

# AMAS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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Production of this volume has been partially supported by the European Commission

Published and distributed by
Institute of Fundamental Technological Research
Świętokrzyska 21, 00-049 Warszawa, Poland

ISSN 1730-1521

Papier offset. kl. III, 70 g, B1
Ark. wyd.: 21,7; ark. druk.: 16,25
Skład w systemie LATEX: T.G. Zieliński
Oddano do druku i druk ukończono: VIII 2003
Druk i oprawa: Drukarnia Braci Grodzickich, Piaseczno, ul. Geodetów 47a

## Foreword

Since a long time the problems of concrete-like composite materials were studied by the members of the Division of Strain Fields, Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences (IFTR PAS). The studies covered material composition and properties, test methods and diagnosis of various types of concrete: ordinary concrete, fibre reinforced, high performance concrete, etc. The results of these studies have been presented in many publications and two monographs: [1] and [2]. Also international symposia organized every three years since 1985, BMC1 through BMC6, [3], were based on investigations in that field.

Since four years the Division of Strain Fields has been carrying on a research project sponsored by the NATO SfP (Science for Peace), on the methods of diagnosis of concrete, based on the analysis of its structure. The aim of that project is to upgrade the quality of concrete structures in Poland, applying new methods of analysis, including systematic analysis of images obtained from specimens and cores sawn out from existing structures. The most important feature of the method developed in the project is that the images are analysed quantitatively and not only qualitatively. Computer assisted image analysis is completed by several modern test procedures and the obtained results are analysed using the artificial intelligence methods. It is expected that this approach will be largely applied in practice in Poland and that the quality and durability of concrete structures will be improved.

An essential part of the above mentioned approach is application of combined micro-mechanical tests and Computer Image Analysis to investigation of the concrete structure. From observation of plane sections of concrete specimens basic information is obtained using special procedures, both experimental and analytical. Various levels of analysis are applied: macro-, meso-, micro- and, if possible, even sub-micro. Therefore, already in 2001 it was proposed to organize a special Workshop on that subject, scheduled for autumn 2002.

The aims of the Workshop were:

 to give basic knowledge on application of computer image analysis of concrete to doctoral students and researchers who are not experts in that field;  to exchange opinions with advanced researchers on crucial questions concerning the visual evaluation of concrete structures, encountered in laboratory practice and various case studies, and on the most rational approach to their solutions.

The Workshop was organized in the period of time when in Poland new European Standards are being introduced (cf. [4]) that is dedicated to evaluation of the quality of the air entrainment in constructional concrete. In the Division of Strain Fields several programs are also carried on, connected to preparation of Ph.D. theses or consulting services, covering analysis of the systems of cracks and microcracks, assessment of material homogeneity, evaluation of aggregate systems and efficiency of various reinforcing fibres, durability assessments, etc. All these activities are closely connected to the subject of the Workshop.

Among the participants of the Workshop, as indicated in the List of Participants (see pages 9-11), present were specialists in the analytical development of the problem of computer image analysis, i.e. in stereology and mathematical morphology, and also experts in practical application of methods and techniques related to creation and understanding of various kinds of images of concrete structures. It was the intention of the Workshop organizers to combine the knowledge of different experts during lectures and discussions.

The closing session of the Workshop was dedicated to visits of the laboratories belonging to the Division of Strain Fields at IFTR. The aim of the demonstrations of the equipment for concrete specimens forming, sawing, grinding, polishing, impregnation, macro- and micro- observation, hardness and acoustic emission testing, was to show to the participants the scope of investigations carried on. The system applied for computer image analysis was also presented and its operation was explained.

The closing session was a round table discussion, which provided an occasion for interesting exchange of questions, problems, observations and informal remarks. It is expected that the contacts set up between the Workshop participants will promote future exchange of information and fruitful collaboration.

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