RICHIGAN STATE HIGHEAT DEPARTMENT Charles N. Ziegler State Highway Commissioner

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DETERMINATION OF YOUNG'S MODULUS OF FROZEN AND THANED CONCENTS SPECIMENS BY SONIC METHOD

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REPEATCH LABORATORY TESTING AND RESEARCH DIVISION AUGUST 5, 1948

APPLICATION OF SONIC METHOD TO FREEZING AND THAVING STUDIES OF CONCRETE

The measurement of netural frequencies of vibration of specimens of building materials has been used as a means of estimating changes in the material comped by aging, by cycles of freezing and thawing, or by sizilar treatments. The matural frequency can be determined at frequent intervals during a given treatment without harming the specimen, and the percentage change in square of the natural frequency may be used as an approximate measure of the breaking down of the structure of the material.

By substituting values of natural frequency into an equation relating that particular frequency to the dimensions of the specimen and the density and electic constants of the material, a value is obtained for Young's modulus of that specimen. This has been commonly referred to as the sonic method of determining Young's modulus.

The sonic method is employed by the Research Laboratory of the Michigan State Highway Department as a research tool to assist in the evaluation of certain factors related to the durability of concrete pavement slabs. The use of this bool has attained such significance and general application that the report which follows has been prepared with the idea of establishing a complete record of the sonic method as used by the Research Laboratory. The report includes such subjects as the theory of the sonic method, a description of the sonic apparatus and its operation, the determination of Young's modulus, and a few comparative results pertaining to the sonic method versus the static method of determining Young's modulus. The record will also serve as a handbook for those workers who are, or who will become, intimately associated with the test.

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Theory of the Sonic Method:

The flammal frequencies of a slander bar of uniform sections as outlined by Hornibrook (1), are given by the fundamental equation.

$$\frac{m^2 k}{m^2 x k} = \frac{m^2 k}{2\pi L^2} = \frac{m^2 k}{d}$$

* * (2)

from which

 $\frac{4\pi^2 L^4 dN^2}{m^4 k^2 q}$

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E = Young's modulus of elasticity in pounds per square inch,

L = length of the specimen in inches,

d = unit weight of the specimen in pounds per oubic inch,

N = netural frequency in cycles per second,

k = radius of gyration of the section about an axis perpendicular to the plane of bending,

g = acceleration due to gravity, and

m = disensional factor depending on mode of vibration and conditions of restraint.

The values L, d, and k can be measured directly, and g is known. For bars in which the thickness is appreciable compared to the length, a correction is required to account for the effects of rotary inertia and of lateral expansion and contraction of the bar.

Mason (2) has shown that these corrections can be made by using the proper value of m. Belationship between a and various ratios of thickness to length for rectangular bars vibrating in the fundamental flexural mode are presented graphically in Figure 1. The derivation of these relationships is based upon a value of .18 for Poisson's ratio, which represents an overage figure for concrete.

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For a cylindrical bar of concrete 4 inches in diameter and 16 inches in length, the modulus of elasticity E is determined as follows:

> k = d = 1", L = 10", R = <u>diameter</u> = 0.25, and longth

m = 4.50 (found directly from the graph, Figure 1). Substituting these values in equation (2) we have

R = 10.349 d N ²

Letting p denote the specific gravity of the specimen and simplifying further we obtain finally

1 = ,5898 p H ² - - - - - - - - (4)

For a prismatic bar 3" x 6" x 15" the modulus of elasticity E is determined similarly by proper substitution in equation (2). For this type of specimen $k = \frac{3}{10}$, L = 15 inches, $k = \frac{3}{15} = 0.20$, m = 4.52 and we have

8 = .5966 p N ² - - - - - - - (5)

Values for Young's modulus may be determined rapidly and conveniently either by the use of nomographs constructed from equations (4) and (5), or by graphs of these functions on a logarithmic scale. See Figure 1A. As we have seen in the preceding analysis, the mathematical relationships in equation (1) have been reduced to an expression involving three variables E, N, and p. By varying p arbitrarily between the ordinary limits for concrete, we obtain a family of curves of the general form $E = CN^2$.

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Figure 1A

The Soule Apparatus:

An apparatus for determining the fundamental flexural frequency of a concrete specimen vibrating as a free-free bar has been developed by the Research Laboratory of the Michigan State Highway Department and constructed by the Davenport Laboratory, Detroit, Michigan. The design of the sonic apparatus is based on that of a similar instrument employed by the National Bureau of Standards and described by Hornibrook (1).

The sonic apparatus, as illustrated schematically in Figure 2 and pictorially in Figure 5, consists of several common electrical devices specially assembled into one compact housing to perform with greater facility its intended function. The several units are essentially a power unit, an audio amplifier, a detector, fixed and variable frequency oscillators, a magnetic type radio speaker and a reconance indicator. The various units are described briefly in the following text.

<u>Pawer Unit</u>: The sonic apparatus operates on 115 volt elternating current which upon passing through the power unit is rectified to direct current and the voltage increased to 250 volts. Also a 6 volt supply of current is made available for operating the tube filements.

Frequency Oscillators: From experience it was learned that the maximum frequency range for concrete test specimens was approximately 2500 cycles per second. To obtain this range one fixed frequency oscillator and one variable frequency oscillator are used. The fixed oscillator operates at 350 kc and the variable oscillator operates between 350 to 355 kc. The two oscillators are properly connected so that beat frequencies up to 3 kc per second may be obtained for testing purposes.

Detector: A detector or rectifier consisting of a 6 H 8 tube is inserted between the oscillators and the audio-emplifier.

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Magnetic Speaker Driver: It was found that a 5 ohs magnetic type radio speaker was sufficient to excillate the particular test specimens associated with the freezing and thesing tests as conducted by the Research Laboratory. A suitable metal rod, 1/15" in dismater, is command to the core of the speaker come. This metal rod is placed in contact with the surface of the test specimen midway between the specimen supports. The supports are located at the mode points of the specimen at a distance of .244 L from each end of the specimen.

<u>Masonance Indicator</u>: The unit for detecting the resonance of the test specimen consists of a contact microphone, an audio-amplifier and a vacomm tube milliensmeter for measuring maximum current flow. The vibrations are picked up by the contact microphone which is placed near the end of the specimen. Current set up by the vibrations in the microphone is amplified and indicated on the milliammeter. Show the specimen is vibrating at natural frequency, the dial of the milliammeter indicates a maximum.

The various electrical devices described above have been assembled and sounted in a compact, modernized radio cabinet in order to facilitate operation of the apparatus. It is necessary that a definite test routine be followed in the performance of a conic determination.

Operation of Sonie Apparetue:

The sequence of steps relevant to the operation of the sonic apparatus may now be described in detail. Before conducting tests, the main OFF-OF switch (No. 3) is turned to ON position and the apparatus allowed to sarm up for approximately 1/2 hour. After the warming period, the next step is to check the calibration of the instrument. This is accomplished by setting frequency control dial (No. 7) at 60 and turning calibration switch (No. 4)

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to the ON position. Volume control (No. 1) is turned to full volume, then calibration control condenser (No. 2) is adjusted until the magic sys (No. 6) just closes. At the termination of these adjustments the apparatus will be calibrated for 60 cycles against the 60 cycles of the power input. Calibration switch (No. 4) and volume control (No. 1) are now turned to OFF position.

There bias control switch (No. 5) to ON position and adjust current volume so that the meter (No. 8) indicates a current between 5-6 millinsperes. The amount of current indicated by ammeter (No. 8) does not effect the frequency. The bias-control regulates the amount of current flowing through the ammeter only. The sonic apparatus is now ready for use.

The concrete specimen selected for modulus of elasticity determination is now placed on a special holder which supports the specimen at the modes (No. 9).

(See test est-up, Figures 2 and 5). The sagnetic driver (No. 10) is adjusted in position so that the driving rod (No. 11) is in positive contact with the specimen midway between the modes.

The plokup (No. 12) is placed on the end of the specimen as illustrated in schematic diagram Figure 2 and in Figure 3. The resonant frequency of the specimen is determined in the following manner. Turn the frequency control switch (No. 1) on to full volume, adjust the frequency control dial (No. 7) until the ammeter reading (No. 8) indicates a maximum. This is the resonant frequency of the specimen and is designated by letter "N" in the equations given previously.

Precentions: Certain precentions must be observed in running the test.

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1. It is important to check the calibration of the instrument after each test in order to check and correct for any drift of the apparatus during the test. 2. Many specisions vibrate at their natural frequency when excited at one-half, one-third, or even one-fourth their natural frequency. Therefore care must be taken to be certain that the oscillator and specises are vibrating at the same frequency. This can be checked by placing the pickup, first on the specker and then on the specises. An identical frequency is shown if the samisum number of milliamperes appear on the dial of the ammater for each case.

3. Be sure that the calibration switch (No. 4) is off when making measurmanate.

4. If emseter does not register when biss-control switch (No. 5) is on, this may indicate that bottery has been discharged.

5. Upon completion of tests turn all exitches to OFF position.

The apparatus and its operation procedure are applicable to coment, morter, or concrete specimens of a certain dimensional size. The specimens are subjected to some accelerated weathering tests such as freezing and thawing and the frequency of specimen determined at predetermined intervals. The accelerated weathering cycle and test procedure are discussed in the following text.

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RETEND OF TEST FOR DURABILITY OF CONCRETE BY FREEZING AND THAFING

This method describes the procedure followed by the Research Laboratory of the Michigan State Highway Department in testing concrete specimens to determine their resistance to disintegration by freesing and thawing. Progreesive deterioration is indicated by change in the value of Young's modulus for the specimen as measured by the dynamic, or sonic, method. <u>Apparatus</u>:

The essential apparatus included in the freezing and theming tests is described in detail in the following paragraphs.

<u>Generator</u>: The compressor is a Frick type F-100FL conforming to the following specifications:

1. No. of cylinders; action, 2 cyl. elngle

2. Bore and stroke, 2 1/4" x 5"

5, N.P.M. (Comp.) 355:

4. Notor H.P. 1 1/2

5. Norwal suction pressure, 4 - 5 lb.

6. Normal discharge pressure, 110-180 1b.

7. Refrigerant - Freen 12 - dichlorodiflorensthane COL_2F_2

8. Cooling coils, 3/4", direct expansion.

This compressor is capable of maintaining the sabinat and its contents at a temperature of $-20^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$ F.

<u>Cabinet</u>: The freezing unit consists of one model 105-LO Schaefer all-steel heavy duty storage cabinet having three compartments, each 23 inches in height, 52 inches in length, and 23 inches in width. Overall dimensions are 81 in. long x 42 1/2 in. wide x 54 1/2 in. high, and the total met inside volume is 29.4 cubic feet. The two end compartments contain a water-glycerin

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solution in the propertion of one part mater to two parts glyceria by volume. The center compartment is used for freezing in air. The cabinet is insulated on all outside surfaces with six inches of corkboard, and has an access door in the top of each compartment. See Figure 3. <u>Thewing Tank</u>: The thewing tank is 32 in. long x 22 in. wide x 22 1/2 in. deep, which is of sufficient size to accosmodate twelve containers, or the full loss of one compartment of the refrigerator. It is equipped with heating elements, cooling coils, stirrer, and bisemoregulator to control the water temperature, in the range of 70° to 100° F, sithin the limits of $\pm 1°$ F. See Figure 3.

<u>Container</u>: The containers for the specimens are constructed of heavy rubber 5/15 inches in thickness, scaled at the scale and open at the top. They are of two types, one for beace, the other for cylinders. Inside dimensions of the first type are 6 1/4 in x 6 1/4 in. x 17 7/8 in. in height, and provide space for two beams of approximately 3 in. x 6 in. x 15 in. The second type is cylindrical in shape, 4 7/8 in. in disseter and 17 7/8 in. in height to accomposate one 4 in. x 18 in. cylinder. For Figure 4.

freelsene:

Concrete for the test is molded into rectangular banas, using a steel gang mold of four units, side by side, such 3* deep x 3" wide x 15" long. Each specison of freeh concrete is redded in two layers of approximately 1 1/2" thickness, struck off and finished with a minisum of troweling. The bases are then cured initially with setted burlap followed by storage in the moist room at 70" P until time of test.

Concrete for the test is solded into cylinders, using 4" x 10" steel molds. Each specimen is rodded 26 times in three approximately equal layers

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Figure 4. Freezing Cabinet and Rubber Specimen Containers

struck off level with the top of the mold and finished with a minimum of troweling. The cylinders are then cured initially with wetted burlap followed by storage in the molet room at 70° F until time of test.

Preparation of Test Specimene:

The specimens are brought to a saturated, surface dry condition by immersion in water for a period of at least 24 hours, after which they are weighed, measured, and the specific gravity determined. The initial fundsmental frequency is then determined by the sonic method, and the specimens are now ready to begin the test.

Nethod of Exportret

After the initial data have been recorded, the specimens are placed in the rubber containers, and sufficient sater or calcium obloride solution added to cover the specimens to a depth of about 1/4 in. The ratio of water to concrete by weight is approximately 0.11. The containers are then placed in the freezing bath of the refrigerator with the level of the liquids on the outside and inside of the container approximately equal. The temperature of the freezing bath is $-20^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$ F at the time of immersion; but may rise to a maximum of $+ 26^{\circ}$ F under full load. The capacity of the refrigerator is such that cooling takes place at approximately the following rate when loaded to 75 percent of capacity:

70° f to 82'	* \$	м. M		hours
52* 7 to 304		4	1/4	hours
80° F to 159		j.	1/2	hours
15° 7 to 0°	*	õ	1/2	houre
0° F to -10'		marileure	1/2	hours
Initial to i	12001	10		hours

* 10 ×



TEMPERATURE IN DEC EES F.

FIGURE 4A

At the end of the freezing period, the containers are removed from the refrigerator, siped, and rinsed off on the outside with tap water and placed in the thewing tank which is maintained at a temperature of 90° to 100° F until the ice around the specimens is completely melted. The water is then drained from the containers, the specimens are turned end for end in the containers, and tap water at a temperature of 72° to 90° F again added to the proper level, after which the specimens are allowed to reach equilibrium in air at the room temperature. Total time required for complete thewing is 5 to 7 hours. This completes one cycle of freezing and thewing.

Measurement of Disintegration:

At the completion of the fifth cycle of freezing and thaving and at intervals of five cycles thereafter the specimens are removed from the containers, surface dried, weighed, and tested for fundamental frequency by the sonic method. The process of alternate freezing and thering is continued until deterioration has progressed to a predetormined value of the fundamental frequency. Determination of Young's Modulus:

Young's modulus of elasticity for a concrete specimen in the case of either a circular or primatic bar, is determined in the following manner. The conorate specimen after being subjected to a definite number of freezing and thaving cycles is removed from the subber container and its specific gravity determined. After completion of the specific gravity determination the specimen, in a saturated condition, is inserted in the sonic apparatus and the fundamental flexural frequency "N" determined by the sonic method as described previously. Investigation by Hermibrook (1) indicates that the saturated condition is well adapted for obtaining reproducible measurements on companion speciments.

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Young's modulue can now be determined from either equation (4) or (5), depending on the type of specimen employed in the test, by solving for E after substituting the correct values for "N" and specific gravity. Approximate values may be determined more rapidly by reference to the nomographs given previously.

Equations (4) and (5) hold only for bars of the specific dimensions used in the Research Laboratory durability studies, namely a 4" by 16" cylindrical bar and a 3" x 6" x 15" prismatic bar. For sonic specimens of any other dimensions the appropriate values for L, k, and m must be inserted in equation (2).

Upon completion of the sonic determinations for the life apan of the specimen, the sonic data may be presented in several ways to represent the rate of disintegration of the specimen. Two methods are illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. Figure 5 is typical of the relationship between modulus of electicity and freezing and thewing, while Figure 6 is an example of the relationship between percent drop in modulus versus number of cycles of freezing and thewing as obtained from actual test data.

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THE SONIC METHOD AS A RESEARCH TOOL FOR STUDYING CHANGES IN CHARACTERISTICS OF CONCRETE SUBJECTED TO PREEZING AND THANING

It has been clearly demonstrated by Powers (5), Hornibrook (1), and Reagel (4) that the sonic method of determining the change in modulus of elasticity appears well adapted for estimating the loss of flowurel strength produced in concrete by freezing and thaving treatment.

The work of Normibrook definitely proves that the fundamental flexural frequency of a specimen can be determined rapidly and at frequent intervals with the sonic apparatus. Converting the frequencies into values for Young's modulus gives a continuous history of the change in modulus of elasticity of a single specimen during a given type of treatment or test. This fact is clearly illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

Reagel in his studies relative to the freezing and thawing tests for concrete in which he uses the conic method, shows in Figure 7 how closely the flexural strength is related to the clastic modulus of the specimen.

Powers points out that the value of the sonic method lies chiefly in its ability to indicate rapidly, without destroying the specimen, changes in the modulus of elasticity due to various conditions to which the concrete may be subjected, and may not be used per so to determine deflection or distortion in structural members under loads, except as a reference point.

Sonic tests were made by Powere on 5" x 5" x 18" bars and the stressstrain measurements taken on companion 6" x 12" cylinders tested in compression. Four mixes were used consisting of Elgin send, gravel, and laboratory cement, renging from very lean to rich. Specimens were tested at 7 and 28 days, using rotating mirror extensemblers on two opposite sides of the specimen to measure strain.

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RELATION OF LOSS IN FLEXURAL STRENGTH TO LOSS IN MODULUS OF ELASTICITY



Points plotted on and to left of zero obscisse represent control beams for flexural strength. Each point represents one specimen. Results were plotted as stress-strain diagrams showing the deformation of each side of the cylinder separately, the average of the two, and a streight line representing the sonic value of the modulus. See Figure 8.

The diagram thus obtained showed that the comic line either coincided with the compression line at low stress or appeared to be tangent to it at the origin, which indicates that the sonic method gives the modulus of the unloaded concrete, and its use thereby restricted to cases not requiring a consideration of deflection or distortion under load.

Further stress-strain tests were made on 2" x 2" x 9 1/2" bars by placing a load of 102 and 152 pounds at the center of a span of 8" between supports and measuring the deflection by means of a Federal dial reading to .0001 inch. The modulus of elasticity was computed from the equation $E = \frac{PL}{40 \sqrt{1}}$ where F = applied load in pounds, L = distance between supports, I = moment of inertia, and y = deflection.

Close agreement was obtained between these values and those given by the sonic method.

Comparative Studies by Research Laboratory

To check the accuracy of the Sonic apparatus developed by the Research Laboratory for determining Young's modulus as compared with the standard static method several 4" x 16" concrete cylinders were subjected to sonic and compression tests.

Two of the concrete specimens were tested up to a total load of 25,000 lbs. at successive increments of 5,000 lbs. The remaining three specimens were loaded up to 35,000 lbs., in the same manner. The maximum loads corresponded to a unit stress of 1990 and 2786 lbs. per sq. in. respectively. Strein measurements at four equidistant points around the circumference of the test cylinders indicated a fairly uniform distribution of the load over the cross section.

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Strain Measurements Made on Companion 6 by 12-in. Cylinders Tested in Compression. The slopes of the straight dash-dot lines are as indicated by the sonic test; the two series of solid points indicate the deflections as measured simultaneously on opposite sides of the specimen; the circles represent the average deflection. Stressstrain values represent the first loading of the specimen.

Stress-strain diagrams were plotted, (See Figures 9 to 15) using the average of the four dial readings as the indicated strain for each load in a gage length of 8 inches. An enalysis of the surves obtained shows:

1. First application of the loads up to the maximum produces a permanont set and materially alters subsequent stress-strain relationships obtained by repetitions of the loading.

2. The modulus of elasticity varies with the intensity of the applied load, but is not proportional to it.

3. Young's modulus for concrete obtained by the somic method corresponde very closely to the tangent modulus of the compression method, i.e. the modulus of electicity of the concrete in the initial unloaded, or in-

4. Increasing loads produce progressively greater deviations of the contrastion modulus from the sonic.

In the diagram obtained by Powers, using 6" x 12" cylinders, the sonic modulus corresponds very closely to the tangent modulus of the compression method, and in some cases coincides with the stress-strain curve at the lower loading. The curves obtained in our tests using 4" x 16" cylinders show a lower value for the slope of the sonic line in relation to the stressstrain curve, causing the line to cut the curve instead of being tangent to it at the origin.

This variation may possibly be due to the differences in the dimensions of the test cylinders.

SURMARY

On the baris of studies of the literature and results of laboratory tests on the subject of loung's modulus by the sonic method, the following general statements may be made:

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1. Fundamental flexural frequencies of a specimen can be determined simply, rapidly, and accurately by means of the sonic method without here to the specimen.

2. By determining the frequencies at given intervals, and converting these frequencies to values of Young's modulus, a continuous history of the specimen through accelerated freezing and thawing tests is readily obtained.

5. The natural frequency of a specimen of concrete is affected only to a negligible degree by temperature and moisture variations which could occur under the conditions of the test.

4. Flexural strength is closely related to the elastic modulus of the specimen as measured by the sonic method.

5. The dynamic method is the only kind of measurement that can give the true elastic modulus of those materials which exhibit permanent set or plastic flow. Since concrete falls within this category, the use of sonio values of Young's modulus is necessarily restricted to a study of relative change in the elastic properties of the material, and may not be applied as such to the computation of deflections of a concrete member, except shere instantaneous values are required.

6. The sonic method makes it possible to determine evidence of failure, and to rate the relative behavior of test specimens considerably earlier than when judging the results according to appearance or loss in weight. Poor specimene can generally be detected within 20 cycles of freezing and thawing, and the changes in E for such specimens are large as compared with good concrete. The largest change in the modulus of elasticity takes place during the first few cycles of freezing and thawing, and even good concrete shows some decrease in the modulus of elasticity during this period.

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SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF SONIC APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING YOUNG'S MODULUS

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