Tensile and Hardness Tests on Steel Specimen

Alex T Biju, Iimmuel P, Sarran V, Sri Venkateshwaran T, Sundhar Eashwar S K, M B Bindu, Amrutha R

Abstract: Steel specimens were subjected to both tensile tests and hardness tests. The tests were carried out on Mild steel. The specimens were tested under various conditions. The maximum hardness was for the specimen quenched with water, however the tensile strength of that particular specimen was the minimum. While the tensile strength was highest for slow cooling and furnace cooling. However the hardness for slow cooling was the least. While furnace cooling was comparatively higher. The other specimens had varied tensile strength and hardness and it was not possible to map a relationship of the two. The motivation for this work has been that the students involved have recently been exposed to material strength and its variation with temperature.

Keywords: maximum hardness was for the specimen quenched with water.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Charpy test is a test to determine the energy absorbed by a specimen in the course of a fracture. The tests conducted reveal the amount of energy needed to fracture materials under different conditions. The Brinell Hardness test determines the resistance to indentation in a specimen. Tensile tests were already carried out in our labs and published, where energy absorbed was highest for quenched steel[1]Charpy impact tests determine the energy required to initiate a crack in the specimen and the subsequent energy to propagate the fracture, This test has a hammer in a pendulum which strikes the notch. . The energy absorbed is determined from the motion of the pendulum. The energy absorbed depends on the nature of the specimen. Impact energy is calculated from the height to which the striker rises. Brittle materials absorb lesser energy as compared to ductile materials. The notch serves as a stress concentration zone.[2]

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS.

These tests were carried out on Mild steel specimens with a composition of 0.05-0.25% C, 0.4-1. 65% Mn, 0.6% Si, 0.6%. The specimen has a yield strength of 2.75MPa, tensile strength ranging between 415 and 550 Mpa and ductility of 25% and a melting point of mild steel is 1510 C.The dimensions of the specimen that was prepared by is given below. Length- 55mm, thickness- 10mm and breadth- 10 mm. The V-notch was made at a depth of 2 mm at an angle of 45 with a width of 1.6mm.

Fig 1 Specimen preparation

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The angle of drop for the Charpy test was 140°. The Impact strength was calculated as

\[ \text{Impact Strength} = \text{Strain Energy Absorbed} \div \text{Cross Sectional Area} \]

The strain energy is the energy absorbed in the process of the fracture. The Hardness from Brinell hardness test is calculated from the formula

\[ \text{BHN} = \frac{2P}{\pi D \sqrt{(D^2-d^2)}} \]

Where P =Load

D- Diameter of the Ball (10mm)

d- Depth of the indentation

The cross-sectional area under the notch is calculated taking the breadth(10-2 mm) and the thickness(10mm) of the specimen. Hence the cross sectional area under the notch is 80mm². The specimens were tested without any heating, quenching with water at room temperature, quenching with ice and then for normal cooling.
The values for the Energy absorbed, and the strength calculated are listed in Table 1. The values for the indentation size and the calculated hardness are listed in Table 2.

It is observed that the energy absorbed for both the slow cooling and furnace cooling are almost comparable and are the highest. The energy reduces for the specimen that was not heated followed by the specimen that was quenched with ice. The lowest energy was for the specimen that was quenched with water. This is reflected in Figure 2.

### Table 1

| Specimen               | Energy absorbed in Joules | Strength in J/mm² |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Normal Condition       | 162                       | 2.025             |
| Quenching with water   | 14                        | 0.175             |
| Quenching with ice     | 124                       | 1.55              |
| Slow cooling           | 220                       | 2.75              |
| Furnace cooling        | 222                       | 2.775             |

Brinell tests reports have been carried out and have also been computationally analysed. [10] Larger the diameter softer the material. From table 2 it can be seen that the size of indentation is the highest for normal specimen and for slow cooling. The value for furnace cooling is a shade lower. Reducing for quenching with ice and then for quenching with water. It is seen that the hardest material is the one quenched with water. This is also reflected in Fig 3.

### Table 2

| Specimen               | Size of indentation in mm | Hardness BHN |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Normal                 | 3.6                        | 189.90       |
| Quenching with water   | 2.4                        | 435.63       |
| Quenching with ice     | 2.8                        | 318.3        |
| Slow cooling           | 3.6                        | 189.90       |
| Furnace cooling        | 3.2                        | 242.14       |

Fig 2

Fig 3
IV. CONCLUSION

Tests conducted on the specimen yielded different tensile strength and different hardness for each of the materials. Tensile strength was highest for slow cooling and furnace cooling. However the hardness for slow cooling was the least. While furnace cooling was comparatively higher. These changes reflect the microstructural changes that have taken place in the specimen in different conditions. A further study on microstructure of these materials is likely to throw more light into the transformations.

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AUTHOR PROFILE

Alex T Biju, A first year Student of KCG College of Technology, Pursuing their Under graduation in Aerospace Engineering. The students have completed their Schooling recently and actively want to involve themselves in research. They have been exposed to Materials Science and the variations in materials with change in temperature. They carried out the experiments themselves with interest and diligence. They are consistent academic performers and are members of Engineers without borders

Immanuel P, A first year Student of KCG College of Technology, Pursuing their Under graduation in Aerospace Engineering. The students have completed their Schooling recently and actively want to involve themselves in research. They have been
exposed to Materials Science and the variations in materials with change in temperature. They carried out the experiments themselves with interest and diligence. They are consistent academic performers and are members of Engineers without borders

Sarran V, A first year Student of KCG College of Technology, Pursuing their Under graduation in Aerospace Engineering. The students have completed their Schooling recently and actively want to involve themselves in research. They have been exposed to Materials Science and the variations in materials with change in temperature. They carried out the experiments themselves with interest and diligence. They are consistent academic performers and are members of Engineers without borders

Sri Venkateshwaran T, A first year Student of KCG College of Technology, Pursuing their Under graduation in Aerospace Engineering. The students have completed their Schooling recently and actively want to involve themselves in research. They have been exposed to Materials Science and the variations in materials with change in temperature. They carried out the experiments themselves with interest and diligence. They are consistent academic performers and are members of Engineers without borders

Sundhar Eashwar S K, A first year Student of KCG College of Technology, Pursuing their Under graduation in Aerospace Engineering. The students have completed their Schooling recently and actively want to involve themselves in research. They have been exposed to Materials Science and the variations in materials with change in temperature. They carried out the experiments themselves with interest and diligence. They are consistent academic performers and are members of Engineers without borders

M B Bindu A passionate teacher who has been in this profession for the past 22 years. She is a mathematical teacher par excellence and has been consistently producing very high results in the classes she handles. Her specialisation is complex analysis and functional analysis and has been instrumental in analysing the results of this paper. She holds a Mathematics and has completed her M.Phil. She heads the entire Science and Humanities Department of KCG College of Technology

R Amrutha Dr Amrutha holds a PhD degree in Theoretical Physics. She is very much interested in imparting the nuances of Physics to students and inspires them to perform beyond their potential. She is with KCG College of Technology for the 15 years. She has inspired and guided students to publish papers. She is a recognised PhD guide and is guiding 4 students. She is listed in the Marquis Who is who. She is an active researcher in computational physics and rheological studies. She has published 2 patents.