

Enhancing Concrete Durability against Wastewater-Induced Corrosion

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Abstract: This project focuses on an experimental investigation into the effects of wastewater exposure on the corrosion resistance of concrete structures, utilizing corrosion inhibitors and basalt fiber reinforcement. By examining how wastewater impacts concrete durability and integrating sustainable corrosion inhibitors, this research aims to enhance the longevity and performance of concrete structures in water management systems. Incorporating basalt fiber-reinforced concrete provides additional strength and resilience, aligning with a sustainable approach to smart water management by reducing resource consumption and minimizing environmental impact. The study thus contributes to advancing corrosion-resistant, durable infrastructure essential for efficient wastewater management.

Corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete structures is a critical issue affecting the durability and service life of infrastructure, especially in harsh environmental conditions. Concrete is susceptible to corrosion when exposed to chloride ions, carbon dioxide, moisture, and other aggressive agents, leading to structural deterioration, reduced load-bearing capacity, and increased maintenance costs. To address these challenges, researchers and engineers have been exploring innovative materials and techniques to enhance the corrosion resistance and longevity of concrete structures.

Keywords: --Wastewater, Concrete Corrosion, Corrosion Inhibitors, AI-Powered Water Management, Compressive Strength, Random Forest Algorithm, Concrete Durability, Sustainable Construction, Smart Water Management, Rebar Mass Loss, Wastewater Reuse, Infrastructure Sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Concrete, the cornerstone material for modern construction, forms the structural backbone of a wide array of infrastructure projects, including buildings, bridges, highways, and dams. Despite its widespread use and inherent durability, concrete is susceptible to degradation, particularly from the corrosion of

embedded steel reinforcement. Corrosion, induced by environmental and chemical factors, can significantly shorten the lifespan of concrete structures, leading to costly repairs, reduced structural integrity, and, in extreme cases, catastrophic failure. Among the most aggressive and detrimental of these factors are chloride and sulfate ions, which accelerate the corrosion process when they infiltrate the concrete. This is especially concerning in environments where concrete is exposed to wastewater, as untreated or partially treated effluents can carry elevated concentrations of these corrosive substances.

The reuse of wastewater, particularly effluents from sewage treatment plants (STPs), has become an increasingly common practice in urban development and industrial applications. This approach is critical to addressing the growing water scarcity issue, as it contributes to water conservation and reduces reliance on fresh water resources. However, the use of wastewater in construction, including its potential reuse in concrete production, introduces a host of new challenges related to material durability. The composition of wastewater—rich in substances like chloride, sulfate, biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), total dissolved solids (TDS), and temperature variations—has been shown to significantly impact the chemical and physical properties of concrete. When exposed to these wastewater components, concrete's structural integrity is compromised due to the accelerated corrosion of the embedded rebar, resulting in a deterioration of the concrete's compressive strength and resistance to cracking.

Problem Statement:

Concrete, as a primary material used in the construction of infrastructure such as buildings, bridges, and roads, faces a persistent challenge due to the corrosion of embedded steel reinforcement. The

durability and longevity of concrete structures are critically compromised when exposed to aggressive environmental factors, particularly wastewater from sewage treatment plants (STPs). Wastewater often contains high concentrations of harmful chemicals such as chloride, sulfate, biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), total dissolved solids (TDS), and temperature fluctuations, all of which can accelerate the corrosion process of steel reinforcement within concrete. This corrosion can lead to a significant reduction in the structural integrity of concrete, posing safety risks and resulting in costly repairs.

While the reuse of wastewater in construction and other applications offers a sustainable solution to water scarcity, it also introduces challenges regarding the long-term performance and durability of concrete structures exposed to such wastewater. The corrosive ions in wastewater can trigger the degradation of concrete, leading to reduced compressive strength, cracking, and ultimately, structural failure. To mitigate this issue, the use of corrosion inhibitors has been proposed as a solution. These inhibitors are chemicals that prevent or slow down the corrosion process by forming a protective layer on the reinforcement bars or by reacting with the aggressive ions in the environment. However, the effectiveness of corrosion inhibitors can vary depending on the composition of the wastewater and the exposure conditions.

Despite the potential benefits of corrosion inhibitors, there is a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the precise impact of various wastewater components on concrete corrosion and the optimal application of corrosion inhibitors. Additionally, traditional experimental methods to assess corrosion resistance are time-consuming, expensive, and may not provide real-time predictions of the material's performance under varying environmental conditions.

Therefore, this study seeks to address the following research problem:

- How does wastewater, particularly from STPs, influence the corrosion resistance and overall performance of concrete structures?
- What are the effects of various wastewater parameters (pH, chloride, sulfate, BOD, COD, TDS, temperature) on the degradation of concrete?

- How can corrosion inhibitors be effectively utilized to mitigate the adverse impact of wastewater on concrete?
- Can artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, specifically the Random Forest algorithm, be used to predict key outcomes such as rebar mass loss, compressive strength, and corrosion resistance category, based on wastewater composition and concrete parameters?

This research aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between wastewater exposure and concrete degradation, provide insights into the optimal use of corrosion inhibitors, and introduce AI-powered solutions for predicting the long-term performance of concrete structures exposed to wastewater. By addressing these critical questions, the study contributes to the development of sustainable and resilient construction practices that minimize the detrimental effects of wastewater exposure on concrete while promoting the reuse of wastewater in construction applications.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Investigate the Impact of Wastewater on Concrete Durability: The primary objective of this research is to explore how wastewater, specifically from sewage treatment plants (STPs), affects the corrosion resistance and overall durability of concrete. This will include analyzing the influence of various wastewater parameters such as pH level, chloride, sulfate, BOD, COD, TDS, and temperature on concrete's structural integrity.
2. To Evaluate the Effectiveness of Corrosion Inhibitors: The research aims to assess the role and effectiveness of corrosion inhibitors in mitigating the adverse effects of wastewater on concrete. This will involve testing different types of corrosion inhibitors and determining the optimal conditions for their use to minimize corrosion and improve the long-term performance of concrete exposed to wastewater.
3. To Quantify Concrete Degradation through Compressive Strength and Rebar Mass Loss: A key objective is to quantify the degradation of concrete exposed to wastewater through two primary parameters: compressive strength and rebar mass loss. By evaluating these metrics, the

research will establish the extent of corrosion and its impact on the mechanical properties of concrete.

4. To Predict Corrosion Resistance and Concrete Performance Using AI Models: The study aims to develop an AI-powered predictive model, using the Random Forest algorithm, to forecast key outcomes such as rebar mass loss, compressive strength, and corrosion resistance category based on input parameters like wastewater composition and concrete characteristics. The AI model will enable real-time predictions and provide insights into the long-term behavior of concrete in corrosive environments.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a holistic methodology that integrates both experimental and computational approaches to assess the impact of wastewater on the corrosion resistance of concrete, with a focus on the role of corrosion inhibitors in mitigating corrosion. The first step involves casting concrete cubes using various mix types to maintain consistency and workability. The concrete specimens are then categorized into two groups: the control group, which is exposed to potable water (serving as a baseline for comparison), and the experimental group, which is exposed to wastewater sourced from the Vittalwadi Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The wastewater is characterized by various parameters, including chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids (TDS), pH, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and temperature. These parameters are closely monitored throughout the experiment to understand their influence on concrete degradation. In the next phase, the concrete samples are exposed to the wastewater for different durations, simulating long-term exposure. The experimental group incorporates corrosion inhibitors into the concrete mix to evaluate their ability to counteract the effects of corrosion. Corrosion inhibitors, which function by

chemically neutralizing or inhibiting corrosion reactions on steel reinforcement, are applied at various concentrations to determine the optimal level that provides maximum protection to the concrete under wastewater exposure.

Subsequently, the concrete specimens undergo extensive testing to quantify their degradation. Compressive strength tests are performed to assess the structural integrity of the concrete, while rebar mass loss measurements are taken to evaluate the extent of corrosion of the embedded steel reinforcement. These tests are conducted at multiple time intervals throughout the exposure period to track the progression of corrosion and the corresponding loss in mechanical properties, which will help establish the impact of wastewater on concrete over time.

Simultaneously, advanced AI-powered predictive models, particularly the Random Forest algorithm, are developed to predict critical outcomes such as rebar mass loss, compressive strength, and corrosion resistance category. These models are trained using data from the experimental observations, including various input parameters like the composition of wastewater, the concrete mix type, and exposure duration. The goal is to use these AI models to provide real-time, data-driven predictions for concrete performance, enabling early detection of potential corrosion issues and improving decision-making in construction and material selection.

Finally, the results from the experimental tests and AI predictions are analyzed to derive actionable insights for improving the sustainability of concrete construction. The effectiveness of corrosion inhibitors is systematically evaluated, and recommendations are made regarding the optimal conditions for their use in wastewater-exposed concrete. This research aims to not only extend the lifespan and durability of concrete structures but also promote the sustainable reuse of wastewater in the construction industry, thereby contributing to the overarching goals of environmental conservation and resource efficiency.

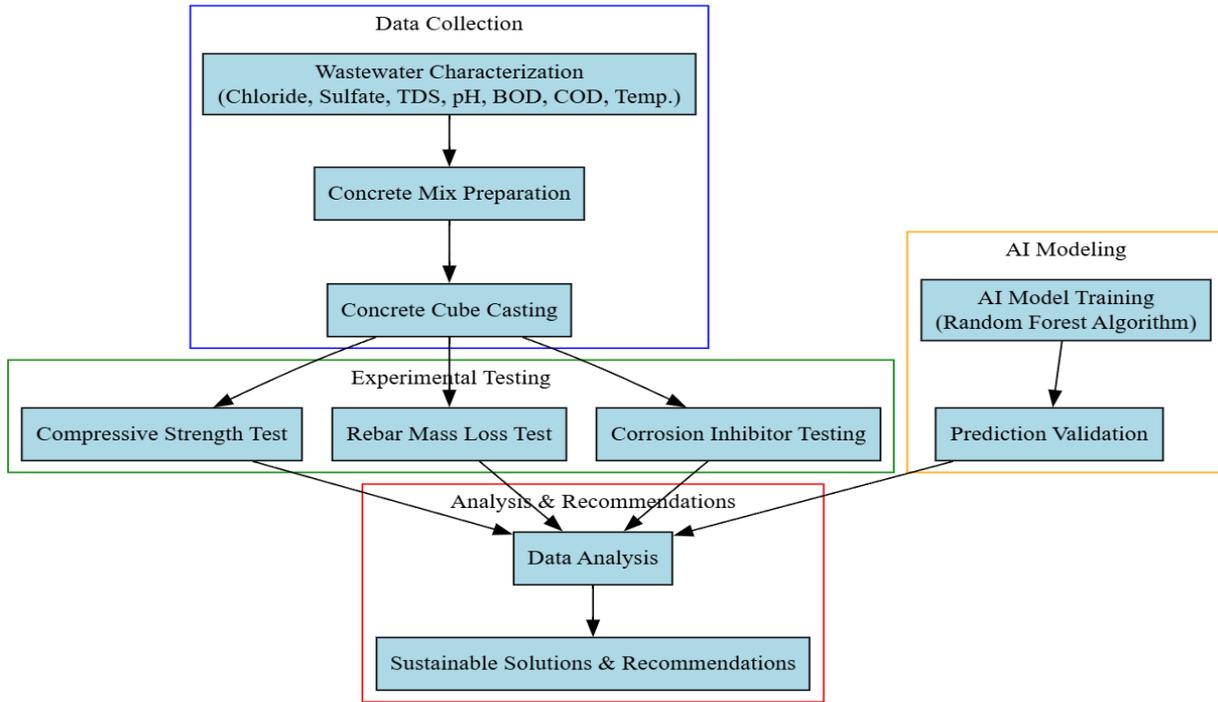


Fig Methodology

DATA ANALYSIS

The Data Analysis phase is pivotal for interpreting the results obtained from the experimental tests and AI-powered predictions. The objective is to derive meaningful insights regarding the impact of wastewater on concrete and the effectiveness of corrosion inhibitors in mitigating corrosion. This phase involves several steps to process, analyze, and validate the collected data.

First, the experimental data from the compressive strength tests, rebar mass loss tests, and corrosion inhibitor testing are carefully analyzed. This includes comparing the results from the control group (exposed to potable water) with those from the experimental group (exposed to wastewater) to assess the influence of wastewater on concrete degradation. The compressive strength of the concrete specimens is measured at various intervals to track the deterioration of concrete over time, while rebar mass loss is monitored to determine the extent of corrosion in the embedded steel reinforcement. Additionally, the effectiveness of the corrosion inhibitors is evaluated by comparing the corrosion-related parameters in the experimental group.

System Architecture:

Simultaneously, AI-driven models, specifically the Random Forest algorithm, are applied to predict key outcomes such as rebar mass loss, compressive strength, and corrosion resistance category based on the input parameters (e.g., wastewater characteristics, exposure duration, concrete mix type). The model is trained using the experimental data, and the predictions are validated by comparing the AI-generated results with the observed experimental outcomes. This validation ensures that the AI model can accurately predict corrosion and concrete performance under different conditions.

The final stage of data analysis involves synthesizing the results from both the experimental tests and AI predictions to draw conclusions. Statistical techniques are applied to identify trends, correlations, and significant factors affecting concrete performance. These insights are then used to generate sustainable solutions and recommendations for concrete construction in wastewater-exposed environments, with a focus on selecting the most effective corrosion inhibitors and concrete mix types to enhance durability and lifespan. This comprehensive analysis serves as the foundation for the conclusions and recommendations presented in the research.

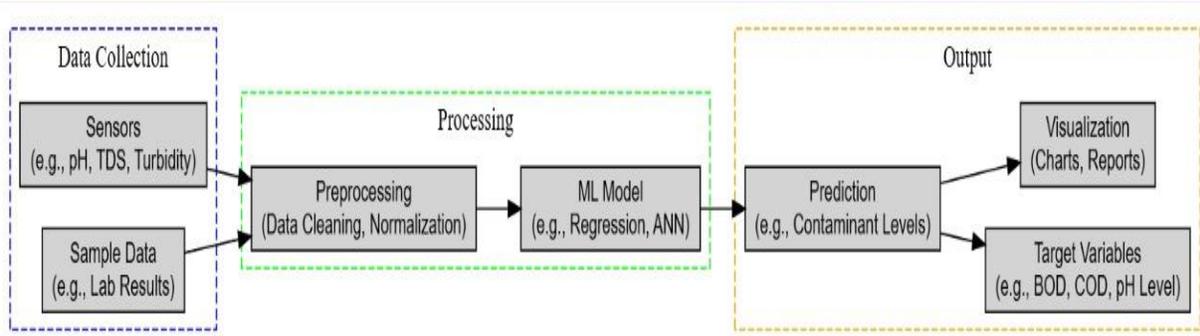


Figure : System Architecture

Data Flow Diagram
DFD Level-0

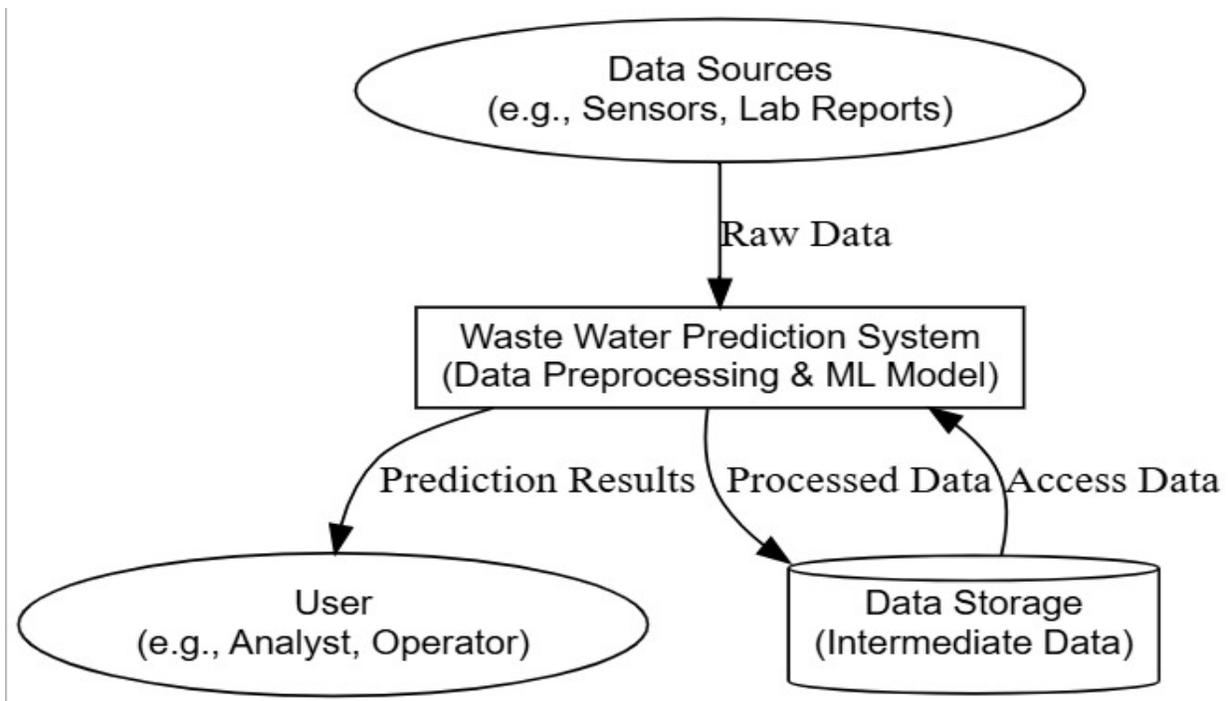


Figure: DFD Level-0

Data Analysis:

To gain a better understanding of the characteristics and variability of the data collected in this study, the `df.describe()` function was used. This function provides essential statistical insights into the dataset, summarizing key numerical parameters such as mean, standard deviation, minimum, maximum, and percentiles (25%, 50%, 75%). In the context of this research, these descriptive statistics were applied to the wastewater characteristics and concrete

performance data.

By utilizing `df.describe()`, we were able to evaluate the central tendencies (e.g., average values) and distribution patterns of critical parameters such as chloride levels, sulfate concentrations, pH values, compressive strength, and rebar mass loss. This analysis helped in identifying trends and potential outliers within the data, which is crucial for understanding the influence of wastewater composition on concrete corrosion.

	pH Level	Chloride (mg/L)	Sulfate (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	TDS (mg/L)	Temperature (°C)	Exposure Duration (days)	Rebar Mass Loss (%)	Compressive Strength (MPa)
count	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000	3705.000000
mean	6.993239	228.598381	606.217814	267.325506	651.944130	2983.578138	29.953927	190.075304	4.007879	41.45655
std	1.472025	100.387008	230.749855	129.509602	200.931412	1143.521653	11.431604	100.879237	1.775729	2.86064
min	4.520000	50.000000	205.000000	50.000000	301.000000	1006.000000	10.000000	10.000000	-1.370000	32.07000
25%	5.690000	144.000000	411.000000	153.000000	483.000000	2037.000000	20.000000	105.000000	2.830000	39.40000
50%	7.030000	235.000000	597.000000	269.000000	651.000000	2972.000000	30.200000	190.000000	4.030000	41.36000
75%	8.280000	317.000000	812.000000	379.000000	824.000000	3952.000000	40.000000	280.000000	5.220000	43.40000
max	9.500000	399.000000	999.000000	498.000000	999.000000	4993.000000	50.000000	364.000000	9.230000	50.40000

Fig Data Summary

The descriptive statistics offered by `df.describe()` facilitated the identification of data variability, which can significantly affect the long-term performance of concrete exposed to wastewater. For instance, by evaluating the standard deviation and range of chloride concentrations or sulfate levels, we were able to assess the variability in the corrosive nature of the wastewater. This statistical analysis also provided foundational information that supported subsequent AI modeling and prediction efforts.

In summary, the `df.describe()` function was instrumental in performing an initial data assessment, allowing us to explore the dataset's structure and gain insights into the factors influencing the corrosion resistance of concrete in wastewater environments. These statistics played a critical role in preparing the data for further advanced analysis and machine learning applications.

Visualization of Concrete Mix Type Distribution:

A pie chart was employed to visually represent the distribution of various concrete mix types used in the experimental study. By plotting the value counts of the "Concrete Mix Type" column, the chart illustrates the proportion of each mix type within the dataset. This visualization allows for a clear understanding of how different concrete formulations were distributed across the samples, helping to highlight which mix types were most commonly used. The percentages displayed on the pie chart provide an immediate comparison of the mix types' frequency, with each type represented by distinct colors. This graphical representation is crucial for evaluating how the different mix types may have influenced the performance of concrete in terms

of corrosion resistance, especially when exposed to wastewater, and the effectiveness of the applied corrosion inhibitors.

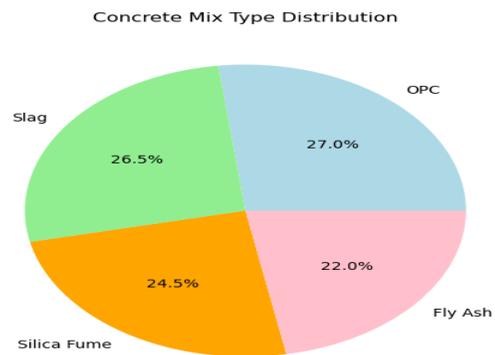


Fig Concrete Mix Type Distribution

Corrosion Inhibitor Distribution Visualization:

A bar chart was used to display the distribution of corrosion inhibitors used in the experimental setup. This bar chart shows the count of each type of corrosion inhibitor present in the dataset, with the x-axis representing the corrosion inhibitor types and the y-axis indicating the frequency of each inhibitor type. The chart was generated using a countplot from the Seaborn library, with a "viridis" color palette to visually differentiate the bars. This visualization provides an easy-to-interpret view of how often each corrosion inhibitor was applied across the experiments. Understanding the distribution of corrosion inhibitors is crucial, as it directly correlates with the study's objective of evaluating the effectiveness of different inhibitors in preventing concrete corrosion when exposed to wastewater.

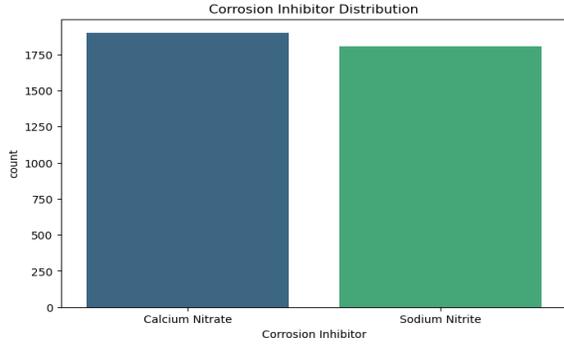


Fig Corrosion Inhibitor Distribution Visualization:

Visualization of Data Distributions:

A histogram was used to visualize the distribution of numerical data across various features in the dataset. This method allows for an examination of how the

values of each parameter, such as Chloride, Sulfate, BOD, and Compressive Strength, are spread out. The histograms display the frequency of data points within defined bins, providing a clear picture of the data's shape, central tendencies, and spread. By using 20 bins and customizing the chart's appearance with black edges around each bar, the visualization highlights patterns, skewness, and the concentration of values for each feature. This helps in identifying important trends or outliers in the data that may influence the concrete's corrosion resistance and performance. The use of multiple histograms for different variables in the same figure allows for an efficient comparative analysis of how each feature is distributed, aiding in further statistical analysis and decision-making in the study.

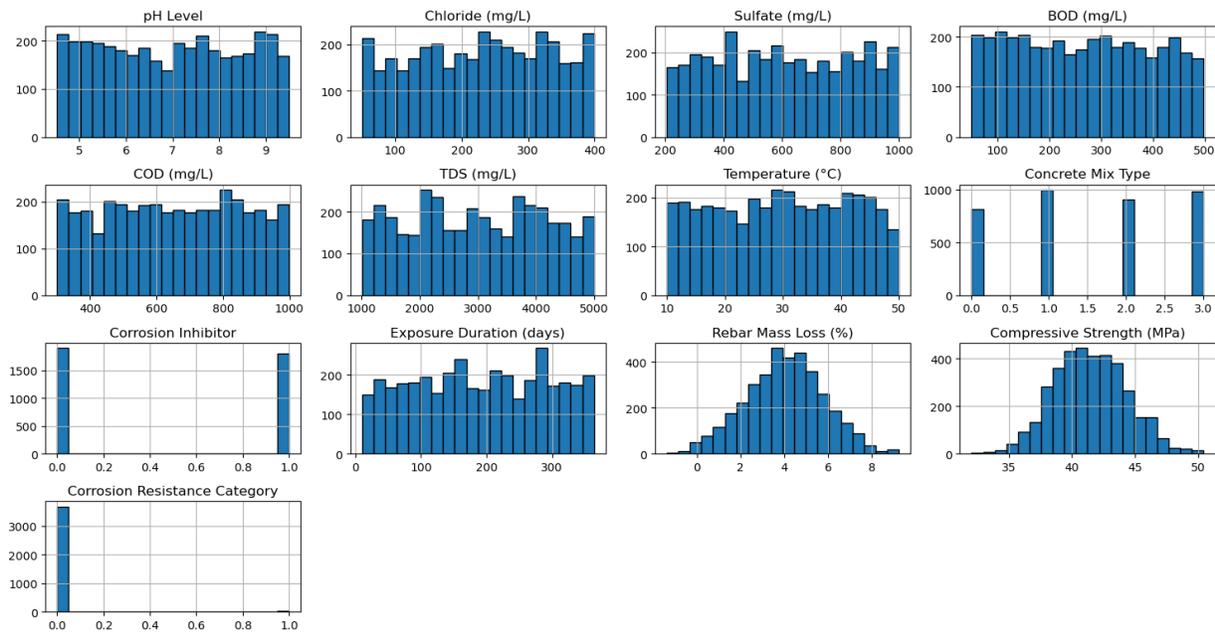


Fig Visualization of Data Distributions

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study adopts a holistic methodology that integrates both experimental and computational approaches to assess the impact of wastewater on the corrosion resistance of concrete, with a focus on the role of corrosion inhibitors in mitigating corrosion. The first step involves casting concrete cubes using various mix types to maintain consistency and workability. The concrete specimens are then categorized into two groups: the control group, which is exposed to potable water (serving as a baseline for

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incorporates corrosion inhibitors into the concrete mix to evaluate their ability to counteract the effects of corrosion. Corrosion inhibitors, which function by chemically neutralizing or inhibiting corrosion reactions on steel reinforcement, are applied at various concentrations to determine the optimal level that provides maximum protection to the concrete under wastewater exposure.

Concrete Performance Analysis

The descriptive statistics from the data analysis revealed key trends in concrete performance when exposed to wastewater, specifically in terms of compressive strength and rebar mass loss. The results indicate that concrete exposed to wastewater with high chloride and sulfate concentrations exhibited greater deterioration in terms of compressive strength and higher rebar mass loss. The corrosion inhibitors had a significant impact in mitigating the corrosion effects on concrete, as evidenced by the reduced mass loss of rebar and relatively higher compressive strength in samples treated with inhibitors.

Future Scope:

The study on the impact of wastewater on the corrosion resistance of concrete structures using corrosion inhibitors and AI-powered predictive modeling paves the way for several future advancements. The integration of deep learning models, such as CNNs (Convolutional Neural Networks) and LSTMs (Long Short-Term Memory networks), can further improve prediction accuracy by capturing complex patterns in the data. Additionally, expanding the dataset with real-time monitoring from multiple wastewater treatment plants can enhance model generalization. The incorporation of IoT-based sensors for continuous data collection and AI-driven early warning systems can revolutionize corrosion management. Future research can also focus on eco-friendly corrosion inhibitors and optimizing concrete mix compositions for enhanced durability in harsh environmental conditions. Moreover, the development of a cloud-based platform integrated with the Flask-based GUI can enable real-time predictions and remote accessibility for engineers and researchers, contributing to sustainable smart water management solutions.

CONCLUSION

This research investigates the impact of wastewater on the corrosion resistance of concrete structures using corrosion inhibitors, integrating AI-driven predictive modeling for sustainable smart water management. The study involved cube casting and compressive strength analysis under controlled corrosion and non-corrosion conditions using wastewater from the Vittalwadi STP plant. By leveraging Random Forest algorithms, the model effectively predicted Rebar Mass Loss (%), Compressive Strength (MPa), and Corrosion Resistance Category, demonstrating the potential of AI in structural health monitoring. Overall, this study provides a data-driven approach to corrosion resistance assessment, paving the way for improved durability strategies and sustainable infrastructure management in wastewater-exposed environments.