

# Durability Characteristics of Reinforced Concrete Subjected To Synthetic Acid Rain

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## Abstract

Long-term exposure tests to simulated acid rain were conducted in order to determine the effect of acid rain on reinforced concrete deterioration. The tests were carried out on concrete specimens of 150 mm in width, 150 mm in thickness, and 150 mm in length. After the specified amount of rain had fallen, those were evaluated physically and chemically. Finally, the specimens received a total rainfall of 9000mm. The eroded depth of the specimen exhibits a good linear relationship to total rainfall under simulated acid rain with varied pH, according to the test results. Under simulated acid rains with pH 3.0 and 2.5, the surface erosion rates of reinforced concrete specimens with an ordinary mix proportion were roughly 1.2 and three times higher than those under pH 5.6, respectively. It was further confirmed that, even after a total rainfall of 9000mm, the flexural strength of the specimens with an ordinary mix fraction rarely changed under low pH simulated acid rain.

**Key words:** concrete, deterioration, simulated acid rain, exposure test, reinforced concrete

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete structures as infrastructures are prone to losing performance over time as a result of the environmental conditions to which they are subjected. Salt injury to reinforced concrete (RC) structures, freezing and thawing damage in cold climate zones, carbonation owing to carbon dioxide, chemical attack by acid solution, and so on are all examples of deterioration phenomena. Acid rain is another element that causes concrete structures to deteriorate, however it is thought to have a minor influence. In the past, the acceleration approach relating to each event was typically utilised to understand the process and estimate the deteriorating effects. As a result of salt injury, freezing and thawing, and carbonation, the deterioration of concrete over time might be calculated in a quantitative manner. Following that, the impacts of the combined action of such occurrences should be understood in light of natural environmental circumstances; hence, acid rain should be investigated separately. Long-term exposure tests to simulated acid rain were carried out in the study, and the results, which were acquired from both physical testing of the specimens and chemical analyses of the hardened cement paste, were reviewed to elucidate the impacts of acid rain on concrete structure deterioration.

The fast expansion of contemporary industry, along with the widespread use of fossil fuel energy, has exacerbated the problem of environmental pollution and harmed the ecosystem. Specifically, contamination from acid rain. Acid rain is an acidic wet sediment created by SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> in the air. It is mostly caused by precipitation in the form of rain and snow with a pH value less than 5.65. SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> do not occur naturally in the environment, but when civilization develops too quickly, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide generated throughout the process reach the atmosphere, where they are chemically transformed into secondary pollutants sulfuric acid and nitric acid, resulting in acid rain. [1] Acid rain pollution, which causes varying degrees of corrosion of steel bars and concrete damage, affects reinforced concrete structural beams, which are used in a variety of applications. Freeze-thaw cycles, concrete corrosion, reinforcement corrosion, and alkali aggregate reaction are some of the challenges with reinforced concrete composite beam constructions utilised in engineering. [2]. If the corrosion time is too lengthy, the reinforced concrete structure beams will be corroded for a long period by acid rain and other factors, reducing the dependability of the reinforced concrete structure's function and perhaps causing safety issues.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Longxin Gao 1, Yong Lai 2, Mohammad Rashadul Islam Pramanic 1 and Wuman Zhang  
“Deterioration of Portland Cement Pervious Concrete in Sponge Cities Subjected to Acid Rain”  
The degradation of Portland cement pervious concrete (PCPC) exposed to wet-dry cycles in a simulated acid rain

solution was explored; 4 percent silica fume (SF) and 8 percent fine aggregate (FAG) were employed to replace part of the cement and coarse aggregates (weight by weight). PCPC was evaluated for wear resistance, compressive strength, and flexural strength. The compressive and flexural strengths of control PCPC were reduced by 30.7 percent and 40.8 percent after 12 wet-dry cycles in acid rain solution, respectively. PCPC with 4% SF and PCPC with 8% FAG have final compressive strengths of 6.9% and 30.3 percent, respectively, and final flexural strengths of 25.4 percent and 72.3 percent. When 4 percent SF and 8 percent FAG are introduced to PCPC, respectively, wear loss is reduced by 58.8% and 81.9 percent. We also talk about the microstructures of PCPC after wet-dry cycles.

**X. Chena, V. Achala,b** “**Effect of simulated acid rain on the stability of calcium carbonate immobilized by microbial carbonate precipitation**” Under acid rain, the durability of carbonate compounds resulting from microbial induced carbonate precipitation (MICP) is questioned. The stability of CaCO<sub>3</sub> precipitated by MICP in soil under simulated acid rain was studied in this work (SAR). For two months, soils were continually treated with four SAR pH levels: 3.5, 4.5, 5.5, and 7.0. To assure CaCO<sub>3</sub> precipitation during SAR, bio stimulation with nutritional broth containing urea and calcium chloride was used. Soil samples from the top and bottom layers were analysed for bacterial diversity using Illumine MiSeq sequencing, Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy for identification of chemical functional groups related to calcite precipitation, and X-ray diffraction (XRD) for identification of the main crystalline phases at the end of the treatments. Several ureolytic bacteria were discovered throughout the investigation, mostly from Bio stimulation increased *Arthrobacter* and *Sporosarcina* species in SAR-treated soils, and urease concentrations more than 300 mg NH<sub>4</sub> per kg soil were found at all pH levels. Even when the pH was as low as 3.5, CaCO<sub>3</sub> precipitation was noticeable, and its stability was maintained. The findings of this study will aid scientists in ensuring heavy metal immobilisation in soil during acid rain by microbial carbonate precipitation.

**WANG Yan<sup>1</sup>, NIU Ditao<sup>2\*</sup>, SONG Zhanping<sup>2</sup>** “**Effect of Acid Rain Erosion on Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete**” The performance of reinforced concrete structures can be harmed by acid rain. The properties of steel fibre reinforced concrete exposed to acid rain in China were researched in conjunction with the features of acid rain in China. The impact of steel fibre content and acid rain pH on mass loss, erosion depth, neutralisation depth, and splitting tensile strength of tested concrete was studied. The impact of steel fibre on the acid rain resistance of concrete matrix was investigated using the mercury intrusion pore (MIP) test. The findings reveal that the combined action of H<sup>+</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> in acid rain causes corrosion of steel fibre reinforced concrete, and steel fibre can increase the acid rain resistance of the tested concrete. by boosting the concrete matrix's tie effect and improving the pore structure In comparison to the different mixing proportions in these experiments, the experiment also shows that the optimal percentage of steel fibre is 1.5 percent. When the pH value of the simulation solution is 3 or 4, the tested concrete mass loss and splitting tensile strength decline, then increase as a function of corrosion time, but they decrease continuously in the simulation solution at pH 2. The spelling of concrete matrix is substantially improved, and the erosion depth and neutralisation depth are fewer than those of ordinary concrete, thanks to the tie effect of steel fibre.

**Husnu Gerengia, Yilmaz Kocakb, Agata Jazdzewska c,†, Mine Kurtaya, Hatice Durguna** “**Electrochemical investigations on the corrosion behaviour of reinforcing steel in diatomite- and zeolite-containing concrete exposed to sulphuric acid**” The research For most structural applications, corrosion is a key problem. Its negative impact affects the life of metallic components dramatically. The findings of an experimental research of corrosion in steel reinforcement of concrete samples with three distinct substituents: 20% diatomite, 20% zeolite, and a control without zeolite or diatomite are presented in this work. For 160 days, all concrete specimens were immersed in a 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution, and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements were taken every 15 days. The findings revealed that porosity plays a critical role in concrete reinforcement. In comparison to the reference and diatomite samples, the steel reinforcement in the zeolite was less eroded by the H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution.

**Ding Yong** “**Effect of Acid Rain Pollution on Durability of Reinforced Concrete Structures**” The corrosion process of concrete by acid rain and the corrosion process of steel bars by acid rain are analysed in order to solve the problem of insufficient accuracy and effectiveness of the current analysis model of reinforced concrete durability. The structure of reinforced concrete composite beams under acid rain erosion is based on the acid rain corrosion process. Carbonization depth of medium concrete; carbonization depth was used to compute corrosion depth of reinforced concrete composite beam construction; carbonization depth and corrosion depth were used to calculate durability index. It's ideal for determining the impact of acid rain pollution on the long-term durability of reinforced concrete composite beam constructions.

**Yan Zhoua,b,\*\*, Shansuo Zhengc,d,\* , Liuzhuo Chena,b, Li Longc,d, Bin Wangc** “**Experimental investigation into the seismic behavior of squat reinforced concrete walls subjected to acid rain erosion**” The physical and mechanical qualities of materials will continue to deteriorate as a result of acid rain erosion, eventually compromising the seismic performance of reinforced concrete (RC) structures. Despite this, no study has been done on the impact of acid deposition on squat RC walls, which are a major aspect of lateral

force-resisting systems. Thus, an artificial climate simulation approach was employed in this research to speed up the acidic assault process on four squat RC wall specimens with an aspect ratio of 1.0. Then, under different acid rain spraying cycles, quasi-static stress experiments were performed to investigate their cyclic behaviour (ARSCs). The findings demonstrate that when ARSCs rise, the degree of concrete strength degradation and steel bar corrosion weight loss increase, and the bearing capacity decreases. The deformation capacity of the squat RC walls steadily deteriorates. Simultaneously, the ratio of shear displacement to total lateral displacement rises, showing that the inclusion of ARSCs causes a more evident shear failure characteristic. In addition, the failure mechanism changes from mixed flexure and diagonal compression to diagonal tension, resulting in a considerable reduction in ductility and energy dissipation capacity. It was also shown that the shear strength of squat walls degrades at a faster rate than the flexural strength under acid rain erosion, potentially leading to failure mode changeover.

**ZHENG Yue<sup>1,2\*</sup>, ZHENG Shansuo<sup>1,2</sup>, LIU Xiaohang<sup>1,2</sup>** “**Constitutive model of confined concrete with stirrups by acid rain erosion**” reinforced concrete prism specimens were subjected to acid rain erosion by artificial climate simulation technique followed by axial pressure tests in order to study the effect of stirrup corrosion level on peak stress, peak strain, ultimate strain, and shape of stress-strain curve of confined concrete. Based on Mander's model and previous study findings By using regression analysis of test data, the factor calculation formulae for peak stress, peak strain, ultimate strain, and shape factor of corroded specimens are constructed, and then the constitutive model of restricted concrete by acid rain erosion is established. When the simulation results are compared to the experimental data, it is discovered that the peak stress, peak strain, ultimate strain, and stress-strain curves all have the same form. The suggested approach produces specimens that are in good agreement with experimental results. As a result, the constitutive mode for confined concrete developed in this paper can accurately reflect the mechanical performance of RC prism specimens eroded by acid rain, indicating its adaptability for estimating residual bearing capacity and seismic performance of RC structures in acid rain environments.

**Y.F. Fan<sup>\*1</sup>, Z.Q. Hu<sup>2</sup> and H.Y. Luan<sup>1</sup>** “**Deterioration of tensile behavior of concrete exposed to artificial acid rain environment**” The purpose of this research is to determine the tensile qualities of concrete subjected to acid rain. In the lab, a combination of sulphate and nitric acid was used to replicate an acid rain environment. For faster conditioning, the dumbbell-shaped concrete specimens were immersed in pure water and an acid solution. The specimens were weighed, tensile tested, CT, SEM/EDS tested, and microanalysed. The tensile properties of the damaged concrete are quantitatively determined. The evolution of voids, microcracks, chemical compounds, elemental distribution, and contents in concrete are investigated. The mechanics of concrete disintegration when exposed to acid rain are well understood.

**V. Marcos-Meson<sup>a,b,c,†</sup>, G. Fischer<sup>a</sup>, C. Edvardsen<sup>b</sup>, T.L. Skovhus<sup>c</sup>, A. Michel<sup>a</sup>** “**Durability of Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete (SFRC) exposed to acid attack – A literature review**” Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete (SFRC) is becoming more popular in civil infrastructure building. The behaviour of SFRC under chemical and biochemical exposure is of special importance since it can be used to create wastewater and agricultural infrastructure, among other things. However, inconsistencies among SFRC exposed to acidic environments limit its usefulness. International rules and regulations this research examines the existing literature on the long-term durability of SFRC. the victim of an acid assault According to research, untracked SFRC is damaged when exposed to acids. This is comparable to what happens in Plain Concrete (PC). Steel corrosion that isn't critical has been studied. Fibres entrenched in the neutralised concrete layer, with no corrosion-related cracking or spalling Steel fibres have been shown to prevent secondary damage by bridging cracks and slowing the chemical-erosion front's advance. However, there is a scarcity of information on the residual mechanical performance of cracked SFRC subjected to acids. According to published studies, there is an if the corrosion damage to the steel fibre is non-critical and there is a critical fracture width of less than 0.3 mm is the decrease of fracture toughness to a certain extent. It has been discovered, however, that exposing broken SFRC to when compared to other exposures, acids cause a greater loss of its residual mechanical performance.

**Chinnu Mariam Ninan ,K P Ramaswamy ,R Sajeed** “**nfluence of Concrete Mixture Composition on Acid Resistance of Concrete: A Review**” Cementations materials are very vulnerable to a wide range of acids that can induce microstructure damage and are abundant in ground water, sewage systems, industrial effluents, and acid rain. Material-related factors and test-related factors are two types of factors that can influence acid attack. Material-related factors can be linked to the acid solution or the composition of the concrete mixture. Concrete's acid resistance is heavily influenced by the composition of the concrete mixture. Type of cement, type and quantity of binders, water binder ratio, aggregate binder ratio, and mineralogical nature of aggregates are all factors that influence the composition of a concrete mixture. Despite the fact that the type of cement has an impact on acid attack, the difference is minor. Calcium hydroxide consumption and purification Because of the pore structure, the use of extra cementations materials is advantageous for acid

resistance. Concrete's porosity is reduced when the water binder ratio is reduced and the aggregate binder ratio is increased, which enhances acid resistance. Calcareous aggregates are favored for concretes subjected to acids that produce fewer soluble salts, but not for acids that produce soluble salts. The impact of concrete mixture composition on acid resistance is highlighted in this research. The acid resistance of concrete should be improved with suitable formulation.

### III. Conclusion

The conducted lecture evaluation helps in understanding that trends and identifying the research need. The research can be done to perform carbonation test on concrete using ASTM B117 as well as to determine the durability properties of concrete exposed to synthetic acid rain. To study the rate of deterioration of reinforced concrete using A.C.T /voltage impressed test as well as Chemical analysis of reinforced concrete

Long-term exposure experiments to simulated acid rain were carried out in the study to determine the influence of acid rain on the degradation of concrete buildings using reinforced concrete specimens of various qualities. Dipping in reinforced concrete specimen in 30hrs 60hrs and 100hrs has been achieved in the exposure experiments

Total rainfall and eroded depth on the surface of the specimens had a linear relationship. Regardless of mortar quality, acid rain with a pH greater than 4.0 has no influence on the eroded depth.

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