

Sistemas de Clasificación de Macizos Rocosos

Propósito y Características

- Calificar de manera cuantitativa la calidad geotécnica de un macizo rocoso.
- Permitir la distinción entre un macizo y otro de manera rápida y fácil
- Tener un parámetro para efectos de diseño de fortificaciones
- Se basan en apreciaciones empíricas.
- Son subjetivos, a mayor experiencia mejor es la clasificación.
- Se basan en sistema de *ratings*, en que se asigna un puntaje a diversas características y se calcula un puntaje final.

¿Calidad Geotécnica?



- Para el estudio de taludes, los sistemas de clasificación más comunes son el RMR de Beniaowski y el GSI de Hoek y Brown.
- Para túneles y excavaciones subterráneas además de las anteriores se usan normalmente el método Q de Barton, el MRMR de Laubsher (minería), entre otros.

Clasificación de Beniaowski

- También conocida como Clasificación Geomecánica, definida por Beniaowski (1976).
- Versión actualizada de 1989.
- Otorga puntaje a 5 parámetros, con una suma máxima de 100.
- El puntaje total se llama RMR, “Rock mass rating”.

Clasificación de Beniaowski (1989)

Parámetros a calificar:

1. Resistencia de la Roca Intacta: A partir de valores de resistencia a la compresión simple (UCS) o de ensayos de carga puntual. Ptje máximo: 15.
2. RQD. Ptje Máximo: 20.
3. Espaciamiento de discontinuidades. Ptje. Máximo: 20.
4. Condiciones de las discontinuidades. Ptje Máximo: 30.
5. Condiciones de Agua Subterránea. Ptje Máximo: 15.

$$RMR = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4) + (5).$$

RMR Beniaowski

Table 4.4: Rock Mass Rating System (After Bieniawski 1989).

A. CLASSIFICATION PARAMETERS AND THEIR RATINGS									
Parameter			Range of values						
1	Strength of intact rock material	Point-load strength index	>10 MPa	4 - 10 MPa	2 - 4 MPa	1 - 2 MPa	For this low range - uniaxial compressive test is preferred		
		Uniaxial comp. strength	>250 MPa	100 - 250 MPa	50 - 100 MPa	25 - 50 MPa	5 - 25 MPa	1 - 5 MPa	< 1 MPa
	Rating		15	12	7	4	2	1	0
2	Drill core Quality <i>RQD</i>		90% - 100%	75% - 90%	50% - 75%	25% - 50%	< 25%		
	Rating		20	17	13	8	3		
3	Spacing of discontinuities		> 2 m	0.6 - 2 . m	200 - 600 mm	60 - 200 mm	< 60 mm		
	Rating		20	15	10	8	5		
4	Condition of discontinuities (See E)		Very rough surfaces Not continuous No separation Unweathered wall rock	Slightly rough surfaces Separation < 1 mm Slightly weathered walls	Slightly rough surfaces Separation < 1 mm Highly weathered walls	Slickensided surfaces or Gouge < 5 mm thick or Separation 1-5 mm Continuous	Soft gouge >5 mm thick or Separation > 5 mm Continuous		
	Rating		30	25	20	10	0		
5	Ground water	Inflow per 10 m tunnel length (l/m)	None	< 10	10 - 25	25 - 125	> 125		
		(Joint water press)/ (Major principal σ)	0	< 0.1	0.1, - 0.2	0.2 - 0.5	> 0.5		
		General conditions	Completely dry	Damp	Wet	Dripping	Flowing		
	Rating		15	10	7	4	0		

Tomado de Hoek, 2000

Detalle para puntaje condiciones de discontinuidades

E. GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION OF DISCONTINUITY conditions					
Discontinuity length (persistence) Rating	< 1 m 6	1 - 3 m 4	3 - 10 m 2	10 - 20 m 1	> 20 m 0
Separation (aperture) Rating	None 6	< 0.1 mm 5	0.1 - 1.0 mm 4	1 - 5 mm 1	> 5 mm 0
Roughness Rating	Very rough 6	Rough 5	Slightly rough 3	Smooth 1	Slickensided 0
Infilling (gouge) Rating	None 6	Hard filling < 5 mm 4	Hard filling > 5 mm 2	Soft filling < 5 mm 2	Soft filling > 5 mm 0
Weathering Ratings	Unweathered 6	Slightly weathered 5	Moderately weathered 3	Highly weathered 1	Decomposed 0

- Adicionalmente, Beniaowski (1989) propuso una clasificación (clases I a V), correcciones para casos especiales y recomendaciones de valores de resistencia del macizo y aplicaciones en túneles.

B. RATING ADJUSTMENT FOR DISCONTINUITY ORIENTATIONS (See F)						
Strike and dip orientations		Very favourable	Favourable	Fair	Unfavourable	Very Unfavourable
Ratings	Tunnels & mines	0	-2	-5	-10	-12
	Foundations	0	-2	-7	-15	-25
	Slopes	0	-5	-25	-50	
C. ROCK MASS CLASSES DETERMINED FROM TOTAL RATINGS						
Rating		100 ← 81	80 ← 61	60 ← 41	40 ← 21	< 21
Class number		I	II	III	IV	V
Description		Very good rock	Good rock	Fair rock	Poor rock	Very poor rock
D. MEANING OF ROCK CLASSES						
Class number		I	II	III	IV	V
Average stand-up time		20 yrs for 15 m span	1 year for 10 m span	1 week for 5 m span	10 hrs for 2.5 m span	30 min for 1 m span
Cohesion of rock mass (kPa)		> 400	300 - 400	200 - 300	100 - 200	< 100
Friction angle of rock mass (deg)		> 45	35 - 45	25 - 35	15 - 25	< 15

- Se agrega una corrección para túneles:

F. EFFECT OF DISCONTINUITY STRIKE AND DIP ORIENTATION IN TUNNELLING**			
Strike perpendicular to tunnel axis		Strike parallel to tunnel axis	
Drive with dip - Dip 45 - 90°	Drive with dip - Dip 20 - 45°	Dip 45 - 90°	Dip 20 - 45°
Very favourable	Favourable	Very unfavourable	Fair
Drive against dip - Dip 45-90°	Drive against dip - Dip 20-45°	Dip 0-20 - Irrespective of strike°	
Fair	Unfavourable	Fair	

Tomado de Hoek, 2000

Table 4.5: Guidelines for excavation and support of 10 m span rock tunnels in accordance with the *RMR* system (After Bieniawski 1989).

Rock mass class	Excavation	Rock bolts (20 mm diameter, fully grouted)	Shotcrete	Steel sets
I - Very good rock <i>RMR</i> : 81-100	Full face, 3 m advance.	Generally no support required except spot bolting.		
II - Good rock <i>RMR</i> : 61-80	Full face , 1-1.5 m advance. Complete support 20 m from face.	Locally, bolts in crown 3 m long, spaced 2.5 m with occasional wire mesh.	50 mm in crown where required.	None.
III - Fair rock <i>RMR</i> : 41-60	Top heading and bench 1.5-3 m advance in top heading. Commence support after each blast. Complete support 10 m from face.	Systematic bolts 4 m long, spaced 1.5 - 2 m in crown and walls with wire mesh in crown.	50-100 mm in crown and 30 mm in sides.	None.
IV - Poor rock <i>RMR</i> : 21-40	Top heading and bench 1.0-1.5 m advance in top heading. Install support concurrently with excavation, 10 m from face.	Systematic bolts 4-5 m long, spaced 1-1.5 m in crown and walls with wire mesh.	100-150 mm in crown and 100 mm in sides.	Light to medium ribs spaced 1.5 m where required.
V – Very poor rock <i>RMR</i> : < 20	Multiple drifts 0.5-1.5 m advance in top heading. Install support concurrently with excavation. Shotcrete as soon as possible after blasting.	Systematic bolts 5-6 m long, spaced 1-1.5 m in crown and walls with wire mesh. Bolt invert.	150-200 mm in crown, 150 mm in sides, and 50 mm on face.	Medium to heavy ribs spaced 0.75 m with steel lagging and forepoling if required. Close invert.

- Definición de fortificaciones basado en las clases geomecánicas dadas por el RMR.

Tomado de Hoek, 2000

Indice Q de Barton

- Definido por Barton et al. (1974) como el Indice de Calidad de Rocas para Túneles.
- También conocida como la clasificación NGI, por la afiliación de los autores (Norwegian Geotechnical Institute).
- Determina la calidad del macizo y se aplica en definición de requerimientos de sostenimiento en excavaciones subterráneas.
- En escala logarítmica, de 0,001 a 1000.
- Definida a partir de 6 parámetros

Indice Q de Barton

- Definido a partir de 6 parámetros que forman 3 cuocientes:

$$Q = \frac{RQD}{J_n} \frac{J_r}{J_a} \frac{J_w}{SRF}$$

- RQD: Rock Quality Designation
- J_n : Joint set number
- J_r : Joint roughness number
- J_a : Joint Alteration number
- J_w : Joint water reduction factor
- SRF: Stress Reduction Factor

Indice Q de Barton

$$Q = \frac{RQD}{J_n} \frac{J_r}{J_a} \frac{J_w}{SRF}$$

- El primer cuociente da cuenta del tamaño de los bloques que se forman;
- El segundo cuociente es un indicador de la resistencia entre los bloques, controlada por la resistencia en las discontinuidades;
- El tercer cuociente, llamado “esfuerzo activo”, considera el efecto de las presiones de agua, grados de confinamiento o relajación.

RQD y Jn

Table 4.6: Classification of individual parameters used in the Tunnelling Quality Index Q (After Barton et al 1974).

DESCRIPTION	VALUE	NOTES
1. ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION	RQD	
A. Very poor	0 - 25	1. Where RQD is reported or measured as ≤ 10 (including 0), a nominal value of 10 is used to evaluate Q .
B. Poor	25 - 50	
C. Fair	50 - 75	
D. Good	75 - 90	2. RQD intervals of 5, i.e. 100, 95, 90 etc. are sufficiently accurate.
E. Excellent	90 - 100	
2. JOINT SET NUMBER	J_n	
A. Massive, no or few joints	0.5 - 1.0	
B. One joint set	2	
C. One joint set plus random	3	
D. Two joint sets	4	
E. Two joint sets plus random	6	
F. Three joint sets	9	1. For intersections use $(3.0 \times J_n)$
G. Three joint sets plus random	12	
H. Four or more joint sets, random, heavily jointed, 'sugar cube', etc.	15	2. For portals use $(2.0 \times J_n)$
J. Crushed rock, earthlike	20	

Jr

3. JOINT ROUGHNESS NUMBER		J_r	
<i>a. Rock wall contact</i>			
<i>b. Rock wall contact before 10 cm shear</i>			
A. Discontinuous joints		4	
B. Rough and irregular, undulating		3	
C. Smooth undulating		2	
D. Slickensided undulating		1.5	1. Add 1.0 if the mean spacing of the relevant joint set is greater than 3 m.
E. Rough or irregular, planar		1.5	
F. Smooth, planar		1.0	
G. Slickensided, planar		0.5	2. $J_r = 0.5$ can be used for planar, slickensided joints having lineations, provided that the lineations are oriented for minimum strength.
<i>c. No rock wall contact when sheared</i>			
H. Zones containing clay minerals thick enough to prevent rock wall contact		1.0 (nominal)	
J. Sandy, gravely or crushed zone thick enough to prevent rock wall contact		1.0 (nominal)	

Ja

4. JOINT ALTERATION NUMBER <i>a. Rock wall contact</i>	J_a	ϕ_r degrees (approx.)	
A. Tightly healed, hard, non-softening, impermeable filling	0.75		1. Values of ϕ_r , the residual friction angle, are intended as an approximate guide to the mineralogical properties of the alteration products, if present.
B. Unaltered joint walls, surface staining only	1.0	25 - 35	
C. Slightly altered joint walls, non-softening mineral coatings, sandy particles, clay-free disintegrated rock, etc.	2.0	25 - 30	
D. Silty-, or sandy-clay coatings, small clay-fraction (non-softening)	3.0	20 - 25	
E. Softening or low-friction clay mineral coatings, i.e. kaolinite, mica. Also chlorite, talc, gypsum and graphite etc., and small quantities of swelling clays. (Discontinuous coatings, 1 - 2 mm or less)	4.0	8 - 16	

4, JOINT ALTERATION NUMBER <i>b. Rock wall contact before 10 cm shear</i>	J_a	ϕ_r degrees (approx.)	
F. Sandy particles, clay-free, disintegrating rock etc.	4.0	25 - 30	
G. Strongly over-consolidated, non-softening clay mineral fillings (continuous < 5 mm thick)	6.0	16 - 24	
H. Medium or low over-consolidation, softening clay mineral fillings (continuous < 5 mm thick)	8.0	12 - 16	
J. Swelling clay fillings, i.e. montmorillonite, (continuous < 5 mm thick). Values of J_a depend on percent of swelling clay-size particles, and access to water.	8.0 - 12.0	6 - 12	
<i>c. No rock wall contact when sheared</i>			
K. Zones or bands of disintegrated or crushed	6.0		
L. rock and clay (see G, H and J for clay	8.0		
M. conditions)	8.0 - 12.0	6 - 24	
N. Zones or bands of silty- or sandy-clay, small clay fraction, non-softening	5.0		
O. Thick continuous zones or bands of clay	10.0 - 13.0		
P. & R. (see G.H and J for clay conditions)	6.0 - 24.0		

Jw

5. JOINT WATER REDUCTION	J_w	approx. water pressure (kgf/cm ²)	
A. Dry excavation or minor inflow i.e. < 5 l/m locally	1.0	< 1.0	
B. Medium inflow or pressure, occasional outwash of joint fillings	0.66	1.0 - 2.5	
C. Large inflow or high pressure in competent rock with unfilled joints	0.5	2.5 - 10.0	1. Factors C to F are crude estimates; increase J_w if drainage installed.
D. Large inflow or high pressure	0.33	2.5 - 10.0	
E. Exceptionally high inflow or pressure at blasting, decaying with time	0.2 - 0.1	> 10	2. Special problems caused by ice formation are not considered.
F. Exceptionally high inflow or pressure	0.1 - 0.05	> 10	

SRF

6. STRESS REDUCTION FACTOR		SRF	
a. Weakness zones intersecting excavation, which may cause loosening of rock mass when tunnel is excavated			
A. Multiple occurrences of weakness zones containing clay or chemically disintegrated rock, very loose surrounding rock any depth)	10.0		1. Reduce these values of <i>SRF</i> by 25 - 50% but only if the relevant shear zones influence do not intersect the excavation
B. Single weakness zones containing clay, or chemically disintegrated rock (excavation depth < 50 m)	5.0		
C. Single weakness zones containing clay, or chemically disintegrated rock (excavation depth > 50 m)	2.5		
D. Multiple shear zones in competent rock (clay free), loose surrounding rock (any depth)	7.5		
E. Single shear zone in competent rock (clay free). (depth of excavation < 50 m)	5.0		
F. Single shear zone in competent rock (clay free). (depth of excavation > 50 m)	2.5		
G. Loose open joints, heavily jointed or 'sugar cube', (any depth)	5.0		

6. STRESS REDUCTION FACTOR		SRF	
b. Competent rock, rock stress problems			
	σ_c/σ_1	σ_t/σ_1	
H. Low stress, near surface	> 200	> 13	2.5
J. Medium stress	200 - 10	13 - 0.66	1.0
K. High stress, very tight structure (usually favourable to stability, may be unfavourable to wall stability)	10 - 5	0.66 - 0.33	0.5 - 2
L. Mild rockburst (massive rock)	5 - 2.5	0.33 - 0.16	5 - 10
M. Heavy rockburst (massive rock)	< 2.5	< 0.16	10 - 20
c. Squeezing rock, plastic flow of incompetent rock under influence of high rock pressure			
N. Mild squeezing rock pressure			5 - 10
O. Heavy squeezing rock pressure			10 - 20
d. Swelling rock, chemical swelling activity depending on presence of water			
P. Mild swelling rock pressure			5 - 10
R. Heavy swelling rock pressure			10 - 15

2. For strongly anisotropic virgin stress field (if measured): when $5 \leq \sigma_1/\sigma_3 \leq 10$, reduce σ_c to $0.8\sigma_c$ and σ_t to $0.8\sigma_t$. When $\sigma_1/\sigma_3 > 10$, reduce σ_c and σ_t to $0.6\sigma_c$ and $0.6\sigma_t$, where σ_c = unconfined compressive strength, and σ_t = tensile strength (point load) and σ_1 and σ_3 are the major and minor principal stresses.

3. Few case records available where depth of crown below surface is less than span width. Suggest *SRF* increase from 2.5 to 5 for such cases (see H).

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE USE OF THESE TABLES

When making estimates of the rock mass Quality (Q), the following guidelines should be followed in addition to the notes listed in the tables:

1. When borehole core is unavailable, RQD can be estimated from the number of joints per unit volume, in which the number of joints per metre for each joint set are added. A simple relationship can be used to convert this number to RQD for the case of clay free rock masses: $RQD = 115 - 3.3 J_V$ (approx.), where J_V = total number of joints per m^3 ($0 < RQD < 100$ for $35 > J_V > 4.5$).
2. The parameter J_n representing the number of joint sets will often be affected by foliation, schistosity, slaty cleavage or bedding etc. If strongly developed, these parallel 'joints' should obviously be counted as a complete joint set. However, if there are few 'joints' visible, or if only occasional breaks in the core are due to these features, then it will be more appropriate to count them as 'random' joints when evaluating J_n .
3. The parameters J_r and J_a (representing shear strength) should be relevant to the weakest significant joint set or clay filled discontinuity in the given zone. However, if the joint set or discontinuity with the minimum value of J_r/J_a is favourably oriented for stability, then a second, less favourably oriented joint set or discontinuity may sometimes be more significant, and its higher value of J_r/J_a should be used when evaluating Q . The value of J_r/J_a should in fact relate to the surface most likely to allow failure to initiate.
4. When a rock mass contains clay, the factor SRF appropriate to loosening loads should be evaluated. In such cases the strength of the intact rock is of little interest. However, when jointing is minimal and clay is completely absent, the strength of the intact rock may become the weakest link, and the stability will then depend on the ratio rock-stress/rock-strength. A strongly anisotropic stress field is unfavourable for stability and is roughly accounted for as in note 2 in the table for stress reduction factor evaluation.
5. The compressive and tensile strengths (σ_c and σ_t) of the intact rock should be evaluated in the saturated condition if this is appropriate to the present and future in situ conditions. A very conservative estimate of the strength should be made for those rocks that deteriorate when exposed to moist or saturated conditions.

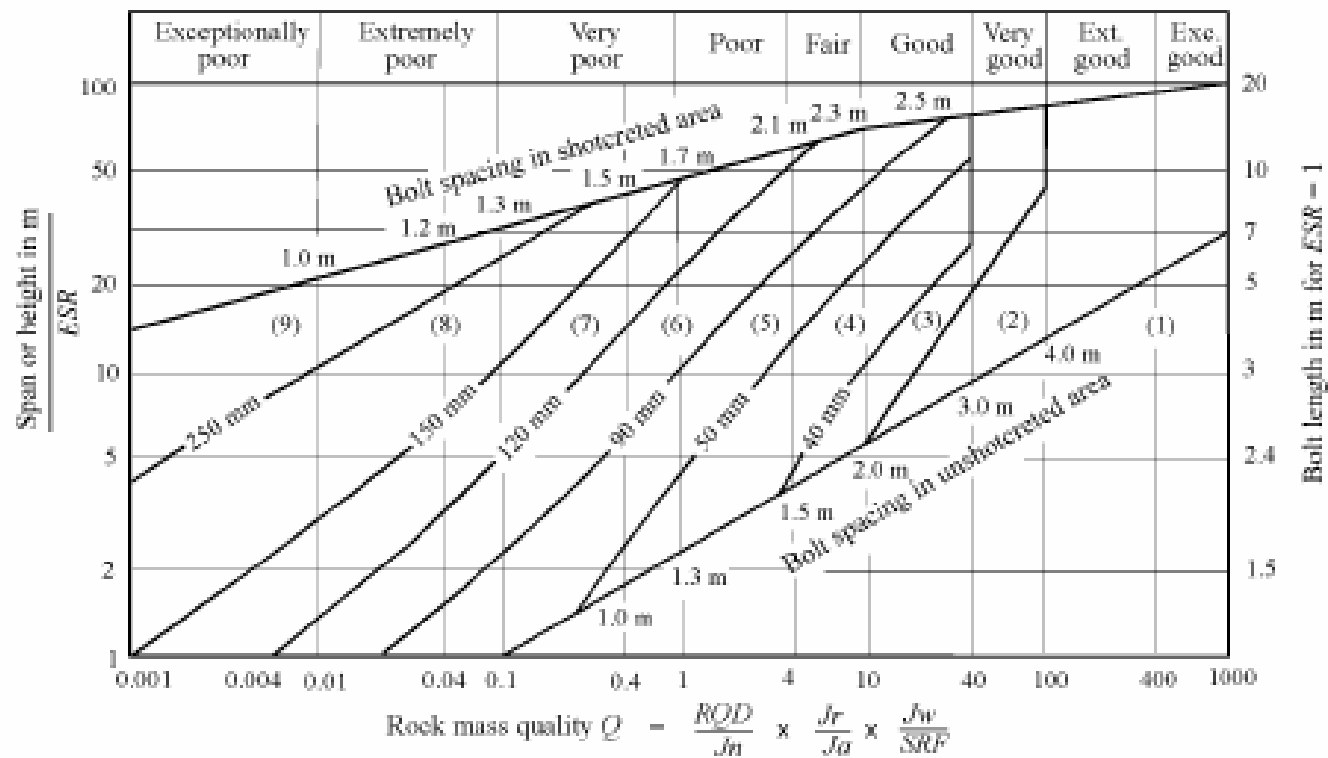
Aplicaciones de Q

In relating the value of the index Q to the stability and support requirements of underground excavations, Barton et al (1974) defined an additional parameter which they called the *Equivalent Dimension*, D_e , of the excavation. This dimension is obtained by dividing the span, diameter or wall height of the excavation by a quantity called the *Excavation Support Ratio*, ESR . Hence:

$$D_e = \frac{\text{Excavation span, diameter or height (m)}}{\text{Excavation Support Ratio } ESR}$$

The value of ESR is related to the intended use of the excavation and to the degree of security which is demanded of the support system installed to maintain the stability of the excavation. Barton et al (1974) suggest the following values:

Excavation category		ESR
A	Temporary mine openings.	3-5
B	Permanent mine openings, water tunnels for hydro power (excluding high pressure penstocks), pilot tunnels, drifts and headings for large excavations.	1.6
C	Storage rooms, water treatment plants, minor road and railway tunnels, surge chambers, access tunnels.	1.3
D	Power stations, major road and railway tunnels, civil defence chambers, portal intersections.	1.0
E	Underground nuclear power stations, railway stations, sports and public facilities, factories.	0.8



REINFORCEMENT CATEGORIES

- 1) Unsupported
- 2) Spot bolting
- 3) Systematic bolting
- 4) Systematic bolting with 40-100 mm unreinforced shotcrete
- 5) Fibre reinforced shotcrete, 50 - 90 mm, and bolting
- 6) Fibre reinforced shotcrete, 90 - 120 mm, and bolting
- 7) Fibre reinforced shotcrete, 120 - 150 mm, and bolting
- 8) Fibre reinforced shotcrete, > 150 mm, with reinforced ribs of shotcrete and bolting
- 9) Cast concrete lining

Figure 4.3: Estimated support categories based on the tunnelling quality index Q (After Grimstad and Barton 1993).

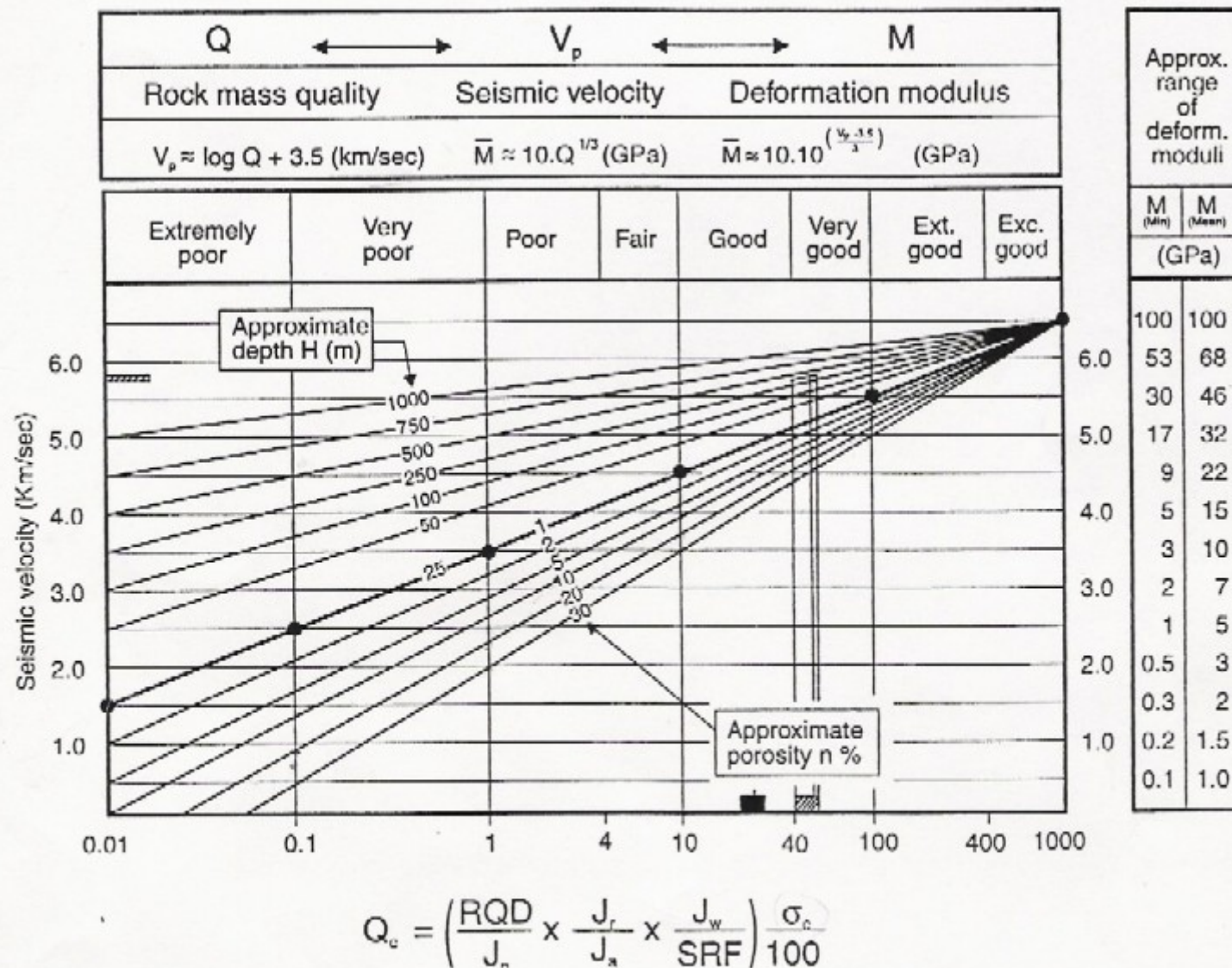







Figure 61. Integration of Q -value, seismic P -wave velocity and rock mass static deformation modulus (Barton 1995, 1999).

Estimación de velocidad de onda P

Geological Strength Index (GSI)

- Introducido por Hoek (1995), es un índice que indica la reducción de la resistencia de un macizo rocoso, con respecto a la roca intacta, para diferentes condiciones geológicas.
- Se define en terreno por observación de dos parámetros principales: estado de fracturamiento; y calidad de las discontinuidades.
- El GSI se debe dar en un rango de valores.

Geological Strength Index From the description of structure and surface condition of the rock mass, pick an appropriate box in this chart. Estimate the average value to Geological Strength Index (GSI) from the contours. Do not attempt to be too precise, guessing a range is more realistic.		SURFACE CONDITIONS				
STRUCTURE		DECREASING SURFACE QUALITY → VERY GOOD - very rough, fresh unweathered surfaces GOOD - rough, slightly weathered, iron stained surfaces FAIR - smooth, moderately weathered or altered surfaces POOR - slickensided, highly weathered surfaces with compact coatings or fillings of angular fragments VERY POOR - slickensided, highly weathered surfaces with soft clay coatings or fillings				
DECREASING INTERLOCKING OF ROCK PIECES ↓	 BLOCKY - very well interlocked undisturbed rock mass consisting of cubical blocks formed by three orthogonal discontinuity sets	80	70			
	 VERY BLOCKY - interlocked, partially disturbed rock mass with multifaceted angular blocks formed by four or more discontinuity sets		60	50		
	 BLOCKY/DISTURBED - folded and/or faulted with angular blocks formed by many intersecting discontinuity sets			40	30	
	 DISINTEGRATED - poorly interlocked, heavily broken rock mass with a mixture of angular and rounded rock pieces				20	10
	 FOLIATED/LAMINATED/SHEARED - thinly laminated or foliated, tectonically sheared weak rocks; closely spaced schistosity prevails over any discontinuity set, resulting in complete lack of blockiness	N/A	N/A			5

GSI

Hoek & Brown, 1997

- Para rocas estratificadas en que hay clara diferencia entre dos tipos de rocas (por ejemplo alternancia areniscas-lutitas), se propone usar una ponderación de valores de GSI.

Table 4

Suggested proportions of parameters σ_{ci} and m_i for estimating rock mass properties for flysch

Flysch type (see Table 3)	Proportions of values for each rock type to be included in rock mass property determination
A and B	Use values for sandstone beds
C	Reduce sandstone values by 20% and use full values for siltstone
D	Reduce sandstone values by 40% and use full values for siltstone
E	Reduce sandstone values by 40% and use full values for siltstone
F	Reduce sandstone values by 60% and use full values for siltstone
G	Use values for siltstone or shale
H	Use values for siltstone or shale

Marinos & Hoek, 2001)

Table 3
GSI estimates for heterogeneous rock masses such as flysch

GSI FOR HETEROGENEOUS ROCK MASSES SUCH AS FLYSCH (Marinos.P and Hoek. E, 2000) From a description of the lithology, structure and surface conditions (particularly of the bedding planes), choose a box in the chart. Locate the position in the box that corresponds to the condition of the discontinuities and estimate the average value of GSI from the contours. Do not attempt to be too precise. Quoting a range from 33 to 37 is more realistic than giving GSI = 35. Note that the Hoek-Brown criterion does not apply to structurally controlled failures. Where unfavourably oriented continuous weak planar discontinuities are present, these will dominate the behaviour of the rock mass. The strength of some rock masses is reduced by the presence of groundwater and this can be allowed for by a slight shift to the right in the columns for fair, poor and very poor conditions. Water pressure does not change the value of GSI and it is dealt with by using effective stress analysis.		SURFACE CONDITIONS OF DISCONTINUITIES (Predominantly bedding planes)				
COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE		VERY GOOD - Very rough, fresh unweathered surfaces	GOOD - Rough, slightly weathered surfaces	FAIR - Smooth, moderately weathered and altered surfaces	POOR - Very smooth, occasionally slickensided surfaces with compact coatings or fillings with angular fragments	VERY POOR - Very smooth slickensided or highly weathered surfaces with soft clay coatings or fillings
A. Thick bedded, very blocky sandstone <i>The effect of pelitic coatings on the bedding planes is minimized by the confinement of the rock mass. In shallow tunnels or slopes these bedding planes may cause structurally controlled instability.</i>		70	60	A		
B. Sandstone with thin inter-layers of siltstone	C. Sandstone and siltstone in similar amounts		50	B	C	
	D. Siltstone or silty shale with sandstone layers		40	D	E	
E. Weak siltstone or clayey shale with sandstone layers						
F. Tectonically deformed, intensively folded/faulted, sheared clayey shale or siltstone with broken and deformed sandstone layers forming an almost chaotic structure				30	F	
G. Undisturbed silty or clayey shale with or without a few very thin sandstone layers					20	
H. Tectonically deformed silty or clayey shale forming a chaotic structure with pockets of clay. Thin layers of sandstone are transformed into small rock pieces.					G	H 10

→ : Means deformation after tectonic disturbance.

Aplicaciones de GSI

- Es un buen descriptor de la calidad del macizo rocoso, más rápido de estimar que RMR y en especial Q.
- Se utiliza como una de las variables para obtener la resistencia del macizo rocoso mediante el criterio de falla de Hoek-Brown (se verá en la próxima clase).