

# PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN SOIL MECHANICS AND FOUNDATION ENGINEERING, 1

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SOILS, PLASTICITY,  
SETTLEMENT CALCULATIONS, INTERPRETATION OF IN-SITU TESTS

GUY SANGERAT  
GILBERT OLIVARI  
BERNARD CAMBOU

*Translated by G. GENDARME*



ELSEVIER  
Amsterdam — Oxford — New York — Tokyo 1984



## CONTENTS

Preface . . . . .	V
Introduction. . . . .	VII
Notations. . . . .	XIII
Engineering Units . . . . .	XVII
<i>Chapter 1. Physical Characteristics of Soil</i>	
1.1 Water content. . . . .	1
1.2 Water content, degree of saturation. . . . .	2
1.3 Unit weight and density . . . . .	4
1.4 Unit weight and density; saturation and water content . . . . .	4
1.5 Grain-size distribution: effective diameter and Hazen's coefficient . . . . .	6
1.6 Classification H.R.B. . . . .	8
1.7 Atterberg limits. . . . .	10
1.8 Correction of a grain-size distribution curve: scalping and mixing of soils . . . . .	13
1.9 Compaction, Proctor diagram and saturation curve . . . . .	20
1.10 Void ratio of an organic soil . . . . .	27
1.11 Hydrometer analysis . . . . .	29
1.12 Relative density (English units) . . . . .	30
1.13 Design of an optimum grain-size distribution by mixing soils . . . . .	31
1.14 Study of a soil structure by means of two-dimensional theoretical packing (small-cylinder analogy) . . . . .	36
<i>Chapter 2. Water in the Soil</i>	
2.1 Permeability of sand . . . . .	41
2.2 Permeability of clay . . . . .	41
2.3 Permeability of sand . . . . .	43
2.4 Average coefficient of permeability of a layered system . . . . .	44
2.5 Coefficient of permeability determined by pump-out test . . . . .	45
2.6 Effective stress in sand . . . . .	48
2.7 Effective stress in a clay . . . . .	49
2.8 Critical hydraulic gradient of sands at various densities . . . . .	50
2.9 Blow out and piping. . . . .	50
2.10 Calculate capillary rise, from laboratory test . . . . .	53
2.11 Hydraulic gradient and discharge of a subsurface toe drain . . . . .	55
2.12 Flow net and discharge of seepage through a dam on a homogeneous anisotropic soil foundation. . . . .	57
2.13 Earth dam: quick-sand condition; drainage blanket; discharge by percolation . . . . .	64
2.14 Capillary rise in a homogeneous soil, effective stresses . . . . .	68
2.15 Capillary rise in an analogous soil model . . . . .	69
2.16 Water table drawdown by vertical drains . . . . .	71
2.17 Piping conditions in a fractured rock mass . . . . .	75
2.18 Permeability. . . . .	76
2.19 Practical application of soil freezing; design of an ice wall . . . . .	78
Technical note about freezing of soils . . . . .	81

<i>Chapter 3. Practical Settlement Calculations — Compressibility and Theory of Consolidation</i>	
3.1 Oedometer test on sand . . . . .	87
3.2 Consolidation test on clay . . . . .	90
3.3 Approximate evaluation of the compression index $C_c$ and of the settlement of a normally consolidated clay . . . . .	93
3.4 Approximate evaluation of settlements and of preconsolidation pressure for an overconsolidated clay . . . . .	95
3.5 Stresses at depth below shallow footings . . . . .	97
3.6 Settlement under a point load in a clay layer . . . . .	100
3.7 Determination of the modulus of subgrade reaction, $k_s$ . . . . .	103
3.8 Time of consolidation of a clay layer with double drainage . . . . .	104
3.9 Coefficient of permeability . . . . .	105
3.10 Time of consolidation . . . . .	107
3.11 Compressibility and consolidation curves; settlement calculation; preloading requirements . . . . .	108
3.12 Oedometric moduli: behavior of an overconsolidated clay . . . . .	115
3.13 Consolidation with vertical sand drains . . . . .	117
3.14 Consolidation of a multi-layered system, Absi's theory; surcharging . . . . .	119
3.15 Consolidation test on an overconsolidated clay . . . . .	121
3.16 Determination of $C_c$ and $m_v$ and the settlements of a saturated clay; degree of consolidation . . . . .	123
3.17 Settlement of shallow footings . . . . .	126
3.18 Settlement calculation with Newmark's chart, effect of adjacent footings . . . . .	134
3.19 Solution of Terzaghi's consolidation equation by the finite-difference method: application to a two-layered system . . . . .	138
<i>Chapter 4. Plasticity and Shear Strength</i>	
4.1 Triaxial test on sand . . . . .	145
4.2 Triaxial test on sand with cohesion . . . . .	146
4.3 Evaluation of $c$ and $\varphi$ from a triaxial test result . . . . .	148
4.4 Triaxial compression tests performed under different draining conditions; Mohr's circles and failure envelopes . . . . .	149
4.5 Shear strength of a clay; effective stresses . . . . .	151
4.6 Interpretation of various types of triaxial tests (drained, undrained, consolidated, unconsolidated) . . . . .	153
4.7 Unconfined compressive strength from a consolidated undrained triaxial test . . . . .	155
4.8 Relation between Young's modulus, oedometric modulus and Poisson's ratio . . . . .	157
4.9 Evaluation of Poisson's ratio from triaxial test . . . . .	158
4.10 Comparison of the principal stress rotations in a direct shear test and in a triaxial test . . . . .	161
4.11 Triaxial test: determination of the pore-water pressure at failure and of Skempton's $A_f$ coefficient . . . . .	163
4.12 Stress paths for various test types . . . . .	165
4.13 Spherical tensor, deviatoric tensor and volume change . . . . .	168
4.14 Determination of Henkel's coefficients . . . . .	172
4.15 Coefficients of Henkel. Comparison of two triaxial tests . . . . .	174
4.16 Influence of loading condition on the behavior of a soil. Bishop and Skempton's coefficients . . . . .	175
4.17 Measurement of the coefficient of earth pressure at rest $K_0$ using a triaxial device . . . . .	177

4.18 Stress paths applied on a soil element during the construction of an earth dam . . . . .	178
<i>Chapter 5. Plastic Equilibrium</i>	
5.1 The pole of Mohr's circle . . . . .	183
5.2 Limit equilibrium of a granular, semi-infinite body . . . . .	185
5.3 Limit equilibrium of semi-infinite granular media with an inclined free surface . . . . .	186
5.4 Equilibrium of Rankine . . . . .	190
5.5 Plasticity; limit equilibrium of a weightless mass loaded at the surface; Prandtl corner . . . . .	194
5.6 Limit equilibrium of a semi-infinite cohesive mass with an inclined free surface . . . . .	202
5.7 Maximum height of an excavation in cohesive soil . . . . .	208
5.8 Superposition of two limit equilibrium states . . . . .	209
<i>Chapter 6. Interpretation of In-Situ Tests</i>	
6.1 Interpretation of static penetration tests (C.P.T.) . . . . .	213
6.2 Interpretation of a dynamic penetration test . . . . .	213
6.3 Interpretation of a Delft-type static cone penetrometer test in clay . . . . .	215
6.4 Interpretation of a static penetrometer test with simple cone point in the clay . . . . .	217
6.5 Interpretation of a dynamic penetration diagram . . . . .	218
6.6 Interpretation of a dynamic penetration test of the Sermes type . . . . .	220
6.7 Interpretation of a dynamic penetration test of the Sermes-type in submerged clay soil . . . . .	220
6.8 Interpretation of a Bevac-type dynamic penetration test in submerged clay soil . . . . .	222
6.9 Settlement calculations from cone penetrometer diagrams in the case of a two-layered system . . . . .	224
6.10 Settlement calculations based on Schmertmann's method and static penetrometer tests in gravels and sands . . . . .	228
6.11 Settlement calculations of a compressible sloping layer, based on static penetrometer test data . . . . .	231
6.12 Pile foundation calculation from static cone test in a tri-layer system . . . . .	236
6.13 Settlement estimates of a surcharge fill, from static-cone penetrometer test data . . . . .	239
6.14 Settlement calculation of a surcharge fill from the results of an Andina penetrometer test . . . . .	240
6.15 Settlement computations based on static penetrometer test results . . . . .	244
6.16 Settlement evaluation in clay soils from static penetrometer tests; influence of fills . . . . .	247
6.17 Dimensioning shallow footings on sand, based on SPT (Standard Penetration Test) results . . . . .	249
6.18 Pile capacity determination in sand from SPT . . . . .	252
6.19 Cost comparison of soil investigations based on different types of in-situ tests . . . . .	253
6.20 Comparison of settlement calculation based on static penetrometer tests and consolidometer tests data; determination of the value of the coefficient $\alpha$ . . . . .	255
6.21 Evaluation of the pressuremeter parameters $p_i$ , $p_f$ and $E_p$ for clay . . . . .	260
6.22 Determination of a bridge foundation based on pressuremeter test results . . . . .	263
6.23 Estimation of instantaneous settlement from pressuremeter test results . . . . .	273
6.24 Design a foundation from static and dynamic penetrometer data and from results of pressuremeter tests . . . . .	273
Bibliography . . . . .	275
Index . . . . .	279

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] Absi, E., 1965. Généralisation de la théorie de consolidation de Terzaghi au cas d'un multicouche. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtim. Trav. Publics*, 51: 1013.
- [2] Baguelin, F. and Jezequel, J.F., 1973. Le pressiomètre autoforeur. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtim. Trav. Publics*, 307–308: 134–160.
- [3] Baguelin, F., Jezequel, J.F. and Le Mehaute, A., 1979. Le pressiomètre autoforeur et le calcul des fondations. *Congr. Eur. Méc. Sols, Brighton*, 1979.
- [4] Baguelin, F., Jezequel, J.F. and Shields, T.H., 1978. The pressiometer and foundations engineering. *Trans. Tech. Publ. Clausthal*.
- [5] Butterfields, R., 1979. A natural compression law for soils (an advance on  $e$ -log  $p'$ ). *Geotechnique*, 29: 469–480.
- [6] Caquot, A. and Kerisel, J., 1966. *Traité de Mécanique des Sols*. Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 4th ed., 509 pp.
- [7] Chellis, R., 1951. *Pile Foundations*. McGraw-Hill, New York, N.Y., 704 pp.
- [8] Costet, J. and Sanglerat, G., 1981/1983. *Cours Pratique de Mécanique des Sols*, 3rd ed.
  - Vol. 1. *Plasticité et Calculs des Tassements*. Dunod, Paris, (1981), 312 pp.
  - Vol. 2. *Calculs des Ouvrages*. Dunod, Paris, (1983), 464 pp.
- [9] Decourt, L., 1982. Prediction of the bearing capacity of piles based exclusively on N values of the S.P.T. *ESOPT II, Amsterdam*, 1982, 1: 29–34.
- [10] Gielly, J., Lareal, P. and Sanglerat, G., 1969. Correlation between in situ penetrometer tests and the compressibility characteristics of soils. *Proc. Conf. In Situ Invest. Soils Rock, London*, 1969, 167–172.
- [11] Giroud, J.P., 1972/1973. *Tables pour le Calcul des Fondations*.
  - Vol. 1. *Tassement*. Dunod, Paris, 1972, 360 pp.
  - Vol. 2. *Tassement*. Dunod, Paris, 1973, 505 pp.
- [12] Giroud, J.P., Tran Vo Nhem and Obin, J.P., 1974. *Tables pour le Calcul des Fondations*.
  - Vol. 3. *Force Portante*. Dunod, Paris, 445 pp.
- [13] Lareal, P., Sanglerat, G. and Gielly, J., 1974. Comparison of penetration test data obtained by different static or dynamic penetrometers. *Proc. Eur. Symp. Penetration Test. Stockholm*, 2.2: 229–236.

- [14] Lareal, P., Sanglerat, G. and Gielly, J., 1974. Settlements of two buildings supported on rafts. Comparison with predicted settlements calculated from static cone penetrometer data. *Conf. Settlements Struct., Cambridge (G.B.)*, 37–43.
- [15] Lareal, P., Sanglerat, G. and Gielly, J., 1976. Comparaison des essais de pénétration effectués avec différents pénétromètres statiques ou dynamiques. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtiment. Trav. Publics*, 340: 15–24.
- [16] Marche, R., 1974. *Sollicitations en flexion des pieux par les couches qu'ils traversent*. Thesis, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.
- [17] Menard, L., 1971. Le tassement des fondations et les techniques pressiométriques. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtiment. Trav. Publics*.
- [18] Pilot, G. and Moreau, M., 1973. *La stabilité des Remblais Sols Mous*. Eyrolles, 151 pp.
- [19] De Ruiter, J., 1971. Electric penetrometer for site investigation. *Proc. A.S.C.E., J. Soil Mech. Found. Div.*, 97(2): 457–472.
- [20] Sanglerat, G., 1965. *Le Pénétromètre et la Reconnaissance des Sols*. Dunod, Paris, 230 pp. Transl. in Spanish (1967), in Russian (1971), English (1972, see ref. [19]) and Japanese (1976).
- [21] Sanglerat, G., 1971. Massifs de Terre Armée. *Technica — Ecole Centrale de Lyon*, 20–27.
- [22] Sanglerat, G., 1972. *The Penetrometer and Soil Exploration*. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 464 pp. (2nd ed. in 1979; transl. in Japanese in 1976).
- [23] Sanglerat, G., 1974. Penetration testing in France — State of the art report. *Proc. Eur. Symp. Penetration Test., Stockholm*, 1974, 1: 47–58.
- [24] Sanglerat, G., 1976. Règles de l'art des essais de pénétration en France. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtiment. Trav. Publics*, 340: 5–14.
- [25] Sanglerat, G., 1977. *Le pénétromètre statique-dynamique et ses diverses applications pratiques*. Lect. held at Lisbon, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Taipéh. Imprimerie du Bâtiment, Lyon, 32 pp.
- [26] Sanglerat, G., 1978. *Pathologie des Fondations et Reprises en Sous-œuvre*. CAST I.N.S.A., Lyon.
- [27] Sanglerat, G., Gielly, G. and Lareal, P., 1972. Le pénétromètre statique et la compressibilité des sols. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtiment. Tech. Publics*, 298, Sér. SF/92.
- [28] Sanglerat, G., Girousse, L. and Gielly, J., 1974. Unusual settlements of a building at Nantua. *Conf. Settlements Struct., Cambridge (G.B.)*, pp. 123–132.
- [29] Sanglerat, G., Tran Vo Nghiêm, Sejourne, M. and Andina, R., 1974. Direct soil classification by static penetrometer with local side friction measuring device. *Proc. Eur. Symp. Penetration Test., Stockholm*, 1974, 2: 337–344.
- [30] Sanglerat, G., Tran Vo Nghiêm, Sejourne, M. and Andina, R., 1976. Classification des sols à l'aide du pénétromètre statique avec manchon

- de mesure du frottement latéral. *Ann. Inst. Bâtiment. Tech. Publics*, 340: 25–30.
- [31] Sanglerat, G., Girousse, L. and Bardot, F., 1977. Settlement prediction of building based on static penetrometer data. *Southeast Asian Conf., 5th, Bangkok*, pp. 27–40.
- [32] Sanglerat, G., Girousse, L. and Bardot, F., 1979. Contrôle in situ des prévisions de tassements basées sur les essais de pénétration statique pour 79 ouvrages sur 17 sites différents. *Ann. Inst. Tech. Bâtiment. Publics*, 369: 30–40.
- [33] Sanglerat, G., Mlynarek, Z. and Sanglerat, T.R., 1982. The statistical analysis of certain factors influencing cone resistance during static sounding of cohesive soils. *ESOPT II, Amsterdam*, 1982, I: 827–834.
- [34] Sanglerat, G. and Sanglerat, T.R., 1982. Pitfalls of the S.P.T. *ESOPT II, Amsterdam*, 1982, I: 145 pp.
- [35] Sanglerat, G. and Sanglerat, T.R., 1983. Quand et pourquoi faire intervenir un géotechnicien lors d'une expertise bâtiment ou travaux publics? *Cah. Expert. Judiciaire*, Lyons, No. 4.
- [36] Schmertmann, J.H., 1970. Static cone to compute static settlement over sand. *Proc. A.S.C.E., J. Soil Mech. Found. Div.*, SM3, Pap. 7302.
- [37] Soulier, F., Doussot, M., Sanglerat, G. and Bardot, F., 1976. Prévisions et mesures in situ des tassements des remblais de précharge à l'emplacement de deux réfrigérants pour la centrale nucléaire de Bugey. *Technica*, 390: 30–34.
- [38] Tran Vo Nghiêm, 1976. Stabilité des murs de soutènement. *Technica*, 1976: 28–29.
- [39] Winterkorn, H.F. and Fang, H.Y., 1975. *Foundation Engineering Handbook*. 750 pp.
- [40] Wroth, C.P., Roscoe, K.H. and Schofield, A.N., 1958. On the yielding of soils. *Géotechnique*, 8(1): 22–53.