

Standard Practice for Determining the Components of Historic Cementitious Materials

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Standard Practice for Determining the Components of Historic Cementitious Materials

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This is the working copy of the new protocol for the analysis of historic mortars. This will be sent out to reviewers in the field for comments. Also, the methods are to be refined from further laboratory studies of weathered samples.

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INTRODUCTION:

The analysis of historic mortars has, in the past, been dominated by traditional wet chemical methods that determine the bulk oxide composition. An increasing number of analysts are turning to microscopical methods in order to study the interaction between aggregate, relict hydraulic grains, and matrix. Analyses of polished sections provide information on the mineral phases, interactions and microstructure that are responsible for imparting properties characteristic to cement'. The purpose of the standard practice is to combine the best methods currently employed and to adapt them to the analysis of historic cementitious materials.

There can not be too much emphasis placed on the importance of careful sample taking. "The quality of the conclusions reached in aninvestigation depend on the quality and relevance of the samples taken...¹¹² Prior to the removal of material for samples it is imperative that clear objectives must be formed in order to direct the investigation and to remove a minimum of material. A basic assumption of this procedure is that experienced persons, ideally involved in the pre-analysis of the structure to determine sampling strategy, will be carrying out the sample selection and removal.

The purpose of this method is to insure consistent analytical standards within the study of historic mortars for academic study and conservation purposes. Conservation and restoration may involve the identification of aggregate and binder, mineralogy, analysis of decay mechanisms and salt content. It is not within the scope of this work to determine original mortar constituent volume proportions.

Scope:

This test method is for the determination of aggregate, air voids, cement, pozzolana and hydraulic materials of historicmortar by petrographic analysis.

Referenced documents:

- ASTM C-856-95 Standard Practice for Petrographic Examination of Hardened Concrete.
- ASTM C 457-90 Practice for Microscopical Determination of Air-Void Content and Parameters of the Air-Void System in Hardened concrete
- ASTM C294-92 Descriptive Nomenclature of Constituents of Natural Mineral Aggregates

ASTM C295-92 Guide for Petrographic Examination of Aggregates for Concrete.

ASTM C1084-92 Standard Test Method for Portland-Cement Content of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Concrete

ASTM C114-85 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Concrete.

- St. John, D., Poole, A.W. and Sims, I. Concrete Petrography. (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1998).
- Campbell, D.H. Microscopical Examination and Interpretation of Portland Cement and Clinker (Portland Cement Association, Skokie, Illinois, 1986).

Terminology:

Definitions

- Air content-The proportion of the total volume of the concrete that is comprised of air voids.
- Air voids Entrapped and entrained air or space enclosed by the cement paste and filled with air or other gas before setting. This does not include porosity.
- Hydraulic lime Cement that will harden under water. Defined by the setting mechanism, different from carbonate cements, hydraulic lime sets by the formation of hydrated calcium silicate compounds present as impurities or deliberately added components.
- Cement- A material for uniting other materials or articles. It is generally plastic at the time of application but hardens when in place. The matrix portion of any cementitious material or "neat" cement paste
- Concrete A mixture of cement, sand and gravel or stone chips with water in varying proportions according to use.

- Mortar- A pasty substance formed normally by the mixing of cement, sand and water, or cement, lime. sand and water in varying proportions. Used normally for the binding of brickwork or masonry
- Non-hydraulic lime- A cement that contains less than 5% of potentially hydraulic materials. Also known as fat lime (95%+ pure lime).
- Semi-hydraulic lime- A cement that contains at least 5% of a potentially hydraulic material.
- Lime-Limestone heated to at least 825°C to produce CaO (quicklime, caustic lime, unslaked lime)

Portland Cement- Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) or Type I.

Cementitious material- Ambiguous term for all things "cementitious" - lime based cement, Portland cement, proto- and meso- cements, mortars, grouts etc Lime putty- Hydrated (slaked) and aged lime.

Summary of Test Method:

Samples of mortar are impregnated with epoxy resin and sawn. The sections are prepared by careful grinding and polishing in a non-aqueous media. The polished surfaces are studied with at least 50x magnification and features of interest are measured by traditional point counting techniques or image analysis. More detailed studies use auxiliary methods like Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) coupled with Back Scattered Electron Imaging (BEI) to evaluate the hydraulic content. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) is also used for determination of some crystalline components.

Significance and use:

This test may be used to characterize historic mortars. The petrographic analysis is based on the assumptions typically stated for modal analysis in order to satisfy the Delesse (4) relationship.

- 1. Samples are random
- 2. Sample sizes are large enough to include variations present within the material.

DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES

Selection of Test Specimens

The first issue in deciding on a sampling strategy is to determine the objective of the analysis. Analytical procedures to be used should be chosen after the questions that the analysis hopes to address are dearly formulated. Typically, the analysis is either focused on the identification of the original components, decay mechanisms, or key parameters on which to base conservition treatment.

1.) Characterization of the material to identify original components: Samples should be chosen from sheltered and protected areas. Samples should also be collected randomly from other areas for comparison.

2.) Characterization of local areas: The samples would be collected from the area(s) exhibiting the feature of interest. Samples should also be collected randomly from other areas for comparison.

3.) General characterization of the material: Samples should be chosen that most closely reflect the middle ground. Areas that should not be included in such a study would be those showing severe deterioration, loose or detached pieces. Likewise, pristine "like new" surfaces would also be avoided. This type of study might be conducted in order to help identify physical parameters, like porosity, for selection of repair materials.

In many cases, combinations of analytical and sampling strategies are necessary. For example, a general characterization of the cementitious material and a local study of a particular area may be called for. In this case, two sampling strategies should be conducted.

The method of sample determination must also be chosen and noted in the report. If random samples are to be taken from an area they must be truly random. This does not mean that a person may walk up to the area and choose in a seemingly random fashion. Factors that may influence choice are numerous. One method of random sampling is to divide the area up into a grid. Numbers are then assigned to grid areas and these numbers are then randomly chosen, (methods may include use of a calculator or by tearing up bits of paper with the numbers on them and drawing them from a hat).

The samples must be gathered in accordance with the Standard Sample Sheet (Figure 1). The minimum area per sample to be collected must be 5x the nominal or maximum grain size for all dimensions. The minimum number of samples is three per area of interest. If pre-analysis shows great heterogeneity, the number of samples must be increased. The samples may be removed by coring, sawing or with hammer and chisel. All sample strategies and methodologies must be noted on the Standard Sample Sheet for each sample.

Sample sheetSample NameLocationIDNo.

Number of samples taken from location: Reason for selection: (random, grid, deteriorated area etc) Method of sample removal:

Sample relationship to the object (sketch object and mark sample area)

Sample's relationship to the surface (sketch) Distance from the surface (mm)

Description

Environmental conditions

General description of material

Figure 1: Standard Sample Sheet

Analytical Procedures and Methods

Sample Preparation

The following lists include equipment and materials generally used.

Apparatus and Materials for Sample PreparationDiamond sawCutting lubricant for the diamond sawHorizontal Lap Wheel(!;) for grinding samplesPolishing WheelHot plate or ovenAbrasives - Silicon carbide grits (No. 100, 220, 320, 600, 800); optical finishing and
polishing powders (1000 alumina)lubricant for polishing (glycerin)Glass squares - for hand finishingImpregnating media - low viscosity epoxyMounting Media - Canada balsamMicroscope slidesCover glass

INITIAL EXAMINATION

The mortar sample must be given a preliminary examination. General observations as to the fabric, nominal grain size, friability etc. of the material are to be noted. From the initial examination, the procedures to be employed in the analysis are determined. All available information regarding the sample should be reviewed and noted. A freshly broken or sawed surface should be examined under low (6-10x) magnification.

The visual examination sheet (

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Figure 2) which has been modified from ASTM C 856 should be followed.

From the initial examination, several key points should be clear:

- 1. Matrix strength and general composition Non or weak hydraulic limes vs. strongly hydraulic lime and Portland cements.
- 2. Aggregate composition are carbonate-based aggregates present?
- 3. Other materials Organic materials like straw and hair may be visible as well as clay or remnant grains of pozzolanic materials.

Most historic cementitious materials will have to be consolidated before sections are to be prepared but this is determined by sample strength and aggregate - matrix bond strength.

Depending on the research objectives determined prior to sampling, the analytical procedures may now be outlined

Aggre	gate	Matrix	Voids and Pores	Embedded Items
Coarse	Fine			
Composition Maxiumum dimension (mm) Percentage of total (%)				
Type1.Gravel2.Crushed Stone3.Mixed gravel and crushed stone4.Other (Name)5.Pozzolan (name)6.Mixed1/ type is 1, 2 or 4: homogeneous or Range of grain sizes (mm):Fabric (of aggregate)	Type I. Natural Sand 2. Manufactured sand 3. Mixed 4. Other 5. Pozzolan (name) 6. Mixed	 Color National Research Council Rock Color Chart; Munsell system) Color distribution Mottled Even Gradational changes 	 Approximate percentage of total, mainly spherical voids Approximate percentage of total, many nonspherical voids Voids Empty, filled, lined, partly filled Color change from interior surface to matrix? 	Type, size, location, kinds of metal. other items (like organic materials)
 Shape Shape Distribution Packing Grading (even, uneven, excess or deficiency of size(s)) Direction in relation to surface (flat sides or long axes - normal to direction of placement or parallel to formed and finished surfaces 	Distribution Particle shape Grading Preferred orientation	 Distribution - homogeneous or heterogeneous? Fractures around or through aggregate? Describe contact of matrix and aggregate. Describe cracks. 	 Shape Distribution Grading Parallelism of long axes of irregular voids or sheets of voids; with each other; with flat sides or long axes of coarse aggregate 	 Are there any voids connected with the material? Note there location in relation to the material (below, horizontal) Are metal objects clean or corroded? Are there cracks associated with embedded material?
Sample history - list historical infor Condition: Note the general degree break it with your hands? Are there aggregates tear from the matrix duri	of weathering. Also, the friability cracks? How are they distributed?	or density of the sample. Giv ? Do they run through coarse	ve general description of color. Ma aggregate? Are the cracks filled v	tban vs. rural etc.).

Figure 2: Visual/Low Magnification Examination of Concrete (modified from ASTM C 856)

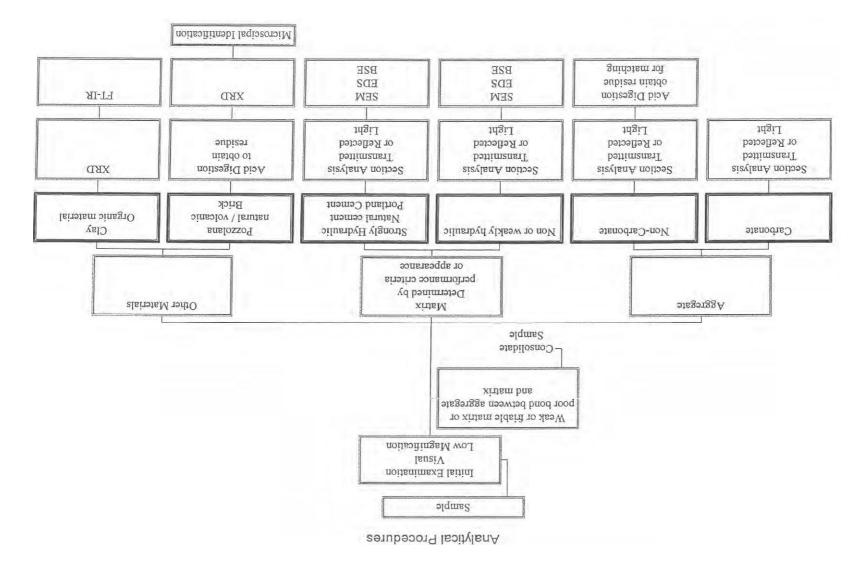


Figure 3: Chart of Analytical procedures for the study of historic cementitious materials.

SAMPLES

Samples should be taken from whole chunks or cores. The collection of broken fragments or pieces for analysis is to be avoided if at all possible as they may not be representative of the material. The **minimum** sample size, after processing, for analysis should be three times the nominal or maximum size of the aggregate. Ideally, the sample area should be five times the maximum aggregate size. The sample should usually be sawn or prepared perpendicular to the surface so that a cross section of the material may be studied. The location of the sample and its orientation to the core or original chunk must be noted.

CONSOLIDATION OF SAMPLES

If the specimen is weak, friable or exhibits low bond strength between the aggregate and matrix, it should be impregnated with a low viscosity epoxy resin. Place specimen in a mold or polypropylene cup coated with a realease material. Mark the orientation of the sample to the original surface. A slow curing, low viscosity epoxy resin (like Buehler's Epo Thin) should be used. Pour freshly mixed epoxy and hardener over the sample. If thin sections are to be made from the sample and the determination of its thickness is necessary, quartz grains (50-100 mesh) may be added. Thin section thickness can be calculated from the quartz of known birefringence of 0.009.

Allow the epoxy to **cure**. Vacuum impregnation is to be avoided as the matrix can be disrupted. The benefits of using a slow, long cure resin are that much more time is allowed for the resin to penetrate the material.

THE MAKING OF POLISHED SECTIONS, AN OVERVIEW

Sections for reflected and transmitted light and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) studies are prepared in much the same way. All polishing and grinding must be carried

out with a non-aqueous lubricant. This is to prevent the washing away of water-soluble components and the etching of minerals associated with hydraulic materials.

Quantitative microscopy and photographs must include a reference to the nominal magnification or field size. The nominal magnification includes the objective, eyepiece and tube (Figure 4).

Objective	Nominal	μm/ (micrometer)	Field size (mm)
	:Magnification	division	
x2,5	x32	32.5	4.8
x6.3	x80	12.5	1.85
x16	x200	5.0	0.74
x25	x315	3.2	0.48
x40	x500	2.0	0.30
x50	x620	1.61	0.24
x100	x1250	0.80	0.12

Figure 4: Calibration of transmitted light objectives (x 10h eyepiece, x 1.25 tube factor) after St. John et al. 1998.

THE MAKING OF SECTIONS FOR REFLECTED LIGHT

Reflected light may be used to quickly determine aggregate, air void and cement proportions. Reflected light may also be used to determine particular areas for further study by x-ray diffraction (XRD) or SEM-BSE.

Saw the specimen, unless experimental objectives dictate otherwise, perpendicular to the bedding plane with a diamond saw. Lap and polish the surface to be studied by using progressively finer abrasives. The surface should be finished to a highly reflective, mirror-like surface by a fine polishing powder (5μ m aluminum oxide). When changing from a coarse abrasive to finer grit the sample must be thoroughly cleaned of the coarse abrasive. Clean with a brush or stream of pressurized air. Do not wash in water or use an ultrasonic tank as these methods may harm or alter the surface. The surface is finished

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when there are no scratches, no visible relief between the aggregate and the matrix and the surface shows excellent reflection of light when viewed from a low incident angle.

If the purpose of the reflected light sample is to help identify features of interest for further identification a slight modification of procedure should be followed. The sample should be sawed in hall: One side, a mirror image of the half to be polished, will be retained for further study. The second half will be polished as described above. The polished half is studied and features of interest may be marked or removed with a fine point for XRD. In the case of the second half of the specimen being reserved for SEM-BSE analysis, the surface must be very carefully polished to prevent smearing. If the sample does smear, as is the case for some weak plasters, the analysis may be conducted without polishing.

THE MAKING OF THIN SECTIONS

The study of cementitious materials by transmitted light allows for better identification of aggregate and for the study of residual hydraulic components in the matrix. Traditional petrographic methods state that the thin sections should be ground to a thickness of $30\mu m$. The study of cementitious materials requires the preparation of a thinner section, nearer $20\mu m$. At this thickness, however, other constituents begin to loose coherence and are difficult to see.

The preparation of thin sections is beyond the scope of this method. The thin sections should be prepared according to procedure as described in (3) or other standard methodologies.

There are two options for the analyst. If the nature of the experimental goals and the material itself are such that the visual and low magnification study gather enough information, then a thin section of $20\mu m$ is sufficient. An example of this scenario would be the case in which the aggregate was clearly composed of quartz (primarily) with no evidence of carbonate aggregate. The objective of the study is to 1.) Match the aggregate

and 2.) Determine the degree/nature of the hydraulic components. In this case, a simple acid digestion of the matrix to retrieve the aggregate for matching purposes would suffice. The thin section would then be for the purpose of studying residual hydraulic grains.

On the other hand, if the case were that the aggregate was comprised of carbonates, two thin sections would be made. One section at 30 μ m to determine component proportions, the other, 20 μ m section to study the hydraulic constituents.

Sample Examination

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS Microscopes (stereomicroscope, polarizing microscope, metallographic) with low, medium and high objectives Eyepiece micrometer Stage micrometer Image Analysis Software Camera (35mm or digital) Point counting device (manual or computer driven) Needle holders and Points Immersion Media

Microscopic Examination

The samples should be arranged in a logical sequence and comparisons made between them. Any changes in color, deterioration, and apparent porosity are to be reported. Significant features should be noted and marked for further or more detailed study. The initial visual examination should be supplemented with an examination under low magnification. The results should be recorded in a chart such as shown in Table 1.

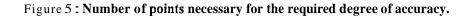
SECTION ANALYSIS WITH REFLECTED LIGHT

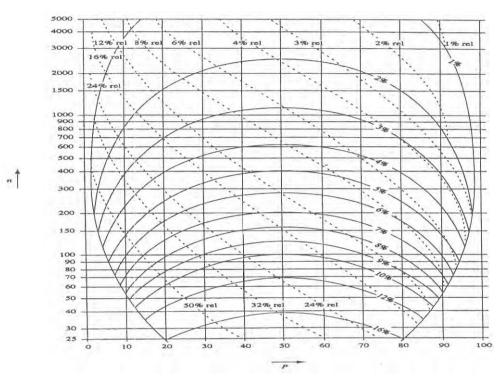
The analysis of a samp'e with reflected light is most often used for determination of the cementitious material's constituents. Point counting, linear traverse or modal analysis methods may determine the constituent proportions. The modified point counting method and linear traverse method are described in ASTM C457. The determination of the area ratios of the section by use of image analysis software is another method. The advantage of using modem image analysis software is that information on grain sizes, texture and photography is all carried out in one step. Also, the point count and linear traverse methods are more time consuming.

All three methods are those of modal analysis and have the same basic assumptions. The Delesse relationship assumes that the ratio of the area occupied by a single component in a randomly cut surface to the total measurement area is a consistent estimate of the volume percentage of the component in the whole sample. Note that the step size in point counting techniques should, if possible, be greater than the maximum grain size. Common sources of error:

- Size of the sample
- Non-random sample selection
 Sample heterogeneity -preferential orientation, segregation and banding of components, grain size variation etc.
- Observer bias

The number of samples and points or area to be examined depends on the adequacy of the sampling and the accuracy required. Figure 5 shows the number of points necessary for the required degree of accuracy. ASTM C 457 specifies the minimum area of finished surface to be examined for the determination of air content (Table 1) - these areas may also be used for determination of other constituents as well. These values refer to reasonably homogeneous, well-compacted concrete.





, Chart for estimation of error in point counting. The total number of points n counted on the specimen are shown on the y axis and the percentage P of a component on the x axis. At the intersection point of n and P the relative error is read from the dotted lines and standard deviation at 95 per cent probability from the solid curved lines.

Nominal maximum size of aggregate in the concrete (mm)	Minimum area of surface for measurement (cm ^Z)	Approximate Sample Size (cm)
150	1613	40x40
75	419	21x21
37.5	155	13x13
25	77	9x9
19	71	9x9
12.5	65	8x8
9.5	58	8x8
4.8	45	7x7
3	36	6x6
1	12	4x4
0.5	6	3x3
0.25	3	2x2

Table 1 : Minimum area of finished surface to be examined

Generally, the standard 25 x 25mm size petrographic section is not large enough for constituent determination. Edge dimensions of at least 100mm are preferred. Alternatively, several smaller sections may be prepared of 75 x 50mm in size but, depending on the aggregate size, these may not be large enough for modal analysis. A good working rule is that it is best to count over as many samples and the largest surface area possible. If the size of the sample to be examined is limited due to material availability, this must be noted on the examination record.

THIN SECTION

The examination of thin sections is standard procedure for the petrographic analysis of rock texture and components. Petrographic samples are traditionally ground and polished to a thickness of $30\mu m$. For the observation of cementitious materials a thickness of $25\mu m$ usually reveals better texture of the paste.

Thin section examination of cementitious materials encounters the same problems as described in the previous section of examination under reflected light. The main problem is again sample size. It is difficult to obtain and prepare samples large enough to account

for the heterogeneous nature of the material. Several sections may be taken over a sample area but the loss of edges during preparation must be taken into consideration.

Small sample size is a fact of life in the study of many historic materials. In such cases, multiple sections must be examined. Interpretation must be carefully considered with regard to samples from the whole structure.

Detailed examination of the paste matrix require thinner sections of $20-25\mu m$. Thicker sections may be desirab'e when studying more fragile components like void deposits or matrix aggregate contact. It is sometimes necessary to prepare multiple thin sections of different thickness. ASTM C 856 gives a nice discussion of the characteristics of Portland type concrete. In general, thin section analysis should discuss the features listed in the Table 2 outline, adapted from ASTM C 856.

Outline for Thin Sec	tion Examination - see tables f	or lists of common minerals
Aggregate	Relict cement grains and hydration products	Characteristics of Matrix
 Mineralogy, texture, fabric, degree of homogeneity Grading, grain size, nature of internal boundaries Bond with matrix, cracks regarding aggregate-matrix bond, interior cracks 	 Hydraulic components Large grains of hydraulic material are resistant to hydrolysis Pozzolanic additives Trapped pockets of lime 	 Mineralogy, texture, fabric, degree of homogeneity, density Depth of carbonation Secondary deposits Calcium hydroxide crystals, indicative of acid leaching, water- cement ratio etc.

Table 2 : Thin section features to note - historic mortars, cements and conretes.

CALCULATIONS FOR MODAL ANALYSIS OF AGGREGATE, AIR VOIDS AND PASTE

The relative proportions of the cementitious material's constituents may be estimated by point count, linear traverse or area estimation (image analysis). The proportions are calculated as follows (4, 5, ASTM C 457-90).

1. Point Counting Method

Percentage Air Content:

$$V = \frac{\text{Number of points in air}}{\text{Total Number of Points}} X 100$$

Percentage Paste Content

 $P = \frac{\text{Number of points in paste}}{\text{Total Number of Points}} X 100$

Percentage Aggregate

 $Ag = \frac{\text{Number of points in aggregate}}{\text{Total Number of Points}} X 100$

2. Linear Traverse

Percentage Air Content:

 $V=\frac{\text{Length of the traverse in air void}}{\text{Total Length of the Traverse}} X 100$

Percentage Paste Content

 $P = \frac{\text{Length of the traverse in paste}}{\text{Total Length of the Traverse}} X 100$

Percentage Aggregate

 $Ag = \frac{\text{Length of the traverse in aggregate}}{\text{Total Length of the Traverse}} X 100$

3. Area Analysis

 $V = \frac{\text{Air void area}}{\text{Total area}} X 100$

$$P = \frac{Paste area}{Total area} X 100$$

 $Ag = \frac{Aggregate area}{Total area} - X 100$

XRD

XRD may be used to determine both matrix and aggregate minerals. The crystalline components of the material are to be analyzed in accordance with individual XRD equipment techniques. There are three sub-sampling techniques that may be helpful in determining the presence of minor components.

1. Acid Digestion

The acid insoluble residue may be studied under the microscope. Grains of interest may be separated out, manually, and ground for analysis. Alternatively, the residue may be sieved.

2. Manual grinding or crushing

A mortar and pestle may be used to crush the material. The resulting powder is then fed through a number of sieves and the component of interest may be studied.

3. A sample is cut into two pieces. One half is polished and studied under reflected or transmitted light, depending on procedure followed. If an area of interest is located on the polished sample, the reserved sample half may be mined for the component of interest with a fine probe.

SEMIEDSIBSE

SEM may be used in conjunction with EDS and BSE to study hydraulic components. By using BSE, hydraulic phases clearly stand out. Reportedly (⁶), the outlines of the original hydraulic grain is visible even after aging.

In order to estimate the degree of hydraulic material, and so classify the material as weakly, moderately or strongly hydraulic, traditional point counting may be applied. The sample is to be carefully polished, as for reflected light. Roughly divide the sample surface into quarters, by paint or tape so that the sections may be identified when viewed with the SEM. Each quarter is to contain three randomly chosen sites. At each site, 50 points are to be counted or an equivalent area (if image analysis is to be used). EDS may be used to help identify components. After the 12 sites have been evaluated, the hydraulic content is to be estimated by the ratio of the hydraulic material to the total area of paste examined. The calculation is similar to that used to determine aggregate or air void percentages. The material may then be classified by the percentage of hydraulic material present (Table 3).

These estimations are useful for roughly characterizing the hydraulic component of a lime based paste. Portland cement types are readily distinguished by this method as they have hydraulic components present in the paste of greater than 80%.

weakly	Moderately	Strongly
hydraulic	hydraulic	hydraulic
5-15%	16-25%	26-36%

Table 3 : Guidlelines for estimation of hydraulic components of lime paste.

CALCULATIONS FOR SEM-BEI ESTIMATION OF HYDRAULIC CONSTITUENTS

 $H=\frac{\text{amount of hydraulic material (number of points or area)}}{\text{Total number of points (or area) - amount of aggregate - air voids}} X 100$

Note that this calculation is to be used solely to ratio the amount of hydraulic material in the **paste.** Any aggregate or air voids are not to be included in the calculations. The magnification employed may vary with the nature of the study

Report

The following information is to be included in the final report.

1. Sample Information

Taken from the original sample sheet, list: the nature of the investigation; sampling method; physical description, environmental description, samples position to surface, samples relation to surface, samples' location in the original structure.

2. Sample Preparation

Briefly outline procedural steps followed. The size and number of samples analyzed must be stated.

3. Sample Examination

List the results of the initial examination.

4. Analytical results:

Thin section / reflected light

Volume percentages - state: the method used (point count, linear traverse, area); the total number of stops, length of traverse or area examined; the calculated values. Identification - List minerals and components identified; include descriptions of features of note (texture, grading, secondary deposits).

The field size (mm) or nominal magnification (Table 5) must be listed with every photomicrograph. Additionally, a measurement bar may be included in the image. XRD

Report will include: instrumental make and type, parameters; peak identification results along with peak table (plots must be accompanied by peak table); method of sample preparation (ground, acid digested and ground etc.)

SEM-EDS/BSE

Report will include instrumental make and type, parameters; element identification; photomigrographs must include micron measurement bar. Quantitative work must report total number of points analyzed.

Table 4: Secondary Deposits

Compounds/minerals	Occurence	Comments
Calcium carbonate (CaCO ₃); calcite (7, 8)	Common in all	White or gray, fine grained masses or coatings. Present in the paste,
	paste types	voids fractures, cracks and exposed surfaces. Very common.
Calcium carbonate (CaCO ₃); vaterite $(3,4)$	Common	Spherulitic, form-birefringet
Calcium carbonate (CaCO3); aragonite	Rare in Portland	Minute, white prisms or needles in voids and fractures
	type cements.	
6-calcium aluminate trisulfate-32 hydrate	Common in	
${Ca_6[Al(OH_6)]_2 \bullet 24H_2O}(SO_4)_3 \bullet H_2O;$ ettringite	Portland type	
(3,4)	cements	
Calcium sulfate dihydrate (CaSO ₄ •2H ₂ O); gypsum	Unusual	White to colorless crystals in voids, the paste or along surface of
(3,4)		aggregate particles. Commonly found in cementitious materials affected
		by sulfates or sea water.
Calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH) ₂); portlandite (3,4)	Very common	White to colorless, hexagonal plates or tablets. Present in the paste,
		fractures and voids.
Magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH) ₂); brucite (3,4)	Unusual	White to yellow, fme grained encrustations and fillings. Found in
		cementitious materials exposed to seawater.
	T	

Compound/ Mineral	Test methods	Optical Properties	Comments
Tricalcium silicate, C ₃ S (3CaO•SiO ₂), alite (4,9, 10)	Thin section (20-25 μm), reflected light, XRD (may be present in amounts below instrument detection limits	Biaxial, α=1.716-1.720 γ=1.722-1.724	Colorless lath, table-like or equant. Crystals are usually six sided in thin section. Alite is rare in adequately cured Portland type cement except as crystals embedded in the matrix of latge, unhydrated clinker particles
β-dicalcium silicate, larnite, C_2S (2CaO•SiO ₂), belite (4, 5, 6)	Thin section (20-25 μm), reflected light, XRD (may be present in amounts below instrument detection limits)	Uniaxial, α=1.717 β=1.722 γ=1.736	Rounded grains often in clusters or nests. Color may be colorless or pale yellow through amber depending on substitution and kiln conditions.
Tricalcium aluminate, alkali aluminate, C_3A (3CaO•Al ₂ O ₃) (4,5,6)	Thin section (20-25 µm), reflected light, XRD (may be present in amounts below instrument detection limits)	Isometric, <i>n</i> =1.710	Cubic form usually fills interstices between belite and femte crystals.
Ferrite phases, brownmillerite, C ₄ AF (4CaO•Al ₂ O ₃ •Fe ₂ O ₃) (4,5,6)	Thin section (20-25 pm), reflected light, XRD (may be present in amounts below instrument detection limits)	biaxial, α=1.98 β=2.05 γ=2.08	Brown to yellow color. Form dependent on cooling rate, varies from bladed, prismatic, dendritic, fibrous, massive or infilling. Common in paste where clinker grains have failed to hydrate due to large size or low water content.
Calcium silicate hydrate (C-S-H), tobermorite gel (4)	Thin section (20-25 μm), reflected light, SEM	Transparent, colored, isotropic amorphous gel	Indefinite mass infilling space and surrounding components like CH, remnant cement grains, pores and aggregates. May appear as hydration rims.

Table 5: List of Common Minerals and Compounds found in the Matrix or Paste

Compound1 Mineral	Test methods	Optical Properties	Comments
Calcium Hydroxide (Ca(OH) ₂), portlandite (4)	Thin section (20-25 µm), reflected light, XRD	Uniaxial, ε=1,545- 1.547 ω=1.573-1.575	White to colorless, hexagonal plates or tablets. Present in the paste, fractures and voids.
Dolomite (Ca(Mg,Fe,Mn)(CO ₃) ₂).(4)	Thin section (20-25 µm), reflected light, XRD	Uniaxial, ε=1.500- 1.526 ω=1.680-1.716	Fine to coarse grained, colorless to gray crystals in thin section. Raw material used for dolomitic limes.
Calcium Carbonate (CaCO ₃), calcite (4)	Thin section (20-25 µm), reflected light, XRD	Uniaxial, ε=1.486 ω=1.658	Raw component of Portland cement and lime based materiais. Found in carbonated areas due to the conversion of CH.
Pozzolana, natural	Thin section, XRD of acid insoluble residue	Various	Remnant grains may have reaction rims. Volcanic minerals see aggregate list)
Pozzolana, brick	Thin section	Various	Dark red-brown matrix with aggregate. Remnant grains may have reaction rims.

Test Method for Determining Historic Mortar Components

Table 6: Common Materials Found as Aggregates

Commund/Mineral	Test Methods	Comments
Timestone marble (CaCO ₂)	Thin section, XRD	Very common
Dunotons, march (acces)	Thin section, XRD	Very common
Rablengr Eablengr	Thin section, XRD	
i ciuspai dolomite	Thin section, XRD	
Clav	Thin section, XRD	
Ciu <i>j</i> Shale	Thin section, XRD	
Mica	Thin section, XRD	
Magnetite	Thin section, XRD	
chert	Thin section, XRD	
Granite	Thin section, XRD	
Gabbro (11)	Thin section, XRD	
Dishace (11)	Thin section, XRD	
Diorite (11)	Thin section, XRD	
Mafic minerals (11)	Thin section, XRD	
Iron flakes (9)	Thin section	Found in early (meso) portland type cements as an impurity from the iron bars in the kiln (9)
Old mortar (12)	Thin section	
Lime lumps (8, 12)	Thin section	Underburned limestone (core) .Only the exterior of the lump is calcined.
Charcoal(8, 13)	Thin section	Present as an impurity from the calcination process. May be deliberately added as a colorant (12)
Wood (12)	Thin section	
Oroanic material (hair, straw)	Thin section	Easily distinguished by thin section.
Brick	Thin section	Relic Grains. Dark red brown matrix + aggregate, may have reaction rims. Imparts a red or pink color to the cementitious materials.
Natural pozzolana (14)	Thin section, XRD of the acid insoluble residue	Relic grains (leucite, analcite, pyroxenes (augite, diopside), olivine, iron oxides, plagioclase)

STANDARD PRACTICE SUMMARY

- An overview of the steps to be followed.

Clearly define research goals and the nature of the analysis.

- Pre-Analysis Develop sampling strategy and determine sample size
- Remove Samples
- Visual Examination Low magnification
- Prepare sample specimens

Saw, consolidate, and prepare polished sections

Aggregate Determination

Acid Digestion - If the nature of the analysis is to simply match and grade the aggregate and, if that aggregate is acid insoluble, this technique may be used. The sample is to be crushed in a mortar and pestle. Diluted hydrochloric acid is then used to dissolve the carbonate paste. The contact between acidified solution and aggregate should be kept to a minimum. Filter with distilled water to neutralize the acid. The acid insoluble residue is then sieved through a series of geological sieves and reported as weight percent of the total (ASTM C295-92).

Section analysis - If the sample contains carbonate or otherwise soluble aggregate, or if a more detailed study of the aggregate is required, a polished section may be studied. Thin sections of $30 \,\mu\text{m}$ are useful for identifying minerals. Any of the approved modal analysis techniques - point counting, linear traverse or image analysis may be employed. These studies can give more detailed information on matrix and aggregate including grading, shape, texture. depth of carbonation etc.

Test Method for Determining Historic Mortar Components

XRD - useful in determining crystalline components. Minerals that are present in low amounts, less than 5% are often difficult to determine by this method. Acid digestion or mechanical crushing of a portion of the sample, followed by sieving or sorting to separate certain components may be used, if appropriate. Alternatively, microsampling techniques may be used. In this approach, two halves of a sample are used. One is polished and studied under a microscope to look for features of interest. The second have is then used to provide material for auxiliary techniques like XRD.

• Characterization of the Matrix

In order to study the paste itself, several techniques may be used. XRD may be used to determine the bulk components. Air voids, pozzolan and cement relic grain percentages are determined by modal analysis of polished section. Thin section analysis can be used to study the cement relic grains if the section is made thinner than the usual $30\mu m$ (20-25 μm).

The depth of carbonation should be evaluated

- by the study of a cross section and marking the transition zone of calcium carbonate to portllandite or
- 2. spray a dilute sollution of phenolphthalein over a freshly sawn surface.

The estimation of relic cement and pozzolan will give some indication of the hydraulic nature of the material. BEI in combination with modal analysis is to be used for estimation of the hydraulic material. This technique clearly differentiates phases present and areas of C-S-H gel are distinct. Note: This method has not yet been tested on weathered materials.

Report

Prepare a detailed report including sample sheets, research goals, techniques used and results, calculations, conclusions and photographs. Sources of error that could effect the interpretation must be listed. Common sources of error: heavily weathered samples, small sample size or number etc.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Theoretically, the classification of cementitious materials into their appropriate group types should be simple. There are some cases in which the sample very clearly belongs to a particular category, say Portland cement or a pure lime mortar. However, historic mortars and cements art: often complicated by the fact that different materials were used simultaneously or perhaps accidentally. A **pure** or "fat" lime mortar may have a sand aggregate that contains some hydraulic component. Portland cement may be mixed with lime that makes it appear similar to a hydraulic lime. Great care and experienced analysts must be used when interpreting the petrographic analyses of historic cementitious materials. Figure 6 lists some phases and textures that are useful in differentiating between the different cement pastes.

Test Method for Determining Historic Mortar Components

Thin and Polished Sections

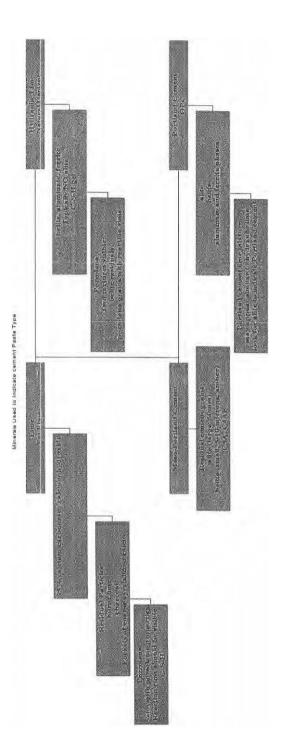


Figure 6 : Common phases used to indicate cement type

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A NEW PROTOCOL FOR THE ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC CEMENTITIOUS MATERIALS: INTERIM REPORT

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Abstract

Several different standards and protocols are used to analyze historic mortars and cements: the ASTM standards, techniques based on Jedrzejewska and those of E.B. Cliver. Tests are typically based on the acid digestion of the sample to determine the ratios of original components. There are also a number of instrumental techniques that have been reportedly used: XRD, SEM, porosimetric measurements, FT-IR identification of granulometric fractions and thin section analysis. A thorough comparison of existing methods and a critical review of their use within the area of historic mortar analysis are the first step of this study. This report will review and discuss those methods currently used and the direction of further research.

1. Introduction

The identification and quantification of the materials present within historic concrete is a difficult and complex issue. While there has been a tremendous amount of research within the area of modem Portland cements, the hulk of the research has been focused on the improvement of engineering properties or quality control. Rapid chemical investigation methods, like ASTM Cl14 (1), enable quick and inexpensive determination of the bulk oxide components of a cement paste. Unfortunately, the cementitious materials encountered within the preservation and conservation studies do not fall neatly into the ASTM categories. The original materials, proportions and fabrication methods vary greatly. Also, the effect of weathering and aging on the materials is, for the most part, unknown. Techniques that are appropriate for materials made from a narrow set of parameters, like modem cements, may not be pertinent for a group as diverse as historic cement and concrete.

The goal of this project is to create a standard protocol for the analysis of historic mortar, cement and concrete. The protocol will be developed from the existing techniques of

section analysis (both reflected and transmitted light), staining, macroscopic evaluation, X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), Scanning Electron Microscopy techniques (SEM-EDS and BSE). The samples used will be laboratory prepared from known constituents and proportions. The effect of specimen sampling on the statistical validity of the analysis will be studied. Additionally, sampling techniques and procedures will be evaluated. The current project is intended to be the first part of an ongoing study that will next tackle such supplementary techniques as FT-IR, thermal analysis and the effect of weathering.

The study of historic materials poses different problems than those of a modem industrial material. Therefore, one of the first goals of this project is to identify the motivating factors behind the analysis of historic cementitious materials. These factors may create specific research areas that require special techniques and sampling procedures. The four major areas of research identified are:

- 1. Original materials The identification of starting materials (such as the aggregate, nature of the lime, pozzolana etc.) and the estimation of their original ratios.
- 2. Deterioration/weathering The identification of deterioration and weathering mechanisms.
- 3. Technological studies The indirect identification and study of historic technology.
- **4.** Provenance The identification of the source of the original materials and relative chronology.

The next step, in any study combining new and historic technology, is to clarify the terminology. Terms used for a number of years often develop a common definition that may be vague or even incorrect. The very term "mortar" is ambiguous. To many, mortar means a compound, that holds blocks of masonry or bricks together. To others, it has a broader meaning of any historic cement and tine aggregate. The following definitions, listed in Table 1, will be adhered to for the purposes of this project (2). Materials used in this project are checked for compliance to the standard definitions. Please refer to the following table for terms and definitions used in this study.

2. A Review of the Literature

2.1 Identifying the components

A number of different approaches and analytical techniques have been used to study cements. Some of these, such as the ASTM wet chemical tests, have been directly applied to the study of historic cements (that is, the cementitious matrix). Stewart and Moore (3) carried out a thorough study of three chemical techniques on laboratory prepared fine concrete samples. Their results describe the failings of all three methods: ASTM (1), Jdrewzjewska (4), Cliver (5). Both the ASTM and Jdrewzajewska method were unable to differentiate between soluble silicates. The Cliver technique was found to be unreliable due to a flawed assumption based on the categorization of cement type by color. In fact, X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) is replacing the wet chemical techniques as a reliable method (6) for oxide analysis. Oxide analysis, while useful for complementary

Cement	A material for uniting other materials or articles. It is generally plastic at the time of application but hardens when in place (2). Includes all lime mortars and Portland cements. The matrix portion of any cementitious material or "neat" cement paste.
Concrete	A mixture of any cement type, sand and gravel or stone chips with water in varying proportions according to use (2). In this project, mortar and concrete are used interchangeably. That is, a concrete is a cement + aggregate. Types are differentiated by
Mortar	aggregate sizes (coarse vs. fme) and cement component. A pasty substance formed normally by the mixing of cement, sand and water, or cement, lime, sand and water in varying proportions. Used normally for the binding of brickwork or masonry (2).
Hydraulic	A cement which will harden under water (2).
cement	
Semi-	A cement that contains at least 10% of a potentially hydraulic
hydraulic	material. It does not set under water.
cement	
Non-	A cement that contains less than 10% of potentially hydraulic
hydraulic	materials. Also known as fat lime (95%+ pure lime).
cement	
Natural	Made by calcining natural mixtures of calcareous and argillaceous
Cement	materials. Examples are Roman cement and eminently hydraulic lime.
Lime	Limestone heated to at least 825°C to produce CaO (quicklime, caustic lime, unslaked lime)
Portland	Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) or Type 1.
cement	
cementitious	Ambiguous term for all things "cementitious" - lime based
material	cement, Portland cement, proto- and meso- cements, mortars,
	grouts etc.
Lime putty	Hydrated (slaked) and aged lime.

information, has been relegated to a secondary status for this study **as** it does not provide information on the mineral phases, interactions and microstructure that are responsible for imparting characteristic properties to cement.

The analysis of historic cementitious materials involves the study of three primary components: the aggregate, the binder or matrix and the hydraulic components. Other constituents, such as organic additives, have also been studied but will not be considered

for evaluation in this project. To date, chemical analyses and XRD have been the workhorses of historic concrete research. XRD is used to identify mineral phases within the concrete. The problem with XRD is that the phases of interest are usually swamped by the overwhelming presence of calcium carbonate. XRD carried out on the acid insoluble residue is often more useful but there is still the problem of dissolution of some components in the acid. Also, XRD is difficult to use for the study of phases present in amounts less than 5%.

2.1.1. The Aggregate

The aggregate can serve a number of different roles within the matrix. Different materials are used in order to modify the properties of the concrete. Perhaps the most common aggregate: is quartz, present as sand. A quartz-based aggregate does not interact chemically (to any great extent) with the cement paste. This type of aggregate is added to the mix to: counteract shrinkage, increase effective porosity, increase mechanical strength and act as filler (7). The separation and analysis of a pure quartz aggregate is relatively straightforward. There have been many studies (**8**, **9**, 10, 11, 12,) that have used the acid digestion technique. This method consists of an initial mechanical crushing of the cementitious material followed by the dissolution of the carbonate matrix in a dilute acid. The binder to aggregate **ratio** may then be determined by subtraction of the remaining weight from the total weight. The problem with this method, as outlined by Stewart (3), is that samples may contain components soluble in the acid other than the hinder. Hydraulic constituents are also acted on by the acids, as are raw clays. The aggregate may also be partially or wholly calcium carbonate, which may have been originally introduced as powdered marble or crushed lime from various sources.

Researchers have recognized these factors and a variety of approaches have been adopted by some to avoid these problems. Perhaps the most promising is the analysis of the thin section. Ciach (10) used acid digestion and losses on ignition to calculate carbonate contents as preliminary tests but relied on the percentage volume of aggregate to binder to be indirectly determined from polarized microscopy of the thin sections. Lindqvisr (13) used polarized light microscopy in combination with image analysis and 500-700 point counts to determine particle size distribution, and hinder - aggregate - dir void percentages.

Micrometric analysis is conducted using linear traverse or point counting methods (6). Volume proportions of cement paste, coarse aggregate, fine aggregate, air voids are determined. The original components are estimated from the volume proportions (6). One major problem is that aggregate particle size may be over or under estimated depending on particle shape and oblique or non-central sectioning. Another drawback to this type of technique is that it is slow and tedious. Image analysis, the digitizing and processing the image by a PC, is being employed to overcome laborious manual counting. This technique enables the analysis of large numbers of samples quickly and more easily than the traditional micrometric analysis. The problem in analyzing concrete

by the products available is that it is often difficult to obtain the amount of **contrast** necessary for the software to differentiate the phases present. However, it is theoretically feasible that an image analysis program could reliably identify cement phases, describe particleiaggregate rhape, particle size distribution etc.

2.1.2. The Binder and Hydraulic Materials

Perhaps the question most often asked of the hinder is to whether or not it is hydraulic. Pozzolana or unhydrated clinker relicts may be identified in thin section analysis during an aggregate study but these do not necessarily resolve the issue of the hydraulic components of the cement mahix. SEM-EDS and electron microprobe studies have been used to study the C-S-H gel (14, 15, 16) and carbonates (17). Typically, these methods are used to study small areas of interest but Steadman (18) employed EPMA measurements over 50-100 points over a polished surface to determine the calcium silicate ratios. Lewin (19) used SEM to identify mineral phases by crystal shape after finding that they were undetectable by XRD. The problem with SEM and EPMA studies is that they are subject to a number of both human and instrumental errors (20). The biggest human error is that micro-structural features are reported as characteristic when they are, in fact, minor. Using micromehic measuring techniques, such as point counting, over the surface may alleviate this.

Back Scattered Electron (BSE) analysis has been used to identify boundaries of the original cement grains in a 23 year old Portland cement paste and a meso-Portland cement paste (21). BSE was combined with image analysis software to determine the aggregate to binder ratio and other textural information (22). This method allowed for improved results in the analysis of compositional and textural features of cryptocrystalline binders. However, BSE suffers from the same human errors as SEM and the image analysis works well only for areas with high contrast.

Finally, a simple method for determining the depth of carbonation is to spray a **freshly** cut surface with phenolphthalein (23). This method is based on the solid acid or base characteristics that differentiate calcite from portlandite. The carbon dioxide reacts with Ca $(OH)_2$ to create CaCO₃ depending on the time, exposure conditions and concrete density. Calcium carbonate bas an effectively less base (more acid) nature and turns the indicator a dark violet red. The portlandite, with an effectively higher pH, is a light pink-red.

2.2 Dating, chronology, source identification and Technological Studies

Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) has been used to help identify the chronological sequence and relative dating of structures. ICP is used to determine the major and trace elements of a soluble sample. Carbonate structures retain certain elements (Co, Cs, Sr) and cement pastel: are reported to incorporate these elements into their structure during hydration (24). Therefore, carbonates coming from different sources should have different amounts of certain trace elements. Phillips (25) used ICP to determine the age

of a structure by comparing the elemental analysis to that of a quarry in operation from a known date. Vendrell-Saz (26) combined ICP and Atomic Absorption with clustered multivariate statistical analysis to determine relative structure dates. Historic documentation was used to compare unknowns with the result clusters for type grouping. The most obvious difficulty with this type of analysis lies with the application of appropriate sampling methodology. The number of samples, their state of preservation and past preservation interference are just some of the factors that may affect the results.

The study of historic technology perhaps began with Vicat (27) in **1837**. He subjected a number of historic Roman mortars to strength testing and found that they varied considerably. Malinowski ²⁸ studied Roman cements in aqueduct and tank linings with a combination approach that involved thin section, instrumental and chemical techniques. These studies found that the polishing techniques used by the Romans were primarily responsible for the success of the linings by inducing structural tightness.

Roy and Langton (29) used a variety of techniques to study ancient Greek and Roman plaster and concrete. Their primary interest was to study the technology that produced them and understand their resistance (response) to environmental exposure over the centuries. They concluded that both mineralogical and microstructural factors affected durability. An interesting area of their report concerned the study of the silicate structures by trimethylsilylation (TMS) (30). This method is based on the bonding of the trimethylsilanol to O groups of the cement silicates formed from an initial dissolution in acid. The degree of condensation of the poorly or non-crystalline silicates is then estimated by gas-liquid chromatographic analysis of the TMS derivatives. Sarkar and Roy (31) compared a laboratory prepared Portland cement paste to a 20 year old paste by this technique and found six anions present in both pastes that varied only in relative proportions: SiO_4^{4+} , $Si_2O_7^{6+}$, $Si_3O_9^{6+}$, $Si_3O_{10}^{8+}$, $Si_4O_{13}^{10+}$, $Si_5O_{15}^{10}$. Interestingly, no crystalline silicates or organic siloxane compounds containing $Si_4O_{13}^{10-}$ or $Si_5O_{15}^{10-}$ anions are known.

2.3 Weathering and Deterioration Mechanisms

The study of deterioration mechanisms is not within the scope of this work. However, the effects of weathering on the interpretation of analytical results are important factors to consider. The degree of carbonation will influence the study of C-S-H gel. As carbonation proceeds, carbon dioxide converts the gel to calcium carbonate and silica. Also, leaching of the C-S-H gel removes the calcium preferentially until about half of the original amount remains. After this point, calcium and silicon are leached equally until the gel is gone (20). The composition of C-S-H in Portland cements were studied by Rayment and Majumdar (32). The study began by assuming the C-S-H phases in hydrated cement pastes show extensive solid solution. The distribution of calcium, silicon, aluminum, sulfur, iron and magnesium in Portland cement pastes prepared in the laboratory were compared by arranging the atomic ratios by a number of designs. The minimum amount of error was always found when the elements were arranged as:

$$\frac{Ca + Mg}{Si + Al + S + Fe} \tag{1}$$

This ratio is found to give more accurate results than simple calcium to silicon ratios as it takes into account the elements that may play substitution roles within the gel matrix.

3. Towards a Standard Protocol

After reviewing the literature, it has become clear that greater emphasis must be placed on the sampling and statistical techniques. First of all, the condition of the cementitious material to he studied will have a tremendous influence on the results. Secondly, the rationale behind sample selection must be evaluated. Finally, the amount of the specimen analyzed and its sampling procedure must be considered. For example, are the point counting and image analysis techniques being applied over large enough areas to give any kind of statistical validity?

The current work of this project involves

- 1. Development of a sampling strategy along with standardized forms for each sample.
- 2. Investigate the ability of some techniques (transmitted and reflected light microscopy, SEM-EDS, XRD) to accurately describe the original components.
- 3. Create image analysis software tailored to the specific needs of the analysis of historic cementitious materials.
- 4. Develop a protocol specific to the analysis of historic cementitious materials.
- 5. Begin a database of analyses to be accessed by the World Wide Web.

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