

Research Article

The Drainage Consolidation Modeling of Sand Drain in Red Mud Tailing and Analysis on the Change Law of the Pore Water Pressure

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Received 26 December 2013; Accepted 11 June 2014; Published 22 July 2014

Academic Editor: Vassilios C. Loukopoulos

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In order to prevent the occurring of dam failure and leakage, sand-well drainages systems were designed and constructed in red mud tailing. It is critical to focus on the change law of the pore water pressure. The calculation model of single well drainage pore water pressure was established. The pore water pressure differential equation was deduced and the analytical solution of differential equation using Bessel function and Laplace transform was given out. The impact of parameters such as diameter d , separation distance l , loading rate q , and coefficient of consolidation C_v , in the function on the pore water pressure is analyzed by control variable method. This research is significant and has great reference for preventing red mud tailings leakage and the follow-up studies on the tailings stability.

1. Introduction

Red mud, a by-product of alumina refining, is produced in increasing quantities globally [1, 2]. Much of this red mud has traditionally been produced by methods which create a liquor of high moisture content [3, 4], which are deposited in impoundments that can reach depths of 20 m [5–7]. Red mud in this tailing is infiltrated by water and in a status of saturation, resulting in a low strength and high moisture content. As a consequence, the continuous stacking of Sintering red mud into this tailing might cause the dam failure and the leak-prone of the tailing when the original designed seepage prevention rank is low, especially for the tailing built in Karst area [8, 9]. As the mineral and chemical composition of red mud is very complex, red mud and its attached fluid have strong alkalinity and corrosivity [10, 11]. It is dangerous that the failure and leakage of this tailings dam occurs and further cause serious consequences that widespread environmental pollution [12, 13].

To prevent the occurring of dam failure and leakage, sand well drainage systems were designed and constructed

in this red mud tailing, the lower part of which is mainly soft Bayer red mud [14]. With the assistance of sand well drainage systems, stacking of sintered dry red mud onto the tailings will promote the drainage of pore water and reinforcement of the basement of the tailings. Simultaneously, the pressure of pore water will change continuously as well [15]. Consequently, it is vital to focus on the law of pore water pressure distribution and change in the lower soft red mud during the stacking of Sintering red mud. There was a great deal of reports on the application of the sand well drainage method and one-dimensional drainage-consolidation calculation for saturated soils since 1930s [16–19]. However, as for the calculation on the drainage-consolidation by sand wells, the most well-known model is undoubtedly the axisymmetric radial drainage-consolidation equations of a single well, which was deduced and proposed by Barron in 1948 [20]. This equation not only gives us the analytical solution under both the conditions of isostrain and free strain, but also has considered the fluid seepage flowing-strain interaction.

In this theoretical research field of the in soft soil foundation, although a solution to this compound problem

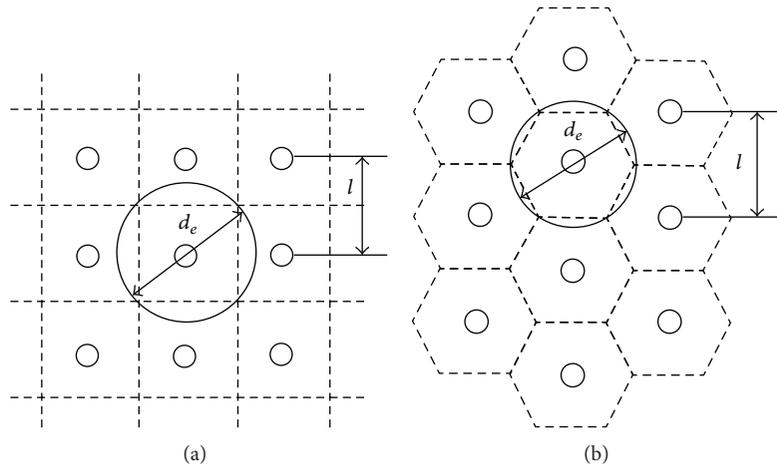


FIGURE 1: Two distribution modes of sand drains: (a) square; (b) triangle.

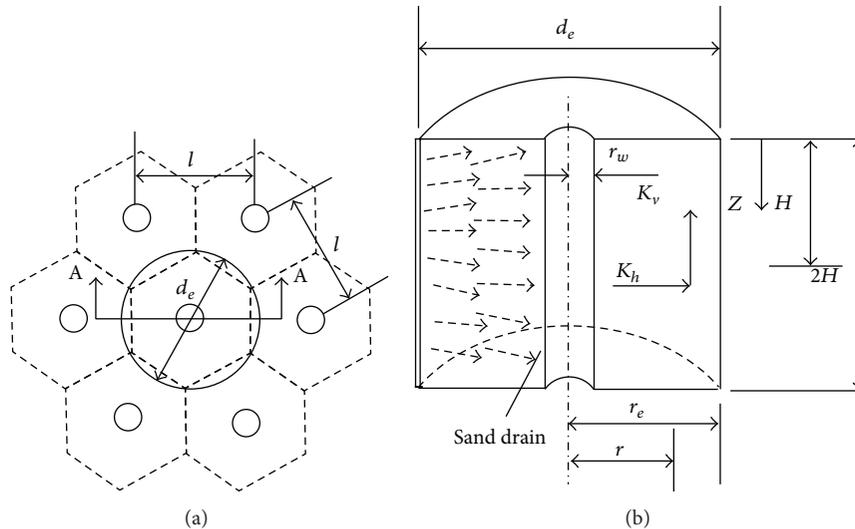


FIGURE 2: The computational model of one sand drain: (a) the floor plan; (b) A-A section plan.

has been given with the help of the three-dimensional parabolic equation under the 2nd type boundary condition, yet, regrettably, it has no sufficient accuracy [21–23]. Therefore, it is important to give an accurate solution to this equation. This research aims at giving the analytical solution of hydrostatic pressure of the three-dimensional consolidation utilizing the mathematical calculation methods such as Laplace transform. Crucially, this solution has a high applicability. This research is significantly important to the calculation of pore water pressure and the further control of leakage. In addition, it can theoretically support the follow-up studies on the tailings stability.

2. Physical Model of the Drainage Consolidation System

Because of the large area and complex shape of the red mud tailings researched in this project, the theoretical calculation

is difficult to be carried out without reasonable simplification and the further construction of calculation model. The sand drains are designed and sited uniformly and equally, which means that these sand drains are alike in function and effect. Then, the drainage consolidation of the whole tailing red mud can be obtained through research on each sand drain and their superposition. The schematic diagram of two well-accepted distribution modes of sand drains are shown as in Figure 1. In addition, the smear zone formed as a result of construction disturbance when the sand drain separation distance is lower than 1.0 m [24]. It can be overlooked when the sand drain separation distance is larger than that of building and road foundation engineering [25]. In addition, seepage resistance caused by the material type of the sand drains, for the piling rate is low and the drainage time is long. As for the piling of the red mud, it can be assumed to be continuous and the production of aluminum as well.

As referred before, the affection region of each sand drain could be equivalent to a cylinder (Figure 2). The equivalent

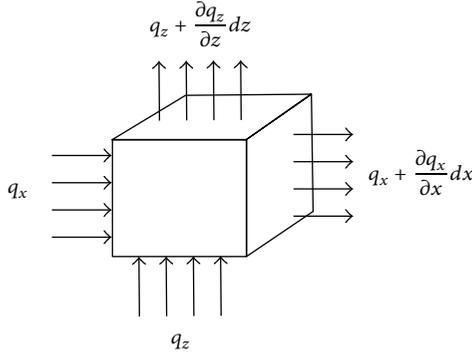


FIGURE 3: The diagram of an element in the seepage calculation.

diameter can be deduced from the equation of $d_e = \alpha_1 l$, where l refers to the sand drain separation distance [26]. The value of α_1 would be 1.13 when it comes to square-like sand drain distribution and 1.05 for triangle-like one. We will also give the assumption that the seepage of pore water contained in the affection cylinder region would be along the radial direction towards the sand drain and then along the vertical direction towards the underground.

3. Derivation of Pore Pressure Function of the Red Mud Foundation with Sand Drain

In Barron's theoretical research, although a solution to this compound problem has been given with the help of the three-dimensional parabolic equation under the 2nd type boundary condition, this solution is not accurate. We have tried to calculate the analytical solution of hydrostatic pressure of the three-dimensional consolidation through the mathematical calculation methods such as Laplace transform.

Following Barron theory, we do the following basic assumptions for the consideration of pore water pressure under variable load change:

- (1) the soil skeleton is isotropic material, regardless of the efficiency of the soil mass deformation and creep;
- (2) soil particle and pore water can not be compressed;
- (3) seepage flow both in vertical and horizontal radial directions obeys Darcy's law and have the same permeability coefficient;
- (4) soil particles move in the vertical direction; the applied load is a first-order function of time.

Take a cell cube from the computational domain as shown in Figure 3 and set that a unit of the x direction is dx and a unit of the z direction is dz . So, the amount of soil volume change during the process of drainage consolidation is equal to the amount of pore water. Consider

$$\Delta V = \Delta Q. \quad (1)$$

Consider the seepage flow balance both in horizontal and vertical directions as follows:

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} dt = \frac{\partial q_z}{\partial z} dx dz \cdot dt + \frac{\partial q_x}{\partial x} dz dx \cdot dt, \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta V = e \left(\frac{1}{1 + e_0} dx dz \right), \quad (3)$$

where e is the void ratio of time t , and void ratio of time $t = 0$ is e_0 . Take this into (2) and then get

$$e \left(\frac{1}{1 + e_0} dx dz \right) \cdot dt = \frac{\partial q_z}{\partial z} dx dz \cdot dt + \frac{\partial q_x}{\partial x} dz dx \cdot dt. \quad (4)$$

And by the compression test curve, we have

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} = a \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, \quad (5)$$

where a is a compression coefficient. Putting (5) into (4) can deduce

$$\left(\frac{\alpha}{k(1 + e_0)} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} dx dz \cdot dt = \frac{\partial q_z}{\partial z} dx dz \cdot dt + \frac{\partial q_x}{\partial x} dz dx \cdot dt, \quad (6)$$

where k is osmotic coefficient, and

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial q_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial q_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial q_z}{\partial z} \quad (7)$$

which can be put into (6) to get

$$C_v \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2}, \quad (8)$$

where C_v represents the vertical coefficient of consolidation. It can be calculated from α by the definition formula $C_v = ((1 + e)/(\rho_w \cdot \alpha))k$, where ρ_w is the density of water. That means C_v can be gotten from the data of both consolidation test and penetration test.

Change the former equation to accord with the specific boundary of sand drain:

$$C_v \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2}. \quad (9)$$

According to the single well drainage consolidation model shown in Figure 2, the upper boundary has curtained pore pressure, the left one is water-proof, the right is sand drain, and the physical radius and action radius of which are separately r_w and r_e . Then, the drainage consolidation with

the addition of boundary conditions can be modeled as the following mathematical physical equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= C_v \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right), \\ u(z, r, t)|_{t=0} &= p_0, \quad r_w \leq r \leq r_e, \quad 0 < z < H, \\ u(z, r, t)|_{z=0} &= 0, \\ u(z, r, t)|_{r=r_w} &= 0, \quad u_r(z, r, t)|_{r=r_e} = 0, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(z, r, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

In this equation, $u(z, r, t)$ is excess hydrostatic pressure; r is pole diameter of the cylindrical polar coordinates, flow coordinates; t is consolidation time, flowing coordinates; z is coordinates for vertical flow, calculation depth; p is additional load, time function of t ; C_v is the consolidation coefficient, determined by experiment; H is soil drainage distance, soil thickness, which is constant.

In addition, $p(t) = p_0 + q \cdot t$, which refers to the additional load from the factory produced upper part of Bayer dry red mud, is linear. The q is the loading velocity.

According to the theory of soil mechanics, the three-direction water flow in the soil is believed to be turbulent flow problem and can be converted into two parts, planar radial flow (or radiation) and vertical (or linear) laminar flow problem. Based on mathematical method, the total three direction water flow problem also can be transformed to subproblem I and subproblem II.

Subproblem I is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \Theta_1}{\partial t} &= C_{vr} \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial z^2}; \\ u_1(z, t)|_{t=0} &= p_0; \\ u_1(z, t)|_{z=0} &= 0; \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u_1(z, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Subproblem II is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \Theta_2}{\partial t} &= C_{vr} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial r^2} \right); \\ u_2(r, t)|_{t=0} &= p_0; \\ u_2(r, t)|_{r=r_w} &= 0; \\ \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=r_e} &= 0; \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u_2(r, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Assuming the solution of subproblem I is $u_1(z, t)$ and solution of subproblem II is $u_2(r, t)$, then the solution to the total question $u(z, r, t)$ must be confirmed to the form of

$$\frac{u(z, r, t)}{u_0} = \frac{u_1(z, t)}{u_0} \cdot \frac{u_2(r, t)}{u_0} \quad (13)$$

or

$$u(z, r, t) = \frac{u_1 u_2}{u_0} = \frac{u_1 u_2}{p_0}. \quad (14)$$

3.1. The Theoretical Solution of Subproblem II. In (12), there is

$$\Theta_2 = \sigma_x + \sigma_y = \frac{2vp(t)}{1-v}, \quad (15)$$

where v is Poisson ratio of soil; r_e is the action radius of sand drain, half of the sand drain separation distance; r_w is the physical radius of sand drain; C_{vr} is coefficient of consolidation in horizontal direction.

Equation (15) is the resolution of stress with the assumption that the soil is linear elasticity. Put (15) into (12) and then it can be deduced that

$$\frac{\partial u_2}{\partial t} - \frac{qv}{1-v} = C_{vr} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial r^2} \right). \quad (16)$$

Equation (16) is the equilibrium equation in horizontal direction which can be rewritten as

$$\frac{\partial u_2}{\partial t} - Q = C_{vr} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 u_2}{\partial r^2} \right), \quad (17)$$

where $Q = qv/(1-v)$, q is engineered loading velocity. Both Q and q are constant. Equation (17) can be further deduced as follows by Laplace transformation:

$$sU_2 - \frac{Q}{s} = C_{vr} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 U_2}{\partial r^2} \right). \quad (18)$$

Equation (18) can be solved as

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 U_2}{\partial r^2} - \frac{sU_2}{C_{vr}} + \frac{Q}{sC_{vr}} = 0. \quad (19)$$

Bessel solution of (19) can be calculated as

$$U_2(s, r) = \frac{Q}{s^2} + C_1 J_0 \left(\frac{ir\sqrt{s}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right) + C_2 Y_0 \left(\frac{ir\sqrt{s}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right). \quad (20)$$

Equation (20) can be transformed into

$$U_2(s, r) = \frac{Q}{s^2} + C_1 J_0 \left(\frac{r\sqrt{-s}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right) + C_2 Y_0 \left(\frac{r\sqrt{-s}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right). \quad (21)$$

Assume $\tau = -s$, and then it can be deduced to

$$U_2(\tau, r) = \frac{Q}{s^2} + C_1 J_0 \left(\frac{r\sqrt{\tau}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right) + C_2 Y_0 \left(\frac{r\sqrt{\tau}}{\sqrt{C_{vr}}} \right). \quad (22)$$

The C_1 and C_2 can be calculated by the boundary conditions in (12),

$$C_1 = \frac{QY_1(Ar_e)}{s^2 (J_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar_w) - J_0(Ar_w)Y_1(Ar_e))}, \quad (23)$$

$$C_2 = \frac{QJ_1(Ar_e)}{-s^2 (J_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar_w) + J_0(Ar_w)Y_1(Ar_e))}, \quad (24)$$

where $A = \sqrt{\tau/C_{vr}}$ and (24) can be deduced as

$$U_2(\tau, r) = \frac{Q}{\tau^2} + \frac{QY_1(Ar_e)J_0(Ar)}{\tau^2(J_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar_w) - J_0(Ar_w)Y_1(Ar_e))} + \frac{QJ_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar)}{-\tau^2(J_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar_w) + J_0(Ar_w)Y_1(Ar_e))}. \quad (25)$$

Equation (25) can be simplified as

$$U_2(\tau, r) = \frac{QG(\tau) + QY_1(Ar_e)J_0(Ar) - QJ_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar)}{\tau^2G(\tau)}. \quad (26)$$

In this equation, $G(\tau) = (J_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar_w) - J_0(Ar_w)Y_1(Ar_e))$, (26) can be further deduced as following by anti-Laplace transformation:

$$u_2(t, r) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\sigma-i\infty}^{-\sigma+i\infty} U(\tau, r) e^{-\tau t} d\tau \quad (t \geq 0). \quad (27)$$

Equation (27) can be written as

$$u_2(t, r) = \sum \text{Residues}. \quad (28)$$

The singularity of (28) is $\tau = 0$, and all the null points of $G(\tau) = 0$, and the residue of singularity of $\tau = 0$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res} \left(\frac{(QG(\tau) + QY_1(Ar_e)J_0(Ar) - QJ_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar)) e^{-\tau t}}{\tau^2G(\tau)}, 0 \right) \\ = \frac{QG(0) + QY_1(0)J_0(0) - QJ_1(0)Y_0(0)}{2G(0)} = \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

As for the root of $G(\tau) = 0$, τ can be replaced by β and can certified by $G(\beta) = 0$. Then, we have

$$G(\beta) = (J_1(Br_e)Y_0(Br_w) - J_0(Br_w)Y_1(Br_e)) = 0. \quad (30)$$

In the equation, we have $B = \sqrt{\beta/C_{vr}}$. The root of formulas $G(\beta) = 0$, β_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) can be natural frequency and all are of arithmetic number. Residue, when $s = \beta_i$, is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res} \left(\frac{(QG(\tau) + QY_1(Ar_e)J_0(Ar) - QJ_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar)) e^{-\tau t}}{\tau^2G(\tau)}, \beta_i \right) \\ = Q \frac{[Y_1(B_i r_e)J_0(B_i r) - J_1(B_i r_e)Y_0(B_i r)] e^{-\beta_i t}}{(\beta_i^2 (\partial G(\tau)/\partial \tau))|_{\tau=\beta_i}}, \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

where B_i is $B_i = \sqrt{\beta_i/C_{vr}}$. According to the character of Bessel function, it can be deduced that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res} \left(\frac{(QG(\tau) + QY_1(Ar_e)J_0(Ar) - QJ_1(Ar_e)Y_0(Ar)) e^{-\tau t}}{\tau^2G(\tau)}, \beta_i \right) \\ = Q [Y_1(B_i r_e)J_0(B_i r) - J_1(B_i r_e)Y_0(B_i r)] e^{-\beta_i t} \\ \times \left(\frac{\beta_i^2 r_e [J_0(r_e B_i) - J_2(r_e B_i)] Y_0(r_w B_i)}{4C_{vr} B_i} - \beta_i^2 J_0(r_w B_i) Y_1(r_w B_i) \right)^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Then, the excess hydrostatic pressure can be

$$\begin{aligned} u_2(t, r) = \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(Q [Y_1(B_i r_e)J_0(B_i r) - J_1(B_i r_e)Y_0(B_i r)] e^{-\beta_i t} \right. \\ \times \left. \left(\frac{\beta_i^2 r_e [J_0(r_e B_i) - J_2(r_e B_i)] Y_0(r_w B_i)}{4C_{vr} B_i} - \beta_i^2 J_0(r_w B_i) Y_1(r_w B_i) \right)^{-1} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

3.2. The Theoretical Solution of Subproblem I. The kinematic equation of subproblem I is

$$C_{vz} \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \sigma_z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial t} - q. \quad (34)$$

The boundary conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(z, t)|_{t=0} &= p_0, \\ u_1(z, t)|_{z=0} &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial u_1(z, t)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=H_0} &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Equation (34) can be further deduced as follows by Laplace transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} U_1(z, s)|_{z=0} &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial U_1(z, s)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=H_0} &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Solving the upper equations,

$$\begin{aligned} U_1(z, s) = C_3 \sinh \left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z \right) + C_4 \cosh \left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z \right) \\ + \frac{q + p_0 s}{s^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

Putting the boundary conditions can give the value that

$$C_3 = \frac{(q + p_0 s) \tanh(\sqrt{s/a} H_0)}{s^2}, \quad (38)$$

$$C_4 = \frac{-q + p_0 s}{s^2}.$$

Equation (37) can be deduced as

$$U_1(z, s) = \frac{(-q + p_0 s)}{s^2 \cosh(\sqrt{s/C_{vz}} H_0)} \times \left[\cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) - \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) + \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) \right]. \quad (39)$$

As for the $s^2 \cosh(\sqrt{s/C_{vz}} H_0)$, null point of s is

$$s = 0, \quad s = \frac{(2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}}{4H_0^2} \quad (40)$$

$(k = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$.

Besides, $s = 0$ is the moving singularity of $U_1(z, s)$; other points are all first grade singularity of $U_1(z, s)$. The it can be deduced by the expansion of residue theorem:

$$u_1(z, t) = L^{-1} [U_1(z, s)] = \sum \operatorname{Re} s \left[\frac{(q + p_0 s) e^{st}}{s^2 \cosh(\sqrt{s/C_{vz}} H_0)} \times \left[\cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) - \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) + \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) \right] \right] = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left((-q + p_0 s) \left[\cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) - \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) + \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) \right] \right) \times \left(s^2 \cosh' \left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0 \right) \right)^{-1} e^{st} \right) \Big|_{s=-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)}$$

$$= \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(2\sqrt{s C_{vz}} (q + p_0 s) \left[\cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) - \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) + \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \times \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} z\right) \right] \right) \times \left(s^2 H_0 \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{s}{C_{vz}}} H_0\right) \right)^{-1} e^{st} \right) \Big|_{s=-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)}$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 4 \frac{(-4H_0^2 q + (2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz} p_0) \sinh(((2k-1)/2H_0) \pi z)}{(2k-1)^3 \pi^3 C_{vz}} \times e^{-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)t}. \quad (41)$$

Then,

$$u_1(z, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 4 \frac{(-4H_0^2 q + (2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz} p_0) \sinh(((2k-1)/2H_0) \pi z)}{(2k-1)^3 \pi^3 C_{vz}} \times e^{-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)t}. \quad (42)$$

Then, we can put (33) and (42) into (14) of total question to get the final solution. Consider

$$u(z, r, t) = \frac{u_1(z, t) u_2(r, t)}{p_0} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2 \frac{[-4H_0^2 q + (2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz} p_0] \sinh(((2k-1)/2H_0) \pi z)}{p_0 (2k-1)^3 \pi^3 C_{vz}} \times e^{-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)t} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(4Q [Y_1(B_i r_e) J_0(B_i r) - J_1(B_i r_e) Y_0(B_i r)] \times \left(\beta_i^2 \frac{r_e [J_0(r_e B_i) - J_2(r_e B_i)] Y_0(r_w B_i)}{4C_{vr} B_i} - \beta_i^2 J_0(r_w B_i) Y_1(r_w B_i) \right)^{-1} \right) \cdot \frac{(-4H_0^2 q + (2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz} p_0) \sinh(((2k-1)/2H_0) \pi z)}{p_0 (2k-1)^3 \pi^3 C_{vz}} \times e^{-((2k-1)^2 \pi^2 C_{vz}/4H_0^2)t - \beta_i t}. \quad (43)$$

This is the final expression of the excess hydrostatic pressure changing along the value of pole diameter of the cylindrical polar coordinates (r), consolidation time (t), and calculation depth (z).

TABLE 1: Scope of each calculation parameter.

Parameter and its extremum	Diameter of sand drain d (m)	Separation distance of sand drain l (m)	Loading rate q (kPa/y)
Max	0.35	5.0	45
Min	0.10	1.0	25

TABLE 2: The initial value of each calculation parameter.

Diameter of sand drain d_0	Separation distance of sand drain l_0	Calculation depth z_0	Loading rate q_0	Coefficient of consolidation C_{v0}	Action radius r_e
0.30 m	3.0 m	20.0 m	39 kPa/y	0.002	1.575 m

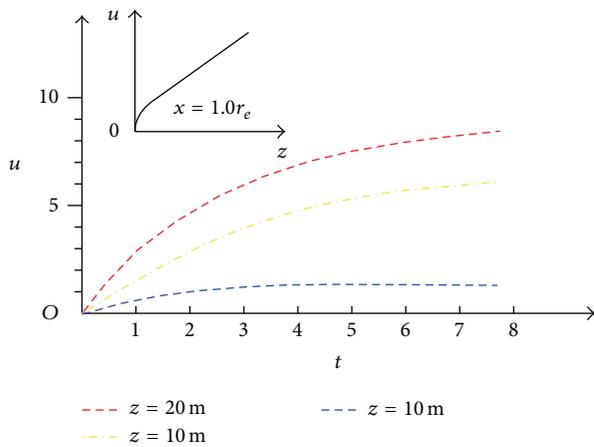


FIGURE 4: Pore pressure u 's change curve with depth z .

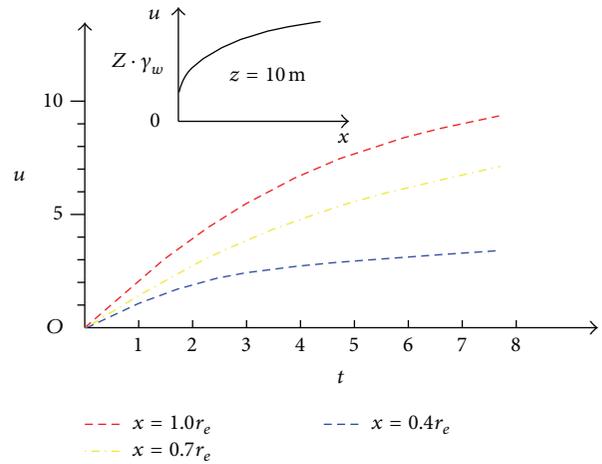


FIGURE 5: Pore pressure u 's change curve with position x .

4. Analysis on the Change Law of the Pore Water Pressure

From the derivation of former part of the research, the function of the excess hydrostatic pressure is influenced by multiple variables, whose variation characteristic cannot be vividly expressed in a three-dimensional space coordinate system. For the purpose of understanding the variation rule of u with the time and space, we use MATLAB as a tool, by examining a parameter and fixing other parameters, to get the affects way of each variable effects on the value of u . Based on the previous engineering experience and based on the survey and design of tailings and actual production, scope of calculation parameter is as shown in Table 1.

Control variate method is employed to conclude the influence of various parameters on the law of drainage. Concretely, what this means is to study the effect of target variable from the four variables, diameter d , separation distance l , loading rate q , and coefficient of consolidation C_v , and fix the other three ones as initial value.

On the basis of scope of each calculation parameter (Table 1), the initial values are set as Table 2.

A serious of relation curves between the excess pore water pressure and time can be obtained by successively changing

the above calculation parameters in proportion. Due to the fact that objective continuous loading time is less than 8 years, the maximum value of excess pore water pressure will emerge when the time value ranges in 0~8. The variation diagrams of excess pore water pressure can be calculated and plotted via the MATLAB drawing routine *PLOT* and calculating routine *FindRoots*. All the figures are about the calculated point on the action radius and also the border of the single sand drain modeling, except Figure 5. The abscissa axis unit is year. All the curves results and discussions are as following.

- (1) Under the initial parameters, the excess pore water pressure at different sites (x, z) of the sand drain modeling is compared and shown as in Figures 4 and 5. And the pressure u 's change curves with depth z and position x are also given as insets.

From Figures 4 and 5, it can be known that the excess pore water pressure in the depth vertical direction is nonlinear, and in the shade is of low change and gradient. While, in the horizontal direction, the static pore water pressure will increase slowly and have a lower final value when the distance between two sand drains is wide. Inversely, it will increase faster and

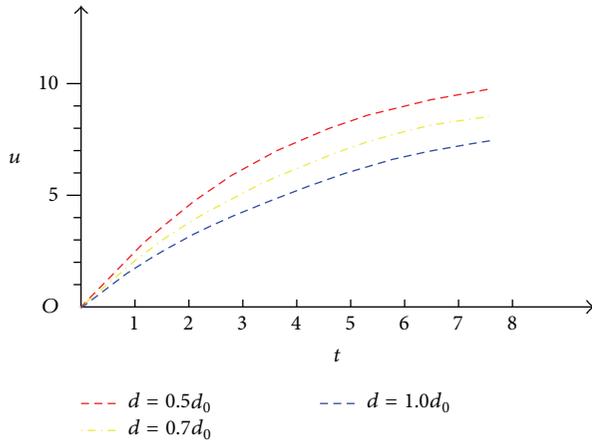


FIGURE 6: Pore pressure u 's change curve with sand well's diameter d .

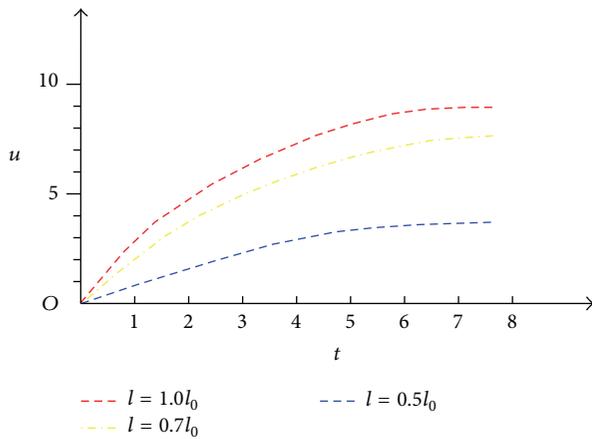


FIGURE 7: Pore pressure u 's change curve with sand well's spacing l .

have a larger final value when the distance is narrow. What is more is that the trade is nonlinear.

- (2) Under the initial parameters, change the value of separation distance of sand drain d to see the influence of d on static pore water pressure.

From Figure 6, it can be indicated that the conditions of all the other parameters are the same and diameter variation of sand drain can make no difference on the reduction of excess pore water pressure, which demonstrate the rationality of former assumption on a certain extent. This has come from the low permeability and loading rate of red mud.

- (3) Under the initial parameters, change the value of separation distance of sand drain to see the influence of l on excess pore water pressure.

From Figure 7, it can be obtained that the conditions of all the other parameters are the same and the change of the separation distance can significantly affect the change speed and the final value of excess pore water pressure. The influence of reducing the distance is more obvious than enlarging the diameter

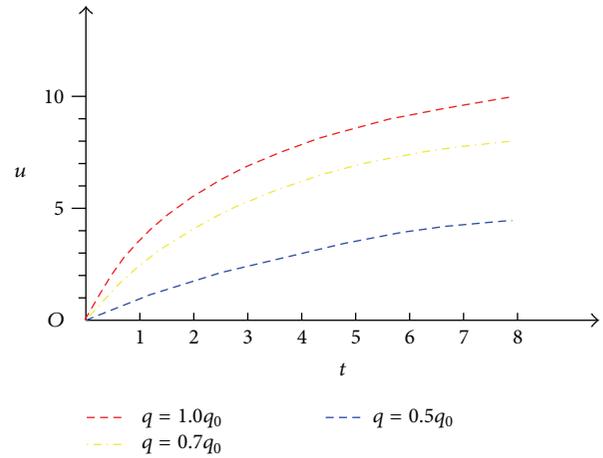


FIGURE 8: Pore pressure u 's change curve with loading rate q .

on the pore water pressure. The final excess pore water pressure can only be one quarter of the initial value when l is just half of the initial one.

- (4) Under the initial parameters, change the value of loading rate to see the influence of q on excess pore water pressure.

From Figure 8, it can be deduced that the conditions of all the other parameters are the same, and larger loading rate can result in larger pore water pressure. However, even if the loading rate is identical, different reduction can lead to different value of final value of excess pore water pressure. A modest reduction has a small effect and continuous reduction has an obvious effect.

- (5) Under the initial parameters, change the value of coefficient of consolidation to see the influence of C_v on static pore water pressure.

From Figure 9, it can be deduced that the conditions of all the other parameters are the same; the larger the coefficient of consolidation, the smaller the final value of excess pore water pressure, or vice versa. Consequently, applying sand wells drainage consolidation method on different pore medium, only more drainage channel or shorter drainage distance can support the consolidation effect when the consolidation time is the same, while C_v is smaller.

5. Conclusion

This research has established the calculation model of single well drainage pore water pressure, deduced pore water pressure differential equation based on the three-dimensional consolidation, and get the analytical solution of differential equation using Bessel function and Laplace transform. The impact of parameters in the function on the pore water pressure is analyzed by control variable method. Changes of excess pore water pressure on four variables such as diameter d , separation distance l , loading rate q , and coefficient of

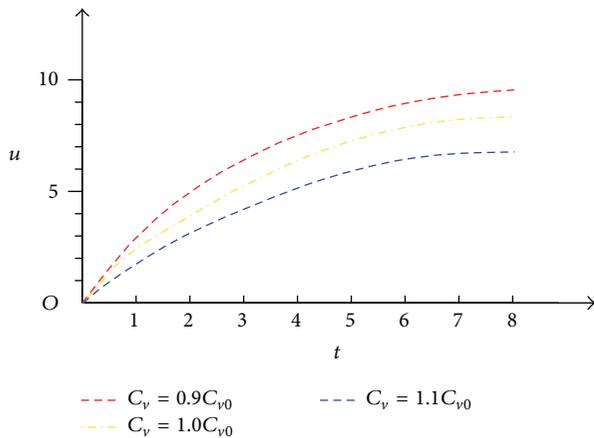


FIGURE 9: Pore pressure u 's change curve with coefficient of consolidation C_v .

consolidation C_v are analyzed and proved to be nonlinear. The calculation results help to further set up a depository stability evaluation model to prevent loading exceeding design capacity. And together with inhomogeneous deformation data of the field, it is promising to create warning systems for site managers based merely on the field logging data of pore pressure data. Therefore, this research has a guiding significance on preventing red mud tailings leakage of continuous loading pile exceeding design capacity.

Conflict of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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