

## A FATIGUE FRACTURE STUDY ON TDCB ALUMINUM FOAM SPECIMEN OF TYPE MODE III BONDED WITH ADHESIVE

This paper studies the characteristics of junction structure of closed-cell type aluminum foam, which is generally used as a shock absorber. TDCB specimens were designed for mode III type with thickness as a variable and performed a fatigue experiment on them by thickness. As the result, the load value of all specimens peaks under 0 to 25 cycles and decreases as the cycles increase. As the specimen thickens by 10 mm, the maximum load value is 1.2 times. When the thickness increases by 20 mm, the maximum value increases by 1.5 times. This study result can be utilized by investigating the mechanical characteristics of TDCB specimens for mode III type under fatigue loading conditions systematically and efficiently.

*Keywords:* Aluminum foam, Fatigue fracture, Fatigue analysis, Load, Mode III type, Specimen thickness

### 1. Introduction

Based on its excellent physical and mechanical properties, aluminum foam is an ultra-light metal available for various areas, including a car bumper, shock absorption material in an aircraft, a ship material, etc. However, aluminum foam can be damaged easily when used without sufficient research. If it is used for mechanical structures, it can also cause damage and destruction or even casualties [1-4]. Therefore, this paper investigates the characteristic of junction structure for closed-cell type with aluminum foam, which is generally used as a shock absorber. By the single-lap adhesive method, TDCB specimens for mode III type with thickness as a variable were designed. The specimens have the different thickness made with the aluminum foam of closed-cell type manufactured by Foam tech. at Korea. The fatigue experiments made with a tensile tester were carried out [5-10]. The result of fatigue experiment in this study can be applied in reality in order to evaluate the fracture property of TDCB-form joint structures made by porous material aluminum foam and study the mechanical properties systematically [11-17].

### 2. Study model and method

In this study, TDCB specimens were designed for mode III type by the single-lap adhesive method on the basis of DCB specimen in the British Standards 7991:2001. As shown by Fig. 1, variable  $t$  of the TDCB model corresponds to the thickness, and

the width, lower base and length of the model are 80 mm, 130 mm and 190 mm, respectively. The section of specimen without slope has the front side of 50 mm. Variable ( $t$ ) has values of 35 mm, 45 mm and 55 mm as three models respectively.

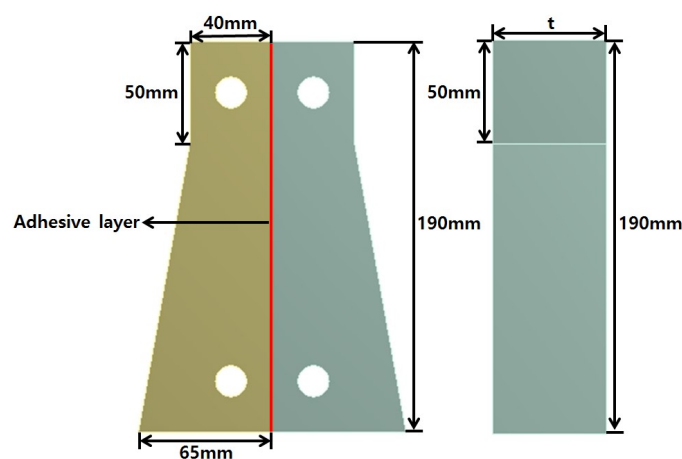


Fig. 1. Configuration of model

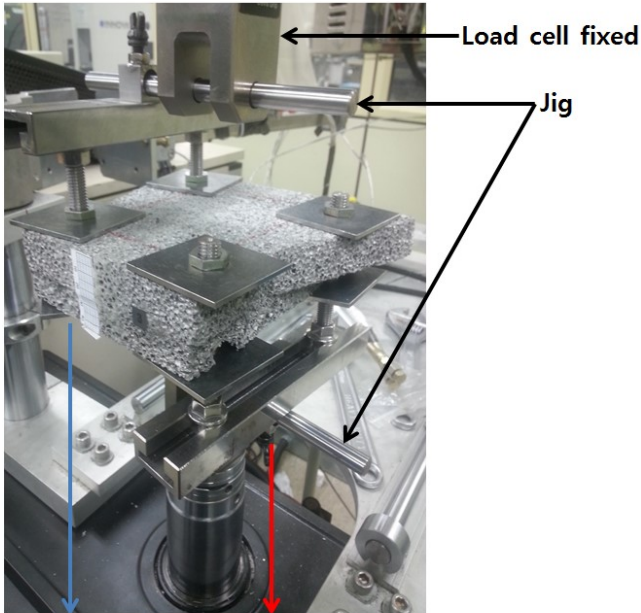
Fig. 2 shows the fatigue experimental method with TDCB specimens for mode III type to verify the result from simulation analysis. Since it is impossible to connect the specimens directly to the top and bottom load cells in the tensile tester with the experiment method, the specimens and tensile testers are connected by a jig, which we have additionally produced for the experiment. Top load cell is fixed, and the fatigue experiment

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are performed by applying the fatigue displacement of  $\pm 6$  mm in the -Z-axis direction and the fatigue cycle of 3Hz with the bottom load cell. The tensile tester in this study is manufactured by MTS CO., LTD. This study uses Al-SAF40 for the aluminum foam, and its material property is shown in Table 1. Furthermore, the adhesive applied to the aluminum foam specimens has the aerosol type with the adhesive strength of 0.4 MPa.



Mode III Type TDCB specimen -Z axis  $\pm 6$ mm, 3Hz Fatigue load

Fig. 2. Experimental conditions of fatigue experiment

TABLE 1

Mechanical properties of aluminum foam

Property	Value
Young's modulus (GPa)	2.374
Poisson's ratio	0.29
Density ( $\text{kg/m}^3$ )	400
Yield strength (MPa)	1.8
Shear strength (MPa)	0.29

The simulation analysis of fatigue is carried out by using ANSYS program of finite element method. Fig. 3 shows the conditions for simulation analysis applied to three TDCB specimens, designed in this study. To generate a crack in the shear direction, the holes in one side of TDCB specimens have a fixed support and those on the other side are pulled in the -Z-axis direction repeatedly with the fatigue loading conditions of  $\pm 6$  mm of fatigue displacement and 3Hz of fatigue cycle.

### 3. Study result

When performing the fatigue experiment by applying the fatigue displacement of  $\pm 6$  mm in the Z-axis direction and the fatigue cycle of 3 Hz with TDCB specimens, the load values of

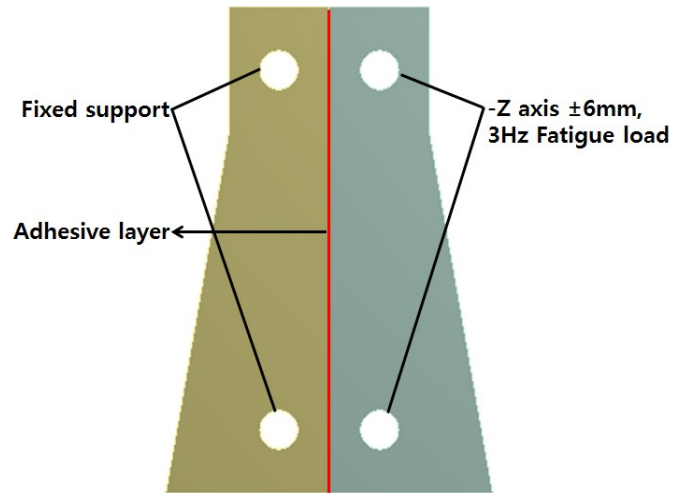


Fig. 3. Boundary conditions for fatigue analysis

the 35 mm TDCB specimen model by cycle are shown in Fig. 4. When the cycle increases under 0 to 25, the load value is at the maximum level of  $\pm 0.5$  kN and then decreases gradually under 25 cycles to 320 cycles from the point of time the maximum load happens. Under 320 to 375 cycles, the load value is maintained at about 0.01 kN.

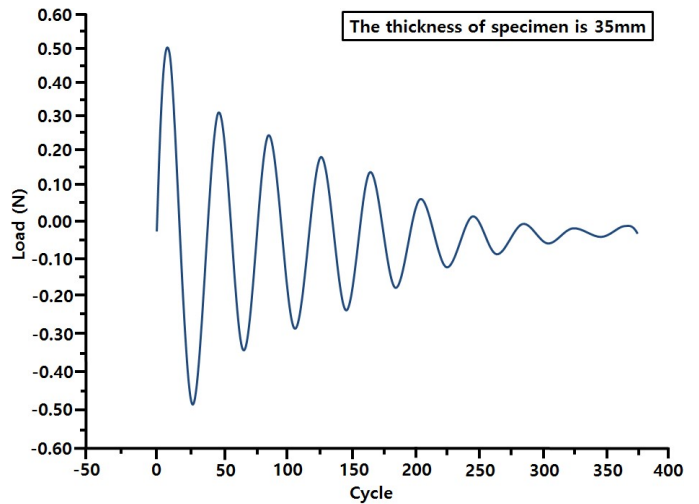


Fig. 4. Graph of load due to cycle at fatigue experiment (Thickness of specimen is 35 mm)

When performing the fatigue experiment by applying the fatigue displacement of  $\pm 6$  mm in the Z-axis direction and the fatigue cycle of 3 Hz with TDCB specimens, the load values of the 45 mm TDCB specimen model by cycle are shown in Fig. 5. When the cycle increases under 0 to 25 like the case of TDCB specimen with the thickness (t) of 35 mm, the load value is at the maximum level of  $\pm 0.6$  kN, and then decreases gradually under 25 cycles to 320 cycles. Under 320 to 375 cycles, the load value is maintained at about 0.03 kN. By comparing with TDCB specimen with the thickness (t) of 35 mm, it is shown that the maximum load happening at specimen is bigger and this specimen endures bigger fatigue load.

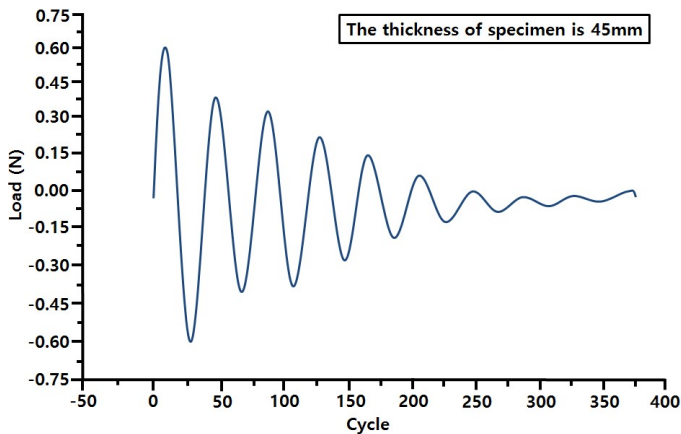


Fig. 5. Graph of load due to cycle at fatigue experiment (Thickness of specimen is 45 mm)

Fig. 6 shows the correlation between load values and cycles from the fatigue experiment with the 55 mm TDCB specimen model. Similar to the result above, the load value peaks between 0 to 25 cycles with the value of  $\pm 0.75$  kN and gradually decreases from 25 to 320 cycles. Under 320 to 375 cycles, the load value is maintained at about 0.04 kN.

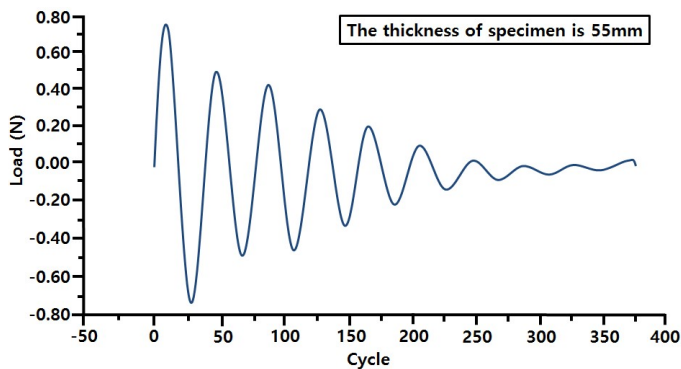


Fig. 6. Graph of load due to cycle at fatigue experiment (Thickness of specimen is 55 mm)

By comparing with TDCB specimens with the thicknesses ( $t$ ) of 35 mm and 45 mm, It is shown that the maximum load happening at the specimen thickness ( $t$ ) of 55 mm becomes bigger and this specimen has the most durability.

The fatigue analysis for TDCB specimen model for type III is performed to compare and verify the result with the actual fatigue experiment. The analysis values are similar to those from the actual experiment by comparing the analysis and experimental results on specimen with the thickness of 55 mm. Fig. 7 compares the load values from the actual experiment and simulation analysis by cycle. Load value increases as the cycle increases, peaks at 0.72 kN under 0 to 25 cycles, decreases afterwards, and the analysis value approaches the amplitude load of the actual experiment from 340 cycles. Because the simulation analysis is carried out except the external

environmental factor at the practical experiment, the cycles are maintained a little longer on the whole at analysis than experiment. But it is shown that the maximum load and the whole load at analysis approach the practical experimental loads. The fatigue analysis data in this study can be applied in practice by allowing further studies to analyze the mechanical characteristics of TDCB specimens with type III under fatigue loading systematically and efficiently.

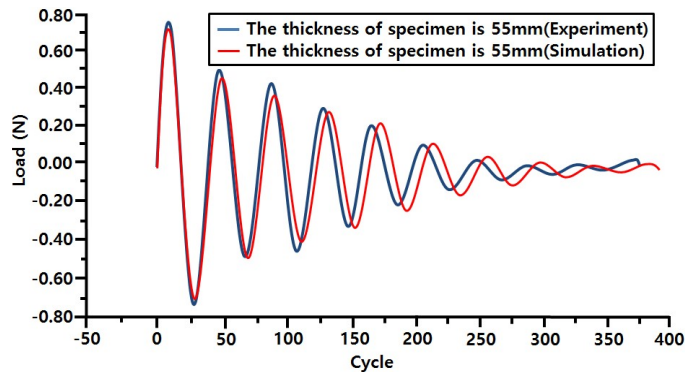


Fig. 7. Comparison between experimental and analysis data (Thickness of specimen is 55 mm)

#### 4. Conclusion

This study investigates the fatigue experiment with TDCB specimens with each thickness for mode III type made of aluminum foam and are concluded as follows.

In the fatigue experiment, the load values of all specimens (with the thicknesses of 35 mm, 45 mm and 55 mm) peak under 0 to 25 cycles and decreases as the cycle increases. Maximum load values of 35 mm, 45 mm and 55 mm of TDCB specimens are  $\pm 0.5$  kN,  $\pm 0.6$  kN and  $\pm 0.75$  kN, respectively, increasing as the specimen thickens. Therefore, it is shown that the sustainable maximum load becomes bigger as the specimen thickness becomes thicker. On the basis of this result, the specimen with the thickness of 55 mm has the most fatigue durability than the specimens with the thicknesses of 35 mm and 45 mm.

When comparing with the specimen thickness of 35 mm, the maximum load value is 1.2 times as the specimen thickens by 10 mm; and it increases by 1.5 times as the thickness increases by 20 mm. The fatigue experiment data can be applied in reality by allowing further studies to investigate the mechanical characteristics of TDCB specimens for mode III-type under fatigue loading conditions systematically and efficiently.

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