

Properties and structural behavior of concrete containing fine sand contaminated with light crude oil

Rajab Abousnina^{ab*}, Allan Manalo^a, Weena Lokuge^a, and Khalifa Saif Al-Jabri^b

There is no conflict of interest

Tables

Table 1: Sieve analysis of coarse aggregates

<i>Sieve size</i>	<i>% Weight retain</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>	<i>% Passing</i>
19 mm	0	0	100
9.5 mm	4.19	4.19	95.81
4.75 mm	91.34	95.53	4.47
2.36 mm	3.53	99.06	0.94
1.18 mm	0.52	99.58	0.42
600 µm	0.11	99.69	0.31
300 µm	0.06	99.75	0.25
150 µm	0.06	99.81	0.19
75 µm	0.12	99.93	0.07
Pan	0.07	100	0

Table 2: Comparison between light crude oil and Fork w2.5 Motorcycle oil

<i>Specifications</i>	<i>Light crude oil</i>	<i>Fork w2.5 Motorcycle oils</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
Density (kg/L)	0.825	0.827	
Viscosity (mm ² /s)	5.96	6.74	[23, 24]
Temperature (°C)	40	40	

Table 3: Tests conducted and specimen's details

<i>Type of test</i>	<i>Crude oil content %</i>	<i>Specimen size (mm)</i>	<i>Number of tests</i>	<i>Test time days</i>
Compressive strength	0,1,2,6,10 and 20	100 ×200	18	28
Tensile strength	0,1,2,6,10 and 20	100 ×200	18	28
Bond slip	0,1,2,6,10 and 20	150 x 150 x 300	18	28
Beam	0 and 6	100 x 250 x 1400	2	28

Table 4 ANOVA results for main and interaction effects

<i>Source</i>	<i>Sum of squares</i>	<i>Degree of freedom</i>	<i>Mean squares</i>	<i>F-statistics</i>	<i>p-values</i>
Light crude oil	934.217	5	186.8	326.5	2.19×10^{-12}

Table 5: shows four theoretical bond strength data calculated from the four different equations.

<i>Crude oil content %</i>	<i>Bond stress (Mpa)</i>	<i>Wu and Zhao Model [43]</i>	<i>Eligehuasen et al. Model [45]</i>	<i>et Esfahani et al. Model [46]</i>	<i>Harajli and Ahmad Model [42]</i>
		Bond strength			
0	7.72	7.06	6.45	9.67	8.05
1	8.05	7.21	6.58	9.86	8.22
2	7.59	6.67	6.09	9.13	7.61
6	7.41	6.09	5.56	8.33	6.94
10	5.15	5.30	4.84	7.25	6.04
20	1.98	3.11	2.84	4.25	3.54

Figures

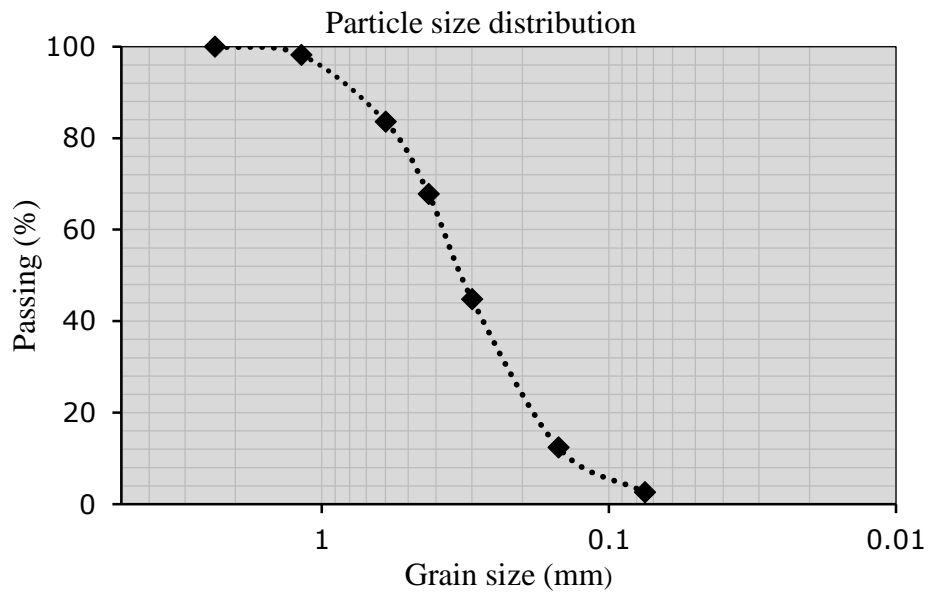


Figure 1: Particle size distribution curve of the sand



Figure 2 Contaminated sand with different percentages of oil (0%-20%)



Figure 3: Bond-slip specimens

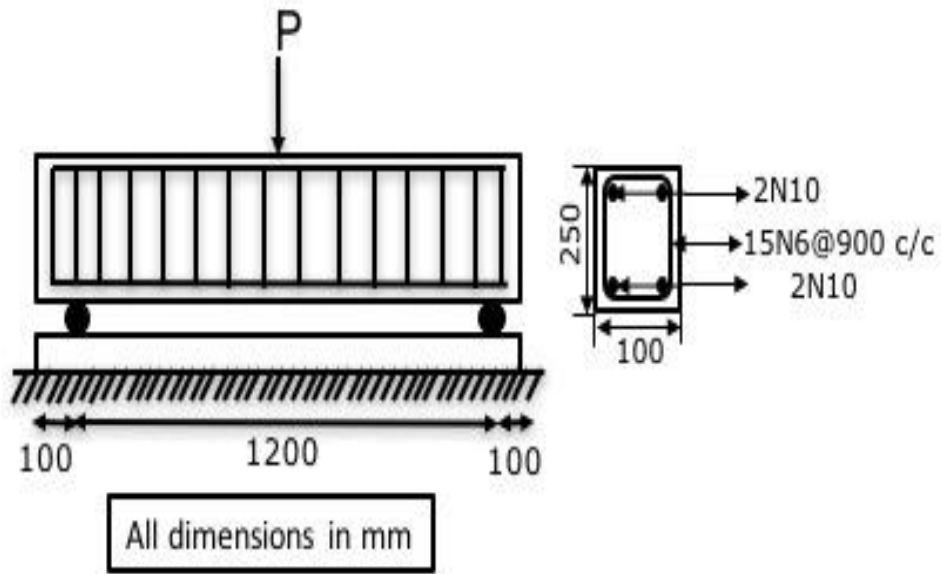


Figure 4: Beam reinforcement details

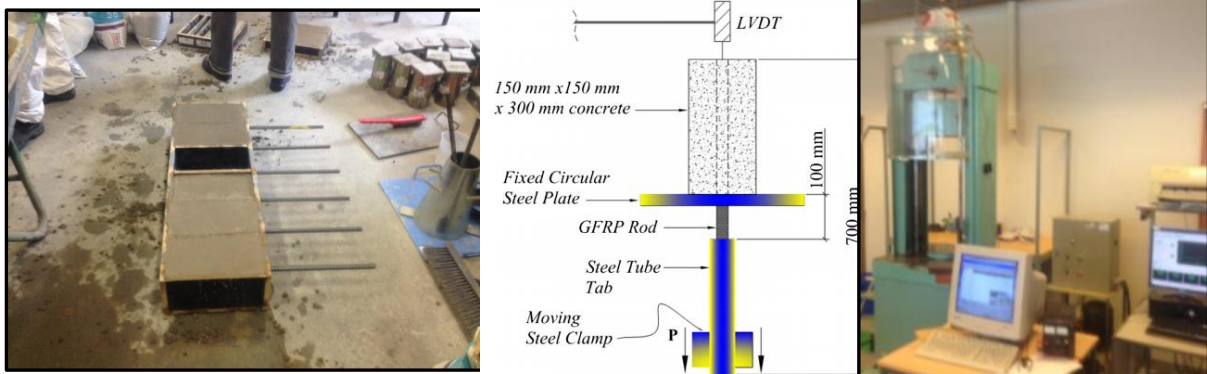


Figure 5: Direct pull-out test (ACI 440.3R-04)



Figure 6: SANS testing machine

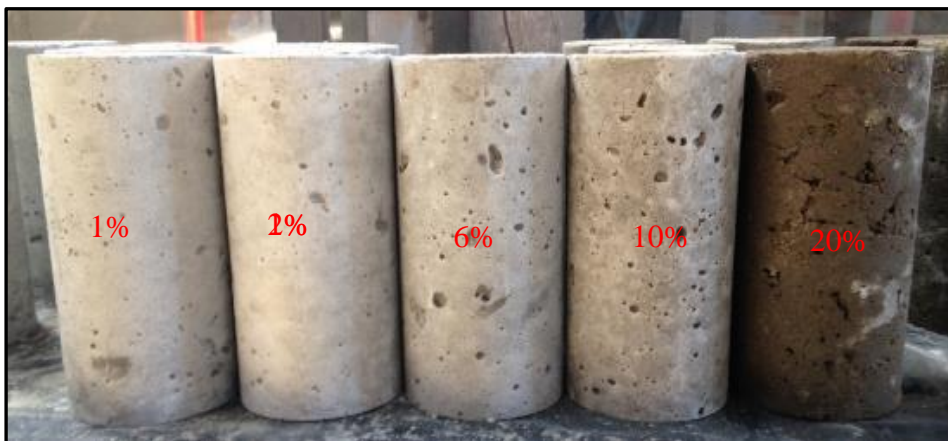


Figure 7 Surface voids of concrete with different levels of crude oil contamination

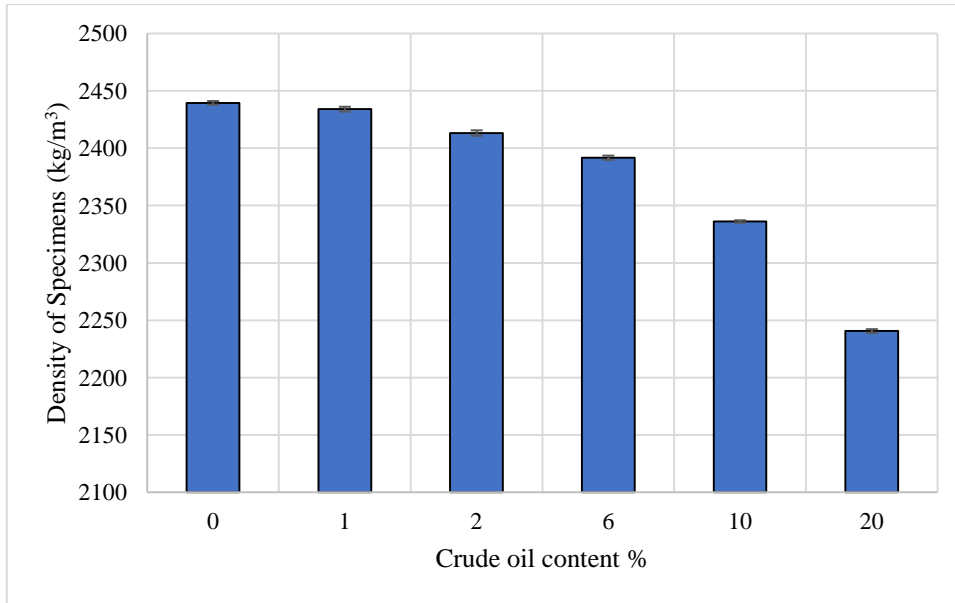


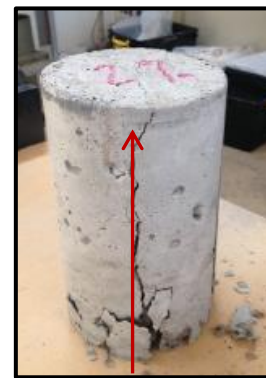
Figure 8 Shows the Density of specimens with varied oil content



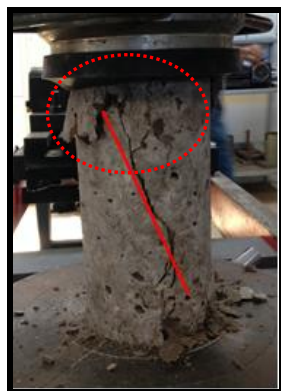
Splitting with fracture conically
0%



Splitting failure



Splitting failure
6%



(Shear failure) with fracture conically
10%



20%

Figure 9 Failure modes of specimens containing different crude oil content. (splitting shear failures with and without fracture)

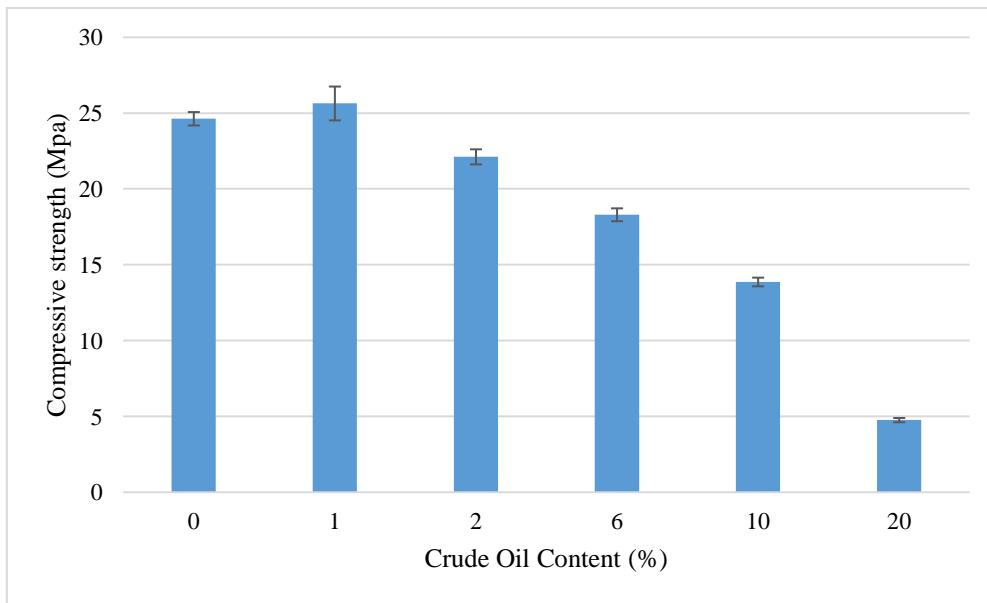



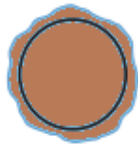


Figure 10 Average compressive strength of specimens with different crude oil content

State	Total saturation	Crude oil content (%)
Uncontaminated aggregate	None	 0%
Aggregate partially coated by crude oil	Less than potential absorption	 0.5%-2%
Aggregate coated by crude oil	Equal to potential absorption	 4%-6%

Aggregate saturated by crude oil
“Saturation status”



Greater than absorption

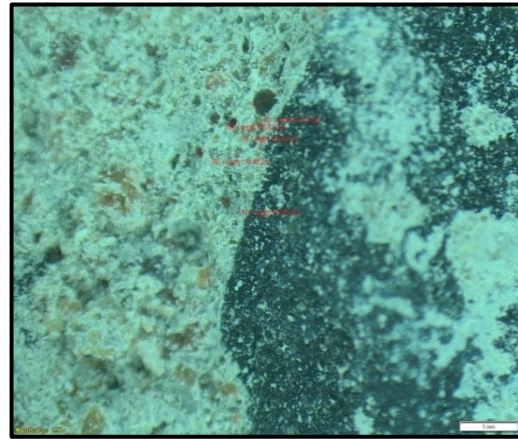


10%-20%

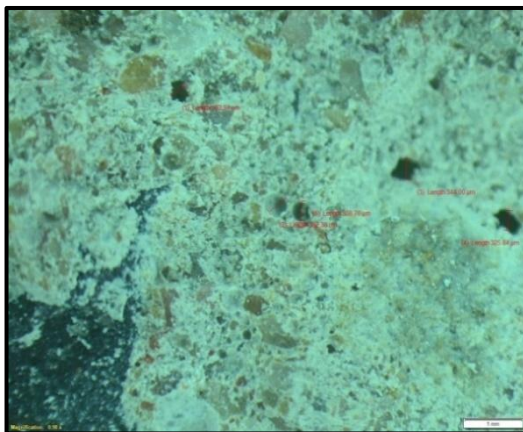
Figure 11 Moisture conditions of aggregate (sand, coarse) compared to that observed at a high level of crude oil content (10% and 20%)



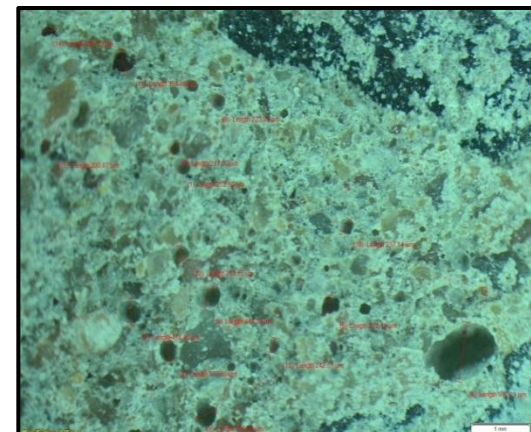
(a) 0% (average pore diameter: 454 μ m)



(b) 1% (average pore diameter: 368 μ m)



(c) 2% (average pore diameter: 446 μ m)



(d) 6% (average pore diameter: 500 μ m)

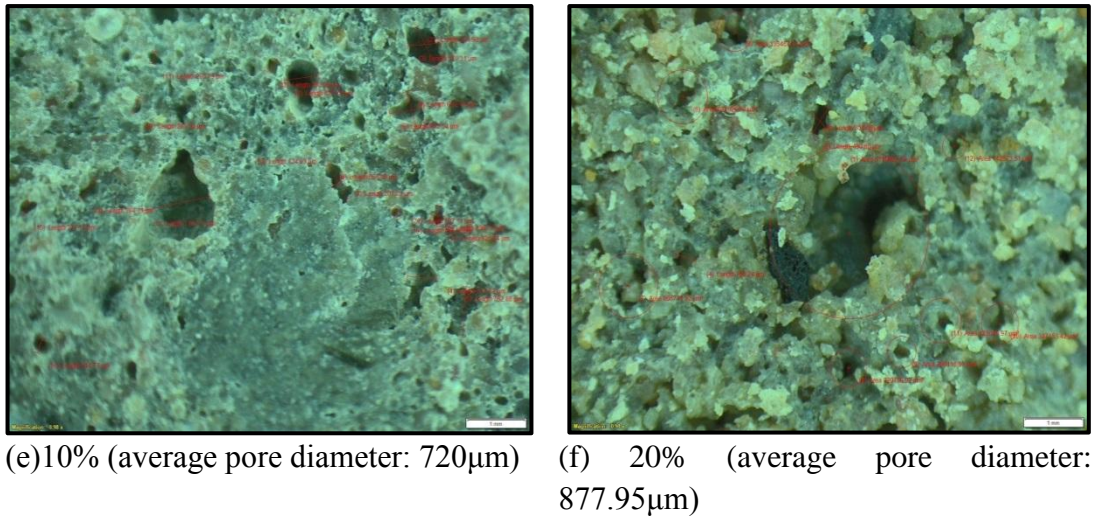
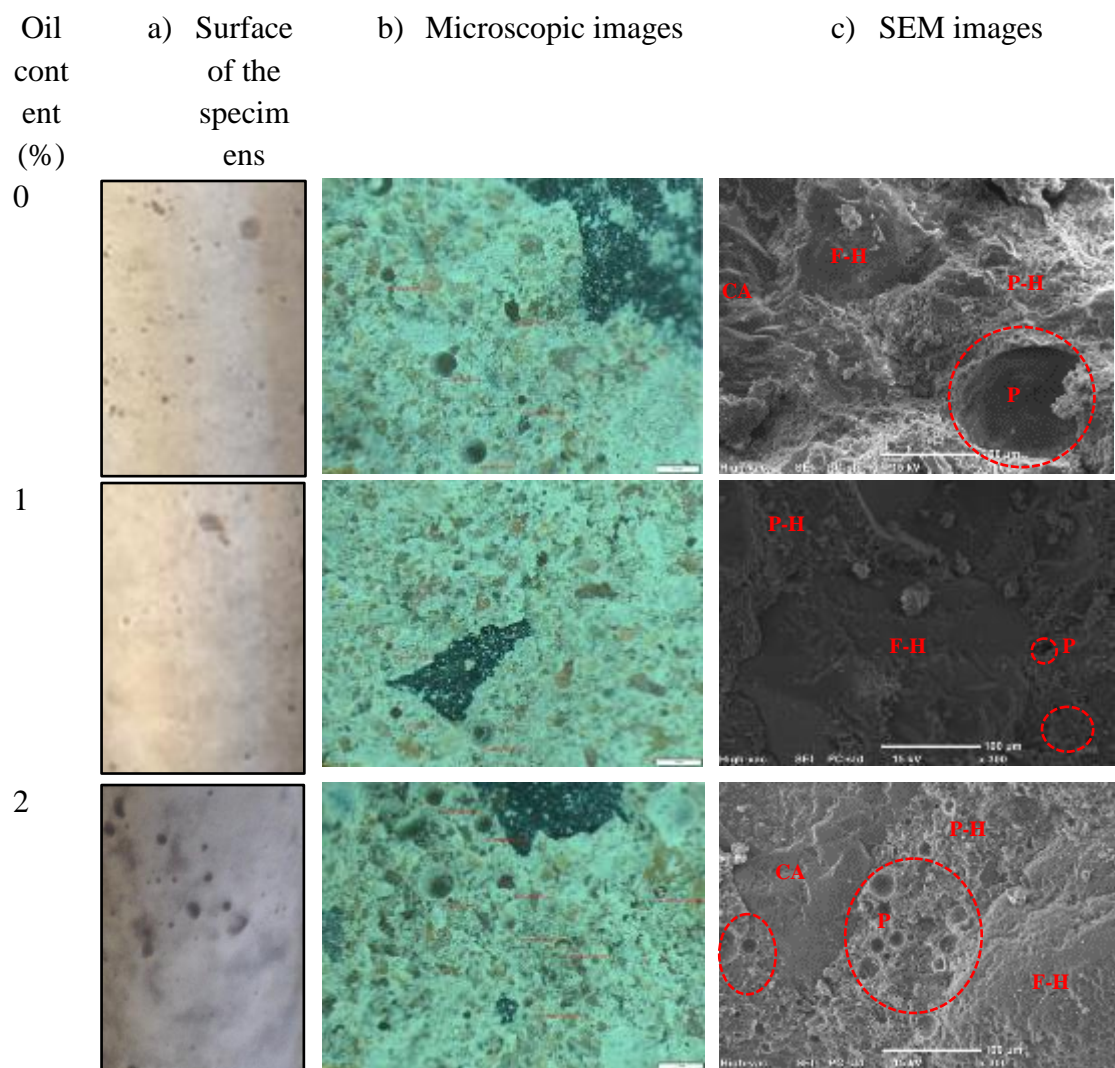


Figure 12 Pore size diameter of concrete with light crude oil contamination



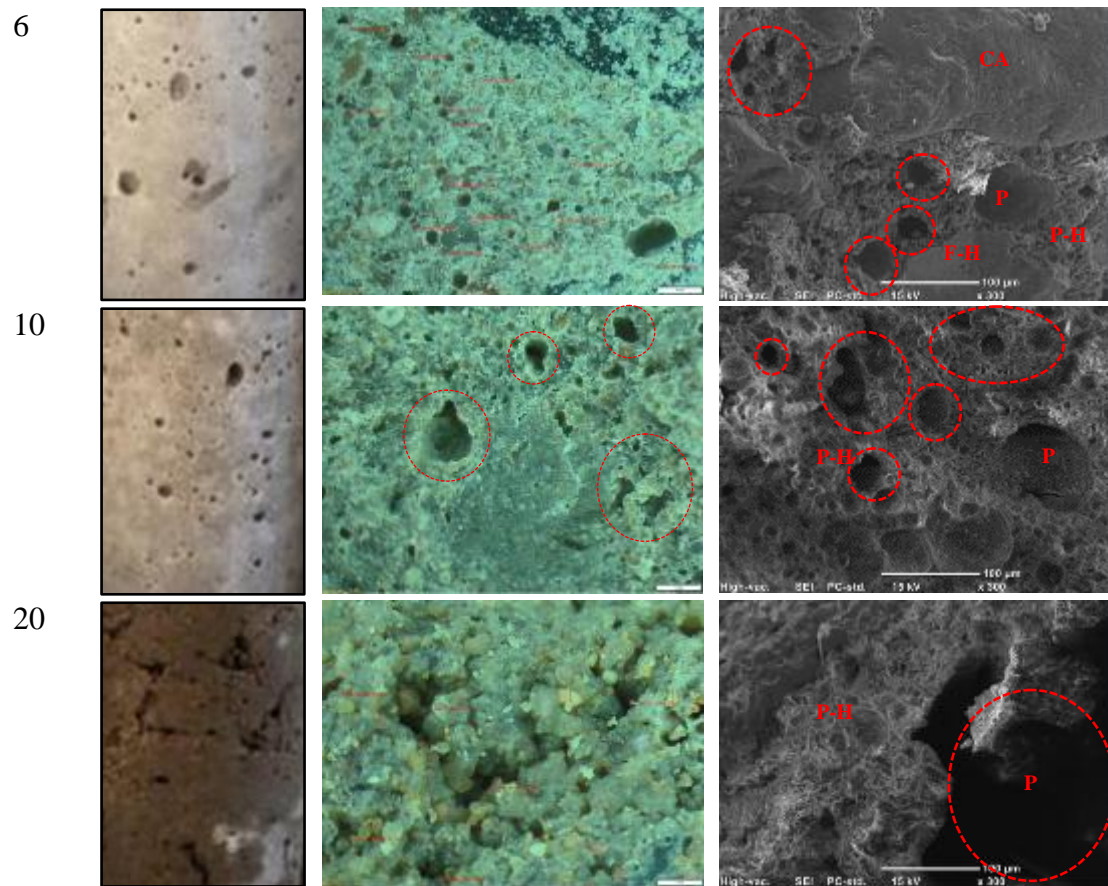
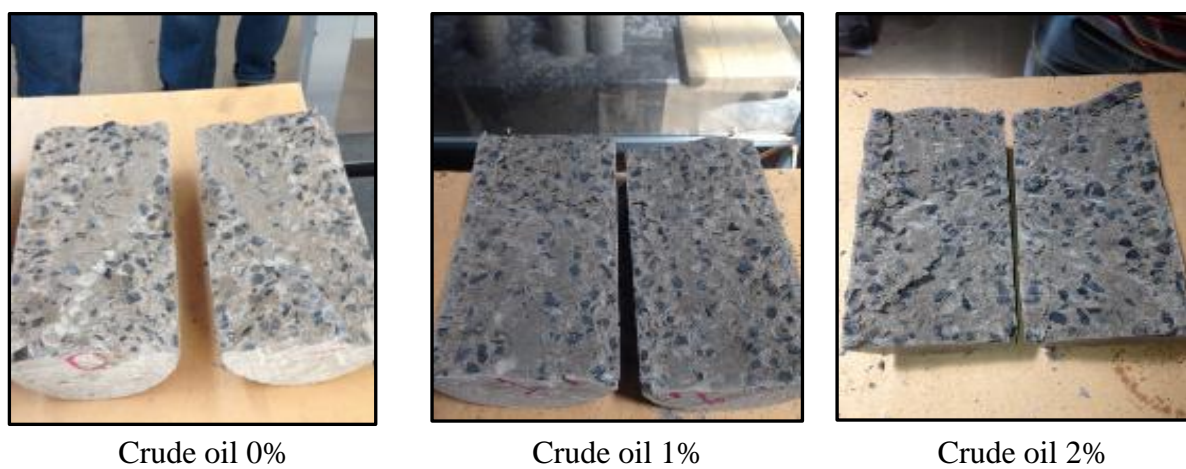


Figure 13 Porosity of the specimens with different crude oil content through visual observation, microscopic images and SEM



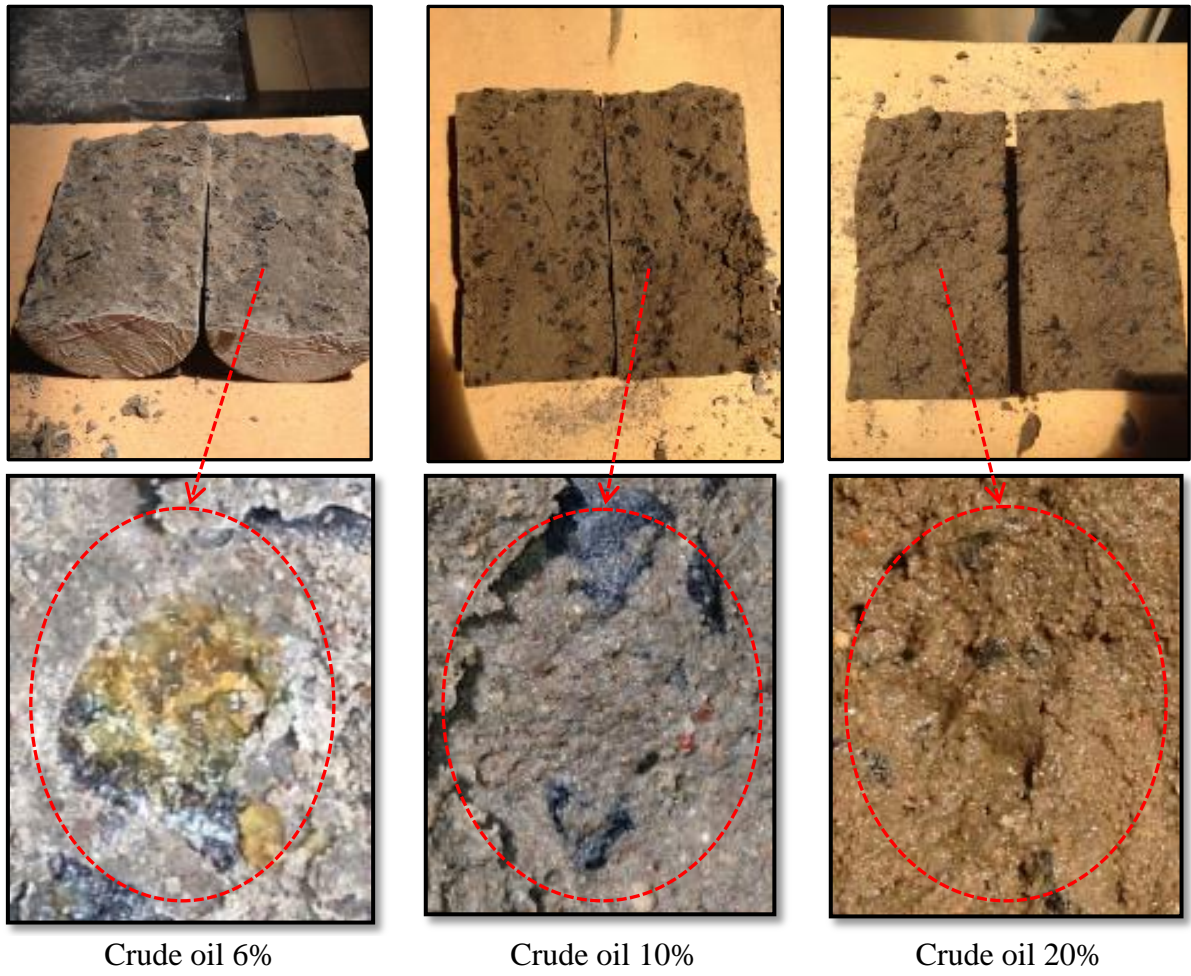


Figure 14 Splitting tensile failure modes of concrete with different crude oil content

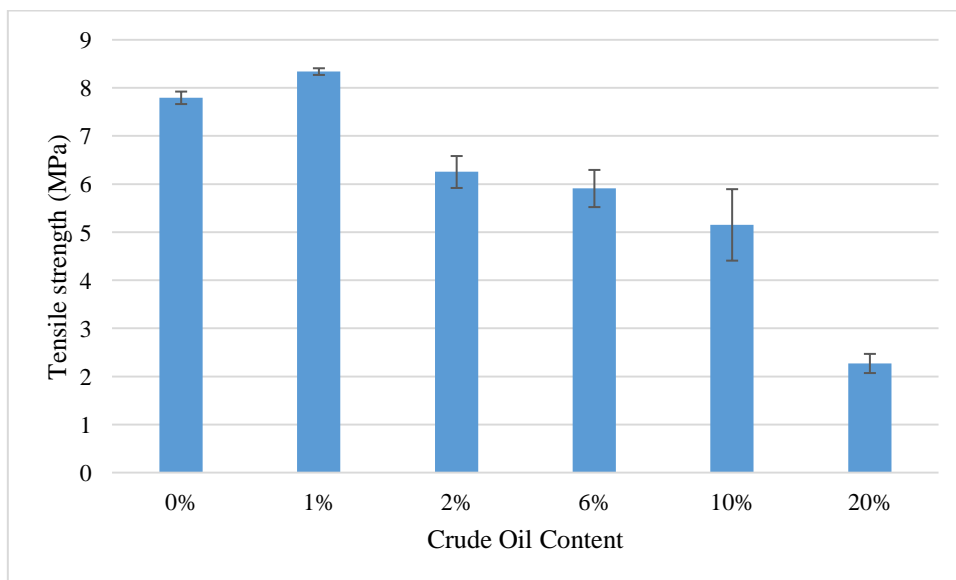


Figure 15 Splitting tensile strength test results of oil contaminated concrete

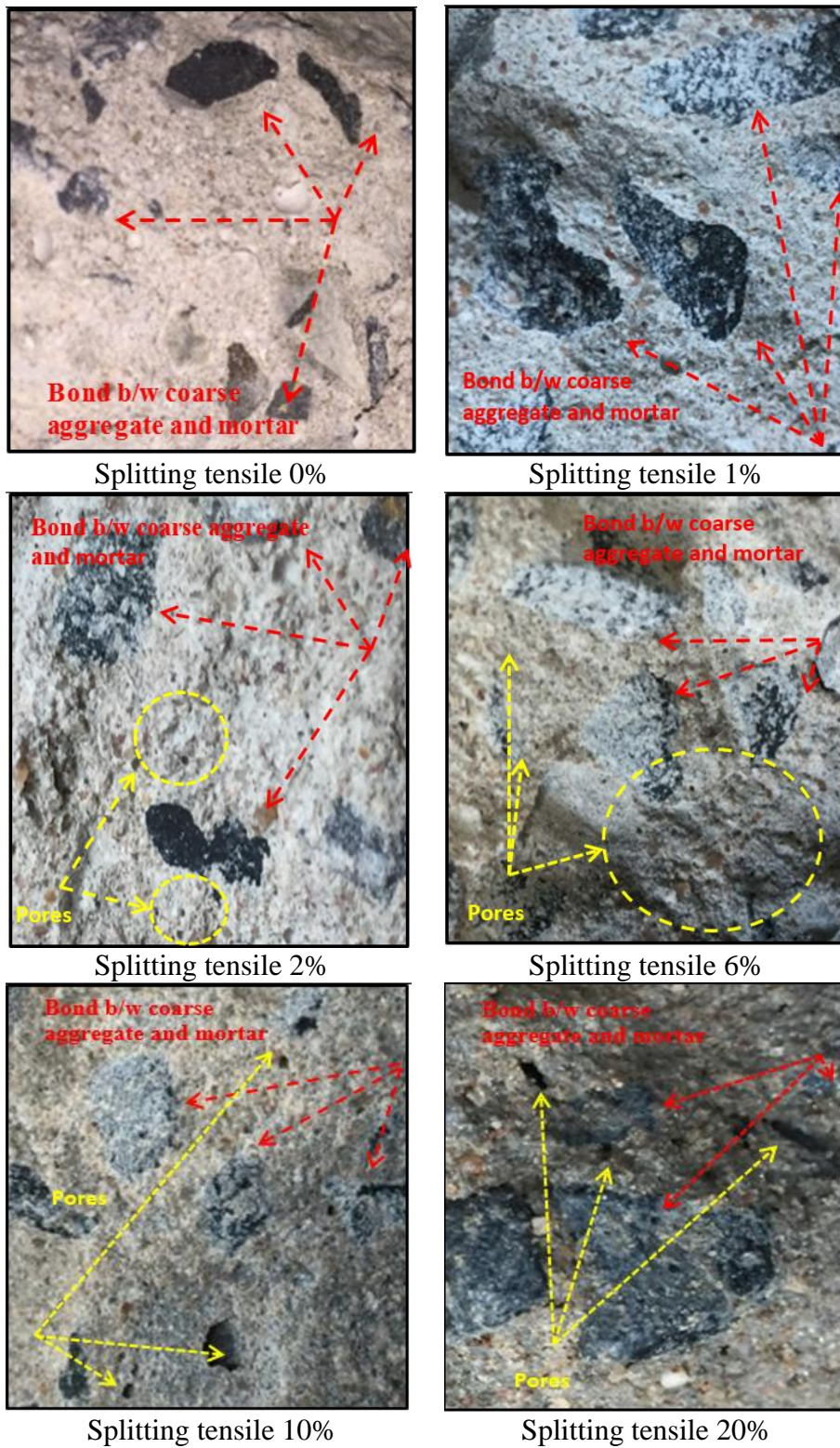


Figure 16 Fracture surface of the concrete with oil contaminated sand



Figure 17: Failure modes of different samples due to pull out test

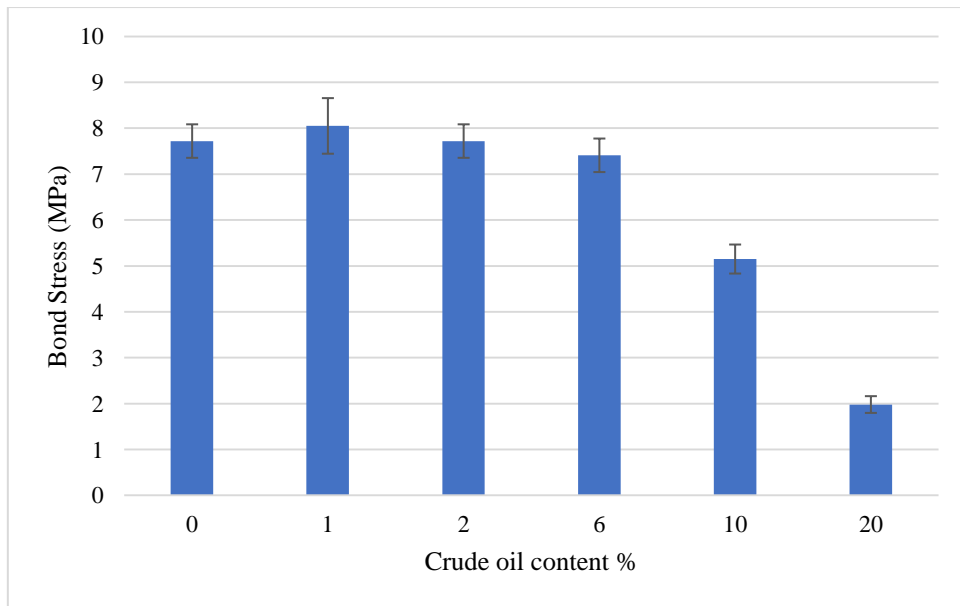


Figure 18: Bond strength of pull-out bar with different percentages of crude oil

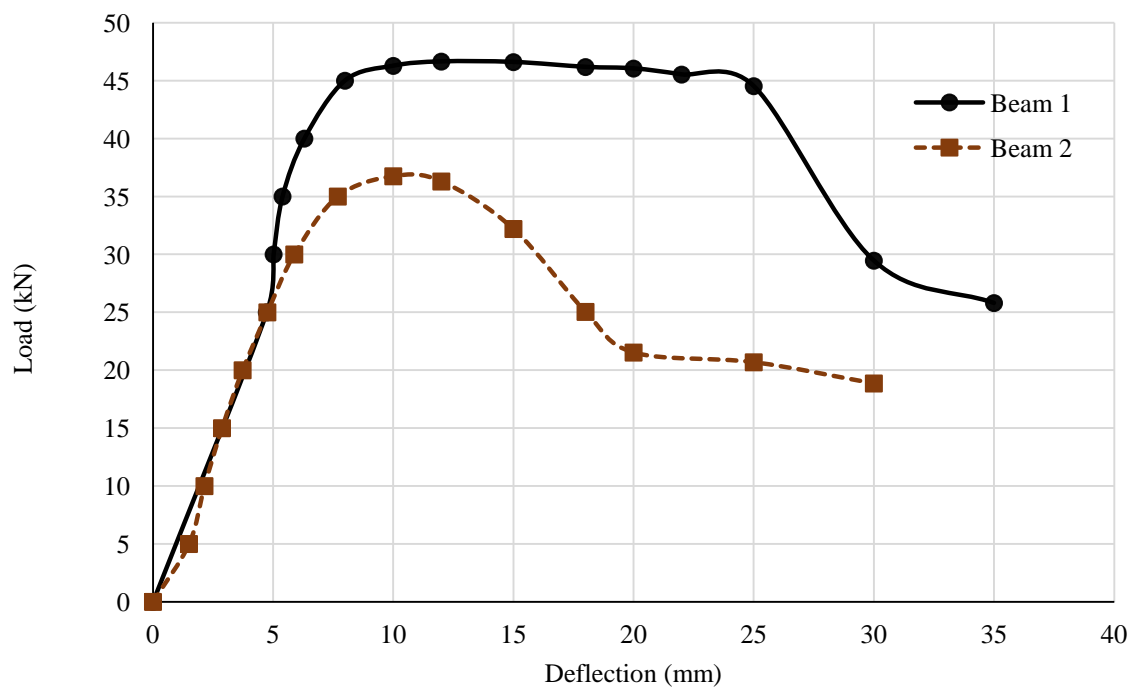




Figure19: Load-Displacement behaviour and failure behaviour of beam 1 without oil and beam 2 with oil contamination

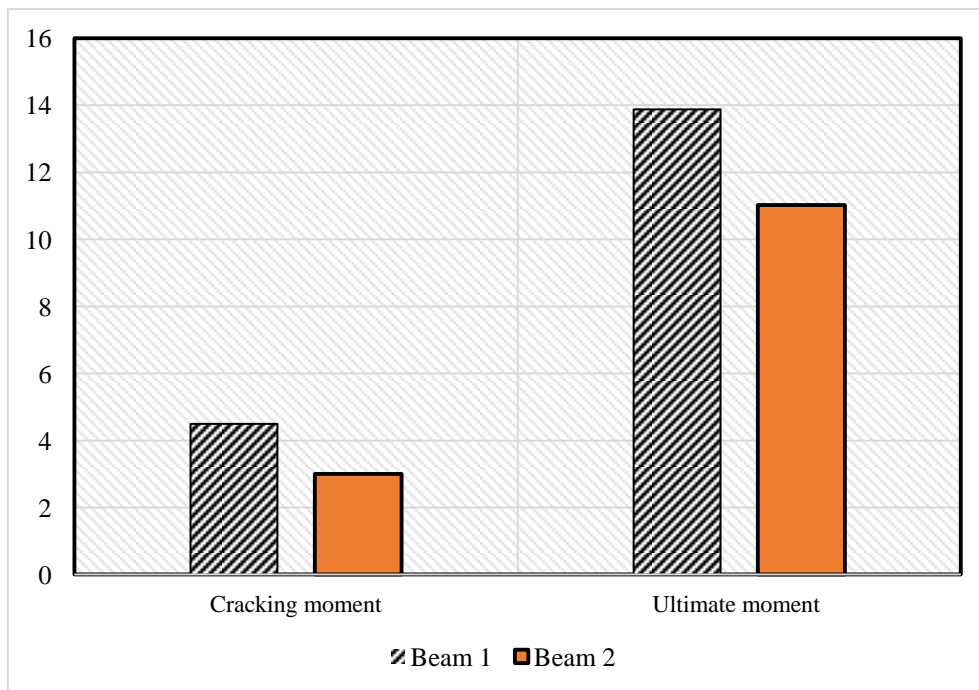


Figure 20 shows the comparison of the cracking and ultimate moment of beam 1 and beam 2.

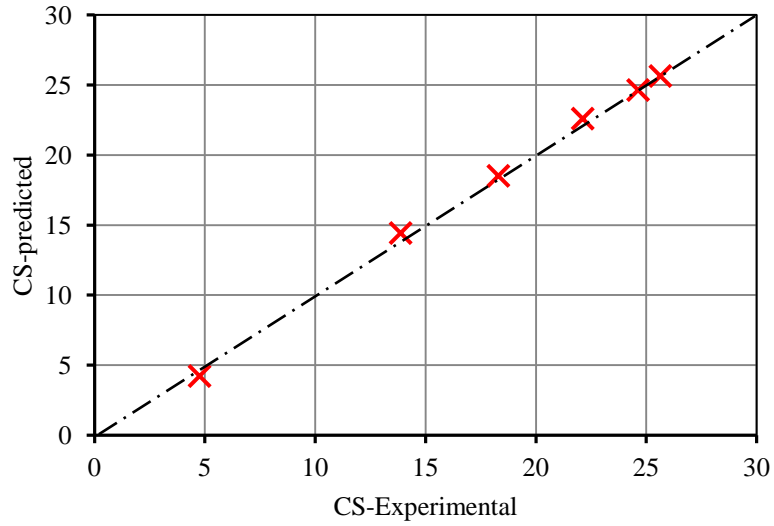
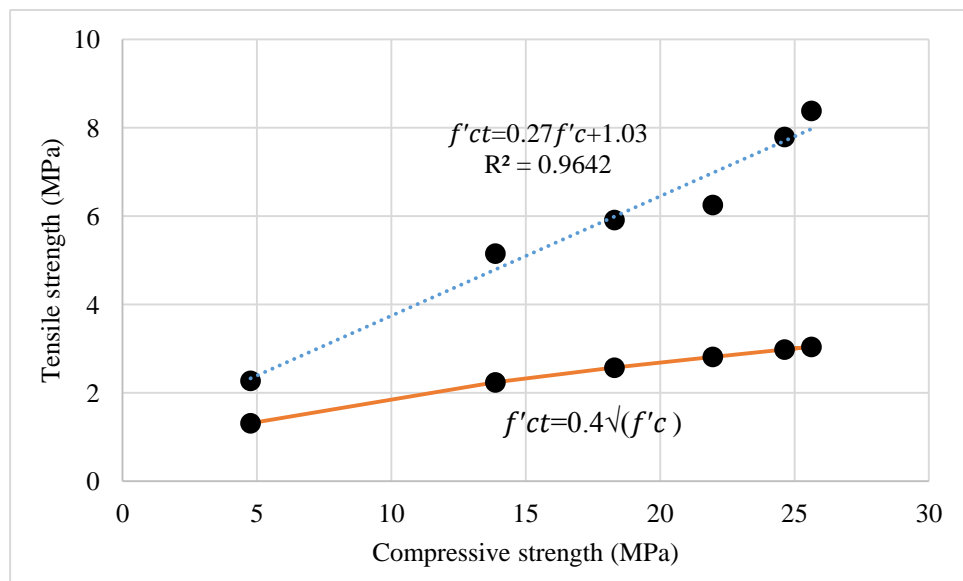


Figure 21 Validation of the proposed equation of the compressive strength of concrete containing crude oil with simulation results



(5)

Figure 22: Tensile and compressive strength relationship

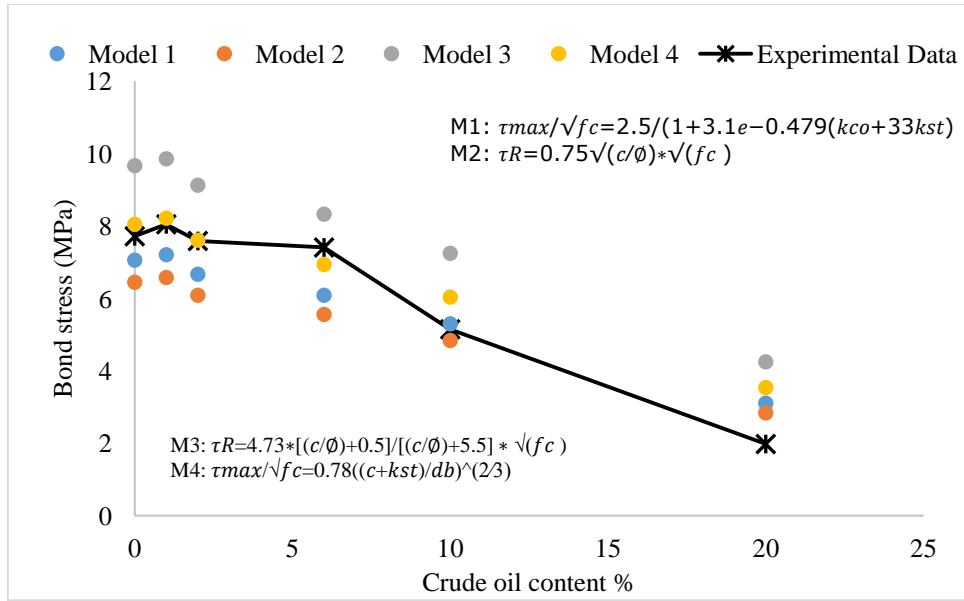


Figure 23: shows the bond strength models plotted against percentage contamination level.

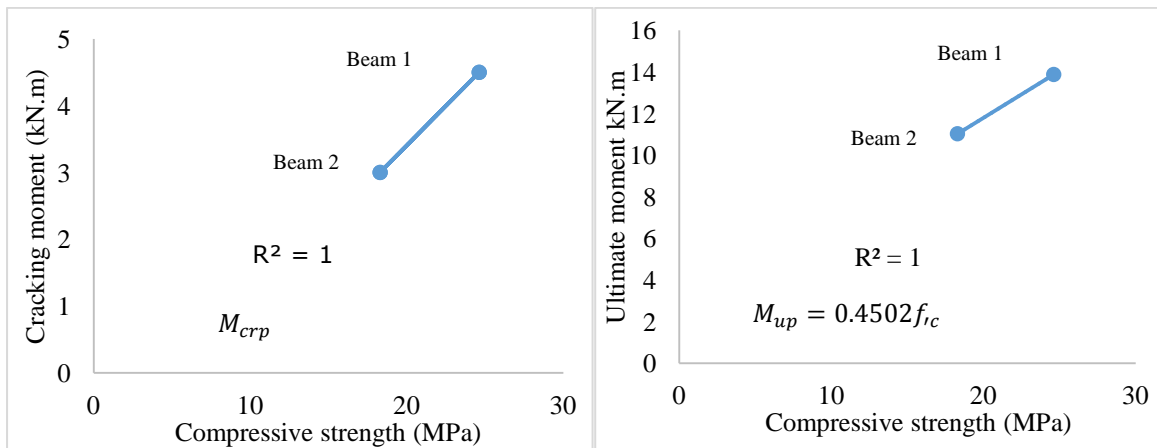


Figure 24: Developed equations of cracking and ultimate moment of uncontaminated beam (beam 1) and contaminated beam (beam 2).

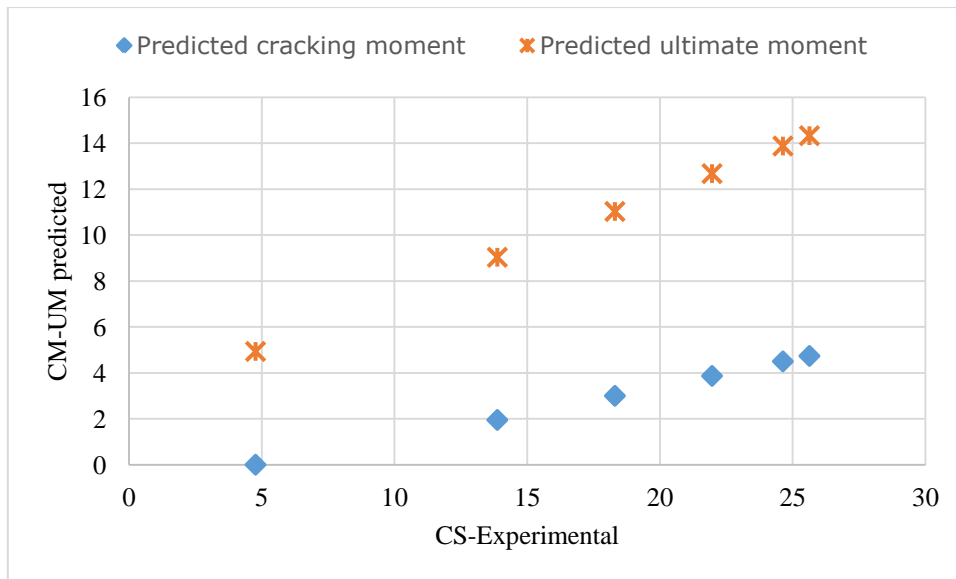


Figure 25: Shows the results of the proposed equation of the cracking and ultimate moment of concrete containing crude oil

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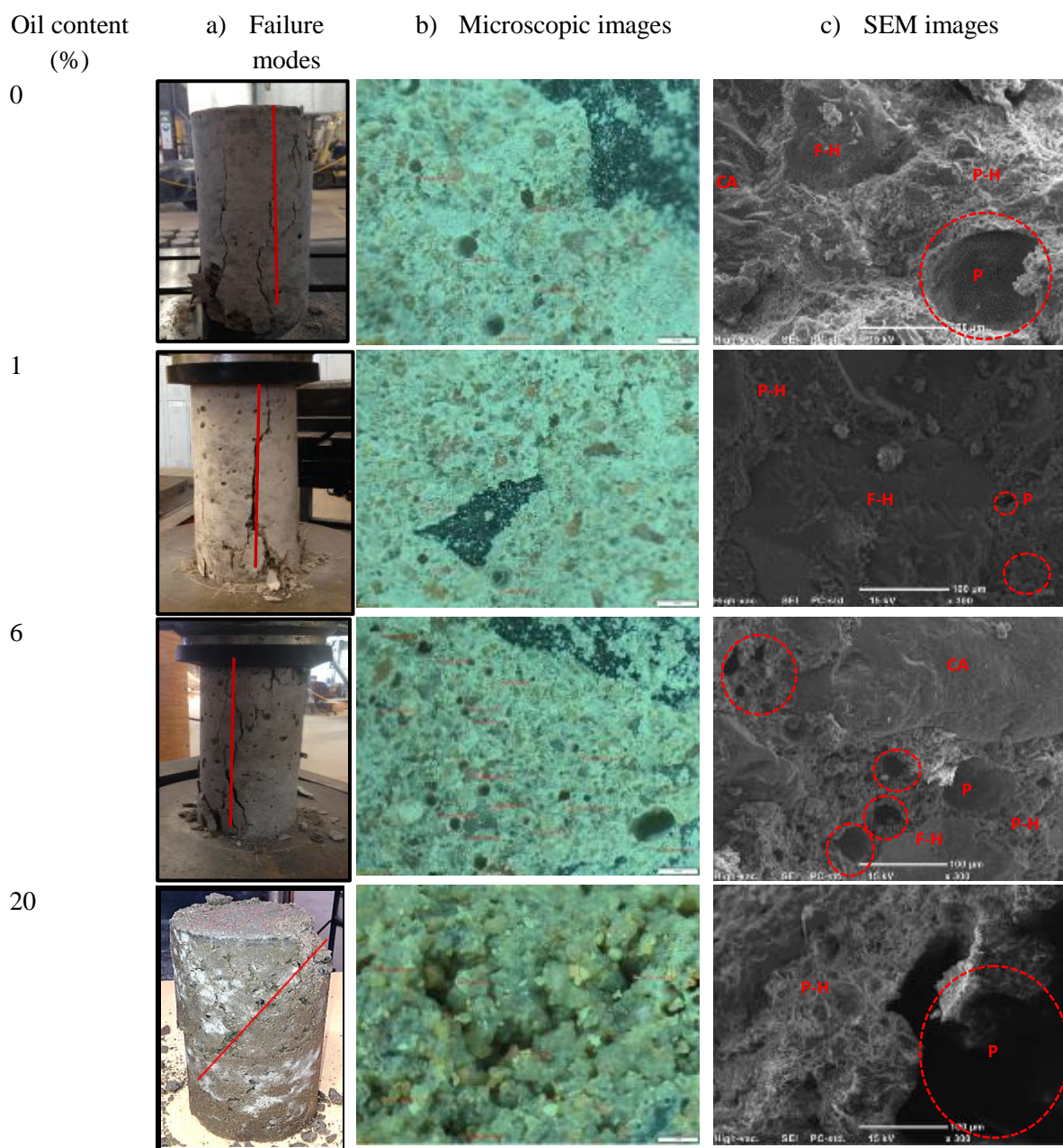
Highlights of the paper

- The physical, mechanical, and microstructure of concrete containing fine sand with different levels of light crude oil contamination (0, 1, 2, 6, 10 and 20%) were investigated
- The effect of light crude oil on the bond strength and flexural strength of reinforced concrete was conducted
- Simplified empirical equations were also proposed to reliably predict the mechanical properties of concrete containing oil contaminated sand

Properties and structural behavior of concrete containing fine sand contaminated with light crude oil

Rajab M. Abousnina*, Allan Manalo, Weena Lokuge, Khalifa Saif Al-Jabri

Graphical Abstract



Properties of concrete containing fine sand with typical light oil contamination (0, 1, 6 and 20%)

1 **Properties and structural behavior of concrete containing**
2 **fine sand contaminated with light crude oil**

3 Rajab Abousnina^{ab*}, Allan Manalo^a, Weena Lokuge^a, and Khalifa Saif Al-Jabri^b

4
5 ^aCentre for Future Materials, School of Civil Engineering and Surveying,
6 University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350, Australia
7 Tel. +61 7 46311331.

8 ^bDepartment of Civil and Architectural Engineering, PO Box 33, College of Engineering,
9 Sultan Qaboos University, Al-Khod 123, Oman Tel. +968 2414 1332

10 **Abstract**

11 Mixing crude oil contaminated sand with cement and using this mix as an alternative
12 construction material is considered an innovative and cost-effective approach to reduce its
13 negative environmental impact. In this study, the compressive and splitting tensile strength of
14 concrete with different levels of light crude oil contamination (0, 1, 2, 6, 10 and 20%) were
15 evaluated. Microstructure observation was also conducted to better understand how the oil
16 contamination is affecting the concrete properties. The bond strength of steel reinforcement
17 and a comparative evaluation of the flexural behaviour of steel reinforced beams using
18 concrete with 0% and 6% oil contamination was carried out. Results showed that concrete
19 with light crude oil contamination can retain most of its compressive and splitting tensile
20 strength at a contamination level of up to 6%. A good bond between the steel reinforcement
21 and concrete can be achieved up to this level of oil contamination. The concrete beam with
22 6% oil contamination exhibited only a 20% reduction in the moment capacity compared to a

23 beam using uncontaminated concrete. Simplified empirical equations were also proposed to
24 reliably predict the mechanical properties of concrete containing oil contaminated sand.

25 **Keywords:** concrete; oil contamination; mechanical properties; bond strength; bending.

26 **1. Introduction**

27 There is a growing public concern about the adverse environmental effect caused by the
28 petroleum hydrocarbons that are generated from oil leakage or spill [1]. In the last two
29 decades, there has been significant number of oil spills around the world in tens of thousands
30 of litres and the general trend appears to be continuing, despite the stricter environmental
31 regulations, be either on land or at sea. For instance, it was reported that about 1.1 billion
32 litres of crude oil in Kuwait was purposely spilt into the Arabian Gulf, the Persian Gulf, and
33 in Kuwait desert between August 1990 and February 1991 [2]. These are considered to be the
34 largest oil spills in history [2, 3]. As a consequence of this intentional leakage, 700 km of
35 coastlines were severely polluted between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and approximately 49
36 square kilometres of the Kuwait desert was affected. Furthermore, the explosion of the
37 British petroleum BP deep water horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 caused a
38 spill of around 91 million litres of oil that has affected about 110 km of the Louisiana
39 coastline [4, 5]. Moreover, in 2009 an incident of oil spillage caused by Pacific Adventurer in
40 Moreton Bay contaminated various Queensland Beaches [6]. The clean-up of these shorelines
41 and land areas is a challenging and expensive task depending on the level of the oil spill, for
42 example, the clean-up after the oil spill from Pacific Adventurer cost over \$34 million and
43 involved 2500 people [6]. The oil spill contamination impacts on the properties of the
44 surrounding sand and changes its physical and chemical properties [7]. In order to minimise
45 its effect on the environment, remediation methods ranging from sand washing, bio-
46 remediation, electro-kinetic sand remediation, and thermal desorption have been
47 implemented, but are not considered to be cost effective [8]. Thus, a number of researchers

48 [9-11] suggested that an alternative and effective method of remediation is using
49 contaminated sand in engineering applications. Their results showed that the properties of
50 concrete were affected by crude oil, however, the severity of this effectiveness was based on
51 the amount of oil in concrete. Based on that, they have concluded that sand contaminated
52 with oil can be used in some engineering applications.

53 It is well known that the successful use of waste materials in concrete depends on the
54 developed mechanical properties of the end product. While some studies investigated the
55 effects of oil contamination on concrete, these studies have focussed only on heavy crude oil
56 and engine oil [12-14] as well as hydrocarbons [14-16]. For instance, Almagbrok, et al. [17]
57 investigated the effect of mineral oil on the cement solidification process, and its consequent
58 effect on the fresh and hardened properties of mortar. Almagbrok, et al. [18] further
59 investigated oil solidification using a direct immobilization method. Similarly, the effect of
60 kerosene contaminated sand on the compressive strength of concrete in different exposure
61 conditions was investigated by H. Shahrabadi and D. Vafaei [19]. Their results showed that
62 using contaminated sand adversely affected the compressive strength of concrete (a reduction
63 up to 27% in the concrete compressive strength was occurred in 2% kerosene contaminated
64 samples). Attom M., et al. [20] investigated the effect of kerosene and diesel at different
65 percentages (0.5, 1 and 1.5% by dry weight of sand) on the compressive strength of concrete
66 and a noticeable reduction up to 42% was observed. Recently, Shafiq, et al. [21] have
67 investigated the effects of engine oil (UEO) on slump, compressive strength and oxygen
68 permeability of normal and blended cement concrete. They concluded that the engine oil in
69 concrete caused a reasonable reduction in the total porosity, and the coefficient of oxygen
70 permeability of all concrete mixes as compared to uncontaminated concrete. A recent study
71 conducted by Abousnina, et al. [22], investigated the effects of light crude oil contamination
72 on the physical and mechanical properties of geopolymer cement mortars. The results showed

73 that geopolymer mortar has the potential of utilizing oil contaminated sand, and reducing its
74 environmental impacts.

75 Light crude oils and refined products tend to be more toxic than those of heavy crude
76 oils as heavy crude oils have a higher average molecular weight. The hydrocarbon families
77 are the low-boiling-point aromatics, particularly benzene, toluene and xylene. The most toxic
78 hydrocarbons also tend to have a high solubility in water. A high solubility makes a molecule
79 more accessible for uptake by plants and animals. The toxicity of a given hydrocarbon varies
80 considerably with the organism exposed [23]. Moreover, most studies have focused only on
81 the characterisation of the mechanical properties of the produced concrete and none have
82 investigated the behaviour of concrete structures utilising this waste material.

83

84 This study presents an extensive investigation that was conducted to evaluate the
85 effects of light crude oil on the mechanical properties and microstructure of concrete. In
86 addition, a comparative study of the bond strength and flexural strength of reinforced
87 concrete containing oil contaminated sand was conducted. Data analysis and modelling was
88 also implemented to develop simplified equations to describe the mechanical properties of a
89 concrete mix containing fine sand contaminated with light crude oil. The outcome of this
90 study will provide useful information on the use of oil contaminated sand in building and
91 construction which will be cost-effective alternative remediation method for the waste
92 material.

93 **2. Materials and methods**

94 **2.1 Materials**

95 **2.1.1 Fine aggregate**

96 The fine sand was air dried and the Particle Size Distribution (PSD) shown in Figure 1 was
97 determined following the AS 1141.11.1-2009 [24]. The particle grading curve of fine sand
98 showed that the grain size of the sand particle is less than 2.36 mm.

99

100 Figure 1: Particle size distribution curve of the sand

101

102 **2.1.2 Coarse aggregate**

103 The coarse aggregates had a maximum size of 10 mm and the particle size distribution of
104 coarse aggregates is presented in Table 1. The coarse aggregates used were in Saturated
105 Surface Dry (SSD) condition.

106 Table 1: Sieve analysis of coarse aggregates

107

108 **2.1.3 Cement and water**

109 Ordinary Portland cement [25] and clean potable water were used in the concrete mix.

110

111 **2.1.4 Light Crude Oil**

112 Mineral Fork w2.5 motor cycle oil was used as light crude oil. This oil was selected because
113 its density and viscosity are very similar to light crude oil as shown in Table 2.

114

115 Table 2: Comparison between light crude oil and Fork w2.5 Motorcycle oil [26, 27]

116

117 **2.2 Specimens details**

118 Table 3 shows the types of tests and specimen details to study the effect of oil contaminated
119 sand (up to 20%) on the compressive strength, tensile strength and bond slip of concrete. A
120 total of 18 samples (100 mm diameter and 200 mm high cylinders) were cast for each test.

121 The most ideal crude oil contamination of 6% was selected for beams and compared with the
122 uncontaminated beam (0%). All specimens were tested after 28 days of curing.

123 Table 3: Tests conducted and specimen details

124 **2.3 Specimen preparation**

125 **2.3.1 Preparation of oil contaminated sand**

126 The contaminated samples were prepared by mixing the dry sand with different percentages
127 of light crude oil (1%, 2%, 6%, 10%, and 20%) according to the weight of the dry sand.
128 These percentages were considered based on the results obtained from previous studies [28,
129 29]. In addition, the uncontaminated (0%) sand was used in the control sample (Figure 2). A
130 maximum of 20% contamination was selected because the contaminated sand was already
131 saturated and any additional oil would just drain from the sand. This would make some tests,
132 for example for shear strength and permeability, difficult to conduct and may lead to less
133 reliable results [30]. The oil was mixed manually with dry sand and then the samples were
134 placed inside a plastic container for 72 hours to allow the mixture to attain a homogenous
135 condition. A lid was placed on the plastic container to prevent the crude oil from evaporating
136 during the period of incubation.

137

138 Figure 2: Contaminated sand with different percentages of oil (0%-20%)

139

140 **2.3.2 Mixing and preparing concrete cylinders**

141 Concrete was prepared based on AS 1012.2 [31], with mix proportions of 1 part of cement to
142 3 parts of fine sand and 3 parts of coarse aggregate (10 mm), and with water-to-cement ratio
143 (w/c) of 0.5. Mixing was performed using a 120L Portable Electric Concrete Mixer. Plastic
144 moulds (100 mm diameter and 200 mm high) were used to avoid any contamination and for
145 easy removal of the cylindrical specimens. Concrete was prepared at a room temperature of

146 around $22^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2$, while the curing took place in a fog room with 25°C and 85% humidity for
147 28 days.

148

149 **2.3.3 Specimens for bond strength**

150 The bond-slip specimens were prepared such that the bars were positioned concentrically
151 (before casting of concrete) within the horizontally cast 150 mm x 150 mm x 300 mm
152 concrete prisms with different crude oil content (0, 1, 2, 6, 10 and 20%) as shown Figure 3.
153 The reinforcing bars used were 16 mm-diameter deformed steel bars with a yield strength of
154 500 MPa and a nominal length of 700 mm. The steel bars were free from any rust or other
155 contaminants. The bond slip testing specimens were 18 in total, 3 specimens for each level of
156 oil contamination.

157

158  Figure 3: Bond-slip specimens

159 **2.3.4 Beam specimens**

160 Two beams each of length 1400 mm, 250 mm depth and 100 mm width were used. Beam 1
161 is the control beam with no oil contamination and beam 2 is contaminated with 6% light
162 crude oil. The beams were reinforced with 2N10 bars at top and bottom, and 6 mm diameter
163 stirrups spaced at 100 mm centre to centre. Concrete spacers of 25 mm were used in between
164 reinforcement and the mould for the concrete cover as shown in Figure 4.

165

166  Figure 4: Beam reinforcement details

167 Concrete was mixed in a concrete mixer and placed into steel moulds. While casting, the
168 concrete was vibrated using an electrical vibrator. After the casting process, the beams were
169 cured for 28 days before testing.

170

171 **2.4 Test set-up and procedure**

172 **2.4.1 Void measurement and microscopic observations**

173 Typical normal strength Portland cement concrete usually has a density of approximately
174 2400 kg/m³ and varies depending on the amount and the density of aggregate, air voids,
175 water-to-cement ratio, and the maximum size of aggregate used [32]. Thus, prior to
176 conducting the mechanical tests, the density of the test specimens was estimated through the
177 measured mass and volume of each specimen. Moreover, visual observation of the pore sizes
178 and distribution was conducted for all specimens. A microscope (Motic SMZ-168 series) was
179 used, to examine the microstructure and to measure the pore diameters at the fracture surface
180 of the tested concrete cylinders. The results were compared with the microstructure observed
181 using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) (JEOL JCM-6000, Tokyo, Japan),

182

183 **2.4.2 Compressive and splitting tensile strength tests**

184 Compressive strength test of concrete cylinders with different levels of crude oil
185 contamination was conducted following the procedures prescribed in AS-1012.9 [33]. The
186 specimens were tested to failure using a 2000 kN SANS hydraulic compression and tensile
187 testing machine). The load was applied at a rate of 2 mm/min. The maximum load applied to
188 the specimen was then recorded and the type of failure was noted. An average of three
189 samples was taken as representative of the compressive strength of the concrete cylinders.

190

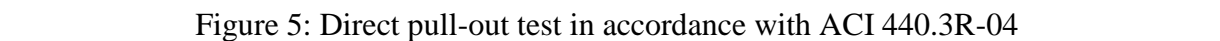
191 Splitting tensile test was conducted as per AS-1012.10 [34]. The test was carried out by
192 placing a cylindrical specimen horizontally between the load surfaces of a 2000 kN capacity
193 servo hydraulic testing machine a rate of 2 mm/min until failure of the cylinder was observed.
194 An average of three samples was taken as representative of the splitting tensile strength of the
195 concrete cylinders.

196

197 **2.4.3 Bond strength test**

198 Figure 5 shows a schematic diagram and the actual set-up of direct pull-out test employed in
199 this study. The test was conducted in accordance with (ACI) [35]. The specimens were
200 positioned upside down while the bars were being pulled downward at a constant rate of 1.2
201 mm/min using an AVERY testing machine. A single Linear Variable Differential Transducer
202 (LVDT) was placed at the end of the steel to measure the overall slip relative to concrete.
203 The support stand of LVDT was placed separately from the test specimen to ensure that the
204 movements of the specimens during the loading stage or the failure of the specimens does not
205 affect the measurements. The pull-out load and end-slip were measured and recorded using
206 System 5000 data logger.

207

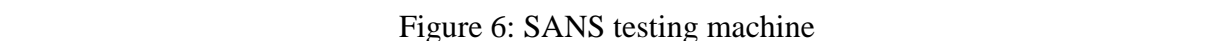
208  Figure 5: Direct pull-out test in accordance with ACI 440.3R-04

209

210 **2.4.4 Flexural strength test of beams**

211 The test is conducted in 2000 kN SANS apparatus which consists of a base, upper platen
212 which is attached to the upper crosshead as shown in Figure 6. The lower platen is attached to
213 a hydraulic mechanism to adjust its height. The sample is placed between upper and lower
214 platen. Data were recorded using the computer software designed for SANS.

215

216  Figure 6: SANS testing machine

217 3-point static bending test was used to evaluate the flexural behaviour of the beams. Grid
218 lines were drawn on the beams for the easier observation of crack development and beam
219 deformation. The specimen was placed at the loading base as shown above in Figure 6. The
220 upper and lower platens were adjusted in such a way that the load is applied at the centre of

221 the beam. The loads were applied in a uniform pattern, any cracks or deformation formed
222 were marked on the beam.

223

224

225 **3. Discussion of the Experimental Results**

226 **3.1 Physical, mechanical and microstructure properties of concrete with oil** 227 **contaminated sand**

228 **3.1.1 Surface voids and density**

229 A number of visual differences was observed for the specimens containing different
230 percentage of light crude oil contaminations. For instance, increasing the crude oil content
231 increases the surface voids as well as the wetness of the specimens, as shown in Figure 7. The
232 surface voids were clearly observed with 6% of light crude oil contaminations and they
233 became larger in size and more distributed over the surface for 10% and 20%. Similarly, the
234 wetness was more noticeable for specimens with 10% and 20% of light crude oil
235 contamination than for the other specimens. In these specimens, dark patches of oil could be
236 clearly seen on the surface. Moreover, the specimens with 20% crude oil contamination were
237 excessively saturated with oil appearing to be dark brown in colour, and the oil smell was
238 strong.

239

240 Figure 7: Surface voids of concrete with different levels of crude oil contamination

241 Figure 8 shows the total bulk density of the concrete with different crude oil contaminations.
242 It can be observed that the crude oil content affects the density of the concrete. As crude oil
243 content increases, the density of the specimens decreases. The highest average density was

244 2439.5 kg/m³ (for uncontaminated samples) whereas the lowest density was 2240.7 kg/m³ for
245 specimens with 20% crude oil contamination. This can be explained by the surface voids
246 observed in the specimens, which progressively became apparent as the oil contamination is
247 increased, resulting in a decrease in the density.

248

249 **Figure 8: Density of specimens with different levels of oil contamination**

250 Increasing the crude oil content affected both the concrete porosity and the wetness of the
251 specimens. After 28 days of curing, samples with 20% oil contamination were seen
252 excessively porous and saturated, as shown in Figure 7. Increase in the porosity at high levels
253 of oil contamination was due to the water seepage during curing. As evidence, water was
254 found in the plastic bags that were used to cover the specimens during curing, especially for
255 specimens with an oil contamination above 6%. Almabrok, et al. [36] also suspected that the
256 water absorption during curing was prevented due to the saturation status caused by crude oil
257 contamination. A study by Madderom and President [37] demonstrated that extra water
258 increased the concrete porosity and hence, the pores act as reservoirs that were formed
259 around the aggregates. As a result of over-saturation, air pockets were formed. They further
260 indicated that cement and fine particles carried outwards during seepage weaken the concrete
261 surface by around 20%. Thus, the pores appearing on the surface of the specimens could be
262 due to the vertical water channels and oil seeping from the concrete surface. As a result of
263 porosity, density of the hardened concrete decreased as the amount of crude oil increased.

264 **3.2 Effects of oil contamination on the strength of concrete**

265 **3.2.1 Failure mode of the specimens**

266 The failure mechanisms of the samples provide an indication of the variation of the
267 compressive strength of the specimens. Most specimens with 0% to 6% oil contamination

268 displayed a splitting-type failure, as shown in Figure 9. This failure mode (splitting failure)
269 occurred from the bottom cap and travelled perpendicular to the load. On the other hand,
270 increasing the level of light crude oil contamination to 10% and 20% resulted in the
271 specimens failing in shear, with crushing at the top. The crushing occurred due to the
272 saturation status of the concrete cylinders with light crude oil contaminations leading to a
273 lower compressive strength.

274

275 Figure 9: Failure modes of specimens containing different crude oil content. (splitting shear
276 failures with and without fracture)

277 ***3.2.2 Compressive strength of concrete***

278 Figure 10 shows the average compressive strength of the concrete with different levels of oil
279 contamination. It can be clearly seen that the increase in the level of light crude oil
280 contamination results in a decrease in the concrete compressive strength. Nevertheless, the
281 compressive strength of concrete with 1% light crude oil contamination is 3.2% higher than
282 the uncontaminated samples. The compressive strength decreased considerably at 10% and
283 20% light crude oil contamination.

284

285 The increase in strength may be attributed to oil optimising concrete cohesion, without
286 causing water seepage. Abousnina, et al. [30] found that sand contaminated with 1% of light
287 crude oil achieved an optimum sand cohesion of 10.76 kPa. As a consequence, the total
288 porosity and the average of pore diameter at 1% was less than that at 0%, as shown in Figure
289 12. Above 1%, sand became saturated with oil, resulting in a reduced compressive strength.
290 This reduction in compressive strength may be due to incompleteness of the hydration process
291 at 28 days of curing for concrete with high level of crude oil contents. Furthermore,
292 increasing the light crude oil from 2% to 20% may have hindered the formation of strong

293 bond between the paste and aggregate particles, as the oil was coating sand and coarse
294 aggregate particles. As shown in Figure 11, excess oil was present in the space previously
295 occupied by aggregates. When the aggregates exceed the saturated surface dry condition
296 (SSD), a damp or wet status is achieved where all the pores are completely filled with oil
297 [38]. Thus, the surface area that is able to bond with cement mortar is decreased, leaving the
298 aggregates surrounded by a barrier of oil. Similarly, the formation of oil around sand particles
299 acts as a cushion preventing inter-particle contact, and the lack of cohesion promotes slippage
300 between the sand particles. After seepage of water, air voids are left and the result is a
301 relatively porous cement paste that has a low internal strength, hence limiting the ultimate
302 compressive strength of concrete.

303

304 Figure 10: Average compressive strength of specimens with different crude oil content

305

306 Figure 11: Moisture conditions of aggregate (sand, coarse) compared to that observed at a
307 high level of crude oil content (10% and 20%)

308 However, the reduction in the compressive strength of concrete containing contaminated fine
309 sand at a high level of light crude oil (i.e. beyond 6%) can be further explained by the
310 increase in the pore sizes. Figure 12 shows that with the increase of the crude oil content from
311 2% to 20%, the number and the size of pores increase. This is due to the free water in the
312 concrete mix that was not utilised during the hydration process, creating pores in the concrete
313 paste. These pores transcend even at the surface of the specimens, as shown in Figure 7.

314

315 Figure 12: Pore size diameter of concrete with light crude oil contamination

316 **3.2.3 Relationship between porosity, microstructure and compressive strength**

317 The porosity of the specimens with different crude oil content obtained by visual observation,
318 microscopic images and SEM, is shown in Figure 13. Based on the visual observation, the
319 pore size and the pore distribution were found to decrease slightly for concrete with 1% of
320 light crude oil contamination, compared to uncontaminated samples (0%). This was attributed
321 to the sand reaching optimum cohesion as a result of oil binding sand particles, confirmed by
322 previous investigation [39]. Thus, higher strength of concrete with this level of oil
323 contamination was obtained compared to uncontaminated concrete. In contrast, increasing the
324 crude oil contamination level from 2% up to 20% increases both the sizes and distributions of
325 the pores. From the microscopic observations, the average pore size in the uncontaminated
326 samples was 454 μm , but it is only 368 μm for 1% of crude oil contamination. This increased
327 to 446 μm , 500 μm , 720 μm , and 877 μm for 2%, 6%, 10%, and 20% oil of contamination,
328 respectively. Furthermore, the interconnection between the large pores, as well as the
329 wettability of the specimens, was high at 20% of crude oil contaminations.

330

331 The SEM images presented in Figure 13 can be divided into full hydrated cement (F-H),
332 partially hydrated cement (P-H), pores (P), and the coarse aggregate (CA). In these images, it
333 can be noticed that the pore sizes and P-H area were smaller for 1% of crude oil
334 contamination than for uncontaminated samples, which is an indication of an enhancement in
335 hydration process at this percentage. However, as the amount of crude oil increases above
336 1%, the F-H decreased, while the P-H and pore size increased.

337

338 Figure 13: Porosity of the specimens with different crude oil content through visual
339 observation, microscopic images and SEM

340 From the three observation methods used (visual observation, microscopic and SEM), it can
341 be seen that the size and distribution of the pores increased as the amount of crude oil
342 increased (from 2% to 20%). As oil is hydrophobic, the molecules of oil will bond much
343 more readily with each other than with the water molecules, creating a barrier to the surface
344 of aggregate particles. As a result, this decreases the contact between the cement paste and
345 the aggregates. Moreover, some of the water added to the concrete mix will remain free,
346 creating more and bigger pores compared to uncontaminated samples. Kim, et al. [40] stated
347 that any excess water can cause segregation of the aggregates and degradation of strength and
348 durability. In this study the authors have further indicated that in a normal concrete mix with
349 the same cement content, hydration can be more easily activated with larger unit of water
350 content. Despite this, the excess water used for hydration reaction in the cement paste created
351 more pores, which led to a reduction in compressive strength, even with the same amount of
352 hydration products.

353 **3.3.3 Splitting tensile strength of concrete with oil contaminated sand**

354 **3.3.3.1 Failure modes**

355 Figure 14 shows typical splitting tensile failure modes of the concrete specimens with
356 different crude oil contaminations. Furthermore, the distribution of the coarse aggregates can
357 be clearly seen at the high level of crude oil contamination. This may be due to large
358 percentage of crude oil which increased the workability and hence, it partly segregated and
359 caused discontinued distribution of solid materials. An initial indication of failure under the
360 splitting tensile test was the audible cracking noises that were heard during testing. The noise
361 was clearly heard for up to 6% of crude oil contamination but it decreased for 10% and 20%.
362 Observation inside the specimens clearly showed that the crude oil filling the voids of
363 cylinders with 10% and 20% contaminations but could hardly be noticed in 1% to 4%. The
364 oil appeared in the form of crystallised yellow particles, (crude oil 6%).

365

366 Figure 14: Splitting tensile failure modes of concrete with different crude oil content

367 **3.3.2 Tensile strength of concrete**

368 Figure 15 shows the relationship between the splitting tensile strength of concrete at 28 days
369 of curing, and the levels of crude oil contamination. The specimens with 1% of crude oil
370 contamination showed a 6.9% higher splitting tensile strength, compared to uncontaminated
371 samples (0%). In contrast, increasing the crude oil contamination to 2%, 6% and 10%
372 decreased the tensile strength by 19%, 24%, and 33%, respectively; while at 20% of light
373 crude oil contamination, a reduction of 70% was observed. These results indicate that the
374 splitting tensile strength of concrete was enhanced by adding light crude oil content up to 1%
375 but beyond this, the tensile strength decreased. The increase in strength was attributed to the
376 sand reaching optimum cohesion at this level of oil contamination, as a result of oil binding
377 sand particles. On the other hand, increasing the crude oil content above 2% caused the fine
378 sand to exceed the equilibrium condition, and the oil also contaminated the surface of the
379 coarse aggregates. As a consequence, the bond between the cement paste and coarse
380 aggregates was affected, resulting in a decrease in tensile strength. Figure 16 shows that the
381 failure of the specimens occurred between the cement paste and the surfaces of the largest
382 coarse aggregate particles which indicates a bond failure mode.

383

384 Figure 15: Splitting tensile strength test results of oil contaminated concrete

385 At 6% to 20% oil contamination level, the aggregate particles were expected to be fully
386 covered by oil. This oil creates a thick film over the surface of the aggregates, which decrease
387 their bond with the cement paste, as oil is a hydrophobic material. However, it was observed
388 that emulsion was created at the surface of the aggregates. The soft particles of fine sand and

389 cement particles can act as the emulsifying agent because they can work as finely dispersed
390 solids.

391

392 Figure 16 shows cement particles attached to the surface area of the coarse aggregates with
393 up to 10% in crude oil contaminations. However, at 20% of crude oil contaminations, the
394 cement particles could not be seen at the surface area of the coarse aggregates, due to high
395 saturation status of the concrete mix by the crude oil at 20%. As a result, the interaction
396 between the oil/water and the fine particles was far from the surface of the aggregates. Thus,
397 the crude oil worked as an isolator, preventing development of strong bond between the
398 cement paste and the aggregates, and thus resulting in lower tensile strength.

399

400  Figure 16: Fracture surface of the concrete with oil contaminated sand

401 **3.4. Pull-out behaviour of steel in concrete with oil contamination**

402 **3.4.1 Failure modes**

403 Two types of failure modes were observed with different oil contamination: yielding of the
404 pull-out bar and splitting failure of the rectangular concrete prism as shown in Figure 17.
405 Samples with oil-contaminated sand of 0, 1, 2 and two samples of 6% of oil contaminated
406 sand were failed due to yielding of the bars. However, the third sample of 6% as well as 10
407 and 20% of crude oil contamination were failed by splitting of the rectangular concrete
408 prisms. The failure of the third sample with 6% contaminated oil was accompanied by a loud
409 explosive noise indicating the brittle nature of failure. In this sample, it was observed that the
410 sample had radial cracks which propagated from the steel bar to the top surface hence
411 splitting the sample. Then it was further split open and the steel bar was stuck to one half of
412 the sample and it came off after a gentle knock. There were small voids that could be seen on

413 the broken surface of the sample. The pull-out bar appeared to have concrete stuck between
414 the ribs of the bar.

415

416 Figure 17: Failure modes of different samples due to pull out test

417 In case of specimens with 10% of crude oil contaminations all samples failed under splitting
418 failure as clearly seen in Figure 17. The sample failed with a loud explosive noise but the
419 noise level was lower than the 6% second sample. Cracks appeared to propagate radially on
420 the concrete prism from the steel bar towards the surface, similar to the 6% sample. Void
421 spaces were also noticed on the broken surface of the samples. The pull-out bar was observed
422 to have less concrete between the ribs of the bar. Similarly, with 20% of crude oil
423 contamination both samples failed under splitting failure as shown in Figure 17. It failed with
424 a loud noise but the noise level was lower than the previous samples. Cracks appeared to
425 propagate radially on the concrete prism from the steel bar towards the surface. Close
426 examination of the broken samples revealed void spaces on the broken surface of the
427 samples. The embedded section of the pull-out steel bar was noted to have minimal concrete
428 residue between the steel ribs. It also appeared damp with oil residue and shiny surface. The
429 pull-out steel bar of the third 6% sample was also observed to have concrete between its steel
430 ribs. The 10% sample was observed to have lesser amount of concrete between ribs than the
431 6% sample and, 20% sample appeared to have even lesser amount of crushed concrete
432 between ribs as shown in Figure 17.

433

434 Literature review indicates that chemical adhesions and frictional resistance are the first two
435 mechanisms to break at low loads. However, mechanical interlock, created by the ribs of the
436 deformed bar, is the key mechanism that contributes to bond strength. The failure mode
437 produced due to mechanical interlock are generally splitting failure and, pull-out failure for

438 very weak concrete. Splitting failure occurs when the concrete is crushed in front of the steel
439 ribs lifting the concrete key, hence inducing a hoop stress within. Crushed concrete in front of
440 ribs were visible for 6% (sample 3) and the amount of crushed concrete decreased for 10%
441 contamination level and there was very less amount of crushed concrete visible for 20%
442 samples. This indicates a gradual loss of bond in 10% and 20% samples compared to the 6%
443 samples.

444 ***4.2 Failure load of specimens from pull-out tests***

445 Failure load, bond stress, change in length of pull-out bar with different percentages of crude
446 oil are presented in Figure 18. It can be seen that the samples with up to 6% of crude oil
447 contaminations failed under the yielding of the pull-out steel bars, that is, the steel bar yielded
448 while the concrete prism remained intact. For samples with 10% and 20% contamination
449 levels, the average bond strengths are 33.25% and 74.36% lower than the control sample,
450 respectively. These were observed to have radial cracks on the concrete prism which
451 developed at the steel bar and continued to the surface of the concrete prism. However, none
452 of the specimen failed under direct pull out failure.

453 The significantly lower bond strength of 20% oil contaminated samples and more than one
454 third loss of strength of 10% samples can again be attributed to the state of wetness of the
455 sand particles as described by [30], Abousnina, et al. [41]. Their microscopic study of sand
456 particles showed that the 20% oil contaminated samples are in a saturated state where the
457 surface area of the sand particles was fully coated with oil, hence, it formed a barrier for the
458 water and cement to fully come in contact with the sand particles. This hindered the
459 development of bond, firstly, between the individual sand and coarse aggregate particles and
460 secondly, between concrete and steel.

461

462 Figure 18: Bond strength of pull-out bar with different percentages of crude oil

463

464 **3.5. Comparative evaluation of concrete beams with and without oil contamination**

465 As shown in Figure 19, the load was applied at the mid-span of the beam in a uniform rate.
466 Cracks started in the uncontaminated beam at the bottom near the centre portion at about 15
467 kN load level. The load-displacement behaviour of the uncontaminated beam (control) is
468 shown in Figure 19 (beam 1). The first crack formed in beam 1 (uncontaminated beam) at 15
469 kN load , and before reaching the first crack the stiffness of the beam remained steady,
470 however, after the cracking the stiffness decreased. As the load increased, the crack and the
471 deflection increased for instance, when the load reached 25 kN, the deflection was 4.7 mm
472 which then progressed in a steady state till 35 kN showing a deflection of 5.4 mm. When the
473 load reached 46.3 kN, the beam started yielding and progressed to a deflection of 25 mm with
474 load reaching 44.53 kN and then beam started failing and at 25.8 kN the beam completely
475 failed showing a deflection of 35 mm. The beam after yielding at 46.28 kN, the deflection
476 progressed in a steady state till 44.53 kN which indicates the strong bonding between the
477 concrete and the steel.

478

479 Figure 19: Load-displacement behaviour and failure pattern of beam 1 without oil and beam 2
480 with oil contamination

481

482 On the other hand, the cracks in the oil contaminated beam (beam 2) were formed in a similar
483 pattern as that of beam 1. The first crack formed in beam 2 was at 10 kN with a deflection of
484 2.9 mm. However, as the load increased, the number of cracks and the deflection increased.
485 Hence, when the load reached 25kN it showed a deflection of 4.8mm which then progressed,
486 at load level of 35kN, a deflection of 7.7mm was reached. At 36.8kN, the beam started
487 yielding showing a deflection of 10mm and progressed to a deflection of 12mm with load

488 reaching 36.3kN and then beam started failing. At 18.9 kN the beam completely failed
489 showing a deflection of 30mm. Unlike beam 1, beam 2 showed a sudden failure after yielding
490 at 36.8kN,. The maximum load for beam1 was 20.5% higher than that of the beam 2 (with
491 6% of crude oil contamination). Furthermore, the initial stiffness of both the beams were
492 similar. The change in stiffness occurred after the formation of cracks on both beams. The
493 stiffness directly depends on the ultimate load, more the ultimate load more will be the
494 stiffness. In beam 2, the presence of oil has resulted in the diversion of stiffness. The
495 presence of oil affects the adhesive property of the concrete resulting in the slip. This
496 behaviour agrees with a previous study conducted by Abednego et al. [42], on the effect of
497 crude oil contaminant in the engineering properties of concrete. They concluded that the
498 presence of crude oil delays the process in the gel and it also weakens the cohesiveness of the
499 binder's paste.

500

501 As mentioned earlier that the first crack was formed at 15kN for beam 1, while the initial
502 cracking of the second beam (with 6% of crude oil contamination, beam 2) was observed at
503 10kN. It can be seen that the cracking moment of the beam 1 (uncontaminated beam) is
504 higher by 33% compared to beam 2 (with 6% of crude oil contamination). This agrees with
505 the initial observation of the cracking as the initial crack of beam 1 was observed at 15kN
506 while the cracks of beam 2 was observed at 10kN. The experimental cracking moment was
507 calculated based on the following equation.

$$508 \quad M_u = \frac{P_u * L}{4} \quad (1)$$

509 where, M_u is the cracking moment, L is the length of the specimen and P_u is the load at which
510 the first crack is formed.

511

512 Figure 20 shows the comparison of the cracking and ultimate moment of beam 1 and beam 2.

513

514 Similar result was observed for the ultimate moment, where that for uncontaminated beam
515 (Beam 1) was 20% higher compared to the contaminated beam (beam 2). This difference is
516 due to the presence of oil in beam 2. The presence of oil have affected the bond strength
517 between concrete and steel resulting in lower ultimate moment capacity of beam. The
518 experimental evaluation of beam 1 and beam 2 shows a difference of 20.5%. The presence of
519 oil reduces the bond between the concrete and steel which led to the earlier failure of beam 2.
520 This behaviour was in a good agreement with the results from previous study conducted by
521 King and Abousnina [38].

522 **4. Data analysis and modelling**

523 **4.1 Prediction on compressive strength of concrete with oil contamination**

524 Data analysis and modelling was conducted to develop simplified prediction equations for the
525 mechanical properties of a concrete mix containing fine sand contaminated with light crude
526 oil. The simulation data was analysed with a one-way repeated Analysis of Variance
527 ANOVA [43] to confirm the significance of light crude oil in the modelling of compressive
528 strength. The ANOVA results are shown in Table 4 for F-statistics and p-values. Parameters
529 with $p < 0.01$ were considered to have a significant impact on the compressive strength. The
530 analysis results indicate that the compressive strength was affected by each value of light
531 crude oil as p-value was 2.19203×10^{-12} .

532

Table 4 ANOVA results for main and interaction effects

<i>Source</i>	<i>Sum of squares</i>	<i>Degree of freedom</i>	<i>Mean squares</i>	<i>F-statistics</i>	<i>p-values</i>
Light crude	934.217	5	186.8	326.5	2.19×10^{-12}

533

534 The relationship between compressive strength and light crude oil can be established from the
 535 ANOVA analysis. It was found that there was a polynomial relationship between the
 536 compressive strength and the level of light crude oil contamination. The rational model
 537 shown in Equation 2 was formulated to estimate the compressive strength as a function of
 538 crude oil, from a nonlinear regression analysis of the simulation data using MATLAB. The
 539 equation also shows the correlation coefficient (R^2) and the Root Mean Squared Error
 540 ($RMSE$) of the proposed model.

541

542

$$f'_{c(x)} = \begin{cases} f'_{cu} + 1.0x & 0 \leq X \leq 1.0 \quad \text{Adj. } R^2 = 1, \text{ RMSE} = 1.07 \\ f'_{cu} - 1.03x & 1.0 < X \leq 20.0 \quad \text{Adj. } R^2 = 0.99, \text{ RMSE} = 0.87 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

545

546

547 where $f'_{c(x)}$ is the predicted compressive strength containing fine sand with oil contamination,
 548 f'_{cu} is the average compressive strength of uncontaminated concrete, and x is the level of oil
 549 contamination in percentage. This model can be used to predict the compressive strength of
 550 concrete containing any percentages of light crude oil contamination up to 20%. This
 551 proposed empirical equation was validated with the experimental results. Figure 21 shows
 552 the resulting (f'_{cp}) scatter point plot of the predicted compressive strength (CS-predicted)
 553 against the experimentally measured compressive strength (CS-Experimental). As can be
 554 seen in Figure 21 that all points are located close to the line, which indicates the high
 555 accuracy (correlation coefficient of 99%) of the Equation 1.

556

557 Figure 21 Validation of the proposed equation of the compressive strength of concrete
558 containing crude oil with simulation results

559 **4.2 Relationship between the compressive strength and Splitting tensile strength of** 560 **concrete**

561 Splitting tensile strength is an important parameter to evaluate the shear resistance provided
562 by concrete. The splitting tensile strength is generally greater than direct tensile strength. The
563 Australian standard of concrete structures AS 3600 [44] proposed that the splitting tensile
564 strength is 40% of the square root of compressive strength. Figure 22 plots the AS 3600
565 model and the splitting tensile strength obtained from this study, against compressive
566 strength. For same compressive strength, it can be seen that the AS 3600 model
567 underestimates the splitting tensile strength values which is predicted using the equation for
568 conventional concrete. However, the relationship between tensile and compressive strength
569 of concrete with oil-contaminated sand showed similar behaviour to conventional concrete. In
570 both cases the tensile strength of concrete increases with the increasing compressive strength.
571 The higher strength of concrete with fine sand contaminated with light crude oil makes it a
572 potentially viable material for many civil engineering applications. The relationship between
573 tensile (f_{ct}) and compressive (f_c) strength of the concrete with crude oil contamination can be
574 expressed by the following equation.

$$575 f_{ct} = 0.27f_c + 1.03 \quad (3)$$

576 Figure 22: Tensile and compressive strength relationship

577 **4.3 Prediction of Bond strength**

578 Empirical Equations have been developed in Engineering, over time, following several
579 experimental investigations in an effort to better understand various mechanisms. There are
580 various bond strength models that have been developed by various researchers such as Zuo

581 and Darwin [45] and Mohamed H. Harajli and Ahmad [46], etc. The development of bond
582 strength relationship is mainly dependant on a number of key factors such as concrete cover,
583 thickness, strength of concrete, diameter of steel bars, space between bars, splice lengths, rib
584 ratio and shape [47]. These factors are important in understanding the behaviour of bond
585 strength of deformed steel bars to concrete.

586

587 Wu and Zhao [47] undertook significant analysis of various bond strength and bond-slip
588 models that were published in the last several decades. Their aim was to develop a unified
589 bond strength and bond-slip models. Desnerck, et al. [48] also studied various bond strength
590 prediction models of normal concrete during their study on self-compacting concrete. Based
591 on the studies of both the authors, four bond strength models were chosen for this study.
592 These four bond strength models were tested with the experimental compressive strength
593 (f_c) data to determine their predicted theoretical bond strength. This was plotted on the same
594 graph as the experimental bond strength data as shown in Figure 23.

595

596 Table 5: shows four theoretical bond strength data calculated from the four different
597 equations.

598 Model 1 * Wu and Zhao (2013) [47], Model 2 * Eligehusen (1983) [49]

599 Model 3* Esfahani (2005) [50], Model 4 * Harajli (2004) [46]

600

601 Figure 23: shows the bond strength models plotted against percentage contamination level.

602

603 From Table 5 and Figure 23, after running the data through the four equations, it was found
604 that the equation produced by Harajli (2004) (model 4), is the most reliably predicted bond
605 strength up to 6% oil contaminated sand.

606 **4.4 Prediction of flexural behaviour of beams**

607 Data analysis and modelling was conducted to develop simplified prediction equations for the
608 cracking and ultimate moment based on the experimental results. The developed equations
609 will be used to predict the cracking moment and ultimate moment capacity for beams with
610 different levels of oil contamination. As it can be seen in Figure 24, the cracking moment and
611 ultimate moment capacity as a function of the compressive strength. Linear equations were
612 developed to predict the cracking and ultimate moment capacity for different percentages of
613 crude oil contaminations.

614

615 Figure 24: Developed equations of cracking and ultimate moment of uncontaminated beam
616 (beam 1) and contaminated beam (beam 2).

617

618 Figure 25 shows the results of the predicted values of cracking and ultimate moment of all
619 different crude oil contaminations. It can be seen that there is a linear relationship between
620 the cracking and the ultimate moment and the compressive strength with different levels of
621 light crude oil contamination.

622

623 where M_{crp} is the predicted cracking moment, M_{up} is the predicted ultimate moment, f_{lc} is
624 the compressive strength with different crude oil contaminations. This model can be used to
625 predict the cracking and ultimate moment of different level of crude oil contaminations. This
626 proposed empirical equation was validated with the experimental results

627

628 Figure 25: proposed equation of the cracking and ultimate moment of concrete containing
629 crude oil

630 **5. Conclusions**

631 The physical, mechanical, and microstructure of concrete containing fine sand with different
632 levels of light crude oil contamination (0, 1, 2, 6, 10 and 20%) were investigated. Moreover,
633 the bond strength of steel reinforcement and the flexural behaviour of steel reinforced beams
634 using concrete with 0% and 6% oil contamination was carried out. Simplified empirical
635 equations were also proposed to reliably predict the mechanical properties of concrete
636 containing oil contaminated sand. Based on the results, the following conclusions can be
637 drawn from this study:

- 638 • The concrete density decreases as the oil content increases due to an increase in
639 surface porosity. The surface wetness of the hardened concrete also increased with
640 increasing levels of oil contamination.
- 641 • The compressive strength of concrete was enhanced at 1% oil contamination due to
642 the sand reaching optimum cohesion as a result of oil binding sand particles.
643 However, the concrete containing fine sand with 2% to 6% of light crude oil
644 contamination exhibited up to 25% lower compressive strength than uncontaminated
645 samples. Increasing the crude oil from 10% to 20% resulted in significantly lower strength
646 than the uncontaminated concrete, due to surface saturation of aggregates which decreased the
647 bond formation with the cement paste.
- 648 • The splitting tensile strength was enhanced by 7% at 1% of crude oil contaminations
649 compared to uncontaminated samples. Higher than 1% oil contamination level, the tensile
650 strength decreased as the sand became saturated with oil and the surface of the coarse
651 aggregates was coated with oil hindering the physical bond formation between cement
652 paste and aggregates.
- 653 • Oil contaminated sand up to 6% gives adequate bond strength similar to
654 uncontaminated concrete while samples with 10% and 20% lost one third and three

655 quarter of its bond strength relative to uncontaminated respectively. This reduction of
656 bond strength was due to lost chemical adhesion and frictional resistance caused by
657 presence of high quantity of oil at high percentages.

- 658 • The maximum load that the contaminated beam (6%) could bear was 20% less than
659 the uncontaminated beam. Furthermore, the initial crack and the yielding period of oil
660 contaminated beam was at lower load and shorter period respectively compared to
661 uncontaminated beam. However, the initial stiffness remains same for both the beams.
662
- 663 • SEM images showed that the full hydrated area is increased while the porosity
664 decreased at 1% crude oil contamination, compared to uncontaminated concrete. At
665 higher oil contamination levels (2% to 20%), the C-S-H gel decreased due to the
666 higher amount of free water, which created more and bigger pores than the
667 uncontaminated concrete.
- 668 • Simple empirical equations to predict the compressive strength of mortar and concrete
669 containing oil contaminations were developed. Comparison between the experimental
670 results and the predicted values for up to 20% oil contamination gave a 98% accuracy,
671 indicating the reliability of the proposed equations.

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