Non Destructive Test of the White Layer on Rail Surface by the SQUID

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Railway rail often suffers from generation of a hard and brittle thermal transformation structure called "white layer" due to slip / slide of wheels at the time of traction / braking of a train. Micro cracks are expected to develop around the white layer and the developed micro cracks may cause rail damage such as separation of a tread surface. Accordingly it is required to clarify the relationship among the white layer, cracks and damage. In this research, non-destructive inspection of white layers using superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) has been studied, and an improved system that can detect the white layer in the field is reported.