

**GEOMECHANICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION
OF WEATHERED VOLCANIC ROCKS FOR ROCK ENGINEERING
PRACTICE**

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
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by

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Submitted

In the fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
to the



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DEDICATED

TO

** The memory of my mother and my father*

** My sisters, brothers and Grand mother*

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, **“Geomechanical Characterization and Classification of Weathered Volcanic Rocks for Rock Engineering Practice”**, being submitted by **Mr.Endalu Tadele Chala** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, for the award of **Doctor of Philosophy** is a record of the Bonafide research work carried out by him under my supervision, which to the best of my knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The material contained in this thesis has not been submitted in part or fully to any other university or institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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Abstract

Rock weathering is one of the most significant geological processes, which degrades the engineering properties of rocks causing failure or large deformation in many projects including tunnels, dams, bridges and tall buildings. In tropical climates where there is a dynamic weathering environment (Thermal, Mechanical, Hydrological, and Chemical (TMHC)) can have rapid weathering rates. This natural process of weathering is radically accelerated during clearing and excavations for civil or mining projects. It is important, therefore, to assess the impact of weathering on the engineering behaviour of weathered rockmass for open and underground works. The existing weathered material and mass classifications are semi quantitative and have also not given much attention to lithological characteristics. Especially, their applicability for volcanic rocks is not verified. Keeping these needs in mind, detailed field and laboratory investigation have been carried out near Bumbai-Pune-Satara-Koyna at six locations, by studying and investigating 23 weathered profiles and several borehole logs which belong to Deccan trap volcanic formation of India.

The microstructural features and mineralogical abundance of various weathered basaltic and pyroclastic volcanic rocks from Deccan trap formation were studied in laboratory using several analytical techniques such as petrographical and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) techniques. On the basis of thin section studies two petrographic indices i.e. Micro-fracture Index, MI and Decomposition Index, DI was devised to identify the types of weathering. The physical and strength properties of various weathered basalt and pyroclastic rocks determined as per International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and Indian Standards (IS). The fresh Basalt has high density and specific gravity values with low porosity (maximum, 0.9%) whereas pyroclastic volcanic rocks have lower density values with high porosities (maximum 20.4%). For all the samples, with increasing weathering grade,

porosity increases in an exponential function. From the results of V_p , it can be concluded that for each type, the V_p decreases rapidly with the increasing weathering grades. High density, low porosity and the presence of mafic minerals are some of the reasons for high V_p values. The physico-mechanical properties measured experimentally in the present study and available data from literature has been superimposed on the plots. It has shown a very good correlation. These correlations have great importance to establish the geotechnical properties of volcanic rocks as a function of degree of weathering.

Triaxial test results and their analyses show that with increasing confining pressure from 1 to 30 MPa, strength increased as expected. Generally, it has been observed that, the rate of increase in strength is higher at lower confining pressure. This is because of micro-fractures and pore spaces between the grains getting closer at lower confining pressure. Predicting the rock strength in different stress or and strain conditions is necessary both for numerical simulations and theoretical analyses. The present uniaxial and triaxial test results along with data from literature were fitted into commonly used strength criteria and have been evaluated for their applicability for weathered volcanic rocks. Finally, various volcanic rock parameters such as α and B of Rao (1984), m of Hoek and Brown (1980), A and B of MMC and c and ϕ of p-q plots have been determined. These rock parameters are observed to be decreasing with increasing degree of weathering. The inconsistency of the pyroclastic volcanic rock parameters is higher than those of weathered basaltic rocks. These parameters can be used for predicting strength at any confining pressure using the minimum experimental data at material scale and along with rockmass classification scheme, the mass properties can be predicted.

Eight alternative grades of weathered rock material classifications have been proposed using petrographical, physical and mechanical properties and characteristics of various grade weathered rocks. To quantify the extent of weathering in terms of physico mechanical properties,

the concept of retention ratio (R_s) which is the percentage of weathered rock with respect to fresh as proposed by Gupta and Rao (2001), has been extended for I_s (50), σ_t , R_N , E_{Vp} , γ and QAI. These retention indices are the ratios of fresh to weathered varieties of the same rocks expressed in percentage from 0 to 100. To investigate the applicability of the classifications for other regions, available experimental results in the literature are also considered. Weathered volcanic Rock masses, due to their origin, exhibit certain characteristics that make their study not always appropriate through classical geomechanical classification systems including RMR, Q and GSI for predicting the various weathered rockmass properties. In the present study two alternative classifications for various weathered rockmass have been proposed. (i) Weathering indices chart based on Total core recovery (TCR) and rebound hammer value (R_N) and (ii) Classifications schemes based on rating system. The study and correlations developed between proposed and common rockmass classification indicates that these two classifications are very promising for strength characterization of various weathered rockmass.

To illustrate the effectiveness of proposed weathering indices chart in numerical modeling of weathered rockmass the core samples available from already drilled boreholes have been studied. From the borehole data the TCR and R_N values of respective core samples were determined and the geological strength index determined from lookup chart of Hoek and Marinos (2000). The rock slope stability analysis was done using numerical modeling techniques; Finite Element Method (FEM) based two dimensional analyses (RS2), Phase 2 9.0, software from Rocscience. The rock slope having four different quality of rockmass have been analyzed under static and pseudo-static conditions. Finally, the optimum support measures have been provided to the slope for stabilizing it and the corresponding analysis was also done.

सार

रॉक का मौसम सबसे महत्वपूर्ण भूवैज्ञानिक प्रक्रियाओं में से एक है, जो चट्टानों के इंजीनियरिंग गुणों को कम करता है जिससे सुरंगों, बांधों, पुलों और ऊंची इमारतों सहित कई परियोजनाओं में विफलता या बड़ा विरूपण होता है। उष्णकटिबंधीय जलवायु में जहां एक गतिशील मौसम पर्यावरण (थर्मल, मैकेनिकल, हाइड्रोलॉजिकल और केमिकल (टीएमएचसी) में तेजी से मौसम की दर हो सकती है सिविल या खनन परियोजनाओं के लिए समाशोधन और खुदाई के दौरान मौसम की प्राकृतिक प्रक्रिया को त्वरित रूप से त्वरित किया गया है। इसलिए, खुले और भूमिगत कार्यों के लिए खासी चट्टान के इंजीनियरिंग व्यवहार पर मौसम के प्रभाव का आकलन करना महत्वपूर्ण है। मौजूदा खामी सामग्री और बड़े पैमाने पर वर्गीकरण अर्द्ध मात्रात्मक हैं और लिथोलॉजिकल विशेषताओं पर भी ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया है। विशेष रूप से, ज्वालामुखी चट्टानों के लिए उनकी प्रयोज्यता सत्यापित नहीं है। इन जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, विस्तृत क्षेत्र और प्रयोगशाला की जांच, छह स्थानों पर, मुंबई-पुणे-सातारा-कोयना के पास, 23 भेजी प्रोफाइलों और कई बोरोले लॉग की जांच कर रही है जो भारत के डेक्कन जाल ज्वालामुखी गठन से संबंधित हैं।

डेक्कन जाल के निर्माण से बेसाल्टिक और पायरोक्लास्टिक ज्वालामुखीय चट्टानों के माइक्रोस्ट्रॉचरल फीचर और मिनरलोगिकल बहुतायत का प्रयोग पेट्रोग्राफिकल और स्कैनिंग इलेक्ट्रॉन माइक्रोस्कोप (एसईएम), एनर्जी डिसिप्सीव एक्स-रे (ईडीएक्स) और एक्स-रे विवर्तन जैसे कई विश्लेषणात्मक तकनीकों का प्रयोग करके प्रयोगशाला में किया गया। (एक्सआरडी) तकनीक पतली खंड के आधार पर दो पेट्रोग्राफिक इंडेक्स यानी माइक्रो फ्रैक्चर इंडेक्स, एमआई और अपघटन सूचकांक, डीआई को मौसम के प्रकारों की पहचान करने के लिए तैयार किया गया था। इंटरनेशनल सोसायटी ऑफ रॉक मैकेनिक्स (आईएसआरएम) और इंडियन स्टैंडर्ड (आईएस) के अनुसार निर्धारित विभिन्न बास्केट और पाइरोक्लास्टिक चट्टानों के भौतिक और ताकत गुणों का निर्धारण। ताजा बेसाल्ट में कम घनत्व और अधिकतम गुरुत्वाकर्षण मूल्य (कम से कम 0.9%) होते हैं, जबकि पायरोक्लास्टिक ज्वालामुखीय चट्टानों में निम्न संरंकीकरण (अधिकतम 20.4%) के साथ घनत्व मूल्य कम होता है। सभी नमूनों के लिए, बढ़ते मौसम वाले ग्रेड के साथ, एक घातीय कार्य में छिद्रपूर्ण बढ़ता है वीपी के परिणामों से, यह निष्कर्ष निकाला जा सकता है कि प्रत्येक प्रकार के लिए, वीपी तेजी से बढ़ते मौसम ग्रेड के साथ घट जाती है। उच्च घनत्व, कम चिपचिपापन और मैफीक खनिजों की उपस्थिति उच्च वीपी मूल्यों के लिए कुछ कारण हैं। वर्तमान अध्ययन में भौतिक-यांत्रिक गुणों को प्रयोगात्मक रूप से मापा गया और साहित्य से उपलब्ध आंकड़ों को भूखंडों पर लगाया गया है। यह एक बहुत अच्छा सहसंबंध दिखाया है इनके सहसंबंधों को जिक्र करने के लिए ज्वलनशील चट्टानों के भू-तकनीकी गुणों को स्थापित करने के लिए बहुत महत्व है, क्योंकि मौसम की डिग्री के एक फ़ंक्शन के रूप में

त्रिअक्षीय परीक्षण के परिणाम और उनके विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि 1 से 30 एमपीए तक बढ़ती दबाव के साथ, अपेक्षित रूप से वृद्धि हुई सामान्यतया, यह देखा गया है कि, कम दबाव वाले दबाव में ताकत में वृद्धि की दर अधिक है। यह सूक्ष्म-अस्थिभंग के कारण है और अनाज के निचले प्रतिरोध को कम करने के दबाव में करीब रिक्त स्थान है। विभिन्न तनाव में रॉक ताकत की भविष्यवाणी करना और नैनो सिमुलेशन और सैद्धांतिक विश्लेषण दोनों के लिए तनाव की स्थिति आवश्यक है। साहित्य के आंकड़ों के साथ वर्तमान एकमात्र और त्रिकोणीय परीक्षण के परिणाम आमतौर पर इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली ताकत मानदंडों में लगाए गए थे और ज्वालामुखीय चट्टानों के खाने के लिए उनके प्रयोज्यता के लिए मूल्यांकन किया गया है। अंत में, विभिन्न ज्वालामुखीय चट्टान मापदंड जैसे α और बी राव (1984), होक एंड ब्राउन (1980) की एम, एमएमसी के ए और बी और पी-क्यू प्लॉट्स के सी और ϕ निर्धारित किए गए हैं। इन चट्टान के मापदंडों को मौसम की बढ़ती हुई डिग्री के साथ घटते हुए देखा जा रहा है। पायरोक्लास्टिक ज्वालामुखीय चट्टान मापदंडों की विसंगतियां खामी बेसाल्टिक चट्टानों की तुलना में अधिक है इन मापदंडों का प्रयोग भौतिक स्तर पर न्यूनतम प्रयोगात्मक डेटा और चट्टान वर्गीकरण योजना के साथ किसी भी दबाव में दबाव की भविष्यवाणी के लिए किया जा सकता है, जन गुणों की भविष्यवाणी की जा सकती है।

भूस्खलन करने वाले रॉक सामग्री वर्गीकरण के आठ वैकल्पिक ग्रेड पेट्रोफिकल, भौतिक और यांत्रिक गुणों का उपयोग करते हुए प्रस्तावित किया गया है और विभिन्न ग्रेड के चट्टानों का सामना करना पड़ता है। भौतिक मैकेनिकल गुणों के संदर्भ में मौसम की मात्रा का आकलन करने के लिए, प्रतिभूति अनुपात (रूपरेखा) की अवधारणा, जो कि गुप्ता और राव (2001) द्वारा प्रस्तावित ताजा के संबंध में खाए हुए चट्टानों का प्रतिशत है, को बढ़ाया गया है (50) , σ_t , आरएन, वीपी, क्यूएआई और ई। ये प्रतिधारण सूचकांक एक ही चट्टानों की खाने वाली किस्मों के लिए ताजा अनुपात है, जो प्रतिशत में 0 से 100 तक आते हैं। अन्य क्षेत्रों के लिए वर्गीकरण की प्रयोज्यता की जांच के लिए, साहित्य में उपलब्ध प्रायोगिक परिणामों को भी माना जाता है। ज्वालामुखीय रॉक जनजाति, उनके मूल के कारण, उन विशिष्ट विशेषताओं का प्रदर्शन करते हैं जो विभिन्न अध्ययनों के लिए आरएमआर, क्यू और जीएसआई सहित शास्त्रीय भौगोलिक वर्गीकरण प्रणालियों के माध्यम से अपने अध्ययन को हमेशा उपयुक्त नहीं बनाते हैं, जो कि विभिन्न चोंच वाले गुणों की भविष्यवाणी करते हैं। वर्तमान अध्ययन में विभिन्न व्यथित चट्टानों के लिए दो वैकल्पिक वर्गीकरण प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं। (i) कुल कोर वसूली (टीसीआर) और रिबाउंड हथौड़ा मूल्य (आर.एन.) और (ii) रेटिंग सिस्टम पर आधारित वर्गीकरण योजनाओं के आधार पर सूचकांक चार्ट का आकलन करना। प्रस्तावित और आम चट्टान वर्गीकरण के बीच विकसित अध्ययन और सहसंबंध यह इंगित करता है कि इन दोनों वर्गीकरण विभिन्न खामी चट्टानों की ताकत के लक्षण वर्णन के लिए बहुत आशाजनक हैं।

प्रस्तावित मौसम संबंधी सूचकांक चार्ट की प्रभावशीलता को स्पष्ट करने के लिए पहले से ड्रिल किए गए बोरहोलों से उपलब्ध मूल नमूनों का अध्ययन किया गया है। बोरहोल डेटा से संबंधित कोर नमूनों के टीसीआर और आर एन मूल्य निर्धारित किए गए थे और भूगर्भीय ताकत सूचकांक होक और मरिनस (2000) के लुकअप चार्ट से निर्धारित किया गया था। रॉक ढलान स्थिरता विश्लेषण संख्यात्मक मॉडलिंग तकनीकों का उपयोग किया गया था; परिमित तत्व विधि (फेम) आधारित दो आयामी विश्लेषण (आरएस 2), चरण 2 9.0, रोक्साइंस से सॉफ्टवेयर। रॉकमास के चार अलग-अलग गुणवत्ता वाले रॉक ढलान को स्थिर और छद्म-स्थिर स्थितियों के तहत विश्लेषण किया गया है। अंत में, यह स्थिर करने के लिए ढलान को इष्टतम समर्थन उपायों प्रदान किया गया है और इसी विश्लेषण भी किया गया था।

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
CERTIFICATE	i
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ii
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE Of CONTENTS	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xviii
LIST OF TABLES	xxvi
LIST OF NOTATIONS	xxxiii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1 General	1
1.1 Research Objectives	5
1.2 Organization of the Thesis	6
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2 General	8
2.1 Rock Weathering	8
2.1.1 Physical weathering	8
2.1.2 Chemical weathering	9
2.1.3 Weathering regions and environment with respect to rock types	10
2.1.4 Weathering of minerals	13
2.2 Importance of Weathering in Rock Engineering	13
2.3 Effects of Weathering on Geotechnical Properties of Rocks	16
2.4 Weathering Indices	24
2.4.1 Chemical weathering indices	24

2.4.2	Petrographical indices	24
2.4.3	Engineering weathering indices	25
2.4.3.1	Schmidt hammer rebound test	25
2.4.3.2	Slake durability index	27
2.4.3.3	Coefficient of weathering	28
2.4.3.4	Quick absorption index	28
2.4.3.5	Strength retention ratio	29
2.5	Weathered Rock Material and Mass Classifications	30
2.5.1	Engineering classification of weathered rock materials	30
2.5.2	Classification of weathered rockmass	32
2.5.2.1	Classification of weathered rockmass as per ISRM (1981)	32
2.5.2.2	Classification of weathered rockmass based on rating system (Rw)	33
2.5.2.3	Relation of rock mass weathering and RQD	35
2.6	Common Rockmass Classification Systems	35
2.6.1	Rock quality designation (RQD)	36
2.6.2	Rockmass rating (RMR) system	38
2.6.3	Q-system	39
2.6.4	Geological strength index (GSI)	40
2.6.4.1	Quantitative GSI chart	46
2.7	Relations between Rockmass Property and Rockmass Classifications	47
2.7.1	Relation between rockmass property and RMR system	47
2.7.2	Relation between rockmass property and joint factors	48
2.7.3	Relations between rockmass property and GSI	50

2.8	Applicability of Rockmass Indices in Representing Weathered Rockmass	51
2.9	Strength Criteria	53
2.9.1	Theoretical strength criteria	53
2.9.1.1	Mohr-Coulomb strength criterion	53
2.9.2	Empirical strength criteria	55
2.9.2.1	Bieniawski-Yudbir strength criterion	55
2.9.2.2	Hoek-Brown Strength criterion	58
2.9.2.3	Rao and Ramamurthy criterion	60
2.9.2.4	Modified Mohr -Coulomb criterion	63
2.9.3	Strength criterion for weathered rocks	65
2.10	Summary and Conclusions	67
	CHAPTER 3:FIELD AND EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES	68
3	General: Volcanic Rocks	68
3.1	Deccan Trap Volcanic Rock Formations and Location	68
3.1.1	Infrastructure and associated rock weathering problems	70
3.2	Field Work	71
3.2.1	Parameters (data) collected in the field	71
3.2.2	Sample collection	78
3.3	Experimental Program and Studies	78
3.3.1	Sample preparations	78
3.3.2	Methods for petrographical and microstructural studies	80
3.3.2.1	Thin section studies (under Petrographical Electron Microscope)	82
3.3.2.1	Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) method	83

3.3.2.3	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) method	84
3.3.2.4	Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) microanalysis	86
3.4	Method for Quantification of Vesicles in Rocks	86
3.5	Physical Properties	87
3.6	Index Strength Tests	87
3.6.1	Slake durability tests	87
3.6.2	Rebound hammer tests	88
3.6.3	Point load strength ($Is_{(50)}$) index tests	88
3.7	Uniaxial compression tests(σ_c)	89
3.8	Brazilian Strength Tests (σ_t)	89
3.9	Triaxial Compression Tests($\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 = \sigma_3$)	90
CHAPTER 4: LITHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL BEHAVIOUR		96
4	General	96
4.1	Microstructural Features, Petrography and Elemental Variables of Volcanic Rocks	96
4.1.1	Basaltic Rocks	96
4.1.1.1	Fresh basaltic rock	96
4.1.1.2	Slightly weathered basaltic rock	98
4.1.1.3	Moderately weathered basaltic rocks	99
4.1.1.4	Highly weathered basalt: basaltic laterite	100
4.1.1.5	Completely weathered basalt	101
4.1.2	Amygdaloidal basalt	101
4.1.3	Pyroclastic Volcanic Rocks	108
4.1.3.1	Welded tuff	108

4.1.3.2	Tuff	110
4.1.3.3	Volcanic breccia	111
4.2	Physico-mechanical Index Properties	113
4.4.1	Physical index properties	113
4.4.2	Mechanical index properties	114
4.5	Physico-mechanical Indices as a function of weathering grade	115
4.5.1	Porosity	115
4.5.2	Unit weight	118
4.5.3	Quick absorption index	119
4.5.4	Sonic velocity	120
4.5.5	Strength indices as a function of weathering grade	124
4.5.5.1	Slake durability	124
4.5.5.2	UCS with respect to degree of weathering	124
4.5.5.3	$I_s(50)$ with respect to degree of weathering	124
4.5.5.4	σ_t with respect to degree of weathering	126
4.5.5.5	Young's modulus as a function of weathering grade	127
4.5.5.6	Poisson ratio as a function of weathering grade	128
4.6	Strength and Deformational Behaviour	130
4.6.1	Uniaxial stress-strain behavior	130
4.6.1.1	Stress-strain curves for various weathered basaltic rocks	130
4.6.1.2	Stress-strain curves for amygdaloidal basalt	131
4.6.1.3	Stress strain curves pyroclastic volcanic rocks	132
4.6.1.3.1	Stress-strain curves for various volcanic Breccia's	132
4.6.1.3.2	Stress-strain curves for tuff and welded tuff	133

4.6.2	Strength and deformational behaviour under confined conditions	134
4.6.2.1	Fresh and various weathered basaltic rocks	135
4.6.2.1.1	Variation of peak strength with confining pressure	135
4.6.2.1.2	Variation of shear strength parameters for various weathered basaltic rocks	136
4.6.2.1.3	Stress-strain behavior for various weathered basaltic rocks	139
4.6.2.1.3.1	Influence of confining pressure and weathering on elastic modulus	140
4.6.2.2	Engineering behavior of pyroclastic rocks under confined state	141
4.6.2.2.1	Variation of peak strength with confining pressures (pyroclastic rocks)	141
4.6.2.2.2	Variation of shear strength parameters (for pyroclastic rocks)	142
4.6.2.2.3	Stress-strain behavior (pyroclastic rocks)	145
4.6.2.2.3.1	Variation of elastic modulus with confining pressure (Pyroclastic rocks)	145
4.7	Failure Pattern	147
4.8	Conclusions	149
CHAPTER 5: EVALUATION OF FAILURE CRITERION FOR VOLCANIC ROCK MATERIALS		152
5	General	152
5.1	Evaluation of the Failure Criterion for Volcanic Rocks	152
5.1.1	p-q plot for volcanic rocks	153
5.1.2	Hoek–Brown parameters for volcanic rocks	157
5.1.3	Rao and Ramamurthy parameters for volcanic rocks	158
5.1.4	Modified Mohr - Coulomb (MMC) parameters for volcanic rocks	160

3.2	Conclusions	164
CHAPTER 6: GEOMECHANICAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES FOR WEATHERED VOLCANIC ROCKS		167
6	General	167
6.1	Proposed Volcanic Rock Material Classifications	168
6.1.1	Classification of weathered basaltic rocks	168
6.1.1.1	Classification based on physico-mechanical index parameters	168
6.1.1.1.1	Input geomechanical properties and classification of basaltic rock materials	168
6.1.2	Classification of pyroclastic volcanic rocks	188
6.1.2.1	Classification based on clasts size and type	188
6.1.3	Classification of volcanic rock materials based Young's modulus (E) and UCS	189
6.2	Geomechanical Classification Schemes for Weathered Volcanic Rockmass	190
6.2.1	Proposed weathering indices chart for weathered rockmass strength characterization	190
6.2.1.1	Characterization based on drilling parameters and rebound hammer	192
6.2.2	Proposed weathered volcanic rockmass classification scheme based on rating system	196
6.2.2.1	Weathered rock material indices for field characterization	196
6.2.2.1.1	Discoloration and staining	196
6.2.2.1.2	Microstructures /texture /fabric	196
6.2.2.1.3	Disintegration	197

6.2.2.1.4	Decomposition	197
6.2.2.2	Weathered rockmass indices	197
6.2.2.3	Vesicles quantifications	198
6.2.2.3.1	Variation of unconfined compressive strength with level of intrusion	200
6.3	Correlation between proposed and common rockmass classification systems.	204
6.4	Conculusions	209
CHAPTER 7: CASE STUDY		209
7	NUMERICAL MODELING AND STABILITY ANALYSIS OF WEATHERED ROCKMASS FORMATION	210
7.1	General	210
7.2	Geological Description of the Site	211
7.3	Determining Rockmass Properties	213
7.4	Slope Stability Analysis	216
7.4.1	Static analysis	217
7.4.2	Pseudo-static analysis	218
7.4.3	Stabilization of the rockmass slopes	219
7.5	Conclusions	221
CHAPTER 8: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK		222
8.1	General	222
8.2	Field Work and Experimental Studies	223
8.2.1	Field Work	223
8.2.2	Experimental Studies	224

8.2.2.1	Microstructural Feature, Petrography and Elemental Variables	225
8.3	Physical Index Properties	226
8.4	Mechanical Index Properties	227
8.5	Physico-Mechanical Indices as a Function of Weathering Grade	228
8.6	Strength and Deformational Behaviour	229
8.6.1	Stress-strain behaviour	229
8.6.2	Strength and shear strength parameters	229
8.6.3	Evaluation of existing criterion for volcanic rocks	230
8.7	Development of Classifications for Weathered Volcanic Rock Materials	231
8.8	Proposed Weathering Indices Chart for Weathered Rockmass Strength Characterization	232
8.9	Proposed Weathered Volcanic Rockmass Classification Based on Rating System	234
8.10	Future Work	237
	REFERENCES	239
	APPENDICES	262
	Appendix-I: Stress-strain behaviour of volcanic rocks used for evaluation of strength failure criteria	262
	Appendix I-a : Stress strain behavior of fresh basaltic rocks	262
	Appendix I-b :Stress-strain behaviour of various weathered grade basaltic rocks	271
	Appendix II: Geological strength index for various rock qualities	276
	Appendix II-a : GSI for tectonically deformed rock mass	276
	Appendix II-b: GSI for folded blocky poorly interlocked rockmass	277

Appendix II-c: GSI for very blocky multiple faceted rockmass	277
appendix II-d: GSI for blocky rockmass with cubical blocks	279
appendix II-e: GSI for intact or massive blocks	229
Appendix III: EDX elemental analysis of various volcanic rocks	280

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLES	PAGE
Figure 1.1	Appearances of various weathered rockmass as observed on outcrops	2
Figure 1.2	Most common rock engineering projects. Rearranged from (Hudson and Harrison , 2000)	3
Figure 2.1	Schematic representation of different degrees of weathered rock formations	9
Figure 2.2	Climatic influence on type of weathering process (Kehew,1995)	11
Figure 2.3	RQD determination as per Deere and Deere (1989)	37
Figure 2.4	Simplified version of GSI chart (Rocscience,2002)	41
Figure 2.5	Comparison of GSI ₂₀₁₃ and RMR values (Pells,2017)	46
Figure 2.6	Correlation between the insitu modulus of deformation and the RMR systems (Serafim and Pereira,1983)	49
Figure 2.7	Brittle -ductile transition (a) Singh and Singh (2005) for model materials and (Hoek,1983) for andesite rocks	65
Figure 3.1	Distribution of volcanic rocks worldwide (Geological Survey of Norway,2006)	69
Figure 3.2	Location map of study area (Deccan trap formation)	69
Figure 3.3	Selected weathered profile studied near and along Bumbai-Pune -Satara and Koyna regions of Deccan trap formation	73
Figure 3.4	Typical basaltic appearance as observed in core box	77
Figure 3.5	Typical pyroclastic volcanic rock appearance as observed in core box	77

Figure 3.6	Sample preparation process (a) core drilling (Fresh and CBW1) (b) Prepared fresh basalt specimens (c) cutting machine and higher stage of weathered rock specimens	80
Figure 3.7	Appearance of various weathered basaltic and pyroclastic volcanic rocks studied (a) basaltic specimens with various weathering grade (b) vesicular and amygdaloidal basalt (c) different varieties of pyroclastic volcanic rocks from Deccan traps.	80
Figure 3.8	Specimens prepared for strength tests (a) various weathering grade of basaltic rocks (CBW ₀ to CBW ₄) (b) amygdaloidal basalt (c) various pyroclastic volcanic rocks: welded tuff (Right) and volcanic breccia having different clasts size (left) and (d) various volcanic rocks with strain gauge and (e) Tuff (L/D=0.5,1 and 2)	81
Figure 3.9	Prepared amygdaloidal basalt specimens for the study of microstructural features, petrography and elemental variables	82
Figure 3.10	Complete setup of SEM, EVO18 model Quanta 400 used in the present study	84
Figure 3.11	Complete setup of XRD apparatus (Ringaku,Min flax 600) used in the present study	85
Figure 3.13	Setup of (a) point load and (b) Brazilian tensile strength test apparatus	90
Figure 3.12	Complete setup of automatic compression UCS testing apparatus	90
Figure 3.14	Complete set up of triaxial test apparatus (with Hoek cell) @IITD Rock Engineering Laboratory	91
Figure 3.15	Schematic representations of Hoek cell triaxial testing apparatus	91
Figure 3.16	Details of triaxial Hoek cell used for testing	92

Figure 3.17	Complete set up of triaxial test apparatus (with HIECO cell) @IITD Rock Engineering laboratory	92
Figure 3.18	Testing program under UCS conditions	93
Figure 3.19	Testing program for triaxial testing	94
Figure 3.20	Research flow chart	95
Figure 4.1	SEM image @ 5000X magnification for various weathered basaltic rocks; (a) fresh (b) slightly weathered (c) moderately weathered (d) Highly weathered and (e) completely weathered basaltic rocks	100
Figure 4.2	Thin sections image under polarized microscope for various weathered basaltic rocks : (a) fresh basalt (b) slightly weathered basalt (c) basaltic laterite (d) completely weathered basaltic rocks	102
Figure 4.3	X-ray diffractometer charts for various weathered basaltic rocks (CBW ₀ , CBW ₁ , CBW ₃ and CBW ₄)	104
Figure 4.4	Micro fractures and decomposed mineral variations with respect to degree of weathering for basalt	106
Figure 4.5	Thin section of amygdaloidal basalt under polarized (left) and non-polarized (right) light	106
Figure 4.6	XRD trace of (a) parent amygdaloidal basalt and (b) amygdales	107
Figure 4.7	SEM Images @ 5000X magnification (b) thin section image (under cross polarized microscope) of welded tuff	108
Figure 4.8	XRD analysis of welded tuff	110
Figure 4.9	SEM images (magnification 200X) and thin section image under crossed polarized microscope of tuff	110
Figure 4.10	XRD analysis of tuff	111

Figure 4.11	Thin section image of weathered volcanic breccia under crossed polarized light and non-polarized light	112
Figure 4.12	X-ray diffractometer charts for various pyroclastic volcanic rocks (a) fine and (b),(c) and (d) coarse volcanic breccia 1,2 and 3 respectively	113
Figure 4.13	Variation of porosity as a function of weathering grade for igneous rocks	118
Figure 4.14	Variation of unit weight as a function of weathering grade for igneous rocks	119
Figure 4. 15	Variation of QAI as a function of weathering grade for igneous rocks	120
Figure 4.16	Variation of Vp as a function of weathering grade for igneous rocks	121
Figure 4.17	Degree of weathering as a function of (a) UCS and (b) R _N value	125
Figure 4.18	UCS as a function of weathering grade	125
Figure 4.19	Variation of point load strength for various weathering grades	126
Figure 4.20	Variation of tensile strength for various weathering grade	127
Figure 4.21	Variation of Young's modulus for various weathering grades	128
Figure 4.22	Variation of Poisson ratio with respect to degree of weathering	129
Figure 4.23	Uniaxial stress-strain behaviour of various weathered basaltic rocks	130
Figure 4.24	Stress -strain behaviour of amygdaloidal basalt	132
Figure 4.25	Stress-strain behaviour of fine volcanic breccia	132
Figure 4.26	Stress-strain behaviour of tuff and welded tuff under uniaxial compression	134
Figure 4.27	Peak strength variations with confining pressures for weathered basaltic rocks	136
Figure 4.28	Variation of shear strength parameters for various weathered basaltic rocks	137
Figure 4.29	p-q plot variations of various weathered basaltic rocks	137
Figure 4.30	Mohr failure envelopes for various weathering grade of basaltic rocks	138

Figure 4.31	Variations of cohesion and internal friction angle for various weathered basaltic rocks	138
Figure 4.32	Stress-strain behaviour for (CBW ₀) and (CBW ₂)	139
Figure 4.34	Influence of confining pressure on Young's modulus of various weathered basaltic rocks	140
Figure 4.35	Variation of peak stress of pyroclastic (a) VoB (b) Tuff and (c) Welded tuff	143
Figure 4.36	p-q plots of various pyroclastic rocks (a) VoB (b) Tuff (c) Welded tuff	144
Figure 4.37	Variation of p-q plots of various pyroclastic rocks	144
Figure 4.38	Mohr failure envelope for various pyroclastic volcanic rocks : (a) VoB (b) Tuff and (c) Welded Tuff	145
Figure 4.39	Stress - strain behaviour for various pyroclastic volcanic rocks	146
Figure 4.40	Failure pattern of basaltic rocks under unconfined and confined conditions	148
Figure 4.41	Failure pattern of unweathered and weathered amygdaloidal basalt under unconfined and confined conditions.	148
Figure 4.42	Failure pattern of coarse volcanic breccia under unconfined and confined conditions	149
Figure 4.43	Failure pattern of tuff under unconfined and confined conditions	149
Figure 5.1	p-q plot (a) for fresh basaltic rocks (b) for slightly weathered basaltic rock	155
Figure 5.2	Comparison of p-q plots for fresh and slightly weathered basaltic rocks	155
Figure 5.3	σ_1 vs σ_3 plot (a) for fresh and (b) for slightly weathered basaltic rocks	156
Figure 5.4	Comparison of (a) σ_1 vs. σ_3 plot for fresh and slightly weathered basaltic rocks	156
Figure 5.5	Hoek-Brown criteria for (a) fresh and (b) for slightly weathered basaltic rocks	158

Figure 5.6	Rao and Ramamurthy criterion for (a) for fresh basaltic rocks (b) for slightly weathered basaltic rocks.	160
Figure 5.7	Comparison of experimental and calculated σ_1 values for (a) fresh and (b) slightly weathered basaltic rocks.	163
Figure 6.1	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of UCS	180
Figure 6.2	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rocks based on retention of point load strength	181
Figure 6.3	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of tensile strength values	182
Figure 6.4	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of rebound hammer value	184
Figure 6.5	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of E	185
Figure 6.6	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of sonic wave velocity	186
Figure 6.7	Proposed classification of weathered basaltic rock materials based on retention of Unit weight	187
Figure 6.8	Correlation chart for Young's modulus and UCS for various weathered basaltic and pyroclastic rocks	191
Figure 6.9	Proposed weathering indices chart by R_N values and TCR	193
Figure 6.9	Intrusion pattern in amygdaloidal basalt	198
Figure 6.11	Mapping of surface intrusion (hand sketch)	199
Figure 6.12	Geo-referencing and digitization (Using Arc GSI 10.2 software)	199

Figure 6.13	Calculating surface area of intrusion	199
Figure 6.14	Variation in UCS value with the surface intrusion	200
Figure 6.15	Comparison between R_w and RMR	205
Figure 6.16	Compression between GSI_{2013} and WI chart	205
Figure 7.1	Weathered rockmass slope appearance as observed on outcrops	211
Figure 7.2	Geometry and formation of the four rock mass at critical section	212
Figure 7.3	GSI chart for jointed rock mass (Hoek and Marinos, 2000)	214
Figure 7.4	Proposed WI chart by R_N values and TCR	215
Figure 7.5	Discretized phase2 model of slope at a critical section	217
Figure.7.6	Total displacement contour plot at critical SRF of section	217
Figure 7.7	Maximum deformed shear strain plot of critical section with $K_h=0.16$	219
Figure 7.8	Discretized model of the slope with support system	220
Figure 7.9	Maximum shear strain plot with support at critical section	220

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES	TITLES	PAGES
Table 2.1	Problems of rock weathering in geotechnical engineering	15
Table 2.2	Correlation between UCS and Point load strength	
Table 2.3	Existing correlation for mechanical index properties (R_N , UCS and E)	20
Table 2.4	Sound and unsound constituents of various weathered rock materials	25
Table 2.5	Engineering weathering indices	26
Table 2.6	Classification of weathered rock material based on coefficient of weathering(k)	29
Table 2.7	QAI of various degrees of weathered rocks	30
Table 2.8	Existing classifications of weathered rock material and mass	31
Table 2.9	Classification of weathered rock material as per Gupta and Rao,2001	32
Table 2.10	Classification based on weathering indices for granite (Irfan and Dearman,1978)	32
Table 2.11	Classification based on Porosity and dry density (Arel,2001)	33
Table 2.12	Classification of weathered rock mass as per ISRM (1981)	34
Table 2.13	Classification of weathered rockmass based on rating system (Gupta and Rao,1997)	35
Table 2.14	Final rating for various weathered rockmass zone as per (Gupta and Rao,1997)	36
Table 2.15	Classification of weathered rock mass based on RQD (Ayalew et al.,2005)	36
Table 2.16	Relationship between the RQD index and the rockmass quality	39
Table 2.17	RMR system (reconstructed from Bieniawski(1989)	44

Table 2.18	Guidelines for excavation and support of 10m span rock tunnels in accordance with the RMR system	47
Table 2.19	Suggested disturbance factor (D) for Dam as per (Romana,2003a)	53
Table 2.20	Rockmass indices representing common rockmass conditions	54
Table 2.21	Triaxial strength criteria for intact rock	58
Table 2.22	Triaxial strength criteria for rockmass	59
Table 2.23	Value of B (Bieniawski,1974)	59
Table 2.24	Value of B for intact rocks (Yudbir et al.,1983)	60
Table 2.25	Rao (1984) rock parameters (B_i) and (α_i) for different rock types	63
Table 2.26	Joint parameters of Ramamurthy and Arora (1994)	65
Table 3.1	Location and description of studied volcanic rockmass profile (Deccan trap)	75
Table 3.2	Collection of parameters (data) in the field from weathered volcanic material and mass	77
Table 3.3	The terms and symbols used for various weathered rock material and mass	78
Table 3.4	The terms and symbols used for naming of basaltic and pyroclastic volcanic rocks	79
Table 3.5	Details of core and block samples collected for experimental studies	82
Table 3.6	Specimen requirements for rebound hammer test	91
Table 3.7	ISRM (1985) recommendation for Point load test	92
Table 3.8	Summary of experimental studies and number of tested specimens	97
Table 4.1	Petrographical analysis of different weathering grade samples of basalt	103
Table 4.2	Relative abundance of minerals in various weathered basaltic rocks	105

Table 4.3	Micro fractures and decompositional index (MI and DI) from petrographic studies of volcanic rocks	106
Table 4.4	Elemental analysis of various volcanic rocks from Deccan trap	109
Table 4.5	Relative % mineral composition of welded tuff	110
Table 4.6	Relative % mineral composition of tuff	111
Table 4.7	Relative % mineral composition of volcanic breccia	112
Table 4.8	Physical properties of Deccan trap basaltic rocks at various grades of weathering	116
Table 4.9	Physical properties of pyroclastic volcanic rocks from Deccan trap	117
Table 4.10	Variation of porosity as a function of weathering grade for igneous rocks	118
Table 4.11	Variation of unit weight as a function of weathering grade	119
Table 4.12	Variation of QAI for various weathering grade	120
Table 4.13	Variation of Vp for various weathering grade	121
Table 4.14	Dynamic modulus of various weathered basaltic and pyroclastic rocks	123
Table 4.15	Variation of slake durability for various volcanic rocks	124
Table 4.16	Variation of UCS with respect to degree of weathering	125
Table 4.17	Variation of Point load strength for various weathering grade	126
Table 4.18	Variation of tensile strength for various weathering grade	127
Table 4.19	Variation Young's modulus (GPa) for various weathering grade	128
Table 4.20	Variation of Poisson ratio for various weathering grade	129
Table 4.21	Summary of developed physico-mechanical indices as a function of degree of weathering	129
Table 4.22	Engineering properties of various weathering grades of basaltic rock	131
Table 4.23	Engineering properties of pyroclastic volcanic rocks	133

Table 4.24	Details of triaxial test result of various weathering grade of basaltic rock	135
Table 4.25	Shear strength parameters for respective weathering grade	139
Table 4.26	Variation of Young's modulus with confining pressure for CBW ₀ to CBW ₃	141
Table 4.27	Triaxial test results of pyroclastic rocks	142
Table 4.28	Shear strength parameters for various pyroclastic rocks	145
Table 4.29	Variation of Young's modulus with confining pressure for tuff and volcanic breccia	146
Table 4.30	Comparison of test results with literature	147
Table 5.1	Spread sheet for the calculation of p-q values from triaxial test data	154
Table 5.2	Spread sheet for the calculation of (m) from triaxial test data of volcanic rocks	157
Table 5.3	Spread sheet for the calculation of Rao and Ramamurthy parameters (α and B)	159
Table 5.4	Comparison of Hoek-Brown and IITD criteria for fresh and weathered rocks	160
Table 5.5	Spread sheet for the calculation of MMC parameters (A and B) from triaxial test data of fresh and slightly weathered basaltic rocks	161
Table 5.6	Calculation of MMC parameters	162
Table 5.7	Summary of volcanic rock parameters determined from the strength criteria	164
Table 5.8	Values of parameters (B) for intact rock (Rao,1984)	164
Table 5.9	Values of constant (mi) for intact rock (Hoek et al.,1992)	164
Table 6.1	Input geomechanical properties for the classification of rock materials	169

Table 6.2	Proposed weathering index boundary limit value's for classification of weathered basaltic rock materials	178
Table 6.3	Proposed weathering index boundary limit values for classification of weathered basaltic rock materials	179
Table 6.4	Variation of UCS for various weathering grades of basaltic rocks	180
Table 6.5	Variation of retention point load strength for various weathering grades	181
Table 6.6	Variation of retention tensile strength for various weathering grades	182
Table 6.7	Variation of retention rebound number value for various weathering grade	183
Table 6.8	Variation of retention Young's modulus for various weathering grades	185
Table 6.9	Variation of for specimen retention V_p for various weathering grade	186
Table 6.10	Variation for specimen retention unit weight for various weathering grade	187
Table 6.11	The classification of pyroclastic rocks based on clasts size	188
Table 6.12	Classification of rock materials based on strength and Modulus ratio	189
Table 6.13	Classification of various weathered basaltic and pyroclastic volcanic rocks based on E_t and UCS	190
Table 6.14	Boundary limit value of R_N for respective weathered core samples	193
Table 6.15	Weathered rock mass characterization based on TCR and RQD	194
Table 6.16	Schmidt hammer values of various weathered rock samples	195
Table 6.17	Observation of UCS with intrusion as parameter	200
Table 6.18	Proposed parameters for the design of new classifications for weathered volcanic rockmass	201
Table 6.19	Classification of weathered rock mass based on rating system (R_w)	202

Table 6.20	Final rating for various weathered rockmass zone as per Gupta and Rao (1997)	203
Table 6.21	Various weathered deccan trap exposure at Kothrud, on the outskirts of Pune towards Satara.	203
Table 6.22	Fresh and completely weathered basalt at west Thane, Godhbundur 10km from the Mumbai-Nashik highway	203
Table 6.23	Various weathered basalt at Lonavala Khandala bypass, Khalapur road tunnels and Khandala tunnel)	204
Table 6.24	Visual gradation of weathered Deccan trap exposure at Kothrud, on the outskirts of Pune towards Satara	206
Table 6.25	Ratings and weathering classes of zones of Barcelona granitic weathering profile (Romana,1983)	207
Table 6.26	Ratings and weathering classes of zones of Leona Rhyolite weathering profile(Mc Cfreth,1993)	208
Table 7.1	Estimated TCR and R_N values from core samples	214
Table 7.2	Properties of rock material and mass	216
Table 7.3	Joint property of basalt	216
Table 7.4	Results of the static analysis	218
Table 7.5	Factor of safety of the slope section with corresponding K_h value	219
Table 8.1	Summary of developed physico - mechanical properties as a function of weathering grade	229
Table 8.2	Volcanic rock parameters determined from the failure criteria	231
Table 8.3	Proposed weathering index boundary limit values for classification of weathered rock	232

Table 8.4	Proposed parameters for the design of new classification for weathered volcanic rockmass	235
Table 8.5	Range of final rating for zoning various weathered rock mass	235

LIST OF NOTATIONS

B	material constants in IITD Criterion for intact fresh rock (Dimensionless)
B _w	material constant in IITD criterion for weathered rock mass (Dimensionless)
c	cohesive strength (MPa)
D	disturbance factor in Hoek and Brown criterion for intact rocks (Dimensionless)
E _i	initial tangent modulus (GPa)
E _t	deformational modulus at 50% failure strength (GPa)
EDX	energy dispersive x-ray microanalysis
FEM	finite element method
G	shear modulus (GPa)
GSI	geological strength index (dimensionless)
I _p	the ratio of sound and unsound mineral constituents (%)
J _{wt}	state of joint weathering
J _n	no. of joints per meter (m)
J _{wd}	joint width (m)
J _r	roughness of the most unfavourable discontinuity
J _a	degree of alteration (%)
J _f	joint factor
k	coefficient of weathering
m	material constant in Hoek and Brown criterion for intact rocks (Dimensionless)
m _j	material constant in Hoek brown criterion for jointed rockmass (Dimensionless)
MRs	mass retention ratio (Dimensionless)

MR	modulus ratio of intact rocks
n	joint inclination parameter in IITD criterion (Dimensionless)
N _x	54 mm diameter drill core
QAI	quick absorption index (%)
r	joint strength parameter in IITD criteria (Dimensionless)
r ²	coefficient of determination
R _s	strength ratio (Dimensionless)
RMR	rock mass rating (Dimensionless)
R _w	weathered rockmass rating (Dimensionless)
RS ₂	rock soil 2 dimensional
R _N	rebound number (Dimensionless)
s	material constant in Hoek and Brown criterion for intact rock (Dimensionless)
s _j	material constants in Hoek and Brown criterion for jointed Rockmass (Dimensionless)
SEM	scanning electron microscope
S _d	slake durability index (%)
SC	sound mineral constituent (%)
THMC:	dynamic environment (Thermal, Hydrological, Mechanical and Chemical)
UC	unsound constituents (%)
V _p	sonic wave velocity (m/s)
V _o	velocity of ultrasonic wave in fresh rocks (m/s)
V _w	velocity of ultrasonic wave in weathered rock (m/s)
WPI	weathering potential index (%)
W _m	Miura index (%)
W _a	water inflow pressure (m)
S _{RF}	stress reduction factor (dimensionless)

WICH	weathering indices chart
XRD	x-ray diffraction
α	slope of the plot between $\log \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{\sigma_3} \right) \right]$ and $\log \left(\frac{\sigma_c}{\sigma_3} \right)$ for fresh intact Rock (Dimensionless)
α_w	slope of the plot between $\log \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{\sigma_3} \right) \right]$ and $\log \left(\frac{\sigma_{cw}}{\sigma_3} \right)$ for weathered rocks (Dimensionless)
α_j	slope of the plot between $\log \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{\sigma_3} \right) \right]$ and $\log \left(\frac{\sigma_{cj}}{\sigma_3} \right)$ for jointed rocks (Dimensionless)
β	angle between fracture plane and the direction of major principal stress ($^\circ$)
ε_a	axial strain (micro strain)
ε_d	diametrical strain (micro strain)
η	porosity (%)
σ_n	normal stress (MPa)
σ_c	uniaxial compressive strength (MPa)
σ_{cw}	uniaxial compressive strength of weathered rock (MPa)
σ_{cm}	uniaxial compressive strength of rock mass (MPa)
σ_{tb}	Brazilian tensile strength (MPa)
$I_{s(50)}$	point load strength (MPa)
σ_1	major Principal stress (MPa)
σ_3	minor principal stress (MPa)
$\sigma_1 - \sigma_3$	deviator stress (MPa)
τ	shear strength (MPa)

ϕ	angle of internal friction ($^{\circ}$)
ν	Poisson ratio (Dimensionless)
γ	Density(kN/m^3)