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#### Citation for published version:

Myers, RJ, Geng, G, Li, J, Rodriguez, ED, da Rosa, P, Kirchheim, AP & Monteiro, PJM 2017, 'Solution chemistry of cubic and orthorhombic tricalcium aluminate hydration' Cement and Concrete Research, vol. 100, pp. 176-185. DOI: 10.1016/j.cemconres.2017.06.008

#### Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

10.1016/j.cemconres.2017.06.008

#### Link:

Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

**Document Version:** Peer reviewed version

Published In: Cement and Concrete Research

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#### **Supporting information for:**

#### Solution chemistry of cubic and orthorhombic tricalcium aluminate hydration

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#### Appendix A

#### X-ray fluorescence

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) measurements were performed on a Philips PW2400 Wavelength-Dispersive XRF machine. The estimated absolute error per  $Na_{2x}Ca_{3-x}Al_2O_6$  unit is  $\leq \pm 0.09$  mol Ca,  $\leq \pm 0.01$  mol Na and  $\leq \pm 0.02$  mol Al.

#### X-ray diffraction

X-ray diffractograms measured for the solid precursors used here are shown in Figure A1.



Figure A1. X-ray diffractograms of (A) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_1, (B) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (C) orth-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (D) gypsum\_1, and (E) gypsum\_2. C = cubic C<sub>3</sub>A (PDF# 01-070-0839), O = orth-C<sub>3</sub>A (PDF# 01-070-0859), K = katoite (PDF# 00-024-0217), P = portlandite (PDF# 01-072-0156), G = gypsum (PDF# 01-070-0982) and h = hemihydrate (PDF# 01-081-1848).

#### Thermogravimetric analysis

The results from thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the precursor solids, performed on a Hitachi STA7300 operated at a heating rate of 20°C/minute up to 1000°C under an  $N_{2 (g)}$  atmosphere, are shown in Figure A2.



Figure A2. TGA of (A) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_1, (B) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (C) orth-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (D) gypsum\_1, and (E) gypsum\_2. The labels <sup>†</sup> and <sup>‡</sup> indicate that the Al(OH)<sub>3</sub> is amorphous by conventional XRD and mass loss from water in poorly crystalline calcium aluminate hydrates, respectively. Minute is abbreviated as min.

#### Particle size distribution

Particle size distributions for the solid precursors used here are shown in Figure A3.



Figure A3. Particle size distributions of (A) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_1, (B) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (C) orth-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2, (D) gypsum\_1, and (E) gypsum\_2.

#### **Appendix B**

TGA results for orth- and cub-C<sub>3</sub>A systems hydrated in water for 4 minutes are shown in Figure B1.



Figure B1. TGA results of (A) orth-C<sub>3</sub>A\_2 and (B) cub-C<sub>3</sub>A\_1 hydrated in water for 4 minutes, and (C) orth-C3A\_2 and gypsum\_2 hydrated in water for 8 minutes. The labels <sup>†</sup>, <sup>‡</sup> and <sup>\*</sup> indicate that the Al(OH)<sub>3</sub> is amorphous by conventional XRD, mass loss from water in poorly crystalline calcium aluminate hydrates, and C<sub>4</sub>AC̄H<sub>11</sub>, respectively. Mass loss from a small amount of C<sub>4</sub>AC̄H<sub>11</sub> may also be present in (C). Minute is abbreviated as min.

#### Appendix C

Thermodynamic properties of the aqueous complexes and solid phases used in GEM-Selektor v.3 software to calculate  $SI^{eff}$  and  $K_{s0}$  values are shown in Tables C1-C3.

Table C1: Standard partial molal thermodynamic properties of the aqueous complexes used in the thermodynamic modelling calculations. The reference state is unit activity in a hypothetical one molal solution referenced to infinite dilution.

Species	V° (cm³/mol)	$\Delta_{\rm f} {\rm H}^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)	$\Delta_{\rm f} {\rm G}^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)	S° (J/mol.K)	Cp° (J/mol.K)	Reference
$AlSO_4^+$	-6.0	-1422.7	-1250.4	-172.4	-204.0	[1]
AlSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	31.1	-2338.4	-2006.3	-135.5	-268.4	[1]
$\mathrm{Al}^{3+}$	-45.2	-530.6	-483.7	-325.1	-128.7	[2]
$AlO^{+} (+ H_2O = Al(OH)_2^{+})$	0.3	-713.6	-660.4	-113.0	-125.1	[2]
$AlO_{2}^{-} (+ 2H_{2}O = Al(OH)_{4}^{-})$	9.5	-925.6	-827.5	-30.2	-49.0	[2]
$AlOOH^{o} (+ 2H_2O = Al(OH)_3^{o})$	13.0	-947.1	-864.3	20.9	-209.2	[2]
AlOH <sup>2+</sup>	-2.7	-767.3	-692.6	-184.9	56.0	[2]
$\mathrm{CaSO_4^0}$	4.7	-1448.4	-1310.4	20.9	-104.6	[1,3]
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	-18.4	-543.1	-552.8	-56.5	-30.9	[2]
$CaOH^+$	5.8	-751.6	-717.0	28.0	6.0	[2]
$NaSO_4^-$	18.6	-1146.7	-1010.3	101.8	-30.1	[1]
Na <sup>+</sup>	-1.2	-240.3	-261.9	58.4	38.1	[2]
$NaOH^0$	3.5	-470.1	-418.1	44.8	-13.4	[2]
${ m H_2}^0$	25.3	-4.0	17.7	57.7	166.9	[4]
${f N_2}^0$	33.4	-10.4	18.2	95.8	234.2	[4]
${\mathbf O_2}^0$	30.5	-12.2	16.4	109.0	234.1	[4]
$S_2O_3^{2-}$	27.6	-649.9	-520.0	66.9	-238.5	[2]
HSO <sub>3</sub> -	33.0	-627.7	-529.1	139.7	-5.4	[2]
$\mathbf{SO}_3^{2-}$	-4.1	-636.9	-487.9	-29.3	-281.0	[2]
HSO4 <sup>-</sup>	34.8	-889.2	-755.8	125.5	22.7	[2]
SO4 <sup>2-</sup>	12.9	-909.7	-744.5	18.8	-266.1	[2]
$H_2S^0$	35.0	-39.0	-27.9	125.5	179.2	[4]
HS⁻	20.2	-16.2	12.0	68.2	-93.9	[2]
S <sup>2-</sup>	0	-16.2	120.4	-295.6	-93.9	[1]
OH	-4.7	-230.0	-157.3	-10.7	-136.3	[2]
$\mathrm{H}^+$	0	0	0	0	0	[2]
$H_2O^0$	18.1	-285.9	-237.2	69.9	75.4	[5]

Phase	V°	$\Delta_{\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{H}^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{G}^{\circ}$	S°	Cp°	Reference
	(cm <sup>3</sup> /mol)	(kJ/mol)	(kJ/mol)	(J/mol.K)	(J/mol.K)	
Cub-C <sub>3</sub> A	89.2	-3560.6	-3382.3	205.4	209.4	[6-8]
Gypsum	74.7	-2023.4	-1797.8	193.8	186.2	[1,9]
Hemihydrate	61.7	-1575.3	-1436.3	134.3	124.1	[10]
$C_4AH_{19}$	370.1	-10018	-8749.9	1120	1382	[11]
$C_2AH_{7.5}$	179.7	-5277.5	-4695.5	450	535.9	[11]
Katoite	149.7	-5537.3	-5008.2	421.7	445.6	[11]
$C_4A\overline{S}H_{12}$	309.0	-8750	-7778.5	821.0	942.4	[7,12]
Ettringite	707.0	-17535	-15206	1900	2174.4	[7,12]
Portlandite	33.1	-984.7	-897.0	83.4	87.5	[1,9]
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> AH <sub>3</sub> (microcrystalline)	32.0	-1265.3	-1148.4	140.0	93.1	[11]

Table C2: Standard partial molar thermodynamic properties of the solid phases used in the thermodynamic modelling calculations. The reference state is 298.15 K and 1 bar.

Table C3: Reactions and  $K_{s0}$  values of the solid phases used in the thermodynamic modelling calculations.

Phase	Reaction	log <sub>10</sub> (K <sub>s0</sub> )	Reference
Cub-C <sub>3</sub> A	$Ca_3Al_2O_6 + 2H_2O \iff 3Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_2^- + 4OH^-$	15.01*	[6-8]
Gypsum	$CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O \longleftrightarrow Ca^{2+} + SO_4^{2-} + 2H_2O$	-4.581	[1,9]
Hemihydrate	$CaSO_4 \cdot 0.5H_2O \longleftrightarrow Ca^{2+} + SO_4^{2-} + 0.5H_2O$	-3.59	[10]
C <sub>4</sub> AH <sub>19</sub>	$Ca_{4}Al_{2}(OH)_{14} \cdot 12H_{2}O  4Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_{2}^{-} + 6OH^{-} + 16H_{2}O$	-25.45	[11]
C <sub>2</sub> AH <sub>7.5</sub>	$Ca_{2}Al_{2}(OH)_{10} \cdot 2.5H_{2}O  2Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_{2}^{-} + 2OH^{-} + 2H_{2}O$	-13.80	[11]
Katoite	$Ca_{3}Al_{2}(OH)_{12} \xleftarrow{3} 3Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_{2}^{-} + 4OH^{-} + 2H_{2}O$	-20.50	[11]
$C_4 A \overline{S} H_{12}$	$Ca_{4}Al_{2}(SO_{4})(OH)_{12} \cdot 6H_{2}O  4Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_{2}^{-} + SO_{4}^{2-} + 4OH^{-} + 10H_{2}O$	-29.26	[7,12]
Ettringite	$Ca_{6}Al_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{12} \cdot 26H_{2}O  6Ca^{2+} + 2AlO_{2}^{-} + 3SO_{4}^{2-} + 4OH^{-} + 30H_{2}O$	-44.9	[7,12]
Portlandite	$Ca(OH)_2 \longrightarrow Ca^{2+} + 2OH^{-}$	-5.20	[1,9]
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> AH <sub>3</sub> (microcrystalline)	$Al(OH)_3 + OH^- \longrightarrow AlO_2^- + 2H_2O$	-0.67	[11]

\* The  $K_{s0}$  value for cub-C<sub>3</sub>A was calculated here using the referenced data.

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