1 THE SWISS ATLAS OF PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF ROCKS (SAPHYR)

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ABSTRACT

Since 2007, a multi-year project runs under the umbrella of the Swiss Geophysical Commission, with the aim to digitize all existing data on physical properties of rocks and to link them using a geographical frame (GIS). The target is to make those data accessible to a wide public such as in industrial context, for land use planners and for academic studies. The physical properties considered are density and porosity, seismic, magnetic, thermal properties, permeability and electrical properties.

For the time being, data from literature has been collected extensively for seismic and magnetic properties and only partially for the other physical properties.

In this report we present the activity in the years 2010-1011, The main output has been two maps: a map of Switzerland combined with mean values of Vp, extrapolated to room conditions from the high pressure laboratory measurements (matrix or crack free properties), and a map describing the bulk density distribution on the Swiss territory.

1.1 METHODOLOGY

1.1.1 Data collection

SAPHYR, is comprised of 1) empirically acquired data published in scientific literature, theses and reports, and 2) new laboratory measurements performed on existing and newly obtained rock samples from Switzerland. In an effort to expand the SAPHYR database, previously overlooked literature data is added and new laboratory measurements are continuously undertaken. Here we present mainly the part related to bulk density and P-wave velocity. Other physical properties, such as S-wave velocity, seismic anisotropies, porosity and magnetic susceptibility are at present in the process of incorporation into the SAPHYR database.

Sample requirements

For the inclusion of data in the SAPHYR database five requirements have to be met: 1) the sample should be unequivocally identified(ID), 2) the coordinates of the sampling location should be available with a resolution of 100 m or 10 seconds, or should be construable from maps and sample descriptions within the aforementioned resolution, 3) a description of rock type should be present, 4) the rock sample should have originated from within Switzerland or from geological formations outcropping outside Switzerland but of relevance for the Swiss territory (approximately within 40 km distance from the political border).

For the time being the dbase refers only to samples that originate from outcrop; borehole and well-log data have not been included at the moment. In order to expand the dbase to depth the derivatives of the physical parameters with pressure and temperature are to be taken into account. At the moment those derivatives are systematically collected , but not elaborated in a way that would make them applicable to the scale of the geological formation or rock type

Utilized literature

At this point, the database consists of 529 viable literature samples, from 13 sources, published between 1976 and 2007 (Fountain 1976; Burke and Fountain 1990; Burlini and Fountain 1993; Sellami 1994; Barruol and Kern 1996; Zappone et al. 1996; Burlini et al. 1998; Wagner et al. 1999; Khazanehdari et al. 2000; Hölker 2001; Pera and Burlini 2001, Pros et al. 2003; Barberini et al. 2007).

Laboratory measurements

Besides literature data, included in the SAPHYR database are unpublished data from 264 samples that were measured for the first time in the Rock Deformation Laboratory at ETH Zurich. Cylindrical cores were drilled from collected rock samples in a direction either normal to foliation (z), parallel to lineation (x) or parallel to foliation and normal to lineation (y) (Figure 1b). 22 mm or 25.4 mm diameter cores were then trimmed or saw-cut to a length/diameter ratio of 2.0-2.5. Subsequently polish on fine-grained abrasive paper ensured parallelism between top and bottom surfaces and eliminated geometrical irregularities. Before they were tested, sample cores were dried in a 110 °C oven for at least 12 hours to remove possible fluids in the pore space.

Bulk density was determined as the ratio between dry mass (g) and bulk volume (cm³), using a digital mass balance (1 mg resolution) and digital caliper (10 μm resolution) measurements. When multiple cores from one rock sample or locality existed, the average bulk density was considered.

P-wave velocities (Vp), were determined using the pulse transmission technique (Birch 1960, 1961). Experiments were performed using either 1) a Paterson-type gas-medium testing machine (Paterson 1990), following technical modifications and experiment procedures described in e.g. Faccenda et al. (2007) and Almqvist et al. (2010), or 2) an oil-medium hydrostatic pressure vessel modified for ultrasonic velocity testing (e.g. Wagner et al. 1999; Zappone et al. 2000). In regular pressure intervals, sample cores were exposed to increasing confining pressure to allow the derivation of the crack or porosity-free Vp extrapolated to room pressure (Vp0) (Figure 1a) (e.g. Birch 1961). For the Paterson apparatus, Vp was measured between 50 MPa and 400 MPa at 25 MPa intervals. The employed pressure range in the hydrostatic pressure vessel was 20 to 300 MPa, with 20 MPa intervals.

1.1.2 Sample matching

Matching evaluation

The conversion of sample point data to a physical properties map derived from a sample/lithology matching procedure that utilized the lithological information of the digital geotechnical map of Switzerland version 1/2000, issued by the Swiss Geotechnical Commission (SGTK)). Using an ESRI®-built ArcMaptm 9.3 environment, database samples were matched to a lithology type, on the basis of the rock type description and Swiss grid sample coordinates (datum CH1903 on 1841 Bessel ellipsoid) Sample matching was qualitatively evaluated by comparing the lithology type on the digital map and the rock type description of the sample. Sample matching was labeled as 'good', 'OK', 'poor' or 'bad', based primarily on proximity to a good lithological match. Effectively, these labels describe in a subjective and unquantified way, the decreasing usability of the sample for the construction of physical properties maps. The label 'good' is reserved for samples that plot, inside the same lithology type as the described rock type. The label 'OK' denotes either samples that plot within a few hundred meters of the same mapped lithology type as the described rock type (herein lie the assumptions that either the sample originated from an outcrop that is too small for appearance on the 1:500,000 digital geotechnical map), or samples that are geologically related in rock type description to the local lithology type, without exact matches within reasonable distance (for example a dolomite sample plotting in a limestone setting). The label

'poor' designates sample matches where only compositional correlation exists (e.g. a pelite sample matching with a metapelitic lithology type, or a marble sample plotting on a limestone lithology type). Finally, the label 'bad' is used for complete mismatches; that is, no geological correlation between sample rock type and regional lithology types. Mismatches probably originate from erroneous coordinates or coordinate systems, or incorrect rock type descriptions. Attempts were made to promote 'poor' and 'bad' matches to the status of 'OK' or 'good' by verifying the accuracy of sample coordinates (e.g. swapped xy coordinates) and correctness of the sample rock type description by thin section analysis. Data from remaining 'poor' and 'bad' matching samples were ignored in the construction of the physical properties maps.

Lithology groups (LG)

After the matching stage it became evident that the collected samples unevenly matched with lithology types on the map. In fact, emphasis is on the crystalline alpine lithologies, whereas some rare or unconsolidated lithology types are not matching at all. To reduce data gaps and improve map coverage, the original 69 specifically described lithology types were re-grouped into 28 general lithology groups (LG) (Table 1 and Figure 2). Additional advantage of the regrouping is the increase of data population for each lithology available. Disadvantageous, however, is the reduced resolution of the maps, as the number of unique values assigned to polygons of the digital geotechnical map lowered.

The lithology groups initially encompassed lithology types with geologically related rock type descriptions (Table 1). To recover map resolution, high-population (n > 10) lithology types were separated out from their lithology group and treated as stand-alone groups, provided the population size of the remaining lithology groups remained > 10. This arbitrary value represents the minimum population size that is required to yield a geologically representative density or V_{p0} data distribution pattern.

The ultimate goal remains a classification of lithologies according to the digital geotechnical map, which allows maximum map resolution. As more samples are continuously included in the database, more lithology groups are anticipated to split into more specific lithology groups with unique physical properties.

Data presentation

Statistical information for each lithology group is presented in table, histogram and map format. Statistical data included in tables is comprised of 1) population size (n), 2) minimum, median and maximum values, 3) mean and standard deviation (σ) calculation, and 4) assuming a Gaussian distribution, one standard deviation interval (σ-interval) calculations. The σ-interval represents the 68.3 area % of the Gaussian distribution model, around the mean value (i.e. there is a 68.3 % probability that the value for density or V_{p0} of a sample is within the σ -interval). Supplementary information includes a qualitative and subjective description of the binned data distribution (i.e. low n, no data, normal, scattered, or negative/positive skew), and the binned range of the data (Δ = the range between the minimum and maximum interval with data). For water (LG 25) and ice (LG 26) no statistical data is available, as only the generally known values for density and P-wave velocity are considered. Histograms with 0.1 g cm⁻³ or 0.5 km s⁻¹ discrete intervals (bins) for density and V_{p0} , respectively, visualize the data distribution for each lithology group. For the visualization in map format of bulk density and V_{p0} distribution across Switzerland, mean values are utilized. These maps are constructed by coupling mean values for each lithology group to polygons provided by the digital geotechnical map. Additional maps show the distribution of the calculated bulk density and V_{p0} standard deviation. These complementary maps visualize in essence, the distribution of the quality of the mean values and thus act as quality control maps. Important however, quality here does not necessarily reflect a statistical or geological origin for the standard deviation value. It rather reflects how well the mean value represents the variation in the data

1.2 RESULTS

Due to easy access and excellent outcrop conditions, not surprisingly, the vast majority of samples originate from the Alps in southern Switzerland and northern Italy (Figure 2). In comparison with the Alps, sampling in the Jura and Swiss central plateau (Mittelland) is underdeveloped. However, some lithology groups that surface in the latter two geographical regions also crop out in the Alps (Figure. 2).

In total, 793 samples with density and/or Vp0 data have been judged viable for inclusion in the SAPHYR database, out of which 49.2 % have a 'good' lithology type or group match, 37.1 % an 'OK' match, and 11.2 % and 2.5 %, respectively a 'poor' and 'bad' match. Within the three geographical regions of Switzerland, and in the bordering countries, nearly all matching evaluation grades can be found (Figure. 2). Only in the Jura, bad matches could be avoided.

1.2.1 Bulk density

Lithology groups statistics

A total of 602 bulk density measurements have been linked to one of 22 lithology groups. Therefore, sample-matching left 6 lithology groups without data (Table 2). For 10 lithology groups with population size n > 10, bulk density data display a normal distribution with standard deviation values below 0.14 g cm-3 (Figure. 3 and Table 2). The distribution for 4 lithology groups cannot be adequately described due to low sample population size (n < 10). Mean values among lithology groups range between 2.31 g cm-3 for unconsolidated debris (LG 28) and 3.23 g cm 3 for ultramafics (LG 21). All samples combined show a normal density data distribution between 1.9 and 3.5 g cm-3, with a standard deviation of 0.22 g cm-3, and mean at 2.78 g cm-3. Separated into sedimentary rocks (Figure. 3a-b), upper crustal rocks (Figure. 3c-d) and lower crustal / upper mantle rocks (Figure. 3e), with increasing typical burial depth, distribution of the density data displays the expected shift to denser rocks and reduced scatter among lithology groups,

Mean bulk density map

The mean bulk density values for 22 lithology groups are visualized on a map of Switzerland (Figure 4a). This map shows that density of rock at the surface is variable throughout Switzerland. Most apparent is the density contrast between crystalline rocks of the Alps and to a lesser extent the Jura, and the recent alpine valley infill and Molasse basin cover of the Mittelland (Figure 4a).

Bulk density standard deviation map

The representativeness of the mean density value for each lithology group, by not considering the natural variation and complexity of geological processes that affect density, is effectively expressed by the bulk density standard deviation. With increasing standard deviation values, the mean value for a lithology group becomes less characteristic (i.e. quality decreases). The map of the bulk density standard deviation effectively shows the quality of the mean bulk density values in Switzerland (Figure 4b).

In comparison with the mean bulk density map (Figure 4a), the standard deviation map (Figure 4b) conceals the presence of three major geographic features in Switzerland. The high standard deviation values of calc-shales/slates (LG 4) and unconsolidated debris (LG 28) visually contrast sharply with the other 22 lithology groups in the Jura, Mittelland and Alps (Figure 4b). Nevertheless, in the Jura, colours representing low values for the standard deviation dominate, whereas in the Alps, low, intermediate and high standard deviation values are all showing in more or less equal frequency.

1.2.2 P-wave velocity extrapolated to room pressure (V₀₀)

Lithology groups statistics

A total of 447 Vp0 measurements have been linked to one of 22 lithology groups, leaving 6 lithology groups without data (Table 3). For 13 lithology groups with population size n > 10, Vp0 data display a normal distribution with standard deviation between 0.22 and 0.56 km s-1. The distribution for 6 lithology groups cannot be described with confidence due to low sample population size (n < 10). The highest Vp0 standard deviation was found for quartzites (LG 19), with a standard deviation of 0.85 km s-1. For this lithology group and five others the binned range was highest with $Δ = 3.0$ km s-1, although absolute boundaries vary (Table 3). Mean values among lithology groups range between 4.13 km s-1 for porous sandstones (LG 2) and 7.66 g cm 3 for ultramafics (LG 21). All samples combined show a normal Vp0 distribution between 2.5 and 9.0 km s 1, with a standard deviation of 0.74 km s -1, and mean at 6.16 km s-1. Separated into sedimentary rocks (Figure 5a-b), upper crustal rocks (Figure 5c-d) and lower crustal / upper mantle rocks (Figure 5e), with increasing deeper origin, distribution of the Vp0 data, except serpentinites (LG 20), displays the expected shift to faster P-waves, with exception for serpentinites (LG 20). In addition, Vp0 in carbonates is slightly faster than in siliceous sediments (Figure 5a-b). Among upper crustal rocks, mica-rich lithologies have a lower Vp0 than mica-poor lithologies (Figure 5c-d). In fact, also for most sedimentary rocks, Vp0 is faster than for upper crustal mica-rich rocks (Fig.Figure 5ac).

Mean Vp0 map

The mean of Vp0 for 22 lithology groups are visualized on a map of Switzerland (Figure 6a). Three geographical areas can be identified from the mean Vp0 map (Figure 6a): 1) in the northwest of Switzerland relatively high velocities represented in orange dominate, 2) in the Mittelland lower Vp0 values (down to 4.1 km s-1) dominate, and 3) throughout the south, not considering lakes and glaciers, velocity contrasts among lithology groups (orange tints dominate) give rise to a complex color pattern. The subdivision of P-wave velocity domains corresponds exactly to the appearance of crystalline rocks at the surface (Figure 2), with high velocities in the Jura and Alps, and contrastingly low velocities in softsediments of the Mittelland. Similarly, soft sediments in alpine valleys are recognized by their low mean Vp0 (Figure 6a),

Mean Vp0 standard deviation map

Similar to the mean bulk density, the representativeness of the mean Vp0 value of the generalized lithology groups is effectively expressed by the Vp0 standard deviation. Larger standard deviation values indicate lesser representativeness (i.e. quality decreases) of the mean value. The map of the Vp0 standard deviation shows the quality of mean Vp0 values in Switzerland (Figure 6b).

Like for the mean Vp0 map (Figure 6a), the standard deviation map (Figure 6b) clearly shows the three major geographical features in Switzerland. In the Jura, low standard deviation values dominate, whereas in the Mittelland most outcropping lithology groups have a higher Vp0 standard deviation. In the Alps, standard deviation varies between low and high values, although the former dominate the overall appearance. There, most high standard deviation values appear in alpine valleys and rarely represent crystalline lithology groups. In fact, standard deviation values for crystalline rocks are lower than for sediments. The lowest standard deviation is found for crystalline lithology groups in central southern Switzerland (Figure 6b).

1.3 FIGURES, AND TABLES

Figure 1. Typical curve for a P-wave velocity test in the Paterson apparatus, with increasing confining pressure. Vp0 is derived by linear extrapolation of the high-pressure V^p behavior back to room pressure. In the insert the definition of sample drilling directions is shown.

Figure 2. Modified SGTK geotechnical map of Switzerland showing 28 lithology groups and the SAPHYR database samples with Vp0 and/or bulk density data, colour coded according to the evaluation of the match with the original lithology type on the map. Classification and description of lithology groups is presented in Table 1.

Figure 3 Bulk density histograms displaying frequency against binned bulk density values for 22 lithology groups (LG) divided into five generic groups: lithology groups that consist of a) carbonatebearing sediments, b) siliceous sediments, c) upper crustal rocks in which mica minerals dominate, d) upper crustal rocks in which mica minerals are of secondary importance in terms of composition, and e) typical lower crustal or upper mantle rocks.

Figure 4 Map showing the distribution of mean bulk density data in the SAPHYR database. Using a colour ramp ranging from light green (2.30 g cm-3) to brown (3.30 g cm-3), mean density is shown as a function of colour. The assumed lower density-value for water and ice, representing lakes and glaciers, is displayed in supplementary light blue tints. The insert shows the distribution of standard deviation data for bulk density data of lithology groups in Switzerland. The distribution is visualised with a partial rainbow colour ramp that ranges from turquoisegreenish colours (σ *= 0.03-0.10 g cm⁻³) to light orange-reddish colours (0.15-0.24 g cm⁻³). Lithology groups with no data (i.e. assumed values or absence of samples) are shown in white.*

Figure 5 Vp0 histograms displaying frequency against binned Vp0 values for 22 lithology groups (LG) divided into five convenient generic groups: lithology groups that consist of a) carbonatebearing sediments, b) siliceous sediments, c) upper crustal rocks in which mica minerals dominate, d) upper crustal rocks in which mica minerals are of secondary importance in terms of composition, and e) typical lower crustal or upper mantle rocks.

Figure 6 a) Distribution of mean V_{p0} data in the SAPHYR database. Using a partial rainbow colour ramp ranging from green (4.10 km s⁻¹) to red (6.80 km s⁻¹), mean V_{p0} is shown as a function of colour. The assumed velocity-values for water and ice, and the calculated mean V_{p0} for ultramafics (LG 21) are displayed in supplementary light bluish colours and dark red, respectively. The latter lithology group was excluded from the partial colour ramp range to enhance colour contrast among the other lithology groups. b) Miniature map showing the distribution of standard deviation data for V_{p0} data of lithology groups in Switzerland. The distribution is visualized with a partial rainbow colour ramp that ranges from turquoisegreenish colours (σ = 0.22-0.40 km s⁻¹) to light orange-reddish colours (0.60-0.85 km s⁻¹). Lithology groups with no data (i.e. assumed values or absence of samples) are shown in white.

Table 1. Subdivision of lithology types from the SGTK geotechnical map in lithology groups.

¹ Taken from the digital geotechnical map of Switzerland Version 1/2000

² Number of polygons in the digital geotechnical map of Switzerland Version 1/2000

Table 2. Bulk density data for the 28 lithology groups currently considered for the density map (Figure 2).

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Lithology group	Description	Population n	Distribution	Mean (km s^{-1}	Median $(km s-1)$	Minimum $(km s-1)$	Maximum $(km s-1)$
LG ₁	Marls	8	Low n	5.24	5.33	4.14	5.99
LG ₂	Porous sandstones	9	Low n	4.13	4.23	2.66	4.72
LG ₃	Mudstones/shales/slates	0	No data		\overline{a}	\mathbf{r}	
LG ₄	Calc-shales/slates	$\overline{7}$	Low n	5.96	6.07	5.38	6.37
LG ₅	Compact sandstones	14	Normal	5.66	5.65	4.96	6.13
LG ₆	Conglomerates/breccias	21	Normal	5.60	5.54	5.00	6.75
LG ₇	Calc-slates/schists	$\overline{7}$	Low n	6.02	5.98	5.32	6.77
LG ₈	Marly limestone	19	Normal	6.06	6.06	5.38	6.56
LG ₉	Mixed carbonates	20	Negative skew	6.06	6.11	5.32	6.48
LG 10	Siliceous limestones	$\overline{7}$	Low n	5.95	5.89	5.48	6.44
LG 11	Dolomites	26	Negative skew	6.49	6.50	5.93	6.93
LG 12	Granitoids	33	Normal	5.77	5.70	5.04	7.07
LG 13	Marbles	25	Normal	6.53	6.61	4.67	7.01
LG 14	Radiolarites	0	No data		\blacksquare	\blacksquare	\sim
LG 15	Feldspar gneisses	24	Normal	5.76	5.67	5.10	6.71
LG 16	Biotite micaschist/gneisses	52	Normal	6.33	6.35	5.37	7.96
LG 17	Mica feldspar gneisses	11	Normal	5.85	5.91	5.39	6.07
LG 18	Mica schist/gneisses	19	Normal	5.99	5.89	5.32	7.61
LG 19	Quartzites	5	Low n	6.17	5.83	5.48	7.62
LG 20	Serpentinites	20	Normal	5.86	5.85	5.21	6.84
LG 21	Ultramafics	21	Normal	7.66	7.83	6.27	8.53
LG 22	Volcanics	0	No data		\blacksquare		
LG 23	Metagabbro	26	Normal	6.57	6.63	5.57	7.29
LG 24	Mafics	55	Normal	6.74	6.69	5.89	7.55
LG 25	Water	0	Fixed	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
LG 26	Ice	0	Fixed	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60
LG 27	Fine-grained deposits	0	No data	\blacksquare	\blacksquare		
LG 28	Unconsolidated debris	18	Scatter	5.36	5.64	3.70	6.15
Total	All viable V_{p0} measurements	447	Normal	6.16	6.11	2.66	8.53

Table 3. V_{p0} *data for the 28 lithology groups currently considered for the P-wave map (Figure 3).*

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