

## U23CET42-SOILMECHANICS

### UNITI-SOILCLASSIFICATIONANDCOMPACTION

**2MARKS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>Definetermplasticityindexandsaturatedmassdensity.(AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <p><b>PLASTICITYINDEX:</b>itisdefined asnumericaldifferencebetweenthe liquid limit and plastic limit of the soil.</p> $I_P = W_L - W_P$ <p><b>SATURATEDMASSDENSITY:</b> Whenthe soil mass is saturated in bulk density is called as saturated density.</p>   |
| 2 | <p><b>Defineshrinkageratio: (AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <p>Itisdefined as theratio of given volume change expressed as a percentage of dry volume to the corresponding change in water content above the shrinkage limit expressed as a percentage of the weight of the over dried soil.</p> $SR = \frac{\gamma_d}{\gamma_w}$   |
| 3 | <p><b>Drawthephasediagramforcompletelydryandfullysaturatedsoilmass. (AUMAY/JUNE2014)</b></p> <p>The diagram shows four stages of soil phase representation. On the left is a 'Soil Skeleton' showing a network of particles with 'Voids' and 'Solids' labeled. To its right are three 'Phase Diagram' boxes. The first is 'Partially Saturated', showing layers for 'Air', 'Water', and 'Solids'. The second is 'Fully Saturated', showing layers for 'Water' and 'Solids'. The third is 'Dry Soil', showing layers for 'Air' and 'Solids'. Arrows indicate the relationships between volumes (v<sub>a</sub>, v<sub>w</sub>, v<sub>s</sub>, v<sub>t</sub>) and weights (w<sub>w</sub>, w<sub>t</sub>, w<sub>s</sub>) in the diagrams.</p> |
| 4 | <p><b>List various field compaction equipments along with its suitability. (AUMAY/JUNE2014)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forcohesivesoil-Tamping,kneadingandimpactareeffective.</li> <li>• Forcohesionlesssoils-Kneading,tampingandvibrationareusefull.</li> </ul>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | <p><b>Differentiate between void ratio and porosity. (AUNOV/DEC2013)</b></p> <p><b>VOIDS RATIO:</b> Void ratio of a soil mass is ratio of total volume of voids to the volume of solids in the soil mass. It is denoted by <math>e</math>.</p> $e = \frac{V_v}{V_s}$ <p><b>POROSITY:</b> The porosity of a given soil sample is the ratio of the volume of voids to the total volume of the given soil mass.</p>  |
| 6 | <p><b>The most accurate method for the determination of water content in the laboratory is oven drying method. (AUNOV/DEC2013)</b></p>  |
| 7 | <p><b>If the liquidity index of soil is zero. Find its consistency index. (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)</b></p> <p><math>I_L = (W - W_p) / I_p</math></p> <p><math>I_C = (W_L - W) / I_p</math></p> <p><math>I_L = 0</math></p> <p><math>W - W_p = 0</math></p> <p><math>W = W_p</math></p> <p><math>I_C = (W_L - W_p) / I_p</math></p> <p><math>= I_p / I_p = 1</math></p> <p><math>I_C = 1</math></p>  |
| 8 | <p><b>The dry density of a soil and its specific gravity of solids are respectively 18 kN/m<sup>3</sup> and 2.7 find the moisture content required to have 100% saturation of the soil. (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)</b></p> <p><math>\gamma_d = 18 \text{ kN/m}^3</math> <math>G = 2.67</math></p> <p><math>S = 100\% = 1</math> Find '<math>\omega</math>'</p> <p>Void ratio, <math>e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_\omega}{\gamma_d} - 1 = \frac{2.7 \times 9.81}{18} - 1</math></p> <p><math>e = 0.4715</math></p> |

$$e = \frac{W \cdot G}{S \cdot G} \text{ and } \omega = \frac{e \cdot S}{S \cdot G}$$

$$\omega = \frac{0.4715 \times 1}{2.70} = 0.1746 = 17.46\%$$

9 **What are all the Atterberg limits for soil and why is it necessary?** (AU NOV/DEC 2012)

- Liquid limit
- Plastic limit
- Shrinkage limit

10 **Define sieve analysis and sedimentation analysis and what is the necessity of these two analyses?** (AU NOV/DEC 2012)

**Sieve analysis** is used to measure the particle size distribution of a soil by passing the soil through the series of sieves.

**Sedimentation analysis** is used for the soil particle size measurement and in which, the soil fraction finer than  $75\mu$  sizes is kept in suspension in a liquid medium. (Generally Water)

11 **Distinguish between residual and transported soil.** (AUMAY/JUNE 2012)

| RESIDUAL SOIL   | TRANSPORTED SOIL   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil remains in that place is called residual soil and usually formed by physical and chemical weathering</li> <li>• Characteristics of soil depend on the parent rock.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather piece of rocks that have been carried out by rolling agents like wind and water &amp; break down into small pieces to settle down.</li> <li>• Characteristics of soil depend on the environmental surrounds.</li> </ul> |

12 **Give the relationship between  $\gamma_{Sat}$ ,  $G$  and  $e$ .** (AUMAY/JUNE 2012)

$$\gamma = W/V = \{(\gamma_s \cdot V_s) + (\gamma_w \cdot V_w)\} / V$$

For partially saturated sample we have,  $V_s = 1$ ,

$$V_w = e_w \text{ and } V = (1 + e)$$

$$\gamma = \{(\gamma_s \cdot 1) + (\gamma_w \cdot e_w)\} / (1 + e)$$

$$\text{but } \gamma_s = G \gamma_w \text{ and } e_w = e_s$$

$$\gamma = (G \cdot \gamma_w + \gamma_w \cdot e_s) / (1 + e)$$

$$\gamma = \{(G+es)\gamma_w\}/1+e$$

when the soil is perfectly dry,  $S=0$  Hence  $\gamma$

reduced to

$$\gamma_d = G\gamma_w/1+e$$

when  $s=1$ ,  $\gamma$  becomes  $\gamma_{sat} = \{(G+e)$

$$\gamma_w\}/1+e$$

## 16 MARKS

1 A cubic meter of soil in its natural state weighs 17.75 kN; after being dried it weighs 15.08 kN. The Specific gravity of the soil is 2.70. Determine the degree of saturation, void ratio, porosity and Water content of the original soil sample. (AU MAY/JUNE 2014)

### Solution:

Volume of the soil,  $V=1$

$m^3$  Total weight of the soil,  $W=17.75\text{kN}$

Weight of solids,  $W_S=15.08\text{kN}$  Specific

gravity,  $G=2.70$

Weight of water,  $W_W = W - W_S$

$$= 17.75 - 15.08$$

$$= 2.67\text{kN}$$

Water content,  $\omega = \frac{W_W}{W_S}$

$$= \frac{2.67}{15.08}$$

$$= 0.177 = 17.70\%$$

Unitweight,  $\gamma = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{volume}}$

$$= \frac{17.75}{1}$$

$$= 17.75 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

Dry unitweight,  $\gamma_d = \frac{\gamma}{1 + \omega}$

$$= \frac{17.75}{1 + 0.177}$$

$$= 15.081 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

Void ratio,  $e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$

$$\gamma_w = 9.81$$

$$= \frac{2.70 \times 9.81}{15.081} - 1$$

$$= 0.7563$$

Degree of saturation,  $S = \frac{w \cdot G}{e}$

$$= \frac{0.177 \times 2.70}{0.7563}$$

$$S = 0.632 \text{ (or) } 63.2\%$$

## **Discuss the effects of compaction on various engineering properties of soil.(AU MAY/JUNE 2014)**

When a soil is compacted, it changes its engineering properties and thereby behaves differently. Some of the engineering properties which change on application of compactive effort is briefly described below.

### **1. Permeability**

The effect of compaction is to decrease the permeability. In the case of fine grained soils it has been found that for the same dry density soil compacted wet of optimum will be less permeable than that of compacted dry of optimum.

### **2. Compressibility**

In case of soil samples initially saturated and having same void ratio, it has been found that in low pressure range a wet side compacted soil is more compressible than a dry side compacted soil, and vice versa in high pressure range.

### **3. Pore Pressure**

In undrained shear test conducted on saturated samples of clay it has been found that lower pore pressures develop at low strains when the sample is compacted dry of optimum, compared to the case when the sample is compacted wet of optimum. But at high strains in both types of samples the development of pore pressure is same for same density and water content.

### **4. Stress-Strain Relation**

Samples compacted dry of optimum produce much steeper stress-strain curves with peaks at low strains, whereas samples compacted wet of optimum, having the same density, produce much flatter stress-strain curves with increase in stress even at high strains.

### **5. Shrinkage and Swelling**

At same density a soil compacted dry of optimum shrinks appreciably less than that of compacted wet of optimum. Also the soil compacted dry of optimum exhibits greater swelling characteristics than samples of the same density compacted wet of optimum.

3.

A sample of dry sand having a unit weight of  $16.5 \text{ kN/m}^3$  and a specific gravity of 2.70 is placed in the rain. During the rain the volume of the sample remains constant but the degree of saturation increases to 40%. Determine the unit weight and water content of the soil after being in the rain. (AU MAY/JUNE 2014)

$$\text{Dry unit weight, } \gamma_d = 16.5 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

$$\text{Specific gravity, } G = 2.70$$

$$\text{Increase in } S = 40 \% \text{ Initial}$$

$$\text{degree of saturation, } S_1 = 100 \%$$

$$\text{Final degree of saturation, } S_2 = 40 \%$$

$$\text{Voids ratio, } e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$$

$$\text{Degree of saturation, } S_1 = \frac{w \cdot G}{e}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{(G + e) \gamma_w}{1 + ew}$$

$$= \frac{(2.70 + 0.6053) \times 9.81}{1 + 0.6053}$$

$$\gamma = 20.199 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

$$\text{Dry unit weight, } \gamma_d = \frac{\gamma}{1 + w}$$

$$w = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_d} - 1$$

$$= \frac{20.19}{16.5} - 1$$

$$= 0.2236 = 22.36 \%$$

**A soil sample is a mixture of cohesionless and cohesive soils. explain and discuss the method of determining grain size distribution.. (AU MAY/JUNE 2014)**

### **DRY SIEVE ANALYSIS:**

The soil should be oven-dry, it shouldn't contain any lump, if necessary, it should be pulverized. If organic matters in the soil, it taken air-dry instead of oven dry. The sample is sieved through a 4.75 mm IS sieve. The portion retained on the sieve is gravel fraction or plus 4.75 mm material. Then gravel fraction is sieved through the set of coarse sieves manually or mechanical shaker.

The minus 4.75 mm fraction is sieved through the set of fine sieves. The sample is placed in the top sieves and the set of sieves is kept on a mechanical shaker. Normally, 10 minutes of shaking is sufficient for most soils. The mass of soil retained on each sieve and on pan is obtained to the nearest 0.1 gm

**Suitability: cohesionless soils with little or no fines.**

### **WET SIEVE ANALYSIS:**

If the soil contains a substantial quantity of fine particles,

A wet analysis required. A soil sample in the required quantity is taken, using a riffle and dried in an oven. The dried sample is taken in a tray and sacked with water. The samples stirred and left soaking period of at least one hour.

The slurry is taken sieved through a 4.75 mm IS sieve, and washed with a jet of water. The material retained on the sieve is the gravel fraction. The material retained on the 75  $\mu$  sieve is collected and dried in an oven. It is then sieved through the set of the fine sieves of the size 2 mm, 1 mm, 600  $\mu$ , 425  $\mu$ , 212  $\mu$ , 150  $\mu$ , and 75  $\mu$

The material that would have been retained on the pan is equal to the total mass of soil minus the sum of the masses of material retained on all sieves

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <p>A sample of clay soil has liquid limit of 62% and its plasticity index is 32%. What is the state of consistency of the soil if the soil in its natural state has a water content of 34%. Calculate the shrinkage limit &amp; degree of saturation if the void ratio of the sample at the shrinkage limit is 0.70 (AU NOV/DEC 2014)</p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <p>Liquid limit = 62%, Plasticity index <math>I_p = 32%</math>, Water content = 34%, <math>e = 0.7</math> &amp; <math>G = 2.7</math></p> <p><b>SHRINKAGE LIMIT:</b></p> $W_s = e/G$ $W_s = 0.7/2.7 = 0.259 = 25\%$ <p><b>DEGREE OF SATURATION:</b></p> $S_e = w \cdot G$ $S = (W_g)/e$ $S = (0.34 \cdot 2.7)/0.7$ $S = 1.31 = 131\%$                           |
| 6 | <p>Test on a soil sample from a borrow area resulted specific gravity of 2.7, voids ratio = 0.65 and the water content of 15%. What is the quantity of soil required to construct an embankment volume of 8000 m<sup>3</sup>, if the borrow materials compacted to achieve max dry density of 18 kN/m<sup>3</sup> at a moisture content 18%. Calculate addition quantity of water required for every cubic meter of compacted soil. (AUNOV/DEC 2014)</p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <p><math>G = 2.7, e = 0.65, W = 15\%, \text{Volume} = 8000 \text{ m}^3, \gamma_d = 18 \text{ kN/m}^3, w = 18\%</math></p> <p>For the borrow pit</p> $\gamma(\rho) = \frac{G \cdot \gamma(1+W)}{1+e}$ $e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma(1+W)}{\rho} - 1$ |

$$e = \frac{(2.7) * 1(1+0.15)}{1+0.65} - 1$$

$$e = \frac{2.7 * 1.15}{1.65} - 1$$

$$e = 0.88$$

For the Fill

$$\rho_d \text{ (or) } \gamma_d = \frac{G * \gamma_w}{1+e}$$

$$e = \frac{G * \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$$

$$e = \frac{2.7 * 1}{1.8} - 1$$

$$e = 0.5$$

Volume of solids remains constant

$$V_s = \frac{V_1}{1+e_1} = \frac{V_2}{1+e_2} = \frac{8000}{1+e}$$

$$V_s = \frac{8000}{1+0.5}$$

$$V_1 = 5333.33 \text{ m}^3$$

$$V_1 = 5333.33(1+0.88)$$

$$V_1 = 10026.6 \text{ m}^3$$

Generally  $w = M_w / M_d$

$$M_d = \text{mass of solids} = V_s G \gamma_w$$

$$= 5333.33 * 2.7 * 1 = 14399.99 \text{ m}^3$$

$$M_{w1} = 2159.99 \text{ m}^3$$

$$M_{w2} = 14399. * 0.18 = 2591.99 \text{ m}^3$$

Water to be added =  $M_{w2} - M_{w1}$

$$= 2591 - 2159$$

$$= 72 \text{ m}^3$$

7

**Sandy soil in a borrow pit has unit weight of solids as 25 kN/m<sup>3</sup>, water content equal to 11% and bulk unit weight equal to 16 kN/m<sup>3</sup>. How many cubic meter of**

compacted fill could be constructed of 3500 m<sup>3</sup> of sand excavated from the borrow pit, if the required value of porosity in the compacted fill is 30%. Also compute the change in degree of saturation. (AUNOV/DEC2013)(AU NOV/DEC 2012)

**Solution:**

$$\gamma_s = 25 \text{ kN/m}^3, w = 11\% = 0.11, \text{Porosity} = 30\% = 0.3$$

$$\frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{w/\gamma_1}{w/\gamma_2}$$

$$= \frac{\gamma_2}{\gamma_1} = \frac{1+e_1}{1+e_2}$$

$$e_2 V_2 = V_1 \left( \frac{1+e_1}{1+e_2} \right)$$

$$= V_1 \left( \frac{1-n_1}{1-n_2} \right)$$

$$e = \frac{G\gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$$

$$= \frac{\gamma_s}{\frac{\gamma}{1+w}} - 1$$

$$= \frac{\gamma_s(1+w)}{\gamma} - 1$$

$$e_1 = \frac{\gamma_s(1+w)}{\gamma_1} - 1$$

$$= \frac{25(1+0.11)}{16} - 1 = 0.73$$

$$e_2 = \frac{n_2}{1-n_2}$$

$$= \frac{0.3}{1-0.3} = 0.429$$

$$e_2 V_2 = V_1 \left( \frac{1+e_1}{1+e_2} \right)$$

$$= 3500 \left( \frac{1+0.429}{1+0.73} \right) = 2891.04 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Now, } S_1 = \frac{w \gamma_s}{e_1 \gamma_w}$$

$$= \frac{0.11 \times 25}{0.73 \times 9.81} = 0.38$$

$$S_2 = \frac{w \gamma_s}{e_2 \gamma_w} = \frac{0.11 \times 25}{0.429 \times 9.81} = 0.65$$

8 **What are the different methods of compaction adopted in the field?** (AU NOV/DEC 2013)

**TAMPER:** A hand operated tamper consists of a block of iron, about 3 to 5 kg of mass attached to a wooden rod. The tamper is lifted for about 0.30 m and dropped on the soil to

be compressed. Mechanical tampers operated by compressed air or gasoline power

### **ROLLERS:**

- smooth-wheel rollers
- pneumatic-tired rollers
- Sheep-foot rollers

**SMOOTH –WHEEL ROLLERS:** Smooth-wheel rollers are useful for finishing

operations after compaction of fillers and for compacting granular bases for highways.

## PNEUMATIC-TIREDROLLERS

- Pneumatic-tyredollers use compressed air to develop the required inflation pressure.
- The roller compacts the soil primarily by kneading action. These rollers are effective for compacting cohesive as well as cohesion less soils.

## SHEEP-FOOTROLLERS

The sheep – foot roller consists of a hollow drum with a large number of small projections (known as feet) on its surface. The drums are mounted on a steel frame. The drum can fill with water or ballast to increase the mass. The contact pressure is generally between 700 to 4200 kN/m<sup>2</sup>

- 9 **In a compaction test on a soil, the mass of wet soil when compacted in the mould was 20N. The water content of the soil was 16%. If the volume of the mould was 0.945 litres, determine the dry density, void ratio, degree of saturation and %air voids. Take G = 2.68 (AUNOV/DEC 2013)**

Let us use suffix 1 for the borrow pit soil and 2 for the compacted soil. Assuming that weight and water content do not change during construction, the change in the volume can be calculated from the change in the unit weight

### **Solution:**

Mass (or) weight of the wet soil sample,  $w_1 = 20 \text{ kN}$

Water content,  $w = 16\%$

$$\text{Water content, } \omega = \frac{\text{weight of water}}{\text{weight of solids}} \times 100$$

$$16 = \frac{W_w}{W_s} \times 100$$

$$\text{Unit weight, } \gamma = \frac{W}{V}$$

$$\frac{20}{0.945}$$

$$=21.16\text{kN/m}^3$$

(i) Dry unit weight,

$$\gamma_d = \frac{\gamma}{1+w}$$

$$\gamma_d = \frac{21.016}{0.16} = 18.24 \text{ kN/m}^3 \quad 1 +$$

(ii) Void ratio,

$$e = \frac{V_v}{V_s} \text{ (or)}$$

$$e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$$

$$e = \frac{(2.68 \times 9.81)}{18.24 - 1}$$

$$e = 0.44$$

(iii) Degree of saturation,

$$S = \frac{V_w}{V_v} \text{ (or)}$$

$$e = \frac{w \cdot G}{S} \text{ and } S = \frac{w \cdot G}{e}$$

$$S = \frac{0.16 \times 2.68}{0.44} = 0.97$$

(iv) Percent air voids,

$$\eta_a = \frac{V_a}{V} \times 100 \text{ and}$$

$$\eta = \frac{e}{1+e} = \frac{0.44}{1+0.44} = 0.305$$

$$\eta = \frac{V_v}{V} \Rightarrow V_v = \eta \times V$$

$$= 0.305 \times 0.945$$

$$V_v = 0.28 \text{ m}^3$$

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 10 | <p>A fine grained soil has liquid limit of 60% plastic limit of 26%;classify the soil as per IS classification system. (AUNOV/DEC 2013)</p> <p>Plasticity index=liquid limit – plastic limit</p> $=60-26=34\%$ $PI=34\%$   |
| 11 | <p>The mass of wet soil when compacted in a mould was 19.55kN. the water content of the soil was 16%.if the volume of the mould was 0.95m<sup>3</sup>.determine i) dry unit weight ii) void ratio iii) Degree of saturation &amp; iv) percent air voids. Take air voids G=2.68 (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)(AU MAY/JUNE 2013)</p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <p>i) Dry unit weight:</p> $\gamma_d = \frac{\gamma}{1+w}$ $\gamma = (W/V) = (19.55/0.95)$ $\gamma = 20.5 \text{ kN/m}^3$ $\gamma_d = 20.5 / (1 + 0.16)$ $\gamma_d = 17.62 \text{ kN/m}^3$ <p>ii) Void ratio:</p> $e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1$ $= [(2.68 * 9.81) / (17.62)] - 1$ $= 0.49$ <p>iii) Degree of saturation:</p> |

$$S = \frac{w \cdot G}{e}$$

$$= (0.16 \cdot 2.68) / 0.49$$

$$= 0.8751 = 87.51\%$$

iv) Percent air voids

$$n_a = e(1-s) / (1+e)$$

$$= (0.49(1-0.8751)) / (1+0.49)$$

$$= 0.041\%$$

12 **Wet soil samples of mass 1.9 kg had a volume of 945 cm<sup>3</sup> after oven drying its mass as reduced to 1.7 kg. The specific gravity of solids was found to be 2.7 determine. (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)**

- (i) Moisture content
- (ii) Bulk density
- (iii) Dry density
- (iv) Void ratio
- (v) Porosity
- (vi) Degree of saturation,
- (vii) Saturated density.

Mass of the wet sample,  $M = 1.9 \text{ kg} = 1900 \text{ g}$

Mass of the dry sample,  $M_d = 1.7 \text{ kg} = 1700 \text{ g}$

Mass of the water sample,  $M_w = 1900 - 1700 = 200 \text{ g}$ .

(i) Moisture content,  $w = \frac{M_w}{M_d}$

$$= \frac{200}{1700} = 0.11675 = 11.76\%$$

(ii) Bulk density,  $\rho = M/V = (1.9/945) = 2.01 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ Kg/cm}^3$

$$(iii) \quad \text{Unitweight, } \gamma = \frac{\text{mass} \times g}{\text{volume}} \\ = \frac{1900 \times 9.81}{945} = 19.73 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

$$(iv) \quad \text{Drydensity, } \gamma_d = \frac{\gamma}{1+w} \\ = \frac{19.73}{(1 + 0.11765)} = 17.65 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

$$(v) \quad \text{Voidratio, } e = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{\gamma_d} - 1 \\ = \frac{2.7 \times 9.81}{17.65} - 1 = 0.501$$

$$(vi) \quad \text{Porosity: } n = w \cdot G / e \\ = (0.11 \times 2.7) / 0.588 \\ = 0.37 = 37\%$$

$$(vii) \quad \text{Degree of saturation, } S = \frac{w \cdot G}{e} \\ = \frac{0.11765 \times 2.70}{0.501} \\ = 0.634 \text{ (or) } 63.4\%$$

$$(viii) \quad \text{Saturated Density, } \gamma_{\text{sat}} = \frac{(G+e) \gamma_w}{(1+e)} \\ = \frac{(2.7+0.11765)}{(1+0.11765)} \times 9.81 \\ = 20.92 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

13 **The Pycnometer is used for determination of the specific gravity of soil particles of both fine grained and coarse grained soils. The specific gravity of soil is determined using the relation. (AU NOV/DEC 2012)**

$$G = \frac{M_2 - M_1}{(M_2 - M_1) - (M_3 - M_4)}$$

Where  $M_1$  = mass of empty Pycnometer,

$M_2$  = mass of the Pycnometer with dry soil

$M_3$  = mass of the Pycnometer and soil and water,

$M_4$  = mass of Pycnometer filled with water only.  $G$  =

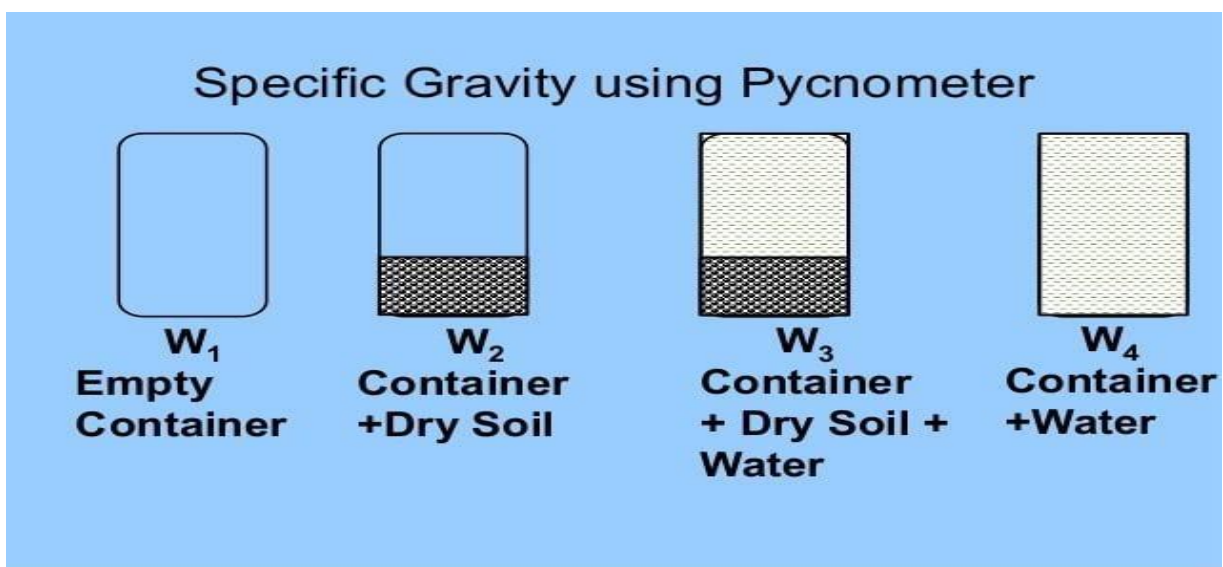
Specific gravity of soils.

#### **Equipment for Pycnometer Test:**

1. Pycnometer of about 1 litre capacity
2. Weighing balance, with an accuracy of 1g.

#### **Procedure for Specific Gravity of Soil by Pycnometer:**

1. Clean and dry the Pycnometer. Tightly screw its cap. Take its mass ( $M_1$ ) to the nearest of 0.1 g.
2. Container with dry soil. Take its mass ( $M_2$ ).
3. Fill the pycnometer with dry soil and water. Take its mass ( $M_3$ ).
4. Fill the water with water alone and its mass as ( $M_4$ ).





## CE6405-SOIL MECHANICS

### UNIT II – SOIL WATER AND WATER FLOW

2 MARKS

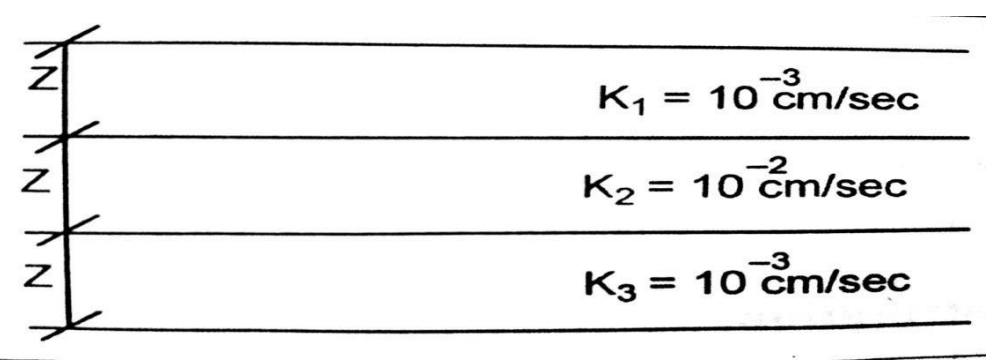
|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p><b>State the assumptions in construction of flow net. (AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The flow lines and equipotential lines meet at right angles to one another.</li><li>2. The fields are approximately squares so that a circle can be drawn touching all the four sides of the square.</li></ol>   |
| 2 | <p><b>State Darcy's law along with its limitations. (AUMAY/JUNE2014)</b></p> <p>The rate of flow 'q' through the saturated soil of cross-sectional area A, is proportional to the hydraulic gradient 'i'.</p> $q = kiA$ <p>where, k - Co-efficient of permeability (cm/sec)</p> <p>Darcy law is valid only for laminar flow and applied to the soil fraction finer than fine gravels.</p>  |
| 3 | <p><b>Differentiate seepage velocity from discharge velocity. (AUMAY/JUNE2014)</b></p> <p>Seepage velocity is the actual velocity (or true velocity) with which water flows through the soil voids.</p> <p>Seepage Velocity, <math>v_s = \frac{v}{\eta}</math></p> <p>Vs is always greater than 'v'.</p>   |
| 4 | <p><b>What is quicksand? (AUNOV/DEC2013)</b></p> <p>When flow takes place in an upward direction, the seepage pressure also acts in the upward direction and the effective pressure is reduced. If the seepage pressure becomes equal to the pressure due to submerged weight of the soil, the effective pressure is reduced to zero. In such a case, cohesion less soil loses all its shear strength, and the soil particles have a tendency to move up in the direction of flow. This phenomenon of lifting of soil particles is called quick condition (or) quick sand.</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | <p><b>What is the importance of effective stress? (AUNOV/DEC 2013)</b></p> <p>At any point within the soil mass, the magnitude of both total stress and water pressure are dependent on the ground water position. With a shift in the table due to seasonal fluctuations there is a resulting change in the distribution in pore water pressure with depth.</p> <p>Effective stress reduces the voids ratio and increases the shear strength.</p>   |
| 6 | <p><b>In a laboratory permeability test on a clayey soil, the diameter of the stand pipe is 2 cm and the diameter of the permeameter is 120 cm, the height of the mould is 130 cm. Determine the time taken for the head of water in the stand pipe to drop from 190 cm to 150 cm. (AU MAY/JUN 2013)</b></p> <p>Solution</p> <p>For clayey soil, <math>K = 1 \times 10^{-7}</math> cm/sec</p> <p>Dia. of stand pipe = 2 cm      <math>a = \frac{\pi}{4} \times 2^2</math></p> <p>Dia. of permeameter, <math>D = 120</math> cm      <math>A = \frac{\pi}{4} \times 120^2</math></p> <p>Length of the permeameter, <math>L = 130</math> cm</p> <p><math>h_1 = 190</math> cm      <math>h_2 = 150</math> cm</p> $K = \frac{2.3 a L}{A t} \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$ |
| 7 | <p><b>What are the different types of soil water? (AUMAY/JUN 2013 &amp; 2012)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Freewater</li> <li>2. Structural water</li> <li>3. Adsorbed water</li> <li>4. Capillary water</li> <li>5. Groundwater</li> <li>6. Porewater</li> <li>7. Structural water</li> </ol>  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 8  | <p><b>What is meant by total stress, neutral stress and effective stress?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(AUNOV/DEC2012)      (AUNOV/DEC2014)</p> <p><b>Effective Stress ( <math>\sigma'</math> )</b> is defined as the stress transmitted through grain to grain at the point of contact through the soil mass. The load per unit area of soil, responsible for soil deformation is called effective stress.</p> <p><b>Neutral Stress (u)</b> is defined as the stress (or) pressure transmitted through the Pore fluid. It is also called Pore Pressure (or) Pore Water Pressure.</p> <p><b>Total Stress (<math>\sigma</math>)</b> is defined as the stress equal to the sum of effective stress and neutral stress.</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto; padding: 2px;"> <math display="block">\sigma = \sigma' + u</math> </div> |
| 9  | <p><b>What is meant by capillary rise in soil and how it affects the stress level in soils? (AUNOV/DEC 2012)</b></p> <p><b>Capillary rise</b> is defined as the rise of water in the pores of the soil due to existence of surface tension, which pulls the water up against the gravitational force.</p>  |
| 10 | <p><b>List out the various forms of soil water. (AUMAY/JUNE2012)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analytical method</li> <li>2. Graphical method</li> <li>3. Sand model</li> <li>4. Electrical analog method</li> <li>5. Capillary analog method</li> </ol>   |
| 11 | <p><b>Differentiate seepage velocity from discharge velocity. (AUMAY/JUNE2014)</b></p> <p>Seepage velocity is the actual velocity (or true velocity) with which water flows through the soil voids.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Seepage Velocity, <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><math>v_s = \frac{v}{\eta}</math></span></p> </div> <p>where, v-flow velocity and <math>\eta</math>-Porosity</p>   |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 12 | <p><b>State the name of the methods of finding field permeability.</b></p> <p><b>Field Methods</b></p> <p>(i) Pumping out tests</p> <p>(ii) Pumping in tests</p>  |
| 13 | <p><b>What is the importance of effective stress?</b></p> <p>At any point within the soil mass, the magnitude of both total stress and water pressure are dependent on the ground water position. With a shift in the table due to seasonal fluctuations there is a resulting change in the distribution in pore water pressure with depth.</p> <p>Effective stress reduces the voids ratio and increases the shear strength.</p> |

**16 MARKS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>A sand deposit contains three horizontal layers of equal thickness. The coefficient of permeability of upper and lower layer is <math>10^{-3}</math> cm/sec and the intermediate layer is <math>10^{-2}</math> cm/sec. what are the values of horizontal and vertical permeability of three layers and what is the ratio. Also derive the appropriate equation required to solve above. (AU NOV/DEC 2014)</b></p>  <p><b>HORIZONTAL FLOW:</b></p> $K_h = \frac{K_1 Z_1 + K_2 Z_2 + K_3 Z_3}{Z}$ $K_h = \frac{10^{-3} Z_1 + 10^{-2} Z_2 + 10^{-3} Z_3}{3Z}$ $K_h = \frac{Z}{3Z} [2 \cdot 10^{-3} + 10^{-2}]$ $K_h = \frac{1}{3} [2 \cdot 10^{-3} + 10^{-2}]$ |
|---|---|

$$K_h = 4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm/sec}$$

**VERTICAL FLOW:**

$$\begin{aligned} K_v &= \frac{Z_1}{K_1} + \frac{Z_2}{K_2} + \frac{Z_3}{K_3} \\ &= 3 \frac{2Z}{10^{-3}} + \frac{Z_2}{10^{-2}} \\ &= 3 \frac{2}{10^{-3}} + \frac{1}{10^{-2}} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 10^{-3} \times 10^{-2}}{(2 \times 10^{-2}) + (1 \times 10^{-2})} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 10^{-5}}{0.021} \\ &= 1.4 \times 10^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

**RATIO:**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{K_h}{K_v} &= \frac{4 \times 10^{-3}}{1.4 \times 10^{-3}} \\ \frac{K_h}{K_v} &= 2.86 \end{aligned}$$

2 A soil deposit consists of sand layer of 5m thick followed by clay layer. The water table is at a depth of 2m from ground level and the dry and saturated unit weight of 16kN /m<sup>3</sup> respectively. Draw the variation of total, neutral and effective stress in sand layer, what will be the change do you expect in effective stress in sandy layer. (AU NOV/DEC 2014)

**Solution:**

**TOTAL STRESS DISTRIBUTION:**

At A,  $\sigma = 0$

At C,  $\sigma = \gamma_{\text{sat}} \times Z$

$$= 20 \times 2 = 40 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

At B,  $\sigma = (\gamma_{\text{sat}} \times Z_1) + (\gamma_{\text{sat}} \times Z_2)$

$$= (20 \times 2) + (16 \times 3)$$

$$=88\text{kN/m}^2$$

**POREPRESSUREDISTRIBUTION:**

At A,  $\sigma=0$

$$C, u = -H_c \cdot \gamma_w$$

$$= -3 \cdot 9.81 = -29.43\text{kN/m}^2$$

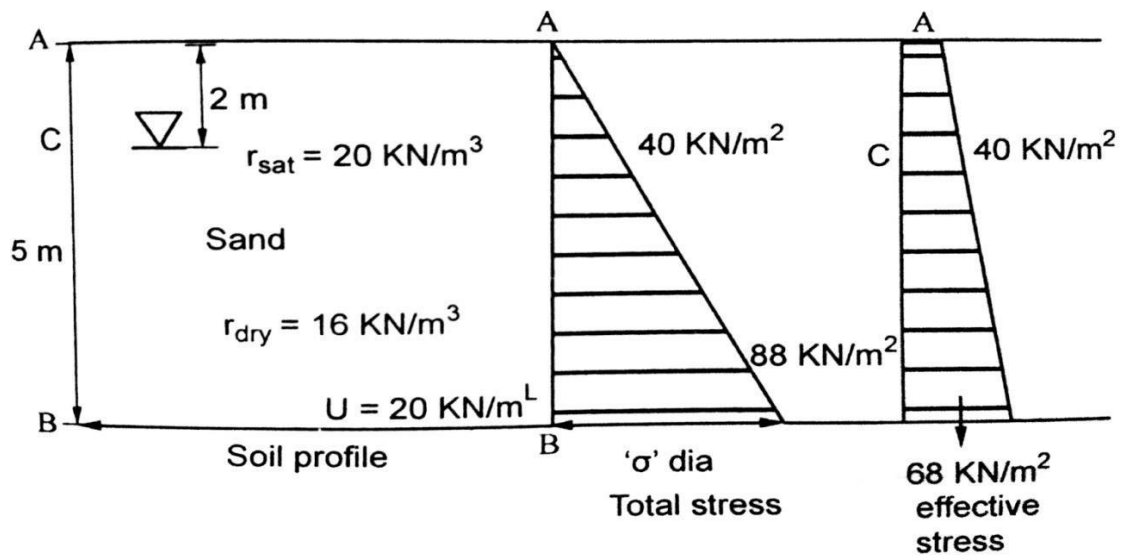
**EFFECTIVEPRESSUREDISTRIBUTION:**

$$\sigma' = \sigma - u$$

At A,  $\sigma'=0$

C,  $\sigma'=40\text{kN/m}^2$

B,  $\sigma'=6.8\text{kN/m}^2$



3 The falling head permeability test was conducted on a soil sample of 4 cm diameter and 18 cm length. The head fell from 1.0 m to 0.40 m in 20 minutes. If the cross-sectional area of the stand pipe was 1 cm<sup>2</sup>, determine the coefficient of permeability (AUMAY/JUN 2014)

Length of the specimen,  $L = 18 \text{ cm}$

Diameter of the specimen,  $D = 4 \text{ cm}$

$h_1 = 1.0 \text{ m}$

$h_2 = 0.40 \text{ m}$

$$t_1 = 0 \text{ secs}$$

$$t_2 = 20 \text{ minutes}$$

$$= 1200 \text{ sec}$$

$$a_1 = 1 \text{ cm}^2$$

**CO-EFFICIENT OF PERMEABILITY,**

$$K = 2.3 \frac{aL}{At} \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$= \frac{2.3 \times 1 \times 18}{12.566 \times 1200} \log_{10} \left( \frac{1}{0.4} \right)$$

$$K = 10.925 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm/sec}$$

- 4 In a falling head permeameter test the initial head is 40 cm. The head drops by 5 cm in 10 minutes. Calculate the time required to run the test for the final head to be at 20 cm. If the sample is 6 cm height and 50 cm<sup>2</sup> in cross sectional area. Calculate the coefficient of permeability take area of stand pipe is 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup>

(AUNOV/DEC2013)

In a time interval  $t = 10$  minutes, the head drops from initial value of  $h_1 = 40$  to  $h_2 = 40 - 5 = 35$  cm.

$$K = 2.3 \frac{aL}{At} \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$\text{(or) } t = \frac{2.3 aL}{AK} \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$= m \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$m = \frac{2.3 aL}{AK} = \text{constant for the setup A K}$$

$$10 = m \log_{10} \left( \frac{40}{35} \right) \text{ (or) } \left( \frac{40}{35} \right)$$

$$m = \frac{10}{\log_{10} \left( \frac{40}{35} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{10}{0.058} = 172.5 \text{ units}$$

$$t = m \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2} = 172.5 \log_{10} \frac{40}{20}$$

Now, let the time interval required for the head to drop from initial value of  $h_1 = 40$  cm to a final of  $h_2 = 20$  cm, be  $t$  minutes.

$$t = 172.5 \log_{10} \frac{40}{20}$$

$$= 172.5 \times 0.301 = 51.9 \text{ minutes}$$

Again,  $m = 2.3 \frac{aL}{A} = 172.6 \text{ units}$ .      $\square K = \frac{2.3aL}{A \times 172.5} \text{ cm/min At}$

(Since used to compute  $m$  was in minutes)

$$K = \frac{2.3 \times 0.5 \times 6}{50 \times 10 \times 60} \text{ cm/sec} = 1.335 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm/sec}$$

Alternatively,  $K = 2.3 \frac{aL}{A t} \log_{10} \frac{h_1}{h_2}$

$$= \frac{2.3 \times 0.5 \times 6}{50 \times 10 \times 60} \log_{10} \left( \frac{40}{35} \right)$$

$$= 1.335 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm/sec}$$

5 **In a site the ground water table is at existing ground level. During flooding the water level rises to 2m above the ground level. Discuss the effect of raise in the water level on effective stress. (AU NOV/DEC2013)**

The ground water table is at the existing ground level. A rise in free water level above the ground surface 2m would result in an increase in the total stress at every location in that site (ie,  $\sigma = 2 * \gamma_w = 19.62 \text{ kN / m}^2$ )

Similarly, the pore water pressure would also increase at every location by the same magnitude.  $(2 * 9.81) = 19.62 \text{ kN / m}^2$ .

Thus the effective stress distribution for this case would be the same.

Any fluctuation in the level of free water above the ground surface would not result in any change in effective stress at any depth within the soil deposit.

## What is flow net? Describe the method used to construct flow net. (AU NOV/DEC 2013) (AUMAY/JUN 2014)

A flow net is a graphical representation of two-dimensional seepage and consists of two groups of curves of flow lines and equipotential lines.

Once a flow net is constructed, its graphical properties can be used to obtain solution for many seepage problems, such as the estimation of seepage loss from reservoirs, determination of seepage pressures, uplift pressure below dams, to check against the possibility of piping and many others.

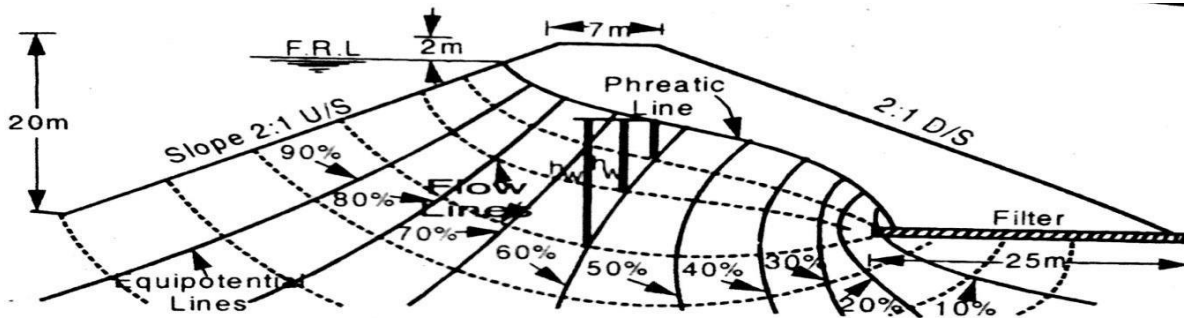


Fig. Flow Net For Steady Seepage

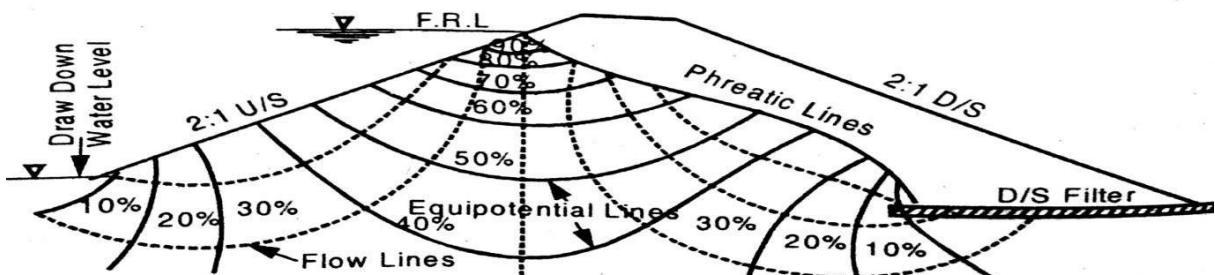


Fig. Flow Net For Sudden Draw down

### METHODS FOR OBTAINING FLOW NETS:

1. Analytical method
2. Graphical method
3. Sand model
4. Electrical analogy method
5. Capillary analogy method

### ANALYTICAL METHOD:

It requires a mathematical solution of the Laplace's equation.

It can be used in simple cases of flow, where the boundary can be expressed in equations.

## ELECTRICAL ANALOGY METHOD:

This method is quite extensively used.

It is based on the principle of Darcy's law governing flow of water through soil and is analogous to Ohm's law governing the flow of current through conductors.

The seepage being proportional to the heat dissipated is similar to that the current being proportional to the voltage drop. Both boundary conditions are similar, thus the pattern of flow of electricity obtained in the electrical model has the same geometric shape as the seepage through soils.

The seepage medium is replaced by the electric conductor consisting of water with some salt or dilute hydrochloric acid. The boundary equipotential lines are made of the copper. The boundary flow lines are stimulated by non-conducting strips. An alternating voltage is applied across the boundary equipotential strips. A potential divider is connected in parallel with the alternating current source.

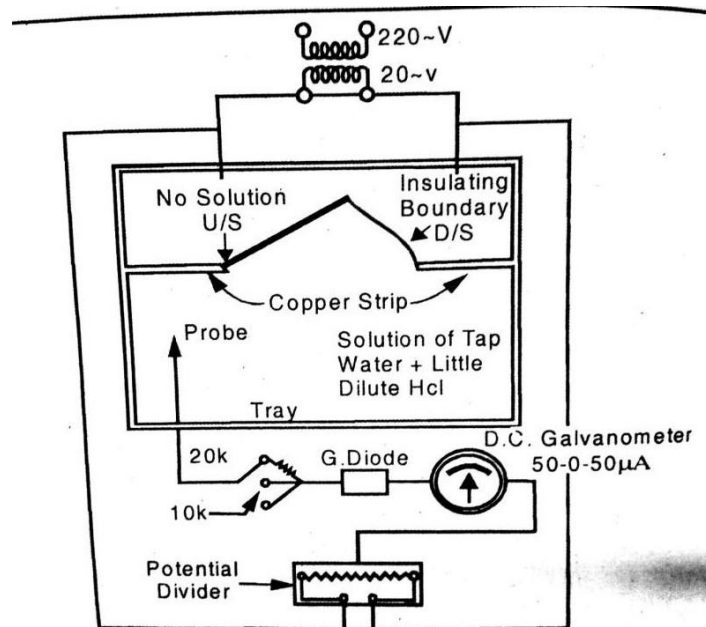


Fig. Circuit Diagram For Electric Analogy Tray.

To determine a line contour of equal potential the potentiometer is adjusted to a percentage of the total voltage drop and the probe of galvanometer is used to find the corresponding null points. Changes in coefficient of permeability in soil zones are stimulated by changes in the coefficient of electrical conductivity.

## CAPILLARY ANALOGY METHOD:

Capillary flow between two closely spaced parallel glass plates is analogous to 2D flow through soils. A model is placed between two glass plates which connect two small tanks. The distance of these plates are constant and width is constant. When the boundary conditions of the model is same as seepage problem. The flownet can

be completed by drawing the equipotential lines.

### **SAND MODEL:**

Sand model constructed in water tanks also give a visual demonstration of flow, like the capillary flow models.

### **GRAPHICAL METHOD:**

This is the method most extensively used. It is based on trail sketching.

The hydraulic boundary conditions must be examined before sketching. The flow net can be plotted by trail and error by observing the following properties of flow net.

### **PROPERTIES OF FLOW NET:**

1. The flow lines and equipotential lines are meeting at right angles to each other.
2. The field are approximately squares, so that a circle can be drawn touching the all the four sides of the square.
3. The quantity of water flowing through each flow channel is the same; likewise the same potential drop occurs between two successive equipotential lines.
4. Smaller the dimensions, greater will be hydraulic gradient and velocity.
5. In a homogeneous soil, every transition in the shape of the curve is smooth.

7 **What is soil suction? How is it measured? What are the factors that affect soil suction? (AU NOV/DEC 2013)**

### **SOIL SUCTION:**

The pressure deficiency in the held water is termed as soil suction or suctionessure.

### **MEASUREMENT OF SOIL SUCTION:**

It is measured by the height  $h_c$  to which a water column could be drawn by suction in a soil mass free from external stress.

$pF$  value is the common algorithm of height (cm) or pressure ( $g/cm^2$ )

$$pF = \log_{10}(hc)$$

## **FACTORS AFFECTING SOIL SUCTION:**

1. Particle size of soil
2. Water content
3. Plasticity index of soil
4. History of drying and wetting
5. Soil structure
6. Temperature
7. Denseness of soil
8. Angle of contact
9. Dissolved salts in pore water

### **PARTICLE SIZE OF SOIL:**

Smaller the size of the particles, smaller will be the pore size with small radii, resulting in greater capillary rise and hence greater suction.

### **WATER CONTENT:**

Smaller the water content, greater the soil suction. When dry, the soil suction attains maximum.

### **PLASTICITY INDEX OF SOIL:**

For less water content, soil suction will be greater in soil which has the greater plasticity index than in the one which has low plasticity index.

### **HISTORY OF DRYING AND WETTING:**

Soil suction is greater during drying and lower during wetting. **SOIL**

### **STRUCTURE:**

The size of intercedes depends on the soil structure.

Change in structure leads to change in size and then soil suction.

### **TEMPERATURE:**

Rise in temperature results in decrease of surface tension and then in soil suction. Fall in temperature increases the soil suction.

### **DENSENESS OF SOIL:**

Increase in denseness of soil results in decrease in the size of the pores of the soil and hence increase in soil suction and vice versa.

**ANGLE OF CONTACT:**

Soil suction decreases with increases in the angle of contact, which is the angle between soil and water.

When  $\alpha=0$ , soil suction is maximum.

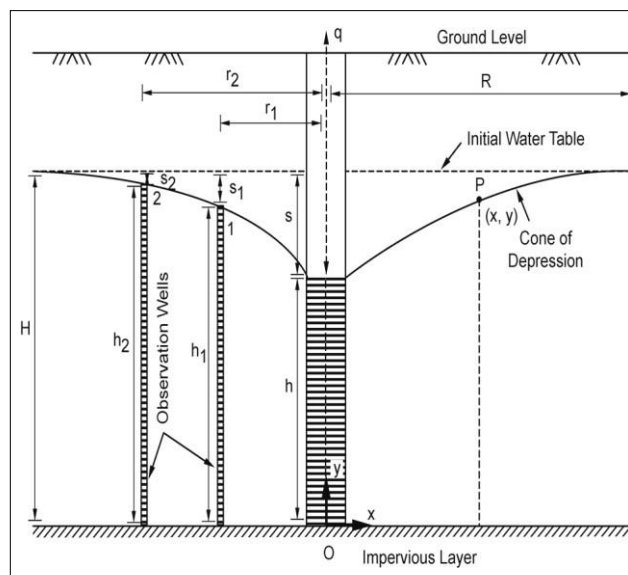
**DISSOLVED SALTS IN PORE WATER:**

Dissolved salts increase the surface tension and it also increases the soil suction.

8 **Derive an equation to determine the coefficient of permeability in an unconfined aquifer. (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)**

For the sake of analysis, we shall take two cases: (i) well fully penetrating an unconfined aquifer, (ii) well fully penetrating a confined aquifer.

Unconfined aquifer, Fig. shows a well penetrating an unconfined or free aquifer to its full depth



Let  $r =$  radius of the well

$H =$  thickness of the aquifer, measured from the impermeable layer to the initial level of water table.

$s =$  drawdown at the well

$h =$  depth of water in the well measured above the impermeable layer.

Considering the origin of co-ordinates at a point O at the centre of the well as its bottom, let the co-ordinates of any point P on the drawdown curve be  $(x, y)$ .

Then from Darcy's law, Discharge  $q = k A_x i_x$

Where  $A_x$  = area of cross-section of the saturated part of the aquifer at P

$$= (2\pi x)y = 2\pi xy$$

$$i_x = \text{hydraulic gradient at P} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\text{Hence } q = k(2\pi xy) \frac{dy}{dx} \text{ or } q \frac{dx}{x} = 2\pi k y dy$$

Integrating between the limits (R,r) for x and (H,h) for y, we get

$$\int_r^R q \frac{dx}{x} = 2\pi k \int_h^H y dy$$

$$q (\log_e x) \Big|_r^R = 2\pi k \left( \frac{y^2}{2} \right) \Big|_h^H$$

From which

$$q = \frac{\pi k (H^2 - h^2)}{\log_e \frac{R}{r}}$$

$$= \frac{1.36 k (H^2 - h^2)}{\log_{10} \frac{R}{r}} \quad \dots(1)$$

If  $k$  is expressed in cubic meter per day per square meter ( $m^3/\text{day}/m^2$ ) of the area of subsoil, the above expression for discharge will directly be in cubic meter per day units. In the above expression,  $R$  commonly known as radius of zero drawdown or maximum radius of influence, is the radius, measured from the center of the well, where the drawdown curve meets the original water table tangentially. In practice, the selection of the radius of influence  $R$  is approximate and arbitrary, but the variation in  $Q$  is small for a wide range of  $R$ . Suggested values of  $R$  fall in the range of 150 to 300 m.

Alternatively,  $R$  may be computed from the following approximate expression given by Sichardt:

$$R = 3000 s \sqrt{k} \quad \dots(2)$$

Where  $R$  and  $s$  are in meters, and  $k$  is in m/sec.

If there are two observation wells at radial distance  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  ( $r_2 > r_1$ ) and if the

depths of water in them are  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  respectively. Eqn.(1) can also be expressed in the following form.

$$\begin{aligned}
 q &= \frac{\pi k (h_2^2 - h_1^2)}{2 \log_e \frac{r_2}{r_1}} \\
 &= \frac{1.36 k (h_2^2 - h_1^2)}{2 \log_{10} \frac{r_2}{r_1}} \quad \dots(3)
 \end{aligned}$$

If the drawdown is measured at the well, we have

$$s = H - h \quad \text{and} \quad H = s + h \quad \text{or} \quad H + h = s + 2h$$

Then, from

equation (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 q &= \frac{\pi k (H - h)(H + h)}{\log_e \frac{R}{r}} \\
 &= \frac{\pi k s (s + 2h)}{\log_e \frac{R}{r}} \\
 &= \frac{\pi k s (s + 2L)}{\log_e \frac{R}{r}} \\
 &= \frac{1.36 k s (s + 2L)}{\log_{10} \frac{R}{r}} \quad \dots(4)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $L$  = effective length of the strainer =  $h$ .

### ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF DUPUIT'S THEORY

Dupuit's theory of flow is based on the following assumptions:

1. The velocity of flow is proportional to the tangent of the hydraulic gradient instead of its sine.
2. The flow is horizontal and uniform everywhere in the vertical section.

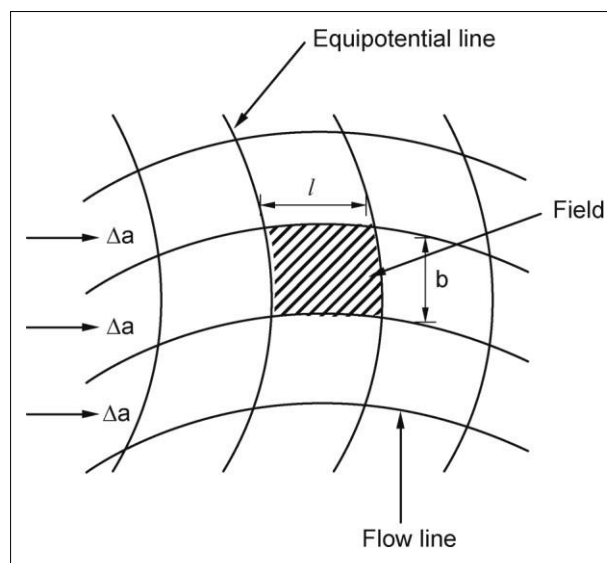
3. Aquifer is homogeneous, isotropic and of infinite areal extent.
4. The well penetrates and receives water from the entire thickness of the aquifer.
5. The coefficient of transmissibility is constant at all places and at all times.
6. Natural groundwater regime affecting an aquifer remains constant with time.
7. Flow is laminar and Darcy's law is valid.

Out of these, assumptions 1, 2 and 7 are of particular importance. The flow is not horizontal, especially near the well. Also, the piezometric surface attains greater slope as it approaches the well boundary, with the result that assumption 1 is an approximation. Due to these reasons, the parabolic form of piezometric surface computed from the Dupuit's theory deviates from the observed surface. This deviation is large, resulting in the formation of a seepage face. In addition to these, the velocity near the well increases, and the flow no longer remains laminar. Thus, Darcy's law equation is not valid near the well face.

9 **Derive an equation for flow through soil and hence derive the equation to determine the seepage discharge through a flow net. Also prove the discharge through different flow channel is constant and the head loss between two different potential drop lines is constant. (AU MAY/JUNE 2013)**

**APPLICATION OF FLOW NET FOR DETERMINATION OF SEEPAGE:**

The figure shows a portion of flow net. The portion between any two successive flow lines is called a **flow channel**. The portion enclosed between two successive equipotential lines and successive flow lines is known as a **field** such as that shown hatched in Figure.



Let  $b$  and  $l$  be the width and length of the field.

$\Delta h$  = head drop through the field;  $\Delta q$  = discharge passing through the flow channel  $H$  = total hydraulic head causing flow = difference between upstream and downstream heads.

Then, from Darcy's law of flow through soils:

$$\Delta q = k \cdot \frac{\Delta h}{(b \times 1)} \text{ (considering unit thickness) } l$$

If  $N_d$  = total number of potential drops in the complete flow net then,

$$\Delta h = \frac{H}{N_d}$$

$$\text{Hence, } \Delta q = k \cdot \frac{H(b)}{N_d l}$$

The total discharge through the complete flow net is given by

$$q = \sum \Delta q = k \cdot \frac{H(b)}{N_d l} \cdot N_f = \frac{N_f b}{N_d} k H$$

where  $N_f$  = total number of flow channels in the net. The

field is square; hence  $b = l$

$$\text{Thus, } b = k H \frac{N_f}{N_d}$$

This is the required expression for the discharge passing a flow net and is valid for isotropic soils in which  $k_x = k_y = k$ .

- 10 **The water table in a deposit of sand 8 m thick is at a depth of 3 m below the ground surface. Above the water table, the sand is saturated with capillary water. The bulk density of sand is 19.62 kN/m<sup>3</sup>. Calculate the effective pressure at 1 m, 3m and 8m below the ground surface. Hence plot the variation of total pressure, neutral pressure and effective pressure over the depth of 8 m. (AU NOV/DEC2012)**

$$\text{Total stress at the bottom, } \sigma = (3+5) \gamma_{\text{sat}}$$

$$= 8 \times 19.62$$

$$=156.96\text{kN/m}^2$$

$$\text{Neutral Pressure, } u = h_w \cdot \gamma_w$$

$$=5 \times 9.81$$

$$=49.05\text{kN/m}^2$$

$$\text{Effective Stress, } \sigma' = \sigma - u$$

$$=156.96 - 49.05$$

$$=107.91\text{kN/m}^2$$

**(i) STRESS AT THE GROUND SURFACE**

$$\sigma = 0 \times \gamma_{\text{sat}}$$

$$=0 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$u = -h_c \times \gamma_w$$

$$= -3 \times 9.81 = -29.43\text{kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma' = \sigma - u$$

$$=0 - (-29.43) = 29.43\text{kN/m}^2$$

**(ii) STRESS AT 1m BELOW THE GROUND SURFACE**

$$\sigma = h \cdot \gamma_{\text{sat}}$$

$$=1 \times 19.62 = 19.62\text{kN/m}^2$$

$$u = -h_c \times \gamma_w$$

$$= -2 \times 9.81 = -19.62\text{kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma' = \sigma - u$$

$$=19.62 - (-19.62) = 39.24\text{kN/m}^2$$

**(iii) STRESS AT 3m BELOW GROUND LEVEL**

$$\sigma = h \cdot \gamma_{\text{sat}}$$

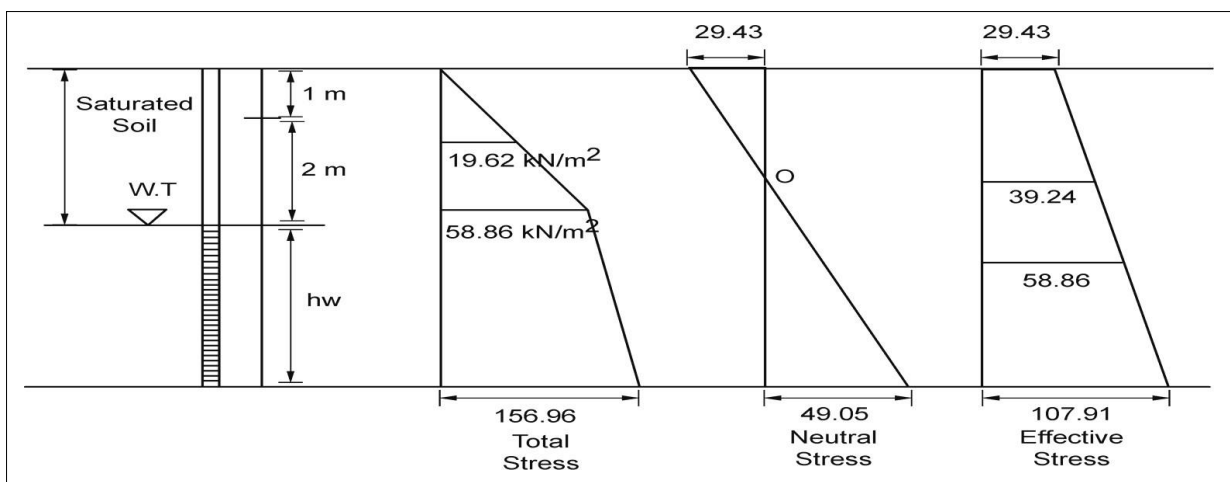
$$= 3 \times 19.62 = 58.86 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$u = 0 \times \gamma_w$$

$$= 0 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma' = \sigma - u$$

$$= 58.86 - 0 = 58.86 \text{ kN/m}^2$$



11 **Write down the procedure for determination of permeability by constant head test in the laboratory. (AU NOV/DEC 2012)**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this test is to determine the permeability (hydraulic conductivity) of a sandy soil by the constant head test method. There are two general types of permeability test methods that are routinely performed in the laboratory:

Soil by the constant head test method. There are two general types of permeability test methods that are routinely performed in the laboratory:

that are routinely performed in the laboratory:

- The constant head test method, and (2) the falling head test method. The constant head test method is used for permeable soils ( $k > 10^{-4}$  cm/s) and

- The falling head test is mainly used for less permeable soils ( $k < 10^{-4}$  cm/s).

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Permeability (or hydraulic conductivity) refers to the ease with which water can flow through a soil. This property is necessary for the calculation of seepage through earth dams or under sheet pile walls, the calculation of the seepage rate from waste storage facilities (landfills, ponds, etc.), and the calculation of the rate of settlement of clayey soil deposits.

**EQUIPMENT:**

- Permeameter,
- Tamper,
- Balance,
- Scoop,
- 1000 mL Graduated cylinders,
- Watch (or Stopwatch),
- Thermometer,
- Filter paper.

**TEST PROCEDURE:**

- (1) Measure the initial mass of the pan along with the dry soil ( $M_1$ ).
- (2) Remove the cap and upper chamber of the permeameter by unscrewing the knurled cap nuts and lifting them off the tie rods. Measure the inside diameter of upper and lower chambers. Calculate the average inside diameter of the permeameter ( $D$ ).
- (3) Place one porous stone on the inner supporting ring in the base of the chamber then place a filter paper on top of the porous stone (see Photo C).



(4) Mix the soil with a sufficient quantity of distilled water to prevent the segregation of particle sizes during placement into the permeameter. Enough water should be added so that the mixture may flow freely (see Photo B).

(5) Using a scoop, pour the prepared soil into the lower chamber using a circular motion to fill it to a depth of 1.5 cm. A uniform layer should be formed.

(6) Use the tamping device to compact the layer of soil. Use approximately ten rams of the tamper per layer and provide uniform coverage of the soil surface. Repeat the compaction procedure until the soil is within 2 cm. of the top of the lower chamber section (see Photo D).



(7) Replace the upper chamber section, and don't forget the rubber gasket that goes between the chamber sections. Be careful not to disturb the soil that has already been compacted. Continue the placement operation until the level of the soil is about 2 cm below the rim of the upper chamber. Level the top surface of the soil and place a filter paper and then the upper porous stone on it (see Photo E).

(8) Place the compression spring on the porous stone and replace the chamber cap and its sealing gasket. Secure the cap firmly with the cap nuts (see Photo F).

(9) Measure the sample length at four locations around the circumference of the

permeameter and compute the average length. Record it as the sample length.

(10) Keep the pan with remaining soil in the drying oven.

(11) Adjust the level of the funnel to allow the constant water level in it to remain a few inches above the top of the soil.

(12) Connect the flexible tube from the tail of the funnel to the bottom outlet of the permeameter and keep the valves on the top of the permeameter open (see Photo G).



(13) Place tubing from the top outlet to the sink to collect any water that may come out (see Photo G).

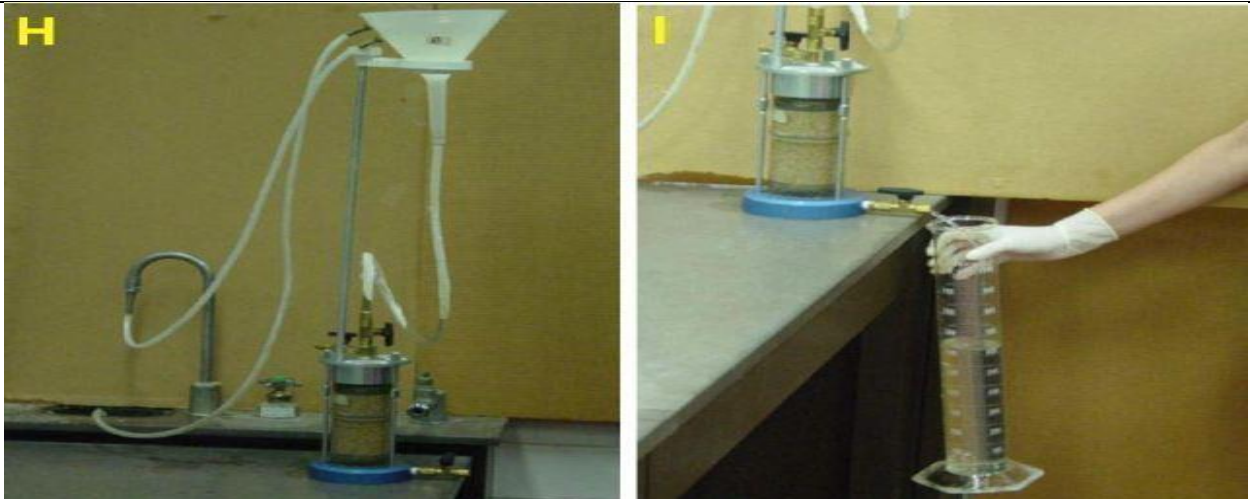
(14) Open the bottom valve and allow the water to flow into the permeameter.

(15) As soon as the water begins to flow out of the top control (de-airing) valve, close the control valve, letting water flow out of the outlet for some time.

(16) Close the bottom outlet valve and disconnect the tubing at the bottom. Connect the funnel tubing to the top side port (see Photo H).

(17) Open the bottom outlet valve and raise the funnel to a convenient height to get a reasonable steady flow of water.

(18) Allow adequate time for the flow pattern to stabilize (see Photo I).



(19) Measure the time it takes to fill a volume of 750 – 1000 ml using the graduated cylinder, and then measure the temperature of the water. Repeat this process three times and compute the average time, average volume, and average temperature. Record the values as **t**, **Q**, and **T**, respectively (see Photo I).

(20) Measure the vertical distance between the funnel head level and the chamber outflow level, and record the distance as **h**.

(21) Repeat step 17 and 18 with different vertical distances.

(22) Remove the pan from the drying oven and measure the final mass of the pan along with the dry soil (**M<sub>2</sub>**).

**Analysis:**

(1) Calculate the permeability, using the following equation:

$$K_T = QL / A * t * h$$

$K_T$  = coefficient of permeability at temperature  $T$ , cm/sec.

$L$  = length of specimen in centimeters  $t$  =

time for discharge in seconds

$Q$  = volume of discharge in  $cm^3$  (assume  $1 mL = 1 cm^3$ )

$A$  = cross-sectional area of permeameter (=  $[(\pi D^2)/4]$ ,  $D$  = inside diameter of the permeameter)

$h$  = hydraulic head difference across length  $L$ , in cm of water; or it is equal to the vertical distance between the constant funnel head level and the chamber overflow level.

to a considerable depth. The water table is 1.5 m below the ground surface. Assuming the top fine sand to be saturated by capillary water, calculate the effective pressure at ground surface & at depth of 1.8m, 3.4m and 5.0m below the ground surface. Assume for fine sand  $G=2.65$ ,  $e=0.8$ , and for coarse sand  $G=2.66$ ,  $e=0.5$ . What will be the change in effective pressure at depth 3.4m, if no capillary water is assumed to be present in the fine sand and its bulk unit weight is assumed to be  $16.68\text{kN/m}^3$ . The unit weight of clay may be assumed as  $19.32\text{kN/m}^3$  (AU MAY/JUN 2012)

**Solution:**

**CASE 1 WITHOUT CAPILLARY RISE:**

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{\text{sat for sand below WT}} &= \frac{G + Se}{1 + e} \gamma_w \\ &= \frac{2.66 + 0.8}{1 + 0.8} \cdot 9.81 \\ &= 18.8025 \text{ kN/m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Total stress at 3.4m

$$\begin{aligned} &= (1.5 \cdot 16.68) + (0.3 \cdot 18.8) + (1.6 \cdot 19.32) \\ &= 61.57 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Pore water pressure at 3.4m} = (1.6 + 0.3) \cdot 9.81 = 18.63 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Effective stress} &= 61.57 - 18.63 \\ &= 42.93 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

**CASE 2 WITH CAPILLARY RISE:**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total stress} &= (1.8 \cdot 18.8025) + (1.6 \cdot 19.32) \\ &= 63.35 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pore pressure} &= (0.3 \cdot 9.81) - (1.5 \cdot 9.81) + (1.6 \cdot 9.81) \\ &= 3.92 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Effective stress} &= 63.35 - 3.92 \\ &= 59.43 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

13 In a constant head permeameter test, the following observations were taken. Distance between piezometer tappings=15cm, difference of water levels in piezometers=40cm, diameter of test sample =5cm, quantity of water collected=500ml, Duration of the test=900sec. Determine the coefficient of permeability of the soil. If the dry mass of the 15cm long sample is 486 kg and specific gravity of the solids are 2.65. Calculate seepage velocity of water during the test. (AU MAY/JUN 2012)

**Solution:**

Diameter  $d=5\text{cm}$ , Difference of water level in piezometer,  $h=40\text{cm}$ , Quantity  $Q=500\text{ml}$ , Duration  $t=900\text{sec}$ , Length  $L=15\text{cm}$ , Dry Mass  $m_d=486\text{g}$ , specific gravity  $G=2.65$

**COEFFICIENT OF PERMEABILITY, K:**

$$\text{Area, } A = \pi r^2 = 19.63\text{cm}^2$$

$$K = \frac{Q}{L} \cdot \frac{L}{N} \cdot \frac{I}{A}$$

$$K = \frac{500}{900} \cdot \frac{15}{40} \cdot \frac{1}{19.63}$$

$$= 10.61 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{cm/s}$$

**Seepage velocity:**

Now,

$$V = q/A$$

$$= 500 / (900 \cdot 19.63)$$

$$= 0.028 \text{cm/s}$$

$$P_d = M_d/V$$

$$= 486 / (19.36 \cdot 15)$$

$$= 1.67 \text{g/cm}^3$$

That is., 
$$e = \frac{G \cdot P_d}{P_d} - 1 = \frac{2.65 \cdot 1}{1.67} - 1$$

$$e = 0.583$$

$$n = \frac{e}{1+e} = \frac{0.583}{1+0.583}$$

$$n=0.368$$

$$V_s = V/n$$

$$= 0.028/0.368$$

$$= 7.604 \times 10^{-2} \text{ cm/s}$$

# CE6405-SOILMECHANICS

## UNIT III STRESS DISTRIBUTION AND SETTLEMENT

**2 MARKS:**

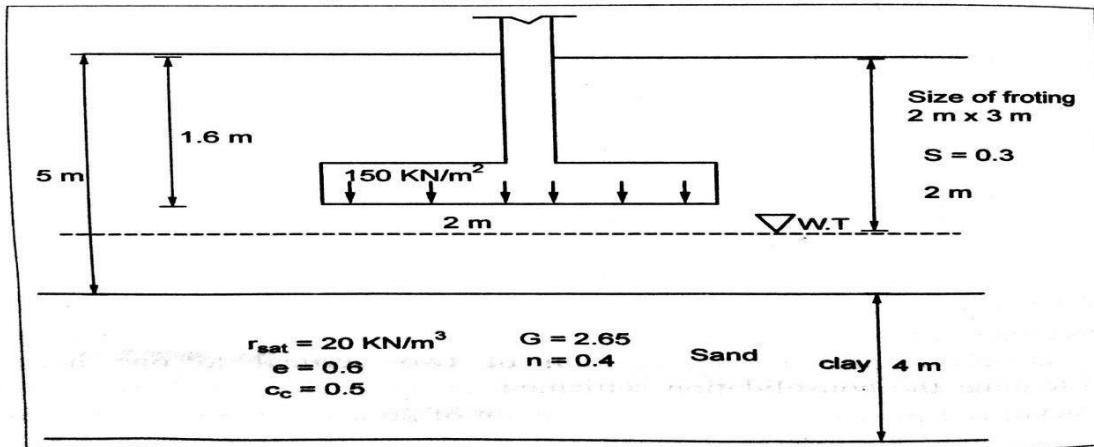
| 1      | <p><b>Write down the expression derived by westergaard for vertical pressure under the rectangular uniformly distributed loaded area. (AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> $\sigma_z = \frac{QZ}{2 \pi R^3} = \frac{Q}{2 \pi \eta^2 z^2 \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{r}{\eta z} \right)^2 \right]^{3/2}}$  |  |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
|--------|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------|----|---|--|----|-----------------------------|--|
| 2      | <p><b>Compare Boussinesq's and Westergaard analysis for stress distribution. (AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%; padding: 5px;">Sl.No.</th> <th style="width: 45%; padding: 5px;">Boussinesq's Analysis</th> <th style="width: 45%; padding: 5px;">Westergaard's Analysis</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">This is based on the assumption that the soil mass is homogenous.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">This is based on the assumption that the soil masses are sedimentary (or) stratified deposits.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">2.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">The soil mass is isotropic.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">The soil mass containing number of closely spaced horizontal sheets of negligible thickness.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Sl.No.   | Boussinesq's Analysis | Westergaard's Analysis | 1. | This is based on the assumption that the soil mass is homogenous. | This is based on the assumption that the soil masses are sedimentary (or) stratified deposits. | 2. | The soil mass is isotropic. | The soil mass containing number of closely spaced horizontal sheets of negligible thickness. |
| Sl.No. | Boussinesq's Analysis  | Westergaard's Analysis   |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
| 1.     | This is based on the assumption that the soil mass is homogenous.  | This is based on the assumption that the soil masses are sedimentary (or) stratified deposits. |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
| 2.     | The soil mass is isotropic.  | The soil mass containing number of closely spaced horizontal sheets of negligible thickness.   |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
| 3      | <p><b>Define coefficient of compressibility. (AUNOV/DEC2013)</b></p> <p>Co-efficient of permeability (or hydraulic conductivity) is defined as the rate of flow of water under laminar flow conditions through a unit cross-sectional area of a porous medium under a unit hydraulic gradient and standard temperature conditions. The unit of 'K' is m/s (or) cm/s</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto; padding: 5px;"> <math>q = KiA</math> </div>  |  |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
| 4      | <p><b>What is an influence diagram? What is its use in practice? (AUNOV/DEC2013)</b></p> <p>A chart, consisting of number of circles and radiating lines, the influence of each area unit is the same at the centre of the circles, i.e. each area unit causes the equal vertical stress at the centre of the diagram. It is used for determining the vertical stress at any point under a <b>uniformly loaded area</b> of any shape.</p>  |  |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |
| 5      | <p><b>What is meant by effective stress of a soil? (AUMAY/JUN2013)</b></p> <p>Effective stress (<math>\sigma'</math>) is defined as the stress, transmitted through grain to grain at the point of contact through the soil mass. The load per unit area of soil mass,</p>   |  |                       |                        |    |   |  |    |                             |  |

|   | responsible for soil deformation is called effective stress.   |            |               |   |   |
|---|--|------------|---------------|---|---|
| 6   | <p><b>Define secondary consolidation. (AUMAY/JUN2013)(AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <p>When the excess neutral (water) pressure due to consolidation has been dissipated, the change in void ratio continues, and generally at a reduced rate. This phenomenon is called <b>Secondary compression</b> (or) <b>Secondary consolidation</b>.</p>  |            |               |   |   |
| 7   | <p><b>Write down Boussinesque equation for finding out the vertical stress under a single concentrated load. (AUNOV/DEC2012)</b></p> <p>Vertical stress under a point load <math>\sigma_z</math>,</p> $\sigma_z = \frac{3Q}{2\pi Z^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{r^2}{Z^2}} \right)^{5/2}$ <p>Where, <math>r</math> = Radial distance from axis of loading<br/> <math>Z</math> = Depth at which the stress is calculated</p>                                |            |               |   |   |
| 8   | <p><b>Define normally consolidated clays and over consolidated clays. (AUNOV/DEC2012)(AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <p><b>Normally consolidated clay</b> is defined as the clayey soil, which has never been subjected to an effective pressure greater than the present overburden pressure.</p> <p><b>Over consolidated clay</b> is the clayey soil, which has always been subjected to an effective pressure greater than the present overburden pressure.</p> |            |               |   |   |
| 9   | <p><b>What is an influence diagram? What is its use in practice? (AUMAY/JUN2012)</b></p> <p>A chart, consisting of number of circles and radiating lines, the influence of each area unit is the same at the centre of the circles, i.e. each area unit causes the equal vertical stress at the centre of the diagram. It is used for determining the vertical stress at any point under a <b>uniformly loaded area</b> of any shape.</p>                  |            |               |   |   |
| 10  | <p><b>Differentiate between compaction and consolidation. (AUMAY/JUN2012)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Compaction</th> <th>Consolidation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>It refers to a more or less rapid reduction mainly in air voids under a loading of short duration</td> <td>Consolidation is a gradual process of volume reduction under sustained loading.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>                                       | Compaction | Consolidation | It refers to a more or less rapid reduction mainly in air voids under a loading of short duration | Consolidation is a gradual process of volume reduction under sustained loading. |
| Compaction  | Consolidation  |            |               |   |   |
| It refers to a more or less rapid reduction mainly in air voids under a loading of short duration | Consolidation is a gradual process of volume reduction under sustained loading.  |            |               |   |   |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 11 | <p><b>Define 'Isobar'.</b></p> <p>An Isobar is a bulb shaped curve (or) contour all points below the ground surface of equal vertical pressure.</p> |
|----|---|

**16 MARKS:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>A building column has a footing area of 2m*3m and transmits a pressure increment of 150kN/m<sup>2</sup> at its base embedded 1.6m below ground level. Assuming a pressure distribution of two vertical to one horizontal, determine the consolidation settlement at the middle of the clay layer of thickness 4m with saturated unit weight of 20kN/m<sup>3</sup> and initial void ratio of 0.6 with compression index 0.5 underlies fine sand deposit of 5m thickness. The water table is at a depth of 2m ground level. The degree of saturation of sand above water table is 30%. Take the specific gravity of fine sand as 2.65 and porosity is 40%. (AUNOV/DEC2014)</b></p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <p>For sand</p> $\gamma_d = \frac{G \cdot \gamma_w}{1+e} = \frac{2.65 \cdot 9.81}{1+0.6}$ $= 16.25 \text{ kN/m}^3$ $\gamma_{\text{sat}} = 20 \text{ kN/m}^3$ <p>For clay</p> $\gamma' = \gamma_{\text{sat}} - \gamma_w$ $= 20 - 9.81$ $= 10.19 \text{ kN/m}^3$ <p>(i) Initial pressure at the centre of clay layer:</p> $\sigma' = (2 \cdot 16.25) + 3(20 - 9.81) + 2(10.19)$ $\sigma' = 83.45 \text{ kN/m}^2$ |
|---|---|



(ii) Pressure increase at the top middle and bottom of clay:

$$(\Delta\sigma)_t = \frac{150(2 \times 3)}{(2+3)(3+3)}$$

$$= 30 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$(\Delta\sigma)_m = \frac{150(2 \times 3)}{(2+5)(3+5)}$$

$$= 16.07 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$(\Delta\sigma)_b = \frac{150(2 \times 3)}{(2+7)(3+7)}$$

$$= 10 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Average pressure

$$\Delta\sigma = 1/6 [(\Delta\sigma)_t + 4(\Delta\sigma)_m + (\Delta\sigma)_b]$$

$$= 1/6 [30 + 4(16.07) + 10]$$

$$\Delta\sigma = 17.38 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

(iii) Final settlement:

$$\rho_f = \frac{c_c}{1+e} H + \log_{10} \frac{\sigma + \Delta\sigma}{\sigma}$$

$$= \frac{0.5}{1+0.6} H + 4 + \log_{10} \frac{83.45 + 17.38}{83.45}$$

$$= 0.1 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Settlement } \rho_f = 100 \text{ mm}$$

analysis find the vertical stress at point (1) 3m below the surface on the axis of loading and (2) at radial distance of 2 m from axis of loading but at same depth of 3 m. (AUMAY/JUN2014)

**Case I**

$$r = 0, z = 3\text{m}, Q = 10\text{kN}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_z &= \frac{3Q}{3^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{r}{z}\right)^2} \right]^{5/2} \frac{2\pi z^2}{z} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 10}{3^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{0}{3}\right)^2} \right]^{5/2} \frac{2 \times \pi \times 3^2}{3} \\ &= 0.531\text{kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

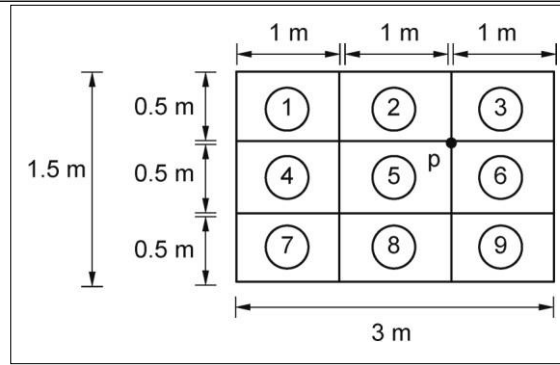
**Case II**

$$r = 2\text{m and } z = 3\text{m}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_z &= \frac{3Q}{3^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{r}{z}\right)^2} \right]^{5/2} \frac{2\pi z^2}{z} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 10}{3^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2} \right]^{5/2} \frac{2 \times \pi \times 3^2}{3} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 10}{2 \times \pi \times 9} [1 + 2.25]^{5/2} \\ &= 10.102\text{kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

3

A rectangular foundation 3.0 m × 1.5 m carries a uniform load of 40kN/m<sup>2</sup>. Determine the vertical stress at 'P' which is 3m below the ground surface (refer the figure). Use equivalent point load method. (AU NOV/DEC2013)



The given foundation is divided into 9 equal and small areas of size  $(1.0 \times 0.5) \text{ m}$

$$\text{Load on each area} = 40 \times (1.0 \times 0.5) = 20 \text{ kN.}$$

The stress at P are determined due to 9 point loads, by using Boussinesq's Analysis.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For loads (1) and (4),} \quad r &= \sqrt{1.5^2 + 0.25^2} \\ &= 1.521 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{r}{z} = 0.507$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For loads (2), (3), (5) and (6),} \quad r &= \sqrt{0.5^2 + 0.25^2} \\ &= 0.559 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{r}{z} = 0.186$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For loads (8) and (9),} \quad r &= \sqrt{0.75^2 + 0.5^2} \\ &= 0.901 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{r}{z} = 0.300$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For load (7),} \quad r &= \sqrt{1.5^2 + 0.75^2} \\ &= 1.677 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{r}{z} = 0.559$$

$$\text{and stress, } \sigma_z = \frac{\Sigma 3Q}{2 \pi z^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{(r/z)^2}{z} \right]^{5/2}$$

In this problem,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_z &= \frac{3 \times 20}{2 \pi (3)^2} \\ &= 1.061(1.129 + 3.674 + 1.612 + 0.507) \\ &= 7.34 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

4 **Explain the Terzaghi's Theory of One Dimensional Consolidation? (AUNOV/DEC2013)(AUMAY/JUN2013)(AUNOV/DEC2012)(AUMAY/JUN 2012)**

Terzaghi's theoretical concept of the consolidation process was developed by Terzaghi in the development of the mathematical statement of the consolidation process. The following

**ASSUMPTION:**

- soil homogenous and fully saturated
- Deformation of the soil is due entirely to change in volume
- Darcy's law for the velocity of flow of water through soil is perfectly valid.
- Coefficient of permeability is constant during consolidation
- Load is applied deformation occurs only in direction
- The change in thickness of the layer during consolidation is insignificant.

$$h = \frac{\bar{u}}{\gamma_w} \quad \dots 1$$

$$\text{Hydraulic gradient, } i = \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{\gamma_w} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \quad \dots 2$$

$$V = Ki = K \frac{1}{\gamma_w} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \quad \dots 3$$

The velocity  $v$  with which the excess pore water flow at depth  $z$ ,

$$V=ki$$

$$V=Ki = \frac{K \partial \bar{u}}{\gamma_w \partial z} \quad \dots 4$$

Rate of Change of velocity

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial z} = \frac{K \partial \bar{a}^2}{\gamma_w \partial z^2}$$

The velocity of the exist will be equal to  $V + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} dx$

The quantity of water leaving soil elements

$$V + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} dz$$

$$\Delta q = \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} dx dy dz \quad \dots 5$$

$$\Delta v = -m_v V_0 \Delta \sigma' \quad \dots 6$$

$V_0 =$  volume of soil element at time  $t_0 = dx dy dz$  Change

of volume per unit time,

$$\frac{\partial(\Delta v)}{\partial t} = -m_v dx dy dz \frac{\partial(\Delta \sigma')}{\partial t} \quad \dots 7$$

By equating (5) & (7),

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = -m_v \frac{\partial(\Delta \sigma')}{\partial t} \quad \dots 8$$

$$\Delta \sigma = \Delta \sigma' + \bar{u}$$

$$= \frac{\partial(\Delta \sigma')}{\partial t} = \frac{-\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} \quad \dots 9$$

From (8) & (9)

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = m_v \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} \quad \dots 10$$

Equate (6) and (10) we get

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = C_v \frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}}{\partial z^2}$$

$C_v$  = coefficient of consolidation =  $\frac{k}{mv \cdot \gamma_w}$

$$C_v = \frac{k(1+e_0)}{av \cdot \gamma_w}$$

The above equation is the basic differential equation of consolidation.

### 5. With neat sketches explain the procedures of determination of effective stress by newmark chart method. (AU MAY/JUN 2013)(AU NOV/DEC 2014)

Newmark suggested that a more accurate method of determining the vertical stress at any point under a uniformly loaded area of any shape is with a help of influence chart or diagram

It consists of number of circle and radiating lines, is prepared that the influence of each are unit which is formed in a shape of a sector between two concentric circles and two adjacent radial lines is same at the centre of circle,

Each unit are cause equal vertical stress at the centre of a diagram. Let a

uniformly load circular radius  $r$ , cm be divided in to 20 sectors Vertical

pressure under a uniformly loaded area for (20 sectors)

$$\frac{\sigma_z}{20} = \frac{q}{20} \left[ 1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + \left( \frac{r_1}{z} \right)^2} \right\}^{3/2} \right]$$

$$= i_f q$$

Where  $i_f$  = influence value

$$1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + \left( \frac{r_1}{z} \right)^2} \right\}^{3/2}$$

$q$  = intensity of loading  $\sigma$   
= vertical pressure

$z$  = depth below the centre  
 $r_1$  = radius of first concentric circle  
 each unit such as  $OA_1B_1$  exerts a pressure equal to  $\frac{\sigma_z}{20}$  at centre

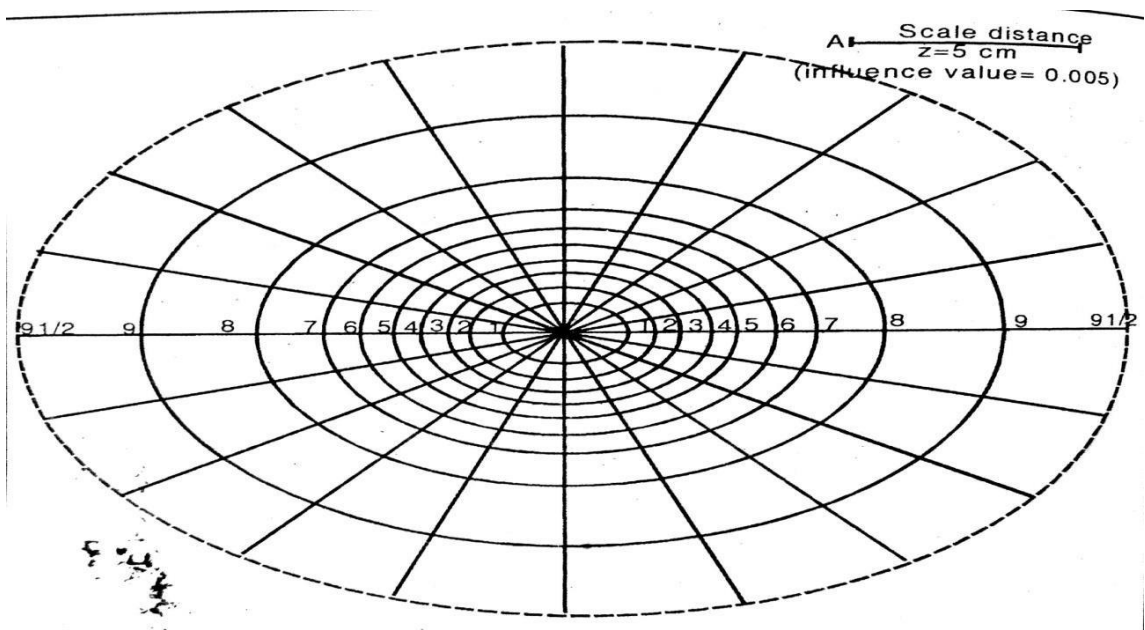


Fig. Newmark's Influence Chart

If  $i_f$  be made equal to arbitrarily fixed value, say 0.005, we have

$$\frac{\sigma_z}{20} = i_f q$$

$$\frac{\sigma_z}{20} = 0.005 q$$

Let  $a_2$  be the radius of second concentric lines. By extending the twenty radial lines, the space between the two concentric lines is again divided into 20 sectors.  $A_1A_2B_1B_2$  is one are unit. The vertical pressure at the centre due to each of these area with is to be intensity 0.0059.

Therefore, Vertical pressure due to

$$A_2B_2 = \frac{q}{20} \left[ 1 - \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{r_2}{2}\right)^2} \right\}^{3/2} \right] = 2 \times 0.005 q$$

Sub  $Z_1=5$ cm, we get  $r_1=1.35, r_2=2.00$ cm  
 Similarly by using the above relation we can find the radii of 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> circles can be calculated, as tabulated in the given table.

**Table: Radii of concentric circles for influence chart  $Z=5$ cm;  $i_f=0.005$**

|               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |          |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| No. of circle | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10       |
| Radius (cm)   | 1.35 | 2.00 | 2.59 | 3.18 | 3.83 | 4.59 | 5.54 | 6.94 | 9.54 | $\infty$ |

To use the chart for determining the vertical stress at any point under the loaded area, the plan of this area is first drawn on a tracing paper to such a scale that AB drawn on a chart that represents the depth to the point which the pressure is required.

The plan of the loaded area is then so placed over the chart that the point below pressure is required coincides with the centre of the chart. The point below which pressure is required may lie inside or outside the loaded area.

The total number of area units covered by the plan of the loaded area is counted. The vertical pressure is then calculated from the relation,

$$\sigma_A = 0.005q \cdot N_A$$

Where  $N_A$  = Number of area units under the loaded area.

- 6 **A concentrated point load of 200 kN acts at the ground surface. Find the intensity of vertical pressure at a depth of 10 meters below the ground surface, and situated on the axis of the loading. What will be the vertical pressure at a point at a depth of 5m and at a radial distance of 2 m from the axis of loading? Use Boussinesq analysis. (AU NOV/DEC 2012)**

**Case I**

$$Q = 200 \text{ kN}$$

$$\sigma_z = \frac{3Q}{\pi z^2} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{r^2}{z^2}} \right]^{5/2}$$

Where  $r=0$  and  $z=10$  m

$$\sigma_z = \frac{3 \times 200}{2 \times \pi \times 10^2} \left( \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{0^2}{10^2}\right)} \right)^{5/2}$$

$$= 0.955 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

**Case II**

$$Q=200 \text{ kN}$$

$$z=5 \text{ m and } r=2 \text{ m}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_z &= \frac{3 \times Q}{2 \pi z^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{r^2}{z^2}} \right)^{5/2} \\ &= \frac{3 \times 200}{2 \times \pi \times 5^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(2)^2}{5^2}} \right)^{5/2} \\ &= 2.636 \text{ kN/m}^2 \end{aligned}$$

7 The load of continuous footing of width 2m, which may be considered to be strip load of considerable length, is 200kN /m<sup>2</sup>. Determine the maximum principal stress at 1.5m depth below the footing, if the point lies (i) directly below the centre of the footing (ii) directly below the edge of the footing and (iii) 0.8m away from the edge of the footing. (AUMAY/JUN 2012)

(i) Directly below the centre of the footing (A<sub>1</sub>):

$$\Theta_0/2 = \tan^{-1}(1/2) = 0.463 \text{ rad}$$

$$\Theta_0 = 0.463 \times 2 \text{ rad}$$

$$\Theta_0 = 0.926 \text{ rad}$$

$$\text{Principal stress, } \sigma_1 = q/\pi(\Theta_0 + \sin \Theta_0)$$

$$\sigma_1 = 200/\pi(0.926 + 0.799)$$

$$= 109.81 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sin \Theta$$

$$\sin \Theta = \sin(0.926) = \frac{80}{100}$$

$$= 0.799$$

(ii) Directly below the edge of the footing (A<sub>2</sub>):

$$\Theta_0 = \tan^{-1}(2/2) = 45^\circ = 0.786 \text{ rad } \sigma_1 =$$

$$(200/\pi)(0.785 + 0.706)$$

$$=94.92\text{kN/m}^2$$

**(iii) 0.8m away (A<sub>3</sub>):**

$$\Theta_1 = \tan^{-1} (0.8/2) = 21.8 = 0.380 \text{ rad} \quad \Theta_2 =$$

$$\tan^{-1} (2.8/2) = 54.46 = 0.950$$

$$\text{rad} \quad \Theta_0 = (\Theta_2 - \Theta_1) = 0.950 - 0.380 = 0.570 \text{ rad}$$

$$\sigma_1 = (200/\pi) \cdot (0.570 + 0.539)$$

$$=70.64\text{kN/m}^2$$

8

**What are the different components of settlement? Explain in detail.**

**(AUMAY/JUN 2012)**

**Component of settlement:**

A stress increase caused by the construction of foundations or other loads compresses soil layer.

The compression is caused by

- Deformation
- Relocations
- Expulsion of water or air

It can be divided into three categories

- Immediate settlement
- Primary consolidation settlement
- Secondary consolidation settlement

**IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT:**

It is also known as elastic settlement which is caused by the elastic deformation of dry soil and of moist and saturated soils without change in the moisture content.

**PRIMARY CONSOLIDATION SETTLEMENT:**

Primary consolidation settlement, which is the result zero, a volume change in saturated cohesive soils because of expulsion of the water that occupies the void spaces.

**SECONDARY CONSOLIDATION SETTLEMENT:**

Secondary consolidation settlement which is observed in saturated cohesive soils and is the result of the plastic adjustment of soil fabrics. It is an additional form of compression that occurs at constant effective stress.

- 9 **Find intensity of vertical pressure at a point 3m directly below 25kN point load acting on a horizontal ground surface. What will be the vertical pressure at a point 2m horizontally away from the axis of loading and at same depth of 3? Use Boussinesq's equation. (AU MAY/JUN 2016)**

$$\sigma_z = \frac{Qr}{z^2} * Kb$$

$$\sigma_z = \frac{25}{3^2} * \frac{1}{[1 + (\frac{r}{z})^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} * \frac{3}{2\pi}$$

$$\frac{25}{3^2} * \frac{1}{[1 + (\frac{2}{3})^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} * \frac{3}{2\pi}$$

$$= 2.777 * \frac{1}{2.507} * 0.477$$

$$= 0.528 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

- 10 **List the Boussinesq's theory assumptions and limitations. (AU MAY/JUN 2016)**

**Assumptions of Boussinesq's Theory:**

The following are the assumptions made in the solution by the theory of elasticity

- (i) The soil mass is an elastic medium for which the modulus of elasticity  $E$  is constant.
- (ii) The soil mass is homogeneous that is, all its components constituent parts (or) elements are similar and it has identical properties at every point in it in identical direction.
- (iii) The soil mass is isotropic that is, it has identical elastic properties in all direction through any point of it.
- (iv) The soil mass is semi infinite, that is it infinitely extends in all direction below a level surface

**Limitations of Boussinesq's Theory:**

By this method only vertical computations can be calculated whereas horizontal computations cannot be done since because the horizontal computations will not be accurate.

11 Explain the following.

- (i) Vertical stress distribution on a horizontal plane.
- (ii) Vertical stress distribution along a vertical plane.

**(i) Vertical Stress Distribution on a Horizontal Plane**

The vertical pressure distribution on any horizontal plane at a depth  $Z$  below the ground surface, due to a concentrated load, is given by

$$\sigma_z = K_B$$

Depth  $z$  is a known depth. Selecting different values of horizontal distance  $r$ ,  $K_B$  can be found. Below the load, the vertical pressure will be equal to  $0.4775 \frac{Q}{z^2}$ , and it decreases very rapidly with the increase in the value of  $r$ , if such a diagram is plotted for unit load ( $Q = 1$ ), it is called the influence diagram for point A below the axis.

**(ii) Vertical pressure distribution on a vertical line**

On any vertical line distant  $r$  from the axis of the load, the variation of  $\sigma_z$  can be plotted from the relation;

$$\sigma_z = K_B \frac{Q}{z^2} \quad \text{and } \sigma_z \text{ decreases with increase in depth } z^2$$

In the above expression, the radial distance  $r$  associated with  $K_B$  is constant. Hence various values of  $z$  and  $\frac{r}{z}$  can be selected, and  $K_B$  can be found. Then  $\sigma_z$  can be computed, which will be proportional to  $K_B/z^2$ .

The vertical stress first increases, attains a maximum value, and then decreases.

2 MARK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What are the tests available for determining the shear strength? (NOV/DEC 2012)

- a) Direct shear test
- b) Triaxial shear test
- c) Unconfined compression test
- d) Vane shear test

2. What are the advantages for direct shear test? ((NOV/DEC 2012)

- 1. As test progresses, the area under shear gradually decreases. The corrected area at failure should be used in determining the values of  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ .
- 2. As compared to triaxial test, there is little control on the drainage of soil.
- 3. The plane of shear failure is pre-determined which may not be the weakest one.

3. What are the advantages of triaxial tests? (NOV/DEC 2011)

- 1. The shear test under all the three drainage conditions can be performed with complete control
- 2. The precise measurements of the pore pressure and volume change during the test are possible.
- 3. The stress distribution on the failure plane is uniform
- 4. The state of stress within the specimen during any stage of stress, as well as at failure is completely determined.

4. If angle of internal pressure of a soil is  $36^\circ$ . Find the angle made by failure plane with respect to minor principle plane. (NOV/DEC 2011)

The angle made by failure plane with respect to minor principle plane

$$= \frac{90 - 36}{2}$$
$$= 27^\circ$$

5.  $C$  and  $\Phi$  are not fundamental parameters. But only mathematical parameters of soil. Why? (NOV/DEC 2010)

Research showed that the parameters  $C$  and  $\Phi$  are not necessarily fundamental properties of the soil as was originally assumed by Coulomb. These parameters depend upon a number of factors, such as water content drainage conditions.

The current practice is to consider  $C$  and  $\Phi$  as mathematical parameters which represent the failure conditions for a particular soil under conditions. That is the reason why  $C$  and  $\Phi$  are now called cohesion intercept and angle of shearing resistance.

6. What are pore pressure parameters and write down Kempton's pore pressure equation? (NOV/DEC 2010)

Pore pressure parameters express response of pore pressure due change in the total stress under un-drained condition.

Kempton's pore pressure equation

$$\Delta u = B(\Delta \sigma_3 + A(\Delta \sigma_1 - \Delta \sigma_3))$$

Where A and B are the Skempton's pore pressure parameters

**7. State Coulomb's equation for determination of shear strength of soil both for total and effective stress condition. (APRIL/MAY 2012)**

**1. For total stress**

$$\text{Shear strength } \tau_f = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

Where, c - cohesion

$\sigma$  - Total stress

$\phi$  - Angle of internal friction

**2. For effective stress**

$$\text{Shear strength, } \tau_f = c' + \sigma' \tan \phi$$

Where,  $\sigma'$  = effective stress

**8. What are the limitations of direct shear test? (APRIL/MAY 2012)**

1. The stress conditions are known only at failure. The conditions prior to failure are unknown and therefore, the Mohr circle cannot be drawn.
2. The stress distribution on the failure surface is not uniform. The stresses are more at the edges and lead to progressive failure, like tearing of a paper.
3. The area under shear gradually decreases as the test progresses. But the corrected area cannot be determined and therefore, the original area is taken for the computation of stress.
4. The orientation of the failure plane is fixed. The plane may not be the weakest plane.

**9. Define: normally consolidated soil (APRIL/MAY 2011)**

A normally consolidated soil is which has not been subjected to a pressure greater than the present existing pressure.

**10. Define: overconsolidated soil (APRIL/MAY 2011)**

A soil is to be overconsolidated if it had been subjected to a pressure in excess of the present pressure.

**11. What are the basic components that constitute the shear resistance of soil? (APRIL/MAY 2010)**

(APRIL/MAY 2010)

The shear resistance of soil is constituted basically of the following components:

- The structural resistance to displacement of the soil because of the interlocking of the particles,
- The frictional resistance to translocation between the individual soil particles at their contact points, and
- Cohesion or adhesion between the surfaces of the soil particles

## 16 MARK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### 1. Explain the Mohr's stress circle

(APRIL/MAY 2011)

Through a point in a loaded soil mass, innumerable planes pass and stress components on each plane depends upon the direction of the plane. It can be shown that there exist three typical planes, mutually orthogonal to each other, on which the stress is wholly normal and no shear stress acts.

These planes are called the principal planes and the normal stresses acting on these planes are called the principal stresses. In the order of decreasing magnitude of the normal stress, these planes are called major, intermediate and minor principal planes and the corresponding normal stresses on them are called major principal stress  $\sigma_1$ , intermediate principal stress  $\sigma_2$  and minor principal stress  $\sigma_3$ . Many problems in soil engineering can be approximated by considering two dimensional stress conditions.

Fig. Shows a soil element subjected to two dimensional stress system. From the consideration of the equilibrium of the element, one gets the following expressions for the normal stress  $\sigma$  and shearing stress  $\tau$  on any plane MN inclined at an angle  $\alpha$  with the x direction:

$$\sigma = \frac{\sigma_y + \sigma_x}{2} + \left( \frac{\sigma_y - \sigma_x}{2} \right) \cos 2\alpha + \tau_{xy} \sin 2\alpha \quad \dots(4.1)$$

And

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_y - \sigma_x}{2} \sin 2\alpha + \tau_{xy} \cos 2\alpha \quad \dots(4.2)$$

Where  $\sigma_y$  and  $\sigma_x$  = normal stresses on planes perpendicular to y and x axes, respectively ( $\sigma_y > \sigma_x$ ),  $\tau_{xy} (= \tau_{yx})$  = shear stresses on these two planes  
 Squaring Eqs. 4.1 and 4.2 and adding, we get the following results:

$$\left( \sigma - \frac{\sigma_y + \sigma_x}{2} \right)^2 + \tau^2 = \left( \frac{\sigma_y - \sigma_x}{2} \right)^2 + \tau_{xy}^2 \quad \dots(4.3)$$

Eq. 4.3 is the equation of a circle whose centre has co-ordinates

$$\left( \frac{\sigma_y + \sigma_x}{2}, 0 \right), \text{ and whose radius is equal to } \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_y - \sigma_x) \right\}^2 + \tau_{xy}^2}$$

1. The co-ordinates of points on the circle represent the normal and shearing stresses on inclined planes at a given point. This circle is known as Mohr's circle of stress (Mohr, 1870).

2. To draw the Mohr circle, the normal stresses  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  are marked on the abscissa, at points B and A and a circle is drawn with point C, mid-way between A and B, as the centre, with radius equal to  $CB_1 = CA_1$  where  $BB_1$  and  $AA_1$  are the perpendiculars drawn at B and A of magnitude equal to  $\tau_{xy}$ .

3. Shows the Mohr circle so drawn. The co-ordinates of any point F ( $\sigma$ ,  $\tau$ ) represent the stress conditions on plane which makes an angle  $\alpha$  with the x direction.

4. If from a point B<sub>1</sub> on a circle representing the state of stress on vertical plane, a line is drawn parallel to this plane (i.e. vertical), it intersects the circle at a point P. Also, if from the

point A1 on the circle representing the stresses on the horizontal plane, a line is drawn parallel to this latter plane (i.e horizontal) it will also intersect the circle in the same point P. In general, if through a point F representing the stresses on a given plane, a line is drawn parallel to that plane, it will also intersect the circle in the point P. The point P is therefore, a unique point called the origin of planes or the pole.

Let us now take the case of soil element whose sides are the principal planes, i.e consider the state of stress where only normal stresses are acting on the faces of the element

The major principal plane is horizontal. Hence the pole P is located by drawing a horizontal line through point A this intersects the circle at B. If a line PF is drawn through P at an angle  $\alpha$  with the horizontal, it will intersect the circle at F which represents the stress conditions on a plane inclined at an angle  $\alpha$  with the direction of the major principal plane.

An element in which the principal planes are not horizontal and vertical, but are inclined to y and x-directions. Point A represents the major principal stress ( $\sigma_1, 0$ ) and B represents the minor principal stress ( $\sigma_3, 0$ ). Hence to get the position of the pole, a line is drawn through A, parallel to the major principal plane, to intersect the circle in P. Evidently, PB gives the direction of minor principal plane. To find the stress components on any plane MN inclined at an angle  $\alpha$  with the major principal plane, a line is drawn through P, at an angle  $\alpha$  with PA, to intersect the circle at F. The co-ordinates ( $\sigma, \tau$ ) of point F give the stress components on the plane MN. Analytical expression for  $\sigma, \tau$  are :

$$\sigma = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_3}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cos 2\alpha \quad \dots(4.4)$$

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \sin 2\alpha \quad \dots(4.5)$$

The resultant stress on any plane is  $\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \tau^2}$  and its angle of obliquity  $\beta$  is equal to  $\tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\tau}{\sigma} \right)$

The maximum shear stress (point G)  $\tau_{max}$  is equal to  $\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2}$  and it occurs on planes with  $\alpha = 45^\circ$ . In Fig.4.2(b), PG shows the direction of plane having maximum shear stress.

The normal stress on this plane will be equal to  $\frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_3}{2}$

## 2. Explain the Mohr-coulomb failure theory

(APRIL/MAY 2010)

1. Material fails essentially by shear. The critical shear stress causing failure depends upon the properties of the material as well as on normal stress on the failure plane.

2. The ultimate strength of the material is determined by the stresses on the potential failure plane (or plane of shear)

3. When the material is subjected to three dimensional principal stress (i.e.  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$ ) the intermediate principal stress does not have any influence on the strength of material. In other words, the failure criterion is independent of the intermediate principal stress.

**Note.** For detailed discussion on various theories of failure, see Chapter 19, where the

**effect of the intermediate principal stress has also been discussed.**

The theory was first expressed by Coulomb (1776) and later generalized by Mohr. The theory can be expressed algebraically by the equation.

$$\tau_f = s = F(\sigma)$$

Where

$\tau_f = s$  = shear stress on failure plane, at failure = shear resistance of material  
 $F(\sigma)$  = function of normal stress

If the normal and shear stress corresponding to failure are plotted, then a curve is obtained. The plot or the curve is called the strength envelope. Coulomb defined the function  $F(\sigma)$  as a linear function of  $\sigma$  and gave the following strength equation:

$$s = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

Where, the empirical constants  $c$  and  $\phi$  represent respectively, the intercepts on the shear axis, and the slope of the straight line of Eq. 4.7 Fig. These parameters are usually termed as cohesion and angle of internal friction or shearing resistance respectively.

Fig. 4.3 (b) shows the Mohr's envelope, which is the graphical representation of Eq. 4.6. Coulomb considered that the relationship between shear strength and normal stress could be adequately represented by the straight line. The generalized Mohr theory also recognizes that the shear strength depends on the normal stress, but indicates that the relation is not linear. The strength theory upon which the Coulomb and Mohr strength lines are based indicates that definite relationship exists among the principal stresses, the angle of internal friction and the inclination of the failure plane. The curved failure envelope of Mohr is often referred to as a straight line for most of the calculations regarding the stability of soil mass. For an ideal pure friction material, such a straight line passes through the origin [Fig. 4.4 (a)]. However, dense sands exhibit a slightly curved strength line, indicated by dashed line. Fig. 4.4 (b) represents purely cohesive (plastic) material, for which the straight line is parallel to the  $\sigma$ -axis. The strength of such a material is independent of the normal stress acting on the plane of failure. The way in which a straight line is fitted to a Mohr envelope will depend on the range of  $\alpha$  which is of interest.

It can, therefore, be concluded that the Mohr envelope can be considered to be straight if the angle of internal friction  $\phi$  is assumed to be constant. Depending upon the properties of a material the failure envelope may be straight or curved, and it may pass through the origin of stress or it may intersect the shear stress axis.

### 3. Explain the effective stress principle.

(NOV/DEC 2010)

In Eq. 4.7, it is assumed that the total normal stress governs the shear strength of soil. This assumption is not always correct. Extensive tests on re-mould clays have sustained beyond doubt Terzaghi's early concept that the effective normal stresses control the shearing resistance of soils. Therefore, a failure criterion of greater general applicability is obtained by expressing the shear strength as a function of the effective normal stress

$$\sigma', \text{ given by the equation: } \tau_f = c' + \sigma' \tan \phi'$$

or  $\tau_f = c' + (\sigma - u) \tan \phi'$

where  $c'$  = effective cohesion intercept; and  $\phi'$  = effective angle of shearing resistance  
 In terms of total stresses, the equation takes the form:

$$\tau_f = cu + \sigma \tan \phi_u$$

Where  $cu$  = apparent cohesion;  $\phi_u$  = apparent angle of shearing resistance.

The normal stress  $\sigma'$  and shear stress  $\tau$  on any plane inclined at an angle  $\alpha$  to the major principal plane can be expressed in terms of effective major principal stress  $\sigma_1'$  and effective minor principal stress  $\sigma_3'$  from Eq. 4.4 And 4.5 as under:

$$\sigma' = \frac{\sigma_1' + \sigma_3'}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1' - \sigma_3'}{2} \cos 2\alpha$$

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1' - \sigma_3'}{2} \sin 2\alpha$$

Substituting the values of  $\sigma'$  in Eq. 4.8, we get

$$\tau_f = c' + \tan \phi' \left( \frac{\sigma_1' + \sigma_3'}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1' - \sigma_3'}{2} \cos 2\alpha \right)$$

The most dangerous plane i.e, the plane on which failure will take place is the one on which the difference  $(\tau_f - \tau)$ , between the shear strength and shear stress is minimum.

$$(\tau_f - \tau) = c' + \frac{\sigma_1' + \sigma_3'}{2} \tan \phi' + \frac{\sigma_1' - \sigma_3'}{2} \cos 2\alpha \tan \phi' - \frac{\sigma_1' - \sigma_3'}{2} \sin 2\alpha$$

Differentiating this with respect to  $\alpha$ , we get

$$\frac{d(\tau_f - \tau)}{d\alpha} = -(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3') \sin 2\alpha \tan \phi' - (\sigma_1' - \sigma_3') \cos 2\alpha$$

For a minimum  $(\tau_f - \tau)$ ,  $\frac{d}{d\alpha}(\tau_f - \tau) = 0$

This gives  $\cos 2\alpha = -\sin 2\alpha \tan \phi'$  or  $\cot 2\alpha = -\tan \phi' = \cot(90^\circ + \phi')$

$$\alpha = \alpha_f = 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \quad \dots(4.14)$$

The above expression for the location of the failure plane can be directly derived from the Mohr circle (Fig. 4.5). J F represents the failure envelope given by the straight line  $\tau_f = c' + \sigma' \tan \phi'$ . The pole P will be the point with stress co-ordinates as  $(\sigma_3', 0)$ . The Mohr circle is tangential to the Mohr envelope at the point F. PF represents the direction of the failure plane, inclined at an angle  $\alpha_f$  with the direction of the major principal plane. From the geometry of Fig. 18.5, we get from triangle JFK

$$2\alpha_f = 90^\circ + \phi' \quad \text{or} \quad \alpha_f = 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2}$$

It should be noted that for any combination of the applied principle effective stress  $\sigma_1'$  and  $\sigma_3'$ , failure will occur only if the stress circle touches the failure envelope. Also, the coordinates of the failure point F represent the stress components  $\sigma'$  and  $\tau_f$  at failure. As it is evident from Fig. 4.5, the  $\tau_f$  at failure is less than the maximum shear stress, corresponding to the point G, acting on the plane PG. Thus, the failure plane does not carry maximum shear stress, and the plane which has the maximum shear stress is not the failure plane.

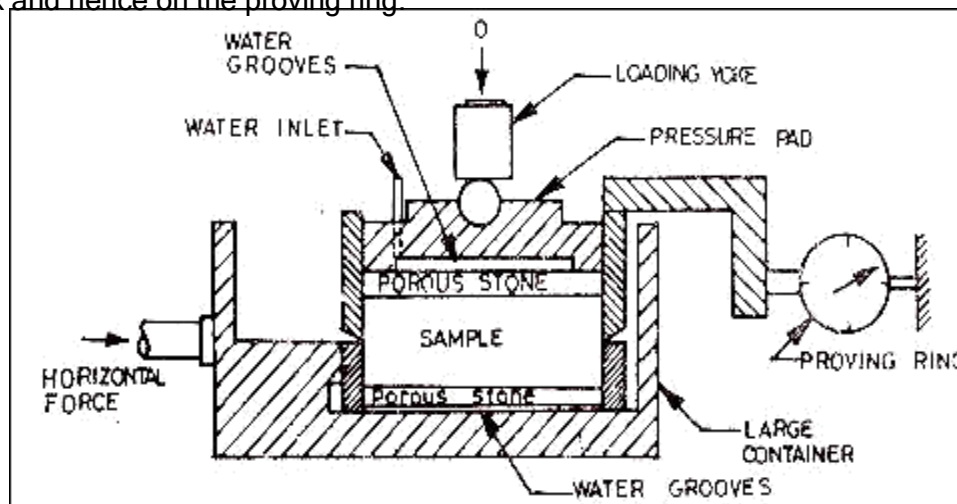
#### 4. Explain the direct shear test.

(APRIL/MAY 2011)

This is a simple and commonly used test and is performed in a shear-box apparatus (Fig. 4.6). The apparatus consists of a two-piece shear box of square or circular cross-section. The lower half of the box is rigidly held in position in a container which rests over slides or rollers and which can be pushed forward at a constant rate by geared jack, driven either by electric motor or by hand.

The upper half of the box butts against a proving ring. The soil sample is compacted in the shear box, and is held between metal grids and porous stones (or plates). As shown in Fig. 4.6 (a), the upper half of the specimen is held in the upper box and the lower half in the lower box, and the joint between the two parts of the box is at the level of the centre of the specimen.

Normal load is applied on the specimen from a loading yoke bearing upon a steel ball of pressure pad. When a shearing force is applied to the lower box through the geared jack, the movement of lower part of the box is transmitted through the specimen to the upper part of the box and hence on the proving ring.



The deformation of proving ring indicates the shear force. The volume change during the consolidation and during the shearing process is measured by mounting a dial gauge at the top of the box. The soil specimen can be compacted in the shear box by clamping both the parts together with the help of two screws.

These screws are, however, removed before the shearing force is applied. Metal grids, placed above the top and below the bottom of the specimen may be perforated if drained test is required, or plain if un-drained test is required. The metal grids have linear slots or

serrations to have proper grip with the soil specimen, and are so oriented that the serrations are perpendicular to the direction of the shearing force.

The specimen of the shear box is sheared under a normal load  $N$ . The shearing strain is made to increase at a constant rate, and hence the test is called the strain controlled shear box test. The other type of test is the stress controlled shear box test, in which there is an arrangement to increase the shear stress at a desired rate and measure the shearing strain. Fig. 4.6 (a) shows the strain controlled shear box.

The shear force,  $F$ , at failure, corresponding to the normal load  $N$  is measured with the help of the proving ring. A number of identical specimens are tested under increasing normal loads and the required maximum shear force is recorded. A graph is plotted between the shear force  $F$  as the ordinate and the normal load  $N$  as the abscissa. Such a plot gives the failure envelope for the soil under the given test conditions. Fig. 4.6 (c) shows such a failure envelope plotted as a function of the shear stress  $s$  and the normal stress  $\sigma$ . The scales of both  $s$  and  $\sigma$  are kept equal so that the angle of shearing resistance can be measured directly from the plot.

Any point  $F(\sigma, \tau)$  on the failure envelope represents the state of stress in the material during failure, under a given normal stress. In the direct shear test, the failure plane  $MN$  is

predetermined, and is horizontal. Fig. 4.6 (b) shows the stress conditions during failure. In order to find the direction of principal planes at failure, we first locate the position of the pole on the Mohr circle [Fig 4.6 (c)] on the

principle that the line joining any point on the circle to the pole P gives the direction of the plane on which the stresses are those given by the co-ordinates of that point.

Hence, through point F a horizontal line (representing the direction of the failure plane) is drawn to intersect the circle at the point P which is the pole. Since points A and B represent respectively, the major and minor principal stresses, PA and PB give the directions of major and minor principal planes.

Tests can be performed under all the three conditions of drainage. To conduct un-drained test, plan grids are used. For the drained test, perforated grids are used. The same is first consolidated under the normal load, and then sheared sufficiently slowly so that complete dissipation of pore pressure takes place.

The drained test is therefore also known as the slow test, and the shearing of cohesive soil may sometimes require 2 to 5 days. Cohesion less soils are sheared in relatively less time. For the consolidated un-drained test, perforated grids are used. The sample is permitted to consolidate under the normal load. After the completion of consolidation, the specimen is sheared quickly in about 5 to 10 minutes.

### **Comments on the shear box test.**

The direct shear test is a simple test. The relatively thin thickness of sample permits quick drainage and quick dissipation of pore pressure developed during the test. However, the test has the following disadvantages:

(1) The stress conditions across the soil sample are very complex. The distribution of normal stresses and shearing stresses over the potential surface of sliding is not uniform. The stress is more at the edges and less in the centre. Due to this there is progressive failure of the specimen i.e., the entire strength of the soil is not mobilized simultaneously.

(2) As the test progresses, the area under shear gradually decreases. The corrected area ( $A_f$ ) at failure should be used in determining the values of  $\sigma_d$  and  $\tau$ .

(3) As compared to the tri-axial test, there is little control on the drainage of soil.

(4) The plane of shear failure is predetermined, which may not be the weakest one.

(5) There is effect of lateral restraint by the side walls of the shear box.

### **5. Explain the tri-axial compression test**

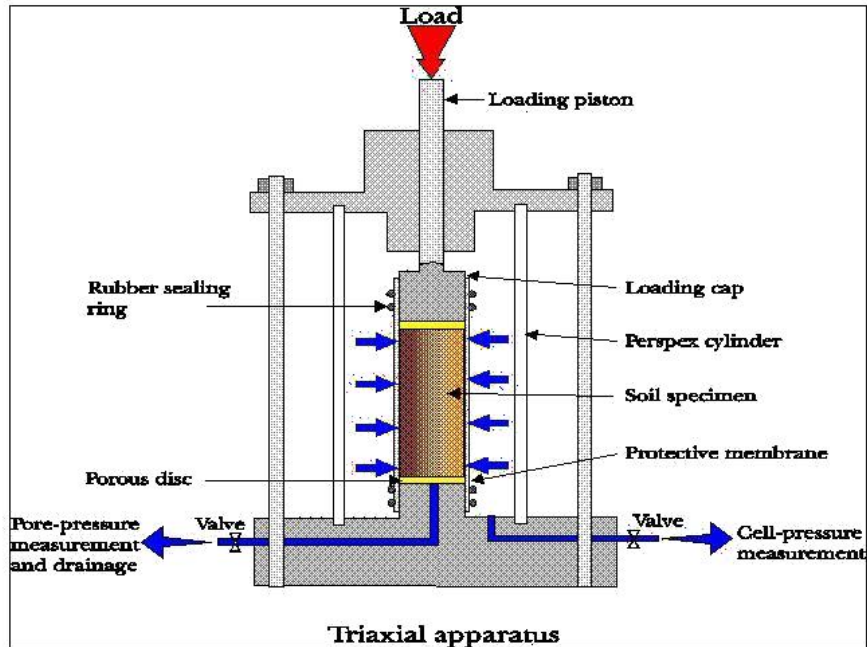
**(NOV/DEC 2012)**

The strength test more commonly used in a research laboratory today is the triaxial compression test, first introduced in the U.S.A by A. Casagrande and Karl Terzaghi. The solid specimen, cylindrical in shape, is subjected to direct stresses acting in three mutually perpendicular directions. In the common solid cylindrical specimen test, the major principal stress  $\sigma_1$  is applied in the vertical direction, and the other two principal stresses  $\sigma_2$  and  $\sigma_3$  ( $\sigma_2 = \sigma_3$ ) are applied in the horizontal direction by the fluid pressure round the specimen.

The test equipment specially consists of a high pressure cylindrical cell, made of Perspex or other transparent material, fitted between the base and the top cap. Three outlet connections are generally provided through the base: cell fluid inlet, pore water out let from the bottom of the specimen and the drainage outlet from the top of the specimen.

A separate compressor is used to apply fluid pressure in the cell. Pore pressure developed in the specimen during the test can be measured with the help of a separate pore pressure measuring equipment, such as Bishop's apparatus shown in Fig. 4.8. The cylindrical specimen is enclosed in a rubber membrane. A stainless steel piston running

through the centre of the top cap applies the vertical compressive load (called the deviator stress) on the specimen under test.



The load is applied through a proving ring, with the help of a mechanically operated load frame. Depending upon the drainage conditions of the test, solid nonporous discs or end caps, or porous discs are placed on the top and bottom of the specimen and the rubber membrane is sealed on to these end caps by rubber rings.

The length of the specimen is kept about 2 to 2½ times its diameter. The cell pressure  $\sigma_3 (= \sigma_2)$  acts all round the specimen; it acts also on the top of the specimen as well as the vertical piston meant for applying the deviator stress. The vertical stress applied by the

loading frame, through the proving ring is equal to  $(\sigma_1 - \sigma_3)$ , so that the total stress on the top of the specimen =  $(\sigma_1 - \sigma_3) + \sigma_3 = \sigma_1 =$  major principal stress.

This principal stress difference  $(\sigma_1 - \sigma_3)$  is called the deviator stress recorded on the proving ring dial. Another dial measures the vertical deformation of the sample during testing. It is desirable to maintain the cell pressure reservoir and mercury control apparatus, devised by Skempton and Bishop (1950), as shown in Fig. 4.9 (a). For long duration test (lasting about a week or more), self-compensating mercury control can be used [Fig. 4.9 (c)].

A particular confining pressure  $\sigma_3$  is applied during one observation, giving the value of the other stress  $\sigma_1$  at failure. A Mohr circle corresponding to this set of  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_3)$  can thus be plotted. Various sets of observations are taken for different confining pressures  $\sigma_3$  and the corresponding values of  $\sigma_1$  are obtained. Thus, a number of Mohr circles, corresponding to failure conditions, are obtained. A curve, tangential to these stress circles, gives the failure envelope for the soil under the given drainage conditions of the test.

Shear tests can be performed in the tri-axial apparatus under all the three drainage conditions. For un-drained test, solid (nonporous) end caps are placed on the top and bottom of the specimen. In the consolidated-un-drained test, porous discs are used. The specimen is allowed to consolidate under the desired confining pressure by keeping the pore water outlet open.

When the consolidation is complete, the pore water outlet is closed, and the specimen is sheared under un-drained conditions. The pore water pressure can be measured during the un-drained part of the test. In the drained test, porous discs are used, and the pore water outlet is kept open throughout the test. The compression test is carried out sufficiently slowly to allow for the full drainage during the test.

### Measurement of pore pressure during the test.

It mainly consists of (i) the null indicator, (ii) the control cylinder, (iii) pressure gauge, (iv) mercury manometer, and (v) burette.

The null indicator consisting of a single straight section of glass capillary tube dipping into an enclosed trough of mercury, is connected to the tri-axial cell through valve a by a copper tube, and to the control cylinder etc. through valve k. An increase in pore pressure in the sample during the test will tend to depress the mercury in the limb of the null indicator. This can be immediately balanced by adjusting the piston in the control cylinder to increase the pressure in the limb by an equal amount which is registered in the pressure gauge. Valves m, f and j are kept closed during the pore pressure measurements. In addition to the pressure gauge, a mercury manometer is also provided. This is used (i) for negative pore pressure, (ii) for accurate measurement of low positive pore pressure, and (iii) for checking the zero error of the pressure gauge.

When this manometer is connected through valves k and m, valves l and n are kept closed. The graduated tube or burette connected to the valve f is used for determining the gauge and manometer readings corresponding to zero pore pressure. In the case of fully saturated samples, this graduated tube can also be used to measure volume change during the consolidation stage of test in which drainage is permitted through the base of specimen (Bishop and Henkel 1957).

### 6. Explain the stress conditions in soil specimen during tri-axial testing. (NOV/DEC 2009)

Fig. 4.10 (a) shows the effective stresses acting on the soil specimen during tri-axial testing. The minor principal stress and the intermediate principal stress are equal. The effective minor principal stress is equal to the cell pressure minus the pore pressure. The major principal stress is equal to the deviator stress plus the cell pressure.

The effective major principal stress  $\sigma_1'$  is equal to the major principal stress minus the pore pressure. The stress components on the failure plane MN are  $\sigma'$  and  $\tau_f$ , and the failure plane is inclined at an angle  $\alpha'$  to the major principal plane. Fig. 4.10 (b) shows the failure envelope JF and a Mohr circle corresponding to any failure point F. Since  $\angle JFC = 90^\circ$  and the failure envelope cuts the abscissa at an angle  $\phi'$ , the angle  $\alpha'$  of the failure plane is given by :

$$\alpha' = \frac{1}{2} \angle FCA = \frac{1}{2} (90^\circ + \phi') = 45^\circ + \phi'/2$$

The principal stress relationship at failure can be found with the help of Fig. 4.10(b)  $FC =$  radius of Mohr circle  $= \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')$  ;  $OC = \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')$  ;  $OK = c' \cot \phi'$

Hence 
$$\sin\phi' = \frac{FC}{KC} = \frac{FC}{KO+OC} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')}{c' \cot \phi' + \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')} = \frac{(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')}{2c' \cot \phi' + (\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')}$$

$\therefore \sigma_1' - \sigma_3' = 2c' \cot \phi' + (\sigma_1' + \sigma_3') \sin \phi' \dots (4.15a)$

or  $\sigma_1'(1 - \sin \phi') = \sigma_3'(1 + \sin \phi') + 2c' \cot \phi'$

$\therefore \sigma_1' = \sigma_3' \frac{(1 + \sin \phi')}{(1 - \sin \phi')} + 2c' \frac{\cos \phi'}{(1 - \sin \phi')} \dots (4.15)$

or 
$$\sigma_1' = \sigma_3' \tan^2 \left( 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \right) + 2c' \tan \left( 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \right) \dots (4.16)$$

or  $\sigma_1' = \sigma_3' \tan^2 2\alpha' + 2c' \tan \alpha' \dots (4.17)$

or  $\sigma_1' = \sigma_3' N_\phi + 2c' \sqrt{N_\phi} \dots (4.17 a)$

where  $N_\phi = \tan 2\alpha' = \tan^2(45^\circ + \phi'/2)$

Eq. 4.16 or 4.17 gives principal stress relationship. When the soil is in the state of stress defined by the Eq. 4.16 or 4.17, it is said to be in plastic equilibrium. In terms of total stresses, 4.17 is written as

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \tan^2 2\alpha + 2c_u \tan \alpha \dots (4.18) \text{ or } \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 N_\phi + 2c_u \sqrt{N_\phi}$$

where  $\alpha = 45^\circ + \frac{\phi_u}{2}$  and  $N_\phi = \tan^2 2\alpha = \tan^2 \left( 45^\circ + \frac{\phi_u}{2} \right)$

In Eq. 4.16,  $\sigma_1'$  and  $\sigma_3'$  are known, and the two unknowns are  $\phi'$  and  $c'$ . Hence two sets of observations are required to determine these two unknown parameters. In practice, a number of sets  $(\sigma_1', \sigma_3')$  at failure are observed, and Mohr circles are plotted for each set. A curve drawn tangential to these circles gives the failure envelope [Fig. 4.11 (a)].

Another method of plotting the test results is in the form of the modified failure envelope which is a function for  $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')$  and  $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')$ . Rewriting Eq. 4.15 (a) in the form

$\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')$  and  $d' + \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' + \sigma_3') \tan \psi'$  and

comparing it with Eq. 4.5a, we observe that

$\sin \phi' = \tan \psi' \dots (18.20a)$  and  $c' = \frac{d'}{\cos \phi'}$

Eq. 4.19 representing the principal stress relationship, is the equation of a straight line having its y-coordinate represented by  $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')$  and x-coordinate represented by  $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')$

( $\sigma_1' + \sigma_3'$ ). Fig. 4.11(b) shows the modified failure envelope, represented by Eq. 4.19, in which the slope  $\psi'$  and the intercept  $d'$  are related to  $\phi'$  and  $c'$  through Eq. 4.20.

The line so obtained is often called the  $K_f$  line (Lambe, 1969). The advantage of this method of plotting the failure envelope is that the averaging of scattered test results is facilitated to a great extent, giving the mean value of the parameters.

The calculation of the deviator stress must be done on the basis of the changed area of cross-section at failure, or during any stage of the relation.

$$A_2 = \frac{V_1 \pm \Delta V}{L_1 - \Delta L}$$

Where  $V_1$  = initial volume of the specimen;  $L_1$  = initial length of the specimen  
 $\Delta V$  = change in the volume of the specimen  
 $\Delta L$  = Change in the length of the specimen

The deviator stress  $\sigma_d$  is given by  $\sigma_d = \frac{\text{Additional axial load}}{A_2}$  ;

$\sigma_3$  = fluid pressure

$$\therefore \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 + \sigma_d$$

Knowing  $\sigma_1$ ,  $E_3$  and pore pressure.  $\sigma_1'$  and  $\sigma_3'$  can be determined.

#### Advantages of tri-axial test:

- (1) The shear test under all the three drainage conditions can be performed with complete control.
- (2) Precise measurements of the pore pressure and volume change during the test are possible.
- (3)
- (4) The stress distribution on the failure plane is uniform.
- (5)
- (6) The state of stress within the specimen during any stage of the test, as well as at failure is completely determinate

#### 7. Explain the un-confined compression test

(NOV/DEC 2013)

The unconfined compression test is a special case of tri-axial compression test in which  $\sigma_2 = \sigma_3 = 0$ . The cell pressure in the tri-axial cell is also called the confining pressure. Due to the absence of such a confining pressure, the uni-axial test is called the unconfined compression test. The cylindrical specimen of soil is subjected to major principal stress  $\sigma_1$  till the specimen fails due to shearing along a critical plane of failure.

In its simplest form, the apparatus consists of a small load frame fitted with a proving ring to measure the vertical stress applied to the soil specimen. Fig 4.12. (a) shows an unconfined compression tester (Goyal and Singh, 1958). The deformation of the sample is measured with the help of a separated dial gauge. The ends of the cylindrical specimen are hollowed in the form of cone. The cone seating reduces the tendency of the specimen to

become barrel shaped by reducing end-restraints. During the test, load versus deformation readings are taken and a graph is plotted.



When a brittle failure occurs, the proving ring dial indicates a definite maximum load which drops rapidly with the further increase of strain. In the plastic failure, no definite maximum load is indicated. In such a case, the load corresponding to 20% strain is arbitrarily taken as the failure load.

Fig. 4.12. (b), (c) shows the stress conditions, at failure, in the unconfined compression test which is essentially an un-drained test (if it is assumed that no moisture is lost from the specimen during the test). Since  $\sigma_3=0$ , the Mohr circle passes through the origin which is also the pole.

From Eq. 4.18, we get  $\sigma_1 = 2c_u \tan \alpha = 2c_u \tan 45^\circ$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \phi_u \\ \hline 2 \end{array} \right]_{45^\circ}$$

In the above equation, there are two unknowns  $c_u$  and  $\phi_u$ , which cannot be determined by the unconfined test since a number of tests on the identical specimens give the same value of  $\sigma_1$ . Therefore, the unconfined compression test is generally applicable to saturated clays for which the apparent angle of shearing resistance  $\phi_u$  is zero. Hence

$$\sigma_1 = 2c_u$$

When the Mohr circle is drawn, its radius is equal to  $\sigma_1 / 2 = c_u$ . The failure envelope is horizontal. Pf is the failure plane, and the stresses on the failure plane are

$$\sigma = \sigma_1 = q_u \quad \dots \dots \dots (4.24) \quad \text{and } t_f = \sigma_1 = q_u = c_u$$

$$\frac{\overline{\quad}}{2} \quad \frac{\overline{\quad}}{2} \qquad \frac{\overline{\quad}}{2} \quad \frac{\overline{\quad}}{2}$$

Where,  $q_u$  = unconfined compressive strength at failure. The compressive stress is calculated on the basis of changed cross-sectional area  $A_2$  at failure, which is given by

$$A_2 = \frac{V}{L_1 - \Delta L} = \frac{A_1}{1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L_1}}$$

Where  $V$  - initial volume of the specimen;

$L_1$  = initial length of the specimen

$\Delta L$  = Change in length at failure.

8. a. Table, gives observations for normal load and maximum shear force for the specimens of sandy clay tested in the shear box,  $36 \text{ cm}^2$  in area under un-drained conditions. Plot the failure envelope for the soil and determine the value of apparent angles of shearing resistance and the apparent cohesion. (NOV DEC/2013)

| Normal load (N) | Maximum shear force (N) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 100             | 110                     |
| 200             | 152                     |
| 300             | 193                     |
| 400             | 235                     |

**Solution**

Fig. 18.13 shows the plot between the shear force  $F$  and the normal load  $N$ . From the plot, we get  $\phi_u = 22^\circ$ , and total cohesive force = 70 N.

$$\therefore \text{Unit apparent cohesion } c_u = \frac{70}{36} = 1.95 \text{ N/cm}^2$$

$$= 19.5 \text{ kN/cm}^2 = 19.5 \text{ kPa.}$$

8. b. Samples of compacted, clean dry sand were tested in a shear box,  $6 \text{ cm} \times 6 \text{ cm}$  and the following results were obtained:

|                         |   |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Normal load (N)         | : | 100 | 200 | 300 | 400 |
| Peak shear load (N)     | : | 90  | 181 | 270 | 362 |
| Ultimate shear load (N) | : | 55  | 152 | 277 | 300 |

Determine the angle of shearing resistance of the sand in (a) the dense, and (b) the loose state.

**Solution.**

The value of the shearing resistance of sand, obtained from the peak stress represents the value of  $\phi$  in its initial compacted state, while that obtained from the ultimate shear corresponds to the sand when loosened by the shearing action.

Fig.4.14 shows the two plots. The values of angles of shearing resistance are found to be:

- (a) dense state:  $\phi=42^\circ$
- (b) loose state:  $\phi=37^\circ$

**9. A cylindrical specimen of saturated clay, 4 cm in diameter and 9 cm in overall length is tested in an unconfined compression tester. The specimen has coned ends and its length between the apices of cones is 8 cm. Find the unconfined compressive strength of clay, if the specimen fails under an axial load of 46.5 N. The change in the length of specimen at failure is 1 cm. (APRIL/MAY 2010)**

**Solution.**

Original length of specimen = 9 cm overall, and 8 cm to apices of cones. Length of cylinder of the same volume and diameter (average length)  $L_1 = 8.66$  cm.

$$\text{Initial cross-sectional area } A_1 = \frac{\pi \times 4^2}{4} = 12.57 \text{ cm}^2$$

Change in length at failure,  $\Delta L = 1$  cm

$$\text{Area of failure } A_2 = \frac{A_1}{1 - \frac{\Delta L}{L_1}} = \frac{12.57}{1 - \frac{1}{8.66}} = 14.2 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\therefore \text{Unconfined compressive strength } q_u = \frac{\text{failure load}}{A_2} = \frac{46.5}{14.2} = 3.28 \text{ kN/cm}^2$$

$$= 328 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 328 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\therefore \text{Shear strength } c_u = \frac{q_u}{2} = \frac{165 \text{ kN/m}^2}{2} = 82.5 \text{ kPa}$$

**10. A cylinder of soil fails under an axial vertical stress of 160 kN/m<sup>2</sup>, when it is laterally unconfined. The failure plane makes an angle of 50° with the horizontal. Calculate the value of cohesion and the angle of internal friction of the soil. (APRIL/MAY 2013)**

**Solution.**

$$\alpha = 50^\circ = 45^\circ ; \therefore \phi_u = 2(50 - 45) = 10^\circ$$

$$\tan \sigma = \tan \left[ 45^\circ + \frac{\phi_u}{2} \right] \quad |_{\tan 50^\circ = 1.192}$$

As the sample is un-confined,  $\sigma_3 = 0$

$$\text{Now } \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \tan^2 \sigma + 2c \tan \sigma$$

$$160 = 2c \tan 50^\circ = 2c \times 1.192$$

$$c = \frac{160}{2 \times 1.192} = 67.1 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 67.1 \text{ kPa}$$

11. Two identical specimens, 4 cm in diameter and 8 cm high, of partly saturated compacted soil tested in a triaxial cell under un-drained conditions. The first specimen failed at an additional axial load (i.e. deviator load) of 720 N under a cell pressure of 100 kN/m<sup>2</sup>. The second specimen failed at an additional axial load of 915 N under a cell pressure of 200 kN/m<sup>2</sup>. The increase in volume of the first specimen at failure is 1.2 ml and it shortens by 0.6 cm, at failure. The increase in volume of the second specimen at failure is 1.6 ml, and it shortens by 0.8 cm at failure. Determine the value of apparent cohesion and the angle of shearing resistance (a) analytically, (b) graphically by Mohr's circle. (APRIL/MAY 2009)

**Solution :**

**(a) For the first specimen:**

$$\text{Initial area } A_1 = \frac{\pi \times 4^2}{4} = 12.57 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\text{Initial Volume } V_1 = 12.57 \times 8 = 100.56 \text{ cm}^3$$

$$\therefore \text{Area of failure} = \frac{A_1 \frac{V_1 + \Delta V}{L - \Delta L}}{1} = \frac{12.57 \times \frac{100.56 + 1.2}{8 - 0.6}}{1} = 13.75 \text{ cm}^2$$

**(b) For the second specimen.**

$$\therefore \text{Deviator stress at failure } \sigma_d = \frac{720}{13.75} = 52.4 \text{ N/cm}^2 = 524 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma_3 = 100 \text{ kN/m}^2; \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 + \sigma_d = 100 + 524 = 624 \text{ kN}$$

/m<sup>2</sup> Substituting the value of  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_3$  in Eq. 4.18 a, we get

$$624 = 100 \tan \phi + 2c_u / \tan \phi$$

**(b) For the second specimen**

$$A_1 = 12.57 \text{ cm}^2; V_1 = 100.56 \text{ cm}^3; \Delta L = 0.8; \Delta V = +1.6 \text{ cm}^3$$

$$A_2 = \frac{100.56 + 1.6}{8 - 0.8} = 13.75 \text{ cm}^2 \quad \sigma_d = \frac{915}{13.75} = 66.6 \text{ N/cm}^2 = 666 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma_3 = 200 \text{ kN/m}^2; \therefore \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 + \sigma_d = 200 + 666 = 866 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Substituting the value of  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_3$  in Eq. 4.18a, we get

$$866 = 200 \tan \phi + 2c_u / \tan \phi$$

$$c_u = 13.6 \text{ kN/m}^2 (136 \text{ kPa})$$

And  $N_{\phi}=2.2$

$$\text{Now } N = \frac{2 \left[ \frac{42}{2} + \frac{\phi_u}{2} \right]}{\tan \left[ \frac{42}{2} + \frac{\phi_u}{2} \right]} = 2.2$$

$$\therefore \phi_u = 22^\circ$$

12. A saturated specimen of cohesion-less sand was tested in triaxial compression and the sample failed at a deviator stress of  $482 \text{ kN/m}^2$  when the cell pressure was  $100 \text{ kN/m}^2$ , under the drained conditions. Find the effective angle of shearing resistance of sand. What would be the deviator stress and the major principal stress at failure for another identical specimen of sand, if it is tested under cell pressure of  $200 \text{ kN/m}^2$ ?

(NOV/DEC 2010)

**Solution.**

In the drained tests, the effective stresses are equal to the total stress.

$$\sigma_3' = \sigma_3 = 100 \text{ kN/m}^2 \text{ (kPa)}$$

$$\sigma_1' = \sigma_3 + \sigma_d = 100 + 482 = 582 \text{ kN/m}^2 \text{ (kPa)}$$

Fig. shows the Mohr circle (circle I). The failure envelope will pass through the origin, since  $c' = 0$  for sand, and will be tangential to the circle. The angle of inclination of the failure envelope gives  $\phi' = 45^\circ$ .

Alternatively, from Eq. 4.16

$$\sigma_1' = \sigma_3' \tan^2 \left[ 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \right]$$

$$\therefore 582 = 100 \times \tan^2 \left[ 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \right]$$

$$\therefore 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} = \tan^{-1} \left( \sqrt{5.82} \right) = 67.5^\circ$$

$$\therefore \phi' = 45^\circ$$

For the second specimen with  $\sigma_3' = 200 \text{ kN/m}^2$ , the centre of the Mohr circle passes through  $\sigma_3' = 200 \text{ kN/m}^2$ , and is tangential to the failure envelope. Circle II corresponds to this, from which  $\sigma_d' = 960 \text{ kN/m}^2$

$$\sigma_2 = \sigma_1' - \sigma_3' = 960 \text{ kN/m}^2 \text{ (960 kPa)}$$

Alternatively,  $\sigma_1'$  can be calculated from the relation :

$$\sigma_1' = \sigma_3' \tan^2 \left[ 45^\circ + \frac{\phi'}{2} \right] = 200 \tan^2 \left[ 45^\circ + \frac{45^\circ}{2} \right] = 1164 \text{ kN/m}^2 \text{ (1164 kPa)}$$

$$\sigma_d = 1164 - 200 = 964 \text{ kN/m}^2 (964 \text{ kPa}).$$

13. Following are the results of un-drained tri-axial compression test on two identical soil specimens, at failure: (APRIL/MAY 2011)

|   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| Lateral pressure $\sigma_3$ (kN/m <sup>2</sup> )        | 100 | 300 |
| Total vertical pressure $\sigma_1$ (kN/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 440 | 760 |
| Pore water pressure $u$ (kN/m <sup>2</sup> )            | -20 | 60  |

(a) referred to total stress,

(b) referred to effective stress.

**Solution:**

The circles A and B with dark lines correspond to the total stress, and from failure envelope, drawn tangential to the two circles, we get

$$\phi_u = 14^\circ \text{ and } c_u = 110 \text{ kN/m}^2 (\text{kPa})$$

For the effective stress analysis, we have

$$\sigma_1' : 440 + 20 = 460 \quad \text{and}$$

$$760 - 60 = 700 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma_3' : 100 + 20 = 120 \quad \text{and}$$

$$300 - 60 = 240 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

The Mohr circles A' and B' corresponding to the effective stresses are shown by dotted lines. From the dotted failure envelope, we get

$$\phi' = 20^\circ, c' = 76 \text{ kN/m}^2 (\text{kPa})$$

14. Un-drained triaxial tests are carried out on four identical specimens of silt clay, and the following results are obtained: (APRIL/MAY 2010)

|   |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cell pressure (kN/m <sup>2</sup> )              | 50  | 100 | 150 | 200 |
| Deviator stress at failure (kN/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 350 | 440 | 530 | 610 |
| Pore pressure (kN/m <sup>2</sup> )              | 5   | 10  | 12  | 18  |

Determine the value of the effective angles of shearing resistance and the cohesion intercept by plotting (a) conventional failure envelope from Mohr circles, (b) modified failure envelope.

**Solution:** Table shows the necessary calculations of plotting the failure envelope

**TABLE**

| Specimen No. | $\sigma_3$ | $\sigma_3'$ | $\sigma_d$ | $\sigma_1'$ | $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' + \sigma_3')$ | $\frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1' - \sigma_3')$ |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1            | 50         | 45          | 350        | 395         | 220                                  | 175                                  |
| 2            | 100        | 90          | 440        | 530         | 310                                  | 220                                  |
| 3            | 150        | 138         | 530        | 668         | 403                                  | 265                                  |
| 4            | 200        | 182         | 610        | 792         | 487                                  | 305                                  |

Fig. 4.20 shows the conventional failure envelope from Mohr's circles, from which we get  $\phi' = 29.5^\circ$  and  $c' = 8 \text{ kN/m}^2$  (kPa).

Fig. 4.21 shows the modified failure envelope, from which we get  $\psi' = 26.5^\circ$  and  $d' = 70^\circ$

$$\therefore \sin \phi' = \tan \psi' = \tan 26.5^\circ \quad \text{or } \phi' = 30^\circ$$

$$c' = \frac{d'}{\cos \phi'} = \frac{70}{0.86} = 81 \text{ kN/m}^2 \quad (\text{kPa})$$

### 15. Explain the vane shear test (APRIL/MAY 2009)

Vane shear test is a quick test, used either in the laboratory or in the field, to determine the un-drained shear strength of cohesive soil. The vane shear tester consists of four thin steel plates, called vanes, welded orthogonally to a steel rod. A torque measuring arrangement, such as a calibrated torsion spring, is attached to the rod which is rotated by a worm gear and worm wheel arrangement. After pushing the vanes gently into the soil, the torque rod is rotated at a uniform speed (usually at  $1^\circ$  per minute).

The rotation of the vane shears the soil along a cylindrical surface. The rotation of the spring in degrees is indicated by a pointer moving on a graduated dial attached to the worm wheel shaft. The torque  $T$  is then calculated by multiplying the dial reading with the spring constant. A typical laboratory vane is 20 mm high and 12 mm in diameter with blade thickness from 0.5 to 1 mm, the blades being made of high tensile steel. The field shear vane is from 10 to 20 cm in height and from 5 to 10 cm in diameter, with blade thickness of about 2.5 mm.

Let us assume that the top end of the vane is embedded in the soil so that both top and bottom ends partake in the shearing of the soil. Assuming that the shear resistance of the soil is developed uniformly on the cylindrical surface, the maximum total shear resistance, at failure, developed along the cylindrical surface

$$= \pi d H \tau_f$$

To find the maximum shear resistance developed at top and bottom ends, consider a radius  $r$  of the sheared surface. The shear strength of a ring of thickness  $dr$  will be  $2\pi r dr \tau_f$ . Hence the total resistance of both top and bottom faces will be

$$= 2 \int_0^{d/2} (2\pi r dr) \tau_f$$

Total shear strength developed will be equal to the sum of (i) and (ii). The maximum moment of the total shear resistance about the axis of torque rod equals the torque  $T$  at failure. Hence

$$T = \tau_f d H + 2 \int_0^{d/2} (2\pi r dr \tau_f) r = \pi \tau_f \left[ \frac{d^2 H}{2} + \frac{d^3}{6} \right] = \pi d \tau_f \left[ \frac{H}{2} + \frac{d}{6} \right]$$

If only the bottom end partakes in the shearing the above equation takes the form:

$$T = \tau_f d^2 \left[ \frac{H}{2} + \frac{d}{12} \right]$$

Knowing  $T$ ,  $H$  and  $d$ , the shear strength



DEPARTMENT: CIVIL ENGINEERING  
SEMESTER: IV  
SUBJECT CODE/Name: CE6405/SOIL MECHANICS

**UNIT -5**  
**2 MARK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**1. Differentiate Finite slope and Infinite slope**

(Nov/Dec 2012), (Apr/May 2010)

**Finite Slope**

1. Limited in extent
2. The properties of the soil will not be same at identical points or depths

**Infinite slope**

1. Large in extent
2. The properties of the soil will be same at identical point

**2. Slope Protection Measures**

(Nov/ Dec 2012)

Slopes that are susceptible to sliding should be protected so that the area will be safe.

Slopes which have failed recently are likely to fail under long-term condition.

Slopes have been protected by adopting some successful techniques. In general, the corrective or protective measures involve

- (i) reducing the mass or loading which contributes to sliding
- (ii) improving the shearing strength along the anticipated zone of failure, and
- (iii) Providing certain materials which will provide resistance to movement.

**3. What is meant by slip?**

(Apr/May 2009)

Slip or failure zone is a thin zone of soil that reaches the critical state or residual state, resulting in movement of the upper

**4. Define water content.**

(Nov/ Dec 2012)

By definition the water content is the ratio of the weight (or mass) of the water and the solids,

$$w = W_w / W_p.$$

**5. What are the factors that affect hydraulic conductivity?**

(Apr/May 2012)

The hydraulic conductivity is influenced by a number of factors including:

- Effective porosity
- Grain size and grain size distribution
- Shape and orientation of particles
- Degree of saturation
- Clay mineralogy

**6. What is immediate settlement?**

**(Nov/ Dec 2012)**

The settlement which is caused by the elastic deformation of dry soil and of moist and saturated soils without any change in moisture content.

**7. What is primary consolidation settlement?**

**(Nov/ Dec 2013)**

The settlement which results of volume change in the saturated cohesive soils because of expulsion of the water that occupies the voids space. Give the formulae to determine the vertical stress, radial stress, tangential stress, & shear stress under uniformly distributed load.

**8. What are the reasons for compression of the soil?**

**(Nov/ Dec 2009)**

- Compression of solid particles & water in the voids.
- Compression & expulsion of air in the voids.
- Expulsion of water in the voids.

**9. What are the stages of consolidation?**

**(Nov/ Dec 2011)**

The stages of consolidation are

- **Initial consolidation**
- **Primary consolidation**
- **Secondary consolidation**

**10. What is a principal plane?**

At every point in a stressed body, there are three planes on which the shear stress are zero. These planes are known as principal planes.

**11. What are the limitations of Coulomb's theory?**

**(MAY/JUNE 2013)**

The limitations of Coulomb theory are

- It neglects the effect of the intermediate principal stress.
- It approximates the curved failure envelope by a straight line which may not give correct results.

**12. Give the Coulomb's shear strength equation.**

**(Nov/ Dec 2010)**

The Coulomb's shear strength equation is given by,

$$S = c + \sigma \tan j$$

where

C = cohesion

j = Angle of internal friction

**13. What are the factors affecting permeability tests?**

**(MAY/JUNE 2013)**

The following five physical characteristics influence the performance and applicability of permeability tests:

- (1) position of the water level,
- (2) type of material - rock or soil,
- (3) depth of the test zone,
- (4) permeability of the test zone, and

(5) heterogeneity and anisotropy of the test zone.

**14. Define effective stress.**

**(Nov/ Dec 2010)**

Effective stress equals the total stress minus the pore water pressure, or the total force in the soil grains divided by the gross cross-sectional area over which the force acts.

**15. Define Critical Depth**

**(MAY/JUNE 2014)**

If there is no distinct change in the character of subsurface strata within the critical depth, elastic solutions for layered foundations need not be considered. Critical depth is the depth below the foundation within which soil compression contributes significantly to surface settlements. For fine-grained compressible soils, the critical depth extends to that point where applied stress decreases to 10 percent of effective overburden pressure. In coarse-grained

material critical depth extends to that point where applied stress decreases to 20 percent of effective overburden pressure.

**16. Define Porosity**

**MAY/JUNE 2009)**

Soils usually consist of particles, water and air. In order to describe a soil various parameters are used to describe the distribution of these three components, and their relative contribution to the volume of a soil. These are also useful to determine other parameters, such as the weight of the soil. They are defined in this chapter. An important basic parameter is the porosity  $n$ , defined as the ratio of the volume of the pore space and the total volume of the soil,

## 16 MARK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(AUC Nov/Dec 2012)

### 1. Explain in detail about the Causes of Slope failure

**Erosion:** The wind and flowing water causes erosion of top surface of slope and make the slope steep and thereby increase the tangential component of driving force.

**Steady Seepage:** Seepage forces in the sloping direction add to gravity forces and make the slope susceptible to instability. The pore water pressure decreases the shear strength. This condition is critical for the downstream slope.

**Sudden Drawdown:** in this case there is reversal in the direction flow and results in instability of side slope. Due to sudden drawdown the shear stresses are more due to saturated unit weight while the shearing resistance decreases due to pore water pressure that does not dissipate quickly.

**Rainfall:** Long periods of rainfall saturate, soften, and erode soils. Water enters into existing cracks and may weaken underlying soil layers, leading to failure, for example, mud slides.

**Earthquakes:** They induce dynamic shear forces. In addition there is sudden buildup of pore water pressure that reduces available shear strength.

**External Loading:** Additional loads placed on top of the slope increases the gravitational forces that may cause the slope to fail.

**Construction activities at the toe of the slope:** Excavation at the bottom of the sloping surface will make the slopes steep and there by increase the gravitational forces which may result in slope failure.

### Types of failure

Broadly slope failures are classified into 3 types as.

1. Face (Slope) failure
2. Toe failure
3. Base failure

**Face (Slope) Failure:** This type of failure occurs when the slope angle is large and when the soil at the toe portion is strong.

**Toe Failure:** In this case the failure surface passes through the toe. This occurs when the slope is steep and homogeneous

**Base Failure:** In this case the failure surface passes below the toe



The restoring moment (along the slip surface) =  $c \cdot l \cdot r$

In case of cohesive soil when the slope is on the verge of slipping a tension crack develops at the top of the slope as shown in Fig 11. The depth of tension crack is

There is no shear resistance along the crack. The failure arc reduces from Arc AB to Arc AB' and the angle reduces to  $\theta'$ .

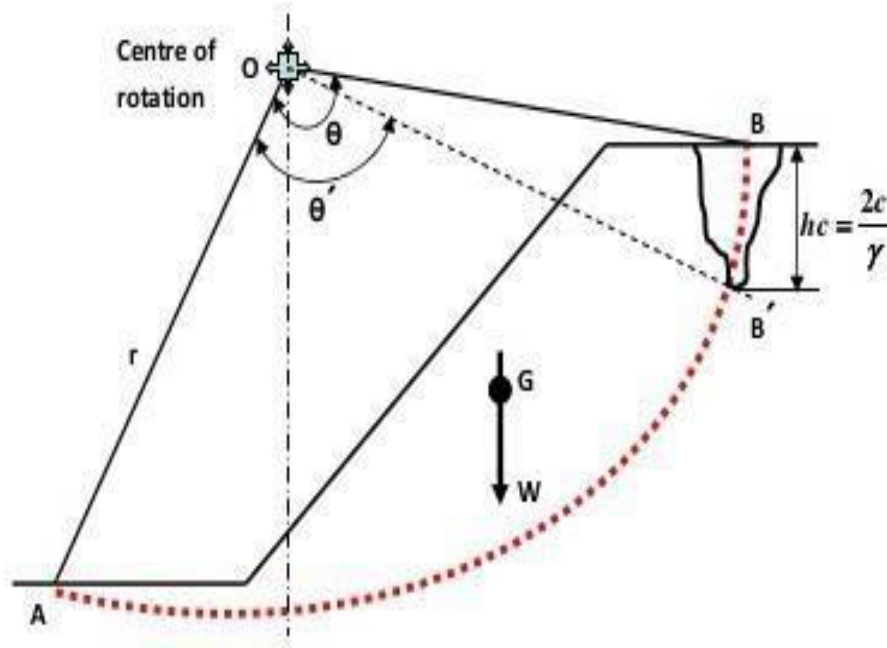
For computation of FS we have to

1. Use  $\theta'$  instead of  $\theta$  in the restoring moment component.
2. Consider the full weight  $W$  of the soil within the sliding surface AB to compensate for filling of water in the crack in the driving moment component

The driving moment =  $W \cdot e$

$$\text{Factor of safety, FS} = \frac{\text{Restoring moment}}{\text{Driving moment}} = \frac{c \cdot r^2 \cdot \theta}{W \cdot e}$$

### Effect of Tension cracks on Stability



Infinite slope with tension crack on top

### 3. Explain in detail about the Stability during steady seepage (AUC Nov/Dec 2011)

When seepage occurs at a steady rate through an earth dam or embankment it represents a critical condition for the stability of slope.

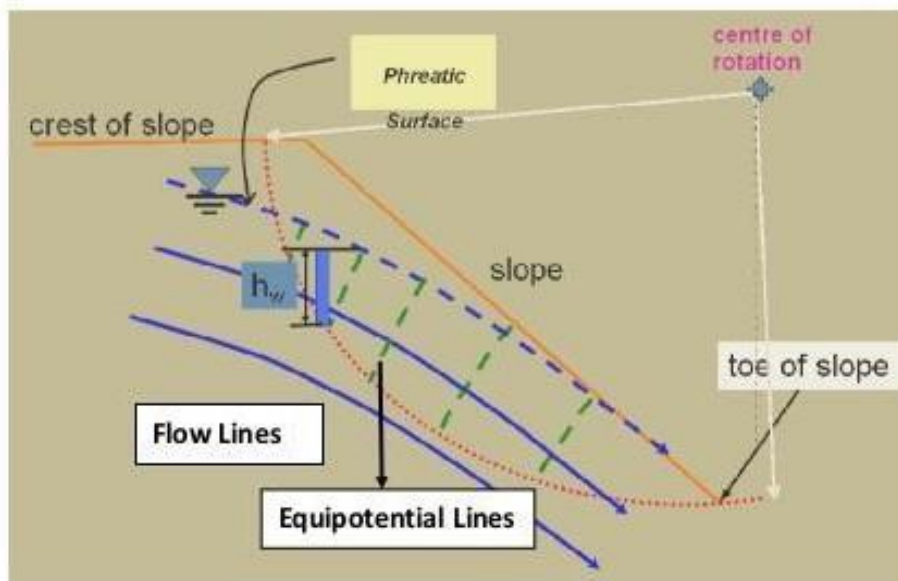
When seepage occurs pore water pressure ( $u$ ) develops and this will reduce the effective stress which in turn decreases the shear strength along the failure surface.

The following procedure is adopted to obtain stability

1. Draw the C/S of the slope
2. Draw the potential failure surface
3. Divide the soil mass into slices
4. Calculate the weight  $W$  and the corresponding normal and tangential components for all the slices in the usual way

In addition for the given slope construct flow net (network of equipotential and flow lines) as shown

For the given slope construct flow net (network of equipotential and flow lines) as shown



Flow net in a finite slope under steady seepage

The average pore water pressure ( $u$ ) at the bottom of the slice is given by the piezometric head ( $h_w$ ) as

$$u = h_w \gamma_w$$

$h_w$  = piezometric head above the base of the slice

The total force due to pore water pressure at the bottom of the slice

$$U = u \gamma_w$$

Tabulate all the values as shown below

| Slice No. | Width | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Weight 'W' (kN) | Normal component 'N' (kN)             | Tangential component 'T' (kN)         | Pore water pressure (u) | Total force due to pore pressure (U)  |
|-----------|-------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|           |       |                        |                 |                                       |                                       |                         |                                       |
|           |       |                        |                 |                                       |                                       |                         |                                       |
|           |       |                        |                 | $\Sigma N = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ | $\Sigma T = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ |                         | $\Sigma U = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ |

The F.S is computed as

$$\text{Factor of Safety, } FS = \frac{(c' r \theta + \tan \phi' \Sigma(N - U))}{\Sigma T}$$

$c'$  and  $\phi'$  - Shear parameters based on effective stress analysis obtained from drained shear tests.

**If the flownet is not constructed then F.S may be computed as**

$$\text{Factor of Safety, } FS = \frac{(c' r \theta + \tan \phi' \Sigma(N'))}{\Sigma T}$$

$$N' = W' \text{ Cos } \delta = bZ \gamma' \text{ Cos } \delta$$

$N'$  = Weight of slice computed from effective unit weight

$T = W \text{ Sin } \delta = bZ \gamma_{sat} \text{ Sin } \delta$  - Weight of slice computed from saturated unit weight.

#### 4. Explain in detail about infinite slopes and finite slopes

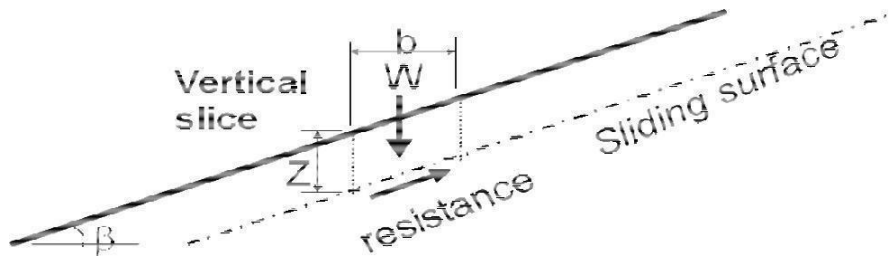
(AUC Nov/Dec 2010)(MAY/JUN 2010)

##### 1. Infinite Slopes

##### 2. Finite Slopes

**Infinite slopes:** They have dimensions that extend over great distances and the soil mass is inclined to the horizontal.

**Finite slopes:** A finite slope is one with a base and top surface, the height being limited. The inclined faces of earth dams, embankments and excavation and the like are all finite slopes.



##### Factor of safety

Factor of safety of a slope is defined as the ratio of average shear strength ( $t_f$ ) of a soil to the average shear stress ( $t_d$ ) developed along the potential failure surface.

##### Shear Strength:-

Shear strength of a soil is given by

$$t_f = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

Where,  $c$  = cohesion

$\phi$  = angle of internal friction

$\sigma$  = Normal stress on the potential failure surface. Similarly, the mobilized shear strength is given by

$$t_d = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

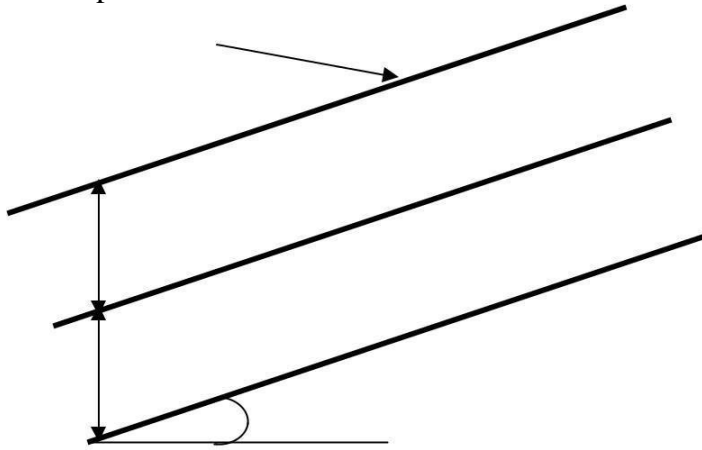
$c$   
 $d$   
 and  $f$   
 $d$

## Infinite Slopes:

Infinite slopes have dimensions that extend over great distances and the soil mass is inclined to the horizontal. If different strata are present strata boundaries

are assumed to be parallel to the surface. Failure is assumed to occur along a plane parallel to the surface.

Failure plane

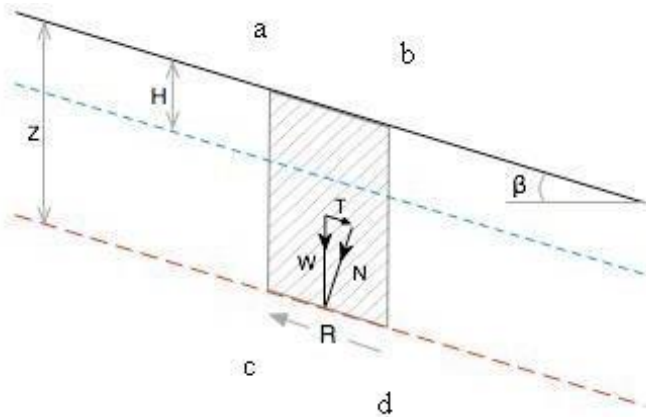


3 cases of stability analysis of infinite slopes are considered Case (i)

Cohesionless soil

Case (ii) Cohesive soil

Case (iii) Cohesive-frictional soil.



Consider an infinite slope in a cohesionless soil inclined at an angle to the horizontal as shown. Consider an element 'abcd' of the soil mass.

Let the weight of the element be  $W$ .

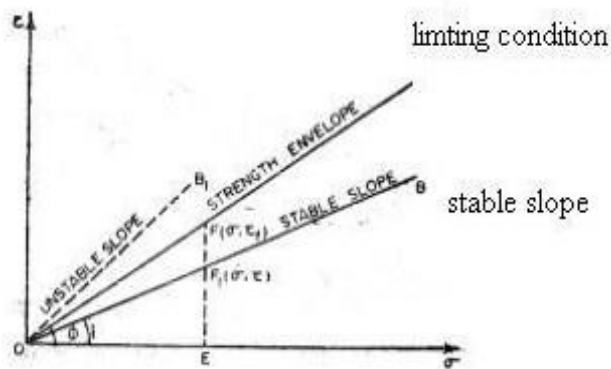
The component of  $W$  parallel to slope =  $T = W \sin$

The component of  $W$  perpendicular to slope =  $N = W \cos$

The force that causes slope to slide =  $T = W \sin$

- $OA$  is Coulomb's failure envelope for cohesionless soil defined by the equation

$$\tau_f = \sigma \tan \phi$$



Failure condition for an infinite slope of cohesionless soil

5. Along Natural slope cohesionless (sandy soil) is inclined at  $12^\circ$  to the horizontal. Taking  $\phi = 30^\circ$  Determine the factor of safety of the slope. If the slope is completely submerged, what will be the change in the factor of safety? Also find the seepage (APRIL/MAY 2009)

*Solution*

$$F = \frac{\tan \phi}{\tan i}$$

parallel to the slope.  $\gamma_{rat} = 19.5 \text{ KN/m}^3$

here  $\phi = 30^\circ, i = 12^\circ$

case (i) Dry

$$F = \frac{\tan 30^\circ}{\tan 12^\circ} = 2.72$$

case (ii) Submerged

$$F = \frac{\tan 30^\circ}{\tan 12^\circ} = 2.72 = \frac{\gamma' \cos^2 \phi \tan \phi}{\gamma' \sin i \cos i}$$

$$F = 2.72$$

case (iii) seepage is parallel to slope

$$F = \frac{\gamma' \tan \phi}{\gamma_{sat} \tan i} \quad , \text{ here } \gamma' = \gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w$$

$$= \frac{(19.5 - 9.81) \tan 30^\circ}{19.5 \tan 12^\circ}$$

$$= 1.35$$

6. Analyse the Slope having a slope angle  $25^\circ$ . It is made of cohesive (clay) having  $C' = 30 \text{ KN/m}^2$ ;  $\phi = 20^\circ$ ,  $e = 0.65$ ;  $G = 2.7$  and under the following condition, (Nov / Dec 2010)

To Find

- i) When the soil is Dry
- ii) When water seeps parallel to the surface of the slope
- iii) When the slope is submerged

Given data

$$C' = 30 \text{ KN/m}^2; \phi = 20^\circ; e = 0.65; G = 2.7; i = 25^\circ$$

Solution

$$\gamma_d = \frac{G \gamma_w}{1+e} = \frac{2.7 \times 9.81}{1+0.65}$$

$$\gamma_d = 16.05 \text{ KN/m}^3$$

$$\gamma_{sat} = \frac{(G+e)\gamma_w}{1+e} = \frac{(2.7+0.65)9.81}{1+0.65}$$

$$= 19.92 \text{ KN/m}^3$$

$$\gamma' = \gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w$$

$$= 19.92 - 9.81 = 10.11 \text{ KN/m}^3$$

$$\gamma' = 10.11 \text{ KN/m}^3$$

Case (i) For Dry Soil, Stability Number,  $S_n$

$$S_n = \frac{C'}{\gamma_d H_c} = (\tan i - \tan \phi) \cos^2 i$$

$$= (\tan 25^\circ - \tan 20^\circ) \cos^2(25^\circ)$$

$$= (0.466 - 0.364) \times 0.821$$

$$= 0.084$$

$$\text{Critical height, } H_c = \frac{C'}{\gamma_d S_n} = \frac{30}{(16.05 \times 0.084)}$$

$$= 22.25 \text{ m}$$

**Case(ii) For seepage parallel to surface of the slope**

$$S_n = \frac{C}{\gamma_{sat} H_c} = \cos^2 i \left( \tan i - \frac{\gamma'}{\gamma_{sat}} \tan \phi \right)$$

$$= \cos^2 25^\circ \left( \tan 25^\circ - \frac{10.11}{19.91} \tan 20^\circ \right)$$

$$= 0.821 \left( 0.466 - \frac{10.11}{19.91} \times 0.364 \right)$$

$$S_n = 0.231$$

$$H_c = \frac{C}{\gamma_{sat} \times S_n} = \frac{30}{19.91 \times 0.231}$$

$$= 6.52m$$

**Case(iii) For submerged type**

$$S_n = \frac{C}{\gamma' \times H_c} = \cos^2 i (\tan i - \tan \phi)$$

$$= \cos^2 25^\circ (\tan 25^\circ - \tan 20^\circ)$$

$$= 0.084$$

$$\therefore H_c = \frac{C}{\gamma' \times S_n} = \frac{30}{10.11 \times 0.084}$$

$$= 35.33m$$

7. In order to find the factor of safety of a slope of an earth during steady seepage, the section of the dam was drawn to a scale of 1 cm = 4 cm and the following result was obtained on a critical slip Circle. (Nov / Dec 2012) (AUC Nov / Dec 2014)

Area of N-Rectangular ( $A_n$ ) = 14.40 Sq-cm

Area of T-Rectangular ( $A_n$ ) = 6.4 Sq-cm

Area of U-Rectangular ( $A_n$ ) = 6.90 Sq-cm

Length of arc = 12.6 Sq-cm

Laboratory test has finished value of  $26^\circ$  for effective angle of shear resistance and  $19.5 \text{ KN/m}^2$  for cohesion. Determine the factor of safety of the slope unit weight of soil  $\gamma = 19 \text{ KN/m}^3$

**Solution**

**Scale 1 cm = 4 cm**

$$\therefore x = 4; L = 12.6 \times 4 = 50.4 \text{ cm}$$

$$F = \frac{C \cdot L + \tan \phi \sum (N - U)}{\sum T}$$

Consider 1 cm length of dam,  $\phi = 26^\circ$ ;  $C' = 19.5 \text{ kn/m}^2$

$$\sum N = A_N \cdot x^2 \cdot \gamma = 14.4 \times 4^2 \times 19 = 4378 \text{ KN}$$

$$\sum U = A_U \cdot x^2 \cdot \gamma_w = 6.9 \times 4^2 \times 9.81 = 1083 \text{ KN}$$

$$\sum N = A_N \cdot x^2 \cdot \gamma = 6.4 \times 4^2 \times 19 = 1946 \text{ KN}$$

$$F = \frac{(19.5 \times 12.6 \times 4) + \tan 26^\circ \times (4378 - 1083)}{1946}$$

$$= 1.33$$

8. Along Natural slope cohesionless (sandy soil) is inclined at  $12^\circ$  to the horizontal. Taking  $\phi = 30^\circ$  Determine the factor of safety of the slope. If the slope is completely submerged, what will be the change in the factor of safety? Also find the seepage (APRIL/MAY 2010)

*Solution*

$$F = \frac{\tan\phi}{\tan i}$$

parallel to the slope.  $\gamma_{rat} = 19.5 \text{ KN/m}^3$

here  $\phi = 30^\circ, i = 12^\circ$

*case (i) Dry*

$$F = \frac{\tan 30^\circ}{\tan 12^\circ} = 2.72$$

*case (ii) Submerged*

$$F = \frac{\tan 30^\circ}{\tan 12^\circ} = 2.72 = \frac{\gamma' \cos^2 \tan\phi}{\gamma' \sin i \times \cos i}$$

$$G = 2.72$$

*case (iii) seepage is parallel to slope*

$$F = \frac{\gamma' \tan\phi}{\gamma_{sat} \tan i} \quad , \text{ here } \gamma' = \gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w$$

$$= \frac{(19.5 - 9.81) \tan 30^\circ}{19.5 \tan 12^\circ}$$

$$= 1.35$$

## 9. Explain in detail about bishop's method of stability analysis?

The Modified Bishop's method is slightly different from the ordinary method of slices in that normal interaction forces between adjacent slices are assumed to be collinear and the resultant interslice shear force is zero. The approach was proposed by Bishop. The constraint introduced by the normal forces between slices makes the problem statically indeterminate. As a result, iterative methods have to be used to solve for the factor of safety. The method has been shown to produce factor of safety values within a few percent of the "correct" value.

### Lorimer's method

Lorimer's Method is a technique for evaluating slope stability in cohesive soils. It differs from Bishop's Method in that it uses a slip surface in place of a circle. This mode of failure was determined experimentally to account for effects of particle cementation. The method was developed in the 1930s by Gerhardt Lorimer (Dec 20, 1894-Oct 19, 1961), a student of geotechnical pioneer

### Spencer's Method

Spencer's Method of analysis requires a computer program capable of cyclic algorithms, but makes slope stability analysis easier. It is not as accurate as the Modified Bishop's method, but is acceptably accurate in engineering practices.

### Sarmamethod

Main article:

The proposed method is a technique used to assess the stability of slopes under seismic conditions. It may also be used for static conditions if the value of the horizontal load is taken as zero. The method can analyse a wide range of slope failures as it may accommodate a multi-wedge failure mechanism and therefore it is not restricted to planar or circular failure surfaces. It may provide information about the factor of safety or about the critical acceleration required to cause collapse.

### Comparisons

The assumptions made by a number of finite equilibrium methods are listed in the table below.

| Method                       | Assumption   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ordinary method of cells     | Interslice forces are neglected  |
| Bishop's simplified/modified | Resultant interslice forces are horizontal. There are no interslice shear forces.  |
| Janbu's simplified           | Resultant interslice forces are horizontal. An empirical correction factor is used to account for interslice shear forces. |
| Janbu's generalized          | An assumed $\lambda$ is used to define the location of the interslice normal force.  |
| Spencer                      | The resultant interslice forces have constant slope throughout the sliding mass.   |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Chugh                | Same as Spencer's method but with a constant acceleration force on each slice.   |
| Morgenstern-Price    | The direction of the resultant interslice forces is defined using an arbitrary function. The fractions of the function value needed for force and moment balance is computed.      |
| Fredlund-Krahn (GLE) | Similar to Morgenstern-Price.  |
| Corps of Engineers   | The resultant interslice force is either parallel to the ground surface or equal to the average slope from the beginning to the end of the slip surface..                          |
| Lowe and Karafiath   | The direction of the resultant interslice force is equal to the average of the ground surface and the slope of the base of each slice.   |
| Sarma                | The shear strength criterion is applied to the shear on the sides and bottom of each slice. The inclinations of the slice interfaces are varied until a critical criterion is met. |

## 10. Explain in detail about stability analysis by method of slices for steady seepage

The stability analysis with steady seepage involves the development of the pore pressure head diagram along the chosen trial circle of failure. The simplest of the methods for knowing the pore pressure head at any point on the trial circle is by the use of flownets which is described below.

### Determination of Pore Pressure with Seepage

the section of a homogeneous dam with an arbitrarily chosen trial arc. There is steady seepage flow through the dam as represented by flow and equipotential lines. From the equipotential lines the pore pressure may be obtained at any point on the section. For example at point  $a$  in Fig. 10.19 the pressure head is  $h$ . Point  $c$  is determined by setting the radial distance  $ac$

### Method of Analysis (graphical method)

the section of a dam with an arbitrarily chosen trial arc. The center of rotation of the arc is  $O$ . The pore pressure acting on the base of the arc as obtained from flow nets is  $u$ . When the soil forming the slope has to be analyzed under a condition where full or partial drainage takes place the analysis must take into account both cohesive and frictional soil properties based on *effective stresses*. Since the effective stress acting across each elemental length of the circular arc failure surface must be computed in this case, the method of slices is one of the convenient methods for this purpose.

The method of analysis is as follows.

The soil mass above the assumed slip circle is divided into a number of vertical slices of equal width. The number of slices may be limited to a maximum of eight to ten to facilitate computation. The forces used in the analysis acting on the slices are shown in Figs. 10.20(a) and (c). The forces are:

1. The weight  $W$  of the slice.
2. The normal and tangential components of the weight  $W$  acting on the base of the slice. They are designated respectively as  $N$  and  $T$ .
3. The pore water pressure  $U$  acting on the base of the slice.
4. The effective frictional and cohesive resistances acting on the base of the slice which is designated as  $S$ .

The forces acting on the sides of the slices are statically indeterminate as they depend on the stress deformation properties of the material, and we can make only gross assumptions about their relative magnitudes. In the conventional slice method of analysis the lateral forces are assumed equal on both sides of the slice. This assumption is not strictly correct. The error due to this assumption on the mass as a whole is about 15 percent (Bishop, 1955).