

Theory of Shear Strength

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SOIL STRENGTH

DEFINITION

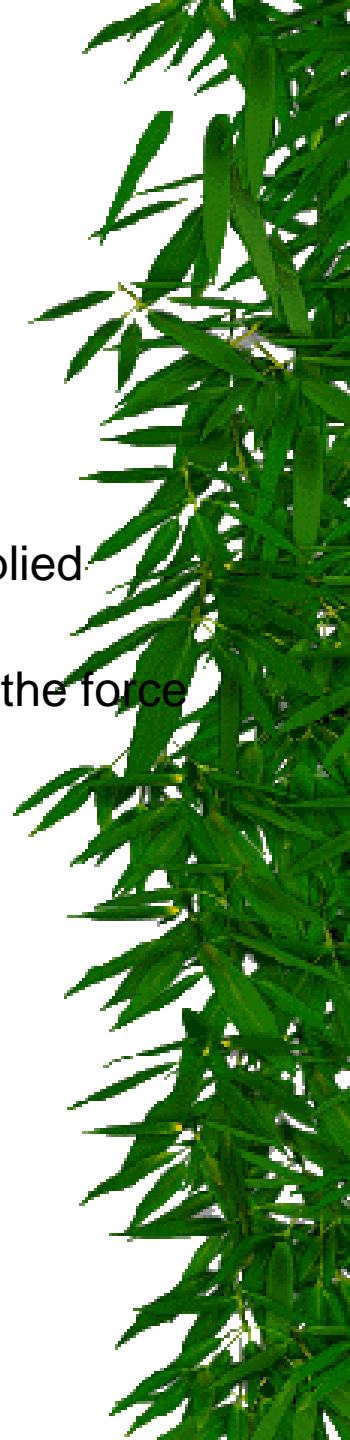
Shear strength of a soil is the maximum internal resistance to applied shearing forces

The maximum or ultimate stress the material can sustain against the force of landslide, failure, etc.

APPLICATION

Soil Strength can be used for calculating :

- Bearing Capacity of Soil
- Slope Stability
- Lateral Pressure



Why it is important??????????

The safety of any geotechnical structure dependent on the strength of the soil. If the soil fails, a structure founded on it can collapse, endangering lives and causing economic damage



SHEAR STRENGTH OF SOIL

PARAMETER

- Cohesion (c)
- Internal Friction Angle (ϕ)

CONDITION

- Total (c and ϕ)
- Effective (c' and ϕ')

GENERAL EQUATION (COULOMB)

$$\tau = c + \sigma_n \cdot \tan\phi$$

PRINCIPAL STRESS

σ_1 (major principal stress)

σ_3 (minor principal stress)



SOIL TYPES

COHESIVE SOIL

- Has cohesion (c)
- Example : Clay, Silt

COHESIONLESS Soil

- Only has internal friction angle (ϕ) ; $c = 0$
- Example : Sand, Gravel



SHEAR STRENGTH PARAMETER

COHESION (C)

Sticking together of like materials.

INTERNAL FRICTION ANGLE (ϕ)

The stress-dependent component which is similar to sliding friction of two or more soil particles



Factors controlling shear strength of soils

- 📖 **soil composition (basic soil material):** mineralogy, grain size and grain size distribution, shape of particles, pore fluid type and content, ions on grain and in pore fluid.
- 📖 **state (initial):** Define by the initial void ratio, effective normal stress and shear stress (stress history). State can be describe by terms such as: loose, dense, overconsolidated, normally consolidated, stiff, soft, contractive, dilative, etc.
- 📖 **structure:** Refers to the arrangement of particles within the soil mass; the manner the particles are packed or distributed. Features such as *layers, joints, fissures, slickensides, voids, pockets, cementation*, etc, are part of the structure. Structure of soils is described by terms such as: *undisturbed, disturbed, remolded, compacted, cemented; flocculent, honey-combed, single-grained; flocculated, deflocculated; stratified, layered, laminated; isotropic and anisotropic*.
- 📖 **Loading conditions:** Effective , i.e., drained, and undrained; and type of loading, i.e., magnitude, rate (static, dynamic), and time history (monotonic, cyclic)).

Strength of different materials

Steel

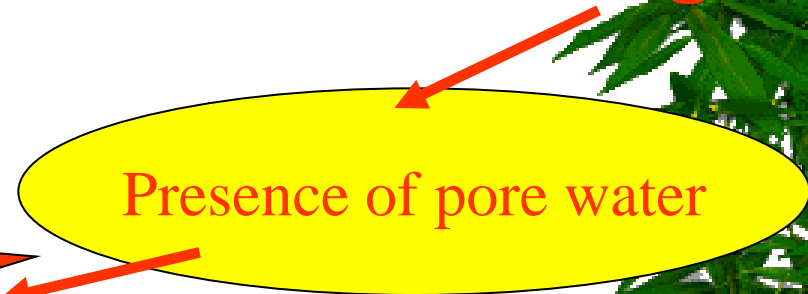
Concrete

Soil

Tensile strength

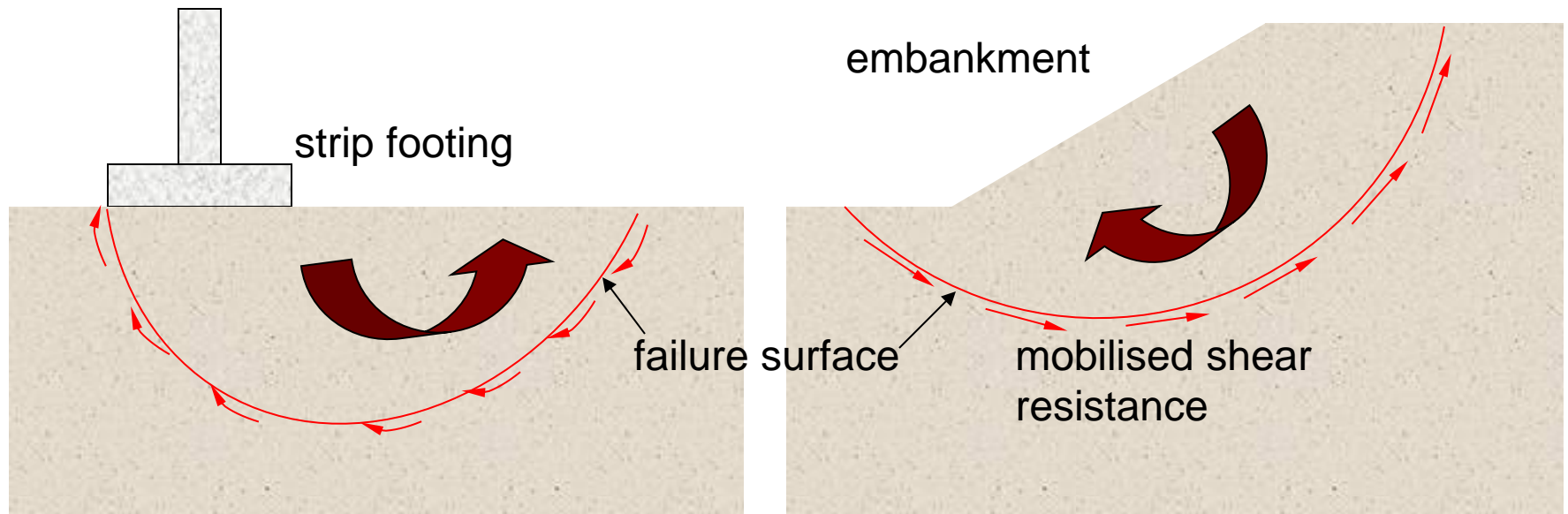
Compressive strength

Shear strength



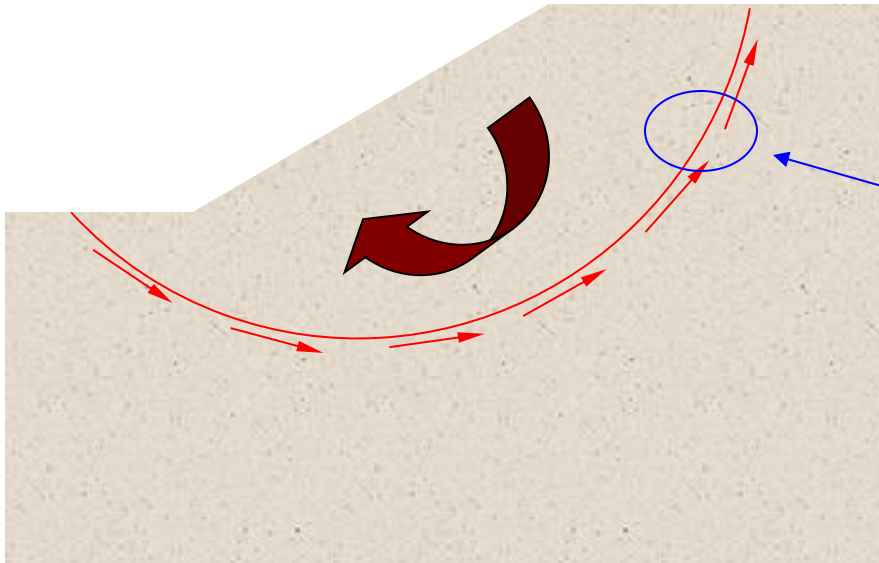
Shear failure

Soils generally fail in shear



At failure, shear stress along the failure surface reaches the shear strength.

Shear failure



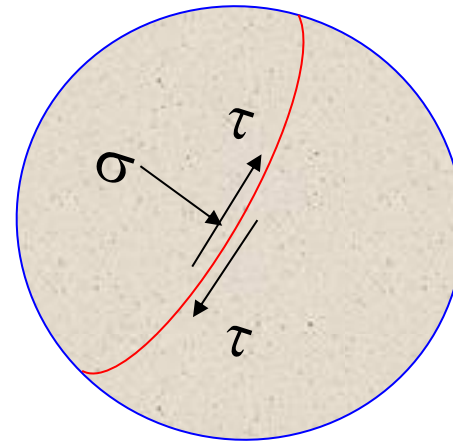
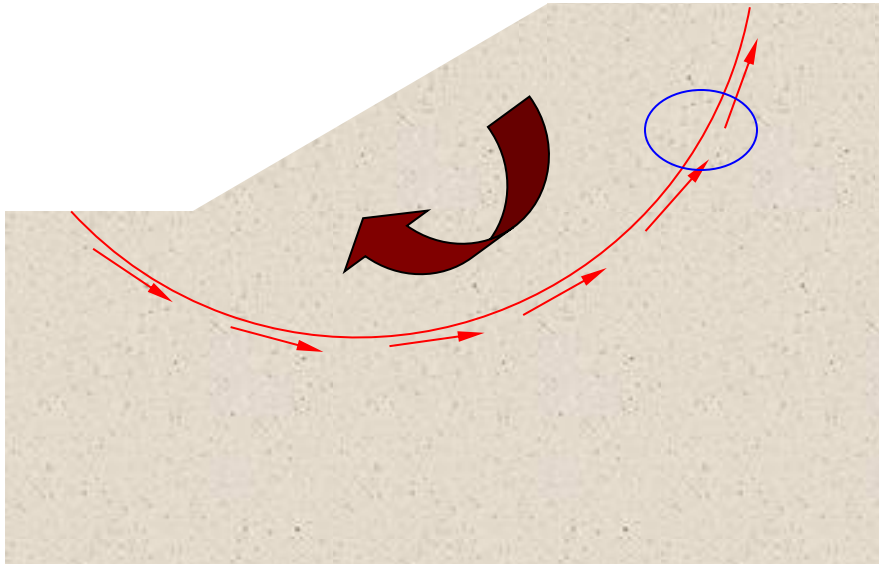
failure surface

The soil grains slide over each other along the failure surface.

No crushing of individual grains.



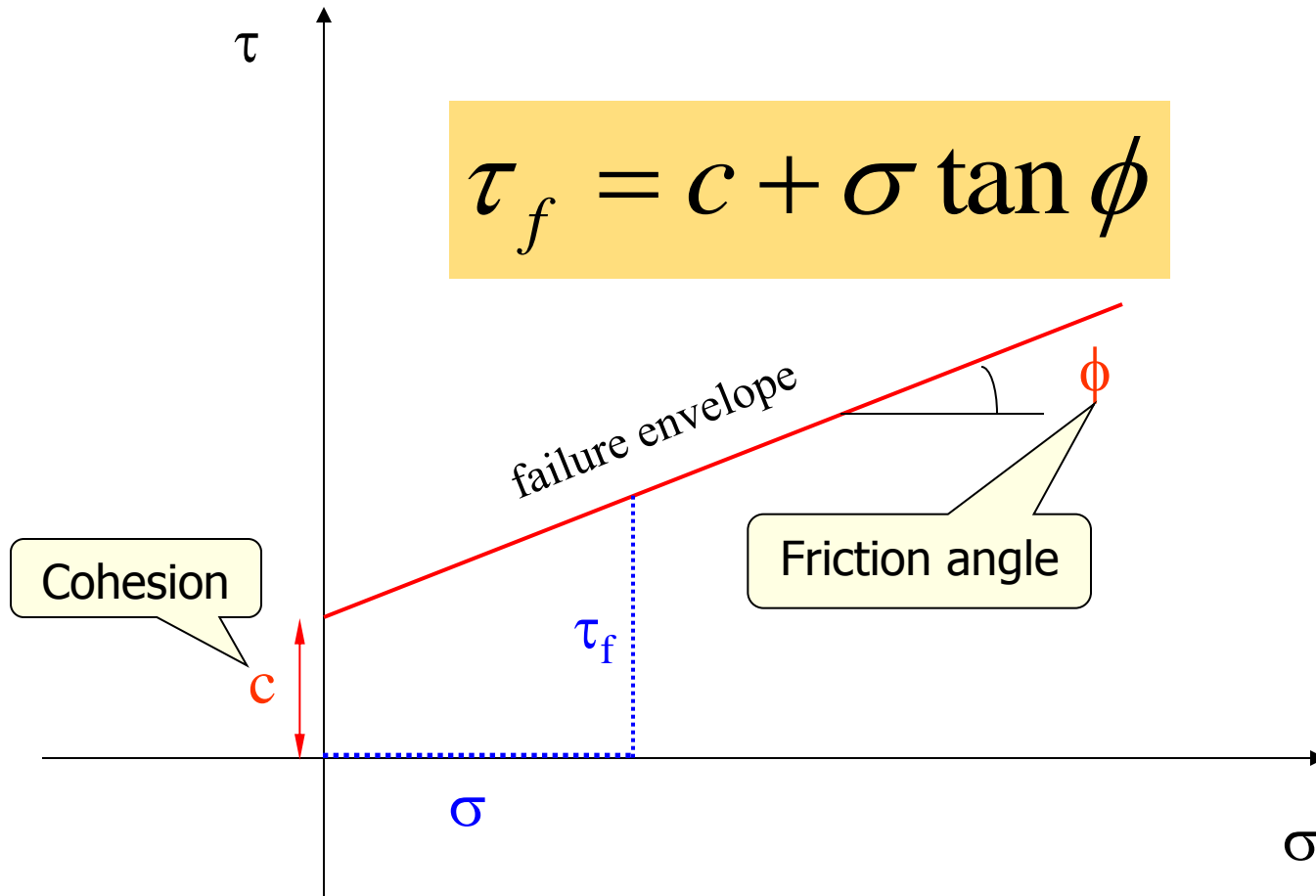
Shear failure



At failure, shear stress along the failure surface (τ) reaches the shear strength (τ_f).

Mohr-Coulomb Failure Criterion

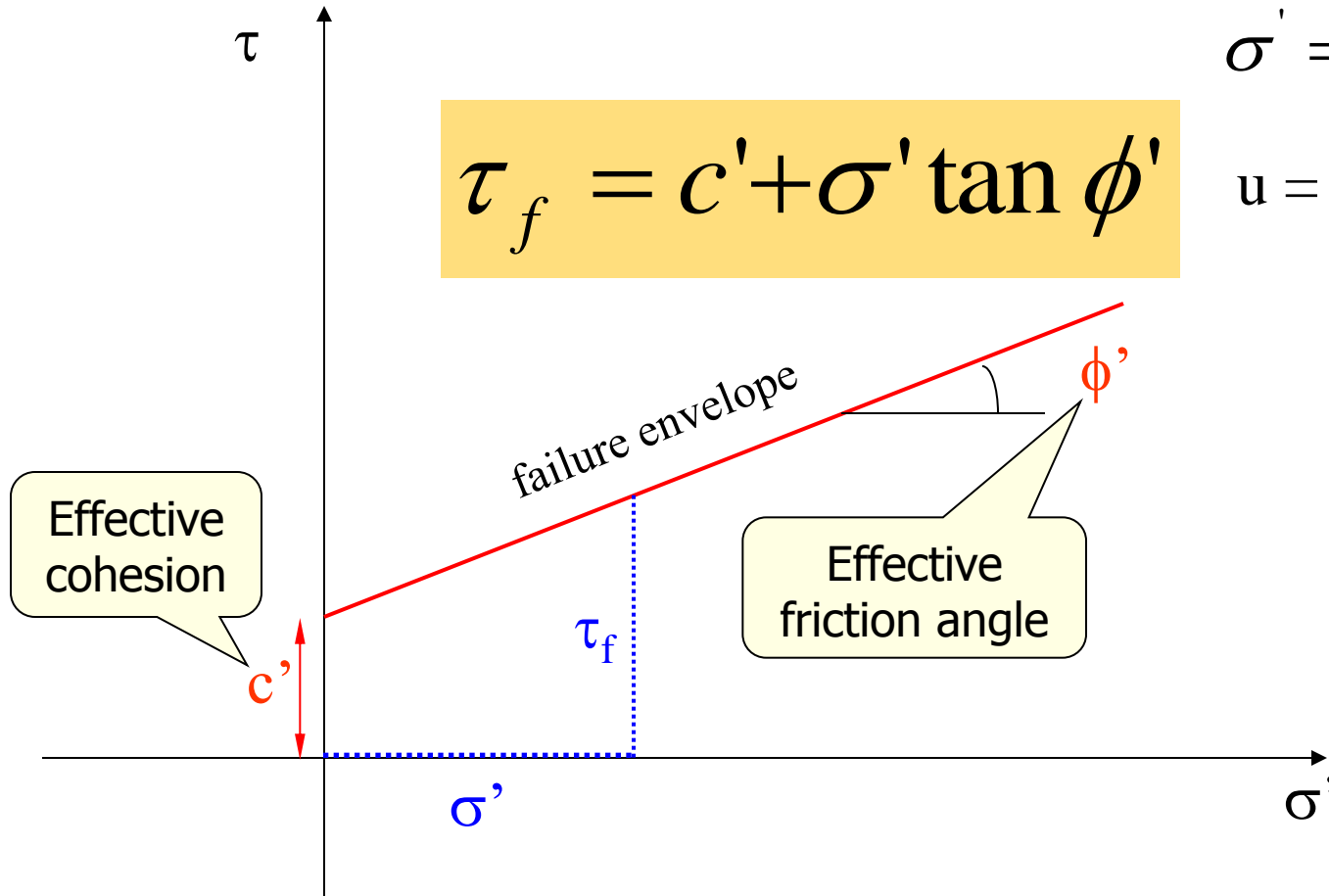
(in terms of total stresses)



τ_f is the maximum shear stress the soil can take without failure, under normal stress of σ .

Mohr-Coulomb Failure Criterion

(in terms of effective stresses)



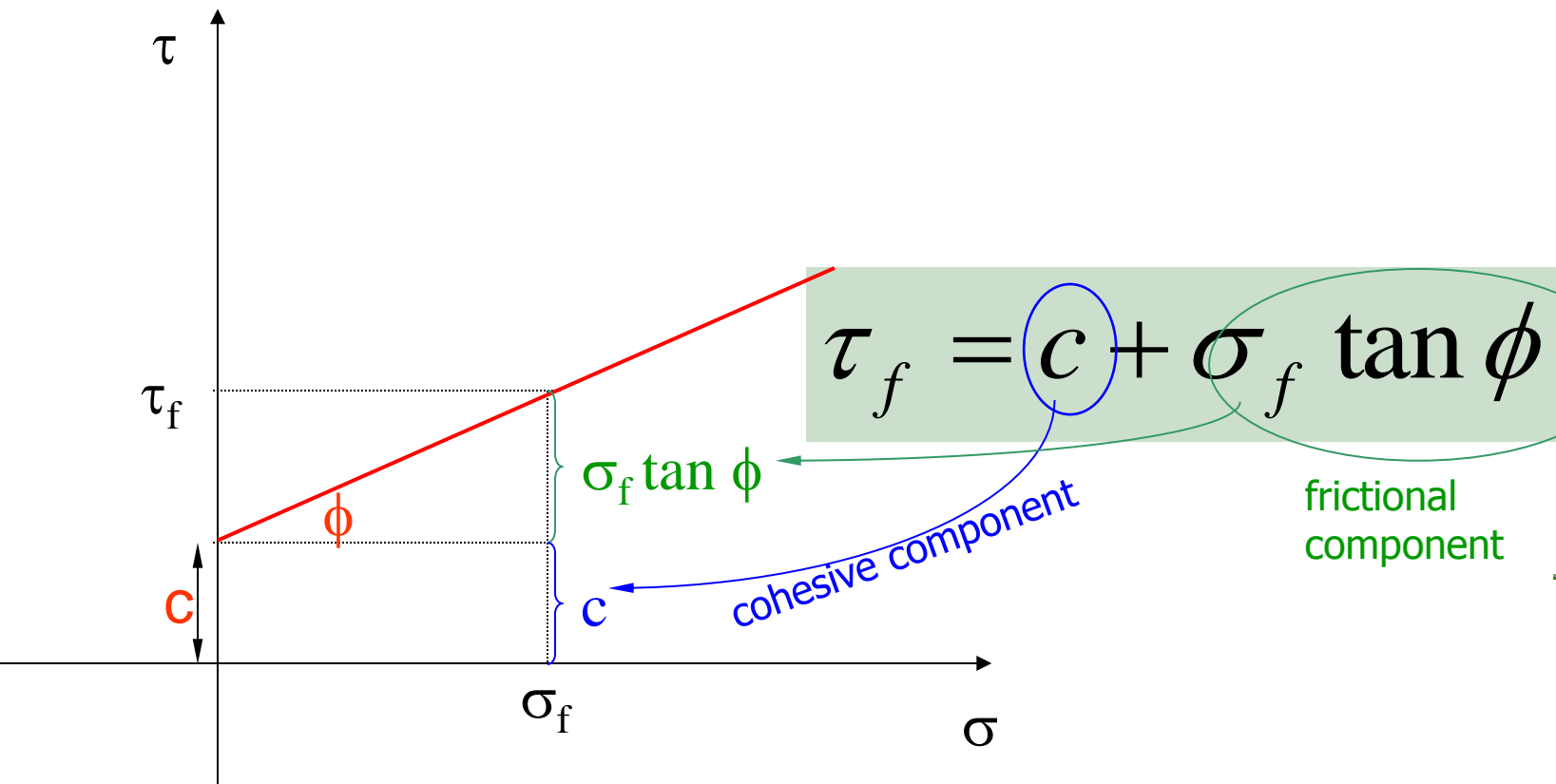
$$\sigma' = \sigma - u$$

u = pore water pressure

τ_f is the maximum shear stress the soil can take without failure under normal effective stress of σ' .

Mohr-Coulomb Failure Criterion

Shear strength consists of two components: **cohesive** and **frictional**.

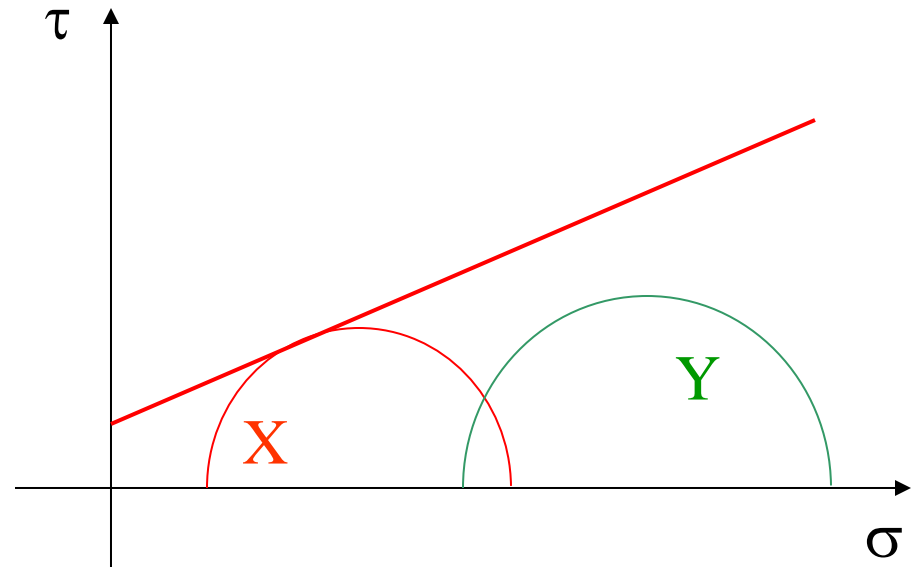
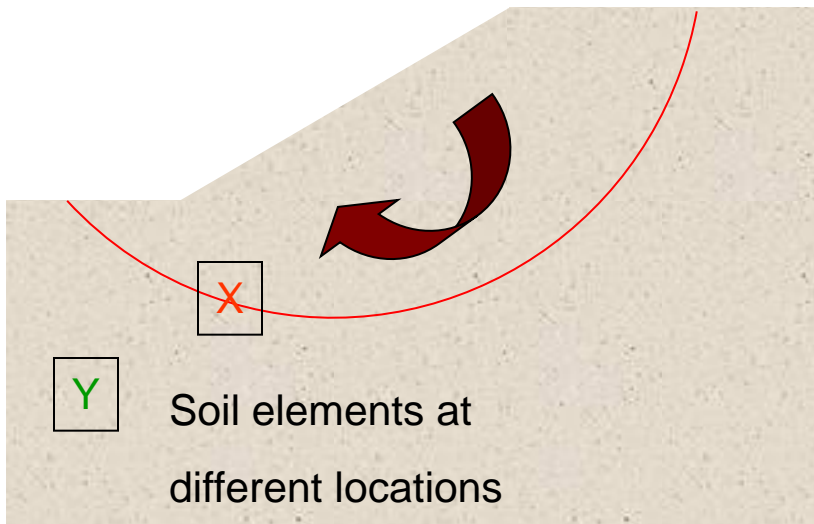




c and ϕ are measures of shear strength.

Higher the values, higher the shear strength.

Mohr Circles & Failure Envelope

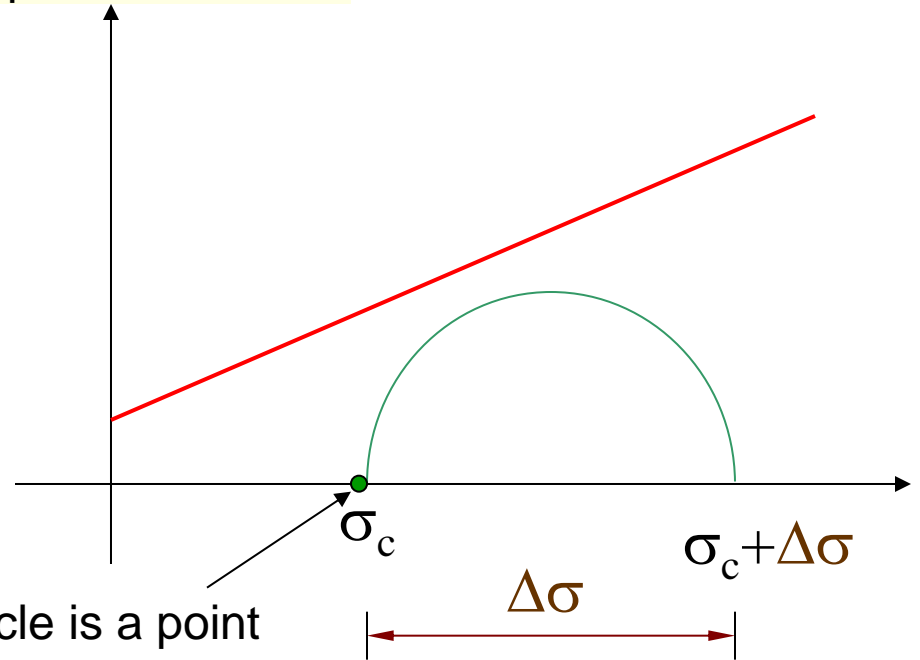
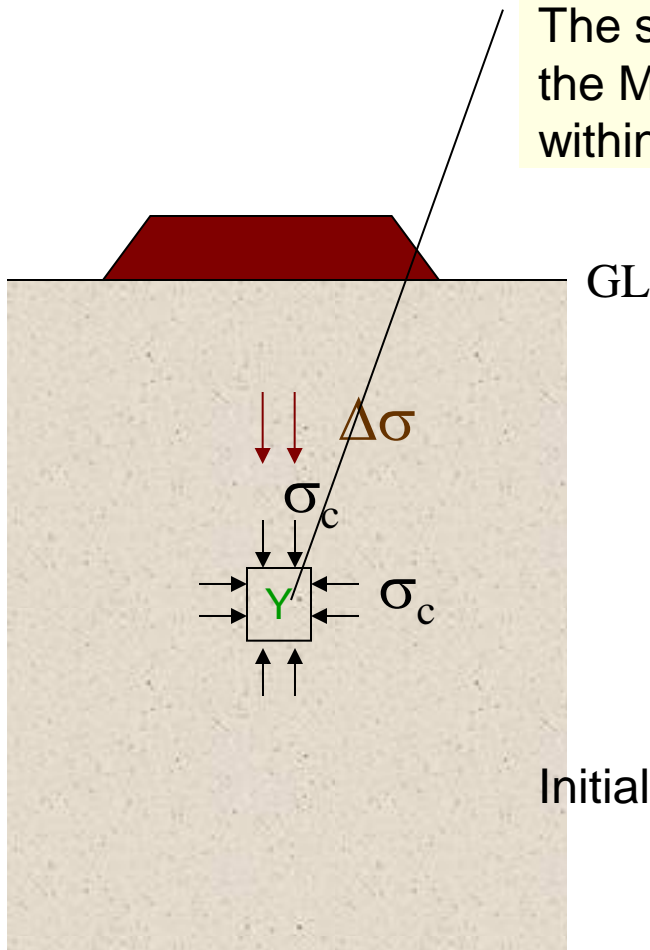


X \sim failure

Y \sim stable

Mohr Circles & Failure Envelope

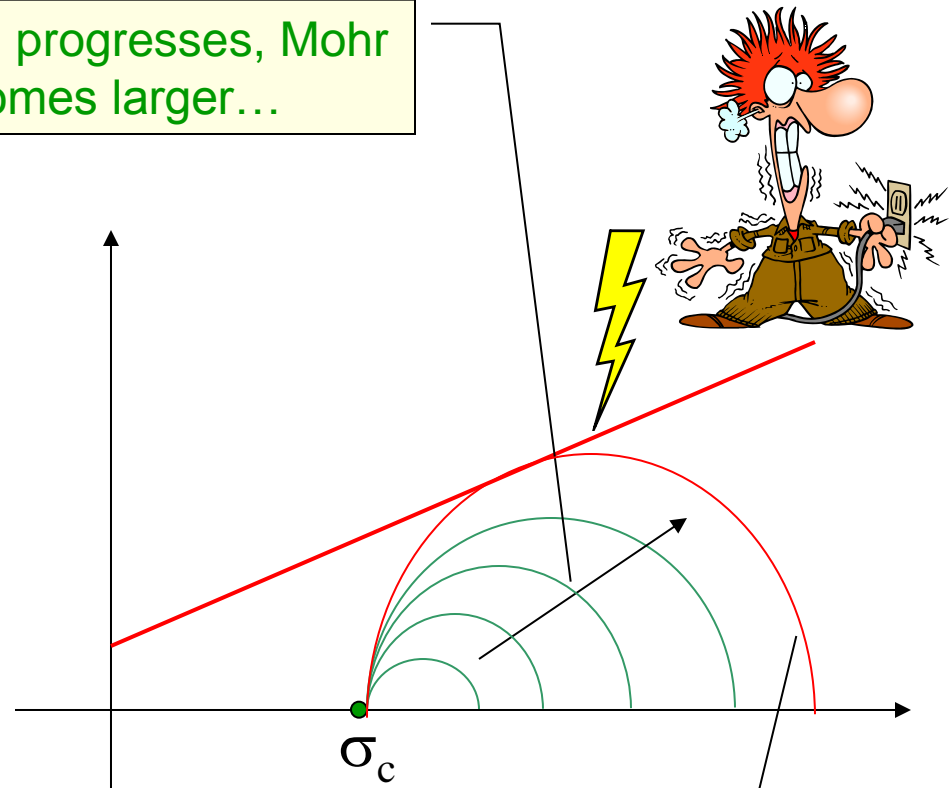
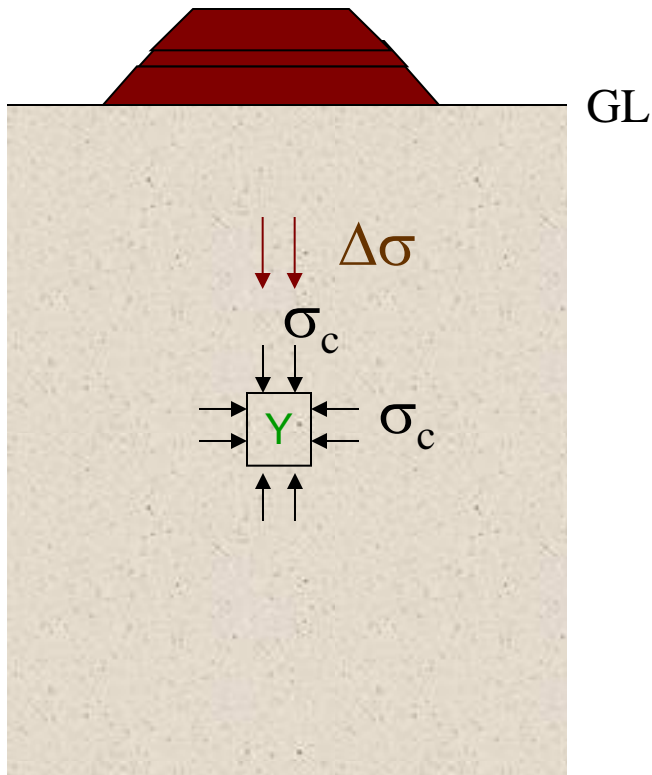
The soil element does not fail if the Mohr circle is contained within the envelope



Initially, Mohr circle is a point

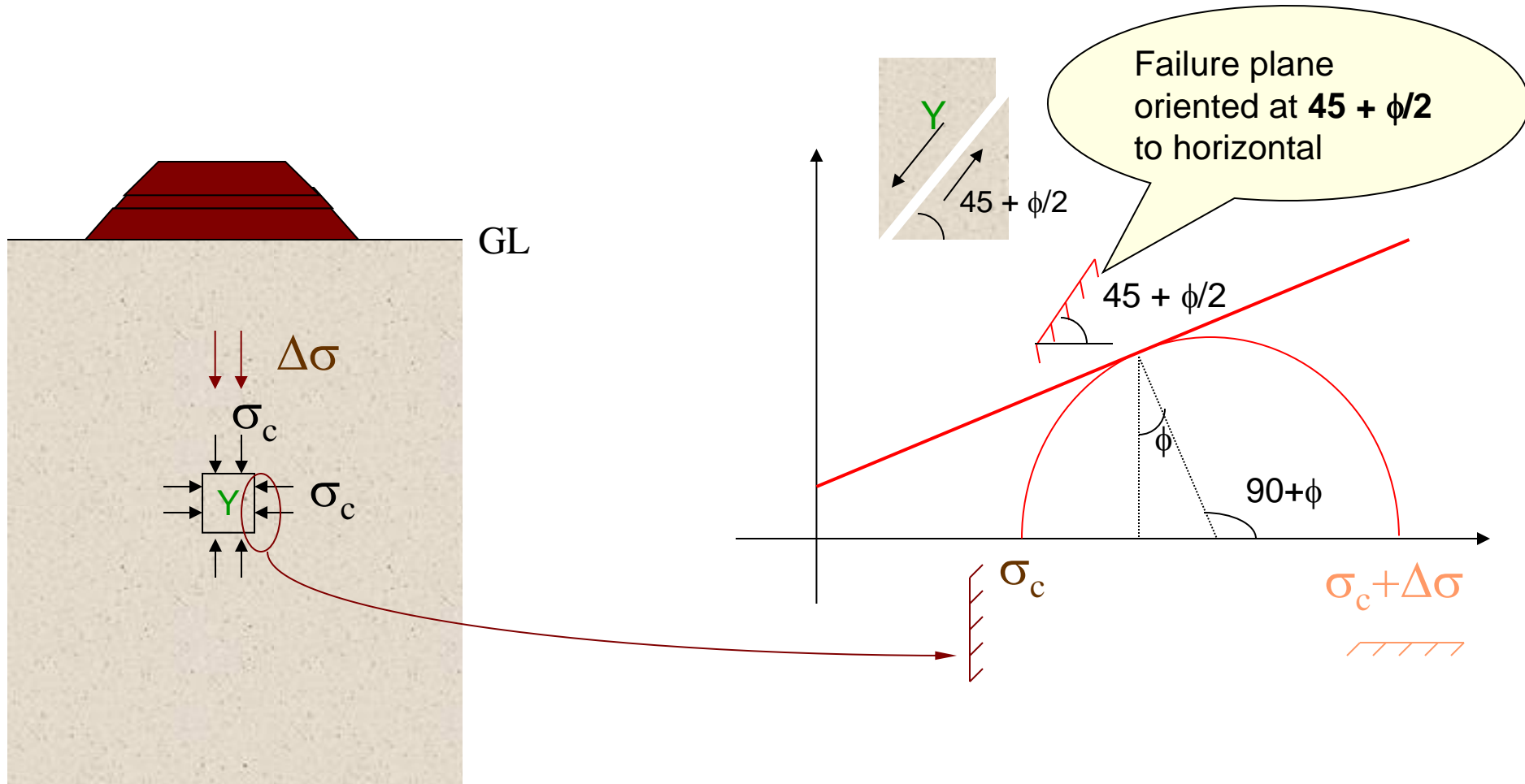
Mohr Circles & Failure Envelope

As loading progresses, Mohr circle becomes larger...



.. and finally failure occurs when Mohr circle touches the envelope

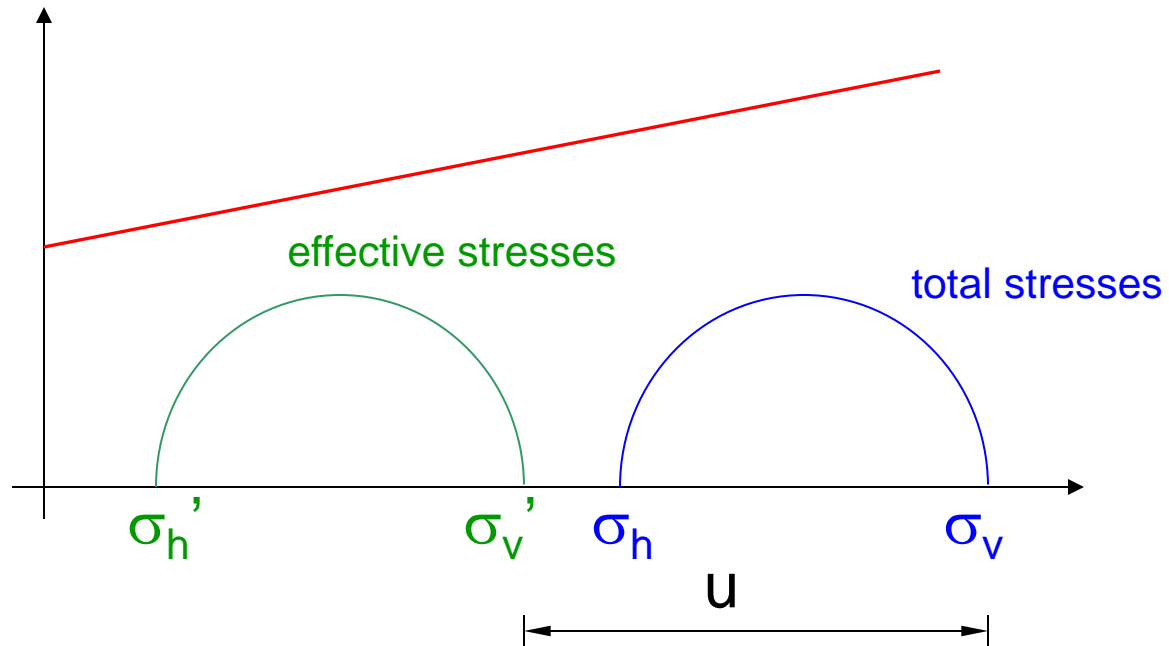
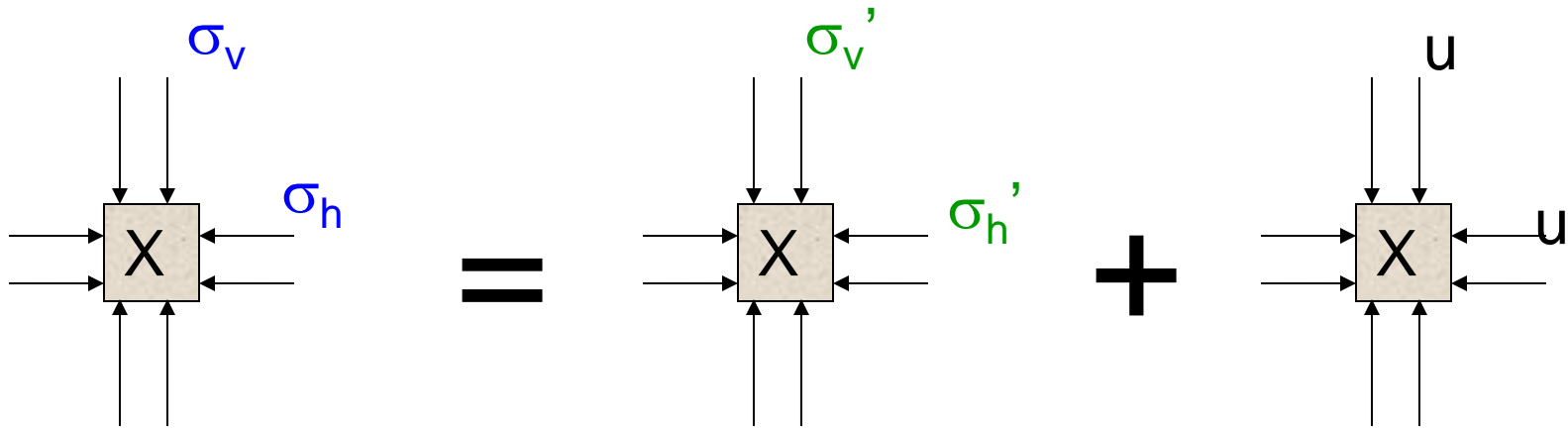
Orientation of Failure Plane



$$\theta = 45 + \phi/2$$

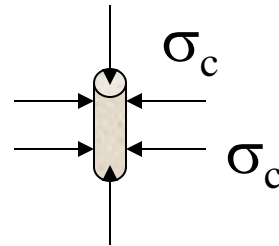
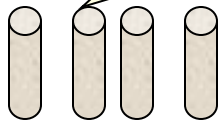


Mohr circles in terms of σ & σ'

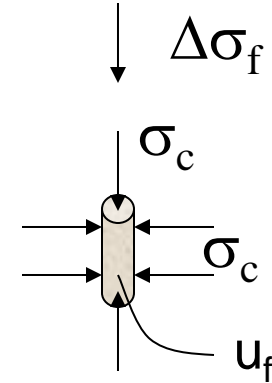


Envelopes in terms of σ & σ'

Identical specimens initially subjected to different isotropic stresses (σ_c) and then loaded axially to failure



Initially...

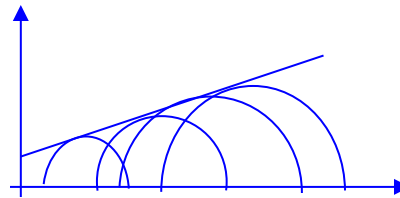


Failure

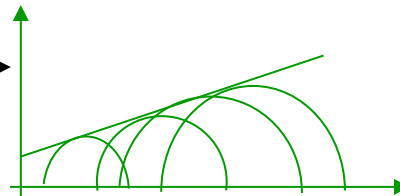
At failure,

$$\sigma_3 = \sigma_c; \quad \sigma_1 = \sigma_c + \Delta\sigma_f$$

$$\sigma_3' = \sigma_3 - u_f; \quad \sigma_1' = \sigma_1 - u_f$$



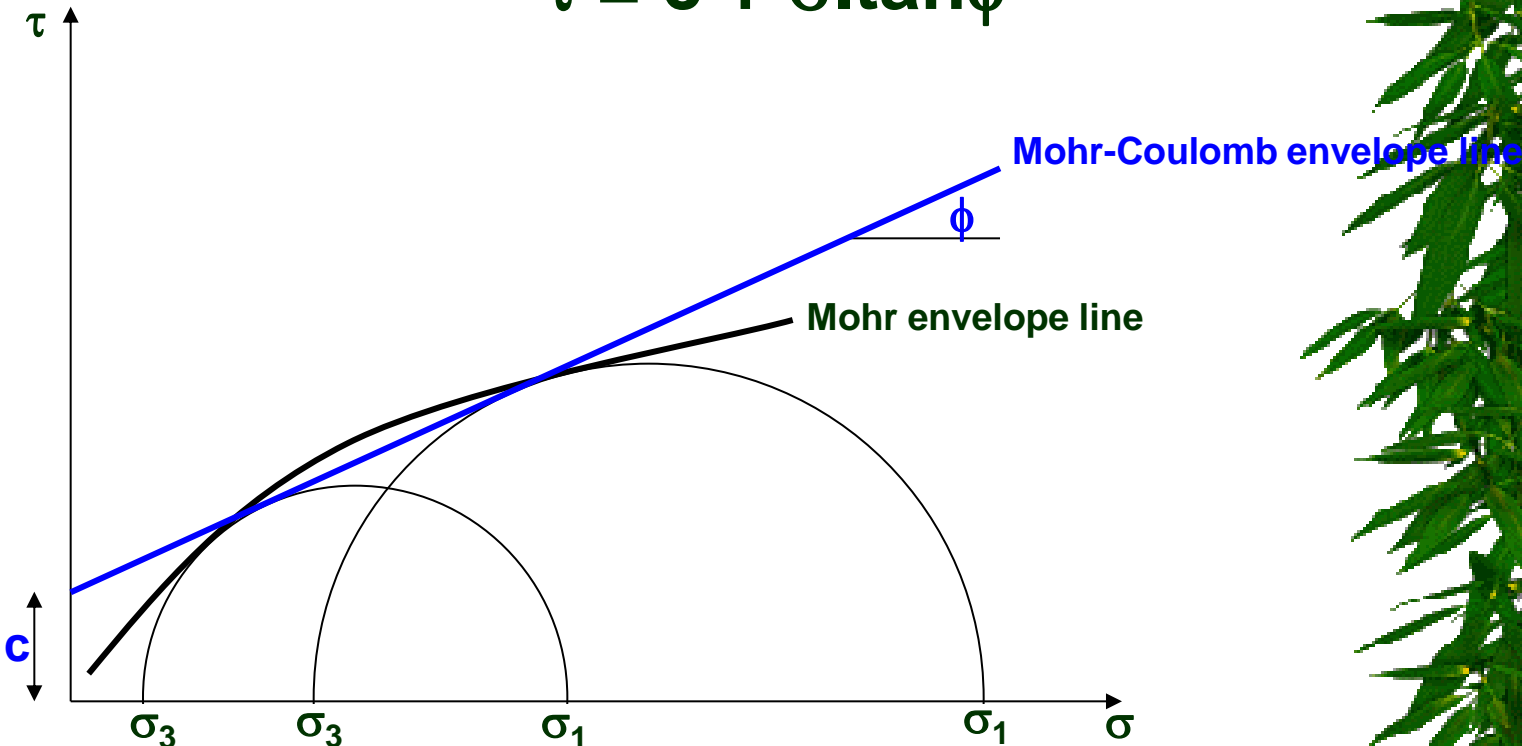
c, ϕ
in terms of σ



c', ϕ'
in terms of σ'

MOHR COULOMB CONCEPT

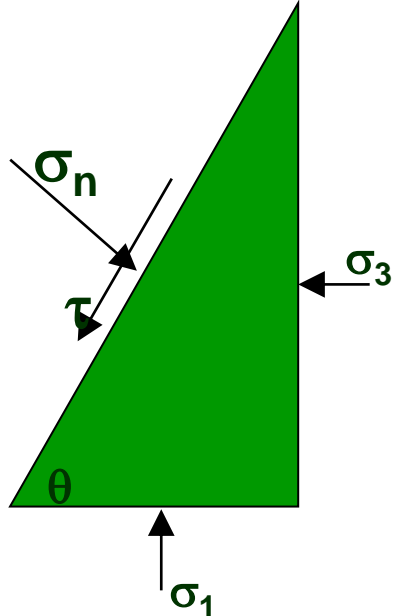
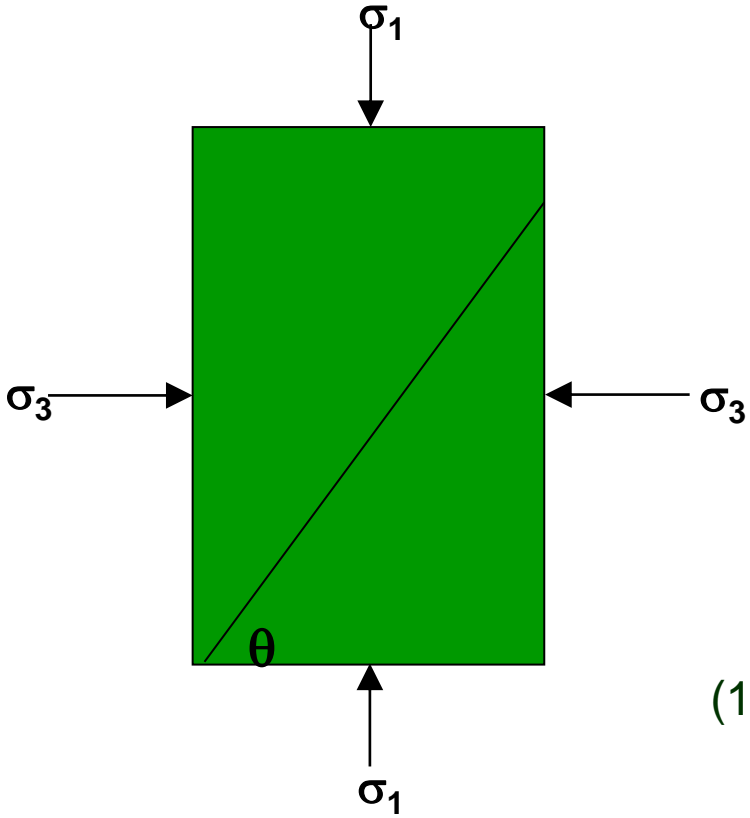
$$\tau = c + \sigma \cdot \tan\phi$$



$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 + \Delta\sigma$$



MOHR COULOMB CONCEPT



(1)
$$\sigma_n = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_3}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \cos 2\theta$$

@
$$\sigma_n = \sigma_3 + (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3) \cos^2 \theta$$

$\sigma_1 > \sigma_3$

(2)
$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \sin 2\theta$$



MOHR COULOMB CONCEPT

$$(1) \text{ and } (2) \longrightarrow \tau = c + \sigma_n \cdot \tan \phi$$
$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 + \frac{(\sigma_3 \cdot \tan \phi + c)}{(0.5 \cdot \sin 2\theta - \cos^2 \theta \cdot \tan \phi)}$$

The failure occurs when the value of σ_1 is minimum or the value of $(0.5 \cdot \sin 2\theta - \cos^2 \theta \cdot \tan \phi)$ maximum

$$\theta = 45^\circ + \frac{\phi}{2} \longrightarrow \sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \cdot \tan^2\left(45^\circ + \frac{\phi}{2}\right) + 2 \cdot c \cdot \tan\left(45^\circ + \frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$

Equations.....

$$\tau_f = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

$$\theta = 45 + \phi/2$$

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \sin 2\theta$$

$$\sigma_n = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_3}{2} + \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \cos 2\theta$$

$$\sigma_n = \sigma_3 + (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3) \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \cdot \tan^2 \left(45^\circ + \phi/2 \right) + 2 \cdot c \cdot \tan \left(45^\circ + \phi/2 \right)$$



Example 1

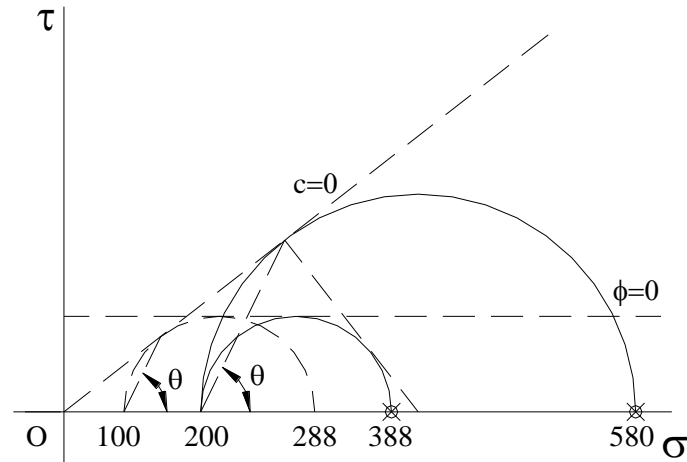
A soil failed at $\sigma_3 = 100 \text{ kN/m}^2$ and $\sigma_1 = 288 \text{ kN/m}^2$.
If the same soil is given $\sigma_3 = 200 \text{ kN/m}^2$, what is the
value of the new σ_1 when the failure is for:

- i) Cohesive soil
- ii) Cohesionless soil



Solution 1

Graphically



a. From the Mohr's circle,
 $\sigma_1 = 388 \text{ kN/m}^2$

b. From the Mohr's circle,
 $\sigma_1 = 580 \text{ kN/m}^2$

Solution 1

Analytically

i) Cohesive soil ($\phi = 0^\circ$)

$$\theta = 45 + 0/2 = 45^\circ$$

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \sin 2\theta$$

$$\tau = (288 - 100) / 2 \cdot \sin 2(45) = 94 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\sigma_n = \sigma_3 + (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3) \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sigma_n = 100 + (288 - 100) \cos^2 45 = 194 \text{ kPa}$$



Solution 1

Analytically

for soil, where $\sigma_3 = 200 \text{ kPa}$

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \cdot \tan^2\left(45^\circ + \phi/2\right) + 2.c \cdot \tan\left(45^\circ + \phi/2\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_1 &= 200 \tan^2(45 - 0/2) + 2(94)\tan(45) \\ &= \text{????? kPa}\end{aligned}$$



Solution 1

Analytically

i) Cohesionless soil ($c = 0$)

From graph:

$$\tau_f = 80 \text{ kPa} \ \& \ \sigma_n = 145 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\tau_f = c + \sigma \tan \phi$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} (80/145) = 29^\circ$$

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_3 \cdot \tan^2 \left(45^\circ + \phi/2 \right) + 2 \cdot c \cdot \tan \left(45^\circ + \phi/2 \right)$$

$$\sigma_1 = 200 \tan^2 (45 - 29/2) + 0 = 576 \text{ kPa}$$



Example 2

Given:

$$C = 86 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\phi = 17^\circ$$

$$\sigma_3 = 70 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\sigma_1 = 346 \text{ kPa}$$

Determine angle of failure (θ), shear stress at failure (τ_f) and normal stress at failure (σ_n)



Solution 2

$$\theta = 45 + \phi/2$$

$$\theta = 45 + 17/2 = 53.5^\circ$$

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}{2} \cdot \sin 2\theta$$

$$\tau = (346 - 70) / 2 \cdot \sin 2(53.5) = 132 \text{ kPa}$$

$$\sigma_n = \sigma_3 + (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3) \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sigma_n = 70 + (346 - 70) \cos^2 53.5 = 167 \text{ kPa}$$

