

COE Special Lecture

Socio-Environmental Aspects of Construction materials

“Concrete Admixtures”

Date & time August 12 13:00 ~ 14:30

Place Hokkaido University

Presented by Dr.T.Amaya

05-8-12 T.Amaya

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Abbreviation

RMC	Ready mixed concrete
AE-WR	Air entraining water reducer
AE-MRWR	Air entraining mid range water reducer
AE-HRWR	Air entraining high range water reducer
HRWR	High range water reducer
LS	Lignosulfonate
MS	Melaminesulfonate
SG	Sodium gluconate
PC	Polycarboxylate

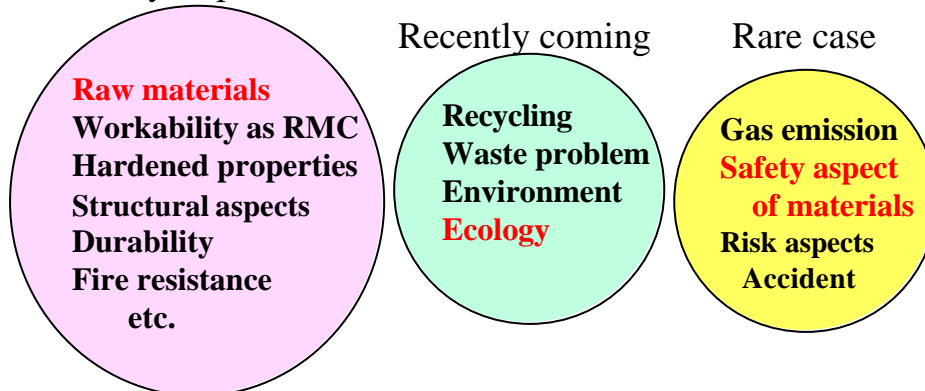
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1. Introduction

Most of presentations & reports on concrete can be classified into :---

Basically important



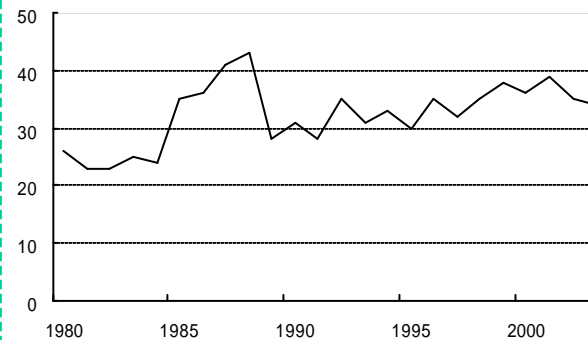
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Ex. Reports on concrete reported by general contractors

- Big general contractors, i.e. Taisei, Kazima, Obayashi, Shimizu, Takenaka, have published their own R&D reports.
- Total = 4,224 / Reports on concrete = 776 (1980 ~ 2003) (18.4%)

Fig-1 Number of reports on concrete



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Fig-2 Reports on High Strength & High Flowing Concrete

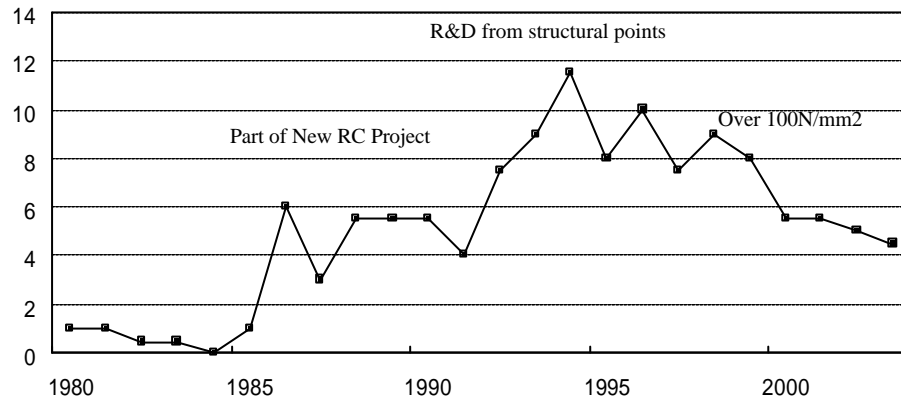
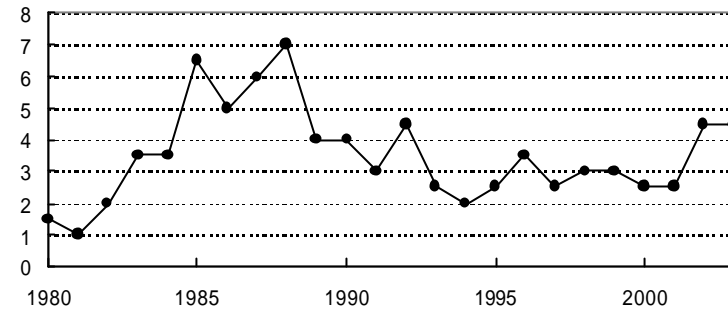


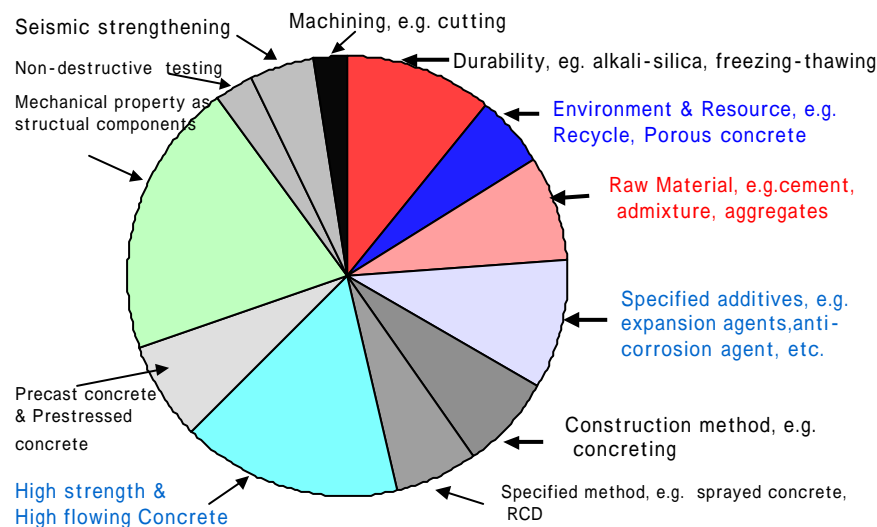
Fig-3 Number of reports on concrete durability



Studies on concrete-durability have been constantly done to get high quality of concrete.

Ex. Alkali-silica reaction, Cl⁻ ion migration, freezing & thawing

Technical fields of reports on concrete



2 Cement as main raw materials of concrete

1) History of cement

If concrete is defined to be composite material of lime based binder and aggregates, "Sazare-Ishi" would be the oldest concrete.

↳ National anthem



Natural concrete formed Before 270 million years

Neolithic era, BC7000, 40 MPa of high strength concrete composed of lime (calcite) and aggregate was used in Israel.

BC300, Rome era, mixture of lime, aggregate and "Pozzolana" were mixed and cured in molds. Such concrete was widely used for construction in Roma.



Foro Romano (BC2 century)

Main cause of hardening of these concrete was carbonation of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$.

Beginning of 19 century, hydraulic hardening minerals were invented by **burning** the mixture of lime and silica.

In 1824, **J.Aspsdin** invented the basic technology of present Portland Cement.

Its color resembled to the stone in **Portland Island**.

→ Naming origin

Industrialization of cement prevailed in the world.

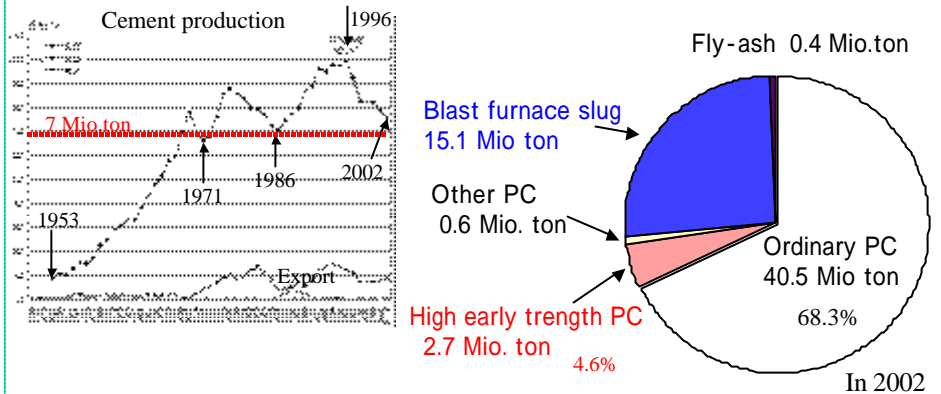
Germany in 1850 / America in 1871 / Japan in 1875

2) Production volume

72.4 Mio ton in 2004 Export 10.3 Mio.ton (14%)

Portland cement 43.8 Mio.ton 73.9%

Blended cement 15.5 Mio.ton 26.1%



3 Chemical admixtures

1) Introduction

Before 1960 concrete was mainly produced at job site.

Around 1960 ready mixed concrete was produced by about 500 **RMC plants**.



The 1st RMC plant in 1949

→ Liability of concrete quality increased / Agitator truck delivery

Around 1965 almost all concrete was produced by RMC plants.

“**Admixtures**” are materials used for improving properties of concrete &/or mortar.

(Powdery) Admixture Improvement can be done by large amount.

Chemical admixture Improvement can be done by small amount

→ **JIS A 6204** & Association norms

Improvement items are workability, strength development, etc.

Chemical admixture has been used to get workability with decreasing mixing water.

Admixtures	Example of main components	Use of purpose
Chemical admixtures mainly for water reduction		
1 Air-Entrainer	Nonion type surfactant	Workability / Freezing & thawing
2 AE-Water Reducer	Lignosulfonate / Gluconate	
3 AE-High Range Water Reducer	Polycarboxylate	Workability / Higher strength etc.
4 AE-Mid range water reducer	Polycarboxylate / Lignosulfonate	
5 High Range Water Reducer	Melamine / Polycarboxylate	Strenth development / Workability
6 Set retarding water reducer	Gluconate	
7 Set accelerating water reducer	Nitrite / Nitrate / Thiocyanate	Setting time / Hardening time
8 Anti-freezing admixture	Nitrite / Nitrate / Thiocyanate	
9 Hardening accelerator	Calcium chloride	Workability / Job-site addition Underwater concrete
10 Superplasticizer	Sulfonated naphthalene	
11 Anti-washout admixture	Cellulose base & Acrylic acid	
Other chemical admixtures		
12 Shotcrete accelerator	Calcium aluminate	Setting time / Hardening time Corrosion
13 Corrosion Inhibitor	Nitrite / Aminoalcohol	
14 Shrinkage reducing admixture	Copolymer of Alkyleneoxido	Surface tension
Powder type admixture		
15 Shrinkage compensation agent	CSA	Introduce chemical prestress
16 Fly ash		
17 Blast furnace slug powder		Durability / Long term strength
18 Silica fume		
19 Calcite powder		Workability / Segregation
20 Cement polymer emulsion	Emulsion of SBR, EVA & Acryl	Workability / Durability / Adhesion

2) General properties of chemical admixtures

Chemical admixture is one kind of **surfactant** to get

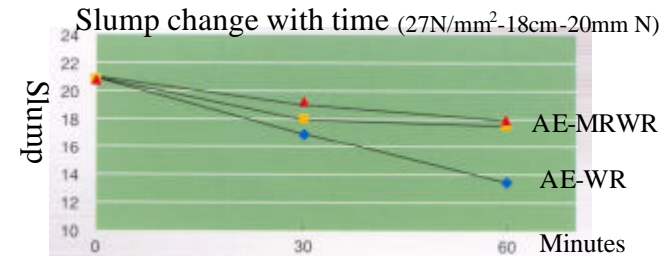
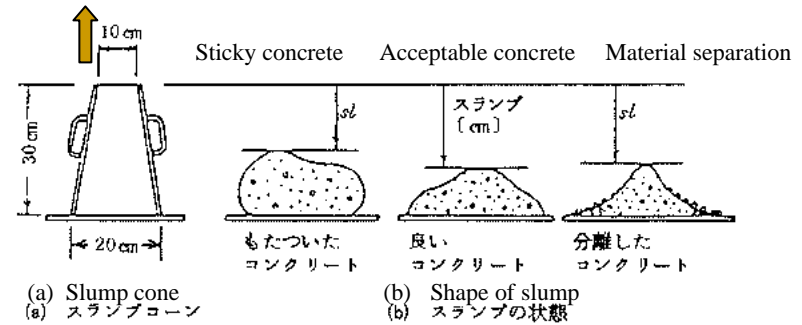
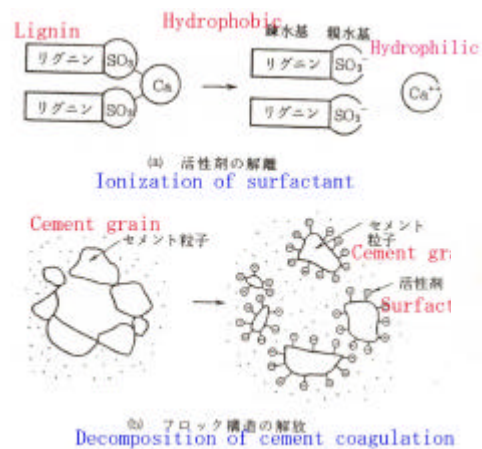
- better workability of RMC
- better durability of hardened concrete

Chemical admixture can :-

- **reduce water** in RMC under the same slump (flow)
- introduce **small air-bubble** properly
- extend **working time** of RMC, e.g. slump & flow life

Chemical admixture react cement particles by :-

- electrostatic repulsive force
- chelate effect
- steric hindrance



3) History of water reducer

Long history

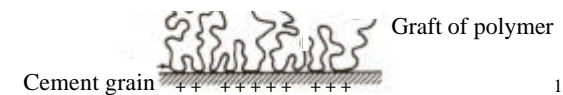
Main water reducing admixtures used in concrete industry

Year	Raw materials	Mechanism of effect	
~ 1920	Lignosulfonate (LS)	By-product of pulp industry	Electrostatic repulsion
1931	Sodium Gluconate (SG)	Fermentation of glucose	Chelate of COO ⁻ ion
1965	Sulfonated naphthalene	Copolymerized by formaldehyde	Electrostatic repulsion
1966	Sulfonated melamine	Copolymerized by formaldehyde	Electrostatic repulsion
1982	Modified polycarboxylate	(Meth)acrylate copolymer	Steric hindrance
1985	Amino sulphonated	Aminosulphonate copolymer	Steric hindrance
1990	Comb type polycarboxylate	(Meth)acrylate copolymer	Steric hindrance
1998	Modified polycarboxylate	Polyamido modified acrylate	Steric hindrance

Remark Even LS & SG based admixtures are still under improvement, e.g. additives.
Market share of LS based admixture is over 50%.

(Meth)acrylate copolymer based admixture is still under development

The 1st use of admixture in Japan might be in 1932.



Features of chemical admixture industry

Company of chemical admixture are **“formulators”** :-

- Almost all raw materials are purchased.
- Even main raw materials are purchased, e.g. LS, SG.
(Own production is rare case.)

Chemical admixtures are composed of :-

Main raw material

Air contents, slump, initial strength, antiseptic.....

Water

- ➔ **Formulation confidentiality is very important.**
Very hard to know chemicals from MSDS
- ➔ Almost all chemical admixtures are produced by mixing the purchased raw materials, which enables **special product** by batch production. Possible to make **“Tailor made product”**
- ➔ Transport cost is important for management because of water.

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4) Water reducers

(1) Lignosulfonate (LS) based Water Reducer

Main use of LS

(in 1997 / Solid content base)

105 k ton = **Admixture (67k t)** + Dye disperser (8k t) +.....

Ca, Na, Mg base / High molecular electrolyte / **Anion type**

Molecular weight of LS : ~ 10,000 or more

Long history, i.e. established technology.

Less technical progress now / Mainly Delivery & Marketing

But, **still mainly used, especially in civil engineering works.**

In Tokyo area, demands of LS decreases because of aggregate.

Cheapest raw material as admixture raw materials

Cement dispersion is done by electrostatic repulsion.

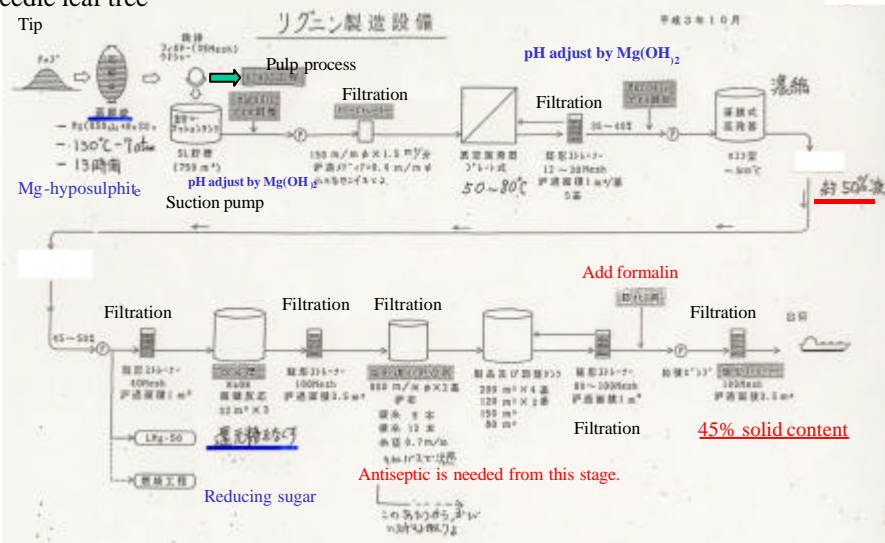
Basically **sugar** is contained in LS raw material, which is effective for retardation.

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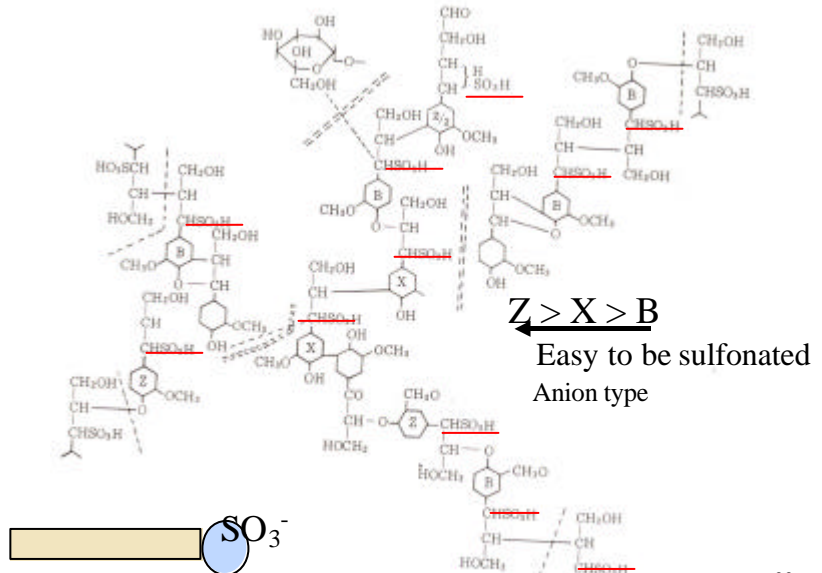
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LS production at pulp factory (In case of Mg salt)

Needle leaf tree
Tip



Structure of LS is complicated, because lignin is natural product.



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Example of formulation of LS based admixture

a Full season type

Mg-LS (45% solid content)	98.2 %
TEA (80% solution)	1.6 %
Tri-butyl phosphate	0.15 %
Formalin (37% solution)	0 ~ 0.4 % (Seasonal adjustment)
Antiseptic*	0 ~ 0.035 % (Seasonal adjustment)

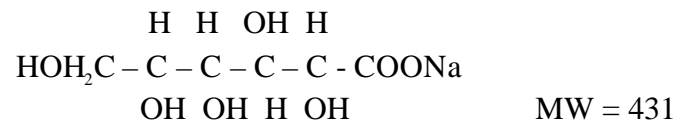
b Summer type

Ca-LS (48% solid content)	98.5 % (High sugar content)
TEA (80% solution)	0.8 %
Tri-butyl phosphate	0.35 %
Formalin (37% solution)	0 ~ 0.5 % (Seasonal adjustment)
Antiseptic*	0 ~ 0.05% (Seasonal adjustment)

* Antiseptic must be changed every year because of change of Germ & bacillus.

2) Sodium Gluconate (SG) based Water Reducer

SG is produced by fermentation of glucose.



Reaction with cement particle

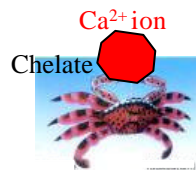
Water Reduction : Electrostatic force with cement grain like LS

Retardation : Strong chelate property above pH >12

Gluconate ion reacts with Ca²⁺ initially released, and forms “protective layer”

which causes retardation.

Advantage Hot season concreting
 Superior surface finish



Formaldehyde calculation

Base	Cement	300 kg/m ³
	LS base AE-WR	Cement x 0.5 %
(Contain 0.3 % of 37 % formalin)		

300 kg/m³ x 0.5% x 0.3% x 37% = 1.7 g/m³ of formaldehyde is contained in 1m³ of ready mixed concrete.

If concrete is applied to the floor, 10m² x 10cm^H (1m³) and if 1% of formaldehyde is emitted from concrete,

⇒ 17mg of formaldehyde

If room height is 1.7m ⇒ 1,000 μg/m³

Ventilation before use

Guideline : 100 μg/m³ 0.08ppm



Example of formulation of SG based Water-reducing and retarding admixture

a Basic formulation

Sodium gluconate	31.0 %
Formalin (37% solution)	1.0 %
Water	balance



Exposed concrete

b Without formalin

Sodium gluconate	31.0 %
Antiseptic material	0.02 %
Coloring material	0.2 %
Water	balance

3) Melamine sulfonates & formaldehyde condensation polymer (MS) based High Range Water Reducer (HRWR)

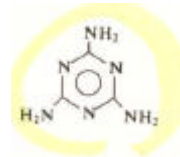
MS was developed as raw material of superplasticizing HRWR in Germany in 1960.

At present, mainly used in precast field because of good surface finish, water reduction.

Production of MS

- a For melamine-formaldehyde copolymer, mole ratio of Melamine : Formaldehyde = 1 : 3
(from operation 1 : 3.3)

- b Sulfonation can be done by SO₃ base, e.g. pyrosulfite, sulfamic acid, sulfanilic acid.



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- Recent tendency is moving to PC based admixture, because :-
-- Higher water reduction / Better workability
-- No eye & skin irritation

Formaldehyde (FA) calculation

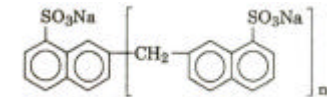
Cement 400 kg/m³

MS base HRWR Cement x 1.0 % (Remain 1% of free FA)

400 kg/m³ x 1 % x 1 % = 40g/m³ of FA remains in concrete.

If concrete is steam-cured, almost all FA might be released.
But if not, FA may be released during long period.

Info. Naphtalenesulfonate was developed by Dr.Hattori in 1965.



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Formaldehyde problem happened in Switzerland

- a In 1990 formaldehyde problem was pointed out by Swiss government with data, if concrete, mixed with melamine or naphthalene based admixture, is wasted at the source of water-supply.
b Swiss Admixture Association (FSHBZ) checked and re-tested the contents of complaint.
c FSHBZ submitted the opposition report with the proposal.
d Proposal says all criteria, covered from production to waste, are checked by 3rd party.

FSHBZ label is allowed if all check points are approved by auditor.

- e This is self-control norm.

→ There is limitation. Ex. Formalin content < 0.5%



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4) Polycarboxylic acid (PA) polymer based admixture.

Background of development

- a In 1986 JASS 5 requires water content to be less than 185kg/m³.
“New RC Project” headed by MLIT started for high strength concrete, 60N/mm². (MLIT = Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transport)
b Although naphthalene & melamine based AE-HRWRs give high water reduction and good workability, market required much better admixtures to meet New RC Projects, i.e.future requirement.
c To meet the requirements, many chemicals are tested, e.g. polycarboxylate ether, maleic acid co-polymer.
d In 1984 Nippon Shokubai invented the polymer for admixture.
↔ Epoch-making in chemical admixture technology

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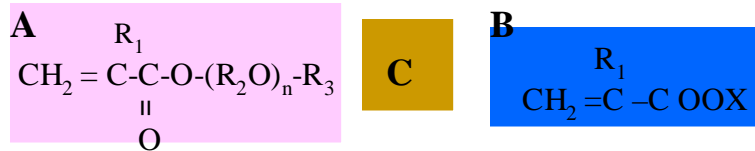
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Base technology of Nihon Shokubai

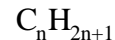
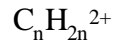
A Monomer of Polyalkylene glycol ester and (meth)acrylic acid

B (Meth)acrylate monomer (90 ~ 5 wt%) 10~95 wt%

C Monomer able to copolymerize with A & B (0 ~ 50 wt%)



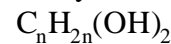
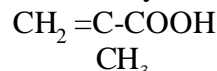
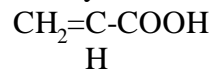
R₁ : H or Methyl R₂ : Alkylene R₃ : H or alkyl



Here Acrylic acid

Methacrylic acid

Glycol



Patent claims copolymer composed of 3 monomers, A, B & C.
ACBABB AACA

Example of formulation (wt.%)

Product name	80N	80S
Polymer-600	37.1	22.3
Polymer-700	-----	29.7
Ethylenediamine	1.2	1.2
TEA	0.8	0.8
Coloring	0.3	0.3
Water	59.4	44.6
AE agent	0.2	0.2
AF agent	1.0	0.9

Polymer combination
↓
To get longer workability time

a Basically polymer's function as admixture is done

by adsorption of carboxylic ion to hydrated cement grain

by hindering cement grain coagulation by graft (side chain)

b AE-HRWRs would be formulated by formulating 2-3 kinds of polymers to meet requirements, e.g. SP-80N & SP-80S.

c These polymers showed the big possibility of high strength & high flowing concrete as shown later.

d Almost all polymer are produced by a few chemical companies, because polymerization process needs know-how of high molecular synthesis including safety items.

e This kind of polymer is still under development and their details are closed, which causes strong confidentiality even to MSDS.

High flowing & high strength concrete

Concrete Mix Proportion :

W/B : 25% , S/A : 45.3%

B : 85% Moderate Heat Cement (Mitsubishi)
15% undensified Silcatume (ELCEM U 904)

140 kg Water / m³ , 560 kg Binder / m³
crashed and pit sand , crashed aggregate

3 m³ were produced in placed in a tory

Concrete Mixing : Double Mixing Methods
Total Mixing Time : 70 sec

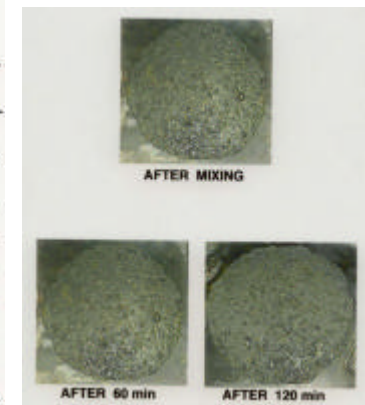
Test Result : 3.2% SM 1200 N , air content < 1%

Time min	Slump Flow cm	Flow Speed 50 cm	C. T. °C	V 1	V 2 cm / sec	V 3
0	66 x 66	4	30	16.9	17.0	14.6
30	66 x 65.5	4.5	29	12.7	10.1	9.5
60	65 x 64.5	5	28	12.5	9.8	8.7
90	65 x 65	4	28	13.0	14.0	-----
120	65 x 65	4	27.5	16.2	12.1	11.2

V 1, 2, 3 : L - Flow Meter

Compressive Strength :

	after concrete mixing	after 90 min	cores
1 week	54 N / mm ²	54	---
4 weeks	88	92	75



5) Mid range AE-Water Reducers

	AE-WR → Mid range AE-WR → AE-HRWR		
Water reduction	→ Over 10% → Over 18%		Bigger
Slump keeping	→		Better
Price	~ 50 ¥/kg	65~80 ¥/kg	> 160 ¥/kg
Strength level	< 25 N/mm ²	20-30 N/mm ²	> 30 N/mm ²

On the point of durability JASS 5 requires water content must be less than 185 kg/m³, preferably <180 kg/m³

- Very hard to attain using present AE-WR with recent low quality of sand, especially west part of Tokyo & Oosaka area.
- Especially 20-30 N/mm² concrete
- Water content is checked at job site.

Then requirements are just between AE-WR & AE-HRWR regarding water reduction, slump keeping & price.

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6) High range water reducer (HRWR)

HRWR has been mainly used for PCa & PC, not for RMC factory.

Main requirements of PCa & PC are :--

- **Water reduction & easy to cast**
- **Good surface finish** after curing
- Slump life is not required, i.e. half or less of RMC plant use.

Main raw materials of HRWR are :--

- **Melamine** sulfonate & formaldehyde condensation polymer (MS)
- **Naphthalene** sulfonate & formaldehyde condensation polymer (NS)

Polycarboxylate (PA) polymer based admixture has gradually been used, because of better water reduction.

- Utilize the technology of PC based admixture

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Idea of formulation

a Based on AE-HRWR

Dilution → Quality of AE-HRWR is possible by excess dosage.

Since 1996 this type has been major products.

Ex)	Existing AE-HRWR	55.0 wt%
	Existing LS based AE-WR	5.0 wt%
	Sodium gluconate	4.5 wt%
	Water	Balance

Mix with cheaper & compatible material

b Use of cheaper & lower quality of PC polymers, which are not acceptable as AE-HRWR.

c Add PC polymers into AE-WR

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Site PC ---- New trend at job sites

Beam, floor slab, balcony, etc. are produced at job site to reduce construction period, etc.



Job site of MM Towers



Site PC office



Bar arrangement



PCa mold preparation

Concrete High strength concrete 60N/mm²
Demold next day and lifting up by crane



Something will happen in PCa industry ?
Demand of admixture for high strength concrete

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7) Hardening accelerator

After setting of cement, strength development starts.

Hardening accelerator is used for

Getting initial strength during concreting in cold season

Getting efficiency of mold-cycle at precast factory

Getting initial strength for AE-WRs & AE-HRWRs

Chemicals used for hardening accelerator effects on setting a little, followings are famous raw materials:

Ca-nitrite, Ca-thiocyanate, Ca-formate, TEA

CaCl₂ was used for this purpose, but stopped.

Example of formulation (wt.%)

Lactic acid	5.0
Ca- nitrite	13.5
Methyldiethanolamine	6.5
Water	Balance?

Example of formulation (wt.%)

Ca- thiocyanate	18.0
Na- thiosulfate	15.0
Tri-ethanol amine (80% soln)	2.0
Ca -LS (40% soln)	32.5
Water	Balance

Caution to be taken

Don't use together thiocyanate type and nitrite type

Nitrite is the cancer suspicious chemical in EU.

In summer nitrite & nitrate dissolved in capillary water may cause NO_x gas emission problem.

8) Anti-freezing admixture



When concrete is applied in intense cold season, **initial strength** development is essential factor to avoid damage of freezing.

Use of high early Portland cement, &/or anti-freezing admixture, proper curing to avoid concrete freezing, etc.

Technical bases of anti-freezing admixture are :--

Accelerating the initial hydration of cement

Lowering freezing point

Generally it is formulated by combining the materials

Hydration-accelerator Ca-(Na-) nitrite, nitrate, thiocyanate
Tri-ethanol amine

Anti-freezing material Ethylene glycol

Water reducer Lignosulfonate, Melaminesulfonate

9) Quick setting admixture

Quick setting admixture is used to get very short setting time and very fast strength development.

Ex. In case of JSCE's norm on NATM

Initial setting < **5 min**

Final setting < **15 min**

12 hours strength > 1.0 N/mm²



Before 1980, sodium aluminate was used, but stopped because of alkali problem.

Then safety and ecological concerns have been dominant in the sprayed concrete accelerator market.

As non-alkali type, Ca-aluminate, Ca-sulfoaluminate and aluminum sulfates are gradually used.

Non-alkali quick setting admixture is used for other applications, e.g. steel segment, bolt box of concrete segment, using shotcrete technology, e.g. mortar mixing, spraying machine.



Example of steel segment

Cement	1000 kg	W/C = 46.7 %
Acryl emulsion (44% solid)	160 kg	Polymer/C = 7 %
Water	380 kg	
Crashed glass sand	500 kg	
Admixture (45% $Al_2(SO_4)_3$)	60 kg	
Spray = 1 m ³ /h	→ No dust / Easy to trowel / Good adhesion	

From norms on anti-washout admixture

Guideline of underwater concrete is described in JSCE's norm.

Japan Society of Civil Engineers

Mix proportion of under-water concrete

Gmax	Flow	W/C	S/a	Water	Cement	Sand	Gravel	Viscous	HRWR
mm	cm	%	%	Kg/m ³					C x %
25	50 ± 3	55	40	220	400	635	960	2.5	1.5

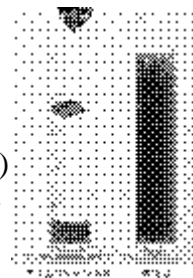
Viscous material is cellulose derivatives.

Melamine based high range water reducer(HRWR)

Separation factor in water, i.e. amount of suspended substance, is 12 mg/L. (Norm : less than 50 mg/L)

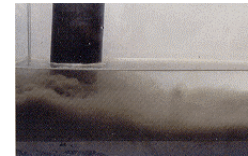
Flowing concrete / Self-leveling / Much less turbidity

Less strength drop ($\frac{\text{water}}{\text{air}}=90\%$)



10) Anti-washout admixture for underwater concrete

In case of underwater concreting, e.g. revetment, pier, segregation of cement-paste and aggregate must be avoided, even though tremie-tube is used.



How to solve?

Increase viscosity



Turbidity by suspended particles

Self leveling

How to minimize environmental impact of cement washout?

Viscous admixture

Main component ; Water soluble polymer, such as

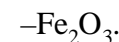
Cellulose base & Acrylic acid base

Other components ; Anti foam agent, (AE)Water reducer, etc.

11) Corrosion inhibitor admixture

Formulated to protect embedded reinforcing steel from corrosion, and to provide an effective means for extending the service life of concrete structures.

Basically surface of steel in high alkali is protected from corrosion because of being covered by hydrophobic thin layer, 20 ~ 60 Å, of



By carbonation &/or chloride ion migration in concrete, steel corrosion starts, and then cracks are formed. (Volume of Fe_2O_3 is 1.5 times larger than that of steel.)

Once crack forms, corrosion speed is enhanced.



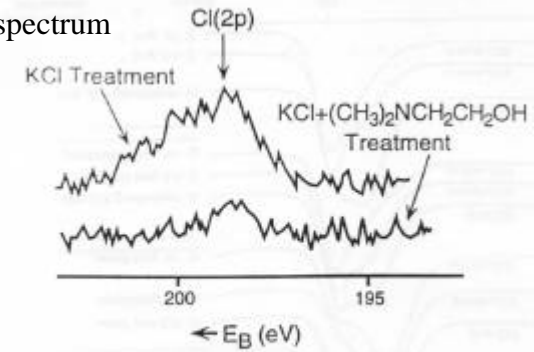
Two types of corrosion inhibitor

- a Anode action type : **NO- ion** / JIS A 6205
 Depresses oxidation of steel & forms Fe₂O₃ inhibitive film
 Major product in Japan
 Toxicity : Nitrite salts are listed **toxicity class 2** in CH.
- b Dual action type : **Amino-alcohol** (AMA)
 Film forming, protecting both cathode& anode parts
 Non-hazardous
- c Mechanism of anti-corrosion of AMA
 AMA is **absorbed on steel** in a layer of about 20 thickness
 Hydroxide at steel surface are replaced by AMA
 AMA can **displace Cl- ions** from steel surface

After immersing Pt foil in dimethylethanolamine , surface material was checked by SIMS.

- Mass 58 → (CH₃)₂NCH₂+ ion
- Mass 72 → (CH₃)₂NCH₂CH₂+ ion

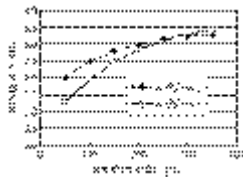
Chlorine part of XPS spectrum



Note the **almost complete elimination of chlorine** at the surface by the aminoalcohol treatment

12) Surface retarding agent

Using properties of **retardation**, SG is used for placing joint admixture, i.e. being formulated to retard the set of surface mortars in concrete to enable the aggregate to be exposed.



Washing out



Exposed aggregates

Example of formulation of placing joint admixture

Sodium gluconate	11.0 %
Antiseptic material	0.07 %
Coloring material	0.10 %
Water	balance

4 Conclusion

- 1) Concrete is essential material in our life.
 If properly applied, **long & high quality service** can be expected.



Proper mix-proportion & dense filling
Otaru North Break Water



Exposed concrete in
Charles de Gaulle Airport

- 2) Cement industry plays a role of **disposal facility** in our society as raw material, fuel & powder admixture.
- 3) Chemical admixture can improve concrete quality by its performances, e.g. water reduction.
- 4) Message to young researchers

Doesn't Chemical admixture have disadvantage ?

