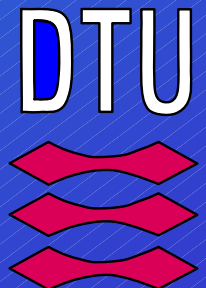


**Babylonia,  
Mesopotamia,  
Approx. 1800 BC**

# Powers' model

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Technical University of Denmark



Research Laboratories  
of the  
Portland Cement Association

BULLETIN 22

~~Studies of the Physical Proper-  
ties of Hardened Portland  
Cement Paste~~

BY  
T. C. POWERS ~~and T. L. BROWNARD~~

**Studies of Water Vapor Adsorption  
of Hardened Portland Cement Paste**

1934-1945

~~March, 1946~~

CHICAGO

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE  
New Center Bldg., Detroit 2, Michigan  
Oct. 1946-April 1947, Proceedings, Vol. 43, 1947

# PCA bulletin 22

# Experimental content

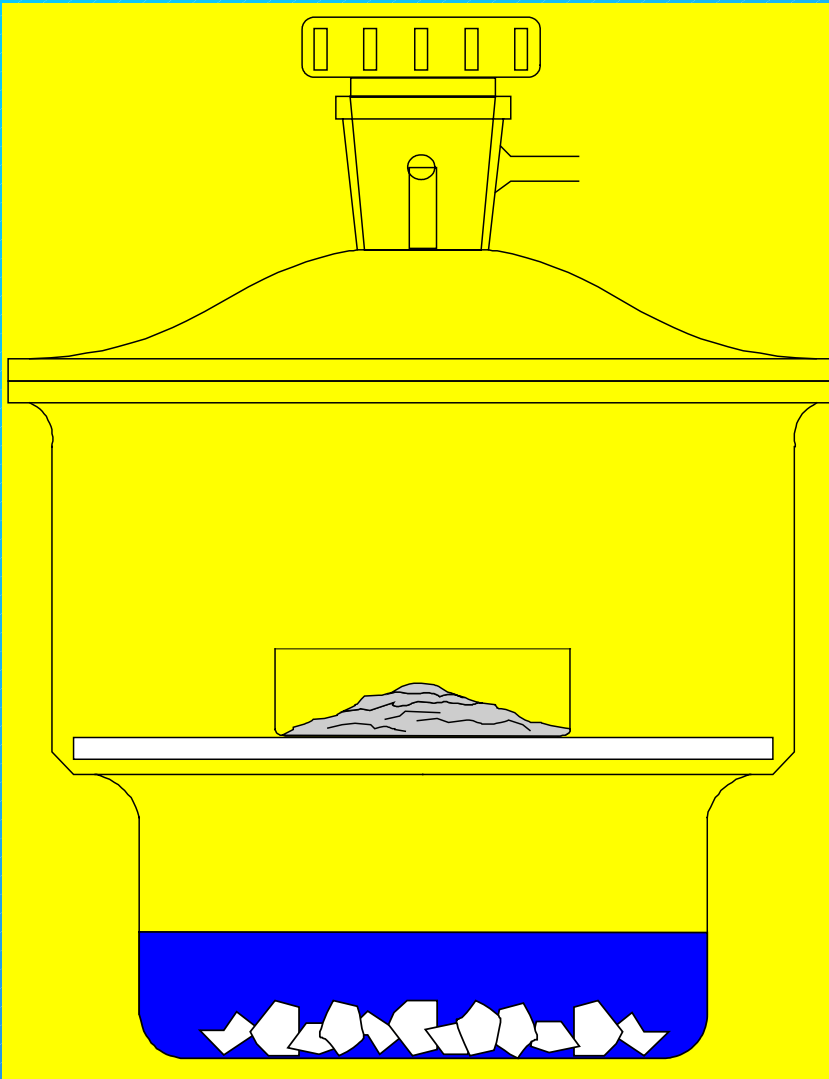
## Measurements

- Adsorption isotherms  
(1st, 2nd, 3rd, ad- & desorption + partial)
- Non-evaporable water
- Strength
- E-modulus
- Heat of hydration
- Heat of water adsorption
- Freezing dilation
- Drying shrinkage
- Thermal deformation
- Permeability

## Parameters

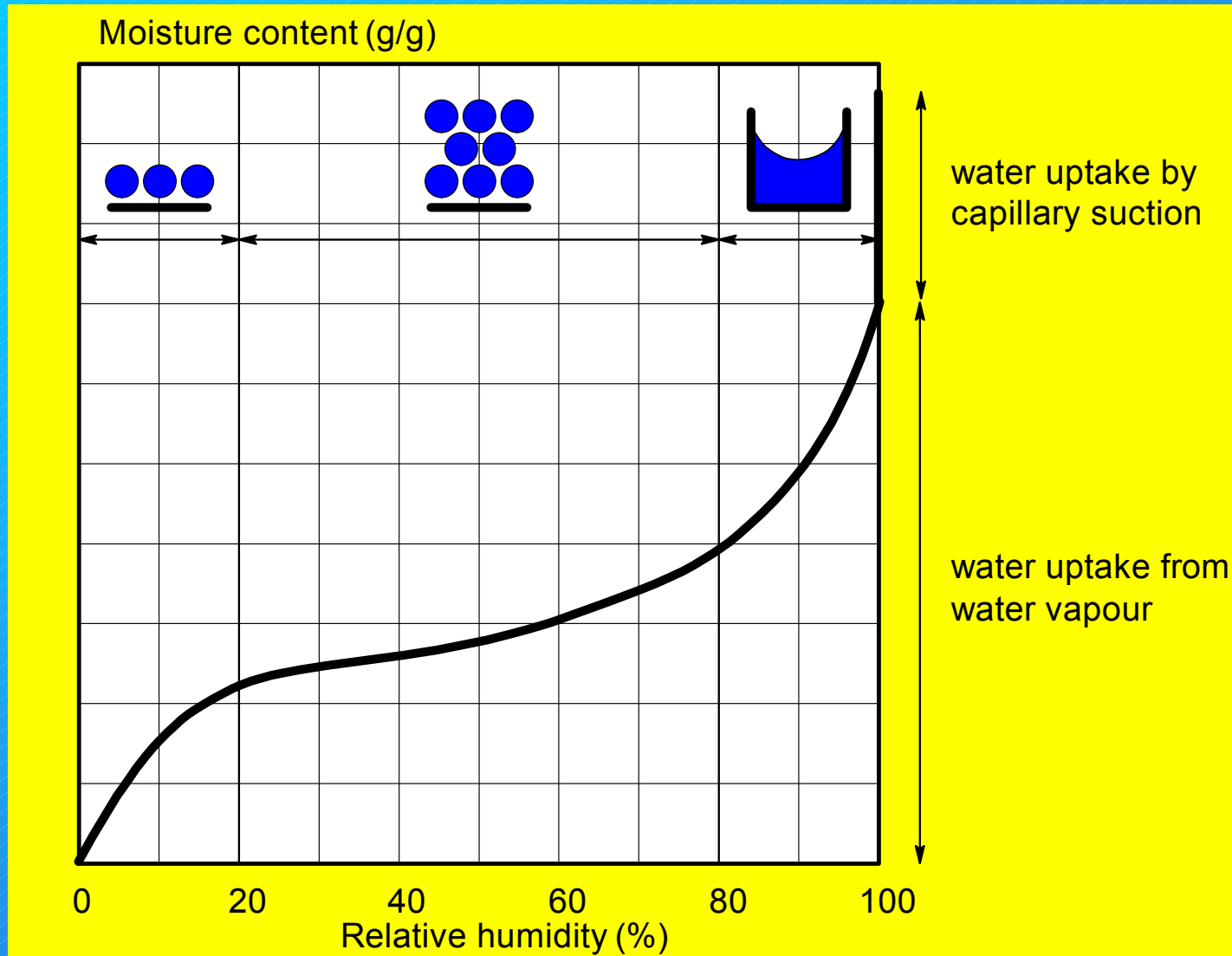
- w/c
- Age
- Cement type
- Curing conditions

# Sorption isotherm experiment

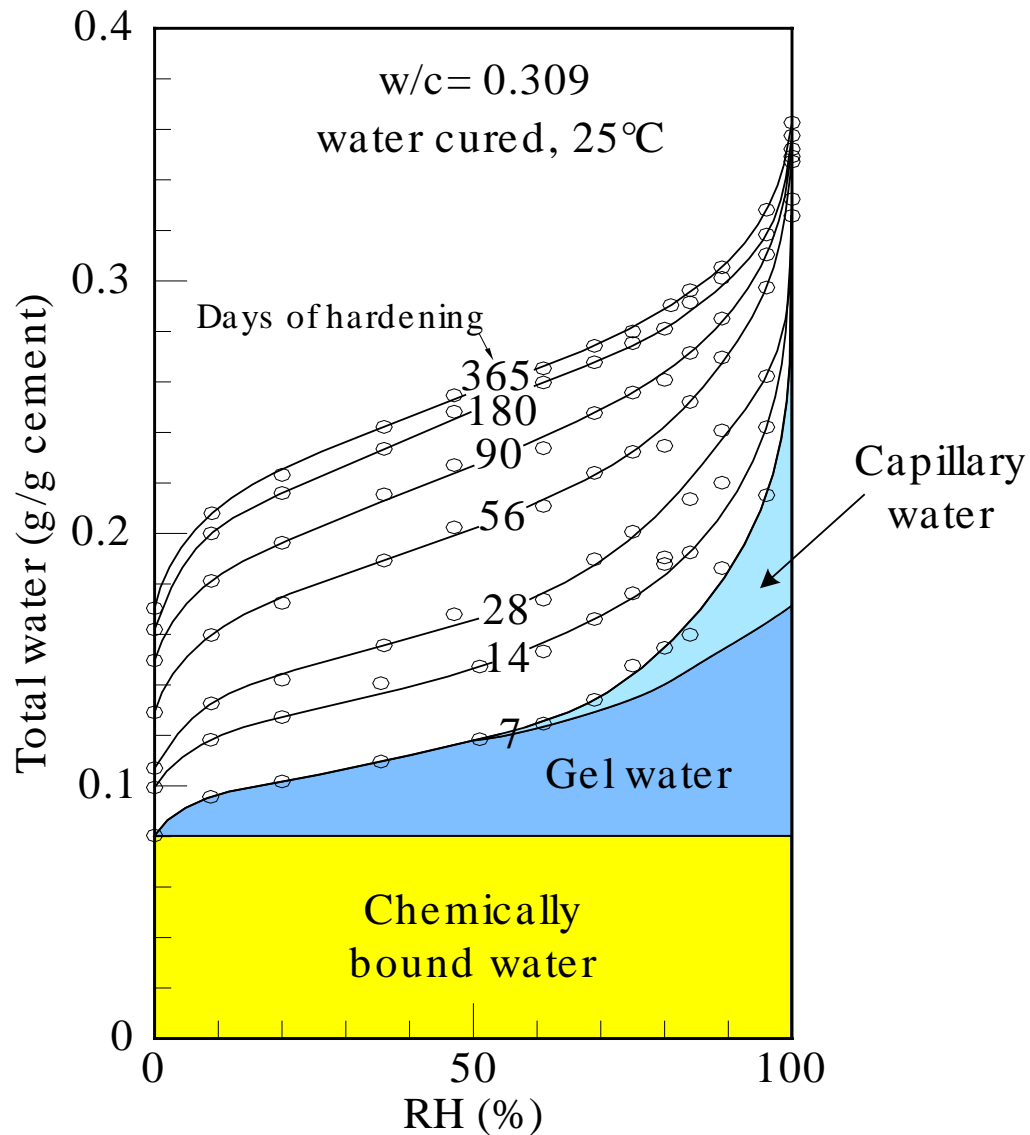


Salt	RH <sub>20°C</sub>
LiCl:	12%
CH <sub>3</sub> COOK:	23%
K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> :	43%
Mg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> :	54%
NaNO <sub>3</sub> :	66%
NaCl:	75%
(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :	81%
KCl:	85%
BaCl <sub>2</sub> :	91%
KNO <sub>3</sub> :	95%
K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :	98%

# Sorption isotherm

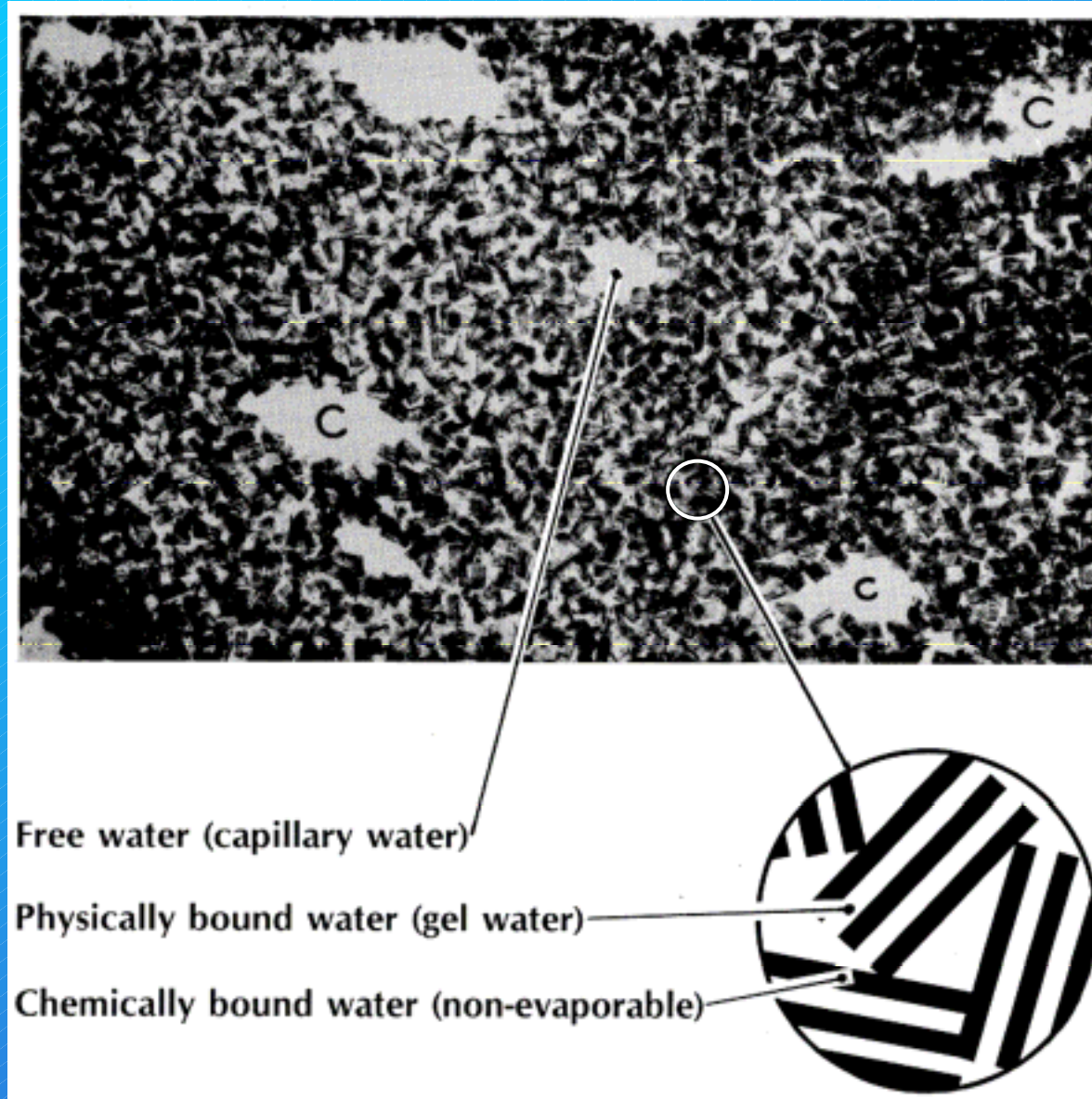


# Experimental results





# Phases of water in cement paste





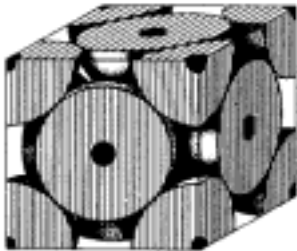
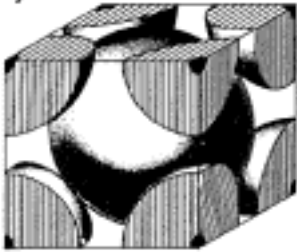
# Key figures in Powers' model

Non-evaporable water  
~ 0.23 g/g cement reacted

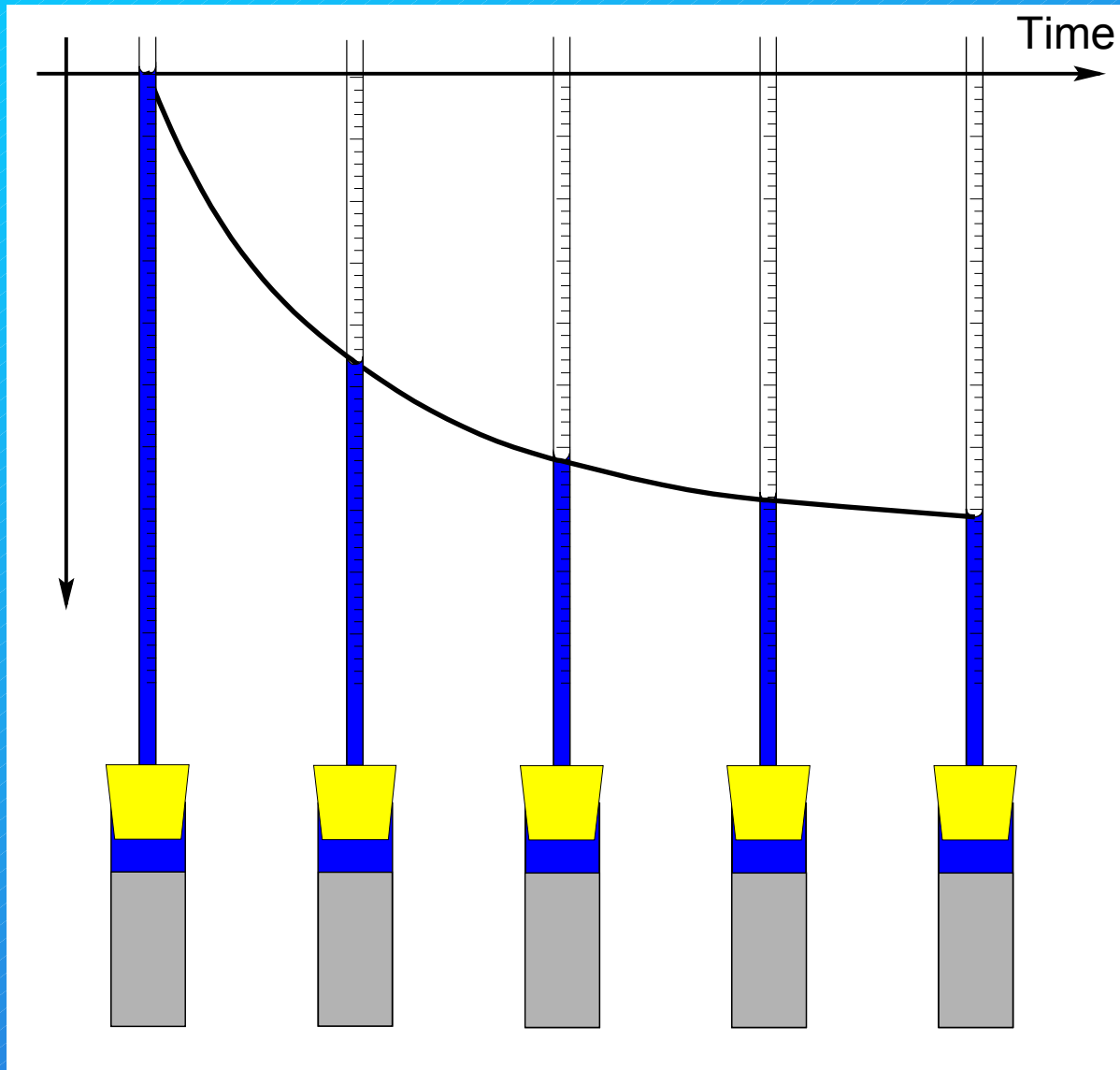
Gel water  
~ 0.19 g/g cement reacted

Chemical shrinkage  
~ 6.4 ml/100 g cement reacted

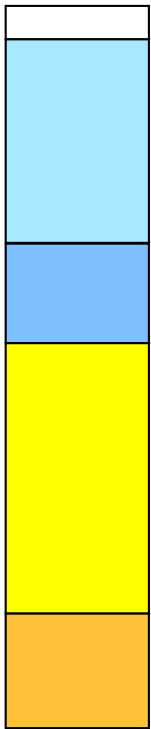
# 3-D packing of identical spheres

Type	Kissing number	% solid volume
Face-centered cubic 	12	74
Body-centered cubic 	8	68
Random	?	64
Simple cubic	6	52
Lowest density rigid	4	6

# Chemical shrinkage



# Formulas in Powers' Model



$$V_{c,s} = 0.2 \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha = \rho_c \cdot 6.4 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha$$

$$V_{c,w} = p - 1.3 \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha = p - (\rho_c / \rho_w) \cdot (0.19 + 0.23) \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha$$

$$V_{g,w} = 0.6 \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha = (\rho_c / \rho_w) \cdot 0.19 \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha$$

$$V_{g,s} = 1.5 \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha = (1 - \rho_c \cdot 6.4 \cdot 10^{-5} + (\rho_c / \rho_w) \cdot 0.23) \cdot (1-p) \cdot \alpha$$

$$V_c = (1-p) \cdot (1-\alpha)$$

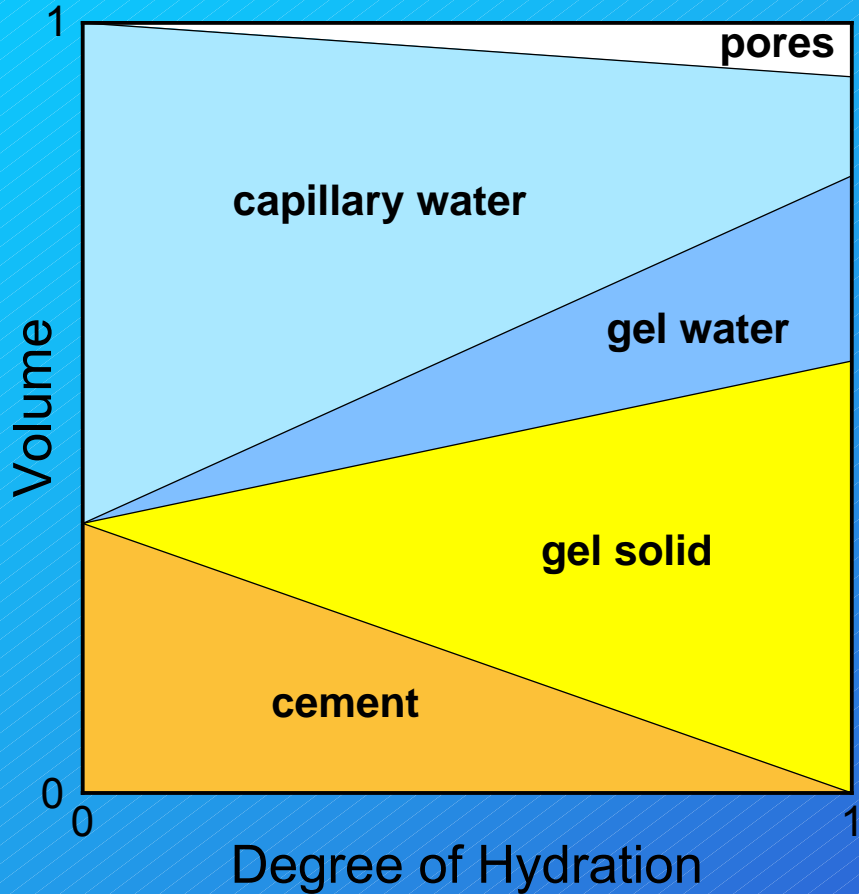
$$p = \frac{w/c}{w/c + \rho_w / \rho_c}$$

$$\rho_w = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

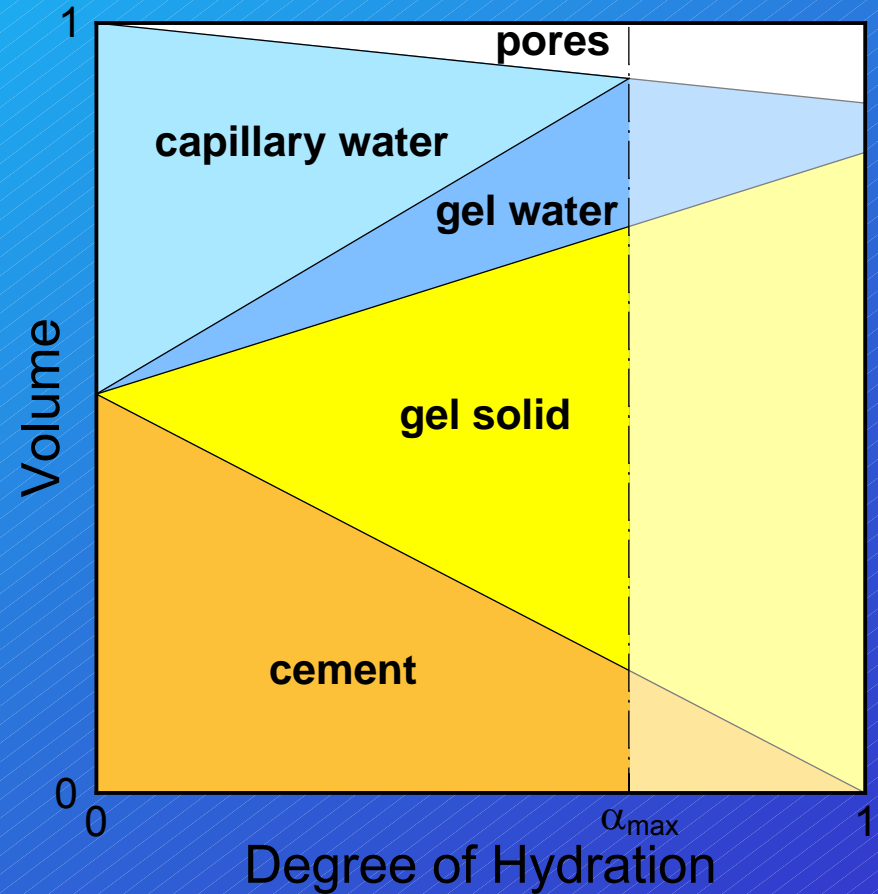
$$\rho_c = 3150 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

# Powers' Model

$w/c > 0.42$   
Sealed system

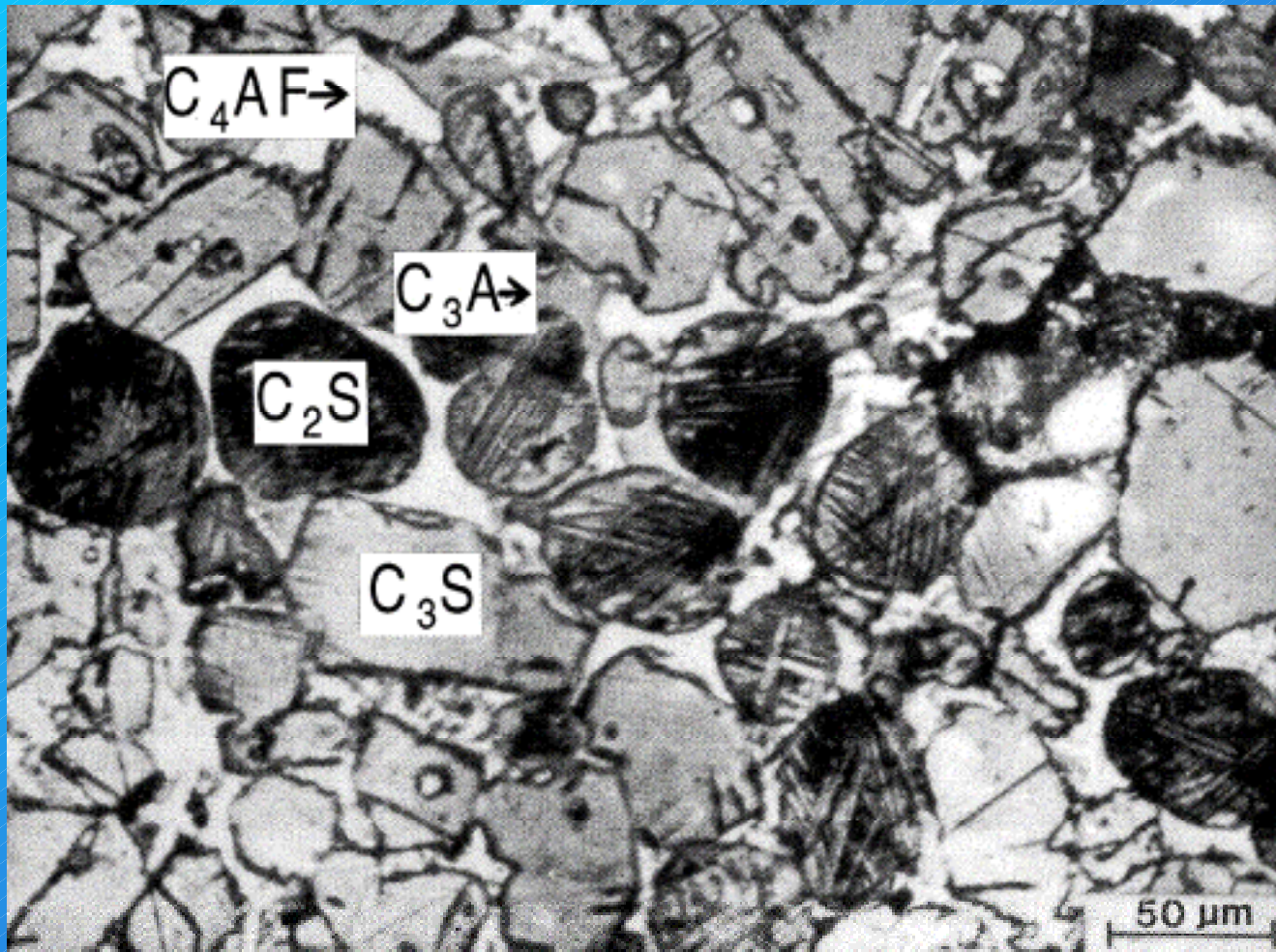


$w/c < 0.42$   
Sealed system



# Degree of hydration

$$\alpha = \sum_i w_i \cdot \alpha_i$$

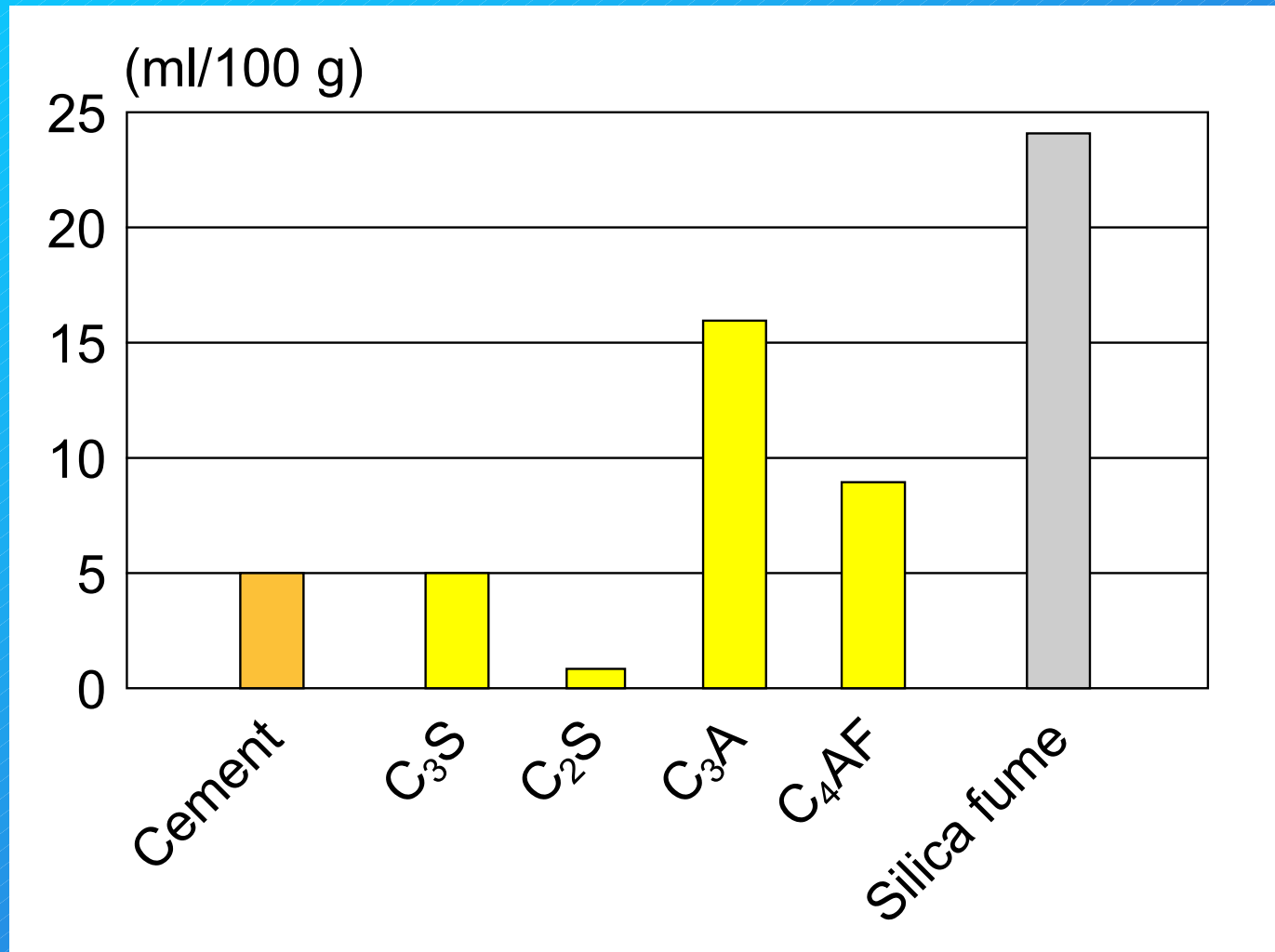




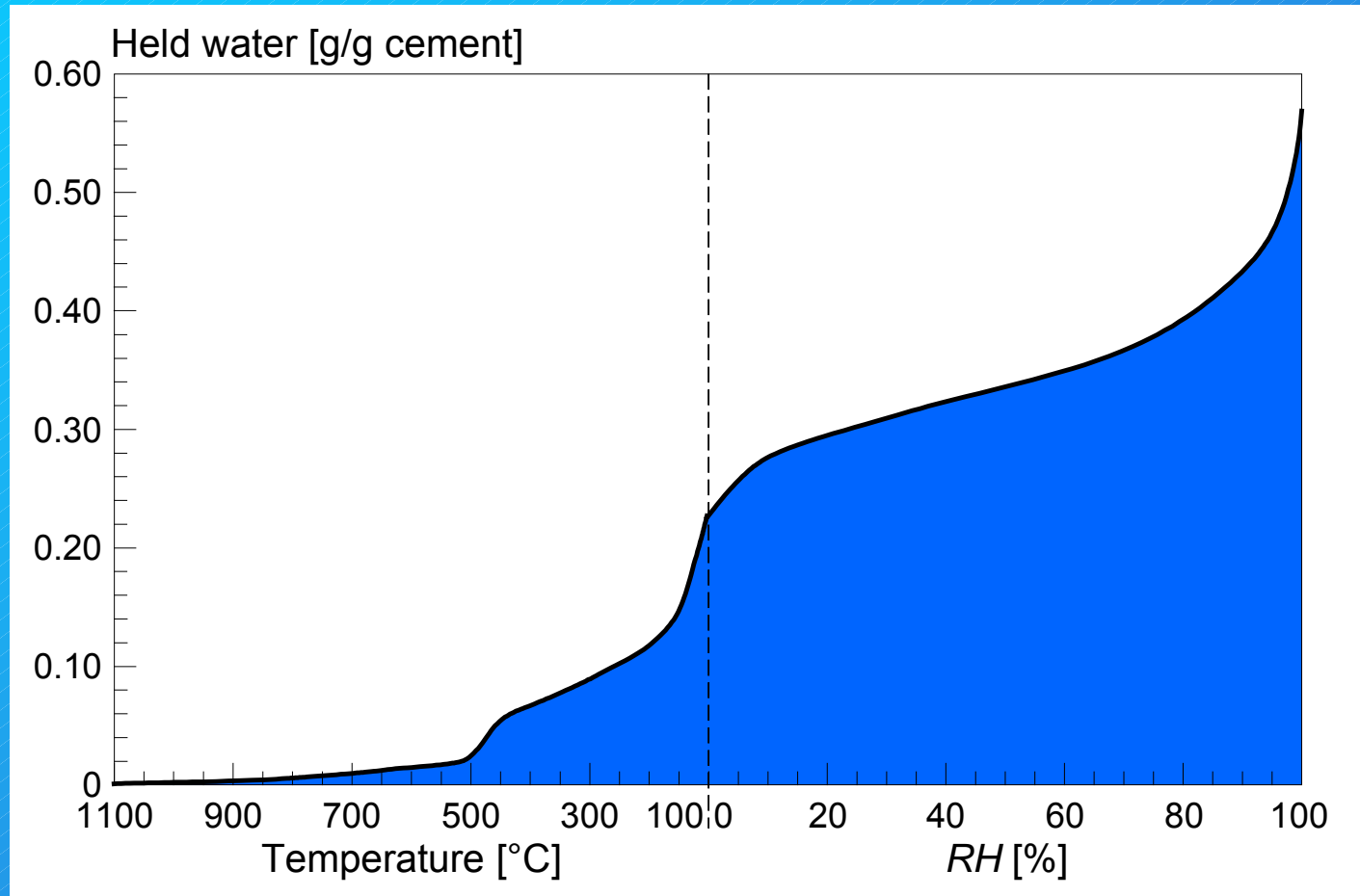
# Stability of reaction products



# Chemical shrinkage of components

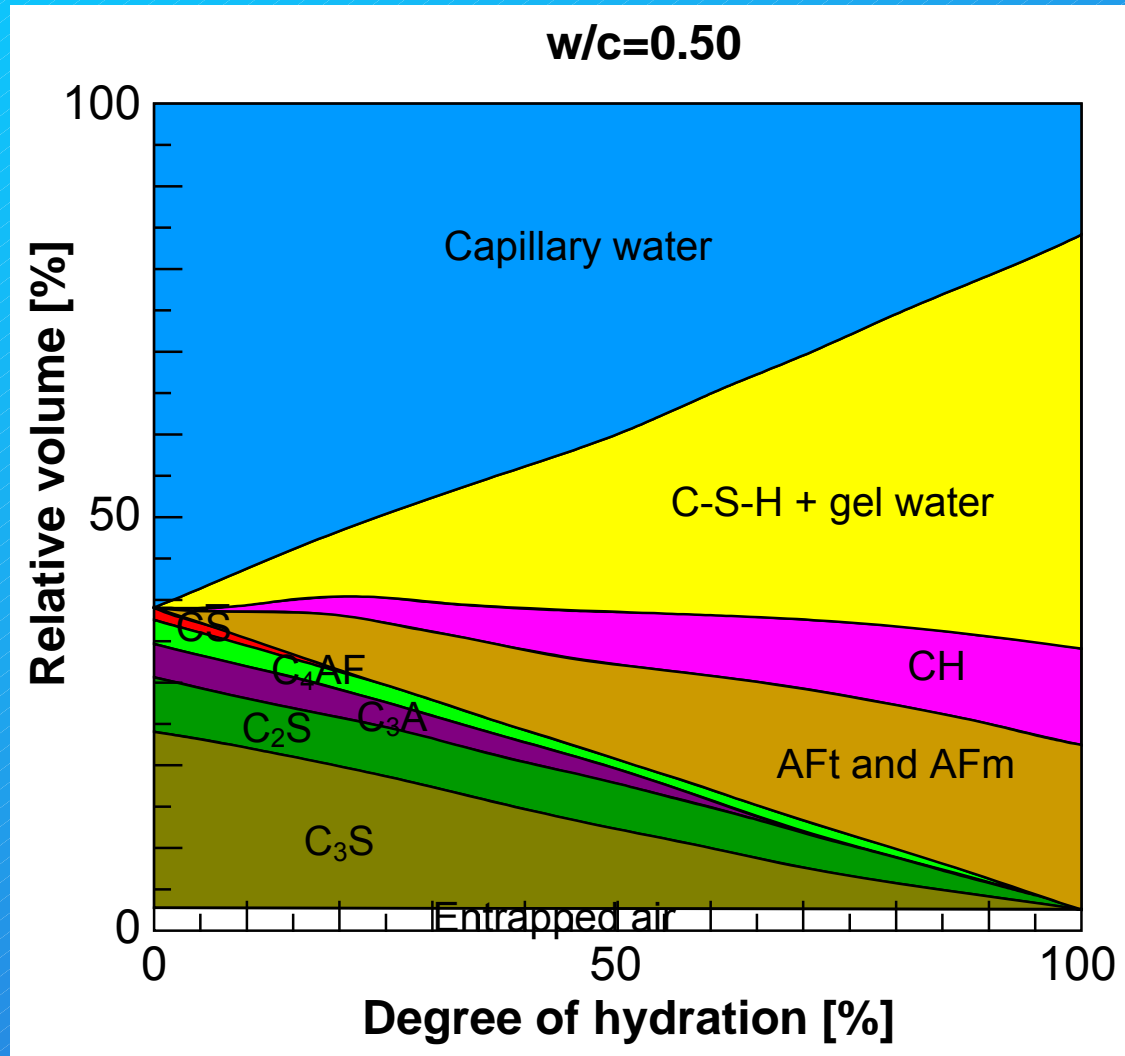


# Water bound in cement paste



*Jensen (2005)*

# The true volumes



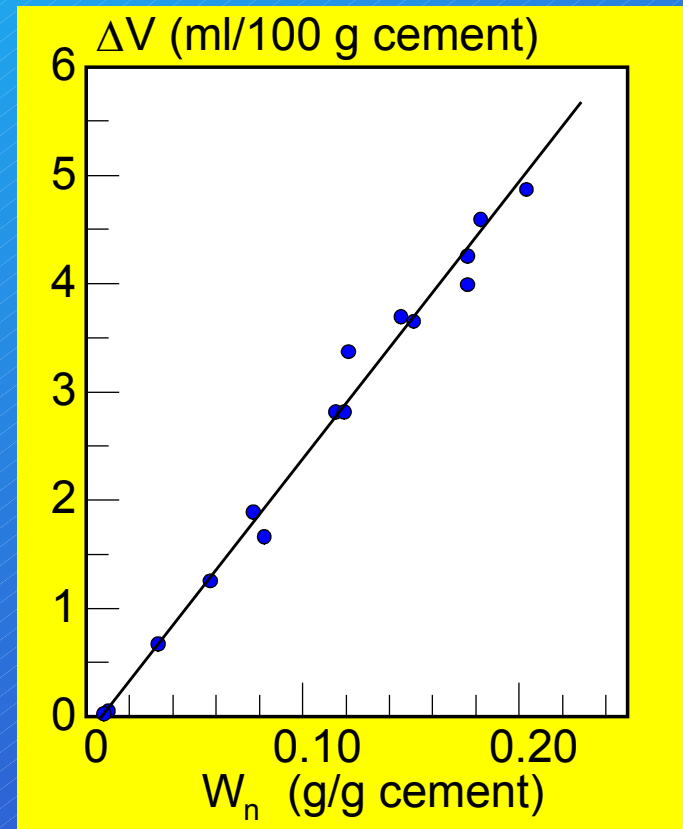
*Tennis & Jennings (2002)*

# Hydration indicators

- Non-evaporable water
- Chemical shrinkage
- BET specific surface area
- Heat evolution
- Calcium hydroxide content

---

- Compressive strength



# Key figures in Powers' model

Non-evaporable water  
~ 0 g/g silica fume reacted

Gel water  
~ 0.6 g/g silica fume reacted

Chemical shrinkage  
~ 24 ml/100 g silica fume reacted