

# **Response Mechanism of Mechanical Behavior with Mg Plate Microstructure Evolution During Al/Mg/Al Composite Plate Rolled by hard Plate**

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# **Abstract**

The long manufacturing process, difficult coordinated regulation of structural properties and interface bonding ability are some of the difficulties that restrict the rapid development of lightweight composite plate forming and manufacturing for a long time. In order to solve the above problems, this paper proposes adding hard plate to roll Al/Mg/Al composite plates. The thickness of Mg/Al is 10:1, and the hard-plate rolling process experiments were carried out by designing five groups of diferent temperatures. The infuence of magnesium plate microstructure evolution on the interface bonding ability and mechanical behavior of composite plates is mainly studied. Under the same conditions, the matrix microstructure changes greatly from 200 to 350 °C. At 350 °C, the microstructure of Mg plate in ND is uniform without shear bands and twins. Its recrystallization ratio is 31.77%, which played a role in weakening the texture and reducing its anisotropy. Interestingly, in the process of three-point bending, the non-basal plane slip and the basal plane slip start simultaneously, the maximum bending strength of the composite plate reaches 504 MPa, and the interface was well bonded without obvious bending fatigue phenomenon. The tear test showed that the tear load reaches 0.42 kN, and the elastic elongation stage of Al is longer than the tear propagation stage, and the interface bonding was uniform. The hard plate rolling process provides scientifc guidance for the forming and preparation of composite plates.

**Keywords** Hard-plate hot rolling · Al/Mg/Al composite plate · Microstructure · Mechanical properties · Interface bonding strength

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# **1 Introduction**

Because it can realize the complementary advantages of each single board component and achieve the gain efect, the consumption of lightweight high-performance composite boards has increased sharply in recent years and has been widely used in weapons and equipment, rail transit, energy and chemical industries, and other fields  $[1-3]$  $[1-3]$ . Taking Al/ Mg/Al composite plate as an example, this "sandwich" structure can have the corrosion resistance of Al alloy [[4\]](#page-11-2) and at the same time have the characteristics of light specifc gravity and high specifc strength of Mg alloy [[5](#page-11-3)[–7](#page-11-4)]. However, how to prepare high-performance composite boards has always been a troublesome problem. Many existing processes can be used to prepare composite boards, but the performance of composite boards, especially the interface bonding ability, is difficult to guarantee.

Tang et al. [[8](#page-11-5)] prepared Al/Mg/Al composite plates by porthole die co-extrusion (PCE). The results showed that there was a two-layer difusion layer at the Al/Mg interface, and its width was changed signifcantly with the change of temperature and reduction ratio. But in the aluminum layer and magnesium layer appeared coarse grains and accompanied by strong texture. Chen et al. [\[9](#page-11-6)] also used the (PCE) method to prepare Al/Mg/Al composite plates. The results showed that the composite plates prepared by the PCE method had no obvious defects at the Al/Mg interface and played a certain role in weakening the texture. The hardness of the interface was lower than that of the matrix.

Bi et al [[10\]](#page-11-7) proposed a new method of ' full cover $age + stir friction$  welding + cumulative roll welding ' to prepare Al/Mg/Al composite plate. The experimental results showed that under the condition of 400 °C and single pass processing, there was no obvious defect at the interface junction and the edge damage was the smallest. After subsequent heat treatment, the difusion layer of the composite plate was obviously thickened and its performance was improved to a certain extent. Yang et al. [[11](#page-11-8)] found that the Al/Mg/ Al composite plate prepared by vertical explosive welding (EXW) would produce corrugated bonding morphology at the interface junction, forming Al/Mg mechanical interlocking to improve the bonding strength of Al/Mg plate. But there were dangerous, not environmental protection, defects and other defciencies.

In order to study the efect of rolling process on the microstructure, interface bonding and mechanical properties of Al/Mg/Al composite plate, Yu et al. [\[12](#page-11-9)] prepared Al/ Mg/Al composite plate by hot rolling. Through the research, it was found that the process can promote the difusion of elements at the interface to improve the compactness of the microstructure, and the fracture mode of the composite plate was changed from intergranular fracture to ductile fracture. In order to better prepare high-performance Mg/Al composite plates, Sun et al. [[13](#page-11-10)] studied the efects of rolling process parameters on the microstructure and mechanical properties of Al/Mg/Al composite plates. Studies had shown that the Al plate exhibits a non-uniform hardness distribution from the surface layer to the interface junction showing a gradual decline. The proportion of recrystallized grains at the center of the magnesium layer increased with the increase of reduction and temperature, and incomplete crystallization occurs at the interface junction.

By comparison, it can be seen that the rolling method is still the main method for forming and manufacturing highperformance lightweight composite sheets and is widely used [\[14–](#page-11-11)[16](#page-11-12)]. The existing research results showed that adding hard plates could convert part of the roll shear stress into compressive stress [[17\]](#page-11-13). However, due to the change in process conditions, it was more difficult to control the microstructure and uniformity, and it had an important impact on the interface bonding ability of composite plates. This paper takes this as the center for research.

## **2 Research Proposal**

#### **2.1 Process Principle**

The existing research results show that the addition of hard plate can achieve a large reduction in deformation in a single pass for the rolling of Al/Mg/Al composite plates. Hard-plate rolling is an efective way to realize the preparation of high-performance composite plates [\[18\]](#page-12-0). In the rolling process, the existence of the hard plate increased the compressive stress in the ND direction of the indirect contact between the composite plate and the roll, formed a metal fow velocity diference between Mg and Al, and then formed a mechanically interlocked interface bonding morphology, which signifcantly improved the performance. The preparation of light sheet by large reduction could also eliminate the shear band, reduce the shear deformation in the subsequent processing of composite plate, and realize the homogenization of structure. The process principle is shown in Fig. [1](#page-2-0).

In order to promote the more efective difusion of Mg/ Al atoms during the rolling process, the surface of AZ31 B magnesium alloy and AA1060 A aluminum alloy slab was polished by sandpaper before rolling, and it was placed in acetone solution for degreasing. The surface of the plate was washed with alcohol and dried naturally. To ensure that the composite slab is not separated during the rolling process, it is fxed with a 0.3 mm diameter wire. In order to prevent the adhesion between the liner and the composite plate during the rolling process due to the efect of compressive stress, a layer of high temperature isolating agent (boron nitride) was uniformly sprayed between the two, and stacked in the order shown in Fig. [1.](#page-2-0) The composite specimens were heat treated, holding time was 20 min, rolling temperature k was 200 °C, 250 °C, 300 °C, 350 °C, 400 °C. The experimental equipment is a two-roll mill with a speed of 6 rad/s and a single pass reduction of 65%. After preheating, the fxed end of the plate was sent to the rolling mill and air-cooled to room temperature.

The research materials were AZ31B plate with thickness  $t_1$  = 2 mm and AA1060 plate with thickness  $t_2$  = 0.2 mm. The chemical composition is shown in Table [1.](#page-2-1) The outermost side was S304 stainless steel plate with hard plate  $t_3 = 1$  mm.

## **2.2 Characterization of Mechanical Properties**

A Scanning electron microscope (SEM) was used to observe the interface connection morphology of the hard plate rolling composite plate. A three-point bending specimen with a length of 80 mm and a width of 5 mm was cut



<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Process principle of hard-plate rolling Composite Plate

<span id="page-2-1"></span>

at the center of the composite plate by wire cutting, and the three-point bending specimen was tested many times by a universal material testing machine to obtain the average value. A 100 mm long and 40 mm wide specimen was cut in the middle of the composite plate for the tear resistance test, and the average value of multiple groups of tests was taken to ensure its accuracy. A sample with a length  $\times$  width of 6 mm  $\times$  4 mm was cut by wire cutting technology, and 400 #, 800 #, 1500 #, 3000 #, 5000 # and 7000 # sandpaper were used for grinding, and then mechanical polishing was carried out to completely eliminate the infuence of scratches on the hardness of the sample surface. The hardness of diferent parts of the composite plate was tested by Vickers hardness tester under the condition of 25 g holding load, 10s holding time and 20 °C holding temperature.

## **2.3 Microstructure Characterization**

Observe the metallographic structure with an electron microscope (OM), and cut the EBSD sample in the ND direction on the magnesium side by wire cutting. The size of this specimen is 6 mm long and 4 mm wide. Abrasive papers of 400, 800, 1500, 3000, 5000, and 7000 grits, respectively, were used for grinding, followed by mechanical polishing and electrolytic polishing. The electrolytic polishing liquid was a mixture of phosphoric acid and alcohol, and the polishing time was set according to the diference in sample position. After electrolysis, use alcohol to quickly clean the surface of the sample. Finally, we tested using a Quanta 200 F feld emission scanning electron microscope. The Channel 5 software was used to denoise the original data standard and analyze EBSD data.

# **3 Results**

#### **3.1 Scanning of Interfaces**

The interface bonding morphology was an important index to refect the performance of the composite plate, so the scanning electron microscope (SEM) was used to analyze the interface morphology of the composite plate under different conditions, as shown in Fig. [2.](#page-3-0) When the temperature was  $k_1$ , that is 200 °C, the interface bonding morphology and difusion layer thickness were shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-0)a. It could be found that the Al/Mg bonding interface was basically not welded, resulting in a large gap, and there were only small connecting parts. At low temperatures, it was almost impossible to produce the mutual flow of Mg/Al elements to form the bonding morphology of mutual separation. At  $k<sub>2</sub>$ , that is 250 °C the metallurgical bonding of the Mg/Al interface was realized, as shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-0)b, but the forming temperature was low, the metal fow rate was slow, and the Mg and Al matrix at the interface were broken under the action of large reduction, and the broken layer thickness reaches 15 μm while the interface only accounts for about one third. Figure [2](#page-3-0)c shows the interface bonding morphology and



<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Al/Mg/Al interface morphology and line scan:  $\mathbf{a}$  k<sub>1</sub>;  $\mathbf{b}$  k<sub>2</sub>;  $\mathbf{c}$  k<sub>3</sub>; **d**  $k_4$ ; **e**  $k_5$ 

difusion layer thickness under the condition of 300 °C, that is  $k_3$ . As shown by the figure, compared with  $k_2$ , the brokenness of the matrix was greatly reduced, but the broken Al matrix still exists in the rolled state, and the thickness of the interface difusion layer was only 3 μm. Figure [2d](#page-3-0) shows the interface bonding morphology at 350 °C. From Fig. [2d](#page-3-0), it could be found that there were no defects such as pores and impurities at the interface bonding and the bonding was good. Under the condition of thermal deformation, the metal flow velocity at the interface increases, and the flow velocity diference occurs at the interface of diferent substrates, so that the joints show local protrusions and depressions so as to achieve the efect of mechanical interlocking. The interface bonding morphology at  $k_5$  is shown in the Fig. [2](#page-3-0)e, there are still local bulges and depressions, and the thickness of the interface diffusion layer is slightly greater than  $k_4$ .

#### **3.2 Tear Properties**

The tear test is one of the main methods to test the interface bonding ability of composite plates, and it is the most clearly demonstrated interface bonding uniformity and strength of composite panels in various mechanical tests. Figure [3](#page-4-0) shows the test curves for the tearing properties of Al/Mg/Al composite plates under diferent conditions. One part of the Al/Mg bonding layer on both sides of the composite plate was torn off, and one side was fixed with rivets, as shown in Fig. [3](#page-4-0)a, and the tearing performance was tested. Figure [3e](#page-4-0) shows the tearing curve at  $k<sub>4</sub>$ . It could be observed that compared with other conditions, the tearing curve tended to be stable as a whole, without obvious breakpoints and sharp increases, and the maximum load reaches 0.42 kN, and the minimum was 0.33 kN indicates that the bonding of Mg/Al interface was relatively uniform. In the partial enlarged view, there was a period of elastic deformation of Al before reaching the initial tearing point (purple ellipse) with a length of (a) As the tensile load increased, it gradually reached the initial tearing point and the length of the tearing process was the tear expansion stage of (b) When the load reaches the initial tearing point, the separation between Al and Mg begins, and in the tearing process, the separation along with the surrounding Al plate also occurs. That was the tear propagation stage. It could be found from Fig. [3e](#page-4-0) that the length a of the elastic elongation stage of Al is greater than the length b of the tear expansion process, and the load begins to gradually decrease after reaching the initial tear point, under the action of which the surrounding Al plate is stressed and gradually separated from the Mg plate, but stops immediately after the expansion length reaches b. It could be seen from 3.1 that the interface was only partially welded at  $k_1$ , so the tearing curve showed a platform area composed of a large number of straight lines and the load was very small. At  $k_2$ , a large number of broken areas appear at the interface, which greatly reduces the tearing load compared with  $k<sub>4</sub>$ . From Fig. [3](#page-4-0)c, it could be found that the curve fuctuation was very large and the interface bonding was rather uneven. The tearing curve at  $k_3$  is shown in Fig. [3d](#page-4-0). From the above analysis, it could be seen that the layer thickness was only 3 mm, so the tearing load was relatively low, and the degree of uniformity of interface bonding was signifcantly improved compared with that of  $k_2$ . Figure [3f](#page-4-0) shows the tearing curve at  $k_5$ . Although the tearing load was slightly increased, the interface bonding was not uniform.

#### **3.3 Bending Performance**

In order to explore the efect of interfacial bonding ability on the properties of the composite plate, the three-point bending performance test of the Al/Mg/Al composite plate and the SEM of the specimen after the test are shown in Fig. [4.](#page-4-1)



<span id="page-4-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Al/Mg/Al interface morphology and line scan **a** Schematic Diagram; **b** k<sub>1</sub>; **c** k<sub>2</sub>; **d** k<sub>3</sub>; **e** k<sub>4</sub>; **f** k<sub>5</sub>



<span id="page-4-1"></span>**Fig. 4** Three-point bending performance test of Al/Mg/Al composite plate **a** Three-point bending performance curve; **b**–**f** Sample scanning after bending

Figure [4](#page-4-1)a is the three-point bending test curve of the Al/Mg/ Al composite plate under diferent conditions. Due to the small size of the sample in the experiment, the cross-section of the sample gradually changed from a rectangle to a fan shape during the bending process, and the thickness was reduced, resulting in a gradual decrease in the load. It could be seen from Fig. [4](#page-4-1)a that the curve presents three deformation stages of elasticity, yield, and instability. The buckling phase was very short at  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ , and fracture occurs when the plastic deformation during bending is very small. At  $k_4$ ,

the buckling stage dominates and reaches 28.4 mm, and it reaches its maximum load of 0.0349kN in the yield stage. The maximum flexural strength formula  $[19]$  is shown in  $(1)$  $(1)$ 

$$
\sigma bb = 3pl/2bh^2 \tag{1}
$$

σbb is the tensile strength; P is the ultimate bending load; l is the span; b is the sample width; h is the sample thickness, and  $1/bh^2$  is defined as the size factor. From 2.3, it could be known that  $b=5$  mm,  $l=48$  mm,  $h=1$  mm. According to formula [\(1\)](#page-5-0), the maximum fexural strength is 504 MPa. At  $k_3$ , the buckling stage was 22.3 mm and the load was 0.038kN, both smaller than  $k_4$ , and its plastic deformation capacity and maximum fexural strength were not as good as  $k_4$ . The plastic deformation ability of  $k_5$  was almost the same as that of  $k_4$ , but the bending strength was far less than that of  $k_4$ . Figure [4e](#page-4-1) was the SEM scanning image of the bending specimen at  $k<sub>4</sub>$ , from which it could be found that there was no obvious phenomenon of micro-cracks due to fatigue damage at the outer Mg matrix of the bending, and the Mg/Al interface was still tightly bonded, as could be seen from the enlarged image no obvious micro-cracks ware generated at the interface joint. When the composite sheet was subjected to external stress during bending, the interface between the diferent matrices in the "sandwich" structure provided stress transformation, with weak interfaces was far from the indenter being compressive and strong interfaces

<span id="page-5-0"></span>closed to the indenter being subjected to tensile stress, a stress state in which the tensile and compressive stresses of pulling up and pressing down were transformed into each other in the composite board. The failure of composite panels usually originates from weak interfaces between diferent matrices. Due to the obvious destruction of weak interfaces by compressive stress, the bottom interface far away from the indenter is crucial to the bending properties of the laminates, resulting in improved bending properties of the composites. Compared with  $k_4$ ,  $k_3$  and  $k_5$ , there were small microcracks in the Mg matrix at the interface joint after bending, as shown in Fig. [4d](#page-4-1), f, but the microcrack of  $k_5$  was obviously smaller than that of  $k_3$ .

## **3.4 Microhardness**

Hardness testing is one of the most practical means of measuring sheet properties. When measuring diferent metals, Vickers hardness is the most accurate compared to Brinell and Rockwell indices. The hardness is related to the resistance of the material to plastic deformation. Mg alloys have a close-packed hexagonal structure, while Al alloys are facecentered cubic, so the hardness of Mg is much greater than that of Al [\[20\]](#page-12-2). Figure [5](#page-5-1) shows the comparison of the Vickers microhardness in the thickness direction of the Al/Mg/Al composite plate under diferent conditions. It was measured under the conditions of 25 g holding pressure and time, 10 s,



<span id="page-5-1"></span>**Fig. 5** Hardness and microhardness of Al/Mg/Al composite plate under diferent conditions

and temperature of 20 °C. As shown by the fgures, the hardness of the Mg matrix at  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  fluctuates greatly compared with other conditions, and the average hardness was high, which was due to the localized work hardening during the rolling process under the low temperature forming condition, which made the hardness very uneven. As it was  $k_3$ , the average hardness of the Mg matrix was 68.31 HV. As shown by the yellow straight line in the fgure, it could be found that the hardness fuctuates in waves near the average hardness. The average hardness at  $k_4$  was 66.17 HV (black straight line). The fgure shows that the hardness values fuctuate in a small range around the average hardness, and the Mg matrix structure is relatively uniform compared to other conditions. The red line in the fgure was the average hardness of 64.58 HV at  $k_5$ . At high temperatures, the softening hardness of the Mg matrix decreased and the uniformity was slightly inferior to that of k4. The fgure showed that the hardness of the Mg side was relatively uniform and had been fuctuating around the average hardness, while the hardness of the Al side was a phenomenon where the hardness increased signifcantly near the interface joint. Since the rolling temperature was lower than the recrystallization temperature of aluminum, the Al matrix was partially work hardened during the rolling process [[21\]](#page-12-3). forming a brittle and hard phase at the interface, which increases the hardness of the Al side. Since the volume fraction of the Mg matrix is as high as 83.3%, the hardness of Mg at the interfacial junction was not signifcantly improved.

## **4 Discussion**

It can be seen from the above analysis that, under  $k_4$  condition, the overall performance of the Al/Mg/Al composite plate is the best under diferent conditions. Because the Mg/ Al ratio used in this paper is 10:1, the infuence of Mg plate structure on the overall performance of composite plate is much greater than that of Al plate. Therefore, the microstructure of magnesium matrix under  $k_4$  condition was investigated by metallographic and EBSD analysis.

#### **4.1 Microstructure**

Because the stress state and deformation behavior of each layer of the composite plate were changed after the rolling was added, the evolution of the microstructure was very diferent from traditional rolling [\[22\]](#page-12-4). Figure [6](#page-6-0) shows the ND-direction microstructure of the magnesium sheet in the hard-plate rolled composite plate under diferent conditions.

In the traditional rolling, the sheet structure exhibits anisotropy due to shear deformation. Hard plate rolling can partially convert the shear force into pressure, so under the action of the rolling, the adverse efects caused by the anisotropy of the structure could be appropriately weakened. Fig-ure [6a](#page-6-0) shows the metallographic structure at  $k_1$ . It could be seen from the fgure that there were shear bands composed of broken grains and a small amount of dynamic recrystallization, as well as a large number of sheet twins (red



<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Fig.** 6 Microstructure of hard-plate rolled magnesium sheet under different conditions  $\mathbf{a}$  k<sub>1</sub>;  $\mathbf{b}$  k<sub>2</sub>;  $\mathbf{c}$  k<sub>3</sub> **d** k<sub>4</sub>;  $\mathbf{e}$  k<sub>5</sub>; **f** Grain size

box) and a small number of fat twins (blue box), with an average grain size of 12.93 mm. During dynamic recrystallization, the existence of sheet twins inhibits the energy for their nucleation process  $[23]$  $[23]$ . At the same time, the existence of twins would promote crack nucleation. When twins intersect with grain boundaries, the stress near the interface may be highly concentrated, which may induce cracks. The structure of the Mg matrix at  $k_2$  was shown in Fig. [6](#page-6-0)b. Due to the increase in deformation temperature, the twins were greatly reduced, but there were still shear bands. In the subsequent shear deformation, cracks would be generated at the shear bands, which was not conducive to the subsequent processing of the composite plate, with an average grain size of 9.47 mm. When the temperature was  $k_3$ , as shown in Fig. [6](#page-6-0)c, the shear band disappeared and a large number of equiaxed grains appeared, but there were some coarse grains with uneven grain morphology and an average grain size of 13.55 mm. At  $k_4$ , the microstructure was dominated by equiaxed grains without coarse grains, and the homogenization was greatly improved. Compared with  $k_3$ , the average grain size did not change signifcantly. When the rolling temperature was further increased, the uniformity of the structure changed signifcantly, but the grains grew signifcantly, and the grain size was 16.93 mm.

#### **4.2 Magnesium Plate Inverse Pole Figure (IPF)**

It can be seen from the above analysis that the ND of the magnesium sheet in the Al/Mg/Al composite sheet presents the phenomenon of uniformity of the structure. The preferred orientation of grains in the organization is called texture, and texture can have a great impact on the properties of the material, so the material is subjected to EBSD analysis. The IPF map is taken to analyze the texture characteristics and grain orientation diference of the material. The IPF color image, pole fgure and orientation distribution of the magnesium plate are shown in Fig. [7.](#page-7-0) It can be found from Fig. [7a](#page-7-0) that the microstructure of the magnesium plate is dominated by fne grains, and some dark-colored coarse deformed grains occasionally appear. In the deformed grains, it can be observed that a large number of sub-grain boundaries were continuously accumulated in the grains due to the obstacles encountered in the movement of dislocations. This large number of sub-grain boundaries provided energy for the nucleation of subsequent recrystallization. The main orientation of deformed grains was (0001) basal plane orientation, and there is a large amount of recrystallization in the structure. The grains are relatively uniform, with a high degree of refnement, and the grain orientation is relatively free. From the polar diagram in Fig. [7](#page-7-0)b, it can be seen that the region with the highest density was mainly distributed in the ND, that is the grain orientation⊥RD. Due to the application of the hard plate, the shear-force of the roll is partially converted into the compressive stress in the ND. Under the joint action of the shear force in the RD, the grains are twisted and then show the basal texture defected in the ND, and the maximum polar density point of the basal plane is 13.44. It can be seen from the grain boundary orientation in Fig. [7](#page-7-0)b that the grain boundary orientation is mainly concentrated in the sub-grain boundary  $( $2^{\circ}$ )$  formed by dislocation packing, accounting for about 29.9%, and reaches a peak at the orientation of 1.5°, indicating that the Error density is high. The low-angle grain boundaries  $(LAGBs, <15^{\circ})$ caused by the movement and rearrangement of accumulated



<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Fig. 7** Magnesium plate tissue **a** Microstructure; **b** (0001) areal polar diagram and grain boundary orientation

dislocations accounted for only 11.3%, and the rest were high-angle grain boundaries (HAGBs,  $>15^{\circ}$ ). However, a convex peak appears at 80°~90°, indicating that there are a certain number of tensile twins in the microstructure.

# **4.3 Schmid Factor**

The Schmid factor is closely related to critical shear stress (CRS), which can fully reflect the difficulty of starting the slip system in the process of metal deformation. The distribution of Schmid factor and corresponding Schmid Factor (SF) in different directions of the rolled magne-sium plate is shown in Fig. [8.](#page-8-0) Figure [8a](#page-8-0)–c) shows the IPF diagram of Schmid factor in different directions. From the figure, it could be observed that there were great differences in the color of grains in different directions. The RD slip mode is mainly substrate slip, while the TD is dominated by conical slip, while the normal direction is mainly cylindrical slip. At room temperature, Mg matrix plastic deformation only has base slip, and non-base slip is difficult to initiate. Under condition of thermal deformation, Mg matrix can have the phenomenon of



<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 8** Schmid factor **a** RD; **b** TD; **c** ND; **d** Poor orientation

coordinated deformation of base slip and non-base slip at the same time. Figure [8](#page-8-0)d shows that under thermal deformation, the magnesium alloy is dominated by cylindrical slip, with a frequency as high as 13.1%, while basal slip is only a minor factor. Under condition of large reduction, high stress concentration will occur at the grain boundary during rolling [[24](#page-12-6)], and the stress concentration results from the accumulation of dislocations at the grain boundary and the large plastic deformation stress between adjacent grains. Critical shear stress (CRSS), as one of the components of deformation stress, is one of the key factors for the initiation of base surface slip and non-base surface slip. Shift is easy to operate. The opening of nonbasal slip is a major incentive for the improvement of the plastic deformation of magnesium alloys. It is well known that the basal slip of magnesium alloys has only three slip systems, while plastic deformation requires at least five. The slip systems act simultaneously, so the actuation of the non-basal plane slip can promote the plastic deformation of the magnesium alloy, and to a certain extent, it can weaken the strength of the mixed texture.

#### **4.4 Recrystallization Behavior**

From 4.1, it can be seen that there are a large number of sub-grain boundaries that continue to rotate, leading to the gradual formation of continuous dynamic recrystallization (CDRX) at high angle grain boundaries and the nucleation and growth of discontinuous dynamic recrystallization (DDRX) at large angle grain boundaries through grain boundary migration. In order to further explore the change and evolution of recrystallization of magnesium alloy sheets, the as-rolled microstructure is analyzed.

It is discovered by Fig. [9](#page-9-0)a, b) that the liner rolled Mg plate is composed of recrystallization, sub-grain, and a large number of deformed grains, and the recrystallization distribution is uniform and did not form the "necklace" shape in the traditional liner rolling structure and coarse grains. This was because during the rolling process, the dislocations accumulated in the coarse grains provided energy for recrystallization nucleation and promoted the formation of recrystallization. However, due to the high rolling temperature, most of the recrystallized grains grew up. Figure [9](#page-9-0)d shows the proportions of recrystallized, sub-grains, and deformed grains. Among them, recrystallized grains accounted for 31.77%, sub-grains accounted



<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 9** Recrystallization behavior **a** Recrystallized IPF; **b** Recrystallized grains; **c** KAM; **d** Diferent grain proportions; **e** Pole fgure; **f** KAM distribution

for 18.86%, and deformed grains accounted for 49.36%. The pole fgure distribution of the recrystallized grains is shown in Fig. [9](#page-9-0)e. It can be seen that the distribution was mainly concentrated in the RD of the two poles of the ND. Due to the large local storage in the twins, it would appear in the process of induced dynamic recrystallization. The phenomenon of uneven stress distribution eventually leads to the defection of the recrystallized grain orientation to a certain extent. As shown in Fig. [9](#page-9-0)c, kernel average misorientation (KAM) refects the degree of homogenization of the plastic deformation of the material [\[25\]](#page-12-7). The blue part, with lower stored energy in the grain, dominates, and there was almost no dark part with higher energy. Combined with Fig. [9a](#page-9-0), there was still some residual strain energy in the deformed grain. From Fig. [9f](#page-9-0), it could be seen that a large number of dense dislocations accumulate at LAGBs, which was due to the fact that the recrystallized grains could continue to undergo GBs deformation, so that dislocations aggregate at grain boundaries, while there were fewer dislocations in HAGBs. Combined with the above analysis, it can be seen that the recrystallization nucleation and growth process of the Mg plate structure are relatively sufficient and the structure is uniform the bonding strength and comprehensive mechanical properties of the composite board.

## **4.5 Twin and Deformed Grains**

During the rolling process of the composite plate, there are a large number of deformed grains and small amount of tensile twins in the ND of the magnesium sheet. In order to explore its effect on the plastic deformation of magnesium sheets during rolling, two kinds of grains were analyzed separately. Figure [10](#page-10-0) shows two diferent grain structures. From Fig. [10a](#page-10-0), it can be found that the grain structure consists of various compositions. Combined with Fig. [10c](#page-10-0) KAM, it can be seen that the residual strain energy inside the grain was high, and there were a large number of sub-crystals. The orientation diference between the two points and the point to the origin is shown in Fig. [10b](#page-10-0). It could be found from the curve that the grain orientation was constantly changing and the defection angle reaches a peak at 7.8 m from the origin, but the orientation near the grain boundary was almost the same. In the point-to-point curve, there was mainly a large amount of defection between adjacent parts, which was due to the climbing and entanglement of dislocations,



<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Fig. 10** Twins and deformed grains **a** Deformed grains; **b** Poor orientation; **c** Deformed grain pole diagram; **d** Twinning; **e** Grain orientation; **f** Twin pole diagram

which produced deformation energy inside the grain and twists [[26](#page-12-8)]. The grains and grain orientations of twins and their precursors were shown in Fig. [10](#page-10-0)d, e). Combined with the IPF diagram of the magnesium plate, it could be found that there was a large amount of residual strain energy in the parent body, and the grain orientation of the twins had a large deviation angle compared with the parent body, which may be because the twins fail to induce recrystallization during the rolling process. The strain energy was retained in the matrix and the grains are twisted. The projected positions of deformed grains were mainly distributed at both ends of the ND direction, that is, the grain orientation RD, as shown in Fig. [10c](#page-10-0), f), while the extremely dense region of twins was only near the ND end point. The pole density value for deformed grains is 85.05 and for twins is 164.05. The textural strength of twins is much higher than that of deformed grains. The strong texture of twins can improve the strength of the composite plate, that is, geometric strengthening, but reduce its ductility. From IPF and Fig. [10](#page-10-0)d), it can be found that twins only exist in trace amounts, mainly dominated by weakly textured deformed grains and recrystallization. Ding's research on the texture weakening of magnesium matrix by adding Ca element by hot extrusion confrmed that the comprehensive properties of the material were signifcantly improved after texture weakening [[27\]](#page-12-9). This showed that the texture weakening anisotropy of the Mg sheet in the Al/Mg/Al composite sheet rolled by the liner was reduced, and the performance was signifcantly improved.

# **5 Conclusion**

- 1. The research shows that the microstructure and morphology of the Mg side in the ND direction of the Al/Mg/ Al composite plate rolled with a single pass and large reduction amount change greatly when the temperature k value changes. From the dominance of shear bands and twins at k1 to the homogenization of the structure at k4, and the grain growth at k5. At k4, the recrystallization ratio is as high as 31.77%, the deformed grains account for 49.36%, and the sub-crystals account for only 18.86%. Combined with KAM analysis, it is found that a large amount of residual strain energy does not appear in the deformed grains, and the degree of recrystallization is much higher than that of the traditional rolling process.
- 2. There are only a few twins in the Mg sheet, and the ND direction shows the phenomenon of texture weakening, and its anisotropy is signifcantly reduced. And under the forming conditions of k4, the non-base surface slip is easy to start and dominates, so that the composite plate has good plasticity and bending resistance in subsequent

applications, and its maximum bending strength is as high as 504 MPa.

3. The interface of the composite plate is tightly bonded without obvious macroscopic defects. During the tearing process, the elastic deformation stage of Al is signifcantly longer than the tearing expansion stage and the load reaches 0.45kN. The interface bonding is uniform and the strength is high. The brittle-hard phase is produced at the interface joint, which increases the hardness of the Al side at the joint, but the hardness of the Mg side does not change signifcantly due to the uniform structure.

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#### **Declarations**

**Conflict of interest** The authors indicate that they have no fnancial relationship with the organization that sponsored the research. And the authors declare that they have no confict of interest.

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