

The study of stress-strain state of stabilized layered soil foundations

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Abstract. Herein presented are the results of modeling and analysis of stress-strain state of layered inhomogeneous foundation soil when it is stabilised by injection to different depths. Produced qualitative and quantitative analysis of the components of the field of isolines of stresses, strains, stress concentration and the difference between the strain at the boundary of different elastic horizontal layers. Recommendations are given for the location of stabilised zones in relation to the border of different elastic layers. In particular, it found that stabilization of soil within the weak layer is inappropriate, since it practically provides no increase in the stability of the soil foundation, and when performing stabilisation of soil foundations, it is recommended to place the lower border of the stabilisation zone below the border of a stronger layer, at this the distribution of stresses and strains occurs more evenly, and load-bearing capacity of this layer is used to the maximum.

1 Introduction

In construction of mining buildings, civil and industrial buildings there is a frequent situation when soil foundations are made of two or more soils with different physical and mechanical properties while weak strata of the massif are located on top of more solid soil [1, 2]. The inhomogeneity of rock strata properties, in particular, its layered structure, considerably affects the distribution of stresses and strains [3-6]. The study of geomechanical aspects of the problem will improve the accuracy of prediction of soil foundations stability including foundations fixed by injection methods, as well as reduce the risks of technological accidents at the facilities of the mining and construction industries.

When solving such problems, the method of numerical simulation becomes increasingly common, its main provisions are described in several papers [7-10]. The concepts of the method are implemented in the framework of "Alterra" software for geotechnical calculations made by company "InzhStroyProekt". The basic principles of modeling and analysis of computer calculations are set out in the work [11].

The base model for the formation of a database and further analysis (Fig. 1) is implemented for the two-step strip reinforced concrete foundation loaded with a vertical concentrated force $P = 154.7\text{kN}$, the height $d_f = 3.0\text{m}$ and the following mechanical parameters: modulus of deformation $E_f = 2000\text{MPa}$; Poisson's ratio $\nu_f = 0.15$; density $\rho_f = 2500\text{kg/m}^3$.

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Soil massif consists of the upper (layer #1) and lower (layer #2) layers with specified physical and mechanical properties in accordance with examples of calculation [12-14] and SP 23.13330.2011 (Table 1), layers thickness $H_1 = H_2 = 10.5\text{m}$, the width of the model $B_m = 31.2\text{m}$.

Formation of the database for the analysis was carried out by setting the increment of physical and mechanical properties of the massif soils in the range of relations $E_2/E_1 = 1 \dots 5$ (Table 1) with various schemes of ground stabilisation by injection according to the recommendations adopted in the works [15, 16]:

- at location of zones of stabilisation within the boundaries of the weak layer (Fig.1,a);
- when stabilisation zones rest upon the border of layers (Fig.1,b);
- when the stabilisation zones are jammed in the strong layer (Fig.1,c).

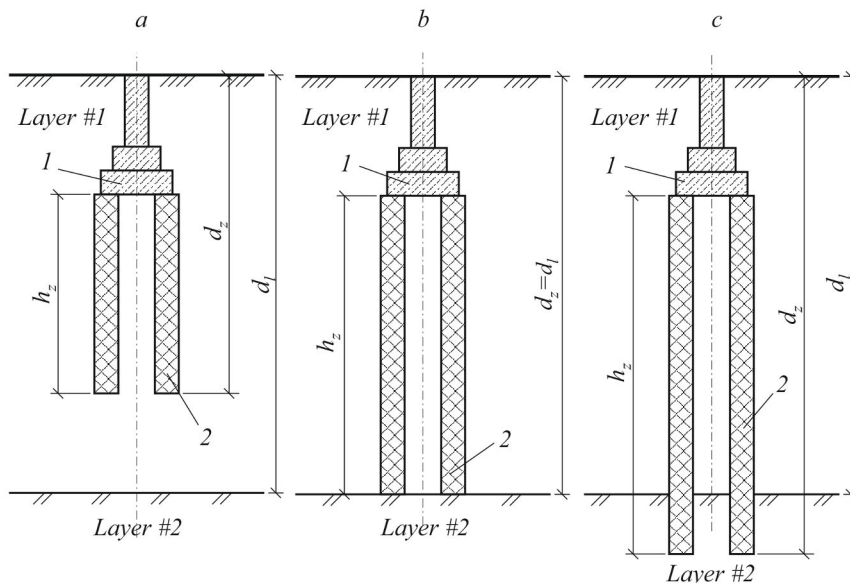


Fig. 1. Schemes of an arrangement of zones of stabilisation within the borders of the weak layer (a), when rested upon (b) and jammed in the strong layer (c): 1 - foundation; 2 - stabilisation zone

Table 1. Physical and mechanical properties of soils

Properties	Layer #1	Layer #2				
		relationship of E_2/E_1				
		1	2	3	4	5
Modulus of deformation E_i , MPa	5	5	10	15	20	25
Poisson's ratio ν_i	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.32
Average density ρ_i , kg/m ³	1750	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950
Angle of internal friction ϕ_i , degrees	17	17	18	19	20	21
Adhesion C_i , kPa	5	5	10	20	30	40

2 Results and discussion

Part of the results of simulation in the form of isolines fields of vertical stress σ_z is shown in Fig. 2.

Vertical stresses σ_z in the natural (non-bound) layered soil massif (Fig.2,a) are distributed symmetrically and have the area of concentration under the foundation, as well as characteristic changes on the border of layers. When forming the stabilization zones according

to the schemes (Fig. 1), additional areas of stress concentration are formed under the bases of these zones, as well as along their lateral surfaces.

In analyzing the character of the distribution of vertical stress σ_z from the depth the massif along the axis of symmetry of the foundation z (fig. 3) it was established that the formation of the field of vertical stress concentration is observed at $z = 7.5 \dots 12.5$ m depending on the location of the stabilisation zones and relations E_2/E_1 . In particular, the greatest effect from stabilisation is achieved at scheme #3 (Fig. 3,d), because in this case in the stabilised massif on the border of layers there are no surges of stress σ_z due to their increase in the weak layer in the range $z = 7.0 \dots 10.0$ m, at the same time, the major part of the pressure is redistributed onto the strong layer.

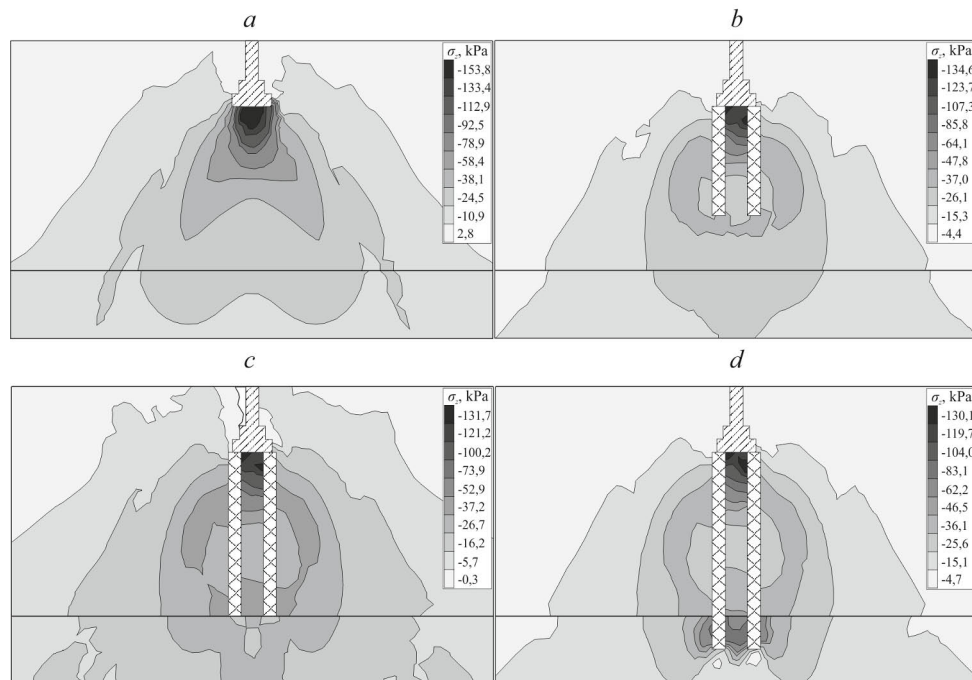


Fig. 2. Fields of isolines of vertical stress distribution in the natural soil foundation (a), at the location of zones of stabilisation within the borders of the weak layer (b), when resting (c) and jamming (d) in the strong layer

Dependences of vertical stresses σ_z on the depth of the model along the outer side surface of fixing zones z_s are shown in Fig. 4.

The graphs show that at the location of stabilization zones in the weak layer (scheme #1) the stresses decrease monotonically with increasing coordinate z_s in the absence of local concentrations on the border of the layers. When the stabilised zone rests on this border (scheme #2) and goes deeper in the strong layer (scheme #3), the stress state of massif is fundamentally different: stresses σ_z are more intensely redistributed to the lower layer.

For the numerical evaluation of the stress state of the soil massif, we introduce the integral criterion - stress concentration factor k_i , determined by the formula

$$k_i = \frac{\sigma_{\max}}{\sigma_{\text{lost}}},$$

where σ_{\max} – the maximum stresses in the layer boundaries, kPa; σ_{lost} – stress in the pristine part of the layer under consideration (at the border of the model), kPa.

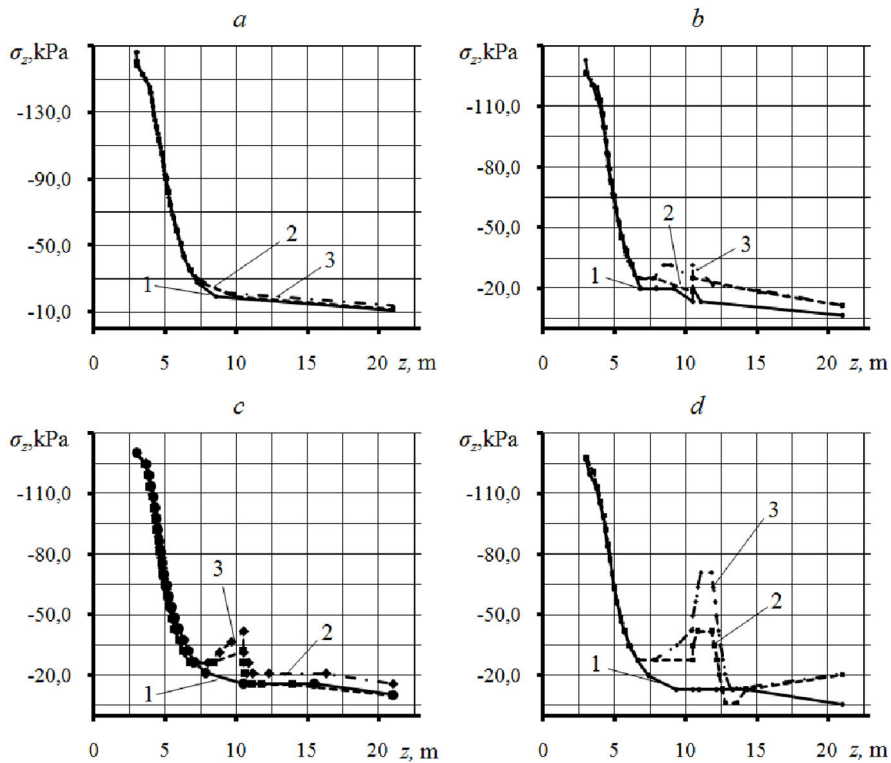


Fig. 3. The dependence of the stress σ_z on the depth along the axis of the model z in the natural (a) and stabilised massif as per schemes #1 (b), #2 (c) and #3 (d) and relation E_2/E_1 equal to: 1 – $E_2/E_1=1$; 2 – $E_2/E_1=3$; 3 – $E_2/E_1=5$

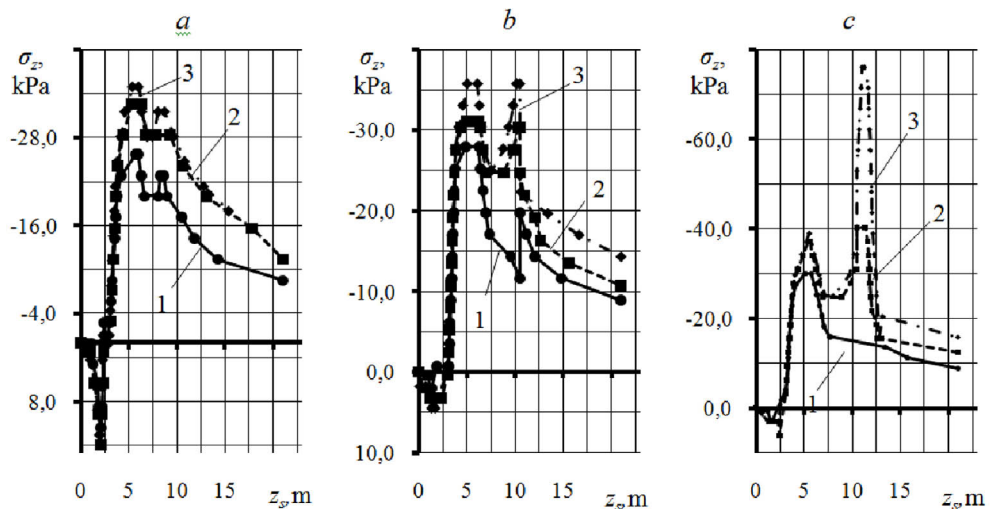


Fig. 4. Dependence of the stress σ_z on the depth of model z_s along the border of the stabilization zone when it is stabilized as per schemes #1, #2 and #3, and relation of properties E_2/E_1 , equal to: 1 – $E_2/E_1=1$; 2 – $E_2/E_1=3$; 3 – $E_2/E_1=5$

The dependences of relation of the stress concentration factors k_1/k_2 in the weak and strong layers on relation E_2/E_1 are shown in Fig. 5.

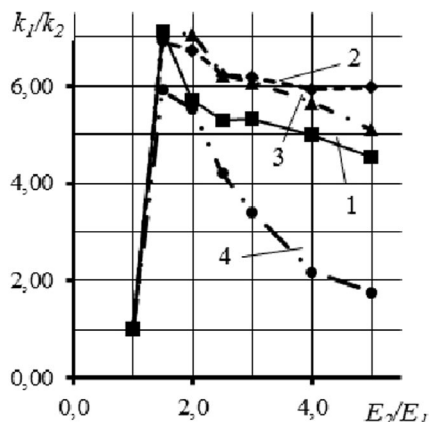


Fig. 5. Dependencies of relations k_1/k_2 on the relation E_2/E_1 : 1 - natural massif; 2 – when stabilized as per scheme #1; 3 – scheme #2; 4 – scheme #3

According to the presented data, when relation E_2/E_1 increases in the range of $E_2/E_1 = 1.0 \dots 2.5$, there occurs redistribution of stresses between the layers with formation of the area of maximum stresses. At stabilization as per the schemes #1 and #2, there is some smoothing of the graphs in the range of $E_2/E_1 = 2.0 \dots 5.0$. The greatest effect is achieved at stabilization as per scheme #3, where there is a sharp decline in k_1/k_2 to values close to 1. Thus, the location of the base of the stabilisation zones within the boundaries of the strong layer contributes to a more favorable distribution of stresses in the layered soil massif.

The distribution pattern of vertical deformations ε_z in the soil massif is shown by the fields of isolines shown in Fig. 6.

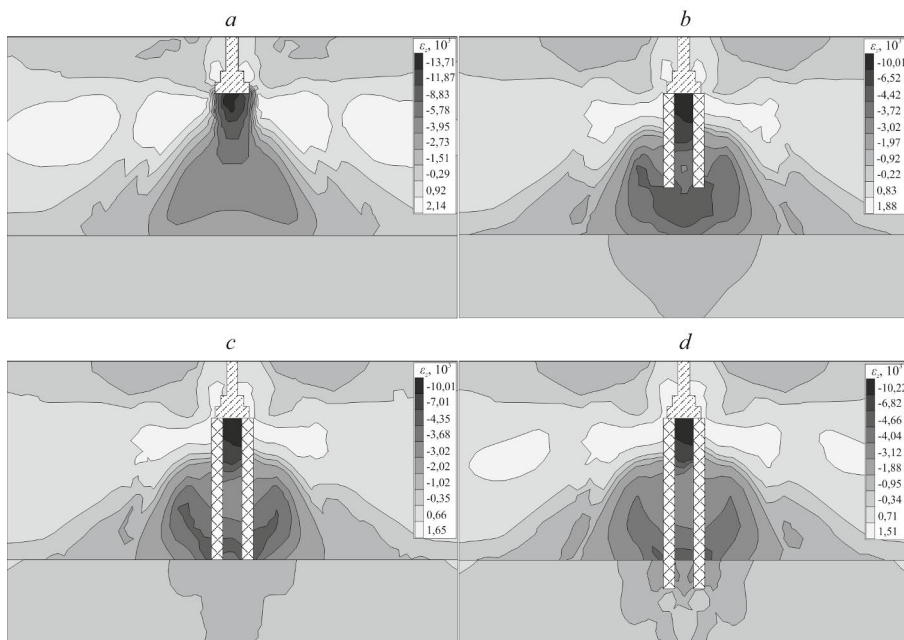


Fig. 6. Isoline fields of distribution of vertical deformations in the natural soil foundation (a), at the location of stabilization zones within the borders of the weak layer (b), at resting upon (c) and jamming (d) in the strong layer

Distribution of deformations ε_z occurs symmetrically, the areas of the maximum values stress are formed in specific parts of the massif: under the foundation at a depth of $z = 3.0...6.0\text{m}$ 3.5-4.5m wide, and when stabilized - in inter-areas space; under the lower ends of the stabilisation zones at an average width 5.5-6.5m, in some cases 3.2-4.0m.

Along the axis z_s by the side face of the stabilisation zone (Fig. 7) there are significant lateral deformations of the stabilisation zones, since at the range of the depth $z_s = 3.5-7.5\text{m}$ (in some cases up to 10.5m) a change in the character of the deformation into compression is observed, as well as significant increase of ε_z .

Fig. 8 shows the dependence of the deformation difference at the border of layers $\Delta = \varepsilon_{z2} - \varepsilon_{z1}$ on the relation E_2/E_1 .

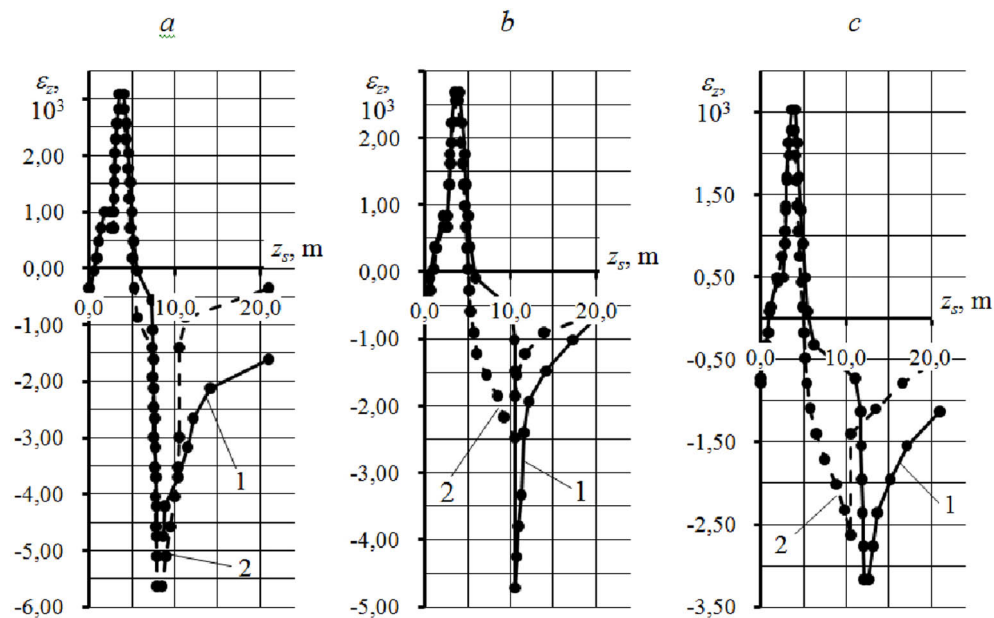


Fig. 7. Dependence of the vertical elastic deformations ε_z on the depth of the model z_s in the stabilised soil foundation according to schemes #1 (a), #2 (b) and #3 (c), at relation E_2/E_1 , equal to: 1 – $E_2/E_1 = 1$; 2 – $E_2/E_1 = 5$

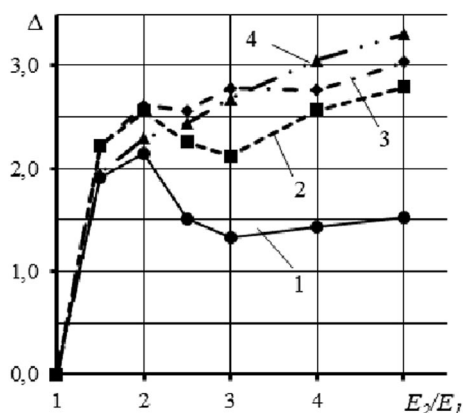


Fig. 8. Dependence of changes in the difference of the vertical deformation Δ on the border of layers on the relation E_2/E_1 : 1 - natural massif; 2 – when stabilized as per schemes #1; 3 – schemes #2; 4 – scheme #3

The presented curves show that the highest values Δ are seen at stabilization as per scheme #3, at the same time the value Δ increases practically monotonously, without areas of local maximum values, in contrast to the other stabilization schemes. The lowest level of Δ is recorded in the natural massif, however, in the interval of relations $E_2/E_1=1.5\dots2.5$ maximum values exceeding the value $\Delta = 1.5$ at the ratio $E_2/E_1=5$ are observed.

3 Conclusion

As a result of the analysis of the stress-strain state of the layered stabilised soil massif, the following has been found:

- stabilization of soil within the weak layer is inappropriate, since it practically provides no increase in the stability of the soil foundation;
- when performing stabilization of soil foundations, it is recommended to place the lower border of the stabilization zone below the border of a stronger layer, at this the distribution of stresses and strains occurs more evenly, and load-bearing capacity of this layer is used to the maximum.

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