



PREDICTION OF COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH IN LIGHT-WEIGHT SELF-COMPACTING CONCRETE BY ANFIS ANALYTICAL MODEL

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Light-weight Self-Compacting Concrete (LWSCC) might be the answer to the increasing construction requirements of slenderer and more heavily reinforced structural elements. However there are limited studies to prove its ability in real construction projects. In conjunction with the traditional methods, artificial intelligent based modeling methods have been applied to simulate the non-linear and complex behavior of concrete in the recent years. Twenty one laboratory experimental investigations on the mechanical properties of LWSCC; published in recent 12 years have been analyzed in this study. The collected information is used to investigate the relationship between compressive strength, elasticity modulus and splitting tensile strength in LWSCC. Analytically proposed model in ANFIS is verified by multi factor linear regression analysis. Comparing the estimated results, ANFIS analysis gives more compatible results and is preferred to estimate the properties of LWSCC.

Keywords: ANFIS, regression analysis, light-weight self-compacting concrete, compressive strength, elasticity modulus, splitting tensile strength

1. INTRODUCTION

The early evaluation of hardened concrete properties and predicting the relationships between the mechanical properties of concrete is very important. The problem is that following the hardening process, the quality and mechanical properties cannot improve.

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Numerous complex failure mechanisms may happen in brittle heterogeneous solids like concrete containing several flaws and cavities [1]. The most identified specific for quality characterization and concrete classification is Compressive strength (CS) [2] that is essential to express other mechanical properties of concrete.

Many approaches have been developed to estimate the compressive strength of concrete related to other hardened properties (Chen et al.2003, Han et al. 2003, Gupta et al.2006, Peng et al. 2009, Sobhani et al. 2010, Atici 2011) [3], however in the case of LWSCC there is almost no study to predict CS from fresh or hardened properties. Along with the traditional methods, fuzzy logic and neural networks are increasingly used to achieve the specification of relationships among several variables in a complex dynamic process, accomplish mappings and to control non-linear systems to a magnitude not conceivable by linear systems.

Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS), which has the benefits of both neural network and fuzzy systems, is particularly useful in the engineering applications where classical approaches fail or they are too complicated to be used [4]. Nataraja et al. (2006) [5] designed A Fuzzy-Neuro model for mix design of conventional concrete. Tesfamariam and Najjaran (2007) [6] used ANFIS model to estimate CS from mix design. Mahmut Bilgehan (2011) [7] compared the predicted concrete strength estimation from neural network and neuro-fuzzy modeling approaches. Tanyildizi and Qoskun (2007) [8] used fuzzy logic model to predict the CS of lightweight concrete made with scoria aggregate and fly ash. Uyunoglu and Unal (2006) [9] proposed a new approach to determination of CS of fly ash concrete using fuzzy logic. Yang et al. (2005) have studied on Concrete strength evaluation based on fuzzy neural networks. [10] Vakhshouri and Nejadi (2014) [3] compared the developed models of CS in high strength concrete by applying various features in ANFIS. The majority of above mentioned studies verify the adequacy of fuzzy system and neural networks to predict the mechanical properties of different types of concrete.

2. LIGHT-WEIGHT SELF- COMPACTING CONCRETE

Excellent adaptability, availability and economy aspects, make concrete the world's most broadly used construction material. Despite all benefits related to the use of concrete, considerable self-weight of concrete compared to other construction materials and workability problems limit its use in some structures. [11] Dense concrete increases the mass of the structures and consequently the related forces and hazards.

In recent decades, utilizing the mineral and chemical admixtures in concrete technology has introduced several changes in formulation and mix design to make the concrete workable, stronger and durable. [12] LWSCC as a combination of Light Weight Concrete (LWC) and Self-Compacting Concrete (SCC) is a result of advances in concrete technology to come over the limits in concrete structures. Using LWC may result in smaller dimension and lighter elements that both decrease the total weight of the structure and the lateral loads that is a major problem in most parts of the world. [12, 13] It is naturally utilized in structures for which major part of the total load is due to dead load weight of concrete. Consequently, the construction cost can be protected when applied to structures such as long span bridge and high rise buildings [14]. In addition, better thermal insulation; better reinforcing steel-concrete bond, durability performance, tensile strain capacity, and fatigue resistance make it superior to normal weight concrete [12, 14]. In conjunction with the density of concrete; workability, strength, and durability are major considerations in concrete application in construction industry. While the strength and durability are related to the hardened concrete, the workability is related to the fresh concrete [15].

Nowadays SCC is inevitable solution to most workability problems. SCC as new type of concrete which has the capabilities of flowing easily, filling the formwork and making a full compaction under its own weight, eliminates the vibration process, improves the environmental consideration and reduces the labor works. Beside, SCC has proven advantages enhancing construction productivity, reducing the overall cost of the structure, achieving sustainable characteristics, increasing the practically allowable reinforcement rate, and increasing the construction rate and overall quality of the cast structures [16]. There are wide range of publications about LWC with different light weight aggregates and mix proportions. However SCC is completely new topic in construction industry that is rapidly growing in research and real project applications in last decade. Since LWSCC is combination of two materials which one part is not pretty investigated, it needs much more investigations.

3. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

LWSCC could be an excellent solution to decrease the structure weight and ease of construction [17, 18]; however its mechanical properties are not completely understood in the literature to use in real construction projects. LWSCC is combination of LWC and SCC and contains the advantages and limits of both types of concrete. Mechanical properties of LWSCC are very sensitive to its mix proportions and the relationship between the fresh properties and mechanical properties is not

predictable like other types of concrete. Due to complicated nature and nonlinear behavior of LWSCC and large number of effecting parameters, traditional methods may not be able to give reasonable relationships between different properties of LWSCC; though ANFIS has proven its ability to establish the relationships between parameters in complicated engineering systems and materials.

The main objectives of this study are:

- Systematic evaluation of the experiments conducted by researches in different parts of the world. Since LWSCC is a novel material in construction industry, comprehensive collection of data so far and giving comparisons will be a major start point for upcoming researchers and its application in real projects.
- Developing analytical models between CS, Elasticity Modulus (EM) and Splitting Tensile Strength (STS) of LWSCC in ANFIS
- Verifying the analytical models with multi-factor linear regression analysis, statistical coefficients and experimental data in the literature

The general form of the multi-factor linear regression analysis is presented in Eq. (3.1).

$$(3.1) \quad y = f(\beta_1 x_1) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \dots + \beta_n x_n$$

where: y , f , β_i and x_i are the dependent variable, linear function, constant coefficients and the dependent variables of the relation respectively.

4. DATABASE FOR FRESH AND HARDENED PROPERTIES OF LWSCC

Resultant data of published experimental investigations is an effective tool to propose and verification of new models and comparing the actual and predicted values. Despite efficiency of experimental data from different sources, using them can be problematic owing to: a) insufficient information concerning the exact composition of the concrete mixes; b) different size and number of the specimen, curing condition, and testing methodology; and (3) extracting real data of experimental results from graphs and diagrams.

The collected experimental database of this study is mainly from papers presented at conferences and published articles on LWSCC. The investigated database in this study contains the empirical data of CS, EM and STS. In addition to clarify the wide variety of component materials in mix design of LWSCC, Table 1 presents information about the composition of the mixes, type

of chemical admixture (plasticizer and air entraining agent), type of fine and coarse aggregate, filler type and cement type. In addition to the references in Table 1, mechanical properties of LWSCC from experiments of Pons et al. (2007) [19], Suresh Babu et al. (2008) [20] and Gencel et al. (2011) [21] are included in the database of models.

5. ARCHITECTURE OF ANFIS MODELING

Fuzzy systems are particularly useful in the engineering applications where classical approaches fail or they are too complicated to be used. ANFIS is a class of adaptive networks, which has the advantages of ANN and linguistic interpretability of Fuzzy Inference Systems (FIS) [22, 23]. Application of ANFIS was first proposed by Jang (1993). Ozel (2011) [24] used ANFIS to predict the CS of high performance conventional concrete from fresh concrete properties. Sadrmomtazi et al. (2013) [25] applied ANFIS analysis to study the relation between CS of lightweight concrete and mixing proportion. Sobhani et al. (2010) [26] applied ANFIS model to predict CS of no-slump concrete and found acceptable results comparing with regression analysis and neural network models.

Table 1. Data base for mix design of LWSCC

Ref	CA				LWCA	NWA		Cement	Filler
	SP		AEA			Fine	Coarse		
	Type	Volume Kg/m3	Type	Volume Kg/m3					
27	PCAE	1.5-1.8% of cement weight			artificial LWA<15mm	NRS	CLS<15mm	PC	FA
10	PCB Eucon SPJ	3-6 floz/cwt	DARAVAIR 1000, AIR MIX 250 and AIR 30	3.2-4 floz/cwt	crushed granite from Vulcan mine material	NRS		Type III and Class C Boral cement	SF, FA
28	PCB	3.3	VRB	0.2	ES<9.5mm	NRS<4.75mm		CEM I	FA class F
29	NLSB	2-26			Manufactured with sintering fine sediment excavated from reservoir <13mm	Crushed Sand		CEM I -C150	FA class F
30	MB	2.97-7.32	N.G*	0.106-1.203		NRS<2 mm	Gravel<8 , Quartzite sandstone 8-16 mm		SF, LSP
31	PCB	1.5%	N.G.	0.4%		finely ground limestone, NRS<4mm			
32	N.G.	11.86	N.G.	0.6	Aggregate of Carolina Stalite Company	NRS<2mm		PC	FA
33	N.G.	7.5 floz/cwt	N.G.	0.3 floz/cwt	EC<20mm	NRS		PC	N.G.
3	PCB	4.9-1.1	Not given	2.88-6.09	Pumice 4-8, 8-16 mm	Crushed sand (SSD) <5mm	N.G 5-15mm	CEM I 42.5	FA, LSP

Table 1. Data base for mix design of LWSCC - continued

Ref	CA				LWCA	NWA		Cement	Filler
	SP		AEA			Fine	Coarse		
	Type	Volume Kg/m ³	Type	Volume Kg/m ³					
34	N.G.	7.3-15.1			dredged silt from reservoirs in southern Taiwan <9.5mm, 12.7mm	NRS <2.38mm		CEM I	FA, slag
11	PCB	0.7-1.3 % of cement weight	N.G.	0.005% of cement weight	LC1 <20mm By rhyolite fine powder, LC2 <20mm by with wastes (screening sludges)	local NRS	CLS <20mm	PC	N.G.
35	PCEP	4.675-4.95			Leca 4.75-9.5 mm	NRS <4.75mm		CEM II	LSP and SF
36	ADVA 405, 408	15-26 floz/cwt	ADVA 575	5-11 floz/cwt	EC, ES	NRS	CLS	CEM I in SCC CEM III in LWSCC	FA
14	N.G.	17.18-19.02			LECA from EC 0-3,3-10mm	NRS <4.75 mm	Natural gravel <10mm	CEM II	SF, LSP
12	PCAE	5.3-6.4			Coarse cold-bonded FA 4-16mm	Mix of CLS & NRS <5 mm		CEM I 42.5R	SF, FA class F
18	N.G.	6.5-7.5	SIKA Viscocrete modified polycarboxylate copolymers	4-10	Pumice 4.8-19mm	NRS <9.6mm	CLS <19mm	(PCC) Indonesian Standard (SN) 15-7064-2004	FA, Indocement TBK
17	PCB	0.6-1.1% of fine gg. weight			Two Iberian EC: Leca from Portugal and Arlita (Spain)	NRS	CLS <12.5mm	CEM I 42.5R	FA (Pego thermoelectric power plant)
37	PCEP	1.06	N.G.	0.163-2.272	Pumice 0-4, 4-8 and 8-16 mm	NRS 0-4 mm		CEM II 42.5N	Pumice, LSP, SF
38	PCAE	2.4-10.2	Oil alcohol and ammonium salt based	1.4-3.9	Pumice 4-8, 4-16mm	NRS <4mm	CLS 4-16mm	CEM I 42.5 R	industrial waste of olive powder
39	Liquid PCAE	6-7.28			Liapor, EC granules 0-2, 1-8mm	CLS 0-4 mm		PC	SF, FA, recycled concrete powder
40	PCB	3.3	SSA		Lyttag 4-14 mm	NRS <600 µm	Crushed Granite <20mm	CEM I 42.5N	PFA, GGBS, LSP

Chemical Admixture (CA): Super plasticizer (SP): Poly Carboxylate Based (PCB), Melamine based (MB), Poly Carboxylic Ether Polymer (PCEP), Poly Carboxylic Acid Ether (PCAE), and Naphthalene Lingo-Sulfonate Based (NLSB).

Air Entraining Agent (AEA): Sodium Sulphate Activator (SSA), Vinsol resin based (VRB).

Light weight coarse aggregate (LWCA): Expanded Clay (EC), Expanded Shale (ES).

Normal Weight Aggregate (NWA): Crushed Lime Stone (CLS), Natural River Sand (NRS).

Cement: Portland cement (PC), Portland cement type I and II (CEMI, CEMII).

Fillers: Fly Ash (FA), Limestone powder (LSP), Silica fume (SF), Pulverised fuel ash (PFA), Ground Granulated Blast furnace Slag (GGBS).

* Not Given (N.G.) in Table 1 indicates where there is no information and the blank means the material is not used in that case study.

Applying different features in ANFIS to input data and processing steps to classify, normalization and optimization of data and iteration and error calculations give sometimes completely different results.

Comparing all features in ANFIS architecture, the Sugeno type Fuzzy Inference System (FIS), bell shaped distribution of data called here as membership function (gbellmf) and hybrid optimization method with 2500 epochs are applied to get the best results from the ANFIS model with the minimum error in training and testing process of the data.

Hybrid optimization method is a combination of the least-squares and back-propagation gradient descent methods. In conjunction with the classification of data to select the training and testing data, this method is reliable enough to refine the data to reach the minimum error.

The developed ANFIS model to predict a single output from combination of two inputs in this study is shown in general form of Fig. 1.

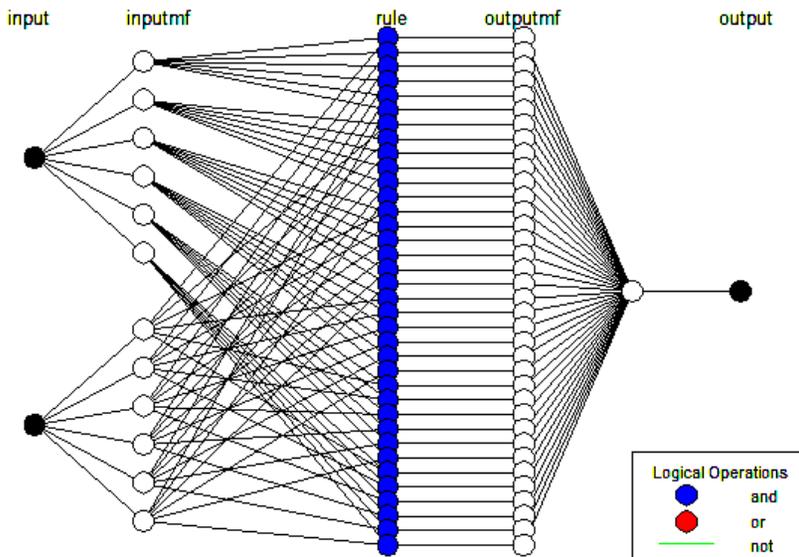


Fig. 1. Architecture of simulated model in ANFIS

The relationship between compressive strength as output with two input data of modulus of elasticity and splitting tensile strength in ANFIS is presented in Fig. 2.

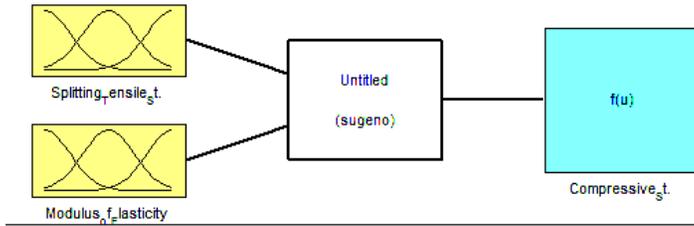


Fig. 2. General form of ANFIS operation between input and output data

According to Fig. 2, the combination of two input data is supposed by “and” rule, in other words, “if STS and EM then CS” rule has been applied to get the desired target from input dataset.

ANFIS takes sets of data as training and testing data and applies logical operations of if-then rules to establish a relationship between input and output data. Established relationship in training stage is evaluated by testing data. The minimum error in testing process concludes the most compatible relationship between the input and output data. Figs. 3 (a, b) illustrate the distribution of STS and EM data as two sets of input data in six input mf plots to get the compressive strength as output data. The applied if-then fuzzy rules in different steps to establish a relationship between input and output data by bell shape membership function are presented in Fig. 4.

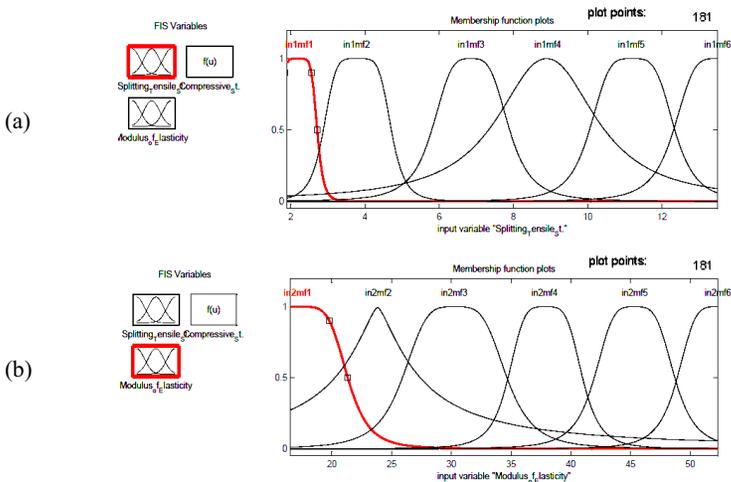


Fig. 3. mf plots of a) STS and b) EM in training of data to establish the fuzzy model

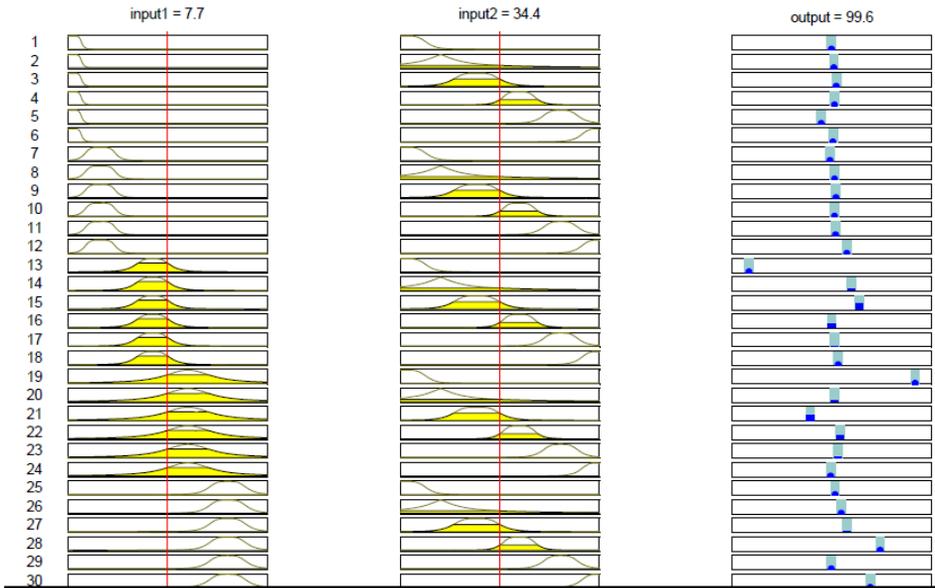


Fig. 4. Reasoning scheme (if-then rules; if input 1 and input 2 then output) of NAFIS with bell shaped mf

6. PREFERENCES AND PROCESSING OF DATA

The ratio of number of training data to testing data is 4, i.e. 80% of whole data are selected as training data and the remaining 20% as testing data. To enhance the accuracy of the FIS model and to avoid unexpected errors during the training and testing process in ANFIS, wide range and quantity of data are imported in the model.

In addition, the total data are classified in some ranges and a test data is selected from each range to ensure that the selected test data could be a reliable representative for its range.

As shown in Fig. 5, by applying the above mentioned preferences, the extreme points and distribution shape of testing data is similar to training data.

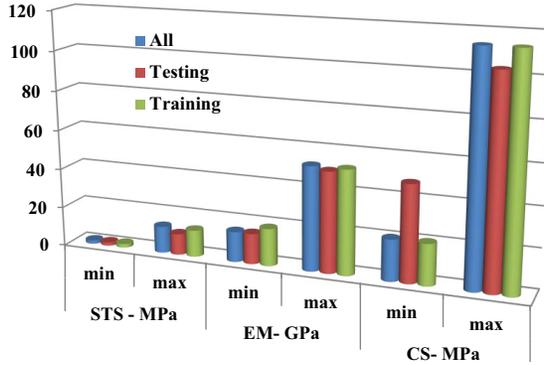


Fig. 5. Testing and training data range in ANFIS model and regression analysis

7. EVALUATION FACTORS

To evaluate the performance of the developed models in ANFIS and to compare the predicted results with the multi factor regression analysis, statistical parameters of Euclidean Norm (EN) in Eq. (2) and Square of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (SPPMCC) in Eq. (3) are used.

$$(7.1) \quad EN = f(x_{\text{predict}}, x_{\text{real}}) = \sqrt{\sum (x_{\text{predict}} - x_{\text{real}})^2}$$

The SPPMCC returns R^2 , which is the square of this correlation coefficient. An R^2 of 1 indicates that the regression line perfectly fits the data.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ANFIS models are trained by 100 input–output datasets of STS, EM and CS and tested and verified by 22 datasets. Moreover up to 2500 epochs is specified for training process to guarantee the reaching the minimum error. According to the training results, the models reach to the minimum error size after 400 epochs, however 2500 epochs confirm the ultimate possible convergence in the model. Fig. 6 shows the training process of input data to establish a fuzzy relationship between splitting tensile strength, modulus of elasticity and compressive strength of LWSCC.

Figs. 7(a, b) show the comparison of the predicted and empirical values of CS. Fig. 7a shows the real input values of CS versus FIS prediction, since the training error size is very small; therefore the predicted values are in good compatibility with the real experimental values. To ensure the efficiency of the training process, about 20% of whole data is utilized to test the established relationship. Fig. 7 (b) shows the analysis result of the testing data. It is clear that majority of the predicted values are in good compatibility with the predicted values. There is just a considerable difference between the empirical and predicted CS value in the last dataset of testing data.

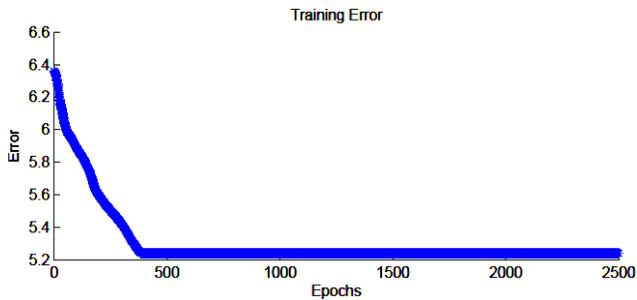


Fig. 6: Training of data to establish a fuzzy based relation between input and target data

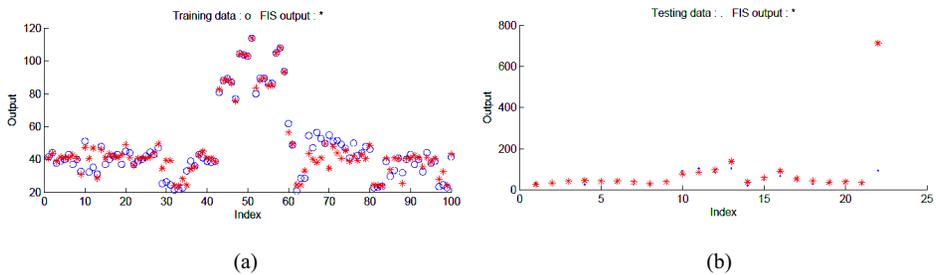


Fig 7. a) Compatibility of given CS vs. FIS predicted CS, b) testing the results of established FIS model

Fig. 8 gives a better 3D view of the developed FIS model between STS, EM and CS.

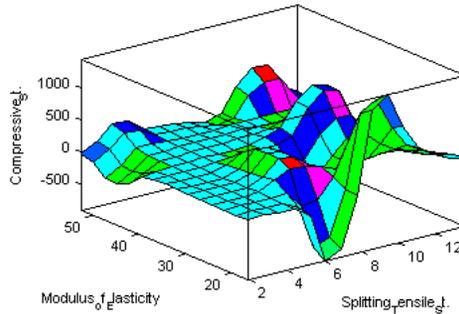


Fig. 8: 3-D view of relation between STS, EM and CS in ANFIS model

To evaluate the developed FIS model, regression analysis is performed to find a best matching multi-factor linear relationship between compressive strength, modulus of elasticity and splitting tensile strength as shown in Eq. (4). According to the statistical coefficients of Eq. (4) in Table 2, the proposed model in regression analysis has a good compatibility with the empirical data.

$$(8.1) \quad CS = \alpha \cdot STS + \beta \cdot EM + \gamma$$

α	β	γ
6.129635	1.21536	-12.3031

Table 2. Statistical coefficients of the model in regression analysis

Coefficient	Multiple R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Standard Error
Value	0.919434	0.845359	0.842138	9.015084

To verify the developed model in ANFIS model, Fig. 9 compares the CS values predicted by ANFIS and regression analysis with the real empirical data of this study.

It shows a good compatibility between the models and the real data; however in the majority of plotted data, ANFIS model predicts CS values vary close and adjacent to the empirical data.

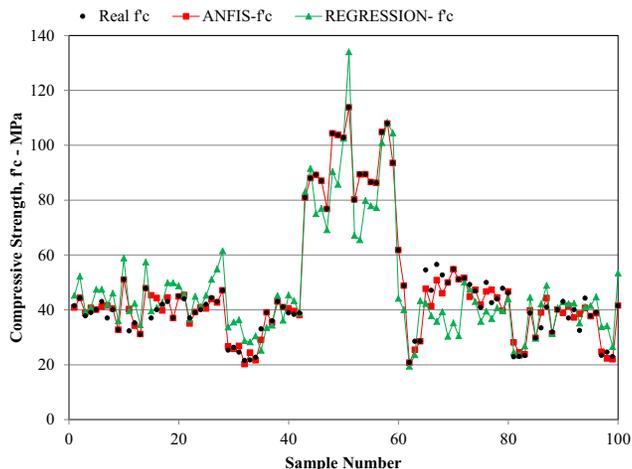


Fig. 9. Comparing the empirical data of CS vs. predictions of ANFIS and regression analysis

To better understanding of the efficiency of the developed models, compatibility of the predicted values with the empirical data is evaluated by EN and SPPMCC coefficients.

Table 3 shows the values of these coefficients by comparing the predictions of ANFIS and regression model with the empirical data respectively.

Table 3. Mathematical evaluation coefficients of developed models

Model	EN	SPPMCC
ANFIS	26.432	0.986165
Multi factor linear regression	88.4	0.845359

Figs. 10(a, b) plot the predicted CS values vs. empirical data in ANFIS and regression analysis respectively.

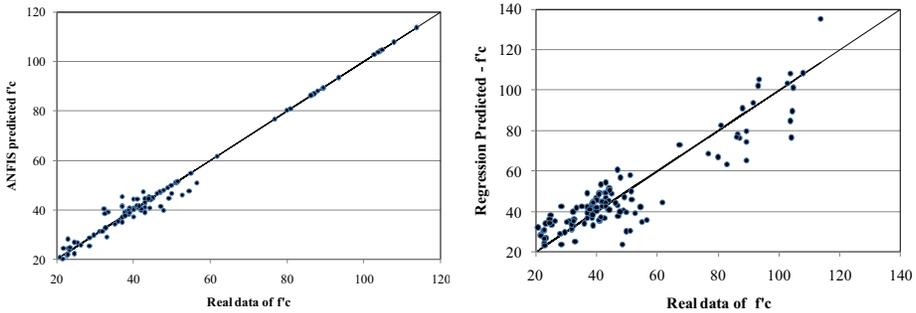


Fig. 10. Comparison of real given data of CS vs. prediction
of a) ANFIS, b) Regression analysis

According to Table 3 and Figs 11(a, b) it is obvious that the ANFIS model is more compatible with the empirical data and is recommended to estimate compressive strength from combination of splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity. Furthermore the good estimating established model in regression analysis confirms the efficiency of the ANFIS model.

The non-linear structural and technological behavior of self-compacting and light weight concrete is not understood very well in the literature.

Consequently combination of these two concretes in LWSCC makes the behavior more complicated. Since the intelligent based models are always better than tradition models in dealing with any types of data with unknown distribution, the ANFIS model in this study gives more reasonable predictions than regression analysis.

9. CONCLUSION

This study utilizes the intelligent based ANFIS to develop a model to predict the 28 days CS from combination of STS and EM in LWSCC. In addition a model developed by multi factor regression analysis is proposed to verify the ANFIS Model.

LWSCC is a new construction material and the published experimental investigations are very rare in the literature. However to have the most comprehensive data so far, this study collected the data from 24 recently published experimental investigations:

- Comparing all the features in ANFIS architecture, Sugento type structure, bell shaped membership function and hybrid optimization method is applied to develop the FIS model.
- The model in ANFIS well predicts the CS value from combination of EM and STS.

- The model proposed by multi factor linear regression analysis also gives a reasonable prediction of CS.
- Evaluating the compatibility of the predictions of both models with empirical data by EN and SPPMCC statistical coefficients, the predictions of ANFIS model is more compatible and adjacent to the empirical data since it has the least error and the highest correlation factor.
- ANFIS models are recommended to investigate the relationship between fresh and hardened properties of non-linear complicated materials like LWSCC.

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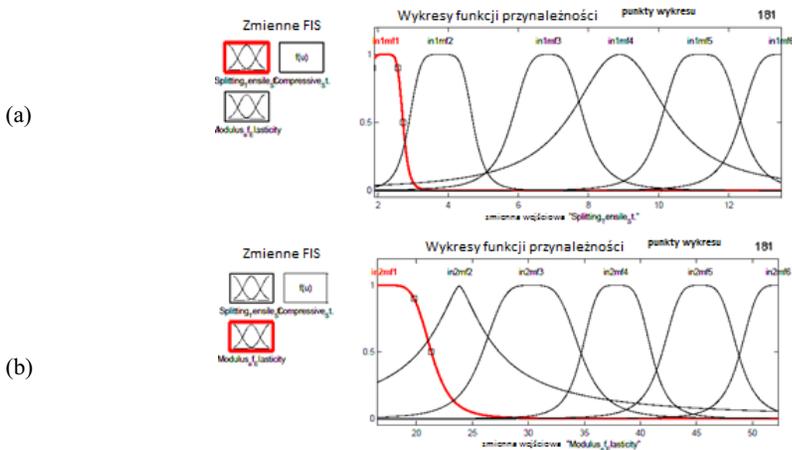
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PREDYKCJA WYTRZYMAŁOŚCI NA ŚCISKANIE LEKKIEGO BETONU SAMOUSZCZELNIAJĄCEGO WG MODELU ANALITYCZNEGO ANFIS

Słowa kluczowe: ANFIS, analiza regresji, lekki beton samouszczelniający, wytrzymałość na ściskanie, moduł sprężystości, wytrzymałość na rozciąganie.

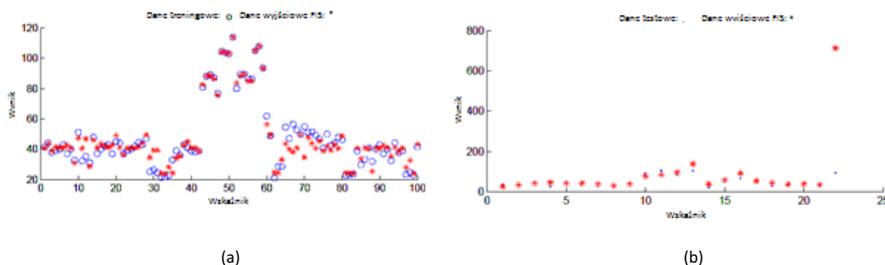
STRESZCZENIE:

Lekki beton samouszczelniający (LWSCC) to połączenie betonu lekkiego (LWC) i samouszczelniającego (SCC) i posiada zarówno zalety, jak i wady obu typów betonu. Ze względu na złożony charakter i nieliniowe zachowanie LWSCC oraz dużą liczbę parametrów, które mają wpływ na wyniki analiz, tradycyjne metody mogą okazać się niewystarczające do określenia współzależności pomiędzy różnymi właściwościami LWSCC; jakkolwiek model ANFIS okazał się skuteczny, jeśli chodzi o określanie zależności pomiędzy parametrami w przypadku złożonych systemów technologicznych oraz materiałów. W opracowaniu wykorzystano znaczącą ilość danych eksperymentalnych, dotyczących tego nowego materiału budowlanego, w celu przeanalizowania zależności pomiędzy wytrzymałością na ściskanie (CS), wytrzymałością na rozciąganie (STS) oraz modulem sprężystości (EM). Dodatkowo, opracowano nowy model analityczny w ramach systemu rozmytego, który został też zweryfikowany przy pomocy zgromadzonych danych, jak również analizy regresji wieloczynnikowej. Zgromadzone dane umożliwiają także porównanie otrzymanych proporcji mieszanki LWSCC. Ponieważ w literaturze nie pojawiły się dotąd wskazówki w tym zakresie, porównanie takie może stać się doskonałym punktem wyjścia dla dalszych badań na temat właściwości LWSCC oraz składu mieszanki. Porównując wszystkie cechy charakterystyczne przy pomocy modelu ANFIS, opracowano model FIS przy zastosowaniu strukturę typu Sugento, funkcję przynależności w kształcie dzwonu oraz metodę optymalizacji hybrydowej. Zależność pomiędzy danymi jednowynikowymi (CS) i dwuwynikowymi (STS, EM), pozyskaną za pomocą modelu ANFIS, prezentuje rys. 1.



Rys. 1. Ogólny sposób funkcjonowania ANFIS od zmiennych wejściowych do wyjściowych

Aby zapewnić efektywność procesu treningowego, około 20% całości danych wykorzystuje się do przetestowania utworzonej zależności. Rys. 2 (a, b) przedstawiają porównanie wartości predykcyjnych i empirycznych CS w procesie treningu i testowania.



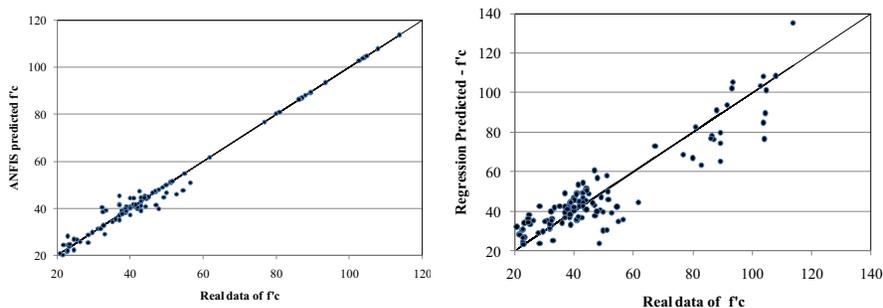
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Tabela 1. Matematyczne wskaźniki oceny dla opracowanym modeli

Model	EN	SPMCC
ANFIS	26.432	0.986165
Wieloczynnikowa regresja liniowa	88.4	0.845359

Rys. 3 (a, b) przedstawiają predykcyjne wartości CS oraz dane empiryczne pochodzące odpowiednio z modelu ANFIS oraz z analizy regresji.



Rys. 3. Porównanie faktycznych danych z CS oraz danych predykcyjnych z a) ANFIS, b) analizy regresji

Uwagi końcowe

- Model ANFIS pozwala precyzyjnie przewidzieć wartość CS na podstawie kombinacji EM i STS.
- Model analizy wieloczynnikowej regresji liniowej także pozwala na efektywną predykcję CS.
- Model ANFIS jest w większym stopniu kompatybilny i przystający do danych empirycznych ze względu na najniższą ilość błędów oraz najwyższy współczynnik korelacji.