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journal or publication title	Theoretical and Applied Fracture Mechanics
volume	90
page range	218-227
year	2017-05-25
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10228/00007141

doi: [info:doi/10.1016/j.tafmec.2017.05.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tafmec.2017.05.017)

Relationship between Strain Rate Concentration Factor and Stress Concentration Factor

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Abstract In this study, the strain rate concentration is considered for high speed tensile test, which is now being recognized as a standard testing method. To evaluate the impact strength of engineering materials under high impact speed, Izod and Charpy tests are unsuitable since they cannot control the impact speeds and therefore do not coincide with the real failure of real products. For smooth specimens, the strain rate can be determined from the tensile speed u/t and specimen length l as $\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth} = u/tl$. For notched specimens, however, the strain rate at the notch root $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$ should be analyzed accurately. In this study, therefore, the strain rate concentration factor defined as $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \dot{\epsilon}_{notch}/\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ is studied with varying the notch geometry and specimen length. It is found that the strain concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ can be estimated from stress concentration factor K_t^* .

Keywords Notch fracture, High speed tensile test, Impact strength, Strain rate concentration factor, Stress concentration factor

Nomenclature

A	Material constant value = $10^8[\text{s}^{-1}]$	T	Temperature
D	Maximum specimen diameter	t	Notch depth
d	Minimum specimen diameter	2t/D	Relative notch depth
e	Minimum mesh size	$\dot{\epsilon}_{max}$	Maximum strain rate
K_t	Net stress concentration factor	$\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$	Nominal strain rate
K_t^*	Gross stress concentration factor = $K_t \cdot (D/d)^2$	$\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$	Strain rate in notched specimen
$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$	Strain rate concentration factor	$\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$	Strain rate in smooth specimen
l	Specimen length	ρ	Notch root radius
l/D	Relative specimen length	2ρ/D	Relative notch radius
P	Applied load	σ_{Bnotch}	Tensile strength on the notch root
P_{max}	Maximum load obtained from the tensile test	σ_{gross}	Gross tensile stress = $4P/(\pi D^2) = \sigma_{net} \cdot (D/D)^2$
R	Strain rate-temperature parameter	σ_{max}	Maximum stress
u(t)	Displacement applied to the specimen end	σ_{net}	Net nominal stress = $4P/(\pi d^2) = \sigma_{net} \cdot (D/d)^2$
u(t)/t	Tensile speed assuming u(t) is proportional to the time	ω	Notch opening angle = 45°

1. Introduction

Charpy and Izod tests are widely used to investigate the impact property of structural materials [1-4]. The strength of engineering materials varies depending on the temperature and high impact speed, especially known as the brittle–ductile transition behavior. Charpy impact test provides the absorbed energy under different temperature. However, the results are not closely related to the tensile properties such as tensile strength, yield strength and fatigue strength used in machine design. Moreover, Charpy impact speed does not correspond to the real failure of the real products. By considering those disadvantages, the high-speed tensile test is now being recognized as the standard impact strength test. Here, the tensile strength can be discussed through notched flat and round bar specimens under different tensile speed and temperature [5, 6].

Previous studies suggested that the strain rate at the notch root may control the brittle–ductile transition behavior [7-12]. In the high speed tensile testing, it is therefore necessary to know the strain rate at the notch root accurately. Since it is almost impossible to measure the strain rate at the notch root experimentally, the strain rate concentration factor should be investigated analytically.

Previously the authors have proposed that the stress concentration factor formulas useful for arbitrary notch dimensions in notched specimens [16-23]. Regarding the strain rate concentration factor, however, the notch shape effects have not been clarified yet. In this paper, therefore, the strain rate concentration factor will be studied by varying the notch geometry. Then, the effects of notch root radius and notch depth on the strain rate concentration factor will be discussed. Finally, the relationship between the strain rate concentration factors and the previously studied stress concentration factors [16-23] will be clarified to evaluate the impact strength of engineering materials conveniently.

2. Definition of the strain rate concentration factor

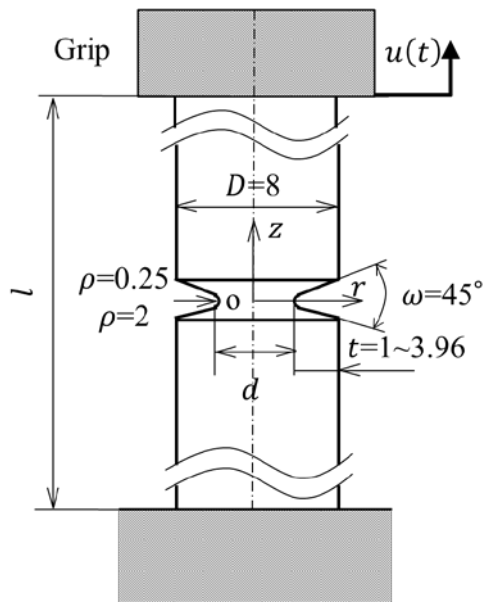
Previously flat bar specimens are considered for evaluating the impact strength of polycarbonate. This study focuses on the round bar specimens in Fig.1 since they are often used for metal testing. By considering JIS Z 2241 prescribing the test specimen, the specimen length $l=40\text{mm}$ and the maximum specimen diameter $D=8\text{mm}$ are mainly considered in this study. In addition, the notch opening angle is fixed as $\omega = 45^\circ$.

Assume notch root radius $\rho=0.25\text{mm}$ and $\rho=2\text{mm}$, while the notch depth varies from $t=1\text{mm}$ to $t=3.96\text{mm}$. Here $\rho=0.25\text{mm}$ corresponds to the notch root radius of the specimen in Charpy impact test. Also, here, to evaluate the strength of ductile cast iron, assume $\rho=2\text{mm}$, which corresponds to the sharpest notch root radius of casting products. Fig.1(c) shows the FEM model for analysis in notch root radius $\rho = 0.25\text{mm}$ and the detail mesh of the notch root, while Fig.1 (d) shows the notch part correspond to $\rho=2\text{mm}$. The minimum mesh size at the notch root is $e = \rho / 243$. The static stress concentration factor obtained by the model of Fig.2 coincide with the result in [7] within 1% error.

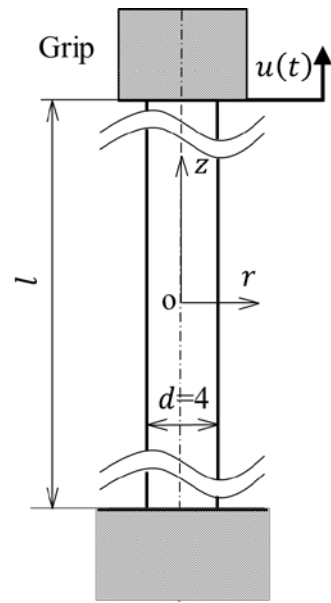
In the dynamic analysis, time step interval also affects the accuracy of the results. In this analysis, the time step 1×10^6 is found to be enough to obtain 3-digit-accuracy [24]. In a transient dynamic analysis, damping represents the dissipation of energy in the structural system. In FEM code MSC. Marc/Mentat 2011, the program bases integration on the usual assumption that the damping matrix of the system is a linear combination of the mass and stiffness matrices. Element damping uses coefficients on the element matrices and is represented by the equation

$$[C] = \alpha[M] + \beta[K] \quad (1)$$

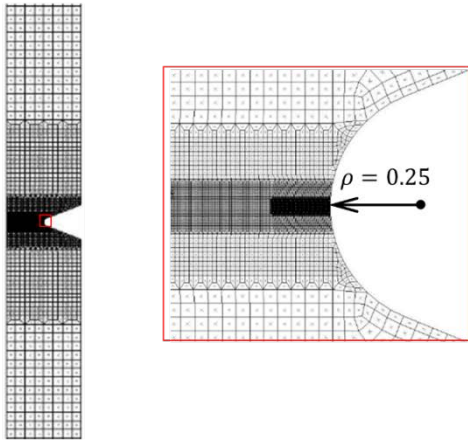
Here, $[C]$ is the global damping matrix, $[M]$ is the mass matrix and $[K]$ is the stiffness matrix.



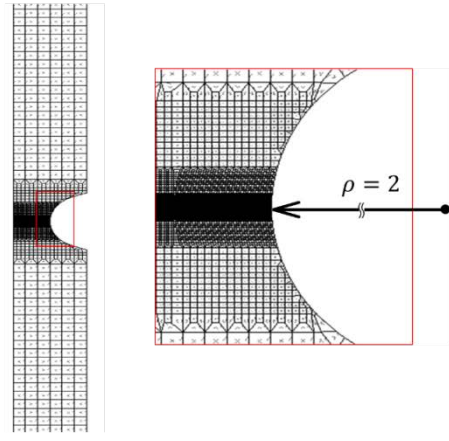
(a) Notched specimen (Dimensions : mm)



(b) Smooth specimen (Dimensions : mm)



(c) FEM model and notch root detail ($\rho=0.25\text{mm}$)

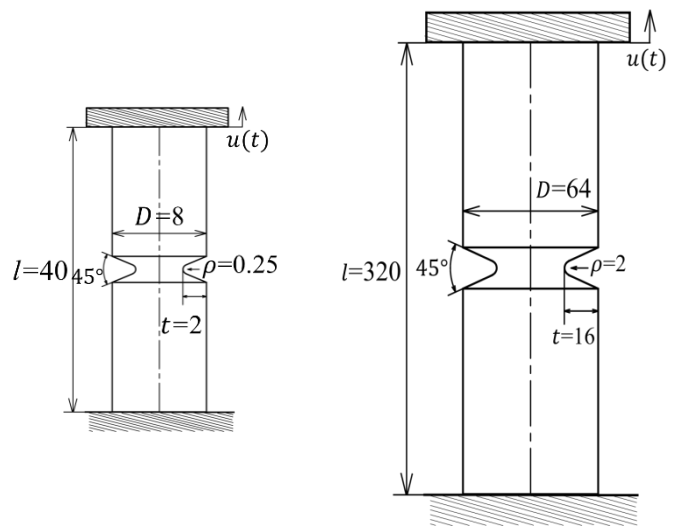


(d) FEM model and notch root detail ($\rho=2\text{mm}$)

Fig.1 Geometry of specimens and FEM models (Dimensions: mm)

Table 1 Similarity of strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ in Fig.2

	Specimen 1	Specimen 2
$\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$	0.215 s^{-1}	1.726 s^{-1}
$\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$	0.0313 s^{-1}	0.250 s^{-1}
$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \frac{\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}}{\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}}$	6.896	6.902



(a) Specimen 1

(b) Specimen 2

(8 times larger than specimen 1)

Fig.2 Similar specimen (Dimension: mm)

Because of the same damping coefficients are used throughout the structure, the following equation can be used to obtain the mass damping coefficient α and the usual stiffness damping coefficient β . The mass damping coefficient and the usual stiffness damping coefficient will be used for the dynamic analysis.

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\omega} + \beta\omega \right) \quad (2)$$

Here, ζ is the damping ratio, and ω is the frequency which can be calculated by FEM.

As shown in Appendix, the strain rates in notched and smooth specimens $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$, $\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ increase with increasing the tensile speed. However, the ratio $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \dot{\epsilon}_{notch} / \dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ is always constant independent of the tensile speed.

Since the strain rate in smooth specimen is expressed in equation (3), the strain rate at the notch root can be obtained from the tensile speed $u(t)/t$ and the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$. Here, $u(t)$ is the displacement applied to the specimen end, which is assumed to be proportional to the time t .

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth} = \frac{u(t)/l}{t} \quad (3)$$

$$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \frac{\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}}{\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}},$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{notch} = K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} \cdot \dot{\epsilon}_{smooth} = K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} \cdot \frac{u(t)/l}{t} \quad (4)$$

3. Strain rate concentration factor for similar geometry

First, as shown in Fig. 2, the strain rate concentration factors in similar test specimen geometries were investigated. The results are shown in Table 1. As can be seen from Table 1, similar to the stress concentration factor, the strain rate concentration factor is found to be the

same for similar specimens. From Table 1, it may be concluded that the strain rate concentration factor depends on the geometry of the specimens, but independent of the specimen size.

4. Effect of specimen length on the strain rate concentration factor

It is known that the net stress concentration factor K_t is independent of the specimen length l if $l/D \geq 1$ in Fig.1 (a). However, different from the net stress concentration factor K_t , the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ is depending on the specimen length l/D (see Appendix).

Under fixed maximum specimen diameter $D=8\text{mm}$, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ is calculated by varying the specimen length l . Table 2 shows the results for the relative notch radius $2\rho / D = 0.0625$, $2\rho / D = 0.5$ and the relative notch depth $2t / D = 0.25$, $2t / D = 0.5$ by varying the relative specimen length $l/D = 1 \sim 2560$. As can be seen from Table 2, the notch depth t is put as $t = 0.0625, 0.25, 1, 2\text{mm}$ while the notch root radius ρ is put as $\rho=0.25, 2\text{mm}$. The column in Table 2 indicates the region where the $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ difference is less than 1%. The JIS specimen dimensions $l=40$, $D=8$, $l/D=5$ prescribed by JIS Z 2241 will be discussed in the Chapter 5, so the results are underlined.

Table 3 shows the net stress concentration factor K_t and the gross stress concentration factor $K_t^* = K_t \cdot (D/d)^2$ under different specimen length. The net stress concentration factor K_t is usually defined as $K_t = \sigma_{max} / \sigma_{net}$ as shown in equation (5) based on the net nominal stress $\sigma_{net} = 4P/\pi d^2$. The gross stress concentration factor K_t^* is defined as shown in equation (6) based on the gross tensile stress $\sigma_{gross} = 4P/\pi D^2$.

$$K_t = \frac{\sigma_{max}}{\sigma_{net}} \quad (5)$$

$$K_t^* = \frac{\sigma_{max}}{\sigma_{gross}} = K_t \cdot \left(\frac{D}{d}\right)^2,$$

$$\sigma_{gross} = \sigma_{net} \cdot \left(\frac{d}{D}\right)^2 \quad (6)$$

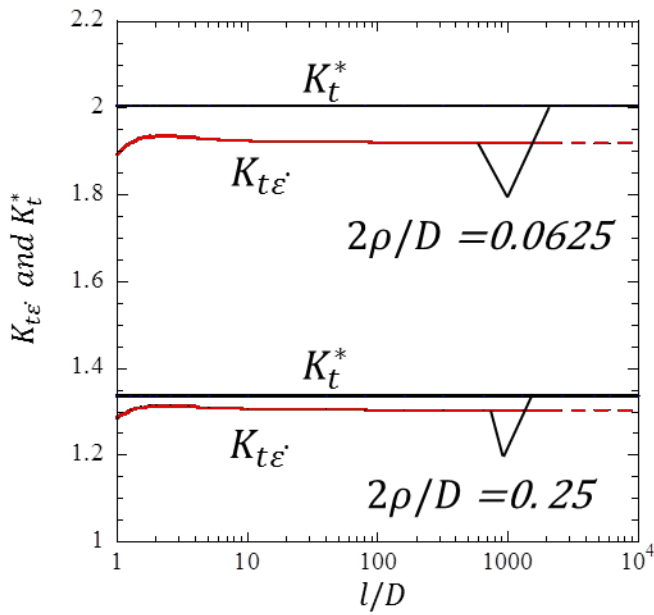
Table 2 Strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ under different length and $D=8\text{mm}$ in Fig.1 (a)

: less than 1% difference

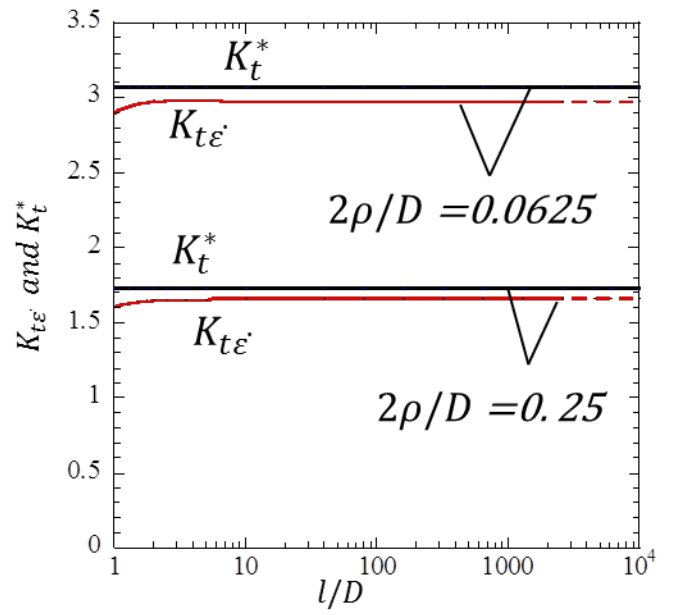
		$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$							
l/D	$l(\text{mm})$	$t=0.0625\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.015625$)		$t=0.25\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.0625$)		$t=1\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.25$)		$t=2\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.5$)	
		$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)
		1.00	8	1.894	1.286	2.900	1.602	4.969	2.058
1.25	10	1.920	1.303	2.940	1.627	4.902	2.163	6.128	2.490
1.5	12	1.933	1.313	2.963	1.642	5.046	2.240	6.629	2.718
1.75	14	1.940	1.316	2.976	1.649	5.270	2.297	7.049	2.916
2	16	1.941	1.317	2.982	1.654	5.232	2.344	7.405	3.090
2.5	20	1.938	1.316	2.985	1.656	5.344	2.410	8.055	3.374
3.5	28	1.933	1.312	2.983	1.657	5.474	2.489	8.836	3.775
5(JIS)	40	1.929	1.310	2.980	1.658	5.576	2.553	9.528	4.148
10	80	1.925	1.308	2.980	1.659	5.700	2.633	10.488	4.685
40	320	1.923	1.306	2.980	1.660	5.798	2.693	11.236	5.190
80	640	1.922	1.305	2.979	1.660	5.814	2.705	11.391	5.285
160	1280	1.921	1.305	2.979	1.660	5.824	2.710	11.584	5.333
320	2560	1.921	1.305	2.978	1.660	5.824	2.712	11.622	5.358
640	5120	1.921	1.305	2.978	1.660	5.828	2.713	11.643	5.371
1280	10240	1.921	1.305	2.978	1.660	5.829	2.714	11.653	5.376
2560	20480	1.921	1.305	2.978	1.660	5.830	2.714	11.653	5.379

Table 3 Stress concentration factor under different length ($D=8\text{mm}$ in Fig.1(a))

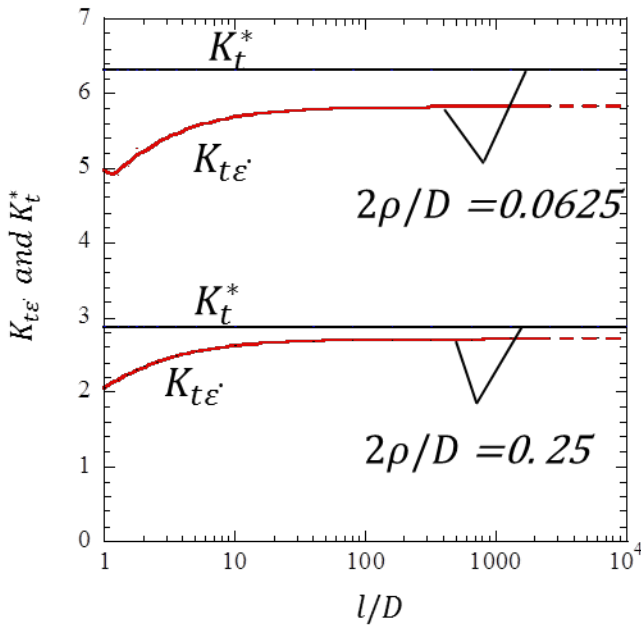
l/D	$l(\text{mm})$	$t=0.0625\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.015625$)		$t=0.25\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.0625$)		$t=1\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.25$)		$t=2\text{mm}$ ($2t/D=0.5$)	
		$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)	$\rho =0.25\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.0625$)	$\rho =2\text{mm}$ ($2\rho/D=0.25$)
		K_t							
all		1.944	1.295	2.697	1.518	3.553	1.615	3.185	1.420
$K_t^*=K_t \cdot (D/d)^2$									
all		2.006	1.336	3.069	1.727	6.316	2.871	12.740	5.680
$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t$									
5	40	0.992	1.012	1.105	1.092	1.569	1.581	2.992	2.921
$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t^*$									
5	40	0.962	0.980	0.971	0.960	0.883	0.889	0.748	0.730



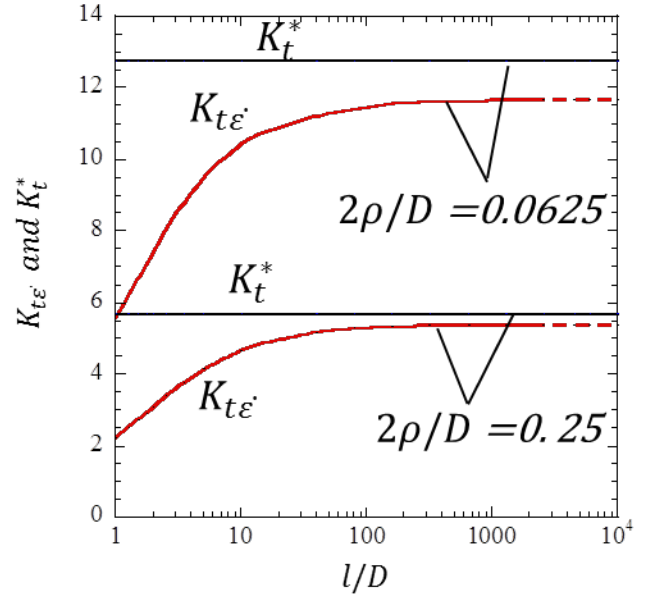
(a) $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and K_t^* for specimen which $t=0.0625$



(b) $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and K_t^* for specimen which $t=0.25$



(c) $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and K_t^* for specimen which $t=1$



(d) $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and K_t^* for specimen which $t=2$

Fig.3 Strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and gross stress concentration factor K_t^* ($K_t^* = K_t \cdot (D/d)^2$) under different length in Fig. 1(a)

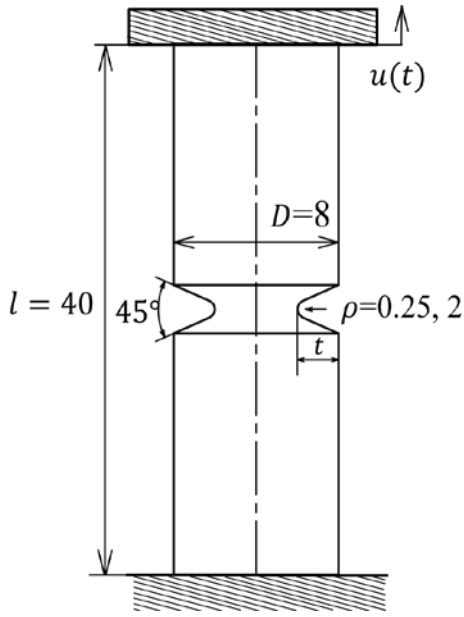


Fig.4 Notch specimens considered based on JIS Z 2241

with $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$ and $\rho = 0.25$,

Fig. 3 compares the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* by varying the the relative specimen length l/D . In Fig. 3, it is seen the results for $2\rho / D = 0.0625$ is always larger than the results for $2\rho / D = 0.5$ and varies depending on $2t / D$ similar to the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* . Although the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* is constant independent of the specimen length, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ increases with the increasing specimen length l , and becomes constant if l is large enough.

5. Relationship between the strain rate concentration factor and the stress concentration factor

By considering JIS Z 2241 prescribing the tensile test specimen in Fig.4, the specimen length $l=40\text{mm}$ and the diameter $D=8\text{mm}$ are assumed in this chapter. The results of the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ are shown in Table 4 and Fig. 5 by varying the relative notch depth $2t/D$ for fixed relative notch radius $2\rho / D = 0.0625$ and $2\rho / D = 0.5$. Here, $2\rho / D = 0.0625$ corresponds to the notch radius $\rho=0.25\text{mm}$ of the specimen used in the Charpy impact test. Also, $\rho=2\text{mm}$ with $D=8\text{mm}$ corresponds to the sharpest

case of the notch root radius when high Si ductile cast iron is used as structural components [9]. As shown in Fig. 5(a), the strain rate concentration factor increases with increasing the relative notch depth. The same results are also indicated in Table 4 and Fig. 5(b).

The stress concentration factor of notched specimen is usually defined as $K_t = \sigma_{max} / \sigma_{net}$ based on the net nominal stress $\sigma_{net} = 4P / \pi d^2$. Since $\sigma_{net} \rightarrow \infty$ as $2t/D \rightarrow 1$, $K_t \rightarrow 1$ as $2t/D \rightarrow 1$. Under a fixed value of $2\rho / D$, the results of $2t/D = 0$ correspond to the smooth specimen without notch.

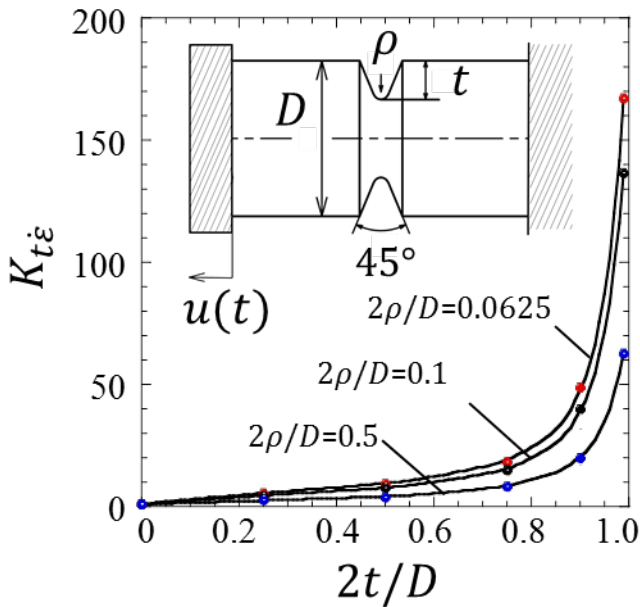
Fig. 6 shows the ratio $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} / K_t$ vs. $2t/D$. When the relative notch depth $2t/D \rightarrow 1$, the ratio $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} / K_t \rightarrow \infty$. Here, the net stress concentration factor K_t is defined as equation (5) from the maximum stress σ_{max} and the net nominal stress σ_{net} at the minimum cross section. When the relative notch depth $2t/D \rightarrow 1$, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} \rightarrow \infty$ but the net stress concentration factor $K_t \rightarrow 1$. Therefore, the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* is defined as equation (6) from the maximum stress σ_{max} and the gross tensile stress σ_{gross} . When the relative notch depth $2t/D \rightarrow 1$, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} \rightarrow \infty$. When the relative notch depth $2t/D \leq 0.5$, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and the net stress concentration factor K_t are nearly the same.

Then, the relationship between the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* is investigated.

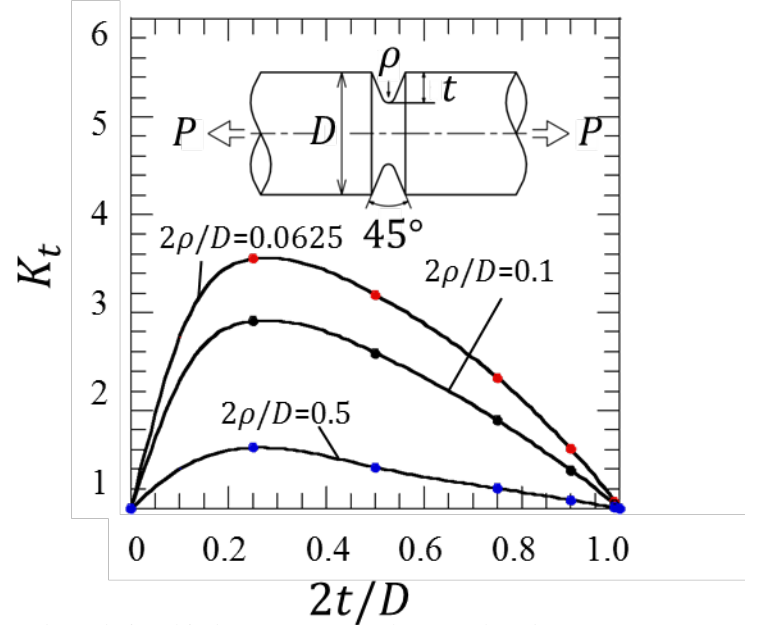
Table 5 and Fig. 7 show the relationship between the ratio $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} / K_t^*$ and the relative notch depth $2t/D$. It is found that the value of $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} / K_t^*$ is almost the same for $2\rho / D = 0.0625$ and $2\rho / D = 0.5$ when the relative notch depth $2t/D \leq 0.5$. From Fig.7, it is found that the value of $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} / K_t^*$ is insensitive to the notch root radius in the range of $2t/D \leq 0.5$. By using this fact, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ can be estimated from the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* .

Table 4 Strain rate concentration factor and the net stress concentration factor when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

$2t/D$	$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$			K_t		
	$2\rho/D=0.0625$	$2\rho/D=0.1$	$2\rho/D=0.5$	$2\rho/D=0.0625$	$2\rho/D=0.1$	$2\rho/D=0.5$
0.00	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
0.25	5.581	4.578	2.554	3.550	2.914	1.619
0.50	9.490	7.732	4.145	3.185	2.590	1.420
0.75	18.500	15.040	8.334	2.334	1.901	1.204
0.90	38.000	31.488	17.190	1.610	1.393	1.086
0.99	167.000	136.712	63.060	1.070	1.045	1.008
$\rightarrow 1.00$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow 1.000$	$\rightarrow 1.000$	$\rightarrow 1.000$



(a) Relationship between $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ and $2t/D$ when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)



(b) Relationship between K_t and $2t/D$ when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

Fig.5 $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ vs. $2t/D$ and K_t vs. $2t/D$ when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

Table 5 Ratio of strain rate concentration factor and stress concentration factor when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

$2t/D$	$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t$			$K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t^*$		
	$2\rho/D=0.0625$	$2\rho/D=0.1$	$2\rho/D=0.5$	$2\rho/D=0.0625$	$2\rho/D=0.1$	$2\rho/D=0.5$
0.00	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
0.25	1.572	1.572	1.574	0.884	0.884	0.889
0.50	2.979	2.984	2.923	0.745	0.746	0.730
0.75	7.940	7.920	6.958	0.498	0.495	0.435
0.90	23.600	22.600	15.770	0.238	0.226	0.158
0.99	156.100	131.000	62.440	0.0156	0.0131	0.00627
$\rightarrow 1.00$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow \infty$	$\rightarrow 0.000$	$\rightarrow 0.000$	$\rightarrow 0.000$

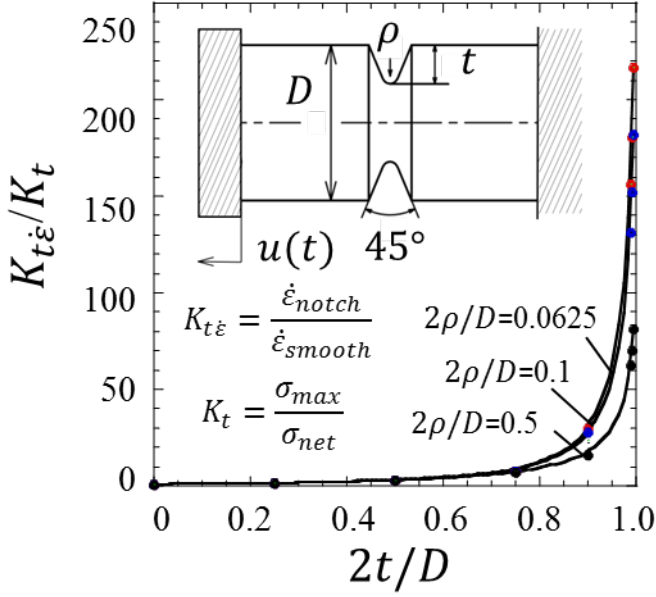


Fig.6 Relationship between $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t$ and $2t/D$ when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

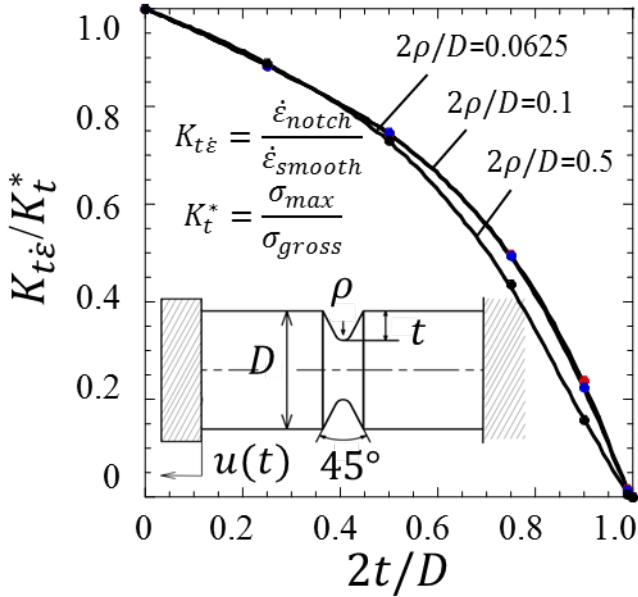


Fig.7 Relationship between $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}^*/K_t^*$ and $2t/D$ when $l/D=5$ ($l=40\text{mm}$, $D=8\text{mm}$)

6. Usefulness of the strain rate concentration factor

High Si ductile cast iron is now being considered to be used as structural components in several industrial fields [25, 26]. Table 6 shows the mechanical properties of the high Si ductile cast iron. By taking this as an example, the usefulness will be shown for the strain rate

concentration factor [9]. Consider the specimen in Fig.4 with the specimen length $l = 40$ mm, the diameter $D = 8$ mm, the notch opening angle $\omega = 45^\circ$, the notch root radius $\rho = 0.25$ mm and the notch depth $t = 2$ mm. Then, tensile test is conducted by varying the temperature and tensile speed. Fig. 8 shows the strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$, $\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ in both notched and smooth specimens as well as the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$. As shown in Fig.8, the strain rate of the notch root can be obtained for an arbitrary tensile speed $u(t)/t$ by using the equation (2) with $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}=9.49$.

Table 7 shows the tensile strength on the notch root $\sigma_{Bnotch}=4P/\pi d^2$ at the temperature $T = 25^\circ\text{C}$ under different tensile speed $u(t)/t$. Here, P_{max} is the maximum load obtained from the tensile test. Fig.9 shows the relationship between the strain rate in notched specimen $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$ and the tensile strength on the notch root σ_{Bnotch} under constant temperature $T = 25^\circ\text{C}$. Fig.9 shows that the tensile strength slightly increases with increasing the strain rate and after taking a peak value starts decreasing around $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}=3.3$ [s^{-1}]. On the other hand, Fig.10 shows the tensile strength under constant strain rate in notched specimen by varying the temperature. As can be seen from Fig.10, the tensile strength starts decreasing around $T = -25^\circ\text{C}$ with decreasing the temperature.

Next, in order to evaluate both effects of strain rate and temperature in a similar way, the tensile strength on the notch root σ_{Bnotch} is plotted by using the strain rate-temperature parameter R which is expressed in equation (7).

$$R = T \ln \left(\frac{A}{\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}} \right) \quad (7)$$

Here, $T = \text{temperature} [^\circ\text{C}]$, $A = 10^8 [\text{s}^{-1}]$ and $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$ is the strain rate in notched specimen [7, 12]. The strain rate-temperature parameter R in equation (7) has been introduced to explain the influence of $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$ and T on the tensile strength as well as yield stress of steel [7-15]. Bennett et al showed that the strain rate and temperature effects on the yield stress can be expressed by

the R value for steel and BCC metals [12] and then Fujii et al has experimentally supported as well [8, 13].

By using R parameter (7), the results in Fig. 9 and Fig.10 can be expressed as a unique master curve as shown in Fig. 11. From Fig. 11, it can be seen that the tensile strength increases with the decreasing R, but starts decreasing around $R = 5000$. The master curve expresses the brittle–ductile transition behavior uniquely in the strain rate range of $1 \sim 10^{-4} [s^{-1}]$ and in the temperature range of $-130 \sim 25 [^{\circ}C]$. As shown in Fig.8, the strain rate in notched specimen is 9.49 times larger than strain rate in smooth specimen. This may reduce the R value by about 600, which is equivalent to reducing the temperature by about $35^{\circ}C$. As shown in Fig.11, high Si ductile cast iron shows brittle-ductile transition at $R \cong 4500$, which is larger than that of a conventional ductile cast iron FCD500 ($R \cong 2500$). However, it should be noted that the tensile strength on the notch root σ_{Bnotch} is still large enough in the range of R parameter required for architectural structure $R \geq 4522$ [28, 29]. Therefore, when we use high Si ductile cast iron, tensile strength σ_{Bnotch} can be larger enough for structural design of architectural components.

Table 6 Mechanical properties implemented in accordance with JIS Z 2241

Material	Tensile strength σ_B MPa	0.2% proof stress σ_b MPa	Stiffness E GPa	Fracture strain ε_b %
SSFDI500	525	401	172	21

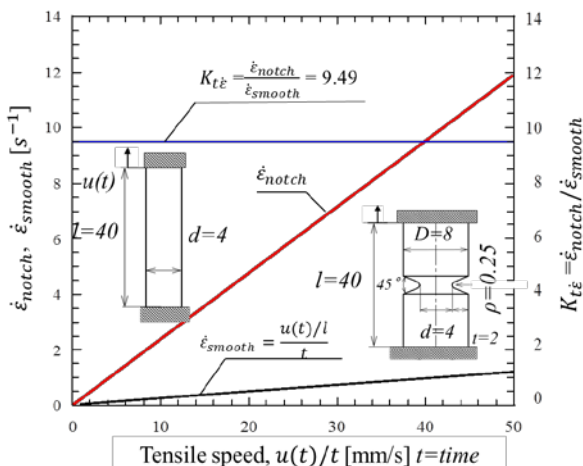


Fig. 8 $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ vs. tensile speed for Fig.1(a) and Fig.1(b)

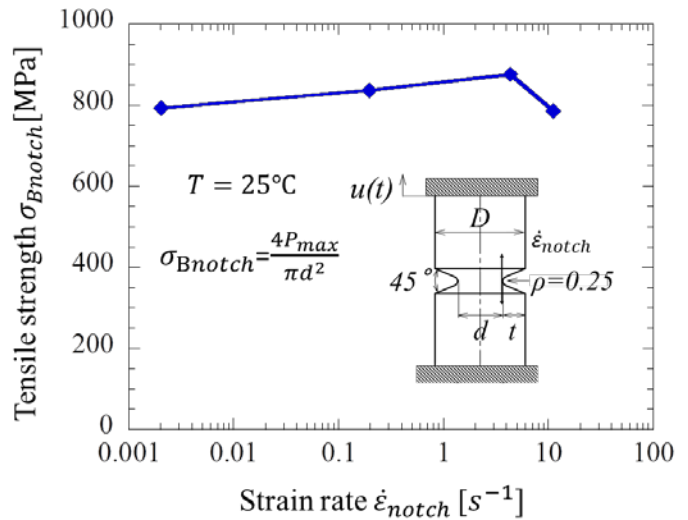


Fig.9 Relationship between σ_{Bnotch} and $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$

Table 7 Results of high speed tensile test of high Si ductile cast iron obtained by using Fig.4 ($T=25^{\circ}C$)

Tensile speed $u(t)/l$ [mm/s]	Strain rate at the notch root $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$ [s^{-1}]	Tensile strength σ_{Bnotch} [MPa]
0.0100	0.0024	762
0.8400	0.1993	836
18.1000	4.2942	876
46.3000	10.9847	786

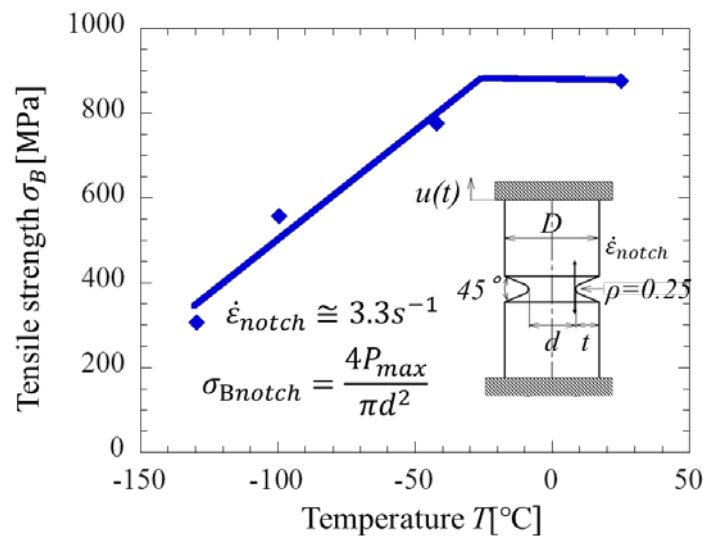


Fig.10 Relationship between σ_{Bnotch} and T

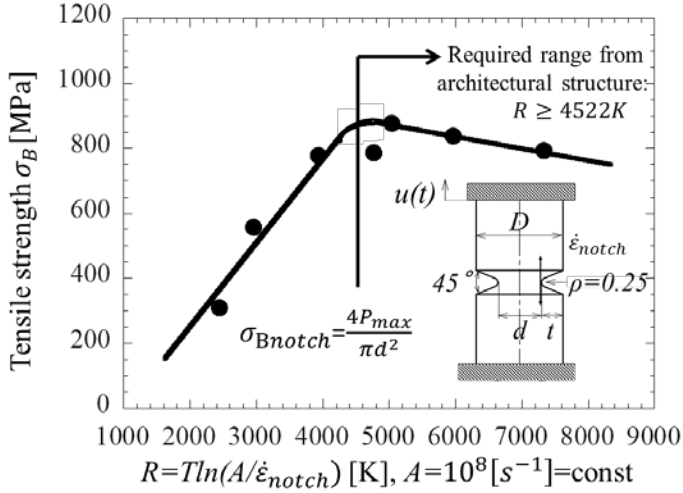


Fig.11 Relationship between σ_{Bnotch} and R-value

7. Conclusion

In this paper, the strain rate concentration at the notch root is considered in the high speed tensile test which is now replacing Charpy impact test. In particular, the relationship between the strain rate concentration factor and the stress concentration factor was investigated by varying the notch geometry and specimen length. After summarizing the results in Tables and Figures, the following conclusions were obtained.

- (1) The strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ was defined as the ratio of the strain rate in notched specimen to the strain rate in smooth specimen. Then, the maximum strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}$ at the notch root can be obtained easily from the strain rate concentration factor.
- (2) Similar to the stress concentration factor K_t , the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ has the same value if the specimen geometries are similar.
- (3) Different from the stress concentration factor K_t independent of the specimen length, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ increases with increasing the specimen length and then become constant as shown in Fig.3.
- (4) It is found that the value of $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}/K_t^*$ is almost the same independent of the notch root radius when the relative notch depth $2t/D \leq 0.5$. By using this relationship, the strain rate

concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ can be determined from the gross stress concentration factor K_t^* .

Appendix: Results for notched flat bar specimen in high speed tensile test

In the previous study, the impact strength of polycarbonate was considered by using notched flat bar varying the tensile speed and temperature in high speed tensile test [5, 6]. Then, the time-temperature independent principle was found for the fracture strain in terms of the strain rate at the notch root. It was seen that the obtained master curve was useful for predicting the ductility/brittle fracture for the wide range of strain rate and temperature. In this study, the strain rate distribution was considered at the minimum cross section of the specimen similar to the stress concentration factor. In this case, it is necessary to calculate the nominal strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$ at the minimum section from the strain rate distribution when the maximum strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}$ occurs at the notch root. Then, the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \dot{\epsilon}_{max}/\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$ is calculated [6].

Table A.1 shows mechanical properties of polycarbonate. Fig. A.1 (a) shows the strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}(t)$ at the notch root at the time t as well as the nominal strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}(t)$ obtained from the strain rate distribution. Fig. A.1 (b) show $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} (= \dot{\epsilon}_{max}/\dot{\epsilon}_{nom})$ obtained from $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}$ and $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$. Those results are obtained from the flat notched specimen with the specimen length $l=50\text{mm}$, the width $W=10\text{mm}$, the notch root radius $\rho=0.2\text{mm}$, the notch depth $t=2.5\text{mm}$ and the notch opening angle $\omega=90^\circ$. Fig. A.1 (b) shows $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}(t)$ at each time t . Here, $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}(t) = 20.8$ is distinct for $\rho=0.03\text{mm}$ and $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}(t) = 8.65$ is distinct for $\rho=0.2\text{mm}$. It is seen that $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}(t)$ is always constant independent of the time.

In the previous study, the strain rate concentration factor was defined as $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \dot{\epsilon}_{max}/\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$. This definition has the following problem. Even if the strain rate concentration

Table.A.1 Mechanical properties implemented in accordance with JIS K 7161 and 7162

Material	Yield stress σ_y MPa	Stress at break σ_b MPa	Stiffness E GPa	Nominal strain at Break ϵ_b % (Gauge length=115mm)
PC	62	73	2.3	111

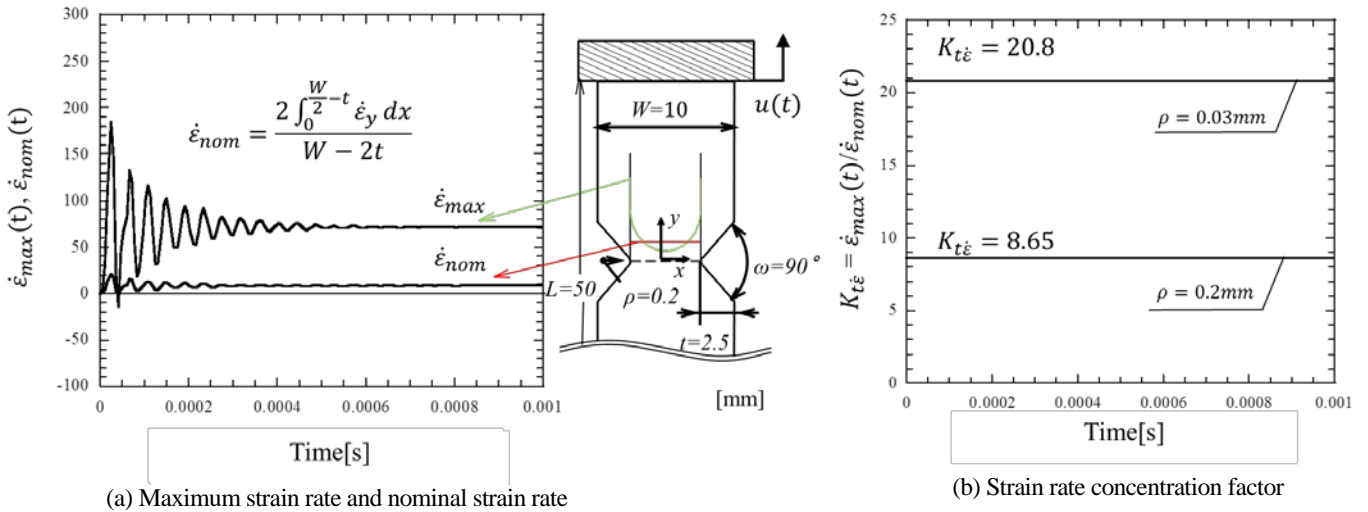


Fig.A.1 Constancy of strain rate concentration factor (Plate specimen)

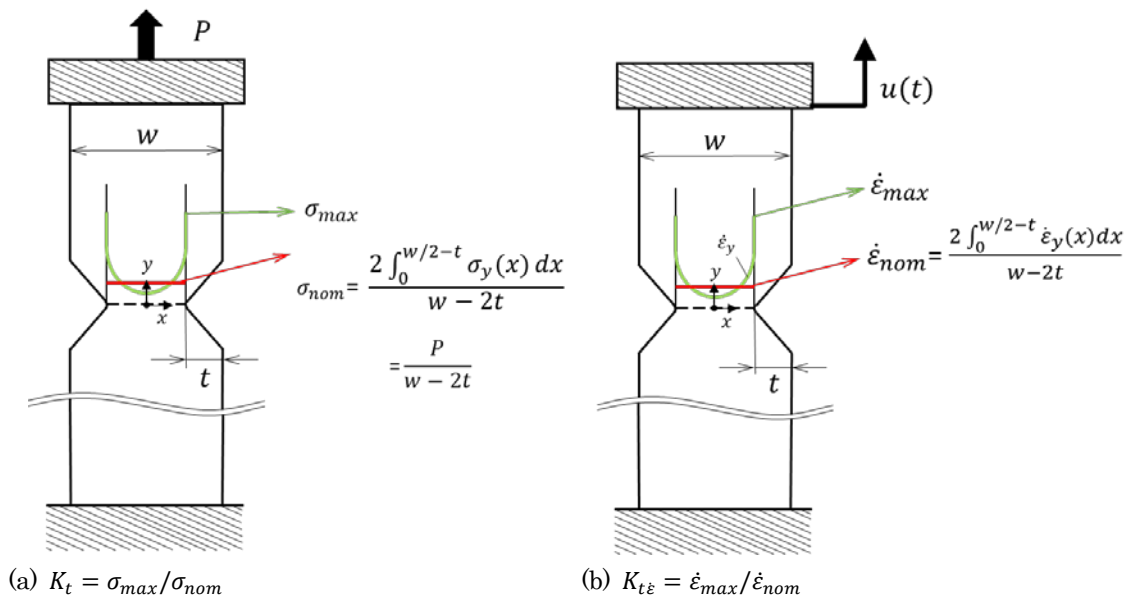


Fig.A.2 Nominal stress σ_{nom} and nominal strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$ (Plate specimen)

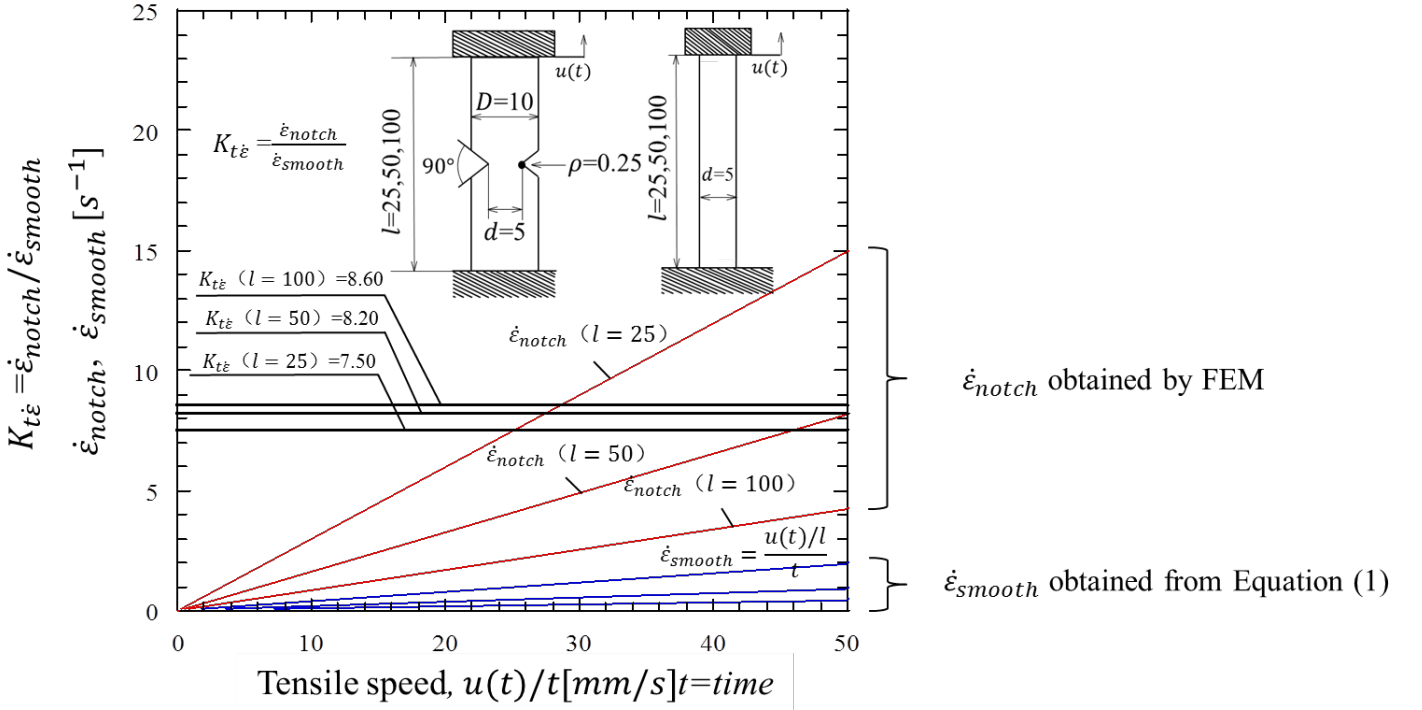


Fig.A.3 $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}} = \dot{\epsilon}_{notch}/\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ vs. tensile speed for different specimen length l

factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ is known for the specimen geometry used in experiments, the nominal strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$ at the minimum section is necessary to obtain the maximum strain rate at the notch root $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}$. Since the strain rate distribution of the minimum section varies depending on the notch shape, it is not very easy to calculate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$. Regarding the stress concentration factor, the nominal stress σ_{nom} in Fig. A.2(a) can be easily obtained from the applied load. However, the nominal strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$ in Fig. A.2(b) has to be calculated by integrating the distribution to obtain the average value. In this paper, therefore, instead of the strain rate distribution at the minimum cross section, the strain rate generated in the smooth specimen is considered as a reference value. In other words, instead of $\dot{\epsilon}_{max}/\dot{\epsilon}_{nom}$, the strain rate concentration factor is newly defined as $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}/\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$, the ratio of the maximum strain rate of the notched specimen to the strain rate of the smooth specimen.

Fig. A.3 shows the relationship between the strain rate of the smoothing material for the specimen length $l=25, 50, 100$ mm and the tensile speed. As shown in Fig. A.3, the strain rate of the smooth specimen increases proportionally to the

tensile speed as shown in the equation (3). Here, $u(t)/t$ is the tensile speed assuming $u(t)$ is proportional to the time, and t is the time. Fig. A.3 also shows the strain rates for the notched and smooth specimens $\dot{\epsilon}_{notch}$, $\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth}$ and the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ defined as equations (3), (4). Here, the geometry of the notched and smooth specimens are indicated in Fig.A.1. Here, the notched flat specimen has a notch root radius $\rho=0.2$ mm.

As shown in Fig.A.1, since the strain rates for the notched and smooth specimens increase in proportion to the tensile speed, the ratio $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ does not depend on the tensile speed and is always constant. Therefore, if the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$ is known, which is defined as the ratio of the notched specimen to the smooth specimen as shown in equation (4), the strain rate at the notch root can be obtained from the tensile speed $u(t)/t$ and the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\epsilon}}$.

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{smooth} = \frac{u(t)/l}{t} \quad (3)$$

$$K_{t\dot{\varepsilon}} = \frac{\dot{\varepsilon}_{notch}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{smooth}}, \quad \dot{\varepsilon}_{notch} = K_{t\dot{\varepsilon}} \cdot \dot{\varepsilon}_{smooth} = K_{t\dot{\varepsilon}} \cdot \frac{u(t)/l}{t} \quad (4)$$

Note that as shown in Fig.A.3 the strain rate concentration factor $K_{t\dot{\varepsilon}}$ is depending on the specimen length l/D on the contrary to the net stress concentration factor K_t .

Acknowledgement

The authors wish to express our thanks to the member of our group Ms. Akane Inoue for preparing the data and supporting FEM analysis.

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