

**WORKSHOP ON DESIGN OF DURABLE CONCRETE**

February 18-19, 2003

Lubbock, TX

**AGENDA****Tuesday, February 18**

- 1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.: Session 1 - Introduction and Workshop Objectives [Folliard, UT]  
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.: Session 2 - Fundamentals of Concrete [Folliard, UT]  
2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Break  
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Session 3 - Alkali-Silica Reaction [Folliard, UT]  
3:30 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.: Session 4 - TxDOT Experience with ASR [Lankes, TxDOT]  
4:05 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.: Break  
4:15 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.: Session 5 - Freezing and Thawing [Folliard, UT]  
4:50 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.: Open Discussion

**Wednesday, February 19**

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.: Session 6 - Sulfate Attack (including DEF) [Folliard, UT]  
9:00 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.: Session 7 - Premature Concrete Deterioration: Case Studies [Merrill, TxDOT]  
9:35 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.: Break  
9:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.: Session 8 - Corrosion [Folliard, UT]  
10:50 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.: Session 9 - High-Performance Concrete Specifications [Pruski, TxDOT]  
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: Break  
11:30 a.m. - Noon: Open Discussion  
Noon - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Session 10 - Concrete Cracking and Effects on Durability [Folliard, UT]  
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Session 11 - Practical Aspects of Concrete Durability [Browne, TxDOT]  
2:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.: Break  
2:40 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.: Summary and Panel Discussion [Cox, TxDOT]

## Evaluation of Workshop for Concrete Durability February 18-19, 2003


1. Was the workshop beneficial? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
2. Were the presenters knowledgeable about their subject matter? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
3. Were the presentations easy to understand and follow? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
4. Do you understand the mechanisms that cause concrete deterioration? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
5. Do you understand the basics of HPC usage? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
6. Were the slide presentations well prepared and easy to follow? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
7. Were the handouts sufficient? Yes  No   
Comments:
  
8. Do you recommend this workshop for others? Yes  No   
Comments:

Name/Position (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**TxDOT Workshop**

**Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 1: Introduction and Workshop Objectives*



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**Presentation Outline**

- **Introduction**
- **Workshop Objectives**
- **Workshop Outline**

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TxDOT Project 5-4098  
“Workshop on Design of Durable Concrete”

**Developed by:**

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The University of Texas at Austin

*Michael D.A. Thomas*  
University of New Brunswick

In Cooperation with

**Texas Department of Transportation**

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## Workshop Objectives

- Provide a basic overview of cement chemistry and concrete microstructure.
- Discuss the most important durability-related issues affecting concrete structures.
- Provide some recommendations and guidance on achieving long-term durability.
- Discuss how TxDOT addresses durability in specifications, etc.
- Generate open discussion on durability issues.

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## Workshop Outline

### Tuesday, February 18 (afternoon)

- **Session 1** - Introduction and Workshop Objectives (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 2** - Fundamentals of Concrete (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 3** - Alkali-Silica Reaction (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 4** - TxDOT Experience with ASR (Lankes, TxDOT)
- **Session 5** - Freezing and Thawing (Folliard, UT)

\* Open Discussion after Session 5

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## Workshop Outline

### Wednesday, February 19 (morning)

- **Session 6** - Sulfate Attack (including DEF) (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 7** - Premature Concrete Deterioration - Case Studies (Merrill, TxDOT)
- **Session 8** - Corrosion of Reinforcing Steel (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 9** - High-Performance Concrete Specifications (Pruski, TxDOT)

\* Open Discussion after Session 9

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## Workshop Outline

**Wednesday, February 19 (afternoon)**

- **Session 10** - Concrete Cracking and Effects on Durability (Folliard, UT)
- **Session 11** - Practical Aspects of Concrete Durability (Merrill/Browne, TxDOT)
- **Summary and Panel Discussion** (Cox, TxDOT)

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**Thank you for your participation.**

**Your input and feedback on this workshop are greatly appreciated!!!**

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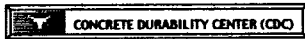
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## TxDOT Workshop

### Design of Durable Concrete

*Session 2: Fundamentals of Concrete*



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## Presentation Outline

- Basics of Concrete
- Constituent Materials
- Important Concrete Properties
- Some Durability Aspects

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## What is Concrete?

The Food Chain...

Portland cement = fine powder

Paste = Portland cement + water

Grout or Mortar = Portland cement + water  
+ fine aggregate

Concrete = Portland cement + water + fine aggregate + coarse  
aggregate

**ADMIXTURES!!!**

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## Bulk Phases in Hardened Concrete

- Highly inhomogeneous inside concrete
- Composed of following phases:
  - Paste (hydration products + unhydrated cement)
  - Aggregates
  - Transition zone (between paste and aggregates)
  - Pore solution (solution within paste and transition zone)

*Let's look at the hydration of cement paste first...*

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Cement is to Concrete as  
Flour is to Cake...

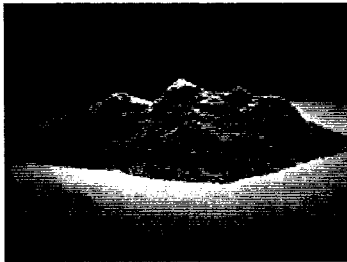


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## History of Cement

- 2000 B.C.: Egyptians used cement in mortar when making Pyramids
- 27 B.C.: Roman cement made of lime and volcanic ash
- 1824: Joseph Aspdin discovered and patented "portland" cement



Photo: PCA

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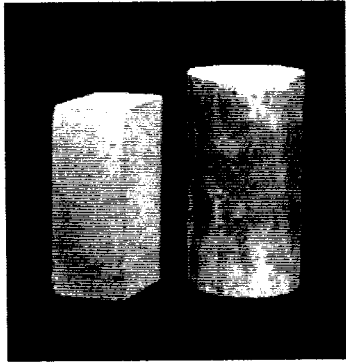


Photo: PCA

Isle of Portland  
Quarry Stone next  
to a Cylinder of  
Modern Concrete

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### Today's Cement

- Still relies on Aspdin's raw materials of:

Calcium  
Iron  
Silica  
Alumina

Plus:  
Gypsum

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### Common Sources for Raw Materials

- Calcium ( $\text{CaO}$ )
  - Limestone, shale
- Iron ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )
  - Clay, iron ore
- Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ )
  - Clay, sand, shale
- Alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )
  - Clay, fly ash, shale

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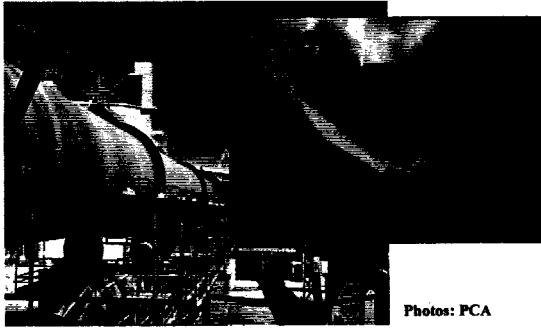
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## Cement is a Manufactured Material



Photos: PCA

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## Cement Clinker



Photo: PCA

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## Finish Grinding

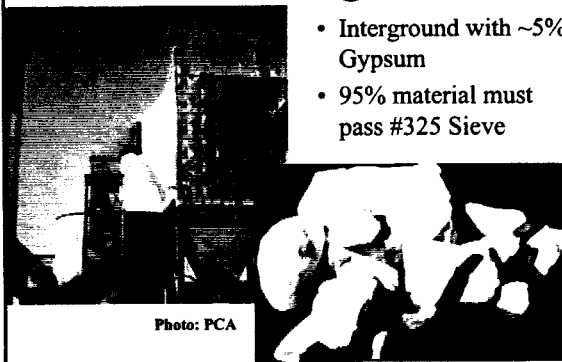


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- Interground with ~5% Gypsum
- 95% material must pass #325 Sieve

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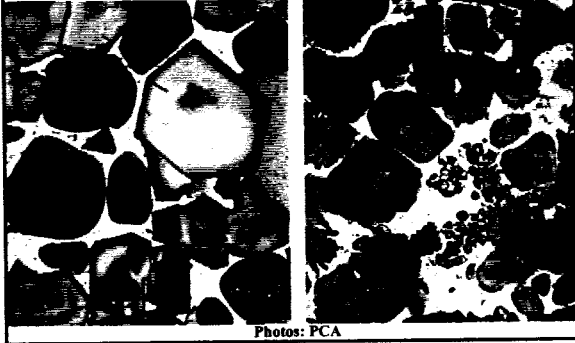
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### Clinker Micrographs



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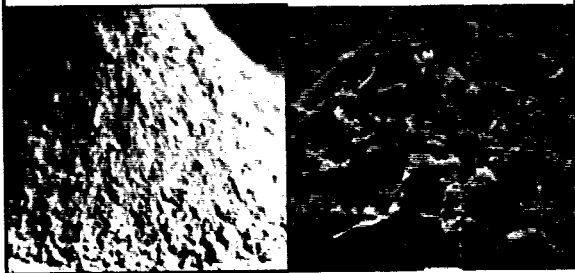
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### Hydration



Before ..... After

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### Hydration

What happens when we add water to cement?

Cement grains dissolve...

diffuse...

precipitate...

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# Hydration

Let's first discuss cement chemistry terminology...

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## Cement Chemistry Abbreviations

### Oxides

C = CaO  
S = SiO<sub>2</sub>  
A = Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
F = Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
H = H<sub>2</sub>O  
 $\bar{S}$  = SO<sub>3</sub>

### 4 main compounds in portland cement (+ gypsum)

#### Calcium aluminates

C<sub>3</sub>A = 3CaO • Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
C<sub>4</sub>AF = 4CaO • Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> • Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

#### Calcium silicates

C<sub>3</sub>S = 3CaO • SiO<sub>2</sub>  
C<sub>2</sub>S = 2CaO • SiO<sub>2</sub>

Let's discuss hydration of calcium aluminates and calcium silicates separately...

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## C<sub>3</sub>A

- 3CaO.Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> - "Aluminate"
- Provides early heat generated in hydration (10° to 15° F per 100 lb. cement)
- Gypsum required to slow it down...
- High C<sub>3</sub>A not as resistant to sulfate attack
- Little contribution to long-term strength

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## $C_4AF$

- $4CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot Fe_2O_3$  - "Ferrite"
- Governs the color of the cement
- Present at 1-10%
- Little contribution to strength

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## Hydration of Calcium Aluminates ( $C_3A$ , $C_4AF$ )

- Mainly affects setting and hardening
- Minimal effects on long-term strength
- Ettringite forms first, becomes unstable, then monosulfate forms as stable phase
- Some durability implications ( $C_3A$ )
- Set accelerators and retarders have impact

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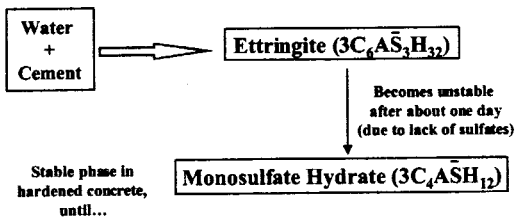
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## Hydration of Calcium Aluminates

First, consider early-age portland cement\* hydration:



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## $C_3S$

- $3CaO \cdot SiO_2$  -“Alite”
- **Provides early strength development**
- 70% reacts by 28 days
- Usually present at 40-70%

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## $C_2S$

- $2CaO \cdot SiO_2$  -“Belite”
- **Provides late strength development**
- 30% reacts by 28 days
- Present at 20-40%

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## **Hydration of calcium silicates** **( $C_3S$ , $C_2S$ )**

- $C_3S$  and  $C_2S$  = ~ 75% of the weight of Portland cement
- React with water to form two new compounds:
- Calcium Hydroxide (CH)
  - Relatively weak and can be attacked by acids
  - Plate-like crystals
- Calcium Silicate Hydrate (C-S-H)
  - Strong and durable
  - Amorphous, “tribble” structure

***Ideally, we want to convert CH to C-S-H....***

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## C-S-H

The tribbles of the concrete world...



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### Main Types of Cement (as per ASTM C 150)

- Type I - Normal
- Type II - Moderate Sulfate Resistance/Moderate Heat ( $C_3A < 8\%$ )
- Type III - High Early Strength (finer grind or higher Blaine)
- Type IV - Low Heat of Hydration
- Type V - High Sulfate Resistance ( $C_3A < 5\%$ )

\* Note – Type I and Type III are usually from same clinker, just different fineness  
\* Note – Type IV rarely, if ever, available

Some others...

- Type IS, IP
- Type I/II
- White portland cement
- Shrinkage-compensating cement

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### Supplementary Cementing Materials

- **DEFINITION:** Powdered or pulverized materials added before or during mixing to improve or change some of the plastic or hardened properties of concrete.

- Cementitious
- Pozzolanic

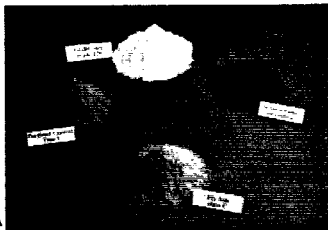


Photo: PCA

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## Cementitious Materials

- Possess hydraulic cementing properties
  - GGBF slag (by-product of steel industry)
  - Class C Fly Ash (high calcium)
  - Others
    - Natural cement- Cement Rock
    - Hydraulic hydrated lime

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## Pozzolans

- Possess no cementitious value until finely divided and mixed with water and cement (or lime)
  - Class F Fly ash (low calcium)
  - Silica fume (silicon manufacture)
  - Calcined clay (metakaolin)
  - Rice husk ash

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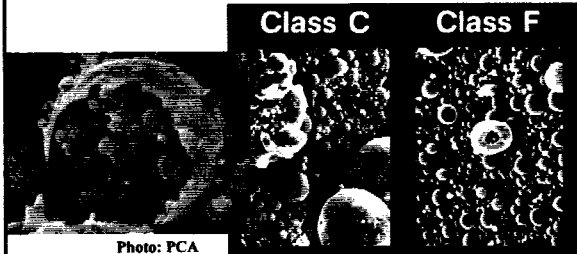
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## Fly Ash

- **Class F (low calcium)** - from burning anthracite or bituminous coal, is pozzolanic
- **Class C (high calcium)** - from burning sub-bituminous or lignite coal, is somewhat cementitious



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## GGBFS (Slag)

- Formed when molten iron blast furnace slag is rapidly chilled (quenched) by immersion in H<sub>2</sub>O
- Grades 80, 100, 120
- Used as a cement replacement

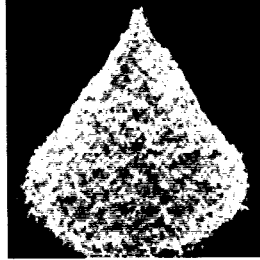


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## Silica Fume

- Also known as microsilica
- By-product of the production of silicon and ferrosilicon alloys.
- A small part of silica fume can be used to replace a large part of cement



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## Benefits of SCMs

- **Durability** -- reduced permeability
- Reduced heat of hydration
- Strength development (age-dependent)
- Economics

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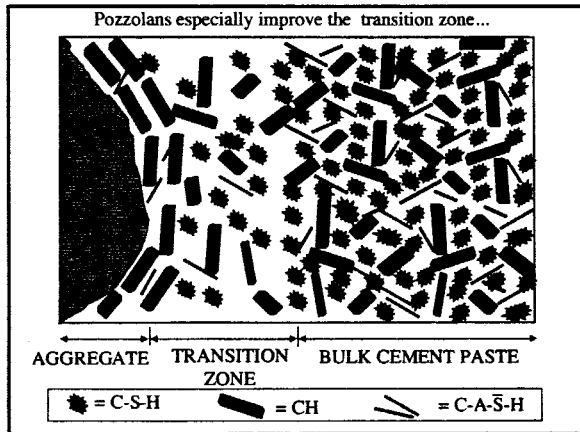
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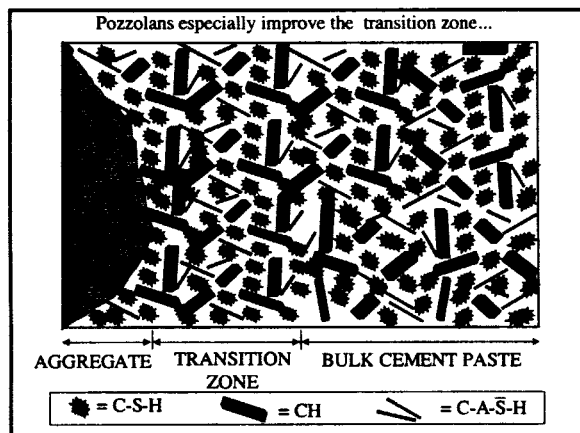
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### Transition Zone in Concrete

- Weakest link in concrete
- Products including larger crystals of  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ , with preferred alignment
- Local water-cement ratio higher than bulk
- Affects permeability significantly
- Microcracks usually originate here
- SCMs increase strength by densification, removal of CH, and change in CH orientation

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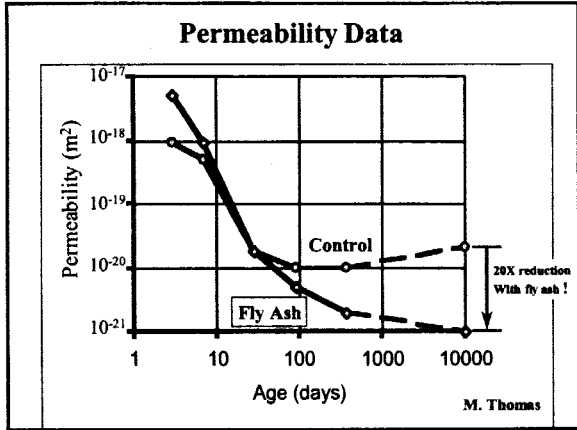
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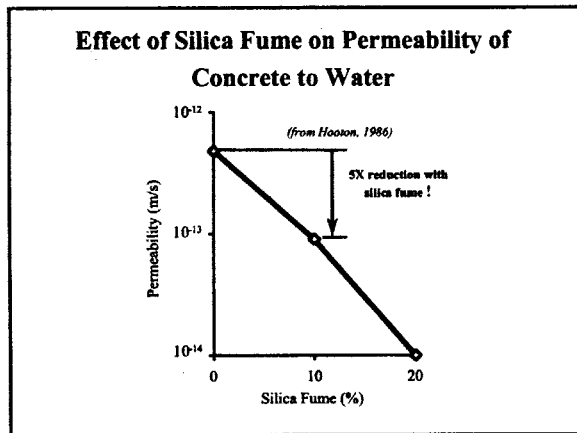
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### Pore Solution

- Water exists in different forms
  - Capillary water (free water in capillary > 50 nm)
  - Adsorbed water (physically)
  - Interlayer water (chemically adsorbed)
  - Chemically combined water
- Expressed pore solution is a useful way to learn about water inside concrete
- High alkalinity of pore solution passivates steel but can break down certain aggregates (ASR)
- Loss of adsorbed and bonded water results in shrinkage

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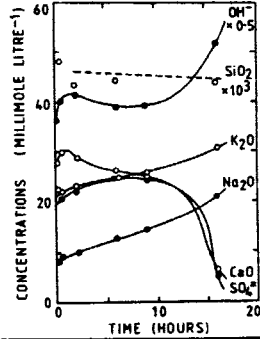
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## Expressed Pore Solution

- Only 10 to 20% of free water
- Calcium concentration decreases due to increase of pH
- Sulfate concentration decreases due to ettringite formation
- Crystalline  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  is the buffer for the high pH of pore solution




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## Mixing Water

- ΣMunicipal
- ΣWell
- ΣHeated
- ΣSteam
- ΣChilled
- ΣIce
- ΣRecycled



Photo: PCA

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## Questionable Water

- Water < 2000 ppm of total dissolved solids is satisfactory for making concrete.
- Water > 2000 ppm of dissolved solids should be tested for its effects on strength and time of set.



Photo: PCA

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## The Water - Cement Ratio Law

For given materials the strength of the concrete.... depends solely on the relative quantity of water as compared with the cement...

Duff A. Abrams  
May, 1918

Why?

The Key to Strength is Porosity...

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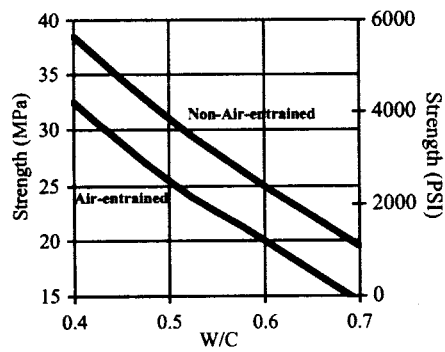
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## Effects of w/c on strength



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## Aggregates



Photo: PCA

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## Aggregates in Concrete

- Influence elastic modulus of concrete
- Influence coefficient of thermal expansion
- Affect drying shrinkage
- Determining ultimate strength of extremely high strength concrete
- Durability

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## Influence of Aggregates

### • STRENGTH

- Shape
- Size
- Surface texture

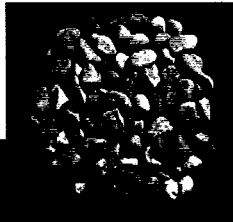
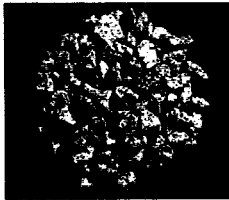


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## Influence of Aggregates

### • DURABILITY

- Weathering
- AAR
- Impurities

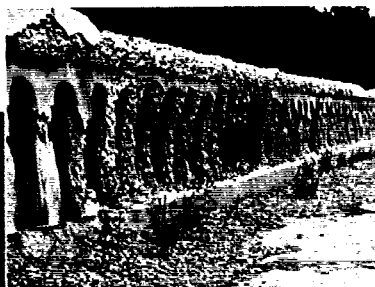


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## Aggregate Gradation

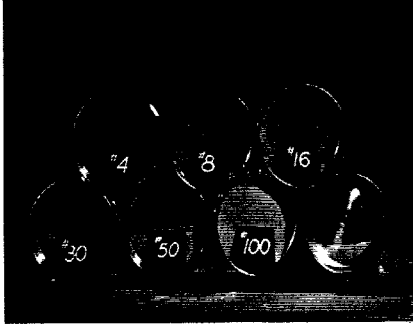


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## Maximum Size Aggregate

- 1/5 WALL THICKNESS (unreinforced)
- 3/4 MINIMUM CLEAR SPACE (rebar/forms)
- 1/3 SLAB THICKNESS

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## Gap Grading vs. Uniform Gradation

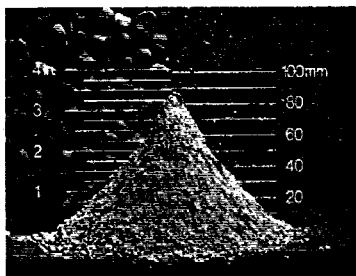


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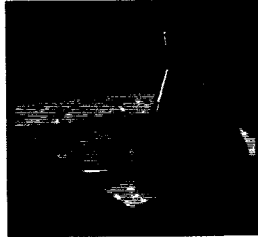
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## Chemical Admixtures

- **DEFINITION:** Admixtures are any ingredients in concrete other than:

Water  
Aggregates  
Cement &  
Fiber Reinforcement

- Added to the batch immediately before or during mixing



(ACI 116.R-  
2)

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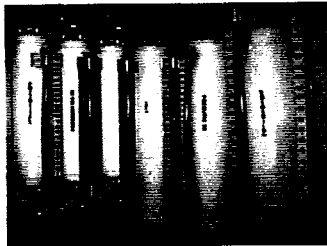
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## Chemical Admixtures

- Dosed volumetrically
- What does oz/cwt mean?
- Storage and handling
- Quality control



PCA photo

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## Why Use Admixtures?

To modify fresh concrete properties:

- decrease water content
- increase workability
- retard or accelerate setting time
- reduce segregation
- reduce the rate of slump loss
- improve pumpability, placeability, finishability
- modify the rate and/or capacity for bleeding

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## Why Use Admixtures?

To modify hardened concrete properties

- improve impact and abrasion resistance
- inhibit corrosion of embedded metals
- reduce plastic shrinkage cracking
- reduce long term drying shrinkage
- produce colored concrete
- produce cellular concrete

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## Current Admixture Standards

- Air Entraining ASTM C 260
- Chemical ASTM C 494
- Calcium chloride ASTM D 98
- Foaming agents ASTM C 869
- Admixtures for shotcrete ASTM C 1141
- Pigments ASTM C 979
- Others...

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## ASTM C 494 Chemical Admixtures

- Type A - Water-reducing admixtures
- Type B - Retarding admixtures
- Type C - Accelerating admixtures
- Type D - Water-reducing and retarding
- Type E - Water-reducing and accelerating
- Type F - High range water reducing
- Type G - HRWR and retarding

*Note – Mid-range water reducers (MRWR) not yet approved by ASTM, yet they're used more than any other water reducer!!*

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## Air Entrainment

- **DEFINITION:** Air-Entraining Agents are primarily used to stabilize tiny bubbles generated in concrete to protect against freezing and thawing cycles.



Photo: PCA

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## Water Reducers

- **DEFINITION:** Water Reducers are used for the purpose of reducing the quantity of mixing water required to produce a concrete of given consistency.



Photo: PCA

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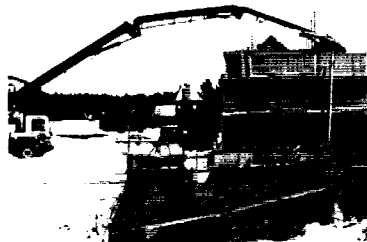
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## Accelerators

- **DEFINITION:** Accelerating admixtures are added to concrete for the purpose of shortening set time and accelerating early strength development.



PCA

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## Retarders

- **DEFINITION:** Retarding, and Water-reducing and retarding admixtures are used to offset acceleration and unwanted effects of high temperature and keep concrete workable during placement and consolidation.



PCA

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**Let's look at some other admixtures that impact durability...**

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## Shrinkage Reducing Admixtures

- **DEFINITION:** Shrinkage Reducing Admixtures are used to minimize drying shrinkage cracking in concrete .



PCA

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## Corrosion Inhibitors

- **DEFINITION:** Corrosion Inhibitors are used to increase service life of reinforced concrete exposed to chlorides.



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## ASR Inhibitors

- **DEFINITION:** ASR Inhibitors (primarily Lithium) are used to mitigate alkali-silica reactivity in concrete.



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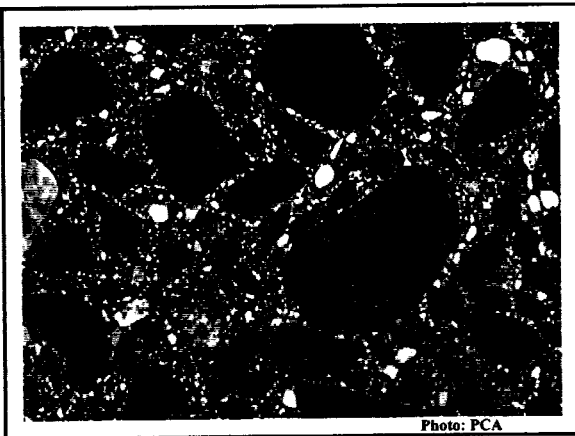
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### **Desired Properties of Fresh Concrete**

- Consistency
- Workability
- Slump life
- Uniformity
- Finishability
- Bleeding



Photo: PCA

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### **Desired Properties of Hardened Concrete**

- Strength
- Dimensional stability
- Appearance
- Economy
- **Durability**  
(Permeability is the KEY!!!)



Photo: PCA

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**Understanding concrete doesn't mean things always get done right...**

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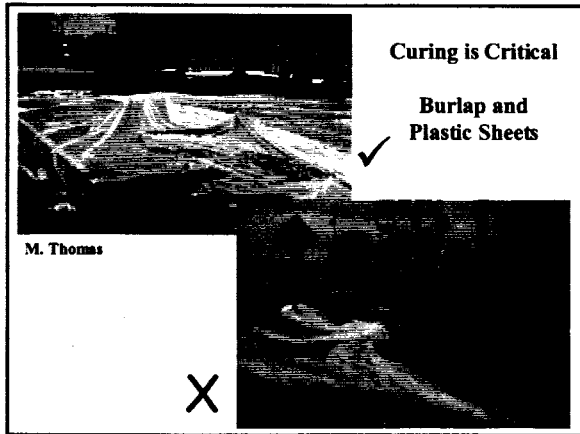
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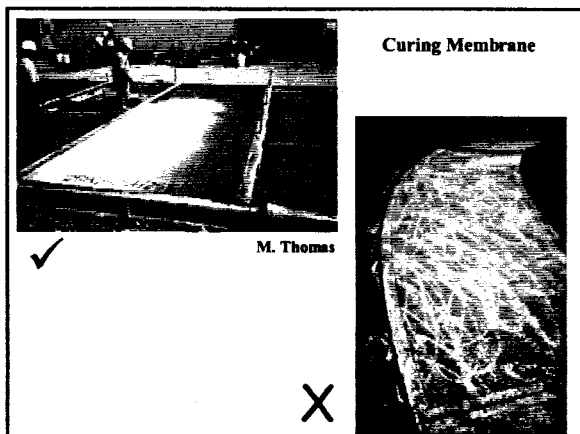
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**Conclusions**

- **Concrete is complex material – knowledge of its composition and properties is critical!!**
- **Understanding the fundamentals of concrete is essential to understanding how to ensure long-term durability.... Stay tuned for details.**

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**TxDOT Workshop**  
**Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 3: Alkali-Silica Reaction*



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**Presentation Outline**

- **Definitions**
- **Background and History**
- **Mechanisms of ASR**
- **Contributing Factors**
- **Mitigating ASR**

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**Alkali-Aggregate Reaction - AAR**

**Alkali-Aggregate Reaction - AAR**

... chemical reaction in either mortar or concrete between alkalis (sodium and potassium) from portland cement or other sources and certain constituents of some aggregates; under certain conditions, deleterious expansion of concrete may result

*ACI 116*

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### Alkali-Aggregate Reaction - AAR

Alkali-Aggregate Reaction (AAR) { Alkali-Carbonate Reaction (ACR)  
Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR)

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### Alkali-Carbonate Reaction - ACR

**Alkali-Carbonate Reaction - ACR**  
... the reaction between the alkalis (sodium and potassium) in portland cement and certain carbonate rocks, particularly calcitic dolomite and dolomitic limestones, present in some aggregates; the products of the reaction may cause abnormal expansion and cracking of concrete in service.

*ACI 116*

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### Alkali-Silica Reaction - ASR

**Alkali-Silica Reaction - ASR**  
... the reaction between the alkalis (sodium and potassium) in portland cement and certain siliceous rocks or minerals such as opaline chert, strained quartz, and acidic volcanic glass, present in some aggregates; the products of the reaction may cause abnormal expansion and cracking of concrete in service.

*ACI 116*

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### Alkali-Silica Reaction - ASR

- This workshop will only deal with ASR
- ASR occurs relatively infrequently and is restricted to a few isolated locations
- ASR can result in serious deterioration of the concrete
- Methods of mitigation for ASR generally NOT suitable for controlling ASR
- Must avoid the reactive phases – e.g. by selective quarrying

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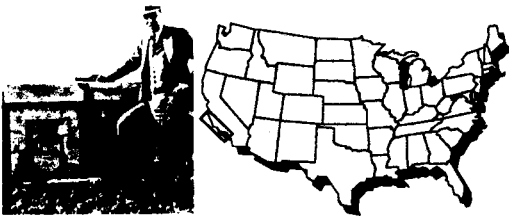
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### History of ASR



- First discovered in the late 1930s
- In Monterey County and Los Angeles County
- Thomas Stanton of California State Division of Highways

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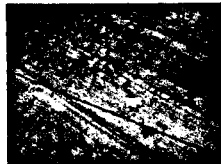
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### History of ASR

ASR affects all types of structures and has been implicated as a main or contributory cause of distress in thousands of concrete structures in North America.



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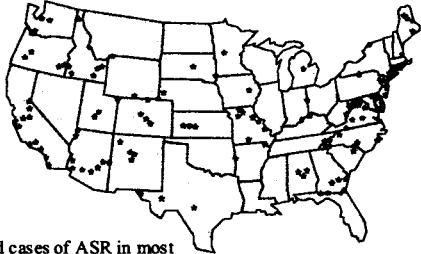
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### Occurrences of ASR in U.S.A.



- Field cases of ASR in most (if not all) states of USA.

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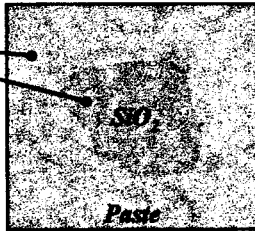
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### ASR Mechanism

Concrete "model" showing:

- cement paste
- reactive siliceous aggregate




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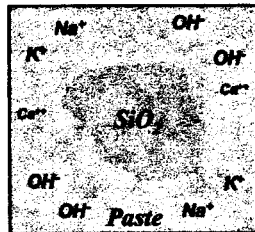
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### ASR Mechanism

Concrete "model" showing:

- cement paste
- reactive siliceous aggregate
- pore solution dominated by:
  - sodium,  $Na^+$
  - potassium,  $K^+$
  - hydroxyl,  $OH^-$
  - minor amounts of calcium,  $Ca^{++}$  and other ionic species




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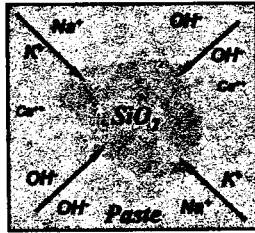
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### ASR Mechanism

If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions



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### ASR Mechanism

If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions -

forming an alkali-silica gel composed predominantly of  $Na$ ,  $K$  &  $Si$  with minor amounts of  $Ca$



X-ray image showing ASR gel formation



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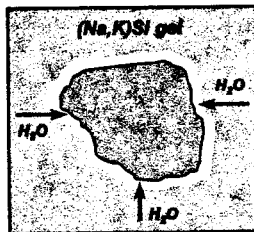
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If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions -

forming an alkali-silica gel composed predominantly of  $Na$ ,  $K$  &  $Si$  with minor amounts of  $Ca$

The gel absorbs water from the surrounding cement paste and ...



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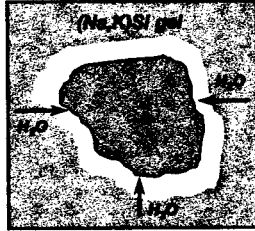
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### ASR Mechanism

If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions -

forming an alkali-silica gel composed predominantly of  $Na$ ,  $K$  &  $Si$  with minor amounts of  $Ca$

The gel absorbs water from the surrounding cement paste and expands ...



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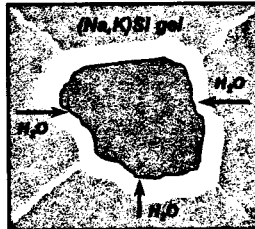
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If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions -

forming an alkali-silica gel composed predominantly of  $Na$ ,  $K$  &  $Si$  with minor amounts of  $Ca$

The gel absorbs water from the surrounding cement paste and expands - causing internal stresses and eventually leading to cracking



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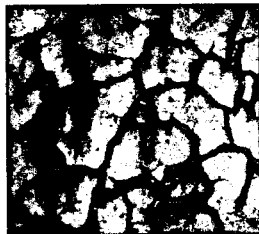
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### ASR Mechanism

If the silica is reactive it may be "attacked" first by  $OH^-$  and then by  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  ions -

forming an alkali-silica gel composed predominantly of  $Na$ ,  $K$  &  $Si$  with minor amounts of  $Ca$

The gel absorbs water from the surrounding cement paste and expands - causing internal stresses and eventually leading to cracking



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### ASR in Concrete Thin Section



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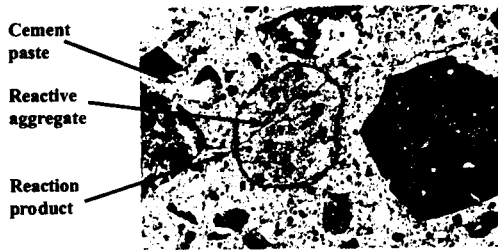
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### ASR in Concrete Polished Section



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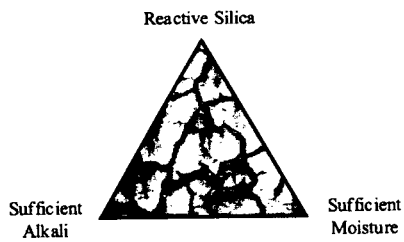
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### Requirements for ASR



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## Rocks and Minerals

**Rocks**

Shale  
Sandstone  
Limestone  
Chert  
Flint  
Quartzite  
Quartz-arenite  
Gneiss  
Argillite  
Granite  
Greywacke  
Siltstone  
Arenite  
Arkose  
Hornfels

**Reactive Minerals**

Opal  
Tridymite  
Cristobalite  
Volcanic glass  
Cryptocrystalline (or microcrystalline) quartz  
Strained quartz

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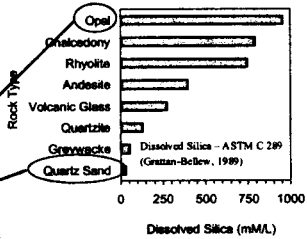
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## Rocks and Minerals

Amount of silica dissolved when a sample of crushed rock is immersed in a solution of NaOH (1 molar) at 80°C →



**Mineral**

Opal → SiO<sub>2</sub>  
Quartz → SiO<sub>2</sub>

**Chemical composition**

Not all siliceous minerals react to a significant degree in concrete. In fact, most siliceous aggregates do NOT cause deleterious reaction.

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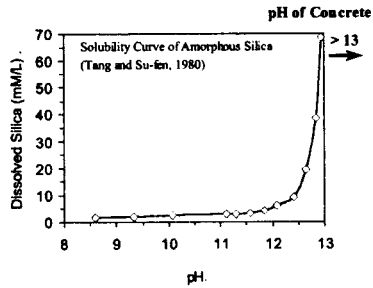
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## Role of pH

Effect of the pH of the alkali solution on the solubility of amorphous silica →




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## Sources of Alkali in Concrete

- Portland cement
- Other cementing materials
  - Fly ash
  - Slag
  - Silica fume
- Chemical admixtures
- Wash water (if used)
- Aggregates
- External sources
  - Seawater
  - Deicing chemicals

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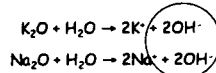
## Alkalies in Portland Cement

Typical Oxide Analysis

Oxide	%
SiO <sub>2</sub>	20.55
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	5.07
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.10
CaO	64.51
MgO	1.53
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.73
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.15
SO <sub>3</sub>	2.53
LOI	1.58

+ other trace elements

Alkalies (sodium & potassium) represent a small proportion of the cement



Most of the alkalies end up in the pore solution and the associated OH<sup>-</sup> concentration is sufficient to produce a pH in the range of 13.2 to 14.0

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## Alkalies in Portland Cement

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Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.15
SO <sub>3</sub>	2.53
LOI	1.58

+ other trace elements

### Alkali Equivalent or "Equivalent Soda"

- K<sub>2</sub>O converted to an "equivalent" content of Na<sub>2</sub>O
- Based on respective molecular weights of sodium and potassium oxide
- Total sodium oxide equivalent is often written as Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub>
- Calculated as follows:

$$Na_2O_e = Na_2O + 0.658 K_2O$$

For the analysis shown the equivalent soda is:

$$0.15 + 0.658 \times 0.73 = 0.63 \% Na_2O_e$$

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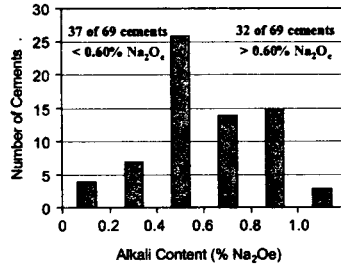
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### Alkali Contents of North American Cements

Alkali contents of 69 sources of Type I cement in North America (Gebhardt, 1995)




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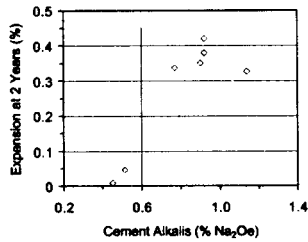
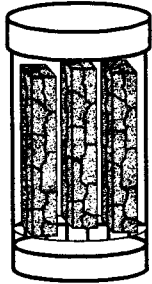
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### Effect of Alkalies on Expansion

Results of Stanton's Mortar Bar Tests (Stanton, 1940 & 1952)




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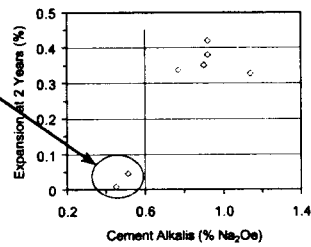
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### Effect of Alkalies on Expansion

Results of Stanton's Mortar Bar Tests (Stanton, 1940 & 1952)

Expansion unlikely if cement alkalis < 0.60% Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub>

This work defined the concept of "low-alkali cement". It is still generally believed today (wrongly so) that the use of such cement is a sufficient measure to avoid damaging ASR




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## Alkali Content of Concrete

It is now fairly well established that it is the alkali content in the concrete and not just the alkali content of the cement that influences the risk of damaging reaction for a particular aggregate. The concrete alkali content is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Concrete alkali content} = \frac{\text{Cement content} \times \text{Cement alkalis}}{\text{kg/m}^3 \text{ Na}_2\text{O}_e} \times \frac{1}{100}$$

$$\text{Concrete alkali content} = \frac{\text{Cement content} \times \text{Cement alkalis}}{\text{lb/yd}^3 \text{ Na}_2\text{O}_e} \times \frac{1}{100}$$

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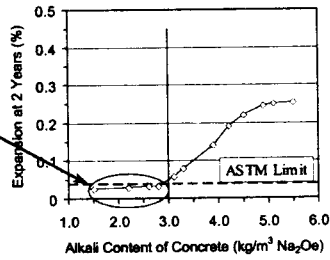
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## Alkali Content of Concrete

Expansion unlikely if alkali content of concrete < 3.0 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (5.0 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>)




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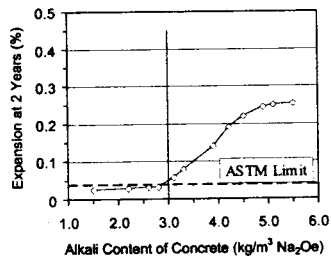
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## Alkali Content of Concrete

The threshold alkali content – above which deleterious expansion occurs – varies with the type of reactive aggregate.

Under field conditions expansion has been observed in concrete with less than 3 kg/m<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub> (5 lb/yd<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub>)




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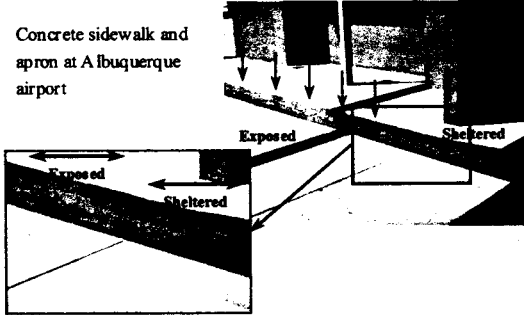
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### Role of Moisture

Concrete sidewalk and apron at Albuquerque airport




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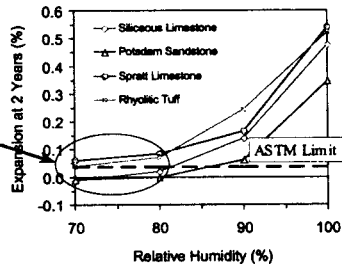
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### Effect of Relative Humidity

Little significant expansion if the relative humidity is maintained below about 80%



Pedneault, 1996

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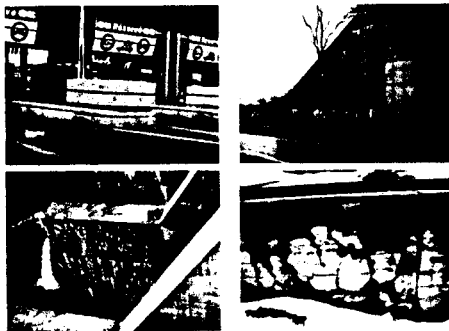
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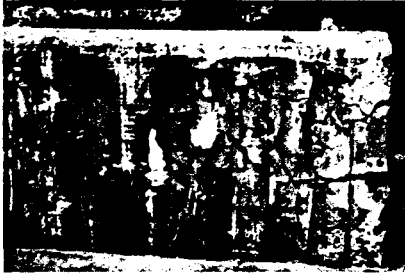
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### Random Crack Orientation

If the concrete element is unrestrained there will be uniform expansion in all directions and this will result in map-cracking – a.k.a. pattern-cracking



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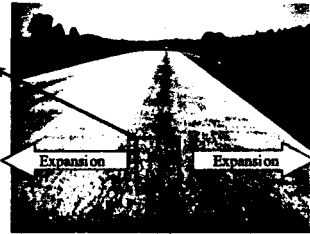
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### Preferred Crack Orientation

As ASR advances in pavements the joints close and continued expansion in the longitudinal direction is restrained. Consequently, expansion continues in the transverse and vertical directions, which results in increased cracking in the longitudinal direction.



SHRP-C-315

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### Preferred Crack Orientation

Prestressed concrete – cracking aligned with the direction of principal stress (i.e. direction of main prestress tendons)



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### Preferred Crack Orientation



Prominent crack direction in reinforced columns is vertical



SHRP-C-315

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### Minimizing the Risk of ASR

#### Methods for Minimizing the Risk of Expansion in Concrete Due to Alkali-Silica Reaction

- Use a non-reactive aggregate
- Limit the alkali content of the concrete
- Use supplementary cementing materials (SCM)
  - Fly Ash
  - Slag
  - Silica Fume
  - Natural Pozzolan
- Use chemical admixtures

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### Using "Non-Reactive" Aggregate

#### Mactaquac Dam, NB

Aggregate passed criteria for "non-reactivity" that existed at the time of construction



Millions of \$\$\$s currently being spent trying to deal with ASR problems

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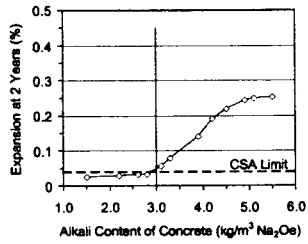
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### Limiting the Alkali Content of Concrete

Laboratory testing of concrete indicates that expansion is unlikely to occur with most aggregates when the alkali content of the concrete is less than 3.0 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (5.0 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>).

Many specifications use this or a similar limit for concrete containing potentially reactive aggregate.




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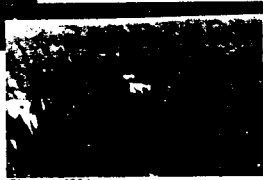
### Limiting the Alkali Content of Concrete



Dinas Dam, Wales

Calculated alkali content from records  
= 2.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub> (4 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>)

Measured alkali content on core samples  
= 2.8 kg/m<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub> (4.7 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>)



Thomas, 1996

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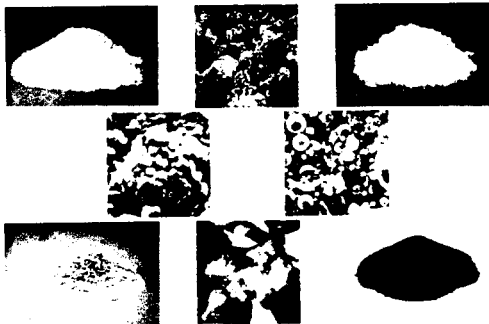
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### Using SCMs




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## Fly Ash and ASR



Fly ash is a "man-made" pozzolan that has been used in concrete construction for more than 50 years

First work demonstrating its effect on ASR was around 1952




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## Fly Ash and ASR

There are hundreds of publications on fly ash and ASR; and these show that the effect of fly ash depends on:

- Amount of fly ash used
- Fly ash composition
- Nature of reactive aggregate
- Amount of alkali present in the concrete (e.g. from cement)

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## Fly Ash and ASR

### ASTM C 618 Classification

Class F	Normally from bituminous and anthracite coal	$\text{SiO}_2 + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \geq 70\%$
Class C	Normally from sub-bituminous and lignite coal	$\text{SiO}_2 + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \geq 50\%$

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### Slag and ASR

There are hundreds of publications on slag and ASR; and these show that the effect of slag depends on:

- Amount of slag used
- Nature of reactive aggregate
- Amount of alkali present in the concrete (e.g. from cement)

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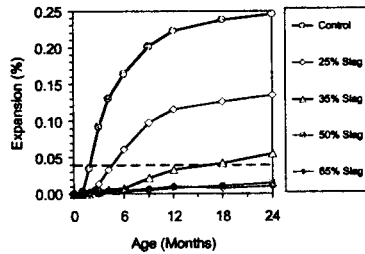
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### Slag and ASR

ASTM C 1293

- Siliceous limestone
- 1.25%  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}_e$
- 38°C and 100% RH



Thomas and Innis, 1998

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### Slag and ASR

Typically the amount of slag required to control ASR increases as:

- Reactivity of the aggregate increases
- Amount of available alkali in the concrete increases

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### Silica Fume and ASR



Silica fume is a by-product of the silicon metal and silicon-iron making industry

Extremely fine and highly-reactive pozzolan

Widely used in high-strength and high-performance concrete in the last decade



The use of silica fume for controlling ASR is less well-established as the use of fly ash and slag.

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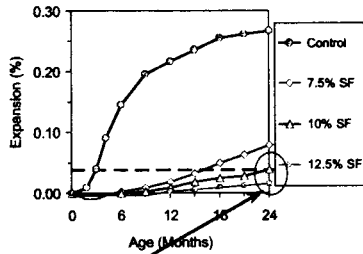
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### Silica Fume and ASR

ASTM C 1293

- Siliceous limestone
- 1.25%  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}_e$
- 38°C and 100% RH



Amount required to meet 0.04% limit at 2 years may be > 10% silica fume

Fournier et al. 1995

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### Ternary Blends and ASR

Ternary blend contains three components - Portland cement + 2 SCMs

Blends commonly used are:

Portland cement - silica fume - slag

Portland cement + silica fume + fly ash




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**ASR Specifications**

**Two main approaches to specifications:**

- 1. *Prescriptive specifications*
- 2. *Performance-based specifications*

} Some agencies or organizations use a combination of these two approaches for ASR specifications

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**Prescriptive Specifications**

***An Example:***

If a reactive aggregate is to be used, one of the following options shall be adopted:

- Limit concrete alkali content  $\leq 4$  lbs/yd<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub>
- Use a minimum of 50% slag
- Use a minimum of 20% Class F fly ash
- Use a minimum of 10% silica fume
- Use a minimum of 15% metakaolin
- Use a combination of a minimum of 5% silica fume and 30% Class C fly ash
- Use a 30% lithium nitrate solution at a dosage of 4.6 liters of LiNO<sub>3</sub> solution per 1 kg or Na<sub>2</sub>O<sub>e</sub> (based on cement alkalinity)

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**Performance-based Specifications**

***An Example:***

Use an aggregate that passes either ASTM C 1260 or ASTM C 1293.

If the aggregate to be used does not pass these tests, then it may still be used in combination with fly ash, slag, silica fume, natural pozzolan, or any blend of these SCM's provided that the combination of SCM's and aggregate passes a modified version of either ASTM C 1260 or ASTM C 1293.

Alternatively, the aggregate can be used with lithium nitrate (with or without SCM's), provided the combination of materials passes ASTM C 1293.

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### ASR Research at UT

TxDOT Project 0-4085  
A Snapshot...

- 4.5-year project (March 2000-August 2004)
- Surveying the state-of-the-art
- Assessing new or modified test methods
- Assessing mitigation options under new specifications
- Assessing relationships between ASR and DEF
- Outdoor exposure site developed to link lab and field
- Mechanistic studies (particular focus on Class C fly ash due to importance in TX)
- "Showcase bridge" for all-in-one ASR shopping

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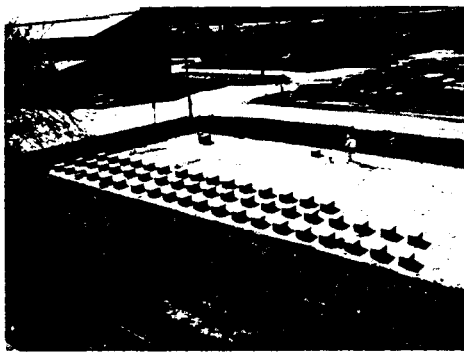
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### Outdoor Exposure Site at UT



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### Showcase Bridge Structure

- 12-span bridge near Houston
- "All-in-one-shopping" - all mitigation options on one bridge
- Using highly reactive TX aggregate
- Separate control structure near bridge site
- Long-term monitoring program
- Compare laboratory, exposure site, and bridge performance

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### Conclusions

- ASR is a reaction between the alkalis from portland cement (and other sources) and certain siliceous minerals in some aggregates.
- Under certain conditions the reaction can result in expansion and cracking of concrete.
- The risk of expansion and damage can be minimized by:
  - > Avoiding reactive aggregates
  - > Controlling the alkali content of the concrete
  - > Appropriate use of SCMs
  - > Use of chemical admixtures (e.g. lithium)
- ∅ Through appropriate test methods and specifications, ASR can be controlled – STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS...

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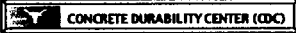
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**TxDOT Workshop**

**Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 5: Freezing and Thawing*



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**Outline of Presentation**

- History and Background
- Freezing and Thawing of Hardened Concrete
- Factors Affecting Frost Resistance of Concrete
- Salt Scaling
- Practical Considerations

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**Two Common Types of Distress**

- Internal Damage - Hydraulic Pressure
- External Damage - Scaling (Hydraulic & Osmotic Pressures)



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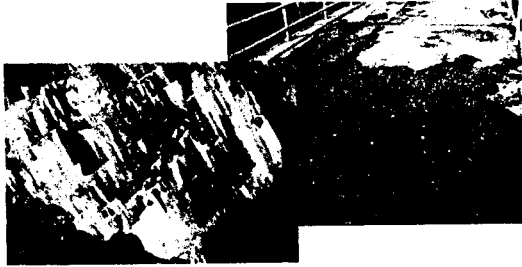
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## Freezing and Thawing of Hardened Concrete



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## Mechanisms of Freezing and Thawing Damage

- T.C. Powers and his coworkers first to study freezing-and-thawing problems
- Concept of spacing factor proposed by Powers
- Two mechanisms usually cited:
  - Hydraulic pressure & osmotic pressure
- More complex models available related to ice formation and water migration

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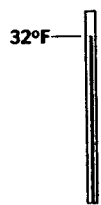
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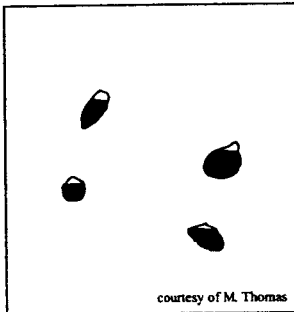
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## Mechanism of Frost Damage in Concrete



Critical Saturation begins at 91.7%

### Non Air-entrained



Saturation > 91.7%

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**Mechanism of Frost Damage in Concrete**

32°F  
23°F

Water Expands 9% Upon freezing

**Non Air-entrained**

courtesy of M. Thomas

Saturation > 91.7%

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**Mechanism of Frost Damage in Concrete**

32°F  
23°F

**Non Air-entrained**

courtesy of M. Thomas

Saturation > 91.7%

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**History**

- Freezing-and-Thawing damage unsolved until air-entrainment was discovered accidentally in the 1930's
- Several pavements in New York had survived severe freeze-thaw exposure
- Cement manufactured with grinding aids - beef tallow

PCA photo

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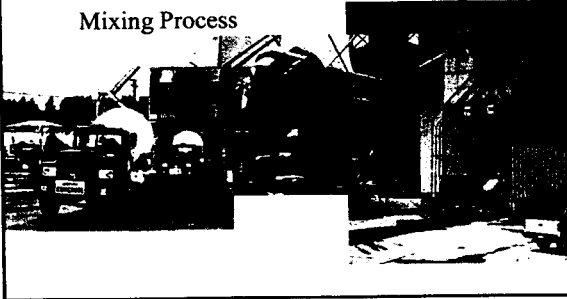
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## Air Entrainment

- Air is Generated into Concrete During the Mixing Process



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## Sources of Air in Concrete

- Mielenz et al. (1958)
  - Air originally present in intergranular spaces in the cement and aggregate
  - Air originally within the particles of cement and aggregate, expelled by water before hardening
  - Air originally dissolved in mixing water
  - Air in-folded and mechanically enveloped with concrete during mixing and placing
- Difference between entrapped and entrained air bubbles
  - Same origin
  - Air-entraining admixtures contain no air!!
  - Entrapped air bubbles irregular while entrained nearly spherical
  - Entrapped > 1 mm and entrained < 1 mm
  - Entrapped air not helpful to F-T resistance

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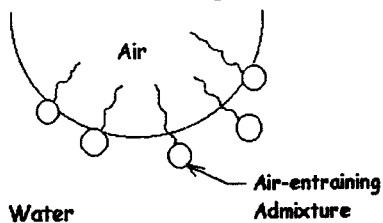
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## Air-Entraining Mechanism



PCA Slide

Acts at Air-Water Interface

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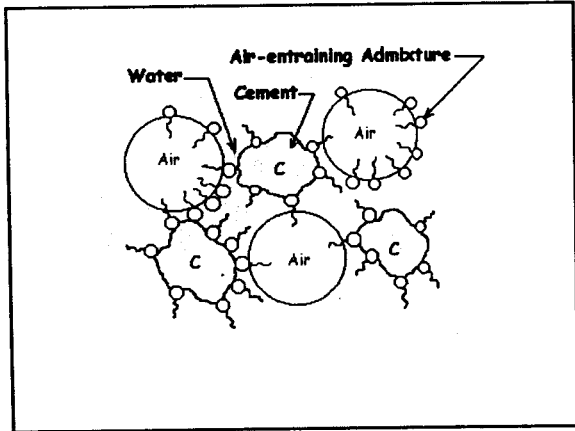
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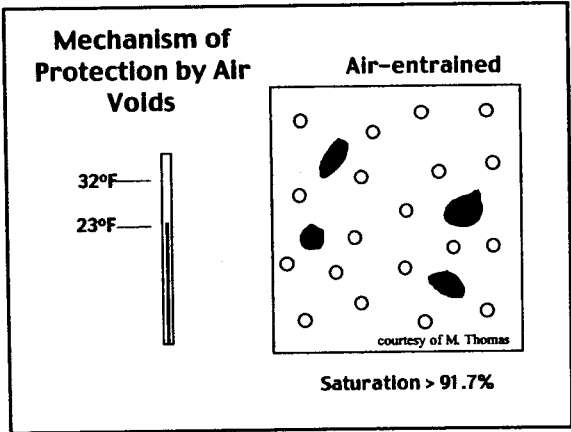
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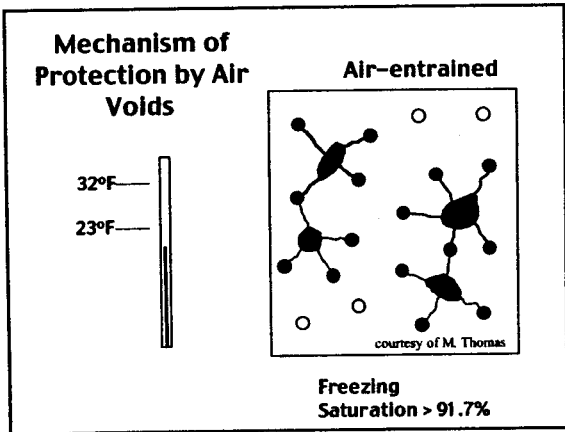
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**Mechanism of Protection by Air Voids**

- Air void by drophobic

32°F  
23°F

**Air-entrained**

courtesy of M. Thomas

**Thawing  
Saturation > 91.7%**

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**Mechanism of Protection by Air Voids**

32°F  
23°F

**Air-entrained**

courtesy of M. Thomas

**Saturation > 91.7%**

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**Characteristics of Air System**

- Air voids in concrete of various size and most larger than 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- Size and distribution more important than total volume of entrained air
- Difficult to obtain direct information on air voids system, especially for fresh concrete
- Current techniques on spacing factor and specific surface based on statistics

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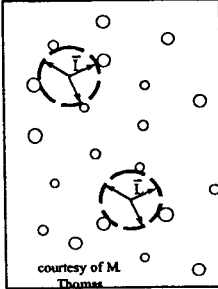
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## Air Void Spacing & Volume



courtesy of M. Thomas

- **Spacing factor ( $\bar{L}$ ):** the maximum distance of any point in the the cement paste from the periphery of an air void.
- **Specific surface:** the surface area of a quantity of air voids that have a total volume of 1 in<sup>3</sup> (16 cm<sup>3</sup>).

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## Characteristics of an Adequate Air Void System

### ASTM C 457

- Spacing factor  $\leq 0.008$  in (0.203 mm)
- Specific surface  $\geq 600$  in<sup>2</sup>/in<sup>3</sup> (24 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm<sup>3</sup>)
- Voids per linear inch: 1.5 - 2 times the percentage of air

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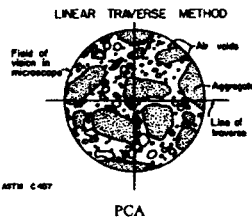
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## Volume of Air in Concrete

- Only practical to directly measure volume content in fresh concrete
- ASTM C 231 and C 173 for fresh concrete
- Microscope for hardened concrete
- Fresh concrete air void analyzer (?)




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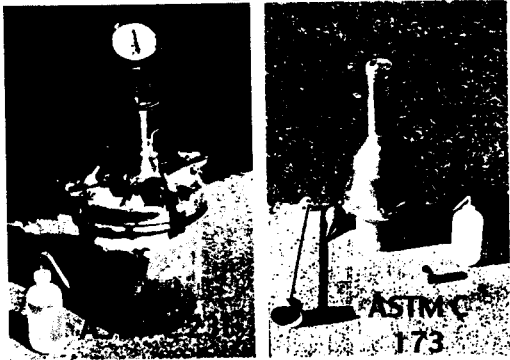
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### Measuring Air Content



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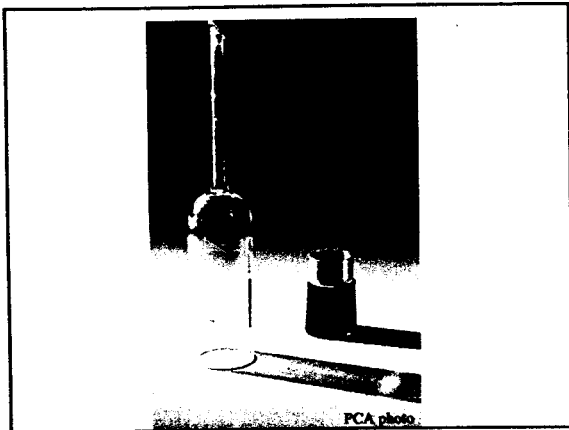
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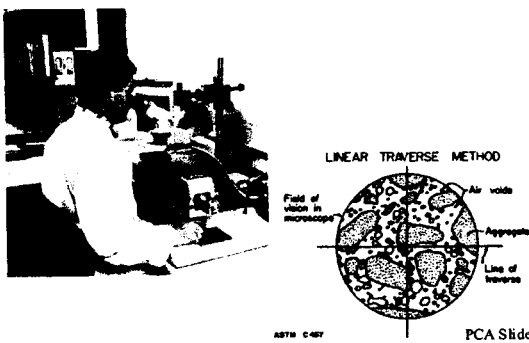
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### Measuring Air in Hardened Concrete



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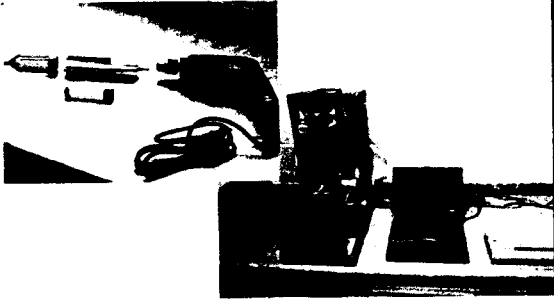
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## Fresh Concrete Air Void Analyzer



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## Recommended Air Content Effective For Durability:

- When volume of air in mortar fraction of concrete is about  $9 \pm 1\%$  (or about 18% by paste volume).
- Required air increases as coarse aggregate size is reduced (due to greater paste volume)
- Required air increases as exposure conditions become more severe.

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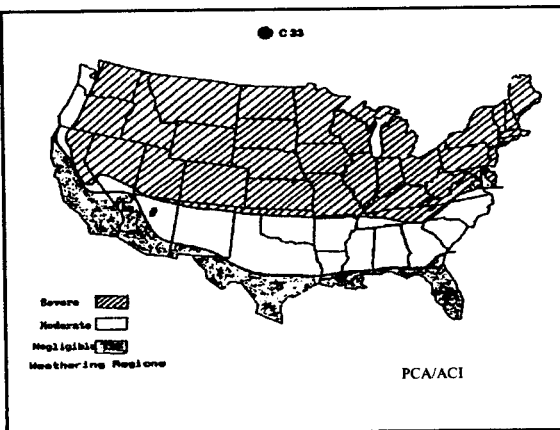
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**RECOMMENDED AVERAGE AIR CONTENT PERCENTAGE FOR LEVEL OF EXPOSURE**

Exposure	Nominal maximum sizes of aggregates					
	3/8 in. (9.5mm)	1/2 in. (12.5mm)	3/4 in. (19mm)	1 in. (25mm)	1-1/2 in. (37.5mm)	2 in. (50mm)
Mild	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0
Moderate	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.0
Severe	7.5	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.0

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**Air-Entraining Admixtures**

- 4 Categories:
  1. Wood Derived Products: Vinsol® resin, Tall oil, Wood rosin
  2. Synthetic Materials: Alky-aryl sulfonates and sulfates
  3. Vegetable Acids: Coconut fatty acids, Alkanolamine salt
  4. Miscellaneous: Alkali/alkanolamine acid salts, Animal tallow
- Must pass ASTM C 260

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**Wood Rosin vs. Synthetic**

Wood Rosins	Synthetic Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick air generation</li> <li>• Minor air gain with initial mixing</li> <li>• Air Loss with prolonged mixing</li> <li>• Mid-sized air bubbles</li> <li>• Compatible with most other admixtures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick air generation</li> <li>• Minor air loss with mixing</li> <li>• Smaller coarser bubbles</li> <li>• May be incompatible with some HRWR.</li> </ul>

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**So All We Need is Air-Entrainment for Frost Resistance..**

**What Factors Affect Air-Entrainment?**

**Got an Hour?**

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**Control of Air Content Materials**

- Cement
  - Admixture dosage based on cement content
  - Higher fineness requires higher dosage
  - Alkalies in increase air entrainment
- Supplementary Materials
  - Fly ash, silica fume may increase dosages 2 – 6 times
  - Be careful for unburned carbon in fly ash
- Aggregates
  - Increased sand content helps air entrainment
  - Ultra fines (< #200) harmful
- Admixtures
  - Compatibility should be examined
  - Added separately to mixtures
  - Some supers affect spacing factor

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**Control of Air Content Mix Design and Processing**

- w/c
- Slump;
  - <3-in. (75mm),
  - >6-in. (150mm)
- Temperature
- Mixing Speed, Order of Addition, Drum Capacity, etc.



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## Control of Air Content Placement

- Transportation
- Placement; Pumping
- Consolidation
- Finishing



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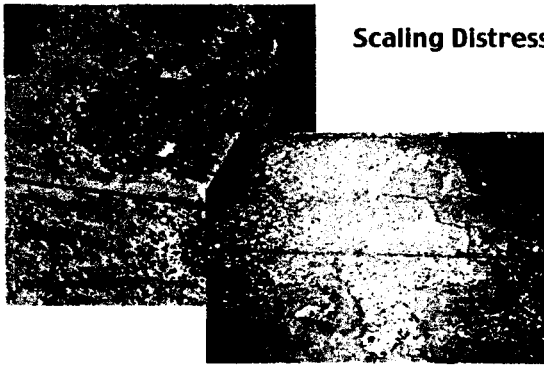
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## Scaling Distress



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## Mechanism of Salt Scaling Damage



### ASTM C 672

- Salt Scaling Test  
4%  $\text{CaCl}_2$
- 50 Cycles

- Hydraulic pressures from 9% expansion of water when freezing
- Osmotic pressures from differential concentrations of salt (alkali) solutions in paste
- Salt lowers freezing point, thereby increasing saturation near surface of concrete

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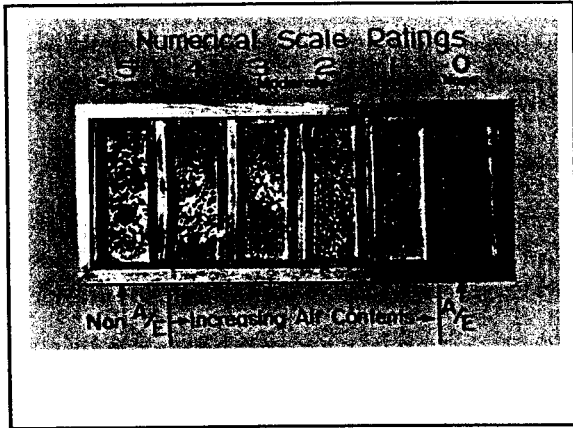
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### Issues with Salt Scaling

- ASTM C 672 is very severe and often predicts scaling for mixtures that perform well in the field (especially mixtures with high levels of fly ash and slag)
- Some state DOTs limit amount of fly ash or slag to prevent scaling, but is it really a valid concern?
- If above is a concern, why would high levels of SCMs adversely affect scaling?
  - Increased level of saturation
  - Increased capillary suction
  - More sensitive to finishing
- How do alternative de-icing salts affect scaling?

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### Frost-Susceptible Aggregates

- Unsound Aggregates
  - Porous cherts, shales, some limestones, particularly laminated limestones, and some sandstones
  - High absorption is common characteristic
  - Air entrainment not very effective
- Damage Caused by Unsound Aggregates
  - Critical conditions: water content and lack of drainage (pore system of aggregate)
  - Pores smaller than 4 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$  critical
  - Local scaling (pop-outs) close to surface
  - Extensive scaling
  - D-cracking of free edges of slabs (reduce agg. size)

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### Summary of Factors Affecting Freeze-Thaw Resistance of Concrete

- Air voids system in hardened paste
  - Volume
  - Void size distribution
  - Spacing factor
- Soundness of coarse aggregates
- Strength of concrete
  - For same air void system, higher strength leads to higher resistance
  - Compressive strength of 3,500 psi before subject to F-T (Neville 1996)

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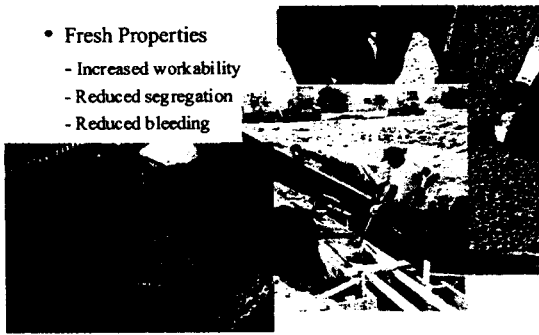
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### Effects of Air on Concrete Properties

- Fresh Properties
  - Increased workability
  - Reduced segregation
  - Reduced bleeding



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### Effect of Air on Hardened Concrete Properties

- Freezing-Thawing Resistance
- Deicer Scaling Resistance
- Strength



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**Conclusions**

- Freezing and thawing damage can occur both external and internal to concrete
- Air-entrainment is essential to durability
- Aggregates susceptible to D-cracking must be identified and either not used or reduced in size to avoid damage
- Some unanswered questions remain with salt scaling...
- Everything affects air in concrete -- QC/QA is critical

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**TxDOT Workshop**

**Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 6: Sulfate Attack (including DEF)*



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**Sulfate Attack**

- **Definitions**
- **Background and History**
- **Mechanisms of Sulfate Attack**
- **Deterioration by Sulfate Attack**
- **Mitigating Sulfate Attack**



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**Sulfate Attack: Definitions and Differentiation**

Sulfate attack: Deterioration of concrete through the actions of sulfate salts and/or acids, chemically or physically

- **Internal versus External**
- **Chemical versus Physical**

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### Internal vs External

- **Internal Sulfate Attack**  
 ...source of sulfate is internal to concrete, including excessive cement sulfate and delayed ettringite formation (DEF)
- **External Sulfate Attack (“Classical”)**  
 ...caused by a source external to concrete, including sulfate from ground water, soil, solid industry waste, fertilizers, atmospheric SO<sub>2</sub>, or liquid industry wastes.

Skalny et. al 2002

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### Chemical vs Physical

- **Chemical Sulfate Attack**  
 ...sulfate attack is considered to be the result of chemical reactions involving sulfate anion, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, which forms ettringite from monosulfate and gypsum, and/or forms gypsum
- **Physical Sulfate Attack**  
 ...usually refers to (a) formation from the solution of sodium sulfate mirabilite, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>·10H<sub>2</sub>O, followed by (b) its repeated recrystallization into thenardite, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and vice versa.

Skalny et. al 2002

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### History of Sulfate Attack

- Sulfate Attack Reported in the Early Years of 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Europe
- In 1892, Formation of Ettringite identified for Causing Expansion and Cracking
- In 1915, Wig and Williams Published Their Observations on Sulfate Attack in Western U.S. (Mehta 2000)
- Several Multimillion-Dollar Lawsuits Filed Recently on Behalf of Homeowners in California

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## History of Sulfate Attack

- Sulfate attack happens when the concrete is exposed to a humid environment containing sulfates



Footing  
Basement  
Foundation  
Slab



Chammond and Halliwell

Photo: M. Thomas

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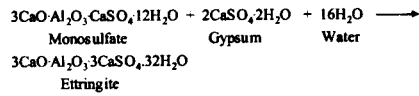
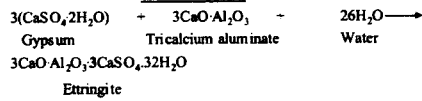
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## Mechanisms of Chemical Type Attack (Classical Form)

- Formation of **Etringite**




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## Etringite formation from "classical" sulfate attack

Once ettringite forms, it imbibes water, leading to expansion.

Expansion leads to tensile stresses that can crack concrete.

Note the early formation of ettringite during cement hydration can be accommodated by the fresh concrete, but later formation and expansion will crack concrete

Type K cement takes advantage of above reactions...

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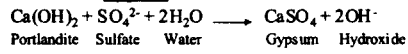
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## Mechanisms of Chemical Type Attack (Classical Form)

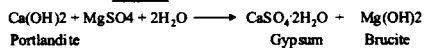
- Formation of **Gypsum** and **Brucite**

- Formation of **Gypsum**



- \* Gypsum formation usually leads to mass loss or "mushy" appearance.

- Formation of **Brucite**




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## Deteriorations by Sulfate Attack Physical Manifestations

- Appearances

- Map cracking
  - Spalling
  - Efflorescence
  - Turns "mushy"
  - Pop-outs

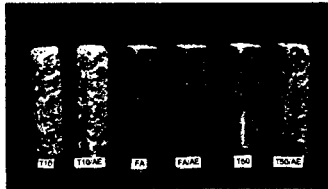


Photo: M. Thomas

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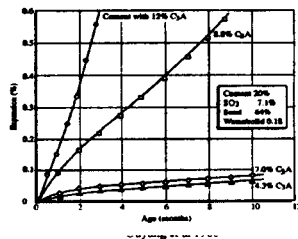
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## Deteriorations by Sulfate Attack Physical Manifestations

- Expansion




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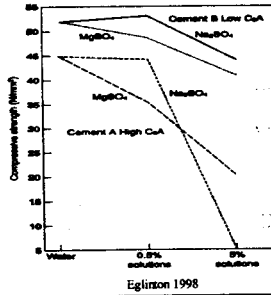
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## Deteriorations by Sulfate Attack Physical Manifestations

Compressive  
Strength\*

1 year soaking




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## Mitigating Sulfate Attack

- Susceptibility of Sulfate Attack
- Mitigation Strategies
  - Use of Sulfate-Resisting Cement
  - Use of SCMs
  - Combination of Sulfate-Resisting Cement and SCMs

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## Susceptibility of Sulfate Attack

- Standard Tests and Specifications
  - ASTM E 150 - Specification for portland cement
  - ASTM C 452 - Test method for potential expansion of portland cement mortars exposed to sulfate
  - ASTM C 632 - Standard practice for developing accelerated tests to aid prediction of the service life of building components and materials
  - ASTM C 1012 - Test method for length change of hydraulic cement mortars exposed to a sulfate solution
  - ASTM C 1157M - Performance specification for blended hydraulic cement

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## ACI 201 Guidelines on Sulfate Attack

(ACI 201-2R)

Severity of potential exposure	Water-Soluble sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>2-</sup> in wet 1 percent by mass	Soluble (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>2-</sup> in water, ppm	(or) by mass, % <sup>c</sup>	Comments on special or special requirements
Class 0 exposure	0.00 - 0.10	0 - 150	No special requirements for sulfate resistance	No special requirements for sulfate resistance
Class 1 exposure	>0.10 and < 0.20	>150 and <1500	0.50 % <sup>c</sup>	C 150 Type II or Equivalent <sup>d</sup>
Class 2 exposure	0.20 to <2.0	1500 to <10,000	0.45 % <sup>c</sup>	C 150 Type V or Equivalent <sup>d</sup>
Class 3 exposure	2.0 or greater	10,000 or greater or greater	0.40 % <sup>c</sup>	C 150 Type V plus protection or slag <sup>d</sup>
Seawater exposure			See Section 2.4	See Section 2.4

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## Factors Affecting Classical Sulfate Attack

- Composition of the cement or hardened cement paste (C<sub>3</sub>A)
- Form of sulfate participating in the process (anions)
- Sulfate concentration (reaction and diffusion rates)
- Sulfate ion availability to reactants in concrete
- Available of moisture to inside of concrete ("Ions swims, they don't fly!!", P.K. Mehta)

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## Mitigation Strategies

- Reduce Sulfate Penetration (low permeability is the key!!)
- Modification of Cement Components (e.g., lower C<sub>3</sub>A with Type II or Type V cements)
- Incorporation of SCMs
- Good Construction Practice!!

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## Mitigating Strategies

- Modification of Cement Components
  - High  $C_3A$  content increases susceptibility of sulfate attack (greatest single factor)
  - Le Chatelier suggested large replacement of  $C_3A$  by  $C_4AF$
  - Type II cement,  $C_3A$  less than 8%
  - Type V cement,  $C_3A$  less than 5% and combination of  $C_3A$  and  $C_4AF$  less than 25%

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## Mitigating Strategies

- Incorporation of SCMs
  - Reduce  $C_3A$  and CH content
  - Modify microstructure, reduce sulfate ions' penetration, thus smaller reaction rate
  - Consuming  $Ca(OH)_2$ , which is subject to sulfate (forming gypsum) and magnesium ions (forming brucite)

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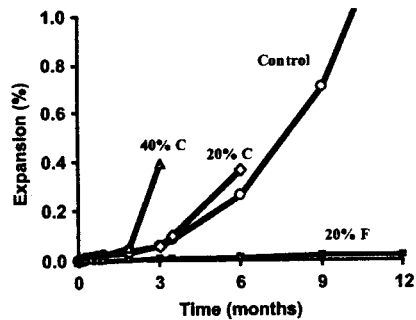
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### Effect of Fly Ash on Sulfate Resistance

ASTM C 1012



M. Thomas

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## Fly Ash Mineralogy

### Most fly ashes contain:

Mullite -  $\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{13}$

Magnetite -  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

Hematite -  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

Quartz -  $\text{SiO}_2$

These phases are generally insoluble and do not participate in hydration reactions

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## Class C Fly Ash

### High-CaO ashes may also contain:

$\text{C}_3\text{A}$

$\text{C}_2\text{S}$

Lime -  $\text{CaO}$

Anhydrite -  $\text{CaSO}_4$

Melilite -  $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Al})(\text{Al,Si})_2\text{O}_7$

Alkali sulphates -  $(\text{Na,K})_2\text{SO}_4$

Hematite -  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

Merwinite -  $\text{Ca}_3\text{Mg}(\text{SiO}_4)_2$

Ferrite spinel -  $(\text{Mg,Fe})(\text{Fe,Al})_2\text{O}_4$

Sodalite -  $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Ca,Na})_6(\text{Al,Si})_{12}\text{O}_{24}(\text{SO}_4)_{1-2}$

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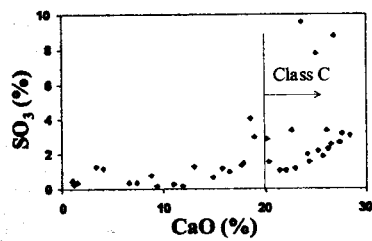
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### Relationship between $\text{SO}_3$ and $\text{CaO}$ for Fly Ashes



M. Thomas

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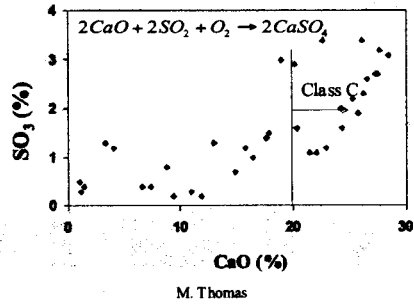
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**Relationship between SO<sub>3</sub> and CaO for Fly Ashes**




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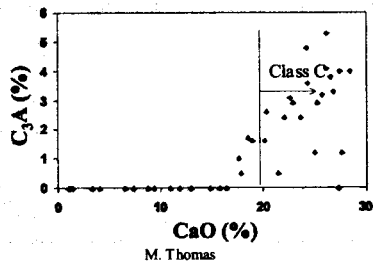
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**Relationship between C<sub>3</sub>A and CaO**




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**Explanation of Reduced Sulfate Resistance of High-CaO (Class C) Fly Ash**

- Contributes C<sub>3</sub>A (also some CH)
- Lower consumption of lime due to reduced pozzolanicity
- Presence of reactive calcium-aluminates in glass phase
- Production of reactive aluminate hydrates (e.g. Dunstan's gehlenite)

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## Differentiating High- and Low-Calcium Fly Ash

- Low-CaO Fly Ash
  - Reduced available aluminates
  - Reduced available lime
  - Reduced ion penetration (lower permeability)
  - Changed properties of hydrated aluminates (?)
- High-CaO Fly Ash: ??
  - $C_3A$  and  $CH$  not significantly reduced
  - Presence of reactive calcium-aluminates in glass phase
  - Production of reactive aluminate hydrates (e.g. gehlenite)

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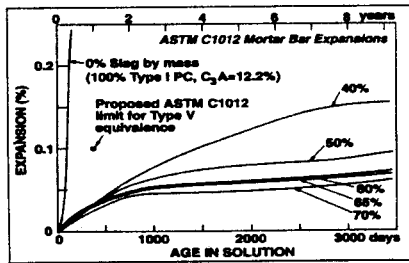
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## Effects of Replacement by Slag



Hooton, 1993

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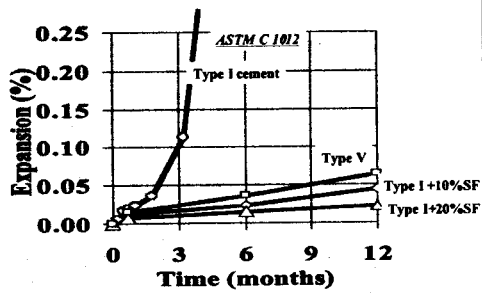
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## Using Silica Fume to Combat Sulfate Attack



M. Thomas

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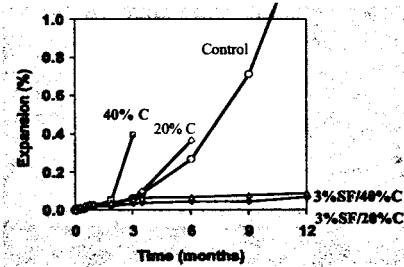
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### Ternary Blends for Sulfate Resistance ASTM C 1012



M. Thomas

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### Type V Equivalence\*

Generally, equivalent performance to Type V cement can be achieved by blending a Type I cement with:

- 20 to 25% low-CaO fly ash
- 35 to 50% slag
- 5 to 10% silica fume
- 10 to 15% metakaolin

\* Striving for Type V equivalence is becoming more common due to scarcity of Type V cement

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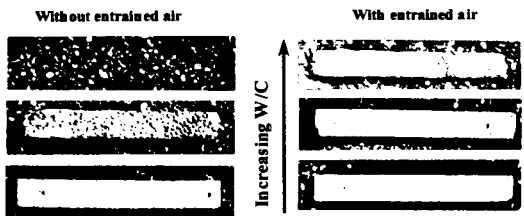
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### Air Entrainment



Concrete with Type II Cement after 5 years exposure in sulphate soil PCA

- Its usefulness is limited -- it just buys some time...

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## Other Forms of Chemical Attack

- Formation of Thaumasite  
 $[\text{Ca}_3\text{Si}(\text{OH})_6\text{12H}_2\text{O}](\text{SO}_4)(\text{CO}_3)$ 
  - Structurally similar to ettringite
  - Normally lower temperature required (<40 F)
- Delayed Ettringite Formation (DEF)
- Physical Sulfate Attack

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## Thaumasite Formation - A New Twist on an Old Problem

- Thaumasite can form through a combination of sulfate attack and carbonation
- With limestone fines (providing  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) and sulfate ions available, the formation of thaumasite is limited only by available CaO and  $\text{SiO}_2$
- Low concentration of  $\text{MgSO}_4$  may help initiate its formation probably by releasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  from C-S-H
- Thaumasite formation decomposes C-S-H !!
- Low temperature (~40 F) normally required
- HOT TOPIC – more so because ASTM is considering allowing the addition of limestone fines to cement...

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## What is Delayed Ettringite Formation?

- Damage (expansion & cracking) of concrete due to the formation of ettringite after the concrete has hardened.
- The result of excessive temperatures during curing which prevent the normal "early" formation of ettringite.
- The term DEF, as used here, does not include damage resulting from excessive amounts of sulfate in the cement (or other components of the concrete) or from external sources of sulfate.

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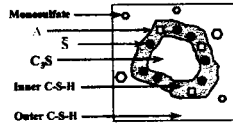
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## DEF Mechanism

Concrete Cured at  $> 70^{\circ}\text{C}$



Incongruent dissolution of ettringite resulting in both sulfate and alumina being encapsulated in the rapidly forming inner C-S-H

*Slide from M.D.A. Thomas*

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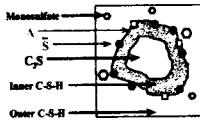
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## DEF Mechanism

Subsequent storage in water at  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$



Sulfate and alumina slowly released from the inner C-S-H

*Slide from M.D.A. Thomas*

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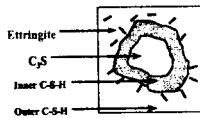
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## DEF Mechanism

Subsequent storage in water at  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$



Ettringite formed in the fine pores of the outer C-S-H

*Slide from M.D.A. Thomas*

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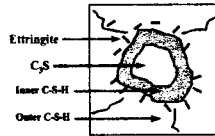
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## DEF Mechanism

*Subsequent storage in water at 20°C*



Under certain conditions this leads to expansion of the cement paste

*Slide from M.D.A. Thomas*

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## Deteriorations by DEF

### Some Microscopic Observations

- Formation of partial or complete rims (25-30  $\mu\text{m}$  wide) around the aggregate particles
- Partial or complete filling of these gaps by secondary ettringite
- Formation of "nests" of ettringite in the cement paste (Marusin 1993)
- Formation of two-tone C-S-H features (Scrivener 1992)
- Microcracking of the paste
- Composition changes of hydration products by microanalytical approaches

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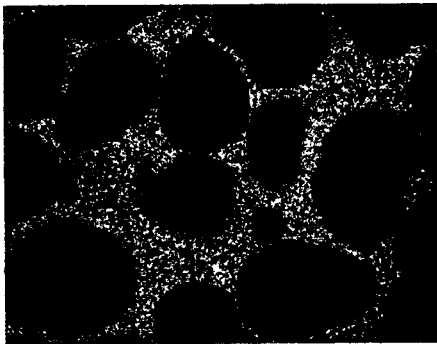
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***BSE image showing gaps around sand particles in heat-cured mortar***



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**SEM image showing ettringite-filled gap around sand particle in heat-cured mortar**




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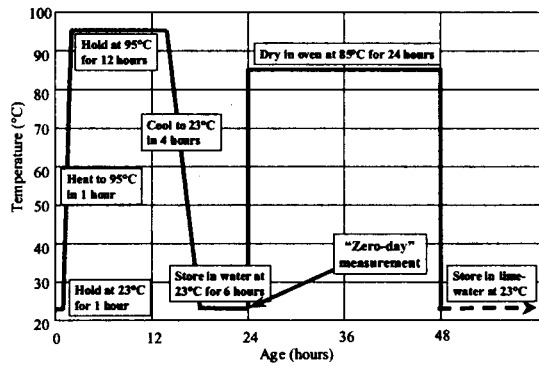
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**“Fu Test” - Curing Cycle**




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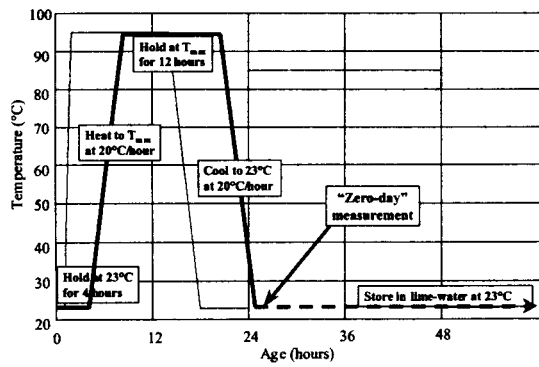
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**“Kelham Test” - Curing Cycle**




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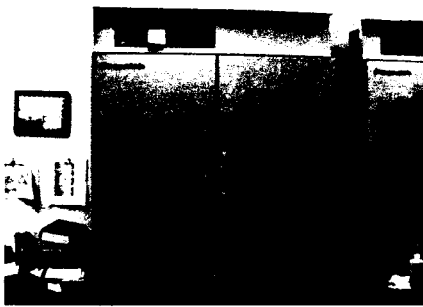
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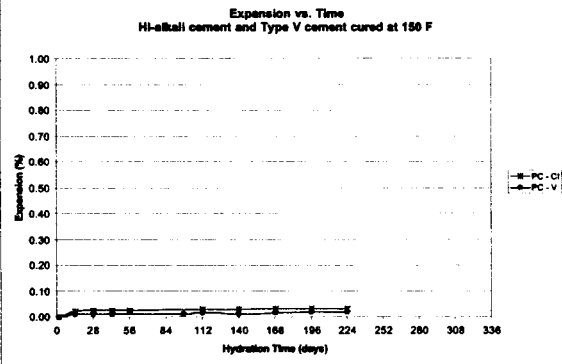
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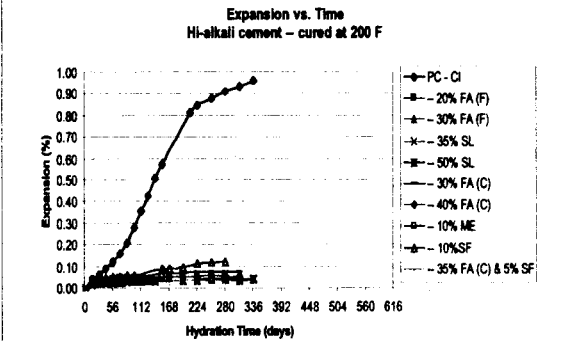
## Ovens for ASTM C 1260 and DEF Testing



### UT Research -- Effects of Curing Temperature



### UT Research -- What if we exceed 158 F during curing?\*



\* Results shown are for 200 F curing -- similar results observed at 176 F



**Draft Approach to Controlling DEF (as proposed to ACI)**

$T < 70^{\circ}\text{C}$	None
$70^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T < 85^{\circ}\text{C}$	<p>Portland cement with strength at 1 day <math>&lt; 20</math> MPa or,            Any Portland cement with the following replacements:                <math>\geq 25\%</math> Class F fly ash or,                <math>\geq 35\%</math> slag or,                <math>\geq 5\%</math> silica fume with at least 25% slag</p>
$70^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T < 85^{\circ}\text{C}$	<p>Provided there is data to show that the specific combination of materials can be used at <math>T^{\circ}\text{C}</math> without adverse effect under the intended exposure conditions. Suitable sources of data are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Field performance (minimum 10 years)            Laboratory testing (e.g. "Kelham method")</p>

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- Physical Sulfate Attack**
- Physical attack involving phase changes of salt solution as temperature changes
  - No chemical attack on cement paste (e.g., no ettringite or gypsum formed)
  - Similar in nature to freeze-thaw
  - Some have specified Type V cement to control (chemical solutions to physical problems don't work well...)
  - Low permeability concrete is the best defense!!! (again)
  - Subject of major lawsuit in Southern California

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**In summary,**

Sulfate attack can be  
chemical or  
physical...

It can arise from an internal or  
external source of sulfate...

It's not your father's  
sulfate attack anymore!!

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**The answer is...**

Sound understanding of the underlying mechanisms, and

Strategies based on controlling the physical aspects of concrete (permeability), the chemical aspects (Type II cement, SCMs, etc.), and/or controlling curing temperatures (for DEF)

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Any Questions?

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# Premature Concrete Deterioration Field Case Studies

Brian Merrill, P.E.  
Bridge Section  
Construction & Maintenance Division

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## What is Premature Concrete Deterioration? (PCD)

- Symptoms in Bridge Structures
- Causes

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## Symptoms

- Longitudinal cracks along prestressed beams
- “Map” cracking in box beams and bent/abutment caps
- Vertical cracking in columns
- “Map” cracking in other concrete members

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## Causes

- Material based: ASR or DEF (or both)
- Cracking is not the result of rebar corrosion
- Cracking is not the result of concrete placing operations or fabrication practices
- Cracking is not the result of loading (i.e.: flexural or shear cracking)

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## Concrete Cracking

- All concrete cracks
- Cracks are perpendicular to tensile stresses
- Two primary causes of cracking
  - \* Load induced
  - \* Material induced

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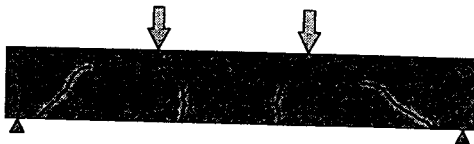
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## Load Induced Cracking

- Flexural cracks (bending)
- Shear cracks



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### Material Induced Cracking

- Shrinkage (drying or plastic)
- Thermal effects (restraint)
- Creep (restraint)
- Corrosion of rebar
- ASR/DEF (internal material expansion)
- Other (sulfates, carbonation,...)

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### How do we determine the cause of a given crack?

- Familiarity with structural behavior
- Familiarity with typical crack patterns
- Observation of crack orientation
- Sometimes an educated guess

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### Crack Orientation: Why are PCD cracks oriented this way?

- Cracks form perpendicular to tensile stress
- Tensile stresses are the result of material expansion

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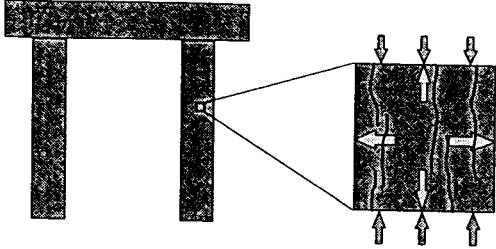
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### PCD Cracking in Columns



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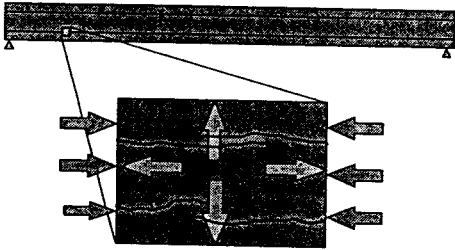
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### PCD Cracking in Prestressed Beams



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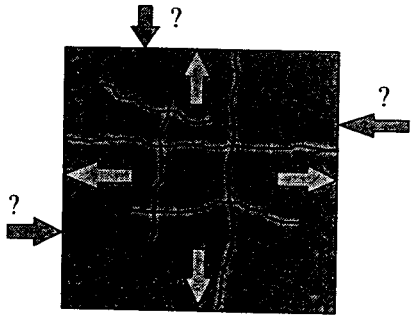
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### PCD Cracking in Caps



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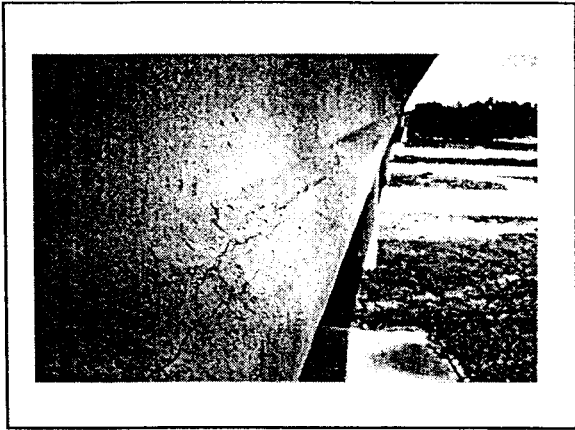
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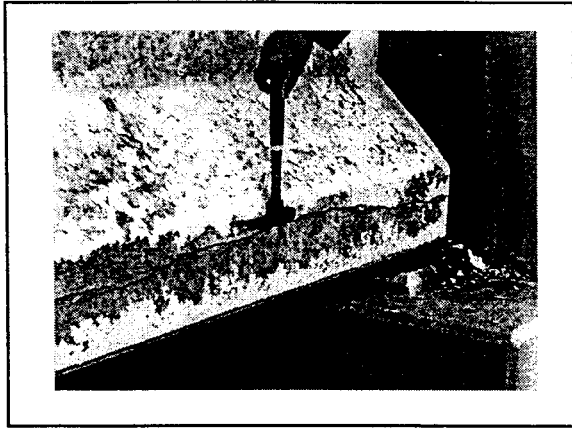
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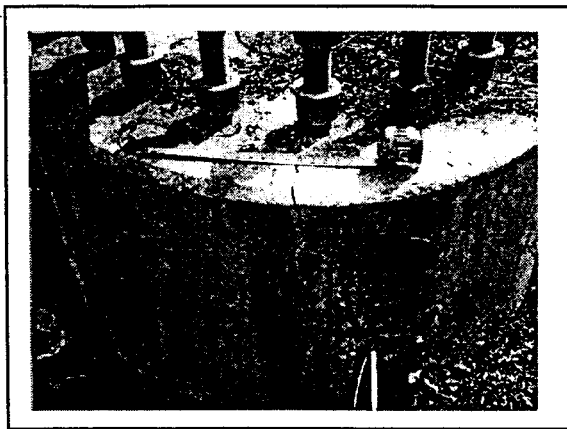
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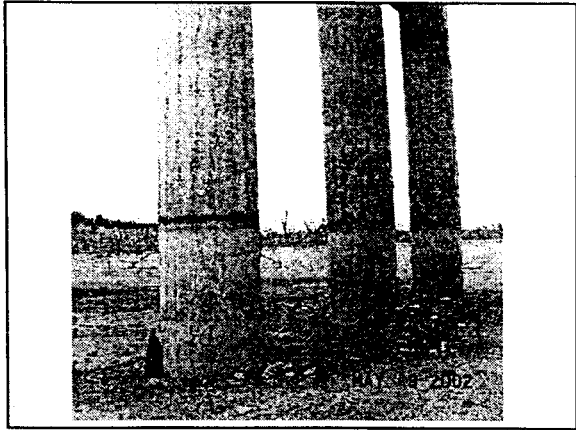
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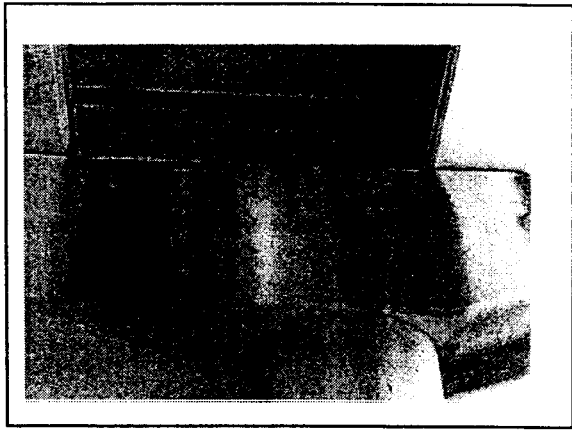
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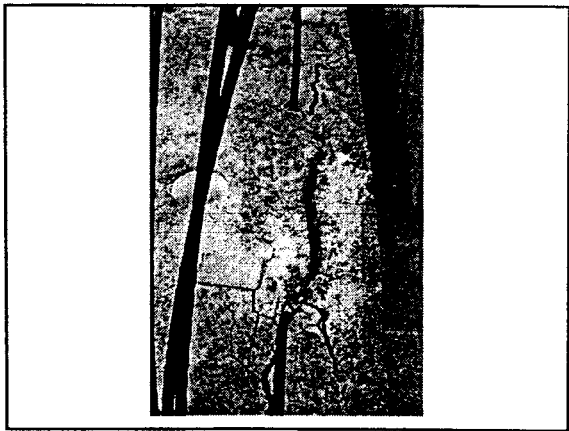
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### Structural Effects of ASR/DEF

- 10 - 15% Reduction in Compressive Strength
- Up to 50% Reduction in Tensile Strength
- Reduced Bond with Rebar/Prestressing Strands
- Reduced Stiffness - Increased Cracking
- Increased Potential for Damage due to Freeze-Thaw, Corrosion

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### Repair Strategies

- Lithium salt application for ASR (limited effectiveness in retrofit application)
- Waterproof: both ASR and DEF are driven by moisture - keep the water out and they do not occur. The waterproofing should not be a vapor barrier - the concrete needs to "breathe".

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### Repair/Maintenance Options

- Do Nothing - Monitor
- Seal Cracks and Waterproof
- Retrofit: Additional Capacity or Confinement
- Replace

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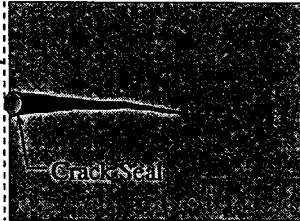
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## Seal Cracks & Waterproof

Waterproofing (Silane/Siloxane)



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## Decision factors

- Element in Question (beam, cap, column,..)
- Severity of Damage
- Potential for Further Damage
- Consequences of "Failure"
- Feasibility of Repairs
- Cost of Repairs

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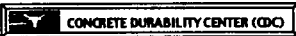
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**TxDOT Workshop**

**Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 8: Corrosion of Reinforcing Steel*



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**Outline of Presentation**

- **Significance**
- **Fundamental Science of Corrosion**
- **Corrosion of Steel in Concrete**
- **Corrosion Damage Evaluation**
- **Mitigation/Prevention Strategies**

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**Corrosion Is Everywhere**

Bent cap in Lubbock...



**Rust Never Sleeps!!**

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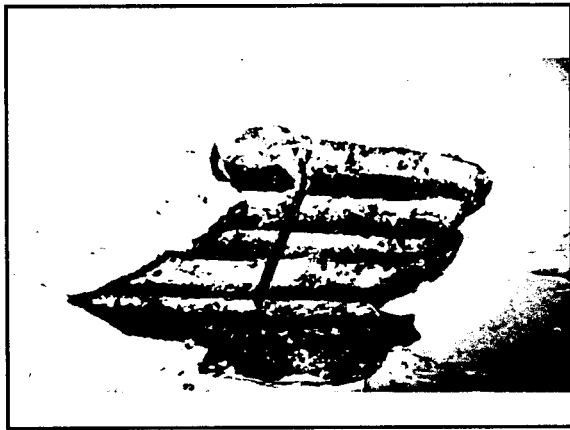
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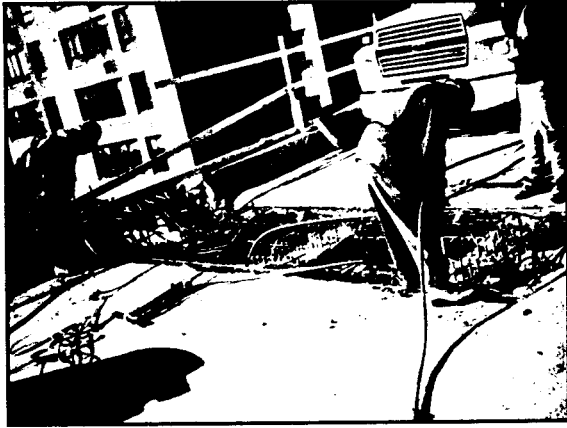
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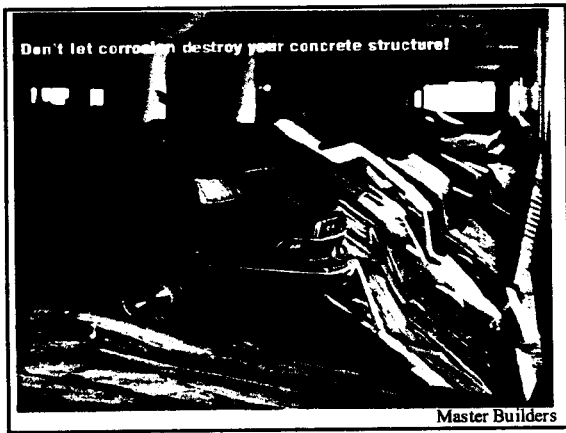
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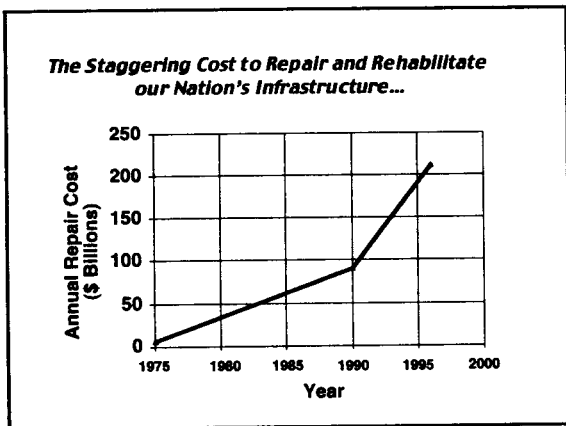
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## Fundamental Science of Corrosion

- Definition  
Corrosion is the destructive result of chemical reaction between a metal or metal alloy and its environment. (Jones 1996)
  
- A Spontaneous Process  
Corrosion returns the metal to its combined state in chemical compounds that are similar or even identical to the minerals from which the metals were extracted.

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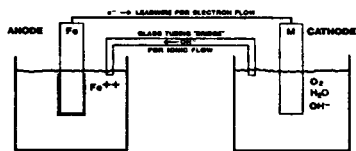
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## Electrochemical Nature of Aqueous Corrosion

- Electrochemical process (e.g. Galvanic)  
Potential differences between the two half cells  
A chemical process ( $Fe \rightarrow Fe^{2+}$ )  
Flow of electrical current involved ( $e^-$  and  $OH^-$ )



Hime and Erin 1987

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## Definitions of Terms

- Anodic Reaction (oxidation)  
Reaction involving loss of electron ( $Fe \rightarrow Fe^{2+}$ )  
Anode is where the reaction happens (corrosion phenomena)
- Cathodic Reaction (reduction)  
- Reaction involving gain of electron ( $O_2 + H_2O + e^- \rightarrow OH^-$ )  
- Cathode is site where reaction happens
- Half Cell  
Usually a pure metal in a solution of (fixed) concentration  
Two half cells to make an electrochemical cell
- Standard Electromotive Force (emf) Potential  
Half cell potential (referenced by standard hydrogen electrode SHE)  
Reaction written as reduction reactions

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## emf potentials of Metals

- Au
- Pt
- Ag
- Hg
- Fe<sup>3+</sup>
- Cu
- Pb
- Ni
- Fe<sup>2+</sup>
- Cr
- Zn
- Al
- Mg
- Na
- K

More  
Noble

- Only for standard solutions
- Metal may have different positions depending the valence
- Indicating which one may be corroded (anode) when a cell is formed with two metals

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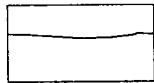
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## Forms of Corrosion

### • Uniform Corrosion

A uniform, regular remove of metal from the surface  
Preferred form if corrosion is not avoidable  
Characterized by mass loss or corroding depth (MPY:  
Mils per Year)



Jones 1996

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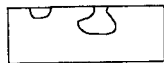
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## Forms of Corrosion

### • Pitting

Localized attack in an otherwise resistant surface  
Pits may be deep, shallow or undercut  
Stainless steel and nickel alloys especially susceptible to pitting by local breakdown of the film at isolated sites  
Worst case for steel corrosion in concrete  
Difficult to detect and to quantify the damage



Jones 1996

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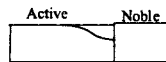
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## Forms of Corrosion

- Galvanic

When two dissimilar alloys are **coupled** in the presence of a corrosive electrolyte, one of them is preferentially corroded while the other is protected from corrosion

Generally speaking, most of the corrossions are of galvanic type



Jones 1996

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## Forms of Corrosion

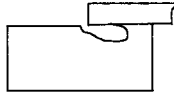
- Crevice

Corrosion in the small sheltered volume of the crevice

Corrosion is often greater than unsheltered part

Localized anode vs large cathode

Accumulating of electrolytes



Jones 1996

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## Factors Affecting Corrosion

- Formation of Corrosion Cell

Coupling of anode and cathode (path for electron)

Environment containing electrolyte (ions closing the circuit)

- Potential Difference between Anode and Cathode

Higher difference means higher possibility for corrosion

Not necessarily proportioned to corrosion rate

- Kinetics

The slowest process decides the corrosion rate

Anodic reaction (migration of metallic ions)

Cathodic reaction (availability of O<sub>2</sub>)

Ionic current flow rate (resistivity of concrete)

Potential difference

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### Corrosion of Steel in Concrete

- Marine exposure or application of de-icing salts most common culprits
- 44% of more than 500,000 bridges ranked as structurally deficient (1993)
- \$50 to 200 million for bridge deck repair
- Repair is necessary but nonproductive use of DOT resources
- Caused by corrosion of steel in concrete!!

Broomfield 1997

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### Corrosion of Reinforcing Steel

*The basics:*

- Reinforcing steel is placed in concrete to handle tensile loads.
- **“High-quality” concrete protects steel from corrosion** due to its high alkalinity (pH>13.5).  
An oxide film forms on the steel surface and this “passive layer” prevents corrosion.
- **Unfortunately, all concrete is not “high-quality,” either initially or eventually...**

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### Corrosion of Reinforcing Steel

*The first step - breakdown of the passive layer by:*

- Chemical, physical or mechanical degradation of concrete cover
- Chloride penetration to the reinforcement ⇒ Chloride-induced corrosion (0.6-0.9 kg of Cl<sup>-</sup> per cubic meter of concrete is “threshold value”)
- Carbonation of the concrete to reinforcement depth (pH↓)

Chloride penetration  
(deicing salts, seawater, etc.)

Carbonation  
[Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub> → CaCO<sub>3</sub>]

Cover (~ 40 mm)

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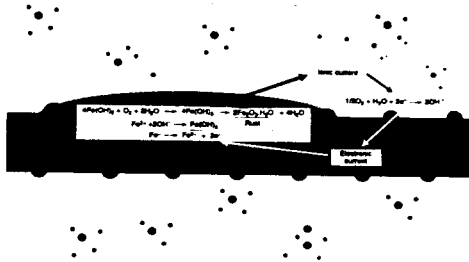
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## A Typical Model



Broomfield 1997

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## Chemical Reactions

- Anodic Reaction (loss of electron)  

$$\text{Fe} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+} + 2e^{-}$$
- Cathodic Reaction  

$$2e^{-} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \frac{1}{2}\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{OH}^{-}$$
- Rust (cause of cracking and spalling)  

$$\text{Fe}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^{-} \rightarrow 4\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2 \text{ (Ferrous hydroxide)}$$

$$4\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2 + \text{O}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 4\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3 \text{ (Ferric hydroxide)}$$

$$2\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3 \rightarrow \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \text{ (Rust)}$$
- Volume Change due to Corrosion  
 Volume increase at the steel-concrete interface is two to ten times depends on the degree of hydration of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

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## Important Observations

- Corrosion of steel is the oxidation of Fe, i.e. steel is the anode (cathode does not corrode)
- Oxygen and water are necessary for the process of corrosion
- When rust forms, expansion occurs, often followed by cracking and spalling
- The mobility of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{OH}^{-}$  are important and are controlled by concrete permeability

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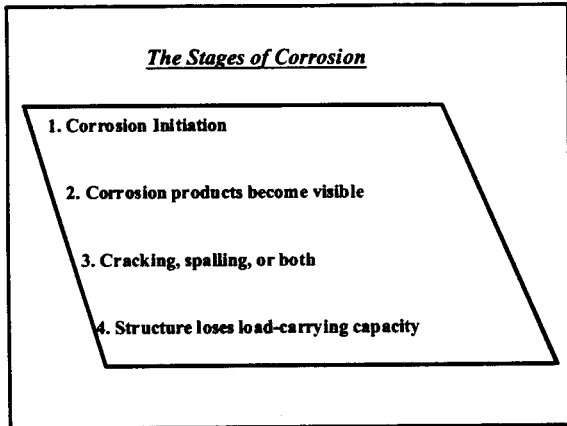
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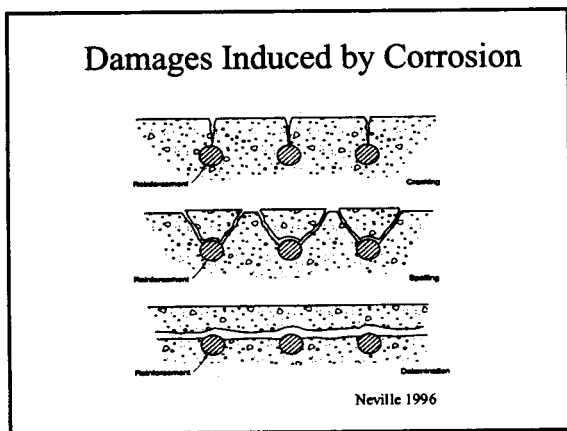
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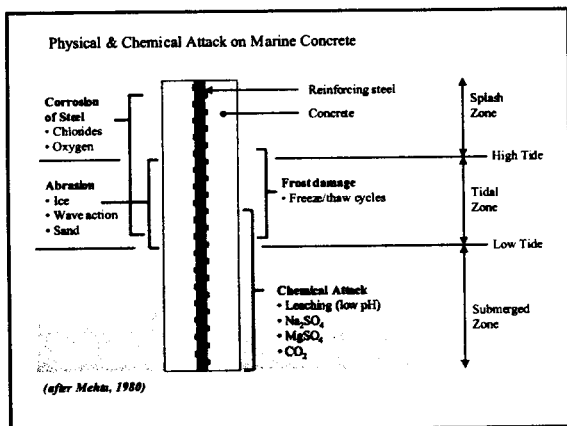
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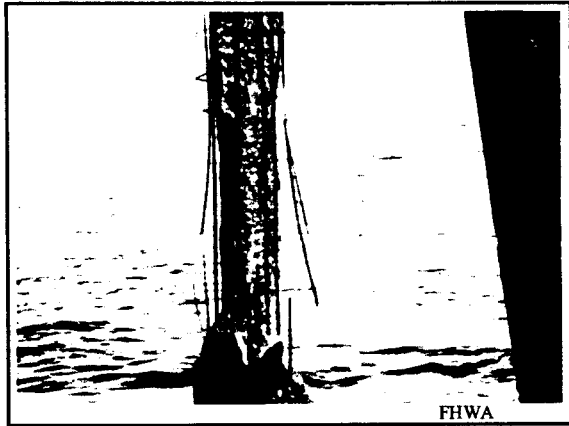
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**Corrosion Forms of Steel in Concrete**

- **Microcells**  
 Anodic and cathodic reactions are immediately adjacent  
 Uniform iron dissolution over the whole surface  
 Carbonation or very high chloride content at the rebars
- **Macrocells**  
 A net distinction between corroding areas of the rebar (anode) and non-corroding surfaces (cathode)  
 Chloride induced corrosion (pitting)  
 Generally small anode vs large cathode

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**Carbonation-induced corrosion**

- Not very common in most areas:  
 Chemical reactions  

$$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$$

$$\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$$
 Decreases pH of pore solution  
 Destabilizes passive layer of steel  
 Carbonation rate determined by the quality of concrete:  
     permeability and cement content  
 Cover thickness important  
 Environment: Temperature, wet-dry cycles, relative humidity  
     (middle values worst)  
 Microcell corrosion, cracking along rebars

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## Chloride-induced corrosion

- By far, the most common type of corrosion:
  - Sources of chlorides
    - De-icing salts
    - Accelerating admixture  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (popular until mid-1970s)
    - Seawater (contained in mixtures or contacting)
    - Brackish ground water
    - Aggregate (contaminated)
  - Ingress of chlorides
    - Transported with water
    - Diffusion of ions in water
    - Absorption
    - Released from bonded state (aggregate or hydration product)

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## Chloride-induced corrosion (cont'd)

- Attack mechanism
  - Mechanism of  $\text{Cl}^-$  breaking down passive layer not clear
  - Causes pitting
- Macrocell formation
  - Very prone in chloride-induced corrosion
  - Chlorides in concrete is hygroscopic (absorb and retain moisture)
  - Higher conductivity makes separation of anode and cathode possible

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## Understanding Corrosion of Steel in Concrete

- Corrosion may be modeled as three stages
  - **Initiation Stage**
    - Diffusion of  $\text{CO}_2$
    - Ingress of chlorides
    - Cracks
  - **Activation Stage**
    - Less clear cut phenomenon
    - Rebar network starts to corrode
    - Rust product formed
  - **Deterioration**
    - Cracking
    - Spalling

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## Service Life Prediction (Corrosion)

- Several service life models available for corrosion of reinforcing steel
- Life-365 has become the most popular model
  - A consensus-based tool that enables designers, owners, governmental agencies, etc. to model alternate corrosion protection design criteria on the basis of performance over a specified time-frame
  - Focuses mainly on initiation phase, makes some assumptions on subsequent processes
  - Developed by M. Thomas and E. Bentz, with input and funding from ACI, FHWA, NIST, PCA, and others
  - Used at UT for graduate level course to design Galveston Causeway for corrosion protection

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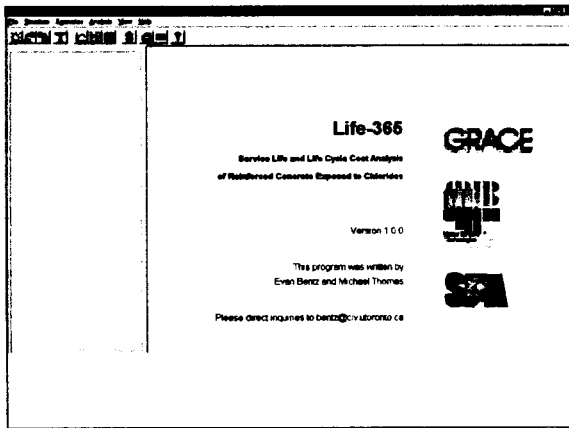
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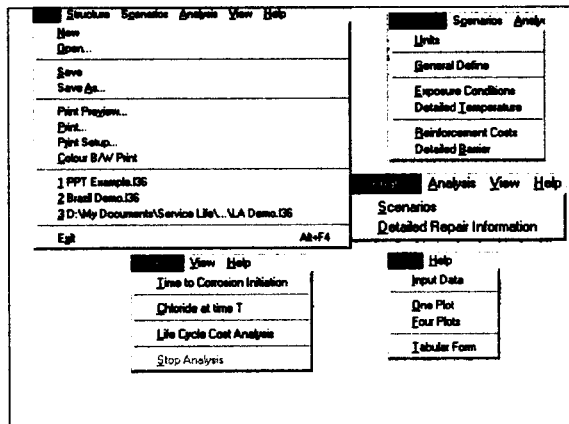
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Because corrosion is so prevalent, let's look at methods of evaluating, inspecting, and repairing reinforced concrete structures.

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### Corrosion Damage Evaluation

- Preliminary Survey
  - Inspection of damage
  - Assessment of structural integrity
  - Cracks, spalls, half-cell measurement, carbonation
- Detailed Survey
  - Accurate survey of extent and severity of deterioration
  - Full survey of repairs

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### Evaluation Techniques

- Visual Inspection
  - General use for surface defects (cracks and spalls)
  - Approximate speed about 11 ft<sup>2</sup> per second
  - Use of eye and brain, notebook, laptop, camera, card for crack width
  - SHRP expert system HWYCON (1994)



Broomfield 1997

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## Evaluation Techniques

- Hammer/Chain
  - Detection of potential spalling and delamination by hammer sounding and chain drag
  - General person can use it
  - Speed about 1 ft<sup>2</sup> per second
  - Usually quicker, cheaper and better than other alternatives such as radar, ultrasonics or infrared thermography



Broomfield 1997

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## Evaluation Techniques

- Cover Meter
  - Locate rebar, measure cover depth and rebar size
  - Approximately 1 reading in 5 min
  - Can be used on new and corroded structures
  - Difficult to use: slow and misled by congested rebars



[www.mg-assoc.co.uk](http://www.mg-assoc.co.uk)

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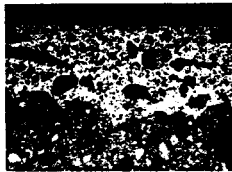
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## Evaluation Techniques

- Phenolphthalein
  - Measurement of carbonation depth
  - Solution turns red when pH > 9
  - Expose fresh concrete and spray with the indicator
  - Red color indicates that concrete is not carbonated
  - Test frequency and prevention of contamination are important
  - About 5 min. for one reading



[www.ampetrographic.com](http://www.ampetrographic.com)

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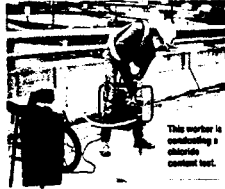
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## Evaluation Techniques

- Chloride Content

- Measure chloride ion content
- Coring/drilling to obtain samples at different depths
- Powdered samples dissolved in acid for analysis
- Determine chloride profile to estimate the ingress rate
- Can be performed in the lab or in the field (Quantab strips and specific ion electrodes)
- Field equipments expensive
- Total chloride (acid soluble) or free chloride content?



www.rhac.gov

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## Evaluation Techniques

- Half-Cell Potential

- Simple device
- Potential of the half cell: Fe in Fe<sup>2+</sup> solution
- It is a relative value (referenced to copper/copper sulfate, silver/silver chloride, Calomel, and Standard hydrogen electrode)
- ASTM C 867 criteria for corrosion of steel in concrete
- 350 mV to copper/copper sulfate is often quoted as indicating steel is usually corroding actively
- The fixed -350 mV value is questioned (Elsener 2002) because cover depth and concrete conductivity affecting the readings



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## Evaluation Techniques

- Half-Cell Potential Mapping

- Potential map for fuller understanding of corrosion condition
- Potential "contour lines" showing areas with high and low corrosion risks
- Steep gradient indicating greater risk of corrosion
- Note sign of the potential values



www.monosys.net

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## Evaluation Techniques

- Linear Polarization

- Measures the corrosion rate (how much steel is turning into rust and how much metal is being lost at given moment)
- Measures electric current generated by anodic reaction and can calculate mass loss using Faraday's law
- Polarization resistance  $R_p$  is obtained and used to rate the corrosion condition
- A slow process, requires 5-30 min depending on equipment



[www.leadstate.tamu.edu](http://www.leadstate.tamu.edu)

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## Evaluation Techniques

- Permeability and Absorption Tests

- Ease of ingress of chlorides, oxygen, water, and  $CO_2$
- Accurate values obtained under laboratory-controlled conditions
- Field measurement rates the permeability (using vacuum devices and water absorption kits)
- Rapid chloride permeability used in lab for lab-prepared or field samples



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## Other Evaluation Techniques

- Impact/Ultrasonics
  - Using wave propagation to locate cracks and estimate concrete quality
- Petrography
  - Determine w-c ratio, ASR potential and other problems
- Radar/Radiography
  - Non-destructive examination
  - Expensive equipment
- Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)
  - Complex
  - Laboratory studies

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## Mitigation/Prevention Strategies

- Corrosion is common in concrete structures
- Cannot completely stop the corrosion of steel in concrete, but we can slow it down substantially
- Can attack problem through selection of concrete materials, reinforcing steel, or active control systems (e.g., cathodic protection)

Let's look at some available options...

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## High-Quality Concrete

- $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  must reach the reinforcing steel to initiate corrosion
- Salts ingress through alternating wetting and drying
- Lower water-cement ratio and the use of SCMs decrease ingress of harmful entities and reduce ionic mobility inside concrete
- Concrete must be well-constructed and cured and be resistant to cracks (minimize crack widths as per ACI)
- Adequate cover thickness (not too much for a bridge deck or thermal and shrinkage protection from top mat will decrease)
- $\text{C}_3\text{A}$  helps to bind  $\text{Cl}^-$  by forming Friedel's salt - be careful when selecting cement!!

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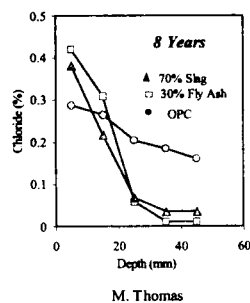
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## Use of SCMs to Control Corrosion

- Permeability of concrete (diffusion of  $\text{Cl}^-$  ions) significantly decreased
- 9% silica fume replacement reduced  $\text{Cl}^-$  diffusivity by a factor about 5 (Gjørsv et al. 1994)



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## Corrosion Inhibitor

- Definition
  - An admixture that will significantly delay the onset and/or rate of corrosion and, thus, extend the useful service life of reinforced and prestressed concrete structures
- Before mid-1970s, not used in large scale in concrete (Berke 1991)
- Mechanism
  - Most common form (calcium nitrite) works by increasing chloride threshold value
  - Forms a protective coating or competes with  $Cl^-$  ions by reaction of the solution with the corroding surface
  - A minimum concentration of the inhibitor to maintain the inhibiting surface film

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## Commercial Available Inhibitors

- Inorganic
  - Calcium nitrite - most common
  - Sodium nitrite
  - Alkaline Earth Silicate Co-Polymer
- Organic
  - Amines & Fatty Acid Esters
  - Amines & Proprietary Alkanolamines

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## Calcium Nitrite Inhibitor

- 30% calcium nitrite solution
- Anodic corrosion inhibitor - can increase chloride threshold value up to 15 pcy.
- Meets ASTM C494 Type C admixture requirements
- Recommended dosage of 1.0 to 6.0 gal/yd<sup>3</sup> (5 -30 L/m<sup>3</sup>)

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### Advantages and Disadvantages of Calcium Nitrite

- **Advantages**
  - Historical data
  - Effect with admixed chlorides
  - Can double as an accelerator in cold weather applications
  - Early concrete strengths are equal or better than reference mixes
  - Best if used in conjunction with SCMs
- **Disadvantages**
  - Accelerating effect (neutral set version also available)
  - Effectiveness in cracked concrete?

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### Amine / Ester Inhibitor

- **Advantages**
  - Film-forming and permeability reducing mechanism
  - Mixed inhibitor (anodic / cathodic)
  - Single dosage of 1.0 gal/yd<sup>3</sup> (5 L/m<sup>3</sup>)
  - Normal set product
  - Better corrosion inhibition in cracked concrete?
  - Sulfate resistance
- **Disadvantages**
  - May require increased dosage of air-entraining admixture
  - May experience some compressive strength loss (typically, 5-10%)
  - Cannot be used with admixed chlorides

FHWA

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### Corrosion-Resistant Alloys

- **Austenitic Stainless Steel**
  - Type 304 and 316
  - Nitronic 50
- **Duplex Stainless Steel**
  - Alloy 2205
  - Newer composite steels (MMFX, etc.)?
- Oregon DOT specs calls for use of stainless steel bar in corrosion critical areas
- Cost can be very high.
- Stainless-steel cladding becoming an option

Cramer et al. 2002

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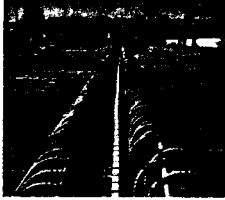
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## Epoxy-Coated Rebars

- First used in a four-lane bridge in America in 1973 as full scale application
- Incorporated into 100,000 structures in North America
- Over two million tons of epoxy-coated rebars
- Contradicting conclusions
  - Prolonged service lives
  - Bridges in Florida Keys constructed in the late 1970s deteriorated in 10 years
  - **Holidays** (holes in coating) may bring about corrosion



PennDOT I-95 Revive Project  
Nov. 2002 (Holidays?)

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### Epoxy-Coated Rebar *The Big Debate*

Mixed Lab Results..... Mixed Field Results

#### Potential Issues

- Nicks, scratches in coatings lead to accelerated corrosion (small anode + large cathode  $\Rightarrow$  Pitting corrosion)
- Not possible to monitor corrosion in the field (no electrical connectivity of rebar)
- Does epoxy soften and de-bond from steel?
- Some states have stopped using ECR (e.g., Virginia)
- Is epoxy coating thermodynamically unstable in concrete? (reported in recent studies)

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## Cathodic Protection

- Based on the fact -- cathodes does not corrode
  - Galvanized rebars
    - Zinc is the anode
    - No protection remains when zinc consumed
    - Not enough for long serve life requirement
  - Use of sacrificial anode system
    - Practical when included in construction
    - Expensive for repair and rehabilitation
  - Use of impressed current system
    - Expensive and extremely complex
    - Stray current may cause more corrosion and trigger ASR

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## Repair of Corroded Structures

- Condition Evaluation (discussed above)
- Corrosion Severity and Main Causes
- Repair and Rehabilitation
  - Remove concrete and prepare surfaces
    - Pneumatic machines
    - Hydrojetting
    - Milling machines
  - Repair materials
    - Material compatibility (incipient anodes)
    - Load transfer and structural safety
  - Additional measures
    - Coatings, sealers, membranes, and barriers
    - Encasement and overlay
    - Realkalization and desalination (extraction of chlorides)

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## Bridge Repair



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## Treatment of Carbonation

- Patch Repair
  - with an anti-carbonation coating afterwards
- Realkalization
  - Very little in US (Broomfield 1997)
  - Cheap and all surfaces treated
  - Using potential to drive hydroxide into concrete
  - Make sure no risk of ASR and hydrogen embrittlement to prestressing wires
- Corrosion Inhibitors
  - Penetration rate ?
  - Still experimental

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***Durable/High-Performance Concrete Structures Specifications***

*Kevin Pruski, P.E.  
Bridge Division*



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***Anatomy of HPC Bridge Project***

- Plans*
- Awarding Contract*
- Constructing Bridge*
- Time*



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***Plans***

- Quantities*
- Specifications*
- Contract Drawings*



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## *Quantities*

- ↻ *Non-Specific HPC Concrete Items*
- ↻ *Specific HPC Concrete Items*



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## *Specifications*

- ↻ *Standard Specifications*
  - > *Used for all Contracts*
  - > *Contractors know well*
- ↻ *Special HPC Specifications*
  - > *Used to address specific needs*
  - > *Contractors don't always read*



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## *Special Specifications*

- ↻ *Performance Based Specifications*
  - > *End result parameters for Contractor to achieve*
- ↻ *Prescriptive Based Specifications*
  - > *Specific requirements for Contractor to follow*



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### ***HPC Performance Specification***

- ☛ *Concrete Shall Meet the Following:*
  - *Minimum of 4,000 psi at 28 days*
  - *Maximum of 2,000 coulombs at 56 days*



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### ***HPC Prescriptive Specification***

- ☛ *Concrete Shall Contain the Following:*
  - *Maximum w/c ratio of 0.45*
  - *Minimum of 30% Class F fly ash*
  - *5% to 8% Entrained Air*



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### ***Contract Drawings***

- ☛ *Contractors become accustomed to the way things are commonly done*
- ☛ *Contractors prefer to bid and build what is shown on the plans*
- ☛ *Change from the norm should be clearly and consistently communicated in the contract*



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## *Awarding Contract*

- *Work is awarded based on low bid*
- *Low bid contractor may not be the best qualified*



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## *Constructing Bridge*

- *Contractor is responsible to do the work outlined in the plans in accordance with the specifications*
- *Owner is responsible to ensure that the work is performed in accordance with the plans and specifications*



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## *Time*

- *Contractor wants to finish the work with the least amount of his time expended*
- *Owner wants the work finished in a timely matter but most importantly wants the structure to last*



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## *History of Durable/HPC*



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### *Durable Concrete Progression*

#### *Concrete of Old*

- Well graded aggregates*
- Coarser Grind Cement (well graded)*
- Lower volume of paste*
- Construction time slower*
- Not always perfect*
- Mix Design 1-2-3*



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### *Durable Concrete Progression (cont)*

#### *Concrete of Late*

- Gap graded aggregates*
- Finer Grind Cement (faster setting)*
- Higher volume of paste*
- Construction time faster*
- Mix Designed to Meet Strength at Certain Time*



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***Texas CIP Slab Specifications***

Year	Concrete Class	f'c (psi)	Cement (Sk / CY)	Water (Gal / Sk)	W / C Ratio
2003	S	4000	no min	no max	0.45
1993	S	4000	6.5	5.0	0.44
1982	S	3600	6.0	5.0	0.44
1972	C	3600	6.0	6.0	0.53
1962	A	3000	5.0	6.5	0.58
1951	A	3000	5.0	7.0	0.62




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***Texas CIP Substructure Specifications***

Year	Concrete Class	f'c (psi)	Cement (Sk / CY)	Water (Gal / Sk)	W / C Ratio
2003	C	3600	no min	no max	0.45
1993	C	3600	6.5	6.0	0.53
1982	C	3600	6.0	6.0	0.53
1972	C	3600	6.0	6.0	0.53
1962	A	3000	5.0	6.5	0.58
1951	A	3000	5.0	7.0	0.62




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***Initial Texas HPC Projects***

- *Louetta Road Overpass in Houston*
- *North Concho River, US 87 & South Orient Railroad Overpass in San Angelo*

***SPONSORS***

- *Federal Highway Administration*
- *Texas Department of Transportation in cooperation with*
- *The University of Texas at Austin*




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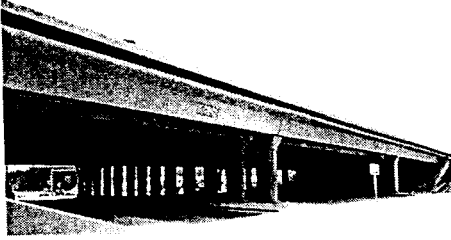
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*Louetta Road Overpass*



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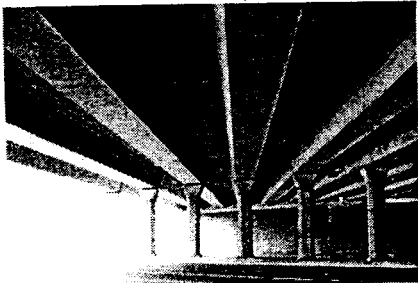
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*135' U-Beam Spans*



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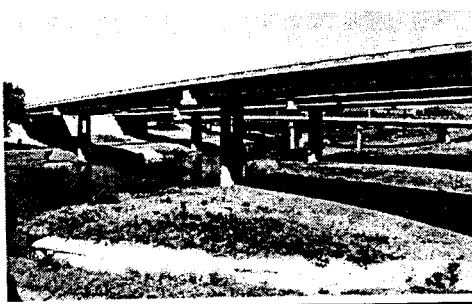
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*North Concho River Bridge*



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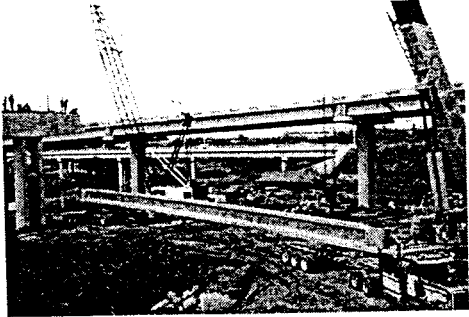
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### *157' Type IV Beam*



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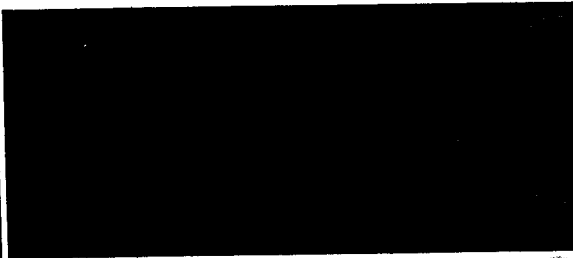
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### Summary of Projects



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### *What was Learned*

- *High strengths are attainable with local materials*
- *Longer spans are attainable but with increased complexity*
- *Wider beam spacings are a direct benefit to higher strength concrete*
- *Higher strengths do not necessary mean increased durability*

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*Current Use of HPC*



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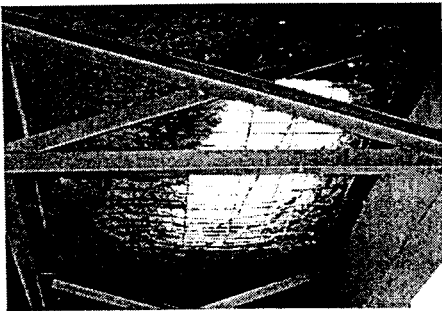
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*Bridge Deck Failure*



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*Substructure Deterioration*



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***Solution: Use High Performance Concrete***



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***How to Obtain HPC***

- *Specify It*
  - > *End Result Performance Specifications*
  - > *Knowledge Based Prescriptive Specifications*



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***Performance Specification***

- *Place Responsibility on the Contractor*
  - > *Set Criteria that must be met*
  - > *Have action plan if criteria is not met*



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## *Acceptance Criteria*

### *☛ AASHTO T277, Rapid Chloride Permeability Test*

- > Relatively new to Bridge Contractors*
- > Perceived variability makes enforcement difficult*
- > Uncertainty inflates bid prices*



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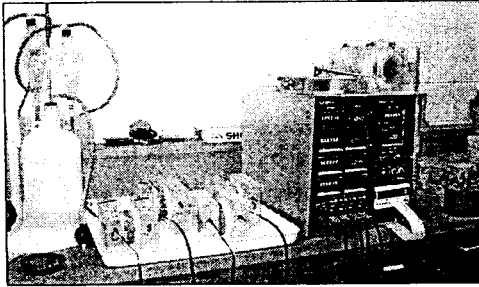
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*Rapid Chloride Permeability Test*



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## *Prescriptive Specification*

### *☛ Place Responsibility on the Owner*

- > Use knowledge that is available to achieve durable concrete*
- > Contractor knows exactly what is expected*



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## What Knowledge?

☞ *The use of Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCM) can Produce More Durable Concrete*

- Fly Ash
- Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag
- Silica Fume

☞ *Concrete Containing SCM*

- Less chloride intrusion (rebar corrosion)
- Mitigates alkali-silica aggregate reactivity
- Resistant to sulfate attack



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## Contractor Friendly

☞ *Contractor knows in advance what the concrete will cost*

☞ *Remove acceptance criteria that is unfamiliar to them*

☞ *Require Contractor to be familiar with concrete before construction begins*



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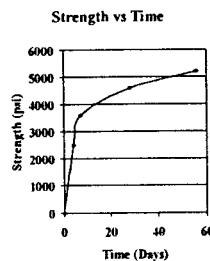
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## Contractor Education

☞ *Plot strength versus time curve of concrete at 4, 7, 28, and 56 days*

☞ *Shows contractor that the use of SCM can alter the early concrete strengths*



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**Field Examples**

- **Lubbock**
  - **HPC Special Provision to 421**
  - **Substructure - 30% Class F FA, 5% Silica Fume**
  - **Deck - 35% Class F Fly Ash**
  - **Strengths: no problem**
  - **Permeability results:**
    - Previous with no fly ash - > 4,000 coulombs*
    - Current with pozzolans < 2,000 coulombs*



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**Field Examples (cont.)**

- **Corpus Christi - PR 22**
  - **HPC Special Provision to 421**
  - **Prestressed Concrete Piling - 25% Class F FA, 8% Silica Fume**
  - **Deck - 35% Class F Fly Ash**
  - **Strengths were slow for prestress release**
    - Took 3 Mix Designs*
  - **Permeability results:**
    - Piling Concrete < 350 coulombs*



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**Change in Philosophy for HPC in Precast/Prestressed Concrete**

- **Use Performance Based Criteria**
  - **Allows fabricator to design mix that will optimize casting operation**
  - **Fabricators have more knowledge in concrete production**



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## *Future Use of HPC*



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## *Knowledge Base Grows*

- ↻ Test prescribed mix designs*
- ↻ Monitor performance of HPC*
- ↻ Concrete suppliers develop HPC mix designs for future use*
- ↻ Contractors become familiar with HPC*



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## *Options Increase*

- ↻ Specifications will have more options*
- ↻ Specifications will allow Contractor freedom to develop own mix designs and we verify*
- ↻ HPC becomes the Standard in Texas*



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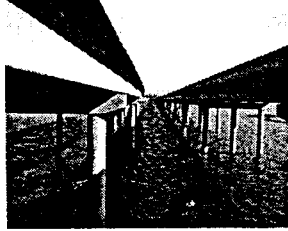
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*For Example*

- *Lake Ray Hubbard Bridge in Dallas*
- *Twin Structures*
- *One required the contractor use 35% GGBFS in Concrete*
- *Contractor Chose to Use GGBFS in Both Bridges at No Additional Cost*



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*Current Version of  
HPC Special  
Provision to 421*



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*Special Provision to 421*

- *High Performance Concrete*
  - *Include air*
  - *Include all ASR mitigation options*
  - *Include Type II Cement for sulfate resistance or allow options*
  - *Require the use of SCM*
  - *Give option to meet performance requirements*
  - *Precast concrete to meet performance requirements*
  - *Reduce w/c ratio*



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## **TxDOT Workshop**

### **Design of Durable Concrete**

*Session 10: Cracking and Effects on  
Concrete Durability*



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### **Outline of Presentation**

- Significance
- Types of Cracking
- Causes and Preventive Measures

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**Everything we've discussed the  
past two days is useless if we  
can't control cracking...**

**We must understand why  
concrete cracks and implement  
it both technically and  
practically.**

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## Primary Types of Cracking

- Plastic Shrinkage, Plastic Settlement
- Drying Shrinkage (including autogenous shrinkage)
- Thermal (from initial heat of hydration, ambient fluctuations thereafter)
- Structural (design loads, reflective, creep)
- Chemical (corrosion, ASR, sulfate attack, carbonation)

*The focus of this session will be on shrinkage cracking (plastic, autogenous, drying, thermal, etc.)*

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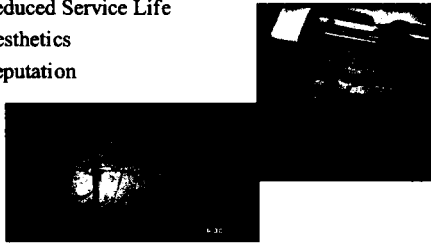
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## Negative Effects of Cracking

- Cost to Control, Repair, and Maintain
- Impact on Load Carrying Capacity
- Reduced Service Life
- Aesthetics
- Reputation



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## Causes and Preventive Measures for Cracks

“Find the cause, and the remedy will suggest itself !”

- Joe W. Kelly, 1963

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## Why Concrete Cracks ?

- Maximum Stress Rule
  - Stresses induced by physical/chemical factors (internal and external) exceed the strength of concrete at a certain age
- Maximum Strain Rule
  - Strains from volume change exceed the deformation capacity of concrete at a certain age
- More Complicated Fracture Mechanics Models
  - Not covered here

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## Types of Cracks

- Map Cracks (Pattern Cracks)
  - Restraint of surface layer by inner concrete or backing

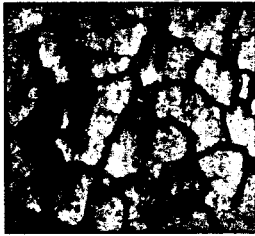
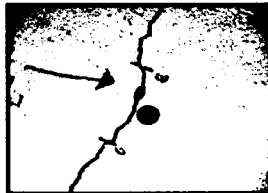


Photo: M. Thomas

### Single Continuous Cracks

- external restraints or rebars



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## Volume Change of Paste and Concrete

- Cement Paste
  - Shrinkage or swelling only restrained by crystalline hydration products
  - Shrinkage several times as much as concrete
- Concrete
  - Restrained internally by aggregates and rebar
    - Smaller shrinkage or swelling values
  - Restrained externally
    - Adjacent structures, foundation ...
    - May result in cracking

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## Plastic Shrinkage Cracking

- Plastic Shrinkage
  - Shrinkage of concrete due to the loss of water when cement paste is plastic
  - Occurs after cumulative evaporation exceeds cumulative bleeding and concrete goes into tension
- Plastic Shrinkage Cracking
  - Surface cracking due to plastic shrinkage
  - Three-dimensional
  - Usually expressed as linear strain
  - Cracks 1 to 3 ft apart and 1 to 2 inches deep



www.beaverconcrete.com

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## Influencing Factors

- Plastic Shrinkage
  - Higher cement content, higher plastic shrinkage
  - Lower water-cement ratio, higher plastic shrinkage
  - Relation with bleeding not straightforward
    - Retardation causes more bleeding and increased shrinkage
    - Greater bleeding capacity, less plastic shrinkage cracking

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## When Does Plastic Shrinkage Cracking Occur?

- Before the setting of cement paste (no deformation resistance)
- Exposed concrete surface drying out (capillary pressure increases)
- The contraction of paste restrained by aggregate or subgrade
- Paste can not accommodate the contraction and cracking happens

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## ACI Approach

“Plastic shrinkage cracking is frequently associated with hot weather concreting in arid climates. It occurs in exposed concrete, primarily in flatwork, but also in beams and footings and may develop in other climates whenever the evaporation rate is greater than the rate at which water rises to the surface to recently placed concrete by bleeding.”

– ACI 305R-91

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## Factors Affecting Evaporation Rate

- Driving Forces
  - Solar radiation
  - Vapor pressure difference
- Wind
  - Many approaches to determine wind speed
  - Even observations about nearby object
- Air Temperature
  - Avoid direct rays of sun during measurement
- Relative Humidity
- Concrete (Water) Temperature

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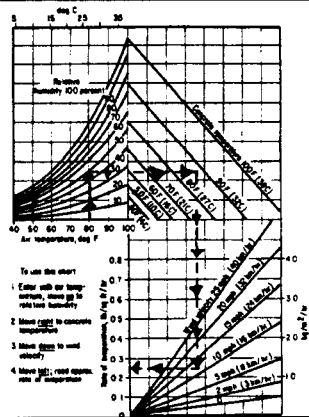
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- ACI nomograph for estimating rate of evaporation of surface moisture from concrete
- 0.2 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>/hr is the usually assumed to be threshold value




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### **Bleeding Rate and Capacity**

- Bleeding due to settlement of aggregate and cement particles
- Bleeding (of free water) may last 15 to 30 minutes at most and thereafter the rate diminishes (Powers 1968)
- Pore structure affects transport of water to surface
- Cement content, mineral admixtures affect available free water for bleeding
- No bleeding for concrete containing silica fume!

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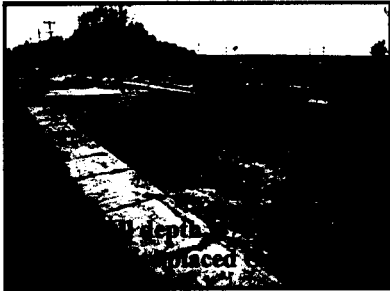
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### **What Can We do?**

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL CONCRETE DRIES!**



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### **Reducing Evaporation Rate**

- Erect windbreaks to slow down wind
- Shade surface of concrete from rays of sun
- Cool concrete in hot weather and avoid overheating in cold weather
- Reduce time between placing and start of curing
- Apply protective coverings
  - Sand, wet burlap, paper, or membrane curing compound
- Fog spray immediately after finishing
- Use of retarding admixtures be cautioned

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### **Increasing Bleeding Rate**

- Avoid excessive high cement content
- Avoid large amounts of fine aggregate (less absorptive surface areas)
- Water content as high as possible with good design practice
- Dampen dry and absorptive aggregates
- Moisten subgrades and forms before pouring
- OBVIOUSLY -- WE DON'T WANT TOO MUCH BLEEDING, JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP PROTECTIVE LAYER ON TOP...

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### **Increase Tensile Strength**

- Optimize materials and mixture proportions to win "early strength race"
- Use synthetic fibers (polypropylene, nylon, etc.) to increase early tensile strength and strain capacity. Typical dose is 0.5 to 1.5 pcy.

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### **Plastic Settlement Cracking**

- Caused by differential settlement of fresh concrete
  - Over large aggregate particles or rebar
  - Subsidence of subgrade
  - Movement of form work
- Proper compaction of subgrade
- Avoid excessive slump or mixtures prone to segregation
- Avoid excessive vibration of formwork or structure
- Can re-vibrate and heal many settlement cracks

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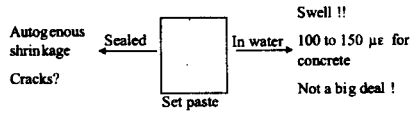
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## Autogenous shrinkage



- Autogenous shrinkage (self-desiccation, chemical shrinkage): no loss of water
- Happens in the interior of a concrete mass
- Considered alongside drying shrinkage
- Can add to tensile stresses from thermal contraction and drying shrinkage

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## Autogenous Shrinkage: A Problem ?

- Considered to be small in the past
  - In the order of 50 millionths
  - As part of drying shrinkage
- Not negligible now
  - Become significant with use of low w-c ratios, high-range water reducers, and silica fume
  - Increase with higher temp., higher cement content, higher fineness, and higher C<sub>3</sub>A and C<sub>4</sub>AF contents
  - A value of 700 millionths reported for concrete with a w-c ratio of 0.17

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## Drying Shrinkage

*Bryant Mather - Highway Research Board  
Committee, 1963*

“The reduction in concrete volume  
resulting from a loss of water  
from the concrete after hardening”

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### Magnitude and Timing of Drying Shrinkage

- Drying Shrinkage Magnitude:
  - Typical strains range from 400 to 800 millionths
- Drying Shrinkage Timing
  - 4-34% of ultimate --- 14 days
  - 40-80% of ultimate --- 90 days
  - 66 to 85% of ultimate --- 365 days

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### What Causes Drying Shrinkage?

- Drying Shrinkage is a complex phenomena involving several different mechanisms .
- Capillary action and surface tension of water are primary causes of shrinkage for internal humidities ranging from 40 to 100%.  
(which covers virtually all field concrete)

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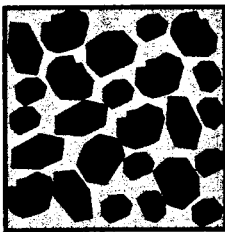
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### Why concrete shrinks..

*Even after hydration, concrete is a porous material*



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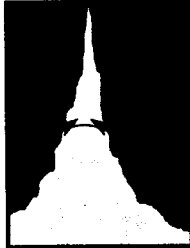
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### In detail..

- Pores lose water due to cement hydration and evaporation.
- As pores become less than fully saturated, meniscus forms at the air-water interface due to surface tension.
- The surface tension of pore solution which forms meniscus also exerts inward pulling force on the side walls of the pore.
- These forces in all pores in range of 2.5 to 50 nm is primary cause of shrinkage.



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### Drying Shrinkage

- Factors affecting shrinkage  
(In order of importance - approximately)
  - Aggregate to paste ratio
  - Stiffness of aggregate
  - Water content

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### Drying Shrinkage

- Factors affecting shrinkage  
(In order of importance - approximately)
  - Pore size distribution f(w/c, fineness, pozzolans, admixtures)
  - Aggregate absorption and shrinkage
  - Aggregate cleanliness
  - Cement chemistry and fineness
    - Type II < Type I < Type III

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## Drying Shrinkage

- Other factors affecting shrinkage
  - Placing temperature (mainly due to impact on water demand)
  - Curing temperature (high-temperature curing reduce drying shrinkage significantly)
  - Member volume to surface area ratio (more massive members shrink slower)
  - Maximum aggregate size
  - Environmental conditions
  - Air entraining may increase 5-10 %

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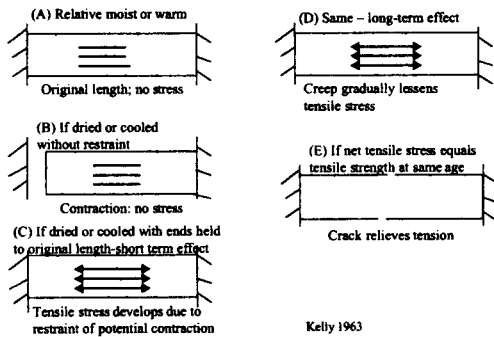
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## Drying Shrinkage Cracking



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## Curling

“Curling is caused by drying shrinkage and by negative moisture or temperature gradients across the thickness of the slab”

R. Yetterberg  
Concrete International

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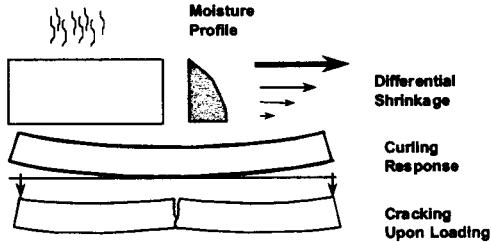
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### Curling Impact on Cracking

- Concrete slabs curl primarily due to differential moisture through the thickness, and the differing shrinkage response.



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### Curling

- In slabs on grade, curling is a major contributor to cracking - in many cases it is the predominant factor
- Stiffer subgrades will result in higher tendency to crack for a given amount of curling

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### Carbonation Shrinkage

- Shrinkage caused by carbonation reaction  
 $\text{Ca(OH)}_2 + \text{CO}_2 \Rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3$
- Affected by drying and carbonation sequence
- Carbonation is accompanied by drop in pH, as previously discussed.

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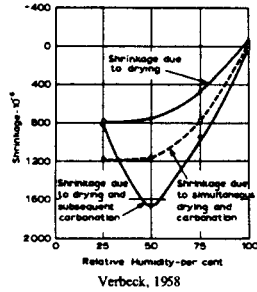
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## Drying and Carbonation Shrinkage

- The effect of carbonation shrinkage can not be ignored
- Carbonation most significant at medium relative humidity




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Let's consider a couple other ways to combat shrinkage cracking...

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## Shrinkage-Compensating Cement

- Early development was in Russia and France
- Formation of expansive ettringite at early age
- ASTM C 845 recognized three types
  - Type K  $C_4A_3S + C$  (only one available in US)
  - Type M  $CA + C_{12}A_7$
  - Type S Excess  $C_3A$
- **Restraint** required during the expansion
- Shrinkage-compensating cement shrinks like normal cement thereafter.

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## Shrinkage Reducing Admixture

- The inclusion of SRA into the mix design significantly reduces the surface tension of the pore water solution, leading to lower tensile force in pores, and less shrinkage.,,,
  - Thereby, reducing shrinkage by as much as 80% at 28 days.
  - And, reducing ultimate shrinkage on the order of 35% to 50%.

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## Research at UT on Shrinkage Cracking

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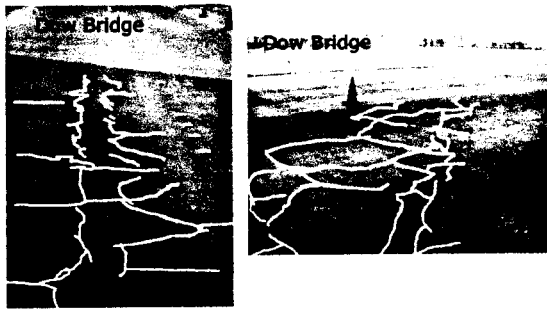
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## Bridge Deck Cracking in TX



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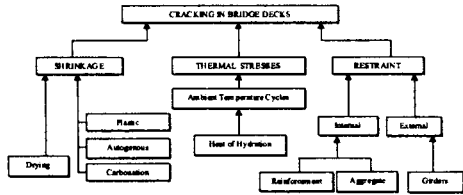
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## Shrinkage Cracking - TxDOT Projects 4098 and 4563



Flowchart by Mike Brown and Greg Sellers

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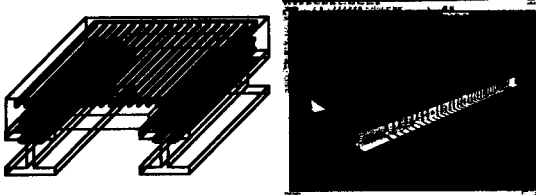
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## Shrinkage Cracking - TxDOT Project 4098

### Linking the Lab to the Field




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## Thermal Shrinkage

- Most solids expand on heating and contract on cooling (including concrete)
- Hydration of concrete is a heat-generating process
- Hydration kinetics of cement changes with cement composition and environment
- Shrinkage (contraction) matters because of the weak tensile strength of concrete
- Mass concrete
  - Massive dimensions (in the paste)
  - Any concrete member where thermal behavior may lead to cracking unless measures taken

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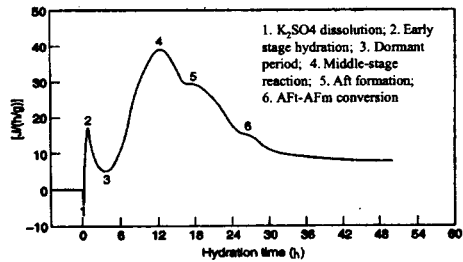
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### Hydration heat evolution of Portland Cement



Odler, 1998

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### Heats of Hydration of Portland Cement compounds

Unit: Cal/g

Compound	3 days	90 days	13 years
C <sub>3</sub> S	58	104	122
C <sub>2</sub> S	12	42	59
C <sub>3</sub> A	212	311	324
C <sub>4</sub> AF	69	98	102

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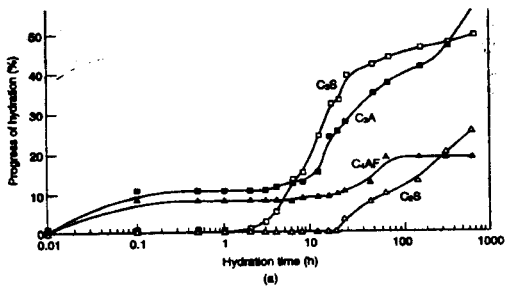
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### Consumption of Clinker Phases



Odler, 1998

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## Thermal Properties of Concrete

- Thermal Conductivity (K)
  - Ability to conduct heat as ratio of flux of heat to temperature gradient (1.4 to 3.6 J/m<sup>2</sup>C/m)
  - Crystallinity of rock increases conductivity (quartz > dolomite > limestone > granite > basalt)
- Specific Heat (C)
  - Ability to resist temperature change (840 to 1170 J/kg per C)
  - Increases with moisture content of concrete
- Thermal Diffusivity
  - Rate at which temperature changes within a mass (0.002 to 0.006 m<sup>2</sup>/h)
  - Defined as  $\delta = \frac{K}{c\rho}$  \_ is density of concrete

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## Coefficient of Thermal Expansion

- Depends on mixture proportions and materials (especially aggregate type)
- Neat cement paste may have a value of 19 x 10<sup>-6</sup> per C at the age of 2 years
- Aggregates have much smaller coefficients than that of cement paste
- Typical values of concrete with different aggregates: (x 10<sup>-6</sup> per C)
  - Gravel: 13.1
  - Granite: 9.5
  - Sandstone: 11.7
  - Limestone: 7.4

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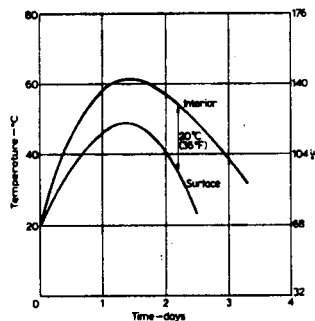
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## Temperature Profile in Concrete

- Hydration generates heat in concrete
- Temperature differences inside concrete may become excessive, especially for mass concrete (particularly after form removal)
- Temperature differences exceeding 35 F cause concern for cracking (topic of TxDOT 4563)




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## Thermal Cracking Mechanism

- Similar to drying shrinkage
- Complex phenomenon because creep of young concrete is very high
- Restraint includes:
  - Internal: portions of concrete that expand or contract less always restrain other concrete portions to expand or contract more
  - External
    - Concrete not standing alone (existing other structural elements)
    - Difficult to determine the degree of restraint

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## Thermal Shrinkage at Early Age

- Heat evolution and temperature rise are complex
- Higher temperature accelerates hydration and heat evolution
- Interior concrete has higher temperature than surface concrete
- Temperature-rising stage (surface in tension)
- Cooling stage (interior in tension)

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## What Can We Do?

### Reduce total heat and evolution rate

- Use less cement content (larger aggregate volume)
- Use of fly ash and slag
- Control of concrete temperature before placing (construction time)
- Avoid cement with high specific surface



### Understand thermal behavior of concrete

- Appropriate structural detailing of reinforcement
- Measures to cool interior concrete
- Keep temperature differences in concrete within 10 C (18 F) Neville, 1996

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## Thermal Stress in Hardened Concrete

- Temperature gradient easily formed in concrete structures
- Curling or warping could be formed in concrete pavement (different loading conditions other than considered in design)
- Temperature stress in concrete structure could be highly non-linear along the depth
- Combined with stress due to load, crack may happen
- Temperature shock (27 F) caused contraction were found to cause crack in concrete pavement in Germany
  - Cement with high alkalis
  - Cement with high specific surface area

Springenschmid et al. 1994

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## What If Concrete Cracks?

- More than 30 variables may be involved
- Durability of concrete jeopardized
  - Water penetrates more easily
    - Accelerates ASR, DEF, etc.
    - Facilitates corrosion
  - CO<sub>2</sub> and Cl<sup>-</sup> move in faster
    - Carbonation
    - Triggers corrosion
- Aesthetics -- public concern
- Repair costly

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## Minimizing Concrete Cracking

“In one respect, concrete is like a pet dog – it will take a lot of abuse and still serve faithfully. If concrete would fail whenever neglected or abused, we would certainly treat it with more respect and care.”

- Kelly, 1963

Nowadays, animal rights are protected!!

Our pet concrete needs more care, especially because it is more fragile with modern cements.

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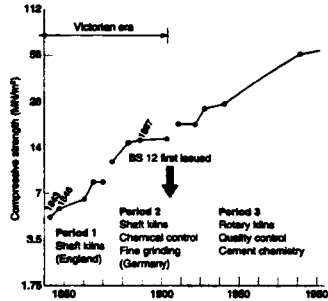
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## Evolution of Portland Cement

- Increased fineness
- Composition change (higher  $C_3S$ )
- Emission of particle matters more strict (more alkali sulfate in cement)
- Modern cement more prone to cracking




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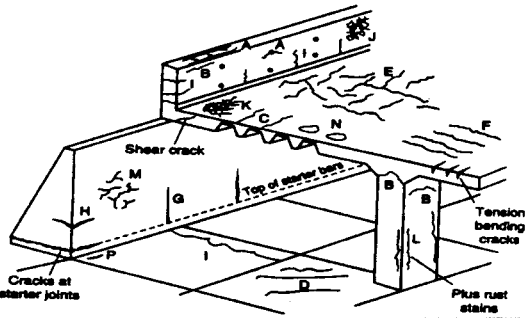
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## Cracking Diagnosis

- A TOUGH JOB!!




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## Cracking Causes and Remedy Neville (1996)

Cracking	Symbol	Subdivision	Common location	Primary cause	Secondary factors	Remedy	Time of appearance
Plastic settlement	A	Over reinforcement	Deep sections	Excess bleeding	Rapid early drying conditions	Reduce bleeding Or revibrate	10 min to 3 hour
	B	Arching	Top of columns				
	C	Change of depth	Trough and waffle slabs				
Plastic shrinkage	D	Diagonal	Pavement and slabs	Rapid early drying	Low rate of bleeding	Improve early curing	30 min To 6 hour
	E	Random	Reinforced concrete slabs	Rapid early drying or steel near surface			
	F	Over reinforcement	Reinforced concrete slabs				
Early thermal contraction	G	External restraint	Thick walls	Excess heat generation	Rapid cooling	Reduce Heat and/or insulate	1 day To 2 or 3 weeks
	H	Internal restraint	Thick slabs	Excess temperature gradients			

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### Cracking Causes and Remedy Neville (1996)

Cracking	Symbol	Subdivision	Common location	Primary cause	Secondary factors	Remedy	Time of appearance
Long-term drying shrinkage	I		Thin slabs and walls	Inefficient joints	Excess shrinkage Inefficient curing	Reduce water; Curing	Several weeks or months
Crazing	J	Against formwork	Walls	Impermeable formwork	Rich mixes poor curing	Improve curing & finishing	1 to 7 days
	K	Floated concrete	Slabs	Over-Trowelling	Poor quality concrete		Sometimes much later
Corrosion of reinforcement	L	Carbonation/chloride	Columns and beams	Inadequate cover		Eliminate causes	More than 2 years
Alkali-aggregate reaction	M		Damp locations	Reactive agg. Plus high alkali cement		Eliminate causes	More than 5 years
Blisters	N		Slabs	Trapped bleed water	Use of metal float	Eliminate causes	Upon touching
D-cracking	P		Free edge of slabs	Frost-damaged agg.		Reduce agg. size	More than 10 years

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### Recommendations

Keep in mind: Concrete May Crack!

- Mix Design
  - Optimize proportions (better aggregate gradation)
  - Use less cement and more SCMs
  - Consider special admixtures/cements in severe cases
- Restraint
  - Concrete contracts and expands
  - Provide contraction, expansion, and isolation joints at reasonable intervals

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### Recommendations

- Curing and Protection
  - Starting curing before surface sheen disappears
  - Temporary covering and fog spray at early ages
  - Avoid rapid and extreme drying
  - Proper use of curing compound
- Avoid extremes of temperature
  - Cool water or aggregate in hot weather
  - Avoid thermal shock when removing forms or curing blankets in cold weather

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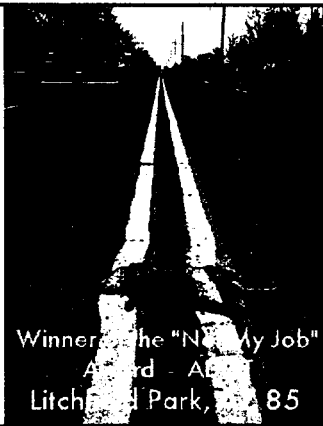
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**So  
Remember...**

**Design for  
Durability**

**But Don't  
Forget About  
Cracking**



Winner of the "No. 1 Job"  
Award - AEC  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85

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So You Spec'd HPC

Now what?

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What is HPC for TxDOT?

Concrete that is designed for special requirements

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Specialized Concrete

- Durability
- High Strength
- High Early Strength
- Self Consolidating
- Underwater Placements

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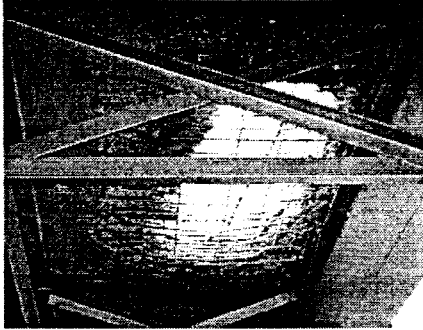
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“LPC”



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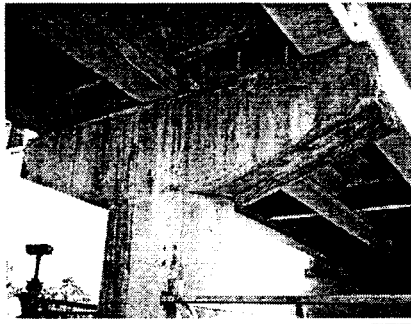
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“LPC”



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### Constructability Outline

- General Placement Issues
- Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCM's) - effect on construction
- Plastic Shrinkage Cracking/Water Demand
- Curing
- Form removal

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## Effect of SCM's on Construction

- General Placement Issues

- Fly Ash
- Silica Fume
- GGBF Slag

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## HPC Placement Issues

“Good Concrete Practice”

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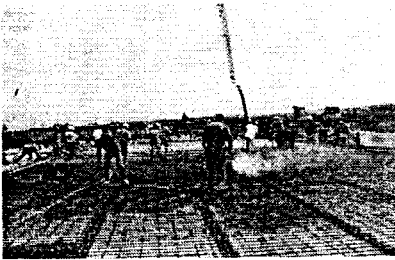
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## Pre-wetting Forms



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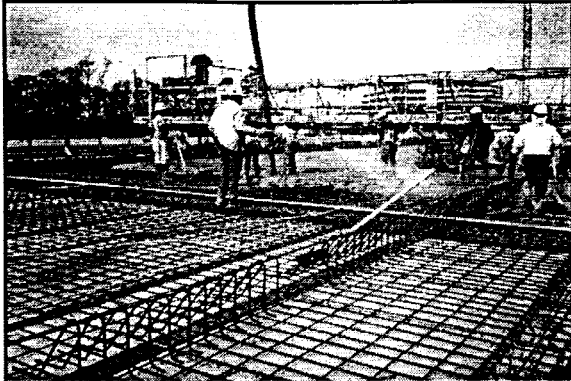
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Too much water?

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### Effect of SCM's on Construction

- General Placement Issues
- Fly Ash
- Silica Fume
- GGBF Slag

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### Types of Fly Ash

- Class C - Self-cementing properties  
produced from burning sub-bituminous coals  
(lignite)
- Class F - No self-cementing properties  
produced from burning bituminous coals  
(anthracite)

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### Type C flyash

- Delays set but does not affect initial strength gain
  - Strength and self cementing properties are gained via CaO.
    - CaO adds heat, but typically not as much as TY I/II cement.
    - Contains small amounts of  $C_3A$  that is not reported
- Not good for sulfate resistance

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### Type F Flyash

- Delays initial strength gain, does not interfere with set.
- Cold weather adds additional strength delay
- Does not add heat to concrete
- Strength is created via chemical reaction with by product of hydration CaOH. Does not possess self cementing properties.

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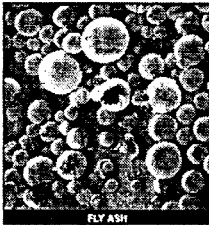
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### Improved Workability and Finishability

- Ball bearing effect
- Fineness



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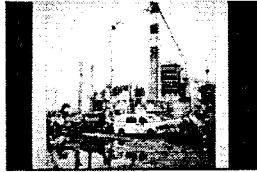
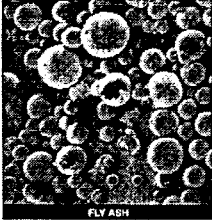
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## Improves Pumping

- Particle size and shape



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## Fly Ash Cautions

- Slower strength gain/delayed form removal
  - Temperature affects this significantly
- Carbon/Air Entraining interaction

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## Effect of SCM's on Construction

- General Placement Issues
- Fly Ash
- Silica Fume
- GGBF Slag

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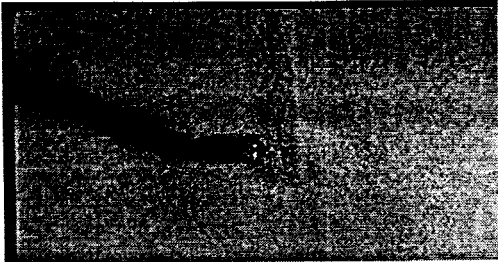
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## Silica Fume

Dry, Compacted



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## Silica Fume Facts

- A By-Product From The Production Of Silicon Metal Or Ferrosilicon Alloys.
- Consists Primarily of Silicon Dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ). Which consumes CaOH to form C-S-H.
- 100 Times Smaller Than Cement (0.1um).
  - "Micro-filler"
- Builds high strength, early strength

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## Silica Fume Facts

- Silica Fume Has More Surface Area Than Cement.
  - ✓ Greater Water Demand
  - ✓ More Cohesive
  - ✓ Less Prone To Segregation
- Slump 1" to 2" Higher Than Normal - may need to use Low/Mid range WR

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### **Silica Fume Cautions**

- More difficult to handle, “sticky” to finish
- More expensive than fly ash or GGBFS
- Mix well to avoid “balling”
- Little or no bleed water
- High Plastic Shrinkage Cracking Potential

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### **Finishing Practices**

- Conduct A Trial Placement.
- Use Of Vibratory Screed vs drum-type
- Silica Fume Concrete May Be Sticky.
- Fog, Fog, Fog, Fog, Fog, Surface a lot.
- Watch Evaporation Rates
- Golden Rule : Under Finish!

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### **Effect of SCM’s on Construction**

- General Placement Issues
- Fly Ash
- Silica Fume
- GGBF Slag

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## GGBFS



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## GGBFS Facts

- Formed when molten blast furnace slag is rapidly chilled
- Grades 80, 100, 120
- Has significant self-cementing properties  
=> Can be used at higher replacement levels
- Lowers heat of hydration
- May look "stained" initially but whitens upon oxidizing

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## Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag or GGBFS

- Delays initial strength gain
- Cold weather adds additional strength gain delay
- GGBFS cement replacement rates over 40% show an increased tendency to dry shrink crack.

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### GGBFS Cautions

- Increases initial set time
- Lower early strength
- Replacement rates over 40% can Dry Shrink Crack
- May be prone to scaling at higher dosages

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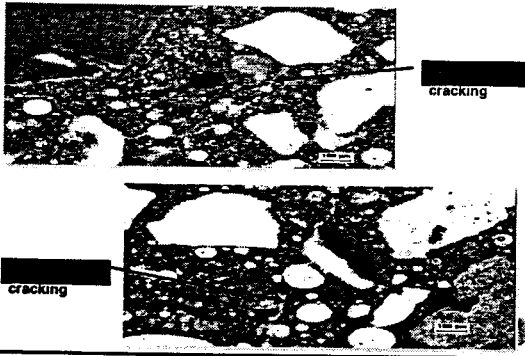
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### Micro-cracking - Concrete (50% Slag)



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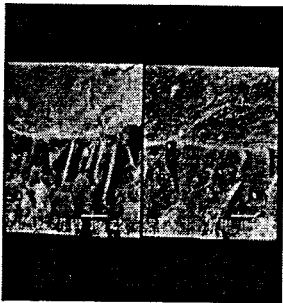
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### SCM Summary

- Each material contributes pozzolanically - more glue
- Differences in time of set and strength gain
- Each has different side effects/benefits



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Plastic Shrinkage & Water Demand

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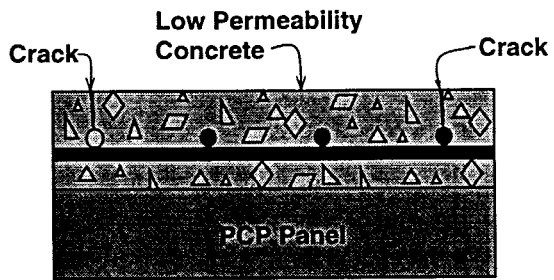
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HPC with Low Performance Results



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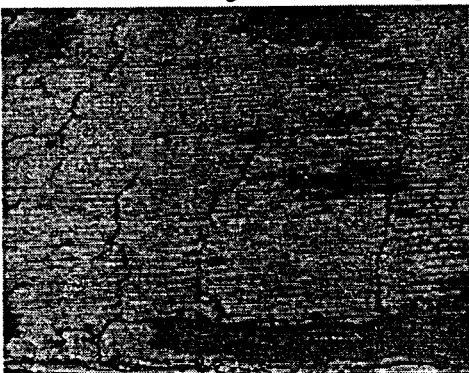
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Plastic Shrinkage/Check Cracking



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## Plastic Shrinkage Cracking

### PSC Control

- Erect Wind Breaks?
- Light Fog Spray.
- Evaporation Retardant.
- Cure Immediately After Finishing.

Cracking may begin at rates above  
0.10#/sf/hr and will begin at rates  
above 0.25 #/sf/hr.

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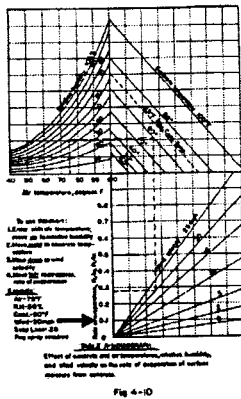
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From ACI & C-1  
Manuals

at 0.1, cracking  
may occur

at 0.25, cracking  
will occur

This chart is for  
"normal" concrete  
mixes with cement  
only




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Fogging: Yes

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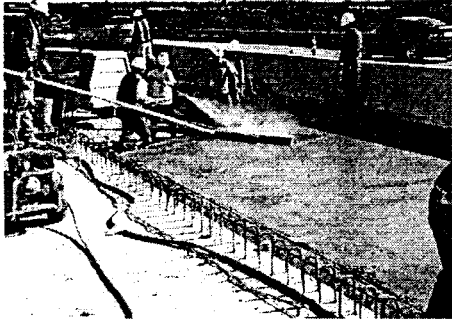
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Fogging: No



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### Evaporation Retarder

- CONFILM by MasterBuilders
- EUCOBAR by Euclid
- SIKAFILM by Sika
  
- Allowed for Concrete Pavement in Special Provision 360-029

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### Use of Evaporation Retarder

- Use after screeding (but before water sheen disappears)
- Is NOT a curing agent - must still cure properly
- No need to add "finishing water"
- Apply using hand-held sprayer

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### Curing requirements

- Bridge Decks with Type I cement require 8 days of wet curing, Decks with Type I/II or II cement, fly ash, or GGBFS require 10 days of wet curing.
- Once design strength is achieved the contractor can use deck but curing must be maintained for required period.

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### Objectives of Curing

- Stop the loss of water so hydration continues - does not add water
- Maintain favorable temperatures
- Why cure?
  - Stronger Concrete
  - Lower Permeability - Increase Durability

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### Curing Steps

- 1) Evaporation Retarder (if needed, not req'd in specs)
- 2) Interim Cure with Curing Compound  
180 sf/gal - apply after water sheen is gone
- 3) Final Water Cure - usually wet mats - apply as soon as you can walk on it.

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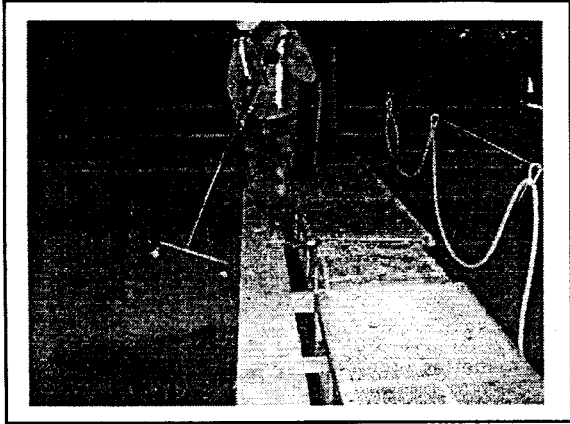
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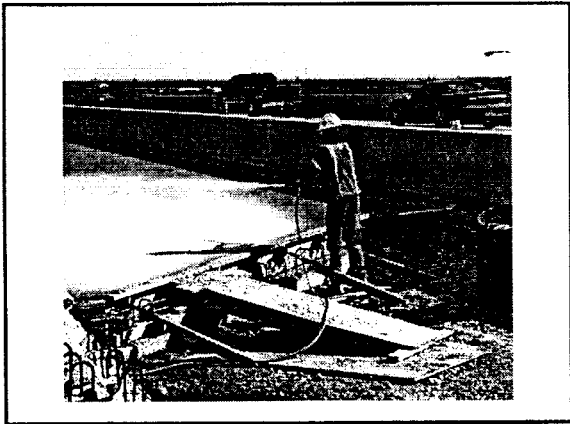
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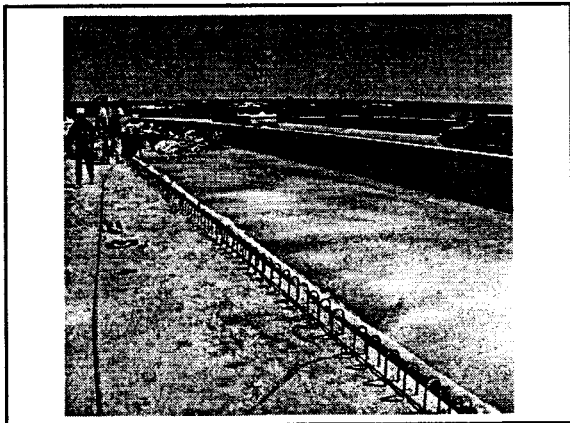
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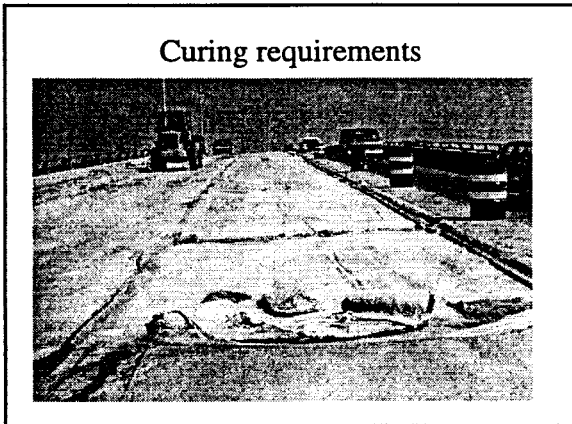
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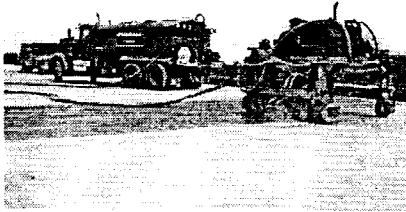
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## The future for deck finishing



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## Form removal

- New spec will reduce the strength requirement for weight supporting form removal.
  - But not loading.
  - Loading must be performed at design strength.
- So, forms will be able to be removed sooner but beam placement will not be allowed until design strength is achieved.

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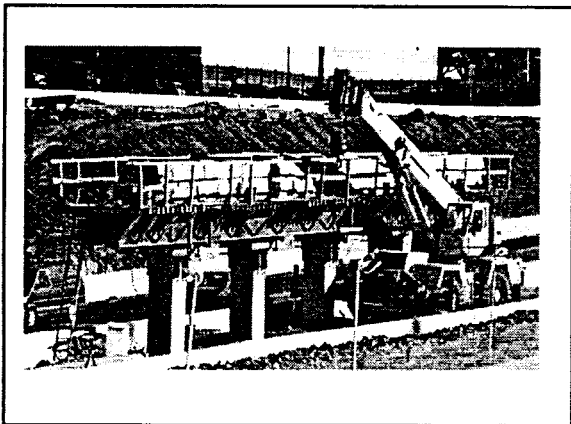
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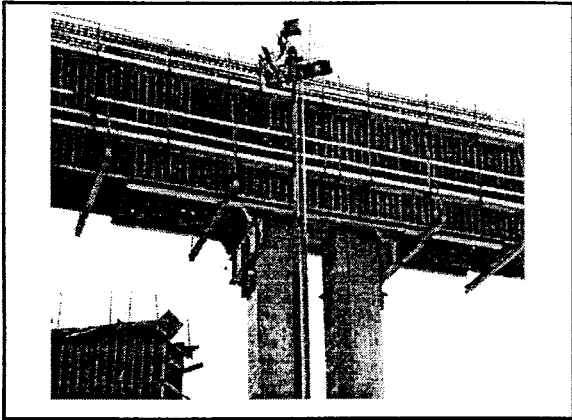
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All SCM's affect rate of placement .  
NCState developed formulas to help  
model lateral concrete pressure.

- Formula for Columns is as follows:
- $R_{\text{Columns}} = T \{ (P/C_w C_c - 150) / 9000 \}$ 
  - R = Rate of Placement
  - T = Temperature in °F
  - P = Maximum lateral concrete pressure
  - $C_c$  = Chemistry coefficient
  - $C_w$  = use 1.0 as indicated on the chart



If all variables remain constant  
except the chemical coefficient ( $C_c$ )  
then rate of placement changes are as  
follows:

- $P=1,400$  ;  $T=80^\circ\text{F}$ ;  $C_w=1.0$ ;  $C_c$ = as defined
- When  $C_c = 1.0$  ;  $R_{\text{columns}} = 11 \text{ ft/Hr}$
- When  $C_c = 1.2$  ;  $R_{\text{columns}} = 9 \text{ ft/Hr}$
- When  $C_c = 1.4$  ;  $R_{\text{columns}} = 7.5 \text{ ft/Hr}$

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