14.533 - Advanced Foundation Engineering

Lecture 6 - Standards and Reliability Based Design

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1 DESIGN PRACTICE Codes in the USA

- Every state in the USA has a building code which is part of the state's laws. In addition, the Department of Transportation (a.k.a. Highway Department) of the state has its specifications.
- The construction of most bridges (all highway bridges) is funded mostly by the Federal Government via FHWA. All these structures are obliged to be designed by the AASHTO specifications.
- A united code (IBC International Building Code) was developed in 2000 by uniting several previous codes (UBC Uniform Building Code and SBC – Standard Building Code). Forty-four states (88%) adopted the IBC as their building code.

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1 DESIGN PRACTICE Codes in the USA

- The standard (old) AASHTO specifications recommended a **F.S. = 3.00** for B.C. of shallow foundations. The AASHTO specifications do not provide FS for settlement though requires to examine settlement.
- The AASHTO Specifications, as well as most advanced codes worldwide, moved to RBD – Reliability Based Design. The LRFD – Load and Resistance Factor Design format of RBD is used by the AASHTO specifications, and the major developments relevant to pile design in general and dynamic testing in particular will be presented.

1 DESIGN PRACTICE Limit State Requirements

- **A design of a structure needs to ensure that while being economically viable it will suit the intended purpose during its working life.**
	- **LS –** *Limit State* **– Condition beyond which the structure or a component fail to fulfill in some way the intended purpose for which it was designed.**
	- **ULS –** *Ultimate Limit State* **– deals with strength (maximum loading capacity) of the structure / element. (aka Strength Limit State)**
	- **SLS –** *Serviceability Limit State* **– deals with the functionality and service requirements of a structure to ensure adequate performance under expected conditions.**

Relevance to Shallow Foundations:

By and large design of shallow foundations on soils is controlled by SLS and design of shallow foundations on rock by SLS. IGM's can go either way depending on density and cementation

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1 DESIGN PRACTICE

Shallow Foundations Design Process

shown in Table C-6 and in the LRFD design process flow chart, Figure C-1. TABLE C-6: STEPS IN LRFD DESIGN PROCESS FOR BRIDGE SUPPORTED ON SHALLOW FOUNDATIONS

Kimmerling,R.E. (2002). Geotechnical Engineering Circular No. 6 Shallow Foundations, FHWA-IF-02-054, FHWA, Washington, DC.

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2 DESIGN METHODOLOGIES

STATE OF STRESS DESIGN

Working stress design (WSD) **also called the Allowable Stress Design (ASD) method, has been used in Civil Engineering since the early 1800s.**

$$
Q \le Q_{all} = R_n / FS = Q_{ult} / FS
$$

Q **⁼ Design load (F)** *Qall***⁼ Allowable load (F)** *Rn= Qult* **= Nominal Resistance = Ultimate geotechnical pile force resistance***FS* **⁼ Factor of safety**

The factor of safety is commonly defined as the ratio of the resistance of the structure ($\bm{\mathsf{R}}_{\bm{n}}$) to the load effects (Q) acting on the structure.

ADVANTAGES

- Simple
- Vast Experience Serves as a Reference

LIMITATIONS

- Lumps all uncertainty into a factor of safety
- Does not provide a direct evaluation of whether a method is conservative or unconservative

Factor Of Safety On Ultimate Pile Axial Geotechnical Capacity Based On Specified Construction Control (AASHTO 1997 Standard

Specifications)

X - Construction Control	Increasing Construction Control				
Specified on Plans					
Subsurface Exploration	X	X	X	X	X
Static Calculation	X	\mathbf{X}	X	\mathbf{X}	X
Dynamic Formula	X				
Wave Equation		X	X	\mathbf{X}	X
CAPWAP Analysis			X		X
Static Load Test				X	X
Factor of Safety (FS)	3.50	2.75	2.25	$2.00*$	1.90

*** Any combination that includes a static load test**

Design Capacities Specified on Plans so FS can be Adjusted if Construction Control is Altered

- 1. On the face of it \Rightarrow logical and progressive but on what basis are the specifications **founded? Is the control method F.S. suitable for the design method?**
- **2. Rewards the use of quality control through dynamic measurements during driving and/or static load-testing.**
- **3. Very Generic** \Rightarrow **Does not provide any details regarding the methods. e.g.:**
	- \blacksquare **What kind of subsurface investigation?**
	- **What kind of static analysis?**
	- ⊔ **Dynamic Measurements - When? (EOD, Restrike ?) On what kind of piles? Driving conditions? What about field interpretation?**
	- **Can be examined and/or explained only against actual data.**

SIMPLE EXAMPLE

Assume a load of 200 tons and Pile Capacity Q_{ult} = 100 tons **(accurately predicted by all methods, i.e.bias = 1.0)**

Evaluation of Parameters - Driven Piles In Clay

No. of cases and Mean of Prediction (msd. Over calculated using data 2 SD)

Actual Mean FS for driven piles in clay

 α Methods = 0.82 x 3.5 = 2.87 Method = 0.72 x 3.5 = **2.52**

For Comparison – FS for the Dynamic Methods CAPWAP - BOR 162 Mean = 1.16

Actual FS BOR = 1.16 x 2.25 = **2.61**

 $(1/0.8 =$

Revisit Simple WSD Example

Assume a load of 200 tons and Pile Capacity Q_{ult} = 100 tons (Specifying now **a concrete pile in clay and using the bias known for the methods)**

(values in original example ignoring the bias)

INTERMEDIATED CONCLUSION

- **1. The examination of factors of safety on the basis of their absolute values is misleading and do not represent the economical value of a specific method.**
- **2. The same holds for any other design method – e.g resistance factors for LRFD as will be shown.**
- **3. Only the use of an actual database provides the bias of a design method and hence allows for a rational development of safety margins – regardless of the design methodology.**

Uncertainties - Structural Design

Simplified Example of Beam Design and Sources of Uncertainty

symmetry line and beam height, h.)

8 Sources of Uncertainty

- **1. Loading**
- **2. Dimensions**
- **3. Material Properties**

Most Noticeable:

- **1. No uncertainty in the model – under given loading conditions the uncertainty in the material properties (i.e. yield) dictates the uncertainty in strength or uncertainty in Modulus E will dictate the uncertainty in the deflection**
- **2. Largest uncertainty in the loading, source, magnitude, distribution (in case of bridges)**

Uncertainties - Geotechnical Design

Components of Foundations Design and Sources of Uncertainty

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2 DESIGN METHODOLOGIES Uncertainties - Geotechnical Design

Significant uncertainties exist in:

- **(1) The process of defining geomaterial properties. (2) The calculation model.**
- ■ **Defining uncertainty in the soil properties alone is therefore not sufficient in most cases to determine the uncertainty of the designed element/structure.**
- ■ **The relationship between loads and displacements requires a separate model having its own uncertainty.**

3 LOAD AND RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN (LRFD)

3 LRFD DESIGN LRFD for Foundations

Principles

The design of ^a foundation depends upon predicted loads and the pile's capacity to resist them. Both loads and resistance (capacity) have various sources and levels of uncertainty that historically have been compensated for by experience and subjective judgment.

These uncertainties can be quantified using probability-based design, or safety check expressions, aimed at achieving designs with consistent levels of reliability. The intent of the Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) method is to separate uncertainties in loading from uncertainties in resistance and to assure ^a prescribed margin of safety .

3 LRFD DESIGN

Probability Density Functions for Load and Resistance

Qn, Rn – Nominal Load/Resistance

> **consistent levels of reliability**

An illustration of probability density functions for load effect and resistance

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3 LRFD DESIGN Probability of Failure

The limit state function g corresponds to the margin of safety, i.e. the subtraction of the load from the resistance such that (referring to Figure 2a);

$$
g = R - Q \tag{4}
$$

For areas in which g < 0, the designed element or structure is unsafe as the load exceeds the resistance. The probability of failure, therefore, is expressed as the probability for that condition;

$$
p_f = P(g < 0) \tag{5}
$$

In calculating the prescribed probability of failure (p_f) , a derived probability density function is calculated for the margin of safety g(R,Q) (refer to Figure 2a), and reliability is expressed using the "reliability index", β . Referring to Figure 2b, the reliability index is the number of standard deviations of the derived PDF of *g*, separating the mean safety margin from the nominal failure value of g being zero;

$$
\beta = m_g / \sigma_g = \left(m_R - m_Q \right) / \sqrt{\sigma_Q^2 + \sigma_R^2}
$$
 (6)

where m_g , σ_g are the mean and standard deviation of the safety margin defined in the limit state function Eq. (4), respectively.

3 LRFD DESIGN Probability of Failure and Target Reliability

Figure 2. An illustration of probability density function for (a) load, resistance and performance function, and (b) the performance function (g(R,Q)) demonstrating the margin of safety (p_f) and its relation to the reliability index β . (σ_q = standard deviation of g).

3 LRFD DESIGN Target Reliability – Probability of Failure

Relationship Between Reliability Index and Target Reliability

Reliability is expressed using the "reliability index", β, which is the number of standard deviations of the derived PDF of g , $(g = R - Q)$

An Illustration of a Combined Probability Density Function (g(R,Q)) Representing the Margin of Safety and the Reliability Index, (g = Standard Deviation of g).

3 LRFD DESIGN FOR FOUNDATIONS

1994, 1st. AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specs for Foundations

For the strength limit state:

$$
R_{r}=\varphi R_{n}\geq \eta\sum\gamma_{i}Q_{i}
$$

- **Rr = Factored resistance (F or F/A);**
- **= Resistance factor (dimensionless);**
- **R n = Nominal (Ultimate) resistance (F or F/A);**
- η = Factors to account for ductility ($\eta_{\sf p}$), redundancy ($\eta_{\sf R}$),

and operational importance (I) – Structural (dimensionless)

- **i = Load factor (dimensionless);**
- **Qi = Force effect, stress or stress resultant (F or F/A);**

3 LRFD DESIGN The Calibration Process

The problem facing the LRFD analysis in the calibration process is to determine the load factor (y) and the resistance factor (ϕ) such that the distributions of R and Q will answer to the requirements of a specified β . In other words, the γ and ϕ described in Figure 3 need to answer to the prescribed target reliability (i.e. a predetermined probability of failure) described in Eq. (9). Several solutions are available and are described below, including the recommended procedure for the current research (part 1.3.5)

3 LRFD DESIGN Development of Resistance Factors

First Order Second Moment (FOSM)

The first AASHTO specifications were based on the First-Order, Second-Moment (FOSM) principles, assuming lognormal distribution for the resistance and bias factors, the following **relations can be established (Barker et al., 1991).**

$$
\phi = \frac{\lambda_R (\sum \gamma_i Q_i) \sqrt{\frac{1 + COV_Q^2}{1 + COV_R^2}}}{\overline{Q} \exp{\{\beta_T \sqrt{\ln[(1 + COV_R^2)(1 + COV_Q^2)]\}}\}}}
$$

where:

 λ_{R} = resistance bias factor $\mathsf{COV_{Q}}$ COV_R = coefficient of variation of the resistance $\beta_{\sf T}$ = target reliability index

 COV_{Q} = coefficient of variation of the load β_{T} = target reliability index

Considering dead and live loads only:

$$
\phi = \frac{\lambda_{R}(\frac{\gamma_{D}Q_{D}}{Q_{L}} + \gamma_{L}) \sqrt{[\frac{(1+COV_{QD}^{2} + COV_{QL}^{2})}{(1+COV_{R}^{2})}]}}{\frac{\lambda_{QD}Q_{D}}{Q_{L}} + \lambda_{QL}) \exp{\{\beta_{T}\sqrt{\ln[(1+COV_{R}^{2})(1+COV_{QD}^{2} + COV_{QL}^{2})]}\}}}
$$

where:

 γ_{λ} , γ_{μ} dead and live load factors Q_{D}/Q_{μ} dead to live load ratio $\lambda_{\mathsf{QA}}, \, \lambda_{\mathsf{QL}}$ dead and live load bias factors

3 LRFD DESIGN Development of Resistance Factors

Monte Carlo Simulation – MCS

Monte Carlo Simulation (MCS) became the preferable calibration tool by AASHTO and is recommended for all AASHTO related calibrations. MCS is a powerful tool for determining the failure probability numerically, without the use of closed form solutions as those given by Equations 14 or 15. The objective of MCS is the numerical integration of the expression for failure probability, as given by the following equation.

$$
p_f = P(g \le 0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} I[g_i \le 0]
$$
\n(18)

where *I* is an indicator function which is equal to 1 for $g_i \leq 0$, i.e., when the resulting limit state is in the failure region, and equal to 0 for g_i > 0 when the resulting limit state is in the safe region; *N* is the number of simulations carried out. As $N \rightarrow \infty$, the mean of the estimated failure probability using the above equation can be shown to be equal to the actual failure probability (Rubinstein, 1981).

3 LRFD DESIGN Methods of Calibration – MCS

Code calibration in its ideal format is accomplished in an iterative process by assuming agreeable load and resistance factors, γ 's and ϕ 's, and determining the resultant reliability index, β . When the desired target reliability index, β_T , is achieved, an acceptable set of load and resistance factors has been determined. One unique set of load and resistance factors does not exist; different sets of factors can achieve the same target reliability index (Kulicki et al., 2007).

The MCS process is simple and can be carried out as follows:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ Identify basic design variables and their distributions. Load is assumed to be normally distributed.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Generate *N* number of random samples for each design variable based on their distributions, i.e. using the reported statistics of load and resistance and computergenerated random numbers.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Evaluate the limit state function *N* times by taking a set of the design variables generated above, and count the number for which the indicator function is equal to 1
- $\frac{1}{2}$ \clubsuit If the sum of the indicator function is N_f , i.e., the limit state function was $g_i \leq 0$ (in the failure region) for N_f number of times out of the total of N simulations carried out, then the failure probability $\rho_{\rm f}$ can be directly obtained as the ratio $N_{\rm f}/N$.

3 LRFD DESIGN Methods of Calibration – MCS

Using the MCS process, the resistance factor can be calculated based on the fact that to attain a target failure probability of $\rho_{\rm\scriptscriptstyle fT}$, $N_{\rm\scriptscriptstyle fT}$ samples of the limit state must fall in the failure region. Since in the present geotechnical engineering LRFD only one resistance factor is used, while keeping the load factors constant, a suitable choice of the resistance factor would shift the limit state function so that $N_{f\mathcal{T}}$ samples fall in the failure region. The resistance factor derived in this study using MCS is based on this concept.

Kulicki et al. (2007) made several observations regarding the above outlined process:

- 1. The solution is only as good as the modeling of the distribution of load and resistance. For example, if the load is not correctly modeled or the actual resistance varies from the modeled distribution, the solution is not accurate, i.e. if the statistical parameters are not well defined, the solution is equally inaccurate.
- 2. If both the distribution of load and resistance are assumed to be normally or lognormally distributed, Monte Carlo simulation using these assumptions should theoretically produce the same results as the closed-form solutions.
- 3. The power of the Monte Carlo simulation is its ability to use varying distributions for load and resistance.

In summary, refinement in the calibration should be pursued not in refining the process used to calculate the reliability index; the Monte Carlo simulation as discussed above is quite adequate and understandable to the practicing engineer. Refinement should be sought in the determination of the statistical parameters of the various components of force effect and resistance and using the load distributions available for the structural analysis, this means focusing on the statistical parameters of the resistance.

3 LRFD DESIGN RBD for Foundations

All existing codes suffer from two major difficulties:

- **1. The application of RBD to geotechnical problems (e.g. site variability, construction effects, past experience, etc.) – Detailed Framework developed for the current Eurocode 7 (2004).**
- **2. Lack of data. None of the reviewed codes and associatedresistance factors were developed based on databases enabling the calculation of resistance factors from case histories. The existing factors are either back calculated from factors of safety, based on incomplete related data, based on judgment, or ^a combination of the above.**

3 LRFD DESIGN NCHRP Report 507 Deep Foundations Design

An extensive development of resistance factors for the AASHTO specifications of Deep Foundations was undertaken under NCHRP project 24-17 and presented in NCHRP Report 507. These factors were developed based on large databases examining the deep foundations capacity prediction methods during design and construction.

Google Search: **NCHRP 507** will bring you to the pdf

3 LRFD DESIGNFramework For The Development Of The Resistance Factors In NCHRP 507

REQUIRED INFORMATION

R, Q

- **Distribution of Load - Type, Mean, SD**
- Distribution of Resistance **Type, Mean, SD**
- **Probability of Failure**

POSSIBLE SOURCES

- Distribution of Load Measurements on and **Analyses of Structures – e.g. Vehicles on a Bridge**
- Distribution of Resistance Databases, Related **Correlations - e.g. Soil Parameters, Judgment**
- **Probability of Failure – Observations, Judgment, Probabilistic Theory**

3 LRFD DESIGN Framework For Calibration

Required And Sources Of Information

3 LRFD DESIGN Databases

Main Analyses:

- \bullet **Driven Piles Static Analyses - 527 piles**
- \bullet **Drilled Shafts Static Analyses - 300 shafts**
- \bullet **Driven Piles Dynamic Analyses - 389 cases on 210 piles**

Peripheral Analyses:

- \bullet Static Load Test Interpretation DP - 196 piles
- \bullet Static Load Test Interpretation DS - 44 shafts
- \bullet Influence of Loading Rate **- 75 piles**
- \bullet Dynamic Measurements both EOD - 456 cases on 228 piles & BOR (without Static Load Test)
- \bullet WEAP (GRL Database) - 99 piles
- \bullet Case Method (Florida Study): EOD - 40 piles
	- BOR 37 piles
-
-
-

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3 LRFD DESIGN Calculated Resistance Factors

 \bullet **Target Reliability**

(probability of exceedance = Probability of failure)

• **Efficiency Factor**

3 LRFD DESIGNDesign Method Efficiency Resistance Factor Over Bias- ϕ/λ **_ν**

design method when using resistance factors.

Efficiency-Resistance factor.grf

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14.533 - Advanced Foundation Engineering **Example 2008** Control of Efficiency-Resistance factor.grf **Advanced Foundation 41**

- \bullet **Static Analyses Driven Piles**
- \bullet **Dynamic Analyses Driven Piles**
- \bullet **Case History**

Figure 7. Histogram and frequency distribution of measured over statically calculated pile capacities for 146 cases of all pile types (concrete, pipe, H) in mixed soil (Paikowsky et al., 2004).

Table 25. Recommended resistance factors for driven piles static analyses

NCHRP 507 Recommended Resistance Factors Driven Piles – Static Analyses

Notes:

Non-Redundant = Four or less piles under one pile cap (β = 3.0 p_f = 0.1%)

Redundant = Five piles or more under one pile cap (β = 2.33 p_f = 1.0%)

 $\lambda = bias = Mean K_{SX} = measured/predicted$

 ϕ/λ = efficiency factor, evaluating the relative economic performance of each method (the higher the better)

 ϕ/λ values relate to the exact calculated ϕ and λ and not to the assigned ϕ values in the table

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Figure 6. Histogram and Frequency Distributions for all (377 cases) Measured over Dynamically (CAPWAP) Calculated Pile-Capacities in PD/LT2000 (Paikowsky et al., 2004).

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Histogram & Frequency Distributions for all BOR (162) CAPWAP pile-cases in PD/LT2000

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Histogram & Frequency Distributions for all (371) Energy Approach pile-cases in PD/LT2000

3 LRFD DESIGNRecommended resistance factors Driven Piles – Dynamic Analyses

 $EOD = End of Driving BOR = Beginning of Restrike Bl. Ct. = Blow Count$ $AR = Area Ratio$ Engineering News Record Equation

BP10cm = Blows per 10cm Non-Redundant= Four or less piles under one pile cap $(\beta = 3.0 \text{ p}_f = 0.1\%)$ Redundant = Five piles or more under one pile cap.($\beta = 2.33$ p_f = 1.0%) $\lambda = bias = Mean K_{SX} = measured/predicted$ ϕ λ = efficiency factor, evaluating the relative economic performance of each method (the higher the better) ϕ/λ values relate to the exact calculated ϕ and λ and not to the assigned ϕ values in the table.

3 LRFD DESIGN Recommended resistance factors Static Load Test

3 LRFD DESIGN Recommended Number of Pile Tests During Production

Table 28. Recommended number of dynamic tests to be conducted during production

 $EA = Energy Approach Analysis$ CAPWAP = Signal Matching Analysis $EOD = End of Driving$ $BOR = Beginning of Restrike$ Minimum one test under each substructure

Site Variability Assessment - Example

Area A Using SPT – 4 Borings

- **1. USA WSD Practice recommends F.S. = 3.0 for B.C. calculations and SLS examination.**
- **2. Factors of safety or other safety margins can be examined or explained only on the basis of actual data**
- **3. Codes worldwide are transforming to RBD**
- **4. The new AASHTO specifications (when viewed in a broad perspective) represents a major advance in design worldwide and is the most enhanced platform for a true RBD code based on actual data performance.**
- **5. Comprehensive LRFD factors for deep foundations are presented in NCHRP Research Report 507. These factors are based on the controlling parameters of the design and construction methods. The study used databases allowing to evaluate the actual performance of the different capacity prediction methods; both in design and construction.**

6. The NCHRP study calibrated a "complete" design methodology including soil parameter correlations. The use of the recommended resistance factors is associated therefore with a specific design methodology for the static evaluation (design stage) and category during the construction stage; (e.g. time and blow count for applying dynamic analyses and site variability for static load tests).

You cannot mix factors – e.g Using construction phase RF with static analysis calculations just because you intend to run a static LT or dynamic tests.

- **7.The attempt of the current AASHTO specifications to "simplify" the RF recommended by NCHRP 507 can be dangerous !**
	- **"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler "…….. (A. Einstein)**
	- **Conclusions – follow closely the specifications and the RF recommended by NCHRP 507**

- **8. The examination of either factors of safety or resistance factors on the basis of their absolute values is misleading and efficiency factors (/ or FSx) are required to represent the economical value of a specific method.**
- **9. When developing resistance factors based on actual databases one faces the difficulties of comparisons with existing factors which are questionable to begin with.**
- **10. Consistent level of reliability means that some methods of analysis become more conservative while others become less conservative.**

