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Modification effects of nanosilica on the interfacial transition zone in concrete: A multiscale approach

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1	Modification effects of nanosilica on the interfacial
2	transition zone in concrete: a multiscale approach
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8	Abstract
9	The effects of colloidal nanosilica on the interfacial transition zone (ITZ) in concrete
10	at three days are studied. Mechanical properties are investigated at macro-scale,
11	followed by nanoindentation characterization at micro-scale. A top-down and a
12	bottom-up modelling are carried out, respectively, at macro- and micro-scales.
13	Macro-mechanical results show that nanosilica addition is especially beneficial for the
14	improvement of ITZ performance. Estimates from statistical nanoindentation provide
15	evidence, suggesting that the hydration acceleration effect of nanosilica dominates in
16	the modification of ITZ in an early age. It is revealed by modelling at both scale
17	levels that the ratio of the Young's modulus of ITZ to that of bulk paste increases from
18	around 50% to 80% if nanosilica is incorporated. This work further confirms that a
19	substantial improvement on ITZ can be obtained by ultra-fine nanosilica modification.
20	Keywords: Interfacial transition zone; C-S-H; Nanoindentation; Nanosilica

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