CEL 774 IIT DELHI Construction pRACTICES

(Lecture 1-3) Concrete: Production B. Bhattacharjee

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What is CONCRETE?

 Ordinarily concrete is made by mixing an inorganic material known as cement with water together with natural sand or stone dusts and natural stones which may be uncrushed or crushed.



Cement



Sand/ Fine Aggregate



Stone / Coarse Agg.



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CEMENT

– Most commonly used cement is called Portland Cement patented in 1824 in England, when mixed with water, hardens, hence hydraulic cement.

Sasic raw materials used in the manufacture of cement are calcium carbonate found in lime Stone or chalk, and silica, alumina and iron oxide found in clay or shale.



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AGGREGATES



Cement-sand Mortar -Aggregate Aggregates forms the skeleton matrix
60-75% by volume.
25-40% Paste
1-2% Voids.

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> Aggregate shall be inert and strong.



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ADMIXTURES

- Chemical Admixture: Used for specific Property/performance enhancement.
- Mineral Admixture: Used for improvement of long term strength and durability performance.

Using above admixtures together, high Strength and high performance concrete Materials can be designed.



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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF CONCRETE

- Lower life cycle cost
- Mould-ability
- Robustness.
- Can be designed for desired property
- Low tensile strength.
- Lower ductility (brittle)

Concrete is most popular construction material.



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CONCRETE & COMPOSITES

- Normal strength Concrete
- High strength/performance concrete
- Ultra high strength concrete
- Fiber Reinforced Concrete.
- Densified with small particle (DSP)
- Macro Defect Free (MDF) Matrix
- Reactive Powder Concrete (RPC)
- Polymer Concrete (PC)
- Polymer cement concrete



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DESIGNATION OF NORMAL STRENGTH CONCRETE

- Concrete is designated through 28 day Standard cube compressive strength.

In Indian Standard Code of practice (IS 456)

 a concrete is designated by its characteristic cube
 compressive strength at 28 days, the cube
 being cast, cured and tested in a standard manner.
 Concrete is designated as M25 has a 28 day
 Characteristic standard cube strength of 25 MPa.



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- ✤ Normal strength concrete: ≤ 60MPa
- ♦ High strength concrete: $60 \le f_C \le 120MPa$.
- ✤ Ultra High strength concrete: ≥ 120MPa.
- Performance at fresh state: Self Compacting
- Long term durability performance.

> Concrete is a versatile construction material.



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SUMMARY

Concrete Material.

- Natural aggregates, cement or cementitious and water and also admixtures.
- Concrete composites.
- Concrete is designated by characteristics 28 day cube compressive strength.
- Performance of concrete at fresh, hardening and hardened state.



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- Batching by mass (weights) as reproducibility of loose volume is inadequate and is not economical.
- Control and storage of materials Aggregate bins for storing aggregate. Silos for storing cement and cementitious materials



Batching Plant

- Components of a Batching Plant

-A) Aggregate bins for various types of aggregates.

– B) Feeding mechanisms such as scrappers, conveyors or hoists etc. to transfer aggregate to scales (balances).

– C) Balance and measuring system.



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Batching Plant

- Components of a Batching Plant

- *–D) Cement silos and a conveyor screw or bucket conveyor .*
- E) The storage tank for water and water measuring system .
- F) Dispenser for chemical (liquid) admixture.



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BATCHING

- Plant Type can be cyclic or continuous.
- Plant Type can be automatic or manual
- Accuracy:

Recommendation of IS 456 is $\pm 2\%$ for the quantity of cement measured and $\pm 3\%$ for the quantity of aggregate, water and admixture being measured.



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PLANT CAPACITY

- Capacity depends on

- 1) size of the job;
- 2) required production rate; and
- ♦ 3) required standard of batching performance.

➤ Capacity of the material handling system, bin size, batcher size and; mixture size and number controls the capacity Q=min(Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4.....)



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INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENTS

- mechanical lever system, load cells etc for measurements of mass.
- Controlling the discharge from storage and weigh hoppers is through gates operated by compressed air cylinders.
- Presetting of desired batch weights can be done by devices such as punched cards, digit switches or rotating dials and computers.



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INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENTS

- Electrical or microwave moisture gauges can be used as aggregate moisture meters.
- Water is most commonly measured through flow meters, although in some plants water is also weighed.
- With the need of adequate calibration, frequent regulatory routine and specialist's checks of weighing process are required without too much difficulty.



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TOLERANCES (individual Batch IS 4925)

Ingredient	Batching tolerances (%)
Cement and other cementitious materials	±1
Water (by volume or weight),%	±1
Aggregates, %	±2
Admixture (by volume or weight),%	±3



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TOLERANCES (individual Batch)

tolerances applies to: Minimum weight (kg) = [0.3×scale capacity (kg)] /Weigh tolerance (%) as in table Uniform concrete exhibits less variation. Variation depends on variation in proportions •e.g., higher ΔC and ΔW , the errors in cement & water measurements will result in higher variation in strength.

Proper Batching ensures better quality



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MIXING

- Thorough mixing is essential for production of uniform quality concrete.
- Equipment and method should be capable of effectively mixing concrete material containing largest specified aggregate to produce uniform mixtures of the lowest slump practical for the work.



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MIXING

- uniformity tests on samples of fresh concrete collected from the mixer at different stages of its discharge from a given batch.
- Charging: pre-blending and ribboning effect
- Mixing Time: 1minute is required for 0.75 m3 capacity mixer and 0.25 minute is required for each additional 0.75 m3 capacity



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MIXING TIME

– IS guide lines

■ IS 4925-1968 "mixing time for each batch of materials, except the full amount of water, provided that all the mixing water shall be introduced before one-fourth the mixing time elapsed" shall be 11/2, 2 and 21/2 minutes respectively for mixer capacity up to 2 m3, 3 m3 and 4 m3 respectively. IS 456 : 2000 guidelines specifies a overall minimum mixing time of 2 minutes



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MIXING TIME

-increasing mixing time may result in more uniform distribution of hydration product resulting in higher compressive strength
-prolonging the mixing process too long may not increase the strength proportionally and may result in a decrease in some cases.

-over grinding of the material and in some cases may increase the proportion of fines. Quite often excessive mixing leads to segregation in case of leaner concretes.



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SUMMARY

Concrete production process
 Batching process and its importance in

producing quality concrete

–Mixing process for producing uniform quality concrete



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A CONTROL MARK

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