Concrete Mix Design

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Concrete Mix Design

Mix design is defined as the process of selecting suitable ingredients of concrete and determine their relative proportions with the object of producing concrete of certain minimum strength and durability as economically as possible.

- Variables in Proportioning :4 varaible factors to be considered:

1. Water – cement Ratio
2. Cement –aggregate ratio
3. Gradation of the aggregates
4. Consistency

- In design mix ,generally 2-3 factors are specified & others are adjusted.
- To use minimum amount of cement paste that can lubricate the mass and will bind the aggregates together and fill the space between them.
- Excess paste involves more cost, shrinkage, impermeability etc.
- Good gradation of aggregates to minimize voids.

Methods of Proportioning

1. Indian Standards Recommended method IS 10262-82
2. American Concrete Institute Method of Mix Design (ACI 211)
3. DOE method
4. Mix design for pumpable concrete
5. Indian Road Congress , IRC 44 method
6. Road note no.4 (Grading curve method)
7. Mix design based on flexural strength
8. Arbitrary proportion
9. Fineness modulus methods
10. Maximum density method
11. Surface area method

American Concrete Institute Method of Mix Design (ACI)

Data to be collected:

a) Fineness modulus of fine aggregates
b) Sp gravity of coarse & fine aggregates
c) Absorption characteristics of coarse & fine aggregates
d) Sp gravity of cement

STEPS IN ACI METHOD

1. From minimum strength specified, estimate average design strength using standard deviation method
2. Find w/c ratio from table 2. Find water cement ratio for durability from table 3. adopt lower value.
3. Decide maximum size of aggregate (generally 20 mm for RCC)
4. Decide workability in terms of slump for the type of job in hand. Table 4.
5. Total water in kg/m3 is read from table 5 entering the table with selected slump & selected maximum size of aggregate.
6. Cement content is computed by dividing total water content by w/c ratio.

7. From table 4 the bulk volume of dry rodded coarse aggregate / unit volume of concrete is selected, for particular maximum size of coarse aggregate & fineness modulus of fine aggregate.
8. The weight of CA /M3 of concrete is calculated by multiplying the bulk volume with bulk density.
9. The solid volume of coarse aggregate in one M3 of concrete is calculated by knowing the sp. Gravity of CA
10. Solid volume of cement, water & volume of air is calculated in one m3 of concrete
11. Solid volume of sand is calculated by substracting soild volume of cement, CA,water, & air from total volume of concrete.
12. Weight of fine aggregate is calculated by multiplying the solid volume of fine aggregate by sp gr of FA.

(1) Dry Bulk Volume of coarse aggregate/ unit volume of concrete as per ACI 211.1-91

Maximum size of aggregate	**Bulk volume of dry rodded CA /unit volume of concrete for fineness modulus of sand of**			
FM	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.OO
10	0.5	0.48	0.46	0.44
12.5,	0.59	0.57	0.55	0.53
20 (25,40,50,70)	0.66	0.64	0.62	0.60
150	.87	0.85	0.83	0.81

(2) Relation between water/cement ratio & average compressive strength of concrete, as per ACI211.1-91

Average compressive strength at 28 days	Effective water/cement ratio (by mass)	
MPa	Non air entrained concrete	Air entrained concrete
45	0.38	-
40	0.43	-
35 (30,25,20)	0.48	0.4
15	0.8	0.71

(3) Requirements of ACI-318-89 for w/c ratio & strength for special exposure conditions

Exposure condition	**Maximum w/c ratio, normal density aggregate concrete**	**Minimum design strength, low density aggregate concrete MPa**
Concrete intended to be watertight		
(a) Exposed to fresh water	0.5	25
(b) Exposed to sea water	0.45	30
Concrete exposed to freezing in a moist condition	0.45	30
For corrosion protection of reinforced concrete exposed to de icing salts, sea water	0.4	33

(4) Recommended value of slump for various types of construction as per ACI 211.1-91

Type of construction	Range of slump (mm)
Reinforces foundation walls & footings	20-80
Plain footings,substructure wall	20-80
Beams & reinforced walls	20-100
Building columns	20-100
Pavements & slabs	20-80
Mass concrete	20-80

(5) Approximate requirements for mixing water & air content for different workabilities & nominal maximum size of aggregates as per ACI211.1-91

Non air entrained concrete				
Workability or air content (Slump)	Water content, kg/m3 of concrete for indicted maximum aggregate size			
	10 mm (25, 40,50,70)	12.5 mm	20 mm	150 mm
30 -50 mm	205	200	185	125
80-100 mm	225	215	200	140
150-180 mm	240	230	210	-
Approx entrapped air (%)	3	2.5	2	0.2

(6) First estimate of density of fresh concrete as per ACI 211.1-91

Maximum size of aggregate (mm)	First estimate of density of fresh concrete	
	Non air entrained kg/m^3	Air entrained kg/m^3
10	2285	2190
12.5 (20,25,40,50)	2315	2235
20	2355	2280
150	2505	2435

(7) Required increase in strength (mean strength) for specified design strength when no tests records are available as per ACI 318-89

Specified design strength (MPa)	Required increase in strength (MPa)
Less than 21	7
21-35	8.5
35 or more	10

Example –ACI method

Design a concrete mix for construction of elevated water tank.

a) Specified design strength = 30 MPa
b) Standard deviation = 4 MPa
c) Sp gr. FA & CA = 2.65 & 2.7
d) Dry rodded bulk density of CA = 1600 kg/m3
e) FM of FA = 2.8
f) Slump = 50 mm
g) CA is absorptive up to = 1 %
h) Free surface moisture in sand = 2 %

Calculation

- Mean Strength fm = fmin+ks (k =1.64)
- fm = 30+1.64x4 = 36.56 say 36.5
- From table 2 w/c = 0.47
- From exposure condition w/c = .5
- Minimum of 0.47 & 0.5 = 0.47
- From table 5 for slump 50 mm, 20 mm maximum aggregate & non air entrained condition Mixing water is 185 kg/m3
- Required cement content = 185/0.47 = 394 kg/m3
- From table 1, for 20 mm CA, FA 2.8, the dry rodded bulk vol of CA = 0.62
- Weight of CA = 0.62x1600 = 992 kg/m3
- From table 6,the first estimate of density of fresh concrete for 20 mm CA & non air entrained concrete is 2355 kg/m3
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- Weight of all ingredient :
- Weight of water = 185 kg/m3
- Weight of cement =394 kg/m3
- Weight of CA = 992 kg/m3
- Weight of sand = 2355 –(185+394+992) = 784 kg/m3

ingredients	Weight kg/m3	Absolute volume cm3
cement	394	$394/3.15 \times 10^3 = 125 \times 10^3$
Water	185	$185/1 \times 10^3 = 185 \times 10^3$
CA	992	$992/2.7 \times 10^3 = 367 \times 10^3$
air		$2/100 \times 10^3 = 20 \times 10^3$
	Total abs vol	697×10^3 cm3

- Therefore absolute vol of FA =(1000 -697) X 10^3 = 303 10^3 cm3
- Weight of FA = 303 x 2.65 = 803 kg/m3
- Estimated qty of ingredients;

a) Weight of water = 185 kg/m3

b) Weight of cement =394 kg/m3

c) Weight of CA = 992 kg/m3

d) Weight of sand = 803 kg/m3

- Proportion
- C : FA : CA ; WATER
- 394: 803 : 992 : 185
- 1 : 2.04 : 2.52 : 0.47
- For one bag of cement 50 kg Ratio in kg is = 50:102:126:23.5