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Research paper

A Review of Concrete Properties Modified By Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP)

Mohd Salman Rais[1*], Rizwan Ahmad Khan[2]

[1,2] Department of Civil Engineering, Z. H. College of Engg. & Tech., Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
**Corresponding Author E-mail : raismohdsalman@gmail.com*

Abstract

In recent times, concrete is a vital material in the development enterprises because of its huge commitment towards quickened progress. Concrete is one among the most important resources of CO2 emission and is not considered as sustainable material. Micro cracks are natural and unavoidable in concrete. This opens the path for entry of aggressive chemicals inside concrete leading to deterioration and there arises the need for concrete to be rehabilitated. Microbial induced calcite precipitation (MICP) has proved to be a promising solution in remediating cracks in concrete by way of sustainability. The MICP technology has been studied over last few years to enhance concrete properties. Earlier research at the modes of utility of this innovative technology and subsequent picks up in strength and quality of concrete has been condensed in this paper.

Keywords: *Concrete strength, durability, Microstucture, MICP, Self healing,bacteria and calcite precipitation.*

1. Introduction

Concrete is a composite material, comprising of cement and aggregates. Numerous nations have forced to use it more and more for infrastructure development because of rapid urbanization and industrialization. Though, it is responsible for emission of harmful gases mainly CO_2, in this aspect it does not seem to be sustainable material from ecological point of view. So, there is an urgent need for production of sustainable concrete [Siddiqui et al. 2016].

Concrete durability is an important issue of concern. It is characterized as the capacity of cement to oppose weathering activity, chemical attack and abrasion when exposed to environment. Concrete needs durability of distinctive degrees relying upon exposure conditions and properties required. The pore formations in concrete permits penetration of destructive substances. Concrete is additionally liable to cracking due to number of variables such as excessive heating, shrinkage, applied stresses etc. These durability associated issues represents a negative effect on the national economies that is reflected by the budgetary spending plan spent on the repairing and maintenance of infrastructure [Jonkers et al. 2010]. Conventionally, remediation of cracks is done via application of sealing agents (synthetic polymers, latex emulsions) that plugs the pores and seals the cracks hence, reduce concrete permeability. Such materials are poisonous and steeply-priced.

They also go through problems of being not environment friendly, vulnerable to ultraviolet radiation, deterioration with age, the want for continuous renovation and cracking because of differential thermal growth. Therefore, a self-healing system which heals the cracks with materials comparative to that of cement and penetrates deep into the crack instead of the surface treatment would be of extraordinary advantage.

Recently, microbial induced calcite precipitation coming about because of metabolic exercises of some particular microbes to enhance the general conduct of structural concrete has turned into an extensive zone of look into. These microbes can impact the $CaCO_3$ precipitation by the generation of urease catalyst. $CaCO_3$ precipitation take place by heterogeneous nucleation on cell walls of bacteria once supersaturation is accomplished. It has been theorized that all microscopic organisms are equipped for $CaCO_3$ formation since precipitation happens as a result of basic metabolic procedures, for example, photosynthesis, sulfate decrease, and urea hydrolysis [Hammes et al. 2003]. The hydrolysis of urea via the generally dispersed catalyst urease is notable in that it is one of solely a some few naturally occurring responses that can create carbonate particles without a related era ofprotons. At the point when hydrolysis takes place in a kingdom of ample calcium, calcite (CaCO3) encourages from arrangement framing a robust crystalline material. The binding pleasant of the motivated valuable precipitated CaCO3 crystals is quite reliant on the fee of carbonate development and underneath sensible conditions it is achievable to manipulate the response to create hard binding calcite cement (or biocement). The urease catalyst (e.g. urea amidohydrolase; EC 3.5.1.5) is primary in severa microbes and ureolysis can be actuated in a lab setting by way of including urea [Jugnia et al. 2008]. In accordance to the new studies [Achal et al. 2013], the equations exhibit a sequence of biochemical reaction that occurs to structure calciumcarbonate in cementitious material with assist of ureolytic micro organism and are summarized in equation (1). At some stage in microbial urease activity, 1 mol of urea is hydrolyzed intracellularly to at least one mol of NH3 and 1 mol of carbamate, which freely hydrolyses to form an additional 1 mol of NH3 and H2CO3 acid. These products finally equilibrate in water to shape HCO3- and 2 mol of NH4+ and OH- ions, main to extend in pH and formation of CO3-2 ions. In the end the reaction leads into $CaCO_3$ precipitation around microbial cells in the presence of Ca+2 ions. The deposited calcium carbonates precipitation by way of bacteria is shown in Fig.1. The capability of microbes to go about as self-improving specialist in concrete has became out to be a promising future. This area appears to be extra precious as bacterial concrete seems to supply more generously greater crack plugging minerals than manipulate concrete. Following are the equations which occurs during CaCO3 formation due to MICP.

$$CO(NH_2)_2 + H_2O \rightarrow NH_2COOH + NH_3NH_2COOH + H_2O \rightarrow NH_3 + H_2CO_3H_2CO_3$$
$$\leftrightarrow HCO_3^{-} + H^{+}2NH_3 + 2H_2O \leftrightarrow 2NH_4^{+} + 2OH^{-}HCO_3^{-} + H^{+} + 2NH_4^{+} + 2OH^{-} \leftrightarrow CO_3^{-2} + 2NH_4^{+} + 2H_2OCa^{2+} + Cell \rightarrow Cell — Ca_2^{+}Cell — Ca_2^{+} + CO_3^{-2}$$
$$\rightarrow Cell — CaCO_3 \quad (1)$$

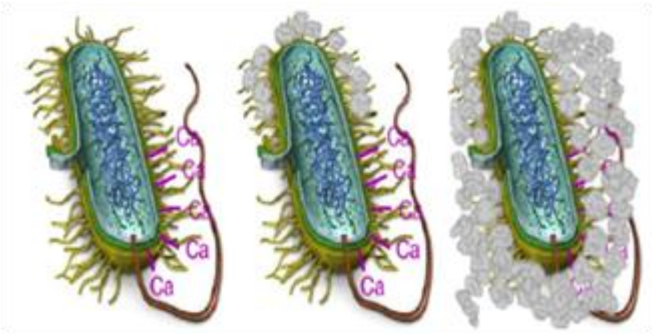


Fig. 1: Calcium carbonates deposition on cell wall of bacteria

Numerous analysts found that mechanical and durability characteristics of concrete can be enhanced by utilizing biomineralization as a natural procedure and environmental agreeable solution [Vakeriya et al. 2013]. In light of controlling crack generation bio-concrete is one of the possible solution which uses different strategies of incorporating microorganism in an eco-friendly way to recover cracks [Wasim et al. 2016].

The MICP process is a successful and eco-accommodating innovation that can be connected to take care of different natural issues [Muynck et al. 2010, Mitchell et al. 2010, Achal et al. 2012, Anbu et al. 2016]. [Van et al. 2010] in their study show that biomineralisation may not be totally ecological well disposed, on the grounds that ammonium what's more, ureolysis process results in formation of nitrate, which may be hazardous and poisonous to human well being and microorganisms in soil at higher levels. [Ganendra et al. 2014] reported that this is helpful over process of ureolysis on the grounds that the calcium formate does not discharge the NH_4^+ to the atmosphere or deliver HNO_3 acid when used in construction materials, bringing about diminished danger of contamination and bio-disintegration of the materials [Anbu at al. 2016]. Thus, utilizing microbes in cement and concrete base material does not harm nature as well as it is an ecofriendly methodology contrasted with chemical compounds.

Use of microscopic organisms have been researched by some of the studies to accelerate carbonate formation in structural concrete trying to upgrade its compressive strength [Wasim et al. 2016, Qiu et al. 2014, Muynck et al. 2008, Chahal et al. 2011, Abo-El-Enien et al. 2013, Teronobu et al. 1999, Nica et al. 2000].

Mortar blocks treated with Sporosarcina pasteurii are observed to have a compressive strength of more than 17% and diminished water permeability. Bacterial calcite precipitation may have hastened on cell walls of bacteria and, ultimately, inside the mortar to plug the pores, in the long run leading to the cessation of oxygen and nutrient circulating the cells. Therefore, the microbes are finally become died or changed into endospores to serve as organic fiber improving the mortar strength [Achal et al. 2011]. Ramakrishnan et al. 1998 found improved resistance of concrete to drying shrinkage, freeze-thaw attack and alkali, in addition to decrease in permeability upon utility of microbial cells. Drawing upon the several studies done on biodeposition demonstrating its results on changed and/or decreased concrete porosity. The goal of present investigation is to survey the different properties of concrete which alter with the addition of microscopic organisms through MICP.

2. Methods of Applying Bacteria in Concrete

According to literature the healing agent can be implemented in concrete by means of two techniques: Direct utility and Encapsulation. Earlier researches discovered that the utility of healing agent in concrete through direct, incorporation of bacteria in light weight aggregates (LWA) and graphite Nano platelets (GNP); it's been found out that GNP as an excellent carrier compound for microorganism and it has given higher results in recovery of cracks [Wasim et al. 2016].

The utility of healing agent through the direct technique used for finding best concentration of bacteria for strength reasons and the optimal concentration became 30×105cfu/ml [Andalib et al. 2016]. Another recommended technique is the impregnation of lightweight aggregates through bacteria solution and afterward their encapsulation in a polymer based covering layer for development of self-healing concrete [Muynck et al. 2008].

The direct technique of utility of Shewanella microorganism species into the concrete become investigated and was found that a 25% increment in 28 days compressive strength of cement mortar [Ghosh et al. 2005].

A few encapsulation procedures have been attempted for bacteria using silica gel or polyurethane in glass capsules [Tittelboom et al. 2009], expanded clay [Wiktor et al. 2011], diatomaceous earth [Wang et al. 2012], melamine formaldehyde based microcapsules [Wang et al. 2014, Belie et al. 2013], synthetic or biobased superabsorbent polymers [Wang et al. 2014, Wang et al. 2015]. The hydrogels have the twofold advantage of ensuring the bacterial spores and of appearing as water reservoir for spores germination and bacterial action when cracking occurs. Recently, self-protected non-axenic blended cultures have been tried [Ersan et al. 2015]. The self-healing through encapsulation can give outstanding healing regarding the crack width that can be healed and before response to cracking in the matrix [Souradeep et al. 2007]. Hydro gel encapsulation technique was utilized and the examples with hydro gel encapsulated bacterial spores had an enhanced self-healing viability both with respect to the measure of precipitation and crack healing [Wang et al. 2014]. In light of existing literature, the encapsulation technique appeared to be great outcomes in self-healing ability concerning crack closer also, the measure of $CaCO_3$ precipitation which is expected to uniform distribution and security of microorganism in alkaline condition.

3. Self-Healing in Concrete by MICP

The rule of bacteria-based self-healing concrete is that carbonate precipitating microscopic organisms are included into concrete during the blending procedure. When cracking happens, the microscopic organisms will be actuated to accelerate $CaCO_3$ precipitation to in-situ heal cracks. This 'self-healing' property brings about a improvement of water-tightness, and subsequently restricts the infiltration of destructive substances into concrete systems also, enhances concrete durability. To apply microscopic organisms for self-healing of concrete cracks, they ought to maintain their feasibility until crack formation. Accordingly, researchers are for the most part proposing spores rather than vegetative cells for this application in perspective of the longer existence span [Setlow 1994]. As dissolvable Ca source, calcium chloride ought to be avoided due to the destructive impact on the reinforcement and calcium nitrate, calcium acetic acid derivative, calcium formate or calcium lactate may be proposed. Incorporation of supplements positively affects the bio-precipitation process. [Wang 2013] found that yeast extract as supplement for B. sphaericus quickened spores germination and bioprecipitation, particularly in a horrible condition, for example, at low temperatures (10°C) and in occurrence of high concentrations of Ca^{2+}. This might be extremely essential for reasonable application since the ideal temperature run for the vast majority of the bacterial procedures is 20 to 30°C, while bring down temperatures that are pertinent in numerous real-life circumstances slow down the germination of spores and the development of living cells.

Concrete is a relatively alkaline material, the bacteria introduced is successful of withstanding alkali surroundings [Siddiqui et al. 2011, Bravo et al. 2015]. MICP enables to fill micro cracks and binds sand and gravel in concrete [Kaur et al. 2012]. The contribution of microorganism in calcite precipitation can build the durability of concrete. By changing over urea into ammonium and carbonate Bacillus Sphaericus can hasten $CaCO_3$ precipitation in the high alkaline condition [Tittelboom et al. 2010]. Cracks around 0.2mm may be filled by means of concrete itself. But if cracks are in excess of 0.2mm at that point concrete fails to heal by itself which make a path to injurious materials. In self-healing concrete, development of any crack, results in activation of microorganisms from its phase of hibernation. With the aid of the metabolic activities of microorganism, at some stages in the system of self-healing, calcium carbonate precipitates into the cracks and recover them. As soon as the cracks are completely filled with calcium carbonate,microorganism returns to the level of hibernation. In future,if any cracks form the microorganism gets actuated and fills the cracks. Microbes go about as a durable healing agent and this mechanism is called as MICP. Table 1 gives the details of bacteria used, bacterial concentration and values of maximum crack width healed.

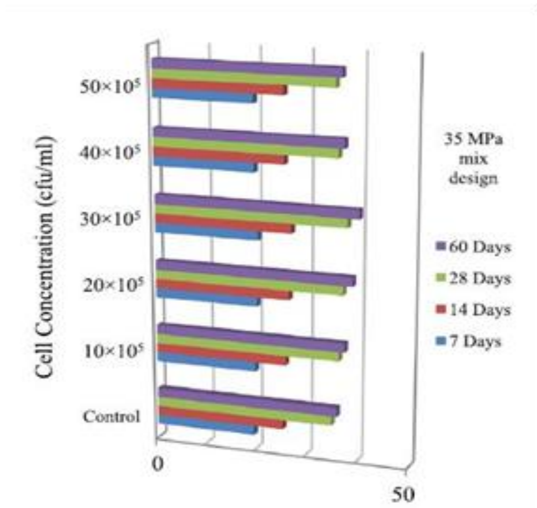
Table 1: Healing of cracks by different types of bacteria

S.No	Type of Bacteria	Maximum crack width healed	Bacterial conc.	Reference
1	Sporosarcina pasteurii	0.417mm	10^9 cells/ml	Xu et al. 2018
2	Bacillus sphaericus	0.5mm	10^9 cells/ml	Wang et al. 2014
3	Bacillus subtilis	0.81mm	2.8×10^8 cells/ml	Wasim et al. 2016
4	Bacillus sphaericus	0.97mm	10^9 cells/gm	Wang et al. 2014
5	Bacillus alkalinitrilicus	0.46mm	1.7×10^5 cells/gm	Wiktor et al. 2011

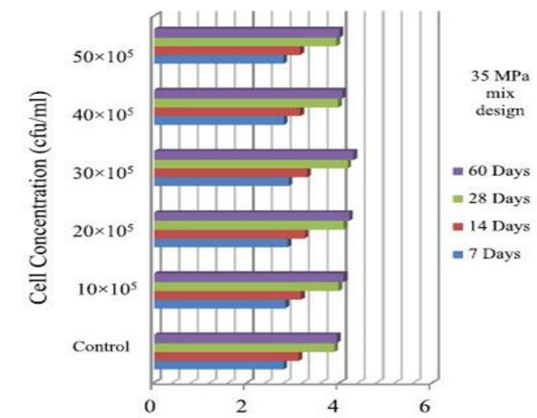
4. Effect of MICP on Concrete Strength and Durability

4.1 Strength

Compressive strength of concrete is the fundamental property of concrete to determine the overall behavior of concrete and to check whether the concrete has been properly designed to be used for particular construction work. The effect of five different concentrations of *Bacillus megaterium* on compressive and flexural strength of concrete was studied by the researchers. They found that the bacterial concentration of 30×10^5 cfu/ml give rise to increase the compressive and flexural strength of concrete. Highest grade of 50 MPa concrete had the maximum strength development rate of 24% in microbes presence [Andalib et al. 2016]. This has been shown in Fig. 2. Addition of *shewanella* anaerobic bacteria resulted in increase of 28 days compressive strength of mortar by about 25% at concentration of 10^5 cells/ml [ghosh et al. 2005]. Increase in strength was associated to growth of fibrous filler material (calcium carbonate) inside the pores of cement-sand matrix. This growth was found to be useful in improving the porosity and pore size distribution of cement mortar. Fly ash can be used to replace 10% part of cement and with the help bacteria Sparcious pasteurii 10^5 cells/ml which has been incorporated found to have 20% improvement in compressive strength, that was attributed to deposition of calcium carbonate on cell surfaces of microorganism [chahal et al. 2012]. The effect of bacteria (*S. Pasteurii*) was found to enhance the strength and durability of concrete along with use of fly ash and silica fume. The addition of bacteria improved the compressive strength due to calcium carbonate precipitation [chahal et al. 2013]. The compressive strength of concrete with simultaneous use of Sparcina pasteurii and Bacillus subtilis bacteria is found to be 20% more than that of concrete without bacteria for 28 days [Nosuhian et al. 2016]. Bacteria introduced by soaking in light weight aggregate LWA was found to provide maximum improvement of strength and with the use of graphite nano platelets GNP was found to give compressive strength improvement for mixes containing the bacteria hence, soaking bacteria in LWA proved to be a good carrier compound for bacteria to improve strength. [Wasim et al. 2016].



(a) Compressive strength, MPa



(b) Flexural Strength, Mpa

Fig. 2: Impact of various microbial concentration in enhancing the compressive and flexural strength of concrete based on f_c = 35 MPa mix design [Andalib et al 2016].

The sporosarcina pasteurii bacteria by direct mixing in concrete mix water as well as soaking bacterial solution in LWA was used for production of LWAC. The bacteria use was found to increase the compressive strength by 20% [Balam et al. 2017]. The potential of Bacillus pasteurii and Bacillus sphaericus in enhancing the strength of concrete was examined and observed the greatest improvement equal to 10.8% in compressive strength, 29.37% in split tensile strength, 5.1% in flexural strength treated with bacillus sphaericus [jagannathan et al. 2018]. Enhancement in the properties of concrete or mortar due to MICP has been summarized in Table 2.

The concrete containing biocement led to better compressive strength than that of regular concrete [Ramakrishnan et al 1999]. An alkalophilic bacterium, Bacillus pasteurii is developed in supplement media supplemented with urea and $CaCl_2$ and a concrete mortar is prepared utilizing it instead of water. A comparatively better compressive strength (approximately 65 MPa) of concrete mortar specimens is estimated at 28 days contrasted with control mortars (55 MPa), wherein microbes are not introduced. Bio cementation of mortar specimens with reinforcement by S. pasteurii microbes led to no considerable change in tensile strength among control (7.78 N/mm^2) and bacterial specimens (7.45 N/mm^2), at the same time the compressive strength was marginally better [Jonkers and Schlangen 2007]. In addition, [Jonkers and Schlangen 2008] accomplished 10% increase in the compressive strength of mortars at 28 days utilizing a consortia of Bacillus pseudofirmus also, Bacillus cohnii. [Achal et al. 2009, Achal et al. 2010] examined compressive strength of mortars by way of the use of industrial by-products which include lactose mother liquor (LML) and corn steep liquor (CSL) as nutrient supply. An increase of 17% in compressive strength of mortars at 28 days was accounted for [Achal et al. 2009] when they utilized LML to develop S. pasteurii (previously, B. pasteurii) for biocementation. At the point when CSL media were used to develop bacterial cells for MICP, 35% change in the compressive strength of mortars at 28 days was observed. It was greater than the strength accomplished with standard supplement medium.

Table 2: Improvement of concrete and mortar properties due to MICP

S.No.	Material	Strength improvement	Reduction in Permeability/Water absorption	Reference
1	Concrete	10-12%	42-48%	Siddiqui et al. 2017
2	Concrete	11%	—	Siddiqui et al. 2016
3	Concrete	—	68%	Wang et al. 2014
4	Concrete	—	40-75%	Achal et al. 2011
5	Concrete	40%	—	Achal et al. 2013
6	Concrete	12%	—	Wasim et al. 2016
7	Concrete	35%	—	Chahal et al. 2012
8	Concrete	10%	—	Siddiqui et al. 2016
9	Concrete	20%	20%	Balam et al. 2017
10	Cement mortar	17-25%	—	Ghosh et al. 2005
11	Cement mortar	17-35%	—	Achal et al. 2009
12	Cement mortar	—	80-85%	Achal et al. 2011
13	Cement mortar	—	65-90%	Muynck et al. 2008
14	Cement mortar	—	Upto 85%	Qian et al. 2009
15	Cement mortar	25%	—	Siddiqui et al. 2011, Ghosh et al. 2005

4.2 Water Permeability, Water Absorption and Porosity

Permeability of concrete is assumed to be the most crucial function of concrete that influences its durability. Protection from water penetrability is exceptionally imperative as it decides the entrance of harmful substances liable for concrete degradation. Penetrability for the most part relies upon the pore system of cementitious materials, which are measured by factors, for example, porosity, tortuosity, size distribution, connectivity, specific surface and additionally small scale cracks [Phung et al 2013]. MICP has shown capacity to impressively diminish water penetrability of cementitious materials and other building materials. In 1993, Saint Médard Church in Thouars was repaired utilizing calcium carbonate of microbial birthplace (biocalcin) that diminished five times water retention from stones without influencing its stylish look [Metayer-Levrel et al 1999]. Afterwards, comparable tests have been accomplished on cement mortar and primarily based on biodeposition by means of B. sphaericus. Biodeposition by using B. sphaericus led to decrease in water permeability in concrete wherein crack repairing become carried out [Belie et al. 2009]. The presence of biomass and carbonate crystals on the surface in addition to in the porous matrix ended in a decreased permeability of mortar specimens. Muynck et al. 2008 taken into consideration the biodeposition remedy as a two-component coating device with pore blocking qualities. The microscopic organisms themselves plug the pores what's more, frame a biofilm on the cementitious surface which acts as a groundwork for the carbonate covering, as microorganisms within the biofilm entice positively charged metallic ions from their environment and turn as nucleation sites because of the negatively charged ions in their cellular wall [Hammes et al. 2002]. The growth in specific compounds (urease and carbonic anhydrase) exercises prompt supersaturation of the fluid stage in connection to calcium carbonate, bringing about the heterogeneous precipitation of calcium carbonate crystals on the biofilm.

In bacteria based concrete pores are loaded with calcium carbonate precipitation by microscopic organisms [Chahal et al. 2012]. Cubes prepared with the addition of Bacillus Megaterium and its supplement consumed greater than 3 times less water than control specimens because of microbial calcite deposition [Achal et al. 2011]. The addition of Bacillus Aerius microscopic organisms causes the diminishment in porosity and water ingestion because of carbonate formation which thus builds the structural durability [Siddiqui et al. 2016]. All concrete specimens of cement baghouse filter dust without bacteria at 28 days display excessive to moderate permeability but specimens with AKKR5 bacteria (105 cells/ml) concrete display excessive to low permeability because of openings packed with calcite precipitation [Siddiqui et al. 2016]. Water absorption was observed to decrease in the range of 65– 90% depending on sample porosity, reduction in sorptivity and permeability of concrete samples because of surface precipitation of calcite by the bacterium [Muynck et al. 2008]. The gas and water permeability of bacterial concrete reduced after actuation of the microbes and filling the cracks with $CaCO_3$ precipitation [Wiktor et al. 2011] and [Wang et al. 2014].

4.3 Rapid Chloride Ion Permeability

Chloride particle dissemination in concrete with embedded steel can damage the reinforcement. Chloride-brought about corrosion is one of the foremost mechanisms of degradation affecting the lengthy-time period overall performance of constructing systems. Reinforcement implanted in concrete is inalienably secured against corrosion by passivation of the steel surface because of excessive alkalinity of the concrete. Be that as it may, the alkalinity of concrete can be counteracted due ecological impacts including carbonation. Under such a circumstance the danger of corrosion will become high if chlorides spread along the steel reinforcement. As MICP obstruct the openings it can hinder the development of chloride particles. Be that as it may, as a chloride salt is frequently utilized as a part of MICP it should be analyzed regardless of either existence of chloride particles quickens corrosion of reinforcement or not. To keep away from this difficulty a few scientists have assessed contrasting options of calcium chloride to serve as the calcium source. Calcium nitrate is effectively utilized as a productive calcium source by S. pasteurii [Qian et al. 2009]. In additon, as calcium chloride brings about enormous formation of NH_3, growing the possibility of corroding the steel reinforcement, [Neville 1996] proposed calcium lactate use because its metabolic transformation ensures not to result in generation of huge measures of NH_3. Calcium lactate is used by Bacillus cohnii, brought about extensive measures of 20– 80 µm estimated precipitation of $CaCO_3$ on cracked surfaces to repair the cracks [Jonkers et al. 2010]. [Xu et al. 2014] looked at the capacity of calcium lactate and calcium glutamate to accelerate $CaCO_3$ initiated by B. cohnii, and seen bigger width of layer of $CaCO_3$ accelerated utilizing calcium glutamate rather than calcium lactate. Currently, [Achal and Pan 2014] described impacts of different calcium sources, in particular calcium oxide, calcium acetic acid derivative, calcium chloride and calcium nitrate in precipitating $CaCO_3$ and estimated urease created by Bacillus sp. CR2 using calcium chloride is 432 U ml^{-1} contrasted with 401 U ml^{-1} in calcium acetic acid derivative, 418 U ml^{-1} in calcium nitrate and 389 U ml^{-1} in calcium oxide. They accomplished the most extreme yield of precipitating $CaCO_3$ by using calcium chloride.

Deposition of a layer of carbonate precipitation by bacterial action on the face of the mortar samples came about in a diminishing of capillary water rise and permeability towards gas [Muynck et al. 2008], in continuation to take a look at other penetration characteristics. The existence of microbes in cement mortars added to a great extent in the general diminishing of the gas permeability, ended in an improved resistance toward carbonation [Muynck et al. 2008]. An enhanced opposition to carbonation was because of 30– 50 µm width of calcite layer. They recommended that the protecting impact of the bacterially deposited $CaCO_3$ to carbonation may be advanced with the aid of further treatments with microorganism and a source of calcium supply or a multiplied calcium ions dose. [Muynck et al. 2008] measured resistance to chloride penetration of bacterially deposited $CaCO_3$ dealt with specimens with the aid of an accelerated migration test. The bio deposition action in light of MICP brought about considerably lesser chloride migration coefficients (10– 40%) contrasted to control samples. Similarly, the improved resistance to the chloride migration of bio deposition dealt with mortars changed into just like that of the acrylic coating and the water repellent silanes and silicones and more than that of the silanes/siloxanes combination in Fig. 3.

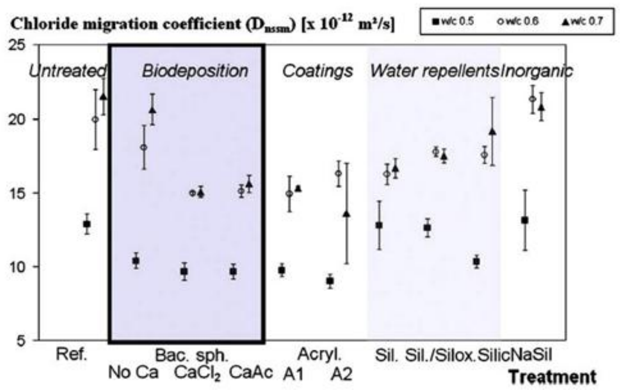


Fig. 3: Chloride migration coefficients, Dnssm, for distinctive grades of applied with different kinds of surface treatments.

Achal et al. 2011 estimated infiltration of chlorides in the cylindrical samples of concrete by rapid chloride permeability test (RCPT) and determined the adequacy of MICP. RCPT is measured in cylindrical samples of concrete planned with bio cementation by way of S. pasteurii and effects had been compared with specimens without bacteria. The normal charge passed in specimens without bacteria was 3177C, however for specimens planned with microbial cells it turned into 1019-1185 C. As according to ASTM C1202-05, MICP reduced the permeability from ‘‘slight’’ to ‘‘low’’. It may be concluded that the MICP can be a great concrete sealant, that is economical what's more, naturally protected, and at last prompts improvement of strength of building materials.

5. Microstructure of Concrete Undergoing MICP

Impact of MICP on microstructure properties of both the control and MICP samples should be analyzed by means of scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to understand the microstructural behavior of the resulting concrete. The investigation as observed in the literature points out to the fact that the samples gathered from the mortar specimens tested at 28 days. Precipitation was generally not observed in the control specimen as can be observed in Fig. 4a. A reasonable calcite precipitation was observed on the crack remediated region inside the samples containing bacterial cells. Calcite crystals developed everywhere in the sand particles. SEM demonstrated that $CaCO_3$ precipitation were hastened on the cracks. Accordingly, the sand become cemented by way of $CaCO_3$ crystals imitating the cementation effected by means of cement grains in regular concrete. The cementation led to increment in the compressive strength. On closer perception, it is discovered that the $CaCO_3$ crystals are formed to a great extent close to the surface of the crack as shown in Fig. 4b [Achal et al. 2013]. Microstructural research of the concrete specimens as visualized by using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis in Fig. 5b and c exhibits the decrease range of pores contrasted with control specimens in Fig. 5a and d. These changes demonstrate that microstructure became denser due to microbial action of carbonate formation. In Fig. 5a the voids are effectively observed; in any case, in Fig. 5b and c the voids are loaded with precipitations of $CaCO_3$. Among Fig. 5b and c exhibits that inside the specimens dealt with bacteria in both aggregates and mix water all voids are loaded with crystals. As appeared in Fig. 5b, c, and d, looking at the specimens those contained microbes in mixing water (Fig. 5b and c) have denser and greater compact structure because of calcite generation in the matrix of cement by microbes, which brought about improved compressive strength [Balam et al.2017].

Calcium carbonate formation is seen in concrete and mortar by SEM examination. Rod-shaped microorganism related to carbonate crystals had been observed. Because of these crystal formations, the concrete impermeability is enhanced as this deposition acts as an obstruction to destructive materials [Achal et al. 2011]. The use of microbes can enhance the concrete microstructure by way of mineral precipitation. This was proven with the aid of SEM, EDS and XRD examination. The researcher said that an addition of 30×10^5cfu/ml concentration of Bacillus Megaterium bacteria had (38.76%) most extreme weight of calcium contrasted and other extents of microscopic organisms and without microorganisms in concrete [Andalib et al. 2016]. The concrete samples handled with and without bacteria had been analyzed using SEM [chahal et al. 2013]. The SEM evaluation discovered the presence of distinct calcite crystals inside the concrete samples. The excessive calcium amounts in all the bacterial samples showed that calcite was available in the form of calcium carbonate. The presence of crystalline calcite related with microorganism indicated that microorganism served as nucleation sites at some stage in mineralization procedure. The handled and the untreated samples with bacteria were analyzed for the increase of calcite crystals. The matrix of the untreated samples seems to be amorphous, displaying no sign of crystal increase at the same time as the concrete samples that have been handled with the microorganism indicates crystalline matrix, wherein individual crystals could be identified.

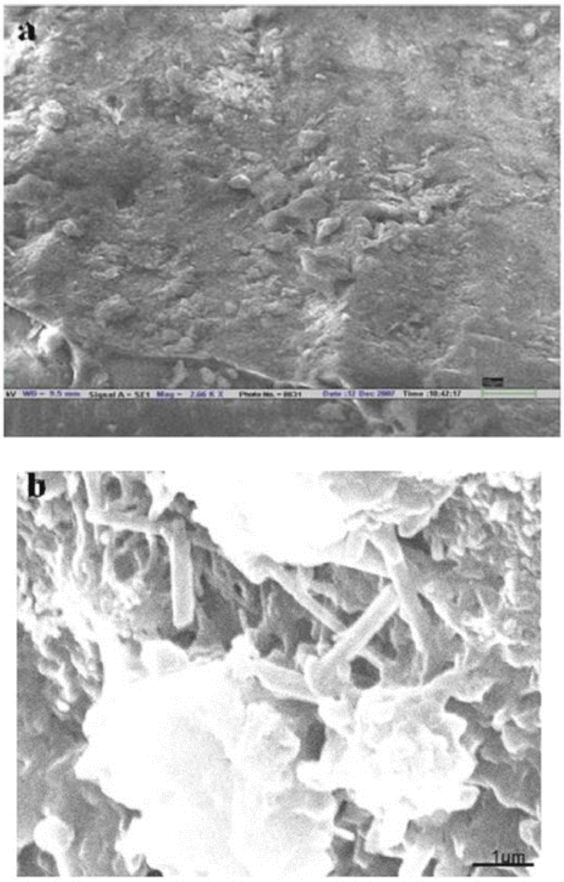


Fig. 4: SEM showing bacterial calcite precipitation in cracks of concrete: (a) sample of cement mortar without bacteria, (b) sample taken nearby to surface of healed crack, displaying calcite crystals with rod formed Bacillus sp. CT-5.

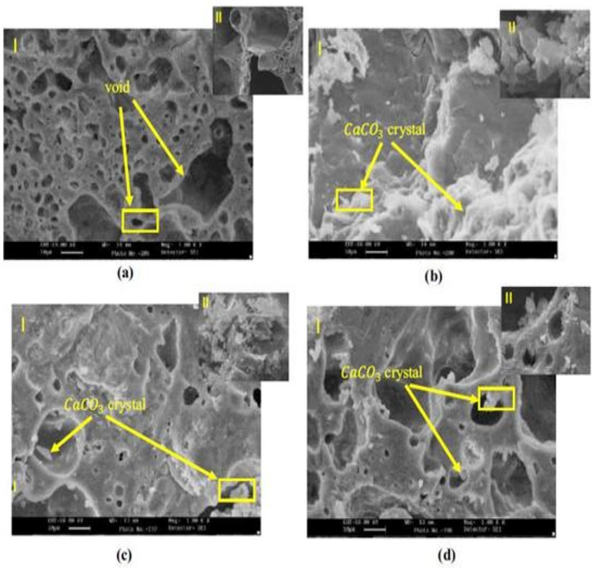


Fig. 5: SEM of (a) Specimens without bacteria submerged in water; (b) Specimens with bacteria in aggregates and mixing water; (c) Specimens with bacteria in mixing water; (d) Specimens cast with aggregates filled with bacteria sediment submerged in Urea-$CaCl_2$.

6. Conclusion

In view of the considered properties, the traditional techniques to shield concrete from degradation turns out to be the favorable property. MICP seems, by all accounts, to be a promising method. The sort of bacterial culture and medium arrangement profoundly affected calcium carbonate crystal morphology. Metabolic exercises of some particular microorganisms in concrete are accountable to enhance the general conduct of concrete. It has been theorized that all microscopic organisms are fit for $CaCO_3$ generation since precipitation happens as a result of normal metabolic procedures, for example, photosynthesis, sulfate decrease, and urea hydrolysis. Indeed, even the impact of microscopic organisms on different parameters in concrete ends up being advantageous advancement. In light of the examined properties like compressive strength, permeability, water ingestion, chloride ingression, the MICP seems to be a promising approach at this condition of improvement.

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