Dynamic response of tunnel through water-rich liquefiable layer based on UBC3D-PLM model

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Received 16 February 2023; accepted 7 April 2023; published online 18 May 2023
DOI https://doi.org/10.21595/vp.2023.23219

Abstract. This study investigates the dynamic response of tunnels crossing liquefiable layers, with a focus on the Chongming Line Project of Shanghai Rail Transit. Through numerical analysis using Plaxis2D geotechnical simulation software, the study shows that the UBC3D-PLM constitutive model effectively simulates pore pressure dynamic response in liquefiable layers. Furthermore, the study finds that drainage pile reinforcement on both sides of the tunnel limits liquefaction of liquefiable soil under dynamic load. The rate of EPR accumulation accelerates and the time to reach the peak of EPR ratio shortens with increasing dynamic load intensity. However, the accumulation growth pattern of EPR ratio in liquefiable soil layers remains the same after the dynamic load intensity reaches a certain threshold.

Keywords: tunnel project, liquefaction, Plaxis2D, UBC3D-PLM, drainage reinforcement, dynamic load intensity.

1. Introduction


This paper shows that the UBC model is effective in dynamic response calculation for tunnel engineering, providing a theoretical basis for protecting against dynamic disasters.

2. Project profile

The Chongming Line project includes a 3# size shield conversion shaft, Chenjiazhen Station, Dongtan Station, and the underground interval at the start of the elevated section. A liquefiable sandy chalk layer within 20 m depth of the site that could be damaged and uplifted during seismic activity. The geographic location of the project is shown in Fig. 1.

3. Constitutive model parameters

Numerical simulations are carried out by using Plaxis2D software. The liquefiable layer is simulated using the UBC3D-PLM constitutive model. The main parameters of the materials are shown in Table 1.

The UBC3D-PLM model [7] is a nonlinear elasto-plastic model that accumulates plastic strain
and pore water pressure to capture seismic liquefaction. The rest parameters used in the numerical simulations of this constitutive model in this paper are shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Main parameters of research materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>$\gamma_{sat}$, kg/m$^3$</th>
<th>$e$</th>
<th>$E$, MPa</th>
<th>$\mu$</th>
<th>$c$, kPa</th>
<th>$\phi$, $^\circ$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silt</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnel</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Equations for parameters calibration in UBC3D-PLM model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter symbols</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Equations / Empirical value (EV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$D_r$</td>
<td>Relative density (%)</td>
<td>CPT results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{1,60}$</td>
<td>visionary SPT hits</td>
<td>$(D_r/15)^2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_E$</td>
<td>shear elasticity modulus</td>
<td>$21.7 \times 20 \times (N_{1,60})^{0.333}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_B$</td>
<td>bulk elasticity modulus</td>
<td>$0.7 \times K_G$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$K_P$</td>
<td>plastic shear modulus</td>
<td>$K_G + (N_{1,60})^{2} \times 0.003 + 100$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\varphi_{CD}$</td>
<td>frictional angle(constant)</td>
<td>CD tri-axial test results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\varphi_p$</td>
<td>frictional angle(peak)</td>
<td>$\varphi_{CD} + N_{1,60} \times 0.2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R_f$</td>
<td>rate of failure</td>
<td>$1.1 \times (N_{1,60})^{-0.15}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_a$</td>
<td>atmospheric pressure</td>
<td>100 kPa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Results and analysis

4.1. Dynamic responses under drainage consolidation

Fig. 2 shows the superporous water pressure without drainage measures. The dynamic load at the bottom causes the accumulation of superporous pressure in liquefiable foundation, and the peak value of accumulated superporous pressure increases with depth, following the dynamic response law.
Fig. 2. Superporous water pressure without drainage measures

Fig. 3 shows how superporous pressure ratio changes with depth in a liquefiable layer when drainage pile reinforcement is used on both sides. After the reinforcement measures are adopted, the accumulation of larger superporous pressure only occurs in the shallow layer. The pore pressure ratio around the tunnel depth increases slowly.

Fig. 3. Superporous pressure ratio with drainage piles reinforcement

Fig. 4 shows the time travel curves of the superporous pressure at different distances. As the distance from the drainage pile increases, the peak value of the superporous pressure ratio gradually increases (0.4, 0.55, 0.9, and 1). The anti-liquefaction effect of the drainage measures is evident within 4 m (small peak values at 2 m and 4 m, and significant increases at 6 m and 8 m).

Fig. 4. Superporous pressure ratio at different distances from drainage pile
4.2. Dynamic response under different dynamic load intensities

Fig. 5 shows the time curves of superporous pressure ratio at different depths under these different dynamic load intensities. The peak of pore pressure ratio in the liquefiable soil was reached at about 20 seconds at each depth for a dynamic load intensity with an acceleration peak of 0.05 g, about 7 seconds with an acceleration peak of 0.1 g, and about 3 seconds with acceleration peaks of 0.2 g and 0.3 g. This implies that different dynamic load intensity conditions mainly affect the accumulation and growth pattern of superporous pressure. After the acceleration peak exceeds 0.2 g, the growth pattern of superporous pressure ratio accumulation in liquefiable layers is basically the same. This indicates that when the dynamic load strength is lower than a certain threshold, the dynamic load strength can hardly cause a peak of superporous pressure in liquefiable layer. However, as the dynamic load strength increases, the time to reach the peak of pore pressure ratio in liquefiable layer becomes shorter.

5. Conclusion

Plaxis2D effectively simulates pore pressure dynamic response in liquefiable layers, and drainage pile reinforcement on both sides of the tunnel effectively restrains liquefaction of the liquefiable layer under dynamic load. Higher power load intensities lead to faster accumulation and peak of superporous pressure ratio. After the power load intensity reaches a certain threshold, the accumulation growth law of superporous pressure ratio is basically the same.

![Fig. 5. Superporous pressure ratio in different depths](image)

Acknowledgements

The study is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) 51379067, 51679072, and Key International/Regional Cooperative Research Project of NSFC 51420105013.
Data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References


