

**Underground Space Technology**  
**Prof. Priti Maheshwari**  
**Department of Civil Engineering**  
**Indian Institute of Technology – Roorkee**

**Lecture – 56**  
**Rock Stress Determination Flat Jack Test**


Hello everyone. In the previous class, we discussed about the support system, and to be specific we discussed grouting in rocks. So, today we will have the discussion on new topic, that is the determination of in situ state of stress in rock masses and rocks. So, in this connection, we will first take up the test which is called as flat jack test. So, first we will discuss few aspects related to in situ stresses.


And then, we will learn about this test, including the apparatus, how this is carried out, and then how the analysis of the test strata is done to obtain the in-situ state of stress. So, coming to the in-situ stress, we know that the underground rock masses these are subjected to the compressive stresses, which generally increase with depth.

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### In-situ stress

- \* Underground rock masses → subjected to compressive stress which generally increase with depth.
- \* Data indicates → vertical stress varies in a more predictable manner than horizontal stresses as vertical stress is primarily affected by weight of overburden. ✓
- \* Upon excavation in rock mass → natural state of stress is disturbed locally as rock mass attains a new state of equilibrium.



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The data that we have over a period of many years it indicates that the vertical stress it varies in a more predicable manner as compared to the horizontal stresses. As the vertical stress is primarily affected by the weight of the overburden, while the horizontal stresses can be the function of various tectonic activities as well. So, upon the excavation in the rock mass, what happens is the natural state of stress gets disturbed locally because of the fact that rock mass attains a new state of equilibrium.

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**In-situ stress**

- \* Stress around an opening resulting from various man-made activities: termed as "induced stress" as against "virgin stress" or "absolute stress" which describes original, undisturbed state of stress.
- \* Natural state → in-situ stress.
- \* In-situ stress: very high to cause rock bursting, spalling, buckling, heaving, or other ground control problems →

Important to know this!



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So, the stress around the opening resulting from various manmade activities is termed as induced stress as against the virgin stress or the absolute stress, which describes the original and undisturbed state of stress. The natural state of stress is what we call as in situ stress. So, these stresses can be very high to cause the rock bursting, spalling, buckling, heaving, or other ground control problems.

So, it is extremely important for us to know what exactly is the in-situ state of stress at any particular location in the rock mass.

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**In-situ stress**

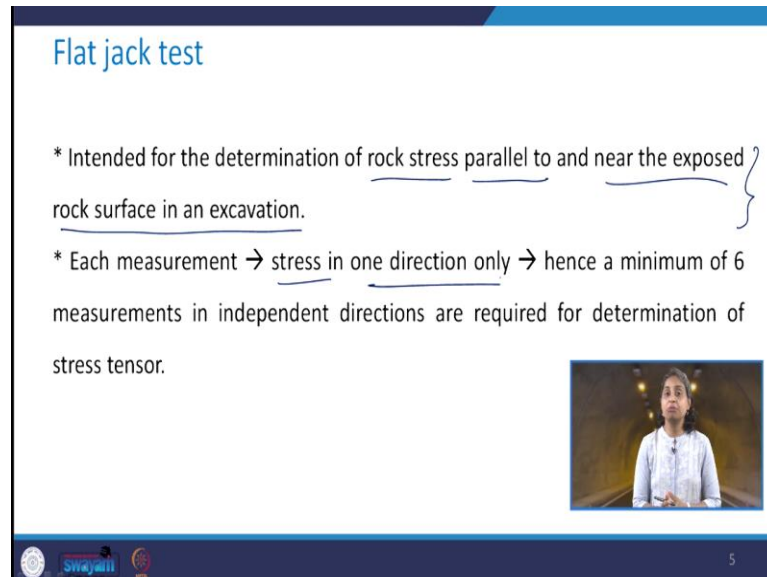
- \* Optimum shape, orientation and layout of underground structures as well as effectiveness and ultimate cost of rock support systems → significantly influenced by in-situ stress.



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So, optimum shape, orientation, and layout of underground structures as well as the effectiveness and ultimate cost of rock support system. These are all significantly influenced by the magnitude of in situ stresses.




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**Flat jack test**

- \* Intended for the determination of rock stress parallel to and near the exposed rock surface in an excavation.
- \* Each measurement → stress in one direction only → hence a minimum of 6 measurements in independent directions are required for determination of stress tensor.



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So, important for us to know the in-situ stresses. So, for that purpose, we have one test called flat jack test with us apart from the other test that is hydraulic fracturing test, that we will discuss later. So, this flat jack test is intended for the determination of rock stress parallel to and near the exposed rock surface in an excavation. Please keep that in mind that if we are conducting the flat jack test, this is what that we are going to get is the rock stress which is parallel to and near the exposed rock surface in an excavation.

Each measurement that is done during the flat jack testing gives us the stress in one direction only, and therefore to obtain the complete stress tensor, we need to have a minimum to 6 measurements in independent directions.

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## Flat jack test

\* The method: involves the observation of the movement of pairs of measuring pins located on each side of a slot when the slot is cut and subsequently when pressure is applied to the internal surface of the slot.

\* Measurements → may be carried out even in fractured rocks, provided a slot may be cut and remain open throughout the process of installation of the flatjack.



This method involves the observation of the movement of pairs of measuring pins which are located on each side of a slot when the slot is cut. So, basically let us say that this is what is the rock mass, and then we have the two pins say this one and this one, and there we need to cut a slot in between these pins like this to conduct the test and then what is done when this slot is cut what will happen.

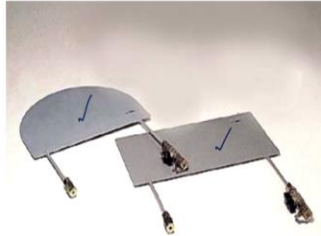
There is going to be separation because of this slot and that will become the stress-free boundary, and there is going to be the redistribution of stresses. So, what we do is we put the flat jack in this slot, and then it is pushed so that this distance between the measuring pins is already known to us. So, the pressure that is required so that the distance between the pins they are maintained is what indirectly will give us the in-situ state of stress.

How we will see basically this is what is a philosophy of this particular test. So, when the slot is cut and then subsequently when the pressure is applied to the internal surface of the slot. How it is done, we will see. So, the measurements which are taken these can be carried out even in fractured rocks provided that in the fractured rock, it is possible to cut the slot and to have it open throughout the process of installation of the flat jack, which is done inside this particular cut.

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## Flat jack test

\* The method → may be used on materials that do not necessarily exhibit reversible elastic properties or isotropy, provided corrections are made to validate the results (ISRM).



The method may be used on the materials that do not really exhibit reversible elastic properties or isotropy, provided the corrections which are made to validate the results this is as per ISRM. So, here is we are seeing the two flat jacks of two different shapes. So, you can see that why it is called as flat jack. So, it is kind of a flat plate here.

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## Flat jack test

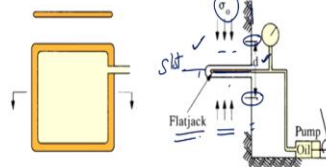
\* Involves placement of two pins fixed into the wall of an excavation.

\* Distance,  $d$ : measured accurately.

\* Slot is cut into the rock between pins.

\* If normal stress is compressive, pins will move together as the slot is cut.

\* Flatjack is then placed and grouted into the slot.

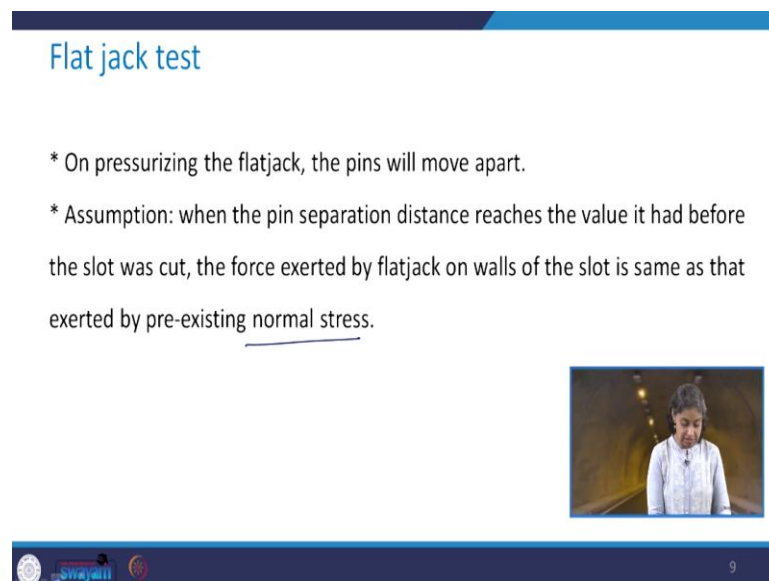


Flat jack test let us again understand the philosophy with the help of these figures. So, basically this test involves the placement of two pins which are fixed into the wall of an excavation. So, you see that if this is the wall of the excavation, two pins are fixed at a distance of  $d$  from each other. This distance  $d$  it can be measured accurately how the distances are measured etcetera that we will see little later when we discuss about the instrumentation and monitoring.

Then the slot is cut into the rock between the pins. So, you can see that this is what is the rock mass, and  $\sigma_0$  is the in-situ state of stress vertical stress here. So, this is the slot which is cut between these pins. So, if the normal stress is compressive, which is shown in this particular figure, what will happen the moment you cut the slot the pins will start moving together.


They will try to close the slot because there is going to be the redistribution of stresses in the vicinity of this slot. So, what happens? Then we place the flat jack and grout it into the slot. So, you can see that this yellow portion this is what is the flat jack.


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**Flat jack test**

- \* On pressurizing the flatjack, the pins will move apart.
- \* Assumption: when the pin separation distance reaches the value it had before the slot was cut, the force exerted by flatjack on walls of the slot is same as that exerted by pre-existing normal stress.

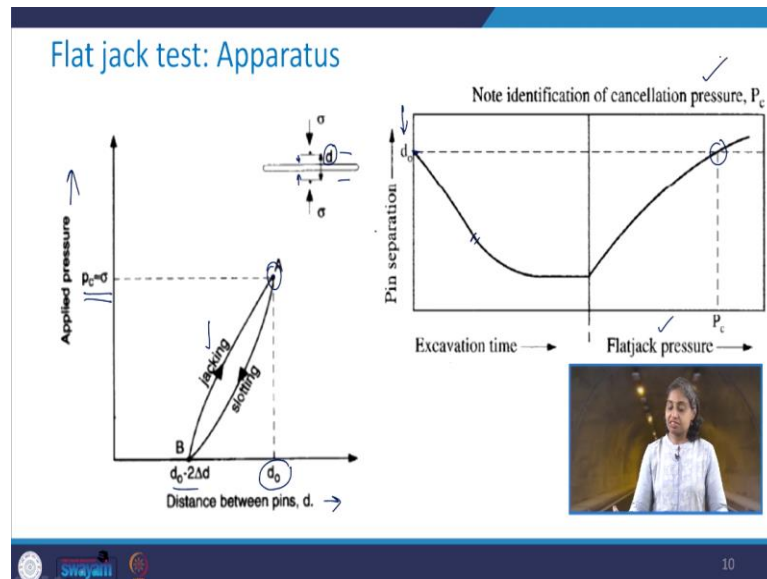




Now, on pressurizing the flat jack the pins will move apart, and we have an assumption here in this test that when the pin separation distance it reaches the value it had before the slot was cut. The force which is exerted by the flat jack on the walls of the slot is same as that was exerted by pre-existing normal stress. So, you see what happens we cut a slot we provide a flat jack test. So, when we cut the slot, this start coming together.

So, when we provide the flat jack then this exert the pressure on the inside walls of the slot such that the pressure which is exerted by the flat jack to have the same pin separation distance which was earlier before the slot was cut. When they achieve the same distance again so whatever is the force which is exerted by the flat jack on the walls of the slot, it is going to be the same as that exerted by pre-existing normal stress.

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So, this is how the typical results of a flat jack test look like. So, we have the distance between the pins and the applied pressure. So, during the jacking and then the slotting; in the slotting what will happen? When you create the slot, the distance will be reduced. So, you see that if the distance between the two pins is  $d$  which is shown here. So, when the slotting is done, this will be reduced.

This pin and this one they will move towards each other, and when we start applying the pressure to the flat jack that means the process of jacking. So, we keep on increasing the pressure till the time that we receive, or we get the earlier distance between the pins, which is let us say  $d_0$ . So, this one is what is going to be equal to the in-situ state of stress which is given here as  $p_c = \sigma$ .

So, you see that the pin separation, in the beginning, it was  $d_0$ , and with the excavation it reduces and then you install the flat jack, and you start applying the flat jack pressure, and when you apply that pressure again, that pin separation starts increasing and then the moment it goes or it becomes equal to the earlier pin separation before the slot cutting that is what is going to be the identification for the cancellation pressure which we represent as  $p_c$ .

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

i) Flatjack: consisting of two flat sheets of steel plate or other suitable material welded together around the edge to form a flat envelope of at least a  $0.1 \text{ m}^2$  area & incorporating a hydraulic inlet tube with connections to a hydraulic hose and bleed valve.

\* Selected shape of flatjack → depends on the method chosen to cut the slot.



Coming to the apparatus, as far as flat jack test is concerned, it is comprising of many components. The first and the foremost, and most important one is the flat jack. It consists of two flat sheets of steel plate or any other suitable material which are welded together around the edge to form a flat envelope of at least  $0.1\text{-meter}$  square area, and these also incorporate hydraulic inlet tube with connection to hydraulic hose and bleed valve because these jacks are supposed to exert the pressure on the inner wall of the slots.

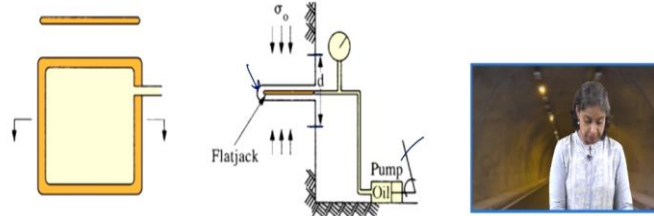
So, that pressure is being mobilized with the help of hydraulic pump. So, accordingly such arrangements are to be needed. I showed you the picture of a typical flat jack just short while ago. So, selected shape of the flat jack depends upon the methods which is chosen to cut the slot. So, I showed you one was d shaped flat jack, another one was the rectangular shape of the flat jack.

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

\* Great care should be taken in the welding carried out around the edge of the flatjack and around the bleed tube inlet, so that the jack can expand flexibly without leaking when installed and inflated to full test pressure.



Here one needs to take lot of care in welding, which is carried out around the edge of the flat jack and around the bleed tube inlet so that the jack can expand flexibly without leaking when it is installed and inflated to full pressure test. So, you take a look here again. These are the two pins the slot is cut, flat jack is installed, and you can see that the pump is there with the help of which you mobilize the pressure.

The moment the pressure comes here, this inflates. So, we need to be careful about the welding, which is done around the edge of that flat jack and around the bleed tube inlet.

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

ii) A hydraulic pump: operated either manually or electrically, with an attachment to a load maintainer.

\* Pressure should be measured on gauges having an accuracy of at least 5% of the estimated stress.

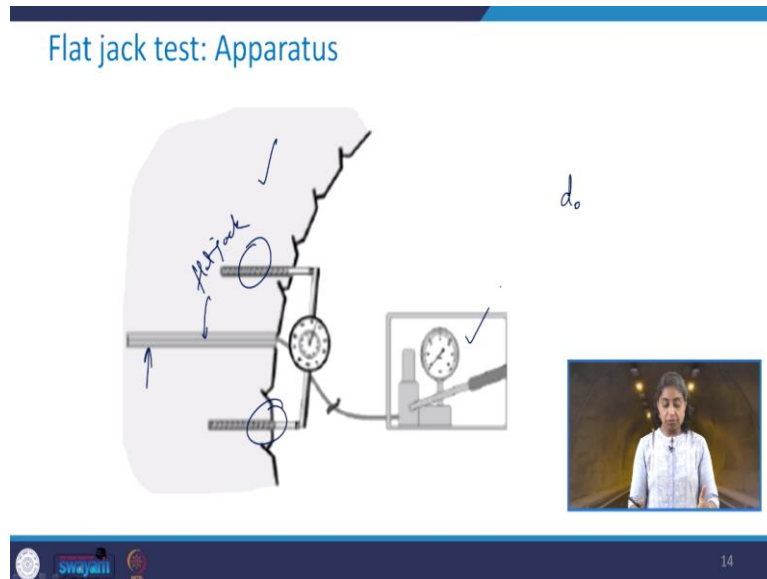
\* The system connected by high pressure hoses should be capable of maintaining any pressure within the desired range for a period of at least 5 min.



The second component of the apparatus is hydraulic pump. This is operated either manually or electrically with an attachment to the load maintainer or may be the proven ring. The pressure

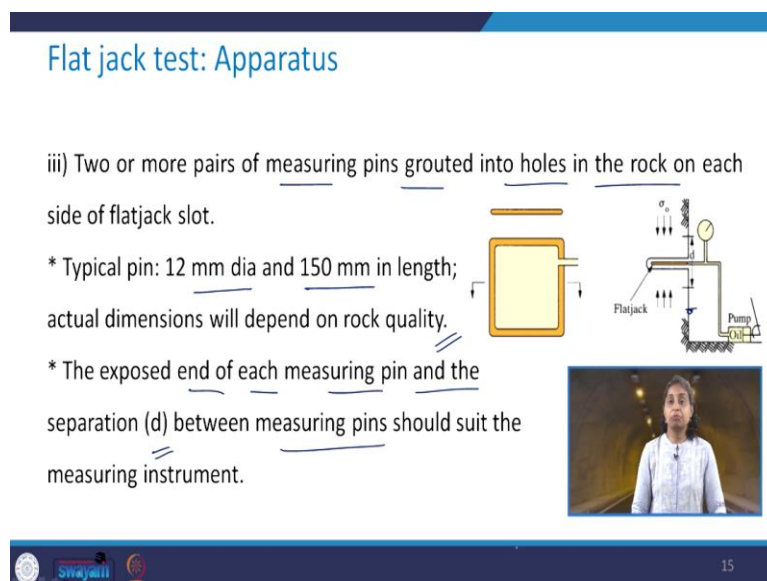
should be measured on gauges having an accuracy of at least a 5% of the estimated stress. The system connected by the high-pressure hoses should be capable of maintaining any pressure within the desired range for a period of at least 5 minutes.

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So, this is how the zoomed version of this setup looks like. So, this is the rock mass in which the slot has been cut, and these are the two pins which were marked or which were installed at a distance of, say  $d_0$ , and here you see that you have installed the flat jack this is the flat jack and is the connection to the hydraulic pump so that the pressure can be mobilized.

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Then we have the third component is the two or more pair of measuring pins which are grouted into the hole in the rock on each side of flat jack slot. So, it is not that you will have two pins on one side of the flat jack no that is not correct. It should be on the either side of the flat jack slot. So, the typical pin is the 12-millimeter diameter and 150 millimeter in length. However, the actual dimensions will depend upon the quality of the rock.

The exposed end of each measuring pin and the separation  $d$  between the measuring pins should suit the measuring instrument.

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**Flat jack test: Apparatus**

- \* In addition to surface measurement pins, borehole instrumentation (stress meters) can be installed.
- \* When the near surface rock appears to be damaged by the excavation works → preferable to measure the displacements at a sufficient depth to avoid the damaged rock.



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Now, in addition to the surface measurement pins, some borehole instrumentation can be installed to measure the stresses. So, these what all are these instrumentation that we will discuss as a part of the next chapter. So, when the near-surface rock appears to be damaged by the excavation works. It is preferable to measure the displacements at a sufficient depth to avoid the damaged rock.

So, as I mentioned that borehole instrumentation should be done, but then in case if near-surface rock seems to be damaged, then we can install the instrumentation at a sufficient depth.

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

iv) A demountable mechanical or electric displacement gauge: with an average gauge length of between 150 and 220 mm or, for larger flatjacks,  $1/3$  to  $1/2$  the size of the flatjack.

\* The measurement range should be at least 5 mm and resolution of each reading should be 0.002 mm or better.



The fourth component is the demountable mechanical or electrical displacement gauge. It has average gauge length between 150 and 220 millimeter, or for larger flat jacks, it can be one-third to half of the size of the flat jack. The measurement range for these should be at least 5 millimeter, and the resolution of each reading should be 0.002 millimeter or even better than this.

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

v) An appropriate rock drill or saw to cut the flatjack slot

\* 2 slots may be formed by cutting overlapping drillholes (stitch drilling), by circular saw or by wire saw.

\* When using overlapping drillholes, these slots should have a diameter not exceeding 40 mm and should overlap by  $1/3$  to  $1/2$  of the full diameter.



The next component, as far as the apparatus is concerned, is an appropriate rock drill or saw to cut the flat jack slot. It is extremely important activity during the conduct of flat jack test. So, basically here, two slots may be formed by cutting overlapping drill holes. This is also called as stitch drilling by the circular saw or the wire saw. So, when we use the overlapping drill

holes, these slots should have a diameter not exceeding 40 millimeter and should overlap by 1 by 3 to half of the full diameter.


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**Flat jack test: Apparatus**

vi) Mounting frames, templates, jigs and other equipment → to facilitate accurate drilling of holes for the measuring pins, installation of the measuring pans and cutting of the flatjack slot.

vii) Grout, grout mixing and grout placing equipment (if required) → for the installation of measuring pins and the flatjack.

\* Grout should be of strength similar to that of the rock being tested.



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The next component is the mounting frames, templates, jigs, and the other equipment's. These are used to facilitate the accurate drilling of holes for the measuring pins then installation of the measuring pans and cutting of the flat jack slots then finally, we have the grout, grout mixing, and grout placing equipment if it is needed. This is for the installation of measuring pins and the flat jack.

So, this grout should be of the strength similar to that of the rock that is being tested. It should not be weaker than that rock, nor it should be stronger than that because in that case, when the flat jack exerts the pressure on to the inner walls of the slot, it may happen that grout may fail earlier. So, then you will not get the value of the proper in situ state of stress.

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## Flat jack test: Apparatus

\* Portland cement or epoxy resins are commonly employed. The latter gain full strength more rapidly and, therefore, are usually used to anchor measuring pins.



Then for this grouting purpose, Portland cement or epoxy resins are commonly employed. The epoxy resins gain full strength more rapidly, and hence these are usually used for anchoring the measuring pins. These we have discussed when we were discussing about the different types of rock bolts, and there we discussed in detail about the mechanically anchored rock bolt and resin anchored rock bolt. So, there I mentioned this particular property of the resin-anchored rock bolts to you.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Site selection

(a) In the selection of a zone of rock for testing, consideration must be given to the number of tests to be carried out in this zone. ✓

\* A minimum of six tests in independent directions are required if one is to obtain the complete stress tensor, but usually, additional tests are carried out at any one location to enable a best fit to be obtained, mathematically, following assessment of the results.



Now, coming to the procedure. So, first important thing is that what should be the site. It means that let us say the underground excavation is to be done maybe for few kilometers let us say some tunnel. So, at what location in those kilometer should we choose for conduct of the flat

jack test. So, there are few aspects that one needs to keep in mind. So, first we discuss about some of those issues.

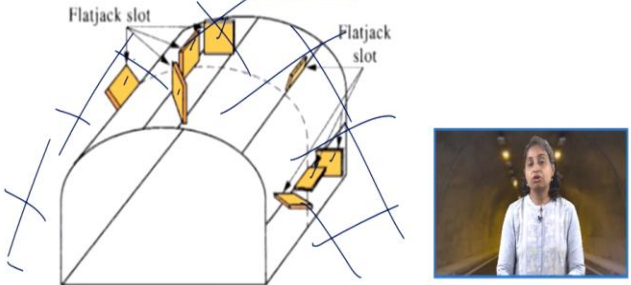
So, the first point that one need to keep in mind is that in the selection of zone for rock testing the consideration must be given to the number of test which are to be carried out in this zone. I told you that a minimum of 6 test are needed are independent directions if one wants to obtain the complete stress tensor, but usually, we carry out additional test also at any one location to enable best fit to be obtained mathematically following the assessment of the results.

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**Flat jack test: procedure**

*Site selection*

\* The preferred test layout in a tunnel or adit is to carry out nine tests: three in the roof, three in the sidewall, and three in the face.



The diagram shows a cross-section of a tunnel with a semi-circular roof and a vertical sidewall. Three yellow rectangular slots, labeled 'Flatjack slot', are positioned in the roof. Three more yellow rectangular slots, labeled 'Platjack slot', are positioned in the sidewall. Three additional yellow rectangular slots are positioned in the face of the tunnel. A small inset video shows a person speaking.

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The preferred test layout in a tunnel or adit is to carry out 9 tests, out of which 3 are in the roof, 3 in the sidewall, and 3 in the face. So, typically here, this figure shows that the flat jack slots are made in the rock mass and how the flat jacks would be installed. So, you see, this is all rock mass outside the excavation. So, the flat jacks which you are seeing here not really flat jacks, but the slot for flat jack that you are seeing with the mustard colour here. So, this is how these are installed 3 in roof, 3 in sidewall, and 3 in the face.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Site selection

\* The tests should be as close as possible without interfering with one another and should be a minimum of five times the tunnel diameter away from any other heading.

(b) Once the general position for the test zone has been determined, the excavation in the area must be carried out with maximum care. Presplitting of the test adit is suggested, followed by careful hand excavation and removal of all loose material.



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The test should be as close as possible without interfering with one another and should be a minimum of 5 times the tunnel diameter away from any other heading if there is. The second point which one needs to keep in mind as far as site selection is concerned is that once you determine the general position for the test zone, the excavation in the area must be carried out with maximum care.

Pre-splitting of the test adit is suggested, followed by the careful hand excavation and removal of all with the debris material which is there because of the excavation.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Selection and preparation of individual test locations

(a) Each test location: should be in a firm, flat or slightly concave rock surface. When struck with a drill steel or rod, the rock should produce a ringing sound (should not sound hollow).

\* Should no suitable location be immediately available, hand or pneumatic tool excavation must be used to prepare the test surface.

\* Consideration should be given to a possible modification of the tunnel geometry by local over-excavation.



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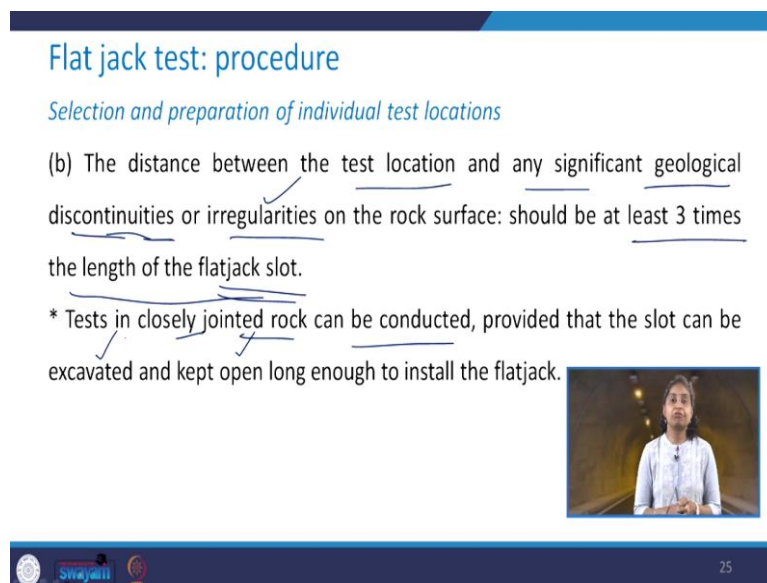
Then coming to the selection and preparation of individual test locations. So, what we did till now is that we select a zone of testing. Now, we select the individual test location. So, the first



point which needs to be kept in mind is that each test location should be in a firm, flat, or slightly concave rock surface. When this is struck with a drill steel or rod the rock should produce a ringing sound, and it should not sound hollow.

So, we need to be careful wherever we are choosing this test location. The rock should be firm. It should produce a ringing sound. So, should no suitable location be immediately available in that case hand or pneumatic tool excavation must be used to prepare the test surface. Proper consideration should be given to a possible modification of the tunnel geometry by the local over-excavation.

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**Flat jack test: procedure**

*Selection and preparation of individual test locations*

(b) The distance between the test location and any significant geological discontinuities or irregularities on the rock surface: should be at least 3 times the length of the flatjack slot.

\* Tests in closely jointed rock can be conducted, provided that the slot can be excavated and kept open long enough to install the flatjack.



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Next point that is to be kept in mind while selection and preparation of individual test locations is the distance between the test location and any significant geological discontinuities or irregularities on the rock surface. There can be the presence of, let us say, a fault zone or the shear zones so that we need to keep in mind. So, wherever we choose the location, that should be at least three times the length of the flat jack slot away from these discontinuities or the irregularities.

So, the test in closely jointed rock can be conducted provided that the slot can be excavated and kept open long enough to install the flat jack.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Calibration

(a) Edge effects caused by welding, particularly for small-sized flatjacks, lead to the hydraulic pressure within the jack being higher than the pressure exerted by it on the walls of the slot.

\* Flatjack suppliers should measure this difference using suitable laboratory procedures and should supply an appropriate calibration factor with each flatjack.



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Coming to the calibration of the various components. So, here the edge effects which are caused by welding, particularly when you have the small-sized flat jacks, these lead to the hydraulic pressure within the jack being higher than what is being exerted by the flat jack on the walls of the slot. So, what will happen in this case is that the result that we are getting these are higher than what actually is being exerted in the field.

So, this is not going to be give me the correct picture of the in-situ state of stress. So, one needs to be careful about it, and usually flat jack supplier should measure this difference using the suitable lab procedure and should supply an appropriate calibration factor with each of the flat jack. You must have carried out hydrometer test in the soil mechanics, so there also you need to calibrate any hydrometer.

I mean this is used for the classification of the fine grain soil. So, any of such apparatus which needs this calibration to be done usually, this information is provided by the supplier.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Calibration

(b) All pressure and displacement measuring equipment is to be calibrated prior to its use in each test series. ✓

\* Calibrations are to be done by an independent testing laboratory.





All the pressures and displacement measuring equipment these are to be calibrated prior to their use in each test series. The calibration should be done by an independent testing labs.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Installation and testing ✓

(a) The long dimension of the proposed flatjack slot should be oriented perpendicular ( $\pm 3^\circ$ ) to the direction in which the surface rock stress is to be measured. 

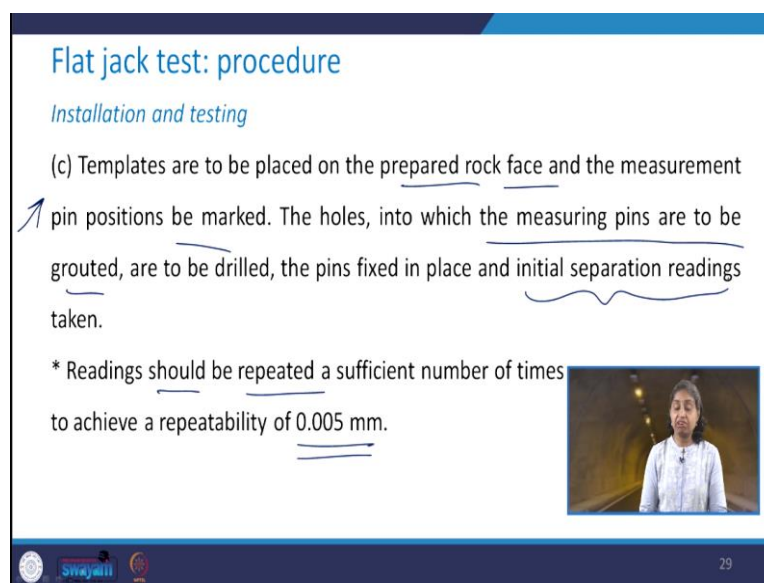
(b) The pairs of measuring pins are to be located symmetrically across the marked flatjack slot location. The distance ( $d$ ) between pins is determined by the displacement gauge. A line joining individual pins of each pair should be within  $3^\circ$  to normal to the slot. 

Coming to the installation and testing aspect for flat jack test. The first point that one needs to keep in mind is that the long dimension of the proposed flat jack slot should be oriented perpendicular to the direction in which the surface rock stress is to be determined. So, ideally it should be perpendicular, but then an error of plus minus of 3 degree can be allowed. Then the second point is that the pairs of measuring pins are to be located symmetrically across the marked flat jack slot location.

For example, this was the rock mass, and we had the flat jack slot like this, and we have two pins here. So, the assumption here is that these pins these should be placed symmetrically with reference to this particular slot not that on one side you have lesser distance between the slot and the pin and on other side you have no distance. So, this distance  $d$  between the pins is determined by the displacement gauge.

A line joining the individual pins of each pair should be within three degree to normal to the slot. This means if this is the slot so the normal to the slot is this. So, the distance which you measure it should be between plus minus 3 degree to the normal of the slot.

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The slide is titled "Flat jack test: procedure" and has a sub-heading "Installation and testing". It contains the following text:

(c) Templates are to be placed on the prepared rock face and the measurement pin positions be marked. The holes, into which the measuring pins are to be grouted, are to be drilled, the pins fixed in place and initial separation readings taken.

\* Readings should be repeated a sufficient number of times to achieve a repeatability of 0.005 mm.

The slide also features a small video inset of a woman speaking in the bottom right corner. At the bottom left, there are logos for "swayam" and "MOE". The number "29" is in the bottom right corner.

And the next step which one needs to keep in mind is that the templates are to be placed on the prepared rock face and the measurement pin positions be marked. The holes into which the measuring pins are to be grouted are to be drilled, the pins fixed in place, and initial separation readings are taken. See, this is how the procedure is first of all, we mark the location of the pin position.

Then we have the holes in which the measuring pins are to be grouted. So, we drilled those holes, then we fixed these pins into those holes, and then we take the initial separation reading between the two pins. Now, these readings should be repeated sufficient number of times to achieve a repeatability of 0.005 millimeter. This is a very, very important observation which is the initial separation reading. So, one needs to be careful here.

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## Flat jack test: procedure

### Installation and testing

(d) The slot is then cut. Care should be taken to maintain the slot in the required direction and perpendicular to the rock face.

\* It is usual to cut the slot deeper than the dimension of the flatjack and to set the loaded area back from the rock face by a minimum of 25 mm.

\* This prevents local failures of the rock during pressurization.



Then the next step after fixing this measuring pin is the cutting of the slot. So, one should be taking enough care to maintain the slot in required direction and perpendicular to the rock face this I have explained and discussed with you couple of times in this class only. So, it is usual to cut the slot deeper than the dimension of the flat jack (refer time: 31:34) and to set the loaded area back from the rock face by a minimum of maybe 25 millimeter.

Why we do this is that this prevents the local failures of the rock when the pressure is applied through the flat jack.

**(Refer Slide Time: 31:57)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Installation and testing

(e) When coring is used → cores should be retained, placed side by side and photographed to record geological features of the test area.

\* In case no cores are available, the character of the rock should be recorded by observation of the rock face or by drilling at a location no closer than two flatjack lengths to the test area.



When the coring is used the cores should be retained, placed side by side, and photographed to record the geological feature of the test area. So, here I have put one of such data. So, this is

how the course should be arranged and placed side by side. In cases where no cores are available, the character of the rock should be recorded by the observation of the rock face or by drilling at a location which is no closer than two flat jack lens in the test area.

**(Refer Slide Time: 32:40)**


**Flat jack test: procedure**

*Installation and testing*

(f) Further sets of displacement readings are to be taken after cutting the slot to record the amount of slot closure and whether closure is instantaneous or time dependent.

(g) The flatjack is inserted fully into the slot and, if necessary, grouted. Care must be taken not to trap pockets of air in the grout.

\* Should this occur → failure of the flatjack is likely or the test results may be unreliable.



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Then further sets of displacement readings are also to be taken after cutting the slot to record the amount of slot closure. When this closure is instantaneous, or it is time dependent that also should be recorded with the help of these set of displacement readings, then this flat jack is inserted fully into the slot, and if it is necessary, it should be grouted, and you should take proper care not to trap pockets of air in the grout in the process of this grouting.

Now, should this occur that is if there is the pockets of air in the grout then in that case failure of the flat jack is likely, or even if the flat jack is not failing, whatever test results that you are getting, these may not be reliable. So, you need to be careful about this aspect while going for the grouting of the flat jack.

**(Refer Slide Time: 33:58)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Installation and testing

(h) After the grout has set, the pressure in the flatjack is increased using pressure increments that are determined from the magnitude of the displacement measurements and the control of the hydraulic pumping system.

\* Pressure increments should allow a minimum of 10 readings for the expected maximum pressure range.



Then the next step is we let the grout set and once it is set, the pressure in the flat jack is increased using the pressure increments that are determined from the magnitude of the displacement measurement and of course, the control of the hydraulic pumping system. So, we apply the pressure, then we measure the displacement, and we see whether it has reached to the original initial separation reading or not. If it is not, then we further apply the pressure to the flat jacks.

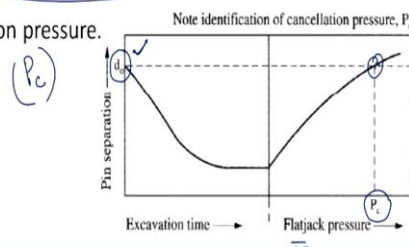
These pressure increments should allow a minimum of 10 readings for the expected maximum pressure range.

**(Refer Slide Time: 34:48)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Installation and testing

(i) Readings of pin separation are to be taken at each pressure increment. Pressure should be increased until the separation of the pins is the same as before the slot was cut. The pressure at which this is achieved, termed the cancellation pressure.



How to handle these readings? So, the readings of the pin separation these are to be taken at each pressure increment. This pressure should be increased until the separation of the pins is same as it was before the slot was cut. So, you see this I also explained earlier. So, in the beginning you had the separation as  $d_0$ . So, upon the excavation of the slot what will happen this separation will get reduced.

Now, you start applying the flat jack pressure. So, once you apply that the walls of the slot, inner wall of the slots they are subjected to pressure. So, they start moving apart again on the influence of the pressure that is exerted by the flat jack, and then continuously corresponding to each pressure increment, we are measuring the pin separation continuously. So, the moment this pin separation it reaches to the original value  $d_0$ .

So, we just take the value of that flat jack pressure, and then we record that this is called as cancellation pressure, and we are representing it as  $p_c$ .

**(Refer Slide Time: 36:14)**


### Flat jack test: procedure


*Calculations*

✓ (a) Recorded hydraulic pressures → to be corrected to give applied slot pressures using the edge effect and pressure gauge calibration factors.

✓ (b) Slot closure and opening values → to be calculated for each pair of pins and for each sawing/pressurization increment by subtracting initial from subsequent readings.

✓ (c) Closure and opening for each pair of pins → to be plotted against applied pressure to determine average cancellation pressure.




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Now, coming to the calculations that means we have conducted the test we have recorded the data. Now how to go ahead as far as calculations are concerned and then how to interpret that what are the state of in situ stress. So, the first one is the recorded hydraulic pressures. These should be corrected to give applied slot pressure using the edge effect and pressure gauge calibration factor.

So, this I discussed with you when we were discussing about the calibration of the flat jacks, then the second one is the slot closure and the opening values. So, these should be calculated



for each pair of pins and for each sawing or pressurization increment by subtracting the initial value from the subsequent reading. This is basically a usual procedure in various pressure versus deformation test, or the test where we get pressure versus deformation characteristics such as simple example is a plate load test. Then the third one is the closure and opening of each pair of pins.

These are to be plotted against applied pressure to determine average cancellation pressure.

**(Refer Slide Time: 37:45)**

**Flat jack test: procedure**

*Calculations*

(d) The stress component acting perpendicular to the plane of the flatjack before cutting the slot may be taken as approximately ( $\pm 5\%$ ) equal to the average cancellation pressure, provided the pin-separation versus pressure curves determined by a series of loading-unloading cycles, do not show noticeable hysteresis.

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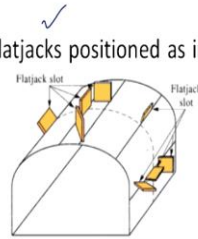
Then finally, we try to calculate the stress component, which are acting perpendicular to the plane of the flat jack, before cutting the slot. This may be taken as approximately equal to the average cancellation pressure of course some error will be involved to the tune of maybe plus minus 5%. Provided the pin separation versus the pressure curve determined by the series of loading and unloading cycles, these do not show noticeable hysteresis.

**(Refer Slide Time: 38:23)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Calculations

(e) The flatjack method of stress determination, with flatjacks positioned as in the figure, results in the determination of the disturbed stress components in the immediate vicinity of the opening.



This information can be extrapolated from the opening outward to the undisturbed virgin stress by application of the theory of elasticity or by numerical modelling techniques.



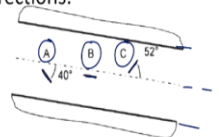
So, this is how we had the flat jack slot, we discussed this. So, in this method of stress determination with flat jack positioned as has been shown in this particular figure. The results in the determination of the determination of the disturbed stress components in the immediate vicinity of the opening. Now, this information can be extrapolated from the opening outward to the undisturbed virgin stress by application of the theory of elasticity or by numerical modeling techniques. So, how this is done, we will take up with the help of an example now only.

**(Refer Slide Time: 39:12)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Sample example

Three flatjack tests have been made close to each other in the wall of a long, straight tunnel, the axis of which dips at  $7^\circ$ . The measurement position is approximately (250 m) below the ground surface and it is assumed that the flatjacks are in the same stress field. The slots for the flatjacks were cut normal to the wall of the tunnel, and were oriented relative to the tunnel axis as shown. The cancellation pressure for each of the flatjacks A, B and C was 7.56 MPa, 6.72 MPa and 7.50 MPa, respectively. Compute the principal stresses and their directions.



So, here is an example. So, please read the statement. We had three flat jack test here which have been made close to each other in the wall of a long straight tunnel. So, you see that it has been shown in the figure long straight tunnel, the axis of which dips at 7 degree.

So, you see, this is the axis of the tunnel, and it is dipping 7 degrees. The measurement position is approximately 250 meter below the ground surface that means the overburden is 250 meter and it is assumed that the flat jacks are in the same stress field. So, the slots for the flat jacks were cut normal to the wall of the tunnel and these were oriented relative to the tunnel axis as shown. So, you can see that how the slots were cut, so you see one is 52-degree, 40 degree, and other one is parallel to the tunnel axis, but then all were cut normal to the wall of the tunnel. The cancellation pressure for each of the flat jack A, B, C.

So, you see these are the three flat jacks A, B, and C that was 7.56, 6.72, and 7.5 MegaPascal respectively. So, all we need to do is to compute the principal stresses and their directions. So, let us take a look that how by using the theory of elasticity, we can perform this analysis.

**(Refer Slide Time: 40:52)**


### Flat jack test: procedure


Sample example: solution

\* Use of stress transformation equation:

$$\sigma'_x = \sigma_x \cos^2 \theta + \sigma_y \sin^2 \theta + 2 \tau_{xy} \sin \theta \cos \theta$$

$\sigma_x, \sigma_y$  &  $\tau_{xy} \rightarrow$  global stress components  
&  $\theta \rightarrow$  angle between global x-axis & direction of stress in question!




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So, we use these stress transformation equations which are like this:

$$\sigma'_x = \sigma_x \cos^2 \theta + \sigma_y \sin^2 \theta + 2\tau_{xy} \sin \theta \cos \theta$$

Now, what are these  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$ , and  $\tau_{xy}$ . These are the global stress components, and theta is the angle between the global x-axis and the direction of the stress in question.


**(Refer Slide Time: 42:05)**

### Flat jack test: procedure

Sample example: solution

Taking axes as -


orientation → +ve anticlockwise measure from x-axis, following dip



angles are -

$$\beta_{\text{tunnel}} = -7^\circ, \beta_A = -40^\circ + \beta_{\text{tunnel}} = -47^\circ$$

$$\beta_B = 0^\circ + \beta_{\text{tunnel}} = -7^\circ$$

$$\beta_C = 52^\circ + \beta_{\text{tunnel}} = 45^\circ$$


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So, let us take the axis as in this figure. So, taking our axis as here, we will take this as maybe the x-axis and y-axis, and this direction we are taking this as plus theta, and the orientation as I showed this is in the anti-clockwise direction. So, orientation they are positive anti-clockwise measure from x-axis. So, if we do this, we will have the dip angles are going to be  $\beta$  for the tunnel is going to be  $-7$  degree.

And we will have here  $\beta_A$  which is equal to  $-40$  degree +  $\beta_{\text{tunnel}}$  that is going to be then  $-47$  degree, and we have  $\beta$  for flat jack positioned at point B that is going to be  $0$  degree +  $\beta$  for the tunnel that is going to be  $-7$  degree, and finally we have  $\beta_C$  that is going to be  $52$  degree +  $\beta_{\text{tunnel}}$  and that is going to be your  $52 - 7$ ; so that is going to be  $45$  degree.

So, this is how we can find out the dip angles for tunnel and the flat jack which are installed at locations A, B, and C which was shown in this particular figure. So, you see we are taking anti-clockwise from the x-direction we are taking anti-clockwise positive as theta. So, accordingly we are calculating the dip here at this particular step.

**(Refer Slide Time: 44:46)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Sample example: solution

- Because each flatjack measures the normal stress component perpendicular to the flatjack, 90° will be added to each of these directions to obtain the direction of normal stress on each jack.

- Magnitude and direction of normal stress on each jack -

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Jack A} \quad \sigma_A = 7.53 \text{ MPa}, \quad \theta_A = \beta_A + 90^\circ = 43^\circ \\ \text{Jack B} \quad \sigma_B = 6.72 \text{ MPa}, \quad \theta_B = \beta_B + 90^\circ = 83^\circ \\ \text{Jack C} \quad \sigma_C = 7.50 \text{ MPa}, \quad \theta_C = \beta_C + 90^\circ = 135^\circ \end{array}$$



Now because each flat jack it measures the normal stress component perpendicular to the flat jack, we need to add 90 degree to each of these directions to obtain the normal or to obtain the direction of the normal stress on each jack and therefore the magnitude and the direction of the normal stress on each jack is going to be say first I write for jack A this is going to be  $\sigma_A$  which is 7.56 MPa with the theta A to be equal to  $\beta_A + 90$  degree.

So, this is going to be 43 degree, and then we have jack B with the  $\sigma_B$  as 6.72 MegaPascal, and theta B will be equal to  $\beta_B + 90$  degree, and that is going to be 83 degree, and finally for jack C  $\sigma_C = 7.5$  MegaPascal and theta c will be  $\beta_C + 90$  degree, and this will come out to be 135 degree. So, this  $\sigma_A$ ,  $\sigma_B$ , and  $\sigma_C$ ; they were provided in the question itself or these are obtained from the results of the flat jack test.

And we already got  $\beta_A$ ,  $\beta_B$ , and  $\beta_C$  in the previous slide. So, therefore we can obtain theta A, theta B, and theta C in this particular manner.

**(Refer Slide Time: 46:39)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Sample example: solution

- Assembling the stress transformation equation for all three jacks into matrix form provides -

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_A \\ \sigma_B \\ \sigma_C \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos^2 \theta_A & \sin^2 \theta_A & 2 \sin \theta_A \cos \theta_A \\ \cos^2 \theta_B & \sin^2 \theta_B & 2 \sin \theta_B \cos \theta_B \\ \cos^2 \theta_C & \sin^2 \theta_C & 2 \sin \theta_C \cos \theta_C \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \tau_{xy} \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{Jack}} = R \sigma_{\text{global}}$$



Now, if we just assemble the stress transformation equation for all the three jacks and if we write it into the matrix form this is what that we will get. So, here we will have the jack stress vector that is:

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_A \\ \sigma_B \\ \sigma_C \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos^2 \theta_A & \sin^2 \theta_A & 2 \sin \theta_A \cos \theta_A \\ \cos^2 \theta_B & \sin^2 \theta_B & 2 \sin \theta_B \cos \theta_B \\ \cos^2 \theta_C & \sin^2 \theta_C & 2 \sin \theta_C \cos \theta_C \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \tau_{xy} \end{Bmatrix}$$

So, this will complete this particular matrix, and then here we will have the global stress vector which is  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$  and  $\tau_{xy}$  or we can write it as sigma jack is equal to the matrix R and multiplied by sigma global. Now, if you just substitute the values of  $\sigma_A$ ,  $\sigma_B$ , and  $\sigma_C$  that I told you just in the previous slide and also for theta A, theta B, and theta C in all these expressions.

**(Refer Slide Time: 48:23)**

## Flat jack test: procedure

### Sample example: solution

$$\begin{Bmatrix} 7.56 \\ 6.72 \\ 7.50 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.535 & 0.465 & 0.998 \\ 0.015 & 0.985 & 0.242 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 & -1.0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \tau_{xy} \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Inverting} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{global}} = R^{-1} \sigma_{\text{Jack}}$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \tau_{xy} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.093 & -0.952 & 0.860 \\ -0.134 & 1.021 & 0.113 \\ 0.479 & 0.034 & -0.574 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} 7.56 \\ 6.72 \\ 7.50 \end{Bmatrix}$$



We will get the numerical values such as here, this is going to be 7.56, 6.72, and then 7.50. This is equal to 0.535, 0.465, 0.998, 0.015, 0.985, and 0.242 then 0.5, 0.5, and  $-1.0$  then, this multiplied by this sigma vector  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$  and  $\tau_{xy}$ . Now, if we invert this equation which is written in the matrix form what we get is  $\sigma_{\text{global}}$  as R inverse  $\sigma_{\text{jack}}$ . So, we need to find out the inverse of this matrix.

This is going to be  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$  and then  $\tau_{xy}$  that is equal to  $1.093 - 0.952$ ,  $0.860 - 0.134$ ,  $1.021$ , and  $0.113$ ,  $0.479$ ,  $0.034 - 0.514$ . This should be multiplied by the stress vector 7.56, 6.72, and then 7.50. So, this is how that we are going to obtain our inverse, and this equation can be written in this particular manner.

**(Refer Slide Time: 50:39)**

**Flat jack test: procedure**

Sample example: solution

$\therefore \sigma_{\text{global}} = \begin{Bmatrix} 8.31 \\ 6.70 \\ 0.0 \end{Bmatrix} \text{ MPa}$

Here,  $\sigma_x$  &  $\sigma_y \rightarrow$  principal stresses as  $\tau_{xy} = 0.0$

Principal stresses  $\rightarrow$  horizontal & vertical  $\Rightarrow$  reasonable result !!

Horizontal stress,  $\sigma_x >$  Vertical stress,  $\sigma_y$

Usually the situation !!

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Now, we can find out by multiplying this matrix with the stress vector. So, we get sigma global as 8.31, 6.70, then 0.0 units are going to be MegaPascal. Now you see here this  $\tau_{xy}$  coming out to be equal to 0. So, what does this mean that the stresses  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$ ; they are going to be the principal stresses.

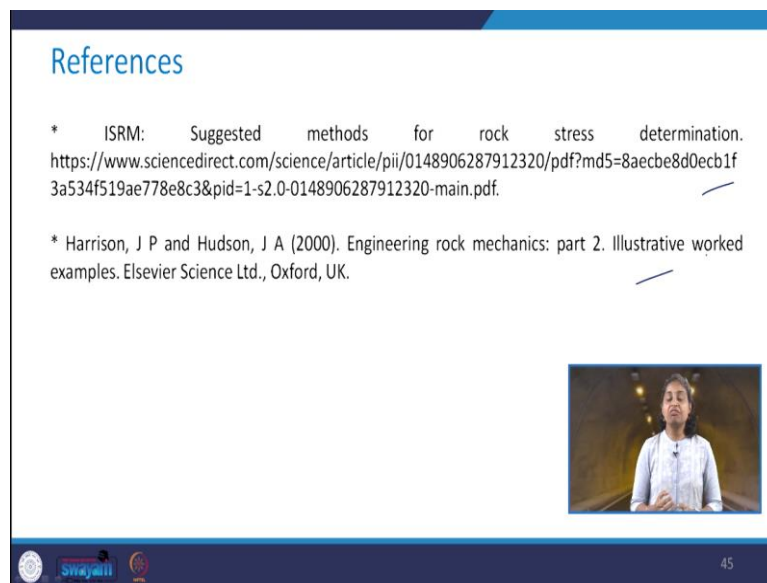
So, here what we got is that  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$ . They are going to be the principal stresses reason being that  $\tau_{xy}$  working out to be equal to 0. So, these principal stresses these are horizontal and vertical. Why? Do you remember the axis that we took this was x-axis and this was y-axis and some of these is reasonable result, and here you see this is the  $\sigma_x$  8.31, and the  $\sigma_y$  value is 6.70.

So, you see that the horizontal stress is coming out to be more than the vertical stress, that also is quite reasonable because similar situation is there in the field most of the time. So, in this

case, what we have is the horizontal stress which is  $\sigma_x$  is coming out to be more than the vertical stress, which is  $\sigma_y$  which is usually the situation. So, this is how using various steps and analysing the data which we obtain from the flat jack test, we can determine the state of stress, which is global state of stress.

And therefore, this global state of stress gives us the in-situ state of stress in the rock mass. So, this is how we can use the data from the flat jack test.

**(Refer Slide Time: 55:34)**



The slide is titled "References" and contains two citations. The first citation is from ISRM, titled "Suggested methods for rock stress determination," with a URL to a ScienceDirect article. The second citation is from Harrison, J P and Hudson, J A (2000), titled "Engineering rock mechanics: part 2. Illustrative worked examples," published by Elsevier Science Ltd., Oxford, UK. In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is a small video inset showing a woman speaking. The slide footer includes the Swajati logo and the number 45.

References

- \* ISRM: Suggested methods for rock stress determination. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0148906287912320/pdf?md5=8aecbe8d0ecb1f3a534f519ae778e8c3&pid=1-s2.0-0148906287912320-main.pdf>
- \* Harrison, J P and Hudson, J A (2000). Engineering rock mechanics: part 2. Illustrative worked examples. Elsevier Science Ltd., Oxford, UK.

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So, these are the references that I used to explain you this flat jack test. So, today we discussed about one test that is flat jack test for the determination of in-situ state of stress. There are other methods, such as hydraulic fracturing method. So, in the next class, we will discuss about this hydraulic fracturing test. Thank you very much.