

Determination of Compressibility Parameters for Irish Soft Soils

Amardeep Singh¹, Manish Gupta², R. Chitra³, Shahid Noor⁴ and Swapna Varma⁵

¹Corresponding Author and Scientist 'D',

Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Government of India, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016.

²Scientist 'E', ³Director, ⁴Scientist 'D' and ⁵Scientist 'C'

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 soils as a function of its index properties. In the present study, six different models have been selected from literature. All these models have been in practice in geotechnical engineering field and predict compression index as a function of Liquid Limit of soils. A total of 61 nos. of soft Irish soil samples obtained from literature 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 soft Irish Soils has been estimated.

Keywords: soil compressibility characteristics, compression index, soft Irish Soils, 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.

Date of Submission: 12-03-2023

Date of acceptance: 29-03-2023

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 is the 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 value of 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, six different models have been selected from literature. All these models have been in practice in geotechnical engineering field and predict compression index as a function of Liquid Limit of soils.

These six 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)

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE PRESENT STUDY

In the present study, an attempt has been made to estimate Compression Index as a function of soil index properties. A total of 61 nos. of soft Irish soil samples obtained from literature were analysed (McCabe et al., 2014). Based on results, the efficacy of above six Liquid Limit Based

Compressibility models has been estimated for the soft Irish Soils.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The accuracy of all the six proposed Models towards prediction of Compression Index of soft Irish 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)	0.0255	0.001353
2	Cozzolino (1961)	0.1313	0.018816
3	Terzaghi and Peck (1967)	0.1215	0.015003
4	Azzouz et al. (1976)	0.048	0.003328
5	Mayne (1980)	0.1041	0.011064
6	Park and Lee (2011)	0.386	0.14914

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 Park and Lee (2011) is least accurate for the soft Irish Soils. The scatter plot for both these models is displayed below.

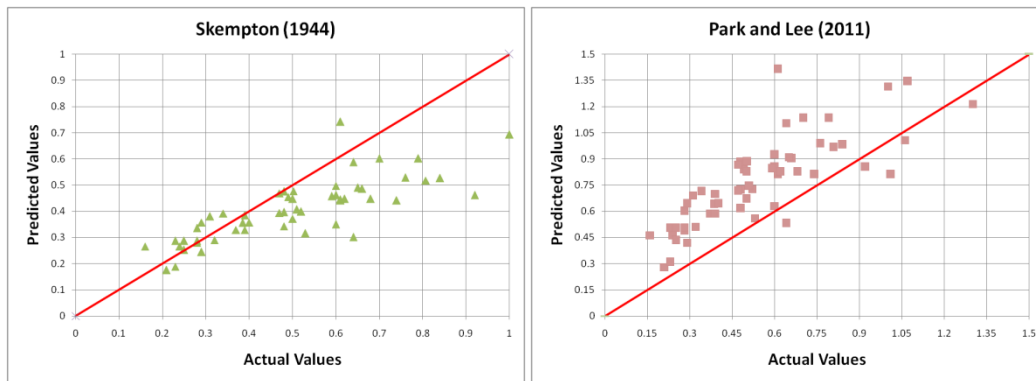


Fig. 1 Actual Compression Index, C_c versus predicted Compression Index C_c obtained by Skempton Model (1944) and Park and Lee Model (2011)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Officers and Staff of Soil Mechanics discipline, CSMRS for their role in carrying out geotechnical investigations of 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]. McCabe, B. A., Sheil, B. B., Long, M. M., Buggy, F. J., and Farrell, E. R. (2014). "Empirical Correlations for the Compression Index of Soft Irish Soils" *Geotechnical Engineering*, Volume 167, Issue GE6, pp510-517.
- [9]. Nagaraj, T. S., and Srinivasa Murthy, B. R. (1986). "A Critical Reappraisal of Compression Index Equation." *Geotechnique*, 36(1), 27-32.
- [10]. 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.compege.2011.02.011.
- [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.