PLAXIS

CONNECT Edition V21.00

PLAXIS 2D - Tutorial Manual

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Bentley®

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction 8

Chapter 2: Settlement of a circular footing on sand 9

2.1 Geometry 9
2.2 Case A: Rigid footing 10
2.2.1 Create a new project 10
2.2.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 12
2.2.3 Create and assign material data sets 13
2.2.4 Define the footing 17
2.2.5 Generate the mesh 18
2.2.6 Define and perform the calculation 19
2.3 Case B: Flexible footing 26
2.3.1 Modify the geometry 27
2.3.2 Add material properties for the footing 29
2.3.3 Generate the mesh 30
2.3.4 Calculations 30
2.3.5 View the calculation results 32
2.3.6 Generate a load-displacement curve 32

Chapter 3: Submerged construction of an excavation 35

3.1 Create new project 36
3.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 36
3.3 Create and assign material data sets 37
3.4 Define the structural elements 39
3.4.1 To define the diaphragm wall: 39
3.4.2 To define the interfaces: 40
3.4.3 To define the excavation levels: 41
3.4.4 To define the strut: 41
3.4.5 To define the distributed load: 42
3.5 Generate the mesh 43
3.6 Define and perform the calculation 44
3.6.1 Initial phase 44
3.6.2 Phase 1: External load 45
3.6.3 Phase 2: First excavation stage 46
3.6.4 Phase 3: Installation of a strut 47
3.6.5 Phase 4: Second (submerged) excavation stage 47
3.6.6 Phase 5: Third excavation stage 48
3.6.7 Execute the calculation 49
3.7 View the calculation results 49
3.7.1 Displacements and stresses 49
3.7.2 Shear forces and bending moments 51

Chapter 4: Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] 53

4.1 Create new project 54
4.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 54

4.3 Create and assign material data sets 55
4.4 Define the structural elements 56
4.4.1 To define the diaphragm wall and interfaces: 56
4.4.2 To define the excavation levels: 57
4.4.3 Defining the ground anchor 58
4.4.4 To define the distributed load: 60
4.5 Generate the mesh 60
4.6 Define and perform the calculation 60
4.6.1 Initial phase 61
4.6.2 Phase 1: Activation of wall and load 61
4.6.3 Phase 2: First excavation 62
4.6.4 Phase 3: First anchor row 62
4.6.5 Phase 4: Second excavation 63
4.6.6 Phase 5: Second anchor row 63
4.6.7 Phase 6: Final excavation 64
4.6.8 Execute the calculation 66
4.7 Results 66

Chapter 5: Dry excavation using a tie back wall - ULS [ADV] 69

5.1 Define the geometry 69
5.2 Define and perform the calculation 71
5.2.1 Changes to all phases 71
5.2.2 Execute the calculation 72
5.3 Results 72

Chapter 6: Construction of a road embankment [ADV] 74

6.1 Create new project 75
6.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 75
6.3 Create and assign material data sets 76
6.4 Define the construction 78
6.4.1 To define the embankment: 78
6.4.2 To define the drains 78
6.5 Generate the mesh 79
6.6 Define and perform the calculation 79
6.6.1 Initial phase: Initial conditions 80
6.6.2 Consolidation analysis 81
6.6.3 Calculate 83
6.7 Results 84
6.8 Safety analysis 86
6.8.1 Evaluation of results 88
6.9 Using drains 91
6.10 Updated mesh and updated water pressures analysis 92

Chapter 7: Settlements due to tunnel construction [GSE] 94

7.1 Create new project 95
7.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 95
7.2.1 Create and assign material data sets 96
7.3 Define the structural elements 98
7.3.1 Define the tunnel 99
7.3.2 Define building 101
7.4 Generate the mesh 102

7.5 Define and perform the calculation ... 103
7.5.1 Initial phase ... 103
7.5.2 Phase 1: Building ... 103
7.5.3 Phase 2: TBM ... 104
7.5.4 Phase 3: TBM conicity ... 104
7.5.5 Phase 4: Tail void grouting ... 104
7.5.6 Phase 5: Lining installation ... 105
7.5.7 Execute the calculation ... 105
7.6 Results ... 105

Chapter 8: Excavation of an NATM tunnel [GSE] ... 110

8.1 Create a new project ... 110
8.2 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 111
8.3 Create and assign material data sets ... 112
8.4 Define the tunnel ... 114
8.5 Generate the mesh ... 116
8.6 Define and perform the calculation ... 117
8.6.1 Initial phase ... 117
8.6.2 Phase 1: First tunnel excavation (deconfinement) ... 117
8.6.3 Phase 2: First (temporary) lining ... 118
8.6.4 Phase 3: Second tunnel excavation (deconfinement) ... 118
8.6.5 Phase 4: Second (final) lining ... 119
8.6.6 Execute the calculation ... 119
8.7 Results ... 120

Chapter 9: Cyclic vertical capacity and stiffness of circular underwater footing [ADV] ... 122

9.3 Create new project ... 123
9.4 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 123
9.5 Create and assign material data sets ... 124
9.5.1 Material: Clay - total load ... 124
9.5.2 Material: Clay - cyclic load ... 132
9.5.3 Material: Concrete ... 135
9.6 Define the structural elements ... 136
9.6.1 Define the concrete foundation ... 136
9.6.2 Define the interfaces ... 136
9.6.3 Define a vertical load ... 138
9.7 Generate the mesh ... 138
9.8 Define and perform the calculation ... 139
9.8.1 Initial phase ... 139
9.8.2 Phase 1: Footing and interface activation ... 139
9.8.3 Phase 2: Bearing capacity and stiffness ... 139
9.8.4 Phase 3: Calculate vertical cyclic stiffness ... 140
9.8.5 Execute the calculation ... 140
9.9 Results ... 140

Chapter 10: Stability of dam under rapid drawdown [ULT] ... 143

10.1 Create new project ... 143
10.2 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 144
10.3 Create and assign material data sets ... 144
10.4 Define the dam ... 145
10.5 Generate the mesh ... 146

10.6 Define and perform the calculation ... 146
10.6.1 Initial phase: Dam construction & high reservoir ... 147
10.6.2 Phase 1: Rapid drawdown ... 149
10.6.3 Phase 2: Slow drawdown ... 152
10.6.4 Phase 3: Low level ... 153
10.6.5 Phase 4 to 7: Safety analysis ... 154
10.6.6 Execute the calculation ... 155
10.7 Results ... 155

Chapter 11: Flow through an embankment [ULT] ... 158

11.1 Create new project ... 158
11.2 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 159
11.3 Create and assign material data set ... 159
11.4 Generate the mesh ... 160
11.5 Define and perform the calculation ... 161
11.5.1 Initial phase ... 161
11.5.2 Phase 1 ... 162
11.5.3 Phase 2 ... 163
11.5.4 Execute the calculation ... 164
11.6 Results ... 165

Chapter 12: Excavation and dewatering [ADV] ... 168

12.1 Create and assign material data set ... 168
12.2 Define the structural elements ... 169
12.3 Generate the mesh ... 169
12.4 Define and perform the calculation ... 170
12.4.1 Phase 6: Dewatering ... 170
12.4.2 Execute the calculation ... 170
12.5 Results ... 170

Chapter 13: Potato field moisture content [ULT] ... 172

13.1 Create new project ... 172
13.2 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 173
13.3 Create and assign material data sets ... 174
13.4 Generate the mesh ... 175
13.5 Define and perform the calculation ... 176
13.5.1 Initial phase ... 176
13.5.2 Transient phase ... 177
13.5.3 Execute the calculation ... 179
13.6 Results ... 179

Chapter 14: dynamics analysis of a generator on an elastic foundation [ULT] ... 181

14.1 Create new project ... 182
14.2 Define the soil stratigraphy ... 182
14.3 Create and assign material data sets ... 182
14.4 Define the structural elements ... 183
14.5 Generate the mesh ... 184
14.6 Define and perform the calculation ... 185
14.6.1 Initial phase ... 185
14.6.2 Phase 1: Footing ... 185
14.6.3 Phase 2: Start generator ... 186

14.6.4 Phase 3: Stop generator 188
14.6.5 Execute the calculation 188
14.6.6 Additional calculation with damping 189
14.7 Results 190

Chapter 15: Pile driving [ULT] 193

15.1 Create new project 193
15.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 194
15.3 Create and assign material data sets 194
15.4 Define the structural elements 196
15.4.1 Define the pile 197
15.4.2 Define a load 197
15.5 Generate the mesh 199
15.6 Define and perform the calculation 199
15.6.1 Initial phase 199
15.6.2 Phase 1: Pile activation 200
15.6.3 Phase 2: Pile driving 200
15.6.4 Phase 3: Fading 201
15.6.5 Execute the calculation 202
15.7 Results 202

Chapter 16: Free vibration and earthquake analysis of a building [ULT] 205

16.1 Create new project 206
16.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 206
16.3 Create and assign material data sets 206
16.4 Define the structural elements 209
16.4.1 Define the building 210
16.4.2 Define the loads 211
16.4.3 Create interfaces on the boundary 212
16.5 Generate the mesh 213
16.6 Define and perform the calculation 213
16.6.1 Initial phase 213
16.6.2 Phase 1: Building 214
16.6.3 Phase 2: Excitation 215
16.6.4 Phase 3: Free vibration 215
16.6.5 Phase 4: Earthquake 216
16.6.6 Execute the calculation 216
16.7 Results 217

Chapter 17: Thermal expansion of a navigable lock [ULT] 220

17.1 Create new project 220
17.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 221
17.3 Create and assign material data sets 221
17.4 Define the structural elements 223
17.5 Generate the mesh 224
17.6 Define and perform the calculation 225
17.6.1 Initial phase 225
17.6.2 Phase 1: Construction 226
17.6.3 Phase 2: Heating 228
17.6.4 Execute the calculation 230
17.7 Results 230

Chapter 18: Freeze pipes in tunnel construction [ULT] 234

18.1 Create new project 235
18.2 Define the soil stratigraphy 235
18.3 Create and assign material data sets 235
18.4 Define the structural elements 238
18.5 Generate the mesh 240
18.6 Define and perform the calculation 240
18.6.1 Initial phase 240
18.6.2 Phase 1: Transient calculation 241
18.6.3 Execute the calculation 242
18.7 Results 242

1 Introduction

PLAXIS 2D is a finite element package that has been developed specifically for the analysis of deformation, stability and flow in geotechnical engineering projects. The simple graphical input procedures enable a quick generation of complex finite element models, and the enhanced output facilities provide a detailed presentation of computational results. The calculation itself is fully automated and based on robust numerical procedures. This concept enables new users to work with the package after only a few hours of training.

Though the various tutorials deal with a wide range of interesting practical applications, this Tutorial Manual is intended to help new users become familiar with PLAXIS 2D. The tutorials and the respective material data sets should therefore not be used as a basis for practical projects.

Users are expected to have a basic understanding of soil mechanics and should be able to work in a Windows environment. It is strongly recommended that the tutorials are followed in the order that they appear in the manual. Please note that minor differences in results maybe found, depending on hardware and software configuration.

The Tutorial Manual does not provide theoretical background information on the finite element method, nor does it explain the details of the various soil models available in the program. The latter can be found in the Material Models Manual, as included in the full manual, and theoretical background is given in the Scientific Manual. For detailed information on the available program features, the user is referred to the Reference Manual. In addition to the full set of manuals, short courses are organised on a regular basis at several places in the world to provide hands-on experience and background information on the use of the program.

Tutorials available for different licencing levels:

Given PLAXIS 2D features and soil models are provided for separated licencing services, the present tutorial manuals are available with previous installation of a specific licence level.

For more information about licencing levels please visit: General Information Manual , Reference Manual 2D and Material Models Manual).

As a summary, the tutorials available for each licence level can be identified with the following conventions:

- Tutorials with no identification - generally available for PLAXIS 2D licence.
- [ADV] - tutorials for users with PLAXIS 2D Advanced licence.
- [ULT] - tutorials for users with PLAXIS 2D Ultimate licence.
- [GSE] - tutorials for users with Geotechnical SELECT subscription (previous Basic, Advanced or Ultimate licence level required).

2 Settlement of a circular footing on sand

In this chapter a first application is considered, namely the settlement of a circular foundation footing on sand. This is the first step in becoming familiar with the practical use of PLAXIS 2D. The general procedures for the creation of a geometry model, the generation of a finite element mesh, the execution of a finite element calculation and the evaluation of the output results are described here in detail. The information provided in this chapter will be utilised in the later tutorials. Therefore, it is important to complete this first tutorial before attempting any further tutorial examples.

Objectives:

- Starting a new project
- Creating an axisymmetric model
- Creating soil stratigraphy using the *Borehole* feature
- Creating and assigning of material data sets for soil (*Mohr-Coulomb model*)
- Defining prescribed displacements
- Creation of footing using the *Plate* feature
- Creating and assigning material data sets for plates
- Creating loads
- Generating the mesh
- Generating initial stresses using the K0 procedure
- Defining a *Plastic* calculation
- Activating and modifying the values of loads in calculation phases
- Viewing the calculation results
- Selecting points for curves
- Creating a 'Load - displacement' curve

2.1 Geometry

A circular footing with a radius of 1.0 m is placed on a sand layer of 4.0 m thickness as shown in Figure 1 (on page 10). Under the sand layer there is a stiff rock layer that extends to a large depth. The purpose of the exercise is to find the displacements and stresses in the soil caused by the load applied to the footing. Calculations are performed for both rigid and flexible footings. The geometry of the finite element model for these two situations is similar. The rock layer is not included in the model; instead, an appropriate boundary condition is applied at the bottom of the sand layer. To enable any possible mechanism in the sand and to avoid any influence of the outer boundary, the model is extended in horizontal direction to a total radius of 5.0 m.

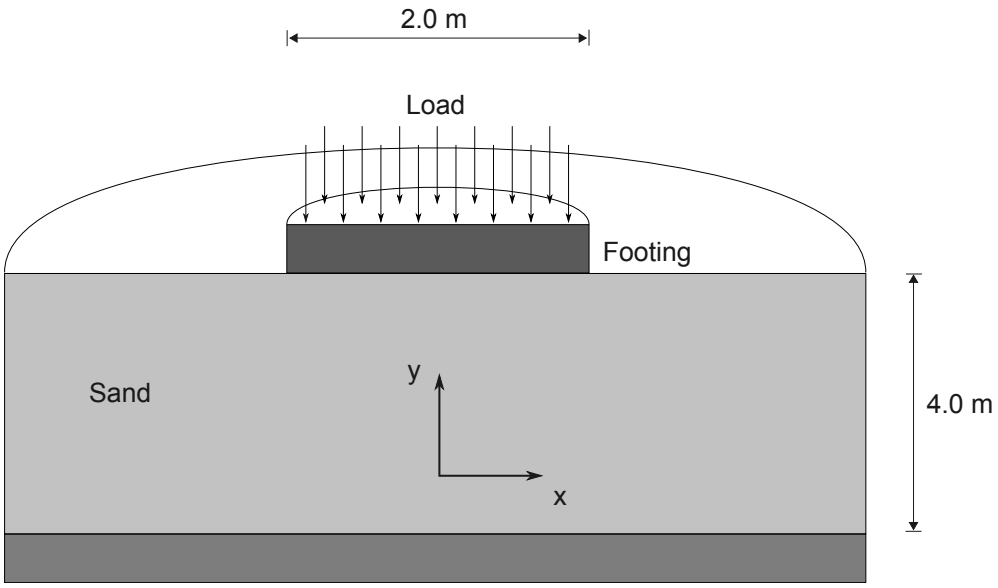


Figure 1: Geometry of a circular footing on a sand layer

2.2 Case A: Rigid footing

In the first calculation, the footing is considered to be very stiff and rough. In this calculation the settlement of the footing is simulated by means of a uniform indentation at the top of the sand layer instead of modelling the footing itself. This approach leads to a very simple model and is therefore used as a first exercise, but it also has some disadvantages. For example, it does not give any information about the structural forces in the footing.

The second part of this tutorial deals with an external load on a flexible footing, which is a more advanced modelling approach.

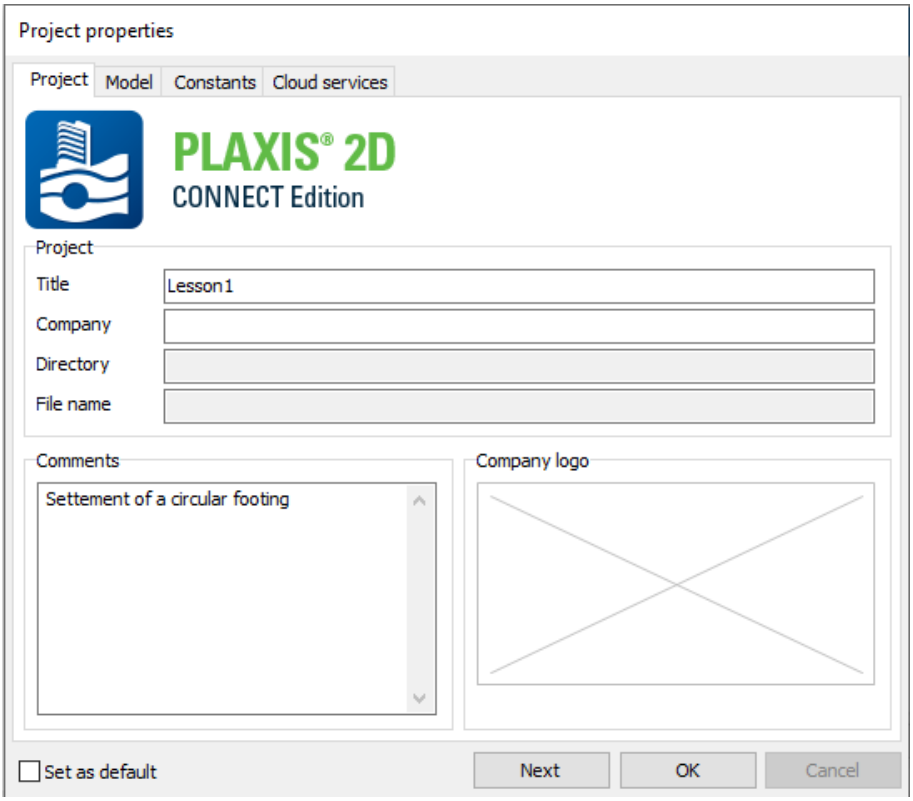
2.2.1 Create a new project

1. Start PLAXIS 2D by double clicking the icon of the Input program .

The **Quick start** dialog box appears in which you can create a new project or select an existing one.

2. Click **Start a new project**.

   The **Project properties** window appears with four tabsheets: **Project**, **Model**, **Constants** and **Cloud services**

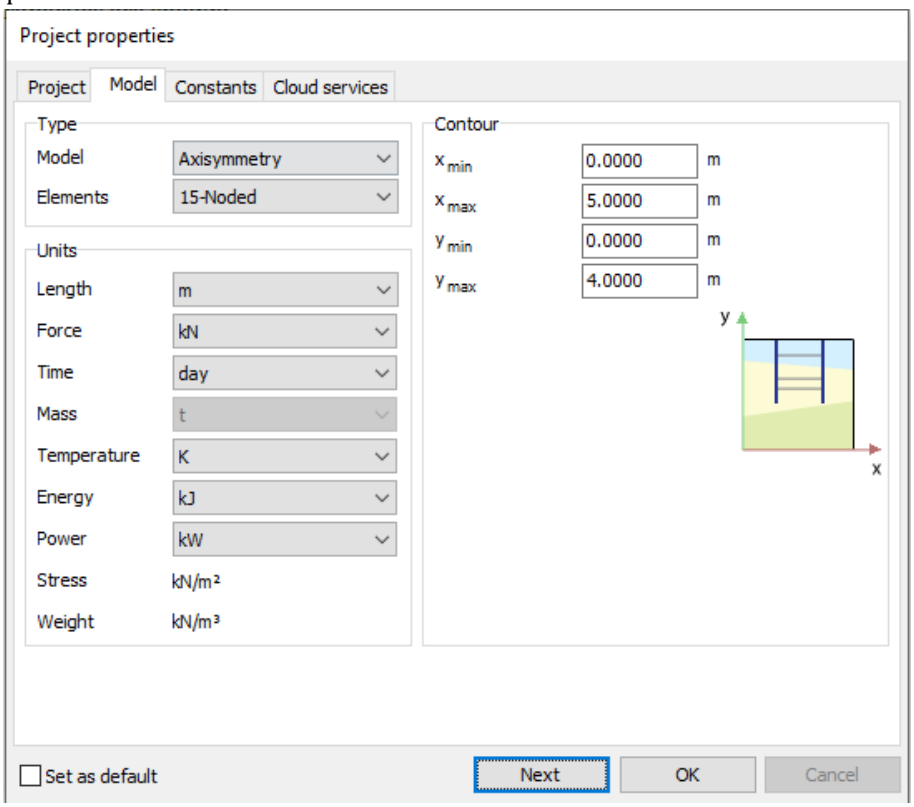


Note:

The first step in every analysis is to set the basic parameters of the finite element model. This is done in the **Project properties** window. These settings include the description of the problem, the type of model, the basic type of elements, the basic units and the size of the drawing area.

To enter the appropriate settings for the footing calculation follow the steps below.

3. In the **Project** tabsheet, enter `Lesson 1` in the **Title** box and type `Settlement of a circular footing` in the **Comments** box.
4. Click the **Next** button at the bottom or click the **Model** tab.
   The **Model** properties are shown:



5. In the **Type** group the type of the model (Model) and the basic element type (Elements) are specified. Since this tutorial concerns a circular footing, select the `Axisymmetry` and the `15-Noded` options from the **Model** and the **Elements** drop-down menus respectively.
6. In the **Contour** group set the model dimensions to $x_{min} = 0$, $x_{max} = 5$, $y_{min} = 0$ and $y_{max} = 4$.
7. Keep the default units in the **Constants** tabsheet.
8. Click the **OK** button to confirm the settings.

The project is created with the given properties. The **Project properties** window closes and the **Soil mode** view will be shown, where the soil stratigraphy can be defined.

Note: The project properties can be changed later. You can access the **Project properties** window by selecting the corresponding option from the **File** menu.

2.2.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

In the **Soil** mode of PLAXIS 2D the soil stratigraphy can be defined.

Information on the soil layers is entered in boreholes. Boreholes are locations in the drawing area at which the information on the position of soil layers and the water table is given. If multiple boreholes are defined, PLAXIS 2D will automatically interpolate between the boreholes. The layer distribution beyond the boreholes is kept horizontal.

Note: The modelling process is completed in five modes (Soil, Structures, Mesh, Flow conditions and Stage construction). More information on modes is available in the *Input Program Structure Mode* of the *Reference Manual*.

In order to construct the soil stratigraphy follow these steps:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button in the side (vertical) toolbar to start defining the soil stratigraphy.
2. Click at x = 0 in the drawing area to locate the borehole.

   The **Modify soil layers** window will appear.
3. Add a soil layer by clicking the **Add** button in the **Modify soil layers** window.
4. Set the top boundary of the soil layer at y = 4 and keep the bottom boundary at y = 0 m.
5. Set the **Head** to 2.0 m.

   By default the **Head** value (groundwater head) in the borehole column is set to 0 m.

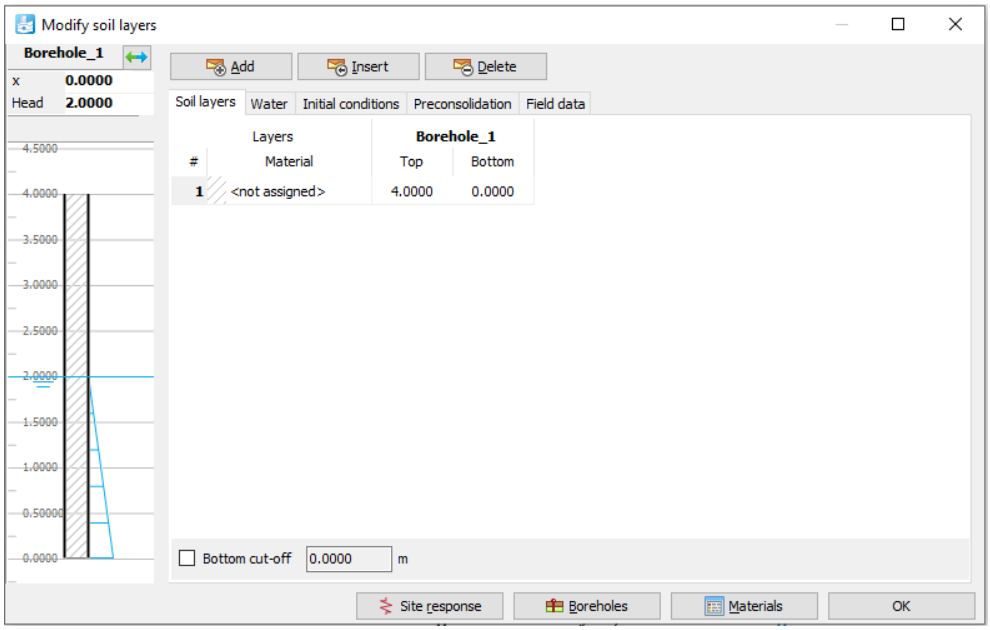


*Figure 2: **Modify soil layers** window*

Next the material data sets are defined and assigned to the soil layers, see Create and assign material data sets (on page 13).

2.2.3 Create and assign material data sets

In order to simulate the behaviour of the soil, a suitable soil model and appropriate material parameters must be assigned to the geometry. In PLAXIS 2D, soil properties are collected in material data sets and the various data

sets are stored in a material database. From the database, a data set can be assigned to one or more soil layers. For structures (like walls, plates, anchors, geogrids, etc.) the system is similar, but different types of structures have different parameters and therefore different types of material data sets.PLAXIS 2D distinguishes between material data sets for **Soil and interfaces**, **Plates**, **Geogrids**, **Embedded beam rows** and **Anchors**.

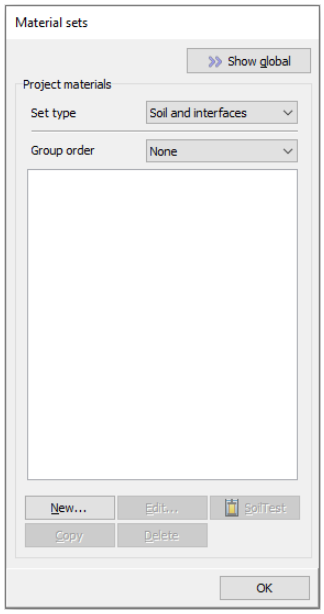
The sand layer that is used in this tutorial has the following properties:

Table 1: Material properties of the sand layer

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
General			
Material model	Model	Mohr-Coulomb	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	kN/m^3
Parameters			
Young's modulus	E'	$13 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.3	-
Cohesion	c'_{ref}	1	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	30	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	°

To create a material set for the sand layer, follow these steps:

1. Open the **Material sets** window by clicking the **Materials** button in the **Modify soil layers** window or in the side toolbar.
   The **Material sets** window pops up.



2. Click the **New** button at the lower side of the **Material sets** window.
   A new window will appear with these tabsheets: **General**, **Parameters**, **Groundwater**, **Thermal**, **Interfaces** and **Initial**.
3. In the **Material set** box of the **General** tabsheet, write Sand in the **Identification** box.
   The default material model (Mohr-Coulomb) and drainage type (Drained) are valid for this example.
4. Enter the proper values in the **General properties** box (Figure 3 (on page 15)) according to the material properties listed in Table 1 (on page 14). Keep parameters that are not mentioned in the table at their default values.

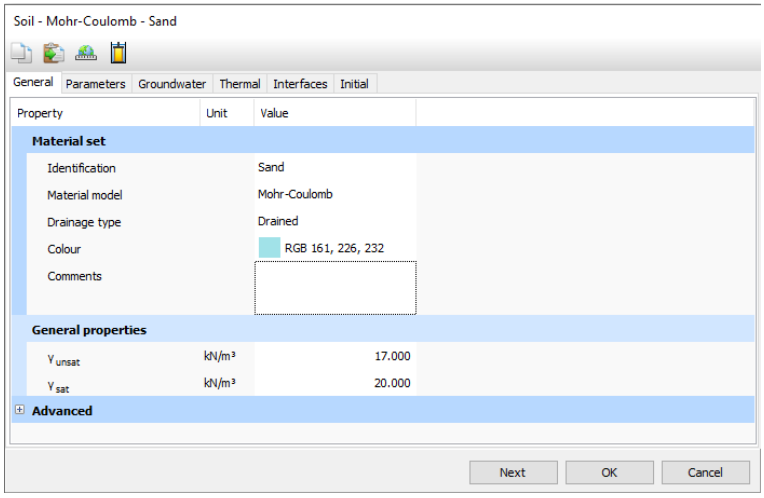


*Figure 3: The **General** tabsheet of the **Soil** window*

5. Click the **Next** button or click the **Parameters** tab to proceed with the input of model parameters.
   The parameters appearing on the **Parameters** tabsheet depend on the selected material model (in this case the Mohr-Coulomb model).

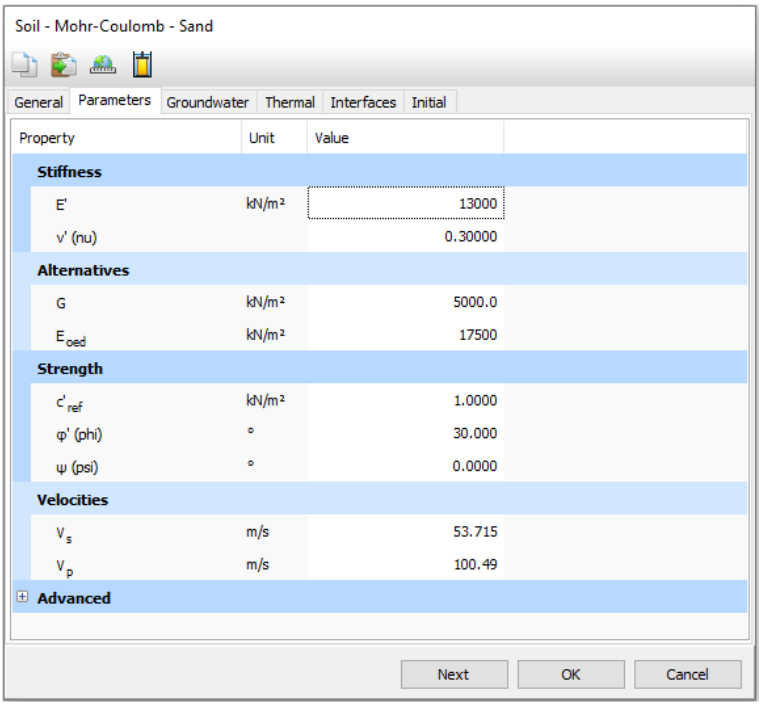


*Figure 4: The **Parameters** tabsheet of the **Soil** window of the Soil and interfaces set type*

6. Enter the model parameters of Table 1 (on page 14) in the corresponding edit boxes of the **Parameters** tabsheet (Figure 4 (on page 16)). A detailed description of different soil models and their corresponding parameters can be found in the Material Models Manual.

   Note: To understand why a particular soil model has been chosen, see Appendix B of the Material Models Manual.

7. The soil material is drained, the geometry model does not include interfaces and the default thermal and initial conditions are valid for this case, therefore the remaining tabsheets can be skipped. Click **OK** to confirm the input of the current material data set.
   Now the created data set will appear in the tree view of the **Material sets** window.
8. Drag the set **Sand** from the **Material sets** window (select it and hold down the left mouse button while moving) to the graph of the soil column on the left hand side of the **Modify soil layers** window and drop it there (release the left mouse button).
9. Click **OK** in the **Material sets** window to close the database.
10. Click **OK** to close the **Modify soil layers** window.

Note:

- Existing data sets may be changed by opening the **Material sets** window, selecting the data set to be changed from the tree view and clicking the **Edit** button. As an alternative, the **Material sets** window can be opened by clicking the corresponding button in the side toolbar.
- PLAXIS 2D distinguishes between a project database and a global database of material sets. Data sets may be exchanged from one project to another using the global database. The global database can be shown in the **Material sets** window by clicking the *Show global* button. The data sets of all tutorials in the Tutorial Manual are stored in the global database during the installation of the program.

- The material assigned to a selected entity in the model can be changed in the **Material** drop-down menu in the **Selection explorer**. Note that all the material datasets assignable to the entity are listed in the drop-down menu. However, only the materials listed under **Project materials** are listed, and not the ones listed under **Global materials**.
- The program performs a consistency check on the material parameters and will give a warning message in the case of a detected inconsistency in the data.

2.2.4 Define the footing

Structural elements and loads are created in the **Structures** mode of the program. In this exercise a uniform indentation will be created to model a very stiff and rough footing.

Note:

Visibility of a grid in the drawing area can simplify the definition of geometry. The grid provides a matrix on the screen that can be used as reference. It may also be used for snapping to regular points during the creation of the geometry. The grid can be activated by clicking the corresponding button under the drawing area. To define the size of the grid cell and the snapping options:

Click the **Snapping options** button in the bottom toolbar. The **Snapping** window pops up where the size of the grid cells and the snapping interval can be specified. The spacing of snapping points can be further divided into smaller intervals by the **Number of snap intervals** value. Use the default values in this tutorial.

1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the **Structures** mode.
2. Click the **Create prescribed displacement** button in the side toolbar.
3. Select the **Create line displacement** option in the expanded menu.
4. In the drawing area move the cursor to point (0 4) and click the left mouse button.
5. Move along the upper boundary of the soil to point (1 4) and click the left mouse button again.
6. Click the right mouse button to stop drawing.
7. In the **Selection explorer** set the x-component of the prescribed displacement (Displacement$_x$) to `Fixed`.
8. Specify a uniform prescribed displacement in the vertical direction by assigning a value of -0.05 to $u_{y,start,ref}$, signifying a downward displacement of 0.05 m.

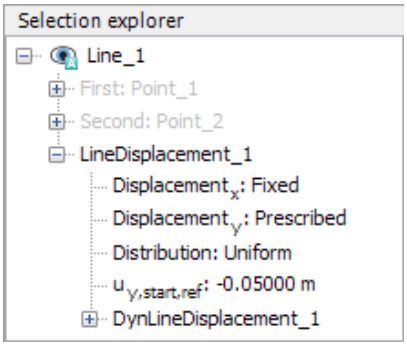


*Figure 5: Prescribed displacement in the **Selection explorer***

The geometry of the model is complete.

When the geometry model is complete, the finite element mesh can be generated. Proceed at Generate the mesh (on page 18)

2.2.5 Generate the mesh

PLAXIS 2D allows for a fully automatic mesh generation procedure, in which the geometry is divided into elements of the basic element type and compatible structural elements, if applicable.

The mesh generation takes full account of the position of points and lines in the model, so that the exact position of layers, loads and structures is accounted for in the finite element mesh. The generation process is based on a robust triangulation principle that searches for optimised triangles. In addition to the mesh generation itself, a transformation of input data (properties, boundary conditions, material sets, etc.) from the geometry model (points, lines and clusters) to the finite element mesh (elements, nodes and stress points) is made.

In order to generate the mesh, follow these steps:

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode by clicking the corresponding tab.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar.
   The **Mesh options** window pops up. The **Medium** option is by default selected as element distribution.

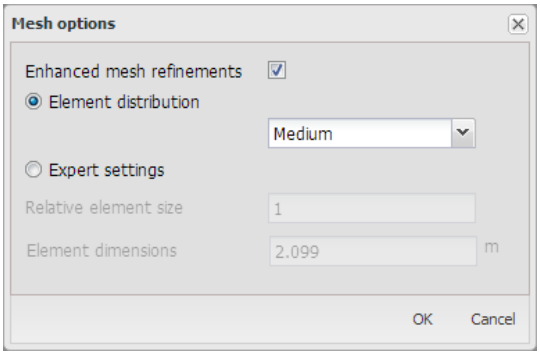


*Figure 6: The **Mesh options** window*

3. Click **OK** to start the mesh generation.
4. As the mesh is generated, click the **View mesh** button.
   A new window is opened displaying the generated mesh. Note that the mesh is automatically refined under the footing.

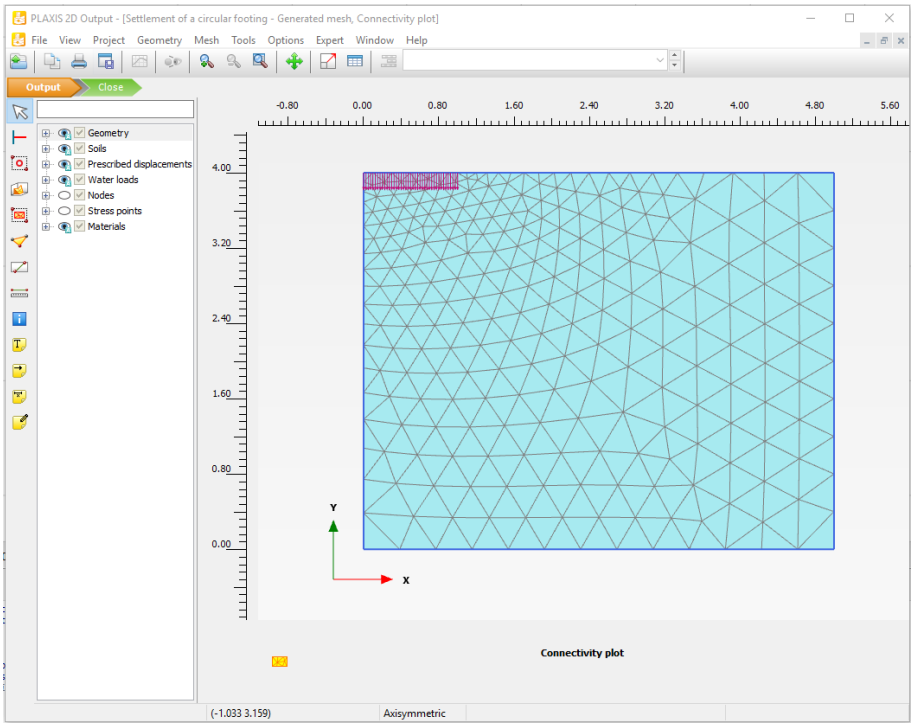


*Figure 7: The generated mesh in the **Output** window*

5. Click on the **Close** tab to close the Output program and go back to the **Mesh** mode of the **Input** program.

Note:

- By default, the **Element distribution** is set to `Medium`. The **Element distribution** setting can be changed in the **Mesh options** window. In addition, options are available to refine the mesh globally or locally (for more information see the Reference Manual).
- The finite element mesh has to be regenerated if the geometry is modified.
- The automatically generated mesh may not be perfectly suitable for the intended calculation. Therefore it is recommended that the user inspects the mesh and makes refinements if necessary.

Once the mesh has been generated, the finite element model is complete.

After the mesh was generated, the calculation phases are defined and the calculation is done, see Initial phase (on page 19) for instructions.

2.2.6 Define and perform the calculation

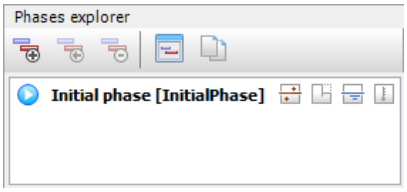
The calculation has to be defined in phases before the actual calculation can be performed. This example needs two phases: the initial phase and one to simulate the settlement of the footing.

Initial phase

The 'Initial phase' always involves the generation of initial conditions. In general, the initial conditions comprise the initial geometry configuration and the initial stress state, i.e. effective stresses, pore pressures and state parameters, if applicable.

1. Click the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of calculation phases. The **Flow conditions** mode may be skipped.

   When a new project has been defined, a first calculation phase named ' Initial phase', is automatically created and selected in the **Phases explorer**:



   All structural elements and loads that are present in the geometry are initially automatically switched off; only the soil volumes are initially active.

2. Click the **Edit phase** button or double click the phase in the **Phases explorer**.

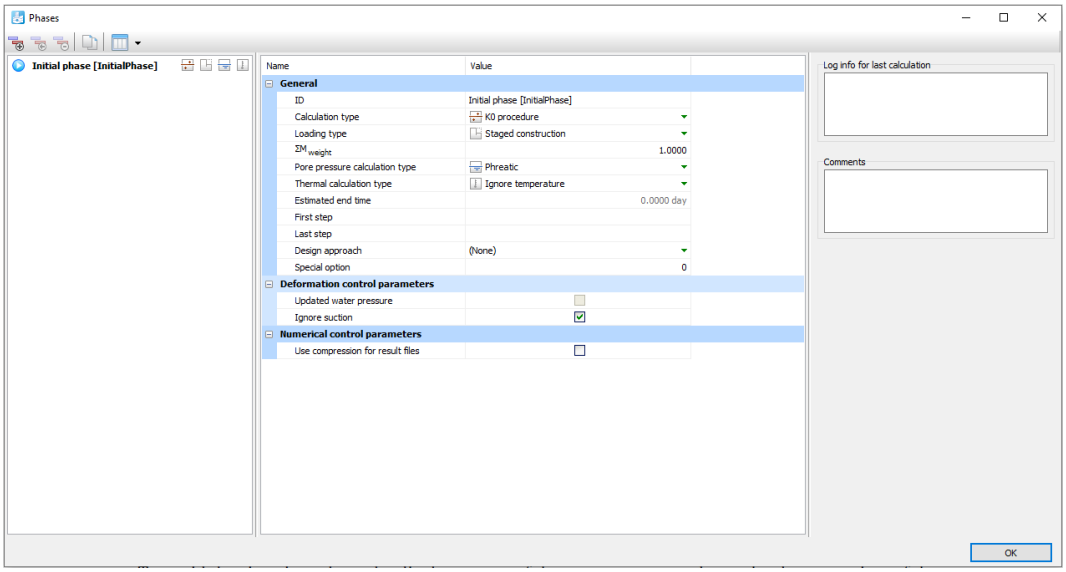
   In this tutorial lesson the properties of the Initial phase will be described. Below an overview is given of the options to be defined even though the default values of the parameters are used.

	By default the `K0 procedure` is selected as **Calculation type** in the **General** subtree of the **Phases window**. This option will be used in this project to generate the initial stresses.
	The **Staged construction** option is available as **Loading type**.
	The `Phreatic` option is selected by default as the **Pore pressure calculation type**.
	The `Ignore temperature` option is selected by default as the **Thermal calculation type**.

Note: The **K0 procedure** should be primarily used for horizontally layered geometries with a horizontal ground surface and, if applicable, a horizontal phreatic level. See the Reference Manual for more information on the **K0 procedure**.

The other default options in the **Phases** window will be used as well in this tutorial.

The **Phases** window is displayed.

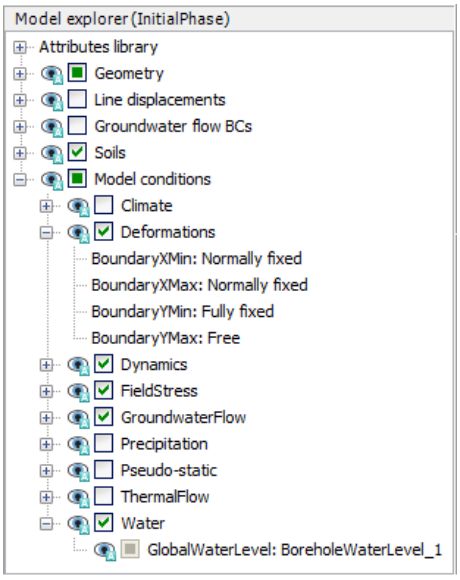


3. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
4. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.

   For deformation problems two types of boundary conditions exist: Prescribed displacement and prescribed forces (loads). In principle, all boundaries must have one boundary condition in each direction. That is to say, when no explicit boundary condition is given to a certain boundary (a free boundary), the natural condition applies, which is a prescribed force equal to zero and a free displacement.

   To avoid the situation where the displacements of the geometry are undetermined, some points of the geometry must have prescribed displacements. The simplest form of a prescribed displacement is a fixity (zero displacement), but non-zero prescribed displacements may also be given.
5. Expand the **Deformations** subtree.
   Note that the box is checked by default. By default, a full fixity is generated at the base of the geometry, whereas roller supports are assigned to the vertical boundaries (**BoundaryXMin** and **BoundaryXMax** are normally fixed, **BoundaryYMin** is fully fixed and **BoundaryYMax** is free).
6. Expand the **Water** subtree.

   The initial water level has been entered already in the Modify soil layers window. The water level generated according to the **Head** value assigned to boreholes in the **Modify soil layers** window (BoreholeWaterLevel_1) is automatically assigned to **GlobalWaterLevel**



The water level defined according to the **Head** specified for boreholes is displayed. Note that only the global water level is displayed in both **Phase definition** modes. All the water levels are displayed in the model only in the **Flow conditions** mode.

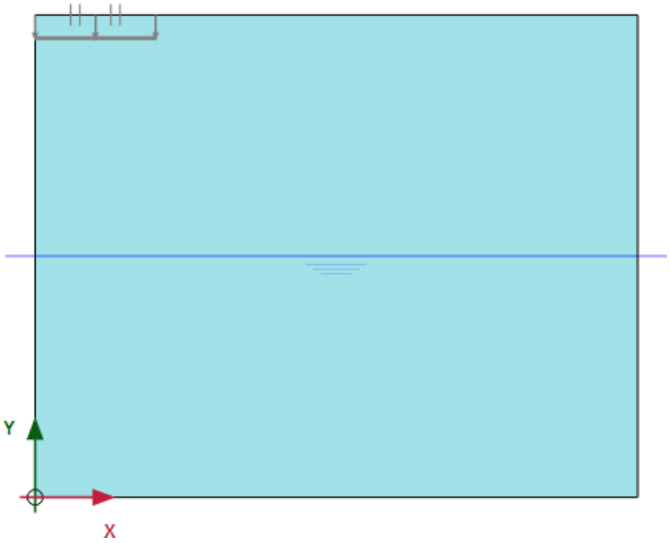


*Figure 8: Initial phase in the **Staged construction** mode*

Next, the calculation phase for the footing settlement is defined.

Phase 1: Footing

In order to simulate the settlement of the footing in this analysis, a plastic calculation is required. PLAXIS 2D has a convenient procedure for automatic load stepping, which is called 'Load advancement'. This procedure can be used for most practical applications. Within the plastic calculation, the prescribed displacements are activated to simulate the indentation of the footing. In order to define the calculation phase follow these steps:

1. Click the **Add phase** button in the **Phases explorer**.
   A new phase, named `Phase_1` will be added in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Double click **Phase_1** to open the **Phases** window. In the **ID** box of the **General** section, write (optionally) an appropriate name for the new phase (for example `Indentation`).

   The current phase starts from the **Initial phase**, which contains the initial stress state. The default options and values assigned are valid for this phase.

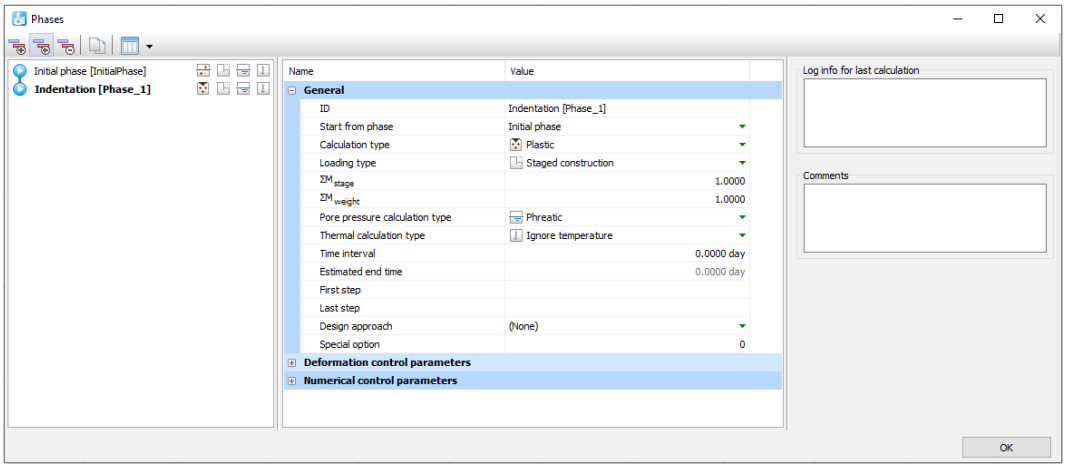


*Figure 9: The **Phases** window for the Indentation phase*

3. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
4. Click the **Staged construction** tab to enter the corresponding mode.
5. Right-click the prescribed displacement in the drawing area and select the **Activate** option in the appearing menu.

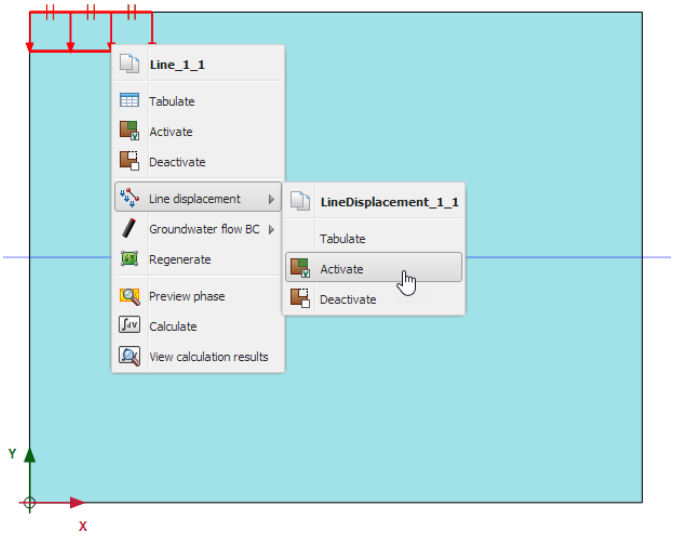


*Figure 10: Activation of the prescribed displacement in the **Staged construction** mode*

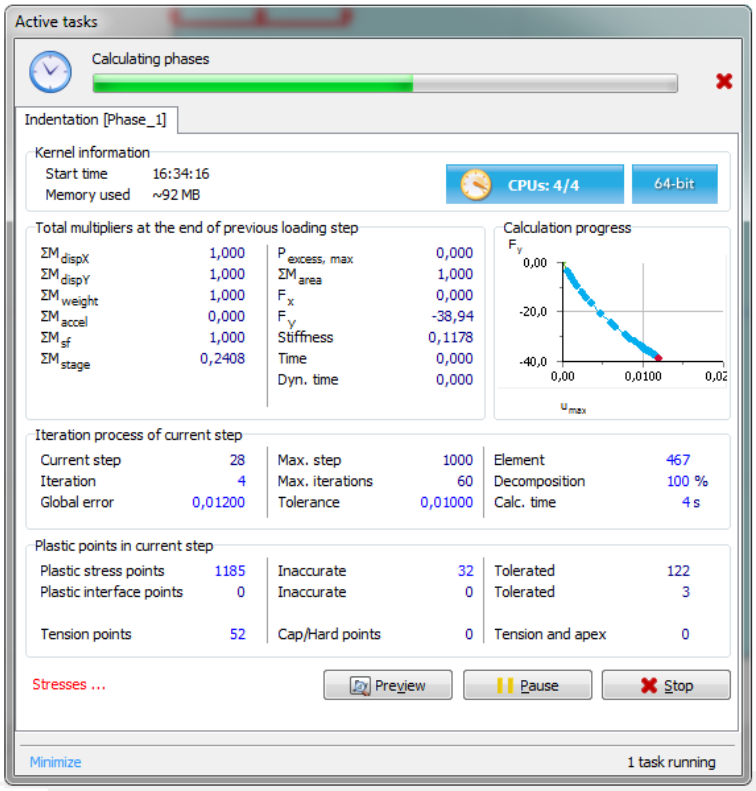
Note: Calculation phases may be added, inserted or deleted using the **Add**, **Insert** and **Delete** buttons in the **Phases explorer** or in the **Phases** window.

Execute the calculation

Both calculation phases are marked for calculation, as indicated by the blue arrows. The execution order is controlled by the **Start from phase** parameter.

1. Click the **Calculate** button to start the calculation process. Ignore the warning that no nodes and stress points have been selected for curves.

   During the execution of a calculation, a window appears which gives information about the progress of the actual calculation phase.



   The information, which is continuously updated, shows the calculation progress, the current step number, the global error in the current iteration and the number of plastic points in the current calculation step. It will take a few seconds to perform the calculation. When a calculation ends, the window is closed and focus is returned to the main window.

   The phase list in the **Phases explorer** is updated. A successfully calculated phase is indicated by a check mark inside a green circle.

2. Save the project by clicking the **Save** button before viewing results.

Once the calculation has been completed, the results can be displayed in the **Output** program.

View the calculation results

In the **Output** program, the displacement and stresses in the full two-dimensional model as well as in cross sections or structural elements can be viewed. The computational results are also available in tabular form. To check the applied load that results from the prescribed displacement of 0.05 m:

1. Open the **Phases** window.
2. From the **Reached values** subtree look for the **Force-Y** which is important an important value the current application. This value represents the total reaction force corresponding to the applied prescribed vertical displacement, which corresponds to the total force under 1.0 radian of the footing (note that the analysis is axisymmetric). In order to obtain the total footing force, the value of **Force-Y** should be multiplied by 2π (this gives a value of about 588 kN).

   The results can be evaluated in the Output program. In the **Output** window you can view the displacements and stresses in the full geometry as well as in cross sections and in structural elements, if applicable.

   The computational results are also available in tabulated form. To view the results of the footing analysis, follow these steps:
3. Select the last calculation phase in the **Phases** explorer.
4. Click the **View calculation results** button in the side toolbar.

   As a result, the **Output** program is started, showing the deformed mesh at the end of the selected calculation phase:

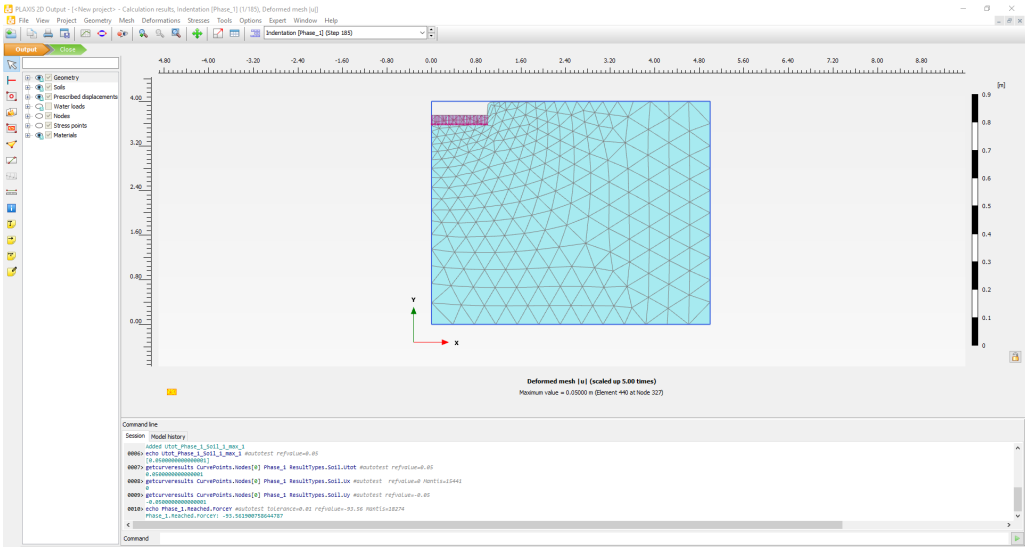


Figure 11: Deformed mesh

   The deformed mesh is scaled to ensure that the deformations are visible.
5. Select the menu **Deformations** > **Total displacements** > **|u|**.

   The plot shows colour shadings of the total displacements. The colour distribution is displayed in the legend at the right hand side of the plot.

Note: The legend can be toggled on and off by clicking the corresponding option in the **View** menu.

6. The total displacement distribution can be displayed in contours by clicking the corresponding button in the toolbar.
   The plot shows contour lines of the total displacements, which are labelled. An index is presented with the displacement values corresponding to the labels.
7. Click the **Arrows** button .
   The plot shows the total displacements of all nodes as arrows, with an indication of their relative magnitude.
8. Click the menu **Stresses** > **Principal effective stresses** > **Effective principal stresses**.

   The plot shows the effective principal stresses at the stress points of each soil element with an indication of their direction and their relative magnitude (see Figure 12 (on page 26)):

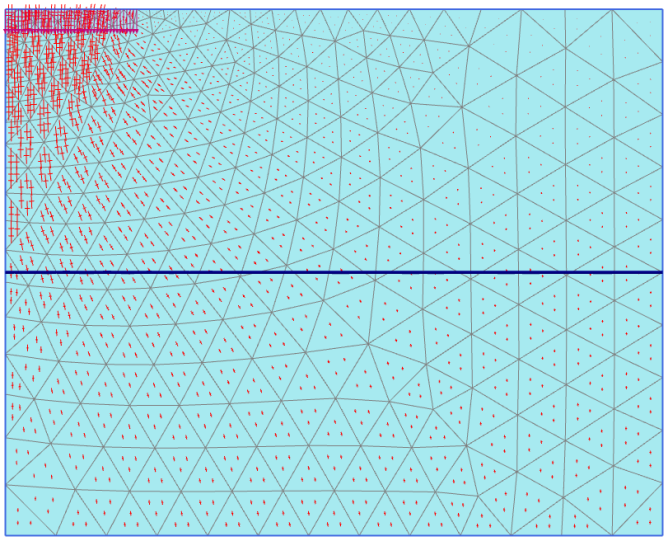


Figure 12: Effective principal stresses

9. Click the **Table** button on the toolbar.
   A new window is opened in which a table is presented, showing the values of the principal stresses and other stress measures in each stress point of all elements.

Note:

- In addition to the total displacements, the **Deformations** menu allows for the presentation of **Incremental displacements**. The incremental displacements are the displacements that occurred within one calculation step (in this case the final step). Incremental displacements may be helpful in visualising an eventual failure mechanism.
- The plots of stresses and displacements may be combined with geometrical features, as available in the **Geometry** menu.

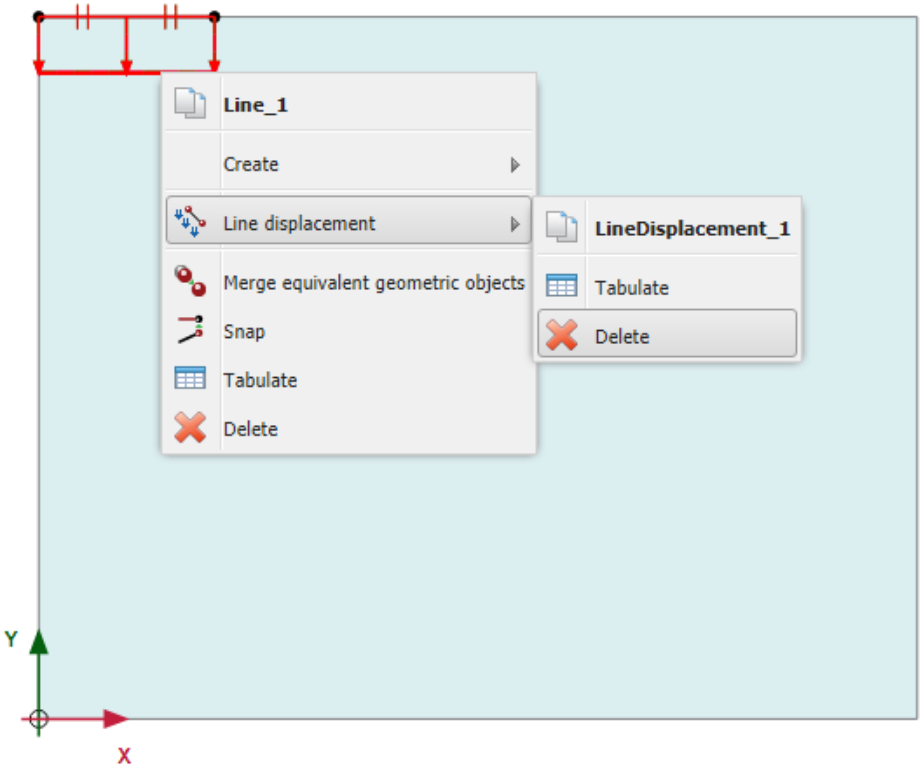
2.3 Case B: Flexible footing

The project is now modified so that the footing is modelled as a flexible plate. This enables the calculation of structural forces in the footing. The geometry used in this exercise is the same as the previous one, except that

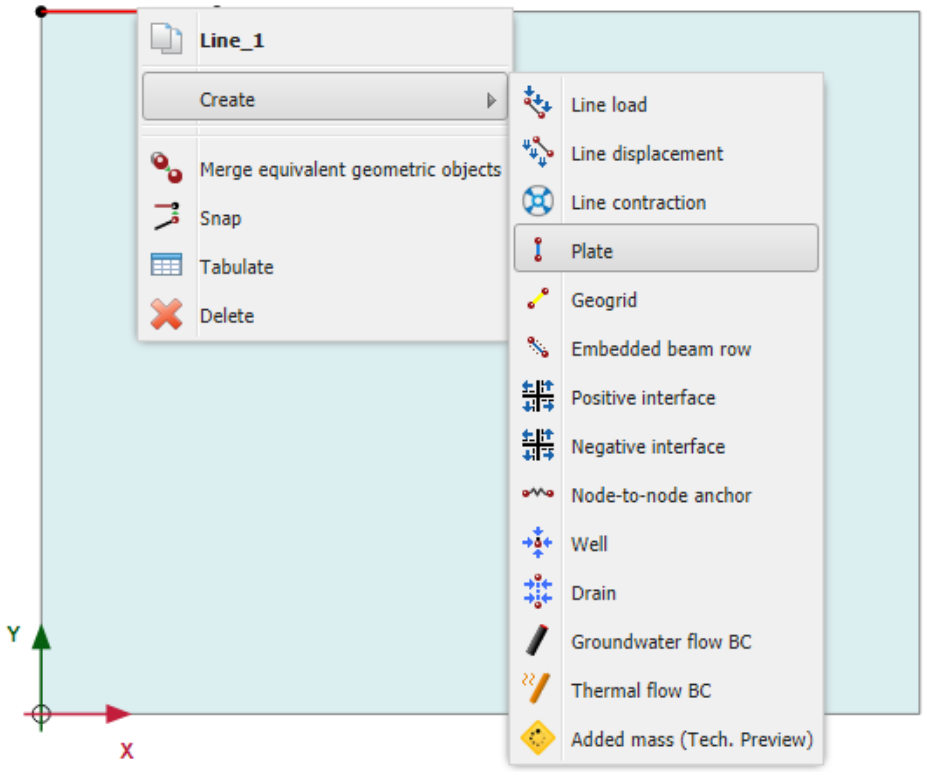
additional elements are used to model the footing. The calculation itself is based on the application of load rather than prescribed displacement. It is not necessary to create a new model; you can start from the previous model, modify it and store it under a different name. To perform this, follow these steps:

2.3.1 Modify the geometry

1. In the Input program select the **File** > **Save project as** menu. Enter a non-existing name for the current project file and click the **Save** button.
2. Go back to the **Structures** mode. Make sure you are in Select mode by clicking the **Select** button .
3. Right-click the prescribed displacement and select **Line displacement** > **Delete**.

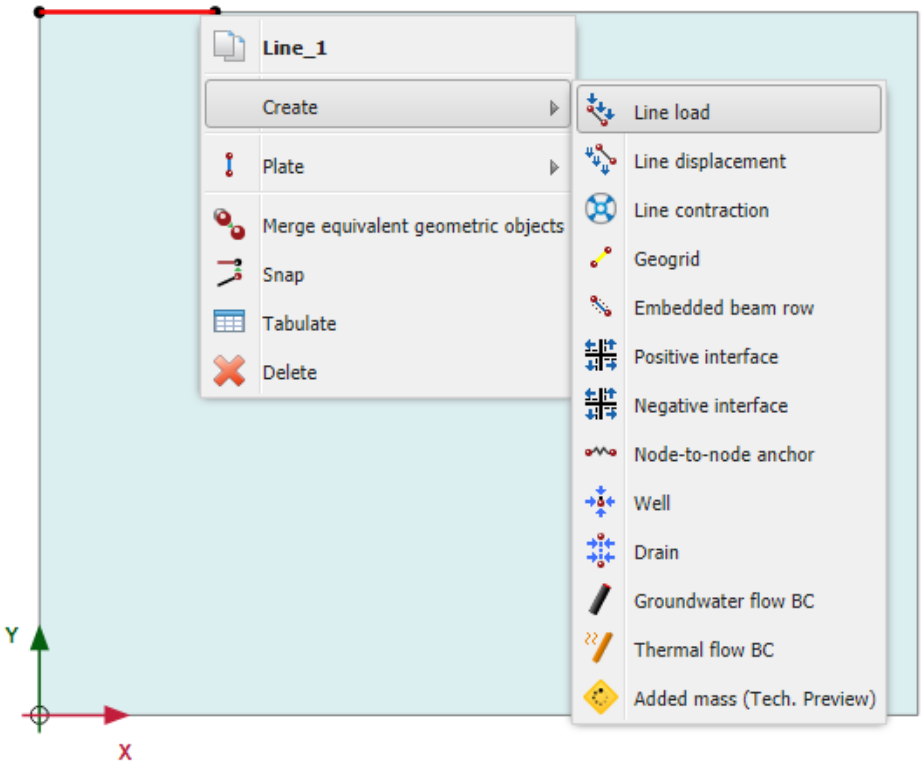


4. In the model right-click the line at the location of the footing. Select **Create** > **Plate**.



A plate is created, which simulates the flexible footing.

5. In the model right-click again the line at the location of the footing and select **Create** > **Line load**.



6. In the **Selection explorer** the default input value of the distributed load is -1.0 kN/m^2 in the y-direction. The input value will later be changed to the real value when the load is activated.

2.3.2 Add material properties for the footing

The material properties for the flexible footing are as follows:

Table 2: Material properties of the footing

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$5 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m
Bending stiffness	EI	$8.5 \cdot 10^3$	kNm^2/m
Weight	w	0.0	kN/m/m

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Poisson's ratio	ν	0.0	-
Prevent punching	-	No	-

1. Click the **Materials** button in the side toolbar.
2. In the **Material sets** window, from the **Set type** drop-down menu, select **Plates**.
3. Click the **New** button.
   A new window appears where the properties of the footing can be entered.
4. Type `Footing` in the **Identification** box. The **Elastic** option is selected by default for the material type. Keep this option for this example.
5. Enter the properties as listed in Table 2 (on page 29). Keep parameters that are not mentioned in the table at their default values.
6. **Note:** The equivalent thickness is automatically calculated by PLAXIS 2D from the values of EA and EI. It cannot be defined manually.

   Click **OK**.

   The new data set now appears in the tree view of the **Material sets** window.
7. Drag the set called Footing to the drawing area and drop it on the footing. Note that the shape of the cursor changes to indicate that it is valid to drop the material set.

   Note: If the **Material sets** window is displayed over the footing and hides it, click on its header and drag it to another position.
8. Click **OK** to close the materials database.

2.3.3 Generate the mesh

In order to generate the mesh, follow these steps:

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

Note: Regeneration of the mesh results in a redistribution of nodes and stress points.

2.3.4 Calculations

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode.
2. Leave the initial phase as is. The initial phase is the same as in the previous case.
3. Double-click the following phase (Phase_1) and enter an appropriate name for the phase ID. Keep the **Calculation type** as **Plastic** and keep the **Loading type** as **Staged construction**.
4. Close the **Phases** window.
5. In the **Staged construction** mode activate the load and plate.

   The model is shown Figure 13 (on page 31):

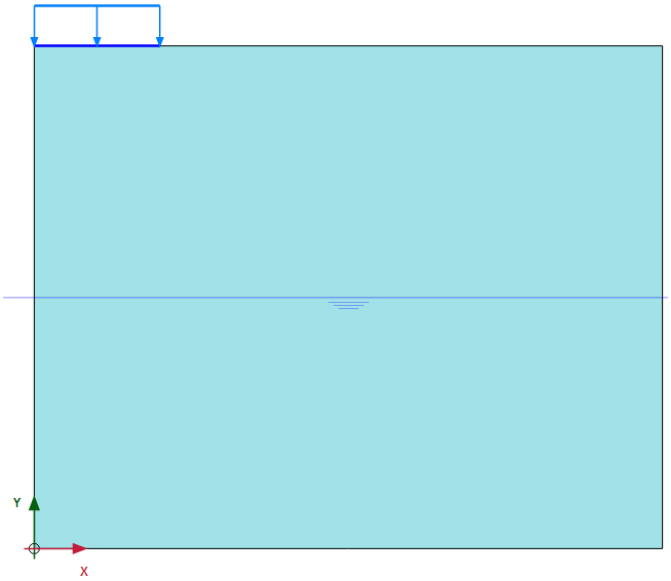


Figure 13: Active plate and load in the model

6. In the **Selection explorer** assign -188 kN/m^2 to the vertical component of the line load. Note that, this gives a total load that is approximately equal to the footing force that was obtained from the first part of this tutorial. (188 kN/m^2 · π ·(1.0 m)^2 ≈ 590 kN).

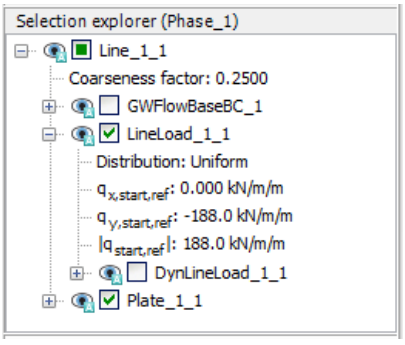


*Figure 14: Definition of the load components in the **Selection explorer***

7. No changes are required in the **Flow conditions** tabsheet.
   The calculation definition is now complete. Before starting the calculation it is advisable to select nodes or stress points for a later generation of load-displacement curves or stress and strain diagrams. To do this, follow these steps:
8. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
   As a result, all the nodes and stress points are displayed in the model in the Output program. The points can be selected either by directly clicking on them or by using the options available in the **Select points** window.

9. In the **Select points** window enter (0.0 4.0) for the coordinates of the point of interest and click **Search closest**.
   The nodes and stress points located near that specific location are listed.
10. Select the node at exactly (0.0 4.0) by checking the box in front of it. The selected node is indicated by **Node 4*** in the model when the **Selection labels** option is selected in the **Mesh** menu.

> **Note:** Instead of selecting nodes or stress points for curves before starting the calculation, points can also be selected after the calculation when viewing the output results. However, the curves will be less accurate since only the results of the saved calculation steps will be considered. To select the desired nodes by clicking on them, it may be convenient to use the **Zoom in** option on the toolbar to zoom into the area of interest.

11. Click the **Update** button on the top left to return to the Input program.
12. Check if both calculation phases are marked for calculation by a blue arrow. If this is not the case click the symbol of the calculation phase or right-click and select **Mark for calculation** from the pop-up menu.
13. Click the **Calculate** button to start the calculation.
14. Click the **Save** button to save the project after the calculation has finished.

2.3.5 View the calculation results

1. After the calculation the results of the final calculation step can be viewed by clicking the **View calculation results** button. Select the plots that are of interest. The displacements and stresses should be similar to those obtained from the first part of the exercise.
2. Click the **Select structures** button in the side toolbar and double click the footing.
   A new window opens in which either the displacements or the bending moments of the footing may be plotted (depending on the type of plot in the first window).
3. Note that the menu has changed. Select the various options from the **Forces** menu to view the forces in the footing.

> **Note:** Multiple (sub-)windows may be opened at the same time in the Output program. All windows appear in the list of the **Window** menu. PLAXIS 2D follows the Windows standard for the presentation of sub-windows (**Cascade**, **Tile**, **Minimize**, **Maximize**, etc).

2.3.6 Generate a load-displacement curve

In addition to the results of the final calculation step it is often useful to view a load-displacement curve. In order to generate the load-displacement curve, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Curves manager** button in the toolbar.
   The **Curves manager** window pops up.
2. In the **Charts** tabsheet, click **New**.
   The **Curve generation** window pops up.

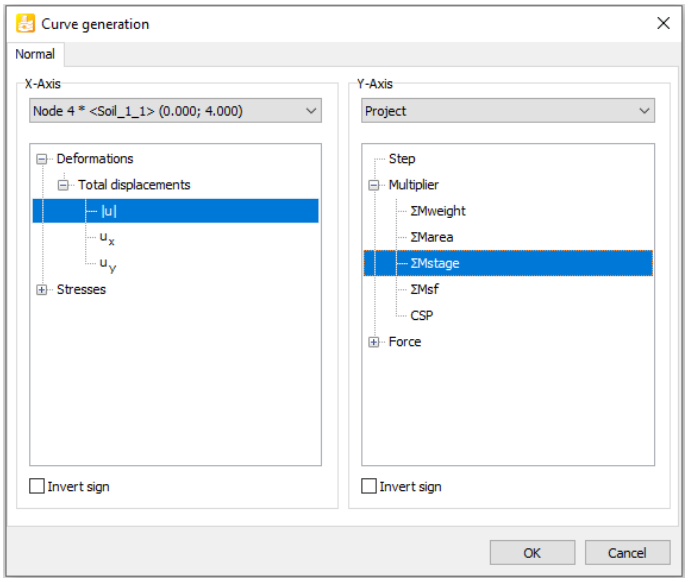


*Figure 15: **Curve generation** window*

3. For the x-axis, select **Node 4* (0.00 / 4.00)** from the drop-down menu. Select the **Deformations** > **Total displacements** > **|u|**.
4. For the y-axis, select the Project option from the drop-down menu. Select the **Multipliers** > **Σ Mstage** option. Σ Mstage is the proportion of the specified changes that has been applied. Hence the value will range from 0 to 1, which means that 100% of the prescribed load has been applied and the prescribed ultimate state has been fully reached.
5. Click **OK** to accept the input and generate the load-displacement curve.
   As a result the curve of is plotted:

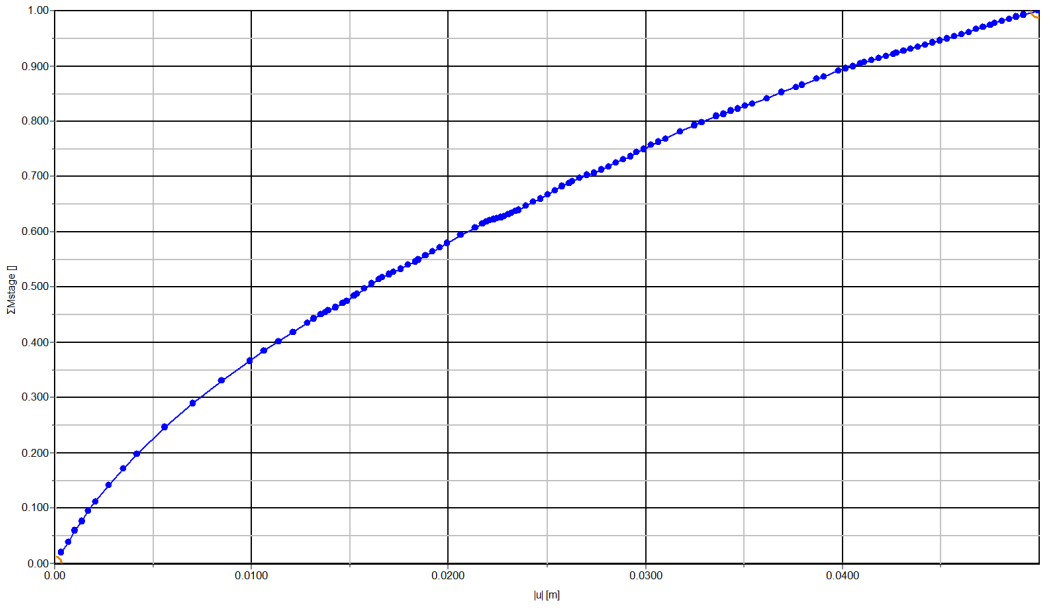


Figure 16: Load-displacement curve for the footing

Note:

You can re-enter the **Settings** window (in the case of a mistake, a desired regeneration or modification) by:

- Double click the curve in the legend of the chart OR
- Select the menu **Format** > **Settings**.

The properties of the chart can be modified in the **Chart** tab sheet whereas the properties curve can be modified in the corresponding tab sheet.

3

Submerged construction of an excavation

This tutorial illustrates the use of PLAXIS 2D for the analysis of submerged construction of an excavation. Most of the program features that were used in Tutorial 1 will be utilised here again. In addition, some new features will be used, such as the use of interfaces and anchor elements, the generation of water pressures and the use of multiple calculation phases. The new features will be described in full detail, whereas the features that were treated in Tutorial 1 will be described in less detail. Therefore it is suggested that Tutorial 1 should be completed before attempting this exercise.

Objectives

- Modelling soil-structure interaction using the Interface feature.
- Advanced soil models (Soft Soil model and Hardening Soil model).
- **Undrained (A)** drainage type.
- Defining **Fixed-end-anchor**.
- Creating and assigning material data sets for anchors.
- Simulation of excavation (cluster de-activation).

Geometry

This tutorial concerns the construction of an excavation close to a river. The submerged excavation is carried out in order to construct a tunnel by the installation of prefabricated tunnel segments which are 'floated' into the excavation and 'sunk' onto the excavation bottom. The excavation is 30 m wide and the final depth is 20 m. It extends in longitudinal direction for a large distance, so that a plane strain model is applicable. The sides of the excavation are supported by 30 m long diaphragm walls, which are braced by horizontal struts at an interval of 5 m. Along the excavation a surface load is taken into account. The load is applied from 2 m from the diaphragm wall up to 7 m from the wall and has a magnitude of 5 $kN/m^2/m$.

The upper 20 m of the subsoil consists of soft soil layers, which are modelled as a single homogeneous clay layer. Underneath this clay layer there is a stiffer sand layer, which extends to a large depth. 30 m of the sand layer are considered in the model.

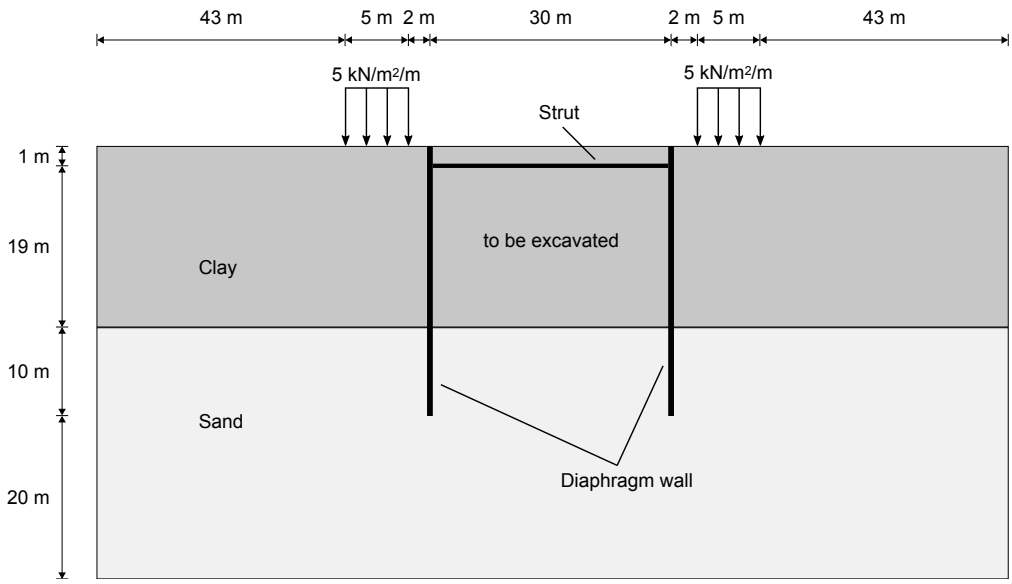


Figure 17: Geometry model of the situation of a submerged excavation

Since the geometry is symmetric, only one half (the left side) is considered in the analysis. The excavation process is simulated in three separate excavation stages. The diaphragm wall is modelled by means of a plate, such as used for the footing in the previous tutorial. The interaction between the wall and the soil is modelled at both sides by means of interfaces. The interfaces allow for the specification of a reduced wall friction compared to the friction in the soil. The strut is modelled as a spring element for which the normal stiffness is a required input parameter.

3.1 Create new project

1. Start PLAXIS 2D by double clicking the icon of the Input program .
2. Click **Start a new project**.
3. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
4. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (Plane strain}, and **Elements** (15-Node).
5. Set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 65 m, y_{min} = -30 m and y_{max} = 20 m.
6. Keep the default values for units and constants and click **OK**.

The project is created with the given properties. The **Project properties** window closes and the **Soil mode** view will be shown, where the soil stratigraphy can be defined.

3.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Add the top soil layer and specify its height by setting the top level to 20 m and the bottom level to 0 m.
3. Add the bottom soil layer and specify its height by keeping the top level at 0 m and by setting the bottom level to -30 m.
4. Set the **Head** in the borehole to 18 m.

Next the material data sets are defined and assigned to the soil layers, see Create and assign material data sets (on page 13).

3.3 Create and assign material data sets

Two data sets need to be created; one for the clay layer and one for the sand layer.

The layers have the following properties:

Table 3: Material properties of the sand and clay layer and the interfaces

Parameter	Name	Clay	Sand	Unit
General				
Material model	Model	Hardening Soil	Hardening soil	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Undrained (A)	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	18	20	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$4 \cdot 10^3$	$40 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$3.3 \cdot 10^3$	$40 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$12 \cdot 10^3$	$120 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	1.0	0.5	-

Parameter	Name	Clay	Sand	Unit
Cohesion (constant)	c_{ref}'	1	0	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	25	32	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	2	°
Poisson's ratio	ν_{ur}'	0.15	0.2	-
K_0-value for normal consolidation	K_0^{nc}	0.5774	0.4701	-
Groundwater				
Data set	-	Standard	Standard	-
Soil type	-	Coarse	Coarse	-
Use defaults	-	None	None	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	$1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	$1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1	m/day
Interfaces				
Interface strength	-	Manual	Manual	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	0.5	0.67	-
Initial				
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	-
Over-consolidation ratio	OCR	1	1	-
Pre-overburden pressure	POP	5	0	kN/m^2

To create the material sets, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Materials** button in the **Modify soil layers** window.
   The **Material sets** window pops up, where the **Soil and interfaces** option is selected by default as the **Set type**.
2. Click the **New** button in the **Material sets** window to create a new data set.
3. For the clay layer, enter `Clay` for the **Identification** and select Hardening Soil as the **Material model**. Set the **Drainage type** to Undrained (A).
4. Enter the properties of the clay layer, as listed in Table 3 (on page 37), in the **General**, **Parameters** and **Flow parameters** tabsheets.
5. Click the **Interfaces** tab. Select the **Manual** option in the **Strength** drop-down menu. Enter a value of 0.5 for the parameter R_{inter}.

This parameter relates the strength of the soil to the strength in the interfaces, according to the equations: $tan(\varphi_{interface}) = R_{inter} tan(\varphi_{soil})$ and $c_{inter} = R_{inter} c_{soil}$ where: $c_{soil} = c_{ref}$, see Table 3 (on page 37)

Hence, using the entered R_{inter}-value gives a reduced interface friction (wall frictions) and interface cohesion (adhesion) compared to the friction angle and the cohesion in the adjacent soil.

6. In the **Initial** tabsheet keep the default option for the K_0 determination and the default value for the overconsolidation ratio (OCR). Set the pre-overburden pressure (POP) value to 5.0.
7. For the sand layer, enter Sand for the **Identification** and again select Hardening soil as the **Material model**. The material type should be set to Drained.
8. Enter the properties of the sand layer, as listed in Table 3 (on page 37), in the corresponding edit boxes of the **General** and **Parameters** tabsheet.
9. Click the **Interfaces** tab. In the **Strength** box, select the **Manual** option. Enter a value of 0.67 for the parameter R_{inter}. Close the data set.
10. Assign the material datasets to the corresponding soil layers.

- When the **Rigid** option is selected in the **Strength** drop-down, the interface has the same strength properties as the soil (R_{inter} = 1.0).
- Note that a value of R_{inter} < 1.0 , reduces the strength as well as the stiffness of the interface (for more info see the corresponding section in the Reference Manual.
- Instead of accepting the default data sets of interfaces, data sets can directly be assigned to interfaces by selecting the proper data set in the **Material mode** drop-down menu in the **Object explorers**.

3.4 Define the structural elements

The creation of diaphragm walls, strut, surface load and excavation levels is described below.

1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the **Structures** mode.

3.4.1 To define the diaphragm wall:

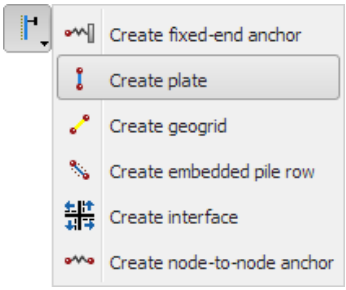
A diaphragm wall with the following material properties has to be defined:

Table 4: Material properties of the diaphragm wall (plate)

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$7.5 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m
Bending stiffness	EI	$1.0 \cdot 10^6$	kNm^2/m

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Weight	*w*	10	kN/m/m
Poisson's ratio	*ν*	0.0	-
Prevent punching	-	No	-

1. Click the **Create structure** button in the side toolbar.
2. In the expanded menu select the **Create plate**.



3. In the drawing area move the cursor to position (50 20) at the upper horizontal line and click. Move 30 m down (50 -10) and click. Click the right mouse button to finish the drawing.
4. Click the **Show materials** button in the side toolbar. Set the **Set type** parameter in the **Material sets** window to **Plates** and click the **New** button. Enter `Diaphragm wall` as an **Identification** of the data set and enter the properties as given in Table 4 (on page 39).
5. Click **OK** to close the data set.
6. Drag the **Diaphragm wall** data set to the wall in the geometry and drop it as soon as the cursor indicates that dropping is possible.
7. Click **OK** to close the **Material sets** window.

Note: In general, only one point can exist at a certain coordinate and only one line can exist between two points. Coinciding points or lines will automatically be reduced to single points or lines. More information is available in the Reference Manual

3.4.2 To define the interfaces:

1. Right-click the plate representing the diaphragm wall.

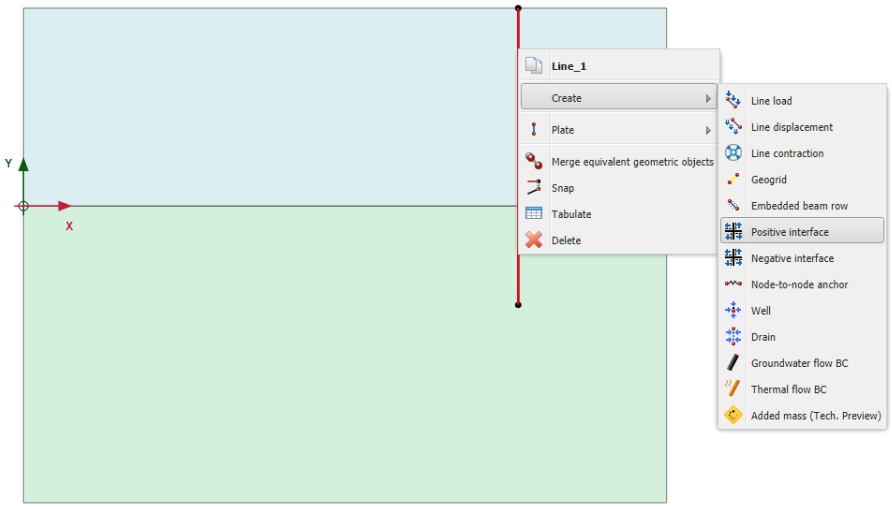


Figure 18: Positive interface assignment to existing geometry

2. Select **Create** > **Positive interface**.
3. In the same way assign a negative interface as well.

Note:

- In order to identify interfaces at either side of a geometry line, a positive sign ($\oplus$) or negative sign ($\ominus$) is added. This sign has no physical relevance or influence on the results.
- A **Virtual thickness factor** can be defined for interfaces. This is a purely numerical value, which can be used to optimise the numerical performance of the interface. To define it, select the interface in the drawing area and specify the value to the **Virtual thickness factor** parameter in the **Selection explorer**. Non-experienced users are advised not to change the default value. For more information about interface properties see the Reference Manual - *Chapter 5 - Advanced Geometric Modelling options.*

3.4.3 To define the excavation levels:

1. Click the **Create line** button in the side toolbar.
2. To define the first excavation stage move the cursor to position (50 18) at the wall and click. Move the cursor 15 m to the right (65 18) and click again. Click the right mouse button to finish drawing the first excavation stage.
3. To define the second excavation stage move the cursor to position (50 10) and click. Move to (65 10) and click again. Click the right mouse button to finish drawing the second excavation stage.
4. The third excavation stage is automatically defined as it corresponds to the boundary between the soil layers (y = 0).

3.4.4 To define the strut:

You will define a strut with the following material properties:

Table 5: Material properties of the strut (anchor)

Parameter	Name	Strut	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Axial stiffness	EA	$2 \cdot 10^{6}$	kN
Out-of-plane spacing	$L_{spacing}$	5	m

1. Click the **Create structure** button in the side toolbar and select the **Create fixed-end anchor** in the expanded menu.
2. Move the cursor to (50 19) and click the left mouse button. A fixed-end anchor is is added, being represented by a rotated T with a fixed size.
3. Click the **Show materials** button in the side toolbar. Set the **Set type** parameter in the **Material sets** window to **Anchor** and click the **New** button. Enter `Strut` as an **Identification** of the data set and enter the properties as given in Table 5 (on page 42). Click **OK** to close the data set.
4. Click **OK** to close the **Material sets**.
5. Make sure that the fixed-end anchor is selected in the drawing area.
6. In the **Selection explorer** assign the material data set to the strut by selecting the corresponding option in the **Material** drop-down menu.
   The anchor is oriented in the model according to the Direction_x and Direction_y parameters in the **Selection explorer**. The default orientation is valid in this tutorial.

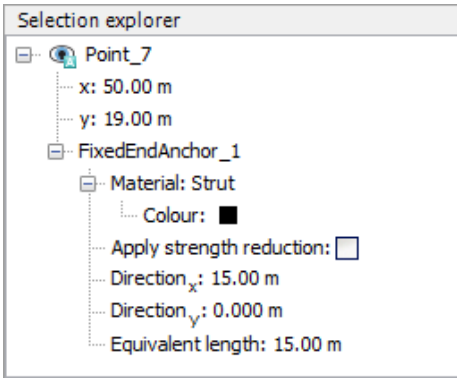


Figure 19: Parameters for fixed-end anchors in the Selection explorer

7. Enter an **Equivalent length** of 15 m corresponding to half the width of the excavation.

Note: The **Equivalent length** is the real distance between the connection point and the fixed end point. For an excavation problem that is typically half the width of the excavation as the axis of symmetry in the middle of the excavation is considered fixed.

3.4.5 To define the distributed load:

1. Click the **Create load** button in the side toolbar
2. Select the **Create line load** option in the expanded menu to define a distributed load.
3. Move the cursor to (43 20) and click move the cursor 5m to the right to (48 20) and click again. Right-click to finish the drawing.
4. In the **Selection explorer** assign a value of -5 kN/m/m to the y-component of the load ($q_{y,start,ref}$).

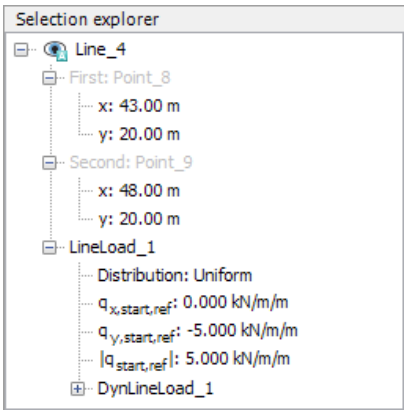


Figure 20: Components of the distributed load in the Selection explorer

3.5 Generate the mesh

In order to generate the mesh, follow these steps:

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

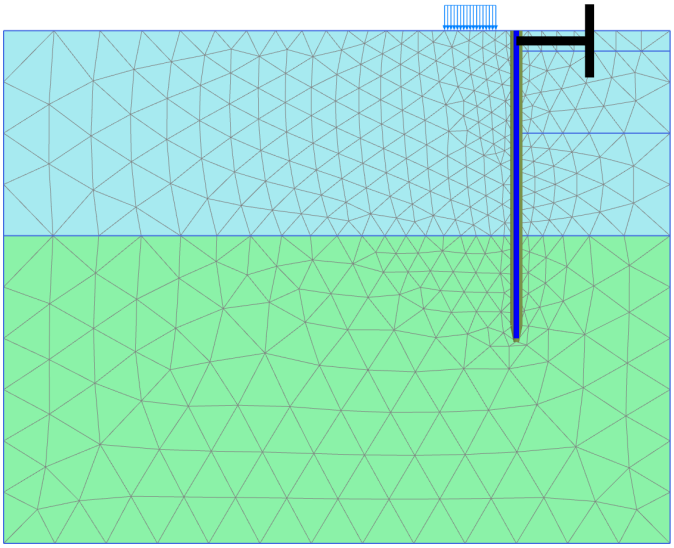


Figure 21: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

3.6 Define and perform the calculation

In practice, the construction of an excavation is a process that can consist of several phases. First, the wall is installed to the desired depth. Then some excavation is carried out to create space to install an anchor or a strut. Then the soil is gradually removed to the final depth of the excavation. Special measures are usually taken to keep the water out of the excavation. Props may also be provided to support the retaining wall.

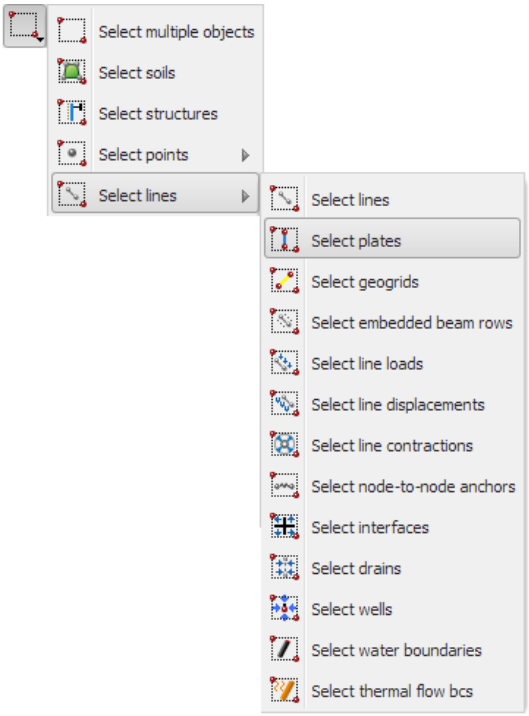
In PLAXIS 2D, these processes can be simulated with the **Staged construction** loading type available in the **General** subtree of the **Phases** window. It enables the activation or deactivation of weight, stiffness and strength of selected components of the finite element model. Note that modifications in the **Staged construction** mode of the program are possible only for this type of loading. The current tutorial explains the use of this powerful calculation option for the simulation of excavations.

3.6.1 Initial phase

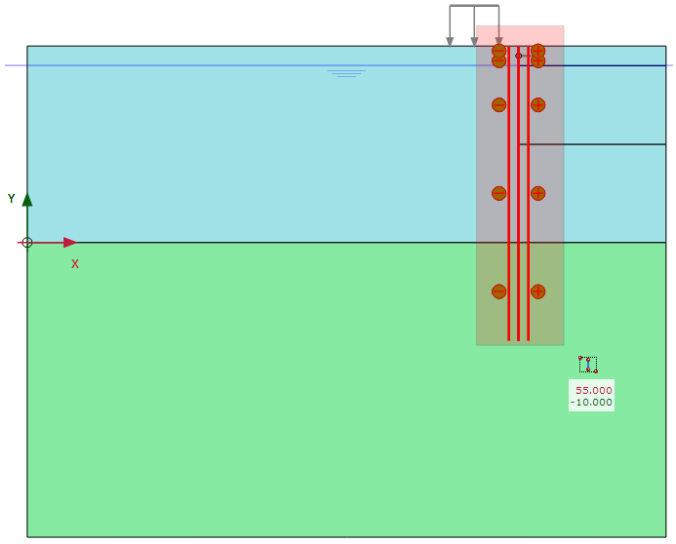
1. Click the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of calculation phases.
   The initial phase has already been created.
2. Keep its calculation type as **K0 procedure**. Make sure all the soil volumes are active and all the structural elements and load are inactive.

3.6.2 Phase 1: External load

1. In the **Phases explorer** click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
   The default settings are valid for this phase. In the model the full geometry is active except for the wall, interfaces, strut and load.
2. Click the **Select multiple objects** button in the side toolbar. In the appearing menu select **Select line** > **Select plates**.



3. In the drawing area define a rectangle that includes all the plate elements.



4. Right-click the wall in the drawing area and select the **Activate option** from the context menu.
   When the wall is unselected it can be seen that wall is now visible in the color that is specified in the material dataset.
5. Right-click the distributed load to activate it and select the **Activate option** from the appearing menu.
   The load has been defined in the **Structures** mode as -5 kN/m/m. The value can be checked in the **Selection explorer**.
6. Make sure all the interfaces in the model are active.

Note: The selection of an interface is done by right-clicking the corresponding geometry line and subsequently selecting the corresponding interface (positive or negative) from the context menu.

3.6.3 Phase 2: First excavation stage

1. Click the **Add phase** button in the **Phases explorer**.
   A new calculation phase appears in the **Phases explorer**. Note that the program automatically presumes that the current phase should start from the previous one and that the same objects are active.

   Note: To copy the settings of the parent phase, select the phase in the **Phases** explorer and then click the **Add phase** button. Note that the settings of the parent phase are not copied when it is specified by selecting it in the **Start from phase** drop-down menu in the **Phases** window.
2. The default settings are valid for this phase. In the **Staged construction** mode all the structure elements except the fixed-end anchor are active.
3. In the drawing area right-click the top right cluster and select the **Deactivate** option in the appearing menu.

The model for the first excavation phase looks like this:

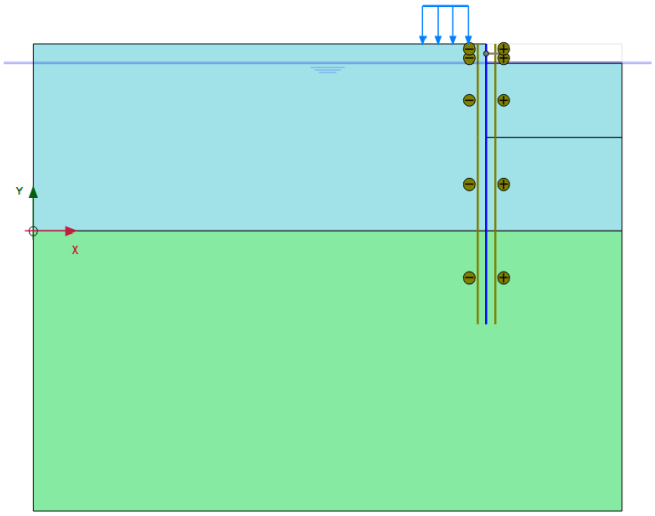


Figure 22: Model view for the first excavation phase

3.6.4 Phase 3: Installation of a strut

1. Click the **Add phase** button in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Activate the strut.
   The strut turns black to indicate it is active.

3.6.5 Phase 4: Second (submerged) excavation stage

1. Click the **Add phase** button to add a new phase.
2. Deactivate the second cluster from the top on the right side of the mesh. It should be the topmost active cluster.

> **Note:** Note that in PLAXIS 2D the pore pressures are not automatically deactivated when deactivating a soil cluster. Hence, in this case, the water remains in the excavated area and a submerged excavation is simulated.

The result is this model:

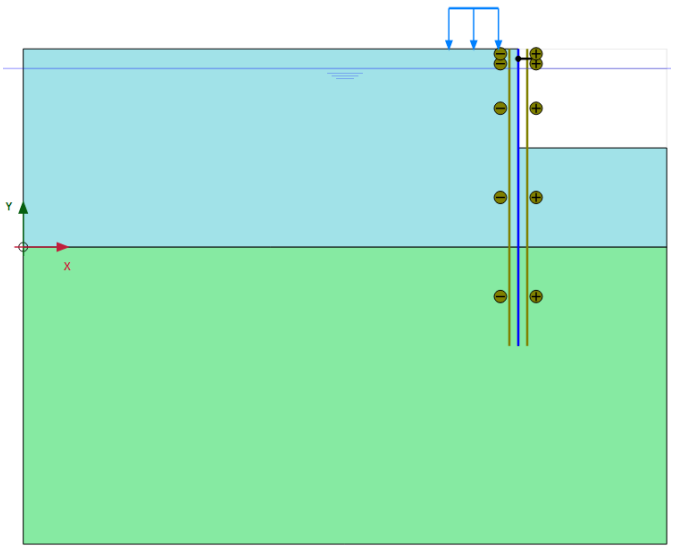


Figure 23: Model view for the second excavation phase

3.6.6 Phase 5: Third excavation stage

In the final calculation stage the excavation of the last clay layer inside the pit is simulated.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to add a new phase.
2. Deactivate the third cluster from the top on the right hand side of the mesh.
   The model for the phase looks like this:

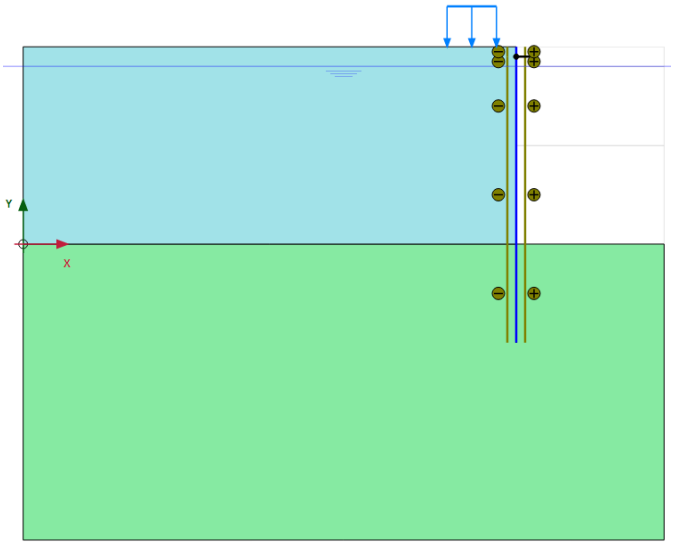


Figure 24: Model view for the third excavation phase

The calculation definition is now complete.

3.6.7 Execute the calculation

Before starting the calculation it is suggested that you select nodes or stress points for a later generation of load-displacement curves or stress and strain diagrams. To do this, follow the steps given below.

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
   The connectivity plot is displayed in the Output program and the **Select points** window is activated.
2. Select some nodes on the wall at points where large deflections can be expected (e.g. 50 10). The nodes located near that specific location are listed. Select the convenient one by checking the box in front of it in the list.
3. Click on the **Update** tab at the top left to save the selected points, close the Output program and go back to the **Input** program.
4. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.

During a **Staged construction** calculation phase, a multiplier called ΣMstage is increased from 0.0 to 1.0. This parameter is displayed in the calculation info window. As soon as ΣMstage has reached the value 1.0, the construction stage is completed and the calculation phase is finished. If a **Staged construction** calculation finishes while ΣMstage is smaller than 1.0, the program will give a warning message. The most likely reason for not finishing a construction stage is that a failure mechanism has occurred, but there can be other causes as well. See the for more information about **Staged construction**.

3.7 View the calculation results

In addition to the displacements and the stresses in the soil, the Output program can be used to view the forces in structural objects. To examine the results of this project, follow these steps:

3.7.1 Displacements and stresses

To view displacements and stresses, follow these steps:

1. Click the final calculation phase in the **Calculations** window.
2. Click the **View calculation results** button on the toolbar.
   As a result, the Output program is started, showing the deformed mesh (scaled up) at the end of the selected calculation phase, with an indication of the maximum displacement:

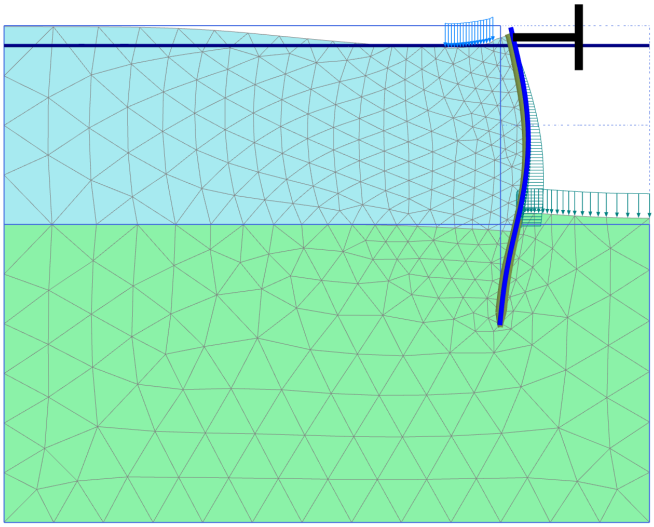


Figure 25: Deformed mesh after the third excavation stage

Note:

In the Output program, the display of the loads, fixities and prescribed displacements applied in the model can be toggled on/off by clicking the corresponding options in the **Geometry** menu.

3. Select the menu **Deformations** > **Incremental displacements** > **|Δu|**.
   The plot shows colour shadings of the displacement increments, which indicates the forming of a mechanism of soil movement behind the wall.
4. Click the **Arrows** button in the toolbar.
   The plot shows the displacement increments of all nodes as arrows. The length of the arrows indicates the relative magnitude.
5. Select the menu **Stresses** > **Principal effective stresses** > **Effective principal stresses**.
   The plot shows the effective principal stresses at the three middle stress points of each soil element with an indication of their direction and their relative magnitude. Note that the **Center principal stresses** button is selected in the toolbar. The orientation of the principal stresses indicates a large passive zone under the bottom of the excavation and a small passive zone behind the strut.

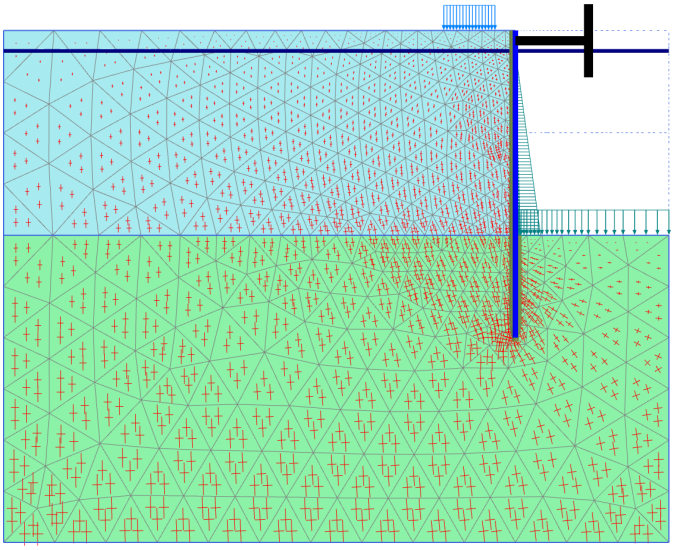


Figure 26: Principal stresses after excavation

3.7.2 Shear forces and bending moments

To plot the shear forces and bending moments in the wall follow the steps given below.

1. Double-click the wall.
   A new window is opened showing the axial force.
2. Select the menu **Forces** > **bending moment M**.
   The bending moment in the wall is displayed with an indication of the maximum moment:

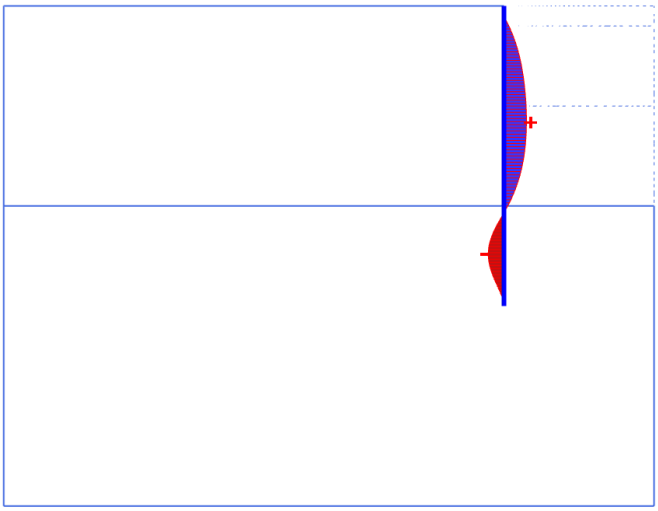


Figure 27: Bending moments in the wall

3. Select **Shear forces Q** from the **Forces** menu.

   The plot now shows the shear forces in the wall.

Note: The **Window** menu may be used to switch between the window with the forces in the wall and the stresses in the full geometry. This menu may also be used to **Tile** or **Cascade** the two windows, which is a common option in a Windows environment.

4. Select the first window (showing the effective stresses in the full geometry) from the **Window** menu. Double-click the strut.
   The strut force (in kN) is shown in the displayed table.
5. Click the **Curves manager** button on the toolbar.
   As a result, the **Curves manager** window pops up.
6. Click **New** to create a new chart.
   The **Curve generation** window pops up.
7. For the x-axis select the point A from the drop-down menu. In the tree select **Deformations - Total displacements - |u|**.
8. For the y-axis keep the **Project** option in the drop-down menu. In the tree select **Multiplier - ΣMstage**.
9. Click **OK** to accept the input and generate the load-displacement curve.
   As a result the curve is plotted:

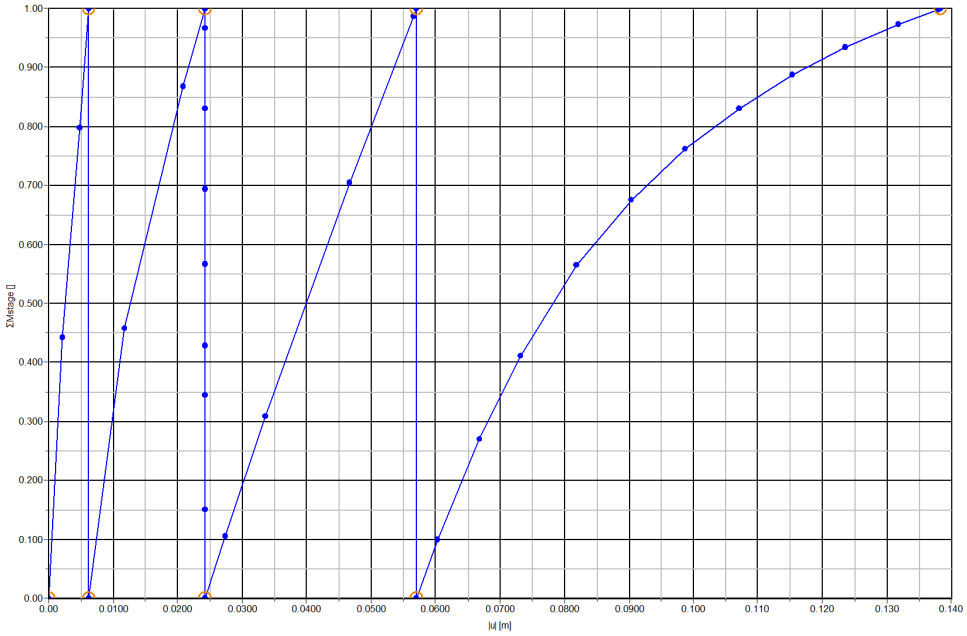


Figure 28: Load-displacement curve of deflection of wall

The curve shows the construction stages. For each stage, the parameter ΣMstage changes from 0.0 to 1.0. The decreasing slope of the curve in the last stage indicates that the amount of plastic deformation is increasing. The results of the calculation indicate, however, that the excavation remains stable at the end of construction.

4

Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV]

This example involves the dry construction of an excavation. The excavation is supported by concrete diaphragm walls. The walls are tied back by prestressed ground anchors.

PLAXIS 2D allows for detailed modelling of this type of problem. It is demonstrated in this example how ground anchors are modelled and how prestressing is applied to the anchors. Moreover, the dry excavation involves a groundwater flow calculation to generate the new water pressure distribution. This aspect of the analysis is explained in detail.

Objectives

- Modelling ground anchors.
- Generating pore pressures with a groundwater flow calculation.
- Displaying the contact stresses and resulting forces in the model.
- Scaling the displayed results.

Geometry

The excavation is 20 m wide and 10 m deep. 16 m long concrete diaphragm walls of 0.35 m thickness are used to retain the surrounding soil. Two rows of ground anchors are used at each wall to support the walls. The anchors have a total length of 14.5 m and an inclination of 33.7°(2:3). On the left side of the excavation a surface load of 10 kN/m^2 is taken into account.

The relevant part of the soil consists of three distinct layers. From the ground surface to a depth of 23 m there is a fill of relatively loose fine sandy soil. Underneath the fill, down to a minimum depth of 15 m, there is a more or less homogeneous layer consisting of dense well-graded sand. This layer is particular suitable for the installation of the ground anchors. The underlying layer consists of loam and lies to a large depth. 15 m of this layer is considered in the model.

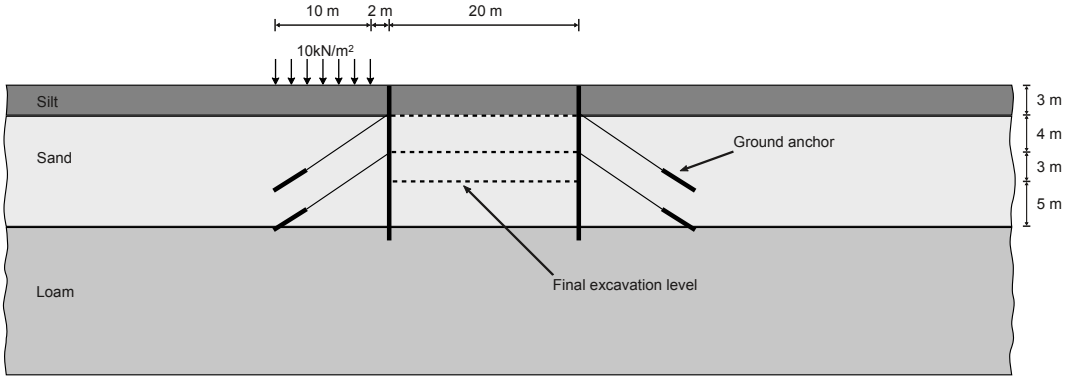


Figure 29: Excavation supported by tie back walls

4.1 Create new project

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (**Plane strain**), and **Elements** (**15-Node**).
4. Set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 100 m, y_{min} = 0 m, y_{max} = 30 m.
5. Keep the default values for units and the constants and press **OK** to close the **Project properties** window.

4.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Add three soil layers to the borehole. Locate the ground level at y = 30 m by assigning 30 to the **Top** level of the uppermost layer. The bottom levels of the layers are located at 27, 15 and 0 m, respectively.
3. Set the **Head** to 23 m.
   The layer stratigraphy looks like this:

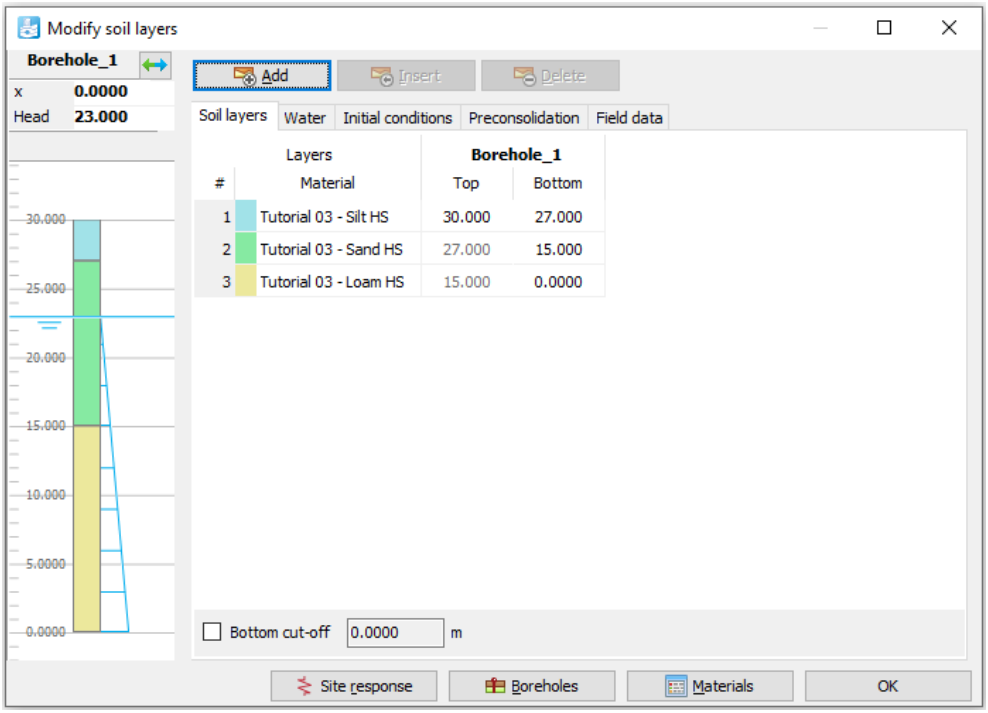


Figure 30: The Modify soil layers window

4.3 Create and assign material data sets

Three data sets need to be created. The materials have the following properties:

Table 6: Soil and interface properties

Parameter	Name	Silt	Sand	Loam	Unit
General					
Material model	Model	Hardening soil	Hardening soil	Hardening soil	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Drained	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	17	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	20	19	kN/m^3
Parameters					
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$20 \cdot 10^3$	$30 \cdot 10^3$	$12 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$20 \cdot 10^3$	$30 \cdot 10^3$	$8 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$60 \cdot 10^3$	$90 \cdot 10^3$	$36 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	0.5	0.8	-
Cohesion (constant)	c_{ref}'	1	0	5	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	30	34	29	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	4	0	°
Poisson's ratio	ν_{ur}'	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
K_0-value for normal consolidation	K_0^{nc}	0.5	0.4408	0.5152	-
Groundwater					
Data set	-	USDA	USDA	USDA	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	-

Parameter	Name	Silt	Sand	Loam	Unit
Soil type	-	Silt	Sand	Loam	-
< 2µm	-	6.0	4.0	20.0	%
2µm - 50µm	-	87.0	4.0	40.0	%
50µm - 2mm	-	7.0	92.0	40.0	%
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	From data set	From data set	From data set	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	0.5996	7.128	0.2497	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	0.5996	7.128	0.2497	m/day
Interfaces					
Interface strength	-	Manual	Manual	Rigid	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	0.65	0.70	1.0	-
Consider gap closure	-	Yes	yes	yes	
Initial					
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	-
Over-consolidation ratio	*OCR*	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
Pre-overburden pressure	*POP*	0	0	25	kN/m^2

1. Define three data sets for soil and interfaces with the parameters given in Table 6 (on page 55).
2. Assign the material data sets to the corresponding soil layers (Figure 30 (on page 54)).

4.4 Define the structural elements

The creation of diaphragm walls, excavation levels, ground anchor and surface load is described below.

1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the **Structures** mode.

4.4.1 To define the diaphragm wall and interfaces:

A diaphragm wall with the following material properties has to be defined:

Table 7: Material properties of the diaphragm wall (plate)

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$12 \cdot 10^{6}$	kN/m
Bending stiffness	EI	$120 \cdot 10^{3}$	kNm^2/m
Equivalent thickness	d	0.3464	m
Weight	w	8.3	kN/m/m
Poisson's ratio	ν	0.15	-
Prevent punching	-	Yes	-

1. In the **Structures** mode, model the diaphragm walls as plates passing through (40 30) - (40 14) and (60 30) - (60 14).
2. Multi-select the plates in the model.
3. In the **Selection explorer** click on **Material**.

   The view will change displaying a drop-down menu and a plus button next to it:

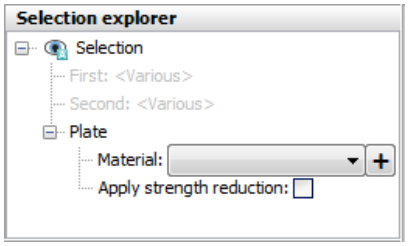


Figure 31: Material assignment in the Selection explorer

4. Click the Add button .
   A new empty material set is created for plates.
5. Define the material data set for the diaphragm walls according to the properties are listed in Table 7 (on page 57). The concrete has a Young's modulus of 35 GN/m^2 and the wall is 0.35 m thick.
6. Assign positive and negative interfaces to the geometry lines created to represent the diaphragm walls.

4.4.2 To define the excavation levels:

The soil is excavated in three stages. The first excavation layer corresponds to the bottom of the silt layer and it is automatically created. To define the remaining excavation stages:

1. Define the second excavation phase by drawing a line through (40 23) and (60 23).

2. Define the third excavation phase by drawing a line through (40 20) and (60 20).

4.4.3 Defining the ground anchor

A ground anchor can be modelled by a combination of a node-to-node anchor and an embedded beam. The embedded pile simulates the grouted part of the anchor whereas the node-to-node anchor simulates the free length. In reality there is a complex three-dimensional state of stress around the grout body which cannot be simulated in a 2D model.

The coordinates and material properties of the anchor and grout body are listed in the tables below.

Table 8: Node to node anchor coordinates

Anchor location	Name	First point	Second point
Top	Left	(40 27)	(31 21)
	Right	(60 27)	(69 21)
Bottom	Left	(40 23)	(31 17)
	Right	(60 23)	(69 17)

Table 9: Properties of the anchor rod (node-to-node anchor)

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Axial stiffness	EA	$500 \cdot 10^{3}$	kN
Out-of-plane spacing	L_s	2.5	m

Table 10: Grout coordinates

Anchor location	Name	First point	Second point
Top	Left	(31 21)	(28 19)
	Right	(69 21)	(72 19)
Bottom	Left	(31 17)	(28 15)
	Right	(69 17)	(72 15)

Table 11: Properties of the grout body (embedded beam rows)

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Stiffness	E	$7.07 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m^2
Unit weight	γ	0	kN/m^3
Beam type	-	Predefined	-
Predefined beam type	-	Massive circular beam	-
Diameter	D	0.3	m
Pile spacing	$L_{spacing}$	2.5	m
Axial Skin resistance	Distribution	Linear	-
	$T_{skin,\ end,\ max}$	400	kN/m
	$T_{skin,\ end,\ max}$	400	kN/m
Lateral resistance	Lateral resistance	Unlimited	-
Base resistance	F_{max}	0	kN
Interface stiffness factor	Default values	Yes	-

1. Define the node-to-node anchors according to Table 8 (on page 58).
2. Create an **Anchor** material data set according to the parameters specified in Table 9 (on page 58).
3. Multi-select the anchors in the drawing area. Assign the material data set by selecting the corresponding option in the **Material** drop-down menu in the **Selection explorer**.
4. Define the grout body using the **Embedded beam row** button according to Table 10 (on page 58).
5. Create the **Grout** material data set according to the parameters specified in Table 11 (on page 59) and assign it to the grout body.
6. Set the **Behaviour** of the embedded beam rows to **Grout body**

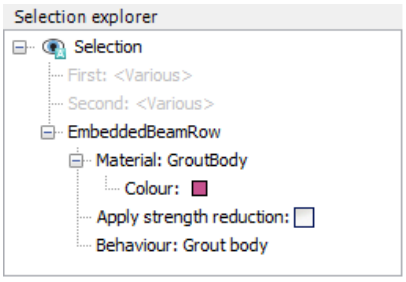


Figure 32: Embedded beam rows in the Selection explorer

The connection with the anchor will be automatically established.

7. Multi-select (keep **<Ctrl>** pressed while selecting) the top node-to-node anchors and embedded beams. Right-click and select the **Group** option in the context menu.
8. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Groups subtree**.
   Note that a group is created composed of the elements of the top ground anchors.
9. Click on **Group_1** in the **Model explorer** and type a new name (e.g `GroundAnchor_Top`).
10. Follow the same steps to create a group and to rename the bottom ground anchors.

Although the precise stress state and interaction with the soil cannot be modelled with this 2D model, it is possible in this way to estimate the stress distribution, the deformations and the stability of the structure on a global level, assuming that the grout body does not slip relative to the soil. With this model it is certainly not possible to evaluate the pullout force of the ground anchor.

4.4.4 To define the distributed load:

1. Create a line load between (28 30) and (38 30).

4.5 Generate the mesh

In order to generate the mesh, follow these steps:

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. Use the default option for the **Element distribution** parameter (**Medium**).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

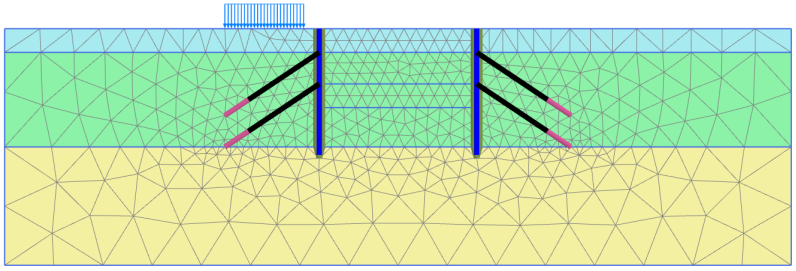


Figure 33: The generated mesh

4.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation of this project consists of six phases. In the initial phase (Phase 0), the initial stresses are generated. In Phase 1, the walls are constructed and the surface loads are activated. In Phase 2, the first 3 m of

the pit is excavated without connection of anchors to the wall. At this depth the excavation remains dry. In Phase 3, the first anchor is installed and pre-stressed. Phase 4 involves further excavation to a depth of 7 m. At this depth the excavation still remains dry. In Phase 5, the second anchor is installed and pre-stressed. Phase 6 is a further excavation to the final depth of 10 m including the dewatering of the excavation.

Before defining the calculation phases, the water levels to be considered in the calculation can be defined in the **Flow conditions** mode. The water level is lowered in the final excavation phase. At the side boundaries, the groundwater head remains at a level of 23.0 m. The bottom boundary of the problem should be closed. The flow of groundwater is triggered by the fact that the pit is pumped dry. At the bottom of the excavation the water pressure is zero, which means that the groundwater head is equal to the vertical level (head = 20.0 m). This condition can be met by drawing a new general phreatic level and performing a groundwater flow calculation. Activating the interfaces during the groundwater flow calculation prevents flow through the wall.

4.6.1 Initial phase

The initial stress field is generated by means of the **K0 procedure** using the default K_0-values in all clusters defined automatically by the program.

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode.
2. Initially, all structural components and loads are inactive. Hence, make sure that the plates, the node-to-node anchors, the embedded beam rows and the surface loads are deactivated.
3. In the **Phases explorer** double-click the initial phase. The default parameters for the initial phase will be used. The **Phreatic** option is selected as **Pore pressure calculation type**. Note that when the pore pressures are generated by phreatic level, the full geometry of the defined phreatic level is used to generate the pore pressures.
4. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
5. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
6. Expand the **Water** subtree.
   The water level created according to the head value specified in the borehole, (**BoreholeWaterLevel_1**), is automatically assigned to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

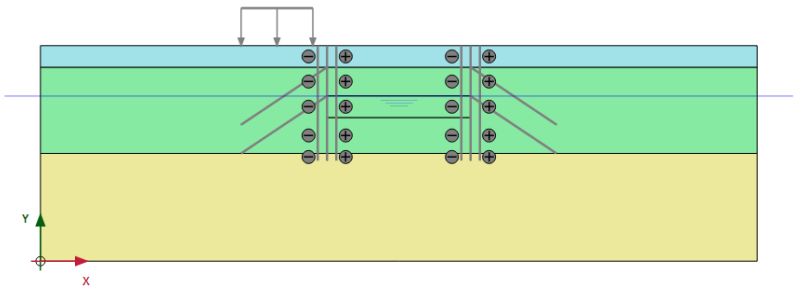


Figure 34: Configuration of the initial phase

4.6.2 Phase 1: Activation of wall and load

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.

2. In the **Staged constructions** mode activate all walls and interfaces by clicking on the checkbox in front of them in the **Model explorer**.
   The active elements in the project are indicated by a green check mark.
3. Activate the distributed load.
4. After selecting the line load assign a value of -10 to $q_{y,start,ref}$ in the **Selection explorer**:

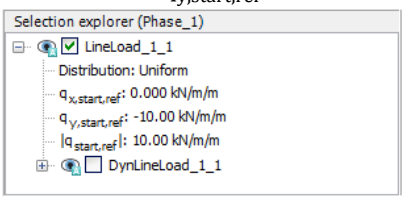


Figure 35: Line load in the Selection explorer

The model for the phase 1 in the **Staged construction** mode is displayed as:

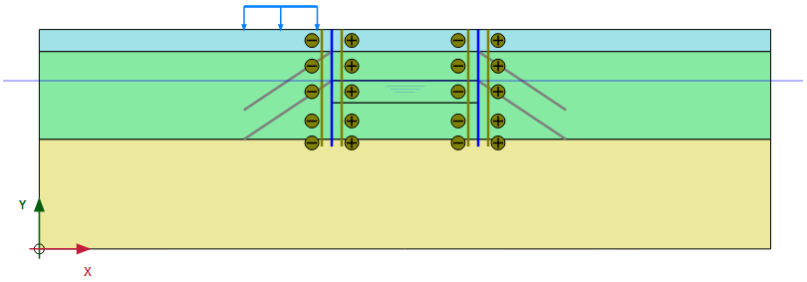


Figure 36: Configuration of Phase 1 in the Staged construction mode

4.6.3 Phase 2: First excavation

1. Click the **Add phase** button in the **Phases explorer** to add a new phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** mode de-activate the upper cluster of the excavation

The model for the first excavation phase looks like this:

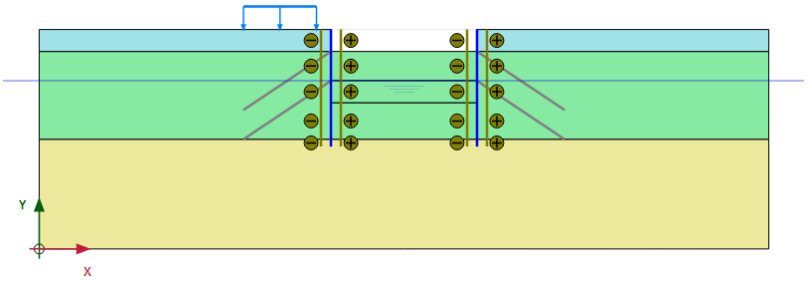


Figure 37: Configuration of Phase 2 in the Staged construction mode

4.6.4 Phase 3: First anchor row

1. Click the **Add phase** button in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Activate the upper ground anchors by clicking on the checkbox in front of **GroundAnchors_Top** under the **Groups** subtree in the **Model explorer**.
3. Multi-select the top node-to-node anchors.
4. In the **Selection explorer** set the **Adjust prestress** parameter to **True** and assign a pre-stress force of 500 kN.

> **Note:** A pre-stress force is exactly matched at the end of a finished staged construction calculation and turned into an anchor force. In successive calculation phases the force is considered to be just an anchor force and can therefore further increase or decrease, depending on the development of the surrounding stresses and forces.

The model for the phase 3 in the Staged construction mode looks like this:

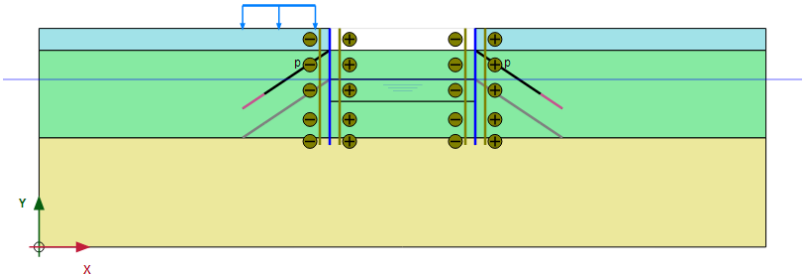


Figure 38: Configuration of Phase 3 in the Staged construction mode

4.6.5 Phase 4: Second excavation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to add a new phase.
2. Deactivate the second cluster of the excavation.

The model for the phase 4 in the **Staged construction** mode is displayed:

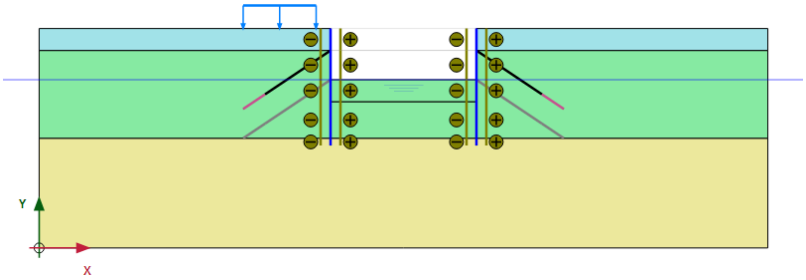


Figure 39: Configuration of Phase 4 in the Staged construction mode

Note that the anchors are not pre-stressed anymore.

4.6.6 Phase 5: Second anchor row

1. Click the **Add phase** button to add a new phase.
2. Activate the lower ground anchors.
3. Select the bottom node-to-node anchors.
4. In the **Selection explorer** set the **Adjust prestress** parameter to **True** and assign a pre-stress force of 1000 kN.

The model for the phase 5 in the **Staged construction** mode is displayed:

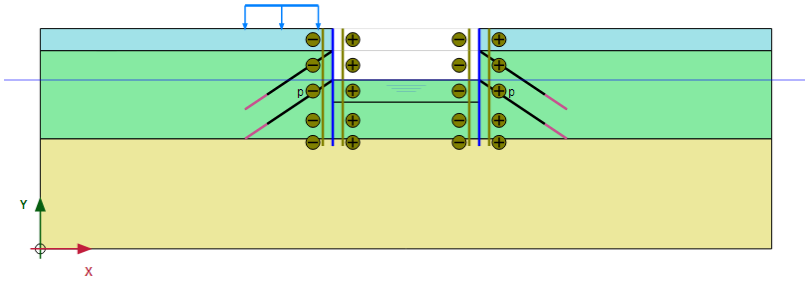


Figure 40: Configuration of Phase 5 in the Staged construction mode

4.6.7 Phase 6: Final excavation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to add a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window, within **General** > **Pore pressure calculation type** select the **Steady state groundwater flow** option. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid.
3. Deactivate the third cluster of the excavation.
4. Click the **Flow conditions** tab to display the corresponding mode.
5. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Attributes library**.
6. Expand the **Water levels** subtree.
7. Click the **Create water level** button in the side toolbar and draw a new phreatic level. Start at (0 23) and draw the phreatic level through (40 20), (60 20) and end in (100 23).
8. In the **Model explorer** expand the **User water levels** subtree. Click on **UserWaterLevel_1** and type `LoweredWaterLevel` to rename the water level created in the **Flow conditions** mode.

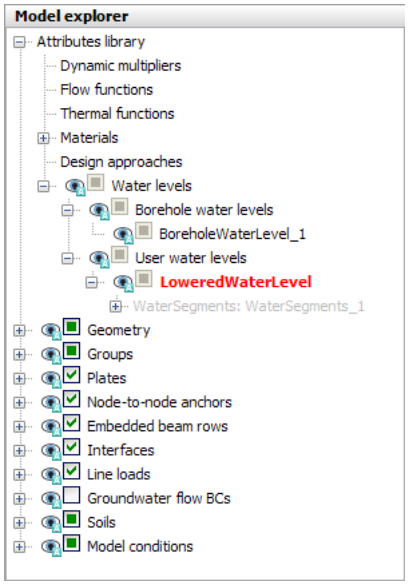


Figure 41: Water levels in the Model explorer

9. In the **Model explorer** expand **Model conditions** > **GroundwaterFlow**. The default boundary conditions are valid.

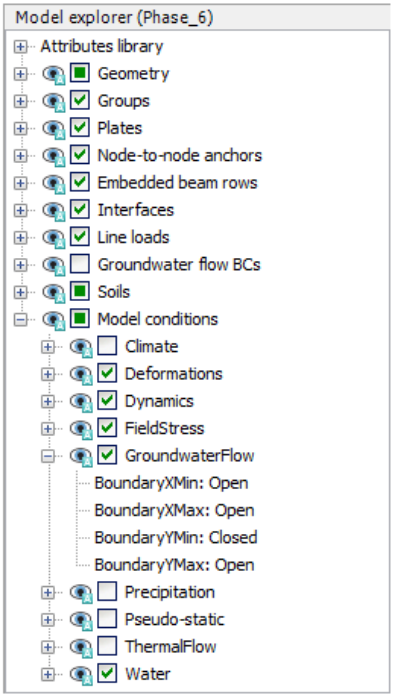


Figure 42: The GroundwaterFlow subtree under the Model conditions in the Model explorer

10. In the **Water** subtree assign the **LoweredWaterLevel** to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

The model and the defined water levels are displayed:

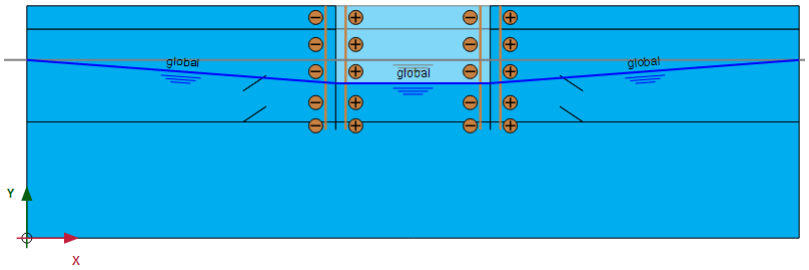


Figure 43: Configuration of Phase 6 in the Flow conditions mode

Note: Note that for **Groundwater flow** (steady or transient) the intersection points of the water level with the active model boundaries are important. The program calculates flow boundary conditions in terms of a groundwater head corresponding to the water level. The 'internal' part of the water level is not used and will be replaced by the phreatic level resulting from the groundwater flow calculation. Hence, the water level tool is just a convenient tool to create boundary conditions for a flow calculation.

4.6.8 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
2. Select some characteristic points for curves (for example the connection points of the ground anchors on the diaphragm wall, such as (40 27) and (40 23)).
3. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
4. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the Save button .

4.7 Results

The figures below show the deformed meshes at the end of calculation phases 2 to 6.

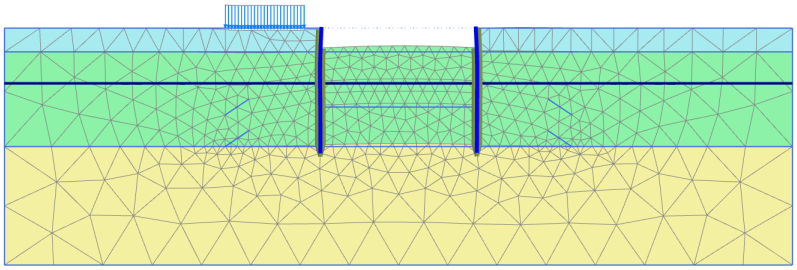


Figure 44: Deformed mesh (scaled up 50.0 times) - Phase 2

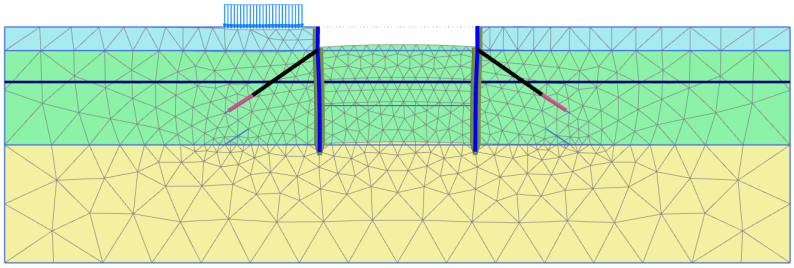


Figure 45: Deformed mesh (scaled up 50.0 times) - Phase 3

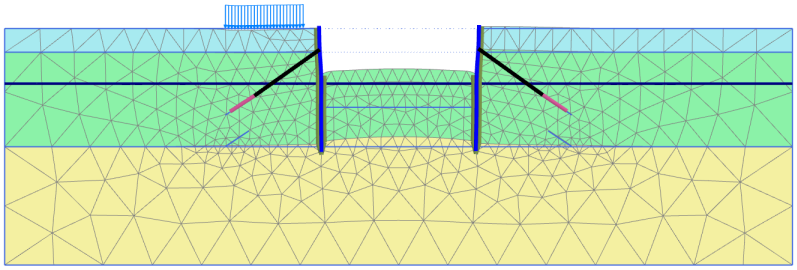


Figure 46: Deformed mesh (scaled up 50.0 times) - Phase 4

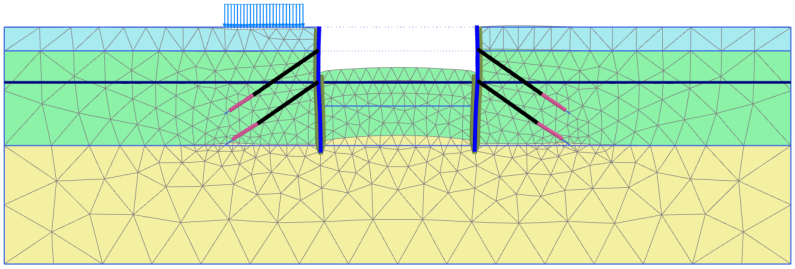


Figure 47: Deformed mesh (scaled up 50.0 times) - Phase 5

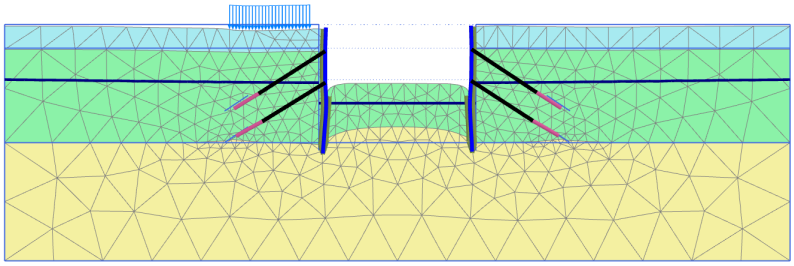


Figure 48: Deformed mesh (scaled up 50.0 times) - Final phase

The figure below shows the effective principal stresses in the final situation. The passive stress state beneath the bottom of the excavation is clearly visible. It can also be seen that there are stress concentrations around the grout anchors.

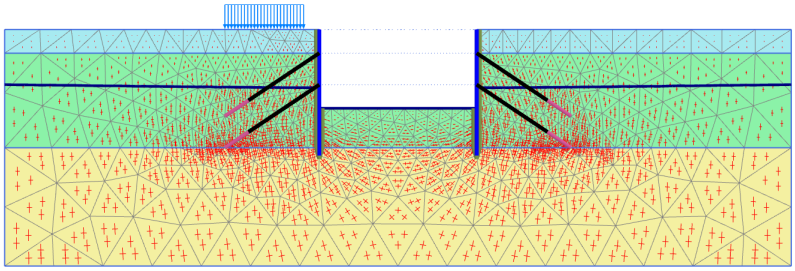


Figure 49: Principal effective stresses (final stage)

The figure below shows the bending moments in the diaphragm walls in the final state. The two dips in the line of moments are caused by the anchor forces.

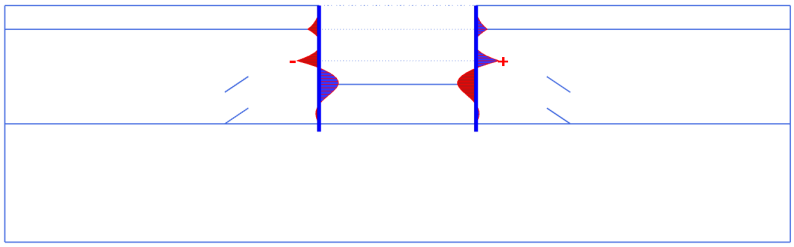


Figure 50: Bending moments in the diaphragm walls in the final stage

The anchor force can be viewed by double clicking the anchor. When doing this for the results of the third and the fifth calculation phase, it can be checked that the anchor force is indeed equal to the specified pre-stress force in the calculation phase they are activated. In the following phases this value might change due to the changes in the model.

5 Dry excavation using a tie back wall - ULS [ADV]

In this tutorial an Ultimate Limit State (ULS) calculation will be defined and performed for the dry excavation using a tie back wall (Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53)). The same geometry model will be used. The **Design approaches** feature is introduced in this example. This feature allows for the use of partial factors for loads and model parameters after a serviceability calculation has already been performed.

Objective

- Using **Design approaches**

5.1 Define the geometry

In order to define a design approach:

1. Open the project created in Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53) and save it under a different name.
2. Select the menu **Soil** > **Design approaches** or **Structures** > **Design approaches**.
   The corresponding window is displayed.
3. Click the **Add** button.
   A new design approach is added in the list.
4. In this example the design approach 3 of the Eurocode 7 will be used. This design approach involves partial factors for loads and partial factors for materials (strength). Click the design approach in the list and specify a representative name (ex: 'Eurocode 7 - DA 3').

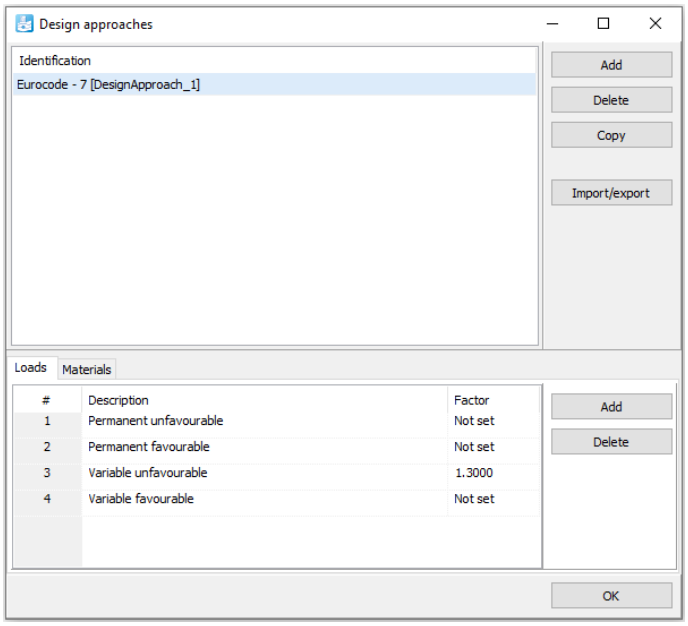


Figure 51: Partial factors for loads

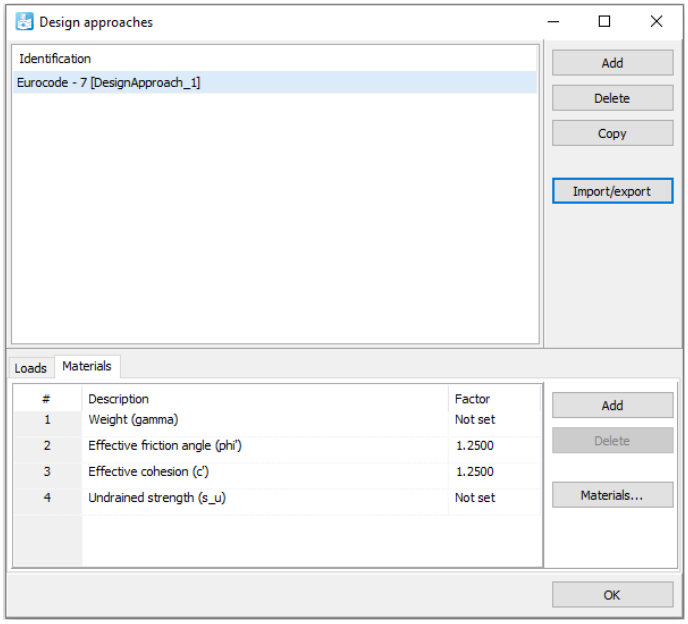


Figure 52: Partial factors for materials

5. In the lower part of the window the partial factors can be defined for loads and materials. Set the partial factor for **Variable unfavourable** to 1.3.
6. Click the **Materials** tab.
7. Assign a value of 1.25 to **Effective friction angle** and **Effective cohesion**.
8. Click the **Materials...** button. The **Material sets** window pops up.
9. Open the **Loam** material data set. Note that the view has changed. In the current view it is possible to assign factors to different soil parameters, as well as to see the effect of these factors on the soil parameters.
10. Click the **Parameters** tab. In the **Parameters** tabsheet select the corresponding labels for c'_{ref} and φ'.

11. Do the same for the remaining soil data sets.
12. Close the **Design approaches** window.

Note:

Note that a partial factor for ϕ and ψ applies to the tangent of ϕ and ψ respectively.

5.2 Define and perform the calculation

There are two main schemes to perform design calculations in relation to serviceability calculations (see Design approaches in the Reference Manual). The first approach is used in this tutorial.

5.2.1 Changes to all phases

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode.
2. In the **Phases explorer** click the phase Phase_1.
3. Add a new phase.
4. Double-click the newly added phase to open the **Phases** window.
5. In the **General** subtree of the **Phases** window select the defined design approach in the corresponding drop-down menu.
6. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Line loads** and all the subtrees under it.
7. Select the **Variable unfavourable** option in the **LoadFactorLabel** drop-down menu of the static component of the load.

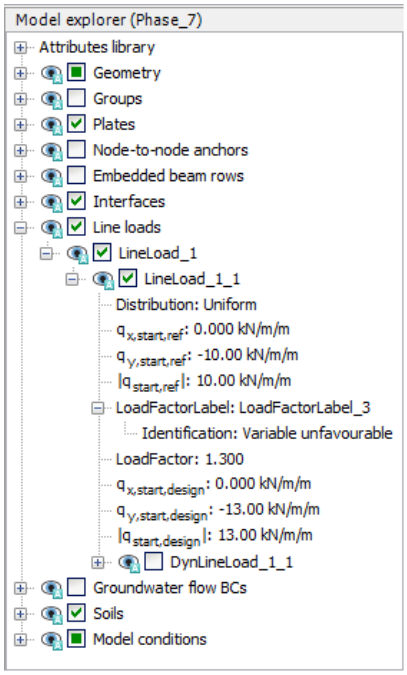


Figure 53: Assignment of factor label to loads in the Selection explorer

8. Follow the same steps to define ULS phases for all the remaining SLS phases. Make sure that the Phase 7 starts from Phase 1, Phase 8 from Phase 2, Phase 9 from Phase 3 and so on.

5.2.2 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
2. Select some characteristic points for curves (for example the connection points of the ground anchors on the diaphragm wall, such as (40 27) and (40 23)).
3. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
4. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the Save button.

5.3 Results

The results obtained for the design approach phases can be evaluated in Output. The figure below displays the ΣMstage - |u| plot for the node located at (40.0 27.0).

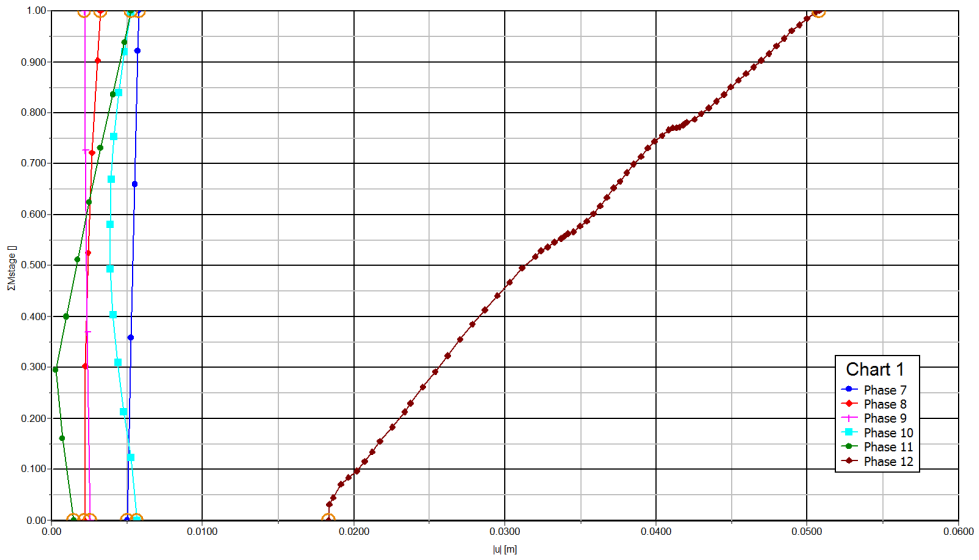


Figure 54: ΣMstage - |u| plot for the ULS phases

If the ULS calculations have successfully finished, the model complies with the corresponding design approach. If there are doubts about this due to excessive deformations, an additional **Safety** calculation may be considered using the same design approach, which should then result in a stable ΣM_{sf} value larger than 1.0. Note that if partial factors have been used it is not necessary that ΣM_{sf} also includes a safety margin. Hence, in this case ΣM_{sf} just larger that 1.0 is enough.

The figure below displays the ΣMsf - |u| plot for the **Safety** calculations of the Phase 6 and the corresponding ULS phase (Phase 12). It can be concluded that the situation complies with the design requirements.

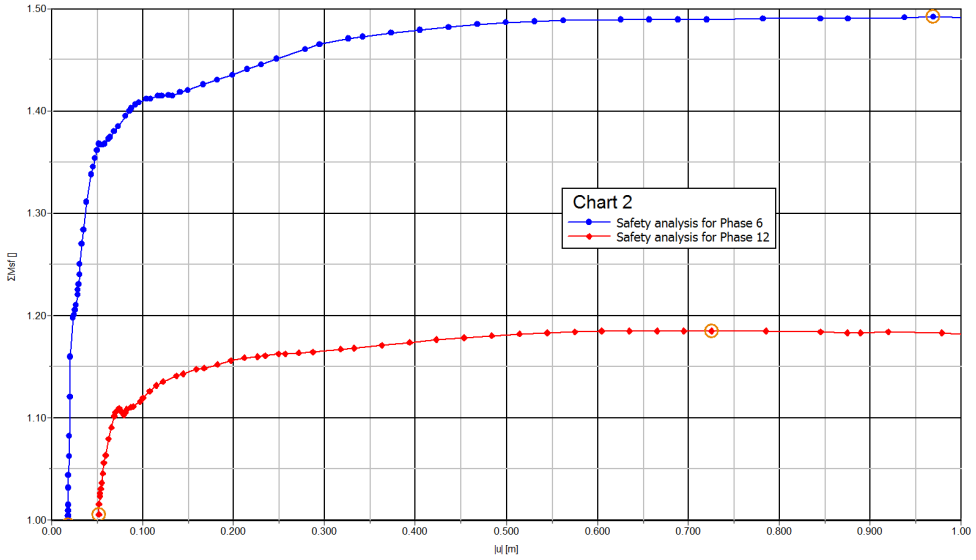


Figure 55: ΣMsf - |u| plot for the last calculation phase and the corresponding ULS phase

6 Construction of a road embankment [ADV]

The construction of an embankment on soft soil with a high groundwater level leads to an increase in pore pressure. As a result of this undrained behaviour, the effective stress remains low and intermediate consolidation periods have to be adopted in order to construct the embankment safely. During consolidation the excess pore pressures dissipate so that the soil can obtain the necessary shear strength to continue the construction process.

This tutorial concerns the construction of a road embankment in which the mechanism described above is analysed in detail. In the analysis three new calculation options are introduced, namely a consolidation analysis, an updated mesh analysis and the calculation of a safety factor by means of a safety analysis (strength reduction).

Objectives

- Consolidation analysis
- Modelling drains
- Change of permeability during consolidation
- Safety analysis (strength reduction)
- Updated mesh analysis (large deformations)

Geometry

The embankment is 16 m wide and 4 m high. The slopes have an inclination of 1:3. The problem is symmetric, so only one half is modelled (in this case the right half is chosen). The embankment itself is composed of loose sandy soil. The subsoil consists of 6 m of soft soil. The upper 3 m is peat and the lower 3 m is clay. The phreatic level is located 1 m below the original ground surface. Under the soft soil layers there is a dense sand layer of which 4 m are considered in the model.

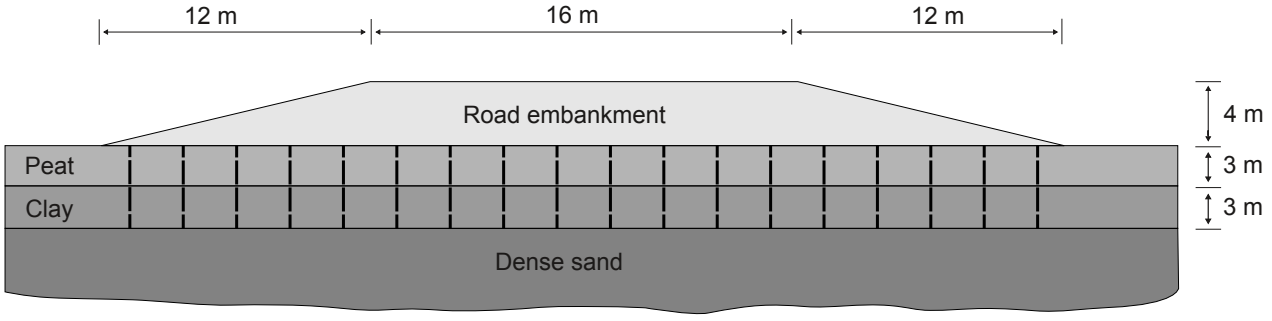


Figure 56: Situation of a road embankment on soft soil

6.1 Create new project

1. Start PLAXIS 2D by double clicking the icon of the Input program .
2. Click **Start a new project**.
3. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
4. In the **Model** tabsheet make sure that **Model** is set to **Plane strain** and that **Elements** is set to **15-Noded**.
5. Set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 60 m, y_{min} = -10 m and y_{max} = 4 m.

6.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The sub-soil layers are defined using a borehole. The embankment layers are defined in the **Structures** mode.

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.

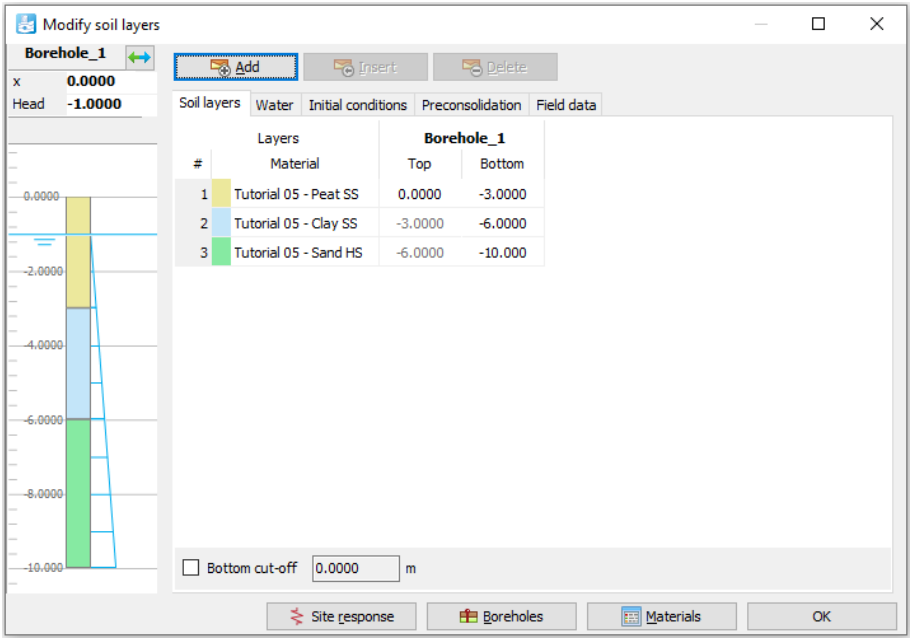


Figure 57: Soil layer distribution

2. Define three soil layers as shown in figure above.
3. The water level is located at y = -1 m. In the borehole column specify a value of -1 to **Head**.

6.3 Create and assign material data sets

A number of material set are needed for this tutorial. The properties of the materials are as follows:

Table 12: Material properties of the sand and clay layer and the interfaces

Parameter	Nane	Embankment	Sand	Peat	Clay	Unit
General						
Material model	-	Hardening soil	Hardening soil	Soft soil	Soft soil	-
Drainage type	-	Drained	Drained	Undrained (A)	Undrained (A)	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	17	8	15	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	19	20	12	18	kN/m^3
Initial void ratio	e_{init}	0.5	0.5	2.0	1.0	-
Parameters						
Modified compression index	λ^*	-	-	0.15	0.05	-
Modified swelling index	κ^*	-	-	0.03	0.01	-
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$25 \cdot 10^3$	$35 \cdot 10^3$	-	-	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$25 \cdot 10^3$	$35 \cdot 10^3$	-	-	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$75 \cdot 10^3$	$105 \cdot 10^3$	-	-	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	0.5	-	-	-
Cohesion (constant)	c_{ref}'	1	0	2	1	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	30	33	23	25	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	3	0	0	°

Parameter	Nane	Embankment	Sand	Peat	Clay	Unit
Advanced: Set to default	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Groundwater						
Data set	-	USDA	USDA	USDA	USDA	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	-
Soil type	-	Loamy sand	Sand	Clay	Clay	-
> 2µm	-	6.0	4.0	70.0	70.0	%
2µm - 50µm	-	11.0	4.0	13.0	13.0	%
50µm - 2mm	-	83.0	92.0	17.0	17.0	%
Use defaults	-	From data set	From data set	None	From data set	-
Horizontal permeability	k_x	3.499	7.128	0.1	0.04752	m/day
Vertical permeability	k_y	3.499	7.128	0.05	0.04752	m/day
Change in permeability	c_k	$1 \cdot 10^{15}$	$1 \cdot 10^{15}$	1.0	0.2	-
Interfaces						
Interface strength	-	Rigid	Rigid	Rigid	Rigid	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	1	1	1	1	-
Initial						
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	-
Overconsolidation ratio	*OCR*	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
Pre-overburden pressure	*POP*	0	0	5	0	kN/m^2

To create the material sets, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Materials** button to open the **Material sets** window.
2. Create soil material data sets according to Table 12 (on page 76) and assign them to the corresponding layers in the borehole (see Figure 57 (on page 75)).
3. Close the **Modify soil layers** window and proceed to the **Structures** mode to define the embankment and drains.

Note: The initial void ratio (e_{init}) and the change in permeability (c_k) should be defined to enable the modelling of a change in the permeability in a consolidation analysis due to compression of the soil. This option is recommended when using advanced models.

6.4 Define the construction

The embankment and the drains are defined in the **Structures** mode.

1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the **Structures** mode.

6.4.1 To define the embankment:

1. Click the **Create soil polygon** button in the side toolbar and select the **Create soil polygon** option.
2. Define the embankment in the drawing area by clicking on (0 0), (0 4), (8 4) and (20 0).
3. Right-click the created polygon and assign the **Embankment** data set to the soil polygon.

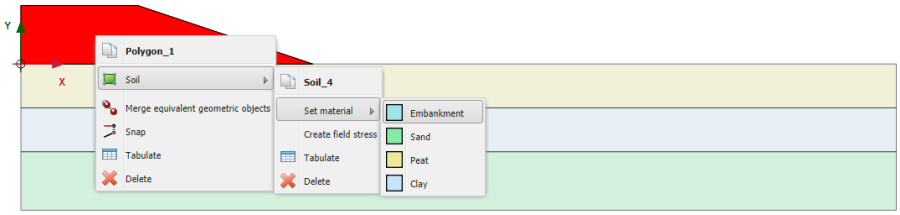


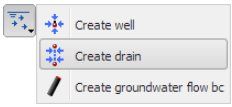
Figure 58: Assignment of a material dataset to a soil cluster in the drawing area

4. To define the embankment construction level click the **Cut polygon** button in the side toolbar and define a cutting line by clicking on (0 2) and (14 2).
   The embankment cluster is split into two sub-clusters.

6.4.2 To define the drains

In this project the effect of the drains on the consolidation time will be investigated by comparing the results with a case without drains. Drains will only be active for the calculation phases in the case with drains.

1. Click the **Create hydraulic conditions** button in the side toolbar and select the **Create drain** option in the appearing menu.



2. Drains are defined in the soft layers (clay and peat; y = 0 m to y = -6 m). The distance between two consecutive drains is 2 m. Considering the symmetry, the first drain is located at 1 m distance from the model boundary. 10 drains will be created in total. The **head** is defined at 0.0 m.

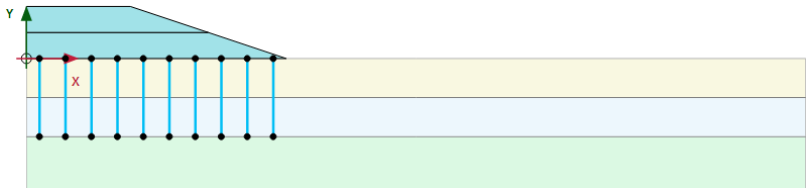


Figure 59: Final geometry of the model

Note:

The modelling of drains in a plane strain model actually involves the use of an equivalent (lateral) permeability in the surrounding soil based on the drain pattern. The latter has been omitted in this simplified example. More information can be in found in literature[1].

6.5 Generate the mesh

In order to generate the mesh, follow these steps:

1. Proceed to **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

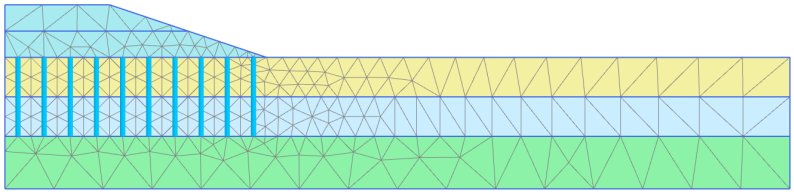


Figure 60: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

6.6 Define and perform the calculation

[1] Achtergronden bij numerieke modellering van geotechnische constructies, deel 2. CUR 191. Stichting CUR, Gouda Indraratna, B.N., Redana, I.W., Salim, W. (2000), Predicted and observed behaviour of soft clay foundations stabilised with vertical drains. Proc. GeoEng. 2000, Melbourne.

The embankment construction is divided into two phases. After the first construction phase a consolidation period of 30 days is introduced to allow the excess pore pressures to dissipate. After the second construction phase another consolidation period is introduced from which the final settlements may be determined. Hence, a total of four calculation phases have to be defined besides the initial phase.

6.6.1 Initial phase: Initial conditions

In the initial situation the embankment is not present.

The remaining active geometry is horizontal with horizontal layers, so the **K0 procedure** can be used to calculate the initial stresses.

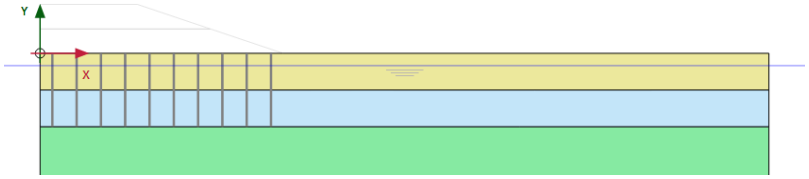


Figure 61: Configuration of the initial phase

The initial water pressures are fully hydrostatic and based on a general phreatic level located at y = -1 m. Note that a phreatic level is automatically created at y = -1 m, according to the value specified for **Head** in the borehole. In addition to the phreatic level, attention must be paid to the boundary conditions for the consolidation analysis that will be performed during the calculation process. Without giving any additional input, all boundaries except for the bottom boundary are draining so that water can freely flow out of these boundaries and excess pore pressures can dissipate. In the current situation, however, the left vertical boundary must be closed because this is a line of symmetry, so horizontal flow should not occur. The remaining boundaries are open because the excess pore pressures can be dissipated through these boundaries. In order to define the appropriate consolidation boundary conditions, follow these steps:

1. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
2. Expand the **GroundwaterFlow** subtree and set **BoundaryXMin** to **Closed** and **BoundaryYMin** to **Open**.

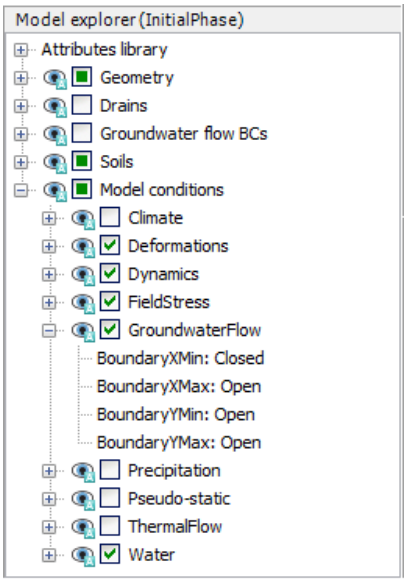


Figure 62: The boundary conditions of the problem

6.6.2 Consolidation analysis

A consolidation analysis introduces the dimension of time in the calculations. In order to correctly perform a consolidation analysis a proper time step must be selected. The use of time steps that are smaller than a critical minimum value can result in stress oscillations.

The consolidation option in PLAXIS 2D allows for a fully automatic time stepping procedure that takes this critical time step into account. Within this procedure there are three main possibilities:

	Consolidate for a predefined period, including the effects of changes to the active geometry (**Staged construction**).
	Consolidate until all excess pore pressures in the geometry have reduced to a predefined minimum value (**Minimum excess pore pressure**).
	Consolidate until a specified degree of saturation is reached (**Degree of consolidation**).

The first two possibilities will be used in this exercise. To define the calculation phases, follow these steps:

Phase 1: First embankment construction

The first calculation stage is a **Consolidation** analysis, **Staged construction**.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Consolidation** option from the **Calculation type** drop-down menu in the **General** subtree.

3. Make sure that the **Staged construction** option is selected for the **Loading type**.
4. Enter a **Time interval** of 2 days. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.
5. In the **Staged construction** mode activate the first part of the embankment.

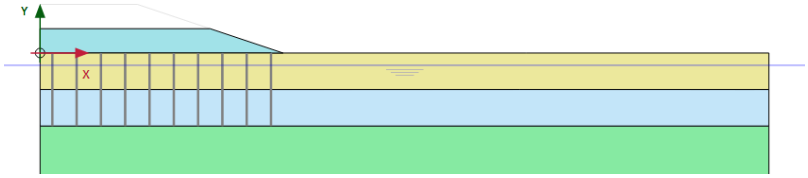


Figure 63: Configuration of the phase 1

Phase 2: First consolidation period

The second phase is also a **Consolidation** analysis, **Staged construction**. In this phase no changes to the geometry are made as only a consolidation analysis to ultimate time is required.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Consolidation** option from the **Calculation type** drop-down menu in the **General** subtree.
3. Make sure that the **Staged construction** option is selected for the **Loading type**.
4. Enter a **Time interval** of 30 days. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.

Phase 3: Second embankment construction

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Consolidation** option from the **Calculation type** drop-down menu in the **General** subtree.
3. Make sure that the **Staged construction** option is selected for the **Loading type**.
4. Enter a **Time interval** of 1 day. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.
5. In the **Staged construction** mode activate the second part of the embankment.

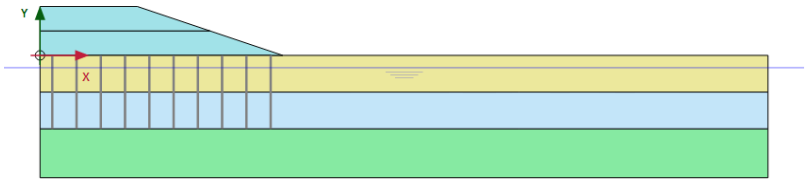


Figure 64: Configuration of the phase 3

Phase 4: End of consolidation

The fourth phase is a **Consolidation** analysis to a minimum excess pore pressure.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree select the **Consolidation** option as calculation type.
3. Select the **Minimum excess pore pressure** option in the **Loading type** drop-down menu and accept the default value of 1 kN/m^2 for the minimum pressure. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.

6.6.3 Calculate

Before starting the calculation it is suggested that you select nodes or stress points for a later generation of load-displacement curves or stress and strain diagrams. To do this, follow the steps given below.

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
2. As the first point, select the toe of the embankmentat (20 0).
3. The second point will be used to plot the development (and decay) of excess pore pressures. To this end, a point somewhere in the middle of the soft soil layers at the left side of the model is needed, hence underneath the middle of the embankment. For instance at (0 -3).
4. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.

During a consolidation analysis the development of time can be viewed in the upper part of the calculation info window.

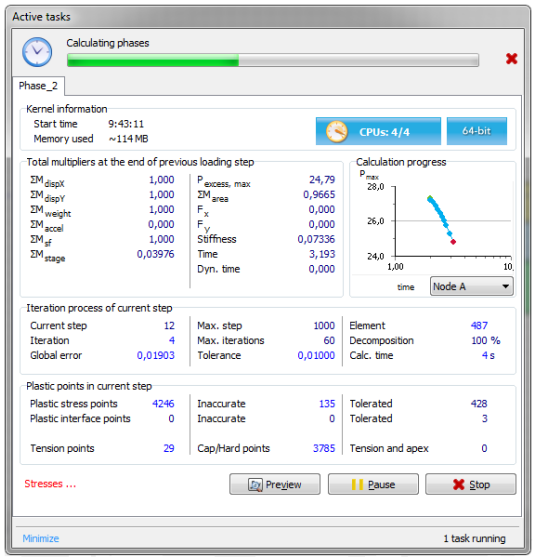


*Figure 65: Calculation progress displayed in the **Active tasks** window*

In addition to the multipliers, a parameter $P_{excess,max}$ occurs, which indicates the current maximum excess pore pressure. This parameter is of interest in the case of a **Minimum excess pore pressure** consolidation analysis, where all pore pressures are specified to reduce below a predefined value.

6.7 Results

After the calculation has finished, select the third phase and click the **View calculation results** button .

The **Output** window now shows the deformed mesh after the undrained construction of the final part of the embankment. Considering the results of the third phase, the deformed mesh shows the uplift of the embankment toe and hinterland due to the undrained behaviour.

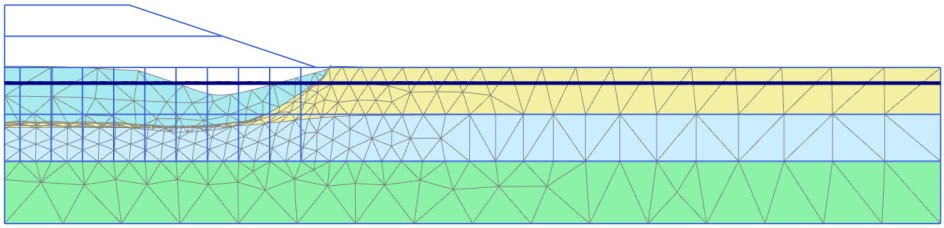


Figure 66: Deformed mesh after undrained construction of embankment (Phase 3)

1. Select the menu **Deformations** > **Incremental displacements** > **|Δ u|**.
2. Select the menu **View** > **Arrows** option in the menu or click the corresponding button in the toolbar to display the results arrows.

On evaluating the total displacement increments, it can be seen that a failure mechanism is developing:

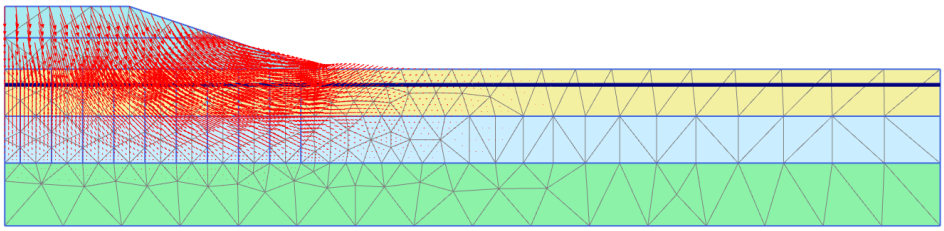


Figure 67: Displacement increments after undrained construction of embankment

1. Press **<Ctrl + 7>** to display the developed excess pore pressures (see Appendix C of the Reference Manual for more shortcuts). They can also be displayed by selecting the menu **Stresses** > **Pore pressures** > **P excess**.
2. Click the **Center principal directions** button . The principal directions of excess pressures are displayed at the center of each soil element. The results are displayed in the following figure.

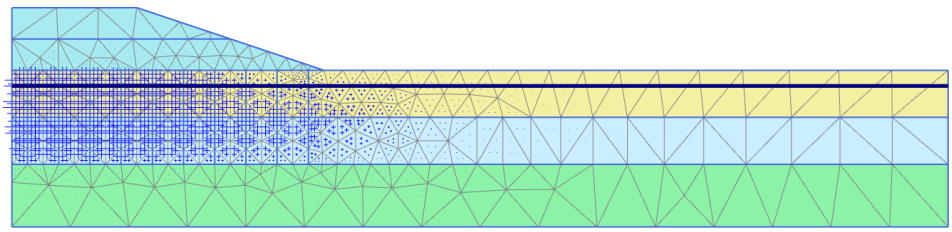


Figure 68: Excess pore pressures after undrained construction of embankment

It is clear that the highest excess pore pressure occurs under the embankment centre.

1. Select Phase 4 in the drop down menu.
2. Click the **Contour lines** button in the toolbar to display the results as contours.
3. Use the **Draw scanline** button or the corresponding option in the **View** menu to define the position of the contour line labels.

It can be seen that the settlement of the original soil surface and the embankment increases considerably during the fourth phase. This is due to the dissipation of the excess pore pressures (= consolidation), which causes further settlement of the soil. The figure below shows the remaining excess pore pressure distribution after consolidation. Check that the maximum value is below 1.0 kN/m^2.

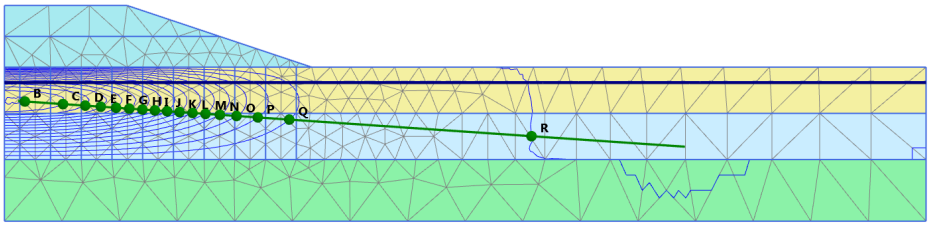


Figure 69: Excess pore pressure contours after consolidation to P_{excess} < 1.0 kN/m^2

The **Curves manager** can be used to view the development, with time, of the excess pore pressure under the embankment. In order to create such a curve, follow these steps:

1. Create a new curve by clicking the **Curves manager** button .
2. For the x-axis, select the **Project** option from the drop-down menu and select **Time** in the tree.
3. For the y-axis select the point in the middle of the soft soil layers (Point B) from the drop-down menu. In the tree select **Stresses** > **Pore pressure** > **p excess**.
4. Select the **Invert sign** option for the y-axis.
5. Click **OK**.

A curve similar to the following one should appear:

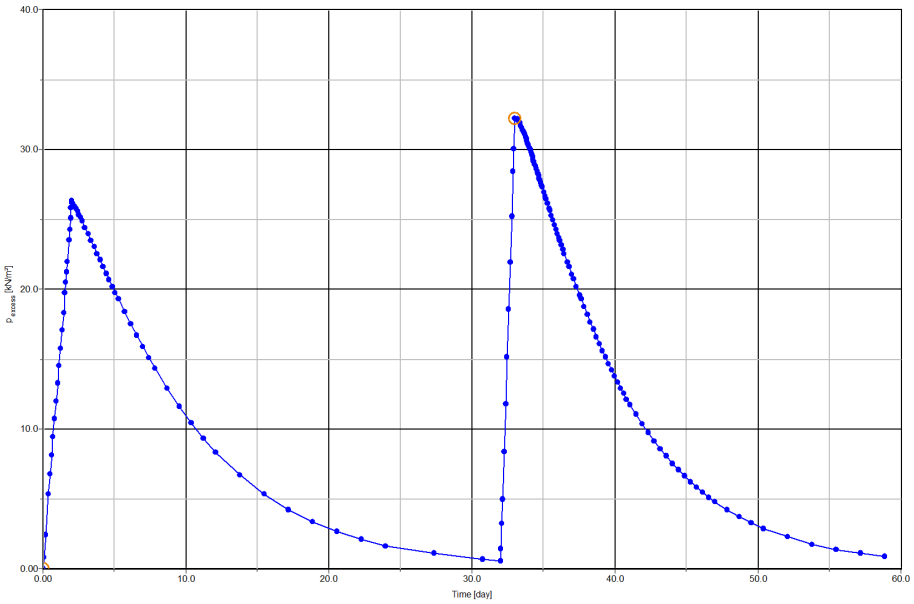


Figure 70: Development of excess pore pressure under the embankment

The figure above clearly shows the four calculation phases. During the construction phases the excess pore pressure increases with a small increase in time while during the consolidation periods the excess pore pressure decreases with time. In fact, consolidation already occurs during construction of the embankment, as this involves a small time interval. From the curve it can be seen that more than 50 days are needed to reach full consolidation.

Save the chart before closing the Output program.

6.8 Safety analysis

In the design of an embankment it is important to consider not only the final stability, but also the stability during the construction. It is clear from the output results that a failure mechanism starts to develop after the second construction phase.

It is interesting to evaluate a global safety factor at this stage of the problem, and also for other stages of construction.

In structural engineering, the safety factor is usually defined as the ratio of the collapse load to the working load. For soil structures, however, this definition is not always useful. For embankments, for example, most of the loading is caused by soil weight and an increase in soil weight would not necessarily lead to collapse. Indeed, a slope of purely frictional soil will not fail in a test in which the self weight of the soil is increased (like in a centrifuge test). A more appropriate definition of the factor of safety is therefore:

$$Safety\ \ factor = \frac{S_{maximum\ \ available}}{S_{needed\ \ \ for\ equilibrium}}$$

Where S represents the shear strength. The ratio of the true strength to the computed minimum strength required for equilibrium (hence, the mobilized strength) is the safety factor that is conventionally used in soil mechanics. For soil models using the standard Coulomb failure condition, the safety factor is obtained as:

$$Safety\ factor = \frac{c - \sigma_n \tan(\varphi)}{c_r - \sigma_n \tan(\varphi_n)}$$

Where c and φ are the input strength parameters and σ_n is the actual normal stress component.

The parameters c_r and φ_r are reduced strength parameters that are just large enough to maintain equilibrium. The principle described above is the basis of the method of Safety that can be used in PLAXIS 2D to calculate a global safety factor. In this approach the cohesion and the tangent of the friction angle are reduced in the same proportion:

$$\frac{c}{c_r} = \frac{\tan(\varphi)}{\tan(\varphi_r)} = \Sigma Msf$$

The reduction of strength parameters is controlled by the total multiplier ΣMsf. This parameter is increased in a step-by-step procedure until failure occurs. The safety factor is then defined as the value of ΣMsf at failure, provided that at failure a more or less constant value is obtained for a number of successive load steps.

Note that for soil models that do no use the Coulomb failure criterion the concept of strength reduction remains the same, but with reduction of strength parameters specific to that soil model.

The **Safety** calculation option is available in the **Calculation type** drop-down menu in the **General** tabsheet. If the **Safety** option is selected the **Loading input** on the **Parameters** tabsheet is automatically set to **Incremental multipliers**.

To calculate the global safety factor for the road embankment at different stages of construction, follow these steps:

1. Select Phase 1 in the **Phases** explorer.
2. Add a new calculation phase.
3. Double-click on the new phase to open the **Phases** window.
4. In the **Phases** window the selected phase is automatically selected in the **Start from phase** drop-down menu.
5. In the **General** subtree, select **Safety** as calculation type.
6. The **Incremental multipliers** option is already selected in the **Loading input** box. The first increment of the multiplier that controls the strength reduction process, **Msf**, is set to 0.1.
7. Note that the **Use pressures from the previous phase** option in the **Pore pressure calculation type** drop-down menu is automatically selected and grayed out indicating that this option cannot be changed
8. In order to exclude existing deformations from the resulting failure mechanism, select the **Reset displacements to zero** option in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.
9. The first safety calculation has now been defined.
10. Follow the same steps to create new calculation phases that analyse the stability at the end of each consolidation phase.

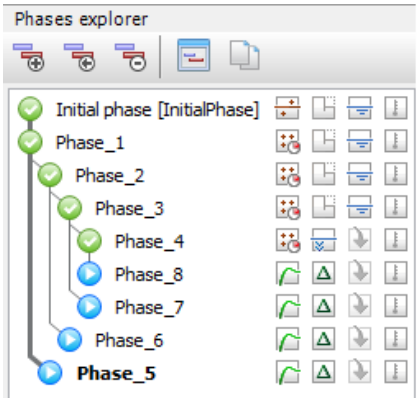


Figure 71: Phases explorer displaying the Safety calculation phases

Note:

The default value of **Max steps** in a **Safety** calculation is 100. In contrast to a **Staged construction** calculation, the specified number of steps is always fully executed. In most **Safety** calculations, 100 steps are sufficient to arrive at a state of failure. If not, the number of steps can be increased to a maximum of 1000.

For most **Safety** analyses Msf = 0.1 is an adequate first step to start up the process. During the calculation process, the development of the total multiplier for the strength reduction, ΣMsf, is automatically controlled by the load advancement procedure.

6.8.1 Evaluation of results

Additional displacements are generated during a **Safety** calculation. The total displacements do not have a physical meaning, but the incremental displacements in the final step (at failure) give an indication of the likely failure mechanism.

In order to view the mechanisms in the three different stages of the embankment construction:

1. Select one of these phases and click the **View calculation results** button .
2. Select the menu **Incremental displacements** > **Deformations** > **|Δu|**.
3. Change the presentation from **Arrows** to **Shadings** . The resulting plots give a good impression of the failure mechanisms. The magnitude of the displacement increments is not relevant.

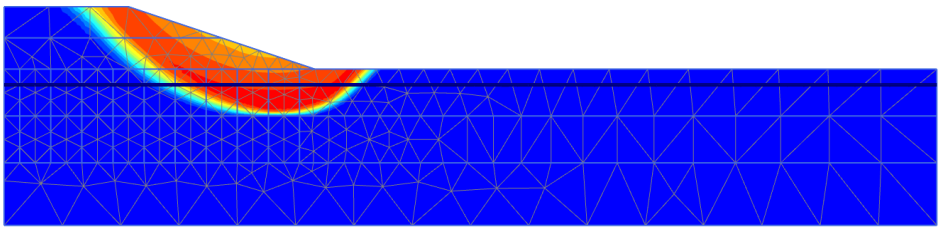


Figure 72: Shadings of the total displacement increments indicating the most applicable failure mechanism of the embankment in the final stage

The safety factor can be obtained from the **Calculation info** option of the **Project** menu. The **Multipliers** tabsheet of the **Calculation information** window represents the actual values of the load multipliers. The value of ΣMsf represents the safety factor, provided that this value is indeed more or less constant during the previous few steps.

The best way to evaluate the safety factor, however, is to plot a curve in which the parameter ΣMsf is plotted against the displacements of a certain node. Although the displacements are not relevant, they indicate whether or not a failure mechanism has developed.

In order to evaluate the safety factors for the three situations in this way, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Curves manager** button in the toolbar.
2. Click **New** in the **Charts** tabsheet.
3. In the **Curve generation** window, select the embankment toe (Point A) for the x-axis. Select **Deformations** > **Total displacements** > **|u|**.
4. For the y-axis, select **Project** > **Multipliers** > **ΣMsf**. The **Safety** phases are considered in the chart.
5. Right-click on the chart and select the **Settings** option in the appearing menu. The **Settings** window pops up.
6. In the tabsheet corresponding to the curve click the **Phases** button.
7. In the **Select phases** window select Phase 5:

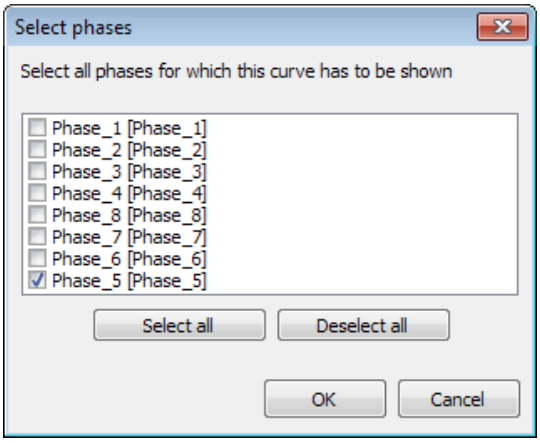


Figure 73: The Select phases window

8. Click **OK** to close the **Select phases** window.
9. In the **Settings** window change the titles of the curve in the corresponding tabsheet.
10. Click the **Add curve** button and select the **From current project...** option in the appearing menu. Define curves for phases 6, 7 and 8 by following the described steps.
11. In the **Settings** window click the **Chart** tab to open the corresponding tabsheet.
12. In the **Chart** tabsheet specify the chart name.
13. Set the scaling of the x-axis to **Manual** and set the value of **Maximum** to 1:

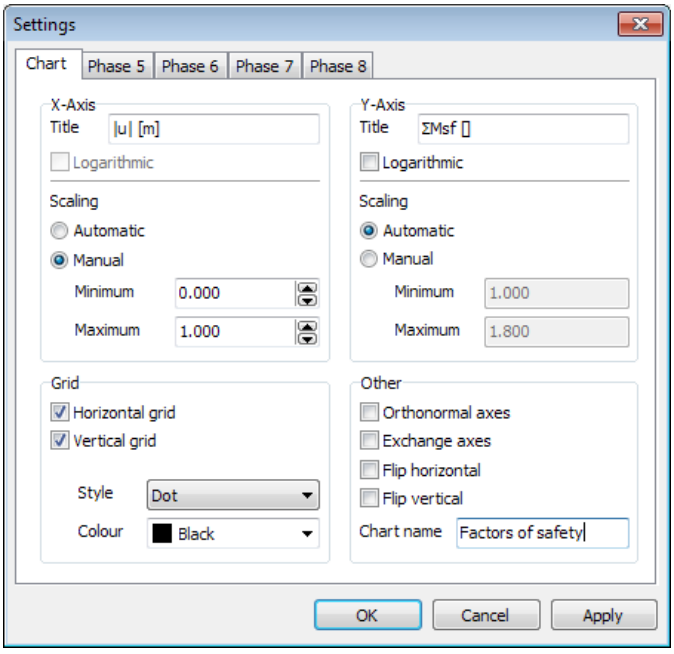


Figure 74: The Chart tabsheet in the Settings window

14. Click **Apply** to update the chart according to the changes made and click **OK** to close the **Settings** window.
15. To modify the location of the legend right-click on the legend.
16. In the context menu select **View** > **Legend in chart**.
17. The legend can be relocated in the chart by dragging it. The plot is shown as:

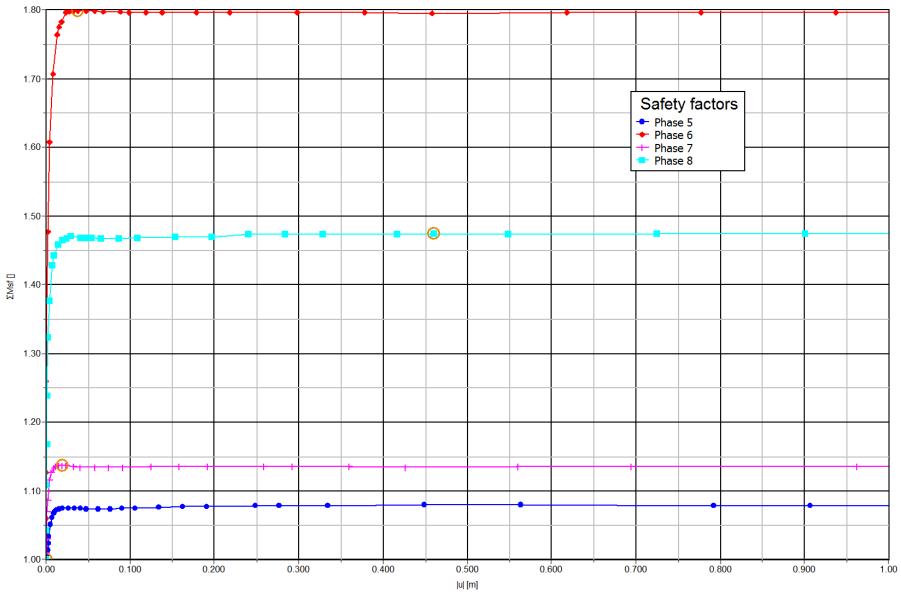


Figure 75: Evaluation of safety factor

The maximum displacements plotted are not relevant. It can be seen that for all curves a more or less constant value of Σ Msf is obtained. Hovering the mouse cursor over a point on the curves, a box showing the exact value of ΣMsf can be obtained.

6.9 Using drains

In this section the effect of the drains in the project will be investigated. Four new phases will be introduced having the same properties as the first four consolidation phases. The first of these new phases should start from the initial phase. The differences in the new phases are:

- The drains should be active in all the new phases. Activate them in the **Staged construction** mode.
- The **Time interval** in the first three of the consolidation phases (9 to 11) is 1 day. The last phase is set to **Minimum excess pore pressure** and a value of 1.0 kN/m^2 is assigned to the minimum pressure (|P-stop|).

Follow these steps:

1. After the calculation is finished, save the project, then select the last phase and click the **View calculation results** button . The **Output** window now shows the deformed mesh after the drained construction of the final part of the embankment. In order to compare the effect of the drains, the excess pore pressure dissipation in the second point can be used.
2. Click the **Curves manager** button to open the **Curves manager**.
3. In the **Chart** tabsheet double-click Chart 1 (p_{excess} of the second point at (0 -3) versus time). The chart is displayed. Close the **Curves manager**.
4. Double-click the curve in the legend at the right of the chart. The **Settings** window pops up.
5. Click the **Add curve** button and select the **From current project ...** option in the appearing menu. The **Curve generation** window pops up.
6. Select the **Invert sign** option for y-axis and click **OK** to accept the selected options.
7. In the chart a new curve is added and a new tabsheet corresponding to it is opened in the **Settings** window. Click the **Phases** button. From the displayed window select the **Initial phase** and the last four phases (drains) and click **OK**.
8. In the **Settings** window change the titles of the curves in the corresponding tabsheets.
9. In the **Chart** tabsheet specify the chart name.
10. Click **Apply** to preview the generated curve and click **OK** to close the **Settings** window. The chart gives a clear view of the effect of drains in the time required for the excess pore pressures to dissipate:

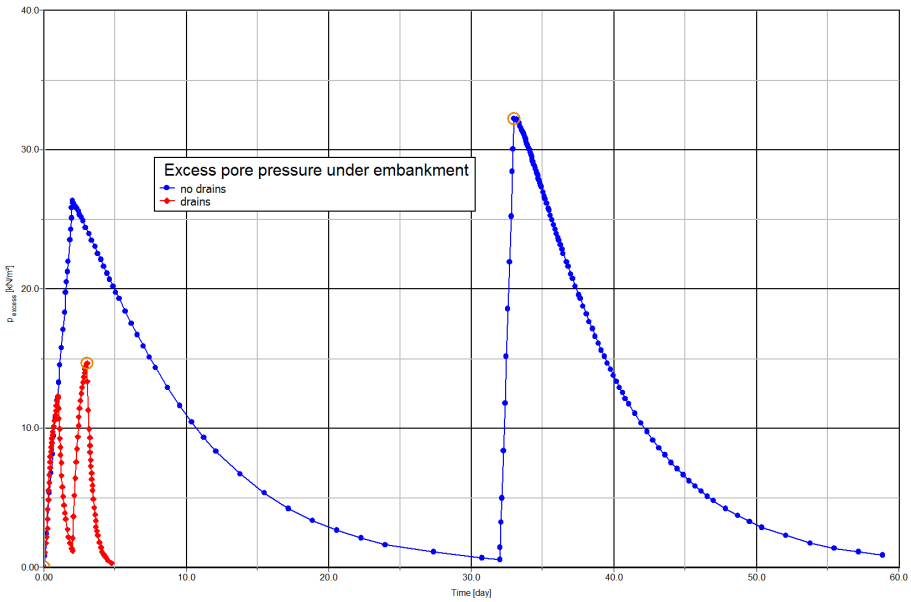


Figure 76: Effect of drains

Note:

Instead of adding a new curve, the existing curve can be regenerated using the corresponding button in the **Curves settings** window.

6.10 Updated mesh and updated water pressures analysis

As can be seen from the output of the **Deformed mesh** at the end of consolidation (stage 4), the embankment settles about one meter since the start of construction. Part of the sand fill that was originally above the phreatic level will settle below the phreatic level.

As a result of buoyancy forces the effective weight of the soil that settles below the water level will change, which leads to a reduction of the effective overburden in time. This effect can be simulated in PLAXIS 2D using the **Updated mesh** and **Updated water pressures** options. For the road embankment the effect of using these options will be investigated.

1. Select the initial phase in the **Phases** explorer.
2. Add a new calculation phase.
3. Define the new phase in the same way as Phase 1. In the **Deformation control parameters** subtree check the **Updated mesh** and **Updated water pressures** options.
4. Define the other 3 phases in the same way.

When the calculation has finished, compare the settlements for the two different calculation methods.

1. In the **Curve generation** window select time for the x-axis and select the vertical displacement (u_y) of the point in the middle of the soft soil layers at (0 -3) for the y-axis.
2. In this curve the results for Initial phase and phases from 1 to 4 will be considered.

3. Add a new curve to the chart.
4. In this curve the results for Initial phase and phases from 13 to 16 will be considered. The resulting chart is shown below.

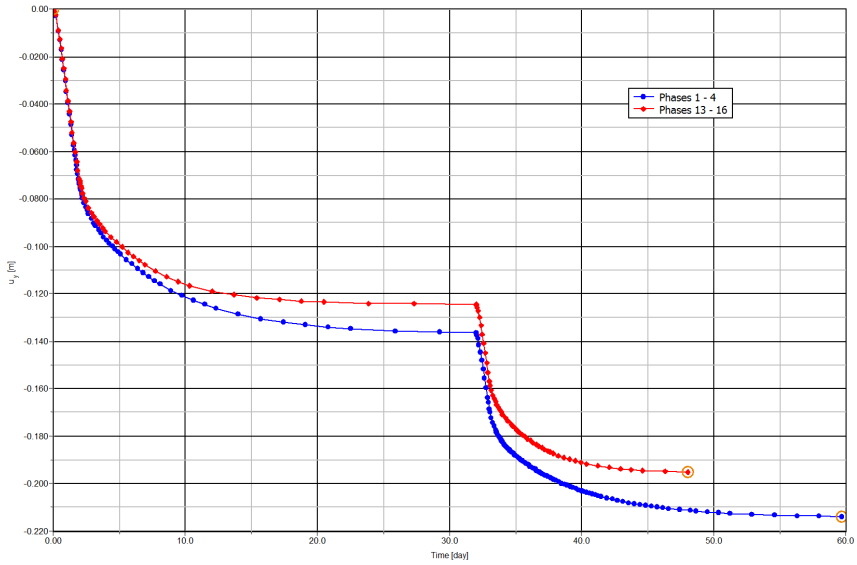


Figure 77: Effect of updated mesh and water pressures analysis on resulting settlements

It can be seen that the settlements are less when the **Updated mesh** and **Updated water pressures** options are used (red curve). This is partly because the **Updated mesh** procedure includes second order deformation effects by which changes of the geometry are taken into account, and partly because the **Updated water pressures** procedure results in smaller effective weights of the embankment. This last effect is caused by the buoyancy of the soil settling below the (constant) phreatic level. The use of these procedures allows for a realistic analysis of settlements, taking into account the positive effects of large deformations.

7 Settlements due to tunnel construction [GSE]

In this tutorial the construction of a shield tunnel in medium soft soil and the influence on a pile foundation is considered. A shield tunnel is constructed by excavating soil at the front of a tunnel boring machine (TBM) and installing a tunnel lining behind it. In this procedure the soil is generally over-excavated, which means that the cross sectional area occupied by the final tunnel lining is always less than the excavated soil area. Although measures are taken to fill up this gap, one cannot avoid stress re-distributions and deformations in the soil as a result of the tunnel construction process. To avoid damage to existing buildings or foundations on the soil above, it is necessary to predict these effects and to take proper measures. Such an analysis can be performed by means of the finite element method. This tutorial shows an example of such an analysis.

Objectives

- Modelling of the tunnel boring process
- Modelling undrained behaviour using the **Undrained (B)** option

Geometry

The tunnel considered in this tutorial has a diameter of 5 m and is located at an average depth of 20 m.

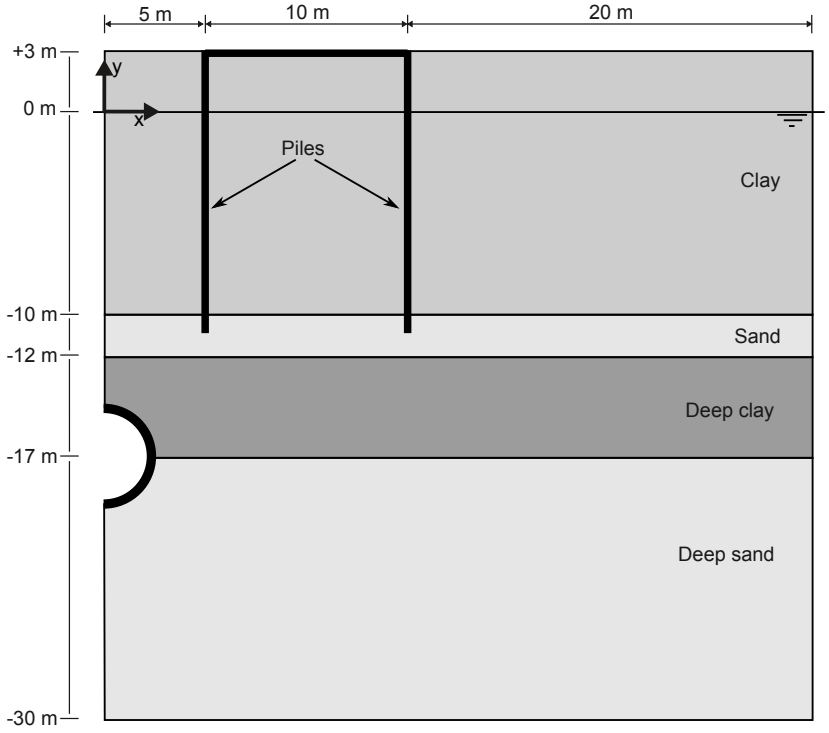


Figure 78: Geometry of the tunnel project with an indication of the soil layers

7.1 Create new project

To create the new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (**Plane strain**), and **Elements** (**15-Noded**).
4. Set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 35 m, y_{min} = -30 m and y_{max} = 3 m.
5. Keep the default values for units and constants and press **OK** to close the **Project properties** window.

7.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The soil profile indicates four distinct layers: The upper 13 m consists of soft clay type soil with stiffness that increases approximately linearly with depth. Under the clay layer there is a 2 m thick fine sand layer. This layer is used as a foundation layer for old wooden piles on which traditional brickwork houses were built. The pile foundation of such a building is modelled next to the tunnel. Displacements of these piles may cause damage to the building, which is highly undesirable. Below the sand layer there is a 5 m thick deep loamy clay layer.

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.

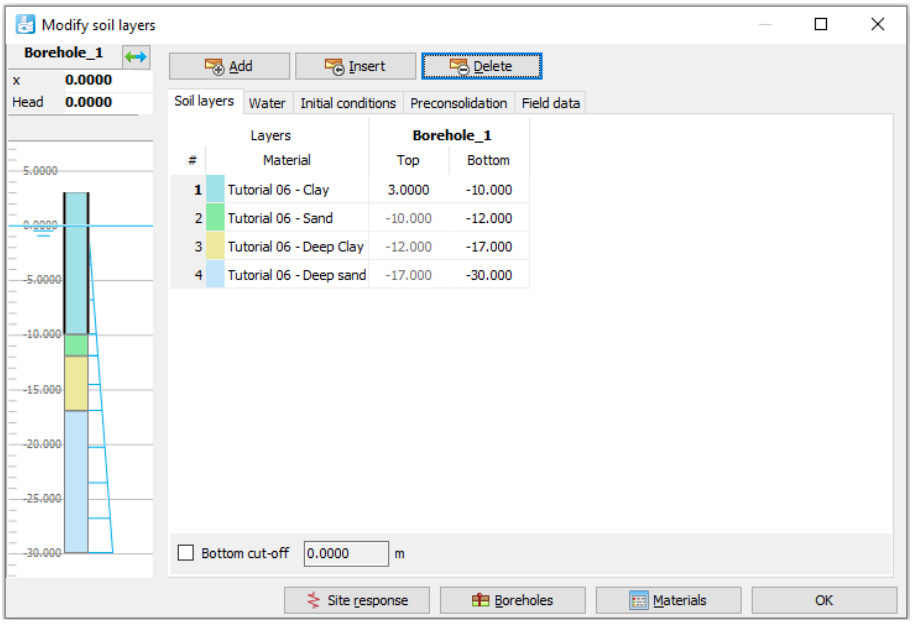


*Figure 79: The soil stratigraphy in the **Modify soil layers** window*

2. Create the soil stratigraphy as shown in the following figure:
3. Keep the **Head** in the borehole to 0 m.

7.2.1 Create and assign material data sets

Four data sets need to be created for the clay and sand layers.

For the upper clay layer the stiffness and shear strength increase with depth. Therefore values for E'_{inc} and $s_{u,inc}$ are entered in the **Advanced** subtree. The values of E'_{ref} and $s_{u,ref}$ become the reference values at the reference level y_{ref}. Below y_{ref} the actual values of E' and s_u increase with depth according to:

$$E'(y) = E_{ref}' + E_{inc}'(y_{ref} - y)$$

$$s_u(y) = s_{u,ref} + s_{u,inc}(y_{ref} - y)$$

The data sets of the two lower soil layers include appropriate parameters for the tunnel interfaces. In the other data sets the interface properties just remain at their default values. Enter four data sets with the properties as listed in Table 13 (on page 96) and assign them to the corresponding clusters in the geometry model.

The layers have the following properties:

Table 13: Material properties of the clay layers

Parameter	Name	Clay	Deep clay	Unit
General				
Material model	-	Mohr-Coulomb	Mohr-Coulomb	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Undrained (B)	Undrained (B)	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	15	16	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	18	18.5	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Young's modulus at reference level	E'	$3.4 \cdot 10^3$	$9.0 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.33	0.33	-
Undrained shear strength at reference level	$s_{u,ref}$	5	40	kN/m^2
Young's modulus increment	E_{inc}'	400	600	kN/m^3
Reference level	y_{ref}	3.0	-12	m

Parameter	Name	Clay	Deep clay	Unit
Undrained shear strength inc.	$s_{u,inc}$	2	3	kN/m^2
Reference level	y_{ref}	3.0	-12	m
Groundwater				
Data set	-	Standard	Standard	-
Soil type	-	Coarse	Coarse	-
Use defaults	-	None	None	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.01	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.01	m/day
Interfaces				
Interface strength	-	Rigid	Manual	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	1.0	0.7	-
Initial				
K_0 determination	-	Manual	Manual	-
Lateral earth pressure coefficient	$K_{0,x}$	0.6	0.7	-

Table 14: Material properties of the sand layers

Parameter	Name	Sand	Deep sand	Unit
General				
Material model	-	HS small	HS small	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16.5	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	21	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$25 \cdot 10^3$	$42 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$25 \cdot 10^3$	$42 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$75 \cdot 10^3$	$126 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2

Parameter	Name	Sand	Deep sand	Unit
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	0.5	-
Cohesion	c_{ref}'	0	0	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	31	35	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	1	5	°
Shear strain at which $G_s = 0.722\ G_0$	$\gamma_{0.7}$	$0.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$0.13 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-
Shear modulus at very small strains	G_0^{ref}	$80 \cdot 10^3$	$110 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν_{ur}'	0.2	0.2	-
Groundwater				
Data set	-	Standard	Standard	-
Soil type	-	Coarse	Coarse	-
Use defaults	-	None	None	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	1.0	0.5	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	1.0	0.5	m/day
Interfaces				
Interface strength	-	Rigid	Manual	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	1.0	0.7	-
Initial				
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	-
Over-consolidation ratio	OCR	1.0	1.0	-
Pre-overburden pressure	POP	0.0	0.0	-

To create the material sets, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Materials** button in the **Modify soil layers** window.
2. Create data sets under the **Soil and interfaces** set type according to the information given in Table 13 (on page 96).

7.3 Define the structural elements

The tunnel and the building are defined as structural elements.

7.3.1 Define the tunnel

The tunnel considered here is the right half of a circular tunnel. After generating the basic geometry, follow these steps to design the circular tunnel:

1. In the **Structures** mode click the **Create tunnel** button in the side toolbar and click at (0 -17) in the drawing area.
   The **Tunnel designer** window pops up displaying the **General** tabsheet of the **Cross section** mode.
2. Select the **Circular** option in the **Shape type** drop-down menu.
3. Select the **Define right half** option in the **Whole or half tunnel** drop-down menu.
4. In the **Offset to begin point** group set **Axis 2** to -2.5. No change is required for the orientation axes.
5. Click the **Segments** tab to proceed to the corresponding tabsheet.
   A segment is automatically created. A new box is shown under the segment list where the properties of the segment can be defined.
6. In the **Segment** box set **Radius** to 2.5 m.
   The generated segment is shown:

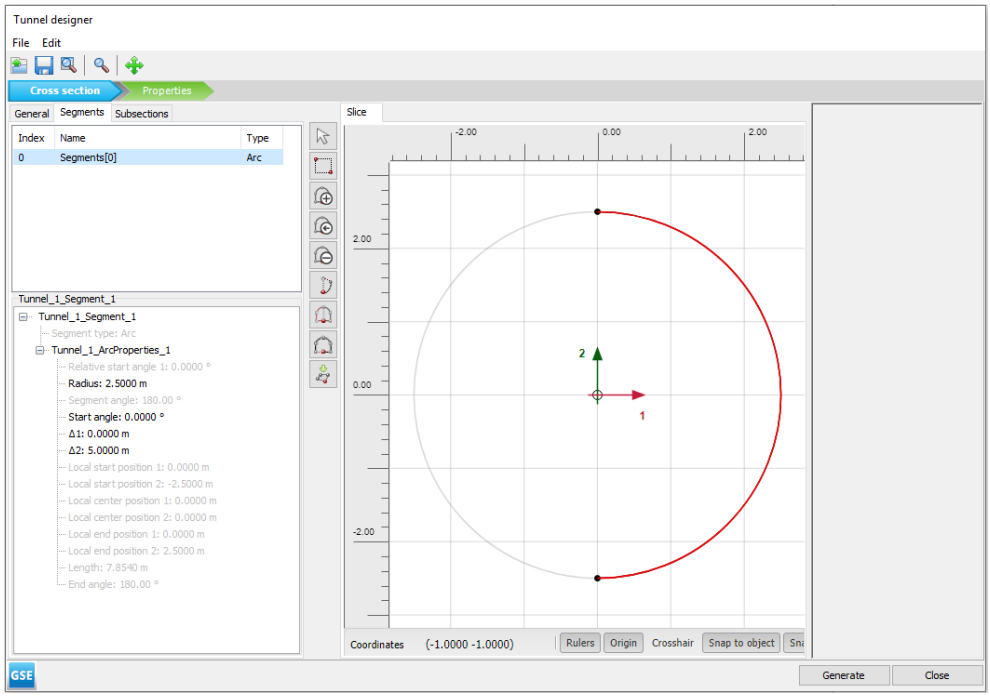


Figure 80: The geometry of the tunnel segment

Note: In the tunnel as considered here the segments do not have a specific meaning as the tunnel lining is homogeneous and the tunnel will be constructed at once. In general, the meaning of segments becomes significant when:

- It is desired to excavate or construct the tunnel (lining) in different stages.
- Different tunnel segments have different lining properties.
- One would consider hinge connections in the lining (hinges can be added after the design of the tunnel in the general drawing area).
- The tunnel shape is composed of arcs with different radii (for example NATM tunnels).

7. Click the **Properties** tab to proceed to the corresponding tabsheet.
8. Right-click the segment in the display area and select the menu **Create** > **Create plate** option in the appearing menu.
9. In Tunnel Designer go to the Material property in the **Selection explorer** and click the plus button to create a new material dataset. Specify the material parameters for the TBM according to the following table:

Table 15: Material properties of the plates

Parameter	Name	TBM	Lining	Building	Unit
Material behaviour	-	Elastic	Elastic	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$63 \cdot 10^6$	$14 \cdot 10^6$	$1 \cdot 10^{10}$	kN/m
Bending stiffness	EI	$472.5 \cdot 10^3$	$143 \cdot 10^3$	$1 \cdot 10^{10}$	kNm^2/m
Weight	w	17.7	8.4	25	kN/m/m
Poisson's ratio	ν	0	0.15	0	-
Prevent punching	-	No	No	No	-

Note: A tunnel lining consists of curved plates (shells). The lining properties can be specified in the material database for plates. Similarly, a tunnel interface is nothing more than a curved interface.

10. Right-click the segment in the display area and select the **Create negative interface** option in the appearing menu.
11. Right-click the segment in the display area and select the **Create line contraction** option in the appearing menu. In the polycurve box specify a value of 0.5% for C_{ref}. The tunnel model is shown in the following figure.

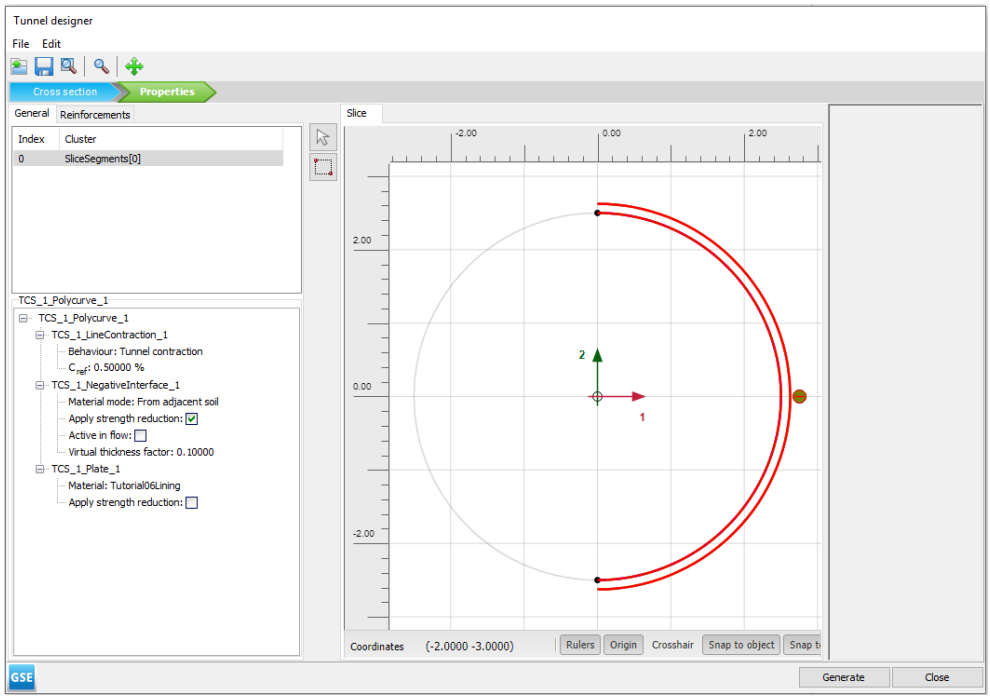


*Figure 81: Tunnel model in the **Properties** mode*

Note:

- A C_{ref} value of 0.5% corresponds to a volume loss of 0.5% of the tunnel volume. The actual strain that is applied to the line is half the applied contraction. Hence, the resulting liner contraction is 0.25%.
- The entered value of contraction is not always fully applied, depending on the stiffness of the surrounding clusters and objects.

12. Click on **Generate** to include the defined tunnel in the model.
13. Close the **Tunnel designer** window.

7.3.2 Define building

The building itself will be represented by a stiff plate founded on piles.

1. From the side bar, select **Create line** > **Create plate** and draw a plate from (5 3) to (15 3), representing the building.
2. Create a material set for the building according to Table 16 (on page 102) and assign it to the plate. Do not forget to also create the material set for the tunnel lining.
3. From the side bar, select **Create line** > **Create embedded beam row** and draw two piles (embedded beam rows) from (5 3) to (5 -11) and from (15 3) to (15 -11).
4. Create a material set for the foundation piles according to the table below and assign it to the foundation piles.

Table 16: Material properties of piles

Parameter	Name	Foundation piles	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Stiffness	E	$10 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m^2
Unit weight	γ	7.0	kN/m^3
Beam type	-	Predefined	-
Predefined beam type	-	Massive circular beam	-
Diameter	-	0.25	m
Pile spacing	$L_{spacing}$	3.0	m
Axial skin resistance	Axial skin resistance	Linear	-
	$T_{skin,\ start,\ max}$	1.0	kN/m
	$T_{skin,\ end,\ max}$	100.0	kN/m
Lateral resistance	Lateral resistance	Unlimited	-
Base resistance	F_{max}	100.0	kN
Interface stiffness factors	Default values	Yes	-

Note: In the **Standard fixities** option, a plate that extends to a geometry boundary that is fixed in at least one direction obtains fixed rotations, whereas a plate that extends to a free boundary obtains a free rotation.

7.4 Generate the mesh

The default global coarseness parameter (**Medium**) can be accepted in this case. Note that the structural elements (plate and embedded beams) are internally automatically refined by a factor of 0.25.

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

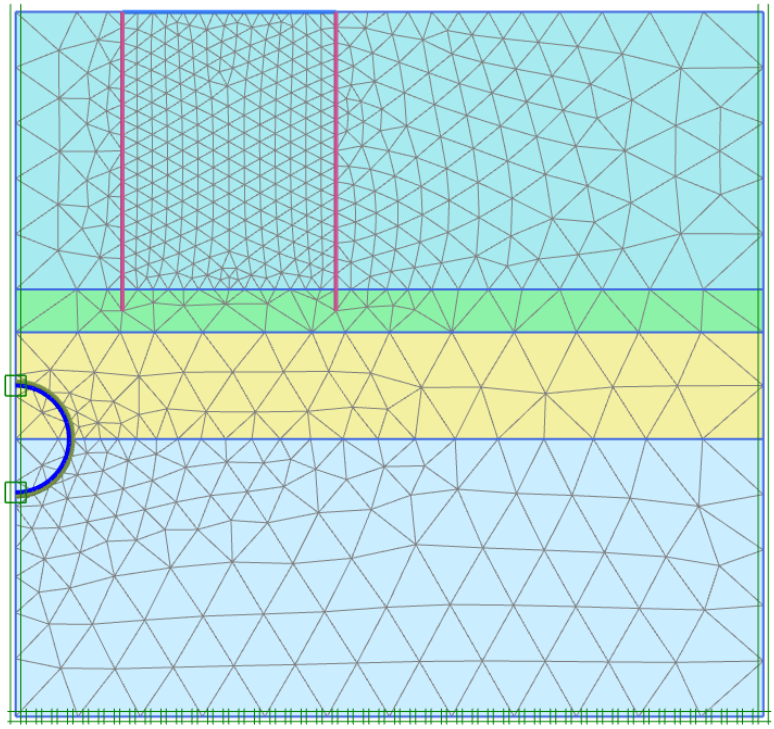


Figure 82: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

7.5 Define and perform the calculation

To simulate the construction of the tunnel it is clear that a staged construction calculation is needed.

7.5.1 Initial phase

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode to proceed with the definition of the calculation phases.
2. The initial phase has already been introduced. Keep its calculation type as **K0 procedure**. The water pressures can be generated on the basis of a general phreatic level at a level of y = 0.0 m as already defined in the borehole. Make sure that the building, foundation piles and tunnel lining are deactivated.

7.5.2 Phase 1: Building

The first calculation phase is used to activate the building.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window rename the phase as `Building`.
3. In the **Deformation control parameters** subtree select the **Ignore undr. behaviour (A,B)** option. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid for this phase.
4. In the drawing area activate the plate and the foundation piles.

7.5.3 Phase 2: TBM

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Reset displacements to zero** option in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.
3. In **Staged construction** multi-select the clusters inside the tunnel. In the **Selection explorer** deactivate the two soil clusters and set the **Water conditions** to **Dry**.
4. Activate the circular plate that in this phase represents the Tunnel Boring Machine (and thus has the TBM material set) as well as the negative interfaces. Note that contraction is not active in this phase.

7.5.4 Phase 3: TBM conicity

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. Multi-select the plates. In the **Selection explorer** activate the contraction.

Note:

- The contraction represents the effects of the cone shape of the TBM (cutter head has larger diameter than the tail).
- The contraction of the tunnel lining by itself does not introduce forces in the tunnel lining. Eventual changes in lining forces as a result of the contraction procedure are due to stress redistributions in the surrounding soil or to changing external forces.

7.5.5 Phase 4: Tail void grouting

At the tail of the tunnel boring machine (TBM), grout is injected to fill up the gap between the TBM and the final tunnel lining. The grouting process is simulated by applying a pressure on the surrounding soil.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** mode deactivate the TBM (plates, negative interfaces and contraction).
3. Multi-select the clusters inside the tunnel. In the **Selection explorer** activate **WaterConditions**.

4. Select the **User-defined** option in the **Condition** drop-down menu and set p_{ref} to -230 kN/m^2. The pressure distribution in the tunnel is constant.

7.5.6 Phase 5: Lining installation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** set the clusters inside the tunnel to **Dry**.
3. Activate the plates and the negative interfaces of the tunnel.
4. Since the plates now represent the final lining of the tunnel, assign the *Lining* material set to the plate elements.

7.5.7 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
2. Select some characteristic points for load-displacement curves (for example the corner point at the ground surface above the tunnel and the corner points of the building).
3. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
4. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the Save button.

7.6 Results

After the calculation, select the last calculation phase and click the **View calculation results** button. The **Output** program is started, showing the deformed meshes at the end of the calculation phases:

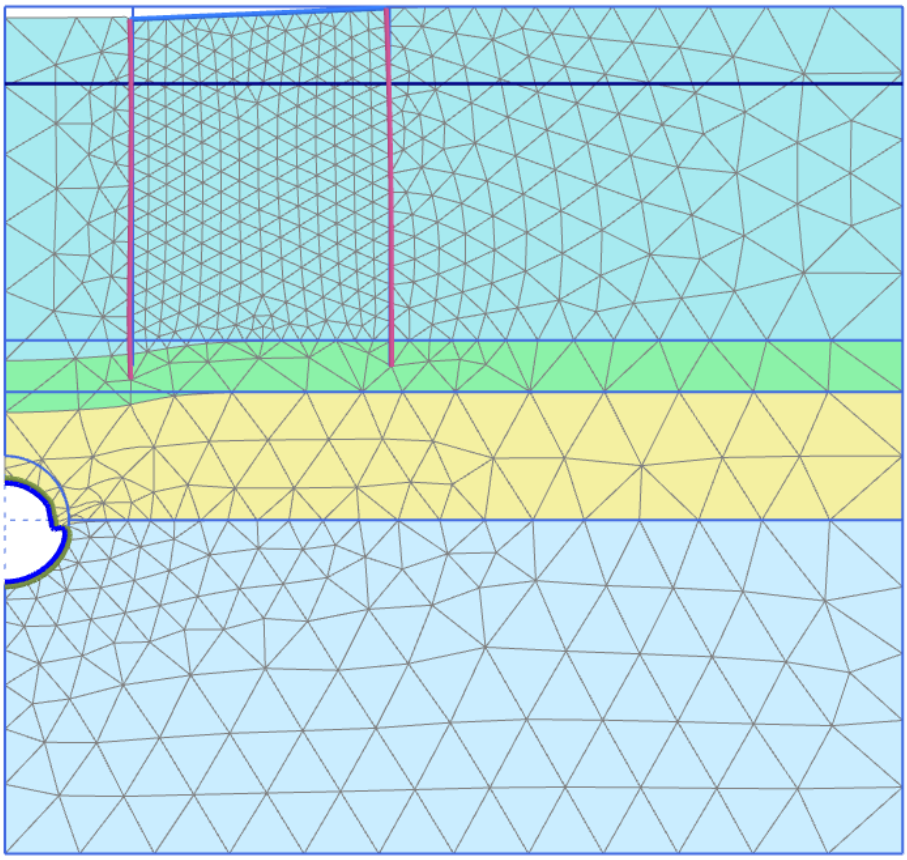


Figure 83: Deformed mesh after construction of the tunnel (Phase 5; scaled up 20 times)

As a result of the second calculation phase (removing soil and water out of the tunnel) there is some settlement of the soil surface and the tunnel lining shows some deformation. In this phase the axial force in the lining is the maximum axial force that will be reached. The lining forces can be viewed by double clicking the lining and selecting force related options from the **Force** menu. The plots of the axial forces and bending moment are scaled by factors of $5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ and 0.2 respectively.

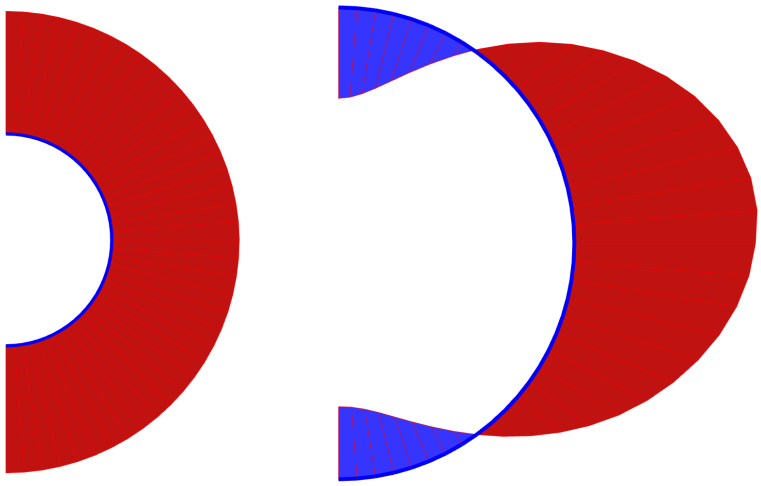


Figure 84: Axial forces and Bending moments in the lining after the second phase

The plot of effective stresses, shows that arching occurs around the tunnel. This arching reduces the stresses acting on the tunnel lining. As a result, the axial force in the final phase is lower than that after the second calculation phase.

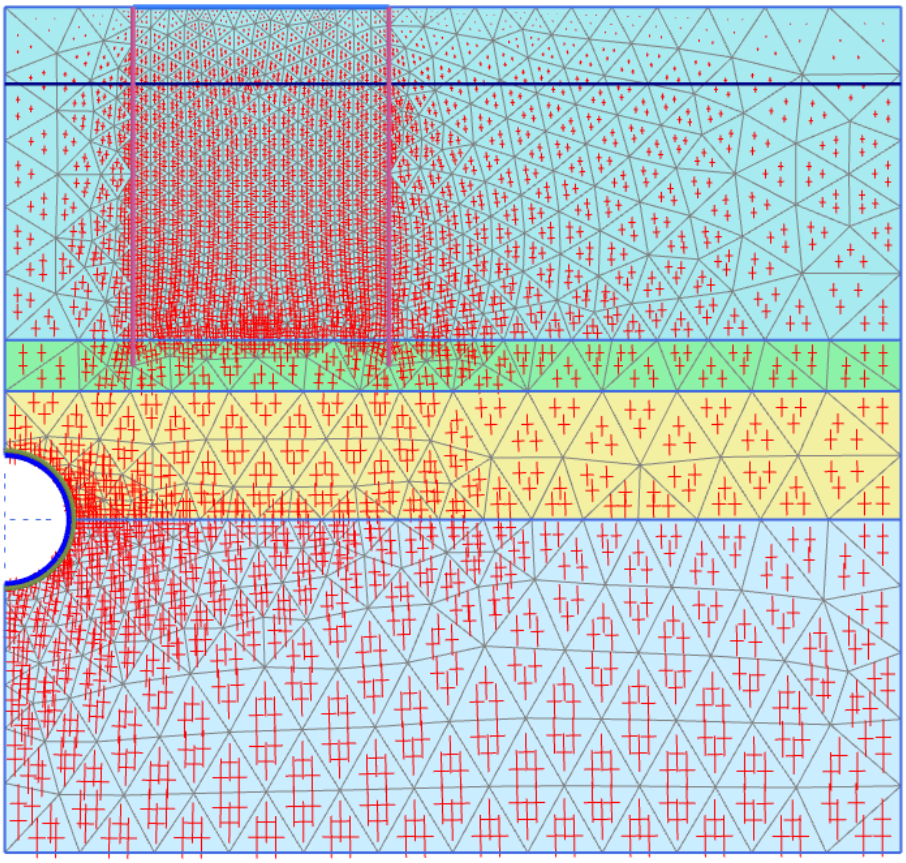


Figure 85: Effective principal stresses after the construction of the tunnel

To display the tilt of the structure:

1. Click the **Distance measurement** button in the side toolbar.
2. Click the node located at the left corner of the structure (5 3).
3. Click the node located at the right corner of the structure (15 3).

The **Distance measurement information** window is displayed where the resulting tilt of the structure is given:

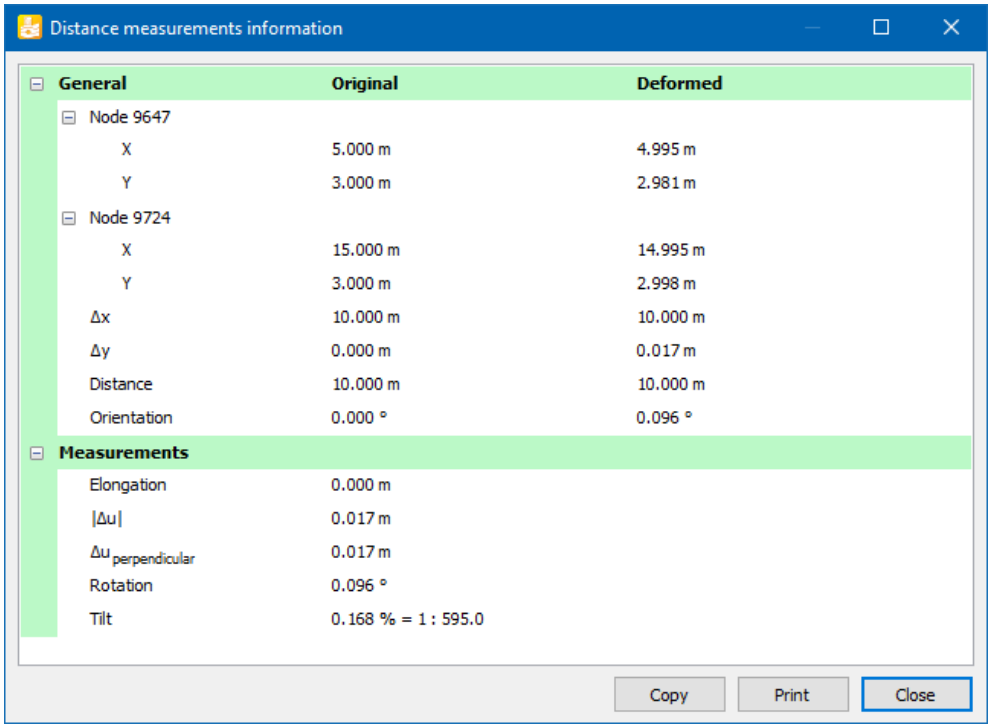


Figure 86: Distance measurement information window

8 Excavation of an NATM tunnel [GSE]

This tutorial illustrates the use of PLAXIS 2D for the analysis of the construction of a NATM tunnel. The NATM is a technique in which ground exposed by excavation is stabilised with shotcrete to form a temporary lining.

Objectives

- Modelling the construction of an NATM tunnel using the **Deconfinement** method.
- Using **Gravity loading** to generate initial stresses.

Geometry

The geometry of the tunnel project looks like this:

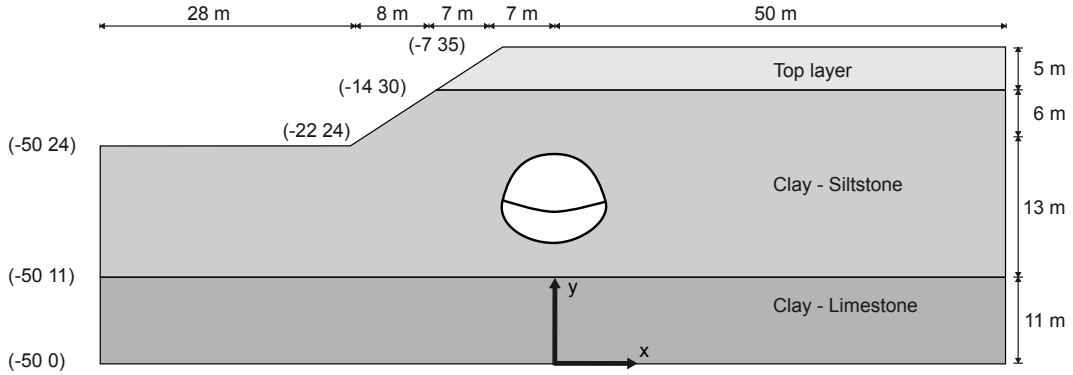


Figure 87: Geometry of the project

8.1 Create a new project

To create a new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet make sure that **Model** is set to **Plane strain** and that **Elements** is set to **15-Noded**.
4. Define the limits for the soil contour as x_{min} = -50 m, x_{max} = 50 m, y_{min} = 0 m and y_{max} = 35 m.

8.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The basic stratigraphy will be created using the **Borehole** feature. In the model 11 m of the Clay-limestone layer is considered. The bottom of this layer is considered as reference in y direction (y_{min} = 0).

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create the first borehole at x = -22 m.
2. In the **Modify soil layers** window create three soil layers.
   a. The layer number 1 has a depth equal to zero in Borehole_1. Assign 24 to **Top** and **Bottom**.
   b. The layer number 2 lies from **Top** = 24 to **Bottom** = 11.
   c. The layer number 3 lies from **Top** = 11 to **Bottom** = 0.
3. Click the **Boreholes** button at the bottom of the **Modify soil layers** window.
4. In the appearing menu select the **Add** option.
   The **Add borehole** window pops up.
5. Specify the location of the second borehole (x = -14).
6. Note that the soil layers are available for Borehole_2.
   a. The layer number 1 has a depth equal to zero in Borehole_2. However as the depth of layer 2 is higher, assign 30.00 to **Top** and **Bottom** of the layer 1.
   b. The layer number 2 lies from **Top** = 30 to **Bottom** = 11.
   c. The layer number 3 lies from **Top** = 11 to **Bottom** = 0.
7. Create a new borehole (Borehole_3) at x = -7.
8. In Borehole_3:
   a. The layer number 1 has a non-zero thickness and lies from **Top** = 35 to **Bottom** = 30.
   b. The layer number 2 lies from **Top** = 30 to **Bottom** = 11.
   c. The layer number 3 lies from **Top** = 11 to **Bottom** = 0.
9. In all the boreholes the water level is located at y = 0 m.
10. Specify the soil layer distribution as shown in Figure 88 (on page 112).

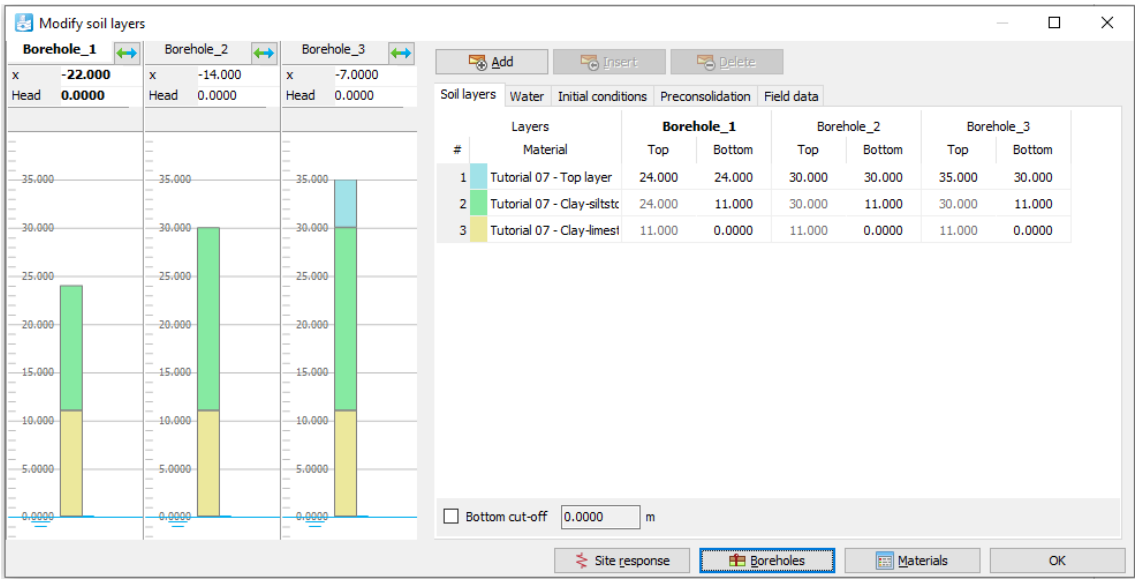


Figure 88: Soil layer distribution

8.3 Create and assign material data sets

Three material sets need to be created for the soil layers.

Note that the layering of the model left from the first borehole is based on Borehole_1 and the layering right from the last borehole is based on Borehole_3. Hence, no borehole is needed at x = -50 m or x = 50 m.

The layers have the following properties:

Table 17: Material properties of the soil layer

Parameter	Name	Top layer	Unit
General			
Material model	-	Hardening soil	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	20	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	22	kN/m^3
Parameters			
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	40·10^3	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	40·10^3	kN/m^2

Parameter	Name	Top layer	Unit
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$120 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	-
Poisson's ratio	ν_{ur}'	0.2	-
Cohesion	c_{ref}'	10	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	30	°
Interfaces			
Interface strength	-	Rigid	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	1.0	-

Table 18: Material properties of the soft rock layers

Parameter	Name	Clay-siltstone	Clay-limestone	Unit
General				
Material model	-	Hoek-Brown	Hoek-Brown	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	25	24	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	25	24	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Young's modulus	E_{rm}'	$1.0 \cdot 10^6$	$2.5 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.25	0.25	-
Uniaxial compressive strength	σ_{ci}	$25 \cdot 10^3$	$50 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Material constant for the intact rock	m_i	4	10	-
Geological Strength Index	GSI	40	55	-
Disturbance factor	D	0.2	0.0	-
Dilatancy parameter	ψ_{max}	30	35	°
Dilatancy parameter	σ_{ψ}	400	1000	kN/m^2
Interfaces				

Parameter	Name	Clay-siltstone	Clay-limestone	Unit
Interface strength	-	Manual	Rigid	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	0.5	1.0	-

1. Create soil material data sets according to Table 17 (on page 112) and assign them to the corresponding layers (Figure 88 (on page 112)).
2. Close the **Modify soil layers** window and proceed to the **Structures** mode to define the structural elements.

8.4 Define the tunnel

1. In the **Structures** mode click the **Create tunnel** button in the side toolbar and click on (0 16) in the drawing area to specify the location of the tunnel.
   The **Tunnel designer** window pops up.
2. The default shape option (**Free**) will be used. The default values of the rest of the parameters defining the location of the tunnel in the model are valid as well.
3. Click on the **Segments** tab.
4. Click the **Add section** button in the side toolbar. In the segment info box
   a. Set the **Segment type** to **Arc**.
   b. Set **Radius** to 10.4 m
   c. Set the **Segment angle** to 22°.
5. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid.
6. Click the **Add section** button to add a new arc segment.
   a. Set **Radius** to 2.4 m.
   b. Set the **Segment angle** to 47°.
   c. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid.
7. Click the **Add section** button to add a new arc segment.
   a. Set **Radius** to 5.8 m.
   b. Set the **Segment angle** to 50°.
   c. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid.
8. Click the **Extend to symmetry axis** option to complete the right half of the tunnel.
   A new arc segment is automatically added closing the half of the tunnel.
9. Click the **Symmetric close** button to complete the tunnel. Four new arc segment are automatically added closing the tunnel.
10. Click on the **Subsections** tab.

11. Click the **Add** button to add a new subsection. This subsection will be used to separate the top heading (upper excavation cluster) from the invert (lower excavation cluster).
    a. Set **Offset 2** to 3 m.
    b. Select the **Arc** option from the **Segment type** drop-down menu.
    c. Set **Radius** to 11 m.
    d. **Segment angle** to 360°.
12. Click the **Select multiple objects** button and select all the geometric entities in the slice.
13. Click the **Intersect** button.
14. Delete the part of the subsection outside of the slice by selecting it in the display area and clicking the **Delete** button in the side toolbar.

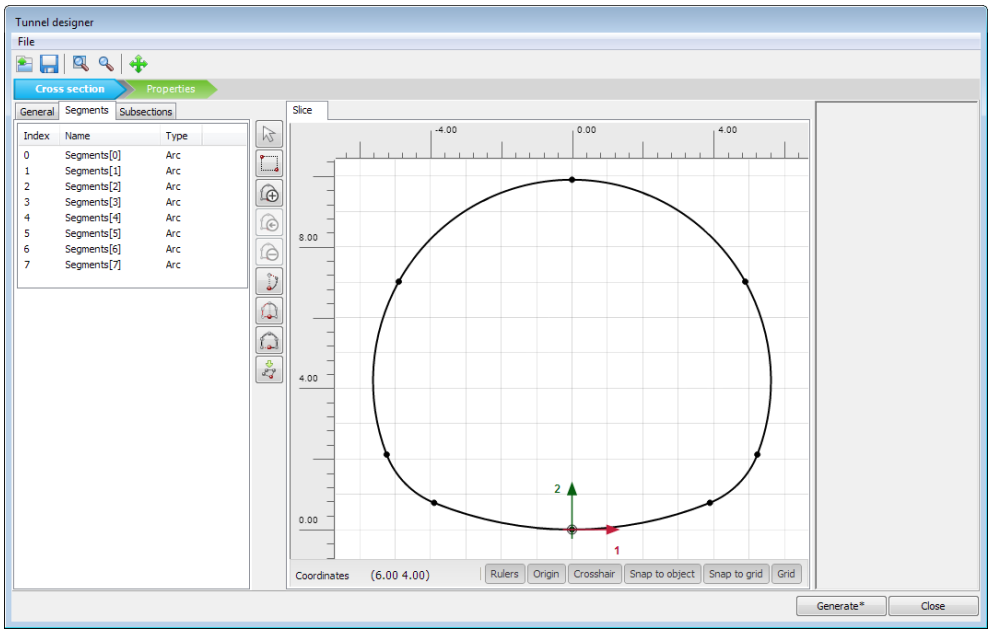


Figure 89: Segments in the tunnel cross section

15. Proceed to the **Properties** mode.
16. Multi-select the polycurves in the display area and select the **Create plate** option in the appearing menu.
17. Press **<Ctrl + M>** to open the **Material sets** window. Create a new material dataset for the created plates according to Table 19 (on page 115).

Table 19: Material properties of the plates

Parameter	Name	Lining	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$6.0 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m

Parameter	Name	Lining	Unit
Bending stiffness	EI	$20 \cdot 10^3$	kNm^2/m
Weight	w	5	kN/m/m
Poisson's ratio	ν	0.15	-
Prevent punching	-	No	-

18. Multi-select the created plates and in the **Selection explorer**, assign the material **Lining** to the selected plates.
19. Assign negative interfaces to the lines defining the shape of the tunnel (not the excavation levels). The final tunnel view in the **Tunnel designer** window is given in this figure:

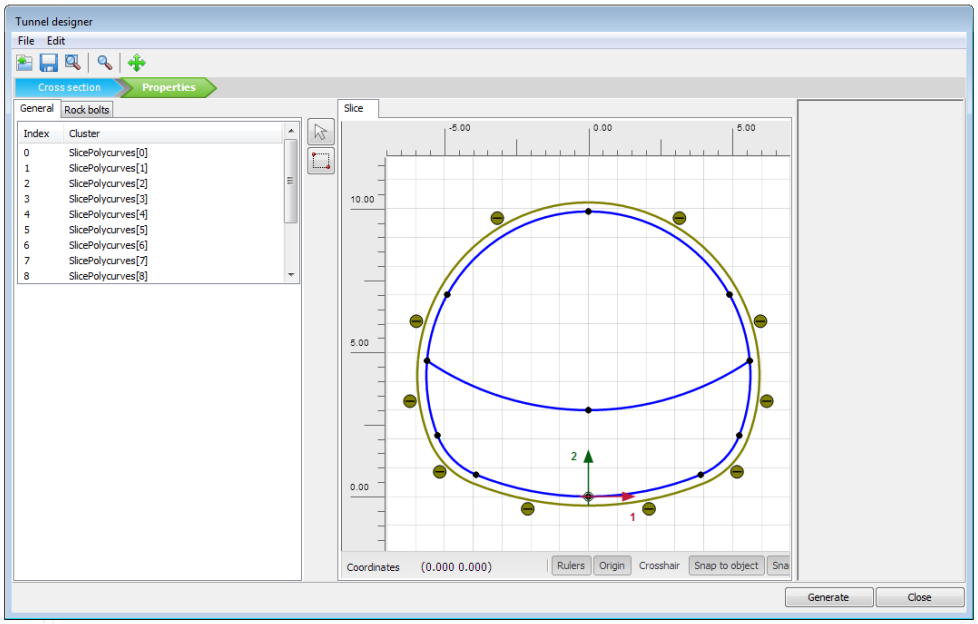


Figure 90: Final tunnel

20. Click on **Generate** to update the tunnel in the model and click **Close**.

8.5 Generate the mesh

The default global coarseness parameter (**Medium**) can be accepted in this case.

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

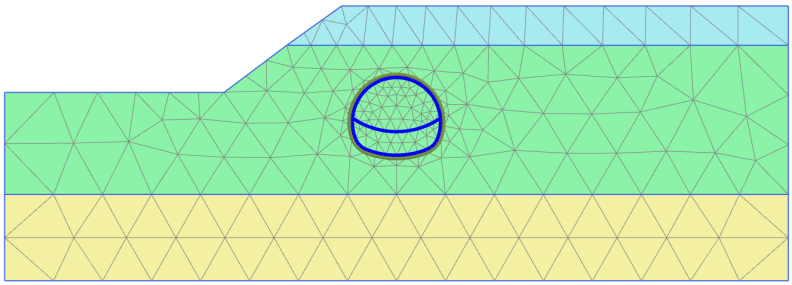


Figure 91: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

8.6 Define and perform the calculation

To simulate the construction of the tunnel a staged construction calculation is needed in which the tunnel lining is activated and the soil clusters inside the tunnel are deactivated. The calculation phases are **Plastic** analyses, **Staged construction**. The three-dimensional arching effect is emulated by using the so-called β-method. The idea is that the initial stresses p_k acting around the location where the tunnel is to be constructed are divided into a part (1-β) p_k that is applied to the unsupported tunnel and a part **Deconfinement** method that is applied to the supported tunnel.

To apply this method in PLAXIS 2D, one can use the **Deconfinement** option, which is available for each de-activated soil cluster in the model explorer. **Deconfinement** is defined as the aforementioned factor (1-β). For example, if 60% of the initial stresses in a de-activated soil cluster should disappear in the current calculation phase (so the remaining 40% is to be considered later), it means that the **Deconfinement** (1-β) parameter of that inactive cluster should be set to 60%. The value of **Deconfinement** can be increased in subsequent calculation phases until it reaches 100%.

To define the calculation process follow these steps:

8.6.1 Initial phase

1. Click on the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of the calculation phases.
2. The initial phase has already been introduced. Note that the soil layers are not horizontal. It is not recommended in this case to use the **K0 procedure** to generate the initial effective stresses. Instead **Gravity loading** will be used. This option is available in the **General** subtree of the **Phases** window.
3. Water will not be considered in this example. The general phreatic level should remain at the model base.
4. Make sure that the tunnel is inactive.

8.6.2 Phase 1: First tunnel excavation (deconfinement)

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** mode deactivate the upper cluster in the tunnel. Do NOT activate the tunnel lining.
3. While the de-activated cluster is still selected, in the **Selection explorer** set **Deconfinement(1 - β)** to 60 %.

The model for Phase 1 is displayed in the figure below.

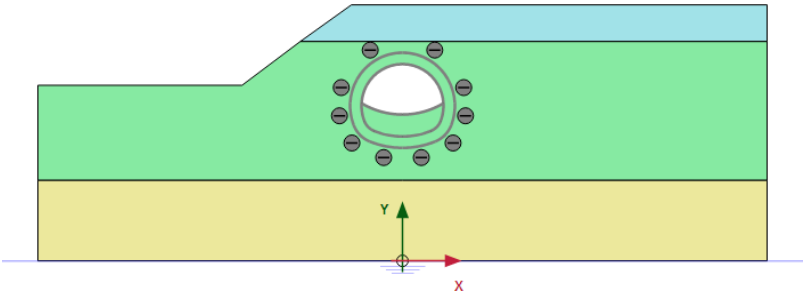


Figure 92: Configuration of Phase 1

8.6.3 Phase 2: First (temporary) lining

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** mode, activate the lining and interfaces of the part of the tunnel excavated in the previous phase.
3. Select the de-activated cluster. In the **Selection explorer** set **Deconfinement** to 100 %.

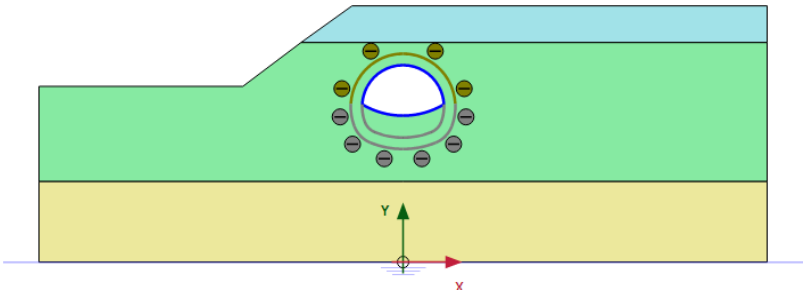


Figure 93: Configuration of Phase 2

8.6.4 Phase 3: Second tunnel excavation (deconfinement)

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.

2. In the **Staged construction** mode deactivate the lower cluster (invert) and the temporary lining in the middle of the tunnel.
3. While the lower de-activated cluster is still selected, set in the **Selection explorer Deconfinement** to 60%.

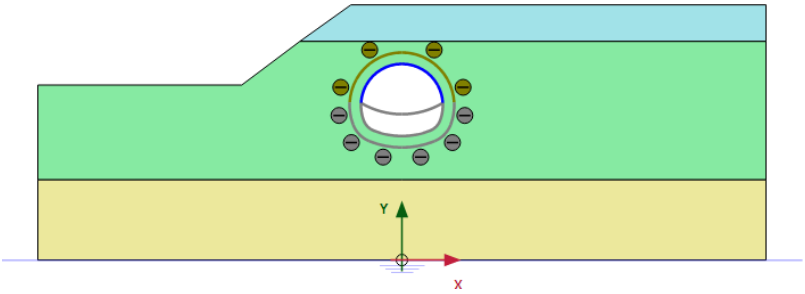


Figure 94: Configuration of Phase 3

8.6.5 Phase 4: Second (final) lining

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. Activate the remaining lining and interfaces.
   All the plates and interfaces around the full tunnel are active.
3. Select the lower de-activated cluster. In the **Selection explorer** set **Deconfinement** to 100 %.

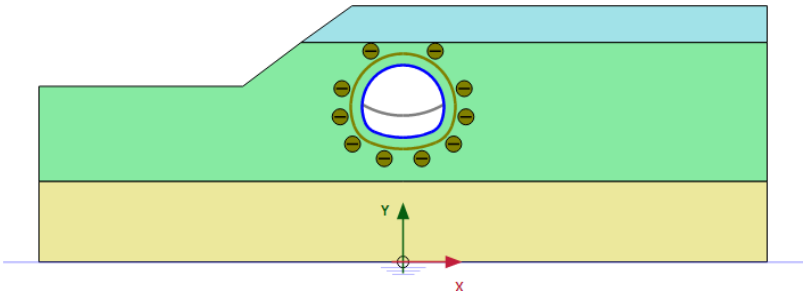


Figure 95: Configuration of Phase 4

8.6.6 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
2. Select a node at the slope crest point and the tunnel crest. These points might be of interest to evaluate the deformation during the construction phases.
3. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
4. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the Save button.

8.7 Results

After the calculation, select the last calculation phase and click the **View calculation results** button. The **Output** program is started, showing the deformed mesh at the end of the calculation phases:

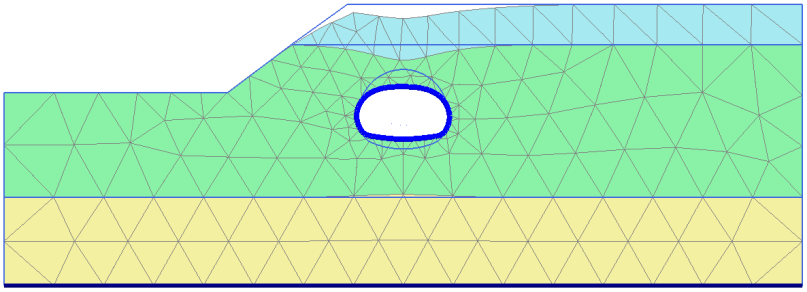
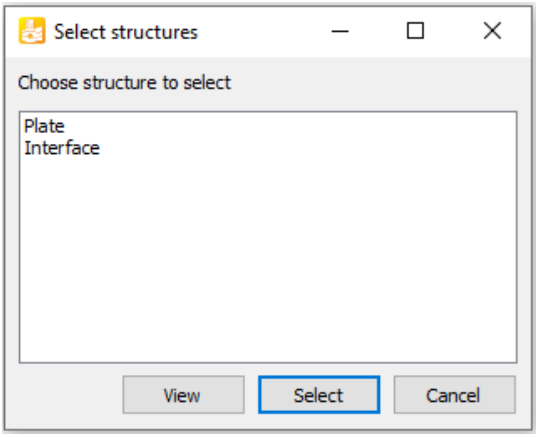


Figure 96: The deformed mesh at the end of the final calculation phase

To display the bending moments resulting in the tunnel:

1. To select the lining of all the tunnel sections, click the corresponding button in the side toolbar and drag the mouse to define a rectangle where all the tunnel sections are included. Select the **Plate** option in the appearing window:



and click **View**.

   Note that the tunnel lining is displayed in the **Structures** view.
2. From the **Forces** menu select the **Bending moment M** option. The result, scaled by a factor of 0.5 is displayed in the figure below.

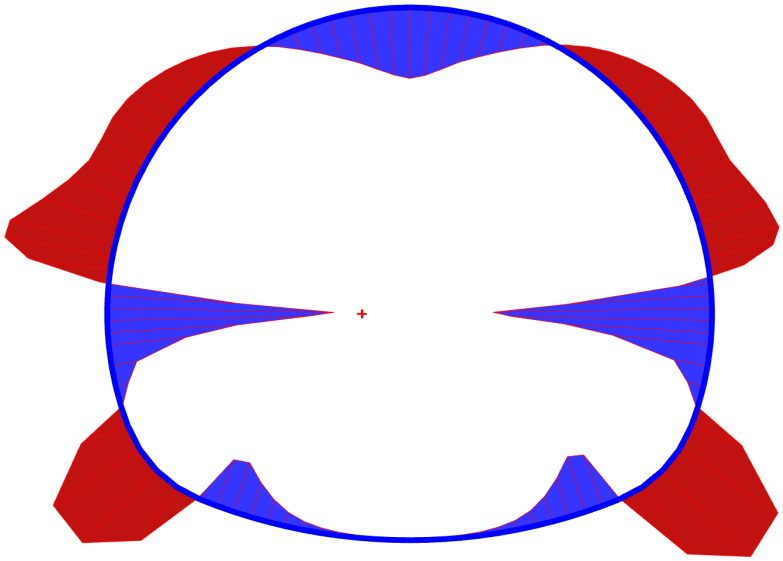


Figure 97: Resulting bending moments in the NATM tunnel

9 Cyclic vertical capacity and stiffness of circular underwater footing [ADV]

This tutorial illustrates how to calculate the vertical bearing capacity and vertical stiffness of a circular stiff underwater footing (e.g. one of the footings of a jacket structure) exposed to cyclic loading during a storm. The storm is idealised by a distribution of load parcels with different magnitude. The cyclic accumulation tool is used to obtain soil parameters for the UDCAM-S model . The example considers a circular concrete footing with a radius of 11 m, placed on an over-consolidated clay layer.

The procedure for establishing non-linear stress-strain relationships and calculating load-displacement curves of a foundation under a cyclic vertical load component is presented. The analysis of the circular footing is performed with a 2D axisymmetric model. The soil profile consists of clay with an overconsolidation ratio, OCR, of 4, submerged unit weight of 10 kN/m^3 and an earth pressure coefficient, K_0, of 1. The (static) undrained shear strength from anisotropically consolidated triaxial compression tests has a constant value with a depth of s_u^C = 130 kPa. The maximum shear modulus, G_{max}, of the clay is 67275 kPa. The cyclic behaviour of the soil is based on contour diagrams for Drammen clay (Andersen, Kleven & Heien, 1988 [2]) assuming that the behaviour is representative of the actual clay.

9.1 Objectives

- Obtain the UDCAM-S model input parameters by running the cyclic accumulation procedure, determining the stress-strain curves and optimising the material model parameters.
- Calculate the total cyclic vertical bearing capacity.
- Calculate the vertical stiffness accounting for cyclic loading for both the total and the cyclic component.

9.2 Geometry

The soil properties and footing geometry are shown in the figure below.

[2] Andersen, K.H., Kleven, A., Heien, .D. (1988). Cyclic soil data for design of gravity structures. Journal of Geotechnical Engineering, 517–539.

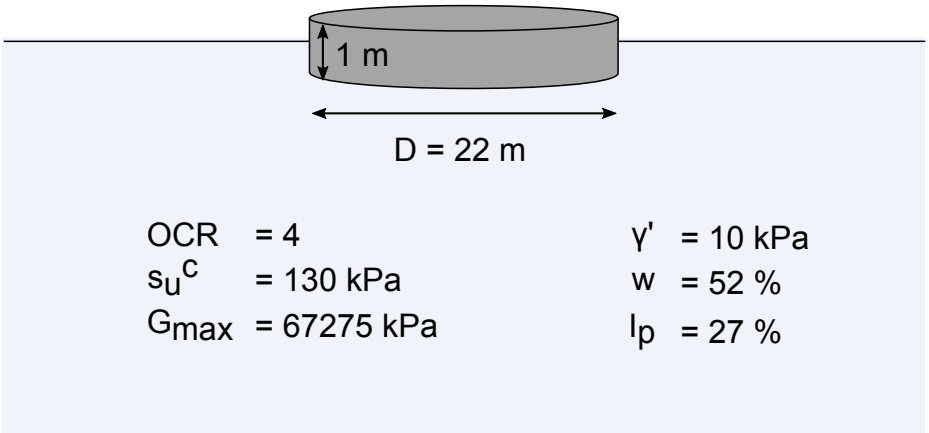


Figure 98: Geometry of the project

9.3 Create new project

To create a new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick select** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet make sure that
   a. **Model** is set to **Axisymmetry** and that
   b. **Elements** is set to **15-Noded**.
4. Define the limits for the model contour as
   a. x_{min} = 0.0 m, x_{max} = 40.0 m
   b. y_{min} = -30.0 m and y_{max} = 0.0 m

9.4 Define the soil stratigraphy

The sub-soil layers are defined using a borehole.

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Create a single soil layer with top level at 0.0 m and bottom level at -30.0m.
3. For simplicity, water is not taken into account in this example. The groundwater table is therefore set below the bottom of the model, and the soil weight is based on the effective (underwater) weight.
4. In the borehole column specify a value of -50.00 for **Head**.

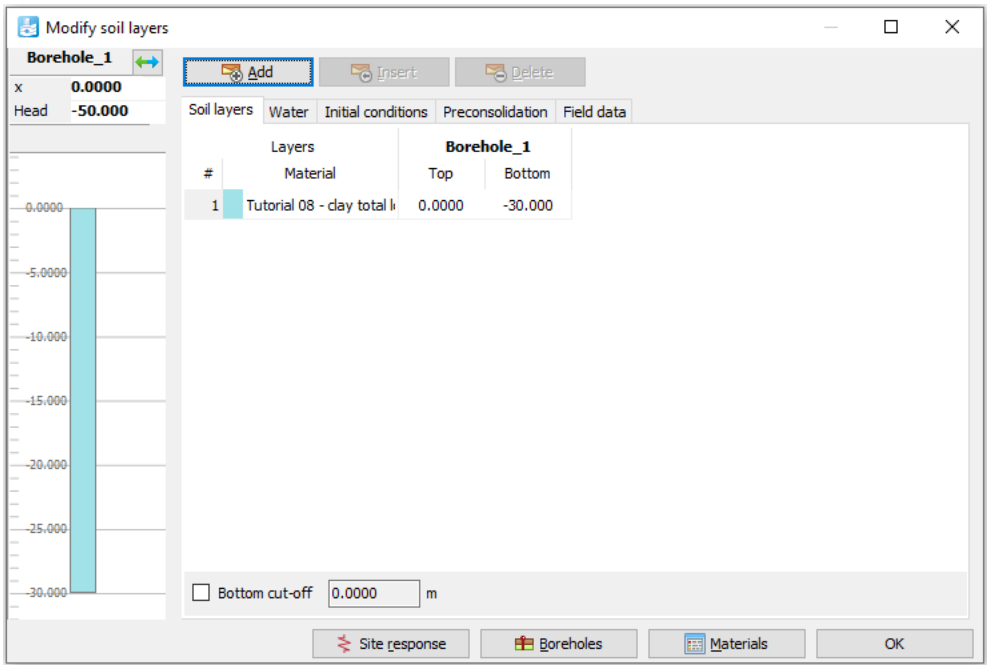


Figure 99: Soil layer

9.5 Create and assign material data sets

Three material data sets need to be created; two for the clay layer (Clay - total load and Clay - cyclic load) and one for the concrete foundation.

Open the **Material sets** window.

9.5.1 Material: Clay - total load

The model parameters for this material will be determined by the cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool.

The other properties are as shown in the following table:

Table 20: Material properties

Parameter	Name	Clay - total load	Unit
General			
Identification	-	Clay - total load	-
Material model	-	UDCAM-S model	-

Parameter	Name	Clay - total load	Unit
Drainage type	-	Undrained (C)	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	10	kN/m^3

To create the material set, follow these steps:

1. Create a new soil material data set: Choose **Soil and interfaces** as the **Set type** and click the **New** button.
2. On the **General** tab enter the values according to Table 20 (on page 124).
3. Proceed to the **Parameters** tab.

Instead of entering the model parameters in this tab sheet, we will run the cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool. This procedure consists of three steps.

Click the **Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool** button on the **Parameters** tab:

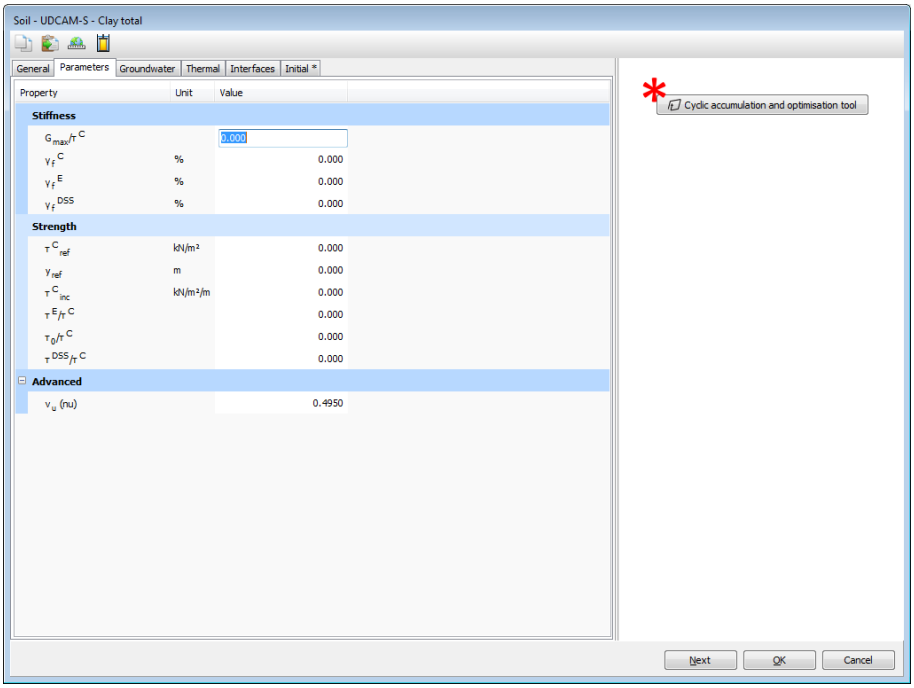


Figure 100: Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool

A new window opens:

Figure 101: Cyclic accumulation tool window

The three steps of the cyclic accumulation and optimisation procedure are represented by the three tab sheets (**Cyclic accumulation**, **Stress-strain curves** and **Parameter optimisation**) in the window.

Cyclic accumulation

The purpose of this step is to determine the equivalent number of undrained cycles of the peak load, N_{eq}, for a given soil contour diagram and load distribution.

The following storm composition data will be used:

Table 21: Composition of cyclic vertical load for a 6-hour design storm

#	Load ratio	N cycles
1	0.02	2371
2	0.11	2877
3	0.26	1079
4	0.40	163
5	0.51	64
6	0.62	25
7	0.75	10
8	0.89	3
9	1.0	1

1. Select an appropriate contour diagram from **Select contour diagram data** in the **Cyclic accumulation** tab. In this case, select **Drammen clay, OCR = 4**.

Note: For more information about contour diagrams, see Andersen (2015) [3] and Reference Manual, Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool.

2. The load ratios and number of cycles from the storm composition can be entered in the empty table. The storm composition is given in Table 21 (on page 126) (Jostad, Torgersrud, Engin & Hofstede, 2015) [4] as the cyclic vertical load normalized with respect to the maximum cyclic vertical load (Load ratio) and the number of cycles (N cycles). It is here assumed that the cyclic shear stress history in the soil is proportional to the maximum cyclic vertical load of the footing. The table should be entered such that the smallest load ratio is at the top and the highest load ratio is at the bottom.

Note: The design storm is a load history that is transformed into parcels of constant cyclic load. Each parcel corresponds to a number of cycles at a constant amplitude determined from the time record of the load component. See Reference Manual, Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool, for more information.

When you've entered the load parcels in the table, the **Load ratio vs N cycles** graph will show a graphic representation of the data. For the data given here and the logarithmic scale turned on, it will look like the graph below.

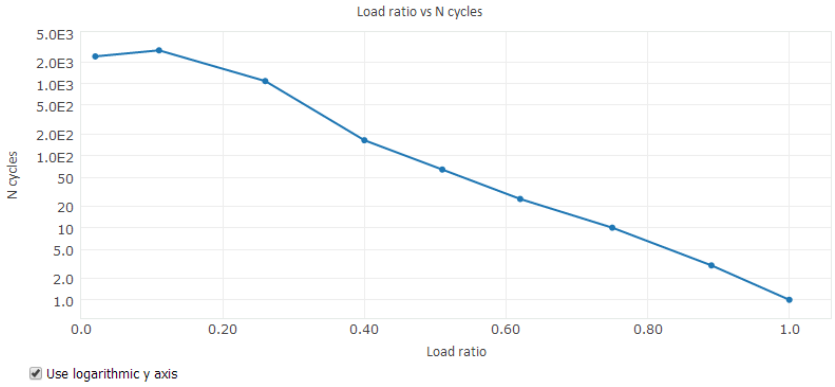


Figure 102: Load ratio vs N cycles graph (logarithmic scale)

3. Click **Calculate** to calculate the equivalent number of cycles N_{eq}.
The selected contour diagram is plotted together with the shear stress history for a scaling factor where the soil fails (here defined at 15% shear strain) at the last cycle (Figure 103 (on page 128)) and the loci of end-points of the stress history for different scaling factors. The calculated equivalent number of cycles corresponds to the value on the x-axis at the last point of the locus of end-points and is equal to 6.001.

[3] Andersen, K.H. (2015). Cyclic soil parameters for offshore foundation design, volume The 3rd ISSMGE McClelland Lecture of Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics III. Meyer (Ed). Taylor & Francis Group, London, ISFOG 2015. ISBN 978-1-138-02848-7.

[4] Jostad, H.P., Torgersrud, Ø., Engin, H.K., Hofstede, H. (2015). A fe procedure for calculation of fixity of jack-up foundations with skirts using cyclic strain contour diagrams. City University London, UK.

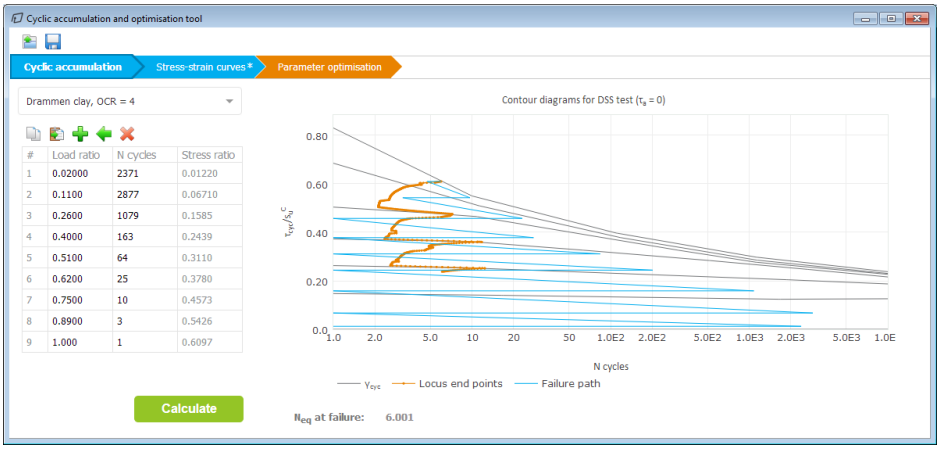


Figure 103: Cyclic accumulation in PLAXIS 2D

Stress-strain curves

The purpose of this tab is to obtain non-linear stress-strain curves for a given (calculated) N_{eq} and given cyclic over average shear stress ratio (here taken equal to the ratio between cyclic and average vertical load during the storm).

1. Go to the **Stress-strain curves** tab.
2. For the N_{eq} determination, keep the default option **From cyclic accumulation**. The calculated equivalent number of cycles is adopted from the previous tab.
3. Keep the **Soil behaviour** as **Anisotropic**, and the **Scaling factor**, **DSS** and **Scaling factor**, **TX** as 1.

Note:

- Cyclic strength can be scaled based on available soil specific cyclic strength.
- If the plasticity index and/or water content of the soil is different from Drammen clay, the cyclic strength can be scaled by applying a scaling factor different from 1 (see Andersen, 2015 [5] for details).

4. Set the cyclic to average shear stress ratio for DSS, triaxial compression and triaxial extension, describing the inclination of the stress path, to appropriate values. In this example, the following input values are selected to obtain strain compatibility at failure, i.e. the same cyclic and average shear strain for the different stress paths at failure.
   a. cyclic to average ratio for DSS $(\Delta\tau_{cyc}/\Delta\tau)^{DSS} = 1.1$,
   b. triaxial compression $(\Delta\tau_{cyc}/\Delta\tau)^{TXC} = 1.3$ and
   c. extension $(\Delta\tau_{cyc}/\Delta\tau)^{TXE} = -6.3$
5. Select the load type of interest, **Total load case** is selected for this first material.
   DSS and triaxial contour diagrams are plotted together with stress paths described by the cyclic to average ratios (Figure 104 (on page 129)). Notice that the shear stresses are normalised with respect to the static undrained shear strength in compression. The extracted stress-strain curves are plotted below the contour diagrams.

[5] Andersen, K.H. (2015). Cyclic soil parameters for offshore foundation design, volume The 3rd ISSMGE McClelland Lecture of Frontiers in Offshore GeotechnicsIII. Meyer (Ed). Taylor & Francis Group, London, ISFOG 2015. ISBN978-1-138-02848-7.

6. Click **Calculate** to produce the corresponding normalised stress-strain curves below the contour diagrams. See Figure 104 (on page 129) for the outcome.

Figure 104: Stress-strain curves for total load

Parameter optimisation

The purpose of the optimisation is to obtain a set of parameters for the UDCAM-S model.

The parameter ranges and the results you will see after the optimisation are shown in the following table:

Table 22: Parameter ranges and results after optimization

Parameter	Name	Min value	Max value	Optimised value	Unit
Ratio of the initial shear modulus to the degraded shear strength at failure in triaxial compression	G_{max} / τ^C	400.0	480.0	420.4	-
Shear strain at failure in triaxial compression	γ_f^C	6.0	8.0	6.431	%

Parameter	Name	Min value	Max value	Optimised value	Unit
Shear strain at failure in triaxial extension	γ_f^E	5.0	8.0	7.873	%
Shear strain at failure in direct simple shear	γ_f^{DSS}	8.0	12.0	11.97	%
Ratio of the cyclic compression shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^C / {S_u}^C$	1.14	1.16	1.152	-
Ratio of the cyclic DSS shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^{DSS} / {S_u}^C$	0.89	0.91	0.9051	-
Ratio of the cyclic extension shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^E / {S_u}^C$	0.62	0.64	0.6208	-
Reference degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial compression test	${\tau^C}_{ref}$	-	-	149.7	-
Reference depth	y_{ref}	-	-	0.000	m
Increase of degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial compression test with depth	${\tau^C}_{inc}$	-	-	0.000	kN/m^2/m
Ratio of the degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial extension test to the degraded shear strength in the triaxial compression test	τ^E / τ^C	-	-	0.5389	-
Initial mobilisation of the shear strength with respect to the degraded TXC shear strength	τ^0 / τ^C	-	-	2.332E-3	-
Ratio of the degraded shear strength at failure in the direct simple shear test to the degraded shear strength in the triaxial compression test	τ^{DSS} / τ^C	-	-	0.7858	-

Use the following steps to calculate the optimised values.

1. Click the **Parameter optimisation** tab.
2. Enter the parameters of the clay in the **Static properties**. Set ${s_u}^C{}_{ref}$ to 130.0 and K_0 determination to **Manual** and set K_0 to 1.0.
3. Propose minimum and maximum values for the parameters listed in Table 22 (on page 129).

Note:

In the optimisation, set minimum and maximum values of ^{C} / $S_u{}^{C}$, τ^{DSS} / $S_u{}^{C}$, and τ^{E} / $S_u{}^{C}$ close to the results from the strain interpolation if one wants to keep these values.

Calculate G_{max} / τ^{C} by dividing G_{max} from soil properties with results for (τ^{C} / $S_u{}^{C}$) · $S_u{}^{C}$.

Set the minimum and maximum values close to this value.

4. Click **Calculate** to obtain optimised parameters (Figure 105 (on page 131) and column Optimised value of Table 22 (on page 129)).

   After a few seconds, the optimal values are shown in the corresponding column in the Parameter ranges table. Based on these values, the optimised parameters are calculated and listed in the right-hand table.

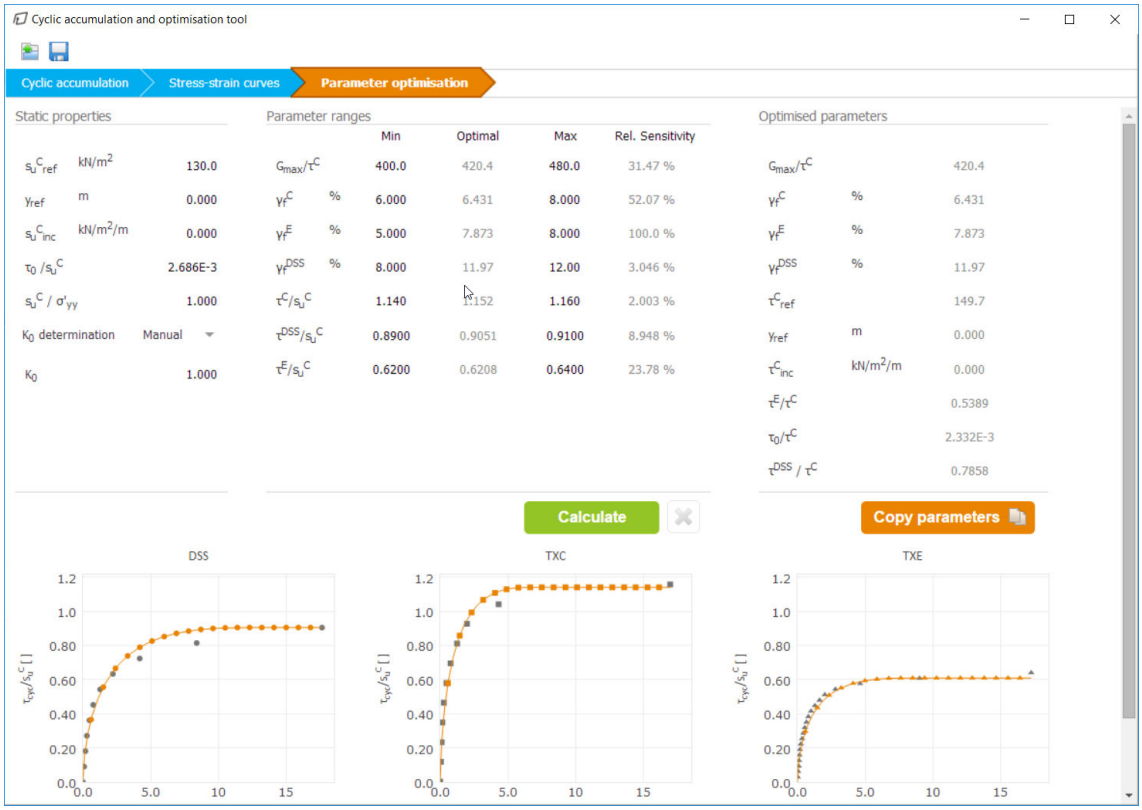


Figure 105: Optimised parameters for total load

   The resulting stress-strain curves from test simulations with the UDCAM-S model using the optimised parameters are shown together with the target points from the contour diagrams.

5. When the calculation has finished, save the application state of the Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool. The saved data will be used when creating another material. To save the application state, press the **Save** button at the top of the window. Save the state under the file name `optimised_total.json`.
6. Copy the optimised material parameters: Press the **Copy parameters** button and go back to the **Soil-UDCAM-S** window describing the material.
7. Click the **Paste material** button .
   The values in the **Parameters** tab are replaced with the new values.

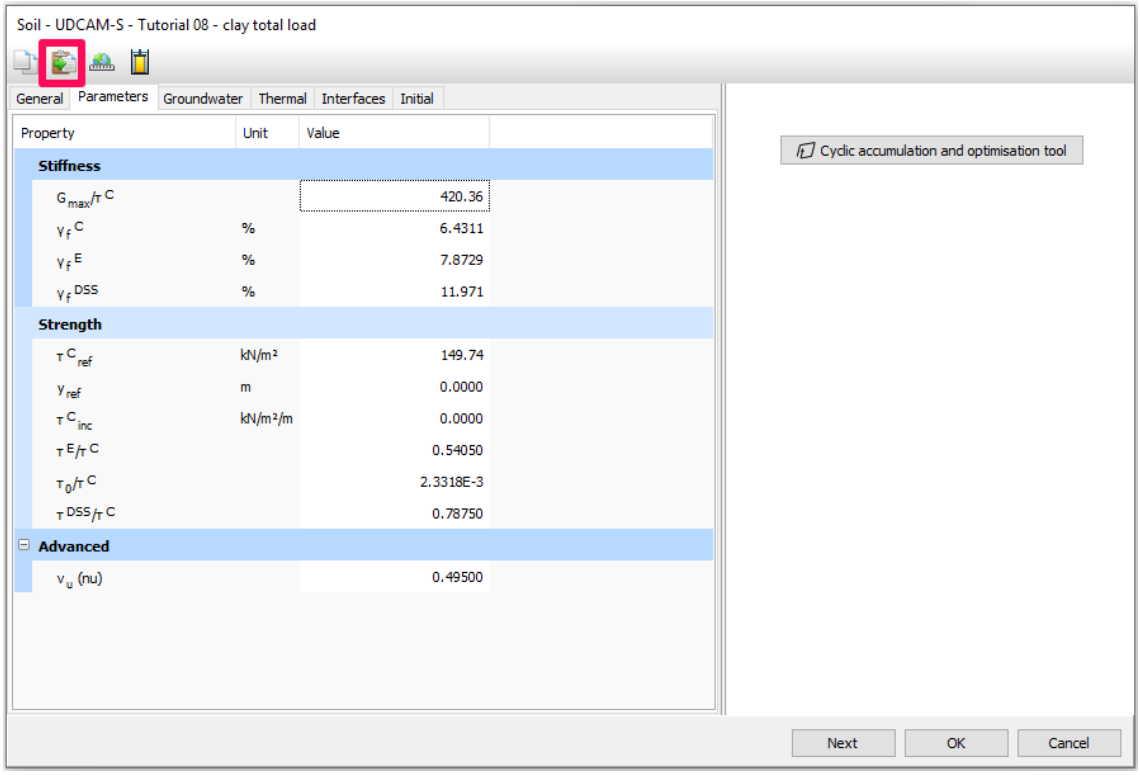


Figure 106: Copy parameters into Clay total material

8. Go to the **Initial** tab and set K_0 to 1 by setting K_0 determination to Manual, check $K_{0,x} = K_{0,z}$ (default) and set $K_{0,x}$ to 1.
9. Click **OK** to close the created material.
10. Assign the **Clay - total load** material set to the soil layer in the borehole.

9.5.2 Material: Clay - cyclic load

Create a material for the second clay. Some information from the *Clay - total load* material will be reused. The optimisation of the parameters has to be recalculated though, based on other conditions.

The parameter ranges and the results you will see after the optimisation are shown in the following table:

Table 23: Parameter ranges and results after optimisation

Parameter	Name	Min value	Max value	Optimised value	Unit
Ratio of the initial shear modulus to the degraded shear strength at failure in triaxial compression	G_{max} / τ^C	700.0	800.0	703.2	-

Parameter	Name	Min value	Max value	Optimised value	Unit
Shear strain at failure in triaxial compression	γ_f^C	1.0	3.0	2.966	%
Shear strain at failure in triaxial extension	γ_f^E	1.0	3.0	2.699	%
Shear strain at failure in direct simple shear	γ_f^{DSS}	1.0	3.0	2.946	%
Ratio of the cyclic compression shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^C / {S_u}^C$	0.66	0.67	0.6667	-
Ratio of the cyclic DSS shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^{DSS} / {S_u}^C$	0.47	0.49	0.4787	-
Ratio of the cyclic extension shear strength over the undrained static compression shear strength	$\tau^E / {S_u}^C$	0.57	0.59	0.5790	-
Reference degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial compression test	${\tau^C}_{ref}$	-	-	86.67	-
Reference depth	y_{ref}	-	-	0.000	m
Increase of degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial compression test with depth	${\tau^C}_{inc}$	-	-	0.000	$kN/m^2/m$
Ratio of the degraded shear strength at failure in the triaxial extension test to the degraded shear strength in the triaxial compression test	τ^E / τ^C	-	-	0.8684	-
Initial mobilisation of the shear strength with respect to the degraded TXC shear strength	τ^0 / τ^C	-	-	0.000	-
Ratio of the degraded shear strength at failure in the direct simple shear test to the degraded shear strength in the triaxial compression test	τ^{DSS} / τ^C	-	-	0.7181	-

Use the following steps to calculate the optimised values.

1. Copy the **Clay - total load** material.
2. Enter `Clay - cyclic load` for the identification.
3. Go to the **Parameters** tab.

Like for the first material, also here the parameters will be determined using the **Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool**.

4. Click the **Cyclic accumulation and optimisation tool** button on the **Parameters** tab to open the tool.
5. Click the **Open file** button and choose the application state `optimised_total.json` that was saved after optimisation of the first material.
   All tabs will be filled with data.
6. Leave the **Cyclic accumulation** tab as is.
7. Go to the **Stress-strain curves** tab, set load type to **Cyclic load**.
8. Press **Calculate** and let the calculation finish.
   The stress-strain curves are shown:

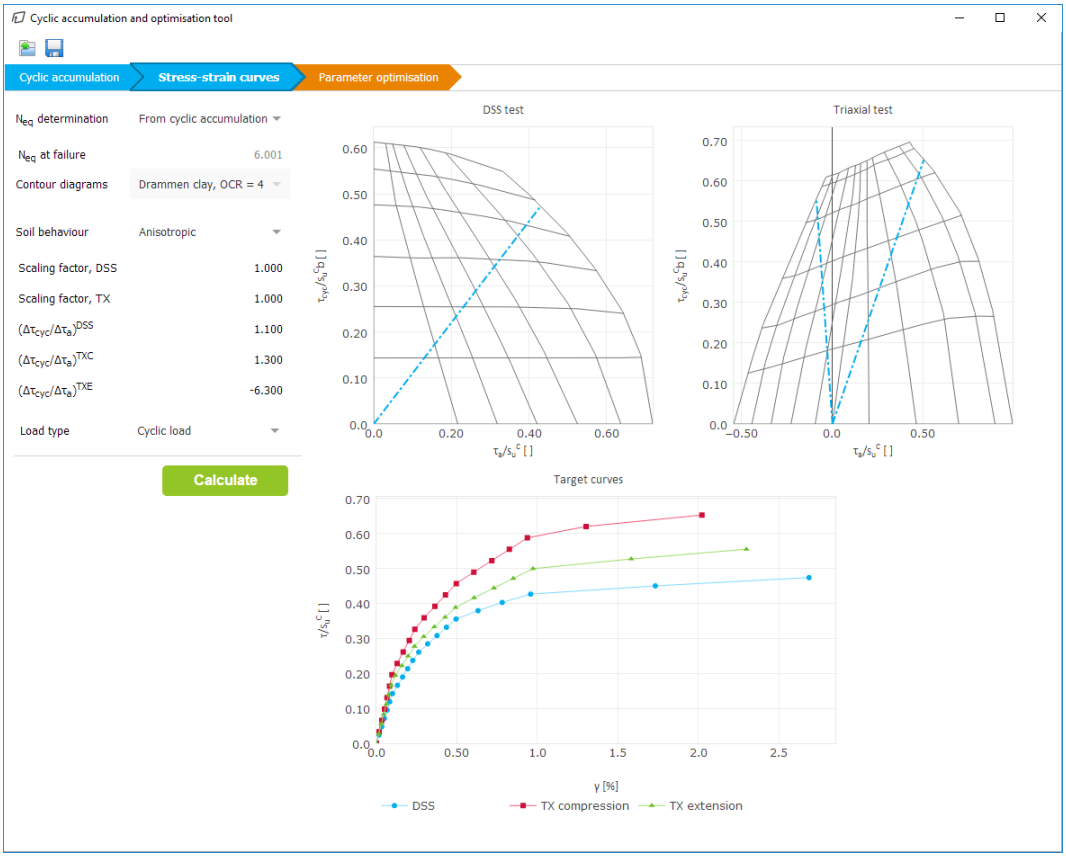


Figure 107: Stress-strain curves for cyclic load

9. Go to the **Parameter optimisation** tab. Accept the notification about resetting the optimisation tab to get updated values.
10. Make sure that $s_u{}^C{}_{ref}$ is set to 130.0 and set K_0 determination to Automatic.
11. Modify the minimum and maximum values for the **Parameter ranges**, see Table 23 (on page 132) for values.
12. Click **Calculate** to get the optimised parameters.
    The optimised parameters are shown in the figure below and are also listed in the column 'Optimised value' in Table 23 (on page 132).

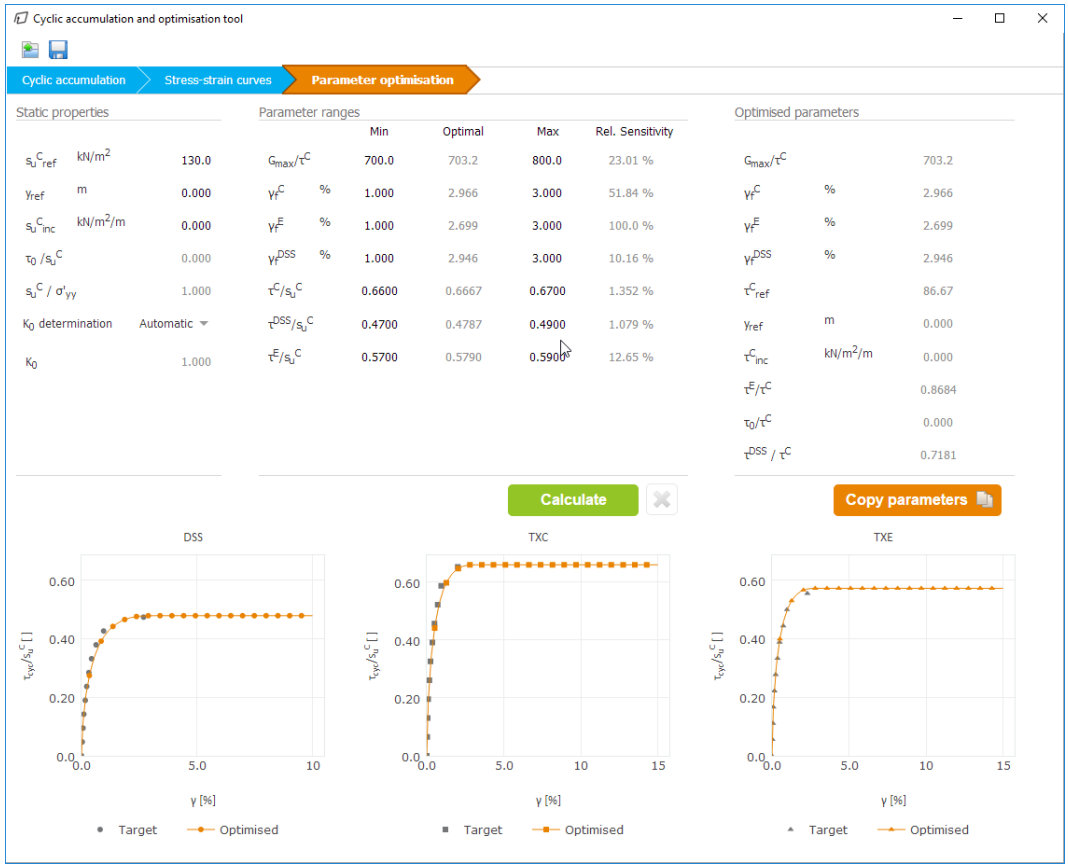


Figure 108: Optimised parameters for cyclic load

13. Save the application state under the file name `optimised_cyclic.json`.
14. Copy the optimised material parameters: Click the **Copy parameters** button and go back to the **Soil-UDCAM-S** window.
15. Click the **Paste material** button .
    The values in the **Parameters** tab are replaced with the new values.
16. Click **OK** to close the created material.

9.5.3 Material: Concrete

Create a new material for the concrete foundation.

1. Choose **Soil and interfaces** as the **Set** type and click the **New** button.
2. Enter `Concrete footing` for the **Identification** and select **Linear elastic** as the **Material model**.
3. Set the **Drainage type** to **Non-porous**.
4. Enter the properties of the layer:
   a. a unit weight of 24 kN/m^3,
   b. Young's modulus of 30E6 kN/m^2 and

c. a Poisson's ratio of 0.1.

5. Click **OK** to close the created material.
6. Click **OK** to close the **Material sets** window.

9.6 Define the structural elements

The concrete foundation and interfaces have to be defined.

9.6.1 Define the concrete foundation

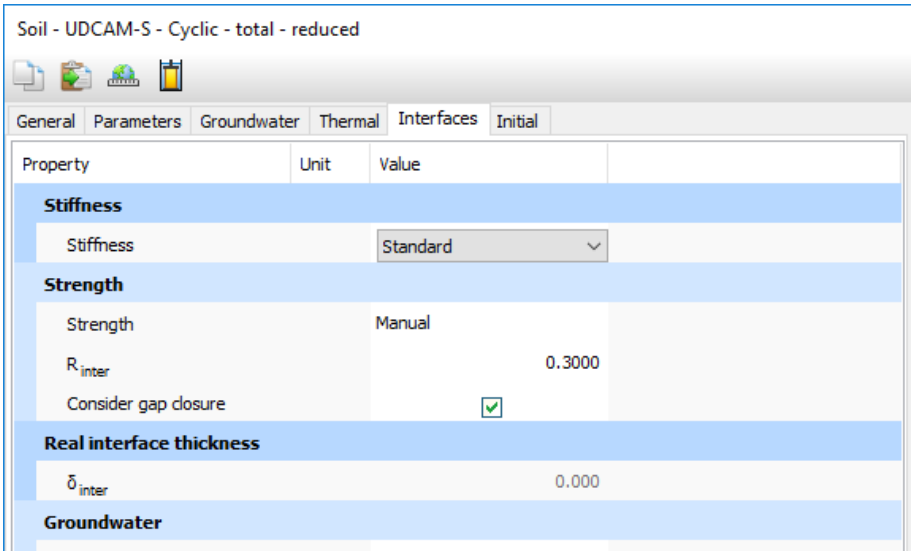
1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the Structures model.
2. Select the **Create soil polygon** feature in the side toolbar and click on (0.0, 0.0), (11.0, 0.0), (11.0, -1.0) and (0.0, -1.0).

Note: Do not yet assign the **Concrete footing** material to the polygon.

9.6.2 Define the interfaces

Create an interface to model the interaction of the foundation and the surrounding soil. Extend the interface half a meter into the soil. Make sure the interface is at the outer side of the footing (inside the soil). The interface is created in two parts.

1. Click **Create interface** to create the upper part from (11.0, -1.0) to (11.0, 0.0), Figure 109 (on page 137).
2. Click **Create interface** to create the lower part (between foundation and soil) from (11.0, -1.5) to (11.0, -1.0), Figure 109 (on page 137).
3. The upper part interface (between the foundation and the soil) is modeled with a reduced strength of 30%.
   a. Make a copy of the **Clay - total load** material and name it `Clay - total load - interface` .
   b. Reduce the interface strength by setting R_{inter} to 0.3 and



c. assign this to the upper part of the interface.

4. For Phase 3 (Calculate vertical cyclic stiffness), another material with reduced strength is needed.
   a. Make a copy of the **Clay - cyclic load material** and name it `Clay - cyclic load - interface`.
   b. Reduce the interface strength by setting R_{inter} to 0.3.
   c. Do not assign this yet. It will be assigned when defining Phase 3.
5. For the interface material extended into the soil, full soil strength is applied (R_{inter} = 1.0), as implicitly defined in the original clay material **Clay - total load**. Keep the default setting **Material mode**: From adjacent soil.

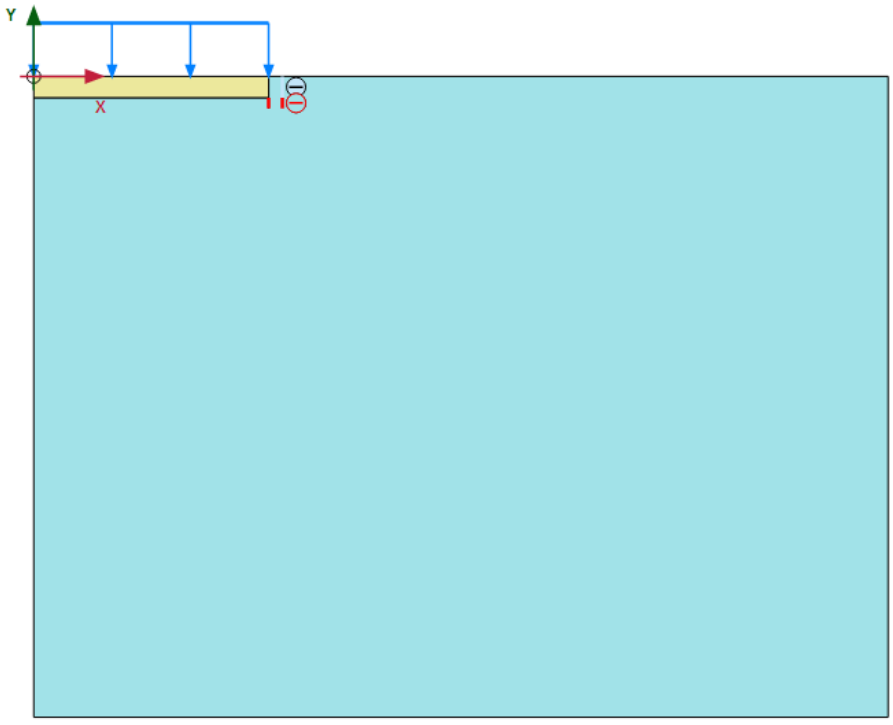


Figure 109: Geometry of the model

9.6.3 Define a vertical load

In order to calculate the cyclic vertical capacity and stiffness, a vertical load is applied at the top of the foundation.

1. Define a distributed load by selecting **Create line load** and click (0.0, 0.0) and (11.0, 0.0).
2. In the **Selection explorer** set the value of $q_{y,start,ref}$ to -1000 kN/m/m.

9.7 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Medium** (default).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

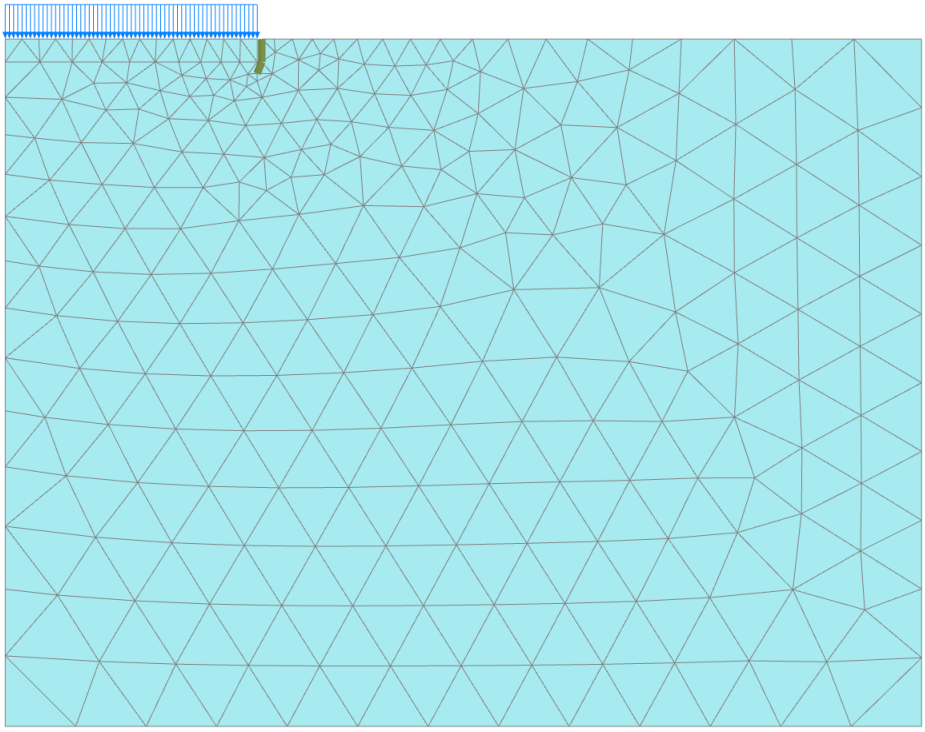


Figure 110: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

9.8 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation consists of the following phases:

- In the Initial phase, the initial stress conditions are generated by the **K0 procedure**, using the default values.
- In Phase 1 the footing is activated by assigning the **Concrete** material to the corresponding polygon. The interfaces are also activated.
- In Phase 2 the total cyclic vertical bearing capacity and stiffness are calculated.
- In Phase 3 the cyclic vertical bearing capacity and stiffness are computed.

9.8.1 Initial phase

1. Proceed to **Staged construction** mode.
2. In the **Phases explorer** double-click the initial phase.
3. Make sure that **Calculation type** is set to K0 procedure.
4. Click OK to close the **Phases** window.

9.8.2 Phase 1: Footing and interface activation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. Phase 1 starts from the Initial phase.
3. Activate the footing by assigning the **Concrete footing** material to the corresponding polygon.
4. Activate the interfaces as well.

9.8.3 Phase 2: Bearing capacity and stiffness

In Phase 2 the total cyclic vertical bearing capacity and stiffness are calculated. The vertical bearing capacity is obtained by increasing the vertical load (stress) until failure. The stiffness is calculated as the force divided by the displacement.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. Phase 2 starts from Phase 1.
3. In the **Phases** window go to the **Deformation control parameters** subtree and select the **Reset displacements to zero** option and **Reset small strain**.
4. Activate the line load.

9.8.4 Phase 3: Calculate vertical cyclic stiffness

In Phase 3, which also starts from Phase 1, the vertical cyclic stiffness is calculated by activating the **Clay - cyclic load material**. The vertical bearing capacity is obtained by increasing the vertical load (stress) until failure.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases** window set the **Start from phase** to Phase 1.
3. Go to the **Deformation control parameters** subtree and select the **Reset displacements to zero** option and **Reset small strain**. Close this window.
4. Replace the soil material with the **Clay - cyclic load**.
5. Assign the material **Clay - cyclic load - interface** material to the upper part of the interface. The material mode of the lower part of the interface remains **From adjacent soil**.
6. Activate the line load.

The calculation definition is now complete.

9.8.5 Execute the calculation

Before starting the calculation it is recommended to select nodes or stress points for a later generation of load-displacement curves or stress and strain diagrams.

To do this, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar.
   The connectivity plot is displayed in the Output program and the **Select points** window is activated.
2. Select a node at the bottom of the footing (0.0, 0.0). Close the **Select points** window.
3. Click on the **Update** tab to close the Output program and go back to the Input program.
4. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.

9.9 Results

9.9.1 Total load cyclic vertical bearing capacity

Applied vertical stress (load): q_y = -1000 kN/m^2

Failure at: q_y = 719.1 kN/m^2(Figure 111 (on page 141))

Total vertical bearing capacity: $V_{cap} = q_y \cdot \text{Area} = 719.1 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot \pi \cdot (11 \text{ m})^2 = 273.35 \text{ MN}$

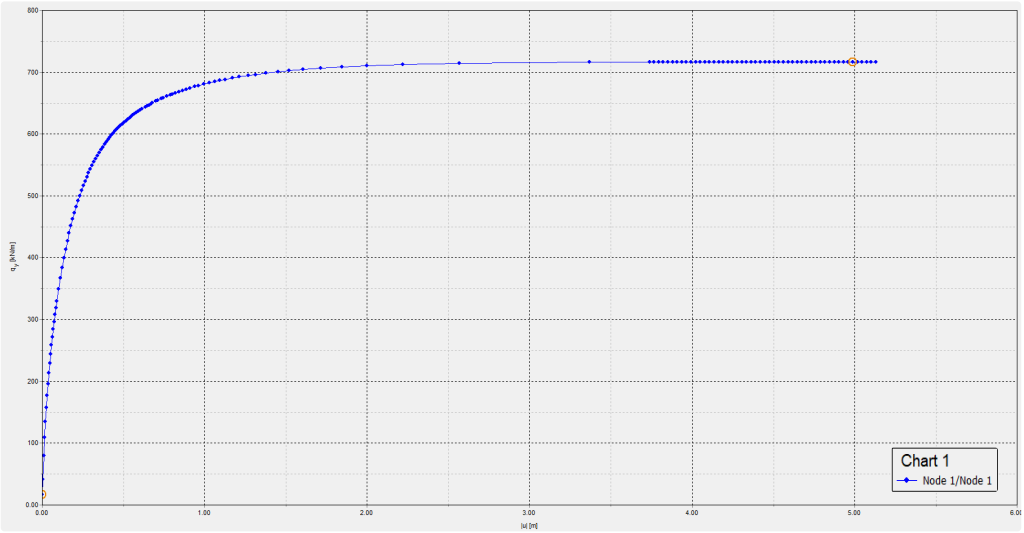


Figure 111: Load displacement curve for total load

For comparison, the static vertical bearing capacity (using the static undrained shear strength) is found to be 228.1 MN. The reason for the larger vertical bearing capacity is that the shear strengths increase due to the higher strain rate during wave loading, compared to the value obtained from standard monotonic laboratory tests, and this effect is larger than the cyclic degradation during the storm.

9.9.2 Cyclic load cyclic vertical bearing capacity

Applied vertical stress (load): q_y = -1000 kN/m^2

Failure at: q_y = 458.1 kN/m^2(Figure 112 (on page 141))

Total vertical bearing capacity:

$V_{cap} = q_y \cdot \text{Area} = 458.1 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot \pi \cdot (11 \text{ m})^2 = 174.14 \text{ MN}$

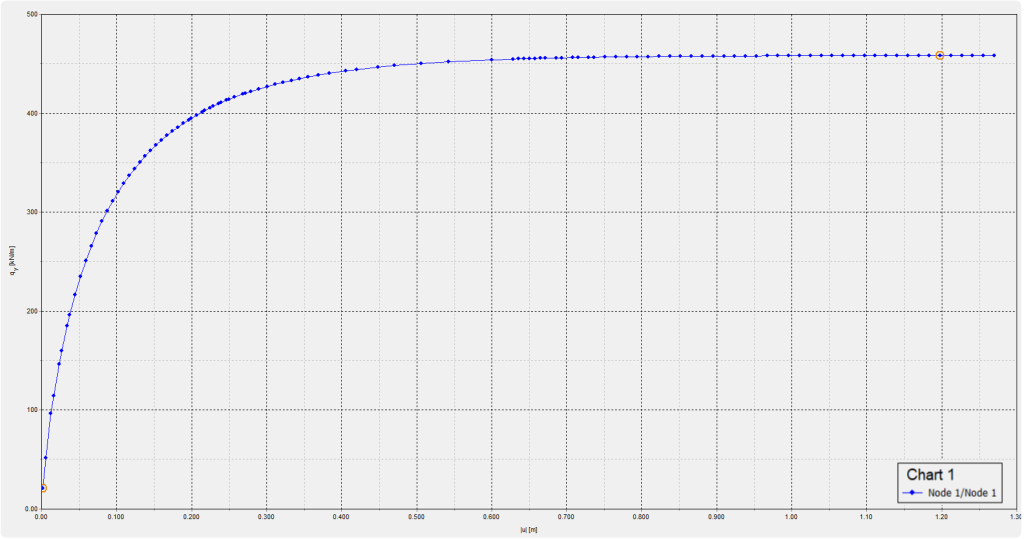


Figure 112: Load displacement curve for cyclic load

9.9.3 Vertical stiffness

The vertical stiffness (accounting for cyclic loading) is calculated as $k_y = F_y / u_y$ for both the total and the cyclic component. The total vertical displacement includes accumulated vertical displacements during the storm. Load versus stiffness is shown in the following image:

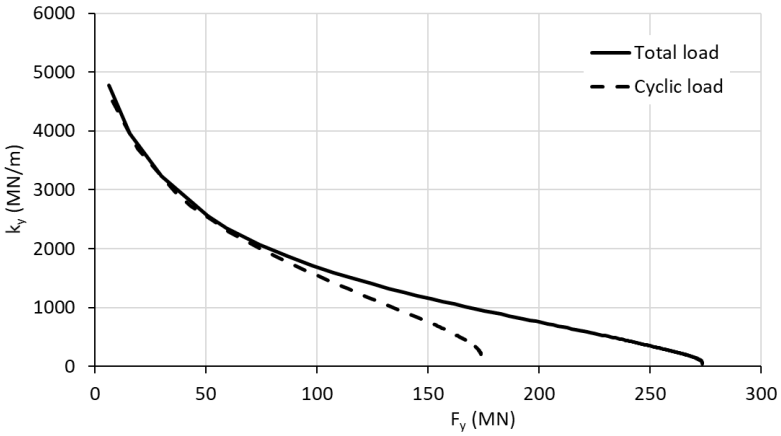


Figure 113: Vertical load versus stiffness for total and cyclic load components

10 Stability of dam under rapid drawdown [ULT]

This example concerns the stability of a reservoir dam under conditions of drawdown. Fast reduction of the reservoir level may lead to instability of the dam due to high pore water pressures that remain inside the dam. To analyse such a situation using the finite element method, a fully coupled flow-deformation analysis is required. Time-dependent pore pressure is coupled with deformations development and used in a stability analysis. This example demonstrates how coupled analysis and stability analysis can interactively be performed in PLAXIS 2D.

Objectives

- Defining time-dependent hydraulic conditions (Flow functions)
- Defining transient flow conditions using water levels

Geometry

The dam to be considered is 30 m high and the width is 172.5 m at the base and 5 m at the top. The dam consists of a clay core with a well graded fill at both sides. The normal water level behind the dam is 25 m high. A situation is considered where the water level drops 20 m. The normal phreatic level at the right hand side of the dam is 10 m below ground surface.

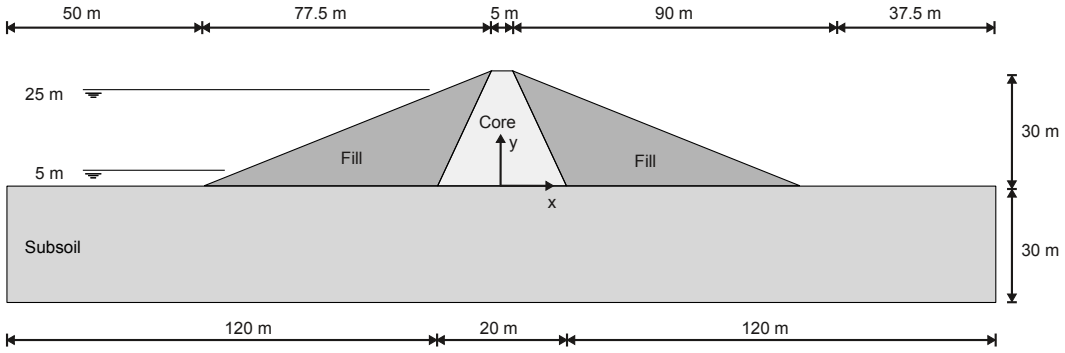


Figure 114: Geometry of the project

10.1 Create new project

To create the new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.

2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. Keep the default units and constants and set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = -130 m, x_{max} = 130 m, y_{min} = -30 m and y_{max} = 30 m.

10.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

In order to define the underlying foundation soil, a borehole needs to be added and material properties must be assigned. A layer of 30 m overconsolidated silty sand is considered as sub-soil in the model.

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Add a soil layer extending from ground surface (y = 0) to a depth of 30 m (y = -30).

10.3 Create and assign material data sets

Three material data sets need to be created for the soil layers.

The layers have the following properties:

Table 24: Material properties of the dam and subsoil

Parameter	Name	Core	Fill	Subsoil	Unit
General					
Material model	Model	Mohr-Coulomb	Mohr-Coulomb	Mohr-Coulomb	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Undrained (B)	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	16	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	18	20	21	kN/m^3
Parameters					
Young's modulus	E'	$1.5 \cdot 10^3$	$20 \cdot 10^3$	$50 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.35	0.33	0.3	-
Cohesion	c_{ref}'	-	5	1	kN/m^2
Undrained shear strength	$s_{u,ref}$	5	-	-	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	-	31	35	°

Parameter	Name	Core	Fill	Subsoil	Unit
Dilatancy angle	ψ	-	1	5	°
Young's modulus increment	E_{inc}'	300	-	-	kN/m^2/m
Reference level	y_{ref}	30	-	-	m
Undrained shear strength increment	$s_{u,inc}$	3.0	-	-	kN/m^2
Groundwater					
Data set	-	Hypres	Hypres	Hypres	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	-
Subsoil /Topsoil	-	Subsoil	Subsoil	Subsoil	-
Type	-	Very fine	Coarse	Coarse	-
Flow parameters - Use defaults		None	None	None	-
Horizontal permeability	k_x	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1.00	0.01	m/day
Vertical permeability	k_y	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1.00	0.01	m/day

To create the material sets, follow these steps:

1. Open the **Material sets** window.
2. Create data sets under the **Soil and interfaces** set type according to the information given in Table 24 (on page 144). Note that the **Thermal**, **Interfaces** and **Initial** tabsheets are not relevant (no thermal properties, no interfaces or **K0 procedure** are used).
3. Assign the **Subsoil** material dataset to the soil layer in the borehole.

10.4 Define the dam

The dam will be defined in the **Structures** mode.

In order to draw the dam with the mouse it is necessary to decrease the snap-to-grid distance. By default this distance is 1 m, but in this tutorial it should be 0.5m. In order to change the snap-to-grid distance, select the **Snapping options** button below the drawing area. The **Spacing** defines the distance between 2 grid points and the *Intervals* defines the amount of snap-to-grid intervals between 2 grid points. In order to have a snap-to-grid distance of 0.5m we can set either the **Spacing** to 0.5m and leave the **Intervals** to 1, or we can leave the **Spacing** at 1 m and set the amount of **Intervals** to 2.

1. Click the **Polygon** button to define a polygon through the points located at (-80 0), (92.5 0), (2.5 30) and (-2.5 30).
2. Click the **Cut polygon** button to create the sub-clusters in the dam. Define two cutting lines from (-10 0) to (-2.5 30) and from (10 0) to (2.5 30).
3. Assign the corresponding material datasets to the soil clusters.

10.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button in the side toolbar. For the **Element distribution** parameter, use the option **Fine**.
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

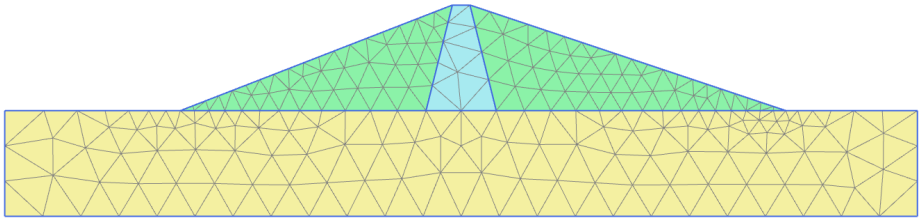


Figure 115: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

10.6 Define and perform the calculation

The following cases will be considered:

- A long term situation with water level at 25 m
- A quick drop of the water level from 25 to 5 m
- A slow drop of the water from 25 to 5 m
- A long term situation with water level at 5 m

In addition to **Initial phase**, the calculation consists of eight phases. In the initial phase, initial stresses and initial pore water pressures of the dam under normal working conditions are calculated using **Gravity loading**. For this situation the water pressure distribution is calculated using a steady-state groundwater flow calculation. The first and second phases both start from the initial phase (i.e. a dam with a reservoir level at 25 m) and the water level is lowered to 5 m. A distinction is made in the time interval at which this is done (i.e. different speeds of water level reduction; rapid drawdown and slow drawdown). In both cases the water pressure distribution is calculated using a fully coupled flow-deformation analysis. The third calculation phase also starts from the initial phase and considers the long-term behaviour of the dam at the low reservoir level of 5 m, which involves a steady-state groundwater flow calculation to calculate the water pressure distribution. Finally, for all the water pressure situations the safety factor of the dam is calculated by means of phi-c reduction.

Note that only the water conditions will be defined for different calculation phases. The model requires no changes in the geometry. Water levels can be defined in the **Flow conditions** mode.

10.6.1 Initial phase: Dam construction & high reservoir

By default the initial phase is added in the **Phases explorer**.

1. Proceed to the **Flow conditions** mode by clicking the corresponding tab.
2. Activate **Fill** and **Core**.
3. In the **Phases explorer** double-click **Initial phase**.
   The **Phases** window is displayed.
4. In the **General** subtree specify the name of the phase (e.g. High reservoir).
5. Select the **Gravity loading** option as calculation type.
6. Select the **Steady state groundwater flow** option as **Pore pressure calculation type**.
7. Uncheck the **Ignore suction** option in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.

Note: Note that in this exercise we will do a fully coupled flow-deformation analysis and this type of analysis always takes into account suction in the unsaturated zone. Therefore it is advised to also take into account suction in calculation phases prior to the fully coupled flow deformation analysis (like the initial phase in this tutorial) to avoid the unbalance in soil stresses that would occur when changing between phases with and without suctions.

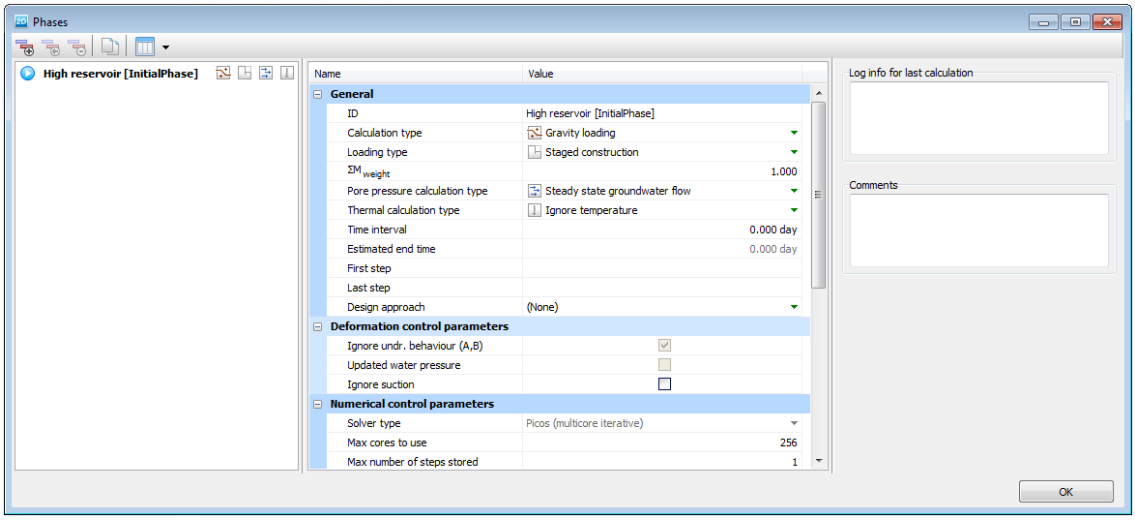


*Figure 116: The **Phases** window*

8. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.

Note: Note that by default **Undrained behaviour (A)** and **(B)** are ignored for a **Gravity loading** calculation type. The corresponding option is available in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree in the **Phases** window

9. Define the water level corresponding to the level of water in the reservoir prior to the drawdown. The water level consists of four points; starting at the very left side at a level of 25 m above the ground surface (-132 25); the second point is just inside the dam at a level of 25 m (-10 25); the third point is near the dam toe (93 -10) and the forth point just outside the right boundary at a level of 10 m below the ground surface (132 -10).

   Note: Straight lines can be defined by keeping the **Shift** key pressed while defining the geometry.

   The defined water level is shown in the figure:

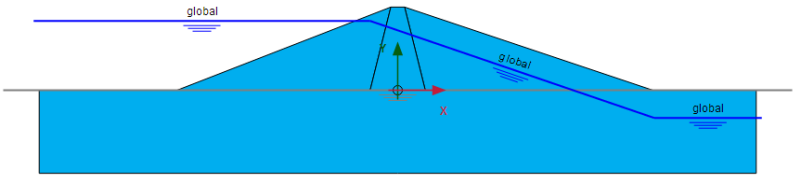


Figure 117: High water level in the reservoir

10. Right-click the created water level and select the **Make global** option in the appearing menu.
    Note that the global water level can also be specified by selecting the corresponding option in the **GlobalWaterLevel** menu in the **Water** subtree in the **Model conditions**.
11. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Attributes library**.
12. Expand the **Water levels** subtree. The levels created in the **Flow conditions** mode are grouped under **User water levels**.
13. Expand the **User water levels** subtree.
    The created water level can be seen named as UserWaterLevel_1. The location of the water levels in **Model explorer** is shown in the figure:

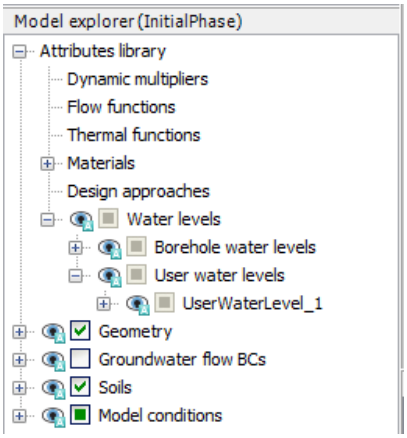


*Figure 118: Water levels in **Model explorer***

14. Double-click on the created water level and rename it as ' FullReservoir_steady'. This is a distinctive name that satisfies the naming requirements (no invalid characters).
15. Expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
16. Expand the **GroundWaterFlow** subtree.
    Note that by default the boundary at the bottom of the model is set to **Closed**. This is relevant for this example.

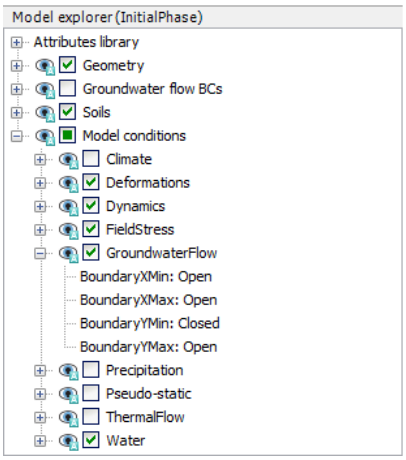
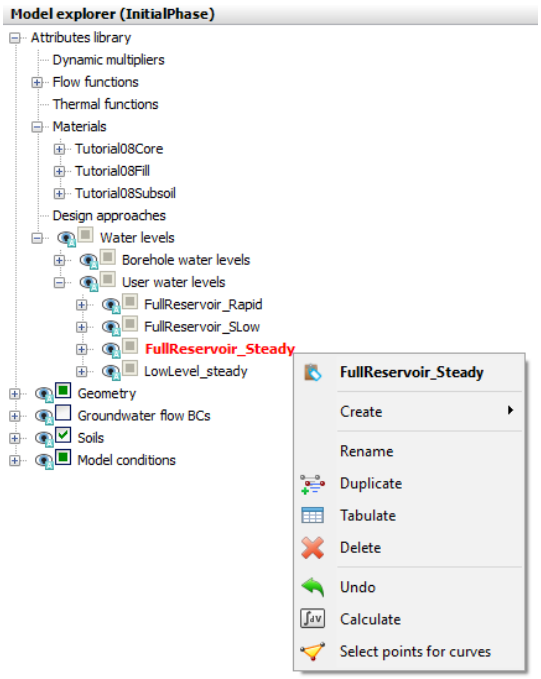


*Figure 119: **GroundwaterFlow** boundary conditions in **Model explorer***

10.6.2 Phase 1: Rapid drawdown

In this phase rapid drawdown of the reservoir level is considered.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases explorer** double-click the newly added phase.
   The **Phases** window is displayed.
3. In the **General** subtree specify the name of the phase (e.g. Rapid drawdown). Note that the **High reservoir** phase is automatically selected in the **Start from phase** drop-down menu.
4. Select the **Fully coupled flow-deformation** option as calculation type.
5. Assign a value of 5 days to the **Time interval** parameter.
6. Make sure that the **Reset displacements to zero** and **Reset small strain** options are selected in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.
7. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
8. Due to the global nature of the water levels, if an attribute is assigned to a water level in the model it will affect it in all phases. The water level in this phase has the same geometry with the one previously defined, however it is time dependent and a function needs to be assigned to it. As a result, it is required to create a new water level with the same geometry and different attributes. In **Model explorer** right-click on FullReservoir_Steady and select the **Duplicate** option in the appearing menu.



A copy of the water level is created.

9. Rename the newly created water level as 'FullReservoir_Rapid'.

The behaviour of the water levels can be described by specifying **Flow functions**. Note that **Flow functions** are global entities and are available under the **Attributes library** in **Model explorer**.

To define the flow functions:

a. Right-click the **Flow functions** option in the **Attributes library** in the **Model explorer** and select the **Edit** option in the appearing menu. The **Flow functions** window is displayed.

b. In the **Head functions** tabsheet add a new function by clicking the corresponding button . The new function is highlighted in the list and options to define the function are displayed.

c. Specify a proper name to the function for the rapid drawdown (e.g. Rapid).

d. Select the **Linear** option from the **Signal** drop-down menu.

e. Specify a time interval of 5 days.

f. Assign a value of -20 m to **ΔHead**, representing the amount of the head decrease.
A graph is displayed showing the defined function.

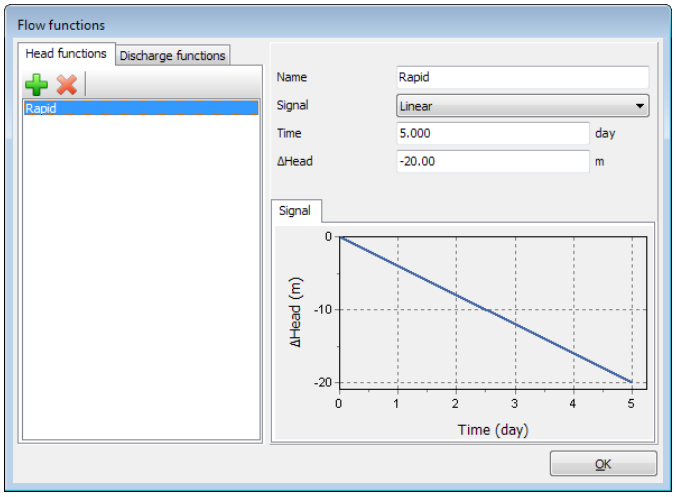


Figure 120: The flow function for the rapid drawdown case

g. Click **OK** to close the **Flow functions** window.

10. In the **Model explorer** right-click on **FullReservoir_Rapid** and select the **Use as global water level** option in the appearing menu.

11. Expand the **FullReservoir_Rapid** subtree. Note that the water level is composed of 3 water segments. Select the water segment in the upstream shoulder (left from the dam, at the reservoir side).

12. Expand the subtree of the selected segment and select the **Time dependent** option for the **TimeDependency** parameter.

13. Select the **Rapid** option for the **HeadFunction** parameter.
The following figure shows the selected water segment in **Model explorer**.

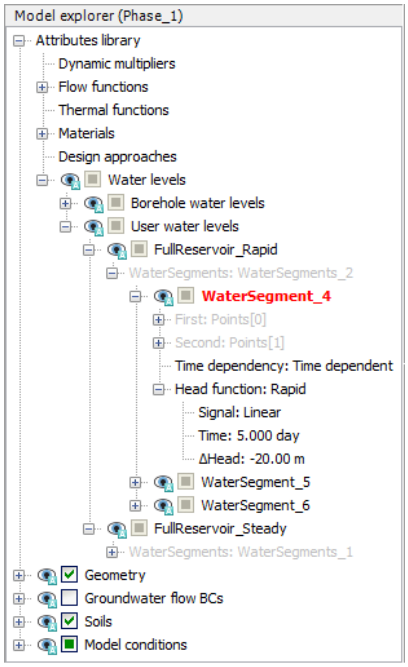


Figure 121: Properties of the lowering water segment

14. In the **Water** subtree under the **Model conditions** in the **Model explorer** note that the new water level (FullReservoir_Rapid) is assigned to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

The configuration of the phase is shown in the following figure.

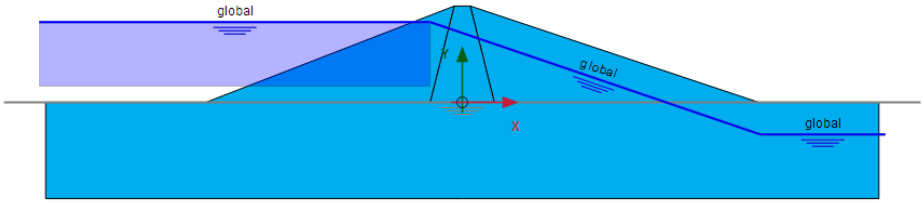


Figure 122: Configuration of the rapid drawdown phase

Note that the shadow under the water level segment in the upstream shoulder indicates the variation of the water level during the phase.

10.6.3 Phase 2: Slow drawdown

In this phase the drawdown of the reservoir level is performed at a lower rate.

1. Select the **High reservoir** phase in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
3. In **Phases explorer** double-click the newly added phase. The **Phases** window is displayed.
4. In the **General** subtree specify the name of the phase (e.g. Slow drawdown). The **High reservoir** phase is automatically selected for the **Start from phase** parameter.
5. Select the **Fully coupled flow deformation** option as calculation type.
6. Assign a value of 50 days to the **Time interval** parameter.
7. Make sure that the **Reset displacements to zero** and **Reset small strain** options are selected in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree. The **Ignore suction** option is unchecked by default.
8. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
9. Create a new duplicate of the high water level. The newly created water level will be used as **Global water level** in the slow drawdown phase. Even though the water level in this phase has the same geometry as the previously defined ones, the flow function for the time dependency is different.
10. Rename the newly created water level as 'FullReservoir_Slow'.
11. Add a new flow function following the steps described for the previous phase.
    a. Specify a proper name to the function for the slow drawdown (e.g. Slow).
    b. Select the **Linear** option from the **Signal** drop-down menu.
    c. Specify a time interval of 50 days.
    d. Assign a value of -20 m to **ΔHead**, representing the amount of the head decrease. A graph is displayed showing the defined function.
    e. Click **OK** to close the **Flow functions** window.

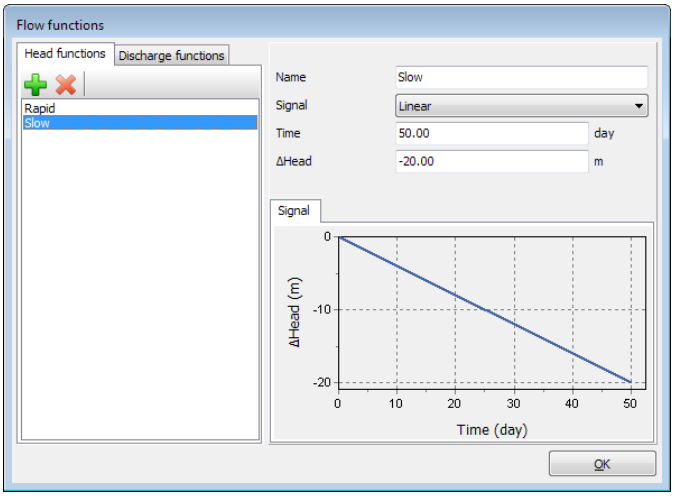


Figure 123: The flow function for the slow drawdown case

12. In the **Model explorer** right-click on **FullReservoir_Slow** and select the **Use as global water level** option in the appearing menu.
13. Expand the **FullReservoir_Slow** subtree. Select the water segment in the upstream shoulder (left from the dam, at the reservoir side).
    The segment selected in **Model explorer** is indicated by a red colour in the model.
14. Expand the subtree of the selected segment and select the **Time dependent** option for the **TimeDependency** parameter.
15. Select the **Slow** option for the **HeadFunction** parameter.
    In the **Water** subtree under the **Model conditions** in the **Model explorer** note that the new water level (FullReservoir_Slow) is assigned to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

10.6.4 Phase 3: Low level

This phase considers the steady-state situation of a low reservoir level.

1. Select the **High reservoir** phase in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
3. In **Phases explorer** double-click the newly added phase.
   The **Phases** window is displayed.
4. In the **General** subtree specify the name of the phase (e.g. Low level). The **High reservoir** phase is automatically selected for the **Start from phase** parameter.
5. Make sure that the **Plastic** option is selected as calculation type.
6. Make sure that the **Steady state groundwater flow** option is selected as **Pore pressure calculation type**
7. In the **Deformation control** subtree, select **Ignore und. behaviour (A,B)** and make sure that the **Reset displacements to zero** and **Reset small strain** options are selected in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.
8. Uncheck the **Ignore suction** option in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.

9. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
10. Define the water level corresponding to the level of water in the reservoir after the drawdown. The water level consists of four points; starting at the very left side at a level of 5 m above the ground the surface (-132 5); the second point is inside the dam at a level of 5 m (-60 5); third point at (93 -10) and the fourth point just outside the right boundary at a level of 10 m below the ground surface (132 -10).
11. Rename the newly created water level as 'LowLevel_Steady'.
12. In the **Water** subtree under the **Model conditions** in the **Model explorer** assign the new water level (LowLevel_Steady) to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

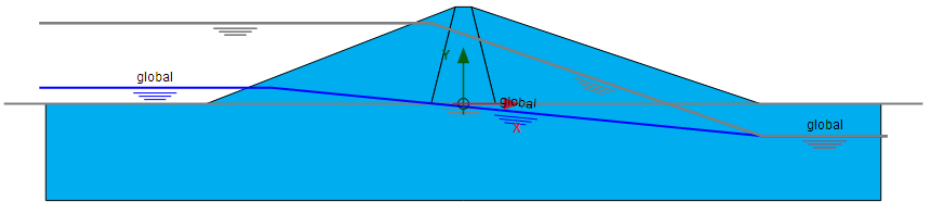


*Figure 124: Model for the low level case in the **Flow conditions** mode*

All the defined water levels are shown in the following figure.

10.6.5 Phase 4 to 7: Safety analysis

In Phases 4 to 7 stability calculations are defined for the previous phases.

1. Select the parent phase in the **Phases explorer**.
2. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase. Proceed to the **Phases** window.
3. Set **Calculation type** to **Safety**.
4. In the **Deformation control** subtree, select **Reset displacements to zero**.
5. In the **Deformation control parameters** subtree, check the **Ignore suction** option for all the safety analyses.

Note: Taking suction into account in a **Safety** phase gives a higher factor of safety, hence ignoring suction in a **Safety** phase is more conservative. In the **Safety** analysis of PLAXIS 2D, any unbalance due to changing from suction to no suction is first solved before the factor of safety is determined. As a result, ΣM_{sf} can decrease in the first part of the calculation.

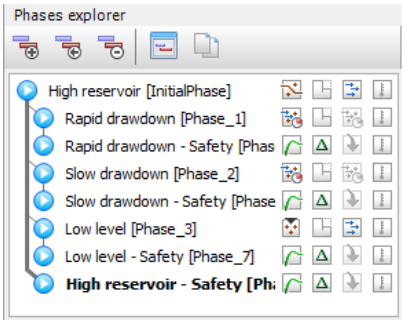


Figure 125: The final view of Phases explorer

10.6.6 Execute the calculation

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode.
2. Select nodes located at the crest (-2.5 30) and at the toe of the dam (-80 0).
3. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project and ignore the warnings regarding the influence of suction in the **Safety** analysis..
4. Save the project after the calculation has finished.

10.7 Results

The results of the four groundwater flow calculations in terms of pore pressure distribution are shown in the figures below. Four different situations were considered:

- The steady-state situation with a high (standard) reservoir level.

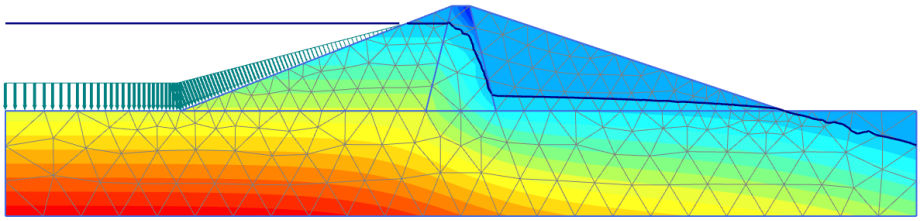


Figure 126: Pore pressure distribution, (p_{active}), for high reservoir level

- The pore pressure distribution after rapid drawdown of the reservoir level

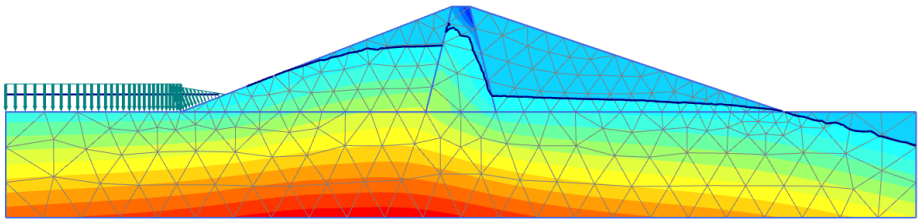


Figure 127: Pore pressure distribution, (p_{active}), after rapid drawdown

- The pore pressure distribution after slow drawdown of the reservoir level

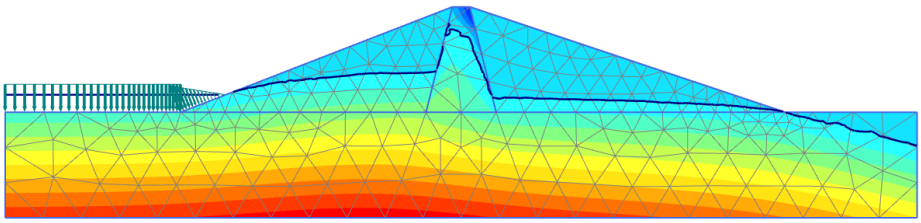


Figure 128: Pore pressure distribution, (p_{active}), after slow drawdown

- The steady-state situation with a low reservoir level

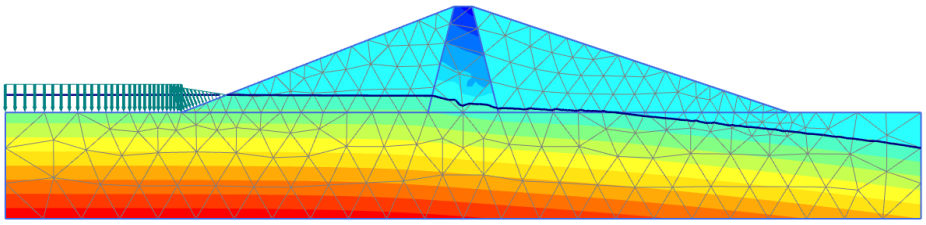


Figure 129: Pore pressure distribution, (p_{active}), for low reservoir level

Note:

The phreatic level can be smoother with a high refinement of the mesh in the core.

When the change of pore pressure is taken into account in a deformation analysis, some additional deformation of the dam will occur. These deformations and the effective stress distribution can be viewed on the basis of the results of the first four calculation phases. Here, attention is focused on the variation of the safety factor of the dam for the different situations. Therefore, the development of **ΣMsf** is plotted for the phases 4 to 7 as a function of the displacement of the dam crest point (-2.5 30.0), see .

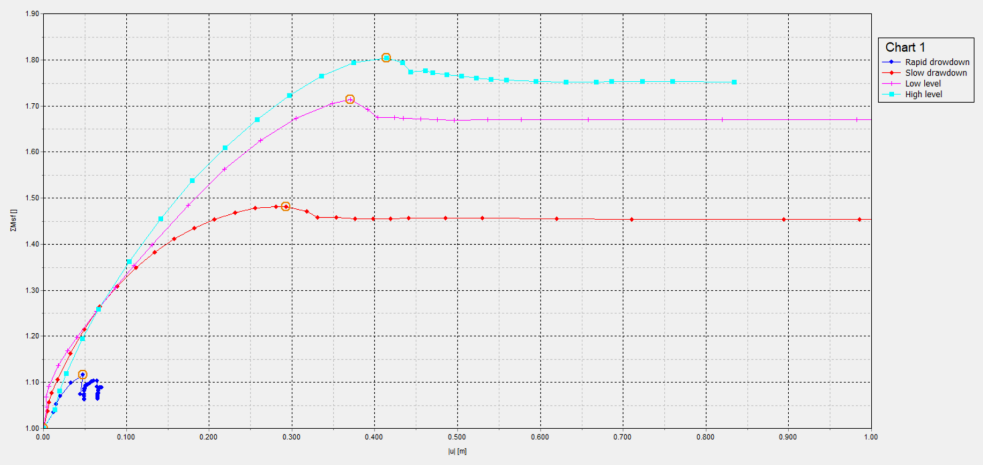


Figure 130: Safety factors for different situations

Rapid drawdown of a reservoir level can reduce the stability of a dam significantly. Fully coupled flow-deformation and stability analysis can be performed with PLAXIS 2D to effectively analyse such situations.

Note:

In the strength reduction method the factor of safety is considered the value of the strength reduction factor **ΣMsf** for which progressive failure occurs. Hence, a **Safety** analysis should be performed with sufficient steps to make sure that failure really occurs. This can be checked from the graph of displacement vs **ΣMsf** where the curve flattens: the strength can no longer be reduced while the displacement rapidly increase.

Note:

By removing the suction in the safety analysis, an out-of-balance force is introduced at the beginning of the calculation. Without the contribution of the suction, the **ΣMsf** can decrease in the first part of the calculation.

11 Flow through an embankment [ULT]

In this chapter the flow through an embankment will be considered. Flow takes place from the left side (river) to the right side (polder). As a result seepage will take place at the right side of the embankment. The position of the phreatic level depends on the river water level, which varies in time.

Objectives

- Performing **Flow only** analysis
- Using cross section curves

Geometry

The figure below shows the layout of the embankment problem where free surface groundwater flow occurs. The crest of the embankment has a width of 2.0 m. Initially the water in the river is 1.5 m deep. The difference in water level between the river and the polder is 3.5 m.

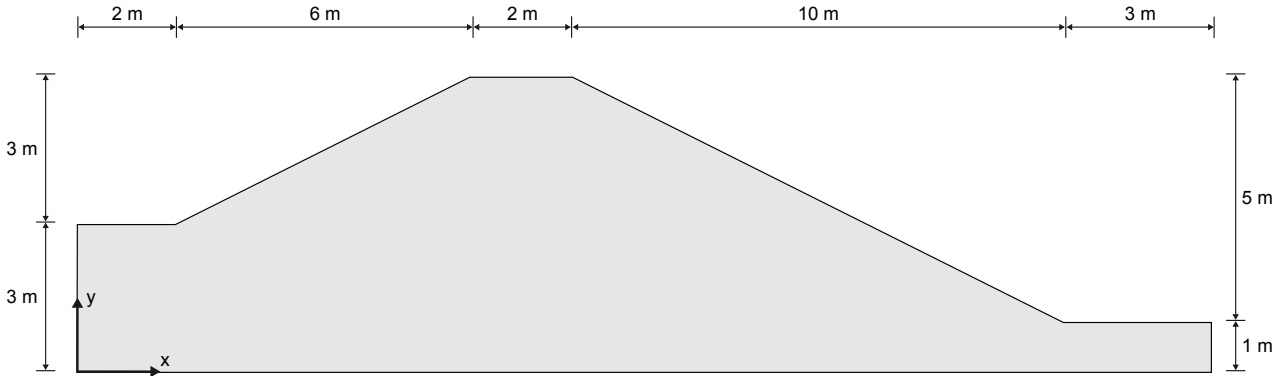


Figure 131: Geometry of the project

11.1 Create new project

To create a new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick select** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (**Plane strain**), and **Elements** (**15-Node**).
4. Set the model dimensions to: x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 23 m, y_{min} = 0 m and y_{max} = 6 m

5. Keep the default values for units, constants and the general parameters and click **OK**.
   The **Project properties** window closes.

11.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

A number of boreholes has to be defined according to the information in the table below.

Table 25: Information on the boreholes in the model

Borehole number	Location (x)	Head	Top	Bottom
1	2	4.5	3	0
2	8	4.5	6	0
3	10	4.0	6	0
4	20	1.0	1	0

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 2.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Specify the head value as 4.5.
3. Add a soil layer in the borehole. Set the top level to 3. No change is required for the bottom boundary of the layer.
4. Create the rest of the required boreholes according to the information given in Table 25 (on page 159).

11.3 Create and assign material data set

A material data set needs to be created for the soil layer.

The sand layer has the following properties:

Table 26: Material properties of the embankment material (sand)

Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
General			
Material model	-	Linear elastic	-
Drainage type	-	Drained	-

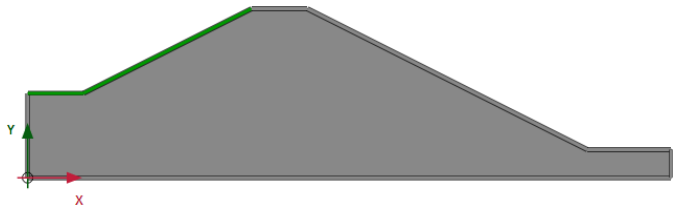
Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	20	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	kN/m^3
Parameters			
Young's modulus	E'	$10{\cdot}10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.3	-
Groundwater			
Data set	-	Standard	-
Soil Type	-	Medium fine	-
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	From data set	-
Horizontal permeability	k_x	0.02272	m/day
Vertical permeability	k_y	0.02272	m/day

To create the material set, follow these steps:

1. Define the soil material according to the table above and assign the material dataset to the cluster. Skip the **Interfaces** and **Initial** tabsheets as these parameters are not relevant.
2. After assigning the material to the soil cluster close the **Modify soil layers** window.

11.4 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Select the two lines that form the left hand side slope and river bed as shown in the figure below. In the **Selection Explorer** specify a **Coarseness factor** of 0.5.



3. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh.
   The **Mesh options** window appears.
4. Select the **Fine** option in the **Element distribution** drop-down menu and generate the mesh.

5. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

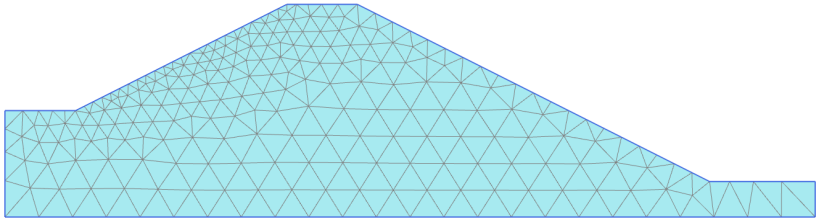


Figure 132: The generated mesh

6. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

11.5 Define and perform the calculation

In this project only the flow related behaviour will be analysed. The calculation process consists of three phases that will be defined in the **Staged construction** mode. In the initial phase, the groundwater flow in steady state is calculated for an average river level. In Phase 1, the transient groundwater flow is calculated for a harmonic variation of the water level. In Phase 2, the calculation is similar as in Phase 1, but the period is longer.

Click the **Staged construction** tab to proceed to the corresponding mode. A global level is automatically created according to the head values specified for each borehole (Table 25 (on page 159)). The model in the **Staged construction** mode is shown in the figure below.

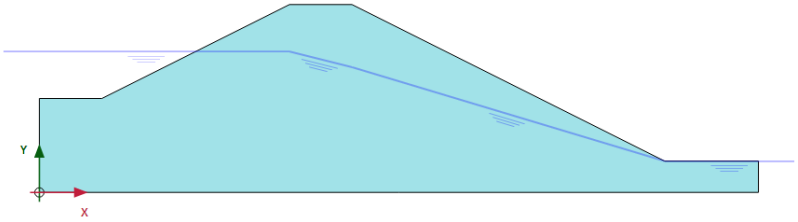


*Figure 133: The model in the **Staged construction** mode*

Note: Note that the 'internal' part of the global water level will be replaced by the result of the groundwater flow calculation.

11.5.1 Initial phase

1. Double-click the initial phase in the **Phases** explorer.
2. In the **General** subtree select the **Flow only** option as the **Calculation type**.
3. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid for this phase. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
4. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
5. In the **Model conditions** expand the **GroundwaterFlow** subtree. The default boundary conditions are relevant for the initial phase. Check that only the bottom boundary is closed.

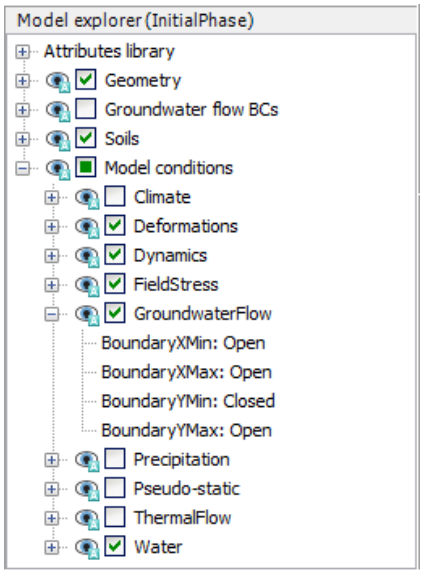


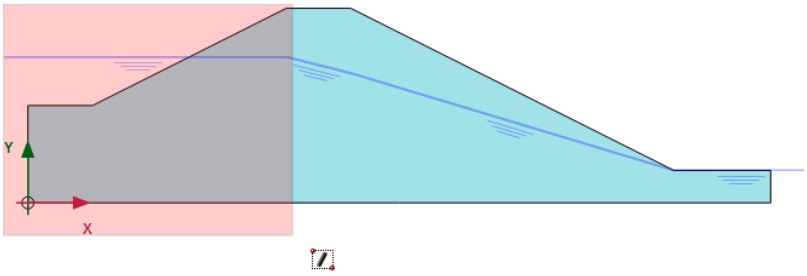
Figure 134: The groundwater flow boundary conditions for the initial phase

6. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Groundwater flow BCs** subtree. The boundary conditions at the extremities of the model are automatically created by the program and listed under the **GWFlowBaseBC**.

Note: Note that when the boundary conditions under the **Groundwater flow BCs** subtree are active, the model conditions specified in the **GroundwaterFlow** are ignored.

11.5.2 Phase 1

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases explorer** double-click the current phase.
3. In the **General** subtree select the **Transient groundwater flow** option as pore pressure calculation type.
4. Set the **Time interval** to 1 day.
5. In the **Numerical control parameters** subtree set the **Max number of steps stored** parameter to 50. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.
6. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
7. Click the **Select multiple objects** button in the side toolbar.
8. Click **Select lines** > **Select water boundaries**.
9. Select the hydraulic boundaries as shown in the following figure.



10. Right-click and click **Activate**.
11. In the **Selection explorer** set the **Behaviour** parameter to **Head**.
12. Set h_{ref} to 4.5 m.
13. Select the **Time dependent** option in the **Time dependency** drop-down menu.
14. Click on the **Head function** parameter.
15. Click the **Add** button to add a new head function.
16. In the **Flow functions** window select the **Harmonic** option in the **Signal** drop-down menu. Set the amplitude to 1 m, the phase angle to 0° and the period to 1 day.

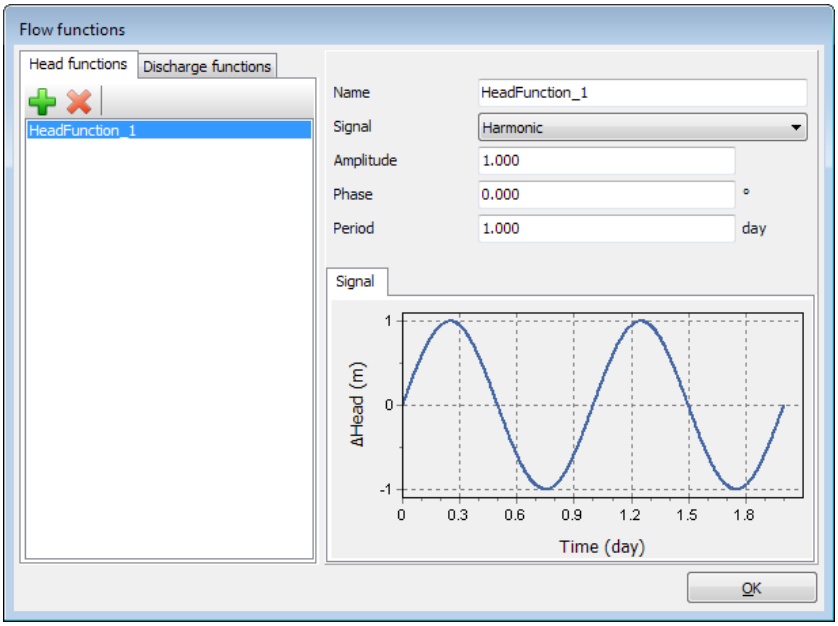


Figure 135: The flow function for the rapid case

17. Click **OK** to close the **Flow functions** window.

11.5.3 Phase 2

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **Phases explorer** double-click the current phase.
3. In the **General** subtree select the **Initial phase** in the **Start from phase** drop-down menu.

4. Select the **Transient groundwater flow** option as **Pore pressure calculation type**.
5. Set the **Time interval** to 10.0 day.
6. In the **Numerical control parameters** subtree set the **Max number of steps stored** parameter to 50. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.
7. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
8. Make sure that the same boundaries are selected as in Phase 1.
9. In the **Selection explorer** click on the **Head function** parameter.
10. Click the **Add** button to add a new head function.
11. In the **Flow functions** window select the **Harmonic** option in the **Signal** drop-down menu. Set the amplitude to 1 m, the phase angle to 0° and the period to 10 day.

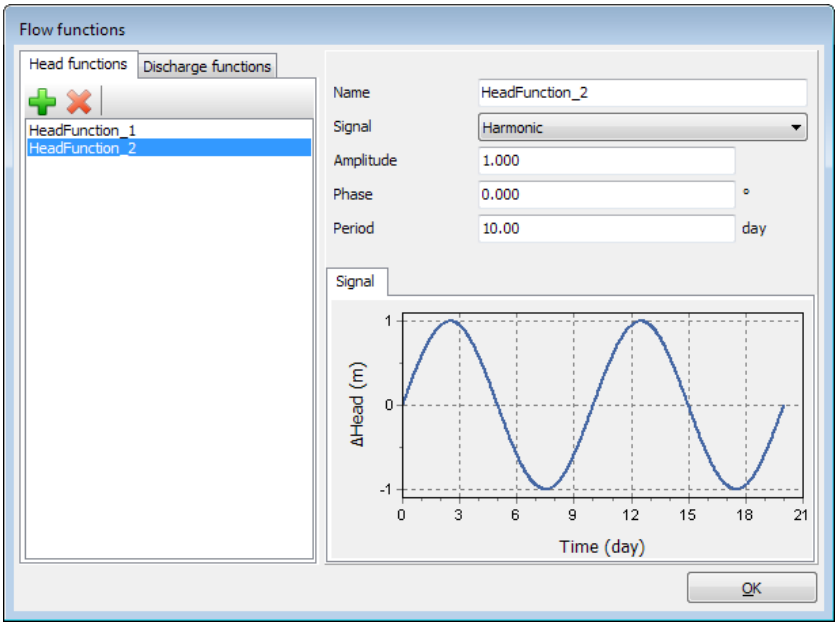


Figure 136: The flow function for the slow case

12. Click **OK** to close the **Flow functions** window.

11.5.4 Execute the calculation

To select points to be considered in curves:

1. In the **Staged construction** mode click the **Select point for curves** button in the side toolbar.
   The **Connectivity plot** is displayed in the Output program.
2. In the **Select points** window select nodes located nearest to (0 3) and (8 2.5) to be considered in curves.
3. Click **Update** to close the output program.
4. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
5. Save the project after the calculation has finished.

11.6 Results

In the Output program the **Create animation** tool can be used to animate the results displayed in the Output program. To create the animation follow these steps:

1. Click the menu **Stresses** > **Pore pressures** > **Groundwater head**.
2. Select the menu **File** > **Create animation**. The corresponding window pops up.
3. Define the name of the animation file and the location where it will be stored. By default the program names it according to the project and stores it in the project folder. In the same way animations can be created to compare the development of pore pressures or flow field.
4. Deselect the Initial phase and Phase 2, such that only Phase 1 is included in the animations and rename the animation accordingly. The **Create animation** window looks like this:

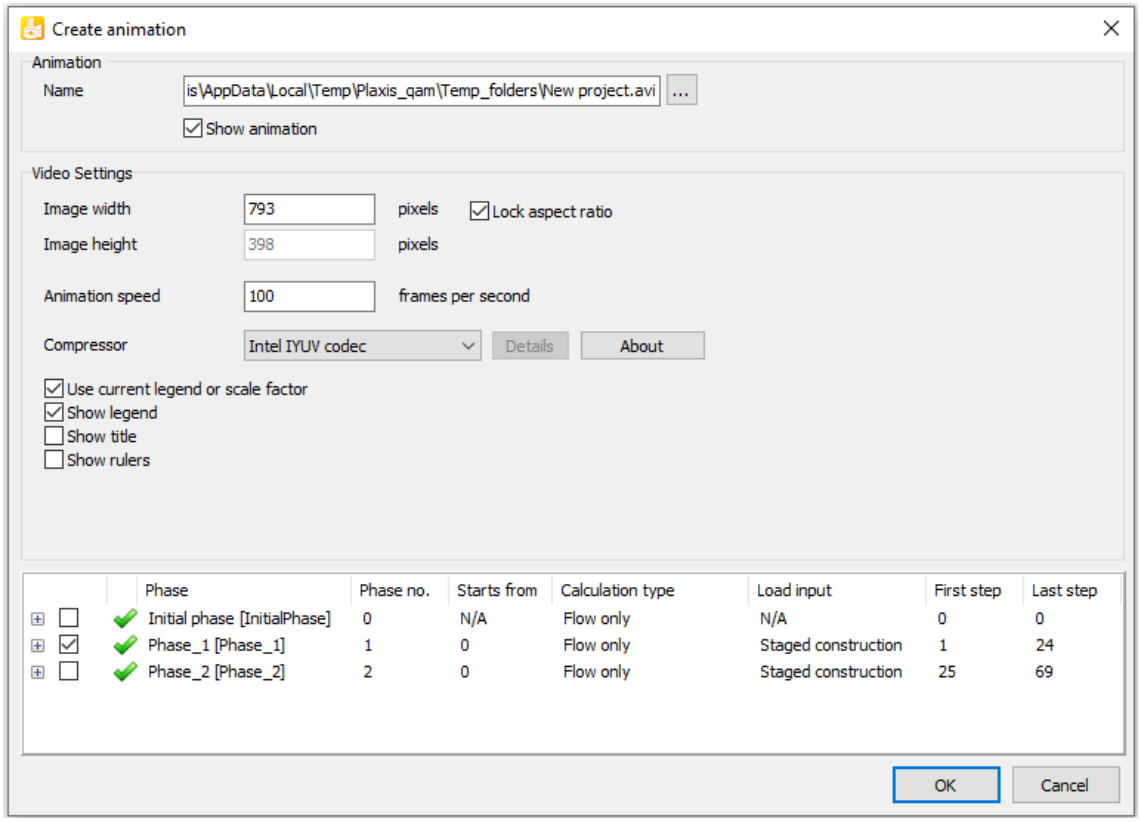


*Figure 137: **Create animation** window*

To view the results in a cross section:

1. Click the **Cross section** button in the side toolbar.

   The **Cross section points** window pops up and the start and the end points of the cross section can be defined.

   Draw a cross section through the points (2.0 3.0) and (20.0 1.0). The results in the cross section are displayed in a new window.

2. In the **Cross section** view select the menu **Stresses** > **Pore pressures** > **p active**.
3. Select the **Cross section curves** option in the **Tools** menu. After the curves window pops up, select the menu **Selection style** > **Individual steps**.
4. Select Phase 1. The variation of the results in the cross section is displayed in a new window.
5. Do the same for Phase 2. This may take about 30 seconds.
6. The variation of the results due to different time intervals in harmonic variation at a specific cross section can be compared, see the figures below.

It can be seen that the slower variation of the external water level has a more significant influence on the pore pressures in the embankment and over a larger distance.

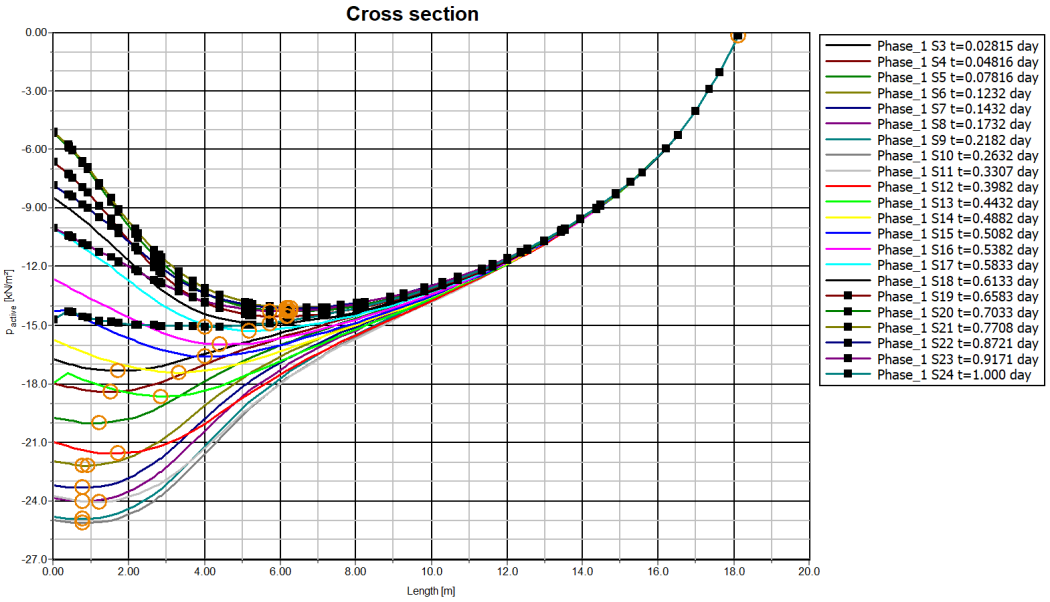


Figure 138: Active pore pressure variation in the cross section in Phase 1

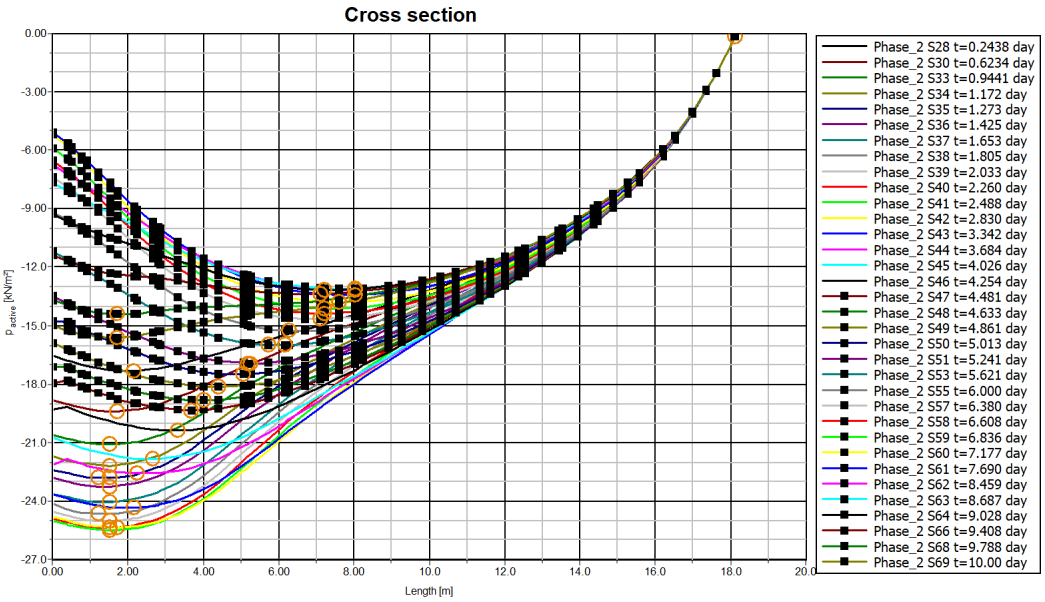


Figure 139: Active pore pressure variation in the cross section in Phase 2

12 Excavation and dewatering [ADV]

In this tutorial lowering the groundwater level and the flow around a sheetpile wall will be analysed. The geometry model of the tutorial Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53) will be used. The **Well** feature is introduced in this example.

12.1 Create and assign material data set

The material parameters remain unchanged from the original project. The used groundwater parameters are shown in the table below.

Table 27: Flow parameters

Parameter	Name	Silt	Sand	Loam	Unit
Groundwater					
Data set	-	USDA	USDA	USDA	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	-
Soil - Type	-	Silt	Sand	Loam	-
< 2µm	-	6	4	20	%
2µm - 50µm	-	87	4	40	%
50µm - 2mm	-	7	92	40	%
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	From data set	From data set	From data set	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	0.5996	7.128	0.2497	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	0.5996	7.128	0.2497	m/day

To create the project:

1. Open the project defined in the tutorial Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53).
2. Save the project under a different name (e.g. 'Flow around a sheet pile wall').

12.2 Define the structural elements

1. In the **Structures** mode click the **Create hydraulic conditions** button in the side toolbar.
2. Select the **Create well** option in the appearing menu.
3. Draw the first well by clicking on (42 20) and (42 17).
4. Draw the second well by clicking on (58 20) and (58 17).

12.3 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Select the cluster and two wells as shown in the figure below. In **Selection Explorer** specify a **Coarseness factor** of 0.25.

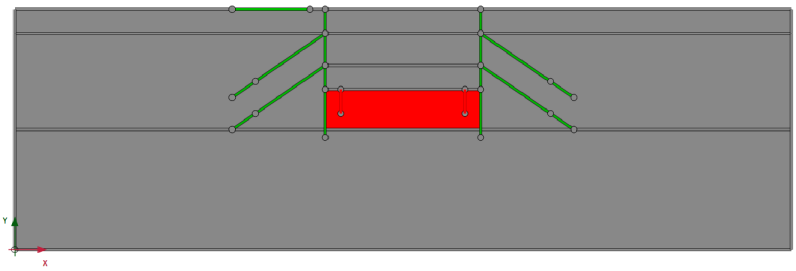


Figure 140: Indication of the local refinement of the mesh in the model

3. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. Use the default option for the **Element distribution** parameter (Medium).
4. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

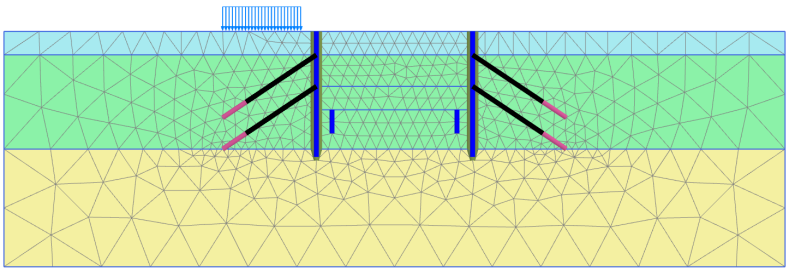


Figure 141: The generated mesh

5. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

12.4 Define and perform the calculation

- Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode. The groundwater flow analysis performed in phase 6 has to be modified.

12.4.1 Phase 6: Dewatering

In this phase the wells will be used to lower the phreatic level in the excavation down to y = 17 m. This corresponds to 3 m below the final excavation level.

1. Multi-select the wells in the model and activate them.
2. In the **Selection explorer** the behaviour of the wells is by default set to **Extraction**.
3. Set the discharge value to 1.5 m^3/day/m.
4. Set the h_{min} value to 17 m. This means that water will be extracted as long as the groundwater head at the wall location is at least 17 m.
   The figure below shows the parameters assigned to the wells in the **Selection explorer**

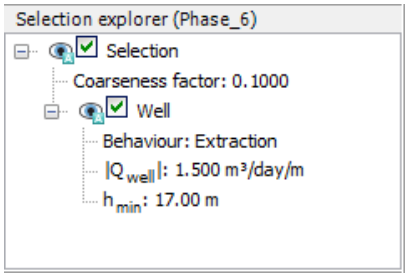


Figure 142: Well properties

12.4.2 Execute the calculation

The definition of the calculation process is complete.

1. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
2. Save the project after the calculation has finished.

12.5 Results

To display the flow field:

1. Select the Phase 6 in the drop down menu.
2. Click the menu **Stresses** > **Groundwater flow** > **|q|**.

   A scaled representation of the results (scale factor = 5.0) is shown:

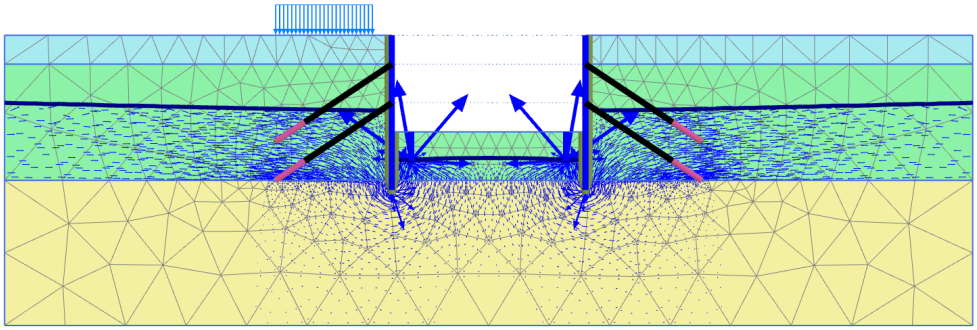


Figure 143: The resulting flow field at the end of Phase 6

Click the menu **Stresses** > **Pore pressures** > **Groundwater head**. Compare the results with the ones of the Phase 6 of the project defined in the tutorial Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53).

In the following figure, the resulting groundwater head with and without the wells are displayed.

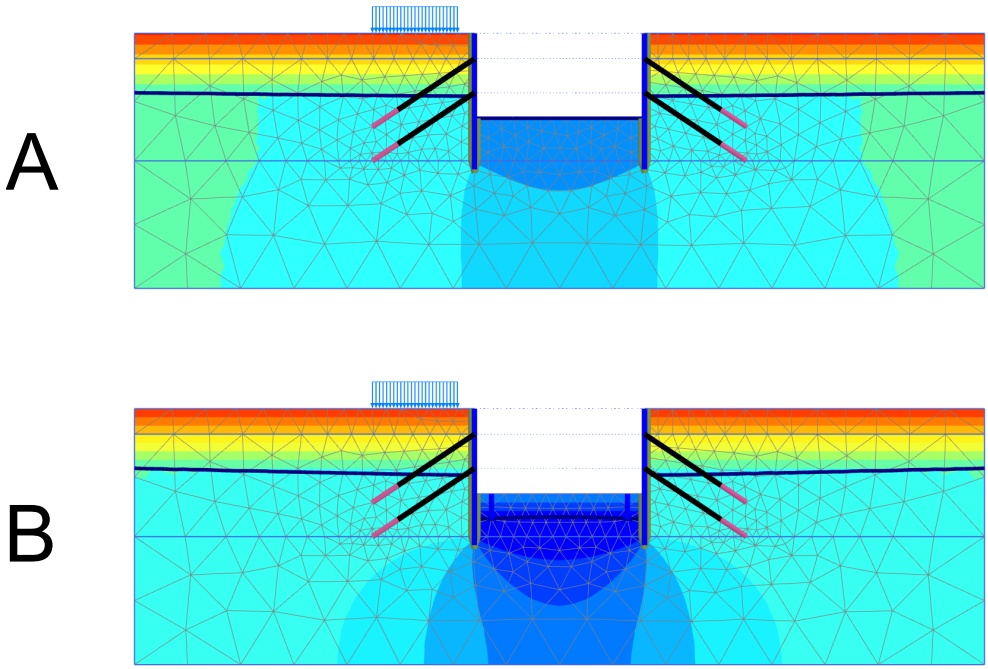


Figure 144: Comparison of the resulting groundwater head

A: Groundwater head (Phase 6 in the tutorial Dry excavation using a tie back wall [ADV] (on page 53))

B: Groundwater head (Phase 6 in the current project)

13 Potato field moisture content [ULT]

This tutorial demonstrates the applicability of PLAXIS 2D to agricultural problems. The potato field tutorial involves a loam layer on top of a sandy base. The water level in the ditches remains unchanged. The precipitation and evaporation may vary on a daily basis due to weather conditions. The calculation aims to predict the variation of the water content in the loam layer in time as a result of time-dependent boundary conditions.

Objectives

- Defining precipitation

Geometry

Due to the symmetry of the problem, it is sufficient to simulate a strip with a width of 15.0 m, as indicated in the image below. The thickness of the loam layer is 2.0 m and the sand layer is 3.0 m deep.

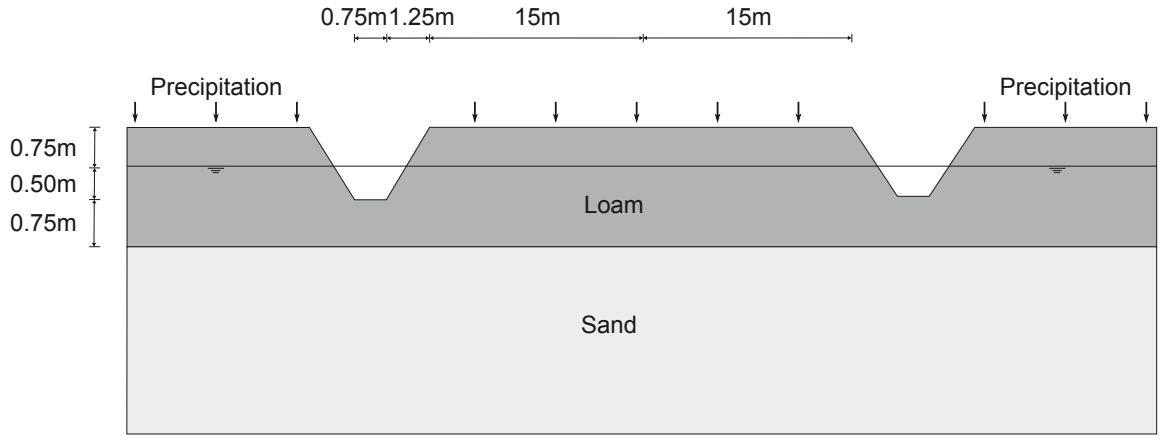


Figure 145: Potato field geometry

13.1 Create new project

To create a new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick select** dialog box.

2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (**Plane strain**), and **Elements** (**15-Node**).
4. Set the model dimensions to: x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 15 m, y_{min} = 0 m and y_{max} = 5 m.
5. Keep the default values for units, constants and the general parameters and press **OK**.
   The **Project properties** window closes.

13.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

Due to the geometry of the model, the options for snapping should be changed.

1. Click the **Snapping options** button in the bottom toolbar.

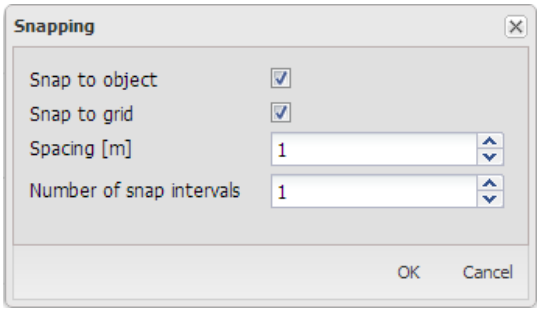


*Figure 146: Modification of the **Number of snap intervals***

2. In the appearing window set the **Number of snap intervals** to 100.
3. Click **OK** to close the **Snapping** window.

To define the soil stratigraphy:

4. Click the **Create borehole** button and create two boreholes located at x = 0.75 and x = 2 respectively.
5. In the **Modify soil layers** window add two soil layers.
6. In the first borehole set **Top** = 3.75 and **Bottom** = 3 for the uppermost soil layer. Set **Bottom** = 0 for the lowest soil layer.
7. In the second borehole set **Top** = 5 and **Bottom** = 3 for the uppermost soil layer. Set **Bottom** = 0 for the lowest soil layer.
8. For both boreholes the **Head** is located at y = 4.25.
   The image below shows the soil stratigraphy defined in the **Modify soil layers** window.

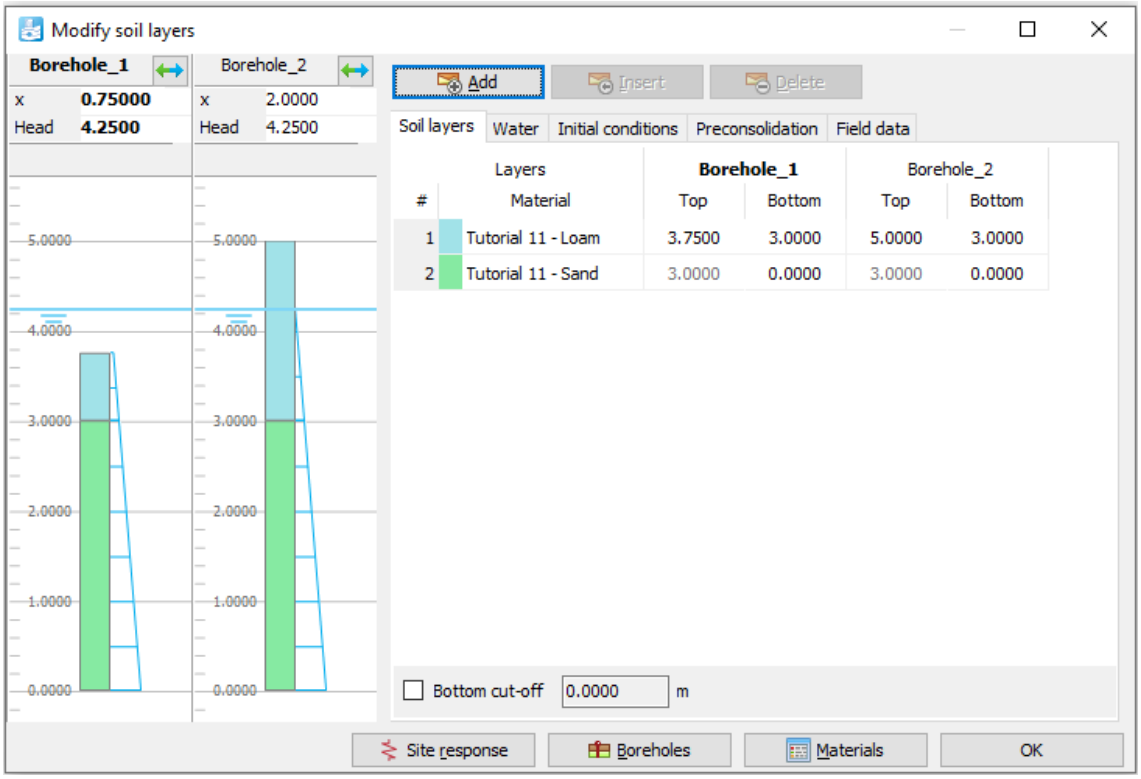


*Figure 147: Soil stratigraphy in the **Modify soil layers window***

13.3 Create and assign material data sets

Two material data sets need to be created for the soil layers.

The layers have the following properties:

Table 28: Material properties of the material

Parameter	Name	Loam	Sand	Unit
General				
Material model	Model	Linear elastic	Linear elastic	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	19	20	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	19	20	kN/m^3
Parameters				

Parameter	Name	Loam	Sand	Unit
Stiffness	E'	$1 \cdot 10^3$	$10 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.3	0.3	-
Groundwater				
Data set	Type	Staring	Staring	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	Van Genuchten	-
Subsoil/Topsoil	-	Topsoil	Subsoil	-
Soil Type	-	Clayey loam (B9)	Loamy sand (O2)	-
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	From data set	From data set	-
Permeability in horizontal direction	k_x	0.01538	0.1270	m/day
Permeability in vertical direction	k_y	0.01538	0.1270	m/day

To create the material sets, follow these steps:

1. Create the material data sets according to Table 28 (on page 174).
2. Assign the material data set to the corresponding clusters in the model.

13.4 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Multi-select the line segments composing the upper boundary of the model:

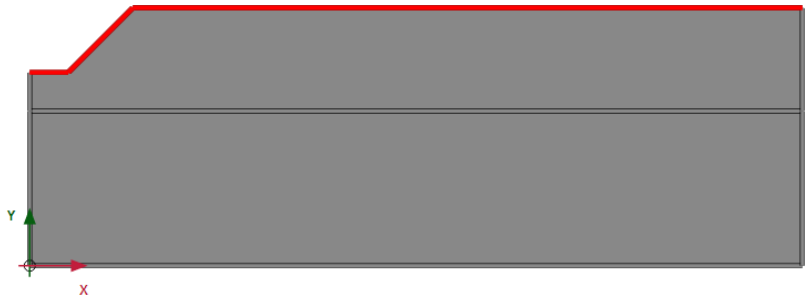


Figure 148: The upper boundary of the model

3. In the **Selection explorer** set the **Coarseness factor** parameter to 0.5.
4. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. Use the default option for the **Element distribution** parameter (**Medium**).

5. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.

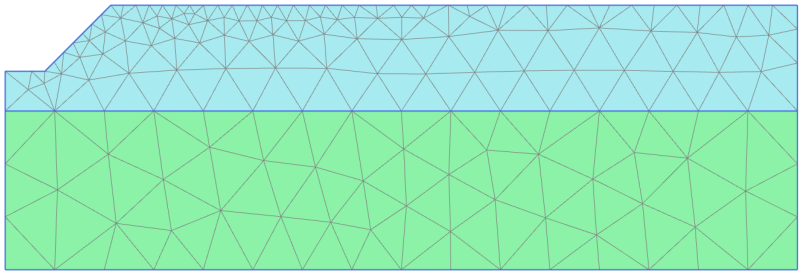


Figure 149: The generated mesh

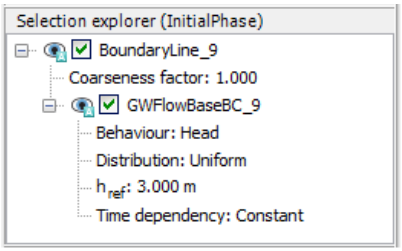
6. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

13.5 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation process consists of two phases. In the initial phase, the groundwater flow in steady state is calculated. In Phase 1, the transient groundwater flow is calculated.

13.5.1 Initial phase

1. Proceed to the **Staged construction** mode. In this project only groundwater flow analysis will be performed.
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Flow only** option as the **Calculation type** in the **General** subtree.
3. The default values of the remaining parameters are valid for this phase. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
4. Right-click the bottom boundary of the model and select the **Activate** option in the appearing menu.
5. In the **Selection explorer** select the **Head** option in the **Behaviour** drop-down menu and set h_{ref} to 3.0.



6. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
7. Expand the **GroundwaterFlow** subtree. Set **BoundaryXMin** and **BoundaryXMax** to **Closed**.
8. Expand the **Water** subtree. The borehole water level is assigned to **GlobalWaterLevel**.

Note: Note that the conditions explicitly assigned to groundwater flow boundaries are taken into account. In this tutorial the specified **Head** will be considered for the bottom boundary of the model, NOT the **Closed** condition specified in the **GroundwaterFlow** subtree under the **Model conditions**.

13.5.2 Transient phase

In the transient phase the time-dependent variation of precipitation is defined.

A discharge function with the following precipitation data will be defined.

Table 29: Precipitation data

ID	Time [days]	Δ Discharge [m^3/day/m]
1	0	0
2	1	0.01
3	2	0.03
4	3	0
5	4	-0.02
6	5	0
7	6	0.01
8	7	0.01
9	8	0
10	9	-0.02
11	10	-0.02
12	11	-0.02
13	12	-0.01
14	13	-0.01
15	14	0
16	15	0

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In **General** subtree of the **Phases** window select the **Transient groundwater flow** as **Pore pressure calculation type**.
3. Set the **Time interval** to 15 days.
4. In the **Numerical control parameters** subtree set the **Max number of steps stored** to 250. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used.

5. Click **OK** to close the **Phases** window.
6. **Note:** To define the precipitation data a discharge function should be defined.

   In the **Model explorer** expand the **Attributes library** subtree.
7. Right-click on **Flow functions** and select the **Edit** option in the appearing menu. The **Flow functions** window pops up.
8. In the **Discharge functions** tabsheet add a new function.
9. Specify a name for the function and select the **Table** option in the **Signal** drop-down menu.
10. Click the **Add row** button to introduce a new row in the table. Complete the data using the values given in the Table 29 (on page 177).
    The following image shows the defined function for precipitation.

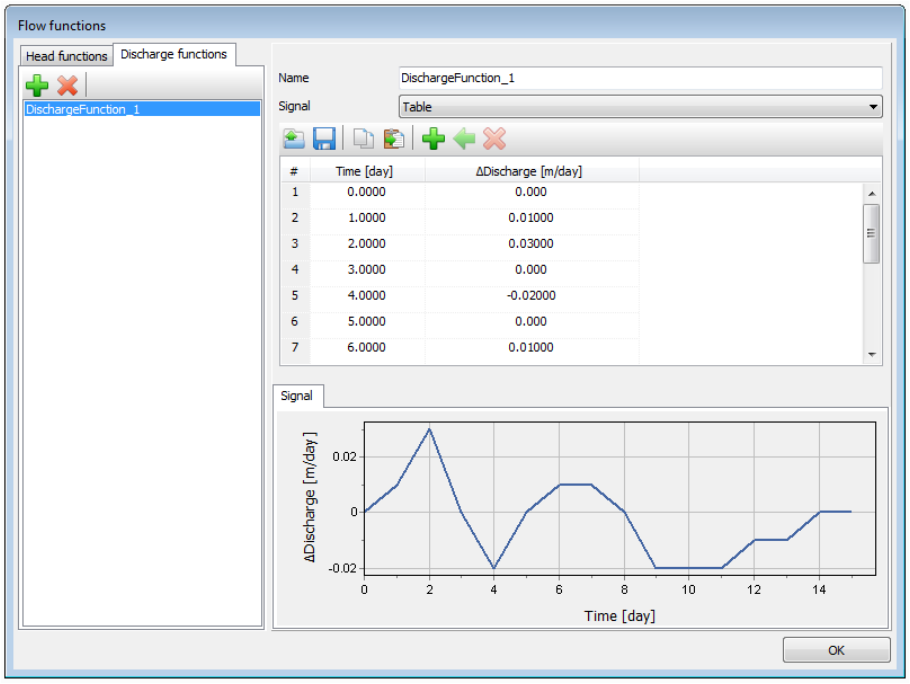


*Figure 150: The **Flow function** window displaying the precipitation data and plot*

11. Close the windows by clicking **OK**.
12. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Precipitation** subtree under **Model conditions** and activate it. The default values for discharge (q) and condition parameters (ψ_{min} = -1.0 m and ψ_{max} = 0.1m) are valid.
13. For the precipitation select the **Time dependent** option in the corresponding drop-down menu and assign the defined function.
14. In the **Model explorer** set DischargeFunction_1 under **Discharge function**.

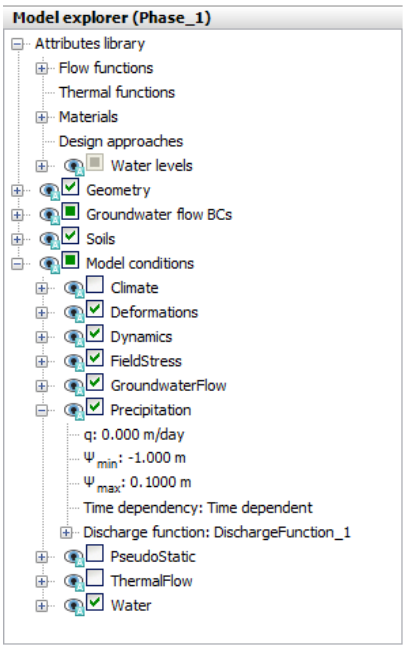


Figure 151: Precipitation in the Model explorer

Note: Negative values of precipitation indicate evaporation.

13.5.3 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
2. Save the project after the calculation has finished.

13.6 Results

The calculation was focused on the time-dependent saturation of the potato field.

To view the results:

1. Click the menu **Stresses** > **Groundwater flow** > **Saturation**.
2. Double click the legend.

   The **Legend settings** window pops up. Define the settings as shown:

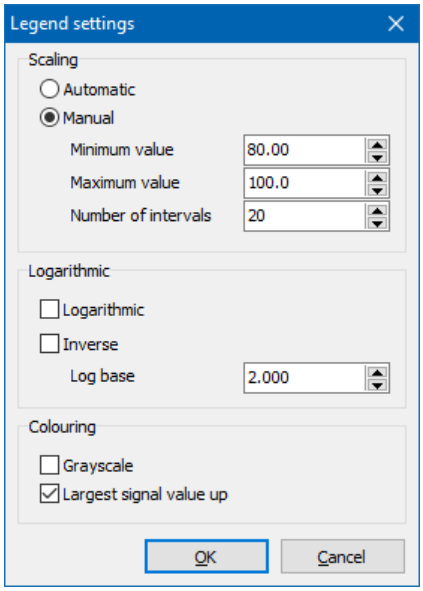


Figure 152: Value for settings

3. The following figure shows the spatial distribution of the saturation for the last time step.

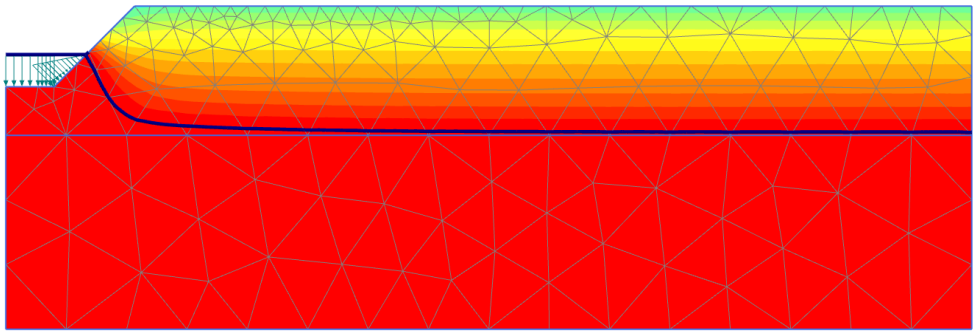


Figure 153: Saturation field at day 15

4. Create an animation of the transient phase for a better visualisation of the results.
5. It is also interesting to create a vertical cross section at x = 4 m and draw cross section curves for pore pressure and saturation.

14 dynamics analysis of a generator on an elastic foundation [ULT]

Using PLAXIS 2D, it is possible to simulate dynamic soil-structure interaction. Here the influence of a vibrating source on its surrounding soil is studied. Oscillations caused by the generator are transmitted through the footing into the subsoil.

The physical damping due to the viscous effects is taken into consideration via the Rayleigh damping. Also, due to axisymmetry 'geometric damping' can be significant in attenuating the vibration.

The modelling of the boundaries is one of the key points. In order to avoid spurious wave reflections at the model boundaries (which do not exist in reality), special conditions have to be applied in order to absorb waves reaching the boundaries.

Objectives

- Defining a **Dynamic** calculation
- Defining dynamic loads
- Defining dynamic boundary conditions (viscous)
- Defining material damping by means of Rayleigh damping

Geometry

The vibrating source is a generator founded on a 0.2 m thick concrete footing of 1 m in diameter.

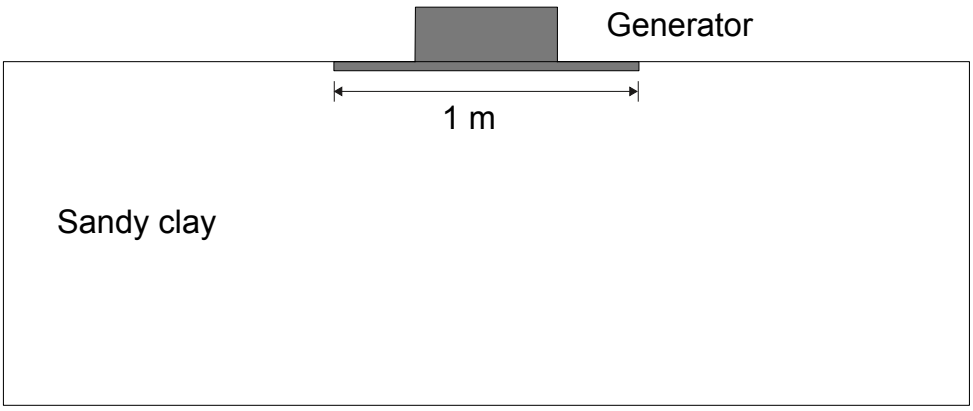


Figure 154: Generator founded on elastic subsoil

14.1 Create new project

To create the new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick select** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. Due to the three dimensional nature of the problem, an axisymmetric model is used. In the **Model** tabsheet select the **Axisymmetric** option for **Model** and keep the default option for **Elements** (**15-Noded**).
4. Keep the default values for units and constants and set the model contour to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 20 m, y_{min} = -10 m and y_{max} = 0 m.

Note: The model boundaries should be sufficiently far from the region of interest, to avoid disturbances due to possible reflections. Although special measures are adopted in order to avoid spurious reflections (viscous boundaries), there is always a small influence and it is still a good habit to put boundaries far away. In a dynamics analysis, model boundaries are generally taken further away than in a static analysis.

14.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The subsoil consists of one layer with a depth of 10 m. The ground level is defined at y = 0. Note that water conditions are not considered in this example. To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
2. Create a soil layer extending from ground surface (y = 0) to a depth of 10 m (y = -10).
3. Keep the **Head** in the borehole at 0 m. This means that the sub-soil is fully saturated.

14.3 Create and assign material data sets

The soil layer consists of sandy clay, which is assumed to be elastic. Create a data set under the **Soil and interfaces** set type according to the information given in Table 30 (on page 183). The specified Young's modulus seems relatively high. This is because the dynamic stiffness of the ground is generally considerably larger than the static stiffness, since dynamic loadings are usually fast and cause very small strains.

Table 30: Material properties of the material

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
General			
Material model	Model	Linear elastic	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	20	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	kN/m^3
Parameters			
Stiffness	E'	$50 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.3	-
Initial			
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	-
Lateral earth pressure coefficient	$K_{0,x}$	0.50	-

Note: When using Mohr-Coulomb or linear elastic models the wave velocities V_p and V_s are calculated from the elastic parameters and the soil weight. V_p and $V_s$can also be entered as input; the elastic parameters are then calculated automatically. See also Elastic parameters and the Wave Velocity relationships in the *Parameters Tabsheet* of the Reference Manual.

14.4 Define the structural elements

The generator is defined in the **Structures** mode.

The material properties of the footing are defined in the table below.

Table 31: Material properties of the footing

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA	$7.6 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m
Flexural rigidity	EI	$24 \cdot 10^3$	kNm^2/m

Parameter	Name	Value	Unit
Weight	w	5	kN/m/m
Poisson's ration	ν	0	-

1. Create a plate extending from (0 0) to (0.5 0) to represent the footing.
2. Define a material data set for the footing according to the information given in Table 31 (on page 183). The footing is assumed to be elastic and has a weight of 5 kN/m^2.
3. Apply a distributed load on the footing to model the weight of the generator as well as the vibrations that it produces. The actual value of the load will be defined later.
   The model is shown below:

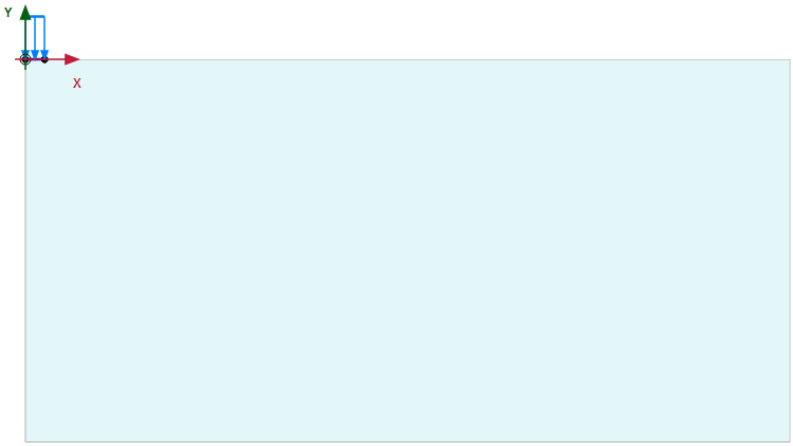


Figure 155: Model layout

14.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. Use the default option for the **Element distribution** parameter (**Medium**).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
   The resulting mesh is shown. Note that the mesh is automatically refined under the footing.

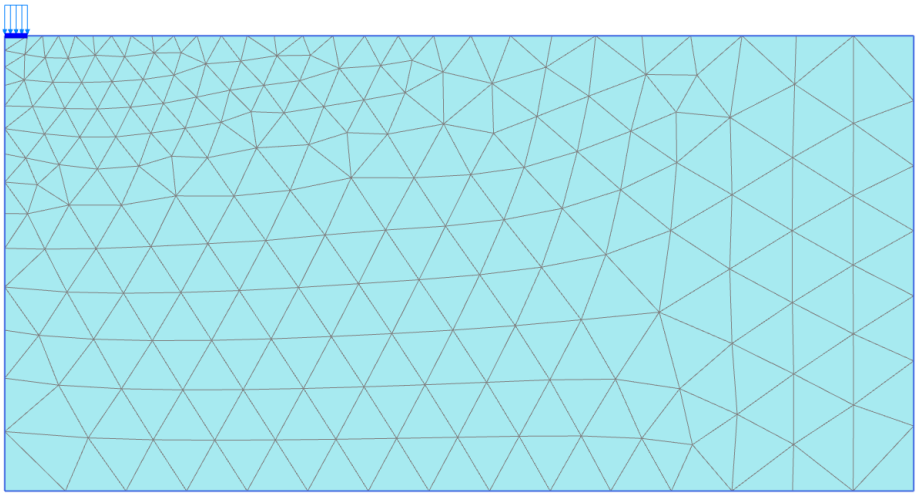


Figure 156: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

14.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation consists of 4 phases and it will be defined in the **Staged construction** mode.

14.6.1 Initial phase

1. Click the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of the calculation phases.
2. The initial phase has already been introduced. The default settings of the initial phase will be used in this tutorial.

14.6.2 Phase 1: Footing

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase. The default settings of the added phase will be used for this calculation phase.
2. Activate the footing.
3. Activate the static component of the distributed load. In the **Selection explorer** set $q_{y,start,ref}$ value to -8 kN/m/m. Do not activate the dynamic component of the load.

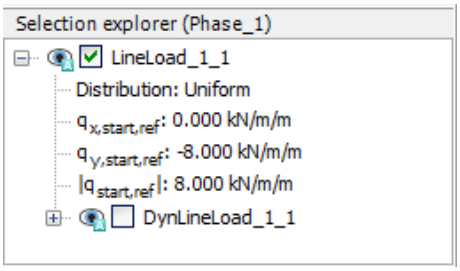


*Figure 157: Specification of the static load component in the **Selection explorer***

14.6.3 Phase 2: Start generator

In this phase, a vertical harmonic load, with a frequency of 10 Hz and amplitude of 10 kN/m^2, is applied to simulate the vibrations transmitted by the generator. Five cycles with a total time interval of 0.5 sec are considered.

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree in the **Phases** window, select the **Dynamic** option as calculation type.
3. Set the **Dynamic time interval** parameter to 0.5 s.
4. In the **Deformation control parameters** subtree in the **Phases** window select the **Reset displacements to zero** parameter. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used for this calculation phase.
5. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Attributes library** subtree.
6. Right-click the **Dynamic multipliers** subtree and select the **Edit** option from the appearing menu. The **Multipliers** window pops up.
7. Click the **Load multipliers** tab.
8. Click the **Add** button to introduce a multiplier for the loads.
9. Define a **Harmonic** signal with an **Amplitude** of 10, a **Phase** of 0° and a **Frequency** of 10 Hz and as shown:

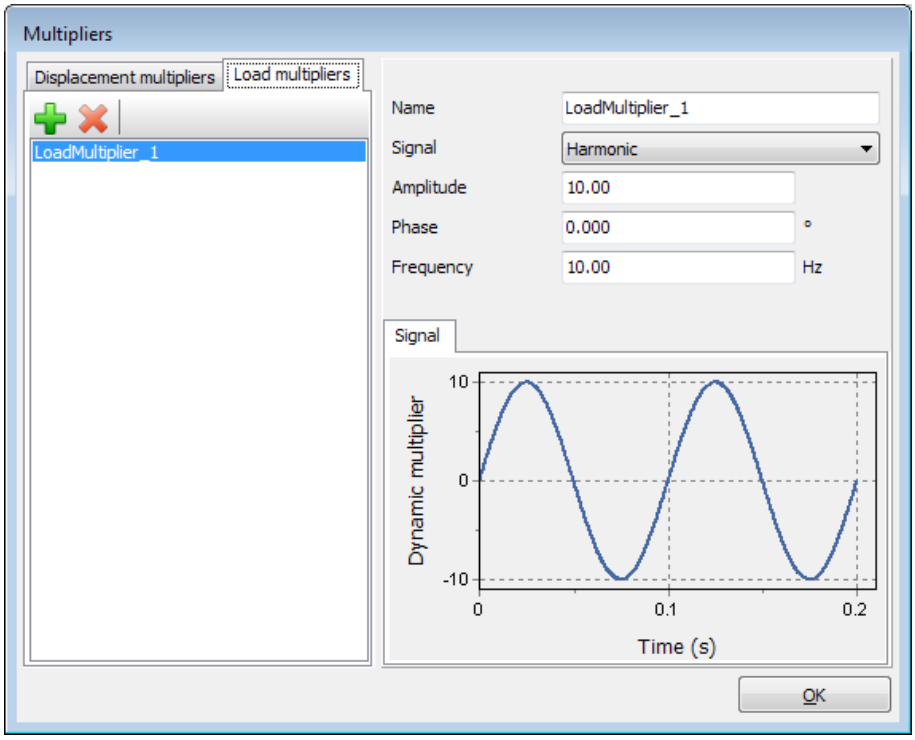


*Figure 158: Definition of a **Harmonic** multiplier*

10. In the **Selection explorer**, activate the dynamic component of the load (DynLineLoad_1).

11. Specify the components of the load as ($q_{x,\,start,\,ref}$, $q_{y,\,start,\,ref}$) = (0.0, -1.0). Click Multiplier_y in the dynamic load subtree and select the LoadMultiplier_1 option from the drop-down menu.

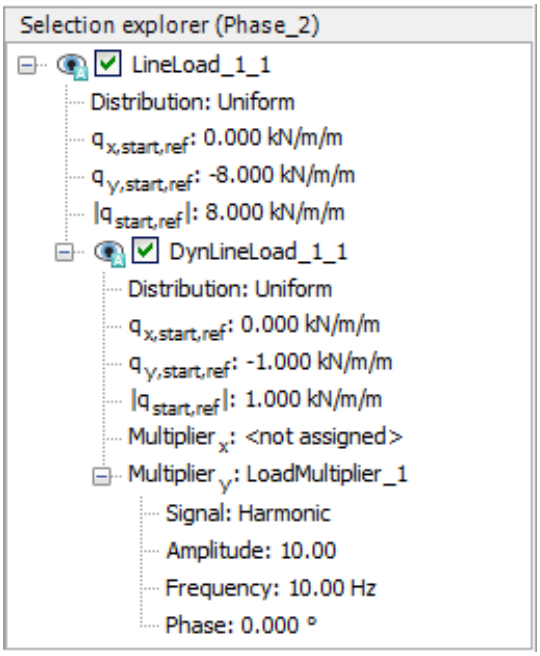


*Figure 159: Specification of the dynamic load component in the **Selection explorer***

Note: The dynamic multipliers can be defined in the **Geometry** modes as well as in the **Calculation** modes.

12. Special boundary conditions have to be defined to account for the fact that in reality the soil is a semi-infinite medium. Without these special boundary conditions the waves would be reflected on the model boundaries, causing perturbations. To avoid these spurious reflections, viscous boundaries are specified at Xmax and Ymin. The dynamic boundaries can be specified in the **Model explorer** > **Model conditions** > **Dynamics** subtree.

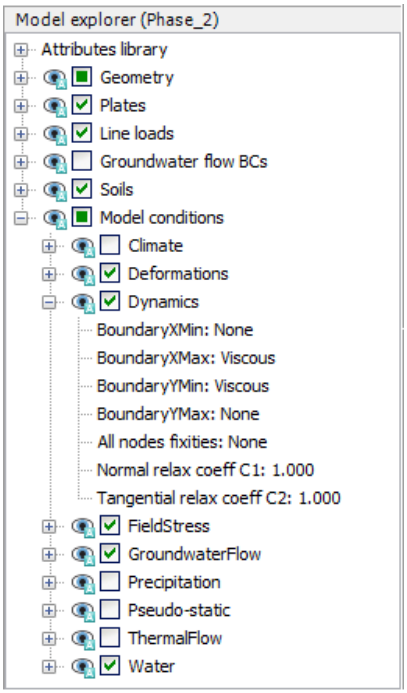


*Figure 160: Boundary conditions for **dynamics calculations***

14.6.4 Phase 3: Stop generator

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree in the **Phases** window, select the **Dynamic** option as calculation type.
3. Set the **Dynamic time interval** parameter to 0.5 s.
4. In the **Staged construction** mode deactivate the dynamic component of the surface load. Note that the static load is still active. The dynamic boundary conditions of this phase should be the same as in the previous phase.

14.6.5 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar and select nodes located at the ground surface, for instance at (1.4 0), (1.9 0) and (3.6 0), to consider in curves.
2. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
3. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the Save button.

14.6.6 Additional calculation with damping

In a second calculation, material damping is introduced by means of Rayleigh damping. Rayleigh damping can be entered in the material data set. The following steps are necessary:

1. Save the project under another name.
2. Open the material data set of the soil.
3. In the **General** tabsheet click the box next to the **Rayleigh α** parameter.
   Note that the display of the **General** tabsheet has changed displaying the **Single DOF equivalence** box.
4. In order to introduce 5% of material damping, set the value of the **ξ** parameter to 5% for both targets and set the frequency values to 1 and 10 for the **Target 1** and **Target 2** respectively.
5. Click on one of the definition cells of the Rayleigh parameters. The values of **α** and **β** are automatically calculated by the program.

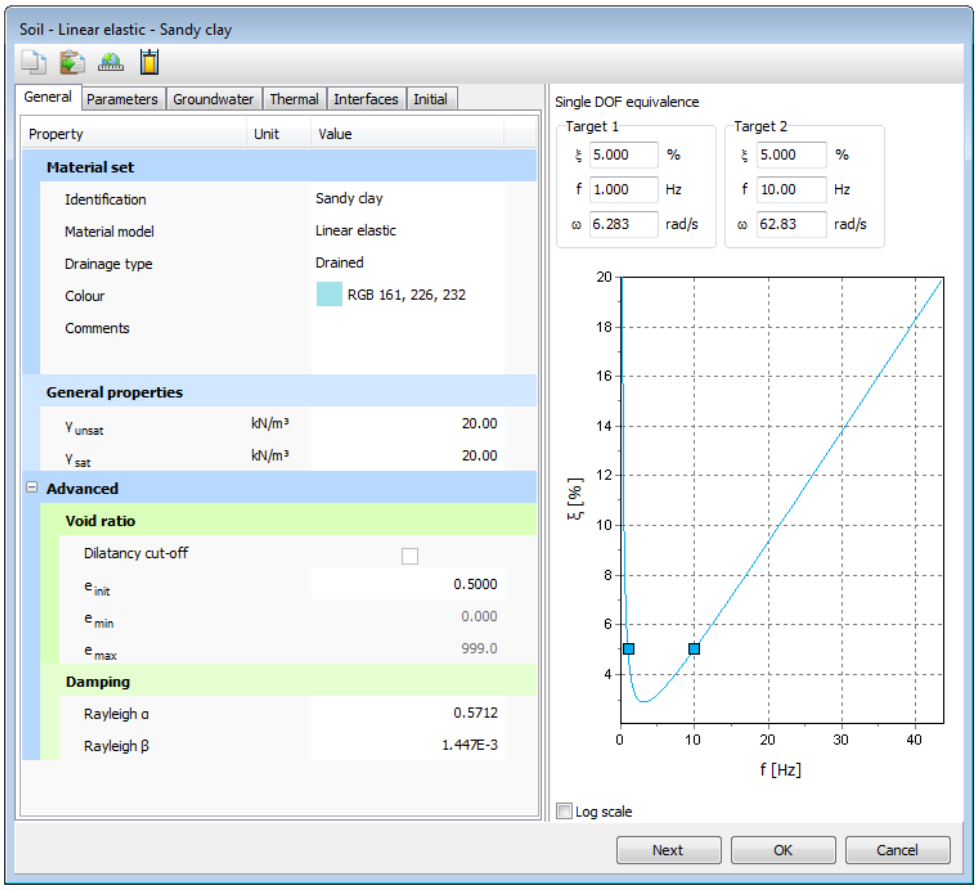


Figure 161: Input of Rayleigh damping

6. Click **OK** to close the data base.
7. Check whether the phases are properly defined (according to the information given before) and start the calculation.

14.7 Results

The **Curve generator** feature is particularly useful for dynamics analysis. You can easily display the actual loading versus time (input) and also displacements, velocities and accelerations of the pre-selected points versus time. The evolution of the defined multipliers with time can be plotted by assigning **Dynamic time** to the x-axis and u_y to the y-axis.

The figure below shows the response of the pre-selected points at the surface of the structure. It can be seen that even with no damping, the waves are dissipated which can be attributed to the geometric damping.

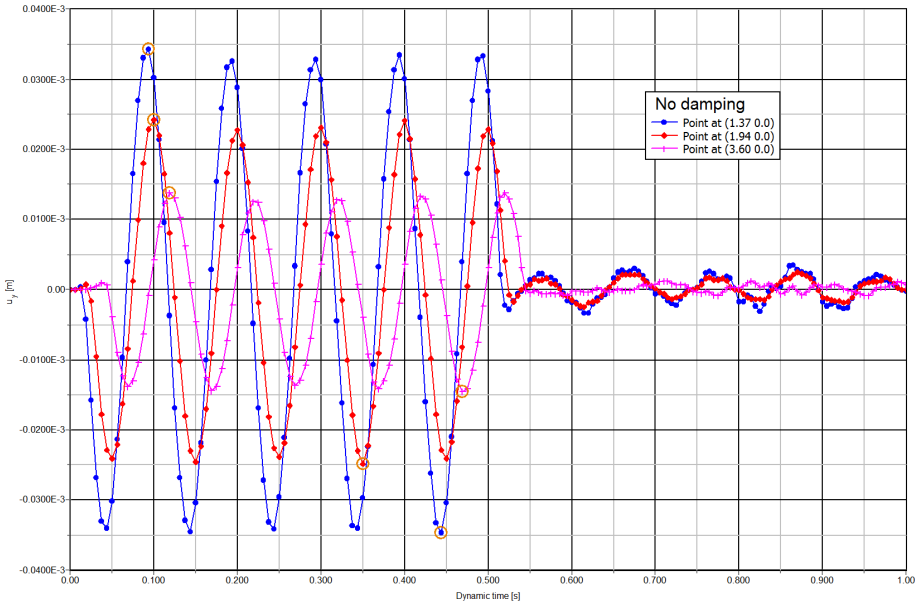


Figure 162: Vertical displ.- time on the surface at different distances to the vibrating source (without damping)

The presence of damping is clear in the following figure.

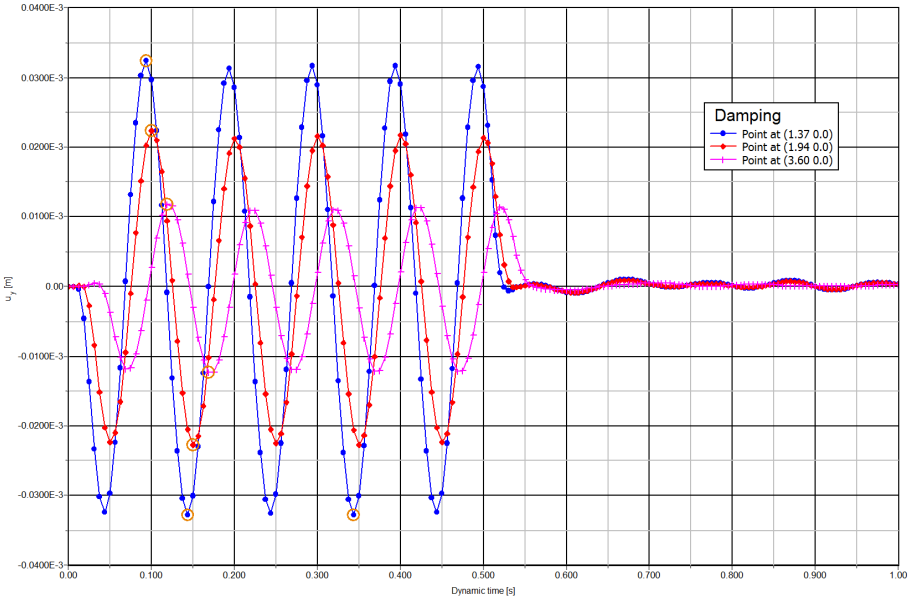


Figure 163: Vertical displ.- time on the surface at different distances to the vibrating source (with damping)

It can be seen that the vibration is totally seized when some time is elapsed after the removal of the force (at t = 0.5 s). Also, the displacement amplitudes are lower. Compare the curves without and with damping.

It is possible in the Output program to display displacements, velocities and accelerations at a particular time, by choosing the appropriate option in the **Deformations** menu. The figure below shows the total accelerations in the soil at the end of phase 2 (t = 0.5 s).

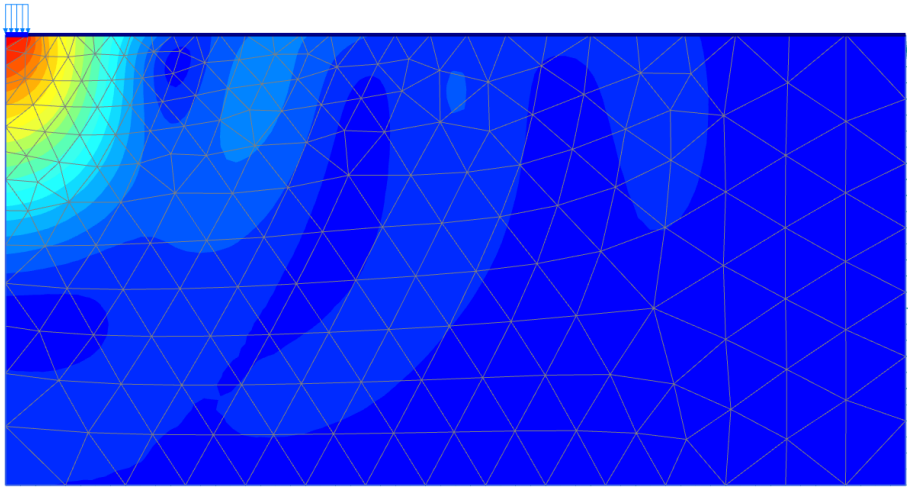


*Figure 164: Acceleration (**|a|**) in the soil at the end of phase 2 (with damping)*

15 Pile driving [ULT]

Pile driving is a dynamic process that causes vibrations in the surrounding soil. Moreover, excess pore pressures are generated due to the quick stress increase around the pile.

In this example focus is put on the irreversible deformations below the pile. In order to simulate this process most realistically, the behaviour of the sand layer is modelled by means of the Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffness.

Geometry

This example involves driving a concrete pile through an 11 m thick clay layer into a sand layer. The pile has a diameter of 0.4 m.

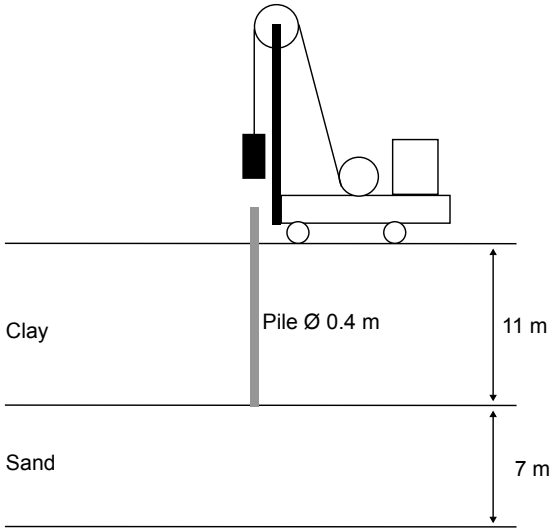


Figure 165: Pile driving situation

15.1 Create new project

To create the new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.

3. In the **Model** tabsheet select the **Axisymmetry** option for **Model** and keep the default option for **Elements** (**15-Noded**).
4. Keep the default values for units and constants and set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = 0 m, x_{max} = 30 m, y_{min} = 0 m and y_{max} = 18 m.

15.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The subsoil is divided into an 11 m thick clay layer and a 7 m thick sand layer. The phreatic level is assumed to be at the ground surface. Hydrostatic pore pressures are generated in the whole geometry according to this phreatic line. To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
2. Create two soil layers extending from y = 18 to y = 7 and from y = 7 to y = 0.
3. Set the **Head** in the borehole at 18 m.

15.3 Create and assign material data sets

The clay layer is modelled with the Mohr-Coulomb model. The behaviour is considered to be **Undrained (B)**. An interface strength reduction factor is used to simulate the reduced friction along the pile shaft.

In order to model the non-linear deformations below the tip of the pile in a right way, the sand layer is modelled by means of the Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnessmall. Because of the fast loading process, the sand layer is also considered to behave undrained. The short interface in the sand layer does not represent soil-structure interaction. As a result, the interface strength reduction factor should be taken equal to unity (rigid).

The layers have the following properties:

Table 32: Material properties of the clay layer and the pile

Parameter	Name	Clay	Pile	Unit
General				
Material model	Model	Mohr-Coulomb	Linear elastic	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Undrained (B)	Non-porous	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	24	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	18	-	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Young's modulus (constant)	E'	$5.0 \cdot 10^3$	$30 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m^2

Parameter	Name	Clay	Pile	Unit
Poisson's ratio	ν'	0.3	0.1	-
Cohesion	c'_{ref}	-	-	kN/m^2
Undrained shear strength	$s_{u,ref}$	5.0	-	kN/m^2
Young's modulus increment	E'_{inc}	$1.0 \cdot 10^3$	-	kN/m^2
Reference level	y_{ref}	18	-	m
Undrained shear strength increment	$s_{u,inc}$	3	-	kN/m^2
Reference level	y_{ref}	18	-	m
Interface				
Interface strength type	Type	Manual	Rigid	-
Interface strength	R_{inter}	0.5	1.0	-
Initial				
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	-
Lateral earth pressure coefficient	$K_{0,x}$	0.5000	0.5000	-

Table 33: Material properties of the sand layer

Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
General			
Material model	Model	HS small	-
Type of material behaviour	Type	Undrained (A)	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	17	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	kN/m^3
Parameters			
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$50 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$50 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$150 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	-

Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
Cohesion	c'_{ref}	0	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	31	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	°
Shear strain at which $G_s = 0.722\ G_0$	$\gamma_{0.7}$	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-
Shear modulus at very small strains	G_0^{ref}	$120 \cdot 10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν_{ur}	0.2	-
Interface			
Interface strength	-	Rigid	-
Initial			
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	-

1. Create the material data sets according to Table 32 (on page 194) and Create and assign material data sets (on page 194)

15.4 Define the structural elements

The pile is defined as a column of 0.2 m width. The **Interface** elements are placed along the pile to model the interaction between the pile and the soil. The interface should be extended to about half a meter into the sand layer. Note that the interface should be defined only at the side of the soil. A proper modelling of the pile-soil interaction is important to include the material damping caused by the sliding of the soil along the pile during penetration and to allow for sufficient flexibility around the pile tip.

Note: Use the **Zoom in** feature to create the pile and the interface.

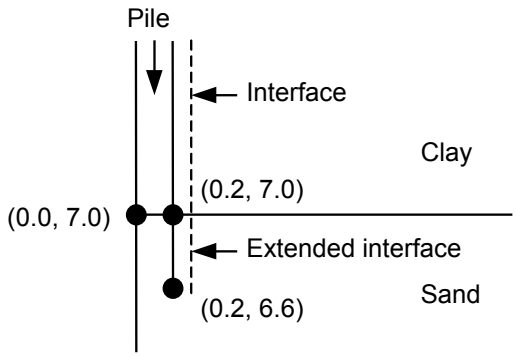


Figure 166: Extended interface

15.4.1 Define the pile

To define the concrete pile:

1. Click the **Structures** tab to proceed with the input of structural elements in the **Structures** mode.
2. Select the **Create line** feature in the side toolbar and draw a line from (0.2 6.6) to (0.2 18).
3. Assign a negative interface to the line to model the interaction of the pile with the surrounding soil.

   The pile is made of concrete, which is modelled by means of the linear elastic model considering non-porous behaviour. In the beginning, the pile is not present, so initially the clay properties are present in the area the represents the pile.

15.4.2 Define a load

In order to model the driving force, a distributed unit load is created on top of the pile. To create a dynamic load:

1. Define a distributed load by clicking on **Create load** > **Create line load** from the tool bar and then on (0 18.0) and (0.2 18.0).
2. The load components will be defined in the **Selection explorer**. Note that the static component of the load will not be used in this project. The program will neglect the static components of the load if it (static load) is not activated.
3. Expand the **Dynamic load** subtree and specify a unit load in the gravity direction.
4. Click the Multiplier_y drop down menu and click on the appearing plus button .
   The **Multipliers** window pops up and a new load multiplier is automatically added.
5. Define a **Harmonic** signal with an **Amplitude** of 5000, a **Phase** of 0° and a **Frequency** of 50 Hz and as shown in the figure below. During the pile driving phase, we will only consider half a cycle (0.01 s) of this signal.

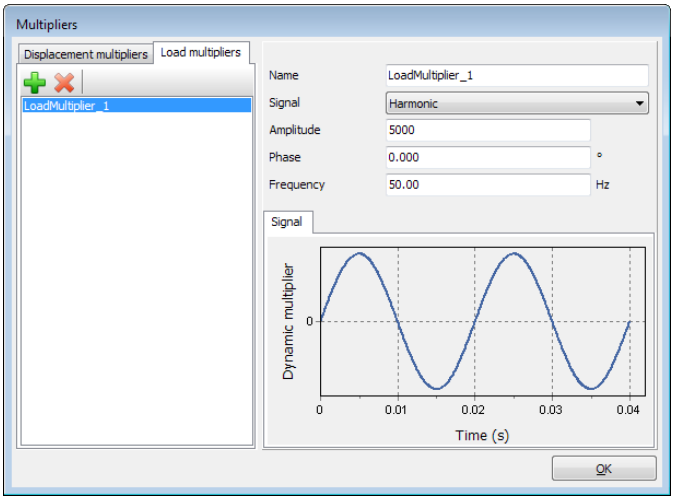


Figure 167: Definition of an Harmonic multiplier

Note:

Note that dynamic multipliers can be defined by right-clicking the **Dynamic multipliers** subtree under **Attributes library** in the **Model explorer**.

Note that dynamic multipliers are attributes and as such it is possible to define them in all the program's modes.

The final geometry model is shown in the following figure:

Figure 168: The geometry model

15.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. Use the default option for the **Element distribution** parameter (**Medium**).
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
   The resulting mesh is shown. Note that the mesh is automatically refined under the footing.

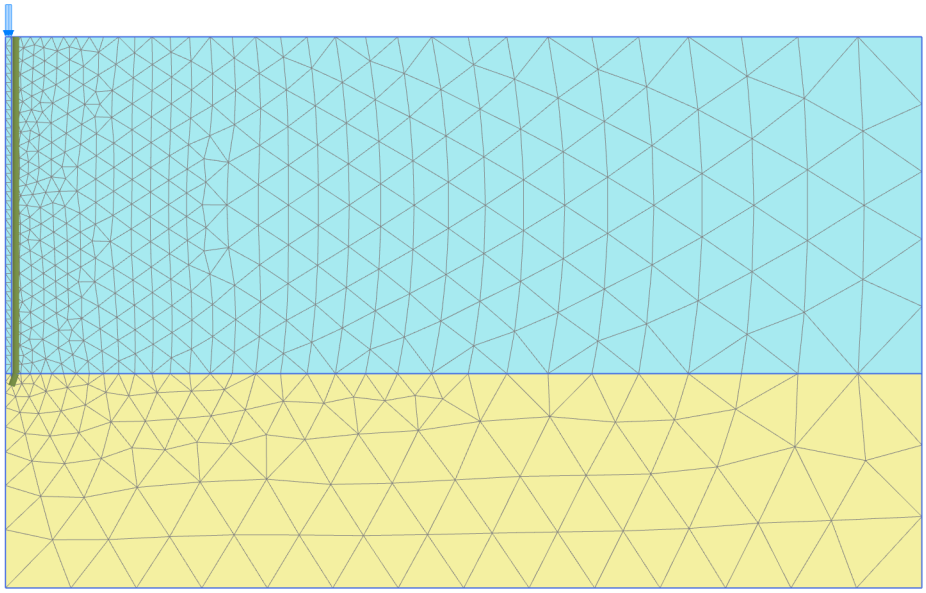


Figure 169: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

15.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation consists of 3 phases. In the Initial phase, the initial stress conditions are generated. In the Phase 1 the pile is created. In the Phase 2 the pile is subjected to a single stroke, which is simulated by activating half a harmonic cycle of load. In the Phase 3 the load is kept zero and the dynamic response of the pile and soil is analysed in time. The last two phases involve dynamics calculations.

15.6.1 Initial phase

Initial effective stresses are generated by the **K0 procedure**, using the default values. Note that in the initial situation the pile does not exist and that the clay properties should be assigned to the corresponding cluster. The phreatic level is assumed to be at the ground surface. Hydrostatic pore pressures are generated in the whole geometry according to this phreatic line.

15.6.2 Phase 1: Pile activation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree in the **Phases** window, the **Plastic** option is selected as **Calculation type**.
3. The **Staged construction** option is by default selected as **Loading type**.
4. In the **Staged construction** mode assign the pile properties to the pile cluster.
5. Activate the interface in the **Clay** layer only. The model for the Phase 1 in the **Staged construction** mode is displayed below.

*Figure 170: Configuration of Phase 1 in the **Staged construction** mode*

15.6.3 Phase 2: Pile driving

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree in the **Phases** window, select the **Dynamic** option as **Calculation type**.
3. Set the **Dynamic time interval** to 0.01 s.
4. In the **Deformation control parameters** subtree select **Reset displacements to zero**.
5. In the **Staged construction** mode activate the dynamic component of the distributed load.
   The activated dynamic component of the load in **Selection explorer** is shown in the figure below.

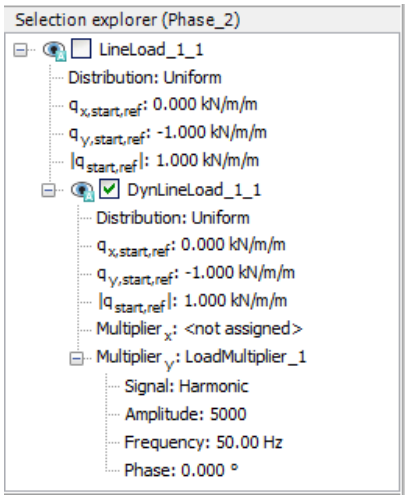


*Figure 171: The dynamic load component in the **Selection explorer***

6. Expand the subtree **Model explorer** > **Model conditions** > **Dynamics**.

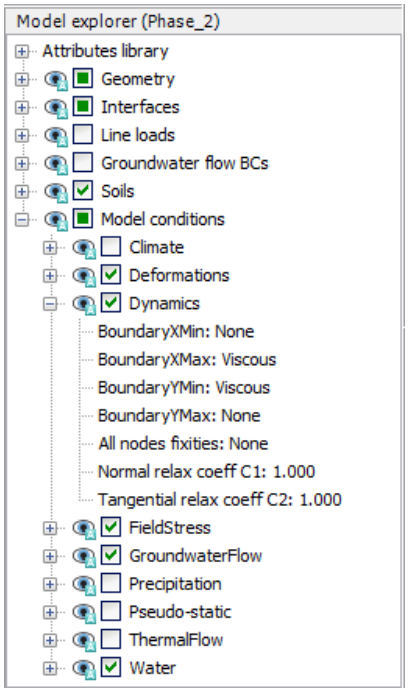


*Figure 172: Boundary conditions for **dynamics calculations***

7. Specify viscous boundaries at x_{max} and y_{min}.

The result of this phase is half a harmonic cycle of the external load. At the end of this phase, the load is back to zero.

15.6.4 Phase 3: Fading

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. In the **General** subtree in the **Phases** window, select the **Dynamic** option as **Calculation type**.
3. Set the **Dynamic time interval** to 0.19 s.
4. In the **Staged construction** mode de-activate the dynamic load.

15.6.5 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar and select a node at the top of the pile for load displacement curves.
2. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
3. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the **Save** button.

15.7 Results

Figure 173 (on page 203) shows the settlement of the pile (top point) versus time. From this figure the following observations can be made:

- The maximum vertical settlement of the pile top due to this single stroke is almost 14 mm. However, the final settlement is about 9.5 mm.
- Most of the settlement occurs in phase 3 after the stroke has ended. This is due to the fact that the compression wave is still propagating downwards in the pile, causing additional settlements.
- Despite the absence of Rayleigh damping, the vibration of the pile is damped due to soil plasticity and the fact that wave energy is absorbed at the model boundaries.

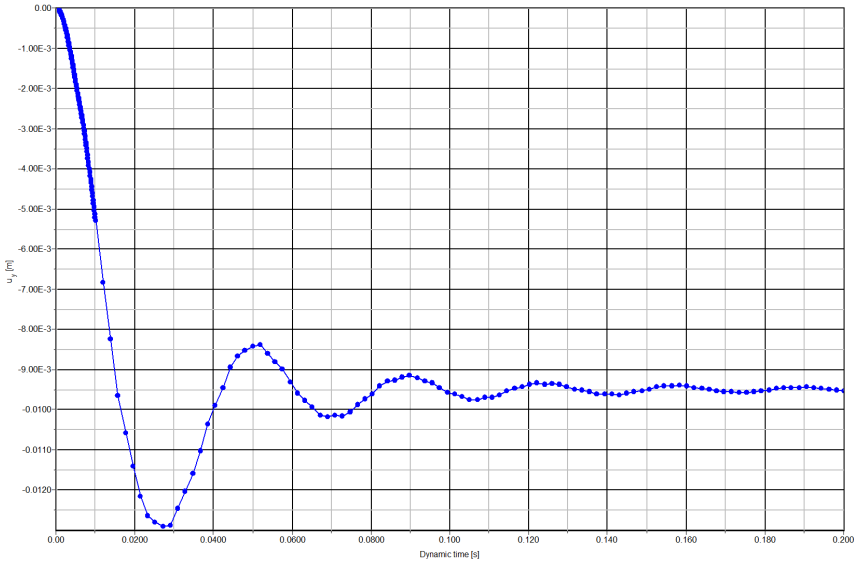


Figure 173: Pile settlement vs. time

When looking at the output of the second calculation phase (t = 0.01 s, i.e. just after the stroke), it can be seen that large excess pore pressures occur very locally around the pile tip. This reduces the shear strength of the soil and contributes to the penetration of the pile into the sand layer. The excess pore pressures remain also in the third phase since consolidation is not considered.

Figure 174 (on page 203) shows the shear stresses in the interface elements at t = 0.01 s. The plot shows that the maximum shear stress is reached all along the pile, which indicates that the soil is sliding along the pile.

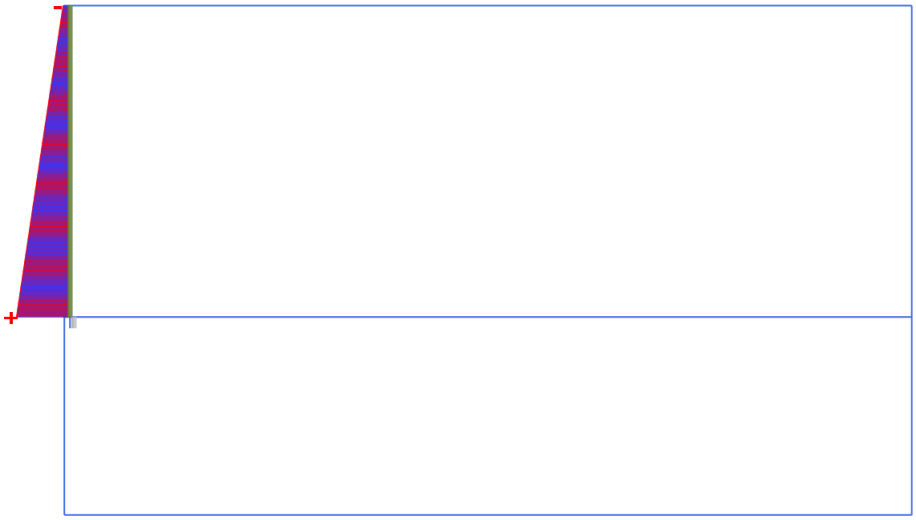


Figure 174: Maximum shear stresses in the interface at t = 0.01 s

When looking at the deformed mesh of the last calculation phase (t = 0.2 s), it can also be seen that the final settlement of the pile is about 9.5 mm. In order to see the whole dynamic process it is suggested to use the

option **Create Animation** to view a 'movie' of the deformed mesh in time. You may notice that the first part of the animation is slower than the second part.

16

Free vibration and earthquake analysis of a building [ULT]

This example demonstrates the natural frequency of a five-storey building when subjected to free vibration and earthquake loading. The two calculations employ different dynamic boundary conditions:

- In the free vibration, the **Viscous** boundary conditions are considered. This option is suitable for problems where the dynamic source is inside the mesh.
- For the earthquake loading, the **Free-field** and **Compliant base** boundary conditions are considered. This option is preferred for earthquake analysis, where the dynamic input is applied at the bottom of the model.

Objectives

- Performing a **Dynamic** calculation
- Defining dynamic boundary conditions (free-field, compliant base and viscous)
- Defining earthquakes by means of dynamic multipliers
- Modelling free vibration of structures
- Modelling hysteretic behaviour by means of Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnessmall
- Evaluating the natural frequency from Fourier spectrum

Geometry

The building consists of 5 floors and a basement. It is 10 m wide and 17 m high including basement. The total height from the ground level is 5 x 3 m = 15 m and the basement is 2 m deep. A value of 5 kN/m^2 is taken as the weight of the floors and the walls. The building is constructed on a rather loose sand of 15 m depth underlain by a deep denser sand layer. In the model, 25 m of the deep sand layer will be considered.

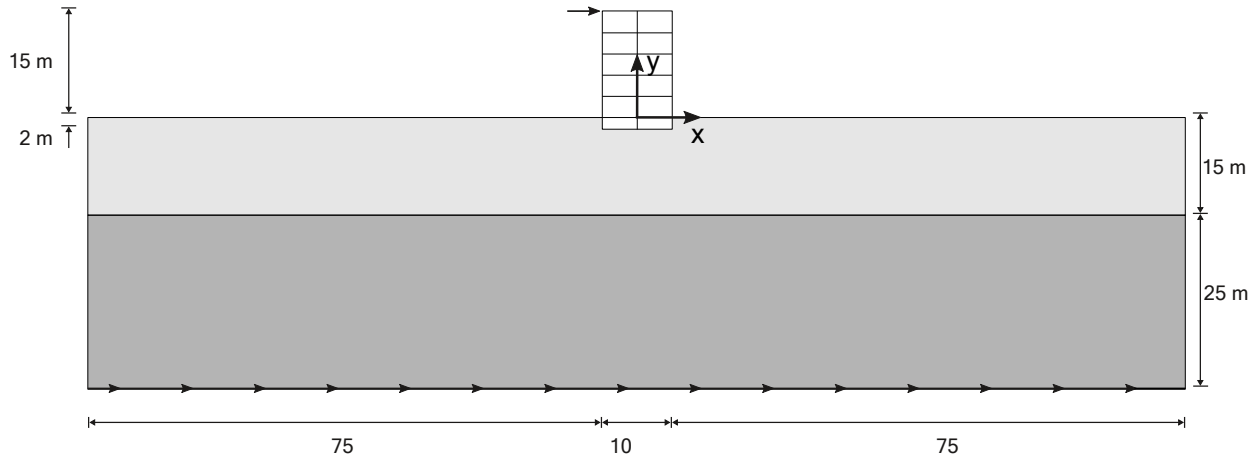


Figure 175: Geometry of the project

16.1 Create new project

To create the new project, follow these steps:

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet keep the default options for **Model** (**Plane strain**) and **Elements** (**15-Noded**).
4. Keep the default units and constants and set the model **Contour** to x_{min} = -80 m, x_{max} = 80 m, y_{min} = -40 m and y_{max} = 15 m.

16.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

The subsoil is divided into a 15 m thick rather loose sand layer and a 25 m thick medium dense sand layer. The phreatic level is assumed to be at y = -15 m. Hydrostatic pore pressures are generated in the whole geometry according to this phreatic line.

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Add two soil layers extending from y = 0 to y = -15 and from y = -15 to y = -40.
3. Set the **Head** in the borehole at -15 m.

16.3 Create and assign material data sets

The upper layer consists of rather loose sand and the lower one is a medium dense sand. Both have Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnessmall properties. The presence of the groundwater is neglected. The soil layers with Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnessmall properties have inherent hysteretic damping.

- Open the **Material sets** window.
- Create data sets under **Soil and interfaces** set type according to the information given in Table 34 (on page 207).
- Assign the material datasets to the corresponding soil layers in the borehole.

Table 34: Material properties

Parameter	Name	Upper sand layer	Lower sand layer	Unit
General				
Material model	-	HS small	HS small	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Drained	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	16	20	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20	20	kN/m^3
Parameters				
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$20{\cdot}10^3$	$30{\cdot}10^3$	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$26{\cdot}10^3$	$36{\cdot}10^3$	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$95{\cdot}10^3$	$110{\cdot}10^3$	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	0.5	-
Cohesion	c'_{ref}	10	5	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	31	28	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0	0	°
Shear strain at which $G_s = 0.722\ G_0$	$\gamma_{0.7}$	$0.15{\cdot}10^{-3}$	$0.1{\cdot}10^{-3}$	-
Shear modulus at very small strains	G_0^{ref}	$270{\cdot}10^3$	$100{\cdot}10^3$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν'_{ur}	0.2	0.2	-

When subjected to cyclic shear loading, the Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnesswill show typical hysteretic behaviour. Starting from the small-strain shear stiffness, G_0^{ref}, the actual stiffness will decrease with increasing shear. The figures below display the Modulus reduction curves, i.e. the decay of the shear modulus

with strain. The upper curve shows the secant shear modulus and the lower curve shows the tangent shear modulus.

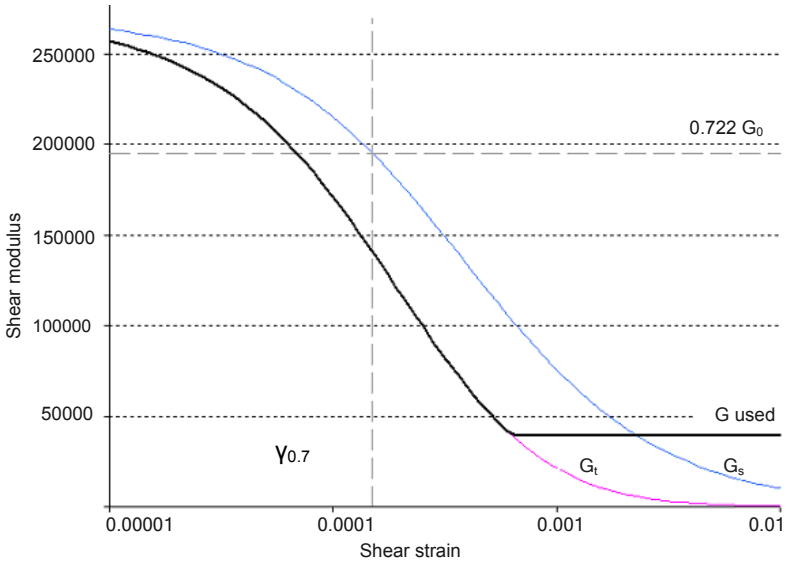


Figure 176: Modulus reduction curves for the upper sand layer

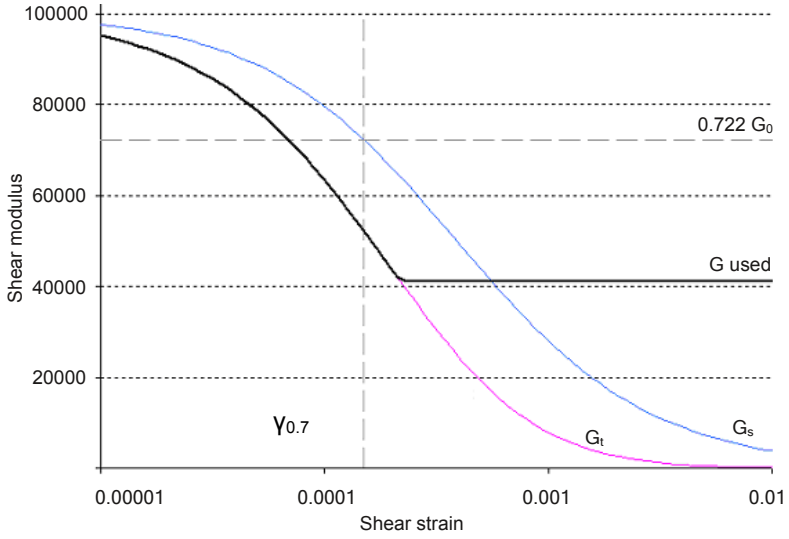


Figure 177: Modulus reduction curve for the lower sand layer

In the Hardening Soil model with small-strain stiffnessmall, the tangent shear modulus is bound by a lower limit, G_{ur}.

$$G_{ur} = \frac{E_{ur}}{2\,(1 + \nu_{ur})}$$

The values of G_{ur}^{ref} for the **Upper sand layer** and **Lower sand layer** and the ratio to G_0^{ref} are shown in the table below. This ratio determines the maximum damping ratio that can be obtained.

Table 35: G_{ur} values and ratio to G_0^{ref}

Parameter	Upper sand layer	Lower sand layer	Unit
G_{ur}	39517	41167	kN/m^2
G_0^{ref}/G_{ur}	6.75	2.5	-

The figures below show the damping ratio as a function of the shear strain for the material used in the model. A more detailed description about the modulus reduction curve to the damping curve can be found in the literature.[6]

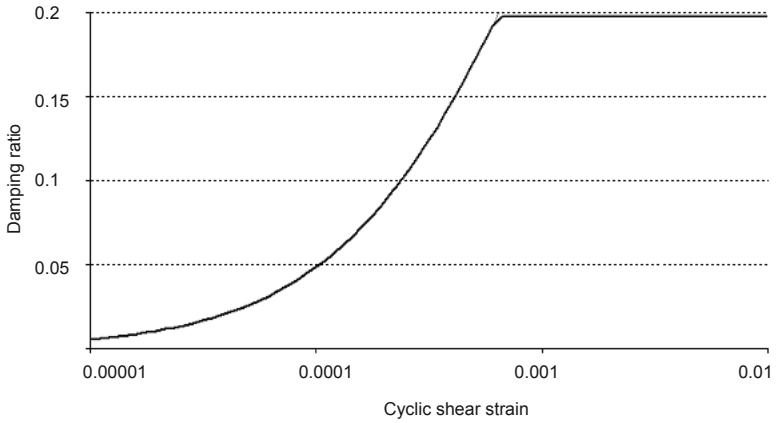


Figure 178: Damping curve for the upper sand layer

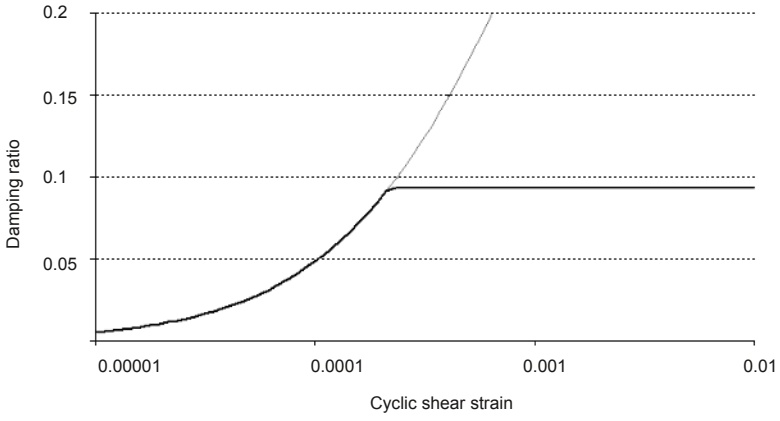


Figure 179: Damping curve for the lower sand layer

[6] Brinkgreve, R.B.J., Kappert, M.H., Bonnier, P.G. (2007). Hysteretic damping in small-strain stiffness model. In Proc. 10th Int. Conf. on Comp. Methods and Advances in Geomechanics. Rhodes, Greece, 737-742.

16.4 Define the structural elements

The structural elements of the model are defined in the **Structures** mode.

16.4.1 Define the building

The building consists of 5 floors and a basement. It is 10 m wide and 17 m high including the basement. A value of 5 kN/m^2 is taken as the weight of the floors and the walls. The total height from the ground level is 5 x 3 m = 15 m and the basement is 2 m deep.

The plates, representing the walls and the floors in the building, are considered to be linear elastic. Note that two different material datasets are used, one for the basement and the other for the rest of the building. The physical damping in the building is simulated by means of Rayleigh damping. A description of Rayleigh damping parameters is given in the Reference Manual.

Table 36: Material properties of the building (plate properties)

Parameter	Name	Building	Basement	Unit
Material type	-	Elastic	Elastic	-
Isotropic	-	Yes	Yes	-
Axial stiffness	EA_1	$9 \cdot 10^6$	$12 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m
Bending stiffness	EI	$67.5 \cdot 10^3$	$160 \cdot 10^3$	kNm^2/m
Weight	w	10	20	kN/m/m
Poisson's ratio	ν	0	0	-
Rayleigh α	-	0.2320	0.2320	-
Rayleigh β	-	$8.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-
Prevent punching	-	No	No	-

Table 37: Material properties of the node-to-node anchor

Parameter	Name	Column	Unit
Material type	Type	Elastic	-
Axial stiffness	EA	$2.5 \cdot 10^6$	kN
Out-of-plane spacing	$L_{spacing}$	3	m

1. Use plates to create the vertical walls of the building from (-5 0) to (-5 15) and from (5 0) to (5 15).
2. Again with plates, now define the vertical walls of the basement from (-5 -2) to (-5 0) and from (5 -2) to (5 0).
3. Define the basement and ground level of the building as plates from (-5 -2) to (5 -2) and from (-5 0) to (5 0).
4. Define the floors by copying the basement floor 5 times. To do so, select the basement floor and choose the **Array** button. Now specify that we want to copy it in y-direction, 6 copies (be aware: number of copies includes the original) and an intermediate distance of 3 m.
5. Define the material datasets for the structural elements in the building according to Table 36 (on page 210).
6. Assign the Basement material dataset to the vertical plates (2) and the lowest horizontal plate (all below ground level) in the model.
7. Assign the Building material dataset to the remaining plates in the model.
8. Use the Node-to-node anchor feature to define the column at the centre of the building connecting consecutive floors, hence (0 -2) to (0 0), (0 0) to (0 3), (0 3) to (0 6), (0 6) to (0 9), (0 9) to (0 12) and (0 12) to (0 15). Of course this can also be done by drawing one column and use the Array function to copy the others.
9. Define the properties of the anchor according to Table 37 (on page 210) and assign the material dataset to the anchors in the model.
10. Define an interface to model the interaction between soil and the building.

16.4.2 Define the loads

1. In order to model the driving force, a distributed unit load is created on top of the pile. To create a dynamic load:
   a. Create a point load at the top left corner of the building.
   b. Set $F_{x,ref}$ = 10 kN/m and $F_{y,ref}$ = 0 kN/m.
2. The earthquake is modelled by imposing a prescribed displacement at the bottom boundary. To define the prescribed displacement:
   a. Define a prescribed displacement at the bottom of the model, from (-80 -40) to (80 -40).
   b. Set the x-component of the prescribed displacement to **Prescribed** and assign a value of 1.0. The y-component of the prescribed displacement is **Fixed**. The default distribution (Uniform) should be kept.
3. To define the dynamic multipliers for the prescribed displacement:
   a. Expand the Dynamic displacement.
   b. Click the **Multiplier_x** drop down menu and click on the appearing plus button. The **Multipliers** window pops up and a new displacement multiplier is automatically added.
   c. From the **Signal** drop-down menu select the **Table** option.
   d. The file containing the earthquake data is available in the Bentley Communities: search for the tutorial Free vibration and earthquake analysis of a building. Download the earthquake signal file `225a.smc`.
   e. In the **Multipliers** window click the **Open** button and select the saved .smc file. In the **Import data** window select the **Strong motion CD-ROM files** option from the **Parsing method** drop-down menu and press **OK** to close the window.

f. Select the **Acceleration** option in the **Data type** drop-down menu.

g. Select the **Drift correction** options and click **OK** to finalize the definition of the multiplier. The defined multiplier is displayed:

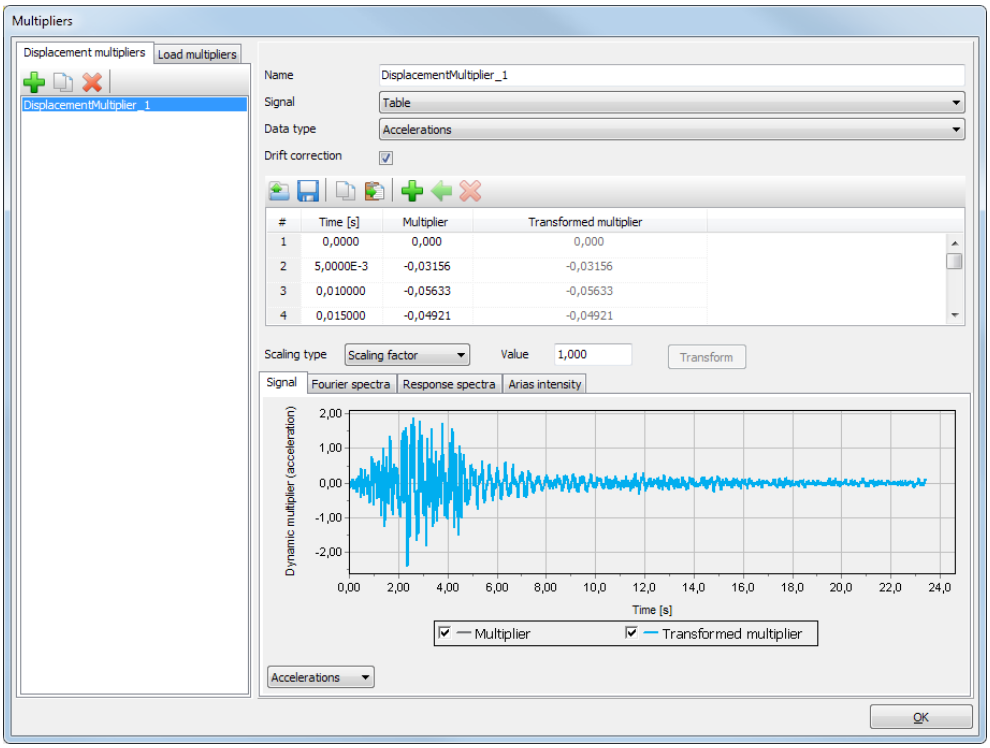


*Figure 180: **Dynamic multipliers** window*

16.4.3 Create interfaces on the boundary

Free-field and Compliant base boundaries require the creation of interface elements along the vertical and bottom boundaries of the model in the Structures mode. The interface elements must be added inside the model, else the Free-field and Compliant base boundary conditions are ignored. To define the interfaces:

1. Click the **Create interfaces on the boundary** button to automatically generate the interfaces at the boundary of the model.

The geometry of the model is shown in the following figure:

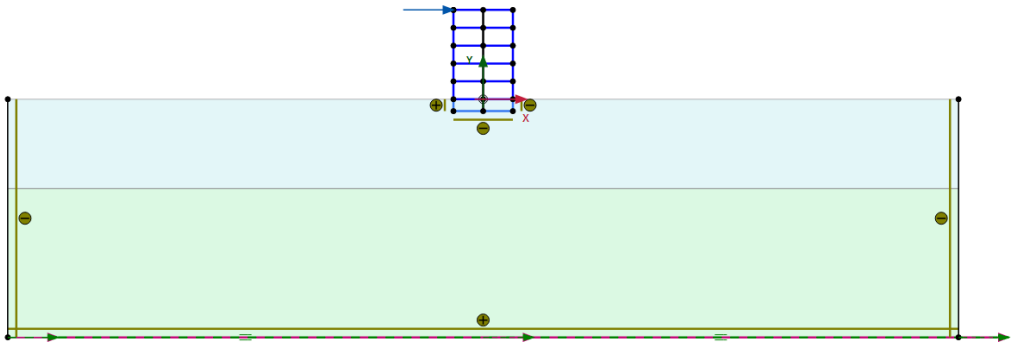


Figure 181: Geometry of the model

16.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. Set the **Element distribution** to **Fine**.
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
   The resulting mesh is shown:

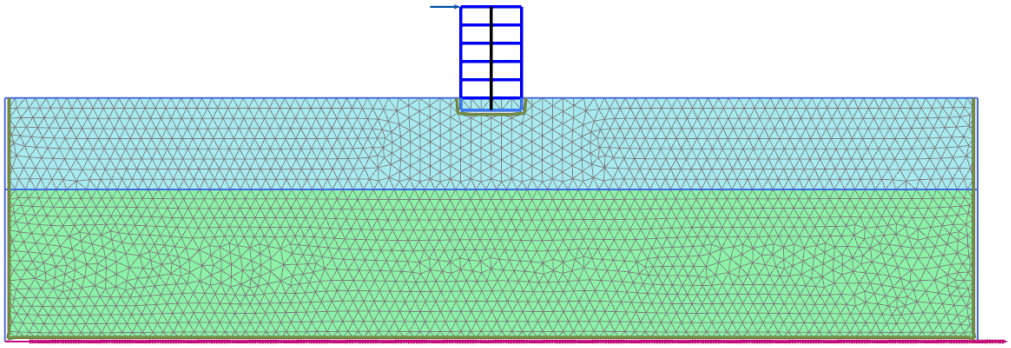


Figure 182: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

16.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculation process consists of the initial conditions phase, simulation of the construction of the building, loading, free vibration analysis and earthquake analysis.

16.6.1 Initial phase

1. Click on the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with definition of the calculation phases.
2. The initial phase has already been introduced. The default settings of the initial phase will be used in this tutorial.
3. In the **Staged construction** mode check that the building and load are inactive.

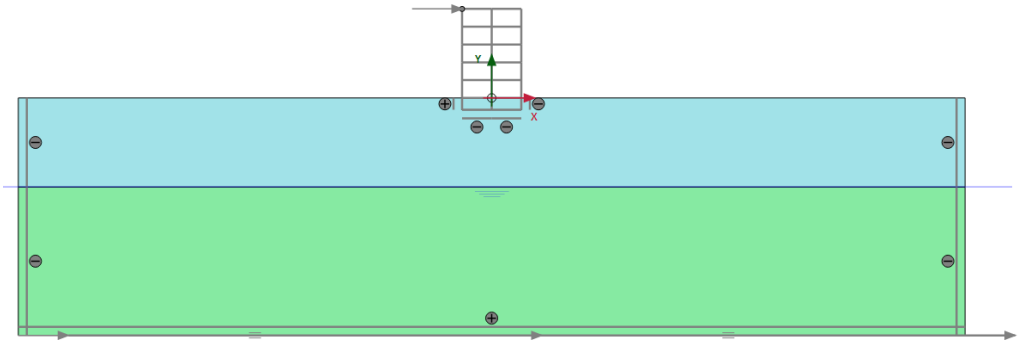


Figure 183: Initial phase

16.6.2 Phase 1: Building

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase. The default settings of the added phase will be used for this calculation phase.
2. In the **Staged construction** mode construct the building (activate all the plates, the interfaces and the anchors) and deactivate the basement volume.

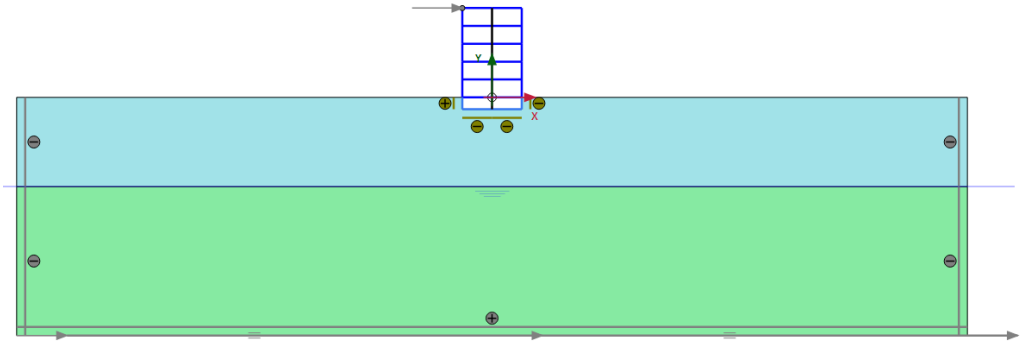


Figure 184: Construction of the building

16.6.3 Phase 2: Excitation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase (Phase_2).
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Reset displacement to zero** in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree. The default values of the remaining parameters will be used in this calculation phase.
3. In the **Staged construction** mode activate the load. The value of the load is already defined in the **Structures** mode.

16.6.4 Phase 3: Free vibration

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase (Phase_3).
2. In the **Phases** window select the **Dynamic** option as **Calculation type**.
3. Set the **Dynamic time interval** parameter to 5 sec.
4. In the **Staged construction** mode release (deactivate) the point load.
5. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
6. Expand the **Dynamics** subtree. Check the boundary conditions **BoundaryXMin**, **BoundaryXMax** and **BoundaryYMin** are viscous which is the default option.

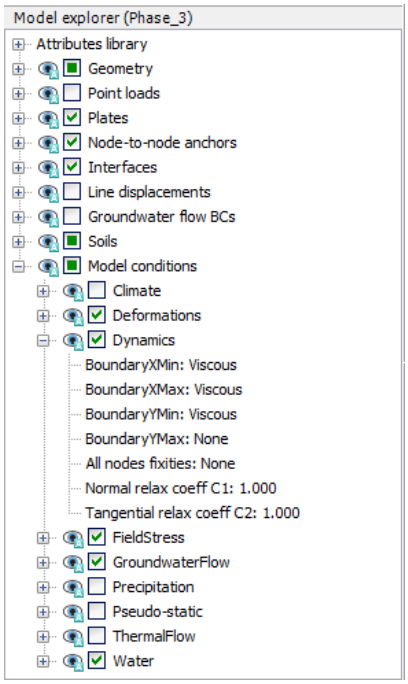


*Figure 185: Boundary conditions for **dynamics calculations***

Note:

For a better visualisation of the results, animations of the free vibration and earthquake can be created. If animations are to be created, it is advised to increase the number of the saved steps by assigning a proper value to the **Max steps saved** parameter in the **Parameters** tabsheet of the **Phases** window.

16.6.5 Phase 4: Earthquake

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase (Phase_4).
2. In the **Phases** window set the **Start from phase** option to Phase 1 (construction of building).
3. Select the **Dynamic** option as **Calculation type**.
4. Set the **Dynamic time interval** parameter to 20 sec.
5. Select the **Reset displacement to zero** in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree.
6. In the **Numerical control parameters** unselect the option **Use default iter parameters** and set **Max steps** to 1000 in order to get a more detailed time-acceleration curve.
7. In the **Model explorer** expand the **Model conditions** subtree.
8. Expand the **Dynamics** subtree. Set the **BoundaryXMin** and **BoundaryXMax** to **Free-field**. Set the **BoundaryYMin** to **Compliant base**.

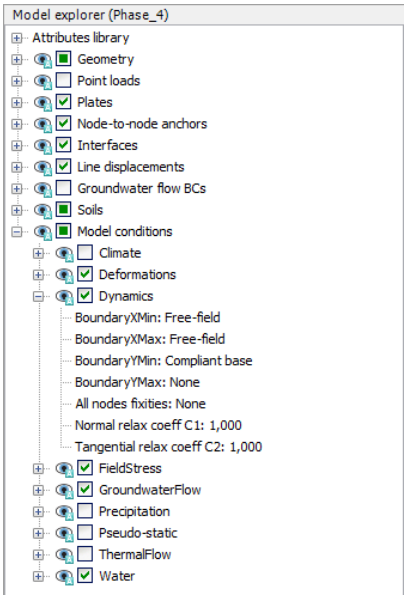


*Figure 186: Boundary conditions for **dynamics calculations** (Phase_4)*

9. Interface elements do not need to be active to enable the use of **Free-field** or **Compliant base** boundaries.
10. In the **Model explorer** activate the **Line displacements** and its dynamic component. Make sure that the value of $u_{x,start,ref}$ is set to 0.5 m. Considering that the boundary condition at the base of the model will be defined using a **Compliant base**, the input signal has to be taken as half of the bedrock (within) motion.

16.6.6 Execute the calculation

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar and select a point at the top of the building, close to or at (0 15).
2. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
3. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the **Save** button.

16.7 Results

The figure below shows the deformed structure at the end of the Phase 2 (application of horizontal load).

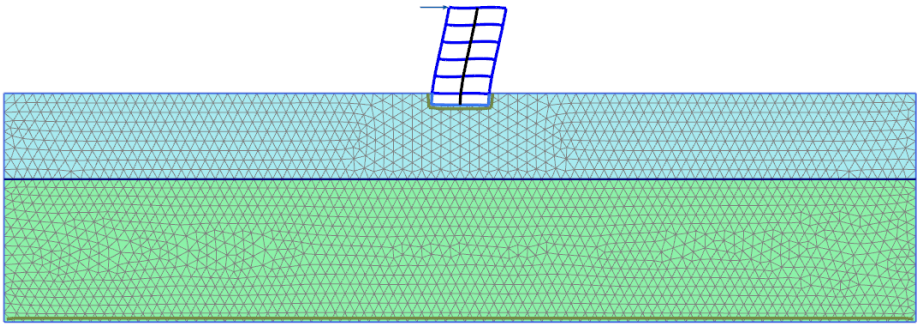


Figure 187: Deformed mesh of the system

The figure below shows the time history of displacements of the selected points A (0 15) for the free vibration phase. It may be seen from the figure that the vibration slowly decays with time due to damping in the soil and in the building.

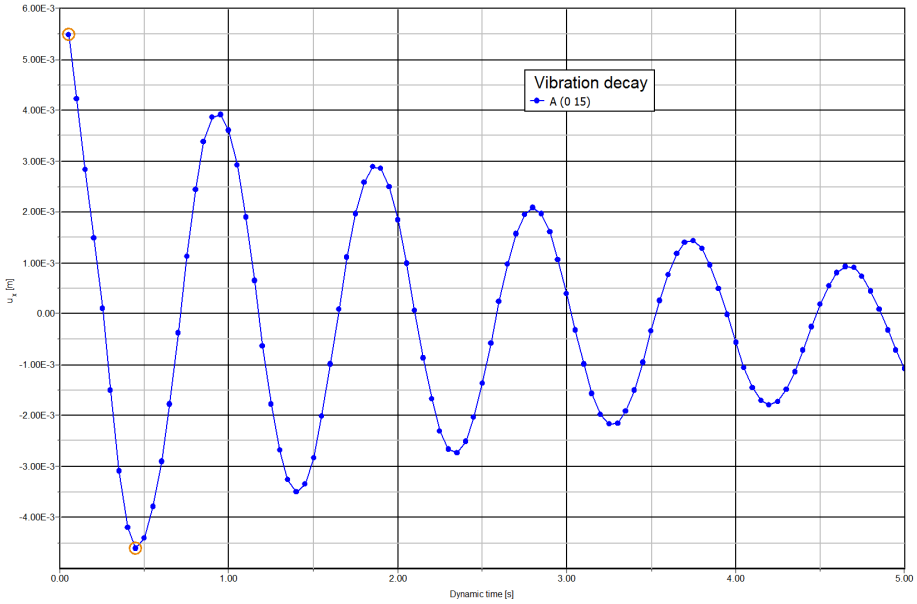


Figure 188: Time history of displacements at selected points

In the **Fourier** tabsheet of the **Curve generation** window select the **Power (spectrum)** and click **OK** to create the plot. The plot is shown below. From this figure it can be evaluated that the dominant building frequency is around 1 Hz.

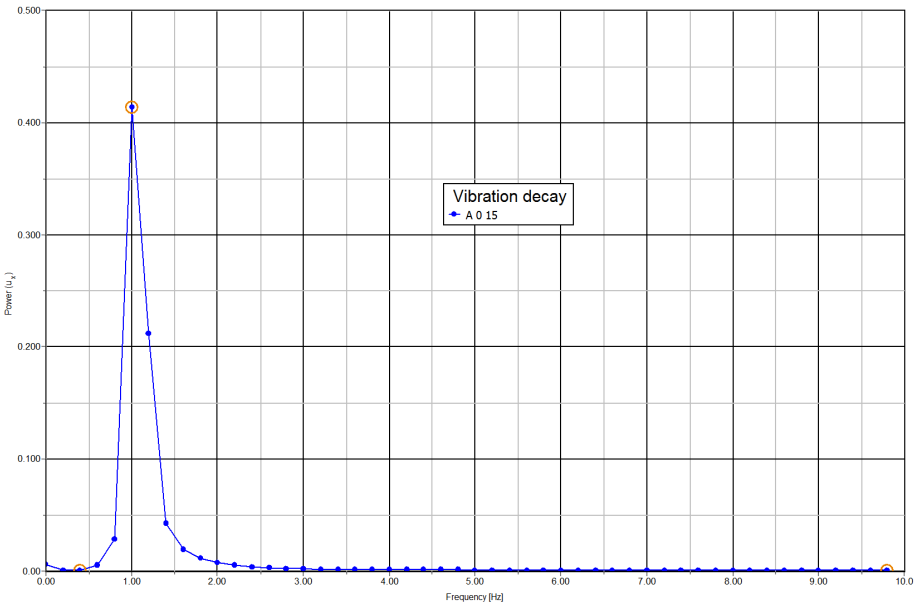


Figure 189: Frequency representation (spectrum)

The figure below shows the time history of the lateral acceleration of the selected point at (0 15) for the earthquake phase (dynamic analysis). For a better visualisation of the results animations of the free vibration and earthquake can be created.

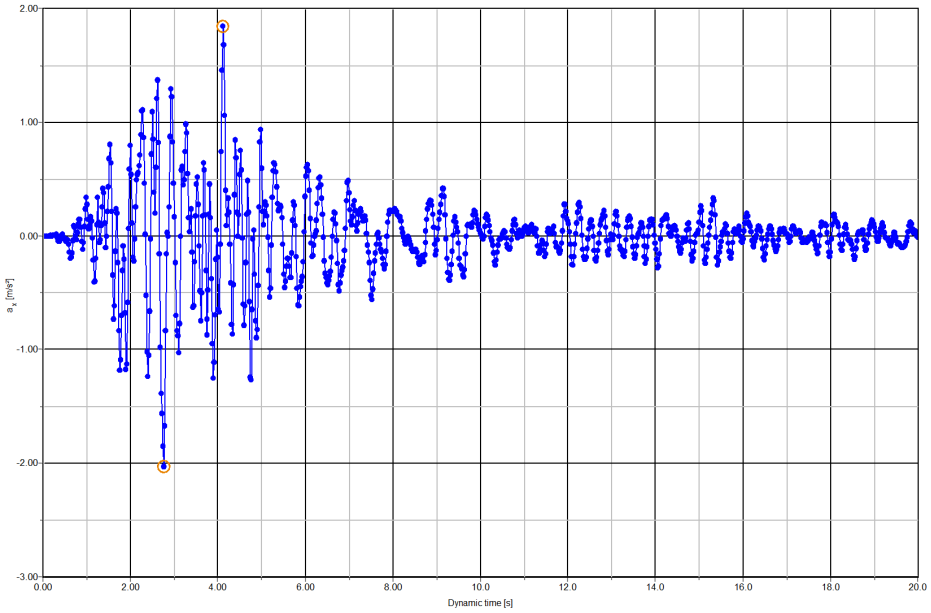


Figure 190: Variation of acceleration in dynamic time

17 Thermal expansion of a navigable lock [ULT]

A navigable lock is temporarily 'empty' due to maintenance. After some time there is significant increase of the air temperature, which causes thermal expansion of the inner side of the lock, while the soil-side of the concrete block remains relatively cold. This leads to backward bending of the wall and, consequently, to increased lateral stress in the soil behind the wall and increased bending moments in the wall itself.

Objectives

This example demonstrates the use of the **Thermal** module to analyse this kind of situations.

- Defining a thermal temperature function
- Use of thermal expansion
- Performing a fully coupled analysis for THM calculation

Geometry

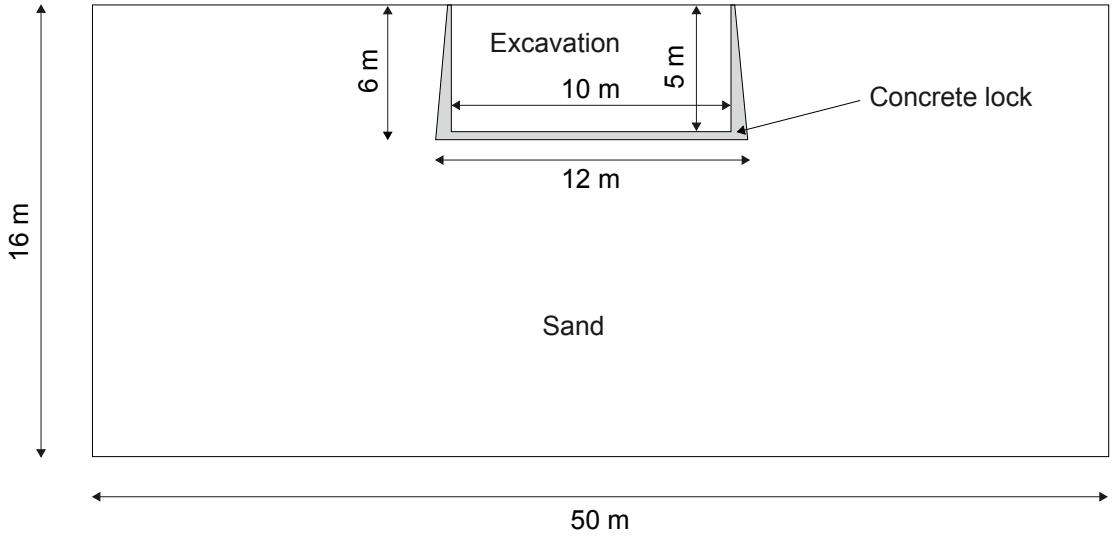


Figure 191: Geometry of the project

17.1 Create new project

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet, the default options for **Model** and **Elements** are used for this project. Also the default options for the units are used in this tutorial.
4. Set the model **Contour** to
   a. x_{min} = 0.0 m and x_{max} = 25.0 m,
   b. y_{min} = -16.0 m and y_{max} = 0.0 m.
5. Click **OK** to close the **Project properties** window.

17.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Create a single soil layer with top level at 0.0 m and bottom level at -16.0 m. Set the head at -4.0 m.

17.3 Create and assign material data sets

Two data sets need to be created; one for the sand layer and one for the concrete block.

1. Open the **Material sets** window.
2. Define a data set for the **Sand** layer with the parameters given in Table 38 (on page 221), for the **General**, **Parameters**, **Groundwater**, **Thermal** and **Initial** tabsheets.
3. Create another dataset for **Concrete** according to the Table 38 (on page 221).
4. Assign the material dataset **Sand** to the borehole soil layer.

Table 38: Material properties

Parameter	Name	Sand	Concrete	Unit
General				
Material model	-	HS small	Linear elastic	-
Drainage type	-	Drained	Non-porous	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	20.0	24.0	kN/m^3

Parameter	Name	Sand	Concrete	Unit
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	20.0	-	kN/m^3
Initial void ratio	e_{init}	0.5	0.5	-
Parameters				
Young's modulus	E'	-	$25 \cdot 10^6$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν	-	0.15	-
Secant stiffness in standard drained triaxial test	E_{50}^{ref}	$40 \cdot 10^3$	-	kN/m^2
Tangent stiffness for primary oedometer loading	E_{oed}^{ref}	$40 \cdot 10^3$	-	kN/m^2
Unloading / reloading stiffness	E_{ur}^{ref}	$1.2 \cdot 10^5$	-	kN/m^2
Power for stress-level dependency of stiffness	m	0.5	-	-
Cohesion	c_{ref}'	2.0	-	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	32.0	-	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	2.0	-	°
Shear strain at which $G_s = 0.722\ G_0$	$\gamma_{0.7}$	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	-	-
Shear modulus at very small strains	G_0^{ref}	$8 \cdot 10^4$	-	kN/m^2
Groundwater				
Data set	-	USDA	-	-
Model	-	Van Genuchten	-	-
Soil - Type	-	Sandy clay	-	-
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	From data set	-	-
Thermal				
Specific heat capacity	c_s	860	900	kJ/t/K
Thermal conductivity	λ_s	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kW/m/K
Solid thermal expansion	-	Linear	Linear	-
Soil density	ρ_s	2.6	2.5	t/m^3

Parameter	Name	Sand	Concrete	Unit
X-component of thermal expansion	α_x	$0.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1/K
Y-component of thermal expansion	α_y	$0.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1/K
Z-component of thermal expansion	α_z	$0.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$0.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1/K
Interfaces				
Interface strength	-	Rigid	Manual	-
Strength reduction factor	R_{inter}	1.0	0.67	-
Initial				
K_0determination	-	Automatic	Automatic	-

17.4 Define the structural elements

The lock will be modelled as a concrete block during the staged construction.

1. Proceed to **Structures** mode.
2. Click the **Create soil polygon** button in the side toolbar and select the **Create soil polygon** option.
3. Define the lock in the drawing area by clicking on (0.0 -5.0), (5.0 -5.0), (5.0 0.0), (5.5 0.0), (6.0 -6.0), (0.0 -6.0) and (0.0 -5.0).

   Note:

   The **Snapping options** can be selected, and the **Spacing** can be set to 0.5 to easily create the polygon.

   The **Concrete** material will be assigned later in the **Staged construction**.
4. Click the **Create line** button in the side toolbar.
5. Select the **Create thermal flow bc** option in the expanded menu.
6. Create thermal boundaries at vertical boundaries and the bottom boundary (X_{min}, X_{max} and Y_{min}).
7. The vertical boundaries have the default option of **Closed** for the **Behaviour**.
8. Select the bottom boundary, in the **Selection explorer** set the **Behaviour** to **Temperature**.
9. Set the reference temperature, T_{ref} to 283.4 K.

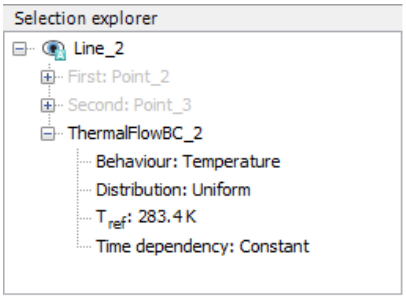


*Figure 192: Thermal boundary condition in the **Selection explorer***

The geometry of the model is now complete.

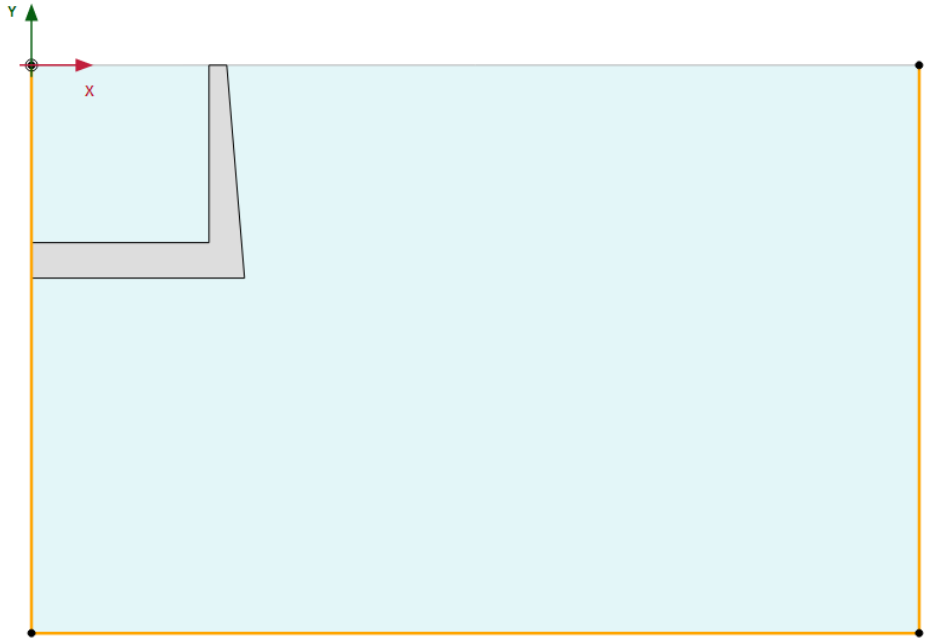


Figure 193: Geometry of the model

17.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Select the polygon representing the concrete block, and in the **Selection explorer** set the **Coarseness factor** to 0.25.
3. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. The default element distribution of **Medium** is used for this example.
4. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
   The resulting mesh is shown:

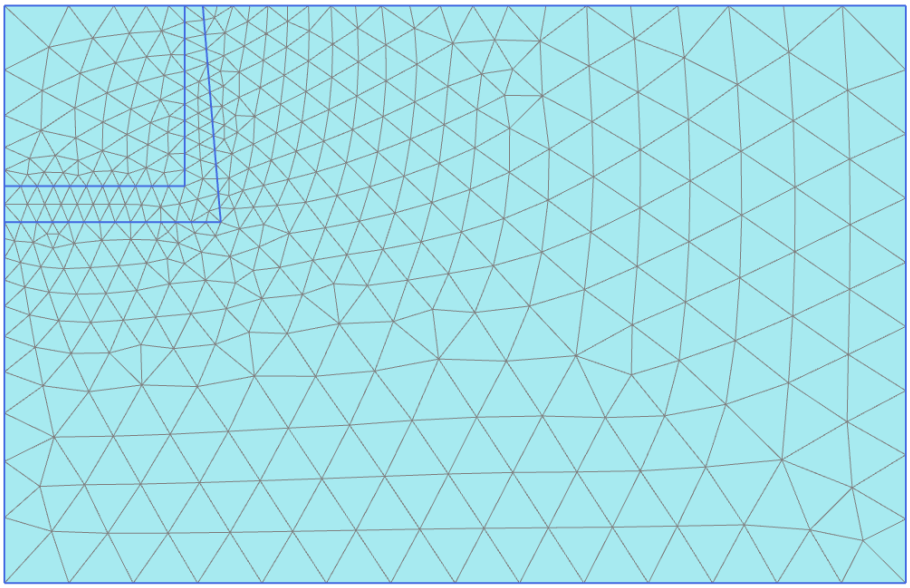


Figure 194: The generated mesh

5. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

17.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculations for this tutorial is carried out in three phases. The concrete lock is activated in a plastic calculation, after which the temperature increase is defined as a fully coupled flow deformation analysis.

17.6.1 Initial phase

1. Click on the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of the calculation phases.
2. Double click on **Initial phase** in the **Phases explorer**.
3. The default options for **Calculation type** and **Pore pressure calculation type** are used in this example.
4. Select **Earth gradient** for the **Thermal calculation type** option and close the **Phases** window.
5. In the **Staged construction** activate the **ThermalFlow** under the **Model conditions** subtree and set the value for T_{ref} to 283 K. The default values for h_{ref} and **Earth gradient** are valid.

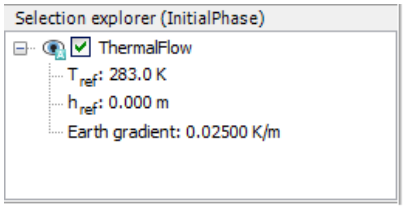


Figure 195: Thermal flow in the Selection explorer

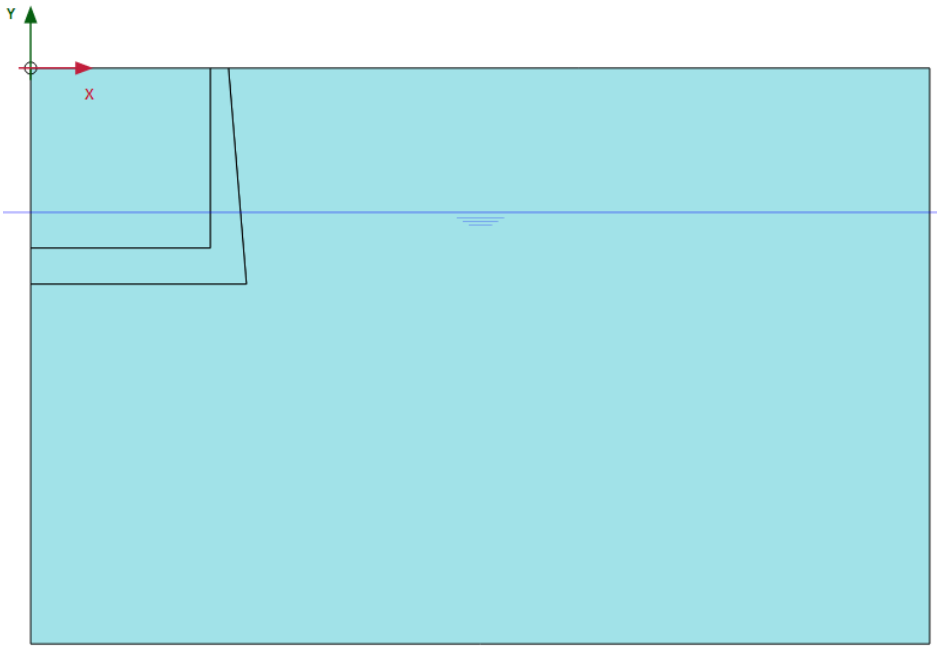


Figure 196: Initial phase

17.6.2 Phase 1: Construction

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase (Phase_1).
2. Double click on Phase_1 in the **Phases explorer**.
3. In the **Phases** window, enter an appropriate name for the phase ID and select **Steady state groundwater flow** as **Pore pressure calculation type**.
4. Set the **Steady state thermal flow** for the **Thermal calculation type**.
5. Make sure that the **Reset displacements to zero** and **Ignore suction** options are selected.
6. In the **Staged construction** mode, assign the **Concrete** dataset to the created polygon which represents the navigable lock.

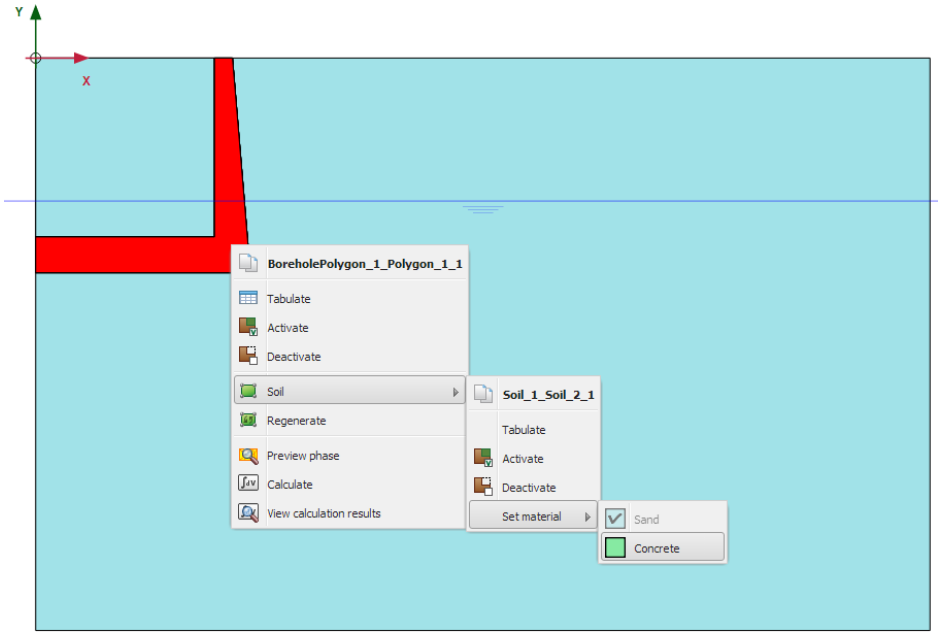


*Figure 197: Assigning **Concrete** soil data set to the navigable lock*

7. Right click the soil cluster which is cut-off by the polygon and select the option **Deactivate** from the appearing menu.
8. In the **Selection explorer**, set the **WaterConditions** of this cluster to **Dry**.
9. Multi-select the vertical and bottom horizontal wall of the excavation.
10. In the **Selection explorer**, activate the **Groundwater flow boundary condition**.
11. Set the **Behaviour** to **Head** and the h_{ref} to -5.0 m.
    This will simulate an 'empty' lock.

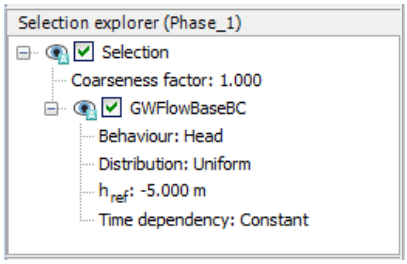


Figure 198: Groundwater flow boundary condition in the Selection explorer

12. In the **Model explorer**, activate all the **Thermal flow boundary conditions**.
13. In the **Model explorer**, activate the **Model conditions** > **Climate** condition.
14. Set the **Air temperature** to 283.0 K and the **Surface transfer** to 1.0 $kW/m^2/K$.
    This will define the thermal conditions at the ground surface and the inside of the lock.

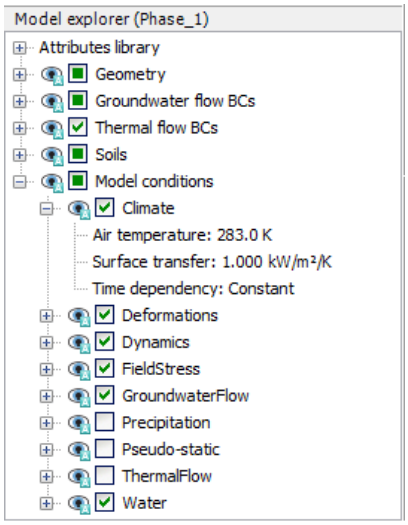


Figure 199: Model conditions for Phase_1

15. Deactivate the **ThermalFlow** option. This is because the thermal flow boundary conditions, including climate condition, are used in a steady state thermal flow calculation, instead of the earth gradient option.

The following figure shows the model at the end of **Phase_1**

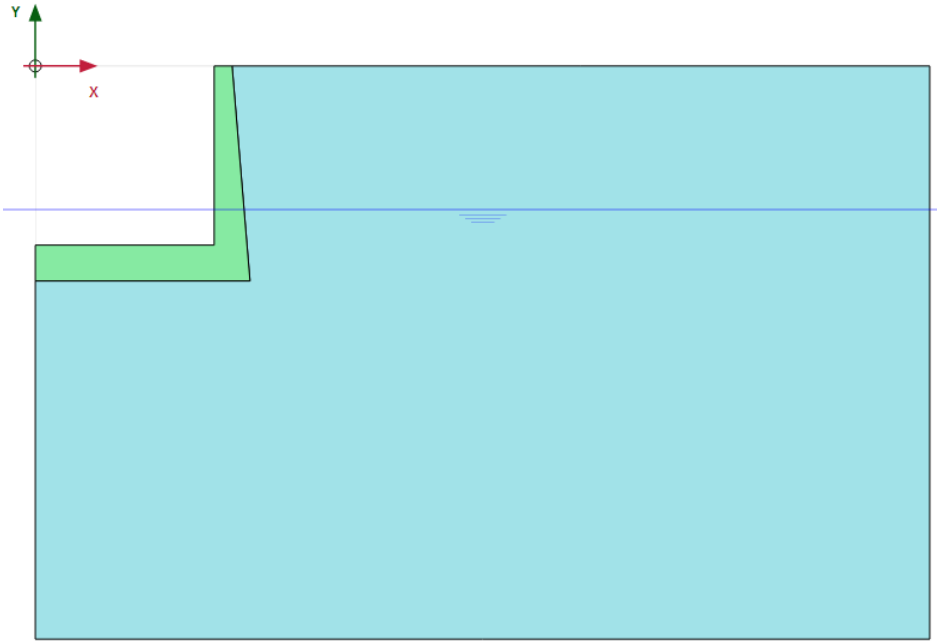


Figure 200: The model at the end of Phase_1

17.6.3 Phase 2: Heating

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase (Phase_2).

2. Double click on Phase_2 in the **Phases explorer**.
3. Set the **Calculation type** to **Fully coupled flow deformation**.
4. The **Thermal calculation type** is set to **Use temperatures from previous phase**. This is to indicate that temperature needs to be considered and that the initial temperature is taken from the previous phase.
5. The **Time interval** is set to 10 days.
6. Make sure that the **Reset displacements to zero** and **Reset small strain** options are selected in the **Deformation control parameters** subtree. The **Ignore suction** option is unchecked by default.
7. A temperature function is defined for the **Time dependency** in **Climate** which is used for this phase. Follow these steps to create a temperature function.
   a. Right-click the **Thermal functions** option in the **Attributes library** in the **Model explorer** and select **Edit** option in the appearing menu.
   The **Thermal functions** window is displayed.
   b. In the **Temperature functions** tabsheet add a new function by clicking on the corresponding button.
   The new function is highlighted in the list and options to define the function are displayed.
   c. The default option of **Harmonic** is used for this signal.
   d. Assign a value of 15.0 for the **Amplitude** and 40 days for the **Period**.
   A graph is displayed showing the defined function. Since the time interval of the phase is 10 days, only a quarter of a temperature cycle is considered in this phase, which means that after 10 days the temperature has increased by 15 K.

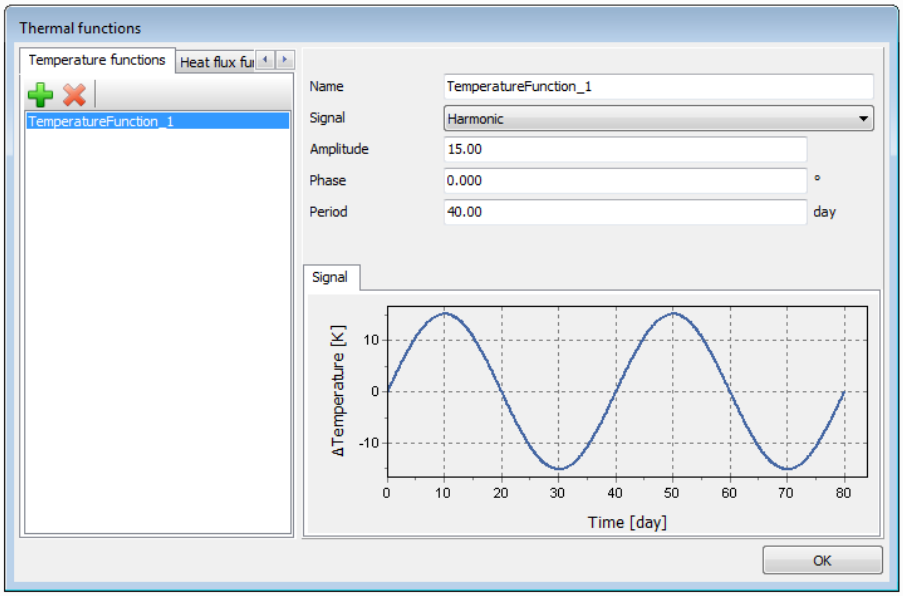


Figure 201: The temperature function

   e. Click **OK** to close the **Thermal functions** window.
8. Expand the subtree **Model conditions** in the **Model explorer**.
9. In the **Climate** option, set the **Time dependency** to **Time dependent** and assign the temperature function which was created.

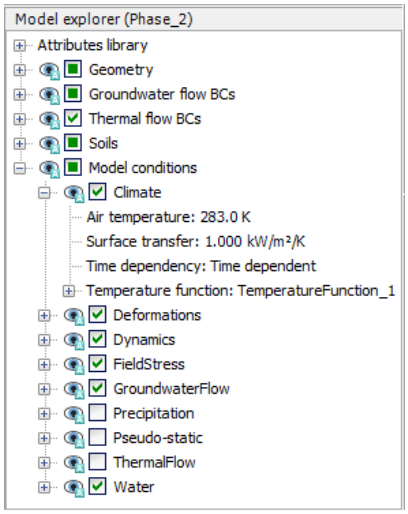


Figure 202: Model conditions for Phase_2

The calculation definition is now complete.

17.6.4 Execute the calculation

Before starting the calculation it is suggested that you select nodes or stress points for a later generation of curves.

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar and select some characteristic points for curves (for example at the top of the excavation, (5.0, 0.0)).
2. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project and ignore the warnings regarding different stress type used in the **Fully coupled flow deformation** analysis.
3. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the **Save** button.

17.7 Results

In the **Phases explorer**, select the **Initial phase** and click the **View calculation results** button on the toolbar. In the Output program, select the menu **Stresses** > **Heat flow** > **Temperature**.

The figure below shows the initial temperature distribution, which is obtained from the reference temperature at the ground surface and the earth gradient. This gives a temperature of 283.0 K at the ground surface and 283.4 at the bottom of the model.

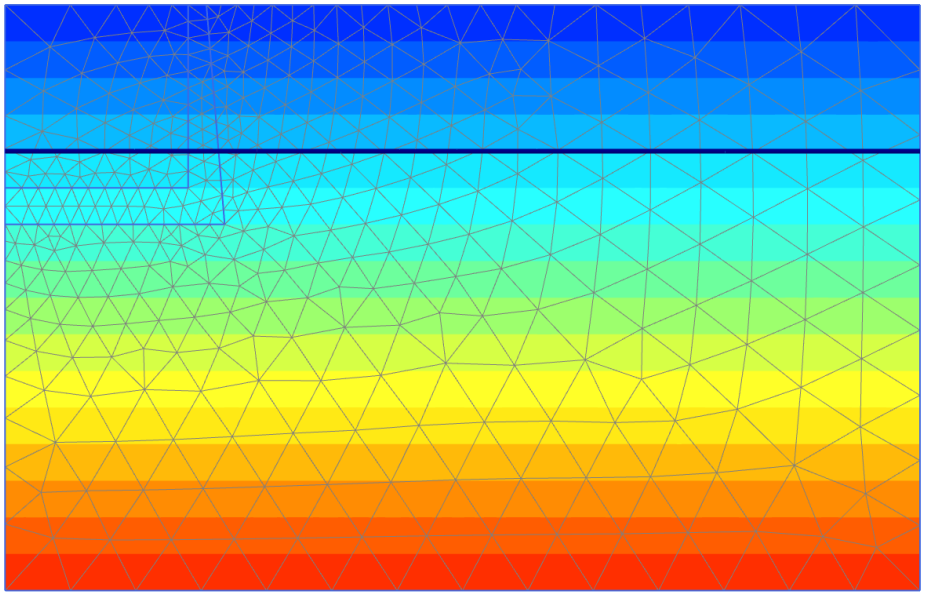


Figure 203: Initial temperature distribution

The figure below shows the temperature distribution obtained from Phase_1 using a steady-state thermal flow calculation. In fact, the temperatures at the top and bottom are equal to the temperatures as defined in the **Initial phase**; however, since the temperature at the ground surface is now defined in terms of **Climate** conditions (air temperature), this temperature is also applied at the inner side of the lock and affects the temperature distribution in the ground.

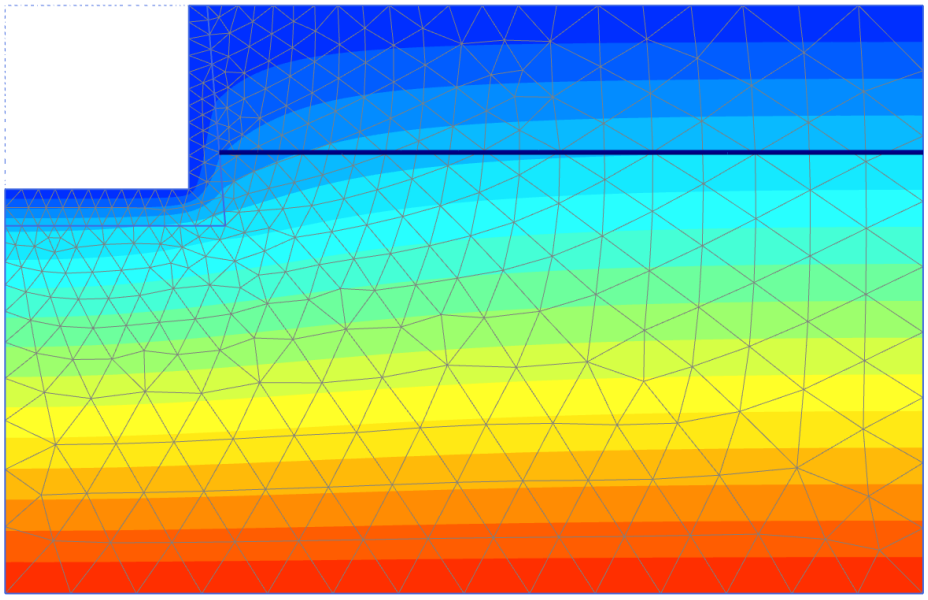


Figure 204: Steady-state temperature distribution in Phase_1

The most interesting results are obtained in Phase_2 in which the air temperature in the **Climate** condition increases gradually from 283 K to 298 K (defined by a quarter of a harmonic cycle with an amplitude of 15K). The figure below shows the temperature at the ground surface as a function of time.

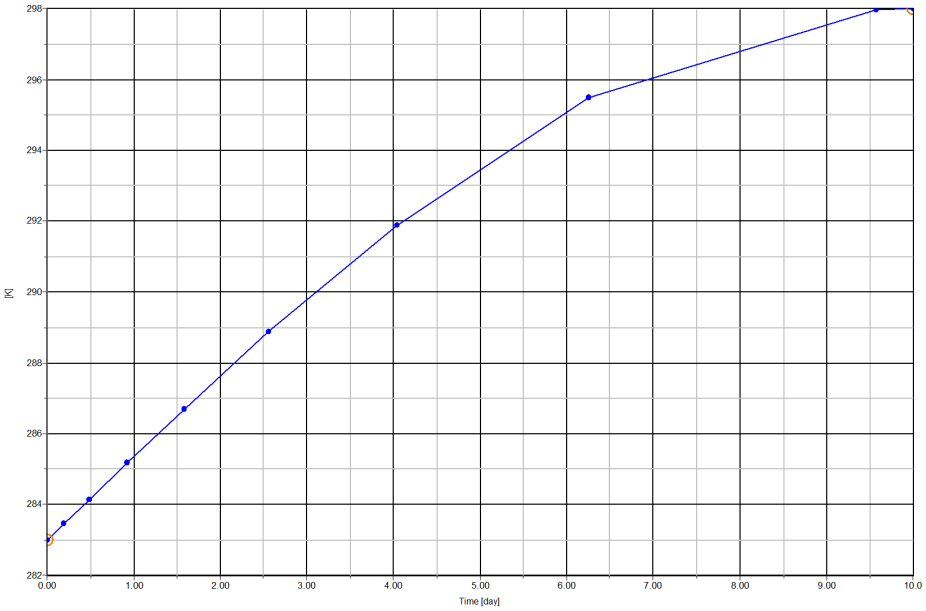


Figure 205: Temperature distribution in Point A as a function of time

As a result of the short increase in temperature at the inside of the concrete block, while the outer side (soil side) remains 'cold', the wall will bend towards the soil. The figure below shows the deformed mesh at the end of Phase_2.

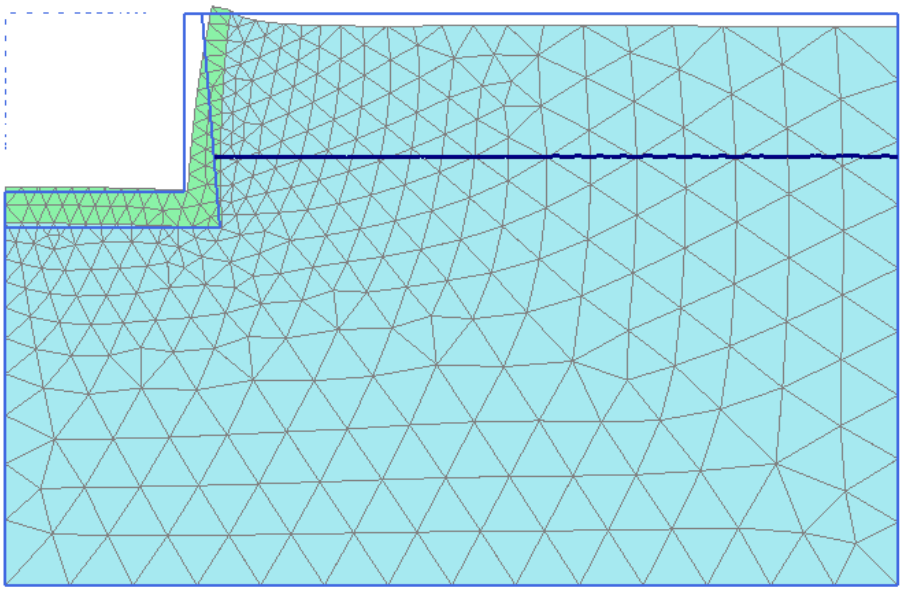


Figure 206: Deformed mesh at the end of Phase_2

As a result of this backward bending, the lateral stresses in the soil right behind the concrete block will increase, tending towards a passive stress state.

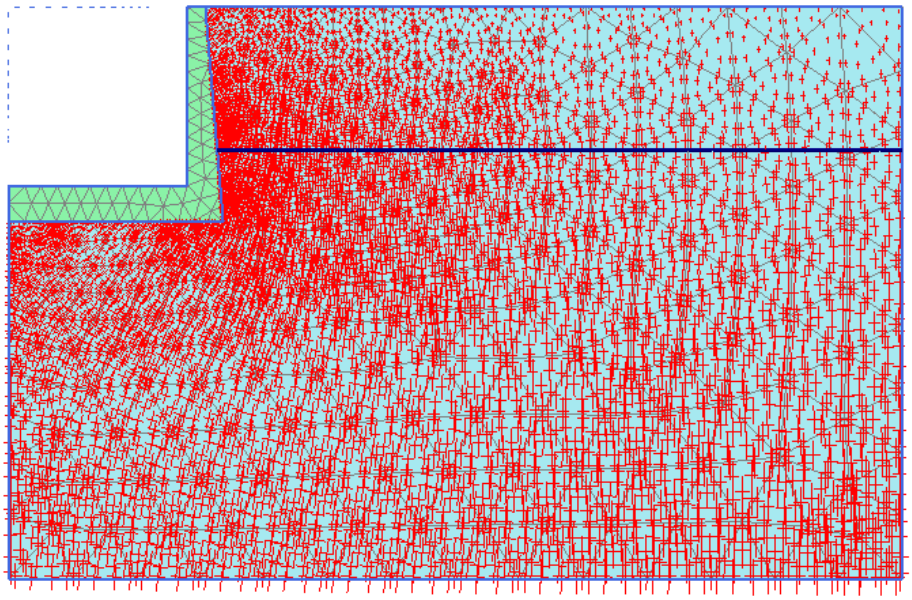


Figure 207: Effective principal stresses at the end of Phase_2 in the Principal directions

Note: Note that the visualisation is different for Figure 207 (on page 233), because it displays the stresses in the porous materials. This can be changed in **View** > **Settings** on the tab **Results** (see the Reference Manual for more information).

18 Freeze pipes in tunnel construction [ULT]

This tutorial illustrates change in coupling of groundwater flow and thermal flow as a result of ground freezing. A tunnel is constructed with the use of freeze pipes. By first installing freeze pipes in the soil, the soil freezes and becomes watertight so that tunnel construction can take place. This method of construction requires a lot of energy for the cooling of the soil, so by being able to model the cooling behaviour while groundwater flow is present an optimal freezing system can be designed.

Objectives

- Modelling soil freezing, coupling between thermal flow and groundwater flow
- Modelling unfrozen water content.
- Using the command line for structure definition.

Geometry

In this tutorial a tunnel with a radius of 3.0 m will be constructed in a 30 m deep soil layer. A groundwater flow from left to right is present, influencing the thermal behaviour of the soil. First the soil will be subjected to the low temperatures of the freeze pipes, and once the soil has frozen sufficiently, tunnel construction can take place. The latter is not included in this tutorial.

Because groundwater flow causes an asymmetric temperature distribution, the whole geometry needs to be modelled, where in previous examples only half of the geometry was sufficient.

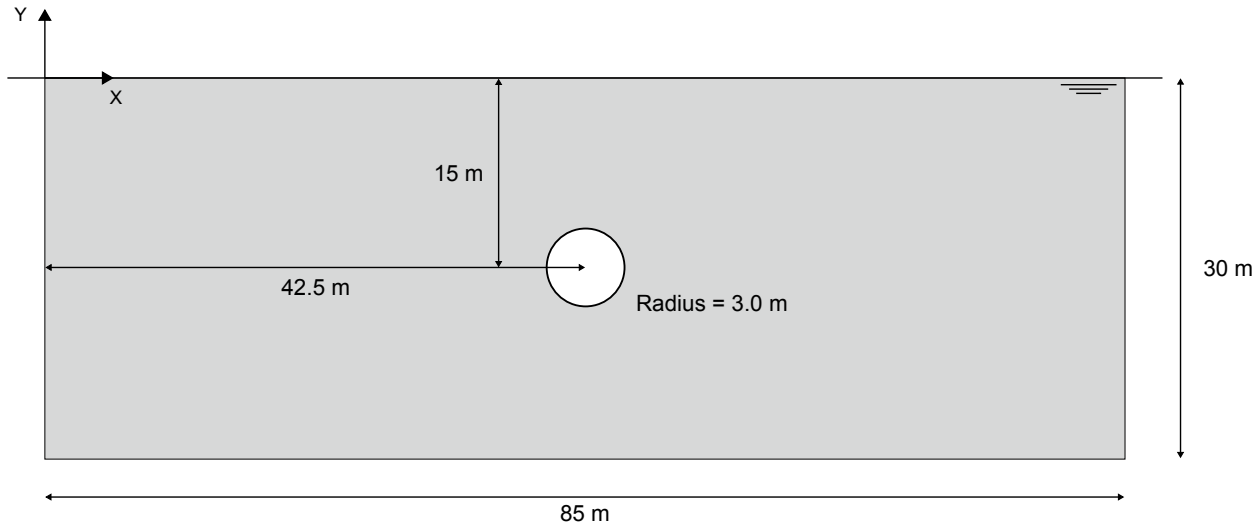


Figure 208: Geometry of the project

18.1 Create new project

1. Start the Input program and select **Start a new project** from the **Quick start** dialog box.
2. In the **Project** tabsheet of the **Project properties** window, enter an appropriate title.
3. In the **Model** tabsheet, the default options for **Model** and **Elements** are used for this project. Also the default options for the units are used in this tutorial. Note that the unit of **Mass** is set automatically to **tonnes**.
4. Set the model **Contour** to
   a. x_{min} = 0.0 m and x_{max} = 85.0 m,
   b. y_{min} = -30.0 m and y_{max} = 0.0 m.
5. In the **Constants** tabsheet, set T_{water} and T_{ref} to 283 K, other constants keep their default values. A description of constants can be found in the Reference Manual.
6. Click **OK** to close the **Project properties** window.

18.2 Define the soil stratigraphy

To define the soil stratigraphy:

1. Click the **Create borehole** button and create a borehole at x = 0.
   The **Modify soil layers** window pops up.
2. Create a single soil layer with top level at 0.0 m and bottom level at -30.0 m. Set the head at ground level (0.0 m).

18.3 Create and assign material data sets

1. Click the **Materials** button in the **Modify soil layers** window.
2. Define a data set for soil with the parameters given in Table 39 (on page 236), for the **General**, **Parameters** and **Groundwater** tabsheets.

Table 39: Material properties

Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
General			
Material model	-	Mohr-Coulomb	-
Type of material behaviour	-	Drained	-
Soil unit weight above phreatic level	γ_{unsat}	18.0	kN/m^3
Soil unit weight below phreatic level	γ_{sat}	18.0	kN/m^3
Initial void ratio	e_{init}	0.5	-
Parameters			
Young's modulus	E'	$1 \cdot 10^5$	kN/m^2
Poisson's ratio	ν	0.3	-
Cohesion	c_{ref}'	0.0	kN/m^2
Friction angle	φ'	37.0	°
Dilatancy angle	ψ	0.0	°
Groundwater			
Soil - Data set	-	Standard	-
Soil - Type	-	Medium	-
Flow parameters - Use defaults	-	None	-
Horizontal permeability	k_x	1.00	m/day
Vertical permeability	k_y	1.00	m/day
Change of permeability	c_k	$1.0 \cdot 10^{15}$	-
Thermal			
Thermal			
Specific heat capacity	c_s	860	kJ/t/K
Thermal conductivity	λ_s	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	kW/m/K
Soil density	ρ_s	2.6	t/m^3
X-component of thermal expansion	α_x	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	1/K

Parameter	Name	Sand	Unit
Y-component of thermal expansion	α_y	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	1/K
Z-component of thermal expansion	α_z	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	1/K
Unfrozen water content	-	User defined (see table below)	-
Interfaces			
Interface strength	-	Rigid	-
Thermal resistance	R	0	m^2K/kW
Initial			
K_0 determination	-	Automatic	-

To model the amount of (fluid) water available to flow through the soil at certain temperatures, a curve for unfrozen water content needs to be determined by defining a table with values for unfrozen water content at certain temperatures. The same curve can be applied in other projects, hence the table can be saved and loaded into the soil properties of other projects. For more information, refer to the Reference Manual.

3. Click the **Thermal** tab. Enter the values as given in the table below.

Table 40: Input for unfrozen water content curve for sand

#	Temperature [K]	Unfrozen water content [-]
1	273.0	1.00
2	272.0	0.99
3	271.6	0.96
4	271.4	0.90
5	271.3	0.81
6	271.0	0.38
7	270.8	0.15
8	270.6	0.06
9	270.2	0.02
10	269.5	0.00

4. Select the option **User defined** from the drop down menu for **Unfrozen water content** at the bottom of the tabsheet.
5. Add rows to the table by clicking the **Add row** button. Complete the data using the values given in Table 40 (on page 237).

6. Enter the values for **Interfaces** and **Initial** tabsheets as given in Table 39 (on page 236).
7. Click **OK** to close the dataset.
8. Assign the material dataset to the soil layer.

Note:

The table can be saved by clicking the **Save** button in the table. The file must be given an appropriate name. For convenience, save the file in the same folder as the project is saved.

18.4 Define the structural elements

The freeze pipes are modelled by defining lines with a length similar to the freeze pipe diameter (10 cm), containing a convective boundary condition. For simplicity, in this tutorial only 12 cooling elements are defined, while in reality more elements may be implemented in order to achieve a sufficient share of frozen soil.

1. Proceed to **Structures** mode.
2. Click the **Create line** button in the side toolbar.
3. Click the command line and type "line 45.141 -13.475 45.228 -13.425". Press **Enter** to create the first freezing pipe. For more information regarding command line, see Reference Manual.
4. Similarly create the remaining freeze pipes according to the following table.

Table 41: Coordinates of the end points of the freezing pipes, modelled as lines

Line number	$x_{point\ 1}$	$y_{point\ 1}$	$x_{point\ 2}$	$y_{point\ 2}$
1	45.141	-13.475	45.228	-13.425
2	44.025	-12.359	44.075	-12.272
3	42.500	-11.950	42.500	-11.850
4	40.975	-12.359	40.925	-12.272
5	39.859	-13.475	39.772	-13.425
6	39.450	-15.000	39.350	-15.000
7	39.859	-16.525	39.772	-16.575
8	40.975	-17.641	40.925	-17.728
9	42.500	-18.050	42.500	-18.150
10	44.025	-17.641	44.075	-17.728
11	45.141	-16.525	45.228	-16.575
12	45.550	-15.000	45.650	-15.000

Note:

A file containing the commands for the definition of the lines, is available in the PLAXIS 2D Knowledge Base (LineCoordinatesCommands.p2dxlog in tutorial **Freeze pipes in tunnel construction**). This can be downloaded and copied in the **Commands runner**, to get the pipes.

5. Multi select the created lines using the **Select lines** option from the side toolbar.
6. Right click the selected lines and select **Thermal flow BC** to create the thermal flow boundary conditions for the freeze pipes.
7. For the selected freeze pipes, in the **Selection explorer** expand the subtree for the **ThermalFlowBC**.
8. The **Behaviour** is set to **Convection**, the T_{fluid} to 250 K and the **Transfer coefficient** to 1.0 kW/m^2/K.
9. Click the **Create line** button in the side toolbar.
10. Select the **Create thermal flow BC** option in the expanded menu. In the drawing area create a thermal boundary condition from (0.0 0.0) to (85.0 0.0)
11. Click the **Create line** button in the side toolbar, select the **Create groundwater flow BC** option in the expanded menu. In the drawing area create a groundwater flow boundary condition from (0.0 0.0) to (85.0 0.0).
12. Similarly follow the above steps to create thermal and groundwater flow boundary for the following lines (85.0 0.0) to (85.0 -30.0); (85.0 -30.0) to (0.0 -30.0) and finally (0.0 -30.0) to (0.0 0.0).

PLAXIS 2D allows different types of **Thermal** boundary conditions to be applied. In this tutorial the freeze pipes will be modelled as convective boundary conditions.

1. Multi select the created boundaries.
2. For the **ThermalFlowBC**, set the **Behaviour** to **Temperature** and T_{ref} to 283 K.

To assign the groundwater boundary conditions, the following steps are followed:

1. Multi select the top and bottom boundary.
2. For the **GWFlowBC**, set the **Behaviour** to **Closed**.
3. Select the left boundary, set the **Behaviour** to **Inflow** with a q_{ref} value of 0.1 m/day.
4. The right boundary has the default behaviour of **Seepage**.

The tunnel is created with the help of the **Tunnel designer**. Because deformations are not considered in this calculation, there is no need to assign a plate material to the tunnel. The generated tunnel will only be used for generating a more dense and homogeneous mesh around the freezing pipes. The tunnel will not be activated during any calculation phase, but PLAXIS 2D will detect the line elements and will generate the mesh according to these elements. Changing the coarseness factor of the pipe elements will cause a denser, but not a more homogeneous mesh.

1. Click the **Create tunnel** button in the side toolbar and click on (42.5 -18) in the drawing area.
2. The option **Circular** is selected for **Shape type**. Note that the default option is **Free**.
3. The default option of **Define whole tunnel** is used in this example.
4. Proceed to the **Segments** tab and set **Radius** to 3.0 m to the two multi selected segments.
5. Click on **Generate** to generate the defined tunnel in the model. Close the **Tunnel designer** window.

The geometry of the model is shown in the figure below.

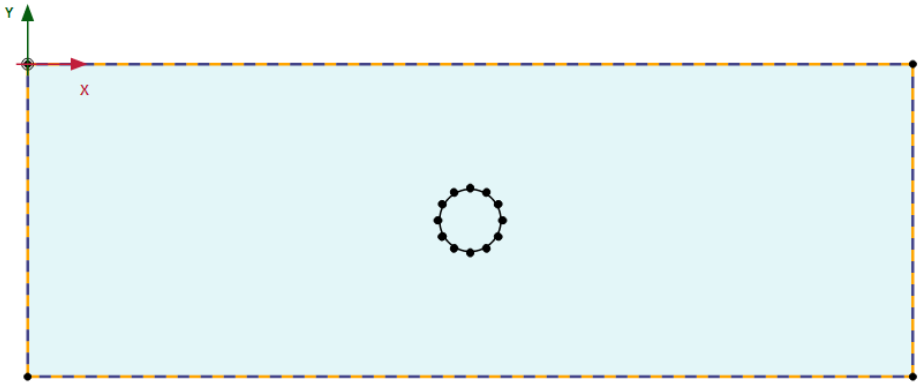


Figure 209: Geometry of the model

18.5 Generate the mesh

1. Proceed to the **Mesh** mode.
2. Click the **Generate mesh** button to generate the mesh. The default element distribution of **Medium** is used for this example.
3. Click the **View mesh** button to view the mesh.
   The resulting mesh is shown:

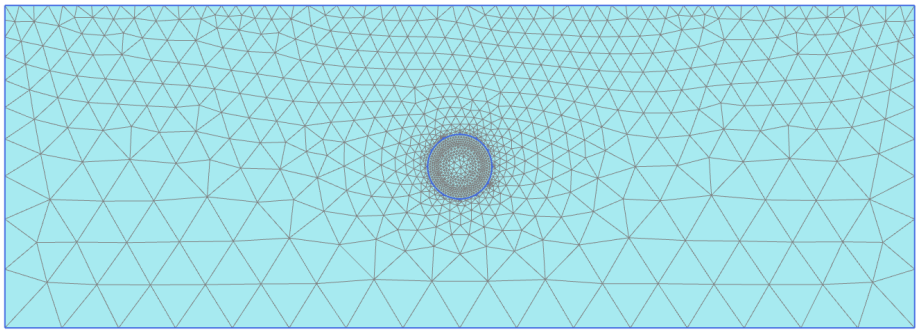


Figure 210: The generated mesh

4. Click the **Close** tab to close the Output program.

18.6 Define and perform the calculation

The calculations for this tutorial are carried out in the **Flow only** mode.

18.6.1 Initial phase

1. Click on the **Staged construction** tab to proceed with the definition of the calculation phases.
2. Double click on **Initial phase** in the **Phases explorer**.
3. In the **Phases** window select the **Flow only** option from the **Calculation type** drop-down menu.
4. Choose the **Earth gradient** option for the **Thermal calculation type**.
5. In the **Staged construction** activate the **ThermalFlow** under the **Model conditions** subtree and set the value for T_{ref} to 283 K, h_{ref} to 0 m and 0 K/m for the **Earth gradient**.

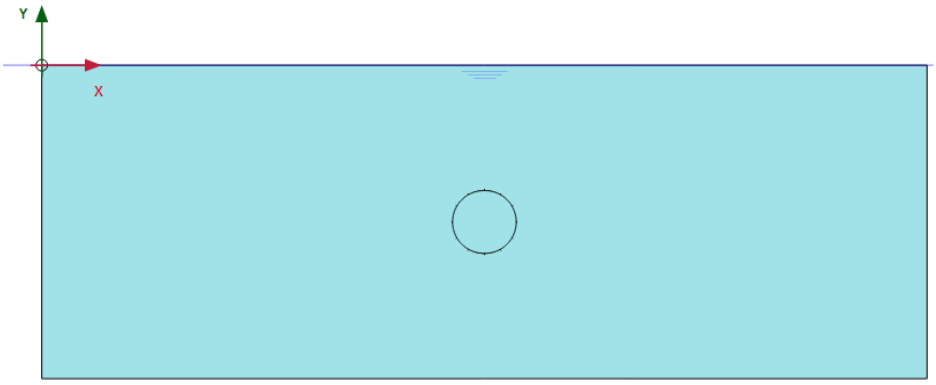


Figure 211: Initial phase

18.6.2 Phase 1: Transient calculation

1. Click the **Add phase** button to create a new phase.
2. Double click the new phase in the **Phases explorer**.
3. In the **Phases** window, enter an appropriate name for the phase ID (e.g. `Transient calculation`).
4. Set **Transient groundwater flow** as the option for the **Pore pressure calculation type**.
5. Set **Transient thermal flow** as the option for the **Thermal calculation type**.
6. Set **Time interval** to 180 days and the **Max number of steps stored** to 100. This is to be able to view intermediate time steps after the calculation.
7. In **Staged construction** mode, activate all the thermal boundary conditions by clicking the check box for the **Thermal flow BCs** in the **Model explorer**.
8. In the **Model explorer**, activate the four groundwater flow boundary conditions corresponding to the left, top, right and bottom boundary conditions in the **Groundwater flow BCs** subtree.
9. In the **Model explorer**, deactivate the **ThermalFlow** condition under the **Model conditions** subtree.

The calculation definition is now complete.

18.6.3 Execute the calculation

Before starting the calculation it is suggested that you select nodes or stress points for a later generation of curves.

1. Click the **Select points for curves** button in the side toolbar. Select some characteristic points for curves (for example between two freezing pipes and in the middle of the model).
2. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate the project.
3. After the calculation has finished, save the project by clicking the **Save** button.

18.7 Results

Interesting results from this calculation can be the point in time when there is no groundwater flow in between two freezing pipes, groundwater flow over the whole model and temperature distribution for both steady state and transient calculations.

To view the results in the Output program:

1. Click the **View calculation results** button on the toolbar.
2. Select the menu **Stresses** > **Heat flow** > **Temperature**.
3. The figure below shows the spatial distribution of the temperature for transient calculation in the final step.

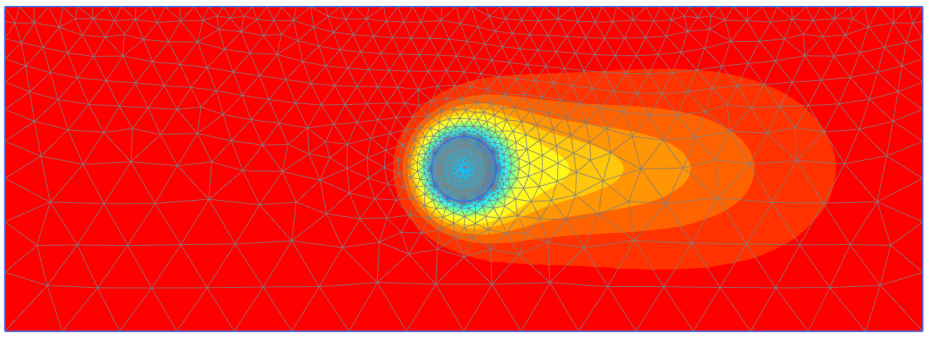


Figure 212: Temperature distribution for transient phase

1. Select the menu **Stresses** > **Groundwater flow** > **|q|**.
2. Select the menu **View** > **Arrows** or click the corresponding button in the toolbar to display the results arrows.

In the Output program, it is possible to view the results for the intermediate saved steps. More information is available in the Reference Manual. It is possible to view the progression of the freezing of the tunnel.

The figure below shows the distribution of the of groundwater flow field for an intermediate step for the transient calculation (around 80 days).

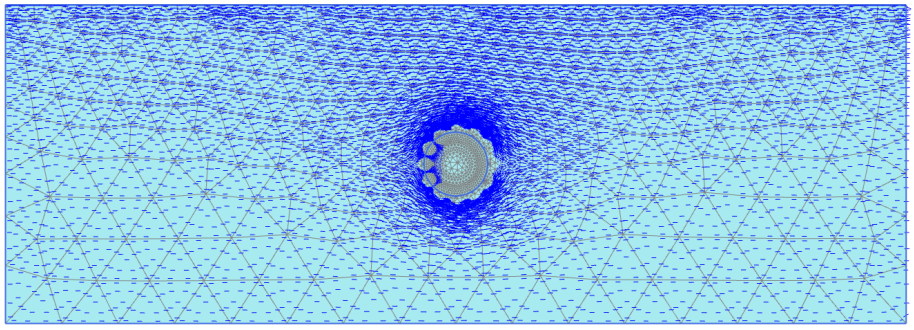


Figure 213: Groundwater flow field for transient phase for an intermediate step (t_{approx} 38 days)

The figure below shows the groundwater flow field for the last time step for the transient flow calculation. Here it is clearly noticeable that the entire tunnel area is frozen and no flow occurs.

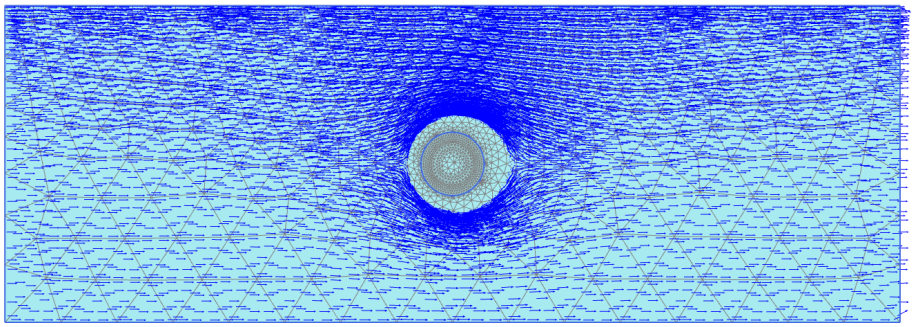


Figure 214: Groundwater flow field after 180 days