EXPERIMENTAL AND NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SHEAR PROPERTIES OF HONEYCOMB CORES PRODUCED USING ADDITIVE TECHNOLOGIES

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An approach to the experimental and computational study of the shear properties of honeycomb cores (HC) produced using Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) technology is proposed. The experimental approach is based on a new sample type for testing HCs for shear. This sample contains two HCs and three steel plates. Shear tests are carried out in the TiraTest 2300 universal tensile testing machine. The HCs are made of ULTEM 9085 and PLA with FDM technology, which is implemented in the 3D Fortus 900 system. The tests resulted in obtaining the shear properties of the HCs by averaging the stress-strain curves of five samples. As follows from the analysis of the experimental results, brittle destruction of an HC is observed. Before its destruction, the value of shear deformation for samples made of PLA was 0.0134, and for samples made of ULTEM, 0.0257. The experimental analysis was accompanied by numerical finite element (FE) modeling of shear experiments, taking into account the deformation of the equipment. With the FE modeling of the experiments, to describe the behavior of the samples, it is necessary to take into account the influence, on the measurements of the shear properties, of the equipment and the deformation of each honeycomb cell. The deformation of three plates was taken into account; the elastic properties of the adhesive joint were not taken into account. A computer model of the deformation of the HCs with equipment was built using ANSYS Design Modeler. With FE modeling, only the elastic behavior of the HCs was considered.

Keywords: honeycomb, additive technologies, shear, stress-strain curve.

Introduction

HCS, which are used in multilayer structures, can be manufactured using additive technologies [1]. Using the homogenization theory of [2–3], we replace the HCs in the calculations with a continuous orthotropic layer. Analytical and numerical methods have been developed to calculate the mechanical properties of this orthotropic layer. The analytical methods for calculating the mechanical properties of HCs are discussed in [4–5]. The numerical methods for calculating the mechanical properties of HCs are considered in articles [6–7]. To determine the mechanical properties of HCs, experimental methods are widely used. In [8], studies of the linear mechanical properties of Nomex HCs are presented. The results of experimental studies are compared with the results of FE modeling. An experimental study of the mechanical properties of HCs was carried out in [9]. In this paper, it is shown that beam models describe the mechanical properties of HCs well. Article [10] examines energy damping and damping behavior of a honeycomb structure.

In this paper, we experimentally study the shear properties of PLA-based and ULTEM 9085-based HCs, using FDM. As a result of this analysis, shear stress-strain curves were obtained. The FE modeling of the experiment to determine the shear properties is carried out in the ANSYS package. The modeling takes into account the deformations of the equipment.

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Description of the Experiment

The Fortus 900 3D system was used to print samples as HCs (Figure 1). This system uses FDM technology. First, a 3D model of the HC was built. This model was transformed in the Insight™ software package with the following specified options. The layers were deposited from bottom to top; the liquefier tip was T16 (full filling). The layer height was chosen automatically, based on the developer's recommendations, and the number of layers was 45 with a HC height of 10 mm. All the walls of the HC were two layers-thick, each of the layers being formed by one pass of the extruder. Samples were made of ULTEM 9085 and PLA. To select the remaining parameters of the technological process, the software of the 3D printer itself was used. This program slices the part into layers, and selects the toolpaths. The air gap was assumed to be zero.

The HCs were printed according to the following algorithm.

1. To print a job, it is first necessary to send the job file to a 3D printer from the application installed on a workstation. Jobs are sent to the printer in a CMB format, and spooled.
2. A new model sheet is installed on the print bed.
3. Containers for model and auxiliary materials are installed, and a filament is loaded into the head.
4. The printer is powered up. It takes approximately four hours for the printer to stabilize.
5. Printing is performed in automatic mode.
6. Once the product has been printed and the material has cooled down, both it and the auxiliary material are removed from the printer.

As a result of the work carried out, a series of honeycomb plates were manufactured in the amount necessary for the planned scope of testing.

For shear tests, a TiraTest 2300 universal tensile testing machine was used, which allows tensile/compression tests. A scheme of the experimental setup and a sketch of the sample are shown in figure 2. The sample (Fig. 2, a) consists of two honeycomb blocks 1. These blocks are glued to three rectangular steel plates 2. The geometric dimensions of the structure are shown in figure 2, a in mm.

The plates are made of a 5 mm thick grade 20 steel sheet, and have holes for the sample to be installed in the testing machine. The plates and HCs were glued with the 3M™ Scotch-Weld™ DP190B/A epoxy two-component adhesive.

For the shear testing of the honeycomb panels, groups of samples were made of ULTEM 9085 and PLA. The final view of the samples is shown in figure 3. Below is the sample, whose HCs are made of ULTEM 9085, and above is the sample, whose HCs are made of PLA. The dimensions of the block of one HC are 120×60×10 mm.

The prepared sample was installed in the grips of the test machine (Fig. 2, b), so that the direction of the load action coincide with the longitudinal axis of the sample (L direction). The schematic diagram of the experimental setup is shown in figure 2, b. It consists of a sample (1), three joints (2), and a displacement measuring device (3) (micrometer).

The tests were carried out by gradually increasing the load until the destruction of the sample at a uniform speed of the machine loading-grip movement, equal to 2 mm/min. During testing, loads, displacements, and time were recorded. The load was recorded using an electronic sensor in the measurement range of up to 10 tons, and displacements, using two dial-type point displacement indicators for each block separately. They make it possible to measure the displacement values without taking into account the deformations of metal hinge joints.
General Approach to Numerical Modeling

A FE modeling of mechanical experiments was carried out to determine the shear properties, in which, to describe the behavior of the samples, it is necessary to take into account the influence, on the shear properties, of the equipment, and the deformation of each honeycomb cell. The deformation of three plates was taken into account (Fig. 2, a); the elastic properties of the adhesive joint were not taken into account. The computer model of the deformation of the HCs with equipment was built in ANSYS Design Modeler. One honeycomb block consists of 12 rows, each having 5 hexagons. The dimensions of the PLA-based HCs were 117.6×60.8×10 mm, and those of the ULTEM 9085-based ones, 104.7×60.8×10 mm. When constructing the FE mesh of a HC with account taken of the deformation of each honeycomb cell, 8-node hexagonal elements (Hex8) were used, i.e., 3D modeling of the deformation state was used. The geometrical model of the structure is shown in figure 4. Due to the small size of the FEs and the need to connect the FE models of the samples and equipment, the steel plates were divided into a large number of tetrahedral elements (Tet10).

When simulating the experiment, the following boundary conditions were used. The two outermost steel plates (Fig. 4) are clamped at their left edges, and the middle plate on the right is under the action of the force \( F \) directed along the plate orthogonal to its edge. The \( F \) values were selected from the experiment. The mechanical properties of the HC material were determined experimentally. They are published in the article [11]. These properties are given in tables 1, 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Mechanical properties of the sample made of the orthotropic ULTEM 9085 material</th>
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<td>( E_{11}, \text{Pa} )</td>
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<td>2.25×10^9</td>
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<th>Table 2. Mechanical properties of the sample made of the orthotropic PLA material</th>
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<td>( E_{11}, \text{Pa} )</td>
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<td>3.58×10^9</td>
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Results of Experimental Research and Numerical Modeling

Let us consider the results of numerical modeling and experimental analysis of the shear properties of the PLA-based and ULTEM 9085-based HCs. The dimensions of one ULTEM 9085-based honeycomb cell are: \( h=0.5 \) mm, \( l=6.05 \) mm where \( h \) is the wall thickness of one cell; \( l \) is the length of the inner side of the cell. The dimensions of one PLA-based honeycomb cell are: \( h=0.4 \) mm, \( l=6.11 \) mm. The value of the concentrated force \( F \) varied over a wide range from 750 to 9829.9 N.

The results of the experimental and calculated analysis of the shear properties for the PLA-based and ULTEM 9085-based HCs are shown in figures 5, 6. The ordinate in these figures shows the value of the force \( F \), and the abscissa, the shear strain \( \gamma_{13} \). The solid line in figures 5, 6 shows experimental data. They were obtained by averaging the deformation curves of the five samples. The triangular markers show the results of FE shear modeling based on a computational model that takes into account the deformation of each HC and that of the equipment. As follows from the experimental analysis, brittle fracture of an HC is observed. With FE modeling, only the elastic behavior of the HC was considered.

Before the destruction of the PLA-based HC, the values of the force \( F \) and the shear strain \( \gamma_{13} \) took the follow-
The destruction of the HCs during their testing for shear took place in the honeycomb cells. The adhesive joint of the metal and the honeycomb cells remained intact. In this paper, static processes in structures are considered. Dynamic processes are considered in other works of the authors of this article [12–13].

**Conclusion**

An approach is proposed for the experimental determination of the mechanical properties of HCs made by additive technologies. For this, an experimental setup is used, which simultaneously determines the shear mechanical properties of two HC plates. As a result of the experimental analysis, both the shear stress-strain curve and shear moduli are found.

An FEM-based mathematical model has been built to describe the shear experiment. The model is based on the direct FE modeling of all honeycomb cells, with account taken of the deformation model of the equipment. The latter takes into account the deformations of the plates, and does not take into account the elasticity of the adhesive joint.

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**References**


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Експериментальний та чисельний аналіз зсувних характеристик стільникових заповнювачів, отриманих адитивними технологіями

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Запропоновано підхід до експериментально-розрахункового дослідження зсувних характеристик стільникових заповнювачів, виготовлених за допомогою моделювання шляхом поширюваного нап上がって FDM, адитивною технологією FDM. В основі експериментального підходу лежить новий вид зразка для випробування стільникових заповнювачів на зсув. Цей зразок містить дві стільникові заповнювачі і три сталеві пластинки. Випробування на зсув проводяться в універсальній розчленові машині TiraTest 2300. Стільникові заповнювачі виготовляються з матеріалів ULTEM 9085 і PLA за допомогою технології FDM, яка реалізується в 3D-системі Fortus 900. В результаті випробувань отримані характеристики зсуву стільникових заповнювачів через усереднення кривих деформування п'яти зразків. Як виявилося з аналізу експериментальних результатів, спостерігається кріхче руйнування стільникового заповнювача. Перед його руйнуванням величина деформації зсуву для зразків з матеріалу PLA становила 0,0134, а для зразків з матеріалу ULTEM – 0,0257. Експериментальний аналіз супроводжувався чисельним скінченно-елементним моделюванням експериментів на зсув з урахуванням деформації оснащення. При скінченно-елементному моделюванні експериментів для опisu поведінки зразків необхідно враховувати вплив на вимірювання зсувних характеристик оснащення і деформування кожної комп'ютера стільникових заповнювачів. Враховувалося деформування трьох пластин; пружні властивості клейового з'єднання не враховувалися. Комп'ютерна модель деформування стільникових заповнювачів з оснащенням була побудована в ANSYS Design Modeler. При скінченно-елементному моделюванні розглядалися тільки пружна поведінка стільникових заповнювачів.

Ключові слова: стільниковий заповнювач, адитивні технології, зсув, крива зусилля–деформації.
Література