

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**ROCK ABRASIVITY USING CERCHAR ABRASIVITY INDEX  
(CAI) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ROCK MATERIAL  
CHARACTERIZATION**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
**Master of Science in Geotechnical Engineering**

**Faculty of Civil Engineering**

July 2014

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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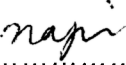
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## ABSTRACT

Demands towards underground tunneling as an alternative to sustainable infrastructures has led to studies of rock abrasivity using Cerchar Abrasivity Test. There were four rock type samples involved and those samples had been identified as Granite, Carbonate Mudstone, Limestone and Sandstone through Thin Section Test. The Cerchar Test is the main concern of this research as to achieves the objectives of the test studies including identifying Cerchar Abrasivity Index (CAI) values and abrasivity properties of these four type of rocks, and also as to correlate obtained CAI values with other rock physical and mechanical properties. The geological rock material physical properties of dry density and wave velocity were obtained from Dry Density Test and Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity respectively. The mechanical characteristic of tensile strength was obtained from Brazilian Tensile Strength Test. Based on the findings, Granite has the highest abrasivity as its CAI is equal to 5.70, and Limestone has the lowest abrasivity, CAI equal to 1.70. Besides that, it also shows that density and wave velocity does not affect the abrasivity quality. However, the tensile strength and Quartz content of rock does affect the rock abrasivity. Granite also has the highest tensile strength among all rock samples. In short, this can be concluded that, Granite is the hardest geological to be excavated compared to Limestone, Carbonate Mudstone and Sandstone. From this study, a prediction to selection of tunneling excavation method can be evaluated as well to planning the overall tunneling construction works.

**Keywords:** *Abrasivity, Cerchar Test, Cerchar Abrasivity Index (CAI), rock characterization, tunneling.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All to praise to Allah for His blessing and for the given opportunity to me in accomplishing this research paper successfully for the course of Dissertation, ECD728. I gratefully acknowledge my respectful supervisor, Dr. Kamaruzzaman Bin Mohamed for his guidance along the research and for his detailed, constructive and most helpful feedbacks and guidelines since from the very first step of preparing this report. Furthermore, I sincerely want to show my appreciation to Dr. Haryati Awang, for her useful advice in many parts of preparing and collecting data for this research.

Besides, also thanks to Prof. Dr. Azman Bin Abd Ghani, for his consultancy during my time at Universiti Malaya (UM) and also to Geology Laboratory's assistants, Mr. Zamrud and Mrs. Zaleha Abdulah, for their assistance at UM's geology laboratories. It was a big pleasure to have such a great experience working with great university like UM. I also want to wish great thankful to Mr. Noorul Hilmi for his guidance in handling testings at the laboratory technician at Faculty of Civil Engineering's rock mechanics laboratory. Not forget to mention, my thanks to Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak 3 (PTAR 3) Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam for all valuable books, journal, and references that have contributed so much help in providing material for this research studies.

Thousands of appreciation to the most precious and long lasting supporters, my parents; Ismail Bin Abd Rahman and Nor Zihan Bt Harun, family members, friends, classmates and all people who always motivate and support me physically, mentally and spiritually. With Allah's willing and blessing, I really hope that this paper would encourage more continuation researches conducted by Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Mara Malaysia, that mainly related to Tunneling and Rock Engineering. InsyaAllah.

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