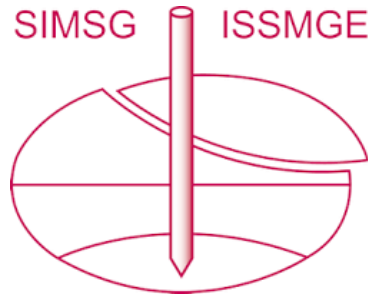


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# Numerical analysis of the axially loaded piles in sand by considering soil-pile interaction

M. Saberi<sup>1</sup>, B.W. Byrne<sup>1</sup>, H.J. Burd<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*

**ABSTRACT:** Numerical simulation of shaft resistance in axially loaded piles has been a key subject in geotechnical designs. In this study, the application of a numerical modelling approach so-called Hybrid-Winkler-Interface (HWI) for simulating pile behaviour in sands under axial load is studied. The HWI is a hybrid formulation including beam elements, Winkler springs and a layer of solid thin-layer interface element formulated in a bounding surface and critical state soil mechanics framework. The HWI input parameters have physical meanings, and they can be calibrated using standard shear tests. The approach can simulate complex behaviours in soil-pile interaction systems including: hardening/softening, compaction/dilation, accumulative contraction, and stress degradation. In this study, the frictional resistance of soil-pile systems embedded in sands with different densities and surface roughness under axial loads with different amplitudes are numerically simulated by considering advanced soil-pile interface effects. The numerical predictions are verified against available observations published in the literature.

**Keywords:** Shaft resistance; Axial loading; Hybrid-Winkler-Interface; Soil-pile interaction

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Piles are widely employed as the foundations in different geo-structures including tall buildings, bridges, offshore drilling platforms, and offshore wind power jacket structures. Pile foundations may experience monotonic and cyclic axial loads during their operational lifetimes. For example, overhead traffic in viaducts and overturning moments caused by winds and waves in offshore jacket foundations are mainly transferred to the piles via axial loading (Zhou et al., 2019). The shaft resistance of an axially loaded pile may experience hardening/softening, and compaction/dilation under monotonic loading conditions, and stress degradation and stabilization under cyclic loading conditions (Jardine and Standing, 2012; Randolph, 2003; Saberi et al., 2018); these aspects should be considered in the design process. Thus, considerable attention has been given to predicting the mobilized and ultimate shaft resistance of axially loaded piles loads in geotechnical design.

Different studies have been conducted to predict the pile shaft friction under axial loads using analytical and semi-analytical techniques (Kraft et al., 1981; Merritt et al., 2012; Randolph and Wroth, 1978; Rollins et al., 2005), *t-z* spring models (Wang et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2019), and monotonic soil-pile interface models (Lashkari, 2013). Analytical solutions are not capable of considering the effects of complex nonlinear stress-displacement behaviour and volumetric deformation of surrounding soils on shaft resistance. The other approaches are either for monotonic behaviour or incapable of capturing the effect of volumetric deformation of adjacent soil on the soil-pile interface behaviour. With advances

in numerical methods and computational algorithms, it has been possible to employ two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) finite element (FE) analyses to more realistically simulate soil-pile interaction phenomena (Han et al., 2017; Loukidis and Salgado, 2008). However, the high computational cost and the need for sophisticated soil constitutive models limit the applicability of this approach for routine design. Thus, there is a need for a computationally efficient numerical modelling procedure capable of capturing advanced soil-pile interaction behaviour for axially loaded piles.

The mobilized and ultimate shaft resistance in soil-pile systems is mainly governed by the mechanical behaviour of a thin soil layer at the shaft-soil interface, and the volume constraints applied by the surrounding soil. This interface zone experiences volumetric compaction/dilation, accumulative contraction and stabilization, and even particle breakage under shear deformations; these aspects should be accounted for to obtain accurate prediction of shaft resistance (Saberi et al., 2018; Vafaei et al., 2021). With this aim, in the current study the shaft resistance of axially loaded piles under monotonic and cyclic loading is predicted using an efficient numerical modelling approach called ‘Hybrid Winkler Interface’ (HWI). The HWI model is verified by comparing the model predictions with available laboratory observations. The HWI model employs beam/solid elements for simulating pile, thin-layer interface elements for the soil-pile interface zone and Winkler springs for the surrounding soil. The HWI input parameters can be easily calibrated by standard shear tests, and this approach is simply integrated in finite element

codes. The HWI approach is capable of rapidly simulating (compared to 3D finite element methods) the hardening/softening and degradation of shaft resistance by considering the effects of volumetric compaction/dilatation, accumulative contraction, and particle breakage.

## 2 HYBRID-WINKLER-INTERFACE (HWI)

The HWI modelling approach is a hybrid formulation consisting of beam/solid elements representing the pile, lateral Winkler springs representing the soil mass, and a layer of thin-layer solid interface elements to represent the soil-structure interface. This approach was recently adopted for buried pipelines analysis (Saber et al., 2022); however, it has not yet been employed in soil-pile interaction systems. The HWI model proposed in this study simulates a 3D FE soil-pile systems by a 2D axisymmetric model as shown in Figure 1.

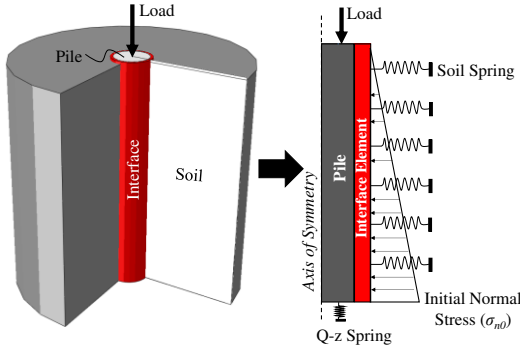


Figure 1. The proposed HWI approach for soil-pile system.

### 2.1 Soil spring and pile

The soil spring stiffness ( $K$ ), which replicates the far-field stiffness around the pile, can be calculated as an elastic stiffness via cavity expansion theory (Boulon and Foray, 1986; Houlsby, 1991) and as a function of pile surface roughness (Jardine et al., 1998). In this study, it is suggested that  $K$  is determined by:

$$K = (4G/D)(R_n/R_{cr}) \quad (1)$$

where  $R_n$  is a normalized roughness ( $R_n = R_{max}/D_{50}$ ),  $R_{cr}$  is the critical normalized roughness (usually 0.1 to 0.15), and  $R_{max}$  is the vertical distance between the maximum peak and minimum valley of the surface along a profile length of  $D_{50}$  (Uesugi and Kishida, 1986).  $D$  is the pile diameter and  $G$  is the soil shear modulus which is estimated by:

$$G = \alpha G_{max} \quad (2)$$

where  $\alpha$  is suggested to be a value between 0.03 and 0.15 based on laboratory observations (Fioravante, 2002; Lehane et al., 2005), and  $G_{max}$  is the maximum small-strain shear modulus, which can be estimated using empirical relationships available in the literature. In this

study, the Hardin and Richart (1963) relationship (Equation 3) was used for calculating the soil spring stiffness,

$$G_{max} = C_g (2.17 - e)^2 / (1 + e) p^{m_g} p_{ref}^{1-n_g} \quad (3)$$

where  $e$  is void ratio,  $p_{ref}=100$  kPa is the reference pressure,  $p'$  is the mean effective stress, and  $C_g = 900$  and  $n_g = 0.4$  are constants suggested for Toyoura sand (Loukidis and Salgado, 2008).

The soil resistance at the pile tip is incorporated into the modelling approach using the API  $Q$ - $z$  spring model (API, 2007). This model is adopted for the current purpose to give Equation (4),

$$Q_{max} = \sigma_{tip} N_q A_{tip} \quad (4)$$

where  $Q_{max}$  is the ultimate resistance of the  $Q$ - $z$  spring,  $\sigma_{tip}$  is the overburden pressure at the pile tip,  $N_q$  is a bearing capacity factor, and  $A_{tip}$  is the area of the pile tip.

The pile can be simulated by beam or solid elements. In this study, linear elastic beam elements were utilized.

### 2.2 Soil-pile interface

In this study, the complex soil-pile interaction including shear and normal stress variations and volumetric deformations at the soil-pile interface zone is captured using solid thin-layer interface elements. These elements employ an advanced 2D state-dependent interface constitutive model in the framework of bounding surface plasticity and critical state soil mechanics CSSM (Saber et al., 2017, 2019). This model was implemented in ABAQUS (Dassault Systèmes, 2014) using a user-subroutine 'UMAT' in conjunction with four-node quadrilateral isoparametric solid elements. Based on laboratory observations (e.g. Uesugi et al. 1986), the interface thickness of 2 mm and 1.4 mm are used here to simulate Fioravante (2002) and Wang et al. (2020) test data respectively. Interface thickness variation has negligible impact on the peak and residual shear strengths. Table 1 provides a summary of the constitutive formulations.

### 2.3 Boundary condition and loading

An initial normal stress ( $\sigma_{n0}$ ) together with the soil spring stiffness is applied to the interface elements to simulate the soil confinement effects under shearing as illustrated in Figure 1. The  $\sigma_{n0}$  at different depths along the shaft is calculated by,

$$\sigma_{n0} = K_{lat} \gamma' z \quad (5)$$

where  $\gamma'$  is the soil effective unit weight,  $z$  is depth, and  $K_{lat}$  is the coefficient of lateral earth pressure.

The pile surface roughness affects the  $K_{lat}$  value; Loukidis and Salgado (2008) suggested the following relationship for  $K_{lat}$  in rough piles.

Table 1. Constitutive equations of the interface model and model parameters (Saber et al. 2017, 2019).

Constitutive formulation	Eq.	Description	Parameters
<b>Elasticity</b>			
$\dot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \mathbf{D}^e \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^e = \begin{bmatrix} D_{n0} \sqrt{\sigma_n/p_{atm}} & 0 \\ 0 & D_{t0} \sqrt{\sigma_n/p_{atm}} \end{bmatrix} \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^e$	(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\mathbf{D}^e</math>: elastic stiffness matrix</li> <li>• <math>p_{atm}</math>: atmospheric pressure, given by 100 (kPa)</li> </ul>	$D_{n0}$ and $D_{t0}$
<b>Elasto-plasticity</b>			
<i>Yield surface</i>			
$f = (\mu - \alpha) \bar{\tau} m = \frac{\tau}{\sigma_n} - \alpha - sm = 0$	(7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>f</math>: yield function (Lashkari, 2013)</li> <li>• <math>\tau/\sigma_n</math>: stress ratio (<math>\mu</math>)</li> <li>• <math>\alpha</math>: back-stress-ratio</li> </ul>	
$s = \begin{cases} +1 & \mu - \alpha \geq 0 \\ -1 & \mu - \alpha < 0 \end{cases}$	(8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>m</math>: control the yield surface size and it is <math>0.01\mu^{cs}</math> to <math>0.05\mu^{cs}</math></li> </ul>	
<i>Critical state</i>			
$\psi = e - e_{cs}$	(9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\psi</math>: state parameter</li> <li>• <math>e</math>: void ratio at the current state</li> </ul>	$e_{cs0}$ , $\lambda$ , $b_{r1}$ ,
$e_{cs} = e_{cs0} \left(1 - \frac{W_p}{b_{r1} + b_{r2} W_p}\right) - \lambda \ln(\sigma_n/p_{atm})$	(10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>e_{cs}</math>: critical state (CS) void ratio</li> <li>• <math>W_p</math>: modified plastic work</li> </ul>	$b_{r2}$ and $\mu^{cs}$
$W_p = \int (\sigma_n \langle \dot{\varepsilon}_n^p \rangle + \tau \dot{\varepsilon}_t^p)$	(11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\langle \cdot \rangle</math>: Macaulay brackets; <math>\langle x \rangle = x</math> if <math>x &gt; 0</math>, <math>\langle x \rangle = 0</math> if <math>x \leq 0</math></li> </ul>	
$\tau^{cs}/\sigma_n^{cs} = \mu^{cs}$	(12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\tau^{cs}</math> and <math>\sigma_n^{cs}</math>: shear and normal stress at CS</li> <li>• <math>\mu^{cs}</math>: CS surface slope in <math>\sigma_n</math>-<math>\tau</math> plane (i.e. CS stress ratio)</li> </ul>	
<i>Dilatancy</i>			
$\mu^d = \mu^{cs} \exp(K^d \psi)$	(13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\mu^d</math>: dilatancy stress ratio</li> <li>• <math>D</math>: dilatancy coefficient</li> </ul>	$K^d$ and $A^d$
$D = \dot{\varepsilon}_n^p /  \dot{\varepsilon}_t^p  = A^d (d^d) = A^d (\mu^d - s\mu)$	(14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>L</math>: loading index</li> <li>• <math>\mathbf{R}</math>: direction of increment of plastic strain vector</li> </ul>	
$\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^p = \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{\varepsilon}_n^p \\ \dot{\varepsilon}_t^p \end{Bmatrix} = \Gamma \mathbf{R}$	(15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\mathbf{n}</math>: vector normal to yield surface <math>f</math></li> </ul>	
$\Gamma = \mathbf{n}^T \dot{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} / K_p$	(16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>K_p</math>: plastic modulus</li> <li>• <math>\mu &lt; \mu^d</math>: contracting response (<math>D &gt; 0</math>)</li> <li>• <math>\mu &gt; \mu^d</math>: dilatant response (<math>D &lt; 0</math>)</li> </ul>	
$\mathbf{R} = \begin{Bmatrix} R_n \\ R_t \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} D \\ \partial f / \partial \tau \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} D \\ S \end{Bmatrix}$	(17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>D=0</math>: zero volumetric rate response</li> <li>• <math>\mathbf{R} \neq \mathbf{n}</math>: non-associated flow rule</li> </ul>	
$\mathbf{n}^T = \{\partial f / \partial \sigma_n \quad \partial f / \partial \tau\}$	(18)		
<i>Plastic modulus</i>			
$K_p = K_{p0} D_{t0} \sqrt{\sigma_n/p_{atm}} (\mu^f - s\mu) /  \alpha $	(19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\mu^f</math>: failure or peak stress ratio</li> <li>• <math>K_p &gt; 0</math>: hardening behavior</li> </ul>	$K_{p0}$ and $K^f$
$\mu^f = \mu^{cs} \exp(-K^f \psi)$	(20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>K_p &lt; 0</math>: softening behavior</li> </ul>	

$$K_{lat-R} = \frac{CK_0}{\exp(0.2\sqrt{K_0-0.4})} \exp\left\{\frac{D_r}{100} \left[1.3 - 0.2 \ln(\sigma'_{v0}/p_{ref})\right]\right\} \quad (21)$$

where  $K_{lat-R}$  is the coefficient of lateral earth pressure in piles with rough shafts,  $K_0$  is at-rest coefficient lateral earth pressure,  $D_r$  (%) is soil relative density, and  $C$  is a model constant with a value around 0.7 as suggested by Loukidis and Salgado (2008). On the other hand, Kulhawy (1991) based on laboratory observations recommended  $2/3K_0$  as the lower band of  $K_{lat}$  for smooth pile surfaces. In this study, the interpolation relationships suggested by Lashkari (2013) are used to consider the effect of surface roughness on  $K_{lat}$  as follows,

$$K_{lat} = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{3} K_0 + \left(K_{lat-R} - \frac{2}{3} K_0\right) \frac{R_n}{R_{cr}}, & R_n < R_{cr} \\ K_{lat-R}, & R_n \geq R_{cr} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

### 3 MODEL CALIBRATION

In HWI modelling, calibrating the interface constitutive model plays the main role in the calibration process. The interface model requires eleven calibration parameters in total: two for elasticity ( $D_{t0}$  and  $D_{n0}$ ), three for critical state ( $e_{cs0}$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\mu^{cs}$ ), two for dilatancy ( $A^d$  and  $K^d$ ), one for failure ( $K^f$ ), one for hardening ( $K_{p0}$ ), and two for particle breakage ( $b_{r1}$  and  $b_{r2}$ ). The parameters all have physical meanings and can be readily determined through standard interface shear tests: Constant Normal Load (CNL)/Constant Normal Stiffness (CNS) shear tests. The interface model parameters can be determined as described in detail in Saber et al. (2017, 2019); however, for the sake of completeness, a brief explanation is provided here.

The  $D_{t0}$  and  $D_{n0}$  are evaluated using Equation (6) and by the initial slopes of the shear stress ( $\tau$ )-tangential displacement ( $u_t$ ) under CNL condition and normal stress ( $\sigma_n$ )-normal displacement ( $u_n$ ) respectively. Alternatively, the elastic normal stiffness parameter  $D_{n0}$  can be taken as proportional to the elastic tangential stiffness parameter  $D_{t0}$ . A value of  $D_{n0}=1D_{t0}$  to  $2D_{t0}$  results in good predictions in most interface systems (Saber et al., 2020a, 2020b). If the shear stresses at critical state ( $\tau_{cr}$ ) are plotted against the corresponding normal stresses ( $\sigma_{n-cr}$ ), the slope of the best fit line starting from the origin is obtained as  $\mu^{cs}$ . For capturing  $e_{cs0}$  and  $\lambda$ , one can plot the critical void ratios ( $e_{cr}$ ) at different  $\sigma_n$  against  $\ln(\sigma_n/p_{atm})$ . The slope of the best fit line of the points represents  $\lambda$  and the intersection of the fit line with the  $e_{cr}$  axis is given as  $e_{cs0}$ .

The parameter  $A^d$  is determined using the data of monotonic interface shear tests in  $u_n$ - $u_t$  plane.  $u_n=\varepsilon_n \times t$  and  $u_t=\varepsilon_t \times t$  in which  $t$  is the interface thickness. Assuming the elastic parts of  $u_n$  and  $u_t$  are negligible, the following equation is drawn from Equation (14).

$$A^d \approx (du_n/|du_t|)/(\mu^d - \mu) \quad (23)$$

Using Equation (23), different values of  $A^d$  are calculated through the data obtained from CNL/CNS tests. The average value of  $A^d$  is recommended for use in the interface model.

Using the data at phase transformation and failure (i.e. peak) states, the parameters  $K^d$  and  $K^f$  are calculated from Equations (24-25):

$$K^d = \ln(\mu^d/\mu^{cs})/\psi_{phts} \quad (24)$$

$$K^f = \ln(\mu^f/\mu^{cs})/-\psi_f \quad (25)$$

where  $\psi_{phts}$  and  $\psi_f$  are state parameters at phase transformation and failure (i.e. peak) states. Thus,  $K^d$  and  $K^f$  can be determined as the slope of the best fit line passing through the origin by plotting  $\psi_{phts}$  against  $\ln(\mu^d/\mu^{cs})$  and  $\psi_f$  against  $-\ln(\mu^f/\mu^{cs})$  respectively at different CNL/CNS shear tests.

The parameter  $K_{p0}$  can be easily estimated by a trial and error or it can be shown that the following relation for an interface under CNL condition can be drawn:

$$d\varepsilon_t = (1/D_t + 1/K_p)d\tau \quad (26)$$

By substituting Equation (26) into Equation (19), the parameter  $K_{p0}$  is evaluated as:

$$K_{p0} = |\alpha|/\left(\frac{\mu^{cs}-m}{\mu-m} - 1\right) \left(\left(D_t \frac{d\varepsilon_t}{d\tau} - 1\right)\right) \quad (27)$$

There are two methods to determine  $b_{r1}$  and  $b_{r2}$ . (These parameters are mainly relevant for cyclic loading.) First, by evaluating the particle breakage index

( $B_r$ ) and total plastic work ( $W_p$ ) in different cycles of an interface shear test, the parameters  $b_{r1}$  and  $b_{r2}$  are obtained by fitting a hyperbolic curve between  $B_r$  and  $W_p$ . The second method employs trial and error, such that the model prediction in the plane of  $u_n$ - $u_t$  matches the corresponding cyclic experimental data.

It is worth mentioning that only a single set of model parameters is needed to simulate the behaviour of axially loaded piles in granular soils with different densities and under different soil confinement pressures subjected to both monotonic and cyclic loading.

## 4 NUMERICAL PREDICTIONS

Here, the HWI modeling capabilities are examined using the results of centrifuge pile tests by Fioravante (2002) and interface shear tests by Wang et al. (2020).

### 4.1 Monotonic sand-pile behavior

Fioravante (2002) conducted a series of centrifuge tests on axially loaded aluminum alloy piles of 6 mm and 10 mm diameter ( $D$ ) and 245 mm length ( $L$ ) with different surface roughness ( $R_n=0.01, 0.06, \text{ and } 0.45$ ) buried in Toyoura sand. The properties of the Toyoura sand are presented in Table 2;  $\phi_{cv}$  in the table is the constant volume friction angle. The centrifuge acceleration was set to 30g, 50g, 80g and 133g to reproduce the conditions of two prototype piles with  $D=0.3$  m and  $L\sim 8$ m, and  $D=0.8$  m and  $L\sim 20$ m. Direct shear tests were also performed between the Toyoura sand and the aluminum pile material with different surface roughness ( $R_n=0.01, 0.13, \text{ and } 0.25$ ) and normal stiffness ( $K$ ) (Fioravante, 2002; Ghionna and Mortara, 2002). In the current study, the centrifuge tested piles were simulated by the HWI model at prototype scale. The interface model in the HWI modeling was calibrated using the interface shear test data from Fioravante (2002) for three surface roughness values. The calibrated interface model parameters from Table 3, were used in HWI model to predict the tests by Fioravante (2002).

Table 2. Properties of sandy soils

Soil	Dr (%)	D <sub>50</sub> (mm)	Max. void ratio, e <sub>max</sub>	Min. void ratio, e <sub>min</sub>	φ <sub>cv</sub> (°)
Toyourea	~90	0.22	1.024	0.64	31.6
Medium fine	60	0.28	0.905	0.454	37

The model predictions for the interface shear tests between the Toyoura sand and the aluminum surface with different roughness ( $R_n=0.01$  and  $0.13$ ) under various normal stiffness are illustrated in Figure 2. As can be seen, the model reproduces the experimental observations very well. The HWI model predictions for the pile tests with different dimensions and surface roughness ( $R_n=0.01, 0.06, \text{ and } 0.45$ ) are also shown in Figure 3. As can be observed, there are good agreements between the numerical predictions and the laboratory test data. It is

worth noting that in the HWI modelling, the values of the constitutive model parameters for  $R_n=0.06$  was simply linearly interpolated between the input values used for  $R_n=0.06$  and  $R_n=0.13$ . Moreover, the calibration parameters for  $R_n=0.45$  was assumed to be the same as  $R_n=0.25$  as they are higher than  $R_{cr}$  ( $R_{cr}=0.13$  is assumed in this study).

Table 3. Constitutive model input parameters

Symbol	Fioravante (2002)			Wang et al. (2020)
	$R_n=0.01$	$R_n=0.13$	$R_n=0.25$	$R_n=rough$
$D_{i0}$ (MPa)	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.5
$D_{n0}$ (MPa)	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.6
$\mu^{cs}$	0.32	0.63	0.66	0.56
$e_{cs0}$	0.72	0.91	0.95	0.6
$\lambda$	0.17	0.13	0.075	0.02
$A^d$	5	5	5	0.21
$K^d$	0.7	0.3	0.3	16
$K^f$	0	2.3	2.1	1
$K_{p0}$	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.1
$b_{r1}$ (MPa)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2
$b_{r2}$	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2

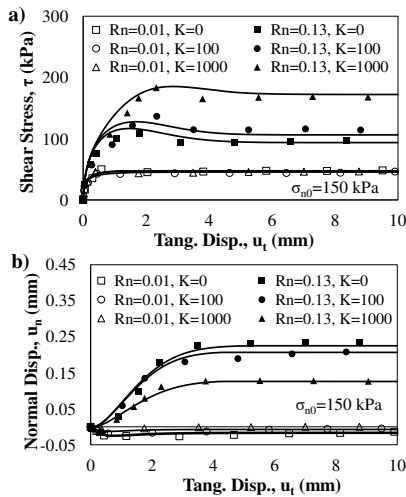


Figure 2. Model predictions against test data (Fioravante, 2002) for different  $K$  (kPa/mm) and  $R_n$ ; a)  $\tau$ - $u_t$ , and b)  $u_t$ - $u_n$ .

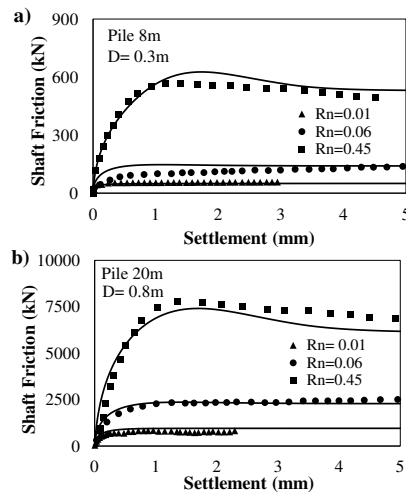


Figure 3. Model predictions against centrifuge data (Fioravante, 2002) for different  $R_n$ ; a) 8m pile and b) 20m pile.

## 4.2 Cyclic sand-pile behavior

Wang et al. (2020) designed a ring shear test apparatus under CNS conditions to reproduce the conditions of a steel pile with  $D=1.8m$  at different depths up to 30m in a saturated medium fine sand (Table 2) under cyclic loading. Thus, in the current study, a pile with 30m length was simulated by the HWI model. The constitutive model parameters and the boundary input conditions are listed in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively. The numerical predictions of shear stress at 5m and 20m depths are presented in Figure 4 and Figure 5 respectively compared to laboratory tests.

Table 4. Boundary conditions for the cyclic tests

Depth (m)	$K$ (kPa/mm)	Initial normal stress $\sigma_{n0}$ (kPa)
5	142	50
20	284	200

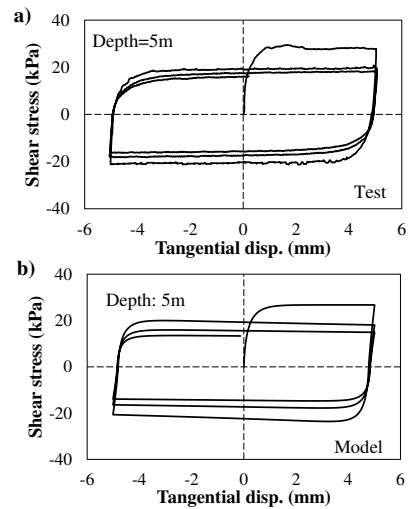


Figure 4. Model predictions against test data (Wang et al., 2020) for a pile at depth=5m; a) test data and b) HWI model.

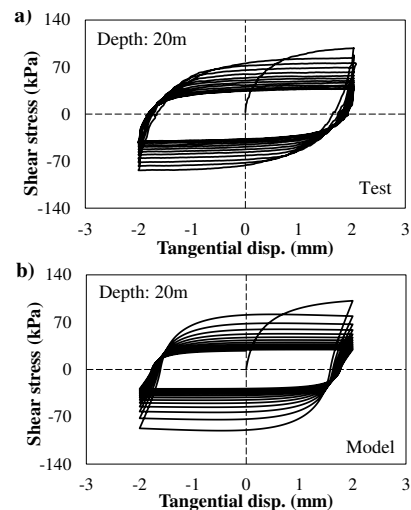


Figure 5. Model predictions against test data (Wang et al., 2020) for a pile at depth=20m; a) test data and b) HWI model.

As can be seen from the figures, the pile model simulated with the HWI approach predicts very well the cyclic tests data under different loading amplitudes (i.e. 5mm and 2mm). The model also simulates nicely the

cyclic stress degradation phenomenon in axially loaded piles. The stress stabilization after several cycles is also well captured by the HWI model as shown in Figure 5.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

In this study, a ‘Hybrid-Winkler-Interface’ (HWI) model for axially loaded piles was developed, and the numerical simulation and calibration process were described. The measurements obtained from the centrifuge and shear tests were used to validate and evaluate the capability of the developed HWI model to predict complex soil-pile interaction behaviours under monotonic and cyclic loading. The numerical simulations shows that the HWI model is an efficient technique to simulate accurately the hardening/softening and cyclic stress degradation behaviours in shaft resistance response. In addition, it addresses very well the effect of compaction/dilation behaviours in granular adjacent soils on the soil-pile friction. The HWI was also able to capture the effect of surface roughness on the shaft resistance in axially loaded piles. It should be noted that this modelling approach simulates the whole complex stress-displacement relationship and volumetric behaviours under different normal stresses, densities and normal stiffness with only a single set of model parameters under both monotonic and cyclic loading conditions.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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