Galvanized Steelin Sodium Chloride Solution: A study of Mechanical and Corrosive Nature

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Abstract

Galvanizing, commonly known as zinc coating, is a corrosion-prevention technique that has been approved by science for use on iron and steel. During the galvanization process, zinc and aluminium are combined. Under various environmental circumstances, zinc exhibits a wide range of characteristics. When it comes to the coating procedure, these attributes could vary. Here, the common characteristics could include its look, hardness, thickness, as well as other mechanical and physical characteristics. These characteristics could lead to inconsistent coating structure as well. As a result, the addition of aluminium to zinc will guarantee the elimination of a number of undesirable characteristics for the betterment of the zinc coating process. Aluminum is suitable for the coating process since it has stronger mechanical qualities. It makes sure that the corrosion agents do not get to the zinc. The effect of adding aluminium on the corrosion behaviour of hot-dip galvanised steel will be the main focus of this study. In this investigation, the dry technique was used to carry out the galvanization procedure. The rate of corrosion varied depending on the zinc percentage fluctuation. By adding more aluminium to zinc, the toughness of the metal rose.

Keywords: *galvanization; corrosion; sodium chloride solution; steel*

1. INTRODUCTION

According to [1], efforts have been made over time to harmonise a definition of galvanization that has been in contention for a very long period. However, according to recent research, galvanising is a more attractive and cost-effective method of avoiding corrosion, and it is intended for widespread use on commercial and industrial steel equipment [2]. For instance, such materials could be roofing, utility poles, fencing materials, as well as other industrial and agricultural parts. Zinc-coated materials were first used in the nineteenth century. Due to this misunderstanding, hot-dipped galvanised steel sheets were frequently utilised as roofing materials [3]. Before this error occurred, the steel sheets underwent a successful washing and whipping with ammonium chloride and sulfuric acid before being manually dipped into a bath of molten zinc. This is done in order to shield metal from the effects of corrosion. Galvanized steel materials' significance first became well known in the early 1950s. According to Devillers and Niessen (1976), before this inaccuracy, people were not informed about the precise causes and effects of corrosion [4].

2. METHODS

Through this experiment, mild steel strips are galvanized through the batch hot dipping process. The sample is dipped in various proportions of the aluminum-zinc bath. After this, the corrosion propensities of the galvanized sample are examined in the sodium chloride solution.

The appearance before and after corrosion was also noted. Metallographic techniques werealso applied to measure the coating thickness of these samples [5].

Preparation of substrate

In this experiment, the substrate that was coated has the size of 6 cm by 2cm. The substrate was purely mild steel that was striped and rolled.

Cleaning before galvanization

The steel to be used in this experiment had to be dip galvanized and after fabrication hadto be free from lubricants before immersion in molten zinc. In most galvanization coatings, inadequate surface preparations have been the cause of defects in the coating process.

According to Kautek, (1988) in the batch hot-dip galvanization process, the material to be galvanized had to be degreased and then inserted in hydrochloric acid [6]. The whole idea behind this was to remove some salts that might have remained on the surface of the material.Each of the degreasing steps was followed by a water rinse to avoid clotting of substances unto the surface [7].

The alkaline cleaning

This was necessary since there was urgency in ensuring that the strength of the alkaline solution was effective in the experiment, especially in the degreasing process. The alkaline sample was then rinsed with water before acid marinating. After the rinsing, it was then dried.

Acid pickling

In this section, aqueous solutions of hydrochloric acid were used to remove rust from the steel parts before galvanizing. This experiment 25 percent concentration of hydrochloric acid was used.

Batch Galvanizing Procedures

Lapshin, (1975) asserts that there are two types of convectional batch galvanization techniques that are currently used in the application [8] of wet and dry process. The dry process involves the use of a crucible-top flux blanket. According to Larouk, and Yakhlef, (2012) the dry process only uses a pre-flux [9]. Hereafter the material is degreased, the intended work- piece are inserted in an aqueous flux solution, it is dried and thereafter immersed in the moltenzinc bath. An experiment conducted using the dry technique is as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Batch galvanization of dry technique

According to McMurray, (2001) in as much as degreasing, pickling, water rinsing, together with other cleaning procedures remove most of the surface deterioration and scale from iron and steel, small amounts of impurities in the form of oxides, chlorides, sulfates, and sulfides are retained [10]. Unless removed, these impurities will interfere with the iron-zinc reaction when the iron part or steel is immersed in molten zinc solution [5].

Flux used after acid picking

After acid pickling is done, whenever the sample is in the free atmosphere, it forms rust on its surface. To avoid the rust formation, fluxing was to be done as soon as possible [5]. The flux composition in this experiment was; 75 wt%$ZnCl_2$, 15 wt% NH_4Cl_2, 6wt%NaCl, 4wt% KCl in distilled water. For better effectiveness, the fluxing bath temperature is maintained at 40º C. The sample was dipped in this solution for about 5 minutes. The article was then to be dried at200°C.

Galvanizing bath

In this experiment, the samples were immersed in different bath compositions. The standard temperature was maintained at 600-650°C. The immersion duration for all the samples was restricted at 1 minute. The bath composition used in this experiment was as shown:

1. Pure Zinc
2. % Al , 4% Pb, 95% Zn
3. 3.97% Al -Zn
4. 8.4% Al-Zn
5. 10.94%Al-Zn
6. 15.569%Al-Zn

Analysis of these samples via optical electron spectrometer is conducted, both pure zinc and aluminum collected commercially are also analyzed for their purity. The spectrometer analysis is as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Result of purity analysis using optical electron spectrometer

	Al	Zn	Pb	Mg	Sn	Cu	Fe
Sample Pure Zn	-	99.984	-	-	.00208	-	.01325
Sample Pure Al	99.708	.00206	.00027	.00748	.00435	.00230	.16180
Sample 3.98% Al-Zn	3.9761	95.747	.00051	.00118	.00202	.26022	.01185
Sample 8.4% Al - Zn	8.4084	91.313	.00280	.00261	.00363	.25674	.01244
Sample10.97% Al-Zn	10.974	88.767	.00081	.00127	.00166	.24249	.01301
Sample15.57 % Al-Zn	15.569	84.169	.00081	.00126	00219	.24216	.01557

After the substrate is dipped, cooling is conducted in still air.

Corrosion test

After the galvanization process, corrosion test was carried out through various concentrations of sodium chloride solutions. These concentrations were 5% NaCl, 10% NaCl, 20% NaCl. The rate of corrosion at different solutions were also measured. The same procedure was also maintained for 8.4% Al-Zn, 10.96% Al-Zn, 15.56%Al-Zn,8.4% Al-Zn samples. This was as shown in Figure 2.

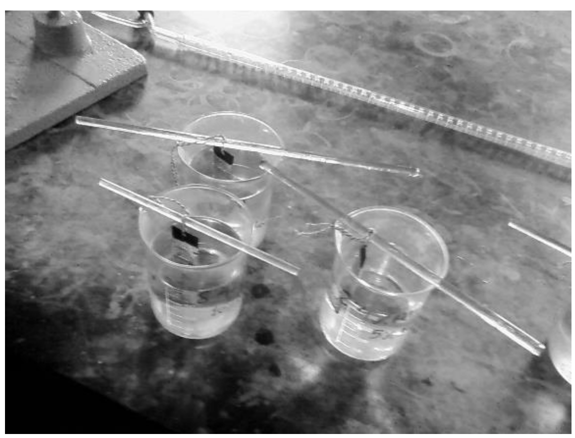
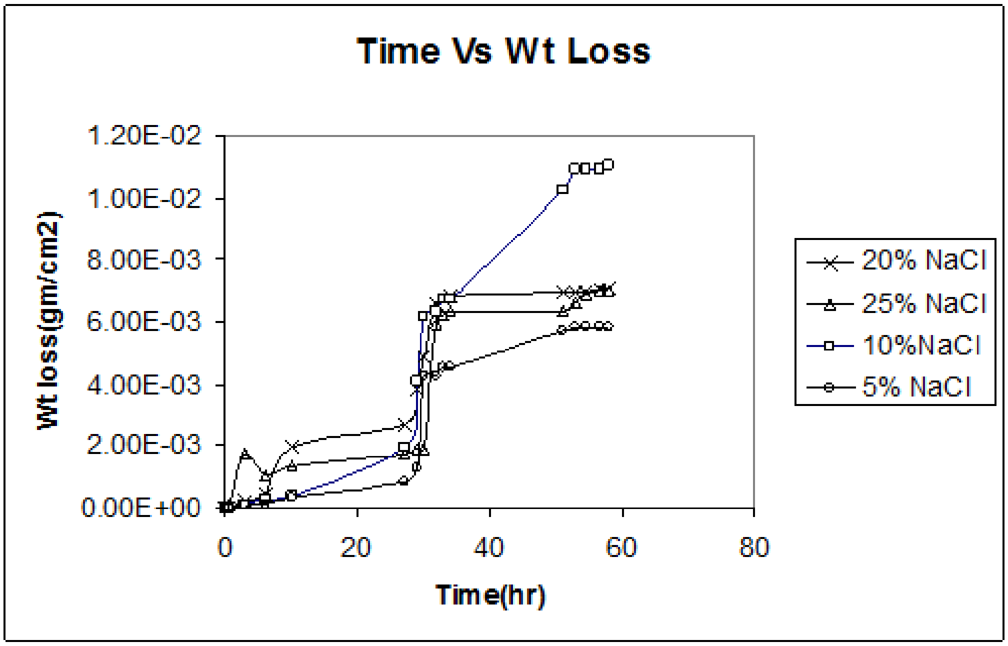


Figure 2. Sodium chloride solution

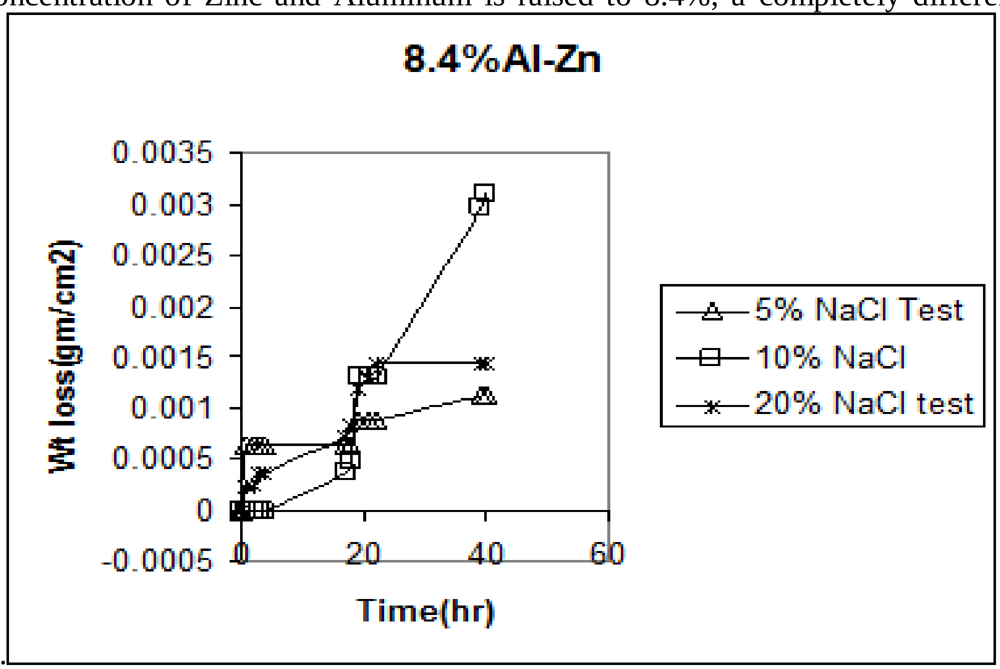
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rate of corrosion against time of 3.33% of AlZn in a NaCl media can be graphically represented as follow;



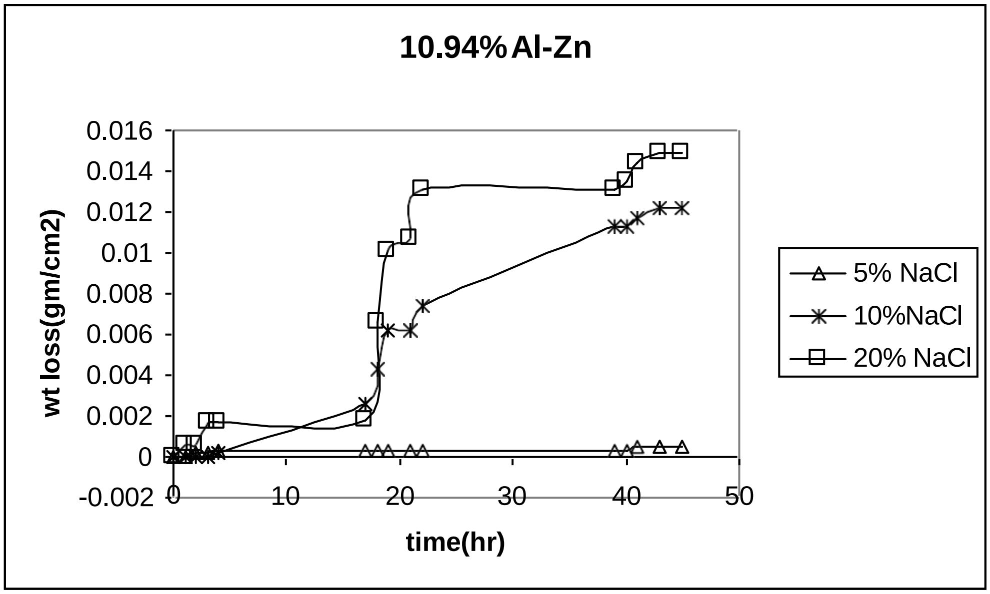
Graphic 1. Corrosion rate

According to the graph, the reaction can be categorized into three parts that include the active, passive and the transmissive regions. The active region normally appears like any other metal. The passive region is reached where the time weight increases fast to a level where the weight drops marginally. The corrosion rate increases with time after ushering in the transpassive phase. According to the graph, the state of corrosion is higher in a NaCl solutionthat is 10%. In a case where the concentration of Zinc and Aluminum is raised to 8.4%, a completely different graph is produced.



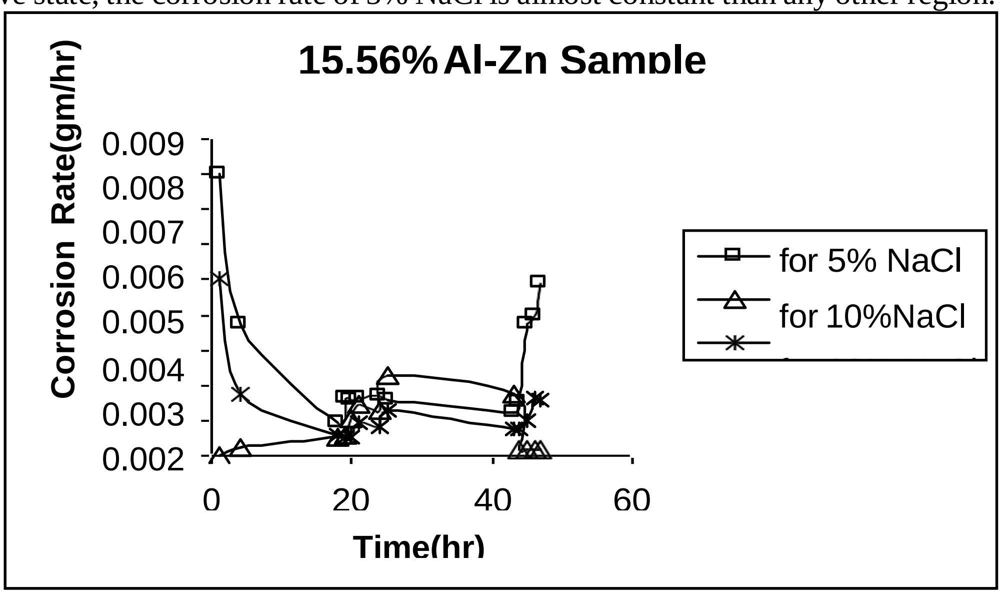
Graphic 2. Corrosion rate in 8.4% Al-Zn

In the above presentation, the rate of corrosion rate is higher in 10% and 20% than the 5% solution of NaCl. The rate of corrosion is higher in transpassive phase in the 10% solution whilethe 5% solution, the passive region is shorter.



Graphic 3. Corrosion rate in 10.94% Al-Zn

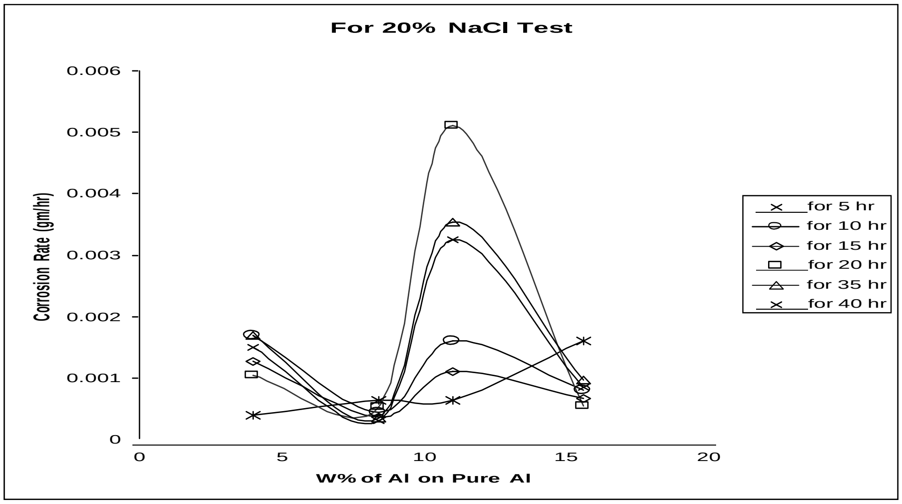
In the figure above, 20% NaCl rate of corrosion is higher than any other solution in activeand trans passive state, the corrosion rate of 5% NaCl is almost constant than any other region.



Graphic 4. Corrosion rate in 15.56 Al-Zn

In the above diagram, 5% NaCl rate of corrosion is higher in active region than the others.The corrosion rate of 5% NaCl also goes passive state more quickly than the others.Immediately after passive state 10% NaCl rate of corrosion decrease. Corrosion rate of 5% NaCl increase more than 20% NaCl.

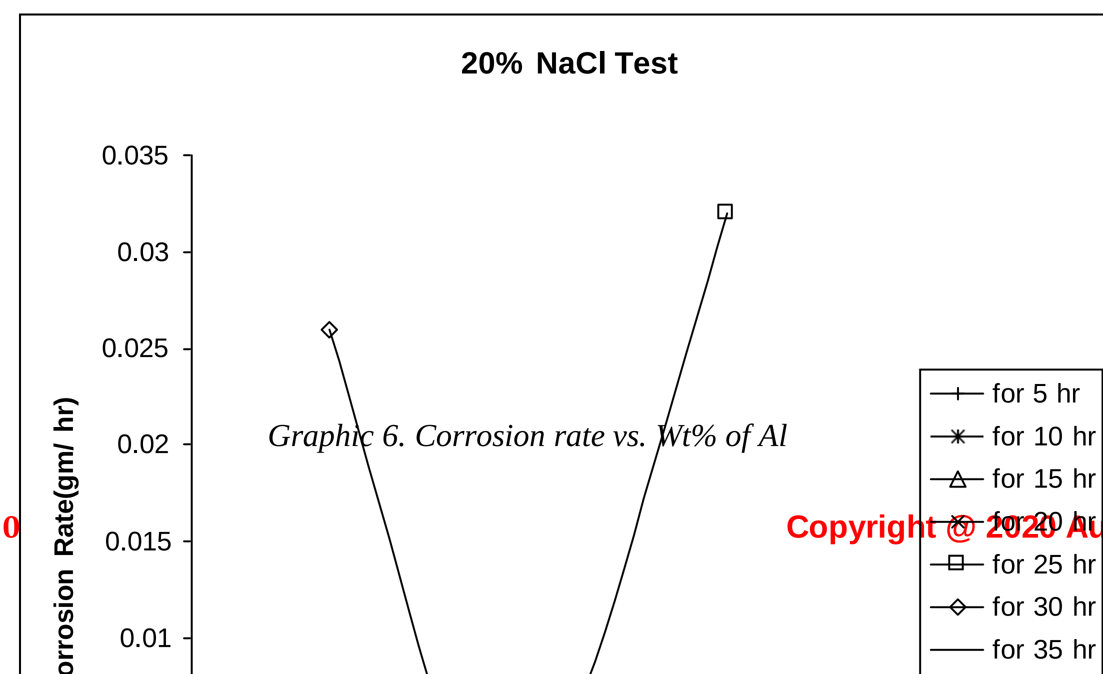
Corrosion Rate Vs. Wt% of Al with 20% NaCl Solution



Graphic 5. Corrosion rate vs. Wt% of Al on Pure Al

The graph above shows 20% NaCl test of different samples. It is however observed that with no corrosion rate in 5hrs, the rest for all are in the similar pattern. In the beginning, corrosion rate reduces with increasing the percentage of aluminum up to 8.4% Al. Then corrosion rate increases with increasing of aluminum. This is observed for increasing % Al up to 10.94% Al. The corrosion rate again decreases, though, after 5hrs, the rate of corrosion increases with increasing percentage of aluminum.

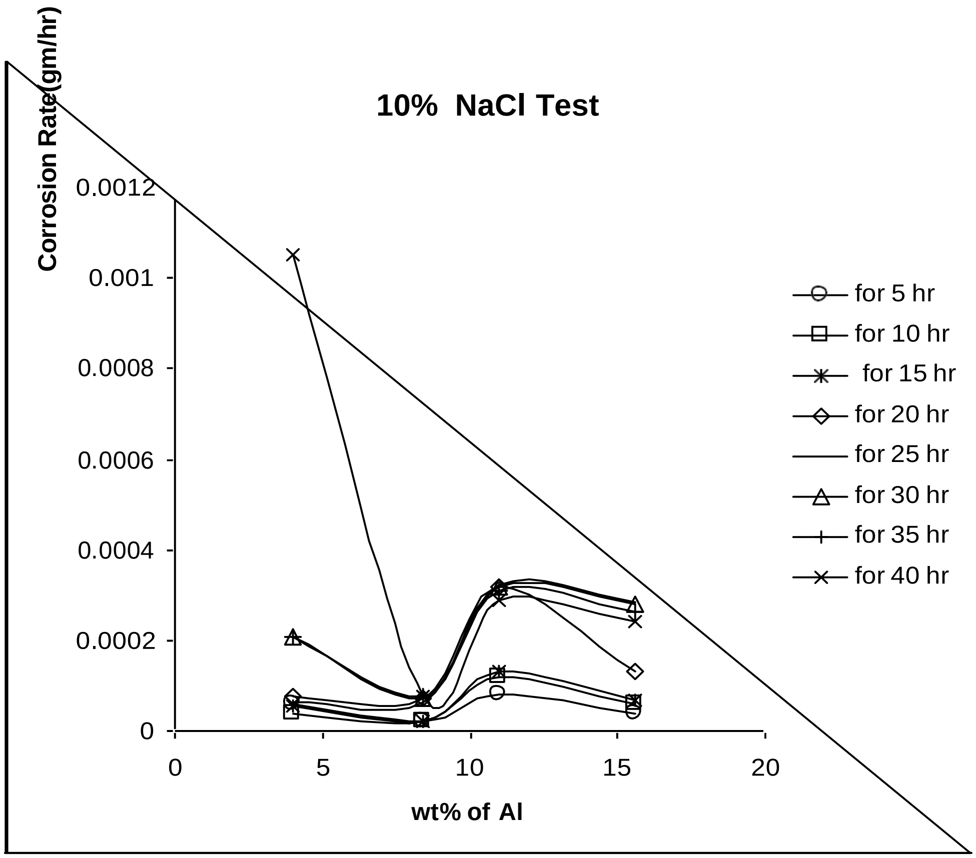
Corrosion rate for 25hr and 30hr again shows different behavior. As illustrated in the figure below. In 25hr, the corrosion rate is at first constant for increasing the percentage of aluminumup to 8.4% Al. Corrosion rate then increases abruptly. Corrosion rate decreases with increasing %Al. A decrease in corrosion rate is then detected as shown in the figure below.



Graphic 6. Corrosion rate vs. Wt% of Al

Corrosion Rate Vs. Wt% of Al with 10% NaCl Solution:

It is observed in the figure below that from 5 to 35hr are in the similar pattern. The rate of corrosion at first decreases up to about 8.4% Al then again increases up to about 10.94% Al. Corrosion rate again decreases sharply for 40hrs in first portion.



Graphic 7. Corrosion rate vs. Wt% of Al with 10% NaCl

Corrosion Rate Vs. Wt% of Al for 20% NaCl Solution

The figure below shows 5 to 35hr corrosion rate behavior with increasing in % of aluminumis the same. In such a case, corrosion rate slightly increases then decreases. Corrosion rate again increase. Corrosion rate in this stage is higher than the first case. In 40hr, corrosion ratedecreases then later it increases [11] confirms this.

According to Panzenböck, and Schütz, (2014) in the industrial situation, materials made from galvanized steel last longer especially industrial once which when painted may last for 25-40 years without having another coating in that period[12].

Again, the galvanization as a method of coating is considered better than the conventionaluse of paints in which some are organic and previous [13]. This compared to galvanization coating that is more resistant to external factors both physical and chemical.

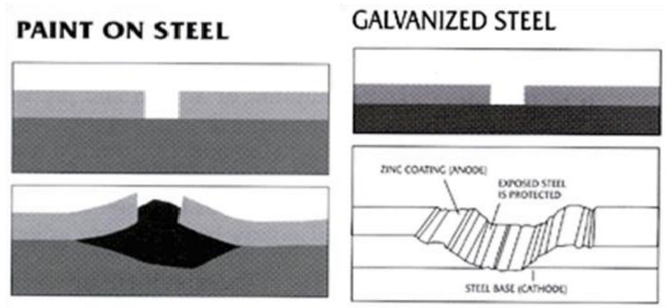


Figure 3. Steel Coatings

However, the ability of the galvanized materials to resist erosion and the resistance period is highly affected when they are exposed to extreme temperatures above 200C [14].
This can be diagrammatically represented as follows:

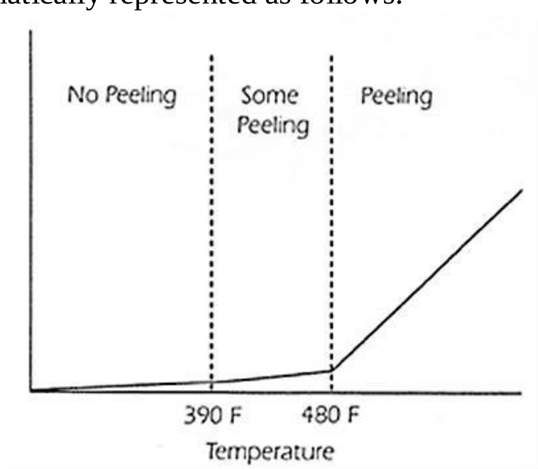


Figure 4. Material performance

Iron and steel are prone to corrosion hence need to undergo the galvanizing process for protection from such corrosions [15]. Simpson, (1993) affirms that aluminum is a very important element used in the galvanizing process because of its thick, hardness and other mechanical and physical properties [16]. The galvanizing process consists of various layers where the first metals are having iron zinc compounds then later covered entirely with aluminum. The importance of zinc coating varies on various things [17]. First is the slow rate of corrosion compared to that of iron, the less appearance of the zinc products and the protection of iron by zinc through the electrolysis process. The concentration of aluminum up to a percentage of 0.01% in an alloy of Cadmium and iron help in improving drainage and increment of the brightness of the coating. An aluminum concentration of a percentage lower than 0.01% is maintained in the zinc bath upon using bath flux. The coating in both zinc and steel are applied to protect the metal against corrosion [18].

4. CONCLUSION

When applied, the benefits of the aluminium coating—which range across economic, physical, and mechanical impacts—are quite clear. The galvanising method is recognised for its appealing and economical character, protecting the rusted industrial and commercial steel objects, according to Toi, Kobashi, and Iezawa (1994) [19]. Roofing nails, siding, and other fasteners are some examples. Iron with a zinc coating and painted galvanised steel have been used for commercial purposes since the 19th century. The corrugated sheet, which is utilised as a roofing material, is the product of the initial hot-dipping method. In the original hot-dip process, steel sheets were cleaned with sulfuric acid and ammonium chloride before being manually dipped into a bath of molten zinc. It's also crucial to remember that newly galvanised steel always undergoes the weather's normal progression. During the initial weeks of galvanization, an article develops a protective natural patina [20]. When patina is properly developed, it corrodes the active zinc.

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