

# Quantitative relationship between concrete neutralization depth and its influence factors

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## Abstract

The concrete is a very common building material. It is widely used because of its good fire safety, low cost, convenient production process and no pollution to the environment. According to the pyrolysis process and mechanism of concrete, muffle furnace experiments were conducted. By studying the quantitative relationship of concrete's neutralization depth and its influence factors the paper establishes a mathematical model of calculation neutralization depth, hoping to provide a reference for future fire investigation.

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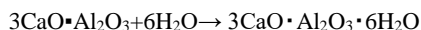
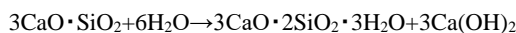
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**Keywords:** concrete, neutralization, muffle furnace, mathematical model.

$d$	neutralization depth (mm)
$d_1$	mean value of neutralization depth (mm)
$T$	heating temperature (°C)
$t$	heating time (min)
$m$	undetermined coefficient
$n$	undetermined coefficient
$\alpha$	undetermined coefficient
$\beta$	undetermined coefficient
$k_1$	undetermined coefficient
$k$	undetermined coefficient

## 1. Summary of Concrete Centralized Traces

In concrete molding, gelled material cement and water [1] can have the following reactions:



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After concrete becomes hard completely, it has about 5% of its total mass in it. its internal will exist accounted for about 5% of  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  in total mass. These the  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  becomes  $\text{CaO}$  after it is dewatered at high temperatures and appears neutralization traces when meeting absolute ethyl alcohol [2]. Much affected by the temperature, in general, concrete dehydration consists of three stages: (1) under  $150^\circ\text{C}$ , the free water in cement vaporized after being heated.  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  crystal crystalizes further, and those unhydrated hydrates further. All these make concrete hard and dense, and gain in strength; (2) at  $150^\circ\text{C} \sim 200^\circ\text{C}$ , the free water in cement has already been largely evaporated and concrete has lost the physical water absorbed by calcium silicate hydrate (C - S - H) and water in hydrated calcium aluminate, which causes concrete shrinkage; (3) started at  $440^\circ\text{C} \sim 450^\circ\text{C}$ , the paper determines tentatively to  $450^\circ\text{C}$ , the  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  begins to dehydration at decomposition temperature, and achieves maximum decomposition rate at around  $575^\circ\text{C}$  [3].

## 2. Muffle Furnace Experiment of Concrete

$100\text{mm} \times 100\text{mm} \times 100\text{mm}$  size of concrete cubes is choosen as the experimental material to conduct constant temperature heating experiments in muffle furnace. 22 kinds of conditions are set, and each condition has three sets of parallel experiments.

After the end of the experiment to be in each group, a stone chisel is used at the top surface of the concrete specimen to help measuring the neutralization depth. Due to the depth is mainly decided by heating temperature and heating time, so a relationship between neutralization depth, heating temperature and time:

$$d = k_1 \cdot (m \cdot T^\alpha) \cdot (n \cdot t^\beta) = k \cdot (T - 450)^\alpha \cdot t^\beta$$

The Relationship between neutralization depth and heating temperature is shown in Table 1, we can see the depth increase as the temperature growth.

Table 1. Relationship table of concrete neutralization depth and temperature

Heating Temperature ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )	Heating Time (min)	Mean Value of neutralization Depth(mm)
475	10	1.93
500	10	2.70
525	10	3.00
550	10	3.47
575	10	4.10
600	10	4.40

Considering the practical significance, the paper accounts that  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  begins to decompose at about  $450^\circ\text{C}$ , so if the heating temperature is lower than  $450^\circ\text{C}$ , neutralization depth should be 0 mm. Therefore, when fitting the relationship graph on heating temperature and neutralization depth, the fitting curve should cover (450,0) point. The best fit curve shown in Figure 1, the corresponding mathematical formula shown in equation (1).

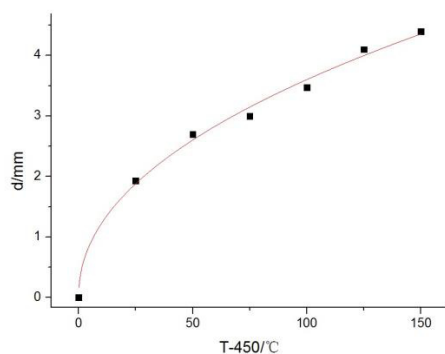


Fig 1 Relationship between neutralization depth and heating temperature

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