



FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF CONCRETE SPECIMEN

Farhaan Zaidi Bhat

Bachelor Candidate, Department of Civil Engineering
SSM College of Engineering, Kashmir, India

Shaista Kanni

Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
SSM College of Engineering, Kashmir, India

Abstract—Finite element analysis is a numerical technique that uses computational power to calculate approximate solution to given problem. Since this method is based on energy principle, it can be used to solve problems related to solid mechanics, fluid mechanics, heat transfer and electrodynamics. This paper compares the experimental results of compression test performed on concrete specimen in laboratory with the numerical results obtained using the finite element analysis of concrete model simulated in ABAQUS software. Compression test of ceramic concrete cubes and cylindrical specimen with M20 concrete characteristics and coarse aggregate partially replaced by Bone-China ceramic was performed in a laboratory. The experimental results obtained were then used as input parameters for the numerical simulations. The strength of the concrete depends on a lot of factors including curing time, temperature, water cement ratio, moisture condition etc., and hence the modelling of the concrete specimen should be done carefully. Concrete damaged plasticity (CDP) model available in software package was used to reflect the behavior of the concrete model in compression as well as tension. Three-dimensional non-linear finite element model was developed and analyzed by the Quasi-static technique using the ABAQUS explicit module. Results show that the model simulated using Finite element method was able to predict the damage behavior of concrete specimen fairly accurately despite the variable nature of concrete. Hence, finite element analysis is an economical and time-efficient method of advanced structural analysis that can be used to study the structural behavior of concrete in compression.

Keywords—Finite element analysis; Concrete; Concrete damage plasticity (CDP); ABAQUS

I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete is the most widely used construction material in the world and is second only to water as the most utilized substance on the planet. It is obtained by mixing cementing materials, water, aggregates and sometimes admixture. An estimated 33 billion tons of concrete are manufactured globally each year. According to the Press Information Bureau, India generates 62 million tons of waste (mixed waste

containing both recyclable and non-recyclable waste) every year, with an average annual growth rate of 4% (PIB 2016). Time to time, different waste materials have been used to replace the constituent material of concrete and determine its effect on the strength of concrete. This paper reports:

- (a) the findings on an experimental investigation of the effect of partial replacement of coarse aggregate with Bone-China ceramic waste on strength properties of concrete and
- (b) the accuracy of the finite element analysis in comparison to experimental results.

Compressive strength tests were conducted using 150x150x150mm cube specimen and 150x300 mm cylindrical specimen.

In this paper, a 3D nonlinear finite element model is presented to analyze Bone-China ceramic concrete cube subjected to compression load to obtain its ultimate compressive strength. Material damage criteria and analysis technique are very important to be considered in nonlinear finite element analysis in order to obtain a good result up to the ultimate load bearing capacity of the material. Considering the brittle nature of the concrete material, explicit dynamics analysis procedure was employed using ABAQUS/Explicit module. The concrete damaged plasticity (CDP) model as depicted in Figure 1 was used to simulate the Bone China ceramic concrete. It uses stress-strain relationships obtained using experimental methods to correlate parameters for relative concrete damage for both tension and compression. The concrete damaged plasticity model in Abaqus:

- provides a general capability for modelling concrete and other quasi-brittle materials;
- uses concepts of isotropic damaged elasticity in combination with isotropic tensile and compressive plasticity to represent the inelastic behavior of concrete;
- is designed for applications in which concrete is subjected to monotonic, cyclic, and/or dynamic loading under low confining pressures (Abaqus 6.9, 2009).

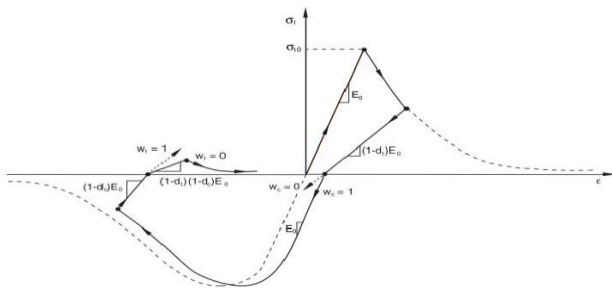


Figure 1. Concrete damaged plasticity modified stress/strain curve

II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

A. Mix Proportion for producing Bone-China Ceramic concrete

Materials used in the bone-China ceramic concrete are Coarse aggregate (20mm – 10mm), Bone China Ceramic waste (20mm – 10mm), Ordinary Portland cement and fine sand passing through 4.75mm sieve. The ratios of the materials are listed in Table 1. 10% of the coarse aggregate was replaced by bone-China ceramic to determine its effects on the structural strength of concrete having nominal mix ratio of 1:1.5:3 (M20) and a fixed water: cement ratio of 0.45. The bone-China ceramic concrete was cast into cubes and cylinders. The compression test was conducted over 28 days of casting.

Table 1. Mixture ratio for casting of Bone-China ceramic concrete cube

	Coarse aggregate: Bone China	Water: Cement
Ratio	1 : 0.1	0.48

B. Test Configuration & Instrumentation

The compressive strength of bone-China ceramic concrete was obtained from the compression test on cubes which was carried out using Universal Testing Machine (Capacity 3000 KN) according to IS 516: Part 5: 1959. The tensile strength of bone-China ceramic concrete was determined from split test on cylinders according to IS 5816:1999 and IS 456:2000. The Young's Modulus value was obtained according to IS 456:2000 as $E_c = 5000\sqrt{f_{ck}}$. Poisson's Ratio was assumed as 0.2. The difference in the mean compressive strength between the Control sample and the Ceramic specimen was found to vary only about 4% which is negligible considering the varying nature of the concrete. Hence, it can be concluded that we can use the ceramic waste to replace the coarse aggregate in the concrete satisfactorily up to 10% without compromising the strength of the concrete.

Table 2. Properties of Bone-China Ceramic concrete

Dimension (mm ³)	Pc (MPa)	Fc (KN)	Ft (KN)	E (MPa)	Mass Density (p) (kg/m ³)	Poisson Ratio, v

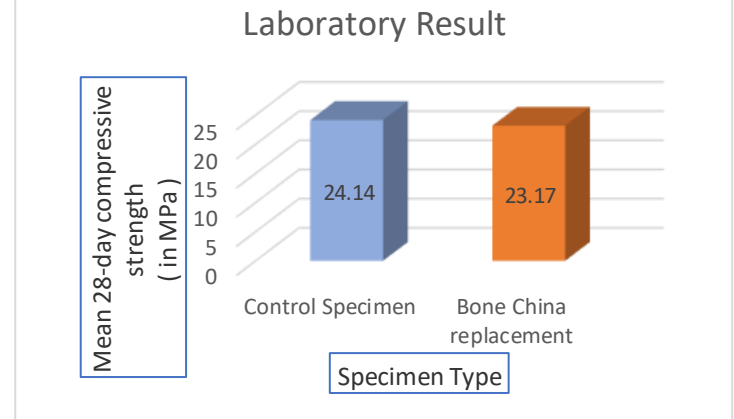


Figure 2. Variation of strength due to coarse aggregate replacement.

III. FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS

A. Material Properties

A 3D nonlinear, quasi-static finite element model was developed using ABAQUS/Explicit module to study the behavior of the bone-China concrete cube under compression. Since the variation in result between the M20 concrete and the bone-China replaced concrete was fairly less, material properties required to calculate the concrete damage parameters as input variable to the FE model were obtained from (1) Milad Hafezolghorani, Farzad Hejazi, et al. (*Simplified Damage Plasticity Model for Concrete*). The damage parameters are calculated based on the stress-strain relations under uniaxial tension and compression loading.

Table 3 shows the constitutive parameters used in simulating the concrete damaged plasticity model in ABAQUS software for both compressive and tensile behavior of M20 concrete material. The parameters listed in Table 3 which were not measurable from the experiment were assumed using values of normal strength concrete (Abaqus 6.9, 2009). Since the concrete damaged plasticity of bone-China ceramic concrete had not been identified by previous research, the concrete damaged plasticity parameters were assumed based on the parameters of normal strength concrete.

Table 3. Concrete damaged plasticity of M20 concrete

		Concrete Damaged Plasticity		
Dilation angle	Eccentricity	Uniaxial/Biaxial ratio	K	Viscosity parameter
31°	0.1	1.16	0.67	0
Compressive Behavior	from	Tensile Behavior from experiment		



experiment			comparison of compressive strength with experimental results, mesh density with 10164 elements provided a reasonable result as the experiment with reasonable computing time.		
Yield Stress (MPa)	Inelastic Strain	Damage Parameter (D)	Yield Stress (MPa)	Inelastic Strain	Damage Parameter (D)
10.2	0	0	2	0	0
12.8	7.74E-05	0	0.02	0.000943	0.99
15.0	0.0001736	0	-	-	-
16.8	0.0002887	0	-	-	-
18.2	0.0004226	0	-	-	-
19.2	0.0005755	0	-	-	-
19.8	0.0007472	0	-	-	-
20.0	0.0009377	0	-	-	-
19.8	0.0011472	0.01	-	-	-
19.2	0.0013755	0.04	-	-	-
18.2	0.0016226	0.09	-	-	-
16.8	0.0018887	0.16	-	-	-
15.0	0.0021736	0.25	-	-	-
12.8	0.0024774	0.36	-	-	-
10.2	0.0028000	0.49	-	-	-
7.20	0.0031415	0.64	-	-	-
3.80	0.0035019	0.81	-	-	-

Table 4. Result of mesh refinement study

ABAQUS Mesh Type-Size	Total Nodes	Total Elements	Fc (kN)	% Difference from Experiment
Experimental Data	-	-	521.32	-
C3D8R – 50	100	48	681.133	23.46
C3D8R – 40	125	64	653.64	20.24
C3D8R – 25	343	216	633.043	17.64
C3D8R – 18	729	512	617.965	15.63
C3D8R – 15	1331	1000	610.213	14.56
C3D8R – 12	2366	1872	603.375	13.59
C3D8R – 11	3375	2744	597.843	12.79
C3D8R – 10	4624	3840	596.013	12.53
C3D8R – 9	5202	4352	595.23	12.41
C3D8R – 8	7220	6156	592.217	11.97
C3D8R – 7	11638	10164	586.57	10.78

B. Modelling of Concrete, Interaction, Loading and Analysis Control

In the ABAQUS model, C3D8R elements, a continuum 3-Dimensional, eight-noded, reduced integration point element, were selected. For boundary conditions, constant displacement was applied at the rigid body on top until the failure occurred and the bottom surface was encastered. Coupling was defined for interaction between different nodes to eliminate local stress condition; Concrete crushing issue and spalling were neglected. In order to reduce the impact and inertia effects from explicit dynamic procedure and to ensure the equivalent static response is obtained, the loading period was adjusted until the kinetic effect become minimum. Loading period was fixed at 1 second after the process of trial and error with the initial trial value based on the natural frequency of the M20 concrete cube.

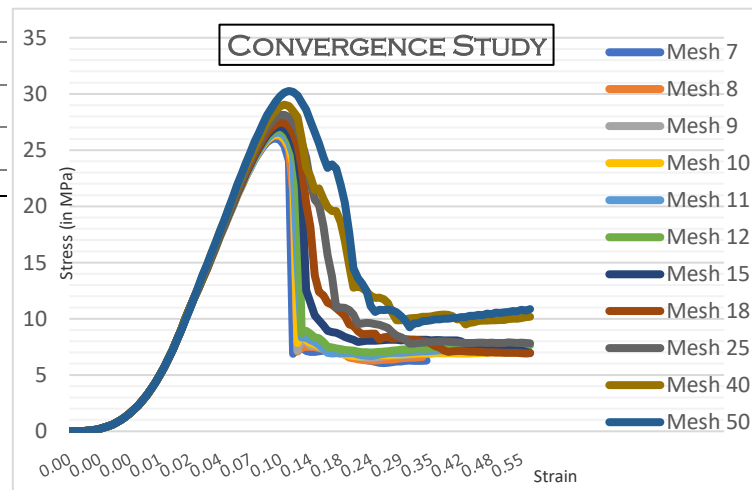


Figure 3. Mesh density study of finite element analysis

B. Failure Behaviour and Crack Pattern

The stress-strain curves from FE analysis (10164 elements model) were plotted in Figure 4. It can be seen that result achieved ultimate compressive stress with 90% accuracy as compared to the experimental result with former having a mean value of 23.17 N/mm² and latter having value just over 25 N/mm².

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Effectiveness of Mesh Density

Models with different mesh refinement were analyzed to determine the best mesh density that gives reasonable accuracy of results and reasonable analysis time. Results of compressive force, F_c for various refined element meshes are shown in Table 4 and plotted in Figure 3. From the

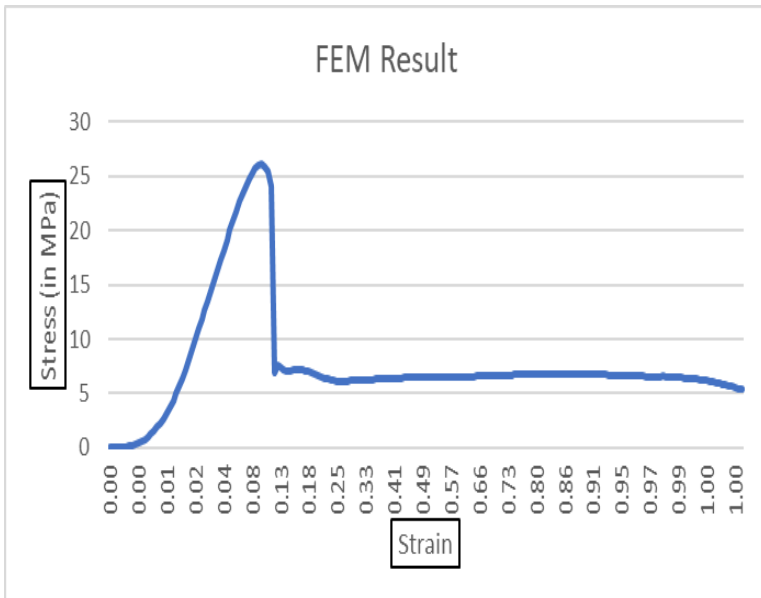


Figure 4. Finite element analysis result

Failure modes were compared as shown in Figure 5(a) and 5(b). It can be seen that the crack in the experiment had occurred at one corner and along the height of the cube which is identical to the contour plot of the analysis. In the experiment, imperfection of the test specimen, such as uneven cube surface and uneven distribution of bone-china ceramic might had caused the crack to occur only at one corner of the cube.

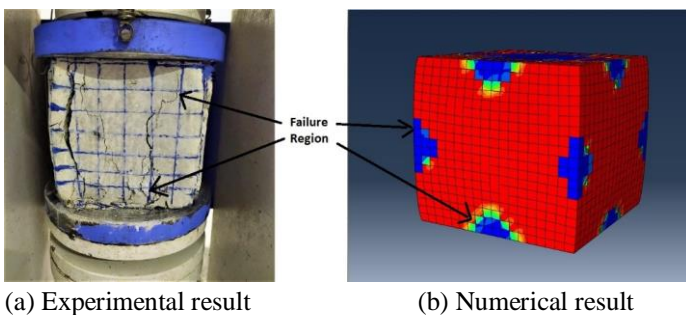


Figure 5. Comparison of failure mode for bone-China ceramic concrete cube

Crack propagations in the concrete cube model are shown in Figure 6 (a), (b), (c), and (d). In Figure 6 (a), the uncracked section is shown. Then, as shown in Figure 6 (b) crack appears near the edge and along the height of concrete and propagate towards the center of the cube and then Figure 6(c) to (d), the concrete cube expanded at the middle height due to the compression force applied to it. The maximum load was achieved on stage (b) when the damage occurred. Figure 6 (c) to Figure 6 (d) are the condition beyond the maximum load.

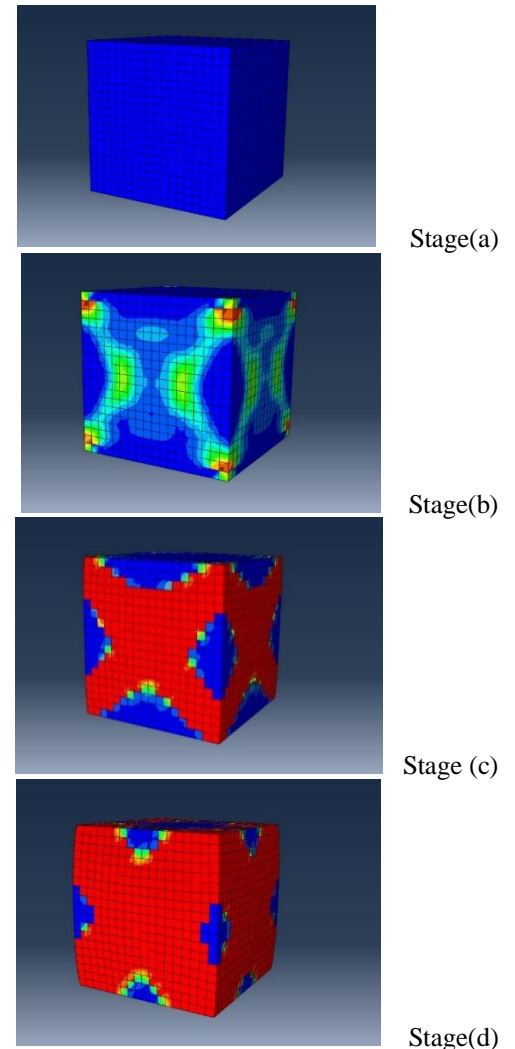


Figure 6. Damage wave propagation of cube from failure, (b) to post failure, (c) & (d)

Once the constitutive parameters used in concrete damaged plasticity model are known, the resulting ultimate stress of concrete specimen of any shape having those characteristics can be simulated using Finite element analysis. Figure (7) shows the FEA analysis of a cylindrical specimen having same failure criteria as obtained from the experimental results.

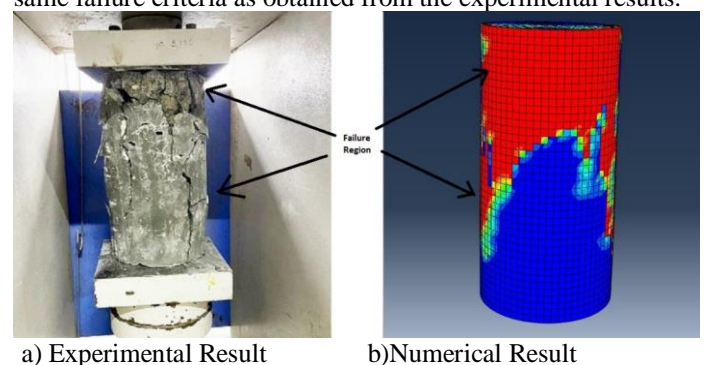




Figure 7. Comparison of failure mode for cylindrical specimen

V. CONCLUSION

Compression test of the bone-China ceramic concrete cube was modelled and analyzed using finite element method. The concrete was modelled using C3D8R element. The damage criterion for the concrete was modelled with concrete damage plasticity and the material property parameters were obtained from experimental results and partially from (1) Milad Hafezolghorani, Farzad Hejazi, et al. Quasi-static analysis using ABAQUS/ Explicit was employed and the equivalent static result was ensured by controlling the loading period. The result of the study shows that finite element procedure employed in this study can simulate the compression test of the bone China ceramic concrete cube/M20 concrete accurately to a great extent. Increase in the accuracy of concrete parameters results in increased accuracy in finite element results. In spite of the variable nature of concrete and computational limitation, around 90% accuracy of finite element model in comparison to the experimental results was achieved. Hence, it can be concluded that finite element analysis is a useful computational tool which can be used to solve problems in an economical and time-efficient manner and with the advancement in the field of computer science, this field is bound to reach its full potential. The model and analysis method employed in this study can be used as a guide in modelling the bone-China ceramic concrete/M20 concrete under compression and the accuracy of the model may be increased by variation in the methodology.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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