

ENGINEERING TRIPOS PART IIB

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Tuesday 8 May 2007 2.30 to 4

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Module 4D5

FOUNDATION ENGINEERING

*Answer not more than **three** questions.*

*All questions carry the same number of marks.*

*The **approximate** percentage of marks allocated to each part of a question is indicated in the right margin.*

*Attachment: 4D5 Supplementary Databook (14 pages).*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

Single-sided script paper

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Engineering Data Book

CUED approved calculator allowed

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you  
may do so by the Invigilator**

1 Figure 1 shows a foundation on uniform clay, with undrained strength  $s_u$ . The foundation has width  $B$  and length  $L$ , which can be idealised as deforming in plane strain ( $L \gg B$ ). The water level is at ground level. The foundation base cannot sustain tension.

(a) Considering only the vertical load  $V$  and applied moment  $M$  acting on the foundation, and using Meyerhof's effective area method, show that the permissible  $V$ - $M$  loading combination is,

$$M = \frac{BV}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{V}{V_{ult}} \right]$$

where  $V_{ult}$  is the undrained uniaxial vertical bearing capacity. [20%]

(b) If the vertical load  $V$  is  $1.5BLs_u$  and moment  $M$  is  $0.2B^2Ls_u$ , calculate three factors of safety: on  $V$  alone increasing,  $M$  alone increasing and the combined  $V$ - $M$  loading increasing in proportion. Indicate the types of failure in each case using a  $V$ - $M$  interaction diagram. [40%]

(c) If the  $V$ - $M$  loading remains the same as in part (b), calculate the maximum horizontal load  $H$  that can be applied to the foundation. You may assume lift-off is possible. [20%]

(d) Using a sketch, explain how a skirted foundation resists lift-off for short term loading and state any extra benefits of such a foundation compared to the one shown in Fig. 1. [20%]

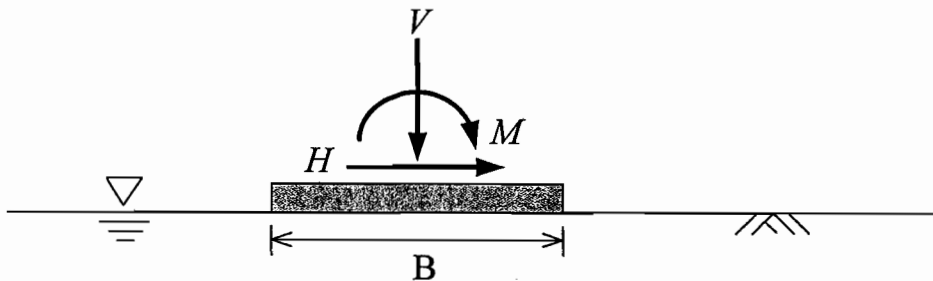


Fig. 1

2 Figure 2 shows the plan of a flexible raft foundation for a new building. The net bearing pressure is to be 300 kPa (allowing for the weight of the excavated soil) at the foundation level, which will be 1 m below ground level. The water table is 1 m below the ground level.

(a) Assuming the subsoil to be clay of shear modulus 6 MPa, estimate the immediate (undrained) settlement at points A, B and C. Hence evaluate the deflection ratio of the foundation. (The stiffness of the foundation raft and the building can be neglected.) [30%]

(b) Estimate the immediate average settlement of the foundation if the borehole data from the site showed that the subsoil is over-consolidated clay, from ground to a depth of 16 m, overlying bedrock. The shear modulus of the clay is given as 6 MPa from ground level to a depth of 6 m and 10 MPa for the rest. [30%]

(c) Estimate the drained settlement at point B by dividing the subsoil into two layers of thickness 5 m, and 10 m. The coefficient of one-dimensional compressibility of the clay is  $m_v \text{ (MPa}^{-1}\text{)} = 1/(\sigma'_z)^{0.5}$ , where  $\sigma'_z \text{ (kPa)}$  is the vertical effective stress. The bulk unit weight of the clay is  $20 \text{ kN/m}^3$ . [30%]

(d) Explain why the actual settlement that occurs can be different from the estimate in part (c) and how it could be better estimated. [10%]

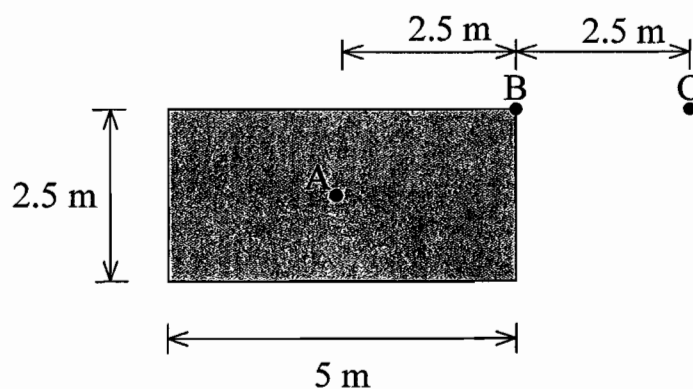


Fig. 2

**(TURN OVER)**

3 (a) An engineer is investigating the vertical capacity of a hammer-driven closed-ended tubular pile of outer diameter 0.6 m in two different sites. The pile length is 20 m. Site A has saturated sand of relative density 50% and friction angle  $\phi_{crit}$  of  $30^\circ$ . Site B comprises normally-consolidated soft clay with a peak undrained shear strength profile of  $s_u = 15z$  kPa, where  $z$  (m) is the depth below the ground surface. The effective unit weight  $\gamma'$  can be taken as  $10 \text{ kN/m}^3$  in both sand and clay.

(i) Assuming the pile-soil interface friction to be  $25^\circ$ , calculate the vertical capacity of the pile in site A using the API (2000) design method. [25%]

(ii) Calculate the vertical capacity of the pile in site B using the API (2000) design method and explain why this calculated capacity may not be available soon after the pile installation. [25%]

(b) Describe *friction fatigue* and sketch the variation of shaft resistance with depth for piles of length  $L$  and  $2L$ . Comment on whether the API method makes an appropriate allowance for *friction fatigue*. [20%]

(c) Tubular piles can be open-ended. By considering the vertical equilibrium of a slice of soil inside an open-ended tubular pile of internal diameter  $D$  as shown in Fig.3, show that the vertical effective stress at the base of the plug  $q_{plug}$  can be given as below,

$$\frac{q_{plug}}{\gamma' h_p} = \frac{e^\lambda - 1}{\lambda}$$

where  $h_p$  is length of soil column within the pile,  $\gamma'$  is the effective unit weight and  $\lambda = 4\beta h_p/D$ . The shear stress acting between the soil and the pile is  $\tau_{sf} = \beta\sigma'_v$ , where  $\sigma'_v$  is vertical effective stress and  $\beta$  is constant. [30%]

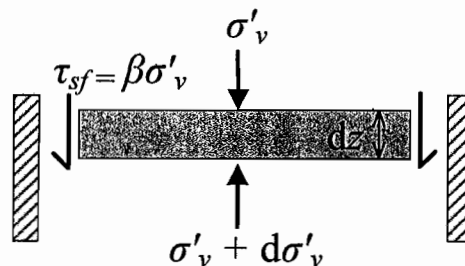


Fig. 3

4 A shallow water wind turbine is supported by a single steel monopile of diameter 2 m and wall thickness 30 mm. The design horizontal load for the pile is 1 MN applied 6 m above the mudline. The ground comprises normally consolidated clay with an undrained shear strength  $s_u = 2z$  kPa, where  $z$  (m) is the depth below the mudline. The effective unit weight  $\gamma'$  of the clay is  $6 \text{ kN/m}^3$ .

The Young's modulus  $E$  and yield stress  $\sigma_y$  of the steel can be taken as 180 GPa and 200 MPa respectively.

(a) Estimate the minimum length of the pile below the mudline that can provide the required lateral capacity. [40%]

(b) If the design horizontal load is to be increased to 3 MN applied 6 m above the mudline, estimate the length of 2 m diameter pile below the mudline and the new wall thickness that is required. [30%]

(c) Estimate the pile settlement at the mudline if the pile length below the mudline is 30 m and the pile is loaded only with a vertical load of 4 MN. You may neglect pile compressibility and assume that the shear modulus of the clay is  $150s_u$  and its Poisson's ratio is 0.2. [20%]

(d) Explain why pile compressibility may be important in assessing pile capacity of long piles. [10%]

**END OF PAPER**



**Cambridge University Engineering Department**  
**Supplementary Databook**

**Module 4D5: Foundation Engineering**

IT. January 2007

## Section 1: Plasticity theory

This section is common with the Soil Mechanics Databook supporting modules 3D1 and 3D2. Undrained shear strength ('cohesion' in a Tresca material) is denoted by  $s_u$  rather than  $c_u$ .

**Plasticity: Tresca material,  $\tau_{max} = s_u$**

### Limiting stresses

$$\text{Tresca} \quad |\sigma_1 - \sigma_3| = q_u = 2s_u$$

$$\text{von Mises} \quad (\sigma_1 - p)^2 + (\sigma_2 - p)^2 + (\sigma_3 - p)^2 = \frac{2}{3} q_u^2 = 2s_u^2$$

$q_u$  = undrained triaxial compression strength;  $s_u$  = undrained plane shear strength.

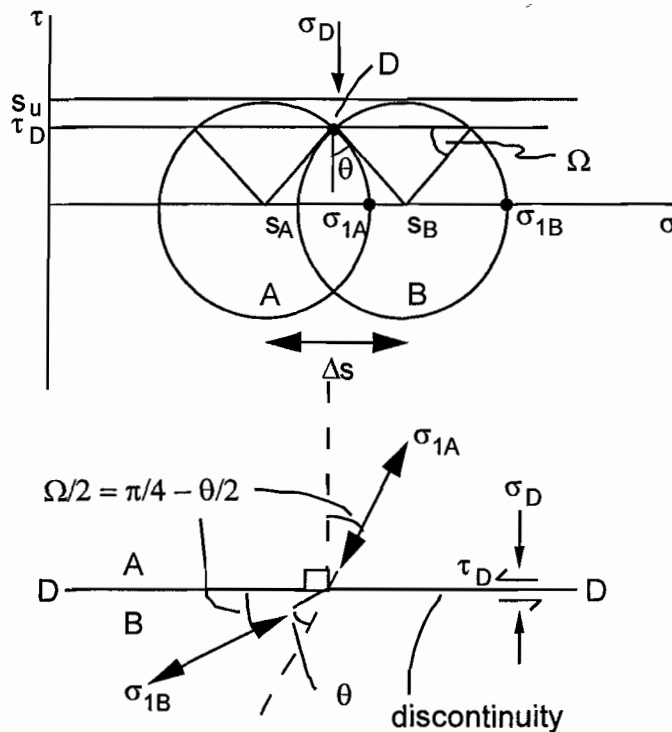
Dissipation per unit volume in plane strain deformation following either Tresca or von Mises,

$$\delta D = s_u \delta \epsilon_\gamma$$

For a relative displacement  $x$  across a slip surface of area  $A$  mobilising shear strength  $s_u$ , this becomes

$$D = A s_u x$$

### Stress conditions across a discontinuity:



### Rotation of major principal stress

$$\theta = \pi/2 - \Omega$$

$$s_B - s_A = \Delta s = 2s_u \sin \theta$$

$$\sigma_{1B} - \sigma_{1A} = 2s_u \sin \theta$$

In limit with  $\theta \rightarrow 0$

$$ds = 2s_u d\theta$$

Useful example:

$$\theta = 30^\circ$$

$$\sigma_{1B} - \sigma_{1A} = s_u$$

$$\tau_D / s_u = 0.87$$

$\sigma_{1A}$  = major principal stress in zone A

$\sigma_{1B}$  = major principal stress in zone B



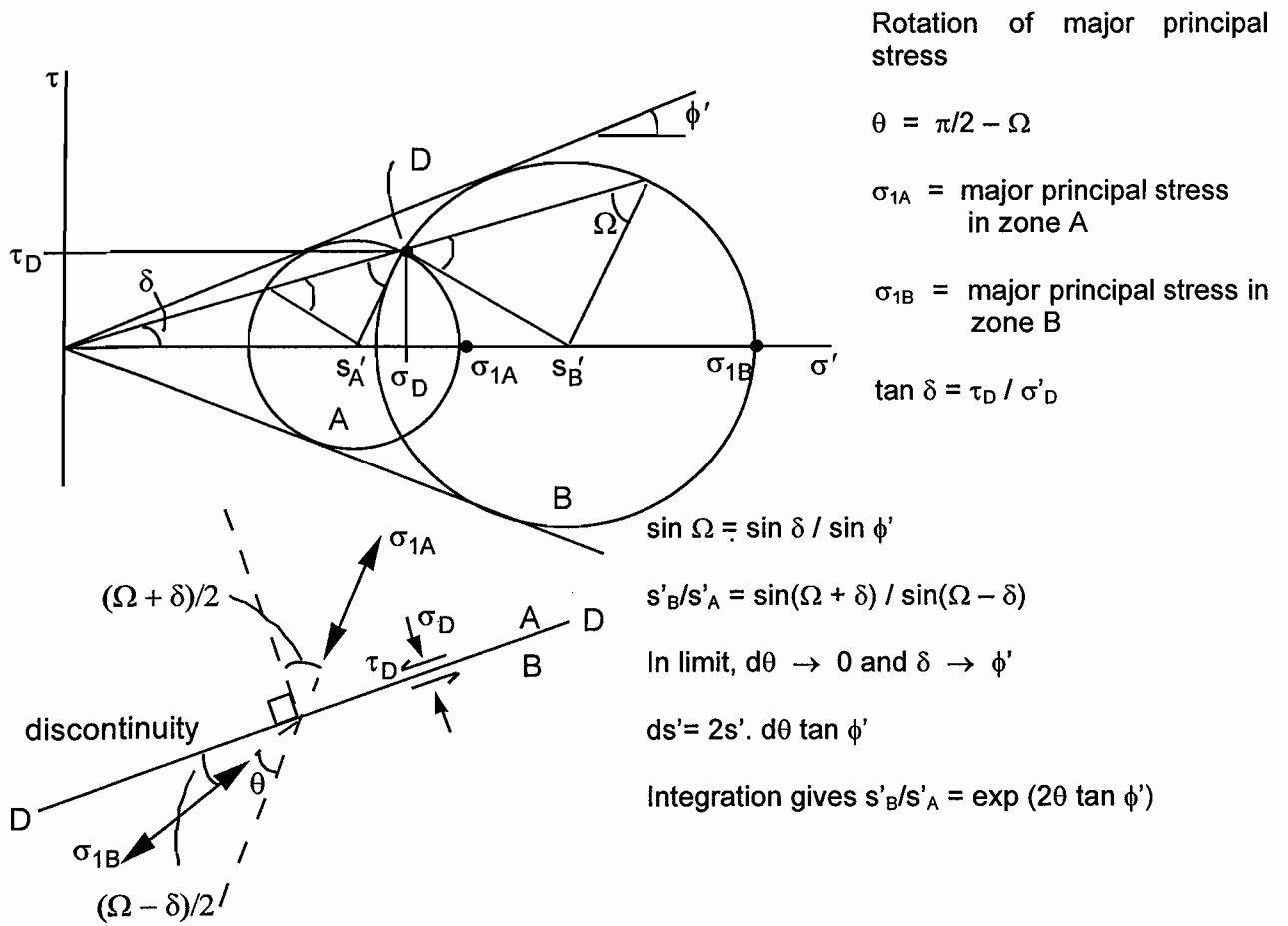
Plasticity: Coulomb material  $(\tau/\sigma')_{\max} = \tan \phi$

**Limiting stresses**

$$\sin \phi = (\sigma'_{1f} - \sigma'_{3f}) / (\sigma'_{1f} + \sigma'_{3f}) = (\sigma_{1f} - \sigma_{3f}) / (\sigma_{1f} + \sigma_{3f} - 2u)$$

where  $\sigma'_{1f}$  and  $\sigma'_{3f}$  are the major and minor principal effective stresses at failure,  $\sigma_{1f}$  and  $\sigma_{3f}$  are the major and minor principal total stresses at failure, and  $u$  is the pore pressure.

**Stress conditions across a discontinuity**



## Section 2: Bearing capacity of shallow foundations

### 2.1 Tresca soil, with undrained strength $s_u$ .

#### Vertical loading

The vertical bearing capacity,  $q_f$ , of a shallow foundation for undrained loading (Tresca soil) is:

$$\frac{V_{ult}}{A} = q_f = s_c d_c N_c s_u + \gamma h$$

$V_{ult}$  and  $A$  are the ultimate vertical load and the foundation area, respectively.  $h$  is the embedment of the foundation base and  $\gamma$  (or  $\gamma'$ ) is the appropriate density of the overburden.

The exact bearing capacity factor  $N_c$  for a plane strain surface foundation (zero embedment) on uniform soil is:

$$N_c = 2 + \pi \quad (\text{Prandtl, 1921})$$

#### **Shape correction factor:**

For a rectangular footing of length  $L$  and breadth  $B$  (Eurocode 7):

$$s_c = 1 + 0.2 B / L$$

The exact solution for a rough circular foundation ( $B/L=1$ ) is  $q_f = 6.05s_u$ , hence  $s_c = 1.18 \sim 0.2$ .

#### **Embedment correction factor:**

A fit to Skempton's (1951) embedment correction factors, for an embedment of  $h$ , is:

$$d_c = 1 + 0.33 \tan^{-1} (h/D) \quad (\text{or } h/B \text{ for a strip or rectangular foundation})$$

#### Combined V-H loading

A curve fit to Green's lower bound plasticity solution for V-H loading is:

$$\text{If } V/V_{ult} > 0.5: \quad \frac{V}{V_{ult}} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{H}{H_{ult}}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{H}{H_{ult}} = 1 - \left( 2 \frac{V}{V_{ult}} - 1 \right)^2$$

$$\text{If } V/V_{ult} < 0.5: \quad H = H_{ult} = Bs_u$$

#### Combined V-H-M loading

With lift-off: combined Green-Meyerhof ( $V'_{ult}$  = bearing capacity of effective area  $B-e$ )

$$\text{If } V/V'_{ult} < 0.5: \quad \frac{H}{H_{ult}} = \left( 1 - 2 \frac{M}{VB} \right)$$

$$\text{Without lift-off: } \left( \frac{V}{V_{ult}} \right)^2 + \left[ \frac{M}{M_{ult}} \left( 1 - 0.3 \frac{H}{H_{ult}} \right) \right]^2 + \left| \left( \frac{H}{H_{ult}} \right)^3 \right| - 1 = 0 \quad (\text{Taiebat \& Carter 2000})$$

## 2.2 Frictional (Coulomb) soil, with friction angle $\phi$ .

### Vertical loading

The vertical bearing capacity,  $q_f$ , of a shallow foundation under drained loading (Coulomb soil) is:

$$\frac{V_{ult}}{A} = q_f = s_q N_q \sigma'_{v0} + s_\gamma N_\gamma \frac{\gamma' B}{2}$$

The bearing capacity factors  $N_q$  and  $N_\gamma$  account for the capacity arising from surcharge and self-weight of the foundation soil respectively.  $\sigma'_{v0}$  is the in situ effective stress acting at the level of the foundation base.

For a strip footing on weightless soil, the exact solution for  $N_q$  is:

$$N_q = \tan^2(\pi/4 + \phi/2) e^{(\pi \tan \phi)} \quad (\text{Prandtl 1921})$$

An empirical relationship to estimate  $N_\gamma$  from  $N_q$  is (Eurocode 7):

$$N_\gamma = 2 (N_q - 1) \tan \phi$$

Curve fits to exact solutions for  $N_\gamma = f(\phi)$  are (Davis & Booker 1971):

$$\text{Rough base: } N_\gamma = 0.1054 e^{9.6\phi}$$

$$\text{Smooth base: } N_\gamma = 0.0663 e^{9.3\phi}$$

### Shape correction factors:

For a rectangular footing of length  $L$  and breadth  $B$  (Eurocode 7):

$$s_q = 1 + (B \sin \phi) / L$$

$$s_\gamma = 1 - 0.3 B / L$$

For circular footings assume  $L = B$ .

### Combined V-H loading

The Green/Sokolovski lower bound solution gives a V-H failure surface.

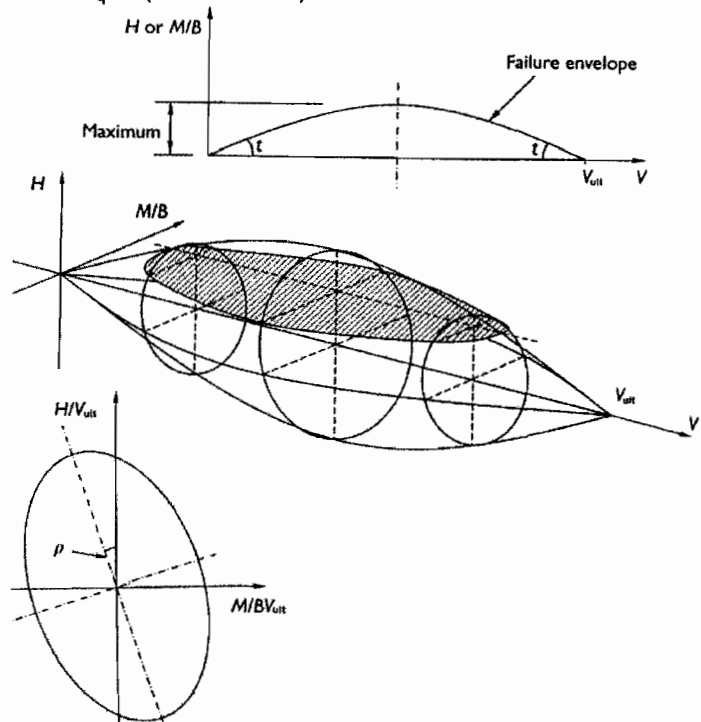
### Combined V-H-M loading

(with lift-off- drained conditions- see failure surface shown above)

$$\left[ \frac{H/V_{ult}}{t_h} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{M/BV_{ult}}{t_m} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{2C(M/BV_{ult})(H/V_{ult})}{t_h t_m} \right] = \left[ \frac{V}{V_{ult}} \left( 1 - \frac{V}{V_{ult}} \right) \right]^2$$

$$\text{where } C = \tan \left( \frac{2\rho(t_h - t_m)(t_h + t_m)}{2t_h t_m} \right) \quad (\text{Butterfield \& Gottardi 1994})$$

Typically,  $t_h \sim 0.5$ ,  $t_m \sim 0.4$  and  $\rho \sim 15^\circ$ .  $t_h$  is the friction coefficient,  $H/V = \tan \phi$ , during sliding.



### Section 3: Settlement of shallow foundations

#### 3.1 Elastic stress distributions below point, strip and circular loads

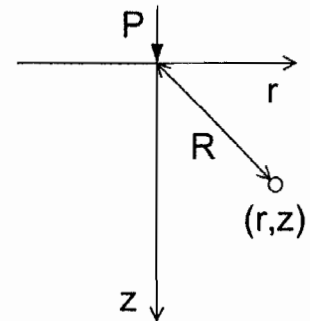
##### Point loading (Boussinesq solution)

Vertical stress  $\sigma_z = \frac{3Pz^3}{2\pi R^5}$

Radial stress  $\sigma_r = \frac{P}{2\pi R^2} \left[ \frac{3r^2z}{R^3} - \frac{(1-2\nu)R}{R+z} \right]$

Tangential stress  $\sigma_\theta = \frac{P(1-2\nu)}{2\pi R^2} \left[ \frac{R}{R+z} - \frac{z}{R} \right]$

Shear stress  $\tau_{rz} = \frac{3Prz^2}{2\pi R^5}$



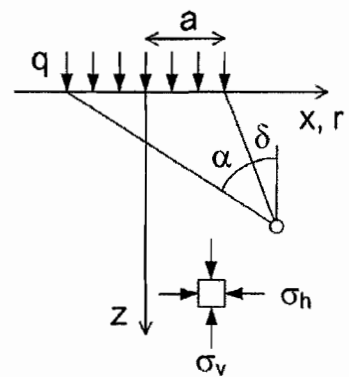
##### Uniformly-loaded strip

Vertical stress  $\sigma_v = \frac{q}{\pi} [\alpha + \sin \alpha \cos(\alpha + 2\delta)]$

Horizontal stress  $\sigma_h = \frac{q}{\pi} [\alpha - \sin \alpha \cos(\alpha + 2\delta)]$

Shear stress  $\tau_{vh} = \frac{q}{\pi} \sin \alpha \sin(\alpha + 2\delta)$

Principal stresses



$$\sigma_1 = \frac{q}{\pi} (\alpha + \sin \alpha) \quad \sigma_3 = \frac{q}{\pi} (\alpha - \sin \alpha)$$

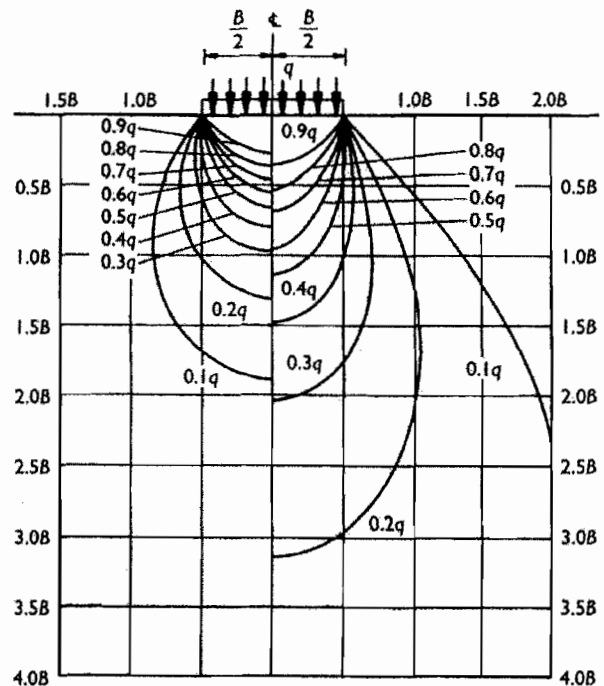
##### Uniformly-loaded circle (on centerline, r=0)

Vertical stress

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

Horizontal stress

$$\sigma_h = \frac{q}{2} \left[ (1 + 2\nu) - \frac{2(1 + \nu)z}{(a^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{z^3}{(a^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right]$$



Contours of vertical stress below uniformly-loaded circular (left) and strip footings (right)

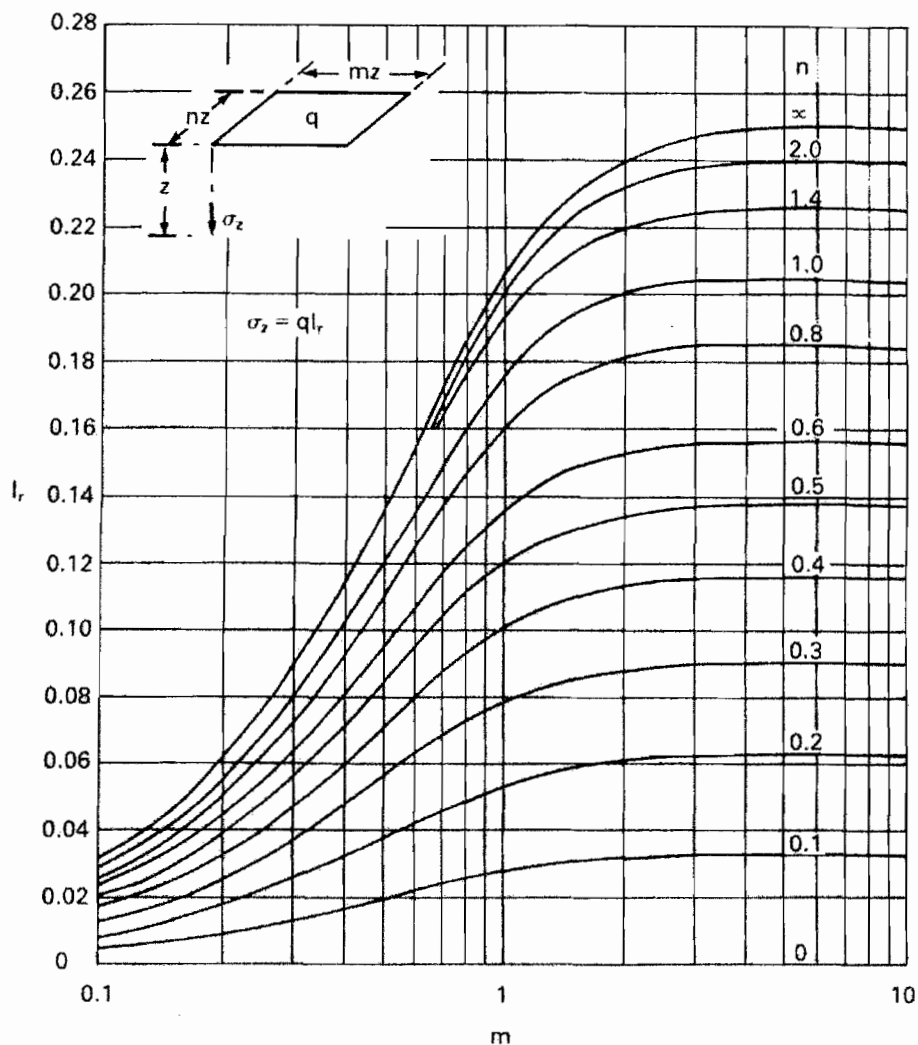
### 3.2 Elastic stress distribution below rectangular area

The vertical stress,  $\sigma_z$ , below the corner of a uniformly-loaded rectangle ( $L \times B$ ) is:

$$\sigma_z = I_r q$$

$I_r$  is found from  $m$  ( $=L/z$ ) and  $n$  ( $=B/z$ ) using Fadum's chart or the expression below ( $L$  and  $B$  are interchangeable), which are from integration of Boussinesq's solution.

$$I_r = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[ \frac{2mn\sqrt{m^2 + n^2 + 1}}{m^2 + n^2 + m^2n^2 + 1} \left( \frac{m^2 + n^2 + 2}{m^2 + n^2 + 1} \right) + \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{2mn\sqrt{m^2 + n^2 + 1}}{m^2 + n^2 - m^2n^2 + 1} \right) \right]$$



Influence factor,  $I_r$ , for vertical stress under the corner of a uniformly-loaded rectangular area (Fadum's chart)

### 3.3 Elastic solutions for surface settlement

#### 3.3.1 Isotropic, homogeneous, elastic half-space (semi-infinite)

##### Point load (Boussinesq solution)

Settlement,  $w$ , at distance  $s$ : 
$$w(s) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{(1-\nu) P}{G s}$$

##### Circular area (radius $a$ ), uniform soil

Uniform load: central settlement: 
$$w_o = \frac{(1-\nu)}{G} qa$$

edge settlement: 
$$w_e = \frac{2(1-\nu)}{\pi G} qa$$

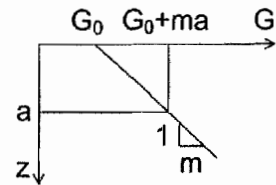
Rigid punch: ( $q_{avg} = V/\pi a^2$ )

$$w_r = \frac{\pi(1-\nu)}{4 G} q_{avg} a$$

##### Circular area, heterogeneous soil

For  $G_0 = 0$ ,  $\nu = 0.5$ :

$w = q/2m$  under loaded area of any shape  
 $w = 0$  outside loaded area



For  $G_0 > 0$ , central settlement:

$$w_o = \frac{qa}{2G_0} I_{circ}$$

For  $\nu = 0.5$ ,  $w_o \approx \frac{qa}{2(G_0 + ma)}$

##### Rectangular area, uniform soil

Uniform load, corner settlement:

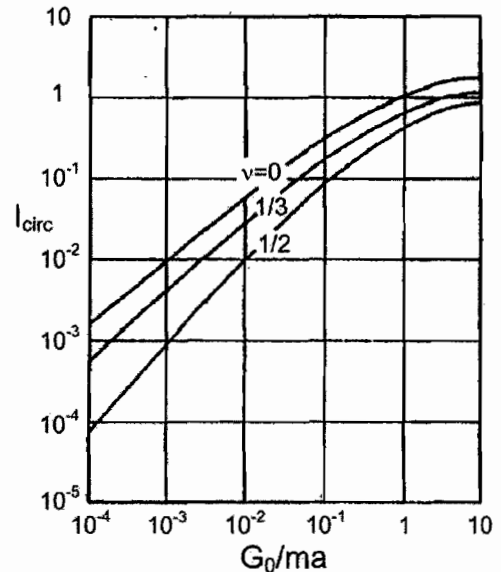
$$w_c = \frac{(1-\nu) qB}{G} \frac{1}{2} I_{rect}$$

Where  $I_{rect}$  depends on the aspect ratio,  $L/B$ :

L/B	$I_{rect}$	L/B	$I_{rect}$	L/B	$I_{rect}$	L/B	$I_{rect}$
1	0.561	1.6	0.698	2.4	0.822	5	1.052
1.1	0.588	1.7	0.716	2.5	0.835	6	1.110
1.2	0.613	1.8	0.734	3	0.892	7	1.159
1.3	0.636	1.9	0.750	3.5	0.940	8	1.201
1.4	0.658	2	0.766	4	0.982	9	1.239
1.5	0.679	2.2	0.795	4.5	1.019	10	1.272

Rigid rectangle:  $w_r = \frac{(1-\nu) q_{avg} \sqrt{BL}}{G} I_{rgd}$  where  $I_{rgd}$  varies from 0.9  $\rightarrow$  0.7 for  $L/B = 1-10$ .

Note:  $G = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)}$  where  $\nu$  = Poisson's ratio,  $E$  = Young's modulus.



### 3.3.2 Isotropic, homogeneous, elastic finite space

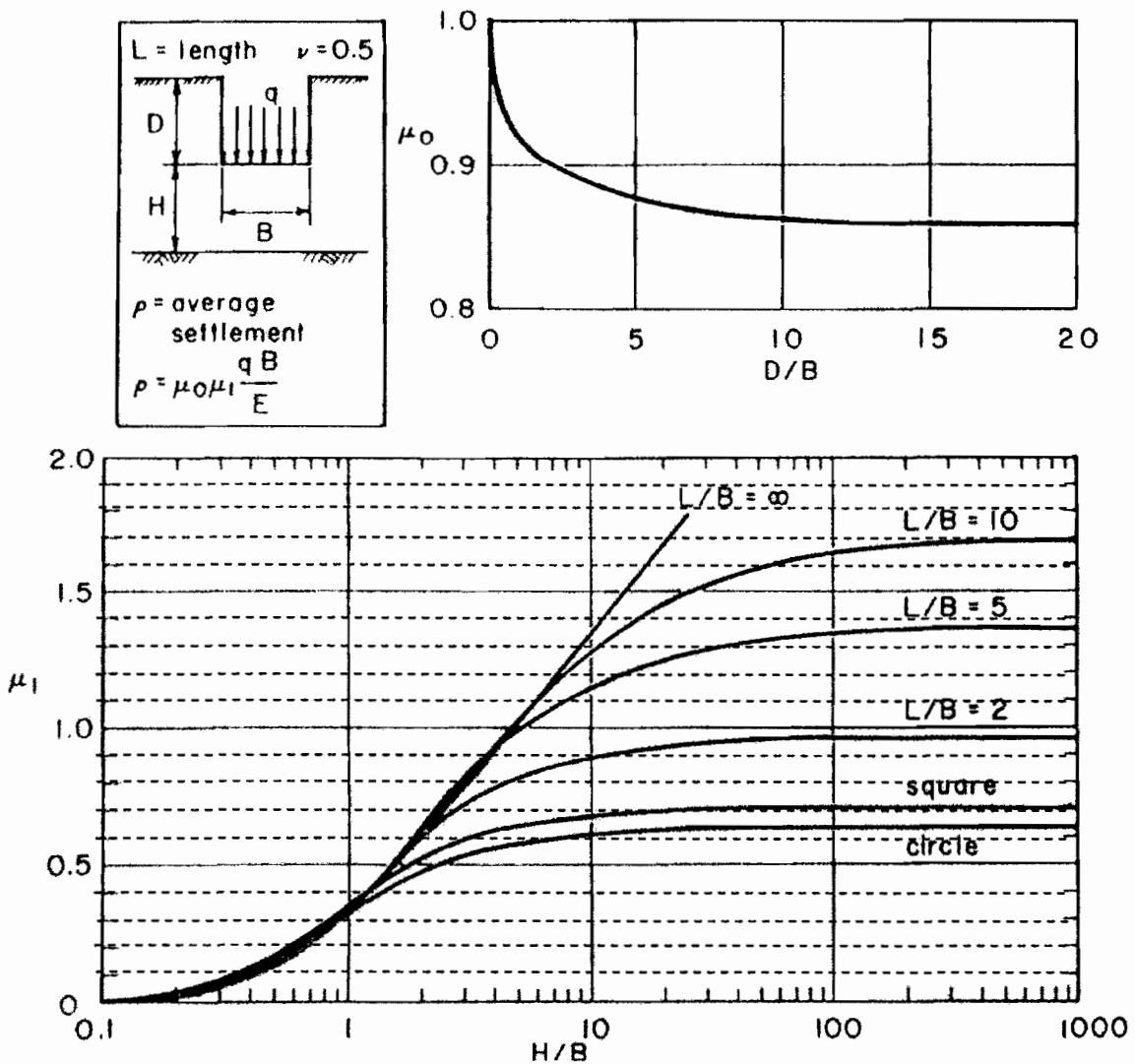
#### Elastic layer of finite thickness

The mean settlement of a uniformly loaded foundation embedded in an elastic layer of finite thickness can be found using the charts below, for  $\nu \sim 0.5$ .

$$W_{avg} = \mu_0 \mu_1 \frac{qB}{E}$$

$$E = 2G(1 + \nu)$$

The influence factor  $\mu_1$  accounts for the finite layer thickness. The influence factor  $\mu_0$  accounts for the embedded depth.



Average immediate settlement of a uniformly loaded finite thickness layer

## Section 4: Bearing capacity of deep foundations

### 4.1 Axial capacity: API (2000) design method for driven piles

#### Sand

**Unit shaft resistance:**  $\tau_{sf} = \sigma'_{hf} \tan \delta = K \sigma'_{vo} \tan \delta \leq \tau_{s,lim}$

Closed-ended piles:  $K = 1$

Open-ended piles:  $K = 0.8$

**Unit base resistance:**  $q_b = N_q \sigma'_{vo} < q_{b,limit}$

Soil category	Soil density	Soil type	Soil-pile friction angle, $\delta$ (°)	Limiting value $\tau_{s,lim}$ (kPa)	Bearing capacity factor, $N_q$	Limiting value, $q_{b,lim}$ (MPa)
1	Very loose Loose Medium	Sand Sand-silt Silt	15	50	8	1.9
2	Loose Medium Dense	Sand Sand-silt Silt	20	75	12	2.9
3	Medium Dense	Sand Sand-silt	25	85	20	4.8
4	Dense Very dense	Sand Sand-silt	30	100	40	9.6
5	Dense Very dense	Gravel Sand	35	115	50	12

API (2000) recommendations for driven pile capacity in sand

#### Clay

American Petroleum Institute (API) (2000) guidelines for driven piles in clay.

**Unit shaft resistance:**  $\alpha = \frac{\tau_s}{s_u} = 0.5 \cdot \text{Max} \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma'_{vo}}{s_u} \right)^{0.5}, \left( \frac{\sigma'_{vo}}{s_u} \right)^{0.25} \right]$

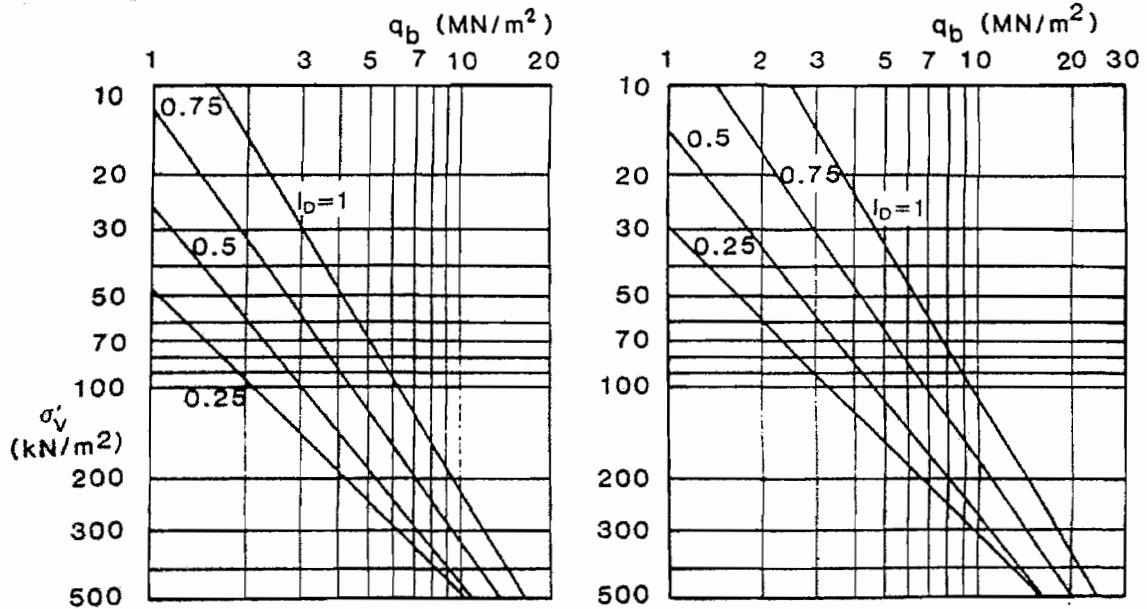
It is assumed that equal shaft resistance acts inside and outside open-ended piles.

**Unit base resistance:**  $q_b = N_c s_u$        $N_c = 9.$



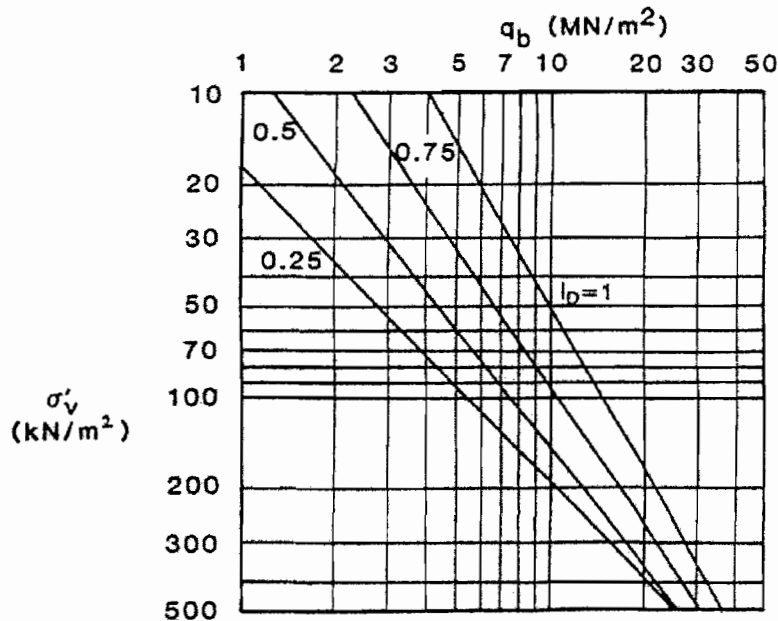
## 4.2 Axial capacity: base resistance in sand using Bolton's stress dilatancy

Unit base resistance,  $q_b$ , is expressed as a function of relative density,  $I_D$ , constant volume (critical state) friction angle,  $\phi_{cv}$ , and in situ vertical effective stress,  $\sigma'_v$ .



(a)  $\phi_{cv} = 27^\circ$

(b)  $\phi_{cv} = 30^\circ$



(c)  $\phi_{cv} = 33^\circ$

Design charts for base resistance in sand  
(Randolph 1985, Fleming et al 1992)

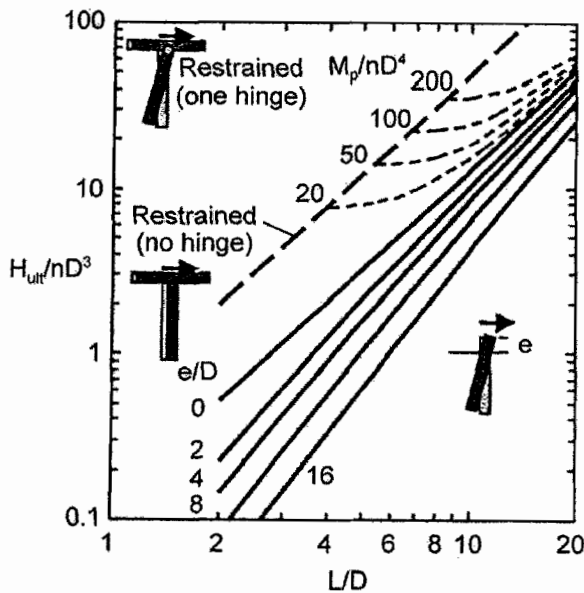
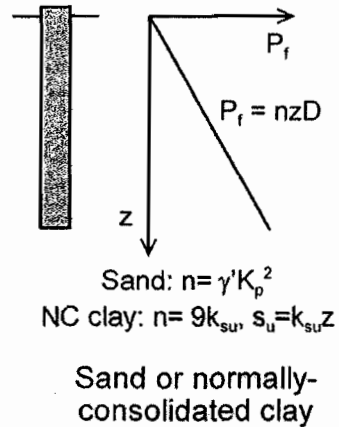
### 4.3 Lateral capacity: linearly increasing lateral resistance with depth

Lateral soil resistance (force per unit length),  $P_u = nzD$

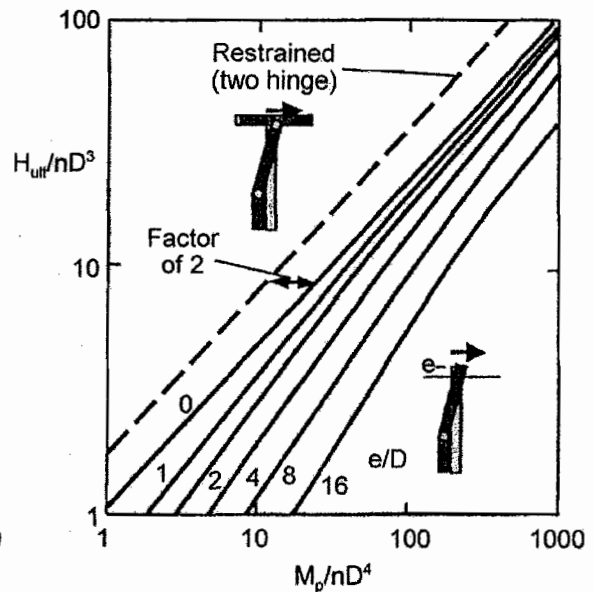
In sand,  $n = \gamma'K_p^2$

In normally consolidated clay with strength gradient  $k$ ;  $s_u = kz$ ;  $n=9k$

- $H_{ult}$  ultimate horizontal load on pile
- $M_p$  plastic moment capacity of pile
- $D$  pile diameter
- $L$  pile length
- $e$  load level above pile head  
( $=M/H$  for H-M pile head loading)
- $\gamma'$  effective unit weight
- $K_p$  passive earth pressure coefficient,  
 $K_p = (1 + \sin \phi)/(1 - \sin \phi)$



Short pile failure mechanism



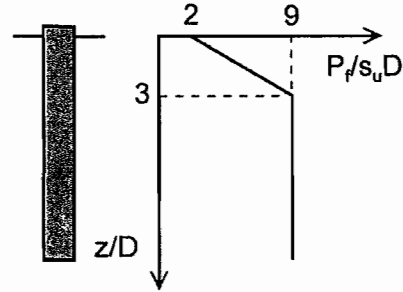
Long pile failure mechanism

Lateral pile capacity  
(linearly increasing lateral resistance with depth)

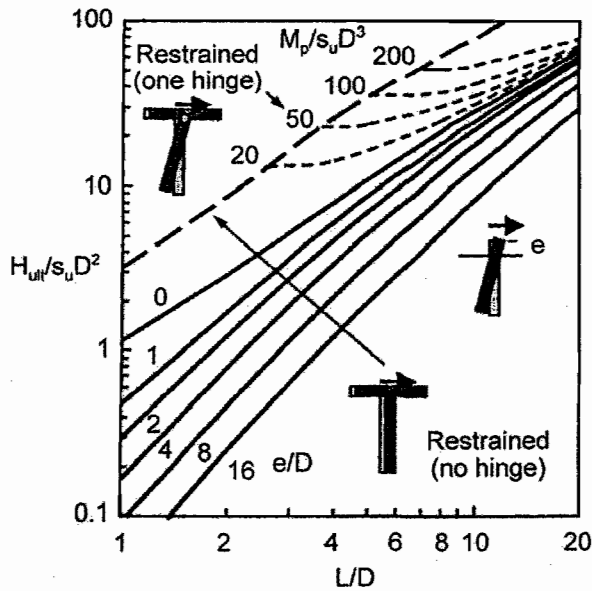
#### 4.4 Lateral capacity: uniform clay

Lateral soil resistance (force per unit length),  $P_u$ , increases from  $2s_uD$  at surface to  $9s_uD$  at  $3D$  depth then remains constant.

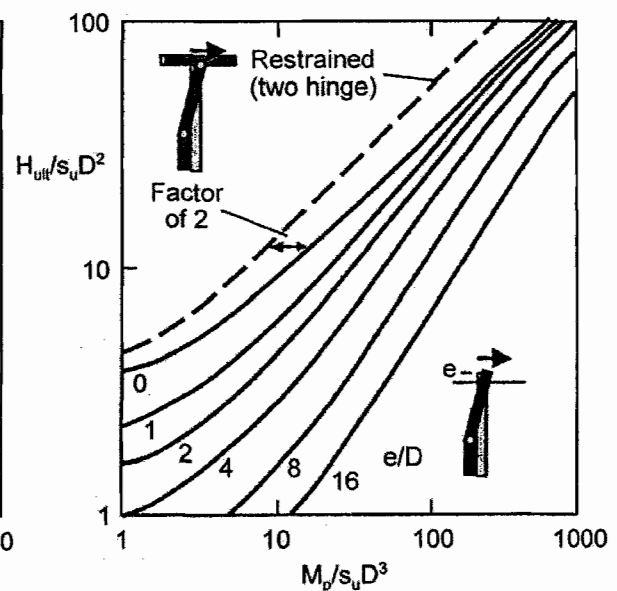
$H_{ult}$  ultimate horizontal load on pile  
 $M_p$  plastic moment capacity of pile  
 $D$  pile diameter  
 $L$  pile length  
 $e$  load level above pile head  
 (=  $M/H$  for H-M pile head loading)  
 $s_u$  undrained shear strength



Uniform clay



Short pile failure mechanism



Long pile failure mechanism

Lateral pile capacity  
 (uniform clay lateral resistance profile)

## Section 5: Settlement of deep foundations

### 5.1 Settlement of a rigid pile

Shaft response:

Equilibrium:

$$\tau = \tau_s \frac{R}{r}$$

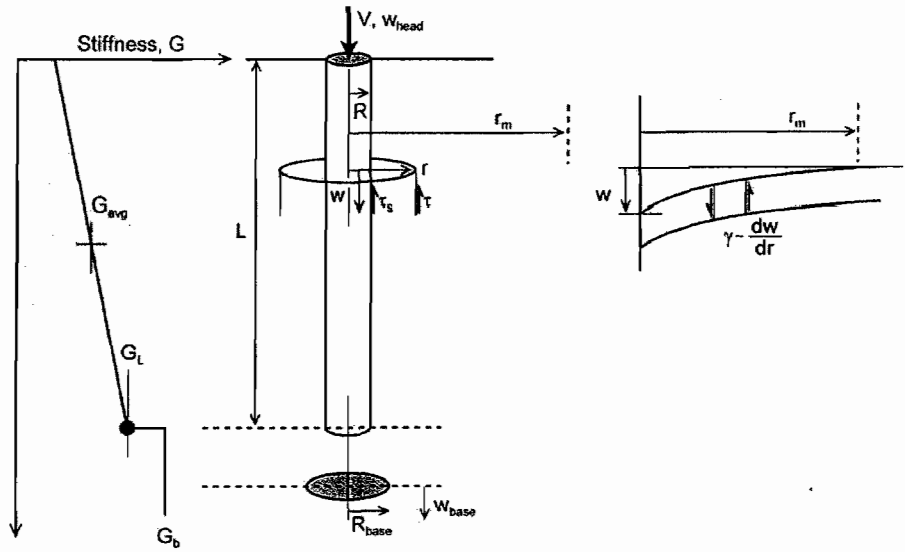
Compatibility:

$$\gamma \approx \frac{dw}{dr}$$

Elasticity:

$$\frac{\tau}{\gamma} = G$$

Integrate to magical radius,  $r_m$ , for shaft stiffness,  $\tau_s/w$ .



Nomenclature for settlement analysis of single piles

Combined response of base (rigid punch) and shaft:

$$\frac{V}{w_{head}} = \frac{Q_b}{w_{base}} + \frac{Q_s}{w}$$

$$\frac{V}{w_{head}} = \frac{4R_{base} G_{base}}{1-\nu} + \frac{2\pi L G_{avg}}{\zeta}$$

$$\frac{V}{w_{head} D G_L} = \frac{2}{1-\nu} \frac{G_{base}}{G_L} \frac{D_{base}}{D} + \frac{2\pi}{\zeta} \frac{G_{avg}}{G_L} \frac{L}{D}$$

$$\frac{V}{w_{head} D G_L} = \frac{2}{1-\nu} \frac{\eta}{\xi} + \frac{2\pi}{\zeta} \rho \frac{L}{D}$$

These expressions are simplified using dimensionless variables:

Base enlargement ratio, eta  $\eta = R_{base}/R = D_{base}/D$  Slenderness ratio  $L/D$

Stiffness gradient ratio, rho  $\rho = G_{avg}/G_L$  Base stiffness ratio, xi  $\xi = G_L/G_{base}$

It is often assumed that the dimensionless zone of influence,  $\zeta = \ln(r_m/R) = 4$ .

More precise relationships, checked against numerical analysis are:

$$\zeta = \ln \left\{ \left[ 0.5 + (5\rho(1-\nu) - 0.5)\xi \right] \frac{L}{D} \right\}$$

$$\text{for } \xi=1: \quad \zeta = \ln \left\{ 5\rho(1-\nu) \frac{L}{D} \right\}$$

### 5.2 Settlement of a compressible pile

$$\frac{V}{w_{head} D G_L} = \frac{\frac{2\eta}{(1-\nu)\xi} + \rho \frac{2\pi \tanh \mu L}{\zeta} \frac{L}{\mu L} \frac{L}{D}}{1 + \frac{1}{\pi \lambda (1-\nu)\xi} \frac{L}{\mu L} \frac{L}{D}}$$

$$\text{where } \mu = \frac{\sqrt{8/\zeta \lambda}}{D}$$

Pile compressibility

$$\lambda = E_p/G_L$$

Pile-soil stiffness ratio