

Extension and Strength Properties Of Cement Containing Reused Solid Total

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ABSTRACT: In the Middle East locale, inside dividers of structures are generally put with gypsum. Hence, the destruction squanders are presumably gypsum sullied, which may prompt inward sulfate assault in new cements containing reused concrete. This examination gives the findings of a test examination on cement made with reused solid totals defiled with development gypsum (anhydrous calcium sulfate). For this, four gatherings of blends were readied. In the first gathering, the characteristic sand was part of the way and completely supplanted by tainted fine reused solid total. In the subsequent gathering, the regular rock was incompletely and completely subbed by debased coarse reused solid total. In the third gathering, both sand and rock were subbed by polluted reused solid total, while the fourth gathering was coordinated to examine the impact of silica rage on cement made with reused solid total. The deliberate properties were development, compressive strength, parting rigidity and modulus of burst. The outcomes demonstrated that the higher the rate level of tainted reused totals the lower the strength and the higher the extension. The best outcomes were recorded for the second gathering of blends. In all cases, the development didn't surpass the restriction of 0.05%.

Keywords: Contaminated ; aggregate; Recycled aggregate ; Expansion; Strength; Gypsum ; Silica fume

I. INTRODUCTION

The output of huge amounts of solid waste is one of the most unfavorable consequences of the global population and economy growth. Construction and Demolition Wastes (CDW) are one of the most common and largest municipal wastes that impose enormous costs of land fill management and transportation besides their negative impact on the environment. In Europe for example, 34% of more than 2500 million tons of annual solid wastes is CDW [1]. On the other hand, the huge construction works lead to consume huge quantities of natural fine and coarse aggregates. The demand of natural aggregate for construction industry has been doubled during the last 10 years reaching an annual of 40 billion tons [2]. A remedy solution to these problems is the recovery and the recycling of old concretes to produce concrete aggregates. The annual global CDW output exceeds 2000 million tons with an average recovery percentage of more than 50% [2]. The recovery percentage ranges from less than 10% in some developing countries to more than 90% in countries like Taiwan, Japan, Denmark and Netherlands [2,3].

The properties of new concrete made with Recycled Concrete Aggregate (RCA) may vary depending on (1) the strength of old concrete from which the RCA is derived, (2) the procedure of producing RCA, and (3) the moisture condition of the RCA. Accordingly, there is a contradiction between the authors regarding some properties of concrete produced with RCA. The vast of the literature review showed that using 50% RCA or more would adversely affect the mechanical properties of concrete. However, some studies showed that the use of RCA in concrete is not always unfavorable and good properties may be achieved when the mix proportions are selected carefully [4-8]. Indeed, the material characteristics like strength, modulus of elasticity, drying shrinkage, water absorption, total pore volume and carbonation are not significantly altered when about 20% of virgin aggregate is replaced by RCA [9,15]. Other previous researchers showed that compressive strength may be comparable or slightly greater when recycled aggregate from better quality concrete sources is used [16,20]. However, the use of fine RCA may increase the time dependent strains including creep and drying shrinkage because this type of recycled aggregate contains old mortars and cement paste [10].

Some reinforced concrete members such as walls and slabs are finished with construction gypsum and plaster of Paris. Therefore, the demolition wastes derived from these members are contaminated with gypsum. The presence of gypsum may lead to composition induced internal sulfate attack. This type of attack is generated at normal temperatures due to two reactions. The first reaction takes place and occurs between gypsum and C_3A with the presence of water producing ettringite, while the second happens between calcium sulfate from gypsum

and the monosulfate phase that present in the hydrated cement paste producing expansive ettringite. The form reaction initiates directly after mixing and it is necessary to control setting, it becomes unfavorable when it generates beyond setting stages because of the formation of expansive ettringite. Some previous researches were found in the literature about the effect of internal attack of sulfate on the mechanical properties and durability of concrete and mortars [9, 21–23]. A study carried out on the expansion of mortars incorporated with fine RCA showed that the expansion of mortars did not exceed the expansion limit of 0.1% available in the literature though the SO_3 content in the sand was 2.9% [9]. This encouraging finding was valid irrespective of the type of cement used. Other studies [22, 23] used fine aggregate with different gypsum contamination contents as a replacement of silica sand in ultra-high performance concrete. They showed that low gypsum contents could slightly increase the compressive and splitting strengths of concrete samples, while such results were not observed for ordinary mortars. They also showed that the expansion of contaminated mortars was noticeably higher as the gypsum content increased.

II. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

As introduced, many studies were carried out on either RCA or gypsum contaminated aggregate. However, very limited information is available regarding the behavior of concrete when RCA is contaminated with gypsum. These limited studies were focused on mortars rather than concrete. Besides, the effects of RCA contaminated with gypsum on the strength properties were not previously studied. Therefore, further information is still required dealing with the strength and durability of this type of concrete. The present study has investigated the strength and durability characteristics of concrete made with gypsum contaminated fine and coarse RCA with different replacement dosages ranging from 0 to 100%. The source of the contaminated recycled aggregate was crushed gypsum-plastered concrete cubes. The investigated properties were expansion, compressive strength, splitting tensile strength, and modulus of rupture.

III. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

1.1. Materials

The ordinary Portland cement (ASTM type I) having a fineness of $312\text{m}^2/\text{kg}$ and specific gravity of $3.15\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ was used in this study, while silica fume with a fineness of $21,100\text{m}^2/\text{kg}$ and specific gravity of $2.2\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ was also utilized in some mixes. Local graded natural fine and coarse aggregates from Wasit province/Iraq were adopted in the experimental work. Gypsum contaminated RCA were also used as fine and coarse aggregates. In order to satisfy the required workability, high range water reducer admixture was added to some mixes.

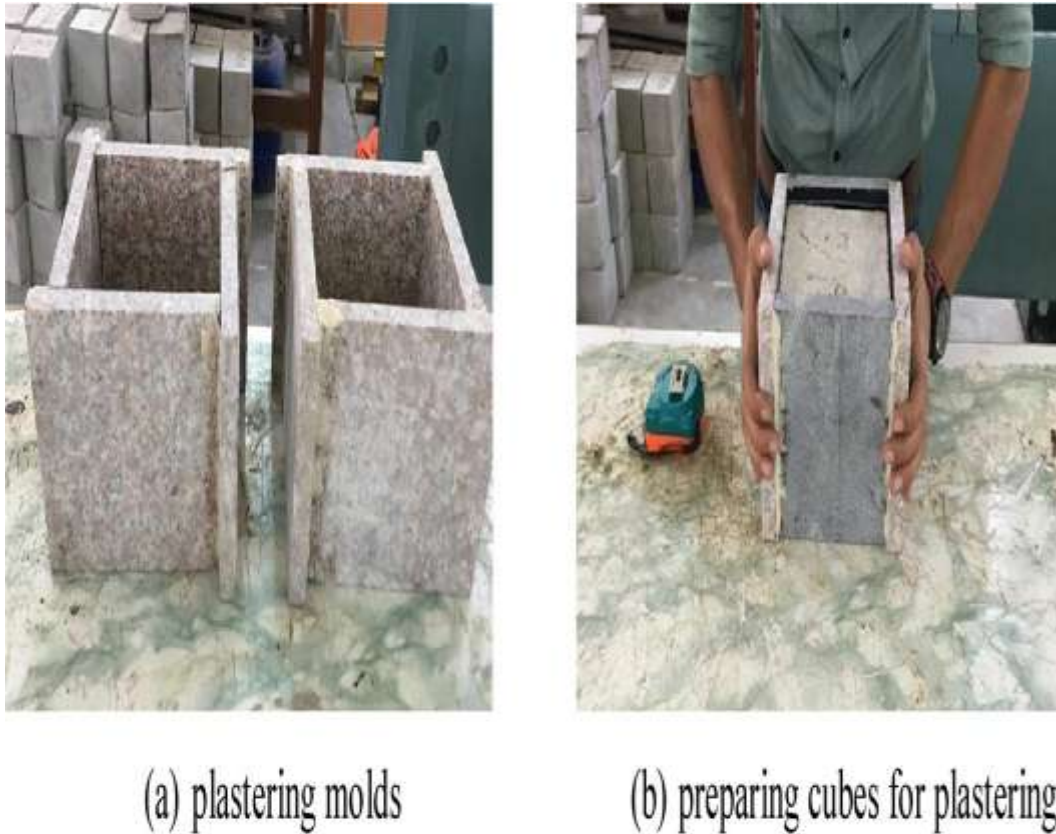


Fig. 1. Gypsum-plastering of cubes made as source contaminated recycled concrete.

12. Preparing gypsum contaminated RCA

The producing method of gypsum contaminated RCA was as follows: (1) a sufficient number of concrete cubes were cast from natural aggregate to produce a concrete with a cube compressive strength of 25 MPa. (2) The cubes were cured up to 28 days, then they were plastered with gypsum (anhydrous calcium sulfate) from one side with a thickness of 12 mm. Fig. 1 shows the process of preparation and plastering of the source concrete cubes. (3) After that, the cubes were crushed to obtain the gypsum contaminated RCA. To assure that all the plastering gypsum is included in the recycled aggregate, the cubes were first kept in plastic bags and crushed in a compression machine before crushing to finer particles. Fig. 2 shows a patch of source gypsum-plastered cubes, while Fig. 3 shows the initial crushing process of these cubes. The gradation of RCA was adjusted manually so that it became similar to that of natural aggregates. The sieve analysis of the recycled aggregate is presented in Fig. 4. The content of acid-soluble sulfates, SO_3 in the gypsum contaminated RCA was 1.5% by weight. In order to compensate for the high water absorption of RCAs, they were presoaked in water for 24 h prior to casting.

13. Preparing, mixing and testing

The reference mix has been designed with a target compressive strength of 25 MPa. The concrete mixes are classified into four groups. As shown in Table 1, three types of aggregate replacement methods were adopted, namely sand replacement, gravel replacement as well as both sand and gravel replacement. The replacement levels were 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100%. In other words, the natural sand was partially and fully replaced by fine RCA in Group A mixes. In Group B mixes, the gravel was substituted by coarse RCA at various levels. In Group C, both sand and gravel were replaced with fine and coarse RCAs. In the fourth group (Group D) and to monitor the influence of silica fume, it was incorporated in the mixes with the highest replacement level.

The concretes were mixed in a drum type mixer of 0.1 m³ capacity. Initially, aggregates with a small quantity of water were mixed. Thereafter, the cement and silica fume with the rest of water were added and mixing was resumed until a homogenous mixture was achieved.

The testing methods of hardened concretes involved expansion, compressive strength, splitting tensile strength, and modulus of rupture for third point bending samples. The specimens used were 100 mm cubes for compressive strength,

× 150 300 mm cylinders for splitting tensile strength and 100 100 400 mm for both expansion and modulus of rupture. The strength properties were measured after 7, 28, and 90 days of curing in water,

while the expansion was measured at specified ages up to 6 months of curing in water. Immediately after demolding, two demec points were glued on each expansion sample to measure the length change via extensometer at the specified ages.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.4. Compressive strength

Figs. 5.7 to show the effect of replacement level of sand, gravel and both of them by RCA on the compressive strength of concrete. It can be seen that, the compressive strength decreased with increasing the RCA replacement level irrespective of the replacement type. However, the highest decrease, which varied from 6 to 38%, was recorded for mixes of Group C in which both the sand and gravel were replaced by recycled aggregates. The specimen of group A, in which sand was replaced by fine RCA, showed the second highest decrease in compressive strength of 7 to 31%. On the other hand, the compressive strength of the Group B mixes was less affected by the substitution of coarse aggregate by coarse RCA such that the highest recorded percentage decrease was 27%.



Fig. 2. A batch of source gypsum-plastered cubes.



Fig. 3. Initial crushing of source cubes.

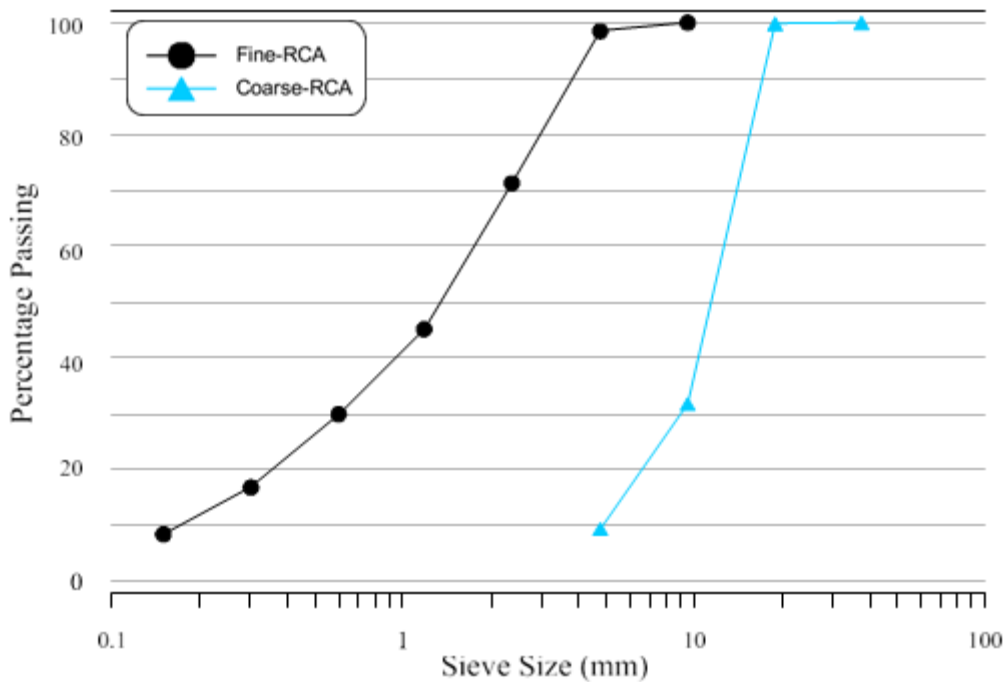


Fig. 4. Sieve analysis of fine and coarse RCA.

The compressive strength behavior of the new concrete derived from RCA could be related to the low quality of source concrete as well as the porous interfacial transition zone between aggregate and cement paste. Many previous studies also proved the adverse effect of the strength of concrete made from recycled concrete aggregate [11, 12, 14, 24, 26]. In the present study the combination effect of gypsum and recycled concrete aggregate also led to decrease the compressive strength of the new concrete. Furthermore, the decrease in compressive strength was higher in sand replacement as compared to gravel replacement. Gesoglu et al. [23] reported a continuous decrease with the increase of gypsum content in the compressive strength of cement mortars made of contaminated fine aggregates. They showed that the strength decrease reached up to approximately 40% for a gypsum content of 11.5%. The higher specific surface area of gypsum particles that were present in fine recycled aggregate compared to those present in coarse aggregate accelerates the interaction between fine gypsum particles and C_3A and lead to produce more ettringite. Further strength deterioration occurred when both sand and gravel were substituted by contaminated RCA because of the accumulated higher gypsum content in these aggregates.

When the strength development of the mixes was considered, it can be seen that all the mixes even those with high gypsum content developed strength with age as shown in Figs. 5–7. The growth in strength could be related to the continuous interaction of cement and curing water. Moreover, some pores were eventually filled with ettringite. Ouyang et al. [27] found that the compressive strength increases with age initially and then dropped depending on the C_3A and cement content in the mix. The apparent contradiction between both studies could be related to the much higher SO_3 content used in the previous one (7%) as compared to the current one (2%).

Table 1

Mix proportion of concrete (kg/m^3).

Specimen's Group	Code	Number	Cement	Silica fume	Water		SP	Coarse aggregate		
					w/b	Slump (mm)				
									NCA	RCA
Reference	CM	380	0	210	0	980	0	7900	95	
A	MRC20	380	0	210	0	784	196	7900	90	
	MRC40	380	0	210	1.9	588	392	7900	95	

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									0.5
	MRC60	380	0	210	1.9	392	588	7900	90
									0.5
	MRC80	380	0	210	2.28	196	784	7900	85
									0.5
	MRC100	380	0	210	2.28	0	980	7900	85
									0.5
B	MRF20	380	0	210	0	980	0	632 158	90
									0.5
	MRF40	380	0	210	0	980	0	474 316	85
									0.5
	MRF60	380	0	210	2.28	980	0	316 474	80
									0.5
	MRF80	380	0	210	2.66	980	0	158 632	85
									0.5
	MRF100	380	0	210	3.42	980	0	0 790	85
									0.5
C	MRCF20	380	0	210	1.9	882	98	711 79	85
									0.5
	MRCF40	380	0	210	2.28	784	196	632 158	80
									0.5
	MRCF60	380	0	210	3.04	686	294	553 237	80
									0.5
	MRCF80	380	0	210	3.42	588	392	474 316	75
									0.5
	MRCF100	380	0	210	2.8	490	490	395 395	70
									0.5
D	MRC100S	342	38	210	1	0	980	7900	80
									0.5
	MRF100S	342	38	210	1	980	0	0 790	80
									0.5
	MRCF100S	342	38	210	1.1	490	490	395 395	75
									0.5
									5

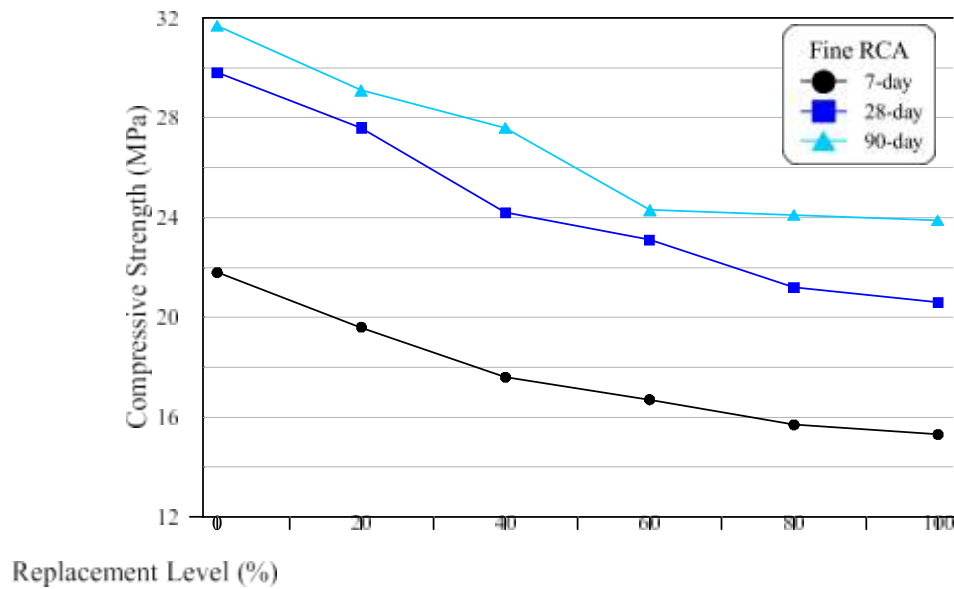


Fig. 5. Variation of compressive strength with contaminated fine RCA.

15. Splitting tensile strength and flexural strength

Concrete is known for its weakness in tension. One of the tests used to evaluate the tensile strength of concrete is the splitting test. The splitting tensile strength of concrete is sensitive to the aggregate type and is related to the compressive strength. On the other hand, the flexural beam test (modulus of rupture) can be used as an indicator for both the flexural strength and indirectly the tensile strength. Therefore, both the splitting tensile and the flexural tests were conducted in this research to evaluate the effect of the incorporation of sulfate-contaminated RCA. The test results of the splitting tensile strength for the concrete made with contaminated RCA are represented in Figs. 8, 10. As with the compressive strength, the splitting tensile was adversely affected by the inclusion of RCA and the higher the substitution level the lower the retained strength. In all cases, the reduction in strength was increased as the substitution level increased. Fig. 8 shows that for fine RCA replacement and for the three ages of concrete, the reductions in splitting tensile strength were in the ranges of approximately 9–13%, 17–20%, 21–28%, 28–35% and 31–35% for replacement levels of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100%, respectively. On the other hand, lower reduction levels were recorded for coarse RCA replacements as shown in Fig. 9. For coarse RCA replacement levels of 40, 60, 80 and 100% and for the three test stages, the percentage

0 20 40 60 80 100
Replacement Level (%)

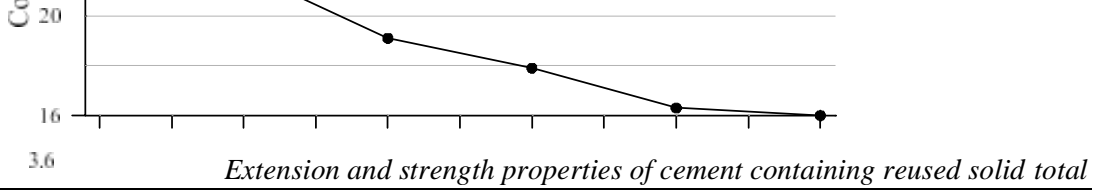


Fig. 6. Variation of compressive strength with contaminated coarse RCA.

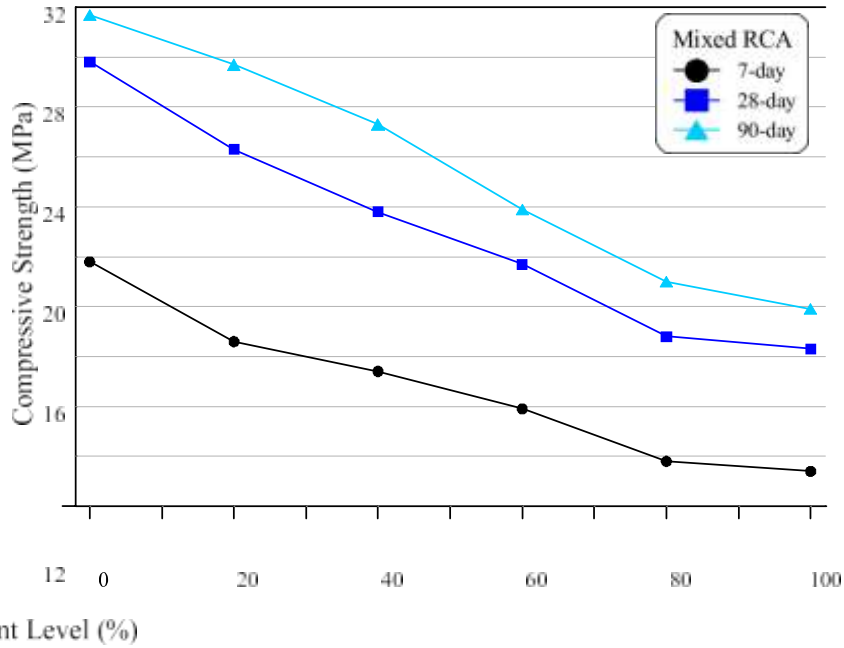


Fig. 7. Variation of compressive strength with contaminated mixed RCA.

reductions in splitting tensile strength were approximately in the ranges of 8–17%, 16–21%, 20–31% and 22–33%, respectively, while strength gain was recorded for some samples at a replacement level of 20%. The better result of the specimens in which the gravel was partially and totally replaced by contaminated coarse RCA are attributed to the slow dissolution of coarse gypsum particles in water, which is not enough to promote ettringite formation. Fig. 10 shows the declined splitting strength of specimens with mixed substitution of fine and coarse RCA (Group C). This case of replacement led to the highest level of strength reduction among the three groups of specimens. For the three test ages, the strength reduction values were 7–39% when both natural aggregates were replaced by fine and coarse RCA compared to 9–35% for only fine RCA replacement and 6–33% for coarse RCA replacement.

Figs. 11, 13 show that the flexural strength (modulus of rupture) showed similar trend of decline with the increase of RCA replacement level. Similar to the splitting tensile strength, the fine RCA replacement was found of larger impact on the flexural strength than of coarse RCA replacement, while the largest reduction level in flexural strength were recorded for the case of mixed RCA replacement. For the three curing ages, the ranges of percentage reduction in the flexural strength were 6–

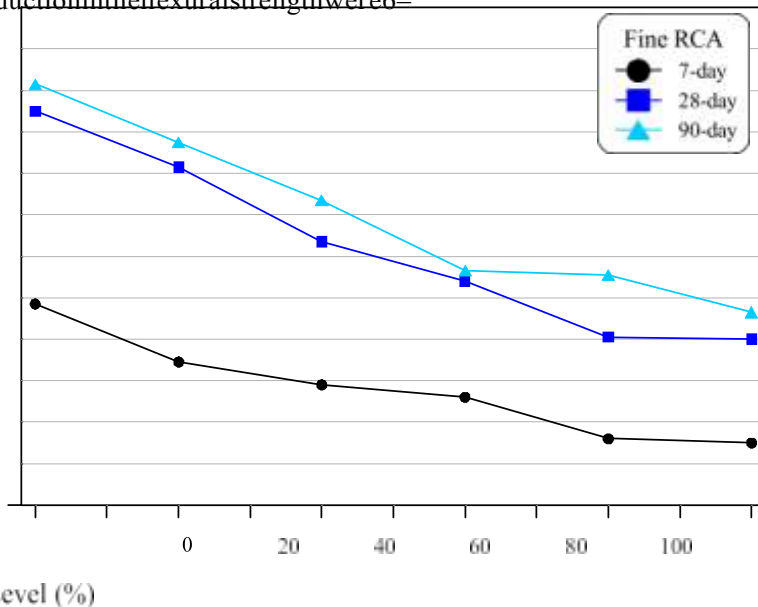


Fig. 11. Variation of flexural strength with contaminated fine RCA.

Fig. 8. Variation of splitting tensile strength with contaminated fine RCA.

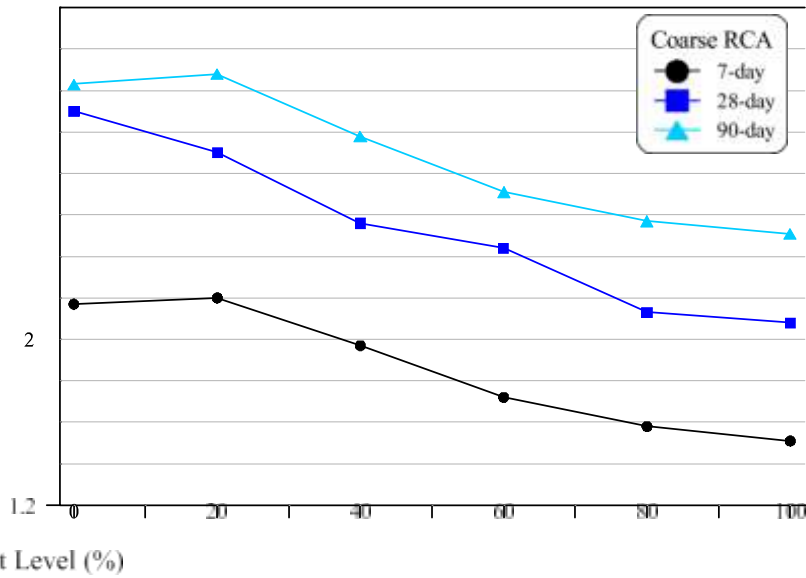


Fig. 9. Variation of splitting tensile strength with contaminated coarse RCA.

33%, 028% and 6,41% for fine, coarse and mixed RCA replacements, respectively. This again can be attributed to the faster dissolution of the fine gypsum particles, which maximizes their negative impact by the formation of the undesirable ettringite formation.

It is worth noting that the RCA which is resulting from old concrete contains both original particles as well as mortar adhered on them. The new mortar incorporated with RCA, therefore, consists of two interfacial transition zones; one of them is positioned between the original particles and the adhered mortar while the other one is located between the new mortar and RCA. This generates the weakness regions in the microstructure of the concrete especially under the bending loads, and thus reducing the flexural strength and fracture energy of concrete. Some recent researches have investigated these interfacial transition zones using advanced techniques [28–31].

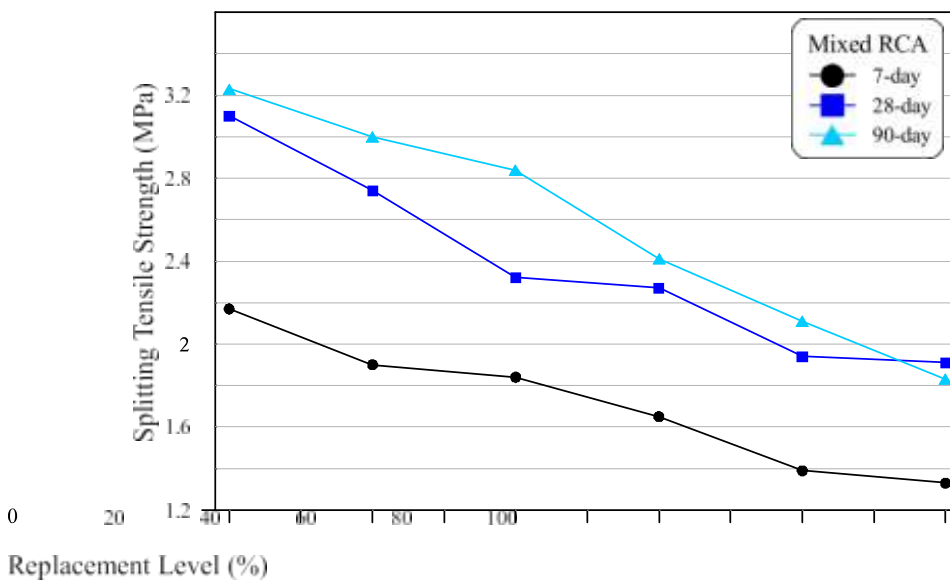
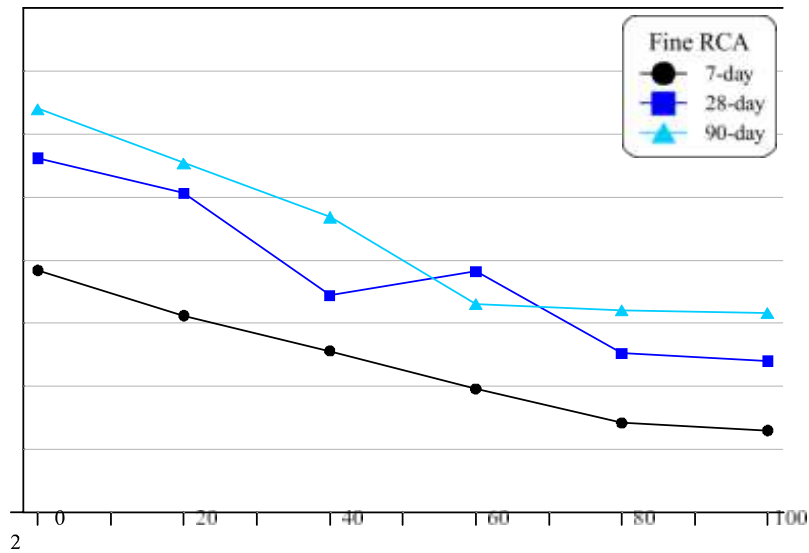


Fig. 10. Variation of splitting tensile strength with contaminated mixed RCA.

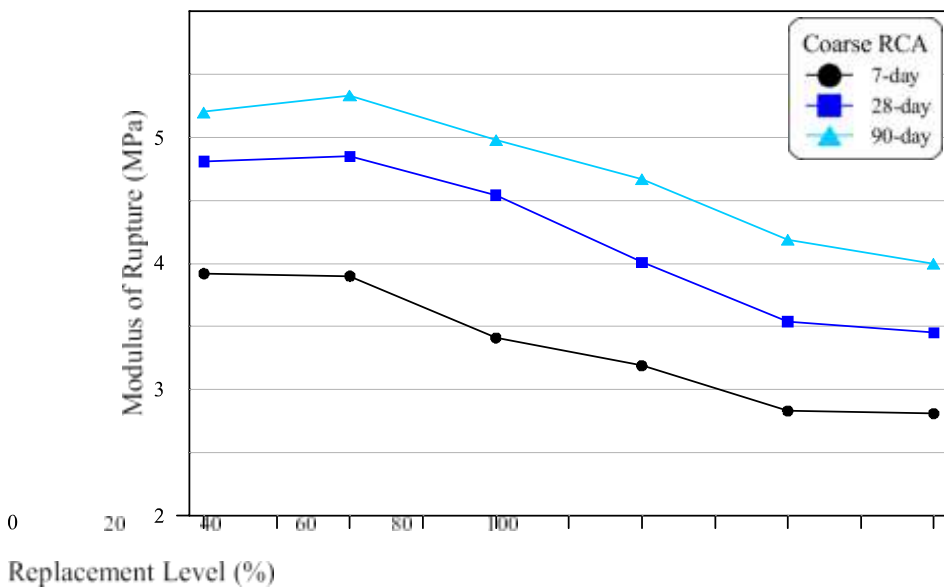


Replacement Level (%)

Fig. 11. Variation of modulus of rupture with contaminated fine RCA.

16. Expansion

Figs. 14, 16 show the variation of expansion of concrete made with RCA with age. Obviously, the expansion of concrete increased with time. This is because while maintaining the concrete samples in water, the CSH gel absorbs water and the molecules of water cause the particles of gel to further apart. With curing time, further small swelling occurs as a result of declining the surface tension of the CSH gel [32]. In each group of mixes, the expansion strain was higher with increasing the replacement level of virgin aggregate by contaminated RCA. However, the highest strains were observed for Group C mixes, where mixed RCA was used, because of their highest SO_3 content in aggregate followed by the group of fine RCA (Group A), while the specimens of the Group B where coarse RCA was used showed the lowest strains. The maximum recorded expansions for the three groups with replacement of fine RCA, coarse RCA and mixed RCA were 0.046, 0.026, and



Replacement Level (%)

Fig. 12. Variation of modulus of rupture with contaminated coarse RCA.

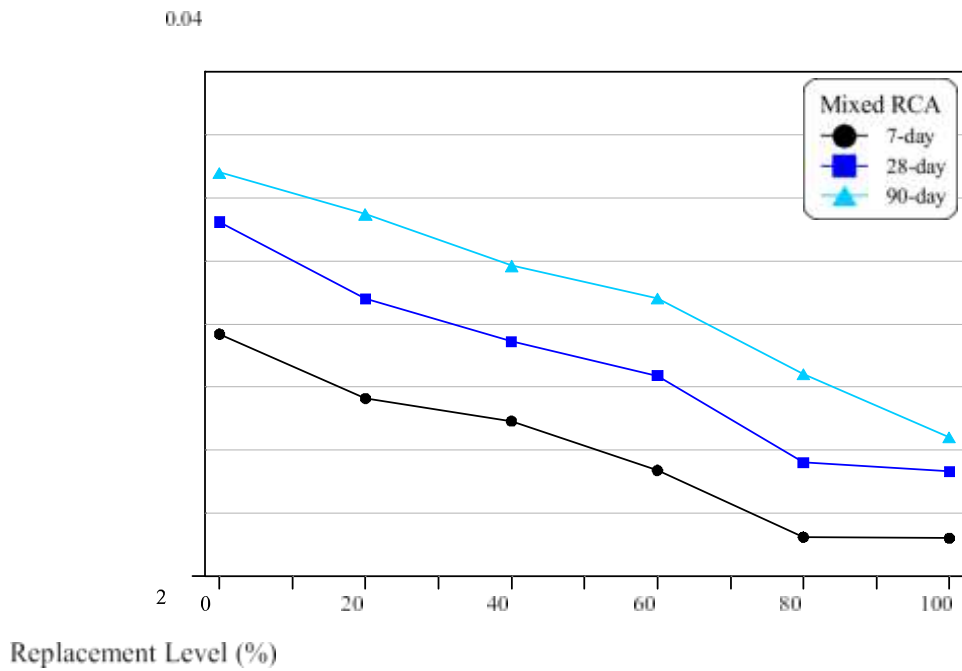


Fig. 13. Variation of modulus of rupture with contaminated mixed RCA.

0.048%, respectively. Thus, the results of expansion test fully support the results trend of the compressive and tensile strengths discussed earlier.

Indeed, increasing gypsum content in the mix leads to form further ettringite. The ettringite generated at early ages (before setting) is not harmful and even necessary to control setting. However, it becomes a adverse effect when it develops later (at a hardened stage) because expansion of hardened matrix develops cracks and hence weakens the system [32]. As reported by [33], the use of recycled concrete aggregates instead of natural aggregate increases the expansion of concrete, so the relatively higher expansive strains of mixes with contaminated aggregates as compared to control mixes were not only due to the existence of excessive sulfates in aggregate but also due to recycled concrete aggregates. However, it is difficult to distinguish the effect of the adhered mortar on the recycled aggregate particles from the effect of the gypsum because each one of them may increase the expansion strain.

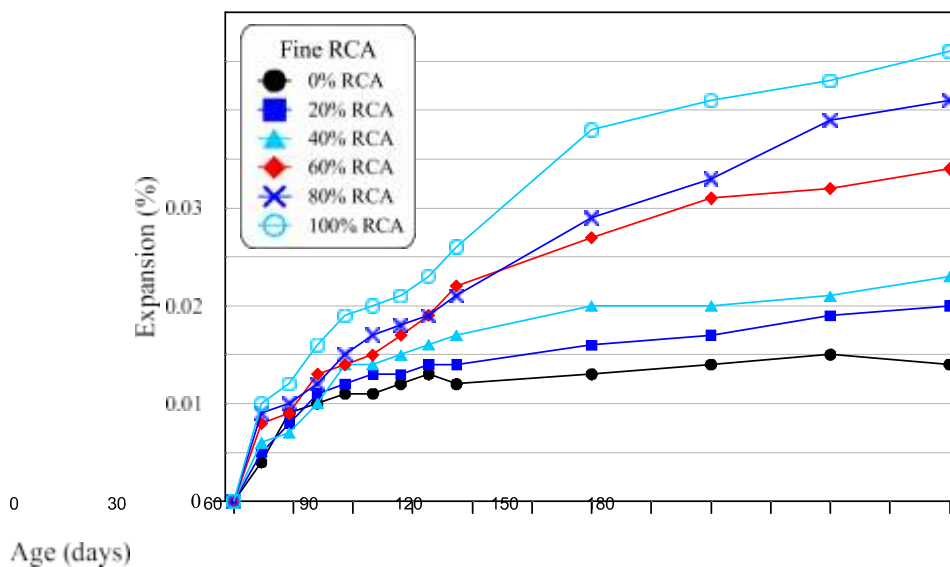


Fig. 14. Expansion with time for concrete with different contaminated fine RCA contents.

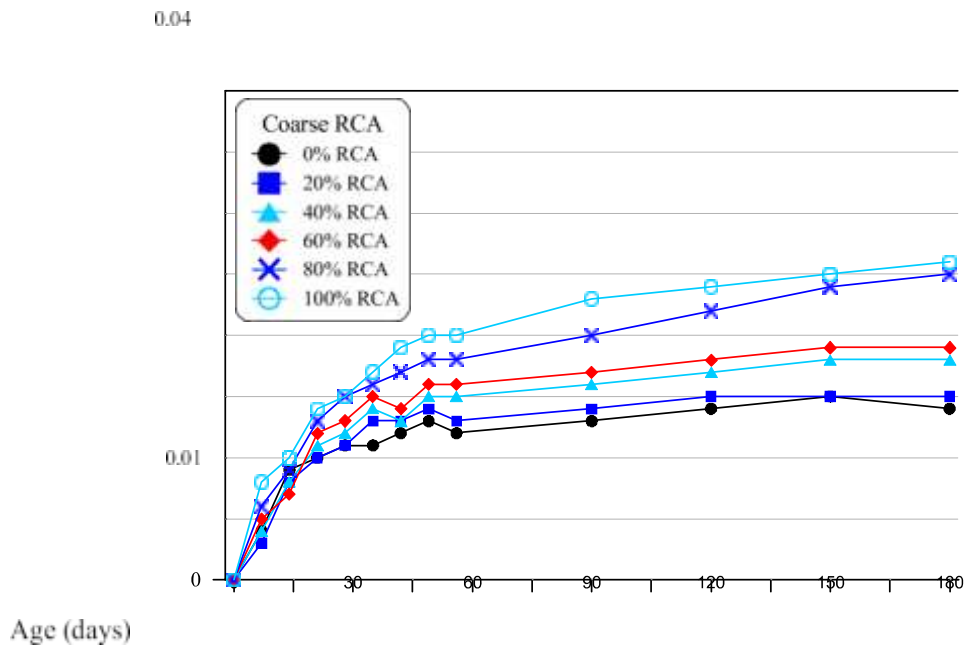


Fig. 15. Expansion with time for concrete with different contaminated coarse RCA contents.

Some standards provide limits for sulfate content in aggregate expressed as SO_3 . Regarding natural aggregate, its limit is 0.5% for fine aggregate and 0.1% for coarse aggregate in the Iraqi standards [34], while ASTM and EN standards do not provide any limitations. The reason may be due to the absence of appreciable sulfates in the natural aggregate of their regions. However, the EN standard requires that the SO_3 content in recycled aggregate must not exceed 1%. On the other hand, researchers [9,35,36] have adopted the expansion strain to determine the quality of concrete made with gypsum contaminated aggregate even in all cases the SO_3 level in aggregate exceeds the standard limits. They reported that the concrete or mortar is acceptable whenever the expansion is not higher than 0.1% after one year of immersing in water or 0.05% after 6 months of immersing in water. In the present study, the expansion did not exceed 0.048% in all cases, more promising results were achieved in groups A and B where either sand or gravel were partially or fully replaced by RCA. Other

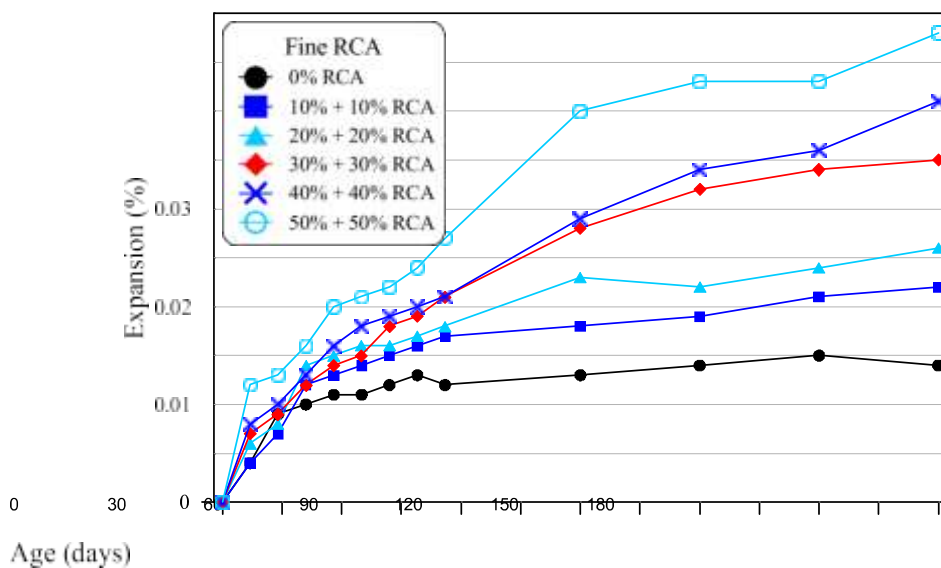


Fig. 16. Expansion with time for concrete with different contaminated mixed RCA contents.

study also suggested a great potential for use of contaminated recycled aggregate in construction industry though that study was focused on expansion of mortar only [9].

1.7. Effect of silica fume

Silica fume is a very reactive pozzolanic material because of its physical and chemical features. When using this by-product material in concrete, a significant development in compressive and tensile strengths is expected. Figs. 17–19 illustrate the influence of silica fume on the compressive strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of rupture of concrete when sand, gravel and both of them were fully replaced by recycled fine (F), coarse (C) and mixed (M) RCA aggregates. The figures show comparisons between the strength of concrete with 100% contaminated RCA with and without the 10% cement substitution by silica fume. The letters SF in Figs. 17–19 refer to the presence of silica fume.

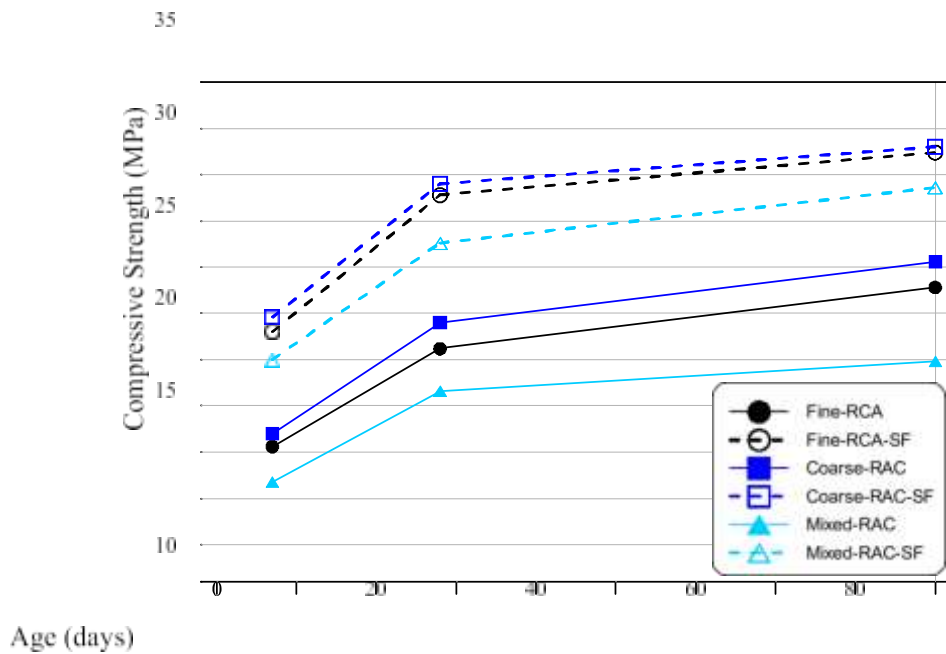


Fig. 17. Effect of silica fume on compressive strength of specimens with 100% RCA.

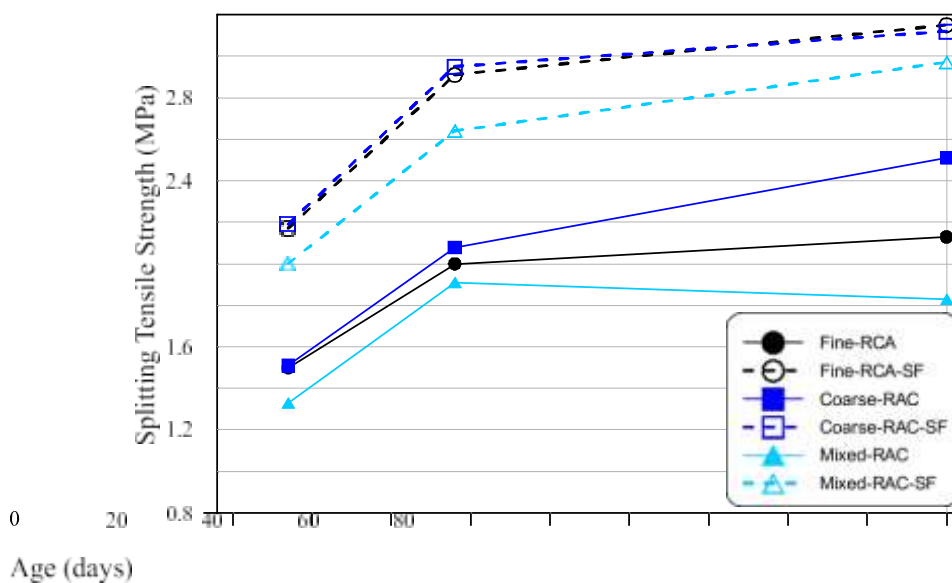


Fig. 18. Effect of silica fume on splitting tensile strength of specimens with 100% RCA.

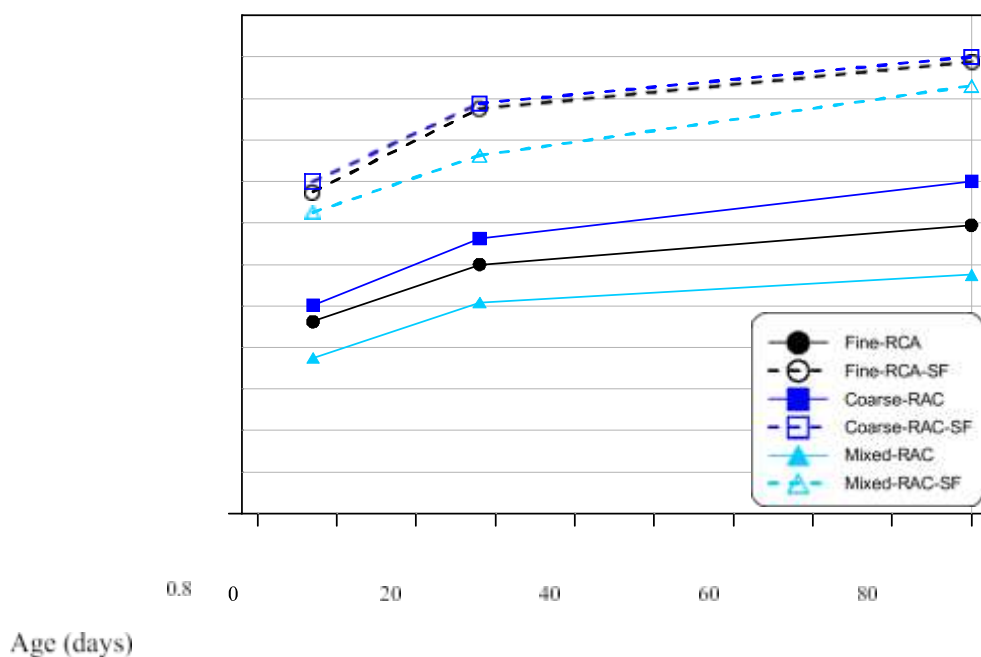


Fig. 19. Effect of silica fume on modulus of rupture of specimens with 100% RCA.

Figs. 17–19 show that the retained compressive strength, splitting strength and modulus of rupture were significantly improved by the addition of silica fume. Obviously, the silica fume compensated for the strength reduction caused by the presence of waste concrete aggregate such that both traditional concrete and that made with RCA showed almost similar strengths. The enhanced aggregate-matrix interfacial transition zone could be the reason behind such behavior because silica fume makes this zone denser and structurally stronger. The percentage development in compressive strength due to silica fume addition for the three groups with fine, coarse and mixed contaminated RCA and for the three age ranges from approximately 25 to 50%. Similarly, the developments in splitting tensile strength and modulus of rupture range from 24 to 62% and 30 to 61%, respectively. The results of the current research are inconsistent with previous researches [37, 38] that showed better strength and durability performance of RCA specimens incorporated silica fume compared to those without silica fume.

V. CONCLUSIONS

- 1 From the results of the experimental work conducted in this study, the following conclusions can be drawn,
- 2 The compressive strength was lower with increasing the replacement level of virgin aggregate by contaminated RCA. However, the lowest strengths were recorded for Group C mixes in which the sand and gravel were replaced by contaminated RCA, followed by Group A in which sand was replaced by contaminated RCA. On the other hand, Group B showed the best results among the three groups of mixes.
- 3 The splitting tensile strength and flexural strength generally exhibited trend similar to compressive strength. The maximum reductions in splitting tensile strength due to the use of fine, coarse and mixed RCA were 35%, 33% and 39%, respectively, while they were 33%, 28% and 41% for flexural strength, respectively.
- 4 Increasing the replacement level of contaminated RCA led to increase the expansion strain of concrete of the three groups of mixtures. However, the largest strains were generally observed for Group C mixes because of their highest SO_3 content in aggregate, followed by group A and Group B. In all cases, the maximum recorded expansion was 0.048%.
- 5 The use of silica fume counterbalanced the strength reduction and strain increment due to the replacement of natural aggregate by contaminated RCA. The percentage development in compressive, tensile and flexural strengths due to silica fume inclusion ranged from 24 to 62%.

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