



Prediction models for high-volume fly ash concrete practical application: mechanical properties and experimental database

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ABSTRACT

The analysis of available experimental results of high-volume fly ash concrete mechanical properties showed that extensive amount of research had been done so far. However, a comprehensive analysis of basic high-volume fly ash concrete mechanical properties was not found in the literature. Having that in mind, the database of 440 high-volume fly ash concrete and 151 cement concrete mixtures collected from literature was made. The application of European Code EN 1992-1-1 prediction models for cement concrete mechanical properties, as well as existing proposals for high-volume fly ash concrete properties, were statistically evaluated on the results from the database. The analysis showed that the prediction models defined in EN 1992-1-1 for compressive strength, tensile strength and for modulus of elasticity can be used for high-volume fly ash concrete, in the given form or with modifications proposed in literature, with similar accuracy and variation of results as for cement concrete. Own model for fly ash efficiency prediction was developed.

1 Introduction

In the modern age, one of the main challenges on the path of preserving the environment is finding the solution for large amounts of waste or by-products generated by different industries. Recycling and reuse of these materials is currently widely investigated in order to prevent their further increase, and if possible, to reduce already generated amounts. The construction industry, and specifically its major part – concrete industry, is a potential beneficiary of this approach since large quantities of waste or by-products can be used in the production of concrete [1]. Different pozzolanic waste materials are already widely used as supplementary cementitious materials (CM) in concrete production making it more sustainable. Among them, coal fly ash (FA) is most commonly used in the production of concrete. FA is a by-product of the combustion of pulverized coal in thermal power plants. Depending on the type of coal and the production processes, FA consists of a different proportion of oxides—mostly silica, alumina and calcium—and can display pozzolanic activity. This enables it to be a substitution of cement and fine aggregate in concrete.

If part of the cement (and eventually fine aggregate) in concrete mixture is replaced with FA, the consumption of

natural aggregates and CO₂ emissions are reduced, which is clearly the environmental benefit [2]. The cement industry is responsible for more than 5% of the global CO₂ emissions in 2016, and the production rate of cement is expected to grow continuously at a rate of 10% annually to reach a historical maximum of around 5000 Mt/Year by 2021 [3], [4].

FA has been used in concrete since 1930s as a partial replacement of Portland cement to decrease the amount of early heat generation during the construction of dams. In the last few decades higher amounts of FA as a partial replacement of Portland cement or fine aggregate have been used. In 1985, the Advanced Concrete Technology Group at CANMENT, Canada, developed a high volume FA concrete (HVFAC) [5] with more than 50% of FA in total mass of CM. According to the progress in current research, the next couple of years would see the replacement of FA to a maximum of 60% by mass [6].

Up to now, a lot of research has been carried out regarding HVFAC mechanical properties. The behavior of hardened HVFAC depends upon many factors, but mostly upon FA fineness, chemical and mineralogical properties, cement type, water-to-CM mass (W/CM) ratio, amount of FA and cement etc. It can generally be concluded that HVFAC has lower compressive strength compared with the control

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cement concrete made with the same component materials only by partially replacing cement with FA [7]. Slower compressive strength development at early ages can be also noticed in HVFAC but greater increase at ages after 28 days compared with cement concrete [8]-[10].

Despite the fact that HVFAC has its disadvantages [6], [7], there is a great possibility for its practical application. Most industrial and commercial buildings require concrete with compressive strength of about 30 MPa in majority of their structural and non-structural elements. This compressive strength is easily achievable with HVFAC. Greater use of HVFAC in such applications could significantly reduce the amount of used cement and, therefore, the amount of emitted CO₂.

The use of HVFAC in concrete structures requires defined and standardized prediction models for mechanical properties which is not yet the case. So, the main aim of this work was to provide guidelines for practical HVFAC mix design procedure and prediction of basic mechanical properties.

However, chemical and physical properties of FA differ depending on the coal type, process methods etc. Concrete properties are affected by this FA chemical and physical heterogeneity [11] thus making general conclusions on the HVFAC ecological and economic efficiency rather unreliable. One possible way to bring this issue to a closure at the current state-of-the knowledge is to propose prediction models for HVFAC mechanical properties based on a comprehensive statistical analysis of the experimental research done so far. These models should be able to predict the basic HVFAC properties considering the FA amount and its chemical and physical heterogeneity, with a chosen reliability level. For that purpose, the database of available HVFAC experimental results from the literature was made. Firstly, the European standard EN 1992-1-1 [12] predictions for compressive strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity of CC (cement concrete) were evaluated if they were applicable on the HVFAC mixtures from the database or new models or modifications were needed. Secondly, already proposed prediction models from literature were re-evaluated using statistical analysis on the HVFAC database and some own corrections were given.

2 Method

The analysis of experimental results of basic mechanical properties was done in two steps: (1) collection of studies with available experimental results and available information about component materials used for the production of FA concrete and (2) selection of results for further analysis based on selected criteria. The experimental results were collected from available research papers, technical reports, master and doctoral theses using content analysis. The first step was the systematic collection of all available studies on FA concrete that had own experimental results of basic mechanical properties. The search was done in the Scopus, Science Direct and Google Scholar databases, using the following key words: *fly ash, fly ash concrete, high-volume fly ash concrete, mechanical properties, compressive strength, modulus of elasticity, splitting tensile strength and experimental results*. Relevant studies with available

experimental results found as references in previously found studies were also considered.

Further on, the selection of the results was done based on the following two criteria: only studies with class F FA were selected and the amount of FA in CM was chosen in the range between 40% and 75%. FA was classified as class F according to ASTM C618 [13] – minimum 70% of total FA mass consisted of Al₂O₃, SiO₂ and Fe₂O₃. If the selected study did not contain the FA classification, it was made based on the reported chemical and physical properties of FA.

The database of 76 research papers, project reports and theses was made [5], [9], [21]–[30], [10], [31]–[40], [14], [41]–[50], [15], [51]–[60], [16], [61]–[70], [17], [71]–[80], [18], [81]–[86], [19], [20]. Out of the total number of selected papers, 44 are papers published in journals from the Science Citation Index Thomson Reuters list, 7 are papers published by the American Concrete Institute, one is published by the American Society of Civil Engineers, 7 are master and doctoral thesis and 17 papers are from other sources.

All presented studies were carried out in the period of 31 years, from 1986 to 2018, with the total of 591 different concrete mixtures, 151 CC and 440 HVFAC mixtures, tested for different mechanical properties. In order to carry out the comprehensive analysis of the available results, import parameters which describe the concrete component materials (type of cement, FA, aggregate and water reducing admixtures), concrete mix design and physical and mechanical properties of concrete (slump, compressive strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity) at different ages were collected from each study:

- 1) Cement type;
- 2) Cement class - 28-day compressive strength;
- 3) Cement early age strength (Cem. early str.);
- 4) % of SiO₂ in cement (CEM SiO₂);
- 5) % of Al₂O₃ in cement (CEM Al₂O₃);
- 6) % of Fe₂O₃ in cement (CEM Fe₂O₃);
- 7) % of CaO in cement (CEM CaO);
- 8) Cement specific surface - Blaine method (CEM Blaine, cm²/g);
- 9) Cement density (γ_{CEM} , kg/m³);
- 10) % of SiO₂ in FA (FA SiO₂);
- 11) % of Al₂O₃ in FA (FA Al₂O₃);
- 12) % of Fe₂O₃ in FA (FA Fe₂O₃);
- 13) % of CaO in FA (FA CaO);
- 14) LOI in FA (Loss on ignition in FA, %);
- 15) FA fineness expressed through residue on 45 μ m sieve (Fine. >45 μ m, %);
- 16) FA specific surface - Blaine method (FA Blaine, cm²/g);
- 17) FA density (γ_{FA} , kg/m³);
- 18) Cement mass (CEM, kg/m³);
- 19) FA mass (FA, kg/m³);
- 20) Coarse aggregate type (Coars agg. type);
- 21) Coarse aggregate mass (Coars agg., kg/m³);
- 22) Fine aggregate type (Fine agg. type);
- 23) Fine aggregate mass (Fine agg., kg/m³);
- 24) Maximum aggregate size (Max agg. size, mm);
- 25) Plasticizer type;
- 26) Plasticizer amount expressed as a percentage of plasticizer mass to total CM mass (m_{pl}/CM , %);
- 27) FA mass in total CM (FA/CM, %);
- 28) W/CM ratio;

- 29) Curing type;
- 30) Slump (mm);
- 31) Compressive strength (f_{cm}) - Sample type and size;
- 32)-43) Compressive strength results at 1, 3, 7, 14, 28, 56, 90, 180, 365, 1095, 1825 and 3650 days;
- 44) Splitting tensile strength (f_{sp}) - Sample type and size;
- 45)-51) Splitting tensile strength at 1, 3, 7, 28, 56, 90, 365 days;
- 52) Modulus of elasticity (E) - Testing procedure;
- 53) Modulus of elasticity - Sample type and size;
- 54)-60) Modulus of elasticity at 3, 7, 14, 28, 90, 180, 365 days.

All collected data were entered into an Excel spreadsheet that is reported in Appendix A (with column numbers as reported above). Although not all selected studies provided all mentioned data, information regarding concrete mix design and results of some mechanical properties were available in all of them.

In a large number of concrete mixtures (306 out of 591), ASTM Type I or CEM I cement was used, in other words cement with minimum 95% of clinker. Other types of cement like ASTM Type II, ASTM Type IP or CEM II were also used in some studies. In some studies, only provided information regarding cement type was that Ordinary Portland cement was used (182 concrete mixtures).

The cement class refers to the standard 28-day compressive strength measured according to the adequate standard for cement classification—EN 197-1 [87] and ASTM C150 and C595 [88], [89]. The early age strength is defined by the strength increase rate in the cement classification. It

is usually presented with letters S, N or R referring to slow, normal or rapid strength gain, respectively [87]. In the database this column contains values of early age compressive strength at two or three days or classification S, N, R if this information is available in studies. Figure 1a shows the availability of the cement classification data in the database.

The availability of the chemical and physical properties of FA in database is presented in Figure 1b. The range of chemical and physical properties of FA and cement used in the selected studies is shown in Table 1. Although only class F FA was used in all studies, the variety of FA chemical and physical properties was still relatively high.

Table 1. Chemical and physical properties of FA and cement

Chemical properties	FA	Cement
SiO ₂ (%)	36.8 - 68.4	16.6-39.1
Al ₂ O ₃ (%)	11.1 - 41.0	3.1-10.3
Fe ₂ O ₃ (%)	2.7 - 39.7	2.0-6.2
CaO (%)	0.3 - 20.3	45.7-70.5
Loss on ignition - LOI (%)	0.2 - 9.7	-
Physical properties	FA	Cement
Fineness (>45 mm, %)	0.1 - 35.9	-
Specific surface area (cm ² /g)	1874 - 6780	2890-5790
Density (kg/m ³)	1900 - 2960	2890-3230

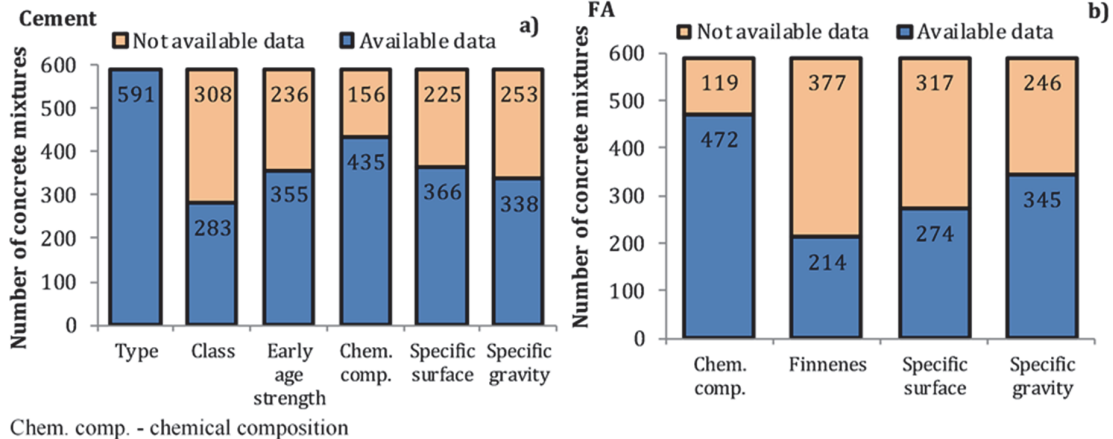


Figure 1. Number of concrete mixtures with available data regarding a) cement properties and b) FA properties

The availability of data regarding the aggregate type in database is shown in the following figures: general aggregate type in Figure 2a, maximum aggregate size in Figure 2b and aggregate stone type in Figure 3. The most frequently used aggregate type was crushed coarse (CA) and river sand aggregate (RA) with maximum aggregate size ranging from 10 mm to 32 mm.

Different types of plasticizer were used in most of the studies in different amounts ranging from no plasticizer to 9% (percent of total CM mass) in some studies. The number of studies with different plasticizer amounts is shown in Figure

4a. Plasticizers mostly used were carboxilic, melanine, naphtaline and sulphonated-naphtaleme-formaldehyd based.

Figure 4b shows FA content in CM mass in all selected studies and, as it can be seen, in most studies (388 studies) FA makes 40-60% of the total CM. The curing of samples was done in different ways but mostly by standard moist/water curing. Air curing of samples was done in only two studies [29], [53]. The workability of concrete mixtures was available for most of the concrete mixtures – 470 of total 591 mixtures had available information of slump/flow values.

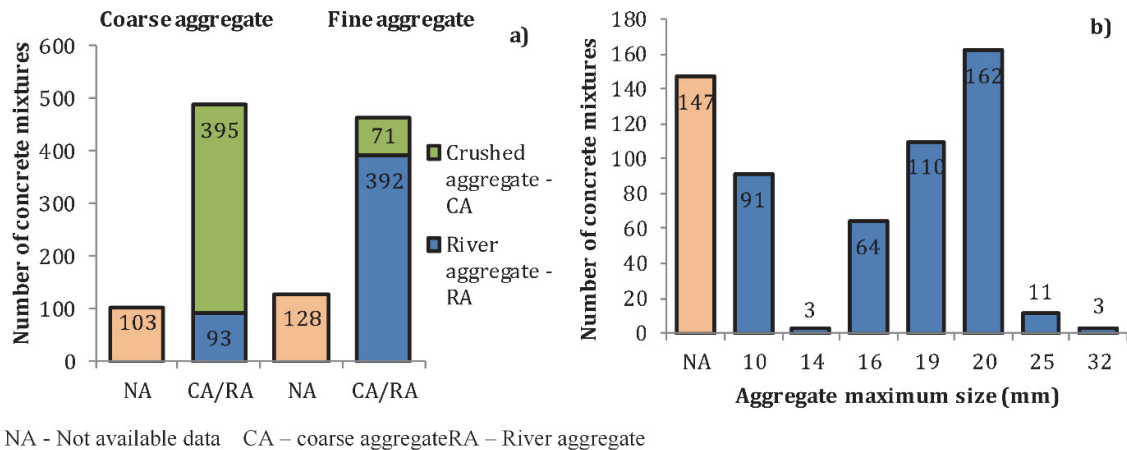
Testing of compressive, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity was done on different samples in different studies. In order to compare these results, all compressive and splitting tensile strength results were recalculated on 150·300 mm cylinders using scaling factors reported in the literature [90], [91]. The scaling factors used for recalculation of compressive strength results were taken as:

- equal to 1 for 152·305 mm cylinder samples,
- equal to 0.975 for 100·200 mm cylinder, 102·204 mm cylinder, 110·220 mm cylinder and 100·100·200 mm prism samples,

- equal to 0.915 for 76·152 mm cylinder sample,
- equal to 0.850 for 150·150·150 mm cube sample,
- equal to 0.750 for 100·100·500 mm prism sample.

The specimen size and shape have a big influence on the splitting tensile strength of concrete [92]–[94]. The scaling factors used for recalculation of splitting tensile strength results were taken as:

- equal to 1.0 for 150·150·150 mm cube samples, 150·150 mm and 150·300 mm cylinder samples,
- equal to 0.9 for 100·100·100 mm cube and 100·200 mm cylinder samples.



NA - Not available data CA – coarse aggregate RA – River aggregate

Figure 2. Number of concrete mixtures regarding a) coarse and fine aggregate type and b) aggregate maximum size

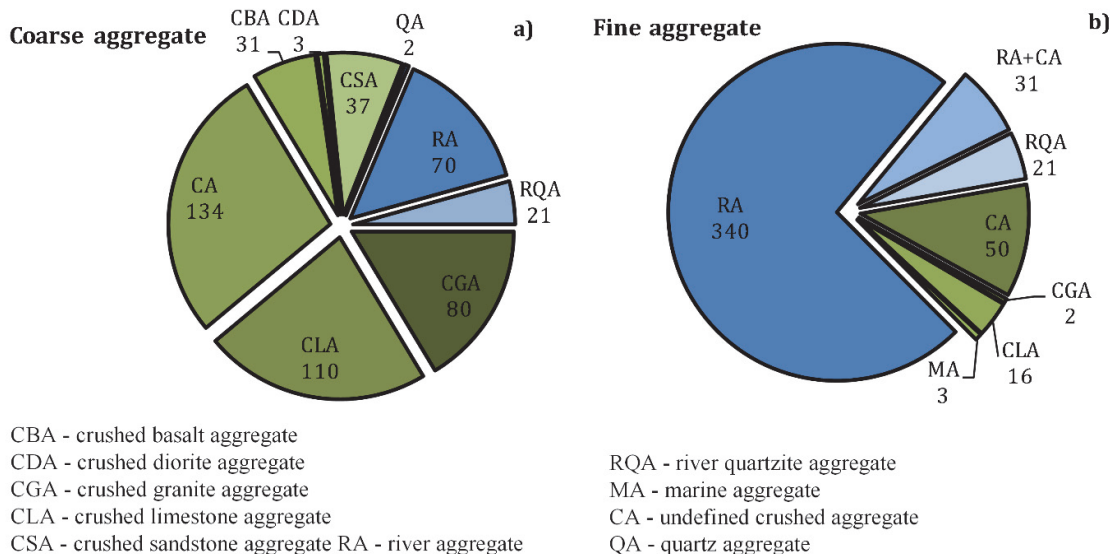


Figure 3. Number of concrete mixtures regarding a) coarse and b) fine aggregate stone type

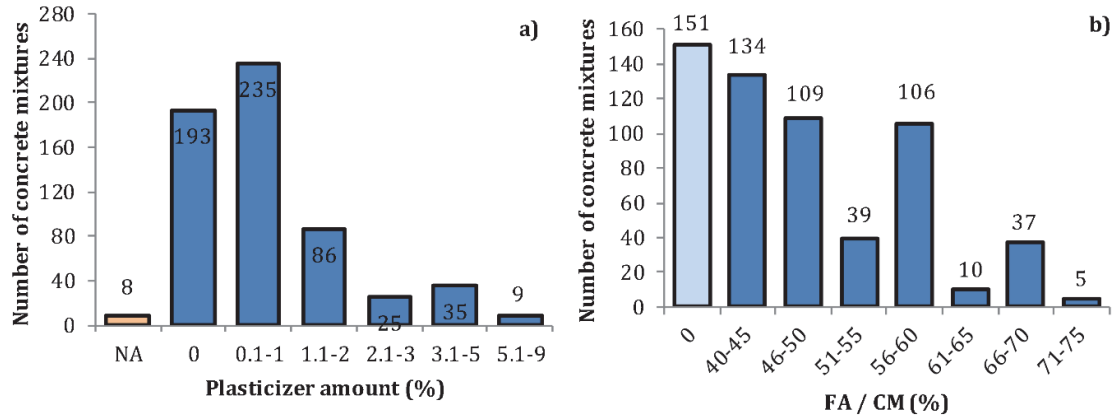


Figure 4. Number of concrete mixtures regarding a) plasticizer amount and b) FA amount in CM

As for modulus of elasticity, not only different cylinder sizes were used but also different testing methods. No corresponding factors for modulus of elasticity results recalculation were found in the literature, so this effect was neglected in this research - all modulus of elasticity testing results were used as presented in the selected study.

The compressive, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity were tested at different ages in different studies. The number of concrete samples tested at a certain age regarding compressive and splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

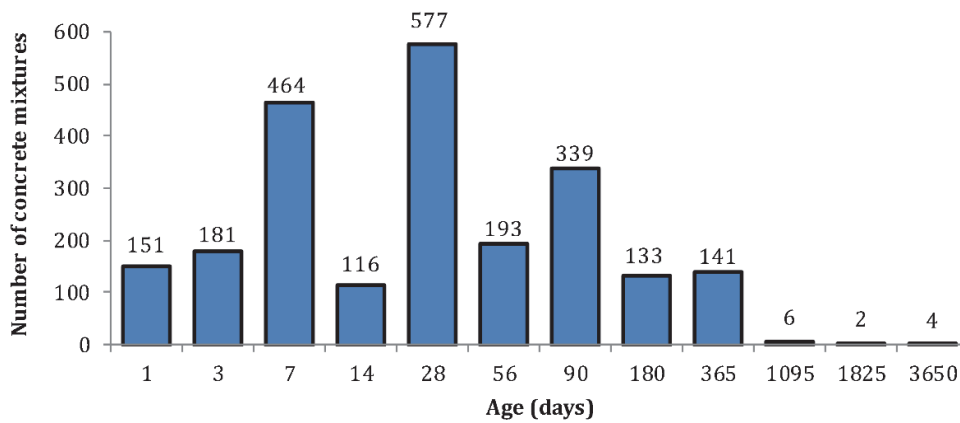


Figure 5. Number of concrete samples compressive strength tested at different ages

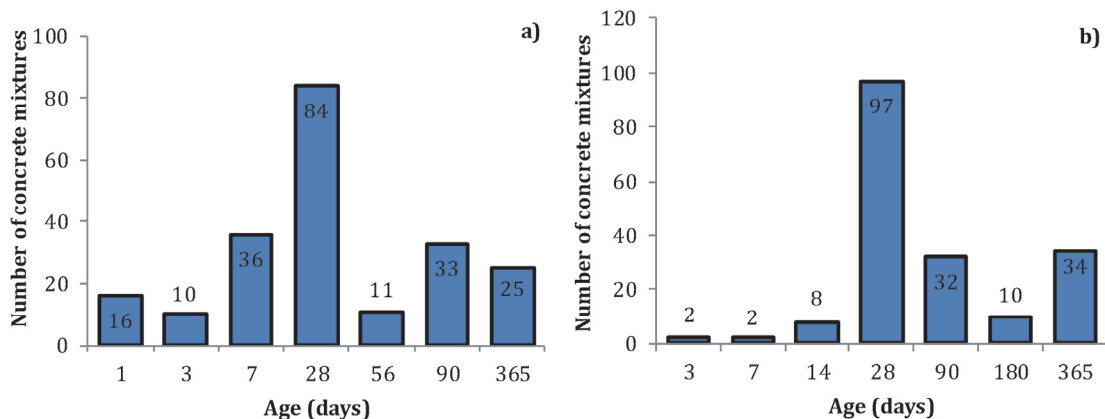


Figure 6. Number of concrete samples tested at different ages a) splitting tensile strength and b) modulus of elasticity

In most of the studies, testing was done at the age of 28 days for all mechanical properties. Different target compressive strengths were set in different studies but the

largest number of concrete mixtures had 28-day compressive strength between 20 MPa and 50 MPa as shown in Figure 7.

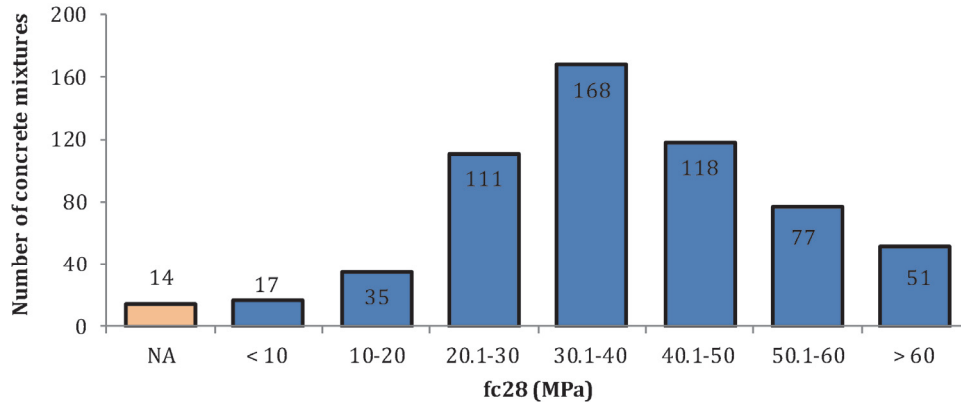


Figure 7. Number of concrete mixtures regarding 28-day compressive strength test results

3 HVFAC 28-day compressive strength evaluation

For the practical application of HVFAC it is important to establish simple quantitative way to predict the HVFAC compressive strength based on its mix design and using the empirical equations, similar as for CC. So, as a first step, the relationship between the compressive strength and W/CM ratio already established for CC was evaluated for HVFAC.

As the cement type, aggregate type and size as well as the curing conditions strongly affect the concrete strength, only commonly used cement and aggregate types and standard curing conditions were selected for this analysis. High FA content in concrete usually requires plasticizers for achieving adequate workability and it is not surprising that 67% of concrete mixtures from the database contained plasticizers. The influence of the plasticizer on physical and mechanical properties of HVFAC is not fully known. It was considered that the usual amount of plasticizer up to 2-3% of cement mass [90] will not influence the compressive strength in CC and the same assumption was adopted for the HVFAC strength. Having all this in mind, the following HVFAC mixtures were selected from the database:

Concrete mixtures with cement conforming to ASTM type I/II and CEM I/II;

- Mixtures with crushed and river coarse aggregate and maximum size ranging from 10 mm to 25 mm;
- Mixtures made and cured under standard water/moist curing conditions;
- Mixtures with up to 3% of plasticizer.

Figures 8 – 10 show the relation of compressive strength of HVFAC and CC and their W/CM ratio tested at the age of 7 days, 28 days and 90 days, respectively.

The results were plotted in three series regarding the FA/CM ratio (40-50%, 51-60% and 61-75%) and evaluated with the aid of determination coefficient (R^2). This coefficient is based on the correlation coefficient (R) which represents the degree of correlation between two variables.

Firstly, it can be seen that the FA amount has a significant influence on the HVFAC compressive strength, separating the series of results with different FA/CM ratio with relatively

good correlation. Secondly, the correlation coefficient R was equal or greater than 0.7 for almost all concrete series, indicating that there is a good correlation between the compressive strength and the W/CM ratio [95]. A relatively big scatter of the results was a consequence of different cement and FA types used in different concrete mixtures. The relations in Figures 8 – 10 show that the correlation between HVFAC compressive strength at the age of 7 days, 28 days and 90 days and the W/CM ratio ($R^2=0.470-0.689$) is similar to that of CC ($R^2=0.448-0.656$). The correlation between the HVFAC compressive strength and the W/CM ratio is of the exponential type, as for CC, but it clearly depends on the FA amount – so some modifications are needed to consider the impact of the FA amount and its properties.

In order to establish an adequate relationship between the HVFAC compressive strength and the W/CM ratio, the FA efficiency factor k is often used. This concept was first proposed by Smith in 1967 [96]. He defined the FA efficiency factor in such a way that the CC compressive strength to the W/CM ratio relation was also valid for FA concrete introducing the effective W/CM ratio, given as $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$.

In a more general way, the FA efficiency factor can be defined as a portion of cement mass that could be replaced by one part of FA without changing the studied property [97]. Class F fly ash can be categorized as a pozzolan, mainly containing silicate, aluminum and iron oxides. In the presence of moisture it reacts with calcium hydroxide – $Ca(OH)_2$ formed by the cement hydration. First, the dissolution of FA's amorphous SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 framework by hydroxide ions and generated heat during the early hydration of cement initiates the pozzolanic reaction. Afterwards, free silicate and aluminate anions react with $Ca(OH)_2$ to form an amorphous calcium silicate aluminate phase. This reaction continues until $Ca(OH)_2$ is present in the concrete pore solution and until the hydrated gel fills in the capillary pores in concrete. The dissolution of FA is strongly influenced by the FA fineness, and can be initiated faster if FA particles are smaller in size - the pozzolanic reaction develops at higher extent if finer FA is used.

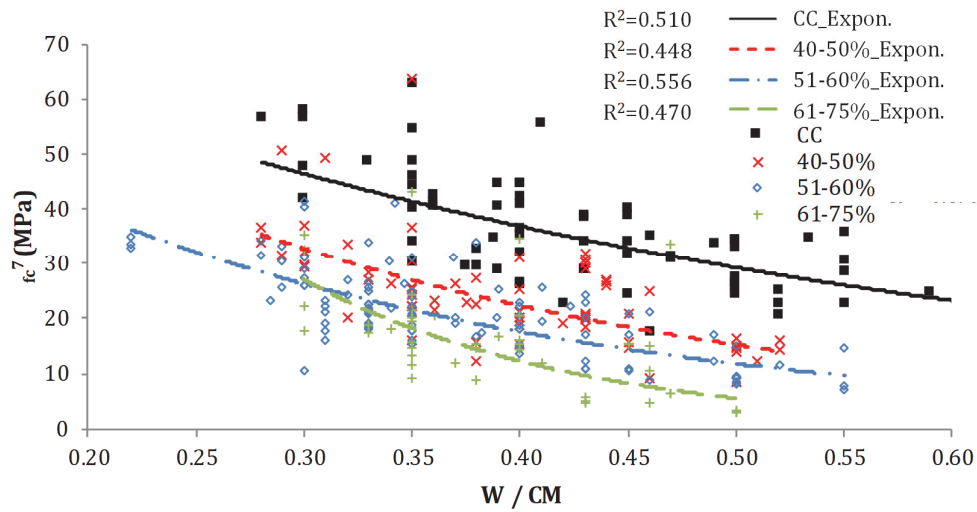


Figure 8. 7-day compressive strength of the HVFAC and CC versus the W/CM ratio

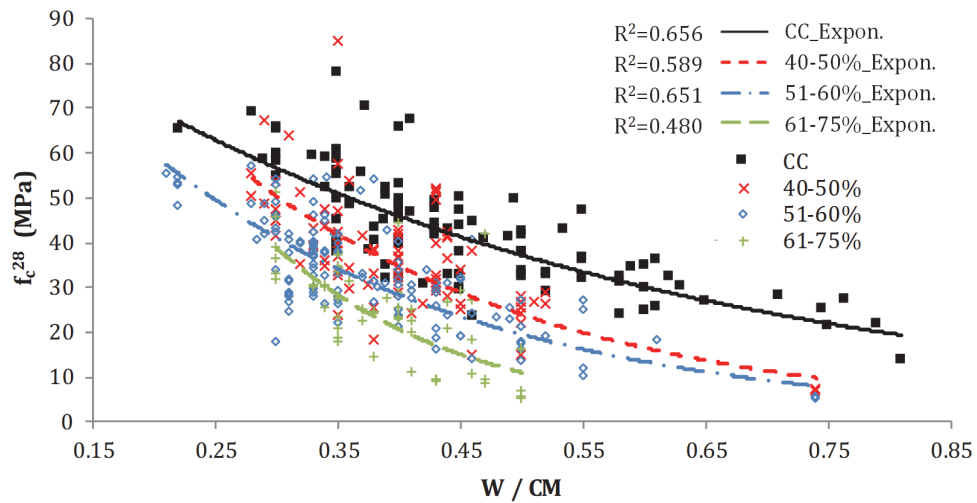


Figure 9. 28-day compressive strength of the HVFAC and CC versus the W/CM ratio

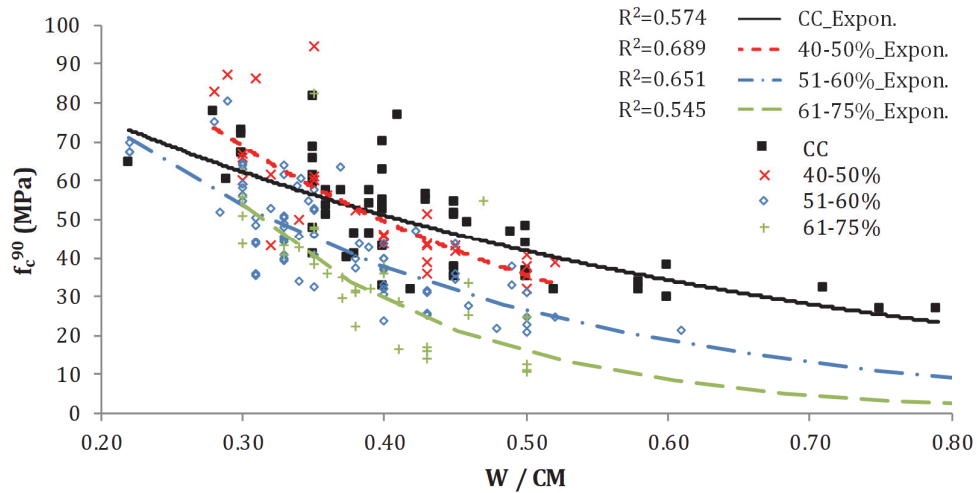


Figure 10. 90-day compressive strength of the HVFAC and CC versus the W/CM ratio

So, the capacity of FA to act as a binder equivalent to cement is influenced by many factors, but mostly by the amount, the physical and mechanical properties of FA and cement, the age of concrete and curing conditions [97]–[101]. The list of relevant research papers regarding the FA

efficiency is shown in Table 2 along with all parameters analyzed in these studies. Proposed predictions for k factor given in Table 2 were re-evaluated using HVFAC results from the database.

Table 2. Relevant research proposals regarding efficiency factor k [102]

Study	FA class	FA/CM (%)	Parameters	Efficiency factor k
[97]	F / C	15-75	FA/CM ratio (p), concrete age.	$k_7 = 2.67 \cdot p^2 - 3.75 \cdot p + 1.45$ $k_{28} = 2.78 \cdot p^2 - 3.80 \cdot p + 1.64$ $k_{90} = 2.50 \cdot p^2 - 3.59 \cdot p + 1.73$
[101]	F / C	10-20	Activity index (AI), active silica content in FA (γ_s), silica content in C and FA, concrete age, W/C ratio.	$k = 1 + 4 \cdot (AI - 1) / (1 - 0.5a)$ a - parameter depending on time and curing; $k = \gamma_s \cdot \frac{f_{S,P}}{f_{S,C}} \cdot \left(1 - a \frac{W}{C}\right)$ $f_{S,P}$ - weight fraction of SiO_2 in FA; $f_{S,C}$ - weight fraction of SiO_2 in C.
[99]	-	10-49	FA fineness (Blaine method), FA/C ratio, concrete age.	$k_7 = 0.21 \cdot \exp\left(-0.43 \times \frac{FA}{C}\right) \cdot \alpha_2$ $k_{28} = 0.42 \cdot \exp\left(-0.72 \times \frac{FA}{C}\right) \cdot \alpha_2$ $k_{90} = 0.85 \cdot \exp\left(-1.36 \times \frac{FA}{C}\right) \cdot \alpha_2$ $\alpha_2 = 1.14 \cdot 10^{-4} (\text{Blaine} - 2500) + 1$
[103]	F	10-80	FA/CM percentage (P), concrete age.	$k_7 = 0.9 - 0.1 \cdot \log_e P$ $k_{28} = 1.2 - 0.14 \cdot \log_e P$
[104]	C	60-90	CaO, SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 content in FA and cement (C, S, A), concrete age.	$k(t) = H(t) \cdot \frac{C}{S+A}$ $H(t)$ - 0.4; 0.5; 0.6; 0.7; 0.8; 0.8; 0.8 for 7, 14, 28, 56, 84, 112 and 168 days respectively.
[105]	-	10-70	FA /CM ratio (p), concrete age (t).	$k_t = 1.25 + 0.14 \cdot \log_e t - 3.90 \cdot p + 2.75 \cdot p^2$

* $C/(S+A) = CaO/(SiO_2+Al_2O_3)$

One of the first research regarding the efficiency of CM (FA, silica fume and ground granulated blast-furnace slag) defined by k factor was performed by Babu [97], [98], [106]–[108]. Researchers assumed that the FA efficiency is mostly influenced by the W/CM ratio, FA/CM ratio and age. They re-evaluated the results from previous studies and defined the FA efficiency at different ages - 7 days, 28 days and 90 days for FA replacement levels from 15% to 75% (Table 2). The selection of the results was done in the way that only mixtures with maximum aggregate size of 20 mm, plasticizer amount less than 2%, cured under normal conditions were used for the evaluation.

The evaluation of the efficiency factor proposed by Babu and Rao [97] was done on the previously selected results from the database. Figure 11 shows the relationship between

the 28-day compressive strength of CC and HVFAC experimental values and the $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ ratio with k values proposed by Babu and Rao [97]. It can be seen that similar correlation between CC and HVFAC results can be obtained by applying the FA efficiency factor proposed by Babu and Rao [98] with slightly stronger correlation for HVFAC ($R^2=0.656$ for CC and $R^2=0.704$ for HVFAC).

Predictions for k factor given by Rajamane et al. [103] and Yeh [105] depend on the same two variables as in Babu's prediction – the FA/CM ratio and concrete age. Evaluation of their k factor predictions on the results from own database is shown in Figures 12 and 13. Similar correlation for HVFAC and CC compressive strength results can be seen with better correlation obtained by using Yeh [105] prediction.

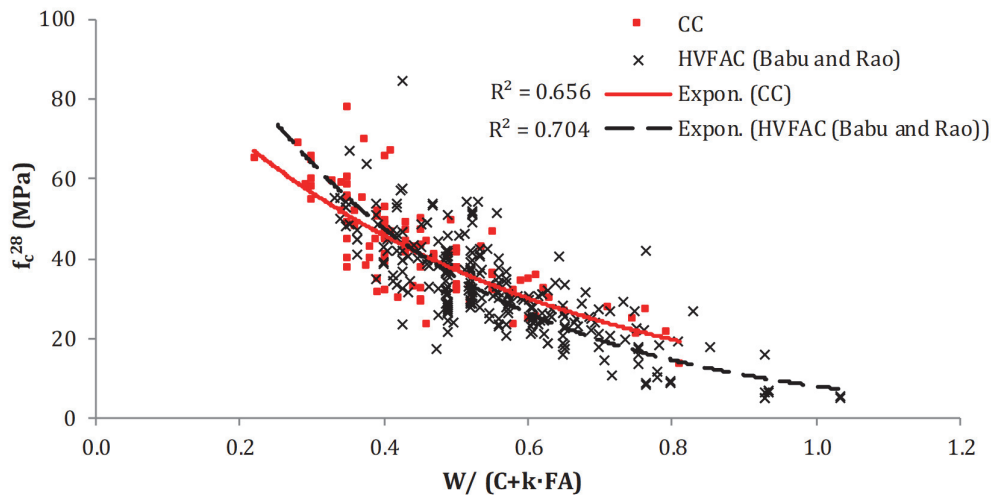


Figure 11. Relationship between 28-day compressive strength and $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ [98]

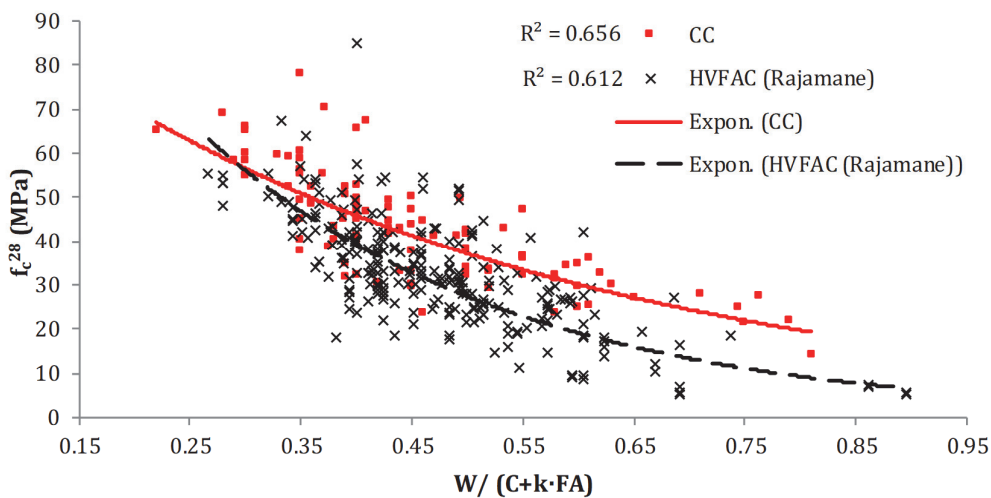


Figure 12. 28-day compressive strength versus $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ [103]

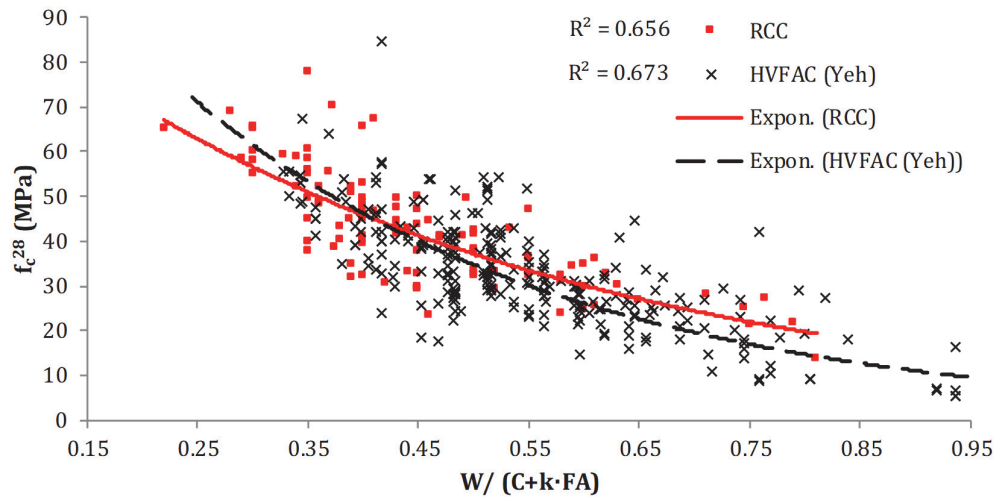


Figure 13. 28-day compressive strength versus $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ [105]

To improve the correlation between the HVFAC compressive strength and $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ factor parameters defining FA and cement properties should be included. For instance, Papadakis investigated the influence of active silica (active SiO_2) content in FA on the efficiency of FA in concrete [101], [109]–[111]. According to Papadakis et al. (2002) the activity of CM was greatly influenced by the amount of active SiO_2 in FA and cement and the FA activity index. According to the defined procedure, given in EN 450-1 [112], the FA activity index is being tested on mortars made with 25% of FA in CM mass. Papadakis et al. [101] analyzed the influence of these two parameters on the efficiency of FA in concrete mixtures made with 10% to 20% of FA in CM. Two different predictions for k factor were proposed by the authors, as shown in Table 2. The predictions proposed by Papadakis et al. [101] were not re-evaluated in this study due to the lack of available results regarding FA and cement

active silica content and the FA activity index for HVFAC mixtures in the database.

Another important parameter influencing the FA efficiency is its fineness [97], [101]. A study conducted by Hwang et al. [99] evaluated the efficiency of FA as the function of the FA content, Blaine specific surface area and concrete age. The authors highlighted that the FA efficiency is strongly influenced by the FA and cement amount ratio, but suggested that the effect of the FA fineness should also be included (Table 2). In order to re-evaluate the k factor proposed by Hwang et al. [99] selected CC and HVFAC mixtures from the database were analyzed. Only studies with available results of FA Blaine specific surface area were chosen from the database (211 HVFAC mixtures). The relationships between the CC and HVFAC 28-day compressive strength results and the $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ ratio proposed by Hwang et al. [99] are shown in Figure 14. The

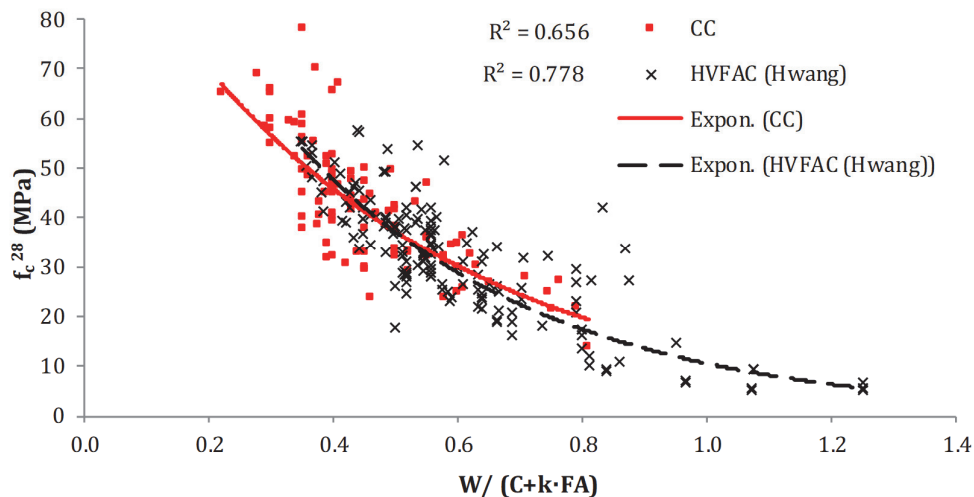


Figure 14. 28-day compressive strength versus $W/(C+k \cdot FA)$ [99]

strong correlation shown in Figure 14 ($R^2=0.778$ for HVFAC) indicates that the fineness is an important factor influencing FA efficiency.

The Blaine method is widely used for the characterization of the cement fineness and it is defined in the EN 196-6 [113]. However, this method is not included in the EN 450-1 for the use of FA in concrete [112]. One of the basic assumptions regarding the Blaine method testing is that the material particles are mostly spherical with no particles that are highly irregular in shape [114]. However, FA particles can be irregular in shape with a certain number of unburned coal residues and inter-particle heterogeneity [115]. Hence, a special attention is needed when selecting measuring techniques (which were developed for cement) in the characterization of FA [114], [116]. This can be a disadvantage of the FA efficiency method proposed by Hwang et al. [99]. Nevertheless, fineness, particularly that of its glassy phase, is considered to be an important factor influencing the FA efficiency [117].

The amount of reacted FA greatly depends on its glassy phase - reactive SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 content and on the amount of available $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ present in the concrete matrix. Hannesson [52] conducted research in order to determine the FA efficiency as a function of FA and cement chemical composition. He concluded that the amount of CaO , SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 in the cement and FA was an important factor influencing the FA concrete compressive strength. Since these three chemical compounds are important for both early and long-term strength, the FA efficiency was presented as the function of the CaO mass to the sum of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 mass ratio in total CM for different concrete age.

In a paper published by Kuder et al. (2012), the summary of the research done by Hannesson [52] was presented. The evaluation of the FA and granulated blast furnace slag efficiency in different concrete mixtures was done. The proposed efficiency factor (Table 2) was re-evaluated in this study on the selected results from the database. Out of all results in the database, only the ones with available data on CaO , SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 content in cement and FA were used for the analysis (334 HVFAC mixtures). The relationships

between the 28-day compressive strength and the $W/(C+k\cdot\text{FA})$ ratio are shown in Figure 15 for Kuder et al. [104] k factor predictions. Similar correlation was obtained for the CC and HVFAC results ($R^2=0.656$ for CC and $R^2=0.546$ for HVFAC).

The previous analysis showed that HVFAC can be defined with the same exponential type of compressive strength and W/CM ratio relationship if the FA efficiency factor was introduced. Looking at Figures 11-15, it can be concluded that Hwang et al. [99] prediction proposal provided the strongest correlation between the HVFAC compressive strength and $W/(C+k\cdot\text{FA})$ ratio. This is understandable since this is the most complex prediction model reflecting the influence of FA/CM ratio, FA fineness and concrete age on the FA reactivity. On the other hand, the factor proposed by Kuder et al. (2012) introducing the CaO , SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 content in FA and cement is considered to reflect FA reactivity better than the FA/CM mass ratio. With a factor of that type, the mass ratio of the most important oxides influencing pozzolanic activity of FA is considered. Since the FA reactivity is also influenced by its fineness, the attempt was made to modify Kuder et al. [104] proposal by introducing FA fineness into the prediction model. For that purpose, the FA density was chosen because it can be determined more reliably than the Blaine specific surface area; besides, it is commonly used in the FA characterization as the fineness indicator.

To propose the modification of the $C/(S+A)$ factor type by incorporating the FA density, the following procedure was applied:

- Evaluation of the selected empirical equations defining the relationship between the compressive strength and W/CM ratio of CC;
- Calculation of necessary coefficients for the use of these equations;
- Calculation of the experimental k factor values for the HVFAC from the database;
- Proposing the equation for k factor calculation.

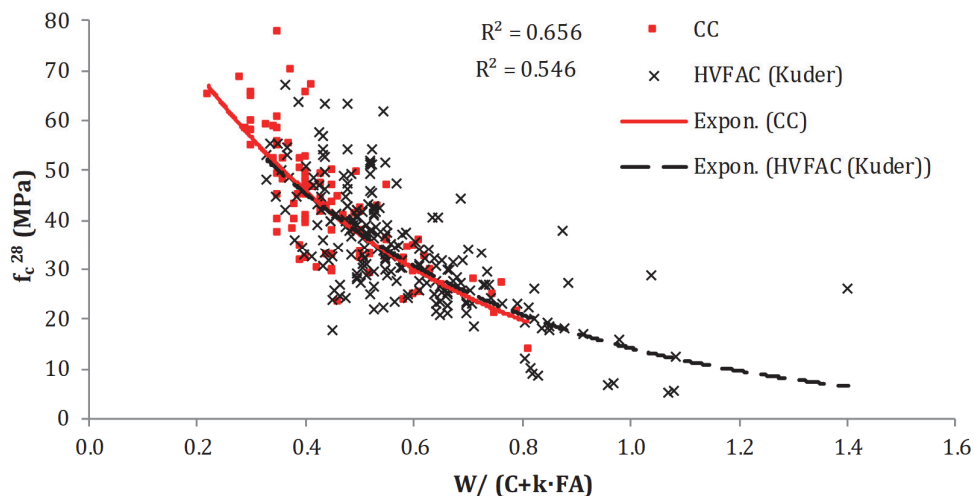


Figure 15. 28-day compressive strength versus $W/(C+k\cdot\text{FA})$ [104]

One of the main reasons for analyzing the FA efficiency is the need to use the empirical equations for compressive strength predictions in order to determine the concrete mix design and component material proportion. There are few empirical equations used for the compressive strength prediction of CC and they are all the function of the W/C ratio accounting for different parameters of influence. The most commonly used empirical equations are Abrams, Bolomey, Feret and Baljejev [118]–[125]. In this study Bolomey, Baljejev and Feret equations were selected for evaluation in the following forms:

Bolomey equation:

$$f_c = A \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\frac{W}{C + k \cdot FA}} - 0.5 \right) \quad (1)$$

where:

- W water amount (kg/m³);
- C cement amount (kg/m³);
- FA FA amount (kg/m³);
- k FA efficiency factor;
- A coefficient defining cement strength and aggregate type.

Baljejev equation:

$$f_c = \frac{B}{\left(\frac{W}{C + k \cdot FA} \right)^{1.5}} \quad (2)$$

where:

- B coefficient defining cement strength and aggregate type.

Feret equation:

$$f_c = \frac{K}{\left(1 + \frac{W}{C + k \cdot FA} \cdot \frac{\gamma_{sc}}{\gamma_w} \right)^2} \quad (3)$$

where:

- K parameter depending on the cement class;
- γ_{sc} density of cement;
- γ_w density of water.

The empirical coefficients A, B and K in Bolomey, Baljejev and Feret equations were calculated based on the experimental results of the CC made with the same cement, aggregate and plasticizer type and cured under the same conditions as the HVFAC. In this way, it was further possible to apply calculated empirical coefficients when predicting the HVFAC compressive strength. Out of all studies in the database, only the ones with available data regarding concrete mix design, chemical composition of FA and cement, CC concrete mixture and 28-day compressive strength were selected. After applying these filters to the database, 41 studies with concrete mixtures remained for further analysis. The selected concrete mixtures were divided into two groups, 285 HVFAC mixtures and 88 CC mixtures. The coefficients A, B and K in Bolomey, Baljejev and Feret equations were calculated for each referent CC in each study using the following equations:

$$A_i = \frac{f_c^{RCC}}{C/W - 0.5} \quad (4)$$

$$B_i = f_c^{RCC} \cdot \left(\frac{W}{C} \right)^{1.5} \quad (5)$$

$$K_i = f_c^{RCC} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{W}{C} \cdot \frac{\gamma_{sc}}{\gamma_w} \right)^2 \quad (6)$$

where:

- i number of different studies;
- f_c^{RCC} experimental 28-day compressive strength of CC (MPa);
- C, W cement and water mass in CC;
- γ_{sc} density of cement, if not available taken as 3150 kg/m³;
- $\gamma_w = 1000$ kg/m³.

In some studies, more than one CC mixture was used and in that case A_i , B_i and K_i coefficients were taken as the mean values of all CC mixtures in that study. This procedure was justified given that all CC in one study were made with the same cement and aggregate type.

In order to choose one of these three empirical equations for further analysis the FA efficiency factor (k^{EXP}) was calculated from the experimental HVFAC compressive strength results using each of them with $k=k^{EXP}$.

The results of the calculated k^{EXP} for all 285 HVFAC mixtures (sample number ranging from 1 to 285) are shown in Figure 16. It can be seen that the Bolomey and Baljejev equations gave similar k^{EXP} values while the Feret equation yielded slightly higher k^{EXP} values. Bolomey equation was selected for further FA efficiency evaluation.

The next step was to propose the FA efficiency factor as a function of C/S+A ratio and FA fineness expressed with FA density. The evaluation was done on selected studies from the database that had available both chemical composition and density of FA. These criteria yielded 180 HVFAC mixtures for further evaluation. The aim was to obtain the best fit with the experimentally obtained values for k (k^{EXP}). The general form for the efficiency coefficient is proposed as:

$$k = a \cdot \gamma_{FA} \cdot \frac{C}{S + A} \quad (7)$$

where:

- γ_{FA} FA density (kg/m³).

The coefficient a was fitted in order to match as closely as possible the values of k^{EXP} and after few iterations the following equation was adopted as the best fit:

$$k = \frac{\gamma_{FA}}{3150} \cdot \frac{C}{S + A} \quad (8)$$

The compressive strength of the selected HVFAC mixtures was calculated using the Bolomey equation and the proposed k factor defined by Kuder et al. [104] and own modification given in the equation (8). The results are shown in Table 3 and plotted versus the experimental strength in Figure 17. Both equality and mean lines are shown in all figures of the same type as Figure 17 for visual clarity.

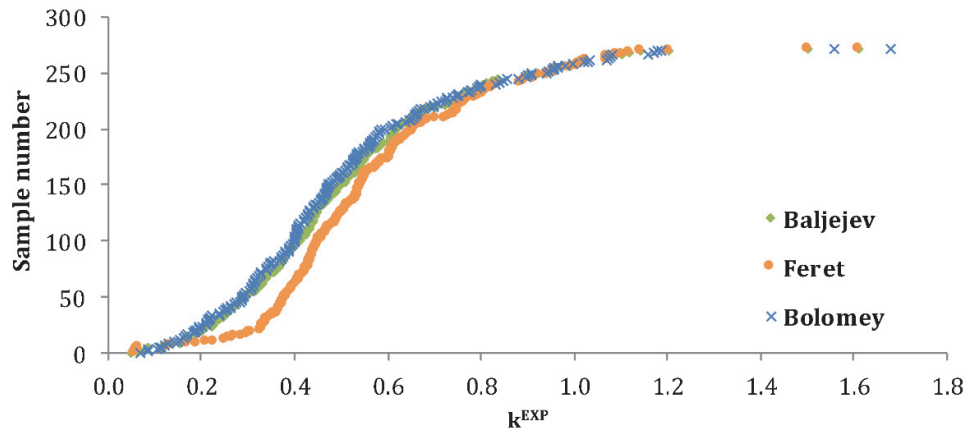


Figure 16. Experimental values of k factor for all 285 HVFAC mixtures

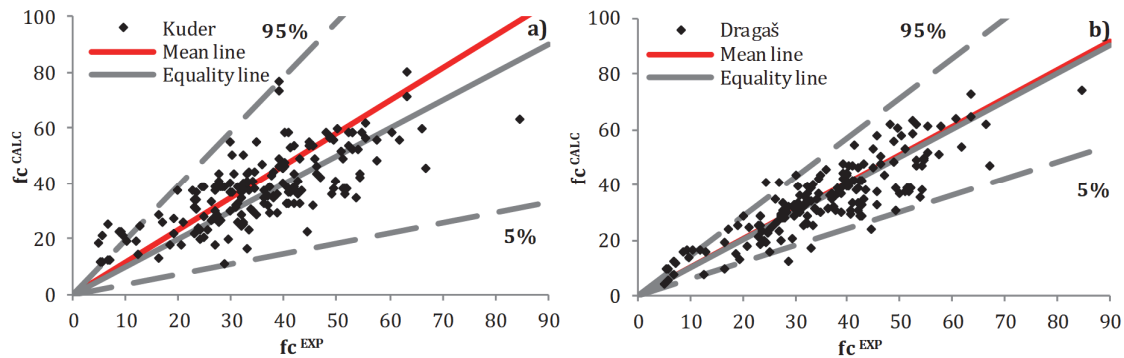


Figure 17. HVFAC compressive strength calculated using different k factor values a) Kuder et al. [104] proposal and b) own proposal

Significantly lower CoV was calculated for the application of own proposal for k factor compared with the k factor proposed by Kuder et al. [104] as can be seen in Table 3. So the incorporation of the FA density as a measure of FA fineness in the k factor proposed by Kuder et al. [104] led to

the improvement of the compressive strength prediction, and more importantly, to the decrease of the results scattering. Equation (8) can be used to predict the 28-day compressive strength of HVFAC made with 40%-75% of class F FA and normal weight aggregate.

Table 3. Calculated-to-experimental HVFAC compressive strength predictions

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} [*]	UCL _{95%} [#]
Kuder	180	1.17	0.48	41.57	0.37	1.96
Dragaš	180	1.02	0.25	24.54	0.61	1.42

^{*}Lover confidence limit LCL_{5%} = Mean – 1.645 St.Dev.

[#]Upper confidence limit UCL_{95%} = Mean + 1.645 St.Dev.

4 Compressive strength development over time

European Standard EN 1992-1-1 [12] defines the following equation for the compressive strength development of cement concrete:

$$f_{cm}(t) = f_{cm}(28) \cdot \beta_{cc}(t) = f_{cm}(28) \cdot EXP \left\{ s \cdot \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{28}{t}} \right) \right\} \quad (9)$$

where:

$f_{cm}(28)$ mean 28-day compressive strength;
 t days;
 s coefficient depending on the cement type and class.

The coefficient s is defined for three groups of cement as (32.5, 42.5 and 52.5 refer to 28-day compressive strength in MPa):

- 0.20 - cement strength classes CEM 42.5 R, CEM 52.5 N and CEM 52.5 R;
- 0.25 - cement strength classes CEM 32.5 R, CEM 42.5 N;
- 0.38 - cement strength classes CEM 32.5 N.

Application of this equation was tested on CC and HVFAC mixtures from the database with available information regarding cement strength class and early age cement strength. The compressive strengths at different ages for the selected CC and HVFAC mixtures were calculated using equation (9) and experimental value of 28-day compressive strength. The experimental versus calculated CC and HVFAC compressive strengths for 1-14

days and 56-365 days are shown in Table 4 and in Figure 18 (for HVFAC).

Looking at the statistical descriptors in Table 4 and Figure 18 it can be seen that the early age HVFAC compressive strength is overestimated and later age HVFAC compressive strength is underestimated when equation (9) is applied. This trend was expected having in mind that FA pozzolanic reaction takes place if there is available $Ca(OH)_2$ in concrete matrix – it starts after the beginning of hydration, approximately at the age of 7–14 days or later [8], [117]. So, the equation (9) defined in EN 1992-1-1 [12] should be modified for the HVFAC compressive strength development over time. The easiest way to do it is by modifying the s coefficient.

There are several proposals for the s coefficient modification in literature. The evaluation of the HVFAC compressive strength development over time was done by Yoon et al. [42] by analysing the HVFAC made with 50% and 60% of class F FA and different W/CM ratios. The researchers concluded that the W/CM ratio is also an important factor influencing the strength gain, especially in high FA content concrete made with low water amount. They proposed the modified s coefficients for different FA amount and W/CM ratios regardless of the cement type as follows:

- $s = 0.57 \pm 0.08$ for FA/CM=0.5 for all W/CM;
- $s = 0.56 \pm 0.02$ for FA/CM=0.6 for and W/CM = 0.3;
- $s = 0.89 \pm 0.05$ for FA/CM=0.6 for all other W/CM.

Table 4. Calculated-to-experimental compressive strength ratio at different ages

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} *	UCL _{95%} #
CC EN 1992-1-1, t <28 days	185	1.00	0.21	21.16	0.65	1.34
HVFAC EN 1992-1-1, t <28 days	434	1.39	0.45	32.24	0.65	2.12
CC EN 1992-1-1, t > 28 days	162	0.99	0.07	6.89	0.88	1.11
HVFAC EN 1992-1-1, t >28 days	450	0.81	0.13	16.49	0.59	1.03

*Lover confidence limit LCL_{5%} = Mean – 1.645 St.Dev.

#Upper confidence limit UCL_{95%} = Mean + 1.645 St.Dev.

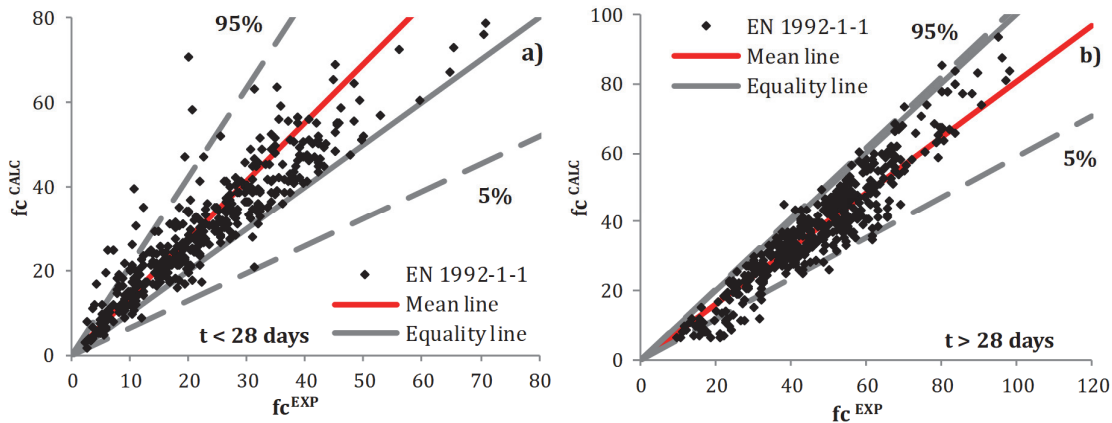


Figure 18. Relationship between the calculated (EN 1992-1-1) and experimental HVFAC compressive strength for ages a) 1-14 days and b) 56-365 days

Due to relatively wide range proposed for s coefficient and the fact that cement type was not included in the proposed modifications, these proposals were not tested against the test results.

Chen et al. [126] proposed the modification of the EN 1992-1-1 equation (10) by using new s coefficient defined as a function of the $C/(S+A)$ ratio, mentioned before, as follows:

$$\beta_{cc}(t) = \begin{cases} EXP \left\{ s \cdot \left(-0.38 \cdot \frac{C}{S+A} + 2.12 \right) \cdot \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{28}{t}} \right), & t < 28 \text{ days} \right\} \\ EXP \left\{ s \cdot \left(-1.15 \cdot \frac{C}{S+A} + 3.70 \right) \cdot \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{28}{t}} \right), & t > 28 \text{ days} \right\} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where:

s coefficient defined in EN 1992-1-1 [12] in equation (10) depending on the cement type.

They concluded that the $C/(S+A)$ ratio influenced the compressive strength development in different ways for the ages before and after 28 days. According to the authors, the increase of $C/(S+A)$ ratio causes increase of the compressive strength before 28 days, and the decrease of strength after 28 days [126]. This can be explained by the fact that the cement hydration is dominant at early ages when more CaO is favourable. At later ages, the pozzolanic reaction takes place and more SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 is needed.

The development of FA concrete compressive strength was also studied by Bhaskara et al. [82] in their research regarding concretes containing up to 75% of FA in total mass of CM. Based on the results from literature and own experimental results they proposed the modification of coefficient s defined in EN 1992-1-1 (equation 10) as a function of FA amount in total CM mass as:

$$s_{\text{mean}} = 0.298e^{0.0134p} \quad (11)$$

where: $p = \frac{FA}{C+FA} \times 100$

Bhaskara et al. [82] also proposed the equations for predicting the 95% confidence limit (i.e. the lower 5% significance level of s) for obtaining a conservative estimation of mean compressive strength:

$$t < 28 \text{ days: } s_{\text{mean}} = 0.268e^{0.0132p} \quad (12)$$

$$t > 28 \text{ days: } s_{\text{mean}} = 0.315e^{0.0135p} \quad (13)$$

The evaluation of Chen et al. (2017) and Bhaskara et al. [82] proposal for s coefficient was done by comparing the calculated and experimental values of the compressive strength for the ages before and after 28 days as shown in Table 5 and in Figures 19 and 20. Chen et al. [126] proposal was evaluated on the selected results from the database that had available information regarding cement and FA chemical composition by applying the equation (10) in equation (9). Evaluation of the Bhaskara et al. proposal for s coefficient was done by applying equations (12) and (13) in equation (9). The HVFAC compressive strength was also calculated using $s=0.38$ (as for cement class S) as proposed by Bamforth et al. [127] for concretes with more than 35% of FA in total CM (Table 5 and Figure 21).

Table 5. Calculated-to-experimental HVFAC compressive strength ratio at different ages

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} [*]	UCL _{95%} [#]
Chen et al., $t < 28$ days	330	0.96	0.24	25.35	0.56	1.35
Bhaskara et al., HVFAC, $t < 28$ days	674	0.85	0.24	28.72	0.45	1.25
$s=0.38$, $t < 28$ days	674	1.08	0.27	24.78	0.64	1.53
Chen et al. $t > 28$ days	302	1.06	0.16	14.89	0.80	1.31
Bhaskara et al., HVFAC, $t > 28$ days	583	0.99	0.15	14.84	0.75	1.24
$s=0.38$, $t > 28$ days	583	0.87	0.13	15.24	0.65	1.09

^{*}Lower confidence limit $LCL_{5\%} = \text{Mean} - 1.645 \text{ St.Dev.}$

[#]Upper confidence limit $UCL_{95\%} = \text{Mean} + 1.645 \text{ St.Dev.}$

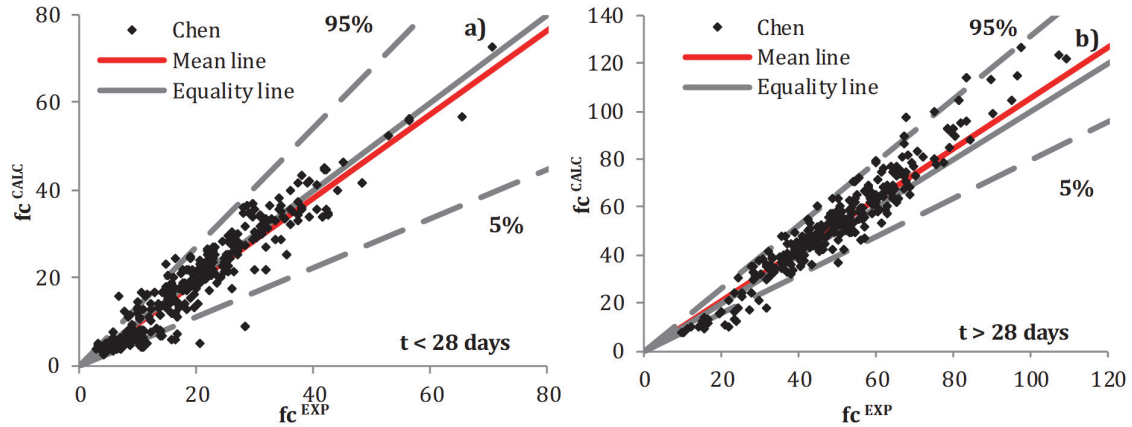


Figure 19. Relationship between the calculated [126] and experimental HVFAC compressive strength for ages a) 1-14 days and b) 56-365 days

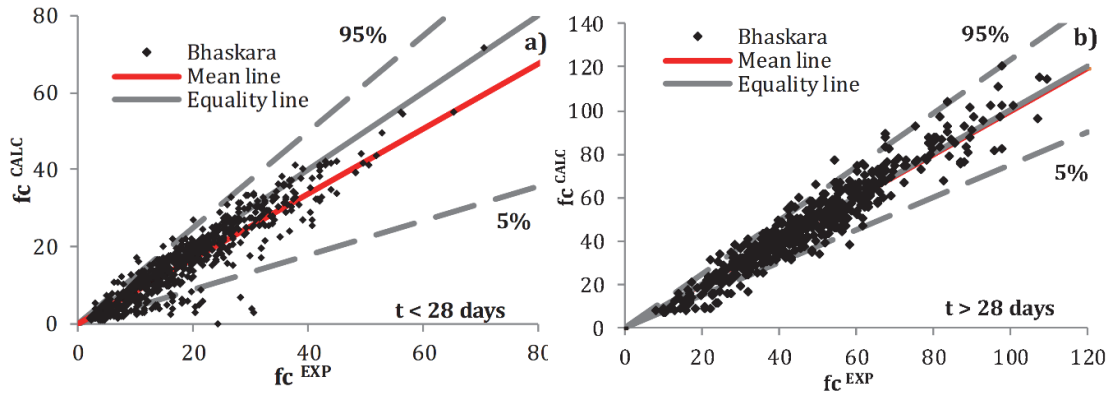


Figure 20. Relationship between the calculated (Bhaskara et al. 2018) and experimental HVFAC compressive strength for ages a) 1-14 days and b) 56-365 days

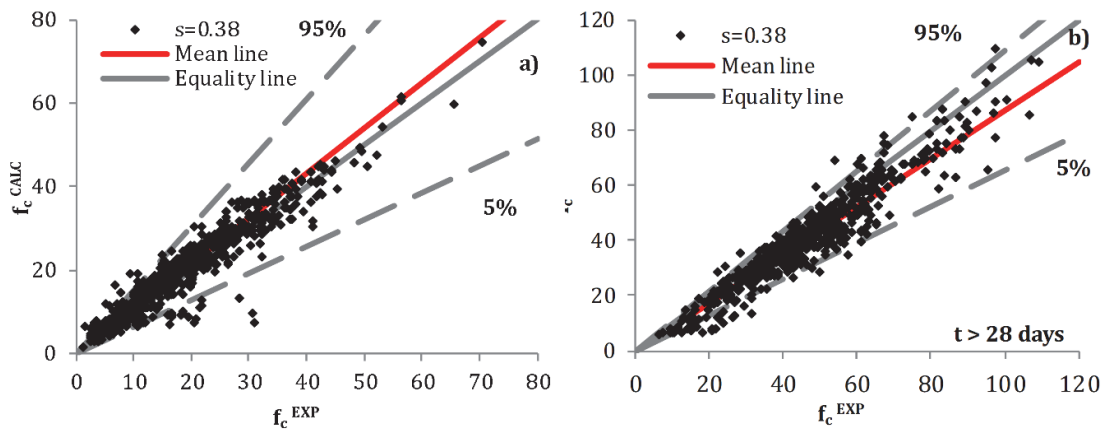


Figure 21. Relationship between the calculated ($s=0.38$) and experimental HVFAC compressive strength for ages a) 1-14 days and b) 56-365 days

Considering means and CoVs, the most accurate prediction of compressive strengths at ages before 28 days was obtained with Chen et al. (2017) proposal. Compressive strengths at ages after 28 days were most accurately predicted with Bhaskara et al. proposal. Looking integrally, Chen et al. prediction model (equation 10) in combination with EN 1992-1-1 equation (9) can be recommended - it provided similar accuracy and variation as for CC (Table 4 and 5) so no further modifications were needed.

5 Modulus of elasticity

Modulus of elasticity is mostly influenced by the concrete age, cement (binder) paste, aggregate type, interfacial transition zone and the porosity of concrete [90]. As already mentioned, available results regarding modulus of elasticity from different studies were obtained on cylindrical samples 100·200 mm or 150·300 mm. Different strength rates were used while testing, but all up to 40% of the ultimate strength. European standard EN 1992-1-1 [12] prescribes the CC modulus of elasticity as a function of its compressive strength. The 28-day modulus of elasticity for quartzite aggregate is defined as follows:

$$E_{cm} = 22 \cdot \left(\frac{f_{cm}}{10}\right)^{0.3} \quad (14)$$

where:

E_{cm} mean 28-day modulus of elasticity (GPa),
 f_{cm} mean 28-day compressive strength obtained on a cylinder sample (MPa).

Having in mind that the concrete elastic deformation is mostly influenced by the aggregate type, recommendations for the equation (14) modification are given in EN 1992-1-1 [12]:

- for limestone aggregates modulus should be reduced by 10%;
- for sandstone aggregates modulus should be reduced by 30%;
- for basalt aggregates modulus should be increased by 20%.

In order to evaluate this equation, studies with the experimental results of the CC and HVFAC modulus of elasticity were selected from the database [14], [42], [44], [48]–[50], [128], [129]. Figure 22 shows the relationship between the experimental compressive strength and the experimental modulus of elasticity of CC and HVFAC mixtures made with granite, limestone and sandstone aggregates.

As can be seen from Figure 22, similar power relationship type was observed for both HVFAC and CC but with weaker correlation and greater scatter presented in HVFAC mixtures.

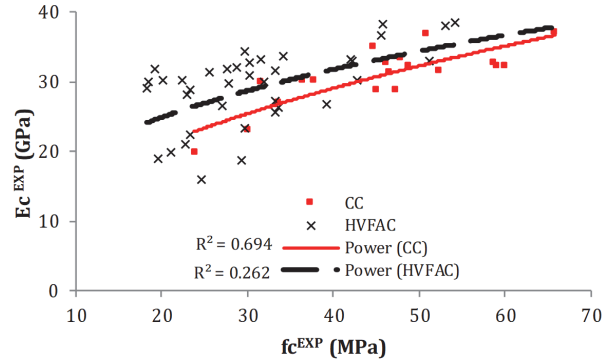


Figure 22. Relationship between experimental values of 28-day modulus of elasticity and 28-day compressive strength for CC and HVFAC

Yoon et al. [42] proposed the following modification of the EN 1992-1-1 [12] equation for the HVFAC modulus of elasticity:

- for HVFAC with 50% of FA in CM:

$$E_{cm} = (17 \pm 0.08) \cdot \left(\frac{f_{cm}}{10}\right)^{(0.45 \pm 0.10)} \quad (15)$$

- for HVFAC with 60% of FA in CM:

$$E_{cm} = (21.7 \pm 0.77) \cdot \left(\frac{f_{cm}}{10}\right)^{(0.29 \pm 0.08)} \quad (16)$$

The modulus of elasticity was calculated using the EN 1992-1-1 equation (14) for CC and HVFAC, considering different aggregate types and experimental cylinder 28-day compressive strength. Results are shown in Table 6 and Figure 23a as the calculated-to-experimental modulus ratio using descriptive statistical parameters.

The Yoon et al. proposal was evaluated for lower, average and upper values of proposed coefficients. For HVFAC mixtures with 45%-55% of FA in CM the modification proposed for 50% of FA and for HVFAC mixtures with 55%-65% of FA in CM the modification proposed for 60% of FA were used. Results are shown in Table 6 and Figure 23b as the calculated-to-experimental modulus ratio using descriptive statistical parameters.

Table 6. Calculated-to-experimental 28-day modulus of elasticity ratio

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} [*]	UCL _{95%} [#]
CC_EN 1992-1-1	22	1.07	0.21	19.10	0.74	1.41
HVFAC_EN 1992-1-1	75	1.01	0.19	19.06	0.70	1.33
Yoon et al_lower	65	0.86	0.16	18.35	0.59	1.12
Yoon et al_average	65	0.99	0.18	18.21	0.70	1.29
Yoon et al_upper	65	1.13	0.20	17.75	0.79	1.46

^{*}Lower confidence limit LCL_{5%} = Mean – 1.645 St.Dev.

[#]Upper confidence limit UCL_{95%} = Mean + 1.645 St.Dev.

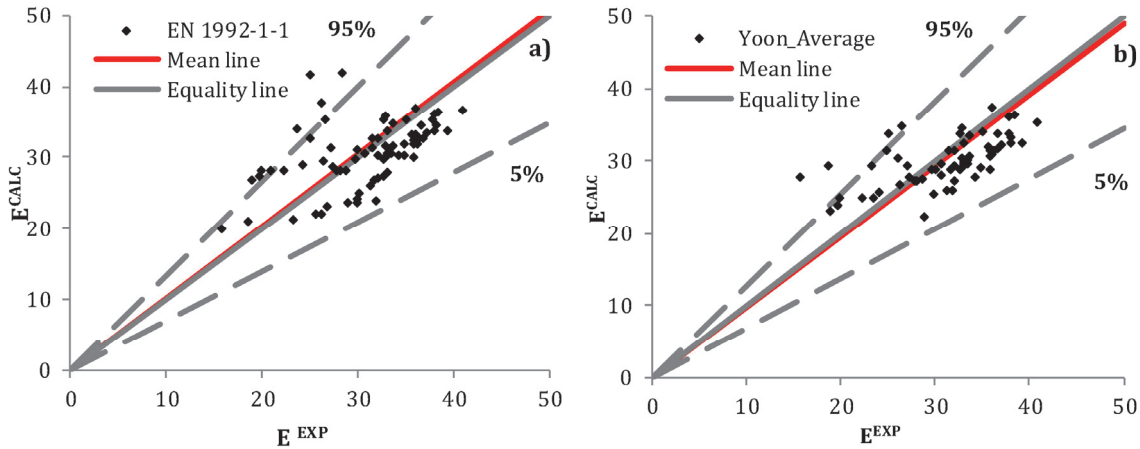


Figure 23. Relationship between calculated and experimental values of HVFAC 28-day modulus of elasticity a) EN 1992-1-1 and b) Yoon et al. prediction

Looking at Table 6, it can be seen that regarding statistical descriptors similar predictions were obtained using the EN 1992-1-1 equation and Yoon et al. (average) proposal, regardless of the FA/CM ratio. It was concluded that the EN 1992-1-1 equation (14) provided estimation of the HVFAC modulus of elasticity with similar accuracy and variation as for CC and that Yoon et al. (2014) prediction model brought no improvements.

The development of the modulus of elasticity over time for CC can be estimated using the equation given in EN 1992-1-1 as:

$$E_{cm}(t) = \left(\frac{f_{cm}(t)}{f_{cm}}\right)^{0.3} \cdot E_{cm} \text{ (GPa)} \quad (17)$$

where:

$E_{cm}(t), f_{cm}(t)$ mean modulus of elasticity and mean compressive strength at the age t (GPa).

Chen et al. proposed the modification of the EN 1992-1-1 equation (17) as a function of the previously described coefficient $C/(S+A)$ as follows:

In order to evaluate the application of equations (15) and (16) on the results from the database, studies with available

$$E_{cm}(t) = E_{cm} \cdot \beta_{cc}(t)^{0.3} = E_{cm} \cdot \left\{ EXP \left[s \cdot \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{28}{t}} \right) \cdot \left(-1.60 \cdot \frac{C}{S+A} + 5.26 \right) \right] \right\}^{0.3} \text{ (GPa)} \quad (18)$$

s coefficient defined in EN 1992-1-1 [12] in equation (9) depending on the cement type.

Table 7. Calculated-to-experimental modulus of elasticity ratio at ages 1-365 days

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} [*]	UCL _{95%} [#]
CC_EN 1992-1-1	22	1.00	0.22	22.15	0.64	1.36
HVFAC_EN 1992-1-1	55	0.92	0.19	20.19	0.61	1.23
Chen et al.	55	0.94	0.20	21.46	0.61	1.28

^{*}Lower confidence limit LCL_{5%} = Mean – 1.645 St.Dev.

[#]Upper confidence limit UCL_{95%} = Mean + 1.645 St.Dev.

experimental results of CC and HVFAC modulus of elasticity were selected at the age of 1, 3, 7, 14, 90, 180 and 365 days. The results are presented as the calculated-to-experimental modulus ratio for all ages in Table 7 using the descriptive statistical parameters. In all cases 28-day modulus of elasticity was calculated using equation (14) from experimental 28-day f_{cm} , as already concluded that it gave predictions of similar quality as for CC.

According to EN 1992-1-1, modulus of elasticity development over time is related to compressive strength development according to equation (17). Because of that, when calculating the HVFAC modulus of elasticity development according to this standard, Chen et al. proposal already recommended for compressive strength development was used (equation 10 for s coefficient). The graphical representation of the results is shown in Figures 24a and 24b.

Application of Chen et al. [126] proposal gave slightly better prediction of secant modulus of elasticity over time compared to EN 1992-1-1 proposal. On the basis of the evaluation on this database, it was concluded that Chen et al. prediction (equation 18) can be used for HVFAC with similar accuracy and variation of the results as for CC.

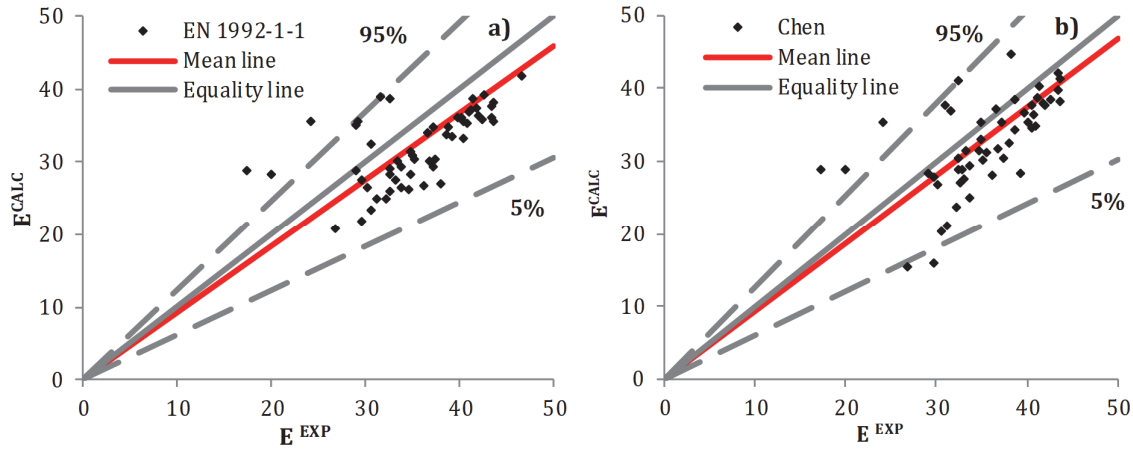


Figure 24. Relationship between the calculated and experimental HVFAC modulus of elasticity at ages 1-365 days using a) EN 1992-1-1 b) Chen et al. [126] proposal

6 Splitting tensile strength

Concrete tensile strength is an important parameter in both the serviceability and ultimate state verifications. It is used in stress analysis, the determination of crack width and spacing, deflection, minimum reinforcement, shear strength etc. European Standard EN 1992-1-1 defines the axial tensile strength of cement concrete in relation to the compressive strength as follows:

$$f_{ctm} = 0.3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{f_{ck}^2} \text{ (MPa) for compressive strength } f_{ck} \leq 50 \text{ MPa} \quad (19)$$

$$f_{ctm} = 2.12 \cdot \ln \left(1 + \frac{f_{ck}}{10} \right) \text{ (MPa) for compressive strength } f_{ck} > 50 \text{ MPa} \quad (20)$$

where:

f_{ctm} mean axial tensile strength of concrete,
 f_{ck} characteristic compressive cylinder strength of concrete at 28 days ($f_{ck} = f_{cm} - 8 \text{ MPa}$).

Axial tensile strength is rarely determined by testing, but it can be determined based on the splitting tensile strength using the equation given in EN 1992-1-1 [12] as follows:

$$f_{ct} = 0.9 \cdot f_{ct,sp} \text{ (MPa)} \quad (21)$$

where:

f_{ct} axial tensile strength,
 $f_{ct,sp}$ splitting tensile strength.

So, the splitting tensile strength can be determined using the combination of equations as:

$$f_{ct,sp} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \sqrt[3]{f_{ck}^2} \text{ (MPa) for concrete classes } \leq C50/60 \quad (22)$$

$$f_{ct,sp} = \frac{2.12}{0.9} \cdot \ln \left(1 + \frac{f_{ck}}{10} \right) \text{ (MPa)} \quad (23)$$

for concrete classes $> C50/60$

In order to evaluate the application of these equations on the HVFAC tensile strength, concrete mixtures with available data regarding splitting tensile strength were selected from the database [8], [10], [47], [55], [56], [71], [83], [129], [130], [22]–[24], [26], [27], [43]–[45].

The relationship between the experimental 28-day compressive and splitting tensile strength for the selected HVFAC and CC mixtures is shown in Figure 25. As can be seen, the correlation between these two variables is higher

for HVFAC mixtures compared with CC results but similar trend can be noticed indicating that the same power relationship type can be used to define them both. Slightly higher splitting tensile strengths for the same 28-day compressive strength can be noticed for CC mixtures compared with the HVFAC ones.

Splitting tensile strength was then calculated for the HVFAC and CC mixtures from the database using the EN 1992-1-1 equation (22 and 23). The results are presented in Table 8 as the calculated-to-experimental splitting tensile strength ratio using the descriptive statistical parameters. The experimental versus calculated splitting tensile strengths are also shown in Figure 26.

Although the prediction of HVFAC splitting tensile strength is slightly more conservative than for CC, it is recommended that the EN 1992-1-1 [12] equation (21) can be used to predict the HVFAC splitting tensile strength at this state-of-the knowledge. Other predictions regarding splitting tensile strength were not found in the literature.

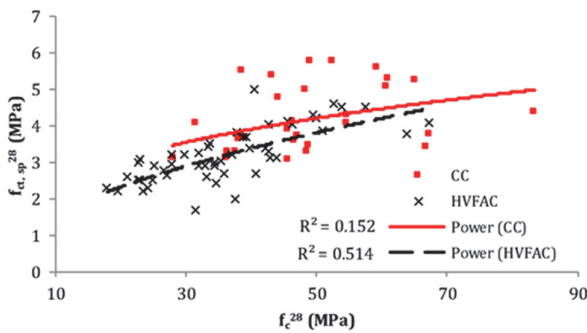


Figure 25. Relationship between 28-day compressive and splitting tensile strength for CC and HVFAC

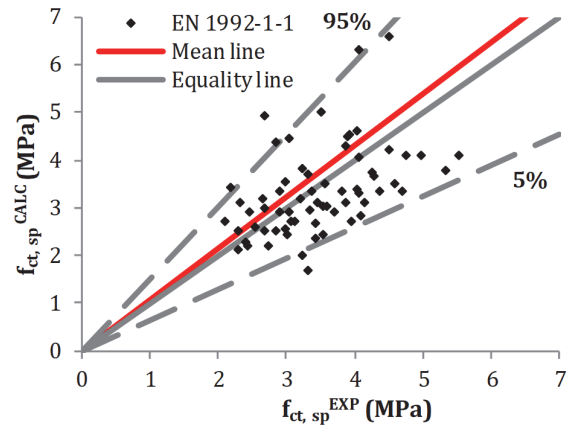


Figure 26. Relationship between the calculated (EN 1992-1-1) and experimental 28-day HVFAC splitting tensile strength

Table 8. Calculated-to-experimental splitting tensile strength using EN 1992-1-1 prediction

	Sample No.	Mean Values	St. Deviation	CoV (%)	LCL _{5%} [*]	UCL _{95%} [#]
CC_EN 1992-1-1	20	0.94	0.19	20.02	0.63	1.26
HVFAC_EN 1992-1-1	64	0.88	0.25	28.18	0.47	1.29

^{*}Lover confidence limit LCL_{5%} = Mean – 1.645 St.Dev.

[#]Upper confidence limit UCL_{95%} = Mean + 1.645 St.Dev

7 Conclusions

The analysis of available experimental results of the HVFAC material properties showed that the extensive amount of research has been done so far. However, comprehensive analysis of HVFAC mechanical properties was not found in the literature, probably due to the great variety of FA physical and mechanical properties. Having that in mind, the database of 440 HVFAC and 151 CC mixtures collected from literature was made and analyzed. Database includes experimental results on the mechanical properties of HVFAC with class F fly ash and the amount of FA in CM in the range between 40% and 75%. Statistical analysis of the results in database enabled following conclusions:

The available empirical equations defined for CC can be used to predict the 28-day compressive strength of HVFAC based on its mixture proportions and using the FA efficiency factor.

The most important parameters influencing the FA efficiency are the amount of FA in CM, FA fineness and the FA and cement chemical composition.

Own proposal for FA efficiency (k factor value) as the function of FA chemical composition and its density showed good correlation with the experimental results. When HVFAC compressive strength was calculated using the Bolomey equation and own proposal for k factor value, the mean value of calculated-to-experimental compressive strength ratio was 1.02 with CoV of 24.5%.

The equation defined in EN 1992-1-1 for CC compressive strength development over time overestimates early age and underestimates later HVFAC compressive strengths.

The coefficient s influencing the compressive strength development over time proposed by Chen et al., in combination with EN 1992-1-1 equation for CC, can be used to predict the HVFAC compressive strength development.

The EN 1992-1-1 28-day modulus of elasticity prediction can be used to predict the HVFAC modulus of elasticity with similar accuracy and variation as for CC.

Chen et al. modification of EN 1992-1-1 equation for modulus of elasticity development over time can be used to predict the HVFAC modulus of elasticity with similar accuracy and variation as for CC.

The EN 1992-1-1 splitting tensile strength prediction can be used to predict the HVFAC splitting tensile strength with similar accuracy and variation as for CC.

These conclusions depend upon the database from which they were drawn and are valid only within the current range of parameters. Nevertheless, the database is freely accessible online which enables other researchers to update it, improve it, and analyse it in new and different ways compared with the ones presented in this study.

This work presented a leap forward on the road to HVAC practical application. Nevertheless, a variety of challenges regarding the use of FA in concrete still need to be overcome (heterogeneity of FA, durability of FA, behavior of structural elements made with HVFAC...).

The results and conclusions presented in this study give guidelines for practical HVFAC mix design procedure and prediction of basic mechanical properties. Greater use of HVFAC in applications where moderate compressive strength is needed could significantly reduce the amount of used cement and, therefore, the amount of emitted CO₂ compared with the traditional cement concrete. HVFAC

would provide a sustainable solution to extensive growth in the construction sector and larger concrete consumption.

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