

Leaching and efflorescence of alkali-activated slag materials
A multi-scale experimental and simulation study

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Propositions

Accompanying the dissertation

Leaching and Efflorescence of Alkali-activated Slag Materials

— A multi-scale experimental and simulation study

By

Chen Liu

1. Under aqueous conditions, alkali-activated slag (AAS) materials are prone to leaching and cracking. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
2. Minimising alkali usage, enhancing surface hydrophobicity, and ensuring a dense crack-free matrix are effective methods in efflorescence mitigation. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
3. The scientific level of a country depends not only on the average quality of its researchers but significantly on the excellence of its leading ones.
4. Authentic scientific advancements rarely come from the “clever” people, who dismiss investing effort in uncertain pursuits.
5. Only the weak complain about their circumstances, the strong adapt and seek to change them.
6. Arrogance is the chain for intellectuals that anchors them from monumental achievements.
7. Heavy sword has no edge, great wisdom seems silly. (Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*)
8. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
9. The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of gratitude.
10. The final height of our lives is the height of a bed.

These propositions are regarded as opposable and defensible, and have been approved as such by the promoters Prof. Guang Ye and Prof. Erik Schlangen.