

# BEARING CAPACITY DETERMINATION OF SANDY SOIL LAYER USING LIGHT WEIGHT PENETRATION TEST

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The objective of this research was to study the effect of the 3 apex angles of cone and the water levels on the bearing capacity of sandy soil layer by using kunzelstab test. The silty sandy soil (SM) was used as the representative of sandy soil. According to the results, the cone angle increase, a number of blows increase and the adjusted factors of the blows from the apex angles of 60° and 180° to be that of the apex angle of 90° (control) were 1.118 and 0.878, respectively. The correlation of the blows against the internal friction angles of SM soil can be used for calculating the soil bearing capacity under the condition that the depth was deeper than 1 m below the ground surface. The soil bearing capacity of SM soil below the water level decreases 70-75 percent comparing to dry soil. Moreover, the bearing capacity of SM soil above the water level up to 0.6 m decreases 25-30 percent comparing to that of the dry soil at the same depth. Therefore, the calculation of the soil bearing capacity in the silty sandy soil layer should be considered the effect of the water level.

Keywords: Bearing capacity, Silty sandy soil, Kunzelstab test, Apex angle of cone, Water level

## INTRODUCTION

Foundation is a significant structure of building that foundation design must be known a bearing capacity of soil. Generally, the bearing capacity of soil can be interpreted from the results of soil investigation. For the small buildings or the residences which lay on stiff soil, soil investigation maybe not has to perform but it can use in-situ test by using light weight penetration test namely kunzelstab penetration test. This test can perform rapidly, economical expense and easy transportation (Khuwijitjaru, 1999; Krasaetep and Thongchart, 2012). According to the standard of kunzelstan penetration test (DIN 4049), an apex angle of cone is 90 degree but presently, the apex angle of cone used in this test is 60 degree which is not corresponding to the standard.

Therefore, this research focuses the effect of the apex angle of 3 cones and the water levels on the bearing capacity of sandy soil layer. Moreover, the results can be used to correlate the internal friction angle of sandy soil and determine the bearing capacity by Terzaghi's equation (Sakmanee and Chantawarangul, 2003; Sakmanee and Chantawarangul, 2006).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Experimental Materials and Apparatus

Material used in this research is sandy soil as represent soil sample in area of Prachuap Khirikhan province. The results of a dry-sieving test show the passing No.200 sieve is 44.39% and grain size distribution curve of sandy soil is as shown in Figure 1. The physical properties are as follows: liquid limit (LL) of 18.15%, plastic limit (PL) of 14.44%, plasticity index (PI) of 18.15% and specific gravity of 2.68. Soil type of soil which classify by Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) is silty sandy soil (SM).

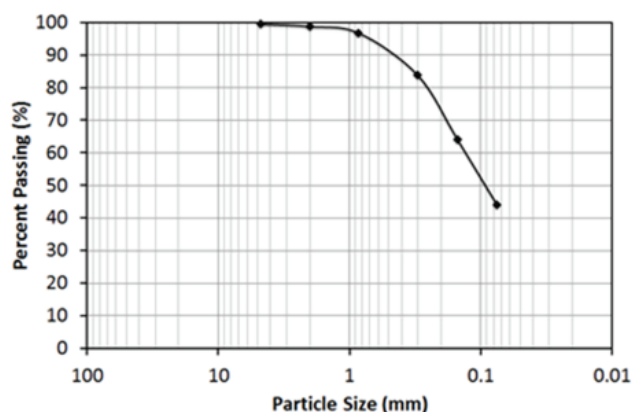


Figure 1: Grained size distribution curve of SM soil

The kunzelstab penetrometer is as shown in Figure 2 which consists of (1) guild rod (2) sounding rod (3) hammer (4) anvil (5) base plate (6) penetration control and (7) the cone with the apex angles of 60°, 90° and 180°.



Figure 2: Kunzelstab penetrometer

### Soil Preparation in Testing Tank

The steps of soil preparation can be described as follows:

Dry the soil sample by exposing to the sun as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Exposition of soil sample

Dry silty sand was placed in the testing tank which is 1.0 m wide, 1.0 m long, and 1.8 m high. It was pluviated lift by lift as sand raining. Each lift thickness is 0.05 m and the dry density of 1.9 t/m<sup>3</sup> is controlled every lift thickness until the soil layer full in the testing tank as shown in Figure 4. For the case of water level simulation, water was gradually added to the soil layer from bottom until reach the desired level which shown in Table 1.



Figure 4: Soil preparations in testing tank

Table 1: Abbreviation of the test condition

Apex angle of cone (degree)	Water level (m)		
	-	1,0	1,5
60	SM-d	SM-1.0	SM-1.5
90	SM-d	SM-1.0	SM-1.5
180	SM-d	SM-1.0	SM-1.5

### Procedure of Kunzelstab Penetration Test

Test procedure (Khuwijitjaru, 2001; Kererat, 2012) can be described as follows:

Place the base plate at the center of testing tank area. Assemble the cone to the sounding rod and connect to the base plate. Assemble the anvil, hammer and guide rod to the sounding rod as shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Instrument preparation

Testing was performed by using a 10 kg steel mass that falls 50 cm to drive 25 mm diameter cone into the soil layer as shown in Figure 6. The number of blows was recorded every a penetration depth of 20 cm of cone until the total depth of 1.6 m. After that, the sounding rod was removed from the soil layer. Moreover, the test was performed under condition of water level simulation at 1.0 m and 1.5m from the soil surface including the 3 apex angles of cone which are 60 degree, 90 degree and 180 degree, were changed for each test condition.



Figure 6: Kunzelstab penetration test

After finish testing, the soil samples were sampling by using the sampler which is the steel tube of 30 mm x 30 mm x 200 mm. The depths of sampling are 0.2 m, 0.6 m, 1.0 m and 1.4 m from soil surface as shown in Figure 7. These samples were used to determine wet density and water content for soil preparation in direct shear test.



Figure 7: Soil sampling

Draw the graphs which show number of blows throughout the depth of testing to compare the condition of different the apex angles of cone including the effect of water level.

### Procedure of Direct Shear Test

This test aims to determine the shear strength parameters of soil. The procedures of testing are as follows:

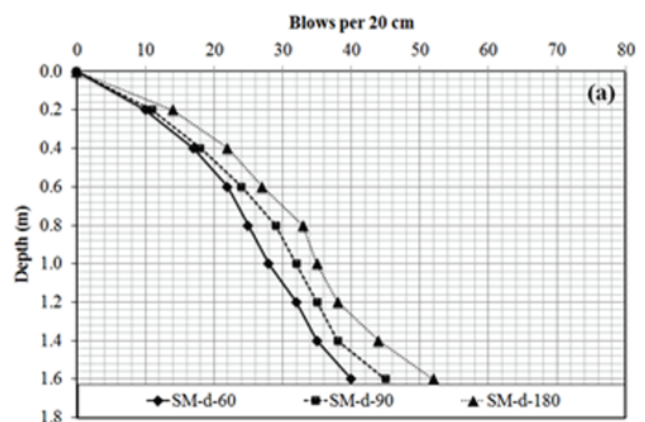
- 1) Prepare the soil sample that are the same density and water content at the sampling depth of 0.2 m, 0.6 m, 1.0 m and 1.4 m, respectively.
- 2) Prepare the desired loads of 3.8 kg, 11.5 kg and 19.1 kg which correspond to the overburden pressure at every sampling depth. Three tests that the applied loads of 0.5, 1 and 2 time desired load are performed for each desired load.
- 3) Perform testing until reach all cases of kunzelstab penetration test.
- 4) Draw the graphs which show the correlation of shear strength parameters and number of blows throughout the depth of testing.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

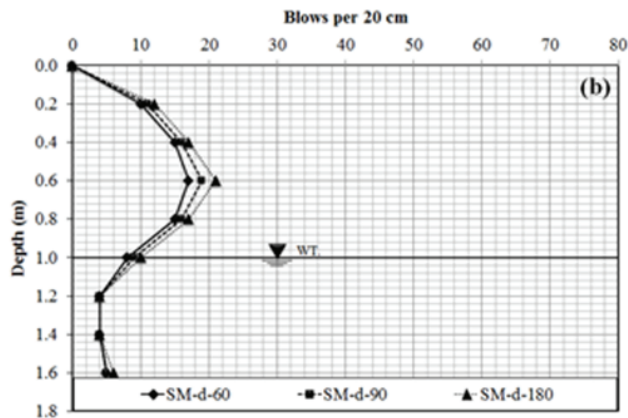
#### Results from Kunzelstab Test

According to the effects of the apex angles of cone and water levels, they can describe as follows:

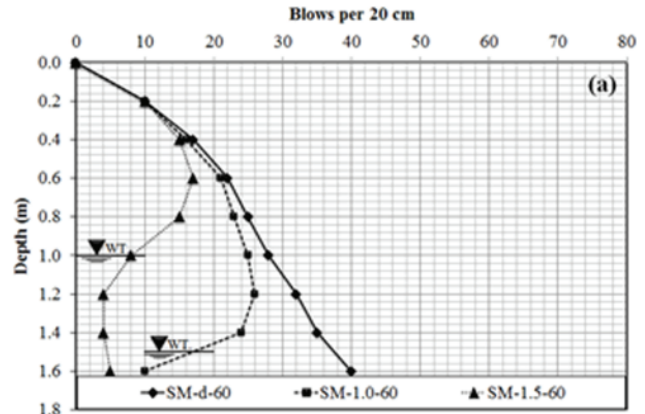
Effect of the apex angles of cone on the blows of testing can be shown in Figure 8. They illustrate the comparison of blows for each cone at the same depth of testing. They reveal that if smaller apex angle, the cone resistance smaller. Therefore, the blows for the use of the 60 degree apex angle are smaller than that for the use of 90 degree apex angle at the same condition of soil preparation.



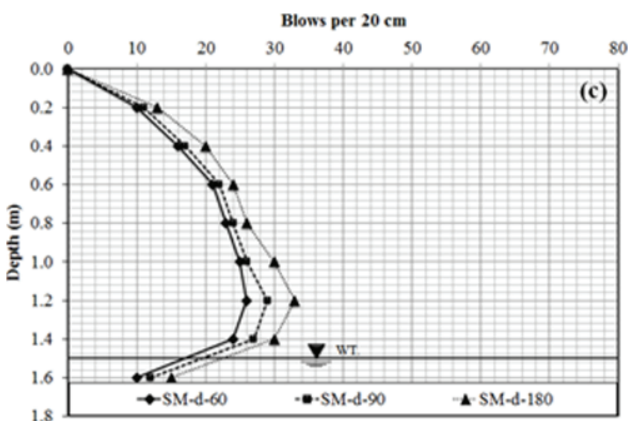
(a)



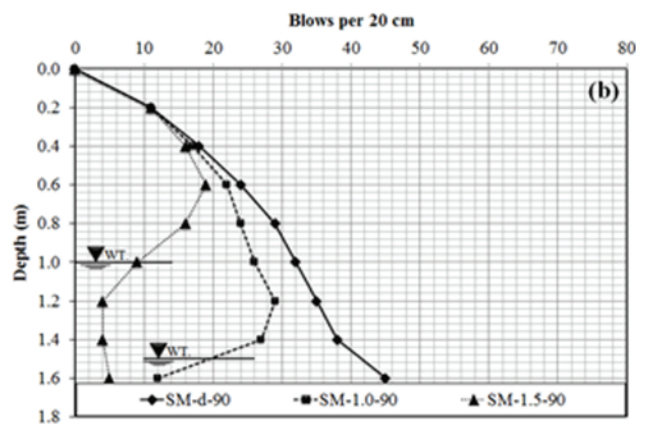
(b)



(a)



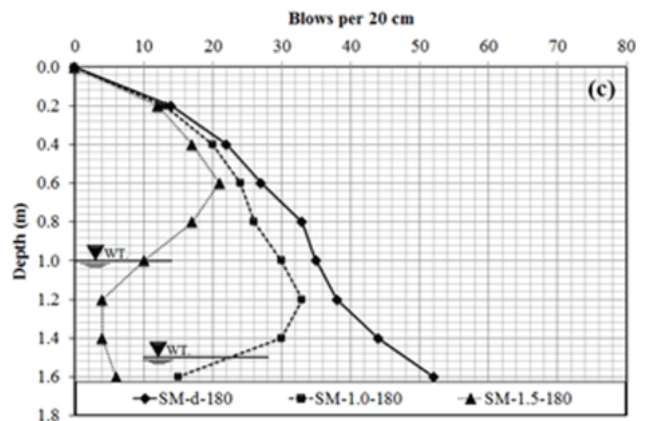
(c)



(b)

Figure 8: The comparison between the blows and the depth of testing for different apex angles (a) dry soil condition (b) soil with 1 m water level condition (c) soil with 1.5 m water level condition

Effect of water level on the blows of testing can be shown in Figure 9. They illustrate the comparison of the blows for case of different water level at the same depth and the same apex angle. According to Figure 9(a), the blows increase along to the depth for dry soil condition because the overburden pressure increase. Figures 9(b) and 9(c) show that the blows near water level and below water level will decrease because the soil can be absorbed the water and then the water content will be increase. The blows at the same depth compare to dry soil condition found that the blows decrease about 70% to 75%. Therefore, the water level affects the soil bearing capacity that it will be decrease when it reach 0.6m above water level.



(c)

Figure 9: The comparison between the blows and the depth of testing for different water level (a) the apex angle of 60 degree (b) the apex angle of 90 degree (c) the apex angle of 180 degree

### Results from Direct Shear Test

The description of testing results is shown in Tables 2 to 4. According to Table 2, it reveals that shear strength parameters increase with depth. The blows of 11 to 38 (apex angle of 90 degree) and the internal friction angles of soil are about

35 to 40 degree show that the soil is the medium dense state which correspond to the data by Meyerhof (1956). For the case of water level (Table 3), the internal friction angle of saturated soil more decrease which is 7 to 9 degree when compare to the case of dry soil because of the effect of water content. Moreover, the data from

Table 4 are also shown that the internal friction angle of saturated soil tend to decrease when it close to or below the water level. As the results, the translation from the blows to be the internal friction angle should be considered the blows below the surface of 0.6 m because the soil near the surface will move laterally.

Table 2: Engineering properties for the condition of dry soil

Condition	Depth (m)	Moisture content (%)	Density (t/m <sup>3</sup> )	Shear strength parameters		NKPT		
				Cohesion (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Internal friction angle	Apex angle 60°	Apex angle 90°	Apex angle 180°
SM-d	0,2	0	1,91	0,145	36,97	10	11	14
	0,6	0	1,94	0,154	37,13	22	24	27
	1,0	0	1,95	0,245	38,88	28	32	35
	1,4	0	1,96	0,209	39,73	35	38	44

Table 3: Engineering properties for the condition of dry soil

Condition	Depth (m)	Moisture content (%)	Density (t/m <sup>3</sup> )	Shear strength parameters		NKPT		
				Cohesion (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Internal friction angle	Apex angle 60°	Apex angle 90°	Apex angle 180°
SM-1.0	0,2	0	1,91	0,145	36,97	10	11	12
	0,6	0	1,93	0,154	37,13	17	19	21
	1,0	8,12	1,97	0,035	7,72	8	9	10
	1,4	16,28	2,06	0,031	8,98	4	4	4

Table 4: Engineering properties for the condition of soil with water level of 1.5 m

Condition	Depth (m)	Moisture content (%)	Density (t/m <sup>3</sup> )	Shear strength parameters		NKPT		
				Cohesion (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Internal friction angle	Apex angle 60°	Apex angle 90°	Apex angle 180°
SM-1.5	0,2	0	1,91	0,145	36,97	10	11	13
	0,6	0	1,93	0,154	37,13	21	22	24
	1,0	0	1,95	0,245	38,88	25	26	30
	1,4	14,29	2,08	0,036	7,40	24	27	30

## CONCLUSIONS

According to all data from testing, they can be used to develop the correlation between the blows and the shear strength parameters for the apex angles of 60, 90 and 180 degree. The translation from the blows to be the internal friction angle should be considered the blows below the surface of 0.6 m. The factors for translating the blows from the cone of 60 degree to the cone of 90 degree and from the cone of 180 degree to the cone of 90 degree are 1.188 and 0.878, respectively (the cone of 90 degree is the standard). The bearing capacity of silty sand layer which is above the water level of 0.6 m high until below the water level will be more decrease than that of the dry condition about 70 to 75%. The recommendation for shallow foundation design should be consider the effect of the water level in case of the depth of foundation located above the water level of 0.6m.

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