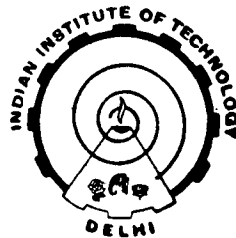


SHEAR STRENGTH AND DEFORMATION RESPONSE OF JOINTED ROCKS

By
R. K. YAJI

Thesis Submitted
in fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



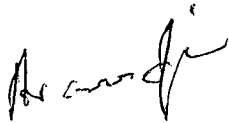
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
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TO MY PARENTS

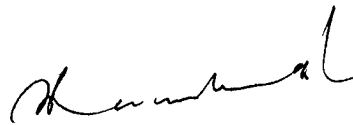
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Strength and Deformation Response of Jointed Rocks" being submitted by Shri R.K. Yaji to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the award of the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him. Shri Yaji has worked under our supervision for the submission of this thesis, which to our knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The thesis, or any part thereof, has not been submitted to any other University or Institution for the award of any Degree or Diploma.



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ABSTRACT

Many important engineering structures on rock are being planned, designed and constructed all over the world. For the realistic analysis and design of these structures, it is essential to understand the behaviour of rockmass. The strength and deformation characteristics of the rockmass are dependent on a number of factors such as type of rock, stress conditions, presence of discontinuities and nature of joint surfaces. One of the major factors affecting the strength and deformation response is the joint characteristics. Very limited work has been reported on this aspect and most of it is based on the study carried out in direct shear. Keeping in view the existing knowledge about the behaviour of the joints, a systematic laboratory investigation was planned to study the effect of joint plane which includes its shape, roughness and inclination..

In the present investigation specimens of plaster of paris, sandstone and granite were tested. Plaster of paris has been chosen to represent weak rock whereas sandstone and granite to represent medium hard and hard rocks respectively. In the case of plaster of paris planar and rough joint surfaces of 34 types and of 8 orientations were tested under 5 confining pressures. The asperities along the joint plane were simulated to have obtuse and right angle apexes. In the case of sandstone and granite, the study has been restricted only to planar joints. Planar joints having 5 orientations have been tested in 5 confining pressure ranges. On all the three materials, tests were also carried out on intact specimen for the

purpose of comparison with the response of the jointed specimens.

The specimens were tested in standard triaxial stress conditions. Plaster of paris specimens were tested in conventional triaxial cell, whereas sandstone and granite specimens in a high pressure triaxial cell. The study was restricted to confining pressures resulting failure within the brittle range. Accordingly the maximum confining pressure has been 1.0 MPa in the case of plaster of paris and 10.0 MPa for sandstone and granite.

The results of this investigation have been analysed for stress-strain response, shear strength parameters (c and ϕ), modulus of elasticity (E_t) and modulus parameters (K and n).

Some of the important findings of this investigation are that (i) the friction angle remains almost constant irrespective of the conditions (i.e. jointed or unjointed) of the rock; (ii) the cohesion intercept (c) is very sensitive to the conditions of the rock; also it varies with the joint orientation and is minimum around an orientation of 45 degrees with respect to major principal stress direction. As the roughness of the joint surface increases, the cohesion intercept also increases due to the increase in interlocking; (iii) the variation of the uniaxial compressive strength (σ_c) is very similar to that of cohesion intercept and for a material the value of the ratio σ_c/c is almost constant; (iv) the modulus parameters K and n vary with orientation and roughness of the joint plane. The variation pattern of K is similar to that of cohesion intercept whereas that of n is opposite in nature.

Using the above findings procedures were evolved to predict uniaxial compressive strength (σ_{cj}), shear strength and modulus parameters of the jointed rock using uniaxial compressive strength (σ_{ci}) of the intact material alone. The significance of these solutions in solving the field problems have also been highlighted.

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgement	
Abstract	i
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xi
Notations	xix
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.1.1 Strength of Intact Rock	10
2.1.2 Effect of Confining Pressure, Temperature, Pore Pressure and Rate of Loading	16
2.1.3 Mode of Failure and Brittle- ductile Transition	17
2.2 Sliding and Shear Strength of Rock Joints	17
2.2.1 Friction in Metals	18
2.2.2 Strength Criterion	19
2.2.3 Strength Models	20
2.2.4 Surface Effects	28
2.2.5 Scale Effects	30
2.2.6 Estimation Methods of Shear Strength	36

	Page
2.3 Joint Orientation	41
2.3.1 Definitions	42
2.3.2 Mechanics and Failure Criterion	42
2.3.3 Effects of Joint Density	49
2.4 Joint Roughness	51
2.5 Deformation of Rockmass	56
2.5.1 Modulus Parameters	60
2.5.2 Deformation of Rock Joints	61
2.5.3 Shear Deformations	61
2.6 Summary of Previous Investigations and Scope of the Present Work	68
CHAPTER 3 EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS	73
3.1 Materials Tested	73
3.1.1 Plaster of Paris	75
3.1.2 Sandstone and Granite	76
3.2 Parameters Studied	76
3.3 Experimental Set up	86
3.3.1 Standard Triaxial Set up	86
3.3.2 High Pressure Triaxial Set up	86
3.4 Experimental Study	88
3.4.1 Sample preparation in Plaster of Paris	88
3.4.2 Sample preparation from rocks	94
3.4.3 Testing Procedure	96

	Page
CHAPTER 4 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK JOINTS	101
4.1 Intact Materials	101
4.1.1 Plaster of Paris	102
4.1.2 Sandstone	106
4.1.3 Granite	106
4.1.4 Comparison of Intact Specimen Behaviour	107
4.2 Specimen with Planar Joints	110
4.2.1 Plaster of Paris	111
4.2.2 Sandstone	124
4.2.3 Granite	138
4.2.4 Effect of Orientation of Joint on Shear Strength	
4.3 Rough Joints I	162
4.3.1 PBX-60	162
4.3.2 PCX-45	170
4.3.3 Comparison of the Shear strength behaviour of PBX-60, and PCX-45 series	178
4.4 Rough Joints II	
4.4.1 Behaviour of PDX-60	181
4.4.2 Behaviour of PDX-50	187
4.4.3 Behaviour of PDX-45	191
4.4.4 Behaviour of PDX-40	199
4.4.5 Behaviour of PDX-30	205
4.4.6 Behaviour of PDX-25	208

	Page
4.4.7 Behaviour of PD1-Series	216
4.4.8 Behaviour of PD2-Series	218
4.4.9 Behaviour of PD3-Series	222
4.5 Shear Behaviour of Rough Joints	224
4.6 Comparison of the Shear Strength Behaviour of Intact and Jointed Specimens	227
4.7 Prediction of Strength Parameters for the Analysis of Field Problems	233
CHAPTER 5 DEFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS	236
5.1 Intact Specimens	236
5.1.1 Plaster of Paris	237
5.1.2 Sandstone	239
5.1.3 Granite	241
5.1.4 Deformation Behaviour of Intact Specimens	243
5.2 Specimens with Planar Joints	246
5.2.1 Plaster of Paris	246
5.2.2 Sandstone	255
5.2.3 Granite	262
5.2.4 Effect of Orientation of Planar Joint on deformation characteristics	269
5.3 Specimens with Rough Joint Surface I	276
5.3.1 Behaviour of PBX Series	276
5.3.2 Behaviour of PCX Series	283
5.3.3 Comparison of the deformation of PBX and PCX Series	286

	Page
5.4 Rough Joint - PDX Series	291
5.5 Deformation Behaviour of Specimen with Rough Joint Plane	306
5.6 Comparison of Deformation Behaviour of Intact and Jointed Specimens	311
5.7 Prediction of Deformation Behaviour for the Analysis of Field Problems	313
CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSIONS	315
6.1 Intact Specimens	317
6.2 Specimens with Planar Joints	317
6.3 Specimens with Rough Joint Surface	319
6.4 Limitations	322
6.5 Suggestions for Future Work	323
REFERENCES	324
APPENDIX	333
VITAE	335