



Sheet Pile Design by Pile Buck

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Introduction

Books, like any other enterprise, have stories behind them, even supposedly “dry” technical books such as this one. This one’s story is a little more interesting than most.

When it was first published in 1986, the *Pile Buck Steel Sheet Piling Design Manual* quickly became the standard manual for sheet piling design. It came at a time when the manufacturers’ published manuals on the subject were rapidly becoming a thing of the past, in the U.S. at least. The changes that were taking place at the time—and certainly since then—have only reinforced the need for a book on this subject published by an entity other than a manufacturer of sheet piling.

Harry A. Lindahl, PE., who was the chief applications engineer for U.S. Steel for many years, did the vast majority of the work on the original book. Both Mr. Lindahl and Christopher Smoot, publisher of Pile Buck, recognized that even a classic such as the *Steel Sheet Piling Design Manual* needed updates and additions. The writing of the new edition began almost immediately after the publication of the original. Mr. Lindahl was in the process of writing the new book when his work was interrupted by his sudden and untimely death in 1992, and this book is dedicated to his memory.

In the intervening years, the introduction of sheeting such as aluminium, vinyl and pultruded fibreglass sheeting only made a new book even more necessary, and so Chris Smoot turned to me to finish this work. It has been an interesting task because sheet piling is unique in many ways. There are few design elements of geotechnical engineering where the geotechnical and structural aspects of the design are so closely intertwined. Moreover, from an aesthetic standpoint, one cannot look at the various types of sheet pile structures, especially cofferdams, without being impressed as to the visual impact of the structure. Sheet piling does in fact have a sort of “structural art” all of its own, especially when properly installed, something that most geotechnical design elements sorely lack.

This book contains many additions and revisions from the previous work; some of these are as follows:

- ❖ Inclusion of non-ferrous sheet piles, which led to the book’s name change to the *Sheet Piling Design by Pile Buck*
- ❖ Addition of extensive information on the seismic design of sheet pile walls.
- ❖ An expanded treatment of lateral earth pressures and . . . other loads on sheet pile walls.

- ❖ Addition of information on “non-classical” methods of sheet pile wall design, and an overview of LRFD with sheet piling.
- ❖ Information on transverse bending, which is a relatively new phenomenon recognised in sheet piling.
- ❖ A section on corrosion and corrosion protection.

There are two other items that need to be noted.

The first concerns the use of public domain publications. Pile Buck has a long tradition of making available many of the public domain publications that are put out by the U.S. Government. In this work we have incorporated many of these; however, our practice is to integrate these into the text rather than present them as separate works. We have listed in the back those publications that we have used; however, we should make a special note of two that have been especially used:

- ❖ Ebeling, R.M., and Morrison, E.E. *The Seismic Design Of Waterfront Retaining Structures*. NCEL Technical Report R-939. Port Hueneme, California: Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory, 1993.
- ❖ Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Design Of Sheet Pile Cellular Structures Cofferdams And Retaining Structures*. EM 1110-2-2503. Washington, DC, 1989.

The second concerns the worked examples. The calculational capacity available to design engineers has grown significantly since the original work was published. We have added many new problems and reworked ones from the original work as well. We have also employed computer software for the analysis of sheet pile walls. The most important one is *SPW 911 v. 2*, the sheet pile analysis software available from Pile Buck. We have also used other software packages, including CFRAME, the structural analysis program from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the academic version of two other programs: Maple V Release 4 for the Macintosh from Waterloo Maple, Inc., and SEEP-W, which is part of the GeoSlope Office from Geo-Slope International, Ltd.

So now we commend this work to our readers, hoping that its use will result in many successful sheet pile designs.

Don C. Warrington, P.E.
<http://www.vulcanhammer.net>

Table of Contents

NOTICE	I
INTRODUCTION	II
TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
TABLE OF FIGURES	X
TABLE OF TABLES	XVI
TABLE OF EXAMPLES	XVII
CHAPTER 1. OVERVIEW OF SHEET PILING ...	1
1.1. TYPES OF SHEET PILING	1
1.1.1. WOOD	1
1.1.2. STEEL SHEET PILING	1
1.1.2.1. Larssen Shapes	2
1.1.2.2. Z-Type Shapes	2
1.1.2.3. Straight Web Sections	3
1.1.2.4. Cold Finished Piling	3
1.1.2.5. High Modulus Sections	3
1.1.2.6. Interlocks for Steel Piling	3
1.1.2.6.1. History	3
1.1.2.6.2. Ball and Socket Interlocks	5
1.1.2.6.3. Jaw Type Interlocks	5
1.1.2.7. Sheet Piling Nomenclature and Identification ...	6
1.1.2.8. Ordering Sheet Piling	6
1.1.2.9. Steel Sheet Piling Today	6
1.1.3. CONCRETE	6
1.1.4. LIGHT-GAUGE ALUMINIUM	6
1.1.5. VINYL SHEET PILING	7
1.1.6. PULTRUDED FIBREGLASS SHEET PILING	7
1.2. APPLICATIONS	7
1.2.1. TEMPORARY APPLICATIONS	7
1.2.1.1. Temporary Box Cofferdams	7
1.2.1.2. Land Cofferdams	7
1.2.1.3. Trench Excavations	9
1.2.1.4. Cellular Cofferdams	9
1.2.1.4.1. Circular Type Cells	9
1.2.1.4.2. Diaphragm Type Cells	10
1.2.1.4.3. Cloverleaf Cells	10
1.2.1.4.4. Modified Types	10
1.2.1.4.5. Components of Cellular Cofferdams	10
1.2.2. PERMANENT APPLICATIONS	11
1.2.2.1. Marine Bulkheads	11
1.2.2.2. Cellular Bulkheads	11
1.2.2.3. Barge Docks	11
1.2.2.4. Coastal Construction	11
1.2.2.4.1. Bulkheading	11
1.2.2.4.2. Protective Structures	13
1.2.2.5. Other Permanent Applications	13
1.2.2.5.1. Water Control Structures; Weirs and Dams ...	13
1.2.2.5.2. Flood Control Structures	13
1.2.2.5.3. Navigation Structures	13
1.2.2.5.4. Graving Docks and Dry-docks	13
1.2.2.5.5. Artificial Islands	13
1.2.2.6. Highway Applications	13
1.2.2.6.1. Retaining Walls and Abutments	13
1.2.2.6.2. Bridge Protection Cells	14
1.2.2.7. Marinas and Boat Launching Facilities	14
1.2.2.7.1. Bulkheading	14
1.2.2.7.2. Breakwaters	14
1.2.2.7.3. Other Applications	14
1.3. BACKFILL MATERIALS FOR SHEET PILE WALLS	14
1.3.1. OVERVIEW OF BACKFILL TYPES	14
1.3.2. LIGHTWEIGHT BACKFILL	15
1.3.3. SAND DIKES	15
1.3.4. DREDGED BULKHEADS	15
1.3.5. COMPACTION OF FILL	15
1.3.6. PLACING BACKFILL	15
1.4. FAILURE MODES AND LOADS OF SHEET PILE WALLS	15
1.4.1. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS	15
1.4.2. FAILURE MODES FOR SHEET PILING	17
1.4.2.1. Deep-seated failure	17
1.4.2.2. Rotational failure due to inadequate pile penetration	17
1.4.2.3. Flexural Failure of Sheet Piling	17
1.4.2.4. Anchorage Failure	17
1.4.2.5. Special Failures due to Earthquake Motion ...	17
1.5. APPLICATION OF ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES TO SHEET PILING DESIGN	17
CHAPTER 2. STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF SHEET PILE WALLS	19
2.1. MATERIALS USED IN SHEET PILING	19
2.1.1. GRADES OF SHEET PILING STEEL	19
2.1.1.1. Basic Grade: ASTM A-328	19
2.1.1.2. Higher Strength Grade: ASTM A-572	19
2.1.1.3. Corrosion Resisting Grade: ASTM A-690	19
2.1.1.4. Structural Factors of Safety for Steel Sheet Piling..	19
2.1.2. OTHER MATERIALS	19
2.2. BENDING OF SHEET PILING	19
2.2.1. THEORY OF PURE BENDING OF SHEETING ...	19
2.2.2. APPLICATION OF BENDING TO SPECIFIC SHEET PILE SECTIONS	21
2.2.3. COMBINED AXIAL AND FLEXURAL STRESSES ..	21
2.2.4. SECTION MODULUS OF U- SHAPED SHEETING	21
2.2.5. TRANSVERSE BENDING FAILURE	22
2.2.6. SHEAR FAILURE	23
2.3. INTERLOCK STRENGTH FOR FLAT SHEETING ...	23
CHAPTER 3. OVERVIEW OF SOIL MECHANICS	25
3.1. INTRODUCTION	25
3.2. SOILS	25
3.2.1. OVERVIEW OF SOIL TYPES	25
3.2.2. UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (USCS)	25
3.2.2.1. Coarse-Grained (Cohesionless or Granular) Soils	27
3.2.2.2. Fine-Grained (Cohesive or Organic) Soils	27

3.2.2.3. Examples of Sample Descriptions	31	3.5.13. RESILIENT MODULUS TEST (DYNAMIC)	46
3.2.3. MODIFIED UNIFIED SYSTEM (MUD)	31	3.6. FIELD EXPLORATION, TESTING, AND	
3.2.3.1. Definition of Terms	31	INSTRUMENTATION	46
3.2.3.2. Visual - Manual Identification	33	3.6.1. REVIEW OF PROJECT REQUIREMENTS	47
3.2.3.3. Soil Sample Identification Procedure	33	3.6.2. OFFICE REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA	47
3.2.3.4. Other Information for Describing Soils	35	3.6.2.1. Topographic Maps	47
3.2.3.5. Preparing the Word Picture	35	3.6.2.2. Aerial Photographs	47
3.2.3.6. Examples Of Complete Soil Descriptions	35	3.6.2.3. Geological Maps and Reports	47
3.3. LOGGING	35	3.6.2.4. Soils Conservation Service Surveys	47
3.4. SPECIAL MATERIALS AND DIFFICULT SOILS	35	3.6.2.5. Potentiometric Surface Map	47
3.4.1. PERMAFROST AND FROST PENETRATION	35	3.6.2.6. Adjacent Projects	47
3.4.1.1. Characteristics	35	3.6.3. FIELD RECONNAISSANCE	47
3.4.1.2. Classification	35	3.6.4. SOIL BORINGS AND TEST PITS	49
3.4.2. LIMESTONE AND RELATED MATERIALS	37	3.6.4.1. Soil Borings	49
3.4.2.1. Karst Topography	37	3.6.4.1.1. Auger Borings	49
3.4.2.2. Calcareous Soils	37	3.6.4.1.2. Hollow-Stem Auger Borings	49
3.4.3. QUICK CLAYS	41	3.6.4.1.3. Wash Borings	49
3.4.4. OTHER MATERIALS AND CONSIDERATIONS	41	3.6.4.1.4. Percussion Drilling	49
3.4.4.1. Man-Made and Hydraulic Fills	41	3.6.4.1.5. Rotary Drilling	49
3.4.4.2. Chemically Reactive Soils	41	3.6.4.2. Test Pits	49
3.4.4.3. Lateritic Soils	41	3.6.4.3. Test Trenches	49
3.5. LABORATORY TESTING	41	3.6.5. SAMPLING	49
3.5.1. GRAIN-SIZE ANALYSIS	41	3.6.5.1. Disturbed and Undisturbed Sampling	49
3.5.1.1. Sieve Analysis	42	3.6.5.2. Types of Soil Sampling	49
3.5.1.2. Hydrometer	42	3.6.5.2.1. Bag Bulk Samples	49
3.5.2. MOISTURE CONTENT	42	3.6.5.2.2. Split-Barrel	49
3.5.3. ATTERBERG LIMITS	42	3.6.5.2.3. Shelby Tube	50
3.5.3.1. Liquid Limit	42	3.6.5.2.4. Piston Samplers	50
3.5.3.2. Plastic Limit	42	3.6.6. PENETRATION RESISTANCE TESTS	50
3.5.4. SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF SOILS	42	3.6.6.1. Standard Penetration Test (SPT)	50
3.5.5. STRENGTH TESTS	43	3.6.6.1.1. Procedure	50
3.5.5.1. Unconfined Compression Tests	43	3.6.6.2. Corrections	50
3.5.5.2. Triaxial Compression Tests	43	3.6.6.3. Correlations	51
3.5.5.2.1. Unconsolidated-Undrained (UU), or Q Test	43	3.6.6.3.1. Compactness and Consistency	51
3.5.5.2.2. Consolidated-Undrained (CU), or R Test	43	3.6.6.3.2. Relative Density of Granular (but fine grained)	51
3.5.5.2.3. Consolidated-Drained (CD), or S Test	43	Deposits	51
3.5.5.3. Direct Shear	43	3.6.6.3.3. Undrained Shear Strength	53
3.5.5.4. Miniature Vane Shear (Torvane) and Pocket Penetrometer	45	3.6.6.3.4. Drained Friction Angle f'	53
3.5.6. CONSOLIDATION TEST	45	3.6.6.4. Cone Penetrometer Test (CPT)	53
3.5.6.1. One-Dimensional Test	45	3.6.6.4.1. Test Description	53
3.5.6.2. Constant Rate of Strain Test	45	3.6.6.4.2. Correlations	55
3.5.7. ORGANIC CONTENT	45	3.6.6.5. Dynamic Cone Penetrometer Test	57
3.5.8. SHRINKAGE AND SWELL	45	3.6.6.6. Dilatometer Test (DMT)	57
3.5.8.1. Shrinkage	45	3.6.6.7. Pressuremeter Test (PMT)	58
3.5.8.2. Swell	45	3.6.7. FIELD VANE TEST	59
3.5.9. PERMEABILITY	45	3.6.8. POCKET PENETROMETER	59
3.5.9.1. Constant-Head Test	46	3.6.9. TORVANE SHEAR DEVICE	59
3.5.9.2. Falling-Head Test	46	3.6.10. INFILTRATION TEST	59
3.5.9.3. Flexible Wall Permeability	46	3.6.11. PERMEABILITY TESTS	61
3.5.10. ENVIRONMENTAL CORROSION TESTS	46	3.6.12. SEEPAGE TEST	62
3.5.11. COMPACTION TESTS	46	3.6.12.1. Constant Head Test	62
3.5.11.1. Standard Proctor	46	3.6.12.2. Rising Head Test	62
3.5.11.2. Modified Proctor	46	3.6.12.3. Falling Head Test	62
3.5.12. RELATIVE DENSITY TESTS	46	3.6.12.4. Open-End Borehole Test	62
3.5.12.1. Maximum Index Density	46	3.6.12.5. Exfiltration Test	62
3.5.12.2. Minimum Index Density	46	3.6.12.6. Pumping Test	62
		3.6.12.7. Gravity and Pressure Tests	63

3.6.13. ENVIRONMENTAL CORROSION TESTS	63
3.6.14. GROUT PLUG PULL-OUT TEST	63
3.6.15. GROUNDWATER MEASUREMENTS AND PIEZOMETERS	65
3.7. MEASUREMENT OF SOIL PROPERTIES IN SITU	65
3.7.1. IN-PLACE DENSITY	65
3.7.2. DETECTION OF COMBUSTIBLE GASES	65

CHAPTER 4.

BASIC EARTH PRESSURE CONCEPTS	66
4.1. LATERAL EARTH PRESSURE COEFFICIENT	66
4.2. TOTAL AND EFFECTIVE STRESSES	66
4.2.1. TOTAL STRESS	66
4.2.2. EFFECTIVE STRESS	66
4.3. MOHR-COULOMB SHEAR STRENGTH	66
4.4. EARTH PRESSURE AND WALL MOVEMENT	67
4.4.1. AT-REST PRESSURES	67
4.4.2. WALL MOVEMENTS	69
4.4.3. ACTIVE PRESSURES	69
4.4.4. PASSIVE PRESSURES	70
4.4.5. WALL FRICTION AND ADHESION	70
4.4.6. COHESIVE SOILS	70

CHAPTER 5.

STATIC EARTH PRESSURES	71
5.1. RANKINE THEORY	71
5.1.1. ACTIVE EARTH PRESSURES	73
5.1.2. PASSIVE EARTH PRESSURES	74
5.2. COULOMB THEORY	77
5.2.1. ACTIVE EARTH PRESSURES	77
5.2.2. PASSIVE EARTH PRESSURES	78
5.3. LOG-SPIRAL THEORY	79
5.4. EARTH PRESSURES COMPUTED USING THE TRIAL WEDGE PROCEDURE	79
5.4.1. HYDROSTATIC WATER PRESSURES	85

CHAPTER 6.

DYNAMIC EARTH PRESSURES	87
6.1. OVERVIEW OF EARTHQUAKE LOADS	87
6.1.1. LIMIT STATES	87
6.1.2. KEY ROLE OF LIQUEFACTION HAZARD ASSESSMENT	87
6.1.3. CHOICE OF DESIGN GROUND MOTIONS	87
6.1.3.1. Design Seismic Event	87
6.1.3.2. Local soil conditions	89
6.1.3.3. Seismic Coefficients	89
6.1.3.4. Vertical Ground Accelerations	90
6.2. INTRODUCTION TO DYNAMIC EARTH PRESSURES	90
6.3. DYNAMIC ACTIVE EARTH PRESSURE FORCE.	93
6.3.1. VERTICAL POSITION OF PAE ALONG BACK OF WALL	95
6.3.2. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR DYNAMIC ACTIVE	

EARTH PRESSURES	97
6.3.3. LIMITING VALUE FOR HORIZONTAL ACCELERATION	98
6.4. EFFECT OF SUBMERGENCE OF THE BACKFILL ON THE MONONOBE-OKABE METHOD OF ANALYSIS	101
6.4.1. SUBMERGED BACKFILL WITH NO EXCESS PORE PRESSURES	101
6.4.1.1. Restrained water case	101
6.4.1.2. Free water case	102
6.4.2. SUBMERGED BACKFILL WITH EXCESS PORE PRESSURE	102
6.4.2.1. Restrained water case	102
6.4.2.2. Alternate Procedure	102
6.4.2.3. Free water case	103
6.4.3. PARTIAL SUBMERGENCE	103
6.5. DYNAMIC PASSIVE EARTH PRESSURES	103
6.5.1. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR DYNAMIC PASSIVE EARTH PRESSURES	109
6.5.2. EXAMPLE	109
6.6. EFFECT OF VERTICAL ACCELERATIONS ON THE VALUES FOR THE DYNAMIC ACTIVE AND PASSIVE EARTH PRESSURES	109
6.7. CASES WITH SURFACE LOADINGS	110

CHAPTER 7.

WATER AND WATER FLOW IN SOIL	114
7.1. HYDROSTATIC WATER AND SURCHARGE	114
7.2. STEADY STATE SEEPAGE	114
7.2.1. THEORY OF GROUNDWATER FLOW	115
7.3. ANALYSIS OF GROUNDWATER FLOW	118
7.3.1. EFFECT OF GROUNDWATER ON EFFECTIVE UNIT WEIGHT	118
7.3.2. SIMPLIFIED METHOD OF ANALYSIS	119
7.3.3. FLOW NET TECHNIQUE	119
7.3.4. FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS	122
7.4. SEEPAGE FORCES	122
7.4.1. SEEPAGE THROUGH INTERLOCKS	123
7.5. WAVE ACTION	123

CHAPTER 8.

OTHER LOADS ON SHEET PILE WALLS	126
8.1. EFFECT OF SURFACE LOADINGS	126
8.1.1. ELASTIC SOLUTIONS	126
8.1.1.1. Uniform surcharge	126
8.1.1.2. Line loads	126
8.1.1.3. Strip loads	126
8.1.1.4. Ramp load	126
8.1.1.5. Triangular Load	126
8.1.1.6. Area loads	126
8.1.1.7. Point loads	126
8.1.2. TRIAL WEDGE ANALYSIS	126
8.1.3. FINITE ELEMENT METHODS	127
8.2. ADDITIONAL APPLIED LOADS	127
8.2.1. BOAT IMPACT	129
8.2.2. MOORING PULLS	129

8.2.3. ICE FORCES	130
8.2.4. WIND FORCES	130

CHAPTER 9.

DESIGN OF CANTILEVERED AND ANCHORED WALLS USING CLASSICAL METHODS131

9.1. DEFINITION OF CLASSICAL METHODS ...131

9.1.1. USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR CLASSICAL METHODS	131
---	-----

9.2. DATA REQUIRED FOR ANALYSIS131

9.2.1. MINIMUM INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR DESIGN	131
--	-----

9.2.1.1. Soil Weight	133
----------------------------	-----

9.2.1.2. Angle of Internal Friction ϕ	133
--	-----

9.2.1.3. Angle of Friction between Soil and Wall δ	133
---	-----

9.2.1.4. Adhesion	133
-------------------------	-----

9.2.1.5. Cohesion	133
-------------------------	-----

9.2.1.6. Ground Slopes β	133
--------------------------------------	-----

9.2.1.7. Surcharges	133
---------------------------	-----

9.2.1.8. External Loads	133
-------------------------------	-----

9.2.1.9. Water	133
----------------------	-----

9.2.1.10. Project Data	134
------------------------------	-----

9.2.2. LOAD CASES	134
-------------------------	-----

9.3. CANTILEVER WALLS134

9.3.1. OVERVIEW	134
-----------------------	-----

9.3.2. CANTILEVER SHEET PILING IN GRANULAR SOILS	135
--	-----

9.3.2.1. Conventional Method	135
------------------------------------	-----

9.3.2.2. Simplified Method	137
----------------------------------	-----

9.3.2.3. Chart Solutions	137
--------------------------------	-----

9.3.2.4. Factors of Safety and Rules of Thumb	137
---	-----

9.3.3. CANTILEVER SHEET PILING IN COHESIVE SOILS	142
--	-----

9.3.3.1. Wall Entirely in Cohesive Soil	142
---	-----

9.3.3.2. Wall in Cohesive Soil with Granular Backfill Above Dredge line	146
---	-----

9.4. ANCHORED WALLS147

9.4.1. GENERAL	147
----------------------	-----

9.4.2. FREE EARTH SUPPORT METHOD	150
--	-----

9.4.2.1. Design in Granular Soil	150
--	-----

9.4.2.2. Design in Cohesive Soils	155
---	-----

9.4.2.3. Rowe's Moment Reduction Theory	162
---	-----

9.4.2.3.1. Cohesionless Soils	163
-------------------------------------	-----

9.4.2.3.2. Cohesive Soils	166
---------------------------------	-----

9.4.3. FIXED EARTH SUPPORT METHOD (EQUIVALENT BEAM METHOD)	166
--	-----

9.4.3.1. Overview of Blum's Method	166
--	-----

9.4.3.2. Implementation of Fixed Earth Support	167
--	-----

9.4.4. GRAPHICAL METHODS	178
--------------------------------	-----

9.4.5. DANISH RULES	178
---------------------------	-----

9.4.6. HIGH SHEET PILE WALLS (TWO ANCHOR SYSTEM)	179
--	-----

9.5. LOAD AND RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN (LRFD)179

CHAPTER 10.

SHEET PILING DESIGN BY SOIL-STRUCTURE INTERACTION ANALYSIS182

10.1. INTRODUCTION	182
--------------------------	-----

10.2. SOIL-STRUCTURE INTERACTION METHOD	182
---	-----

10.3. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION	182
-------------------------------------	-----

10.4. SSI MODEL	182
-----------------------	-----

10.5. NONLINEAR SOIL SPRINGS	183
------------------------------------	-----

10.6. NONLINEAR ANCHOR SPRINGS	183
--------------------------------------	-----

10.7. APPLICATION OF SSI ANALYSIS	185
---	-----

10.8. COMPARISON OF SSI ANALYSIS TO CLASSICAL RESULTS	185
---	-----

CHAPTER 11.

ANCHOR SYSTEMS AND TIEBACKS187

11.1. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS187

11.2. TRADITIONAL ANCHOR SYSTEMS187

11.2.1. TIE RODS	187
------------------------	-----

11.2.2. WALES	189
---------------------	-----

11.2.3. ANCHORS	190
-----------------------	-----

11.2.3.1. Anchor Blocks (Deadmen Anchors)	191
---	-----

11.2.3.2. Continuous Deadmen near Ground Surface	193
--	-----

11.2.3.3. Short Deadmen near Ground Surface	193
---	-----

11.2.4. ANCHOR SLAB DESIGN BASED ON MODEL TESTS	194
---	-----

11.2.4.1. General Case in Granular Soils	194
--	-----

11.2.4.2. Anchor Slab in Cohesive Soils	206
---	-----

11.2.5. REACTION PILES	206
------------------------------	-----

11.2.6. TENSION PILES	206
-----------------------------	-----

11.3. TIEBACKS206

11.3.1. PRINCIPLES OF TIEBACK SYSTEMS	207
---	-----

11.3.2. TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT TIEBACKS	207
--	-----

11.3.3. DEFINITIONS	207
---------------------------	-----

11.3.4. TYPES OF TIEBACKS	210
---------------------------------	-----

11.3.5. NOMENCLATURE FOR TIEBACK SYSTEMS	210
--	-----

11.3.6. CAPACITY OF TIEBACK ANCHORS	211
---	-----

11.3.6.1. Overview	211
--------------------------	-----

11.3.6.2. Cohesionless Soils—Low Pressure Grouting (FHWA Formula)	211
---	-----

11.3.6.3. Cohesionless Soils—Small Diameter Anchors	213
---	-----

11.3.6.3.1. No grout penetration in anchor zones	213
--	-----

11.3.6.3.2. Grout penetration in anchor zone (very pervious soils)	214
--	-----

11.3.6.3.3. Empirical Relationships	214
---	-----

11.3.6.4. Cohesive Soils—Large Diameter Anchors	214
---	-----

11.3.6.4.1. Straight-shafted Anchor	214
---	-----

11.3.6.4.2. Belled Anchor	214
---------------------------------	-----

11.3.6.4.3. Multi-belled Anchor	215
---------------------------------------	-----

11.3.6.5. Reduction Factors for Clay	215
--	-----

11.3.6.6. Gravel Packed Anchors	215
---------------------------------------	-----

11.3.7. FORCES ON THE VERTICAL MEMBERS	217
--	-----

11.3.8. OVERALL (GLOBAL) SYSTEM STABILITY	217
---	-----

11.3.9. TESTING TIEBACK ANCHORS	217
---------------------------------------	-----

11.3.9.1. Overview	217
--------------------------	-----

11.3.9.2. Proof Testing	217
11.3.9.3. Evaluation of Creep Movement	218
11.3.9.4. Performance Testing	219
11.3.9.5. Lock-Off Force	221
11.3.10. WALL MOVEMENT AND SETTLEMENT	221
11.3.11. STEPS FOR CHECKING TIEBACK SHORING SUBMITTAL	221
11.3.12. TIEBACK DESIGN AND TESTING EXAMPLES	221
11.3.13. ROCK ANCHORS	229
11.3.13.1. Failure of Steel Tendon	229
11.3.13.2. Failure of Grout Steel Bond	229
11.3.13.3. Failure of Grout-rock Bond	229
11.3.13.4. Failure of Rock Mass	229
11.3.13.5. Factor of Safety and Testing	229

CHAPTER 12.

ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF ANCHORED WALLS AND ANCHOR SYSTEMS FOR EARTHQUAKE LOADS

12.1. INTRODUCTION	231
12.2. BACKGROUND	231
12.2.1. SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE CODE FOR DESIGN OF ANCHORED SHEET PILE WALLS	233
12.2.2. DISPLACEMENTS OF ANCHORED SHEET PILES DURING EARTHQUAKES	234
12.3. DESIGN OF ANCHORED SHEET PILE WALLS FOR EARTHQUAKE LOADINGS	234
12.3.1. CONSIDERATIONS FROM STATIC ANALYSIS	234
12.3.2. INCLUSION OF EARTHQUAKE LOADS	235
12.3.3. FLEXURE OF THE SHEET PILE WALL BELOW THE DREDGE LEVEL	238
12.3.4. DESIGN OF ANCHORED SHEET PILE WALLS - NO EXCESS PORE WATER PRESSURES	239
12.3.5. DESIGN OF ANCHORED SHEET PILE WALLS - EXCESS PORE WATER PRESSURES	247
12.4. USE OF FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSES	250
12.5. EXAMPLE PROBLEM	250

CHAPTER 13.

SHEET PILING COFFERDAMS

13.1. GENERAL	266
13.2. GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN OF SHEET PILE COFFERDAMS	266
13.2.1. LATERAL PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION	266
13.2.2. PRESSURE DISTRIBUTIONS IN BRACED CUTS	266
13.2.2.1. Braced Cuts in Sand	269
13.2.2.2. Braced Cuts in Clay	269
13.2.2.3. Mixed Soils	269
13.2.2.4. Surcharge Loads Against Braced Cuts	269
13.2.3. BASE STABILITY	269
13.2.3.1. Granular Soils	270
13.2.3.2. Cohesive Soils	270
13.2.3.3. Piping	271
13.2.4. WATER COFFERDAMS	271

13.3. STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF COFFERDAM

COMPONENTS	273
13.3.1. BEAM LOADS ON WALES AND SPANS	273
13.3.2. COLUMN LOADING OF STRUTS AND WALES	274
13.3.3. CIRCULAR BRACING	274
13.3.4. RAKING BRACES	275
13.4. EXAMPLES OF BRACED EXCAVATIONS	277
13.5. PRESSURISED TIEBACKS	305
13.6. DEEP OPEN CUT EXCAVATIONS	309
13.7. NOTES REGARDING BRACED COFFERDAMS	310

CHAPTER 14.

HIGH MODULUS WALLS

14.1. PILES REINFORCED WITH COVER PLATES	311
14.2. MASTER PILES, KING PILES AND BOX PILES	311
14.2.1. MASTER PILES	311
14.2.2. ARC BUCKSTAY WALLS	311
14.2.3. Z-TYPE MASTER OR KING PILE WALLS	313
14.2.4. BOX PILES	313
14.2.5. PIPE SECTIONS	313
14.3. HZ WALL SYSTEMS	314
14.3.1. DESIGN	314
14.3.2. ANCHOR SYSTEMS FOR HZ WALLS	314
14.3.3. DESIGN PROCEDURES FOR HZ AND KING PILE SYSTEMS	314

CHAPTER 15.

CELLULAR COFFERDAMS

15.1. PLANNING, LAYOUT AND ELEMENTS OF COFFERDAMS	319
15.1.1. AREAS OF CONSIDERATION	319
15.1.1.1. Height of Protection	319
15.1.1.2. Area of Enclosure	319
15.1.1.3. Staging	321
15.1.1.4. Hydraulic Model Studies	321
15.1.2. ELEMENTS OF COFFERDAMS	321
15.1.2.1. Scour Protection	321
15.1.2.2. Berms	321
15.1.2.3. Flooding Facilities	321
15.1.2.4. Tie-ins	322
15.1.2.4.1. Tie-in to Land	322
15.1.2.4.2. Tie-in to Existing Structures	322
15.1.2.5. Cell Layout and Geometry	323
15.1.2.6. Protection and Safety Features	323
15.2. DESIGN PARAMETERS	323
15.2.1. FORCES	325
15.2.1.1. Applied External Forces	325
15.2.1.2. Reactive Berm Force	325
15.2.2. SATURATION LINE AND SEEPAGE CONTROL	325
15.2.2.1. Seepage through Cell	325
15.2.2.2. Foundation Underseepage	326

15.2.3. LOADING CONDITIONS	326	15.3.8.4. Vertical Shear Resistance	362
15.2.3.1. Maximum Pool Condition	326	15.3.8.4.1. Terzaghi's Method	362
15.2.3.2. Initial Filling Condition	326	15.3.8.4.2. Schroeder-Maitland Method	363
15.2.3.3. Drawdown Condition	326	15.3.8.5. Horizontal Shear Resistance	365
15.2.4. SITE CONDITIONS	327	15.3.8.6. Pullout of Outboard Sheets	366
15.2.5. EQUIVALENT WIDTH	327	15.3.8.7. Penetration of Inboard Sheets	367
15.2.6. SOIL FILL MATERIALS	327	15.3.8.8. Slipping Between Sheeting and Cell Fill	367
15.2.6.1. Selection of Cell Fill	327	15.3.9. EXAMPLES OF CELLULAR COFFERDAM DESIGN USING CLASSICAL METHODS	367
15.2.6.2. Borrow Area	329	15.3.10. RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF CELLULAR COFFERDAMS	399
15.2.6.3. Location	329	15.4. FINITE ELEMENT METHODS	399
15.2.7. FACTORS OF SAFETY	329	15.4.1. BACKGROUND	399
15.3. CLASSICAL DESIGN METHODS	330	15.4.2. FINITE ELEMENT COFFERDAM MODELS	401
15.3.1. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	330	15.4.2.1. Vertical Slice Analysis	401
15.3.2. DESIGN PROCESS	330	15.4.2.2. Axisymmetric Cell Analysis	402
15.3.3. EXTERNAL CELL STABILITY	331	15.4.2.3. Horizontal Slice Analysis	402
15.3.3.1. Sliding Analysis by Trial Wedge Method	331	15.4.2.4. General Modelling Techniques	406
15.3.3.1.1. Method of Analysis	331	15.4.3. ESTIMATES OF CELL DEFORMATIONS	406
15.3.3.1.2. Multiwedge System Analysis	331	15.4.3.1. Cell Bulging during Filling	406
15.3.3.1.3. Design Considerations	338	15.4.3.2. Deflections Produced by Berm Placement	406
15.3.3.1.4. Seismic Sliding Stability	339	15.4.3.3. Cofferdam Unwatering and Exterior Flood	406
15.3.3.2. Overturning	341	15.4.3.4. Construction Excavation	406
15.3.3.3. Rotation (Hansen's Method)	341	15.4.4. STRUCTURAL CONTINUITY BETWEEN CELLS AND ARCS	406
15.3.4. DEEP-SEATED SLIDING ANALYSIS	342	15.4.5. STRUCTURE—FOUNDATION INTERACTION	407
15.3.4.1. Introduction	342	15.4.5.1. Foundation Stress at Cofferdam Base	407
15.3.4.2. Study of Subsurface Conditions	343	15.4.5.2. Investigation of Foundation Problems	407
15.3.4.3. Methods of Sliding Stability Analysis	345	15.4.6. FILL INTERACTION BETWEEN CELLS AND ARC	407
15.3.4.3.1. Wedge Method	346	15.4.7. SPECIAL COFFERDAM CONFIGURATIONS	407
15.3.4.3.2. Approximate Method	346	15.4.7.1. Cloverleaf Cells	407
15.3.4.3.3. Culmann's Method	346	15.4.7.2. Diaphragm Cells	407
15.3.4.4. Prevention of Sliding Failure	346	15.5. FOUNDATION TREATMENT	407
15.3.5. BEARING CAPACITY ANALYSIS	346	15.5.1. PROBLEM FOUNDATIONS AND TREATMENT	407
15.3.5.1. Bearing Capacity of Soils	347	15.5.2. GROUTING	409
15.3.5.1.1. Terzaghi Method	347	15.5.2.1. Correctional Methods	409
15.3.5.1.2. Hansen Method	349	15.5.2.2. Problems Related to Strength	409
15.3.5.1.3. Limit-equilibrium Method	349	15.5.2.3. Problems Related to Permeability	409
15.3.5.2. Bearing Capacity of Rock	349	15.5.2.4. Selection of Treatment	409
15.3.6. SETTLEMENT OF SHEET PILE COFFERDAM	351	15.5.2.5. Selection of Location	410
15.3.6.1. Settlement of Cofferdam on Clay	353	15.5.2.6. Selection of Grout	410
15.3.6.2. Settlement of Cofferdam on Sand	354	15.5.2.7. Selection of Type of Grouting	410
15.3.6.2.1. Settlement Due to Dewatering of Cofferdam Area	354	15.5.2.8. Special Instructions	410
15.3.7. SEEPAGE ANALYSIS	354	15.6. DEWATERING AND PRESSURE RELIEF	411
15.3.7.1. Seepage through Cell Fill	354	15.6.1. PURPOSE OF DESIGN	411
15.3.7.2. Foundation Underseepage	355	15.6.2. DEWATERING AND PRESSURE RELIEF	411
15.3.7.3. Control of Seepage	357	15.6.2.1. Initial Dewatering	411
15.3.7.3.1. Penetration of Sheet Piles to Deeper Levels	357	15.6.2.2. Foundation Dewatering	413
15.3.7.3.2. Providing Berm on the Downstream Surface	357	15.6.2.3. Pressure Relief	413
15.3.7.3.3. Increasing the Width of Cofferdam	357	15.6.3. SURFACE WATER CONTROL	413
15.3.7.3.4. Installation of Pressure Relief Systems	357	15.6.4. EMERGENCY FLOODING	413
15.3.8. INTERNAL CELL STABILITY	357	15.7. INSTRUMENTATION OF CELLULAR COFFERDAMS	414
15.3.8.1. Basic Concepts	357	15.7.1. SYSTEMATIC MONITORING	414
15.3.8.1.1. Maximum Internal Cell Pressure	357	15.7.2. PROPER PLANNING	414
15.3.8.1.2. Point of Fixity	359		
15.3.8.2. Pile Interlock Tension	359		
15.3.8.2.1. Dealing with Interlock Tension	361		
15.3.8.3. Shear Failure within the Cell (Resistance to Tilting)	362		

15.7.3. PURPOSE OF INSTRUMENTATION	414	17.3.3.1. Fresh Water	437
15.7.4. TYPES OF INSTRUMENTS	415	17.3.3.2. Salt Water	439
15.7.4.1. Observation Wells	415	17.3.4. IMMERSED AND SEMI-IMMERSED ZONE	439
15.7.4.2. Piezometers	415	17.3.4.1. Fresh Water	439
15.7.4.3. Inclometers	415	17.3.4.2. Salt Water	439
15.7.4.4. Earth Pressure Measuring Devices	417	17.3.4.2.1. Splash Zone	439
15.7.4.5. Strain Gages	417	17.3.4.2.2. Tidal Zone	441
15.7.4.6. Precise Measurement Systems	418	17.3.4.2.3. Continuously Submerged Zone	441
15.7.5. ACCURACY OF REQUIRED MEASUREMENTS	418	17.3.5. BURIED ZONE	441
15.7.6. COLLECTION, PROCESSING, AND EVALUATION OF DATA	419	17.3.5.1. Disturbed Soil	441
15.7.7. EXAMPLE OF INSTRUMENTATION	419	17.3.5.2. Salt Water	441
CHAPTER 16.		17.4. DESIGN FOR PROTECTION OF STEEL PILING IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS	442
CELLULAR SHEET PILING STRUCTURES, MOORING CELLS AND DOLPHINS	421	17.4.1. METHODS FOR PROTECTING STEEL PILING	442
16.1. GENERAL	421	17.4.2. SACRIFICIAL METAL	442
16.2. LOADS	421	17.4.3. ENCASMENT	445
16.2.1. LATERAL LOADS	421	17.4.4. SPECIAL STEELS	445
16.2.2. IMPACT	422	17.4.4.1. ASTM A-690 Grade	446
16.2.3. WAVE ACTION	423	17.4.5. COATINGS	446
16.2.4. EARTHQUAKE FORCE	423	17.4.5.1. Metallic Coatings	446
16.2.5. VERTICAL LOADS	423	17.4.5.1.1. Galvanizing	446
16.3. STABILITY OF DOLPHINS	423	17.4.5.1.2. Flame Spraying	451
16.3.1. IN SAND	425	17.4.5.2. Non-Metallic Coatings	453
16.3.2. IN CLAY	425	17.4.5.3. Cathodic Protection	454
16.3.3. FRICTIONAL FORCES	425	17.5. PROTECTION OF WALES, TIE RODS, AND ACCESSORIES	455
16.4. BEARING CAPACITY	426	17.6. CORROSION CONSIDERATIONS IN DESIGN OF TIEBACKS	457
16.5. SKELETAL SHEET PILE CELL DOCKS	426	17.6.1. CORROSION OF PRESTRESSING STEEL	457
CHAPTER 17.		17.6.2. ANCHOR PROTECTION AGAINST CORROSION	458
CORROSION AND PROTECTION	431	17.6.2.1. Protection of the Bond Zone	459
17.1. OVERVIEW OF CORROSION	431	17.6.2.2. Protection of Unbonded Length	459
17.2. TYPES OF CORROSION IN STEEL SHEET PILING	431	17.6.2.3. Protection at the Anchor Head	461
17.2.1. PITTING CORROSION	431	CHAPTER 18.	
17.2.2. UNIFORM CORROSION	433	LATERAL EARTH PRESSURE TABLES AND CHARTS	463
17.2.3. GALVANIC ACTION	433	18.1. RANKINE THEORY	463
17.2.4. STRAY CURRENT CORROSION	434	18.2. COULOMB THEORY	465
17.2.5. FATIGUE CORROSION	434	18.3. LOG-SPIRAL THEORY	473
17.2.6. BACTERIA AND FOULING	434	CHAPTER 19.	
17.3. CORROSION ENVIRONMENTS	434	REFERENCES, NOTATION AND GLOSSARY.	474
17.3.1. NON-MARINE ENVIRONMENTS	434	19.1. REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	474
17.3.2. COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS	435	19.2. NOTATION	490
17.3.2.1. Corrosion Rates by Zone	435	19.2.1. GREEK LETTER SYMBOLS	490
17.3.2.2. pH Value	435	19.2.2. ROMAN LETTER SYMBOLS	491
17.3.2.3. Salinity	435	19.2.3. VARIABLES FOR CELLULAR COFFERDAMS	494
17.3.2.4. Pollution	437	19.3. GLOSSARY	496
17.3.2.5. Wind	437		
17.3.2.6. Rain	437		
17.3.3. ATMOSPHERIC ZONE	437		