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THE EFFECT OF SALTS UPON THE STRENGHT OF CONCRETE CURED AT LOW TEMPERATURES

THESIS
Concrete - Teitanq

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#  COPCCPETL CURLD A'T UON GISPLRAPUPLS 

 by
## SIDELY EGBERT JOPETSOT

A Thesis Submitted far the Derree of Civil Enoinetr
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INTRODUCTORY.

This is a report of tests made duriner the winter and srrinf of 1912 bryr. H. F. Pulver, C. 上., Research Assistant in ? $e c h a n i c s$ at the Jnivensity of Wisconsin and the writer, instructor in Iechanics at the same University.

The object of the tests conoucted was tこ determine If there were any virtue in using salts to lower the freezing tempenture, and incidentally to increase the rate of hardeniris of concrete, and if so the proper percentage to use to fet the most desiriable effect.

In performine the tests, comon salt (iaCl) and calcium chloride $\left(\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}\right)$ were used dissolved in the mixins water, the percentart of the salts bein: varied over wat setmed to be any practicahle rance. The eftort was made to ret tre conditions as close as possible to the rost rigorous obtainine crdinalily in the field. To this end the agrrefate was taken directly from the outside atmosphere or from a refriserator in which the temperature was maintuined below freezine, the water was token from the cit: mains, and the $c$ obes when made vere placci, as quickly as convenient in tine atmosphere in wish they were to be cured, the maximum time between mixing and exposina beine about half an hour. The water was usially at a temperatire of about $55^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., the sand and stone about $20^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.

Since it setmed desirable to know if all the chanfe in strenfth obtained were due to the lowerinf of the
fretzing temperature, and also to know if the salts had a detrimental effect on comerete as ordinarily made, tests were alsc made on cubes mixed with materials at noral temferatiret and stores in the laboratory under normit conditions.

Scope of the pests.
All cubes were four inches on a side. For tre first set of specimens the rercentare of TaCl to water was varied between the limits 5 , and lé, by weirnt. For the second set the percentare of $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ was varied fror 2,' to 10,. For the next set the water centainer noth :Tacl and $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$, NaCl varyire from $5,:$ to $15 ;$ and CaCl 2 varyine from $2 ;$, to $3 ;$ AII the above were store in air imediately after being mixed, at an initial temperatire of between $10^{\circ}$ and $20^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit and the temperature $k \in p t$ below $32^{\circ}$ throurhout the curins, except that on two days before sorat of the specimens were placed ir the refrigerator the cutsice temperature rose to arout $35^{\circ}$. For other sets of specimens the same variables were used as in the first set but materials used were at nomal temperature, around $70^{\circ}$, and eubes, after ciring, In air for 24 hours were placeci under rumine water at about $6 S^{\circ}$ for thirteen days, then storea in air till broken. Specimens, four for each point wantict, were broinn at fourtetn and at sixty arys. All low terremature sfecimens were stored in the laboratory for ont dia: before
breakine to permit of thawing. All the nomial terferature cubes werc talec: fron the water of tie tan': at furtetn days, four of tach beinp broken, the others beinis stored in the air in tite laboratory.

Zaterial Used.
The cement used was Atlas Portiand, tensile testis of which follow un Table $I$. These testa were made ir. accordance with the rules of the American Scciet: for Testing lateriels. In oretr that there misht be no variation in the quality a sufricient quantity for the entire wort was mixec thorourny at the recimin ama stored in air tirht cans until ased.

We sand mas of rood quility fuon Jowesvilile, Wisconsin, and all used was fran the sare bin.

Whe stone was limestone frou quaries near "adison, Wisc onsin.

The Ta (al used was comon grainer salt aro the GaCl 2 was fror a barrel obtiantiofor use in the laboratory.
 beine adopted as beine tipical of that mich woul be
 ouis fomd to averare 110 lbs per ci. ft., stont oo lis. per cu. ft. and cenent mas assumed as weighinr loo lins. pur cu. ft.

Since the total quantity of concrete ir any onc batc: wais less taan a half ciobic fout 14 was considerea
best to weifh quantities used. All materials were thoroughly mixed tegether by hand, dry, tien tie liquid adied ir. sufficient quantity to rive a just wet rixture that would flow and form a smooth surface in tre moulcis. jhe wet mixture was turned with a trowel antil it arpeared to be of uniferm consistency. About lor, by weisht of water was required to produce a mixture of tine proper consistency thourh this percentare was varied sligitly for the different batches. Specinten were surfaced by trowelling till fairly smouth.

The Tempexi ni Liquid.
A mixture of water and Yacl was made usine $25 \%^{\circ}$ by weight of salt. This was stored in a can and sufficient used with water to rive the proper fercentase. In the same way a mixture containing 20 of $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ was used. Testing.

A set of four cubes of each batch was broker at the end of sixty days. A 100,000 lh Riehle Universal testing nacinine was uced for the loadire. The cubes rested on a sperical bearime block and care vas taken to insure the cube being centrally pleced on the block. Cuces were bedded on several thicknesses of blotitinf paper both above and below.

Results of Qests .
The results of tests on low temperature cules are given in tables 2 to 7 inclusive. In the cubes of table 2 NaCl alone was used, in those of table $3 \mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ ulone was
used, while in those of tables $4,5,0$, and 7 bot: salte were used in varying percentrages.

T:t results of the testa wity cobes curec at normal
tenpeantires are riven in tables 3 to la inclusive, the variables and arramenent of tables being the same as in the case of the low temperatire cures.

Curve sinets 14 to 18 inclusive shov graphically the resilts ontained.

On si:eet ly are the curves obtuinect usior but one salt in the teraterire water, both for lou tomperatire and nomme cabes at 14 and at o dars. On sitects 15 and 16 unit loaris are plotted as ordinates and porents. $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ as abscissat and curves draw for various rercentares of
 sixt

In tite sume way on shetes 17 and 10 curves are plottea for various percentages of $\because a C l$, NaCl rercentages beine ordinates.

## covciustors.

The curves show an almost strairst linc decrease in the strength of concrete cared under roral conciitions as the rercentare of racl is increased, up to 1 ,, , at the
 mixinc liquid, after wich there is apparenty a slight increase (vinc: a chec\% on results woulci robably show, did not occur.)

Whe effect of TaCl alone addea to concrete cyred at $10 \%$ temeratures probably is to redice the freezian temperature and so permit of the setivinf and hardenine of the concrete. The curves show a strexeti? increase of ahout 20, for each 1, salt up to tivelve rercent, after wish there is a recrease in strenrth. It is rroranle tiat beyore twolve percent till weakenirg of the concrete due to tiat excess of salt moie tha: offstete the rail: in strencth due to the redretion of the freezine temperature. Whe effect of the adidition of $\mathrm{CaOl}_{2}$ alone to concrete cired either normally or at lov tomperature is to increase the streni,th b: an almost strairot line variation up to 4e, $^{\prime} \mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ at which point maximan stremeth is cbtained. The rate of increase is the ravet anored in the case of the fourteen day lo: temperature concrete, probably dat to the acceleration of thc setting of tle cement be the $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$. Sericus disinterration :uas observalle on the surface in the case of the 0 and 3 cacle concrete
cureá at low termeratree, but dic not arrear on ang of the cures cured normally, or were "acl was :ilso used in the mixint witer.

The nosi desirable effect seeme to be chtained when both wacl and $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ are used in the mixiner water, and frum a study of the curves it setus that the use of 2, CeCl $_{2}$ and $6 ;$ YaCl will rive the mest satisfactur., results. This is protably due to the fact that the rercertage of racl used is safineiently high to retard freezire but not thourh to greatly rediace fice strensin, While the fercestare of $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ also does its share in retarcinc freezing and, furticer, accelerates the tirae of setioine very appreciably. The normal strencth of the concrete is refoced onl: ahout lof, and the increase in streneth of low temperature concrete, rarticoliarly at 14 dars, vver that of concretc containime no salt or containira $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ or TaCl alone is ver. maneci. The use
 becaidee the normil temperatilre curves point to the probability that arter a long puricd titie may be sufficitnt disirtersation to caust a consicienale rediaction in the strenctin of tiac concrete.

These tests were marie using but one brime of cement. It is probable that there will be sam variation ir: results with other rands. It i: not anticipated that this will be sufficitntly nariece ou affect the felleral conclusions.

It is possible that at times coman salt will b cbtained whict will contion a sufficiently hish rercentarse of calcium sulphate to affect the results somewhat.

It is surgested that a fixutier fiela for researenes of tinis character would be in mixims tic miteriais as is frequensly done at the present tine, i.t., bir aine the aggregates heated somewhat, anc by usiner a mixiny water heated ta a temperatire of from $125^{\circ}$ to $175^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. It may be that in this sase the accelerating erfect of the $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ on the settime wuld enable the concrete to harden so rapidiy tiat the fonm could be removed much earlier than is now done wen concrete is poured in cola weatitr. It would be well ta obtain all possible inforation regarding the erfects of electrolusis on concreter containing titese salts hefore usin"; then i" cancrete to be used in structures where the effect of electrial currents might de detrimental.

At the tint 0 makin the cubes for the above tests another set of each was mat to bu cired for a year or more in order to observe the effect of tae aalis over antertandi period of time.

CEMENT TESTS



| DATE <br> MAOE | TEMPERATURES WHEN MIXED |  |  | SALT Comtent | PESULTS OF LOAO TESTS. |  |  |  |  |  | TEEMARKS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { firsiof } \\ \text { fir } \end{gathered}$ |  | BATCN |  | A才, DAY |  |  | 600イV. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Total | UNIT | AfVir | TOTAL | UMT | invir. |  |
| $\operatorname{San} 20-12$ | $64^{\circ}$ | $13^{\circ}$ | $42^{\circ}$ | MONE | $\begin{aligned} & 2600 \\ & 3300 \\ & 3300 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 163^{x} \\ & 300 \\ & 206 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 6910 \\ & 5830 \\ & 6610 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 431 \\ & 364 \\ & 4 / 4 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3590 | 224 | 213 | 6980 | 436 | 427 |  |
| UAN30-12 | $61^{\circ}$ | $13^{\circ}$ | 5\%\% | $\begin{aligned} & \sigma \% \\ & \mathcal{N}_{\mathrm{a}} . \mathrm{Cz} . \end{aligned}$ | 7350 | 459 |  | 11300 | 706 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7660 | 479 |  | 10600 | 662 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7580 | 474 |  | 11900 | 744 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 8250 | 5/5 | 482 | 10040 | 628 | 685 |  |
| Uar 30\%2 | $61^{\circ}$ | $13^{\circ}$ | $51^{\circ}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9 \% \\ \text { Na. } \mathrm{Cz} . \end{gathered}$ | 11950 | 746 |  | 14680 | 918 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 10600 | 662 |  | 15070 | 942 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 9460 | 591 |  | 15270 | 905 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1/500 | 719 | 680 | 15230 | 952 | 942 |  |
| UAr30-12 | 610 | $13^{\circ}$ | $51^{\circ}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 12 \%_{0} \\ & N_{2} C Z . \end{aligned}$ | 12000 | 750 |  | 19630 | 1228 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 12000 | 750 |  | 18590 | 1161 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 13000 | 812 |  | 19910 | 1246 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 15050 | 940 | $8 / 3$ | 18130 | 1133 | 1192 |  |
| UAN20-12 | $64^{\circ}$ | $13^{\circ}$ | 4.20 | $15 \%$ Na.Cl. |  |  |  | 15610 | 976 |  | Poor BAJEON * $1-1 \not \subset$ DAY. |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7680 | 480 | x | 17160 | 1072 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $10230$ | 640 | 614 |  | $1173$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $9+10$ | $\sigma \in 8$ |  | $18770$ |  | 1060 |  |
|  |  |  |  | $\times$ omit | teo Fron | mar | ERAG |  |  |  | $3$ |

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TEMPEPATUTE.
IN WATER.

| DATE MAOE | TEMPE PATURES WHEN MIXED |  |  | $S A<T$ Cortert | PESULTS OF LOAD TESTS. |  |  |  |  |  | PEMATKS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | INSMOE $A / P$ | outside | BATCA |  | 14 | DAY |  | 60 | DAY |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | TOTAL | UNIT | V̆MT | TOTAL | UNT | BMT |  |
| Fesiz-12 | $68^{\circ}$ | $15^{\circ}$ | 520 | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2} \\ & 6 \% \mathrm{MaCl} . \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 12290 \\ & 12930 \\ & 13800 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 768 \\ & 808 \\ & 864 \\ & 8.30 \end{aligned}$ | $817$ | 15800 16080 <br> 15000 <br> 16600 | $\begin{aligned} & 908 \\ & 1005 \\ & 937 \\ & 1038 \end{aligned}$ | 992 |  |
| FE. $5.12-12$ | $68^{\circ}$ | $15^{\circ}$ | $52^{\circ}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2} \\ & 9 \% \mathrm{NaCl} . \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 13100 \\ & 12140 \\ & 14720 \\ & 14350 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 918 \\ & 759 \\ & 920 \\ & 896 \end{aligned}$ | $8+8$ | $\begin{aligned} & 19320 \\ & 18500 \\ & 19660 \\ & 18400 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1307 \\ & 1157 \\ & 1223 \\ & 1150 \end{aligned}$ | $1 / 85$ |  |
| Fと89-12 | $68^{\circ}$ | $7^{\circ}$ | $38^{\circ}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2} \\ & 15 \% \mathrm{NaCl} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 9650 \\ & 10050 \\ & .8400 \\ & 9250 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 602 \\ & 628 \\ & 525 \\ & 577 \end{aligned}$ | $58.3$ | $\begin{gathered} 13430 \\ 13160 \\ 9300 \times \\ 12150 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 840 \\ & 823 \\ & 580 \\ & 760 \end{aligned}$ | 807 |  |
| FES 9-12 | $66^{\circ}$ | $7^{\circ}$ | $41^{\circ}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2} \\ & 12 \% \mathrm{NaCl} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10800 \\ & 10800 \\ & 12100 \\ & 10400 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 678 \\ & 675 \\ & 756 \\ & 650 \end{aligned}$ | $690$ | $\begin{aligned} & 15210 \\ & 18.380 \\ & 15640 \\ & 17640 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 951 \\ & 1147 \\ & 977 \\ & 1102 \end{aligned}$ | 1040 |  |
|  |  |  |  | $\times$ omit | $E O$ FRC |  | crat |  |  |  |  |



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& \text { STS OF } \\
& \text { WITH } 8
\end{aligned}
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| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ATE } \\ & \text { ADE } \end{aligned}$ | TEMPERATURES WHEN MIXCD |  |  | SALT CONTEMT | Results of Load Tests. |  |  |  |  |  | TEMARKS. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { INSIDE } \\ & \text { AIR } \end{aligned}$ | outsiox: AIT | Baten |  | 14 D | Ay |  | 60 D | AY |  |  |
|  |  |  | 52 |  | ToTAL ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | Unit | unvir | TOTAL | Unit | Unir |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { AR. } 9 \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 63 |  |  | NONE | 33,300 2 | 2080 |  | 51,250 | 3202 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 29,990/18 | 1873 |  | 4, 5,800 | 2861 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 31,880 1 | 1985 |  | 48,540 | 3035 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 27,080 1 | 1738 | 1994 | 46,780 | 2921 | 3005 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & =0.3 . \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 63 |  | 58 | NONE CUREOIN inside AIR. | 19,800 1 | 1240 |  | 21,040 | 1315 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 19,2201 | 1200 |  | 22,700 | 1419 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 18,2401 | 1140 |  | 20,070 | 1255 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 22,13013 | 1380 | 1240 |  |  | 1330 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { AR. } 9 \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 63 |  | 52 | $6 \%$ Na.Cl. | 27,4001 28,7601 | 1728 1796 |  | 39,500 45450 | 2470 2840 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 28,600 | 1787 |  | 40,000 | 2500 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 23,0701 | 1443 | 1688 | 42,550 | 2660 | 2617 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 8,10 \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 65 |  | 65 | 9\%Na.Cl. | 23,750 | 1483 |  | 36,250 | 2266 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 25,200 | 1573 |  | 40,250 | 2515 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 24,600 | 1537 |  | 39,000 | 2438 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 242001 | 1513 | 1526 | 36,870 | 2360 | 2395 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 68.12 \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 68 |  | 68 | $12 \% \mathrm{Na} . C l$. | 20600 $1735{ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | 32,000 36,480 | 2000 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 20250 | 1266 |  | 29,140 | 1820 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 20,000 | 1250 | 1270 | 34,040 | 2132 | 2060 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 69.3 \\ & 912 \end{aligned}$ | 63 |  | 58 | 15\%MaCl | 21,900 | 1370 |  | 35,640 | -2228 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\frac{18}{18} 940$ | 118 |  | 36,970 | 2192 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 23,230 | 1450 | 1335 | 34,3 20 | 2145 | 2220 |  |
|  |  |  |  | *omırra | D FRo | A A | AVER | AAGE |  |  |  |








| TESTS OF CONCMETE CURED AT NOFMAL TEMPERATU 4INCHCUKES <br> WITH $8 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ ANO VARVING\% S NaCZ INMIXING WAT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { DATE } \\ & \text { WADE } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | TEMPERATURES WHEN MIXED |  | $5 A<T$ CONTENT | RESULTS OFLOAD TESTS |  |  |  |  |  | $R E M A R N S$ |
|  | IMSIOE |  |  | 14 DAV |  |  | GO DAY |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | TOTAL | Unrr | 免保 | TOTAL | UNIT | Arvit |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 5026 \\ & 1912 \end{aligned}$ | 68 | 60 | $\begin{aligned} & 8 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2} \\ & 6 \% \mathrm{NaCl}^{2} \end{aligned}$ | 20300 | 1270 |  | 32600 | 20.39 |  | *3.oH l/4DAY HAD BAD TOP. |
|  |  |  |  | $19000$ | 1188 |  | 32300 | 2020 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 15800 | $988$ |  | 35860 | 2242 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 16500 | 1032 | 1120 | 31850 | 1990 | 2073 |  |
|  |  |  |  | 19810 | 1238 |  | 32400 | 2025 |  |  |
| Mare 8 | 62 | 58 | 3\%CaCz | 17030 | 1065 |  | 32100 | 2007 |  |  |
| 1912 |  |  | 9\% Na Cl | 18.480 | 1155 |  | 34850 | 2180 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 17360 | 1085 | 1136 | 34070 | 2130 | 2085 |  |
|  |  |  |  | 17920 | 1121 |  | 29760 | 1860 |  |  |
| Mara | 62 | 60 | $8 \% \mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ | 17050 | 1066 |  | 37300 | 2330 |  | POORLY MOULDED. |
| 1912 |  |  | $12 \% \mathrm{NaCl}$ | $20160$ | 1258 |  | 27960 | 1716 |  | $8,8 \pi$ |
|  |  |  |  | 16060 | 1004 | 1112 | 33180 | 2075 | 1995 |  |
|  |  |  |  | 23750 | 1483 |  | 41900 | 2620 |  |  |
| Mar. 7 | 63 | 59 | 8\% $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}$ | 24950 | 1559 |  | 42.700 | 2605 |  |  |
| 1912 |  |  | $15 \% \mathrm{NaCZ}$ | 25340 | 1582 |  | 38600 | 2415 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 25260 | 1577 | 1550 | 43450 | 2715 | 2604 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $13$ |
| - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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