

## Recycling of machining waste fibers in the formulation of new concrete

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**Keywords:** UPFC, Resistance, Metallic Fibers, UHPC, Dune Sand, Silica Fume

**Abstract.** The use of waste fibers from the mechanical machining of parts in the formulation of new concretes is of great importance for the protection of the environment because, on the one hand, it makes it possible to recover the materials already used and to on the other hand, it allows nature to be protected from excessive exploitation of the reserve of artificial metallic fibers. The new concretes have high performance (high compressive strength, low porosity and permeability, durability, etc.), however these concretes are fragile and have low tensile strength, which limits their use. The objective of this study is to see the influence of the introduction of waste fibers on the behavior of new concretes. It is necessary to study the physical-mechanical characteristics of these concretes composed of these wastes in the hardened state.

### 1. Introduction

Concrete has always been considered the most widely used construction material in civil engineering works. UHPC are materials with a cementitious matrix, with compressive strength. These materials are supplemented with metal fibers (UPFC) in order to obtain a ductile behavior in tension.

Indeed, the mechanical performance of UHPC or UPFC encourage their use in various fields such as mechanics and civil engineering, the absence of large aggregates in UHPC makes it possible to produce very thin facing elements with a thickness of 15mm.

Fibers from machining waste are chosen for reasons of availability and economy, come from a renewable source and can be integrated in a rational way in the field of construction. The objective of this work is to contribute to the recovery of the resource, which are the fibers of machining waste thanks to their low cost and their availability. In this pretext, we thought of the use of fibers from machining waste, as concrete reinforcements.

### 2. Materials and Methods

#### 2.1 Materials used

- CPJ 42.2 cement from the GICA cement plant in Bechar (Algeria)
- Dune sand from the Taghit region (Bechar Algeria)
- Fumed silica
- Crushed Quartz
- Admixtures: sikaViscoCrete 522 RMX (super-plasticizer)
- Drinking water
- Machining metal fibers.

##### 2.1.1 Cement

UHPC are materials with a very low W/C (water/cement) ratio. Consequently, the rheology of UHPC is closely linked to the reactivity of the cement used.



We have thus seen that, from the point of view of chemical composition and rheology, cements with a low C<sub>3</sub>A content and a low specific surface area give the best results [8]. They have a lower water demand.

The cement used in this research is Portland cement (Mâtine, GICA company Béchar), (CPJ - CEM II/B 42.5) gray cement for high performance concrete intended for the construction of engineering structures (bridges, viaducts, tunnels, etc.), the chemical and physical characteristics of which are presented respectively in Table 1 and Table 2.

*Table 1. Chemical composition in % of materials used*

|                | SiO <sub>2</sub> | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | CaO        | MgO  | Na <sub>2</sub> O | K <sub>2</sub> O | SO <sub>3</sub> | Fire loss |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Cement         | 20,70            | 4,75                           | 3,75                           | 62,92      | 1,90 | 0,09              | 0,19             | 1,98            | 3,00      |
| fumed silica   | >9<br>5,00       | -                              | -                              | -          | -    | 0,60              | -                | -               | -         |
| Crushed Quartz | 98,50            | 7500<br>ppm                    | 450<br>Ppm                     | 300<br>Ppm | -    | -                 | 5500<br>ppm      | -               | 0,20      |
| Dune sand      | 97,33            | 0,83                           | 0,24                           | 0,07       | 0,41 | 0,09              | 0,04             | 0,18            | 0,40      |

*Table 2: The physical characteristics of the materials used*

|                                       | Cement | fumed silica | Crushed Quartz | Dune sand |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| specific surface (cm <sup>2</sup> /g) | 3390   | 230000       | 6900           | 115       |
| Average size D50(μm)                  | -      | 0,1          | 28             | 250       |
| Actual density                        | 3,16   | 2,24         | 2,65           | 2,65      |
| Water absorption coefficient (%)      |        |              |                | 0,15      |

### 2.1.2 Additions

#### • Silica fume

The silica fume used in this work is a gray powder (rather dark), marketed under the name of Condensil S95 DM (Sika company), and derived from the ferro-silicon manufacturing industry. Its chemical and physical characteristics are given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.



*Figure 1: Silica fume*

#### • Crushed quartz

The crushed quartz used for the formulations undergoing heat treatment is marketed under the name MILLISIL C400 by the Sifracco Company. The physical and chemical characteristics are given in Table 1 and Table 2.

#### • Dune sand

According to the bibliographical research, and the physico-chemical analysis, the quartz sand of the dune of the western erg of the region of the south-west of Algeria is promising in the

formulation of UPFC. However, for practical reasons supply data t in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

**Absolute density according to the Standard [NFP 18-301]**

This test is defined as being the mass per unit volume of the material that constitutes the aggregate without taking into account the voids that may exist between the grains (Figure 3).

The absolute density is determined by the following formula:

$$\rho = \frac{M}{V_2 - V_1} \quad (1)$$

With:

$\rho$ : Absolute density

M: Mass of solid grains

$V_1$ : Volume of water

$V_2$ : Total volume (solid grains + water).

**Apparent density according to the Standard [NFP 18-554]**

The apparent density is defined as being the mass of the unit of apparent volume of the body, that is to say that of the volume constituted by the matter of the body and the voids it contains. The apparent density is determined by the following formula:

$$\rho_d = \frac{\text{Mass of dry aggregate}}{\text{Container volume}} = \frac{M_1 - M_0}{V} \quad (2)$$

With:

V: Volume of the container

$M_0$ : Mass of the clean and empty container

$M_1$ : Mass of the filled container

**Sand equivalent according to the Standard [NFP 18-598]**

This test makes it possible to measure the cleanliness of the sand. It gives an overall account of the quantity and quality of the fine elements, by expressing a conventional volumetric ratio between the sandy elements which sediment and the fine elements which flocculate.

The value of the equivalent of sand (ES) is the multiple ratios by 100, of the height of the sediment sandy part on the total height of the flocculate. The formula that allows the determination of the sand equivalent is:

$$ES = \frac{h_1}{h_2} 100\% \quad (3)$$

With:

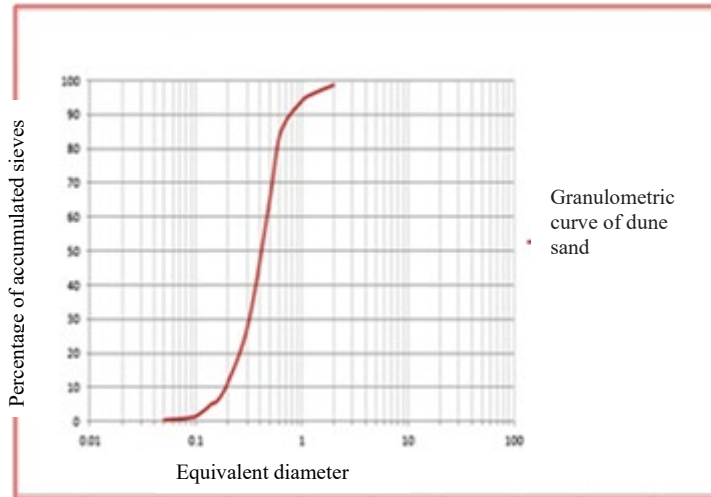
$h_1$ : clean sand + fine elements

$h_2$ : clean sand only

The physical characteristics of the sands at the end of the tests are shown in Tables 3.

*Table 3: Physical characteristics of dune sand (0/2)*

| Features                      | Results | Unit                  |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Apparent volumetric mass      | 1.56    | [gr/cm <sup>3</sup> ] |
| Absolute Density              | 2.50    | [gr/cm <sup>3</sup> ] |
| Sand Equivalent (NF EN 933-8) | 91.22   | [%]                   |



*Figure 3: Granulometric curve of dune sand*

- **Water**

The water used to make the mortars is drinking water from the network.

- **Additive**

The super high water-reducing plasticizer used during this study. This is a super plasticizer, in accordance with standard NF EN 934-2 [29], based on acrylic copolymer of new generation, non-chlorinated and intended for the prefabrication industry.

- **Fibers**

The fibers selected for this study are metallic steel machining fibers, 13 mm in length and 160 μm in diameter (Figure 4)



*Figure 4: Machining metal fibers (length 13 mm, diameter 160 μm)*

## 2.2 Experimental methods

### 2.2.1 Formulation

Table 4: Formulation of UHPC with dune sand (noted DS) (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

|                                   | UHPC with Silica Fume |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
|                                   | CDSF                  | CDSFCQF |
| Cement                            | 828                   | 691     |
| silica sand                       | 911                   | 759     |
| fumed silica                      | 207                   | 172     |
| Crushed Quartz                    | 0                     | 276     |
| Metallic fibers                   | 0                     | 138     |
| Super plasticizer                 | 26,4                  | 22,0    |
| water efficient                   | 224,6                 | 187,3   |
| Volumic mass (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | 2153                  | 2363    |
| W/C                               | 0,27                  | 0,27    |
| SF/C%                             | 25                    | 25      |

With:

CDSF: Concrete with Dune (SD), and Silica Fume (FS)

CDSFCQF: Concrete with Dune, Silica Fume, Crushed Quartz and Metal Fiber

### 2.2.2 Mortier Ordinaire

- **Materials used**
  - ✓ CPJ 42.2 cement from the GICA cement plant in Béchar (Algeria)
  - ✓ Oued lakhdar sand from the Béchar region (Algeria)
  - ✓ Laboratory drinking water
  - ✓ The use of metal fibers to increase ductility.

The physical characteristics of dune sand (0/3) at the end of the tests are represented in table 5

Table 5: Physical characteristics of dune sand (0/3)

| Features                      | Results | Unit                  |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Apparent volumetric mass      | 1.53    | [gr/cm <sup>3</sup> ] |
| Absolute Density              | 2.7     | [gr/cm <sup>3</sup> ] |
| Sand Equivalent (NF EN 933-8) | 77.65   | [%]                   |

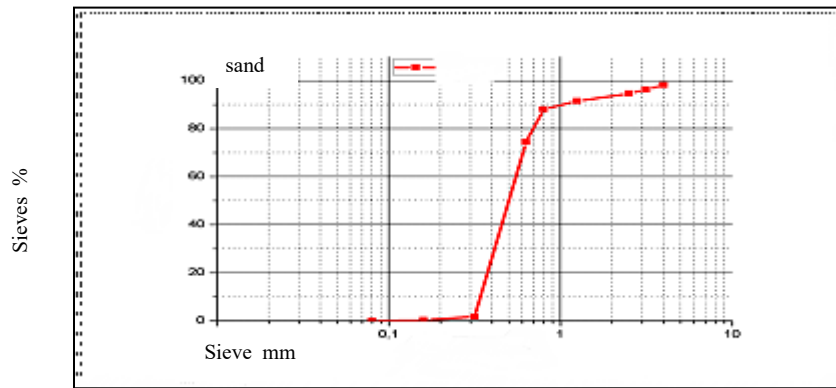


Figure 5: Particle size analysis of sand (0/3)

• **Formulation and conservation of test specimens**

The formulation of fiber-reinforced mortars (5% of metal fibers) for 3 test specimens (40x40x160) made up is shown in the following table:

Table 6: Formulation of a fiber mortar

| component | Cement(g) | water(ml) | Sand(g) | metal fibers(g) |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| M0        | 450       | 225       | 1350    | 135             |

• **The mixing method**

Mixing plays a valuable role in the manufacture of mortars, hence the need to master and respect its mode and time, as shown in Table 7:

Table 7: Formulation and mixing sequence

| Materials       | Mixing sequence  |
|-----------------|--|
| cement +water   | Mixing Materials 30s (Slow Speed)                          |
| Sand            | Added sand for 30s (slow speed) and 30s (fast speed)       |
| Metallic fibers | Possible introduction of fibers and mixing for 1 minute    |
| W/ C= 0.5       | Stop the mixer for 30s Resume mixing for 1min (fast speed) |

• **Filling and conservation of molds**

The filling and conservation of the molds is carried out as follows:

- ✓ After mixing, one proceeds to the filling at the rate of two layers, in metal molds which were coated with oil in advance.
- ✓ One proceeds to the vibration with the vibrating table for the two layers; the total duration of vibration 10s (5s for the first layer and 5s for the last)
- ✓ Level and smooth the surface of the concrete with a trowel
- ✓ The preservation of the molds containing the test specimens is done in the laboratory, and in order to avoid any Initial desiccation, the molds are protected with plastic film
- ✓ After 24 hours the specimens are removed from the mold, recorded and immersed in a basin of water until they are 60 days old (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Casting of specimens

### 2.2.3 Behavior when fresh

#### 2.2.3.1 Spreading and flow test

The spreading test is carried out using the Abrams mortar cone. The spread and flow values measured for the two formulations are presented in Table 8. Figure 7 gives an illustration of the spread obtained in shape and color.

Table 8: Rheological results of UPFC

| Samples       | CDSQF | CDS |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Spreads in cm | 45    | 50  |

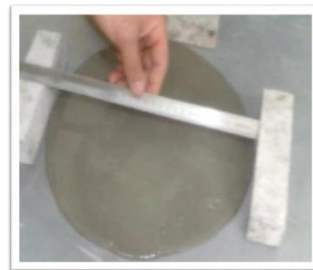


Figure 7: UHPC spread with fumed silica

CDSQF: concrete with sand dune fumed silica, quarter crushed and metallic fiber  
 CDS: concrete with dune sand and fumed silica

We note that the spread of CDS concrete is between 48 and 52 cm, with the same water and admixture content, the UHPC with fiber have spreads of between 42 and 46 cm.

Regarding the effect of sand type on workability, there is greater fluidity with dune sand. This is certainly to be linked to the slight differences in shape and size of the grains which have an influence on the friction with the fibers and therefore on the flow. It can be deduced from this that the use of dune sand will be beneficial with regard to the installation of UHPC.

We did not find excessive heterogeneous fiber distributions. This can be explained by their small size of the fibers (13 mm) and the limited friction generated with aggregates that are also small in size.

#### 2.2.3.2. Flow test on workability

The flow time measured on mortar workability was about 2 seconds according to the standard (NFP 18-452) [34] for all the formulations studied.

This very short delay reflects a significant fluidity of our materials without being able to distinguish any influence of the type of fines or sand on the flow, contrary to what had been noted during the spreading test. The UHPC studied have a rheological behavior similar to that described by Bonneau [8]. They are easy to mold materials and well suited for prefabrication. They can be used to produce shapes of varying complexity and achieve excellent detail reproduction due to their fluidity and bubble-free surface quality.

**2.2.3.3. Measurement of the amount of entrained air**

The quantity of entrained air for all the formulations studied in the fresh state is between 1.8% and 2.0% respectively for the samples with fibers and without fibers. These values are of the same order as those of ordinary concretes. They also correspond to the orders of magnitude of the values measured on UPFC by Rougeau (3%) [35] and the BPR200 by Roux et al (1%) [36].

**2.2.3.4. Determination of bulk density and porosity**

We note that the apparent densities of our materials are almost identical. On the other hand, a slight difference in porosity is observed between the concretes incorporating fiber (average of 6.3%) and those which do not have fibers.

(6.0%). The greater amount of void in fiber UHPC, and the higher density of this ultrafine Silica fume, at the same dosage, could explain the fact that the densities are almost equivalent (Table 9).

*Table 9: Bulk density and porosity*

| Samples                               | CDSQF | CDS   |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Apparent Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> ) | 2,382 | 2.361 |
| Porosity (%)                          | 6,3   | 6.0   |

**2.2.4. Behavior in hardened state**

**2.2.4.1 Compressive strength**

The UHPC compressive strength results correspond to the average of 2 tests carried out on the two pieces of the 3 prismatic specimens (40x40x160 mm) tested beforehand in bending. They are presented in Table 10 for the 4 maturities of 1, 7, 14 and 28 days.

*Table 10: Mechanical compressive strengths of the different compositions*

| Samples    | CDS                         | CDSQF |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Time(days) | Compressive strength in MPa |       |
| 1          | 19.68                       | 27.49 |
| 7          | 76.76                       | 52.60 |
| 14         | 83.47                       | 56.79 |
| 28         | 85.73                       | 73.90 |

From the expiry of 7 days, the concrete with fiber exceeded the concrete without fibers 8 MPa of compressive strength. At 28 days, the concrete without fibers exceeded the concrete with fibers, the maximum mechanical strength that is 85.73 MPa.



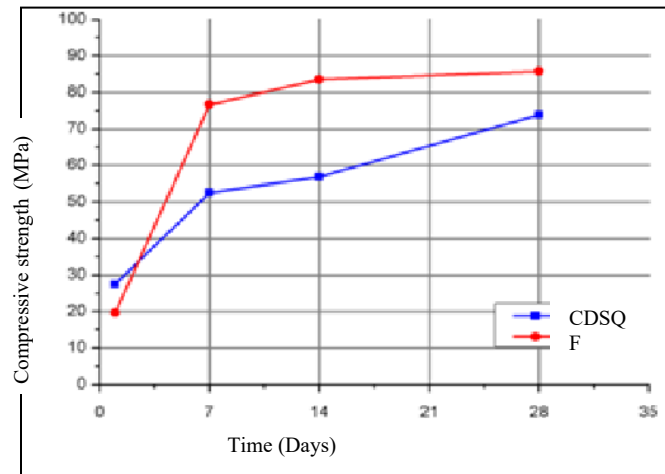


Figure 8: Hardening kinetics of the different fiber UHPC studied

Figure 8 shows the kinetics of compressive strength evolution for the different concretes (with the Eurocode 2 notations [26],  $f_{cm}$  average strength at 28 days and  $f_{cm}(t)$  average strength at time(t).

The analysis of the kinetics of the resistances in compression highlights the differences between the UPFC.

Concrete with dune sand (CDS and CDSQF), concrete with fibers in 24 hours is the most resistant, compared to the 3 deadlines 7,14,28 because the mixing problems and the addition of water reduce the resistors.

#### 2.2.4.2 Bending strength

Table 11 presents the results of the mechanical bending tests as a function of the age of the material obtained for the UHPC studied according to standard NF EN 12390-5 [32] on 40×40×160 mm specimens. These bending resistances are calculated from the maximum force applied by the press.

Table 11: Mechanical resistances in bending of the various compositions at various deadlines

| Samples    | CDS                     | CDSQF |
|------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Time(days) | bending strength in MPa |       |
| 1          | 3.76                    | 4.01  |
| 7          | 5.55                    | 6.34  |
| 14         | 7.94                    | 7.27  |
| 28         | 8.10                    | 7.79  |

The concretes studied show similar flexural strength values, regardless of the end of the test. The most significant differences appear at 1 day (values between 3 and 4.01 MPa). At 28 days, the strengths are slightly higher than 7 MPa.

Comparisons with the results of the literature require careful reading because the formulations, type of cure and heat treatment vary according to the studies carried out on these new materials. Thus, it can be estimated that the bending strengths can evolve between 7 MPa. One of the main reasons for this wide range of values is most likely the type (geometrical and mechanical characteristics) and quantity of fibers used.

Figure 9 presents the evolutions of the flexural strengths at the normalized instant compared to their values at 28 days.

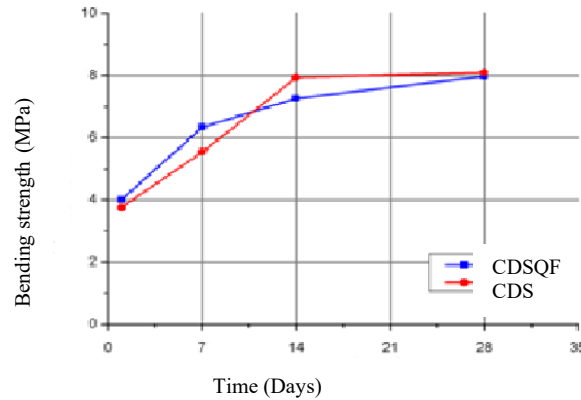


Figure 9: Kinetics of evolution of the flexural strength of the different formulations

The concretes with dune sand (CDS and CDSQF), the concrete with the fibers in 24h and 7days it was the most resisted, against for the deadlines 14.28 because the problems of mixing and the addition of water decrease resistance.

From the results of the bending tests, the tensile strength can be deduced. Indeed, the bending test is relatively simpler to implement than a direct tensile test. The AFGC [27] proposes, on the basis of the approach of the CEB-FIP calculation code, to evaluate the tensile strength from the results of the bending test on a prismatic specimen not notched by the intermediary of the following formula to take account of the scale effect.

$$R_t = R_{fl} \cdot \frac{2,0 \cdot \left(\frac{h}{h_0}\right)^{0,7}}{1 + 2,0 \cdot \left(\frac{h}{h_0}\right)^{0,7}} \quad (4)$$

With

$R_t$ : Tensile strength due to bending (MPa)

$R_{fl}$ : Bending strength (MPa)

$h$ : Height of the prism (mm) and  $h_0 = 100$  mm

The bending strength  $R_{fl}$  is equal to the value of the fiber tensile stress lower than mid-span, calculated from the value of the applied force  $F_{fiss}$  corresponding to the loss of linearity of the elastic behavior. Unfortunately, the test device of the press used did not allow us to set up a deflection sensor. The exploitation of the tensile strengths by bending cannot therefore be carried out, for lack of precise evaluation of the force  $F_{fiss}$ . The breaking force indicated by the press is obviously greater than this value.

If we apply the formula taking into account the geometry of our specimens, we see that the scale effect coefficient is equal to 0.51. This therefore means that the tensile strength is less than half of the measured bending strength. One could therefore estimate with restraint that the tensile strengths are approximately in a range between 4 and 8 MPa, values significantly higher than those of common concretes.

### 2.2.5 The results of the fiber-reinforced mortar in compressive

Table 12: Mechanical compressive strengths of Mortar and UPFC

| Samples    | Fiber mortar                | CDSQF |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Time(days) | Compressive strength in MPa |       |
| 1          | 7.32                        | 27.49 |
| 7          | 14.35                       | 52.60 |
| 14         | 23.83                       | 56.79 |
| 28         | 30.37                       | 73.90 |

From the expiry of 1 day, the UHPC exceeded the fiber mortar 20 MPa of compressive strength. At 28 days, the UPFC exceeded the Fiber Mortar more than 40 MPa of compressive strength, the maximum mechanical strength of Fiber Mortar is 30 MPa.

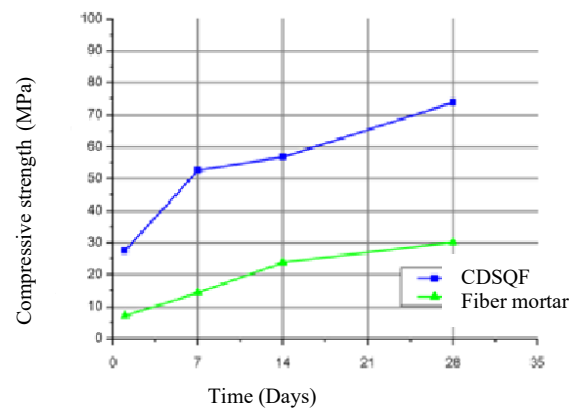


Figure 10: Mechanical compressive strengths of Mortar and UPFC

Note that concrete with dune sand (CDSQF) is more resistant than fiber mortar in the 4 deadlines 1, 7, 14, 28.

### 2.2.6 The results of the fiber-reinforced mortar in bending

Table 13: Mechanical resistances in bending of Mortar and UHPC

| Samples    | Fiber mortar              | CDSQF |
|------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Time(days) | Bending resistance in MPa |       |
| 1          | 1.53                      | 4.01  |
| 7          | 2.41                      | 6.34  |
| 14         | 4.01                      | 7.27  |
| 28         | 5.33                      | 7.79  |

From the expiry of 1 day, the UHPC exceeds the Fiber Mortar more than 2 MPa of resistance in bending, the same superiority at 28 days for UHPC. The maximum mechanical strength of UHPFR exceeded 7 MPa.

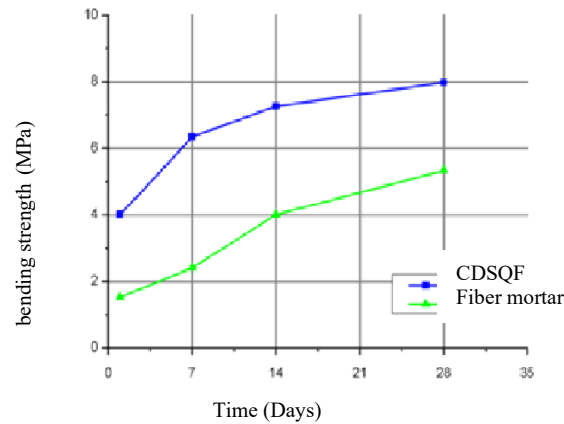


Figure 11: Mechanical resistances in bending of Mortar and UHPFRC

Deduce that the fiber mortar is less resistant for the 4 maturities than the CDSQF.

### 3. General conclusion

The use of artificial metal fibers as reinforcements in new concretes (UHPC) has impacts on the environment. In this case, we have chosen fibers from machining waste to reduce the problem of excessive exploitation of the reserve of metal fibers.

According to the results of the tests on the various UHPC specimens reinforced with machining waste fibers in 24 hours it was the most resistant compared to the specimens without fiber, on the other hand for the 3 deadlines 7, 14, 28 the specimens without fibers they are more resistant than UPFC because the problems of mixing and the addition of water to decrease the resistances.

The incorporation of machining waste fibers in the ordinary mortar made it possible to increase its resistance to bending relatively if looking at the results obtained in UHPC. We added the mill waste fibers into the regular mortar to see how active it is in the regular mortar and if it has any other adaptation or other UPFC results.

The perspective of using fibers from machining waste in the field of Civil Engineering has allowed us to contribute in a rather humble way to the recovery of these materials.

The addition of machining waste fibers in UHPC and ordinary mortar modifies the behavior of concrete and considerably improves the mechanical characteristics of the material. The experimental results show an efficiency of the fibers for bending stresses, an improvement in the resistance to bending and compression.

The properties of new concretes are not influenced by the length, dosage and treatment of fibers only but with other factors such as aggregates, cement and fillers.

### Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank the Directorate General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (D.G.R.S.D.T., Algeria) for financial support of this work. Thanks to the professors and students members of Laboratory of Eco-Materials: Innovations & Applications (EMIA ex. LFGM).

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