A rigorous variant of the shear strength reduction method and its geotechnical applications

Stanislav Sysala*, Eva Hruběšová^{†,*}, Zdeněk Michalec* and Franz Tschuchnigg[‡]

^{*} Institute of Geonics of the Czech Academy of Sciences
Studentska 1768, 708 00 Ostrava, Czech Republic
e-mails: stanislav.sysala@ugn.cas.cz, zd.michalec@volny.cz, web page: <http://www.ugn.cas.cz>

[†] VSB-Technical University Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering
17. listopadu 15, 708 00 Ostrava, Czech Republic
Email: eva.hrubesova@vsb.cz, web page: <http://www.fast.vsb.cz>

[‡] Graz University of Technology
Institute of Soil Mechanics, Foundation Engineering and Computational Geotechnics
Rechbauerstraße 12, 8010 Graz, Austria
email: franz.tschuchnigg@tugraz.at, web page: graz.pure.elsevier.com/en/

ABSTRACT

This contribution is focused on a rigorous variant of the shear strength reduction method (SSR) and the corresponding determination of safety factors. It summarizes results presented in [1] and is inspired by [2]. The SSR-based safety factor is proposed to be defined as a solution of an optimization problem that is independent of the plastic flow rule and the space discretization. In case of nonassociative plasticity, a modified Davis approach is used. The optimization problem is analyzed and the corresponding duality between the static and kinematic principles is derived. For numerical solution, a regularization method is introduced and a relation between the original and regularized problems is derived. The regularization method is combined with the finite element method, mesh adaptivity and a damped Newton method. In-house codes in Matlab are used for implementation of this solution concept. Two slope stability problems are considered, one of which follows from analysis of a real slope. Software Plaxis and Comsol Multiphysics are used for comparison of the results. We also discuss uncertainty treatment and an influence of the porous flow.

REFERENCES

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