equivalent stress, $X$ is the tensorial internal variable pointing to the centre of the yield surface which is used to model kinematic hardening, and $R$ is the isotropic hardening.

The viscoplastic strain rate tensor $D^p$ accounting for plastic flow at yield is derived from a Norton-like viscoplastic potential $\Omega$ and the flow rule is then expressed by

$$D^p = \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \sigma}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

The stress potential $\Omega$ is expressed as

$$\Omega(f) = \frac{K_v}{n_v + 1} \left( \frac{f_+}{K_v} \right)^{n_v + 1},$$

where $f_+$ is the positive part of $f$, $K_v$ is a weighting coefficient of the viscous contribution and $n_v$ a strain-rate sensitivity coefficient.

Isotropic hardening is chosen as:

$$R = \sigma_{sat} - (\sigma_{sat} - \sigma_0) \exp (-C_R p^n_r),$$

where $n_r$ is a material parameter, $\sigma_{sat}$ is the saturation stress, $\sigma_0$ the initial yield stress, $C_R$ the saturation rate and $p$ the cumulated viscoplastic strain defined by

$$p = \int_0^t \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} D^p : D^p} dt.$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

The so-called back-stress tensor $X$ is written as the sum of Armstrong-Frederick law terms with a Prager type term in order to achieve a good description both at larger strains and at the onset of plastic flow during reverse loading. The resulting expression is

$$X = \frac{2}{3} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N C_{X_i} \alpha_i + H_X d^p \right) ; \quad d^p = \int_0^t D^p dt,$$

with

$$\alpha_i = D^p - B_{X_i} \dot{p} \alpha_i.$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)
where $C_X$, is associated to the non-linear Armstrong-Frederick term, $B_X$, the parameter related to the recall term (memory effect) and $H_X$ the slope of the linear Prager term.

Material anisotropy is taken into account in the computation of the equivalent stress by means of anisotropic yield functions. Hill’s 1948 quadratic yield function and the Bron&Besson yield function are considered in this work. Hill (1948) function is a widely used anisotropic yield function developed for materials exhibiting orthotropic symmetry just as rolled sheets.

The equivalent stress can be expressed as:

\[
\bar{\sigma} = \mathbf{T}': M: \mathbf{T}',
\]

where $\mathbf{T} = \sigma - \mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{T}' = \text{deviator } (\mathbf{T})$.

$M$ is the fourth order tensor inducing the anisotropy and writes in the material orthotropic frame:

\[
M = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix}
2G + 2H - F & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 2F + 2H - G & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 2H + 2G - H & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & N & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & M & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & L
\end{bmatrix}
\]

where $F, G, H, L, M$ and $N$ are the anisotropy parameters.

Bron and Besson (2004) yield function is an extension of the Karafillis and Boyce (1993) criterion in which anisotropy is introduced by means of linear transformations. The equivalent stress is expressed as:

\[
\bar{\sigma} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^{2} \lambda_k (\psi_k)^{a_k} \right)^{\frac{1}{a}}; \sum \lambda_k = 1.
\]

The functions $\psi_k$ are first order homogeneous, positive, convex with respect to their argument and defined by:

\[
\psi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left( |S_2^1 - S_3^1|^{b_1} + |S_3^1 - S_1^1|^{b_1} + |S_1^1 - S_2^1|^{b_1} \right),
\]

and $\psi_2 = \frac{3^{b_2}}{2^{b_2} + 2} \left( |S_1^2|^{b_2} + |S_2^2|^{b_2} + |S_3^2|^{b_2} \right)$. (14)
$S^k_{i=1,3}$ are the eigenvalues of the modified deviatoric stress tensor $s^k$. These tensors are obtained from linear transformations on the tensor $T$ which are expressed as:

$$s^k = L^k : T,$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

and where the anisotropy parameters are embedded in the symmetric fourth order tensors $L^k$:

$$L^k = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix}
  c_2^k + c_3^k & -c_3^k & -c_2^k \\
  -c_3^k & c_3^k + c_1^k & -c_1^k \\
  -c_2^k & -c_1^k & c_1^k + c_2^k \\
  0 & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & 0 \\
  3c_4^k & 0 & 0 \\
  0 & 3c_5^k & 0 \\
  0 & 0 & 3c_6^k
\end{bmatrix}. \hspace{1cm} (16)$$

Thus through the two linear transformations, twelve parameters $c_{i=1,6}^k$ are provided to describe anisotropy. The parameters $\lambda = \lambda_1$, $a$, $b_1$ and $b_2$ affect the yield surface’s shape.

### 3.2. Parameter identification

A number of material parameters could be determined independently by specific measurements. The remaining ones were determined by inverse identification. Young’s modulus $E$ and Poisson’s ratio $\nu$ were determined from sequential loading-unloadings in the elastic domain. The initial Young modulus was 120 MPa, then it decreased with plastic strain and rapidly reached a saturation value of 95 MPa. Consequently, this later value was used for the simulations throughout the current investigation. The viscous contribution to material behavior is assessed by the increasing strain rate tensile tests and the viscous parameters of Eq (5), $K_v$ and $n_v$, were identified based on these experiments. After identification of the isotropic hardening parameters, consistency of viscosity parameters obtained beforehand was assessed through the simulation of the increasing strain rate tensile test. The experimental test and its simulated counterpart are shown in Fig. 3. The viscosity effect is relatively small, at least under such homogeneous loading conditions.
Figure 3: Experimental and predicted increasing strain rate uniaxial tensile test in the RD.

3.2.1. Inverse identification procedure

A set of material parameters was sought to minimize the gap between the experimental tests and model predictions. Starting from an initial parameter set, an optimisation process was conducted with a gradient type algorithm in order to minimize an error function defined in the least square sense as the weighted gap between experimental and computed data. The observable variables accounted for in the error function are the stress and strain components. The weights were chosen according to the uncertainty of the experimental data and therefore depend on the experimental type of test (tensile, shear, bulge) as detailed in Zang et al. (2011).

Furthermore, anisotropic yield function parameters \((L, M)\) for Hill’s 1948 function and \(c^k_{5,6}\) for Bron&Besson function are related to shear in the sheet thickness. Experimental data allowing to identify these parameters was not available and they were consequently kept constant and equal to isotropic values, \(L=M=3\) and \(c^k_{5,6} = 1\). Additionally, since \(H+G=2\), only one of these two parameters needs to be identified.

In order to achieve a good description of the overall experimental database with a single parameter set, the following strategy was used:

- initial isotropic hardening parameters and a yield stress, \(\sigma_{sat}, C_R, n, \sigma_0\), were identified considering the three tensile tests and the monotonic
shear test,

• yield surface shape parameters, $\lambda, a, b_1, b_2$ of the Bron&Besson yield function were approximated using the balanced biaxial tension test,

• as mixed hardening is considered, both kinematic hardening parameters, $B_X, C_X, H_X$ and isotropic hardening parameters were identified on cyclic shear tests,

• anisotropy parameters, $c_{i=1..4}^{k=1,2}$ for the Bron&Besson yield function and $F, G, N$ for Hill’s 1948 yield function were identified considering the whole database.

The resulting material parameters for the phenomenological model are listed in Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$E$</th>
<th>$\nu$</th>
<th>$K_v$</th>
<th>$n_v$</th>
<th>$\sigma_0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95.</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>290.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Material parameters common to both yield functions. $E$ is in GPa, $\sigma_0$ in MPa while $K_v$ is in MPa.s$^{-1}$.

Up to three Armstrong-Frederick kinematic hardening terms had to be added to achieve an accurate description as suggested in Chaboche (1991).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$F$</th>
<th>$G$</th>
<th>$H = 2 - G$</th>
<th>$N$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$C_{X_1}$</th>
<th>$B_{X_1}$</th>
<th>$C_{X_2}$</th>
<th>$B_{X_2}$</th>
<th>$C_{X_3}$</th>
<th>$B_{X_3}$</th>
<th>$H_X$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{sat}$</th>
<th>$C_R$</th>
<th>$n_r$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13400</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2850</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>5420</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>1.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Material parameters for Hill’s 1948 yield function. $C_{X_i}$, $H_X$ and $\sigma_{sat}$ are in MPa.
Table 4: Material parameters for Bron&Besson yield function. \( C_{X_i} \), \( H_X \) and \( \sigma_{sat} \) are in MPa.

The material presents a noticeable stress anisotropy as tensile strain-stress curves at 45°/RD and 90°/RD are nearly superposed but the stress level at 0°/RD is clearly higher. Bron&Besson model captured this feature well while Hill’s 1948 model failed to represent the stress anisotropy as shown in Fig. 4.

![Graph](image.png)

Figure 4: Prediction of the tensile tests at 0°, 45° and 90° with the phenomenological model using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.

Both models performed well in balanced biaxial tension and shear test description as illustrated in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, although the Bron&Besson model predictions were slightly closer to the experiments.
Figure 5: Prediction of the hydraulic bulge tests with the phenomenological model using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.

Figure 6: Prediction of the monotonic and reversed shear tests with the phenomenological model using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.
Concerning strain anisotropy, Hill’s model did not adequately render the material feature and only $r_{45}$ was well described. Due to its eight dedicated anisotropy parameters, Bron&Besson model performed remarkably as well in the strain anisotropy, see Fig. 7, as in the stress levels description.

Figure 7: Prediction of the plastic anisotropy ratios with the phenomenological model using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.

However in both cases one has to deal with a high number of parameters, 19 for Hill’s 1948 model and 28 for Bron&Besson, throughout a non linear and relatively complex identification procedure.

4. CPFEM model and corresponding parameter identification strategies

The alternative modeling framework adopted in this work is based on the rate-dependent theory of crystal plasticity. The rate-dependent or viscoplastic formulation was adopted as the material presents a certain strain rate sensitivity as shown in Fig. 3 but also because of its numerical efficiency and robustness when compared to rate-independent formulation.
4.1. Single crystal kinematics and plastic flow

The single crystal plasticity model is based on the works of Rice (1971), Peirce et al. (1982), Needleman et al. (1985), Raphanel et al. (2004) and its equations are recalled here for the sake of completeness. The formalism presented below stands for the general theory of crystal plasticity, regardless of any aspect of numerical implementation.

The classical multiplicative breakdown of the deformation gradient is adopted:

\[ F = F^e \cdot F^p, \]  

(17)

where \( F^p \) represents plastic deformation of matter through the lattice resulting from shearing along activated slip-systems and \( F^e \) corresponds to crystal lattice rigid rotation and its elastic stretching while all slip movement is assumed to be frozen.

The velocity gradient \( L = \dot{F} \cdot F^{-1} \) can then be expressed as:

\[ L = L^e + L^p \quad \text{where} \quad L^e = \dot{F}^e \cdot F^{e^{-1}} \quad \text{and} \quad L^p = F^e \cdot L^p_i \cdot F^{e^{-1}}. \]  

(18)

The velocity gradient in the intermediate configuration \( L^p_i \) is related to crystallographic slip by:

\[ L^p_i = \dot{F}^p \cdot F^{p^{-1}} = \sum_{s=1}^{12} \dot{\gamma}^{(s)} S^{(s)}_0 \quad \text{with} \quad S^{(s)}_0 = m^{(s)}_0 \otimes n^{(s)}_0, \]  

(19)

where \( \dot{\gamma}^{(s)} \) is the shearing slip rate on the slip system \( (s) \) defined by the slip direction \( m^{(s)} \) and the slip plane normal \( n^{(s)} \), \( S^{(s)}_0 \) being the Schmid tensor in the reference and intermediate configuration. The subscript ‘0’ stands for tensorial quantities expressed in the reference configuration. Twelve slip systems were considered for the studied copper alloy of FCC structure.

The rate of deformation \( D \) and spin \( W \) tensors, which are the symmetric and skew-symmetric part of the velocity gradient \( L \), can be splitted in elastic and plastic components as:

\[ D = D^e + D^p \quad \text{with} \quad D^p = \sum_{i=1}^{12} \dot{\gamma}^{(s)} D^{(s)} \]  

(20)

and

\[ W = W^e + W^p \quad \text{with} \quad W^p = \sum_{i=1}^{12} \dot{\gamma}^{(s)} W^{(s)}. \]  

(21)
In the above equations, $D^{(s)} = \text{sym}\left(S^{(s)}\right)$ and $W^{(s)} = \text{skew}\left(S^{(s)}\right)$ where $S^{(s)} = m^{(s)} \otimes n^{(s)}$ is the Schmid tensor of slip system $(s)$ in the current configuration, and 'sym' and 'skew' designate the symmetric and skew-symmetric part of the given tensor, respectively.

The slip direction vector and the slip plane normal in the current configuration are convected from their counterparts in the reference configuration by means of the elastic deformation gradient:

$$m^{(s)} = F^e \cdot m_0^{(s)} \quad \text{and} \quad n^{(s)} = n_0^{(s)} \cdot F^e.$$  

Plastic flow occurs on a slip system if the resolved shear stress $\tau^{(s)}$ exerted on this system is greater than its resistance to slip, the critical resolved shear stress $\tau^{(s)}_c$. The resolved shear stress is calculated with the generalized Schmid law:

$$\tau^{(s)} = m^{(s)} \cdot \sigma \cdot n^{(s)} = \sigma : D^{(s)}.$$  

According to the rate-dependent formulation, the slip rates can be explicitly computed by the plastic flow rule

$$\dot{\gamma}^{(s)} = \begin{cases} \frac{\dot{\gamma}_0^{(s)} \cdot \text{sign} (\tau^{(s)})}{\tau^{(s)}_c} & \text{if } \tau^{(s)} \geq \tau^{(s)}_c \\ 0 & \text{if } \tau^{(s)} < \tau^{(s)}_c \end{cases}.$$  

where $\dot{\gamma}_0^{(s)}$ is the reference shear strain rate and $n$ is the strain rate sensitivity coefficient.

If one assumes an hypoelasticity formalism, the constitutive equation in the global frame can be written in terms of the rate of deformation tensor and its work-conjugate stress measure Kirchhoff tensor $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ as:

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\tau}}^e = C : D^e = C : (D - D^p),$$

where $\dot{\boldsymbol{\tau}}^e$ is the Jaumann derivative of stress based on crystal lattice spin tensor $W^e$ and $C$ is the elastic modulus tensor. When considering the Jaumann stress rate related to the spin tensor $W$, this equation can be rewritten in terms of Cauchy stress as:

$$\dot{\sigma} = C : D + W : \sigma - \sigma : W - \sigma \text{tr}(D) - (C : D^p + W^p : \sigma - \sigma : W^p)$$

As straining occurs, material properties evolve. The common generic hardening model on the slip systems is expressed as

$$\tau^{(s)}_c = H_{\alpha \beta} \dot{\gamma}^\beta$$
where $H_{s\beta}$ are the components of the hardening matrix. In this work, we will consider the expression proposed by Peirce et al. (1983) and usually termed as the PAN (for Peirce Asaro Needleman) model. More accurate models are available in the literature where hardening is explicitly linked to dislocation density based internal variables (Tabourot (1992)). A comparative study of such models with PAN-type models can be found in Lee et al. (2010).

The hardening matrix used in this work reads:

$$H_{s\beta} = [q + (1 - q)\delta_{s\beta}] h(\gamma), \text{ with } h(\gamma) = h_0 \sech^2 \left( \frac{h_0 \gamma}{\tau^* - \tau_0} \right), \quad (28)$$

where $\delta_{s\beta}$ is the Kronecker delta, $q$ is the latent hardening parameter, $\gamma = \int \sum_s \dot{\gamma}^{(s)} dt$ is the cumulated glide on all slip systems, $h_0$ is the initial hardening slope, $\tau^*$ relates to a saturation shear stress and $\tau_0$ is the initial critical resolved shear stress.

Additionally, straining induces large rotations and subsequent reorientation of the crystals. Within the formalism used here, the evolution of the crystal orientation matrix can be expressed in an incremental way as:

$$\dot{Q} = W^e \cdot Q = (W - W^p) \cdot Q, \quad (29)$$

4.2. Finite element implementation

The elastic-viscoplastic CP model was further implemented in the FE code ABAQUS/Explicit. In this code, the default coordinate system is the corotational frame (Hibbitt (1992)) associated with the Green-Naghdi objective derivative. This frame is generated by the rotation tensor $R$ calculated from the polar decomposition of the deformation gradient:

$$F = R \cdot U, \quad (30)$$

where $U$ is the right stretch tensor.

Thus for crystal plasticity implementation, three coordinate systems should be distinguished: the global frame, the Crystal lattice Axes Coordinate System (C.A.C.S) and the additional system defined above termed as the Material Element Coordinate System (M.E.C.S.), see Fig. 8.

Although only the fixed and crystal frames are involved in the theoretical model, efficiency can be improved by considering an implementation in the rotating objective space frames, namely the MECS and the CACS (Amirkhizi and Nemat-Nasser (2007)).
Several other authors Guan et al. (2006), Zamiri et al. (2007), Li et al. (2008), Rousselier et al. (2009), Segurado et al. (2012), Zhang et al. (2012) have proposed procedures to achieve finite element implementations in objective space frames. The algorithm adopted here is summarized in Table 5. Except for orientation update, numerical integration of rate equations was performed with explicit Runge-Kutta integration schemes of orders 1, 2 and 4. It has been confirmed, (Haddag et al. (2007), Franz et al. (2009)), that for constitutive models with a large number of internal variables, explicit integration schemes represent a good compromise between efficiency and accuracy. In the applications presented in this paper, the first order proved as accurate and robust as the second and fourth order Runge-Kutta scheme while being much more efficient. The Euler explicit scheme has also been tested in CPFEM by Grujicic and Batchu (2002), Dumoulin et al. (2009) and Dumoulin et al. (2012), Zhang et al. (2014) with very good results. Orientation update was performed using the method of Raphanel et al. (2004) in order to ensure that computed rotation matrices remain orthogonal.

In the remaining part of the paper and unless specified otherwise, quantities expressed in the CACS are indicated with a tilde while those in the MECS carry no distinctive symbol for the sake of clarity.

### 4.3. Parameter identification

The parameter identification was conducted while simulating experimental tests on Representative Volume Elements (RVE). The concept of RVE (e.g. Kanit et al. (2003), Gitman et al. (2007)) bridges the gap between the crystal scale and the macroscopical scale. Consistent comparisons can thus
• Initialise rotation matrix from CACS to MECS $O_{t=0} = Q_0$

- Input: $\sigma_n$, $U_{n+1}$, $U_n$
  Variables: $\tilde{\sigma}_n$, $O_n$, $\tilde{F}_n$, $\tilde{F}_c$, $\tau_{c_n}^{(s=1..12)}$, $\gamma_n$, $Q_n$
- Compute $D_{n+1} = \text{sym} \left( \dot{U} U_{n+1}^{-1} \right)$
- Rotation to CACS $\tilde{D}_{n+1} = O_n^T D_{n+1} O_n$ ; $\tilde{U}_{n+1} = O_n^T U_{n+1} O_n$
- Update (for $s=1..12$) $\tilde{S}_n^s = \tilde{F}_n^e \tilde{S}_c \tilde{F}_n^{e^{-1}}$ ; $\tilde{M}_n^s = \text{sym} \left( \tilde{S}_n^s \right)$
- Compute (for $s=1..12$) $\tau_n^s = \tilde{\sigma}_n : \tilde{M}_n^s$ ; $\tilde{\gamma}_n^s$ with Eq(24)
- Update $\tilde{F}_{n+1}^p = \tilde{F}_n^p + \Delta t \left( I + \sum_{s=1}^{12} \tilde{\gamma}_n^s \tilde{S}_c \right)$ ; $\tilde{F}_e^{n+1} = \tilde{U}_{n+1} \tilde{F}_e^{n+1}$
- Update (for $s=1..12$) $\tilde{S}_{n+1}^s = \tilde{F}_n^{e^{-1}} \tilde{S}_c \tilde{F}_n^e$ ; $\tilde{M}_{n+1}^s = \text{sym} \left( \tilde{S}_{n+1}^s \right)$ ; $\tilde{W}_{n+1}^s = \text{skew} \left( \tilde{S}_{n+1}^s \right)$
- Compute $\tilde{D}_{n+1}^p = \sum_{s=1}^{12} \tilde{\gamma}_n^s \tilde{M}_{n+1}^s$ ; $\tilde{W}_{n+1}^p = \sum_{s=1}^{12} \tilde{\gamma}_n^s \tilde{W}_{n+1}^s$
- Update $\tilde{\sigma}_{n+1} = \tilde{\sigma}_n + \Delta t \left[ C : \left( \tilde{D}_{n+1} - \tilde{D}_{n+1}^p \right) - \tilde{\sigma}_n tr \left( \tilde{D}_{n+1} \right) \right]$
- Update (for $s=1..12$) $\tau_{c_n+1}^s = \tau_{c_n}^s + \Delta t \left( \sum_{p=1}^{12} h^{sp} \tilde{\gamma}_n^p \right)$
- Update $O_{n+1} = \exp \left[ \Delta t \left( \tilde{W}_n^p \right) \right] O_n$ (Euler-Rodrigues formula)
- Rotation to MECS $\sigma_{n+1} = O_{n+1} \tilde{\sigma}_{n+1} O_{n+1}^T$

Table 5: Algorithm for the time integration of the crystal plasticity constitutive model.
be performed.
The numerical microstructure was generated using a Laguerre tessellation
(Quey et al. (2011)). Grain diameters were considered as weights and a
normal distribution employed with the mean grain size and the standard de-
viation as parameters. The microstructure was specified to be periodic. Each
grain was meshed with at least 20 solid reduced integration finite elements,
in order to guarantee sufficient accuracy for the prediction of the macroscopic
response (Diard et al. (2005), Lin et al. (2010), Belkhabbaz et al. (2015)).
The orientations attributed to the grains were obtained following a two step
procedure. First, the experimental orientation data (4460 triplets of Euler
angles) from EBSD were converted in an Orientation Distribution Function
(ODF) using the grain diameter as weights (Tarasiuk et al. (2004)). Then the
continuous distribution was discretised into the number of desired individual
crystallographic orientations. We thereby ensured that our volume elements
statistically represented the experimental texture even with few orientations.
Experimental pole figures and numerically sampled ones are compared in
Fig. 9. The numerical texture replicated the main characteristics of the ex-
perimential data.
Periodic Boundary Conditions were applied to the virtual volume elements.
Tensile tests were simulated on cuboid volume elements of increasing size
with 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800 grains in order to determine the
required size to be representative of the macroscopic behavior. Again, the
studied sheet metals were purposely chosen with enough thickness grains to
enable analysis with both phenomenological and CPFEM based models.
The macroscopic stresses and strains were obtained by averaging the corre-
sponding local values over the total volume. The convergence analysis, see
Fig. 10, revealed that above 500 grains, the scatter in the volume elements
macroscopic responses was negligible and a Representative Volume Element
can therefore be set up from a volume element with 500 grains.
The parameters of the P.A.N model were identified with respect to the ex-
perimential tensile test performed in the rolling direction. Indeed through rep-
resentation of material texture, anisotropy features are inherently accounted
for. Thus, only a few parameters had to be adjusted and no other exper-
imental test was required in the present calibration procedure. Flow rule
parameters, \( \dot{\gamma}_o \) and \( n \), are usual material values for room temperature Coo-
per that can be found in the literature (Tabourot (2001)). Hardening matrix
parameters, \( h_0 \), \( q \), \( \tau^* \) and \( \tau_0 \) are calibrated with respect to the RD tensile
test. As illustrated in Fig. 11, a good agreement was obtained between the
Figure 9: Pole figures obtained from a) EBSD experiments orientation data and b) numerically sampled orientations for the RVE.

5. Comparison of both approaches and discussion

5.1. Models descriptions for various strain paths

Tensile tests at 45° and 90° from the R.D. were simulated with the calibrated PAN model. The microstructure was numerically rotated by decreasing the RD corresponding Euler angle of the desired value (45° and 90°) while
Figure 10: Convergence analysis on Volume Elements for a CPFEM simulated tensile test in the RD. The RVE is shown on the right, prior to straining (with the mesh) and after deformation. The color of the grains is not related to their orientation.

(Model parameters: $h_0=300$ MPa, $\tau^*=750$ MPa, $\tau_0=250$ MPa, $q = 1.4$, $\dot{\gamma}_0=0.001$ s$^{-1}$, $n=50$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$h_0$ (MPa)</th>
<th>$\tau^*$ (MPa)</th>
<th>$\tau_0$ (MPa)</th>
<th>$q$</th>
<th>$\dot{\gamma}_0$ (s$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$n$</th>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Material parameters for CPFEM calibrated on a tensile test in the RD.

The simulated curves match closely with the experimental ones as can be seen in Fig. 12 and Fig. 13, both in the elastic-plastic transition zone and at higher strains, even though a little deviation arises at the very end of the $90^\circ$/RD curve.

Thus, using hardening parameters calibrated on a single tensile test in the RD, a good description of stress anisotropy was achieved with the CPFEM approach as the texture was accounted for.

The CPFEM model’s predictions under balanced biaxial tensile loading are
shown in Fig. 14. A good agreement was obtained between experimental and simulated curves. It is worth noting that the strain level used for this validation is three times larger than the strain level used for the parameter identification of the hardening model. Shear test in the RD, as well as reverse shear tests at different pre-strain ranges were also simulated. The response
under monotonic shearing was well reproduced, see Fig. 15, nevertheless the
predicted hardening rate being larger than the experimental one. Again,
similar behavior was also predicted with the phenomenological model, see
Fig. 6. The Bauschinger effect and permanent softening induced after strain
Figure 15: Experimental and CPFEM model simulated responses to monotonic shear loading.

path reversal were underestimated quite significantly by the CPFEM model as shown in Fig. 16.

In order to more accurately describe material response during strain reversal, several authors (Cailletaud (1992), Li et al. (2012)) introduce a kinematic hardening variable in the flow rule at the slip system level. That variable evolution is governed by an Armstrong-Frederick type law and its material parameters have to be fitted on cyclic tests. A different approach was proposed by Balland et al. (2011) which requires relatively less effort for identification. Different initial critical resolved shear stresses are distributed in the grains of the aggregate. Thereby stress inhomogeneity, which can be linked to such material behavior, is introduced in the model. A Rayleigh distribution was adopted to model an inhomogeneous repartition of the initial critical resolved shear stress in the aggregate. It is written as:

\[
f(\tau_o) = \frac{\tau_o}{(\tau_{0}^{\text{hom}})^2} \exp \left( -\frac{(\tau_o)^2}{2 (\tau_{0}^{\text{hom}})^2} \right),
\]

where the modal of the distribution \(\tau_{0}^{\text{hom}}\) is chosen equal to the previously identified initial critical resolved shear stress \(\tau_0\).

The latter approach proved successful for pre-strains up to 20 % as can
be seen in Fig. 17. However when the pre-strain is larger, the model still underestimates the Bauschinger effect and permanent softening induced.

These results tend to show that intergranular stress inhomogeneity may

Figure 16: Experimental reversed shear test and CPFEM model simulated curves.

Figure 17: Experimental reversed shear test and CPFEM model simulated curves while accounting for initial stress inhomogeneity.
be sufficient to describe strain reversal behavior up to moderate pre-strain levels. Afterwards, the effect of intragranular backstress cannot be neglected and the hardening model needs further improvements (Kim et al. (2012), Li et al. (2014)).

5.2. Phenomenological models calibration with a reduced experimental database

As described in the previous section, the CPFEM model was calibrated using only a tensile test in the RD as well as the measured texture. In order to establish a more relevant one-to-one comparison, the phenomenological models were recalibrated using a reduced experimental database. The latter consists only of the stress-strain curves for the monotonic tensile tests at 0, 45 and 90° with respect to the rolling direction.

The identification procedure was simplified accordingly:

- isotropic hardening parameters and a reference yield stress were identified considering the three tensile tests
- yield function shape parameters of Bron&Besson model retained the reference values ($a=b_1=b_2=2$)
- anisotropy parameters were identified on the considered database

Calibration of the models was conducted as previously, with the SiDoLo software, and the obtained parameter sets are given in Table 7 and Table 8. Then, the entire set of tests was simulated with this new set of parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$F$</th>
<th>$G$</th>
<th>$N$</th>
<th>$\sigma_0$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{sat}$</th>
<th>$C_R$</th>
<th>$n$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1.27</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>5780</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Material parameters for the phenomenological model and Hill’s 1948 yield function identified on the reduced database. $\sigma_0$ and $\sigma_{sat}$ are in MPa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$c_{11}$</th>
<th>$c_{12}$</th>
<th>$c_{13}$</th>
<th>$c_{14}$</th>
<th>$\sigma_0$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{sat}$</th>
<th>$C_R$</th>
<th>$n$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>5780</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Material parameters for the phenomenological model and Bron&Besson yield function identified on the reduced database. $\sigma_0$ and $\sigma_{sat}$ are in MPa.
As expected, this time the predictions of both models were less accurate. Bron&Besson still performed better than Hill’s 1948 model and described quite well yield stress anisotropy and stress levels, see Fig. 18. The predictions of equi-biaxial tensile loading are shown on Fig. 19. Hill’s 1948 model largely underestimated the stress level while Bron&Besson accurately described the hardening behavior only up to 5% of deformation. Both models provided fairly good predictions of monotonic shear tests. However since cyclic shear tests were not considered in the database, the two models did not describe the correct transient behavior after strain reversal, see Fig. 20. Also, Fig. 21 showed that strain anisotropy could not be captured by the models.

Figure 18: Prediction of the tensile tests at 0°, 45° and 90° with the phenomenological model based on the reduced database using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.
Figure 19: Prediction of the hydraulic bulge tests with the phenomenological model based on the reduced database using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.

5.3. Discussion

When calibrated on the full experimental database, the Bron&Besson model provided a good overall prediction of all the experiments and strain paths. Its eight anisotropy parameters enabled an excellent description of material anisotropy, both in flow stresses and plastic strain ratios. Let us recall that the parameter identification was performed to optimize simultaneously strain and stress anisotropy. Hill’s 1948 model could not accurately capture both features. It couldn’t account for the distinctive hardening slope at 0° from the RD and only the plastic strain ratio at 45° from the RD was well predicted. Nevertheless, it provided a description of equi-biaxial loading and shear tests nearly as good as the Bron&Besson model. Stress anisotropy was still well predicted by Bron&Besson model and failed using Hill’s 1948 model. However, this time neither of the two models could predict any of the plastic strain ratios. Bron&Besson model prediction for equi-biaxial loading was clearly better than Hill’s 1948 model but still it considerably lacked accuracy for large strains. The monotonic shear test description was quite good for both models while kinematic hardening effects in reversed shear loading
The CPFEM model, calibrated on a single tensile test in the RD and accounting for EBSD measured grain orientations, predicted remarkably well the stress-strain hardening curves. Thus, its predictions on stress anisotropy compare well with those of Bron&Besson model. Regarding equi-biaxial loading as well as the monotonic and reversed shear tests description, phenomenological models calibrated on the reduced database were outperformed by the CPFEM model. The latter even performed equally well on equi-biaxial loading with the former calibrated on the full experimental database. However, CPFEM model monotonic and reversed shear tests predictions were not as accurate as full database calibrated phenomenological models; especially for large pre-strained reversed shear loading, Bron&Besson and Hill’s 1948 models provide clearly more accurate predictions. Additionally, Fig. 22 shows that when it comes to strain anisotropy, the best description was clearly achieved by Bron&Besson model calibrated on the full database. This time, simulations were made at every 5° from the RD for the sake of completeness. The CPFEM model predictions were also in good agreement with experimen-
Figure 21: Prediction of the plastic anisotropy ratios with the phenomenological model based on the reduced database using the yield functions of a) Bron&Besson and b) Hill’s 1948. Symbols show the experimental values.

(a) Bron&Besson (reduced database)  
(b) Hill (reduced database)

Ultimately, the Bron&Besson model calibrated on the extended database provided the best description with respect to the existing experiments, demonstrating the possibilities of advanced phenomenological material models. However, collecting such an amount of experimental data is time consuming and not always affordable. Indeed, usual material characterization for industrial purposes often consist of tensile tests such as the reduced database employed in this work. If one considers such a database, it is clear that the CPFEM model stands out as the best modeling choice in terms of accuracy and robustness. Furthermore, it must be stated that the CPFEM model employed in the present study was relatively basic and designed to embed the least possible parameters to fit. This was intended to obtain a model relying fundamentally on material microstructure and texture input in the present case. As a result, only 3 parameters had to be adjusted. Up to 28 and 19 parameters had to be calibrated on the full database respectively for Bron&Besson model and Hill’s 1948 model. The calibration procedure was far more com-
plex for phenomenological models and required dedicated procedures and software. Additionally, it was demonstrated in the reduced database case that when confronted with strain paths that had not been accounted for in the calibration step, the phenomenological models could not provide good results. Consequently, the accuracy of phenomenological models calibrated on monotonic experiments alone (thus, involving only isotropic hardening) can be reasonably questioned whenever non-proportional strain paths may occur. In contrast, the CPFEM model calibrated on a single uniaxial tensile test proved capable of accurately predicting the mechanical response of a non-annealed copper alloy under various strain paths, although its reverse loading predictions were not perfect. As it accounts for deformation mechanisms, the shapes and orientations of the grains, the CPFEM model has the potential to predict global material behavior.

Figure 22: Prediction of the plastic strain ratios at 0°, 45° and 90° with the CPFEM model and the phenomenological models calibrated on the a) full experimental database and b) reduced experimental database.

6. Conclusion

State-of-the-art phenomenological models (Bron&Besson, Hill’s 1948) and a CPFEM classical model (Peirce-Asaro-Needleman type) were compared on
their ability to describe the mechanical response of very thin copper alloy sheet metals under several strain paths. Theoretical and numerical implementation aspects as well as material calibration of material parameters of the models were presented. It can be summarized that:

- The phenomenological model based on the BB yield function provided the best results and accurately predicted all the mechanical tests on which it was calibrated
- Hill’s 1948 could not perform well on the simultaneous description of stress and strain anisotropy
- both phenomenological models results were very sensitive to the scope of the experimental database considered for calibration; their predictions quality was poor on a reduced database
- in contrast, a basic CPFEM model calibrated on a single tensile test provided an overall good description of all explored strain paths and strain anisotropy
- an initial stress inhomogeneity between grains in the CPFEM model improved the prediction of the reversed shear test (especially the Bauschinger effect) up to moderate pre-strains

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References


