

# Earthquake-Related Behavior of Piles in Liquid Deposits

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the behaviour of piles in liquefied soils based on the results of recent investigations carried out in Japan. These studies were carried out in recent years. These studies include (a) field performance and damage features of piles observed in the 1995 Kobe earthquake; (b) experimental findings from benchmark tests on full-size piles; and (c) simplified design methodology for piles undergoing lateral spreading. (a) Field performance and damage features of piles were observed in the 1995 Kobe earthquake. An investigation of piles that are simplified gives particular emphasis to the consequences of enormous lateral displacements of liquefied soils and their modelling in order to get a deeper understanding of these effects.

**Keywords:** Recycled Materials, Natural fibers, M-35 grade, Foundry waste, Foundry sand

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The liquefaction of soil that happens as a result of large earthquakes leads to an almost complete loss of the liquefied soil's strength and stiffness, which in turn generates considerable lateral ground displacements. This loss of strength and stiffness is a consequence of the liquefaction of soil. The extent of the post-liquefaction ground displacements that are linked with lateral spreading makes them extremely severe and damaging to piles. For example, as a consequence of the earthquake that rocked Kobe in 1995, a significant portion of the reclaimed infill became liquefied, which led to the destruction of several piling foundations of buildings, storage tanks, and bridge piers. Extensive research and investigations have shown that one of the key factors in the damage that was incurred by the piles was an excessive amount of lateral movement of liquefied soils. This was discovered as a result of the discovery that one of the piles had collapsed.

The unknowns and uncertainties associated with liquefaction, particularly lateral spreading, make it difficult to do an analysis of piles in liquefied soils.

As a result, it is extremely challenging to quantify the strength and stiffness qualities of liquefied soils or to anticipate the magnitude and geographical distribution of lateral spreading displacements. In addition, it is difficult to determine the strength and stiffness qualities of liquefied soils. The very low density of liquefied soils is the root cause of each of these difficulties. Liquefied soils are notoriously difficult to work with. In light of these concerns, it is essential in the simplified analysis of piles that have been subjected to lateral spreading to estimate the inelastic response and damage to the pile while taking into account the uncertainties. This must be done in order to properly evaluate the pile. Within the scope of this research, the features of liquefaction-induced ground displacements and the effects such displacements have on pile reactions are analysed and described. In addition to this, a simpler method for examining piles that have been subjected to lateral spreading is described here.

## Liquefaction-induced ground displacements

When conducting an analysis of the behaviour of piles in liquefied soils, it is beneficial to make a distinction between two separate stages in the interaction between the soil and the pile. These stages include a cyclic phase that happens during significant ground shaking and the subsequent development of liquefaction, and a lateral spreading phase that happens after the liquefaction has taken place. Both phases occur after the liquefaction has taken place. Following the liquefaction come both of the stages. The oscillatory kinematic and inertial loads, when combined, establish the critical load that must be supported by the pile to maintain its structural integrity while it is shaking. During the time when the cyclic phase is active, the piles are exposed to cyclic ground displacements (referred to as kinematic loads) as well as horizontal loads from the superstructure (referred to as inertial loads). On the other hand, lateral spreading is primarily a post-liquefaction process that is characterised by very high unilateral ground displacements and relatively small inertial effects. This is because lateral spreading occurs after liquefaction has occurred. This is since liquefaction takes place before lateral

spreading can take place. Because of this, the liquefaction qualities and lateral loads that are essential to the study of piles both during the cyclic phase and the lateral spreading phase are notably distinct from one another.

### Cyclic ground displacements

The port is officially recognised as being in the section of Kobe designated as the port. Large sand boils were produced as a consequence of the widespread liquefaction of fill deposits that varied in thickness from ten to twenty metres. This phenomenon, which also led to a sinking of the ground by approximately thirty to forty centimetres, was responsible for the formation of the sand boils. An array of accelerometers that were placed on Port Island were able to record the ground shaking that was induced by the earthquake. These records included two distinct sets of records in the liquefied soil: the first set of recordings was placed near the surface of the earth, and the second set of records was established at a depth of 16 metres. These records were found in the liquefied soil. These recordings give a plethora of information that was extremely useful in establishing the aspects of the ground motion that happened in the liquid fills. The information was provided by the recordings of the ground motion. Using these records as a basis for calibration and comparison, a series of advanced effective stress analyses were carried out (Cubrinovski et al., 2000) to investigate in detail the development of excess pore pressures and eventual liquefaction at the array site. These analyses were published in Cubrinovski et al.'s For the purposes of calibration and comparison, these data served as the foundation for the studies that were carried out. The book that Cubrinovski and his co-authors wrote incorporated many of the many studies that they had conducted. Figures 1a and 1b depict, respectively, the horizontal ground displacements and excess pore water pressures in the fill deposit that were projected to have happened in the first 15 seconds of the violent shaking. Both of these phenomena were anticipated to have taken place in the fill deposit. It is essential to make a note of the fact that the estimated displacements depicted in Figure 1a are almost identical to those that were back-calculated by carrying out a double integration of the observed accelerations. This is an important point to keep in mind because it highlights an important similarity between the two sets of results. Remembering this point is vital since it has substantial repercussions for the conclusions that may be derived from the data. This point has important ramifications, so it's important to keep it in mind.

The behaviour of piles in liquefied soils has been extensively studied, and Figure 1 illustrates certain characteristics of the ground reaction that are pertinent to our subject. The graphic illustrates the ground reaction's properties, which may be summarised as follows: The following characteristics fall under this category: During the intense shaking, horizontal ground displacements are rather significant, reaching peak displacements of around 35–40 cm in the liquid layer. The layer that is liquefied experiences the greatest displacements at this point. When the ground displacement reached 30 cm for the first time since the start of the shaking, which was at approximately 5.3 sec, the excess pore water pressure was well below the effective overburden stress, which indicated that the soil had not fully liquefied at that stage. This was due to the fact that the effective overburden stress was significantly higher than the excess pore water pressure. It is essential to take into account the fact that this took place at a point in time when the effective overburden stress was much lower than the surplus pore water pressure. This information may be obtained by analysing the time at which the ground displacement was measured to have reached 30 centimetres. High ground accelerations of about 0.4g were reported in combination with this reaction. In shake table investigations, it is common to see this kind of behaviour, in which enormous ground displacements and high accelerations occur concurrently right before or at the time of the appearance of total liquefaction. [Case in point:] [Case in point:] [As an example:] [As an example:] One way to look at this kind of behaviour is as something of a stepping stone on the path to complete liquefaction. This demonstrates how vital it is, while conducting an analysis of the behaviour of piles throughout the cycle phase, to take into careful account the combination of kinematic loads resulting from ground displacements and inertial loads originating from the superstructure. The size of these loads is determined by a variety of different parameters, the most important of which are the excess pore water pressure, the relative displacements between the soil and the foundation, and the respective predominance periods of the ground and the superstructure in each case.

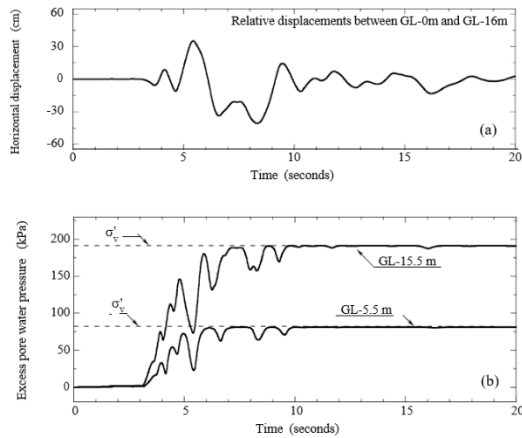


Fig 1. (a) Cyclic ground displacement; (b) Excess pore water pressure

**Typical damage to pile foundations**

As can be seen in Figure 2, the lateral spreading zone included many structures, including houses, storage tanks, and bridge piers with pile foundations. As a direct consequence of this, the piles that supported these buildings were subjected to extremely substantial kinematic stresses as a result of the lateral ground movement that occurred. It was determined that the extreme lateral ground movement was the primary contributor to the damage that was sustained by several of these piles, which were either damaged or completely collapsed as a result of the earthquake. The damage that was sustained by several of these piles was as a result of the earthquake. In order to conduct an accurate assessment of the condition of the heaps, in-depth research was conducted on a representative sample of the piles, utilising a wide range of field inspection techniques. For example, the progression of fractures was investigated by placing a video camera inside of a borehole and then lowering it down the length of the buried piles. This allowed for a more comprehensive view of the phenomenon. At the same time, the deformation of the pile was analysed with the assistance of an inclinometer so that the results could be compared. In other cases, the surface soil had to be dug in order to reveal the highest piece of the pile foundation. This was accomplished by positioning a trench. A visual evaluation of the damage that had been experienced by the pile head was then carried out after this step. The following is a brief discussion of the damage characteristics that are typical of piles that are positioned within the lateral spreading zone. The foundation of Pier 211 on the Hanshin Bay Route No. 5 is used as a reference throughout this description (Ishihara and Carnovsky, 1998). Figure 3 is an illustration that shows the lateral views of Pier 211 in addition to a plan view of the base of the construction (HHA, 1996). The pier was supported by a total of 22 piles

that were composed of reinforced concrete that was cast on site. Each pile had a diameter of 1.5 metres and stretched for 41.5 metres in length. In Figure 3b, which is a summary of the damage to the piles that was obtained from recordings made with a borehole camera on two different piles that were inspected, cracks can be seen at the pile head and predominantly at depths corresponding to the interface between the liquefied layer and the underlying non-liquefied layer. These depths correspond to the interface between the liquefied layer and the underlying non-liquefied layer. This is a shortened version of the damage pattern that was seen on many of the piles that were inspected in the waterfront region. The pattern is as follows:

**II.**

**ANALYSIS OF PILES SUBJECTED TO LATERAL SPREADING**

Analysis of piles in liquefied soils may be performed using a variety of approaches, including complex finite element analysis based on the effective stress principle and simpler techniques based on the quasi-static approach. Both of these approaches are accessible. We are able to evaluate the seismic soil-pile interaction by using a rigorous effective stress analysis. This analysis also takes into account the effects of excess pore pressure and eventual liquefaction, and as a result, it provides a rigorous estimate of the inertial and kinematic loads that are placed on the pile. Although the ability of effective stress analysis to provide accurate predictions has been shown in a great number of studies, its use in the

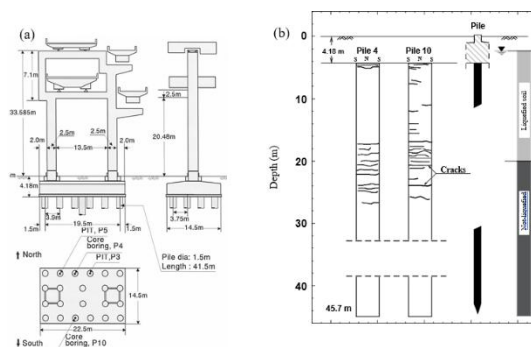


Fig 2. (a) Side view of the pier and plan view of the foundation; (b) Observation of damage to piles

In the field of engineering, we are constrained by two prerequisites at all times. To quantify the effects of liquefaction on ground/structure response and fully exploit the benefits of effective stress

analysis, high-quality data on in-situ conditions, physical properties, and mechanical behaviour of soils are required. These are the requirements of the adopted analysis procedure and constitutive model. In addition, in order to fully utilise the merits of effective stress analysis, it is essential that high-quality data on the in-situ conditions, physical properties, and In addition, it is essential to have high-quality data on the in-situ conditions, physical properties, and mechanical behaviour in order to make full use of the benefits that come from conducting an effective stress analysis. This is because high-quality data is required in order to fully utilise the merits of effective stress analysis. In addition, this analysis places a significant demand on the user, and it requires a robust understanding and grasp not only of the phenomena that are taken into account but also of the particular quirks of the numerical approach itself. However, provided that the aforementioned parameters are satisfied, the effective stress analysis may give information that is both useful and unmatched about the behaviour of piles in liquefiable soils and a foundation for evaluating the seismic performance of the structural system. In other words, it may give information that is both useful and unmatched about the behaviour of piles in liquefiable soils.

Nevertheless, when it comes to the design concerns and the early assessment of the piles, using a simpler analysis would be a more acceptable method since it would be a more straightforward approach. As was discussed in the part that came before this one, the behaviour of piles in liquefied soils and the phenomenon of lateral spreading are both accompanied by a significant number of unknowns and uncertainties. To be more specific, it is very challenging to make accurate predictions about the size and geographical distribution of post-liquefaction ground displacements. Furthermore, there is ambiguity regarding the stiffness and strength of liquefied soils that are undergoing spreading. The combination of these two elements makes it challenging to come up with reliable forecasts. As a consequence of this, the simplified method should make it feasible for us to deal with these uncertainties in a rational way while also capturing the core qualities of pile behaviour. A more straightforward method for examining piles that were subjected to lateral spreading was devised in a prior piece of research (Cubrinovski and Ishihara, 2004). The steps involved in this procedure are explained below, and it is founded on the premises that were discussed before.

### Simplified method of analysis

Figure 4 depicts the most common soil profile for piles in liquefied deposits, which consists of three distinct layers. The liquefied layer is located in the middle of a non-liquefied crust layer at the ground surface and a non-liquefied base layer. This is the most common soil profile for piles in liquefied deposits. As was seen in the prior part of this article, liquefaction that occurs as a consequence of intense ground shaking leads to a nearly total loss of the strength and stiffness of the liquefied soil, which in turn causes significant lateral ground displacements. When the crust layer is forced against the embedded piles, it is anticipated that it will impose significant lateral stresses on the piles. The non-liquefied surface layer is transported along with the underlying spreading soil as the spreading process takes place. When analysing the pile's reaction to lateral spreading, essential elements that need to be examined include a loss in stiffness in the liquid layer, excessive lateral movement of the earth, and lateral loads from the surface layer.

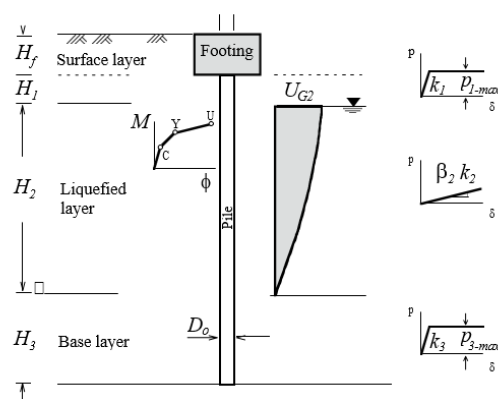


Fig 3. Characterization of nonlinear behaviour and input parameters in the simplified analysis

Figure 3 depicts the input parameters of the model as well as the load-deformation relationships that were used for the soil and the pile. These relationships were used in the research. The equivalent linear p-relationship for the liquefied layer was adopted in order to simplify the modelling of the highly nonlinear behaviour of liquefied soils undergoing spreading and to allow us to parametrically evaluate this behaviour. The modelling of this highly nonlinear behaviour was made possible by adopting the equivalent linear p-relationship for the liquefied layer. In addition, because of this adoption, we were able to simplify the modelling of the highly nonlinear behaviour of liquefied soils as they were spreading. It is predicted that value 2 will serve as a parameter in the investigation of a certain pile, and that this parameter will undergo substantial variation throughout a broad range of values. Because of this, it will be feasible to conduct an analysis of the

pile response by supposing a variety of characteristics of the liquefied soil. On the other hand, in order to simulate the nonlinear behaviour of the non-liquefied soil layers and the pile, respectively, bilinear p-relationships and tri-linear moment-curvature relationships (M-) were selected as the appropriate modelling techniques. These relationships were chosen because they allow for more accurate simulations of the nonlinear behaviour. Take notice that the parameter  $p1-max$  determines the highest permissible lateral pressure that may be delivered to the pile from the crust layer. This is something that you should keep in mind. In order to find out how a pile responds when it is exposed to lateral spreading, a closed-form solution was developed by using an iterative method that was established on the equivalent linear approach. This was done in order to find out how the pile behaves. Even though the analysis is based on a simple model that only accepts a small number of standard technical parameters as input, it is still capable of predicting the piles' inelastic reaction as well as the damage that they have sustained. This is the case despite the fact that the analysis only takes a limited number of standard technical parameters as input (Fig. 3).

#### Key parameters and uncertainties involved

The amplitude of the ground displacement, denoted by  $UG_2$ , the stiffness degradation, denoted by  $\beta_2$ , for the liquid layer, and the ultimate pressure from the crust layer, denoted by  $p1-max$ , are key characteristics that influence the pile reaction and, as a result, need careful consideration. However, as these factors are linked to their own inherent uncertainties, it might be challenging to determine which values are the most suited for them. Due to these factors, significant efforts have been made over the last ten years either to back-calculate these parameters based on well-documented case histories or to assess them by conducting experiments on soil-pile models. Both of these methods have been used.

It is essential to be aware of the fact that, in most circumstances, it would be really challenging to generate a prognosis that could be relied upon about the spreading displacements. This challenge is best depicted in Figure 2, which shows that even for a single earthquake event and fairly identical ground conditions, there is a substantial amount of dispersion in the permanent ground displacements that can be detected. When this is taken into consideration, it is possible to calculate the lateral displacement of the spreading soil using the formula  $UG_2$ .

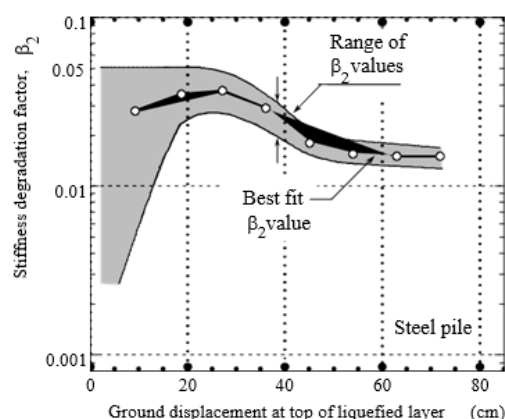


Fig 4.  
 Stiffness degradation of liquefied soil undergoing spreading

These parameters were first estimated by applying empirical correlations to permanent ground displacements of lateral spreads. Subsequently, parametric changes were made to these parameters over the range of lateral displacements that were expected.

It is possible for several different parameters, such as the density of the sand, excess pore pressures, the magnitude and pace of ground displacements, and drainage conditions, to have an effect on factor  $\beta_2$ , which defines the loss of stiffness due to liquefaction and nonlinear behaviour. For example, the density of the sand is a significant factor. The majority of the time, the value of  $\beta_2$  will be somewhere in the range of 1/1 to 1/10 for cyclic liquefaction, and it will be somewhere in the range of 1/1 to 1/1000 for lateral spreading. Both of these ranges may be found in the table below. The values of  $\beta_2$  that were back-calculated from full-size tests that were done on heaps are shown in Figure 6. (Cubrinovski et al., 2005a). These values are presented as a function of lateral ground displacement, which demonstrates that  $\beta_2$  is not a constant but rather that it varies throughout the process of lateral spreading. This is demonstrated by the fact that  $\beta_2$  is shown as a function of lateral ground displacement in the previous sentence.

Estimating the ultimate soil pressure from the surface layer per unit width of the pile may be done with the use of a simplified formulation such as  $p1-max = u \cdot pp$ . This expression can be employed.  $pp(z_1)$  is the Rankine passive pressure, and  $u$  is a scaling factor that compensates for the difference in lateral pressure that occurs between a single pile and an equivalent wall. Together, these two terms make up the formula. During the large-scale shaking table test on piles that was published before, a significant value of  $u = 4.5$  was found to

have been detected. Based on this number, it seems that the highest lateral pressure exerted by the crust layer on the pile might at times be of a rather significant magnitude. An overview of comparable data from the experimental studies that were carried out on piles is shown in Figure 7. These findings comprise the results of traditional lateral loading studies that were carried out on piles (active pile loading), in addition to two instances of lateral loading caused by ground movement (passive pile loading). It is of the utmost importance to be conscious of the fact that in the setting of

During active pile loading, the load that is driving the pile to deform is the horizontal force that is acting on the pile (Fig. 8a). On the other hand, the mobilised earth pressure is supplying a force that is producing a force that is resisting the active pile loading. In contrast, the driving force for the pile is supplied by the mobilised pressure from the crust layer when it is subjected to the passive pile loading seen in Figure 8b. This kind of loading occurs when the pile is not actively being loaded.

### III CONCLUSION

The behaviour of piles in liquid soils is characterised by high kinematic loads, which are produced by the excessive lateral movement of the liquefied soils. This movement causes the piles to behave in an unpredictable manner. The movement of the liquid soil might cause the piles to react in an unexpected way if they are allowed to continue. Significant deformations and damage are caused to piles at depths corresponding to the interface between the liquefied soil and the underlying non-liquefied layer as a result of post-liquefaction displacements related to lateral spreading. These displacements are caused by lateral spreading. These displacements are very significant and detrimental to the piles. At depths that correspond to the boundary between the liquefied soil and the layer underneath it that is not liquefied, they create considerable pile deformations and damage.

A method that may be used to conduct early evaluations of piles even while they are spread over liquefied soils has just been published. The pseudo-static approach is the foundation for this methodology's reference to a simplified analysis that can be found here. It was decided that a three-layer soil model would be the most accurate representation of the typical kinematic process for piles in soils that extend laterally. This model was chosen because it incorporates the effects of large ground displacements, a significant stiffness reduction in the liquefied soil, and lateral loads that form a crust of non-liquefied soil at the ground

surface. Additionally, the model takes into account significant reductions in the stiffness of the liquefied soil. In addition to that, this model illustrates the typical kinematic process that piles exhibit when they are placed in soils that expand laterally. The primary parameters that impact the pile response have been identified, and their typical values have been discussed, based on the outcomes of benchmark lateral spreading experiments carried out on full-size piles. These tests were carried out to determine the pile reaction.

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