Εθνικό Μετσόβιο Πολυτεχνείο



GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING IN THE DESIGN OF STRUCTURES:

Retaining walls

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1. CONVENTIONAL HEAVY WALLS

Such walls have an enlarged foundation and they are supported by the large shear stresses developed at the interface between the soil and the foundation due to their large weight.

- mass concrete or stone walls
- □ reinforced concrete
- hollow walls partly filled with gravels

2. THIN WALLS embedded in soil supported by the passive resistance of the soil below excavation level.
a diaphragm wall (e.g. secant pile or contiguous bored pile wall)
a driven sheet pile wall



SLIDING
 OVERTURNING



S=Wtanφ

STRUCTURAL FORMS OF RETAINING WALLS



The deflections a sheet pile/diaphragm wall may accommodate without overstress are much larger than for a reinforced concrete wall resulting to greater degree of wall soil interaction

POTENTIAL COLLAPSE CONDITIONS of THIN WALLS



- □ 1. excessive movement
- □ 2, 3, 5. forward rotation (cantilever)

□ 4, 7. rotation failure of the mass of soil in which the structure is embedded (deep seated slip)

- □ 8. brittle failure of prop or limited prop yield
- □ 9. failure of the wall in bending

DESIGN STEPS

- define soil parameters (γ,c,φ), pore water pressure distribution, friction angle at wall-soil interface, δ.
 choose wall type (reinforced concrete, earth, hollow etc.)
 choose foundation level (remove surface material)
 calculate forces and bending moments in the wall
- □ check factor of safety against sliding, overturning, bearing capacity failure, $q_{ult}=f(N_c, N_{\gamma}, N_{q})$
- check settlements



mass concrete wall



by preliminary design – concrete wall

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reinforced concrete wall with footing



RETAINING WALLS





encased gravels (συρματοκιβώτιο ή ζαρζανέτι)



♥ wall rotated towards soil mass by 1/10 or 1/6 or 1/4 for wall heights of about 3m

Limiting horizontal stress conditions



DESIGN EARTH PRESSURES

- Wall friction and adhesion: the values of δ/ϕ' and c_w/c' mobilised are a function of the roughness of the interface and the relevant stress field.
- Effective stress design: the maximum effective wall friction for **active zone** $\delta = 2/3\varphi'$, **passive zone** $\delta = 1/2\varphi'$, a maximum wall adhesion $c_w = 0.5c'$
- horizontal effective earth pressures resulting from soil weight: $p'_a = K_{ac}(\gamma z - u) - 2\sqrt{K_{ac}c'}$ and $p'_p = K_{pc}(\gamma z - u) + 2\sqrt{K_{pc}c'}$, where Kac, Kpc active and passive pressure coefficients [Caquot & Kerisel (logarithmic spiral), etc] for a horizontal surface to the retained material and various δ/ϕ' values
- Pa'=-2c'√K_{ac} at h=0 negative active pressure; tension cracks develop in a zone of h_{crit}=2c'/γ'√K_{ac} The negative pressure is balanced by the same positive pressure over the same depth below. Hence the resultant active pressure is zero at H_c=2h_{crit}. For undrained conditions H_c=4Su/γ. Use of c'>5kN/m² in the retained soil results in a significant depth of theoretical negative active effective pressure.
- 1. reduce c' towards the surface to avoid this (realistic due to weathering)
- 2. assume that effective pressure on the wall at any depth should not be less than 5*z kN/m²

DESIGN WATER PRESSURE



EARTH PRESSURES – WALL FLEXIBILITY AND LOAD REDISTRIBUTION



(1) embedded cantilever wall, triangular earth pressure distribution $E_{\alpha}=0.5*\gamma*k_{\alpha}*h^2-2c*\sqrt{k_{\alpha}*h}+p*k_{\alpha}*h$ (2), (3) single prop, wall deforms in the middle (4) multi propped wall, horizontal displacement

Influence of wall flexibility on pressure distribution

Simplified active earth pressure distribution for a sheet pile wall



Supports move active earth pressure distribution diagram upwards

Influence of wall flexibility on pressure distribution FREE-EARTH AND FIXED-EARTH CONDITIONS

Free earth support conditions- Propped wall



Fixed earth support conditions- Propped wall



 not sufficient embedment to prevent movement of the toe of the wall

• wall in equilibrium with idealized pressure distribution shown

• increased embedment, below point C rotation of the toe of the wall becomes negligible

• a fixing moment is provided by the large reaction at the back of the wall close to its toe

deflected shape earth pressure distribution

Overall stability checks in terms of rotation about the prop only applicable to free-earth conditions. No failure mechanism relevant to fixed-earth. Reduction of design bending moment, deeper embedment though.

FREE-EARTH AND FIXED-EARTH WALLS -LIMITING CONDITION (on the point of collapse)

- for a **propped** wall, the failure mechanism considered in overall stability calculations is rotation about the position of the prop, assuming free-earth support conditions
- depth of embedment determined by taking moments about the position of the prop

Fixed earth support conditions- cantilever wall



- for **cantilever** wall the theoretical pressure distribution is of the fixed-earth form
- at point of rotation full passive pressure at the front of the wall and full passive pressure behind the wall is assumed
- equating horizontal forces and taking moments about C defines t and z (2 equations, 2 unknowns)
- simplification: take moments about C to define do

SIMPLIFIED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION AT LIMITING CONDITION

(1).embedded cantilever wall(2).

propped free-earth support (3).

propped fixed-earth support (4).

multi propped free-earth support (5).

multi propped fixed-earth support



SHEET PILES

Removable thick sheets driven by crane mounted pile drivers



REQUIREMENT: soil strength allows driving process



via hydraulic pressure or blows

water tight sheet pile walls



metal profiles interfacing to seal against water



profiles can be reused



applications to narrow lanes, close to houses, sewage works

Such walls installed from ground surface are suitable next to existing structures

- -the diaphragm wall technique ensures small displacements and settlement
- 1. Secant piles or contiguous piles are formed in boreholes secant pile wall: intersecting piles contiguous pile wall: small gaps between adjacent piles
- 2. The boreholes are cased or filled with liquid (bentonite) before being filled with concrete to avoid soil disturbance
- 3. Diaphragm walls contrary to driven sheet pile walls have greater stiffness and bending moments

Types of Diaphragm walls









- Conctere piles formed first
- Reiforced concrete piles follow

Diaphragm wall construction



Diaphragm wall construction



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Diaphragm wall line of construction



MULTI-PROPPED RETAINING WALLS













Underground station construction







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v.

Soil heaving







The behaviour of the wall is dependent on the interaction of soil and wall

- Limit equilibrium methods e.g. Weissenbach, Brom, Blum
- Elastic methods e.g. Sherif, Wemer
- Soil yielding along the wall depth does not simulate working conditions (displacements?)
- Elastic solution under working conditions provides a good simulation of the earth pressure coefficients

Passive pressure distribution with wall movement

- Rotation about the <u>toe</u> of the wall mobilizes the peak stress ratio near the top. With further rotation the soil near the top deforms past peak, while material lower down mobilises peak strength.
- Rotation about the top of the wall causes the shear to be concentrated in a band simulating wedge sliding.
- Wall translation resembles the linear pressure distribution developed by Rankine.



Active pressure distribution with wall movement

- Rotation about the <u>toe</u> of the wall mobilizes the peak stress ratio near the top. At large deformations earth pressure approaches a straight line distribution (Ka or Kp in previous slide)
- Rotation about the top of the wall mobilises active stresses near the bottom of the wall.
- Wall translation resembles the linear pressure distribution developed by Rankine.



LIMIT STATE DESIGN

- SERVICABILITY LIMIT STATE DESIGN: ensure a specified threshold deformation is not exceeded and stresses applied to the construction materials will not affect their durability
- ULTIMATE LIMIT STATE DESIGN: factors of safety so that probability of collapse of the structure acceptably small.



DEPTH OF EMBEDMENT (1/3)







FIXED-EARTH CANTILEVER WALL (H<3M)

- Point of zero rotation around toe
- Moments about toe for depth of embedment, do, calculation, increase do by a small amount (up to 20%)

DEPTH OF EMBEDMENT(2/3)



SINGLE PROP FREE-EARTH WALL

For depth of embedment (t) calculation take moments about prop. Equating horizontal forces will define prop force

Eph

DEPTH OF EMBEDMENT(3/3)



SINGLE PROPPED FIXED-EARTH WALL

- Point of zero rotation around toe
- Above point of zero moment active and passive stresses have been fully developed.
- Under this point passive stresses develop behind the wall and active in front of the wall.
- Depth of embedment is calculated for a beam supported at prop and point of zero rotation and increased by 20% (as for the cantilever).

Eph

MULTI PROPPED FREE- OR FIXED-EARTH SUPPORT





Earth pressure distribution (Peck's diagrams)

→ separate beams. From lowest prop downwards previous wall case.

➔ continuous beam supported by the props and an extra support below level of excavation at the point where active pressures are zero, solution according to Cross, Kany, etc



Various methods require:
i> passive soil pressure is factored
i> soil strength parameters are factored

providing safety against uncertainties e.g. hydraulic fracture, construction defects, variability of soil strata

After the application of factors of safety the depth of embedment is calculated to provide safety against failure

FACTORS OF SAFETY (1/4)

\boxtimes factor of safety on moments: F_p=1.5-2

Moments due to passive pressures Moments due to active +net water pressures



The depth of embedment is calculated, when moments are taken about the prop such that Fp=restoring moments/ overturning moments

$$P_a * L_a \leq \frac{1}{F_p} * (P_p * L_p)$$

F



\boxtimes factor of safety on moments: F_{np} =1.5-2



FACTORS OF SAFETY (3/4)

\boxtimes factor of safety on moments: \mathbf{F}_{r}

Net passive pressures

Net active pressures+ Net water pressures



F,=

FACTOR OF SAFETY (F_r)



$$F_{r} = \frac{P_{PN1} * L_{PN1} + P_{PN2} * L_{PN2}}{P_{A1} * L_{A1} + P_{A2} * L_{A2} + P_{A3} * L_{A3}}$$

Arr arth pressures for the calculation of Fr for uniformly distributed load

FACTORS OF SAFETY(4/4)

\boxtimes Factor of safety on shear strength: F_s

^L The depth of embedment is found such that the moment about the prop is zero for the same pressure diagram as in (1/4) $P_p * L_p - P_a * P_a = 0$ except that the soil pressures are derived from factored soil strength parameters. This results in an enhanced active and a reduced passive pressure

soil strength parameters



Requirements of various methods on:

 \boxtimes strength parameters (F_s)

➢ resisting moments (F_r, F_p, F_{pn})

CIRIA,
CP2,
British Steel Handbook,
Rowe method,
Burland-Potts method,
Danish Standards.

Propped free-earth wall:

Depth of embedment

☆ factor on moments F_r=2 or F_p=2
 ☆ calculation of bending moment and forces at limiting equilibrium

ightarrow increase prop force by 25%

Propped free- or fixed earth support:

Depth of embedment free-earth support

f→ **F**_D=2 \cancel{a} bending moments and forces at working conditions

 $f^{>}$ factor of safety on moments F_{p}

 \cancel{r} reduce bending moment by 25%

 \cancel{a} increase propped force by 15%

Kp

Ka

Kp

Ka

⊠Propped free-earth support wall

Depth of embedment

☆ F_{np}=2
 ☆ bending moments and forces at limiting equilibrium

reduce bending moment up to 25% depending on the shape of the wall
 unfactored propped force



earth pressure coefficients Coulomb

- $\not area active pressures \delta = 2/3^* \phi$
- $\not ratio passive pressures \delta=0$
- \cancel{P} working conditions_, F_p=1.5
- reduce bending moment
- increase prop force



⊠ Hansen method, empirical

parabolic active pressures



 assume depth of embedment
 Force equilibrium yields reaction at B (active force+prop force)=passive force

 \square increase embedment by $\sqrt{2}$

 \square active δ=0, passive pressures δ=1/2*φ

wall forces and moments: elastic beam supported at B & A and loaded with the active pressure distribution diagram

DESIGN METHODS vs SITE MEASUREMENTS

- Usually measured moments smaller, and propped forces larger than values predicted from design methods
- Limit equilibrium methods calculate forces and moments with or without factors of safety
- Under working conditions earth pressures are neither at limit equilibrium nor similar to the predicted values by various methods. None of the methods simulates the construction sequence e.g. pre stress the prop

FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSES

- Simulate soil behaviour (stress-strain relationship),
- soil structure interaction,
- stages of construction,
- initial soil behaviour, before commencement of construction activities.
 - ≫2*D rectangular elements represent the soil and 1*D the thin wall. Excavation is simulated by removing elements

Numerical simulation of soil, wall and struts



- Same displacements
- Interface with friction and cohesion
- Same displacements and rotation
- Only horizontal movement allowed ⁵
- Only vertical movement allowed

FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS



Yielded elements (x) according to the Mohr-Coulomb criterion

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Shear stress distribution



Zones of highest shear stresses





British Standards, CIRIA 104, EuroCode 7

earth pressures as built

Earth pressures with factors of safety, depending on the method. Unsafe design (inadequate embedment) or safe design (adequate depth of embedment)

Used for the calculation of bending moments and forces in the wall

earth pressures at minimum safe embedment

reduction of embedment until factored earth pressures (restoring and overturning) at equilibrium

earth pressures with maximum safety factors

increase of factors of safety to achieve equilibrium between earth pressures for given embedment

• earth pressures at failure

reduction of depth of wall to achieve equilibrium of earth pressures when factors of safety are equal to one

Calculations using ReWaRD



cantilever wallfixed earth support

single- propped wallfree earth support

Calculations using ReWaRD



multi-propped wall

LIMIT STATE CONDITIONS

- ULTIMATE LIMIT STATE DESIGN: factors of safety so that probability of collapse of the structure acceptably small. Stability assessed using deformation (FEM techniques) or limit equilibrium analysis (determination of disrupting and resisting forces about a potential failure surface as in slope stability)
- In ultimate limit state (ULS) design the objective is to check that the probability of collapse of the structure is acceptable

OVERALL STABILITY-MASS CONCRETE WALL

- check bearing capacity of the foundation is adequate to support the weight of the wall, and for stability against sliding due to any applied shear forces on the back and front faces.
- check forces and bending moments in the wall.
- check for rotation failure of the mass of soil including the wall (deep seated slip)
- check for settlements of wall and the soil it supports.
- check for failure due to *weathering*, *hydraulic fracture* at the toe of the wall and check for *seismic risk*.

LIMIT STATE CONDITIONS

ULTIMATE LIMIT STATE DESIGN: factors of safety so that probability of collapse of the structure acceptably small. Stability assessed using deformation (FEM techniques) or limit equilibrium analysis (determination of disrupting and resisting forces about a potential failure surface as in slope stability)

SERVICABILITY LIMIT STATE DESIGN: ensure

- a specified threshold deformation is not exceeded
- stresses applied to the construction materials will not affect their durability

EURO CODE 7-PARTIAL FACTORS

- 1: ACTIONS: design actions are obtained from characteristic actions by multiplying by the appropriate factor
- 2: MATERIAL PROPERTIES: design material properties obtained by dividing by the appropriate partial factor
- 3: GEOMETRIC PROPERTIES: the design height obtained by adding an appropriate safety margin

In Eurocode 7 pressures arising from weight of soil and water pressures are regarded as unfavourable permanent

In Eurocode 7 pressures from surcharges are regarded as permanent, variable (1.5, 1.5, 1.3) or accidental (1, 1, 1) according to the flags set for each individual surcharge

Cases A, B, C; limit equilibrium design

- A: Failure of the structure or the soil. Stresses in soil and the structure do not contribute significantly to resistance to failure
- B: Internal failure or excessive deformation of the structure. Structural forces contribute significantly to resistance to failure
- C: Soil failure or excessive deformations in soil. Soil resistance contributes significantly to resistance to failure
| CIRIA 104 | | A. Moderately Conservative (Permanent works) | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| Gross pressure method | | $F_p=1.2-2.0$ for $\varphi'=20-30^{\circ}$ | | | |
| Nett pressure method | | F _r =1.5-2.0 | | | |
| Strength factor method | | $F_s=1.2 \phi'>30^{\circ} \text{ else } F_s=1.5$ | | | |
| Action | | | | | |
| DESIGN STANDARD | | Unfav. (permanent) | | Fav. (permanent) | |
| BS 8002 | | 1.0 | | | |
| EUROCODE 7 | A-B-C | 1.0-1.35-1 | | 0.95-1-1 | |
| | Serviceability | 1.0 | | 1. | 0 |
| Material Properties | | | | | |
| DESIGN STANDARD | | γ_{ϕ} | | γ_{c} | γ_{cu} |
| BS 8002 | | 1.2 | | 1.5 | |
| EUROCODE 7 | A-B-C | 1.1-1-1.25 | 1.3-1-1.6 | | 1.2-1-1.4 |
| | Serviceability | 1.0 | | | |
| Geometric Properties | | | | | |
| DESIGN STANDARD | | Unplanned Excavation ($\Delta_{\rm H}$) | | | |
| BS 8002 | | 10% of the clear height/minimum of 0.5 m | | | |
| EUROCODE 7 | A-B-C | 10% of the clear height/maximum of 0.5 m | | | |
| | Serviceability | None | | | |



■ UPL: failure due to excess pore water pressures

- HYD: hydraulic fracturing, weathering due to hydraulic gradients
- SERVICEABILITY LIMIT CONDITION: strains and stresses according to cases A, B, C; factors of safety equal to <u>unity</u>

SEISMIC DESIGN OF RETAINING WALLS MONONOBE-OKABE METHOD







Ch11_Steven L. Kramer - Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering (1996, Prentice Hall)

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1. HYDRODYNAMIC WATER PRESSURE 2. WESTERGAARD'S EQUATION (1933)-*wall within water*





wall retaining saturated soil

$$\pm P_w = \frac{7}{8} C_e k_h \gamma_w H^2$$

$$C_e = 0.5 - 0.5tanh * \log \frac{2\pi n \gamma_w H^2}{7E_w kT}$$

n=porocity E_w=2x10⁶ kPa (water compressibility) K=soil permeability T=fundamental period of vibration Ce>0.8 for coarse sand and gravel the point of application of the *hydrodynamic* water *pressure* lies at a depth below the top of the saturated layer equal to 60% of the height of such layer.