

# Performance on Water Stability of Cement-Foamed Asphalt Cold Recycled Mixture

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**Abstract.** Through designing the mixture proportion of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixture combined with the water stability experiment, it shows that the addition of cement can obviously improve foamed asphalt mixture's water stability and the best cement admixture is between 1% ~ 2%; Using digital imaging microscope and SEM technology, the mechanism of increasing on the intensity of foamed asphalt mixture resulted by adding cement was analyzed. It revealed that the cement hydration products contained in the foamed asphalt mixture hydrolyzed into space mesh structure and wrapped up the aggregate particle, this is the main reason that the cement can enhance the mixture's intensity as well as the water stability. This research provides reference for cement admixture's formulation in the designing of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixture.

## 1 Introduction

By the end of 2016, the total number of highways in china was 130,000 kilometers. So there will be a large amount of recycled asphalt mixture in the road pavement renovation, renovation and conservation every year. If calculating by 12% of highway pavement need repair, there will be 2.2 million tons recycled asphalt mixture every year<sup>[1]</sup>. Asphalt cold recycling can be a good solution, which can make the old pavement materials reused and save 40%-50% of the total investment<sup>[2]</sup>. Foamed asphalt is the bituminous material that contains a large amount of evenly dispersed bubbles after expansion. In a special foaming device, the expansion occurs when the heat asphalt comes into contact with the water. Now, foamed asphalt is used as a regenerative agent for recycled RAP. When foamed asphalt comes into contact with the aggregate, it suddenly becomes millions of tiny particles and spreads on the surface of the fine aggregate especially particle size less than 0.075 mm<sup>[3,4]</sup>. This kind of the fine aggregate with foamed asphalt can be filled in the gap between the coarse aggregate and after mixing and compacting, the asphalt rubber paste is formed that make the mixture a certain cohesion and strength. In recent years, the cold regeneration technique of recycled waste road materials by foamed asphalt has been famous for its remarkable advantages in energy saving, environmental protection and economy<sup>[5,6,7]</sup>. The

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effect of foam asphalt cold regeneration is influenced by the amount of active filler such as cement. In this report, the influence factors of the stability performance of different cement foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixtures were studied by splitting strength test. Furthermore, using digital imaging microscope and SEM technology, we analyzed the mechanism of increasing on the intensity of foamed asphalt mixture resulted by the addition of cement.

## 2 Experiment

### 2.1 Raw materials

The recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) is from highway milling material in Wuhan, China. Through foaming experiment of Zhongtai AH-70 asphalt, the best foaming temperature is 160°C and water consumption is 2%, and the expansion ratio is 11 times and the half-life is 10s. Stone dust is 0 ~ 3mm limestone. The mine powder is limestone powder. Cement is P.O. 425 ordinary Portland cement from Huaxin cement factory, and table 1. is its chemical composition. Water is just general water.

**Table 1.** Chemical composition of cement.

Chemical composition	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CaO	MgO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	SO <sub>3</sub>	Ignition loss
Content /%	21.73	4.25	2.67	63.59	2.21	0.55	2.39	1.75

### 2.2 Specimen preparation and test methods

By comparing the particle size distribution of RAP with engineering design level gradation of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixture, the mixture gradation is determined. Foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixtures have five different cement compositions of 0%, 1%, 1.5%, 2%, 3%. The optimized amount of water used and the maximum dry density were determined by the compaction test, and the mixing water consumption is calculated. The impaction test was referring to the method in <Highway Engineering stable inorganic binder materials testing procedures> (JTG E 51-2009). The preparation of mixture standard Marshall specimens was refer to the methods in < Road engineering asphalt and asphalt mixture test procedure > (JTG 052-2000).

After demoulding, specimens kept in 40 °C ventilation oven by 72h curing. This curing method can simulate the condition after 10d actual pavement construction<sup>[8]</sup>. Splitting test: Specimens at 20 °C environment after 1.5 h do dry splitting test; Specimens at 20 °C water flooding after 24 h do wet splitting test. Using digital imaging microscope and SEM technology, we analyzed the mechanism of increasing on the intensity of foamed asphalt mixture resulted by the addition of cement.

## 3 Results and discussion

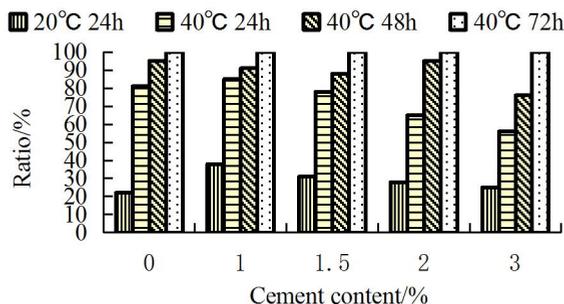
### 3.1 Effect of Portland cement on the foamed asphalt mixture

Under the condition of 3% foamed asphalt, Table 2. is the splitting strength of five different cement composition specimens on different curing conditions. A is specimen curing

condition after 24h 20°C. B, C and D are specimen curing conditions after 24h, 48h and 72h 40 °C .Under the condition of 3% foam asphalt, and based on the splitting strength of specimen that is kept in 40 °C ventilation oven by 72h, Fig. 2. is the percentage increase splitting strength of five different cement composition specimens on different curing conditions.

**Table 2.** Splitting strength of different cement composition specimens on different curing conditions.

Cement content /%	A splitting strength /MPa	B splitting strength /MPa	C splitting strength /MPa	D splitting strength /MPa	D wet splitting strength /MPa	D dry and wet splitting strength ratio /%
0	0.080	0.293	0.344	0.361	0.216	59.8
1	0.157	0.350	0.375	0.412	0.309	75.1
1.5	0.130	0.328	0.370	0.420	0.329	78.4
2	0.143	0.333	0.486	0.512	0.416	81.2
3	0.120	0.268	0.364	0.479	0.397	82.9

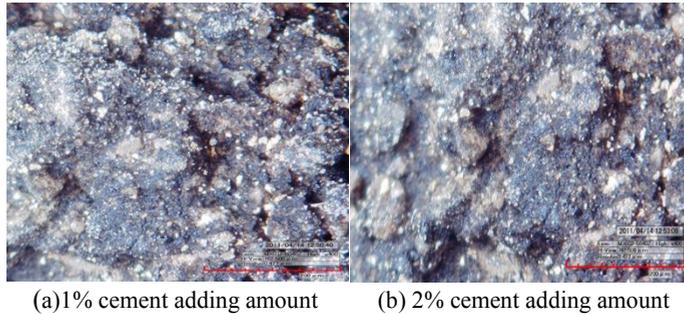


**Fig.1.** Increase splitting strength ratio of five different cement composition specimens on different curing conditions.

Based on the splitting strength of specimen that is kept in 40 °C ventilation oven by 72h, Fig. 1. shows that after 24 h at room temperature curing, the increase splitting strength ratio of the mixture specimen without adding cement is 22%, and the increase splitting strength ratio of the mixture specimens that adding cement is about 30%. It shows that splitting strength of different cement composition mixtures is lower. After 42h at 40 °C temperature curing, the increase splitting strength ratio of the mixture specimens that adding 1%~2% cement is about 80%, but the increase splitting strength ratio of the mixture specimens that adding 3% cement is only 55%. It shows that early curing stage for foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixtures of 1%~2% cement adding amount has rapid growth splitting strength and it is helpful to shorten the construction period of the road. Table 2. shows that dry and ret splitting strength ratio of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixtures of 1% cement adding amount is 75.1% that is more than 59.8% of none cement adding mixture. So, adding cement can obviously improve the water stability of foam asphalt mixture. When cement adding amount is 3%, dry and ret splitting strength ratio is 82.9% that is not much higher than 1% cement adding mixture. Based on engineering economy and dry and ret splitting strength ratio not less than 75% which is the rule for the regeneration of road asphalt pavement, the best cement admixture of this foamed asphalt cold recycled mixture is between 1% ~ 2%.

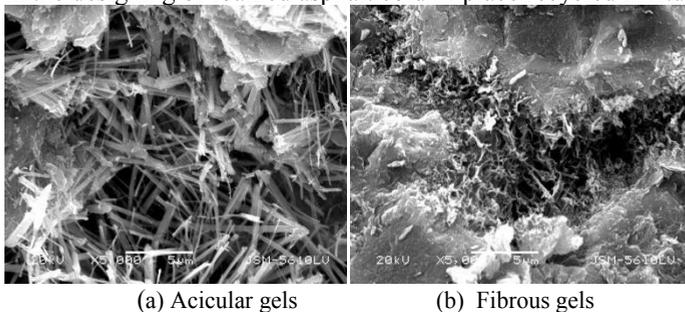
### 3.2 Mechanism

Fig. 2(a). is the digital imaging microscope images for 1% cement adding amount Marshall specimen surface. Fig. 2(b). is the digital imaging microscope images for 2% cement adding amount Marshall specimen surface. The figure shows that 1% cement adding amount Marshall specimens surface accumulation and crowding are compact and porosity is lower than 0% cement adding amount one. The greater porosity, the permeability is increasing. The moisture content is easy to infiltrate the interface of asphalt and the aggregate, and exchange caking property causing water damage. As a result, the stability of the mixture is reduced.



**Fig.2.** Digital imaging microscope images of the mixture

After the hydration of the cement in cold cycling mixture, some of the hydration products  $C_4AH_{13}$  react with gypsum:  $C_4AH_{13} + 3\overline{CSH_2} + 14H = AFt + CH$ . The needle bar AFt will be filled space within the mix and form a network structure that increased mixture strength. Others hydration products C-S-H coagulation forms a fibrous structure that further increased mixture strength [9]. Hydration products develop to the surrounding space of the cement particles, criss-cross, and gradually fill the mix of all the capillary space. Thereby it forms a uniform, dense, pore closed the whole structure, and enhances the overall strength of the mixture of water and anti-damaging [10]. It is clear that acicular and fibrous gels are interwoven overlapping to form a network structure in Fig. 3. Thus, the cement hydration products contained in the foamed asphalt mixture hydrolyzed into space mesh structure and wrapped up the aggregate particle. It is the main reason that the cement can enhance the mixture's intensity as well as the water stability. The amount of cement is not the higher the better. The mixture of high cement adding is easy to produce severe shrinkage cracks and it leads to lower strength. This research provides reference for cement admixture's formulation in the designing of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixture.



**Fig.3.** SEM images for hydration products of the mixture

## 4 Conclusions

Addition of cement can obviously improve foamed asphalt mixture's water stability and the best cement admixture of this foamed asphalt cold recycled mixture is between 1% ~ 2%. Early curing stage for mixtures of 1%~2% cement adding amount has rapid growth splitting strength and it is helpful to shorten the construction period of the road. The cement hydration products contained in the foamed asphalt mixture hydrolyzed into space mesh structure and wrapped up the aggregate particle. It is the main reason that the cement can enhance the mixture's intensity as well as the water stability. But the amount of cement should be controlled in the appropriate range. This research provides reference for cement admixture's formulation in the designing of foamed asphalt cold in-place recycled mixture.

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