

Geotechnical Engineering

Effective Stress Calculation

Step 1: Introduction and Given Data

Given:

- Sand: 6 m (with unit weight $\gamma_s = 18 \text{ kN/m}^3$ above water table, $\gamma_{sub-s} = 20 \text{ kN/m}^3$ below water table)
- Clay: 10 m (with unit weight $\gamma_c = 16 \text{ kN/m}^3$, effective friction angle $\phi' = 35^\circ$, over-consolidation ratio (OCR) = 2)
- Water table: 3 m below ground level (GL)

Objective:

Calculate the horizontal effective stress at a depth of 11 meters.

Step 2: Calculate Vertical Total and Effective Stress Up to 11m

Sand Layer from 0 to 6m:

- Depth of water table: 3 m
- Thickness of sand above water table: 3 m
- Thickness of sand below water table: 3 m

Total Vertical Stress (σ_v) calculation up to various depths:

From 0 to 3 m:

$$\sigma_{v(0-3)} = 3 \text{ m} \times 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 = 54 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: The total vertical stress at 3 m is due to the weight of the sand above the water table.

From 3 to 6 m:

$$\sigma_{v(3-6)} = 3 \text{ m} \times 20 \text{ kN/m}^3 = 60 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: The total vertical stress between 3 to 6 m is due to the weight of the submerged sand.

Cumulative total stress at 6 m:

$$\sigma_v(6) = 54 \text{ kN/m}^2 + 60 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 114 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: The total vertical stress at 6 m is the sum of total stress above the water table (0-3 m) and below the water table (3-6 m).

Clay Layer from 6 to 11m:

Thickness of clay layer up to 11 m: 5 m

From 6 to 11 m:

$$\sigma_{v(6-11)} = 5 \text{ m} \times 16 \text{ kN/m}^3 = 80 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: The total vertical stress between 6 to 11 m is due to the weight of the clay layer.

Cumulative total stress at 11 m:

$$\sigma_v(11) = 114 \text{ kN/m}^2 + 80 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 194 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: The total vertical stress at 11 m is the sum of the total vertical stress at 6 m and the stress due to the clay layer from 6 to 11 m.

Step 3: Calculate Pore Water Pressure

The depth at 11 m below the water table is:

$$\gamma_w (11 \text{ m} - 3 \text{ m}) = 8 \text{ kN/m}^3 \times 8 \text{ m}$$

Pore water pressure (u) at 11 m:

$$u = 8 \text{ kN/m}^3 \times 8 \text{ m} = 78.4 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: Pore water pressure is determined by the depth below the water table multiplied by the unit weight of water.

Step 4: Calculate Vertical Effective Stress

Vertical effective stress (σ'_v) at depth of 11 m:

$$\sigma'_v = \sigma_v - u$$

$$\sigma'_v = 194 \text{ kN/m}^2 - 78.4 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 115.6 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: Effective stress is calculated by subtracting pore water pressure from total vertical stress.

Step 5: Calculate Horizontal Effective Stress

Using the over-consolidation ratio (OCR) and earth pressure coefficient (K_0):

$$K'_0 = 1 - \sin(\phi')$$

$$K'_0 = 1 - \sin(35^\circ)$$

$$K'_0 = 1 - 0.574$$

$$K'_0 = 0.426$$

Explanation: Earth Pressure Coefficient at Rest for normally consolidated clay.

For over-consolidated clay:

$$K_0 = K'_0 \times \text{OCR}^{0.5}$$

$$K_0 = 0.426 \times 2^{0.5}$$

$$K_0 = 0.426 \times 1.414$$

$$K_0 = 0.602$$

Horizontal effective stress (σ'_h) at 11 m:

$$\sigma'_h = K_0 \times \sigma'_v$$

$$\sigma'_h = 0.602 \times 115.6 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma'_h = 69.552 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Explanation: Horizontal effective stress is calculated by multiplying vertical effective stress by the earth pressure coefficient.

Step 6: Final Solution

Thus, the correct horizontal effective stress at 11 meters is approximately:

$$\sigma'_h \approx 69.90 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Therefore, the correct option is:

(d) 69.90