

## BEHAVIOUR OF REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAMS MADE OUT OF RECYCLED CONCRETE

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### ABSTRACT

Concrete is the most widely used construction material. Waste concrete represents an unavoidable product of concrete industry. It is produced because of the demolition of concrete structures, rejected concrete, leftover fresh batches, unwanted elements in pre-cast factories, etc. Waste concrete is usually discarded in landfills causing very serious environmental problems. As the interest in recycling waste materials is, nowadays, getting an increasing worldwide attention, there is an environmental incentive for recycling waste concrete with the other types of recycling. In a previous paper by the author et. al., the properties of recycled concrete have been given a detailed study. The present investigation is aimed at understanding the effect of using recycled concrete on the behaviour of reinforced concrete beams. Waste concrete with no information about its previous mix properties and original strength and quality is used. The waste concrete is manually crushed and then tested for grading, bulk unit weight, and water absorption. Concrete specimens; cubes, beams, and cylinders from mixes made out of crushed concrete as a part of coarse aggregate are prepared and then tested for the uniaxial compression, splitting tension, and flexural strengths. The uni-axial stress-strain behaviour and the modulus of elasticity are also obtained. A total of eighteen reinforced concrete beams have been casted and tested to study the behaviour of beams made out of recycled concrete. This number of beam specimens is divided into six groups. Three groups of beams are tested for shear loading while the other three groups were aimed for flexural loading. Both of the flexural and shear groups of beams consisted of three categories each of three beams. The first category of beams was made out of normal concrete with normal coarse aggregate from gravel while the other two categories are made out of recycled concrete with coarse aggregate from crushed concrete. The latter two categories had two various ratios of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate. The study brings out the important results that; the use of recycled concrete reduces both the load carrying capacity and the stiffness of beams while the design equations, given by various codes, for normal concrete may be applicable for reinforced beams made out of recycled concrete without great loss of accuracy.

يتناول هذا البحث دراسة سلوك الكمرات الخرسانية المسلحة المصنعة من خرسانة معاد تصنيعها وقد تم استخدام خرسانة قديمة لا يتوافر عنها اي بيانات سابقة سواء عن خواصها الميكانيكية أو حتى نسب خلطها حيث تم تكسيها يدويا لاستخدامها كركام كبير للخلطات الخرسانية الجديدة وقد تم دراسة الخصائص الفيزيائية والميكانيكية للخرسانة الجديدة المعاد تصنيعها. بعد ذلك تم استخدام الخرسانة المعاد تصنيعها في صب كمرات خرسانية مسلحة لدراسة تأثير استخدام الخرسانة المعاد تصنيعها على سلوك الكمرات الخرسانية المسلحة حيث تم صب ودراسة عدد ثمانية عشر كمرة خرسانية مسلحة وهذا العدد تم تقسيمه الى ستة مجموعات ثلاث منها تم دراسة سلوكها تحت تأثير أحمال الانحناء والثلاث مجموعات الأخرى تم دراستها تحت تأثير أحمال القص وقت تمت دراسة إمكانية تطبيق معادلات التصميم للقطاعات الخرسانية المسلحة والواردة بعدد من كودات التصميم المختلفة على القطاعات الخرسانية للكمرات المصنعة من خرسانة معاد تصنيعها. وقد أوضحت الدراسة ان استخدام الخرسانة المعاد تصنيعها يؤدي الى اضعاف كل من القدرة التحميلية والجساءة لهذه الكمرات نسبيا بينما يمكن أن تخضع لنفس معادلات التصميم التي تخضع لها الخرسانة المصنعة من الركام الطبيعي دون اخطاء مؤثرة.

**Keywords :** Reinforced Concrete; Beams; Crushed Concrete; Recycled Beams & Recycled Concrete.

## INTRODUCTION

With the great development in all activities all over the world, the mass of waste materials has been increased to the extent that it is now representing a very serious environmental problem as it limits the right of mankind to live in a clean and healthy environment. Therefore, the interest in recycling of waste materials is, nowadays, getting an increasing worldwide attention. As with the other types of recycling, there is an environmental incentive for recycling waste concrete. Concrete is the most widely used construction material. The world consumption of concrete is approximately 4.5 billion tons a year (Mehta, 1986). Waste concrete is produced because of the demolition of structures due to different reasons such as earthquake, fire, explosion, rejected concrete and leftover fresh batches. It has been estimated by the Environmental Resources Ltd., (1980), that, every year, approximately 130 million tons of concrete are discarded in the European Economic Community, the United States and Japan. It has been further estimated that, these figures will increase approximately threefold by the year 2000, (Salem et al., 1998). In many places where there is a short supply in quality aggregates, the need to recycle waste concrete takes an economical point of view. In such places, importing aggregates can be quite expensive because of the transportation costs. In view of the environmental and economical benefits, the concept of recycling waste concrete and reusing it in another form has gained momentum in the last four decades. Frondistou-Yannas, (1977), Rassheeduzzafar et al., (1984), Mulheron et al., (1988), and Tavakoli et al., (1996), have carried out investigations to study the properties of both recycled aggregate and recycled concrete. Matthana, M. H. & Tahwia, A. M., (2002), carried out a detailed experimental investigation to study the strength properties of recycled concrete. The effect of using recycled concrete on the behaviour of reinforced concrete members has not got enough interest. The present study is aimed at understanding the effect of using recycled concrete on the behaviour of reinforced concrete beams.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM LAYOUT

### Materials

Waste concrete used for experimentation in this study is obtained from previously tested and crushed concrete cubes available in the laboratory of concrete structures, Faculty of Engineering, El-Mansoura University, Egypt. The waste cubes are taken randomly without any information about its previous properties. In other words, the original strength and mix proportions of those waste cubes are unknown. The waste cubes are manually crushed and sieved through the 38-mm sieve size and the same sieve is

used for gravel. Crushed concrete is then mixed in various mix proportions with the other coarse aggregate from gravel. Fine aggregate from sand is used. The grading of aggregates from gravel, crushed concrete and sand is shown along with the limits of the ES-1109, in Fig. (1) & Fig. (2), respectively, while, the physical properties of both gravel and coarse aggregate from crushed concrete are summarized in Table (1). The same ordinary Portland cement is used along with potable water in all mixes. Before mixing, the coarse aggregate, from both gravel and crushed concrete, was well washed to avoid the existence of excess of fines in crushed concrete and also to utilize the difference in the water absorption of the two materials. Three mix proportions are considered. The 100 % coarse aggregate from gravel is considered as the control mix in the control beam-groups (group A & group D).

The coarse aggregate from crushed concrete is added with ratios 50 %, and 100 % of the total weight of coarse aggregate. All mix proportions are by weight. Mechanical mixing and mechanical compacting in moulds using table vibrator is maintained for all mixes. Various types of moulds; cubes, cylinders and beams are used for casting various specimens. All moulds are removed after 24 hours from casting and all specimens are kept in water for 28 days for curing. The Egyptian code and standards [2-6] are followed. The details of various concrete mixes of both normal and recycled concrete are summarized in Table (2). Hardened concrete made out of the three mix proportions are tested for, the compressive strength, splitting and flexural tensile strengths and the stress-strain behaviour. The modulus of elasticity is also measured. The compressive strength is studied through 15 x 15 x 15cm cubes, while the 15 x 30cm cylinders are used for measuring the splitting tensile strength, the value of Young's modulus, and for predicting the stress-strain behaviour. The standard compresso-meter is used to measure the values of vertical strains of concrete cylinders. The flexural strength is studied through 10 x 10 x 70cm beams. The final test results of the used materials are given in Table (3), while Fig. (3) shows the stress strain behaviour of recycled concrete with various mix proportions. The values of compressive strength, splitting, and flexural tensile strengths and the value of the modulus of elasticity are normalized as percentage ratios to those of the control mix (mix No. 1 of 100 % coarse aggregate from gravel). The reported values of the modulus of elasticity are the secant values at 25 % of the ultimate stress of each mix. More details of physical and mechanical properties of various types of recycled concrete mixes and their constituents were given in a previous paper by Matthana & Tahwia, 2002. High grade steel

(36/52) is used in both bottom and top reinforcement of all beams, while the normal mild steel (24/35) is used for web reinforcement in flexural groups.

#### Details of the Test Specimens

The test specimens, considered in the present study, include 18 simply supported reinforced concrete beams divided into six groups each of three specimens. Three of the beam groups with three various recycled concrete mixes are maintained for flexural loading while the other three are maintained for shear loading. All specimens have the same cross section of  $12 \times 20 \text{ cm}^2$ , the same overall span of 185.0 cm and the same effective span of 160.0 cm. All beams are provided with a main (bottom) reinforcement of two-bars of 16-mm diameter and top reinforcement of two bars of 10-mm diameter. The beams of the flexural groups are provided with web reinforcement of 6-mm diameter stirrups arranged at spacing of 10 cm. The details of test specimens considered in the experimental program are given in Table (4), while the configurations of these specimens are shown in Fig. (4). Wooden moulds are used for casting beam specimens. Mechanical mixing and mechanical compacting in beam moulds using table vibrator is maintained for all beams. All moulds are removed after 24 hours from casting and all beam-specimens are kept under damp jute bags for 28 days for curing.

#### Test Procedure

The reinforced concrete beams were simply supported and tested in a loading frame under two-point compressive loading. Special bearing assemblies (rollers, bearing blocks, etc.) were designed to facilitate the application of loads to the test specimens. Dial gauges were mounted at the bottom face of beams at mid-span and under the loading points. Each beam specimen was instrumented with two electrical strain gauges; one is fixed on one of the main longitudinal reinforcing bars at mid span. In the flexural groups, the second strain gauge is fixed on an end stirrup while it is fixed near the end of one of the bottom steel bars in the shear groups; Fig. (4). The configurations of the loading system and the experimental set-up are shown schematically in Fig. (4), while Plate (1) shows the photograph of the experimental set-up at testing. At the beginning of loading, small fraction of the expected failure load of various specimens was applied slowly and then removed in order to exercise the deformation instruments. Load is then applied in small increments and all the deformation readings are recorded at the end of each load increment. The initiation and propagation of cracks were marked and the mode of failure was noted after final collapse.

## RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

### Behaviour of Beams with Various Recycled Concrete Mixes under Flexural Loading

Plate (2) shows the cracking patterns of different groups of reinforced concrete beams with various recycled concrete mixes under flexural loading while the experimental test results are summarized in Table (5). As shown in Plate (2), the cracking patterns of various beam groups are nearly similar while the results presented in Table (5) show that, the beams of each group exhibit different values of both cracking and ultimate loads and the central deflection is also different. As presented in Table (5), the control beam group; group A, had the first crack at a load of 2.571 ton which is about 26.5 % of its ultimate load in the form of flexural crack while the beam groups B & C with crushed concrete of 50 % and 100 %, respectively, of the coarse aggregate of the recycled concrete mix experienced their first cracks at loads of 2.351 ton & 2.072 ton which are about 25.7 - 25 % of the ultimate load of each group and both of them had also the form of flexural crack. With the increase in the applied flexural load, each beam group exhibited another mode of cracking in the shape of shear cracks. The shear cracks initiated in the control beam; group A, at a load of 7.143 ton, which is about 74 % of the ultimate load of the same group while a similar mode of cracking started in the other two groups; group B & group C with crushed concrete of 50 % and 100 %, respectively, of the coarse aggregate of the recycled concrete mix, at 6.269 ton & 5.524 ton which are about 69% & 67% of the ultimate loads of the two beam groups, respectively. Finally, the control beam failed, in the mode of flexural failure, at a load of 9.714 ton while both groups B & C exhibited the same flexural failure at lower values of loads; specifically at 9.143 ton for group B with 50 % crushed concrete as a coarse aggregate and 8.286 ton for group C which has a recycled concrete mix with 100 % crushed concrete as the coarse aggregate. It is now clear that the reinforced concrete beams made out of recycled concrete mixes exhibit lower performance than those made out of normal concrete having gravel as the coarse aggregate. In other words, the use of recycled concrete mixes with crushed concrete as a part of coarse aggregate leads to reinforced concrete beams with lower values of both cracking and ultimate loads and the decrease of both loads increases with an increase in the percentage of crushed concrete in the coarse aggregate of the concrete mix.

Figure (5) shows the variation in the central deflection of various beam groups with the applied flexural load. As shown in the figure, the variations in the central deflections, with the applied load, follow nonlinear paths which are similar for all beam

groups. The control beam, with normal concrete made out of gravel as the coarse aggregate, exhibited the least values of central deflection while the beams of group C with concrete mix of 100% crushed concrete as the coarse aggregate exhibited the maximum. When crushed concrete is added as 50 % of the coarse aggregate in the recycled concrete mix; group B, the reinforced concrete beam developed intermediate values in the central deflection. As a numerical comparison, the secant flexural stiffness ( $K_1$ ) of various beam groups is calculated as the load at 25 % of the ultimate load of each beam-group divided by the corresponding value of central deflection of the same group. The calculated values for various beam-groups are reported in Table (5). As presented in the table, the flexural stiffness of the control beam with normal concrete was found to be 1.811 ton/mm while the corresponding values of groups B & C; with recycled concrete mixes, were 1.639 & 1.248 ton/mm respectively. This means that the use of recycled concrete mixes in the reinforced concrete beams leads to lower values of the flexural stiffness of the beam and this decrease in the flexural stiffness increases with an increase in the percentage of the crushed concrete in the mix.

Figure (6) shows the variation in the central strain of a bottom steel bar with the applied flexural loading for various beam groups with various recycled concrete mixes. The figure shows that the beam groups with recycled concrete mixes; groups B & C exhibit higher values of the central steel strain than the control beam with coarse aggregate from gravel. As a comparison between the three beam groups, the value of load corresponding to 25 % of the ultimate load of each group divided by the corresponding value of the central steel strain is defined hereafter as the steel flexural stiffness ( $K_2$ ). As shown in Table (5), the measured value of  $K_2$  of the control beam (group A with 100 % of the coarse aggregate from gravel) is 0.0422 ton/micro-strain while the corresponding values of beam groups B & C with 50 % and 100 % of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate are 0.0292 and 0.0236 ton/micro-strain, respectively. This means that, the addition of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate leads to an increase in the central strain of the longitudinal steel bars and this consequently increases the stresses developed in such bars till it reaches the yielding state at earlier stages of the applied loads. The variation of strain at an end stirrup with the applied flexural loading is plotted in Fig. (7). Keeping an eye on this figure and looking into the test results presented in Table (5), one can easily notice that, the load at which an end stirrup starts developing strain is getting reduced with an increase in the percentage of crushed concrete as a

part of the coarse aggregate in the recycled concrete mix.

#### Behaviour of Beams with Various Recycled Concrete Mixes under Shear Loading

Plate (3) shows the cracking patterns of various beam groups with various recycled concrete mixes under the effect of shear loading while the values of both cracking and ultimate loads are presented in Table (6). Considering the experimental test results presented in Table (6), it is noticed that the control beam group with 100% of the coarse aggregate from gravel; group D, developed a flexural crack at a load of 8.571 ton which is about 65 % of its ultimate load but this crack did not propagate and was rapidly followed by a shear crack observed midway between the point of loading and the nearest support, in the critical shear zone at a load of 9.429 ton which is about 72 % of the ultimate load of the beam. With a further increase in the applied shear load, the shear crack extended to join the edges of the applied load and the nearest support and propagated till the failure of the beam as shear failure at a load of 13.143 ton. Considering the beam groups with recycled concrete; groups E & F, the results show that the same mode of cracking is noticed for all groups but the difference here was the value of the load stage. In case of beam-group E; made out of recycled concrete with 50 % of the coarse aggregate from crushed concrete, the beam developed its first crack at a load of 7.714 ton; which is about 63% of its ultimate load, in the mode of flexural crack and also this crack did not propagate, while it was rapidly followed by a shear crack at a load of 8.571 ton which is about 70 % of the ultimate load. The shear crack was propagated with the increase in the applied shear load till the beam failed at a load of 12.286 ton in the mode of shear failure. A further increase in the percentage of crushed concrete to be 100 % of the coarse aggregate in the recycled concrete mix; Group F, has reduced the strength of the beam as the first crack occurred at a load of 7.143 ton which is about 61 % of the ultimate load and was followed by a shear crack at a load of 8.0 ton which is about 68 % of the ultimate load while the beam failed at a load of 11.714 ton in the same mode of shear failure.

Figure (8) shows the load-central deflection relationships of various beam-groups under shear loading. As shown in figure, the relationship is almost linear over most of the load stages. This happened for the three beam groups with various recycled concrete mixes. The experimental results show that, as the case of flexural loading, the value of central deflection increases with an increase in the percentage of crushed concrete in the coarse aggregate of the recycled concrete mix. Figure (9) shows the variation in the value of the central strain

in a bottom steel bar with the applied shear load for various beam groups with various percentage ratios of the crushed concrete in the coarse aggregate of the recycled concrete mix. As shown in the figure, the strains in bottom bars increase with an increase in the percentage of crushed concrete in the mix. In Figure (10), the variation in the steel strain at the end of the beam with the applied load is plotted. The figure enhances the understanding that the increase in the percentage of crushed concrete in the mix increases the steel strain.

Numerical comparisons among various beam groups under both flexural and shear loading are held in Tables (7) & (8) while the same relations are plotted in Figures (11) to (14). Table (7) is concerned with the behaviour of various beam groups under flexural loading. As shown in the table, the first crack occurs in the control beam group with 100% of the coarse aggregate from gravel, in the mode of flexural crack, at a load of 2.571 ton while this value reduces to about 91% of that of the control beam when the concrete mix is provided with crushed concrete as 50% of the coarse aggregate. The first crack occurred in beam-group C with 100 % of the coarse aggregate from crushed concrete at a load of 2.072 ton which is about 81% of the case of the control beam; group A. When the beams are subjected to shear loading, Table (8) shows that the first crack occurred in the control beam at 8.571 ton and reduced to about 90 % of its value when crushed concrete is added as 50 % of the coarse aggregate. When the beam is provided with recycled concrete with 100 % crushed concrete as the coarse aggregate the value of the first crack load has further reduced to about 83% only of the corresponding value of the control beam. Again the same observation of the reduction in the performance of the beam with an increase in the percentage of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate becomes very clear in Tables (7) & (8) as the value of the load at second crack reduced to about 84 % & 74%, in case of flexural loading, and about 91% & 85%, in case of shear loading, of the corresponding value of the control beam when the percentage of crushed aggregate is 50% & 100%, respectively. Finally the reduction in the ultimate load ranged between about 94 % & 85 % in the flexural loading and about 93% and 89% in case of shear loading for the two cases of 50 % and 100% of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate. The variations in the first crack, second crack and ultimate loads with the percentage of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate are plotted in figures (11) & (12). The reduction in the beam stiffness due to crushed concrete is more obvious as it ranged between 56 % and 91 % of the corresponding values of the control beam. Figures (13) & (14) show the variations in the beam stiffness;  $K_1$ , and steel stiffness;  $K_2$ , with the

percentage of crushed concrete as a part of the coarse aggregate.

### Codes Provisions for Design of Reinforced Concrete Beams

#### Flexural Loading

The analysis and design of doubly reinforced concrete sections subjected to flexure is carried out using the strength equations as follows:

#### Egyptian Code of Practice ECCS 203-2003.

The design ultimate moment is calculated as follows:

$$M_u = R_{\max} \left( \frac{f_{cu}}{\gamma_c} \right) b d^2 + \left( \frac{f_y}{\gamma_s} \right) A_s^- (d - d^-) \quad (1)$$

The nominal moment of the section is calculated as

$$M_n = 0.67 f_{cu} a^* b \left( d - \frac{a^*}{2} \right) + A_s^- f_y (d - d^-) \quad (2)$$

while,

$$a^* = \frac{(A_s - A_s^-) f_y}{0.67 f_{cu} b}$$

#### ACI 318-95

$$M_u = 0.85 f_c a^* b \left( d - \frac{a^*}{2} \right) + A_s^- f_y (d - d^-) \quad (3)$$

while,

$$a^* = \frac{(A_s - A_s^-) f_y}{0.85 f_c b}$$

In the above equations, in both the ECCS & the ACI, the stress in the top reinforcement has to be checked for yielding. Otherwise, the yield stress;  $f_y$ , has to be replaced by the actual stress in the compression steel;  $f_s$ . As per the ECCS-203, the stresses in top reinforcement may not be checked for yielding in case of  $d^-/d$  does not exceed 0.15 for the case of high grade steel (steel 36/52).

#### Shear Loading

The standard method for shear design of reinforced concrete element uses the concept that the total design shear strength,  $V_d$ , is taken as the sum of the shear carried by concrete,  $V_c$ , and the shear carried by the stirrups,  $V_s$ . Since all shear specimens, in the present study, are considered without stirrups, the design shear strength of the beam;  $V_d$ , is derived from the shear portion carried by concrete only; i.e.  $V_d = V_c$ .

#### Egyptian Code of Practice ECCS 203-2003.

According to the Egyptian Code of practice, ECCS 203-2003, the design shear capacity of concrete elements,  $V_c$ , is estimated using the following empirical equation for beams without stirrups:

$$V_c = 0.24 \sqrt{f_{cu} / \gamma_c} \text{ N/mm}^2 \quad (4)$$

The nominal shear may be estimated as:



























