

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 BACKGROUND – THE 2D DISTINCT ELEMENT METHOD

1.1	Aspects of Modeling a Discontinuous System	1 - 1
1.1.1	Computer Programs for Modeling Discontinuous Systems	1 - 2
1.1.2	History of the Distinct Element Method	1 - 5
1.2	Numerical Formulation	1 - 7
1.2.1	Introduction	1 - 7
1.2.2	Equations of Motion	1 - 9
1.2.3	Conservation of Momentum and Energy in the Distinct Element Formulation	1 - 11
1.2.4	Rock Joint Representation	1 - 13
1.2.4.1	Contact Detection and Identification	1 - 13
1.2.4.2	Domain Contact Detection	1 - 15
1.2.4.3	Cell Mapping and Searching	1 - 17
1.2.4.4	Joint Behavior Model	1 - 19
1.2.5	Block Deformability	1 - 22
1.2.5.1	Accurate Modeling of Plastic Collapse	1 - 25
1.2.6	Nodal Mixed Discretization for a Triangular Grid	1 - 26
1.2.7	Mechanical Damping	1 - 28
1.2.8	Mechanical Timestep Determination: Solution Stability	1 - 30
1.2.9	Mass (Density) Scaling	1 - 32
1.2.10	Boundary Conditions	1 - 32
1.2.11	Boundary-Element Representation of the Far Field	1 - 33
1.2.12	Data Structure	1 - 33
1.3	References	1 - 35

2 FACTOR-OF-SAFETY CALCULATION

2.1	Introduction	2 - 1
2.2	Factor of Safety	2 - 2
2.3	Computational Methods to Calculate the Factor of Safety of Slopes	2 - 3
2.3.1	Strength Reduction Technique	2 - 3
2.3.2	Limit Analysis	2 - 4
2.3.3	Limit Equilibrium	2 - 5
2.3.4	Relation of Strength Reduction Method to Limit Equilibrium and Limit Analysis	2 - 5

2.4	Strength Reduction Procedure in <i>UDEC</i>	2 - 7
2.4.1	Strength Reduction Properties	2 - 9
2.4.1.1	Mohr-Coulomb Material	2 - 9
2.4.1.2	Ubiquitous-Joint Material	2 - 9
2.4.1.3	Hoek-Brown Material	2 - 10
2.4.1.4	Coulomb Joints	2 - 12
2.4.2	Structural Elements	2 - 12
2.5	Example FOS Calculations Using the Strength Reduction Method	2 - 13
2.5.1	Failure Modes of a Simple Slope in Jointed Mohr-Coulomb Material ..	2 - 13
2.5.2	Verification Tests for a Simple Slope in Hoek-Brown Material	2 - 28
2.5.2.1	Factor of Safety with respect to Shear Strength	2 - 28
2.5.2.2	Stability Numbers for a Simple Slope	2 - 33
2.5.3	Factor-of-Safety Contours	2 - 37
2.6	References	2 - 43

3 ENERGY CALCULATION

3.1	Introduction	3 - 1
3.2	Energy Balance	3 - 2
3.3	Calculation of Individual Energy Components	3 - 3
3.3.1	Total Boundary Loading Work (W)	3 - 3
3.3.2	Potential Energy (U_b)	3 - 4
3.3.3	Kinetic Energy (U_k)	3 - 5
3.3.4	Damped Energy (W_k)	3 - 5
3.3.5	Strain Energy Stored in the Rock Mass (U_c)	3 - 7
3.3.5.1	Block-Stored Strain Energy (U_{cb})	3 - 7
3.3.5.2	Joint Strain Energy (U_{cj})	3 - 8
3.3.5.3	Strain Energy Content of Excavated Material (U_m)	3 - 10
3.3.5.4	Friction Work Done on Joints (W_j)	3 - 12
3.3.6	Viscous Boundary Work (W_v)	3 - 13
3.3.7	Energy Dissipation in Blocks through Plastic Work (W_p)	3 - 13
3.3.7.1	Energy Dissipated in Backfill Compression	3 - 14
3.3.7.2	Volume of Excavated Material (V_m)	3 - 14
3.4	Method of Operation in <i>UDEC</i>	3 - 15
3.5	Energy Calculations: Excavation of a Circular Hole in an Infinite Elastic Medium ..	3 - 16
3.5.1	Derivation of Analytical Solution to Cylindrical Tunnel in an Infinite Medium	3 - 16
3.5.2	<i>UDEC</i> Energy Calculation	3 - 23
3.5.3	Comparison to Salamon Solution	3 - 28
3.6	Reference	3 - 29

TABLES

Table 2.1	Slope stability cases	2 - 14
Table 2.2	Factor-of-safety results for Hoek-Brown slope	2 - 30
Table 2.3	Hoek-Brown slope with Mohr-Coulomb layer	2 - 31
Table 3.1	Totals for energy stored and dissipated in system	3 - 27
Table 3.2	Summary of results from the analytical solution and <i>UDEC</i>	3 - 28

FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Attributes of the four classes of the discrete element method and the limit equilibrium method (Cundall and Hart 1992)	1 - 4
Figure 1.2	Chronology of the distinct element method	1 - 6
Figure 1.3	Calculation cycle for the distinct element method	1 - 8
Figure 1.4	Interlaced nature of the calculation cycle used in distinct element formulation	1 - 10
Figure 1.5	Contacts between two rigid blocks	1 - 14
Figure 1.6	Definition of rounded corners in <i>UDEC</i>	1 - 14
Figure 1.7	Definition of contact normal in <i>UDEC</i>	1 - 16
Figure 1.8	Contacts and domains between two deformable blocks	1 - 17
Figure 1.9	Examples of block mapping to cell space, in two dimensions	1 - 18
Figure 1.10	Basic joint behavior model used in <i>UDEC</i>	1 - 21
Figure 1.11	Zoning within a model containing a system of continuous and discontinuous joints	1 - 23
Figure 2.1	Slope geometry	2 - 13
Figure 2.2	Case 1 – rock mass failure	2 - 15
Figure 2.3	Case 2 – plane failure in slope with daylighting joints	2 - 16
Figure 2.4	Case 3 – plane failure in slope with non-daylighting joints	2 - 17
Figure 2.5	Case 4 – flexural toppling failure for joints dipping into the slope	2 - 18
Figure 2.6	Case 4 – flexural toppling mode identified from magnified block deformation	2 - 19
Figure 2.7	Case 5 – forward block toppling failure for a slope with two joint sets	2 - 20
Figure 2.8	Case 5 – forward block toppling mode identified from magnified block deformation	2 - 21
Figure 2.9	Case 6 – reverse block toppling failure for a slope with two joint sets	2 - 22
Figure 2.10	Case 6 – reverse block toppling mode identified from magnified block deformation	2 - 23
Figure 2.11	Slope model mesh	2 - 29
Figure 2.12	Factor of safety and failure surface calculated for simple slope in Hoek-Brown material	2 - 29
Figure 2.13	Simple slope in Hoek-Brown material with a Mohr-Coulomb layer	2 - 30
Figure 2.14	Factor of safety and failure surface calculated for simple slope in Hoek-Brown material with Mohr-Coulomb layer	2 - 31
Figure 2.15	Factor of safety and failure surface calculated for simple slope in Hoek-Brown material (strength reduction with respect to intact unconfined compressive strength)	2 - 35
Figure 2.16	Local minima surfaces from limit equilibrium solution for slope with beam (from Cheng et al. 2007)	2 - 38
Figure 2.17	Failure surface for global FOS	2 - 39
Figure 2.18	Gridpoint velocities at the onset of failure	2 - 39
Figure 2.19	Factor of safety contour plot	2 - 40
Figure 3.1	Cross section through an infinite length tunnel	3 - 17

Figure 3.2	<i>UDEC</i> initial geometry	3 - 23
Figure 3.3	Plot of the history of the damped, W_k (hist 21), and incremental kinetic energy, U_k (hist 11), components. (The kinetic energy drops to zero as the model comes to equilibrium, whereas the damped (summed kinetic) energy approaches a constant value.)	3 - 26

EXAMPLES

Example 2.1	Failure modes of a simple slope in jointed Mohr-Coulomb material	2 - 24
Example 2.2	Factor of safety with respect to shear strength for Hoek-Brown material ..	2 - 31
Example 2.3	Factor of safety with respect to intact unconfined compressive strength for Hoek-Brown material	2 - 36
Example 2.4	Global factor-of-safety calculations for slope with berm	2 - 41
Example 2.5	Local factor-of-safety calculations for slope with berm	2 - 41
Example 3.1	Energy calculations for excavation of a circular hole	3 - 24