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14. ABSTRACT The concrete community has significant interest on additives for concrete that can drastically change the strength, tensile, compressive, flexural properties, workability, rate of cure of cement. Defense applications require new blast, impact, and ballistic mitigation materials. This work focused on the characterization of the mechanical properties and microstructure of metakaolin geopolymer, obtain the static properties of metakaolin geopolymer for high strain rate Hopkinson Bar comparisons.

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Report Title

Microstructure, Quasi-Static, and High Strain Rate Dynamic Characterization of Metakaolin and Fly Ash Based Geopolymers for Structural Applications

ABSTRACT

The concrete community has significant interest on additives for concrete that can drastically change the strength, tensile, compressive, flexural properties, workability, rate of cure of cement. Defense applications require new blast, impact, and ballistic mitigation materials. This work focused on the characterization of the mechanical properties and microstructure of metakaolin geopolymer, obtain the static properties of metakaolin geopolymer for high strain rate Hopkinson Bar comparisons.

Objectives

- ❑ Perform research on the characterization of the mechanical properties and microstructure of metakaolin geopolymer
- ❑ Acquire static properties of metakaolin geopolymer for high strain rate Hopkinson Bar result comparison
- ❑ Become familiar with microstructure characterization methods

Metakaolin

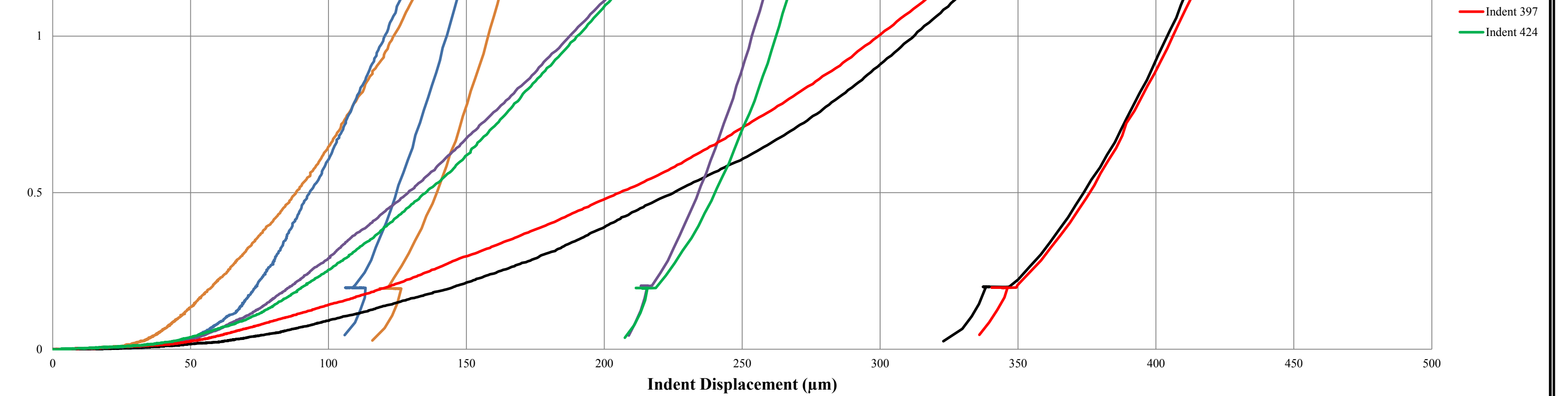
- ❑ Prepared from thermal conditioning (calcining) of Kaolinite
- ❑ Aluminosiliceous material along with Fe
- ❑ Increases strength and chemical resistance of concrete
- ❑ Reduces permeability of concrete
- ❑ Workability enhancement of concrete



Figure 1. Metakaolin Powder(a), Cured Metakaolin Geopolymer(b)

Methodology

- ❑ Optical Microscope/Scanning Electron Microscope
 - ❑ Optical microscope and scanning electron microscope images used to explore topography
- ❑ Compressive Strength
 - ❑ Tinius Olsen material testing machine used to determine quasi static ultimate compressive strength of Metakaolin geopolymer
- ❑ Nanoindentation
 - ❑ -50 x 10 grid with 10µm horizontal spacing and 20µm vertical spacing were done at a maximum load of 2mN with a 5 sec dwell time at maximum load using a Berkovich tip
 - ❑ Used to calculate elastic modulus and hardness values
- ❑ X-Ray Diffraction/Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy
 - ❑ X-Ray diffraction used to determine the mineralogy
 - ❑ Energy dispersive spectroscopy used to determine chemical composition for specific microstructure components
- ❑ Thermogravimetric Analysis
 - ❑ Thermo gravimetric analysis used to determine the water (chemically- and physically-adsorbed) as well as other phases.



Nanoindentation Load vs. Displacement

- ❑ Nanoindentation data demonstrated the load vs. displacement of 3 different components of the metakaolin-based geopolymer.
- ❑ Modulus of the 3 components were experimentally found to be 11GPa, 25GPa, and 50GPa, representing various geopolymerization reaction products.
- ❑ Compression test utilized to determine strength.

Table 1. Metakaolin Ultimate Strength

Maximum Load (lbs)	Strength (psi)
1028.9	2176.8
942.0	1982.6
1534.4	3130.7

Figure 2. Tested Sample



SEM Imaging

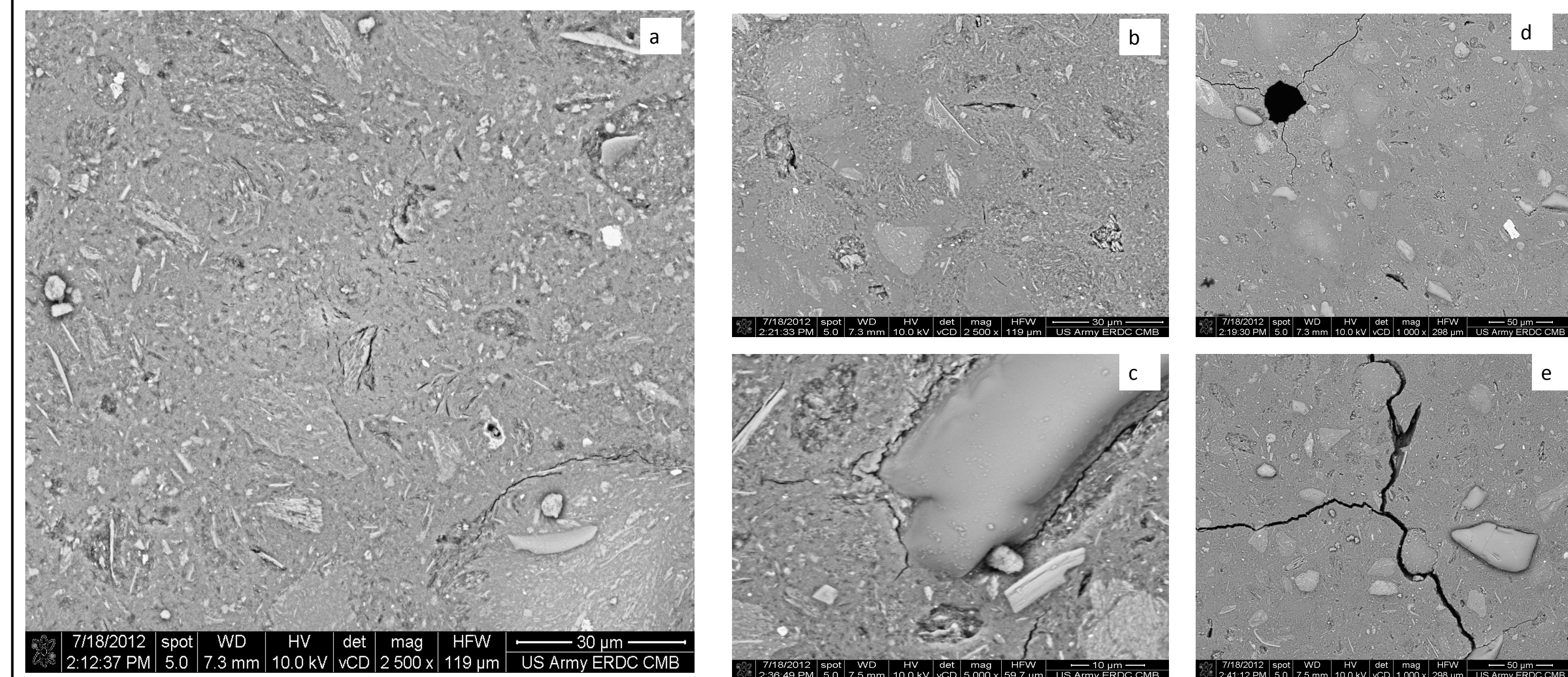


Figure 3: SEM images of Metakaolin-Based Geopolymer (a),(b), Cracks Propagating from Voids (c), Crack Around non-reacted Metakaolin (d), Cracks Propagation Through Matrix (e)

- ❑ SEM images displayed homogenous material
- ❑ Micro cracks found in various location of geopolymer micro structure
- ❑ Cracks found to resonate from voids and also follow a path around areas of non-reacted Metakaolin

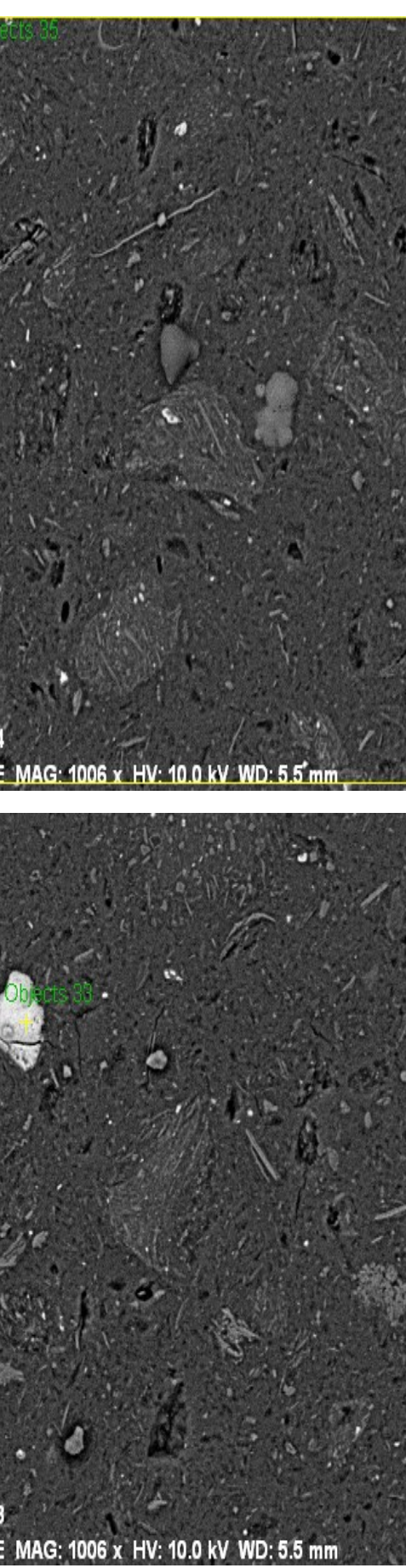
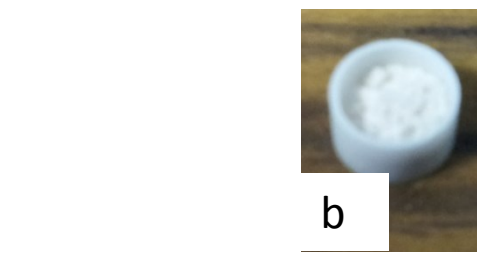


Figure 7: Particle(d)

- ❑ EDS Titanium

- ❑ Experiment ultimate
- ❑ Analysis Sodium
- ❑ Future properties character

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