

## PHYSICAL PARAMETERS, TENSILE AND COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF DOLOMITE ROCK SAMPLES: INFLUENCE OF GRAIN SIZE

Ali LAKIROUHANI<sup>1</sup>, Farhad ASEMI<sup>1</sup>, Afshin ZOHDİ<sup>2</sup>,  
Jurgis MEDZVIECKAS<sup>3\*</sup>, Romualdas KLIUKAS<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Geology, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Department of Reinforced Concrete Structures and Geotechnics, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Saulėtekio al. 11, 10223 Vilnius, Lithuania

<sup>4</sup>Department of Applied Mechanics, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Saulėtekio al. 11, 10223 Vilnius, Lithuania

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this paper is to investigate the strength, physical and engineering index parameters of selected dolomitic rocks with emphasis on grain size. For this purpose, three groups of dolomite from north western Iran, with the same mineral composition but different grain size, were selected; fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain. Three sets of laboratory experiments are performed on 32 samples: first; petrography tests for determining mineral composition and their percentage, and microstructure of rock containing grain size and grain size distribution, second; experiments to determine the physical properties of the rocks included density, compressional and shear wave velocity, and the third category of experiments included uniaxial compressive strength test, Brazilian tensile strength and point load strength. According to the results; there are significant positive correlation between grain size and uniaxial compressive strength ( $r = 0.89$ ), point load strength ( $r = 0.58$ ), Brazilian strength ( $r = 0.69$ ), and average Young's modulus ( $r = 0.64$ ). Also, with increasing grain size, density decreases ( $r = -0.77$ ). There is strong correlation between compressional wave velocity and shear velocity ( $r = 0.88$ ). There are also a strong correlation among the uniaxial compressive strength, Brazilian tensile strength and point load strength.

**Keywords:** rock sample, laboratory tests, simple linear regression, dolomite rock, grain size, petrography, uniaxial compressive strength, compressional wave velocity, shear wave velocity, Brazilian tensile strength.

### Introduction

Micro texture, mineralogical composition, petrographic and microstructural of rocks effect on their mechanical, physical and engineering index properties. Microstructure characteristics are related to the grain size, grain shape, and distribution in the matrix, porosity, interlocking, mineralogical composition, quartz content, and etc. So far many laboratory studies have been done for finding the relationship between microstructures of rock and macro scale features (Olsson, 1974; Eberhardt et al., 1999; Palchik & Hatzor, 2004; Tandon & Gupta, 2013; Amann et al., 2014; Ghazvinian et al., 2015; Ündül et al., 2015; Ündül, 2016; Farrokhrouz & Asef, 2017; Festa et al., 2018; Garia et al., 2019; Aladejare, 2020; Hemmati et al., 2020), as well as numerical simulation by discrete element method (Lan

et al., 2010; Nicksiar & Martin, 2014; Tan et al., 2016), however, many of the results are not conclusive.

Grain size is a significant microstructure parameter that affects the mechanical behavior and physical properties of rock. Grain size is the most fundamental property of sedimentary rocks, affecting their transportation and deposition (Blott & Pye, 2001). Many researchers have investigated effect of grain size on the mechanical properties of rocks. However, the correlation between grain size and strength parameters are mainly based on the investigation about granitic rocks, but the results are different and are divided into several categories.

At first, most experiments have shown that with increasing grain size, the sample strength decreases, for

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: [jurgis.medzvieckas@vgtu.lt](mailto:jurgis.medzvieckas@vgtu.lt)

instance, experimental results reported by Wong et al. (1996), Hugman and Friedman (1979), Fredrich et al. (1990), Hatzor and Palchik (1998), Palchik and Hatzor (2000), all indicated that rock strength parameters decrease with increasing grain size. Also Skinner (1959), Olsson (1974) and Příkryl (2001) for tests on anhydrite, dolomite and granite rocks reported decreased uniaxial compressive strength with increasing grain size. In these cases, Griffith's theory of elliptical cracks is used to interpret this result. According to this theory, the second root of the crack length inversely is proportional to the compressive stress. So if in this theory assume compressive stress equivalent to peak stress in the uniaxial compressive strength test, and assume crack length equal to the grain size. Then, by increasing the second root inverse of grain size, the peak strength decreases. Even in some of the above studies, an empirical relation similar to that of the Griffith's theory was presented. But Eberhardt et al. (1999) by experimental study of granite rocks, offered another reason for decreasing strength with increasing grain size; they conclude that the rock strength decreases with increasing grain size, but not because of crack initiation at lower stresses, but because of the process where crack propagation occurs along weakly available planes.

Alongside, these studies, tests by Sousa (2013) found a tendency for an increase of UCS proportional to quartz size, while for granite rock there was no relationship between UCS and grain size.

Ajalloeian et al. (2017) evaluated the effect of grain size on carbonate rocks and represented that uniaxial compressive strength had an increasing trend with increasing grain size for 0 to 5 mm; and in the following it had a decreasing trend with increasing grain size for 5 to 50 mm, in fact, carbonate rock with medium grain size had the highest uniaxial compressive strength. They also observed a similar trend for Young's modulus and wave velocity. The interval change of grain size in their study was between 0 and 50 mm.

Meng and Pan (2007) assessed the relationship between petrographic characteristics and mechanical properties of sandstone and reported that uniaxial compressive strength of rock increased with increasing average size of bigger grain. The interval of grain size in their study varied between 0.1 to 0.3 mm.

As can be seen, different results have been observed on the effect of particle size on strength parameters in previous studies. One reason is that, grain size is not the only microstructural parameter that affects rock strength, unless the samples are homogeneous enough that the only effective parameter in their strength to be the grain size. And another reason is that in many previous studies the interaction between the other microstructural parameters has not been considered.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the compressive and tensile strength, physical and engineering index parameters of selected dolomitic rocks with emphasis on grain size. For this purpose three groups of dolomite with similar mineralogical compositions were selected;

fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain. Three sets of experiments are performed on 32 samples: first, petrography tests for determining mineral composition and microstructure of rock containing grain size and grain size distribution; second, experiments to determine the physical properties of the rocks included density, compressional and shear wave velocity, and the third category of experiments included uniaxial compressive strength tests, Brazilian tensile strength and point load strength.

## 1. Sampling sites

Dolomite is one of the most important mineral constituents of carbonate rock in northwestern of Iran. After assessing satellite and geological maps it was determined that two rock formations were suitable for sampling; Soltanieh formation with the geographical coordinates of  $36^{\circ} 36' 24''$  N and  $48^{\circ} 13' 45''$  E and Elika Formation at the geographic coordinates of  $36^{\circ} 41' 1''$  N and  $48^{\circ} 03' 1''$  E; in Zanjan province, northwestern of Iran (Figure 1). Soltanieh formation had a thickness of 985 meters, which in lithological terms, consisted of medium to thick layers of dolomite, light gray to dark gray in color with narrow layers of green shale. Elika formation consisted of almost 35 meters of carbonate rock. This formation, was divisible into two major parts: 1) the lower part with a thickness of almost 2 meters, mainly formed of calcareous conglomerates and 2) an upper part formed of thin-bedded layers of dolomite with a yellow-gray color and a thickness of 33 meters.

## 2. Sampling and experimental procedures

32 samples were cored from blocks with no apparent signs of weathering and without evidence of macroscopic heterogeneity such as veins and joints. As already mentioned three groups of dolomites with different grain sizes were selected; fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain.

### 2.1. Petrographic and mineralogical analysis

Microscopic thin sections with thickness of 30  $\mu$ m were taken from each of the three groups of dolomites and in order to classify samples a classification procedure of Gregg and Sibley (1984), Sibley and Gregg (1987) and Mazzullo (1992) was used. Also mineralogical composition of the rocks for 5 samples was taken by X-ray diffraction device (Figure 2 and Table 1):

1. Fine grain dolomite. In accordance with the petrographic observations, fine grain dolomite are composed of anhedral, very fine grain to fine grain with inter-granular boundary of non-planar. Dolomite grain size in this group are smaller than 20  $\mu$ m (average grain size is 9  $\mu$ m) and grain size distribution is uniform. This group of dolomites is usually dense and dark grey in colour. Sometimes this type of dolomite has individual fine grains of quartz and calcite (approximately 1 to 4 percent). This group of

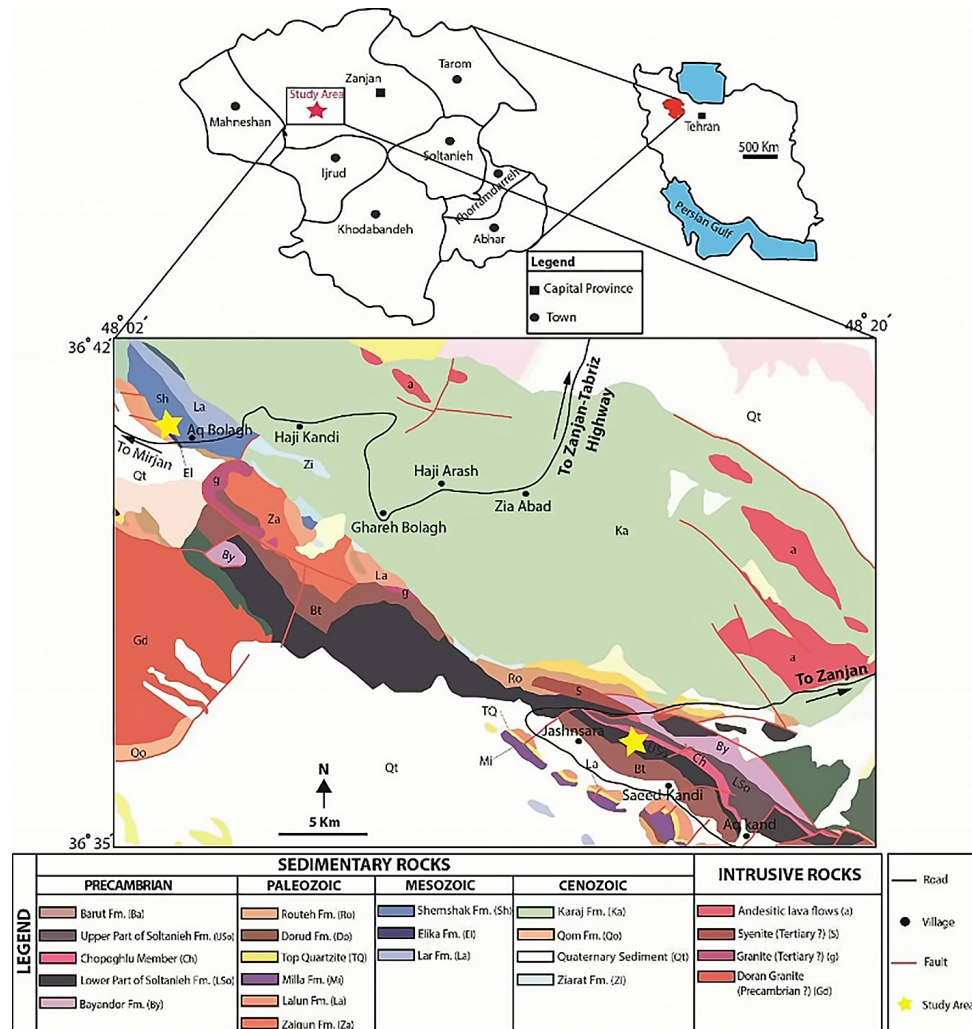


Figure 1. The geological map and geographical location of the study area (geological map modified from Hajian and Zahedi (2004))

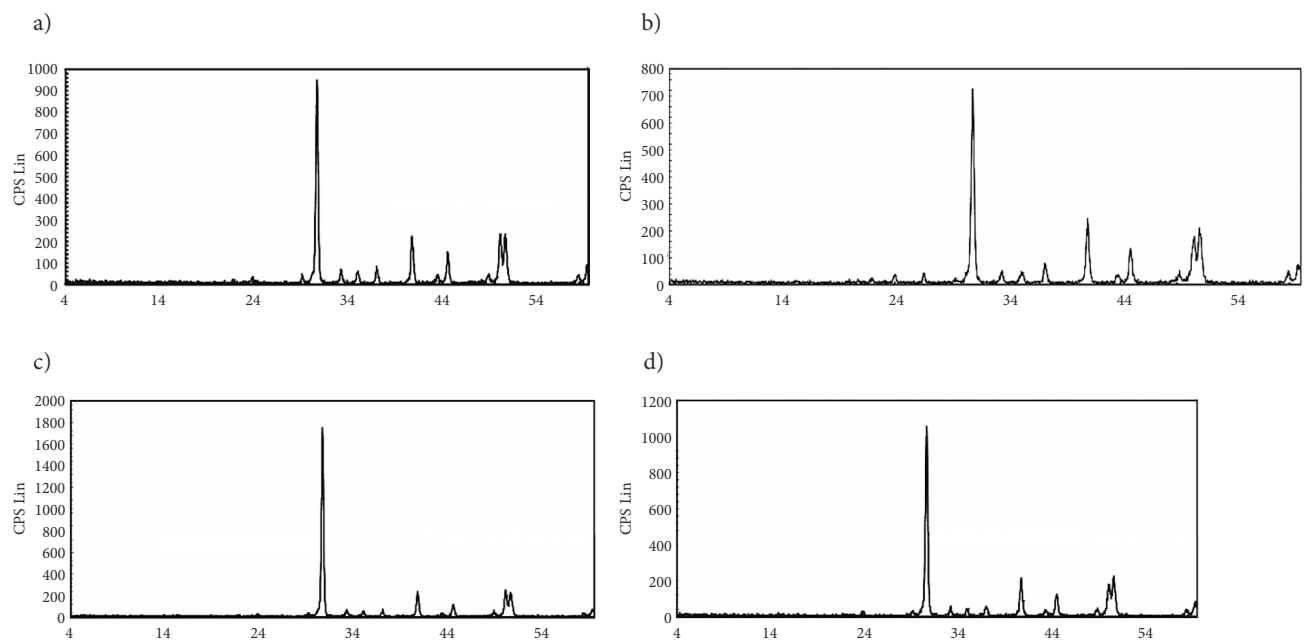


Figure 2. Results for dolomite samples studied by X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD): (a) Fine grain dolomite (Soltanieh Formation); (b) Fine grain dolomite (Elika Formation); (c) Medium grain dolomite (Soltanieh Formation); (d) Coarse Grain dolomite (Soltanieh Formation)

dolomites can be named dolomicrite, because of its fine grain size. This type of dolomite is equivalent to non-planar (Mazzullo, 1992) and xenotopic in texture (Gregg & Sibley, 1984). The characteristics of a sample of this dolomite is presented in Table 1.

2. Medium grain dolomite. Medium grain dolomite mainly consists of dense and subhedral grains with inter-granular boundaries of planar-s (Table 1). Dolomite grain size varies between 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  (42  $\mu\text{m}$  on average). This dolomite is known as dolomicroparite. It has hypidiotopic (Gregg & Sibley, 1984) and planar-s texture (Mazzullo, 1992).
3. Coarse grain dolomite. Coarse grain dolomite has grain size between 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to 500  $\mu\text{m}$  (120  $\mu\text{m}$  on average). These dolomites is known as dolosparite due to their size and are composed of dense and coarse subhedral grain with non-uniform distribution size. The texture of this dolomite is equivalent to hypidiotopic (Mazzullo, 1992) and planar-s texture (Gregg & Sibley, 1984) (Table 1). Results of petrographic studies demonstrated that grain size distribution in dolomite becomes more non-uniform with increasing grain size. This can be related to heterogeneous dispersion of dolomite grain formation, multi-stage formation and non-uniform growth of fine grains.

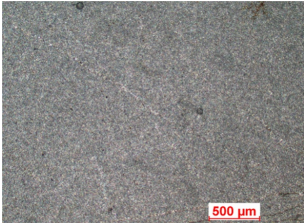
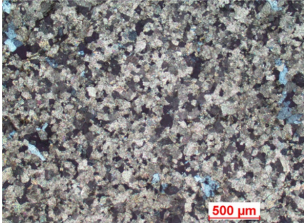
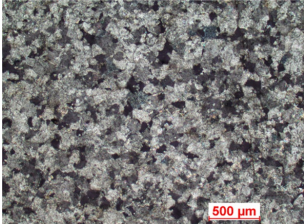
## 2.2. Physical and mechanical testing procedure

After petrographic observations, experimental tests for determining physical characteristics (density, compres-

sional and shear wave velocity) and compressive and tensile strength of dolomites by uniaxial compressive strength (UCS), Brazilian tensile strength (BTS) and point load strength ( $I_{s(50)}$ ), for 32 samples according to International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering [ISRM] standards were conducted. To perform the uniaxial compressive strength test, 32 cylindrical samples were cored from the selected blocks; these were 54 mm in diameter with a length to diameter ratio of approximately of 2.5. The cut end faces of cores were smoothed and made perpendicular to the core axes with a polishing and lapping machine based on ISRM (1979a) requirements (Figure 3(d)). Uniaxial compressive strength tests were conducted by DART-EC-9600 servo-control machine with load frame of 2000 kN capacity (Figure 3(a)) at a constant rate of 0.002 mm/sec. Applied loads and axial strain is measured automatically by the machine automatically, but the lateral strain is measured by installing three strain gauges around the sample and connecting them to the data logger (Figure 4). By plotting the stress against the axial strain and lateral strain curves for each sample, the peak strength (uniaxial compressive strength), Poisson's ratio and average Young's modulus of elasticity are obtained.

Compressional and shear wave velocity were measured by separated transducers using a Sonic viewer device, Figures 3(b) and 3(c) illustrate this experiment and transducers. In point load test, samples can be loaded axially or diagonally. In this test, loading was continued until failure occurred in the sample, at this moment, the point load strength was equivalent to (ISRM, 1985):

Table 1. Characteristics of three samples of the fine, medium and coarse grain dolomite rocks based on petrographic and XRD analysis

Sample	Average grain size	Mineralogy	Thin section
Fine grain	9 $\mu\text{m}$	Dolomite: 100% Calcite: 0% Quartz: 0%	
Medium grain	42 $\mu\text{m}$	Dolomite: 95% Calcite: 0% Quartz: 5%	
Coarse grain	120 $\mu\text{m}$	Dolomite: 100% Calcite: 0% Quartz: 0%	



$$I_{s(50)} = F \left( \frac{P}{D_e^2} \right), \quad (1)$$

where  $D_e^2 = \frac{4A}{\pi}$ ,  $A = WD$  is the minimum cross sectional area of a plane through the loading points, and  $F = \left( \frac{D_e}{50} \right)^{0.45}$  is the size correction factor, and  $P$  is the load at failure.

Brazilian tensile strength test is used for indirect determination of tensile strength of cylindrical samples of brittle materials such as rock and concrete. The test was conducted according to ISRM (1978) standard using the loading machine with a 600 kN loading capacity and a constant loading rate of 0.2 kN/s. Tensile strength was calculated by (ISRM, 1979b):

$$BTS = \frac{2P}{\pi Dt} = 0.636 \frac{P}{Dt}, \quad (2)$$

where  $P$  is failure load, and  $D$  and  $t$  are diameter and thickness of the specimens respectively.

### 3. Results and discussion

The results of engineering index properties such as density, compressional wave and shear wave velocities, elastic properties and strength of selected samples such as point load strength, Brazilian tensile strength, uniaxial compressive strength, average Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio are presented in Table 2.

According to the results, the values of density of samples ranges between 2.53–2.74 gr/cm<sup>3</sup> with the mean of 2.63 gr/cm<sup>3</sup> that indicated the dolomites have a high density.

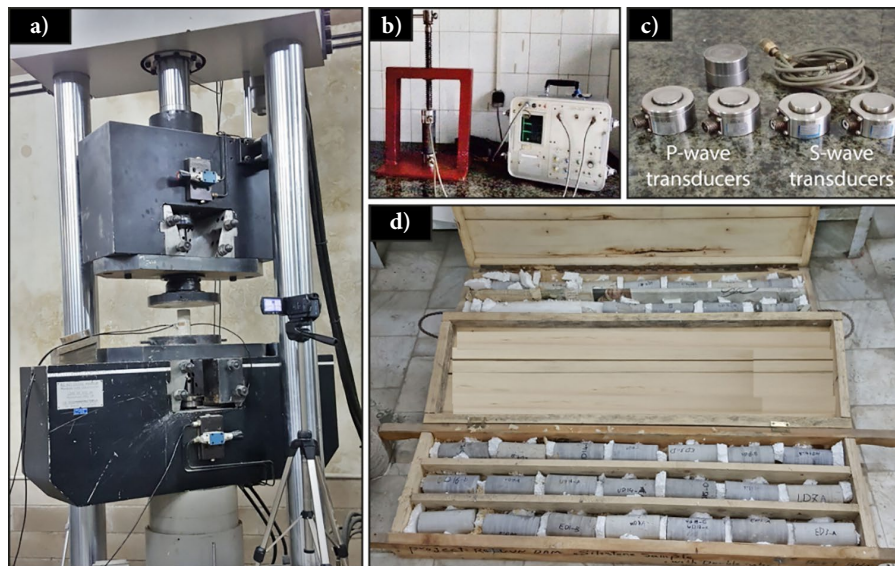


Figure 3. (a) DARTEC-9600 servo-control machine, used to uniaxial compressive strength tests; (b) apparatus for wave velocity measurement; (c) transducers, cables and spacers; (d) dolomite samples

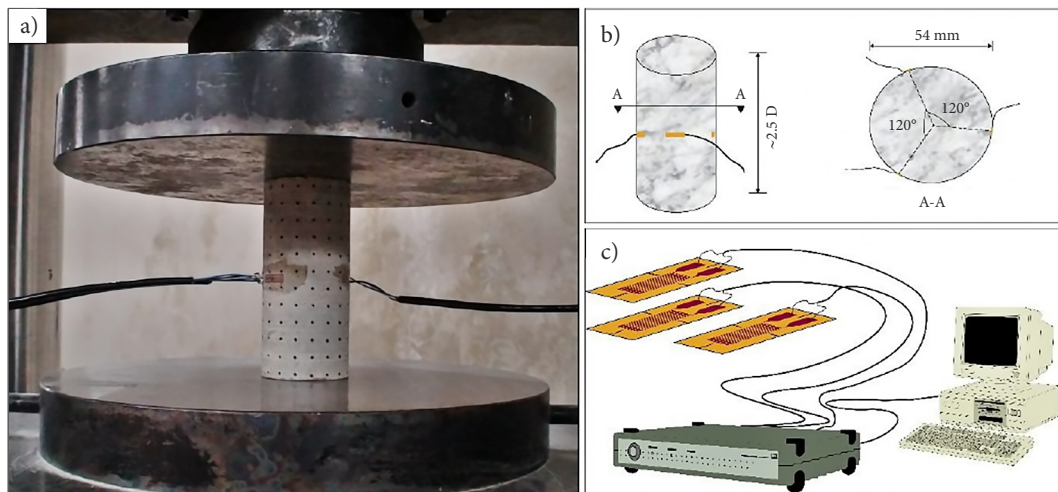


Figure 4. (a) Sample placed between two steel plates of compressive strength test machine; (b) position of three strain gauges around the sample to measure lateral strain; (c) display the connection of strain gauges to the data logger

Table 2. Results of physical and mechanical tests conducted on dolomite samples

	SN	GS	$r$	$V_p$	$V_s$	$E_{ave}$	$\nu$	UCS	BTS	$I_{s(50)}$	$\frac{UCS}{BTS}$	$\frac{UCS}{I_{s(50)}}$	$\frac{BTS}{I_{s(50)}}$
Fine grain	F1	20	2.72	3893	2224	27.01	0.17	31.84	4.1	3.15	7.77	10.11	1.30
	F2	10	2.66	4671	2856	32.90	0.38	27.62	3.5	2.57	7.89	10.75	1.36
	F3	10	2.74	5092	3260	34.33	0.18	24.69	3.28	2.41	7.53	10.24	1.36
	F4	15	2.65	5236	2839	31.96	0.39	22.65	3.13	2.17	7.24	10.44	1.44
	F5	15	2.66	5474	2980	31.98	0.17	20.37	2.8	2.73	7.27	7.46	1.03
	F6	5	2.71	5796	3000	55.83	0.14	16.38	2.47	1.67	6.63	9.81	1.48
	F7	5	2.70	5662	2993	28.64	0.31	24.47	3.8	2.86	6.44	8.56	1.33
	F8	5	2.71	5665	2771	33.62	0.29	25.97	3.42	2.15	7.30	11.62	1.59
	F9	5	2.67	4307	2732	24.16	0.25	20.48	2.74	1.71	7.48	11.98	1.60
	F10	5	2.66	4600	2603	19.72	0.26	14.26	1.91	1.65	7.46	8.64	1.16
	F11	5	2.64	4479	2439	13.96	NA	9.18	1.81	1.43	5.07	6.42	1.27
	F12	5	2.66	4563	2677	16.22	NA	10.30	1.73	1.05	5.95	9.81	1.65
Medium grain	M1	40	2.61	4749	2680	30.39	NA	43.93	7.68	5.66	5.72	7.76	1.36
	M2	60	2.59	5091	2901	47.49	0.11	32.31	2.49	1.83	12.98	17.66	1.36
	M3	35	2.65	6010	3262	46.61	0.28	39.37	4.15	2.91	9.49	13.53	1.43
	M4	35	2.65	5824	3307	75.67	0.13	30.10	1.82	1.59	16.54	18.93	1.14
	M5	35	2.63	6231	3143	37.80	0.33	34.01	3.78	2.23	9	15.25	1.70
	M6	35	2.64	5643	3128	45.60	0.38	32.52	3.56	2.15	9.13	15.13	1.66
	M7	35	2.64	5739	2918	42.08	0.43	35.22	4.15	3.43	8.49	10.27	1.21
	M8	50	2.63	4717	2867	36.79	0.34	27.67	1.63	1.32	16.98	20.96	1.23
	M9	50	2.66	5148	2906	65.58	0.36	43	5.74	4.88	7.41	8.72	1.18
Coarse grain	C1	110	2.58	4217	2404	44.37	0.10	44.93	4.63	3.23	9.70	13.91	1.43
	C2	110	2.59	4538	2512	55.56	0.10	63.51	7.03	4.49	9.03	14.15	1.57
	C3	110	2.54	4144	2407	42.70	0.43	48.70	6.43	4.45	7.57	10.94	1.44
	C4	110	2.58	4399	2597	50.65	0.33	45.66	4.23	2.47	10.80	18.49	1.71
	C5	100	2.54	4472	2636	46.57	0.16	39.38	3.29	1.65	11.97	23.86	1.99
	C6	100	2.53	4235	2323	34.64	0.33	40.31	3.5	2.06	11.52	19.57	1.70
	C7	100	2.54	4391	2484	46.05	0.21	38.65	3.25	2.57	11.89	15.04	1.26
	C8	100	2.57	4394	2716	51.58	0.44	38.06	4.62	2.05	8.24	18.56	2.25
	C9	160	2.61	5754	3131	74.72	0.20	83.81	10.04	7.38	8.35	11.36	1.36
	C10	160	2.58	6124	3377	51.61	0.19	65.82	9.08	6.23	7.25	10.56	1.46
	C11	160	2.60	6172	3125	76.52	0.41	65.45	5.92	3.83	11.06	17.09	1.55

Notes: SN – sample number; GS – grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ );  $\rho$  – density ( $\text{gr}/\text{cm}^3$ );  $V_p$ ,  $V_s$  – compressional and shear wave velocity (m/s);  $E_{ave}$  – average Young's modulus (GPa);  $\nu$  – Poisson's ratio; UCS – uniaxial compressive strength (MPa); BTS – Brazilian tensile strength (MPa);  $I_{s(50)}$  – point load strength (MPa).

The compressional wave velocities vary between 3893 to 6231 m/s and the mean value is 5045 m/s. The shear wave velocities also range between 2224 to 3377 m/s and the mean value is 2819 m/s. Pickett (1963), based on experimental tests on carbonate reservoirs, represented that ratio of shear wave to compressional wave velocity in different rocks is a constant and for dolomite and limestone is 1.8 and 1.9 respectively. In the current study, these ratios for fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain dolomite and averages of samples are 1.78, 1.81, 1.77 and 1.79, respectively.

Average Young's modulus is between 14 to 76.5 GPa, with the mean of 42.3 GPa. Poisson's ratio varies between

0.1 and 0.44 for the studied samples with a mean of 0.27.

Uniaxial compressive strength is from 9.18 to 83.81 MPa and with the mean of 35.64 MPa, based on ANON's (1979) classification, 81.3% of the samples are moderately strong, 12.5% are strong and 6.2% are weak. The measured of the Brazilian tensile strength for the samples is between 1.63 and 10.04 MPa, and the mean value is 4.12 MPa. Also, the measured values of the point load strength ( $I_{s(50)}$ ) ranges between 1.05 and 7.38 MPa with the mean of 2.87 MPa. According to classification of Broch and Franklin (1972), which is based on point load strength, 72% of the samples have high strength and 28% of the samples have very high strength.

A review of the technical literature shows that the ratio of uniaxial compressive strength to tensile strength in various rocks varies from 10 to 50. In this study, this ratio for fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain dolomite samples are 7, 10.64 and 9.76, respectively and average of all samples is almost 9. Also, uniaxial compressive strength ratio to the point load strength based on previous research depending on the type of rock, mineral composition and petrographic characteristics ranges from 5 to 30 (Zhang, 2016) and in this study for fine, medium and coarse grain dolomite samples are 9.65, 14.25 and 15.78, respectively and average for all is almost 13. Zhang (2016) offered  $BTS/I_{s(50)}$  ratio as 1.5 and in this study this ratio for fine, medium and coarse grain dolomite and averages of all samples are 1.38, 1.36, 1.61 and 1.45, respectively.

### 3.1. Effect of grain size on the mechanical and physical properties

Some of the results presented in Table 2 are shown in Figure 5. As can be seen in Figure 5(f), the density of the fine grain specimens is slightly higher than the coarse grain specimens (up to 4%), therefore there is a negative strong correlation between density and grain size ( $r = -0.77$ ). Eberhardt et al. (1999) also found that density decreases with increasing grain size, for selected granite rocks. Based on the simple linear regression performed, the following empirical relationship between density ( $\text{gr}/\text{cm}^3$ ) and grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) for selected dolomites is suggested (Figure 6):

$$\rho = -0.0008 \text{ GS} + 2.676. \quad (3)$$

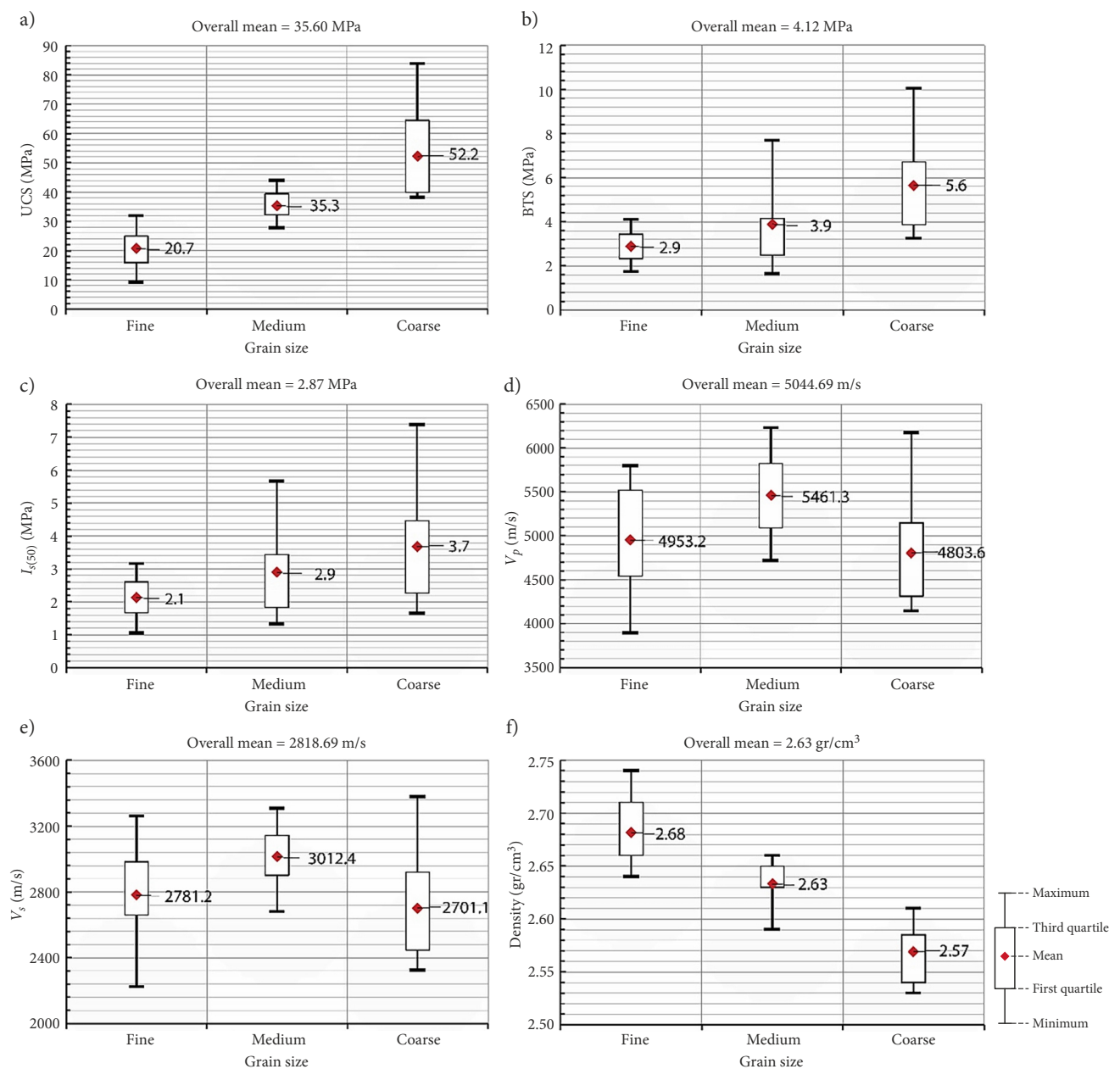


Figure 5. Effect of grain size on the mechanical and physical properties of the dolomite samples. grain size versus: (a) Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS); (b) Brazilian tensile strength (BTS); (c) Point load strength ( $I_{s(50)}$ ); (d) P-wave velocity ( $V_p$ ); (e) S-wave velocity ( $V_s$ ); and (f) density

Also according to Figures 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c) it is observed that with increasing grain size, compressive and tensile strength increases, and grain size has a significant positive correlation with the uniaxial compressive strength ( $r = 0.89$ ), Brazilian tensile strength ( $r = 0.69$ ) and point load strength ( $r = 0.58$ ). The result is inconsistent with the results for granite rocks and similar to that for clastic rocks. Sample of selected dolomitic rocks approximately are monomineralic, major mineral is dolomite and calcite is the minor mineral with low abundance, the only stress-bearing components in loading are the grains, thus, as the grain size increases, the sample tensile and compressive strength increases. The following two relationships are recommended for uniaxial compressive strength (MPa) versus grain size (Figure 7), and Brazilian tensile strength (MPa) versus grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ):

$$\text{UCS} = 0.292 \text{ GS} + 19.195; \quad (4)$$

$$\text{BTS} = 0.028 \text{ GS} + 2.54. \quad (5)$$

In the case of the elastic properties of materials, there is a good correlation between the average Young's modulus and the grain size ( $r = 0.64$ ), but there is no relationship between the Poisson's ratio and the grain size for

selected dolomite samples. The relationship between average Young's modulus (GPa) and grain size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) can be expressed using this relationship:

$$E_{ave} = 0.202 \text{ GS} + 30.93. \quad (6)$$

It is observed that averages of compressional and shear wave velocities for fine and coarse grain samples are almost 9% and 12% lower than those for the medium grain samples respectively (Figures 5(d), 5e and Table 2). For this reason, there is no correlation between grain size and compressional and shear wave velocity. Eberhardt et al. (1999) also did not find a clear relationship between wave velocity and grain size.

In the following and based on the simple linear regression performed, it can be seen that the compressional wave velocity (m/s) has a strong positive correlation with the shear wave velocity ( $r = 0.88$ ) (Figure 8):

$$V_p = 2.006 V_s - 610.747. \quad (7)$$

Compressional wave velocity and shear wave velocity also have a moderate correlation with average Young's modulus ( $r = 0.43$ ). The average Young's modulus (GPa) has also significant correlation versus uniaxial compressive

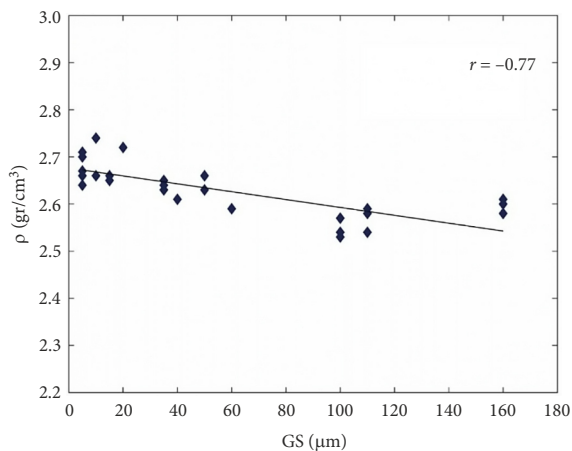


Figure 6. Density versus grain size (GS)

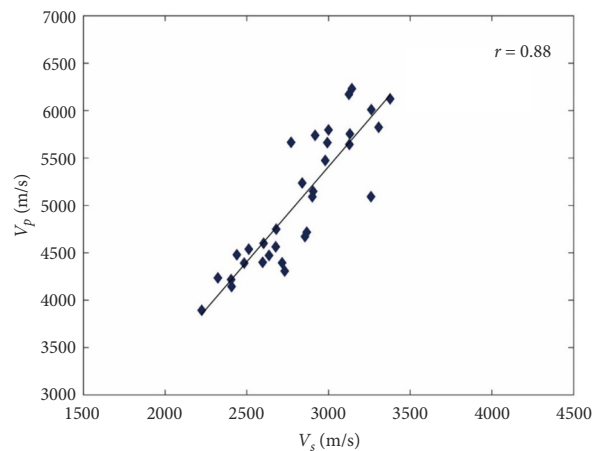


Figure 8. Compressional wave velocity versus shear wave velocity

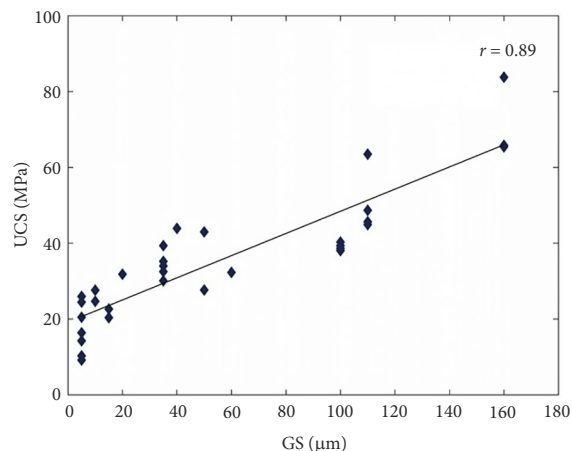


Figure 7. Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) versus grain size (GS)

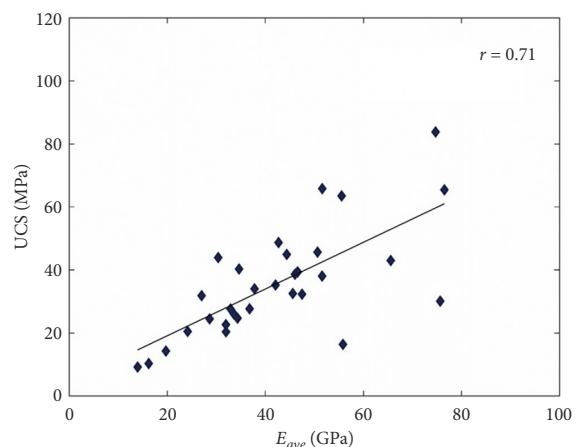


Figure 9. Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) versus average Young's modulus



sive strength (MPa) ( $r = 0.71$ ) (Figure 9) and moderately correlates with point load strength ( $r = 0.45$ ) and Brazilian tensile strength ( $r = 0.48$ ).

$$\text{UCS} = 0.742 E_{ave} + 4.247. \quad (8)$$

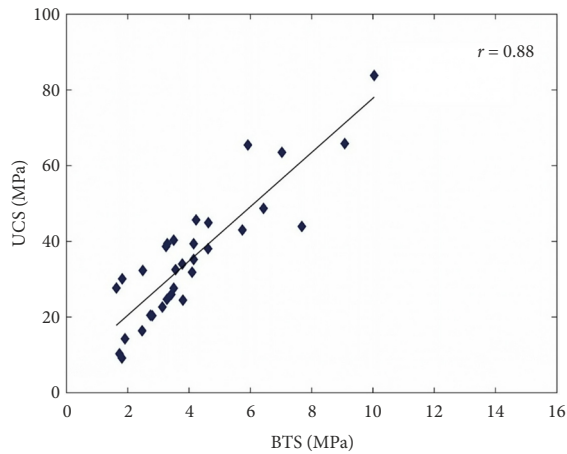


Figure 10. Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) versus Brazilian tensile strength (BTS)

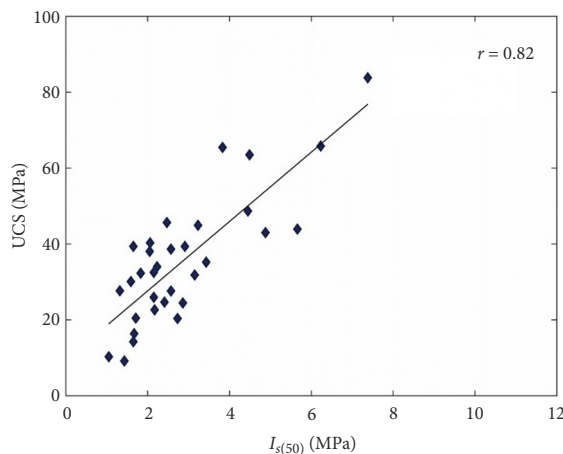


Figure 11. Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) versus point load strength

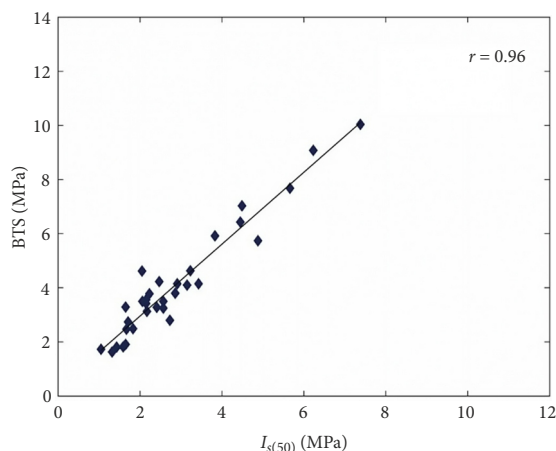


Figure 12. Brazilian tensile strength (BTS) versus point load strength

There is a strong correlation between uniaxial compressive strength and Brazilian tensile strength ( $r = 0.88$ ) (Figure 10). There are similar relationships between uniaxial compressive strength and point load strength ( $r = 0.82$ ) (Figure 11) and Brazilian tensile strength versus point load strength ( $r = 0.96$ ) (Figure 12). Figures 6 to 12 illustrate some of these relationships. The following three empirical relationships show the relationship between these three strength:

$$\text{UCS} = 7.165 \text{ BTS} + 6.153; \quad (9)$$

$$\text{UCS} = 9.14 I_{s(50)} + 9.38; \quad (10)$$

$$\text{BTS} = 1.33 I_{s(50)} + 0.30. \quad (11)$$

## Conclusions

The laboratory studies performed in this paper showed part of the relationship between microstructure of selected dolomite rock samples and their physical, mechanical and engineering index properties. In previous studies, the effect of grain size on peak strength was more controversial, and this article has emphasized this issue. Important results are listed below:

1. According to petrographic results, with increasing grain size, their distribution becomes more non-uniform.
2. There are significant positive correlation between grain size and uniaxial compressive strength ( $r = 0.89$ ), point load strength ( $r = 0.58$ ), Brazilian tensile strength ( $r = 0.69$ ), and average Young's modulus ( $r = 0.64$ ).
3. With increasing grain size and with a high correlation coefficient ( $r = -0.77$ ) density decreases.
4. There is strong correlation between compressional wave velocity and shear velocity ( $r = 0.88$ ).
5. There is a strong correlation between uniaxial compressive strength versus Brazilian tensile strength ( $r = 0.88$ ), uniaxial compressive strength versus point load strength ( $r = 0.82$ ), and Brazilian tensile strength versus point load strength ( $r = 0.96$ ).
6. Ratios of uniaxial compressive strength to Brazilian tensile strength for fine, medium and coarse grain dolomite samples were 7, 10.64 and 9.76 respectively.
7. Ratios of uniaxial compressive strength to point load strength for fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain dolomite were 9.65, 14.25 and 15.78 respectively and ratios of Brazilian tensile strength to point load strength for fine grain, medium grain and coarse grain dolomite samples were 1.38, 1.36 and 1.61, respectively.

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