



Amirkabir University of Technology  
(Tehran Polytechnic)



**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Deep Foundations**

# **Uncertainty and Reliability Appraisal of CPT-Based Methods for Axial Pile Bearing Capacity**

(PID1259064)

**By:**

**Prof. Abolfazl Eslami**

**Dr. Sara Heidarie Golafzani**

**Las Vegas, 12-15 October 2021**

# Outline

---

<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarks and Conclusions</b>

# 1-Generals

## Data Sources in Geotechnical Engineering

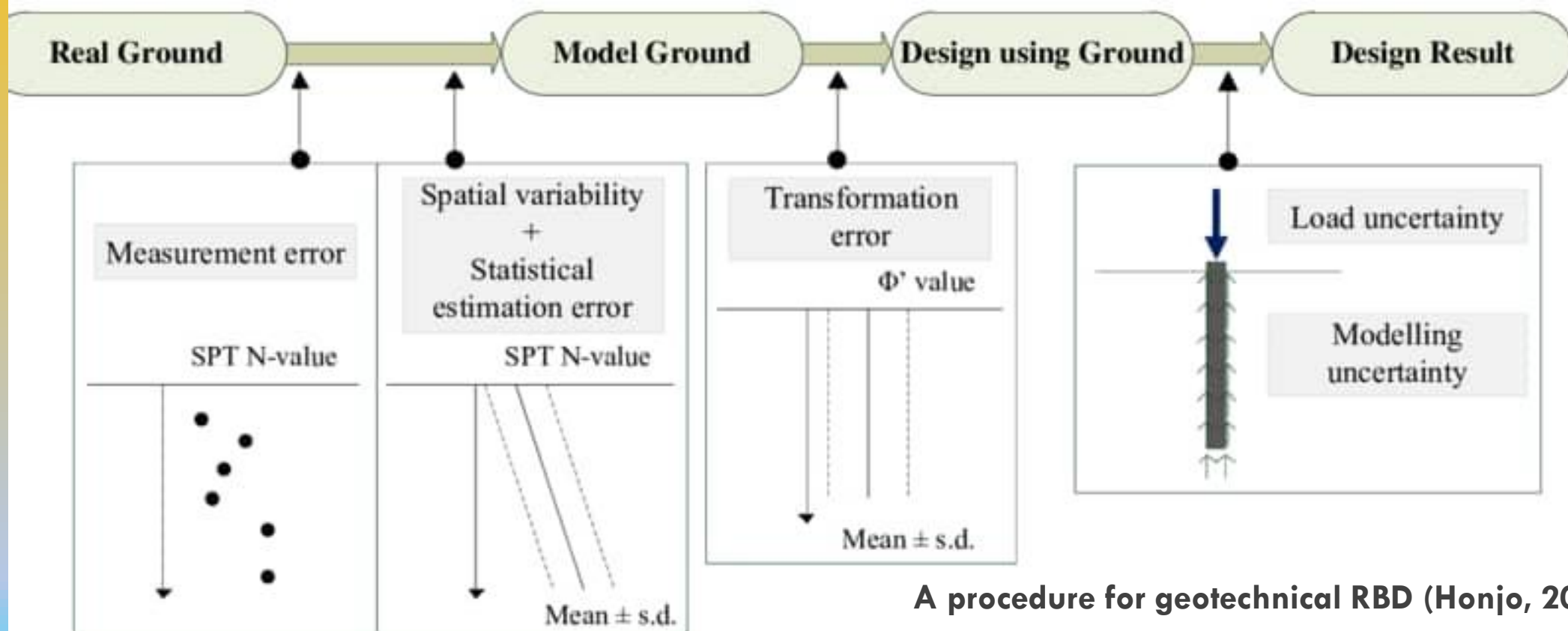
### Sources of Data:

1. Maps
2. Site visit
3. Drilling, boring, and sampling
4. Non-destructive tests (Geophysical tests)
5. On-situ tests
6. In-situ penetrating tests
7. Laboratory element testing
8. Laboratory physical modeling (model scale)
9. Full-scale testing
10. Instrumentation and Monitoring



# 1-Generals

## Uncertainty in Geotechnical Engineering



- Soil and rock; the most variable of all engineering materials.
- Uncertainties In Geotechnical designs
- Role of judgement

# 1-Generals

## Uncertainty in Geotechnical Engineering

Variability from in-situ testing (Phoon and Kulhawy, 1999)

Test	Equipment	Oper./proc.	Random	Total <sup>a</sup>	Range <sup>b</sup>
Standard penetration test (SPT)	0.05 <sup>c</sup> –0.75 <sup>d</sup>	0.05 <sup>c</sup> –0.75 <sup>d</sup>	0.12–0.15	0.14 <sup>c</sup> –1.00 <sup>d</sup>	0.15–0.45
Mechanical cone penetration test (CPT)	0.05	0.10 <sup>e</sup> –0.15 <sup>f</sup>	0.10 <sup>e</sup> –0.15 <sup>f</sup>	0.15 <sup>e</sup> –0.22 <sup>f</sup>	0.15–0.25
Electric cone penetration test (ECPT)	0.03	0.05	0.05 <sup>e</sup> –0.10 <sup>f</sup>	0.07 <sup>e</sup> –0.12 <sup>f</sup>	0.05–0.15
Vane shear test (VST)	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.14	0.10–0.20
Dilatometer test (DMT)	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.11	0.05–0.15
Pressuremeter test, pre-bored (PMT)	0.05	0.12	0.10	0.16	0.10–0.20 <sup>g</sup>
Self-boring pressuremeter test (SBPMT)	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.19	0.15–0.25 <sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup>  $\text{COV}(\text{total})^2 = \text{COV}(\text{equipment})^2 + \text{COV}(\text{operator/procedure})^2 + \text{COV}(\text{random})^2$ .

<sup>b</sup> Because of statistical estimation uncertainty and subjective judgment involved in estimating COVs, ranges represent plausible magnitudes of measurement uncertainty for field tests.

<sup>c,d</sup> Best- to worst-case scenarios, respectively, for SPT.

<sup>e,f</sup> Tip and side resistances, respectively.

<sup>g</sup> It is likely that results may differ for  $p_0$ ,  $p_f$  and  $p_L$ , but data are insufficient to clarify this issue.

# 1-Generals

## Uncertainty in Geotechnical Engineering

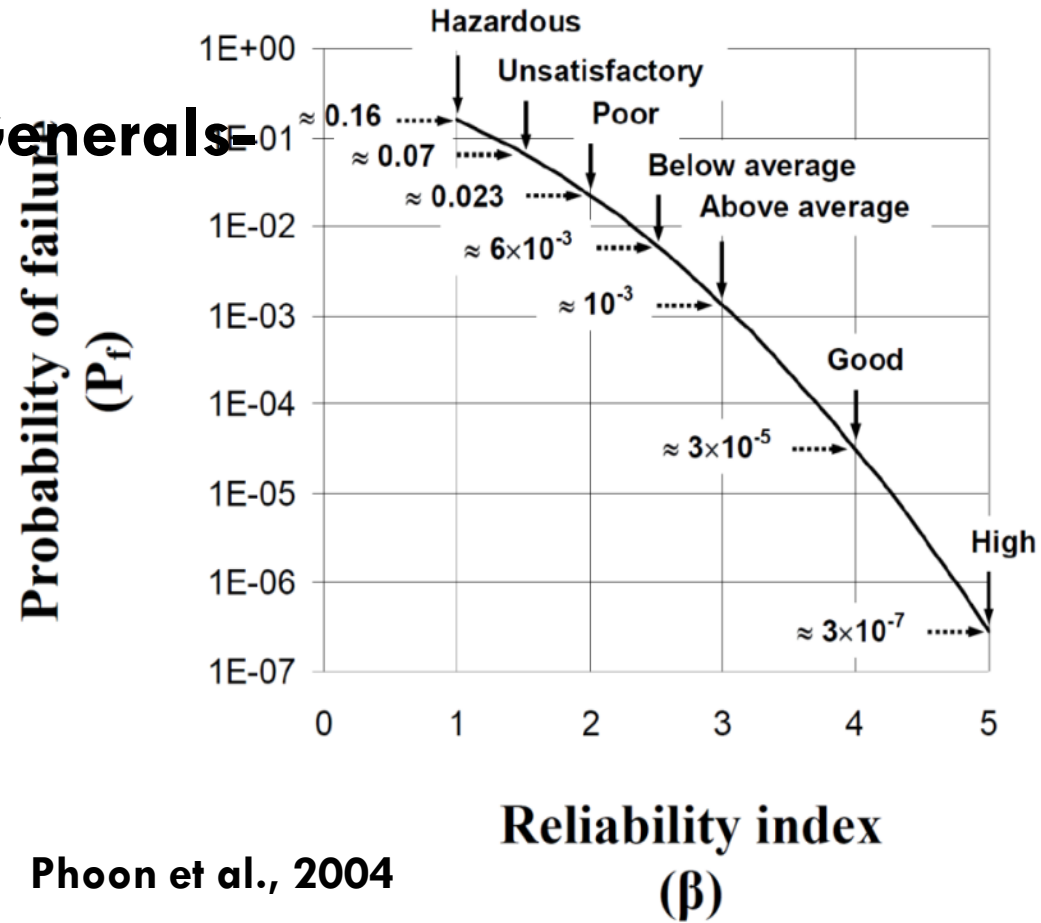
Variability from laboratory testing (Phoon and Kulhawy, 1999)

Test	Property	Soil type	Coefficient of variation (%)	
			Range	Mean
Atterberg tests	Plasticity index	Fine grained	5-51	24
Triaxial compression	Effective angle of friction	Clay, silt	7-56	24
Direct shear	Shear strength, $C_u$	Clay, silt	19-20	20
Triaxial compression	Shear strength, $C_u$	Clay, silt	8-38	19
Direct shear	Effective angle of friction	Sand	13-14	14
Direct shear	Effective angle of friction	Clay	6-22	14
Direct shear	Effective angle of friction	Clay, silt	3-29	13
Atterberg tests	Plastic limit	Fine grained	7-18	10
Triaxial compression	Effective angle of friction	Sand, silt	2-22	8
Atterberg tests	Liquid limit	Fine grained	3-11	7
Unit weight	Density	Fine grained	1-2	1

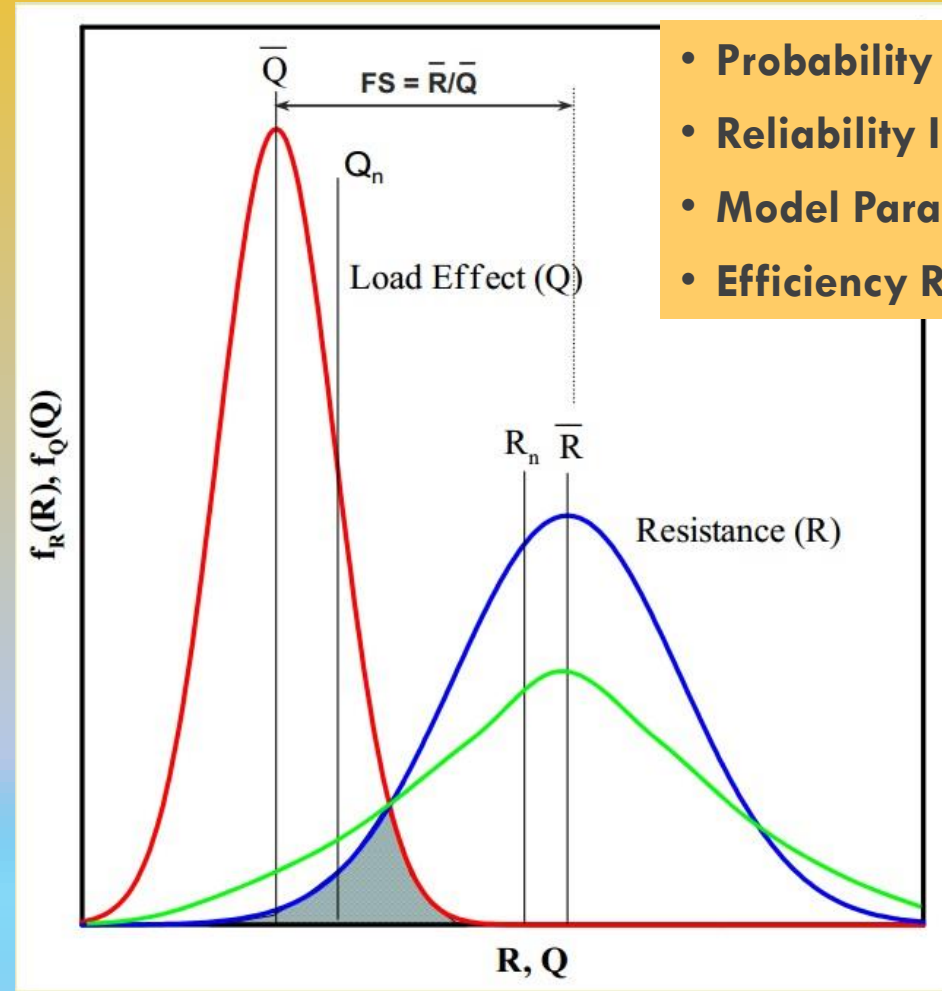
# 1-Generals

## Reliability Index & Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD)

Generals-



$$\beta = -\Phi^{-1}(p_f) = \Phi^{-1}(1 - p_f)$$



- Probability of Failure
- Reliability Index
- Model Parameter
- Efficiency Ratio

# Outline

---

<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarks and Conclusions</b>



## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

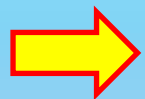
### In-situ Testing vs. Laboratory Testing

#### Laboratory Tests Problems

- Difficulties for undisturbed sample
- Soil disturbance
- Soil volume change
- Omitting confinement pressure
- Size effect and size limits

#### In-Situ Tests

- Overcome sampling difficulties
- Simple and fast
- Economical
- Generally applicable in foundation engineering



**In-situ testing and Laboratory testing are complementary.**

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

### Cone Penetrometer (CPTu) Probes and Terminology

- ASTM D 5778 procedures
- No boring, No samples, No spoil
- Hydraulic Push at 20 mm/s
- Range of sizes: 10 cm<sup>2</sup> and 15 cm<sup>2</sup> probes

#### Advantages:

- Fast and continuous profiling
- Repeatable and reliable
- Continuous records of  $q_c$ ,  $f_s$ ,  $u$  per 2.5 cm
- Strong theoretical basis for interpretation

#### Disadvantages:

- High capital investment
- Requires skilled operators
- Limitation of use in gravel or cemented soils



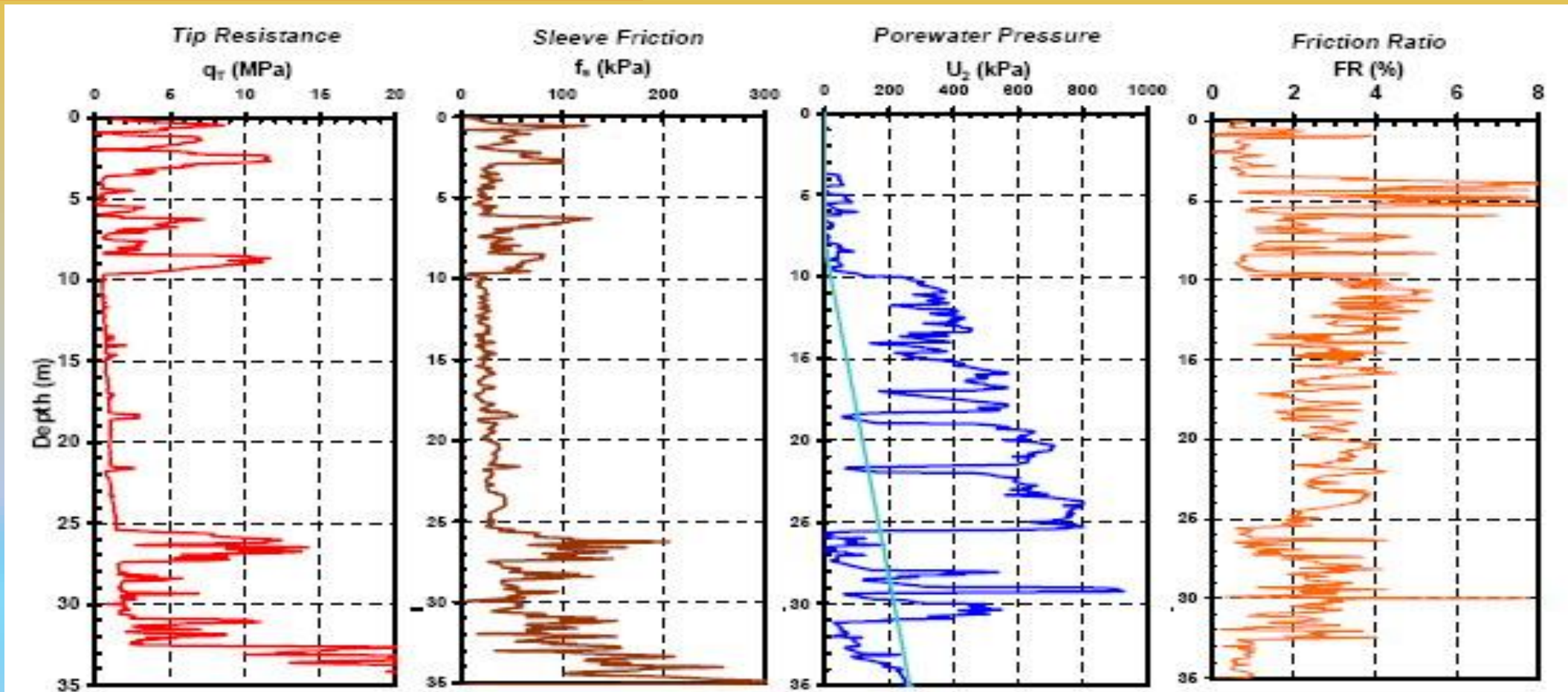
# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Cone Tracks, Trucks and Special Rigs



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

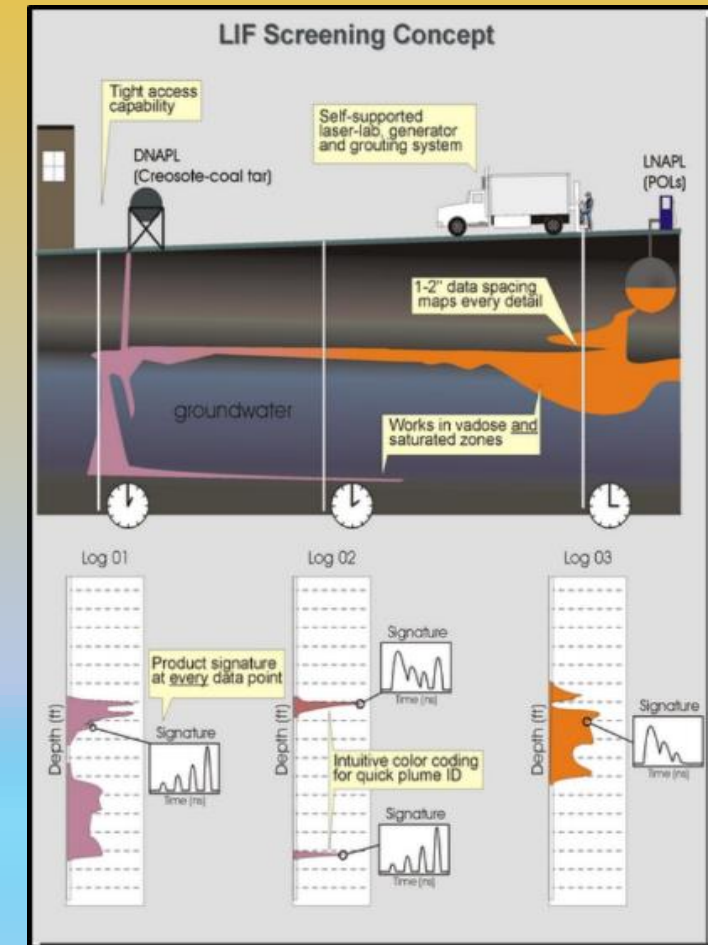
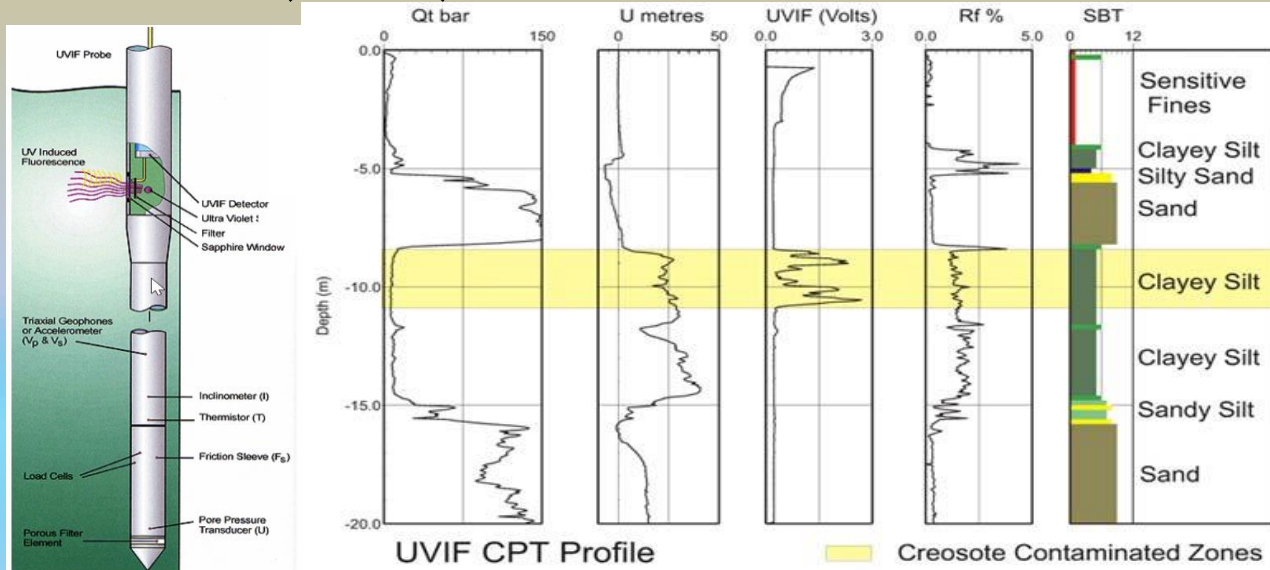
## CPTu: Graphical Records and Log



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Special Piezocones

- ❑ Resistivity Cone Penetration Test (RCPTu)
- ❑ Seismic Cone Penetration Test (SCPTu)
- ❑ Piezovibrocone
- ❑ Ultra violet induced fluorescence Cone Penetration Test (UVIF CPT)
- ❑ MiniCone and Camera Cone
- ❑ Cone Pressuremeter (CPMT)



## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

### APPLICATIONS OF CPT IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

#### Soil Behavior Classification (SBC) & Profiling

Estimating soil strength and  
stiffness parameters

Soil improvement assessment

Problematic soils recognition

#### Foundation Engineering

Direct approaches

Indirect approaches

#### Geo-environmental Engineering

# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Bearing Capacity Estimation Methods

1. Static Methods

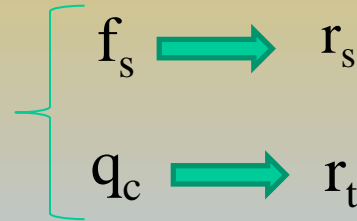
2. In-situ Tests

3. Static Loading Test

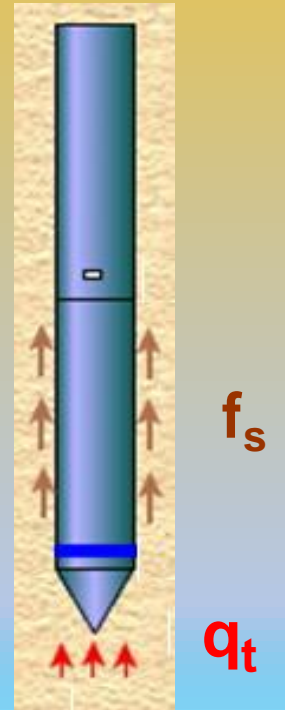
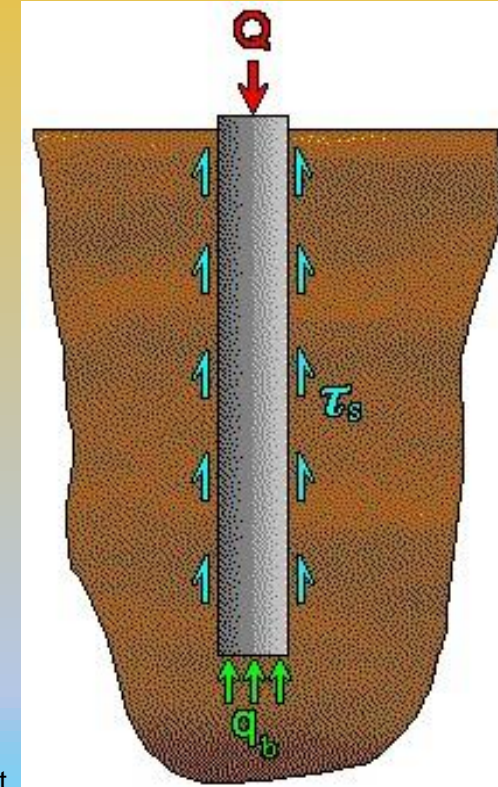
4. Dynamic Methods

5. Numerical Analysis

### 1- Direct Approaches:



### 2- Indirect Approaches:



**Similarities between the cone penetrometer and piles  
Penetrometer can be realized as a model pile.**

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

### Bearing Capacity Direct CPT and CPTu-based methods: Pile Bearing Capacity

No.	Method/ Reference	No.	Method/ Reference
1	Begemann (1963, 1965, 1969)	15	Fugro-05 (Kolk et al. 2005)
2	Meyerhof (1956, 1976, 1983)	16	UCD-05 (Gavin and Lehane 2005)
3	Aoki and Velloso (1975)	17	ICP-05 (Jardine et al. 2005)
4	Nottingham (1975), Schmertmann (1978)	18	UWA-05 (Lehane et al. 2005)
5	Penpile (Clisby et al.1978)	19	NGI-05 (Clausen et al. 2005)
6	Dutch (de Ruiter & Beringen 1979)	20	Cambridge-05 (White & Bolton 2005)
7	Philipponnat ( 1980)	21	Togiliani (2008)
8	LCPC (Bustamante & Gianceselli 1982)	22	German (Kempfert and Becker 2010)
9	Cone-m (Tumay & Fakhroo 1982)	23	UCD-11 (Igoe et al. 2010, 2011)
10	Price and Wardle (1982)	24	V-K (Van Dijk and Kolk 2011)
11	Gwizdala (1984)	25	SEU (Cai et al. 2011, 2012)
12	UniCone (Eslami & Fellenius 1997)	26	HKU (Yu and Yang 2012)
13	KTRI (Takesue et al. 1998)	27	UWA-13 (Lehane et al. 2013)
14	TCD-03 (Gavin and Lehane 2003)	28	Modified UniCone (Niazi and Mayne 2016)



## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

### Databases

- Databases are collections of data which are organized in order to facilitate access and retrieving data when they are needed.

- Topics of some Databases in

- Geotechnical Engineering:

1. Geohazards
2. Earthquake induced liquefaction
3. Pile loading test
4. Retaining walls and displacement
5. In-situ tests
6. Geotechnical zones and micro-zoning
7. Geotechnical aspects of shallow foundations

#### Advantages and Applications:

- I. Cost saving and project execution time
- II. Optimization of design methods
- III. Evaluation of design methods
- IV. Development of new methods
- V. Improvement of geotechnical studies

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

### Pioneers in CPT and Pile Databases:

<b>Nottingham (1975)</b>	<b>Florida, USA</b>
<b>Meyerhof (1976, 1983)</b>	<b>Canada and USA</b>
<b>Schmertmann (1978)</b>	<b>FHWA Guidelines</b>
<b>de Ruiter &amp; Beringen (1979)</b>	<b>North Sea, Europe</b>
<b>Bustamante &amp; Gianesselli (1982)</b>	<b>LCPC, French Method</b>
<b>Tummay &amp; Fakhroo (1982)</b>	<b>Louisiana, USA</b>

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

### Later developed CPT and Pile Databases:

#### Briaud and Tucker (1988) Database

- ❑ 98 case studies of steel and concrete piles with square, H, circular cross sections

#### Alsamman (1995) Database

- ❑ 95 case records of axial load testing on bored piles from 29 sites and 8 countries

#### Eslami and Fellenius (1997) Database

- ❑ 102 case studies from 40 sites and 13 countries

#### Abu-Farsakh & Titi (2004) Database

- ❑ 35 case studies of prestressed square concrete piles

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

### Later developed CPT and Pile Databases:

#### UWA (Lehane et al., 2005) Database

- ❑ 77 tensile and compressive loading tests for driven concrete piles in sands

#### ZJU-ICL Database (Yang et al., 2015)

- ❑ Zhejiang University/Imperial College London (ZJU-ICL) database
- ❑ 115 driven piles in sand

#### Kempfert & Becker (2010)

- ❑ German method
- ❑ 1000 case records

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

---

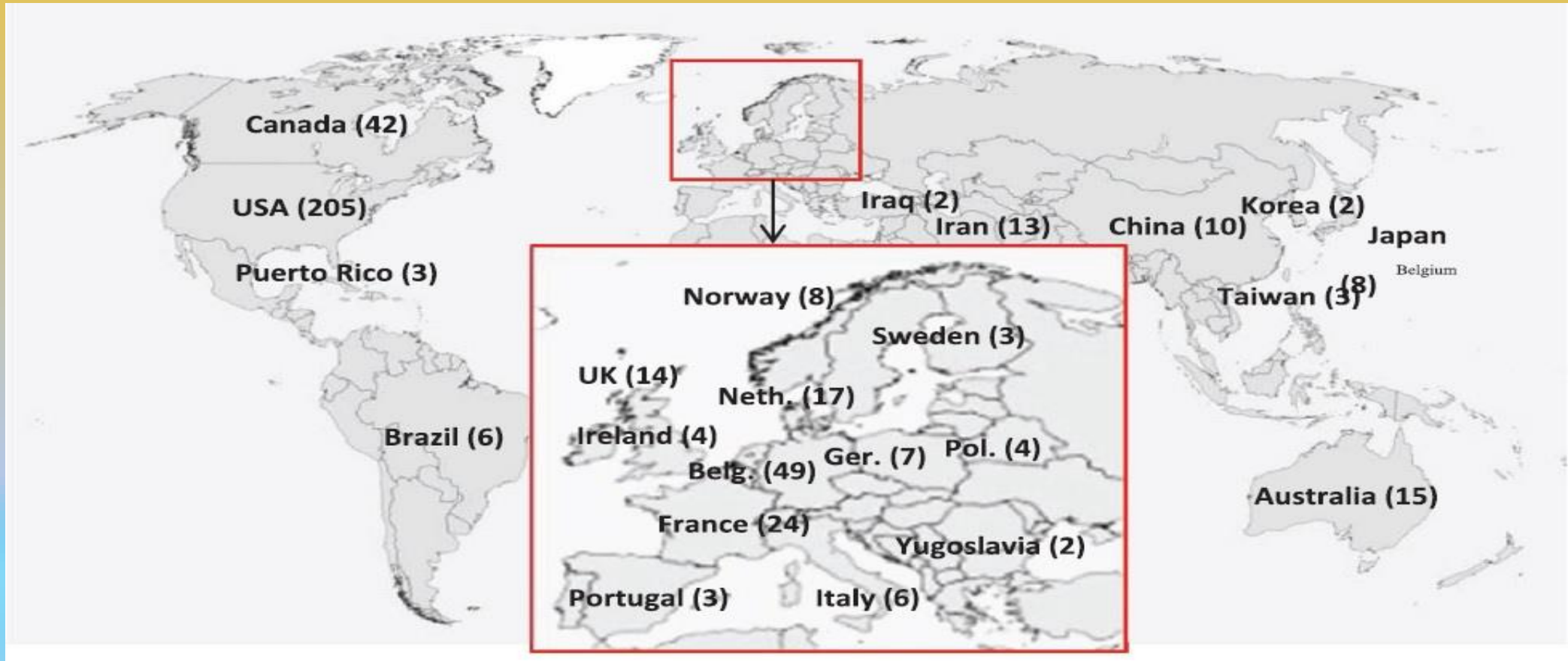
### **AUT:Geo-CPT&Pile Database**

#### **GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION, CPT AND CPT<sub>u</sub> DATA AND PILE LOADING TESTS RECORDS**

- **600 Records of pile axial loading tests along with adjacent CPT or CPT<sub>u</sub> profiles.**
- **Digitizing load-displacement diagrams derived from loading tests and CPT profiles**
- **Soil Properties**
  - **Includes a wide range of clayey, silty and sandy soils.**
  - **Classified within three categories: Sandy, Clayey and Mixed soils**

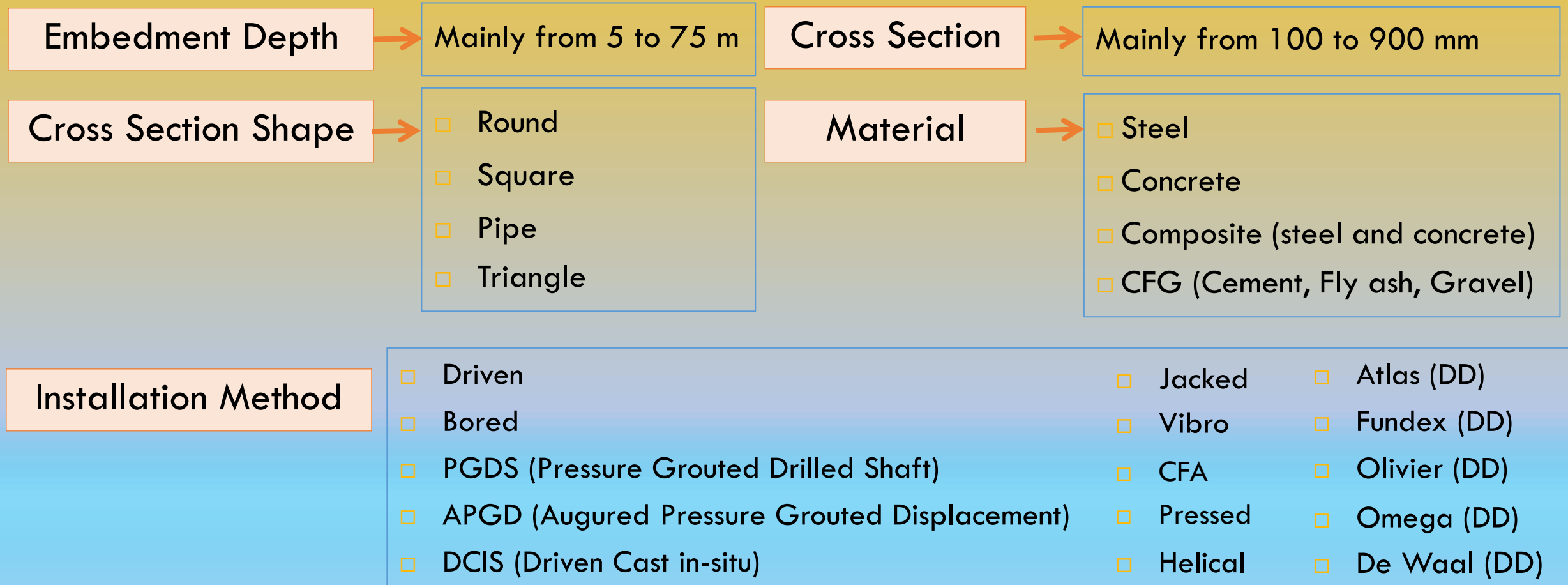
## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

600 Records of pile axial loading tests along with adjacent CPT or CPTu profiles.



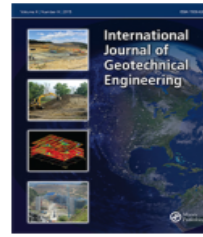
## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

### AUT:Geo-CPT&Pile Database-Piles Specifications



## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Moshfeghi & Eslami (2015-2019)



International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering



ISSN: 1938-6362 (Print) 1939-7879 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yjge20>

### Study on pile ultimate capacity criteria and CPT-based direct methods

Sara Moshfeghi and Abolfazl Eslami\*

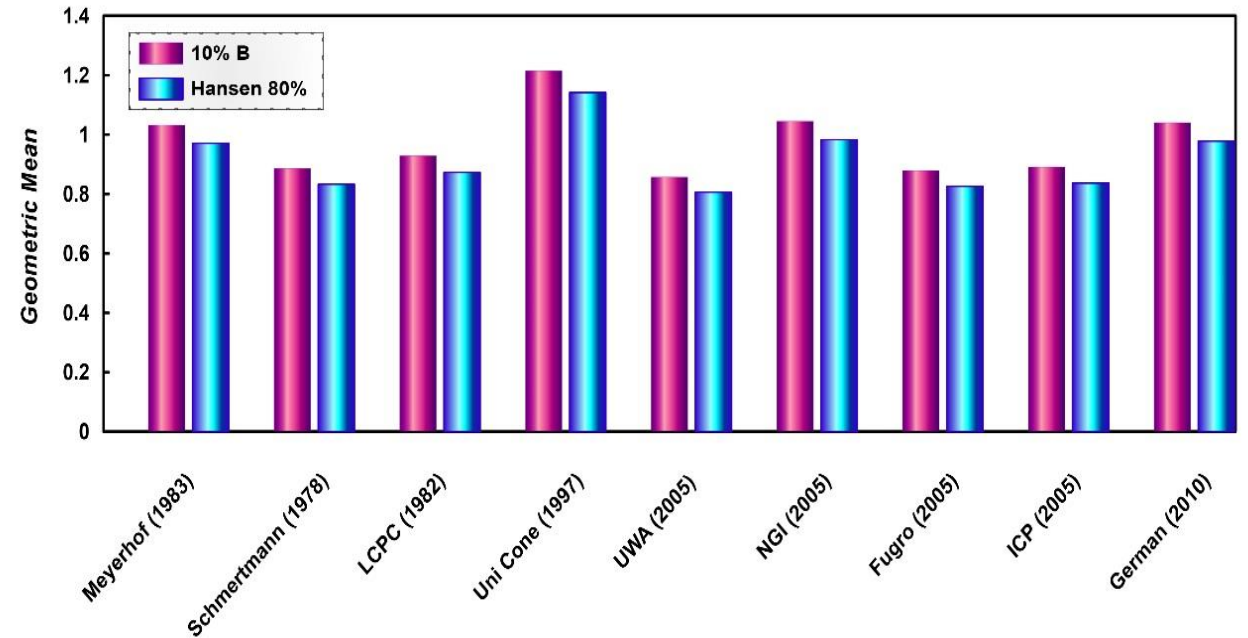
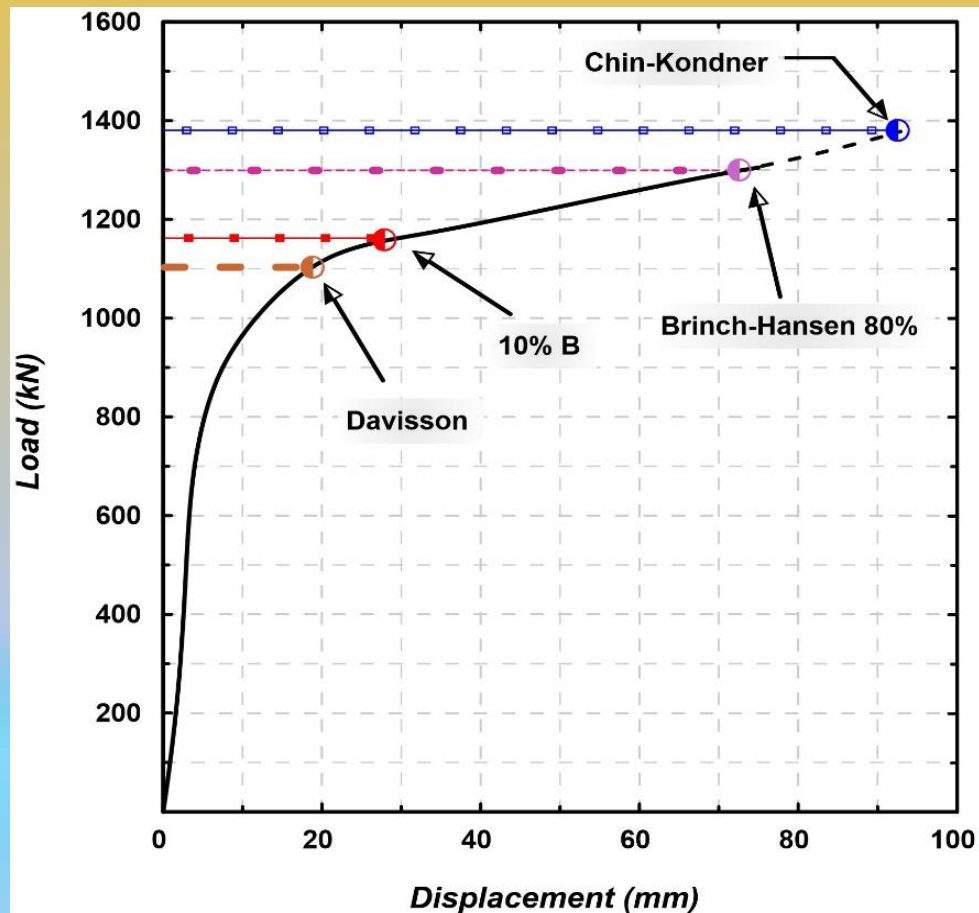
Due to the variety of current Cone Penetration Test (CPT)-based methods of estimating the pile bearing capacity, for optimum design, it is necessary to evaluate the performance of such methods in various geotechnical conditions. Geotechnical databases including piling and *in situ* testing records have been recognised as useful tools for analysis, design and economical construction. In order to evaluate current CPT-based pile bearing capacity methods, AUT-CPT and Pile database has been compiled including 450 full scale pile load tests and CPT sounding records. This database consists of different pile types with a relatively wide range of geometries and various soil conditions. Forty-three records of piles driven in sand deposits were then employed to evaluate effects of ultimate capacity interpretation criteria from load displacement diagrams. The Brinch Hansen 80% criterion and the load at the displacement of 10% of the pile diameter were compared to estimated capacities from 10 CPT-based design methods currently used in practice. The Brinch Hansen 80% criterion and the load at the displacement of 10% of the pile diameter lead to reasonable results, the Brinch Hansen 80% criterion showed less scatter. For evaluating the accuracy and the precision of CPT-based methods, the results were compared to estimated capacities. Methods with the best performance are introduced. Generally, comparisons indicate that the CPT-based methods mainly predict the pile capacity with reasonable accuracy.

**Keywords:** Ultimate pile bearing capacity, Direct CPT method, Load test, Failure criterion, Database



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

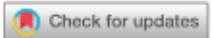
## Moshfeghi & Eslami (2015-2019)



## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Moshfeghi & Eslami (2015-2019)

MARINE GEORESOURCES & GEOTECHNOLOGY  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1064119X.2018.1448493>



### Reliability-based assessment of drilled displacement piles bearing capacity using CPT records

S. Moshfeghi and A. Eslami

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, AUT, (Tehran Polytechnic), Tehran, Iran

#### ABSTRACT

Drilled displacement piles (DDPs) are known as an alternative to conventional foundations in coastal areas, given the elimination of environmental impacts and difficulties caused by installation process of driven piles and more consistency with environment. Despite increasing employment of these piles, the extent of research works does not yet suffice the requisites to reach a routine design. This paper aims to analyze six cone penetration test (CPT)-based methods of determining the bearing capacity of DDP. The statistical and reliability-based approaches were used in two parts of assessing performance of the methods with respect to soil-pile characteristics followed by evaluating reliability of the prediction outcome. A database is compiled including 65 DDP load tests with adjacent CPT profiles. Performance of the methods are analyzed. Finally, a reliability parameter, i.e., confidence interval, is introduced to demonstrate a more realistic insight into the evaluations by expressing performance of the methods in terms of a range for possible average values of the predictions ratios, rather than simply an arithmetic mean. The study reveals that the commonly used CPT-based methods which have not been specifically developed for DDP show great potential for design. The results indicate that the investigated methods can have promising performance if some modifications are applied.

#### ARTICLE HISTORY

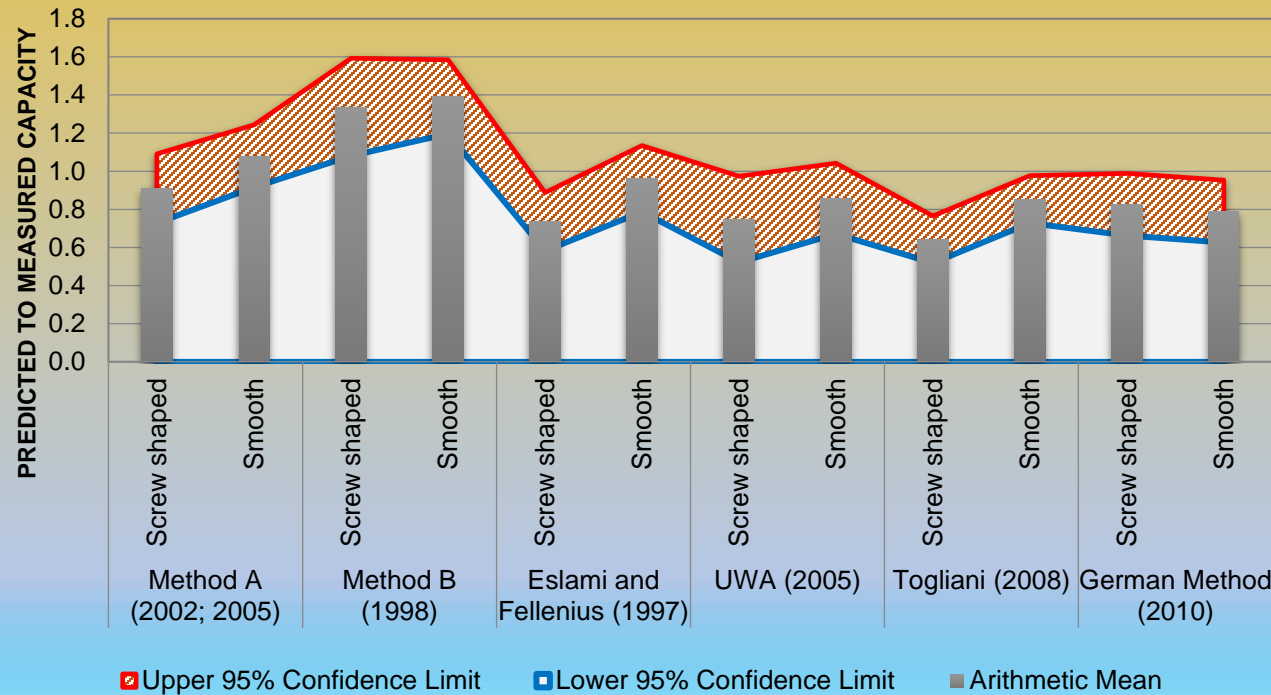
Received 10 November 2017  
Accepted 1 March 2018

#### KEYWORDS

Bearing capacity; confidence interval; CPT methods; drilled displacement pile (DDP); reliability-based evaluation

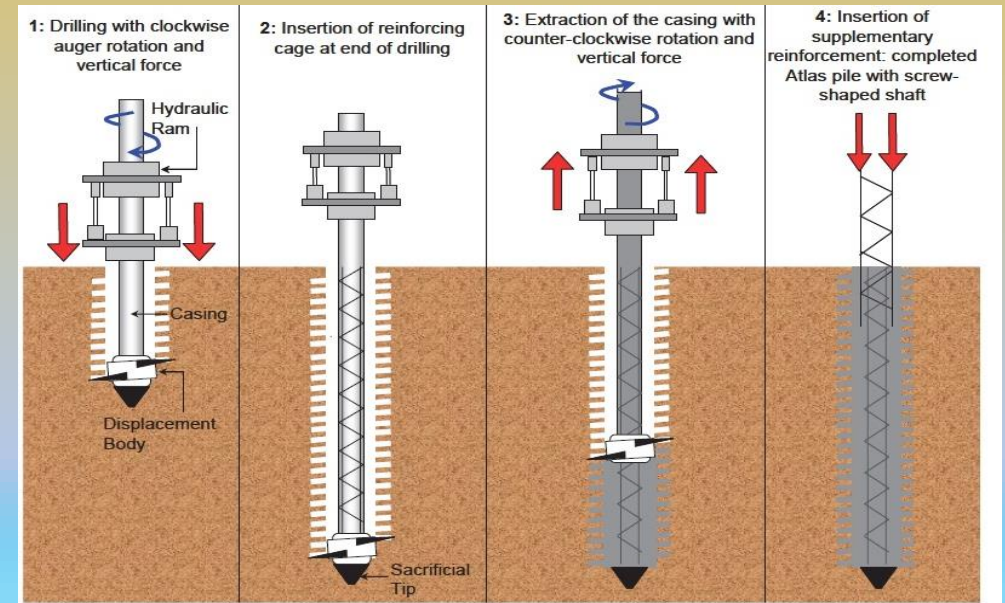
# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Moshfeghi & Eslami (2015-2019)



Evaluation results of CPT-based methods based on shaft shapes

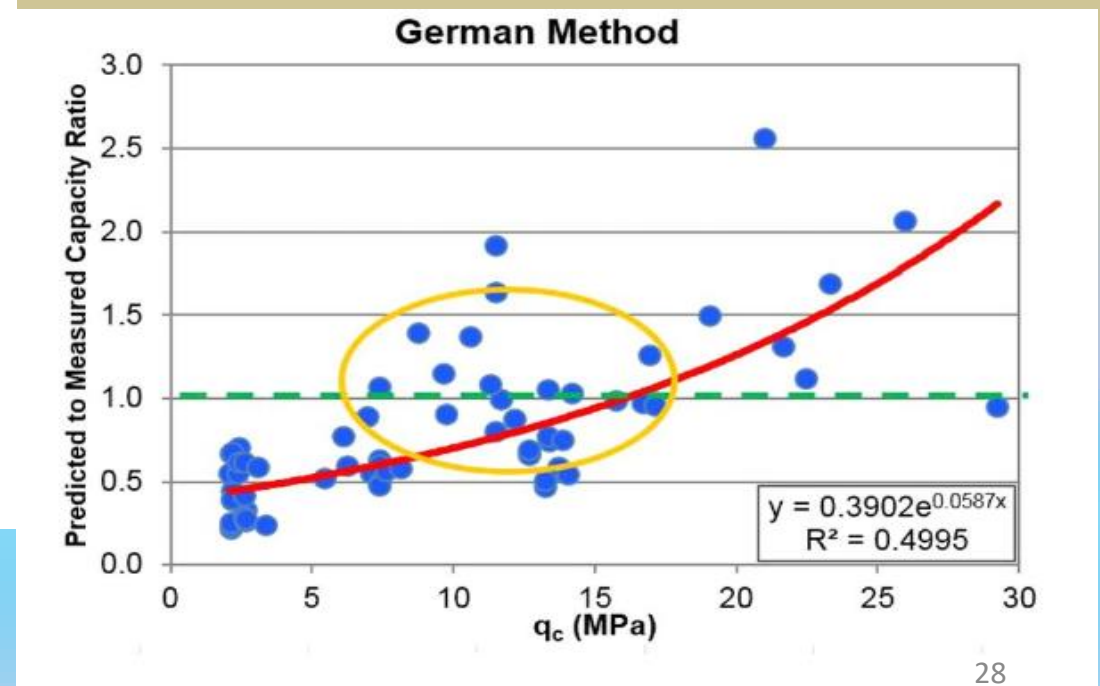
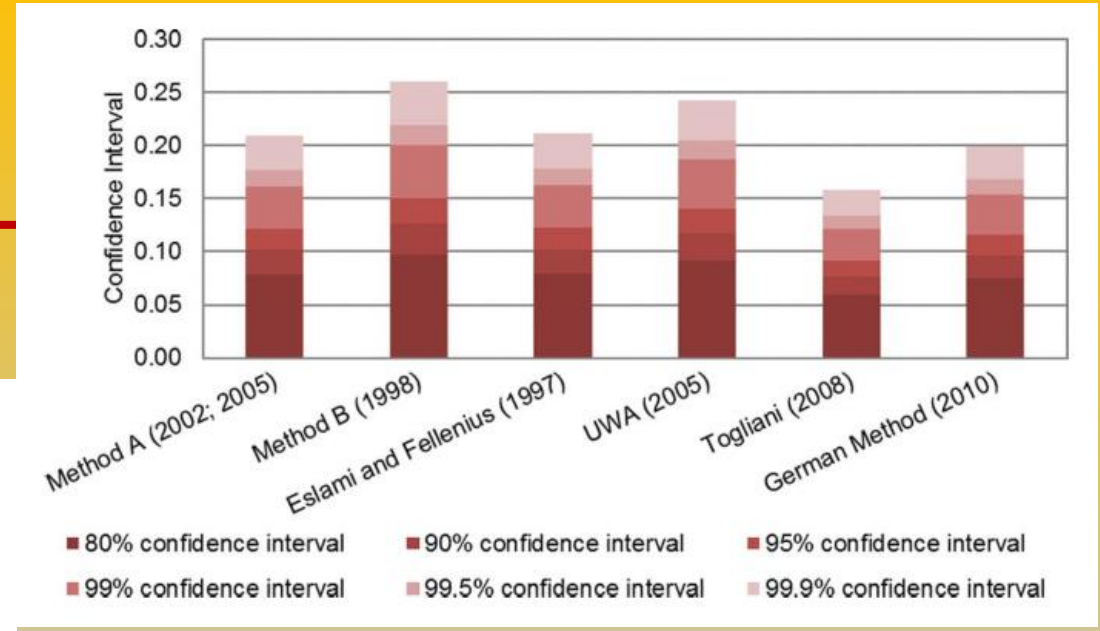
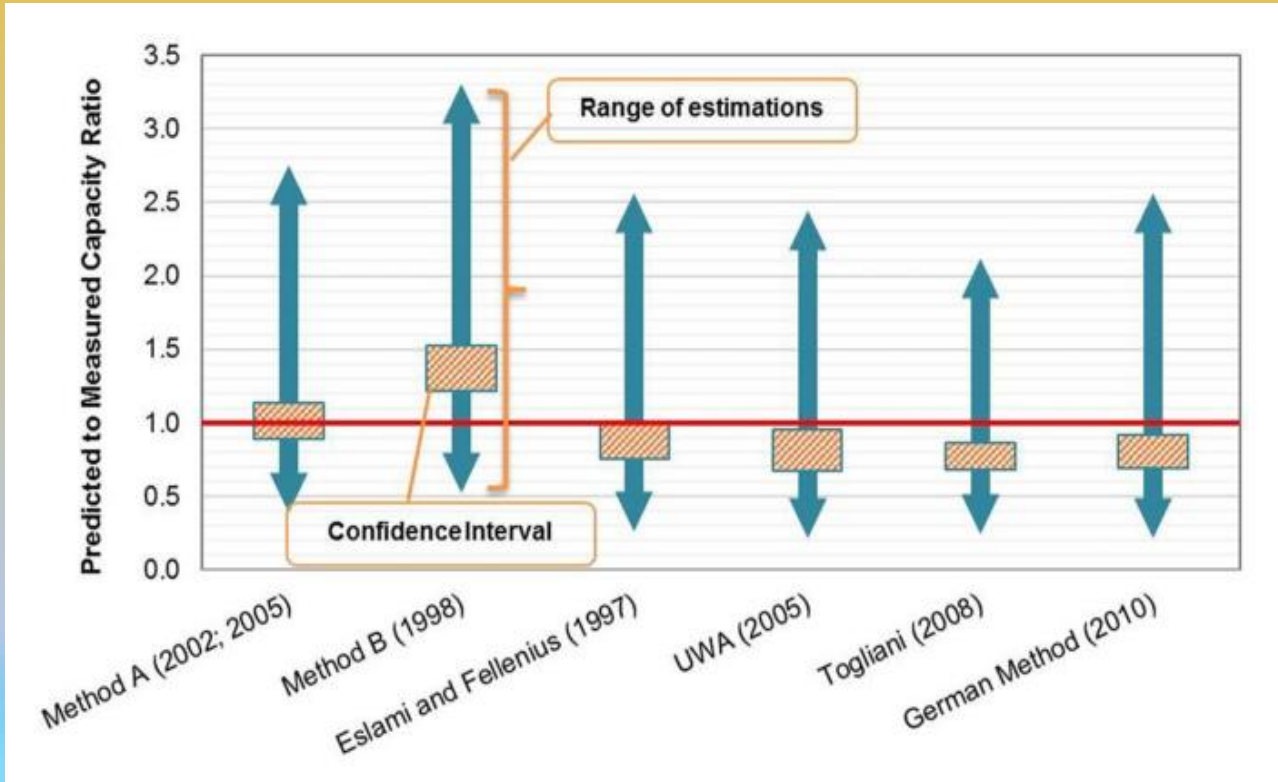
## Reliability-based Assessment of Drilled Displacement Piles Bearing Capacity Using CPT Records



Drilling displacement procedure of Atlas piles (Basu et al., 2010)

# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Moshfeghi & Eslami (2015-2019)



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

## Eslami, Moshfeghi, Heidari, Valikhah (2019)- Fellenius Issue

Geotechnical Engineering Journal of the SEAGS & AGSSEA Vol. 50 No. 2 June 2019 ISSN 0046-5828

### AUT: Geo-CPT&Pile Database Updates and Implementations for Pile Geotechnical Design

A. Eslami<sup>1</sup>, S. Moshfeghi<sup>2</sup>, S. Heidari<sup>3</sup>, F. Valikhah<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Professor, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Eng., Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT), Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Eng., Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT), Tehran, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Post Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Eng., Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT), Tehran, Iran

E-mail: [afeslami@aut.ac.ir](mailto:afeslami@aut.ac.ir)

[s.moshfeghi@aut.ac.ir](mailto:s.moshfeghi@aut.ac.ir)

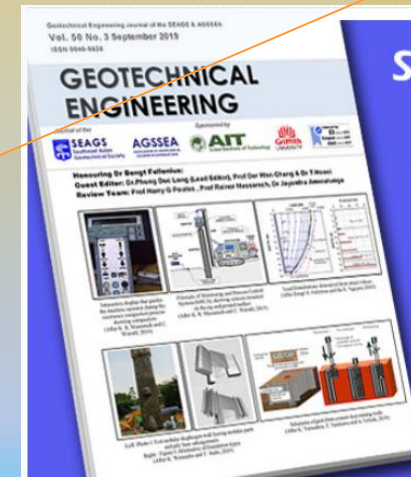
[s\\_heidari@aut.ac.ir](mailto:s_heidari@aut.ac.ir)

[fvalikhah@aut.ac.ir](mailto:fvalikhah@aut.ac.ir)

**ABSTRACT:** Due to uncertainties in geomaterial properties and modelling, a detailed and precise data source can significantly improve reliability indices. Accordingly, to facilitate quantifying the uncertainties, there are currently several databases in the realm of piling and CPT. AUT (Amirkabir University of Technology): Geo-CPT&Pile Database was initially developed in 2015 by 466 case records including pile and CPT records. At present, it is updated to the total number of 600 case records which is partly accessible online. Aiming at pile performance-based design, risk analyses and evaluation of optimum safety factor have been examined based on value engineering by Wasted Capacity Index (WCI). Subsequently, the performance of direct and indirect CPT methods for pile bearing capacity estimation has been assessed focusing on reliability-based approaches. In addition, a methodology was employed to predict the load-displacement and bearing capacity of driven piles interactively. Finally, an algorithm is implemented for pile geotechnical performance-based design through a selected database considering probabilistic, reliability and risk assessments.

**KEYWORDS:** AUT: Geo-CPT & Pile Database, Pile Capacity, CPT-based Methods, Performance-Based Design (PBD)

**SEAGS** Southeast Asian  
Geotechnical Society



**SEAGS-AGSSEA  
Journal**

September 2019  
Vol. 50 No. 3

**GUEST EDITORS:**  
Dr. Phung Duc Long  
(Lead Editor),  
Prof. Der Wen Chang  
& Dr. T Hosoi

B.F.F. Fellenius  
ISSUE

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Eslami, Lotfi, Infante, Moshfeghi & Eslami (2019)



**ASCE**

### Pile Shaft Capacity from Cone Penetration Test Records Considering Scale Effects

Abolfazl Eslami<sup>1</sup>; Sepide Lotfi<sup>2</sup>; Julio Angel Infante<sup>3</sup>; Sara Moshfeghi<sup>4</sup>; and Mohammad M. Eslami A.M.ASCE<sup>5</sup>

**Abstract:** The cone penetration test (CPT) is used as a complementary approach for determining the bearing capacity of piles. Via direct CPT methods for pile capacity prediction, correlation coefficients smaller than unity are used to relate cone tip resistance and sleeve friction to pile toe and shaft capacities, respectively. For correlating CPT data to pile capacity, specific factors must be considered, such as diameter, penetration rate, partial embedment of pile toe into a hard layer, mechanism of plunging, failure zone, data processing, and stress-strain conditions. The aim of this paper is to investigate the role and significance of scale effects to establish a direct relation between CPT records and pile shaft capacity. A database has been compiled including 83 full-scale pile load tests and CPT records in order to calibrate and validate the proposed approach. The less-than-unity ratio of pile shaft capacity to cone sleeve friction (i.e.,  $r_s/f_s$ ) for most of the cases shows that shear stress in the soil surrounding the pile is smaller than in the soil around the cone. Therefore, the differences between pile and penetrometer penetration rate and geometry are considered as the major factors that cause lower shear strain in the soil around the pile. By considering the determinants, an analytical-practical procedure is proposed, from which the pile shaft capacity can be predicted using cone sleeve friction. This approach demonstrates better agreement with measured capacity by static loading test results ( $R_s$ ) and less scatter than other current CPT methods, and it can be used as a complementary approach for determining pile shaft capacity. DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)GM.1943-5622.0001652. © 2020 American Society of Civil Engineers.

**Author keywords:** Pile; Shaft capacity; CPT; Sleeve friction; Scale effects.

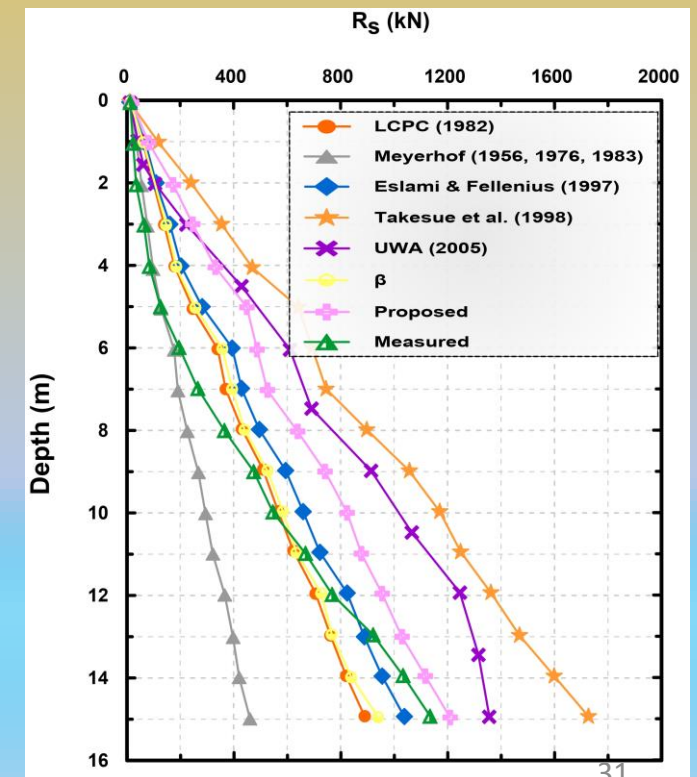
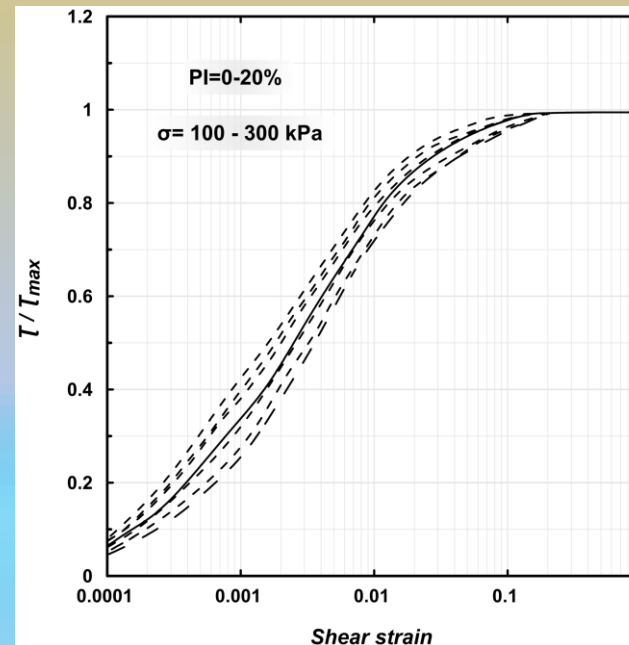
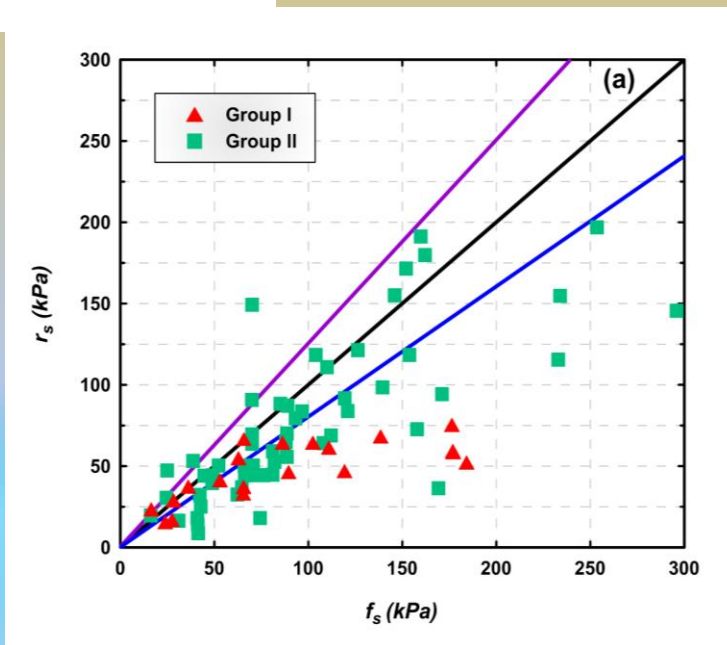
# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Eslami, Lotfi, Infante, Moshfeghi & Eslami (2019)

$$\gamma_{Pile} = 0.0255 (V_{Pile})^{0.61} \cdot (D_{Pile})^{0.5}$$

$$r_{s(z)} = k_z \cdot k \cdot f_s(z)$$

Shaft bearing capacity regarding Scale effect ( $f_s-r_s$ )



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Heidari, Eslami and Jamshidi (2019)

Geotech Geol Eng  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10706-020-01346-x>



ORIGINAL PAPER

## Probabilistic Assessment of Model Uncertainty for Prediction of Pile Foundation Bearing Capacity; Static Analysis, SPT and CPT-Based Methods

Sara Heidarie Golafzani · Abolfazl Eslami · Reza Jamshidi Chenari

Received: 10 January 2019 / Accepted: 7 May 2020  
© Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020

**Abstract** Geotechnical designs, like other engineering disciplines, are always accompanied by uncertainties. Supplying continuous and reliable records and reducing the uncertainty associated with measurement errors, the cone penetration test (CPT) enhances the geotechnical designs to a more decent level. Deep foundation design, as an essential challenge of foundation engineering, is also involved with different sources of uncertainty. Moreover, the presence of various design methods, relying on different assumptions and requirements, introduces further complications to the selection of an appropriate method, which leads to the broad spectrum of the predictions. Hence, a database, including 60 driven pile load test results and CPT records in the vicinity of them, was compiled to investigate the model uncertainties embedded in various predictive approaches. Investigated

approaches include two static analyses, five SPT, and five CPT-based methods, and were implemented to predict axial pile bearing capacity. The model parameters for these methods are investigated through seven statistical, probabilistic, and reliability-based criteria. Performance of the methods under these criteria is assessed by the use of radar charts. Moreover, the resistance factor, adopted in this study to estimate the efficiency ratio and actual factor of safety, is calibrated by four different prevailing methods. Eventually, among conventional available predictive methods, CPT-based methods perform better than others and result in cost-effective and optimized trends.

**Keywords** Uncertainty · Bearing capacity · CPT · LRFD · Reliability · Driven piles · SPT · Static analysis

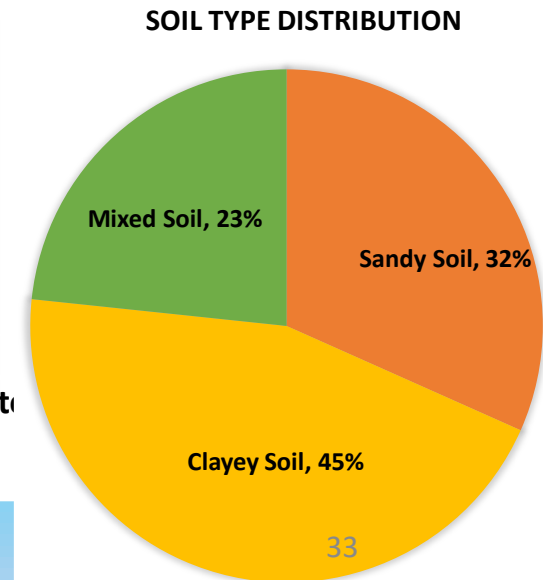
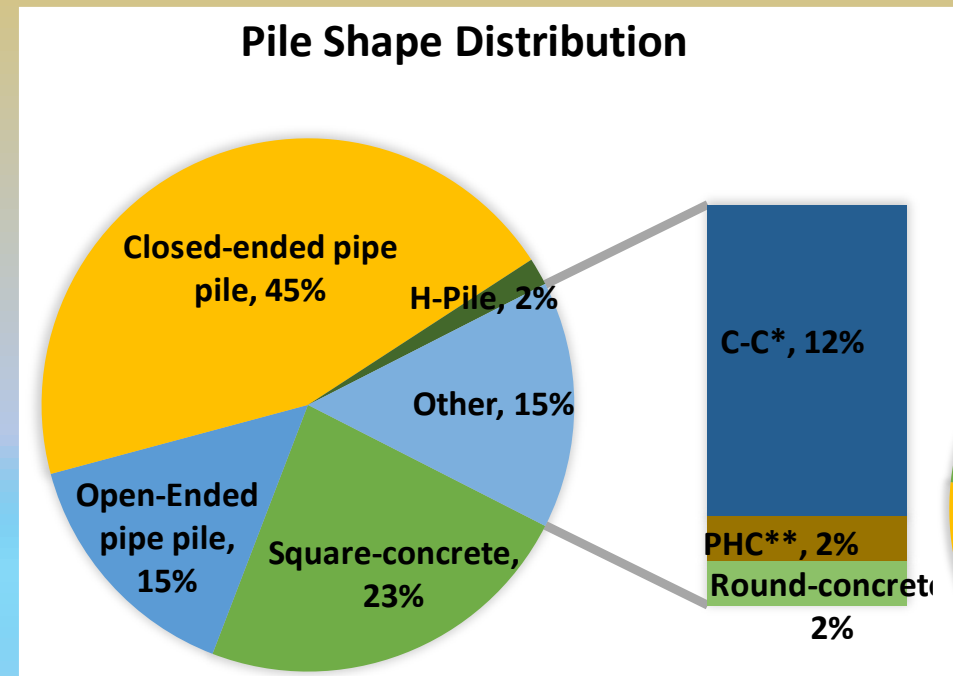


## 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Heidari, Jamshidi and Eslami (2020)

Assessment of different predictive methods for a database including 60 driven piles and their adjacent CPT records

- Static Analyses
  - CFEM
  - API
- SPT-based methods
  - Meyerhof (1976)
  - Shioi and Fukui (1982)
  - Bazaara and Kurkur (1986)
  - Briaud and Tucker (1988)
  - Decourt (1995)
- CPT-based methods
  - Schmertmann (1978)
  - DeRuiter and Beringen (1979)
  - Bustamante and Ganeselli (1982)
  - Meyerhof (1956, 1976, 1983)
  - UniCone (1997)

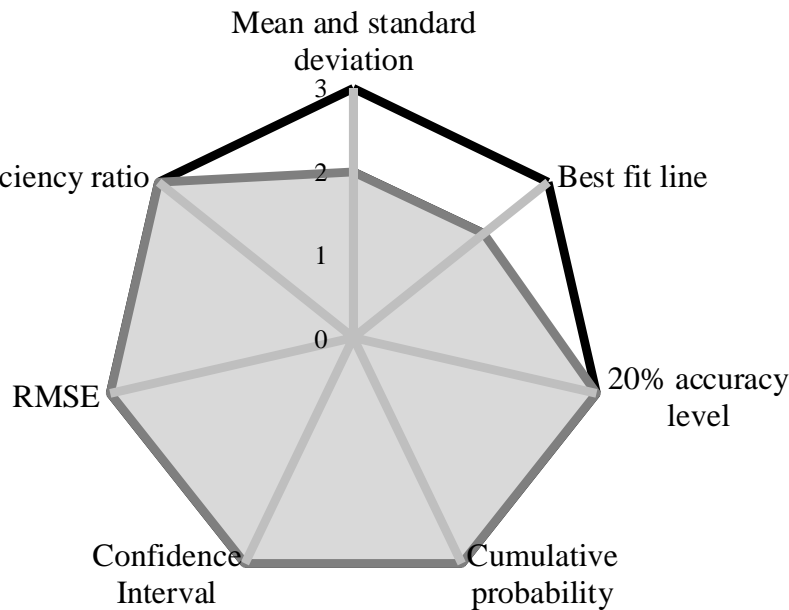


# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

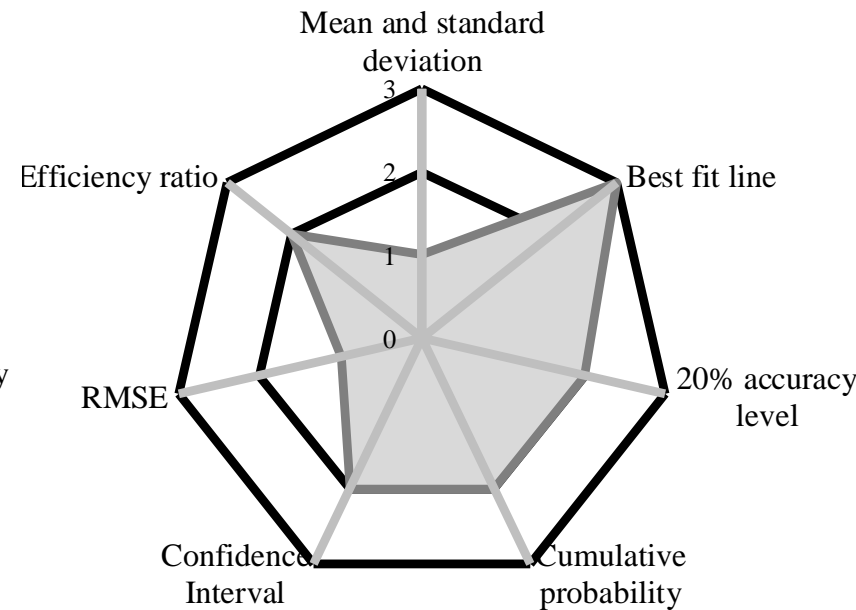
Heidari, Jamshidi and Eslami (2019)

## Probabilistic Assessment of Model Uncertainty for Predictive Methods

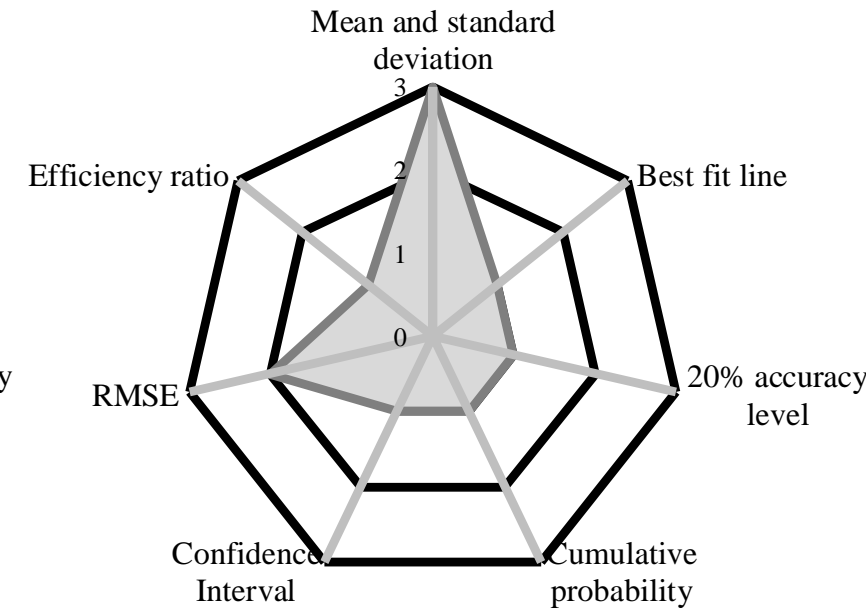
CPT-based methods  
area ratio=82.5%



SPT-based methods  
area ratio=36.5%



Static Analyses  
area ratio=20.6%



# 2-CPT and Pile Databases

Eslami and Heidari (2020)

MARINE GEORESOURCES & GEOTECHNOLOGY  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1064119X.2020.1841861>



## Relevant data-based approach upon reliable safety factor for pile axial capacity

Abolfazl Eslami and Sara Heidarie Golafzani

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT), Tehran, Iran

### ABSTRACT

Pile foundations are one of the significant marine substructure systems for a variety of offshore and onshore facilities. Thus, optimum and reliable design during their lifetime and under inherent uncertainties is noteworthy. Among various methods for predicting axial pile bearing capacity, cone penetration test (CPT)-based methods enhance geotechnical design to a more satisfying level due to continuous and reliable CPT records and their suitable performance in offshore environments. This article aims to reveal the importance of CPT and pile databases, especially in deltaic deposits. A new relevant CPT and pile data-based approach is introduced by assessing a few elaborated works on typical CPT and pile case studies. The proposed procedure assists in comparing the characteristics and conditions of a given pile with similar database cases through screening and, consequently, deciding on the design methods' priority. It is depicted that superior methods result in a more reliable design and higher resistance factors and efficiency ratios in load and resistance factor design (LRFD). Accordingly, it is engaged with lowered safety factors in the allowable stress design (ASD) approach. Eventually, upon various assessment criteria, the optimum site-specific methods are proposed leading to a performance-based design that can be realized in geotechnical practice.

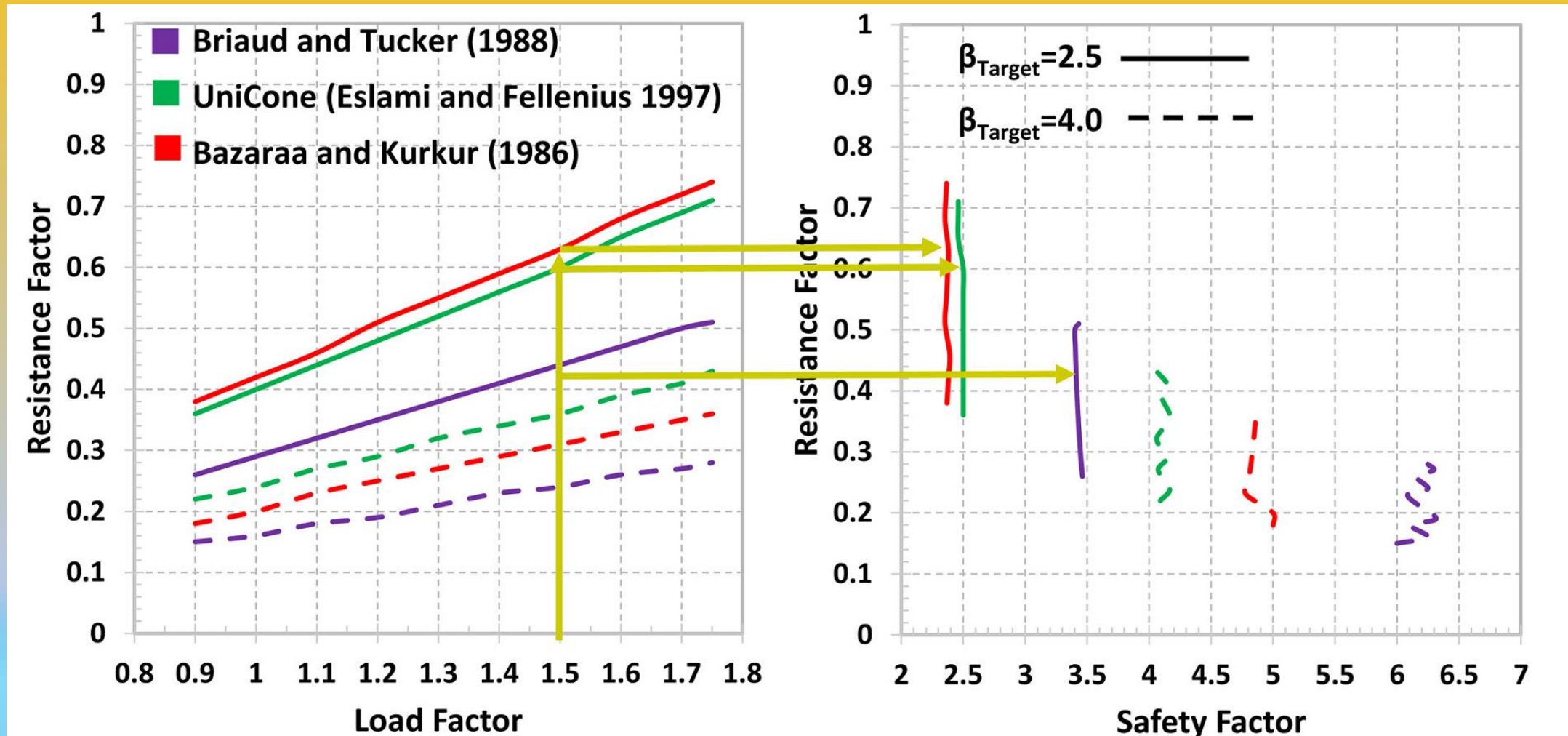
### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 25 July 2020  
Accepted 21 September 2020

### KEYWORDS

CPT; deltaic deposit; pile axial capacity; relevant database; safety factor

## 2-CPT and Pile Databases



# Outline

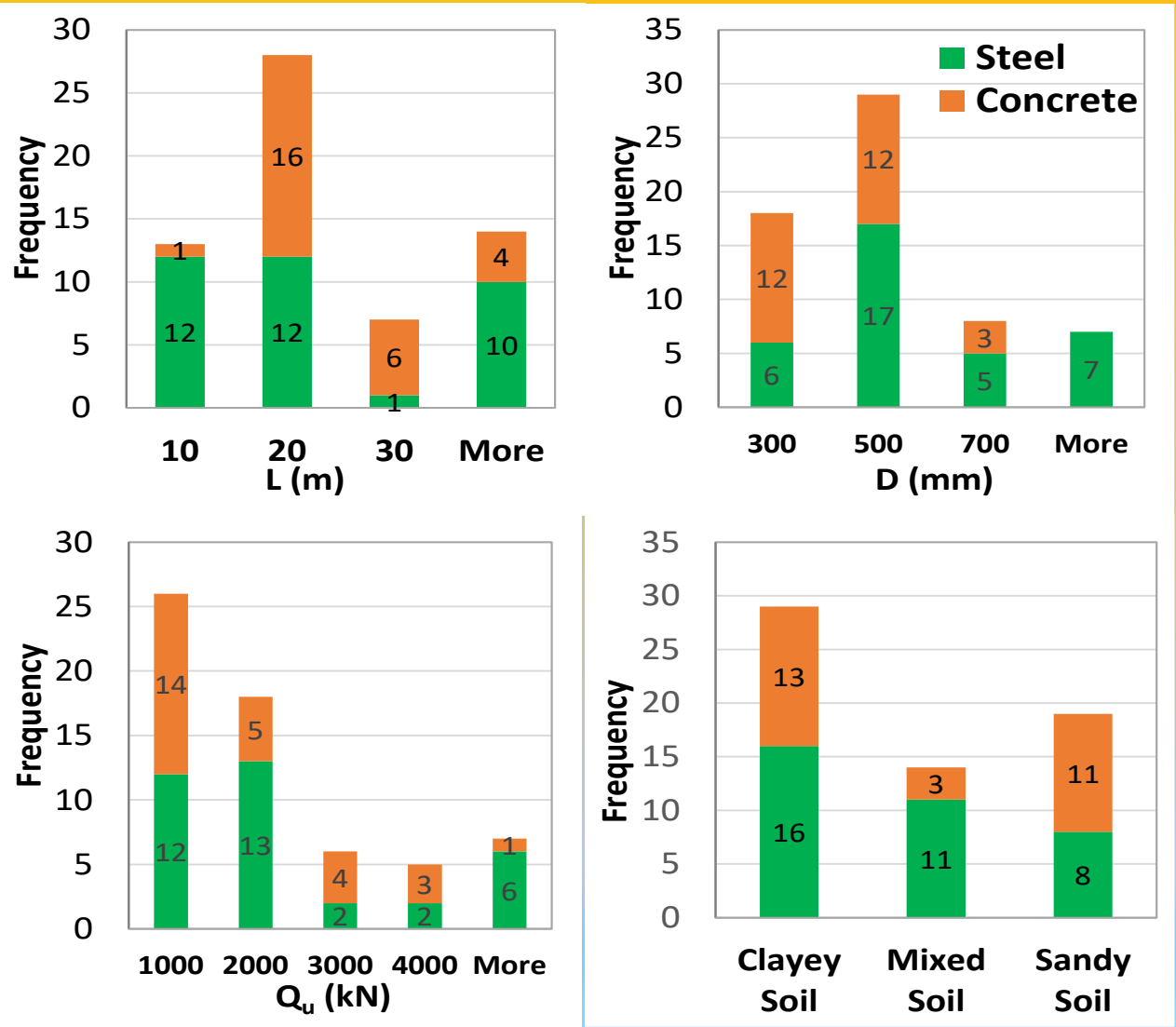
---

<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarks and Conclusions</b>

### 3-Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria

In this study to access the performance of CPT-based methods

- A database of 62 piles with their adjacent CPT records from AUT:GEO-CPT&Pile database was gathered.
- These records belong to different continents:
  - Asia (31%),
  - Europe (24%),
  - North America (42%), and
  - Australia (3%).
- About 47%, 23%, and 30% of site soils are clayey soil, mixed soil, and sandy soil, respectively.



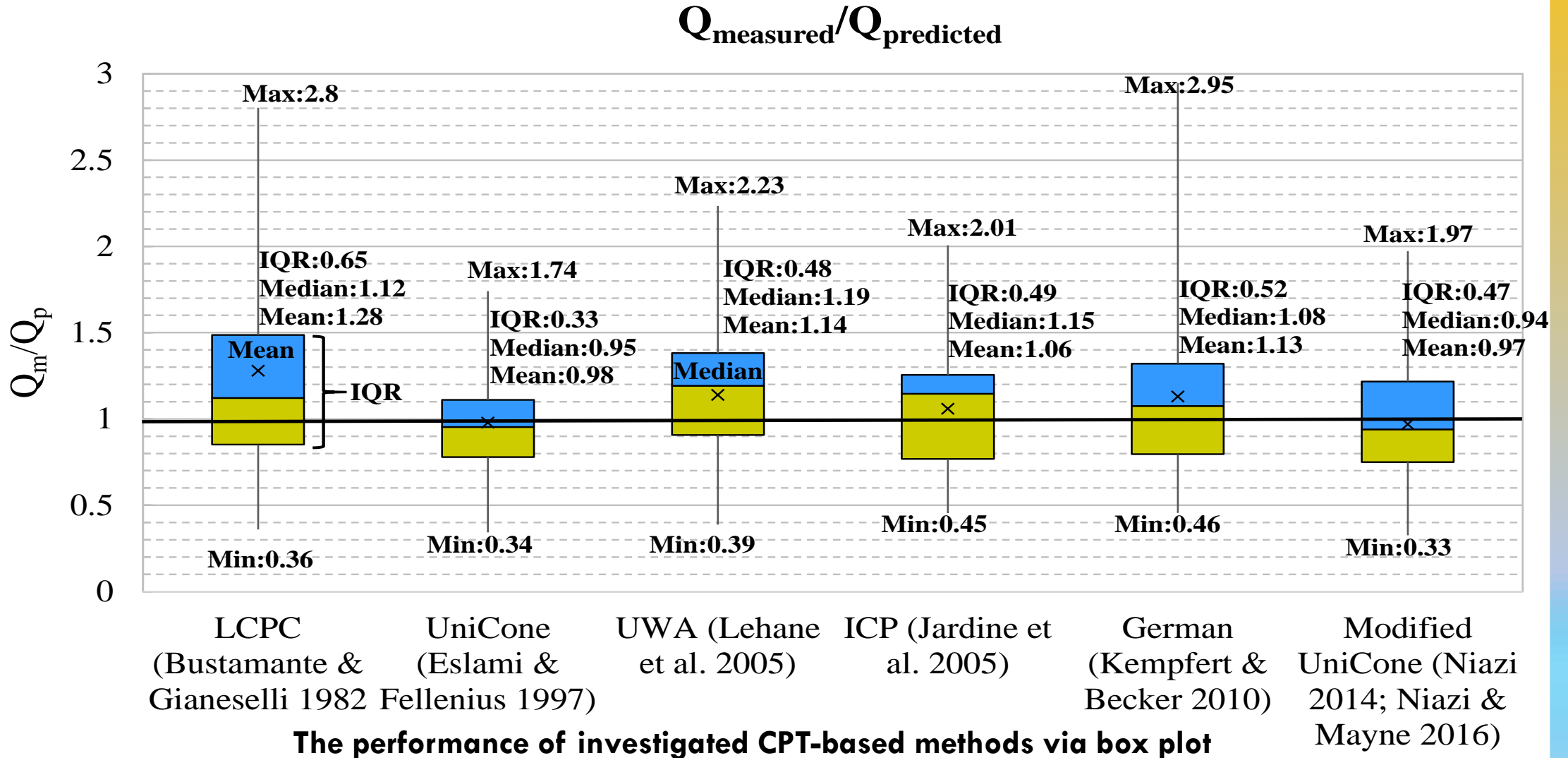
Characteristics of studied piles according to their material; (a) Length, (b) dimension, (c) ultimate bearing capacity and (d) soil type

# 3-Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria

---

- **CPT-based methods outperforms other approaches in prediction of piles' bearing capacity for the investigated database.**
- **Six CPT-based methods were selected**
  - **LCPC (Bustamante and Gianceselli 1982)**
  - **UniCone (Eslami and Fellenius 1997)**
  - **UWA (Lehane et al. 2005)**
  - **ICP (Jardine et al. 2005)**
  - **German (Kempfert and Becker 2010)**
  - **Modified UniCone (Niazi 2014 & Niazi and Mayne 2016)**
- **The probabilistic and statistical criteria include**
  - **Mean and coefficient of variation**
  - **Best fitted line**
  - **20% accuracy level**
  - **Cumulative probability ( $P_{50}$ ,  $P_{90}$ )**
  - **Root mean square error (RMSE)**

# 3-Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria





# 3-Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria

Performance of the methods via statistical and probabilistic criteria

Methods	C <sub>1</sub>			C <sub>2</sub>			C <sub>3</sub>		C <sub>4</sub>			C <sub>5</sub>	
	$\mu$	COV	R <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>fit</sub> /Q <sub>m</sub>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sub>2</sub>	20% AL*	R <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>50</sub>	P <sub>90</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	‡RMSE	R <sub>5</sub>
LCPC (Bustamante & Gianceselli 1982)	1.28	0.44	1	0.83	0.78	2	0.34	1	1.12	2.16	3	3346	3
UniCone (Eslami & Fellenius 1997)	0.98	0.33	6	1.05	0.8	6	0.46	6	0.95	1.45	6	1836	5
UWA (Lehane et al. 2005)	1.14	0.35	2	1.12	0.62	3	0.4	3	1.19	1.71	1	3461	2
ICP (Jardine et al. 2005)	1.06	0.34	4	1.09	0.69	4	0.43	4	1.15	1.49	2	4136	1
German (Kempfert & Becker 2010)	1.13	0.42	3	1.04	0.69	5	0.39	2	1.08	1.69	4	964	6
Modified UniCone (Niazi 2014; Niazi & Mayne 2016)	0.97	0.33	5	1.32	0.66	1	0.43	5	0.94	1.30	5	2570	4

\*AL: Acceptance Level; ‡RMSE: Root Mean Square Error

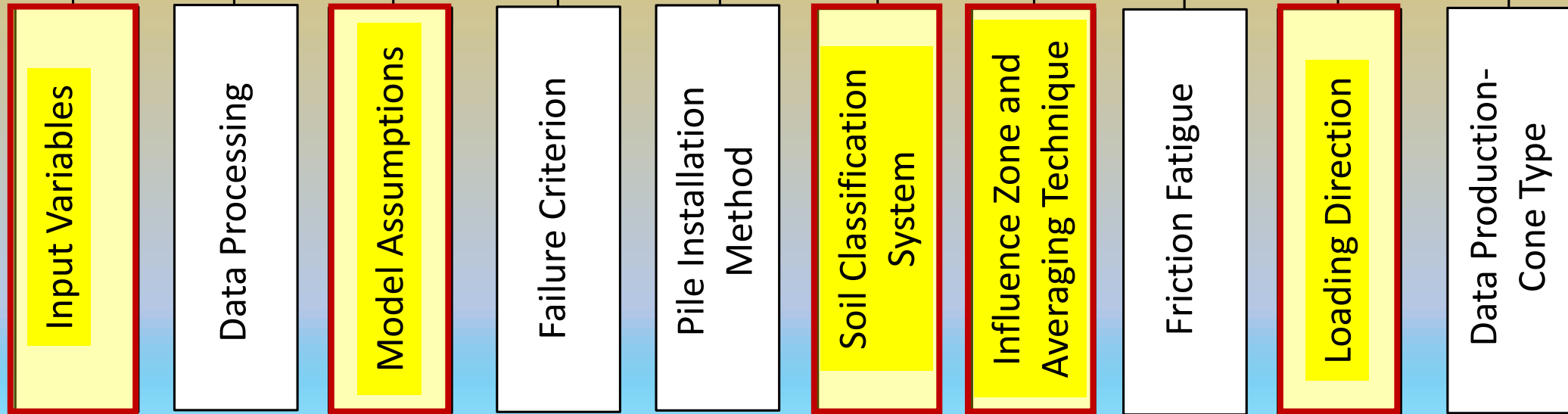
# Outline

---

<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarkable Comments</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>

## 4-Reliability-based criteria

Reliability-based evaluation of CPT-based methods for pile bearing capacity

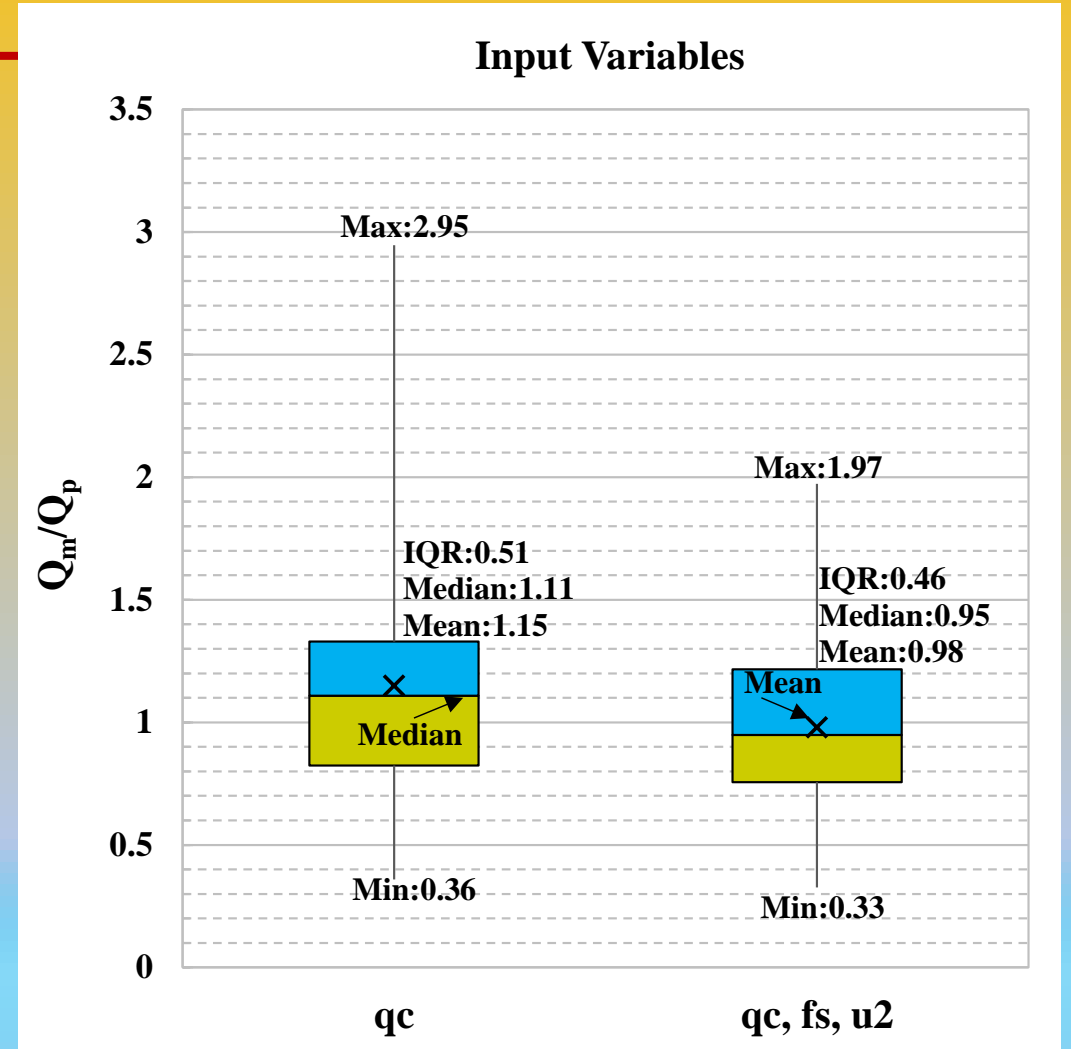


Reliability based assessment criteria (Eslami et al. 2019)

# 4-Reliability-based Approach

Characteristics of classified groups according to “input variables” criterion;  $\beta_{\text{Target}}=2.33$ ,  $Q_D/Q_L=3$

		$\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	$COV\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	Range	$\varphi^\dagger$	$ER^\ddagger$
Input Variables	1 Variable	1.15	0.4	2.59	0.53	<b>0.48</b>
	3 Variables	0.98	0.33	1.65	0.53	<b>0.54</b>
$\varphi^\dagger$ : Resistance factor; $ER^\ddagger$ : Efficiency Ratio						

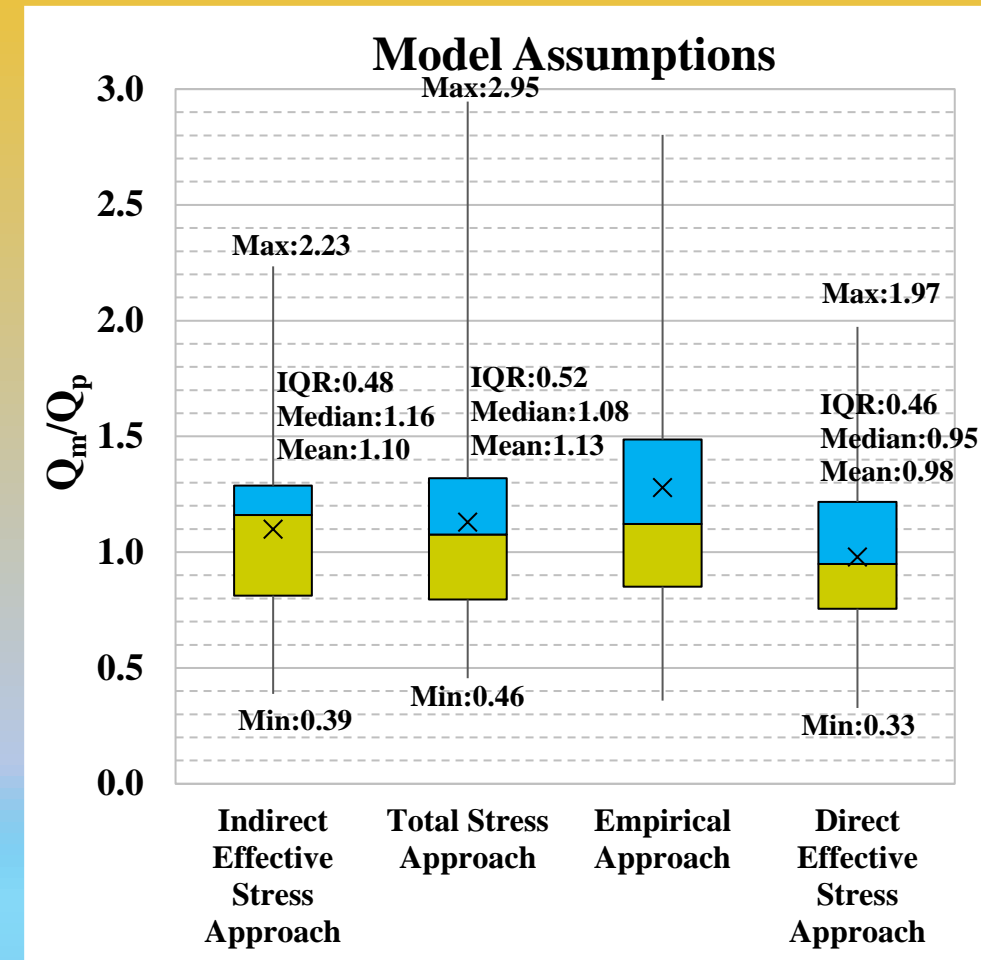


The efficiency ratio for CPT-Based methods classified according to “Input Variables”<sup>44</sup>

# 4-Reliability-based Approach

Characteristics of classified groups according to “Model Assumptions” criterion;  $\beta_{\text{Target}}=2.33$ ,  $Q_D/Q_L=3$

		$\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	$COV_{\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}}$	Range	$\phi^\dagger$	$ER^\ddagger$
<b>Model Assumptions</b>	Indirect Effective Stress Approach	1.10	0.35	1.85	0.57	0.52
	Total Stress Approach	1.13	0.42	2.49	0.5	0.44
	Empirical Approach	1.28	0.44	2.44	0.54	0.42
	Direct Effective Stress Approach	0.98	0.33	1.65	0.53	0.54
$\phi^\dagger$ : Resistance factor; $ER^\ddagger$ : Efficiency Ratio						

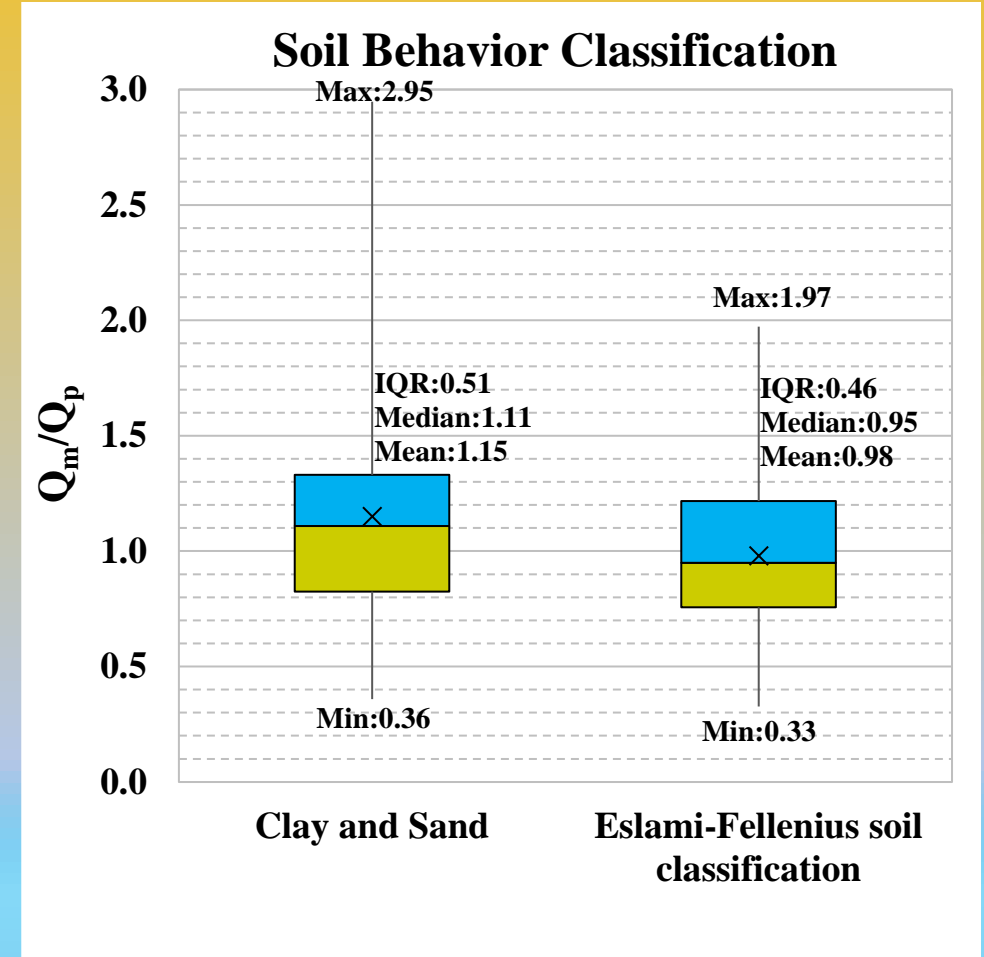


The efficiency ratio for CPT-Based methods classified according to “Model Assumptions”

# 4-Reliability-based Approach

Characteristics of classified groups according to “Soil Behavior Classification” criterion;  $\beta_{Target}=2.33$ ,  $Q_D/Q_L=3$

		$\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	$COV\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	Range	$\varphi^\dagger$	$ER^\ddagger$
Soil Behavior Classification	Clay and Sand	1.15	0.4	2.59	0.53	<b>0.46</b>
	Eslami-Fellenius Classification	0.98	0.33	1.65	0.53	<b>0.54</b>
$\varphi^\dagger$ : Resistance factor; $ER^\ddagger$ : Efficiency Ratio						

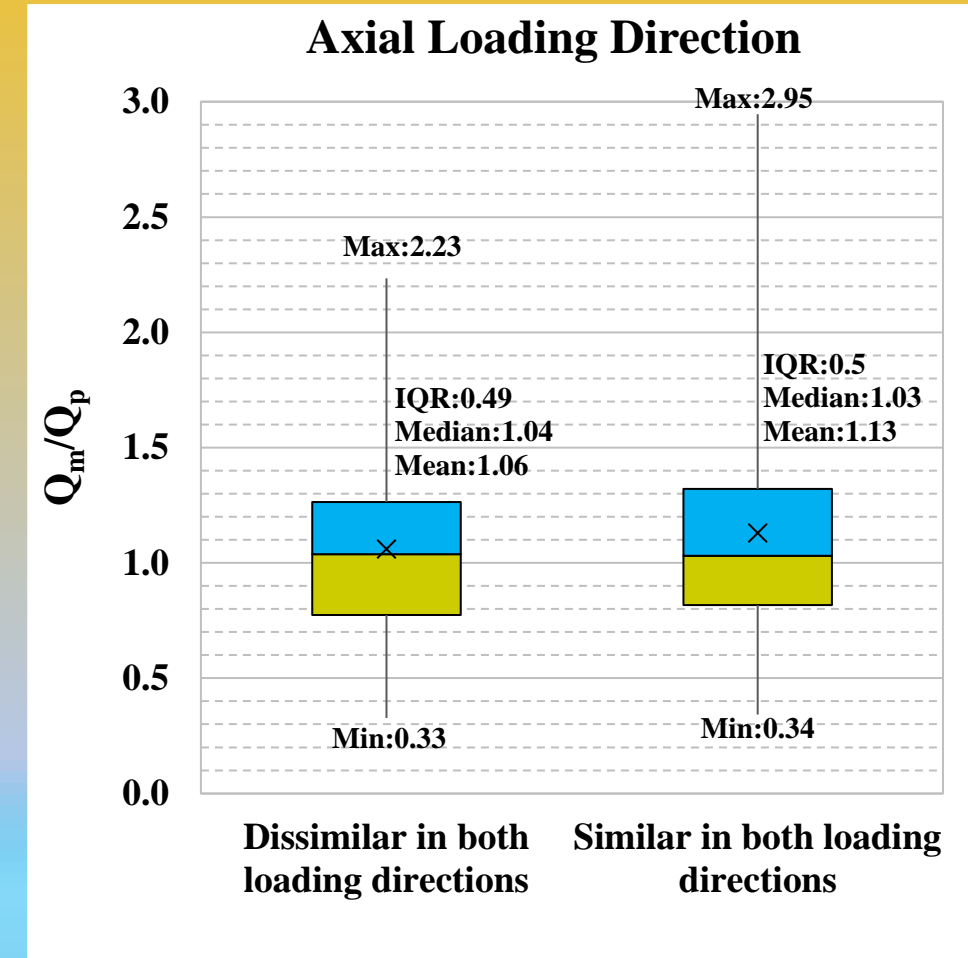


The efficiency ratio for CPT-Based methods classified according to “Soil Behavior Classification”

# 4-Reliability-based Approach

Characteristics of classified groups according to “input variables” criterion;  $\beta_{Target}=2.33$ ,  $Q_D/Q_L=3$

		$\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	$COV_{\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}}$	Range	$\varphi^\dagger$	$ER^\ddagger$
Axial Loading Direction	Distinction between axial loading directions	1.06	0.35	1.91	0.55	<b>0.46</b>
	No distinction between axial loading directions	1.13	0.42	2.60	0.5	<b>0.44</b>
$\varphi^\dagger$ : Resistance factor; $ER^\ddagger$ : Efficiency Ratio						

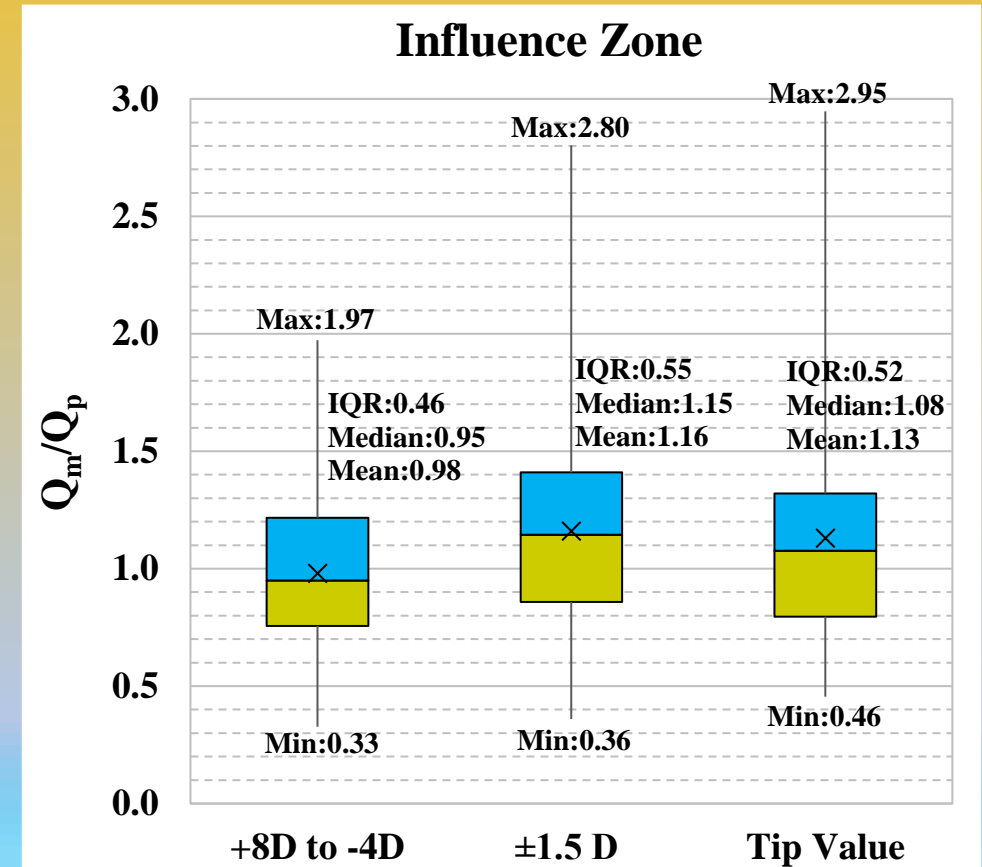


The efficiency ratio for CPT-Based methods classified according to “Axial Loading Direction”

# 4-Reliability-based Approach

Characteristics of classified groups according to “Influence Zone” criterion;  $\beta_{\text{Target}}=2.33$ ,  $Q_D/Q_L=3$

Influence Zone		$\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}$	$COV_{\mu_{Q_m/Q_p}}$	Range	$\phi^\dagger$	$ER^\ddagger$
Influence Zone	+8D to -4D (geometric mean)	0.98	0.33	1.65	0.53	<b>0.54</b>
	$\pm 1.5D$	1.16	0.4	2.44	0.53	<b>0.46</b>
	Tip value	1.13	0.42	2.49	0.5	<b>0.44</b>
$\phi^\dagger$ : Resistance factor; $ER^\ddagger$ : Efficiency Ratio						



The efficiency ratio for CPT-Based methods classified according to “Influence Zone”<sup>48</sup>



# Outline

---

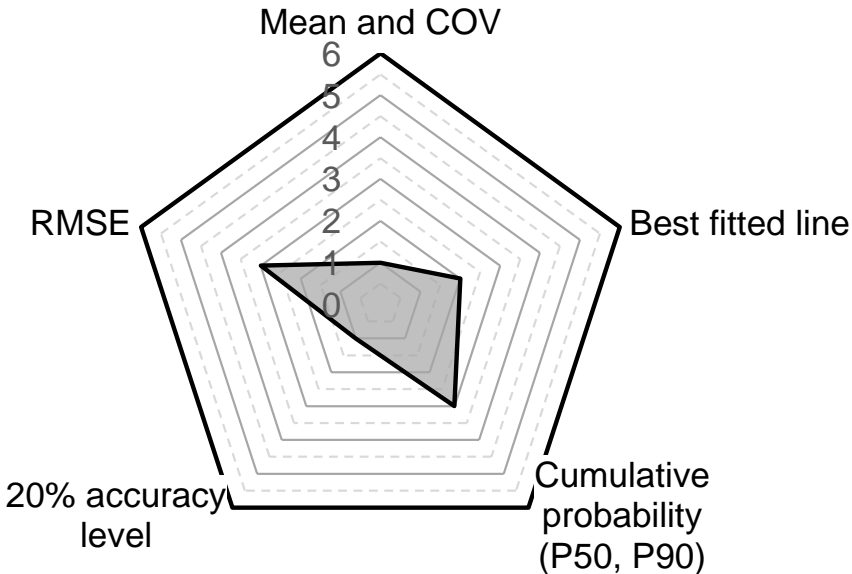
<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarks and Conclusions</b>

# 5-Discussions and Assessments

## The performance of CPT-based methods according to statistical and probabilistic criteria

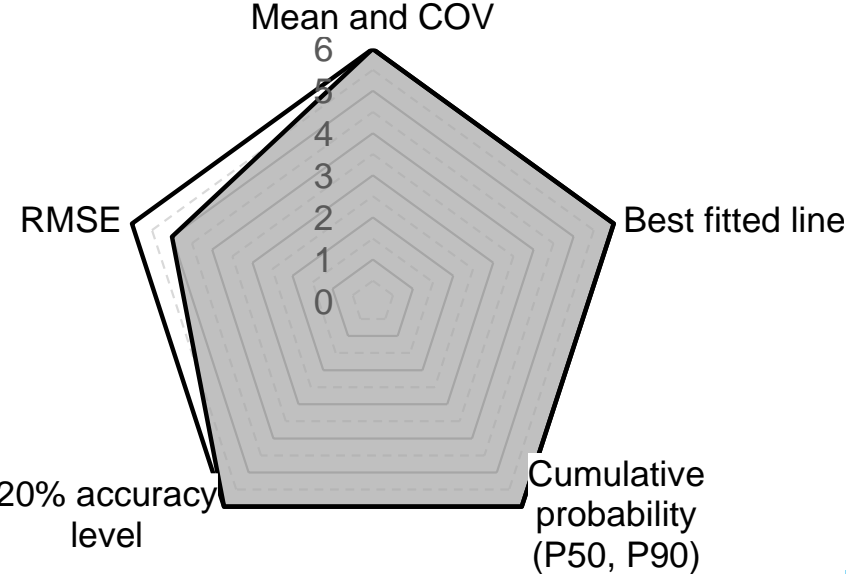
**LCPC (Bustamante and Gianceselli 1982)**

**Area Ratio=9%**



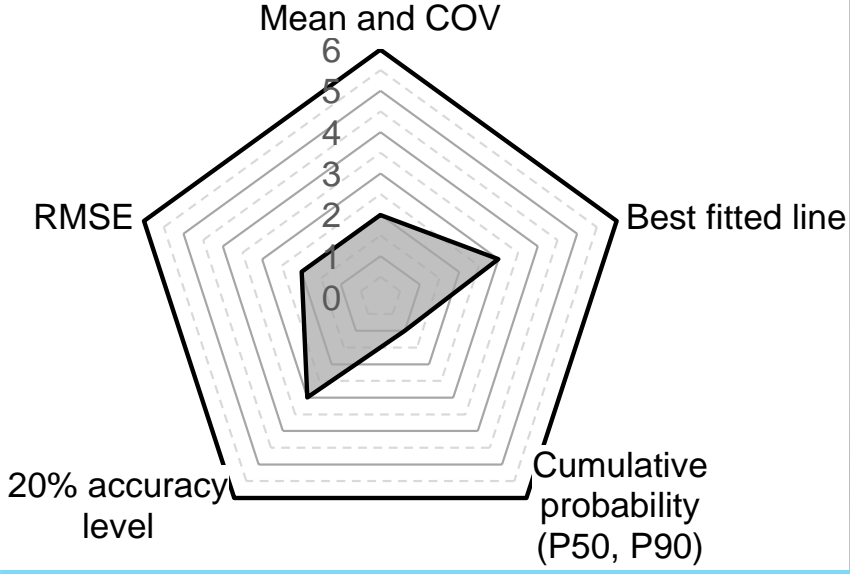
**UniCone (Esalmi and Fellenius 1997)**

**Area Ratio=93%**



**UWA (Lehane et al. 2005)**

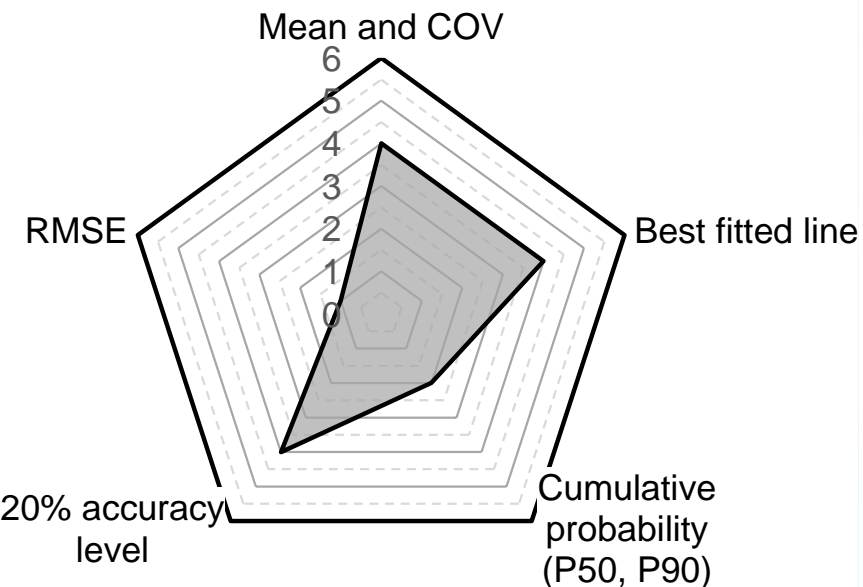
**Area Ratio=12%**



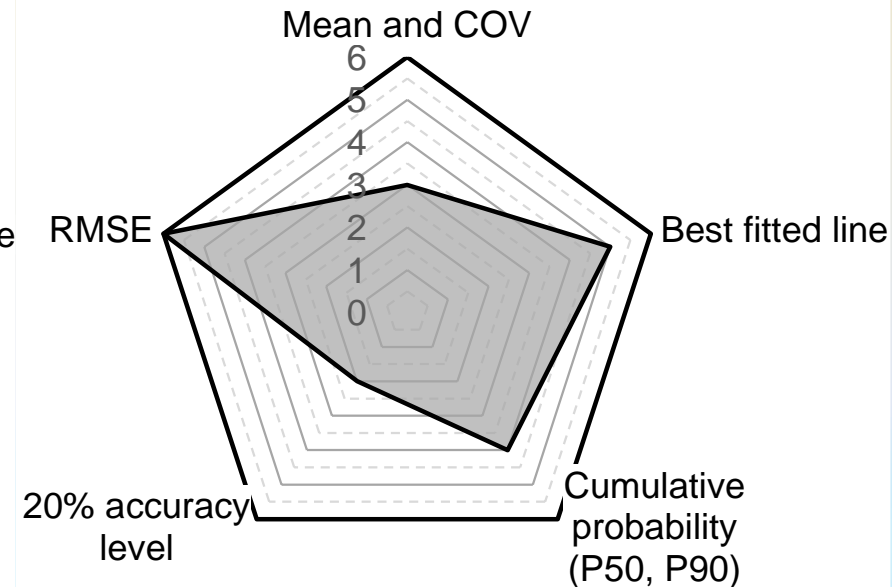
# 5-Discussions and Assessments

## The performance of CPT-based methods according to statistical and probabilistic criteria

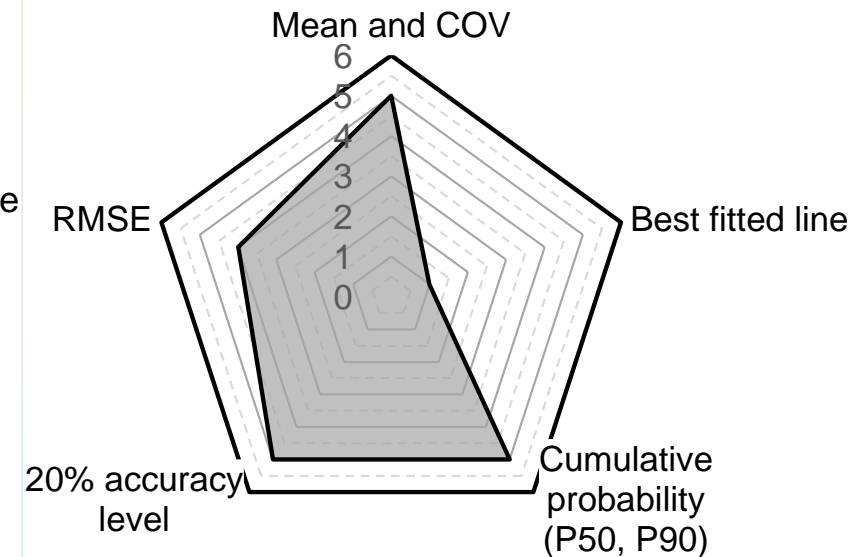
**ICP (Jardine et al. 2005 )**  
**Area Ratio=22%**



**German (Kempfert and Becker 2010)**  
**Area Ratio=41%**



**Modified UniCone (Niazi 2014; Niazi and Mayne 2016)**  
**Area Ratio=42%**

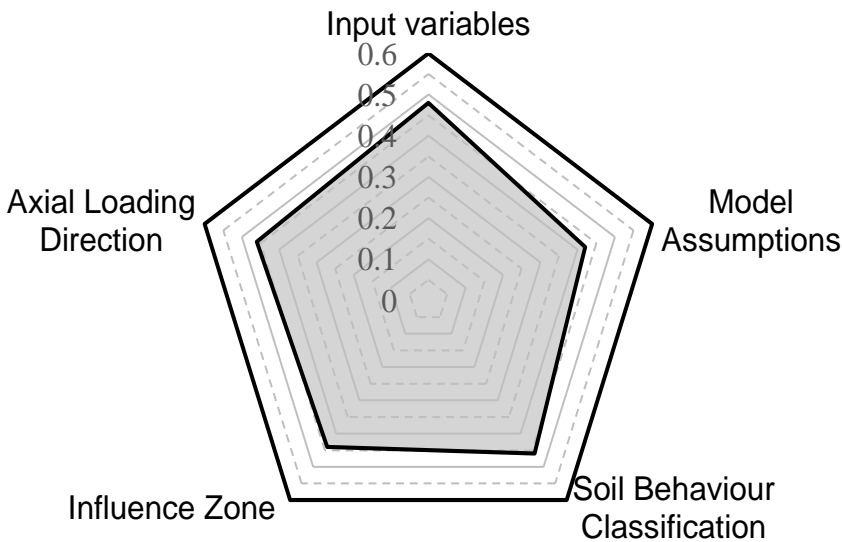


# 5-Discussions and Assessments

## The performance of CPT-based methods according to reliability-based criteria

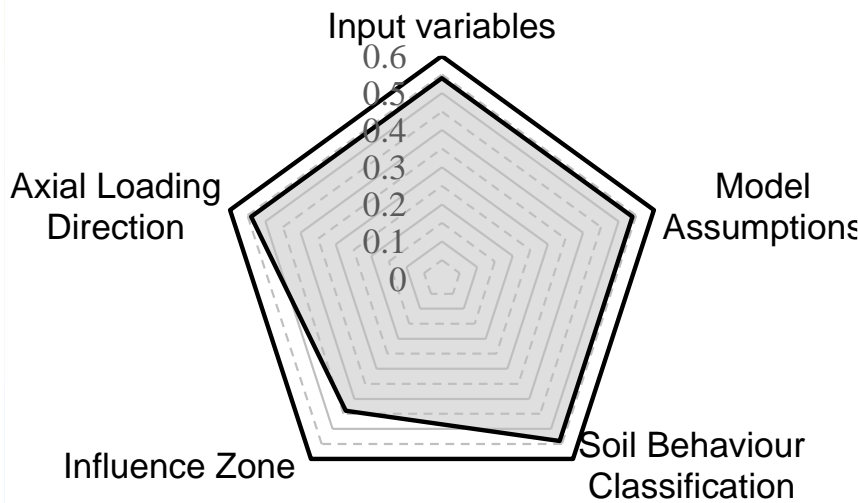
**LCPC (Bustamante and Gianceselli 1982)**

**Area Ratio=57%**



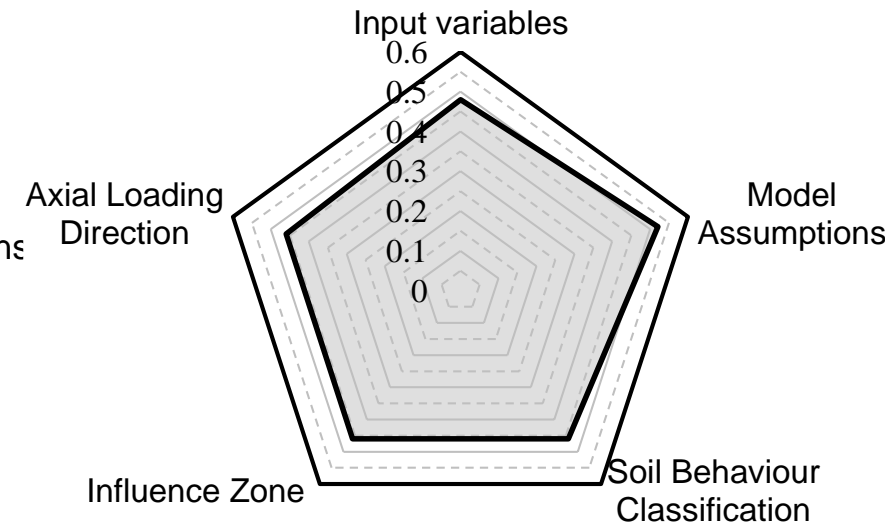
**UniCone (Eslami and Fellenius 1997)**

**Area Ratio=75%**



**ICP (Jardine et al. 2005)**

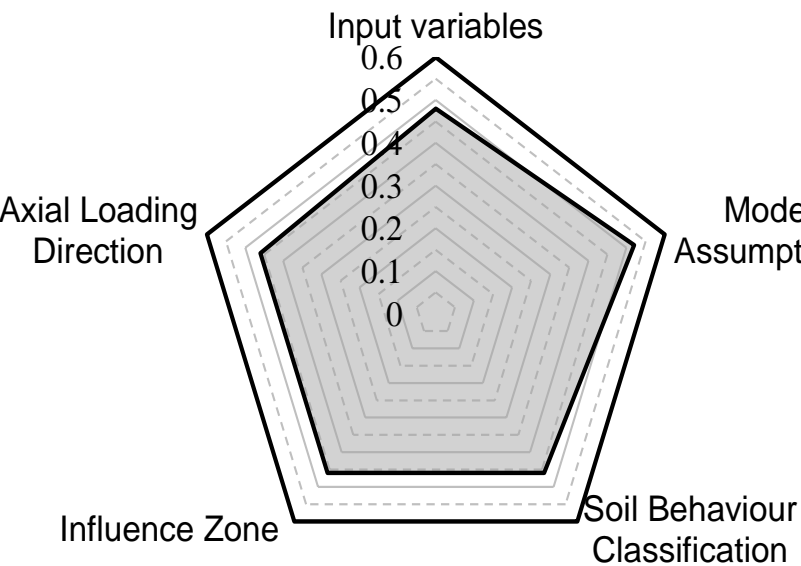
**Area Ratio=63%**



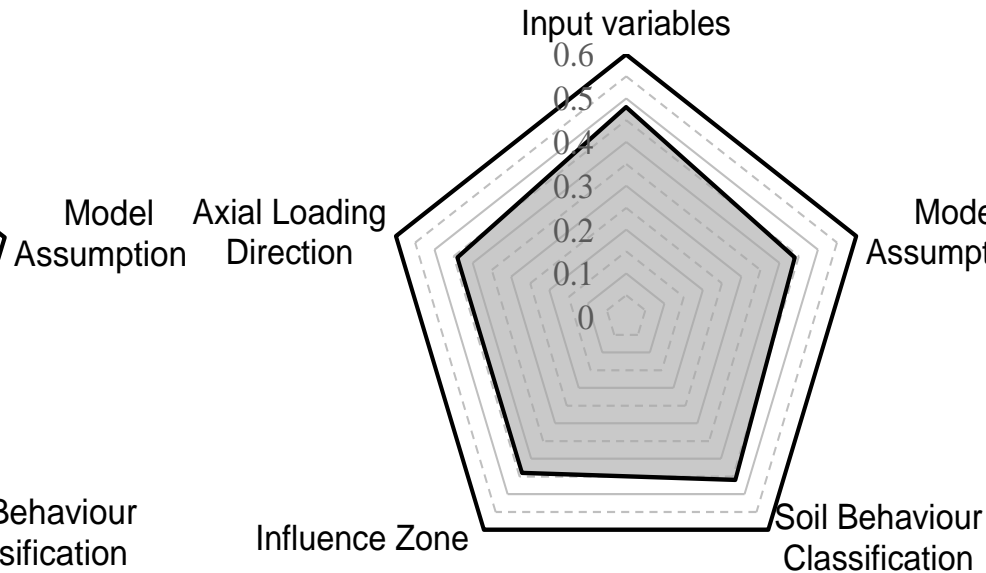
# 5-Discussions and Assessments

## The performance of CPT-based methods according to reliability-based criteria

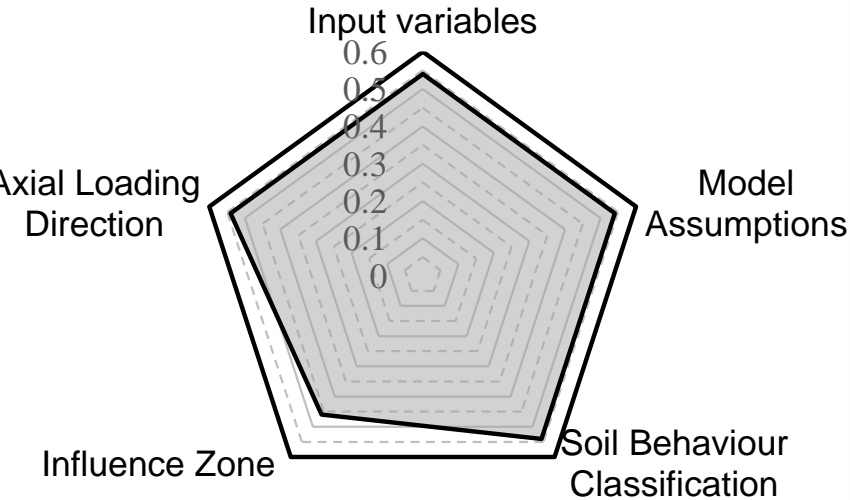
**UWA (Lehane et al. 2005)**  
**Area Ratio=63%**



**German (Kempfert and Becker 2010)**  
**Area Ratio=57%**

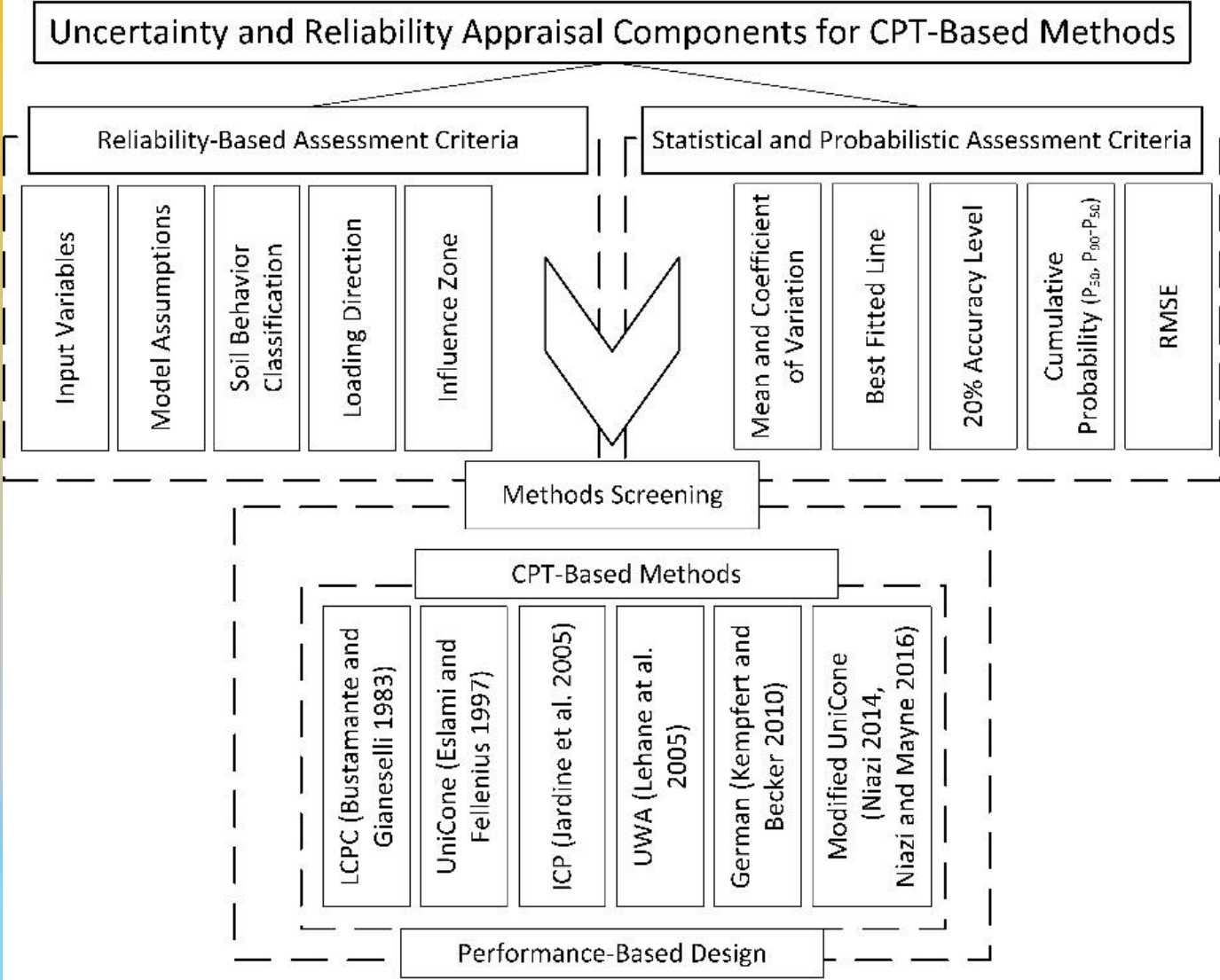


**Modified UniCone**  
**(Niazi 2014, Niazi and Mayne 2016)**  
**Area Ratio=76%**

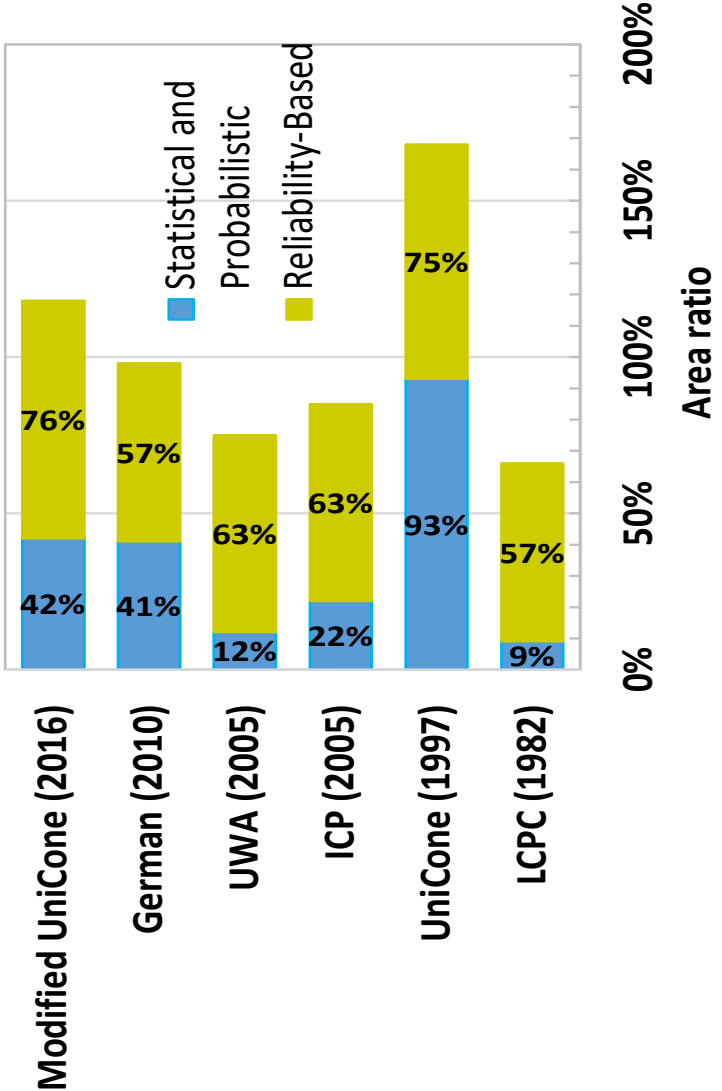


# 5-Discussions and Assessments

Methods screening (a) appraisal components (b) the performance of CPT-based methods via investigated criteria



Appraisal of CPT-Based Methods



# Outline

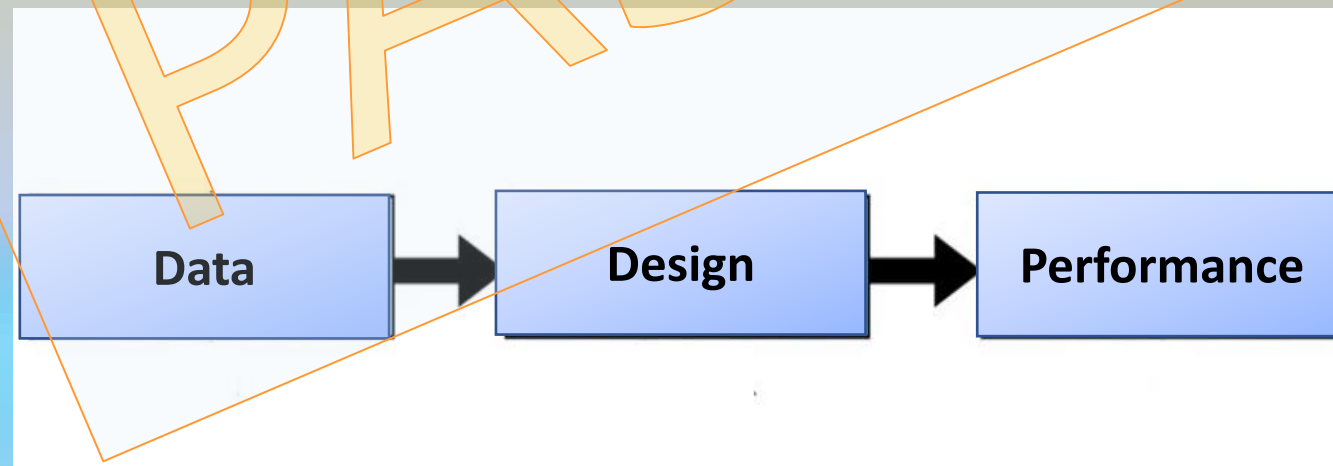
---

<b>1</b>	<b>Generals</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CPT and Pile Databases</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Statistics and Probabilistic Criteria</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reliability-Based Approach</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussions and Assessment</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remarks and Conclusions</b>

## 6-Remarks and Conclusions

### 1. CPT and Pile (Past):

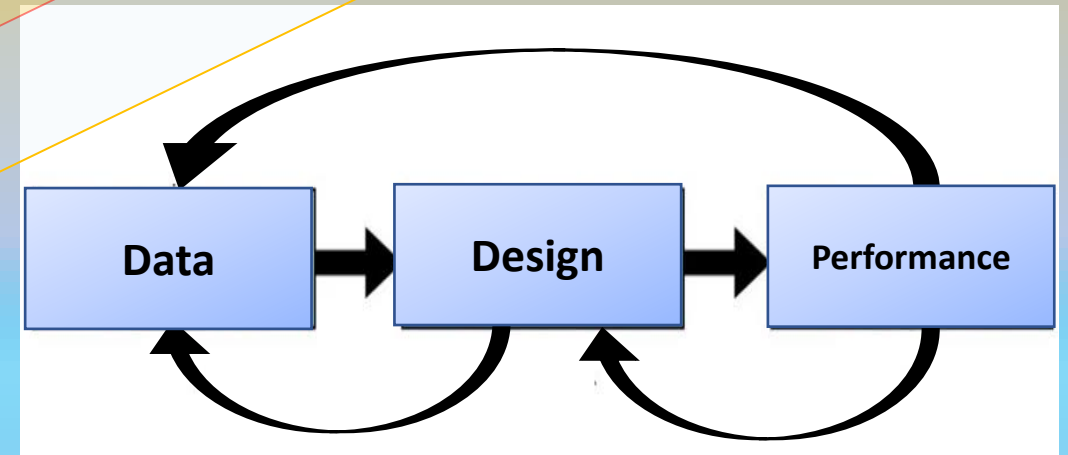
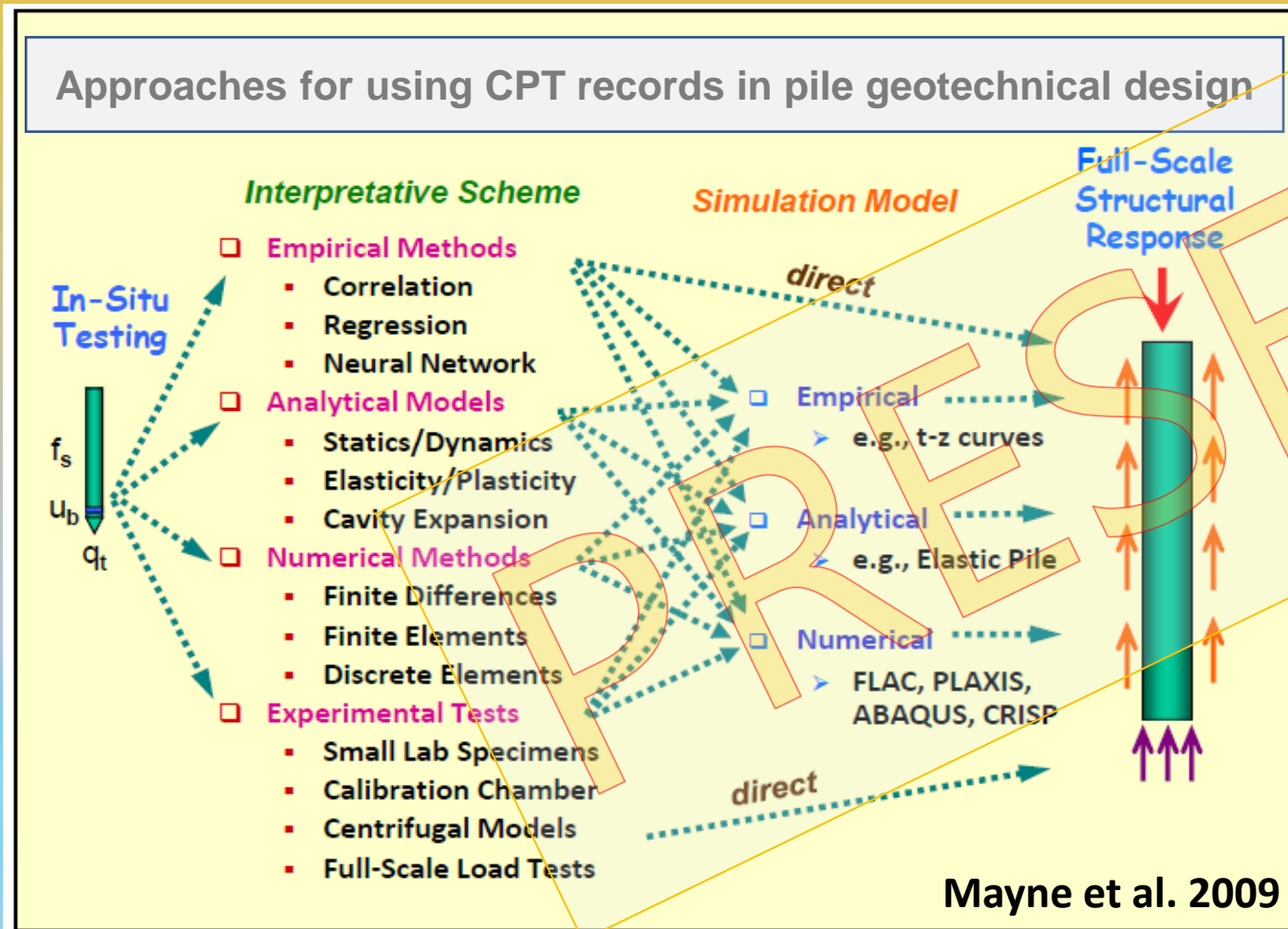
- Provides continuous records with depth
- Cone penetrometer is considered as a model pile
- Direct and indirect approaches for bearing capacity
- Bearing capacity methods: more than 28 currently used





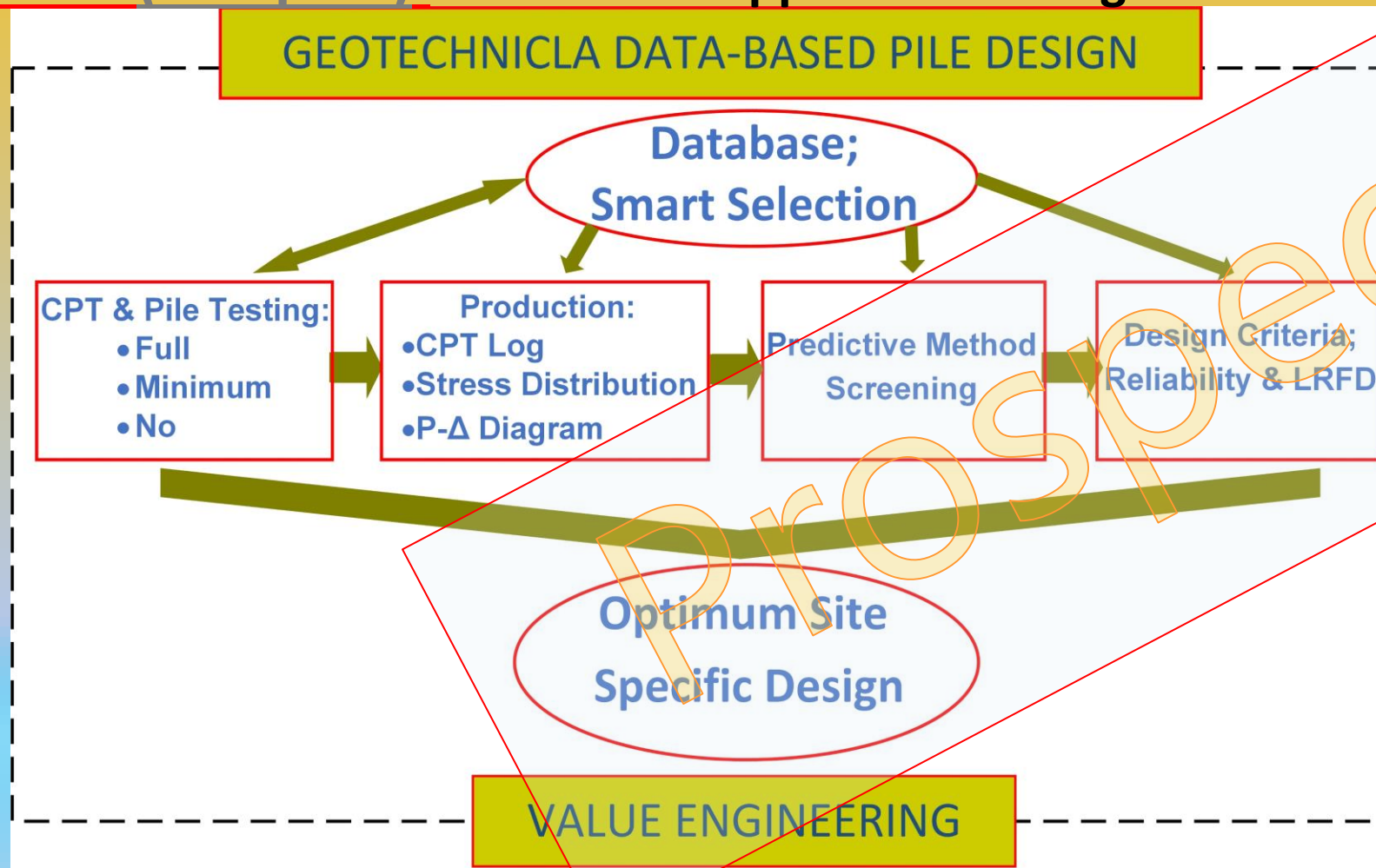
# 6-Remarks and Conclusions

## 2. CPT & CPTu: Pile Geotechnical Design (Present):



## 6-Remarks and Conclusions

### 3. New trends (Prospect): Data-based approach in design



## 6-Remarks and Conclusions

---

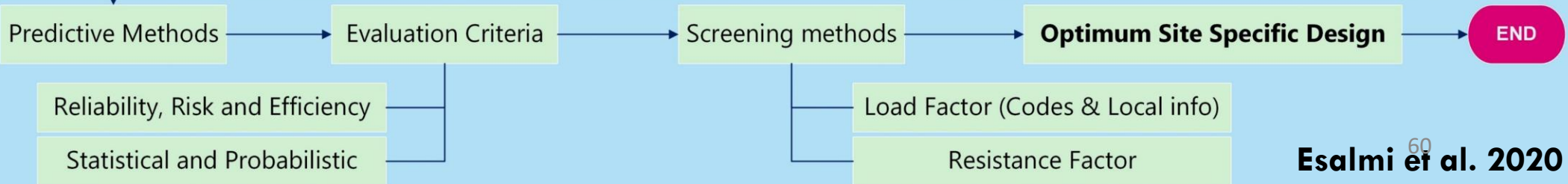
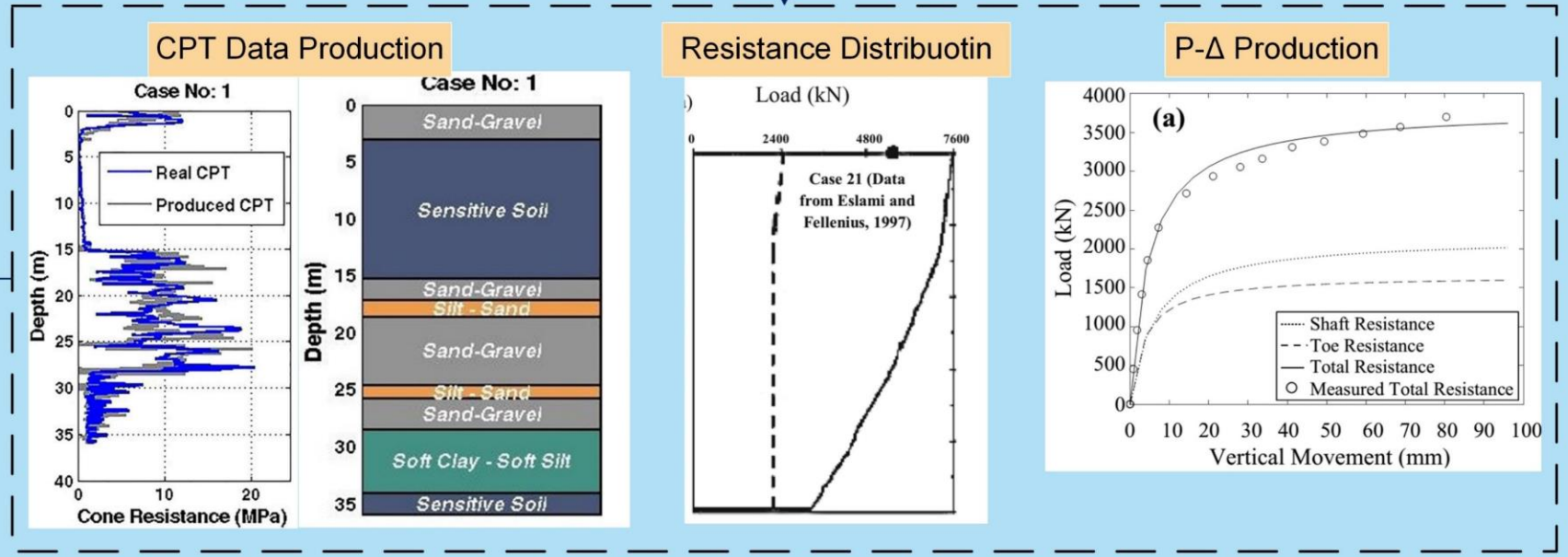
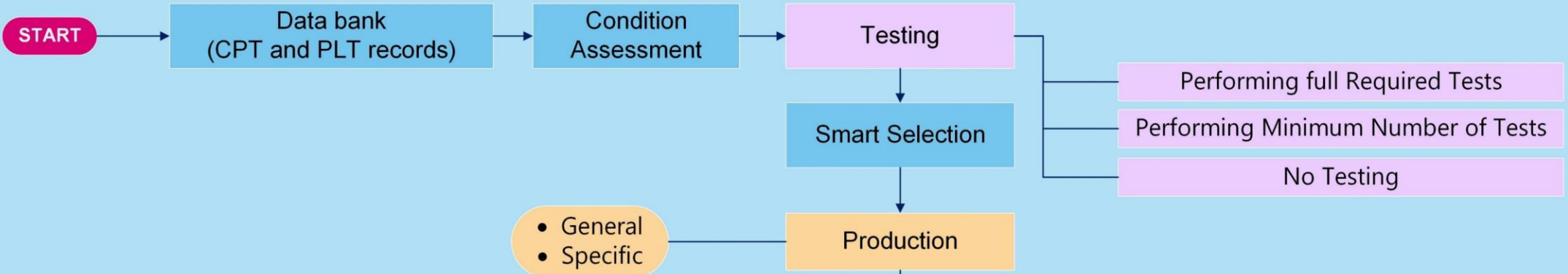
- Reliability-based criteria include

- Input variables,
- Model assumptions,
- Soil behavior classification
- Loading direction and
- Influence zone and averaging technique
- Data processing
- Pile installation method
- Friction Fatigue
- Failure Criterion
- Data production-cone type

- The statistic and probabilistic criteria include

- Mean and coefficient of variation,
- Best-fitted line,
- Cumulative probability,
- 20% accuracy level, and
- RMSE
- Efficiency ratio

# Data-Based Pile Design





**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

# Major References

---

- Abu-Farsakh, M. Y., & Titi, H. H. (2004). Assessment of direct cone penetration test methods for predicting the ultimate capacity of friction driven piles. *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, 130(9), 9
- Allen, T.M., 2005. Development of geotechnical resistance factors and downdrag load factors for LRFD foundation strength limit state design: Reference manual. US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Institute.
- Beacher, G. B. & Christian, J. T. 2003. *Reliability and Statistics in Geotechnical Engineering*. Wiley. ISBN0-471-49833-5.
- Campanella, R.G., Robertson, P.K., Davies, M.P. and Sy, A., 1989. Use of in situ tests in pile design. In *Congrès international de mécanique des sols et des travaux de fondations*. 12 (pp. 199-203).
- Eslami, A. & Fellenius, B. H. 1997. Pile Capacity by Direct CPT and CPTu Methods Applied to 102 Case Histories. *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, 34, 886-904.
- Eslami, A., Moshfeghi, S., Heidarie, S., Valikhah, F., “AUT: Geo-CPT &Pile Database Updates and Implementations for Pile Geotechnical Design”, *Geotechnical Engineering Journal of the SEAGS & AGSSEA*, Vol. 50 No. 2.

# Major References

---

- Eslami, A., Heidarie Golafzani, S., and Moshfeghi, S., 2020. CPT and pile database for performance-based design of pile axial bearing capacity. In Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations, Deep Foundation Institute (DFI), Oxon Hill, Maryland, October 13-16, 12p.
- Eslami, A. and Heidarie Golafzani, S., 2020. Relevant data-based approach upon reliable safety factor for pile axial capacity. Marine Georesources & Geotechnology, pp.1-14.
- Eslami, A., Lotfi, S., Infante, J.A., Moshfeghi, S. and Eslami, M.M., 2020. Pile Shaft Capacity from Cone Penetration Test Records Considering Scale Effects. International Journal of Geomechanics, 20(7), p.04020073.
- Fellenius, B., 2020. Basics of foundation design. Lulu. com.
- Heidarie Golafzani, S., Jamshidi Chenari, R., and Eslami, A., 2020 a. Reliability based assessment of axial pile bearing capacity: static analysis, SPT and CPT-based methods, Georisk: Assessment and Management of Risk for Engineered Systems and Geohazards, DOI:10.1080/17499518.2019.1628281.
- Heidarie Golafzani, S., Eslami, A. and Jamshidi Chenari, R., 2020 b. Probabilistic assessment of model uncertainty for prediction of pile foundation bearing capacity; static analysis, SPT and CPT-based methods. Geotechnical and Geological Engineering, pp.1-19.
- Honjo, Y., 2011. Challenges in geotechnical reliability based design. Geotechnical Safety and Risk. ISGSR 2011, pp.11-28.

# Major References

---

- Mayne, P.W., Coop, M.R., Springman, S., Huang, A.B. and Zornberg, J., 2009. SOA-1: Geomaterial behavior and testing. In Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering: 5–9 October 2009, Alexandria, Egypt (pp. 2777-2872). Millpress, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- Moshfeghi, S. and Eslami, A., 2018. Study on pile ultimate capacity criteria and CPT-based direct methods. *International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering*, 12(1), pp.28-39.
- Moshfeghi, S., Eslami, A., (2018). Reliability-based Assessment of Drilled Displacement Piles Bearing Capacity Using CPT Records, *Marine Georesources and Geotechnology*.
- Niazi, F.S. and Mayne, P.W., 2016. CPTu-based enhanced UniCone method for pile capacity. *Engineering Geology*, 212, pp.21-34.
- Phoon, K.-K. & Kulhawy, F. H. 1999. Characterization of Geotechnical Variability. *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, 36, 612-624.
- Phoon, K.-K. & Kulhawy, F. H. 1999. Evaluation of Geotechnical Property Variability. *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, 36, 625-639.
- Phoon, K.K. and Kulhawy, F.H., 1999. Characterization of geotechnical variability. *Canadian geotechnical journal*, 36(4), pp.612-624.
- Paikowsky, S.G., Birgisson, B., McVay, M., Nguyen, T., Kuo, C., Baecher, G.B., Ayyub, B., Stenersen, K., O'Malley, K., Chernauskas, L. and O'Neill, M., 2004. Load and resistance factor design for deep foundations, NCHRP Report 507. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Washington DC.