Damage Evolution and Constitutive Model of Marble under Dynamic Loading

Song Xie, Ziyun Li, Qianghui Song, Peiyong Wang, Kaixi Xue, and Dongyan Liu

1Chongqing University of Science and Technology, Chongqing 400000, China
2Army Logistics Academy, Chongqing Key Laboratory of Geomechanics & Geoenvironment Protection, Chongqing 400000, China
3East China University of Technology, 330000, China
4Chongqing University, Chongqing 400000, China
5Chongqing College of Architecture and Technology, Chongqing 400000, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Song Xie; 2020206020@cqust.edu.cn and Ziyun Li; liziyun130@126.com

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Research Article

1. Introduction

In the process of the formation of natural rock mass and the evolution of geological structure, the dynamic disturbance is caused by seismic waves, engineering operations, and mine excavation, which leads to the rock mass spalling and mountain collapse, causing economic losses and casualties. Therefore, it is of great significance to study the mechanical properties of rocks under dynamic loads.

In the past decades, many scholars have made a lot of researches on the mechanical properties and the derivation of constitutive models under static and cyclic loads [1–6]. The deformation characteristics of rock mass under dynamic loads such as blasting and impact are often quite different from those under static loads. Therefore, it is needed to study the dynamic characteristics of rocks. Dynamic experimental research of rock is usually carried out on the SHPB system [7], failure characteristics [8, 9], energy conversion [10], etc. In terms of dynamic impact test, Kong et al. [11–13] used the dynamic constitutive model of gas bearing coal under impact load and verified the feasibility of the constitutive equation by comparing the theoretical and experimental results. Wang et al. [14] simulated the damage effect, temperature effect, and strain rate effect to the constitutive model. The constitutive model can well describe the nonlinear characteristics of frozen sandstone under impact load. Wang et al. [15] proposed a rock damage statistical constitutive model based on Weibull distribution and analyzed the influencing factors of the model parameters. The damage statistical constitutive model can accurately describe the effects of temperature and strain rate on mechanical properties of rocks. Deng and Gu [16] incorporated the entropy distribution information.
into a damage variable and derived a new constitutive model. Zhai et al. [17] applied the energy principle to the constitutive model, which is closer to the experimental results than previous damage constitutive models based on energy. Zhao et al. [18] combined the continuous damage theory and statistical strength theory into the development of the simplified constitutive formula of the stress and developed a damage-based overstress model.

All these studies have greatly promoted the development of rock dynamics. However, few scholars have used the SHPB system to study the postpeak failure behavior and the evolution law of damage variables of rocks at high strain rates. In this paper, the dynamic constitutive model of marble under different strain rates was proposed in combination with fracture mechanics theories. And the damage evolution of rock samples under dynamic impact loads was analyzed. The postpeak dynamic fracture mechanism of rock and the damage and failure mechanism of rock under dynamic load were revealed.

2. Experimental Design

2.1. Sample Preparation. The samples were taken from Leiyang, Hunan Province, and the samples are processed in strict accordance with the specifications of the International Society for Rock Mechanics [19]. The diameter and height of the sample are both 50 mm, and the nonparallelism of the upper and lower end faces is guaranteed to be no more than 0.02 mm. Sample length and diameter measurements are showed in Figure 1. Prior to the sample preparation, the basic mechanical parameters of the rock were characterized [20, 21]. The specific parameters of the marble are as follows: the density is 0.7 g/cm³, a uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) of 114.7 MPa, and the P-wave velocity is 2631 m/s.

2.2. Experimental Equipment. The dynamic impact experiment was carried out on the split Hopkinson pressure bar in Central South University, China. The half-period sine wave generated by the spindle bullet used in the device avoids the waveform distortion generated by the traditional cylindrical punch, thus realizing the constant strain rate loading. SHPB test system solves the problem of stress and strain measurement [22]. It is widely used to study the dynamic mechanical properties of materials [23], such as the dynamic tensile experiments [24, 25] and other dynamic impact experiments [26]. The whole system consists of spindle-shaped bullet, incident bar (2 m in length), transmission bar (1.5 m in length), absorption bar (0.8 m in length), DL850E oscilloscope, CS1D dynamic strain gauge, and a high-speed camera. The pressure bar is made of 40Cr alloy, the density is 7837 kg/m³, the P-wave velocity is 5470 m/s, and the elastic modulus is 240 GPa. The SHPB system is shown in Figure 2.

A high-speed camera was used to record the failure patterns and crack growth of rock samples during the experiment. The shooting frequency was 3000 times/s. And the whole process from crack to complete failure can be clearly observed.

2.3. Experimental Procedure. The main purpose of this experiment is to study the failure characteristics and mechanical properties of rock mass with different strain rates. Therefore, pretests were carried out before the formal experiment to ensure the rock sample failure under the minimum impact pressure. After several tests, five levels of impact pressures were finally determined. From low to high, they are 0.5 MPa, 0.525 MPa, 0.55 MPa, 0.575 MPa, 0.6 MPa, and 0.625 MPa, respectively. In order to systematically investigate the effect of strain rate on rock properties, five different air pressures were selected. Each test was repeated three times under the same air pressure to ensure a similar impact loading rate.

2.4. Experimental Procedure. Before the experiment, the strain gauges were pasted on the incident bar and the
Figure 2: SHPB system and test equipment. (a) SHPB system, (b) data acquisition system, (c) electronic scale and wave velocity meter, (d) high-speed camera.
transmission bar, respectively. When the bullet was emitted from the air chamber and hit the incident bar, the strain gauge on the incident bar detected the incident stress wave, and the reflected stress wave and the transmitted stress wave would be detected by the strain gauges on the incident bar and the transmission bar, respectively. According to theory of one dimension stress wave

\[
\sigma(t) = \frac{[\sigma_i(t) - \sigma_R(t) + \sigma_T(t)]A_e}{2A_s},
\]

\[
\varepsilon(t) = \frac{1}{\rho_s C_t L_s} \int_0^t [\sigma_i(t) + \sigma_R(t) - \sigma_T(t)] dt,
\]

\[
\dot{\varepsilon}(t) = \frac{1}{\rho_s C_t L_s} [\sigma_i(t) + \sigma_R(t) - \sigma_T(t)].
\]

\(\sigma(t), \sigma_i(t), \sigma_R(t), \text{ and } \sigma_T(t)\) are the dynamic stress, incident stress, reflected stress, and transmitted stress, respectively. \(\varepsilon(t)\) and \(\dot{\varepsilon}\) are strain and strain rate, and \(A_s\) and \(L_s\) are the cross-sectional areas and length of sample. \(A_e, \rho_s, C_s\) are the cross-sectional areas, density and P-wave of bar.

Preimpact experiment shall be carried out before the formal experiment to ensure that the SHPB system is in good condition. The preimpact electrical signal time diagram is shown in Figure 3.

The voltage-time and stress wave-time curves are shown in Figures 4(a) and 4(b). The sum of the incident stress wave and the reflected stress wave is almost equal to the transmitted stress wave, indicating that the two ends of the sample have reached the stress equilibrium state, which has effectively reduced the wave dispersion and inertial effect.

3. Experimental Results

3.1. Mechanical Behavior. As a kind of rock formed by metamorphism of carbonate rocks in sedimentary rocks, marble has higher hardness than sand and sandstone, and its mechanical properties under dynamic impact load also show different characteristics. The dynamic stress-strain curve of marble specimens can be divided into three stages according to the failure process, which are the linear elastic stage (no cracks in the rock sample), crack propagation stage (crack generation and propagation), and macrofracture stage (macrofracture surface generation), respectively. Figure 5 shows the typical dynamic stress-strain curve of marble, which can be divided into three stages [27]. In the initial stage (OA stage), different from the initial stage under static loading, the dynamic stress-strain curve does not show obvious depression. This is because under the impact load, the microcracks in the rock have no time to be connected, so there is no obvious compaction stage. The stress shows a linear growth trend with the increase of strain. In the crack initiation and growth stage (AB stage), before reaching the peak strength, the growth rate of stress with strain slows down, and the modulus of deformation decreases. At this stage, the internal microcracks of rock samples begin to expand. Point B is the crack nucleation point, and the strain corresponding to point B is usually 2/3 of the peak strength, because the compressive strain often suddenly drops to negative values when it slowly goes down to the point about two thirds of the peak value after the peak [28]. The stage from peak strength to point B is the stage of crack nucleation, that is, under the action of stress or environmental factors or the combination of the two, the process of crack propagation in an intact specimen. BC stage is macrofailure stage; when the macrofracture surface forms, the stress in this stage drops
rapidly, showing obvious brittle characteristics. \( \varepsilon_a \) is the strain corresponding to the beginning of stage AB, \( \varepsilon_b \) is the strain corresponding to the end of stage AB, and \( \varepsilon_s \) is the strain corresponding to the end point of brittle fracture.

3.2. Energy Evolution Characteristics. According to the experimental results, stress-strain curves of marbles under impact at different strain rates are drawn in Figure 6. The stress-strain curves are similar at different strain rates. The peak strength increases with the increase of strain rate, showing an obvious strain rate effect.

The relationship between peak stress and peak strain and strain rate can be obtained from the experimental data. Plot the relationship between peak stress and peak strain (Figure 7). It can be found that with the increase of strain rate, the peak strain and peak stress increase gradually. The relationship between peak strain and peak stress and strain rate can be expressed by linear relation:

\[
\varepsilon_{\text{max}} = 0.00007 \dot{\varepsilon} + 0.0003,
\]

\[
\sigma_{\text{max}} = 2.9\dot{\varepsilon} + 13.81.
\]

3.3. Damage Characteristics of Specimens under Cyclic Loading. During the test, the cracking process of rock samples was recorded by using a high-speed camera. Failure photos of samples with the same time interval are selected from the beginning of crack generation. The typical failure process of samples under impact load is shown in Figure 8. The failure mode of marble samples in this test is tensile failure. It can be seen from Figure 8 that in the initial loading stage, cracks appear on the surface of the sample. With the increase of strain rate, the crack length gradually increases, the damage degree of the rock sample gradually increases, and the powdered fragments increase. The cracks of rock sample expand rapidly, forming macroscopic fracture surface. At low strain rate, the number of cracks in rock samples impacted is less. With the increase of strain rate, the crack growth rate of rock sample becomes faster, the number of cracks increases gradually, and the crack position turns from the edge to the middle. The corresponding strain rates of ABCDE are 34.72 s\(^{-1}\), 45.22 s\(^{-1}\), 50.34 s\(^{-1}\), 59.97 s\(^{-1}\), and 67.32 s\(^{-1}\), respectively.

4. Constitutive Model

4.1. Derivation of Constitutive Model Based on Damage Variable. The dynamic damage evolution process is similar
to that under static loading. The damage evolution process of marble mainly includes I (linear elastic stage), II (crack initiation and development stage), and III (macroscopic fracture surface formation stage). The damage variable in OB stage is defined as \[ D = \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \],

where \( \varepsilon \) is the strain; \( \varepsilon_s \) is the strain corresponding to the end point of brittle fracture. \( \lambda \) is the brittleness index.

According to the research results of elastic mechanics and related references, the constitutive relation of rock considering damage characteristics can be expressed as [30]

\[ \sigma_1 = E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \right) \varepsilon. \]  

The dynamic elastic modulus \( E_D \) is the slope corresponding to the linear phase on the dynamic stress-strain curve. The stress-strain equation of BC stage is defined as

\[ \sigma_2 = a \varepsilon^c + b, \]

where \( a \) and \( b \) are the parameters obtained by solving the equations. The stress-strain curves drawn according to equations (4) and (8) are smoothly connected at point B; that is, the two curves are continuous and have the same slope at point B. According to equations (4) and (8), the slope corresponding to point B is \( k_a \) and \( k_b \), respectively.

\[ \varepsilon_b \] is the strain corresponding to point B, which represents the strain at the completion of macroscopic crack nucleation.

The solving coefficients \( a \) and \( b \) can be obtained by combining the above equations ((7)–(10)).

\[ a = \frac{E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \right) (\lambda + 1)}{\varepsilon_b}, \]

\[ b = E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \right) \varepsilon_b - \frac{E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \right) (\lambda + 1)}{\varepsilon_b} \varepsilon^c. \]

To simplify the calculation, the marble sample lost its bearing capacity under dynamic impact load, and the curve drops rapidly, so the stress dropping is introduced:

\[ \Delta \sigma_{BC} = E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \right) \varepsilon_b. \]
a, b, and \( \Delta \sigma_{BC} \) are substituted into equation (8) to obtain the stress-strain equation of BC stage:

\[
\sigma = \frac{k}{\varepsilon_b} \varepsilon^\prime + \Delta \sigma_{BC} = \frac{k}{\varepsilon_b} (\varepsilon^\prime - \varepsilon^\circ) + \Delta \sigma_{BC}. \tag{9}
\]

\( \sigma \) can also be expressed as

\[
\sigma = \frac{k}{\varepsilon_b} (\varepsilon^\prime - \varepsilon^\circ) + \Delta \sigma_{BC} = E_D (1 - D) \varepsilon. \tag{10}
\]
Figure 9: Continued.
Figure 9: Continued.
The damage variable of the BC Stage is obtained:

\[
D = 1 - \left( \frac{k}{E_D} \left( \varepsilon^c - \varepsilon^s \right) + \Delta \sigma_{BC} \right). \quad (11)
\]

Then, the whole process damage variable of marble under dynamic impact load can be expressed as

\[
D = \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^\lambda, \quad \varepsilon < \varepsilon_b, \quad (12)
\]

\[
D = 1 - \left( \frac{k}{E_D} \left( \varepsilon^c - \varepsilon^s \right) + \Delta \sigma_{BC} \right), \quad \varepsilon > \varepsilon_b. \quad (12)
\]

The whole process stress-strain equation of marble under dynamic impact load can be expressed as

\[
\sigma = E_D \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_s} \right)^\lambda \right) \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon < \varepsilon_b, \quad (13)
\]

\[
\sigma = \frac{k}{\varepsilon_b} \left( \varepsilon^c - \varepsilon^s \right) + \Delta \sigma_{BC}, \quad \varepsilon > \varepsilon_b.
\]

In this section, the relevant parameters of dynamic damage constitutive model of marble were obtained from the experimental data, which include dynamic elastic modulus $E_D$, brittleness index $\lambda$, strain $\varepsilon_b$ corresponding to crack nucleation point, and extreme strain $\varepsilon_s$. However, it is necessary to ensure that the parameters $E_D$, $\varepsilon_b$, and $\varepsilon_s$ are positively correlated with the strain rate, while the brittleness index $\lambda$ is negatively correlated with the strain rate [31]. The obtained fitting curves are shown in Figure 9, and the relevant parameters are shown in Table 1. The obtained fitting curves were basically consistent with the experiment curves and meet the requirements of the fitting curves.

Both Figure 9 and Table 1 well verify the adaptability of the model at different strain rates, which can accurately indicate the dynamic mechanical properties of marble.

4.2. The Evolution of D. In Section 4.1, the dynamic damage constitutive model of marble was derived, and the dynamic stress-strain curves and damage parameter $D$ of marble were obtained. As a damage variable, $D$ can characterize the damage conditions of marble at different stages. In this section, the variation of $D$ with strain during dynamic impact of different rock samples at different strain rates was discussed.
Figure 10: Continued.
The variation trend of $D$ with strain at different strain rates was basically the same. As can be seen from Figure 10, in the dynamic impact process, the variation trend of $D$ with strain presents an “S” shape, which develops steadily at the initial stage, then increases rapidly, and finally becomes stable. By comparing the stress-strain curve with the $D$-strain curve, it can be seen that the variation trend of damage $D$ well reflects the three stages of rock deformation.

By fitting the test data, the variation law of $D$ of marble under different strain rates at characteristic points, as shown in Figure 10, and the expressions of $D$ and $\varepsilon$ are showed in Table 2.

### Table 2: Fitting equations of samples under different strain rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample number</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>$R^2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$D = 1.149/1 + e^{-1.755 \cdot 10^9 \cdot 2.016}$</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>$D = 1.147/1 + e^{-0.921 \cdot 10^9 \cdot 4.11}$</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>$D = 1.16/1 + e^{-0.865 \cdot 10^9 \cdot 4.144}$</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>$D = 1.139/1 + e^{-0.729 \cdot 10^9 \cdot 3.843}$</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>$D = 1.062/1 + e^{-0.593 \cdot 10^9 \cdot 4}$</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are many self-promotion and self-inhibition mechanisms for rock under impact loading, and each mechanism has a certain effect on rock stably (compaction and crack generation). Taking $D$ as an example, in the initial stage of loading, $D$ slowly increases with the increase of strain, which corresponds to the linear elastic stage (OA stage). At this time, the rock sample is compacted, and there is almost no damage to the rock sample. This is because there is a mechanism inside the rock sample that prevents the rock sample from being completely compacted, and $D$ grows slowly. After the rock sample is completely compacted, the cohesion between the rock sample structures needs to be overcome when the rock sample enters the damage state from the intact state. Once the cohesion of the rock sample fails due to external conditions, the damage stage starts, and microcracks (BC stage) begin to appear inside the rock sample. At this time, some mechanism inside the rock sample will promote the damage growth, which is shown by the crack expansion, and the growth rate of $D$ value is accelerated. When cracks nucleate, the growth of damage variable $D$ slows down. It shows the self-inhibition effect inside the rock sample. At this time, the macrocracks

Figure 11: The relationship between $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$, $\varepsilon_b$, and strain rate. (a) $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$, (b) $\varepsilon_b$. 

\[
\Delta \sigma_{BC} = 43.72e^{0.018\varepsilon} \\
\varepsilon_b = 0.0121g(0.054\varepsilon)
\]
begin to expand (BC stage), forming a macrofailure surface. At point C, the damage variable $D$ reaches the maximum, and the rock sample loses strength. It indicates that there are some self-promotion and self-inhibition in the rock sample [32, 33].

5. Discussion

According to Meng et al. [34, 35], the magnitude of postpeak stress dropping is the external manifestation of the degree of brittle failure of rock. It can be seen from the Figure 11 that with the increase of strain rate, $\sigma_{BC}$ and $\epsilon_b$ show linear different trend. In combination with the failure process of samples (Figure 8), the law obtained in this paper is the same as that.

In Section 4.1, the constitutive model of the marble sample was derived, and according to the experimental curves and related theories, the damage and failure parameters $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$ and strain $\epsilon_b$ of the crack nucleation point of the marble are solved. $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$ is the stress dropping upon completion of crack nucleation, and $\epsilon_b$ represents the deformation characteristics of marble under dynamic impact load. $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$ increases exponentially with the increase of strain rate, and $\epsilon_b$ increases logarithmically with the increase of strain rate. The variation trend of brittleness parameters with strain rate is shown in Figure 11. Therefore, the strain rate may have a stronger effect on $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$ than on $\epsilon_b$. Subsequently, in order to understand the effect of strain rate on brittle fracture of rock, multiple sets of dynamic impact tests under different strain rates will be conducted to explore the influence of strain rates on brittleness parameters.

6. Conclusions

(1) The deformation stage of marble under dynamic loading can be divided into three stages: linear elastic stage, the crack initiation and growth stage, and macrofailure surface stage. The peak strain and stress of marble increase with the increase of strain rate, and the higher the strain rate is, the faster the crack grows

(2) Based on the theory of fracture mechanics, the constitutive model considering the brittleness index of marble is derived. The constitutive model can well describe the dynamic mechanical properties of marble under dynamic impact

(3) The development trends of damage variables in the three stages of marble deformation are different. There is some mechanism in the rock sample to regulate the damage development of the rock

(4) The stress dropping $\Delta \sigma_{BC}$ and $\epsilon_b$ increase with the increase of strain rate. However, with the increase of strain rate, the increase degree of the two is different. The final failure degree of rock sample depends on them

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Authors’ Contributions

Song Xie was responsible for the writing—project administration. Ziyun Li was responsible for the original draft preparation project administration. Dongyan Liu and Qianghai Song were responsible for the resources. Peiyong Wang was responsible for the funding acquisition. Kaixi Xue was responsible for the data curation. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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