



Study on Magnesium Potassium Phosphate Cement Blended With Fly Ash by Concentric Loading Test

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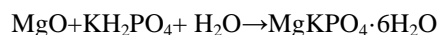
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Abstract: One of the main ingredients used for the production of concrete is the Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC). Carbon-dioxide (CO₂) gas which is a major contributor in greenhouse effect and the global warming, is produced in the production of cement, hence it is needed either to search for another material or partially replace cement by some other material. In recent years, fly ash when replaced with cement has emerged as a major alternative to conventional concrete and has rapidly drawn the concrete industry attention due to its cement savings, energy savings, and cost savings, environmental and socio-economic benefits. Magnesium potassium phosphate cements (MKPCs), blended with partially weight percentage of fly ash (FA) to reduce heat evolution, water demand and cost, were assessed using compressive strength. In addition to the main binder phase, struvite-K, an amorphous orthophosphate phase was detected in FA/MKPC system. It was postulated that an aluminium-phosphate phase was formed; however, no significant Al–O–P interactions were identified. This study demonstrates the need for further research on these binders, as FA is generally regarded as inert fillers within MKPC. The effects on using MKPC concrete of various mix(20%,30%,40% and 50%) was studied by workability, compressive strength & split tensile strength. The durability study by sulphate attack test was performed. The concentric load behavior will be monitored in column by casting with optimum percentage mix of MKPC/Fly ash concrete.

Keywords: MKPC, Struvite-k, Fly ash, Aluminium-phosphate phase

1. Introduction

Magnesium potassium phosphate cement (MKPC) is a kind of cementitious binder in which the chemical bond is formed via a heterogeneous acid-base reaction between dead burned magnesia powder and potassium phosphate solution at room temperature. Small amount of boron compounds can be incorporated in the cement as a setting retarder. The chemical reaction resulting in the formation of MKPC's is based on the dissolution of MgO and KH₂PO₄ reacting in solution to form struvite-K (MgKPO₄·6H₂O), which is iso-structural to struvite (NH₄MgPO₄·6H₂O) and is naturally cementitious.



In practical application, MKPC binders are frequently blended with fly ash (FA) from the coal combustion process to reduce their production cost, reduce water demand of the paste, and lower the exothermic output of the acid–base reaction which avoids cracking of the hardened paste. Alumino silicate glass can react with phosphoric acid to form strong phosphate bonded cement. It is conceivable that the glassy alumino silicate fraction of the FA reacts in the initially acidic environment of the MKPC, forming a secondary phase intermixed with struvite-K. If this occurs, it could result in a matrix of higher density that would be more impermeable to water, have a higher mechanical strength.

2. Material Properties

The properties of materials used in the concrete are discussed below:

2.1 MKP Cement

The reaction product is magnesium potassium phosphate (MgKPO₄·6H₂O) that is formed by dissolution of MgO in the solution of KH₂PO₄ and its eventual reaction to form the product according to the reaction.

2.2 Fine Aggregate

The sand sieved through 4.75 mm sieve is used having specific gravity of 2.74. The fine aggregates belonged to grading zone III.

2.3 Coarse Aggregate

Locally available coarse aggregate having the maximum size of 12.5 mm is used. The specific gravity of coarse aggregate that was taken was 2.74.

2.4 Fly ash

Fly ash is used as a replacement for cement. The specific gravity of fly ash that was taken was 2.2.

2.5 Water

Water is an important ingredient of concrete as it actually participates in the chemical reaction with

cement. Potable water available in the laboratory was used.

2.6 Magnesium oxide

Magnesium oxide is used as a replacement for cement. The specific gravity of magnesium oxide was taken as 2.96.

2.7 Retarder

Small amount of boron compounds can be incorporated in the cement as a setting retarder such as 0.25-1% of cementations material.

3. Experimental Investigation

In this investigation the hardened properties of MKPC concrete for various replacement percentages of fly ash as partial replacement of MKP cement.

3.1 Mix proportions

Recommended guidelines of concrete mix design using Indian Standard Code (IS:10262-2009) the mix proportions of concrete were prepared for M30 grade.

3.2 Hardened properties of MKP concrete

In order to find the mechanical properties Compressive strength tests were conducted at 28 days of cube (150 X 150 X 150 mm) specimens. For each combination, two specimens were tested.

In order to find the split tensile strength of concrete 28 days of cylinder (150 X 300 mm) specimen are cast. For each combination, two specimens were tested.

3.2.1 Compressive Strength Test

The compressive test for various mix of 20%, 30%, 40% &50% replacements of MKPC concrete were calculated and described below.



Figure 1. Compressive strength test

The following tables show the Compressive strength of Concrete with fly ash:

Table 1: Compressive strength of MKPC concrete with fly ash

S. No	Percentage replacement of fly ash	Compressive Strength 7 days (N/mm ²)	Compressive Strength 28 days (N/mm ²)
1	20	21.82	28.35
2	30	26.36	32.87
3	40	30.63	38.64
4	50	28.94	36.26

The following graph shows the variation in the Compressive strength of concrete with fly ash:

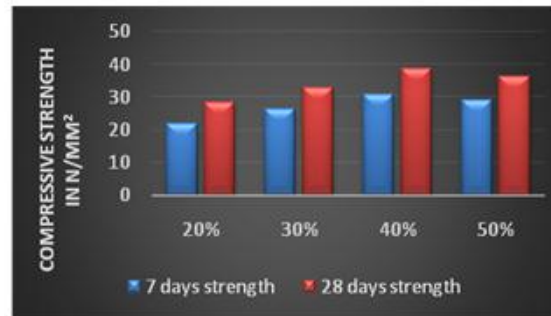


Figure 2. Chart for compressive strength of MKPC concrete with fly ash

3.1.1 Split Tensile Test

The Split Tensile test for various mix of 20%, 30%, 40% &50% replacements of MKPC concrete were calculated and described below.



Figure 3. Split tensile strength

The following table shows the split tensile strength of MKP concrete with fly ash:

Table 2: Split tensile strength of MKPC concrete with fly ash

S. No	Percentage replacement of fly ash	Split Tensile Strength 7 days (N/mm ²)	Split Tensile Strength 28 days (N/mm ²)
1	20	2.34	3.07
2	30	2.64	3.23
3	40	2.88	3.52
4	50	2.73	3.39

The following graph shows the variation in the split tensile strength of MKP concrete with Fly ash:

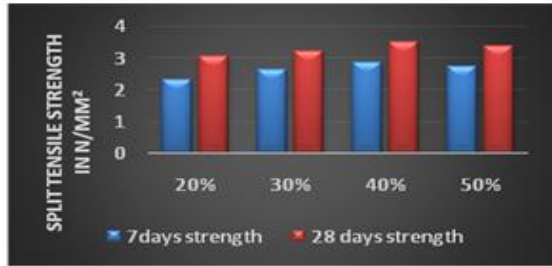


Figure 4. Chart for split tensile strength of MKPC concrete with fly ash

3.2 Sulphate Attack Test

Concrete cube specimens 150mm x 150mm x150mm are casted for sulphate attack. The casted specimens are kept at self-curing condition up to 28 days. The specimens were immersed in a solution of 3% of sodium sulphate in distilled water. The solutions were renewed at regular interval for accurate results. At the days of age, at 7 & 28 days of exposure, the specimens were weighed and strength loss is calculated and described below.

Table 3: Sulphate attack test with MKPC

Percentage replacements	Weight loss %		Strength loss %	
	7 Days	28 Days	7 Days	28 Days
20	0.76	1.48	3.81	5.02
30	0.82	1.52	3.86	5.18
40	0.86	1.55	3.89	5.22
50	0.90	1.57	3.93	5.28



Figure 5. Chart for weight loss percentage of MKPC concrete with fly ash



Figure 6. Chart for strength loss percentage of MKPC concrete with fly ash

3.3 Axial load behavior test

The axial load test was performed for optimum percentages of 40% are described below with comparison of nominal mix.

The following table shows the axial load test of MKPC concrete with 40% fly ash and nominal mix.

S.no.	Nominal mix		Optimum mix	
	Load (kn)	Deflection (mm)	Load (kn)	Deflection (mm)
1.	0	0	0	0
2.	50	0.24	50	0.18
3.	100	0.69	100	0.39
4.	150	1.23	150	0.55
5.	200	1.68	200	0.71
6.	250	2.21	250	0.89
7.	300	2.75	300	1.02
8.	350	2.99	350	1.11
9.	400	3.25	400	1.28
10.	450	3.58	450	1.39
11.	500	3.71	500	1.55
12.	550	3.82	550	1.82
13.			600	2.01
14.			650	2.28
15.			700	2.50
16.			750	2.63

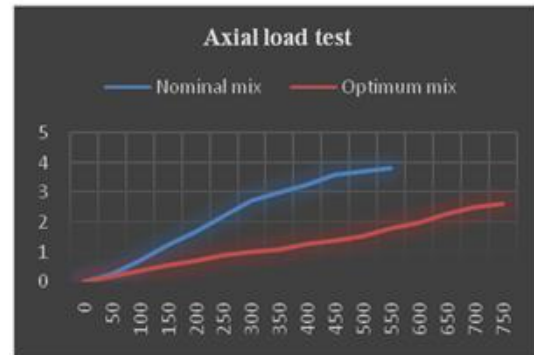


Figure 6. Chart for comparison of axial load test for MKPC concrete with fly ash and nominal mix

4. Conclusion

- When fly ash is added to the concrete, it increases the hardened properties of MKPC concrete.
- Fly ash could make the microstructure of magnesium potassium phosphate cement paste compact, which obviously improved the compressive strength and reduced the shrinkage of hardened magnesium potassium phosphate cement paste.
- From results of test conducted on Compressive strength and Split tensile strength, we can conclude that the addition of fly ash by 40% increases strength with increases in age of concrete and obtain high early strength.

- The most important aspect followed in the project is to reduce the environmental hazards.
- From load deflection curve we have predicted that after yielding point load fails but curvature starts increasing and that will lead to failure.

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