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Kinetics and Mechanism of Hydration between Active Silica and Lime-bearing Products

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Abstract

The short- and long- term mechanical properties of high-performance concrete could be improved by the incorporation of different levels of rice-husk-ash (RHA) or silica fume (SF). The improvement was based on the pozzolanic interaction of RHA with the free calcium hydroxide liberated from Portland cement hydration leading to the formation of additional amounts calcium silicate hydrates (CSH) which have a strong hydraulic (strength-producing) character. Therefore, the main characteristics of hydration interaction between lime-rich sludge (LRS) and rice-husk-ash (RHA) were investigated in this study. Three LRS/RHA mixes (I, II and III) were used, having CaO/SiO_2 molar ratios of 1.0, 1.3 and 1.5.

The results obtained indicated that the main hydration products during the early and intermediate stages are lime- rich CSH; these hydrates undergo transformation into low- lime hydrates in mixes I & II which have relatively low CaO/SiO_2 molar ratios (1&1.3). While in mix III, which has a higher CaO/SiO_2 molar ratio (1.5), the lime-rich CSH represent the main hydration products at all ages of hydration up to 28 days. It was found that the hydration mechanism between RHA and LRS consists of three main stages; these are: pre-dormant stage, dormant stage and acceleration stage.

LIST OF APPREVIATIONS

- (LRS): Lime Rich Sludge
- (RHA): Rice Husk Ash
- (FA): Fly Ash
- (SF): Silica Fume
- (C-S-H): Calcium Silicate Hydrate
- (OPC): Ordinary Portland Cement
- (DSC): Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- (XRD): X-Ray Diffraction
- (HPC): High Performance Concrete
- (BFS): Blast Furnace Slag

CONTENTS

Subject	Page No.
• Chapter I:	
Introduction and Object of Investigation.....	1
I.A. Introduction.....	1
I.B. Object of Investigation.....	26
• Chapter II:	
Materials and Methods of Investigation	27
II.A. Materials and Mix Composition.....	27
II.A.1. Starting materials.....	27
II.A.2. Preparation of mixtures.....	28
II.B. Methods of Investigation.....	29
II.B.1. Hydration Kinetics.....	29
a. Determination of non-evaporable chemically-combined) water content.....	29
b. Determination of the free lime content.....	30
c. Determination of the free silica content.....	31
II.B.2. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).....	31
II.B.3. X-ray diffraction analysis.....	32
• Chapter III:	
Results and Discussion.....	34
III.A. Hydration Kinetics and Mechanism.....	35

CONTENTS

Subject	Page No.
III.A.1. Kinetics and mechanism of hydration of Mix I.....	35
III.A.2. Kinetics and mechanism of hydration of Mix II.....	42
III.A.3. Kinetics and mechanism of hydration of Mix III.....	49
III.B. Phase Composition of the Formed Hydrates.....	57
III.B.1. Differential scanning calorimetry.....	57
III.B.2. X-ray diffraction analysis.....	69
• Chapter IV:	
Summary and Conclusion.....	81
• References.....	84
• Arabic Summery	_____

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (1):	Chemical oxide composition of starting materials.....	28
Table (2):	Hydration characteristics of lime rich sludge (LRS)–rice husk ash (RHA) blend of Mix I in the suspension form (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1).....	38
Table (3):	Variation of the molar CaO/SiO_2 (C/S) and $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{SiO}_2$ (H/S) ratios with age of hydration for hydrated LRS-RHA blend of Mix I in the suspension form (molar CaO/SiO_2 =1).....	40
Table (4):	Hydration characteristics of lime rich sludge (LRS) -rice husk ash (RHA) blend of Mix II in the suspension form (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1.3).....	45

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (5):	Variation of the molar CaO/SiO_2 (C/S) and $\text{H}_2\text{O/SiO}_2$ (H/S) ratios with age of hydration for hydrated LRS-RHA blend of Mix II in the suspension form (molar $\text{CaO / SiO}_2=1.3$).....	47
Table (6):	Hydration characteristics of lime rich sludge (LRS) -rice husk ash (RHA) blend of Mix III in the suspension form (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1.5).....	53
Table (7):	Variation of the molar CaO/SiO_2 (C/S) and $\text{H}_2\text{O/SiO}_2$ (H/S) ratios with age of hydration for hydrated LRS-RHA blend of Mix III in the suspension form (molar $\text{CaO / SiO}_2=1.5$).....	55

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (1):	Variation of combined water (W_n^* , %), free lime (CaO, %) and free silica (SiO_2 , %) contents with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix I (molar CaO/ SiO_2 ratio=1).....	39
Figure (2):	Variation of the molar CaO/ SiO_2 (C/S) and H_2O/SiO_2 (H/S) ratios of the formed calcium silicate hydrates with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix I (molar CaO/ SiO_2 ratio=1).....	41
Figure (3):	Variation of combined water (W_n^* , %), free lime (CaO, %) and free silica (SiO_2 , %) contents with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix II (molar CaO/ SiO_2 ratio=1.3).....	46

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (4):	Variation of the molar CaO/SiO_2 (C/S) and $\text{H}_2\text{O/SiO}_2$ (H/S) ratios of the formed calcium silicate hydrates with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix II (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1.3).....	48
Figure (5):	Variation of combined water (W^*_n , %), free lime (CaO , %) and free silica (SiO_2 , %) contents with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix III (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1.5).....	54
Figure (6):	Variation of the molar CaO/SiO_2 (C/S) and $\text{H}_2\text{O/SiO}_2$ (H/S) ratios of the formed calcium silicate hydrates with age of hydration in the suspension form for LRS-RHA blend of Mix III (molar CaO/SiO_2 ratio=1.5).....	56

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (7):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 0.5 hour of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	61
Figure (8):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 6 hours of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	62
Figure (9):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 3 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	63
Figure (10):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 28 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	64
Figure (11):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 0.5 hour of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	65

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (12):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 6 hours of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	66
Figure (13):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 3 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	67
Figure (14):	DSC thermograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 28 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	68
Figure (15):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 0.5 hour of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	71
Figure(16):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 6 hours of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	72

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure(17):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 3 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	73
Figure(18):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 28 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1).....	74
Figure (19):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after (0.5, 6 hours, 3and 28 days) of hydration in the suspension form (Mix I: molar CaO/SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	75
Figure (20):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 0.5 hour of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	76

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (21):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 6 hours of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	77
Figure (22):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 3 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	78
Figure (23):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after 28 days of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/ SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	79
Figure(24):	XRD-diffractograms of hydrated LRS-RHA sample after (0.5, 6 hours, 3and 28 days) of hydration in the suspension form (Mix III: molar CaO/SiO ₂ ratio=1.5).....	80