

DEVELOPMENT IN QUALITY CONTROL OF CONCRETE DURING CONSTRUCTION

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New methods of quality control of concrete during pavement construction have successfully been carried out in Switzerland on all main road projects since 1969. A combined quantitative and qualitative microscopic analysis has been carried out on thin slices of 2-day-old concrete in more than 800 tests. Quantitative analysis determines the frost-salt (F-S) resistance. In addition to the spacing factor, nine other factors are being considered. The evaluation of F-S resistance foresees a subdivision in five groups according to the durability factor. The qualitative, morphological control analysis is done on the same slice and at the same time the quantitative analysis is carried out. The morphological quality control determines precisely the faults in the concrete as well as their causes. It also makes it possible to rectify these faults during further construction. Concrete with medium or low F-S resistance (according to the quantitative analysis) or with a high percentage of morphological faults (disturbance factor ≥ -10) is controlled by a frost-thaw-salt (F-T-S) resistance test with rapid cycles. This new Dobrolubov-Romer (D-R) method makes rapid testing of concrete possible (500 cycles within a fortnight). Practical application of control on site during construction is demonstrated.

•SEVERAL control examinations have been applied during concrete highway construction in Switzerland since 1969 and are discussed in the following.

AIR CONTENT DETERMINATION IN FRESH CONCRETE

The air content of fresh concrete is determined immediately before compaction. Distributed concrete from a vibrating slab and a pressure equalizing apparatus, Tonindustrie Berlin, are used for the determination. According to Swiss specifications (SNV-640478), air-entrained concrete must contain between 4 and 6 percent air by volume; therefore total air content (e.g., compaction and entrained air pores) is measured.

The results depend on the compaction of the concrete in the apparatus and can vary up to 2 percent by volume. The purpose of the investigation is to detect faults in the placing so that the necessary corrections can be implemented. Insufficient air content in fresh concrete can occur through (a) absence or an insufficient dose of an air-entraining agent, (b) reduction of the mixing time, (c) concrete that is too dry, (d) excessive transportation or waiting time, and (e) different qualities of air-entraining agents.

During concrete road construction, air content of fresh concrete is determined between five and ten times daily. Although the test is meant to serve as a control, it can give no conclusive estimates of the F-S resistance of the concrete.

MICROSCOPIC PORE ANALYTICAL DETERMINATION OF F-S RESISTANCE

For this investigation three 5-cm-diameter cores are taken from the hardened pavement. This can be done after 24 hours in warm conditions, or after 48 hours. One

core is used for the preparation of two thin sections. The remaining cores are for the 5-day water saturation test A_5 and for the in-vacuum water saturation test A_v . Results of these investigations are available 7 days after concreting. Partial information, without water saturation results, can be given by telephone 3 days after concreting.

Evaluation and judgment of F-S resistance are based on pore analysis and deduced characteristic values. The following values are used in the assessment:

L_f = fresh concrete/air volume, percent;

L_a = hardened concrete/air volume, percent;

α = mean specific pore surface, mm^{-1} ;

P_i = number of pores per mm^3 of sample;

L_{300} = volume of pores up to 300 micron diameter, percent;

$V_1 = \frac{L_{300}}{K_5} \cdot 100$, where $K_5 = A_5$ - gel water;

$V_2 = \frac{L_{300}}{A_5} \cdot 100$;

WB_1 = supplementary value = $V_1 \sigma \text{ kg/cm}^2$, where σ = flexural strength at 28 days;

WB_2 = supplementary value = $V_2 \sigma \text{ kg/cm}^2$; and

AF = spacing factor in mm (after Powers).

This evaluation is based on Figure 1. Plotting the resulting characteristic values produces a curve. (The dashed line is concrete No. 2 from Highway N1, St. Gallen-Buriet, which lies within the limits of one of the five F-S resistance groups. Concrete No. 2 has a high F-S resistance.)

The five groups depend on the resistance factor WFT_E —the durability factor—defined in ASTM C 666-B. Groups with a very high and high F-T-S resistance correspond to a WFT_E value between 100 and 80 percent; a medium F-T-S resistance to between 80 and 50 percent; and a low to very low F-T-S resistance to between 50 and 20 percent (1). Consequently a concrete with a high characteristic value should, after 200 F-T-S cycles of the D-R method, show a reduction of at most 20 percent ($WFT_E = 80$ percent) in the modulus of elasticity. This F-T-S resistance rating makes a comparison with many American and other research studies possible. It also permits F-T-S resistance resulting from characteristic values to be checked by using the effective resistance factors obtained from the F-T-S test (D-R). Comparative investigations have shown that the morphological characteristics of the concrete can, under circumstances, have considerable influence on the F-T-S resistance. This correlation principle will be discussed later.

MICROSCOPIC MORPHOLOGICAL QUALITATIVE CONTROL OF CONCRETE

Microscopic quantitative (pore analytical) and qualitative (morphological) control of concrete is carried out on thin sections made from a concrete core specimen impregnated with special fluorescent dye and examined under a microscope by transmitted ultraviolet (UV) light. This new method makes otherwise undistinct or undetected features visible. (The new preparation technique was responsible for successful development of qualitative and quantitative control methods as well as for the good correlation of these methods with the F-T-S test.)

Preparation Technique

From a concrete core 5 cm in diameter or a laboratory prism 12 by 12 by 36 cm, a small prism specimen 4 by 2 by 1.5 cm is cut. Wherever the original concrete pavement is the object of the test (which usually is the case), it should be one of the prism's faces. The thin section is generally made perpendicular to the concrete surface.

One large face of the prism is ground to a depth of approximately 2 mm to eliminate all possible damages caused by the cutting process and then ground to a completely finished surface. This specimen is then impregnated under vacuum with a special Duroplast polymer. After hardening, the surplus polymer deposit is removed by grinding

Figure 1. Determination of F-S resistance.

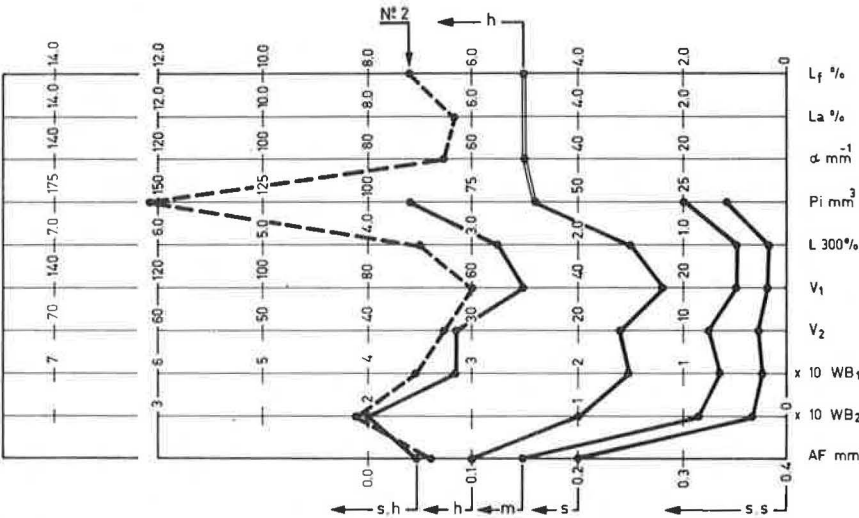


Figure 2. Air-entrained concrete without UV differentiation (x70).

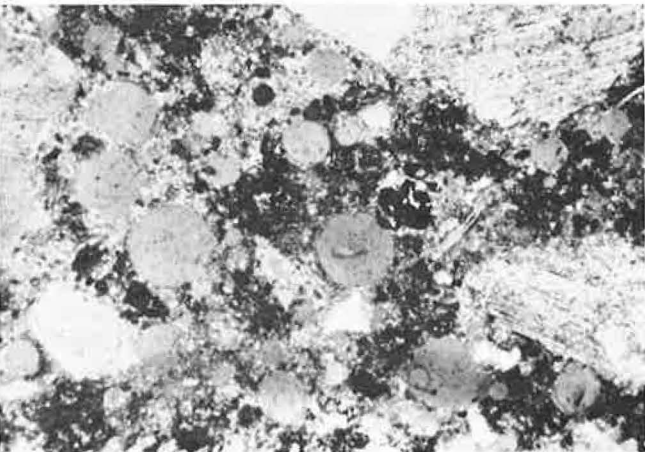
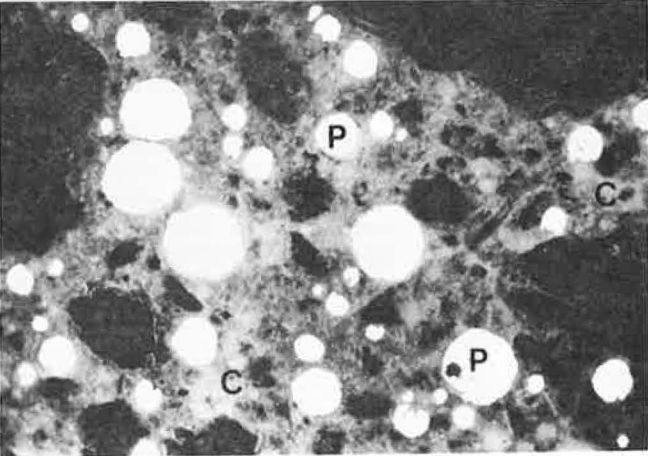


Figure 3. Air-entrained concrete with UV differentiation (x70).



from the finished surface, from which 50 to 100 microns of concrete are ground. On the surface obtained, a protection glass is fixed.

Then the specimen's opposite surface is cut and ground to achieve a thin section 25 microns thick. All "hollow" spaces in the concrete of this thin section are impregnated with a special polymer with a colorful fluorescent tracer. In the case of UV excitement in the microscope, a fluorescent yellow coloring effect is obtained in the hollow spaces—even in those of 1 to 2 microns or smaller. The remaining concrete components are different shades of blue; the aggregates, dark blue; and the cement paste, light blue. Fluorescent coloring makes it possible to localize (by color differentiation) and to evaluate (by color intensity) all hollow spaces.

Evaluation of Morphological Qualitative Control Method

The advantage of this method for making undistinct or undetected features clearly visible appears when Figures 2 and 3 are compared. Their microscopic difference is based on the different colors (yellow and blue), which in this paper are black and white. The differentiation is therefore imperfectly shown. All photomicrographs are magnified and represent an area of approximately 0.33 mm^2 of a thin section of 800 mm^2 .

Figure 2 shows an air-entrained concrete—a thin section without UV differentiation seen in a tungsten type of light in a bright field. Figure 3 shows the same cut of concrete—a thin section with UV differentiation by mercury vapor and UV lighting in a dark field. Air voids, capillary porosity of the cement paste, and other yellow (black) hollow spaces are clearly distinct from other blue (white) solid concrete structures.

The possibility of accurate differentiation of some types of (a) voids—P, L, W, and PPP; (b) capillary porosity C of the cement paste (high capillarity = HC, medium-high = m HC, and low = NC), and (c) adherence quality A of the aggregate to a cement paste and to cracks R is shown in Figures 4 through 12.

Figure 4 shows a concrete with an excellent air-void structure P. There are numerous, clearly distinct air voids between 10 and 100 microns in diameter. Figure 5 shows a concrete with entrapped voids L. These are mostly large (of irregular shape, with defined edges) and can be easily differentiated from the entrained air voids that are usually smaller and round. Insufficient compaction, a concrete that is too dry, and long transportation or waiting times before compaction can be the reasons for many entrapped voids in the concrete.

Figure 6 shows a concrete with voids W caused by water concentration. These are similar to the entrapped voids but have unclear edges with dissolved cement paste particles and small aggregates. Rain or any addition of water during transportation, laying, or compaction explains the reason for many of these voids. Similar but clearly distinct voids can be produced by bleeding.

Figure 7 shows a concrete with some voids PPP that have collapsed and agglomerated. A high water-cement ratio, e.g., addition of water during surface finishing, or an inadequate air entrainer may be the reason for void agglomeration.

Figure 8 shows a concrete with low and medium-high capillarity, and Figure 9 shows one with high capillarity. If capillarity of the cement paste is high or variable, it will have a negative influence on frost and F-S resistance. This can be determined through morphological analysis. If the water-cement ratio is too high, excessive capillarity may result. Strong variations in capillarity may be caused by inadequate or short mixing times.

Figures 10 and 11 show concretes with disturbed adherence A between aggregate and cement paste. This can be caused by impurities, peripheral cracks (Fig. 11), or by formation of high capillary porosity in the cement paste surrounding the aggregates (Fig. 10). In all cases these disturbances severely influence the frost and F-S resistance of the concrete and can be detected only through microscopic examination.

Figure 12 shows a concrete with cracks in the cement paste caused by frost damage. An experienced eye can distinguish between frost and fatigue cracks and cracks due to either shrinkage or belated use of the longitudinal finisher.

Figure 4. Concrete with air-void structure (x70.6).

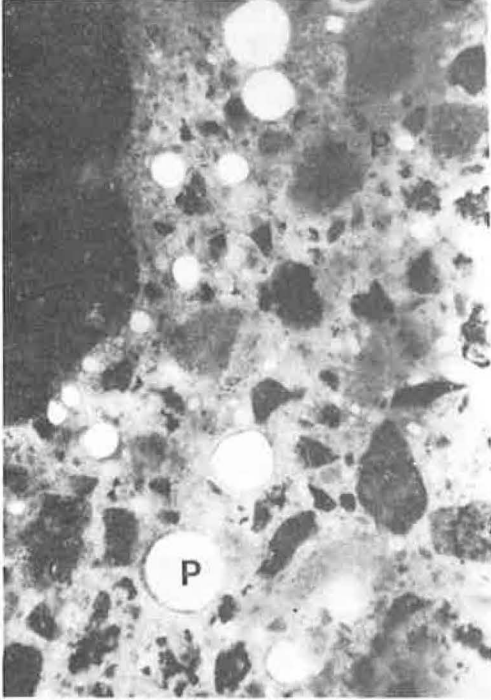


Figure 5. Concrete with entrapped voids (x70.6).

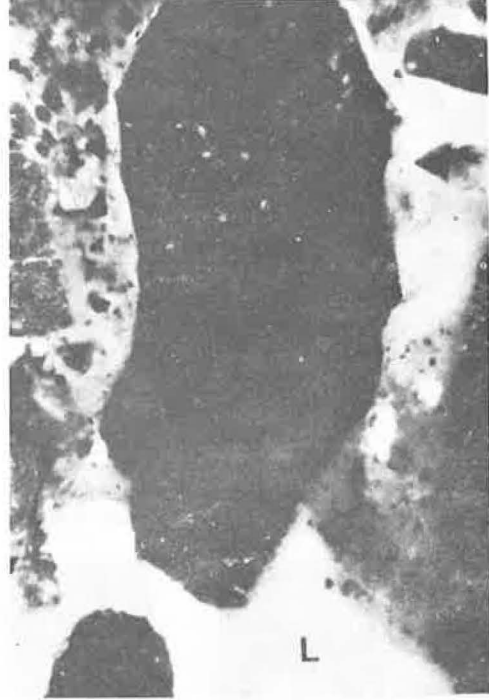


Figure 6. Concrete with voids caused by water (x70.6).

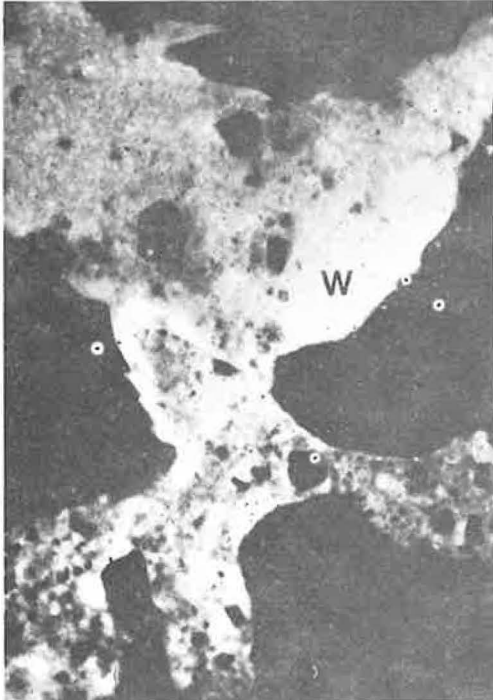


Figure 7. Concrete with collapsed and agglomerated voids (x70.6).

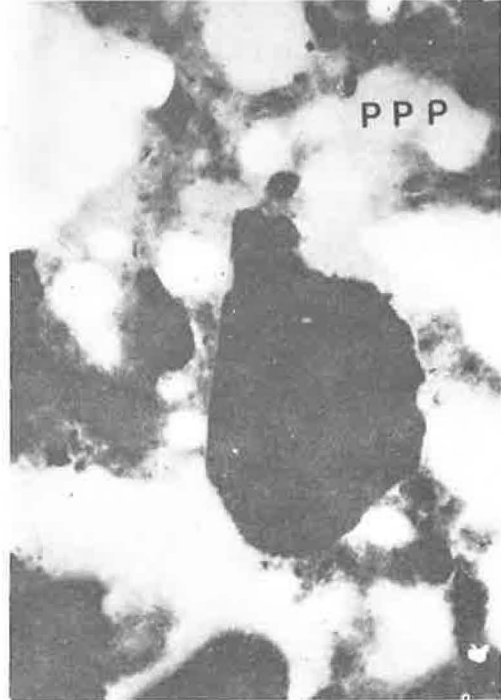


Figure 8. Concrete with low and medium-high capillarity (x50.3).

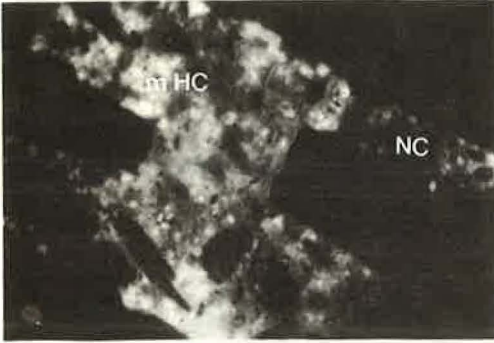


Figure 9. Concrete with high capillarity (x50.3).

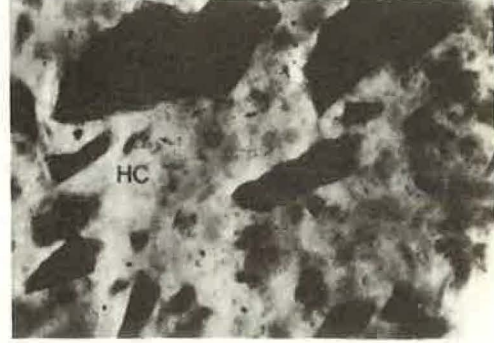


Figure 10. Concrete with disturbed adherence caused by high capillarity (x50.3).



Figure 11. Concrete with disturbed adherence caused by peripheral cracks (x50.3).



Figure 12. Concrete with cracks caused by frost damage (x50.3).



Morphological Assessment of the Concrete

Figure 13 shows the procedure used in the morphological assessment of concrete and its evaluation through a disturbance factor. This examination enables one to determine the cause of faults in concrete and allows quick recognition and, in most cases, correction of every negative influence that might appear during construction. A concrete with a total disturbance factor ≤ -5 can be considered completely sound. Larger values call for improvement measures. A disturbance factor ≥ -10 can in some circumstances jeopardize the F-T-S resistance as obtained from the characteristic values of the pore analysis. Investigations have proved that a thin section of 800 mm² is a representative sample. A comprehensive pore analysis with a concrete morphology determination (inclusive of preparation) requires about 5 hours, which is less than the 7 to 8 hours required for analysis by the linear transverse principle.

RAPID DETERMINATION OF FROST OR F-T-S RESISTANCE OF CONCRETE WITH D-R METHOD

The deterioration process due to frost or F-S initially causes a loosening of the crystalline paste structure followed by crack development that can lead to destruction of the concrete. This loosening process within the cement paste was proved by microhardness tests. Results of tests on concrete made by the authors show good correlation between the decrease in the modulus of elasticity and the microhardness of the cement paste. Figure 14 shows the relation between the loss in microhardness expressed by the increase of the imprint M, and the loss in modulus of elasticity, both expressed in percent per cycle.

The whole deterioration process taking place within the cement paste [the evaluation of the frost-thaw (F-T) or F-T-S resistance of concrete] may therefore be confined to the evaluation of its cement paste. Small concrete test specimens can thus be used, entailing a shortening of exposure times, which leads to a considerable reduction in overall testing times. For this purpose six prisms 3 by 3 by 6 cm are cut out of cores 15 cm in diameter or out of laboratory prisms of the concrete to be tested.

The rapid method of determination of F-T or F-T-S resistance of concrete has the following characteristics:

1. A fully automatic testing apparatus with extensive programming possibilities;
2. Rapid testing, e.g., 500 cycles in 14 days;
3. A possibility of correlation with other existing test methods by means of the durability factor; and
4. Possibilities of evaluation of F-T-S resistance at different depths (surface, 15, and 30 mm) of the tested concrete.

Test Equipment

The test equipment is compact and fully automatic (Fig. 15). The capacity of each unit allows simultaneous testing of at most 24 concretes with six test prisms 3 by 3 by 6 cm per concrete at a daily average of 50 cycles maximum. With fully automatic controlled canisters, the test specimens are successively immersed into a thawing trough with running water at +20 C and into a freezing trough containing a salt solution at -20 C (Fig. 16). Either calcium chloride at 33 deg Baumé or sodium chloride at 22 deg Baumé may be selected for the salt solution. The time required to freeze a concrete specimen, including the transition from +20 C to -20 C, equals the duration of a cycle.

According to test results, a drop in temperature at the rate of 3.3 C/cm/min and an increase at the rate of 5.3 C/cm/min was established, which for a specimen of 3 by 3 by 6 cm results in 8 min for freezing and 5 min for thawing (Fig. 17). The salt saturation of the concrete specimens can be controlled by adjusting the time of exposure to frost with respect to the time of immersion in the thaw bath.

Test Procedure

The test is carried out on water-saturated specimens; 5 days generally are required for water saturation. The method enables the application of the following test

Figure 13. Morphological assessment of concrete.

By order of:		CANTON ST. GALLEN		
Object:		N1. ST. GALLEN - BURIET		
Specimen:		SLAB NR. 39		
Specimen:	SLAB NR. 39	ASSESSMENT	DISTURBANCE FACTOR Value	REMARKS
POROSITY		see Pore analysis		Regular
Air Pores				
Pore agglomerations		Frequent	- 2.00	
Voids (Compaction Pores)		less frequent	- 1.50	
Water Voids (Produced by bleeding or addition of Water)		none		
CEMENT PASTE CAPILLARITY				
uniform		low capillarity	- 0.50	
non uniform		non uniform		
CRACKS IN CEMENT PASTE				
Evaluation per 100 mm ²		none		
Nr. of Cracks: 0 - 10		- + -		
10 - 50		- + -		
50 - 150		- + -		
fine Cracks				
large Cracks				
Orientation				
AGGREGATES				
Cracks				
Porosity				
g mm < 0,5		none		
F _{1,5} 1		none		
1 - 6			few	- 0,25
> 6			few	- 0,50
BOND AGGREGATE - CEMENT PASTE				
disturbed				
Through Capillar Disturbance		none		
Through Cracks Disturbance		none		
Voids (Compaction Pores)			some	- 0,50
HYDRATION		good		
Morphological Assessment:			Factor total: - 5,25	
By a Dysturbance Factor $\geq - 10$ a F.T.S. - Test is recommended				

Figure 14. Relation between loss in micro-hardness and loss in modulus of elasticity.

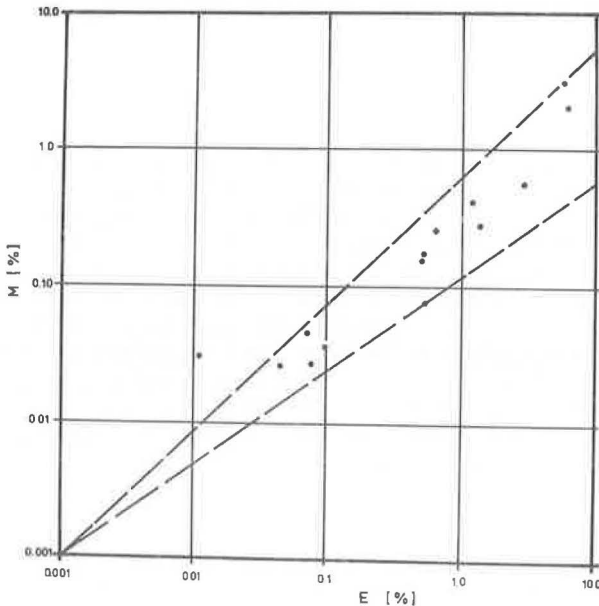


Figure 15. Testing equipment for F-T-S test (D-R).

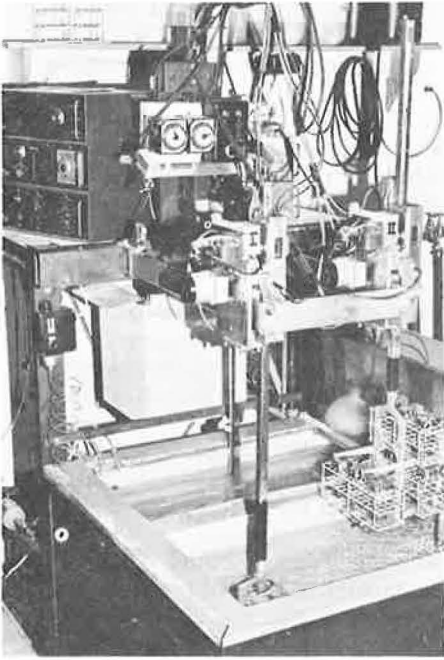


Figure 16. Schematic drawing of functioning test equipment.

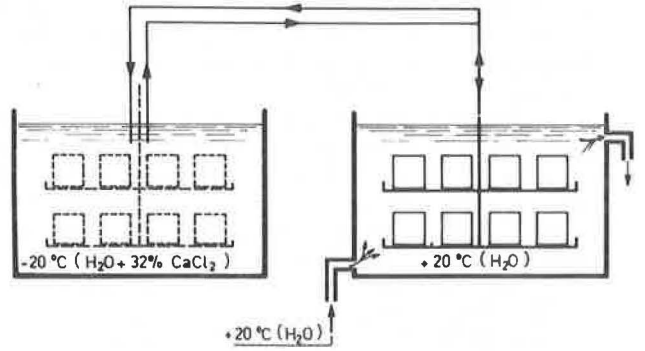
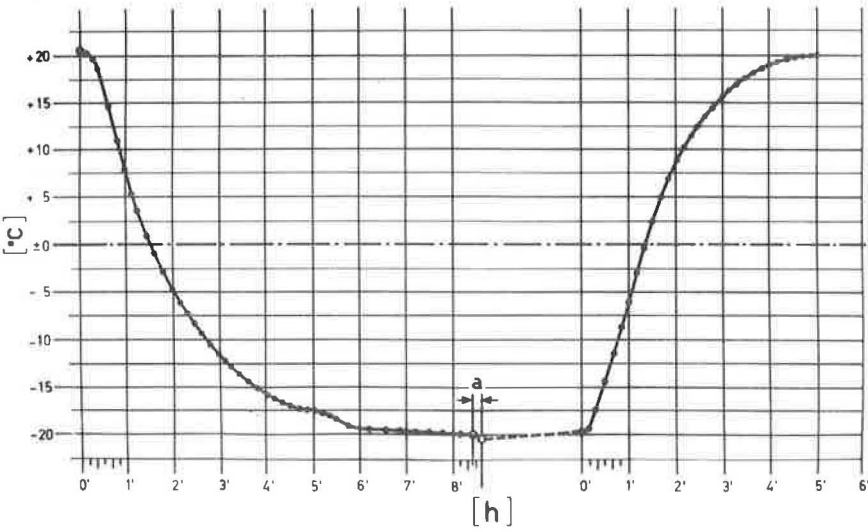


Figure 17. Drop and increase of temperature in center of specimen (in hours).



procedures: F-T, F-T-S, and isolated F-T-S.

F-T—This test is carried out on water-saturated specimens in hermetically sealed bags. The salt bath freezes the specimens. The bags impede both salt penetration and specimen drying. Because these bags are used, the exposure time in the frost bath (at -20 C) is extended to 32 min and in the thawing bath (+20 C) to 16 min. With 2 min for transporting the specimens from one bath to the other, total time needed for the course of one cycle is 50 min.

F-T-S—In addition to freezing at -20 C and thawing at +20 C, this test includes temperature shock as well as salt absorption on all sides of the specimen. The temperature shock, which under natural conditions arises from de-icing, is caused (in the test) by the sudden immersion of the specimens into the frost bath. Figure 18 shows the temperature shock in concrete slabs caused by applying de-icing agents such as CaCl₂, NaCl, and alcohol. The degree of salt absorption of test specimens is regulated by increasing exposure times in the frost bath.

The degree of saturation of test specimens must approximately correspond to the amount of NaCl in existing concrete pavements under normal conditions. Figure 19 shows the chloride contents of concrete, measured on roads in Switzerland, compared with the chloride contents measured in concrete specimens of 3 by 3 by 6 cm after the F-T-S test.

As a result of various tests, the appropriate exposure time was found to be 2:1, i. e., 20 min exposure in the frost or salt bath at -20 C and 10 min in the thawing water at +20 C. By adding 2 min transporting time, 32 min are needed for a complete F-T-S cycle.

Isolated F-T-S—This test fundamentally corresponds to the F-T-S method. Air insulation of five sides of the specimen (Fig. 20) limits the impact of the cold and the salt to one (unprotected) side only that corresponds to the pavement surface. This test procedure is particularly suitable for testing F-T-S resistance of thin concrete surfaces and allows improvements caused by impregnation or a thin epoxy overlay to be assessed. When the ratio 2:1 is used, the partially insulated test specimens require 50 min to undergo one complete cycle: 32 min exposure to frost, 16 min exposure to thaw, and 2 min transporting time.

Preparation and Measuring Test Specimens

For all three test methods, six test prisms of 3 by 3 by 6 cm are cut off the cores (laboratory prisms). The surface of the original concrete pavement should be one of the prism faces. Each prism specimen is provided with eight measuring marks as shown in Figure 21. Figure 22 shows the cutting of the prism specimens, and Figure 23 shows fastening the measuring marks into the previously bored recesses.

The measurements take place in four phases: The six specimens are measured before the test begins and after either 50, 100, and 200 cycles or after 50, 200, and 400 cycles. The permanent expansions, depending on the number of cycles, are measured in each one of the four phases.

Measuring Axial Expansion L on Four Surfaces

The initial measuring distance between the measuring points is 50 mm. The measuring accuracy is 0.02 percent of the initial length (Fig. 24):

$$L = \frac{L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + L_4}{4}$$

Measuring Transverse Expansion Q Perpendicular to Prism Axis

The initial measuring distance between the measuring points is 30 mm. The measuring accuracy is 0.033 percent of the initial length (Fig. 25):

$$Q_{(1-2)} = \frac{Q_1 + Q_2}{2}$$

and

Figure 18. Temperature shock in concrete slabs in F-T-S test (1 = with 2-mm frozen water; 2 = alcohol; 3 = CaCl₂; 4 = NaCl; a = application time of de-icing agents 2, 3, and 4; b = reduction in surface temperature).

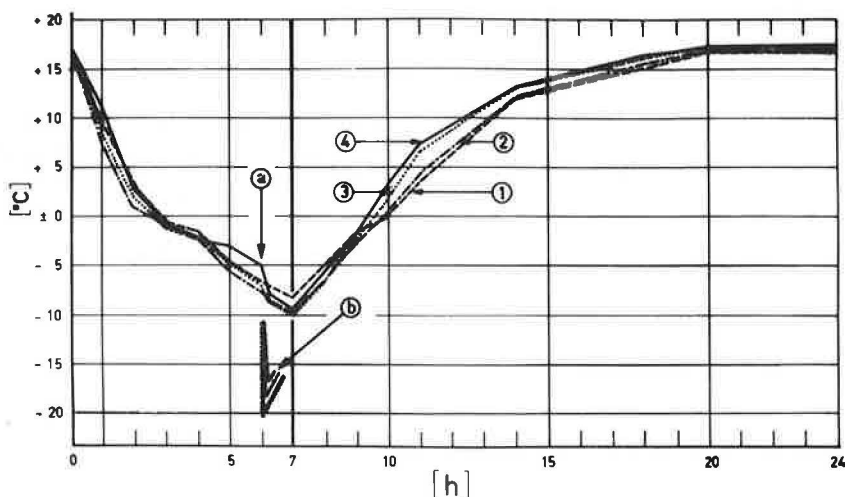


Figure 19. Comparison of chloride contents of concrete measured on roads in Switzerland and of test specimen.

<u>Highway "Walenseestrasse" :</u>		Original salt contents :
Core taken just after		Chloride contents
Winter 1971		in weight %
Core :	N° 3 (Heavy F.S. - Damages)	0.11
	N° 2 (Very heavy F.S. - Damages)	0.28
	N° 4 (No F.S. - Damages)	0.10
	N° 5 (No F.S. - Damages)	0.13
<u>Highway "N13 GR Umfahrung Nufenen" :</u>		Salt contents after F.T.S. test D-R :
Core taken in summer 1971		Chloride contents
Panel 794 after 100 F.T.S. - cycles (Ca Cl ₂)		in weight %
		0.08
<u>Highway "N6 Bern - Spiez" :</u>		
Core taken in summer 1972		
Core 1 b after 500 F.T.S. - cycles (Ca Cl ₂)		0.09
Core 1 d after 500 F.T.S. - cycles (Ca Cl ₂)		0.10
Panel 221s after 250 F.T.S. - cycles (Ca Cl ₂)		0.15
" " " " " " (Na Cl)		0.12

Figure 20. Schematic drawing of isolated F-T-S test specimen (a = specimen; b = pavement surface; c = water level; d = air; e = plastic box; f = insulation tape).

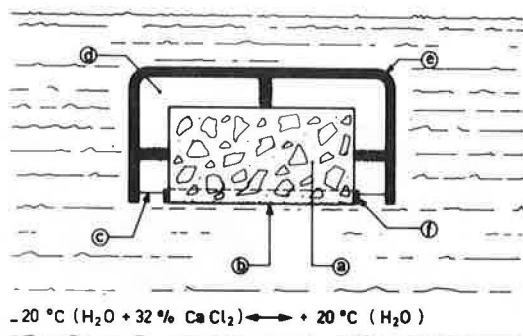


Figure 21. Schematic drawing of prism with eight measuring marks (a = concrete surface; b = measuring cone; c = mark fixed with epoxy).

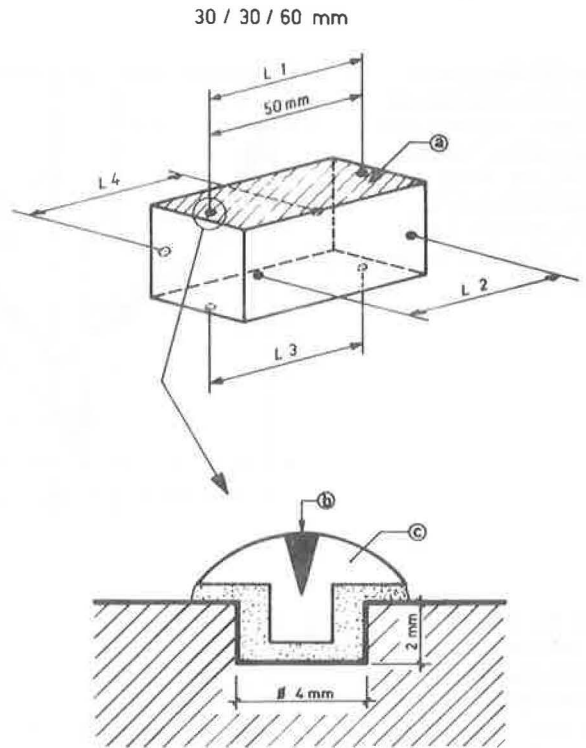


Figure 22. Cutting six prisms from a 28-day-old concrete slab core.



Figure 24. Measuring axial length L.



Figure 23. Fastening measuring marks to specimens.



Figure 25. Measuring transverse length of Q perpendicular to prism's axis.



$$Q_{(3-4)} = \frac{Q_3 + Q_4}{2}$$

In addition to the length changes, further measurements can be carried out by measuring the loss of the static modulus of elasticity. In this case, Young's modulus of elasticity for three additional prism specimens must be determined prior to the F-T-S test.

During and after the F-T-S test, additional moduli of elasticity (E_x) are determined on two test specimens from which an effective loss (in percent) in modulus of elasticity $\frac{\Delta E}{E}$ is computed. The static moduli of elasticity are measured by the same instruments and measuring marks as those used for length determination in the F-T-S test.

Evaluation of Measurements

Figures 26 and 27 show the results of axial expansion L and transverse expansion Q respectively of a tested concrete (No. 39). For evaluation of the linear expansion, the mean value of 24 axial and 24 transverse measurements are determined. Triaxial expansion M is determined from L , $Q_{(1-2)}$, and $Q_{(3-4)}$:

$$M = \frac{L + Q_{(1-2)} + Q_{(3-4)}}{3}$$

Figure 28 shows mean values of three measuring phases at 42, 154, and 395 cycles. Based on the mean value of L , the performance curves of F-T-S resistance for concrete No. 39 can be plotted (Fig. 28). Volumetric expansion V and the loss of weight can also be determined if required.

Relation Between Expansion and Loss in Modulus of Elasticity

The relation between length change and loss in modulus of elasticity is shown in Figures 29 and 30. Figure 29 shows the relation between the axial change in initial length and the loss (in percent) in modulus of elasticity $\frac{\Delta E}{E}$ experimentally obtained by Klieger in 1952. Figure 30 shows the relation between axial expansion triaxial expansion, volumetric expansion, and loss in modulus of elasticity. It is based on tests done by the authors. L represents the internal damage of the tested concrete; M and V represent its internal and external damage.

The authors believe that the number of experiments carried out to determine the relationship shown in Figure 30 for M and V is too limited.

Determination of Frost or F-T-S Resistance

The assessment is based on axial expansion and the corresponding number of cycles Z . Figure 31 shows the determination of F-T-S resistance. On the abscissa, L in percent of initial length and the loss (in percent) of modulus of elasticity $\frac{\Delta E}{E}$ are charted; on the ordinate the number of cycles is shown. The criterion for determination of F-T-S resistance is based on the relationship between the critical expansion $L = 1$ percent of the initial length, the number of cycles, and the durability factor. Expansion $L = 1$ percent of the initial length represents

1. ≥ 360 cycles—a high to very high F-T-S resistance (thickly hatched section of triangle AOB) corresponding to a durability factor > 80 percent,
2. 180 to 360 cycles—a medium F-T-S resistance (lightly hatched section of triangle BOC) corresponding to a durability factor = 80 to 50 percent, and
3. 180 cycles—a low to very low F-T-S resistance (plain section COD) corresponding to a durability factor ≤ 50 percent.

The dotted line is the performance curve of concrete No. 39 (Fig. 31). This concrete, at 395 cycles, expanded only 0.21 percent of the initial length and its F-T-S resistance should be rated high to very high. At 200 cycles no loss in modulus of elasticity

Figure 30. Relation between axial, triaxial, and volumetric expansion and the loss in modulus of elasticity.

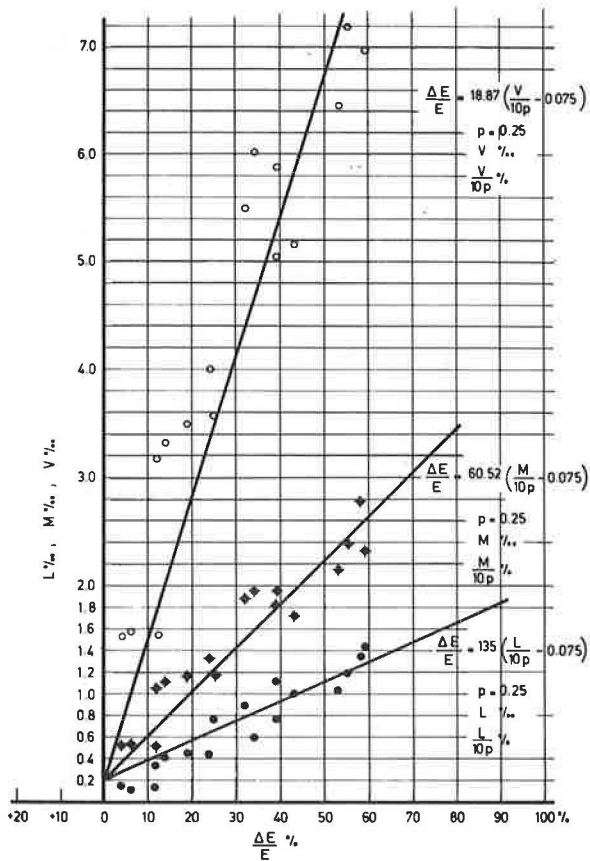
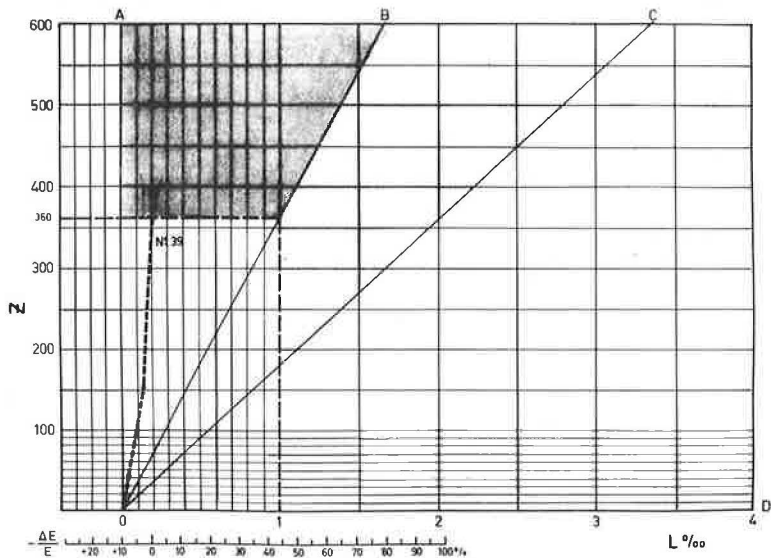


Figure 31. Determination of F-T-S resistance.



$\left(\frac{\Delta E}{E} + 1 \text{ percent of the initial length} \right)$ occurs. The durability factor is therefore equal to 101 percent and the quality of concrete No. 39 should be rated very high.

During concrete road construction this test is used only as a checking control method and is applied when F-T-S resistance, resulting from characteristic values, is medium, low, or very low or when the morphological examination of the concrete shows a disturbance factor ≥ -10 .

PRACTICAL INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Tests are carried out prior to and during construction. Prior to construction a first examination is done on laboratory-prepared specimens. Approximately 10 to 14 days before construction, additional trial-run tests are occasionally performed on a trial section.

Initial Laboratory Tests

Tests take place a few months before construction is begun to obtain a concrete with optimum properties from the available materials or to change the mix design to achieve an optimal solution.

Concretes are produced with specified aggregate and cement type and composition, as follows:

1. Water-cement ratio (0.4 to 0.45 or 0.5),
2. Cement content (350 to 400 kg/m³),
3. Air-entraining agent (compared to parallel examination with Vinsol Standard), and
4. Air-entraining agent dose (1.0 to 1.5 or 1.7 percent).

The test is carried out on concrete prisms 12 by 12 by 36 cm.

Examined quantities are total air content of fresh concrete, concrete workability with VEBE apparatus, dry and wet densities of concrete, flexural strength at 28 days, compressive strength at 28 days, and elastic modulus at 28 days. One prism is reserved for

1. Microscopic, pore analytical determination of the F-T-S resistance,
2. Microscopic, morphological examination of the concrete, and
3. F-T-S test (D-R) with rapid frost cycles.

Test results make it possible to specify the type and dose of the air-entraining agent and cement content. They also indicate the suitability of the aggregate and its grading. Controlling values for assessment are F-T-S resistance and morphological quality determinations and concrete strengths.

Trial-Run Testing

The trial section of the pavement is laid 10 to 14 days before construction is begun. The performance of the batching plant and placing machinery and the accuracy of the measuring devices are checked. The concrete is mixed with the batched materials according to the mix designed after the laboratory tests, and one or more slab lengths are placed. After 1 or 2 days test cores of 15-cm diameter are bored from the trial slab, the remainder of which is broken up and removed.

The following controls are determined at batching: air content (Lf), workability, water-cement ratio, dose of air-entraining agent, and volume control of one mix in the compacted state. For the strength tests, prisms 12 by 12 by 36 cm are produced.

The following tests are carried out on the cores: (a) pore analysis and determination of F-T-S resistance from characteristic values, (b) morphological quality assessment of the concrete, and (c) F-T-S test.

A comparison of these results with those of the initial laboratory tests makes quality control of the concrete and determination of deviations and their causes and, under some circumstances, the implementation of improvement measures possible.

Investigations During Construction

During the first few days of construction, cores in sufficient numbers for two or three tests are taken daily from critical positions, such as places with drier or wetter concrete or where there were disturbances during paving.

The initial test results are telephoned to the site, and the amount of subsequent boring depends on these results. A minimum of one test per 2500 m² is specified. Test results pertaining to Highway N1/St. Gallen-Buriet are shown in Figure 32. This highway section is 8.5 km long and was constructed in 1972. The concrete pavement construction costs amounted to Fr. 5.4 million, and the testing costs to Fr. 24,000.

In Figure 32, the initial test results indicate a pronounced variation in total air content of fresh concrete (col. 6) and of hardened concrete (col. 9). In certain cases a high proportion of large pores (> 0.3-mm diameter) and a relatively high water intake A_5 (col. 15) from 12 to 14 percent in volume were evident. (Normal is a water intake of 10 to 12 percent in volume.)

As a first step, the conveyor belt on which the concrete was forwarded from the truck to the distribution hopper was removed. Simultaneously a thorough control of the batching plant and the aggregate was done, which showed that the aggregate fines proportion (< 0.2 mm) in the concrete was too high and was not in accordance with the standard specifications. With most of the aggregate delivered, the improvements could only be brought about gradually. An improvement in the test results is detectable from slab 1310 to slab 2759. The high water intake and the decreased workability as well as the too high content of large pores could possibly be caused by the high proportion of fines. Results of the F-T-S test (cols. 25 to 28) show that, in this specific case, the high fines proportion did not affect F-T-S resistance.

CORRELATION BETWEEN PRINCIPLES

From tests performed on 69 old and new concretes, the documented correlation was made. The results are shown in Figure 33 and include

1. Characteristic values with pore analytical determination of the F-T-S resistance (cols. 8 to 19),
2. Morphological quality assessment of the concretes (col. 20), and
3. F-T-S test results from the D-R method (cols. 21 to 25).

D-R test results are shown in Figures 34 through 37. The correlation between principles can be established by a comparison of F-T-S resistances and those determined from characteristic values. The influence of morphological quality assessment of the tested concrete on the F-T-S resistance is shown in Figures 34 and 35.

Figure 34 shows concretes that have a high or very high resistance based on characteristic values (cols. 8 to 19 of Fig. 33) and that have a disturbance factor < -10 (col. 20).

All concretes except Nos. 31, 43, 45, 48, and 49 lie within triangle AOB and indicate high to very high F-T-S resistance. This illustration shows a very good correlation between the two methods (D-R and characteristic values).

Figure 35 similarly shows concretes that, from their characteristic values, indicate a high to very high F-T-S resistance but have considerably greater disturbance factors (≥ -10). Of the 12 concretes only 5 lie inside triangle AOB indicating a high to very high resistance. Of the remaining seven, four lie in the medium resistance zone (triangle BOC), and three are inside triangle COD denoting a low to very low F-T-S resistance. Figure 35 proves that a disturbance factor of ≥ -10 may jeopardize F-T-S resistance assessed by means of pore analysis.

Figure 36 shows concretes that have a medium F-T-S resistance according to their characteristic values and a disturbance factor of -5 to -16. The number of concretes within the medium F-T-S resistance range was relatively low, and poor correlation must be improved by further investigations.

Figure 37 shows concretes with low or very low F-T-S resistance, according to their characteristic values, with disturbance factors between -7 and -13. As a result of the D-R test, all investigated concretes range within the triangle COD for low to very low F-T-S resistance, which gives a complete correlation.

Figure 34. Test results for concrete with high or very high resistance (disturbance factor < -10).

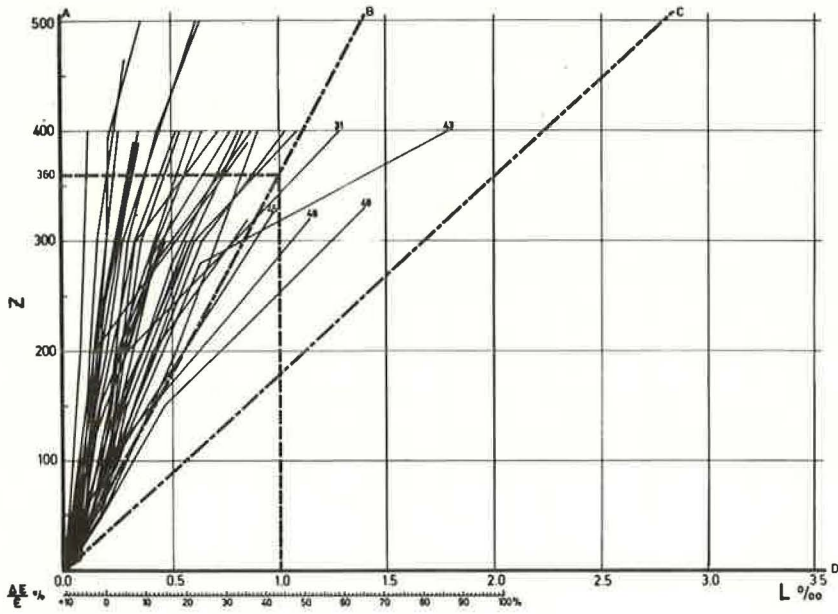


Figure 35. Test results for concrete with high to very high resistance (disturbance factor ≥ 10).

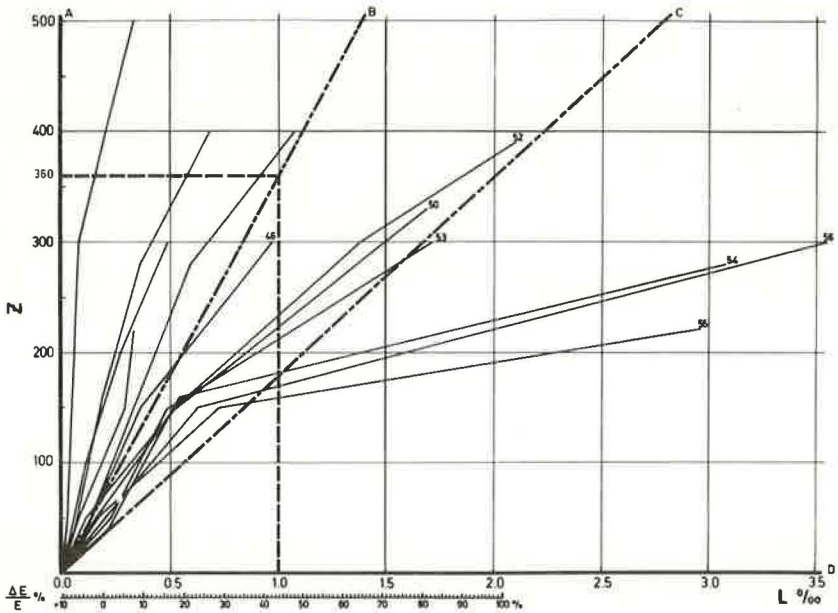


Figure 36. Test results for concrete with medium resistance (disturbance factor = - 5 to -16).

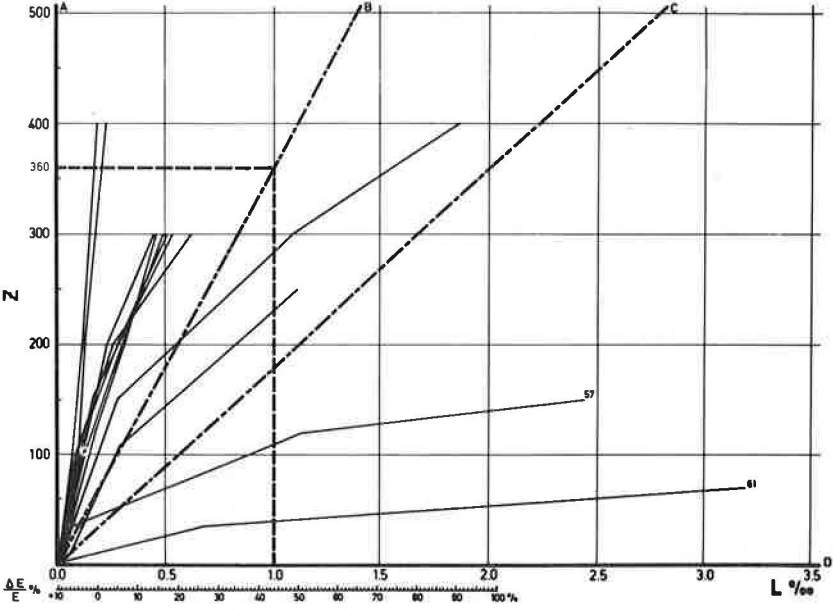


Figure 37. Test results for concrete with low or very low resistance (disturbance factor = -7 to -13).

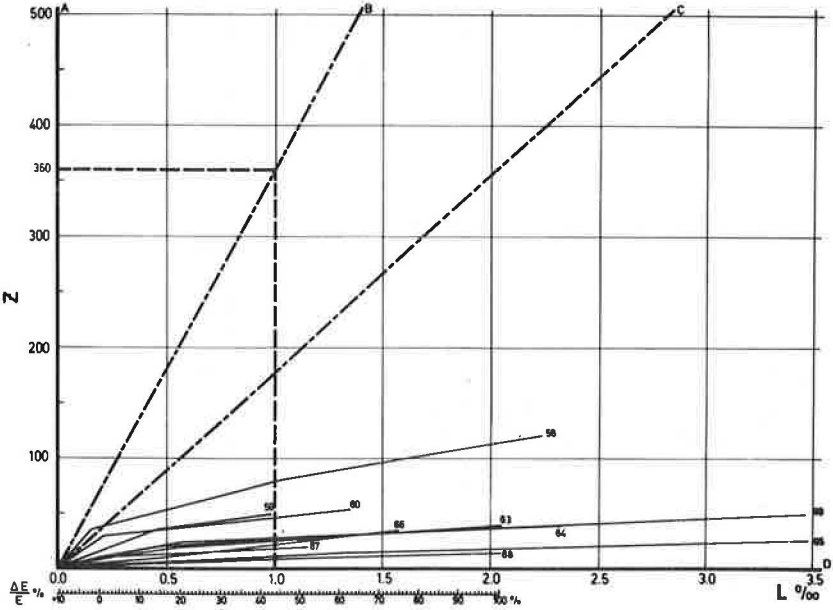


Figure 38. Concretes according to decreasing durability factor.

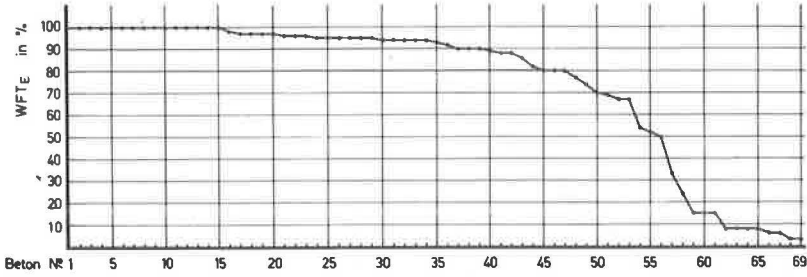


Figure 39. Relation between spacing factors and durability factor.

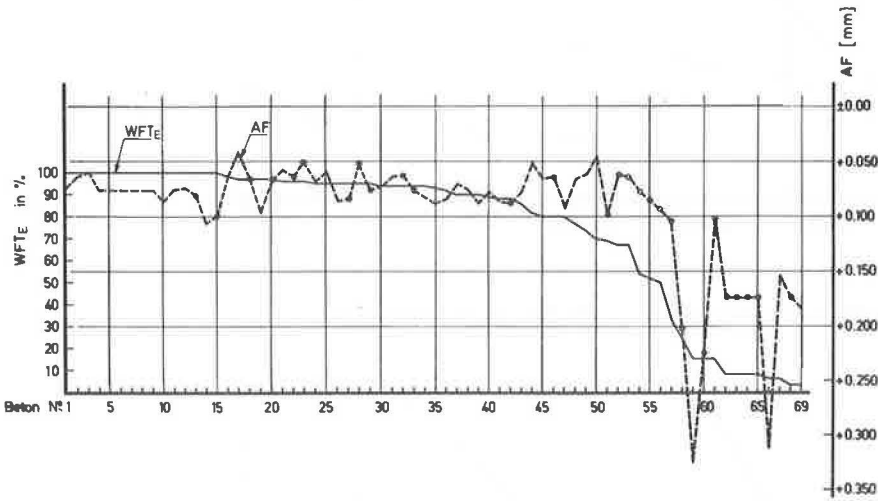


Figure 40. Relation between fine pore contents and durability factor.

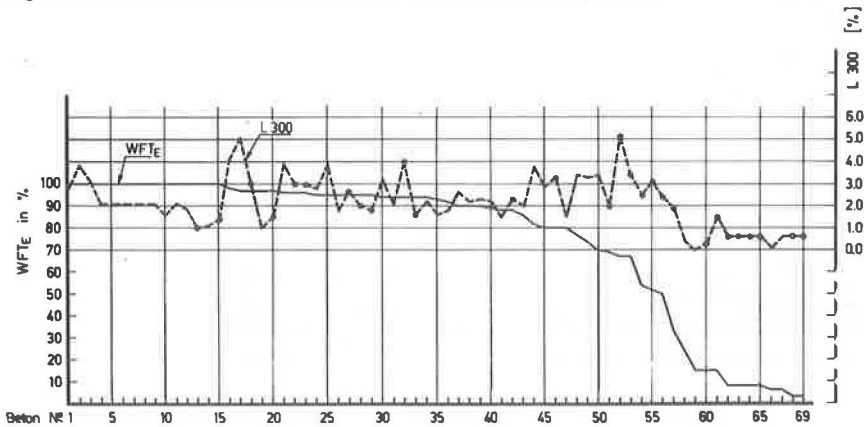


Figure 41. Relation between characteristic value and durability factor.

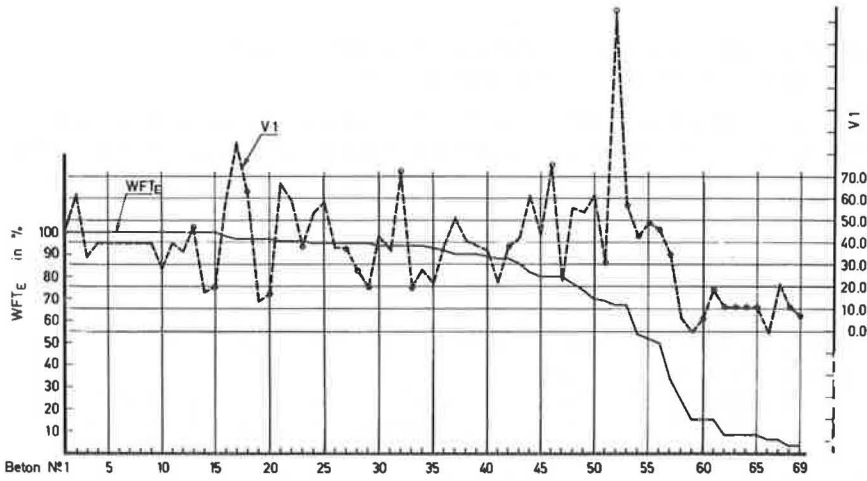


Figure 42. Relation between supplementary value and durability factor.

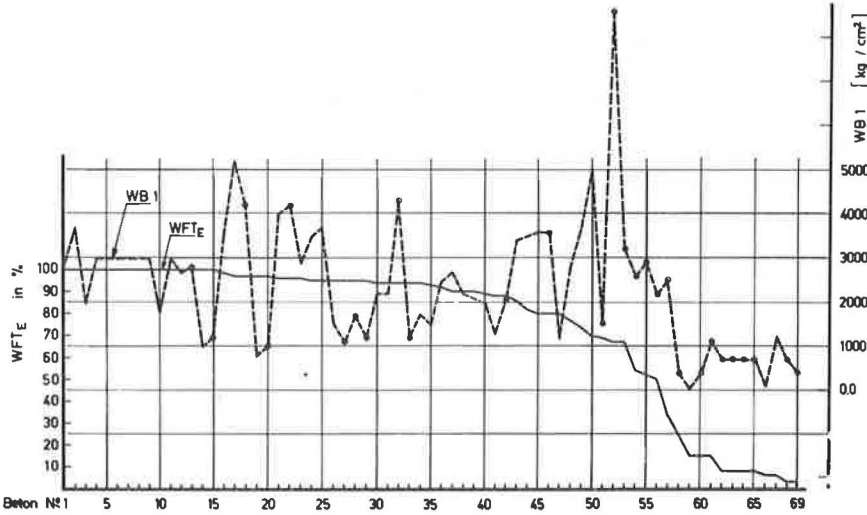
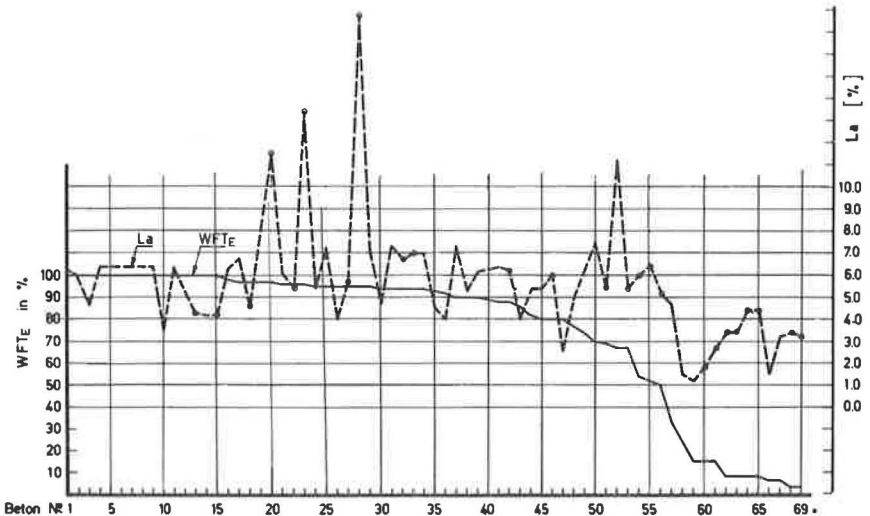


Figure 43. Relation between total air contents and durability factor.



RELATIONSHIP OF F-T-S RESISTANCE AND PORE
ANALYTICAL CHARACTERISTIC VALUES

The relationship of durability factor WFT_E (F-T-S resistance) and individual characteristic values (Fig. 33, cols. 8 to 18) can be assessed from results of the 69 concretes tested. WFT_E was determined from F-T-S test results (Fig. 33, cols. 21 to 25) according to ASTM C 666-B.

Figure 38 shows the 69 concretes according to decreasing WFT_E . Figure 39 shows the relationship between the spacing factors AF (col. 12) and WFT_E values. A good connection exists within the range of $WFT_E = 100$ to 80 percent in which the spacing factor varies between 0.05 and 0.1 mm. In the medium range, $WFT_E = 80$ to 50 percent, a connection between these variables is less pronounced, and at low WFT_E values, < 50 percent, a wide scattering exists.

Figure 40 shows relationships between fine pore contents L_{300} (col. 9) and WFT_E values. A relatively good interrelation exists within the higher ranges, $WFT_E = 100$ to 90 percent.

Figure 41 shows the relationship between the characteristic values V_1 (col. 15) and the WFT_E values. A restricted relationship with strong variations of V_1 can be seen in the higher ranges of WFT_E values.

Figure 42 shows the relationship between the supplementary value WB_1 (col. 17) and the WFT_E values. A loose connection exists between the two curves. Figure 43 shows the relationship between total air contents L_a (col. 8) and WFT_E values. A loose association of the two curves exists with strong variations in the L_a values.

Figures 38 through 43 show that an estimate of the F-T-S resistance based on individual characteristic values and even on the spacing factor will have only limited meaning. An essentially stronger determination is achieved when all characteristic values are included in the assessment (Figs. 1, 34, 35, 36, and 37).

REFERENCE

1. Schäfer, A. Deutscher Ausschuss für Stahlbeton. Heft167, 1964.