

Preliminary Design Parameters Based on Laboratory Shear Test of Core Samples

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It is essential that the preliminary design data for a civil engineering structure is reliable and can be acquired at minimal cost. For a structure that requires excavation of rock mass, the shear strength of critical rock joints is among the fundamental data required. Rock core samples collected during preliminary sub-strata investigation of a project site are the most appropriate source of information for the *in situ* rock. In the laboratory, specific equipment can be used to test these core samples. However, the reliability of laboratory data as design parameters greatly depends on how they are assessed and interpreted. With regard to joint shear strength, the assessment must include consideration on factors which affect shear behaviour of the joint.
