Three-dimensional Computation of Thermal Plasma including the Influence of Metal Electrodes by Arc Discharge

Lee Won-Ho ¹ and Lee Jong-Chul ¹
¹Gangneung-Wonju National University, Korea, Republic of

Thermal plasma generated by arc dischargeprovides the stable and intense heat source and have been used in surfacetreatment and welding processes in the aerospace, automotive and electronicindustries. It is difficult to reliably predict and precisely control becauseof the lack of understanding of physical phenomenon for material processing insuch a process. Therefore, many 2D studies have been conducted on free-burningarc and plasma configurations using numerous experimental results. However,thermal plasma generated by arc discharge appears in three-dimensional space,and it is necessary to study some three-dimensional physical aspects such asthe effect of vortex injection in nozzle, arc attachment or arc-metal electrodeinteraction. Therefore, we conducted three-dimensional numerical analysis using the commercial program ANSYS CFX to predict temperature profiles between thermal plasma and metal electrode in this study. As a result, it was found that the predicted temperature profiles of thermal plasmas and metal electrodewas in good agreement with experimental data and two dimensional results.