

DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own work. It is being submitted for the degree of Masters of Science in Engineering to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination to any other University.

.....
(Signature of Candidate)

.....**day of**.....,

ABSTRACT

The results of laboratory studies conducted to evaluate the characteristics strength and durability properties of concrete made with pulverized copper slag as partial replacement for Portland cement (PC) is presented. Concrete cube specimens were made with basic material proportions ranging from 0, 2.5, 5, 10 and 15% by weight of PC. For cement paste, test conducted were the initial and final setting times and the total heat of dissipation up to 60 hours of hydration. Fresh concrete mix was assessed for workability whiles, the compressive strength development of the pulverised copper slag admixed concrete was determined using three curing methods namely, ambient air, solar chamber and water curing. Moreover, for durability properties, oxygen permeability, water sorptivity, chloride conductivity and sulphate attack were performed to assess the long term performances of the concrete in harsh environmental conditions.

The experimental results indicate a significant drop in the compressive strength as the copper slag content increases for all curing methods. Moreover, for the control samples, the percentage decrease in the compressive strength for the 3-day curing for water cured sample, compared to the solar chamber and ambient air were respectively 31% and 28%. However, beyond 28 up to 90 days of curing, the water cured samples yielded a higher compressive strength, followed by the solar chamber and ambient air. This trend was similar for all percentage replacement of cement with the pulverized copper slag. For all percentage replacement of Portland cement with copper slag, the concrete disc samples generally performed better in all the three durability tests. The resistance of copper slag concrete to sulphate attack was better compared to the control.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my friend Richmond Adu-Gyamfi, my family both nuclear and extended for their enormous support.

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STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Listed below are successful Journals/Conference papers submitted based on this research report.

1. Boakye, D. M. & Uzoegbo, H. C. (2014) Durability and Strength Assessment of Copper Slag Concrete. Rilem International Workshop on Performance-Based Specification and Control of Concrete Durability, Zagreb Croatia, 2014 (Accepted for publication in June, 2014)
2. Boakye, D. M, Uzoegbo H.C., Mojagothe, N. & Malemona, M. (2014) Effect of Different Curing Methods on the Comprehensive Strength of Pulverized Copper Slag Concrete. Journal of Materials and Engineering Structures. pp. 11-21(Accepted for publication on 21st April, 2014)
3. Boakye, D. M. & Uzoegbo, H. C. (2013) Performances of Copper Slag as Partial Replacement of Sand and Cement in Concrete Technology. Conference on Advances in Cement and Concrete Technology in Africa, ACCTA South Africa, January 28-30, 2013.

LIST OF FIGURES

No.	Title	Page
2.1	The heat evolution curve of Portland cement	9
2.2	A setup of oxygen permeability apparatus	38
2.3	A setup of water sorptivity test apparatus	39
2.4	A setup of chloride conductivity test apparatus	40
3.1	Granulated Copper Slag	52
3.2	Pulverised Copper Slag	52
3.3	Stack of sieves for fineness test	54
3.4	Blaine air permeability test setup	54
3.5	Initial setting time setup	58
3.6	Final setting time setup	58
3.7a	Induction calorimeter setup	59
3.7b	Electronic syringe for mixing the cement paste	59
3.8	Determination of the slump of fresh concrete from the pan mixer	61
3.9	Stack of concrete cubes cured in ambient air for up to 90 days	63
3.10	Concrete cubes and beams immersed in water curing tanks	64
3.11a	Concrete cubes cured inside the solar chamber	65
3.11b	A temperature and humidity digital probe attached to monitor the internal conditions	65
3.12a	Flexural strength test performed on concrete prism	68
3.12b	Compressive strength test performed on concrete cubes	68
3.13	Coring drill for cutting concrete discs specimens	69
3.14	Cored discs specimen of average diameter 70 mm	69
3.15a	Oxygen permeability index measuring setup	70
3.15b	A computer data logger	70
3.16	Cored concrete disc samples stored in a desiccator	71
3.17	Cored concrete discs being tested for sorptivity	71
3.18	Concrete discs samples immersed in NaCl Solution	72
3.19	Concrete disc being tested for chloride conductivity	72

3.20	Concrete cubes immersed in 50g per litter of Na ₂ SO ₄ solution	73
4.1	Mineralogy composition of copper slag	76
4.2:	Sieve analysis of sand, copper slag and stone	82
4.3:	Delay initial and final setting time for cement paste	84
4.4	Fist hydration peak when adding water	87
4.5	Total heat flow and total heat produced up to 60 hours of hydration	88
4.6	Effect of curing type on the compressive of at 0; 2.5; 5; 10 and 15% copper slag replacement	93-94
4.7	Variation of temperature for all curing method up to 90 days	95
4.8	Variation of relative humidity for all curing method up to 90 days	95
4.9	Flexural strength of pulverized copper slag concrete up to 90 days of water curing	97
4.10	Coefficient of oxygen permeability test results	99
4.11	Water sorptivity test results	99
4.12	Chloride conductivity test results	101
4.13	Compressive strength reduction results for sulphate attack test	101

LIST OF TABLES

No.	Title	Page
2.1	Typical Composition of South African Portland Cement Clinker	6
2.2	Typical Compound Composition of South African Portland Cements	7
2.3	Requirements for Fly Ash And Natural Pozzolans for Use As Mineral Admixtures In Portland Cement Concrete	14
2.4	Typical Chemical Composition of GGBS	18
2.5	ASTM C 989 Minimum Slag Activity Index Criteria for Classification of GGBS	20
2.6	Typical Chemical Composition of Copper Slag from Different Regions	24
2.7	Typical Physical and Mechanical Properties of Copper Slag	25
2.8	Suggested Ranges For Durability Classification Using Index Values	41
2.9	List of Inorganic Substance and Their Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration	50
3.1	Concrete Mix Proportions	60
4.1	Chemical Composition of Portland Cement and Copper Slag	77
4.2	TTLIC Results of Trace Metals Found In Copper	80
4.3	Physical Characteristics of Sand, Copper Slag and Coarse Aggregate	81
4.4	Aggregates Gradation	82
4.5	Fineness of Copper Slag and Cement	83
4.6	Surface Area and Relative Density of Copper Slag and Cement	83
4.7	Summary of the Initial and Final Setting Times Result	84
4.8	Summary of the Heat Flow and Total Heat Dissipated	85
4.9	Slump Properties of Fresh Concrete	89
4.10	Compressive Strength Results of Copper Slag Concrete	93
4.11	Flexural Strength Results of Prisms Up to 90 Days of Water Curing	97
4.12	Test Results of Oxygen Permeability Index and Water Sorptivity	98
4.13	The Results of Chloride Conductivity Test	100
4.14	Summary of Compressive Strength Test Results for Sulphate Attack	102

TABLE OF CONTENT

No.	Title	Page
	Declaration	i
	Abstract	ii
	Dedication	iii
	Acknowledgements	iv
	Statement of Achievements	v
	List of Figures	vi
	List of Tables	viii
	Table of Content	ix
Chapter One		
1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	General Information	1
1.2	Justification	2
1.3	Aim and Objectives	2
1.4	Scope	3
1.5	Limitations	3
1.6	Structure of Research Report	4
Chapter Two		
2.0	Literature Review	5
2.1	Introduction	5
2.1.1	Cement	5
2.1.2	Compounds Compositions of Cement	6
2.1.3	Hydration of Cement	7
2.1.4	Heat of Hydration of Portland Cement	9
2.2	Pozzolans and Binding Materials	11
2.2.1	Types of Pozzolans	11
2.2.2	Pulverised Fly Ash	12
2.2.3	Classification of Fly Ash	12
2.2.4	Mineralogy Characteristics of Fly Ash	13

2.2.5	Reaction Mechanism of Fly Ash	15
2.2.6	Uses of Fly Ash in Cement Concrete	16
2.2.7	Advantages of Using fly ash	16
2.3	Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	17
2.3.1	Chemical Composition of Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	18
2.3.2	Reactivity of Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	18
2.3.3	Classification of Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	19
2.3.4	Hydration Mechanism of Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	20
2.3.5	Advantages of Using Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS)	21
2.4	Copper	21
2.4.1	Copper Mining in Southern Africa	22
2.4.2	Production of Copper Slag	23
2.4.3	Mineralogical Composition of Copper Slag	24
2.4.4	Physical and Mechanical Characteristics of Copper Slag	25
2.4.5	Copper Slag as Fine and Coarse Aggregates Replacements in Concrete	26
2.4.6	Copper Slag as Portland Cement Replacement in Concrete	29
2.4.7	Other Useful Application of Copper Slag	30
2.5	Curing of Concrete	32
2.5.1	Effect of Curing on Conventional Concrete	33
2.5.2	Effect of curing on Different Concrete Admixture	34
2.6	Concrete Durability	36
2.6.1	Oxygen Permeability Test	37
2.6.2	Water Sorptivity Test	39
2.6.3	Chloride Ingress into Concrete	39
2.6.4	Implication of Durability Results	41
2.6.5	Sulphate Attack	41
2.6.5.1	Internal and External Sulphate Attack	42
2.6.5.2	Effect of Cement Type	42

2.6.5.3	Effect of Sulphate Type and Concentration on Concrete	43
2.6.5.4	Effect of Pozzolans on Sulphate Attack	44
2.7	Hazardous Waste	44
2.7.1	Classification of Hazardous Waste	45
2.7.2	Toxicity Characteristics of Waste	46
2.7.2.1	Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLC)	46
2.7.2.2	Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC)	47
2.7.2.3	Toxicity Characteristics Leaching Procedure (TCLP)	47
2.7.2.4	Inductively Coupled Plasma	48
2.7.3	Leaching Characteristics of Metallurgical Slags in Concrete	48
Chapter Three		
3.0	Materials and Experimental Procedure	51
3.1	Materials	51
3.1.1	Portland Cement	51
3.1.2	Fine and Coarse Aggregates	51
3.1.3	Copper Slag	52
3.1.4	Mixing Water	53
3.2	Physical Test Procedure for Cement and Pulverised Copper Slag	53
3.2.1	Milling of Copper Slag	53
3.2.2	Fineness Test Using Sieve Analysis	54
3.2.3	Blaine Air Permeability Test	54
3.2.4	Water Absorption and Specific Determination	55
3.3	Chemical Test Procedure for Pulverised Slag	56
3.3.1	Rietveld X-ray Diffraction (XRD) Method	56
3.3.2	X-ray Fluorescence (XRF)	56
3.3.3	Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLC)	57
3.3.4	Loss on Ignition (LOI)	57
3.4	Physical Test for Mortar Paste	57
3.4.1	Setting Time Determination	57
3.4.2	Heat of Hydration	58

3.5	Mixing and Fresh Concrete Properties	59
3.5.1	Mixing of Concrete	59
3.5.2	Workability-Slump Test	61
3.6	Curing of Concrete Specimen	62
3.6.1	Air Curing of Concrete	62
3.6.2	Water Curing of Concrete	63
3.6.3	Solar Chamber Curing of Concrete	63
3.7	Characteristics Strength Determination	66
3.7.1	Compressive Strength of Cubes	66
3.7.2	Flexural Strength of Beams	67
3.8	Concrete Durability Test Procedure	68
3.8.1	Coring of Samples	68
3.8.2	Oxygen Permeability Test Procedure	69
3.8.3	Water Sorptivity Test Procedure	70
3.8.4	Chloride Permeability Test	72
3.8.5	Sulphate Attack Test Procedure	73
Chapter Four		
4.0	Results and Discussion	74
4.1.1	Mineralogy Composition of Copper Slag	74
4.1.2	Chemical Analysis	75
4.1.3	Pozzolanic Classification	77
4.1.4	Hydraulic Activity Index	78
4.1.5	Results of Total Threshold Leaching Characteristics	79
4.2	Results of Physical Properties of Granulated Copper Slag	81
4.2.1	Specific Gravity and Water Sorptivity	81
4.2.2	Sieve Analysis	81
4.3	Results of Physical Properties of Pulverised Copper Slag	83
4.3.1	Fineness Results of Copper Slag	83
4.3.2	Blaine Air Permeability	83
4.3.3	Setting Time	84

4.3.4	Results of Heat of Hydration Test	85
4.3.4.1	Effect of Copper Slag on Heat of Hydration	85
4.4	Results of Physical Properties for Copper Slag Admixed Concrete	89
4.4.1	Slump Test Results	89
4.4.2	Observed Bleeding of Concrete	89
4.5	Characteristics Strength Results for Water Curing	90
4.5.1	Compressive Test Results	90
4.5.2	Effect of Different Curing Methods on Concrete Compressive Strength	91
4.5.2.1	Effect of Temperature and Humidity on Early Age Strength of Concrete	91
4.5.2.2	Effect of Temperature and Humidity on Late Age Strength of Concrete	92
4.6	Flexural Strength Test Results	97
4.7	Durability Test Results	98
4.7.1	Results for Oxygen Permeability and Water Sorptivity Test	98
4.7.2	Results for Chloride Conductivity Test	100
4.7.3	Results for Sulphate Immersion Test	102
Chapter Five		
5.0	Conclusion and Recommendation	104
5.1	Summary	104
5.2	Conclusion	105
5.3	Recommendation	111
References		112
Appendix		125