



A modified honeycomb for better energy absorption capacity

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Introduction to sacrificial claddings



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a) Blanc, Lebaillif, Bufalo, Experimental analysis of fluid-structure interaction between a blast wave and a sandwich add-on armor, AIP Advances 12, 055105 (2022)
b) Blanc, Jung, Diebels, Kleine, Sturtzer. Blast wave mitigation with galvanised polyurethane foam in a sandwich cladding. Shock Waves 31.6 (2021): 525-540.

Introduction to the behavior of cellular materials



b

Core crush zone

Uncrushed core

Methodology



Li Q.M., Magkiriadis I., Harrigan J.J., 2006, *Compressive strain at the onset of densification of cellular solids*, Journal of Cellular Solid 42, Issue 5, pp. 371-392

$$\eta(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\sigma(\varepsilon)} \int_{\varepsilon_{y}}^{\varepsilon} \sigma(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon \qquad \sigma_{0} = \frac{\int_{\varepsilon_{y}}^{\varepsilon_{d}} \sigma(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{d} - \varepsilon_{y}} \qquad T = \int_{0}^{\varepsilon_{d}} \sigma(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon \approx \sigma_{0} \cdot \varepsilon_{d}$$

Bulk modulus computation is chosen following this methodology



Cellular materials

Introduction: cellular materials and absorbers



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Honeycomb samples

Parameters of the honeycomb :

- Squared area : 75 x 75 mm²
- Height: 20 / 60 / 100 mm
- Cell size: φ6.4 / φ9.5
- Sheet thickness: 40 / 60 μm
- Density: ≈ 42 kg.m⁻³
- Stabilization: Half of the samples, with two 0.8 mm thin aluminium sheets glued with "prepreg epoxy Hexcel Redux 609"
- Cell topology: Hexagonal, Modified





Stabilisation: none (left), 0.8 mm sheets (right)



Cell topology: Hexagonal (left), Modified (right)

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Experimental set-up: Quasi-Static

Quasi-static tests : INSTRON 250kN 5985

- Measurement through traverse displacement
- Strain-rate: 0.5 mm/min to compute the bulk modulus K (Norm ASTM C365M)
- Strain-rate: 25 mm/min to compute the platau stress σ_0 (Norm ASTM D7336M)
- Automatic change in strain-rate once the stress decreased to 80 % of the ultimate force prior to failure
- Compliance test performed and included in the analysis







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Experimental and numerical set-up

Experimental :

- Repeatability and Dispersion of the results :
 - Low dispersion < 5%: Influence of the structural default on the measured Plastic Collapse Stress





- High dispersion = 10 %: Catastrophic failure and its influence on the toughness of the sample





Numerical:

- Full modelization with a 0.5 mm mesh
- Stabilization modelled through boundary conditions



LWAG 2022

Quasi-static analysis

Plateau stress, plastic collapse, densification and toughness

Influence of the stabilization process :

- **Higher plastic collapse stress** except when the height is low enough to have similar boundary conditions with or without the glue
- **Higher plateau stress**
- Lower densification strain, simply because the material has less room to deform with the glue. The difference decreases when the ratio height of glue over Height of honeycomb decreases
- Lower toughness, because of its definition and how the densification strain is influenced.

Influence of the height of the Honeycomb :

- No influence on the plastic collapse stress BUT as the height increases, we are more likely to find default in the material
- No influence on the plateau stress

- Influence on the densification strain, especially on stabilized sample.
- Influence on the toughness following the trend found for the densification strain.



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Quasi-static analysis

Bulk modulus and cell diameter

Bulk modulus of the Honeycomb :

- Increase with the height of the honeycomb, since the ratio $F/\Delta I$ is known to be constant.
- Be careful if the material is homogenized in a numerical model using the bulk modulus
- Be careful when using the Bulk modulus of a material in application (safety coefficient,...)
- The influence of the stabilization process is unclear yet on the bulk modulus

Cell diameter of the Honeycomb :

- A higher cell diameter increases the bulk modulus, while decreasing the plateau stress and plastic collapse stress







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Comparison experimental/numerical



- Good description of the crushing behavior, including the plastic collapse stress, the plateau stress, the onset of densification and the toughness.
- Good description of the bulk modulus, but not of the rate of collapse



Stabilized Honeycomb (h = 20 mm) :

- Bad description of the crushing behavior, especially the elastic and densification phases
- --- Low height stabilised honeycomb needs to be improved in numerical simulations (influence of the glue not negligible anymore on the bucking process)





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Experimental set-up: Dynamic



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Dynamic testing of Honeycomb







Quasi-static and Dynamic crushing test comparison between hexagonal honeycomb (CEL/HEXCEL) and modified honeycomb (EC3D)



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Dynamic testing of Honeycomb





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Quasi-static and Dynamic crushing test comparison between hexagonal honeycomb (CEL/HEXCEL) and modified honeycomb (EC3D)

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Conclusion

Modified Honeycomb:

- New parameters are necessary to describe the cells : angle and period of folding.
- At equivalent density, equivalent aluminium, and almost without increasing the price of the manufacturing process, the modified honeycomb is significantly higher on a mechanical point of view than the hexagonal/classic honeycomb
- This also means that at equivalent efficiency, a material saving close to 30 % is expected.

Stabilization and height of the honeycomb:

- Structural aspect are already known, but honeycomb users should be careful with the manufacturer datasheet, for which tests are performed in normalized conditions



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Thank you for your attention





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