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Unsaturated Soils: Numerical and Theoretical Approaches


Volume II

With 216 Figures and 37 Tables
Foreword

These proceedings document the various papers delivered and partially presented at the International Conference “From experimental evidence towards numerical modeling of unsaturated soils,” which was held in Weimar (Germany) during 18-19 September 2003. The conference was organized under the auspices of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and the National German Geotechnical Society (DGGT).

The need to understand the behavior of unsaturated soils is becoming exclusively essential for the geotechnical engineers and designers. In the last three decades many researchers have made significant contribution to the understanding of the unsaturated soil mechanics. Nevertheless, application of the subject to variety of new problems still requires our attention. This International conference is a mere attempt to unite researchers and engineers in geotechnical engineering and to discuss about the problems associated with the unsaturated soils. Doing so the objectives of these lecture notes are as follows:

- to promote unsaturated soil mechanics for practical application,
- to exchange experiences in experimental unsaturated soil mechanics and numerical modeling,
- to discuss application of unsaturated soil mechanics to variety of problems.

In other words, we could also name these two volumes as “From theory to daily practice”.

I would like to extend my deep sense of appreciation as the editor and the Head of the organizing committee, to many persons who have contributed either directly or indirectly to organize the International conference and to finalize these proceedings. Firstly, I acknowledge the support provided by the German National research fund. I would like to mention specifically the involvement of the TC 6 (“Unsaturated Soils”) Committee of the International Society. Secondly, I appreciate the effort of the members of the Technical committee, who have spent their valuable time to suggest the changes, improvement to the papers submitted. Finally I wish to convey my thanks to all the keynote and invited speakers, authors and delegates attending the conference.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude for the outstanding work performed by those involved in the technical and administrative organization of these proceedings. Special thanks go to my co-workers Ms. Yvonne Lins, Mr. S. S. Agus and Dr. S. Tripathy, who helped in guaranteeing the international standard of the scientific program and shaping the proceedings itself.

I would like to congratulate the authors for their very interesting presentations and the reported results and advances in the topics of this conference. Ms. Sandra Michael did significant contributions while incorporating the corrections in the papers as suggested by the Editor. Special thanks go to Dr. Thomas Ditzinger at Springer Publisher for the fruitful and personal co-operation so guaranteeing the high quality of these two volumes. I myself believe that this conference has meant another significant step towards the advancement and understanding of unsaturated soils. Studying the presented papers carefully we will learn about current international work in the field of: experimental unsaturated geotechnics, constitutive modeling in unsaturated geotechnics, the microstructure and its importance to soil behavior and further about environmental issues.

Weimar, January 2004

Tom Schanz
From experimental evidence towards numerical modelling of unsaturated soils
Contents

THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Conservation laws for three-phase partially-saturated granular media .................... 3
Borja, R.I.

Thermally-induced pore pressure generation in a nearly-saturated cementitious material .......................................................... 15
Selvadurai, A.P.S.

Strain localisation simulation in non-isothermal multiphase geomaterials ........... 29
Sanavia, L., Pesavento, F., and Schrefler, B.A.

Non-linear behaviour in the deformation and localization analysis of unsaturated soil ................................................................................................ 41
Ehlers, W., Graf, T, and Ammann, M.

A process-oriented approach to compute THM problems in porous media Part 1: Theoretical and informatics background ................................................... 53
Kolditz, O., Wang, W., de Jonge, J., Xie, M., and Bauer, S.

The influence of hydraulic hysteresis on unsaturated soils FE analyses .......... 67
Tamagnini, R.

Effects of intergranular adhesive force on failure criterion of granular materials ............................................................................................. 81
Kato, S., Yoshimori, Y., and Sakakibara, T.

A bounding surface plasticity model for sands in an unsaturated state .......... 99
Russell, AR.. and Khalili, N.

A unified framework for elastoplasticity of unsaturated soils: From capillary hysteresis to soil skeletal deformations ................. 111
Muraleetharan, K.K. and Wei, C.

State parameters for unsaturated soils, basic empirical concepts ................. 125
Engel, J., Schanz, T., and Lauer, C.

Investigations regarding soils below phreatic surface as unsaturated porous media ...................................................................................... 139
Köhler, H.-J. and Montenegro, H.
Inspection of excess pressure propagation in the zone of gas entrapment below the capillary fringe

Montenegro, H., Köhler, H.-J., and Holfelder, T.

A new concept for the numerical simulation and parameter identification of multiphase flow and transport processes in cohesive soils

Hölzemann, S., Class, H., and Helmig, R.

Statistical approach in soil-water characteristic curve modelling

Stoimenova, E., Datcheva, M., and Schanz, T.

Generalized effective stress in unsaturated granulate by DEM analysis

Jiang, M. and Harris, D.

Grading entropy variation due to soil crushing

Lőrincz, J., Gálos, M., and Rajkai, K.

NUMERICAL MODELLING

A process-oriented approach to compute THM problems in porous media

Part 2: Numerical applications

Kolditz, O., Wang, W., de Jonge, J., Xie, M., and Bauer, S.

Numerical study to the desiccation cracks formation in mineral liners for landfills

Wendling, S. and Meißner, H.

Modelling the behaviour of an earth and rockfill dam during construction and impoundment

Alonso, E.E., Olivella, S., and Hugas, J.

Numerical simulation of air loss during tunnel advance in compressed air tunnelling

Scheid, Y., Semprich, S., and Chinkulkijniwat, A.

Centrifuge and numerical modeling of contaminant transport through the unsaturated silty soil

Sreedeep, S., Berton, C., Moronnoz, T., and Singh, D. G.

Modeling of seepage flow through layered soils

Soraganvi, Veena S., Mohan Kumar, M. S., and Muthineni, S.

Hydro-mechanical behaviour of unsaturated buffer

Thomas, H.R., Cleall, P.J., Chandler, N., Dixon, D., and Mitchell, H.P.
Applications of CODE-BRIGHT to thermal-hydro-mechanical experiments on clays 341
Zhang, C.-L., Kröhn, K.-P., and Rothfuchs, T.

An unsaturated soil seepage analysis for design of a soil cover system to reduce oxidation of a mine tailings deposit 359
Wang, B. and Murray, L.
THEORETICAL APPROACHES