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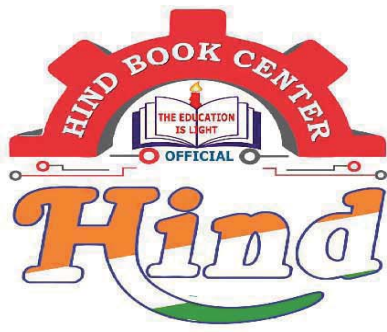
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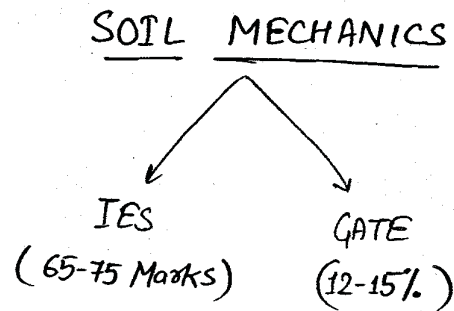
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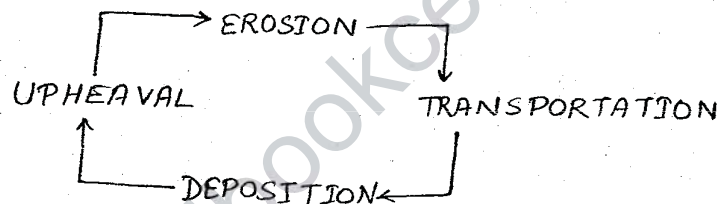
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# SOIL MECHANICS



GEOLOGICAL CYCLE :



The process of formation of soil is known as PEDOGENESIS. Soil is formed due to the weathering of the rocks which may be carried out either physically or chemically.

Physical forces involved in weathering of rocks are flowing water, ice, ice wind and gravity.

Chemical forces involved in weathering of rocks are oxidation, reduction and carbonation (addition of  $\text{CO}_2$ ).

Mineral constituents of the soil formed due to physical weathering are same as that of parent rock but if the soil is formed due to chemical weathering, its mineral constituents differ from parent rock.

Geological cycle involved in the formation of soil includes four steps:-

1. Erosion
2. Transportation
3. Deposition
4. Upheaval

If after weathering, soil is retained over the parent rock, it is termed as residual soil and if it is being transported, it is termed as transported soil.

## TYPES OF SOILS

### 1. Alluvial Soil:

It is the soil which is being deposited from the suspension in running water.

- Transported Soil (Running Water)
- Physical Weathering
- Found along the banks of rivers.

This soil is generally found along the banks of the rivers.  
(NORTHERN INDIA)

### 2. Lacustrine Soil:

It is the soil that is deposited from the suspension in fresh still water for the lake.

- Physical Weathering
- Residual Soil (Water)

### 3. Marine Soil!

It is the soil which is deposited from the suspension in sea water.

- Physical Weathering (Flowing Water)
- Transported Soil

### 4. Aeolian Soil:

It is the soil which is formed due to transportation by wind.

- Physical Weathering
- Transported Soil

### 5. Glacial Soil:

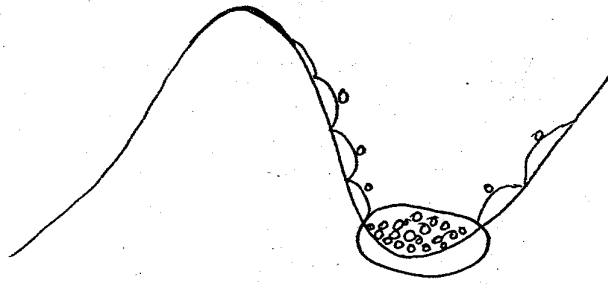
It is the soil that is being transported due to flowing ice.

- Physical Weathering (Ice)
- Transported Soil

### 6. Colluvial Soil:

This soil is known as TALUS SOIL. It is formed due to weathering of the rocks by physical agencies and in which transportation is by the gravitational forces. This soil is generally found in the hilly areas at the bottom of the valleys.

- Physical Weathering
- Transported Soil (Gravity)



### 7. Loess Soil:

It is uniformly graded wind blown silt that is slightly cemented due to calcium compounds and Montmorillonite.

- Type of Aeolian Soil
- Physical Weathering
- Transported Soil

Cementous properties are induced by calcium compounds ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and Montmorillonite (highly plastic in nature).

### 8. Marl Soil:

It is fine graded calcium carbonated soil of marine origin which is formed due to decomposition of bones and cell mass of aquatic life (both plants and animals).

- Chemical weathering

### 9. Bentonite Soil:

It is chemically weathered volcanic ash that is generally used as a lubricant in drilling.

(Application is found in PILE FOUNDATION)

- Chemical Weathering

## 10. Tuff Soil:

It is finely graded slightly cemented volcanic ash which may be transported either by wind or by water.

- Physical Weathering

## 11. Loam Soil:

It is the mixture of clay, silt and sand in definite different proportions in which organic matter may also be present.

- Physical Weathering

## 12. Laterite Soil:

It is the soil which is formed due to Leaching Process (Leaching means washing out of silicious compounds) in hilly areas due with humid atmosphere. Eastern and Western Ghats.

- Chemical Weathering

## 13. Gumbo Soil:

It is sticky, highly plastic and dark in colour. Excessive presence of Montmorillonite.

## 14. Peat Soil:

It is highly organic soil that almost entirely consists of vegetative matter in different stages of decomposition. Its colour varies from black to dark brown and it possesses organic odour. This soil is highly fibrous and possess high compressibility.

- Chemical weathering

## 15. Muck Soil :

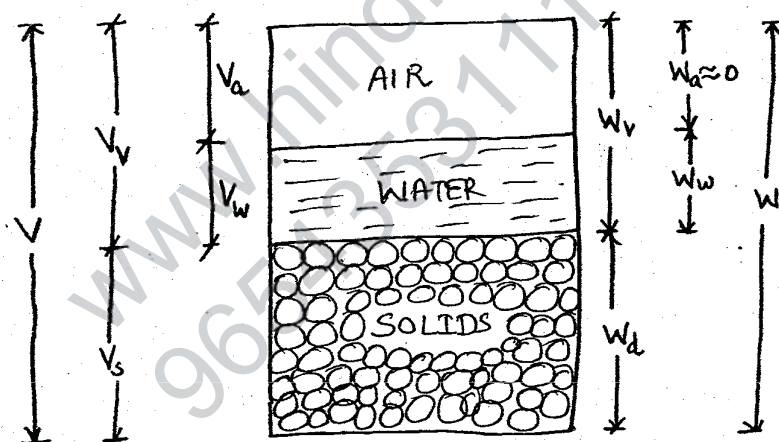
It is fine particled mixture of inorganic soil and black decomposed organic soil . It is generally found in the areas having indieficient sewerage facilities or may be observed after overflowing of the river.

- Chemical weathering.

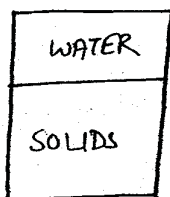
Mixture of Peat Soil and Muck Soil is termed as 'CUMULOSE SOIL'.

## PROPERTIES OF SOIL :

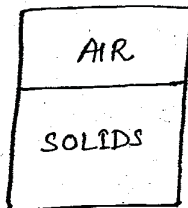
Soilmass is a three-phase system that comprises of solid, water and air that do not occupy separate spaces but are blended with each other resulting in the formation of complex material properties of which depends upon relative propoosition of these constituents.



THREE PHASE ~~is~~ BLOCK DIAGRAM



a) SOLIDS + WATER



b) SOLIDS + AIR

TWO PHASE BLOCK DIAGRAM



$W_d \rightarrow$  Dry weight of soil

( $W_d \approx W_s$  as weight of air is taken to be zero)

### 1. Water Content (Moisture Content) (% Moisture):

Water content is defined as the ratio of weight of water to the weight of soil solids present in the given soil mass.

$$w = \frac{\text{Weight of water}}{\text{Weight of solid}} \times 100$$

$$w = \frac{W_w}{W_d} \times 100$$

$w$  can assume any value greater than zero. There is no upper limit for water content. ( $w \geq 0$ )

$$w = 0 \quad (\text{for dry soils})$$

Note 1-

Water content of fine grained soils is more than that of the coarse grained soils.

For 1 void :- (Volume of voids)<sub>FINEGRAINED</sub> > (Volume of voids)<sub>COARSEGRAINED</sub>

(No. of voids)<sub>FINEGRAINED</sub> > (No. of voids)<sub>COARSEGRAINED</sub>

Total Volume of Voids = No. of Voids  $\times$  Volume of 1 void

(Total vol. of voids)<sub>FINEGRAINED</sub> > (Total vol. of voids)<sub>COARSEGRAINED</sub>

Water content can also be expressed in terms of total weight of soil.

$$w' = \frac{\text{weight of water}}{\text{Weight of soil}} \times 100$$

$$\omega' = \frac{W_w}{W} \times 100$$

$$\omega' = \frac{W_v}{W} = \frac{W_v}{W_d + W_w}$$

$$\omega' = \frac{1}{\frac{W_d}{W_w} + 1} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\omega} + 1}$$

$$\omega' = \frac{\omega}{1 + \omega}$$

or

$$\omega = \frac{\omega'}{1 - \omega'}$$

Note :-

Both  $\omega$  and  $\omega'$  indicates the weight of water present in the soil in terms of weight of solids and weight of soil respectively. Since, wt. of solid do not change with change in water, it is a stable parameter in comparison to wt. of soil. Hence, engg. significance of  $\omega$  is more than  $\omega'$ .

## 2. Void Ratio (e) :

It is defined as the ratio of volume of voids to the volume of solids present in given soil mass.

$$e = \frac{\text{Volume of voids}}{\text{Volume of solids}}$$

$$e = \frac{V_v}{V_s}$$

$e > 0$  (There is no upper limit for void ratio.)

$e \neq 0$  (because  $V_v \neq 0$ )

### 3. Porosity (% voids) ( $\eta$ ):

Porosity is defined as the ratio of volume of voids to the volume of soil of the given soil mass.

$$\eta = \frac{\text{Volume of voids}}{\text{Volume of soil}} \times 100$$

$$\eta = \frac{V_v}{V} \times 100$$

$$0\% < \eta < 100\%$$

$$\eta = \frac{V_v}{V} = \frac{V_v}{V_s + V_v}$$

$$\eta = \frac{V_v}{\frac{V_s}{V_v} + 1} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{e} + 1}$$

$$\eta = \frac{e}{1+e}$$

(OR)

$$e = \frac{1-\eta}{\eta} = \frac{1}{\eta} - 1$$

Note:-

Porosity & Void ratio represents the vol. of voids in terms of vol. of soil and vol. of solids respectively. Volume of solid is comparatively stable than volume of soil. Hence, physical (engg.) significance of void ratio is more than porosity.

#### 4. Degree of Saturation (% Saturation) (S) :-

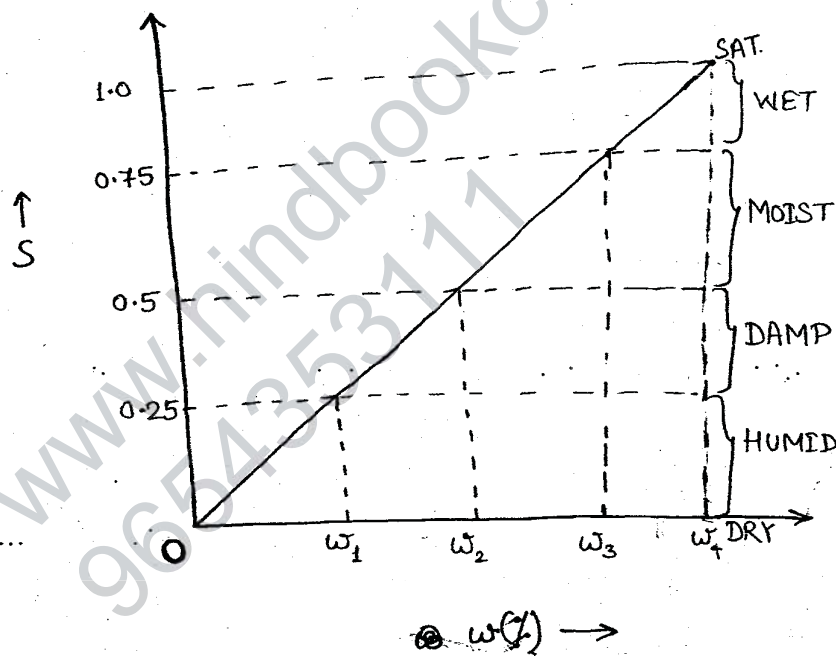
It is defined as the ratio of volume of water to the volume of voids present in given soil mass.

$$S = \frac{\text{Volume of water}}{\text{Volume of voids}} \times 100$$

$$S = \frac{V_w}{V_v} \times 100$$

$$0 \leq S \leq 100\%$$

Depending upon the degree of saturation, the soil may be stated as dry, humid, damp, moist, wet and saturated.



### 5. Air Content ( $a_c$ ) :

Air content is defined as the ratio of volume of air to the volume of voids present in given soil sample.

$$a_c = \frac{\text{Volume of air}}{\text{Volume of voids}}$$

$$a_c = \frac{V_a}{V_v}$$

$$0 \leq a_c \leq 1$$

$$a_c = \frac{V_a}{V_v} = \frac{V_v - V_w}{V_v}$$

$$a_c = 1 - \frac{V_w}{V_v}$$

$$a_c = 1 - S$$

$$a_c + S = 1$$

### 6. Percentage Air Voids ( $\eta_a$ ) :

It is defined as the ratio of volume of air to the volume of soil present in the given soil mass.

$$\eta_a = \frac{\text{Volume of air}}{\text{Volume of soil}} \times 100$$

$$\eta_a = \frac{V_a}{V_s} \times 100$$

$$0\% \leq \eta_a < 100\%$$

$$\eta_a = \frac{V_a}{V}$$

$$\eta_a = \frac{V_a}{V_v} \times \frac{V_v}{V}$$

$$\boxed{\eta_a = a_c \eta}$$

## 7. Unit Weight (or) Density of Soil:

### a) Bulk Unit Wt. (or) Bulk Density :-

It is defined as the ratio of weight of the soil in existing condition to the volume of soil.

$$\boxed{\gamma = \frac{W}{V}} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{S = \frac{M}{V}}$$

$$W = W_d + W_w$$

$$\boxed{\gamma = \frac{W_d + W_w}{V}} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{S = \frac{M_d + M_w}{V}}$$

### b) Dry Unit Wt. (or) Dry Density :-

It is defined as the ratio of wt. of the soil in dry state to the volume of the soil.

$$\boxed{\gamma_d = \frac{W_d}{V}} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{S_d = \frac{M_d}{V}}$$

Dry unit weight or dry density represents the denseness of the soil. Higher is the value of  $\gamma_d$ , more compactly solids are packed in the given volume of soil resulting in its higher degree of denseness.

Void ratio is related to degree of denseness.

$e \uparrow \Rightarrow$  Degree of denseness  $\downarrow$

$e \downarrow \Rightarrow$  Degree of denseness  $\uparrow$

### c) Saturated Unit Wt. (or) Saturated Density :-

It is defined as the ratio of saturated weight of soil to the volume of the soil.

$$\gamma_{SAT} = \frac{W_{SAT}}{V} \quad (\text{or}) \quad S_{SAT} = \frac{M_{SAT}}{V}$$

Note:- When the soil is dry, its bulk unit wt. is equal to the dry unit wt. and when soil is saturated, its ~~saturated~~ bulk unit wt. is equal to saturated unit wt.

### d) Submerged Unit Wt. (or) Submerged Density :-

When the soil is submerged below the water table; it is being acted upon by force of buoyancy in vertically upward direction that is equal in magnitude of the wt. of the water displaced by the soil.

$$\gamma_{SUB} = \gamma' = \gamma_{SAT} - \gamma_w \quad (\text{or}) \quad S_{SUB} = S' = S_{SAT} - S_w$$

Hence, it results in decrease in weight of the soil. This effective wt. of the soil in ~~sub~~ submerged unit condition is termed as submerged unit wt. or buoyant wt.

Note:- Saturated unit wt. is approximately twice the unit wt. of soil. Hence, submerged unit wt. is approximately half of saturated unit wt. ~~of water~~

$$\gamma_{SAT} = 2\gamma_w$$

$$\gamma' = \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{SAT}$$

$$\gamma_{SAT} > \gamma > \gamma_d > \gamma_{SUB}$$

→ Change is due to the change in wt. of water only.