



Article Evaluation of Construction Asphalt Pavements Based Toposable Set Theory: A Case Study

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Abstract: (1) Background: Because of the unique advantages of asphalt pavements, they occupy a large part of the road system in China and worldwide. The construction of asphalt pavements has provided the necessary conditions for the efficient and rapid development of our economy. At present, the asphalt pavement is damaged prematurely before reaching the designed service life. This paper analyzes the influence of different factors on the construction quality of asphalt pavement in the process of construction control, so as to ensure that the service performance of asphalt pavement is improved and the service life is prolonged. (2) Methods: In this paper, based on the data of two-by-two relative importance comparisons between the indexes by experts, a topologizable interval judgment matrix is constructed and the weights of each index are calculated by single ranking; the model is validated by constructing a comprehensive assessment model of the topologizable set of asphalt pavement construction controls and through a case study. (3) Results: Using the model proposed in this paper, the overall construction control level for the case was calculated to be II, with a variable eigenvalue of 2.4784, which is biased towards level III. It is verified that the model can evaluate the construction control of asphalt pavement more reasonably and scientifically than previous methods. (4) Conclusions: This study can provide a reference for the evaluation of asphalt pavement construction control.



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Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). Keywords: asphalt pavement; construction control; toposable set theory; comprehensive evaluation

1. Introduction

The purpose of asphalt pavement construction control is to ensure that the road has good quality. In the domestic context (China), control is currently achieved mainly in accordance with the Technical Specification for Highway Asphalt Pavement Construction (JTG F40-2004) [1] (hereinafter referred to as the construction specification) to guide and control the quality of asphalt pavement construction. The specification gives the degree of influence of each inspection item on the quality of the pavement, and the constructors are not aware of the influence of each inspection item on the control index, making the construction somewhat blind [2]. Wang et al. showed through indoor tests and field investigations that non-uniformity (gradation segregation, temperature segregation and compaction segregation) has a large impact on the road performance of asphalt mixtures [3], while non-uniformity in asphalt pavements is mainly caused during the construction process. Therefore, to ensure the performance of asphalt pavements, the occurrence of non-uniformity in the asphalt mixture needs to be controlled during construction [4].

Abroad, in the 1950s, AASHTO recorded a large amount of asphalt pavement test data, which laid the foundation for later control techniques, as well as developing quality control specifications for raw materials and introducing the concept of statistics into quality control [5]. In the 1970s, the US applied statistical methods to pavement construction, used statistical methods to analyze variability in indicators, first proposed a QC/QA (quality control/quality assurance) system and established a complete quality control system for

asphalt pavements in the 1980s. Since the 1990s, with the promotion of SHRP results, QC/QA systems have been widely used and have achieved better results in practical applications. In addition, there are more studies abroad on the influencing factors of pavement performance. The Mechanistic Empirical Pavement Design Guideline (MEPDG) method [6] in the USA predicts a rutting model for asphalt pavements that considers the mechanical response of the pavement structure and the performance of the asphalt mixture. The US NCHRP 9-22 report [7] analyzed the effects of factors including construction-related factors on fatigue cracking, rutting and low temperature cracking. More research has been carried out on prediction models such as cracking and rutting [8,9], e.g., rutting prediction models can be categorized as empirical, theoretical and mechanistic-empirical models [10,11]. Mirzahosseini et al. [12] predicted the Flow Number of asphalt mixes based on machine learning methods using parameters such as asphalt dosage, coarse aggregate ratio, filler ratio, mineral gap ratio and void ratio.

The construction of asphalt pavements is a complex process in which materials, processes, personnel and equipment all have an impact on the quality of the asphalt pavement, and when coupled with adverse conditions such as environmental conditions, traffic load and tire tension, it will cause irreversible deformation of asphalt pavement, which will affect the service life of asphalt pavement [13–15]. There are many discussions on the control of asphalt pavement construction process, but most of them can be summarized into the following categories: first, analyze the construction control indicators, select or improve the construction indicators in the specification, and control the construction process of asphalt pavement through statistical control charts; secondly, analyze the variability of construction control indicators, get the variation range of indicators through experiment or simulation verification, and then dynamically control the pavement construction process through statistical control principle; thirdly, through the analysis of statistical control, select or recommend more convenient or appropriate quality control chart, and then carry out dynamic control of asphalt pavement construction process. However, other influencing factors in the construction are often not considered comprehensively, the control of the construction process is not comprehensive enough, and there are some phenomena such as insufficient attention to the control of the overall performance of asphalt pavement. Numerous factors need to be considered when evaluating asphalt pavement construction control, and as these indicators are either quantitative or qualitative, new evaluation models need to be applied to objectively describe and address construction control issues.

Around asphalt pavement, many scholars have carried out relevant research. Ahmed et al. [16] investigated the effect of using four local industrial waste/by-product materials (marble, granite, steel slag and hydrated lime powder) as mineral fillers on asphalt mixture characteristics, and the testing results show that the asphalt mixture containing marble as a filler yields the highest stability. Tarbay et al. [17] present the use of waste materials (marble and granite) and by-product material (steel slag) as alternative to the conventional mineral filler, and show that mixtures containing waste marble yielded the highest stability. Moreover, marble is able to improve the moisture damage resistance in terms of tensile strength ratio and loss of stability.

As for the evaluation method, commonly used evaluation methods include the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method [18], the analytic hierarchy process (AHP), and the superiority assessment method based on the toposable set theory. For example, Zhang et al. [19] proposed a decision framework based on fuzzy comprehensive evaluation (FCE) and analytic hierarchy process (AHP) for selecting the best mineral filler from four mineral fillers for pavement structures in selected areas. The proposed methodology combines qualitative and quantitative factors, thus increasing the credibility of the material suitability assessment. Han et al. [20] proposed a new construction quality evaluation framework, which was a combination of the building information model (BIM) and geographic information system (GIS). The framework performed the real-time and full-process quality evaluation of asphalt pavement construction. Taking the Phnom Penh-West Halluk highway construction project as a case study, the results show that the framework provides

a good information environment for construction quality evaluation. Xiong et al. [21] proved through experiments that gap-graded mix performed better in rutting resistance than dense-graded specimens. Modification with high viscosity agents could significantly inhibit rutting propagation, offering an important improvement the construction quality of asphalt pavement.

The indicator system of the fuzzy evaluation method is a static attribute. The indicator values are selected as a set of real numbers, and the measured data are interval point values of fuzziness [19,22]. Toposable sets [23] are an extension of classical and fuzzy sets and are able to describe the degree of variability, quantitative processes and qualitative processes of things. Literature research shows that the evaluation index system of fuzzy comprehensive evaluation is a static attribute, the judgment matrix lacks elasticity, the weight determination is subjective, and the selection of index values is a real number set. Practice shows [24] that the conventional indexes of asphalt might meet the specification requirements without necessarily ensuring the asphalt is in a good state. Based on this, on the premise of meeting the requirements of the specification, this paper uses each index to classify each respective requirement. For the convenience of data analysis, each index is normalized and dimensionless [25]. Combined with expert survey data, the extension interval number judgment matrix [26] is constructed, and the extension interval values are used instead of specific point values to construct the extension judgment matrix. This not only considers the subjectivity of expert judgment, but also combines the weight solution with the consistency test of judgment matrix, which simplifies the calculation and overcomes the shortcomings of rough calculation process and strong subjectivity of traditional analysis methods. Finally, the weight of each index is calculated by extension set theory analysis. By constructing an extension set for a comprehensive evaluation model of asphalt pavement construction control, the evaluation grade of construction control is calculated by the extension method, enabling to evaluate the asphalt pavement construction control. Combined with specific examples, the model calculation and verification are carried out, and the verification results are more scientific and reasonable. Various factors in the construction are comprehensively considered, which provides reference for the control process of asphalt pavement construction and ensures the construction quality of asphalt pavement.

2. Methods

Topology, founded by Caiwen in 1983, is an original discipline. It can be used to describe the variability of things, develop the qualitative description of right and wrong into a quantitative description, and provide a new way to evaluate processes by building a multi-indicator evaluation model [25,27]. Topologic analysis theory is a powerful tool for resolving the contradiction between right and wrong and has been successfully applied to evaluate problems in many fields [28,29]. The specific process of this method is as follows:

2.1. *Identifying Evaluation of Matter-Elements, Classical Domains and Section Domains* Let matter-element [25] be:

$$R_{j} = \begin{bmatrix} N_{j}, C, V_{j} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} N_{j} & c_{1} & V_{1j} \\ c_{2} & V_{2j} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{n} & V_{nj} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} N_{j} & c_{1} & \langle a_{1j}, b_{1j} \rangle \\ c_{2} & \langle a_{2j}, b_{2j} \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{n} & \langle a_{nj}, b_{nj} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
(1)

where: R_j is the *j*-th symbiotic matter element; N_j is the *j*-th evaluation level division; c_i is the *i*-th evaluation index; $V_{ij} = \langle a_{ij}, b_{ij} \rangle$ is the range of magnitudes specified by N_j about the index c_i , that is, the data range taken by each level for the corresponding evaluation index is the classical domain; $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Moreover:

$$R_{P} = [P, C, V_{P}] = \begin{bmatrix} P & c_{1} & V_{1P} \\ c_{2} & V_{2P} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{n} & V_{nP} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P & c_{1} & \langle a_{1P}, b_{1P} \rangle \\ c_{2} & \langle a_{2P}, b_{2P} \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{n} & \langle a_{nP}, b_{nP} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

where: *P* is the asphalt pavement to be evaluated for construction control; $V_{iP} = \langle a_{iP}, b_{iP} \rangle$ is the range of values obtained by *P* with respect to c_i , i.e., the nodal domain of *P*; and $V_{ij} \subset V_{iP} (i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, 2, \dots, m)$.

For the asphalt pavement P to be evaluated, the data collected or the results of the analysis are expressed as a substance element R. Now R is the substance element to be evaluated.

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} P & c_1 & v_1 \\ & c_2 & v_2 \\ & \vdots & \vdots \\ & & c_n & v_n \end{bmatrix}$$
(3)

where: *P* is a specific asphalt pavement; and v_i is the value of *P* about the index c_i , i.e., the specific index data of the asphalt pavement construction control to be evaluated.

2.2. Correlation of Function Values for Asphalt Pavement Element Classes

Considering the actual situation of asphalt pavement construction control, the value of the midpoint of the interval is used as the optimum point, and the correlation function [30] is used as Equation (4).

$$K_{j}(v_{ik}) = \begin{cases} \frac{-\rho(v_{ik}, V_{ij})}{|V_{ij}|}, v_{ik} \in V_{ij} \\ \frac{\rho(v_{ik}, V_{ij})}{\rho(v_{ik}, V_{iP}) - \rho(v_{ik}, V_{ij})}, v_{ik} \notin V_{ij} \end{cases}$$
(4)

where:

$$\rho(v_{ik}, V_{ij}) = \left| v_{ik} - \frac{a_{ij} + b_{ij}}{2} \right| - \frac{b_{ij} - a_{ij}}{2}$$
(5)

$$\left|V_{ij}\right| = \left|b_{ij} - a_{ij}\right| \tag{6}$$

$$\rho(v_{ik}, V_{iP}) = \left| v_{ik} - \frac{a_{iP} + b_{iP}}{2} \right| - \frac{b_{iP} - a_{iP}}{2}$$
(7)

2.3. Construction Control Assessment of Asphalt Pavements

Based on the calculated weights of the indicators and their corresponding correlations, the following can be topologically evaluated for the construction control of asphalt pavements.

$$K(P_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_h^k K_j(v_i)$$
(8)

This leads to the correlation of the asphalt pavement construction control level j to be evaluated is as follows.

$$K(P) = p_1^1 \cdot K(P_1) + p_2^1 \cdot K(P_2) + p_3^1 \cdot K(P_3) + p_4^1 \cdot K(P_4) = [K_1(P), K_2(P), K_3(P), K_4(P), K_5(P)]$$
(9)

If $K_{j0}(P) = \max_{j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} K_j(P)$, then *P* is assessed as belonging to rank j_0 . Given:

$$\overline{K}_{j}(P) = \frac{K_{j}(P) - \min_{j} K_{j}(P)}{\max_{j} K_{j}(P) - \min_{j} K_{j}(P)}$$
(10)

$$j^* = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^m j \cdot \overline{K}_j(P)}{\sum_{j=1}^m \overline{K}_j(P)}$$
(11)

Thus, j^* is the eigenvalue of the level variable of *P*. For example, $j_0 = 1$ and $j^* = 1.6$ means that *P* belongs to level 1 biased towards level 2 (which should strictly be 1.6), and the degree of bias towards another level can be seen according to j^* .

3. Evaluation Procedure

The process of topologically assessing construction control is shown in Figure 1.

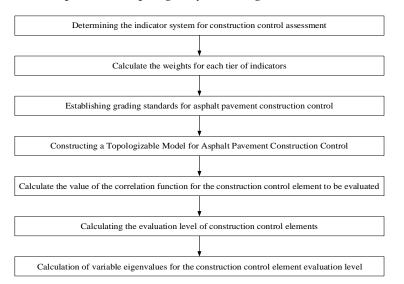


Figure 1. Assessment process for construction control of asphalt pavements.

There are two main evaluation sections:

3.1. Establishing an Evaluation Index System

The construction of asphalt pavement is an extremely complex process with many influencing factors, including external environment, materials, technology, equipment and other factors. It is clearly not possible to reflect all the evaluation indicators of the various influencing factors in the evaluation of asphalt pavement construction control; there must be a trade-off between aiming for comprehensive assessment of all indicators and ignoring some of the evaluation indicators that have a small impact. For the construction process of asphalt pavement, combined with the characteristics of the pavement structure and the influence of factors such as traffic load and environment, through the review of relevant specifications and information, this paper establishes an assessment index system from four aspects: material, mixing, transportation and rolling factors.

In particular, the evaluation indicators for materials and mixing factors were selected, and the evaluation indicators were initially selected by reviewing relevant specifications and information as shown in Table 1. Thereafter, by developing a questionnaire and inviting 35 relevant experts to judge, a total of 29 valid survey results were returned [31], and the statistical results of the number of choices of each indicator are shown in Table 1.

On the basis of the statistical results of expert opinions, combined with the research results at home and abroad and the actual situation of China's construction, the evaluation indexes of material and mixing factors are determined, and the material factors affecting the construction control of asphalt pavements are divided into softening point, low-temperature ductility, crushing value, needle flake content and mud content. Of these, the first two are the influencing factors of asphalt materials and the last three are the influencing factors of aggregate material factors. Mixing temperature, oil to stone ratio and gradation were used as influencing factors for the mixing factor. The evaluation indicators for determining the paving and rolling factors are considered together, with paving temperature, thickness,

paving speed and transfer equipment as influencing factors for the paving factor. The rolling temperature, number of rolling passes, rolling speed, rolling equipment, number of equipment and combination were used as the influencing factors of the rolling factors, to obtain the asphalt pavement construction control index system as shown in Table 2.

	Initially Select	Number of Selections	
		Crushing value	21
	Aggregate	Crushing value gregate Needle flake content Mud content phalt Softening point Low temperature ductility Grading Oil to stone ratio Void ratio	22
Material			17
A	Acabalt	Softening point	22
	Asphan	Low temperature ductility	16
		Grading	26
		Oil to stone ratio	26
	Asphalt Lov	Void ratio	8
Asph	alt mixes	Mineral clearance rate	9
		Asphalt saturation	1
		Marshall stability	1
		Flow value	1

Table 1. Results of the collation of the survey of pending indexes [31].

Table 2. Asphalt pavement construction control assessment index system.

Target Level	Criterion Layer	Evaluation Index Layer		
		Asphalt	Softening point c_1 Low temperature latency c_2	
	Material Factors P_1	Aggregate	Crushing value c ₃ Needle flake content c ₄ Mud content c ₅	
Asphalt pavement construction control evaluation indexes	Mixing temperature c_6 Mixing factors P_2 Oil to stone ratio c_7 Gradation c_8		o stone ratio c_7	
	Paving factors P_3	Paving temperature c ₉ Thickness c ₁₀ Paving speed c ₁₁ Transfer equipment c ₁₂		
	Rolling factors P_4	Rolling temperature c_{13} Number of passes c_{14} Rolling speed c_{15} Rolling equipment c_{16} Number and mix of equipment c_{17}		

3.2. Calculating Weights

Each control indicator of asphalt pavement construction has a different degree of influence on the quality of the project. In the assessment of the control of asphalt pavement construction, the degree of influence of each indicator needs to be estimated, i.e., the determination of the indicator weights. The key to construction control assessment is the reasonableness of the weighting factors. The traditional expert scoring method and direct empowerment method are highly subjective, and different people get different weighting coefficients. The AHP is more scientific and objective than the traditional expert scoring method and direct assignment, and has the advantages of simplicity, systematicity and practicality [31], but it is also somewhat subjective. To overcome these drawbacks, this paper uses toposable set theory [26] to determine the weights.

3.2.1. The Establishment of the Judgment Matrix

Based on the indicator system in Table 2, road engineering experts were invited to make a two-by-two comparison of the relative importance of each layer of indicators based on the 1–9 degree scale method [32] on the basis of the relevant specifications, using a topologizable interval instead of a specific point value. A topologizable interval judgment matrix is built on the basis of expert comparison data, i.e., $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$ (where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, 2, \dots, n$). The element $a_{ij} = \langle a_{ij}^-, a_{ij}^+ \rangle$ in the matrix A is a broadenable interval number; the middle value of the broadenable interval number is used as an integer for the comparative judgment used in the hierarchical analysis method [33], and the matrix A is expressed in the form $A = \langle A^-, A^+ \rangle$.

3.2.2. The Calculation of Weights

- (1) Calculate the maximum eigenvalues λ^- and λ^+ and the corresponding normalized eigenvectors X^- and X^+ of the matrices $A^- = \begin{bmatrix} a_{ij}^- \end{bmatrix}$ and $A^+ = \begin{bmatrix} a_{ij}^+ \end{bmatrix}$ with interval number eigenvalues $\lambda = [\lambda^-, \lambda^+]$.
- (2) Calculate the values of *l* and *m* according to Equations (12) and (13). If *l* and *m* satisfy $0 \le l \le 1 \le m$, the matrix satisfies the consistency test requirement; if not, the judgment matrix needs to be reconstructed until it satisfies the requirement.

$$l = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij}^{+}\right)^{-1}}$$
(12)

$$n = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij}^{-}\right)^{-1}}$$
(13)

(3) Calculation of weights. Calculate the eigenvectors of matrix *A* with respect to the interval number eigenvalues λ = [λ⁻, λ⁺]:

r

$$S = \left\langle lX^{-}, \mathsf{m}X^{+} \right\rangle \tag{14}$$

Setting $S_i^k = \langle S_i^{k-}, S_i^{k+} \rangle$ and $S_j^k = \langle S_j^{k-}, S_j^{k+} \rangle$, then the degree of probability that $S_i^k \ge S_j^k$ is calculated according to Equation (4). Moreover:

$$p_{j} = 1, \ p_{ih}^{k} = V\left(S_{i}^{k} \ge S_{j}^{k}\right) = \frac{2\left(S_{i}^{k+} - S_{j}^{k-}\right)}{\left(S_{i}^{k+} - S_{i}^{k-}\right) + \left(S_{j}^{k+} - S_{j}^{k-}\right)}$$
(15)

where *j* should satisfy $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, n_k, i \neq j$, all with $p_{ih}^k \ge 0$, then taking $p_j = 1$ and $p_{ih}^k = V\left(S_i^k \ge S_j^k\right)$, p_{ih}^k is the single ranking of the *i*-th factor of the *k*-th layer to the *h*-th factor of the upper layer in the asphalt pavement construction control assessment system, and is normalized to obtain $p_h^k = \left(p_{1h}^k, p_{2h}^k, \dots, p_{n_kh}^k\right)^T$. This denotes the single ranking weight vector of the n_k factors in the *k*-th layer to the h-th factor in the k - 1-th layer.

With the combined weight vector of n_{k-1} factors of layer k-1 to the target layer is $W^{k-1} = \left(W_1^{k-1}, W_2^{k-1}, \cdots, W_{n_{k-1}}^{k-1}\right)^T$ and the single ranked weight vector p_h^k of layer k to each factor of layer k-1, make a matrix of order $n_k \times n_{k-1}$.

$$P^{k} = \left(p_{1}^{k}, p_{2}^{k}, \cdots, p_{n_{k-1}}^{k}\right)$$
(16)

Then the combined weight of each indicator on the k-th tier for the target tier is

$$\mathbf{W}^{k} = \left(\mathbf{W}_{1}^{k}, \mathbf{W}_{2}^{k}, \cdots, \mathbf{W}_{n_{k}}^{k}\right)^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{P}^{k}\mathbf{W}^{k-1}$$
(17)

4. Case Study

4.1. Calculation of Weights

According to the indicator system constructed in the previous section and the principle of comparison by the 1–9 scale method, experts were invited to make a two-by-two comparison of the relative importance between elements, and the judgment matrix *A* of each attribute of the criterion layer to the target layer was established as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Judgment matrix of each attribute of the criterion layer for the target layer.

Criterion Layer	Material Factors P ₁	Mixing Factors P ₂	Paving Factors P ₃	Rolling Factors P ₄
Material Factors P_1	(1.000, 1.000)	(1.000, 2.000)	(0.250, 0.333)	(0.333, 0.500)
Mixing factors P_2	(0.500, 1.000)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.333, 0.500)	(0.500, 1.000)
Paving factors P_3	(3.000, 4.000)	(2.000, 3.000)	(1.000, 1.000)	(1.000, 2.000)
Rolling factors P_4	$\langle 2.000, 3.000 \rangle$	$\langle 1.000, 2.000 \rangle$	$\langle 0.500, 1.000 \rangle$	$\langle 1.000, 1.000 \rangle$

Then the matrices A^- and A^+ are:

	[1.000	1.000	0.250	0.333]
<u> </u>	0.500	1.000	0.333	0.500
A –	3.000	2.000	1.000	1.000
	2.000	1.000	0.500	1.000
	[1.000	2.000	0.333	0.500]
<u> </u>	1.000	1.000	0.500	1.000
A –	4.000	3.000	1.000	2.000
	3.000	2.000	1.000	1.000

The eigenvectors X^- and X^+ are calculated as

 $X^{-} = [0.1476, 0.1476, 0.4300, 0.2748]$

 $X^+ = [0.1412, 0.1563, 0.4115, 0.2910]$

The coefficients l = 0.9007 and m = 1.0895 are calculated from Equations (1) and (2). Clearly $0 \le l = 0.9007 \le 1 \le m = 1.0895$, which meets the requirements.

Calculated from Equation (3): $S_1 = \langle 0.1329, 0.1539 \rangle$, $S_2 = \langle 0.1329, 0.1703 \rangle$, $S_3 = \langle 0.3874, 0.4483 \rangle$, and $S_4 = \langle 0.2475, 0.3170 \rangle$. In turn, the weights $P = [0.0711, 0.0912, 0.5481, 0.2896]^T$ were calculated.

The judgment matrix of the evaluation index layer to the criterion layer is shown in Tables 4–7:

Table 4. Judgment matrix for each attribute of the material factor of the index layer for the criterion layer.

Index Layer	c_1	<i>c</i> ₂	c ₃	c 4	c 5
<i>c</i> ₁	(1.000, 1.000)	$\langle 3.000, 4.000 \rangle$	(2.000, 3.000)	(2.500, 3.500)	(2.000, 3.000)
<i>c</i> ₂	(0.250, 0.333)	(1.000, 1.000)	(1.500, 2.500)	(2.000, 3.000)	(2.500, 3.500)
<i>c</i> ₃	(0.333, 0.500)	(0.400, 0.667)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.333, 0.500)	(2.000, 3.000)
c_4	(0.286, 0.400)	(0.333, 0.500)	(2.000, 3.000)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.400, 0.667)
<i>c</i> ₅	$\langle 0.333, 0.500 \rangle$	$\langle 0.286, 0.400 \rangle$	$\langle 0.333, 0.500 \rangle$	$\langle 1.500, 2.500 \rangle$	$\langle 1.000, 1.000 \rangle$

Index Layer	c_6	c_7	c_8
C ₆	$\langle 1.000, 1.000 \rangle$	(0.250, 0.333)	(0.333, 0.500)
c ₇	$\langle 3.000, 4.000 \rangle$	(1.000, 1.000)	(2.000, 3.000)
C8	(2.000, 3.000)	(0.333, 0.500)	(1.000, 1.000)

Table 5. Judgment matrix for each attribute of the mixing factor of the index layer for the criterion layer.

Table 6. Judgment matrix for each attribute of the paving factor of the index layer for the criterion layer.

Index Layer	c 9	c_{10}	<i>c</i> ₁₁	<i>c</i> ₁₂
С9	(1.000, 1.000)	(4.000, 5.000)	(1.500, 2.500)	(2.000, 3.000)
<i>c</i> ₁₀	(0.200, 0.250)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.250, 0.333)	(2.000, 3.000)
<i>c</i> ₁₁	(0.400, 0.667)	(3.000, 4.000)	(1.000, 1.000)	(3.500, 4.500)
<i>c</i> ₁₂	$\langle 0.333, 0.500 \rangle$	$\langle 0.333, 0.500 \rangle$	(0.222, 0.286)	$\langle 1.000, 1.000 \rangle$

Table 7. Judgment matrix for each attribute of the lapping factor of the index layer for the criterion layer.

Index Layer	<i>c</i> ₁₃	c_{14}	c_{15}	<i>c</i> ₁₆	<i>c</i> ₁₇
c ₁₃	(1.000, 1.000)	(4.000, 5.000)	(6.000, 7.000)	(5.000, 6.000)	(2.000, 3.000)
<i>c</i> ₁₄	(0.200, 0.250)	(1.000, 1.000)	(3.000, 4.000)	(2.000, 3.000)	(0.333, 0.500)
c_{15}	(0.143, 0.167)	(0.250, 0.333)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.400, 0.667)	(0.167, 0.200)
c ₁₆	(0.167, 0.200)	(0.333, 0.500)	(1.500, 2.500)	(1.000, 1.000)	(0.200, 0.250)
c ₁₇	$\langle 0.333, 0.500 \rangle$	$\langle 2.000, 3.000 \rangle$	$\langle 5.000, 6.000 \rangle$	$\langle 4.000, 5.000 \rangle$	$\langle 1.000, 1.000 \rangle$

Following the calculation of the weights above, the matrices A^- and A^+ are constructed in turn, and X^- and X^+ are calculated to obtain: $S = \langle lX^-, mX^+ \rangle$, and the weights are then calculated. The calculation results are shown in Table 8.

Table 8.	Weighting	of evaluation	indexes.
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Target Level	Criterion Layer	Weights	Evaluation Index Layer	Weights
			Softening point c_1	0.4928
			Low temperature latency c_2	0.2885
	Material factors P_1	0.0711	Crushing value c_3	0.0893
			Needle flake content c_4	0.0793
			Mud content c_5	0.0501
	Mixing factors P_2		Mixing temperature c_6	0.1160
		0.0912	Oil to stone ratio c_7	0.5447
Asphalt pavement construction control			Gradation c_8	0.3992
evaluation indexes	Paving factors P_3	0.5481	Paving temperature <i>c</i> ₉	0.4005
			Thickness c_{10}	0.1616
			Paving speed c_{11}	0.3978
			Transfer equipment c_{12}	0.0400
-			Rolling temperature c_{13}	0.4692
			Number of passes c_{14}	0.1669
	Rolling factors P_4	0.2896	Rolling speed c_{15}	0.0201
			Rolling equipment c_{16}	0.0845
			Number and mix of equipment c_{17}	0.2593

From the above analysis, it can be seen that there are many factors affecting the construction of asphalt pavement, and the weights of each factor are different. According to the analysis results of each evaluation index in Table 8, paving factors have the greatest influence on the construction and quality of asphalt pavement, among which paving temperature and paving speed play a vital role. Therefore, in order to ensure the construction quality of asphalt pavement meets the requirements, the first thing is to strengthen the control of paving factors in the construction process of asphalt pavement, and strictly grasp the temperature and speed in the paving process of asphalt pavement according to the corresponding specifications and the actual construction environment on site.

4.2. Determination of Assessment Levels

According to the construction characteristics of the pavement and relevant information, the construction control evaluation of asphalt pavement is divided into five grades: excellent (I), good (II), medium (III), lower (IV) and poor (V), as shown in Table 9. The grading of the indicators is determined by reference to the relevant range of provisions in the specification [1]. For example, the range of crushing values is 0-26%, and it has been pointed out in the literature that coarse aggregates with crushing values greater than 25% are susceptible to crushing during the rolling of the mix [27], which proves that the choice of crushing value range is significant. For the mixing temperature indicator, the asphalt heating temperature and the mix discharge temperature are used for consideration, with the median temperature range of the specification being the optimum temperature value, and the relative temperature deviation determines the range for each level. If the temperature range specified in the specification is $a \sim b$, and the measured heating temperature is x, the two ratios d of the asphalt heating temperature and the mix discharge temperature are calculated according to Equation (18), and the larger of these is taken as the basis for evaluating the mixing temperature index. For the paving temperature and rolling temperature indicators, respectively, then the respective minimum temperature requirements are the lower limit; the upper and lower limit of the mixture discharge temperature are the upper limit of paving and rolling; the average of the interval is graded into five levels, and the higher the temperature indicates a better state; such that for the determination of the temperature limit range of $a \sim b$, the actual measured heating temperature of x, and the ratio *e* calculated according to Formula (19) are the basis for evaluation. For the oil to stone ratio and thickness indicators, the grades are divided by deviation. Practical experience shows that asphalt content deviating from the optimum oil to stone ratio by more than 0.3% significantly affects the performance of the mix, so 0.3% can be used as a grading range for the oil to stone ratio. Here the permissible deviation of -5% of the total thickness design value of the highway is taken as the grading range of thickness, and the deviation is treated as 0 when positive. Other grades of pavement can be divided according to the corresponding grade for similar division methods. For the qualitative indicators, a rating between 0~100 was used for the grading based on consideration of the norms and the actual situation. The ranking of each indicator is shown in Table 10.

$$d = \left| \frac{x - 0.5 \times (a+b)}{b-a} \right| \tag{18}$$

$$e = \frac{x-a}{b-a} \tag{19}$$

As the data between the evaluation levels of each evaluation index is not comparable, in order to facilitate the analysis of the data, the indexes are dimensionless and normalized in this paper. If the nature of the effect of the index on construction control is positive, treat it according to Equation (20); if the nature of the effect of the index on construction control is reversed, treat it according to Equation (21).

$$c_i^N = \frac{c_i - c_{imin}}{c_{imax} - c_{imin}} \tag{20}$$

$$c_i^N = \frac{c_{imax} - c_i}{c_{imax} - c_{imin}} \tag{21}$$

Level **Construction Control Evaluation** Condition **Construction Measures** Ι Excellent Satisfactory control of the indexes Normal construction Satisfactory control of key indexes, Paying attention to the control of a few II control of a few minor indexes Good minor indexes can be needs attention normal construction Better control of key indexes and Need to strengthen the control of III poorer control of minor indexes: Medium some indexes requires attention Poor control of key and Construction controls need to IV Low minor indexes be adjusted Construction is not allowed, There are big problems in each construction control needs to be V Poor construction control rectified to meet the conditions before construction can be carried out

Table 10. The evaluation level range of each index.

Ir	ndexes	I	П	III	IV	v
P _i	c _i	1	11	111	IV	v
	<i>c</i> ₁ /°C	>45	44~45	43~44	42.5~43	42~42.5
	c_2/cm	>110	100~110	85~100	65~85	50~65
P_1	c3/%	<10	10~15	15~20	20~23	23~26
	$c_4 / \%$	<3	3~5	5~7	7~10	10~15
	<i>c</i> ₅ /%	< 0.2	0.2~0.4	0.4~0.6	0.6~0.8	0.8~1.0
	c ₆	0~0.1	0.1~0.2	0.2~0.3	0.3~0.4	0.4~0.5
P_2	c7/%	0~0.06	0.06~0.12	0.12~0.18	$0.18 \sim 0.24$	0.24~0.30
	<i>c</i> ₈	90~100	80~90	70~80	60~70	<60
	С9	0.8~1.0	0.6~0.8	0.4~0.6	0.2~0.4	0~0.2
ת	$c_{10}/\%$	$0 \sim -1$	$-1 \sim -2$	-2~-3	$-3 \sim -4$	$-4 \sim -5$
P_3	$c_{11}/(m/min)$	2~3	3~4	4~5	5~6	>6
	c ₁₂	85~100	70~85	55~70	40~55	0~40
	c ₁₃	0.8~1.0	0.6~0.8	0.4~0.6	0.2~0.4	0~0.2
	c ₁₄	80~100	60~80	40~60	20~40	0~20
P_4	c ₁₅	80~100	60~80	40~60	20~40	0~20
	c_{16}	85~100	70~85	55~70	40~55	0~40
	c ₁₇	85~100	70~85	55~70	40~55	0~40

The oil to stone ratio is the absolute value of the deviation of the actual value from the design value.

Table 11. Results after normalization of each index.

Indexes		т	т		III IV		Measured
P _i	c _i	— I	11	111	ĨV	V	Values
	<i>c</i> ₁	0-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800-0.900	0.900-1	0.560
	<i>c</i> ₂	0-0.143	0.143-0.286	0.286-0.500	0.500-0.786	0.786 - 1	0.390
P_1	c_3	0-0.385	0.385-0.577	0.577-0.769	0.769-0.885	0.885 - 1	0.370
-	c_4	0-0.200	0.200-0.333	0.333-0.467	0.467-0.667	0.667 - 1	0.310
	c ₅	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800 - 1	0.830

The intervals of the processed index levels and the measured values are shown in Table 11.

 Table 9. Construction control evaluation levels.

Indexes		т	II	III	IV	V	Measured
P _i	c _i	— I	11	111	Ĩv	v	Values
<i>P</i> ₂	С6	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800-1	0.350
	C7	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800 - 1	0.490
	c_8	0-0.167	0.167-0.333	0.333-0.500	0.500-0.667	0.667 - 1	0.550
	C9	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800-1	0.460
ח	c_{10}	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400 - 0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800 - 1	0.620
P_3	<i>c</i> ₁₁	0-0.167	0.167-0.333	0.333-0.500	0.500-0.667	0.667 - 1	0.220
	<i>c</i> ₁₂	0-0.150	0.150-0.300	0.300 - 0.450	0.450-0.600	0.600 - 1	0.130
	c ₁₃	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800-1	0.280
	c ₁₄	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400 - 0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800 - 1	0.430
P_4	c ₁₅	0-0.200	0.200-0.400	0.400-0.600	0.600-0.800	0.800 - 1	0.670
	c ₁₆	0-0.150	0.150-0.300	0.300-0.450	0.450-0.600	0.600 - 1	0.250
	<i>c</i> ₁₇	0-0.150	0.150-0.300	0.300-0.450	0.450-0.600	0.600 - 1	0.390

Table 11. Cont.

4.3. Constructed Asphalt Pavement Construction Control of Matter-Element

From Equations (1) and (2), the classical and nodal domains of asphalt pavement construction control can be obtained as follows:

	$\lceil N_1 \rceil$	c_1	$\langle 0, 0.400 \rangle$]		$\lceil N_2 \rceil$	c_1	(0.400, 0.600)
		c_2	$\langle 0, 0.143 \rangle$			c_2	(0.143, 0.286)
		c ₃	$\langle 0, 0.385 \rangle$			<i>c</i> ₃	(0.385, 0.577)
		c_4	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_4	(0.200, 0.333)
		c_5	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_5	(0.200, 0.400)
		<i>c</i> ₆	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			<i>c</i> ₆	(0.200, 0.400)
		C_7	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			C_7	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_8	$\langle 0, 0.167 \rangle$			c_8	(0.167, 0.333)
$P_1 =$		С9	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$	$P_2 =$		С9	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_{10}	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_{10}	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_{11}	$\langle 0, 0.167 \rangle$			c_{11}	(0.167, 0.333)
		c_{12}	$\langle 0, 0.150 \rangle$			c_{12}	(0.150, 0.300)
		c_{13}	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_{13}	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_{14}	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_{14}	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_{15}	$\langle 0, 0.200 \rangle$			c_{15}	(0.200, 0.400)
		c_{16}	$\langle 0, 0.150 \rangle$			c_{16}	$\langle 0.150, 0.300 \rangle$
	L	c_{17}	$\langle 0, 0.150 \rangle$		L	c_{17}	$\langle 0.150, 0.300 \rangle$

		N_3 c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4 c_5 c_6 c_7	<pre>{0.600, {0.286, {0.577, {0.333, {0.400, {0.400, {0.400, {0.400,</pre>	0.769 0.467 0.600 0.600		$\lceil N_4 \rceil$	c ₁ c ₂ c ₃ c ₄ c ₅ c ₆ c ₇	<pre>(0.800) (0.500) (0.769) (0.467) (0.600) (0.600) (0.600)</pre>	, 0.786 , 0.885 , 0.667 , 0.800 , 0.800	
	$P_3 =$	c_8 c_9 c_{10} c_{11} c_{12} c_{13} c_{14} c_{15} c_{16}	(0.333, (0.400, (0.400, (0.333, (0.300, (0.400, (0.400, (0.400, (0.400, (0.300,	0.500 0.600 0.600 0.500 0.450 0.600 0.600 0.600 0.600 0.450	<i>P</i> ₄ =	=	c ₈ c ₉ c ₁₀ c ₁₁ c ₁₂ c ₁₃ c ₁₄ c ₁₅ c ₁₆	<pre>(0.500) (0.600) (0.600) (0.500) (0.450) (0.600) (0.600) (0.600) (0.450)</pre>	, 0.667 , 0.800 , 0.800 , 0.667 , 0.600 , 0.800 , 0.800 , 0.800 , 0.600	
$P_5 =$	$\begin{bmatrix} \\ N_5 & c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ c_4 \\ c_5 \\ c_6 \\ c_7 \\ c_8 \\ c_9 \\ c_1 \\ $	2 (0.786 3 (0.885 4 (0.667 5 (0.800 6 (0.800 7 (0.800 8 (0.667 9 (0.800 1 (0.667 2 (0.600 3 (0.800 4 (0.800 5 (0.800 6 (0.800	$ \begin{array}{c} 0,1 \\ 0,1 $	$0.450\rangle$	c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4 c_5 c_6 c_7 c_8 c_9 c_{10} c_{11} c_{12} c_{13} c_{14} c_{15} c_{16} c_{17}	$ \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & &$	c ₁₇ P _T	$\langle 0.450 \rangle$	$, 0.600 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ c_4 \\ c_5 \\ c_6 \\ c_7 \\ c_8 \\ c_9 \\ c_{10} \\ c_{11} \\ c_{12} \\ c_{13} \\ c_{14} \\ c_{15} \\ c_{16} \\ c_{17} \\ $	<0.560> <0.390> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.370> <0.400> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.490> <0.480> <0.430> <0.430> <0.250> <0.390>

4.4. Calculation of the Correlation of Evaluation Indexes

The degree of correlation is calculated by Equation (4) and the results are shown in Table 12.

4.5. Evaluation of Asphalt Pavement Construction Control From Equation (8), K(P₁) is calculated as:

$$K(P_1) = (0.4298, 0.2885, 0.0893, 0.0793, 0.0501) * \begin{bmatrix} -0.2667 & 0.2000 & -0.0833 & -0.3529 & -0.4359 \\ -0.3878 & -0.2105 & 0.4860 & -0.2200 & -0.5038 \\ 0.0390 & -0.0390 & -0.3588 & -0.5189 & -0.5819 \\ -0.2619 & 0.1729 & -0.0691 & -0.3362 & -0.5352 \\ -0.7875 & -0.7167 & -0.5750 & -0.1500 & 0.1500 \end{bmatrix} = (-0.3000, 0.0122, 0.0328, -0.3179, -0.4470)$$

Similarly, it can be calculated that:

$K(P_2) = (-0.3933, -0.1659, 0.1976, -0.0467, -0.3464)$
$K(P_3) = (-0.3014, 0.0162, -0.0456, -0.3285, -0.5201)$
$K(P_4) = (-0.2972, 0.1473, -0.0296, -0.3626, -0.5279)$

Indexes		– I	II	III	11.7	.
P _i	c _i	- 1	11	111	IV	V
	<i>c</i> ₁	-0.2667	0.2000	-0.0833	-0.3529	-0.4359
	<i>c</i> ₂	-0.3878	-0.2105	0.4860	-0.2200	-0.5038
P_1	<i>c</i> ₃	0.0390	-0.0390	-0.3588	-0.5189	-0.5819
	c_4	-0.2619	0.1729	-0.0691	-0.3362	-0.5352
	<i>c</i> ₅	-0.7875	-0.7167	-0.5750	-0.1500	0.1500
	c ₆	-0.3000	0.2500	-0.1250	-0.4167	-0.5625
P_2	C7	-0.3718	-0.1552	0.4500	-0.1833	-0.3875
	<i>c</i> ₈	-0.4598	-0.3253	-0.1000	0.2994	-0.2063
	С9	-0.3611	-0.1154	0.3000	-0.2333	-0.4250
D	c_{10}	-0.5250	-0.3667	-0.0500	0.1000	-0.3214
P_3	c_{11}	-0.1941	0.3193	-0.3393	-0.5600	-0.6702
	<i>c</i> ₁₂	0.1333	-0.1333	-0.5667	-0.7111	-0.7833
	c ₁₃	-0.2222	0.4000	-0.3000	-0.5333	-0.6500
	c_{14}	-0.3485	-0.0652	0.1500	-0.2833	-0.4625
P_4	c ₁₅	-0.5875	-0.4500	-0.1750	0.3500	-0.2826
	c ₁₆	-0.2857	0.3333	-0.1667	-0.4444	-0.5833
	c ₁₇	-0.3810	-0.1875	0.4000	-0.1333	-0.3500

Table 12. Correlation of evaluation indexes.

In summary, the correlation of the asphalt pavement construction control level calculated from Equation (9) is

$$K(P) = (0.0711, 0.0912, 0.5481, 0.2896) * \begin{bmatrix} -0.3000 & 0.0122 & 0.0328 & -0.3179 & -0.4470 \\ -0.3933 & -0.1659 & 0.1967 & -0.0467 & -0.3464 \\ -0.3014 & 0.0162 & -0.0456 & -0.3285 & -0.5201 \\ -0.2972 & 0.1473 & -0.0296 & -0.3626 & -0.5279 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= (-0.3085, 0.0373, -0.0133, -0.3119, -0.5013)$$

According to $\max_{j=\{1,2,3,4,5\}} K_j(P) = K_2(P) = 0.0373$, the construction control level of this asphalt pavement is level II, and the eigenvalue of the level variable is obtained from Equation (11) as $j^* = 2.4784$, which integrates the construction control bias of this asphalt pavement to level III.

According to the evaluation results, the construction control level of the paving and rolling factors is Level II and the evaluation conclusion is "Good", but the evaluation result of the thickness and rolling speed of the subsystem is "Low". For thickness control of the paver parameter settings, the screed and auger arrangement should be checked for reasonableness and the height of the mix around the fabric should be cofirmed. For the control of the rolling speed, the selection and training of the roller operator should be improved. The level of construction control for the material and mixing factors is level III, with an evaluation conclusion of "Medium". The analysis shows that the evaluation conclusion for the material factor is "Poor" for the sludge content indicator and "Low" for the mixing factor for the gradation factor. There is a lot of room for improvement and upgrading. During the construction control process, the detection and control of mud content and gradation should be strengthened, especially the mud content index, which needs special attention in order to improve the construction control of asphalt pavement and ensure its construction quality.

5. Discussion

Firstly, from the perspective of research methods, the evaluation index system of analytic hierarchy process (AHP) and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation adopted in the literature [18–21] is a static attribute, the judgment matrix is inflexible, the weight determination is subjective, and the selection of index value is a set of real numbers. By contrast,

the method adopted in this paper selects a set of real numbers, and the measured data is the interval point value of fuzziness, which can describe the variability of things, the quantitative change process and the degree of the qualitative change process. In addition, this paper considers using the extension interval value instead of the specific point value to construct the extension judgment matrix, which not only considers the subjectivity of expert judgment, but also combines the weight solution with the consistency test of the judgment matrix, thereby simplifying the calculation and overcoming the shortcomings of the rough calculation process and strong subjectivity of the traditional analysis method. Second, asphalt pavements construction is a complex process, and material, technology, personnel, and equipment all have influence on the quality of the asphalt; in addition, the environmental conditions, traffic load and the tension of tires and other adverse conditions, including the action of will, can cause irreversible deformation of asphalt pavement, affecting the service life of the asphalt road surface. Therefore, in the asphalt pavement construction control evaluation, many factors need to be considered, including quantitative and qualitative indicators, and there is a need to apply a new evaluation system to describe and deal with the construction control problem. However, literature [6-12] considers relatively single factors, which is insufficient to comprehensively and objectively analyze the construction quality of asphalt pavement.

6. Conclusions

- (1) Combining the characteristics of construction control of asphalt pavements, a construction control assessment model is established using toposable set theory. Considering the actual situation, the weight calculation results are more reasonable and accurate by constructing a topologizable interval judgment matrix compared with the previously constructed fixed value judgment matrix, and combining the judgment matrix consistency test with the weight calculation enables the calculation steps to be simplified.
- (2) The model proposed in this paper is used to calculate that the construction control level of the case study is Grade II, and the characteristic value of the variable is j^{*} = 2.4784, which is inclined to Grade III. It is verified that the model can evaluate the construction control of asphalt pavement more reasonably and scientifically, and can provide reference for the evaluation of construction control of asphalt pavement.
- (3) Compared with the assessment methods of existing specifications, the model can quantitatively assess the construction control rating level of asphalt pavements and better reflect the actual situation of construction control. It overcomes the shortcomings of other assessment methods, which are highly subjective and rough in calculation, and can objectively assess the construction control condition, providing reference for the construction control of similar asphalt pavements and improving the construction control scheme.
- (4) At the same time, it can be seen from the evaluation results that the mud content in aggregate and gradation in the mixing process need to be greatly improved in the subsequent construction process, and the detection and control of mud content and gradation should be strengthened to fully ensure the construction quality of asphalt pavement.
- (5) There are still some limitations in the research of asphalt pavement construction control technology in this paper. For example, due to the complicated construction process, some construction control indexes related to pavement performance may not be reflected in the construction quality control system, which needs to be further improved. The quantitative relationship between construction control indicators and pavement performance, as well as the degree of influence of variation of construction control indicators on pavement performance, need to be further discussed or determined through experimental analysis.
- (6) The causes of asphalt pavement damage include many features. Relevant practitioners should consider comprehensively the aspects of design, construction and maintenance.

In terms of design, they can focus on the design idea of integrating pavement structure and pavement materials to improve the performance of asphalt pavement. In terms of maintenance, the focus is mainly prevention-oriented, combining prevention with treatment, long-term maintenance with regular inspection, and early detection and early treatment of problems, all of which not only improve the pavement performance, but also prolong the service life of the road.

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