

## Research on Basic Quality Classification of Rock Mass Based on Fuzzy Theory

Yun-guo ZHANG<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>, Jing-bin WANG<sup>1, 2,\*</sup> and Guang-jing HE<sup>2, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>China University of Geosciences (Beijing), Beijing, China

<sup>2</sup>Beijing Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, Beijing, China

<sup>3</sup>Chi Feng University, Chi Feng, China

\*corresponding author

**Keywords:** Basic quality classification of rock mass, analytic hierarchy process, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, coincidence rate

**Abstract.** The fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method is widely used in geotechnical engineering. In-depth analysis of the key factors affecting the basic quality of rock mass, according to the basic quality classification of the national standard rock mass, the rock hardness and rock integrity coefficient are used as evaluation indicators. Considering the dynamic change of weights, the subjective weights and objective weights are combined, the normal distribution membership function is modified, and the basic quality fuzzy comprehensive evaluation model of rock mass is constructed. Finally, the results are compared with the national standard grading results in the whole domain. The results show that the coincidence rate of the two methods is 67.2% in the whole domain, and the maximum phase difference is 2 grades; the ratios of the phase difference and the phase difference are 28.5% and 4.3%, respectively.

### Introduction

Engineering rock mass grading is a comprehensive evaluation process for the quality and stability of rock mass. It is an important reference for the selection of physical and mechanical parameters of rock mass and is the basic work in rock mechanics and engineering problems [1]. The traditional methods of engineering rock mass classification mainly include RMR method and national standard method. These methods select different evaluation indexes to evaluate rock mass, which are more common in engineering, but each has certain defects: RMR method is applicable in most occasions. However, this classification method is difficult to use when dealing with problems caused by extrusion, expansion, water inrush and its weak rock mass, and the RMR method does not have continuity in scoring, and the single factor score is discrete value, which does not reflect the quality of evaluation factors [2]. Continuous change. The national standard BQ grading method uses qualitative grading and quantitative grading control in engineering rock mass classification, but the situation in which the grading results are inconsistent is not explained. The fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method is based on fuzzy mathematics theory to analyze and evaluate rock mechanics problems [3]. This method has been widely used in predicting rock burst, slope stability analysis and engineering rock mass classification and has made a series of research progress and Results. In this paper, the basic quality classification of rock mass is taken as the research object, combined with the national standard classification characteristics and the current fuzzy theory research results, the corresponding evaluation system is constructed, and the national standard classification results are investigated and studied in the whole domain to make it more perfect.

### National Standard Method for Basic Quality Classification of Rock Mass

The national standard uses the BQ value to quantitatively characterize the basic quality of the rock mass. The calculation formula is:

$$BQ = 100 + 3R_c + 250K_v \quad (1)$$

Where  $R_c$  represents the saturated uniaxial compressive strength of rock, unit: MPa;  $K_v$  represents the integrity factor of rock mass.

When the  $R_c$  of the rock is too large compared to  $K_v$  or  $K_v$  is too large compared to  $R_c$ , the direct substitution into the formula (1) will result in unsafe evaluation of the rock mass. In this regard, the national standard gives two restrictions:

When  $R_c > 90K_v + 30$ , set:

$$R_c = 90K_v + 30 \quad (2)$$

When  $K_v > 0.04R_c + 0.4$ , set:

$$K_v = 0.04R_c + 0.4 \quad (3)$$

After obtaining BQ, the basic quality of the rock mass can be graded. The corresponding relationship between the BQ value and the basic quality grade of the rock mass is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Correspondence between basic mass and BQ of rock mass

Basic quality grade of rock mass	BQ value
I	>550
II	451~550
III	351~450
IV	251~350
V	<251

### Grading Principle of Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation

First define two sets: set the set  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ ,  $u_i$  as the factors affecting the quality evaluation of the rock mass,  $U$  is called the factor set;  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\}$ ,  $v_j$  is a possible evaluation level of the rock mass, and  $V$  is called a comment set. Make a separate evaluation for each factor  $u_i$  in  $U$ , determine the degree of membership  $r_{ij}$  of the factor  $u_i$  to the comment  $v_j$ . The evaluation set is:

$$r_i = \{r_{i1}, r_{i2}, r_{i3}, \dots, r_{im}\} \quad (4)$$

Using  $n$  single-factor evaluation sets as the rows of the matrix, the overall evaluation matrix can be obtained:

$$R = [r_{ij}]_{n \times m} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1m} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & \cdots & r_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ r_{n1} & r_{n2} & \cdots & r_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Where  $0 \leq r_{ij} \leq 1$ , the essence of which is a fuzzy mapping from the factor set  $U$  to the comment set  $V$ :

$$f: U \rightarrow \tilde{F}(V), u_i \rightarrow f(u_i) \quad (6)$$

Where  $R$  reflects the fuzzy relationship between factor  $u_i$  and comment  $v_j$ , which is called fuzzy relational matrix  $v_j$ , which is also called membership degree matrix.

In most cases, some factors have a greater impact on the evaluation of the same thing, while some factors have a small impact on the evaluation, that is, the importance of each factor is different. Therefore, it is necessary to define a set of weights for the factors affecting the quality

evaluation of rock mass:  $W = (w_1, w_2, w_3, \dots, w_n)$ , obviously  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i = 1$ .

Then the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation can be performed:

$$B = W \circ R = (b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_m) \quad (7)$$

Among them,  $\circ$  stands for generalized fuzzy synthesis operator.  $B$  is the hierarchical fuzzy matrix of the comment set  $V$ . In the classification of engineering rock mass, the five-level division commonly used in the country is generally adopted, that is,  $m = 5$ .  $B_j$  represents the degree of membership of the fuzzy level  $B$  of the evaluation level  $v_j$ . According to the principle of maximum membership, the level corresponding to  $\max \{b_j\}$  is comprehensive. The final rating of the judgement.

### Grading Process of Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation

**Selection of Evaluation Indicators and Classification Criteria.** Based on the general classification principle of fuzzy comprehensive evaluation and the principle of national standard classification, the rock saturated uniaxial compressive strength  $R_c$  and the rock integrity index  $K_v$  are used to carry out fuzzy comprehensive evaluation of rock mass basic quality, so that the national standard system and the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation system have the same The basis of the indicator is more intuitive in comparing the effects of the two methods. When using the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, the relationship between the factor level of the single factor classification standard and the hardness degree and completeness of the qualitative division according to the national standard is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Single factor classification criteria

Level	$R_c$ / MPa	$K_v$
I	>60	>0.75
II	30~60	0.55~0.75
III	12~30	0.35~0.55
IV	5~15	0.15~0.35
V	<5	<0.15

**Determination of Single Factor Membership Function.** The membership function describes the degree of membership of the fuzzy concept on the domain, and is one of the key steps to determine the fuzzy relationship and carry out fuzzy comprehensive evaluation. For rock mass grading, the most appropriate membership function should belong to the normal distribution membership function:

$$\mu = (x) = e^{-\left(\frac{x-a_0}{c}\right)^2} \quad (8)$$

For a certain interval  $[a_1, a_2]$ ,  $a_0$  is the midpoint of the interval; when one side is the open interval,  $a_2 = 2a_1$ .

$$a_0 = \frac{a_1 + a_2}{2} \quad (9)$$

When  $x = a_0$ , the membership degree  $\mu(a_0)$  is 1; for the endpoint of the interval, that is, the boundary point of the adjacent two phases. When  $x = a_1$ ,  $\mu(a_1) = e^{-\left(\frac{a_1-a_0}{c}\right)^2} = e^{-\left(\frac{a_1-a_2}{2c}\right)^2} = 0.5$ , then

$$c = \frac{a_2 - a_1}{1.66} \quad (10)$$

The two sides of the interval are treated by the idea of a half-trapezoid and a half-trapped trapezoid. The membership functions of the rock-saturated uniaxial compressive strength  $R_c$  are obtained by combining the above analysis with Table 2:

$$\mu_1^{(1)}(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-[(x-90)/36.14]^2}, & x < 90 \\ 1, & x \geq 90 \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\mu_2^{(1)} = e^{-[(x-45)/18.07]^2} \quad (12)$$

$$\mu_3^{(1)} = e^{-[(x-22.5)/9.04]^2} \quad (13)$$

$$\mu_4^{(1)} = e^{-[(x-10)/6.02]^2} \quad (14)$$

$$\mu_5^{(1)}(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-[(x-2.5)/3.012]^2}, & x > 2.5 \\ 1, & x \leq 2.5 \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Similarly, the membership function of the rock mass integrity coefficient  $K_v$  is:

$$\mu_1^{(2)}(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-[(x-0.875)/0.151]^2}, & x < 0.875 \\ 1, & x \geq 0.875 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$\mu_2^{(2)} = e^{-[(x-0.65)/0.12]^2} \quad (17)$$

$$\mu_3^{(2)} = e^{-[(x-0.45)/0.12]^2} \quad (18)$$

$$\mu_4^{(2)} = e^{-[(x-0.25)/0.12]^2} \quad (19)$$

$$\mu_5^{(2)}(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-[(x-0.075)/0.09]^2}, & x > 0.075 \\ 1, & x \leq 0.075 \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

**Determination of the Weight of Evaluation Factors.** The weighting method is generally divided into a subjective weighting method and an objective weighting method. The analytic hierarchy process is a kind of subjective weighting method; according to the law of relative importance of factors, the dynamic change of weight is the objective weight. The weights of the two influencing factors are set to  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ , respectively, where the subjective weights are  $w_1^{(1)}$  and  $w_2^{(1)}$ , and the objective weights are  $w_1^{(2)}$  and  $w_2^{(2)}$ .

$$w_1 = aw_1^{(1)} + (1-a)w_1^{(2)} \quad (21)$$

$$w_2 = aw_2^{(1)} + (1-a)w_2^{(2)} \quad (22)$$

Where  $a$  is a coefficient,  $0 < a < 1$ , and this paper takes  $a = 0.5$ .

The sigmoid function is used to describe this constraint. After adjusting the sigmoid function parameters, the following weight functions can be obtained.

$$w_2^{(2)} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-0.04R_c + 2.4}} \quad (23)$$

According to  $w_1^{(2)} + w_2^{(2)} = 1$ , it can be obtained:

$$w_1^{(2)} = 1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{0.04R_c + 2.4}} \quad (24)$$

Formula (23) shows that the weight of the rock mass integrity coefficient increases with the increase of  $R_c$ , that is, the larger  $R_c$ , the more important  $K_v$  is in the classification.

Subjective weights are generally constant, and are determined according to the experience of experts, also known as constant weight. When  $K_v$  is smaller than 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, and 0.4, it is considered to be slightly more important than  $R_c$ ; when  $K_v$  is moderately 0.5 and 0.6, it is considered to be as important as  $R_c$ ; when  $K_v$  is 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, it is considered to be less important than  $R_c$ . According to the analytic hierarchy process and the meaning of 1~9 scale, the subjective weights under different  $K_v$  values can be obtained through simple calculations.

Table 3 Subjective weights under different  $K_v$

$K_v$	$w_1^{(1)}$	$w_2^{(1)}$
0.1	0.25	0.75
0.2	0.25	0.75
0.3	0.25	0.75
0.4	0.5	0.75
0.5	0.5	0.5

0.6	0.75	0.5
0.7	0.75	0.25
0.8	0.75	0.25
0.9	0.75	0.25
1	0.75	0.25

**Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation.** After obtaining the weight of the indicator and establishing the membership function of the single factor evaluation, the fuzzy theory can be used to evaluate the basic quality of the rock mass. According to formula (7):

$$B = [w_1 \quad w_2] \circ \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1^{(1)} & \mu_2^{(1)} & \mu_3^{(1)} & \mu_4^{(1)} & \mu_5^{(1)} \\ \mu_1^{(2)} & \mu_2^{(2)} & \mu_3^{(2)} & \mu_4^{(2)} & \mu_5^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \quad (25)$$

Where  $\circ$  is a fuzzy operator. In this paper, we use the weighted average type operator, then the above formula becomes:

$$B = (b_i) = (w_1 \mu_i^{(1)} + w_2 \mu_i^{(2)}), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \quad (26)$$

According to the maximum membership principle, the level corresponding to  $\max\{b_j\}$  is the evaluation level of the basic quality of the rock mass. The flow chart of the rapid fuzzy comprehensive evaluation of the basic quality of rock mass is shown in Figure 2.

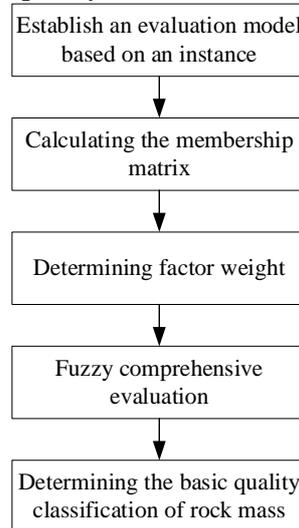


Figure 2 Fuzzy comprehensive evaluation process of rock mass basic quality

### Comparative Analysis of Examples

The paper uses discrete points to represent the whole domain, so that  $k_v$  takes the values of 0.1, 0.2, ..., 1.0, and  $R_c$  takes an integer between 1 and 120, which constitutes a total of 120 pairs. Some of the results of the classification using two methods are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5.

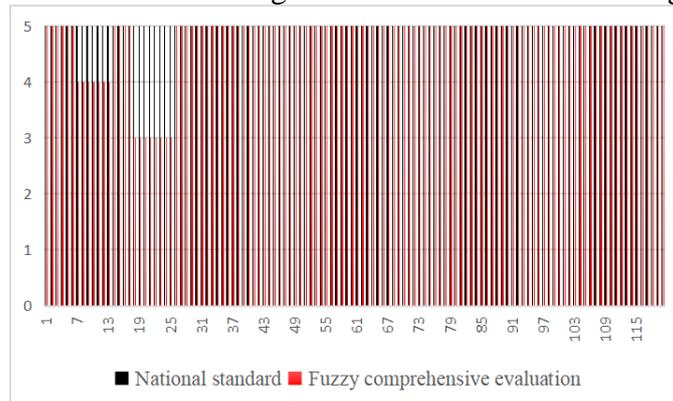


Figure 3  $K_v=0.1$

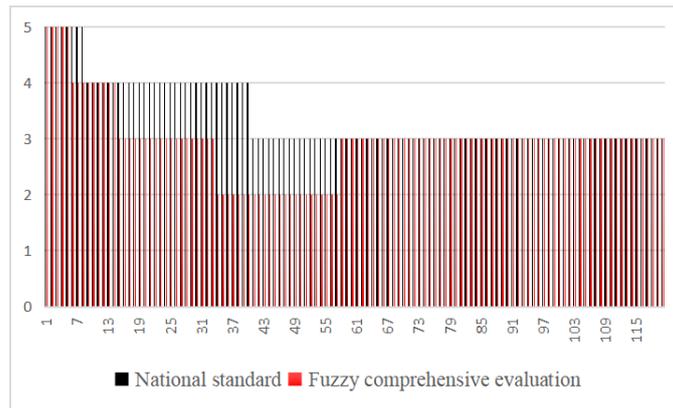


Figure 4  $K_v=0.5$

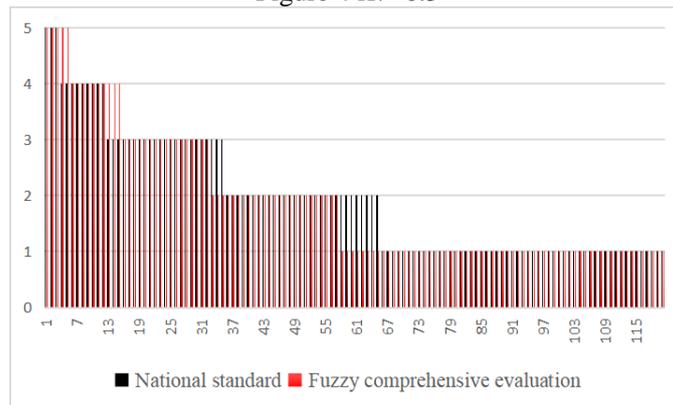


Figure 5  $K_v=1.0$

The coincidence rate of the two methods under different  $K_v$  statistics is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 The coincidence rate of national standard classification and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method under different  $K_v$

$K_v$	Rate of coincidence/%
0.1	85.5
0.2	75
0.3	79.2
0.4	61.7
0.5	60
0.6	55.8
0.7	44.2
0.8	56.7
0.9	67.5
1.0	85.8

It can be seen from Figure 3 that the trend of national standard grading and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation under the same  $K_v$  is very close, which indicates that the two methods are in good agreement under these conditions. It can also be seen from the figure that the national standard grading result is always safer than the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method. It can be seen from Table 4 that when the  $K_v$  values are 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.9, and 1.0, the coincidence rates are 85.8%, 75%, 79.2%, 67.5%, and 85.8%, respectively, which indicates that the  $K_v$  value is large and small, and is blurred. The comprehensive evaluation method and the national standard classification method have a good agreement; when the  $K_v$  value is moderate, the coincidence rate is low, and the anastomosis effect is poor. When  $K_v$  is 0.7, the coincidence rate reaches a minimum of only 44.2%. The above comparison results show that the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method based on dynamic weight has practical value in the study of rock mass basic quality classification, and can be used as an independent research method to classify the basic quality of rock mass.

## Conclusion

The fuzzy comprehensive evaluation model of rock mass basic quality is constructed with the hardness of rock and the integrity factor of rock mass as the key factors. The combination of subjective weight and objective weight is used to effectively reflect the change of the relative importance of evaluation indicators with their own values. The process of changing the relative importance of factors has been fully verified. In view of the shortcomings of common methods for verifying with a few examples, 1200 discrete points are used to represent the global scope and verified. Basically, the two methods are compared in the whole domain, which can provide a reference for engineering verification ideas.

### **Acknowledgements**

This research is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (41602101) and the project of China Geological Survey (DD20160072).

### **References**

- [1] Chen C S, Liu Y C. A methodology for evaluation and classification of rock mass quality on tunnel engineering [J]. *Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology incorporating Trenchless Technology Research*, 2007, 22(4):377-387.
- [2] Hamidi J K, Shahriar K, Rezai B, et al. Application of Fuzzy Set Theory to Rock Engineering Classification Systems: An Illustration of the Rock Mass Excavability Index [J]. *Rock Mechanics & Rock Engineering*, 2010, 43(3):335-350.
- [3] Azimi Y, Osanloo M, Aakbarpour-Shirazi M, et al. Prediction of the blastability designation of rock masses using fuzzy sets [J]. *International Journal of Rock Mechanics & Mining Sciences*, 2010, 47(7):1126-1140.