

A study on the physical and mechanical properties of a granite outcrop for a quarry at Onikoko community, Oyo State, South-Western Nigeria

Luqman Kareem Salati^{1*}, Jacob Titilope Adeyemo²

¹Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna, 800211, Nigeria

²Geocardinal Engineering Services Limited, Abuja, 900211, Nigeria

*Corresponding author: e-mail ksalati@gmail.com, tel. +2348065105559

Abstract

Purpose. To investigate the physical and mechanical properties of a granite outcrop for a quarry at Onikoko community in Oyo State, South-Western Nigeria.

Methods. Samples of granite rock were collected from the outcrop for the laboratory determination of their physical and mechanical properties required for determining its suitability for construction and engineering purposes, and the desired properties were determined.

Findings. Results from the tests conducted on the granite samples indicated the various values of physical and mechanical properties of the outcrop in the study area. The results obtained are found to be within the acceptable international standards. Hence, the granite outcrop is found to be suitable for establishing a quarry in the study area based on the results obtained.

Originality. The results in this study have affirmed the fact that granite rocks must possess adequate physical and mechanical characteristics to make them suitable for construction and engineering purposes. The physico-mechanical properties of the granite outcrop evaluated in this study having their values within the international standards attest to high strength characterization of the granite rock. The life span of the proposed quarry is established to be forty years, which is also an indication of rich mineralization of the area.

Practical implications. Results of this study can be a useful source of information to potential investors and policy makers for the establishment of a quarry in the study area. Hence, government's attention can be drawn to the needs of the host community for the provision of basic infrastructures.

Keywords: granite outcrop, physical and mechanical properties, quarrying operation

1. Introduction

The quarrying of aggregate stones such as granite has become a key stand for infrastructure projects including construction of roads and houses, bridges, paving monuments, amongst other uses. The use of granite has sparked increasing demands for granite aggregates in areas of infrastructural development such as road construction and structure building. Recent building decoration demands have partly increased granite consumption in many capital cities around the world [1]. The construction aggregate industry is an essential part of most developed economies [2]. Given the suitability of volcanic rock aggregates for concrete and the likelihood of alkali reactivity of granitic rocks, its suitability for use as a major source for crushed rock aggregate cannot be disregarded [3]. Granite aggregate possesses a variety of physical and chemical properties that determine its suitability as a material for construction [4]. Assessment of granitic outcrops for pos-

sible quarrying may, therefore, require investigation of joint and fracture characteristics for assessment of block size.

Granite is a light-colored, igneous rock with grains that are large enough to be visible to the eye without help. It is formed from the slow crystallization of magma beneath the surface of Earth. Granite is massive, hard and tough, lacking an internal structure which makes it widely suitable for use as a stone of construction. Its compressive strength is typically above 200 MPa, with a viscosity similar to standard temperature and pressure (STP) of $3\text{-}6 \cdot 10^{19}$ Pa·s [5]. At ambient pressure, the melting temperature of dry granite is 1215-1260°C (2219-2300°F); it is reduced sharply in the presence of water, down to 650°C at a few kBar pressure [6]. Granite has poor primary permeability but strong secondary permeability.

In any structural design, research into the physical and mechanical properties of rocks is an important consideration, especially for engineering purposes. Sections of what should be discussed include the parameters that influence the rock's

drilling state. The physical properties of coarse aggregates are related to the state of rock weathering from which they originated [7]. Physico-mechanical properties of rocks that are used as aggregates are the most relevant parameters for specific engineering purposes in every application and in its classification [8]. Physical and mechanical properties of rocks are also strongly dependent on void network. Such design should be planned according to structure type, load characteristics and strata properties of rock bearings [9].

Like other hard rocks, the physical and mechanical impacts of granitic rocks also have significant influence on the quarrying equipment in a number of ways, especially given the relationship between the physical and mechanical properties of rock and the power consumption of such equipment [10]. The design aspects and possibilities for sharing failures that must be studied are parts of the investigation. In a study by Adebayo and Adetula (2013) [11], it was established that uniaxial compressive strength, texture and grain size, drill rate index and equivalent quartz content (EQC) significantly affect rock drilling conditions. Appropriate laboratory tests, therefore, need to be carried out before the final design stage to assess the rock properties. Another study carried out by Agyeman et al. (2019) [12] is also in agreement that laboratory tests and material specification are essential to determine the suitability of rock aggregates to be used in construction. In view of the imperative to fulfill this important technical requirement, this study attempts to investigate the physical and mechanical properties of granite outcrop situated in Onikoko community near Oyo town, Oyo State, South-west of Nigeria. This is in order to assess its suitability for quarrying operation.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Brief description of the study area

The Outcrop to be used for the proposed quarry project is located on a 20 hectare piece of land along old Ibadan – Lagos road at Onikoko Village, which is less than 2 km to Olonde village and some kilometres away from Olubadan village close to Abanla in Oluoyole Local Government of Oyo State, South-Western Nigeria. The proposed quarry site is at an economic distance from market environments and is within easy reach from different parts of the Ibadan metropolis and neighboring states surrounding Oyo State. The coordinates location is approximately between Latitudes (07°15'15" N) and (07°15'34" N) North of the equator and 003°50'42" E and Longitudes (003°50'50" E) East of the green winch meridian. The study site is rectangular in shape, generally adjusting to the boundaries of the adjoining plots. Its perimeter is delineated round with coordinates LB 03°49'15" N and 07°11'30" E, CB 1 03°49'15" N and 07°11'15" E, CB2 03°49'00" N and 07°11'15" E and CB3 03°49'00" N and 07°11'30" E.

Oyo State lies mostly on lowlands which are punctuated by rocky outcrops and series of hills. Most of the rock outcrops are located in areas around Iseyin, Shaki, Sepeteri, Okeho and Igbeti. These are mainly of schist and quartzite inselbergs. According to Adekoya et al. (2011) [13], the Pan-African granites (Older Granites), widely distributed in the South-Western parts of Nigeria, occur as minor syenite around the study area and are sources of construction materials, particularly rock aggregates used in road construction. Although Ogunyele and Akingboye (2018) [14] relate the

Pan-African older granite suite with the Nigerian tin-bearing pegmatite, Alayande et al. (2015) [15] allude to the presence of two granite generations within the basement rocks and categorizes the study area into the Western Nigerian Basement of which the basement rocks cover nearly 100 percent of the total land surface in Oyo State. Figure 1 shows a simplified map of Nigeria indicating the distributions of the three major geological components and Oyo State within the study area is located.

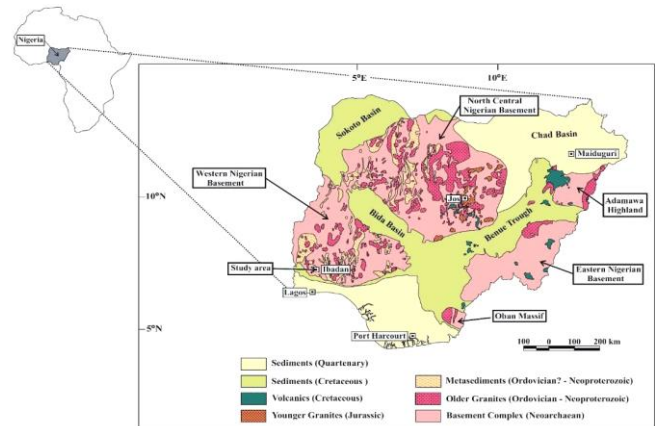


Figure 1. Simplified geological map of Nigeria showing the distributions of the three major geological components and Oyo state location [13]

The Granitic rock of the proposed Quarry Lease area has a felsic composition and is more common in recent geological times, as opposed to the ancient ultramafic igneous history of Earth (Fig. 2, 3). Felsic rocks are less dense than mafic and ultramafic rocks, and therefore tend to resist sub-duction, whereas basalt or gabbroic rocks continue to sink into the mantle under the continental cratons' granite rocks. Hence, granite rocks form the basement of all continents of the earth.



Figure 2. Exposure of parts of the granite outcrop in the study area showing its relief

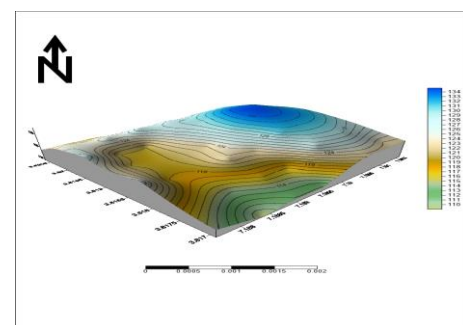


Figure 3. Topography of the proposed quarry site

Granitic rock is abundant all over the continental crust. Much of it had been intruded during the Precambrian age; it is the most abundant basement rock underlying the continents' relatively thin sedimentary veneer. Granite outcrops tend to form torsos and rounded massifs. Granites occur sometimes in circular depressions surrounded by a series of hills formed by the metamorphic aureole or hornfels. Granite often occurs as relatively small, in stock masses of less than 100 km² and in batholites often associated with orogenic mountain ranges.

2.2. Field studies and data collection

Samples of granite rock were collected with the use of a sledge hammer from the outcrop located in the Onikoko area of Oyo State, South-West Nigeria and labeled with care. The samples collected for geotechnical tests were sent to the laboratory. The visual and aesthetic characteristics of granite rock deposits in the study area were assessed by their colour, texture, grain size and faults. These properties were determined in-situ on the field and samples collected from the deposit were studied visually and with the use of the hand lens to determine their colour and textures respectively. The examination procedures for identification of colour, luster and shape of the outcrops adequately described the characteristics of the predominant mineral in the samples [16] (Fig. 4).



Figure 4. Labeled granite samples from the study site

The reserve estimation of the granite outcrop involved geological and geophysical surveys which comprised of geoelectric investigation basically involving electrical resistivity method using the Schlumberger configuration of vertical electrical sounding (VES) with the aid of Resistivity meter (Fig. 5). Electrical resistivity data were captured using terameter and other accessories and then processed and integrated to bring out the sub-surface information required. The method uses the ability of rock to conduct electric current which causes polarization when an electric current is passed through the rock. Hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) and compass clinometers were also used to collect data for geophysical investigations (Fig. 6). The field data captured indicated three (3) to four (4) layer models all of which fall 2-10% resistivity and thickness accuracy. Software called Resisit was used quantitatively with computer iteration, and four type basic curves shapes were taken into consideration.

To determine the volume and tonnage of the granite outcrop, Equations 1 and 2 were adopted thus:

$$\text{Volume (in m}^3\text{)} = (A_1A_2/2)L, \quad (1)$$

where:

- A_1 and A_2 – the cross sectional areas of the outcrop;
- L – the perpendicular distance.



Figure 5. A typical resistivity meter (e.g. Omega)



Figure 6. Data collection on the field

$$T \text{ (in tonnes)} = (A_1A_2/2) LF, \quad (2)$$

where:

- F – the tonnage factor of granite gneiss (F in t/m³).

2.3. Laboratory analysis

Onikoko's granite outcrop was tested for physical and mechanical properties in accordance with the American Standard for Testing Materials (ASTM) D 2487 and the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) in order to determine the strength quality of the aggregate used for construction and engineering purposes. All the tests were carried out in the laboratory of Civil Engineering Department, Kaduna Polytechnic, North-western Nigeria. The following tests were performed on samples collected in order to assess the physical and mechanical properties of rock in the study area:

- 1) specific gravity (S.G.);
- 2) bulk density;
- 3) moisture content;
- 4) porosity;
- 5) water absorption;
- 6) brittleness;
- 7) aggregate crushing value (ACV);
- 8) uniaxial compressive strength (UCS);
- 9) point load strength index (IS);
- 10) slake durability test;
- 11) hardness;
- 12) abrasive test.

To determine the point load index of the rock, the following formula was adopted:

$$I_{xx} = \frac{P \cdot 1000}{(W \cdot D) \cdot 0.75\sqrt{50}}, \quad (3)$$

where:

- I_{xx} – point load strength index, MPa;
- P – applied load at failure, kN;
- W – width of the sample, mm;

D – height of the sample, mm.

Determining the uniaxial compressive strength of the rock, Equation 4 was adopted in accordance with ISRM (1981) [17] and ASTM (2001) [18] D 2938 standards:

$$Co = \frac{P}{A} = \frac{P}{(W \cdot D)}, \quad (4)$$

where:

Co – uniaxial compressive strength, MPa;

P – the applied peak load, kN;

W – width of the sample, mm;

D – height of the sample, mm.

Cylindrical core samples were prepared from the rock samples collected from the granite outcrops for the determination of the uniaxial compressive strength of the granite rocks of the two locations. The tests were performed under free laboratory atmospheric conditions because the objective was to relate laboratory tests to field conditions. Irregular block samples were also prepared from the samples of the outcrop collected from the field. The samples were thereafter tested to determine the tensile strength of the rock using Point Load Tester. The determination of slake durability of the granite rock from the two deposits was also carried out in the laboratory.

In this study, hardness of the rock was determined with the use of mechanical tools. Samples of the granite rock collected from the field were prepared in the laboratory and tested to standard for hardness with the use of Schmidt Hammer Rebound Value. The laboratory procedures suggested by Adebayo et al. (2010) [19] concerning uniaxial compressive strength, point load strength index and Schmidt Rebounds Hardness Value based established by ISRM (1981), ASTM (2001) D 2938 and ASTM D 5731 standards, and Jacobsson (2007) [20] for intact rock uniaxial compression test were adopted in this study to ensure accuracy of results. The ISRM suggested mode – I fracture toughness testing method as elaborated by [21] was also considered for determining fracture toughness of the rock samples. In order to assess the uniaxial compressive strength of the rock samples, the Schmidt hammer (SH) method was used to estimate the UCS of discontinuity walls and to test the workability, excavation and bore-ability of rocks by mechanical means (cutting, polishing, milling, crushing and fragmentation processes in quarrying) as suggested in the work carried out by [22]. The standard N-type hammer was used to create an impact on the rock sample by releasing energy.

The electrical resistivity method used in this study involved injecting controlled electric current into the ground from the electrode arrangement and measuring the corresponding signals and impulses. The eight different points where there were no visible traces of the up-shoot (outcrop) of the granitic body were sounded in order to determine depth of the overburden to granitic – gneiss basement. Vertical Electrical Sounding (VES) data sets were subjected to two phase interpretation processes of curve - matching and iterative inversion methods (layered earth modeling).

The cross section method was employed in estimating the delineated Onikoko granitic-gneiss reserve. Areas of influence were represented by the base areas of a cross section of some predetermined thickness. In this method, the mineral reserve calculation procedures adopted are as follows:

1) determination of mineral area in all the sections using plainimeter irregular outlines and other geometrical schemes;

2) calculation of average values of each section by using length – weight sample value average or using arithmetic average of sample values;

3) computation of volume for each block.

3. Results and discussion

Results of investigations carried out on the granite samples collected in the study area indicate that the granite rock's specific gravity is 2.7. As shown in Table 1, the density of the bulk is found to be 2326 kg/m³, and can be classified high. The Table 1 also shows that the moisture content range of the rock is between 0.060-0.079% yielding a mean value of 0.077%, while the aggregate crushing value (ACV) of the rock ranges between 12.20-18.37, and with a mean value of 14.54%.

Table 1. Density, moisture content and average aggregate crushing values (SPB_KDP)

Sample ID	Density, kg/m ³	Moisture content, %	Aggregate crushing value (ACV), %
SP 1	2733	0.057	12.2
SP 2	2389	0.072	14.77
SP 3	2628	0.13	18.37
SP 4	1553	0.049	12.81

The slake durability of the rock samples in Table 2 ranges between 80.12-91.72% and having a mean value of 87.17%, thereby indicating medium durability of the rock.

Table 2. Slake durability test (SP_KDP)

Sample ID	% retention after 1 st cycle	% retention after 2 nd cycle	Remarks
SP 1	91.72	73.14	Medium Durability
SP 2	89.2	68.43	Medium Durability
SP 3	87.65	66.38	Medium Durability
SP 4	80.12	55.74	Medium Durability to low Durability

The point load strength index of the rock range of 18.38-24.07 MPa with a mean value of 21.21 MPa and the uniaxial compressive strength range of 275.73-336.60 MPa with a mean strength of 325.64 MPa. In Tables 3 and 4 respectively are a congruent indication that the rock is in the high strength class.

Table 3. Point load (SP_KDP)

Sample ID	Specimen width (W), mm	Distance btw platen (D), mm	A, m ²	Breaking load, kN	Point load index, MPa
SP 1	0.079	0.055	0.004345	84.9	22.44
SP 2	0.076	0.069	0.005244	80.1	18.38
SP 3	0.077	0.047	0.003619	65.8	19.94
SP 4	0.060	0.054	0.00324	73.1	24.07

Table 4. Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) (SP_KDP)

Sample ID	Poisson rate	Young Modulus, GPa	Peak stress, MPa
SP 1	0.26	46.52×10 ⁵	336.60
SP 2	0.25	45.46×10 ⁵	275.73
SP 3	0.24	49.73×10 ⁵	299.15
SP 4	0.24	54.27×10 ⁵	361.08

Classification of rock = High strength.

The Cerchar abrasivity index of the rock range of 2.8 and 3.5 with a mean value of 3.15 in Table 5, however, indicates medium to high abrasive strength of the rock.

Table 5. Abrasive test

Sample ID	Cerchar abrasivity index (CAI)	Classification
SP 1	3.5	High
SP 2	3.3	High
SP 3	3.0	Medium to High
SP 4	2.8	Medium

The trend in Table 6 follows the high strength class as the rock’s hardness ranges between 12.20-18.37, and having a mean value of 5.5.

Table 6. Test for hardness

Sample ID	Hardness class	Hardness
SP 1	Orthoclase	6
SP 2	Orthoclase	6
SP 3	Apatite	5
SP 4	Apatite	5

Table 7 shows that porosity and water absorption of the rock with range values of 1.69-2.74% and 1-1.67% and mean values of 2.1 and 1.29% respectively are congruently low.

Table 7. Porosity, water absorption and brittleness

Sample ID	Apparent porosity, %	Water absorption, %	Brittleness value (AIV), %
SP 1	1.69	1.17	5.17
SP 2	2.74	1.67	8.0
SP 3	2.04	1.33	10
SP 4	1.78	1.00	5.5

The rock’s brittleness’s range of 5.17-10% with a mean value of 7.17%, however, differs with comparatively higher value. The presence of quartz, feldspar, and dark mafic minerals (mica and hornblende) with fine grained texture was indicated. There has been no visible plane of weakness, and they are defect free. The predominant mineral found in the sample is quartz. From the VES investigation shown in Table 8, it is obvious that the site is divided by a high outcrop exposure at the central part and a third of the area lower down from the zero overburden to maximum depth of 2.4 m round the single cadastral unit.

Table 8. Nature and depth of earth layers

S/N	Depth, m	Thickness, m	Lithology	Remark
1.	0.3-0.9	0.06	Top soil	Brownish loamy
2.	0.9-1.4	0.5	Lateritic clay	Reddish brown rarely sandy clay loam (lateritic)
3.	1.4-2.4	1.1	Weathered layer	Weathered micaceous and banded gneiss materials gravelly sandy feldspathic
4.	2.4	To basement	Fresh basement	Weathered soil of granitic origin to basement rock

The VES filed curves have been interpreted qualitatively using simple curves shapes with graphical model curves or quantitative computer modeling as shown in Figure 7.

The field data captured on acquisition read between three (3) to four (4) layer models all of which range between 2-10%

resistivity and thickness accuracy. The area under study is made up of thick to moderate depth to basement at the North-Eastern part, while the outcrop is of zero overburden at the central part with a very light over-burden material covering the North-Western and Southern part as shown in Figures 8 and 9.

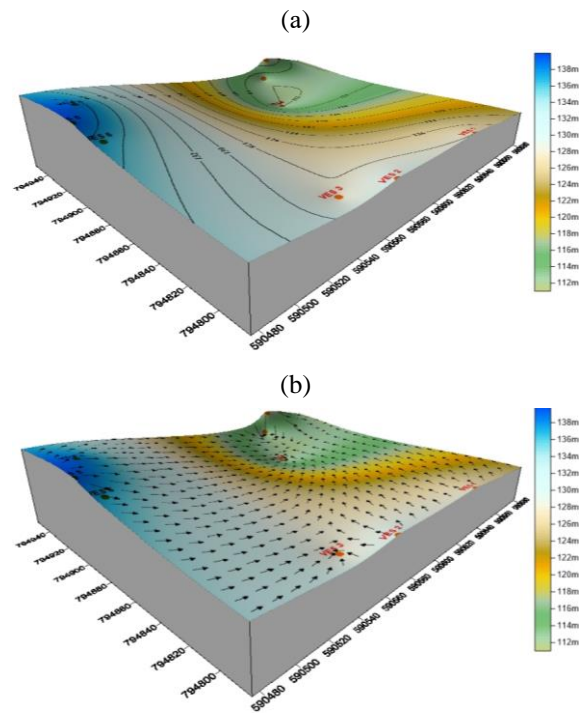


Figure 8. 3D integrated surface relief maps: (a) VES locations; (b) the ground water flowing direction

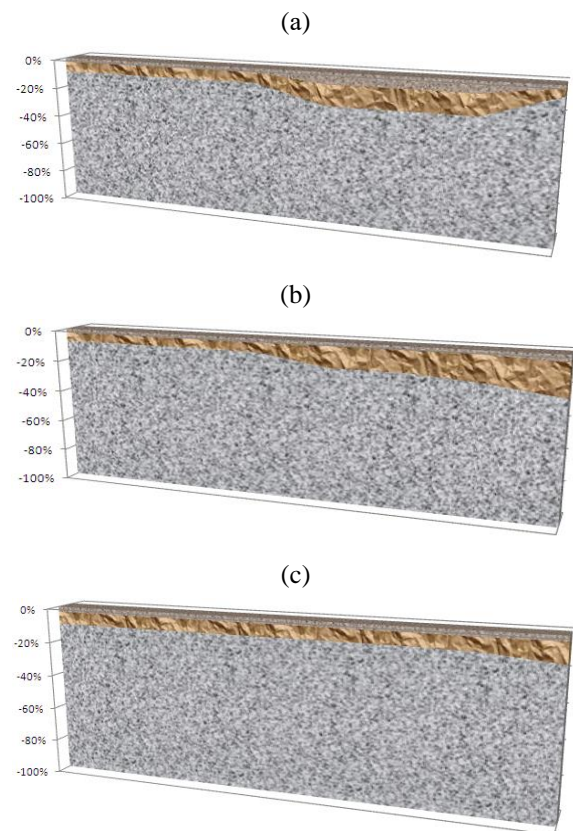


Figure 9. 3D geo-electric sections: (a) eastern section VES 6-VES 7; (b) western section VES 1-VES 5; (c) of the northern Section VES 4 VES 8

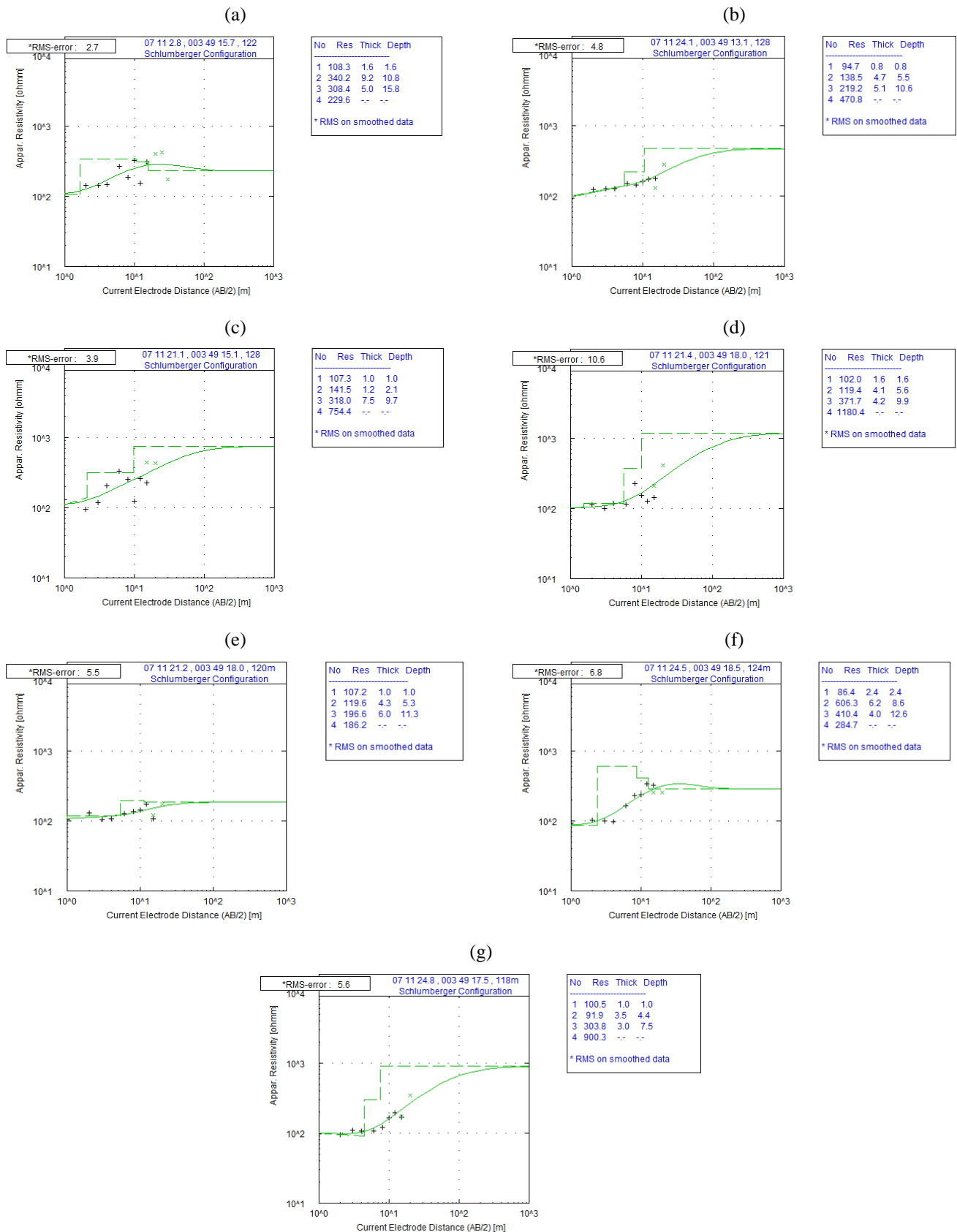


Figure 7. VES curves: (a) 1; (b) 2; (c) 3; (d) 4; (e) 5; (f) 6; (g) 7

4. Conclusions

The study on the physical and mechanical properties of the granite outcrop in Onikoko community in Oyo State, Nigeria, leads to the following conclusions:

1. Granite rocks must possess adequate physical and mechanical characteristics which make them suitable for construction and engineering purposes.
2. The strength characterization of granite outcrop has shown that its uniaxial compressive strength, point load

strength index and other physico-mechanical properties evaluated in this study have values which fall within the American Standard for Measuring Materials (ASTM, D 2487) and International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM, 1985) standards.

3. The mineral reserve estimation has also indicated that the granite outcrop has a reserve that is large enough to cater for the establishment of a quarry with a life span of forty years.

4. The granite outcrop in the study area is an embedded massive deposit covering wide areas of land thereby indicating that the outcrop is technically and commercially quarriable, with less environmental impact.

5. It is, therefore, evident that the granite outcrop in the study area is suitable for the establishment of a granite quarry.

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Дослідження фізичних і механічних властивостей відслонених гранітних порід у кар'єрі Онікоко, штат Ойо, Південно-Східна Нігерія

Л.К. Салаті, Дж.Т. Адемо

Мета. Дослідити фізичні та механічні властивості відслонених гранітних порід в кар'єрі Онікоко, штат Ойо, Південно-Східна Нігерія.

Методика. Зразки гранітної породи були взяті з відслонення для лабораторного визначення їх фізико-механічних властивостей відповідно до Американського стандарту для випробувань матеріалів (ASTM) D 2487 та Міжнародного товариства механіків гірських порід (ISRM). Оцінка запасів гранітного відслонення включала геологічні та геофізичні дослідження, які містили геоелектричні дослідження, в основному із застосуванням методу електричного опору з використанням конфігурації вертикального електричного зондування Шлюмберже (VES) за допомогою вимірювача опору.

Результати. Встановлено, що фізико-механічні властивості гранітних зразків відповідають міжнародним стандартам. Виявлено, що відслонення граніту в районі дослідження являє собою залягаюче масивне родовище, яке охоплює великі площі землі, що вказує на те, що відслонення є технічно і комерційно придатним для видобутку корисних копалин з меншим впливом на навколишнє середовище. Проведено оцінку мінеральних запасів родовища, яка дозволила визначити передбачуваний термін експлуатації гранітного кар'єру – 40 років, що підтверджує наявність значних покладів граніту в цьому районі та свідчить про перспективність кар'єрної розробки.

Наукова новизна. Встановлено показники фізичних і механічних характеристик гранітів кар'єра Онікоко, де найбільш важливе значення мають їх високі міцнісні характеристики, що доводить їх придатність для використання в будівництві й промисловості.

Практична значимість. Результати даного дослідження представляють інтерес для потенційних інвесторів і підприємців, які планують вести кар'єрну розробку граніту в Онікоко, що також приверне увагу уряду до потреб місцевого населення для створення базової інфраструктури.

Ключові слова: відслонення граніту, фізико-механічні властивості, експлуатація кар'єру, міцність, геофізичні дослідження

Исследование физических и механических свойств обнаженных гранитных пород в карьере Оникоко, штат Ойо, Юго-Восточная Нигерия

Л.К. Салати, Дж.Т. Адеемо

Цель. Исследовать физические и механические свойства обнаженных гранитных пород в карьере Оникоко, штат Ойо, Юго-Восточная Нигерия.

Методика. Образцы гранитной породы были взяты из обнажения для лабораторного определения их физико-механических свойств в соответствии с Американским стандартом для испытаний материалов (ASTM) D 2487 и Международным обществом механиков горных пород (ISRM). Оценка запасов гранитного обнажения включала геологические и геофизические исследования, которые содержат геоэлектрические исследования, в основном с применением метода электрического сопротивления с использованием конфигурации вертикального электрического зондирования Шлюмберже (VES) с помощью измерителя сопротивления.

Результаты. Установлено, что физико-механические свойства гранитных образцов соответствуют международным стандартам. Выявлено, что обнажение гранита в районе исследования представляет собой залегающее массивное месторождение, охватывающее большие площади земли, что указывает на то, что обнажение является технически и коммерчески пригодным для добычи полезных ископаемых с меньшим воздействием на окружающую среду. Проведена оценка минеральных запасов месторождения, которая позволила определить предполагаемый срок эксплуатации гранитного карьера – 40 лет, что подтверждает наличие обширной залежи гранита в этом районе и свидетельствует о перспективности карьерной разработки.

Научная новизна. Установлены показатели физических и механических характеристик гранитов карьера Оникоко, где наиболее важное значение имеют их высокие прочностные характеристики, что доказывает их пригодность для использования в строительстве и промышленности.

Практическая значимость. Результаты данного исследования представляют интерес для потенциальных инвесторов и предпринимателей, которые будут вести карьерную разработку гранита в Оникоко, что также привлечет внимание правительства к нуждам местного населения для создания базовой инфраструктуры.

Ключевые слова: обнажение гранита, физико-механические свойства, эксплуатация карьера, прочность, геофизические исследования