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Incentive:

- Good energy absorption capacity for cellular materials, especially metal foam, preferably in direction of compression
- Pores are deformed one after the other by absorbing energy
- So stress keeps constant by a long time of deformation (plateau)
- Possibility to dissipate crash energy in a efficient way
- Knowledge of material properties





20% deformation 60% deformation

Reference: Weber, M.: Herstellung von Metallschäumen und Beschreibung der Werkstoffeigenschaften, Metall-Innovation-Technologie, Bremen 1997



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Incentive:

- Different positions in literature about strain rate dependency of aluminium foam:
- Deshpande and Fleck / I.W. Hall, M. Guden und C. J. Yu report about tests, which result in **no** strain rate dependency of stress values
- A. Paul and U. Ramamurty / Mukai et al. report about results with a strain rate dependency of stress values

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Tested materials:

- Aluminium foam
- With closed pores
- Variable aluminium alloys Al99,5 (EN AW-1050A) AlSi12 (EN AC-44100) AlMgSi0,5 (EN AW-6060)
- Manufacturing: powder metallurgical route / melting route



Picture: Test samples for compression tests



Test conditions:

- Compression tests, because compression behaviour for most foams better than tensile behaviour (brittleness)
- Quasi-static tests according to DIN 50134 (Compression test of cellular materials)
- Same sample dimensions for high speed tests to ensure comparability



Reference: DIN 50134 Testing of metallic materials –compression test of metallic cellular materials, Beuth Verlag, 2008



Test conditions:

- Sample dimensions according to DIN 50134
- Cylindrical samples for the powder metallurgical aluminium foam
- Ø50mm, height 100mm
- Sample dimensions for melting route foam is rectangular prism
- 50mm x 50mm, height 100mm
- No influence of different geometry, evaluation is done in the field of stress (area independent)



Picture: Different dimensions of test samples for compression tests



Test devices:

- Quasi-static testing
 - Universal tensile-/ compression test machine "ZMART.PRO", Fa. Zwick Roell
 - Maximum force: 50kN
 - Test velocity: 0,001m/s



Picture: Universal Tensile-/ Compression test machine "ZMART.PRO", Fa. Zwick Roell



Archivierungsangaben

Test devices:

- High speed tests
 - High speed tensile-/ compression test machine "Amsler HTM 16020", Fa. Zwick Roell
 - Maximum energy: 6kJ
 - Maximum test speed: 20m/s
 - Used test speed: 13m/s



Picture: High speed tensile-/ compression test machine "Amsler HTM 16020", Fa. Zwick Roell



Results:

Quasi-static test



Picture: Beginning and end of a quasi-static test



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Results:

- Quasi-static test
- Dependency of compressive stress and foam density
- Increasing density leads to a less distinct plateau
- In some cases brittle material behaviour has been observed



Figure: Quasi-static stress-strain curve with different foam densities



Results:

- Quasi-static test
- No clear tendency between different alloys
- Partly more variance in curves of one material than between curves of different alloys



Figure: Quasi-static stress-strain curve with different foam densities



Results:

- Quasi-static test
- Very smooth stress-strain curve of melt metallurgical aluminium foam
- More variance in stressstrain curve of aluminium foam from the powder metallurgical route
- Influence of outer foam skin observable



Figure: Dynamic stress-strain curve of powder metallurgical aluminium foam and aluminium foam from the melting route



Results:

- Dynamic test
- Like in the quasi-static test dependency of stress and density observable
- Higher density results in higher stress values
- Some samples reveal brittle material behaviour (fracture)



Figure: Dynamic stress-strain curve with different foam densities



Results:

Dynamic test

on the alloy



Figure: Dynamic stress-strain curve with different foam alloys



Results:

- **Dynamic** test
- Very smooth stress-strain curve of aluminium foam from melting route
- More variance in stressstrain curve of aluminium foam from the powder metallurgical route
- Influence of outer foam skin observable



Figure: Dynamic stress-strain curve of powder metallurgical aluminium foam and aluminium foam from the melting route



Results:

- Quasi-static / dynamic tests
- Comparison between quasi-static and dynamic stress-strain-curves shows the same trend
- But dynamic curves reveal up to 100%
 higher stress values
- Important for dimensioning crash boxes and bumpers



Figure: Comparison quasi-static and high speed stress-strain-curves of aluminium foam



Conclusion:

- Strain rate dependency of aluminium foam could be proven
- Increase of compressive stress up to 100% by increasing deformation speed from 0,001m/s to 13m/s
- Difference to other test settings – larger test sample dimensions, so more restraint for gas inside the pores



Figure: Increase of stress values from quasi-static to high speed deformation

