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Effect of Internal Curing on Sustainability of High Performance Concrete

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Supervised by
Prof. Dr. Tareq S. Al-Attar
Dr. Shatha S. Hassan

By
Muthana Abd Al Kader Saady
BSc - University of Technology
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Abstract

The most quoted definition of sustainable development resulted from the Brundtland report as “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The goal of sustainability is that life on the planet can be sustained for the foreseeable future. The lifetime of a construction material has a direct impact on sustainability. When the material deteriorates, it must be destructed and rebuilt. The lifetime is directly controlled by the durability of the construction materials. It is further influenced by the adaptability of the design to repair and renovation, and repair and renovation themselves have environmental impacts.

Internal curing refers to the process by which the hydration of cement occurs because of the availability of additional internal water that is not part of the mixing water. The additional internal water is typically supplied by using relatively small amounts of saturated particles in concrete.

In the present study, the durability of internally cured high performance concrete, HPC, exposed to internal sulfate attack, ISA, and to freezing and thawing cycles, was investigated. Two saturated curing agents, Limestone dust and Porcelanite, were used to facilitate internal curing for concrete. These agents were used as partial replacement for fine aggregate (sand) in two volumetric percentages, 20 and 30 percent. The testing program consisted mainly of three parts. The included tests were compressive, splitting tensile and flexural strength tests in addition to density, absorption and ultra-sonic pulse velocity tests. The experimental program was extended till the age of 240 days.

The first part deal with internally cured HPC exposed to normal exposure conditions. This part was conducted just for comparisons, The replacement of different internal curing agents caused a decrease in compressive strength at 120 days ranged between 12.1 and 51.9 percent. The second part was devoted to study the effects of ISA on internally cured HPC. Three percentages of SO_3 in fine aggregate were adopted 1, 2 and 3 percent by adding natural gypsum to the fine aggregate. The experimental results showed that irrespective of the method of curing, the studied concrete mixes have suffered degradation in both compressive and splitting tensile strengths and this degradation is positively related to the percentage of sulfate in fine aggregate, The different percentages of SO_3 caused a decrease in compressive strength at 120 days ranged between 3 and 41 percent.

The third part investigated the effects of freezing and thawing exposures on internally cured HPC. Two exposures were adopted for this purpose, 50 and 100 cycles. The freezing and thawing test was done as stipulated by the ASTM C666, For water-cured mix SM_{20L} , when making comparisons between F0, F1 and F2, the reductions in strength will be 41 and 56 percent for 50 and 100 cycles, respectively. And for 30 percent replacement, mix SM_{30L} ; these reductions will be 42 and 59 percent for 50 and 100 cycles respectively. Moreover, when making comparisons between mixes SM_0 and SM_{20L} , the reductions in compressive strength will be 34 and 45 percent for 50 and 100 cycles respectively. For mixes SM_0 and SM_{30L} ; these reductions will be 38 and 49 percent for 50 and 100 cycles, respectively. When making comparisons between F0, F1 and F2, for water-cured mix SM_{20P} , the reductions in strength will be 28 and 55 percent for 50 and 100 cycles, respectively. For 30 percent replacement, mix SM_{30P} ; these reductions will be 20 and 51 percent for 50 and 100 cycles, respectively. Moreover, when making comparisons between mixes SM_0 and SM_{20P} , the reductions in compressive strength will be 42 and 55 percent for 50 and 100 cycles respectively.

For mixes SM_0 and SM_{30P} ; these reductions will be 50 and 64 percent for 50 and 100 cycles, respectively.



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تأثير المعالجة الداخلية على استدامة الخرسانة العالية الاداء

رسالة مقدمة الى قسم هندسة البناء والانشاءات في الجامعة التكنولوجية
كجزء من متطلبات نيل شهادة الماجستير علوم هندسية في
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من قبل

مثنى عبدالقادر سعدي

بكالوريوس هندسة انشائية - الجامعة التكنولوجية

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بإشراف

أ.د. طارق صالح العطار

د. شذى صادق حسن

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