# ROADBED SOILS – E

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# **Compaction and Drainability**

### Compaction

# Soil is used as a basic material for construction

- Retaining walls,
- Highways, Embankments, Ramps
- > Airports,

- Dams, Dikes, etc.
- The advantages of using soil are:
- 1. Is generally available everywhere
- 2. Is durable it will last for a long time
- 3. Has a comparatively low cost



### What is Compaction?

• In most instances in civil engineering and/or construction practice, whenever soils are imported or excavated and re-applied, they are *compacted*.

- Defined as artificial increase ie densification by mechanical means.
  - The terms compaction and consolidation may sound as though they describe the same thing, but in reality they do not.

### What is Consolidation?

- When a Static loads are applied to saturated soils, and over a period of time the increased stresses are transferred to the soil skeleton, leading to a reduction in void ratio.
- Depending on the permeability of the soil and the magnitude of the drainage distance, this can be a very time-consuming process.
- Typically applies to existing, undisturbed soil deposits that has appreciable amount of clay.

### **Compaction - Consolidation**

- Compaction means the removal of porosity.
  - Consolidation means the removal of water-filled porosity.







# **Principles of Compaction**

Compaction of soils is achieved by reducing the volume of voids. It is assumed that the compaction process does not decrease the volume of the solids or soil grains.



#### uncompacted

compacted

uncompacted

compacted

**Principles of Compaction** 

The degree of compaction of a soil is measured by the dry density/ unit weight of the skeleton.

The dry unit weight correlates with the degree of packing of the soil grains.  $\rho_d = \rho_s / (1+e)$ 

The more compacted a soil is:

✓ the smaller its void ratio (e) will be.
 ✓ the higher its dry density will be

### What Does Compaction Do?

#### ▶1) Increased Shear Strength

- This means that larger loads can be applied to compacted soils since they are typically stronger.
- >2) Reduced Permeability
  - This inhibits soils' ability to absorb water, and therefore reduces the tendency to expand/shrink and potentially liquefy

#### **>3) Reduced Compressibility**

- This also means that larger loads can be applied to compacted soils since they will produce smaller settlements.
- >4) Control Swelling & Shrinking
- >5) Reduce Liquefaction Potential

General

• mc definite relationship with dry density.

 $\rho_d = \rho_t / (1+\omega)$ 

Proctor Test M-D Relationship

Sand cone method T191-02

 Specific soil, specific value with specific compactive effort. Specific Gravity of soil solids

- Why lab tests?
  - Determine compaction curve.
  - Determine structural capacity of soil for estimation of design parameters.
  - Establish compaction specifications for adequate quality control.

### The Standard Proctor Test

 R.R. Proctor in the early 1930's was building dams for the old Bureau of Waterworks and Supply in Los Angeles, and he developed the principles of compaction in a series of articles in Engineering News-Record.

# Moisture Density Relationship Test Equipment

#### Standard Proctor test equipment







### <u>General</u>

- Air or oven dry, break aggregations
- Passing 2", 30% or < retained 3/4", above 2" discarded, 2" material replaced with <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" passing retained on #4
- 5 and 13 lbf specimen for 4 and 6" moulds.
- Oversize correction, More than 5% coarser than specified

# Moisture Density Relationship Procedures and Results

#### **Procedures**

Several samples of the same soil, but at different water contents, are compacted according to the compaction test specifications.

The first four blows



The successive blows

The total or wet density and the actual water content of each compacted sample are measured.

 $\rho = \frac{M_t}{V_t}, \rho_d = \frac{\rho}{1+w}$ Derive  $\rho_d$  from the known  $\rho$  and w

Plot the dry densities  $\rho_d$  versus water contents w for each compacted sample. The curve is called as a *compaction curve*.

- Each data point on the curve represents a single compaction test, and usually four or five individual compaction tests are required to completely determine the compaction curve.
- At least two specimens wet and two specimens dry of optimum, and water contents varying by about 2%.
- Optimum water content is typically slightly less than the plastic limit (ASTM suggestion).
- Typical values of maximum dry density are around 1.6 to 2.0 Mg/m<sup>3</sup> with the maximum range from about 1.3 to 2.4 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Typical optimum water contents are between 10% and 20%, with an outside maximum range of about 5% to 40%.



### **Results from Standard Proctor Test**



#### Below w<sub>opt</sub> (dry side of optimum):

As the water content increases, the particles develop larger and larger water films around them, which tend to "lubricate" the particles and make them easier to be moved about and reoriented into a denser configuration. <u>At  $W_{opt}$ :</u>

The density is at the maximum, and it does not increase any further.

#### <u>Above w<sub>opt</sub> (wet side of optimum):</u>

Water starts to replace soil particles in the mold, and since  $\rho_w \ll \rho_s$  the dry density starts to decrease.

Lubrication or loss of suction??



Holtz and Kovacs, 1981



Water Role in Compaction Process

# • A little bit of water facilitates compaction

• too much water inhibits compaction.



Can soil be fully saturated with compaction?

### **Modified Proctor Test**

Was developed during World War II
By the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering
For a better representation of the compaction required for airfield to support heavy aircraft.





### Moisture Density Relationship Comparison-Summary

Standard Proctor Test

**Modified Proctor Test** 

- Mold size: 1/30 ft<sup>3</sup>
- 12 in height of drop
- 5.5 lb hammer
  - 3 layers
- 25 blows/layer
- Energy 12,375 ft·lb/ft<sup>3</sup>

- Mold size: 1/30 ft<sup>3</sup>
- 18 in height of drop
- 10 lb hammer
- 5 layers
- 25 blows/layer
- Energy 56,250 ft·lb/ft<sup>3</sup>



Water Content (w)

### **The Standard Proctor Test**

Using standard effort12400 ft-lbf/ft <sup>3</sup>								
Method	A	В	С					
Mould	4"	4"	6"					
Material	↓#4	↓ 3/8"	↓3/4"					
Layer	3	3	3					
Blows/	25	25	56					
layer								
Use	20% or < on #4	20% or < on 3/8" and >20% on #4	20% or < on 3/4" and >20% on 3/8"					
Drop	12"	12"	12"					
Rammer mass 5.5 lbf, Mould Volume 4" 0.0333 cft, 6" 0.075 cft								

# Standard Energy

 Compactive (E) applied to soil per unit volume:

 $E = \frac{(\# blows/layer)*(\# of layers)*(hammer weight)*(height of drop)}{Volume of mold}$ 

$$E_{SP} = \frac{(25blows/layer) * (3 \text{ of layers}) * (5.5 \text{ lbs}) * (1.0 \text{ ft})}{(1/30) \text{ft}^3} = 12,375 \text{ ft} - lb / \text{ ft}_3$$

### **Modified Proctor Test**

#### Using modified effort 56,000 ft-lbf/ft<sup>3</sup>

Method	A	В	С					
Mould	4"	4"	6"					
Material	↓#4	↓ 3/8"	↓3/4"					
Layer	5	5	5					
Blows/ layer	25	25	56					
Use	20% or < on #4	20% or < on 3/8" and >20% on #4	20% or < on 3/4" and >20% on 3/8"					
Drop	18"	18"	18"					
Rammer mass 10 lbf, Mould Volume 4" 0.0333 cft, 6" 0.075 cft								



#### The peak point of the compaction curve

The peak point of the compaction curve is the point with the maximum dry density  $\rho_{d max}$ . Corresponding to the maximum dry density  $\rho_{d max}$  is a water content known as the optimum water content  $w_{opt}$  (also known as the optimum moisture content, OMC). Note that the maximum dry density is only a maximum for a specific compactive effort and method of compaction. This does not necessarily reflect the maximum dry density that can be obtained in the field.

#### Zero air voids curve

The curve represents the fully saturated condition (S = 100 %). (It cannot be reached by compaction)

#### Line of optimums

A line drawn through the peak points of several compaction curves at different compactive efforts for the same soil will be almost parallel to a 100 % S curve, it is called the line of optimums



Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

### Moisture Density Relationship Effects of Soil Types on Compaction

Soil texture and plasticity data

The soil type-that is, grain-size distribution, shape of the soil grains, specific gravity of soil solids, and amount and type of clay minerals present.



Water content w (%)

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981; Das, 1998

# Moisture Density Relationship Field and Laboratory Compaction

- It is difficult to choose a laboratory test that reproduces a given field compaction procedure.
- •The laboratory curves generally yield a somewhat lower optimum water content than the actual field optimum.



# Curve 1, 2,3,4: laboratory compaction

Curve 5, 6: Field compaction

(From Lambe and Whitman, 1979)

### **Significance**

- Increasing engineering properties by compaction. MD relationship difficult in certain cases.
- Go for test fill in the field. Which plant, passes, lift thickness.
- Density correction to oversize fraction.
- Replacement over size technique, not good?
- Degradation of certain soils. More in lab so difficult to achieve results
- Gap gradation.
- Same method for aggregate bases and sub bases.

#### <u>Uses</u>

- To establish specifications for adequate quality control.
- To assist providing desired structural capacity.
- To assess seasonal variation in engineering properties of soil.

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#### Structure of Compacted Clays

• For a given compactive effort and dry density, the soil tends to be more flocculated (random) for compaction on the dry side as compared on the wet side.

• For a given molding water content, increasing the compactive effort tends to disperse (parallel, oriented) the soil, especially on the dry side.





#### **Engineering Properties-Permeability**

Increasing the water content results in a decrease in permeability on the dry side of the optimum moisture content and a slight increase in permeability on the wet side of optimum.

Increasing the compactive effort reduces the permeability since it both increases the dry density, thereby reducing the voids available for flow, and increases the orientation of particles.

From Lambe and Whitman, 1979; Holtz and Kovacs, 1981



#### **Engineering Properties-Compressibility**

At low stresses the sample compacted on the wet side is more compressible than the one compacted on the dry side.



#### **Engineering Properties-Compressibility**

At the high applied stresses the sample compacted on the dry side is more compressible than the sample compacted on the wet side.



Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

#### **Engineering Properties-Swelling**

Swelling of compacted clays is greater for those compacted dry of optimum. They have a relatively greater deficiency of water and therefore have a greater tendency to adsorb water and thus swell more.



From Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

#### **Engineering Properties-Strength**





The CBR (California bearing ratio)

CBR= the ratio between resistance required to penetrate a  $3-in^2$  piston into the **compacted specimen** and resistance required to penetrate the same depth into a standard sample of **crushed stone**.

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

#### **Engineering Properties-Strength**

A greater compactive effort produces a greater CBR for the dry of optimum. However, the CBR is actually less for the wet of optimum for the higher compaction energies (overcompaction).

### **Engineering Properties-Summary**

Dry side

Structure

More random

Wet side

More oriented (parallel)

Permeability

More permeable

Compressibility

More compressible in *high* pressure range

Swelling

Swell more, higher water deficiency More compressible in *low* pressure range

Shrink more

Strength

Higher

### Properties and Structure of Compacted Fine-grained Soils Engineering Properties-Summary

Property	Comparison
1. Structure:	
A. Particle arrangement	Dry side more random
B. Water deficiency	Dry side more deficient; thus imbibes more water, swells more, has lower pore pressure
C. Permanence	Dry side structure sensitive to change
2. Permeability:	
A. Magnitude	Dry side more permeable
B. Permanence	Dry side permeability reduced much more by permeation
3. Compressibility:	
A. Magnitude	Wet side more compressible in low pressure range, dry side in high pressure range
B. Rate	Dry side consolidates more rapidly
4. Strength:	
A. As molded:	
(a) Undrained	Dry side much higher
(b) Drained	Dry side somewhat higher
B. After saturation:	1
(a) Undrained	Dry side somewhat higher if swelling prevented; wet side can be higher if swelling permitted
(b) Drained	Dry side about the same or slightly greater
C. Pore water pressure at failure	Wet side higher
D. Stress-strain modulus	Dry side much greater

E. Sensitivity

#### TABLE 5-1 Comparison of Soil Properties between Dry of Optimum and Wet of Optimum Compaction\*

Dry side more apt to be sensitive

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

### General

- Plant and equipment
- Shovels, dragline and SP Scrappers
- Soil mixed; Shovels vs scrapper
- Pressure, impact, vibrating, kneading

#### Smooth-wheel roller (drum)



- 100% coverage under the wheel
- Contact pressure up to 380 kPa
- Can be used on all soil types except for rocky soils.
- Compactive effort: static weight
- The most common use of large smooth wheel rollers is for proofrolling subgrades and compacting asphalt pavement.

#### Pneumatic (or rubber-tired) roller w



• 80% coverage under the wheel

- Contact pressure up to 700 kPa
- Can be used for both granular and fine-grained soils.
- Compactive effort: static weight and kneading.
- Can be used for highway fills or earth dam construction.

#### Sheep foot rollers



- Has many round or rectangular shaped protrusions or "feet" attached to a steel drum
- 8% ~ 12 % coverage
- Contact pressure is from 1400 to 7000 kPa
- It is best suited for clayed soils.
- Compactive effort: static weight and kneading.

#### Tamping foot roller



- About 40% coverage
- Contact pressure is from 1400 to 8400 kPa
- It is best for compacting fine-grained soils (silt and clay).
- Compactive effort: static weight and kneading.

#### Mesh (or grid pattern) roller



- 50% coverage
- Contact pressure is from 1400 to 6200 kPa
- It is ideally suited for compacting rocky soils, gravels, and sands. With high towing speed, the material is vibrated, crushed, and impacted.
  - Compactive effort: static weight and vibration.

Field Compaction Equipment and Procedures
Equipment (Cont.)

#### Vibrating drum on smoothwheel roller



- Vertical vibrator attached to smooth wheel rollers.
- The best explanation of why roller vibration causes densification of granular soils is that particle rearrangement occurs due to cyclic deformation of the soil produced by the oscillations of the roller.
- Compactive effort: static weight and vibration.
- Suitable for granular soils

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

# Field Compaction Equipment and Procedures Equipment-Summary

COMPACTIVE EFFORT

COMPACTOR ZONES OF APPLICATION



Field Compaction Equipment and Procedures Variables-Vibratory Compaction

There are many variables which control the vibratory compaction or densification of soils.

#### **Characteristics of the compactor:**

- (I) Mass, size
- (2) Operating frequency and frequency range

#### **Characteristics of the soil:**

- (I) Initial density
- (2) Grain size and shape
- (3) Water content

#### **Construction procedures:**

- (I) Number of passes of the roller
- (2) Lift thickness
- (3) Frequency of operation vibrator
- (4) Towing speed



- Compactive effort and where used
- Field control of moisture.
- Mixing in the field.

$$R.C. = \frac{\rho_{d-field}}{\rho_{d \max-laboratory}} \times 100\%$$

# **Design-Construct Procedures**

- Laboratory tests are conducted on samples of the proposed borrow materials to define the properties required for design.
- After the earth structure is designed, the compaction specifications are written. Field compaction *control tests* are specified, and the results of these become the standard for controlling the project.

## Specifications

#### (I) End-product specifications

This specification is used for most highways and building foundation, as long as the contractor is able to obtain the specified *relative compaction*, how he obtains it doesn't matter, nor does the equipment he uses.

Care the results only !

#### (2) <u>Method specifications</u>

The type and weight of roller, the number of passes of that roller, as well as the lift thickness are specified. A maximum allowable size of material may also be specified.

It is typically used for large compaction project.

### Determine the Water Content (in Field)



Control

(1) Relative compaction

(2) Water content (dry side or wet side)

Note: the engineering properties may be different between the compacted sample at the dry side and at the wet side.

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

### Determine the Relative Compaction in the Field

#### Where and When

First, the test site is selected. It should be representative or typical of the compacted lift and borrow material. Typical specifications call for a new field test for every 1000 to 3000 m<sup>2</sup> or so, or when the borrow material changes significantly. It is also advisable to make the field test at least one or maybe two compacted lifts below the already compacted ground surface, especially when sheepsfoot rollers are used or in granular soils.

#### Method

Field control tests, measuring the dry density and water content in the field can either be *destructive* or *nondestructive*.



<sup>(</sup>c) Oil (or water) method



- Sand Cone Apparatus
  - Dry mass of the soil is determined
  - Volume of the test hole is obtained from the mass of loose sand required to fill the hole
  - Sand is a uniform medium sand with a constant loose density
  - Volume=mass of sand / loose density of sand
  - density is calculated
  - water content determined
  - Study at your own

Example 3-4 Sand-Cone Apparatus: A sand cone holds 851.0 g. The loose density of the sand is 1.430 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

#### Field Test Results:

Total weight of the soil639.5 gDry weight of the soil547.9 gInitial weight of the sand-cone apparatus4527.8gfinal weight of the sand-cone apparatus3223.9g

#### Calculations:

Mass of the sand used Mass in test hole Volume of test hole

Field dry density

Field water content

4527.8g-3223.9g = 1303.9g1303.9g-851.0g = 452.9 g $452.9 g = 316.7 \text{ cm}^{3}$  $1.430 \text{ g/cm}^{3}$  $547.9g/316.7 \text{ cm}^{3} = 1.730 \text{ g/ cm}^{3}$ 639.5-547.9 = 16.7%

547.9



### Specific Gravity Test

- Gs & Gb which is more?
- Required for 'e', hydrometer analysis and ZAV M-D relationship.
- Outline conduct of practical.

# Destructive Methods (Cont.)

Sometimes, the laboratory maximum density may not be known exactly. It is not uncommon, especially in highway construction, for a series of laboratory compaction tests to be conducted on "representative" samples of the borrow materials for the highway. If the soils at the site are highly varied, there will be no laboratory results to be compared with. It is time consuming and expensive to conduct a new compaction curve. The alternative is to implement a *field check point*, or I point Proctor test.

### **Destructive Methods (Cont.)**



### Characteristics Pertinent to Roads and Airfield

Major Divisions (1) (2) (3)		Symbol			Name	Value as Subgrade When not Subject	Value as Subbase When not Subject	Value as Base When not Subject	Potential Frost	Compressibility and		
		Hatching Color (4) (5)		(6)	to Frost Action (7)	to Frost Action (8)	to Frost Action (9)	Action (10)	Expansion (11)			
		GW			Well-graded gravels or gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Excellent	Excellent	Good	None to very slight	Almost none		
GRAV AND GRAVE SOIL SOILS SANI AND SAND SOIL	GRAVEL	GP		Red	Poorly graded gravels or gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Good to excellent	Good	Fair to good	None to very slight	Almost none		
	AND	GM U	Yellow	alle and alle minimum	Good to excellent	Good	Fair to good	Slight to medium	Very slight			
	SOILS			Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures	Good	Fair	Poor to not suitable	Slight to medium	Slight			
		GC		1	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures	Good	l/air	Poor to not suitable	Slight to medium	Slight		
	SAND AND SANDY SOILS	SW			Well-graded sands or gravelly sands, little or no fines	Good	Fair to good	Poor	None to very slight	Almost none		
		SP		Red	Poorly graded sands or gravelly sands, little or no fines	Fair to good	Fair	Poor to not suitable	None to very slight	Almost none		
		AND SANDY SOILS	AND	d	tit!		80 million and all malations	Fair to good	Fair to good	Poor	Slight to high	Very slight
			SM	••••	Yellow	Suty sands, sand-sut mixtures	Fair	Poor to fair	Not suitable	Slight to high	Slight to medium	
						SC Clay	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures	Poor to fair	Poor	Not suitable	Slight to high	Slight to medium



#### Characteristics Pertinent to Roads and Airfield (Cont.)

		Symbol					Unit Dry Densities		Typical Design Values	
Major Divisions		Letter	Hatching	Color	Drainage Characteristics	Compaction Equipment	lbf/ft <sup>3</sup> Mg/m <sup>3</sup>		CBR	Subgrade Modulus k (1bf/in. <sup>3</sup> )
(1) (2)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
COARSE- GRAINED SOILS	GRAVEL AND GRAVELLY SOILS	GW	· · ·	Red	Excellent	Crawler-type tractor, rubber-tired roller, steel-wheeled roller	125-140	2.00-2.24	40-80	300-500
		GP	2		Excellent	Crawler-type tractor, rubber-tired roller, steel-wheeled roller	110-140	1.76-2.24	30-60	300-500
		d	d		Fair to poor	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller; close control of moisture	125-145	2.00-2.32	40-60	300-500
		u III	Yellow	Poor to practically impervious	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller	115-135	1.84-2.16	20-30	200-500	
		GC	14		Poor to practically impervious	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller	130-145	2.08-2.32	20-40	200-500
	SAND AND SANDY SOILS	SW		Red	Excellent	Crawler-type tractor, rubber-tired roller	110-130	1.76-2.08	20-40	200-400
		SP			Excellent	Crawler-type tractor, rubber-tired roller	105-135	1.68-2.16	10-40	150-400
		AND SANDY SOILS SM - Yell		Fair to poor	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller; close control of moisture	120-135	1.92-2.16	15-40	150-400	
			Yellow	llow Poor to practically impervious	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller	100-130	1.60-2.08	10-20	100-300	
		SC			Poor to practically impervious	Rubber-tired roller, sheepsfoot roller	100-135	1.60-2.16	5-20	100-300

Please refer to the handout

Holtz and Kovacs, 1981

# Drainability

### • <u>General</u>

- Due consideration to intercept and remove water before it reaches roadbed soil.
- Detrimental effects on road performance.
   Failures caused by ground or seepage flows can be classified: -
  - Piping and erosion failure as a result of water movement cause soil particles to migrate out of material.
  - Weakening/ Uplifting failure as a result of water movement cause saturation and flooding of materials leading to weakening / uplift.

### <u>Drainability</u>

- <u>Controlling Moisture Problems</u>
  - <u>Seal Pavement.</u> Seal cracks and joints, impervious layers, intercepting drains.
  - <u>Use Moisture Insensitive Materials.</u>Use granular material with low % of fines.
  - <u>Adequate Drainage.</u> Permanently lower water table, quick removal once water enters.

#### • Forms of subsurface water in Pavements.

- <u>Water vapours.</u> Above Z of S, negligible effect in 'no freeze thaw regions'
- <u>Bound Moisture</u>. 'Hydroscopic' which is immobile and tightly bound. 'Oriented', loosely bound 'and moves under attraction gradient'.
- <u>Capillary Moisture</u>. Above Z of S. Height function of pore size & distribution which is related to grain size distribution and density of soil. How controlled? lowering WT & barrier.
- <u>Gravitational Moisture</u>. Free to move under gravity induced pressure gradient.

### Enhancing Drainage of Road bed Soil

- Installation of transverse slotted drainage pipes linked to drainage ditches.
- Installing sand drains to the depth of pervious layer.
- Cutoff blanket at sub grade level- water moves to drainage ditches.
- Transfer elevation should not be a bathtub.

# Thanks