A Refined Formula for the Allowable Soil Pressure Using Shear Wave Velocities

S. S. Tezcan[1,*] and Z. Ozdemir[2]

[1]*Civil Engineering, Bogazici University, Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey*

[2]*Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey*

Abstract: Based on a variety of case histories of site investigations, including extensive bore hole data, laboratory testing and geophysical prospecting at more than 550 construction sites, an empirical formulation is proposed for the rapid determination of allowable bearing pressure of shallow foundations in soils and rocks. The proposed expression corroborates consistently with the results of the classical theory and is proven to be rapid, and reliable. Plate load tests have been also carried out at three different sites, in order to further confirm the validity of the proposed method. It consists of only two soil parameters, namely, the in situ measured shear wave velocity and the unit weight. The unit weight may be also determined with sufficient accuracy, by means of other empirical expressions proposed, using *P* or *S* - wave velocities. It is indicated that once the shear and *P*-wave velocities are measured in situ by an appropriate geophysical survey, the allowable bearing pressure as well as the coefficient of subgrade reaction and many other elasticity parameters may be determined rapidly and reliably.

Keywords: Shear wave velocity, shallow foundations, allowable bearing pressure, dynamic technique, soils and rocks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Professor Schulze [1], a prominent historical figure in soil mechanics and foundation engineering in Germany, stated in 1943 that "*For the determination of allowable bearing pressure, the geophysical methods, utilising seismic wave velocity measuring techniques with absolutely no disturbance of natural site conditions, may yield relatively more realistic results than those of the geotechnical methods, which are based primarily on bore hole data and laboratory testing of so-called undisturbed soil samples*".

Since that time, various significant contributions have been made to solving geotechnical problems by means of geophysical prospecting. The P-wave velocities, for instance, have been used to determine the unconfined compressive strengths and modulus of elasticity of soil samples by Coates [2]. Hardin and Black [3], and also Hardin and Drnevich [4], based on extensive experimental data, established indispensable relations between the shear wave velocity, void ratio, and shear rigidity of soils. Similarly, Ohkubo and Terasaki [5] supplied various expressions relating the seismic wave velocities to weight density, permeability, water content, unconfined compressive strength and modulus of elasticity.

The use of geophysical methods in soil mechanics has been extensively studied for the purpose of determining the properties of soils and rocks by Imai and Yoshimura [6], Tatham [7], Willkens, *et al.* [8], Phillips, *et al.* [9], Keceli [10, 11], Jongmans [12], Sully and Campanella [13], and Pyrak-Nolte, *et al.* [14]. Imai and Yoshimura [6] proposed

an empirical expression for the determination of bearing capacity q_f and / or q_a as

$$nq_a = q_f = V_s^{2.4} / (1590) \text{ (kPa)} \tag{1}$$

which yields values unacceptably much higher than the classical theory as will be evident in next section. Campanella and Stewart [15], determined various soil parameters by digital signal processing, while Butcher and Powell [16], supplied practical geophysical techniques to assess various soil parameters related to ground stiffness. An empirical expression is also proposed by Abd El-Rahman [17], for the ultimate bearing capacity of soils, using the logarithm of shear wave velocity.

A series of guidelines have been also prepared in this respect by the Technical Committee TC 16 of IRTP, ISSMGE [18], and also by Sieffert [19]. Keceli [11], Turker [20], based on extensive case studies, supplied explicit expressions for the allowable bearing pressure, using shear wave velocity. In this paper, the earlier formula presented by Tezcan, *et al.* [21], has been calibrated and improved with the soil data of 550 construction sites. Massarsch [22] determined deformation properties of fine-grained soils from seismic tests. As to the in situ measurement of *P* and *S* – wave velocities, various alternate techniques are available as outlined in detail by Stokoe and Woods [23], Tezcan, *et al.* [24], Butcher, *et al.* [25], Richart, *et al.* [26], Kramer [27], Santamarina, *et al.* [28].

2. THEORETICAL BASIS FOR THE EMPIRICAL EXPRESSION

In order to be able to arrive at a particular empirical expression for the allowable soil pressure q_a - underneath a shallow foundation, the systematic boundary value approach used earlier by Keceli [11] will be followed. The state of

*Address correspondence to this author at the Civil Engineering, Bogazici University, Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey; Tel: +90. 212. 352 65 59; Fax: +90. 212. 352 65 58; Mobile: +90. 532. 371 03 40; E-mail: tezokan @ gmail. com

stress and the related elastic parameters of a typical soil column is shown in Fig. (**1**). Considering a foundation depth of D_f with a unit cross-sectional area of $A=1$, the typical form of the compressive ultimate bearing capacity at the base of the foundation nothing but only as a format, may be written approximately as;

$$q_f = \gamma \, D_f \tag{2}$$

$$q_a = q_f \, / \, n = \gamma \, D_f \, / \, n \tag{3}$$

where q_f = ultimate bearing capacity at failure, γ = unit weight of soil above the base of the foundation, q_a = allowable bearing pressure, and n= factor of safety. In order to be able to incorporate the shear wave velocity V_{s2} into the above expressions, the depth parameter D_f will be expressed as velocity multiplied by time as;

$$D_f = V_{s2} \, t \tag{4}$$

in which, the V_{s2} is purposely selected to be the shear wave velocity measured under the foundation, t = is an unknown time parameter. The time parameter t is introduced herein just as a dummy parameter in order to keep consistency in appropriate units. Substituting eqn (4) into eqn (3), yields

$$q_a = \gamma \, V_{s2} \, t \, / \, n \tag{5}$$

The unknown time parameter t, will be determined on the basis of a calibration process. For this purpose, a typical 'hard' rock formation will be assumed to exist under the foundation, with the following parameters, as suggested earlier by Keceli [11];

$$q_a = 10\,000 \text{ kN/m}^2, \ V_{s2} = 4\,000 \text{ m/sec}$$
$$\gamma = 35 \text{ kN/m}^3, \ n = 1.4 \tag{6}$$

Substituting these numerical values into eqn (5), we obtain $t = 0.10$ sec, thus;

$$q_a = 0.1 \, \gamma \, V_{s2} \, / \, n \tag{7}$$

This is the desired empirical expression to determine the allowable bearing pressure q_a , in soils and rocks, once the average unit weight, γ , for the soil layer above the foundation and the in situ measured V_{s2} - wave velocity for the soil layer just below the foundation base are available. The

unit of V_{s2} is in $m \, / \, sec$, the unit of γ is in $kN \, / \, m^3$, then the resulting q_a – value is in units of kPa. The unit weight values may be estimated using the empirical expressions;

$$\gamma_p = \gamma_0 + 0.002 \, V_{p1} \text{ and } \gamma_s = 4.3 \, V_{s1}^{0.25} \tag{8a) (8b}$$

as proposed earlier by Tezcan *et al.* [21], and by Keceli [29], respectively. The second expression is especially recommended for granular soils, for which the measured V_{s1} values represent appropriately the degree of water content and / or porosity. The wave velocities must be in units of $m \, / \, sec$. The only remaining unknown parameter is the factor of safety, n, which is assumed to be, after a series of calibration processes, as follows:

$$n = 1.4 \text{ (for } V_{s2} \geq 4\,000 \text{ m/sec)},$$
$$n = 4.0 \text{ (for } V_{s2} \leq 750 \text{ m/sec)} \tag{9}$$

The calibration process is based primarily on the reference q_a – values determined by the conventional Terzaghi method, for all the data sets corresponding to the 550 – construction sites considered. For V_{s2} values greater than *750 m/sec* and smaller than *4 000 m/sec* a linear interpolation is recommended. The engineering rock formations are assumed to start for $V_{s2} > 750 \, m \, / \, sec$. The factors of safety, as well as the empirical allowable bearing pressure expressions, for various soil *(rock)* types, are given in Table **1**. It is seen that three distinct ranges of values are assumed for n = factor of safety. For soil types with $V_{s2} \leq 750 \, m/sec$ the factor of safety is $n = 4$, for rocks with $V_{s2} \geq 4\,000 \, m/sec$ it is $n= 1.4$. For other intermediate values of shear wave velocity, linear interpolation is recommended. The validity of these values has been extensively checked and calibrated by the soil data at 550 construction sites. The relatively higher value of factor of safety assumed for soils is deemed to be appropriate to compensate the inaccuracies and gaps existing in the measured values of shear wave velocity. In fact, Terzaghi and Peck [30] states that *"The factor of safety of the foundation with respect to breaking into the ground should not be less than about 3"*.

It is determined by Terzaghi and Peck [30] also that the width of footing, *B,* has a reducing influence on the value of allowable bearing pressure for granular soils. Therefore, a correction factor β is introduced into the formula, for sandy
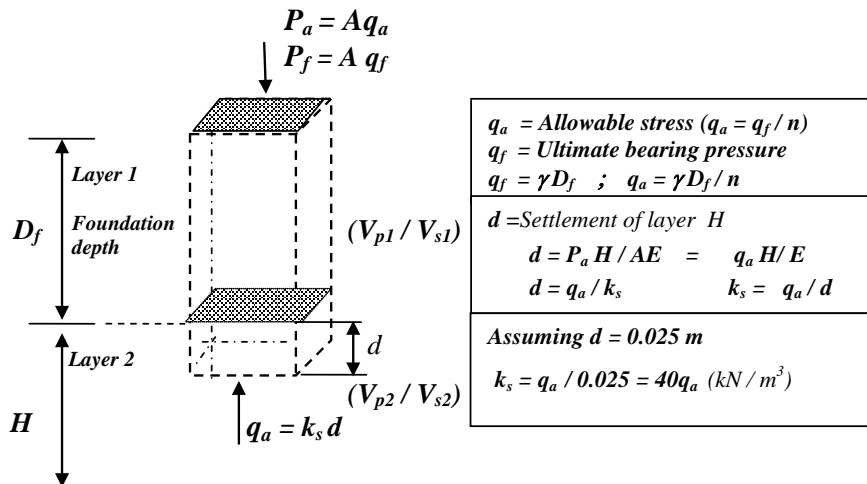

Fig. (1). Soil column and related parameters.

Table 1.   Factors of Safety, n, for Soils and Rocks[(1)]

Soil Type	V_s – Range (m/sec)	n	q_a (kN/m^2)
'Hard' rocks	75 $V_s \geq 4\,000$	n = 1.4	$q_a = 0.071\ \gamma\ V_s$
'Soft' rocks	$750 \leq V_s \leq 4\,000$	n =4.6–8.10^{-4} V_s	$q_a = 0.1\ \gamma\ V_s\ /\ n$
Soils	$750 \geq V_s$	n = 4.0	$q_a = 0.025\ \gamma\ V_s\ \beta$

[(1)]Linear interpolation is applied for *$750 \leq V_s \leq 4\,000$ m/sec.*
β , correction factor is used for sands only *(eqn 10).*

soils only, as shown in the third line of Table **1**. The proposed values of this correction factor, for different foundation width *B*, are as follows:

$\beta = 1.00$ for $(0 \leq B \leq 1.20$ m)

$\beta = 1.13 - 0.11\ B$ for $(1.2 \leq B \leq 3.00$ m)   (10)

$\beta = 0.83 - 0.01\ B$ for $(3.0 \leq B \leq 12.0$ m)

3. COEFFICIENT OF SUBGRADE REACTION

The shear wave velocity may be used successfully to determine k_s=coefficient of subgrade reaction of the soil layer just beneath the foundation base by making use of the expressions given in Fig. (**1**). The coefficient of subgrade reaction k_s , is defined, similar to the definition of spring constant in engineering mechanics, to be the necessary vertical pressure to produce a unit vertical displacement and expressed as;

$$k_s = q_a\ /\ d \tag{11}$$

For shallow foundations, the total vertical displacement is restricted to *1 inch =0.025 m,* as prescribed by Terzaghi and Peck [30]. When, *d=0.025 m* is substituted in eqn (11), the coefficient of subgrade reaction becomes in units of *kN/m^3*;

$$k_s = 40\ q_a\ \text{or,} \qquad k_s = 4\gamma\ V_{s2}\ /\ n \tag{12, 13}$$

4. ELASTICITY PARAMETERS

Once, V_{p2} and V_{s2} seismic wave velocities are measured, by geophysical means, for the soil layer *No.2* just under the foundation, several parameters of elasticity, such as G = Shear modulus, E_c = Constraint modulus of elasticity, E = Modulus of elasticity *(Young*'s modulus*)*, E_k = Bulk modulus, and μ = *Poisson*'s ratio may be obtained easily. The Shear modulus, G, and the Constraint modulus, E_c , are related to the shear and *P*- wave velocities by the following expressions, respectively;

$$G = \rho\ \ V_s^2\ \text{and}\ E_c = \rho\ V_p^2 \tag{14, 15}$$

where, ρ = mass density given by $\rho = \gamma\ /\ g$. From the Theory of Elasticity, it is known that, *E* = the *Young*'s modulus of elasticity is related to E_c = the Constraint modulus and also to G = the Shear modulus by the following expressions:

$$E = E_c\ (1 + \mu\ )\ (1 - 2\mu\ )\ /\ (1 - \mu) \tag{16}$$

$$E = 2\ (1 + \mu)\ G \tag{17}$$

Utilising eqn (14) and (15) and also substituting α , as

$$\alpha = E_c\ /\ G = (V_p\ /\ V_s)^2 \tag{18}$$

into eqn (16) and (17), we obtain

$$\mu = (\alpha - 2)\ /\ 2\ (\alpha - 1)\ \text{or,} \quad \alpha = (2\mu - 2)\ /\ (2\mu - 1)\ \ (19, 20)$$

The modulus of elasticity is directly obtained from eqn (17) as;

$$E = (3\alpha - 4)\ G\ /\ (\alpha - 1) \tag{21}$$

The Constraint modulus E_c , may be also obtained in terms of α as ;

$$E_c = \alpha\ (\alpha\ \text{-1})\ E\ /\ (3\alpha - 4)\ \text{or,}\ E_c = \gamma\ V_p^2\ /\ g \tag{22, 23}$$

The Bulk modulus E_k, of the soil layer, may be expressed, from the theory of elasticity, as

$$E_k = E\ /\ 3\ (1 - 2\mu)\ \dots \tag{24}$$

$$E_k = (\alpha - 1)\ E\ /\ 3 = \gamma\ (\ V_p^2 - 4\ V_s^2\ /\ 3)\ /\ g \tag{25}$$

5. CASE STUDIES

The allowable bearing pressures have been also determined at more than 550 construction sites in and around the Kocaeli and Istanbul Provinces in Turkey, between the years 2005-10. At each construction site, by virtue of City by-law, appropriate number of bore holes were drilled, SPT counts conducted, undisturbed soil samples were taken for laboratory testing purposes, where shear strength -c, the internal angle of friction -ϕ, unconfined compression strength -q_u and unit weight -γ were determined. Subsequently, following the classical procedure of Terzaghi and Peck [30], the ultimate capacity and also the allowable bearing pressures were determined, by assuming the factor of safety as *n=3*. For granular soils, immediate settlement calculations were also conducted, in order to determine whether the shear failure mechanism or the maximum settlement criterion would control the design.

The numerical values of the allowable bearing pressures, q_a , determined in accordance with the conventional Terzaghi theory, are shown by a triangular (Δ) symbol, in Fig. (**2**), where the three digit numbers refer to the data base file numbers of specific construction sites. Parallel to these classical soil investigations, the *P*- and *S*- wave velocities have been measured in situ, right at the foundation level for the purpose of determining the allowable bearing pressures, q_a , which are shown by means of a circle (o), in Fig. (**2**). Two separate linear regression lines were also shown in Fig. (**2**), for the purpose of indicating the average values of allowable bearing pressures determined by *'dynamic'* and *'conventional'* methods. In order to obtain an idea about the relative conservatism of the two methods, the ratios of allowable bearing pressures *(r = q_{ad} / q_{ac})*, as determined by the *'dynamic'* and *'conventional'* methods, have been plotted against the V_s – values in Fig. (**3**).
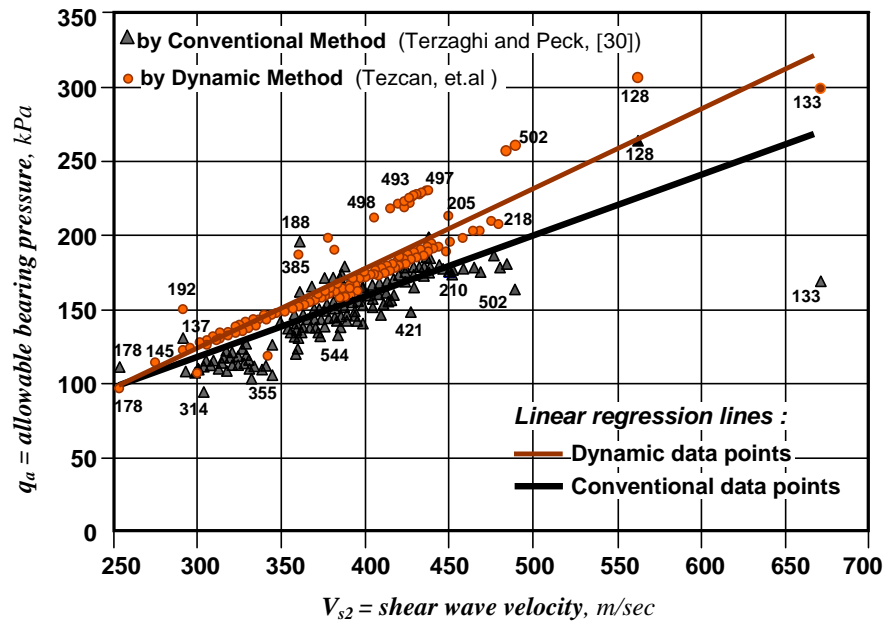
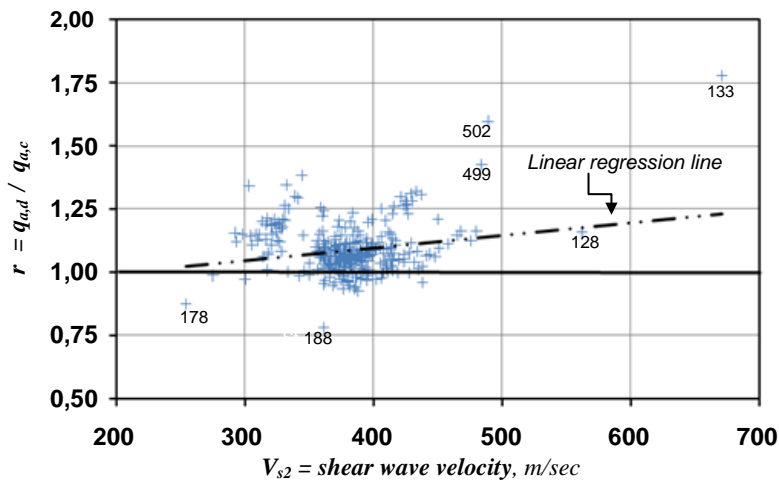**Fig. (2).** Comparative results of '*Conventional*' and '*Dynamic*' methods.

Fig. (3). Ratios of allowable bearing pressures ($q_{a,d}/q_{a,c}$) as determined by the '*dynamic*' and the '*conventional*' methods.

It is seen that the linear regression line indicates for V_s – values smaller than *400 m/sec* a narrow band of *r = 1.03* to *r = 1.12*, which should be regarded as quite acceptable. The '*dynamic*' method proposed herein yields allowable bearing pressures slightly *(on the order of 3 to 10 percent)* greater than those of the '*conventional*' method for V_s – values smaller than *400 m / sec*. In fact, the '*conventional*' method fails to produce reliable and consistent results for relatively strong soils and soft rocks, because it is difficult to determine the appropriate soil parameters *c*, and *ϕ* for use in the '*conventional*' method. At construction site *Nos: 133, 134, 138, 139, 206, 207, 214, 215, 219, 502, 507* and *544*, where the soil conditions have been mostly weathered andesite, granodiorite arena, greywacke, limestone, etc did not allow for the measurement of *c* and *ϕ* - values. Therefore, the use of '*dynamic*' method becomes inevitable for such strong soils with $V_{s2} > 400 \ m / sec$.

The list of soil parameters determined by in situ and also by laboratory testing through geotechnical prospecting, as well as the in situ measured V_p and V_s – velocities at each of the 550 construction sites, are too voluminous to be included herein. Those researchers interested to have access to these particular data base, may inquire from internet <*tezokan@superonline.com*>, <www.tezokan.com>.

6. SEISMIC WAVE VELOCITIES

The seismic wave velocities have been measured using *P* – and *S* – geophones by means of a *24 – Channel Geometrics Abem – Pasi* seismic instrument, capable of noise filtering. The *P* – waves have been generated by hitting *6* – blows vertically, with a *0.15 kN* hammer, onto a *250 x 250 x 16 mm* size steel plate placed horizontally on ground. For the purpose of generating *S* – waves however, an open ditch of size *1.4 x 1.4 x 1.4 m* was excavated and then two steel plates

were placed on opposite vertical faces of this ditch parallel to the conterline of the geophones. Using the same *0.15 kN* hammer, *6* heavy horizontal blows were applied onto each of these vertical steel plates. The necessary polarity of the *S –* wawes was achieved by hitting these vertical steel plates horizontally in opposite directions, nonconcurrently.

7. PLATE LOAD TESTING

For purposes of correlating the allowable bearing pressures determined by various methods, plate loading tests have been carried out at three particular construction Sites

Nos: 335, 502 and 544. The soil parameters *c*, q_u, and *γ* as determined by laboratory testing, as well as the *P* and *S –* wave velocities measured at site by geophysical prospecting are all shown in Table **3**. A thick steel bearing plate of *316.2 mm* x *316.2 mm = 0.10* square meter in size is used under the test platform of size *1.50 m* by *1.50 m*. The tests are carried out right at the bottom elevations of foundations. One half of the bearing pressure σ_0 , which produced a settlement of *s = 12.7 mm* was selected as the allowable pressure q_a as shown in Fig. (**4**). It is seen clearly in Table **2** that the results of the proposed *'dynamic'* method using *P* and *S –* wave velocities are in very close agreement with those of the plate load test-
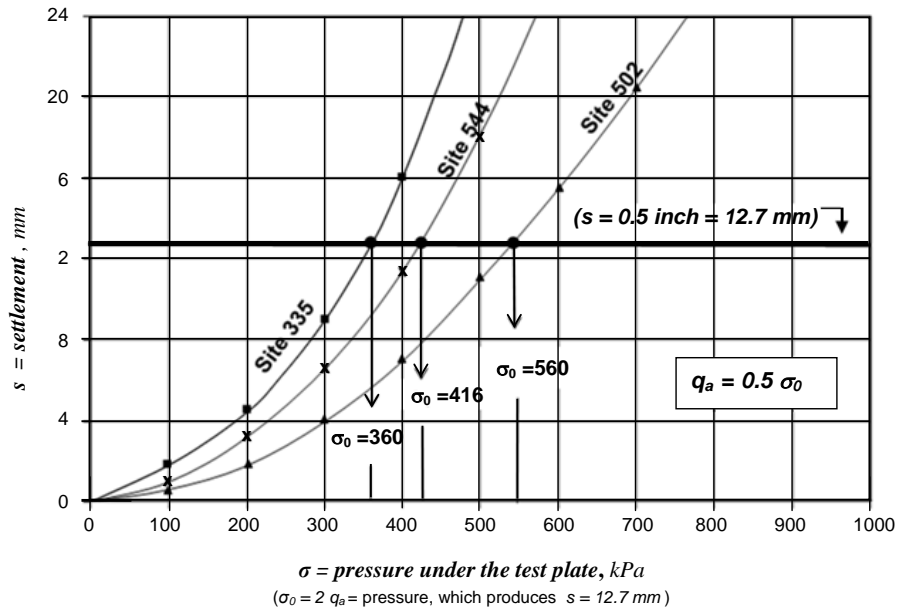

Fig. (4). Load test results at *Sites No: 335, 502*, and *544*.

Table 2.   Comparative Evaluation of Allowable Pressures

Site No Owner Lot Nos (soil type)	Various Soil Parameters (*ϕ = 0*)						q_a = Allowable Pressure		
	q_u [1]	D_f	*c*	γ_{lab}	V_{p2}	V_{s2}	Terzaghi[2] *Eq. 26*	Tezcan, *et al.*[3] *Eq. 7*	Load test *Fig. 4*
	kPa	*m*	*kPa*	*kN/m³*	*m/sec*	*m/sec*	*kPa*	*kPa*	*kPa*
335 **Suleyman Turan** 8 Paft./A/930 Pars. *(silty clay)*	172	1.50	86	18.9 $\gamma_0 = 16$	896	390	157	173	180
544 **Ayhan Dede** G22B / 574 / 11 *(weathered diorite)*	190	1.50	95	18.0 $\gamma_0 = 16$	1 020	453	172	204	208
502 **Ebru Çınar** 30 L1C / 440 / 8 *(clay stone)*	147	1.00	140	22.7 $\gamma_0 = 20$	1 210	489	248	274	280

[1] q_u = unconfined compressive strength.
[2] Terzaghi and Peck (1976).
[3] $q_a = 0.025 \, \gamma_p \, V_s$ (Eq.7), n = 4.

Table 3. Results of Numerical Example (H=15 m, V_{p2} = 700 m/sec, V_{s2}=200 m/sec c = 52 kPa, ϕ =0), (V_{p1} = 700m / sec above the Base)

Formula	Equation	Numerical Calculations	Result	Unit
$\gamma_p = \gamma_0 + 0.002\ V_{p1}$	eqn (8a)	$\gamma_p = 16 + 0.002\ (700)$	17.4[(1)]	kN/m^3
Laboratory	-	-	17.2	kN/m^3
n = 4	Table **1**	$V_{s2} \leq 750$ m/sec	4	-
$q_f = c\ N_c + \gamma\ D_f\ N_q$	eqn (26)	$q_f = 52\ (5.14) + 17.2\ (2.9)\ 1$	318	kN/m^2
$q_f = 0.1\ \gamma\ V_{s2}$	eqn (7)	$q_f = 0.1\ (17.4)\ 200$	348	kN/m^2
$q_a = q_f / n$	eqn (3)	$q_a = 348 / 4$	87	kN/m^2
$k_s = 40\ q_a = 4\gamma\ V_{s2} / n$	eqn (12)	$k_s = 40\ (87)$	3 480	kN/m^3
$G = \gamma\ V_s^2 / g$	eqn (14)	$G = 17.4\ (200)^2 / 9.81$	70 948	kN/m^2
$\alpha = (V_{p2} / V_{s2})^2$	eqn (18)	$\alpha = (700 / 200)^2$	12.25	-
$\mu = (\alpha - 2) / 2(\alpha - 1)$	eqn (19)	$\mu = (12.25 - 2) / 2(11.25)$	0.456	-
$E = 2\ (1+\mu)\ G$	eqn (17)	$E = 2\ (1.456)\ 70\ 948$	206 537	kN/m^2
$E_c = \gamma\ V_{P2}^2 / g$	eqn (15)	$17.4\ (700)^2 / 9.81$	870 000	kN/m^2
$E_k = E / 3\ (1-2\mu)$	eqn (24)	$206\ 537 / 3\ (1-2\mu)$	774 417	kN/m^2
$E_k = E\ (\alpha -1)/3$	eqn (25)	$206\ 537\ (12.25-1) / 3$	774 514	kN/m^2
d = displacement	eqn (11)	$d = q_a / k_s = 87 / 3480$	0.025	m

[(1)] Result of eqn (8a), $\gamma = 17.4$ kN/m^3 is used in all subsequent expressions.

ing. The allowable bearing pressures q_a, in accordance with the conventional theory assuming $N_c = 5.14$ and $N_q = 1$, are also calculated using

$$q_a = (\ c\ N_c + \gamma\ D_f\ N_q\ ) / 3.0 \qquad (26)$$

8. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

For purposes of illustration, a soft clayey soil layer of $H=15$ m beneath a shallow strip footing of depth $D_f = 2.90$ m, width $B = 1.30$ m, is considered. The in situ measured seismic wave velocities are determined to be $V_{p2} = 700$ m/sec and $V_{s2} = 200$ m/sec, within the soil layer just below the foundation base. By coincidence, the P – wave velocity within the soil layer above the foundation base is also measured to be $V_{p1} = 700$ m / sec. A comprehensive set of classical soil investigations, including a number of bore hole data and laboratory testing exist for this particular site, together with the numerical values of various soil parameters ($c = 52$ kPa, and $\phi = 0$), including the bearing pressure capacity determined to be $q_f = 322$ kPa by the conventional method of Terzaghi and Peck [30]. Therefore, the validity and the reliability of the proposed empirical formulae have been rigorously verified. Calculation of some elasticity parameters, using the empirical expressions presented herein, is summarised in Table **3**.

9. DISCUSSION ON THE DEGREES OF ACCURACY

The degrees of accuracy of the proposed *'dynamic'* method are quite satisfactory and consistent as attested rigorously at more than 550 construction sites. The conventional approach however, depends heavily on the degrees of accuracy of in situ and laboratory determined soil parame-

ters. In fact, the allowable bearing pressure calculations are very sensitive to the values of c, and ϕ, determined in the laboratory using so-called *'undisturbed'* soil samples, which may not necessarily represent the true in situ conditions. This may explain the reason why at a number of construction sites, some inconsistent and erratic results for q_a are obtained using the classical theory, as already depicted in Fig. (**2**), because the laboratory measured c, and ϕ - values differed considerably from one soil sample into the other. The *'Point Load'* tests[†] of rock samples have been carried out for V_{s2} - values greater than *400 m/sec* as recommended by Hunt [31].

For *'hard soil'* formations, corresponding to shear wave velocities, greater than $V_{s2} > 400$ m/sec, the *'conventional'* method is unable to yield any reliable q_a – allowable soil pressure, since neither c, nor ϕ - values may not be determined in the laboratory. Any approximate approach however, using either, q_u = unconfined compressive strength or, *RQD* ratios etc, will not be accurate enough. The *'dynamic'* method in such cases produced consistently the same results as those obtained from the *'Point Load'* tests. It is a fact that, the orientation of joints within a rock formation plays an important role in the in situ measured V_s – values. The aver-

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[†] Point Load Testing:
q_a = Allowable bearing pressure, kN/m^2,
P_u = Crushing Point load acting laterally,
D_e = Effective diameter of the soil *'rock'* sample, $D_e = (4A / \pi)^{0.5}$
A = Cross – sectional area of the irregular soil sample,
r = Quality parameter, $r = 2.4$ for weathered and jointed soft rocks, $r = 7.2$ for reliable hard rock. An appropriate value is selected by engineering judgement for other samples.
$L \geq 1.5\ D_e$, (L = Length of soil *'rock'* sample)
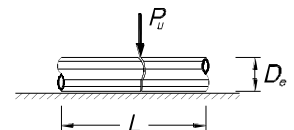
age of V_s – values however, measured in various plan directions may help to improve the degree of accuracy, as recommended by Bieniawski [32]. It is true that the shear modulus, as well as the shear wave velocity of a soil layer are reduced with increasing levels of shear strain, as reported by Massarsch [22]. The ultimate failure pressure is certainly related to very large levels of shear strains.

However, the levels of shear strains associated with allowable bearing pressure are compatible with those generated during the in situ measurement of shear wave velocities. Nevertheless, the nature of the empirical expression proposed herein for the determination of the allowable bearing pressure, using shear wave velocities measured at low shear strains, is appropriate to produce reliable results for a wide range of soil conditions. The influence of high level shear strains is considered not to be relevant for our case. Further, when the soil is saturated, the reduction necessary to consider in allowable pressure is readily expected to be taken care of by a likewise and appropriate reduction in the values of in situ measured shear wave velocities.

10. CONCLUSIONS

- The P and S – wave velocities are most powerfull soil properties representing a family of geotechnical soil parameters, ranging from compressive and shear strengths to void ratio, from subgrade coefficient to cohesion etc,

- Once the shear and P – wave velocities are measured, the allowable bearing pressure, the coefficient of subgrade reaction, various other elasticity parameters, as well as the approximate values of the unit weight are rapidly and economically determined, using relatively simple empirical expressions. Bore hole drilling and laboratory testing of soil samples including the *'point load'* method of rock samples, may be beneficially utilised for correlation purposes.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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