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Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, College of Science,
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3rd International Symposium on Environmental Management Towards Sustainable Technologies



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IRON-ALUMINUM SOLID SOLUTION IN KLEIN'S COMPOUND

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Abstract

Over again, much attention has been given to the development of special cement clinkers, leading to energy saving and better environmental management. One of such cements is the calcium sulfoaluminate cements (CSAC), an economical and environmental friendly alternative to Portland cement. The key mineral of CSAC is the Klein's compound ($4\text{CaO}\cdot3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\cdot\text{SO}_3$ i.e. $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{s}$ in shortened cement mineralogy notation), because of its hydration reaction ability to produce ettringite. $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{s}$ based cements are used commercially in increasing quantities, but several aspects of its solid state production as well as hydraulic reactivity appear to be difficult to control. It is known that iron-aluminum substitution influence its reactivity. In order to investigate iron-aluminum solid solution in $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{s}$, the following bulk compositions were made, $\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{s}$, where x equals: 0.05, 0.07, 0.09, 0.11, 0.13, 0.15, 0.17 and 0.19. Qualitative X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD) of samples prepared revealed only partial iron-aluminum substitution at 1100 °C, the rest of the iron giving up minerals: magnetite (Fe_3O_4), ferrite phase ($\text{C}_2(\text{A},\text{F})$) and srebrodolskite (C_2F).

Keywords: special cement, Klein compound, solid solution, X-ray powder diffraction

1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a global environmental issue of the 21st century and also one of the biggest challenges for the mankind. The effects of climate change, especially emission of greenhouse gases are more and more visible every day and those changes also have adverse influence on global economy, environment and society. Having in mind the growth of population, it is a prerequisite for the industry to find new improved ways of energy, material resources and waste management in a sustainable way. The cement industry is not to be excluded because cement production needs vast quantity of raw materials and fuel followed by large CO_2 emissions. Nowadays, cement factories are proactive regarding industrial ecology because waste materials and by-products of various origins are used in the manufacture of ordinary Portland cement (OPC) or other special cements either as a supplementary fuel or raw meal component. A possible route for production of new calcium sulfoferoaluminate (CSAF) special cement from waste materials is depicted in this work. By developing an alternative way of waste reuse, the risk of possible water and/or soil pollution as well as a cost of its remediation is significantly lowered. Further benefit of this practice is lower consumption of natural resources. It is estimated that cement industry contributes up to 7% of total anthropogenic emissions of CO_2 , while current worldwide cement production is of the order of 2 billion tons per year. Since concrete as a building (construction) material has no alternative, the cement industry is actively involved in, and contributes to the solution of the greenhouse gases emission and climate change. Recent investigations of calcium sulfoferoaluminate special cements seem promising in that direction because it has a great potential of waste gypsum reuse, along with bottom ashes, electric arc furnace slags (EAFS) etc. Calcination temperature is lower for CSAF cement than during the production of ordinary Portland cement and the final product is also easier to grind. Main mineral of CSAF cement is Kleinite, $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{s}$. CSAF cements are used commercially in increasing quantities, but several aspects of its solid state production as well as hydraulic reactivity appear to be difficult to control. It is known that iron-aluminum substitution influence this reactivity.

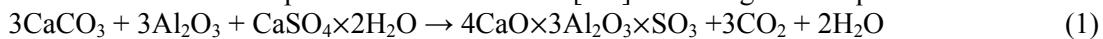
In cement chemistry it is a usual practice to use shortened notation of complex chemical composition of numerous minerals (see Table 1). Accordingly, the composition of Kleinite, $3\text{CaO}\times3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\times\text{CaSO}_4$ is written as $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{s}$.

Table 1. Shortened symbol notation used in cement chemistry

Oxide	CaO	Al_2O_3	SiO_2	SO_3	Fe_2O_3	H_2O	MgO	TiO_2
Symbol	C	A	S	s	F	H	M	T

1.1. Calcium Sulfoaluminate

In the four component phase diagram CaO-SiO₂-Al₂O₃-SO₃, there are two ternary compounds: calcium sulfoaluminate and calcium sulfosilicate [1]. Calcium sulfoaluminate (Ca₄(Al₆O₁₂)(SO₄), or C₄A₃S), gives up mineral Kleinite and is also known as Klein compound. It is prepared by calcination of the appropriate oxide mixture at temperatures 1250-1300 °C [2-5] according to the equation 1.



This compound is stable up to the temperature of 1350-1400 °C.

Crystal structure of Klein compound consists of the three dimensional lattice of AlO₄ tetrahedra in corners with Ca²⁺ and SO₄²⁻ ions in cavities formed by AlO₄ tetrahedra. This compound belongs to the tetragonal system [4]. At temperatures in excess of about 1350 °C Kleinite becomes unstable and begins to decompose [6]. Al³⁺ within the structure of C₄A₃S could be partially substituted by Fe³⁺ ions [7]. Reactivity with water decreases as the iron substitution increases.

2. ELABORATION

2.1. Experimental

2.1.1. Materials

The following materials: CaCO₃, *pro analysi*, Kemika, Zagreb; Al(OH)₃, Alcoa, Ohio; Fe(NO₃)₃ × 9H₂O, E. Merck, Darmstadt; and CaSO₄ × 2H₂O, *pro analysi*, E. Merck, Darmstadt, had been used for preparation of the raw mixes with the selected oxide composition. Pure Si powder (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan) had been added to the synthesized materials prior to X-ray powder diffraction analysis.

2.1.2. Preparation and homogenization of precursor materials

Eighth raw mixes of precursor materials with increasing iron oxide content, according to the following bulk oxide composition: C₄A_{3(1-x)}F_{3x}S, where x equals: 0.05, 0.07, 0.09, 0.11, 0.13, 0.15, 0.17 and 0.19 had been synthesized (Table 2). In all of the samples prepared the mass of the CaCO₃ and CaSO₄ × 2H₂O remains constant, while the mass of the Fe(NO₃)₃ × 9H₂O increases as the mass of the Al(OH)₃ decreases.

Table 2. Masses of precursor materials used for raw mixes of selected bulk oxide composition corresponding to C₄A_{3(1-x)}F_{3x}S, where 0.05 < x < 0.19

sample	x	m(CaCO ₃), g	m(Al(OH) ₃), g	M(Fe(NO ₃) ₃ × 9H ₂ O), g	m(CaSO ₄ × 2H ₂ O), g
1	0.05	10.0086	14.8205	4.0399	5.7390
2	0.07	10.0086	14.5085	5.6559	5.7390
3	0.09	10.0086	14.1965	7.2718	5.7390
4	0.11	10.0086	13.8845	8.8878	5.7390
5	0.13	10.0086	13.5725	10.5037	5.7390
6	0.15	10.0086	13.2605	12.1197	5.7390
7	0.17	10.0086	12.9484	13.7357	5.7390
8	0.19	10.0086	12.6364	15.3516	5.7390

Precursor materials had been weighted on analytical balance, and wet homogenized in planetary mill (Pulverisette 5, Fritsch GmBh, Germany) for 5 min at 250 rpm.

2.1.3. Drying of precursor mixes

After wet homogenization in planetary mill, dense suspension of precursor materials had been dried in drying chamber at 130 °C.

2.1.4. Calcination of precursor mixes

Precursor mixes prepared had been calcined in laboratory furnace at 1100 °C for 4 hours (in porcelain crucibles with lids). Heating rate was 10°C min⁻¹, and after soaking, the furnace left to cool naturally.

2.1.5. Grinding of Calcined Samples

Calcined mixes had been comminuted by hand in mortar with pestle. All of the samples had been easy to grind.

2.1.6. X-Ray Powder Diffraction of Calcined Mixes

Mineralogical phase composition of calcined samples had been determined by X-ray powder diffraction analysis on H-6000 manufactured by Shimadzu, Japan. Characteristic copper X-ray radiation had wavelength of $\lambda(\text{CuK}\alpha) = 0.15418 \text{ nm}$.

2.2. Results

The iron-aluminum solid solution of Kleinite mineral had been studied. Previous study of iron-aluminum solid solution of characteristic minerals of calcium aluminate cement had shown that large differences in calculated potential phase composition arise by not taking into account the formation of iron-aluminum solid solution [8]. Mixture of precursor materials with bulk oxide composition corresponding to $\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{S}$, where x takes the following values: $x = 0.05, 0.07, 0.09, 0.11, 0.13, 0.15, 0.17, 0.19$ had been prepared, homogenized, dried and calcined at 1100°C for 4 hours. The samples prepared had ochre color that is more intense for greater iron addition. Elementary silicon had been added to the calcined samples (10% by mass), and results of X-ray powder diffraction are shown in Figs. 1-3.

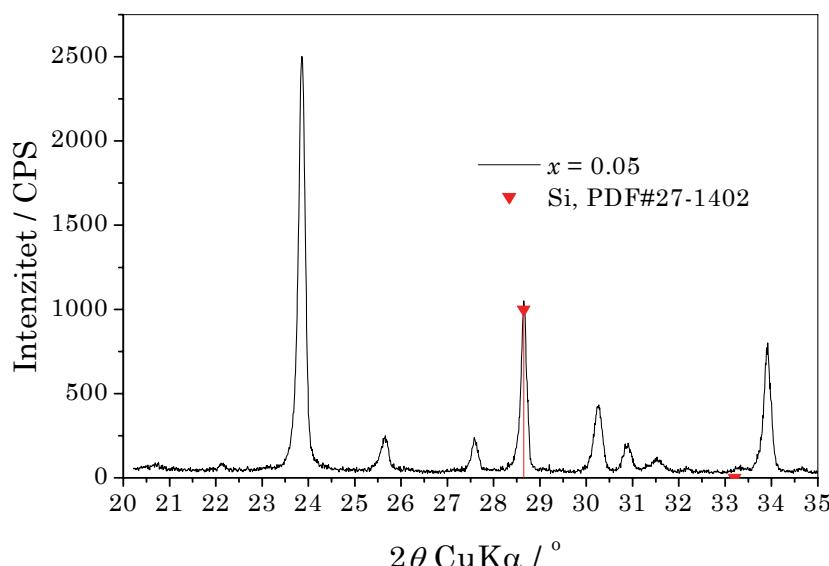


Figure 1. X-ray diffraction of calcined mixture of precursor materials corresponding to the following potential composition of Klein compound, $\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{S}$, where $x=0.05$. The position of silicon standard (10% by mass) is marked red.

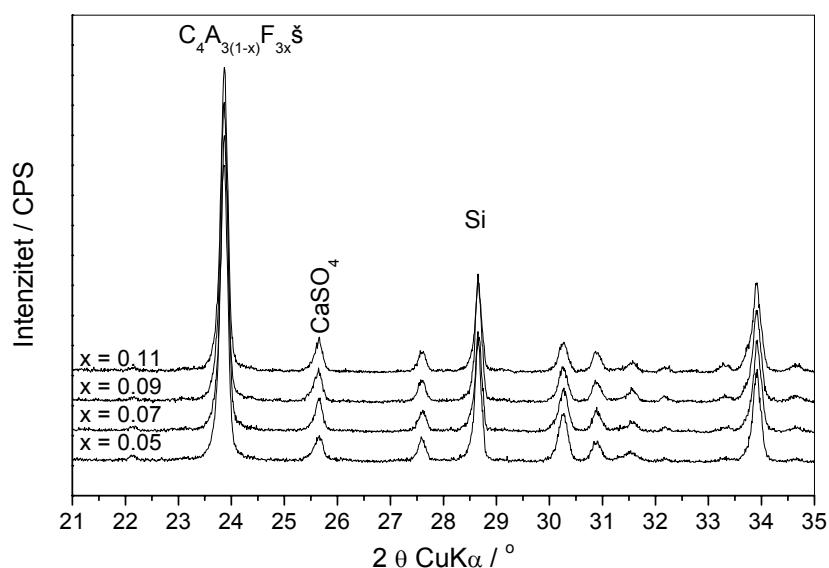


Figure 2. X-ray diffraction of calcined mixtures of precursor materials corresponding to the following potential composition of Klein compound, $\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{S}$, where $x=0.05, 0.07, 0.09$ and 0.11 . Traces of anhydrite mineral, CaSO_4 , is present in the calcined samples

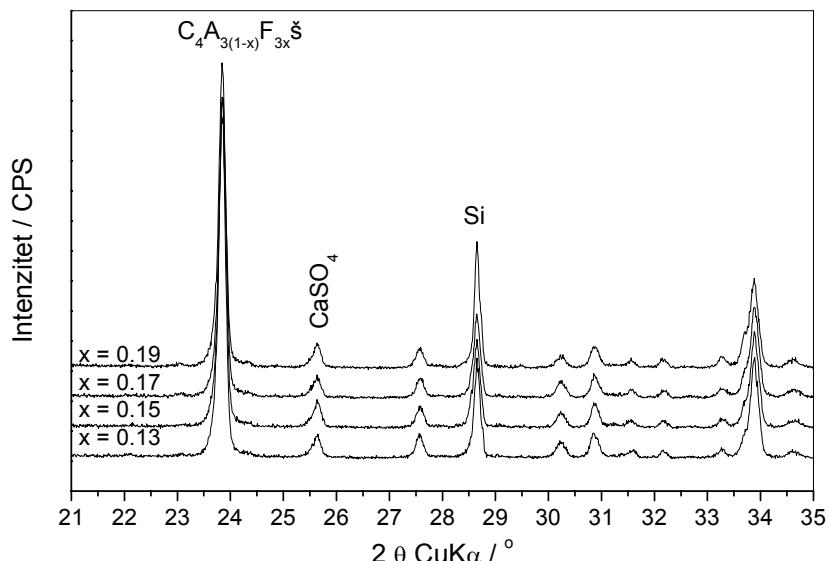


Figure 3. X-ray diffraction of calcined mixtures of precursor materials corresponding to the following potential composition of Klein compound, $C_4A_{3(1-x)}F_{3x}S$, where $x=0.13, 0.15, 0.17$ and 0.19 . Traces of anhydrite mineral, $CaSO_4$, is present in the calcined samples.

The systematic offset of the diffractogram had been corrected relative to diffraction peak of silicon (most intense reflection (111), at 28.443° 2θ CuK_α , PDF#27-1402). In the Table 3, the corrected position of the diffraction peak of Kleinite is given

Table 3. Diffraction peak position of Klein compound for the 8 calcined samples prepared.

$x(Fe_2O_3)$	Kleinite, raw data	Si, raw data	Offset vs. Si	Kleinite, corrected
*0	-	-	-	*23.662
\$0.05	-	-	-	\$23.640
0.05	23.858	28.653	-0.210	23.648
0.07	23.869	28.661	-0.218	23.651
0.09	23.86	28.658	-0.215	23.645
0.11	23.864	28.658	-0.215	23.649
0.13	23.842	28.656	-0.213	23.629
0.15	23.849	28.649	-0.206	23.643
0.17	23.851	28.652	-0.209	23.642
0.19	23.844	28.653	-0.210	23.634

*- literature data, PDF#33-0256

\$- literature data, PDF#51-0162

Beside the presence of Kleinite in the calcined samples prepared, traces of anhydrite ($CaSO_4$) and magnetite (Fe_3O_4) are also detected. Beside the determined positions of diffraction peak of Kleinite in the samples prepared, in the Table 3, the literature data on the position of the diffraction peak of Kleinite containing iron ($x=0.05$) and without iron are also given. Results are depicted in Fig. 4, where the dotted horizontal line corresponds to the position of Kleinite (containing iron, $x=0.05$) diffraction peak ($2\theta = 23.640^\circ$ CuK_α , PDF#51-0162).

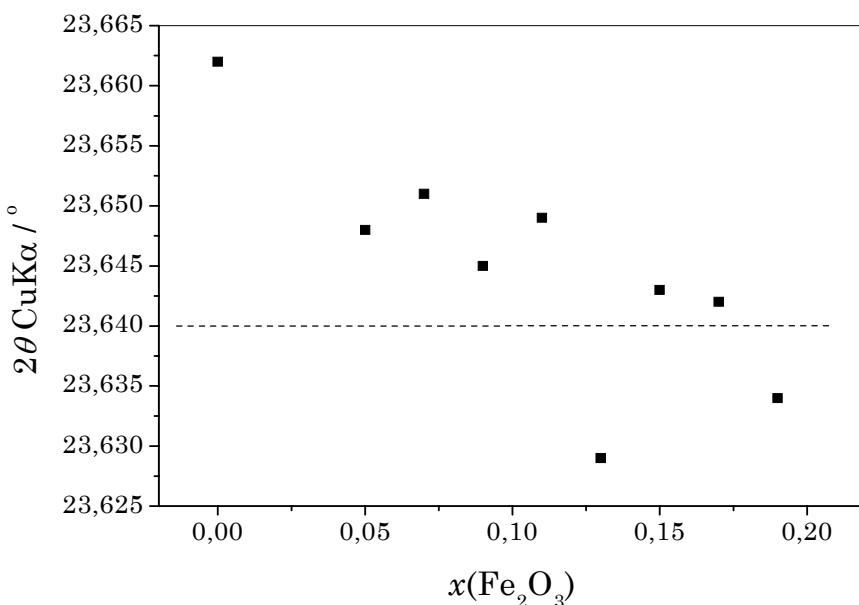


Figure 4. Dependence of Kleinite diffraction peak position on the bulk chemical oxide composition corresponding to: $\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{S}$, where x equals: 0.05, 0.07, 0.09, 0.11, 0.13, 0.15, 0.17 and 0.19. The dotted horizontal line corresponds to the position of Kleinite (containing iron, $x=0.05$) diffraction peak ($2\theta=23.640^\circ$ CuK α , PDF#51-0162)

2.3. Discussion

Ordinary Portland cement mainly consists of minerals alite (C_3S) and belite (C_2S) which contribute to the strength and durability of the prepared binders and concrete. Calcium aluminate cement is another type of cement and is also continuously produced during last 100 years (on a much smaller scale). Calcium aluminate cement consists mainly of calciumaluminate mineral (CA) that is responsible for its rapid hardening characteristics. Mineralogical composition of inorganic binders is not exhausted by those two main types of cements, because there exist a number of other mineral assemblages with interesting hydraulic properties and various potential applications. By addition of gypsum or anhydrite as a component of cement raw mix (consisting mainly of CaO , SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3), a new mineral appears, Kleinite or Klein compound, of the following chemical composition: $\text{C}_4\text{A}_3\text{S}$. Cement materials containing Kleinite belong to the class of sulfoaluminate cements [1]. Sulfoaluminate cements could be further divided with respect to the other main minerals as: calcium sulfoaluminate-bellite, calcium sulfoaluminate-ferrite, or calcium sulfoferroaluminate-bellitni cements, etc.

Mineral composition of calcium sulfoferroaluminate cement is quite complex because of large number of mineral phases [9] that could be present within this (at least) fivecomponent system formed by the following oxides: CaO , Al_2O_3 , SO_3 , SiO_2 and Fe_2O_3 . Some of the compounds form iron-aluminum solid solutions. This research addresses the question of main compound (Kleinite) iron-aluminum solid solutions. Starting from the pure precursor materials (CaCO_3 , $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 \times \text{CaSO}_4 \times 1/2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \times 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$), a number of potential solid solutions compositions had been prepared ($\text{C}_4\text{A}_{3(1-x)}\text{F}_{3x}\text{S}$, where $x = 0.05, 0.07, 0.09, 0.11, 0.13, 0.15, 0.17, 0.19$). Qualitative X-ray diffraction analysis of the samples calcined at 1100°C for 4h showed traces of magnetite (Fe_3O_4), ferrite phase ($\text{C}_2(\text{A},\text{F})$), srebrodolskite (C_2F) and anhydrite (CaSO_4) beside Kleinite, main mineral product. Elementary silicon added as a standard to the samples prepared, enabled precise determination of diffraction peak position. It had been established that Kleinite diffraction peak position does depend on the quantity of iron-oxide in raw mixture. The exact position of Kleinite diffraction peak for $x=0$ and $x=0.05$ is known (Table 3), and it was argued that iron-aluminum solid solution has its 5% maximum/limit [1]. It is thus possible to determine actual composition of Kleinite (regarding the iron-aluminum solid solution) from the X-ray diffraction data. Unfortunately, two preparations of Kleinite ($x=0.13$ i $x=0.19$, Fig. 4) apparently show greater iron-aluminum substitution. This point needs further clarification because Andac and Glasser [10], based on the results of microcrystal chemical composition determination, had shown that significant deviations from idealized stoichiometry of Kleinite are likely to appear. The following compositions of monocrystals had been determined by electron microprobe: $\text{Ca}_{3.82}\text{Al}_{6.11}\text{S}_{1.02}\text{O}_{16}$, $\text{Ca}_{3.78}\text{Al}_{5.80}\text{Fe}_{0.30}\text{S}_{1.02}\text{O}_{16}$,

etc. Frequently cited iron-aluminum solid solution of Kleinite is about 2-3%, and 5% iron-aluminum substitution is referred to as an upper limit.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Kleinite is a main mineral of calcium sulfoaluminate cements and its reactivity is influenced by iron-aluminum solid solution composition. Kleinite solid solution forms spontaneously during production from the iron impurities present in the raw meal. The usual iron-aluminum solid solution substitution reported is about 2-3%, while its maximum is about 5%. The rest of iron-oxides present in calcium sulfoaluminate cement raw meal forms a new iron bearing phases, i.e. magnetite (Fe_3O_4), ferrite phase ($\text{C}_2(\text{A},\text{F})$) and srebrodolskite (C_2F).

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