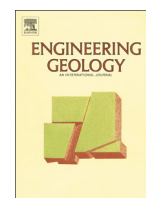


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The development and application of the alteration strength index equation

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ABSTRACT

We have developed an alteration strength index (ASI) equation to address the effect of hydrothermal alteration on mechanical rock properties. This equation can be used to estimate a range of rock strengths, comparable to uniaxial compressive strength (UCS), based on rapid analysis of mineralogy and microstructure. We used rock samples from three geothermal fields in the Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ) to represent a range of alteration types. These are sedimentary, intrusive and extrusive rocks, typical of geothermal systems, from shallow and deep boreholes (72 measured Depth (mD) to 3280 mD). The parameters used in ASI were selected based on literature relating these aspects of mineralogy and microstructure to rock strength. The parameters in ASI define the geological characteristics of the rock, such as proportions of primary and secondary mineralogy, individual mineral hardness, porosity and fracture number. We calibrated the ASI against measured UCS for our samples from the TVZ to produce a strong correlation (R^2 of 0.86), and from this correlation we were able to derive an equation to convert ASI to UCS. Because the ASI–UCS relationship is based on an empirical fit, the UCS value that is obtained from conversion of the ASI includes an error of 7 MPa for the 50th percentile and 25 MPa for the 90th percentile with a mean error of 11 MPa. A sensitivity analysis showed that the mineralogy parameter is the dominant characteristic in this equation, and the ASI equation using only mineralogy can be used to provide an estimated UCS range, although the error (or uncertainty) becomes greater. This provides the ability to estimate strength even when either fracture or porosity information are not available, for example in the case of logging drill cuttings. This research has also allowed us to provide ranges of rock strengths based solely on the alteration zones, mineralogy, and depth of lithologies found in a typical geothermal field that can be used to update conceptual models of geothermal fields.

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1. Introduction

Rock strength is necessary for geothermal reservoir development, management and prospect evaluation because it controls rock behaviour during drilling, stimulation and resource extraction. Tools that predict rock properties are critical because there are usually limited or no borehole-based rock property data (Gunsallus and Kulhawy, 1984; Edlmann et al., 1998; Ameen and Smart, 2009). Relationships between strength and porosity, density or mineralogy for a specific rock formation have been widely developed based on laboratory tests on rock core from a given field or lithology (Chang et al., 2006; Tamrakar et al., 2007; Rigopoulos et al., 2010; Singh et al., 2012; Karakul and Ulusay, 2013). These relationships, however, were developed using mainly sedimentary, granitic and metamorphic rock samples and cannot be applied ubiquitously to all lithologies, especially hydrothermally altered volcanic rocks. Only recently have studies investigated the physical and mechanical properties of volcanic rocks (Ladygin et al., 2000; Frolova et al.,

2005; Vinciguerra et al., 2005; Smith et al., 2009; Frolova et al., 2010; Nara et al., 2011; Pola et al., 2012; Heap et al., 2014a; Pola et al., 2014; Wyring et al., 2014; Heap et al., 2015) with reference to how different rock properties impact the strength of the material.

Recovering core to test is expensive and, owing to the fractures in the rocks, recovery can be poor leading to only a limited number of samples tested in a given geothermal field. Therefore, many researchers and industry practitioners apply empirical strength relations to borehole geophysics data or limited laboratory data (Edlmann et al., 1998; Koncagül and Santi, 1999; Dinçer et al., 2004; Entwisle et al., 2005; Çobanoğlu and Çelik, 2008; Binal, 2009). Chang et al. (2006) reviewed thirty-two empirical relationships for sedimentary rocks where physical rock properties were derived from borehole geophysics. Their review made clear that a few of the empirical relationships appeared to work fairly well for some subsets of the rocks studied. Wyring et al., 2012 assessed the applicability of selected empirical equations for predicting uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) for geothermally altered lithologies and found that the correlations between predicted UCS and measured UCS were poor. The downfall of these empirical relationships is that they are only applicable to the particular lithologies being studied, and do not necessarily correlate for all rock types, especially silicic

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volcanic rocks affected by secondary mineralisation. Whilst the equations presented in Chang et al. (2006) may be useful to a practitioner in the geothermal industry as a first order approximation, they are focused on sedimentary rocks with no high-temperature secondary mineralisation and therefore have limited utility (Yagiz, 2009).

Research has shown that several rock properties (mineral hardness, secondary minerals, microstructural damage that includes the presence of microfractures and pores) can influence the predicted rock strength of material (Tuğrul and Zarif, 1999; Ameen and Smart, 2009; Rigopoulos et al., 2010; Coggan et al., 2013; Heap et al., 2014a). Several petrographic and weathering indices related to chemical, petrological and mechanical properties, have been suggested to identify the impact of alteration on rock properties in different lithologies (Ulusay et al., 1994; Tamrakar et al., 2007; Ceryan et al., 2008; Yildiz et al., 2010; Pola et al., 2012, 2014).

This paper describes the development of a strength prediction equation that can be used to calculate a strength range comparable to UCS using descriptions of hydrothermal alteration, secondary mineralisation, porosity and bulk rock structural damage. The core samples used are sourced from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau geothermal fields from the Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ), New Zealand, allowing the equation to be adapted for geothermal fields located in the TVZ. It encompasses a variety of lithologies that are found in the TVZ and the differing geothermal environments they are exposed to. The equation could be used in other geothermal systems worldwide with similar geothermal conditions or adapted easily to suit. We will show that development of this equation has improved understanding of how alteration mineralogy and physical properties control rock strength. We will demonstrate how a variant of the equation could be used in the field to optimize drilling of geothermal reservoirs through improved drill bit selection.

2. Geothermal setting

The active Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ) is located at the southern end of the Tonga Kermadec arc in the central North Island of New Zealand, in a 300 km long (200 km on land) and 60 km wide belt, defined by caldera

structural boundaries, volcanic vent positions and geothermal systems (Fig. 1: Cole, 1990; Wilson et al., 1995). The >20 geothermal systems in the TVZ, totaling ~4500 MW thermal output (Bibby et al., 1995), are related to magmatic heat generated at depth and shallow crustal structure that provides the permeability necessary for convective transport of hydrothermal fluids (Rowland and Sibson, 2004; Rowland and Simmons, 2012). These circulating fluids become rich in dissolved minerals, as they percolate through the stratigraphy (Henneberger and Browne, 1988) and precipitate minerals in the reservoir rocks producing the secondary mineralisation that are observed when the rocks are drilled and brought to the surface (Goff and Janik, 2000). The rock types we used in this study (described in detail in Wyering et al., 2014) were sourced from shallow formations – Rhyolitic ignimbrite, Rhyolitic lava, and Siltstone/Sandstone – and from deep formations – Rhyolitic ignimbrite, Andesite Lava/Breccia and Tonalite intrusive – from numerous geothermal fields in the TVZ.

3. Data source

All of the data used in this study are sourced from Wyering et al. (2014). They characterized the physical and mechanical properties of lithologies from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau geothermal fields (Fig. 1), using non-destructive and destructive methods to determine porosity, density, ultrasonic wave velocities and uniaxial compressive strength (UCS). The samples were cored to a mean diameter of 39.6 mm and were cut and ground to within the length to diameter ratio of 2:1. Their study examined thin sections using a polarized light microscope, that utilized plane polarized light (PPL) and cross-polarized light (CPL) to identify primary and secondary minerals (that includes but is not limited to clays, quartz, epidote, chlorite, albite and pyrite), microfractures and bulk rock fractures in the lithologies. Although Wyering et al. (2014) did mention the textures of the samples, they were not used in this study because the samples were moderately to intensely altered. The textures within the samples were completely replaced and difficult to distinguish, reducing the ability to use the data.

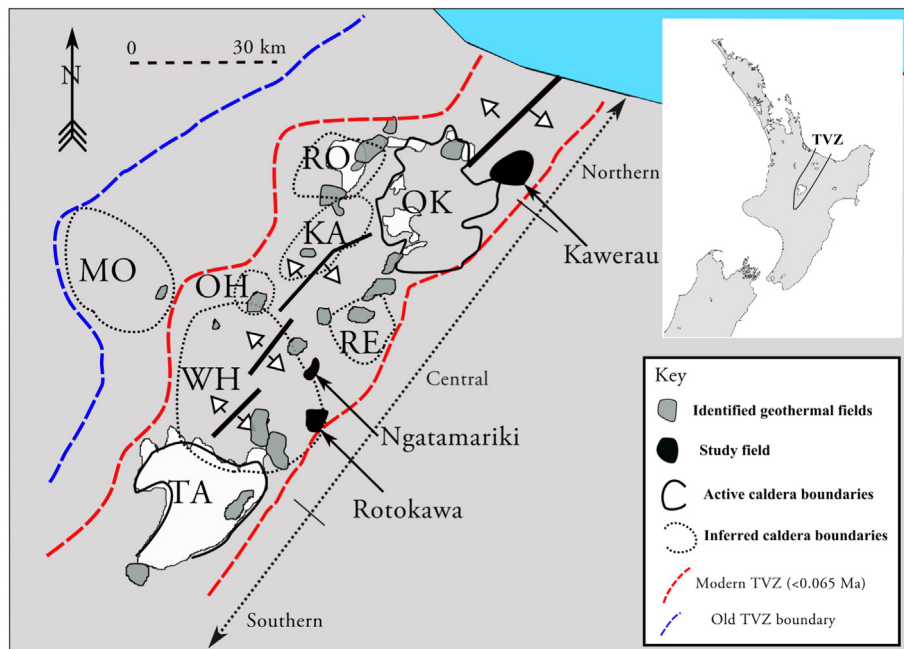


Fig. 1. A map of geothermal activity in the Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ), showing the positions of geothermal systems, the active and inferred caldera boundaries and the Taupo Rift (white lines with arrows). The geothermal fields used in this study are located. Abbreviations are named calderas: KA = Kapenga, MO = Mangakino, OH = Ohakuri, OK = Okataina, RE = Reporoa, RO = Rotorua, TA = Taupo, WH = Whakamaru. The map is split into the main volcanic activity in the TVZ and outlined by the boundary of the young TVZ (<0.34 Ma) (Adapted from Wilson et al., 1995; Bibby et al., 1995; Rowland and Sibson, 2004; Kissling and Weir, 2005; Rowland and Simmons, 2012).

Table 1

The semi-quantitative categories for the primary minerals and the percentages representing the categories.

Category	Representative percentage
Abundant (A)	50
Common (C)	25
Minor (M)	10
Rare (R)	5

For this study we used their connected porosity, (Φ herein referred to as porosity), UCS results, and thin section analysis of the lithologies. Wyering et al. (2014) used the suggested method from the International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM) (Ulusay and Hudson, 2007a) to determine the porosity (as volume %) and density of the hydrothermally altered samples using cylindrical cores. They did not measure total porosity (sum of connected and closed porosity) because its measurement requires grinding the sample into a powder, which is incompatible with further tests, such as UCS. UCS testing was completed using the ISRM suggested methods (Ulusay and Hudson, 2007b) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM, 2010). The samples were tested using a Technotest 3000 kN, servo-controlled loading frame and loaded at a constant stress rate (between 0.02 kN/s to 0.500 kN/s) to ensure failure occurred within 5–10 min. Tokyo Sokki Kenkyujo Co. Ltd. (TML) 20 mm strain gauges with a factor of 2.12 were glued to the samples; two axial and two radial. The samples were tested at ambient laboratory temperature and humidity conditions.

4. Proposed equation – alteration strength index (ASI)

The alteration strength index equation (ASI), developed in this study, is given in Eq. (1). In this section, we introduce the equation and explain the meaning of each of the parameters, and how they relate to each other. The purpose of the equation is to estimate of rock strength based on physical and mineralogical properties, which can be undertaken rapidly in the field. This method does not require establishing the primary lithology of the material to estimate rock strength, but rather focuses on the physical characteristics of the rocks as they are found. We selected the parameters that make up the equation were based on published research that shows which key parameters affect the strength of both hydrothermally altered and unaltered rocks.

$$ASI = (P_m \times (1 - AI) + S_m \times AI) \times (\Phi^{-0.03}) \times \left(1 - \left(\frac{S_{nr}}{25}\right)\right) \quad (1)$$

Where, P_m (primary mineralogy, i.e. minerals associated with the original lithology) and S_m (secondary mineralogy, i.e. minerals associated with alteration processes) are representative values based on the hardness of each mineral present and the relative proportion of each mineral contained in each sample (obtained from thin section or visual examination of samples or drill cuttings). Alteration index (AI) is the percentage of the sample that has changed from the original due to hydrothermal alteration (primary mineral replacement, infilling of fractures and voids), and acts to scale P_m and S_m according to

Table 2

The semi-quantitative categories for the secondary minerals and the percentages representing the categories.

Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Representative percentages of secondary minerals										
Abundant (A)	50										
Common (C)	45	40	35	30	25						
Minor (M)		20	17.5	15	12.5	10	7.5	5			
Rare (R)			5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1

Table 3

Hardness index values assigned to Moh's hardness.

Moh's hardness scale	Hardness index
>7	2.1
7–6	1.7
6–4.5	1.3
4.5–3	0.9
3–2	0.5
<2	0.1

relative percentage alteration. This portion of the equation, the mean mineralogy parameter, accounts for the overall impact of all mineral types on the strength.

Φ is the connected porosity, as a volume %, which is related to both original porosity and changes in porosity due to mass exchange during hydrothermal alteration processes. It is multiplied to the mineralogy portion of the equation in order to have a power law-based impact on the strength estimate, where the higher the porosity, the lower the strength.

To represent the presence of fractures, the fracture index, S_{nr} a number between 0 (no fractures) and 6 (multiple large open fractures), is assigned to each sample. This parameter is multiplied to the mineralogy and porosity portions of the equation to reduce the strength index value based on the severity of fracturing.

4.1. Alteration strength index (ASI) development

4.1.1. Mineralogy (P_m and S_m) and alteration index (AI)

Primary and secondary mineralogy both influence the strength of rocks, where rocks with predominately weak minerals lead to a lower strength compared to rocks containing predominantly strong minerals (Vutukuri et al., 1974; Rigopoulos et al., 2010; Li et al., 2012; Villeneuve et al., 2012). We developed a method for deriving a representative percentage of the primary and secondary minerals to address this. Identifying the exact percentages of minerals in hydrothermally altered samples can be difficult (Stringham, 1952), and identifying alteration mineralogy, including clay, requires complex separation and thorough XRD analysis (Hillier, 2000), which are not suitable for rapid, field application. Consequently, the mineral analysis in our study was completed using modal percentage estimates from thin sections.

To determine the modal percentages of the primary and secondary minerals the primary and secondary minerals need to be identified. The identified minerals are then assigned representative modal percentages. The primary mineralogy is accounted for by assigning a semi-quantitative category: abundant (A), common (C), minor (M) and rare (R), related to abundance in thin section. A representative

Table 4

An example of how to determine the primary and secondary values of the mineralogy parameter that is multiplied by the alteration index (AI). The assigned percentage is multiplied by the hardness index and added together to produce the resulting P_m and S_m values.

Category	Mineral	Assigned percentage	Hardness index
<i>Primary mineral (P_m)</i>			
A	Plagioclase	25	1.7
M	Quartz	10	2.1
$P_m = 35.7$			
<i>Secondary mineral (S_m)</i>			
A	Quartz	50	2.1
C	Calcite	40	0.9
C	Epidote	35	1.7
R	Chlorite	4.5	0.5
$S_m = 202.75$			

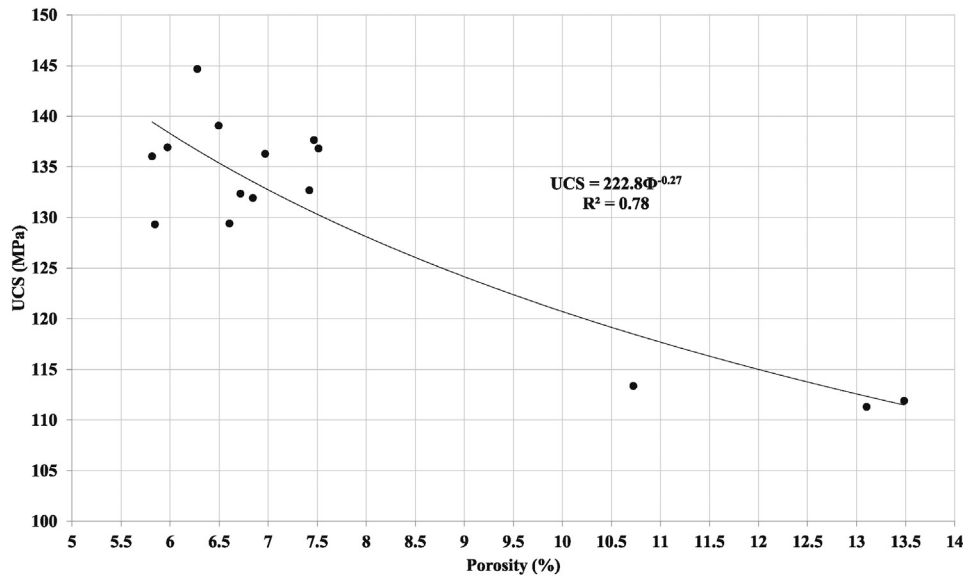


Fig. 2. Relationship between uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) and porosity for the Rotokawa andesite samples.

percentage of 50, 25, 10, 5, respectively, is assigned to each semi-quantitative category (Table 1).

This is repeated for the secondary minerals; however, due to the abundance and variety of the secondary minerals typically found in hydrothermally altered rocks, the semi-quantitative categories are additionally ranked between 1 and the total number of secondary minerals within each category (Table 2). This allows for samples with multiple minerals that are abundant, common, minor or rare. Table 2 illustrates the representative percentages of the secondary minerals based on this ranking. If a sample has chlorite as a common (C) mineral, but it is the 3rd most common mineral, it would be assigned a representative value of 35.

Vutukuri et al. (1974) reported that there is a positive relationship between the hardness of minerals present in the rock and rock strength. We, therefore, used hardness as a proxy for mineral strength to estimate the aggregate strength of a sample. To determine whether a mineral is to be classified as soft or hard in the ASI equation, we took minerals with Moh's hardness less than 5 to be soft and minerals with Moh's hardness greater than 5 to be hard, as described in Broz et al. (2006) and Whitney et al. (2007). The minerals were assigned hardness index values from 0.1–2.1. Soft minerals were assigned hardness index value less than 1 (0.1–0.9) because their presence tends to 'weaken' the rock, while hard minerals were assigned hardness index value greater than 1 (1.3–2.1) because their presence tends to 'strengthen' the rock (Table 3).

The hardness index parameter for a mineral in a sample is multiplied by its representative percentage value to obtain P_m and S_m for primary and secondary minerals, respectively (See Table 4 for a worked example). The result is that an abundant mineral has a greater influence on the whole rock strength estimate than a mineral with low abundance. The approximate proportion of primary versus secondary mineralogy is estimated, and this produces the alteration index (AI), e.g. a value of 50 represents a sample with half primary and half secondary minerals. The summed mineralogical influences for primary and secondary minerals are then weighted using the AI value to conclude the mean mineralogy parameter portion of the ASI equation.

Future studies could make use of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in the form of Quemsan or robust analysis of Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (EDS) maps and spectra alongside optical petrology to assist in quantifying the mineralogy percentages in a research environment; however as mentioned previously this is unlikely to be feasible to carry out in-field for real-time analysis.

4.2. Porosity (Φ)

Igneous rocks can be intrusive – made primarily of interlocking crystals, extrusive – composed of phenocrysts and groundmass (which may be microcrystalline or contain glass), or pyroclastic – composed of grains of crystals, glass, and rock that are cemented or welded together. Porosity in rocks is fundamentally controlled by the efficiency and extent of outgassing of the magma. The porosity is present as bubbles (in magma) and can be preserved as vesicles (in volcanic rock) (Dobson et al., 2003; Shea et al., 2010; Heap et al., 2014b). As alteration occurs the porosity within a sample can increase or decrease through mass transfer with dissolution and precipitation of minerals as the fluids permeate through the rocks, thereby creating or infilling voids (Ferry, 1979; Giggenbach, 1984; Henneberger and Browne, 1988; Reyes, 1990; Simmons and Browne, 2000; Esmaily et al., 2012). The pore structure is dependent on numerous factors such that the porosity within a rock can vary greatly (Hudyma et al., 2004; Heap et al., 2014b). Porosity is an important factor in rock strength, because voids reduce the integrity of the material and, as indicated by the ISRM (Ulusay and Hudson, 2007a), even a small volume of pores can have a noticeable mechanical effect (Sammis and Ashby, 1986; Fakhimi and Gharahbagh, 2011; Heap et al., 2014a, 2014b). Pores reduce stiffness and strength due to stress concentration on the boundary of the pores. Additionally, the pores

Table 5

Values assigned to the samples based on the fractures seen in thin section and on the bulk rocks.

Fracture value (S_{nf})	Fracture type	Fracture size
0	No fractures in sample	–
1	Microfractures seen in thin section	Narrow fractures in thin section
2	Small fracture – closed	1 fracture <1 mm in width, <10 mm in length and fracture remains closed
3	Small fracture – open	1 fracture <1 mm in width, <10 mm in length and fracture remains opened
4	Large fracture – closed	1 fracture > 1 mm in width, >10 mm in length and fracture remains closed
5	Large fracture – open	1 fracture > 1 mm in width, >10 mm in length and fracture remains open
6	Multiple large fractures – closed/open	2 or more fractures >1 mm in width, >10 mm in length

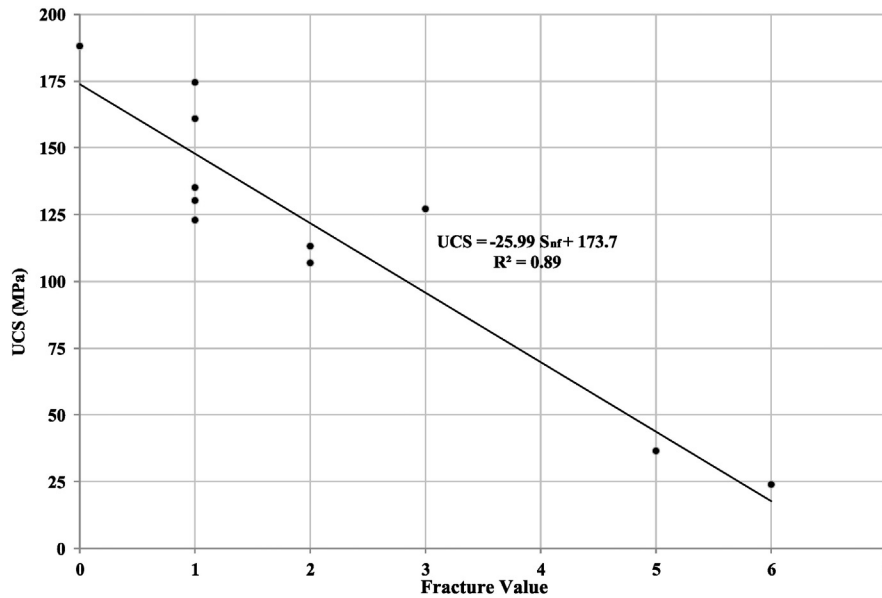


Fig. 3. Relationship between uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) and fracture values for the Ngatamariki andesite samples.

may be filled with fluids, which may help in crack propagation under compression due to the incompressibility of the fluids, leading to an increase in stress concentrations at pore boundaries as the fluid is trying to escape (Price, 1960; Lama and Vutukuri, 1978; Luping, 1986; Baud et al., 2000, 2009; Brantut et al., 2013).

The measurement of porosity likely includes the presence of pre-existing, open fractures, because the saturation fluid is able to infiltrate these fractures during saturation. In our equation, the fracture index (S_{nf}) accounts explicitly for the high potential for failure along pre-existing, but closed or incipient, fractures, that have less proportional influence on the measurement of porosity than pores, due to their smaller void volume (Mueller et al., 2005). In Wyring et al., 2014, samples with open fractures tended to break during sample preparation and thus tended to be excluded from the data set.

To isolate the impact of porosity on UCS we used the Rotokawa andesite samples (Siratovich et al., 2014; Wyring et al., 2014), which have similar mineralogy and fracture characteristics (fracture index values of 0–1) with each other. We found that gaps in the data made the decision between power, log or linear trends between the porosity and UCS in our data difficult. We selected an inverse power relationship because many authors have reported an inverse power correlation for a variety of rock types (Lama and Vutukuri, 1978; Palchik, 1999; Begonha and Sequeira Braga, 2002; Li and Aubertin, 2003; Sousa et al., 2005; Chang et al., 2006; Heap et al., 2014b). We have used the resulting inverse power correlation (Fig. 2), with the power constant -0.13 , in the ASI equation based on this analysis.

4.3. Fracture index (S_{nf})

Some of the core used in the Wyring et al., 2014 study contained pre-existing fractures and veins, making preparation difficult. There are three types of fractures possible in a rock: intergranular – occur between grain, intragranular – occur within a grain, and transgranular – affect more than one grain (Sousa et al., 2005). The majority of the pre-existing fractures in the samples used for this study are transgranular. Micro- and macrofractures, whether pre-existing or induced during testing, coalesce during uniaxial compression ultimately leading to failure of the sample (Bieniawski, 1967; Bieniawski et al., 1969). Samples that contain pre-existing fractures require less energy to propagate the fractures, resulting in lower peak strength values in these samples (Walsh, 1961; Martin, 1997; Siratovich et al., 2014).

Studies investigating the impact of controlled microstructural damage in rocks found that peak strength is sensitive to the amount of induced damage, resulting in lower peak strengths (Martin, 1997; Heap et al., 2015). Wyring et al., 2014 show the same results for the andesite breccia from Ngatamariki, where 11 out of 29 samples had pre-existing fractures. The samples that contained pre-existing fractures had a mean UCS of 32.4 ± 7.3 MPa and an average porosity of 2.2% (samples NM7-5, 7-8, 7-12), while the remaining samples had a mean strength of 117.5 ± 45.9 MPa and average porosity of 1.6%. To account for this we selected index values for S_{nf} between 0 and 6 for seven different categories of visible macrofractures, in order of severity. Consequently, a large fracture through the bulk sample is assigned a higher value than a sample that has evidence of many thin short microfractures in thin section (Table 5).

To isolate the impact of pre-existing fractures on UCS we used a subset of the Ngatamariki andesite breccia samples that had similar primary and secondary mineralogy and porosity (ranging from 1.4–2.3%). The relationship between UCS and fractures is linear and negative (Fig. 3), and we derived the formulation $(1 - S_{nf}/25)$ used in the ASI equation from this fit. This formulation results in no impact if there are no fractures ($S_{nf} = 0$), and greater strength reduction as the severity of fractures increases ($S_{nf} = 1$ to 6). The constant $1/25$ scales the 0–6 range for S_{nf} based on the results from the andesite breccia.

To allow for the use of the fracture parameter if only drill cutting are available, the veining abundance could be used as a substitute. Fractures in geological systems are important conduits for fluid flow (Wangen and Munz, 2004; Rawal and Ghassemi, 2010). Ion rich hydrothermal fluids travel through fractures, textures and faults depositing secondary minerals creating veins. We assume that veining corresponds to fractures to use veining as a basis for fracture estimating. The veining abundance substitute values are displayed in Table 6. We have used fractures from core to produce the values in this study; however, this can be difficult if the drill cuttings are small.

Table 6
Fracture parameter substitute for the drill cuttings.

Veining abundance	S_{nf}
No veins in samples (R)	0
Micro veins (M)	1
Small veins in the cuttings <1 mm (C)	2
Large veins in the cuttings >1 mm (A)	4

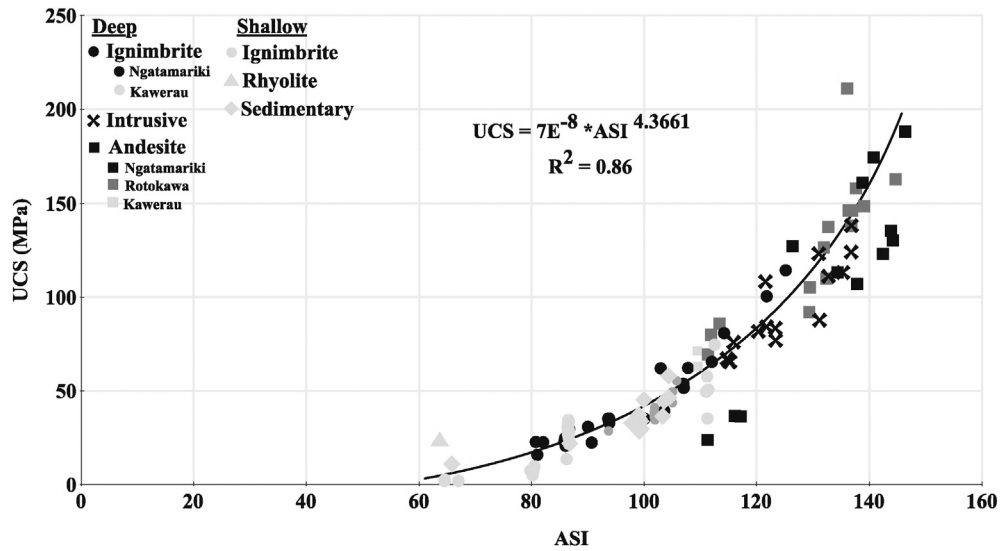


Fig. 4. Relationship between alteration strength index (ASI) and uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) showing a power relationship.

5. Discussion

The ASI equation has been developed as a tool to rapidly estimate the range of strengths for a hydrothermally altered rock based on its present geological characteristics using data collection techniques currently used in field mapping and drilling exploration. In principle, original lithology and texture will likely affect rock strength, but the process for interpreting original lithology and texture do not lend themselves to rapid strength estimation. We have devised the ASI to use rock characteristics that are easily observed and quantified in the field, irrespective of its original lithology, and to relate them to laboratory strength values, such as UCS.

Wyering et al., 2014 prepared the samples used to devise this equation for UCS testing according to internationally recognized standards (ISRM/ASTM). The presence of fractures influences the tested rock strength (Fig. 3), which, according to ISRM and ASTM standards would result in “invalid” tests. These fractures will impact drilling performance, thus the need to include fractures to derive strength estimates applicable to drilling. We have devised the Snf parameter to

allow the ASI equation to provide ranges of strength for different formations and lithologies based on different rock conditions/properties, including pre-existing fractures. Values used to calculate ASI from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau Geothermal fields are in Appendix A Table A.1. The correlation of ASI to measured UCS (Fig. 4) shows a clear trend (r^2 of 0.86) – such that the ASI can be used to predict the UCS rock strength. To convert the ASI value to UCS Eq. (2) can be used. Our dataset does not include samples with ASI values below 60, however rocks with such low ASI could be encountered, for example if samples have extremely high porosity. According to Fig. 4 and Eq. (2), however, the strength would be so low as to barely be classified as rocks. The UCS results from both laboratory tests and estimated from ASI are in Appendix A, Table A.2.

$$UCS = 7 \times 10^{-8} \times ASI^{4.3661} \tag{2}$$

The empirical fit on which Eq. (2) is based contains variability and the UCS calculated from the ASI should always be quoted with a range of error. This will allow for the range to cover natural variations in the

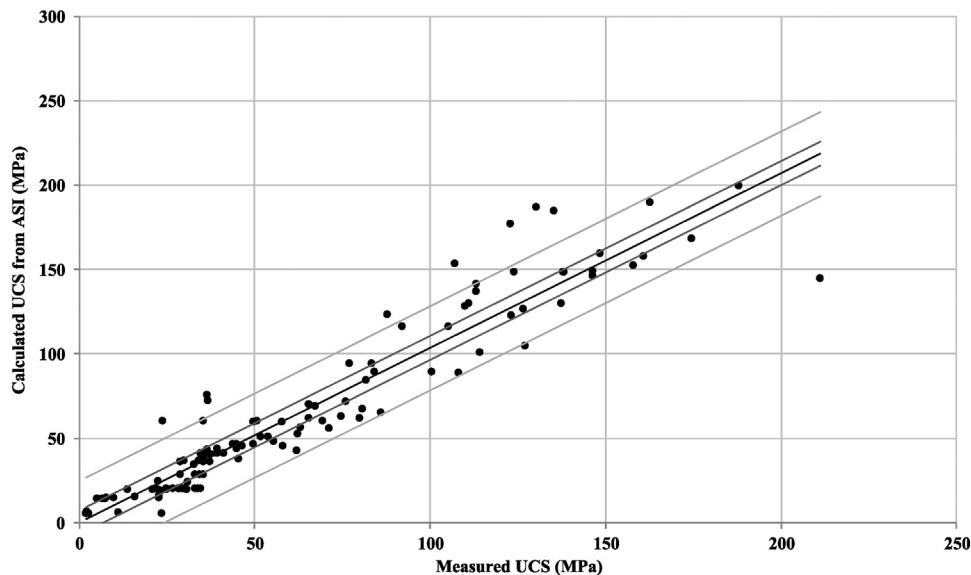


Fig. 5. Relationship between the calculated UCS derived from ASI and measured uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) with the absolute error ranges – 50th (dark grey lines) and 90th percentile (light grey lines).

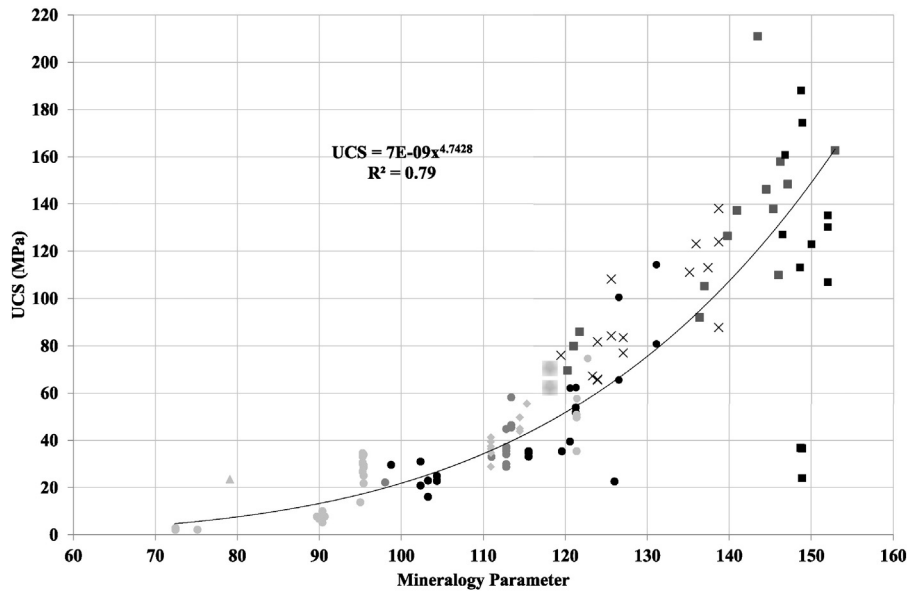


Fig. 6. Relationship between uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) and the mineralogy parameter from the three geothermal fields showing a power relationship. The change in colour represents the different geothermal fields (Kawerau is light grey, Ngatamariki is black and Rotokawa is dark grey). The different shapes represent the different lithologies – andesite (square), ignimbrite (circles), intrusive (crosses), sedimentary (diamonds) and rhyolite (triangles).

rock and error arising from visual examinations of mineral abundance. The 50th and 90th percentile absolute error ranges for this dataset are ± 7 MPa and ± 25 MPa respectively, with a mean error of ± 11 MPa. This error value could be used to represent this variability. Fig. 5 shows a plot of calculated UCS from ASI against measured UCS from testing and also shows the position of these 50th and 90th percentile error ranges.

5.1. Modified alteration strength index (mASI)

To explore the potential for a modified ASI, based on fewer input parameters, we plotted each parameter in the ASI equation against UCS to examine its overall influence on the result (Figs. 6–8). Fig. 6 illustrates the strong relationship observed between the mineralogy parameter and the measured UCS.

The mineralogy aspects of the Rotokawa andesite and Kawerau andesite (order of the top three secondary minerals and alteration

intensity, with calculated mean mineralogy parameter) and measured UCS are shown in Table 7. The order of abundance of the main minerals namely quartz and chlorite, demonstrates how the abundance and hardness of minerals would cause an increase or decrease in the mean mineralogical parameter. The comparison to UCS shows that the mean mineralogy parameter alone indicates that the Rotokawa andesite is stronger than the Kawerau andesite.

The mean mineralogy parameter with either the fracture parameter or the porosity parameter versus measured UCS (Figs. 7 and 8, respectively) show weaker correlations than the complete ASI correlation (Fig. 3). The deep ignimbrites from Ngatamariki have clusters with similar mineralogy (black circles, Fig. 6), however when the fracture parameter, which spans the full range (0–6) (Fig. 7) or the porosities (3%–20%) (Fig. 8) are taken into account, the points no longer cluster and are well spread along the data trendline.

These observations show that the mean mineralogy parameter is the dominant characteristic in the ASI equation; however, the inclusion of

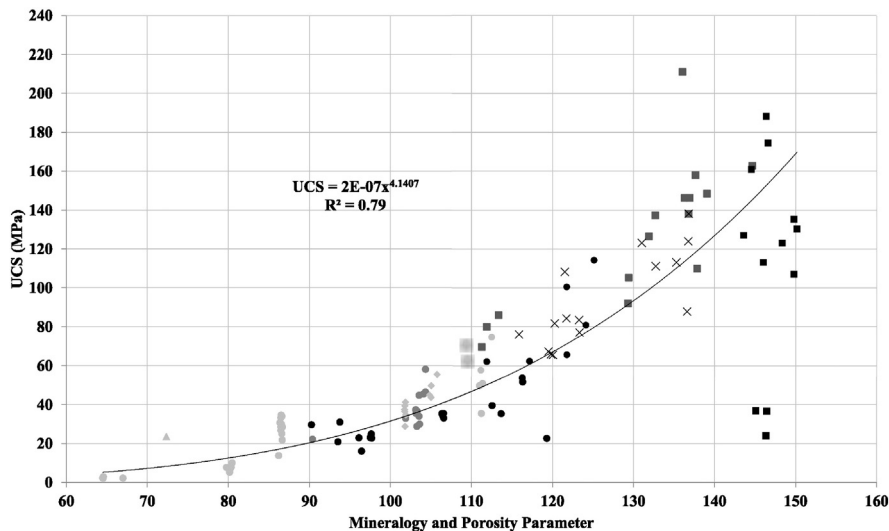


Fig. 7. Relationship between uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) and the mineralogy and fracture parameters from the three geothermal fields showing a power relationship. The change in colour represents the different geothermal fields (Kawerau is light grey, Ngatamariki is black and Rotokawa is dark grey). The different shapes represent the different lithologies – andesite (square), ignimbrite (circles), intrusive (crosses), sedimentary (diamonds) and rhyolite (triangles).

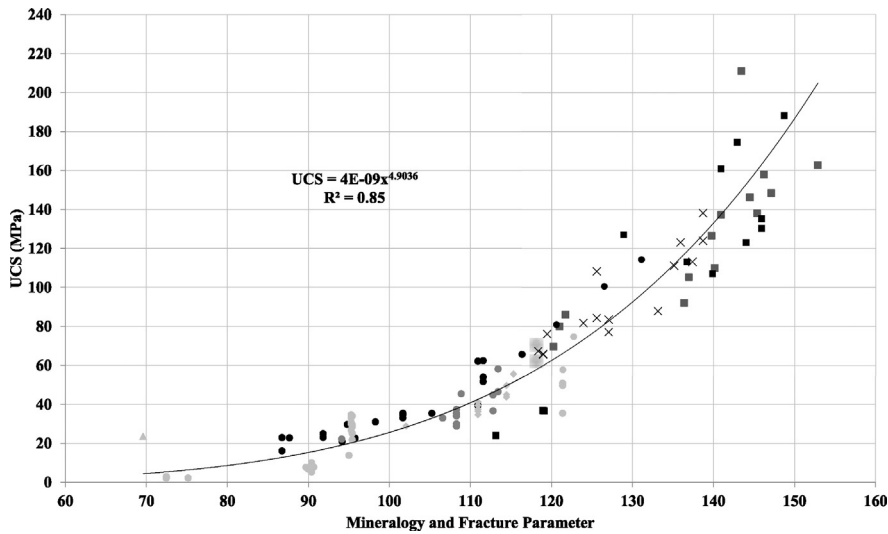


Fig. 8. Relationship between uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) and the mineralogy and porosity parameters combined from the three geothermal fields showing a power relationship. The change in colour represents the different geothermal fields (Kawerau is light grey, Ngatamariki is black and Rotokawa is dark grey). The different shapes represent the different lithologies – andesite (square), ignimbrite (circles), intrusive (crosses), sedimentary (diamonds) and rhyolite (triangles).

the effects of porosity and fractures leads to a stronger relationship with UCS (Fig. 4). The best way to use ASI is in its original form, however if porosity or pre-existing fracture or veining data are unavailable, good predictions of UCS are still possible. For example when using drill cuttings, if porosity and fracture data are not available the mASI equation using the mean mineralogy parameter alone can be used (r^2 of 0.79) (Fig. 6). The 50th and 90th percentile absolute error ranges for this dataset are ± 9 MPa and ± 44 MPa respectively, with a mean error of ± 18 MPa. The fracture parameter shows a much greater improvement of the fit of the mASI (r^2 of 0.85) (Fig. 7) than the porosity data (r^2 of 0.79) (Fig. 8). The 50th and 90th percentile absolute error ranges for this dataset are ± 8 MPa and ± 24 MPa respectively, with a mean error of ± 11 MPa. Although the difference between mASI with only the mean mineralogy parameter and mASI with mean mineralogy parameter and porosity is negligible in terms of r^2 , it is worth noting that the presence of the porosity parameter in ASI leads to a slight improvement in the correlation between measured UCS and ASI (r^2 of 0.86) (Fig. 4) over mASI with mean mineralogy parameter and fracture parameter only. When using the mASI it is necessary to be aware of the reduction in accuracy of the prediction of UCS, as reflected in the wider error ranges. The mASI could be used to give a first estimate of the rock strength from drill cuttings. When possible thin section can be made of the cuttings and analysed in further detail on site with the correct equipment. The additional effort will provide additional confidence in the results through better mineralogy and fracture/veining abundance observations.

5.2. Predictive capabilities

It is important to understand how hydrothermal alteration has influenced the rock properties of a lithology in order to make strength-based decisions for engineering works in geothermal settings. For example, predicting strength changes can improve drilling efficiency and help guide drill bit selection. The ASI equation can be used in the lab or in the field to provide a range of strengths. The ASI equation has been

calibrated with hydrothermally altered rocks from three different geothermal fields with diverse primary lithologies from both shallow and deep alteration zones typical of the TVZ and should be suitable for any hydrothermally altered rocks in this area. The samples tested represent a majority of lithologies found in a variety of geothermal fields that are exposed to differing hydrothermal environments. Because the ASI provides ranges of rock strengths it can be used to provide a first-pass estimate for strength for hydrothermally altered rocks in similar environments, although further testing is necessary to determine if the constants require calibration. Therefore, should this equation be used in active or non-active geothermal environments with different lithologies than those tested in this study, a user could test the ASI vs. UCS (Fig. 4) relationship for the new lithologies and modify the equation to suit the new environment. If this is not possible, it should prove a good first-pass for estimating rock strength. Any additional information added to the results will only but improve the reliability of the equation.

This research has also allowed us to provide ranges of rock strengths based solely on the alteration zones, mineralogy, and depth of lithologies found in a typical geothermal field that can be used to update conceptual models of geothermal fields (Fig. 9). This does not include rock softening due to increased temperature from the geothermal gradient (Karfakis, 1985; Kuszniir and Park, 1987; Weinberg and Podladchikov, 1994) or compactant modes of failure for porous rock at depth (Heap et al., 2015). This conceptual model adds an important element to understanding how rock mechanics plays a part in a geothermal system, and can be a fundamental addition to the geothermal industry to support drilling, wellbore stability studies and mechanical modelling.

6. Conclusions

1. We developed the alteration strength index (ASI) equation to predict rock strength based on different geological characteristics, including mineralogy, fractures and porosity for hydrothermally altered rocks. It has been developed so that only the mineralogy, porosity and fracture state are needed to rapidly determine a range of rock strengths

Table 7
The top three minerals, alteration intensity, mean mineralogy parameter and UCS (MPa) of the andesite lithology from Rotokawa and Kawerau.

Lithology	Top three minerals	Alteration intensity	Mean mineralogy parameter	Mean UCS
Rotokawa Andesite	Calcite, quartz and chlorite	70–95%	139.1	127.8
Kawerau Andesite	Calcite, chlorite and quartz	95%	118.13	67.2

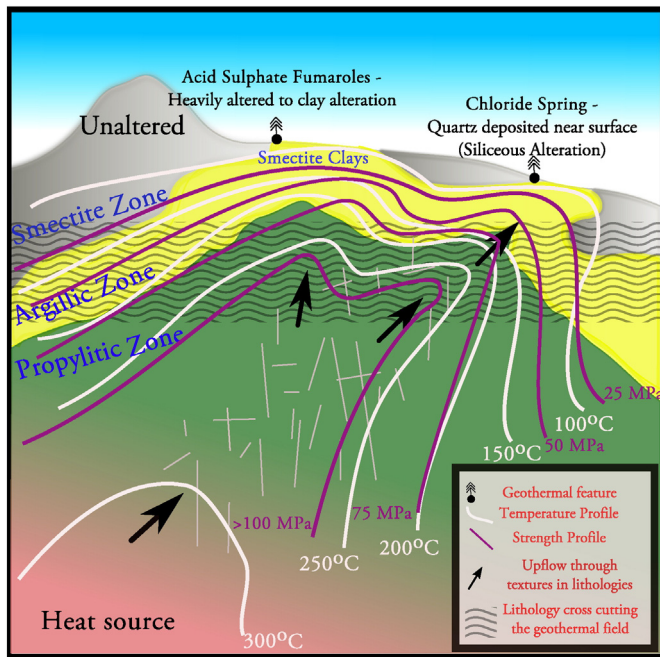


Fig. 9. Conceptual model of a conventional, hot, liquid dominated geothermal field. The model has been split into the alteration zones typical for a geothermal field, with temperature profiles, surface expressions with the addition of strength profiles (adapted from Cumming, 2009).

for any hydrothermally altered rocks, whether in active or non-active geothermal systems.

- To represent a variety of alteration zones and resulting alteration mineralogy, a range of lithologies were tested from core sampled from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau geothermal fields in the Taupo Volcanic Zone. These rocks include shallow and deep formations of extrusive and intrusive rocks that contained large quantities of primary and secondary minerals including but not limited to clays, quartz, calcite, chlorite, albite, pyrite and epidote.
- Our results show a strong relationship between ASI and measured UCS (R^2 of 0.86), and were used to derive an equation to convert ASI to UCS. The 50th and 90th percentile absolute error ranges of this relationship are ± 7 MPa and ± 25 MPa respectively, with a

mean error of ± 11 MPa. These can be used to define ranges of estimated rock strength.

- The mineralogy is the dominant characteristic in this equation, and forms one possible modified ASI (mASI) formulation, however a larger error range is specified for mASI. The inclusion of pre-existing fractures in addition to mineralogy makes the relationship of mASI to UCS stronger. The inclusion of porosity data only shows improvement in correlation to UCS for the ASI is in its original form. This makes our approach functional in a field setting to provide real-time strength estimates during engineering works, such as drilling or excavation, where porosity and pre-existing fractures can be difficult to assess.
- The conceptual model of geothermal systems with alteration zones, temperature profiles and fluid path migration with associated rock strength profiles based on the ASI shown in Fig. 9 adds an important element to understanding how rock mechanics plays a part in a geothermal system. This can form the basis for constructing site-specific (including actual stratigraphy, unit and temperature depths, and structural data) conceptual models, which is a valuable addition to the information needed by the geothermal industry to support drilling optimization, wellbore stability studies and mechanical, structural and hydrogeological modelling.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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Appendix A

Table A.1

Values of the parameters used in the ASI equation for the samples from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau Geothermal fields (Wyering et al., 2014). AI = alteration index, Pm = primary mineralogy, Sm = secondary mineralogy, Snf = fracture factor, Φ = porosity.

	Sample ID	AI	Pm	Sm	Snf	Φ
Shallow formations	G1 Box 13 1-1	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	25.64
	G1 Box 13 1-2	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	25.14
Rhyolitic ignimbrite	G1 Box 13 1-3	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	24.75
	G1 Box 13 2-1	0.85	183.3	79.4	0	25.51
	G1 Box 13 2-2	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	24.79
	G1 Box 13 2-3	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	25.40
	G1 Box 13 2-4	0.85	186.0	79.4	0	26.51
	G1 Box 11 1-1	0.85	183.3	110.5	0	19.80
	G1 Box 11 1-2	0.85	183.3	110.5	0	17.58
	G1 Box 11 1-3	0.85	183.3	110.5	0	18.37
	G1 Box 11 1-4	0.85	183.3	110.5	0	18.79
	G1 Box 11 2	0.85	192.2	110.5	0	18.15
	G1 Box 17 1	0.8	196.7	41.4	0	46.32
	G1 Box 17 2-1	0.8	196.7	44.8	0	46.06
	G1 Box 17 2-2	0.8	196.7	41.4	0	47.48
	G1 Box 17 3	0.8	196.7	41.4	0	46.73
	G1 Box 17 4	0.8	196.7	41.4	0	48.03

Table A.1 (continued)

	Sample ID	Al	Pm	Sm	Snf	Φ
Shallow formations	G2 Box 15 1	0.85	190.0	78.6	0	25.33
Rhyolitic ignimbrite	G2 Box 15 2-1	0.85	190.0	78.6	0	25.28
	G2 Box 15 2-2	0.85	190.0	78.6	0	24.97
	G2 Box 15 3	0.85	190.0	78.6	0	26.29
	G2 Box 15 4	0.85	190.0	78.6	0	24.88
	G2 1-1	0.95	210.0	84.1	0	54.66
	G2 1-2	0.95	210.0	84.4	0	56.56
	G2 1-3	0.95	196.7	84.4	0	47.00
	G2 2-1	0.95	196.7	84.1	0	50.15
	G2 2-2	0.95	210.0	84.1	0	47.91
Rhyolitic lava	KAM 11	0.95	190.0	73.3	3	19.54
Siltstone/Sandstone	KA30 1-1	0.8	206.4	90.2	1	17.40
	KA30 1-2	0.8	203.3	90.2	1	16.99
	KA30 2-1	0.8	206.4	90.2	0	16.10
	KA30 2-2	0.8	206.4	90.2	0	16.10
	KA30 3-1	0.8	203.3	90.2	1	17.43
	KA30 3-2	0.8	203.3	90.2	0	17.27
	KA30 4-1	0.8	203.3	90.2	0	18.82
	KA30 4-2	0.8	203.3	90.2	1	18.87
	KA30 4-3	0.8	203.3	90.2	1	19.44
	KA30 4-4	0.8	203.3	90.2	1	19.86
	KAW 17 1	0.9	190.0	87.8	1	14.95
	KAW17 3-2	0.8	190.0	91.3	1	17.47
	KAW 17 C2 4	1	0.0	72.3	0	23.03
Deep formations	NM1 1-2	0.9	175.0	126.2	2	6.17
Rhyolitic ignimbrite	NM1 1-1	0.9	175.0	126.2	0	4.70
	NM2 2-3	0.95	170.0	98.8	2	20.28
	NM2 2-1	0.95	170.0	98.8	1	18.60
	NM2 2-2	0.95	170.0	95.0	1	20.07
	NM 3 3-2	0.95	170.0	100.9	4	9.00
	NM3 3-1	0.95	170.0	100.9	3	9.52
	NM3 3-3	0.95	170.0	99.8	4	10.90
	NM3 3-7	0.95	170.0	100.9	3	9.10
	NM3 3-4	0.95	170.0	99.8	4	9.79
	NM 4	0.98	210.0	117.8	3	5.44
	NM 4	0.98	210.0	124.3	6	6.17
	NM 5 5-2	0.85	178.0	110.4	2	12.10
	NM 5 5-1	0.85	178.0	110.4	2	9.90
	NM8A C1-1	0.95	180.0	118.2	2	4.03
	NM8A C1-2	0.95	180.0	118.2	2	3.17
	NM8A C1-3	0.95	180.0	123.7	2	3.57
	NM8A C1-5	0.95	180.0	123.7	0	3.58
	NM8A C1-6	0.95	180.0	118.2	2	4.09
	NM11 1-2	0.95	180.0	112.1	3	15.29
	NM11 1-3	0.95	180.0	112.1	3	15.74
	NM11 1-4	0.95	180.0	112.1	3	14.78
	NM11 1-5	0.95	180.0	112.1	3	14.65
	KA37 1-1	0.9	190.0	102.2	0	17.21
	KA37 1-2	0.9	190.0	102.2	0	17.60
	KA37 1-3	0.9	190.0	106.1	0	17.53
	KA37 1-4	0.9	190.0	106.1	0	17.68
	KA37 1-5	0.9	190.0	102.2	2	17.49
	KA37 1-6	0.9	190.0	102.2	0	17.72
	KA37 1-7	0.9	190.0	102.2	0	17.79
	KA37 1-8	0.9	190.0	102.2	0	16.99
	KA37 2-1	0.9	190.0	106.1	0	18.73
	KA37 2-2	0.9	198.6	106.1	0	17.86
Andesite	NM 7-1	0.9	186.0	148.2	1	1.50
Lava/breccia	NM 7-2	0.95	180.0	147.1	0	1.69
	NM 7-3	0.9	186.0	148.2	1	1.63
	NM 7-4	0.9	186.0	148.2	2	1.63
	NM 7-5	0.95	180.0	147.1	5	2.27
	NM 7-6	0.95	183.3	148.2	1	1.45
	NM 7-7	0.95	178.0	147.1	2	1.80
	NM 7-8	0.95	183.3	147.1	6	1.76
	NM 7-9	0.95	183.3	147.1	1	1.67
	NM 7-10	0.95	180.0	144.7	3	1.95
	NM 7-11	0.95	186.0	144.7	1	1.66
	NM 7-12	0.95	183.3	147.1	5	1.74
	KA3 1-2	0.95	170.0	115.4	0	12.35
	KA3 2	0.95	170.0	115.4	0	12.92
	RK27L2_21 21.1 C	0.75	170	103.6	0	13.10
	RK27L2_2121 .8 B	0.75	170	104.6	0	13.49
	RK27L2_2121 .5 B	0.75	170	105.6	0	10.72
	RK27L2_212 3.2 A	0.7	170	122.8	0	6.61

(continued on next page)

Table A.1 (continued)

	Sample ID	Al	Pm	Sm	Snf	Φ
Tonalite intrusive	RK27L2_21 20.4 B	0.7	170	132.0	0	5.82
	RK28_23 10.6 A	0.8	170	127.9	0	5.85
	RK28_23 10.8 C	0.8	170	140.0	1	6.72
	RK28_23 10.9 C	0.8	170	133.6	0	7.42
	RK28_23 13.2 A	0.85	170	140.0	0	6.97
	RK28_23 10.6 C	0.85	170	140.0	0	5.97
	RK30_23 21.0 A	0.8	170	132.2	0	6.84
	RK30_23 22.3 B	0.85	170	141.0	0	7.51
	RK30_23 22.4 A	0.85	170	143.1	0	6.50
	RK30_23 21.1 B	0.85	170	142.0	0	7.47
	RK30_23 21.7 B	0.9	170	151.0	0	6.28
	NM8-NM8A C2 1	0.8	190.0	122.4	0	3.40
	NM9 1-1	0.75	190.0	101.0	1	2.82
	NM9 1-2	0.75	190.0	101.9	0	2.70
	NM9 1-3	0.75	190.0	101.9	1	3.06
	NM9 1-4	0.75	196.7	101.9	0	2.83
	NM9 1-5	0.75	196.7	101.9	0	2.99
	NM9 1-6	0.75	190.0	106.0	0	2.71
	NM9 1-7	0.75	190.0	106.0	0	2.67
	NM9 1-8	0.75	190.0	101.9	1	2.87
	NM9 1-9	0.75	190.0	95.9	0	2.76
	NM9 2-2	0.75	183.3	119.1	0	1.81
	NM9 2-3	0.75	183.3	122.1	0	1.67
	NM9 2-4	0.75	183.3	123.8	1	1.65
	NM9 2-5	0.75	183.3	123.8	0	1.59
	NM9 2-6	0.75	183.3	123.8	0	1.57

Table A.2

Values ASI equation (based on the values in Table A.1. for the samples from the Ngatamariki, Rotokawa and Kawerau Geothermal fields (Wyering et al., 2014). ASI = alteration strength index, UCS (Laboratory) = UCS results from the laboratory testing. UCS (estimated) = The UCS estimates based on Eq. (2).

	Sample ID	ASI	UCS (laboratory)	UCS (estimated)	
Shallow formations	G1 Box 13 1-1	86.57	29.41	20.13	
Rhyolitic ignimbrite	G1 Box 13 1-2	86.62	33.91	20.18	
	G1 Box 13 1-3	86.66	28.43	20.22	
	G1 Box 13 2-1	86.22	13.73	19.78	
	G1 Box 13 2-2	86.66	21.74	20.22	
	G1 Box 13 2-3	86.59	25.01	20.15	
	G1 Box 13 2-4	86.48	28.48	20.04	
	G1 Box 11 1-1	111.00	49.67	59.58	
	G1 Box 11 1-2	111.39	50.77	60.51	
	G1 Box 11 1-3	111.24	35.39	60.17	
	G1 Box 11 1-4	111.17	57.74	59.99	
	G1 Box 11 2	112.51	74.69	63.20	
	G1 Box 17 1	64.58	2.80	5.60	
	G1 Box 17 2-1	66.99	2.12	6.57	
	G1 Box 17 2-2	64.53	2.05	5.58	
	G1 Box 17 3	64.56	2.19	5.59	
	G1 Box 17 4	64.51	2.21	5.57	
	G2 Box 15 1	86.48	26.75	20.04	
	G2 Box 15 2-1	86.49	33.15	20.04	
	G2 Box 15 2-2	86.52	30.09	20.08	
	G2 Box 15 3	86.38	30.61	19.94	
	G2 Box 15 4	86.53	34.56	20.09	
	G2 1-1	80.17	5.21	14.39	
	G2 1-2	80.34	7.69	14.53	
	G2 1-3	80.19	6.66	14.41	
	G2 2-1	79.78	7.63	14.09	
	G2 2-2	80.48	9.97	14.64	
	Rhyolitic lava	KAM 11	63.67	23.46	5.26
	Siltstone/Sandstone	KA30 1-1	99.93	45.38	37.67
		KA30 1-2	99.47	29.93	36.92
		KA30 2-1	104.34	58.10	45.48
		KA30 2-2	104.34	46.43	45.48
		KA30 3-1	99.39	34.02	36.79
		KA30 3-2	103.56	44.78	44.02
KA30 4-1		103.30	36.60	43.53	
KA30 4-2		99.16	28.74	36.41	
KA30 4-3		99.07	35.41	36.27	
KA30 4-4		99.01	37.27	36.17	

Table A.2 (continued)

	Sample ID	ASI	UCS (laboratory)	UCS (estimated)
Rhyolitic lava	KAW 17 1	86.78	22.11	20.34
Siltstone/Sandstone	KAW17 3-2	97.82	32.91	34.31
	KAW 17 C2 4	65.83	11.10	6.09
Deep formations	NM1 1-2	114.19	80.86	67.44
Rhyolitic ignimbrite	NM1 1-1	125.14	114.29	100.58
	NM2 2-3	86.05	20.82	19.60
	NM2 2-1	90.02	30.95	23.87
	NM2 2-2	86.66	29.58	20.22
	NM 3 3-2	82.06	22.73	15.94
	NM3 3-1	85.82	23.00	19.38
	NM3 3-3	80.75	22.87	14.85
	NM3 3-7	85.94	24.88	19.50
	NM3 3-4	81.01	16.03	15.06
	NM 4	100.03	35.29	37.84
	NM 4	90.67	22.55	24.64
	NM 5 5-2	102.94	62.11	42.88
	NM 5 5-1	103.56	39.41	44.02
	NM8A C1-1	107.02	51.67	50.81
	NM8A C1-2	107.80	62.31	52.44
	NM8A C1-3	112.03	65.59	62.05
	NM8A C1-5	121.76	100.49	89.27
	NM8A C1-6	106.97	53.90	50.71
	NM11 1-2	93.68	34.50	28.41
	NM11 1-3	93.60	35.32	28.30
	NM11 1-4	93.77	35.37	28.54
	NM11 1-5	93.80	33.04	28.57
	KA37 1-1	101.86	41.22	40.95
	KA37 1-2	101.80	39.36	40.84
	KA37 1-3	105.05	49.66	46.84
	KA37 1-4	105.02	43.75	46.79
	KA37 1-5	93.67	28.78	28.40
	KA37 1-6	101.77	36.29	40.80
	KA37 1-7	101.76	37.41	40.78
	KA37 1-8	101.90	34.65	41.03
	KA37 2-1	104.84	44.92	46.44
	KA37 2-2	105.77	55.47	48.28
Andesite lava/breccia	NM 7-1	144.17	130.24	186.60
	NM 7-2	146.38	188.08	199.46
	NM 7-3	143.82	135.26	184.66
	NM 7-4	137.83	106.99	153.34
	NM 7-5	116.08	36.72	72.46
	NM 7-6	142.41	123.02	176.87
	NM 7-7	134.34	113.13	137.10
	NM 7-8	111.24	23.92	60.16
	NM 7-9	140.74	174.40	167.98
	NM 7-10	126.35	127.10	104.89
	NM 7-11	138.77	160.83	157.99
	NM 7-12	117.15	36.60	75.40
	KA3 1-2	109.55	63.19	56.26
	KA3 2	109.40	71.37	55.93
	RK27L2_21 21.1 C	111.30	69.53	60.29
	RK27L2_2121 .8 B	111.90	79.91	61.72
	RK27L2_2121 .5 B	113.36	85.99	65.33
	RK27L2_212 3.2 A	129.40	105.26	116.43
	RK27L2_21 20.4 B	136.05	211.05	144.87
	RK28_23 10.6 A	129.32	92.07	116.09
	RK28_23 10.8 C	132.35	109.91	128.45
	RK28_23 10.9 C	132.69	137.31	129.89
	RK28_23 13.2 A	136.29	146.22	146.03
	RK28_23 10.6 C	136.93	146.24	149.01
	RK30_23 21.0 A	131.92	126.53	126.63
	RK30_23 22.3 B	136.81	137.97	148.48
	RK30_23 22.4 A	139.07	148.44	159.47
	RK30_23 21.1 B	137.65	157.93	152.49
	RK30_23 21.7 B	144.67	162.71	189.44
Tonalite intrusive	NM8-NM8A C2 1	131.01	123.14	122.88
	NM9 1-1	114.73	67.25	68.84
	NM9 1-2	120.28	81.72	84.62
	NM9 1-3	115.03	65.84	69.63
	NM9 1-4	121.72	84.27	89.12
	NM9 1-5	121.53	108.24	88.51
	NM9 1-6	123.29	83.47	94.24
	NM9 1-7	123.34	77.01	94.43
	NM9 1-8	115.26	65.56	70.23
	NM9 1-9	115.87	76.01	71.89

(continued on next page)

Table A.2 (continued)

Sample ID	ASI	UCS (laboratory)	UCS (estimated)
NM9 2-2	132.74	111.10	130.13
NM9 2-3	135.29	113.09	141.40
NM9 2-4	131.14	87.76	123.42
NM9 2-5	136.76	123.98	148.22
NM9 2-6	136.81	138.11	148.46

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