

Potential of implementing cathode-ray tube (CRT) glass concrete piles in press-in engineering

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ABSTRACT

Concrete is the most implemented building material in the construction industry and the second most abundantly consumed product in the world after water as concrete has outstanding properties and low cost. Considering sustainability, e-wastes such as cathode-ray tube (CRT) are potentially being used to replace cement or aggregates in concrete, whereas the cement and aggregates are normally obtained from natural resources. CRT is defined as a vital element and technology implemented for displays in computer monitors and televisions while CRT glass occupies approximately 85% of CRT. Over the years, liquid crystal displays (LCDs), plasma display panels (PDPs), and light-emitting diode (LED) panels have been introduced to replace CRTs, and hence a large quantity of CRT waste is generated. In this paper, we aim to evaluate the existing knowledge about the usage of cathode-ray tube (CRT) glass replacing coarse aggregates in concrete. We also aim to explore the potential of using CRT glass in concrete piles which are commonly used in press-in engineering.

Keywords: Cathode-ray tube glass, concrete piles, press-in engineering

1. Concrete

1.1 Definition of concrete

Concrete is defined as a composite material that is produced by mixing aggregates (such as gravel, sand, stone), binding material (such as cement or lime), water and admixtures, in particular ratios. In general, concrete is a combination of fine and coarse aggregates, binding

material, water, and admixture (optional) and the concrete quality and strength rely on the mixing ratios (Bharti et al., 2023; Lahmann et al., 2023; Likhit & Alex, 2023; Reda & Chidiac, 2023; Zhang et al., 2020).

1.2 Consumption of concrete

Concrete is the most implemented building material

in the construction industry and the second most abundantly consumed product in the world after water as concrete has outstanding properties such as high compressive strength and adaptability, and is low cost (Bandyopadhyay et al., 2023; Bawab et al., 2021; Hilton et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2018; Luhar & Luhar, 2019; Seifan et al., 2016; Song et al., 2019; Yeo et al., n.d.). Over the years, the consumption of concrete keeps increasing due to the growing population in the world and increasing urbanization in developing countries. Therefore, concrete production has consumed many natural resources, especially aggregates because aggregates have a higher composition which estimated 70 to 80 percent in concrete, by volume, with approximately 25 to 35 percent of total aggregates produced in the world being implemented in concrete (Achal et al., 2013; Akshay et al., 2023; Chuo et al., 2020). The excessive implementation of natural resources in the production of concrete which raises environmental issues for having negative impacts on biodiversity and landscapes has become a major concern (Li et al., 2018; Meng et al., 2018).

1.3 Replacement of aggregates with waste in concrete

Since the natural resources of aggregates are limited and will be used up in the future, thus alternative materials need to be discovered to replace the natural aggregates in the production of concrete to attain a sustainable construction industry (Kim et al., 2018; Luhar & Luhar, 2019; Song et al., 2019). On the other hand, due to the speedy evolution of industry around the world, the amount of industrial waste disposed in the field keeps increasing to a worrying level and hence an effective recycling way needs to be proposed to treat the industrial waste properly to decrease the need for precious landfill space (Rashad, 2015). Furthermore, without an appropriate waste recycling framework, the large number of waste materials established will be either landfilled or burnt which will lead to critical contamination of the environment (Meng et al., 2018). Concrete has a high potential to reuse large quantities of waste materials to replace natural resources which is considered a win-win situation to reduce the implementation of natural resources and simultaneously recycle the waste materials in an effective way (Olofinnade et al., 2017). In summary, the implementation

of recycled waste materials in concrete to replace natural aggregates can be a feasible solution to prevent the exhaustion of natural resources and enhance sustainability globally through the production of green concrete (Yeo et al., n.d.).

2. E-waste

2.1 Definition of e-waste

E-waste is defined as the solid waste material produced from useless and discarded electrical and electronic appliances and devices that are toxic and non-biodegradable (aini Osman & Aini Osman ab, 2016; Danish et al., 2023).

2.2 Implementation of e-waste in concrete

Over the years, the continuous development and glory technology in all the countries around the world causes a critical e-waste issue globally as the huge number of hazardous and non-biodegradable components generated from e-waste cannot be treated and managed appropriately (Hui et al., 2013; Yao et al., 2018). Since the disposal of e-waste in the field will endanger human health and lead to environmental pollution, recycled e-waste products can be reused to reduce the amount of e-waste at landfill (Danish et al., 2023). Therefore, a novel and viable solution is suggested by replacing the natural aggregates with e-waste in concrete to solve the e-waste disposal crisis, conserve the limited natural resources and avoid the negative consequences on human health and the environment (Luhar et al., 2022).

3. Cathode-ray tube (CRT) glass

3.1. Definition of CRT

Cathode-ray tube (CRT) is defined as a vital element and technology implemented for displays in computer monitors and televisions during the last decades (Choi & Lee, 2021; Iniaghe & Adie, 2015; Liu et al., 2020). CRT occupies two thirds of the overall weight of the computer monitors and televisions while CRT glass occupies approximately 85% of CRT (Liu et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2019; Zhao & Poon, 2017, 2021). The major raw material in CRT glass is silica while the other distinct metallic oxides, for example, lead oxide and barium oxide are also included in CRT glass as defenders for detrimental radiation (Iniaghe & Adie, 2015; Yao et al., 2018).

3.2. Components of CRT glass

As shown in **Fig. 1**, CRT glass is divided into three main components which are panel, funnel, and neck with a mass ratio of 65%, 30%, and 5% correspondingly (Gao et al., 2022; Grdić et al., 2022). The CRT panel glass contains a high concentration of barium oxide (12 percent by weight) and strontium oxide (12 percent by weight) and a low concentration of lead oxide (0-3 percent by weight). On the other hand, the CRT funnel and neck glass has a high concentration of lead oxide which are 22-25 percent by weight and 30 percent by weight respectively (Gao et al., 2022; Grdić et al., 2022).

3.3. CRT glass waste

In recent times, plasma display panels (PDPs), liquid crystal displays (LCDs), and light-emitting diode (LED) panels are invented to displace cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in computer monitors and televisions (Bawab et al., 2021; Pauzi et al., 2019b; Zhao et al., 2013). Therefore, the abandoned CRT version of computer monitors and televisions keeps increasing and thus establishing a huge amount of CRT waste (Lee et al., 2016; Pauzi et al., 2019a; Wei et al., 2020). Although the production of CRT computer monitors and televisions is suspended with the enhancement of technology, the disposal of CRT waste in landfills is still rising from time to time as the old computer monitors and televisions are still exist and implemented in households (Grdić et al., 2023).

4. CRT glass concrete

Nowadays, the implementation of waste materials in the manufacture of concrete is prevalent worldwide to attain the green development goal (Grdić et al., 2021; Pauzi et al., 2022). Therefore, the construction industry can be one of the potential tracks to dispose CRT glass waste (Grdić et al., 2023). The production of concrete, cement mortar, and paste from CRT glass waste can reduce the amount of e-waste in landfill and simultaneously protect natural resources, save cost, and enhance sustainability in the construction sector (Song et al., 2019). CRT glass waste is a suitable replacement for fine aggregates and cement in concrete as CRT glass is pozzolanic in nature, contains a high content of silica, performs sufficient intrinsic strength, and has low water

absorption (Pauzi et al., 2019b). However, the process of manufacturing the CRT glass powder to substitute cement in concrete instigates serious dust contamination. Hence, implementing CRT glass waste as coarse aggregates in concrete is a more practical and secure disposal approach by only undergoing crushing (Gao et al., 2022).

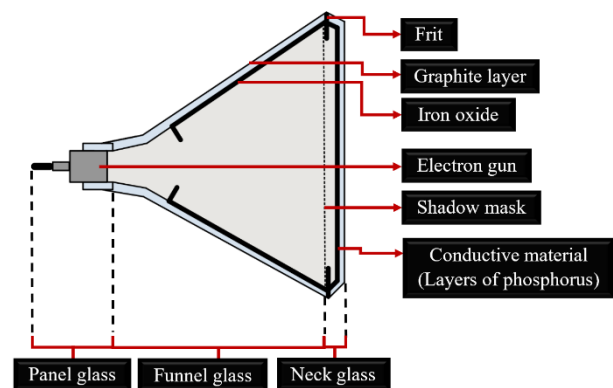


Fig. 1 Composition of a classic CRT monitor (modified from (Bawab et al., 2021))

5. Limitations of CRT glass concrete

5.1 Mechanical strength

One of the vital characteristics of concrete is mechanical strength, nevertheless, the compressive strength, tensile strength, and flexural strength of CRT glass concrete are lower than that of normal concrete due to the smooth surface of CRT glass aggregates which will weaken the bonds between the aggregates and mortar at the interfacial transition zone (ITZ) (Liu et al., 2018; Pauzi et al., 2021).

5.2 Lead leaching

Since CRT glass for the neck and funnel parts have a high concentration of lead oxide, thus the possibility of lead leaching is high in CRT glass concrete which leads to a major environmental concern in producing CRT glass concrete (Olofinnade et al., 2017). Therefore, mitigating the lead-leaching hazards from CRT glass waste in concrete by undergoing a proper treatment operation on CRT funnel glass to ensure that the leaching of lead does not surpass the control limit is considered a crucial recycling philosophy (Liu et al., 2020).

5.3 Alkali-silica reaction (ASR) expansion

According to **Fig. 2**, since CRT glass waste consists

of a high content of silica, thus the utilization of CRT glass aggregates in concrete can cause serious alkali-silica reaction (ASR) expansion which is a main obstacle in implementing CRT glass concrete and thus raises durability concerns in the construction sector (Ling & Poon, 2014; Liu et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2019). ASR is defined as a chemical interaction between the alkaline concrete and the reactive aggregates or high silica content of aggregates, and ASR requires a long period of time to exhibit (Pauzi et al., 2021). ASR gel will be generated during the ASR and the exertion of internal pressure with the existence of moisture in the CRT glass concrete due to the swelling of ASR gel will cause expansion (Grđić et al., 2021). As a result, ASR is the main contributor to the cracking and damage of CRT concrete structures due to detrimental expansion which leads to high maintenance and reconstruction costs (Iniaghe & Adie, 2015).

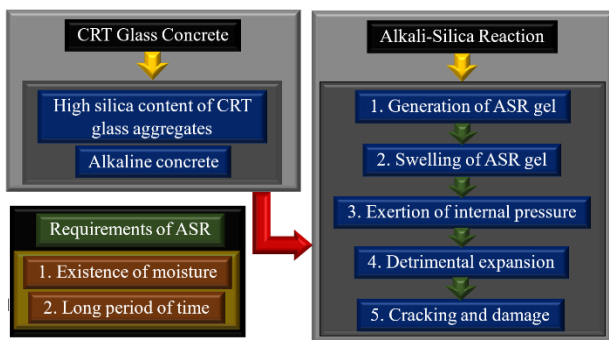


Fig. 2 Structure for ASR expansion of CRT glass concrete (modified from (Ling & Poon, 2014; Pauzi et al., 2019a))

6. Mitigations for the limitations of CRT glass concrete

Since CRT funnel glass comprises 30% of the CRT glass and contains a high concentration of lead oxide (PbO), thus CRT funnel glass waste needs to be recycled to produce crushed CRT funnel glass (GC) and spherical CRT funnel glass (GS) as shown in **Fig. 3** to mitigate the lead (Pb) leaching issue in CRT glass concrete (Liu et al., 2019; Pauzi et al., 2022). The CRT funnel glass waste needs to undergo a melting and annealing process, then cooled down to obtain GS. On the other hand, CRT funnel glass waste is required to undergo a smashing and grading process to produce GC (Danish et al., 2023).

Other than that, according to the literature, the smaller the particle size of CRT glass, the more severe the lead leaching in CRT glass concrete. Therefore, the size of

GC used in CRT glass concrete is suggested to be controlled at the range of 4.75 mm to 19 mm to reduce the negative consequences of lead leaching (Song et al., 2019). Even though the mechanical strength of CRT concrete is decreased due to the smooth surface of GC and GS, the combination of 40% GC and 60% GS in concrete was discovered to have sufficient strength as the mix of GC and GS can produce coarse aggregates that comprising of distinct sizes and shapes which can thus create a more compacted CRT glass concrete (Pauzi et al., 2019a). Furthermore, adding silica fume in CRT glass concrete can also help to improve the mechanical performance of CRT glass concrete (Pauzi et al., 2022).

According to the literature, the implementation of spherical CRT funnel glass (GS) can reduce the detrimental ASR expansion and thus mitigate the formation of cracks in CRT glass concrete (Pauzi et al., 2021). Other than that, the addition of appropriate pozzolan, for example, silica fume, fly ash for a particular proportion to substitute cement partially in CRT glass concrete can inhibit the ASR expansion (Liu et al., 2018; Romero et al., 2013).

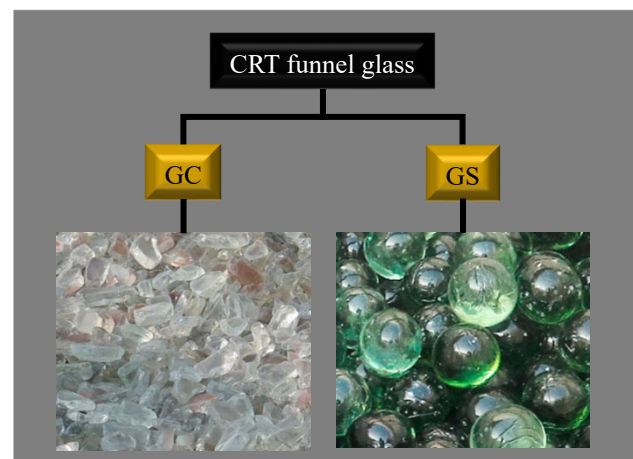


Fig. 3 Crushed (GC) and spherical (GS) CRT funnel glass (modified from (Pauzi et al., 2021))

7. Potential of implementing CRT glass in concrete piles for press-in engineering

Square reinforced concrete (RC) pile is commonly used in press-in engineering. The strength of concrete with CRT glass in the form of crushed and spherical is approximately 50 MPa, comparable to the strength of square RC pile, which is 45 MPa (Pauzi et al., 2019b). Therefore, in terms of strength, there is a potential to

replace coarse aggregates in square RC piles with CRT glass. However, ASR expansion of CRT glass concrete used as RC pile needs to be considered and the crack width due to the expansion also needs to be controlled. Moreover, the potential of lead leaching needs to be evaluated to prevent contamination of groundwater.

Prestressed high-strength concrete piles such as spun piles with typical concrete strength of 80 MPa are also commonly used in press-in engineering. To date, the implementation of CRT glass in high-strength concrete is limited. The potential to replace the coarse aggregates in the piles with CRT glass needs to be further investigated.

8. Conclusion

In a nutshell, the CRT glass waste generated can be recycled to replace the coarse aggregates in concrete to enhance sustainability and reduce the e-waste at landfills. The CRT glass concrete has the potential to be used in producing reinforced concrete piles and then implemented in press-in engineering. However, the usage of CRT glass in prestressed high-strength concrete pipe piles needs further investigation.

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