

# Research of the properties of quarry tuff-stone for complex processing

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**Abstract.** This article focuses on the complex processing of quarry tuffs-stone to extract metals (iron, titanium, copper, silver, etc.) and obtain raw materials for construction and agriculture. The issue of tuff-stone softening was investigated and the analytical dependence of the regularity of tuff-stone softening at water saturation was established, which indicates that the saturation increases with increasing mass of the sample according to the logarithmic law, and the dehydration process occurs according to the parabolic law. Also in the course of researches the magnetic susceptibility of tuff-stone was defined, which depends on size of induction of a magnetic field. The magnetically sensitive part is up to 50% by weight of the sample, and the remaining silicate part at a magnetic field strength of 1.3 Tesla. Spectral analysis showed a high content of metals in the magnetically sensitive part of tuff-stone, which consists of iron (35-40%), titanium (2.5-4.0%) and copper in the silicate part (0.4-0.7%). It was found that the percentage of content representing commercial interest, and therefore it is appropriate complex processing.

**Keywords:** tuffs-stone, magnetically sensitive part, basalt, zeolite-smectite tuff.

## 1 Introduction

The unique basalt deposit in the Rivne region is usually accompanied by rich deposits of tuff-stone, which are the products of volcanic eruptions. Geologists' forecasts for tuff-stone raw material reserves are hundreds of millions of tons. As a mineral, they have already been widely used in agriculture to increase soil fertility and to decontaminate their radioactive contamination, as a feed additive for livestock and poultry, as well as a building material.

The growing interest in tuff-stone mining requires improving its processing and bringing to the finished product. The rich mineralogical composition of tuffs, the presence of trace elements of rare metals, high content of iron, titanium, native copper in the tuffs of Rivne-Volyn region of Ukraine necessitated their comprehensive processing, the initial stage of which is ore preparation of rock mass to extract useful components [1].

In the process of ore preparation and selection of tuffs from the dumps of the basalt quarry there is a need to study its particle size distribution for the selection of equipment for further processing. The established effect of softening of tuff-stone at repeated irrigation with water

demands specification of its granulometric structure both in a dump massif, and as a result of the subsequent crushing and crushing [2-4].

The aim of the research was to establish the regularities of softening of zeolite-smectite tuffs of the quarry mining method and their magnetic susceptibility [5-9].

## 2 Methods

According to the results of previous studies, it was found [10] that the softening of quarry tuff-stone as a result of water saturation leads to its involuntary destruction, which contributes to its separation from the total dump rock mass by screening. In turn, the time of water saturation depends on the mass of the sample, so to control the process of destruction and preparation for the screening operation, it is necessary to establish such a relationship. Based on the data of the study of tuff-stone saturation with water, the saturation time was determined for samples of different masses. [11-14]. These data are presented in Table 1.

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Saturation time for samples of different masses

Sample weight, kg	0,052	0,106	0,348	0,681	1,025	2,18	3,347
Saturation time, h	1	23	96	68	96	96	96

Analyzing the data shown in table 1, it was found that the saturation time increases with increasing mass. Analysis of the data suggests that the dependence can be described by logarithmic-linear regression of the form:

$$t_H = a + b \cdot \ln(m), \quad (1)$$

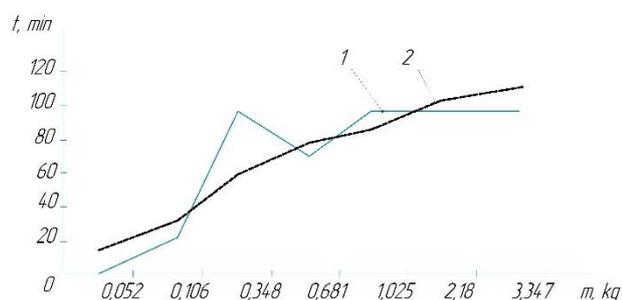
where  $m$  – sample weight,  $t_H$  – saturation time.

As a result of the received data the corresponding calculations are carried out and the following model is received:

$$t_H = 23,34 + 23,2 \cdot \ln(m). \quad (2)$$

The coefficient of determination of this model is indicative of its acceptable adequacy. Graphically, the dependence was obtained (Fig. 1), which confirms that theoretically the saturation time should continue to increase with increasing mass according to the logarithmic law.

To model the process of softening of tuff-stone, it is of considerable interest to determine the analytical type of dependence on which the dehydration process takes place. Sample № 7 was taken for the study as the most characteristic for dump tuff-stone [15-17]. The analytical dependence of the species was established, and it is assumed that this dependence reduces the mass of the sample over time during dehydration.

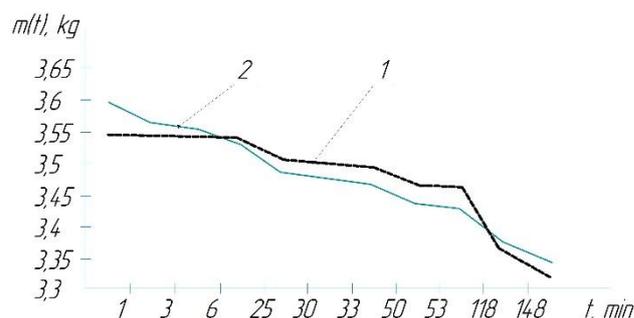


**Fig. 1.** The dependence of the time of saturation of tuff with water: 1 - according to the experiment; 2 - according to the calculation

As a result of the calculation, the following regression equation was obtained

$$m(+)=3,54-0,00152t \text{ at } r^2=0,88. \quad (3)$$

The obtained model has a fairly high level of adequacy, but the consistency of experimental and theoretical values  $m(t)$  in graphical form is not satisfactory (Fig. 2).



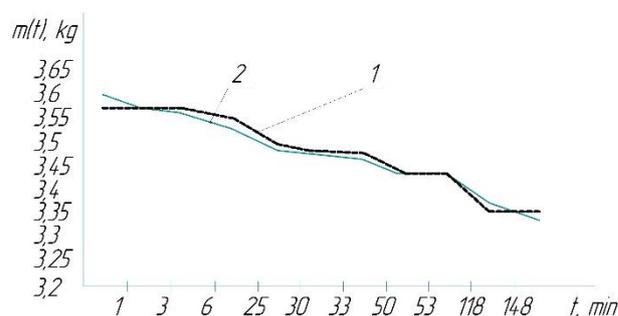
**Fig. 2.** Linear model of tuff-stone dehydration process: 1 - experimental; 2 - estimated

In this regard, a parabolic regression model of the species was calculated  $m(t)=a+bt+ct^2$ . This model, unlike the previous one, takes into account the nonlinear nature of the process. The result is obtained

$$m(t)=3,569-0,00327t+0,0000124t^2 \text{ at } r^2=0,98, \quad (4)$$

which is significantly higher than for the linear model.

The graph of actual and analytical parabolic dependences is given in Fig. 3, which shows their consistency. Thus, it can be argued that the process of dehydration is subject to the parabolic model, which is shown in Fig. 3.



**Fig. 3.** Parabolic model of the process of dehydration of tuff-stone: 1 - experimental; 2 - calculated

As a rule, in practice one cycle of saturation and dehydration is not enough for destruction of tuff-stone in a dump to the conditional sizes. Therefore, it is recommended to use a repeated cycle of saturation and subsequent dehydration naturally – drying [18-23].

Analysis of data on the re-saturation of tuff-stone with water and testing on these data of different regression models allowed to choose the most adequate of them:

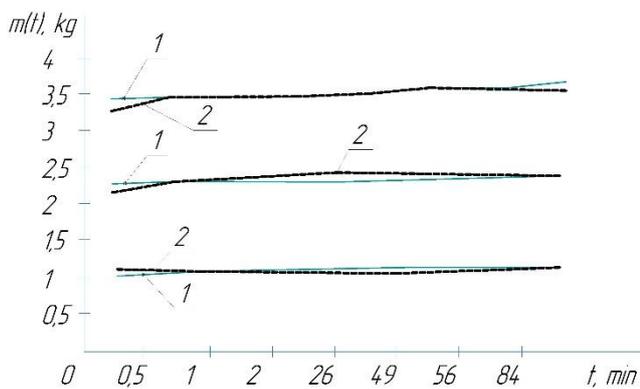
$$m(t)=a+b_1t+b_2m_0+b_3m_0t, \quad (5)$$

where  $m_0$  - the initial mass of the sample, before saturation;  $t$  - saturation time.

As a result of the calculations, the following model was obtained

$$m(t) = 0,0075 - 0,00004t + 1,0285m_0 + 0,00016m_0t. (6)$$

Coefficient of determination  $r^2 = 0,99$  and indicates an acceptable functional dependence  $m(t)$ . Given the rather large sample size ( $n = 56$ ), this model can be adopted for further practical use. It takes into account not only the influence of time and mass of the sample separately, but also the combined influence of these factors. To illustrate the results in Fig. 4 shows the dependences of the mass of tuff-stone on time for three samples:  $m_{01} = 1,025$  kg;  $m_{02} = 2,18$  kg and  $m_{03} = 3,347$  kg.



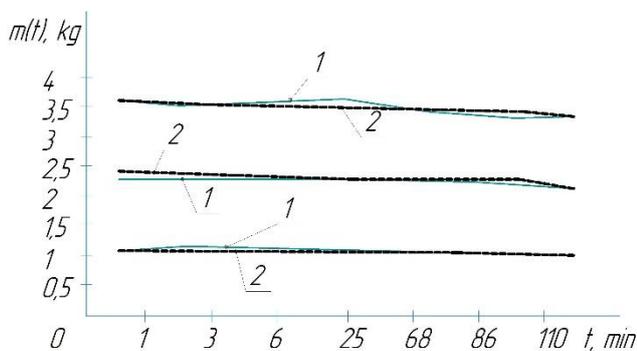
**Fig. 4.** The dependence of the mass of the tuff-stone sample on the re-saturation of three samples with water: 1 - according to the experiment; 2 - by calculation

According to experimental studies, a regression model was obtained for the process of re-dehydration

$$m(t) = 0,00137 - 0,000045t + 1,0697m_0 - 0,000063m_0t. (7)$$

Coefficient of determination is  $r^2 = 0,99$ .

Model  $m_0$  - the mass of the sample after dehydration.



**Fig. 5.** The dependence of the mass of the tuff-stone sample during repeated dehydration for three samples: 1 - according to the experiment; 2 - by calculation

In fig. 5 shows the experimental data and the results of analytical calculations according to the above model. The

high level of coincidence of graphs indicates the reliability of the chosen model and the possibility of its application in practice.

Thus, as a result of research the analytical dependence of the regularity of softening at water saturation was established, which shows that the saturation increases with increasing mass of the sample according to the logarithmic law, and the dehydration process occurs according to the parabolic law. tuff processing.

### 3 Investigation of the magnetic susceptibility of zeolite-smectite tuff-stone

In recent years, researchers' interest in tuffs in order to use them in industry has grown significantly. Therefore, there is a need for a detailed study of their properties, methods of extraction, processing and integrated use. In the process of research of zeolite-smectite tuffs, which occur in large quantities in Rivne-Volyn, their magnetic susceptibility was established, which is explained by the presence of iron and titanium. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the content of these elements was performed experimentally using magnetic and spectral analyzes of crushed tuff-stone samples of different sizes at variable magnetic field strength to determine the level of its sufficiency in the ore preparation of raw materials for complex processing [24-27].

Studies have shown that tuff-stone contains native copper in the form of thin films or point inclusions, the extraction of which is possible only with fine grinding of tuff-stone for maximum separation of the silicate part from native inclusions. Since iron and titanium are also in the joints in the form of compounds, by fine grinding followed by screening to achieve maximum disclosure of minerals. Obtaining the maximum allowable degree of grinding of tuff-stone for reasons of the possibility of a hardware method of extracting metal compounds (magnetic and electric separators) allows to determine the content of silicate and metal parts in the composition of tuff-stone [28-30].

The purpose of studies of the composition of tuff-stone by magnetic and spectral analysis was to determine the particles of silicate and metal parts, as well as the influence of magnetic field strength on the extraction of the magnetically sensitive part and its composition.

Because zeolite-smectite tuffs are associated rocks in basalt mining and are not widely used, they are a waste rock in basalt quarries. From the point of view of complex extraction and processing of basalts with division into three components in the deposit (basalt, lavobreckia and tuff), the Rafalivka deposit is perspective, therefore researches of zeolite-smectite tuff-stone of this deposit are executed in work. In the process of ore preparation for this method of tuff-stone processing it is important for rationalization to determine the basic particle size and chemical composition and reaction of rock mass to different types of influences [31-32].

For research, the tuff of the Rafalivka basalt quarry was crushed into three groups of size:  $(-2.5+0.63$  mm);  $(-0.63+0.1$  mm); and  $(-0.1$  mm). Next, the weight fraction

of each size class in the sample and the percentage of magnetically sensitive part in it was determined (Table 2). The magnitude of the magnetic field for each sample varied stepwise from 0.08 Tesla to 1.3 Tesla in five stages of exposure. The experimental technique involved increasing the induction of the magnetic field to determine the part of the tuff-stone separated from the total mass of the part that was attracted at a given intensity, and then,

by spectral analysis, the content of the elements of each part was determined. This is due to the fact that the degree of susceptibility of tuff increases with increasing magnetic field strength. Factors influencing the process of magnetic separation are particle size distribution and chemical composition of tuff-stone [33].

Table 2

The distribution of the mass of tuff-stone in the sample depending on the induction

№ research	Class +0,63 –2,5			№ research	Class +0,1 –0,63		
	Induction, Tesla	Susceptible mass, <i>m</i> , g	Percentage, $\gamma$ , %		Induction, Tesla	Susceptible mass, <i>m</i> , g	Percentage, $\gamma$ , %
1	0,08	63,2	19,1	8	0,08	30,5	14,6
2	0,16	59,5	18,0	9	0,16	37,0	17,7
3	0,3	51,7	15,6	10	0,3	37,7	18,1
4	0,44	49,7	15,0	11	0,44	31,9	15,3
5	0,58	44,8	13,5	12	0,58	32,5	15,6
6	1,3	6,1	1,8	13	1,3	5,8	2,8
7	nonmagnetic	56,4	17,0	14	nonmagnetic	33,4	15,9
	Total (sum)	331,4	100		Total (sum)	208,9	100

The total mass of the sample  $331,4 + 208,9 + 104,5 = 644,8$  g

Since the third group of size (-100 microns) showed complete magnetic immunity, it is attributed to the non-magnetic part of the sample.

Based on the obtained results, the magnetically impermeable part of the sample is 49.1 % or 194.3 g. The different susceptibility of the metallized part of the crushed tuff-stone in relation to the magnitude of the magnetic field induction and size indicates product.

The nature of the heterogeneity of the composition was established by spectral analysis of all obtained fission products. The analysis was performed by spilling on the device STE-1 with a prefix USI-10. The results of the

analysis are presented in Table 3 and Table 4. It should be noted the lack of accuracy in the percentage of some elements, in particular titanium (> 1.0 %), iron (> 15 %), and the lack of data on the presence of silicates and carbonates (SiO<sub>2</sub> and CaO) in samples. Their content was determined by chemical analysis. It was precisely established that the iron content in the samples of the first group is 36.2 %, and in the second - 39.6 %, respectively, titanium - 1.3 % and 4.1 %. The increase in the average percentage of native copper in the sample of the second group of size is explained by the fineness of its inclusions, but this indicator requires additional separate studies [34-37].

Table 3

The results of the analysis of the content of elements in the tuff-stone for the sample 1

№	Induction, Tesla	The weight of the sample in the first group, g	The mass content in the sample, %	Content of elements, %							
				Fe	Ti	Cu	Mn	Ba	SiO <sub>2</sub>	CaO	Ag, g/t
1	0,08	63,2	19,1	> 15	> 1,0	0,1	0,07	0,07	43,8	3,44	15
2	0,16	59,5	18,0	> 15	> 1,0	0,4	0,07	0,05	43,8	3,44	10
3	0,3	51,7	15,6	> 15	> 1,0	0,2	0,05	0,07	43,8	3,44	7
4	0,44	49,7	15,0	> 15	> 1,0	0,3	0,07	0,05	43,1	3,04	10
5	0,58	44,8	13,5	> 15	> 1,0	0,5	0,07	0,07	43,1	3,04	10
6	1,3	6,1	1,8	> 15	0,7	0,5	0,05	0,07	43,1	3,04	15
7	nonmagnetic	56,4	17,0	> 15		0,4	0,05	0,065	43,8	51,6	50
Σ		331,4	100	> 15	> 1,0	0,45	0,06	0,06	43,5	52,0	17

The results of the analysis of the content of elements in the tuff-stone for the sample 2

№	Induction, Tesla	The weight of the sample in the first group, g	The mass content in the sample, %	Content of elements, %							
				Fe	Ti	Cu	Mn	Ba	SiO <sub>2</sub>	CaO	Ag, g/t
8	0,08	30,5	14,6	> 15	> 1,0	0,1	0,07	0,07	42,1	51,8	7
9	0,16	37,0	17,7	> 15	> 1,0	0,4	0,07	0,06	43,1	51,9	10
10	0,3	37,7	18,1	> 15	> 1,0	0,5	0,05	0,07	43,1	52,3	10.
11	0,44	31,9	15,3	> 15	> 1,0	0,7	0,07	0,07	42,8	51,2	15
12	0,58	32,5	15,6	> 15	> 1,0	0,5	0,07	0,07	41,7	52,1	15
13	1,3	5,8	2,8	1,0	0,5	0,5	0,15	0,05	44,6	53,2	50
14	nonmagnetic	33,4	15,9			0,6	0,1	0,04	43,5	53,1	50
Σ		208,9	100			0,5	0,08	0,05	43,6	52,6	23

As the experiment showed, the discrepancy in the mass of the magnetically sensitive part (49%), which is due to the presence of titan magnetite and iron content in the samples obtained by chemical analysis (36.2-39.6%), is due to the presence of splices with hollow rock. The presence of copper in the magnetically sensitive part indicates the need to choose a rational degree of grinding of tuff-stone for a more complete separation of copper from the silicate part. At the same time the particles of titan magnetite are more fully revealed. Since magnetic separation allows to separate even finely divided iron particles (up to 44 microns) from crushed tuff-stone to a size of less than 100 microns, the electric separation of the silicate part of the product in copper extraction is most effective up to a size of 100 microns. This indicates that the re-grinding of tuffs in the ore preparation process leads to losses in the extraction of metals [38-40].

Thus, the performed researches established that the degree of grinding of tuff-stone in the process of ore preparation should be not less than 0.05-0.1 mm. The magnetically sensitive part reaches 49 % by weight of the sample, respectively; the silicate part is 50-51 %. During the extraction of the magnetically sensitive part is significantly affected by the magnetic field strength, which reaches 1.3 Tesla. The performed studies indicate the expediency of complex processing of not only basalts but also tuffs, as the percentage of basic elements is of industrial interest. Such elements are iron, titanium, copper, silver. The remaining silicate part is disposed of for construction and agriculture. This recycling technology is waste-free and resource-saving.

## Conclusions

Analysis of experimental studies suggests that tuff-stone is a valuable raw material of interest to industry, as it contains valuable elements in the form of native copper,

iron, titanium. Removal of these components is technologically possible and economically feasible.

For dump tuff-stone, an analytical dependence of the regularity of softening at water saturation is established, which indicates that the saturation increases with increasing mass of the sample according to the logarithmic law, and the dehydration process occurs according to the parabolic law.

As a result of the conducted researches the magnetic susceptibility of tuff-stone which depends on size of induction of a magnetic field was established. The magnetically sensitive part of tuff-stone, at a magnetic field strength of 1.3, Tesla is up to 50% by weight of the sample, and the rest is the silicate part. The spectral analysis showed a high content of metals in the magnetically sensitive part of tuff-stone, which consists of iron (35-40%), titanium (2.5-4.0%) and copper in the silicate part (0.4-0.7%). The percentage of these elements is of industrial interest, so it is advisable to comprehensively process dump tuffs in the Rivne-Volyn region of Ukraine.

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