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# Effects of restraint on expansion due to delayed ettringite formation

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## Abstract

Delayed ettringite formation (DEF) is a chemical reaction that causes expansion in civil engineering structures. The safety level of such damaged structures has to be reassessed. To do this, the mechanical conditions acting on DEF expansions have to be analysed and, in particular, the variation of strength with expansion and the effect of restraint on the DEF expansion. This paper highlights several points: DEF expansion is isotropic in stress-free conditions, compressive stresses decrease DEF expansion in the direction subjected to restraint and lead to cracks parallel to the restraint, and expansion measured in the stress-free direction of restrained specimens is not modified. Thus restraint causes a decrease of the volumetric expansion and DEF expansion under restraint is anisotropic. Moreover, the paper examines the correlation between DEF expansion and concrete damage, providing data that can be used for the quantification of the effect of stresses on DEF induced expansion.

**Keywords:** Delayed ettringite formation (DEF), Damage, Expansion, Stress effect.

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## 26 **1. Introduction**

27 Alkali-silica reaction (ASR) and delayed ettringite formation (DEF) are endogenous chemical  
28 reactions that lead to concrete expansion of civil engineering structures [1-5]. The safety level  
29 of such damaged structures has to be evaluated with great care. Alkali-silica reaction has been  
30 largely studied and there are several methods for the reassessment of ASR-damaged structures  
31 [6-10]. Such methods are also necessary to reassess structures damaged by delayed ettringite  
32 formation or by a combination of the two reactions. The physical and chemical aspects of  
33 DEF expansions have already been well studied and discussed [4,11,12]. The mechanical  
34 conditions acting on DEF expansions also need to be studied. This includes the analysis and  
35 quantification of the mechanical effects of restraint on the development of DEF expansion.

36 Experiments have investigated the effect of stress on the anisotropy of ASR expansions [13-  
37 22]. ASR expansions were measured on specimens subjected to direct loading (with a creep  
38 device) [13-16] or to restraint (with steel reinforcement for example) [17-22]. In all the  
39 studies, expansion was decreased in the restrained or loaded direction [13-22]. For two  
40 studies, measurements showed that expansion was transferred to the less compressed direction  
41 [13, 16] while another study did not show such transfer [15]. In the case of specimens  
42 restrained in the three directions (longitudinal loading and restraint in the other two  
43 directions), ASR expansions were not stopped but clearly reduced in the three directions,  
44 without significant modification of the imposed volumetric expansion [16].

45 Investigations on the effect of restraint on DEF expansion are also necessary. In this paper,  
46 three points of the mechanical behaviour of concrete undergoing DEF expansion are analysed:  
47 isotropy of stress-free expansion, anisotropy of expansion under restraint, and consequences  
48 of DEF expansion on compressive strength. After a presentation of the experimental  
49 conditions, the expansions measured on specimens under three mechanical conditions (stress-

50 free and under two restraints) and the evolution of the compressive strength are reported. The  
51 measurements are then investigated with a mechanical analysis to discuss the consequences of  
52 the stress conditions on the development of DEF expansion. Finally, a relationship between  
53 the concrete damage (assessed by the evolution of the compressive strength) and the DEF  
54 expansions is proposed.

## 55 **2. Experimental conditions**

### 56 ***2.1 Materials***

57 Experiments were performed on mortar prisms (40×40×160 mm). The mortar used in this  
58 study had already been used in previous experiments on DEF [23-25]. The water/cement ratio  
59 was 0.55 and the sand/cement ratio was 3. The chemical composition of the Portland cement  
60 used is given in Table 1. As in the previous experiments, 3.1% of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added to the  
61 mixing water [23-25]. Siliceous sand known to be non-alkali-reactive was used (Table 1).

### 62 ***2.2 Curing temperature***

63 After casting, some of the specimens were cured at high temperatures with the heat treatment  
64 used in previous studies [23-25]: 1 hour at 20°C, an increase from 20 to 80°C in 4 hours, a  
65 constant temperature of 80°C for 10 hours then a cooling to 20°C in 10 hours. The specimens  
66 were steamed in metal moulds, wrapped in watertight plastic film and covered by a metal  
67 plate to prevent evaporation of water during the heat treatment. At the same time, other  
68 specimens made in the same batch were stored at 20°C. After cooling and demoulding,  
69 specimens were kept at 20°C in endogenous conditions (sealed in plastic bags) for 28 days.

## 70 **2.3 Restraint and storage**

71 After the 28 days of curing, the specimens were put under restraint (Figure 1). The device was  
72 composed of two stainless steel plates connected by four threaded stainless steel bars. The  
73 compressive force was transmitted through two stainless steel balls and two other steel plates  
74 were placed between the balls and the specimens in order to obtain uniform compressive  
75 stresses in the specimen (Figure 1). Threaded bars of diameters 2 and 5 mm (restraints 4D2  
76 and 4D5 respectively) were used to obtain two restraint levels. Slight stresses were applied at  
77 28 days. The mean negative elastic strains measured in the longitudinal directions when  
78 restraints were applied were respectively 30 and 70  $\mu\text{m/m}$  for the specimens under the  
79 restraints of 4D2 and 4D5. Once expansion occurred, the threaded bars restrained DEF  
80 expansion, which caused the longitudinal compressive stress to increase. After stabilisation of  
81 the expansions (at about 442 days), the restraints were withdrawn. The mean positive elastic  
82 strains measured in the longitudinal directions when the restraints were withdrawn were  
83 respectively 80 and 160  $\mu\text{m/m}$  for the specimens under the restraints of 4D2 and 4D5. In  
84 order to accelerate DEF development, the specimen and the whole experimental set-up were  
85 immersed in water at 38°C [24].

## 86 **2.4 Measurement**

87 Before each measurement, the specimens were cooled from 38°C to 20°C. At the same time,  
88 mass measurements were performed on the specimens. The longitudinal displacements were  
89 measured with an extensometer (Figure 3a - measurement length: 100 mm) between two  
90 stainless steel studs stuck on the specimen (Figure 2). The transversal displacements were  
91 measured using an external ball-micrometer (Figure 3b) pointing on two stainless steel studs  
92 stuck on the sides of the specimens (measurement length: 40 mm). For each specimen, two  
93 longitudinal measurements were made on two opposite faces (Figure 2) and four transversal

94 measurements (two for each direction – Figure 2). In order to decrease scatter due to mortar  
95 fabrication, heat treatment and storage, only one batch was used to cast all the specimens for  
96 the study, all the specimens were cured during the same heat treatment and kept in the same  
97 volume of water.

### 98 **3. Experimental results**

#### 99 ***3.1 Stress-free expansion***

100 Strains of specimens kept immersed in water after 28 days in stress-free conditions have been  
101 plotted in Figure 4. The specimens that had been subjected to the heat treatment during the  
102 curing period showed large expansions of between 1.3 and 2.2% due to DEF [23-25]. All the  
103 specimens in stress-free conditions exhibited map-cracking. The first significant cracks  
104 appeared for a strain of about 0.5% (after 80 days of immersion in water). Figure 4 shows the  
105 strains measured on specimens obtained from several batches of the same mixture. The  
106 expansion kinetics were similar for all the specimens (with expansion beginning after about  
107 60 days of immersion) but the range of final expansions was rather large (between 1.3 and  
108 2.2%). This illustrates the discrepancy of DEF expansions, which could be quantified by a  
109 coefficient of variation of about 20% in this study, slightly lower than the coefficients of  
110 variation obtained for alkali-silica reaction expansions [22, 26].

111 Strains were measured in the three directions of specimens obtained from the same batch (2  
112 measurements in the longitudinal direction and 4 in the two transverse directions of each  
113 specimen – Figure 2). The longitudinal and transverse expansions showed a smaller scatter  
114 (coefficient of variation lower than 10% – Figure 5) than the longitudinal expansions obtained  
115 on specimens from different batches. Longitudinal and transverse strains were equal during  
116 the whole experiment; expansion caused by the delayed ettringite formation was thus  
117 isotropic in stress-free conditions.

### 118 **3.2 Expansion under restraint**

119 The longitudinal and transverse strains of specimens under restraint are compared with strains  
120 obtained on the stress-free specimens in Figure 6. All the specimens exhibit cracks. Cracking  
121 was mainly longitudinal for the restrained specimens (parallel to the restraint). Cracks seemed  
122 to be wider for the specimens in stress-free conditions than for restrained specimens. The  
123 longitudinal expansions show the large effect of the restraint on the strains measured in the  
124 direction of compressive stress: final longitudinal expansions were only 0.6% and 0.2% for  
125 the specimens restrained by steel bars of 2 and 5 mm in diameter, respectively, and 2.1% for  
126 the specimens in stress-free conditions (Figure 6 – decrease of about 75 and 90%). It is  
127 interesting to note that, although the relative decreases were considerable, the expansions  
128 stayed quite large in the restrained direction (for the strongest restraint, the expansion was still  
129 about 0.2%). DEF-induced transverse expansion showed (Figure 6-b):

- 130 - a slight delay (between 10 and 20 days) in presence of the restraint,
- 131 - faster stabilisation for the specimens in stress-free conditions (after about 250 days of  
132 immersion),
- 133 - transversal expansions were slightly larger for the restrained specimens at 400 days  
134 (before the restraint was withdrawn), with strains of about 2.2 and 2.3% versus 2% for  
135 stress-free specimens.

136 Finally, the longitudinal restraint had a smaller effect on transverse strains than on  
137 longitudinal strains. Moreover, all the transverse strains were measured in the two transverse  
138 directions of the specimens. Little scatter was observed according to the direction. Expansions  
139 in the two stress-free transverse directions were similar.

140 After the restraints had been withdrawn (442 days), the longitudinal expansions showed slight  
141 increases, particularly for the most restrained specimens (Figure 6). They stabilised quickly  
142 (at 540 days) and did not significantly modify the results (Figure 6-a). As specimens were

143 under compressive stresses due to restrained expansion and as DEF expansion appeared to be  
144 stabilised in other specimens, the expansion increase may have been due to creep recovery.  
145 No significant modifications were measured for transverse expansion (Figure 6-b).

### 146 **3.3 Compressive strength**

147 Compressive strength was measured on prismatic specimens (40x40x40 mm) at time-steps  
148 chosen according to the expansions measured on the specimens (Figure 4). The evolution of  
149 the compressive strength of the reference mortar and of the mortar damaged by delayed  
150 ettringite formation have been plotted in Figure 7. The reference specimens showed the usual  
151 increase of compressive strength with time due to continuous cement hydration. The  
152 specimens that had been subjected to the heat treatment showed a decrease in strength (about  
153 40%). 28 days after casting, the compressive strength was equal to 46.5 MPa. A large strength  
154 decrease occurred mainly between 70 and 100 days, corresponding to the significant increase  
155 of expansion (Figure 4-b), and the compressive strength reached a minimum value of 25 MPa  
156 at 180 days. After 180 days, while expansion was stabilised, a slight increase could be noted  
157 (the same increase as for the compressive strength measured on the reference specimens). The  
158 evolution of relative compressive strength has been plotted versus expansion in Figure 8. The  
159 maximal decrease (about 40%) was reached for expansion of about 0.7%. For expansions  
160 higher than 0.7%, the reduction of the compressive strength appears to be stable.

## 161 **4. Analysis and discussion**

### 162 **4.1 Chemo-mechanical calculations**

163 The aim of this part is to analyse the strains of the restrained specimen by means of chemo-  
164 mechanic calculations, as can be done in the calculation of ASR-damaged structures [6, 7].  
165 The calculations are based on the assumption that DEF expansion can be considered as



166 imposed strain, as proposed in [27]. During the measurements, DEF expansion was isotropic  
167 in stress-free conditions. For the specimens subjected to restraint, the strains were the same in  
168 the two transversal directions but largely reduced in the longitudinal, restrained direction. This  
169 anisotropy can have two causes: the only elastic effect of restraint and the reduction of DEF-  
170 induced expansion in the restraint direction. Elastic calculations performed with the  
171 assumption of isotropic chemically imposed strain show that the reductions of the measured  
172 strains due to the elastic effect are respectively about 10% and 40% under the restraints of  
173 4D2 and 4D5. The reductions are thus lower than the reduction of respectively 75% and 90%  
174 observed in the experimental results. This observation has already been made for ASR  
175 expansion under restraint [28] and leads to assume that the chemically imposed strains are not  
176 isotropic. ASR modelling based on the assumption that ASR expansion can be considered as  
177 chemically imposed strains usually used an anisotropic coefficient to modify the imposed  
178 strains according to the anisotropy of loading [29,30]. As the restraint was uniaxial, the  
179 chemically imposed strains were assumed to be orthotropic to take account of the effect of  
180 restraint on the expansion in each direction. They can be written:

$$\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}_{imp} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{imp}^T & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon_{imp}^T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_{imp}^L \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

181 As for the alkali-silica reaction [6,7], the constitutive law of concrete damaged by DEF is:

$$\underline{\underline{\sigma}} = (K_c - \frac{2}{3}G_c)tr(\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}} - \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^p)\underline{\underline{I}} + 2G_c(\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}} - \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^p) - 3K_c \underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}_{imp} \quad (2)$$

182 with:  $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^p$  the plastic strains matrix.

183 In this work, the mean structural compressive stresses are lower than 5 MPa and thus lower  
184 than the mean compressive strength; the plastic strains  $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}^p$  are then equal to zero. The  
185 equation (2) becomes:

$$\underline{\underline{\sigma}} = (K_c - \frac{2}{3}G_c)tr\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}I + 2G_c\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}} - 3K_c\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}_{imp} \quad (3)$$

186 with:

$$K_c = \frac{E_c}{3(1-2\nu_c)} \quad (4)$$

187 and

$$G_c = \frac{E_c}{2(1+\nu_c)} \quad (5)$$

188

where  $E_c$  and  $\nu_c$  are respectively the Young's modulus of the concrete and its Poisson's

189 coefficient, assumed isotropic.  $\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}}$  is known from the transverse and longitudinal

190 measurements:

$$\underline{\underline{\varepsilon}} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{meas}^T & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon_{meas}^T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_{meas}^L \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

191 Boundary conditions are given by the two following equations:

192 - The longitudinal stresses in concrete are equal to the restraint stress:

$$\sigma_{zz}^c(z) = \sigma_{rest} \quad (7)$$

193 with  $\sigma_{rest}$  the stress due to the threaded bar restraint.

194 - There are no transverse stresses:

$$\sigma_{xx}^c(z) = \sigma_{yy}^c(z) = 0 \quad (8)$$

195 Therefore, the chemically imposed strains can be identified from the strains measured on

196 specimens:

$$\varepsilon_{imp}^T = \frac{1}{3K_c} \left[ \left( 2K_c + \frac{2}{3}G_c \right) \varepsilon_{meas}^T + \left( K_c - \frac{2}{3}G_c \right) \varepsilon_{meas}^L \right] \quad (9)$$

$$\varepsilon_{imp}^L = \frac{1}{3} \left[ \left( 2 - \frac{4}{3} \frac{G_c}{K_c} \right) \varepsilon_{meas}^T + \left( 1 + \frac{4}{3} \frac{G_c}{K_c} \right) \varepsilon_{meas}^L - \frac{\sigma_{rest}}{K_c} \right] \quad (10)$$

197 It can be noted that the term  $\sigma_{rest} / K_c$  is negligible compared to the other two terms of the  
198 equation (about 0.05% compared to more than 1%) in this work.

199 The volumetric chemically imposed strain is defined by:

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \varepsilon_{imp}^L + 2\varepsilon_{imp}^T \quad (11)$$

200 By combining equations 9, 10 and 11, the following equation can be obtained:

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \varepsilon_{imp}^L + 2\varepsilon_{imp}^T = \varepsilon_{meas}^L + 2\varepsilon_{meas}^T - \frac{\sigma_{rest}}{3K_c} \quad (12)$$

201 The Young's modulus of the concrete was equal to 31,000 MPa when restraint was imposed  
202 (28 days after casting). The Poisson's coefficient was taken equal to 0.2. In this study, the last  
203 term of equation 12 (about 0.001%) is negligible compared to the measured strains (about  
204 1%). In this case, it can be noted that the imposed volumetric strain is equal to the measured  
205 volumetric strain.

## 206 **4.2 Analysis**

### 207 **4.2.1 Induced stresses**

208 The stresses in the specimens could be assessed from the longitudinal strains measured at the  
209 beginning of the test and when the restraints were withdrawn. When restraints were applied,  
210 the mean negative strains in the longitudinal directions were 30 and 70  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$  for the  
211 specimens under the restraint of 4D2 and 4D5 respectively. Before DEF occurred, the Young's  
212 modulus of the mortar had been measured. It was about 31,000 MPa. Mean compressive

213 stresses could thus be assessed: about 0.9 and 2 MPa for the restraints 4D2 and 4D5,  
214 respectively, at the beginning of the tests.

215 Once expansion occurred, DEF expansions were restrained by the threaded bars, which  
216 implied an increase of the longitudinal compressive stresses. The final stresses could be  
217 assessed from the elastic strains measured in the longitudinal directions when the restraints  
218 were withdrawn. Strains were 80 and 160  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}$  for the specimens under the restraints of 4D2  
219 and 4D5 respectively. For DEF, as for ASR, mechanical characteristics such as compressive  
220 strengths and Young's modulus are modified by cracking induced by expansion. Young's  
221 modulus decreases as the cracking develops. The effect of restraint on DEF or ASR  
222 expansions leads to cracking, mainly parallel to the restraint direction as was observed on the  
223 specimens studied in this work. Therefore, it leads to anisotropic damage and the decrease of  
224 the Young's modulus is lower along the restraint directions than in stress-free directions [31].  
225 In order to quantify the compressive stresses at the end of the tests, the decrease in Young's  
226 modulus was assumed to be proportional to the decrease in compressive strength for an  
227 expansion equal to the strain measured in the restraint direction (Figure 8). The mean strains  
228 measured in the longitudinal direction were 0.6 and 0.2% for the restraints 4D2 and 4D5  
229 respectively. For such expansions, the decreases of the compressive strength were about 65%  
230 and 85% (Figure 8). For an initial value of 31,000 MPa, this led to Young's moduli of about  
231 20,150 and 26,350 MPa and thus to final compressive stresses of about 1.6 and 4.2 MPa.  
232 Therefore, compressive stresses increased from 0.9 to 1.6 MPa for restraint 4D2 and from 2 to  
233 4.2 MPa for 4D5.

#### 234 **4.2.2 Calculated strains**

235 The chemically imposed strains according to the chemo-mechanical calculations performed  
236 just above (equations 9 and 10) have been plotted in Figure 9 for the stress-free and restrained  
237 specimens. The imposed longitudinal strains were greatly influenced by the restraint, with

238 decreases of respectively 45 and 55% for the restraints 4D2 and 4D5 in comparison with the  
239 stress-free specimens (Figure 9-a). These reductions are smaller than those calculated for the  
240 measured strains (75 and 90%). It is due to the elastic effect of the restraint. The imposed  
241 longitudinal strains obtained for the two restraints (1.15 and 0.90% before the restraints were  
242 withdrawn) are closer than the measured longitudinal strains (0.60 and 0.20% at the same  
243 time – thus a factor of 3 between the measurements and only 1.25 between the imposed  
244 strains). The restraints seemed to have little effect on the imposed transverse strains, with a  
245 slight delay as for the measured strains, but with no differences of final strains (Figure 9-b).  
246 Volumetric strains (equation 12) have been plotted in Figure 10. The volumetric strains of the  
247 restrained specimens were similar (volumetric strains of about 5%) and showed a reduction of  
248 about 20% compared to the volumetric strain of the stress-free specimens (6.1 % - Figure 10).  
249 The effect of restraint on expansion can be quantified by the anisotropy coefficient of DEF-  
250 induced expansions (ratio of the longitudinal strain to the transverse strain). The assessment  
251 of the anisotropy coefficients for the stress-free and restrained specimens are presented in  
252 Figure 11. The longitudinal and transversal strains were highly correlated, with a correlation  
253 coefficient very close to 1 for the three stress conditions. As observed in the presentation of  
254 the experimental results, DEF expansions were isotropic in stress-free conditions. The  
255 anisotropy coefficient was about 1.05 (Figure 11). The anisotropy of stress-free expansions  
256 due to DEF was not so large as for ASR expansions, which usually present an anisotropy  
257 coefficient of about 2 in stress-free conditions [22,26,32]. For ASR, the largest expansion was  
258 measured in the direction parallel to casting [22,26]. For DEF, the casting direction did not  
259 appear to modify expansion. The anisotropy coefficients were 0.6 and 0.45 for restraints 4D2  
260 and 4D5 respectively (Figure 11). The decrease of the anisotropy coefficients quantifies the  
261 decrease of the strains in the restraint direction while strains in the stress-free directions are  
262 not modified.

263 Figure 12 shows the variations of the volumetric strains and of the anisotropy coefficient with  
264 the final compressive stress. It illustrates the decrease of the volumetric strains by the  
265 compressive stresses induced by the restraints (decrease of 20% between the stress-free and  
266 the restrained specimens) and the small effect of the increase in the restraint on the volumetric  
267 strain (decrease of 5% between the two restraints). The effect of the anisotropy seems to be  
268 greater, with reductions of 45 and 55% of the anisotropy coefficient for the restrained  
269 specimens compared to stress-free specimens. Moreover, the decrease was still large with the  
270 increase of the restraint: a reduction of 25% of the anisotropy coefficient was obtained  
271 between the two restraints.

272 The limit of this chemo-elastic approach is the representativeness of the chemically imposed  
273 strains. The chemically imposed expansion included the delayed ettringite formation, which  
274 was the real cause of expansion, and the induced cracking, which was the result of the delayed  
275 ettringite formation. Moreover, such elastic calculations do not allow a determination of  
276 anisotropic damage, which is observed on DEF-damaged structures and restrained specimens.  
277 However, the interest of such a chemo-elastic approach is its simplicity of use for  
278 experimental interpretation.

### 279 **4.2.3 Damage and expansion**

280 The decrease in the compressive strength according to expansion obtained in this work  
281 (Figure 8) and results obtained by Brunetaud [33] have been plotted in Figure 13. For  
282 expansions lower than 1%, the experimental results are quite close. For expansions larger than  
283 1%, Brunetaud's work shows a continuous decrease (Figure 13) while the compressive  
284 strength appears to be stabilised in the present study. The differences between the two studies  
285 can be explained by the different experimental conditions (types of aggregate, specimen sizes,  
286 mix-design...). Moreover, at 1% expansion, the results of mechanical tests can be influenced

287 by the significant damage; for such expansion, the discrepancy for experimental results can be  
288 large and comparisons are then difficult.

289 Modelling use a relationship between expansion and decrease in mechanical characteristics to  
290 assess the damage due to expansive reactions [9,31,34]. The damage  $d$  can be calculated from  
291 the decrease in the compressive strength:

$$d(t) = 1 - \frac{f_c(t)}{f_c(t_0)} \quad (13)$$

292 where  $f_c(t)$  the compressive strength at time  $t$  and  $f_c(t_0)$  the initial compressive strength.

293 As a first approach, this relationship is assumed to be similar to the relationship used for the  
294 alkali-silica reaction. If the curve fitting of this relationship is difficult, another law should be  
295 proposed. For ASR-modelling, Capra and Sellier proposed the following relationship between  
296 expansion and damage:

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \frac{d}{1-d} \quad (14)$$

297 with  $\varepsilon$  the expansion measured on specimens with damage  $d$  and  $\varepsilon_0$  a parameter obtained by  
298 curve fitting. Note that, even though equation 14 remains scalar,  $d$  can be the main value of an  
299 anisotropic damage tensor, and so the chemically imposed expansion becomes different in  
300 each loading direction, depending on the stress state which acts on the damage tensor  
301 components [34].

302 The proposed relationship can be fitted on the experimental results and thus gives an  
303 acceptable representation of the increase of damage with expansion. The effect of expansion  
304 on the mechanical characteristics of damaged concrete is difficult to generalise. For ASR,  
305 some authors have reported large decreases in mechanical strength [35-37] whereas other  
306 experimental works show smaller decreases that mainly concern the Young's modulus while  
307 compressive strength is not modified [22,38,39]. For ASR expansion, Capra and Sellier  
308 obtained a value of  $\varepsilon_0$  lying between 0.3 and 0.6% [34]. The fitting leading to the value of

309 0.3% was based on a tensile strength test performed by ISE [35] while the compressive  
310 strength led to 0.6%. Capra and Sellier kept 0.3% for the sake of safety as a small value of  $\varepsilon_0$   
311 leads to an overestimate of the damage for a given expansion. The results of measurements  
312 obtained for the effect of DEF expansions on the compressive strength are included between  
313 two curves with  $\varepsilon_0$  between 0.6 and 2%. Prudence requires the lowest (0.6%) to be taken for  
314 the effect of DEF expansion on compressive characteristics. It means that DEF expansion  
315 leads to damage of mechanical properties in compression that are in the same range as ASR  
316 expansion. The relationship between damage and DEF expansion (equation 14) appears to be  
317 similar to the relationship used in the mechanical models employed for the assessment of  
318 ASR-damaged structures [9,31,34] which could then be kept for the assessment of DEF-  
319 damaged structures.

## 320 **5. Conclusion**

321 The aim of this paper has been to study the mechanical consequences of DEF expansion. Two  
322 aspects were analysed in particular: the effect of restraint on the DEF expansion and the  
323 evolution of compressive strength with expansion. Several points have been made:

- 324 - DEF expansion is isotropic in stress-free conditions,
- 325 - Compressive stresses decrease DEF expansion in the direction subjected to restraint  
326 and lead to cracks parallel to the restraint. The larger the restraint, the smaller the DEF  
327 expansion. However, DEF expansion can be greater than 0.2% for stresses of about  
328 4 MPa.
- 329 - Expansion measured in the stress-free direction of restrained specimens is not  
330 modified, and thus restraint causes a decrease in the volumetric expansion (decrease of  
331 20% for the restrained specimens compared to stress-free ones).



332 - Therefore, expansion induced by DEF is anisotropic in restrained conditions. The  
333 differences of expansion between stress-free and restrained directions can be  
334 quantified by a coefficient of anisotropy of 0.6 and 0.45 for compressive stresses of  
335 1.6 and 4.2 MPa respectively.

336 - The evolution of concrete damage with DEF expansion has been quantified.  
337 Unlike the case for ASR, no transfer of expansion was noted on restrained specimens and the  
338 casting direction appeared not to modify DEF expansion. The differences between ASR and  
339 DEF could be explained by the difference of viscosity of the chemical products formed by the  
340 reactions. ASR products can migrate in the porosity and cracks after their formation, which  
341 allows the transfer of gel from the aggregate to the crack parallel to the unloaded directions  
342 and thus an increase of expansion in the free directions. DEF products are crystallized and,  
343 once formed, cannot move so easily in the cracks. Therefore, the place where reaction  
344 products are formed can have consequences on the damage process. Structural models have to  
345 take account of the effect of stresses on DEF expansion to perform relevant calculations to  
346 reassess DEF damaged structures and this particularity of DEF expansion should be  
347 considered. Works are in progress to link the volume of ettringite produced during the delayed  
348 formation with the induced expansions in restrained conditions and considering the concrete  
349 damage. Thus, the data provided in this experimental study will be used for the quantification  
350 of the effect of stresses on DEF induced expansion.

351

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449

450 **Tables**

451 Table 1: Chemical compositions of cement and aggregate (%)

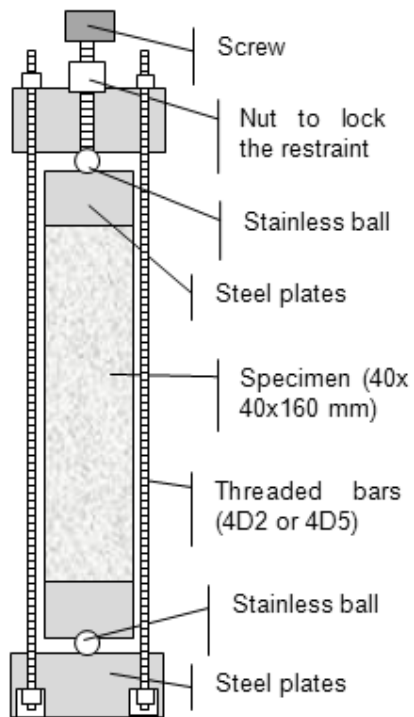
	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CaO	MgO	SO <sub>3</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	Na <sub>2</sub> O	Na <sub>2</sub> O <sub>eq</sub>	LOi
Cement	19.3	4.6	2.2	63.9	2.4	3.3	1.1	0.3	1.02	-
Aggregate	96.1	-	0.4	1.38	0.24	-	0.72	0.79	1.26	0.4

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455 **Figures**

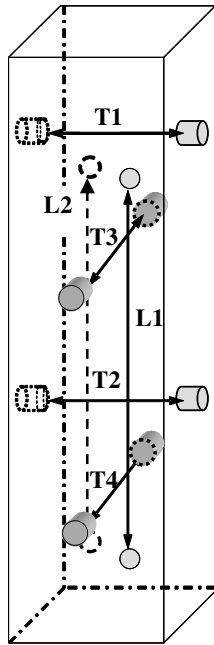


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457 **Figure 1: Specimen under restraint**

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460

461 **Figure 2: Specimen with the steel studs used for the displacement measurements in the longitudinal (L1,**  
 462 **L2) and in the transversal (T1 to T4) directions**

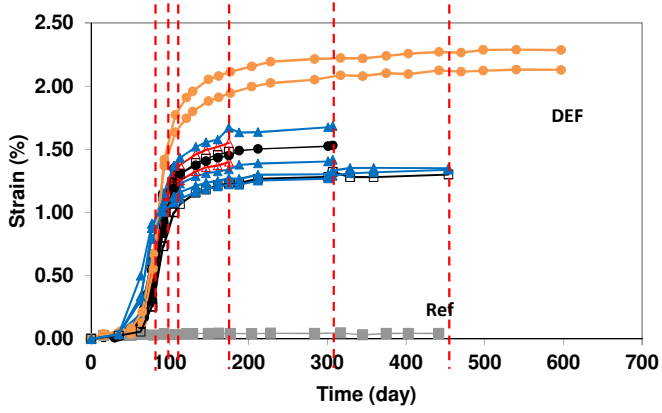


(a)

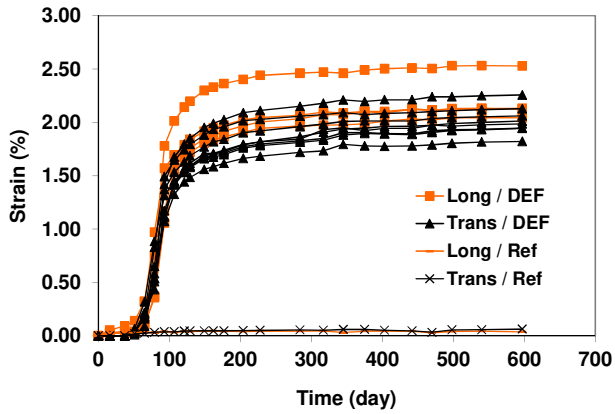


(b)

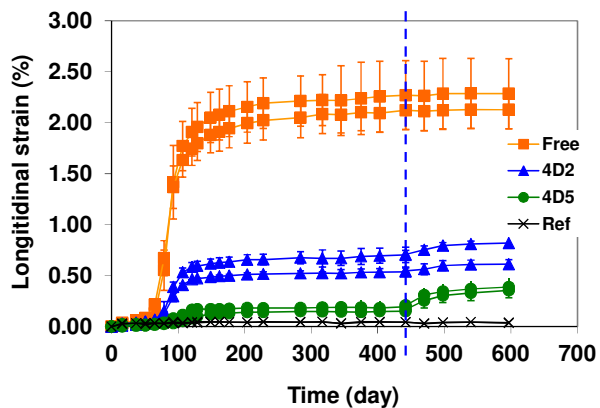
463 **Figure 3: Extensometers for the longitudinal (a) and the transversal (b) measurements**



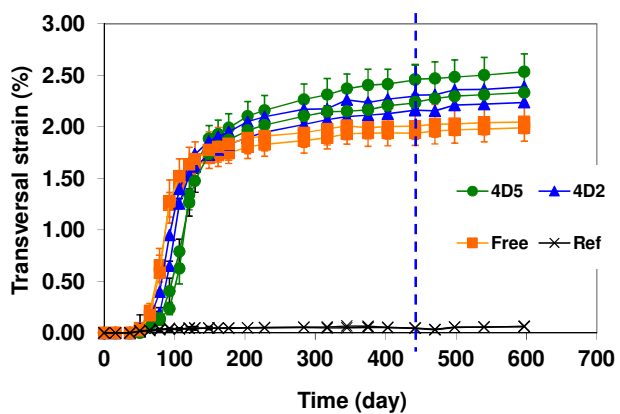
464 Figure 4: Strain of specimens in stress-free conditions (each line corresponds to one specimen, specimens  
 465 of a same batch are plotted with the same marker – dotted lines show the times of the mechanical tests)



466  
 467 Figure 5: Longitudinal and transversal strains of specimens in stress-free conditions  
 468



(a)

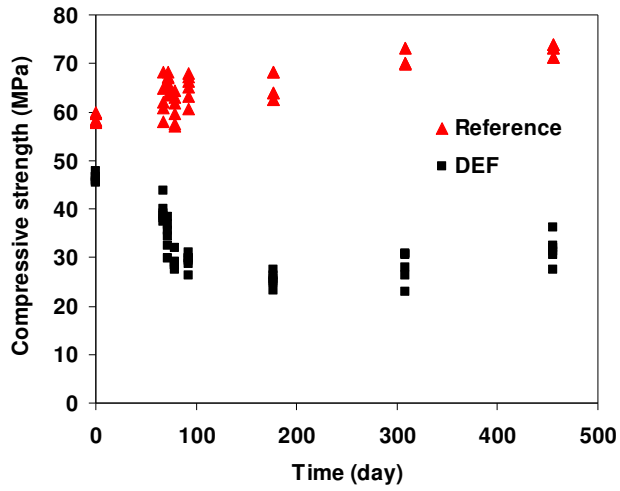


(b)

470 Figure 6: Longitudinal (a) and transversal strains (b) of specimens subjected to DEF in stress-free  
 471 conditions and under restraint (4D2 and 4D5 for the restraint by four bars of 2 and 5 mm respectively –  
 472 the dotted line shows the time when restraint was withdrawn)

473

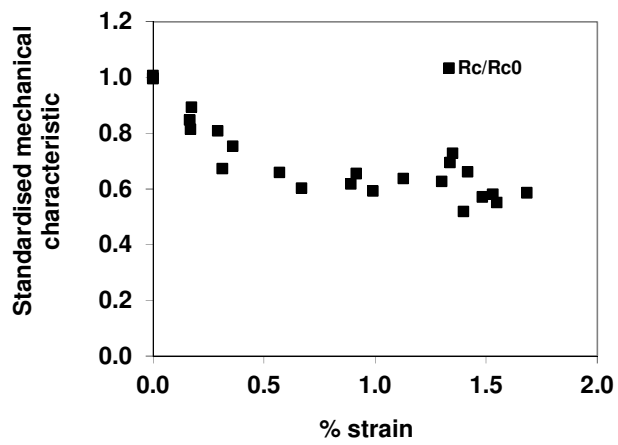




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475 **Figure 7: Evolution of the compressive strength**

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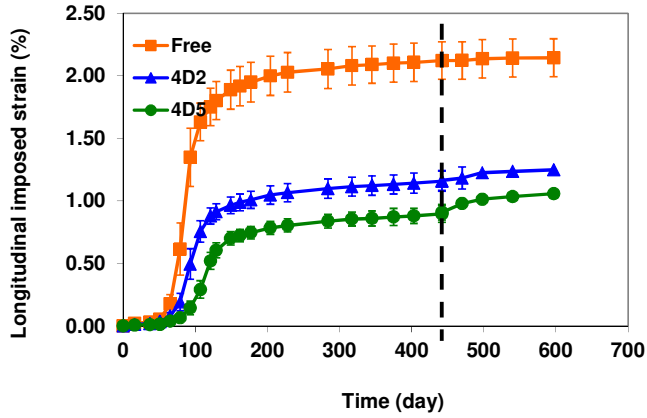


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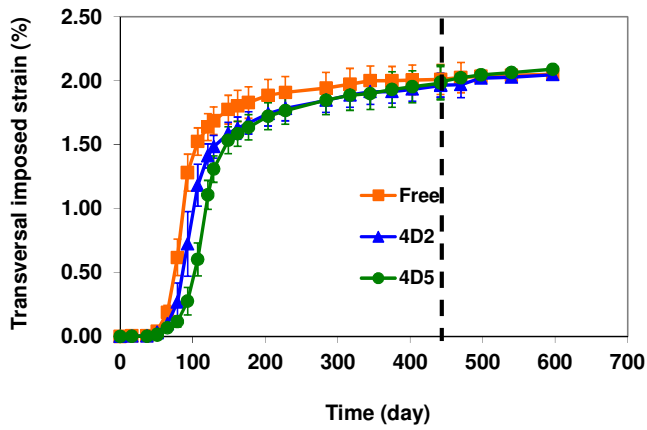
478 **Figure 8: Decrease of compressive strength according to DEF expansion**

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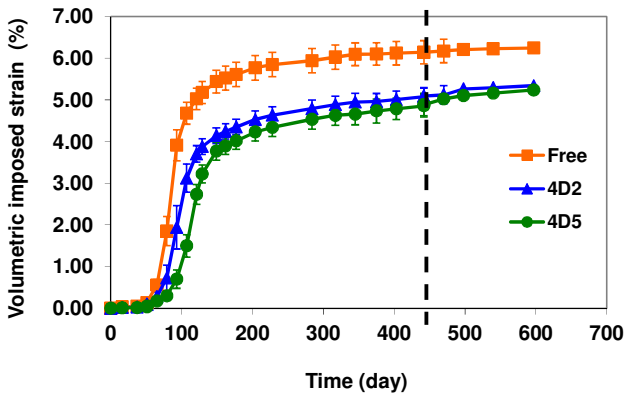
(a)



(b)

481 Figure 9: Imposed longitudinal (a) and transversal (b) strains

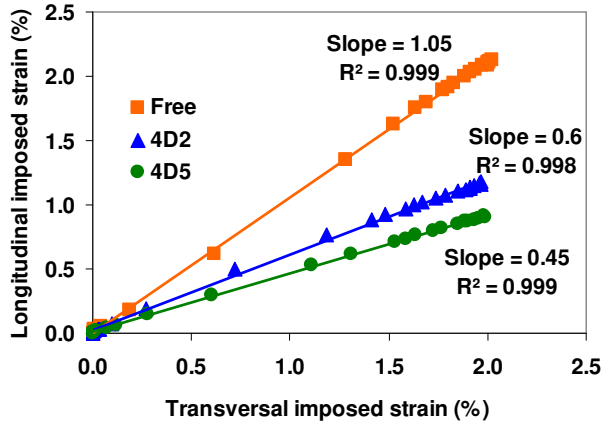
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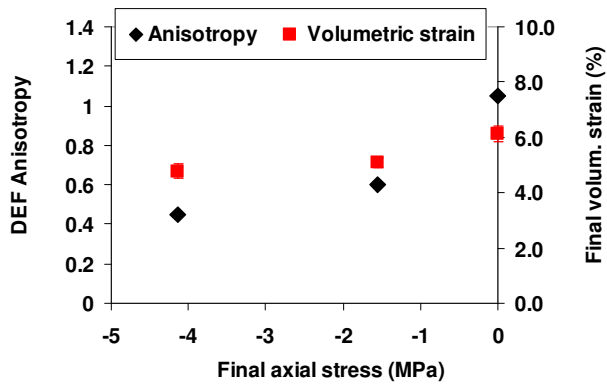
484 Figure 10: Volumetric strains for stress-free and restrained specimens

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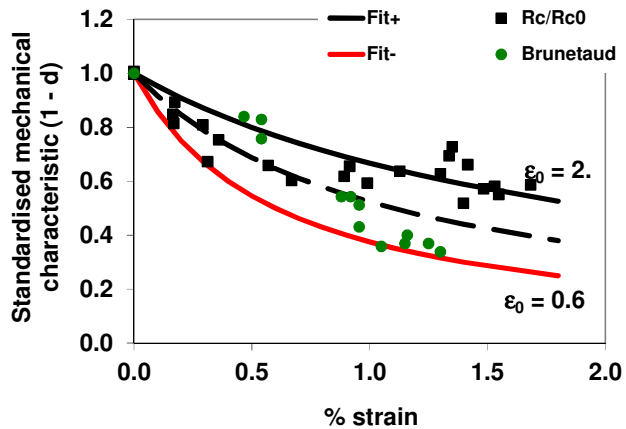
487 Figure 11: Anisotropy coefficients of DEF expansions under restraint



488

489 Figure 12: Anisotropy coefficient of DEF expansions and volumetric strain according to the final axial

490 stress



491

492 Figure 13: Standardised mechanical characteristic (compared with Brunetaud's work [33] and modelled

493 by Capra and Sellier's law [34])

494