Research on Fire Resistance Potency of Ferro-Geopolymer Concrete

N. Senthamilalagan¹, S. Bharathidasan²

¹PG Student, M. Tech Structural Engineering, Prist University, Puducherry Campus, India.
²Head of the Department, Department of Civil Engineering, Prist University, Puducherry Campus, India.

Abstract: Fire is also one of the most significant possible threats to most buildings and structures. As structural materials deteriorate due to exposure to high temperatures, the building can collapse. As a result, the use of fire safety materials to mitigate thermal damage to structural members is important. Ferrocement is a cementitious composite substance made of hydraulic cement mortar and tightly spaced layers of continuous and relatively small sized wire mesh. Mortar is an excellent insulator, and reinforcing wire mesh can minimise surface spalling more effectively than plain concrete. Similarly, geopolymer mortar has good fire resistance due to its ceramic-like properties. The performance of ferrocement factor in this study is made of geopolymer and its fire resistance is investigated.

Keywords: Ferrocement, Geopolymer concrete, Fire resistance, wire mesh, Flexural strength, Compressive Strength.

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of ferrocement as a fire safety material necessitates a thorough understanding of how fire affects this material. The majority of previous research has concentrated on the individual properties of ferrocement products. Furthermore, geopolymer mortar is found to be more thermal and fire resistant than ordinary cement mortar. Welded wire mesh, galvanised iron mesh, and chicken mesh are the three varieties of wire mesh used in ferrocement. These meshes are used in a variety of shapes and sizes. The volume fraction of the wire mesh is determined by its thickness, spacing, and mesh form. Joseph Davidovits proposed in that binders could be formed by a polymeric reaction of alkaline liquids with silicon and aluminium in geological source materials or by-product materials such as fly ash, metakaolin, silica fume, and rice husk ash. The word geopolymer was coined to describe these binders.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Shan Li ET AL (2021) found that the fire performance of each CES column specimen was evaluated by analysing the fire resistance time, axial displacement-time curve, temperature-time curve, rotational angle of end support, post-fire conditions of the concrete surface and failure mode. The experimental study showed that the addition of polypropylene fibre was effective in minimizing explosive concrete spalling in high-strength CES columns to achieve comparable fire resistance time as those of normal-strength CES columns.

Thomas Thienpont et al (2021) found that Application of the determined GRF allows for an explicit reliability-based design for fire exposed concrete slabs, without requiring the application of full-probabilistic methods. Therefore, a deterministic design method is presented, which enables to perform a quick check of the burnout bending resistance of a concrete slab exposed to a natural fire, and allows for the evaluation of (delayed) bending failure that can occur during or after the cooling phase, that would otherwise remain undetected.

Pinghua Zhu et al (2020) found that the mechanical properties, thermal conductivity and fire resistance of SiO2 ACP, and the compressive strength of SCC with or without ACP coating in the simulated tunnel fire were tested. The results showed that ACP exhibited excellent mechanical and durable performances and low thermal conductivity. The 40 mm thickness of ACP has a strong thermal insulation capacity and can effectively withstand tunnel fire up to 2.5 h. The SCC samples under the protection of ACP did not undergo compressive strength degradation and destruction of microstructure.

Yusuke Shintani et al (2021) found that the test results showed that the failure times of the columns under multi-loading conditions were shorter than those of the columns under axial loading condition because of the double curvature bending on the core concrete. The double curvature bending was observed to be more severe than the single curvature bending in the eccentrically loaded furnace test. The lower column was subjected to an ISO-834 standard fire and a displacement control horizontal force was applied to the top of the column until a horizontal displacement of 1/50th of the heating length of the column was attained after 2 or 4 h of fire.
III. MATERIAL PROPERTIES

The following materials used in this study

A. Cement
Control specimens are made with ordinary Portland cement of grade 53 according to Indian Standards. Some of the cement's assets are listed here.

| S. No | Property             | Result |
|-------|----------------------|--------|
| 1     | Specific Gravity     | 3.18   |
| 2     | Consistency          | 28%    |
| 3     | Initial setting time | 29 min |
| 4     | Final setting time   | 263 min|

Table 1: Properties of Cement

B. Geopolymer
Geopolymer is a combination of the following compounds,
1) Pozzolans
2) Activator solution
3) Alkali powder
4) water

Figure 1: geopolymer mortar cube

C. Fly ash
Fly ash, similar to Portland cement, is one of the most widely used by-product products in the building industry. It is a finely divided inorganic, non-combustible residue obtained or precipitated from the exhaust gases of every industrial furnace.

D. Activator
In this study, water soluble high alkaline sodium silicates and hydroxides are used. The alkali silicate (Na2SiO3), also known as water glass, is bought in bulk from a local supplier with a modulus ratio of 2.15.

E. Water
Ordinary portable water used for this study

F. Fine Aggregate
As fine aggregate for geopolymer mortar and cement mortar mixes, locally available river sand with a basic gravity of 2.65 was used.
IV. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION

A. Compressive Strength
The compressive strength is calculated using normal UTM. Geopolymer mortar performs far better than cement mortar when exposed to 900°C. The 10M concentration produces better results than the other blends.

![Figure 2: Mortar cube strength](image)

B. Specimen Preparation
The prepared mortar is put in ferrocement moulds up to 5mm in diameter and vibrated for 5 minutes. The remaining mortar is then poured into the mould. The mortar is mounted in the vibrator so that it is well sealed within the mesh.

![Figure 3: Specimen used for Study](image)

C. Curing of Specimen
Since the polymerisation process necessitates curing at high temperatures, the curing of Geopolymer composite specimens was left undisturbed for 24 hours at an elevated temperature of 75 °C. After curing, the specimens were removed from their moulds and allowed to cool until any physical properties, such as dimension and mass measurements, were registered.

![Figure 4: Curing of Geopolymer mortar cubes](image)
D. Flexural Strength after Exposed
Prior to fire exposure, it was discovered that increasing the wire mesh material greatly improved the flexural intensity. However, the post-fire flexural strength and durability of ferrocement were barely affected by the wire mesh material.

![Figure 5: Flexural Strength at different stage](image)

E. Fire Exposure
Due to expose of fire the specimen loses considerable weight. The flash is already a burnt material or residue. Thus, the burning of flash does not show any particle size variation. the following figure table shows the weight loss in various fraction after fire

| Loss of weight at 900 degree |
|-----------------------------|
| 2 % FG  | 1.5 % FG  | 1% FG |
| 0.253  | 0.040  | 0.16  |

Table 2: Weight loss

V. CONCLUSIONS

The following results drawn at the end of this experimental investigation

A. The effect of wire mesh volume fraction on post-fire mechanical properties, specifically flexural strength and durability, as well as cracking patterns of ferrocement jackets, was investigated experimentally. Due to its post-fire flexural strength as compared to ferrocement, the ferro-Geopolymer concrete jacket was found to be a suitable solution for fire safety.

B. The highly porous structure of geopolymer mortar allows the internal steam pressure to be released during heating. As a result, less tensile stress is applied in the geopolymer mortar during heating than in ferrocement, decreasing the chance of spalling in the geopolymer. This comparison was performed with the two ferrocement at the same strength levels.

C. Since the Ferro-Geopolymer concrete is made of previously burned fly ash, the weight loss was unaffected by the blast. However, after being exposed to fire, the ferrocement loses a significant amount of weight.

REFERENCES

[1] Peem Nuaklong, Pitcha Jongvivatsakul, Thanayawat Pothisiri, Vanchai Sata, Priiyna Chindaapersit, Influence of rice husk ash on mechanical properties and fire resistance of recycled aggregate high-calcium fly ash geopolymer concrete. Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 252, 2020, 119797, ISSN 0959-6526, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.119797.

[2] Thomas Thienpont, Ruben Van Coile, Robby Caspeele, Wouter De Corte, Burnout resistance of concrete slabs: Probabilistic assessment and global resistance factor calibration. Fire Safety Journal, Volume 119, 2021, 103242, ISSN 0379-7112, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.firesaf.2020.103242.

[3] Pinghua Zhu, Xiaoyan Xu, Hui Liu, Shao Feng Liu, Chunhong Chen, Zhi Jia, Tunnel fire resistance of self-compacting concrete coated with SiO2 aerogel cement paste under 2.5 h HC fire loading. Construction and Building Materials, Volume 239, 2020, 117857, ISSN 0950-0618, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2019.117857.

[4] Yusuke Shintani, Toshihiko Nishimura, Tomohito Okazaki, Takuya Kinoshita, Hidetoshi Ito, J.Y. Richard Liew, Experimental study on the fire resistance of unprotected concrete-filled steel tubular columns under multi-loading. Fire Safety Journal, Volume 120, 2021, 103174, ISSN 0379-7112, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.firesaf.2020.103174.

[5] Srishti Banerji, Venkatesh Kodur, Roya Solhmizraei, Experimental behavior of ultra high performance fiber reinforced concrete beams under fire conditions. Engineering Structures, Volume 208, 2020, 110316, ISSN 0141-0296, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engstruct.2020.110316.
[6] Fabrício Longhi Bolina, Augusto Masiero Gil, Bruno Fernandes, Guilherme Gunther Hennemann, Jordana Gonçalves, Bernardo Fonseca Tutikian, Influence of design durability on concrete columns fire performance, Journal of Materials Research and Technology, Volume 9, Issue 3, 2020, Pages 4968-4977, ISSN 2238-7854, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmrt.2020.03.015.

[7] Heyang Wu, Xiaoshan Lin, Annan Zhou, A review of mechanical properties of fibre reinforced concrete at elevated temperatures, Cement and Concrete Research, Volume 135, 2020, 106117, ISSN 0008-8846, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cemconres.2020.106117.

[8] Heindrich C. Ash utilisation – an Australian perspective. In: Proceedings geopolymers 2002 – turning potential into profit, Melbourne, Australia; 2002. p. 1–12.

[9] Davidovits, J. (2008). Geopolymer Chemistry & Applications, Institute of Geopolymer.

[10] VatwongGreepala, Pichai Nimityongskul., (2008), Structural integrity of ferrocement panels exposed to fire, Cement & Concrete Composites 30 (2008) 419–430.

[11] Daniel L.Y. Kong a, Jay G. Sanjayan (2010), Effect of elevated temperatures on geopolymer paste, mortar and concrete, Cement and Concrete Research 40 (2010) 334–339.

[12] Zhao and Sanjayan (2011), Geopolymer and Portland cement concrete in simulated fire, Magazine of Concrete Research, 2011, 63(3), 163–173.

[13] T.W. Cheng, J.P. Chiu (2003), Fire-resistant geopolymer produced by granulated blast furnace slag, Minerals Engineering 16 (2003) 205–210.

[14] Alaa M. Rashad, Sayieda R. Zeedan (2011), The effect of activator concentration on the residual strength of alkali-activated fly ash pastes subjected to thermal load, Construction and Building Materials 25 (2011) 3098–3107.

[15] Lucie Zuda, Jaroslava Drchalova, Pavel Rovnanik, Patrik Bayer, Zbynek Kersner, Robert Ceny (2010), Alkali-activated aluminosilicate composite with heat-resistant lightweight aggregates exposed to high temperatures: Mechanical and water transport properties, Cement & Concrete Composites 32 (2010) 157–163.

[16] Daniel L.Y. Kong, Jay G. Sanjayan, Kwesi Sagoe-Crentsil (2007), Comparative performance of geopolymers made with metakaolin and fly ash after exposure to elevated temperatures, Cement and Concrete Research 37 (2007) 1583–1589.

[17] Min Yu, Xuan Hu, Yin Chi, Jianqiao Ye, A unified method for calculating the fire resistance of concrete-filled steel tube with fire protection under combined loading, Journal of Constructional Steel Research, Volume 168, 2020, 106003, ISSN 0143-974X, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcsr.2020.106003.

[18] Alexandra R.L. Kushnir, Michael J. Heap, Luke Griffiths, Fabian B. Wadsworth, Alessio Langella, Patrick Baud, Thierry Reuschlé, Jackie E. Kendrick, James E.P. Utley, The fire resistance of high-strength concrete containing natural zeolites, Cement and Concrete Composites, Volume 116, 2021, 103897, ISSN 0958-9465, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cemconcomp.2020.103897.

[19] Shan Li, J.Y. Richard Liew, Ming-Xiang Xiong, Bing-Lin Lai, Experimental investigation on fire resistance of high-strength concrete encased steel composite columns, Fire Safety Journal, Volume 121, 2021, 103273, ISSN 0379-7112, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.firesaf.2020.103273.
