
Admixtures

- A material other than water, aggregates, cements, used as an ingredient of concrete or mortar added to the batch immediately before or during mixing.
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Classification

- Chemical admixtures
 - Water-reducing, retarding, accelerating, corrosion inhibitor, anti-freezing, etc
 - Mineral admixtures
 - Usually added to the concrete in large amounts
 - Fly ash, Blast furnace slag powder, Silica Fume
 - Strength index
 - For the purpose of presenting a detailed description of their composition, mechanism of action, and specifications, they may be grouped into the following 3 categories: (1) surface active chemicals, (2) set-controlling chemicals, (3) mineral admixtures .
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Surface active chemicals

- Mechanism of action
 - Air-entraining surfactants
 - The chemical formula consists of a non-polar hydrocarbon chain (water-repelling) with an anionic polar (water-attractive) (Fig.8a). Salt of wood resins.
 - And the mechanism of action is illustrated in Fig.8b.
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Water-reducing surfactants

- Fig.8-2a Three typical plasticizing surfactants
 - The anionic polar group is joined to a hydrocarbon chain which itself is polar or hydrophilic (water-attracting)
 - Several OH groups are present in a chain.

 - Water-phobic: water-dislike
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Water-reducing surfactants

- **When a small quantity of water is added to the cement, without the presence of surfactant**, a well dispersed system is not attained because, first, the water possesses high surface tension (hydrogen-bonded molecular structure: water surface area minimum), and second, **the cement particles tend to cluster together or form flocks** (attractive forces exists between positively and negatively charged edges, corners, and surfaces when crystalline minerals or compounds are finely ground).
Fig.8-2c



Cont.

- With this kind of surfactant, the cement particles are hydrophilic (water-attractive). **As a result of layers of water dipoles surrounding the hydrophilic cement particles, their fluctuation prevented and a well-dispersed system is obtained.**
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Applications

- Air-entraining admixtures
 - Resist freezing and thawing action
 - Improve workability
 - (make cement particles water-repelling)
 - Water-reducing admixtures (**Table 8-1 will be explained**)
 - Increase workability (consistency)
 - Higher compressive strength
 - Cement saving
 - The period of effectiveness of surfactants is rather limited
 - **Because the formation of ettringite engulf the surfactants.**
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Superplasticizers (high range water reducing admixtures) 20%-25%

- **They consist of long-chain, high-molecular-weight (20,000–30,000) anionic surfactants** with a large number of polar groups in the hydrocarbon chain.
- **When adsorbed on cement particles, the surfactant imparts a strong negative charge**, and helps to lower the surface tension of the surrounding water considerably and greatly enhances the fluidity of the system.
- Up to 1% by weight of cement
- Segregation is generally not encountered



- Water reduction in the range of 20-25% without reducing the consistency.
- Due to a greater rate of hydration in the well dispersion system (**Fig.8-3**), concretes containing super-plasticizers shows higher strength than reference concretes having the same W/C.
- High-early strength can be obtained – advantageous to concrete-product industry.
- Explanation about Table8-2.
- High water range reducing AE admixture
- **高性能AE減水剤 ポリカルボン酸系(立体障害)**
- **Poly-carboxylic acid**

Set controlling chemicals

- Chemicals that can retard or accelerate the setting time and rate of strength development.
 - Forsen divided retarders and accelerators into several groups. A modified version is shown in Fig.8-4.
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Mechanism

- A hydrating portland cement paste as being composed of certain anions (silicate ,aluminates and sulphates) and cations (calcium , sodium).
 - **Most chemical admixtures will ionize in water.**
 - **Due to their limited solubility,**
 - Thus they influence the dissolution of the cement compounds.
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- 1. **An accelerating admixture** must promote the dissolution of **the cations (Ca^{2+}) and anions (silicate ions)** from the cement, **especially silicate ions.**
 - 2. **A retarding admixture** must **impede the dissolution of the cations and anions, especially aluminate ions.** AlO_2^-
 - It is possible for the same salt to change its role and become an accelerator instead of a retarder.
 - It should be noted that CaCl_2 , 1 to 3 % by weight of cement, **was** most commonly used accelerator for plain concrete. (Fig.8-5 (a))
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- 3. the presence of cations (K^+ , Na^+) reduces the solubility of Ca^{2+} , but tends to promote the solubility of silicates
 - 4. the presence of certain anions (Cl^- , NO_3^- or SO_4^{2-}) reduces the solubility of silicates but tends to promote the solubility of Ca^{2+} .
 - In small concentration the former effect is dominant, but in large concentration latter effect becomes dominant.
 - The setting time is gradually increased when the amount of gypsum ($CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$) added. Because of low solubility.
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- Applications
 - Accelerating admixtures : useful in cold weather
 - Retarding admixtures :
 - Compensation for adverse ambient temperature conditions particularly in hot weather
 - Control of setting of large structural units to keep concrete workable throughout the entire placing period.
 - For the elimination of cold joints and discontinuities in large structural units.
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Mineral Admixtures

- Pozzolanic, cementitious, both pozzolanic and cementitious
 - In Table 8-6, summarization is shown.
Cementitious and pozzolanic, highly active pozzolans, normal pozzolans, weak pozzolans
 - Low-calcium FA, granulated iron blast-furnace slag, high-calcium FA
 - Natural materials, and By-product materials
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Natural materials

- The **quick cooling** of the magma, composed mainly **alumino-silicates**, results in the formation of glass phases of disordered structure.
 - Volcanic glasses
 - Santorini earth of Greece, Bacoli Pozzolan of Italy, Shirasu pozzolan of Japan (**now, Prof. Takewaka, Kagoshima Univ. is serious.**)
 - Volcanic tuffs (凝灰岩類)
 - Calcined clays or shales, Diatomaceous earth (ケイソウ土)
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By-product materials

- **Ashes** from combustion of coal and some crop residues, **volatilized silica** from certain metallurgical operations, and **granulated slag** from both ferrous and non-ferrous metal industries are the major industrial by-products that are suitable for use as mineral admixtures in portland cement industry.
 - BFS,FA,SF , rice husk ash, bagasse ash etc.
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Fly ash

- During combustion of **powdered coal** in modern power plants, most mineral impurities such as clays, quartz, and feldspar will melt at the high temperature.
 - The fused matter is **quickly** transported to lower temperature zones, where it solidifies as spherical particles of glass.
 - Some of the mineral matter **agglomerates forming bottom ash**, but most of it flies out with the flue gas stream and called fly ash. This ash is substantially removed **from the gas by electro-static precipitators** .
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Two categories:

- Containing **less than** 10% CaO Class F (mostly in Japan)
 - Containing **more than** 10% CaO, Class C (Mae Moh)
 - Class F
 - The low-calcium fly ashes, due to the high proportions of silica and aluminum, consist principally of aluminosilicate **glasses**.
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- Class C
 - The high-calcium fly ashes are in general **more reactive** because they contain most of the Ca in the form of reactive crystalline compounds (C3A, or CaOSO₃, etc)., also contain enough Ca ions to enhance the reactivity of the aluminosilicate glasses.
 - **High carbon content** is no good. (why? 何故でしよう?)
 - Solid spheres of glasses, cenospheres (completely empty), plerospheres (packed with small spheres)
 - Particle size is from $<1 \mu\text{m}$ - $100 \mu\text{m}$, with more than 50% under $20 \mu\text{m}$.
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- Low-calcium fly ash, which usually does not contribute to the strength of portland cement concrete until after about 4 weeks of hydration.
 - High-calcium fly ash or BFS may become apparent **as early as 7 days (strength)**.
 - **Also in higher temperature, they can perform much better. (advantages in hot countries.)**
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Blast-furnace slag

- In the production of cast-iron, the liquid slag is **rapidly** quenched from a high temperature by either water or a combination of air and water, most of the lime, magnesia, silica, and alumina are held in non-crystalline or glassy state..
 - The **water quenched product is called granulated slag** due to the sand-size particles, while the slag quenched by air and a limited amount of water which is in the form of pellet is called **palletized slag**.
 - Both products develop satisfactory **cementitious properties**.
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- The glass chilled from a higher temperature and at a faster rate, will be more reactive.
 - Slag particles less than $10 \mu\text{m}$: contribute early strength up to 28 days
 - 10 to $45 \mu\text{m}$: contribute to later strength
under $45 \mu\text{m}$: $5000\text{cm}^2/\text{g}$
 - larger than $45 \mu\text{m}$: difficult to hydrate .
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Condensed silica fume (Silica Fume)

- By-product of induction arc furnaces in the silicon metal and ferrosilicon alloy industries.
 - Reduction of quartz to silica at temperature **up to 2000°C produces SiO₂ vapors**, which oxidize and condense in the low temperature zone to tiny spherical particles consisting of noncrystalline silica.
 - The order of 0.1 μm (2 orders of magnitude difference) 20-25m²/g 200,000cm²/g
 - Highly pozzolanic
 - **Difficult to handle** so necessary to use water-reducing admixture
 - Over 90% noncrystalline silica (JSCE standard)
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Rice husk ash

- Rice husks are the shells produced during the dehusking operation of paddy(もみ)rice.
 - **Each ton** of paddy rice produces about 200kg of husks, which on combustion yield 40kg of ash.
 - Industrially produced samples of this material showed 50 to 60 m²/g (500,000-600,000cm²/g) surface area by **nitrogen adsorption.**)
 - To keep the burning temperature just below 700 is very difficult. **Is there anyone who knows?**
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Applications

- Improvement in workability
 - When fresh concrete mixtures that show a tendency to bleed or segregate, it is well known that incorporation of finely divided particles generally improves workability **by reducing the size and volume of voids.**
 - Fly ash (**spherical particles and glassy texture**) make it possible to **reduce the amount of water** required for a given consistency. BFS may make.
 - The use of very high surface materials , silica fume and rice husk ash, **tends to increase the water requirement .**
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Durability to thermal cracking

- The use of mineral admixture offers the possibility of **reducing the temperature rise** almost in a direct proportion to the amount of portland cement replaced by the mixture.
 - Because under normal conditions, these admixtures do not react to a significant degree for several days.
 - Portland cement replacement by fly ash has been practiced in the USA as well as in Japan.
 - **Whereas high temperature exposures can be harmful to portland cement concrete, concrete containing mineral admixtures may benefit from thermal activation.**
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Durability to chemical attacks

- Since the pozzolanic reaction involving mineral admixtures is **capable of pore refinement**, which reduces the permeability of concrete, both field and lab studies have shown considerable improvement in the chemical durability. **10times or less**
- 40-65% BFS, 30-40% low-calcium FA, 10%SF have been found to be quite effective **in limiting AAR**.
- Mineral admixtures improves the resistance to acid water, sulfate water and sea water.
- **Reduction in permeability as well as a reduction in the calcium hydrate content.**
- **If and only if there is sufficient curing.(very difficult in practice:これが大問題)**

Production of high-strength concrete

- Industrial applications of 70-80Mpa compressive strength concrete containing SF and water-reducing admixtures are reported (Japan: first by Takenaka Co.)
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Concluding remarks

- Most of the problems lie in the **incompatibility** between a particular admixtures and a cement composition and etc.. (there are many impurities. どちらにもいろいろな不純物)
 - It is **highly recommended** to carry out laboratory tests involving field materials and conditions before actual use of admixtures in concrete construction.
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