注入系耐火物の進展

Development of teeming system refractories

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1 緒言

連続鋳造用耐火物,特に,上部ノズルから浸漬ノ ズルに至る溶鋼注入系耐火物は,鋼の品質を最終決 定するため,より高い信頼性とより一層の高機能化が 要求される分野である。黒崎播磨(㈱でも,閉塞防止 技術,高耐食性化技術,高耐熱衝撃性化技術,湯 流れ最適制御技術等,これまで数多くの研究開発が この分野で行われてきた。本稿では,注入系耐火物 を代表する浸漬ノズルの開発の歴史を振り返りなが ら,近年開発された特徴のある技術,材質について 解説することにする。

2 浸漬ノズル

浸漬ノズルは、TDから水冷鋳型に溶鋼を搬送し、 鋳型内の溶鋼の乱流防止や酸化防止などのために使 用される。鋳片の品質を最終決定する耐火物である ため、その品質、耐用の信頼性に加えて高度な機能 が要求される。浸漬ノズルの歴史は、1966年ドイツ Dillingen 製鋼工場のスラブ工場で初めて使用された と言われる¹⁾。当初の浸漬ノズルは、粘土-黒鉛系が 使用され、前後して溶融石英質のノズルも使用されて いた。日本でアルミナ-黒鉛質の浸漬ノズル (AG ノ ズル)の使用が始まったのは 1970年代前半からであ る。1970年代のAGノズルはピッチボンド製品であっ たが、1980年代初期に残炭量が高く、熱硬化性のフェ ノール樹脂が紹介されると、製造、品質、環境面で 優位であったため、急速にフェノール樹脂品に置き換 わっていき、現在主流となっている²⁾。

当社での浸漬ノズルの製造が開始したのは1978年 であり、以来、閉塞防止、高耐用化、鋳造安定性を 指向した数々の材料やノズル構造が開発され実用化さ れてきた(図1)。浸漬ノズルの成形方法は、ラバーモー

1 Introduction

Refractories for continuous casting, especially molten steel teeming system refractories from tundish (TD) upper nozzle to submerged entry nozzle (SEN), are parts where higher reliability and higher functionality are required for determining finally the quality of the steel products. In the Krosaki Harima Corporation, many researches and developments have been also conducted in this field. They are technologies on nozzle blockage prevention, corrosion resistance, thermal shock resistance, and optimum control of molten steel flow. In this article, while reviewing the history of the development of the submerged entry nozzle (SEN) as a representative teeming system refractories, the characteristic technologies and materials developed in recent years in this field are introduced and explained.

2 Submerged Entry Nozzle (SEN)

SEN is used to transport molten steel from tundish (TD) to water-cooled mold with expectations on prevention of both turbulent flow and oxidation of the molten steel in the mold. Since the refractories determine the final quality of the steel slab, more advanced functions are required in addition to their quality and reliability. A history of the SEN is said to have been used at the first time 1966 for the slab manufacturing in the German Dillingen steelmaking plant¹⁾. The original SEN was made of a clay-graphite system material, and a fused silica nozzle was also used almost simultaneously with that time. Then an aluminagraphite material began to be used for the SEN (AG nozzle) in Japan in the early 1970s. The AG nozzle in that time was a pitch-bonded product, but in the early 1980s, thermosetting phenolic resins with high residual carbon were introduced as the binder. Since the resin used product was superior to the pitch-bonded one in the manufacturing process, the quality of the product, and the environmental adaptation, the phenolic resin product has replaced the conventional one and became mainstream²⁾. Our company began to produce the SEN in 1978, and since then, a number of materials and nozzle structures have been developed and put to practical use with aiming to prevent clogging of the nozzle, resulting in both increased ルドを用いた静水圧プレス(CIP: Cold Isostatic Press)によって製造されるため、部位毎に材質を変 えることができるため、非常に多彩な機能をもった浸 漬ノズルが実現できるようになった。図2に各種浸漬 ノズルの構造例、表1に近年開発された材質の品質例 を示した。

比較的しっかりと予熱されて使用される浸漬ノズル は、耐熱衝撃性の課題は小さく、むしろ鋼品質や生 産性や製造コストに影響を与える1)ノズル閉塞問題、 2)鋳型内での溶鋼の偏流問題、3)パウダーライン 部での溶損問題に実に多くの努力が払われてきた。 以下に詳細を説明する。

2・1 ノズル閉塞問題

浸漬ノズルの閉塞問題は,a)スリットタイプの適用, もしくはb)難付着性材質の適用によって解決が図ら れてきた。

a) スリットタイプの開発

1971年にArガス導入によりアルミナ付着防止の有 効性が確認されて以来,日本では1980年始めに浸 漬ノズルからのArガス吹き込みが行われ³⁾,その後 改良が加えられ,現在の吹き込み構造となっている。 当社では,1984年に浸漬ノズル内孔壁の一部に通気 性材質を設けたスリット型浸漬ノズルを開発した。通 気性耐火物は,アルミナーシリカー黒鉛系材質が主流 durability of it, and stability of casting operation (see **Fig.1**). Since the cold isostatic pressing (CIP) with a rubber mold is applied for forming the SEN, the SEN with a wide variety of functions can be manufactured easily by changing the material for part by part. **Figure 2** shows examples of the structure of the SEN, and **Table 1** shows examples of the composition and property of them.

When the SEN is used with relatively sufficient preheating, the thermal shock resistance have little impact. But problems on 1) nozzle clogging, 2) drift of molten steel in the mold, and 3) erosion in the powder line of the SEM rather effect on quality, productivity, and manufacturing cost of the steel products. Many efforts have been made to solve the problems and the details are explained below.

2.1 Nozzle clogging

The clogging of the SEN has been tried to solve by applying a) a slit type or b) anti-adhesion material. a) A slit type

Since 1971 the alumina buildup was confirmed to prevent effectively in Japan by introducing Ar gas. Ar gas blowing³ from the porous part of the SEN started at the beginning of the 1980s, and then improvements were made, resulting in the current blowing structure.

In 1984, we developed a slit-type SEN with an air permeable material in part of the inner wall of the nozzle. The permeable material are mainly made of alumina-silicagraphite system. The Ar gas blowing, which is also put into practice from both TD upper nozzle and sliding nozzle (SN) plate, is effective for floating and removing nonmetallic inclusions in addition to prevention of clogging in the teeming system⁴). So, it is essential technology for the

【 History of Submerged entry nozzle (SEN) 】

- 1966 First application of the SEN / Dillingen, Germany for slab casting
- 1968 Start to use fused silica materials for the SEN
 - \sim Low corrosion resistant, devitrification, and degradation problem \sim
- 1970 Alumina-graphite materials (CIP formed) \sim made by Vesuvius Crucible Co., Ltd. \sim
- 1971 Start to use gas-introducing SEN (Canada, Ar gas blowing by PAKS method)

【 Technical development of the SEN in Krosaki 】

- 1978 Start manufacturing the SEN
- 1981 Development of slit-type SEN
- 1986 Development of ZCG system anti-adhesion type materials
- 1988 Development of high-durable ZG materials
- 1995 Development of carbon-less system anti-adhesion type materials
- 2007 Development of high thermal shock resistant materials (FANON-TUBE)
- 2011 Development of CFN (Clean flow nozzle)
- 2015 Development of high functional DG nozzle

Fig. 1 Histories of submerged entry nozzle (SEN) and technical development of nozzle clogging prevention in Krosaki (photo : appearance of various types of SEN).





Fig. 2 Example of SEN structure.

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Application part		Main body		Powder line					
Material		high SiO ₂ & high C	SiO ₂ -less	high C	low C				
Characteristic		high spall resistance	high corrosion resistance	high spall resistance	high corrosion resistance				
Chemical composition / mass%	Free C	25	23	22	9				
	Al ₂ O ₃	50	65	-	-				
	SiO ₂	26	3	-	-				
	ZrO ₂	-	5	74	86				
	CaO	-	-	-	-				
	MgO	-	-	-	-				
Thermal expansion at 1000 °C / %		0.23	0.34	0.37	0.37				
Application part		Liner							
Applicatio	on part			Lii	ner				
Applicatic Mater	on part ial	AG	AG air permeable	Liı C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO	ner C & SiO ₂ free	ZCG	DG		
Applicatio Mater Characte	on part ial eristic	AG	AG air permeable gas blowing	Lii C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion	ZCG anti-adhesion	DG anti-adhesion		
Applicatio Mater Characte	on part ial eristic Free C	AG normal 17	AG air permeable gas blowing 20	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion -	ZCG anti-adhesion 27	DG anti-adhesion 20		
Applicatio Mater Characte	n part ial eristic <u>Free C</u> Al ₂ O ₃	AG normal 17 63	AG air permeable gas blowing 20 63	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2 72	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion - 96	ZCG anti-adhesion 27 -	DG anti-adhesion 20 -		
Applicatio Mater Characte Chemical	$\frac{\text{Prime C}}{\text{SiO}_2}$	AG normal 17 63 19	AG air permeable gas blowing 20 63 12	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2 72 -	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion - 96 -	ZCG anti-adhesion 27 - -	DG anti-adhesion 20 - -		
Applicatio Mater Characte Chemical composition / mass%	$\frac{\text{pristic}}{\frac{\text{Free C}}{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3}}$ $\frac{\text{SiO}_2}{\text{ZrO}_2}$	AG normal 17 63 19 -	AG air permeable gas blowing 20 63 12 -	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2 72 - -	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion - 96 - -	ZCG anti-adhesion 27 - - 50	DG anti-adhesion 20 - - -		
Applicatio Mater Characte Chemical composition / mass%	n part ial eristic Al ₂ O ₃ SiO ₂ ZrO ₂ CaO	AG normal 17 63 19 - -	AG air permeable gas blowing 20 63 12 - -	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2 72 - - -	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion - 96 - - 3	ZCG anti-adhesion 27 - - 50 21	DG anti-adhesion 20 - - - - 70		
Applicatio Mater Characte Chemical composition / mass%	n part ial eristic Al ₂ O ₃ SiO ₂ ZrO ₂ CaO MgO	AG normal 17 63 19 - -	AG air permeable gas blowing 20 63 12 - - -	Lin C-less Al ₂ O ₃ -MgO anti-adhesion high corrosion resistance 2 72 72 - - - 25	ner C & SiO ₂ free anti-adhesion - 96 - - 3 -	ZCG anti-adhesion 27 - - 50 21 -	DG anti-adhesion 20 - - - 70		

Table 1	Examples of the	composition and	property of SEN materi	als
			FF	

となっている。上部ノズルや SN プレートからも行わ れる Ar ガスの吹き込み技術は,注入系の閉塞防止 に加えて,介在物の浮上・除去効果があるため⁴⁾,介 在物の混入を嫌う鋼の鋳造では,重要な技術となっ ている。

付着を抑制し,安定鋳造に寄与できたため,業界 のトップシェアを獲得し,当社の主力製品となってい る。

b) 難付着材質の開発

難付着特性を有した材質開発は、最も研究が盛ん な分野である。アルミナ閉塞は、鋼中脱酸生成物ま たは鋳造中の再酸化で生じたアルミナがノズル壁に付 着する現象であるが、その析出機構については、多く の説が提案されている 5-7)。付着を最小限に抑えるノ ズル材質設計においても、未だに改善の余地がある。 耐火物側の付着原因成分として考えられる炭素やシリ カを,除去または低減した材質系として,1995年以 降にカーボンレス材質やシリカレス材質が開発されて きており、現在でも適用されている。また、1990年 代から溶鋼中の介在物と反応し、耐火物/溶鋼界面 でスラグ生成能を有した材質系として、ZrO₂-CaO-C (ZCG) 系⁸⁾が適用されてきたが、鋼種、操業条件に よっては十分な効果がでない場合があった^{9,10)}。2000 年以降は、当社独自に材質に特化して、世界で唯一 ノズル閉塞に強い高 CaO 質のドロマイト質材質 (DG) を開発している。ドロマイト材質はアルミキルド鋼と 接触することで、その界面で高 CaO 質のスラグ層を 生成する特徴を有する。このスラグ層の生成により, 溶鋼との濡れ性が向上する等の効果で、高い難付着 効果を長時間維持することができる。その後、顧客 での使い易さで改良研究を行い、現在では一般 AG casting process of the steel that prefer not to contain the inclusions. Since it was able to suppress adhesion and contribute to stabilize the casting operation, it gained the top share in the refractories industry and has become one of our main products.

b) Development of anti-adhesion materials

Considerable efforts have been putting into the development of materials with anti-adhesion properties. Alumina buildup is a phenomenon in which the deoxidized products in the molten steel or alumina were formed by oxidizing during casting with depositing on the nozzle wall. Various approaches have been proposed to understand the mechanism of the deposition phenomenon ⁵⁻⁷.

There is still room for improvement for nozzle materials design to minimize the deposition. Carbon-less and silica-less materials have been developed by removing or reducing the carbon and the silica from 1995 and are used even in today, since the components of the nozzle materials are considered as those leading to the deposition. In addition, since the 1990s ZrO2-CaO-C (ZCG) system material⁸⁾ that reacts with inclusions in the molten steel and enhances slag formation at the nozzle / molten steel interface has been applied. The efficacy of the ZCG nozzle, however, was not necessarily satisfactory, depending on the steel grade and operating conditions^{9,10)}. Since 2000, we have concentrated on the specific materials and developed the high CaO dolomite (DG) material with high resistance to nozzle clogging which is the one and only in the world. The DG material has characterized by forming a slag layer with high CaO at the surface when contacting with Al killed steel. Since the slag layer is formed continuously, the higher resistance to the adhesion can be maintained for a long time. Furthermore, we have improved the ease of use of the DG material for customers, and now we have commercialized it as a DG nozzle with excellent thermal shock resistance that can be handled in the same way as general AG nozzle. The appearance of the DG nozzle applying the developed DG material to the immersion part and the inner wall part and a general AG nozzle are compared in Fig.3 after using as the SEN for the casting



Fig. 3 Appearance of the SEN after casting (Left: used AG conventional product after 3ch., Right: used DG nozzle after 9ch.).

と同様の取り扱いが可能で,耐熱衝撃性に優れた, DGノズルとして製品化した。開発した DG 材質を浸 漬部および内壁部に適用した DGノズルと一般 AGノ ズルとを用いて,同一鋼種を鋳造した際の比較写真 を図3に示す。一般 AGノズルでは 3ch.後に閉塞傾 向であるのに対し,DGノズルでは 9ch.使用後も初 期形状を維持出来ており,長時間にわたり閉塞防止 に有効であることが分かる。

2・2 鋳型内での溶鋼の偏流問題

連続鋳造工程において、A1 脱酸鋼では顕著であ るが、タンディッシュ(TD)に用いられる上部ノズル や浸漬ノズル等の注入系耐火物の内壁へアルミナ等 の非金属系介在物が付着することが多く確認されて いる。注入系耐火物の内孔および吐出孔部へ介在物 付着が進行するとノズル閉塞を起こし所定の溶鋼流 量が鋳型内へ供給困難となり、操業を中断せざるを 得なくなる事象や鋳型内の流動が安定せず、湯面変 動や偏流を助長し、鋳片品位の低下やブレイクアウト 等の操業トラブルを招くことがある。

本項では溶鋼流の乱流抑制により溶鋼中介在物が 耐火物表面へ付着を起こし難くする新規形状を実機 に適用した結果を報告する。

1) 乱流抑制のためのノズル内孔形状に関する基本 的概念

TD上部ノズルと浸漬ノズルの新規形状の基本的 概念については溝部らにより報告されている^{11,12)}。



Fig. 4 Schematic illustration of the vertical section of a TD and its upper nozzle in the right hand figure to explain a fundamental concept for suppression of the increase in kinetic energy for the turbulent flow in the nozzle based on the pressure distribution in the TD shown in the left hand figure¹¹. same grade steel. The general AG nozzle tends to clog after 3ch., while the DG nozzle maintains its initial shape even after 9ch., indicating that the clogging is prevented effectively for a long time.

2.2 Drift of molten steel in the mold

Nonmetallic inclusions such as alumina have been confirmed to deposit severely on the inner wall of the upper nozzle (UN) and SEN used in TD in the continuous casting system, when processing Al-killed steel. When the buildup of the inclusions occurred on the inner hole and ejection parts of the teeming system refractories, the teeming nozzles are finally clogged, making it difficult to supply the prescribed molten steel into the mold, and the operation must be interrupted. The unstabilized flow in the mold fluctuates the molten steel surface and drifts, resulting in the operational troubles such as deterioration of slab quality and finally breaking out.

In this section, we have introduced the result of applying a new shape to the actual teeming system that makes it difficult the inclusions in the molten steel to deposit on the refractories surface by suppressing the turbulent flow of the molten steel.

1) Basic concepts of nozzle inner shape for turbulent flow control

The basic concepts of the new shapes for both TD upper nozzle and SEN have been proposed by Mizobe et $al^{11,12}$.

The basic concept of the TD upper nozzle inner shape is described in **Fig.4**. The molten steel flow velocity V flowing through the nozzle inner is obtained by converting the potential energy determined by the molten steel surface height Hr of the TD into kinetic energy. According to the energy conservation law, if the static



Fig. 5 Contours of kinetic energy for turbulent flow with in the TD upper nozzle:(a) conventional shape and (b) ideal-line shape shown by the formula (3)¹¹.

ノズル内孔形状の基本的概念について図4にて説 明する。ノズル内孔を流れる溶鋼流速Vは,TDの 湯面高さHrで決まる位置エネルギーが運動エネル ギーに変換されることにより得られる。エネルギー保 存則からこの系の静的圧力をPとすると,溶鋼密度を ρ,重力加速度をgとして次の(1)式(ベルヌーイの式) が成立する。

$$\frac{\rho V^2}{2} + \rho g H r + P = Const.$$
(1)

そして流量を Q, 流速を V, 断面積を A とすれば, ノズルのどの高さ位置においても流体の連続性から次 の関係が成立する。

$$Q = V \cdot A = Const. \tag{2}$$

ノズルの半径 R から, A=π・R²であるので, Rと仮 想溶鋼ヘッド高さ Hの関係として整理すると, 最終的 に次式の関係が成立する。

$$R \propto H^{-1/4} \tag{3}$$

即ち、(3) 式はエネルギー損失を最小にするノズル 内孔形状を表す曲線である図4に示す理想線を数式 で表したものである。流動解析により計算されたノズ ル内部に発生する乱流エネルギー分布において、従 来形状に比べて新規形状は乱流エネルギーが非常に 小さくなっていることが分かる(図5)。

2) 浸漬ノズルの新規吐出孔形状について

吐出孔部では *H=X'*(吐出孔出口から入口に向かう 位置) および *V=Vx*(吐出孔内部流速の*X*成分と書き 換えることによって(1) 式は次のように表される。

$$\frac{-\rho V x^2}{2} + (\rho g' X' + P + \alpha) = Const.$$
(4)

ここで g' は吐出孔内部における重力加速度であり, 吐出孔流路方向と水平方向の吐出傾斜角度をθとす ると, g'=g×tan θ である。α は吐出孔内部に発生する X 成分以外の運動エネルギーであり, 乱流などにより 発生するエネルギー損失も含まれるものとする。

浸漬ノズルの場合の溶鋼が通過するときのエネル ギー分布を図6に模式的に示すが,吐出孔の入口か ら出口までの範囲を通して安定したエネルギー分布を 得るためには,(4)式における左辺第2項である (pg'X'+P+a)即Vx²(運動エネルギー)が,X'に対し て直線的に変化し,同図中 "Non-Inflection Line" で示す編曲点が無い一次関数的な運動エネルギーを pressure of this system is *P*, the molten steel density is ρ , and the gravitational acceleration is g, the following formula (1) (Bernoulli's formula) will be established.

$$\frac{\rho V^2}{2} + \rho g H r + P = Const. \tag{1}$$

If the flow rate is Q, the flow velocity is V, and the cross-sectional area is A, the following relationship is established from the fluid continuity at any height of the nozzle.

$$Q = V \cdot A = Const. \tag{2}$$

Since $A = \pi \cdot R^2$ from the radius *R* of the nozzle, if the relationship between *R* and the height of the virtual molten steel head *H* is arranged, the following relationship is finally established.

$$R \propto H^{1/4} \tag{3}$$

Equation (3) is an expression of the ideal line shown in **Fig. 4**, which is a curve representing the shape of the nozzle inner that minimizes energy loss. In the turbulent energy distribution generated inside the nozzle calculated by flow analysis, it can be seen that the turbulent energy of the new shape is much smaller than the conventional shape (**Fig. 5**).

2) New outlet port shape of the SEN

Since H = X' (position toward inlet from the outlet of outlet port) and V = Vx (X component of flow velocity inside of outlet port) in the outlet port of the SEN, the equation (1) is expressed as follows.

$$\frac{-\rho V x^2}{2} + (\rho g' X' + P + \alpha) = Const.$$
(4)

where, g' is the gravitational acceleration in the outlet port, and $g' = g \times tan \theta$, when inclination angle of the direction of outlet port flow route against the horizontal line is θ . α is the kinetic energy occurs in the outlet port expect for *X* component including the energy loss occurred by formation of turbulent flow.

Figure 6 shows schematically the energy distribution during passing molten steel through the SEN. To obtain a stable energy distribution throughout the range from the inlet to the outlet port, the second term $(\rho g' X' + P + \alpha)$ in the left hand side of Eq. (4), equal to Vx^2 (kinetic energy) varied linearly with respect to X', obtaining function kinetic energy distribution of the linear function shown in the figure as "Non-Inflection Line", must be established with expression of the following relation.

$$V_R^2 \propto R \tag{5}$$

Where, R is distance from virtual origin imaged in side of the SEN inner bore side to direction toward outlet of outlet port, and V_R is the X component (Vx) in the velocity at the position R. On the other hand, the following equation regarding fluid continuity holds for molten steel



Fig. 6 Illustrations explaining the ideal energy distribution (b) of the molten steel flow in the port of the SEN (illustrated schematically in (a)) based on theory of the energy minimization¹²⁾.

得ること, つまり次式に示す関係が成立しなければな らない。

$$V_R^2 \propto R$$
 (5)

ここで R は浸漬ノズル内孔側に想定される仮想原 点から吐出孔出口方向の距離, V_R は R 位置での X 方 向速度成分 (V_x) である。一方,吐出孔を通過する 溶鋼には流体連続性に関する次式が成立する。

$$Q=V_R \times A_R=Const. \tag{6}$$

ここで*A_R*は*R*位置での吐出孔断面積である。(5) 式と(6) 式から最終的に次式の関係が得られる。

$$A_R \propto R^{-1/2} \tag{7}$$

(7)式が吐出孔溶鋼流動におけるエネルギー損失 および乱流を最小限に抑制する吐出孔形状を設計す るための基礎式であり、こうして設計された浸漬ノズ ルは吐出孔部で発生する溶鋼乱流を最小限に抑制で き、吐出孔出口でも低速かつ均一な流速分布が得ら れるものと考えられる。

流動解析により最適化された吐出孔形状と従来吐 出孔形状とにおける吐出孔出口の流速ベクトルを図



Fig. 7 Three-dimensional velocity vector distribution, calculated by CFD, at the outlet of the SEN ports for (a) conventional shape and (b) ideal-line shape¹².





passing through the outlet port.

$$Q=V_R \times A_R=Const. \tag{6}$$

Where, Q is rate of volumetric flow of molten steel, and A_R is the cross section of the outlet port at the position of R. Combining the Eq. (5) with the Eq. (6), the following relationship is finally obtained.

$$A_R \propto R^{-1/2} \tag{7}$$

Equation (7) is a fundamental formula to be used for designing the geometry of outlet port to suppress occurrence of energy loss and turbulent flow to the minimum limit in molten steel flow in outlet port of the SEN. The SEN designed based up on the prospect mentioned above can inhibit the turbulent flow to the minimum limit in the port of the outlet port and the low and homogeneous flow velocity distributions can be obtained even at the outlet of the outlet port.

Figure7 shows three dimensional distribution of the flow velocity vectors in the outlet of outlet port for (a) conventional shape and (b) modified ideal-line shape, and **Fig.8** shows two dimensional distribution of turbulent energy in the mold and nozzle center cross section. In the conventional shape, the outlet flow velocity is high at the



Fig. 9 Particle image velocimetry (PIV) showing water flow from SEN located upper center part in the water model experiments, as calculated average measured data at the Y=0mm section, during 1min measurement time, for

(a) conventional shape and
(b) ideal-line shape¹².

7, 内孔部の乱流エネルギー分布を図8に示す。従 来形状では吐出孔下部で吐出流速が高速であり,吐 出孔上下で大きな速度分布が発生しているのに対し, 新規形状は吐出流速分布が均一化されていることが 分かる。また,乱流エネルギー分布では新規形状は 従来形状に比べて吐出孔底部で乱流エネルギーが低 く,乱流の抑制により耐火物表面への介在物付着を 起こし難くするとともに磨耗性溶損を低減することが 期待された。

また,水モデル実験は新規形状と従来形状とで流 動解析とほぼ一致する結果が得られるとともに,新規 形状は従来形状に比べて鋳型短辺での衝突流と下降 流が抑制されるため生産性と品質の向上を期待させる 結果が得られた(図9)。

3) 浸漬ノズル実機適用結果について

浸漬ノズル吐出孔の従来形状と新規形状を適用し た浸漬ノズルを2ストランドの同一 TD で 6ch. 鋳造し た後に切断し,介在物の付着状況を調査した。

従来形状と新規形状ともに吐出孔上部に付着が認 められるが,新規形状の方が従来形状に比べて付着 が少ない傾向が得られた。

鋼の連続鋳造設備における浸漬ノズルの吐出孔形 状を最適化する事で従来形状に比べて優れた難付着 効果が得られ,乱流エネルギーが介在物付着に影響 することが判明した。また,新規形状により低速化 並びに均一化された吐出流速が鋳型短辺での衝突流 と下降流を低減し,付着抑制効果との相乗効果で鋳 型内の溶鋼流動を長期安定化させることが出来るこ とから,操業の安定性と鋳片品位の向上に多大な貢 献が出来ることが示唆された。 bottom past of the SEN, and a large velocity difference is generated in the upper and lower position of outlet port, whereas the new shape has a uniform outlet flow velocity distribution. Also, in the turbulent energy distribution, the new shape has lower turbulent energy at the bottom of the outlet port than the conventional shape. By suppressing turbulence, it was expected that inclusion deposit on the surface of the refractories would be decreased and at the same time, an erosion loss was reduced.

In addition, the water model experiment, for both new and the conventional shapes showed almost the same results as those of the flow analysis. Compared to the conventional shape, the new shape is more suppressing the collision and down flow at the short side of the mold, resulting in higher productivity and quality (**Fig. 9**).

3) Results of actual use of the SEN

The SEN with both conventional and new shapes were tested at the actual sites. The samples of the SEN were compared in the state of deposit of the inclusions in the vertical cross section cutting after 6ch. casting from the same TD.

For both shapes, deposition was observed on the upper part of the outlet port, but the deposition in the conventional shape is severer than that in the new shape .

By optimizing the shape of the outlet port of the SEN to minimize turbulent energy in the molten steel flow in steel continuous casting system, an excellent antidisposition effect of the inclusion was found to obtain, comparing to that in conventional shape nozzle. In addition, in new shape nozzle, the molten steel flow in the mold is stabilized for a long time with lower and homogenized flow velocity at the outlet port, reducing the collision flow and the downward flow at the short side of the mold. A synergistic effect with the anti-deposition of the inclusions, the SEN with new shape has a high potential to make a great contribution to the stability of operation and the improvement of slab quality.

2.3 Local corrosion problem at the powder line part

At the powder line part, the presence of the (molten powder / metal) interface causes a local corrosion phenomenon¹³, which shortens the life of the SEN. For this reason, various zirconia-graphite materials (ZG) have been developed by incorporating graphite raw materials into zirconia, which has excellent corrosion resistance against molten powder.

Since the erosion of graphite phase by molten steel is much faster than that of zirconia into molten powder, the higher the amount of zirconia, the more generally the corrosion resistance is improved. However, higher zirconia content causes increasing porosity, and so the upper limit is considered to be approximately 85 % at the satisfactory use (see **Fig.10**). We have developed for many years on the ZG with low porosity and satisfactory thermal shock

2.3 パウダーライン部での溶損問題

パウダーライン部では、(溶融パウダー/メタル)界 面の存在により、局部溶損現象¹³⁾が発生しノズル寿 命低下の一因となる。このため、溶融パウダーに対し て耐食性が優れるジルコニア原料と黒鉛原料とを配合 した各種のジルコニア-黒鉛材質(ZG)が開発されて いる。

溶鋼による ZG 中の黒鉛の侵食速度は,溶融パウ ダーへのジルコニアの溶解と比較して非常に速いこと から,ジルコニア量が多いほど一般的に耐食性は向 上するが,85%を超えると耐熱衝撃性低下や CIP 成 形体の気孔率上昇を招くため,実用レベルでは85% 付近が上限と考えられる(図10参照)。当社では,ジ ルコニア含有量が86%でありながら,低気孔率かつ 実用レベルの耐熱衝撃性を持つ ZG の開発に長年取 り組んでおり,近年では,配合設計,製造プロセス の最適化により,低熱膨張率,低気孔率な高耐食性 ZG の開発に成功している。

また, 材料開発・選定において, このような高ジル コニア質の ZG 溶損評価精度向上の重要性は更に高 まっている。従来, 溶融パウダーの塩基度がジルコニ ア原料の脱安定化に及ぼす影響や, 溶鉄中の酸素濃 度が評価試験精度に及ぼす影響やが報告されている が, 近年当社では, 溶鉄, スラグと耐火物との濡れ 性の観点から, 溶鉄成分と ZG の溶損との関連につ いて新たな知見が得られている。銑鉄と鋼を用いた 溶損評価実験から, 通常では高ジルコニア含有量の ZG が高耐食性を示すのに対し, 銑鉄を用いた実験 resistance with 86 % ZrO_2 . In recent years, low thermal expansion coefficient, low porosity and high corrosion resistant ZG has been devised by optimizing both materials design and manufacturing process.

Also, in the both development and exploration of the ZG materials, the importance of improving the accuracy of evaluation method for corrosion resistance of the ZG with such high zirconia contents is further increasing. Conventionally, the influence of the basicity of the molten powder on the destabilization of the zirconia raw material and the influence of the oxygen concentration in the molten iron on the accuracy of the corrosion test have been reported. From the viewpoint of wettability of molten iron and slag against the refractories, new knowledge has been obtained about the relationship between molten iron-carbon alloy components and corrosion of the ZG. According to the corrosion experiment using high carbon pig iron and low carbon steel, it was found that the ZG with high zirconia content usually shows higher corrosion resistance, whereas the ZG with low zirconia content shows higher corrosion resistance against the pig iron. This phenomenon is presumed to be caused by the fact that higher carbon content lowers wettability of the molten alloy to graphite. As an interpretation of this phenomenon, corrosion simulation of the ZG was performed considering only the change of the molten powder/metal interface due to the change in wettability. As a result, of the one-dimensional simulation, as the carbon concentration in the molten iron increased, the corrosion of the low zirconia content ZG was suppressed, but the high zirconia content ZG was not reached. On the other hand, in the two-dimensional simulation by the cellular automaton method using the actual ZG structure, it was possible to reproduce the reversal phenomenon that the corrosion rate became smaller than ZG with high zirconia content when the



Fig. 10 Relationship between corrosion index and ZrO₂ content.

では低ジルコニア含有量のZG が高耐食性を示すとい う逆転現象が発生することがわかった。この現象は. 溶鉄中の炭素含有量が高くなると、黒鉛が溶鉄に濡 れにくくなる事が原因であると推定している。この現 象の解釈として、濡れ性の変化による溶融パウダー/ メタル界面の入れ替わりのみを考慮した ZG 溶損シ ミュレーションを行った。一次元のシミュレーションの 結果、溶鉄中炭素濃度が上昇するにつれて、低ジルコ ニア含有量の ZG の溶損が抑制されるものの. 高ジル コニア含有量のZGには及ばなかった。一方で、実 際の ZG の組織を用いたセルオートマトン法による二 次元のシミュレーションでは、溶鉄中炭素濃度が上昇 すると高ジルコニア含有量の ZG よりも溶損速度が小 さくなるという逆転現象を再現できた。このことから、 従来より知られていたパウダー成分の影響に加えて、 溶鉄中成分や、耐火物組織の影響を、濡れ性のみを 考慮した簡単な原理で解釈することが出来ている。

前述のように,ジルコニア含有量を増加させること による耐食性向上には上限があるため,耐火物の組 織制御や,パウダー・溶鋼成分を始めとした操業条件 の理解による耐用向上の重要性はますます高まってい る。これらの知見から,さらなる高耐食性 ZG を開 発し,浸漬ノズルの高耐用化を図っていく所存である。

3 まとめ

以上, 注入系耐火物を代表する浸漬ノズルについ て, その歴史と近年新たに開発された特徴ある技術 について概説した。注入系耐火物は, より高い信頼 性と高機能化が最も要求される分野であるため, さら に研究開発が進展するものと思われる。今後, 新た に開発される要素技術との組み合わせにより, 耐用向 上のみならず, 操業安定化, 鋼品質の向上など, 当 社耐火物がさらに貢献出来ることを期待している。

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carbon concentration in molten iron increased. Therefore, not only the influence of chemical composition of the mold powder conventionally known, but also the influence of the molten iron-carbon alloy components and the microstructure of the refractory material could be interpreted by a simple principle considering only wettability.

As mentioned above, there is a limit to improving corrosion resistance by increasing the zirconia content in the ZG, so it is increasingly important to improve durability by controlling the microstructure of the refractories and understanding operating conditions such as powder and molten steel components. Based on these findings, we intend to develop even higher corrosion resistant ZG and to increase the durability of the SEN.

3 Summary

The history of the submerged entry nozzle (SEN) representing the teeming system refractories and the newly developed characteristic technology in recent years were outlined. Teeming system refractories are the areas where higher reliability and higher functionality are almost demanded, so further research and development are expected. In the future, our refractories will be able to make further contributions to the steel industry not only by improving durability but also by stabilizing operations and improving steel quality by combining our original technologies with newly developed elemental technologies.

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