

ENGINEERING BEHAVIOUR OF JOINTED MODEL MATERIALS

by

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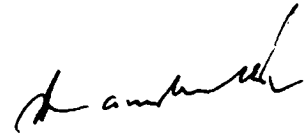
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, "**Engineering Behaviour of Jointed Model Materials**" being submitted by **Mr. Mahendra Singh** to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of the degree of **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by him. Mr. Singh has worked under our guidance for the submission of this thesis, which to our knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The thesis or any part thereof has not been presented or submitted to any other University or Institute for any degree or diploma.



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ABSTRACT

The discontinuities in general and joints in particular are the inevitable part of rock mass encountered in almost all Civil and Mining Engineering projects. Under very low confining pressure or unconfined stress condition, they dictate a major influence on strength and deformational behaviour of the jointed rock mass. The uncertainty in predicting the behaviour of a jointed mass under uniaxial stress condition is essentially due to scale effect and unpredictable nature of the mode of failure of the mass. In nature several combinations of modes of failure are possible and without assessing the probable mode, the reliable prediction of strength and deformability of the mass is not possible. Several studies have been conducted on strength and deformational aspects but most of them are directed towards explaining the behaviour of the mass under confined state. Moreover, no study is available which links the strength and modulus of deformation of a scale free jointed mass to that of intact rock through configuration of joints and failure modes. In the present work, an attempt has been made to link the strength, tangent modulus, modulus ratio and failure strain of jointed block mass to intact rock through failure mode which is governed by configuration of joints.

Tests have been conducted on specimens of jointed block mass under uniaxial stress conditions. A suitable model material with average uniaxial compressive strength of 17.13 MPa has been used. The tangent modulus of the material is 5344 MPa and the material is classified as 'EB' on Deere-Miller classification chart. The specimens are assembled, out of blocks of model material and a specimen consists of more than 260 blocks for the majority of the experiments. The scale free nature of the mass is thus ensured. Various combinations of four types of the geometries of blocks, eight number of joint orientations and 8 number of staggering conditions were used to simulate the most probable configurations of joints in the field.

Four distinct modes of failure under unconfined state have been observed during the present study namely: splitting, shearing, rotation and sliding. The modes of failure

lie in specific regions defined by the orientation of joints and the interlocking conditions controlled by their staggering. The guidelines have been suggested to assess the probable mode of failure in the field depending on the orientation of joints and interlocking condition of the mass. The strength, tangent modulus, modulus ratio and failure strain are found to be dependent on these modes of failure. The geometry of the block forming the specimen is also observed to be affecting the strength and modulus values of the jointed mass. The mass is found to behave anisotropically in strength and deformational response. The anisotropy curves for strength and tangent modulus are different from usually reported V-shape in the literature whereas for modulus ratio nearer to V-shape of the anisotropy is observed. The interlocking conditions systematically affect the anisotropy of strength and tangent modulus but have no such effect on anisotropy in modulus ratio.

A reliable assessment of the strength of the jointed rock mass in the field can be done by using the concept of joint factor, J_f . The joint factor is a weakness coefficient and represents the effect of joint configuration through mode of failure. The methods for computing J_f for various modes of failure have been established. The value of the J_f is computed for each metre depth as:

$$J_f = J_n / (n.r)$$

where J_n = number of potential failure surfaces per meter depth computed by the method suggested, n = joint inclination parameter, and r = joint strength parameter along the sliding joint.

The effect of Joint Factor on the strength and tangent modulus of the jointed mass has been studied. The data for other studies available from literature has also been analysed. Based on the configuration of joints and assigned mode of failure (as suggested in guidelines), one can compute the Joint Factor for the mass and compute the strength under uniaxial state as:

- i. splitting $\sigma_{cj} = \sigma_{ci} \exp(-0.0123 J_f)$
- ii. shearing $\sigma_{cj} = \sigma_{ci} \exp(-0.0122 J_f)$
- iii. rotation $\sigma_{cj} = \sigma_{ci} \exp(-0.0250 J_f)$
- iv. sliding $\sigma_{cj} = \sigma_{ci} \exp(-0.0400 J_f)$

where, σ_{cj} and σ_{ci} are the uniaxial compressive strengths of the mass and the intact rock respectively and J_f is the Joint Factor.

The tangent modulus of the jointed mass for different modes of failure can be assessed as:

- i. splitting $E_j = E_i \exp(-0.020 J_f)$
- ii. shearing $E_j = E_i \exp(-0.020 J_f)$
- iii. rotation $E_j = E_i \exp(-0.040 J_f)$
- iv. sliding $E_j = E_i \exp(-0.060 J_f)$

where, E_j and E_i are the tangent moduli for rock mass and intact rock respectively.

The above mentioned expressions for strength and tangent modulus have been suggested for a mass with more than one sets of joints. The lower and upper bound curves have also been suggested and can be used depending on the confidence of the investigations in the field. The above expressions give lower bound values. It is interesting to note that splitting and shearing modes develop similar values of strength and modulus of deformation.

The value of modulus ratio can be computed by dividing E_j by σ_{cj} . The failure strain in axial direction for all the modes of failure can be assessed as:

$$\epsilon_{aj} = 84.8 (M_{rj})^{-0.86}$$

where, ϵ_{aj} is failure strain in % and M_{rj} is modulus ratio.

The stress-strain curve upto the peak load can be approximated by using following equation:

$$y = \frac{A}{1 + C(\rho)^x}$$

where x is axial strain in %, y is stress in MPa and A , C and ρ are the parameters of the equation given by

$$A = 1.06 \sigma_{cj} - 0.037 \approx 1.06 \sigma_{cj}$$

$$\rho = \exp \left[-2 \frac{E_j}{\sigma_{cj}} \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{\sigma_{cj}}{2A}\right)} \right]$$

$$C = \frac{1}{(\rho)^x} \left[\frac{A}{\sigma_{cj}} - 1 \right]$$

where, E_j is predicted tangent modulus divided by 100.

The strength, tangent modulus and failure strain thus computed for the jointed mass can be used to classify the rocks similar to Deere - Miller approach. One can use strength and modulus ratio classification or as an alternate approach, the strength and failure strain.

The strength and modulus ratio classification can be used to provide rough check on reliability of the predicted strength and tangent modulus. A line from the point representing the intact rock on the classification chart can be drawn with specific gradient, representing the locus of points indicating the positions of jointed rock with increasing degree of jointing. The gradient for different modes of failure has been suggested. For all the modes an average gradient of 1.60 can be adopted.

Few case studies from published reports are also discussed. The application of the methodologies developed under the present study in field situations is demonstrated. The results predicted by other approaches are also discussed. The comparison of results shows, that the J_f concept is most reliable technique to predict the strength and deformational behaviour of the jointed rock mass.

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgement	
Abstract	i
Contents	v
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xv
List of Notations	xxi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 General	1
1.1 Scope of the Thesis	2
1.2 Organization of the Thesis	3
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Rock Joints	5
2.1.0 General	5
2.1.1 Joint Roughness	6
2.1.2 Joint Intensity	19
2.1.2.1 Representation of Joint Intensity	19
2.1.2.2 Effect of Intensity of Joints	21
2.1.3 Joint Orientation	26
2.2 Scale Effects	35
2.3 Model Studies and Failure Modes in Jointed Rocks	40
2.4 Joint Factor / Strength Reduction Factor	57
2.5 Strength Behaviour of Rocks	61
2.5.1 Intact Rocks	61
2.5.2 Jointed Rocks	66
2.5.2.1 Strength under Unconfined State	66
2.5.2.2 Strength Through Weakness Coefficient	70
2.5.3 Strength under Confined State	73
2.5.3.1 Prediction of Strength	73

2.5.3.2	Prediction of Shear Strength Parameters	81
2.6	Deformational Behaviour of Jointed Rocks	83
2.6.1	Modulus of Deformation	83
2.6.2	Stress - Strain Response	87
2.7	Engineering Classifications	88
2.7.1	Intact Rock Classifications	89
2.7.2	Rock Mass Classifications	92
2.8	Conclusions	98
 CHAPTER 3 EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME		 101
3.0	General	101
3.1	Model Material Used	102
3.2	Test Programme	102
3.2.1	Equipment Used	102
3.2.2	Material Characterization	103
3.2.3	Description of Specimens	104
3.2.3.1	Type-A Specimens	104
3.2.3.2	Type-B, C and D Specimens	106
3.3	Preparation of the Specimens	106
3.3.1	Sorting of the Bricks	106
3.3.2	Cutting of Bricks into Small Blocks	109
3.3.3	Curing of Blocks	109
3.3.4	Assembling of Specimens	112
3.3.5	Testing of Specimens	112
3.3.6	Computation of Results	120
 CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		 121
4.1	Intact Material	121
4.2	Modes of Failure	122
4.3	Effect of Stepping on the Mode of Failure	135
4.4	Stress - Strain Response	153
4.5	Effect of Stepping on Strength and Deformational Behaviour	155

4.6	Effect of Geometry	172
4.7	Anisotropy in Engineering Behaviour	177
4.7.1	Type-A Specimens	177
4.7.2	Type-B Specimens	185
4.7.3	Type-C Specimens	188
4.7.4	Type-D Specimens	188
CHAPTER 5 STRENGTH BEHAVIOUR OF JOINTED MASS		195
5.0	General	195
5.1	Prediction of Strength by Single Plane of Weakness Theory	195
5.2	Prediction of the Strength using RMR	196
5.3	Prediction of Strength using Strength Criteria	199
5.4	Application of the J_r Concept	201
5.4.1	Methods for Computing Joint Factor for Two Sets of Joints	202
5.4.1.1	Splitting Mode of Failure	202
5.4.1.2	Shearing Mode of Failure	204
5.4.1.3	Rotational Mode of Failure	206
5.4.1.4	Sliding Mode of Failure	206
5.4.2	Effect of Joint Factor on Strength	209
5.4.2.1	Splitting Mode of Failure	211
5.4.2.2	Shearing Mode of Failure	214
5.4.2.3	Rotational Mode of Failure	218
5.4.2.4	Sliding Mode of Failure	218
5.4.3	Prediction of Strength of a Jointed Block Mass	222
5.4.3.1	Guidelines for Probable Mode of Failure	222
5.4.3.2	Prediction of Strength	225
CHAPTER 6 DEFORMATIONAL BEHAVIOUR OF JOINTED MASS		227
6.0	General	227
6.1	Prediction of Modulus of Deformation	227
6.1.1	Prediction of Modulus of Deformation by RMR	227
6.1.2	Application of J_r Concept	229

6.1.2.1	Splitting Mode of Failure	229
6.1.2.2	Shearing Mode of failure	232
6.1.2.3	Rotational Mode of Failure	234
6.1.2.4	Sliding Mode of Failure	237
6.2	Prediction of Modulus Ratio and Failure Strain in Axial Direction	240
6.4	Stress-Strain Curve	243
CHAPTER 7	CLASSIFICATION FOR ROCK MASS	249
7.1	Classification Based on Strength	250
7.2	Classification Based on Modulus Ratio	251
7.3	Classification Based on Failure Strain	258
CHAPTER 8	CASE STUDIES	259
8.1	Mine Pillar at Copper Cliff South Mine	259
8.1.1	General	259
8.1.2	Application of J_r Concept	262
8.1.2.1	Ore body	262
8.1.2.2	Hanging Wall	266
8.1.2.3	Foot Wall	271
8.2	Wadi Mujib Dam Site, Central Jordan	274
8.2.1	General	274
8.2.2	Application of J_r Concept	278
8.3	Ravedis Dam Site, Italy	281
8.3.1	General	281
8.3.2	Application of J_r Concept	282
CHAPTER 9	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	285
9.0	General	285
9.1	Experimentation	285
9.1.1	Model Material	285
9.1.2	Specimen Description	286

9.2	Observations	287
9.2.1	Failure Modes	287
9.2.2	Engineering Properties	288
9.2.3	Effect of Geometry	289
9.2.4	Anisotropy in Engineering Behaviour	290
9.3	Predictions	290
9.3.1	Guidelines for Failure Mode	291
9.3.2	Computation of Joint Factor	291
9.3.3	Assessment of Strength	292
9.3.4	Assessment of Tangent Modulus	292
9.3.5	Modulus Ratio and Failure Strain	293
9.3.6	Stress Strain Curve	293
9.4	Classification for Rock Mass	294
9.5	Field Applications	295
9.6	Limitations and Suggestions for Future Work	295
	REFERENCES	297
	APPENDIX-A Stress-Strain Curves	309
	APPENDIX-B Computation of J_r for Data from Literature	323
	VITA	339