

Geotechnical & Foundation
Engineering

Slope Stability

STABILITY OF SLOPES

Slope

An exposed ground surface that stands at an angle with the horizontal is called an unrestrained slope.



Slope Stability

TYPES OF SLOPES

A) w.r.t. Method of Construction

1. Natural Slopes
2. Man-made / Engineered Slopes

Embankments, earthen dams, river dikes, excavation trenches, etc.



Natural Slope



Engineered Slope

Slope Stability

TYPES OF SLOPES

B) w.r.t. Extents

1. Infinite Slopes

Having constant slope of infinite extent, e.g. long slope of a mountain face.

2. Finite Slopes

Slopes of limited heights and extents, e.g. typical man-made slopes



Infinite Slope



Finite Slope

Slope Stability

TYPES OF SLOPES

C) w.r.t. Slope Material

1. Cohesionless
2. Cohesive



Cohesionless



Cohesive

Slope Stability

STABILITY OF SLOPES

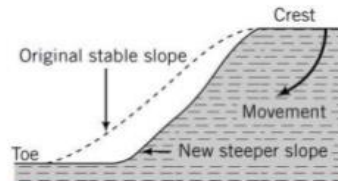


A slope is said to be stable if it meets a prescribed need for a fixed period of time with a suitable safety factor (FOS).

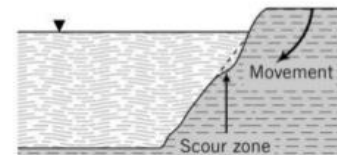


Slope Stability

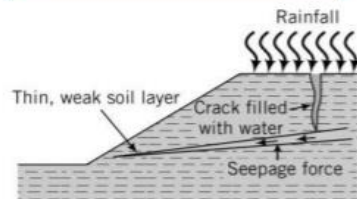
CAUSES OF SLOPE FAILURE



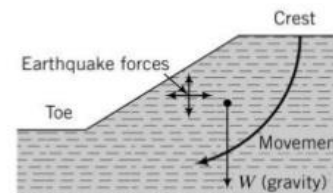
(a) Steepening of slope by erosion



(b) Scour by rivers and streams



(c) Rainfall fills crack and introduces seepage forces in the thin, weak soil layer

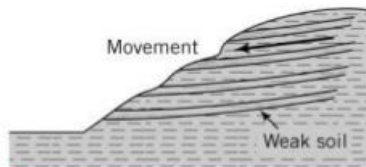


(d) Gravity and earthquake forces

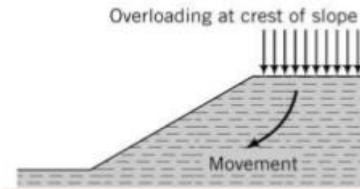
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Slope Stability

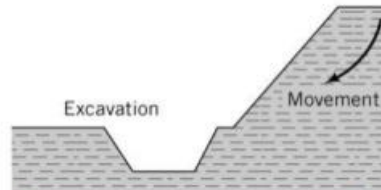
CAUSES OF SLOPE FAILURE



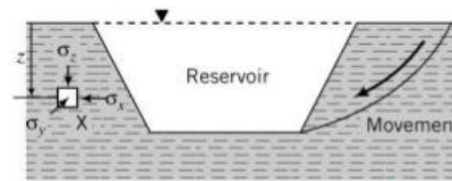
(e) Geological feature—soil stratification



(f) Overloading at the crest of the slope



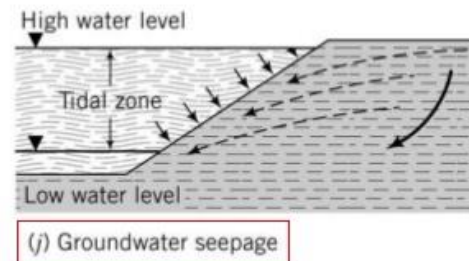
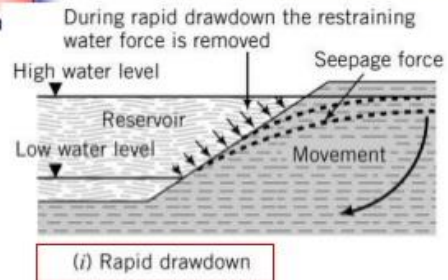
(g) Excavation at toe of the slope



(h) Reservoir stresses

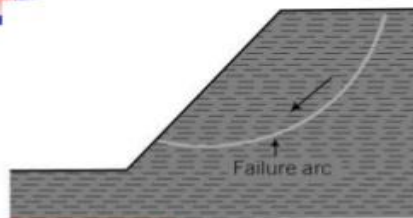
Slope Stability

CAUSES OF SLOPE FAILURE

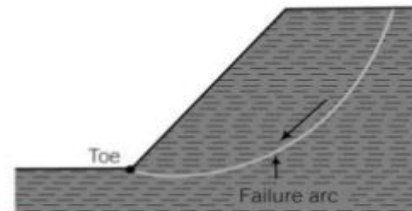


Slope Stability

TYPES/MODES OF SLOPE FAILURE



(d) Slope slide



(c) Toe slide

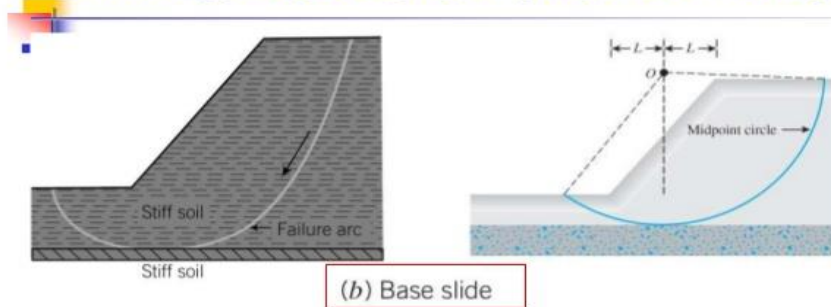
Toe Failure

- Failure surface passing through toe of slope
- Material of slope is homogeneous
- Relatively steep slope angles

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Slope Stability

TYPES/MODES OF SLOPE FAILURE



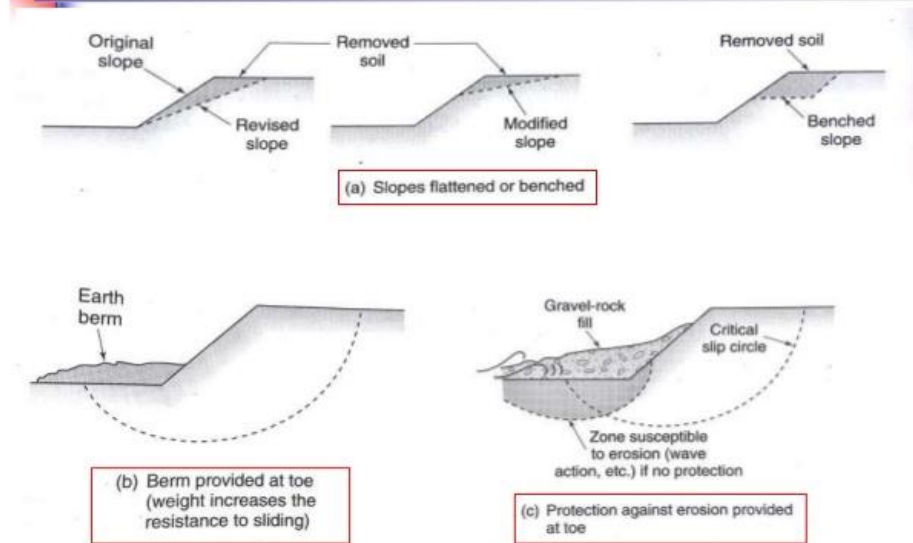
Base Failure

- Failure surface passing through foundation
- Foundation soil somehow weaker than slope material
- Relatively gentle slopes

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Slope Stability

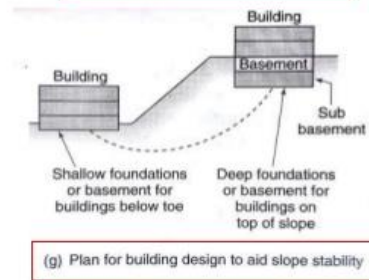
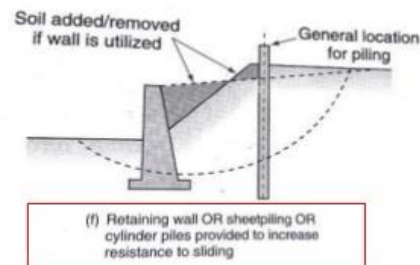
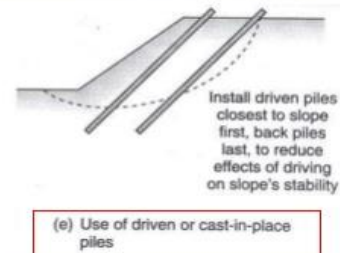
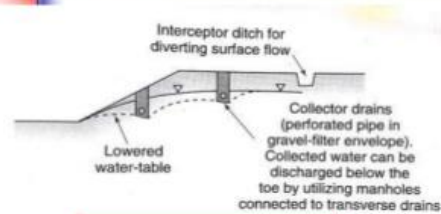
SLOPE STABILIZING MEASURES



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Slope Stability

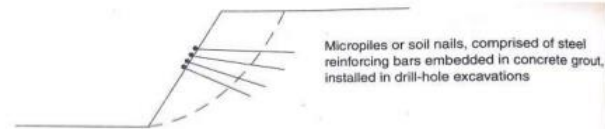
SLOPE STABILIZING MEASURES



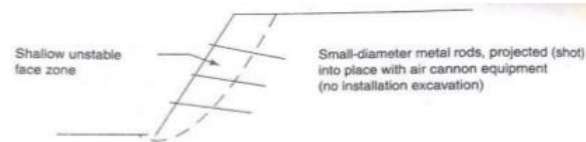
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Slope Stability

SLOPE STABILIZING MEASURES



(h) Micropiles or soil nails (reticulated network), attaches unstable face soil zone to deeper stable zone (refer to Chapter 13)



(j) Launched soil nails reinforce unstable face zone and attach to deeper stable zone (method limited to stabilizing shallow face zones); see Chapter 17

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Slope Stability

LIMIT EQUILIBRIUM ANALYSIS

- Most common *quantitative* measure of slope stability
- Stability of slope expressed in terms of *factor of safety just before failure*

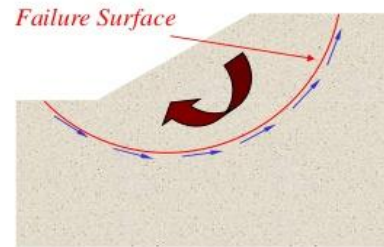
$$FOS = \frac{\text{Resisting Force}}{\text{Disturbing Force}}$$

$$FOS = \frac{\text{Available Shear Strength of Soil}}{\text{Applied Shear Stress}}$$

$FOS < 1 \rightarrow$ Failure

$FOS = 1 \rightarrow$ Verge of failure/Just stable

$FOS > 1 \rightarrow$ Stable



Typical design criterion for stable slope; $FOS > 1.5$

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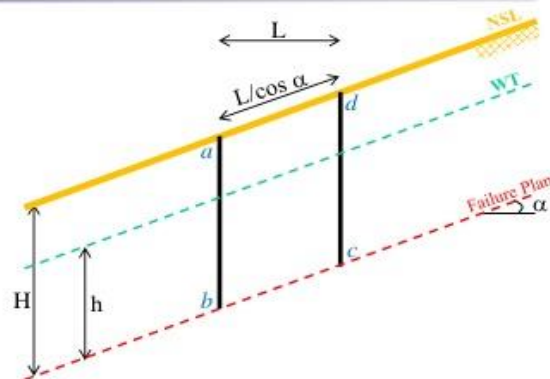
Slope Stability

SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

Infinite Slope

Assumptions:

1. *Slope face* is planar and of infinite extent
2. *Failure surface* is \parallel to slope face
3. *Water surface* is \parallel to slope face



$$FOS = \frac{\text{Available Shear Strength of Soil}}{\text{Applied Shear Stress}}$$

Slope Stability

SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

Infinite Slope

Case-A: c - ϕ Soil ($c > 0$; $\phi > 0$)

Available Shear Strength of Soil (τ_r)

$$\tau_r = c' + \gamma H \cos^2 \alpha \cdot \tan \phi'$$

Applied Shear Stress (τ)

$$\tau = \frac{T}{(L/\cos \alpha)(1)}$$

$$\tau = \frac{\gamma H L \sin \alpha}{(L/\cos \alpha)(1)}$$

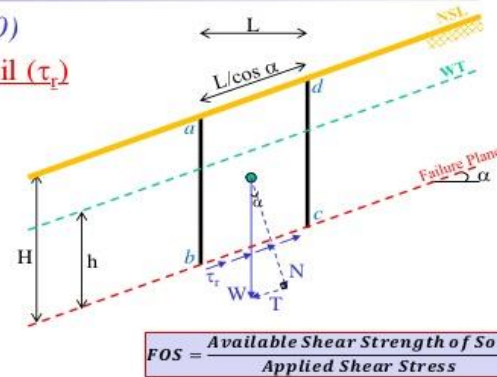
$$\tau = \gamma H \sin \alpha \cos \alpha$$

Factor of Safety (FOS)



$$FOS = \frac{c' + \gamma H \cos^2 \alpha \cdot \tan \phi'}{\gamma H \sin \alpha \cos \alpha}$$

Without considering the effect of WT



Thank you

