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Estimating Hardening Soil-Brick model parameters for sands using CPTU tests

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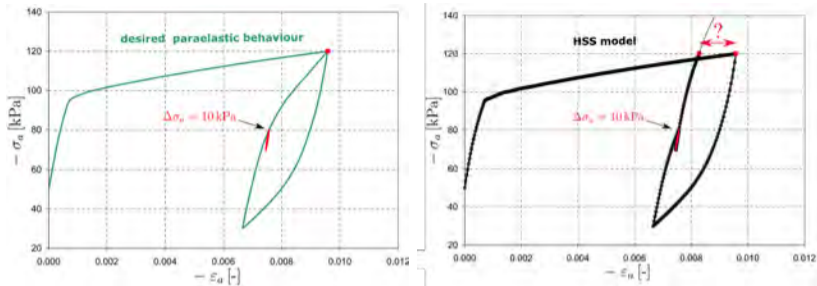


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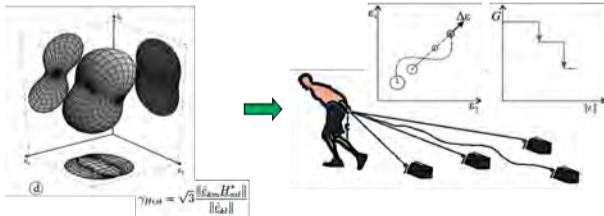
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Hardening Soil-small vs Hardening Soil-Brick



HSs → HS-Brick



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Refinement of the Hardening Soil model within the small strain range

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Marcin Cudny & Andrzej Truty

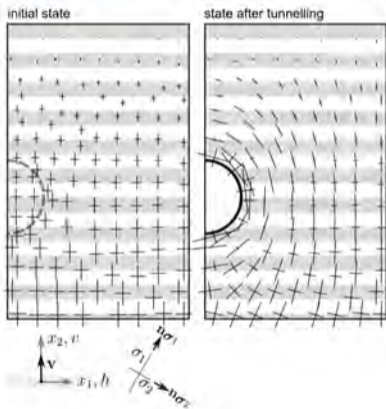
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Summary of HS-Brick model parameters (isotropic version)

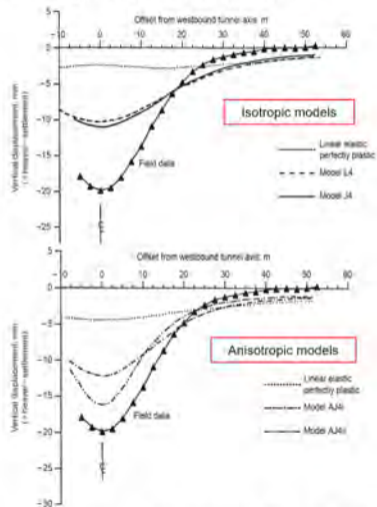
- Stiffness: E_0^{ref} , $\gamma_{0.7}$, $E_{\text{ur}}^{\text{ref}}$, E_{50}^{ref} , $E_{\text{oed}}^{\text{ref}}$, m , ν
- Stiffness barotropy: $E_0 = E_0^{\text{ref}} \left(\frac{p'}{p_a} \right)^m$ or $E_0 = E_0^{\text{ref}} \left(\frac{\sigma_3}{p_a} \right)^m$
- Strength: ϕ'_{peak} , c'
- Dilatancy: ψ
- Stress history: $\text{OCR}(z) \Rightarrow K_0$
- In sandy soils it is safe to assume $\text{OCR} = 1$, this assumption yields $K_0 = K_0^{\text{NC}}$ (use Jaky formula here)

Anisotropic AHS-Brick model

Practical significance of anisotropy in geotechnics

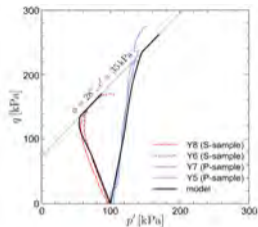


Settlement troughs caused by tunneling – the comparison of constitutive models

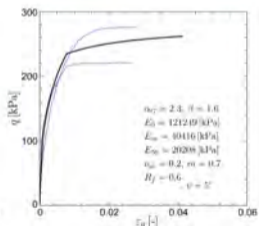
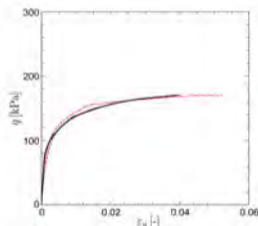
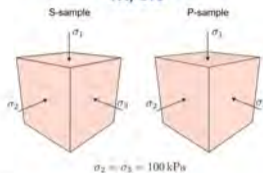


Addenbrooke, Potts, Puzrin, 1997

Anisotropic AHS-Brick model



Element tests – Oxford Clay
TX, CIU



Jeden dodatkowy parametr $\Rightarrow \alpha_G = \frac{G_{hh}}{G_{hv}}$

Is it possible to estimate HS-Brick model parameters for young uncemented sands from the CPTU tests only?

- 1 Laboratory tests on sands are difficult as samples have to be usually reconstituted
- 2 Without the evidence deduced from laboratory tests (high quality triaxial and oedometer tests) answer is ⇒ **NO**
- 3 With a certain laboratory experience it is definitely possible but with limitation to the uncemented sands only (so far..)
- 4 This research has been made based on experiments conducted by Wichtmann et al. but also on experiments conducted on coarse and medium sands from Łódź and Warsaw (Poland)

Wichtmann, T., Kimming, I., and Traintafyllidis, T. (2017). "On correlations between "dynamic" (small-strain) and "static" (large-strain) stiffness moduli – an experimental investigation on 19 sands and gravels." *Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering*, 98, 72–83.

Truty, A. Estimating Hardening Soil-Brick model parameters for sands based on CPTU tests and laboratory experimental evidence. *Scientific Reports* 14, 15102 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-65789-5>

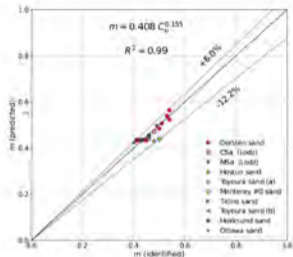
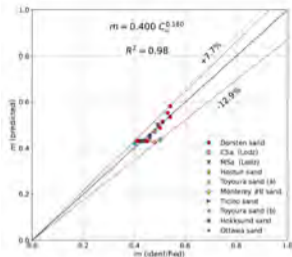
Parameter: m

- m parameter is defined here for the range of very small strains
- Strong correlation between m and $C_u = d_{60}/d_{10}$ has been found by Wichtmann
- Wichtmann (2009): $m = 0.4 C_u^{0.18} (1 + 0.116 \ln(1 + 100 \text{ FC}))$
- Truty (2024): $m = 0.408 C_u^{0.155} (1 + 0.092 \ln(1 + 100 \text{ FC}))$
- **Remark: m is increasing with shear strain; what can we do with that ?**

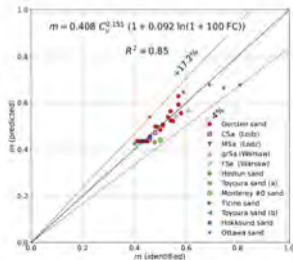
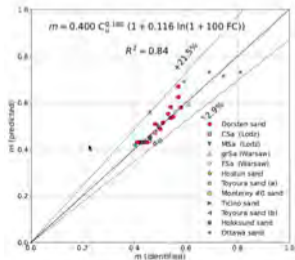
Truty, A. Estimating Hardening Soil-Brick model parameters for sands based on CPTU tests and laboratory experimental evidence. Scientific Reports 14, 15102 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-65789-5>

Parameter: m

Clean sands

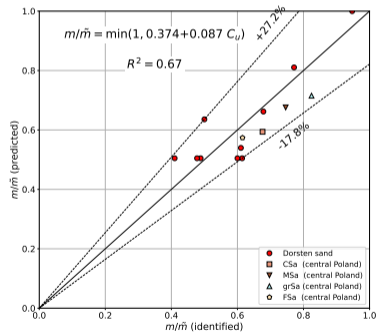


All sands



Parametr: \tilde{m}

- Exponent m is an increasing function of the equivalent shear strain
- Here \tilde{m} corresponds to the E_{50} modulus
- Truty (2023): $m/\tilde{m} = 0.374 + 0.087 C_u \leq 1$



Relation between G_0^{ref} and E_{50}^{ref}

- **Constraint:**
$$\frac{E_0^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}} = \underbrace{\frac{E_0^{\text{ref}}}{E_{\text{ur}}^{\text{ref}}}}_{>1} \underbrace{\frac{E_{\text{ur}}^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}}}_{>2} > 2$$

- **Hence:**
$$\frac{G_0^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}} > \frac{1}{1 + \nu}$$

- **More restrictive form:**
$$\frac{G_0^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}} > 1$$

- **Proposed approximation:**
$$\frac{G_0^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}} = 1 + A (E_{50}^{\text{ref}} / p_a)^n$$

Wichtmann, T., Kimming, I., and Traintafyllidis, T. (2017). "On correlations between "dynamic" (small-strain) and "static" (large-strain) stiffness moduli – an experimental investigation on 19 sands and gravels." Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering, 98, 72–83.

Relation between G_0^{ref} and E_{50}^{ref} : coarse and medium sands

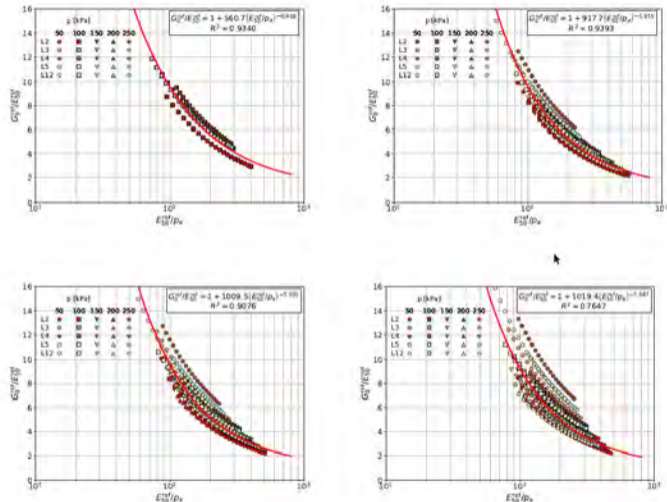


Fig. 5 Relations $G_0^{\text{ref}}/E_{50}^{\text{ref}}$ vs E_{50}^{ref}/p_a for coarse and medium sands (in the top left figure distinct m and \bar{m} values are used, in the top right figure $\bar{m} = m$ is assumed, in the bottom left figure fixed $m = \bar{m} = 0.5$ is assumed, in the bottom right figure the averaged value $0.5(m + \bar{m})$ is used)

Relation between G_0^{ref} and E_{50}^{ref} : verification for Łódź sands

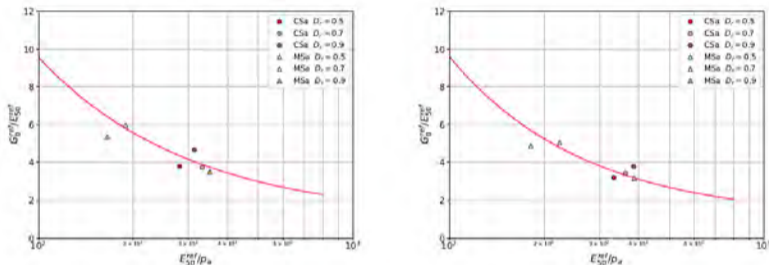
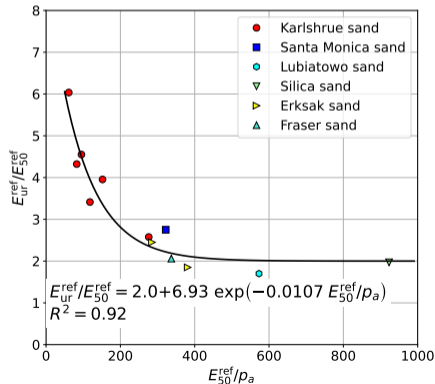
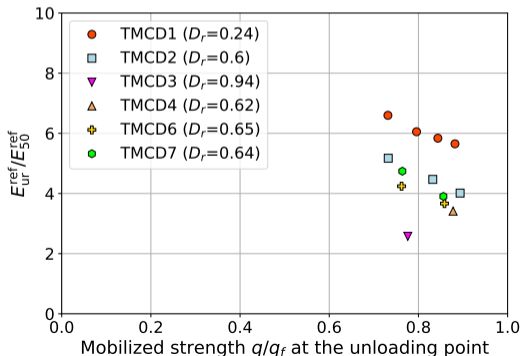


Fig. 8 Verification of derived relations $G_0^{\text{ref}}/E_{50}^{\text{ref}}(E_{50}^{\text{ref}}/p_a)$ for coarse and medium Łódź sands. In the left figure distinct m and \bar{m} values are used for the two moduli while in the right plot enforced $\bar{m} = m$ is used

Relation between E_{ur}^{ref} and E_{50}^{ref}

- Results of experiments conducted by Wichtmann shown in the left figure
- Reloading has to begin from relatively high $q/q_f > 0.8$ while unloading must be continued till $q \approx 0$



Relation between $E_{\text{oed}}^{\text{ref}}$ i E_{50}^{ref} : medium and coarse sands

- 1 Approximation: $\frac{E_{\text{oed}}^{\text{ref}}}{E_{50}^{\text{ref}}} = A \left(E_{50}^{\text{ref}} / p_a \right)^n$
- 2 Here we have to be careful when choosing the reference vertical stress hence $\sigma_{v,\text{oed}} = 8 p_a$
- 3 For very low or very high $E_{50}^{\text{ref}} / p_a$ values model may still not be able to reproduce this relation

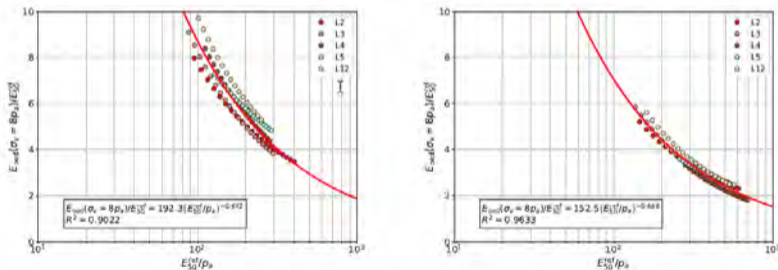


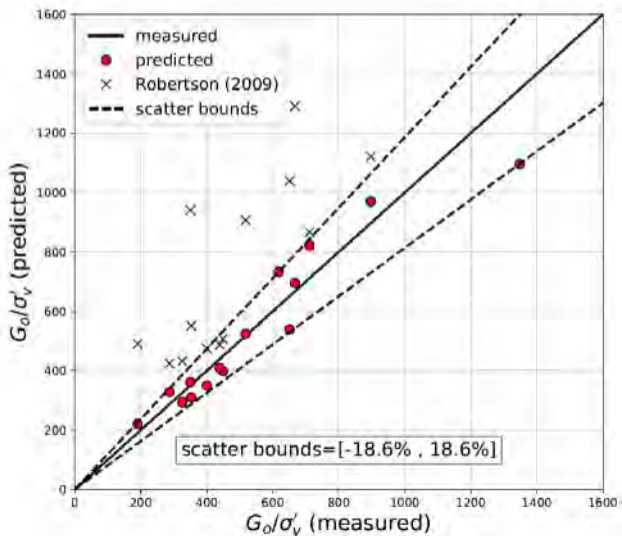
Fig. 13 Relation between $E_{\text{oed}}^{\text{ref}} (\sigma_v = 8 p_a) / E_{50}^{\text{ref}}$ and $E_{50}^{\text{ref}} / p_a$ for medium and coarse sands (in the left figure E_{50}^{ref} modulus computed using exponent \hat{m} while in the right one exponent m respectively)

Estimating E_0^{ref} using CPTU test

- Robertson's formula for v_s yields usually too high G_0 values
- Moreover it does not reproduce the power law in barotropy function $G_0 - p$ (Ahmed 2017)
- From experiments we know that: $\frac{G_0}{p_a} \propto \left(\frac{p'}{p_a}\right)^m$
- Hence: $\frac{G_0}{p_a} \propto \left(\frac{\sigma'_v}{p_a}\right)^m$ as $p' = \frac{1 + 2 K_0}{3} \sigma'_v$
- For the data base of 15 sands published by Mayne the following correlation formulas were derived by Ahmed (2017)
 - $m = 0.167 I_c - 0.002 \sigma'_v / p_a + 0.232$
 - $G_0 = 5300 \sigma'_v \exp(-1.25 I_{cc}) f(F_r)$ (reported estimation error +/-20%)
 - $f(F_r) = 0.21 F_r + 0.85 \geq 1.0$
 - Corrected behavioral index $I_{cc} = \sqrt{(3.47 - \log Q_{tc})^2 + (1.22 + \log F_r)^2}$
 - $Q_{tc} = \frac{Q_{tn}}{(\sigma'_v / p_a)^{1-m}}$

Estimating E_0^{ref} using CPTU test

- Robertson's formula for v_s yields usually too high G_0 values



Estimating E_0^{ref} using CPTU tests

- Correcting Ahmed's formula (using particle swarm optimization)
 - $m = 0.111 I_c + 0.322$
 - $G_0 = 7127 \sigma'_v \exp(-1.432 I_{cc}) f(F_r)$
 - $f(F_r) = 0.343 F_r + 0.812$

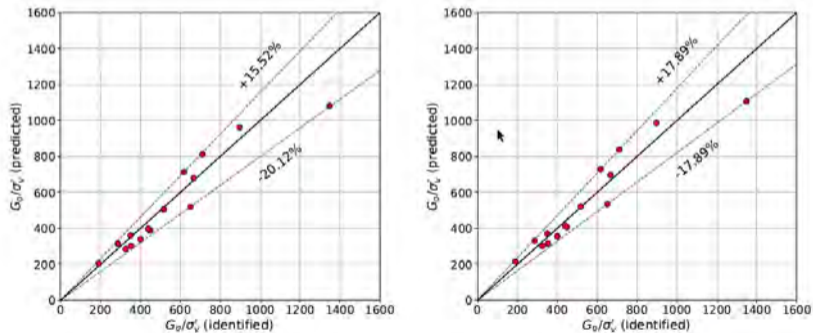
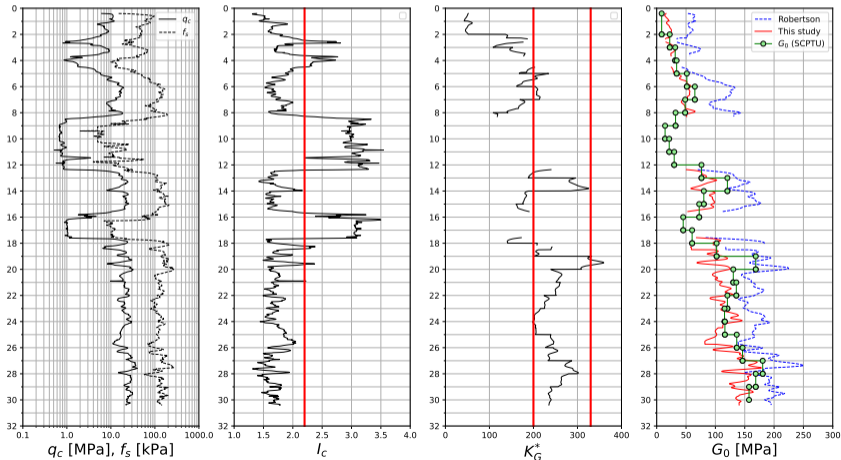


Fig. 15 Predicted vs measured G_0/σ'_v values for 15 sands from data base by [18] (results of unconstrained and constrained optimization are shown in the left and right figure respectively)

How this formula works in the practice?

SCPTU (Gdańsk)



Stiffness degradation in the range of small strains

- Wichtmann et al. proposed the following formula for the stiffness degradation

$$\frac{G}{G_0} = \frac{1}{1 + a \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_r}}$$

where

$$a = (1 + 0.847 \ln(C_u)) \exp(2.05 FC)$$
$$\gamma_r = \frac{\tau_{\max}}{G_0}$$

- The maximum shear stress at in situ conditions can be expressed as follows

$$\tau_{\max} = \max \left(\frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \right) = \frac{\sigma'_v (1 - K_a)}{2}$$

T. Wichtmann and T. Trintafyllidis. Effect of uniformity coefficient on G/G_{\max} and damping ratio of uniform to well graded quartz sands. *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, ASCE, 139(1):59–72, 2013.

T. Wichtmann, M. A. Navarette Hernandez, and T. Trintafyllidis. On the influence of a non-cohesive fines content on small strain stiffness, modulus degradation and damping of quartz sand. *Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering*, 69: 103–114, 2015

Stiffness degradation in the range of small strains

- In the HS-Brick model the adopted stiffness degradation curve is defined as follows

$$\frac{G}{G_0} = \frac{1}{1 + \tilde{a} \frac{\gamma}{\gamma_{0.7}}}$$

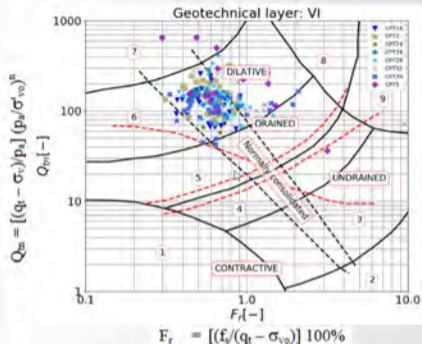
where $\tilde{a} = 0.385$ is assumed.

- By comparing the two expressions (Wichtmann's formula and the one adopted in the HS-Brick model) the following formula for the parameter $\gamma_{0.7}$ is derived (FC in decimal notation)

$$\gamma_{0.7} = \frac{\tilde{a}}{a} \gamma_r = \frac{0.385}{(1 + 0.847 \ln(C_u)) \exp(2.05 \text{ FC})} \frac{\sigma'_v(1 - K_a)}{2G_0}$$

- Note that $\gamma_{0.7}$ varies with p' ; hence we could adjust it according to the in situ stress conditions
- C_u can be obtained from the CPTU using inverse $m - C_u$ relation

Prelude to random fields/variables



Basic concept

$$\rho_{\text{cross}} = 0.22$$

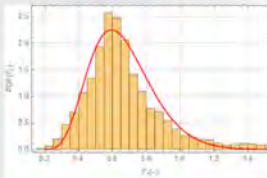
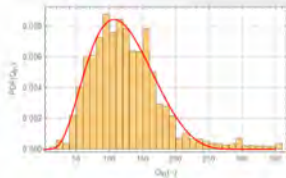
$$\rho(\tau) = \exp\left\{-\pi\left(\frac{\tau}{\theta}\right)^2\right\} \quad \theta_z = 0.5\text{m}$$

$$\theta_x = \infty$$

$$R_{\text{cross}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_{\text{cross}} \\ \rho_{\text{cross}} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{PDF}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}(b-a)}{\sqrt{2s}(t-a)(b-t)} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2s^2}\left[\pi \ln\left(\frac{t-a}{b-t}\right) - m\right]^2\right\} & t \in (a, b) \\ 0 & t \notin (a, b) \end{cases}$$

$$Y = a + \frac{1}{2}(b-a)\left[1 + \tanh\left(\frac{m + sX_2}{2\pi}\right)\right]$$





Opens the door to Bayesian analyses

- Formal, «mathematical» observational method
- Real-time monitoring leads to
 - Either design optimization
 - Or reinforcement, if needed

Lots of inherent uncertainties

- Ground parameters
- Water level
- Loads, ...

Why use reliability-based design to assess geotechnical structures?

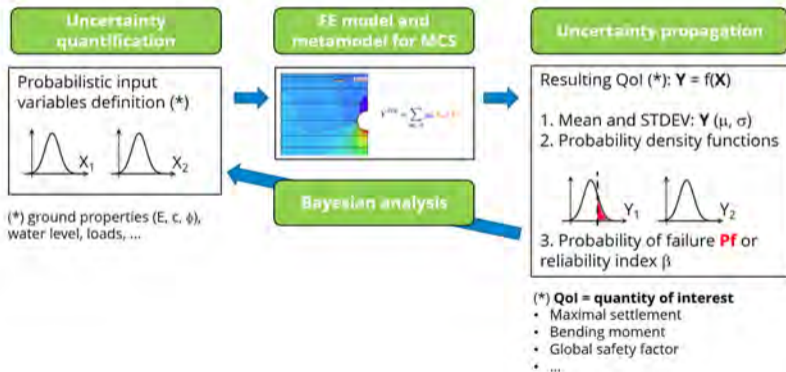
Present in new Eurocodes

- Guidelines out in 2025

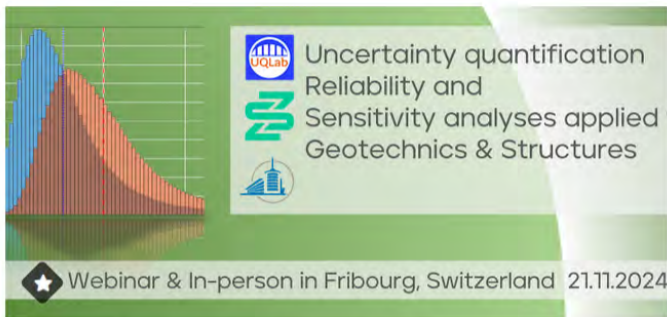
Probabilistic analyses will provide

- Sensitivity: which parameters are important?
- Reliability: what is the probability of failure?
- Risk assessment is therefore possible

Reliability based design



Short course on uncertainty quantification



UQLab

Uncertainty quantification
Reliability and
Sensitivity analyses applied
Geotechnics & Structures

Webinar & In-person in Fribourg, Switzerland 21.11.2024

COURSE APRIL 8, 2024

Uncertainty Quantification, Reliability and Sensitivity Analyses applied to Geotechnics & Structures

Short course with the use of UQLab and ZSoil
21th November 2024
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