

# USDA Soil Classification System

The Soil consists of Sand, Silt and Clay

Example 1:

Given: Soil sample without gravel

Sand = 26%  
Silt = 35%  
Clay = 39%

Sum = 100%

Soil is Clay Loam

Example 2:

Given: Soil sample

Gravel = 13%  
Sand = 14%  
Silt = 34%  
Clay = 39%

Sum = 100%

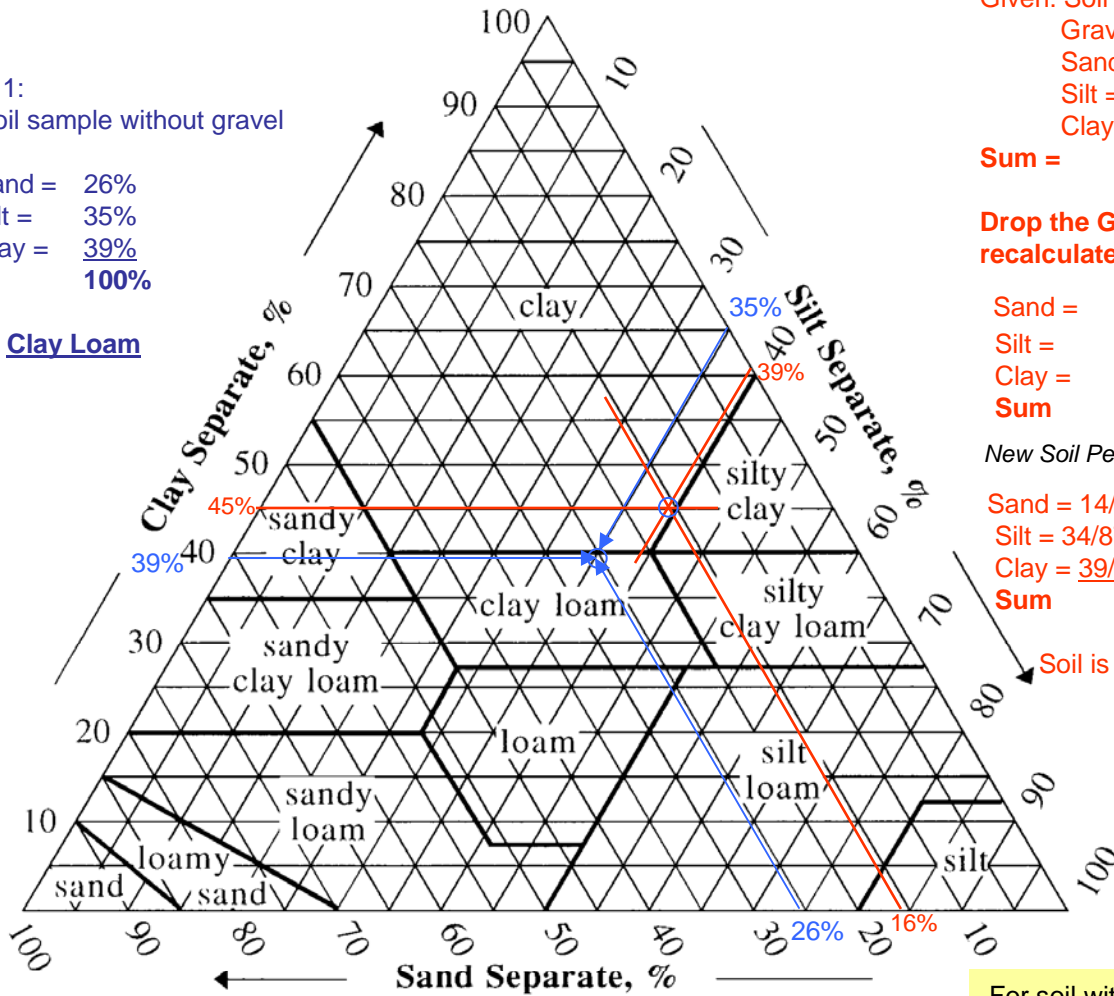
Drop the Gravel and recalculate the ratios.

Sand = 14%  
Silt = 34%  
Clay = 39%  
Sum = 87

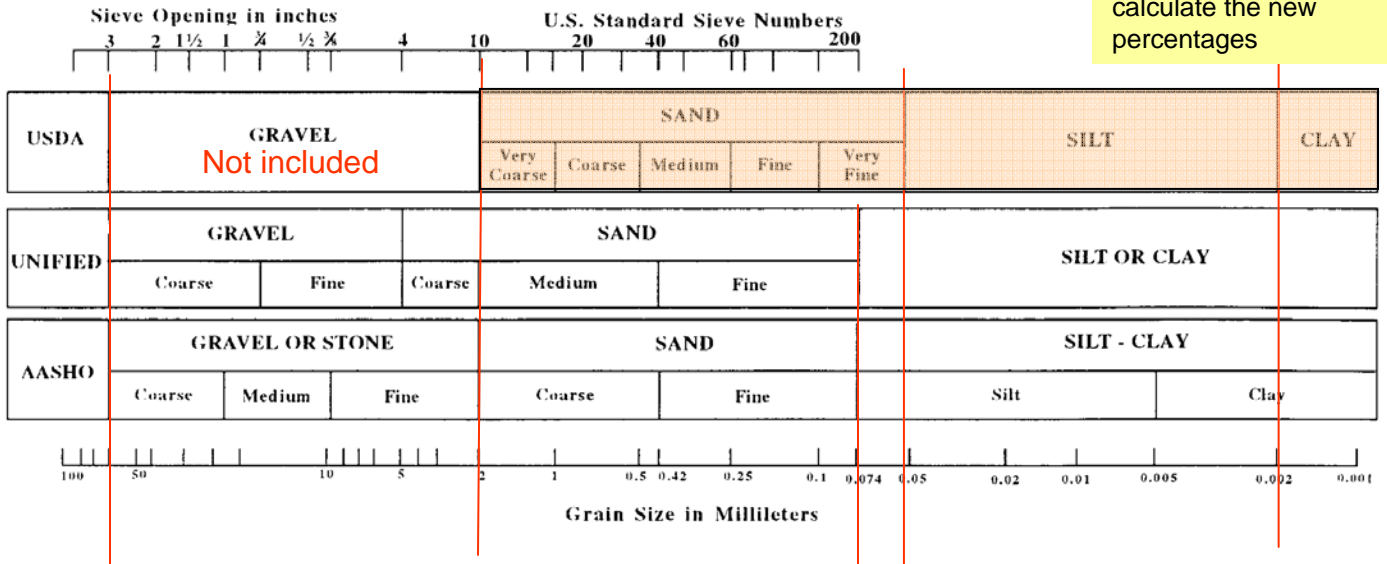
New Soil Percentages

Sand =  $14/87 = 16\%$   
Silt =  $34/87 = 39\%$   
Clay =  $39/87 = 45\%$   
Sum = 100%

Soil is Clay



## COMPARISON OF PARTICLE SIZE SCALES



For soil with gravel, subtract the gravel from the soil and calculate the new percentages