

# Correlations for undrained shear strength of Finnish soft clays.

## 芬兰软黏土不排水剪切强度的相关性

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### Abstract 摘要

The study focuses on the derivation of transformation models for undrained shear strength ( $s_u$ ) of Finnish soft sensitive clays. Specific correlation equations for  $s_u$  of Finnish clays are presented in this work for the first time. Field and laboratory measurements from 24 test sites in Finland are exploited for this purpose and a multivariate database is constructed. The multivariate data consist of  $s_u$  from the field vane test, preconsolidation stress, vertical effective stress, liquid limit, plastic limit, natural water content, and sensitivity. The main objective is to evaluate the interdependence of  $s_u$ , consolidation stresses, and index parameters and provide a consistent framework for practical use. The new correlations are established through regression analyses. The constructed framework is further validated by another independent multivariate database of clays from Sweden and Norway as well as by empirical equations for Swedish and Norwegian clays. Existing correlations are evaluated for Finnish and Scandinavian clays. Finally, bias and uncertainties of the new correlations are presented.

**Key words:** global transformation models, soft clays, multivariate database, undrained shear strength.

这项研究着重于芬兰软黏土不排水抗剪强度 ( $s_u$ ) 转换模型的推导。芬兰黏土的特殊的相关方程是第一次在这项工作中提出。为此, 利用了芬兰 24 个测试点的现场和实验室测量值, 并建立了一个多元数据库。多元数据由现场叶片试验, 预固结应力, 垂直有效应力, 液体极限, 塑性极限, 天然水含量和敏感性组成。主要目的是评估  $s_u$ , 固结应力和指标参数的相互依赖性, 并为实际使用提供一致的框架。通过回归分析建立新的相关性。另一个来自瑞典和挪威的黏土的独立多元数据库以及瑞典和挪威黏土的经验公式进一步验证了构建的框架。对芬兰和挪威的纳维亚黏土的现有相关性进行评估。最后, 提出了新的相关性的偏差和不确定性。

**关键词:** 全局转换模型, 软黏土, 多元数据库, 不排水剪切强度。

## 1 Introduction 介绍

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Soft sensitive clays are widespread in Scandinavia, especially on coastal areas. The high compressibility of these soils, along with their low undrained shear strength ( $s_u$ ) (even lower than 10 kPa near the ground surface), makes geotechnical design often rather challenging. Therefore,  $s_u$  needs to be carefully evaluated for a reliable assessment of the safety level.

Scandinavian soft clays are typically slightly over consolidated. The overconsolidation is normally the result of the aging process (e.g., Bjerrum 1972). For quick clays, the remolded undrained shear strength ( $s_u^{re}$ ) can be even less than 0.5 kPa and 50–100 times lower than the initially “intact”  $s_u$  (e.g., Rankka et al. 2004; Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez 2013).

$s_u$  can be evaluated from in situ as well as laboratory tests. In Scandinavia, the field vane (FV) test and piezocone cone penetration (CPTU) test are the most commonly used in situ tests. Laboratory tests include undrained triaxial compression (TXC) and direct simple shear (DSS) tests. For some special cases where  $s_u$  anisotropy needs to be assessed, triaxial extension (TXE) tests are also performed.

In situations where  $s_u$  is not directly measured or measurements are considered to be unreliable,  $s_u$  is commonly evaluated from transformation models based on clay properties, such as vertical preconsolidation pressure ( $C_{pl}$ ) (e.g., Mesri 1975; Jamiolkowski et al. 1985) or plasticity (e.g., Hansbo 1957; Chandler 1988). Such transformation models are typically empirical or semi-empirical, obtained by data fitting through regression analyses (e.g., Kulhawy and Mayne 1990). However, such models must be carefully applied and their limitations be recognized, as soil properties, soil behavior, and site geology may differ from the data source from where the transformation models are calibrated. As a direct consequence, predictions from these models may result in biases with respect to the actual property ( $s_u$ ) values.

According to Phoon and Kulhawy (1999), uncertainty coming from transformation models can be customarily categorized as epistemic, meaning that it can be reduced by collecting a greater number of data or improving the available models. Therefore, “global” models, calibrated from data sets covering several sites and soil types, are preferred to “site-specific” models, which are restricted to a specific soil type or a specific site. Ching and Phoon (2012a,b, 2014a,b) presented global models based on soil data covering a large number of test sites from several countries. Ching and Phoon (2012a) pointed out how site-specific models are more accurate (or less uncertain) than global models, although bias can be significant when applied to another site. Instead, global models are less biased, although less precise (or more

柔软的黏土在斯堪的纳维亚半岛很普遍，特别是在沿海地区。这些土壤的高可压缩性以及较低的不排水抗剪强度 ( $s_u$ ) (甚至在地表附近甚至低于 10 kPa)，使得岩土工程设计通常颇具挑战性。因此，需要对  $s_u$  进行仔细评估，以对安全级别进行可靠评估。

斯堪的纳维亚软粘土通常略有过度固结。过度固结通常是老化过程的结果 (例如 Bjerrum 1972)。对于快黏土，重塑后的不排水抗剪强度 ( $s_u^{re}$ ) 甚至可以小于 0.5 kPa，比最初的“完整”  $s_u$  低 50–100 倍 (例如，Rankka et al. 2004; Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez 2013)。

可以从原位以及实验室测试中评估  $s_u$ 。在斯堪的纳维亚半岛，现场十字板剪切试验 (FV) 和带孔压的静力触探试验 (CPTU) 是最常用的方法。实验室测试包括不排水三轴压缩 (TXC) 和直接单剪试验 (DSS) 试验。对于某些需要评估  $s_u$  各向异性的特殊情况，还执行三轴拉伸 (TXE) 试验。

在无法直接测量  $s_u$  或认为测量结果不可靠的情况下，通常从基于粘土特性 (例如垂直预固结压力 ( $C_{pl}$ )，例如 Mesri 1975; Jamiolkowski et al. 1985) 或可塑性的转化模型中评估  $s_u$  (例如，Hansbo 1957; Chandler 1988)。这种转换模型通常是经验的或半经验的，通过回归分析的数据拟合获得 (例如，Kulhawy and Mayne 1990)。但是，必须谨慎应用此类模型并认识到其局限性，因为土壤特性，土壤行为和站点地质可能与校准转换模型的数据源不同。直接的结果是，来自这些模型的预测可能导致相对于实际属性 ( $s_u$ ) 值的偏差。

根据 Phoon and Kulhawy (1999)，来自转换模型的不确定性通常可以归类为与认知相关，这意味着可以通过收集更多数据或改进可用模型来减少不确定性。因此，从涵盖多个地点和土壤类型的数据集校准的“全局”模型优于“地点特定”模型，后者仅限于特定土壤类型或特定地点。Ching and Phoon (2012a, b, 2014a, b) 提出了基于土壤数据的全球模型，该数据涵盖了来自多个国家的大量测试地点。Ching and Phoon (2012a) 指出，尽管在应用于其他站点时偏差可能会很明显，但特定于站点的模型如何比全局模型更准确 (或不确定

uncertain).

Global transformation models for  $s_u$  of Swedish and Norwegian clays are available in the literature (Larsson and Mulabdic, 1991; Larsson et al., 2007; Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez, 2013). However, a comparable model calibrated using a sufficiently large soil research over the last decades, because of its practical database containing Finnish soft clay data is still missing. Therefore, the main objectives of the present paper are (i) to test existing transformation models for  $s_u$  for Finnish soft clays and (ii) to derive, for the first time, transformation models for  $s_u$  specific to Finnish soft clays using a large multivariate database consisting of FV data points from Finland. Another independent multivariate database of FV data points from Sweden and Norway is compiled and used for comparison and validation.

The value of multivariate soil databases has been demonstrated by Ching and Phoon (2012a,b, 2013, 2014a,b) and Ching et al. (2014). Müller (2013), Müller et al. (2014, 2016) and Prästings et al. (2016) have demonstrated how uncertainties related to  $s_u$  can be reduced when multivariate soil data are available, showing the benefits of using multivariate analyses (e.g., Ching et al. 2010) in geotechnical engineering applications. Multivariate soil data-bases are, however, limited in the literature. A summary is given in Table 1. Ching and Phoon (2014a) proposed labeling a multivariate database as “soil type” / “number of parameters of interest” / “number of data points”. Based on this nomenclature, the two databases presented in this paper are (i) F-CLAY/7/216 for Finnish clays (where “F” stands for Finland) and (ii) S-CLAY/7/168 for Scandinavian clays (where “S” stands for Scandinavia). The seven parameters in these databases consisted of  $s_u$  from the FV test ( $s_u^{FV}$ ), effective vertical stress ( $\sigma'_v$ ), vertical preconsolidation pressure ( $\sigma'_p$ ), natural water content ( $w$ ), liquid limit (LL), plastic limit (PL), and sensitivity ( $S_t = s_u/s_u^{re}$ ).

The paper is organized as follows. Firstly, after a brief overview on existing transformation models for  $s_u$ , the compilation of F-CLAY/7/216 and S-CLAY/7/168 databases is presented. Secondly, 10 dimensionless parameters are derived from the seven basic parameters, resulting in two dimensionless databases. These dimensionless databases (labelled as F-CLAY/10/216 and S-CLAY/10/168) are compared to existing correlations in the literature. To develop more refined correlations for Finnish clays, outliers are removed from F-CLAY/10/216 according to systematic criteria based on soil nature, mechanical characteristics, and statistical considerations. New transformation models for  $s_u$  specific to Finnish clays are derived through re-

性更低)。取而代之的是，尽管精度较低（或更不确定），但全局模型的偏差较小。

瑞典和挪威黏土的全球转换模型可在文献中找到 (Larsson and Mulabdic, 1991; Larsson et al., 2007; Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez, 2013)。但是，由于缺少包含芬兰软黏土数据的实用数据库，因此在过去几十年中使用足够大的土壤研究进行了校准的可比较模型仍然缺失。因此，本文的主要目标是(i)测试现有的芬兰软黏土的  $s_u$  转换模型，以及(ii)首次使用大型多元数据库导出特定于芬兰软黏土的  $s_u$  转换模型。由来自芬兰的 FV 数据点组成。来自瑞典和挪威的 FV 数据点的另一个独立的多元数据库已被编译并用于比较和验证。

Ching and Phoon (2012a,b, 2013, 2014a, b) 和 Ching et al. (2014) 证明了多元土壤数据库的价值。Müller et al. (2014, 2016) 和 Prästings et al. (2016) 证明了当获得多变量土壤数据时如何减少与  $s_u$  有关的不确定性，显示了在土力工程应用中使用多变量分析的好处（例如 Ching et al. 2010）。然而，多元土壤数据库在文献中受到限制。表 1 给出了摘要。Ching and Phoon (2014a) 建议将一个多元数据库标记为“土壤类型”/“感兴趣参数的数量”/“数据点的数量”。基于此术语，本文介绍的两个数据库是(i)芬兰黏土的 F-CLAY/7/216（其中“F”代表芬兰）和(ii)斯堪的纳维亚语的 S-CLAY/7/168 黏土（其中“S”代表斯堪的纳维亚半岛）。这些数据库中的七个参数包括 FV 测试中的  $s_u$  ( $s_u^{FV}$ )，有效垂直应力 ( $\sigma'_v$ )，垂直预固结压力 ( $\sigma'_p$ )，天然水含量 ( $w$ )，液体极限 (LL)，塑性极限 (PL)，和灵敏度 ( $S_t = s_u/s_u^{re}$ )。

本文的结构如下。首先，在对  $s_u$  的现有转换模型进行简要概述之后，介绍了 F-CLAY/7/216 和 S-CLAY/7/168 数据库的编译。其次，从七个基本参数中导出 10 个无量纲参数，从而形成两个无量纲数据库。将这些无量纲数据库（标记为 F-CLAY/10/216 和 S-CLAY/10/168）与文献中现有的相关性进行了比较。为了建立更精确的芬兰黏土相关性，根据土壤性质，机械特性和统计考虑因素，根据系统标准从 F-CLAY/10/216 中删除异常值。通过对所得

Table 1: Summary of multivariate clay databases.

表 1: 多元黏土数据库概况。

Database	Reference	Parameters of interest	No. of data points	No. of sites or studies	Range of OCR	Properties PI	$S_t$
CLAY/5/345	Ching and Phoon (2012b)	LL, $s_u$ , $s_u^{re}$ , $\sigma'_p$ , $\sigma'_v$	345	37 sites	1~4	-	Sensitive to quick clays
CLAY/7/6310	Ching and Phoon (2013)	$s_u$ under seven different test types	6310	164 studies	1~10	Low to very high plasticity	Insensitive to quick clays
CLAY/6/535	Ching et al. (2014)	$s_u/\sigma'_v$ , OCR, $(q_t - s_v)/\sigma'_v$ , $(q_t - u_2)/\sigma'_v$ , $(u_2 - u_0)/\sigma'_v$ , $B_q$	535	40 sites	1~6	Low to very high plasticity	Insensitive to quick clays
CLAY/10/7490	Ching and Phoon (2014a)	LL, PI, LL, $\sigma'_v/P_a$ , $\sigma'_p/P_a$ , $s_u/\sigma'_v$ , $S_t$ , $(q_t - \sigma_v)/\sigma'_v$ , $(q_t - u_2)/\sigma'_v$ , $B_q$	7490	251 studies	1~10	Low to very high plasticity	Insensitive to quick clays

gression analyses from the resulting F-CLAY/10/173 database. These new transformation models are compared with existing correlations for Scandinavian clays from the literature. Finally, the performance of the new models derived from F-CLAY/10/173 is evaluated by calculating the biases and uncertainties associated with S-CLAY/10/168.

F-CLAY/10/173 数据库进行回归分析得出了特定于芬兰粘土的新转换模型。从文献中将这新的转换模型与斯堪的纳维亚粘土的现有相关性进行了比较。最后，通过计算与 S-CLAY/10/168 相关的偏差和不确定性来评估源自 F-CLAY/10/173 的新模型的性能。

## 2 Overview on existing transformation models for undrained shear strength 不排水抗剪强度的现有转换模型概述

The dependency of  $s_u$  on  $\sigma'_p$  and plasticity has been the object of research over the last decades, because of its practical usefulness. Skempton (1954) suggested a linear correlation between the normalized  $s_u$  determined from FV test ( $s_u^{FV}$ ) and plasticity index (PI) for normally consolidated clays. Subsequently, Chandler (1988) indicated that the same correlation could be valid also for overconsolidated clays as shown in Eq. 1, although attention must be paid when dealing with fissured, organic, sensitive or other special clays.

$$\frac{s_u^{FV}}{\sigma'_p} \approx 0.11 + 0.0037PI \quad (1)$$

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$s_u$  对  $\sigma'_p$  和可塑性的依赖性在过去几十年中一直是研究的对象，因为它具有实用性。Skempton (1954) 提出，通过 FV 测试确定的归一化  $s_u$  ( $s_u^{FV}$ ) 与正常固结黏土的可塑性指数 (PI) 之间存在线性关系。随后，Chandler (1988) 指出，对于式 1 中所示的超固结黏土，同样的相关性也可能有效，尽管在处理裂隙，有机，敏感或其他特殊黏土时必须注意。

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Hansbo (1957) suggested, for Scandinavian clays, that  $s_u^{\text{FV}}/\sigma'_p$  is directly proportional to LL. Larsson (1980), collected strength data points from FV test in Scandinavian clays and proposed a transformation model similar to Eq. 1, as described by Eq. 2

$$\frac{s_u^{\text{FV}}}{\sigma'_p} \approx 0.08 + 0.0055\text{PI} \quad (2)$$

According to Bjerrum (1972),  $s_u^{\text{FV}}$  needs to be converted into mobilized  $s_u$  ( $s_u(\text{mob}) \approx s_u^{\text{FV}}\lambda$ ). The parameter  $\lambda$  is a correction multiplier that accounts for rate effects as well as anisotropy, and it is thought to be dependent on the plasticity of the clay.

Mesri (1975, 1989) suggested a unique relationship for  $s_u(\text{mob})$  of clays and silts, corresponding approximately to DSS condition (Eq. 3), regardless of the plasticity of the clay.

$$\frac{s_u(\text{mob})}{\sigma'_p} \approx 0.22 \quad (3)$$

However, according to Larsson (1980), Eq. 3 tends to overestimate  $s_u$  in very low - plastic clays, while it underestimates  $s_u$  in high-plastic clays. For low overconsolidated clays with low to moderate PI, Jamiolkowski et al. (1985) recommended (Eq. 4)

$$\frac{s_u(\text{mob})}{\sigma'_v} \approx (0.23 \pm 0.04)\text{OCR}^{0.8} \quad (4)$$

The transformation model suggested by Jamiolkowski et al. (1985) is based on the stress history and normalized soil engineering properties (SHANSEP) framework (Eq. 5) proposed by Ladd and Foott (1974). The SHANSEP framework is normally adopted to describe the variation of  $s_u$  with the overconsolidation ratio,  $\text{OCR}(=\sigma'_p/\sigma'_v)$ .

$$\frac{s_u}{\sigma'_v} = S(\text{OCR}^m) \quad (5)$$

where  $S$  and  $m$  are constants dependent on material and test type.  $S$  represents the normalized  $s_u$  for normally consolidated state. The exponent  $m$  varies between 0.75 and 0.95 Jamiolkowski et al., 1985. A value of  $m$  equal to 0.8 is often assumed in practice. notethat  $m = 1$  would reduce Eq. 5 to eq (3) with  $S = 0.22$ .

studied the SHANSEP relation between  $s_u/v$  and OCR for in-

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Hansbo (1957) 提出，对于斯堪的纳维亚黏土， $s_u^{\text{FV}}/\sigma'_p$  与 LL 成正比。Larsson (1980) 从斯堪的纳维亚黏土的 FV 试验中收集了强度数据点，并提出了一个与式 1 类似的转换模型，如式 2 所述。

根据Bjerrum (1972) 的说法， $s_u^{\text{FV}}$  需要转换扰动的  $s_u$  ( $s_u(\text{mob}) \approx s_u^{\text{FV}}\lambda$ )。参数  $\lambda$  是一个校正倍数，它考虑了速率效应以及各向异性，并且被认为取决于黏土的可塑性。

Mesri (1975, 1989) 提出黏土和粉砂的  $s_u(\text{mob})$  有独特的关系，与黏土的可塑性无关，大约相当于 DSS 条件 (式 3)。

但是，根据Larsson (1980)，式 3 倾向于高估低塑性黏土中的  $s_u$ ，而低估了高塑性黏土中的  $s_u$ 。对于具有低至中等 PI 的低超固结黏土，Jamiolkowski et al. (1985) 推荐 (式 4)

Jamiolkowski et al. (1985) 提出的转换模型基于Ladd and Foott (1974) 提出的应力历史和规范化土壤工程特性 (SHANSEP) 框架 (式 5)。通常采用 SHANSEP 框架描述  $s_u$  随超固结比 OCR ( $=\sigma'_p/\sigma'_v$ ) 的变化。

其中  $S$  和  $m$  是取决于材料和测试类型的常数。 $S$  表示正常合并状态的归一化  $s_u$ 。指数  $m$  在 0.75 至 0.95 之间变化Jamiolkowski et al., 1985。在实践中通常假定  $m$  等于 0.8。注意，当  $S = 0.22$  时， $m = 1$  会将式 5 减小为式 3。

研究了无机斯堪的纳维亚黏土中  $s_u/\sigma'_v$

organic Scandinavian clays. Data from undrained TXC, DSS, and TXE tests were collected to assess anisotropy. By assuming an average value equal to 0.8, it was shown how the normally consolidated undrained shear strength ratio ( $S$ ) is material dependent for DSS (eq (6)) and TXE, as it increases with increasing liquid limit; while it seems fairly constant for TXC.

Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez (2013) studied the  $(s_u/v)$ -OCR relation for Norwegian soft clays from laboratory tests on high-quality block samples. Outcomes from this study indicate that  $s_u$  strongly correlates with natural water content ( $w$ ) combined with OCR (Eq. 7 for DSS strength). More specifically, peak strengths from TXC, DSS, and TXE test were observed to increase with increasing  $w$ . Possible reasons to explain this might be e.g., (i) the open structure typical of Norwegian clays Rosenqvist, 1953, 1966, which allows the soil to retain a quantity of pore water, typically above the liquid limit of the soil or (ii) the increasing rate effects with plasticity.

与 OCR 之间的 SHANSEP 关系。从不排水的 TXC, DSS 和 TXE 测试中收集数据, 以评估各向异性。假设平均值为 0.8, 表明随着固液极限的增加, 正常固结不排水抗剪强度比 ( $S$ ) 对于 DSS (式 6) 和 TXE 的影响与材料有关; Karlsrud and Hernandez-Martinez (2013) 通过高质量块状样品的实验室测试研究了挪威软黏土的  $(s_u/\sigma'_v)$ -OCR 关系。这项研究的结果表明, 它与天然水含量 ( $w$ ) 和 OCR (DSS 强度的式 7) 密切相关。更具体地说, 观察到来自 TXC, DSS 和 TXE 测试的峰值强度随  $w$  的增加而增加。解释这种情况的可能原因可能是, 例如 (i) 挪威黏土的典型的笔形结构, 它可以使土壤保留一定数量的孔隙水, 通常高于土壤的液位极限; 或 (ii) 增速与可塑性的影响。

$$\frac{s_u^{\text{DSS}}}{\sigma'_v} \approx (0.125 + 0.205LL/1.17)OCR^{0.8} \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{s_u^{\text{DSS}}}{\sigma'_v} \approx (0.14 + 0.18w)OCR^{0.35+0.77w} \quad (7)$$

Ching and Phoon (2012b) proposed a global transformation model for  $s_u(\text{mob})$  from FV and unconfined compression (UC) tests as a function of OCR and  $S_t$ . The model was built based on a large database of structured clays (CLAY/5/345) consisting of 345 clay data points from several locations all over the world (Eq. 8).

Ching and Phoon (2012b) 提出了 FV 和无侧限压缩 (UC) 测试的  $s_u(\text{mob})$  全局转换模型, 该模型是 OCR 和  $S_t$  的函数。该模型是基于大型结构性黏土数据库 (CLAY/5/345) 由来自世界各地的 345 个黏土数据点组成 (式 8)。

$$\frac{s_u(\text{mob})}{\sigma'_v} \approx 0.229OCR^{0.823}S_t^{0.121} \quad (8)$$

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