

UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION TABLE

Field Identification Procedures (Excluding particles larger than 75 µm and basing fractions on estimated weights)				Group Symbols	Typical Names	Information Required for Describing Soils	Laboratory Classification Criteria
Coarse-grained soils More than half of material is larger than 75 µm sieve size (The 75 µm sieve size is about the smallest particle visible to naked eye)	Gravels More than half of coarse fraction is larger than 4 mm sieve size	Clean gravels (little or no fines)	Wide range in grain size and substantial amounts of all intermediate particle sizes	GW	Well graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Give typical name; indicate approximate percentages of sand and gravel; maximum size; angularity, surface condition, and hardness of the coarse grains; local or geologic name and other pertinent descriptive information; and symbols in parentheses. For undisturbed soils add information on stratification, degree of compactness, cementation, moisture conditions and drainage characteristics. Example: Silty sand, gravelly; about 20% hard, angular gravel particles 12 mm maximum size; rounded and subangular sand grains coarse to fine, about 15% non-plastic fines with low dry strength; well compacted and moist in place; alluvial sand: (SM)	$C_u = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ Greater than 4 $C_c = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3
			Predominantly one size or a range of sizes with some intermediate sizes missing	GP	Poorly graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines		Not meeting all gradation requirements for GW
			Nonplastic fines (for identification procedures see ML below)	GM	Silty gravels, poorly graded gravel-sand mixtures		Atterberg limits below "A" line, or PI less than 4
	Sands More than half of coarse fraction is smaller than 4 mm sieve size	Clean sands (little or no fines)	Wide range in grain sizes and substantial amounts of all intermediate particle sizes	SW	Well graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines		Atterberg limits below "A" line, with PI greater than 7
			Predominantly one size or a range of sizes with some intermediate sizes missing	SP	Poorly graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines		Atterberg limits below "A" line, with PI greater than 7
			Nonplastic fines (for identification procedures, see ML below)	SM	Silty sands, poorly graded sand-silt mixtures		Atterberg limits below "A" line, with PI greater than 7
Fine-grained soils More than half of material is smaller than 75 µm sieve size (The 75 µm sieve size is about the smallest particle visible to naked eye)	Silt and clay liquid limit less than 50	Silty with fines (appreciable amount of fines)	Wide range in grain sizes and substantial amounts of all intermediate particle sizes	SW	Well graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines	For undisturbed soils add information on structure, stratification, consistency in undisturbed and remoulded states, moisture and drainage conditions. Example: Clayey silt, brown; slightly plastic; small percentage of fine sand; numerous vertical root holes; firm and dry in place; loess: (ML)	$C_u = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ Greater than 6 $C_c = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3
			Predominantly one size or a range of sizes with some intermediate sizes missing	SP	Poorly graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines		Not meeting all gradation requirements for SW
			Nonplastic fines (for identification procedures, see ML below)	SM	Silty sands, poorly graded sand-silt mixtures		Atterberg limits below "A" line, or PI less than 5
			Plastic fines (for identification procedures, see CL below)	SC	Clayey sands, poorly graded sand-clay mixtures		Atterberg limits below "A" line, with PI greater than 7
	Silt and clay liquid limit greater than 50	Silty with fines (appreciable amount of fines)	Dry Strength (crushing characteristics)				
			Dilatancy (reaction to shaking)				
			Toughness (consistency near plastic limit)				
Highly Organic Soils	Identification Procedures on Fraction Smaller than 380 µm Sieve Size						
	Silt and clay liquid limit greater than 50	Silty with fines (appreciable amount of fines)	None to slight	Quick to slow	None	ML	Inorganic silts and very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands with slight plasticity
			Medium to high	None to very slow	Medium	CL	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays
			Slight to medium	Slow	Slight	OL	Organic silts and organic silts of low plasticity
			Slight to medium	Slow to none	Slight to medium	MH	Inorganic silts, micaceous or diatomaceous fine sandy or silty soils, elastic silts
	Silt and clay liquid limit greater than 50	Silty with fines (appreciable amount of fines)	High to very high	None	High	CH	Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays
			Medium to high	None to very slow	Slight to medium	OH	Organic clays of medium to high plasticity
	Readily identified by colour, odour, spongy feel and frequently by fibrous texture					PI	Peat and other highly organic soils

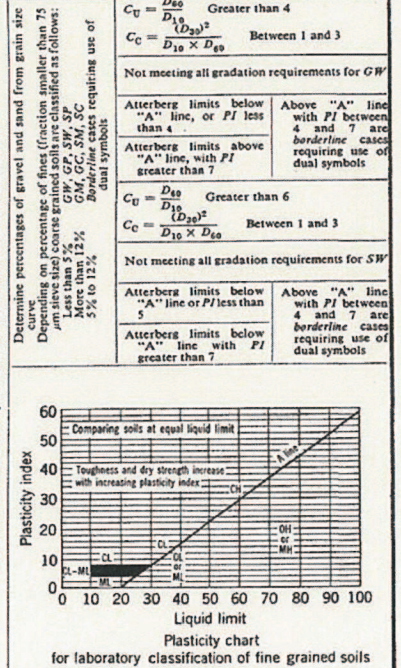
Determine percentages of gravel and sand from grain size curve.

Depending on percentage of fines (fraction smaller than 75 µm) coarse-grained soils are classified as follows:

- Less than 5% GW, GP, SW, SP
- More than 5% GM, GC, SM, SC
- More than 12% to 15% Boulders/cobbles requiring use of dual symbols

Use grain size curve in identifying the fractions as given under field identification

- Note: 1 Soils possessing characteristics of two groups are designated by combinations of group symbols (eg. GW-GC, well graded gravel-sand mixture with clay fines).
2 Soils with liquid limits of the order of 35 to 50 may be visually classified as being of medium plasticity.





LOG SYMBOLS

LOG COLUMN	SYMBOL	DEFINITION
Groundwater Record	▼	Standing water level. Time delay following completion of drilling may be shown.
	—○—	Extent of borehole collapse shortly after drilling.
	▶	Groundwater seepage into borehole or excavation noted during drilling or excavation.
Samples	ES	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for environmental analysis.
	U50	Undisturbed 50mm diameter tube sample taken over depth indicated.
	DB	Bulk disturbed sample taken over depth indicated.
	DS	Small disturbed bag sample taken over depth indicated.
	ASB	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for asbestos screening.
	ASS	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for acid sulfate soil analysis.
	SAL	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for salinity analysis.
Field Tests	N = 17 4, 7, 10	Standard Penetration Test (SPT) performed between depths indicated by lines. Individual figures show blows per 150mm penetration. 'R' as noted below.
	N _c = 5	Solid Cone Penetration Test (SCPT) performed between depths indicated by lines. Individual figures show blows per 150mm penetration for 60 degree solid cone driven by SPT hammer. 'R' refers to apparent hammer refusal within the corresponding 150mm depth increment.
	7	
	3R	
	VNS = 25	Vane shear reading in kPa of Undrained Shear Strength.
	PID = 100	Photoionisation detector reading in ppm (Soil sample headspace test).
Moisture Condition (Cohesive Soils) (Cohesionless Soils)	MC>PL	Moisture content estimated to be greater than plastic limit.
	MC≈PL	Moisture content estimated to be approximately equal to plastic limit.
	MC<PL	Moisture content estimated to be less than plastic limit.
	D	DRY — Runs freely through fingers.
	M	MOIST — Does not run freely but no free water visible on soil surface.
	W	WET — Free water visible on soil surface.
Strength (Consistency) Cohesive Soils	VS	VERY SOFT — Unconfined compressive strength less than 25kPa
	S	SOFT — Unconfined compressive strength 25-50kPa
	F	FIRM — Unconfined compressive strength 50-100kPa
	St	STIFF — Unconfined compressive strength 100-200kPa
	VSt	VERY STIFF — Unconfined compressive strength 200-400kPa
	H	HARD — Unconfined compressive strength greater than 400kPa
	()	Bracketed symbol indicates estimated consistency based on tactile examination or other tests.
Density Index/ Relative Density (Cohesionless Soils)	VL	Density Index (I_D) Range (%) Very Loose <15
	L	Loose 15-35
	MD	Medium Dense 35-65
	D	Dense 65-85
	VD	Very Dense >85
	()	Bracketed symbol indicates estimated density based on ease of drilling or other tests.
		SPT 'N' Value Range (Blows/300mm) 0-4 4-10 10-30 30-50 >50
Hand Penetrometer Readings	300 250	Numbers indicate individual test results in kPa on representative undisturbed material unless noted otherwise.
Remarks	'V' bit	Hardened steel 'V' shaped bit.
	'TC' bit	Tungsten carbide wing bit.
	T ₆₀	Penetration of auger string in mm under static load of rig applied by drill head hydraulics without rotation of augers.

LOG SYMBOLS continued

ROCK MATERIAL WEATHERING CLASSIFICATION

TERM	SYMBOL	DEFINITION
Residual Soil	RS	Soil developed on extremely weathered rock; the mass structure and substance fabric are no longer evident; there is a large change in volume but the soil has not been significantly transported.
Extremely weathered rock	XW	Rock is weathered to such an extent that it has "soil" properties, ie it either disintegrates or can be remoulded, in water.
Distinctly weathered rock	DW	Rock strength usually changed by weathering. The rock may be highly discoloured, usually by ironstaining. Porosity may be increased by leaching, or may be decreased due to deposition of weathering products in pores.
Slightly weathered rock	SW	Rock is slightly discoloured but shows little or no change of strength from fresh rock.
Fresh rock	FR	Rock shows no sign of decomposition or staining.

ROCK STRENGTH

Rock strength is defined by the Point Load Strength Index (Is 50) and refers to the strength of the rock substance in the direction normal to the bedding. The test procedure is described by the International Journal of Rock Mechanics, Mining, Science and Geomechanics. Abstract Volume 22, No 2, 1985.

TERM	SYMBOL	Is (50) MPa	FIELD GUIDE
Extremely Low:	EL	0.03	Easily remoulded by hand to a material with soil properties.
Very Low:	VL	0.1	May be crumbled in the hand. Sandstone is "sugary" and friable.
Low:	L	0.3	A piece of core 150mm long x 50mm dia. may be broken by hand and easily scored with a knife. Sharp edges of core may be friable and break during handling.
Medium Strength:	M	1	A piece of core 150mm long x 50mm dia. can be broken by hand with difficulty. Readily scored with knife.
High:	H	3	A piece of core 150mm long x 50mm dia. core cannot be broken by hand, can be slightly scratched or scored with knife; rock rings under hammer.
Very High:	VH	10	A piece of core 150mm long x 50mm dia. may be broken with hand-held pick after more than one blow. Cannot be scratched with pen knife; rock rings under hammer.
Extremely High:	EH		A piece of core 150mm long x 50mm dia. is very difficult to break with hand-held hammer. Rings when struck with a hammer.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN DEFECT DESCRIPTION

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
Be	Bedding Plane Parting	Defect orientations measured relative to the normal to the long core axis (ie relative to horizontal for vertical holes)
CS	Clay Seam	
J	Joint	
P	Planar	
Un	Undulating	
S	Smooth	
R	Rough	
IS	Ironstained	
XWS	Extremely Weathered Seam	
Cr	Crushed Seam	
60t	Thickness of defect in millimetres	