Experimental and numerical simulation studies of the squeezing dynamics of the UBVT system with a hole-plug device

Wen-bin Gu¹, Yun-hao Hu², Zhen-xiong Wang³, Jian-qing Liu⁴, Xiao-hua Yu⁵, Jiang-hai Chen⁶, Jing-lin Xu⁷

^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7}PLA University of Science and Technology, Nanjing, China
 ⁵Unit No. 73198 of PLA, Nanjing, China
 ⁶Unit No. 65307 of PLA, Jilin, China
 ¹Corresponding author
 E-mail: ¹guwenbin1@aliyun.com, ²huyunhao2017@sina.com, ³wangzhenxiong70310@126.com,
 ⁴liujq123321@aliyun.com, ⁵yxhua_305@sina.com, ⁶chengjianghai70310@126.com, ⁷675917439@qq.com
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Abstract. In this paper, a method is proposed to secure an autonomous underwater blasting vibration test (UBVT) system with plugs to deep-water rock, and its specific configuration concept and plugging principle are illustrated. Using the principle of statics, a mathematical model is established for the squeezing force in the process of pressing the hole-plug device (HPD) into holes in rocks. The tension-compression test is conducted on the plugs in round granite holes to obtain the axial pressure-displacement curves of the pressing process with the HPD spring parameter *K*, friction coefficient μ between the HPD and the rock-wall, and the dynamic contact friction attributes between the metallic HPD and the rock-wall of hole in granite. The axial pressure with such parameters as *K*, μ , and the squeezing velocity v, among others, and the four steps of the pressing process are numerically simulated. The relations of the characteristic squeezing force with *K*, μ , and v, as well as the mechanisms of these parameters that influence HPD usage and the sensitivity coefficient, are revealed. The findings of the present study provide references for setting the HPD configuration parameters and for formulating plug-specific construction methods.

Keywords: hole-plug device design, dynamic friction properties, contact friction coefficient, pressing process, dynamics simulation.

1. Introduction

Seismic waves generated by deep-water rock blasting may damage the safety of underwater structures and facilities, and their deep-water propagation and hazardous effects have become problems that remain to be solved in this field [1-6]. The characteristics of underwater blasting and the propagation laws of induced vibration are both different from those of land blasting due to the influence of underwater environments such as water mass, water-saturated sediments, and rock mass [7, 8]. Limited by underwater blasting vibration test (UBVT) techniques and means, current study of underwater blasting vibration mainly concentrates on the response of land ground and structures, deep-water rock blasting vibration effects have been rarely reported at home and abroad [9-11]. We invented an UBVT system that integrates vibration signal acquisition and storage, and multiple autonomous triggering, among others [21]. By comparing the calibration, metering, and land blasting vibration test results, the precision and accuracy of the UBVT system is validated [13, 14]. The UBVT system provides technical support for testing the underwater blasting vibration effects, and the method of securing the test system to seabed rock offers engineering support. To solve problems of securing the test system to seabed rock and to ensure no relative displacement occurs between the system and the underwater measuring point under the blasting vibration effects, we presented methods of plugging the test system into underwater rock with holes [15].

2. Mathematic model of axial force analysis for pressing HPD into holes

Force analysis of pressing into the round rock hole is shown in Fig. 1, and the relative axial displacement between the plugs of different layers is presented in Fig. 2.

Force analysis is conducted at different steps of the pressing process, and the corresponding statics equations are established at different steps of the pressing process. The following expressions of axial pressure using the four steps are obtained:

$$F_{c}(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{n_{1}K[\Delta x_{0} + g(z) - l_{0}][\mu g(z) + (d_{0} - z)]}{g(z) - \mu(d_{0} - z)}, \\ n_{1}\mu K\Delta x_{1}, \\ n_{1}\mu K\Delta x_{1} + \frac{n_{2}K[\Delta x_{0} + g(z - z_{1}) - l_{0}][\mu g(z - z_{1}) + (d_{0} - z + z_{1})]}{g(z - z_{1}) - \mu(d_{0} - z + z_{1})}, \\ 0 < z \le z_{0}, \quad z_{0} < z < z_{1}, \quad z_{1} \le z \le z_{2}, \quad z > z_{2}. \end{cases}$$
(1)

Studies have shown that, when the normal pressure changes in the contact sliding process, the friction coefficient μ is also correlated with the normal pressure F_n [16]:

$$\mu = A_1 + A_2 F_n,\tag{2}$$

where A_1 is the sliding friction coefficient and A_2 is the constant coefficient.

When $n_1 = n_2$, as shown in the plug configuration parameters in Table 1, as shown in Fig. 3 the change curves of the theoretical pressure while pressing the plugs into the mounting holes in rock and the displacement are obtained.



Fig. 1. Force analysis of bulb of HPD



Fig. 2. Relative axial displacement between the plugs of different layers



Table 1. Pl	lug configuration	parameters
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R /mm	d_0 /mm	l_0 /mm	Δx_0 /mm	Δx_1 /mm	z_0 /mm	z_1 /mm	z_2 /mm	$K / N \cdot mm^{-1}$	μ
23.288	15.852	17.599	5.000	10.000	8.852	45.000	53.852	15	0.7

3. Experimental studies on the pressing effect

The test system is presented in Fig. 4. The test procedures are repeated once every condition to obtain the relation curves between the axial pressure and the displacement, as shown in Figs. 5, 6, and 7, where E1 and E2 are the pressure – displacement curves of pressing into natural granite at a constant velocity with a plug spring coefficient of 15 N/mm; E3 and E4 are those of pressing into synthesized granite with a plug spring coefficient of 15 N/mm; and E5 and E6 are those of pressing into synthesized granite with a plug spring coefficient of 15 N/mm; and E5 and E6 are those of pressing into synthesized in Figs. 5-7, the change regularity of the axial pressure-displacement curves under the same test conditions remains unchanged. However, compared with the pressure – displacement time curves from the

theoretical calculation, the test results fluctuate randomly, as shown in Fig. 8 The maximal axial pressures F_{1max} and F_{2max} in the process of squeezing the first and second layers of plugs into the mounting holes under different test conditions and the mean friction forces F_{f1} while squeezing and F_{f2} can be read from the test curves in Table 2. The four characteristic forces in the squeezing process, defined as F_{1max} , F_{2max} , F_{f1} and F_{f2} , are short for the characteristic squeezing force.





Fig. 4. System for testing the sliding friction in the squeezing process



Fig. 5. Axial pressure curves of pressing the plugs into natural rock holes (K = 15 N/mm)



Axial Displacement /mm





Fig. 6. Axial pressure curves of pressing the plugs into synthesized rock holes (K = 15 N/mm)



Fig. 8. Comparison between the theoretical and test values of the axial pressure (K = 15 N/mm)

In Table 2, the mean friction forces F_{f1} , F_{f2} of the first and second layers are obtained:

$$F_{f1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} F_{ci}}{m_1}, \quad F_{f2} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_2} F_{cj}}{m_2}.$$
(3)

In Eq. (3), m_1 and m_2 respectively represent the number of measuring points on the first and second plateaus of the pressure test curves, and, F_{ci} and F_{cj} respectively represent the measured pressures on the first and second plateaus. Thus, the friction coefficient between the bulb and the rock hole wall is obtained:

$\mu = F_{f1} + F_{f2}/nK\Delta x_1,$

where n is the number of bulbs that are contacted at the same time, K is the spring constant, and Δx_1 is the spring compression while the bulb is being squeezed.

In Fig. 8 the theoretical and test results of the axial pressure – displacement time curves of the squeezing process are compared under Condition E1. As shown in the Table 3, the maximal relative error between the theoretical and test values of the squeezing force is smaller than 8 %, which indicates enhanced consistency.

	Test conditions	F_{1max}/N	F_{f1}/N	F_{2max}/N	F_{f2}/N	μ
<i>E</i> 1	V = 15 N/mm processing in natural granita	1262.3	315.1	1626.2	630.2	0.70
E2	K = 15 N/min, pressing in natural granite	1327.9	321.3	1573.4	642.6	0.71
E3	K = 15 N/mm, pressing in	788.8	286.8	1310.7	573.6	0.64
<i>E</i> 4	the artificial sesame white granite	823.2	291.9	1439.8	583.7	0.65
<i>E</i> 5	K = 18 N/mm, pressing in	1288.1	431.4	2077.9	862.7	0.96
<i>E</i> 6	the artificial sesame white granite	1304.6	440.5	2069.1	880.9	0.98

Table 2. Test results of the sliding friction coefficient under different test conditions

Table 3. Comparison between the theoretical and test results of the characteristic force under condition E1

Characteristic squeezing force	F_{1max}/N	F_{f1}/N	F_{1max}/N	F_{f2}/N	Mean friction coefficient μ
Test value	1262.3	315.1	1626.2	630.2	0.70
Theoretical value	1320.6	342	1662.2	684	0.70
Relative error / %	4.4	7.9	2.2	7.9	/

4. Numerical simulation study of the pressing effect

The friction force F_f between the bulb and the hole wall is correlated with the normal pressure F_n on the sliding plane and the sliding contact area as follows [17]:

$$F_f = \mu(F_n + PA_r).$$

The relationship is shown in Fig. 9. In the figure, v_f is the velocity of movement at the boundary between adhesive friction and sliding friction. The ratio of the increment of the friction force while squeezing to the corresponding increment of the maximal squeezing force is defined as the sensitivity coefficient of the factor, which is expressed as ω and in percentage.

4.1. Comparison between the theoretical calculation and the numerical simulation

Through the plug configuration parameters given in Table 1, the experiment scheme E1, and the mean friction coefficient ($\mu = 0.7$), a simulation model is established for the squeezing process [18]. As shown in Fig. 10 he relative errors with the theoretical values are 0.4 % and 0.8 %, thus indicating a good agreement. The numerical simulation model and all the calculation parameters are suggested to be rational, feasible, and applicable to the present study in the change regularity of the characteristic squeezing force of the plug with different spring stiff nesses, contact frictions, and load velocities [19, 20].

4.2. Change regularity of the characteristic squeezing force of the plug with the contact friction

In Fig. 11 the friction coefficient on the contact surface changes from 0.5 to 1.0, with spring stiffness of 15 N/mm and squeezing velocity of 20 mm/min. In Fig. 12 the same friction coefficient, $F_{2max} = F_{1max} + F_{f1}$, is in good agreement with the theoretical analysis result, and changes in F_{1max} , F_{2max} with the friction coefficient are nonlinear. Fig. 13 shows the change

(5)

(4)

curves of F_{f1} and F_{f2} with the friction coefficient. When $2F_{f1} = F_{f2}$ and other conditions remaining unchanged, the plugging force may increase with the number of layers.

4.3. Change regularity of the characteristic squeezing force of the plug with the spring stiffness

Fig. 14 shows the axial pressure-displacement curves with a friction coefficient of 0.7, load velocity of 20 mm/min, spring stiffness coefficient increasing from 15 N/mm to 20 N/mm, and different stiffness coefficients. Figs. 15 and 16 respectively show the simulation results of the maximal squeezing forces F_{1max} , F_{2max} and the friction forces F_{f1} . Based on the numerical simulation results of the characteristic squeezing force with different stiffness coefficients Fig. 14, the change regularities of the maximal squeezing forces F_{1max} , F_{2max} and the friction forces F_{f1} and F_{f2} with the spring stiffness coefficient can be attained in the process of squeezing the plugs into holes in rock, increasing with the stiffness coefficient linearly.

In the range of K = 15-20 N.m⁻¹, the spring stiffness sensitivity coefficient $\omega_{stiff} = 34.1$ % and the friction sensitivity coefficient $\omega_{fric} = 48.3$ %. Therefore, while improving the installation and performance of the plug, any increase in the squeezing force peak should be avoided as much as possible by increasing the friction coefficient rather than the spring constant. This specific method is to increase both friction/contact area and surface roughness.





Fig. 15. Change curves of with the spring constant



3000



Fig. 17. Squeezing force with different load velocities

Fig. 18. Change curves with the load velocity

4.4. Change regularity of the characteristic squeezing force of the plug with the load velocity

Fig. 17 shows the change regularities of the axial pressure-displacement curves attained by numerical simulation under different conditions but with a spring stiffness coefficient of 15 N/mm, plug-rock friction coefficient of 0.7, and load velocity v = 20-100 mm/min. In Fig. 17, the characteristic squeezing forces F_{1max} , F_{2max} , F_{f1} and F_{f2} change more significantly with load velocity than with friction coefficient and spring stiffness. Figs. 18 and 19 respectively show the change regularities of the characteristic squeezing forces F_{1max} , F_{2max} , F_{f1} and F_{f2} with load

velocity. As shown in the figure, with the increasing load velocity, the characteristic squeezing force increases with the load velocity with nonlinearity, but the increase rate gradually diminishes. When the load velocity increases to 60 mm/min, all the characteristic squeezing forces reach their peaks and then remain unchanged at v = 60 mm/min. The range of load velocity v = 20-60 mm.min⁻¹ is presented in Figs. 18 and 19, and $\omega_{loadvelocity} = 65.9$ %. Clearly, an appropriate increase in load velocity is suitable for improving the installation and performance of the plug. Although accelerating the plug installation in underwater construction is difficult, the loading velocity should be improved in practice as much as possible.



Fig. 19. Change curves with the load velocity

5. Conclusions

In this paper, the process of pressing the plugs into mounting holes in rock for a UBVT system is simulated numerically. The following conclusions are drawn:

1) The statics analysis, experimental test, and numerical simulation results of the squeezing process are in good agreement. The complete theories and methods established lay a solid foundation for designing the plug configuration parameters, calculating the characteristic squeezing force, developing the implementation plan, and evaluating and analyzing the plug performance.

2) The pressure-displacement curves are attained by simulation under different conditions and reveal the change regularity of the axial pressure through four steps of the squeezing process. A method is proposed to characterize the squeezing force and the characteristic squeezing forces F_{1max} , F_{2max} , F_{f1} and F_{f2} with displacement. Therefore, the change regularities and characteristics of the characteristic force with friction, spring stiffness, and load velocity are obtained.

3) A method is proposed to characterize the sensitivity coefficient of the friction coefficient, spring stiffness coefficient, and load velocity in the plug performance and plugging capacity. Therefore, the sensitivity coefficient of each of the factors influencing the performance is attained, and reference for optimizing the plug configuration parameters and developing proper process measures is provided.

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