Emergence of Intelligent Compaction in U.S. Practice

Start: August 2005

End: February 2006

Report Available: February 2007

- Student: Michael McGuire
- Supervisors: George Filz and Tom Brandon
- Sponsors: Virginia Tech CGPR

<u>Objective:</u> Compile and summarize comprehensive reference materials on intelligent compaction and continuous compaction control.





Problems With Traditional Method of Assessing Compaction Quality



- Very low testing frequency
- Even with high testing frequency, only very small percentage of total compacted volume tested
- Sampling bias





- Inspection budgets strained under rising labor and benefits costs.
- Many experienced inspectors are retiring.
- Visual inspection of compaction is often undervalued.





www.geodynamik.com

<u>Continuous Compaction Control (CCC)</u>: compactor integrated technology that collects data in real time over the entire compacted area regarding the state of soil compaction.

Intelligent Compaction (IC): refers to the capability of a compactor to automatically adjust its operation based on data from the CCC system.





IC/CCC Technology

Overview of IC/CCC Technology

- Depending on the system, compactor-derived compaction measurements can be:
 - Unit less values that reflect the stiffness of the compacted material in a relative sense.
 - Calculated values of the actual stiffness or modulus of the compacted material (sands and gravels only).
- CCC output values can be correlated to other soil parameter values (e.g. density for a particular water content) or be used directly for acceptance.
- CCC output values are stored along with GPS coordinates in on-board *Compaction Documentation Systems (CDS)* to create a permanent record of the compaction process.





Using IC/CCC Technology for Assessment of Compaction

A contractor QC program can benefit from IC/CCC technology.

- Continuous and instantaneous measurements of compaction over the entire roller pattern provides documentation of compaction and eliminates unnecessary roller passes.
- Correlation with traditional field tests increases the effectiveness of infrequent spot-testing.
- Statistical analysis (min, max, mean, std. dev.) of CCC output values can evaluate the uniformity of the compacted area and identify localized soft/weak zones.
- IC equipment adjusts the compactor operation to maximize compaction efficiency to reduce the number of roller passes, prevent aggregate crushing, and increase equipment life .





Probabilistic Procedures for Post-Liquefaction Stability Analysis of Embankment Dams and Foundations

Start: April 2004

End: February 2007

- Student: Morgan Eddy
- Supervisor: Dr. Marte Gutierrez
- Sponsors: USBR

Objectives

- Re-evaluate and expand available databases
- Develop reliability-based back-analysis procedures
- Produce probabilistic liquefied shear strength criteria
- Demonstrate new procedures within USBR seismic risk scheme







Liquefied Shear Strength Relationship







Probabilistic Criteria



Conclusions

- Additional cases from recent earthquakes have been added to the existing database of failures
- Monte Carlo Simulations and the First-Order Reliability Method are used to analyze the failures
- Simplified charts have been developed using Bayesian Mapping to provide relations between SPT blowcount, liquefied shear strength (or *FFD*), and probability of failure





SOIL AND SITE CHARACTERIZATION USING ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

Start: November 2004 End: May 2007

- Student: Ning Liu
- Supervisor: James K. Mitchell
- Sponsor: Charles Edward Via. Fellowship

NSF IGERT Program

<u>Objectives – use electromagnetic waves to evaluate:</u>

- Water content, specific surface area, pore water chemistry
- Strength, compressibility, hydraulic conductivity





Soil Components and Structure

?

Theoretical equations and empirical correlations

Soil Electromagnetic Properties

- Non-destructive
- Suitable for remote sensing
- Suitable for automation



Ground Penetration Radar





- Strength
- Fluid flow properties
- Stress-deformation properties



Air-borne electromagnetic survey



Electromagnetic Measurements - From Theory to Practice

- **A model to relate the EM property of a soil to:**
 - > Porosity, clay percentage, clay mineralogy, anisotropy, flocculation
 - > Pore fluid chemistry, temperature
- **A simple method to determine:**
 - Volumetric water content
 - > Total specific surface area
 - > Pore fluid salt concentration
- ***** An economical and convenient tool for in-situ EM property measurements
 - > Time domain reflectometry (TDR)
- ***** Relationships between soil EM properties and Engineering properties :
 - > Residual shear strength
 - > Compressibility
 - Hydraulic conductivity





A method to determine total specific surface area and water content from dielectric spectrum



TDR100 System:

Cost: \$3.6 K

Weight: 2 Pounds

Power: Rechargeable battery







EM Property Measurement – Specific Surface Area, water content – Engineering Properties

Residual shear strength and compressibility Water content determination 1.0 Residual friction angle Vicksburg SFBM Vicksburg Buckshot clay (PI = 53) 40 Rancho Staunton Rancho Solano clay (PI = 36) NOVA Rome Northern Virginia clay (PI = 33) 30 Gravimetric water content from TDR 0.8 Kaolin San Francisco Bay mud (PI = 38) Staunton clay (PI = 28) 20 Rome clay (PI = 9) 0.6 Kaolinite (PI = 22) 10 Sand Empirical correlation $C_{sc} = 0.009(LL-10)/(1+e_0)$ 0 Ο Compression ratio 0.4 0.2 0 0 0 Upper bound (+5%)0.21:1 line 0.1----- Lower bound (-5%) ▼ 0.0 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 100 150 200 250 300 350 50 400 Oven-dry gravimetric water content

Specific surface area from EGME adsorption (m^2/g)





Rapid Stabilization of Soft Clay Soils

Start: March 2003

End: May 2009

- Students: Susan Rafalko & Liselle Vega
- Supervisors: Thomas L. Brandon, George M. Filz, & James K. Mitchell
- Sponsors: Air Force Research Laboratory

<u>Purpose</u> – To increase the strength of a soft clay soil (CBR = 2) to support C-17s & C-130s within 72 hours







Objectives

- Evaluate effectiveness of stabilizers using:
 - UCS tests
 - Toughness
- Evaluate dosage rates using:
 - UCS tests
 - CBR tests
- Develop guidance for pavement design





Stabilizers Tested

- Single Treatment
 - Portland cement
 - Type I/II
 - Type III
 - Quicklime
 - Microfine cement
 - Calcium carbide
 - Sodium silicate
 - Fibers
 - Fibrillated polypropylene
 - Nylon
 - Poly(vinyl) alcohol

- Combination Treatments
 - Fibers
 - Type I/II cement
 - Type III cement
 - Calcium carbide
 - Sodium silicate
 - Quicklime
 - Calcium carbide
 - Super absorbent polymers & calcium carbide
 - Accelerators & Type III cement
 - Superplasticizers
 - Microfine cement
 - Type III cement





Key Findings: Laboratory Testing

- Stabilizer effectiveness
 - -Traditional stabilizers were most effective
 - -Calcium carbide performed similar to quicklime
 - -Other stabilizers were relatively ineffective
 - -Fibers increased toughness
 - -Fiber shape influenced strength
- CBR vs. UCS correlation
 - -Approximate linear relationship
 - -Relationship not dependent on treatment type





Key Findings: Pavement Design

- Layer strength
 - -Base layer: minimum CBR value of 80
 - •Achieved with 3% pelletized quicklime, 11% Type III cement, & 1% PVA fibers
 - -Subbase layer: up to a CBR value of 30
 - •Achieved with 2% to 4% pelletized quicklime
- Layer thickness
 - -Base layer: minimum of 6 inches
 - –Subbase layer: between 0 to 65 inches





Levee Underseepage, Filter Design and Installation, and Seepage Monitoring

Start: January 2006

End: August 2007

- Student: Matthew Sleep, Chris Meehan, Emily Navin
- Supervisor: Dr. J. Michael Duncan
- Sponsor: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Objectives

- o Update Corps EM 1110-2-1913 Design and Construction of Levees
- o Update CGPR Filter Design Workbook and filter installation guidelines
- o Develop draft seepage monitoring guidelines for FEMA





Update Corps EM 1110-2-1913 -

"Design and Construction of Levees"

- Incorporate changes reflected in Corps ETL 1110-2-569
- Update guidance on seepage berm design
- Incorporate new factors of safety criteria







Seepage Berm Design Spreadsheet for Corps







Update CGPR Filter Design Manual

- Add NRCS criteria to filter workbook
- Add guidance for filter installation
 - 1. Segregation
 - 2. Compaction
 - 3. Cementation
 - 4. Durability
 - 5. Width
 - 6. Contamination







Seepage Monitoring Guidelines for FEMA

- Visual Inspection
- Instrumentation
- Assessment of Consequences







Levee Stability on Deep-Mixed Foundations

Start: May 2006

End: Jan 2009

- Student: Tiffany Adams
- Supervisor: Dr. George Filz
- Sponsors: National Science Foundation/ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Objectives

 Provide recommendations for design of levee structures on shear walls constructed using deep-mixing methods.





Levees Built on DMM Shear Walls







Full Overlap at all Locations







FS = 1.51









No Overlap at 5 Locations





Column Deformations (Magnified 5x)





No Overlap at all Locations

FS = 1.21







Column Deformations (Magnified 5x)





Drained Triaxial Compression test on 21b and #57 Gravels

- Start: January 2005 End: March 2007
- Post-Doctoral staff: Wenxing Jian and Youngjin Park
- Students: Genevieve Smith, Todd Griffith, Jessa Corton, and Esther Ryan
- Supervisors: Mike Duncan and Tom Brandon
- Sponsor: CGPR and Hayward Baker





Objective

Measure values of φ for
21b gravels – limestone and granite
#57 gravels – Limestone and phyllite





Tested Materials









 1
 2⁴⁰
 2
 4
 1
 4
 1
 4
 9
 3
 4
 9
 5
 4
 9
 5
 4
 9
 5
 4
 9
 5
 6
 1
 1
 9
 5
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1
 <th1</th>
 <th1</th>
 <th1</th>
 <th1</th>

Test Procedures









Results



 σ_3 / p_a = confining presure / atmospheric pressure





Remote Measurement of Fracture Data

Start: August 2003

End: May 2007

- Student: Jeramy Decker, Brian Badillo, Justin Sommerville
- Supervisors: Joseph Dove, Matthew Mauldon, Marte Gutierrez
- Sponsors: National Science Foundation

Objective

- Develop methods and tools to collect, analyze and utilize imaging data during tunnel excavation






Field study: Abandoned Railroad Tunnel.

Outline:

- •Site geology
- •Technologies
- •Results













Field measurements, LiDAR and digital stereo photography used to obtain data









3D visualization of imaging data



CAVE at VT





gVT– geotechnical Visualization Tools

- new software for visualizing and using LiDAR-based data



Potential Industry Benefits

- Improved field personnel safety
- Project cost savings by digitally recording site conditions for later use in the office.
- Supplement to site investigation data







Results from gVT agree well with hand measurements







Development of Simplified Laboratory Filter Test

Start: December 2005 End: December 2007

- Students: Andrew Bolton, Manuel Ochoa, Binod Tiwari
- Supervisor: Dr. Thomas L. Brandon, Dr. J. Michael Duncan, Dr. James K. Mitchell
- Sponsors: USBR

Objectives

- Study the performance of filters that have developed cracks
- Develop a simplified and less expensive filter test method.





Background Information

- The performance of filters during steady state seepage has been studied extensively
- The ability of filters to collapse and fill cracks has been studied less
- Available test methods are difficult and expensive
- A simpler test method is needed to assess filter performance





Research Approach (Completed Items)

- Desk study summarizing the gradation and mineralogy of the embankment materials at the existing USBR dams (Completed Spring 2006)
- Literature review of the depth and causes of cracking that has occurred in dams worldwide (Completed Spring 2006)
- Literature review of chemical and biological causes of cementation of granular soil, and case histories on the cementation in granular filters (Completed Spring 2006)





Research Approach (Present Status)

• Development of soil slump test (August 2006 to Present)



• Testing of filter materials with the soil slump test (January 2007 to present)





Soil Slump Test

Figure 1: Slump versus Time

21B Gravel, $w_c = 7\%$







Research Approach (Future Activities)

- Experimental study on cracked filters using the 4" filter test device developed at Virginia Tech (Spring 2007)
- Experimental study on the self-healing ability of broadly graded filters using the 4" filter test device developed at Virginia Tech (Summer 2007)





Engineering Manual for Organic Soils and Peat

Start: April 2003 Student: Heather Hickerson End: May 2007

- Supervisors: George Filz, C. J. Smith, Mike Duncan
- Sponsors: CGPR

Objectives

- Collect and compile data on classification and engineering properties of organic soils and peat
- Compile and discuss mitigation methods for organic soils and peat, based on case histories





Organic Soils and Peat

Weight loss upon heating from 105°C to 440°C

- 75% or more \rightarrow Peat
- 30% to 75% \rightarrow Peaty Organic Soil
- 5% to 30% \rightarrow Organic Soil
- 1% to 5% \rightarrow Soil with Organic Content
- Less than $1\% \rightarrow$ Inorganic





Organic Soils and Peat

Engineering Problems

- Large primary settlement
- Large secondary settlement
- Corrosivity
- Low strength





New Orleans – 17th Street Canal







Organic Soils and Peat

Mitigation Techniques

- Excavate and replace
- Use deep foundations piles, drilled shafts
- Preload foundation
- Apply admixtures (lime)





Fully-Coupled Staggered Solution of Fluid Flow Behavior in Porous Media Based on the Biot's Theory

Start: August 2004

End: August 2007

- Student: Imsoo Lee
- Supervisor: Dr. Marte Gutierrez
- Sponsors: American Chemical Society

Objectives

- Develop rigorous computational algorithm for coupled fluid flow and deformation processes in porous media.
- Apply the computational model to obtain better understanding of the behavior of fluid-saturated deformable porous media.





Geomechanics-Fluid Flow Coupling

- Interaction between fluid flow (pressure and flux) and the mechanical response (deformations and stresses) in fluid-saturated deformable porous media
- Neglect of Coupling Effect
 - Emphasis on the fluid flow problem
 - Oversimplification of the mechanical response through the use of "compressibility" term
- Categories of Coupling
 - One-way coupling
 - Partial coupling (stress-permeability)
 - Full coupling (deformation-flow)







The Finite Element Equation of Fully-coupled Biot's Theory

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{m}} & \mathbf{L} \\ \mathbf{L}^{T} & \mathbf{S} - \Delta t \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{c}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{u} \\ \Delta \mathbf{p} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{u}} \\ \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{p}} \end{bmatrix}$$

- u = displacements vector p = pore pressures vector $K_m = stiffness matrix$ L = coupling matrix $K_c = conductivity matrix$ S = compressibility matrix
- Fully-coupled fluid flow formulation $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{m}}^{-1}\mathbf{L} - \Delta t\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{c}} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}^{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{L}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{m}}^{-1}\mathbf{L}\mathbf{P}^{n} + \mathbf{L}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{m}}\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{u}} \end{bmatrix}$ • Conventional fluid flow formulation $\begin{bmatrix} c\mathbf{M}_{m} - \Delta t\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{c}} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}^{n+1} = c\mathbf{M}_{m}\mathbf{P}^{n} \blacktriangleleft$
- Diagonalization of full compressibility matrix
 - Row sum method
 - Diagonal scaling method
 - using Eigenvalue & Eigenvector





Mandel's Problem







Future Work

- Develop efficient algorithm for the matrix diagonalization
- Apply the developed coupling algorithm using an existing conventional reservoir simulator (e.g. BOAST)
- Implement other types of constitutive models (e.g. elastoplastic, chalk) in the geomechanical code
- Analyze a case history (e.g. Ekofisk)





Long-Term Performance of Dam Seepage Barriers

Start: August 2004

End: August 2007

- Student: John D. Rice
- Supervisor: Mike Duncan
- Sponsors: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, CGPR

Objectives

- Identify distress mechanisms that are unique to dams with seepage barriers.
- Enhance understanding of these mechanisms.
- Develop tools for assessing risk.





Wolf Creek Dam

Losses due to pool lowering: \$53 million per year

- Hydropower production
- Recreation

\$34.2 million per year\$18.8 million per year





Source: USACE



Identification of Distress Mechanisms

Four types of distress mechanisms have been identified :

- 1. Leaks through the barriers,
- 2. Erosion along or through bedrock joints,
- 3. Erosion of solution void infill,
- 4. Erosion of internally unstable foundation soils.



Analyses

Purposes of analyses:

- 1. Enhance our understanding of behavior and distress mechanisms,
- 2. Develop tools to allow better assessment of the severity of distress mechanisms.

Types of analyses:

- 1. Steady seepage,
- 2. Soil-structure interaction.





Applicability to Risk Assessment

- 1. Guidance for identifying potential failure mechanisms based on case histories and distress mechanism scenarios:
- 2. Guidance for assessment of risk based on potential for:
 - Initiation of internal erosion
 - Continuation
 - Progression
 - Breach





DEM Simulation of the February 17, 2006, Leyte, Philippines, Rockslide

Start: August 2006

End: May 2007

- Student: Naya Asprouda
- Supervisor: Dr. Marte S. Gutierrez
- Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Objective:

To investigate the underlying mechanism(s) of the February 17, 2006 Leyte, Philippines, Rockslide by performing Distinct Element simulations.





Background

February 17, 2006

- Overhanging rock detached from Mt. Cabac
- Guinsaugon village covered by as much as 30m thick soft and unstable debris, making rescue operations very difficult.
- 1,300 people reported missing





Photo from USDOD



Precursor Events

- Excessive <u>Rainfall</u> five times the average amount of rain during rainy seasons in the area
 - La Niña
 - Inversion Zone in Southern Leyte
- Four minor <u>earthquakes</u> occurred the morning of the slide.
 - − Two were of magnitude Mb≈4.5
 - Along the Philippine Fault Zone (PFZ)

Did these events influence the triggering and behavior of the slide?



Photo by M. Gutierrez





3DEC Analysis

- Digital elevation model of the area prior to the slide
- Major failure surfaces, identified during a site survey, added to the model
- Resulting "wedge" assumed rigid to limit computation time







Research Plan

- Study the effects of ground acceleration and hydraulic pressurization of the fault
- Refine model, geometry and material properties to better analyze the debris flow
- Compare results to witness accounts and actual debris behavior during and immediately after the slide.





A Guide to Settlement of Valley Fills

Start: March 2006

End: August 2006

- Student: Andrew Bursey
- Supervisor: Mike Duncan
- Sponsor: CGPR
- <u>Objectives</u>
 - Review case histories of valley fill settlement
 - Identify principal causes of valley fill settlements
 - Evaluate factors that control settlement magnitude
 - Summarize methods for coping with settlement





Dumping or spreading causes segregation

- Makes exploration difficult, makes fills hard to characterize
- Leads to differential settlements in end-dumped fills



End-dumped fills:

- Inclined stratification
- Coarser material at depth



Roller-compacted fills:

Coarser material at base of lift





- Wetting can cause large, unexpected settlements long after fill placement completed
- A broad spectrum of fill types is susceptible





EQ shaking can induce differential settlement

- Liquefaction is not required for damaging settlements
- Variations in fill thickness and distance to free face are important factors
- Damage is usually concentrated at cut/fill transitions and near the crests of slopes



Dealing with valley fills

Full-scale field tests and experience show:

- Dumped rock and mixed fills are especially problematic
- Locations of structures on fills is an important factor in damage due to settlement
- Accurate topography before filling is useful for evaluating fill thickness variations, but is often unavailable
- Densification reduces settlement, but densification to adequate depth is frequently not possible
- Wetting due to irrigation or subsurface flow poses large risk well into service life of most fills




Technology Demonstration of Rapid Stabilization of Soft Clay Soils

Start: March 2003

End: May 2009

- Student: Liselle Vega-Cortés
- Supervisor: Thomas L. Brandon George M. Filz James K. Mitchell
- Sponsors: Air Force Research Laboratory

Objectives

- Stabilization of very soft materials for airfields
- Technology demonstration using lime and cement admixtures





Previous Research

- Investigated and tested mechanical, chemical, and conventional admixtures
- Determined soil properties needed for airfield design
- Developed recommendations for treatment type
 - ✓ Lime and cement admixtures





Craney Island

- 2,500 acre dredge material disposal site
- Owned by US Army Corps of Engineers
- Site soils are very soft
- Receive double of design capacity



Craney Island (Photo from http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/craney/facility%20 management/AerialPhoto.html)





Craney Island

- Sampling
- Field Testing
- Laboratory Testing
- Technology Demonstration
- Monitoring



J.H. Becker Equipment (Photos provided by J.H. Becker Construction Co.)





Fracture Modeling for Hard Rock Tunneling

Start: August 2003

End: May 2007

- Student: Jeramy Decker
- Supervisors: Matthew Mauldon
- Sponsors: National Science Foundation

Objectives

Develop tools to assess fracture data and use the data to develop fracture models and rock mass parameters







Characterization of fractures within tunnel.

Outline:

- •Field observations
- •Trace maps
- •Statistical tools
- •Fracture models







Tracing fracture trace maps in lab.







Using statistical tools to evaluate trace maps.

Stereological Estimators

Derived stereological estimators

•trace density

•mean trace length



Differential Evolution

Differential Evolution algorithm utilized to infer fracture shape and size from trace data.







Verify and update fracture models based on data obtained in tunnel



Revised Reliability Manual

Start: August 2006

End: May 2007

- Students: Alfredo Arenas and Esther Ryan
- Post Doctoral staff: Michael P. Navin
- Supervisor: Dr. J. Michael Duncan
- Sponsor: CGPR

Objectives

To update and revise the current reliability manual to include new reliability methods and more examples





Reasons for revision of the manual

- The current manual was written 8 years ago
- CGPR members found the manual difficult to use
- New information and methods have been developed
- Many engineers have difficulty estimating coefficients of variation





Revised and Reorganized Content

- Explain the basic concepts "The language of statistics and probability"
- Add new reliability method "Hasofer Lind"
- Provide step by step procedure on how to use the "Taylor Series Method" and the "Hasofer Lind Method"
- Use only normal distribution Exclude the lognormal distribution
- Provide guidance on choosing the coefficients of variation





New Chapter: "The Language of Statistics and Probability"

Chapter Headings

- Standard Deviation
- Coefficient of Variation
- Histograms and Relative Frequency Diagrams
- Probability Density Function
- Normal and Lognormal Distribution, etc.





Hasofer Lind Method



Comparison of values of P_f for sliding mode of a retaining wall





Downdrag and Dragloads on Piles Subject to Negative Skin Friction

Start: August 2006

Projected End: May 2007

- Student: Mike Greenfield
- Supervisor: Dr. George Filz
- Sponsors: CGPR

Objectives

- Evaluate methods of analysis for use in practice
- Provide design recommendations





Review of Downdrag



After NHI Design and Construction of Driven Pile Foundations Workshop Manual, 1996





Scope of Project

- Methods of analyzing downdrag on single piles
 - 4 practical methods
 - 2 adaptations of practical methods
 - Microsoft Excel® Worksheet DRAGPILE
- Pile group effects
- Material property guidance
- Design criteria





DRAGPILE – screen shots







Remaining Research

- Compare methods with case histories –Which methods to use in which situations?
- Develop guidance for estimating material property values
- Recommend appropriate design criteria





Soil and Rock Modulus Correlations for Geotechnical Engineering

Start: September 2006

End: February 2007

- Student: Andrew Bursey
- Supervisor: Mike Duncan
- Sponsor: CGPR
- **Objectives**
 - Define stress-strain parameters and interrelationships
 - Evaluate factors that control soil stiffness
 - Provide useful correlations between soil and rock mass modulus and in situ and laboratory test results, and guidance for their use





There are many ways to characterize soil stiffness



🏭 Virgin



Soil stiffness decreases with increasing strain the effect is called "modulus degradation"



Problems with modulus correlations

- Many correlations between modulus values and in situ or lab test results are available
- BUT, variations among them are large because of differences in
 - type of modulus (E, G, M),
 - stress state (E_i , E_t , E_s), and
 - strain magnitude (10⁻⁴ percent to 1 percent)





Guide to modulus correlations

Type of	Basis for estimating modulus value			
modulus and type of soil	SPT data	CPT data	Etc.	
E _i for compacted (CL) clays				
M' _s for sand	Figure 11			
Etc.				





Leaching of Lime-Treated Soil

Start: May 2006

End: February 2007

- Students: Jaime Colby and Jessa Corton
- Supervisors: Dr. George Filz and Dr. Thomas Brandon
- Sponsors: J.H. Becker Company, Inc.

Primary Objective

to determine the effects of leaching on the engineering properties of lime-treated soil.





Motivation:

- Extensive and increasing use of lime for subgrade stabilization and borrow stabilization.
- Concern about long-term strength of stabilized ground due to leaching







Procedure:

- Determine the engineering properties of the treated soil before leaching
- Leach lime-treated specimen for a minimum of 45 days or 200 liters
- Determine the engineering properties of the treated soil after leaching





JC1 which includes the untreated and 0.5%, 2%, 4%, and 6% lime-treated soil. Jessa Corton, 2/6/2007

Results:

- Post-leached specimens were found to have two different zones: hard and soft
- Plasticity index

Lime	Plasticity Index			
Content (%)	Pre-leaching	Post-leaching Hard	Post-leaching Soft	
0	28			
0.5	18	20	20	
2	11	28	40	
4	NP	18	37	
6	NP	ND	34	

• Grain-size

Soil	Percent Passing No. 200
Untreated	90.9
Pre-leaching	66.9
Post-leaching Hard	76.3
Post-leaching Soft	91.9







Hard-

Conclusions:

- Leaching has adverse effects on lime-treated soils
 - Increases plasticity
 - Reduces average grain-size
- Correlation between softened volume, V_{soft} , normalized by quantity of water, Q, versus lime content JC2



V_{soft}/Q vs. Lime Content

JC2 This research provides information about the effects of leaching on one particular lime-treated soil. It is not intended to replace laboratory testing for site specific projects utilizing lime treatment. Jessa Corton, 2/6/2007

Geotechnical Specifications of Little League Ballfields

Start: November 2006

End: December 2007

- Student: Tim Moore
- Supervisor: Dr. Thomas L. Brandon, Dr. Naraine Persaud, Dr. Mike Goatley
- Sponsors: USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

<u>Objectives</u>

- To examine the application of current geotechnical specifications for little league ballfields
- To provide geotechnical quality control assistance during the construction of the ballfields





Little League Ballfields – Beckley, WV Project Aspects:

- Construction of Ballfields
 - Recommend geotechnical specifications
 - Provide light quality control measures for compaction
- Research Plots
 - 3 test plots differing compaction and soil treatments
 - Irrigated by on-site stormwater-retention basin
 - Long-term research to relate relative compaction, playability, and turf growth













Current ASTM Specifications

• ASTM Section 15.07 – Sports Equipment and Facilities:

- Specifications and test methods for shockabsorbing and impact-attenuation of sports field playing surfaces

• ASTM Sections 4.08 & 4.09 – Soil and Rock:

- Specifications and test methods for relative compaction, and impact values of soils





Research Test Plot Details

- 3-plots, each with a different level of compaction (80%, 85%, & 90% of standard Proctor)
- Each plot will have different soil/turf treatments (VT CSES Dept)
- Plots will be tested using current ASTM specifications to examine their applications (compaction, shock attenuation)
- Plots will be monitored long-term for differential settlement, and turf growth
- The on-site storm water retention pond will be used to irrigate the test plots, along with the ballfields
- Graded mine spoils will be used for the subgrade of the plots to present a suitable turf growth material




Central and Eastern United States Seismic Implications

Start: Summer 2006

End: Summer 2007

- Student: Morgan Eddy
- Supervisor: Dr. James Martin
- Sponsors: ECSUS
- **Objectives**
 - Investigate impact of CEUS geologic conditions on the International Building Code Seismic provisions

– Perform site response analyses of CEUS sites to assess implications of the IBC

– Provide recommendations for performing site response analyses of sites in the CEUS













Amplification Factors



Conclusions

- Geologic conditions found in the CEUS are not represented in the recent building codes
- Deep soil sites, such as in Charleston, can amplify long period motions above code values
- Sites where the hard rock is relatively close to the ground surface can amplify a broad range of motions above the code values
- Site amplification factors need to be adjusted to account for the conditions found in the CEUS



