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1 **COMBINATION OF STRUCTURAL MONITORING AND LABORATORY TESTS**
2 **FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF AAR-SWELLING**

3
4 **APPLICATION TO A GATE STRUCTURE DAM**

5
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12 **Abstract**

13 Since 1964, the Temple-sur-Lot dam, built in south west France in 1948, has been
14 subject to continuous AAR induced displacements despite low and relatively constant alkali
15 content in the concrete and non-significant residual swelling test results. It has been assumed
16 that a substitution process between alkali and calcium in the AAR gel could explain this long-
17 term behaviour. As the calcium substitution phenomenon is very slow, it cannot be detected
18 using a conventional residual swelling test, so an original method to assess the AAR kinetics
19 and the residual swelling capability is proposed. This method involves, firstly, a laboratory
20 test dealing with the silica consumption kinetics and, secondly, a numerical finite element
21 inverse analysis of the dam, which includes the consumption kinetics measured in the
22 laboratory. The final swelling amplitude is thus fitted from only one observed structural
23 displacement rate at a given period. The model prediction capability is validated through the
24 comparison between the displacement of instrumented points predicted by the calculations
25 (not used for the fitting) and the variations measured on the dam. Finally, calculations have
26 been performed to predict the displacements and the damage fields of the dam for the coming
27 decades.

1

2 **Keywords:** Alkali-aggregate reaction, swelling test, structural expertise, finite element

3

4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 Alkali-aggregate reaction (AAR) causes premature deterioration that cannot be corrected in
6 many civil engineering structures. The expansion and cracking induced can have an effect on
7 the functional capacity of AAR-damaged bridges and dams. Several hydraulic dams of
8 Electricité de France (EDF) are concerned by AAR. Therefore, a behaviour model
9 implemented in a finite element (FE) code has been developed in order to assess the safety
10 level of the degraded structures [5-7]. The model has the particularity of representing AAR
11 structural effects from the construction of the structure onwards. Several variables describing
12 the advance of AAR are used, one for each range of aggregate size in the damaged concrete.
13 These variables depend on both the degree of saturation and the temperature in the dam. First,
14 the paper presents a historical review of the Temple-sur-Lot dam. The dam was built between
15 1948 and 1951 and the first cracking appeared in 1964. Several remedial work campaigns
16 have been carried out since 1970. However, recent measurements of deformations show that
17 expansion has continued. In a second part, the difficulty of using a conventional residual
18 expansion test on core samples to fit the model is pointed out, particularly when the swelling
19 rate is slow because of low alkali content in the concrete and of large aggregate sizes. Thus,
20 the authors propose an original approach combining additional tests and physical modelling to
21 assess the chemical AAR-advancement for each aggregate size of the damaged concrete. The
22 chemical advancement, which is linked to the residual reactive silica content, was measured in
23 the laboratory through expansion measurements. Then, the potential residual expansion of
24 concrete was fitted using an inverse analysis based on an FE structural calculation that
25 simultaneously takes into account the laboratory tests on cores drilled from the dam, the
26 geometry of the dam, the thermo-hydro-mechanical environment of the structure, and
27 measured displacement rates of the dam. A reliable fitting of the model was obtained by the

1 combination of chemical analysis performed in the laboratory and structural displacement
2 measurements. Damage and displacements calculated on several points (not used for the
3 fitting of the model) of the Temple-sur-Lot dam were found with an acceptable accuracy. A
4 prediction of the dam behaviour was then made for the coming decades.

5 **RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE**

6 Numerous civil engineering structures such as dams and bridges are affected by Alkali-
7 Aggregate Reaction all over the world. The owners of the damaged structures need predictive
8 models in order to assess the consequences of such a reaction on bearing capacity and to
9 quantify the benefits of repairs. However, if the calculations are to be relevant, the structural
10 model must be designed in such a way that laboratory tests and structural monitoring can be
11 used together for the model calibration. With this in mind, the first part of the paper points out
12 the deficiencies in the reliability of usual residual expansion tests as input data for the
13 structural model. The second part proposes a new method based on a laboratory test and FE
14 structural calculations to obtain model parameters.

15

16 **PRESENTATION OF THE TEMPLE-SUR-LOT DAM**

17 The Temple-sur-Lot dam, located in the south-west of France, has been operating since
18 1951. It includes a gate-structure dam equipped with four double leaf vertical lift gates (20 m
19 wide, 10 m high) and a power-house with two Kaplan turbines (Figure 1 (a) and (b)). It
20 should be noted that the dam was cast with two types of concrete mixtures (Figure 2): C_250
21 with a cement content of 250 kg/m^3 (15.61 lbs/ft³) and containing siliceous aggregates of
22 sizes 0-100 mm (3.94 in), and C_350 with a cement content of 350 kg/m^3 (21.85 lbs/ft³)
23 containing the same aggregate but with sizes 0-30 mm (1.18 in). As early as 1963, an
24 inspection revealed the existence of cracks on the upstream part of dam piers. In the following
25 years, difficulties in the operation of the bulkhead gates led to several interventions on the
26 mechanical parts embedded in the concrete structure. Reinforcement of the monitoring system

1 provided a better description of the deformation of the piers and laboratory investigations
2 pointed out the existence of swelling phases inside the concrete. During the period 1983-
3 1988, extensive works were carried out on the piles, such as anchoring, and epoxy and
4 polyurethane grouting. Recently (2002-2003), the guidance system of the gates has been
5 modified in order to absorb concrete deformations. The effects of the swelling process on the
6 structure are of several orders: general rising of the piers (1mm (0,04 in) / year) and tilting of
7 the lateral piers toward the gates (0.9 mm (0.04 in) /year). Although the symmetrical
8 movements of the central piers seem comprehensible, the horizontal movements of the lateral
9 piers, causing some difficulty in the operation of the corresponding gates, are more difficult to
10 understand. Several reasons have been given, in particular the existence of steel
11 reinforcements on the external faces of the piers, the dissymmetry of the humidity conditions,
12 or structural effects. In order to explain these particularities, make an overall evaluation of the
13 stability of the dam, and plan its long term management, an analysis has been carried out,
14 including a reinforcement of the monitoring system (installation of a pendulum line and a
15 long base extensometer in the drainage gallery), laboratory investigations and FE modelling.
16 In this respect, one of the main questions to be addressed was the estimation of the residual
17 expansion of the concrete.

18

19 **METHODOLOGY**

20 Initially, conventional residual expansion tests [1][2][5] were carried out at LMDC for
21 EDF according to the LPC method [17]. This method consists of measuring the longitudinal
22 expansion and the mass variation of core samples (14 cm diameter, 30 cm length) drilled from
23 the dam and kept in a controlled environment (38°C (100°F), relative humidity > 95%). For
24 each type of concrete in the dam (C_350 and C_250 in Figure 2), three core samples, drilled
25 from wet and cracked parts of the dam, were instrumented by six vertical plot lines between
26 which longitudinal measurements were made periodically. Mean values and scatter of the

1 measurements are shown in Figure 3. After eight weeks, the mass was stable. During this first
2 period, the strain variations were explained by the shrinkage reversal due to water uptake
3 (Figure 3). So, even if a fraction of this first expansion was due to AAR [21], this part of the
4 curve was difficult to use. After this period, the LPC method attributes the strain variations to
5 AAR. The swelling trend is represented in Figure 3 by the dotted lines. The swelling rate is
6 about $100 \mu\text{m} / \text{m}$ ($1.2 \text{ in} / \text{ft}$) /year. According to the LPC recommendations, this corresponds
7 to a negligible AAR phenomenon, which is in disagreement with the in-situ observations on
8 the dam. Three supplementary samples were drilled from a dry part of the dam (without
9 cracks) in order to measure the overall curve of ASR-expansion, as recommended by Multon
10 et al. [21]. The same swelling rate was obtained [28] from both wet and dry concretes. This
11 situation was unexpected considering that the development of AAR was not at the same stage
12 because of the different exposure conditions of the two concretes. Therefore, the
13 interpretation of the swelling rates by the LPC recommendations seemed unsuitable for this
14 dam. Moreover, the tests did not give information about the residual swelling capability of the
15 concrete since the final swelling had not been completely reached after one year (no
16 asymptotic aspect of the curve on Figure 3). Finally, neither the final swelling amplitude nor
17 realistic swelling kinetics were deduced from these tests. All these observations could be
18 explained by the following considerations:

19 - First, the gels formed in the dam and in the accelerated tests were not of the same
20 nature. As shown in Figure 4, products in the dam were more crystallized than the one formed
21 in the accelerated test specimen (SEM pictures in Figure 4). This means that an accelerated
22 test favours the formation of amorphous alkali-silica gel over more crystallized calco-alkali-
23 silica products. This had two secondary consequences: the “molar volumes” of these two
24 AAR-products had no reason to be the same since the chemical composition and the aspect
25 were different. Thus, for the same quantity of reactive silica consumed in the dam and in the
26 accelerated test, swellings could be different. The substitution process ($\text{Na} \leftrightarrow \text{Ca}$), already

1 observed in [3][10][11], could be prevalent in the AAR mechanism for the dam concrete.
2 Thus the alkali content would not be the limiting factor for the AAR-expansions and the
3 stopping of the expansion would be driven by the total consumption of the reactive silica or
4 the lack of calcium. However, due to the large amount of calcium in the cement paste, only
5 the reactive silica content could be the limiting factor. So the swelling capability of the dam
6 concrete could be deduced by quantifying the residual reactive silica in the aggregate.

7 - Second, core samples contained large aggregates (up to 100 mm (3.93 in) diameter) which
8 were only superficially affected, both during the accelerated test and in the dam (Figure 5).
9 This explains the impossibility of reaching a final swelling (usually detected by the end of
10 swelling in the accelerated test) in a reasonable time even under the accelerated test
11 conditions (high temperature and humidity). Hence, the dependence of the final swelling on
12 the aggregate size must be considered with attention.

13 Starting from these ideas, we propose a global methodology for finding the AAR kinetics
14 independently of the gel nature (Figure 6). As explained above, the approach is based on the
15 assessment of reactive silica consumption. The reactive silica consumption kinetics is
16 determined for each aggregate size range. The amplitude of final swelling is not measured
17 from laboratory expansion tests, but assessed from an FE inverse analysis of the affected
18 structure. The FE modelling used, the details of which are given in [6] and [7], is summarized
19 below. It combines the advancement kinetics deduced from laboratory tests and the final AAR
20 swelling, which is the only parameter to be fitted with the structural FE inverse analysis. Once
21 the final swelling has been obtained by curve fitting, the numerical model is tested in order to
22 compare its results with other expansion measurements carried out on the dam and not used
23 for the determination of the fitted parameter. If the results are good, calculations can be
24 carried out to predict the future structural behaviour. This global method is summarized in
25 Figure 6.

1 In the following sections, the constitutive equations of the FE model are briefly summarized
2 so as to present the main modelling assumptions. Then the experimental method used to
3 assess the consumption kinetics of reactive silica is given. Finally, the FE inverse analysis
4 used to fit the final swelling amplitude is illustrated and the model response is compared with
5 the structural monitoring results.

6

7 **SUMMARY OF THE FINITE ELEMENT (FE) MODELLING**

8 The law describing the mechanical behaviour of affected concrete assumes that AAR
9 acts on concrete through a gel pressure P_g which is combined with the water pressure P_w
10 (Figure 7). As the pressures exist in the concrete porosity, the mechanical model is based, as
11 in [26], on a poro-mechanical formulation described in detail by Grimal et al. [6], [7] and
12 summarized by Eq. 1.

$$13 \quad \sigma = C(\varepsilon - \varepsilon^{an}) - b_g P_g - b_w P_w \quad (1)$$

14 In concrete damaged by AAR, the total strain ε is induced by the AAR-gel pressure P_g
15 acting in the concrete porosity, by the mechanical stress σ due to the structural loading and
16 by the capillarity pressure P_w . As explained in [6] and [7], P_w represents the shrinkage
17 mechanism. The anelastic strain ε^{an} includes both the creep strain and an irreversible strain
18 associated with crack opening [5]. In Eq. 1, C is the damaged stiffness tensor [25]. b_g and b_w
19 are parameters giving the influence of pressures on the concrete matrix [26].

20 In accordance with the above observations and previous works [4][23], it is assumed that
21 large aggregates present lower kinetics of reactive silica consumption than small ones.
22 Although hydroxyl, alkali, and calcium ion diffusion coefficients are nearly the same for large
23 and small aggregates, the chemical advancement of the consumption of reactive silica,
24 defined as the ratio of the affected zone to the sound zones of the aggregate, depends on the
25 aggregate radius (Figure 8). That is why the size distribution of aggregates in the concrete
26 must be discretized into several sizes (superscripts “s” in Eq 2), and a summation on

1 $s = \{1, \dots, N\}$ must be made, N being the number of size ranges. n^s is the number of aggregates
 2 of size s for a given size range. Thus, the gel pressure (P_g) is linked to the AAR chemical
 3 advancements A^s following equation 2:

$$4 \quad P_g = M_g \sum_{s=1}^N n^s \left\langle A^s f V_a^s - \left\langle V_p^s + \frac{b_g}{n^s} tr(\varepsilon) \right\rangle \right\rangle \quad (2)$$

5 With $\langle \rangle$ the positive part, V_a^s the volume of one aggregate of size ‘ s ’ and $f V_a^s$ the maximal
 6 volume of gel created by the aggregate. A^s is the advancement of the AAR reaction for a
 7 given aggregate size ‘ s ’. It is defined as the fraction of the volume of AAR-gel produced at a
 8 given time by the maximal volume which can be produced by the aggregate. It evolves from 0
 9 for the aggregate which has not yet been attacked by the reaction to 1 when the reactive silica
 10 of the aggregate has been totally attacked. It also represents the fraction of reactive silica
 11 consumed by the reaction. Therefore $n^s A^s f V_a^s$ represents the volume of AAR-gel created by
 12 n^s aggregates at a given time.

13 V_p^s is the available porosity connected to the aggregate “ s ” (cf. Eq. 6). $b_g tr(\varepsilon)$ is the additional
 14 connected porosity due to the concrete strain and it includes the AAR cracks through the
 15 anelastic strain (ε^m). The positive part symbol $\langle x \rangle = (x \text{ if } (x > 0), 0 \text{ otherwise})$ points out that the
 16 pressure P_g appears when these two porosities are filled by the gel. The coefficient M_g in Eq 2
 17 is the bulk coefficient of the gel. The fitting of b_g and M_g , given by Grimal and al [7], requires
 18 free and constrained swelling tests to be carried out [22].

19

20 In the FE modelling, the chemical advancements A^s are computed for each aggregate size
 21 chosen to describe the aggregate size distribution. For this, a numerical step by step
 22 integration of the differential evolution equation (3) is used. This equation is inspired from
 23 [24] and [6]. It takes into account the “in situ” environmental conditions (temperature θ and
 24 water saturation degree in the pores Sr).

$$1 \quad \frac{\partial A^s}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\alpha_{20}^s \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{273 + \theta} - \frac{1}{293}\right)\right)}_{\alpha_\theta^s} \frac{\langle Sr - Sr^0 \rangle}{(1 - Sr^0)} \langle Sr - A^s \rangle \quad (3)$$

2 With α_{20}^s the kinetic constant to be fitted, Sr the water saturation degree of the porosity and
3 Sr^0 the saturation degree threshold above which the reaction occurs (estimated at 40%,
4 according to Poyet's experimental results [24]). θ is the temperature in °C, E_a the activation
5 energy (usually about 47000 J/M (24.748 Btu/M) [6]), and R the gas constant (8.31 J (4.37e
6 ³ Btu) /M.°K). This differential formulation of the AAR advancement allows environmental
7 condition variations to be taken into account. In the Temple-sur-Lot dam, the degree of water
8 saturation used for the integration of Eq. 3 is given in Figure 9. It was obtained from the non-
9 linear equation of mass transfer described in [6][7][8] and solved numerically with the FE
10 method and boundary conditions imposed from the measurements of in situ degree of
11 saturation. The measurements of the degree of saturation were performed on nine samples (3
12 for each of the 3 zones of the dam) taken from the dam by dry concrete sawing. Just after the
13 sawing, the samples were sealed in watertight packaging and the measurements of saturation
14 degree were carried out as soon as possible. The saturation degrees were 30% in the
15 superstructure, 45% on the external face of pile 4 and 85% in the gallery (Figure 9). Hence, the
16 AAR relevant parameters to be fitted were: the kinetic constants α_θ^s (one per aggregate size
17 range, $s = \{1, \dots, N\}$) and the AAR-gel rate f (related to a mineralogy type, a single one in the
18 case of Temple sur Lot). In the following sections, the kinetic constant assessment from
19 laboratory tests of the reactive silica consumption is first explained; then the adjustment of
20 parameter f is presented.

21

22 DETERMINATION OF KINETIC CONSTANTS

23 Based on previous works on the effect of the size of reactive aggregates on the swelling
24 capability of mortars [23][20], a procedure is proposed for assessing chemical advancement
25 for each aggregate size of the concrete. This process splits the problem into two phases:

1 1- Aggregates of the affected concrete are first extracted by chemical attack and sifted.
2 Then the residual reactive silica content is assessed for each reactive aggregate size
3 using a specific procedure based on a comparative study of swelling tests of mortars.
4 Several types of mortar containing only one aggregate size from the dam concrete are
5 cast. The aggregates are crushed in order to obtain a same aggregate size distribution in
6 each mortar. Moreover, a sufficient amount of alkali is added to the mortar cement paste
7 to be sure that all the residual reactive silica contained in the crushed aggregates will be
8 consumed during the tests. Consequently, the total swelling measured for each mortar
9 depends only on the residual reactive silica contained in the reactive aggregate. Thus the
10 chemical advancement of the reaction in the aggregate of the dam at the coring date can
11 be deduced from the tests (Figure 10).

12 2- The constant representing the kinetics of in-situ chemical advancement (α_o^s in Eq 3)
13 is deduced from the chemical advancements measured for each aggregate size (A^T in
14 Figure 10) and from the environmental conditions taken into account through the
15 integration of Eq 3 (between the beginning of construction and the current date).

16 The following subsections successively develop phase 1, i.e. how the chemical advancements
17 are assessed, and phase 2, i.e. how the kinetic constants are deduced both from the
18 advancements and the environmental conditions.

19 *Relationships between the chemical advancements and the residual expansions measured on* 20 *mortar*

21 As mentioned above, the principle of the test is based on the comparison between:

- 22 - residual swelling measured on mortar made with crushed aggregates extracted from the
23 affected concrete;
- 24 - and residual swelling of mortar made with sound aggregates in order to assess the chemical
25 advancement of the reaction in the aggregate of the dam concrete.

1 The “sound aggregates” can be extracted from sound zones of large aggregates (Figure 5) or
 2 can be taken in dry zones of the structure (where the AAR has not occurred). In the Temple-
 3 sur-Lot dam, these zones were the upper parts of the piles (Figure 9) where the saturation
 4 degree was lower than 40%.

5 The relationship between the swelling potential of mortars and the assessment of the
 6 advancement variables is based on the modelling by Poyet et al. [23]. If the alkali content is
 7 sufficient, it is assumed that a reactive aggregate with a volume V_a can create a maximal gel
 8 volume V_g (Eq 4) proportional to its own volume [23]:

$$9 \quad V_g = f \cdot V_a \quad (4)$$

10 Several aggregate sizes can be successively studied as spherical particles. The proportionality
 11 factor f depends on the reactive silica content of the aggregate and on the gel texture. It is
 12 different for alkali-silica gel and calcium-silica gel. As explained by Poyet and al. [23], the
 13 gel volume can lead to swelling only if the porosity connected to the reactive aggregate (V_p
 14 in Eq 5) has been filled by the gel. The stress free swelling ε can be approximated by a linear
 15 relationship (Eq 5):

$$16 \quad \varepsilon = n^s \cdot \langle V_g - V_p \rangle \quad (5)$$

17 with n^s the number of reactive aggregates of size ‘ s ’ per m^3 of concrete and $\langle \rangle$ the “positive
 18 part”, as in Eq. 3.

19 The connected porosity is assumed to be proportional to the aggregate surface and can be
 20 idealized by a porous crown of thickness l_c (Eq 6) surrounding the spherical idealized
 21 aggregate.

$$22 \quad V_p = \frac{4}{3} \pi [(R_a + l_c)^3 - R_a^3] p \quad (6)$$

1 with R_a the average aggregate radius and p the porosity of the surrounding material. When the
2 reactive silica of the aggregate has been totally consumed by the AAR, its contribution to
3 final stress due to free volumetric swelling is approximated by Eq (7).

$$4 \quad \varepsilon^\infty = n \langle f V_a - V_p \rangle \quad (7)$$

5 with n the number of reactive aggregates per unit volume of mortar. If the aggregate under
6 consideration has already partly reacted in the structure (before the test, i.e. between $t=0$, the
7 time of construction, and $t=T$, the time of the test), its residual swelling potential ε^{res} in the
8 conditions of the accelerated test (Eq. 8) depends on the chemical advancement A_T of the
9 AAR at the extraction time T , as indicated in Eq. 8 and illustrated in Figure 10.

$$10 \quad \varepsilon^{res} = n \langle f V_a (1 - A_T) - V_p \rangle \quad (8)$$

11 If A_T is close to 1, the residual swelling will be close to 0, meaning that the swelling is almost
12 finished for the concrete corresponding to this aggregate. If A_T is close to 0, the residual
13 swelling will be maximal.

14 *Assessment of chemical advancement*

15 This part presents the experimental procedure, carried out in the laboratory, that is needed to
16 assess the residual expansion and thus the advancement A_T for each aggregate size range of
17 each concrete of the structure. First, as mentioned in Figure 11, chemical attacks (HCl 1M for
18 siliceous aggregates of Temple sur Lot) and sifting (Figure 12) were carried out for the two
19 concrete types of the Temple-sur-Lot dam. In order to measure the potential for residual
20 swelling, three mortar bars (2 cm x 2 cm x 16 cm) (0,79 in x 0,79 in x 6,30 in) were cast for
21 each aggregate size range (each mortar in Figure 11). The division into two mortar types ($N=2$
22 in Eq. 3) for each aggregate size distribution (presented in Figure 11) was chosen to limit the
23 number of mortars. Note that a division into more size ranges ($N>2$) could lead to better
24 accuracy. Each mortar contained only a single aggregate size range of each concrete. The
25 corresponding concrete aggregates were crushed and sifted to retain only sizes between 0.16

1 and 3.15 mm (0.1240 in) (Figure 11). According to previous works [23][9][19][20], smaller
2 particles lead to smaller swelling and larger particles lead to greater but slower swelling. The
3 total amount of crushed reactive aggregates, their size (after crushing) and the alkali content
4 must be the same for all the mortars. An alkali content of $8 \text{ kg} / 1 \text{ m}^3$ (0.5 lbs/ft^3) was chosen
5 to obtain total consumption of the residual reactive silica (above this value, the final swelling
6 becomes independent of the alkali content for this aggregate), Note that it must be also
7 possible to ensure this last condition keeping mortar in an alkaline solution, this last
8 procedure is currently tested in our laboratory. This choice is required so that the assumption
9 associated with Eq 4 (total consumption of residual reactive silica) can be verified. Hence
10 mortars differ from each other only by the residual reactive silica content of the aggregates.
11 Thus, if one mortar presents greater swelling than another, its residual reactive silica content
12 is larger and, according to Eq 8, its associated “in-situ” chemical advancement A_r is smaller.

13 After 28 days of curing in sealed bags at 20°C (68.00°F), specimens were put into a
14 reactor at 95% RH (Relative Humidity) and 60°C (140°F). Because of the geometry of the
15 specimens (small transversal dimensions), the mass variations stabilized a few days after the
16 specimens had been put into the reactor and their fluctuations were negligible during the test.
17 The longitudinal strains measured on the specimens are plotted in Figure 13. This figure
18 shows that the concrete gravels have a greater residual swelling capability than the sands. In
19 fact, due to the diffusion mechanism [4], alkali and hydroxyl ion ingress in larger concrete
20 aggregates concerns only the periphery as shown in Figure 5 and symbolized in Figure 8. A
21 large zone of unaffected silica remains at the core of the aggregate. When these aggregates are
22 crushed before being incorporated into the mortar, most of the crushed aggregates have a low
23 AAR average advancement. Consequently, they lead to large residual swelling (G250 in
24 Figure 13). In contrast, the alkali and hydroxyl ion ingress concerns a larger relative zone in
25 the sand from the concrete, where more reactive silica is reached by the ions. This leads to a
26 large advancement in the concrete and a smaller residual swelling for the corresponding

1 laboratory mortars (for example S350 in Figure 13). Finally, residual swelling on mortar
 2 made with crushed aggregates showed that larger aggregates contained more unaffected silica
 3 and led to greater residual swelling than smaller ones. Moreover, Figure 13 points out that
 4 swelling capability decreases with the cement content of the concrete. The amounts of alkali
 5 and hydroxyl ions in the concretes of the dam are proportional to the cement contents.
 6 Therefore, the aggregate contained in concrete with a cement content of 350 kg/m³ (21.8
 7 lbs/ft³) is more affected than the aggregate of concrete with a cement content of 250 kg/m³
 8 (15.6lbs/ft³). Consequently the latter leads to smaller residual swelling (Figure 13).

9 It can be concluded that the chemical advancement of the AAR in each aggregate of the
 10 concrete depends on the cement content of each concrete and on the aggregate size.
 11 According to Eq 8, the consumption of silica can be divided in two parts: the first part occurs
 12 in the structure and the second part is provoked in the laboratory tests on mortars (Figure 10).
 13 The swelling curves are then used only to assess the advancement A_T of the reaction before
 14 the beginning of the accelerated test. The theoretical swelling of each mortar can be calculated
 15 using Eq 8. In this equation, all the parameters are the same for the four mortars, except the
 16 value of the initial chemical advancement A_T , which depends, as explained above, on the
 17 aggregate size and on the cement content in the concrete. In order to assess these
 18 advancements A_T , a least squares method can be used. The global error E (Eq 9)
 19 corresponding to the cumulated squared deviations between the final swellings measured on
 20 specimens ($\epsilon_{\text{exp}}^{\text{res}(mortar)}$) and the theoretical values computed with Eq. 8 ($\epsilon_{\text{th}}^{\text{res}(mortar)}$) can be
 21 written:

$$22 \quad E = \sum_{mortar} \left(\underbrace{n \left(f V_a (1 - A_T^{mortar}) - V_p \right)}_{\epsilon_{th}^{\text{res}(mortar)}} - \epsilon_{\text{exp}}^{\text{res}(mortar)} \right)^2 \quad (9)$$

23 Minimizing this error leads to A_T and f given in Table 1.
 24 As explained above, the aggregate number n in each mortar is the same for the formulations
 25 of all four mortars; it is taken to be equal to the sand content of the mortar (1500 kg /m³ (93.5

1 lbs/ft³)) divided by the absolute density of the sand and by the elementary volume of
 2 aggregate (V_a). For V_p , a characteristic length l_c (Eq 3) of 10 μm ($4e^{-4}$ in) was adopted in
 3 accordance with Poyet *et al.* [23].

4 *Calculation of kinetic constant*

5 From the structural point of view and in the FE analysis, “At” results from the integration, of
 6 the differential law of kinetics (Eq. 3) used for the computation of the chemical
 7 advancements. The temperature-dependent kinetic parameter α_θ^s in Eq. 3 is first assessed
 8 from advancements determined on the mortar tests. α_{20}^s , the kinetic constant used in the FE
 9 analysis of the dam, is then deduced from α_θ^s (Eq. 3). The relationship between the
 10 advancement A_T determined with mortar tests ($A_T = A_T^{\text{mortar}}$ from Eq 8) and the kinetic
 11 parameter is the result of the integration of Eq. 3 (Eq. 11), from the construction time
 12 ($\tau = 0$ in Eq 11) to the time of test ($\tau = T$ in Eq 11). It takes the real environmental conditions
 13 into account: humidity through \bar{S}_r (the time-averaged saturation degree) and $\bar{\theta}$ (the time-
 14 averaged temperature) of the concrete in the zone of the dam where the core samples were
 15 drilled.

$$16 \quad A_T = \int_{\tau=0}^{\tau=T} \frac{\partial A(Sr(\tau), \theta(\tau))}{\partial t} d\tau \approx \int_{\tau=0}^{\tau=T} \frac{\partial A(\bar{S}_r, \bar{\theta})}{\partial t} d\tau = \left[1 - \exp\left(-\alpha_\theta^s \frac{\bar{S}_r - Sr^0}{1 - Sr^0} T\right) \right] \quad (11)$$

17 T is the age of the dam (60 years for the Temple-sur-Lot dam). A characteristic time τ^{AAR} of
 18 the reaction advancement for each aggregate type can also be defined (Eq. 12) from (Eq. 11)
 19 and linked to the “in-situ kinetic constant” α_θ^s (Eq. 13) used to assess α_{20}^s (Eq 3).

$$20 \quad \tau^{AAR} = -\frac{T}{\ln(1 - A_T)} \quad (12)$$

$$21 \quad \alpha_\theta^s = \frac{1}{\tau^{AAR} \frac{Sr - Sr^0}{1 - Sr^0}} \quad (13)$$

1 The characteristic time of the kinetic advancement is not explicitly used in the modelling but
2 corresponds to the time required to reach advancement A of 63%. It is about 60 years for the
3 C_350 sand and about 522 years for the C_250 large gravel (Table 1). These results are
4 consistent with the observations made on the specimens. The reaction appears to be almost
5 finished for the sand of the concrete with 350 kg/m^3 (21.8 lbs/ft^3) of cement but not so
6 advanced for the largest gravels of the other concrete. Thus, if the alkalinity of the cement
7 matrix is maintained in the dam, the AAR will continue. It should be noted that a reaction of
8 substitution between the alkali of the initial AAR gel and calcium of the cement paste [12]
9 can maintain the alkalinity condition.

10

11 **ASSESSMENT OF SWELLING AMPLITUDE USING FINITE ELEMENT INVERSE** 12 **ANALYSIS**

13 The fitting between model and reality requires determination of the constant f (Eq 2). The
14 constant f obtained from the accelerated tests (Eq 4) cannot be used for analysis of the dam
15 because of the difference of ASR-gel nature between the long-term reaction in the dam
16 (calcium-silica gel) and the short-term reaction in the accelerated tests (alkali-silica gel). In
17 order to assess this constant, the model was fitted on the observed behaviour of the dam. The
18 constant was then iteratively assessed to adjust the FE model response (in terms of structural
19 displacements) to measurements performed on the dam. In the calculations, the final swelling
20 of concrete containing several ranges of aggregate sizes is assumed to be the sum of the final
21 swelling contributions of each range of aggregate size (summation on N in Eq 2). The FE
22 model also includes the structural effects of the mechanical boundary conditions on the
23 swelling [13][22][15][18][27]. In Eq. 3, the kinetic constants α_{20}^s are assessed according to
24 the stress free expansion of the mortar (Table 1) and the environmental conditions of the dam
25 (Eq. 11). All the other mechanical parameters needed to use the FE model were measured on
26 drilled samples. Thus measurements of compressive and splitting tensile strengths, Young's

1 modulus and creep strains were carried out during the experimental study of the dam. Results
2 are not reported here but are available in Grimal's PhD thesis [28].
3 The variation of the lateral displacement measured at point PC of the dam was used to fit the
4 parameter f (Figure 14 and Figure 15 (a) direction yy). It was the only measurement on the
5 dam which was used for the parameter fitting. Then, the vertical displacements of PC (Figure
6 15 (a) direction zz) and the horizontal displacement of PA (Figure 15 (b)) could be simulated
7 with good accuracy. The FE structural modelling proposed in [6][7] is also able to compute
8 the damage field in the dam due to AAR development (Figure 16). The damage variable ranges
9 from 0 (dark zones) for undamaged material to 1 (light zones) for macroscopic cracks. Figure
10 16 shows the good agreement between the computed damage and the crack pattern, the
11 lightest zones corresponding to the observed cracks (shearing crack between the two
12 concretes, vertical cracks on the upstream part and at the bottom of the downstream part of
13 dam piers). The lateral movement of the pile is also explained by the model with the tilting of
14 the pier toward the gates (Figure 16). Then a prediction of the pier movements can be made for
15 the coming decades (Figure 15 (a) and (b)) and Figure 17). Figure 15 shows that the slope of
16 the strain tends to decrease but displacements of more than 0.020 m should be observed in the
17 next two decades along the direction yy for PA and PC.

18

19 **CONCLUSION**

20 After the analysis of the usual accelerated residual swelling test, this paper has shown
21 that it is difficult to use the results of such a test to predict the structural behaviour of an
22 AAR-damaged dam. Therefore, a new method has been developed, based on two
23 complementary fitting processes:

24 1- The chemical kinetics of the reaction for each range of aggregate sizes of the concrete is
25 determined through a laboratory experimental analysis of the affected concrete. The method

1 used to compute the kinetic parameters of the AAR includes environmental conditions
2 (saturation degree and temperature) of the concrete of the dam.

3 2- A non-linear finite element analysis of the structure is carried out to fit the final swelling
4 amplitude of the concrete. This step takes into account one displacement rate measured on the
5 structure and the possible heterogeneities of the environmental conditions.

6 To perform relevant calculations, the mechanical properties of the concrete in the
7 structures also have to be precisely known. Measurements should be made of strength,
8 modulus and creep characteristic. The method has been successfully tested for the Temple-
9 sur-Lot dam. The results show that the fitting of the amplitude, using one significant
10 displacement combined with the laboratory determination of the chemical kinetic parameters,
11 allows other displacements of the dam and a realistic damage field to be assessed. Based on
12 this work, a prediction of the dam's displacements and damage fields has been made for the
13 coming decades. It shows that, although most of the displacement has already occurred,
14 displacements and damage will continue to occur for several decades.

15

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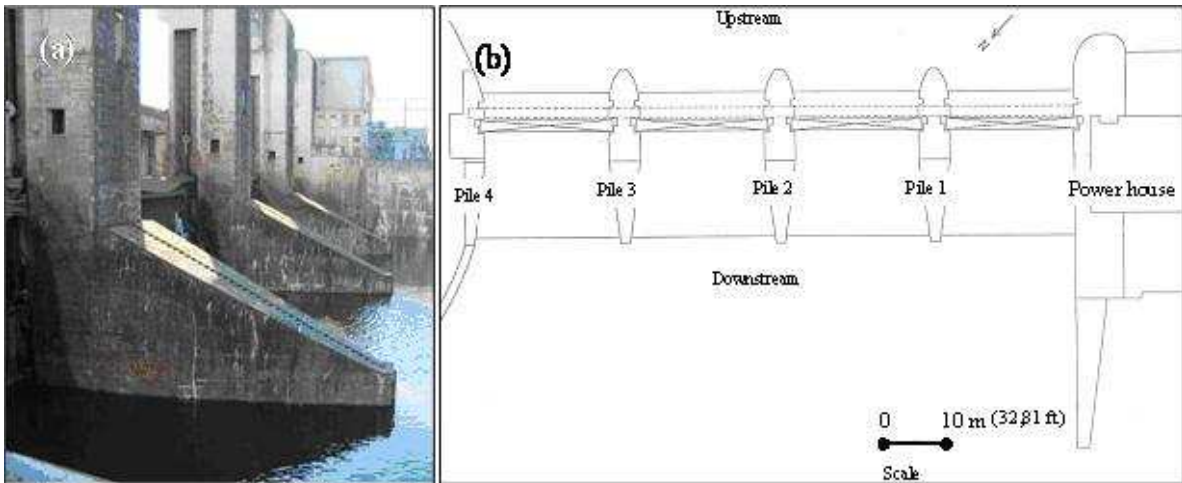
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- 24

| Table 1: gel volume and kinetic constants for each class of aggregate size | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Concrete Type | Size range (s) | Mortar type | f | A _T | α_{20}^s | τ^{AAR} (years) |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|-----|------|--------|-----|
| C250 | 5-100 | G250 | 2.% | 0.12 | 0.0026 | 522 |
| | 0-5 | S250 | | 0.49 | 0.012 | 84 |
| C350 | 5-30 | G350 | | 0.42 | 0.010 | 101 |
| | 0-5 | S250 | | 0.61 | 0.017 | 58 |

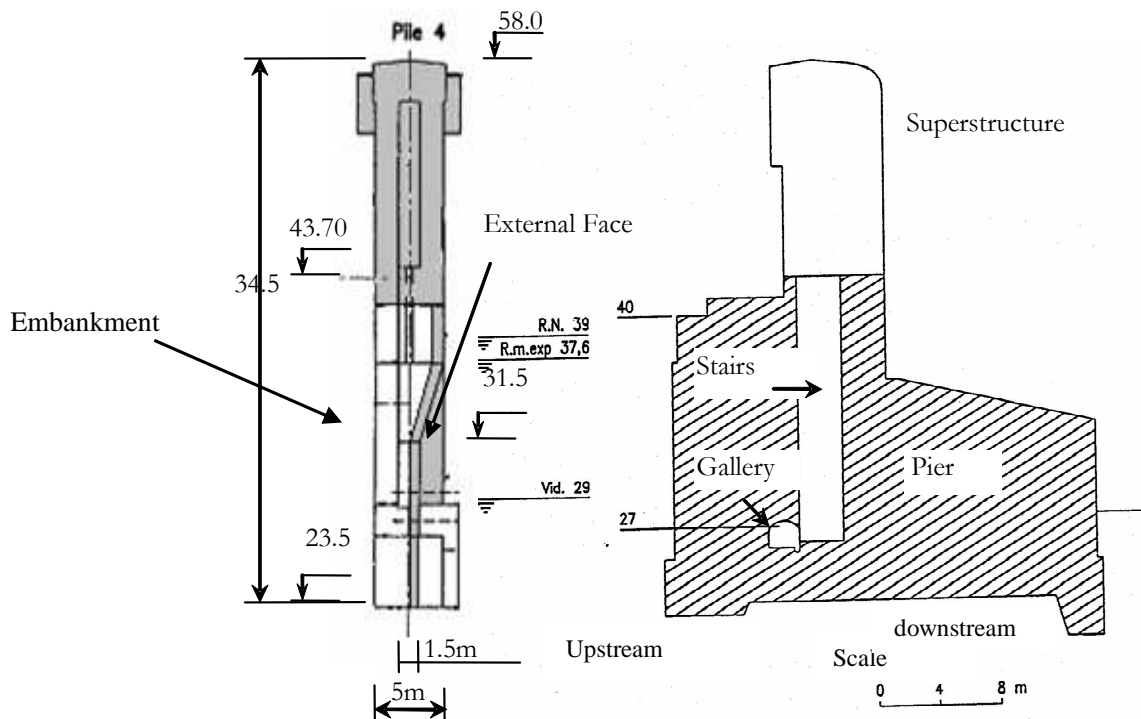
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2

3 Figure 1: Overview (a) and Upper view diagram (b) of the dam

4



Concrete with 350 kg cement / m³ (21.9 lbs/ft³): C_350

Concrete with 250 kg cement / m³ (15.6 lbs/ft³): C_250

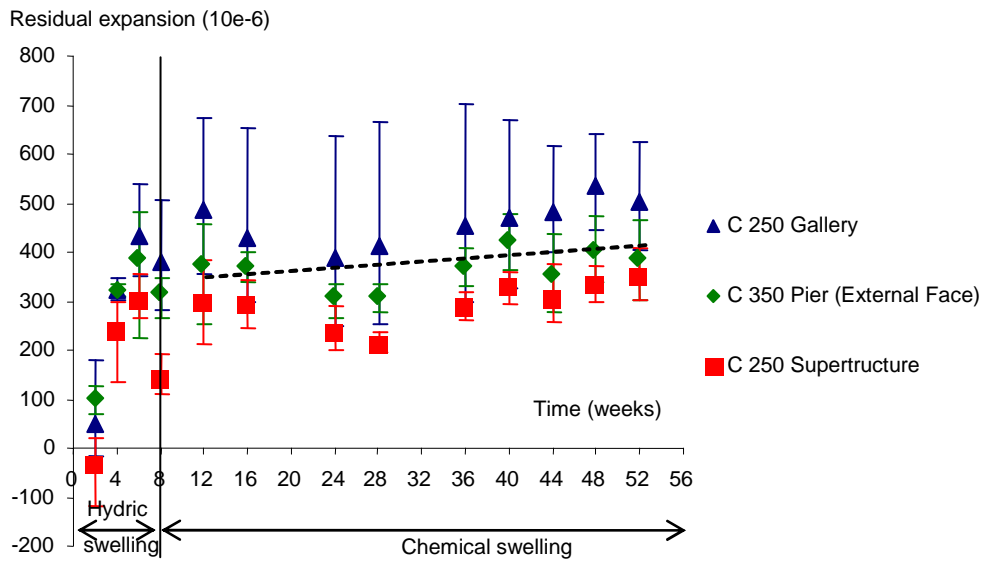
Conversion unit : 1m= 3,28 ft

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6

1 Figure 2: Downstream and transversal views of the studied pile and definition of concrete types

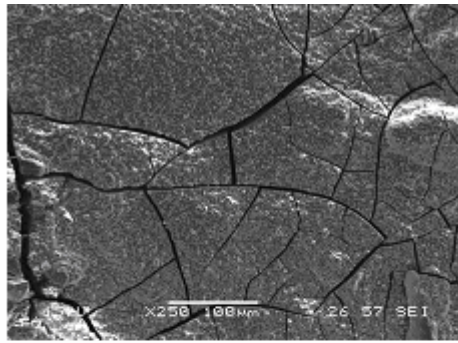
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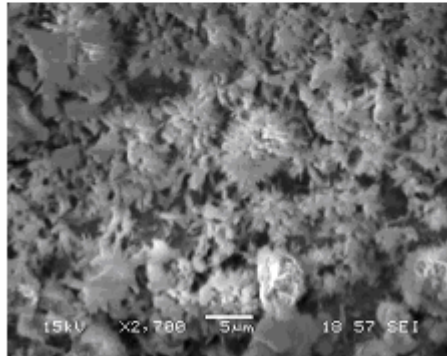
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4 Figure 3: Longitudinal strain of core samples under usual residual swelling tests (line: experiment, dotted line:

5 trend).

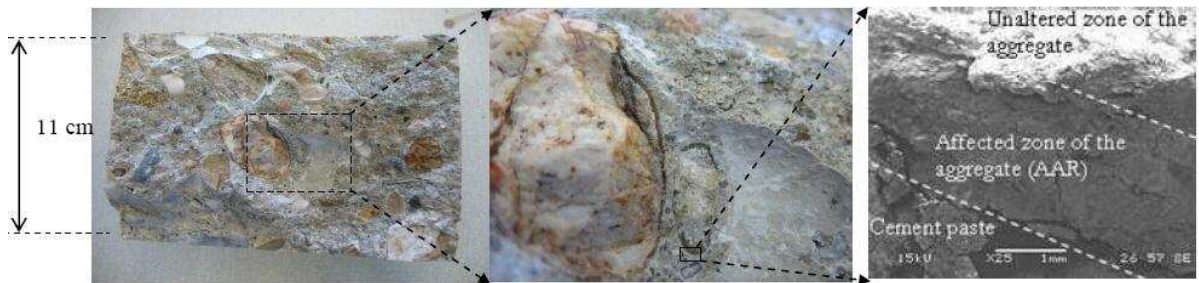


AAR product into the accelerated tests

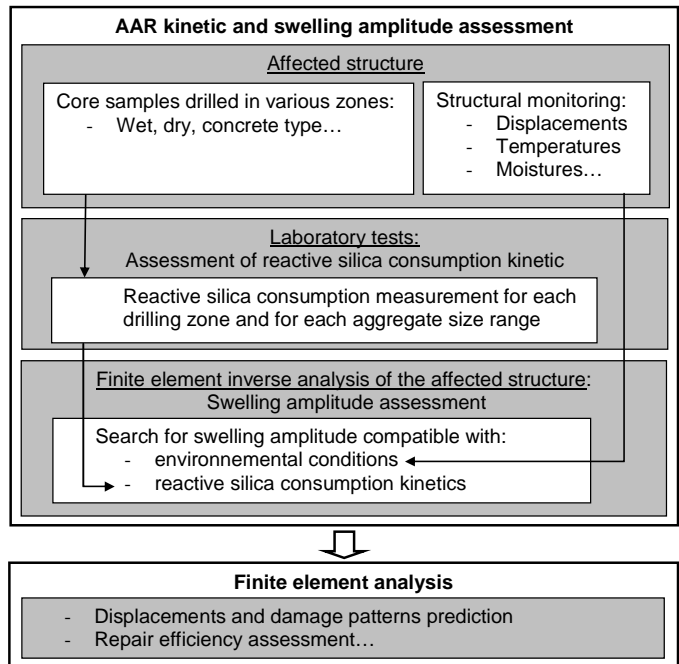


AAR product in the dam

1
2 Figure 4: AAR-gel texture differences (SEM pictures) between accelerated tests and dam

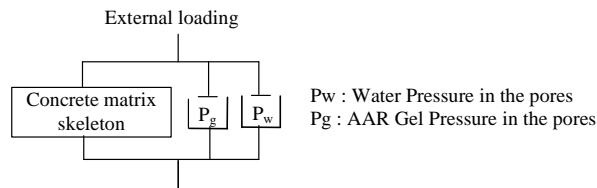


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4
5 Figure 5: Peripheral zone affected by AAR in a large concrete aggregate (from a drilled core sample)



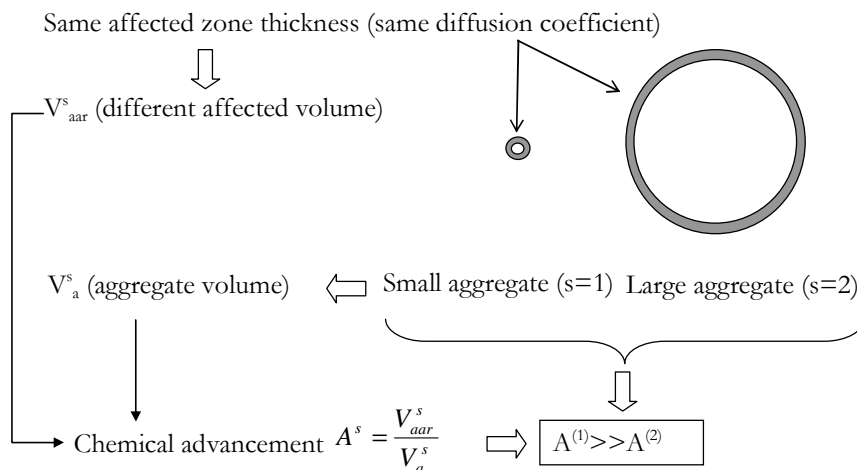
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2 Figure 6: Global methodology summary



3

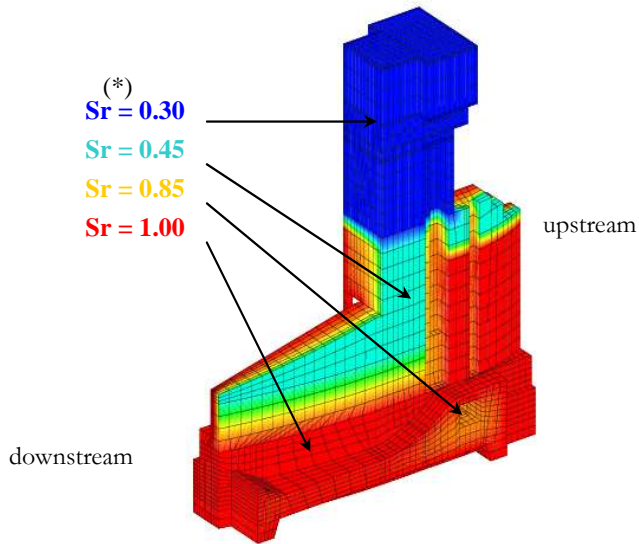
4 Figure 7: One-dimensional idealized view of expansive concrete behaviour model



5

6 Figure 8: Difference of chemical advancement between a small (1) and a large (2) aggregate s = aggregate size

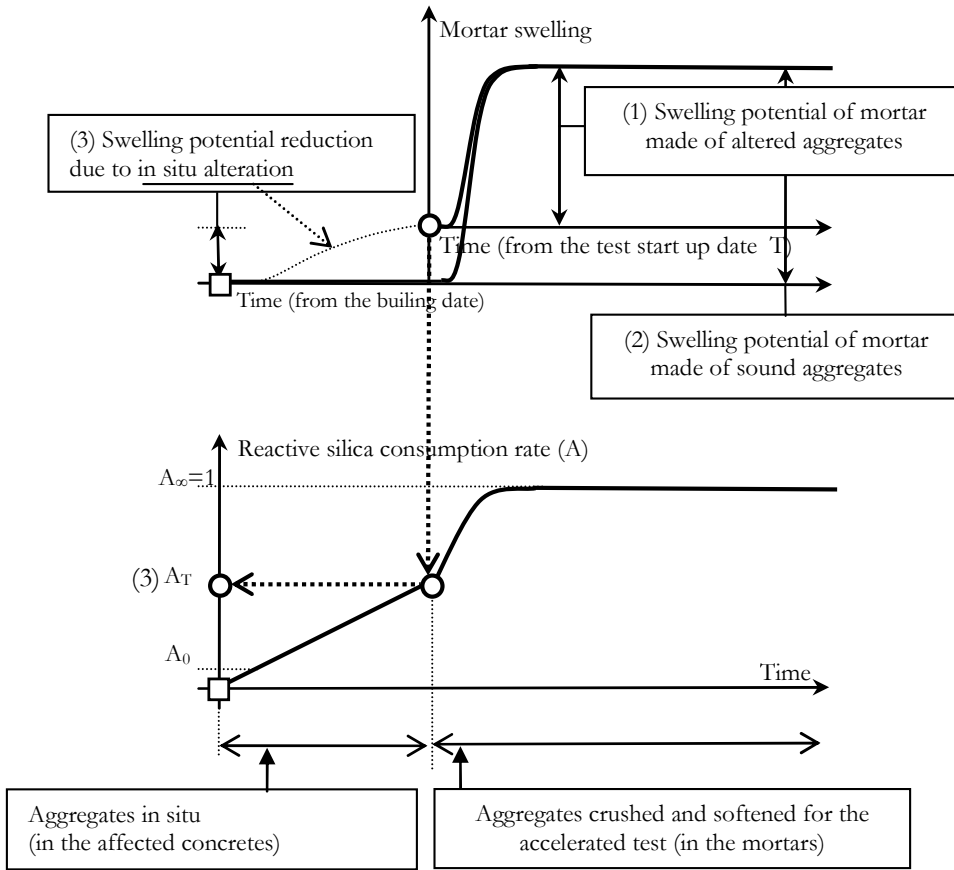
7 index



1

2 (*) boundary conditions in agreement with Sr measurements on dry sawed core samples.

3 Figure 9: Saturation degree field (Sr) used for the river left pile calculation.

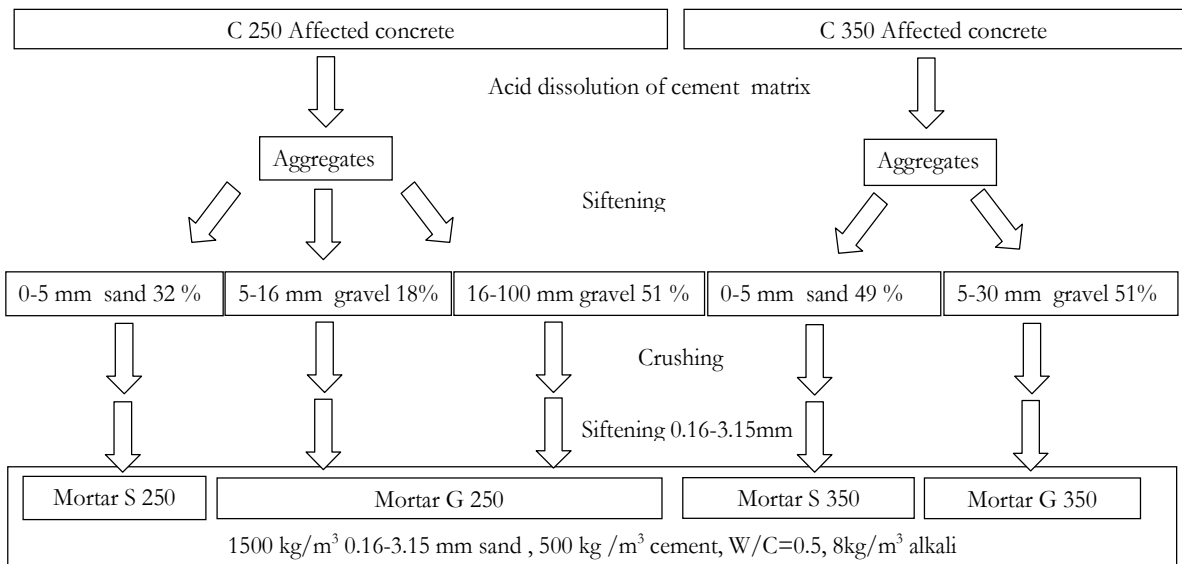


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5 Figure 10: Principle of the chemical advancement assessment

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7



Conversion unit : 1 kg = 2,20 lbs , 1 mm = 0,0394 in, 1m³=35,31 ft³

1

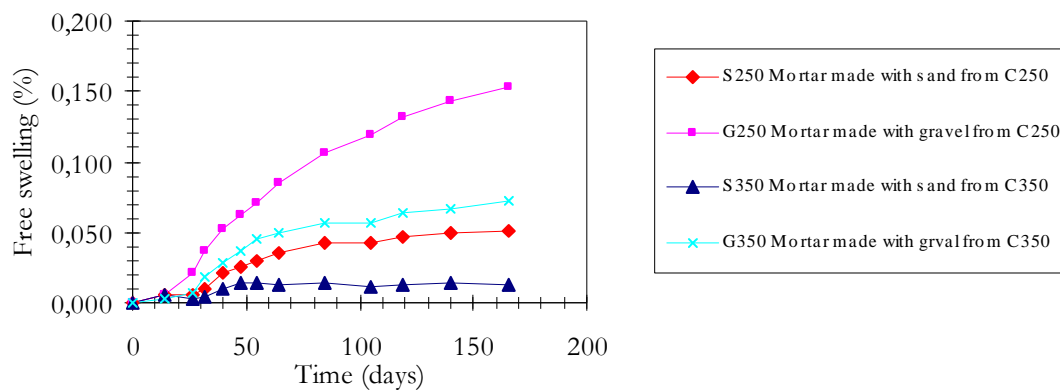
2 Figure 11 : Procedure of mortar fabrication for the affected concrete C250 and C350



(a) Core samples → (b) Hydrochloric acid attack (1M) → (c) Recovered Aggregate (after sifting)

3

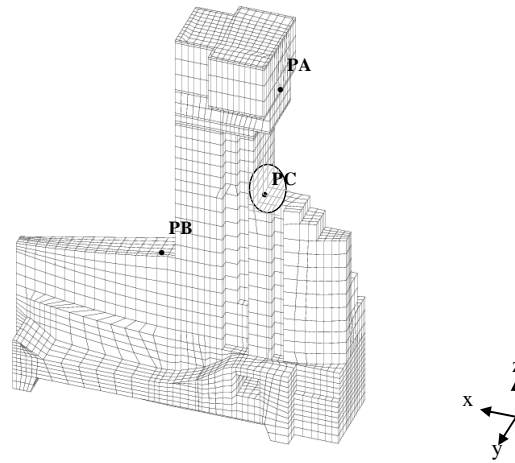
4 Figure 12: Aggregate extraction from a drilled core sample



5

6 Figure 13: Swelling of mortar specimens (symbols), fitted curves (dotted lines)

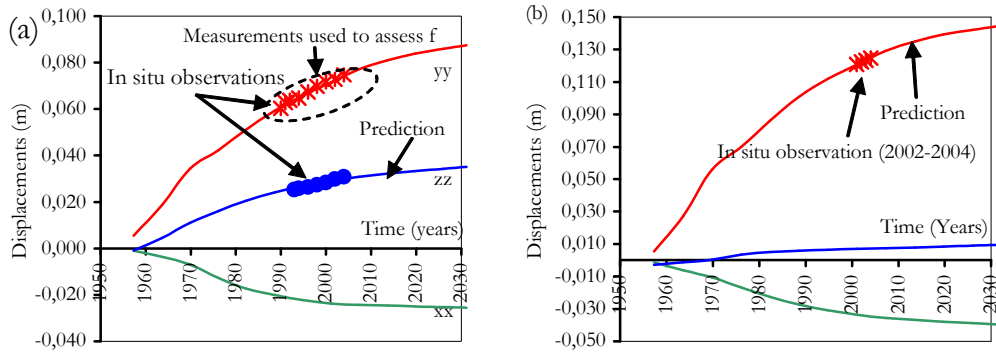
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2 Figure 14: Mesh of the left river pile and coordinates system used. Points chosen for in situ displacement
 3 measurements

4

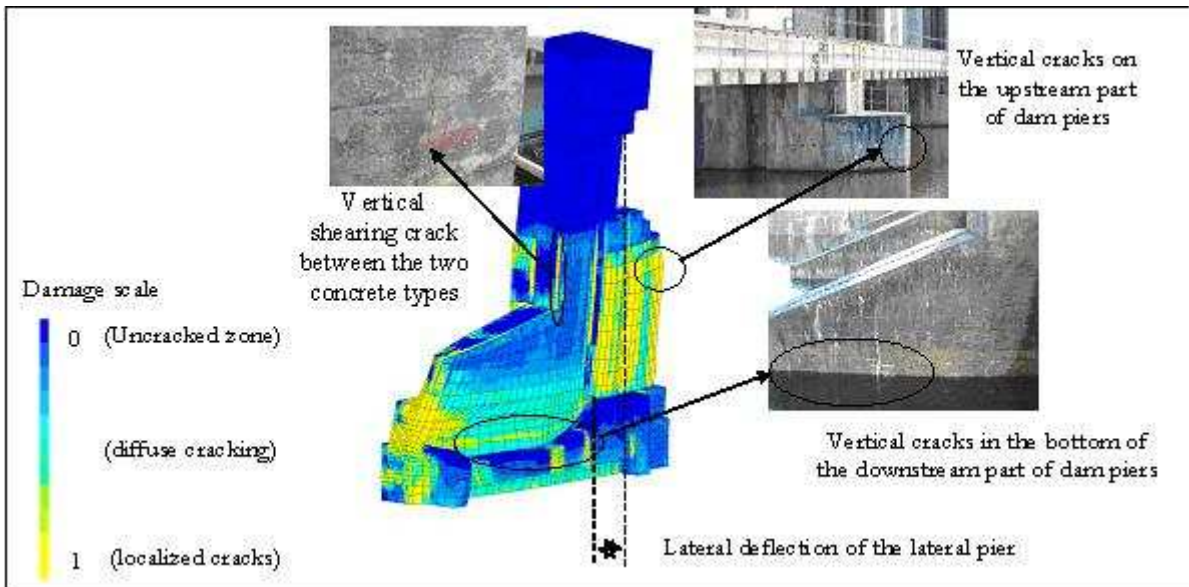


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Conversion unit: 1 m = 3,28 ft

7 Figure 15 : (a) Fitting of the swelling amplitude on the structural displacements (point PC direction yy),
 8 prediction for PC directions zz and xx, extrapolation for the coming decades, (b) PA displacements, comparison
 9 with in situ observations and prediction for the coming decades.

10



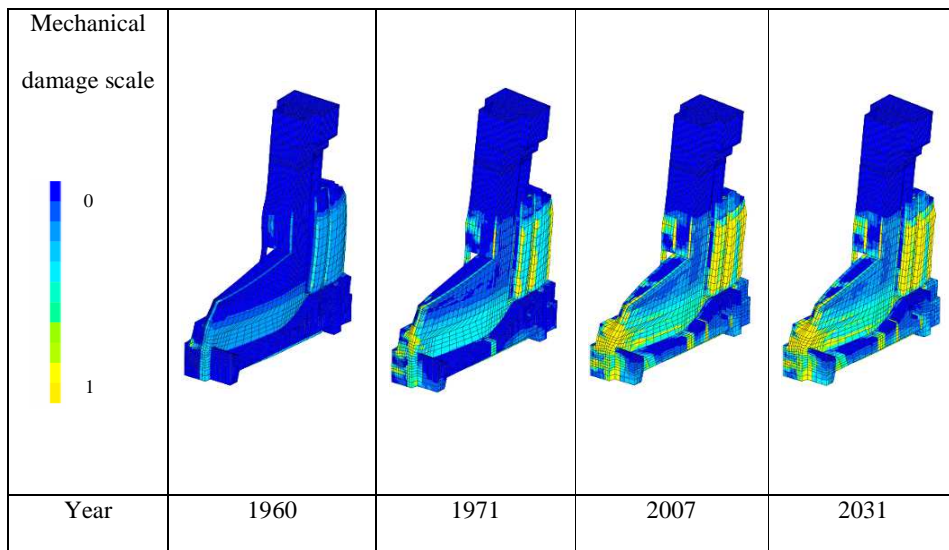
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2 Figure 16 : Comparison between tensile damage field on deformed mesh and crack pattern observed on the dam

3 in 2004

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9 Figure 17 : Tensile damage field evolution on deformed mesh