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Rheological properties of mortars prepared with different sands

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Abstract

The principal aim of this paper is to investigate the effect of sand grading, surface morphology and content on the rheological properties, i.e., yield stress and plastic viscosity of fresh mortar. Mortars were produced from four different types of sand, at two volumetric cement-sand ratios of 1/0.9 and 1/0.6. Each blend was prepared with five water-cement ratios of 0.60, 0.55, 0.50, 0.45 and 0.40. The rheometer, Viskomat NT, was used to determine yield

20 stress and plastic viscosity parameters of each cement paste and mortar. Test results show
21 that the relative yield stress and plastic viscosity of mortar to cement paste is inversely
22 proportional to the excess paste thickness up to low values below which the surface texture of
23 sand particles becomes significant.

24 **Introduction**

25 High flowability of fresh concrete is needed in modern concrete technology, such as in self-
26 compacting concrete where no compaction is employed upon cast works and in pre-placed
27 aggregate concrete where mortar must develop high flowability filling the voids between the
28 coarse aggregate compacted mass without any vibration (Warner, 2004; Abdelgader, 1999).
29 Erdogan et al. (2008) reported that, although the flow characteristics of fresh concrete are
30 usually identified by its workability properties, it still lacks an accurate quantitative basis.
31 Hence, rheology, that is the science of the deformation and flow of matter in the form of
32 relationships between stresses, strains and time, has been recently introduced to tackle this
33 problem. Tattersall (1991) reported that, for full understanding of material flowability
34 characteristics, both yield stress and viscosity are important parameters to be identified as
35 some materials may have the same yield stress but different viscosity or vice versa.
36 Few investigations were conducted so far under the study of the effects of physical properties
37 of sand on mortar rheology (Banfill, 1994; Westerholm et al., 2008; Donza et al., 2002; Hu,
38 2005; Cortes et al., 2008). Banfill (1994) and Westerholm et al. (2008) concluded that an
39 increase of sand fineness increases both yield stress and plastic viscosity of mortar because of
40 both the high inter-particle friction and particle shape of crushed sand. Sand gradation has
41 also an effect on mortar flow; well graded sand mortars exhibited better flowability than
42 others because of the lower un-compacted sand volume of voids (Hu, 2005). Moreover, the
43 negative effect of poorly graded and shaped sands on mortar workability can be reduced or

44 eliminated by increasing the paste volume (Westerholm et al., 2008). Similarly, Cortes et al.
45 (2008) reported that a larger volume of paste is needed to achieve the required flow when
46 angular crushed fine aggregates are used. The excess paste theory was employed for both
47 fresh concrete and mortar (Kennedy, 1940; Nishibayashi al. 1996; and Oh et al., 1999) in
48 which the cement paste in excess of the amount needed to fill up the voids between aggregate
49 particles provides a thin film of paste which lubricates each aggregate particle and gives fresh
50 mortar or concrete workability. Despite of the significant research conducted on the effect of
51 sand properties on fresh mortar, the effect of sand surface texture on the rheological
52 properties of mortar is still not clear and further research is needed in this area.
53 In the current investigation, the effect of grading, surface texture and sand content on mortar-
54 paste relative rheological properties is investigated. A total of 40 mortar mixes were cast with
55 four different types of sand, at two cement-sand ratios (in volume) and five water-cement
56 (w/c) ratios. The rheometer (Viskomat NT) was used to determine yield stress and plastic
57 viscosity parameters of cement paste and mortar. The relationships between the excess paste
58 thickness and the relative rheological properties of mortar to cement paste were then
59 assessed.

60

Research Significance

61 High flowability of fresh concrete is needed in modern concrete technology, such as in self-
62 compacting concrete and pre-placed aggregate concrete. This paper investigates the effect of
63 grading, surface morphology and content of sand as well as water/cement ratio on rheological
64 properties of fresh mortar. The main finding of the investigation is that the relative yield
65 stress and plastic viscosity of mortar to cement paste is inversely proportional to the excess
66 paste thickness up to low values below which the surface texture of sand particles becomes
67 significant.

68

Materials Used

69 **Cement**

70 Portland cement (CEM1), grade 42.5 N was used in the production of the cement pastes and
71 mortar. Cement density was determined using the Hosakawa powder densometer. Three
72 aerated cement samples of 100 cm^3 (6.1 in^3) volumes were weighed and the average cement
73 density obtained was 870 kg/m^3 (54.31 lb/ft^3).

74 **Sand**

75 Four different types of natural rounded sand available in the UK market were used with
76 maximum aggregate size of 2mm (0.079in) as fine aggregate; these were identified as S1, S2,
77 S3 and S4. The Hosakawa powder densometer was also used to obtain the sand densities.
78 Sand properties including un-compacted densities, specific gravity and absorption were all
79 determined as explained below.

80 **Sand gradation**

81 Gradation curves of sands are shown in Figure 1. As shown in the figure, S2 is the finest and
82 S1 is the coarsest, whereas S4 is single size aggregate used as a reference.

83 **Sand absorption**

84 Sand absorption was measured as an average of the results for three samples by the frying
85 pan method (Neville, 1995). In this experiment, a fully saturated sand sample of about 150gm
86 (0.33 lb) was partially heated in a pan and stirred with spatula until the water evaporated from
87 the surface; as soon as no sand adhered to the sides of the spatula, the sand surface was
88 deemed to be dry and its inside still saturated. After that, the sample was weighed and left in
89 an oven at 105°c . After 24 hrs, sand was weighed again. The absorption is determined thus:

90
$$Absorption = \frac{W_{SSD} - W_{OD}}{W_{OD}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

91 where W_{SSD} is the weight of saturated sand with surface dry and W_{OD} is the weight of oven
92 dry sand. Results obtained from Eq. (1) for the four sands are presented in Table 1, indicating
93 that the highest water absorption sand is S2, whereas S4 exhibits the lowest absorption.

94 **Sand specific gravity**

95 Specific gravity of aggregate shown in Table 1 was measured by using the pycnometer; the
96 pycnometer is one litre jar with a water tight metal conical screw top with a small hole at the
97 apex which can be precisely filled with water having the same volume every time (Neville,
98 1995). 800 gm (1.6 lb) of oven dried sand was first prepared, then the pycnometer is filled
99 with water and weighed as w_1 . The pycnometer is then filled with the 800 gm (1.6 lb) of sand
100 and topped with water and weighted as w_2 . Specific gravity of sand can be calculated
101 according to the following equation:

102
$$SG = \frac{800}{w_1 - w_2 + 800} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

103 As shown in Table 1, S4 has a slightly higher specific gravity than S1 and S3, whereas S2
104 shows the lowest specific gravity.

105 **Void ratio of sand**

106 Void ratio V of each sand was measured from its density and specific gravity according to the
107 following equation:

108
$$V = \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{SG}\right) \times 100 \quad (3)$$

109 where γ is the aerated sand density in (g/cm^3) and SG is the specific gravity of sand.

110 As presented in Table 1, S2 has the highest void ratio as it has the lowest aerated density and
111 is the finest sand. On the other hand, S4 has the lowest void ratio owing to its highest aerated
112 density.

113 **Sand surface area**

114 Sand surface area was calculated by summing up the surface area of each set of known size
115 after sieving them. Sand particles were assumed as equivalent spheres having a diameter of
116 the average of each two successive-sieves sizes and the surface area of one particle was then
117 calculated. The number of sand particles in each set was calculated according to the weight
118 retained on a certain sieve and the corresponding sand specific gravity. The surface area of
119 each set is the number of particles multiplied by the surface area of one particle (Hu, 2005;
120 Oh et al., 1999).

121 Table 1 indicates that S2 presented the highest surface area followed by S3, S1 and S4,
122 respectively, showing good agreement with the results of sand gradation presented in Figure
123 1.

124 **Mix proportions and mixing procedure**

125 In this study, the effect of w/c ratio on the rheology of mortar and cement paste, and the
126 effect of cement/sand (c/s) ratio on the rheology of mortar were examined. Forty mixes
127 having w/c of 0.6, 0.55, 0.50, 0.45, and 0.40, and c/s of 1/0.9 and 1/0.6 for the four types of
128 sand (S1, S2, S3 and S4) were studied. A wide range of w/c ratios was selected to ensure the
129 achievement of suitable workability. Three c/s ratios of 1/0.6, 1/0.9 and 1/1.2 were initially
130 tested, however, the higher c/s ratio of 1/1.2 was eventually abandoned because of its stiff
131 consistency. Although c/s ratios were chosen by volume, the quantity of sand required for
132 mixing was converted to weight according to their aerated density (Cortes et. al., 2008; Hu,

133 2005; Hu and Wang, 2007). All sands used were oven dried at 105°C for 24 hrs in order to
134 get an oven dry sample (BS 812-109, 1990) for mortar mixing. The amount of water required
135 for absorption was added to the water required for hydration.

136 Mixing of cement paste and mortar was carried out by Hobart mixer for five minutes. Mortar
137 was mixed by adding water and cement into the mixer bowl and mixed at low speed for 30
138 sec. Afterwards, sand was gradually added in about 30 sec during low speed mixing. The
139 mixer was stopped after two minutes of mixing. Finally, the mixer was operated at high speed
140 for another three minutes.

141 **Cement paste rheology test results**

142 The rheometer, Viskomat NT, was used to measure the rheological parameters of cement
143 paste and mortar. The instrument is a stress controlled device operated by computer software.
144 Yield stress and plastic viscosity parameters of the paste and mortar with maximum particle
145 size of 2 mm can be calculated by measuring the recorded torque at different rotating speeds
146 (Scheibinger Gerate Viskomat NT, 2007; Banfill, 1994).

147 Cement pastes were produced with w/c ratios of 0.6, 0.55, 0.50, 0.45 and 0.40, and their
148 rheological parameters were calculated from the relations torque vs. rotating speed as
149 presented in Figure 2. The applied torque for the cement paste was significantly affected by
150 the change of water content; as the w/c ratio increases from 0.4 to 0.6, the applied torque
151 decreases at the same rotating speed as depicted in Figure 2, indicating that the rheometer
152 blades are less resisted by the cement paste. This is consistent with the flowability concept in
153 which an increase of water content increases the flow of both cement paste and mortar. In
154 addition, the water increase creates softer paste as higher water content causes greater
155 dispersion of cement particles. Similarly, Popovics (1982) and Hu (2005) reported that the

156 liberation of cement particles increases by an increase in water content, leading to less yield
157 stress and viscosity.

158 From the curves of the applied torque T against the rotating speed N presented in Figure 2,
159 the paste conforms to the following equation:

$$160 \qquad \qquad \qquad T = g + hN \qquad \qquad \qquad (4)$$

161 where g and h are two material characteristics that are related to the yield stress and plastic
162 viscosity (Tattersall and Banfill, 1983; Banfill, 1990; Banfill, 1995). g is the intercept with
163 the torque axis in (Nmm) and h is the slope of curves in (Nmms). Table 2 shows these two
164 rheological constants of cement paste at different w/c ratios.

165 **Effect of w/c ratio on paste rheological parameters**

166 Regression analysis was employed to obtain the yield stress parameter (g) and plastic
167 viscosity parameter (h) equations of cement paste as presented in Figures 3 and 4,
168 respectively. As shown, the increasing w/c ratio reduces both g and h exponentially for all
169 pastes, agreeing with other studies (Banfill, 1994; Tattersall, 1991; Wallevik and Wallevik,
170 1998; Hu, 2005). The reduction of g and h with the increase of water content is attributed to
171 the liberation of cement particles and the consequent ease of cement particles movement.

172 **Mortar rheology test results**

173 For a better understanding of the effect of water contents and sand on mortar rheology, the
174 effect of w/c and c/s ratios on mortar rheology was investigated and presented below.

175 **Relation between mortar rheological parameters and w/c ratio**

176 Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 show the relations between mortar rheological constants and w/c ratio. It
177 is clear that in both cases of c/s ratios, as the w/c ratio increases, g and h decrease for all
178 mortars using different sands, which demonstrates good agreement with other investigations
179 (Banfill, 1994; Hu, 2005). The reduction in mortar g and h is a reflection of the reduction in
180 g and h of the cement paste as presented earlier. The highest rheological values were
181 achieved by S2 mortars and the lowest values were observed for S4 at the same w/c ratio. The
182 high rheological values of S2 mortars can be attributed to its largest void content which
183 consumed more cement paste to fill up the space between sand particles as reported by Hu
184 (2005). Banfill (1994) and Westerholm et al. (2007) found that an increase of sand fineness
185 increases both yield stress and plastic viscosity as also observed in S2 sand in the current
186 investigation which has the highest surface area as presented in Table 1. On the other hand,
187 S4 shows the lowest rheological values because of its low surface area and void content. S1
188 and S3 mortars presented closer values in both cases of c/s ratios. Some mortars were too
189 stiff, disallowing rheological properties to be measured by the rheometer as indicated in
190 Table 3, for example S2 mortars at w/c of 0.45 and 0.40 through Figure 7 and Table 3.

191 The effect of sand content on mortar rheological properties can be seen in the comparison
192 between c/s of 1/0.9 and c/s of 1/0.6 presented in Table 3. It is clear that the resulted g and h
193 at high sand contents (i.e. 1/0.9 c/s) are larger than those of low sand content mixes (1/0.6
194 c/s) for the same sand type and w/c ratio. As higher amount of sand employed in mortar,
195 internal particle friction and interlock increase, and consequently g and h increase as also
196 reported by Hu (2005).

197

Relative mortar-paste rheology and excess paste thickness

198

From the relations between w/c ratio and mortar rheological parameters presented above, it

199

was observed that, at a certain w/c ratio, g and h are different for different sand mortars.

200

Therefore, there was a need to investigate another factor which causes this change.

201

Nishibayashi et al. (1996) reported that, in order to study the rheology of mortar, it is

202

advantageous to consider the mortar as highly concentrated suspension where the suspended

203

particles are the sand particles and the matrix is the cement paste. This phenomenon is

204

consistent with the excess paste theory presented by Kennedy (1940) and Oh et. al. (1999).

205

According to the excess paste theory, the consistency of mortar depends on the excess paste

206

thickness and the paste property which is the rheology in this case. The need to find another

207

factor than w/c ratio affecting mortar rheology using different sands led to the need to present

208

the excess paste theory and apply it in this study as explained below.

209

Excess paste thickness

210

Cement paste in mortar can be divided into two parts; the first is used to fill up the sand voids

211

whereas the second part (excess part) coats the sand surface and separates aggregate particles.

212

The excess paste volume is responsible for mortar workability where a small thickness film

213

of paste surrounds aggregate particles due to the excess paste. This film separates sand

214

particles and is known as the excess paste thickness (Nishibayashi et.al., 1996; Oh et. al.,

215

1999; Hu, 2005). In addition, as the paste thickness changes, the mortar rheological

216

properties vary. Excess paste thickness can be calculated from the following equation

217

(Nishibayashi et. al., 1996; Oh et. al., 1999):

218

$$t_p = \left(1 - 100 \frac{V_s}{C_s}\right) \frac{10}{S_s V_s} \quad (5)$$

219 where t_p is the thickness of excess paste in mm , C_s is the sand solid volume divided by its
220 bulk volume (%), S_s is the specific surface area of aggregate (cm^2/cm^3) and V_s is the ratio
221 of aggregate to mortar volumes.

222 The sand packing has an effect on the rheological properties of mortar as the sand gradings
223 are different as presented in Figure 1. If the packing density of sand is increased, the amount
224 of paste needed to fill up the voids is reduced and consequently, there will be more excess
225 paste to improve the rheological properties. Therefore, in order to calculate the excess paste
226 thickness in Eq. (5), there is a need to measure the volume of mortar as described below. A
227 total of 40 mortar mixes similar to these considered above were prepared in small quantities;
228 they were mixed by hand in polypropylene bags and care was taken not to lose any material.
229 After 24 hours, mortar was taken from the bags and the volume of hardened mortar was then
230 calculated from the difference between its weight in air and weight in water. As the sand
231 weight was known, sand solid volume was calculated according to its specific gravity and,
232 then, aggregate to mortar volume ratio V_s was calculated. Solid volume percentage C_s was
233 calculated as $(1 - V)$, where V is the aerated sand void ratio, and specific surface area of
234 sands is known as given in Table 1. Finally, excess paste thickness is calculated according to
235 Eq. 5.

236 **Effect of excess paste thickness on the relative rheological properties**

237 The relation between excess paste thickness and rheological properties was performed for the
238 33 mixes as shown in Figures 9 and 10; the other 7 mixes were too stiff to be handled by the
239 rheometer as given in Table 3. The relative rheological parameters, g and h , were calculated
240 by dividing g and h of mortar by the corresponding values of paste (Nishibayashi et al.,
241 1996; Oh et. al., 1999). Both relative rheological parameters decrease exponentially with the
242 increase in cement paste thickness, consistent with Oh et al. (1999) and Nishibayashi et al.

243 (1996). Based on the presented graphs, regression analysis of data yields the following
244 equations:

$$245 \quad \text{Relative yield stress } G/g = 0.22t_p^{-1.17} \quad (6)$$

$$246 \quad \text{Relative plastic viscosity } H/h = 0.68t_p^{-0.5} \quad (7)$$

247 where G and g are the yield stresses of mortar and paste, respectively, H and h are the plastic
248 viscosities of mortar and paste, respectively and t_p is the excess paste thickness in (mm).

249 Although the trend in Figures 9 and 10 show that both relative yield stress and plastic
250 viscosity decrease with the increase in excess paste thickness, it seems that, for a given sand
251 type and c/s ratio, the relative yield stress slightly decreases with the decrease in t_p . Similarly,
252 the relative plastic viscosity at c/s of $1/0.9$ decreases with the decrease in t_p . Therefore, it was
253 decided to further investigate a better relation between the rheological parameters for mortar,
254 paste and the excess paste thickness.

255 Non-linear statistical regression analysis was performed to develop more conclusive
256 relationships between the rheological properties of mortar and paste. The inputs are the paste
257 rheological values and excess paste thickness and the output is the mortar rheological values.
258 Non-linear relations between mortar and paste rheological parameters and excess paste
259 thickness were obtained and presented below:

$$260 \quad G = 0.27g^{0.63}t_p^{-1.17} \quad (8)$$

$$261 \quad H = 0.68h^{0.78}t_p^{-0.5} \quad (9)$$

262 The relationships are statistically significant with correlation coefficients (R^2) of 0.93 and
263 0.90 for yield stress and plastic viscosity equations, respectively.

264 Figures 11 and 12 present Eqs. (8) and (9) with the experimental results of relative yield
265 stress and viscosity, respectively. Note that the mortar yield stress and viscosity have been

266 normalised with the corresponding cement paste parameter raised to powers of 0.63 and 0.78,
267 respectively. Figures 11 and 12 show that the relative rheological parameters decrease with
268 the increase in excess paste thickness, indicating better trends than presented in Figures 9 and
269 10. The trends show that the relations are applicable for all sands at different c/s ratios.
270 Although the improvement presented in the yield stress trend for each sand mortar is clear, a
271 slight discrepancy in plastic viscosity is observed.
272 Figure 13 compares Eq. (7) for the relative viscosity resulted from this study against the
273 equation developed by Nishibayashi et al. (1996) below:

$$274 \quad \log H/h = -23.8 t_p + 1.06 \quad (10)$$

275 Figure 13 shows that Eq. (7) resulted from the present study predicts higher relative
276 viscosities than does the curve of Eq. (10). Although, Nishibayashi et al. (1996) have
277 underestimated the relative viscosity at high excess paste thickness to the level of nearly zero
278 which may limit the range of the applicability of this relation, the same trend between their
279 data and the present investigation is observed. Moreover, the lower values of Nishibayashi et
280 al. (1996) of relative viscosity at the same excess paste thickness could be attributed to the
281 effect of the high range water reducing admixture used. Owing to the lack of equations
282 available on the relative yield shear, it is not possible to have any comparisons for Eq. (6) or
283 (8).

284 The most significant finding from Figures 11 and 12 is that S2 mortars at c/s of 1/0.9 show
285 the highest relative rheological properties at very low paste thickness for two mixes of w/c of
286 0.60 and 0.55. The higher relative rheological performance of S2 than S3 mortars at the same
287 excess paste thickness indicates that it is not only attributed to the high sand surface area of
288 S2. This forwards the approach suggested by Ferraris and Gaidis (1992). They concluded that
289 sand size below 0.1mm in mortars would lubricate with the same size of cement and becomes
290 grit in the lubricant phase which increased the rheological performance of mortar. But this

291 approach does not seem enough to justify the above observation as S2 and S3 contain similar
292 amounts of small size sand as their percentages passing sieve size of 0.063mm are 5.08% and
293 4.27 %, respectively. Consequently, there would be a need to investigate whether the sand
294 texture is responsible for this difference on mortar rheology. Therefore, sand surface
295 morphology was investigated by the scanning electron microscope (SEM) as depicted in
296 Figure 14.

297 In the scanning test, S1, S2 and S3 were sieved and particles passed through 0.25mm and
298 retained on 0.125mm were collected and scanned. Since S4 is a single size sand, only
299 particles retained on sieve 0.5mm were scanned. As shown in Figure 14(b), S2 differs from
300 others as its surface is very rough and contains many edges. Consequently, the surface texture
301 of S2 would increase the interlocking and friction between particles, decreasing mortar
302 workability at low cement paste content. Other sands show smooth surfaces and some even
303 show pitting.

304

Conclusions

305 The effect of different types of fine aggregate and water/cement ratio on mortar rheological
306 properties was experimentally investigated. The following conclusions may be drawn:

- 307
- As the sand surface area of the aggregates increases more paste is needed to cover
308 their surface to attain certain rheology. In other words, when the paste volume is kept
309 constant, the resulted rheological parameters are controlled by the surface area of
310 sand.
 - Mortar rheology is controlled by two main factors, namely the rheology of cement
311 paste and excess paste thickness.
- 312

- 313 • Relative mortar-paste rheological properties increase with the decrease in cement
314 paste thickness up to low values below which the sand surface roughness becomes
315 very important due to the high friction of sand particles.
- 316 • The trend predicted for the relative viscosity from the equation developed in the
317 current investigation compared reasonably well with that obtained from the existing
318 formulae in the literature.

319

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369 **List of Tables**370 **Table 1** – Sand physical properties.371 **Table 2** – Rheological constants of cement paste.372 **Table 3** – Mortar rheological parameters at different w/c and c/s ratios.

373

374 **List of Figures**375 **Figure 1** – Sand gradation.376 **Figure 2** – Torque vs. rotating speed for cement paste at different w/c ratios.377 **Figure 3** – Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of cement paste.378 **Figure 4** – Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of cement paste.379 **Figure 5** – Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.9.380 **Figure 6** – Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.6.381 **Figure 7** – Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.9.382 **Figure 8** – Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.6.383 **Figure 9** – Relative yield stress vs excess paste thickness for all mixes.384 **Figure 10** – Relative plastic viscosity vs excess paste thickness for all mixes.385 **Figure 11** – $G/g^{0.63}$ vs excess paste thickness for all mixes.386 **Figure 12** – $H/h^{0.78}$ vs excess paste thickness for all mixes.387 **Figure 13** – Comparisons between the developed relative viscosity equation with others.388 **Figure 14** – Sand surface magnification of 1000 times.

389

390 **Table 1–Sand physical properties.**

Sand type	S1	S2	S3	S4
Specific gravity	2.62	2.57	2.61	2.65
Void ratio (%)	39.58	49.84	41.84	38.11
Aerated density(kg/m³)	1583	1289	1518	1640
Absorption (%)	0.83	1.10	0.13	0.07
Specific Surface area (cm²/cm³)	175.02	313.14	268.45	81.02

391 1 kg/m³ = 0.0624 lb/ft³; 1 cm = 0.394 in.

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394 **Table 2–Rheological constants of cement paste.**

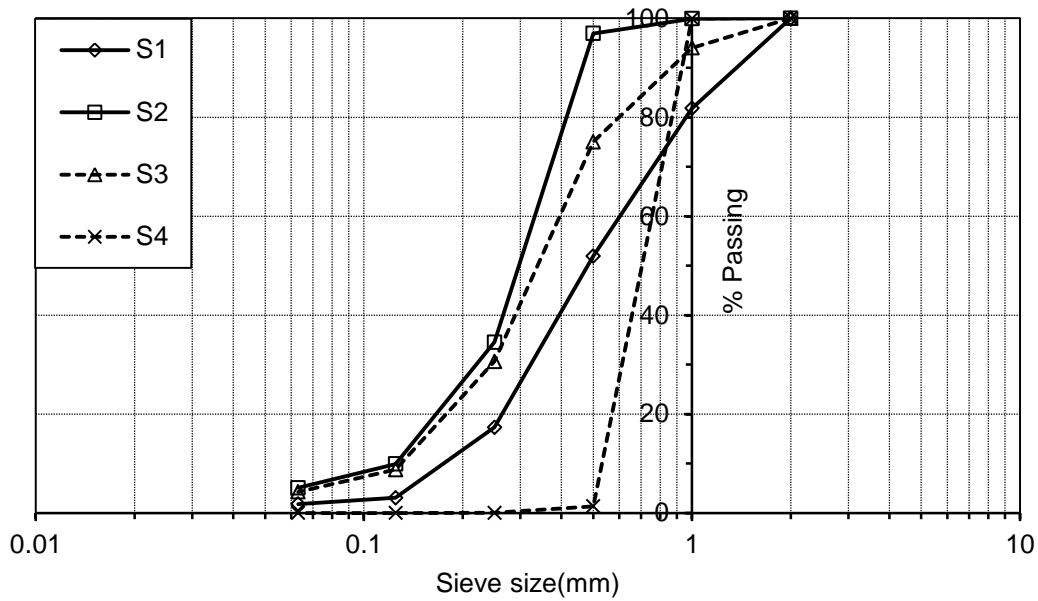
Mix	w/c ratio	<i>g</i> (Nmm)	<i>h</i> (Nmms)
1	0.60	0.64	0.42
2	0.55	1.19	0.74
3	0.50	2.80	1.24
4	0.45	5.42	2.09
5	0.40	11.68	4.20

395 1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in.

396 **Table 3–Mortar rheological parameters at different w/c and c/s ratios.**

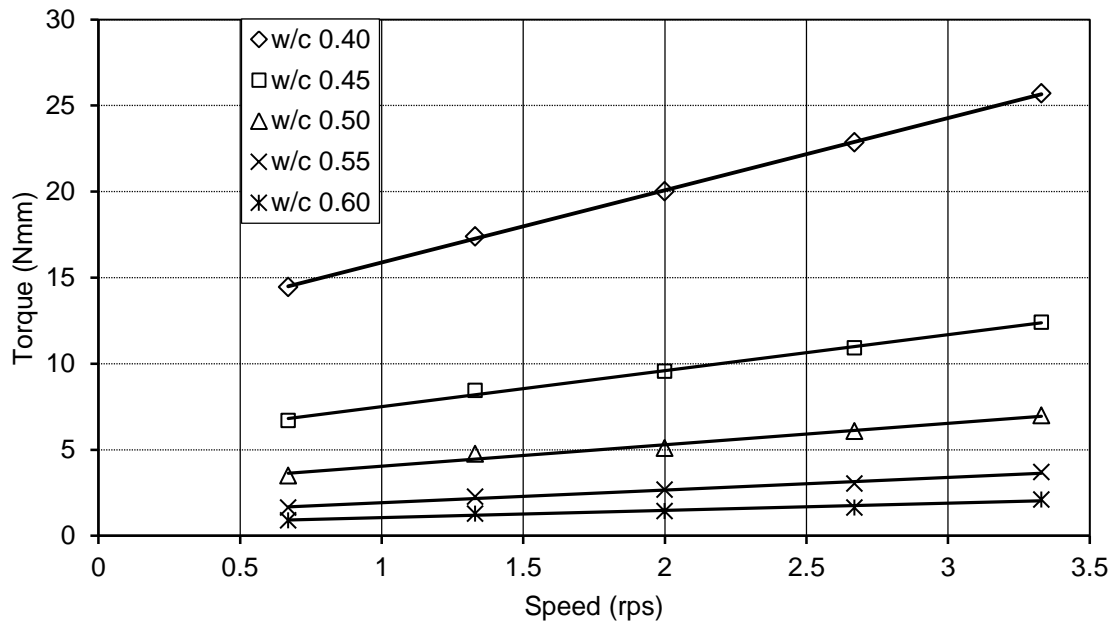
Sand type	Mix	w/c ratio	<i>g</i> (Nmm)		<i>h</i> (Nmms)	
			c/s=1/0.9	c/s=1/0.6	c/s=1/0.9	c/s=1/0.6
S1	1	0.60	6.04	2.89	2.28	1.11
	2	0.55	11.44	5.89	3.1	1.75
	3	0.50	23.17	9.38	4.8	3
	4	0.45	53.75	17.17	6.34	5.09
	5	0.40	N/A	35.20	N/A	8.66
S2	1	0.60	21.46	4.97	3.09	1.60
	2	0.55	39.57	11.68	4.23	2.49
	3	0.50	N/A	24.23	N/A	4.53
	4	0.45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	0.40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
S3	1	0.60	8.16	3.27	1.99	1.11
	2	0.55	14.41	5.14	2.76	1.79
	3	0.50	25.61	10.88	4.00	2.32
	4	0.45	58.04	22.35	5.79	4.02
	5	0.40	N/A	38.84	N/A	7.58
S4	1	0.60	1.76	1.66	1.40	0.75
	2	0.55	2.83	2.48	2.04	1.11
	3	0.50	6.26	3.87	2.99	1.79
	4	0.45	12.80	8.54	4.00	3.07
	5	0.40	25.73	14.81	7.01	4.79

397 1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in.



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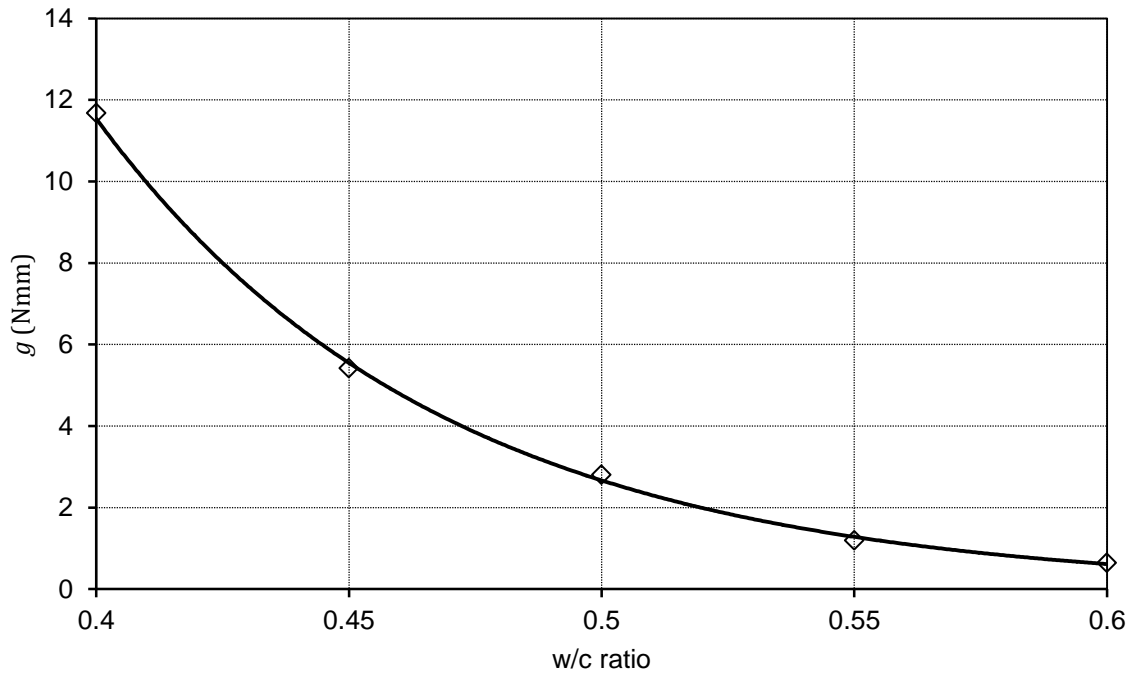
Figure 1–Sand gradation. (1 mm = 0.039 in.)



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Figure 2–Torque vs. rotating speed for cement paste at different w/c ratios.

(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).



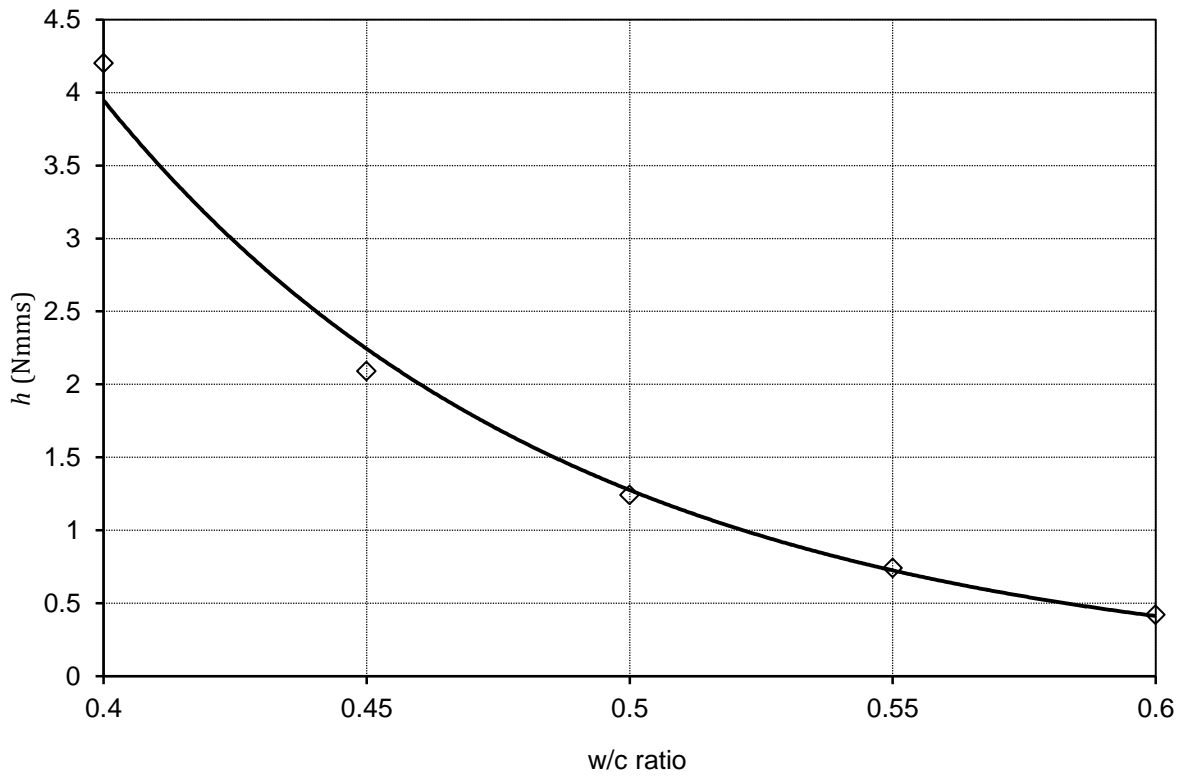
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Figure 3–Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of cement paste.

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(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).



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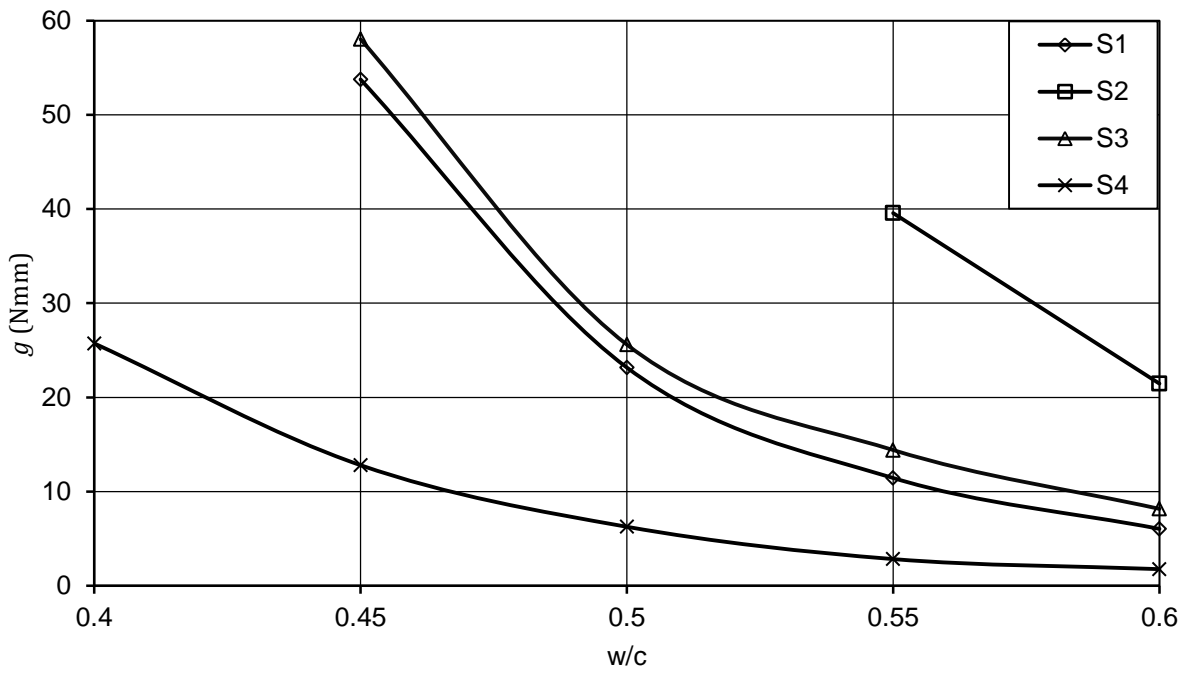
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Figure 4–Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of cement paste.

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(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).

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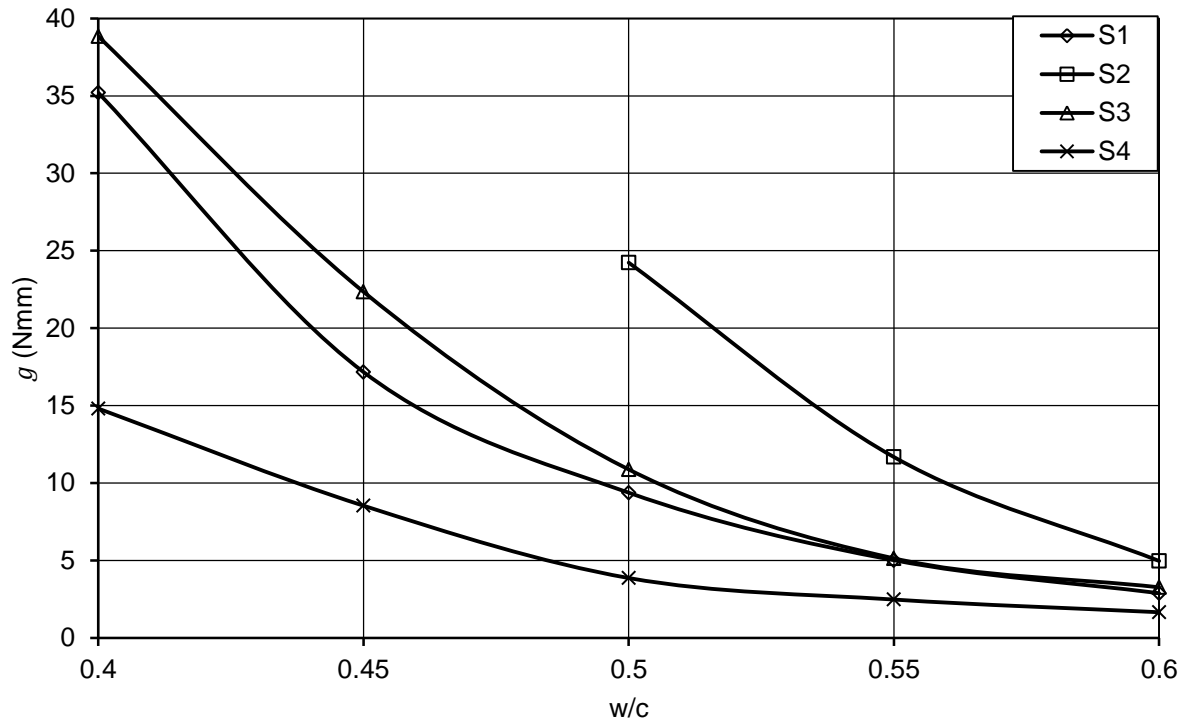
412 **Figure 5—Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.9.**

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(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).

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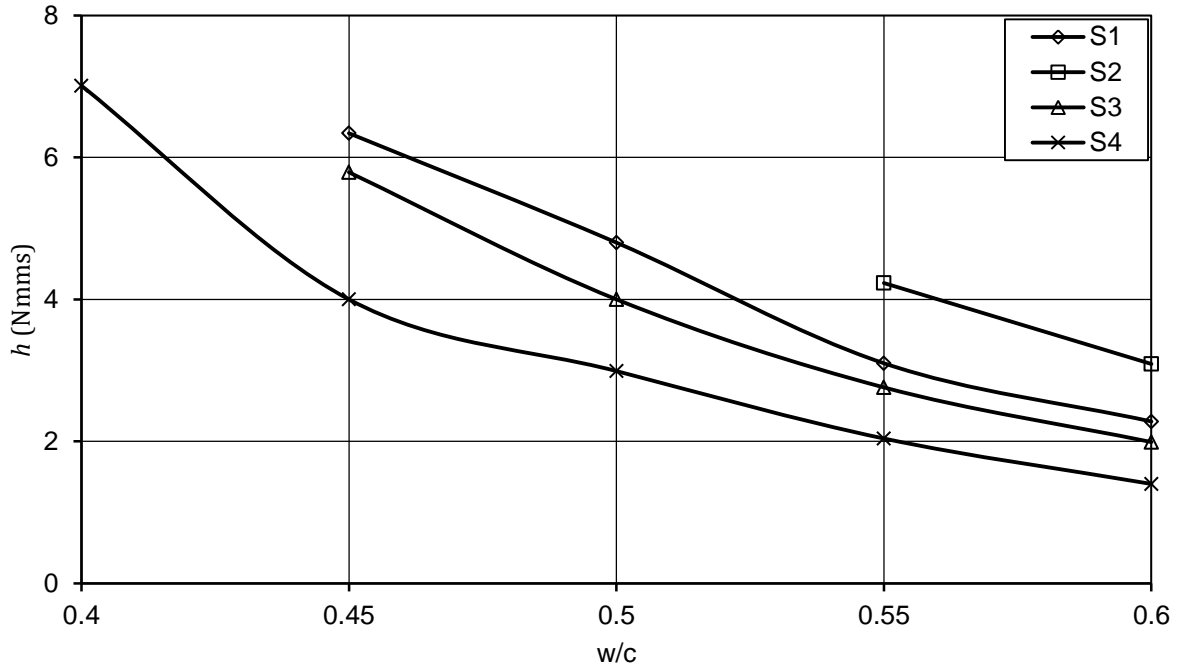
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417 **Figure 6–Yield stress vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.6.**

418 (1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).

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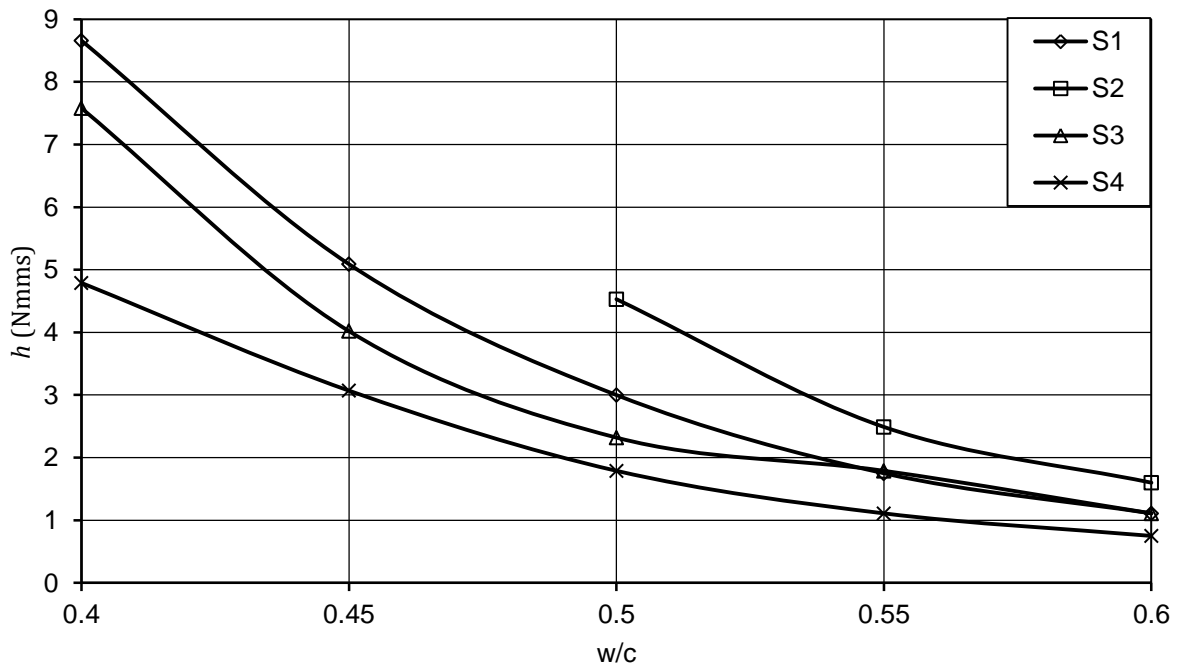
421

422 **Figure 7–Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.9.**

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(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).

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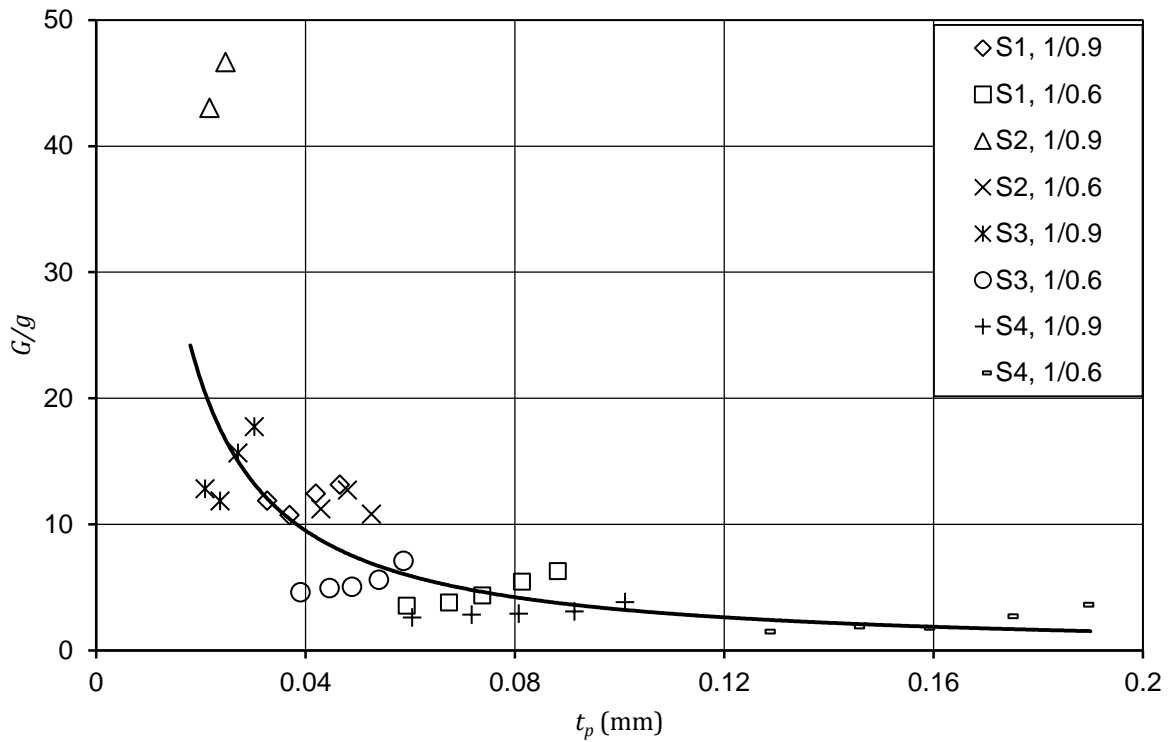


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426 **Figure 8–Plastic viscosity vs. w/c ratio of mortars with different sands at c/s of 1/0.6.**

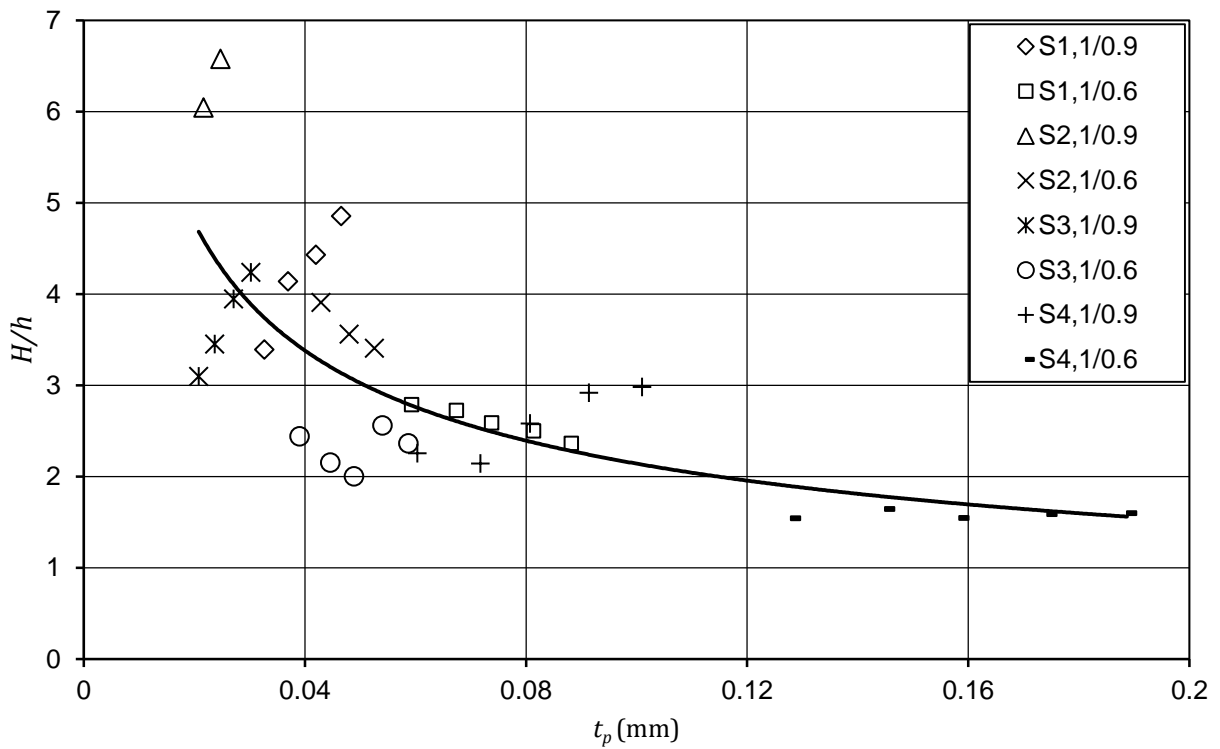
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(1 N = 0.225 lb; 1 mm = 0.039 in).



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430 **Figure 9–Relative yield stress vs excess paste thickness for all mixes. (1 mm = 0.039 in).**



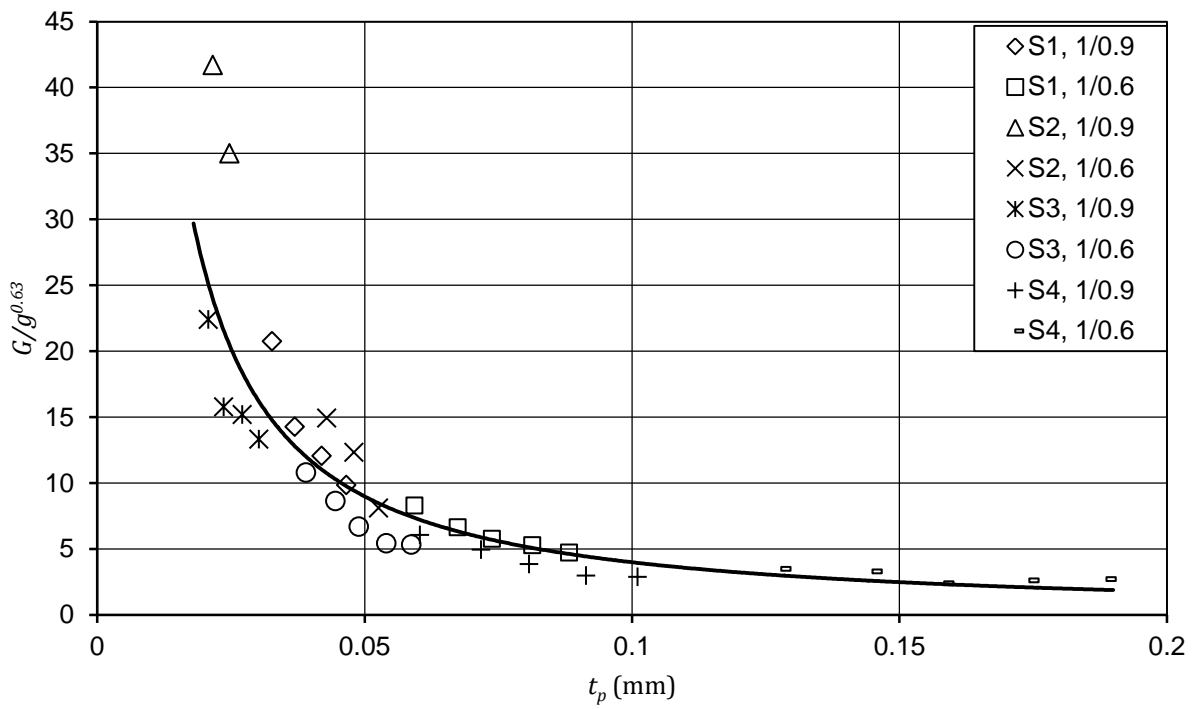
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432 **Figure 10–Relative plastic viscosity vs excess paste thickness for all mixes. (1 mm =**

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0.039 in).

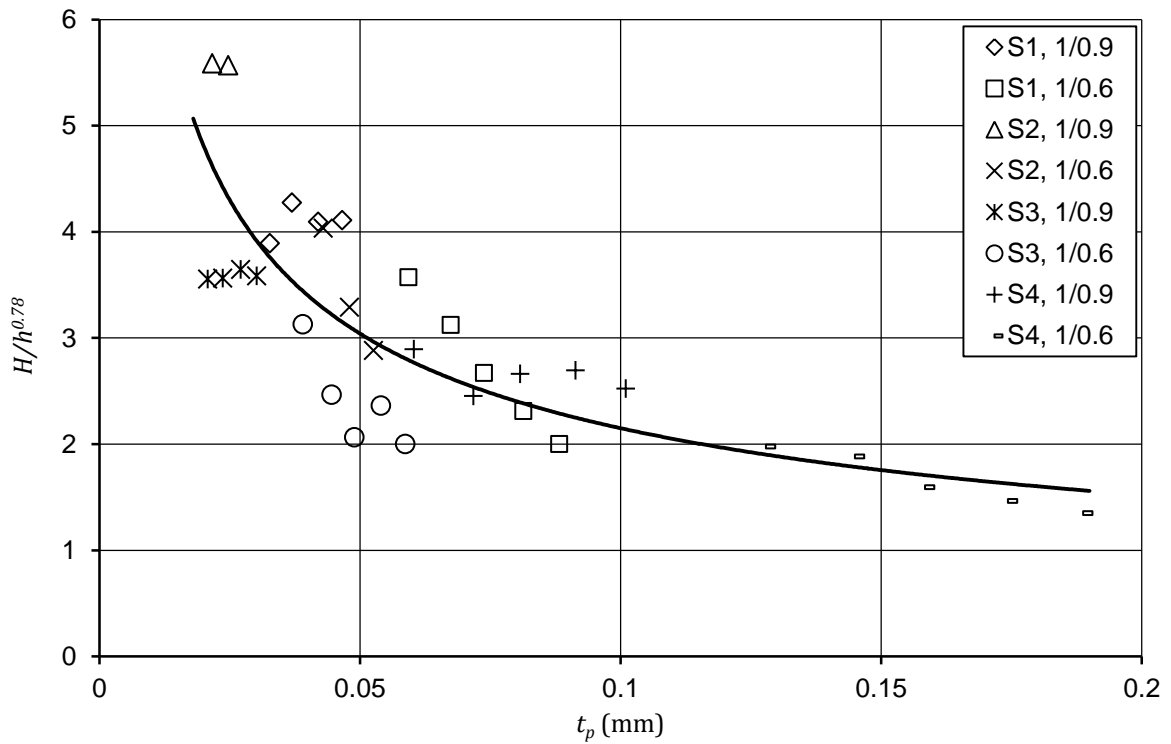
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436 **Figure 11**– $G/g^{0.63}$ vs excess paste thickness for all mixes. (1 mm = 0.039 in).

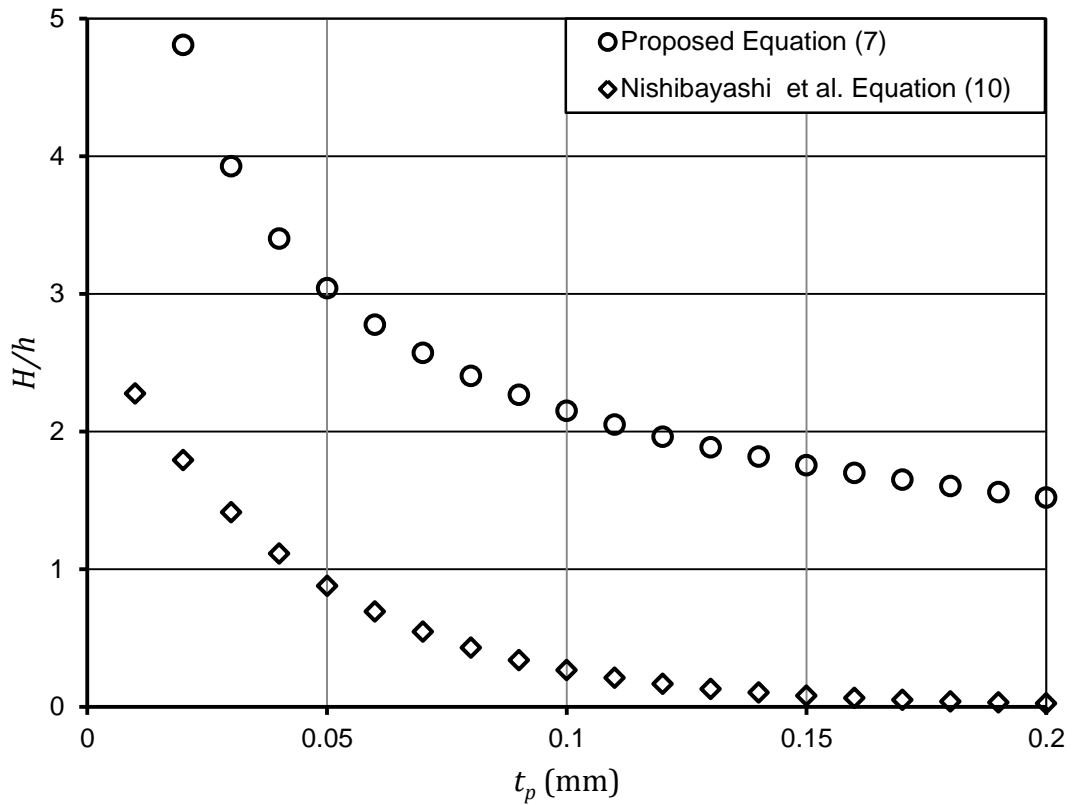
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439 **Figure 12**– $H/h^{0.78}$ vs excess paste thickness for all mixes. (1 mm = 0.039 in).

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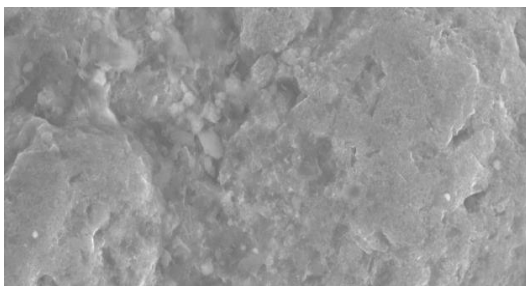
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442 **Figure 13–Comparisons between the developed relative viscosity equation with others.**

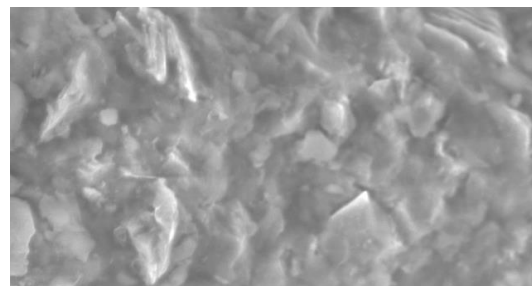
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(1 mm = 0.039 in).

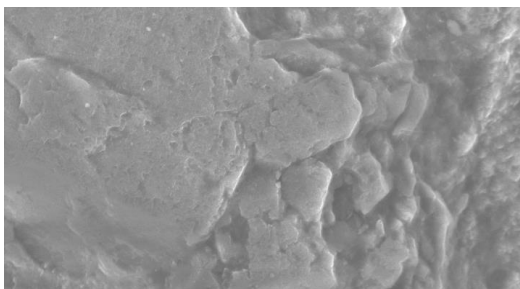
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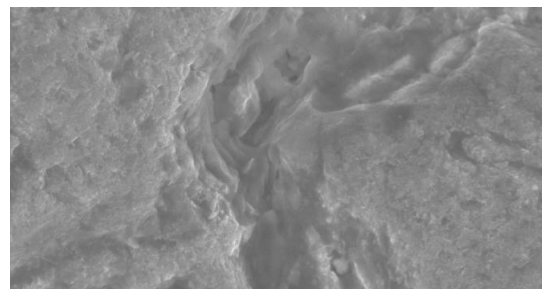
(a) S1, sand size of 0.125 mm



(b) S2, sand size of 0.125 mm



(c) S3, sand size of 0.125 mm



(d) S4, sand size of 0.50 mm

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Figure 14–Sand surface magnifications of 1000 times. (1 mm = 0.039 in).