Research Article

Study the Fire Resistance of Desert Sand Concrete (DSC) with Interface Phase through Uniaxial Compression Tests and Analyses

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The shortage of sand resources and high-rise building fires are becoming increasingly prominent. Desert sand (DS) with smaller particles can effectively fill the concrete voids and further improve its working performance; it is used as a fine aggregate to produce concrete. This article studied the performance of desert sand concrete (DSC) against fire resistance by using mathematical modeling for simulation. The stress-strain curves of desert sand mortar (DSM) after elevated temperatures were tested, and the constitutive model was established. By comparing the experiment and simulation results, it was verified that the model is suitable to be adopted in this study. Data from experiment and past literature can serve as parameters for the subsequent simulation. The destruction process of DSC under uniaxial compression after elevated temperature was simulated by using ANSYS. The simulation results indicated that, after elevated temperature, compressive strength reduced with increase of interface thickness. The compressive strength of DSC had a substantially linear increase as the interface compressive strength increased. For two-grade coarse aggregate, the optimum volume content was 45%, and particle size of it showed a significant effect on the compressive strength of DSC. The DSM constitutive model and simulation results can provide a sound theoretical basis and technical support for DSC engineering applications.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the incidence of fires has soared in China. Fire disasters of high-rise buildings were recorded at alarming rates of 2499 cases in 2013 [1] (p. 329), 4989 in 2014 [2] (p. 365), and 5571 in 2015 [3] (p. 303). Compared to 2013, the fire growth rates in 2014 and 2015 were 99.64% and 122.93%, respectively. For high-rise buildings, due to the chimney effect, fire spreads rapidly, which may cause an increase in economic losses and casualties. Therefore, research on the fire resistance of concrete buildings after elevated temperature will help reduce unnecessary damage. Numerous researchers studied concrete after different elevated temperatures [4–7]. Pliya et al. [6] heated the recycled aggregate high-strength concrete to 550–600°C at different heating rates and observed a decline in compressive strength. Qiu [7] used a test to study C70 concrete failure behaviour after heating of 25–800°C. Initial crack toughness and instability toughness both decreased with temperature increase. In this paper, the target temperatures were set at 300°C, 500°C, and 700°C, while the room temperature (20°C) was used as a reference.

Due to rapid development of construction and infrastructure, the shortage of medium sand in construction has become a global problem. Many researchers in China and abroad have started to find alternatives to substitute concrete with non-renewable sources while curbing environmental pollutions, desert sand was used as a substitute for medium sand. Many researchers are working on DSC [11–13]. The fineness modulus of DS is only 0.292, which is finer than fine sand (0.7–1.5 mm). It is classified as ultrafine sand. Zhang and
Yang [14] used Mu Us DS and Tengger DS to produce DSC and suggested that DS could be used as fine aggregate for concrete production. Wang and Li [15] revealed that high-strength prestressed concrete of C50 [16] could be produced by mixing DS and medium sand. Thus, the use of desert sand can be widely applied for civil engineering near the desert region for better economic and social benefit. Yan et al. [17] applied statistical models to optimize the mix ratio for DSC, which replaced medium sand with a different proportion of DS obtained from Mu Us region.

The macrolevel for concrete is an important aspect of concrete study. Concrete damage usually leads to a loss of concrete capacity. Concrete macroscopic failure is closely linked to nonuniformity of its microstructure. From macroscopic structure perspective, many investigations have been conducted to develop the mechanical models of concrete [18–21]. By modifying Drucker-Prager model, Yu et al. [18] proposed a new coupling function of concrete strength, which included temperature and strain rate in the model. Marsavina et al. [19] used Mu Us DS and Tengger DS to produce DSC and suggested that DS could be used as fine aggregate for concrete production. Wang and Li [15] revealed that high-strength prestressed concrete of C50 [16] could be produced by mixing DS and medium sand. Thus, the use of desert sand can be widely applied for civil engineering near the desert region for better economic and social benefit. Yan et al. [17] applied statistical models to optimize the mix ratio for DSC, which replaced medium sand with a different proportion of DS obtained from Mu Us region.

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**Table 1: Physical and mechanical indexes of sands.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Fineness modulus (%)</th>
<th>Bulk density (g·cm(^{-3}))</th>
<th>Apparent density (g·cm(^{-3}))</th>
<th>Mud content (%)</th>
<th>Void ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National standard (medium sand)</td>
<td>2.3~3.0</td>
<td>≥1350</td>
<td>≥2500</td>
<td>≤1.0</td>
<td>≤47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium sand (artificial sand washing)</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>1570</td>
<td>2636</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert sand (Mu Us desert sand)</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>2624</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>40.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Chemical components of sands.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Component (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Al(_2)O(_3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium sand</td>
<td>9.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert sand</td>
<td>8.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3: Physical indexes of cement.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cement type</th>
<th>Fineness</th>
<th>Standard consistency</th>
<th>Water consumption (%)</th>
<th>Stability</th>
<th>Setting time (min)</th>
<th>Compressive strength (MPa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O 42.5R</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>135 (initial)</td>
<td>174 (final)</td>
<td>33.4 (3d)</td>
<td>54.8 (28d)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4: Physical indexes of fly ash.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level (I)-fly ash</th>
<th>Water content (%)</th>
<th>Fineness (45 μm sieve residue) (%)</th>
<th>Water demand ratio (%)</th>
<th>SO(_4) (%)</th>
<th>Loss on ignition (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard value</td>
<td>≤1</td>
<td>≤12</td>
<td>≤95</td>
<td>≤3</td>
<td>≤5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5: Test results of water (tap water) quality.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test items</th>
<th>Prestressed concrete</th>
<th>RC</th>
<th>Plain concrete</th>
<th>Detection value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH value</td>
<td>≥5.0</td>
<td>≥4.5</td>
<td>≥4.5</td>
<td>7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insolubles (mg·L(^{-1}))</td>
<td>≤2000</td>
<td>≤2000</td>
<td>≤5000</td>
<td>32.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solubles (mg·L(^{-1}))</td>
<td>≤2000</td>
<td>≤5000</td>
<td>≤10000</td>
<td>40.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl(^-) (mg·L(^{-1}))</td>
<td>≤500</td>
<td>≤1000</td>
<td>≤3500</td>
<td>18.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO(_4)(^2-) (mg·L(^{-1}))</td>
<td>≤600</td>
<td>≤1000</td>
<td>≤2700</td>
<td>23.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkali content (mg·L(^{-1}))</td>
<td>≤1500</td>
<td>≤1500</td>
<td>≤1500</td>
<td>10.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1: Sieving curve of the test materials.**
Figure 2: Loading setup.

Figure 3: Continued.
Figure 3: Compression failure of DSM specimens after elevated temperature. (a) DSR-0%; (b) DSR-20%; (c) DSR-40%; (d) DSR-60%; (e) DSR-80%; (f) DSR-100%.
that samples failed obliquely at different angles to the specimen center and then cracked downward forming a Y-shape.

After elevated temperature, the DSM underwent crushing with different damage degrees. Figure 4 shows the increase of failure angle with increasing temperature. It was found that the cones at 300°C, 500°C, and 700°C were relatively small as compared with the cone at room temperature. As temperature increases, the structure integrity was gradually deteriorated, and the overall structure was relatively loose at 700°C. This phenomenon was mainly caused by the moisture evaporation inside the concrete, C—S—H gel dehydration and decomposition, and CH chemical decomposition, as temperature rose from room temperature to 700°C [32].

2.3. Test Results of Uniaxial Compression Performance of DSM. The stress-strain curves of DSM with different DSR after elevated temperature were obtained through experimental research. Figure 5 shows the DSM with DSR of 0% (ordinary mortar) and 100% (pure desert sand mortar) after elevated temperature. As shown in Figure 5, the peak stress of pure DSM at 300°C increased by about 5% in comparison with ordinary mortar. Meanwhile, the peak stress of pure DSM at room temperature, 500°C, and 700°C was lower than that of ordinary mortar. The optimal DSR was 40%. The peak stress, peak strain, elastic modulus, and Poisson’s ratio of DSM can be obtained from Figure 5. The secant modulus at 40% peak stress was taken as elastic modulus, and ratio of transverse strain to longitudinal strain at elastic stage of stress-strain curve was regarded as Poisson’s ratio.

According to the test results, the fitting relationship of DSM after elevated temperature is obtained. The determination coefficients ($R^2$) of equations (1)–(4) were larger than 0.96. The fitting equations (1)–(4) were as follows:

$$\frac{\sigma_c(S,T)}{\sigma_c} = 0.99 + 0.182 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right) + 0.33S$$

(1)

$$\frac{\varepsilon_c(S,T)}{\varepsilon_c} = 0.997 + 0.51 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right) - 0.279S$$

(2)

$$\frac{E(S,T)}{E} = 1.02 - 1.385 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right) + 0.167S$$

(3)

$$\frac{\sigma(S,T)}{\sigma_c} = 0.99 + 0.55 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right) - 0.13S + 0.06S \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right)^2$$

$$- 0.394S + 4.28 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right)^2 - 0.282S^2 + 3.61 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right)^3,$$

(4)

where $\sigma_c(S,T)$, $\varepsilon_c(S,T)$, $E(S,T)$, and $\nu(S,T)$ are the peak stress, peak strain, elastic modulus, and Poisson’s ratio of DSM after elevated temperature; $\sigma_c$, $\varepsilon_c$, $E$, and $\nu$ are the peak stress, peak strain, elastic modulus, and Poisson’s ratio of ordinary mortar at room temperature; $T$ is temperature; $S$ is the DSR.

Based on the model [33], which belonged to concrete and mortar in Figure 6, the DSM stress-strain curve after elevated temperature can be obtained by test and was fitted, and the fitting results agree well, as shown in Figure 7.

Therefore, equation (5) was suitable for DSM after elevated temperature in this study.

$$\frac{\sigma_c}{\sigma_c} = \hat{n} + \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_c}{\varepsilon_c} \right]^{-n},$$

(5)

The parameter $n$ was obtained by fitting, which was the function of DSR, $S$, and temperature $T$. The range of $T$ was 20–700°C. The coefficient of determination ($R^2$) of equation (6) was 0.956, and the fitting was good. The fitting equation was as follows:

$$n = 1.748 + 14.383 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right) + 1.46S$$

$$+ 3.31S \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right)^2 - 9.718 \left( \frac{T-20}{700} \right)^3,$$

(6)

3. Computational Model of DSC

3.1. Material Model and Failure Criteria

3.1.1. Constitutive Model and Parameters of Coarse Aggregate after Elevated Temperatures. The elevated temperature had a little negative effect on coarse aggregates. The coarse aggregate was hardly damaged during loading process. Concrete damage was mainly due to the insufficient bearing capacity of mortar. Thus, the elastoplastic model of coarse aggregate as shown in Table 6 was selected.

3.1.2. Parameters of Interface Phase after Elevated Temperatures. Interface phase was the weakest phase in the overall structure of concrete. It will affect the concrete strength. The corresponding parameters of interface phase were relatively small as compared with mortar strength and elastic modulus. Generally, the elastic modulus of interface phase was within 30–70% of mortar elastic modulus [35, 36]. Based on the mortar mechanical parameters, the strain and Poisson’s ratio were kept constant, and the stress and elastic
modulus were multiplied by a coefficient (<1) as the stress and elastic modulus of interface phase. In this study, the mortar elastic modulus was taken as the interface phase elastic modulus according to an arithmetic sequence of 60%, 70%, 80%, and 90%, respectively.

3.1.3. Failure Criteria. Concrete was generally regarded as a brittle material, and only a small deformation under external force may cause the component to break and fracture. In this study, the maximum principal strain failure criterion was adopted. When the strain value of finite element unit reaches the maximum principal strain value, the unit is regarded as a failure and cannot continue to bear the load.

3.2. Material Model and Failure Criteria

3.2.1. Random Aggregate Model. Fuller and Thompson [37] proposed a maximum compactness rational grading curve to achieve best compactness and strength. The Fuller-grading curve expression was as follows:

\[ P = 100\% \left( \frac{D_h}{D_{\text{MAX}}} \right)^{0.5} \]

where \( D_h \) is screen hole diameter; \( P \) is percentage of coarse aggregate passing diameter \( D_h; \) \( D_{\text{MAX}} \) is coarse aggregate maximum particle size.

Based on Fuller-grading curve, Walaraven and Reinhardt [38] converted a three-dimensional grading curve into
Figure 6: Constitutive model of concrete and mortar [33].

Figure 7: Stress-strain fitting curves of DSM with different DSR after elevated temperature. (a) DSR-20%; (b) DSR-40%; (c) DSR-60%; (d) DSR-80%.
where $P_K$ is percentage of coarse aggregate total volume to the concrete total volume; $D_0$ is smallest diameter of the coarse aggregate; $A$ is area occupied by coarse aggregate; $D$ is average diameter of coarse aggregate; and $N$ is number of coarse aggregates.

3.2.2. A Finite-Element Model of DSC. To produce an acceptable result, at least three test blocks need to be prepared for each case in experiment. In this study, the two-dimensional random aggregate program was written and used. Taking the particle size group with a volume content of 55% and a gradation of 5–10–20 mm as an example, the area occupied by coarse aggregates of 5–10 mm and 10–20 mm can be calculated, respectively. Therefore, the number of aggregates can be obtained.

According to Figures 8(a)–8(c), the distribution of large aggregates on the plane was conducted randomly. Figure 8(d) shows the model details. Both cement mortar and coarse aggregate material unit could adopt a quadrilateral four-node plane82 unit, which was divided by a mapped grid.

3.2.3. Comparative Analysis between Experiment and Numerical Simulation. For simulation, the specimen size was $100 \times 100 \times 100$ (mm$^3$). The coarse aggregate volume content, coarse aggregate particle size, and interface thickness were 55%, 5–10–20 (mm), and 0.6 mm, respectively. Table 7 shows the errors between experimental and simulated results. The errors were tiny and were within ±5%.

Ghannam et al. [40] and Prabhu et al. [41] replaced fine sand with blended granite, iron powder, and foundry sand and found that the optimal replacement rate was 10% and 20%, respectively. In comparison, Al-Jabri et al. [42] suggested that the optimal replacement was 40–50%, when the sand was replaced by copper slag. Therefore, the optimum of fine aggregate was highly dependent on the material type, which was used as a replacement. In Figure 9, the optimal DSR is 40%; it is also shown that the simulated values agree well with the experimental values. Thus, this model was suitable to simulate the uniaxial compression performance of DSC with interface phase after elevated temperature.

In DSC compression process, the initial position of failure was located at the interface inside DSC. With the growth of compressive stress, the DSC specimen was broken in diagonal direction. For failure angle measurement, the lowest failure angle as shown in Figure 10(a) was regarded as failure surface. As shown in Figure 10, after 300°C, the failure modes of DSC in experiments and simulations were compared. The result shows little difference of failure angle between DSC experiment (46.7–49.3°) and simulation (46.6–48.8°), respectively. In three-dimensional view, the failure form of DSC obtained from experiment and simulation was similar to an inverted triangular pyramid.

4. Simulation of Compressive Strength

4.1. Effect of Thickness of Interface Phase on Compressive Strength. Due to computational efficiency problem, it was difficult to adopt micrometers unit scale as the scale of concrete finite element mesoscopic calculation analysis. The thickness of interface phase was 0.2–0.8 mm [25, 43, 44]. Quite a few researchers [27, 45] even assumed that the interface phase thickness was 1 mm or 2 mm in the process of numerical simulation and believed that if the parameters were reasonable enough, it was feasible to expand the thickness of interfacial phase. Zhou and Hao [25] found that the concrete tensile strength declined with increasing interface phase thickness. However, very few studies have been reported on the influence of interface phase thickness on concrete compressive strength. 2D random aggregate distribution program was written and run in ANSYS, which can
simulate the uniaxial compressive failure process of DSC with different interface phase thicknesses. The influence of interface phase thickness on the DSC compressive strength is illustrated in Figure 11. The DSC compressive strength was decreased when interface phase thickness increased.

Through the fitting analysis of three-dimensional surface in Figure 12, for DSC after elevated temperature, the empirical formula between interface phase thickness, temperature, and compressive strength is obtained. As shown in equation (10), the coefficient of determination ($R^2$) is 0.998, which shows a high degree of fit.

$$\frac{f(T,t)}{f_c} = 1.018 + 0.53\left(\frac{T-20}{700}\right)$$
$$- 0.026\left(\frac{t}{t_c}\right) - 0.888\left(\frac{T-20}{700}\right)^2,$$

where $f(T,t)$ is DSC compressive strength with different interface phase thickness after elevated temperature; $f_c$ is DSC compressive strength at room temperature; $t$ is interface phase thickness; $t_c$ is maximum value of interface phase thickness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T (°C)</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room temperature</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>-0.29</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>-1.15</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>-0.20</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>-1.59</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 8: Finite element models of DSC. (a) Random distribution—I. (b) Random distribution—II. (c) Random distribution—III. (d) Model details.
4.2. Effect of Compressive Strength of Interface Phase on Compressive Strength of DSC. The mortar compressive strength was obtained from test determining the interface phase compressive strength. It was considered that the strains of mortar and interface phase remained the same, and the interface phase strength was changed by changing the interface phase’s elastic modulus. In this study, the interface phase’s elastic modulus was assumed to be in the range of 60–90% of the mortar elastic modulus. Table 8 shows the specific values of elastic modulus of interface phase.

The interface phase’s thickness was 0.6 mm, particle size group was 5–10–20(mm), DSR was 40%, and coarse aggregate volume content was 45%. According to Figure 13, after elevated temperature, the DSC compressive strength increased with the increase of interface phase’s compressive strength. The coefficients of determination ($R^2$) were larger than 0.99 at different temperatures, which concluded that the interface phase’s compressive strength affected the DSC strength significantly.

4.3. Effect of Specimen Size on Compressive Strength. Jin [46] studied the concrete size effect subjected to different strain rates. In the finite element model, volume content of coarse aggregate and particle size were 45% and 5–10–20 mm, respectively. Different sizes of cubes, namely, 100 mm, 150 mm, and 200 mm, were chosen. The uniaxial compression failure processes of DSC after elevated temperature are shown in Figure 10.
temperatures with varying sizes of specimen were simulated and analysed. In Figure 14, the compressive strength of DSC specimens at different exposure temperatures reduced with the increase of specimen size.

4.4. Effect of Coarse Aggregate Volume Content on Compressive Strength. Meddah et al. [36] found that the coarse aggregate optimal volume content was 45-46%. In Figure 15, the compressive strength of test specimen increased initially
4.5. Effect of Particle Size of Coarse Aggregate on Compressive Strength. When the aggregate size was selected reasonably, the concrete can obtain good mixing performance, physical properties, and durability [47, 48]. Coarse aggregate particle size had a greater impact on the concrete compressive strength. Ogundipe et al. [49] used single-size aggregates to produce concrete cubes with sizes of 6 mm, 10 mm, 12.5 mm, 20 mm, and 25 mm. The results revealed that the compressive strength began to increase until the aggregate size reached 12.5 mm, and the concrete produced with aggregate size of 20 mm had higher compressive strength than 25 mm. Therefore, the rationality of the choice of aggregate particle size has an important influence on concrete application. The two-graded DSC was prepared, and the effect of minimum, intermediate, and maximum particle sizes on compressive strength of DSC was investigated.

4.5.1. Effect of Minimum Particle Size of Coarse Aggregate on Compressive Strength. The influence of coarse aggregate minimum particle size on the DSC compressive strength was analysed. The particle size was 5–20–25 mm, 10–20–25 mm, and 15–20–25 mm. Therefore, the minimum particle size was 5 mm, 10 mm, and 15 mm, respectively. Figure 16 shows that the DSC compressive strength has the same trend with the rise of minimum size after exposure to different temperatures. The DSC compressive strength declined with increasing the minimum coarse aggregate size.

By fitting the cubic diagram in Figure 17, for DSC after elevated temperature, the empirical formula between minimum particle size, temperature, volume content, and compressive strength is obtained, as shown in equation (11).
The determination coefficient \( R^2 \) is 0.999, which has a high degree of fit.

\[
\frac{f(T, D_{\text{min}}, V)}{f_c} = 0.99 + 0.59 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) - 0.01 \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right) - 0.0003V \\
- 0.02 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right) - 0.04 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right)^2 + 0.01 \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right)^2.
\]

(11)

where \( f(T, D_{\text{min}}, V) \) is compressive strength considering the influence of temperature, minimum particle size, and volume content; \( D_{\text{min}} \) is minimum particle size of two-stage coarse aggregate; \( V \) is coarse aggregate volume content; \( D \) is particle size of coarse aggregate; \( D_c \) is maximum particle size of coarse aggregate in the control group.

4.5.2. Effect of Intermediate Particle Size of Coarse Aggregate on Compressive Strength. The particle size was 5–10–25 mm, 5–15–25 mm, and 5–20–25 mm. Therefore, the intermediate particle size was 10 mm, 15 mm, and 20 mm, respectively. Figure 18 shows the influence of intermediate particle size on the compressive strength of DSC after exposure to elevated
Figure 15: Effect of volume content on compressive strength of DSC. (a) Room temperature; (b) 300°C; (c) 500°C; (d) 700°C.

Figure 16: Continued.
temperatures. As the intermediate particle size gets larger, the compressive strength of DSC increases firstly and then decreases.

By fitting the cubic diagram in Figure 19, the empirical formula between intermediate particle size, temperature, volume content, and compressive strength is obtained, as shown in equation (12). The determination coefficient ($R^2$) is 0.999, which has a high degree of fit.

$$f \left( \frac{T}{700} \left( V \frac{D}{D_c} \right) \right) = 1 + 0.56 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) + 0.04 \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right) - 0.0003V$$

$$+ 0.01 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right) - 0.93 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right)^2 - 0.03 \left( \frac{D}{D_c} \right)^2,$$

(12)

**Figure 16:** Effect of minimum particle size on compressive strength of DSC. (a) Room temperature; (b) 300°C; (c) 500°C; (d) 700°C.

**Figure 17:** Cube diagram of temperature, volume content, minimum particle size, and compressive strength.
where \( f(T, D_{\text{mid}}, V) \) is compressive strength considering the influence of temperature, intermediate particle size, and volume content. \( D_{\text{mid}} \) is intermediate particle size of two-stage coarse aggregate.

**4.5.3. Effect of Maximum Particle Size of Coarse Aggregate on Compressive Strength.** The particle size was 5–10–15 mm, 5–10–20 mm, 5–10–25 mm, 5–10–30 mm, and 5–10–35 mm. Therefore, the maximum particle size was 15 mm, 20 mm, 25 mm, 30 mm, and 35 mm, respectively. Figure 20 illustrates the influence of the maximum particle size of coarse aggregate on the DSC compressive strength. In Figure 20, as the maximum particle size gets bigger, the compressive strength increases initially and then decreases. When the particle size is 20 mm, the compressive strength reaches the optimal value.

By fitting the cubic diagram in Figure 21, the empirical formula between minimum particle size and temperature, volume content, and compressive strength is obtained, as shown in equation (13). The determination coefficient \( (R^2) \) is 0.998, which has a high degree of fit.

\[
\frac{f(T, D_{\text{max}}, V)}{f_i} = 1 + 0.59 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) - 0.04 \left( \frac{D}{D_i} \right) - 0.0002V \\
- 0.02 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right) \left( \frac{D}{D_i} \right) - 0.93 \left( \frac{T - 20}{700} \right)^2 + 0.03 \left( \frac{D}{D_i} \right)^2, 
\]

(13)

where \( f(T, D_{\text{max}}, V) \) is compressive strength considering the influence of temperature, maximum particle size, and volume content. \( D_{\text{max}} \) is maximum particle size of a two-stage coarse aggregate.
Figure 19: Cube diagram of temperature, volume content, intermediate particle size, and compressive strength.

Figure 20: Continued.
5. Conclusions

The mechanical properties and model of DSM after elevated temperature were obtained through experiments, which provided material parameters for subsequent simulation, and ANSYS software was used to research compression failure process of DSC with interface phase. The effects of interface phase thickness, interface phase compressive strength, test specimen size, volume content, and particle size on the DSC compressive strength after elevated temperature were analysed. The conclusions were as follows:

1. The DSC compressive strength decreased when the thickness of interface phase changed from 0.3 mm to 0.9 mm. After elevated temperature, the DSC compressive strength had a linearly increasing relationship with the interface phase’s compressive strength.
strength. The DSC compressive strength decreased with the increase of specimen size.

(2) The compressive strength of specimen at different temperatures increased firstly and then decreased with increasing coarse aggregate volume. The compressive strength reached the peak value when the volume content was 45%. When the temperature reached 700°C, the effect of volume content of coarse aggregate on compressive strength of DSC was significantly weakened.

(3) The DSC compressive strength reduced with increasing minimum particle size. With the growth of coarse aggregate intermediate and maximum particle size, the compressive strength increased firstly and then decreased. For maximum particle size, when the particle size was 20 mm, the compressive strength reached the optimal value. Compared to the intermediate particle size, the minimum and maximum particle sizes had more significant impacts on the DSC compressive strength.

Based on this study, the constitutive model of DSM and numerical simulation results can provide the support for the fire resistance of DSC.

Data Availability

The data and materials used in the study are included in the article.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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References


