

## Modelling the plastic response of dilative and compacting soils with suffusion

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- 1 Introduction: modelling strategy
- 2 A plasticity model accounting for suffusive behaviour
  - Model formulation
  - The case of dense dilative soils
  - The case of loose compactive soils
- 3 Conclusions and outlook

# Is a Cam-Clay based model able to capture suffusion effects ?

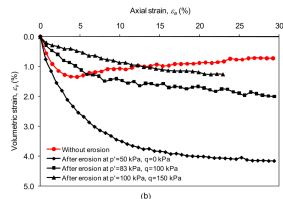
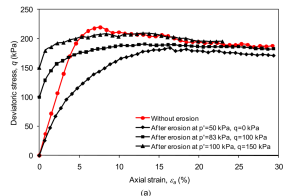
## What to model ?

Suffusion may have different mechanical implications, depending on the soil initial properties.

## Features for dense/dilative soils

- i) Switching behaviour from dense to loose
- ii) Vanishing of the strength peak
- iii) (Induced strain)

(Observations from Chang and Zhang [2011])

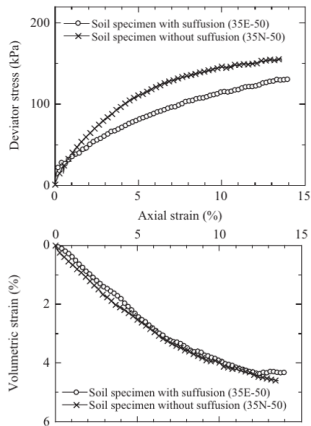


After Chang and Zhang [2011]

# Is a Cam-Clay based model able to capture suffusion effects ?

## What to model ?

Suffusion may have different mechanical implications, depending on the soil initial properties.



After Ke and Takahashi 2014 [2014]

## Features for loose/contractive soils

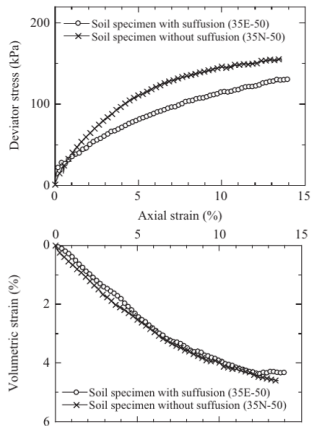
- i) Preserved loose behaviour
- ii) Residual strength reduction
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# Is a Cam-Clay based model able to capture suffusion effects ?

## What to model ?

Suffusion may have different mechanical implications, depending on the soil initial properties.



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## Features for loose/contractive soils

- i) Preserved loose behaviour
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## Modelling strategy

- i) Classical elasto-plasticity theory
- ii) Extend an existing model (e.g. Cam-Clay based)
- iii) Keep it as simple as possible
- iv) Evaluate its abilities

# Kinematics of a suffusive porous medium

Hypothesis : grains are incompressible

Classical porous medium:  
Volume changes = porosity variations

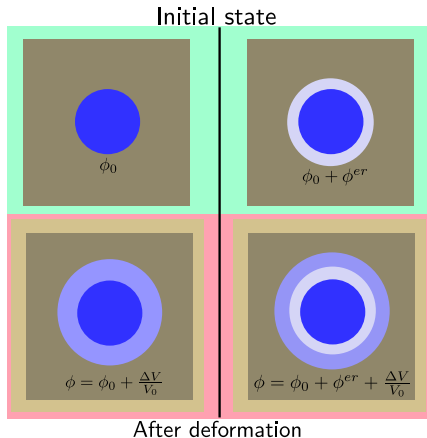
$$\frac{\Delta V}{V_0} = \phi - \phi_0$$

Accounting suffusion

According Zhang et al., [2010]:  
Suffusion = modification of the reference state  
(before deformation).

$$\text{Suffusive porous medium : } \frac{\Delta V}{V_0} = \phi - \underbrace{(\phi_0 + \phi^{er})}_{\text{reference}}$$

$\phi^{er}$  : porosity generated by suffusion



# The parent model: "Sinfonietta-Classica" (R. Nova [1988])

## Loading surface and plastic potential

$$f(\sigma', p_c) = 3\beta(z-3) \ln \frac{p'}{p_c} + \frac{9}{4}(z-1) \frac{q^2}{p'^2} + z \frac{\det s'}{p'^3}$$

$$g(\sigma', p_g) = 9(z-3) \ln \frac{p'}{p_g} + \frac{9}{4}(z-1) \frac{q^2}{p'^2} + z \frac{\det s'}{p'^3}$$

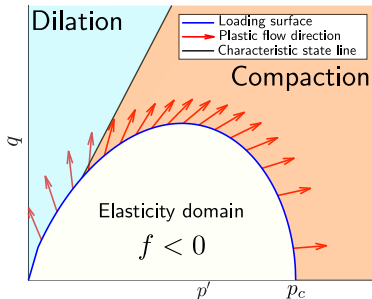
## The plastic flow

$$\text{Non associative flow rule : } \dot{\epsilon}_{ij}^p = \dot{\lambda} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma'_{ij}}$$

## The hardening law

$$\dot{p}_c = \frac{p_c}{\beta_p} \left( -\dot{\epsilon}_v^p + \kappa \left\| \dot{\epsilon}_d^p \right\| \right)$$

- i)  $\beta_p$  : plastic compliance
- ii)  $\kappa$  : deviatoric hardening (typical for medium/dense sands)



Loading surface and plastic flow direction  
(Cambridge plane)

# Improving the parent model (1/2) : hardening law

## Notation

$\phi^{ir}$ : irreversible porosity

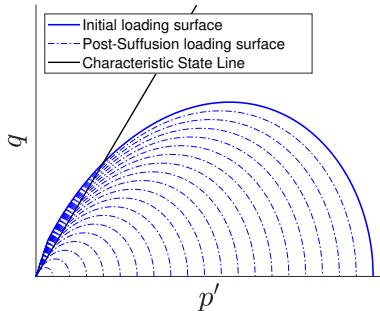
## Rephrasing and improvement

Without suffusion :  $\dot{\epsilon}_v^p = \dot{\phi}^{ir}$

$$\dot{p}_c = \frac{p_c}{\beta_p} \left( -\dot{\phi}^{ir} + \kappa \dot{\epsilon}^p \right)$$

With suffusion :  $\dot{\phi}^{ir} = \dot{\epsilon}_v^p + \dot{\phi}^{er}$

$$\dot{p}_c = \frac{p_c}{\beta_p} \left( -\dot{\epsilon}_v^p - \dot{\phi}^{er} + \kappa \dot{\epsilon}^p \right)$$



Shrinking of the elasticity domain

## Consequences

- i)  $\dot{\phi}^{er} > 0 \Rightarrow \dot{p}_c < 0$  : the elasticity domain shrinks
- ii) If dense sand: the peak strength vanishes
- iii) Transition in the behaviour: dense  $\rightarrow$  loose
- iv) Plastic strains develops while suffusion occurs



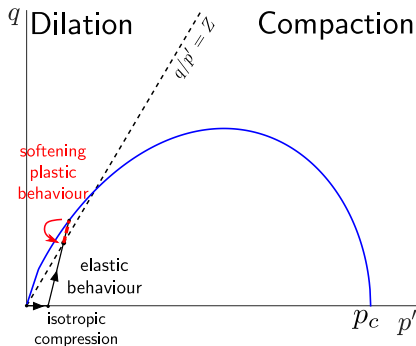
# Improving the parent model (2/2) : hardening law

## From dense to loose

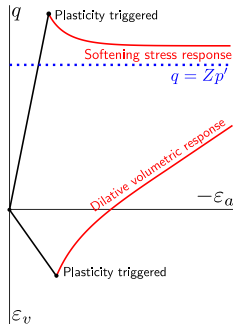
- i) Drained triaxial loading (CD)
- ii) Comparison with/without suffusion

## The behaviour typology depends on the stress state

- i) if  $q/p' < Z$  : Contractive behaviour
- ii) if  $q/p' > Z$  : Dilative behaviour



Loading path, without suffusion



Stress strain behaviour, without suffusion

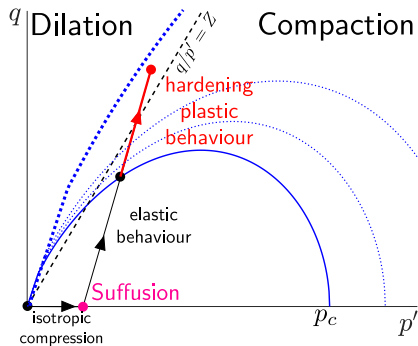
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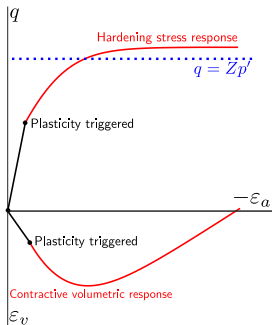
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Loading path, with suffusion



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## Test program

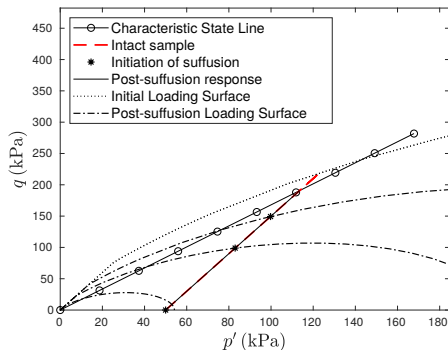
- 1) Strain driven loading toward a given  $q'_p$
- 2) Suffusion-like loading :

$$\phi^{er} : \mathbf{0} \xrightarrow{+d\phi^{er}, d\sigma' = \mathbf{0}} \phi_{max}^{er}$$

- 3) Strain driven loading
- 4) Mechanical failure

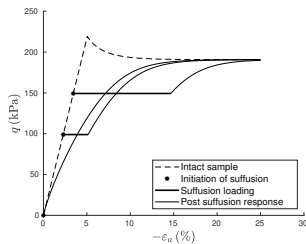
## Parameters (calibrated with respect to Chang and Zhang [2011])

$E = 4.34 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $\nu = 0.36$ ,  $p_{c0} = 720 \text{ kPa}$ ,  $\beta = 1.2$ ,  $\beta_p = 0.012$ ,  $\varkappa = 0$

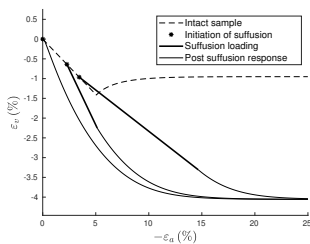


Drained triaxial compression loading path

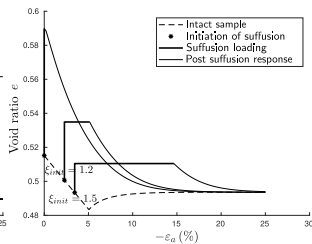
# Simulations : dense gap-graded under drained triaxial compression (2/2)



Stress response



Volumetric response (1)



Volumetric response (2)

## Model abilities

- The peak strength vanishes
- Dense  $\rightarrow$  Loose
- Plastic strains develop while suffusion occurs
- Critical state is not affected
- Experimental behaviour is qualitatively captured

# The case of the loose sands : characteristic state parametrization

## Characteristic state

$$\frac{q}{p'} = \frac{6 \sin \varphi}{3 - \sin \varphi} \Rightarrow \dot{\epsilon}_v^p = 0$$

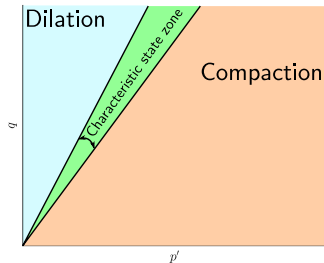
## Porosity parametrization

$$\varphi(\phi^{er}) = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{er} \left( 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{1}{l} (\phi^{er} - A\phi_{max}^{er}) \right) \right) + \frac{1}{2} \varphi_i \left( 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{1}{l} (A\phi_{max}^{er} - \phi^{er}) \right) \right) \quad (1)$$

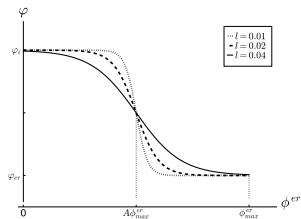
- $A\phi_{max}^{er}$  : porosity threshold
- $l$  : transition bandwidth

## Consequences

- i) Characteristic state zone
- ii) Transition from contractive to  $\leftrightarrow$  dilative
- iii) Reduction of residual strength



Characteristic state zone



Evolving characteristic state friction angle

## Programme d'essai

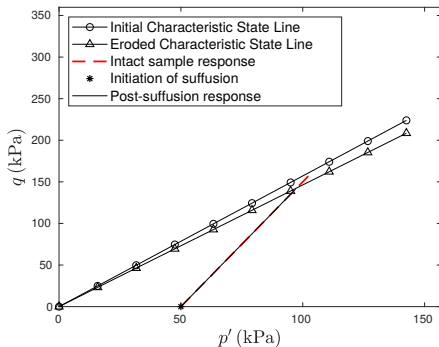
- 1) Suffusion-like loading :

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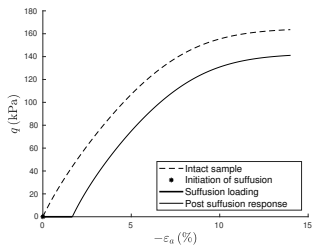
## Parameters (calibrated with respect to Ke and Takahashi [2014])

$E = 3.46 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $\nu = 0.25$ ,  $p_{c0} = 50 \text{ kPa}$ ,  $\beta = 1.2$ ,  $\beta_p = 0.01$ ,  $\varkappa = 0$ ,

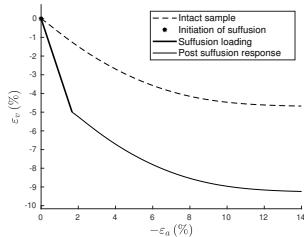


Drained triaxial compression loading path

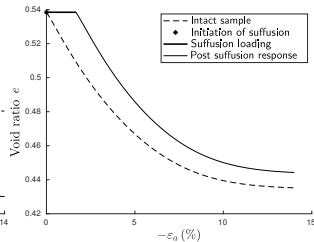
# Simulations : loose gap-graded under drained triaxial compression (2/2)



Réponse contrainte déformation



Réponse volumique (1)



Réponse volumique (2)

## Model abilities

- i) Loose behaviour is preserved
- ii) Critical state changes
- iii) Experimental behaviour is qualitatively captured

## Model technical advantages

- 1) Simple Cam-Clay based model with few new parameters (0 or 5)
- 2) Suffusion induced porosity is naturally introduced as hardening variable
- 4) Calibration against *exp. data* is possible. (see for details Nova, (1988))

## Model abilities

- 1) Strength peak disappearance
- 2) Eventual residual strength reduction
- 3) Change in the volumetric behaviour
- 4) Suffusion induced strains

## Outlook

- 1) *Poro-elastoplastic* modelling
- 2) *Proper model calibration with respect to laboratory test (triaxial apparatus, oedo-permeameter)*
- 3) Consider the effect of suffusion induced heterogeneities (master thesis starting in feb/march 2021)



Thank you for your attention

- Zhang, X. S., Wong, H., Leo, C. J., Bui, T. A., Wang, J. X., Sun, W. H., & Huang, Z. Q. (2013). A thermodynamics-based model on the internal erosion of earth structures. *Geotechnical and Geological Engineering*, 31(2), 479-492.
- Chang, D. S., & Zhang, L. M. (2011). A stress-controlled erosion apparatus for studying internal erosion in soils. *Geotechnical Testing Journal*, 34(6), 579-589.
- Ke, L., & Takahashi, A. (2014). Experimental investigations on suffusion characteristics and its mechanical consequences on saturated cohesionless soil. *Soils and Foundations*, 54(4), 713-730.