



The flexible dilatometer is generally used for conducting static load tests on in-situ rock in order to determine its stress/strain characteristics. The tests are carried out with the help of a cylindrical, radially expandable probe at freely selectable points inside a borehole (\varnothing 101 mm). The probe's diameter equals 95 mm.

The advantages of an in situ method of this type lie in being able to determine a foundation's characteristics in the practically undisturbed state, whereas laboratory tests usually measure only the maximum values of select specimens.

The measuring system (see Fig. 1) consists of the actual probe with three displacement transducers each set at an angle of 120° to the others, a cable reel for holding the combined measuring and pressure line, a pressure generator and the measurement electronics.

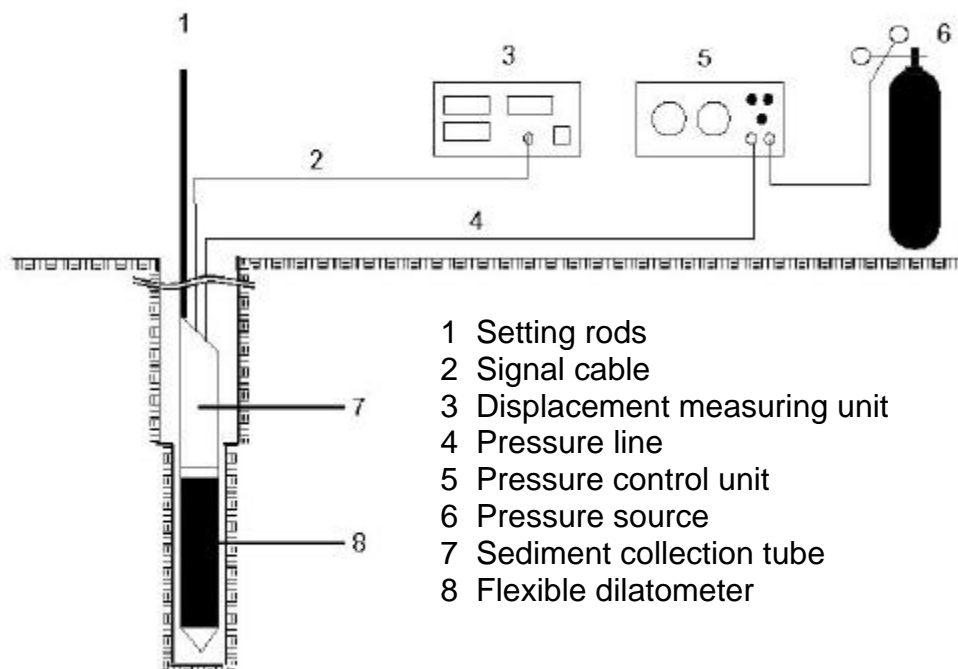


Fig. 1 Schematic representation of the flexible dilatometer setup



Using this test setup it is possible to exert a pressure of 100 bar and more on the borehole wall by pneumatic means. The pressure in the probe is checked with either a high-precision gauge class 0.6 or an electric pressure sensor. The deformation values measured by the displacement sensors are transmitted electrically to a measuring bridge. Thanks to its relatively large measuring range of 25 mm (reading accuracy ± 0.001 mm), the probe can be used in stiff soil as well as in rock. For special applications a rod can be used to insert the probe in the borehole properly orientated.

The measuring setup consists of the following individual components:

- Flexible dilatometer probe (dia. 95 mm)
- Calibrating tube made of aluminium (internal dia. 100 mm; length 1500 mm)
- Sediment collection tube, short (length 1000 mm)
- Sediment collection tube, long (length 2100 mm)
- Peg for coupling the steel rope to the sump tube
- Aluminium rod (in lengths of 3 m)
- Pressure line
- Signal cable
- Cable trolley for winding up the bundled measuring lines
- 10 m of connecting line (pressure reducer / pressure measuring unit)
- Displacement measuring unit
- Pressure control unit
- 50 l pressure bottle of nitrogen
- Pressure reducer (p_v max. 300 bar; p_n max. 150 bar; Q_n 150 m³/h)
- Automatic data acquisition

The borehole is loaded during the test in several load cycles; readings are taken of the borehole deformations at each loading stage and the deformations are tracked in each final stage of the loading cycle until they subside. The pressure is then relieved, likewise in stages, with simultaneous measurements taken off the reverse deformation until it stops. The same procedure is followed for the next higher and further load cycles.



The measurement results thus obtained are presented in the form of a diagram that allows for a first assessment of the deformation characteristic.

As a rule the formula for thick-walled tubes according to LAMÉ is used to calculate the moduli of loading and stress-relief:

$$\text{Loading and stress-relief modulus } E = (1 + \nu) \frac{d}{\Delta d} \Delta p \quad [\text{MPa}]$$

- ν = Poisson's ratio
- d = Initial diameter of the borehole [mm]
- Δp = Pressure differential [MPa]
- Δd = Deformation [mm]

The Poisson's ratio used in this formula can be determined by laboratory tests or be taken from suitable tables.

All moduli are calculated as a secant module, i.e. as the difference between two co-ordinate pairs in the stress-deformation diagram. The loading modulus thus corresponds to the gradient of the rising section of the stress-deformation diagram and from the 2nd test cycle on it can still be divided into a first and a repeat loading modulus. The modulus of stress-relief corresponds to the gradient of the falling section of the stress-deformation diagram between the points with maximum load and minimum load of the respective stress-relief cycle.

The loading moduli and stress-relief moduli for pressures between 0.5 MPa and 10 MPa can be derived from the measurement results. Since each test is conducted with three displacement sensors concurrently, just a small number of tests are needed to carry out an adequate statistical evaluation or to assess the anisotropy of the rock body in terms of its moduli.



Sales Information

Item	Description
16.3.1	Ettlinger flexible dilatometer EDI 95 for pneumatic operation in boreholes of 101 mm \varnothing , for max. pressure up to 10 MPa with 3 potentiometer transducers, measuring range 20 mm, for simultaneous measurement of rock deformation in 3 directions, complete with rubber sleeve as well as connections for supply lines and mud casing with possible connection for setting rods.
16.3.2	Automatic data recording by laptop, online representation of all measuring values and graph of selected measuring values. Readout of the data on hard disc. 12 V connection and 12 V voltage output for laptop. With laptop, with air quantity regulator with precision measuring manometer 0 – 100 bar, class 0.6.
16.3.3.1	Electric cable with pressurised water resistant plug (on probe side) and plug for display unit, Length 50 m.
16.3.3.2	Length 100 m.
16.3.4.1	High pressure hose for pneumatic operation, NW 8, 180 bar, on both sides with couplings, Length 50 m.
16.3.4.2	Length 100 m.
16.3.5	Hose and cable reel for max. 100 m line, portable, robust construction.
16.3.6	Set of electric and pneumatic connection line and connection line (HD-hose) between regulator and nitrogen bottle.
16.3.7	Pressure reducing valve for nitrogen bottle.
16.3.8	Aluminium calibration tube for functional test of the borehole probe, i. d. 100 mm and o. d. 120 mm.
16.3.9	Protective and transportation box for storage and transportation of probe and test tube.



Item	Description
16.3.10	Mud casing lengthening, length 2.1 m.
16.3.11	Setting rods in square steel profile 3 m length each, plug connection. Per shot
16.3.12	Spare rubber sleeve.
16.3.13	Data evaluation software for MS-DOS systems. Readout of load and unload modulus as well as measuring values and graphics on printer. Data input by keyboard or taking over from the data recording unit.
16.3.14	On-the-job training by our staff.