

Exploring the Relation between Seismic Coefficient and Rock Properties Through Field Measurements and Empirical Model for Evaluating the Effect of Blast-Induced Ground Vibration in Open-Pit Mines: A Case Study at the Thuong Tan III Quarry (Vietnam)

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Abstract Blasting is one of the most effective methods for fragmenting rock in quarries. Nevertheless, its adverse effects are significant, especially blast-induced ground vibration. Field measurement and empirical equations are simple methods to determine and estimate the intensity of blast-induced ground vibration. However, we cannot evaluate the effects of blast-induced ground vibration on the surrounding environment based on these outcomes. Therefore, this study explores the relation between seismic coefficient and rock properties through field measurements and an empirical model for evaluating the effect of blast-induced ground vibration in open-pit mines. Accordingly, the seismic coefficient (K) is considered the main objective in this study. Firstly, it was determined based on the rock properties. Subsequently, an empirical model for estimating blast-induced ground vibration was developed based on field measurements. This empirical equation was then expanded to determine K to check whether it matches the determined K by the rock properties. Finally, it was used as the threshold to determine the maximum explosive charged per delay to ensure the safety of the surrounding environment from blast-induced ground vibration. For this aim, the Thuong Tan III quarry (in Binh Duong province, Vietnam) was selected as a case study. Fifth-teen blasting events with a total of 75 blast-induced ground vibration values were recorded and collected. An empirical equation for estimating blast-induced ground vibration was then developed based on the collected dataset, and K was determined in the range of 539 to 713 for the Thuong Tan III quarry. Based on the measured blast-induced ground vibrations, developed empirical model, and K values, the Phase 2 software was applied to simulate the effects of blast-induced ground vibration on the stability of slopes as one of the impacts on the surrounding environment. From the simulation results, we can determine the maximum explosive charged per delay for each type of rock to ensure the stability of the slope.

Keywords: Ground vibration; Seismic coefficient; Thuong Tan III quarry; Simulation; Vietnam.

1. Introduction

Blasting is one of the most popular and helpful in fragmenting rocks in open-pit mines. Although the advantages of blasting for rock breakage are undeniable, however, the hazards impacts with blasting are not trivial, such as ground vibration, air overpressure, back-break, fly rock, etc. [1, 2, 3, 4]. Of these undesirable effects, ground vibration is the most dangerous, with many severe impacts, including instability of benches and slopes, disrupting structures, cracks or collapses houses, the vibration of roads and railways, underground water, to name a few. Peak particle velocity (PPV) is well-known as an indicator for measuring ground vibration. It is generated by the wasted energy of explosions and spreads in rocky environments. At high frequencies in a short time, the PPV can significantly affect the structure of the building. Although oscillation is a gradual decrease in the distance, in the case of PPV fluctuations coincide with the natural oscillation of the systems, resonance oscillation will occur and significantly affect cracks, collapses, and subsidence. Consequently, blast-induced PPV evaluation and control are essential to minimize adverse impacts on the environment. Many scholars have studied empirical approaches; however, most models developed for predicting blast-induced PPV were mainly based on the linear relationship between explosive charge per delay and monitoring distance [5, 6, 7].

Therefore, when choosing safe blasting modes, one proceeds from the level of the seismic action of the explosion that does not exceed the maximum permissible value, the existing regulatory data, the actual state of protected objects, their service life, degree of responsibility, etc.

2. Study area and materials

Thuong Tan III quarry is located in Thuong Tan commune, Bac Tan Uyen District, Binh Duong province of Vietnam (Fig. 1). The approved mine reserve is 16.727 million m³, and the authorized area is 42 ha to

cote -70 m. The deepest mining site reaches -50 m, the soil layer is 4÷5 m thick, and the rock layer is 8÷10 m wide. The stone processing area is located in the south and southwest of the mining area, with the stone crushers in operation. This quarry was selected as a case study because it is close to the Thuong Tan IV quarry with a distance of 180÷200 m [8]. Therefore, blasting operations in the Thuong Tan III quarry were recommended as high risks for the Thuong Tan IV quarry slopes.

In small surveying projects, rotary-wing UAVs such as DJI Phantom 3, 4, or DJI Inspire 2 are often utilized widely [9-16]. Mine terrain for this study is collected in this study is DJI Inspire 2. The camera mounted on the drone is crucially important as it directly contributes to the resulting 3D models' accuracy. The results are shown in Fig. 1.

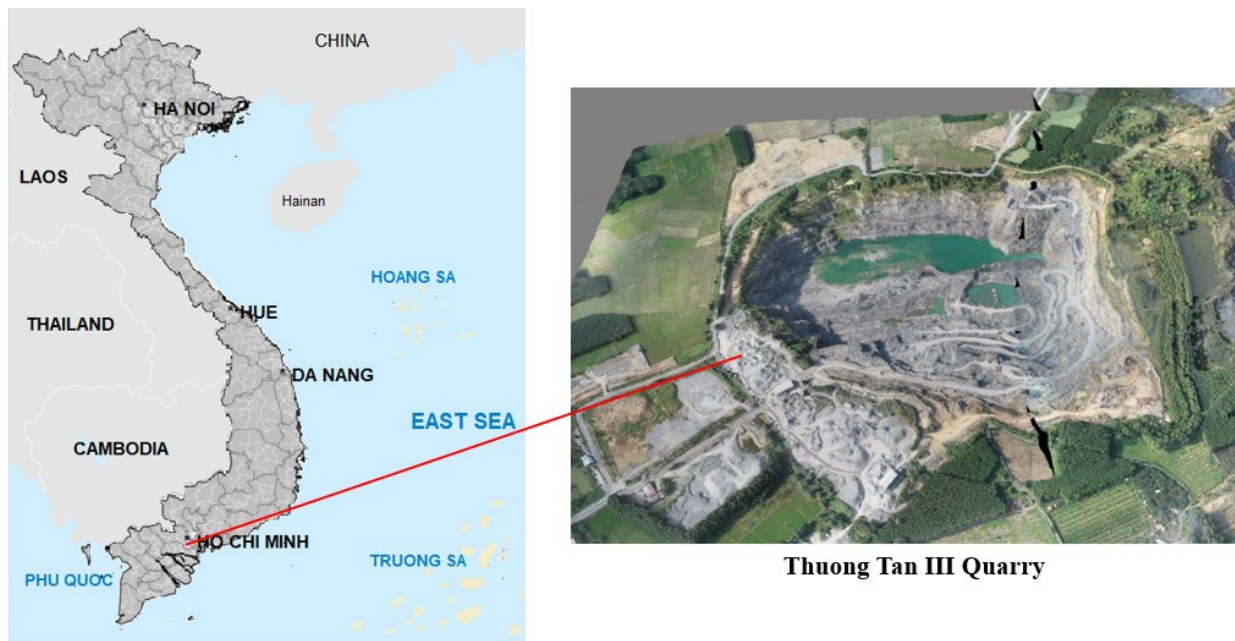


Fig. 1. Location of the Thuong Tan III quarry in Binh Duong province, Vietnam.

In this study, 15 blasting events were performed with a total of 75 explosion-induced ground vibration records at the sensitive environmental objects. The study aimed to determine the attenuation coefficient of blasting vibration (K) to predict the ground vibration caused by the explosion and blast-induced ground vibration at the Thuong Tan III, Thuong Tan IV quarry. We used a multipoint blasting vibration monitoring system (Vibration wireless sensor provides real-time monitoring data- Wireless Mesh Sensor (WMS-02) (Fig. 2):

- Real-Time Wireless Sensors: Sensor products are built to be deployed on mining and construction sites, tunnels, bridges, pathways, and other structures. Sensors also can monitor both vibration and tilt simultaneously. Thanks to this ability, the effects of blasting vibration on structural safety can be understood in real-time [17-19].

- Sensor & Gateway for monitoring & routing: Vibration wireless sensor provides real-time monitoring data. Gateway products quickly route data and alerts to the desired locations (i.e., mobile phones, FTP Server, GIS). USB Management Node is a dongle attached to a PC and establishes a wireless mesh network. It enables bi-directional communication with a maximum of 100 sensors. Sensors have been designed for easy installation and wireless remote management to provide readings and alerts when a user-defined allowable limit is exceeded (Fig. 2).

- Sensors can be positioned over a large area as each sensor can act as a repeater; the sensor network can span kilometers. Multiple sensors are deployed at target locations. Readings are transmitted to the Management Node (Management dongle) connected to the PC. Since our sensors have a built-in router function, all tasks are sent to the detector near the Management Node and, in turn, to the Node (Fig. 3).

Eight blasting events of the mine were conducted, and four seismographs monitored each blasting event. Finally, a total of 75 records of PPV were collected for predicting and simulating the effects of PPV, including the explosive charge per blast (Q), monitoring distance (D), and PPV. It is worth noting that the

Wireless Mesh Sensor (WMS-02) seismograph was used to monitor PPV, and a GPS device was used to measure D. The details of the datasets are summarized in Tab. 1. In this quarry, the borehole diameter of 105 mm, bench height of 8÷10 m, powder factor of 0.35÷0.34 kg/m³, the burden of 10÷11.5 m, spacing of 2.8÷3.2 m, sub drilling of 105 mm, and stemming of 4.9÷5.2 m; maximum charge per delay Q_{dl}= 20÷40 kg; Total explosives in the blast Q= 1000÷3000 kg; Distance between the blasting and measuring locations R= 100÷500 m. The details of the dataset are presented in Tab. 1.



Fig. 2. Seismograph for monitoring blast-induced ground vibration in the Thuong Tan III quarry.

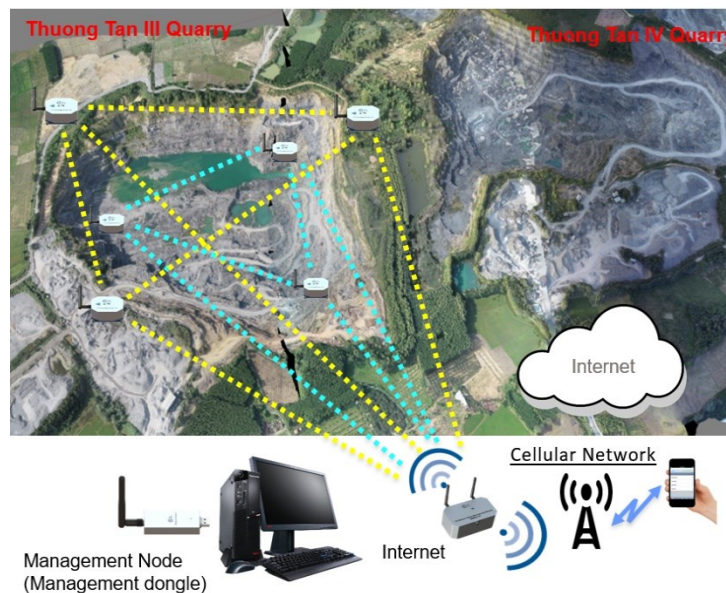


Fig. 3. Scheme for monitoring blast-induced ground vibration in the Thuong Tan III quarry.

Tab. 1. The dataset collected in this study.

Q/Q _{dl}	D	V	Q/Q _{dl}	D	V	Q/Q _{dl}	D	V
2275/ 40	98.25	5.62	2250/ 30	51.3	6.85	1860/ 62	57.4	5.58
	102.93	2.94		75.1	3.55		51.3	6.10
	120.35	1.93		75.3	2.87		32.8	2.80
	56.64	16.85		110.4	1.91		33.9	5.90
	56.14	18.63		24.5	44.84		44.9	3.65
1950/ 27	98.6	1.78	2000/ 38.8	75.1	1.28	1464/ 23	48.3	5.88
	85.7	2.75		62.3	3.64		39.8	12.00
	126.7	1.29		72.0	3.04		44.3	6.13
	93.1	2.08		47.2	5.57		45.3	7.62
	125.3	1.40		31.8	7.08		77.9	5.63
2880/ 36	54.4	6.98	2000/ 31.2	52.4	11.80	2236/ 40	68.4	7.85
	93.4	3.22		50.8	13.05		55.6	14.66
	128.4	4.48		77.5	2.26		33.0	22.68

	78.2	5.37		68.6	2.29		66.2	8.74
	48.7	8.70		63.4	4.87		60.1	9.70
1538/ 48	69.7	6.78	2675/ 29	102.1	3.81	1788/ 40	46.7	3.55
	40.5	13.12		52.0	17.50		43.0	10.20
	65.4	8.30		90.6	14.30		86.5	4.01
	81.3	3.25		74.2	4.12		51.6	3.00
	69.6	3.81		43.0	5.91		33.7	22.20
1760/ 20	44.8	13.05	2625/ 29	73.7	2.43	2700/ 25	84.8	5.04
	64.8	4.87		85.9	24.40		52.5	2.23
	97.3	2.29		71.0	34.20		133.4	4.16
	108.1	1.98		51.8	4.83		161.2	3.10
	78.2	2.26		57.2	3.57		87.0	4.60

3. Methodology

3.1. P-wave and S-wave Velocity Theory in rock

To study the issue more simply, we use methods to analyze the kinematic and dynamic characteristics of elastic waves (deformations) generated in the well by an impulse source. The rock is viewed mainly as a flexible body [20-22]. An elastic body is characterized by the deformations' restoration when the applied forces are removed. In a homogeneous isotropic medium, waves of two types arise and propagate longitudinal wave P and shear wave S (Figs. 4, 5).

- Waves P arise during deformations of the volume of an elastic body. In the P wave, the particles of the medium move in the direction of wave propagation in the applied forces F. The wave is an alternation of compression and extension zones. These zones move at a speed V_p , which is longitudinal wave velocity.

- Waves S waves arise during deformations of the shape (shear) of an elastic body. In the S wave, the particles of the medium move perpendicular to the wave propagation in the direction of the applied forces F. An alternation of stripes with the opposite direction of particle motion is observed. These zones (stripes) move at a speed of V_s . V_s is the speed of the transverse wave.



Fig. 4. Forces and deformations applied (Waves P and waves S).

$$E = (F / S) / (\Delta l / l) \quad (1)$$

$$\mu = (\Delta d / d) / (\Delta l / l) \quad (2)$$



Fig. 5. Wave direction and particle movement (Waves P and waves S).

Shear modulus G , Young's modulus E , and Poisson's ratio μ are related. μ - Poisson's ratio can be determined based on measuring the velocities V_p and V_s .

$$G = \frac{E}{2(1 + \mu)} \quad (3)$$

$$\mu = \frac{V_p^2 - 2V_s^2}{2(V_p^2 - V_s^2)} \quad (4)$$

- Longitudinal wave P- translational motion of particles of the medium in the direction of propagation of elastic vibrations (waves). Longitudinal waves propagate at a speed V_p determined by the elastic and density properties of the medium [23, 24]:

$$V_p = \sqrt{\frac{E(1 - \mu)}{\sigma(1 + \mu)(1 - 2\mu)}} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 2\mu}{\sigma}}, \text{ m/s} \quad (5)$$

Transverse wave S - motion of particles of the medium in the direction perpendicular to the propagation of elastic vibrations. Transverse waves propagate at speed V_s determined by the elastic and density properties of the medium [17, 18]:

$$V_s = \sqrt{\frac{E}{\sigma 2(1 + \mu)}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\sigma}}, \text{ m/s} \quad (6)$$

Where: σ - density of the medium, kg/m^3 ; λ - Lamé constant.

$$\lambda = \frac{\sigma E}{(1 + \sigma)(1 - 2\sigma)} \quad (7)$$

μ - Poisson's ratio (characterizes the resistance of the rock to shape change).

$$\mu = \frac{E}{2(1 + \sigma)} \quad (8)$$

E - Young's modulus (Characterizes the resistance of the rock to volume change).

V_p - Longitudinal wave P, m/s

V_s - Transverse wave S, m/s

The constants λ and μ , which determine the rigidity of the medium, grow faster than the density σ during the compaction of rocks. Therefore, an increase in density is usually accompanied by an increase in acoustic velocity. The constants λ and μ are always positive. Consequently, the speeds of the longitudinal waves are always more significant than the velocities of the transverse ones.

Seismic coefficient (K) changes depending on the change in the blasting conditions. K is determined based on specific measurements of the velocity with known Q and R . When calculating the seismic effect of short-delay explosions, if there is no data on the maximum weight of the charge in the group, the values of the seismicity coefficients can be determined through the function of reducing the seismic effect of explosions. Then the value of the seismicity coefficient is found by the formula:

$$K = 1000 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{V_p}{\sigma} \left(1 - \frac{4}{3} \frac{V_s}{V_p}\right)^2} \quad (9)$$

3.2. Empirical model for estimating blast-induced ground vibration

To estimate blast-induced ground vibration by empirical methods, the well-known formula of M.A. Sadovsky [25-27] was used in this study and is described in Eq. 10.

$$V = K \left(\frac{R}{\sqrt[3]{Q_{dl}}} \right)^{-\alpha}, \text{ mm/s} \quad (10)$$

where: V - peak particle velocity, mm/s; Q_{dl} - maximum charge per delay, kg; R - the distance between the blasting and measuring locations, m; K - seismic coefficient, α - specific geological constant; D -scaled

distance, $D = R / \sqrt[3]{Q_{dl}}$.

3.3. Simulation of blast-induced ground vibration effects

To evaluate the effects of blast-induced ground vibration on the surrounding environment, the slope stability in the Thuong Tan III quarry [28-30] was simulated through the numerical analysis model using the Phase 2 software. For this aim, the equivalent blasting pressure (P_f) is calculated based on Eq. 11:

$$P_f = 0.0037 \rho v^2 \tag{11}$$

where ρ - Density of explosion; v - Velocity of the explosion, fps.

It is worth mentioning that P_f is calculated and used in the Phase 2 software under the effects of Q_{dl} , which is one of the simulation model inputs.

4. Results and discussion

4.1. Determination of the seismic coefficient (K) based on rock properties

Through exploration results up to cote -100m, it was shown that the mineral body of the stone-built in the mine is siltstone, claystone, claystone contains little lime accounted for 68 %. The thickness of the layer of siltstone containing lime is from a few cm to >10m. The siltstone containing little lime are rocks with technological properties that meet the standards for use as building materials for concrete aggregates requiring high bearing properties (type I stone). The remaining rocks include siltstone clay containing little lime, having lower compressive strength (grade II rock), accounted for 32 % that meets the standard for being used as common building materials for construction (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Rock properties of the Thuong Tan III quarry.

The thickness of the siltstone layer, siltstone containing lime, is from a few cm to >10 m. The siltstone, siltstone containing little lime, siltstone, and siltstone containing little lime are rocks with technological properties that meet the standards for use as building materials for concrete aggregates requiring high bearing properties (type I stone). The remaining rocks include siltstone clay, siltstone clay containing little lime, claystone, claystone containing less lime, having lower compressive strength (grade II rock) accounted for 32% that meets the standard for being used as common building materials for construction, civil construction, and rural transport.

- Siltstone: $V_p = 3540$ m/s; $V_s = 1880$ m/s; $\sigma = 2720$ kg/m³
- Clay-Siltstone: $V_p = 3260$ m/s; $V_s = 1722$ m/s; $\sigma = 2680$ kg/m³
- Claystone: $V_p = 3015$ m/s; $V_s = 1690$ m/s; $\sigma = 2540$ kg/m³

In the Thuong Tan III quarry, the majority rocks are siltstone, clay-siltstone, and claystone. Eq. 9 was applied to calculate the K values, as shown in Tab. 2.

Tab. 2. Seismic coefficient of the Thuong Tan III quarry based on the rock properties.

Value	Type of stone		
	Siltstone	Clay-Siltstone	Claystone
σ , kg/m ³	2720	2680	2540
V_p , m/s	3240	2855	2515
V_s , m/s	1880	1722	1690
K	713	656	539

From Tab. 1, it can be seen that K when blasting with siltstone is higher (1.02÷1.11) times than that of clay-siltstone and claystone.

4.2. Determination of the seismic coefficient (K) based on the empirical model

To determine the K based on the empirical model, the empirical equation (10) can be expanded as follows:

$$K = \frac{VR^\alpha}{Q_{dl}^{\frac{\alpha}{3}}} \tag{12}$$

Based on the experimental datasets and empirical equation (10), blast-induced ground vibration can be calculated according to Eq. 13, and the relationship between V and D (Fig. 7).

$$V = 626.13 \left(\frac{R}{\sqrt[3]{Q}} \right)^{-1.14}, \text{ mm/s} \tag{13}$$

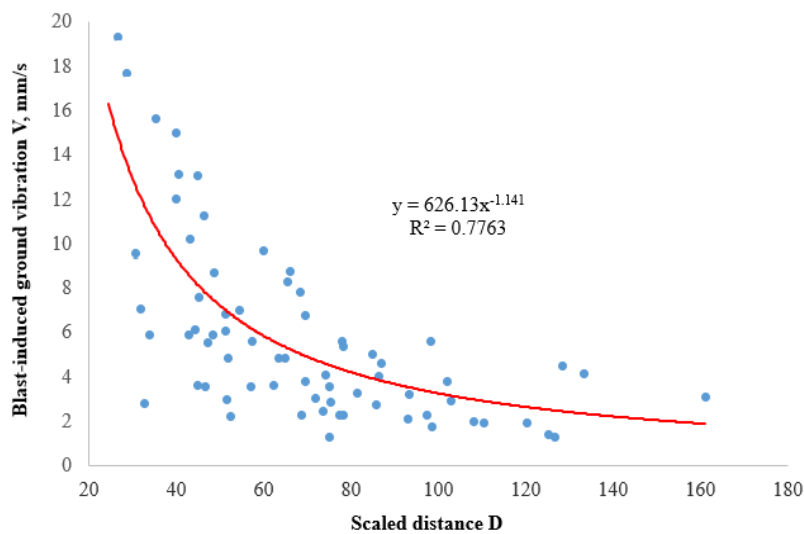


Fig. 7. Relationship between V and Scaled distance D.

Based on Eq. 13, it is easy to see that K= 626.13 and the specific geological constant $\alpha = -1.14$. Next, Eq. 12 was applied to calculate K values, as listed in Tab. 3.

Tab. 3. The dataset collected for this study.

Q/Q _{dl}	D	V	K	Q/Q _{dl}	D	V	K	Q/Q _{dl}	D	V	K
2275/ 40	98.25	5.62	1054	2250/ 30	51.3	6.85	612	1860/ 62	57.4	5.58	566
	102.93	2.94	582		75.1	3.55	490		51.3	6.10	545
	120.35	1.93	456		75.3	2.87	398		32.8	2.80	150
	56.64	16.85	1686		110.4	1.91	410		33.9	5.90	329
	56.14	18.63	1846		24.5	44.84	1724		44.9	3.65	280
1950/ 27	98.6	1.78	335	2000/ 38.8	75.1	1.28	177	1464/ 23	48.3	5.88	490
	85.7	2.75	442		62.3	3.64	406		39.8	12.00	804
	126.7	1.29	322		72.0	3.04	400		44.3	6.13	463
	93.1	2.08	367		47.2	5.57	453		45.3	7.62	591
	125.3	1.40	347		31.8	7.08	367		77.9	5.63	811
2880/ 36	54.4	6.98	667	2000/ 31.2	52.4	11.80	1081	2236/ 40	68.4	7.85	974
	93.4	3.22	570		50.8	13.05	1153		55.6	14.66	1436
	128.4	4.48	1142		77.5	2.26	323		33.0	22.68	1227
	78.2	5.37	777		68.6	2.29	285		66.2	8.74	1045
	48.7	8.70	733		63.4	4.87	554		60.1	9.70	1039

1538/ 48	69.7	6.78	859	2675/ 29	102.1	3.81	747	1788/ 40	46.7	3.55	285
	40.5	13.12	896		52.0	17.50	1590		43.0	10.20	746
	65.4	8.30	980		90.6	14.30	2445		86.5	4.01	651
	81.3	3.25	491		74.2	4.12	560		51.6	3.00	270
	69.6	3.81	483		43.0	5.91	432		33.7	22.20	1229
1760/ 20	44.8	13.05	1000	2625/ 29	73.7	2.43	329	2700/ 25	84.8	5.04	800
	64.8	4.87	569		85.9	24.40	3927		52.5	2.23	204
	97.3	2.29	425		71.0	34.20	4426		133.4	4.16	1106
	108.1	1.98	414		51.8	4.83	437		161.2	3.10	1023
	78.2	2.26	327		57.2	3.57	361		87.0	4.60	751

4.3. Simulation of slope stability based on the K and blast-induced ground vibration

Slope stability is considered one of the most adverse effects of blast-induced ground vibration on the surrounding environment. A slope failure in a mine working area can give rise to significant economic losses and safety impacts. The fundamental failure modes are varied and complex. Such mechanisms are governed by engineering geology conditions of rock mass which are almost always unique to a particular site. Using a numerical analysis model of the finite element method under the Phase 2 environment, we simulated the effects of blast-induced ground vibration on slope stability.

Accordingly, Eq. 11 was applied based on the maximum explosive charged per blast for this aim. Based on Eq. 11, ground vibration, and K, different scenes can be applied to simulate the equivalent blasting pressure. As an example, $Q = 1000 \text{ kg}$, $P_f = 3.325 \text{ MPa}$. The results are simulated in Fig. 8.

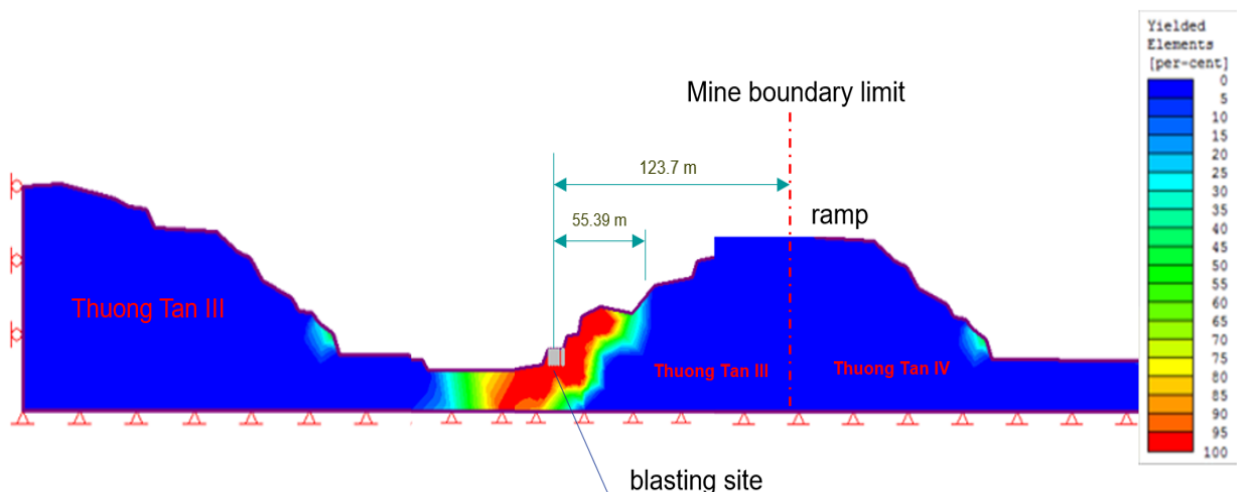


Fig. 8. Simulation of slope stability with $Q = 1000 \text{ Kg}$.

As shown in Fig. 8, it is clear that the impact zone of blast-induced ground vibration with the $Q_{\max} = 1000 \text{ kg}$ is in the range of 0 to 55.39 m. Therefore, the safety distance for slopes in the Thuong Tan III quarry with $Q_{\max} = 1000 \text{ kg}$ is $R > 55.39 \text{ m}$ (Tab. 4).

Tab. 4. The blasting distance ensures the safety and stability of the slope for Thuong Tan III.

N ^o	Parameter	Safety distance	
1	Distance from blasting site to slope stability	$R \geq 55.39 \text{ m}$	$R < 55.39 \text{ m}$
2	Maximum charge per delay	$Q_{dl} \leq 40 \text{ kg}$	$Q_{dl} \leq 30 \text{ kg}$
3	Maximum explosive charged per blast	$1000 \text{ kg} < Q \leq 3000 \text{ kg}$	$Q \leq 1000 \text{ kg}$ (Presplit Blasting)

5. Conclusions

Blasting is a crucial stage in the mining process; nevertheless, its side effects, especially blast-induced ground vibration, need to accurately predict and controlled to reduce the damages induced by blasting operations. Based on the results of this study, we draw some conclusions:

- Attenuation coefficient of blasting vibration (K) changes depending on the change in the blasting conditions. K is determined based on specific measurements of the velocity with known Q and R. We can determine the vibration attenuation coefficient due to blasting ($K= 539\div 713$) when blasting for each different type of rock (Siltstone, Clay-siltstone, Claystone). As a result, we can predict a safe zone of earthquake vibration due to the above explosion affecting the stamina slope stability.

- In this study, we used a multipoint blasting vibration monitoring system (Vibration wireless sensor provides real-time monitoring data). It is possible to determine the attenuation coefficient of blasting vibration K to predict the intensity and safety zone of blast-induced ground vibration in a quarry from test blasting results.

- Using a numerical analysis model of the finite element method (Phase 2), we simulate the effect of the blasting pressure values on the slope stability of the Thuong Tan III quarry as well as the safety zone of blast-induced ground vibration in the quarry. Based on the obtained results, sensitive environmental objects can be protected and safe during the mining process.

Several techniques are used to improve wall stability in open-pit mines. Pre-split blasting is the most pragmatic and practical approach for tackling this issue in open-pit mines.

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