# ALGORITHM FOR CONCRETE MIX DESIGN BASED ON BRITISH METHOD 

Ezeh, J. C. and Ibearugbulem, Owus M.<br>Civil Enginerring Department<br>Federal Universityof Technology, Owerri, Nig.


#### Abstract

Most of the methods of concrete mix design developed over the years were geared towards manual approach. Apart from being characterized by rigorous complication in computation, manual concrete mix design is prone to errors and mistakes inherent in the calculation during interpolations and reading of charts. Useful time is also wasted in the processes involved in the manual method. This paper presents the result of a study aimed at solving the above problems through the development of a mathematical algorithm based on the British Method of concrete mix design. The tables used in this algorithm are the same as those used in the British Method, however, Charts or figures in the British method were converted into polynomial equations. QBASIC program was written to ease the use of the algorithm, and was also used in solving two examples. The results obtained from the algorithm were compared with those obtained based on the British method and the differences between them were found to be less than $10 \%$ in each example. Hence, the algorithm developed in this paper is working with minimum error. It is recommended for use in obtaining good results for normal weight concrete mix design.


Key words: Concrete mix design; British method; Manual Approach; Algorithm.

## INTRODUCTION

Numerous methods of concrete mix design have been developed over the years. Most of these methods are based on manual concrete mix design. The manual method of concrete mix design is associated with problems that include: rigorous complications in computation and reading of charts; need for skilled and experienced designers; wastage of useful time in the processes; prone to errors and mistakes , especially during interpolations and reading of charts. These problems have become a major constraint, and interest is being generated on the need for an alternative approach to concrete mix design.

High - performance concrete (HPC) has been referred to as "engineered
concrete", implying that an HPC mixture is not specified in a generic recipe, but rather designed to meet project - specific needs (Simon [1]). The readily availability of digital computers has revolutionized the entire system of concrete mix design especially for HPC. The objective of this paper is to contribute to the availability of engineered concrete mixes. According to Shetty [2], concrete mix design is defined as the process of selecting suitable ingredients of concrete and determining the relative quantities with the objective of producing an economical HPC. This definition of mix design emphasizes two main requirements thus: that the concrete should have certain minimum specified properties; and it has to be as economical as
possible (Neville [3]). Also, Jackson[4] in his own definition noted that concrete mix design is a procedure that ensures that for any given set of conditions, the proportion of the constituent materials are chosen so as to produce an HPC at a minimum cost .

With the above definitions in focus, the authors of this paper developed an algorithm based on the British Method of concrete mix design. To achieve our objective, the charts in the British Method were converted into polynomial equations and the tables in that method were also adopted .The algorithm was tested with examples and the results obtained were compared with those obtained by Teychenne et. al. [5] and the comparison showed that the differences between them were all less the $10 \%$. Considering the present readily availability of PCs, we strongly recommend this algorithm for use in concrete mix design.

## ALGORITHM AND TRANSFORMATION OF FIGURES INTO EQUATIONS:

The procedure involved in this method is described as follows:

STEP 1: The figure for relationship between the standard deviation and characteristic strength was used to calculate target mean strength.

$$
\begin{equation*}
F_{m}=F_{c}+K * S \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

$F_{m}, F_{c}$ and $S$ are target mean strength, characteristic strength and standard deviation. $K$ is the probability factor for 5\% defection. According to Teychenne et al [5], $K$ is taken as 1.645 and the standard deviation can be predicted using table 1 .

STEP 2: Free water/cement ratio was calculated using table 2 and the figure for
"relationship between compressive strength and water-cement ratio." (Teychenne et al [5]).

We transformed the figure for "relationship between compressive strength and free water-cement ratio ( $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}$ ) into two parabolic equations for uncrushed and crushed stones as follows:
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}=0.000295 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{2}-0.0312 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}+1.291$
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}=0.00008519157 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{2}-0.01571 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}+$
1.0097
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}=0.000295 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{2}-0.0312 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}+1.351$
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}=0.00008519157 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{2}-0.01571 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{m}}+$ 1.0697

Equations (2) and (3) are for uncrushed stone with compressive strength of (10 42)Mpa and $(42-80) \mathrm{Mpa}$ respectively. Equations (4) and (5) are for crushed stone with compressive strength of $(10-42) \mathrm{Mpa}$ and (42-80)Mpa respectively.

STEP 3: Free water content (Fwc) for the required workability was determined from table 3 (Teychenne et al [5]).

STEP 4: The cement content was calculated by substituting the values obtained in steps 2 and 3 into equation (6).

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{Fwc} / \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

STEP 5: Here the figure for "wet density of fully compacted concrete (Wdcc)" was used to calculate the wet density of the fully compacted concrete. The figure was transformed into six linear equations as:
Wdcc $=-1.71875$ Fwc +2896.875
$W d c c=-1.59375$ Fwc +2804.375
Wdcc $=-1.4375$ Fwc +2703.75
Wdcc $=-1.25 \mathrm{Fwc}+2605$

Wdcc $=-1.03125$ Fwc +2493.125
Wdcc $=-0.925 \mathrm{Fwc}+2402$
Equations (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12) were equations obtained for saturated surface dry densities (SSDD) of 2.9, 2.8, $2.7,2.6,2.5$ and 2.4 respectively.

STEP 6: The aggregate content (Ac) was calculated by substituting the values obtained in steps 3,4 and 5 into equation (13).

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Ac}=\mathrm{Wdcc}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Fwc} \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

STEP 7: The figure for "proportion of fine aggregate for BS 882 grading zones 1, 2, 3 and 4. (Teychenne et al [5]) was used to determine the proportion of fine aggregate (Pfa) required. This figure was transformed into 60 linear equations. The 60 linear equations consist of 20 equations each for the three maximum sizes of aggregates: $10 \mathrm{~mm}, 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ and 40 mm respectively.

Maximum aggregate size of 10 mm :
i). Slump of $0-10 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=12.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+20 \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 80\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+23 \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=17.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+28 \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+35 \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 15\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+47 \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

ii). Slump of $10-30 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+20 \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 80\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=12.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+27 \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+31 \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathbf{c}}+37 \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+45 \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

iii). Slump of $30-60 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=12.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+22 \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+27 \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $60 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+34 \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $40 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=20 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+41 \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Pfa}=30 F_{w / c}+48 \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

iv). Slump of $60-180 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=12.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+27 \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+31 \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=17.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+37 \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $40 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=25 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+45 \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+56 \tag{33}
\end{equation*}
$$

Maximum aggregate size of 20 mm :
i). Slump of $0-10 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=12.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+14.25 \tag{34}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 80\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=13.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+17 \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $60 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=16.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+19.99 \tag{36}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=20.83 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+24.751 \tag{37}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 15\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=26.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+29.499 \tag{38}
\end{equation*}
$$

ii). Slump of $10-30 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=10.83 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+16.251 \tag{39}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+18 \tag{40}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=18.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+21 \tag{41}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+26.25 \tag{42}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+31.75 \tag{43}
\end{equation*}
$$

iii). Slump of $30-60 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=11.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+17.99 \tag{44}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 80\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+19.5 \tag{45}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $60 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=16.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+24.499 \tag{46}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $40 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+29.75 \tag{47}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+35.75 \tag{48}
\end{equation*}
$$

iv). Slump of $60-180 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\mathrm{Pfa}=13.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathbf{c}}+20
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+23.5 \tag{50}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=19.17 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+27.25 \tag{51}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+35.25 \tag{52}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 15\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=26.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+43.5 \tag{53}
\end{equation*}
$$

Maximum aggregate size of 40 mm :
i). Slump of $0-10 \mathrm{~mm}$

For 100\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=14.17 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+9.25 \tag{54}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+12 \tag{55}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=18.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+14 \tag{56}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $40 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+17.75 \tag{57}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{Pfa}=26.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+23 \tag{58}
\end{equation*}
$$

ii). Slump of $10-30 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=11.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+14.5 \tag{59}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+13.5 \tag{60}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=17.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+16.25 \tag{61}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=22.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+20.25 \tag{62}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 15\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=28.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+24.5 \tag{63}
\end{equation*}
$$

iii). Slump of $30-60 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=13.33 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+13.5 \tag{64}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 80\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=14.17 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+16.25 \tag{65}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=17.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+19.25 \tag{66}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $40 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=21.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+24.5 \tag{67}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 15\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+28.75 \tag{68}
\end{equation*}
$$

iv). Slump of $60-180 \mathrm{~mm}$

For $100 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=14.17 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+16.25 \tag{69}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $80 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=15 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+19.5 \tag{70}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 60\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=19.17 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+27.25 \tag{71}
\end{equation*}
$$

For 40\% passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=21.67 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+30 \tag{72}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $15 \%$ passing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Pfa}=27.5 \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{c}}+35.75 \tag{73}
\end{equation*}
$$

Fine aggregate content, Fac is given as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Fac}=\mathrm{Pfa} * \mathrm{Ac} \tag{74}
\end{equation*}
$$

Coarse aggregate content, Cac is given as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{Cac}=\mathrm{Ac}-\mathrm{Fac} \tag{75}
\end{equation*}
$$

## QBASIC PROGRAM FOR USE

For ease in the application of this Algorithm, a QBASIC program was developed using the equations therein (that is equations $1,2,3 \ldots 75$ ). The program is as shown in the appendix.

## TEST OF ALGORITHM

Two examples were used to test the working of the algorithm.

EXAMPLE 1: Determine the mix design using the following data.
$\mathrm{Fc}=30 \mathrm{Mpa}$ at 28 days; Cement type is OPC; Slump is $10-30 \mathrm{~mm}$; Maximum size of aggregate is 20 mm ; Maximum Free water-cement ratio is 0.55 ; Minimum Cement content is $290 \mathrm{~kg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$; Degree of control is poor site; Type of aggregate is uncrushed; Relative density of aggregate is 2.6; and fine aggregate grading zone is zone 3 (80\% passing).

## COMPUTER BASED SOLUTION

When problem was used in the QBASIC program, the outcome is as follows:
WATER CONTENT $=160 \mathrm{KG}$
CEMENT CONTENT = 326.2975 KG
FINE AGGREGATE CONTENT = 486.4918 KG
COARSE AGGREGATE CONTENT=1432.211KG
EXAMPLE 2: Determine the mix design
using the following data.
$\mathrm{Fc}=15 \mathrm{Mpa}$ at 28 days; Cement type is OPC; Slump is $30-60 \mathrm{~mm}$; Maximum size of aggregate is 40 mm ; Maximum Free water-cement ratio is 0.50 ; Minimum Cement content is $290 \mathrm{~kg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$ Standard deviation is 6 Mpa ; Type of aggregate is uncrushed; Relative density of aggregate is 2.5; and fine aggregate grading zone is zone 4 (100\% passing).

## COMPUTER BASED SOLUTION

When problem was used in the QBASIC program, the outcome is as follows:
WATER CONTENT $=160 \mathrm{KG}$
CEMENT CONTENT = 320 KG
FINE AGGREGATE CONTENT $=372.6744 \mathrm{KG}$
COARSE AGGREGATE CONTENT=1475.451 KG

## RESULT AND CONCLUSION

The results gotten by this algorithm to the nearest 5 kg for examples 1 and 2 are shown in tables 4 and 5.

For examples 1 and 2, the results gotten by Teychenne et al [5] are shown in tables 6 and 7. The differences between their results and the results from this algorithm are shown in tables 8 and 9 .

A critical look at the results shows that the absolute percentage differences between the results from Teychenne et al [5] and the Algorithm are all less than $10 \%$ for all the components in the ratio of water : cement : fine aggregate : coarse aggregate. However, if the components are based on the ratio of water : cement : aggregate then it will be noticed that the absolute percentage differences are all less than 5\%. This implies closeness of the two sets of result. In statistics, difference of up
to $10 \%$ is acceptable (Nwaogazie, 1999 [6]). The difference that arose here could be attributed to some round off approximations. It could also be attributed to error introduced by Teychenne et al while interpolating and reading off values from the curves. All the same, the difference is negligible and tolerable. Knowing the fact that the results by Teychenne et al [5] are approximate results and the difference between their results and the results from Algorithm is less than $10 \%$, one can safely say that the results from the Algorithm are good approximate results. Based on these results, conclusion can be drawn that the algorithm presented in this paper is working well, and the authors strongly recommend its use in obtaining good approximate results for normal weight concrete (NWC) and high performance concrete (HPC) mix design.

Table 1: Standard deviation for various degrees of control (Teychenne et. al.[5])

| Degree of control | Standard <br> Deviation |
| :--- | :--- |
| Laboratory | $2.0-3.5$ |
| Excellent site | $3.5-4.5$ |
| Average site | $5.0-6.0$ |
| Poor site | $7.0-8.0$ |

Table 2: Approximate compressive strength of concrete mixes made with $s$ free water-cement ratio of 0.5 (Teychenne et. al.[5])

| Type of <br> cement | Type of <br> coarse <br> Aggregate | Compressive strength at <br> the age of (days) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 3 | 7 | 28 | 91 |
| OPC | Uncrushed | 22 | 30 | 42 | 49 |
| CEMENT | Crushed | 27 | 36 | 49 | 56 |


| SRC | Uncrushed | 29 | 37 | 48 | 54 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CEMENT | Crushed | 34 | 43 | 55 | 51 |
| OPC - ordinary Portland cement |  |  |  |  |  |
| SRC - sulphur Resistant cement |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 3: Approximate free water contents $\left(\mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}\right)$ required to give various levels of workability (Teychenne et. al.[5])

| Slump (mm) |  | 0-10 | 10-30 | 30-60 | 60-180 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| V-B(s) |  | > 12 | 6-12 | 3-6 | 0-3 |
| Maximu m size of aggregate (mm) | Type of aggregate |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Uncrushed | 150 | 180 | 205 | 225 |
|  | crushed | 180 | 205 | 230 | 250 |
| 20 | Uncrushed | 135 | 160 | 180 | 195 |
|  | crushed | 170 | 190 | 210 | 225 |
| 40 | Uncrushed | 115 | 140 | 160 | 175 |
|  | crushed | 155 | 175 | 190 | 205 |

Table 4: Result of Algorithm for Example 1

| Cement <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ <br> Nearest <br> 5 kg | Water (kg) <br> Nearest 5 kg | Fine agg. <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ <br> Nearest 5 kg | Coarse agg. <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ <br> Nearest 5 kg |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 330 | 160 | 490 | 1430 |

Table 5: Result of Algorithm for Example 2

| Cement | Water | Fine agg. | Coarse |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $(\mathrm{kg})$ | $(\mathrm{kg})$ | $(\mathrm{kg})$ | agg. $(\mathrm{kg})$ |
| Nearest | Nearest | Nearest | Nearest |
| 5 kg | 5 kg | 5 kg | 5 kg |
| 320 | 160 | 370 | 1480 |

Table 6: Result of Teychenne et. al. [5] for Example1

| Cement <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Water <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Fine agg. <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Coarse <br> agg. $(\mathrm{kg})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 340 | 160 | 515 | 1385 |

Table 7: Result of Teychenne et. al. [5] for Example 2

| Cement <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Water <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Fine agg. <br> $(\mathrm{kg})$ | Coarse <br> agg. $(\mathrm{kg})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 320 | 160 | 405 | 1440 |

Table 8: Difference between the two results for Example 1

|  | Cement | Water | Fine agg. | Coarse <br> agg. |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Teychenne | 340 | 160 | 515 | 1385 |
| Algorithm | 330 | 160 | 490 | 1430 |
| Difference | 10 | 0 | 25 | -45 |
| Percentage | $3 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $4.85 \%$ | $-3.25 \%$ |

Table 9: Difference between the two results for Example 2

|  | Cement | Water | Fine agg. | Coarse agg. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Teychenne | 320 | 160 | 405 | 1440 |
| Algorithm | 320 | 160 | 370 | 1480 |
| Difference | 0 | 0 | 35 | -40 |
| Percentage | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $8.64 \%$ | $-2.78 \%$ |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to Messer's T.E. Adeoye, M .K . Iroka, N .C . Mgbachi and A. S. Obianyimuo for their help in this study. The contribution of Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria , through provision of facilities used in this study is hereby appreciated.

1. SIMON, M .J.: "Concrete Mixture Optimization using Statistical Methods" : Final Report . FHWA -RD -03 -060, USA. 2003.
2. Shetty, M . S.: Concrete Technology, Theory and Practice. Rajendra Ravindra Printers Ltd., India. 2006.
3. Neville A. M.: Properties of Concrete. $3^{\text {rd }}$ edition. Longman publishers, Singapore. 1993.
4. Jackson, N.: Civil Engineering Materials. $5^{\text {th }}$ edition. Macmillan Press Publishers, Hampshire, London. 1996.
5. Teychenne, D . C., Franklin, R .E. and Erntroy, H.: "Design of normal concrete mixes". Department of Environment BuiSlding Research Establishment Transport and Road Research Laboratory, London . 1975.
6. Nwaogazie, I. L.: Probability and Statistics for Science and Engineering Practices. Prints Konzults, Lagos.

## REFERENCES

```
APPENDIX
PRINT "WHAT IS RELATIVE COMBINED DENSITY OF THE AGGREGATE": INPUT RDA
PRINT "WHAT IS THE CHARACTERISTIC STRENGTH OF THE CONCRETE": INPUT FC
PRINT "WHAT IS THE CEMENT TYPE - 1 FOR ORDINARY PORTLAND CEMENT"
PRINT " 2 FOR SULPHATE RESISTANT CEMENT": INPUT CT
PRINT "WHAT IS THE EXPECTED SLUMP VALUE - 1 FOR 0-10, 2 FOR 10-30, 3 FOR 30-60,"
PRINT " 4 FOR 60 -180": INPUT SLUMP
PRINT "WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE SIZE - 10, 20 OR 40": INPUT AZ
PRINT "WHAT IS THE TYPE OF AGGREGATE - 1 FOR CRUSHED, 2 FOR UNCRUSHED": INPUT TA
PRINT "WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM FREE WATER CEMENT RATIO": INPUT MFWCR
PRINT "WHAT IS THE MINIMUM CEMENT CONTENT": INPUT MCC
PRINT "WHAT IS THE DEGREE OF CONTOL - 1 FOR LABORATORY, 2 FOR EXCELLENT SITE,"
PRINT " 3 FOR AVERAGE SITE, 4 FOR POOR SITE": INPUT DOC
PRINT "WHAT IS THE GRADING ZONE OF FINE AGGREGATE": INPUT ZONE
IF DOC = 1 THEN SS = 3.5
IF DOC = 2 THEN SS = 4.5
IF DOC = 3 THEN SS = 6
IF DOC = 4 THEN SS = 8
FM = FC + 1.645 * SS
IF TA = 1 AND FM < 41.9 THEN FWCR = .000295 * FM ^ 2 - .0312 * FM + 1.351
IF TA = 1 AND FM > 41.9 THEN FWCR = .00008519157# * FM ^ 2 - .01571 * FM + 1.0697
IF TA = 2 AND FM < 41.9 THEN FWCR = .000295 * FM ^ 2 - .0312 * FM + 1.291
IF TA = 2 AND FM > 41.9 THEN FWCR = .00008519157# * FM ^ 2 - .01571 * FM + 1.0097
IF FWCR > MFWCR THEN FWCR = MFWCR
IF AZ = 40 THEN GOTO 40
IF AZ = 20 THEN GOTO 20
IF TA = 1 THEN GOTO 10
IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 150
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 180
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 205
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 225
GOTO 60
10 IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 180
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 205
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 230
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 250
GOTO 60
20 IF TA = 1 THEN GOTO 30
IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 135
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 160
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 180
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 195
GOTO 60
30 IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 170
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 190
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 210
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 225
GOTO }6
40 IF TA = 1 THEN GOTO 50
IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 115
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 140
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 160
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 175
GOTO 60
50 IF SLUMP = 1 THEN FWC = 155
```

```
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN FWC = 175
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN FWC = 190
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN FWC = 205
60 CC = FWC / FWCR
IF CC < MCC THEN CC = MCC: FWC = CC * FWCR
IF RDA = 2.9 OR RDA > 2.9 THEN WDCC = -1.71875 * FWC + 2896.875
IF RDA < 2.9 AND RDA > 2.79 THEN WDCC = -1.59375 * FWC + 2804.375
IF RDA < 2.8 AND RDA > 2.69 THEN WDCC = -1.4375 * FWC + 2703.75
IF RDA < 2.7 AND RDA > 2.59 THEN WDCC = -1.25 * FWC + 2605
IF RDA < 2.6 AND RDA > 2.49 THEN WDCC = -1.03125 * FWC + 2493.125
IF RDA < 2.5 AND RDA > 2.39 THEN WDCC = -.925 * FWC + 2402
IF RDA < 2.39 THEN CLS : PRINT "THE CHOICE OF AGGREGATE IS NOT AEQUATE";
IF RDA < 2.39 THEN PRINT "FOR BRITISH CONCRETE MIX DESIGN": GOTO 200
AC = WDCC - CC - FWC
IF AZ = 40 THEN GOTO 140
IF AZ = 20 THEN GOTO 100
IF SLUMP = 4 THEN GOTO 90
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN GOTO 80
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN GOTO 70
IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 12.5 * FWCR + 20
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 23
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 17.5 * FWCR + 28
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 35
GOTO 180
70 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 20
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 12.5 * FWCR + 27
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 34
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 37
GOTO 180
80 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 12.5 * FWCR + 22
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 27
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 34
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 20 * FWCR + 41
GOTO 180
90 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 12.5 * FWCR + 27
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 31
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 17.5 * FWCR + 37
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 25 * FWCR + 45
GOTO 180
100 IF SLUMP = 4 THEN GOTO 130
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN GOTO 120
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN GOTO 110
IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 12.5 * FWCR + 14.25
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 13.33 * FWCR + 17
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 16.67 * FWCR + 19.99
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 20.83 * FWCR + 24.751
GOTO 180
110 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 10.83 * FWCR + 16.251
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 18
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 18.33 * FWCR + 21
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 26.25
GOTO 180
120 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 11.67 * FWCR + 17.99
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 19.5
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 16.67 * FWCR + 24.499
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 29.75
```

```
GOTO 180
130 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 13.33 * FWCR + 20
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 23.5
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 19.17 * FWCR + 27.25
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 35.25
GOTO 180
140 IF SLUMP = 4 THEN GOTO 170
IF SLUMP = 3 THEN GOTO 160
IF SLUMP = 2 THEN GOTO 150
IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 14.17 * FWCR + 9.25
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 12
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 18.33 * FWCR + 14
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 17.75
GOTO 180
150 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 11.67 * FWCR + 14.5
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 13.5
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 17.5 * FWCR + 16.25
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 22.5 * FWCR + 20.25
GOTO 180
160 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 13.33 * FWCR + 13.5
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 14.17 * FWCR + 16.25
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 17.5 * FWCR + 19.25
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 21.67 * FWCR + 24.5
GOTO 180
170 IF ZONE = 4 THEN PFA = 14.17 * FWCR + 16.25
IF ZONE = 3 THEN PFA = 15 * FWCR + 19.5
IF ZONE = 2 THEN PFA = 19.17 * FWCR + 27.25
IF ZONE = 1 THEN PFA = 21.67 * FWCR + 30
180 FAC = PFA / 100 * AC
CAC = AC - FAC
WC = FWC / CC
FA = FAC / CC
CA = CAC / CC
C = CC / CC
REM RESULT
PRINT "WATER CONTENT =", FWC; "KG"
PRINT "CEMENT CONTENT =", CC; "KG"
PRINT "FINE AGGREGATE CONTENT =", FAC; "KG"
PRINT "COARSE AGGREGATE CONTENT =", CAC; "KG"
200
```

