

The Conformance Analysis on Bending Forming of Honeycomb Carton

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Abstract: Geometry constructions of honeycomb core are finding increasing use because of their relative advantages over other structural materials in terms of improved stability, high stiffness to weight and strength to weight ratios. It provides an efficient solution to increase bending stiffness without significant increase in structural weight. However, honeycomb carton, as a new product of paper honeycomb, has been made by bending forming and failure process of paper honeycomb. Theoretical analysis on bending mechanical properties of paper honeycomb has been done. Then a model has been built on finite element analysis (FEA) software and analyzed its nonlinear bending process. The shear deformation process of honeycomb carton may be approximately categorized into four phases: linear elastic phase, elastic-plasticity phase, plasticity collapse phase, densification and fracture phase. In order to get precise results, not only shear force but also the failure process of paper-core should be considered. Therefore, the curve of external force and the shear deformation process has been analyzed. In addition, stress concentrations due to bending load and cohesive force have been eliminated by drying process of honeycomb carton. At last, the results are introduced by experiment and put into practice.

Keywords: Bending behavior, drying process, failure mechanism, honeycomb core, shear process.

1. INTRODUCTION

Paper honeycomb is one kind of new branch in packing industry. Due to their efficient structural geometry and energy absorption characteristics, paper honeycomb is widely used in aviation products, packaging, military affairs, construction, vehicle and so on. The main function of honeycomb core is not only to maintain the distance between the upper face-sheet and the lower one, and strengthen the bending stiffness of sandwich, but also carries shear stress in both the longitudinal and transversal directions.

By analyzing existing researches, it was found that the performance study of paper honeycomb was mainly focused in the performance index, static and dynamic characteristics, theoretical modeling and finite element modeling analysis, etc. [1-13]. For example, Dynamic and static compression tests for paper honeycomb cores and absorbed energy were gotten by Kobayashi H [4]. Wang Dongmei [5] deduced that the cushioning properties of paper honeycombs were mainly decided by the value of plateau stress and the length of plateau strain section during compression process. The effect of relative humidity on the energy absorption characteristics of honeycomb paperboard was investigated experimentally by E Yuping and Wang Zhiwei [6]. A mathematical model was developed to describe the relationship between the energy absorption properties of paper honeycombs and ambient humidity, as well as the structural parameters thereof by Zhi-Wei Wang and Yu Ping E [7]. Gibson [8] deduced the honeycomb material equivalent parameter, the relative elasticity modulus, the shear modulus and Poisson's ratio. Fu Minghui

and Yin Jiuren [9] discovered some flaws in the Gibson formula and proceeded to revise it. Chung.J and Waas AM [10] studied the compressive response of circular cell polycarbonate honeycombs under inplane biaxial static and dynamic stresses-experiments. Yuanjun LV and qiong CHEN [11, 12] studied the cushion anti-vibration impact of honeycomb paperboard of four different thicknesses dropped in the impact and the vibration analysis. Lee HS [13] analyzed mechanical behavior and failure process during compressive and shear deformation of honeycomb composite at elevated temperatures.

But there is a lack of conformance tests and analysis on the products of paper honeycomb, such as honeycomb carton. Based on the survey results, there is no literature in view of forming process of honeycomb carton and no detailed computation about it. In addition to bending mechanical properties, drying process is the concentration step of forming technology of honeycomb carton. Because it not only affects the product quality and property, which is one major factor causing production bottleneck in bending corner. Therefore, it is of great significance to take a step in the research of honeycomb carton and developing the products of paper honeycomb.

2. THEORY

2.1. Mechanical Properties

Honeycomb core supports two face-sheets and is in possession of rigidity, compressive resistance and shearing resistance. The paper honeycomb can be grouped as a cellular material. When one calculates the cellular material as being generally equivalent to the continuous medium, the merit is that there is a minimum amount of calculation involved, but the precision of the calculation is insufficient.

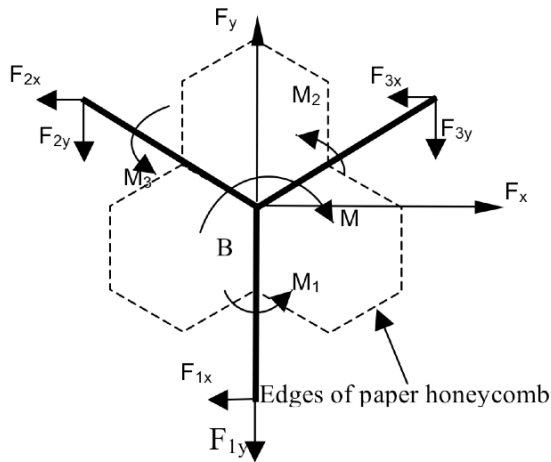


Fig. (1). A continual honeycomb grid model.

The honeycomb structure can be deconstructed by using a continual honeycomb grid model consisting of a “Y” node shown in Fig. (1). Using this coordinate system, the displacement of node A is selected from the node (i, j) to serve as a basic parameter. u and v are defined to be positive bending when they are measured the forward direction from left to right, and φ is defined to be positive when it is measured in the clockwise direction. The governing equation of the honeycomb structure “Y” node can be obtained by using its balance equation. The governing equations are as follows:

$$F_x = \frac{6EI}{l_y^2} [\varphi(i, j) + \varphi(i, j - 1)] - \frac{12EI}{l_y^2} u_y - (EA \cos^2 \theta + \frac{12EI}{l^2} \sin^2 \theta)(u_{\bar{\theta}} - u_{-\bar{\theta}}) - (EA - \frac{12EI}{l^2}) \sin \theta \cos \theta (v_{\bar{\theta}} + v_{-\bar{\theta}}) + \frac{6EI}{l^2} \sin \theta [\varphi(i - 1, j) + 2\varphi(i, j) + \varphi(i + 1, j)]$$

$$F_y = EAu_y - (EA - \frac{12EI}{l^2}) \sin \theta \cos \theta (u_{\bar{\theta}} + u_{-\bar{\theta}}) + (EA \sin^2 \theta + \frac{12EI}{l^2} \cos^2 \theta)(-v_{\bar{\theta}} + v_{-\bar{\theta}}) + \frac{6EI}{l^2} \cos \theta [\varphi(i - 1, j) - \varphi(i + 1, j)]$$

$$M = 4EI(\frac{1}{l_y} + \frac{2}{l})\varphi(i, j) + 2EI(\frac{\varphi(i, j - 1)}{l_y} + \frac{\varphi(i + 1, j)}{l} + \frac{\varphi(i - 1, j)}{l}) - \frac{6EI}{l_y} u_y + \frac{6EI}{l} \sin \theta (-u_{\bar{\theta}} + u_{-\bar{\theta}}) + \frac{6EI}{l} \cos \theta (v_{\bar{\theta}} + v_{-\bar{\theta}})$$

where, $u_{-\bar{\theta}} = [u(i, j) - u(i - 1, j)] / l$, $u_{\bar{\theta}} = (u(i + 1, j) - u(i, j)) / l$; θ is included angle between the two walls; l is the length of side wall.

Paper honeycomb is a composite material made of cellular reinforced material and cover paper. It appears as a visco-elastic property. So its modulus of elasticity and shear modulus can be known. It is hypothesized that the load of two neighbor edges per unit length is F_1 and F_2 respectively. The strain of the two neighbor edges is the same in the axial direction. It meets Eq.(4) as follow:

$$\frac{F_1}{E\delta_1} = \frac{F_2}{E\delta_2} \tag{4}$$

where, δ_1, δ_2 are the thickness of two edges, E is the paper’s modulus of elasticity.

Bonding force F_1 and F_2 is equivalent to bonding force σ_z in the axial direction, namely,

$$\sigma_z \frac{3}{2} l \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} l = F_1 l + F_2 \frac{1}{2} l \tag{5}$$

Strain energy of paper can be gotten as follows:

$$U_c = \int_0^l \left(\frac{F_1}{E\delta_1} = \frac{F_2}{E\delta_2} \right) ds \Delta z = \frac{27l^3}{16E(2\delta_1 + \delta_2)} \Delta z \delta_z^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sigma_z^2}{E_c} \Delta v$$

Transverse modulus of elasticity can be gotten as follows:

$$E_c = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}} \left(\frac{2\delta_1 + \delta_2}{l} \right) E \tag{7}$$

Shear modulus meets Eq.(8) as follows:

$$G_x = \frac{\sqrt{3}\delta G}{2l}, G_y = \frac{\delta G}{\sqrt{3}l} \tag{8}$$

where, G is the shear modulus of paper, δ is the thickness of paper honeycomb core.

A paper honeycomb core is made of six edges. Among other things, two edges glued other edges while the left are not. The relation between length of glued edge and other edge meets Eq. (9):

$$y = 15\sqrt{3}l^2 \tag{9}$$

where, y is the load-carrying aream, l is the size dimension of paper honeycomb core.

Density of paper honeycomb can be defined as follow:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{v} = \frac{30\sqrt{3}P_1 l^2 + 2400P_2 l + m_g}{900\sqrt{3}l^2} \tag{10}$$

where, P_1 is the density of cover paper, P_2 is the density of honeycomb core, m_g is the mass of glue water.

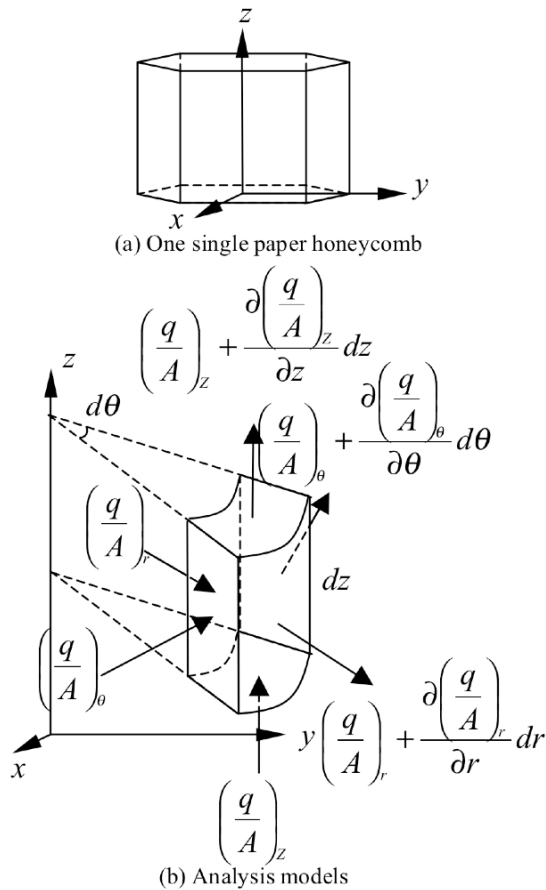


Fig. (2). A heat transfer model of a single honeycomb core.

2.2. Drying Process of Honeycomb Carton

When the paper honeycomb core is bending to honeycomb carton, stress concentrations due to bending load and cohesive force caused by glue water should be considered. A method is used for solving this question, namely, after the paper honeycomb cores are applied glue water, bending load is loaded to develop honeycomb carton, then glue water is applied again in bending corner. At last, drying process of honeycomb carton is carried out to fall into a pattern.

For researching of material drying feature, besides the external drying condition, it is more important to study the internal heat and mass transfer mechanism. The drying process of honeycomb carton is actually porous medium drying. Normal solid is considered when the porous substance porosity is zero and normal fluid is considered when the porosity is one, porous substance is considered when the porosity is between zero to one. So the main drying object is moist porous medium [14, 15].

To quantitatively describe paper honeycomb internal temperature and moist content distribution and theoretically reveal the heat and mass transfer mechanism of honeycomb carton during drying process, diffusion theory and Fick diffusion law have been gotten. For establishing the heat and mass transfer model, it has been assumed as follows: (1) The internal temperature and moisture of paper honeycomb distribute uniformly at the beginning of drying; (2) The moisture movement caused by pressure gradient is not taken into

consideration; (3) Ignoring paper honeycomb’s shrinkage during drying process.

Taking one single paper honeycomb core from paper honeycomb, the hexagon cross section is equivalent to round in favor of theoretical analysis (shown in Fig. 2).

First law of thermodynamics expresses the natural law of energy conservation, namely, energy can be transformed from one form to another form and from one object to another object. But the total energy keeps the same. For any energy transforming system, the energy conservation law can be expressed as follow:

$$\rho \frac{dU}{dt} r dr d\theta dz = \rho \frac{dQ_{pure}}{dt} r dr d\theta dz + \rho \frac{dQ_{inner}}{dt} r dr d\theta dz \tag{11}$$

where, ρ is density of paper honeycomb core, U is the internal energy, Q is the heat flow.

(1) The element net input heat flow rate.

The element net input heat flow rate in r direction can be gotten as follow:

$$\left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_r r d\theta dz - \left[\left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_r + \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_r}{\partial r} dr \right] (r + dr) d\theta dz = - \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_r dr d\theta dz - \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_r}{\partial r} r dr d\theta dz \tag{12}$$

The element net input heat flow rate in θ direction can be gotten as follow:

$$\left\{ \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_\theta - \left[\left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_\theta + \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_\theta}{\partial \theta} d\theta \right] \right\} r dr d\theta = - \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_\theta}{\partial \theta} r dr d\theta dz \tag{13}$$

The element net input heat flow rate in z direction can be gotten as follow:

$$\left\{ \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_z - \left[\left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_z + \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_z}{\partial z} dz \right] \right\} r dr d\theta = - \frac{\partial \left(\frac{q}{A} \right)_z}{\partial z} r dr d\theta dz \tag{14}$$

So the element gross net input heat flow rate is

$$-\left(\frac{q}{A}\right)_r drd\theta dz - \left[\frac{\partial\left(\frac{q}{A}\right)}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial\left(\frac{q}{A}\right)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial\left(\frac{q}{A}\right)}{\partial z} \right] r dr d\theta dz . \text{ It can}$$

be gotten according to Fourier's Law:

$$\left(\frac{q}{A}\right)_r = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial r}, \left(\frac{q}{A}\right)_\theta = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta}, \left(\frac{q}{A}\right)_z = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \quad (15)$$

where, k is heat conduction of paper honeycomb.

So the heat flow rate is $k\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + r \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \theta^2} + r \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2}\right) dr d\theta dz$ which is input into the element by heat conduction.

(2) The heating rate of internal heat source

There is no heat source inside the element, so the heating rate of internal heat source is zero. According to first law of thermodynamics, the growth rate of the internal energy in the element of paper honeycomb can be gotten as follow:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \frac{dU}{dt} r dr d\theta dz &= \rho \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} r dr d\theta dz \\ &= \rho \left(c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{1+M} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} Q_{fg} \right) r dr d\theta dz \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where, c_p is the constant pressure specific heat, H is the enthalpy, M is the moisture content, Q_{fg} is the latent heat of water evaporation.

According to the heat flow rate and Eq. (16), it can be gotten as follow:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} &= k \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + r \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \theta^2} + r \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{1+M} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} Q_{fg} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

For axial symmetry of single paper honeycomb core, the above equation can be transformed to:

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right) + \frac{1}{1+M} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} Q_{fg} \quad (18)$$

(3) The heat transfer boundary condition

According to Newton law of cooling, the surface heat flow rate Q_1 , which is transferred between the single paper honeycomb surface and the hot blast by way of convective transfer, is met as follow.

$$q_1 = h_r (T_a - T) \quad (19)$$

where, h_r is the convective heat transfer coefficient; T_a is the hot blast temperature; T is the surface temperature of single paper honeycomb core.

Meanwhile, the heat flow rate q_2 of moisture evaporation caused by the moisture evaporation on single paper honeycomb core surface is met as follow:

$$q_2 = \frac{\rho V}{A} [Q_{fg} + c_v (T_a - T)] \frac{1}{1+M} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} \quad (20)$$

where, c_v is the steam constant pressure specific heat, A is the surface area of single paper honeycomb core, V is the volume of single paper honeycomb core.

The heat flow rate transferred from external surface to internal surface by way of heat conduction can be gotten as follow:

$$q_3 = k \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} \quad (21)$$

According to heat conservation principle, $q_1 = q_2 + q_3$, the heat transfer boundary condition of single paper honeycomb core can be gotten as follow:

$$-k \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} = h_r (T_a - T) + \frac{\rho V}{A} [Q_{fg} + c_v (T_a - T)] \frac{1}{1+M} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} \quad (22)$$

(4) Mass transfer model of the single paper honeycomb core

In the assumed condition of model establishment, there is no moisture diffused into the glue, so the mass transfer only proceeds in the single paper honeycomb core. According to the Fick's second law of diffusion, the mass transfer equation is met as follow:

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial M}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial z^2} \right) \quad (23)$$

3. FEA OF PAPER HONEYCOMB

3.1. The Built Analytical Models

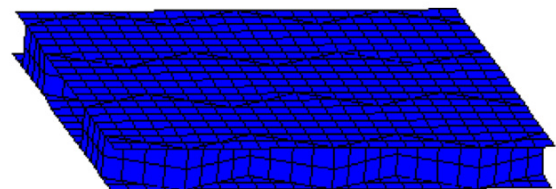
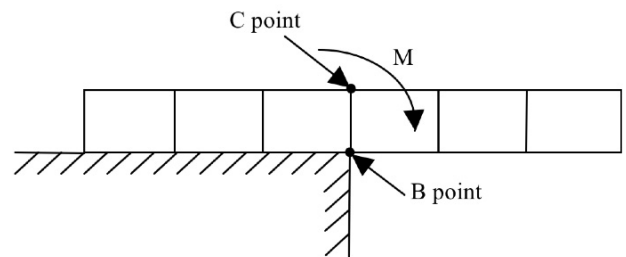


Fig. (3). The analytical model.

The distortion and destroy process of paper honeycomb is very complicated, for it contains material nonlinear or

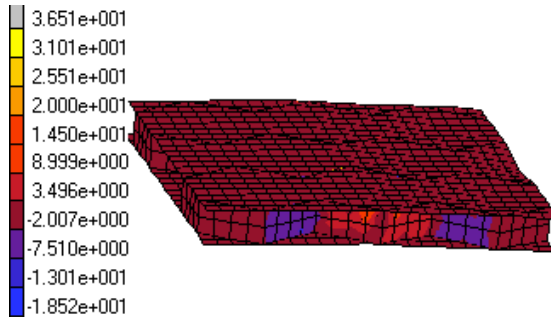
structure nonlinear. So its parameters need to be simplified. The simulation of bending course of paper honeycomb is carried out and its stress distribution and deformation course are obtained. The model of paper honeycomb has been built (shown in Fig. 3), which height is 10mm. The other parameters of the model have been defined in Table 1.

Table 1. Material parameter of models.

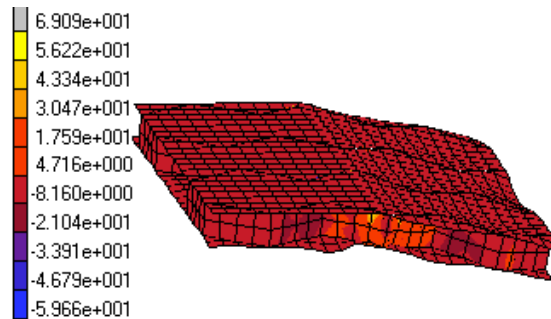
Parameters	Cover Paper	Paper-Core
Longitudinal modulus of elasticity	2.32GPa	2.82GPa
Transverse modulus of elasticity	1.36GPa	1.23GPa
Density	350g/mm ²	230g/mm ²
Thickness	0.38mm	0.3mm
Poisson ration	0.325	0.278

3.2. Analysis on Bending Process

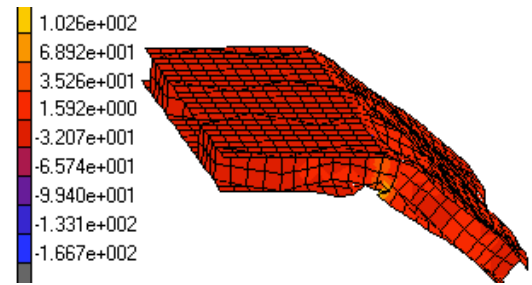
The model's classical phases were shown in Fig. (4). The paper-cores only performed bending torque in linear elastic phase. Critical load was reached and it became unsteady and swayed when the load added a little bigger than critical load, which caused buckling. Then steady balance was destroyed. In quick succession, it was compressed sharply near the B point and reached plastic collapse phase. Then the paper-cores touched each other and entered into densification phase. However, the paper-cores were stretched continuously near the C point. At last, fracture of cell walls and debonding of honeycomb cores would be happen. The distribution of shear strength had been showed in left of each figure. The value of shear force increased gently before buckling. Then it increased quickly near the bucking point and it increases gently again. At last, it declined quickly after honeycomb cores debonded. The changing curves of maximum shear force and minimum shear force (shown in Fig. 5).



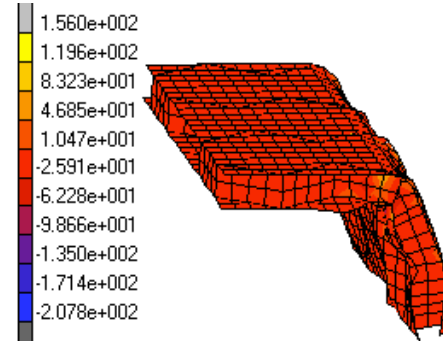
(a) Time is 0.1 second



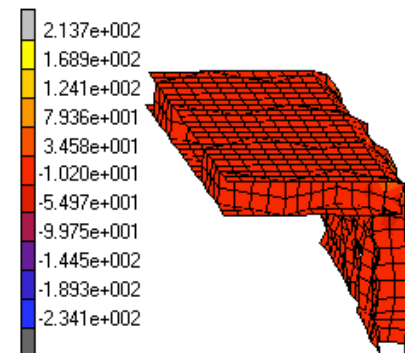
(b) Time is 0.44 second



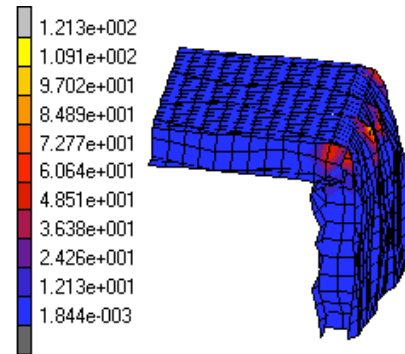
(c) Time is 0.45 second



(d) Time is 0.452 second



(e) Time is 0.97 second



(f) Time is 1 second

Fig. (4). The bending process of paper honeycomb.

The rotation curve in the compression course was showed in Fig. (6). The curve showed that it was linear in linear elastic phase. Angle changed steeply for an instant after buckling. The external load curve of the model was showed in Fig. (7). The curve also showed that it was linear in linear elastic phase. Load changed slowly but displacement changed rapidly in plasticity collapse phase. Displacement almost didn't change along with crescent load in densification phase. It accorded with the ideal displacement-stress curve, which was proved the availability of FEA.

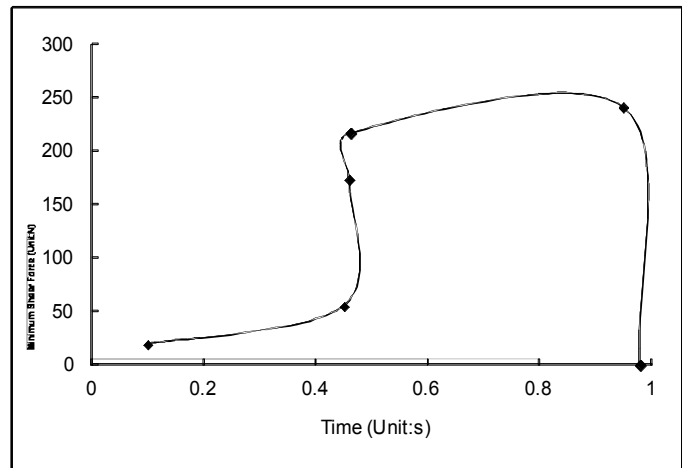
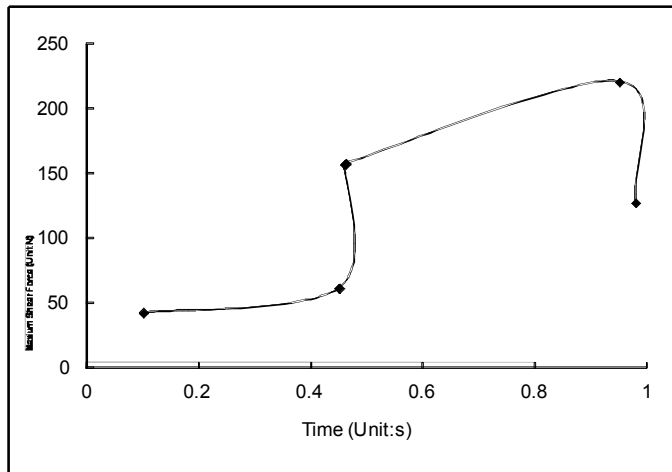


Fig. (5). The changing curve of maximum and minimum shear force.

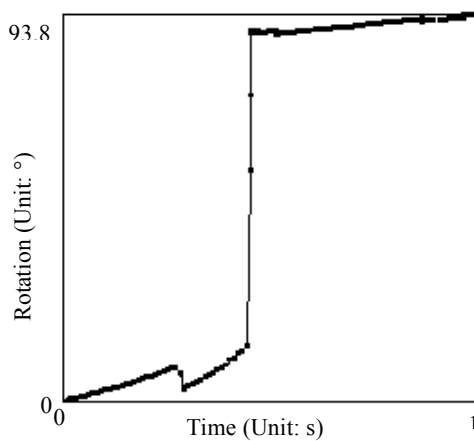


Fig. (6). Rotation curve of the model.

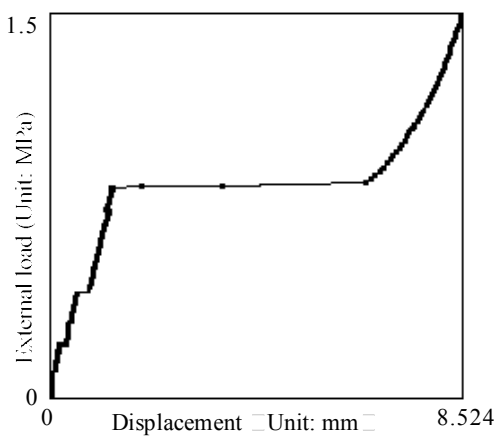


Fig. (7). External load curve of the model.

4. EXPERIMENTAL VERIFICATION

The analysis results gotten by FEA had been checked by experimentation. The bending process of paper honeycomb was shown in Fig. (7). The paper-core only performed bending torque in linear elastic phase. It became unsteady and swayed when the load added a little bigger than critical load. In quick succession, the paper honeycomb core near the an-

gle table was destroyed and reached plastic collapse phase. Then the paper-core near the angle table touched each other. At last, fracture of paper-core would be happen when the adhesion stress of model was insufficient, even the portion of cover paper would fell away showed in Fig. (8). Stress concentration due to bending load and cohesive force caused by glue water has been happened. So the drying process of honeycomb carton should be carried out to fall into a pattern.

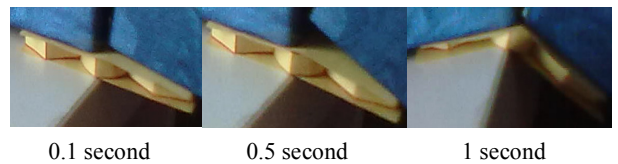


Fig. (7). The bending course of experimental methods.

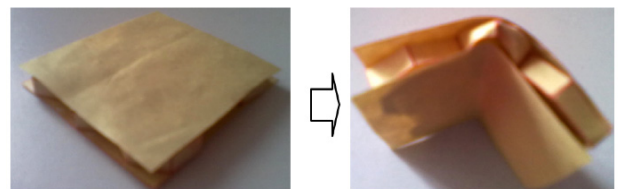


Fig. (8). The bending result of paper honeycomb.

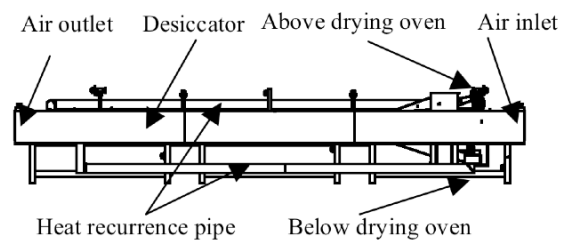


Fig. (9). The structure of drying equipment.

Actual drying equipment has been applied in processing workshop (shown in Fig. 9). Operating principle of drying equipment can be given expression as follow: humid honeycomb cartons bended by a device are put in drying equipment, where two drying ovens offer heat to honeycomb cartons and take water vapor quickly from air inlet to air outlet. Two heat recurrence pipes installed on top and bottom of

drying equipment, where most heat gets back to drying oven to trap the heat. In addition, partition testing has been made by some devices, such as thermodetector, anemometer and moisture meter.

Drying calculation diagram of honeycomb carton includes enthalpy of moist air, evaporated quantity of water and total heat of drying medium is shown in Fig. (10). Original states of fresh air are follows: environmental temperature t_0 , moistness H_0 , heat content I_0 , total dry air L . Fresh air is heated when it enters air heater (heated state: environmental temperature t_1 , moistness H_1 , heat content I_1 , total dry air L). Then moisture percentage of demotes from ω_1 to ω_2 and product temperature is up from t_{m1} to t_{m2} after honeycomb cartons are dried. At last, the air (its state: environmental temperature t_2 , moistness H_2 , heat content I_2 , total dry air L) is back to air heater and steam is exhaust [16].

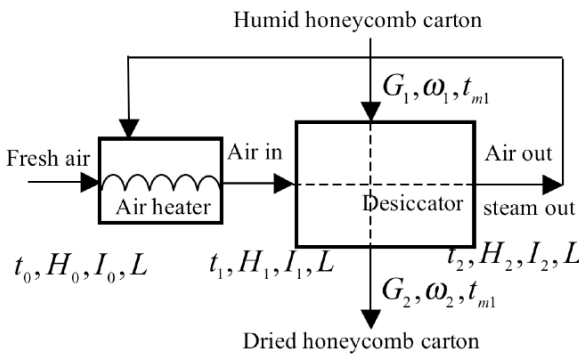


Fig. (10). Drying calculation diagram of honeycomb carton.

It can be gotten the Eq.(24) as follow:

$$G_1 = G_2 \frac{100 - \omega_2}{100 - \omega_1} \quad (24)$$

where, G_1 is the mass of humid material before entering desiccator, G_2 is the mass of material after leaving desiccator. ω_1 is moisture percentage of humid material, ω_2 is moisture percentage of dried material.

Energy balance of drying equipment can be got as follow:

$$\Sigma Q + \Sigma W = \Sigma H_1 - \Sigma H_2 \quad (25)$$

where, ΣQ is pure heat flux which enter desiccator, ΣW is pure power, ΣH_1 is total enthalpy of feeding product, ΣH_2 is total enthalpy of discharging product.

The statistics has been given in Table 2, which indicated better results by comparison. Now a honeycomb carton had been done by this way shown in Fig. (11).

CONCLUSION

1. Theoretical analysis on mechanical properties and drying process of paper honeycomb has been gotten, which is integrant to understand the process of honeycomb carton.

2. The FEA on bending course of paper honeycomb is carried out and its stress distribution and deformation course

Table 2. The statistics of drying equipment.

Relative Humidity (Unit:%)	59
Environment temperature (unit:degree celsius)	15.7
Initial temperature of paper honeycomb (unit:degree celsius)	19
Initial humidity ratio (unit:%)	42
Final humidity ratio (unit:%)	14

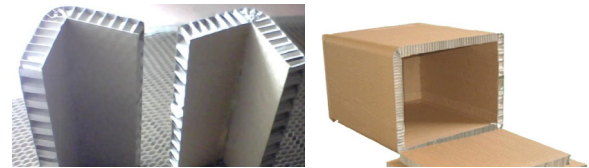


Fig. (11). The product of bended paper honeycombs.

are obtained. The bending process can be divided into four phases: linear elastic phase, elastic-plasticity phase, plasticity collapse phase, densification and fracture phase. A combination of experimental and FEA results have been used to derive a consistent and realistic description of the bending resistance of paper honeycomb.

3. Bending wreckage easily occurs due to stress concentrations which caused by bending load and cohesive force. Drying process of honeycomb carton should be carried out after the bending process.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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