



## Reviewing of prediction of cracks and recognizing its patterns in geopolymers concrete beams using machine learning

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World Journal of Advanced Engineering Technology and Sciences, 2025, 15(01), 2462-2472

Publication history: Received on 17 March 2025; revised on 23 April 2025; accepted on 26 April 2025

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjaets.2025.15.1.0484>

### Abstract

Geopolymer concrete, known for its sustainable properties and high strength, has emerged as a viable alternative to traditional Portland cement concrete. However, the prediction of cracks and the recognition of their patterns in geopolymer concrete beams remain critical challenges that impact structural integrity and durability. This review paper explores various machine learning techniques employed in the analysis of crack formation and pattern recognition in geopolymer concrete. We systematically evaluate the effectiveness of different algorithms, including supervised and unsupervised learning methods, and their applications in crack detection and classification. Additionally, we highlight the integration of image processing techniques and sensor data in enhancing predictive accuracy. The findings indicate that machine learning models significantly improve the understanding of crack behavior in geopolymer concrete, facilitating proactive maintenance strategies. This paper concludes with recommendations for future research directions, emphasizing the need for more comprehensive datasets and the exploration of hybrid machine learning models to advance the field.

**Keywords:** Geopolymer concrete; Crack prediction; Pattern recognition; Machine learning; Structural integrity; Image processing; Predictive maintenance; Supervised learning; Unsupervised learning; Sensor data; Hybrid models

### 1. Introduction

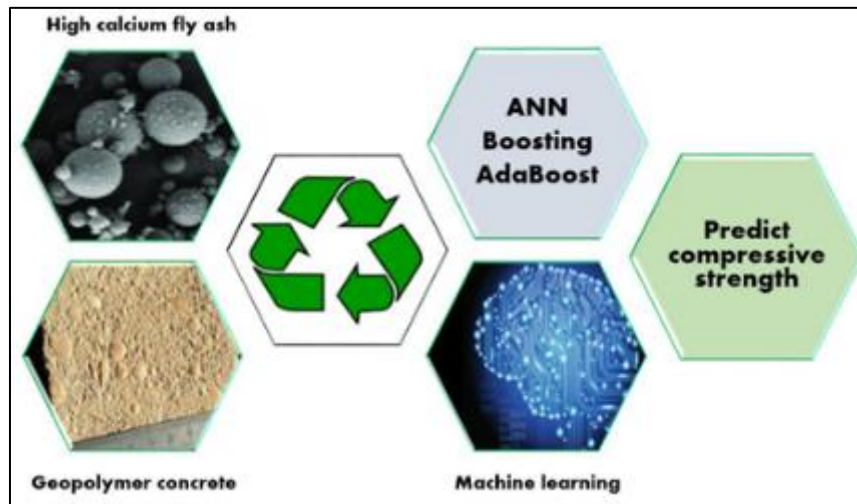
Geopolymer concrete (GPC) is an innovative building material that utilizes industrial by-products, such as fly ash and slag, to replace traditional Portland cement. Due to its eco-friendly nature and superior mechanical properties, GPC has gained significant attention in the construction industry. Despite its advantages, the assessment of structural performance, particularly in relation to crack formation, remains a critical challenge. Cracks can significantly compromise the load-bearing capacity and longevity of concrete structures, making early detection and accurate prediction essential for maintenance and safety.

Traditional methods for crack detection often rely on visual inspections or manual measurements, which can be subjective and prone to human error. Recent advancements in machine learning (ML) present new opportunities for automating crack detection and improving predictive capabilities. Machine learning algorithms can analyze complex datasets and recognize patterns that may not be readily apparent through conventional methods. By leveraging various data sources, including images captured through high-resolution cameras and sensor readings, ML models can enhance our understanding of crack behaviors in geopolymer concrete beams.

This review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art machine learning techniques employed in the prediction of cracks and recognition of their patterns in geopolymer concrete. We will explore different

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approaches, assess their effectiveness, and discuss the integration of image processing techniques and sensor data. The ultimate goal is to highlight the potential of machine learning in advancing the field of civil engineering and ensuring the structural integrity of geopolymer concrete applications.



**Figure 1** Graphical

*Nashat S. Alghairi et al., Open Engineering ,2024. "Machine learning-based compressive strength estimation in nanomaterial-modified lightweight concrete"*

Nanotechnology has led to the development of unique materials, including nanoparticles in lightweight concrete (LWC) to improve its mechanical, microstructure, freshness, and durability qualities. Accurate models for estimating compressive strength (CS) are crucial for saving time, energy, and money, as well as planning construction schedules. A study involving 2,568 samples used nine models to predict CS of LWC mixtures with or without nanomaterials. The GBT model outperformed other models in predicting CS, with the highest R<sup>2</sup> value (0.9) and the lowest RMSE (5.286). The water content was found to be the most important factor influencing CS prediction.

*Qiang Li et al., Scintific Reports,2023. "Splitting tensile strength prediction of Metakaolin concrete using machine learning techniques"*

This paper presents a study on predicting splitting tensile strength (STS) in concrete containing Metakaolin using four machine learning models: Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Support Vector Regression (SVR), Random Forest (RF), and Gradient Boosting Decision Tree (GBDT). The results show GBDT model outperforms other models, demonstrating its potential as a cost-effective and time-efficient prediction tool for STS in concrete.

*Mohammed Alarfaj et al., Elsevier ,2024. "Machine learning based prediction models for spilt tensile strength of fiber reinforced recycled aggregate concrete"*

The demand for concrete production has led to a significant annual requirement for raw materials, resulting in a substantial amount of waste concrete. Recycled aggregate concrete has emerged as a promising solution, but faces challenges due to the vulnerability of the hardened mortar attached to natural aggregates. This study focuses on predicting the split tensile strength of fiber reinforced recycled aggregate concrete using five prediction models, including deep neural network models (DNN1 and DNN2), optimizable Gaussian process regression (OGPR), and genetic programming-based GEP1 and GEP2 models. The models exhibited high accuracy in predicting spilt tensile strength with robust R<sup>2</sup> and MAE values. The most significant positive factors were cement, natural coarse aggregates, density of recycle aggregates, and superplasticizer.

*Mohammed Awad Abuhussain et al., Elsevier ,2024. "Data-driven approaches for strength prediction of alkali-activated composites"*

This study uses data-driven predictive modelling to predict the compressive strength (CS) of Alkali-activated composites (AACs), a promising alternative to Portland cement production and decarbonisation of concrete construction. Four different modelling techniques were used: decision tree, multi-layer perceptron, bagging regressor,

and AdaBoost regressor. The AR model outperforms the others, providing a higher coefficient of determination and lower MAPE value. A graphical user interface is also developed for strength prediction.

*Preetham.S et al., Elixir,2015. "Support Vector Machines Technique in Analysis of Concrete- Critical Review"*

This paper presents the state of knowledge on support vector mechanics method (SVM) problems in civil engineering, focusing on concrete. Concrete is widely used in construction, with its use exceeding that of steel, wood, plastics, and aluminum combined. The ready-mix concrete industry is projected to exceed \$100 billion in revenue by 2015, with the US alone producing \$30 billion per year. The paper discusses the role of concrete in shaping modern infrastructure and presents the state of knowledge on SVM for modeling and analytical studies on beams and concrete cubes.

*Rongchuan Cao et al., MDPI, 2022. "Application of Machine Learning Approaches to Predict the Strength Property of Geopolymer Concrete"*

The study investigates the use of machine learning (ML) approaches to predict the compressive strength (C-S) of Geopolymer Concrete (GPC) based on fly ash (FA). Various ML techniques were used, including support vector machine (SVM), multilayer perceptron (MLP), and XGBoost (XGB). The results showed that XGB was more accurate, with an R2 value of 0.98, and the XGB model had lesser errors, such as MAE, MSE, and RMSE. This suggests that ML techniques can reduce laboratory experimentation effort and researcher time.

*Reventheran Ganasan et al., MDPI,2021. "Development of Crack Width Prediction Models for RC Beam-Column Joint Subjected to Lateral Cyclic Loading Using Machine Learning"*

Researchers have developed artificial neural networks and finite element models to predict crack propagation in reinforced concrete (RC) members. However, most models focus on individual isolated RC members without considering hazard loads like earthquake and wind. This research develops models for predicting crack evolution in the RC beam-column joint region, using design parameters and performance indices.

*Pramod Kumar et al., CEIJ,2024. "Prediction of Compressive Strength of Geopolymer Fiber Reinforced Concrete Using Machine Learning"*

Geopolymers are a sustainable alternative to traditional cement and concrete, created through careful combinations of elements like fly ash, silica fume, and GGBS. This study focuses on predicting 28-day compressive strength using Support Vector Regression and Artificial Neural Networks. The results show that ANN can explain 99.2% of variability, while SVR accounts for 99.5%. SVR shows slightly better performance in elucidating variance.

*Dattatreya J K et al., IJCASE, Volume 2, No 1, 2011. "Flexural behaviour of reinforced Geopolymer concrete beams"*

Geopolymer concretes (GPCs) are a new class of building materials that have the potential to revolutionize the construction industry. Research has focused on the development of GPCs, which involve heat curing. A study on room temperature cured reinforced GPC flexural members showed that GPC beams had marginally more load carrying capacity than conventional OPCC beams. However, they had higher deflections at different stages, but comparable ductility factors. The conventional RC theory could be used for reinforced GPCC flexural beams for moment capacity, deflection, and crack width computations.

*Adil Khan et al., Elsevier ,2024. "Predictive modeling for depth of wear of concrete modified with fly ash: A comparative analysis of genetic programming-based algorithms"*

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*Aravind N et al., Elsevier ,2023. "Machine learning model for predicting the crack detection and pattern recognition of geopolymer concrete beams"*

The construction industry faces challenges in detecting cracks in concrete structures and identifying failure types. Manual quality checks are prone to human error and require specialist experience. This study uses image processing and machine learning algorithms to identify cracks in concrete structures. M30 grade geopolymer and conventional concrete beams were cast and subjected to static bending tests. Six machine learning classifiers were used, with the support vector classifier providing the best performance with 100% accuracy.

*Rongchuan Cao et al., MDPI, 2021. "Application of Machine Learning Approaches to Predict the Strength Property of Geopolymer Concrete"*

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*Ayaz Ahmad et al., MDPI, 2021. "Prediction of Geopolymer Concrete Compressive Strength Using Novel Machine Learning Algorithms"*

Geopolymer concrete (GPC) is a sustainable material with environmental benefits. This study uses supervised machine learning (ML) algorithms to predict the compressive strength (CS) of high calcium fly-ash-based GPC. The ensemble ML approaches, AdaBoost and boosting, were found to be more effective than individual ML techniques. The boosting algorithm had higher accuracy values and lower errors, while the ANN model was less accurate. The study suggests that incorporating other ensemble ML techniques can improve the accuracy of GPC predictions.

*Preetham S et al., IJERT, Vol. 4 Issue 05, 2015. "Prediction of Deflection of Reinforced Concrete Beams using Machine Learning Tools"*

This paper uses Support Vector Machine Technique (SVM) and Artificial Neural Network (ANN) to predict midspan deflection of reinforced concrete beams under two-point loading. An equation is developed using SVM and experimental data. 18 beams are tested under symmetrical two-point loading, and the results are compared with the developed equation. The results show reasonable agreement, with a greater discrepancy between SVM and ANN.

*Asif Ahmed et al., doi.org.2023. "Prediction of shear behavior of glass FRP bars-reinforced ultra-high-performance concrete I-shaped beams using machine learning"*

The study uses machine learning models to evaluate the shear behaviors of ultra-high-performance concrete beams reinforced with glass fiber-reinforced polymer bars. Four models are used: SVM, ANN, R.F., and XGBoost. The experimental database includes 54 test observations and 11 input features. Random search methods improve model performance. The study compares the ML models' predictions with building code standards, revealing that the models are effective in predicting shear strength.

#### *Aim:*

The primary aim of this review paper is to explore and analyze the application of machine learning techniques in predicting cracks and recognizing their patterns in geopolymer concrete beams. Specifically, this paper seeks to:

- **Evaluate Current Research:** Systematically review existing literature on the use of machine learning for crack detection and pattern recognition in geopolymer concrete, identifying trends, challenges, and gaps in the current understanding
- **Analyze Machine Learning Techniques:** Compare various machine learning algorithms, including supervised, unsupervised, and hybrid approaches, assessing their effectiveness in predicting crack formation and classifying crack patterns.
- **Integrate Data Sources:** Highlight the role of image processing and sensor data in enhancing the predictive accuracy of machine learning models for crack analysis in geopolymer concrete.
- **Provide Future Directions:** Offer recommendations for future research, focusing on the development of comprehensive datasets and the exploration of innovative machine learning frameworks to improve crack prediction and recognition in geopolymer concrete structures.

## Objectives

To Summarize Current Trends: Provide a comprehensive summary of recent advancements and research trends in the use of machine learning for predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams.

- To Compare Machine Learning Models: Analyze and compare the performance of different machine learning algorithms, including but not limited to regression models, decision trees, support vector machines, and neural networks, in their ability to accurately predict crack formation.
- To Assess Image Processing Techniques: Evaluate the integration of image processing methods with machine learning for enhanced crack detection, emphasizing techniques such as image segmentation, feature extraction, and deep learning approaches.
- To Investigate Data Utilization: Explore the utilization of various data sources, including high-resolution imagery and real-time sensor data, in improving the predictive capabilities of machine learning models.
- To Identify Challenges and Gaps: Identify and discuss the challenges and limitations faced in the application of machine learning for crack prediction in geopolymer concrete, highlighting areas where further research is needed.
- To Propose Future Research Directions: Suggest potential avenues for future research, including the development of hybrid machine learning models and the establishment of standardized datasets for better benchmarking.

### 1.1. Problem statement

Despite the numerous advantages of geopolymer concrete, including its eco-friendliness and superior mechanical properties, the material is not without challenges. One of the most critical issues affecting the longevity and structural integrity of geopolymer concrete beams is the formation of cracks. These cracks can result from various factors, including material properties, environmental conditions, and loading scenarios. Early detection and accurate prediction of crack formation are essential to ensure the safety and durability of structures made from geopolymer concrete.

Traditional methods of crack detection often rely on visual inspections and manual measurements, which can be subjective and time-consuming. These approaches may lead to missed detections or inaccurate assessments, particularly in large-scale structures. Furthermore, the complexity of crack patterns, influenced by multiple interacting variables, poses a significant challenge for conventional predictive techniques.

Recent advancements in machine learning offer promising alternatives for addressing these challenges. However, the integration of machine learning in predicting cracks and recognizing their patterns in geopolymer concrete is still in its infancy. There is a lack of comprehensive studies that systematically evaluate the effectiveness of various machine learning algorithms in this context. Additionally, the potential of combining machine learning with image processing techniques and real-time data is not fully explored.

This paper aims to address these gaps by providing a thorough review of the existing literature, analyzing machine learning approaches, and highlighting the need for innovative solutions to enhance crack prediction and pattern recognition in geopolymer concrete beams.

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## 2. Research methodology

The research methodology for this review paper involves a systematic and structured approach to gather, analyze, and synthesize existing literature related to the prediction of cracks and the recognition of their patterns in geopolymer concrete beams using machine learning techniques. The methodology can be outlined in the following steps:

### 2.1. Literature Review

**Database Selection:** Comprehensive searches will be conducted in relevant academic databases, including Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, and IEEE Xplore, to identify peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, and technical reports.

**Keywords and Search Criteria:** Specific keywords such as "geopolymer concrete," "crack prediction," "machine learning," "pattern recognition," and "structural integrity" will be employed to refine search results. Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) will be utilized to combine keywords effectively.

## 2.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

**Inclusion Criteria:** Studies published in the last decade that focus on machine learning applications for crack detection and prediction in geopolymer concrete beams will be included. Both experimental and theoretical studies will be considered.

**Exclusion Criteria:** Papers that do not address machine learning methods, focus solely on traditional concrete, or lack empirical data will be excluded from the review.

## 2.3. Data Extraction and Analysis:

Relevant data, including methodologies, algorithms used, datasets, and results, will be systematically extracted from selected studies. A standardized data extraction form will be used to ensure consistency.

The extracted data will be analyzed to identify common trends, methodologies, and gaps in the existing research landscape.

## 2.4. Synthesis of Findings

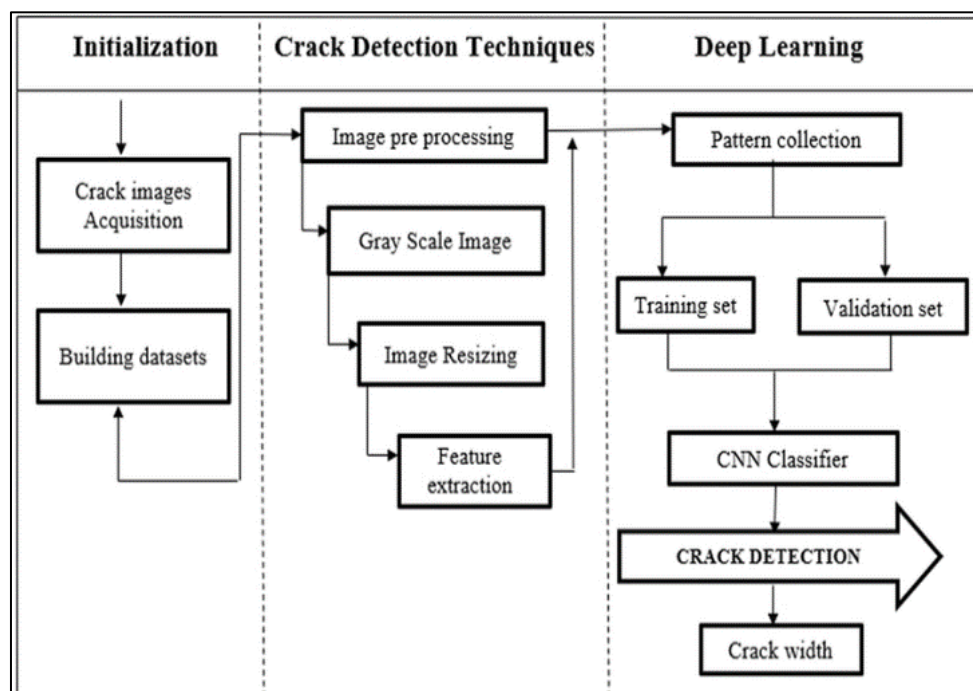
A qualitative synthesis will be conducted to summarize the findings from the selected literature. The effectiveness of various machine learning models and their integration with image processing techniques will be critically evaluated.

Key challenges and limitations in current approaches will be highlighted, and potential areas for future research will be discussed.

## 2.5. Formulation of Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the synthesized findings, conclusions will be drawn regarding the state of machine learning applications in predicting cracks in geopolymer concrete. Recommendations for future research directions will be provided, focusing on the development of more robust models and comprehensive datasets.

This systematic review methodology aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on the use of machine learning in crack prediction and pattern recognition in geopolymer concrete beams, contributing valuable insights to the field of civil engineering.



**Figure 2** Steps Involve in Algorithm

## 2.6. Research Framework

The research framework for this review paper is designed to systematically explore the application of machine learning techniques in predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams. This framework integrates various components that collectively inform the analysis and synthesis of the literature. The key elements of the research framework are outlined below:

## 2.7. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework serves as a foundation for understanding the interactions between geopolymer concrete properties, crack formation mechanisms, and machine learning algorithms. It establishes the context in which these elements are studied, focusing on the relationship between material characteristics, environmental factors, and the effectiveness of predictive models.

## 2.8. Literature Categories:

The literature will be categorized into distinct themes to facilitate analysis:

- **Machine Learning Techniques:** This category includes studies utilizing various machine learning algorithms (e.g., regression models, decision trees, neural networks) for crack prediction and pattern recognition.
- **Image Processing Methods:** This theme focuses on studies that integrate image processing techniques with machine learning for enhanced crack detection, including image segmentation, feature extraction, and deep learning.
- **Data Utilization:** This category explores the use of different data sources, such as high-resolution images, sensor data, and structural monitoring systems, in improving predictive capabilities.
- **Case Studies:** Relevant case studies that demonstrate practical applications of machine learning in real-world scenarios will be included to provide insights into effective methodologies and outcomes.
- **Research Questions:** The research framework is guided by specific research questions that aim to address the gaps identified in the literature: What are the most effective machine learning algorithms for predicting cracks in geopolymer concrete beams? How can image processing techniques enhance crack detection and pattern recognition?

What data sources are most valuable for improving the predictive accuracy of machine learning models?

- **Methodological Approach:** A systematic review methodology will be employed, as previously detailed, to ensure a thorough examination of the literature. This approach allows for a structured evaluation of existing studies and the identification of trends, challenges, and future research directions.
- **Outcomes and Contributions:** The expected outcomes of this research framework include a comprehensive understanding of the current state of machine learning applications in geopolymer concrete crack prediction. The framework aims to contribute valuable insights that inform future research and practical applications in the field of civil engineering, ultimately enhancing the durability and safety of structures made from geopolymer concrete.

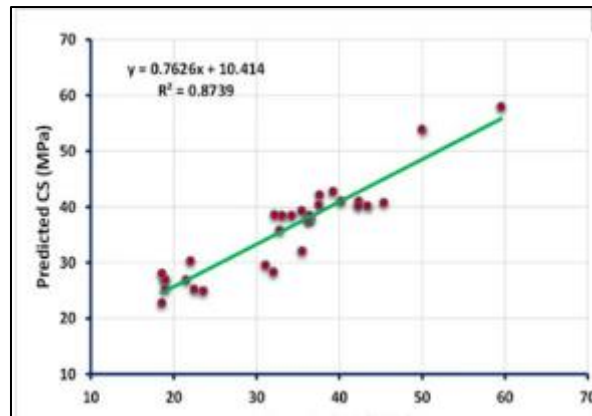
This research framework serves as a roadmap for the review, guiding the systematic exploration of machine learning's role in predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams, and providing a structured approach to synthesizing findings from the literature.

This review paper has explored the application of machine learning techniques in predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams, highlighting the significant potential of these advanced methodologies in enhancing the structural integrity and longevity of civil engineering applications. The findings indicate that machine learning offers a transformative approach to crack detection and prediction, moving beyond traditional methods that often rely on subjective assessments.

## 2.9. The analysis of existing literature reveals several key insights

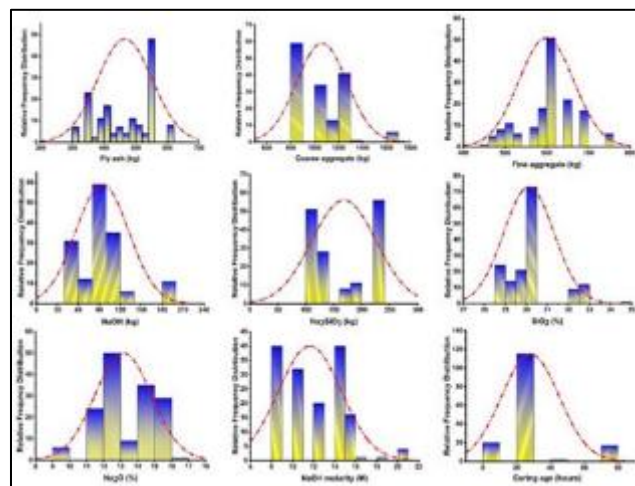
**Effectiveness of Machine Learning Models:** Various machine learning algorithms, including regression models, decision trees, and neural networks, have demonstrated varying degrees of success in accurately predicting crack formation in geopolymer concrete. These models leverage historical data and current material properties to provide timely insights into potential structural failures.





**Figure 3** Relationship between the targeted and predicted

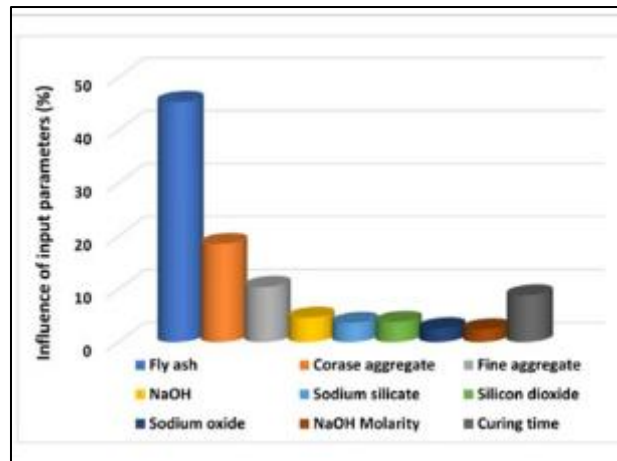
- **Integration of Image Processing:** The incorporation of image processing techniques, such as image segmentation and feature extraction, enhances the capabilities of machine learning models in detecting cracks. These methods enable more precise identification of crack patterns, thereby improving the accuracy of predictions.
- **Data Utilization:** The use of diverse data sources, including high-resolution imagery and real-time sensor data, is crucial for refining predictive models. Access to comprehensive datasets can significantly enhance the reliability of machine learning predictions, facilitating proactive maintenance strategies.
- **Challenges and Future Directions:** Despite the promising advancements, challenges remain in the form of data scarcity, model interpretability, and the need for standardized testing protocols. Future research should focus on developing hybrid machine learning models that combine multiple techniques and establishing extensive, well-curated datasets for benchmarking purposes.



**Figure 4** Materials Using Graphs

In conclusion, the integration of machine learning in the prediction of cracks and recognition of their patterns in geopolymer concrete represents a significant advancement in civil engineering practices. By harnessing the power of these technologies, engineers can improve maintenance strategies, enhance safety measures, and ensure the long-term performance of structures. This review underscores the necessity for continued research in this area, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to address existing challenges and drive innovation in the field.





**Figure 5** Input parameters towards the prediction of outcome

### *Future Scope*

The future scope of research in predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams using machine learning is vast and multifaceted. Building upon the insights gained from this review, several avenues for future exploration can be identified:

- **Development of Hybrid Machine Learning Models:** Future research should focus on creating hybrid models that combine different machine learning algorithms and techniques. For instance, integrating ensemble methods with deep learning can enhance prediction accuracy and robustness against overfitting, leading to improved performance in crack detection and classification.
- **Standardization of Datasets:** There is a critical need for the establishment of standardized datasets that encompass a wide range of conditions, including varying environmental factors, load conditions, and material compositions. This will enable researchers to benchmark their models effectively and facilitate comparisons across studies, ultimately leading to more reliable conclusions.
- **Real-Time Monitoring Systems:** Implementing real-time structural health monitoring systems that leverage machine learning can provide continuous assessment of geopolymer concrete structures. Future work should focus on developing algorithms capable of processing data from IoT sensors in real-time to detect cracks as they form and predict their propagation.
- **Advanced Image Processing Techniques:** As image processing technologies evolve, incorporating advanced techniques such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for image analysis can significantly enhance crack detection capabilities. Future research should explore the integration of these techniques with machine learning models to improve pattern recognition and classification accuracy.
- **Investigation of External Factors:** Further studies should investigate the impact of external factors, such as temperature fluctuations, humidity, and chemical exposure, on crack formation in geopolymer concrete. Understanding these interactions will enhance the predictive power of machine learning models and lead to more comprehensive maintenance strategies.
- **Machine Learning Interpretability:** Improving the interpretability of machine learning models is crucial for gaining stakeholder trust and making informed decisions in civil engineering applications. Future research should focus on developing methodologies that provide insights into model decision-making processes, enabling engineers to understand the underlying reasons for predictions.
- **Application to Other Sustainable Materials:** The methodologies and insights gained from studying geopolymer concrete can be applied to other sustainable construction materials. Future research can explore the use of machine learning in predicting cracks in materials like recycled aggregates, bio-based concretes, and other innovative composites.

By addressing these future directions, researchers and practitioners can significantly enhance the application of machine learning in the field of civil engineering, leading to improved safety, durability, and sustainability in construction practices. The continued evolution of technology and interdisciplinary collaboration will be vital in driving forward the capabilities of predictive maintenance and structural integrity assessment in geopolymer concrete and beyond.

### *Limitations*

While this review paper has provided valuable insights into the application of machine learning techniques for predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams, several limitations must be acknowledged:

- **Data Scarcity:** One of the primary challenges in the field is the limited availability of comprehensive datasets specifically focused on geopolymer concrete. Many existing studies rely on small sample sizes or data derived from traditional concrete, which may not accurately reflect the unique properties and behaviors of geopolymer materials.
- **Model Generalizability:** The effectiveness of machine learning models can vary significantly based on the specific datasets and conditions used for training and testing. As a result, models developed in one context may not generalize well to other environments or applications, limiting their practical utility in diverse scenarios.
- **Complexity of Crack Formation:** Crack formation in concrete is influenced by numerous interacting factors, including material properties, environmental conditions, and load history. The complexity of these interactions can pose challenges for machine learning models, which may struggle to capture the full spectrum of variables influencing crack development.
- **Interpretability of Machine Learning Models:** Many advanced machine learning algorithms, particularly deep learning models, operate as "black boxes," making it difficult to interpret their predictions. This lack of transparency can hinder acceptance among practitioners who require clear justifications for model outputs in safety-critical applications like civil engineering.
- **Integration with Existing Practices:** The successful implementation of machine learning techniques in predicting cracks requires integration with existing structural health monitoring and maintenance practices. This integration can be challenging, as it may involve significant changes in workflow, training for personnel, and investment in new technologies.
- **Variability in Geopolymer Composition:** Geopolymer concrete can be produced with various raw materials and production methods, leading to significant variability in its properties. This variability may affect the reliability of machine learning models, which often depend on consistent input parameters for accurate predictions.
- **Limited Research on Real-World Applications:** While theoretical studies and simulations provide important insights, there is a scarcity of research focusing on real-world applications and long-term monitoring of geopolymer concrete structures. Field studies are essential to validate the findings from laboratory experiments and theoretical models.
- **Regulatory and Standardization Issues:** The adoption of machine learning technologies in civil engineering is often hindered by regulatory frameworks and standards that may not yet fully accommodate these innovations. Establishing clear guidelines and standards for the use of machine learning in predicting cracks is essential for broader acceptance in the industry.

By recognizing these limitations, future research can better address the challenges in the field and work towards developing more robust, reliable, and applicable machine learning solutions for crack prediction and pattern recognition in geopolymer concrete beams

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### **3. Conclusion**

This review paper has explored the application of machine learning techniques in predicting cracks and recognizing patterns in geopolymer concrete beams, highlighting the significant potential of these advanced methodologies in enhancing the structural integrity and longevity of civil engineering applications. The findings indicate that machine learning offers a transformative approach to crack detection and prediction, moving beyond traditional methods that often rely on subjective assessments.

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### **Compliance with ethical standards**

#### *Acknowledgments*

It gives me an immense pleasure and satisfaction to present this Research Paper on " Prediction of Cracks and Recognizing Its Patterns in Geopolymer Concrete Beams Using Machine Learning " which is the result of unwavering support, expert guidance and focused direction of my guide Asst.Prof.R.B.Ghogare and Project coordinator Asst.Prof.S.M.Kale, to whom I express my deep sense of gratitude and humble thanks to Asst.Prof.R.B.Ghogare, H.O.D. for his valuable guidance throughout the presentation work. The success of this Research Paper has throughout

depended upon an exact blend of hard work and unending co-operation and guidance, extended to me by the supervisors at our college. Further I am indebted to our principal Dr. S. T. Shirkande whose constant encouragement and motivation inspired me to do my best.

Last but not the least, I sincerely thank to my colleagues, the staff and all other who directly or indirectly helped me and made numerous suggestions which have surely improved the quality of my work.

#### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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