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VERTICAL DISPLACEMENT OF BORED PILES GROUP FOR PROJECT OF LRT USING NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT: This article discusses the problem of the bearing capacity of piles with defects in the pile body. Field trials were performed using the non-destructive Sonic Logging (CSL) method. The object of the study is bored piles with a diameter of 1.0 - 1.5 m and a length of 8 - 55 m. This article solves the problem of bearing capacity of piles with defects of 10%, 20% and 30%, respectively, in the body of the pile. For modeling, we used load test data from bored piles at the LRT construction site. In this study, only the maximum strain value is needed to compile several cases with various defects using two-dimensional finite element analysis (FEMA) based on the Midas-GTS NX program. According to the results of field tests and modeling of piles, it was found that more than 20% of piles have defects. Field data and numerical simulations have also been confirmed on the recommendation of Bjerrum.

Keywords: Pile, Test, Investigation, Load, Analysis, Defects

1. INTRODUCTION

In Nur-Sultan city was constructed the construction public transport system LRT (Light Railway Transport). LRT is an overhead road with two railway lines. At the first stage of construction included the construction of overhead road (bridge) with 22,4 km length and 18 stations which are under process. The foundation of bridge is the bored piles with cross-section 1.0-1.5 m and length 8-55 m. Design bearing capacity of piles are 4500-12000 kN. For boring of soil used a Chinese drilling rigs Zoomlion without casing. To maintain the walls of boreholes in sand and gravel soils to use a polymer slurry. In these conditions, it is very important to control integrity of concrete body of each bored piles. For checking integrity, two methods were applied - Low Strain Method and Cross-Hole Sonic Logging.

This study discusses the bored pile mechanism subjected to compression and uplift loads using the two-dimensional finite element method analysis (FEMA) based on the Midas-GTS NX program. This article is decided the task of the bearing capacity of piles with defects respectively 10%, 20%, and 30% in the pile body. The data of pile defects were obtained from in-situ tests (one of three with an acceptable defect) based on which the task was simulated on the Midas-GTS NX program.

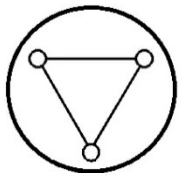
Numerical models of a three bored pile located in clayey and sandy layers were examined. The Mohr-Coulomb model was presumed for soils, and the concrete bored pile was assumed to be linearly elastic. Cases of pile foundation models with various defects were created to analyze the simulation results by parameters "defect percentage" for three combinations of defective pile groups. The results of pile modeling and field tests confirm that piles with defects over 20% have a low bearing capacity and are not allowed for exploitation. Details of the observations are discussed below.

2. EXPERIMENTAL DATA OF CSL TEST

2.1 Cross-Hole Sonic Logging

CSL method is an accurate, cost-effective, and non-destructive that means of investigating the integrity of concrete in drilled shaft foundations. CSL establishes the homogeneity and integrity of concrete in a deep foundation and identifies anomalies, such as voids or soil intrusions, within the structure.

Ultrasonic logging, on the other hand, is intrusive and necessitates the prior installation of access tubes (usually two or more) in the pile. Before the test they have to be filled with water (to obtain good coupling) and two probes are lowered inside two of the tubes. One of these probes is “an emitter“ and the other “a receiver” of ultrasonic pulses. Having been lowered to the bottom, the probes are then pulled simultaneously upwards to produce an ultrasonic logging profile. The transmitter produces a series of acoustic waves in all directions. Some of these waves do eventually reach the receiver. The testing instrument then plots the travel time between the tubes versus the depth. As long as this time is fairly constant, it shows that there is no change in concrete quality. If the travel time suddenly increase at any depth may indicate a weakness at this depth. The number of access tubes cast in the pile concrete is a function of the pile diameter, the importance of the pile and, of course, economic consideration. A good rule of thumb is to specify one tube per each 30 cm of pile diameter. For best effect, the tubes should be equally spaced inside the spiral reinforcement and rigidly attached to it by wire or spot welding. Tubes are extended below the reinforcement cage, they have stabilized by suitable steel hoops [1-2].



Pile Ø < 1000 mm

Fig. 1 Typical access duct configuration

Everybody with experience in reinforced concrete construction has encountered columns that, upon dismantling of the forms, exhibit air voids and honeycombing. Although these columns may have been cast with good-quality concrete, in properly assembled forms and with careful vibration, they still exhibit defects. Cast-in-situ piles are also columns, but instead of forms made of wood or metal we have a hole in the ground. This hole may pass through layers of dumped fill, loose sand, organic matter, and ground water, which may be fast flowing or corrosive. Obviously, such conditions are not conducive to a high-quality end product.

2.2 Interpretations of test data

A tomography is a mathematical procedure that is applied to the Cross-hole Sonic Logging (CSL) data, providing the user with a visual image of shaft's internal defects. The procedure involves solving a system of equations based on the first arrival times (FAT) in order to calculate wave speeds at various points within the shaft. Wave speeds of tomography distributed throughout the shaft are directly proportional to density, indicating concrete quality. For visual imaging are used a program PDI-TOMO is an extension of the CHA-W software designed for superior tomographic analysis results from CHAMP data with increased efficiency for the user. The field test result of the integrity of bored pile shows in Table 1 [5] and defectson the pile body are as shown in Fig. 2.

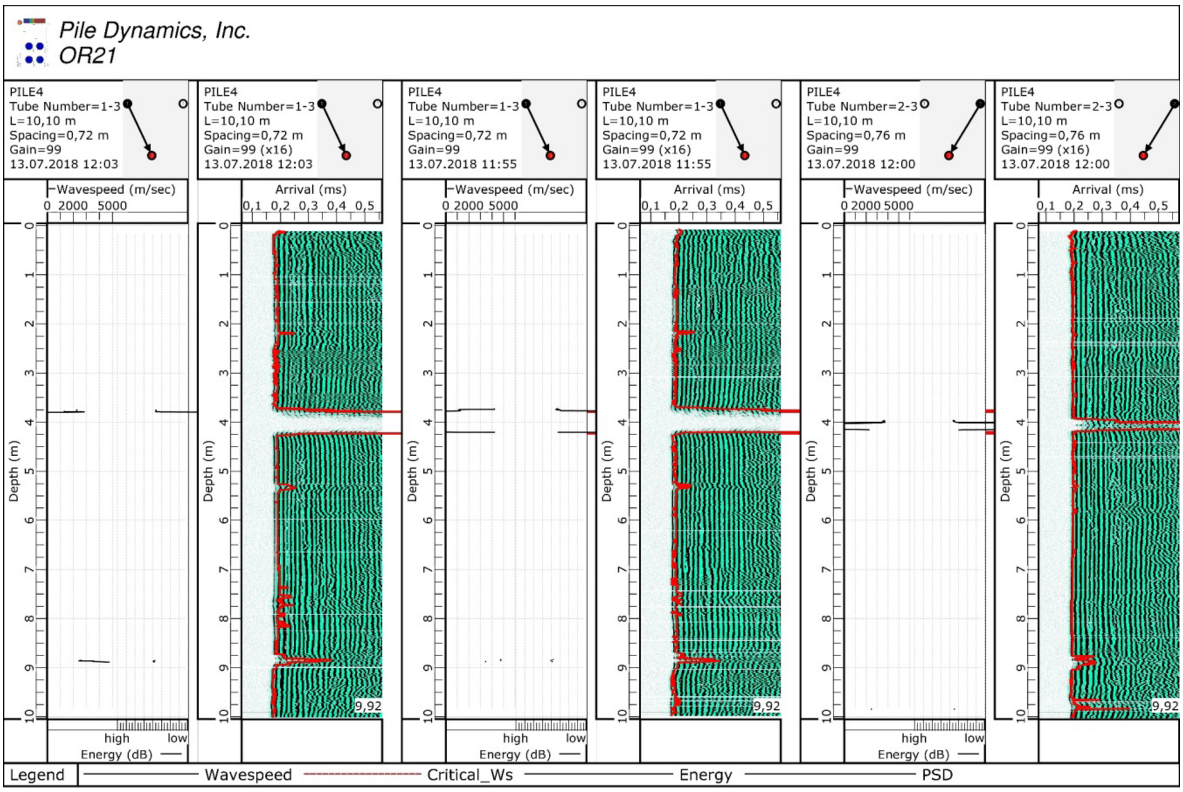


Fig. 2 Visual representation of the pile OR21-4 from CSL test

Usually the report includes presentation of Cross-Hole Sonic logs for all tested tube pairs including:
- Presentation of the traditional signal peak diagram as a function of time plotted versus depth.
- Computed initial pulse arrival time or pulse wave speed versus depth.
- Computed relative pulse energy or amplitude versus depth.

A Cross-Hole Sonic Logging is presented for each tube pairs. Defect zones, if any, are indicated on the logs and their extent and location discussed in the report text. Defect zones are defined by an increase in arrival time of more than 20 percent relative to the arrival time in a nearby zone of good concrete, indicating a lower pulse velocity [3-4]. The same procedure, which is carried out in two dimensions on a single profile can be used in three dimensions for the whole piles.

Table 1 The result of the integrity of bored pile

Number pile	Pile diameter, (m)	Pile length, (m)	Speed of wave, (m/c)	Concrete class	Comments
Station 115-116, OR21-4	1.2	10.1	1565	B35	Anomaly at depth defected 3.75:4.75 m

3. NUMERICAL MODELING

3.1 Analysis in Midas-GTS NX

Finite element analysis has gained popularity in the design of geotechnical structures since the 2000s. There are many computer packages available at present. The functions of the Midas-GTS NX analysis are similar to other geotechnical engineering software such as PLAXIS, FLAC, etc. The two-dimensional FE analysis can provide any displacement component at the nodes of the structural system. It can further reveal the stresses at the nodes, and any of the elements. However, it should be noted that the stresses revealed at the nodes need to be carefully used. The Midas-GTS NX analysis is the main tool used in carrying out this study.

3.2 Results of numerical modeling of pile group in program Midas-GTS NX

Clayey and sandy strata were both assumed. A soil stiffness was increased with the layer's depth. The effects of the ground water table and pore water movements were neglected in the modeling. Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion was assumed for the soils. As shown in the results, clayey soils were dominated by the undrained shear strength. Sandy soils were controlled by the internal friction angles. The internal friction angles of the sandy layers were averaged in the analysis for the interpretations. Linear elastic material was assumed for the concrete piles.

The numerical models and the material properties of the bored piles used in this study can be found in Table 2.

Table 2 Properties of bored pile

Number pile	Pile length, (m)	Pile diameter, (m)	E_s, MPa	Poisson is ratio	$\boldsymbol{\rho}$, (t/m^3)
Station 115-116, OR21-4	10.1	1.2	$3*10^4$	0.18	2.4

Table 3 Soil parameters for modeling

Depth, h (m)	Soil types	Soil density, $\boldsymbol{\rho}$, (t/m^3)	c, kPa	$\boldsymbol{\varphi}$, (^{0})	E_s, MPa
0.6-5.20	Bulk soil	1.87			70
5.20-9.80	Loam	1.90	40	26	77
9.80-14.10	Sand stone	1.95	0	40	126
14.10	Gravel sand	2.00	0	32	217
Average value					122

For the Midas-GTS NX analysis, the contact elements between the pile and soils were guided by a simple elastoplastic model. The frictional stiffness (*Kt*) of the contact element was presumed equal to the Young's Modulus of the soils (*Es*). For the frictional strength of the element, if the piles were in clays, the adhesions (c_a) between the pile and the soils were related to the undrained shear strength of the clayey soils (S_u). All parameters of soil layers shown in Table 3.

A Figure 1 shows the typical FEMA mesh used in the study. A uniformly distributed load was applied on top of the bored pile. 150 MN were the maximum loads applied for compression and lift is shown in Figure 3. Significant boundary conditions shown in Figure 4. The stability and convergence of the numerical solutions were ensued by enlarging the size of FEM zone. The appropriateness of the solutions with respect to the size of the FEM zone is depicted for pile in clays.

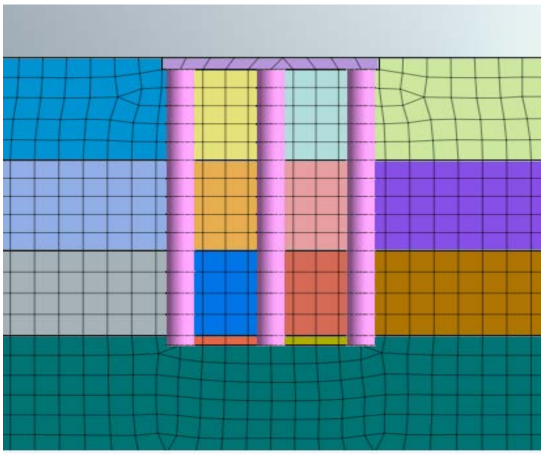


Fig. 3 FE mesh used in the Midas analysis

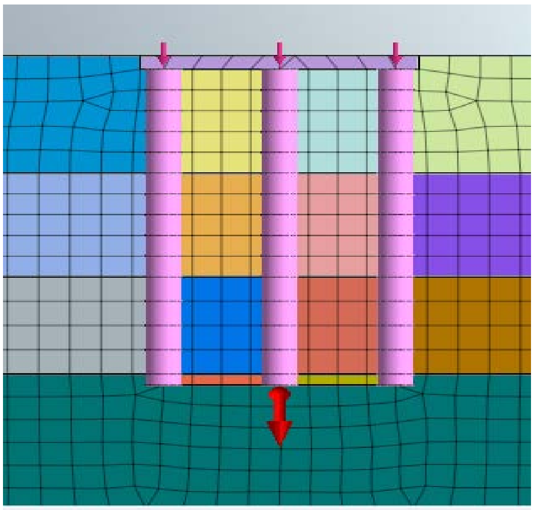


Fig. 4 Static load gravity force

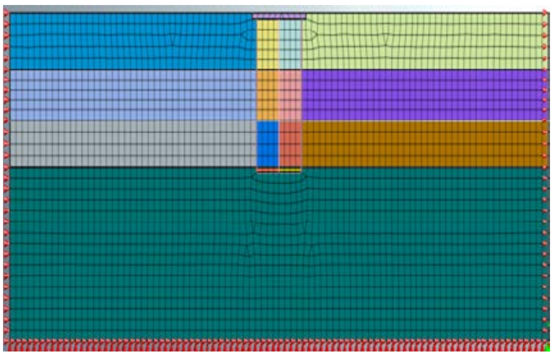


Fig. 5 Boundary condition

Cases of pile foundation models with various defects were created to analyze the simulation results by parameters "defect percentage" for three combinations of defective pile groups. The bearing capacity of piles are considered with defects respectively 10%, 20% and 30% in the pile body.

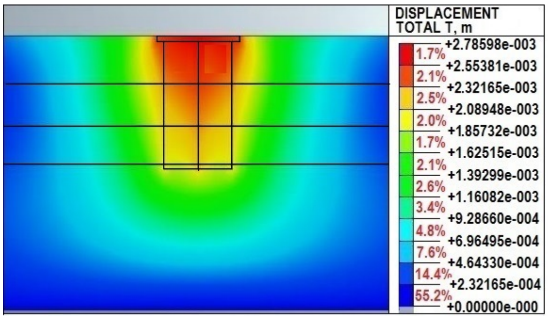


Fig. 6 Vertical displacement of bored pile groups ("good" pile)

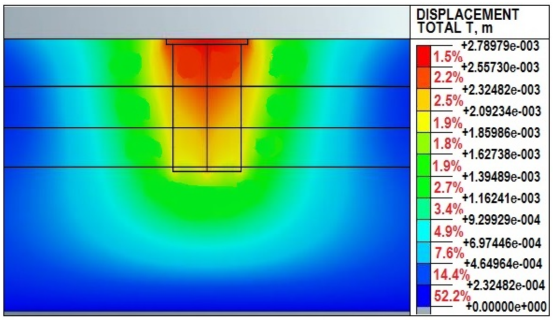


Fig. 7 Vertical displacement of bored piles with a 10% defect

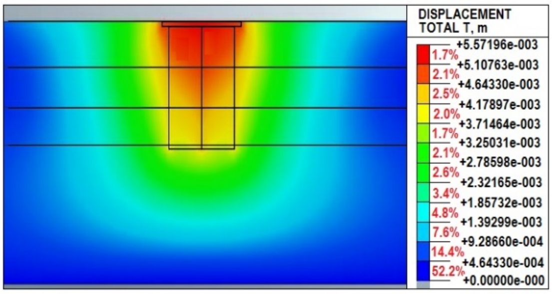


Fig. 8 Vertical displacement of bored piles with a 20% defect

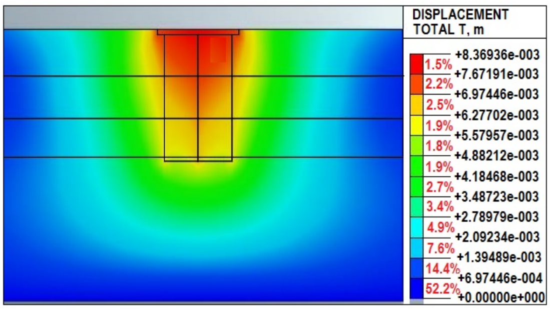


Fig. 9 Vertical displacement of bored piles with a 30% defect

The analysis results show that for piles with 30% defects, the maximum vertical displacement is 25.107 mm, exceeding the permissible value (limit 25 mm). Consequently, a pile of more than 20% defects will have a low bearing capacity.

Table 4 Cases of pile group foundation models with 10 percentage defects

Case study	Defect 10 %	Good pile	Maximum vertical displacement, mm	Limit, 25 mm
1-1	0	Pile 1,2,3	8.355	OK
1-2	Pile 1	Pile 1,2	8.359	OK
1-3	Pile 1,2	Pile 1	8.363	OK
1-4	Pile 1,2,3	0	8.367	OK

Table 5 Cases of pile group foundation models with 20 percentage defects

Case study	Defect 20 %	Good pile	Maximum vertical displacement, mm	Limit, 25 mm
1-1	0	Pile 1,2,3	8.355	OK
1-2	Pile 1	Pile 1,2	11.140	OK
1-3	Pile 1,2	Pile 1	13.927	OK
1-4	Pile 1,2,3	0	16.713	OK

Bjerrum (1963) recommended the limiting angular distortion, $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{max}$ for various structures [8]. The differential settlement and the angular distortion can cause structural distress when they are excessive. The angular distortion is defined as the ratio of the differential settlement between two adjacent foundations to the span length.

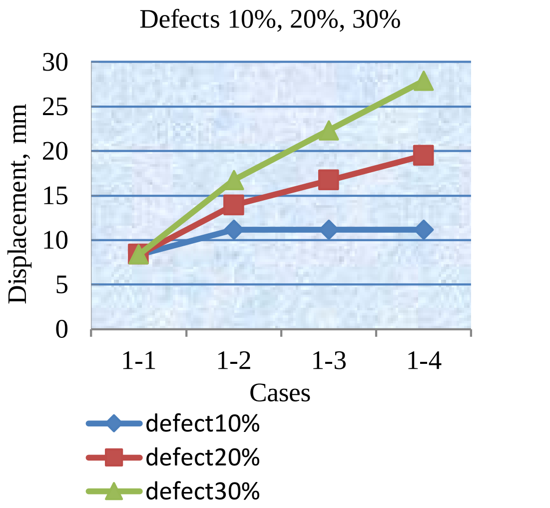


Fig. 9 Results of the pile displacement with various defects

Table 6 Cases of pile group foundation models with 30 percentage defects

Case study	Defect 30 %	Good pile	Maximum vertical displacement, mm	Limit, 25 mm
1-1	0	Pile 1,2,3	8.355	OK
1-2	Pile 1	Pile 1,2	13.939	OK
1-3	Pile 1,2	Pile 1	19.523	OK
1-4	Pile 1,2,3	0	25.107	N.G.

The European Committee for Standardization has also provided limiting values for serviceability and the maximum accepted foundation movements.

The serviceability limit state can be threatened when the angular distortion reaches a specific value in the range of 1/300 to 1/500. These limiting values are larger than those provided by Terzaghi and Peck (1948) [6], who suggested an allowable settlement limiting value of 25mm for isolated foundations and 50 mm for rafts. Field data results and data of numerical modelling were confirmed also as $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{max}$ in [7]. For the piles with 10 and 20 percentages of defects the rules in [6] are made, and for piles with 30 percentage defects the rule do not decided. The piles with more than 20 percentage of defects had been low bearing capacity of piles.

4. CONCLUSION

This study presents the examples of using the two-dimensional FEMA for modeling of bored piles that have undergone compression and lifting. The results of field tests and modeling of piles, as well as on the recommendation by Bjerrum [8] showed that piles with more than 20% defects have a low bearing capacity. Those piles are not approved for exploitation.

On the basis of investigations, following recommendations are given: if defects of piles founded near the top of piles, it needs to take a coring from pile body and analyze the concrete strength parameters at the laboratory. Secondly, if the length of the piles is long, then it needs to conduct a static test of pile with defects or improve the group piles by additional pile [9-10].

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