# Effect Of Kerosene And Fuel Oil On Compressive Strength Of Reactive Powder Concrete

Asst. Lec. Sana Taha Abdul-Hussain\*

## Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of two of oil products (kerosene and fuel oil which is locally called black oil) on compressive strength of reactive powder concrete. RPC was prepared using cement, silica fume, fine sand, steel fibers and superplasticizer to cast and test 63 specimens of cubes with various steel fibers ratios of 0%, 1% and 2% at different exposure periods in oil products (0, 30, 90 and 180) days. In general the results showed that RPC has good resistance to the effect of kerosene and fuel oil. A slight decrease in compressive strength occurred as the time of exposure to the oil products increase. The RPC specimens of 2% steel fibers content had the lower decrease in compressive strength as a result of the denser microstructure. The decreasing ratio of RPC compressive strength exposed to fuel oil (1.33%) was lower than that of kerosene (2.91%). This may be attributed to the lower viscosity of kerosene than fuel oil.

Keywords: reactive powder concrete, oil products, kerosene, black oil, compressive strength.

<sup>\*</sup> Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Al-Mustansiriya University

#### Introduction

In the mid 1990's, one of the astonishing developments in the field of concrete technology was made by introduction of ultra-high performance fiber reinforced (UHP-FRC) by Richard and Cheyrezy (1994) which is more commonly known as ultra-high performance reactive powder concrete (RPC) [Behzad et al. (2012)].Reactive powder concrete (RPC) is coarse aggregate-free concrete, which has limited applications so far recorded in the construction industry [Tam et al. (2012)].

Oil has become one of the most vital energy resources from the beginning of the previous century for its unique economic and operative characteristics. This has enabled it to exceed the other available power resources, and its importance has increased rapidly with its wide spread use and the discovery of huge oil reserves in different parts of the world [Ra'ed (2002)].

Durable concrete has the ability to withstand the effects of environmental conditions to which it will be subjected, such as weathering, chemical attack, and abrasion. The migration of water, petroleum products, and other liquids through properly designed, placed, consolidated, and uncracked concrete is minute. Concrete is impermeable for all intents and purposes. For example, with a permeability coefficient of  $(3 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m/s})$  for concrete with a water cement ratio of 0.45, the loss of water through the wall of  $(1900 \text{ m}^3)$  tank would be less than (4 liters) per year. The thickness of the concrete and the hydrostatic head of the liquid in tanks of normal proportions do not significantly affect the rate of migration through the concrete [Close and Jorgensen(1991)].

Structures for storage or transportation of oil have for years been constructed of steel, but as a result of the critical storage of steel plate and problems of serviceability and safety during the Second World War, reinforced or prestressed concrete tanks were used to store many different liquids, such as: crude oil, bitumen, heavy fuel oil, light fuel oil, gas oil, lamp kerosene, power kerosene etc. [Abdul Hussein (2005)]

Storage of liquid petroleum products may be done in above ground or underground steel or concrete tanks or in underground salt domes, mined caverns or abandoned mines. Underground tanks are most common for military bases, gasoline stations and wholesale bulk storage terminals [Cholakov (2003)].

[AL-Zaidi (2001)]Studied the influence of oil products (gas oil and kerosene) on the physical properties of concrete and he revealed that specimens cured in gas oil and kerosene showed higher compressive strength for all ages compared with their water cured counterparts. The effect of state of concrete (wet or dry) before exposure to oil products doesn't produce significant effect on the compressive strength.

Many researchers [Lea(1970), ACI (1968),Pearson and Smith (1919)] have reported that mineral oil has no effect on the quality of concrete. The damage of the oils depends on their viscosity, the higher viscosity of the oil; the less dangerous it is to concrete [Rashed (1998)]. Therefore viscosity of oil is a very important property for <u>AL-Mansour Journal / No.20/ Special Issue</u> 2013 مجلة المنصور / عدر/20/ خاص oil storage tanks [Spamer (1994), [Biczock (1964) andHernibrock (1994)].

Researches conducted by [Williamson (1982),Bergstrom (1975) and Jonston (1982)] showed that the increase in compressive strength was ranging from negligible, in most cases, to 15% for 150×300mm cylinders containing different types and contents of fibers.

[Al-Hamadani (1997)], Studied the mechanical properties of concrete exposed to gas oil. He used different types of admixture such as HRWR (High Rang Water Reducing agent), MS (Microsilica agent), LSD (Lime Stone Dust) and he found thatthe compressive strength of dried concrete specimens resoaked in gas oil was increased by (2.6%, 4.1%, 1.7%, and 2.4%) after 180 days soaking for HRWR, MS and LSD mix. The compressive strength of the admixture concrete was higher than that of concrete without admixture for the same curing and exposure conditions. The increase in strength of admixture concrete was attributed to the pozzolanic activity in case of using microsilica, which produced additional gel, and due to the reduced w/c ratio in case of HRWR. For LSD concrete, the reduction in air content and filler increase in density were responsible for the observed increase in strength.

The following advantages and disadvantages of concrete for oil storage can be listed [Abdul Hussain (2005)].

- Advantages:-
- 1. Much lower cost compared with steel plates.
- 2. The availability of its raw materials throughout the world.
- 3.A significant durability towards different types of environment.
- 4. Good resistance to fire, explosions and impact.
- 5. Its adaptability for different types.
- 6. Relative low maintenance cost.
- 7. Its suitability for underground, and under-sea storage tank.
- Disadvantages:-
- 1. The unknown behavior of concrete in direct contact with oil products.
- 2. Penetration of the lighter fraction of oil products through the tanks.
- 3. Concrete undergoes volume changes. These may be shrinkage or thermal movements. Thus cracking may be unavoidable.
- 4. Possible bond weakening in oil saturated concrete tanks.
- 5. The impossibility of moving concrete tanks to different locations.
- 6. Possibility of cracks due to differential settlement.

The present work is focused on compressive strength of RPC after exposure to oil products because of the most common of all tests on hardened concrete is the compressive strength test, partly because it is an easy test to perform, and partly because many, though not all, of the desirable characteristics of concrete are qualitatively related to its strength; but mainly because of the intrinsic importance of the compressive strength of concrete in structural design [Nevile (2005)].

#### **Experemental Program**

The experimental program was conducted to study the behavior of concrete mixes of RPC that are in direct contact with oil products. The purpose of this investigation is to identify the means of achieving impermeable concrete that can be

used for the construction of oil storage tanks or oil pipelines. There are many other industrial situations where concrete may come into direct contact with different garage floor and oil drilling rings... etc. The specimens were exposed to oil products for various periods after water curing of 28 days and compared with reference mix specimens which were cured in water without exposure to oil products. Two types of oil products have been used (kerosene and fuel oil). The exposure periods to the oil products were (0, 30, 90 and 180) days after the initial curing.

## **Materials**

## Cement

Ordinary Portland cement (type I Tasluja-Bazian) which is produced in Iraq by was used in all the test specimens. The chemical analysis and physical test results of the cement are given in Tables (1) and (2), respectively. They conform to the [Iraqi specification No. 5/1984].

## Silicafume

Silica fume is a highly reactive material that is used in relatively small amounts to enhance the properties of concrete. The chemical composition and properties of silica fume used in this work are given in Table (3).

Compound	Chemical	Percent by	[Iragi specification	
Composition	Composition	weight	No. 5/1984]	
Lime	CaO	61.19	-	
Silica	SiO <sub>2</sub>	21.44	-	
Alumina	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	4.51	=	
Iron Oxide	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.68	-	
Magnesia	MgO	2.31	Maximum 5	
Sulfate	SO <sub>3</sub>	2.7	Maximum 2.8	
Loss on ignition	L.O.I	2.39	Maximum 4.0	
Insoluble residue	I.R	1.18	Maximum 1.5	
Lime saturation factor	L.S.F	0.87	0.66-1.02	
Tricalcium aluminates	C <sub>3</sub> A	6.06	-	
Tricalcium silicate	C₃S	Not available	-	
Dicalcium silicate	C <sub>2</sub> S	Not available	-	
Tricalcium alumina ferrite	C₄AF	Not available	-	

#### Table (1) Chemical composition of cement<sup>\*</sup>

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Physical Properties	Test Results	Iraqi specification No. 5/1984
Fineness using Blain air permeability apparatus(cm²/gm)	4050	Minimum 2300
Soundness using autoclave method	Not available	Minimum 0.8%
Setting time usingVicat's instruments Initial(min.) Final(hr)	135 3:25	Minimum 45 Maximum 10
Compressive strength for cement Paste Cube(70.7mm) at: 3days(MPa) 7days(MPa) 28days(MPa)	24.4 32.3 47.2	Minimum 15 Maximum 23

## Table (2) Physical composition of cement<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>All tests were made at the National Center for Construction Laboratories and research.

#### Table (3) Composition and Properties of Silica Fume<sup>\*</sup>

Composition (%)	Silica fume
SiO <sub>2</sub>	98.87
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.01
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.01
CaO	0.23
MgO	0.01
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.08
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.00
Blaine fineness (m²/kg)	200000

\*According to the manufacturer editors.

#### **Steel Fibers**

The characteristics of steel fibers used in the experimental program are given in Table (4). Figure (1) shows a sample of the used steel fibers.

## **Fine Aggregate**

Fine aggregate from Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf region has been used. It is yellowish brown colored sand with rounded shaped particles. The grading of this sand is shown in Table (5).

Type of steel	Hooked
Relative Density	7860 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Yield strength	1130 MPa
Modulus of Elasticity	200 000 MPa
Strain at proportion limit	5650*10 <sup>-6</sup>
Poisson's ratio	0.28
Average length (L)	30 mm
Nominal diameter (d)	0.375
Aspect Ratio(L/d)	80

## Table (4) Characteristics of steel fiber used\*

#### \*According to the manufacturer editors



Figure (1)Steel Fibers used in RPC

Sieve size	[Iraqi Specification	
(mm)	%	No.45/1984]
9.5	100	100
4.75	100	100-95
2.36	100	95-100
1.18	100	90-100
0.600	88	80-100
0.300	20	15-50
0.150	5	0-15

#### Table (5) Grading of Fine Sand<sup>\*</sup>

<u>AL-Mansour Journal / No.20/ Special Issue</u> 2013 مجلة المنصور / عدد/20/ خاص AL-Mansour Journal / No.20/ Special Issue 2013 \*The test has been performed in the Structural Material Laboratory of Engineering College of Al- Mustansyiria University.

## Superplasticizer

A superplasticizer type which is known commercially as (SikaVisco Crete-PC 20) was used in this work. It is a third generation superplasticizer for concrete and mortar. Table (6) indicates the technical description of aqueous solution of the superplasticizer used. It is free from chlorides and complies with [ASTM C494/C494M-1999a].

Table (6) Technical description of the used superplasticiz					

Main action	Concrete superplasticizer		
Appearance/Colures	Light brownish liquid		
Chemical base	Modified polycarboxylates		
Onennear base	based polymer		
Density	1.09 kg/l, at 20 °C		
PH	7		
Chloride ion content%	Free		
Effect on setting	Non-retarding		

\*According to the manufacturer editors.

## **Oil Products**

Table (7) show the properties of kerosene and fuel oil respectively which are used in this investigation. They were brought from the local market and stored in plastic containers to avoid any losses.

Oil Inspection Data	Korosono Bosulta	Fuel Oil (Black Oil)	
On inspection Data	Relosene Results	Results	
Moisture content, % by volume	0.05 - 0.1	0.05 - 0.1	
Sulfer content, % by weight	0.2 - 0.3	4% - 5%	
H <sub>2</sub> S Concentration ppm	2 – 3	2 - 3	

#### Table (7) Properties of oil product used\*

0.95 - 0.985 = = = = =
0.95 - 0.985 = = = = = =
= = = = =
=
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=
135 at (60 C°)
80 at (70 C°)
63 at (75 C°)
51 at (80 C°)
42 at (85 C°)
34 at (90 C°)
29 at (95 C°)
24 at (100 C°)

\*Oil analyses were made by the Laboratory Department/ Al-Dura Refinery.

#### Water

Tap water has been used for concrete mixing and curing of specimens.

## **Mix Proportions**

In most basic form, reactive powder concrete contains high content of Portland cement as main cementitious materials beside silicafume as a second supplementary cementitious component. The superplasticizer has been used in an appropriate ratio to give flowable concrete. In addition steel fibers are also added to enhance its properties. Many mix proportions were tried in this study to get maximum compressive strength. The variable used in the RPC mix was the volume ratio of steel fibers (three volume ratios were considered 0%, 1% and 2%). The mix proportions of RPCs[ used are shown in Table (8).

Mixture description	RPC 0%	RPC 1%	RPC 2%
Portland cement (C) (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	900	900	900
Silica fume (SF) (kg/m³)	225	225	225
*Silica fume %	25	25	25
Fine sand (FS) (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	900	900	900
Steel fibers ( kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0	78	156
**Steel fiber % (by volume)	0	1	2
Sikaviscocrete (Kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	56.25	56.25	56.25
***Sikaviscocrete %	5.5	5.5	5.5
Water (W) (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	180	180	180
W/C	0.2	0.2	0.2
W/(C+SF)	0.16	0.16	0.16

## Table (8) Mix proportions of reactive powder concrete mixes

\*Percent of cement weight, \*\*Percent of mix volume, \*\*\*Percent of binder (cement + silica fume) weight.

#### **Mixing Procedure**

Mixing procedure proposed by [Wille et al (2011)] was used in this research to obtain RPC in a simpler way without any accelerated curing regimes. Pan mixer of 0.056 m<sup>3</sup> capacity was used to prepare the concrete. Sand and silica fume were first

mixed for 4 minutes, then cement was added and the dry component (cement, sand and silica fume) were mixed for 5 minutes. Superplastcizer was added to the water and stirred, then the blended liquid was added to the dry mix during the mixer rotation and the mixing process continues for 3 minutes. Finally, steel fibers were all added by hand within 2 minutes. The total mixing time was about 14 minutes.

## **Specimen's Preparation And Casting Procdure**

Specimen's molds (50 mm cubes) were cleaned thoroughly, tightened well and the internal surfaces were oiled with thin car engine oil to prevent the adhesion of hardened Concrete with molds.Once the concrete mixing was done, the molds were filled with RPC. A vibrating table was used for consolidation of RPC molds. After being molded, all the specimens were cured under polyethylene sheets for about 24hr in the laboratory environment.

## Curing

After 24 hours of casting, the specimens were demolded and placed in water containers in the laboratory to be cured at room temperature. Heat curing at elevated temperature was not used in this research in order to gain an advantage of producing RPC of exceptional mechanical properties using conventional curing method without any additional provisions. After 28 days of water curing, the specimens were soaked in kerosene or fuel oil in plastic containers for different exposure periods of (30, 90 and 180 days) until test date. Reference specimens (o day exposure time) were tested immediately after the end of water curing.

## **Test Results**

Three cubes of (50mm×50mm×50mm)for each mix were tested to determine the compressive strength and an average value is obtained according to [ASTM C109/C109 (2002)]. Compressive strength test was performed by using universal testing machine (ELE) of 2000 kN capacity in theConstructional Materials Laboratory of Engineering College of Al-Mustansyiria University. The results are given in Table (9) and presented in Figures (2) to (15).

Figures (2) and (3) show the relationship between compressive strength and different exposure times of kerosene and fuel oil respectively. Generally, it is shown from these figures that a slight decrease in compressive strength occurred as the time of exposure increased for the specimens exposed to kerosene and fuel oil. It is also shown that compressive strength of RPC increases with the increase in steel fibers ratio.

Mix Description	Steel Fibers ratio (%)	Oil Products	Exposure Time (Day)	Compressive Strength (MPa)	Decreasing rate in compressive strength as time of exposure increased for the same product and steel fibers ratio (%)	Increasing rate in compressive strength as the steel fibers ratio increased for the same product exposure time (%)
RPC-0%	0	-	-	97.6	-	-
A1-0%	0	Kerosene	30	93.6	4.09	-
A3-0%	0	Kerosene	90	90.69	7.07	-
A6-0%	0	Kerosene	180	87.7	10.14	-
B1-0%	0	Fuel Oil	30	94.1	3.58	-
B3-0%	0	Fuel Oil	90	91.7	6.04	-
B6-0%	0	Fuel Oil	180	88.4	9.42	-
RPC-1%	1	-	-	105.6	-	7.57
A1-1%	1	Kerosene	30	101.6	3.78	7.87
A3-1%	1	Kerosene	90	98.9	6.34	8.3
A6-1%	1	Kerosene	180	95.6	9.46	8.26
B1-1%	1	Fuel Oil	30	102.8	2.65	8.46
B3-1%	1	Fuel Oil	90	99.5	5.77	7.83
B6-1%	1	Fuel Oil	180	96.7	8.42	8.58

#### Table (9) Results of RPC compressive strength

RPC-2%	2	-		114	-	14.38
A1-2%	2	Kerosene	30	113.8	0.17	17.75
A3-2%	2	Kerosene	90	112.2	1.57	19.17

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Tabel(9)

A6-2%	2	Kerosene	180	110.68	2.91	20.76
B1-2%	2	Fuel Oil	30	113.9	0.08	17.38
B3-2%	2	Fuel Oil	90	113	0.87	18.84
B6-2%	2	Fuel Oil	180	112.48	1.33	21.4



Figures (4) and (5) show the relationship between compressive strength and steel fibers ratio of various exposure times of kerosene and fuel oil, respectively. It is shown from these figures that the compressive strength increases with the increase of steel fibers ratio. At the ratio of 2% steel fibers, the decrease in compressive strength after exposure time of 180 days is slight compared with the mixes of 0% and 1% steel fibers content for both kerosene and fuel oil exposure.









Figures (6) to (8) show the relationship between compressive strength and steel fibers ratios at exposure time of (30, 90 and 180) days, respectively. It is shown from these figures that RPC exhibits good resistance to kerosene and fuel oil

exposure especially the mixes with 2% steel fibers. As mentioned before. These best results obtained from RPC with 2% steel fibers may be attributed to its more dense microstructure compared to RPC with lower steel fibers ratios.



Figures (9) to (11) show the relationship between compressive strength and exposure time for mixes of (0%, 1% and 2% steel fibers) respectively. These figures show that the compressive strength of specimens exposed to fuel oil is slightly higher than that of specimens exposed to kerosene at the same exposure time and steel fibers ratio. This may be attributed to the lower viscosity of kerosene than, that of fuel

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oil (see Table 7), which enables kerosene to penetrate through concrete easier than fuel oil.

Figures (12) and (13) show the decreasing ratio in compressive strength of RPC exposed to kerosene and fuel oil, respectively, with the increase in exposure time. Generally, low decrease in compressive strength of RPC exposed to kerosene and fuel oil was observed. It is shown in these figures that the decreasing ratio in compressive strength is reduced with addition of 1% steel fibers (Table 9). This reduction is greatly enhanced when 2% steel fibers used. For example, the addition of 1% steel fibers reduces the decreasing ratio in compressive strength from 10.14% to 9.46% for RPC exposed to kerosene for 180 days. The addition of 2% steel fibers drops this ratio to 2.91%. Similar trends for other exposure times are shown in Figures (12) and (13) and can be read from the results listed in Table (9).

These results makes steel fibers ratio of 2% to be the more effective ratio to enhance the permeability of RPC through the enhancement in RPC microstructure in addition to the main role of steel fibers in increasing ductility and tensile strength of RPC. However, lower decreasing ratios were recorded for RPC exposure to fuel oil (only 1.33 % after 180 days of exposure for RPC with 2% steel fibers) compared to those of RPC exposure to kerosene. This again can be attributed to the lower viscosity of kerosene.

Figures (12) and (13) also show that the decreasing ratio in compressive strength increasing with the increase in exposure times for both kerosene and fuel oil. This is expected because longer exposure time allows more penetration of oil products. However, decreasing ratios (after 180 days of exposure) are ranged from 10.04% for RPC with 0% steel fibers exposed to kerosene to only 1.33% for RPC with 2% steel fibers ratio exposed to fuel oil. Lower ratios are recorded for exposure times of 30 and 90 days (Table 9). The above discussion indicates the good permeability and resistance of RPC to the effects of oil products.



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Figures (14) and (15) show the increasing ratio of compressive strength of RPC exposed to kerosene and fuel oil, respectively, with the increase in steel fibers ratio. This increasing ratio generally ranged from 14.38% to 21.4% where steel fibers ratio increases from 0% to 2%.





#### Conclusions

Based on the experimental results in this research, the following conclusions can be made:

1. It is possible to produce reactive powder concrete with 50mm cube compressive strength of about 114 MPa using normal water curing at room temperature without using heat curing, but with 2% steel fibers.

2. For the RPC specimens exposed to kerosene and fuel oil, a slight decrease in compressive strength occurred as the time of exposure increase. The decreased ratioranged from only 0.08% for RPC with2% steel fibers exposed to fuel oil for 30 days to 10.14% for RPC with0% steel fibers exposed to kerosene for 180 days.

3. The compressive strength of RPC increases with the increase of steel fibers ratio for different exposure times and oil products. The increasing ratio generally ranged from 14.38% to 21.41% when steel fibers ratio increases from 0% to 2%.

4.RPC with 2% steel fibers exhibited better resistance to kerosene and fuel oil exposure (strength decreased after 180 days of exposure by 1.33% for fuel oil and 2.91% for kerosene), than that of RPC with 0% (strength decreases after 180 days of exposure by 9.42% for fuel oil and 10.14% for kerosene) and 1% (strength decreases after 180 days of exposure by 8.42% for fuel oil and 9.46% for kerosene). These better results may be attributed to the denser microstructure (lower permeability) of RPC with 2% steel fibers compared to RPC with lower steel fibers ratios.

5. The compressive strength of RPC specimens exposed to fuel oil is slightly higher than that of specimens exposed to kerosene at the same exposure time and steel fibers ratio. This may be attributed to the lower viscosity of kerosene than that of fuel oil, which enables kerosene to penetrate through concrete faster than fuel oil.

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## تأثير النفط الابيض ونفط الوقود على مقاومة الأنضغاط لخرسانة المساحيق الفعالة

م.م سنا طه عبد الحسين\*

#### المستخلص

الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو التحري عن تأثير اثنين من المشتقات النفطية (النفط الابيض و نفط الوقود المعروف محليا بالنفط الأسود) على مقاومة الأنضغاط لخرسانة المساحيق الفعالة. تم تحضير خرسانة المساحيق الفعالة من السمنت، الرمل الناعم، أبخرة السليكا, ألياف الحديد والملدن المتفوق لصب و فحص 63 نموذج من المكعبات بأستخدام نسب مختلفة من ألياف الحديد (0%، 1% و2%) عند فترات تعرض مختلفة في المشتقات النفطية (0، 30، 90 و 180) يوم. بشكل عاماظهرت النتائج ان خرسانة المساحيق الفعالة ذات مقاومة جيدة لتأثير النفط الابيض و النفط الاسود. مقاومة الانضغاط انخفضت قليلا بزيادة زمن التعرض للمشتقات النفطية الابيض و النفط الاسود. مقاومة الانضغاط انخفضت قليلا بزيادة زمن التعرض للمشتقات النفطية. الخلطة التي تحتوي على 2% الياف حديد هي الاقل انخفاضا في المقاومة كنتيجةلهيكلها الاكثر كثافة. ان نسبة الانخفاض في مقاومة الانضغاط لخرسانة المساحيق الفعالة المتعرضة لنفط الوقود (1.33%) أقل من تلك المتعرضة للنفط الابيض(2.91%). ان ذلك قد يعود للزوجة الاقل النفط الابيض مقارنة مع نفط الوقود.

الكلمات المفتاحية : خرسانة المساحيق الفعالة، المشتقات النفطية، النفط الابيض، النفط الاسود، مقاومة الانضغاط.

الجامعة المستنصرية - كلية الهندسة،- قسم الهندسة المدنية