

8/19/96

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II NATURE OF SOIL

II-1 SOIL COMPOSITION, INDEX PROPERTIES & SOIL CLASSIFICATION

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Sheets

A Composition of soil

B Data on common clay minerals

C Empirical correlations for density & strength of granular soils

D1 " " for C_{ref} of consolidation & Undr. strength of cohesive soils

D2 " " for drained strength of clays

E Unified Soil Classification System (ASTM D 2487)

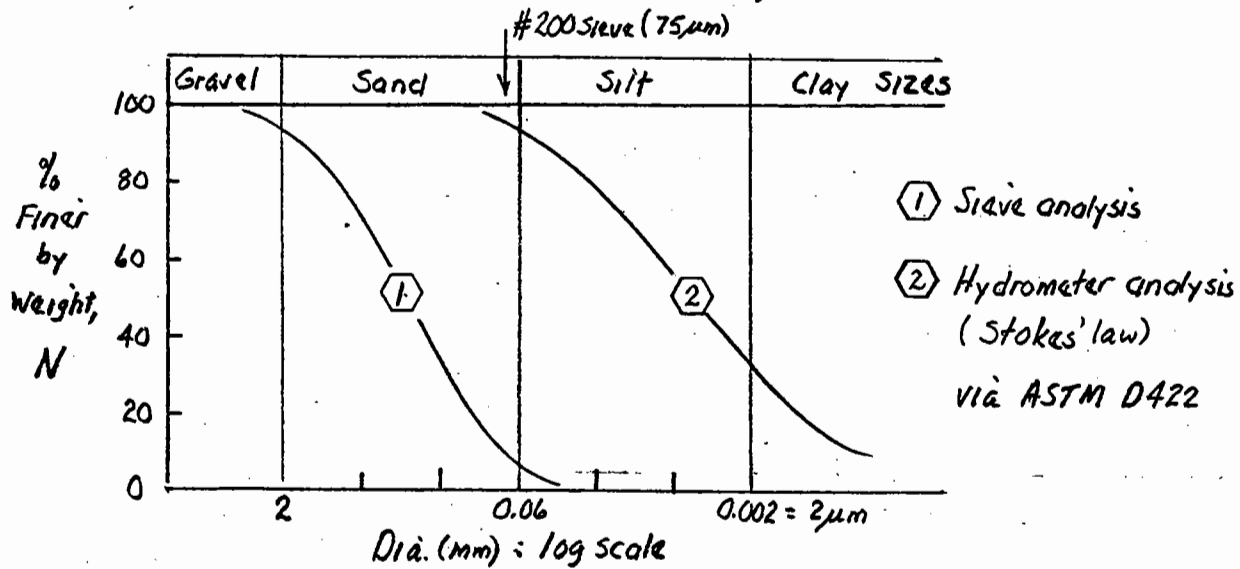
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Phase Relations & Definitions (L&W Chap.3) See Fig. II-1, p2a

- Know definitions of water content (w), void ratio (e), porosity (n), Specific gravity ($G = G_s$) & Unit weights = total (γ_t), dry (γ_d) & buoyant (γ_b)
- Remember that $G \cdot w = S \cdot e$ (for pore fluid = pure water), S = deg. of saturation
- If no prior soil mechanics, see Lamba (1951) Soil Testing for Engineers

1.2 Two Basic Soil Types

1) Particle Size Distribution (MIT Classification)



2) General Characteristics

No.	Type	Particles & Features	$k =$ Coef. of permeability	Hydraulic conductivity Practical Implications
1	Granular (Cohesionless)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large equidimensional • Large voids • Very low SSA • Only mass forces 	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max. u_c very low • Engr. properties from in situ penetration tests • Drained loading
2	Cohesive (Clay minerals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small platy shaped • Very small voids • High SSA $> 10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ • Also surface forces 	VERY LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max. u_c very high • Engr. properties from in situ + lab testing • Undrained loading

SSA = Specific Surface Area (m^2/g); $u_c = u_a - u_w =$ capillary pressure (soil suction)

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Weights

Volumes

	O	Air	V_a	
W_w	W_w	Water	V_w	V_v
	W_s	Solids	V_s	

For $V_s = 1$

	Air	
	Water	$V_w = S \cdot e$
	Solids	$V_s = 1$

$W_T = W_w + W_s$

$V_T = V_v + V_s$

$W_s = G_s \cdot \gamma_w$

$W_w = S \cdot e \cdot \gamma_w$

$V_T = 1 + e$

$\therefore \gamma_t = \left(\frac{G_s + S \cdot e}{1 + e} \right) \gamma_w$

$\gamma_d = \frac{G_s \cdot \gamma_w}{1 + e}$

Definitions

Specific gravity, $G_s = \gamma_s / \gamma_w$

Void ratio, $e = V_v / V_s = G_s \cdot w / S$

Porosity, $n = V_v / V_T$

Specific volume, $v = V_T / W_s = 1 + e$

Water content, $w = W_w / W_s = S \cdot e / G_s$

Degree of saturation, $S = V_w / V_v = G_s \cdot w / e$

$G_s \cdot w = S \cdot e$

Unit Weights

Water, $\gamma_w = 9.81 \text{ kN/m}^3 = 62.4 \text{ pcf} = 1.00 \text{ TCM}$

Solids, $\gamma_s = G_s \cdot \gamma_w$

Total, $\gamma_t = W_T / V_T = \left(\frac{G_s + S \cdot e}{1 + e} \right) \gamma_w$

Dry, $\gamma_d = W_s / V_T = \frac{G_s \cdot \gamma_w}{1 + e}$

Buoyant, $\gamma_b = \gamma_t - \gamma_w$; for $S = 100\%$, $\gamma_b = \left(\frac{G_s - 1}{1 + e} \right) \gamma_w$

Fig. II-1 Phase Relations (for water as pore liquid)

2. SOIL COMPOSITION

2.1 Overview (See Sheet A)

- 1) Differences in particle size & shape are mainly due to differences in the types & arrangement of elements in the crystalline structure = MINERALOGY (regular structural arrangement of atomic elements → x-ray diffraction pattern)
- 2) Five Main Groups
 - Carbonates: Calcite & dolomite used to make cement
 - Oxides
 - Hydrous Oxides: Gibbsite & brucite minus OH's → sheets in clay minerals
 - Phosphates: mining for fertilizer
 - SILICATES: > 90% of all soil

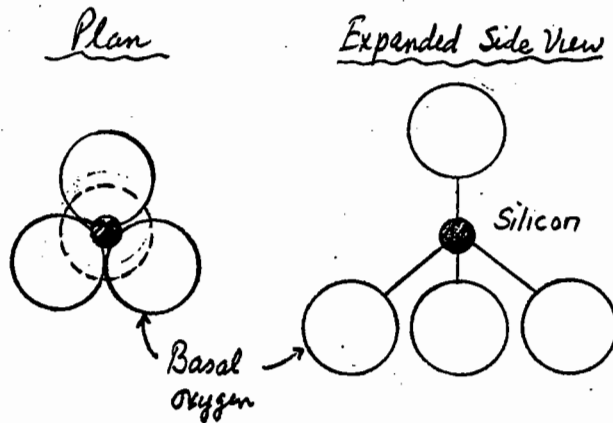
2.2 Silicates

1) Silica tetrahedron

V = valence

O = oxygen (V = -2)

Si = Silicon (V = +4)



$$Si^{+4} O_4^{-8} = -4 \text{ net negative charge}$$

∴ Cannot exist alone

Primary valence bonding (covalent + ionic)

2) How these silica tetrahedra are arranged via the number of shared oxygens → different silicate minerals

Glassstone (1946)	Element	O	Si	Al	Fe	Mg	Ca	Na	K
	Valence	-2	+4	+3	+2	+2	+2	+1	+1
	Ionic Dia. (Å)	2.8	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.65

$$1 \text{ Å} = 10^{-8} \text{ cm} = 10^{-4} \mu\text{m}$$

2.3 Silicate Frameworks & Composition of Granular Soils

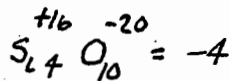
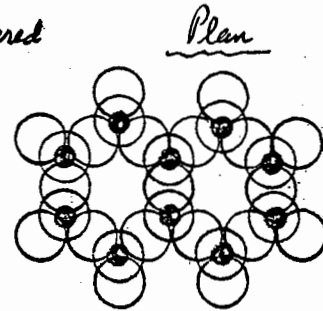
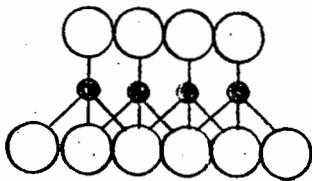
Tetrahedra form 3-D array so that ALL oxygen are shared → one Si per two oxygen. Very resistant to weathering → large particles

- ① • Quartz $SiO_2 \times 4 = Si_4O_8$
- ② • K Feldspar $KAlSi_3O_8$
- ③ • Plagioclase

↑ Relative abundance in sand & silt size particles. See Sheet A for other "granular" minerals, e.g. Calcite = ④, Dolomite = ⑤, Muscovite = ⑥

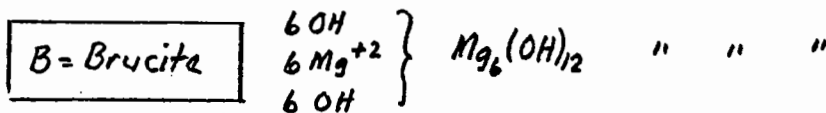
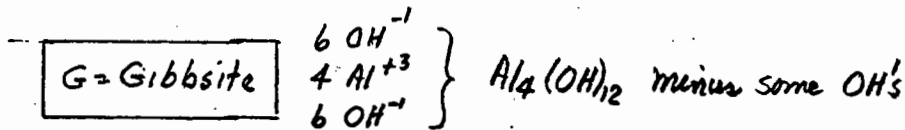
2.4 Building Blocks of Clay Minerals

1) All basal oxygen of silica tetrahedra are shared



Still not neutral; therefore combines with octahedral sheets

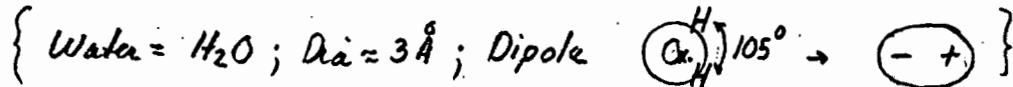
2) Hydroxide octahedral sheets



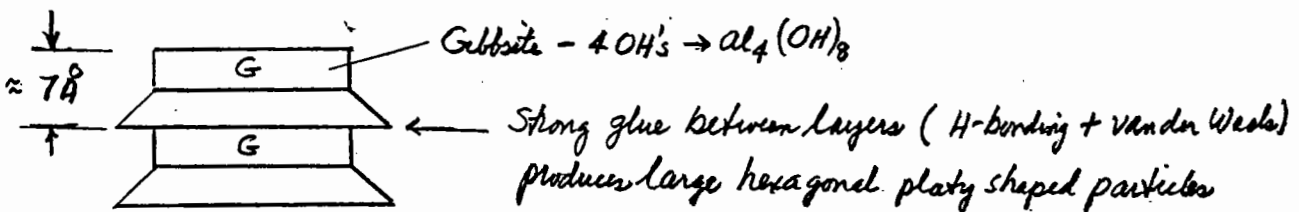
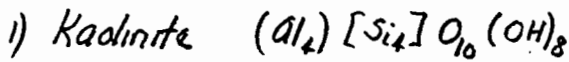
3) Which silica & hydroxide sheets are combined (via primary valence bonding) to form a LAYER and how these layers are "glued" together to form particles → different clay minerals

2.5 Types of Bonds *selected* (1 mol = 6.023×10^{23} molecules = Avogadro's number)

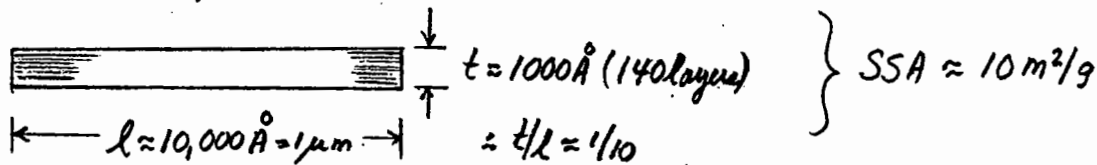
- 1) Primary valence (covalent, ionic {metallic}) = very strong (15-100 kcal/mol)
- 2) Hydrogen bonding = intermediate ($\approx 4-5$ kcal/mol for water)
H⁺ fluctuates between two O⁻²
- 3) Van der Waals = universal attractive force ($\leq 1/10^{\text{th}}$ of H-bonds)



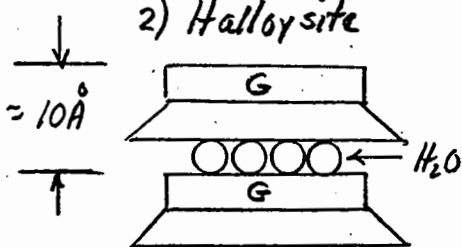
2.6 Common Clay Minerals with Two Sheets per Layer (Sheets A & B)



Edge View



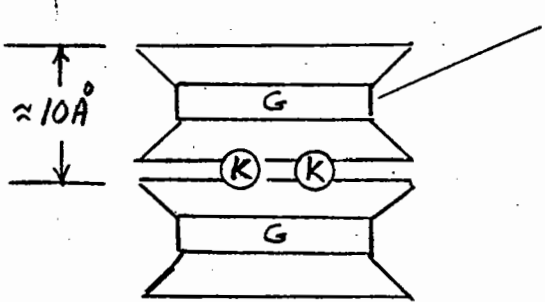
- Weathering conditions: High rainfall, good drainage, low pH, Si₂O₂ rich granitic rocks
- Used for pottery & in Kaopetin; favored for lab experiments



- Same basic composition as kaolinite, but 4 H₂O molecules trapped between layers during formation (hydrated form). Air drying removes this water \rightarrow dehydrated form.
- Due to slight mismatch in crystal structures of G & S sheets, get pronounced warping \rightarrow hollow tube particles
- Tubular particles + trapped H₂O \rightarrow high w and low γ_d (even after compaction). But good fill material.
e.g, Wopt = 50%, γ_{dmax} = 70 pcf

2.7 Common Clay Minerals with Three Sheets per Layer (Sheets A & B)

1) Muscovite (Mica) $K_2 (Al_4) [Al_2 Si_6] O_{20} (OH)_4$



Gibbsite - $8 OH's \rightarrow Al_4(OH)_4$

• During mineral formation, 1 of 4 Si^{+4} replaced by Al^{+3} in silica sheets.

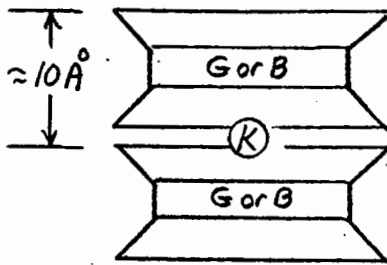
Called Isomorphous Substitution (IS)

• Resultant negative charge in layer balanced by potassium cations (K^{+1})

• These K cations act as a very strong glue between layers \rightarrow very large plate-like particles (can see mica flakes in some granular soils)

• Consider muscovite as reference mineral for "real" 3-sheet/layer clay minerals, e.g., illite, montmorillonite, chlorite, etc.

2) Illite (Hydrous Mica) $K (Al, Mg, Fe)_4 orb [Al, Si]_8 O_{20} (OH)_4$

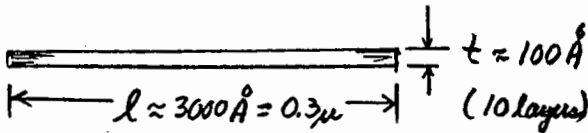


• Basic structure of mica altered due to

- either G or B for octahedral sheet

- less isomorphous substitution of Al for Si \rightarrow less K glue \rightarrow much smaller particles

Edge View



• Flaky (platy) shaped particles

• SSA $\approx 80 m^2/g$

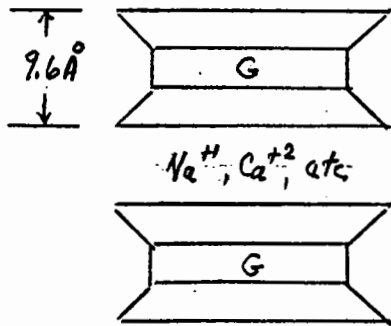
$\therefore t/l \approx 1/30$

• Most common clay mineral. Especially dominant in cold climate, marine clays, such as Champlain clays in E. Canada and Boston Blue Clay

3M National Brand

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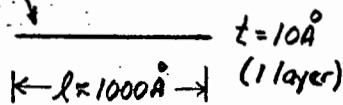
3) Montmorillonite (Part of Smectite group) $(Al_{3.3}Mg_{0.7})[Si_8]O_{20}(OH)_4$



- Relatively small amount of IS of Mg^{+2} for Al^{+3} in Octahedra sheet + larger separation of minus/plus charges
- Relatively low negative charge in layer is balanced by exchangeable cations, i.e., Na^+ can be replaced by Ca^{+2} or Mg^{+2} , etc.
- Common mineral in arid regions from weathering of volcanic ash, alkaline igneous rocks, etc.
(Gulf of Mexico, etc.)

(a) Sodium Montmorillonite (Bentonite)

Edge View



- Na^+ cations do not glue layers together. Hence can get one layer = flaky shaped particle
 - $SSA \approx 800 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ (69 = area of football field)
 - Was used as axle grease; now used for drilling mud, slurry walls, etc.
 - Major problem soil since highly expansive & very low residual ϕ' (ϕ'_r)
- #### (b) Montmorillonite with Other Exchangeable Cations
- Ca^{+2} , Mg^{+2} , $Fe^{+2,+3}$ act as moderate glue that can restrict interlayer spacing to $\approx 5-10 \text{ \AA}$ and hence greatly reduce effective SSA. However, may still be expansive and have rather low ϕ'_r

4) Chlorite (Sheet B)

- Variation of I or M where positively charged Brucite sheet (i.e., minus OH's) provides very strong glue between layers \rightarrow very small SSA. Fairly common in marine illitic clays

5) Vermiculite (Sheet B)

- Variation of mica where K replaced by Ca or Mg cations, which greatly reduces bonding between layers so that can have one layer = particle. Hence very high SSA. However, not very common clay mineral

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2.8 Relationship Between Soil Composition & Engineering Properties

- 1) Mineralogy does strongly affect the size and shape of particles in soil. For cohesive soils, knowledge of the composition is helpful in predicting and/or explaining unusual or adverse behavior, e.g.
 - Halloysite \rightarrow very low δ_d
 - Montmorillonite \rightarrow highly expansive
 - Illite \rightarrow quick clays (Part II-2)
- 2) However, composition per se cannot predict the engineering properties of most cohesive soils because of the following complicating factors.
 - (a) Variation in particle size of same mineral
 - Quartz: from stone size to all silt size (Rock Hour)
 - (b) Cementing agents (e.g., CaCO_3 , Al/Fe oxides, organic matter) cause aggregation of particles \rightarrow much lower effective SSA
 - (c) Usually have several minerals in most soils
 - Take 50-50 mixture of sand and clay } clay \rightarrow very low k
 } sand \rightarrow very high ϕ'
 - (d) Effect of pore fluid composition, i.e., type & concentration of cations, pH, etc. (covered in Part II-2)

3. INDEX PROPERTIES TO GROUP SOILS WITH SIMILAR ENGINEERING PROPERTIES

3.1 Objective

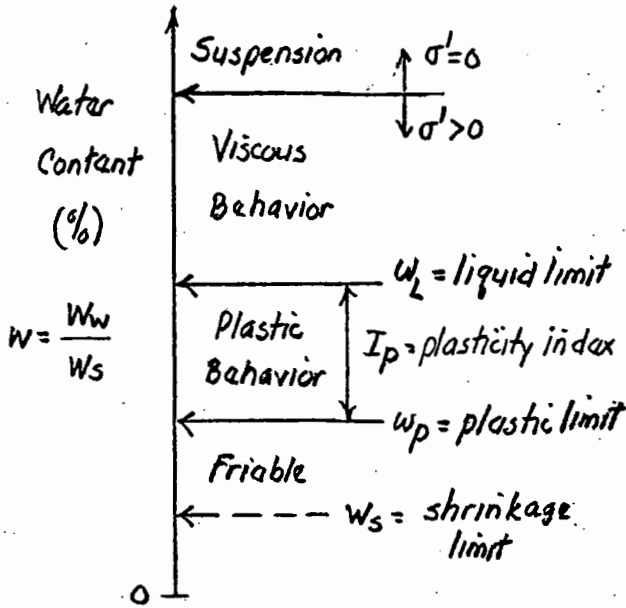
- 1) Want relatively simple tests in order to determine:

1 st The SOIL TYPE	}	Then can expect similar engineering properties, e.g. Coef. of permeability Compressibility Strength
2 nd It's RELATIVE STATE		
- 2) Will present a simplified approach and distinguish between GRANULAR versus COHESIVE soils

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3.3 Cohesive Soils

1) Soil Type: Use Atterberg Limits via ASTM D4318



• Tests run on remolded soil passing #40 sieve.
 NOTE: Best to start with soil at w_H because air/oven drying can reduce w_L & I_p of soils containing organic matter, smectite, Al & Fe oxides, etc.

• w_L corresponds to low undrained shear strength $S_u \approx 20 \text{ g/cm}^2 \approx 40 \text{ psf} \approx 2 \text{ kPa}$ * (like butter at room temperature)

• w_p when soil loses ability to deform plastically (crumbling of 3.2 mm = 1/8 in. dia. thread of soil)

• w_s = computed w for $S = 100\%$ after oven drying cube of saturated soil

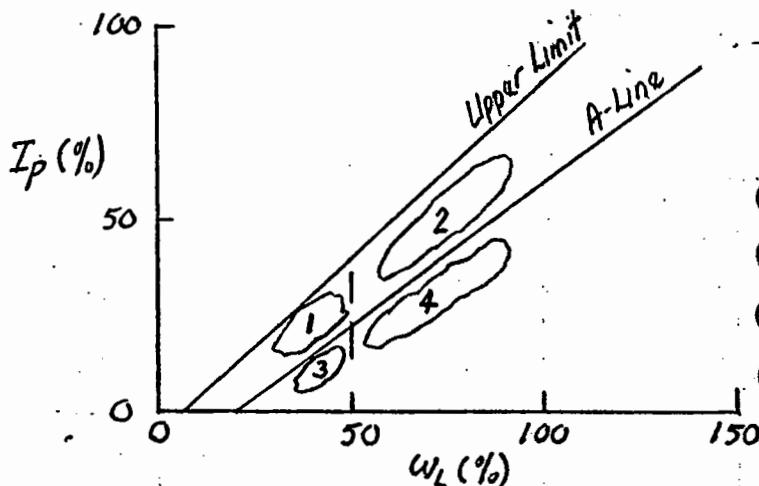
• $I_p = PI = w_L - w_p$ is Δw range over which soil exhibits plastic behavior

• $I_L = LI = \text{liquidity index} = (w_H - w_p) / (w_L - w_p = I_p)$

• Activity = $\frac{I_p (\%)}{\% - 2 \mu\text{m (clay fraction)}}$

$\left\{ I_L \geq 1.5 \rightarrow \text{high sensitivity, } S_e = \frac{S_u(U)}{S_u(R)} \approx 100 \pm 50 \right\}$

Casagrande's Plasticity Chart



Above A-Line = Inorganic Clays

- High oven dried strength
- Very low k • Tough at w_p

Below A-Line = Silts & Organic Soils

- Very friable as $w \rightarrow w_p$
- Lower oven dried strength

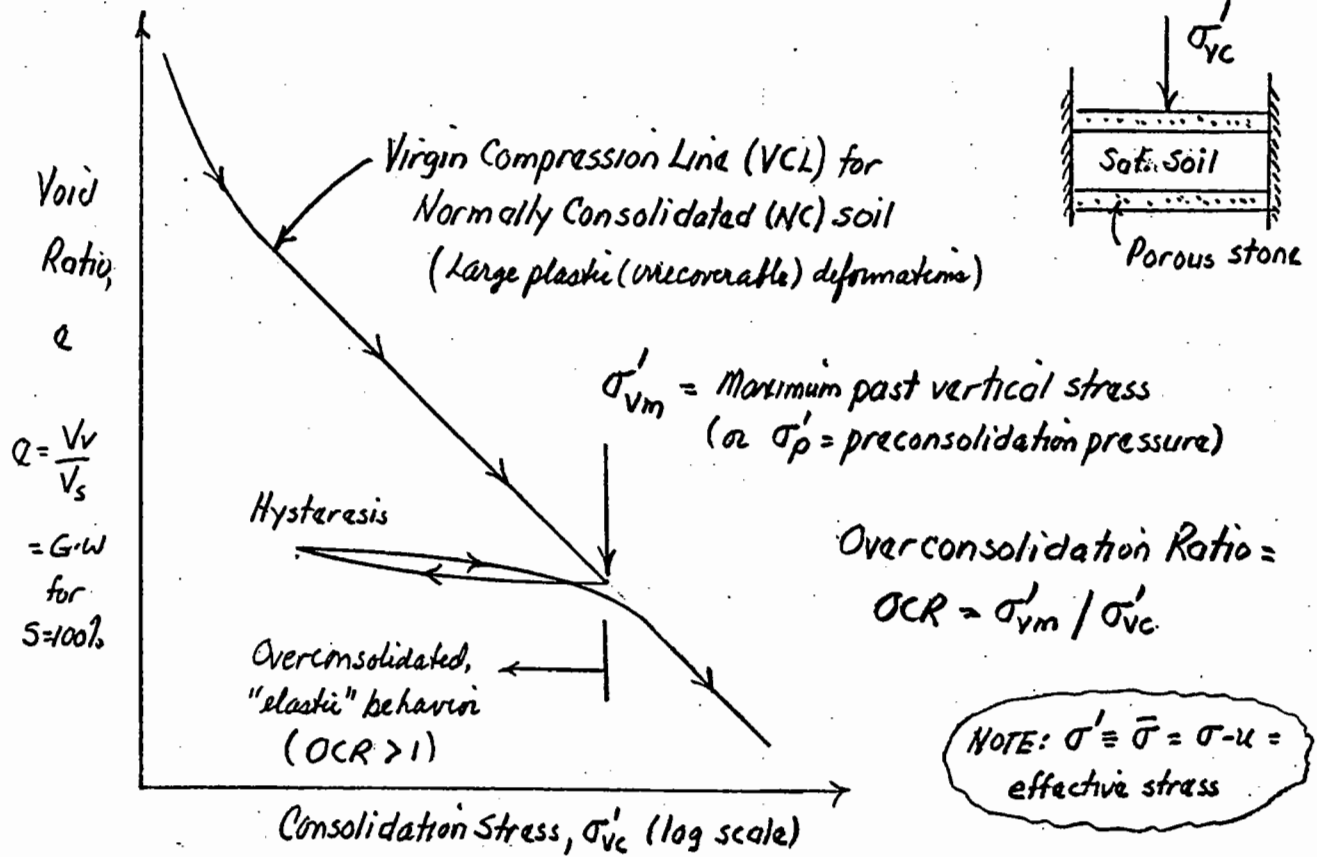
- ① Marine illitic clays (BBC)
- ② Deltaic smectitic clays (Gulf Mexico)
- ③ Arctic silts (Alaska)
- ④ Mudflat deposits (N.E. Coastline)

* 1 atm $\approx 1 \text{ Kgf/cm}^2 \approx 2000 \text{ psf} = 1 \text{ TSF} \approx 10 \text{ TSM} \approx 100 \text{ kPa} = 1 \text{ bar} = 100 \text{ kN/m}^2$

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2) Relative State: Use Stress History (current σ'_{vc} plus σ'_p or OCR)

• Illustrate via 1-D consolidation test starting with soil slurry



3) Empirical Correlations for Cohesive soils

a) Coefficient of consolidation, c_v : See Sheet D1 (excellent correlation)

b) Virgin compression index, $C_c = -de/d\log\sigma'_{vc}$ = slope of VCL

$$C_c \approx 0.009 (w_L - 10\%) \quad (\text{Tergaghi \& Peck 1967})$$

c) Remolded undrained shear strength [at w_L , $s_u = 1.6 \text{ kPa} \approx 33 \text{ psf}$]

$$s_u (\text{kPa}) = 1 / (I_p - 0.21)^2 \quad [\text{Leroueil et al. 1983, CGJ 20(4)}]$$

d) SHANSEP equation for design s_u of homogeneous sedimentary cohesive soils

$$s_u / \sigma'_{v0} = S (OCR)^m \quad \text{CL \& CH clays } S = 0.22 \pm 0.03 \text{ SD} \quad (\text{Ladd 1991})$$

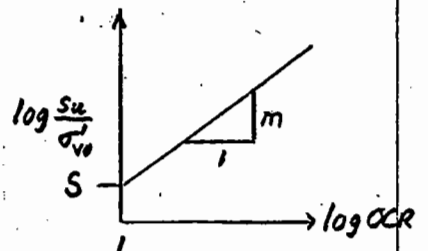
(Also see Sheet D1)

$$\text{Sols below A-Line } S = 0.25 \pm 0.05 \text{ SD}$$

$$m = 0.8 \pm 0.1$$

e) Drained shear strength (values of c' & ϕ')

See Sheet D2



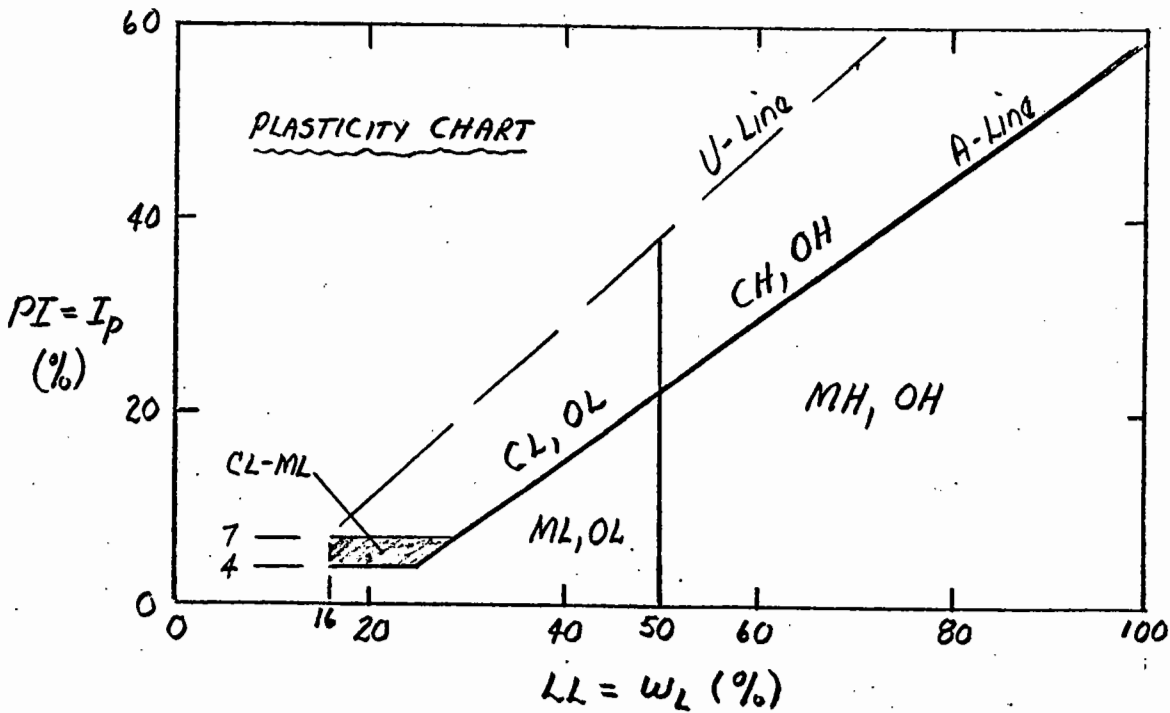
4. UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (USCS)

4.1 Overview of USCS (ASTM D 2487)

= Sieve size
% fines = % passing #200 (75µm)

Six Main Soil Types	Modifiers		
	< 5% Fines GRADATION	Between DUAL	> 12% Fines PLASTICITY
< 50% passing #200 G = Gravel — #4 S = Sand	W = Well graded P = Poorly graded	Use Both, e.g., SW-SM	M = Silty C = Clayey
> 50% passing #200 M = Silt C = Clay O = Organic Pt = Peat	Below A-Line On/Above A-Line $\frac{LL \text{ dried}}{LL \text{ not dried}} < 0.75$ Mostly organic matter	Plasticity Chart L = Low (LL < 50) H = High (LL > 50)	

A-Line: $PI = 0.73(LL - 20)$ U-Line: $PI = 0.9(LL - 8)$



4.2 Details of USCS

See sheet E

4.3 Remarks & Examples

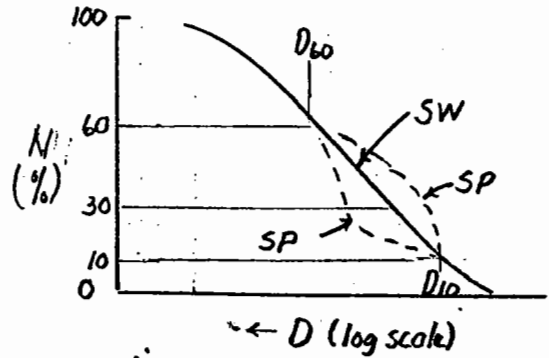
1) Coarse Grained (granular)

- Well vs. Poorly graded

$C_u = D_{60}/D_{10} > 4$ or 6 requires a wide range in particle sizes

$$1 \leq C_c = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{60} \cdot D_{10}} \leq 3 \text{ prevents gap grading}$$

$C_c = \text{Coef. of curvature}$



- $< 5\%$ Fines, e.g., GW, GP = Well, Poorly graded Gravel

- $> 12\%$ Fines, e.g., SM, SC = Silty, Clayey Sand

- $5 \leq \% \text{ Fines} \leq 12\% \rightarrow$ Dual classification for both Gradation & Plasticity

e.g., GW-GM = Well graded Gravel with silt
 SP-SC = Poorly graded Sand with clay

2) Fine Grained (Cohesive)

- On or above A-Line
 CL, CH = lean, fat Clay
 OL, OH = organic Clay (CCL \rightarrow lean, fat organic Clay)
- Below A-Line
 ML, MH = silt, elastic silt (CCL \rightarrow lean, plastic silt)
 OL, OH = organic silt (CCL \rightarrow lean, plastic organic silt)

- For Both
 If $> 30\% + \#200$; add "sandy" or "gravelly" before the name

If $15-29\% + \#200$; add "with sand" or "with gravel"

after the name

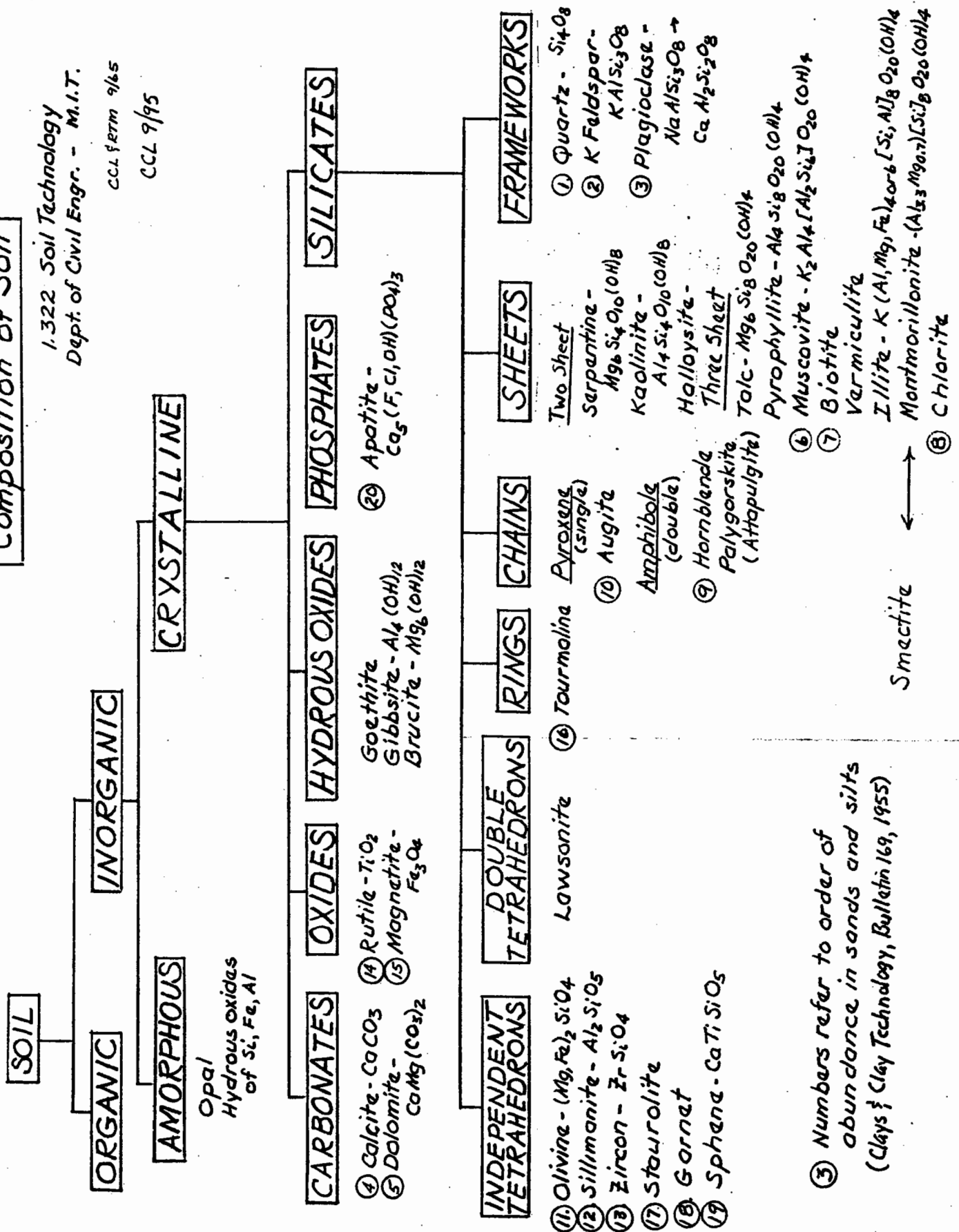
e.g. Sandy, lean Clay

\rightarrow e.g., lean silt with gravel

42-3811 100% RECYCLED PAPER
 42-3812 100% RECYCLED WHITE SQUARE
 42-389 200 RECYCLED WHITE SQUARE
 Made in U.S.A.



Composition of Soil
 1.322 Soil Technology
 Dept. of Civil Engr. - M.I.T.
 CCL FRM 9/65
 CCL 9/95



③ Numbers refer to order of abundance in sands and silts (Clays & Clay Technology, Bulletin 169, 1955)

Data on Common Clay Minerals

CCL & R.T.M
9/65
9/95

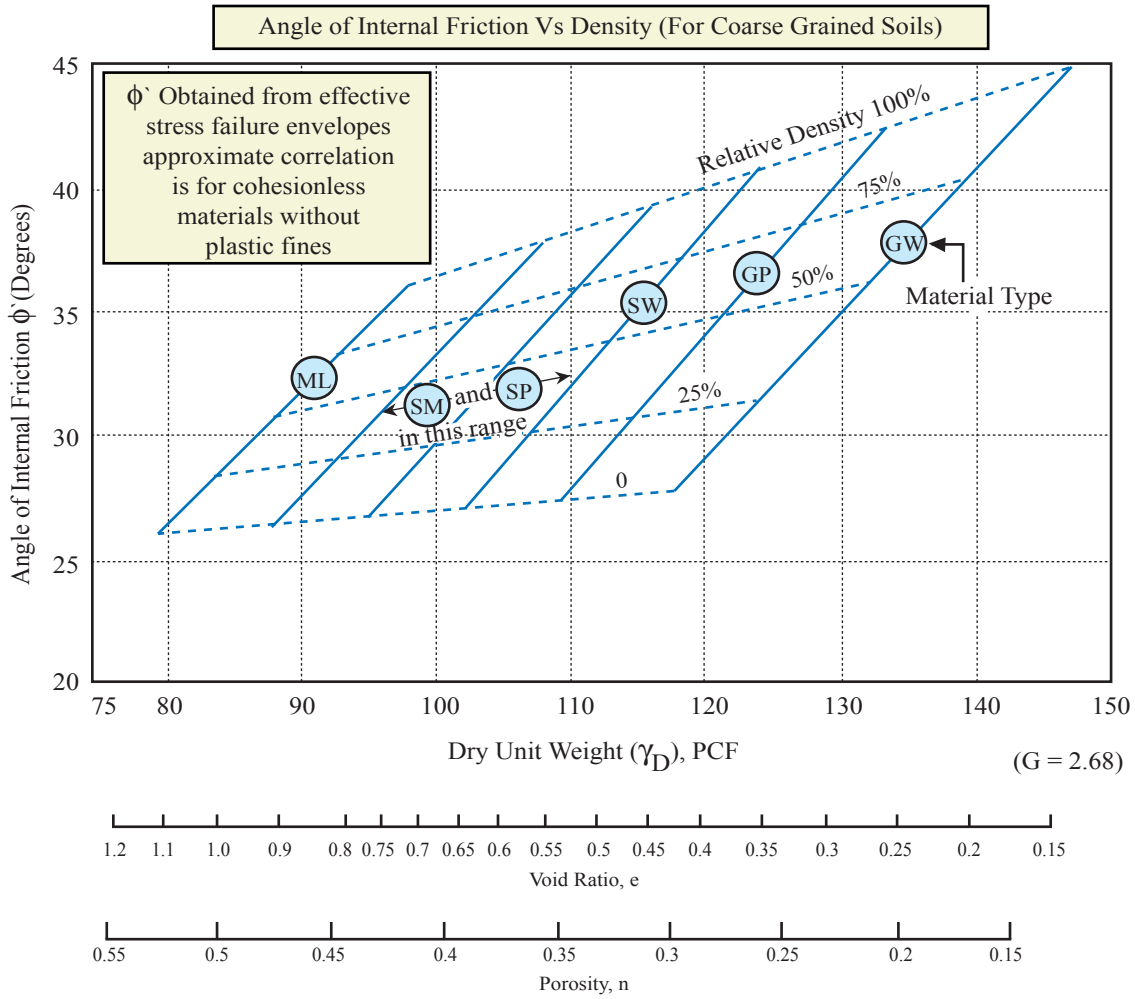
Dept. of Civil Engineering
M.I.T.

1.322 Soil Technology

Mineral	Unit Cell Formula	Structural Symbol	Isomorphous Substitution	Charge Density (meq/100g)	Interlayer Bonding	Typical Particle		SSA (m ² /g)	σ (charge/100Å ²)	Var. d(Å)
						Shape	Size			
Kaolinite	(Al ₂) ₂ [Si ₂] ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂		Al for Si Mg for Al (~1 in 400)	~2	Secondary valence + H-bonding Strong	Hexagonal sheets	d = 3-10μ t = 1/3-1/10	10-15	1.2	No
Hydrated Halloysite	(Al ₂) ₂ [Si ₂] ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂ · nH ₂ O n=4		As above	~8	As above except weak if larger spacing	Hollow tubes	OD = 0.07μ ID = 0.04μ L = 0.5μ	30-50	1.8	Yes No
Dehydrated Halloysite	(Al ₂) ₂ [Si ₂] ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂ n=0		As above	~8	As above except weak if larger spacing	Hollow tubes	OD = 0.07μ ID = 0.04μ L = 0.5μ	30-50	1.8	Yes No
Muscovite (Mica)	K ₂ (Al) ₂ [Al ₂ Si ₂] ₂ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂		Al for Si (1 in 4) Maybe Mg, Fe for Al	2.50	K-bonding + sec. val. Very strong	Platy	Very large	1-10	~2.2	No
Vermiculite	(Mg, Al, Fe) ₂ or 4 [Si, Al] ₈ O ₂₀ (OH) ₂ · nH ₂ O		Mainly Al for Si (1 in 8) Also Mg, Fe for Al Al, Fe for Mg	150 ± 20	Weak primary val. (Ca, Mg) + sec. val. Weak	Sheets	Variable	500-700 when expanded	2.2	Yes
Illite (Hydrous mica)	K (Al, Mg, Fe) ₄ or 6 [Si, Al] ₈ O ₂₀ (OH) ₂		Mainly Al for Si (1 in 6-8) Also Mg, Fe for Al Al, Fe for Mg	~150	K-bonding + sec. val. Fairly strong	Flakes	d = 1-2μ t = 1/10 d	80-100	1.5	No
Sodium Montmorillonite	(Al ₃ Mg) ₃ or 7 [Si, Al] ₈ O ₂₀ (OH) ₂		Mainly Mg for Al (~1 in 6)	100	Weak secondary valence	Sheets	d = 1-1μ t = 1/10 d	700-800	0.75	Yes
Chlorite	(Mg, Al, Fe) ₄ or 6 [Si, Al] ₈ O ₂₀ (OH) ₂		Al for Si Fe, Mg for Al Fe, Al for Mg in B	200-250	Primary valence via B + sheet Very strong	Platy	Variable	5-30	-	No

- (1) Charge density = $\frac{\text{charge/formula} \times 10^5}{\text{formula weight}}$
 - (2) CEC = cation exchange capacity
 - (3) SSA = specific surface area
 - (4) σ = surface charge density
- Octahedral & Tetrahedral Sheets
• Unit Layer = 2 or 3 sheets
• Particle = 2 Layers

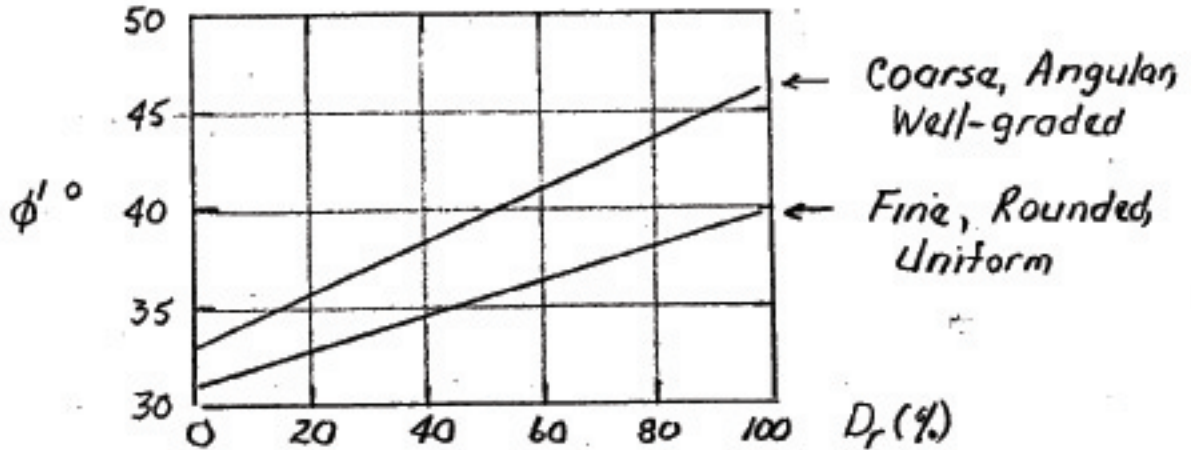
Mineral	Formula	Wgt.
Kaolinite		577
Talc		750
Pyrophyllite		710

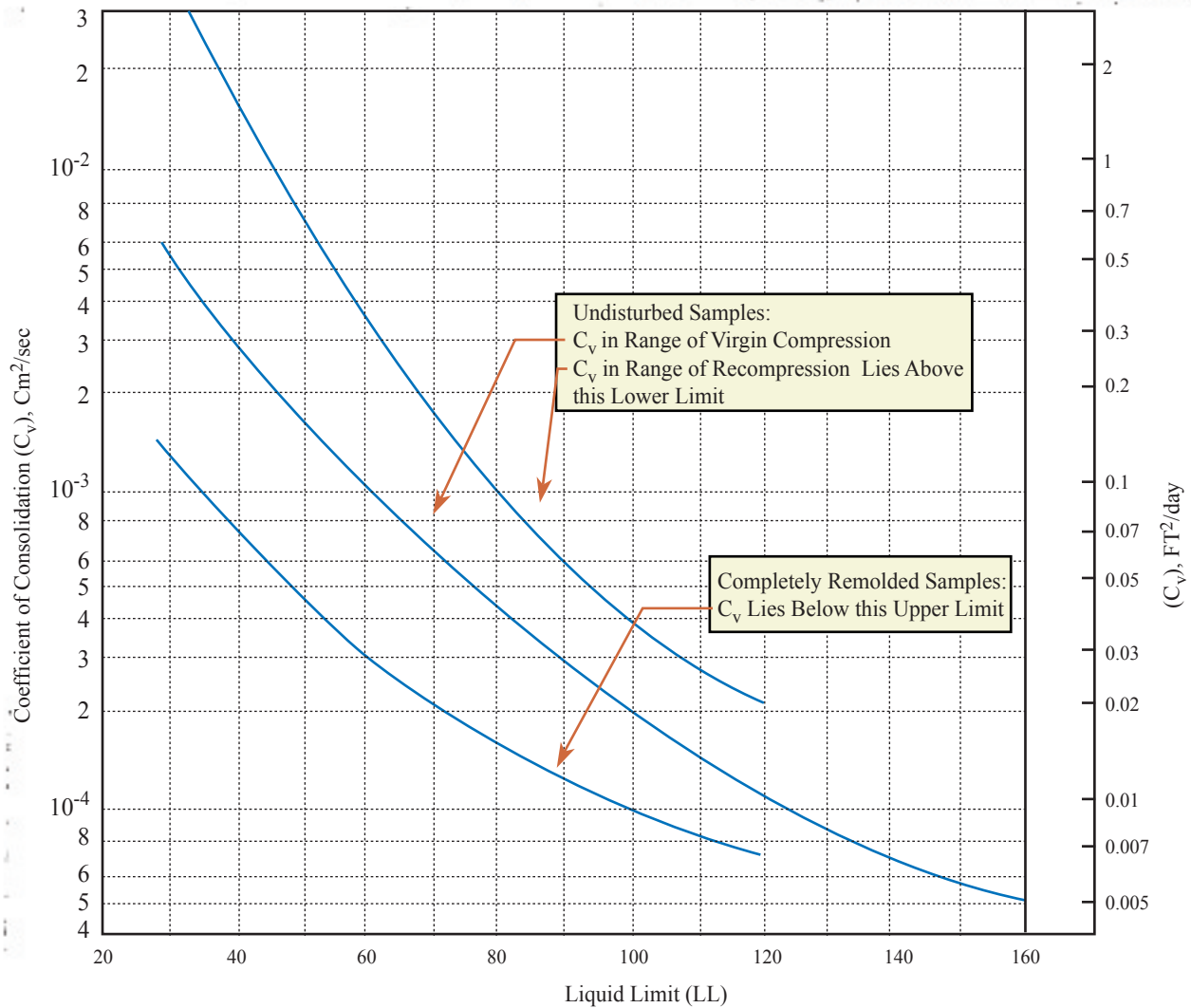


Correlations Of Strength Characteristics For Granular Soils

Adapted from NAVFAC DM-7.1 (5/82) p 7.1 - 149

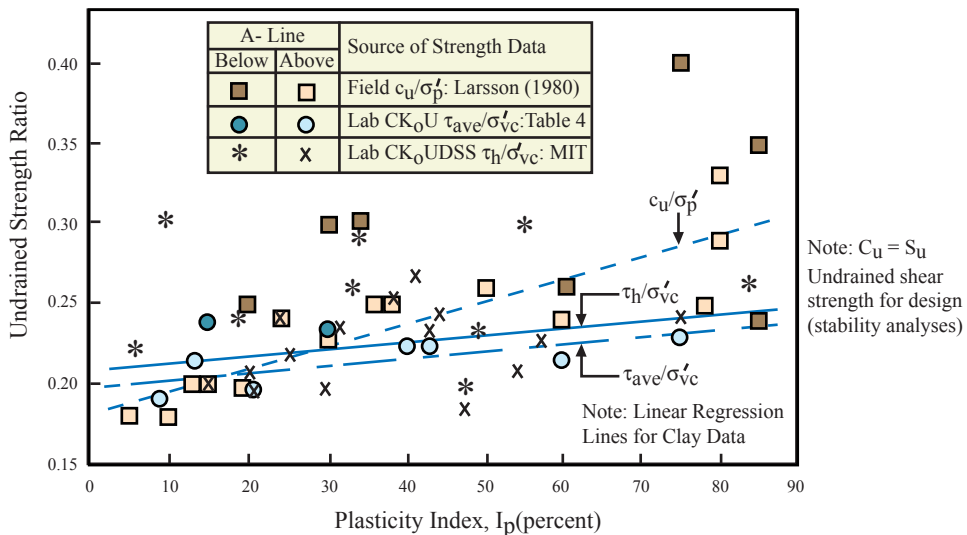
Friction Angle (Schmertmann 1975)





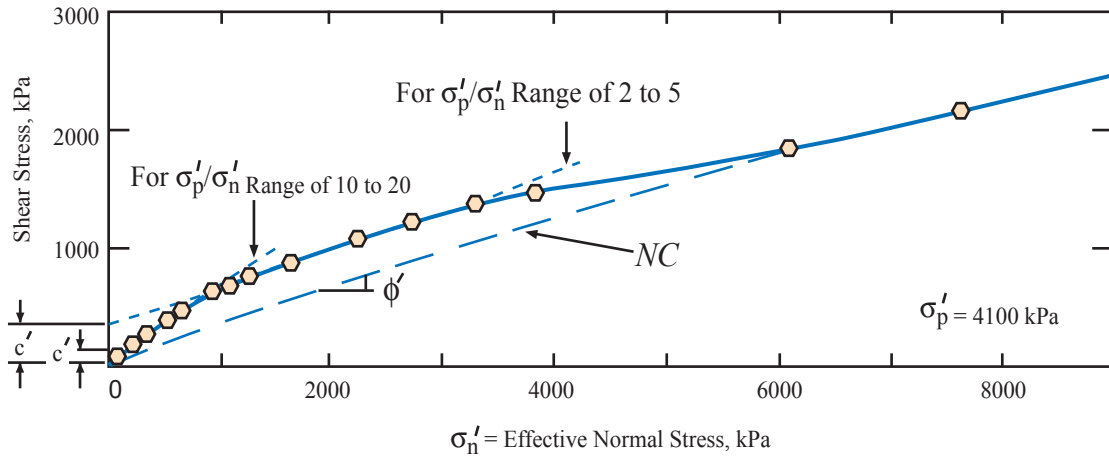
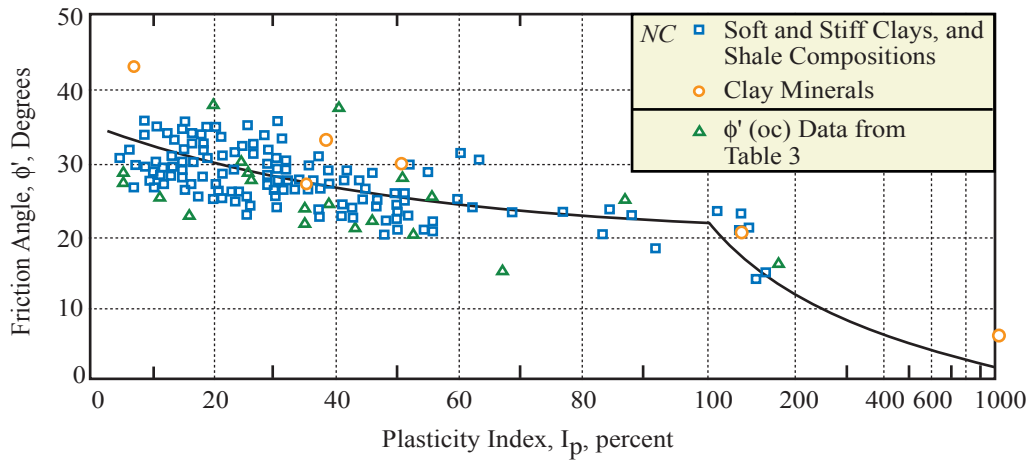
Coefficient of Consolidation Vs Liquid Limit

Adapted from NAVFAC DM-7.1 (1982)

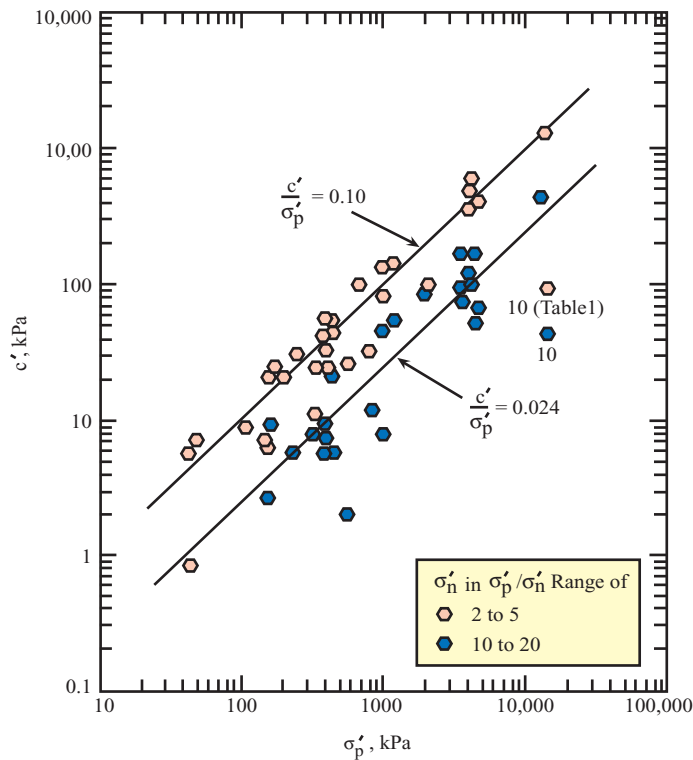


Comparison of field and laboratory undrained strength ratios for nonvarved sedimentary soils (OCR = 1 for laboratory CK_{OU} testing)





Peak Strength against Effective Normal Stress Relationship of London Clay Sample from 35 m Depth (Data from Bishop et al. 1965)



Relationship between Cohesion Intercept and Preconsolidation Pressure

D2

TABLE 1 Soil Classification Chart

Criteria for Assigning Group Symbols and Group Names Using Laboratory Tests ^A				Soil Classification		
				Group Symbol	Group Name [#]	
COARSE-GRAINED SOILS More than 50 % retained on No. 200 sieve	Gravels More than 50 % of coarse fraction retained on No. 4 sieve	Clean Gravels Less than 5 % fines ^C	$Cu \geq 4$ and $1 \leq Cc \leq 3^E$	GW	Well-graded gravel ^F	
		Gravels with Fines More than 12 % fines ^C	Fines classify as ML or MH	GP	Poorly graded gravel ^F	
			Fines classify as CL or CH	GM	Silty gravel ^{F,G,H}	
		Sands 50 % or more of coarse fraction passes No. 4 sieve	Clean Sands Less than 5 % fines ^C	$Cu \geq 6$ and $1 \leq Cc \leq 3^E$	SW	Well-graded sand ^F
	Sands with Fines More than 12 % fines ^C		$Cu < 6$ and/or $1 > Cc > 3^E$	SP	Poorly graded sand ^F	
			Fines classify as ML or MH	SM	Silty sand ^{G,H,I}	
			Fines classify as CL or CH	SC	Clayey sand ^{G,H,I}	
	FINE-GRAINED SOILS 50 % or more passes the No. 200 sieve	Sils and Clays Liquid limit less than 50	Inorganic	$PI > 7$ and plots on or above "A" line ^F	CL	Lean clay ^{K,L,M}
				$PI < 4$ or plots below "A" line ^F	ML	Silt ^{K,L,M}
			organic	$\frac{\text{Liquid limit} - \text{oven dried}}{\text{Liquid limit} - \text{not dried}} < 0.75$	OL	Organic clay ^{K,L,M,N} Organic silt ^{K,L,M,O}
Sils and Clays Liquid limit 50 or more		Inorganic	PI plots on or above "A" line	CH	Fat clay ^{K,L,M}	
			PI plots below "A" line	MH	Elastic silt ^{K,L,M}	
		organic	$\frac{\text{Liquid limit} - \text{oven dried}}{\text{Liquid limit} - \text{not dried}} < 0.75$	OH	Organic clay ^{K,L,M,P} Organic silt ^{K,L,M,Q}	
HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS		Primarily organic matter, dark in color, and organic odor			PT	Peat

^A Based on the material passing the 3-in. (75-mm) sieve.

^B If field sample contained cobbles or boulders, or both, add "with cobbles or boulders, or both" to group name.

^C Gravels with 5 to 12 % fines require dual symbols:
GW-GM well-graded gravel with silt
GW-GC well-graded gravel with clay
GP-GM poorly graded gravel with silt
GP-GC poorly graded gravel with clay

^D Sands with 5 to 12 % fines require dual symbols:
SW-SM well-graded sand with silt
SW-SC well-graded sand with clay
SP-SM poorly graded sand with silt
SP-SC poorly graded sand with clay

$$Cu = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}} \quad Cc = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$$

^E If soil contains ≥ 15 % sand, add "with sand" to group name.

^F If fines classify as CL-ML, use dual symbol GC-GM, or SC-SM.

^G If fines are organic, add "with organic fines" to group name.

^H If soil contains ≥ 15 % gravel, add "with gravel" to group name.

^I If Atterberg limits plot in hatched area, soil is a CL-ML, silty clay.

^J If soil contains 15 to 29 % plus No. 200, add "with sand" or "with gravel," whichever is predominant.

^K If soil contains ≥ 30 % plus No. 200, predominantly sand, add "sandy" to group name.

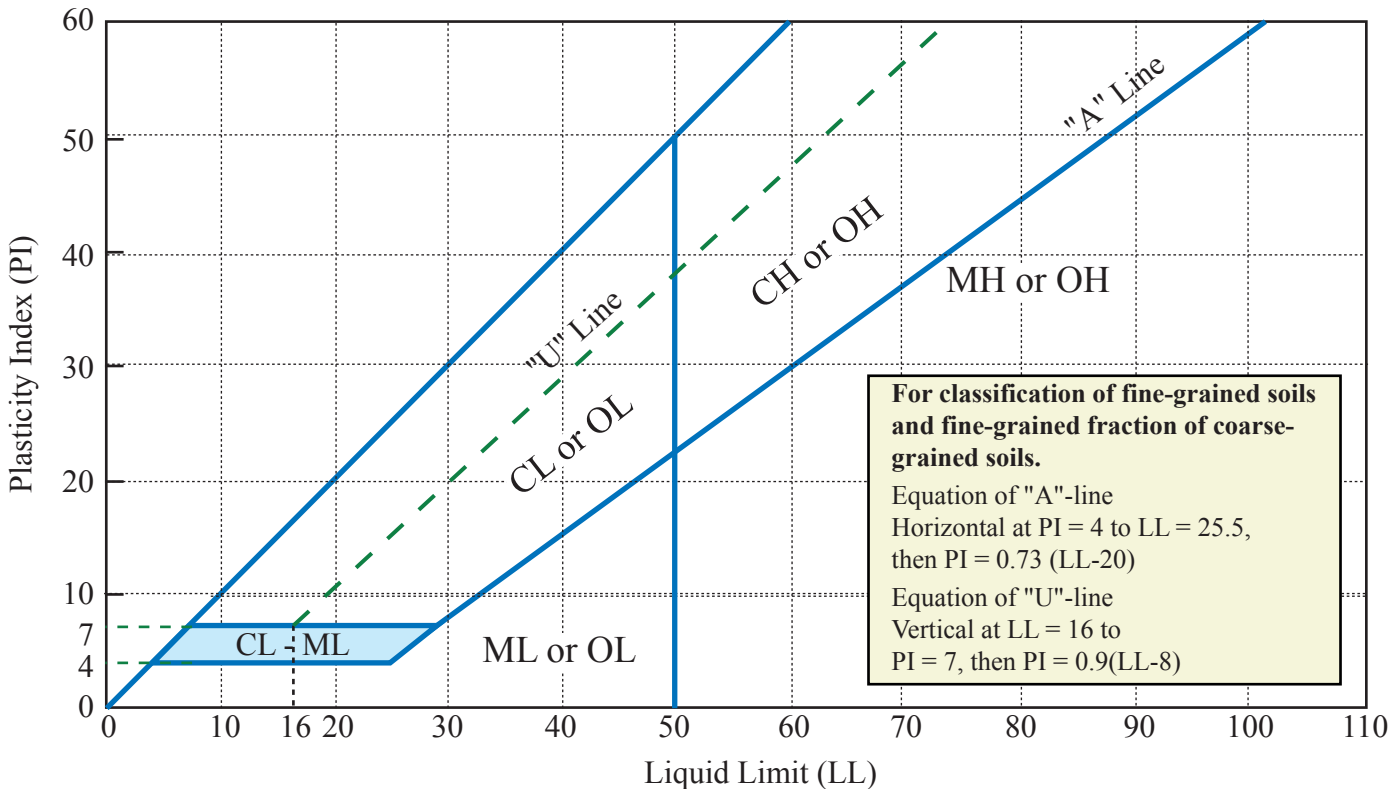
^L If soil contains ≥ 30 % plus No. 200, predominantly gravel, add "gravelly" to group name.

^M $PI \geq 4$ and plots on or above "A" line.

^N $PI < 4$ or plots below "A" line.

^O PI plots on or above "A" line.

^P PI plots below "A" line.



For classification of fine-grained soils and fine-grained fraction of coarse-grained soils.
Equation of "A"-line
Horizontal at $PI = 4$ to $LL = 25.5$, then $PI = 0.73(LL - 20)$
Equation of "U"-line
Vertical at $LL = 16$ to $PI = 7$, then $PI = 0.9(LL - 8)$

Plasticity Chart

