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Anisotropy in elastic deformation property of a dense gravel.

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Introduction: The cross-anisotropic elasticity model could be relevant for vertically compacted granular materials as has been reported by many researchers. However, possible variations of horizontal elastic Young's modulus E_h during triaxial compression and extension tests at constant horizontal stress σ_h have not been examined yet. This point was carefully examined in this study to validate the cross-anisotropic elasticity model.

Experimental program: Large triaxial square-prismatic specimens of 58cm (height) *23cm (length)*23cm(width) (Fig.1) were prepared by compacting Chiba gravel (80% gravel and 20% sand : see Balakrishnaier et al 1998 for grading curve) in fourteen layers by manual compaction to reach high dry density ($\rho_d=2.23 \text{ g/cm}^3$). Local axial and horizontal strains, which were free from any bedding errors as well as membrane penetration, were measured by using in total 10 local deformation transducers (LDTs) (Goto et al 1991). Specimens were subjected to cyclic isotropic consolidation for a stress range from 49kPa to 490kPa, followed by large cycles of shearing at constant confining pressure ($\sigma_h=490\text{kPa}$). The two horizontal stresses were always equal to each other. Small cycles of either horizontal or vertical stress were applied at various stress levels during isotropic consolidation as well as cyclic shearing.

Results and Discussions: A typical stress-strain curve during small horizontal and vertical cyclic shearing are shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. The single amplitude of vertical strain $(\epsilon_v)_{SA}$ was less than 0.001% in most of the cases, while horizontal strain $(\epsilon_h)_{SA}$ sometimes exceeded the above value. The measured stiffness values were corrected to those at $\epsilon_{SA}=0.001\%$ by following the method suggested by Flora et al (1994) and Jiang et al (1997). From vertical small unload-reload cycles, we could directly obtain the vertical Young's modulus $E_v = \Delta\sigma_v / \Delta\epsilon_v$ and the Poisson's ratio $\nu_{vh} = -\Delta\epsilon_h / \Delta\epsilon_v$. On the other hand, the horizontal Young's modulus $E_h = (1 - \nu_{hh}) \Delta\sigma_h / \Delta\epsilon_h$ could be evaluated from horizontal small unload-reload cycles only by assuming a proper value for Poisson's ratio ν_{hh} . In this paper, it was assumed that $\nu_{hh} = \nu_{vh}$ at isotropic stress state. Then the Young's moduli E_v and E_h were normalized by using the empirical equation $f(e)=(2.17-e)^2/(1+e)$ (Hardin and Richart,1963) to exclude the influence of the variations in the void ratio e at current stress state. The degree of inherent anisotropy can be seen from data at isotropic stress state (Fig. 5); E_v is always larger than E_h , which is likely to result from heavy compaction in the vertical direction. As the full-

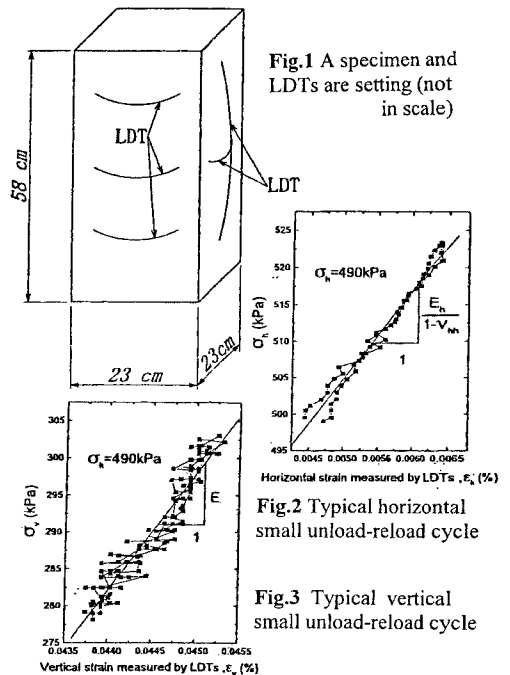


Fig.1 A specimen and LDTs are setting (not in scale)

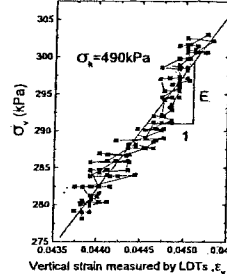


Fig.2 Typical horizontal small unload-reload cycle

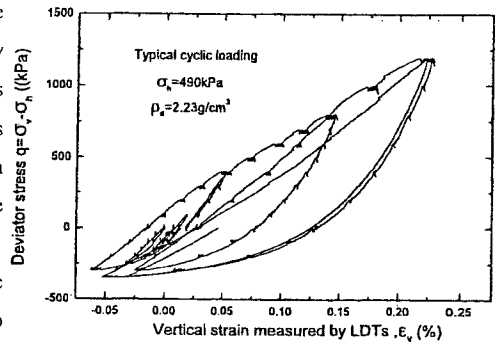


Fig.3 Typical vertical small unload-reload cycle

Fig. 4 Stress-strain curve during cyclic loading

Key word: cross-anisotropic elasticity model ; inherent anisotropy ; heavy compaction .

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logarithmic plot of E_v and E_h versus σ_m ($=\sigma_h = \sigma_v$ during isotropic consolidation) are essentially linear, they are fitted by $E_v/f(e) = E_{v0} * (\sigma_v/\sigma_0)^{m_v}$ and $E_h/f(e) = E_{h0} * (\sigma_h/\sigma_0)^{m_h}$, where σ_0 is a reference stress, set to 1.0 kPa for the present study. E_{v0} , E_{h0} , m_v , m_h are the parameters. In Fig. 5, the slope of the E_h line is steeper than the slope of the E_v line (i.e., $m_h > m_v$), which means that this inherent anisotropy decreased as stress level increased. This phenomenon was observed in most of the experiments.

Fig. 4 shows the typical overall stress-strain relationship during triaxial shearing, and Fig. 6 shows the value of E_v and E_h evaluated during this test. It may be seen from Fig. 6 that the measured value of E_v follows basically the relationship $E_v/f(e) = E_{v0} * (\sigma_v/\sigma_0)^{m_v}$ established for isotropic stress states as many researchers suggested (Tatsuoka and Kohata, 1995), while the slope m_v between triaxial extension and compression is slightly different. A similar data from another test is shown in Fig. 7. The slopes m in triaxial compression and extension are slightly smaller and larger than that of the isotropic stress state, as the stress ratio σ_1/σ_3 increases in triaxial compression and extension. E_v value decreases relatively to the respective value at the same σ_v at the isotropic stress state, perhaps due to damage at high σ_1/σ_3 value. On the other hand, during shearing at constant confining pressure, E_h is nearly constant (Fig. 6), whereas at high or low stress levels, effects of damage can also be seen.

Conclusions : 1) The inherent anisotropy, perhaps due to heavy compaction, was observed at isotropic states and it decreased with the increase in the stress level. 2) The horizontal Young's modulus E_h kept nearly constant during triaxial shearing at constant confining pressure. 3) The test results confirmed the unique dependency of E_v and E_h on, respectively, σ_v and σ_h , implying a stress-induced anisotropy of the highly compacted gravel. 4) The decrease in both E_v and E_h at high stress ratio σ_1/σ_3 was observed in triaxial compression and extension.

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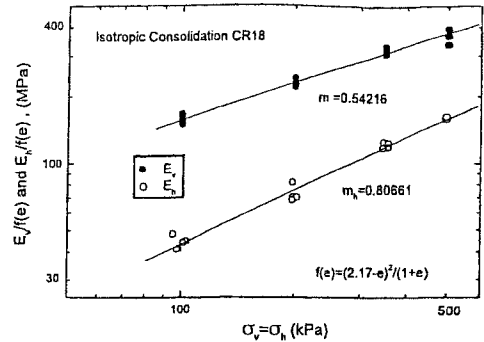


Fig. 5 Horizontal and vertical elastic Young's moduli at isotropic stress state

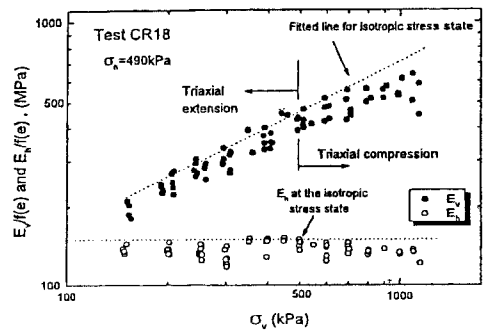


Fig. 6 Horizontal and vertical elastic Young's moduli during cyclic shearing at constant confining pressure

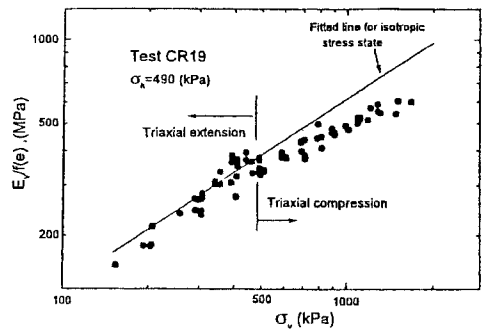


Fig. 7 Vertical elastic Young's moduli during cyclic shearing at constant confining pressure