

This is very much applicable in the construction process. By determining this value, it is understandable how much water is to be mixed with cement to get the desired concrete. It is useful to determine the w/c ratio and nominal consistency of the cement in desired concrete in case of construction process.

Q1 Why cone test is done for fine aggregate? Briefly discuss the process?

Answer:

To achieve the SSD condition of the aggregate the cone test is done for the fine aggregates are very fine particles. In this test, the cone is placed with the large diameter down on a glass plate and is filled over-flowing with dry sand. Then the aggregate is slightly tamped with 25 light drops of tampers. Each drop should start about 1/5 inch above the top surface. If surface moisture is still present, the fine aggregate will retain in the molded shape. When the sand achieve an SSD condition, the sand will slump.

The value of $ASG (G-D)$ will be greater than the value of $BSG (G-D)$. In the equation it is seen that value of specific gravity is the ratio of wt of aggregate and wt of water occupying permeable pore. In case of $ASG (G-D)$ wt permeable pore is needed. As in this case, the water which is inside permeable pores is avoided. So this wt of water will be lower than that of SSD and $BSG (G-D)$. As a result, the value of specific gravity will be higher in case of $ASG (G-D)$.

Q1 What is effective absorption capacity of aggregate (SSD basis)? What is its use?

Answer:

The Effective absorption capacity in SSD condition means what percentage (amount) of water present in the pores of the aggregate particle to its total weight.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percentage of effective absorption SSD basis} &= \frac{\text{SSD wt} - \text{Air-dry wt.}}{\text{Sample wt (SSD)}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{S-H}{S} \times 100\% \end{aligned}$$

Assignment Questions:

1) How bulk specific gravity (O-D), bulk specific gravity (SSD) and apparent specific gravity (AD) can be corrected? Which one is greater and why?

Answers:

Bulk specific gravity (O-D), bulk specific gravity (SSD) and apparent specific gravity all are the ratio of wt of aggregate and water in the aggregates wt. This value of specific gravity in all cases gives the porosity of the aggregates particles. The difference is that in each case wt of aggregates and volume of water which wt need to be calculated is determined in different condition. Actually,

$$BSG(O-D) = \frac{\text{Oven dry wt of aggregate}}{\text{wt of water occupying in equal volume including permeable pores.}}$$

$$BSG(SSD) = \frac{\text{SSD wt of aggregates}}{\text{wt of water occupying equal volume including permeable pore}}$$

$$ASG(AD) = \frac{\text{Oven dry wt of aggregate}}{\text{wt of water occupying equal volume excluding permeable pore.}}$$

Materials used:

- Coarse aggregate
- Fine aggregate
- Water

Apparatus used:

- Balance
- Pycnometer
- Npld
- Tampere
- Sample container
- Sieves
- Water tank

Objective :

The objective of this experiment is to determine specific gravity and absorption of fine and coarse aggregate.

Scope :

The measured water absorption rate and specific gravity of aggregate is routinely used design and construction of pavement materials and structure. With the specific gravity of each constituent known, its weight can be converted into solid volume and hence a theoretical yield of concrete per unit volume can be calculated. This specific gravity is also used in calculating the percentage of voids and the solid volume of aggregates in computation of yield, knowing the specific gravity of aggregates is also critical to the construction of water filtration systems, slope stabilization projects, railway bedding, calculating the compacting factor. The absorption is important in determining the net water-cement ratio in concrete mix.

In a gradation curve, value of sieve opening, size is put on 'X' axis and percentage finer by weight or percentage retained on the sieve is put on 'Y' axis. From this curve we can find how much percentage retained on each sieve and we can sum the values and divide it by 100 and there we can find the fineness modulus of that aggregate sample.

strength of that concrete will be high as there is lack of porosity in the concrete. Gap grading is a kind of grading which lacks one or more intermediate size and there will be some porous.

On the other hand, uniformly graded and open graded aggregates has more porous and if we produce concrete with these types of aggregate, then there will be pore and it will decrease the compressive strength of the concrete.

2. Fineness modulus of the aggregate sample can be calculated by using the gradation curve - explain

Answer: We know that, the fineness modulus is an empirical factor obtained by adding the cumulative percentage of aggregates retained on each of the ASTM standard sieves and dividing this sum arbitrary by 100.

$$FM = \frac{\sum \text{cumulative \% retained on the standard sieves up to no. 100}}{100}$$

Assignment Questions and Answers

1. How aggregate gradation can affect the compressive strength of concrete?

Answer: We can know that there are five different kinds of distribution in aggregate gradation. They are -

- i) dense graded
- ii) gap graded
- iii) Uniformly graded
- iv) Well graded
- v) Open graded

Each gradation or distribution types plays an important role in determining the compressive strength of the concrete. Dense and well-graded aggregates are desirable for making concrete, as the space between larger particles is effectively filled by smaller particles to produce a well packed structure and for this compressive

particles and a dense graded aggregate would be needed. From sieve analysis we can find the fineness modulus of the aggregate which is an empirical factor obtained by adding the cumulative percentage of aggregates retained on each of the ASTM standard sieves and dividing this sum arbitrarily by 100.

So, from this test we can get fineness modulus.

Objective:

The objective of this experiment is

Scope of the test:

The sieve analysis commonly known as the gradation test determines the distribution of aggregate particles, by size, within a given sample in order to determine compliance with design, production control requirements and verification specifications. It is a very good quality control and quality acceptance tool.

Gradation is usually specified for each engineering application it is used for. For example:

Open graded bases are preferred because of the storage and treatment benefits. Gradation is primarily a concern in pavement mix design. Concrete could call for both coarse and fine

From whole lot, we chose the bricks whose characteristics are common in them. We don't choose any unique one from them. For testing, the sample should be almost same in color, testing and size. Representative samples are selected from lot which show average characteristics. So that while getting result, the variation must be not exceed the limit and we will get proper result.

3. What are the possible effects of efflorescence in construction? How it can be controlled?

Ans: There are some effects of efflorescence in construction.

i) Dampness: As salt dissolves in water easily, the dry water for efflorescence will become damp, wet.

ii) Color: For efflorescence, on the surface

These are some basic criteria of a capping material. The strength of the capping material must be greater than brick itself. Because, while testing compressive strength, if capping material's strength is less than brick, then the failure load of capping material will be obtained, not of brick.

2. What is representative sample? How representative samples of brick are selected from a lot?

Ans: While choosing sample for this test, there is a lot of bricks. From each lot of 1,000,000 bricks, ten bricks are selected. These samples are called representative sample.

Representative samples of brick are selected from a lot by investigating basically three characteristics.

1. Color
2. Texture
3. Size

Basic criteria of a capping material?

Ans: Capping is needed for various purpose, some are given below:

i) The surface that will be exposed in compressive strength test must be uniform. Because strength is measured by load per unit area. If the exposed surface has any deformation, then we will not uniform surface. Actual strength will not be found as a result.

ii) If capping is not done, then, using bricks in walls will not be easy. Because bricks have to be placed one after another. If capping is not done, then for the depression, hollow will be created.

Basic criteria of a capping material -

Results:

The average crushing strength of the sample brick is 20.96%. The average absorption capacity was 20.96%.

Discussion:

(i) Efflorescence was seen in all the sample bricks which is not good quality of the sample bricks. Excessive efflorescence can cause expansion that may disrupt the surface.

(ii) According to the ASTM specification C67, the compressive strength of 1st class bricks should not be less than 2500 psi. In the experiment, the average compressive strength of the sample bricks was 5820 psi which satisfies the required.

Source: ASTM specification
C67

(iii) According to the ASTM specification C67, bricks should not absorb more than $\frac{1}{6}$ th of their own weight of water. But in our experiment, the average absorption capacity was 20.96% which was more than $\frac{1}{6}$ th of their own weight of water. This behaviour of bricks is not accepted as excessive will create void and affects the strength and durability.

Apparatus:

1. Capping mold.
2. Testing machine.
3. Trays and containers.

Objective:

The objective of the experiment is to test and sample of bricks for compressive strength, efflorescence and absorption.

Scope of the test:

Brick is an important structure element which is used in brick flat slating, masonry walls, sometimes in load bearing wall. Compressive strength of brick helps us to determine how much load brick can carry. By doing efflorescence test, we can know the presence of salt in brick. Efflorescence creates dampness, deformation of plaster. Efflorescence test is necessary to know the presence of dampness in structure. Again, more absorption of water of bricks causes large strength decreasing. So, absorption test is also necessary.

Material Used:

1. Cement (Quick hardening cement)
2. Sand.
3. Capping material.

related to water-cement ratio of concrete?

Answer: The compressive strength of concrete is related to water-cement ratio of concrete. If the water-cement ratio is high, the compressive strength of concrete will be decreasing gradually. The reason is that if the amount of water is high, then all the water particles will not be able to participate in the hydration reaction with all the cement particles. As a result, there will be a lack of hydration and the compressive strength of the concrete will be low. On the other hand, if the water-cement ratio is low, perfect hydration reaction will occur between the water and the cement particles. So, in this case the compressive strength of concrete will be higher.

2. Why it is necessary to do slump test? How it

of concrete is one of the most significant property.

Actually, workability means how easily we can handle, mix, use and transport any concrete. It refers to the ability of flowing concrete. In slump test, at first the concrete is placed or filled through a funnel. Then after, the funnel has removed, how much displacement of the concrete has occurred is measured. This is the slump value. If the concrete is more flowable, then the slump value will be higher. In this case, the concrete will be a preferable workable concrete. If the slump value of concrete is low, the workability of concrete will be also low.

3. Why compressive strength of concrete using cube specimen gives higher value than that from cylindrical-

In cube, length is equal to diameter.

So, $\frac{L}{D}$ ratio is 1. On the other hand, in case of cylindrical specimen length is greater than diameter and $\frac{L}{D}$ ratio is greater than 1. As $\frac{L}{D}$ ratio of cube specimen is less than 1.75, we have to correct the strength value by multiplying by the appropriate correction factor. Generally, we get 20-30% more compressive strength in cube than cylindrical specimen.

4. Define combined failure and mortar failure of concrete. Which type of failure is preferable and why?

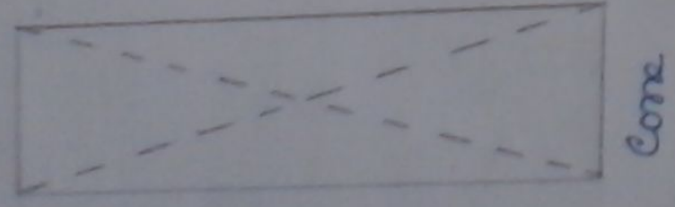
Answer: If the test specimen is loaded beyond its maximum stress limit, then it breaks through a line. When fine aggregate and coarse aggregate remain unchanged this failure of cement is known as mortar failure.

When both coarse and fine aggregate as well as cement particles break through the breaking

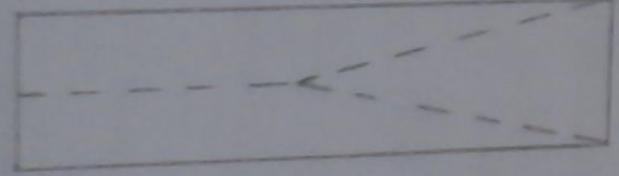
breaking line, this type of failure is known as combined failure.

Combined failure is preferable. Because this type of failure shows that the compaction process is perfect and all other particles of aggregates along with water have mixed properly. The concrete which shows this combined failure can break all the aggregates and it has capacity to bear the stress uniformly over the total surface. On the other hand, premature failure of concrete indicates the poor compaction and unsatisfactory mixing of the aggregate. So, combined failure is preferable.

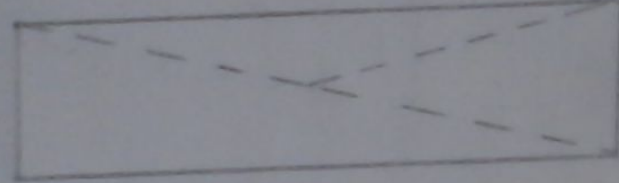
(v) While crushing cylindrical specimens following fractures are seen:



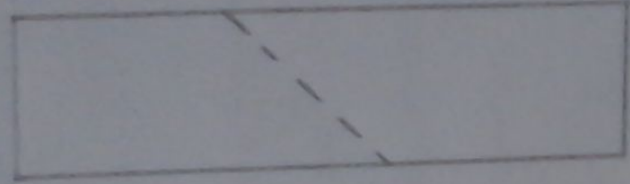
Cone



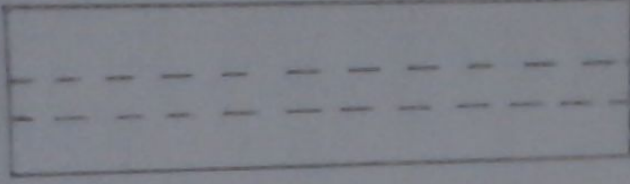
Cone and Split



Cone and Shear

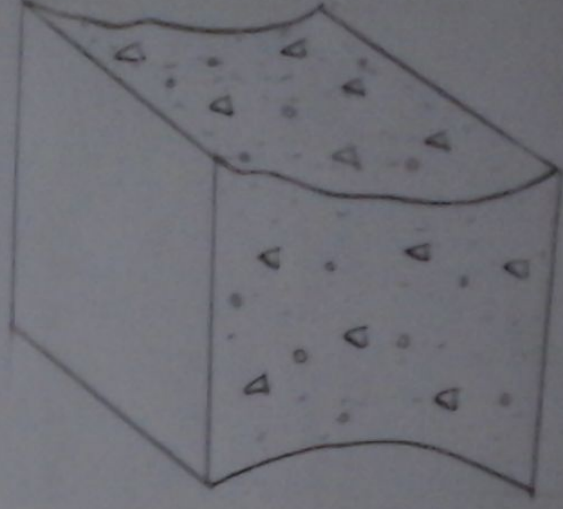
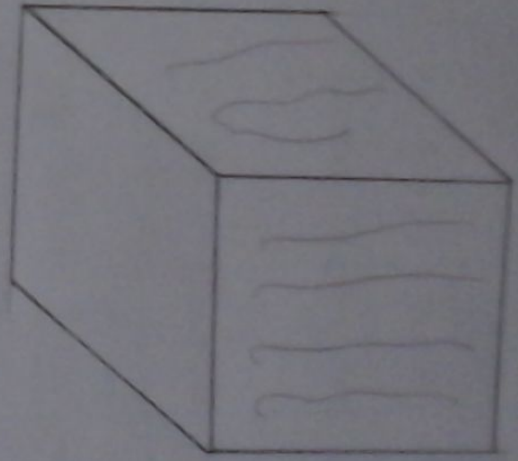


Shear



Columnar

(vi) While crushing cube specimens, following fractures are seen.



Sketches of Satisfactory types of fracture for cube

Discussion:

(I) The cylindrical concrete specimens tested in accordance to the ASTM specifications C39 and the cube concrete specimens tested accordance to the British standard specification BS1881.

Source: ASTM specification and British standard specification.

(II) From the compressive strength vs w/e ratio curve at different ages for both cubes and cylinders, compressive strength decrease with the increase of w/e ratio.

(III) From the compressive strength vs age curve at different w/e ratio for both cubes and cylinders, compressive strength increase rapidly. Then the rate of increasing compressive strength becomes slower gradually.

(IV) In case of cube specimens, the compressive strength is relatively lower than the cylindrical specimens on the surface area of cube is greater than that of cylindrical specimen.

Apparatus:

1. Cylindrical and cube molds
2. Weighing machine
3. Metal buckets
4. Scoop
5. Compacting bar or vibrator
6. Concrete mixture
7. Slump testing mold
8. Sampling tray
9. Compression testing machine.

Objective:

The objective of the test is to determine the compressive strength of concrete using cylindrical and cube specimens.

Scope of the test:

The experiment gives the value of compressive strength of concrete which is an important parameter of any structure made of concrete.

The compressive strength of concrete is the most common performance measure used by the engineers in designing buildings and other structures. Concrete is used as a major element of any structure as it can bear compressive strength which is the most important factor for the existence of the structure.

Materials Used:

1. Coarse aggregate
2. Fine aggregate
3. Cement (PCC - type II)