Research Article

Temperature Control Technology for Construction of Jinsha River Bridge

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The key problem of mass concrete temperature control is to effectively control the maximum temperature inside concrete, the temperature difference between inside and outside concrete, and the temperature difference between surface and environment. The size of the main tower cap of No. 3 Jinsha River Bridge is 37 m × 23.5 m × 5.5 m, and the cubic volume of concrete reaches 4782.3 m³, which is poured in two times. In order to ensure construction quality of mass concrete structure, prevent the large mass concrete temperature stress, through the numerical simulation of the temperature control and optimization scheme, by optimizing the mixture ratio design, reducing the temperature of concrete pouring into the mold, cooling water cycling, insulation keeping in good health and a series of measures to effectively achieve the control goal, and eliminating the temperature cracks. The measured data show that the maximum temperature inside concrete, the temperature difference between inside and outside, and the temperature difference between surface and environment are qualified, but the temperature difference control of cooling water inlet and outlet has hysteresis effect, and the temperature difference between inlet and outlet will be greater than 10°C, which should be noticed.

1. Introduction

Concrete has been widely used in all kinds of buildings, such as bridges, dams, and other structures. In the construction of large bridges, especially bridges across rivers, seas, and valleys, the size records of concrete structures have been constantly refreshed. However, due to the poor thermal conductivity of concrete, a lot of heat that the cement hydration reaction produced is not easy to dissipate. The heat accumulation within structure causes the internal structure of concrete rapid heating up, the uneven temperature field both inside and outside the structure, and the temperature stress in the structure. Excessive temperature stress easily causes structural cracks affecting the structure durability. Structural cracks caused by temperature stress will have serious consequences on structural damage especially for mass concrete. According to the Construction Code for Mass Concrete (GB 50496-2018) [1,2], mass concrete with the minimum size of concrete structure entity not less than 1 m, or concrete that is expected to cause harmful cracks due to temperature change and shrinkage caused by hydration of cementing materials in concrete, is regarded as mass concrete. Therefore, temperature control is an urgent problem to be solved in mass concrete construction, and reasonable and effective technical measures must be taken to deal with it properly. Domestic and foreign scholars and engineers have carried out a lot of research work on temperature control during the construction of mass concrete and obtained a lot of research results.

Wan et al. [3] studied the crack prevention construction technology of mass concrete for the main bridge cap of South Dongting Bridge and pointed out many technical measures: the optimized design of concrete cofferdam reduces the total quantity of heat of hydration, thinning layered casting thickness increases concrete cooling capacity, improving the heat dissipation efficiency of the internal and external heat, reducing temperature rise of concrete, controlling the temperature of concrete casting into the mold, lowering temperature peak of caps concrete, adopting the water storage curing meet the requirements of large volume...
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In this paper, the No. 3 main tower cap of Jinsha River Bridge is taken as the research object, and a series of temperature control measures, such as optimizing the mix ratio design, reducing the temperature of concrete pouring into the mold, cooling water circulation, heat preservation, and health preservation, are studied to explore the effective means to achieve the temperature control target effectively and eliminate temperature cracks; at the same time, the measured data and simulation data are compared and analyzed to provide reference for temperature control of mass concrete construction.

2. Project Overview

Jinsha River Bridge with the main bridge 340 m + 72 m + 48 m + 32 m single-tower cable-stayed bridge, the starting pile number is K96 + 279, and the ending pile number is K96 + 844. The side spans are P-K steel box beams. The approach bridge adopts 2 × 35 m composite beams. The substructure adopts box pier, door frame pier, column pier, column abutment, and the foundation is bored pile foundation. The concrete grade is C40, in which the cap size of No. 3 main tower is 37 m × 23.5 m × 5.5 m, and the concrete square volume reaches 4782.3 m³, which is poured twice. The bridge layout is shown in Figure 1.

3. Design of Temperature Control Scheme for Mass Concrete Cap

3.1. Technical Route of Temperature Control Scheme. In order to ensure the construction quality of mass concrete structure and avoid the harmful temperature crack of mass concrete, it is necessary to accurately predict and analyze the temperature field and temperature stress of mass concrete. How to design a reasonable temperature control scheme and ensure that the change of temperature field inside concrete is in a safe and controllable range are considered; the general idea is as follows:

1. The adiabatic temperature rise and peak temperature of concrete can be reduced through raw material selection and mix ratio test.
2. According to the theoretical calculation of temperature control and construction environmental conditions, choose the surface insulation measures suitable for the construction season, reduce the temperature difference between inside and outside of concrete, make the distribution of temperature field in concrete as uniform as possible, and reduce the temperature gradient.
3. Through the internal cooling water circulation system, reduce the internal temperature peak of concrete, control the internal cooling rate, real-time monitoring of temperature, and intelligent control according to the monitoring data.
(4) Control the temperature difference between upper and lower layers, shorten the interlayer age difference as far as possible, and prevent the possible interlayer cracks. The specific process is shown in Figure 2.

3.2. Selection of Concrete Raw Materials and Mixing Ratio

3.2.1. Selection Raw Materials of Concrete

Cement: for cap C40 and tower base C50 concrete, in order to slow down the hydration reaction speed of cement and the growth rate of early strength of concrete, reduce the temperature appreciation of concrete; 42.5 ordinary Portland cement from Shuicheng Conch Panjiang Cement Company is selected.

Admixture: polycarboxylic acid high-efficiency water reducing agent with stable performance and high water reducing rate is preferred, which can effectively reduce the amount of cement per square meter of concrete, thus reducing the temperature rise of hydration heat of concrete. Through the adaptability test of water reducing agent and cement, the composition of water reducing agent is adjusted to ensure the effective initial setting time of concrete and meet the construction time of concrete pouring on-site.

Fly ash: in order to reduce the water consumption per unit of concrete, reduce the cement hydration heat of concrete and ensure the working performance of concrete; grade 1 fly ash is used.

3.2.2. Concrete Mix Design. The raw materials and mixing ratio of C40 concrete for the main pier cap of Jinsha River Bridge are shown in Table 1.

3.3. Layout of Cooling Water Pipes. Cooling water pipe layout of cap and tower is shown in Figure 3. Cooling water pipes are all 40 mm in diameter with the horizontal spacing 1.0 m. The thickness of the first cap is 3.0 m and the second one 2.5 m, while the thickness of the tower is 2.0 m. The height spacing between the cooling water pipe and the top surface is 0.5 m + 2 x 1.0 m + 0.5 m, 0.75 m + 1.0 m + 0.75 m, and 0.5 m + 1.0 m + 0.5 m.

4. Numerical Simulation of Temperature Control

4.1. Calculation Parameters and Calculation Model

4.1.1. Thermal Parameters and Mechanical Parameters. The values of thermal and mechanical parameters of concrete for cap C40 and tower C50 are shown in Table 2. The
Table 1: The lithology parameters of the 3D model.

| Project name | Main pier cap of Jinsha River Bridge | C40 concrete mix design |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Raw materials | Material name | Material specification | Manufacture factory |
| Cement | 42.5 ordinary Portland cement | Water city conch pan river |
| Flyash | — | — |
| Sand | — | Mingsheng of Jinyang |
| Gravel | — | Mingsheng of Jinyang |
| Admixture | — | Changan of Shijiazhuang |
| Mixing water | Tap water | — |

| Proportions of C40 concrete mix | Materials Consumption for concrete (m³/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cement | Flyash | Sand | Gravel | Water | Admixture | Water-binder ratio |
| | 285 | 154 | 761 | 1129 | 158 | 4.39 | 0.36 |

Figure 2: Temperature control flowchart.
adiabatic temperature of ordinary Portland cement is the actual value (modified according to the temperature peak measured by No. 8 cap).

The mechanical parameters of concrete, for Portland cement concrete mix ratio, used the standard value. Concrete shrinkage and creep is calculated according to “Code for Design of Highway Reinforced Concrete and Prestressed Concrete Bridges” JTG D62-2015 in Midas/Civil. Ambient temperature is selected according to the temperature and casting temperature of concrete, and the preliminary selected ambient temperature is calculated to be 24°C. In this calculation, the temperature of concrete entering mold is

![Cooling water pipe layout of cap and tower.](image1)

![Cooling water pipe layout of cap.](image2)

![Tower cooling water pipe layout.](image3)

Figure 3: Cooling water pipe layout of cap and tower. (a) Elevation layout of cooling water pipes for cap and tower. (b) Cooling water pipe layout of cap. (c) Tower cooling water pipe layout.

| Physical properties                  | Silicate concrete |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Density (kg/m³)                      | 2491              |
| Coefficient of linear expansion (1/T)| $1 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| Poisson’s ratio                      | 0.2               |
| Specific heat capacity (kJ/(kg°C))   | 0.96              |
| Pyroconductivity (kJ/(m·hr·T))       | 10.6              |
| Construction season                  | 3~5 months        |
| Average temperature during construction (°C) | 22~28            |
| Temperature of concrete entering mold (°C) | 24~26            |
| Adiabatic temperature rise (°C)      | 40/46             |
temporarily set at 24°C–26°C. In the construction process of cap and tower, the temperature control is calculated according to the actual casting temperature of concrete. The water temperature of the cooling pipe shall be considered as the river water, the river water temperature shall be 24°C, and the flow shall be 3 m³/h in the heating stage and 1.0 m³/h in the cooling stage. In the process of temperature control, the inlet flow rate or inlet temperature should be adjusted according to the inlet temperature of cooling water and the monitoring of the internal temperature field of the cap tower.

4.1.2. Boundary Conditions. The 3D models in Figures 4 and 5 are established by MIDAS/civil finite element software.

(1) Convective Boundary. The insulation measures proposed for the top surface of the cap and tower are as follows: the first layer of plastic film + the second layer of geotextile + the third layer of rain cloth, and its equivalent heat transfer coefficient is 20 kJ/(h·°C); the side of the cap is as follows: the first layer of geotextile + the second layer of rain cloth, and its equivalent heat transfer coefficient is 15 kJ/(h·°C). In the actual construction, the insulation measures can be adjusted according to the actual environmental conditions and the measured temperature field.

(2) Constraint Boundary. Consolidation is adopted at the bottom of cushion of cap and tower. In accordance with the sequence of pouring and construction, the 1–2 layers of the cap are activated successively, and the actual age difference is considered for simulation calculation [14–16].

(3) Pouring Interval. The pouring interval is 10 days. It should be shortened as far as possible in the actual construction [17,18].

4.2. Calculation Results of Temperature Control

4.2.1. Temperature Simulation Results. According to the relevant parameters of Portland cement concrete mix ratio, the overall calculation results of cap and tower temperature are shown in Table 3.

According to the results of temperature calculation, the peak temperature of the first layer-concrete of the cap is 54.1°C under the condition of 24°C of the temperature of concrete entering mold, and the temperature difference of the inner surface is less than 20°C. Figure 6 shows the calculation results of maximum temperature field, and Figure 7 shows the temperature time-history curve.

The peak temperature of the second-layer concrete of the cap is 55.4°C under the condition of 24°C the temperature of concrete entering mold, and the temperature difference between inside and outside surface is less than 20°C. Figure 8 shows the calculation results of the maximum temperature field, and Figure 9 shows the temperature time-history curve.

The peak temperature of the tower base concrete is 61.8°C under the condition of 26°C of the concrete entering mold, and the temperature difference between inside and outside surface is less than 20°C. Figure 10 shows the calculation results of the maximum temperature field, and Figure 11 shows the temperature time-history curve.

4.2.2. Stress Simulation Results. The overall stress calculation results of cap and tower base are shown in Table 4.

In the process of temperature change of concrete, the general change law of stress is as follows: in the stage of temperature rise, the surface tensile stress is the largest around the temperature peak time inside concrete; in the cooling stage, the internal stress gradually changes from compressive stress to tensile stress.

According to the stress calculation results, the maximum principal tensile stress of the first layer concrete of cap is between 1.33 MPa and 2.02 MPa. The calculation results of the maximum principal tensile stress distribution are shown in Figure 12, and the stress time-history curve is shown in Figure 13.

The maximum principal tensile stress of the second layer concrete of cap is between 1.86 MPa and 2.01 MPa. The calculation results of the maximum principal tensile stress distribution are shown in Figure 14, and the stress time-history curve is shown in Figure 15.

The maximum principal tensile stress of tower concrete is between 1.77 MPa and 2.29 MPa. The calculation results of the maximum principal tensile stress distribution are shown in Figure 16, and the stress time-history curve is shown in Figure 17 (SIG-maximum principal tensile stress).

4.2.3. Numerical Simulation Conclusion

(i) When the temperature of concrete entering mold is 24°C–26°C, the theoretical peak temperature of the concrete in each layer of cap and tower is 54.1°C–61.8°C.
According to the stress calculation results, the theoretical principal tensile stress of each layer of concrete is 1.86 MPa–2.29 MPa during the heating period, and 1.33 MPa–2.01 MPa after the cooling stage at the temperature of 24°C–26°C. The maximum principal tensile stress of each layer of concrete is less than the allowable stress in the heating and cooling stages, which meets the relevant requirements.

In the construction process, the temperature of concrete entering mold should be reduced as far as possible to reduce the temperature peak, to reduce the total temperature contraction deformation in the cooling stage. At the same time, pay attention to heat preservation in the maintenance process of the cap, reduce the temperature difference between inside and outside.

### Table 3: Temperature calculation results.

| Position  | Layer                          | Temperature of casting concrete (°C) | Peak temperature (°C) | Time of peak temperature (h) | Temperature rise value (°C) | Temperature difference between inside and outside (°C) |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Cap       | First-layer concrete           | 24                                  | 54.1                  | 48                            | 30.1                      | 16.1                                                |
|           | Second-layer concrete          | 24                                  | 55.4                  | 48                            | 31.4                      | 17.4                                                |
| Tower base| First-layer concrete           | 26                                  | 61.8                  | 48                            | 35.8                      | 18.5                                                |

**Figure 6:** Distribution of the maximum temperature field on the first floor of cap (unit: °C).

**Figure 7:** Time-history curve of concrete temperature in the first layer of cap.

**Figure 8:** Distribution of maximum temperature field on the second floor of cap (unit: °C).

**Figure 9:** Time-history curve of concrete temperature of the second layer of cap.

**Figure 10:** Distribution of the maximum temperature field of the tower (unit: °C).
Try to reduce the construction interval between each layer of cap and tower base, so as to reduce the constraint between each layer of concrete. In order to avoid interlayer cracks caused by excessive binding force of the first layer concrete on the second layer, the temperature difference between the two layers of the cap must be controlled, so the interlayer age difference should be reduced as far as possible.

**Table 4: Stress calculation results.**

| Position | Layer | Maximum principal tensile stress at heating stage | Maximum principal tensile stress at cooling stage |
|----------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|          |       | Stress value (MPa) | Concrete age (d) | Allowable stress (MPa) | Safety factor | Stress value (MPa) | Concrete age (d) | Allowable stress (MPa) | Safety factor |
| Cap      | First-layer concrete | 2.02 | 2.5 | 2.44 | 1.21 | 1.33 | 10 | 3.16 | 2.38 |
| Cap      | Second-layer concrete | 1.86 | 2.5 | 2.44 | 1.31 | 2.01 | 10 | 3.16 | 1.57 |
| Tower base | First-layer concrete | 2.29 | 2.5 | 2.71 | 1.18 | 1.77 | 10 | 3.45 | 1.95 |

**Figure 11: Concrete temperature time-history curve of tower.**

**Figure 12: Cloud diagram of main tensile stress in the first layer of cap (unit: MPa).** (a) Heating stage. (b) Cooling stage.

**Figure 13: Time-history curve of main tensile stress in the first layer of cap.**
The concrete pouring interval of the main tower cap is controlled at about 7 days, generally not more than 10 days. The actual pouring finish time of the first layer of the cap construction is at 20:00 on May 29, 2020. The second pouring time is at 10:00 on June 10, 2020, and the interval is within 10 days.

5. Temperature Control Standard

According to the relevant requirements of the current codes and regulations, and in combination with the actual situation of the construction of the tower base of Jinsha River Bridge, the main temperature control standards are drawn up in Table 5.

It is an important measure for temperature control of mass concrete to reduce the temperature of concrete entering mold as much as possible. Under the condition of concrete fit ratio and heat transfer boundary condition, the higher the temperature of concrete entering mold is, the higher the temperature peak value is, and the greater the temperature difference between inside and outside concrete, temperature deformation, and temperature stress are. In addition, the higher the injection temperature, the faster the hydration reaction rate of concrete, most of the hydration heat will be released in the initial stage of concrete pouring, strength and elastic modulus will also increase, adverse to temperature control.
According to the calculation results, the order of the influence of various raw materials on the temperature of concrete is coarse aggregate > fine aggregate and water- cement and fly ash. Therefore, reducing the temperature of coarse aggregate and mixing water is the most effective way to reduce the concrete temperature of out-of-machine. The concrete temperature can be reduced by 0.40°C and 0.24°C to reduce the concrete temperature of out-of-machine.

It is necessary to measure the temperature of water, cement, aggregate, and admixture before concrete mixing and estimate the temperature of concrete after mixing according to the empirical formula. If it cannot meet the requirements of the temperature of concrete entering mold, some measures should be taken such as adding ice and precooling of aggregate for trial mixing until the requirements are met.

6. Temperature Control Effect

6.1. Temperature Monitoring Scheme

6.1.1. Temperature Monitoring Content. Temperature monitoring mainly includes temperature measurement of environmental system and temperature field measurement of concrete. Temperature measurement of environmental system includes atmospheric temperature and inlet and outlet temperature of cooling water. Atmospheric temperature measurement includes the analysis of seasonal temperature difference, daily temperature, and cold wave. Select representative cooling water pipes and install temperature sensors in the inlet and outlet of water pipes and the middle of straight line section to measure the temperature of cooling water.

6.1.2. Layout of Concrete Temperature Measuring Points. The pipes of cooling water are made of Q235B with diameter of 32 mm and wall thickness of 2.5 mm. The bending part of the pipe is pretreated with cold bending. The pipe is closely connected with silk buckle and raw tape.

The layout principle of temperature monitoring point of cap: the actual distribution and temperature field characteristics of cooling water pipe in concrete should be fully considered, and the corresponding specification requirements should be met:

(i) According to the characteristics of structural symmetry, half of the structure is selected as the main test area, and the other half of the key measurement points are arranged

(ii) Two temperature measuring elements are buried at important measuring points to prevent damage and ensure data integrity

(iii) Fully consider the distribution law of temperature field, as well as the position of cooling water pipe, water inlet and outlet

(iv) Fully reflect the evaluation of temperature control indicators

The specific arrangement of measuring points on the cap is shown in Figure 18. The final arrangement of measuring points may need to be adjusted appropriately according to the construction scheme and calculation results. Numbering rules of temperature measuring points: measuring points along the bridge are $X_n - (1 \sim N)$, such as $X_2 - (1 \sim N)$ in the second layer. Cross bridge direction measurement point is $Y_n - (1 \sim N)$ such that the second layer is $Y_2 - (1 \sim N)$. The central measurement point is $Z_n - 0$.

6.2. Temperature Monitoring Results. Before the concrete is put into the mold, check whether the instrument is damaged after being buried and observe the temperature in the concrete. Automatic temperature acquisition instrument is adopted to collect temperature data once per hour. According to the predicted calculation results of temperature field and stress field, combined with the comparative analysis of...
monitoring results, the termination time of measurement is determined. Ambient air temperature and inlet and outlet temperature of cooling water are monitored synchronously with the temperature of concrete, as shown in Figures 19 and 20. The corresponding data are shown in Table 6. The insulation measures proposed in the numerical simulation of temperature control are the same as those in the construction.

The monitoring data of the first pouring concrete of the cap was collected from May 29, 2020, to June 16, 2020 (there was a lack of measurement data four times due to power outages in the middle), and the monitoring data of the second pouring of the cap was collected from June 10, 2020, to June 17, 2020.

The measured results show that the measured values of the first and second pouring of the temperature control project meet the requirements of the specification. The data show that the measures of this project can achieve good temperature control effect.

Figure 18: Layout of temperature measuring points. (a) Elevation layout of temperature measuring point of cap. (b) Floor plan of temperature measuring point of cap. (c) Layout of temperature measuring point of tower.
Table 6: Analysis of measured results of cap temperature.

| Serial number | Temperature control item                                      | Control standard | Measured value of first pouring (°C) | Measured value of second pouring (°C) |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1             | Temperature of pouring concrete                               | ≤26°C            | 25~30                                | 24~28.5                               |
| 2             | Maximum temperature of internal concrete                      | ≤65°C            | 64.5                                 | 61.6                                  |
| 3             | Temperature difference between the inner surface of concrete pouring body (including equivalent temperature of concrete shrinkage) | ≤28°C            | 26.6                                 | 24.6                                  |
| 4             | The rate of cooling of inside concrete                        | ≤2.0°C/d         | 2.1                                  | 1.98                                  |
| 5             | Temperature difference between surface of concrete and atmosphere | ≤20°C             | 16.1                                 | 17.1                                  |
| 6             | Temperature difference between inlet and outlet of cooling water | ≤10°C             | —                                    | 9.8                                   |
| 7             | The temperature difference between the cooling water and the inside concrete when the water is first supplied or resupplied after interruption | ≤25°C            | 24.8                                 | —                                     |
| 8             | Temperature difference between curing water and concrete surface | ≤15°C             | True                                 | True                                  |
7. Conclusions

(1) The internal temperature of concrete reached the peak value 33 hours after the first pouring while reached the peak value 41 hours later after the second pouring. The peak value time appeared earlier than the simulated peak time, indicating that temperature monitoring and temperature control measures are very necessary.

(2) The 3D models in Figures 4 and 5 are established by MIDAS/civil finite element software. The simulated temperature peak value of the first pouring is 10.1°C lower than the measured value, and the simulated temperature peak value of the second pouring is 6.2°C lower than the measured value, which is mainly caused by the high temperature of pouring concrete.

(3) In the whole casting process, the temperature difference between inlet and outlet of cooling water is small can meet the requirements of 10°C. But around the time when the internal temperature reaches the peak, the inlet and outlet temperature difference is large; the measured values are up to 25.1°C. It is recommended to adopt full water storage heat preservation and maintenance system, strengthen the regulation of reservoir water temperature, according to the change of temperature day and night. The temperature difference between water storage and concrete surface is controlled at about 10°C.

(4) There is time lag effect in controlling the cooling rate of concrete pouring body by adjusting the temperature or flow of cooling water. Comparatively speaking, it is easy to control the temperature of concrete entering mold. The measured results show that the measured values of the first and second pouring of the temperature control project meet the requirements of the specification. The data show that the measures of this project can achieve good temperature control effect.

Data Availability

All data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article, and there are not any restrictions on data access.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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