

# EVOLUTION OF TEMPERATURE AND DAMAGE IN ROCK MASS AFTER HEAT SHOCK

by

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*Heat shock is a feasible means to break rock mass in engineering due to the large additional thermal stress caused by thermal expansion. This paper established a coupled thermal transfer and rock deformation model based on the energy conservation and the elastic deformation theory of rock. In the model, the failure and damage of rock are judged according to the Drucker-Prager criterion. A finite element method of COMSOL Multiphysics to study the characteristics of temperature, stress distribution and damage zone on a rock surface is proposed. Results show that the failure of rock mass occurs at the cusps of the heater first due to stress concentration and then grows at both sides of the heater greatly.*

*Keywords: heat shock, thermal damage, thermo-mechanical model, numerical simulation*

## **Introduction**

The core of the traditional mechanical rock crushing technology mainly uses the rotation and impact of the drill bit to destroy the rock, which has a long history, mature technology and wide application [1]. However, for very hard rocks, especially in deep rock and mining engineering, the wear of tool severely limits the progress of the project [2]. The development and research of new rock breaking technologies has become a new subject in the field of geotechnical engineering. With the development of applied thermodynamics, some scholars have noticed the positive effect of heat shock on rock breaking. Domestic and foreign scholars have carried out loading and unloading tests [3]. For example, the thermal and

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mechanical interactions of rocks after the treatments of microwave irradiation [4, 5] and laser irradiation [6, 7] in the laboratory are explored, respectively.

External heating increases the temperature of rocks from the outside to the inside, or from inside to outside (microwave heating). The raise of rock temperature produces additional thermal stress leading to thermal damage and failure. It is known that rock is a typical heterogeneous structure, which contains large and small holes and cracks [8], rock damage changes the mechanical properties and microstructure of rock [9]. Due to the different thermal expansion of each mineral component in rock after heated, cracks are formed between the cemented particles and further spread and develop in [10]. As a result of such changes in the internal microstructure of rock, the macroscopic physical mechanics of rock also changes, manifested as the elastic modulus, Poisson's ratio, compressive strength and tensile strength all decrease [3]. For example, the coupled effects of thermal expansion, thermal fracturing, thermal damage and thermal volatilization after heat shock were pointed in [11]. The evidences of long-term high temperature fluid-rock interactions in the serpentinized wehrlite were provided in [12].

In this paper, a fully coupled thermal-mechanical model for the analysis of temperature distribution and the damage of rock mass is established. Then, the COMSOL Multiphysics numerical simulation software is used to implement a numerical simulation work to study the effects of heat shock on rock. This research has positive significance for thermal breaking technologies in deep rock engineering.

### A Thermal-mechanical Model

The volume expands when the temperature of rock mass increases, which is called thermal expansion. As the volume of the rock structure increases, the solid elements are subjected to higher levels of stress. The additional thermal stress has a great influence on the strength and stability of solid or rock structures, and may cause cracks in some components. These cracks can undermine the overall strength of the structure, leading to potential weakening and failures of rock mass.

#### *Heat transfer equation*

The generalized heat transfer equation is often expressed as:

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-k \nabla T) + \rho C_p \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T - \tau : \mathbf{F} - \frac{T}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \right)_p \left( \frac{\partial p_a}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla p_a \right) = Q \quad (1)$$

where the first term on the left means the accumulation of heat; the second term stands for the heat conduction; the third term stands for the convective heat transfer of liquid. In this study, no convection is considered in the rock sample, thus  $\rho C_p \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = 0$ .  $\tau : \mathbf{F}$  is viscous heat of heat convection that also equals to 0 in this research; the fifth term on the left represents the pressure effect induced by the internal pore gas which is also ignored; The only term on the right,  $Q$ , is heat source or sink.

Therefore, the heat transfer equation can be simplified as:

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-k \nabla T) = Q \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho$  is the density of rock mass and  $k$  is the thermal conductivity coefficient. Here, (2) is generalized by using the general operators in [13].

#### *Elastic deformation of rock*

This paper assumes that rocks are completely elastic materials, thus the deformation of rock is to be expressed by the constitutive equation of linear relation as:

$$S = S_{ad} + C : \varepsilon_{el} \quad (3)$$

where  $S$  represents the stress,  $S_{ad}$  is the initial stress,  $C$  is the elastic modulus, and  $\varepsilon_{el}$  represents the elastic strain. The relationship between strain and displacement is:

$$\varepsilon_{el} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ (\nabla u)^T + (\nabla u) \right] \quad (4)$$

Here, (4) is one of the special cases reported in [14, 15].

According to the theory of elasticity, the general balance equation of stress in rock can be expressed as:

$$\nabla \cdot S + F_v = 0 \quad (5)$$

in which  $F_v$  is the additional body force in each element and  $\nabla$  stands for the Hamiltonian operator.

Thermal expansion usually takes the form from thermal strain as:

$$S_T = C : \varepsilon_{th} = C \alpha_T \Delta T \quad (6)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{th}$  is thermal strain in  $x$ ,  $y$  or  $z$  direction,  $\Delta T$  is the increment of temperature and  $\alpha_T$  means the thermal expansion coefficient for rock mass which can be divided into three components of  $\alpha_{Tx}$ ,  $\alpha_{Ty}$ ,  $\alpha_{Tz}$  in  $x$ ,  $y$  or  $z$  direction if the anisotropy of thermal expansion is considered.

Thus, the effective stress  $S'_{ij}$  in variable thermal environment can be expressed as:

$$S' = S + S_T \quad (7)$$

By substituting eqs. (6) and (7) into eq (5), one can solve the elastic deformation and stress distribution of rock under variable temperature.

#### *Rock failure criterion after heat shock*

The Drucker-Prager criterion (D-P criterion in short) is used to evaluate the failure of rock mass in this work. It generally refers to a yield theory that considers the maximum shear stress, which also considers the effect of hydrostatic pressure as:

$$f = \alpha I_1 + J_2^{1/2} - M^* \quad (8)$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{\sin \varphi}{(9 + 3 \sin^2 \varphi)^{1/2}}; \quad M^* = \frac{3c \cdot \cos \varphi}{(9 + 3 \sin^2 \varphi)^{1/2}} \quad (9)$$

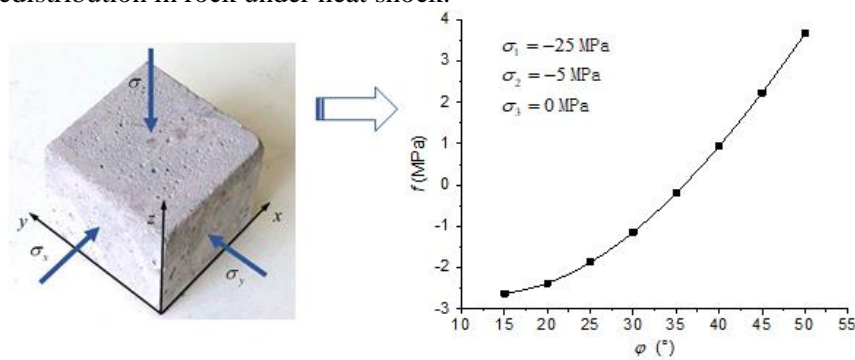
in which,  $c$  and  $\varphi$  are the cohesion and internal friction angle for rock; respectively. When the temperature of rock changes, the stress in eq. (8) must be revised by the effective stress. The mechanical parameters of rock mass might be revised as well.

Figure 1 is the curve evolution of rock state with variable internal friction angle after Drucker-Prager criterion. The compressive stress in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions are 0, 5 and 25 MPa, respectively. From fig. 1 and eq. (8), one can find that the rocks with larger values of internal friction angle and cohesion are easier to break after heat shock.

#### **Numerical Simulation Method**

Equations (2), (5) and (8) constitute a fully coupled thermal and mechanical model.

In the following sections of this paper in, a numerical analysis based on the COMSOL Multiphysics software is proposed meticulously to present the evolution of temperature and damaged distribution in rock under heat shock.

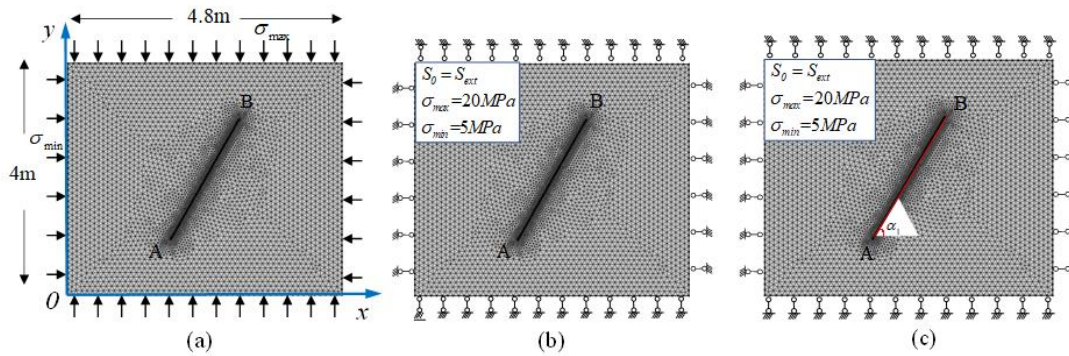


(a) diagram of stressed rock (b) calculated  $f$  with different  $\varphi$

**Figure 1. Curve of rock state after Drucker-Prager criterion**

*Establishment of rock face*

In this paper, the three-dimensional rock mass under the in-situ stress conditions of the original work face is simplified into a two-dimensional plane stress rock face. The physical size of rock face is determined as 4m in width and 4.8m in height. For solid mechanical field, the initial stresses in the horizontal and vertical directions are 5 and 20 MPa, respectively. As it is difficult to directly simulate rock mass with both in-situ rock stress with four-way constraint boundaries. The in-situ rock stress is firstly simulated here to realize the addition of initial stress, as shown in fig.2(a). The simulated results are then added by the four-way rollers support boundaries with the calculated distribution of stress in the solid mechanical field, as shown in fig.2(b).



**Figure 2. Establishment of numerical model**

*Conditions of heater*

Figure 2 shows that a thermostatic heater AB that rotating an angle of  $\alpha_1$  with the coordinate  $x$  axis preset in the central position of the model. In the numerical work, the length and rotation angle of the heater is 2.5 m and  $60^\circ$  respectively. The temperature of heater keeps  $1200^\circ\text{C}$  invariably. The initial temperature of the rock mass is  $20^\circ\text{C}$ . Physical and mechanical parameters that used in numerical simulation are given in Table 1.

**Table 1. Parameters for numerical model settings**

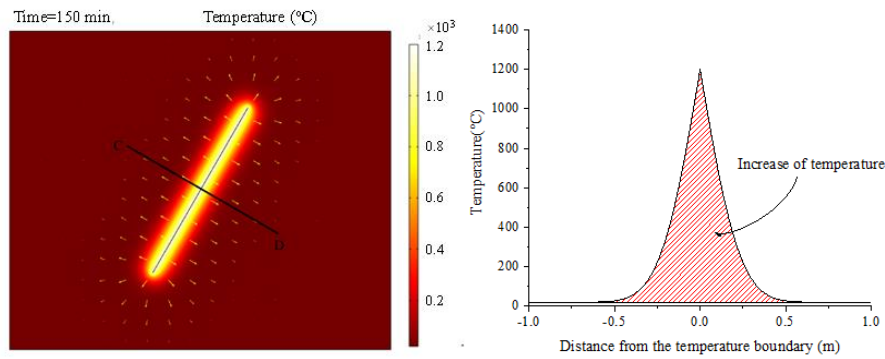
Simulation parameters	Variable	Value	Unit
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Modulus of elasticity	$E$	25	GPa
Poisson's ratio	$\nu$	0.28	1
Density of rock	$\rho$	2600	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Thermal conductivity	$k$	2.73	W/(m·K)
Heat capacity at constant pressure	$C_p$	963	J/(kg·K)
Coefficient of thermal expansion	$\alpha_T$	$5 \times 10^{-6}$	1/K
Angle between the heater and the X-axis	$\alpha_l$	0~90	°
The axial pressure	$\sigma_{max}$	20	MPa
The confining pressure	$\sigma_{min}$	5	MPa
Cohesion	$c$	27.2	MPa
Internal friction angle	$\varphi$	42	°

## Results of the simulation

### Temperature distribution on rock surface

Figure 3 is the distribution of temperature on rock surface after a heat shock time of 150 min. In the figure, an observation line CD is set in the direction perpendicular to the temperature heater. Heat transfers from the boundary of heater into the marginal area of rock mass. However, the temperature of the rock layer is not rising very fast due to the relatively large heat capacity. Figure 3 shows that affect distance of temperature is about 0.5 meter after 150 minutes on both sides of the heater boundaries. Besides, the decreasing rate of rock temperature slows down gradually with the distance from the heater, forming a peak-like region of high temperature. This is consistent with the heat conduction equation mentioned earlier in this paper.



(a) temperature contour map (b) temperature in CD direction

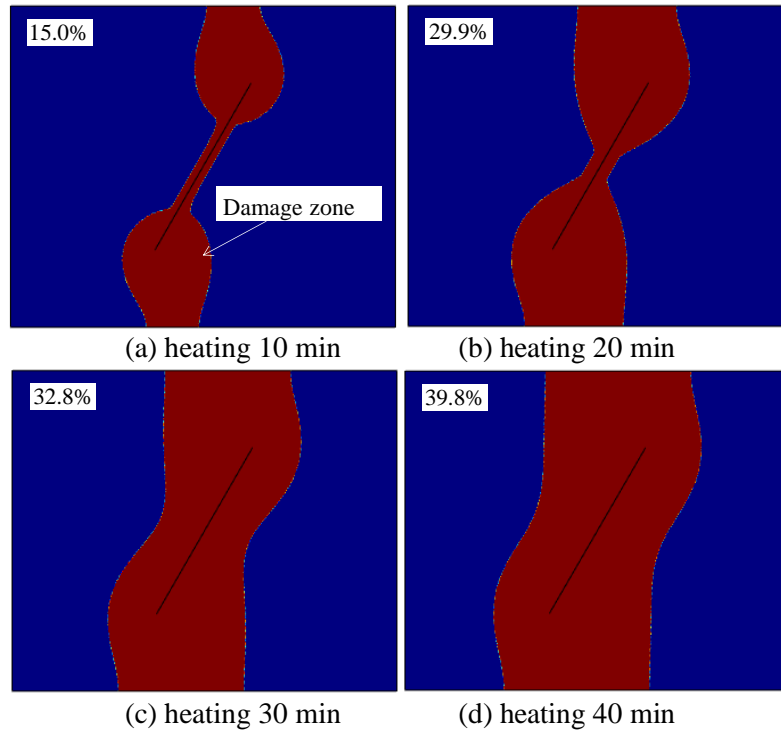
**Figure 3. Distribution of temperature after 150 min**

### Evolution of damage zone after heat shock

According to the Drucker-Prager criterion, rocks break down when the stress is high enough. To analyze the final performance of rock breaking by the means of heat shock, a variable of the proportion of damage zone in the whole rock face is defined as:

$$b = \frac{A_l}{A_0} \quad (10)$$

where  $A_0$  is the total area of the two-dimensional geometry and  $A_1$  is the area of damaged rock. From the introduced modelling process, we take  $A_0 = 19.2\text{m}^2$ .



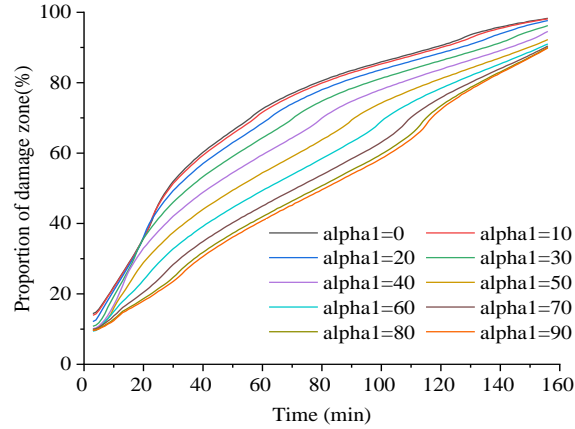
**Figure 4. Evolution of damage zone on rock surface**

Figure 4 shows the evolution of the damage zone on the surface of rock mass after different heat shock times of 10, 20, 30 and 40 minutes. At the time of 10 and 20 minutes, the damage of rock mainly occurs at the cusps of the heater which is greatly dominated by the concentration of stress. When the heating time reaches to 30 or 40 minutes, the damage at the sides of the heater increases obviously due to the larger additional thermal stress caused thermal expansion. On the whole, the damage zone extends from the periphery of the heater to the edge of the model. As a result, the proportion of damaged area increases from 15% to 39.8% when the heating time increases from 10 to 40 minutes.

*Proportion of damage zone with different angle of heater*

For a particular engineering project, the mechanical properties and the distribution of the in-situ stress in rock mass are often stratigraphically determined. Based on these prerequisites, a suitable arrangement angle of thermal heater with the coordinate  $x$  axis is significantly to be well designed and optimized to achieve the best breaking result of rock.

Figure 5 discusses the proportion of damage zone in rock face with different angle of  $\alpha_1$  at the heating time of 40 minutes. Ten different angles varying from zero to 90 degrees are chosen to compare the final performance of damage after heat shock. It can be seen from fig. 5 that the growth rate of the damage zone is tapering off with the heating time. Besides, the damage zone has the largest proportion in the total area of the working face when the heater is arranged perpendicular to the direction of maximum principal stress which is parallel to the long side of the working face is the numerical simulation.



**Figure 5. Proportion of damage zone in rock face with different angle**

### Conclusion

In this work, a coupled thermal transfer and rock deformation model based on the energy conservation and the elastic deformation theory was established. The Drucker-Prager criterion is used to judge the thermal damage of rock. Then, a finite element method of COMSOL Multiphysics to analyze the characteristics of temperature distribution and damage zone on a rock surface is proposed. Numerical study on the effects of heat shock with constant temperature condition on damage characteristics and the evolution of influence range is studied. Temperature of rock rises relatively slow due to the large heat capacity, but higher temperature causes larger thermal stress and significant failure of rock. The damage zone formed on the surface of rock mass extends from the periphery of the heater to the edge of the model. But the growth rate of the damage zone tapers off with heating time. The damage zone has the largest proportion in the total area of the working face when the heater is arranged perpendicular to the direction of maximum principal stress which is parallel to the long side of the working face.

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### Nomenclature

$S$  - stress, [MPa]

$C_p$  - heat capacity of rock, [J/(kg·K)]

$I_1$  - first stress tensor invariant, [MPa]

$t$  - time coordinate, [s]

$J_2$  - second invariant of stress deviator, [MPa]

$T$  - temperature, [°C]

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