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## Original Research Article

# Evaluation of the rheological behavior of fresh self-compacting rubberized concrete by using the Herschel–Bulkley and modified Bingham models

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## ABSTRACT

The study herein presents the use of the Herschel–Bulkley and modified Bingham models to monitor the rheological behavior related to workability of the fresh self-compacting concrete containing waste rubber. Therefore, the self-compacting rubberized concretes were produced at a constant water-to-binder ratio of 0.35 and binder content of 520 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Class F fly ash was incorporated as 30% of total binder content by weight. Two types of waste scrap tire rubber, crumb rubber and tire chips, were utilized instead of natural fine and coarse aggregate at various level, respectively. The tire chips and three different graded crumb rubbers (No.18, No.5, and mixed crumb rubber) and five designated rubber contents of 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, and 25% were considered as experimental parameters. The rheological behavior related to workability of the fresh concretes was investigated by using the ICAR rheometer. The torque–speed relationship obtained from rheometer was used to characterize the rheological behavior of fresh self-compacting rubberized concrete by applying the Herschel–Bulkley and modified Bingham models to experimental data. The results revealed that the self-compacting concretes produced in this study exhibited shear thickening behavior and increasing the rubber content resulted in higher exponent 'n' values for the Herschel–Bulkley and  $c/\mu$  coefficients for the modified Bingham models.

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## 1. Introduction

Concrete, which is described by rheologists as one of the most difficult materials to study, is thixotropic material according to extensively studies in the literature [1,2]. The thixotropic materials have a yield stress and a plastic viscosity which is the result of hydration in concrete [1,3,4]. However, the

utilization of certain materials such as special cements, artificial aggregates, micro-fines, fibers, chemical admixtures, and waste products in the concrete production changes both the workability and hardened properties of concrete. The certain test methods measuring the workability are not enough to identify the workability of new generation concretes [5]. For instance, self-compacting concrete (SCC), which is more liquid than conventional concrete, is one type of these

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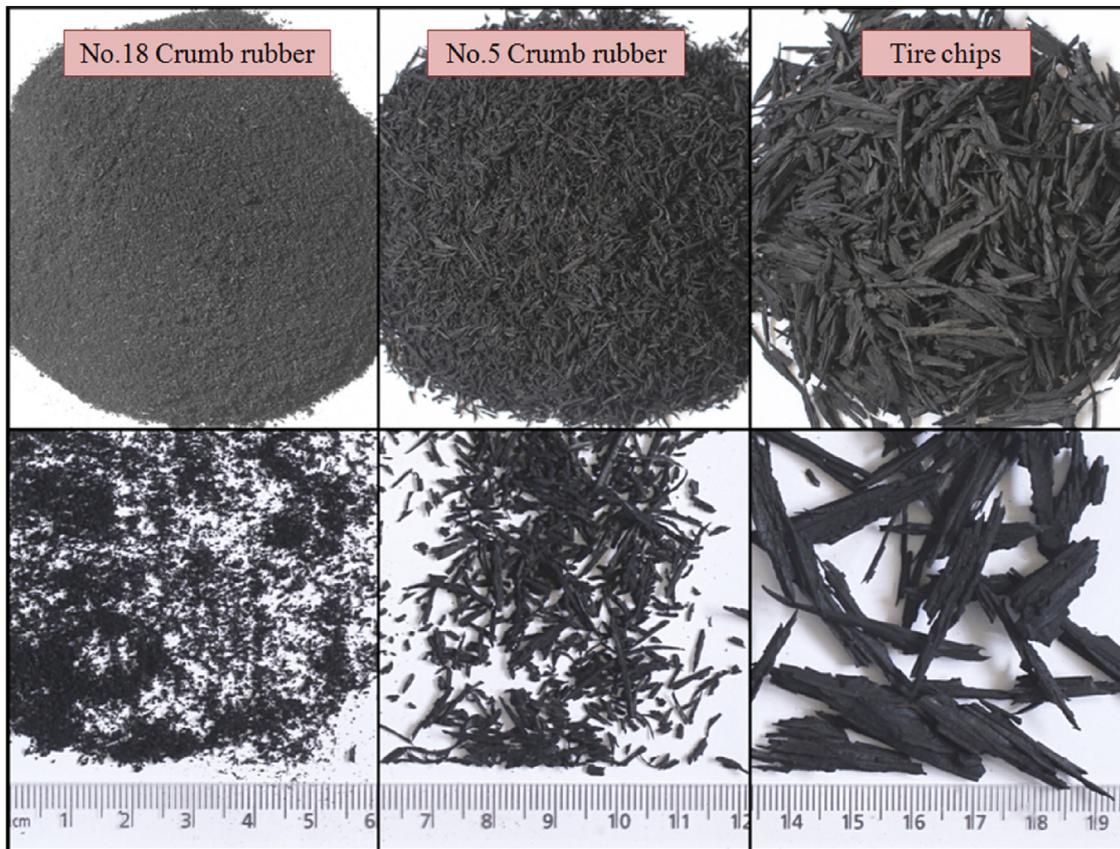


Fig. 2 – The photographic views of No.18 and No.5 crumb rubbers and tire chips.

Table 2 – Mix proportions for self-compacting rubberized concrete ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ ).

Mix ID	w/b <sup>a</sup>	Cement	Fly ash	Water	SP <sup>b</sup>	Coarse aggregate	Fine aggregate		No.18 crumb rubber	No.5 crumb rubber	Tire chips	Density
							Natural sand	Crushed sand				
Control	0.35	364	156	182	3.4	819.4	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2344
5CR18	0.35	364	156	182	3.6	819.1	544.9	233.5	7.9	0.0	0.0	2311
10CR18	0.35	364	156	182	3.9	818.7	516.2	221.2	15.9	0.0	0.0	2278
15CR18	0.35	364	156	182	4.2	818.4	487.5	208.9	23.8	0.0	0.0	2245
20CR18	0.35	364	156	182	4.4	818.1	458.9	196.7	31.8	0.0	0.0	2212
25CR18	0.35	364	156	182	4.7	817.8	430.2	184.4	39.7	0.0	0.0	2179
5CR5	0.35	364	156	182	3.6	819.1	544.9	233.5	0.0	10.6	0.0	2314
10CR5	0.35	364	156	182	3.9	818.7	516.2	221.2	0.0	21.3	0.0	2283
15CR5	0.35	364	156	182	4.2	818.4	487.5	208.9	0.0	31.9	0.0	2253
20CR5	0.35	364	156	182	4.4	818.1	458.9	196.7	0.0	42.6	0.0	2223
25CR5	0.35	364	156	182	4.7	817.8	430.2	184.4	0.0	53.2	0.0	2192
5MCR	0.35	364	156	182	3.6	819.1	544.9	233.5	3.7	5.6	0.0	2313
10MCR	0.35	364	156	182	3.9	818.7	516.2	221.2	7.5	11.2	0.0	2281
15MCR	0.35	364	156	182	4.2	818.4	487.5	208.9	11.2	16.9	0.0	2249
20MCR	0.35	364	156	182	4.4	818.1	458.9	196.7	15.0	22.5	0.0	2218
25MCR	0.35	364	156	182	4.7	817.8	430.2	184.4	18.7	28.1	0.0	2186
5TC	0.35	364	156	182	3.6	778.4	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	15.4	2319
10TC	0.35	364	156	182	3.9	737.4	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	30.8	2294
15TC	0.35	364	156	182	4.2	696.5	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	46.3	2268
20TC	0.35	364	156	182	4.4	655.5	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	61.7	2243
25TC	0.35	364	156	182	4.7	614.5	573.6	245.8	0.0	0.0	77.1	2218

<sup>a</sup> w/b, water-to-binder ratio.

<sup>b</sup> SP, superplasticizer.

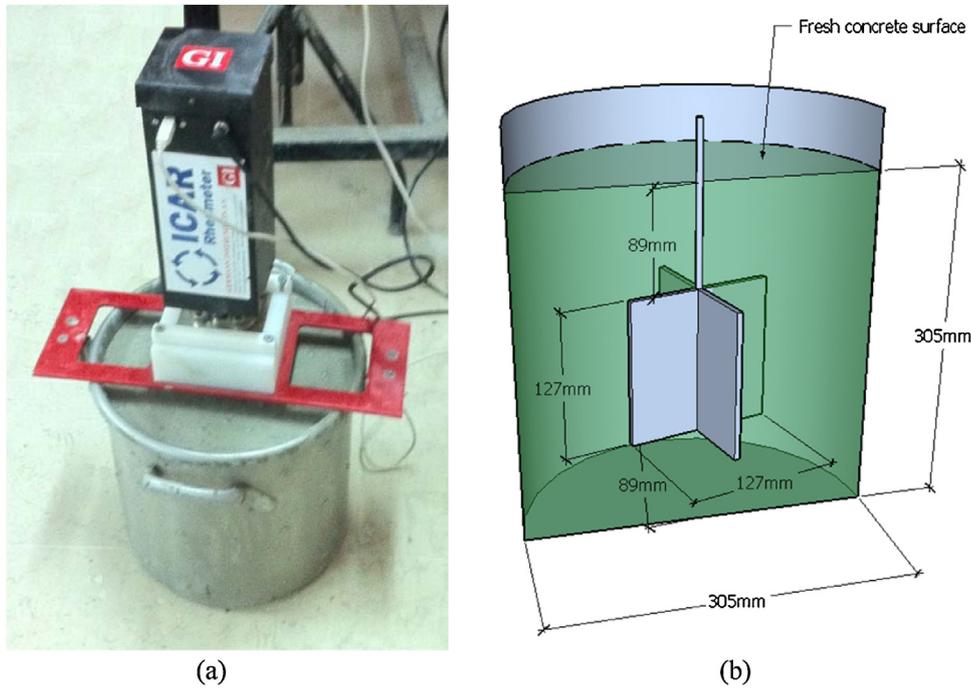


Fig. 3 - Views of (a) rheometer and (b) detailed schematic representation.

### 3. Measurement of rheological properties

The rheology of SCRC mixtures was measured by using ICAR rheometer as shown in Fig. 3a. The container, which fresh concrete mixtures were poured up to a height of 305 mm, had 305-mm diameter. After the fresh concrete mixtures placed into the container, four-bladed vane with the diameter,  $d$ , of 127 mm and height,  $h$ , of 127 mm was positioned in the center of the concrete mixtures. When the vane was placed into the fresh concrete mixture, there was an 89-mm spacing above and below the vane as shown in Fig. 3b. The radii of the inner cylinder,  $R_i$ , and outer cylinder,  $R_o$ , are 63.5 and 152.5 mm, respectively. Outer cylinders are equipped with ribs to prevent slippage between the concrete and the steel surface [20]. Flow curves for each fresh concrete mixture was obtained after entering breakdown speed and time, number of points, time per point, initial speed, and final speed as input. The vane was first rotated at a speed of 0.5 rps for a breakdown period of 20 s. Torque measurements were then recorded for seven speeds ranging in descending order from 0.5 rps to 0.05 rps. For analyzing rheological parameters of the fresh concrete properties, Eq. (2) was used for plotting the flow curves in relative units after the best-fit line was calculated for each mixture:

$$T = G + HN \quad (2)$$

where  $T$ ,  $G$ ,  $H$ , and  $N$  are the torque (Nm), the intercept of this line with the  $T$ -axis (Nm), the slope of this line (Nm s) related to plastic viscosity, and rotational speed (rps), respectively [21,22].

The rotational velocity and torque obtained from the rheometer must be considered in the calculations to describe

the non-linear rheological properties. The formulae given by Ferguson and Kemplowski [23] supply the opportunity to transform 'N' and 'T' into the fundamental rheological parameters, shear stress and shear rate. Nehdi and Rahman [24] have been customized these formulae as following Eqs. (3) and (4):

$$\tau = \frac{(R_i^2 + R_o^2)}{4\pi h R_i^2 R_o^2} T \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{\gamma} = \frac{(R_i^2 + R_o^2)}{(R_o^2 - R_i^2)} N \quad (4)$$

These formulae can be used for any material, independently from the real rheological properties. The velocity distribution in the gap must be linear, which can be achieved if the gap is small ( $R_i/R_o > 0.99$ ) [25]. However, a small error in the test results will occur, if this requirement is not satisfied [24,26].

When the Bingham model is applied on the rheological behavior of the SCC, some problems may occur and in order to solve these problems, the Herschel-Bulkley model (Eq. (5)), which is the most common non-linear model also having a yield stress, can be used to describe the rheological behavior of the SCC [27].

$$\tau = \tau_0 + K\dot{\gamma}^n \quad (5)$$

In the equation, exponent 'n' describe the non-linearity and if  $n < 1$ ,  $n > 1$ , and  $n = 1$ , the SCC behave as shear thinning, shear thickening and the Bingham model, respectively. The results obtained from the rheometer were used in this model, and a better fit of the test data compared to the Bingham model was achieved.





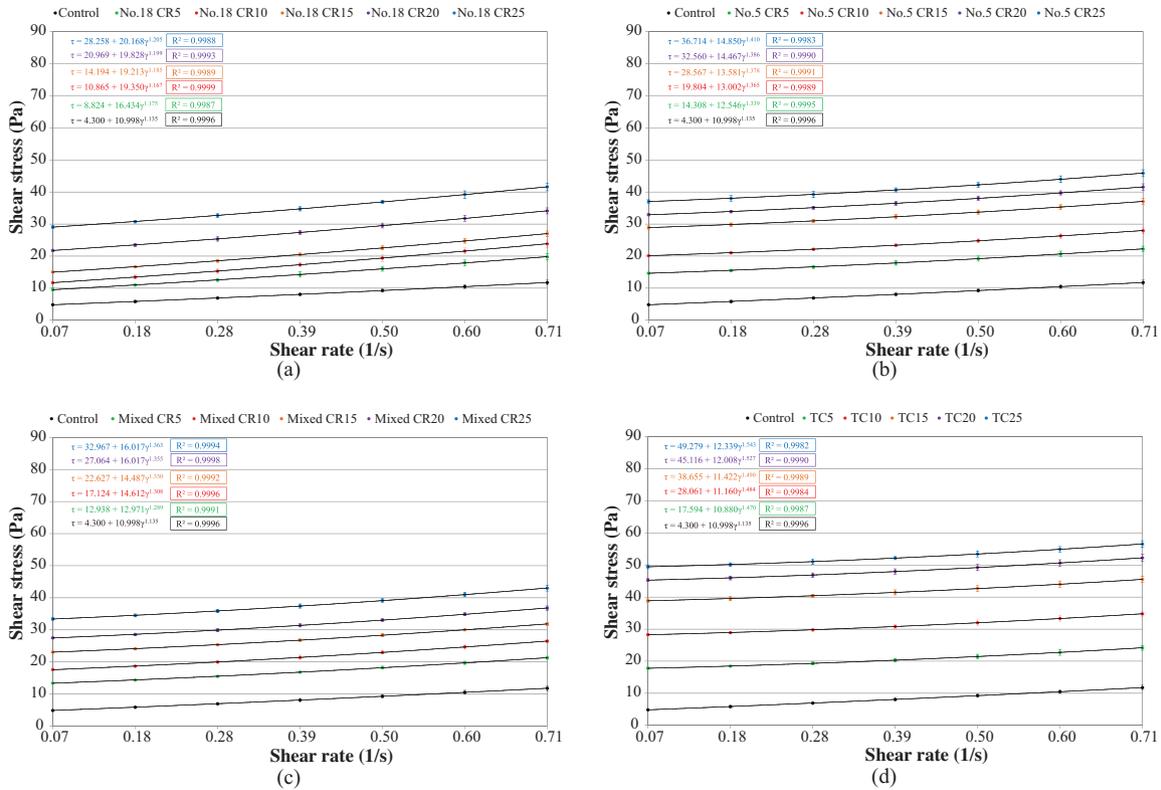


Fig. 4 – Application of the Herschel-Bulkley model on the rheological data for the SCC produced with: (a) No.18, (b) No.5, (c) mixed crumb rubbers, and (d) tire chips.

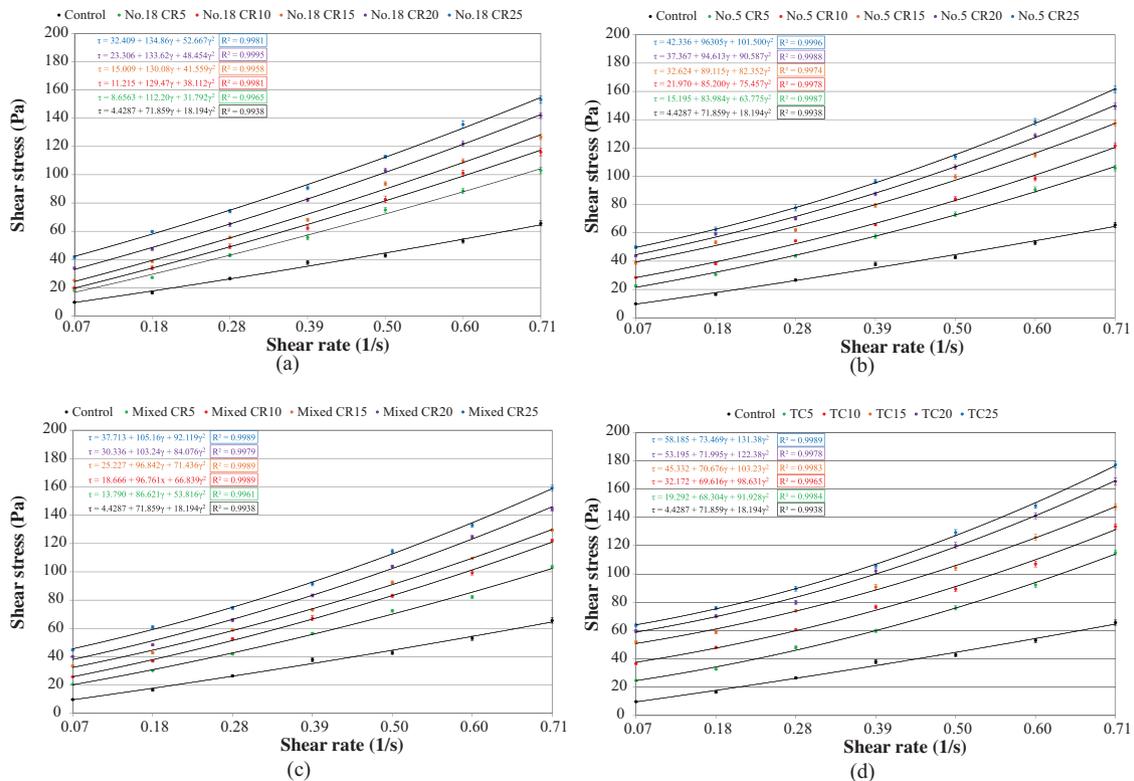


Fig. 5 – Application of the modified Bingham model on the rheological data for the SCG produced with: (a) No.18, (b) No.5, (c) mixed crumb rubbers, and (d) tire chips.

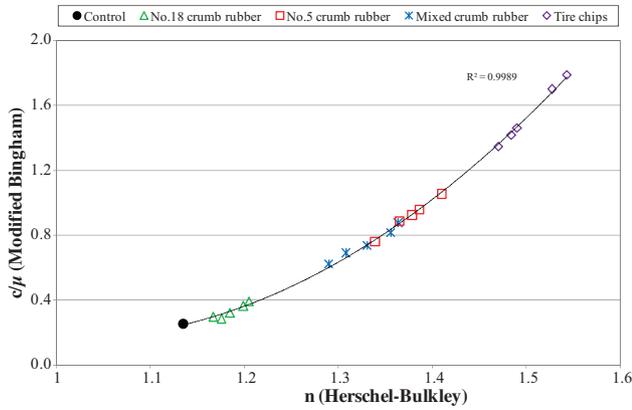


Fig. 6 – Relationship between  $c/\mu$  and  $n$  coefficients.

As a result, the plastic viscosity cannot be given for the SCCs due to the non-linearity of the relationship between shear stresses and shear rates. Moreover, due to the particle migration, segregation, etc. very high shear rates cannot be imposed onto the material [31] and also due to the high aggregate dimensions, large geometries must be built, making concrete rheometry extremely difficult [11]. Besides, some processes in concrete industry occur at higher shear rates than those in rheometer tests. Mixing and pumping are the two best known examples. The resulting shear stress is gradually more dominated by the plastic viscosity and shear thickening behavior since the shear rates increases [11]. Therefore, the obtaining shear rate as in pumping and mixing process is difficult, but applying a reasonably high shear rate and careful

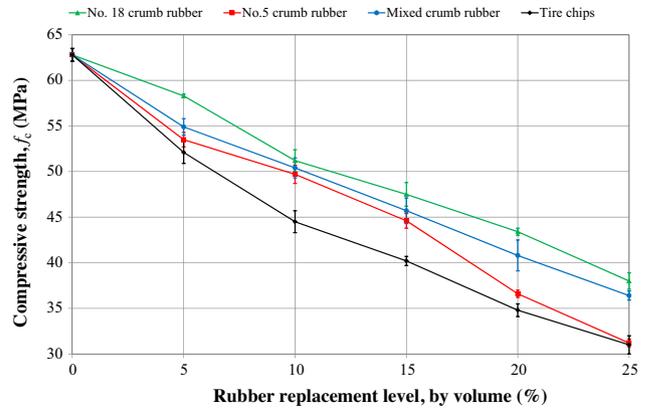


Fig. 7 – Variation in the compressive strength with respect to rubber replacement level.

observations during measurements may be a good tool to give some indication of the expected behavior.

The 28-day compressive strength that is the average of three specimens of the SCRC mixtures is presented in Fig. 7. Moreover, the compressive strength result of each specimen, average compressive strength, standard deviation of compressive strength, and standard uncertainty of results are tabulated in Table 4. The results indicated that replacing natural aggregate with waste rubber decreased the compressive strength. The compressive strength changing between 31.0 and 62.8 MPa was obtained during this study. The lowest compressive strength values were observed in the concrete series in which the natural coarse aggregate was replaced with tire chips at all rubber content. The compressive strength of

Table 4 – The compressive strength results and their standard deviation and uncertainty.

Mix ID	Compressive strength (MPa)					
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Average	Standard deviation	Standard uncertainty
Control	61.5	63.4	63.5	62.8	1.1	±0.7
5CR18	58.6	57.9	58.4	58.3	0.4	±0.2
10CR18	50.1	53.6	49.9	51.2	2.1	±1.2
15CR18	46.7	45.7	50.1	47.5	2.3	±1.3
20CR18	42.8	43.3	44.1	43.4	0.7	±0.4
25CR18	37.8	36.5	39.7	38.0	1.6	±0.9
5CR5	52.0	55.2	53.3	53.5	1.6	±0.9
10CR5	49.1	51.8	48.2	49.7	1.9	±1.1
15CR5	46.7	45.1	42.0	44.6	2.4	±1.4
20CR5	34.3	39.8	35.7	36.6	2.9	±1.7
25CR5	32.1	30.7	30.8	31.2	0.8	±0.5
5MCR	54.7	53.6	56.4	54.9	1.4	±0.8
10MCR	49.8	52.3	49.1	50.4	1.7	±1.0
15MCR	47.2	45.6	44.3	45.7	1.5	±0.8
20MCR	40.1	40.9	41.4	40.8	0.7	±0.4
25MCR	35.8	37.2	36.2	36.4	0.7	±0.4
5TC	54.4	50.7	51.2	52.1	2.0	±1.2
10TC	45.0	46.2	42.3	44.5	2.0	±1.2
15TC	40.5	40.9	39.2	40.2	0.9	±0.5
20TC	36.1	33.7	34.6	34.8	1.2	±0.7
25TC	30.8	32.8	29.4	31.0	1.7	±1.0



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