

**DETERMINATION OF MECHANICAL PROPERTIES
OF MATERIALS USING NEWLY DEVELOPED DUMB-
BELL SHAPED MINIATURE SPECIMEN AND
NUMERICAL TECHNIQUES**

by

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Submitted in fulfillment of the
requirements of the degree of

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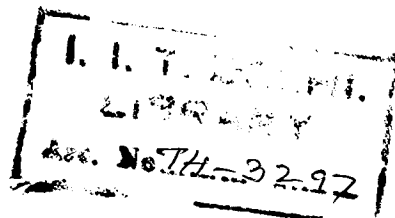


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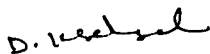
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **Determination of Mechanical Properties of Materials Using Newly Developed Dumb-bell Shaped Miniature Specimen and Numerical Techniques** being submitted by **G. Partheepan** to the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi (India)** for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mechanics Department is a bonafide research work carried out by him under our supervision and guidance. The research reports and the results presented in this thesis have not been submitted in parts or in full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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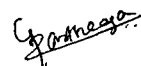
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ABSTRACT

With rapid industrialization in the last century, a significant number of plants and structures in the present day industries have already served or are nearing their designed lifetime. The cost of replacing them with a new infrastructure would require prohibitively large sums of capital investment. However if by suitable assessment, their life could be extended without sacrificing safety and without additional huge capital investments, it will be of great importance. Determination of mechanical properties of operating components is a key element in defining the strategies for maintenance and repair for extending component life. The assessment of the present health and an estimate of the remaining life have to be done without disturbing the structural integrity and functional capabilities of the plant components. In most cases, components integrity is hardly evaluated with traditional and standard mechanical testing methods because the amount of materials required for standard size test specimens cannot be taken without destroying the components. The miniature specimen test technology provides a way of obtaining mechanical properties of the components present in aged structures while consuming a very small amount of material as compared to that required for standard size test specimens.

In the present work, a simple miniature specimen test setup is designed and used for the prediction of material properties with the help of a newly designed and prepared miniature dumb-bell shaped specimen. A

special type of miniature specimen holder is designed to hold the miniature test specimen. It can accommodate different thicknesses of specimens. The loading in miniature testing is of tensile nature. The miniature specimen experiences tensile load through the loading pin which holds the specimen in a specimen holder. The extension of the specimen upon tensile load is measured by an extensometer. This complete setup can conveniently be used in any universal testing machine.

Experimental study of miniature tension test on dumb-bell shaped miniature specimen is carried out using the setup described above. The experimental study also covers the details of (i) selection of test materials (ii) design and fabrication of the miniature specimen (iii) testing machine (iv) procedure for carrying out the miniature specimen test and (v) data acquisition. The designed miniature dumb-bell shaped specimen is of 0.50 mm in thickness. All the tests are conducted on Zwick universal testing machine at room temperature. The output from the miniature test in the form of load – elongation diagram is recorded. A new empirical correlation for the estimation of yield strength has been proposed from the present work. Experimental determination of uniaxial tensile properties as well as fracture toughness values for all the selected materials using the ASTM standards are also reported. These standard tests are used as a “bench mark” or a “reference test”.

The finite element simulation of miniature test is conducted to obtain the mechanical behaviour of materials. The miniature specimen geometry along with the loading pins are modeled using the commercially available

finite element based software “ABAQUS”. The simulation is carried out using implicit code. The study also contains the detailed description of steps involved in modeling and analysis of the results. The miniature specimen is modeled in two dimensional space as a deformable body and the loading pins are modeled as rigid bodies. The miniature specimen is modeled using quadrilateral plane stress elements. Simulation of miniature test is carried out in such a way that it represents the experimental situation as closely as possible by prescribing the appropriate boundary conditions. The load – elongation diagrams from finite element simulation for different materials are obtained and compared with the experimental results. A wide spectrum of information can be collected from the finite element simulation of miniature specimen test. This includes the deformation behaviour of miniature specimen, load – elongation curve, von-Mises stress contour, equivalent plastic strain etc.

An inverse finite element study has been conducted using the experimental output from the miniature test on the designed miniature specimen. The developed inverse finite element procedure helps in finding the constitutive behaviour of the unknown material in combination with miniature specimen test. The initial slope of the experimental load – elongation curve from the miniature test is used to predict the Young's modulus of the material. The entire load – elongation curve is discretized into a number of linear parts. The details of finding the true stress – true plastic strain behaviour of the material using inverse finite element procedure and the load – elongation curve are presented. The results from the inverse finite element procedure are

compared with the results obtained from uniaxial tensile test. This inverse finite element procedure is applied to all the selected materials. The empirical correlations for the prediction of fracture strain and fracture toughness are also included. The proposed empirical correlation for the determination of fracture toughness is compared with the existing empirical correlations from the literature as well as the standard fracture toughness test results.

Presently the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) technique is being applied to an increasing number of real-world problems of considerable complexity. It offers reliable solutions to a variety of problems (viz. prediction and modeling), where the physical processes are not understood or are highly complex. A comparison is made between several training algorithms in an attempt to find an ideal artificial neural network-training algorithm to predict the material properties from the miniature test. This model uses a feed forward back propagation neural network. After using the experimental results to train and test the network, the model is applied to new data for prediction of material properties. The values of fracture toughness obtained by ANN technique are compared against the standard values and the results are found to be promising.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
ABSTRACT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xvii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xxv
NOMENCLATURE.....	xxvii
 CHAPTER-I.....	 1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
I-1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
I-2. MINIATURE SPECIMEN APPROACH.....	6
I-3. ADVANTAGES OF MINIATURE SPECIMEN TESTING TECHNIQUE.....	7
I-4. MOTIVATION FOR THE PRESENT RESEARCH.....	8
I-5. THE OVERALL WORK SUMMARY.....	11
I-6. ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS.....	12
 CHAPTER-II.....	 19
REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	19
II-1. INTRODUCTION.....	19
II-2. MINIATURE SAMPLE REMOVAL.....	20
II-3. MINIATURE SPECIMEN TEST TECHNIQUE.....	22
II.3.1 <i>Tensile Test</i>	23
II.3.2 <i>Microhardness Test</i>	25
II.3.3 <i>Punch Test</i>	27
II.3.4 <i>Bend Test</i>	43
II.3.5 <i>Impact Test</i>	44
II-4. NUMERICAL TECHNIQUES.....	47
II.4.1 <i>Finite Element Method (FEM)</i>	47
II.4.2 <i>Inverse Problem</i>	51
II.4.3 <i>Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)</i>	55

CHAPTER-III.....	65
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NOVEL MINIATURE TENSION TEST SETUP.....	65
III-1. INTRODUCTION.....	65
III-2. DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF A DUMB-BELL SHAPED MINIATURE SPECIMEN.....	67
III-3. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP FOR THE MINIATURE SPECIMEN TENSION TEST.....	68
<i>III.3.1 Design of Specimen Holder</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>III.3.2 Design of Fixture for Attaching the Specimen Holder</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>III.3.3 Measurement of the Elongation of the Specimen During Tensile Loading.....</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>III.3.4 Testing Machines</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>III.3.5 Test Precautions</i>	<i>74</i>
III-4. CLOSURE	75
 CHAPTER-IV.....	 85
EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS ON DUMB-BELL SHAPED MINIATURE SPECIMENS.....	85
IV-1. INTRODUCTION.....	85
IV-2. DETAILS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON DUMB-BELL SHAPED MINIATURE SPECIMEN	86
<i>IV.2.1 Test Materials</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>IV.2.2 Description of the Testing Machine.....</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>IV.2.3 Experiments on Dumb-bell Shaped Miniature Specimens.....</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>IV.2.4 Results of Miniature Specimen Tension Test.....</i>	<i>92</i>
<i>IV.2.5 Statistical Analysis on Dumb-bell Miniature Specimen Test....</i>	<i>94</i>
IV-3. DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL PROPERTIES.....	97
<i>IV.3.1 Standard Uniaxial Tensile Test.....</i>	<i>98</i>
<i>IV.3.2 Standard Fracture Toughness Test.....</i>	<i>100</i>
IV-4. DEVELOPMENT OF EMPIRICAL CORRELATION FOR THE ESTIMATION OF YIELD STRENGTH.....	108
<i>IV.4.1 Experimental Verification.....</i>	<i>110</i>

IV.4.2	Observations on Yield Strength Evaluation.....	113
CHAPTER-V.....		129
FINITE ELEMENT SIMULATION OF MINIATURE TENSILE TEST.....		129
V-1.	INTRODUCTION.....	129
V-2.	FINITE ELEMENT METHOD.....	130
V.2.1	Finite Element Codes.....	131
V.2.1.1	Implicit Code.....	131
V.2.1.2	Explicit Code.....	131
V.2.2	Non Linear Problem.....	132
V.2.2.1	Material non-linearity in finite element.....	133
V.2.2.2	Geometrical Non-linearity.....	134
V-3.	FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF DUMB-BELL SHAPED MINIATURE SPECIMEN	135
V.3.1	Part Module	135
V.3.2	Property Module	136
V.3.5	Interaction Module.....	139
V-4.	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	144
V.4.1	Load – Elongation behaviour	144
V.4.2	Stress – Strain Behaviour	150
V-5.	MESH CONVERGENCE STUDY	153
V-6.	CLOSURE.....	154
CHAPTER-VI.....		181
DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL PROPERTIES USING AN INVERSE FINITE ELEMENT PROCEDURE.....		181
VI-1.	INTRODUCTION.....	181
VI-2.	INVERSE FINITE ELEMENT SIMULATION PROCEDURE	183
VI-3.	THE INVERSE FINITE ELEMENT SIMULATION OF MINIATURE DUMB-BELL SHAPED SPECIMEN	189
VI-4.	DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMPIRICAL RELATIONS FOR THE PREDICTION OF FRACTURE STRAIN.....	193
VI-5.	DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMPIRICAL CORRELATIONS FOR THE ESTIMATION OF FRACTURE TOUGHNESS.....	196

VI.5.1	<i>Existing Correlations for the Prediction of Fracture Toughness</i>	197
VI.5.2	<i>Development of an Empirical Correlation for the Prediction of Fracture Toughness</i>	199
VI-6.	OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS	203
CHAPTER-VII.....		215
FRACTURE TOUGHNESS PREDICTION BY ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK (ANN).....		215
VII-1.	INTRODUCTION.....	215
VII.1.1	<i>The Biological Neuron.....</i>	217
VII.1.2	<i>Multilayer Networks and Back Propagation.....</i>	218
VII-2.	SPECIAL FEATURES OF ANN	219
VII-3.	VARIOUS TRAINING ALGORITHMS	219
VII.3.1	<i>Batch Training (Train).....</i>	220
VII.3.2	<i>Batch Gradient Descent (Traingd).....</i>	220
VII.3.3	<i>Batch Gradient Descent with Momentum (Traingdm).....</i>	220
VII.3.4	<i>Steepest Descent Variable Learning Rate (Traingda, Traingdx).....</i>	220
VII.3.5	<i>Resilient Back propagation (Trainrp).....</i>	221
VII.3.6	<i>Conjugate Gradient Algorithms.....</i>	221
VII.3.7	<i>Fletcher-Reeves Update (Traincgf).....</i>	222
VII.3.8	<i>Quasi-Newton Algorithms (Trainbfg).....</i>	222
VII.3.9	<i>Levenberg-Marquardt (trainlm).....</i>	222
VII-4.	SELECTION OF ALGORITHM.....	223
VII-5.	CONFIGURATION OF NEURAL NETWORK MODEL.....	224
VII-6.	FRACTURE TOUGHNESS BY ANN	226
VII.6.1	<i>Inputs to the Neural Network.....</i>	226
VII.6.2	<i>Performance of Neural Network</i>	230
VII.6.3	<i>Fracture Toughness Prediction</i>	231
VII.6.4	<i>Validation of Neural Network</i>	232
VII-7.	YIELD STRESS PREDICTION BY ANN.....	233
VII.7.1	<i>Inputs to the Network.....</i>	233

VII.7.2	<i>Performance of the Network</i>	234
VII.7.3	<i>Yield Stress Prediction</i>	234
VII-8.	A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF YIELD STRENGTH AND FRACTURE TOUGHNESS VALUES.....	235
VII-9.	CLOSURE.....	238
CHAPTER-VIII.....		251
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....		251
REFERENCES.....		254