

7TH ISRM EUROPEAN ROCK MECHANICS DEBATE

Tensile strength of rock - direct or indirect testing?

Time: 2026, October 5th, 16:30 (CET)

Registration (<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/IMQUE387Q8iWsoAzms14Ow>) &
YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@IntSocRockMechanics>).

Copy – paste the link in your browser to register and attend the zoom meeting or to follow the debate on the YouTube channel.

Moderator: Philippe Vaskou (France)

Speaker 1: Matthew A. Perras (Trent University – Canada)



Indirect Tensile Strength from the Brazilian Tests: It is Good Enough

Associate Professor Matthew A. Perras, from Trent University's School of the Environment, has been an advocate for more tensile strength testing since his PhD studies at Queen's University. He continues to promote rock testing through teaching and research in Engineering Geology and Geoscience at Trent University, Peterborough, Canada, and studies environmental influences on crack growth in brittle rock.

Speaker 2: Ignacio Pérez-Rey (University of Vigo – Spain)



Direct Tensile Testing of Rocks: Overcoming the Myth of Impracticality

Ignacio Pérez-Rey is an Assistant Professor at University of Vigo (Spain). His research focuses on laboratory testing of rocks and applied rock mechanics in civil and mining engineering. He has coauthored the new version of the "ISRM Suggested Method for Determining the Tensile Strength and Elastic Constants of Rocks by the Direct Tension Test", and he is a member of the ISO/TC 182/WG 10, "Laboratory Testing of Rocks".

ISRM EUROPEAN ROCK MECHANICS DEBATE SERIES (Eurock Debates)

The series of debates aim at stimulating communications among academics and practitioners of rock mechanics and rock engineering in Europe. It is hoped that the European network of rock mechanics and rock engineering is strengthened through such communications. The debates are held virtually and each one will have two speakers, with different perspectives on a hot rock engineering topic or on a specific technical aspect of rock mechanics. One of the main aims is also to collect opinions and suggestions from the rock mechanics community.

The debating topics are selected by an ad hoc Organising Committee, initially on the basis of three debates per year.

Organizing Committee: Philippe Vaskou (philippe.vaskou@outlook.fr) & Muriel Gasc, Europe ISRM Vice-President (muriel.gasc@cerema.fr)

EUROCK DEBATE RULES

Debates, in one form or another, are commonly used in democratic societies to explore and resolve issues and problems and in scientific societies to foster research and development. The guidelines are the following:

- A topic is selected by the organizers. Suggestions from rock mechanics academics and practitioners are welcome. Two speakers will be invited to briefly introduce the topic from different point of views (theory/practice, lab/in situ, academic/practical, empirical/observational approach...) with the aim of fostering debate.
- The chairman/moderator welcomes the audience and then introduces the topic for the seminar and will also present both speakers for a short time.
- Both speakers present the basics of the topics from their point of view and comment on possible open issues or aspects needing more research, based on a prepared presentation. Every speaker will have 15 minutes time to do that.
- Both speakers have 5 minutes to comment, deepen, illustrate or rebut the presentation of the other speaker. The idea is investigating what can add the perspective of the other speaker to the work develop by the speaking one.
- A free round of questions preferably to both speakers is open and moderated by the chairman. Short questions and answers are preferred. This can extend for a time between 15 and 30 minutes.
- 1 minute will be given to every speaker to wrap-up his/her comments and points of view. The chairman closes the meeting.