



Effect of Limestone Waste as Partial Replacement Material for Sand and Silica Fume in Concrete

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Abstract

This paper presents the results of a study to compare the properties of concretes prepared with the use river sand, limestone waste (LSW), and silica fume (S.F). Two different types of concrete mixture were prepared, and tested in fresh and hardened states. Except for control concrete, quarry waste fine aggregate was used in all concretes as a partial replacement of natural sand. The effects of quarry waste fine aggregate on several fresh and hardened properties of the concretes were investigated. It was found that quarry waste fine aggregate enhanced the slump test of the fresh concretes. But the unit weight concretes were not affected. The investigation included testing of compressive strength, indirect tensile strength, flexural strength, modulus of elasticity, and permeability. However, the best performance was observed when quarry waste fine aggregate was used in presence of silica fume. The overall test results revealed that quarry waste fine aggregate can be utilized in concrete mixtures as a good substitute of natural sand.

Keywords: Hardened, LSW, Materials, Sand, Silica Fume, Concrete

Nomenclature: (LSW) limestone waste, (S.F) silica fume, manufactured sand (MS), N*: normal concrete 0.0% (S.F) & 0.0% (LSW), N25: 0.0% (S.F) & replacement sand 25% with (LSW) N50: 0.0% (S.F) & replacement sand 50% with (LSW), N75:0.0% (S.F) & replacement sand 75% with (LSW)

1-Introduction

Green concrete has nothing to do with color. It is a concept of thinking environment into concrete considering every aspect from raw materials manufacture over mixture design to structural design, construction, and service life. The concrete industry is known to leave an enormous environmental footprint on planet earth. Limestone waste is obtained as a by-product during the production of aggregates through the crushing process of rocks in rubble crusher units. Usually quarry waste is used in large scale as a surface finishing material in highways. Quarry waste has also good potential for producing normal and lightweight concretes^{1, 2}. T. Celikand K. Marar³ studied the effect of replacement of sand with limestone waste on slump test with different volume (0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30). It was found that, as the percentage of dust in the concrete increases, the slump of concrete decreases. Also, they concluded that the compressive strength in 7 and 28 days increases to a maximum of 22.47 and 32.38 MPa respectively at a dust content of 10%. As the dust content exceeds the value of 10%, the compressive strength decreases. For specimens of

dust content percentages of 0, and 5, the dust particles amount is not enough to fill all voids between cement paste and aggregate particles; hence they have lower compressive strength values than specimens of with 10% dust content. As the dust content exceeds 10%, the amount of fines in the concrete increases, so much that, there is not enough cement paste to coat all the coarse and fine aggregate particles, and this consequently leads to a decrease in compressive strength. Beixing et al.,⁴ found that incorporation of up to 15% limestone fines as a partial replacement for fine aggregate in lowstrength manufactured sand (MS) concrete or 10% limestone fines for in high-strength (MS) concrete improved compressive strength . R. Ilangovana et. al.,⁵ found that the natural river sand, if replaced by hundred percent quarry rock dust from quarries, may some times give equal or better than the reference concrete made with Natural Sand, in terms of compressive and flexural strength.

2- Research Program

The experimental test program was designed to achieve the research objectives of the study. The program consists of two phases; phase I with cement content 350kg/m³. One mix was control (normal concrete mix), three mix incorporating lime stone waste 25%, 50%, and 75% replacement from sand. Twelve mixes incorporating lime stone waste 0.0%, 25%, 50% and 75% replacement from sand with silica fume as additive by percent 5, 10, and 15% by cement weight. Phase II, the above experiment is repeated with

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the same components but with different content of cement. This content is 450 kg/m^3 .

The mechanical properties of green concrete were measured in term of compressive strength, indirect tensile (splitting tensile), flexural strengths, static modulus of elasticity test, and permeability test. The properties were measured at age 28 days indirect tensile (splitting tensile), flexural strengths, static modulus of elasticity test, and permeability test. For compressive strength were measured at 7, 28 and 90 days.

3- Materials Properties

Test specimens were prepared from available local materials. These include natural siliceous sand, crushed stone from Suez area, ordinary Portland cement OPC Suez Cement Company, tap drinking water, silica fume, chemical admixture, limestone waste from Suez area. Testing of these materials was carried out according to Egyptian Standard Specification. The silica fume (SF) used was obtained from factories of Egyptian Ferro-alloys Company located in Aswan, Egypt. A super-plasticizer namely (ADDICRETE BVF) was used. It is supplied from chemicals for modern building company. It meets the requirements of super-plasticizer according to ASTM C494-80 type A and F⁶. The chemical properties of the LSW used are shown in tables 1. Table 2 shows the physical and mechanical properties of LSW used.

Property %	Results %
SiO2	6.49
A12O3	0.78
Fe2O3	0.36
CaO	34.95
MgO	14.44
SO3	0.67
Na2O	0.10
K2O	0.40
CL	0.61
Loss on Ignition (L.O.I)	41

Table 1: The Chemical characteristics of the (LSW)

Table 2: Physical and mechanical properties of
limestone waste (LSW)

Property	Results	Limits
Specific Weight	2.61	
Bulk Density (t/m3)	1.56	
Water Absorption %	20.5	Not more than 2.5**
Clay and Fine Dust Content %	2.4	Not more than 4*
Flakiness Index %	36.8	Not more than 40*
Abrasion Index %	17.8	Not more than 30*

*Limits of ESS 1109/2002 ⁷, **Limits of ECCS203-2007 ⁸

4- Concrete Mix

Mixing was done in a standard drum-type mixer. Course and fine aggregate were first mixed in dry state until the mixture become homogenous. All binder materials (cement, and silica fume) were added to the dry mixture, and mixing continued until the mixture become homogenous. Finally, the mixing water containing the superplasticizer admixture was added to the rotating mixer and mixing continued to assure complete homogeneity. The concrete mixes were designed at fixed water-cement ratio of 0.47. In phase I, and II, the concrete mixes were designed to have a near constant slump in the range of 90-110 mm.

5- Details of Specimen

Compression test at 7, 28, and 90 days was carried out on 150x150x150 mm cubes⁹. Splitting test at 28 days was carried out on 150×300 mm cylinder¹⁰. Flexural strength test at 28 days was carried out on $100 \times 100 \times$ 500 mm prisms¹¹. Static modulus of elasticity at 28 days was carried out on 150×300 mm cylinder¹². Water permeability test at 28 days was carried out on 150×150 mm cylinder¹². All the test specimens were demoded after 24 hours and then stored under water in curing tanks with room temperature $(25\pm2^{\circ}C)$. The test was carried out according to Egyptian Stander Specifications ESS 1658-1991 Part 7¹³.

6- Test Results

6-1 Effect of Cement Content

The compressive strength was studied at 7, 28, and 90 days. From tables 3, 4 and Fig. 1, the effect of the cement content on the compressive strength of similar mixes can be seen. According to these results, the compressive strength of mix containing cement content of 450 kg/m³ is higher than the strength of mix prepared with 350 kg/m³.

The increase in the cement content resulted in an increase in the compressive strength of the normal concrete mixes as expected. About 20% strength gain was obtained when the cement content increased from 350 kg/m³ to 450 kg/m³ at 28 days. And these results were obtained at all other testes.



Fig.1: Effect of cement content in mix control on the compressive strength phase I (350 kg/m³)

Table 3: Result of the compressive strength specimens group (A) phase I

			Compressive		
Mix	%	%	strength (Mpa)		
symbol	LSW	S.F	7	28	90
			days	days	days
N* -350	0.0		26.2	33.5	36.7
N 25-350	25	0.0	27.9	38.1	39.7
N 50-350	50	0.0	29.3	37.7	40.9
N 75-350	75		28.1	31.8	35.2
S ₁₋₃₅₀		5	33.1	41.7	49.7
S ₂₋₃₅₀	0.0	10	39.6	48.6	52.1
S ₃₋₃₅₀		15	43.1	51.2	54.4
S 4-350		5	41	42.9	46.9
S 5-350	25	10	43.9	49.3	52.8
S ₆₋₃₅₀		15	46.5	53.6	56.3
S ₇₋₃₅₀		5	34.6	43.2	48.4
S 8-350	50	10	40.1	52.1	53.3
S 9-350		15	43.6	55.8	56.7
S ₁₀₋₃₅₀		5	28.8	37.5	40.3
S ₁₁₋₃₅₀	75	10	31.9	44.7	47.9
S ₁₂₋₃₅₀		15	34.2	47.5	52.1

Table 4: Result of the compressive strength specimens group (C) phase II

Mix	(MS	S.F)	Comp	ressive strength (Mpa)	
symbol	% (I) %	7 days	28 days	90 days
N*-450	0.0		29.7	41.7	45.8
N ₂₅₋₄₅₀	25	0.0	31.5	41.9	48.4
N ₅₀₋₄₅₀	50	0.0	28.9	40.3	45.2
N ₇₅₋₄₅₀	75		27.1	38.2	44.3
S ₁₋₄₅₀ S ₂₋₄₅₀ S ₃₋₄₅₀	0.0	5 10 15	40.1 46.7 49.4	48.4 57.4 61.1	51.2 58.8 62.2
S ₄₋₄₅₀ S ₅₋₄₅₀ S ₆₋₄₅₀	25	5 10 15	42.7 48.5 50.9	50.8 58 62	52.3 59.6 62.8
S ₇₋₄₅₀ S ₈₋₄₅₀ S ₉₋₄₅₀	50	5 10 15	34.9 36.8 39.8	46.5 48.7 52.1	48.6 52.2 54.4
S 10-450 S 11-450 S 12-450	75	5 10 15	31.1 35 37.7	45.2 48.6 53.3	49.6 52.3 57.3

6-2 Normal Concrete phase I

6-2-1 Effect of Limestone Waste (LSW)

Compressive strength test results of normal concrete with LSW with different replacement percentages are presented in table 3 and Fig. 2 for 0.0, 25, 50, and 75% respectively. Using LSW with levels 25% and 50% increased compressive strength of normal concrete about (6%, 12%, 8%)₂₅, (10%, 11%, 10%)₅₀ at 7, 28 and 90 days respectively, as compared with the normal concrete N*-350. Using LSW with level 75% increased compressive strength of normal concrete about 6% at 7 days as compared with the normal concrete N*-350. On the other hand, there is reduction about 5% and 4% at 28 and 90 days respectively, when replacement level of 75%, as compared with the normal concrete N^* -350. The loss of the compressive strength at a replacement level 75% can be related to its physical and chemical effects for limestone powder. Moreover, the percentage of free calcium hydroxide during the reaction of cement is increase, when powder content in LSW increases⁵.



Fig. 2: Effect of 25%, 50% and 75% LSW as a replacement from sand, on the compressive strength concrete, phase I (350 kg/m³)

6-2-2 Effect of Silica Fume (S.F)

Compressive strength test results of normal concrete with S.F with different addition percentages 5, 10 and 15% respectively are presented in Fig. 3. The appropriate use of S.F improves both the mechanical characteristics and the durability of concrete¹⁴. Using S.F as an additive in the concrete mixes show that the compressive strength increased about 20%, 31% and 34% for 5%, 10% and 15% S.F as an addition from the cement weight, at 28 days respectively. Also, it can be observed that the increased in compressive strength for higher ages it was not with the same range. The limited gain of strength as the percentage of S.F increased from 10 and 15 % may be explained that S.F content become in excess of the amount required to react with the available Ca(OH)₂ which was formed due to the cement hydration process.

The increase of strength due to the presence of S.F can be related to its physical and chemical effects^{15, 16}. The used of S.F can be enhancement the transition zone between aggregate and cement baste in concrete. This enhanced bonding is associated with the formation of a dense microstructure in the transition zone of the concrete containing S.F ¹⁷. The used of S.F can be enhancement the compressive strength between 1 to 90 days. However, the compressive strength of concrete mixtures containing silica fume did not increase after the age of 90 days ¹⁸.

6-3 Green Concrete

6-3-1 Effect of LSW Content, with S.F

Compressive strength of green concrete with 25%, 50%, and 75% LSW replacement at different percentages 5, 10, and 15% S.F respectively, are presented in Figs. (4, 5, 6) and table 3. It can be

observed that, the compressive strength markedly increased at different ages. The highest increase at 15% S.F. Using (25%, 50%, and 75%) LSW with 15% S.F increased the compressive strength about (28%, 32%, and 33%) as compared with normal mix N₂₅₋₃₅₀, N₅₀₋₃₅₀, N₇₅₋₃₅₀ at 28 days, respectively. But using LSW with S.F increased the compressive strength about (3%, 1% and 5%)₂₅, (3%, 6% and 8%)₅₀ and (10%, 8% and 7%)₇₅, respectively as compared with concrete containing S.F only as an additive materials, at 28 days. The results derived from compressive strength tests showed that LSW was more effective than S.F in terms of early strength gain, this results in agreement with S. turkel et. al., ¹⁹

The combined use of LSW and S.F exhibited excellent performance due to efficient micro filling ability and pozzolanic activity of $S.F^{20}$.



Fig 3: Effect of S.F contents as an addition material from cement weight, on compressive strength,



Fig4: Effect of 25 % LSW, with 5, 10 and 15 % S.F. as addition by weight from cement, phase I (350 kg/m³)



Fig5: Effect of 50 % LSW, with 5, 10 and 15 % S.F, as addition by weight from cement, phase I (350 kg/m³)



Fig6: Effect of 75 % LSW, with 5, 10 and 15 % S.F. as addition by weight from cement, phase I (350 kg/m³)

It can be observed that the negative effects of reduced compressive strength in the green concrete was compensated by the inclusion of S.F into the concrete. Concrete containing S.F has recorded reduction in compressive strength than the green concrete containing 25% and 50% LSW with 5, 10, and 15% S.F. On the other hand, concrete containing S.F has recorded higher compressive strength than the green concrete containing 75% LSW with 5, 10, and 15% S.F. The beneficial effects of S.F in the strength development and durability properties of concrete are widely accepted. The contribution of S.F to the positive effects in the strength in concrete has been attributed to direct water reduction, the increase in the effective volume of paste in the mix and its pozzolanic reaction. Besides the effect of chemical reaction, S.F has a physical effect of improving the microstructure of the hydrated cement paste. Therefore, it can be mentioned that LSW can be utilized as partial replacement material from sand, in the presence of S.F, to produce concretes with accepted range of compressive strength^{3, 5, and 15}. Incorporation of S.F in concrete significantly increased the compressive strength compared to control²¹.

6-4 Normal Concrete Phase II

6-4-1 Effect of Limestone Waste (LSW)

Compressive strength test results of normal concrete with LSW with different replacement percentages are presented in table 4, and Fig. 7 for 0.0, 25, 50, and 75%, respectively. Using LSW with level 25% increased compressive strength of normal concrete about 5%, 0.5%, 5% at 7, 28 and 90 days respectively, as compared with the normal concrete N*-450. On the other hand using LSW with levels 50% and75% decreased compressive strength of normal concrete about (2%, 3%, 1%)₅₀, (8%, 8%, 3%)₇₅ at 7, 28 and 90 days respectively, as compared with the normal concrete N*-450. The reduction in the compressive strength of concrete is probably due to the large amount of calcium hydroxide resulting from the hydration process of the cement and LSW. Moreover, the loss of the compressive strength at a replacement level 50% and 75% can be related to its physical and chemical effects for limestone powder. Moreover, the percentage of free calcium hydroxide during the reaction of cement is increase, when powder content in LSW increases⁵.





6-4-2 Effect of Silica Fume (S.F)

Compressive strength test results of normal concrete with S.F with different addition percentages 5, 10, and 15% respectively, are presented in table 4, Fig. 8. The appropriate use of S.F improves both the mechanical characteristics and the durability of concrete⁷⁰. Using S.F as an additive in the concrete mixes show that the compressive strength increased about 13%, 27% and 31% for 5%, 10% and 15% S.F as an addition from the cement weight, at 28 days respectively. Also, it can be observed that the increased in compressive strength for higher ages it was not with the same range. The limited gain of strength as the percentage of S.F increased from 10 and 15% may be explained that S.F content become in excess of the amount required to react with the available $Ca(OH)_2$ which was formed due to the cement hydration process.



6-5 Green Concrete

6-5-1 Effect of (LSW) Content, With (S.F)

Compressive strength of green concrete with 25%, 50%, and 75% LSW replacement at different percentages 5, 10, and 15% S.F respectively, are presented in Figs. (9, 10, 11) and table 4. It can be observed that, the compressive strength markedly increased at different ages. The highest increase at 15% S.F. Using (25%, 50%, and 75%) LSW with 15% S.F increased the compressive strength about 32%, 22%, and 28% as compared with normal mix $N_{\rm 25\text{-}450},\ N_{\rm 50\text{-}540},\ \text{and}\ N_{\rm 75\text{-}450}$ at 28 days, respectively. Moreover, using LSW with S.F increased the compressive strength about (4%, 1% and 1%)₂₅, (3%, 15% and 14%) 50, and (6%, 15% and 12%) 75 as compared with concrete containing S.F only as additive materials, at 28 days, respectively. It can be observed that the negative effects of reduced compressive strength in the green concrete were compensated by the inclusion of S.F into the concrete. Concrete containing S.F has recorded reduction in compressive strength than the green concrete containing 25% LSW with 5, 10, and 15% S.F. On the other hand, concrete containing S.F has recorded higher compressive strength than the green concrete containing 50% and 75% LSW with 5, 10, and 15% S.F. The beneficial effects of S.F in the strength development and durability properties of concrete are widely accepted. The contribution of S.F to the positive effects in the strength in concrete has been attributed to direct water reduction, the increase in the effective volume of paste in the mix and its pozzolanic reaction. Besides the effect of chemical

reaction, S.F has a physical effect of improving the microstructure of the hydrated cement paste. Therefore, it can be mentioned that LSW can be utilized as partial replacement material from sand, in the presence of S.F, to produce concretes with accepted range of compressive strength^{3, 5, and 15}.



Fig 9: Effect of 25 % LSW, with 5, 10 and 15% S.F, as an addition by weight from cement phase II (450 kg/m³)



Fig 10: Effect of 50% LSW, with 5, 10 and 15% S.F, as an addition by weight from cement phase II (450 kg/m³)



Fig 11: Effect of 75 % LSW, with 5, 10 and 15% S.F. as addition by weight from cement phase II (450 kg/m³)

6-6 Tensile Strength

Tables 5, 6 and Figs (12, 13) show the results of the splitting tensile strength for normal concrete specimens and specimens having 50% LSW as a replacement from sand by weight with S.F with 15% as addition by weight from cement. The above experiment is being done on the phases I and II.

Table 5: The tensile strength of concrete specimens, for selected mixes group (A), phase I

			350 Kg/m ³	
Mix	%	%	$f_{sp,28}$	
symbol	(LSW)	(S.F)	day	f_{sp}/f_{cu}
			Мра	
N *-350	0	0	3.7	11
S 3-350	0	15	6.1	11.9
S ₉₋₃₅₀	50	15	6.5	11.6

Table 6: The tensile strength of concrete specimens, for selected mixes group (C), phase II

			450 Kg/m ³	
Mix	%	%	$f_{sp,28}$	
symbol	(LSW)	(S.F)	day	f_{sp}/f_{cu}
			Мра	
N *-450	0	0	4.7	11.3
S ₃₋₄₅₀	0	15	7.4	12.1
S 9-450	50	15	7.1	13.6

6-6-1 Effect of LSW Content, With S.F

Splitting tensile strength of green concrete with 50% LSW replacement at different 15% S.F is presented in Figs. (12, 13) and tables (5, 6) respectively, It can be observed that, the splitting tensile strength markedly increased at 28 days. Using 50% LSW with 15% S.F increased the splitting tensile strength about 43% as compared with normal concrete mix N*-350. On the other hand, using 50% LSW with 15% S.F increased the splitting tensile strength about 33% as compared with normal concrete mix N*-450. As shown from tables (5,6), the ratio of the indirect tensile strength to the compressive strength ($\mathbf{f}_{sp}/\mathbf{f}_{cu}$) of the mix containing 50% from LSW as replacement from sand weight, and 15% S.F as an addition by weight from cement, was generally similar to that of the corresponding normal concrete mix at the same cement content. This result agree with 67 who concluded that a very small growing in this noticed for the concrete containing, 50% LSW and 15% S.F as well as the normal concrete mix with the increase of the cement content.





Fig13: Effect of S.F and LSW with S.F on the tensile strength, phase II (450 kg/m³)

6-7 Flexural Strength

Tables (7, 8) and Figs (14, 15) show the results of the Flexural strength for normal concrete specimens and specimens having 50% LSW as a replacement from sand by weight, with S.F by 15 % as addition by weight from cement. The above experiment is being done on the phases I and II.

		350 Kg/m ³		
Mix svmbol	% (LSW)	% (S.F)	$f_{ m fl,28~day}$	$f_{ m fl}$ / $f_{ m cu}$
~	(_~)	()	Мра	
N * ₋₃₅₀	0	0	5.69	18.2
S ₃₋₃₅₀	0	15	7.16	19.1
S 9-350	50	15	7.3	19.8

Table 7: Flexural strength of concrete specimens, for selected mixes group (A) phase I

Table 8: Flexural strength of concrete specimens, for selected mixes group (C) phase II

	4			50 Kg/m ³	
Mix symbol	% (LSW)	% (S.F)	$f_{ m fl,28~day}$	$f_{ m fl}$ / $f_{ m cu}$	
	(_~ ')	(~~~~)	Мра		
N *-450	0	0	7.6	17.7	
S ₃₋₄₅₀	0	15	10.7	17.5	
S ₉₋₄₅₀	50	15	10.2	19.5	

6-7-1 Effect of LSW Content, With S.F

Flexural strength of green concrete with 50% LSW replacement with 15% S.F is presented in Figs (14, 15), and tables (7, 8). It can be observed that, the flexural strength markedly increased at 28 days. Using 50% LSW with 15% S.F increased the flexural strength about 21% as compared with normal concrete mix N*₋₃₅₀.

On the other hand, using 50% LSW with 15% S.F increased the flexural strength about 25% as compared with normal concrete mix N^* ₋₄₅₀.



Fig. 14: Effect of S.F and LSW with S.F on the flexural strength, phase I (350 kg/m³)



Fig.15: Effect of S.F and LSW with S.F on the flexural strength, phase II (450 kg/m^3) $\,$

6-8 Modulus of Elasticity

6-8-1Effect of (LSW) Content, With (S.F)

It is obvious from the results of modulus of elasticity of green concrete increased with increasing the LSW with S.F. The limited gain of the modulus of elasticity was up to 9.2% and 26.7% as compared with normal concrete mix N^*_{-350} . On the other hand, the limited gain of the modulus of elasticity was up to 1.8% and 6.5% as compared with normal concrete mix N^*_{-450} .

6-9 Water Permeability

The water permeability of concrete are presents by the average coefficient of permeability, K, for the three concrete test cylinders. It can be observed that the coefficient of permeability, K, decreases as the dust content increases. The highest coefficient of permeability was 6.8×10^{-10} cm/sec for normal concrete mix N*-350, and the lowest was 4.49×10^{-10} cm/sec for mix content 15% S.F. As the same time the coefficient of permeability was 4.23×10^{-10} cm/sec for mix content 50% LSW, with 15% S.F.

As the same time is happen in concrete containing cement 450 kg/m³, it can be observed that the coefficient of permeability, K, decreases as the dust content increases. The highest coefficient of permeability was 6.03×10^{-10} cm/sec for normal concrete mix N*.450, and the lowest was 3.98×10^{-10} cm/sec for mix content 15% S.F. As the same time the coefficient of permeability was 4.1×10^{-10} cm/sec for mix content 50% LSW, with 15% S.F, and mix content 50% LSW. The addition of LSW to the concrete improves the impermeability of concrete because it blocks the passages connecting capillary pores and the

water channels. This blockage is affected by the amount of dust content in the LSW, and the more water passages were blocked, the more reduction in the permeability of concrete specimens is observed. The permeability is decease at LSW is increased, similar findings have been reported is earlier studies ³.

7- Conclusions

From the analysis and discussion of test results obtained from this research, the following conclusions can be drawn

- 1- The workability of green concrete did not affected by the LWS percentage.
- 2- Using LSW up to 50% replacement increase the compressive strength.
- 3- When increasing cement content from 350 kg/cm³ to 450 kg/cm³ in presents of the LSW with different percentage decrease the compressive strength.
- 4- Presences of silica fume with LSW (up to 50%) increase the compressive strength in mixes with low cement content (350 kg/cm³).
- 5- The same trend of results of compressive strength for other tests (indirect tensile , flexural test, modules of elasticity, and permeability)

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