



## EXAMINING THE STRENGTH OF LIGHTWEIGHT AGGREGATE FOAMED CONCRETE EXPOSED TO ELEVATED TEMPERATURES

### ABSTRACT

This paper presents a study reported an investigation on six mixes of Lightweight-lightweight Aggregate aggregate Concrete-concrete (LWAC) were produced to study-examine the effects of elevated temperatures (200 to 700 °C) on the-their residual mechanical properties. To this end; the first three mixes were considered as reference mixes consisting of cement, Porcelanite-porcelanite as coarse aggregate, and fine Porcelanite-porcelanite as a partial replacement and a total replacement of sand. As well, Two percent of foam agent by weight of water was added to produce-manufacture Lightweight-lightweight Aggregate-aggregate Foamed-foamed Concrete-concrete (LW AFC). The testing results of testing showed that the high-elevated-temperatures resistance of the foamed concrete (FC) at elevated temperatures is-was better in terms of the proportional loss in strength than that of normal concrete. Also/Furthermore, the mechanical properties of the LW AFC-lightweight aggregate foamed concrete (LW AFC) containing 50% and 100% of fine Porcelanite-porcelanite aggregate are had been less affected by high temperatures than those in the sanded lightweight aggregate foamed concrete (LW AFC)LW AFC.

**Keywords:** Lightweight Concrete, Foam Concrete; Elevated temperatures/Temperatures; Thermal Conductivity; Porcelanite-

### INTRODUCTION

Numerous S studies have been conducted extensively widely on a large-number/lots of natural lightweight aggregates in order to manufacture lightweight concrete (LWC) [1-4] because the Use of natural lightweight aggregate instead of ordinary aggregate-ones can reduce the costs of such concretes. There are also deferent different types of natural lightweight aggregate such as perlite, pumice, Porcelanite, volcanic scoria, diatomite, etc.

Likewise, the cellular structure of a light weight aggregate (LWA) can makes it inherently insulating, and this factor is-can be assumed responsible for the high thermal insulation of the lightweight aggregate concrete (LWAC). Also, this type of LWC has-is generally endowed with generally a lower thermal expansion than Normal-normal Weight-weight Concrete-concrete (NWC); therefore, it is more stable at elevated temperatures than many-other dense aggregate concrete types. This property, combined with the-better thermal insulation, can thus produce the inherent fire-fire-resistance characteristic feature of the LWAC [5-7].

The-Moreover, heat exposure may be found in some industrial installations where in concrete is used in places exposed to sustained elevated temperatures ranging from (100- to 1000)-°C as those utilized in foundations for blast furnaces and coke batteries, furnaces walls and dampers, industrial chimneys, flues, kilns, and-as well as nuclear- reactors [3].

Since concrete is known as a composition of different materials, the-its behaviour of-concrete under elevated temperatures can largely depends on its-the constituents; in this respect, the aggregate type and the structure of the cement paste can have has-a-great significant effects on thermal conductivity of concrete. The highly porous microstructure of lightweight aggregate-(the LWA) also gives it low density and better insulation and-that can consequently makes the concrete

made-produced with LWA exhibit lower thermal conductivity than-that-of-compared to normal weight concrete-( the NWC). Therefore, Lightweight-lightweight Aggregate-aggregate Foamed-foamed Concrete-concrete (LW AFC) can provides more effective fire protection than other types of concrete as it is less liable to spalling and has-endowed with a higher thermal insulation [2].

ThereforeIn this regard, many-numerous studies have been carried out to investigate the properties of Lightweight Concrete-(the LWC) exposed to elevated temperatures by-using various types of Lightweight aggregate-(LWA). There are also papers-investigations dealing with the effects of high temperatures on chemical and mechanical properties of the LWC [1-4]; however, the impacts of high temperatures on chemical and mechanical properties of foamed concrete (FC) there arecannot be observed except in few papers-dealing withresearch studies the-effect-of-high-temperatures-on-chemical-and-mechanical-properties-of-Foamed-Concrete (FC)-[9]. So, this investigation-is the present investigation was suggested to studyto examine the properties of foamed-concreteFC; and try-to make attempts to improve their-these properties by-using local and low-low-cost materials. In this workstudy, compressive-compressive strength and density are-to-bewere also measured. Furthermore, the analytical study involves-involved thermal conductivity analysis of the LW AFC.



**RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This paper presents study focuses on the use of foamed concrete made with Porcelanite as a coarse aggregate and as a partial and a total percentage replacement of fine aggregate. The primary scope is of this study was to study investigate the effect of high-elevated temperatures on the properties of the LWAFC.

**Abbreviations**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| LWAC  | Lightweight Aggregate Concrete             |
| LWAFC | Lightweight Aggregate Foamed Concrete      |
| NWC   | Normal Weight Concrete                     |
| OPC   | Ordinary Portland Cement                   |
| ASTM  | American Society for Testing and Materials |
| LOI   | Loss On Ignition                           |
| IQS   | Iraqi Standards                            |

**EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION**

The effects of various test parameters on the properties of the LWAC and the LWAFC were investigated in this study. To this end, All mixes were exposed to different temperature levels and the period of exposure at the maximum temperature was lasted two hours.

The investigation was based on using locally manufactured cement Type I (ordinary Portland cement: OPC) produced by Al Kubaisa Cement Factory, whose chemical and physical properties were illustrated shown in Table 1 and Porcelanite crushed stone obtained from the north of Al-Rutba Town in Al-Anbar Governorate – Iraq. Table 2 also lists listed some important physical and chemical properties for coarse and fine Porcelanite aggregate. Moreover, the EUCO-type foaming agent type EUCO was used in this study to produce the LWAFC with 2% foaming agent by weight of water [9]. Table 3 indicates indicated the technical description of the foaming agent.

The coarse aggregate used was 10 mm in all mixes. Porcelanite, as a partial and a total replacement for local natural sand with 2.61 fineness modulus The, was also used as fine aggregate used Porcelanite as partial and total replacement with local natural sand whose fineness modulus 2.61. Its gradation lies lied in zone 3 and the grading test results conform were consistent with Iraqi Specification No.45/1984 as shown in Figures 1 and 2 which show indicating grading of fine and coarse aggregates used in this investigation. Potable water of Al-Risafa, Baghdad, was also used throughout this investigation for mixing and curing.

**TEST PARAMETERS**

The test parameters investigated in the present study were:

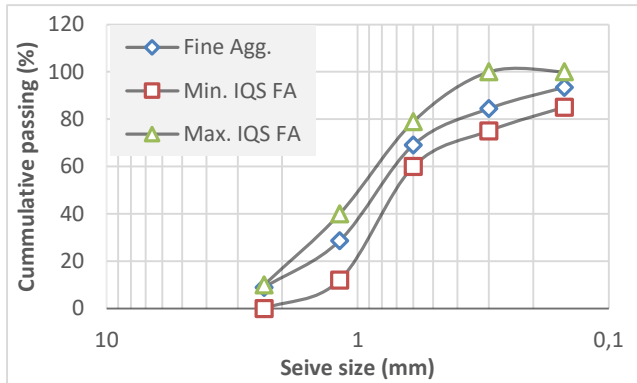
- Porcelanite as a fine aggregate replacement, and a partial and a total replacement;
- Level of exposure temperatures, at an age of 60 days, the specimens at an age of 60 days were heated in an electric furnace, and four maximum temperature levels were selected (200, 300, 400, and 700°C) and the period of exposure at the maximum temperature was lasted two hours.

**MIXTURE PROPORTIONS AND DETAILS**

Table 1. Chemical and physical properties of

Investigation This investigation was carried out in three different series and the mix proportioning was calculated according to ACI 211-98 [10]. An extensive series of tests were also conducted to develop suitable LWAC, and LWAFC reinforced with fiber, are classified into classified into two series:

- Series I – MSP, MSPP, and MPP: (mixtures details are were presented in Table 4)
- Series II – MSPF, MSPPF, and MPPF: (mixtures details were illustrated in Table 4)



**Figure-1. Particle size distribution of fine aggregate**

**Table 2. Chemical and physical properties of fine and coarse Porcelanite aggregate**

| Physical properties                       |                  |                |                      |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Property                                  | Coarse aggregate | Fine aggregate | Specification        |
| Specific gravity                          | 1.55             | 1.68           | ASTM C127-04         |
| Absorption, %                             | 39               | 42             | ASTM C127-04         |
| Dry loose unit weight, kg/m <sup>3</sup>  | 600              | 740            | ASTM 29/C29M/02      |
| Dry rodded unit weight, kg/m <sup>3</sup> | 685              | 860            | ASTM 29/C29M/02      |
| Aggregate crushing value, %               | 16               |                | BS 812-part 110-1990 |
| Chemical properties                       |                  |                |                      |
| Oxides                                    | % by Weight      |                |                      |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>                          | 69.86            |                |                      |
| CaO                                       | 10.57            |                |                      |
| MgO                                       | 6.90             |                |                      |
| SO <sub>3</sub>                           | 0.30             |                |                      |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>            | 4.78             |                |                      |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>            | 2.09             |                |                      |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>                          | 0.18             |                |                      |
| L.O.I                                     | 4.25             |                |                      |
| Total                                     | 98.97            |                |                      |

**Table 3. Physical Properties of foaming agent**

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Appearance                | Liquid                       |
| Color                     | Transparent                  |
| Specific Gravity          | 1.01                         |
| Chloride Content          | Nil                          |
| Compatibility with Cement | All Types of Portland Cement |
| Shelf Life                | Up to 2 Year                 |
| Surface Tension           | 41.9N/cm <sup>2</sup>        |

**Chemical properties**

| Oxides composition                         | Content % | Limits of Iraqi specification No. 5/1984 |
|--|-----------|--|
| Lime, CaO                                  | 62.5      | -  |
| Silica, SiO <sub>2</sub>                   | 21        | -  |
| Alumina, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>    | 4.9       | -  |
| Iron oxide, Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 3.08      | -  |
| Magnesia, MgO                              | 1.5       | 5-% Max.                                 |
| Sulfate, SO <sub>3</sub>                   | 2.3       | 2.8-% Max.                               |
| Loss on Ignition, (L <sub>o</sub> I)       | 1.5       | 4-% Max.                                 |
| Insoluble material                         | 1.1       | 1.5-% Max.                               |
| Lime Saturation Factor, (L <sub>s</sub> F) | 0.937     | (0.66-1.02)                              |

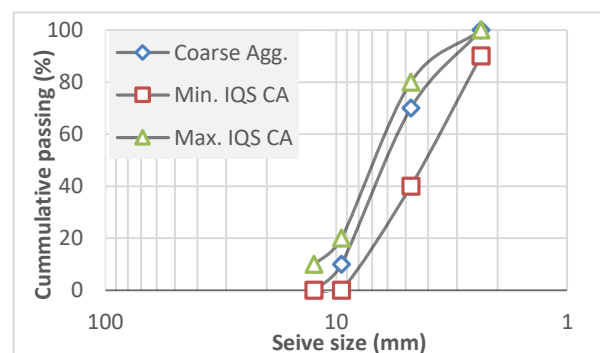
**Main compounds (-Bogue's equation-)**

|                   |       |   |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| C <sub>3</sub> S  | 50.96 | - |
| C <sub>2</sub> S  | 21.77 | - |
| C <sub>3</sub> A  | 7.77  | - |
| C <sub>4</sub> AF | 9.36  | - |

**Physical properties**

|   |        |                                    |
|---|--------|------------------------------------|
| Specific surface area (Blaine method), (m <sup>2</sup> /kg) | 304    | 230 m <sup>2</sup> /kg lower limit |
| Setting time (vicate apparatus)                             |        | Not less than 45 min               |
| Initial setting, hrs. : min                                 | 2:05   | Not more than 10 hrs               |
| Final setting, hrs.: min                                    | 3:60   |                                    |
| Compressive strength (MPa)                                  | 20.4   | Not less than 15 MPa               |
| For 3-days  | 28.2   | Not less than 23 MPa               |
| For 7-days  |        |                                    |
| Expansion by Autoclave autoclave method                     | 0.23-% | Not more than 0.8 %                |

**Figure-2. Particle size distribution of coarse aggregate**





**CONCRETE MIXING, TEST SPECIMENS, CURING, CONDITIONS, AND TESTING DETAILS**

The mixing sequence was as follows: coarse aggregate and fine aggregate, ~~were~~ added ~~in~~ into the mixer and ~~the~~ mixing continued for 1 minute, then the required quantity of dry cement was added, and ~~the~~ mixing continued for 3 minutes ~~at which~~ in order to produce a good homogenous mix ~~was produced~~. Two thirds of the required ~~quantity water~~ ~~were~~ quantity of water was then added to the dry materials, and the remaining water and the required quantity of foaming agent were added to the machine to make foam which was then added to the mix [9].

The slump of fresh concrete mixtures was determined as per ASTM C143. Sixty days ~~of~~ compressive-compression were ~~then~~ determined by crushed 100mm cubes as per B.S. 1881: part 120: 1983, and flexural strength was ~~determined~~ ~~specified~~ by crushed (400x-200x-50) mm flags as per IQS No.1107, 1988 Type C [11]. ~~Moreover,~~ ~~T~~hree specimens were ~~tested~~ ~~examined~~ for each test and ~~their~~ mean values were reported. Two specimens (200x-100x-50) mm were ~~then~~ cast for each concrete mixtures ~~in order~~ to check the thermal conductivity as per B.S. 874:1973 [12].

**HEATING PROCEDURE**

For all ~~the~~ exposures, the specimens were slowly heated and cooled to allow the maximum exposure temperature to reach the centre of the specimens during heating and the rate of heating was such that it ~~should~~ ~~did~~ not exceed 2°C/min to avoid steep thermal gradient [1, 13].

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Fresh Properties**

~~Effect~~ ~~Investigating the effect~~ of foaming agent, - Table 4 ~~shows~~ ~~showed~~ that the values of fresh properties (slump) of ~~the~~ LWAC varied from ~~(120- to 160)~~ mm. For ~~the~~

LWAFc, these values were in the range ~~(of 242- to 248)~~ mm. ~~This indicated~~ ~~indicating~~ that Series II of lower w/c (0.4) had larger slump compared to Series I. It ~~was~~ also observed that the addition of foaming agent ~~had~~ increased the workability due to the fact that cohesion ~~is~~ ~~had been~~ improved by the use of foaming agent ~~and~~ these observations were ~~consistent~~ ~~in line~~ with those reported by [4,9].

**Influence of High-Elevated Temperatures on LWAC and LWAFc**

**Loss of Weight**

All ~~the~~ series exhibited smaller losses in weight with respect to exposure temperatures ~~are~~ ~~as~~ plotted in ~~Figs~~ ~~Figures~~ 3 and 4. The decrease in weight was not ~~also~~ more than 2% at 200°C and 7% at 300°C, for all mixes. This ~~is~~ ~~was~~ due to the removal of the capillary and ~~the~~ adsorbed water from the cement paste. On the other hand, it ~~has~~ ~~become~~ ~~became~~ obvious that there ~~is~~ ~~was~~ an increase in the loss of weight at a temperature above 300° C, and reduction of the weight ~~is~~ ranging from a minimum of about 17-% to a maximum of about 41-% at 700°C. This ~~is~~ ~~was~~ due to ~~the~~ further dehydration of the cement paste as a result of the decomposition of calcium hydroxide.

It ~~has~~ ~~also~~ ~~been~~ ~~was~~ noticed that in Series I, ~~the~~ sanded-LWAC specimens (MSP, and MSPP) showed a larger reduction in their weight compared to ~~the~~ MPP specimens containing fine Porcelanite aggregate as a total replacement of natural sand. The results ~~show~~ ~~demonstrated~~ that the MPP mixes ~~are~~ ~~were~~ more thermally stable than the other mixes and the thermal stability of the concrete ~~largely~~ ~~depends~~ ~~depended~~ ~~largely~~ on the thermal stability of the aggregate (i.e., ~~the~~ thermal strain ~~was~~ ~~depends~~ ~~dependent~~ on aggregate used) [14].

**Table 4- Mixture composition of all experiment series, kg/m<sup>3</sup>**

| Mixture ID* | Fine Aggregate |             | Coarse Porcelanite porcelanite | w/c  | Water | Foaming agent | Slump (mm) |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------|-------|---------------|------------|
|             | Sand           | Porcelanite |                                |      |       |               |            |
| MSP         | 540            | -           | 787                            | 0.4  | 160   | -             | 120        |
| MSPP        | 270            | 153         | 787                            | 0.43 | 172   | -             | 155        |
| MPP         | -              | 313         | 787                            | 0.45 | 180   | -             | 160        |
| MSPF        | 540            | -           | 787                            | 0.4  | 160   | 3.2           | 242        |
| MSPPF       | 270            | 153         | 787                            | 0.42 | 168   | 3.36          | 245        |
| MPPF        | -              | 313         | 787                            | 0.45 | 180   | 3.6           | 248        |

\*-Cement content in ~~All~~ all mixes ~~content~~ ~~cement~~ = 400 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

\*\* Aggregates in SSD condition, ~~wherein~~ water quantities were adjusted before mixing

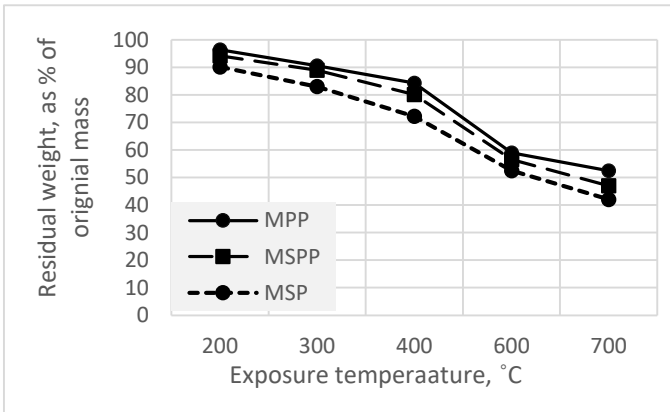


Figure- 3. Residual weight as the percentage of original weight of LWAC

significantly at 700 °C especially for MSP compared to the others, especially for MSP. The residual strength at 600°C is-was equivalent to half of the residual strength at 300°C. It should be noted that At high temperature, the dehydration of cement paste at high temperatures results in its gradual disintegration. B because the paste tends to shrink and aggregate may expands at high temperatures of above 600°C; moreover, the bond between the aggregate and the paste is weakened resulting in a great reduction in strength as confirmed in test results [15,16]. The deterioration of strength at elevated temperatures for such concrete types can-could be attributed to the coarsing of the pore structure and the increase in pore diameter [15, 16, 17].

The test results indicated that each temperature range for Series II is-as plotted in Figure 6. Residual-The residual compressive strength at 200°C for Series II is-was approximately (80, 87, and 91)% of-for MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF; respectively. As well, the Rresidual compressive strength at 300°C for Series II is-was approximately roughly (69, 75, and 85)% of-for MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF; respectively. At 400°C, the residual strength is-was (61, 63, and 69)% of-for MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF; respectively. At 600 °C, the residual strength is-was approximately about (47, 49, and 50)% of-for MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF; respectively. Residual-The residual compressive strength at 700°C for Series II is-was approximately about (40, 44, and 47)% of MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF; respectively.

Generally, the strength loss in Series II is-was lower compared to Series I when the temperature is varied from 200 to 700°C. For instance; i at 700°C, the residual strength (was respectively 40, 44, and 47)% of MSPF, MPPSF, and MPPF respectively which are-were considered higher compared to those in Series I. This is-was an indication of better performance of the LWAFc in retaining the strength at elevated temperatures as compared with-to LWAC. This can-could be attributed to the less dense pore structure of Series II (compared to Series I) due to the presence of comparatively porous cement paste and lightweight aggregate the LWA (Porcelaniteporcelanite).

At 700°C, Series I; and Series II specimens experienced considerable cracks as well as spalling. The color of specimens also changes-turned pink. The specimens then undergo-demonstrated surface features when exposed to 600°C also-and showed color changes as well as some edge cracks but not as severe as those exposed to 700°C as shown in Figure 7.

Series II should-could exhibit more resistance to high-elevated temperatures than Series I due to much lesser tendency to spalling and loss of lesser proportion of its their original strength with the rise in temperature [18].

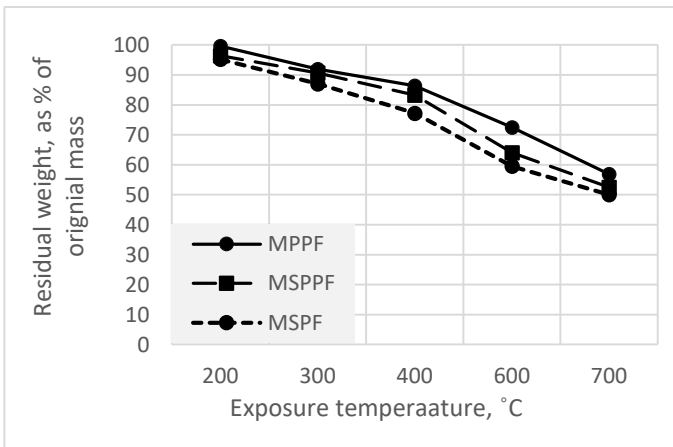
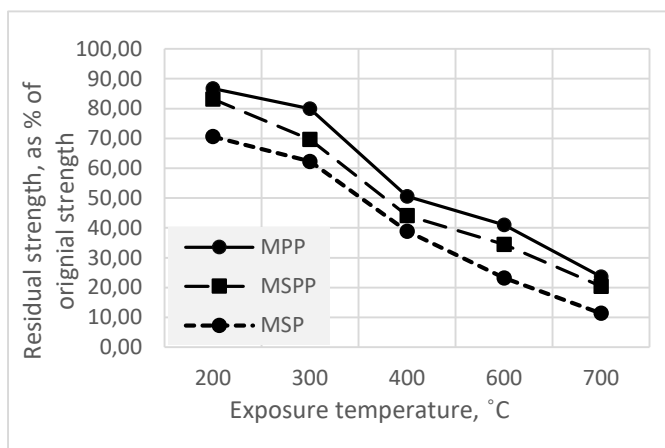


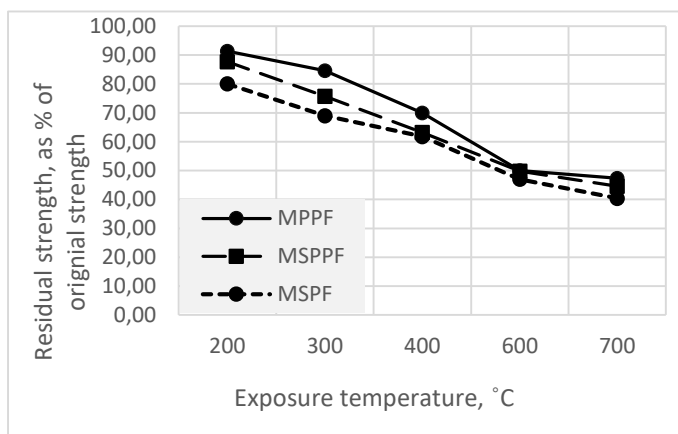
Figure- 4. Residual weight as the percentage of original weight of LWAFc

### Compressive Strength

The residual compressive strength of Series I; and II decreases-decreased with the increase of-in temperature degrees as presented in-Figs-ures 5 and 6. The range of the properties of Series I and II concrete presented-were also shown in Table 5. It should be noted that the Rresidual compressive strength at 200°C for Series I is-was approximately (70, 83, and 86)% of-for MSP, MPPS, and MPP; respectively. As well, the Rresidual compressive strength at 300°C for Series I is-was approximately about (62, 69, and 80)% of-for MSP, MPPS, and MPP; respectively. At 400°C, the residual strength is-was 38, 44, and 50)% for MSP, MPPS, and MPP; respectively. At 600 °C, the residual strength is-was approximately roughly (23, 34, and 41)% for MSP, MPPS, and MPP; respectively. It should be added that the Rresidual compressive strength at 700°C for Series I is-was approximately (11, 20, and 23)% for MSP, MPPS, and MPP; respectively. Furthermore, the rResidual strength of the MPP is-was reported higher compared to the MSP when subjected at-to different temperatures. The rate of loss of strength is-was also



**Figure- 5. Residual strength as percentage of original strength of LWAC**



**Figure- 6. Residual strength as percentage of original strength for LWAFc**



**Figure- 7. Concrete specimens after 2 hrs. of high-elevated temperatures**

## Thermal Conductivity

The variations in the thermal conductivity of all series of specimens with respect to exposing exposure temperature are were plotted in Figure 8. The coefficient of thermal conductivity will decreased when the air-filled pores increased, since air being is a very poor conductor of heat, thus, the results showed that the coefficient of thermal conductivity of the Series II is was lower compared with to Series I. Also, the thermal test has revealed a good indicator of the behavior of LWAFc under high-elevated temperatures. Generally, the results showed that the Series II mixes have had more thermal stability compared to those in Series I. The thermal conductivity also dropped sharply for the sanded-LWAFc (MSP) between 300 and 700 °C, by approximately (35.2, 40.1, 40.3, 61.5, and 73.9)% at (200, 300, 400, 600, and 700) °C; respectively, while the same mixes with the foaming agent could undergo a slight drop approximately about (27.9, 31.6, 35.7, 53.5, and 64.2) % at (200, 300, 400, 600, and 700) °C; respectively. The thermal stability of the concrete also largely depends depended largely on the thermal stability of the aggregate (i.e., the thermal strain was depends dependent on the aggregate used) [13]. This is was firstly due to the cellular nature of Porecelanite-porcelanite aggregate and secondly due to because of the mineral composition of this type of aggregate which consists-consisted of approximately 65% Opal-mineral-type Opal-CT which is considered as amorphous siliceous minerals and has with low thermal conductivity compared with to crystalline silica [19]. The results also showed that the addition of foaming agent could gives better thermal insulation to the LWAFc mixes at 25 °C. Simply, the requirement for resistance the against high-elevated temperatures resistance requirement is was based on thermal insulation.

## Conclusions

The following conclusions can could be drawn from this study:

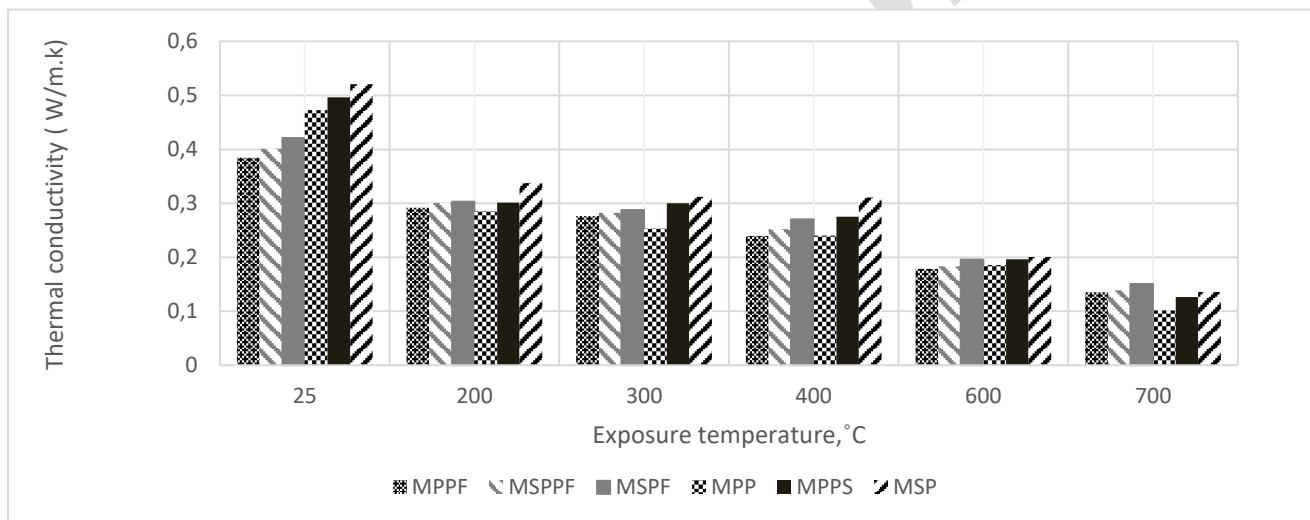
- The addition of foaming agent by 2% was beneficial in terms of improving the workability of the LWAFc. The slump values of the LWAFc between 242 to and 284 mm also showed satisfactory workability with no segregation or excessive bleeding specially for the MPPF mixture.
- The compressive strength and density decreased with the increase of in the replacement Porecelanite porcelanite replacement with sand. The proportional loss in strength between normal concrete LWAFc containing 50% (MSPPF) and 100% fine Porecelanite-porcelanite aggregate (MPPF) also showed a little loss in mechanical properties compared with to the sanded-LWAFc (MSPF).
- The behavior of Series I mixtures under compressive strength was more sensitive to elevated temperatures than that of those in Series II.
- The residual compressive strength of series-Series II specimens was more than those in series-Series I especially when exposed to high temperatures,;

i.e. the residual strength ~~is (was~~ 69, 50, and 47)% of ~~the~~ MPPF at 400°C, 600 °C, and 700°C; respectively.

- MSP specimens ~~have had~~ a minimum residual strength ~~in~~ comparison ~~with to~~ the other ~~ones~~, especially at ~~high~~ elevated temperatures, equal to ~~(38, 23, and 11)%~~ at 400°C, 600 °C, and 700°C; respectively.

**Table 5-** Summary of mechanical properties

| Mixture ID* | Density, kg/m <sup>3</sup> |      |      |      |      |     | Compressive strength, MPa |      |      |     |     |     |
|-------------|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|---------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
|             | Temperatures, °C           |      |      |      |      |     | Temperatures, °C          |      |      |     |     |     |
|             | 25                         | 200  | 300  | 400  | 600  | 700 | 25                        | 200  | 300  | 400 | 600 | 700 |
| MSP         | 1500                       | 1431 | 1345 | 1265 | 884  | 786 | 19.4                      | 16.8 | 15.5 | 10  | 8   | 5   |
| MSPPF       | 1457                       | 1372 | 1297 | 1169 | 823  | 685 | 18.5                      | 15.4 | 13   | 8   | 6.4 | 4   |
| MPP         | 1280                       | 1154 | 1063 | 924  | 672  | 538 | 15.8                      | 11.2 | 10   | 6   | 3.6 | 2   |
| MSPF        | 1390                       | 1385 | 1277 | 1201 | 1007 | 790 | 13                        | 12   | 11   | 9   | 6.5 | 6   |
| MSPPF       | 1351                       | 1302 | 1225 | 1126 | 864  | 709 | 10                        | 8.7  | 7.5  | 6.3 | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| MPPF        | 1210                       | 1159 | 1053 | 934  | 720  | 606 | 9.4                       | 7.5  | 6.5  | 5.8 | 4.4 | 3.7 |



**Figure - 8.** Thermal conductivity for ~~series-Series~~ I and II exposed to different temperatures

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