

ESTIMATION OF THE STABILITY OF EMBANKMENT SLOPES USING FIELD MONITORING DATA

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree Master of
Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

January 2016

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISOR

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ABSTRACT

Estimation of the Stability of Embankment Slopes Using Field Monitoring Data

In Sri Lanka lands underlain by soft, weak and problematic soil are being use for various constructions due to rapid development and the lack of suitable lands. Construction of an embankment over soft soil is challenging due to its low shear strength and high compressibility nature. As a result of that embankment can be subjected to a shear failure or excessive settlement. Assessment of the stability of the embankment is vital to ensure a safe embankment and stability can be evaluated by using available analytical methods or field monitoring data. Use of field monitoring data to evaluate the stability is easy and more practicable. In Sri Lanka Matsuo chart which is based on the field monitoring data was used for the prediction of stability of the embankments in the Colombo Katunayaka highway project. However applicability of Matsuo chart for various embankment conditions is still questionable. This study was carried out to investigate the applicability of Matsuo chart for various embankment conditions using advanced numerical tools. Two test embankments published in the literature and three embankments, which belong to the Colombo - Katunayaka expressway were analyzed by using Finite Element Method, Limit Equilibrium Method and Matsuo chart and compared with the field data. Further, the effect of embankment width, height and the subsoil parameters on the prediction of stability using Matsuo method was investigated. Research finding verify that the Finite Element Method, Limit Equilibrium Method and Matsuo chart can predict the stability of the embankment accurately and Finite Element Method can be used to predict the deformation characteristics. Stability of the embankment is directly proportional to the un-drained shear strength of the sub soil and Factor of Safety values decrease with the increase of the embankment height. However it was found that the embankment width has little influence on the factor of safety.

Key words: embankment, Matsuo chart, finite element method, limit equilibrium method, soft soil

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost I would like to express my sincere and intense gratitude to my supervisor **Dr. L.I.N. De Silva**, Senior Lecture , Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, for his continuous encourage, perfect guidance, friendly cooperation throughout my research.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof U.G.A. Puswewala, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Prof S.A.S. Kulathilaka, Head of the Geo-technical Engineering division of Civil Engineering Department, Prof H.S. Thilakasiri, Senior Lecture at the Department of Civil Engineering, Dr.U.P. Nawagamuwa, Course Co-ordinator of M.Eng./P.G. Diploma in Foundation Engineering and Earth Retaining Systems and Senior Lecture at the Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. A.M.K.B. Abeysinghe, Head, Department of Earth Resources Engineering and Dr.(Mrs) S.Karunaratna, Senior Lecture at the Department of Earth Resources Engineering for their invaluable guidance and for all non-academic members in the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa for their support throughout the course.



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My special thank go to Eng. W.S.N.M.Weddikkarage for his sincere support in providing data relevant to the Colombo Katunayaka Expressway.

Last but not least, my thanks go to my mother, father and sister for their invaluable support throughout my life.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISOR	i
ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction to Research	1
1.2 Objectives	3
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
CHAPTER 3 EVALUATION OF THE STABILITY OF SLOPES	24
3.1 Embankment failure	24
3.1.1 Modes of the failure of the embankment on soft soil	25
3.1.2 Settlement of Embankment and Foundation Soil	27
3.2 Factor of safety (FOS)	29
3.3 Slope Stability Analysis	30
3.3.1 Limit equilibrium method	31
3.3.2 Finite element method	35
3.3.3 Slope stability analysis using field monitoring data	44
CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY	47
4.1 Analysis of the behavior of embankments published in the literature	48

4.1.1	Aiko embankment	48
4.1.2	Muar test embankment	49
4.2	Analysis of actual embankments	53
4.2.1	Finite element modeling	53
4.2.2	Limit equilibrium modeling	53
4.2.3	Analysis of the embankments using Matsuo Chart	59
4.3	Effect of Embankment Height, Width and Sub Soil Parameters on the Stability of the embankment	59
4.3.1	Finite element modeling	60
4.3.2	Limit equilibrium modeling	60
4.3.3	Analysis of the embankments using Matsuo Chart	61
CHAPTER 5	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	62
5.1	Results of the Aiko test embankment	62
5.2	Results of the Muar Test Embankment	65
5.2.1	Finite element analysis	65
5.2.2	Limit equilibrium analysis	69
5.3	Results of the CKE embankments	70
5.4	Effect of Embankment Height, Width and Sub Soil Parameters on the Stability using field observation data	74
5.4.1	Variation of the FOS values with the sub soil parameters	74
5.4.2	Variation of the FOS values with the embankment height	76
5.4.3	Variation of the FOS values with the embankment width	79
CHAPTER 6	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	83
REFERENCES		85
Appendix – A		89
Appendix – B		90
Appendix – C		91

Appendix – D

92

Appendix – E

93



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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Sub soil profile of the Muar plain	4
Figure 2.2 : Cross section of the Muar embankment with monitoring equipment	6
Figure 2.3: surface settlement for various fill heights	7
Figure 2.4: Variation of lateral displacement	7
Figure 2.5: Maximum incremental development at failure	8
Figure 2.6 : Geometry model of the embankment using PLAXIS	10
Figure 2.7: Geometry of the slope model	12
Figure 2.8: Geometry of slope and slip surfaces for example 1	13
Figure 2.9 : Geometry of slope and slip surfaces for example 2	13
Figure 2.10: slope geometry of the un-drained clay slope	15
Figure 2.11: Comparison of the FEM and LEM for different values of $Cu2/Cu1$ and $Cu1/\gamma H = 0.15, 0.2, 0.25$	15
Figure 2.12: Slip surface comparison with increasing friction angle $c'=2kPa$; (a) $\Phi=5^\circ$ (b) $\Phi=45^\circ$	16
Figure 2.13: FS for embankment of height 25 m, friction angle $\phi = 20^\circ$, cohesion $c = 30 kPa$ for several sloping angles with FEM and LEM.	19
Figure 2.14: FOS for embankment (height 25 m) consisting of two geological units for several sloping angles with FEM and LEM.	20
Figure 2.15: Slope with a weak layer	21
Figure 2.16: FOS values for a 1.0 m and 5.0m thick weak layer.	21
Figure 3.1: Aspect ratio of failure mass	24
Figure 3.2 : Rotational slip failure	25
Figure 3.3 : Lateral spreading	26
Figure 3.4: settlement of sub soil foundation due to construction traffic for various embankment heights	29
Figure 3.5: Factor of safety variation with time for embankment on soft clay	30
Figure 3.6: Methods of stability analysis	31
Figure 3.7 : Effective stress paths followed in real soil and MC model	38

Figure 3.8 : comparison between soft soil model and soft soil creep model below the drained embankment	40
Figure 3.9: comparison between soft soil model and soft soil creep model below the un-drained embankment	41
Figure 3.10: comparison between soft soil model and soft soil creep model at different depths under the embankment.	41
Figure 3.11: Basic parameters used in the Matsuo chart	44
Figure 3.12: ($\delta / d - d$) diagram for prediction of failure	45
Figure 3.13: modified ($\delta / d - d$) diagram	46
Figure 4.1 : Flow chart of methodology	47
Figure 4.2: Sub surface profile of the Aiko test embankment	48
Figure 4.3 : Sub surface profile of the Muar test embankment	49
Figure 4.4 : Details of the K7+870 embankment	54
Figure 4.5 : Details of the K6+850 embankment	55
Figure 4.6 : Details of the K6+530 embankment	56
Figure 4.7 : Geometry of the hypothetical embankment	59
Figure 5.1 : Variation of lateral displacement with time - Muar embankment	65
Figure 5.2: Variation of vertical settlement with time - Muar embankment	66
Figure 5.3: Surface settlement profiles for 5m fill height	66
Figure 5.4 : variation of excess pore water pressure with time – Muar embankment	67
Figure 5.5: Predicted failure surface using FEM for Muar test embankment – Phase 2	68
Figure 5.6: Predicted failure surface using FEM for Muar test embankment – Phase 3	68
Figure 5.7: Actual failure surface of the Muar test embankment	69
Figure 5.8 : Predicted failure surface using LEM for Muar test embankment – phase 3	69
Figure 5.9 : Predicted failure surface using LEM for Muar test embankment – phase 2	70
Figure 5.10 : Variation of the FOS with un-drained shear strength (a) FEM; (b) Matsuo Chart; (c) LEM.	75

Figure 5.11 : Variation of the FOS with the embankment height / $C_u = 5$ (a) $B=3m$;
(b) $B=5m$; (c) $B=8m$ 76

Figure 5.12 : Variation of the FOS with the embankment height / $C_u = 15$ (a) $B=3m$;
(b) $B=5m$; (c) $B=8m$ 77

Figure 5.13: Variation of the FOS with the embankment height / $C_u = 25$ (a) $B=3m$;
(b) $B=5m$; (c) $B=8m$ 78

Figure 5.14: Variation of the FOS values with embankment width / $C_u = 5$ (a) $H=3m$;
(b) $H=4m$; (c) $H=5m$; (d) $H=6m$ 80

Figure 5.15 : Variation of the FOS values with embankment width / $C_u = 15$ (a)
 $H=3m$; (b) $H=4m$; (c) $H=5m$; (d) $H=6m$ 81

Figure 5.16 : Variation of the FOS values with embankment width / $C_u = 25$ (a)
 $H=3m$; (b) $H=4m$; (c) $H=5m$; (d) $H=6m$ 82



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LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: soil parameters for modified cam-clay model (CRISP)	5
Table 2.2 : soil parameters for hyperbolic stress-strain model (ISBILD)	5
Table 2.3 : Soil parameters for embankment surcharge	5
Table 2.4 : Material properties under the trial embankment	8
Table 2.5: Comparison between predicted and observed data	10
Table 2.6: Factor of safety values	11
Table 2.7: Factor of safety values using FEM and LEM	12
Table 2.8: soil properties used for the two examples	13
Table 2.9: Factor of safety values obtained different slope stability programs	14
Table 2.10: comparison between saturated and un-saturated slopes	14
Table 2.11: comparison of the FOS values obtained from the LEM and FEM (a) $Cu2/Cu1 = 1$ and (b) $Cu2/Cu1 = 1.5$	16
Table 2.12: Factor of safety values by LEM and SRM1, SRM1- dilation angle=0 and SRM2- dilation angle= friction angle	17
Table 2.13: comparison of the safety factor for different conditions	18
Table 3.1 : Limit equilibrium methods	34
Table 3.2 : Comparison of numerical and limit equilibrium analysis methods	43
Table 4.1: soil properties for soft soil model (Aiko embankment)	50
Table 4.2 : soil properties for soft soil creep model (Aiko embankment)	50
Table 4.3 : filling sequence of the Muar test embankment	51
Table 4.4 : Soil properties for Muar test embankment	52
Table 4.5: filling sequence of the K7+870	54
Table 4.6 : filling sequence of the K6 +850	55
Table 4.7: filling sequence of the K6+530	56
Table 4.8 : Soil properties of the K7+870	57
Table 4.9 : Soil properties of the K6+530	57

Table 4.10: Soil properties of the K6+850	58
Table 4.11 : variation of the embankment height (H), width (B) and the un-drained shear strength	60
Table 4.12 : Soil parameters of the hypothetical embankment	61
Table 5.1 : Lateral and vertical deformation values for the phase 1	62
Table 5.2 : Lateral and vertical deformation values for the phase 2	62
Table 5.3 : Calculated values for the Aiko embankment	63
Table 5.4: Factor of safety values for Aiko embankment	64
Table 5.5 : Variation of the fill thickness with time	65
Table 5.6: Comparison between the predicted values and observed values - Muar test embankment	67
Table 5.7 : Predicted and observed deformation values for CKE	71
Table 5.8 : Predicted FOS values for CKE	71
Table 5.9: Deformation values for new K7+870	72
Table 5.10: FOS values for new K7+870	72
Table 5.11: Soil properties of the new K7+870	73



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
CKE	Colombo Katunayaka Expressway
FEM	Finite Element Method
FOS	Factor of Safety
LEM	Limit Equilibrium Method
MC	Mohr-Coulomb
NC	Normally Consolidated
OC	Over Consolidated
SS	Soft Soil
SSC	Soft Soil Creep



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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix - A	Manual Calculation of the Aiko Embankment	89
Appendix - B	Failure Surfaces of the CKE Project	90
Appendix - C	Failure Surfaces of the Parametric Study	91
Appendix - D	Variation of the FOS values With the Embankment Height	92
Appendix - E	Variation of the FOS values With the Embankment Width	93



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