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# GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCED PILE SUPPORTED EMBANKMENTS

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(09/8919)

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of

Engineering

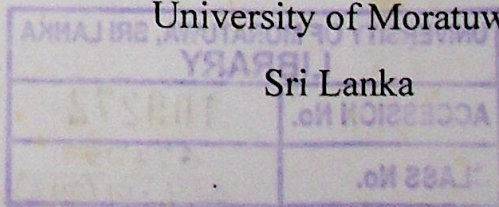
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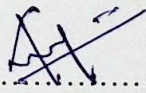
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**Declaration**

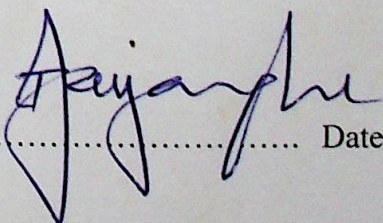
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## **Abstract of Thesis**

The design of embankments on weak foundation soils is a challenge to the geotechnical Engineer. There are several issues related to bearing capacity failures, intolerable settlements and slope instability that need to be addressed. The piled embankments with the inclusion of a geosynthetic layer have proved to be one of the economic and effective techniques to handle such problems.

The inclusion of the geosynthetic reinforcement eliminates the need for inclined piles used in conventional piled embankments for resisting large lateral pressures. The geosynthetic layer enhances the load transfer mechanism and considerably minimizes the differential and maximum settlements.

This study attempts to analyze the various methods available today for the design of these structures. A numerical study is carried out. The effects of certain factors like pile modulus, stiffness of the geosynthetic reinforcement, height of the embankment, effect of the soil layer directly below the geogrid which are not considered by other available methods are studied using a finite element program – Plaxis 2D.

The results from two design methods are evaluated and compared with the results from Plaxis. It is found that numerical analysis was able to address many factors that were neglected by all the other available methods. It was also found to be more reliable than currently used methods. The German Draft Standard (EBGEO) approaches the numerical Plaxis calculations better than British Standard 8006

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION.....	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
List of Figures .....	vi
List of Tables.....	ix
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background.....	1
1.2. Significance of research Work. ....	4
1.3. Aim of This M Eng Thesis. ....	4
1.4. Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.5. Methodology. ....	5
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1. Theory of Soil Arching.....	7
2.1.1. Stress Concentration Ratio .....	10
2.2. Design of Geosynthetic Reinforcement .....	11
2.2.1. Stress Reduction Factor.....	12
2.2.2. Tension in Reinforcement .....	14
2.2.3. Soil Resistance .....	16
2.2.4. Tension in Reinforcement due to Lateral Sliding .....	17
2.2.5. Limits of Strain in Reinforcement .....	18
2.3. Pile Design .....	18
2.3.1. Pile Group Extent .....	19
2.3.2. Pile Cap Punching Capacity.....	20
2.4. Lateral Movement of Embankment.....	20
2.5. Slope Stability .....	22
2.5.1. BS8006.....	22
2.5.2. Modified Boundary Element Method .....	23
2.6. Settlements .....	31
3. VALIDATION OF NUMERICAL ANALYSIS.....	33
3.1. Methods for estimation of Axial bearing capacity .....	33
3.2. Case Study.....	35
3.3. Numerical Analysis.....	37
3.4. Methods for estimation of tensile capacity of Geo Reinforcement.....	41
3.5. Validation.....	42

4.	THE BRITISH STANDARD & THE GERMAN STANDARD ( EBGEO).....	43
4.1.	BS 8006.....	43
4.2.	The load transferred directly to the pile cap ( $P'c$ : Marston).....	44
4.3.	German Draft Standard (EBGEO).....	46
4.4.	Conclusions.....	47
5.	MODELING IN PLAXIS .....	49
5.1.	PLAXIS.....	49
5.2.	Numerical Modeling of the Geosynthetic Reinforced Pile Supported Embankments.....	49
5.3.	The Purpose of this Study. ....	49
5.4.	Cases.....	49
5.4.1.	How to choose the cases.....	50
5.4.2.	Study.....	50
5.4.3.	Varieties Studies had to be carried out.....	50
5.5.	Axisymmetric Model.....	51
5.5.1.	Embankment Soil. ....	52
5.5.2.	Pile Concreting.....	53
5.5.3.	Foundation Soil .....	54
5.6.	Plain Strain Model.....	55
5.6.1.	Embankment Soil. ....	56
5.6.2.	Pile Concreting.....	56
5.6.3.	Foundation Soil .....	57
5.7.	Methodology .....	59
5.7.1.	The phases of construction.....	62
5.8.	Results and Comparison.....	62
6.	COMPARISON OF VARIOUS METHODS .....	63
6.1.	Introduction. ....	63
6.2.	Two Cases .....	63
6.2.1.	Calculations with EBGEO. ....	63
6.2.2.	Calculations with Plaxis.....	63
6.2.3.	Calculations with BS8006.....	64
6.2.4.	Case 1 Thin Embankment. ....	65
6.2.5.	Case2 Thick Embankment. ....	71
6.3.	Analysis.....	79
6.4.	Discussion. ....	81
7.	ANALYSIS OF OUTCOMES FROM PLAIN STRAIN METHOD .....	86
7.1.	Introduction. ....	86
7.2.	Output from Plain strain analysis .....	87
7.2.1.	Effect of Change of Pile sizes .....	87
7.2.2.	Effect of Change of Pile spacing .....	90
7.2.3.	Effect of Change of Traffic Load over the Embankment .....	93
7.2.4.	Effect of Change of Embankment Height .....	96
7.2.5.	Effect of Change of Spacing between Geo Reinforcement layers .....	99
7.3.	Discussion .....	102
8.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	106
8.1.	Conclusions .....	106
8.2.	Recommendations .....	107

9. APPENDIX 1.....	109
9.1. Calculation Example for BS8006 (Friction Pile and End Bearing Pile) and EBGEO.....	109
9.2. BS8006-Friction Pile (KLEEF).....	110
9.2.1. Specimen Calculation.....	110
9.3. BS8006-End Bearing (STUIT).....	114
9.3.1. Specimen Calculation.....	114
9.4. EBGEO Specimen Calculation .....	116
9.4.1. Specimen Calculation.....	116
9.5. PLAXIS 8.2.....	120
9.5.1. Specimen Calculation.....	120
10. APPENDIX 2 – STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF A PILE.....	121
10.1. Code Requirements .....	121
11. List of References.....	127

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Conventional pile-supported systems.....	2
Figure 1.2 Piled Embankment with Concrete Slab (CPS) .....	2
Figure 1.3 Pile embankment with a geogrid reinforcement platform.....	3
Figure 2.1 The soil mass overlying a potential void .....	7
Figure 2.2 The formation of a true arch (Void under soil mass) .....	8
Figure 2.3 Soil mass collapses to form an inverted arch .....	8
Figure 2.4 Load Transfer Mechanism .....	9
Figure 2.5 Unit Cell Utilization .....	12
Figure 2.6: Tensile force in the reinforcement under embankment of medium dense soil ...	16
Figure 2.7 Lateral Sliding stability at the interface of fill and reinforcement .....	18
Figure 2.8 Outer limit of pile caps.....	20
Figure 2.9 Variable required for the analysis of GRPS embankments .....	23
Figure 2.10 Effect of pile position on the homogenous slope .....	25
Figure 2.11 Effect of pile diameter on the homogenous slope.....	25
Figure 2.12 Effect of pile spacing on homogenous slope .....	26
Figure 2.13 Effect of pile spacing on homogenous slope .....	26
Figure 2.14 Effect of pile position on two –layer slope .....	27
Figure 2.15 Effect of pile diameter on a two –layer slope .....	28
Figure 2.16 Effect of pile spacing on the two layer slope .....	28
Figure 2.17 Effect of pile soil limiting pressure multiplier on the two-layer .....	29
Figure 2.18 Force on slope without piles.....	30
Figure 2.19 Forces acting on a slope reinforced with piles.....	31
Figure 3.1 Static load test.....	34
Figure 3.2 PDA test.....	34
Figure 3.3 Soil profile according to site investigation.....	35
Figure 3.4 Load-displacement curve of static load test.....	36
Figure 3.5 Global geometry of the reference pile.....	38
Figure 3.6 Deformed mesh of the reference pile.....	39
Figure 3.7 Load-displacement behavior of reference pile under empirical load (Soil body collapsing).....	40
Figure 3.8 Load-displacement curve for ultimate load obtained from last analysis.....	40

Figure 3.9 Estimated axial capacity (kN) using different methods.....	41
Figure 4.1 All design models for piled embankments divide the load into portions .....	45
Figure 4.2	
Figure 4.3 Left: realistic values for $a/H$ give very similar values for $p'c/\sigma'v$ . Right: for extreme values of $a/H$ (thin embankments), the ratio $p'c/\sigma'v$ does not approach the expected value of 1.0.....	46
Figure 5.1 Case 1 Thin Embankment Case 2 Thick Embankment .....	50
Figure 5.2 Axi-Symmetric Finite Element Model.....	60
Figure 5.3 Axi-Symmetric Finite Element Model Connectivity .....	60
Figure 5.4 Plain Strain Finite Element model .....	61
Figure 5.5 Plain Strain Finite Element model – Connectivities .....	61
Figure 6.1 Thin Embankment.....	65
Figure 6.2 (Plaxis model diagram) $h=1.25\text{m}$ , pile diameter $=0.5\text{m}$ .....	65
Figure 6.3 The influence of variation of the embankment height on the load on the pile head.....	66
Figure 6.4 The influence of variation of the embankment height on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	66
Figure 6.5 The influence of variation of the centre to centre distance on the load on the pile head. ....	67
Figure 6.6 The influence of variation of the centre to centre distance on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	68
Figure 6.7 The influence of variation of the pile head area on the load on the pile head .....	68
Figure 6.8 The influence of variation of the pile head area on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	69
Figure 6.9 The influence of variation of the internal friction angle on the load on the pile head.....	69
Figure 6.10 The influence of variation of the internal friction angle on the tensile force on the geogrid.....	70
Figure 6.11 The influence of variation of the surcharge load on the load on the pile head....	70
Figure 6.12 The influence of variation of the surcharge load on the tensile force on the geogrid.....	71
Figure 6.13 Thick Embankment.....	71
Figure 6.14(Plaxis model diagram) $h=6.0\text{m}$ , pile diameter $=0.3\text{m}$ .....	72
Figure 6.15 The influence of variation of the embankment height on the load on the pile head.....	72
Figure 6.16 The influence of variation of the embankment height on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	73
Figure 6.17 The influence of variation of the centre to centre distance on the load on the pile head .....	74
Figure 6.18 The influence of variation of the centre to centre distance on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	74
Figure 6.19 The influence of variation of the pile head area on the load on the pile head....	75
Figure 6.20 The influence of variation of the pile head area on the tensile force on the Geogrid.....	75
Figure 6.21 The influence of variation of the internal friction angle on the load on the pile head.....	76
Figure 6.22 The influence of variation of the internal friction angle on the tensile force on the geogrid.....	76
Figure 6.23 The influence of variation of the surcharge load on the load on the pile head....	77
Figure 6.24 The influence of variation of the surcharge load on the tensile force on the geogrid.....	78



Figure 6.25 Arching: the vertical stress in the soil at point <i>A</i> is less than $(\gamma H + p)$ .....	83
Figure 6.26 Incomplete arching: the height of the fill, <i>H</i> , is smaller than the critical height <i>H<sub>c</sub></i> . For this case, part of the surface load <i>p</i> is not transferred to the pile caps. Therefore, the displacement of point <i>A</i> can be larger than in Figure 3.2.....	84
Figure 7.1 Geometry of Embankment used for Plaxis 2D – Plain strain model analysis.....	86
Figure 7.2 The influence of variation of pile size on Axial load on piles.....	87
Figure 7.3 The influence of variation of pile size on Maximum Shear force on piles.....	87
Figure 7.4 The influence of variation of pile size on Maximum Bending Moment on piles .....	88
Figure 7.5. The influence of variation of pile size on Tension in Geogrid.....	88
Figure 7.6. The influence of variation of pile size on Total deformation of Embankment profile.....	89
Figure 7.7. The influence of variation of pile size on Total deformation of Embankment profile.....	89
Figure 7.8. The influence of variation of pile size on Axial load on piles.....	90
Figure 7.9. The influence of variation of pile size on Shear Force on piles.....	90
Figure 7.10. The influence of variation of pile spacing on Maximum Bending Moment on piles .....	91
Figure 7.11. The influence of variation of pile spacing on Tension in Geogrid.....	91
Figure 7.12. The influence of variation of pile spacing on Total deformation of Embankment profile.....	92
Figure 7.13. The influence of variation of pile spacing on Factor of Safety of Embankment profile.....	92
Figure 7.14. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Axial load on piles.....	93
Figure 7.15. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Maximum Shear Force on piles.....	93
Figure 7.16. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Maximum Bending Moment on piles.....	94
Figure 7.17. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Tension in Geogrid.....	94
Figure 7.18. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Total deformation of Embankment profile .....	95
Figure 7.19. The influence of variation of Traffic load on Factor of Safety of Embankment profile.....	95
Figure 7.20. The influence of variation of Embankment Height on Axial load on piles.....	96
Figure 7.21. The influence of variation of Embankment Height on Maximum Shear Force on piles.....	96
Figure 7.22. The influence of variation of Embankment Height on Maximum Bending Moment on piles.....	97
Figure 7.23 The influence of variation of Embankment Height on Tension in Geogrid.....	97
Figure 7.24 The influence of variation of Embankment height on Total deformation of Embankment profile.....	98
Figure 7.25. The influence of variation of Embankment Height on Factor of Safety of Embankment profile.....	98
Figure 7.26. The influence of variation of spacing between GR Layers on Axial load on piles.....	99
Figure 7.27. The influence of variation of spacing between GR Layers on Maximum Shear Force on piles.....	99
Figure 7.28. The influence of variation of spacing between GR on Maximum Bending Moment on piles.....	100
Figure 7.29. The influence of variation of Space between GRL on Tension in GRL.....	100

Figure 7.30. The influence of variation of space between GRL on Total deformation of Embankment profile.....	101
Figure 7.31. The influence of variation of space between GRL on Factor of Safety of Embankment.....	101
Figure 7.32. The failure mode for 40kN/m <sup>2</sup> traffic load.....	103
Figure 7.33. The failure modes of embankments having different GR spacing.....	104
Figure 9.1. Case 1 & 2 Thin and thick Embankment.....	109

## List of Tables

	Page
Table 3.1 Axial capacity of reference pile based on analytical and empirical methods styles.....	35
Table 3.2 Pile capacity based on PDA.....	36
Table 3.3 Material properties and input parameters.....	37
Table 3.4 Tensile force on Geo Reinforcement using different calculation methods.....	42
Table 5-1 Materials Properties Embankment Soil .....	52
Table 5-2 Materials Properties Concrete (Pile).....	53
Table 5-3 Materials Properties Foundation Soil. ....	54
Table 5-4 Input variation used for Plaxis models. ....	55
Table 5-5 Materials Properties Embankment Soil (for plain strain model).....	56
Table 5-6 Materials Properties of Piles with the variation of pile size (for plain strain model) .....	57
Table 5-7 Materials Properties of Piles with the variation of pile spacing (for plain strain model) .....	57
Table 5-8 Materials Properties of Peat (for plain strain model) .....	58
Table 5-9 Materials Properties of Sand (for plain strain model) .....	58
Table 5-10 Materials Properties of Dense Sand (for plain strain model) .....	59
Table 6-1 Analysis of the results-case1.....	79
Table 6-2 Analysis of results – case2.....	80
Table 9-1 BS8006-End Bearing File (British Standard) Specimen Calculation.....	110
Table 9-2 Calculation Table1 BS8006 End Bearing Pile.....	112
Table 9-3 Calculation Table2 BS8006 End Bearing Pile.....	112
Table 9-4 Result Bs8006 End Bearing Pile.....	113
Table 9-5 Calculation Table1 Friction Pile .....	114
Table 9-6 Calculation Table2 Friction Pile .....	114
Table 9-7 Results Friction Pile.....	115
Table 9-8 German Draft Standard (EBGEO) Calculation. ....	117
Table 9-9 EBGEO Calculation Tensile Force on the Geogrid Results.-EBGEO .....	118
Table 9-10 Results German Draft Standard (EBGEO) .....	119
Table 9-11 Results Plaxis 8.2.....	120
Table 10-1 Summary of Code requirements.....	123
Table 10-2 Summary of Current UK Design Codes.....	123