IOSR Journal of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (IOSR-JMCE)
e-ISSN: 2278-1684,p-ISSN: 2320-334X, Volume 22, Issue 2 Ser. I (Mar. –Apr. 2025), PP 83-85
www.iosrjournals.org

Determination of Compression Index for Clays with Low Compressibility

Amardeep Singh[1], Manish Gupta[2], R. Chitra[3] and Shahid Noor[4]
[1]Corresponding Author and Scientist 'E'
Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Government of India, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016.
[2]Scientist 'E', [3]Director and [4]Scientist 'E'
Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Government of India, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

Abstract
Compressibility of a soil mass is its susceptibility to decrease in volume under pressure and is indicated by soil characteristics like coefficient of compressibility, compression index and coefficient of consolidation. It is one of the most important engineering properties of soils and is used for the determination of rate of settlement and total amount of settlement of soil masses. However,the determination of soil compressibility characteristics in the laboratory is a cumbersome and time consuming process. On the other hand, determination of soil index properties such as particle sizes, Atterberg Limits etc. is relatively simpler and less time consuming. There are several existing models in literature which predict the compressibility characteristics of soil as a function of its index properties. However, the development of correlations between liquid limit and compression index values for Clays with low compressibilities is a hitherto unexplored area and the same is attempted in this study. In the present study, seven different models have been selected from literature. Six of these models have been in practice in geotechnical engineering field and the seventh model was proposed for the Indian soils in 2023. All of these models predict compression index as a function of Liquid Limit of soils. A total of 19 nos. of soil samples having IS classification as CL (Clay with low compressibility) collected from different Indian water resources projects were analysed. The collected samples were subjected to laboratory investigations for the determination of geotechnical parameters namely liquid limit and compression index. Based on experimental results, the efficacy of Liquid Limit Based Compressibility Estimates for Clay with low compressibility has been estimated.
Keywords: *soil compressibility characteristics, compression index, Clay with low compressibility, liquid limit, correlation models.*
Disclaimer: *The views expressed in this paper are strictly individual views of the authors and do not, in any way, represent the views of the department/organization where they are presently working.*

I. Introduction

Shear strength, compressibility and permeability are considered to be the three most important properties of a soil mass applicable in areas such as in the design and analysis of dams, retaining walls, soil foundation systems and in other applications pertaining to geotechnical engineering practice. Among these three, compressibility isthe most significant parameter while evaluating the settlement of soil under the load of an infrastructure constructed on that soil mass (Tiwari and Ajmera, 2012). Compressibility of a soil mass is its susceptibility to decrease in volume under pressure and is indicated by soil characteristics like coefficient of compressibility, compression index and coefficient of consolidation. Although coefficient of volume compressibility is the most suitable, and most popular, of the compressibility coefficients for the direct calculation of settlement of structures, its variability with confining pressure makes it less useful when quoting typical compressibilities or when correlating compressibility with some other property. For this reason, the compression index of soils is generally preferred as its value does not change with the change in confining pressure for normally consolidated clays (Carter and Bentley, 1991, Gulhati and Datta, 2005). However, the determination of compression index in the labs is a cumbersome and time consuming process. Hence several attempts have been made in the past to correlate the value of compression index of soils with index properties of soil which are relatively easier to determine and take lesser time.

II. Literature Review

In the literature several correlations have been proposed whereby compressibility characteristics like compression index have been evaluated using liquid limit, natural moisture content, initial void ratio, plasticity index, specific gravity, void ratio at liquid limit, and several other properties of soil. Skempton (1944) and Terzaghi and Peck (1967) have given equations correlating compression index with the liquid limit of soils. Wroth and Wood (1978) used critical state soil mechanics concepts to deduce a relationship between compression index, plasticity index and specific gravity of remoulded clays. Nagaraj and Murthy (1983) proposed equations to evaluate the valueof compression index with specific gravity and void ratio at liquid limit of soils. Di Maio et al. (2004) conducted one dimensional consolidation tests on the mixtures of bentonite and kaolin as well as other natural clays and observed a good correlation between compression index and void ratio at liquid limit of soils. Tiwari and Ajmera (2012) prepared 55 different soil specimens in the laboratory by mixing various proportions of montmorillonite, illite, kaolinite, and quartz at initial moisture contents equal to the liquid limit and proposed two different equations to estimate the compression indices of remoulded clays with liquid limit, one for soils with activities less than one and the other for soils with activities greater than one. Establishing empirical equations for quantifying relationship between C_C and index properties is a practical and quick solution to predict C_c (Fan et al. 2021).

In the present study, seven different models have been selected from literature. Six of these models have been in practice in geotechnical engineering field and the seventh model was proposed for the Indian soils in 2023. All of these models predict compression index as a function of Liquid Limit of soils.

These seven models have been given below:

Table 1: List of Models Linking C_C with LL

S. No.	Equation	Reference
1.	C_c = 0.007(LL-7)	Skempton (1944)
2.	C_c = 0.046(LL-9)	Cozzolino (1961)
3.	C_c = 0.009(LL-10)	Terzaghi and Peck (1967)
4.	C_c = 0.006(LL-9)	Azzouz et al. (1976)
5.	C_c = (LL-13)/109	Mayne (1980)
6.	C_c = 0.0014 LL-0.168	Park and Lee (2011)
7.	C_c = 0.004(LL-7)	Singh et. al (2023)

III. Methodology of the Present Study

In the present study, seven different models have been selected from literature. Six of these models have been in practice in geotechnical engineering field and the seventh model was proposed for the Indian soils in 2023. All of these models predict compression index as a function of Liquid Limit of soils. A total of 19 nos. of soil samples having IS classification as CL (Clay with low compressibility) collected from different Indian water resources projects were analysed. The collected samples were subjected to laboratory investigations for the determination of geotechnical parameters namely liquid limit and compression index. Based on experimental results, the efficacy of Liquid Limit Based Compressibility Estimates for Clay with low compressibility has been estimated.

IV. Conclusions

The accuracy of all the seven proposed Models towards prediction of Compression Index of Indian Soils based on the Liquid Limit values were evaluated and the results have been shown below:

Table 2: Accuracy of Models Linking C_C with LL

S. No.	Model	Mean Value Difference (Absolute Value)	RME Values
1	Skempton (1944)	0.056	0.070
2	Cozzolino (1961)	0.093	0.112
3	Terzaghi and Peck (1967)	0.057	0.071
4	Azzouz et al. (1976)	0.069	0.089
5	Mayne (1980)	0.058	0.074
6	Park and Lee (2011)	0.094	0.106
7	Singh et. al (2023)	0.099	0.117

V. Discussions

A perusal of the above table shows that the model proposed by Skempton (1944) can predict the Compression Index values most accurately with the least deviation in the mean estimated values and the least value of Root Mean Squared Errors. On the other hand, the model proposed by Singh et. al (2023) is the least accurate as it gives maximum deviation in the mean estimated values and the highest value of Root Mean

Squared Errors. It is interesting to note here that Singh et. al (2023) was able to predict the Compression Index values most accurately with the least deviation in the mean estimated values and the least value of Root Mean Squared Errors for soils for Indian hydropower projects. This illustrates that the correlations are very specific to the classification of the soil in question and should be used with extreme caution. Moreover, it may be mentioned here that the prediction of engineering properties using the index properties is a dynamic process and in the light of more results obtained, the accuracy of the models may change.

The scatter plot for both these models is displayed below.

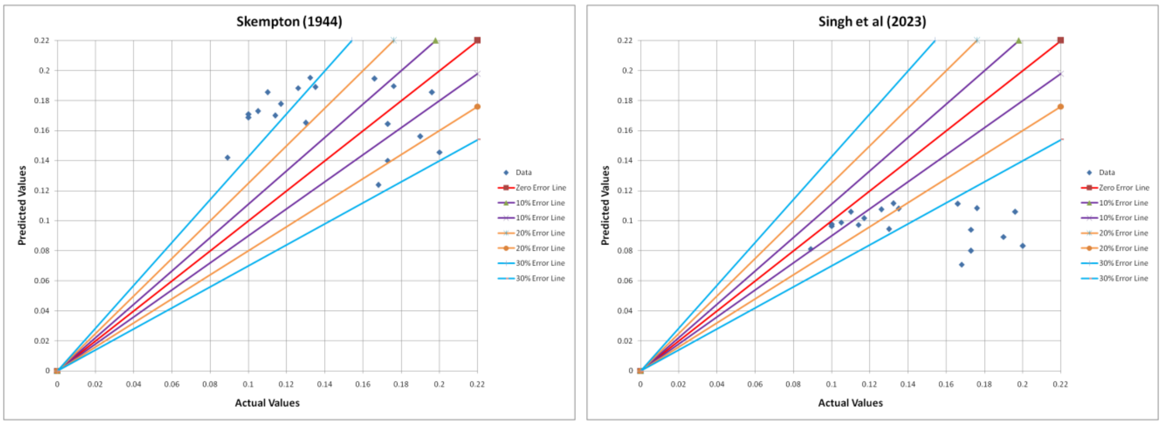

Fig. 1 Actual Compression Index, C_c versus predicted Compression Index C_c obtained by Skempton (1944) and Singh et al (2023)

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the Officers and Staff of Soil Mechanics discipline, CSMRS for their role in carrying out geotechnical investigations pertaining to the present work.

References

[1]. Azzouz A. S., Krizek, R. J., Corotis R. B. "Regression Analysis of Soil Compressibility." Soils Found. 1976: 16:19-29.doi:10.3208/sandf 1972.16.2_19.

[2]. Carter, M. and Bentley, S. P. (1991). "Correlations of Soil Properties." Pentech Press, London.

[3]. Cozzolino, V. M. (1961). "Statistical forecasting of compression index." Proc., 5th Int. Conf. on Soil Mech. And Found. Engrg., Paris, France, Vol. 1, 51-53.

[4]. Di Maio, C., Santoli, L., and Schiavone, P. (2004). "Volume Change behavior of Clays: the influence of Mineral Composition, Pore Fluid Composition and Stress State." Mech. Mater., 36(5-6), 435-451.

[5]. Fan, R., Liu, J., Liu, S., Du, Y., Liu, M., and You, S. (2021). " Predicting the Compression Index of Saturated Reconstituted Contaminated Clays using Soil Index Properties" KSCE Journal of Civil Engineering, Volume 25 No. 9, pp 3289-3297.

[6]. Gulhati, S. K., and Datta, M. (2005). "Geotechnical Engineering." Tata Mc Graw Hill Publishing Company Limited, New Delhi.

[7]. Mayne, P. W. (1980). "Cam-clay predictions of undrained strength." J. Geotech. Engrg. Div., ASCE, 106(11), 1219-1242.

[8]. Nagaraj, T. S., and Srinivasa Murthy, B. R. (1986). "A Critical Reappraisal of Compression Index Equation." Geotechnique, 36(1), 27-32.

[9]. Park H Il, Lee, S. R.(2012). "Evaluation of the compression index of soils using an artificial neural network." Comput Geotech 2011:38:472-81.doi:10.1016-j.compgeo.2011.02.011.

[10]. Singh, A., Gupta, M., Chitra, R., Noor, S. and Varma S. (2023). "Evaluation of Compressibility Characteristics of Indian Soils." International Journal of Engineering Inventions, 12(3), 322-324.

[11]. Skempton, A. W. (1944). "Notes on the Compressibility of Clays." Q. J. Geol. Soc. London, 100(1-4), 119-135.

[12]. Terzaghi, K. and Peck, R. B. (1967). "Soil Mechanics in Engineering Practice."John Wiley, London.

[13]. Tiwari, B. T. and Ajmera, B. (2012). "New Correlation Equations for Compression Index of Remoulded Clays." J. Geotech. Geoenviron. Eng., 138(6), 757-762.

[14]. Wroth, C. P. and Wood, D. M. (1978)."The correlation of Index Properties with Some Basic Engineering Properties of Soils." Canadian Geotechnical Journal, 15, 137-145.