

**ROYAL SWEDISH  
GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE  
PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 6**

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**A NEW GEOTECHNICAL  
CLASSIFICATION  
SYSTEM**

*By*

**W. KJELLMAN, L. CADLING,  
and N. FLODIN**

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**STOCKHOLM 1953**



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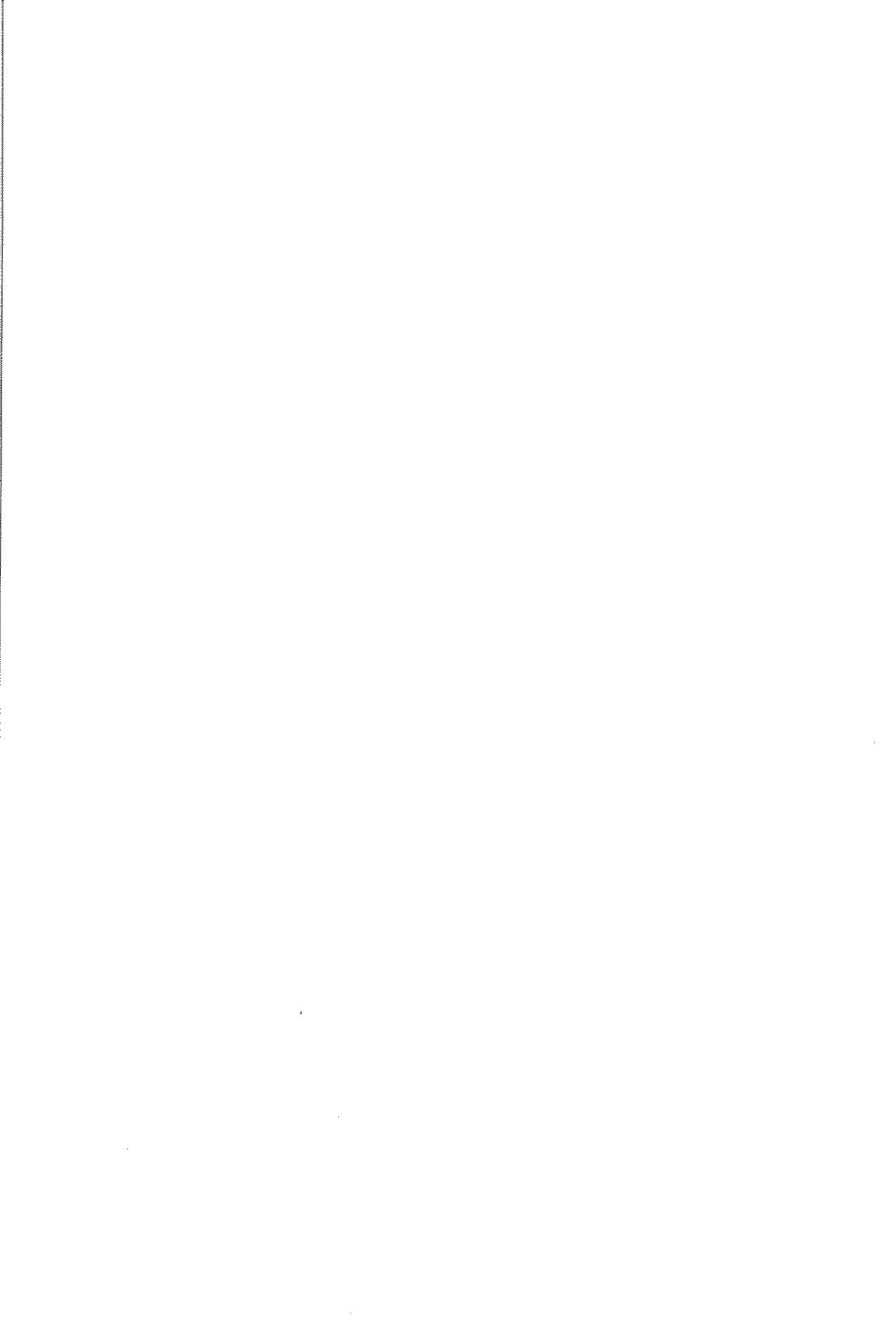
*Ivar Hæggströms*

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## Preface

The main features of the new geotechnical classification system described in this report and of its application to geotechnical literature were outlined in 1944 by Mr Walter Kjellman, Head of the undersigned Institute. The principal sections of the system were drawn up during conferences with various members of the staff of the Institute. The system has then been completed and worked out in detail, while being used for classification of literature, by Mr Lyman Cadling and Mr Nils Flodin, Research Department Engineers.

The report was prepared by Mr Kjellman and Mr Cadling.

Stockholm, September, 1952

ROYAL SWEDISH GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE



## § 1. Importance of a Good Geotechnical Classification System.

The geotechnical literature is now rather comprehensive, and its annual increase is very great. Anyone working in the field of geotechnics<sup>1</sup>—whether in its practical application or in research—is frequently compelled to get hold of papers dealing with a particular subject. For this purpose he needs such a catalogue of the geotechnical literature that he can be sure of finding the right references—and of finding them quickly. Such a catalogue must be arranged on the basis of a good classification system.

A good classification system has also other fields of application. It can be used for dividing conferences, courses, and textbooks into sections, for planning research, for filing documents, etc.

## § 2. Earlier Geotechnical Classification Systems.

In 1944, when the Institute began to study the question of classifying geotechnical literature, mainly two geotechnical classification systems were in use, *viz.* the Universal Decimal Classification System (the UDC System) and the system used at the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering 1936 (the ICSM 1936 System).

### § 2 a. The UDC System.

The Universal Decimal Classification System derives its origin from U.S.A., where the first book on decimal classification was published in 1876. Since then the System has been enlarged and worked out in detail, and it is now very comprehensive. Current enlargements and modifications of the System are carried on under the direction of the Commission Internationale de la Classification Universelle in The Hague. What follows refers to the 1941 edition.

The UDC System includes all human knowledge. This huge subject is divided into ten sections, each of these into ten subsections, and so on. In some cases, the subdivision reaches as far as to the twelfth stage, so that the classification

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<sup>1</sup> The term "geotechnics" is used in the Proceedings of the Institute instead of the cumbersome expression "soil mechanics and foundation engineering". The corresponding adjective is "geotechnical". A specialist in geotechnics is called here a "geotechnicist".

numbers of the last stage contain twelve digits. Beside these main numbers, many kinds of auxiliary signs are used in order to designate the subjects more exactly. Further, main numbers, with or without auxiliary signs, can be combined in different ways.

One disadvantage of the System, when used for a special branch only, is the fact that the classification numbers are unnecessarily bulky.

Another disadvantage—and a serious one—is that a thorough knowledge of the whole System is required, even when classifying a special branch only, and this knowledge is hardly possible to acquire without a rather comprehensive study of the System. Of course, classifiers and people concerned with library work can learn the System and use it in a right way, but others who cannot devote time to a comprehensive study of the System, can hardly use it.

A science that is auxiliary to other sciences is especially difficult to classify by the UDC System, and is often classified in different ways by different scientists, each trying to incorporate it into his own science. For instance, the same geotechnical problem can be classified by altogether different numbers depending on the profession of the classifier and his attitude towards geotechnics. A slide in a river bank would probably be classified by a geologist under geology by the number 551.244 "Landslides", but by a geotechnicist under geotechnics by the number 624.131.54 "Stability of slopes". A slide in an earth dam would probably be classified by a dam specialist under dams by the number 627.891 "Dam failures", but by a geotechnicist under geotechnics by the same number as the slide in the river bank. This vagueness of the System is a grave disadvantage.

The principal section of geotechnics (624.131) does not seem to be quite adequate in itself. This is shown, for instance, by the fact that the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Committee of the Research Committee of the Institution of Civil Engineers, which is using the UDC System for a Bibliography on Soil Mechanics<sup>1</sup> has excluded some subsections, and has given to certain numbers interpretations different from those used in the UDC System. (By the way, even the adequacy of these modifications can be questioned.)

On account of the disadvantages mentioned above, the UDC System was rejected by the Institute.

## § 2 b. The ICSM 1936 System.

The papers submitted to the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering 1936 were divided into sections by means of a classification system made up especially for this purpose.

The System consists of the following 15 sections:

- A Reports from Soil Mechanics Laboratories on Testing Apparatus, Technique of Testing, and Investigations in Progress
- B Exploration of Soil Conditions and Sampling Operations
- C Regional Soil Studies for Engineering Purposes

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<sup>1</sup> Bibliography on Soil Mechanics. London 1950.

- D Soil Properties
- E Stress Distribution in Soils
- F Settlement of Structures
- G Stability of Earth and Foundation Works and of Natural Slopes
- H Bearing Capacity of Piles
- I Pile Loading Tests
- J Earth Pressure against Retaining Walls, Excavation Sheet piling, Tunnel Linings, etc.
- K Ground Water Movement and Seepage
- L Soil Problems in Highway Engineering Including Frost Action in Soils
- M Methods for Improving the Physical Properties of Soils for Engineering Purposes, Including Recent Developments in Constructing and Compacting Earth Fills
- N Modern Methods of Design and Construction of Foundations
- Z Miscellaneous

The System has no subsections, and seems also to have been built up without regard to future subdivision. Some sections should logically be subordinate to other sections instead of being parallel with them. (Section I, for instance, should logically be subordinate to Section H.) For this reason, the System is unsuitable as a basis for detailed classification. It seems not to have been used anywhere except at the 1936 Conference.

### § 2 c. The ICSM 1948 System.

The International Conference of 1948 adopted a classification system quite different from that of its predecessor. It consists of twelve principal sections, each divided into two to nine subsections. We confine ourselves here to a study of the principal sections, *viz.*:

- I Theories, Hypotheses, Considerations of a General Character
- II Laboratory Investigations
- III Field Investigations
- IV Stability and Deformations of Earth Constructions
- V Earth Pressure; Stability and Displacements of Retaining Constructions
- VI Foundation Pressure and Settlements of Buildings on Footings and Rafts
- VII Pile Foundations, Pile Loading Tests
- VIII Problems of Road and Runway Constructions
- IX Improvement of the Mechanical Properties of the Soil
- X Groundwater Problems
- XI Suggestions for International Collaboration, Exchange of Information
- XII Subjects of a General Character

In this system several bases of division are used simultaneously. Sections I and IX represent one basis of division, namely the kind of geotechnical activities, Sections II and III embody a second basis of division, namely the place of the geotechnical activities, and Section X refers to a third basis of division, namely the kind of problem. Sections IV-VIII represent a combination of the third basis of division and a fourth basis of division, the kind of construction works. Sections XI and XII, finally, can hardly be referred to any basis of division, but form dumping-grounds for divers subjects of general nature.

The parallel use of various basis of division is illogical and rather confusing. Above all it seems unreasonable that all the theories and hypotheses for the various kinds of problems are collected (together with subjects of general character) in one section, whereas their applications are divided into a series of other sections according to the kind of problem and the kind of construction works.

For these reasons, the System was rejected by the Institute.

### **§ 3. The New Classification System (the SGI System).**

#### **§ 3 a. General Considerations.**

To devise a classification system is to divide the subject into a number of principal sections, then to divide each principal section into a number of sub-sections, and so on. In each dividing operation only one basis of division should be used, if possible, in order that the system be logical. However, different bases of division may be used in different dividing operations, even if they are of the same order. It is essential for the value of the system that the most important basis of division be used primarily.

In the present case, the subject to be classified consists of all geotechnical knowledge. This knowledge refers to various kinds of geotechnical problems (stability, deformation, etc.), to various kinds of construction works (bridges, dams, etc.), to various kinds of soils (clay, sand, etc.), to various kinds of geotechnical activities (sampling, testing, computation, etc.), and to various places of geotechnical activities (field, laboratory, etc.). We have here already five different bases of division, which could be used in our classification system. There may be other bases of division, too, though less important.

The kind of problem was deemed to be the most important basis of division, and should, therefore, be applied primarily. Among the remaining possible bases of division mentioned above the kind of soil and the kind of geotechnical activities were deemed essential, and it was decided to take them into account in the subdivision or by means of auxiliary signs.

### § 3 b. Formation of Principal Sections.

In accordance with the considerations above, the kinds of geotechnical problems were enumerated as follows:

- A Stability (Rupture) Problems
- B Deformation Problems
- C Ground Water (Seepage) Problems
- D Vibration Problems
- E Erosion Problems
- F Frost Action Problems
- G Quicksand Problems
- H Shrinkage and Swelling Problems
- I Other Problems

This division of geotechnical knowledge was made according to the gist of the phenomenon in question, regardless of the prevailing outer circumstances. Thus, for instance, the active and the passive earth pressure, the stability of slopes, and the bearing capacity of footings all belong in Section A, Stability Problems, whereas the earth pressure at rest and the settlements of foundations belong in Section B, Deformation Problems.

It was soon found, however, that the completely logical system thus arrived at would not be practical. Therefore, it was modified as follows.

Firstly, it was discovered that the above enumeration of problems covers the main part of geotechnics, namely soil mechanics, but not the remaining part, foundation engineering. Descriptions of methods of foundation and methods of improving the properties of soil cannot reasonably be classified according to the kind of problem. They were therefore collected in a new principal section called J, Improvement of Soils. Foundations.

Secondly, geotechnics contains many subjects of general character, which can hardly be attributed either to any particular problem, or to the new Section J. Such subjects are, for instance, considerations of the importance, the history, the scope, and the subdivision of geotechnics, information on geotechnical institutions, societies, conferences, etc. These subjects were collected in another new section, called K, General.

Thirdly, there are a great many subjects which are common to all, or nearly all, the problems A—I. These subjects are structural characteristics and properties of various soils and their constituents, methods for their investigation, and also field investigations. It would be unreasonable to reiterate all these subjects under each problem A—I. Therefore, they were collected separately, and, as they constitute a considerable part of geotechnics, were divided into three new sections, namely L, Soil Science, M, Laboratory Investigations, and N, Field Investigations. (Though the subjects of Section M closely correspond to those of Section L, it was deemed appropriate to separate the former from the latter, as, among other things, it then becomes possible to use different degrees of subdivision in the two sections.)

Fourthly, it became evident that Section A, Stability Problems, would be excessively large compared with the other sections. Therefore, the active and the passive earth pressure problems, which form a well-defined group holding a prominent position in the history of geotechnics, were moved from Section A into a new Section O. As it is often difficult to know whether the earth pressure under consideration has reached its limiting value (the active or passive pressure) or holds an intermediate value (depending on the deformation conditions), the earth pressure problems in Section B, Deformation Problems, were removed from it, and were also inserted into the new Section O, which will therefore include all earth pressure problems.

Fifthly, it appeared that each of the Sections D—I would be very small compared with each of the other sections. It was also desired that the sections be not more than 10 in number, so that, together with their subsections, they could form a decimal classification system. For these two reasons, the Sections D—H were incorporated into Section I.

After these changes had been made, the headings of the sections were modified accordingly. The sections were also rearranged into a better sequence, and were labelled with the figures 0—9. Thus, the list of principal sections assumed the following appearance:

- 0 General
- 1 Soil Science
- 2 Laboratory Investigations
- 3 Field Investigations
- 4 Earth Pressure Problems
- 5 Stability Problems
- 6 Deformation Problems
- 7 Ground Water Problems
- 8 Special Problems
- 9 Improvement of Soils. Foundations

The signification of these headings, *i.e.* the contents of the various principal sections, is clear from their subdivision as seen in the Appendix, which shows the whole system.

Unfortunately, the definite list of the principal sections is not logical, since all sections do not refer to the same basis of division. Indeed, only Sections 5—8 and partly Section 4 do refer to the primary basis of division, the kind of problem. This may seem a poor result, but, as has been seen above, each particular divergence from the original strictly logical system was enforced by practical reasons. Anyhow, the new system seems to be more logical and more fit for use than the three earlier systems described in § 2.

### § 3 c. Subsections.

When dividing the principal sections into subsections, various bases of division have been used. The principal Section 0 (General), for instance, constitutes an enumeration of subjects only. In the principal Section 3 (Field Investigations)

the subdivision is based on the completeness of the investigations, beginning with the simplest investigations (31 Inspection of Site) and ending in the most thorough ones (33/37 Investigations Involving Penetration into Ground). In other principal sections the most general subjects are placed first, and are followed by more and more specialized items.

In most sections the first subsection (Subsection 0) is used for subjects of general character, Subsection 8, for subjects collected from the other subsections, and Subsection 9, for miscellaneous.

The subdivision of some sections (for instance, Section 1, 2, and 3) is partly very detailed, and is surely too detailed for many classification purposes. However, those who prefer a rough classification can of course omit some subsections and/or some auxiliary signs, and can make use of sections suitable for their particular needs only.

### § 3 d. Combination of Main Numbers.

The numbers representing the principal sections, their subsections, etc., are called main numbers.

Sometimes the subject can be classified more precisely by combining two main numbers. This is done by means of : (colon). For instance, 021 represents the history of geotechnics in general, whereas 021:41/44 designates the history of the problem of earth pressure against walls.

The main numbers which can be combined in this way with other main numbers are marked out by notes in the System (see the Appendix).

### § 3 e. Auxiliary Signs.

Two important bases of division, namely the kind of soil and the kind of geotechnical activities, were not taken into account in the main numbers. In order to make use of them, so that the subject be classified more precisely, we have introduced them by means of so-called auxiliary signs.

The auxiliary signs expressing the kind of soil are figures added to the main numbers but separated from them by ' (accent). Four such figures are used, corresponding to the following rough classification of the soils:

- 1 cohesive soils
- 2 noncohesive soils
- 3 peat
- 9 other masses

The main numbers to which these auxiliary signs can be added are marked by a full line in the System (see the Appendix).

The auxiliary signs expressing the kind of geotechnical activities are letters which are placed directly after all numbers. Five such letters are used indicating:

- a general
- b computations
- c model tests
- d observations on site
- e remedial measures

The main numbers to which these auxiliary signs can be added are marked by a dash line in the System (see the Appendix).

The application of auxiliary signs is exemplified below:

- 52 = Stability of slopes
- 52'2 = Stability of slopes; noncohesive soils
- 52'2b = Stability of slopes; noncohesive soils; computations
  
- 82 = Frost problems
- 82d = Frost problems; observations on site
- 82de = Frost problems; observations on site and remedial measures

#### § 4. Present Application of the SGI System.

The main application of the SGI System at the Institute is the classification of geotechnical literature. This work began in 1946. The literature catalogues being compiled are intended to cover all geotechnical literature in the Germanic and Romanic languages, in the first place the Scandinavian, English, German, and French languages. Up to now about 3 000 papers are registered in the catalogues.

An author catalogue and a subject catalogue are made up. Each of them consists of cards of the internationally accepted size, 75 × 125 mm, typographically arranged in accordance with prevalent library rules.

In the author catalogue, each book or paper has one card. Such a card referring to a paper is shown in Fig. 1. The card carries at the top the author's name followed below by the heading of the paper and the name of the publication in which the paper is to be found. The classification numbers are given in the middle of the card, and an abbreviation of the name of a library from which the paper can be borrowed is indicated in the bottom left-hand corner. The cards are arranged in the catalogue in alphabetical order according to the name of the author or, if the book or paper is anonymous, in general according to the first word of its heading.

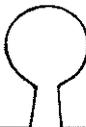
In the subject catalogue, each book or paper has one card for each subject that it deals with. Such a card is shown in Fig. 2.<sup>1</sup> The head of the card

<sup>1</sup> This card is one of those two subject catalogue cards which correspond to the author catalogue card shown in Fig. 1.

C r o n, F.W. & M o o r e, R.W.  
Subsurface Road Conditions Revealed by Geo-  
physical Methods.  
Engng.News-Rec. 1949 Vol.143 Nr 15 p.40-44.

321 + 323

gi.



*Fig. 1. Author catalogue card.*

323

C r o n, F.W. & M o o r e, R.W.  
Subsurface Road Conditions Revealed by Geo-  
physical Methods.  
Engng.News-Rec. 1949 Vol.143 Nr 15 p.40-44.

p.40-44. 3p.

Resistivity test methods; principle, utility,  
revealed information, tests subsequent to ex-  
cavation, usefulness.

gi.



*Fig. 2. Subject catalogue card.*

(*i.e.* the author's name, the heading of the paper, and the name of the publication) is identical with the head of the corresponding card in the author catalogue. The classification number is written in the top right-hand corner. The pages of the paper dealing with the subject defined by the classification number and their total number are indicated under the head. Then follows a short account of the pages in question. The library notation is in the bottom left-hand corner of the card. The cards are arranged in the catalogue in order of subjects according to the classification system.

The classification carried out by the Institute is more detailed than is usual. Thus, a work dealing with several subjects is classified by a series of classification numbers (not only by the classification number of its heading), as shown by the following examples.

The paper represented by the cards in Figs. 1 and 2 and entitled "Subsurface Road Conditions Revealed by Geophysical Methods" (Engng. News-Rec. 1949 Vol. 143 Nr 15 p. 40—44) is classified not by the number 32, "Remote measurement of soil conditions" (Geophysical explorations), but by the numbers 321, "Seismic methods", and 323, "Electrical methods", *i.e.* by the details dealt with in the paper.

Another paper entitled "Foundations for the Aggersund bridge, Denmark" (Proc. 2. Internat. Conf. Soil Mech. a. Found. Engng. 1948 Vol. 4 p. 107—122) is classified by the numbers 562'1d "Bearing capacity of single piles; cohesive soils; observations on site", and 632bd "Consolidation settlements; computations and observations on site". These two subjects can hardly be inferred from the heading.

Such a detailed classification involves, of course, a huge amount of work. It is to be emphasized that this work requires geotechnical training, and therefore cannot be done by a librarian; it must be performed by a geotechnicist. We have undertaken this heavy toil in view of the following important advantages which the Institute and its clients derive from the detailed literature catalogue.

Nearly always when literature references are searched for, only references to a certain limited subject are wanted. The main advantage of a detailed literature catalogue is that it can immediately produce these references without mixing them with irrelevant references.

If, for instance, somebody is doing research on the earth pressure at rest, our detailed literature catalogue at once provides references to all the classified literature on this specific topic. From an ordinary literature catalogue of a general technical library he can get hundreds of references to literature on the wide field of earth pressure in general, but this material is practically useless to him.

It should also be pointed out that the detailed classification, which implies a careful study of the whole contents, gives a much more reliable idea of the paper in question than the classification done in the public libraries, which is normally based merely on the heading of the paper. Experience shows that the heading often gives a poor or even misleading notion of the real contents.

## § 5. Concluding Remarks.

The purpose of this report is to show how our Institute has built up a new and detailed geotechnical classification system, and how we apply it to geotechnical literature. The System is not claimed to be the ideal one; it can surely be criticized. It is made up on the basis of Swedish conceptions of geotechnics, and the problems dominating in Sweden have been given dominating space in the System. This may not fully agree with foreign needs. However, it is hoped that this report will open an international discussion on the geotechnical classification problem, which certainly is very important.

The report may also be regarded as a contribution to the discussion of the problem how to master the rising flood of technical literature. In our opinion, for which reasons were given above, a good solution cannot be reached by librarians and by means of a universal classification system. The right way is specialization. Engineering comprises perhaps 100 special branches, and each of them should solve its own literature problem by means of its own classification system.

## § 6. Summary.

A good geotechnical classification system is of great importance, above all for the classification of geotechnical literature. Three classification systems have hitherto been used in geotechnics; all have deficiencies and inconveniences.

A new, detailed geotechnical classification system is presented. It is constructed according to the decimal principle, and to some extent with the UDC System as a pattern. Its present application to classification of geotechnical literature is described.

## APPENDIX

# The SGI Geotechnical Classification System

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## X Geotechnics

### Principal sections

- 0 General
- 1 Soil science
- 2 Laboratory investigations
- 3 Field investigations
- 4 Earth pressure problems
- 5 Stability problems
- 6 Deformation problems
- 7 Ground water problems
- 8 Special problems
- 9 Improvement of soils. Foundations

### Complete system

#### *Auxiliary signs*

The following two kinds of general auxiliary signs are used in connection with the main numbers marked by a full line and a dash line in the margin, respectively:

#### *Auxiliary signs for kinds of soil*

To be added directly to the main numbers and separated from them by ' (accent).

- 1 cohesive soils
- 2 nonecohesive soils
- 3 peat
- 9 other masses

#### *Auxiliary signs for kinds of activities*

To be placed directly after all numbers.

- a general (not used in connection with the main numbers »general«)
- b computations
- c model tests
- d observations on site
- e remedial measures

*Special auxiliary signs* are used in some sections. They are separated from the main numbers by - (hyphen). The signs are explained at the beginning of the sections in question.

## 0 General

- 00 Significance, extent, and subdivision of geotechnics. Geotechnics in relation to other sciences**
- 01 Nomenclature**
- 02 History. Personal history**
  - 021 History**

Subdivision by means of colon. For instance, 021:41/44 "History of earth pressure against walls"
  - 022 Personal history**
- 03 Institutions, firms (activities, organization, buildings, lay-out, equipment, etc.)**
- 04 Societies, committees, conferences, meetings, discourses, exhibitions, etc.**
- 05 Education**
- 06 Publications (bibliographies etc.)**

Subdivision by means of colon, For instance, 06:251 "Bibliography on determination of shear strength"
- 07 Standards**

Subdivision by means of colon. For instance, 07:561/563 "Standards concerning bearing capacity of piles"
- 09 Other general subjects**

# 1 Soil Science

"Geotechnical Soil Science"

Investigations of soil properties, see 2 and 3

## 10 General

General description of various soils

## 11 Origin and occurrence of soils and other geological subjects of geotechnical importance

Regional soil conditions, see 18

## 12 Classification and identification of soils

Atterberg limits, characteristics of different soils

## 13 Structural characteristics of soils (composition, density, structure, etc.)

### 130 General

### 131 Soil aggregate

Structural characteristics of soil constituents, see 132/139

#### 131.0 General

#### 131.1 Composition and density

Grain size distribution, see 132.1

#### 131.10 General

#### 131.11 Water content

#### 131.12 Organic matter content

#### 131.15 Unit weight

#### 131.16 Porosity, Void ratio

#### 131.17 Relative density

Compactibility, see 173

#### 131.19 Miscellaneous

#### 131.2 Structure

#### 131.9 Miscellaneous

### 132 Mineral constituents

#### 132.0 General

#### 132.1 Grain size distribution, grain size and shape

#### 132.2 Composition and structure

#### 132.3 Density (specific gravity)

#### 132.9 Miscellaneous

### 133 Organic matter

### 134 Pore water (incl. dissolved materials)

Acidity, pH value

### 135 Decomposition products (undissolved)

### 139 Miscellaneous

- 14 Physico-chemical fundamentals for the engineering behaviour of soils**  
Colloidal and electrokinetic properties and phenomena
  - 140 General**
  - 141 Adsorption of polar and non-polar molecules**  
Hydration, heat of wetting
  - 142 Ion adsorption**  
Binding capacity, exchange reactions
  - 143 Stability of suspensions**  
Peptization, coagulation  
*Cf* 381
  - 144 Electrokinetics**  
See also 175
    - 144.0 General**
    - 144.1 Electrical double layer. Surface potentials**
    - 144.2 Electrophoresis. Electro-osmosis**  
*Cf* 912
    - 144.3 Streaming potential**
    - 144.9 Miscellaneous**
  - 149 Miscellaneous**
- 15 Behaviour of soils subjected to shear. Shear strength. Consistency**
  - 150 General**
  - 151 Relation between shearing stress and strain. Shear strength**
  - 152 Consistency**  
Atterberg limits, see 12
  - 158 Thixotropy**
  - 159 Miscellaneous**
- 16 Relation between normal stress and strain**
  - 160 General**
  - 161/163 Deformations dependent on time**
  - 161 General**
  - 162 Deformations accompanied by squeezing out (or suction) of water**  
Consolidation
  - 163 Other deformations dependent on time**
  - 166 Deformations not dependent on time**
- 17 Other soil properties**
  - 171 Permeability**
  - 172 Capillarity**
  - 173 Compactibility**
  - 174 Thermal properties**
  - 175 Electrical properties**  
See also 144
  - 179 Miscellaneous**
- 18 Regional soil conditions**  
This number can be combined with UDC general auxiliary numbers of place, for instance, 18 (62) "Soil conditions in Egypt"
- 19 Miscellaneous**

## 2 Laboratory Investigations. Investigation of Soil Samples

Model tests, see problems 4/99

### 20 General

Lay-out of laboratory, equipment, storage of samples

### 21 Geological investigations (of geotechnical importance)

### 22 Classification and identification tests

Atterberg limits tests

### 23 Investigation of structural characteristics of soils (composition, density, structure, etc.)

#### 230 General

#### 231 Investigation of soil aggregate

Investigation of soil constituents, see 232/239

##### 231.0 General

##### 231.1 Composition and density investigations

Determination of grain size distribution, see 232.1

##### 231.10 General

##### 231.11 Determination of water content

##### 231.12 Determination of organic matter content

##### 231.15 Determination of unit weight

##### 231.16 Determination of porosity or void ratio

##### 231.17 Determination of relative density

Compaction tests, see 273

##### 231.19 Miscellaneous

##### 231.2 Structure investigations

##### 231.9 Miscellaneous

#### 232 Investigation of mineral constituents

##### 232.0 General

##### 232.1 Determination of grain size distribution (mechanical analysis), grain size and shape

##### 232.10 General

##### 232.11 Sieve analysis

##### 232.12 Sedimentation analysis (in gravitational or centrifugal field)

##### 232.13 Elutriation analysis (with water, air, etc.)

##### 232.14 Microscopic investigations

##### 232.19 Miscellaneous

##### 232.2 Composition and structure investigations of mineral grains

##### 232.20 General

##### 232.21 Thermal methods

- 232.210 General
- 232.211 Differential thermal analysis
- 232.212 Weight loss analysis
- 232.213 Dilatation analysis
- 232.219 Miscellaneous
- 232.22 Microscopic investigations
- 232.23 X-ray analysis
- 232.24 Chemical analysis
- 232.29 Miscellaneous
- 232.3 Determination of density of mineral grains
- 232.9 Miscellaneous
- 233 Investigation of organic matter
- 234 Investigation of pore water (incl. dissolved materials)
- 235 Investigation of decomposition products (undissolved)
- 239 Miscellaneous
- 24 Investigations concerning the physico-chemical fundamentals for the engineering behaviour of soils**  
Colloidal and electrokinetic investigations
- 240 General
- 241 Investigations of molecular adsorption  
Determination of hygroscopicity
- 242 Investigations of ionic adsorption
- 243 Investigations of stability of suspensions  
*Cf* 381
- 244 Electrokinetic investigations
  - 244.0 General
    - 244.1 Investigations of electric double layer
    - 244.2 Electrophoretic and electro-osmotic measurements  
*Cf* 275 and 912
    - 244.3 Measurement of streaming potential
    - 244.9 Miscellaneous
- 249 Miscellaneous
- 25 Investigations of the behaviour of soils subjected to shear. Determination of shear strength and consistency**
- 250 General
- 251 Investigations of the relation between shearing stress and strain.  
Determination of shear strength
  - 251.0 General
    - 251.1/251.7 Direct methods
      - 251.1 General
      - 251.2 Box-shear tests
      - 251.3 Unconfined compression tests
      - 251.4 Triaxial tests

- 251.5 Rotation-shear tests
  - Ring-shear tests, laboratory vane tests
- 251.7 Other direct methods
- 251.8 Indirect methods
  - Cone tests
- 252 Determination of consistency
  - Determination of Atterberg limits, see 22
- 258 Thixotropic investigations
- 259 Miscellaneous
- 26 Investigations of the relation between normal stress and strain**
  - 260 General
  - 261 One-axial tests
    - Unconfined compression tests, see 251.3
    - 261.0 General
    - 261.1 Oedometer tests
    - 261.2 Ring-consolidometer tests (with or without measurements of lateral pressure and lateral expansion)
    - 261.9 Miscellaneous
  - 263 Triaxial tests
  - 269 Miscellaneous
- 27 Investigation of other soil properties**
  - 270 General
  - 271 Determination of permeability
    - 271.0 General
    - 271.1 Constant-head tests
    - 271.2 Falling-head tests
    - 271.9 Miscellaneous
  - 272 Determination of capillarity
  - 273 Determination of compactibility
  - 274 Investigation of thermal properties
  - 275 Investigation of electrical properties
    - Electro-osmosis, see 244.2
  - 279 Miscellaneous
- 29 Miscellaneous**

### 3 Field Investigations

Special field investigations, such as model tests, measurement of earth pressure and settlements, see problems 4/99. Investigation of soil samples, see 2

#### 30 General

301 Extent of investigations

302 Recording results of investigations

#### 31 Inspection of site (incl. aerial photography and airphoto examination)

310 General

311 Geotechnical inspection

312 Geological inspection

313 Biological inspection

317 Aerial inspection

319 Miscellaneous

#### 32 Remote measurement of soil conditions

Geophysical explorations

320 General

321 Seismic methods

322 Continuous vibration methods

323 Electrical methods

329 Miscellaneous

#### 33/37 Investigations involving penetration into ground

##### 33 General

##### 34 Sinking of holes

*Special auxiliary signs.* Separated from the main numbers by - (hyphen)

1/3 Stabilization of the hole

1 With casing

2 With drilling fluid

3 By other methods

5/6 Fetching up of loosed material

5 By washing

6 By mechanical means

340 General

341 Displacement of the material

342 Crushing of the material

Percussion drilling

343 Cutting loose the material

Rotary drilling, digging

- 344 Washing loose the material
  - Jetting
- 349 Miscellaneous
- 35 Measurements directly in ground
  - 350 General
  - 351 Mechanical methods
    - Soundings
    - Loading tests, see 51
    - Measurements concerning water in the ground, see 358
  - 351.0 General
    - 351.1 Axial<sup>1</sup> movement of measuring tool
      - Penetration tests
    - 351.2 Tangential<sup>1</sup> movement of measuring tool
      - Vane tests
    - 351.3 Radial<sup>1</sup> movement of measuring tool
  - 351.9 Miscellaneous
- 358 Measurements concerning water in the ground
  - 358.0 General
  - 358.1 Ground water table
  - 358.2 Pore pressure
  - 358.9 Miscellaneous
- 359 Miscellaneous
- 36 Sampling and handling of samples
  - 360 General
  - 361 Non-representative samples (with regard to composition and structure)
    - Wet samples
  - 362 Disturbed samples (with regard to structure)
    - 362.0 General
      - 362.1 Axial<sup>1</sup> entering of sample
        - Posthole augers, helical augers
      - 362.2 Radial<sup>1</sup> entering of sample
        - Slit tube samplers
    - 362.9 Miscellaneous
  - 363 Undisturbed samples
    - Special auxiliary signs.* Separated from the main numbers by - (hyphen)
      - 1/5 Methods for preventing disturbance and loss of sample
        - 1 Cutting sample free from subsoil
        - 2 Break of vacuum below sample
        - 3 Producing vacuum above sample
        - 4 Mechanical retaining of sample
          - Core retainers
        - 5 Other methods for preventing disturbance and loss of sample
        - 8 Shallow sampling
        - 9 Taking of long cores

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<sup>1</sup> In relation to the hole.

- 363.0** General
  - Disturbances of soil during sampling, requirements for good samplers, area ratio
- 363.1** Sampling without continuously controlled recovery ratio
  - Samplers with free piston, open samplers, samplers with retracted piston
- 363.2** Sampling with continuously controlled recovery ratio
  - Samplers with stationary piston
- 363.9** Miscellaneous
- 366** Handling of soil samples
  - Handling of samples in the laboratory, see 20
  - 366.0** General
  - 366.1** Preservation
  - 366.2** Storage and transport
  - 366.9** Miscellaneous
- 367** Water samples
- 369** Miscellaneous
- 37** Other investigations involving penetration into ground
- 38** Auxiliaries for field investigations
  - 380** General
  - 381** Drilling fluids
    - Cf* 143 and 243
  - 382** Appliances for driving and withdrawal
  - 383** Special auxiliaries for investigations (borings) through water
    - Rafts, platforms
  - 384** Conveying equipment
  - 389** Miscellaneous
- 39** Miscellaneous

## 4 Earth Pressure Problems

- 40 General
- 41/44 Earth pressure against walls and similar structures
- 41 General
- 42 Limit pressure
  - 420 General
  - 421 Active earth pressure
  - 422 Passive earth pressure
- 43 Earth pressure at rest and after movement not large enough to cause limit pressure
- 44 Other problems of earth pressure against walls and similar structures
- 45 Silo pressure
- 46 Earth pressure on tunnels, underground conduits, and similar structures
- 48 Apparatuses and methods for measurement of earth pressure
- 49 Miscellaneous

## 5 Stability Problems (Bearing Capacity of Soils, Stability of Slopes, Bearing Capacity of Piles, etc.)

Earth pressure problems, see 4

### 50 General

501 Factor of safety in stability problems in general

51 **Bearing capacity of soils (horizontal or nearly horizontal ground loaded by shallow or deep footings, embankments, etc.)**

52 **Stability of slopes (natural slopes, cuttings, embankments, earth dams, etc.)**

Stability of slopes acted upon by seepage forces, see 722

53 **Slip in the contact surface between structure and soil**

56 **Stability of piles (incl. related deformation problems)**

560 General

561/563 Bearing capacity of piles

561 General

562 Single piles

563 Pile groups

565 Lateral stability of piles

569 Miscellaneous

58 **Local and progressive shear failures**

Subdivision by means of colon. For instance, 58:52'1b "Computations regarding progressive failure of slopes in cohesive soils"

59 **Miscellaneous**

## 6 Deformation Problems (Stress Distribution, Settlements, etc.)

Earth pressure problems, see 4. Deformation problems in connection with piles, see 5

### 60 General

#### 61 Stress distribution

Earth pressure measurements, see 48  
Pore pressure measurements, see 338.2

#### 610 General

611 Contact stresses between soil and loaded areas, footings, etc.

612 Stress distribution in subsoil (also in slopes, earth dams, etc.)  
Stress distribution around piles, see 56

#### 619 Miscellaneous

#### 62/64 Settlements (and swelling) due to variations of load

Settlements due to lowering of the ground water table  
Settlements due to special causes (vibrations, frost action, etc.), see 8

### 62 General

#### 63 Settlements due to compression of soil (incl. consolidation)

##### 630 General

631/633 Settlements dependent on time

##### 631 General

632 Settlements accompanied by squeezing out of water  
Consolidation

633 Other settlements dependent on time

636 Settlements not dependent on time

#### 64 Settlements due to deformation of soil (at constant or nearly constant volume)

Settlements due to lateral displacement of soil  
Problems in connection with local and progressive failures, see 58

#### 68 Apparatuses and methods for measurement of deformations

### 69 Miscellaneous

## 7 Ground Water Problems

Consolidation, see 632. Frost action in soils, see 82. Measurements concerning water in the ground, see 358

- 70 General**
- 71 Ground water seepage**
  - Special methods for dewatering and improvement of soils, see 91
  - 710 General**
  - 711 Natural seepage**
  - 712/716 Seepage in connection with construction works, drains, etc.**
  - 712 General**
  - 713 Seepage to wells, excavations, drains, etc.**
    - Seepage in connection with sheet piling, see 714
  - 714 Seepage in connection with dams, sheet piling, etc.**
  - 716 Other seepage problems in connection with construction works**
  - 719 Miscellaneous**
- 72 Stability of earth acted upon by seepage forces**
  - 720 General**
  - 721 Piping due to heave**
  - 722 Stability of slopes acted upon by seepage forces**
  - 729 Miscellaneous**
- 73 Ground water erosion**
  - Erosion problems in general, see 810
- 74 Corrosion due to ground water**
- 79 Miscellaneous**

## 8 Special Problems

- 80 Vibration problems**  
Subdivision by means of colon. For instance, 80:52c "Model tests regarding the effect of vibrations on the stability of slopes"
- 81 Erosion problems**  
Ground water erosion, see 73
  - 810 General**
  - 811 Scour**
  - 812 Wind erosion**
  - 819 Miscellaneous**
- 82 Frost and heat problems**
- 83 Quicksand problems**  
Stability of earth acted upon by seepage forces, see 72
- 84 Shrinkage and swelling (due to desiccation and sorption, respectively)**
- 85 Handling of soils (excavation, transport, etc.)**
- 86 Rock pressure and other problems related to rock**
- 87 Special problems closely related to special construction works, to town planning, etc. (also summaries of general problems related to a special subject)**
  - 870/877 Problems in connection with construction works**
    - 870 General**
    - 871 Houses**
    - 872 Roads and airfields**
      - 872.1 Pavements**  
*Cf 95*
    - 873 Railways**
    - 874 Bridges**
    - 875 Hydraulic works**
      - 875.0 General**
      - 875.1 Dams and levees**
      - 875.2 Quays**
      - 875.3 Canals**
      - 875.9 Miscellaneous**
    - 876 Tunnels and underground conduits**
    - 877 Other construction works (retaining walls, poles, etc.)**
    - 878 Problems in connection with town planning**
    - 879 Miscellaneous**
- 89 Miscellaneous**

## 9 Improvement (Strengthening, Compaction) of Soils. Foundations

### 90/97 Improvement of soils

Methods of increasing bearing capacity of piles, see 982.5

Displacement of soil, see 983

### 90 General

### 91 Dewatering by various methods

Drainage by pumping in wells and sumps, see 713. Natural flow to drains, etc., ditto

#### 910 General

911 Consolidation of soil by applying a load (embankment or vacuum) without drainage or in combination with drainage

#### 911.0 General

911.1 Without special drains

911.2 With sand drains

911.3 With cardboard drains

911.4 With filter wells

911.9 Miscellaneous

### 912 Electro-osmosis

Cf 144.2 and 244.2

### 913 Application of heat. Ventilation

### 917 Planting of grasses, shrubs, etc.

### 919 Miscellaneous

### 92 Compaction

Compaction in connection with stabilization, see 95

#### 920 General

#### 921 Rolling

#### 922 Tamping

#### 923 Vibrating

#### 924 Blasting

#### 925 Piling

#### 926 Ponding

#### 929 Miscellaneous

### 93 Artificial cementing (*in situ*)

Injection processes

Freezing, see 94

Stabilization, see 95

#### 930 General

#### 931 Cement grouts

- 932 Bituminous emulsions
- 933 Clay grouts
- 934 Soluble silicate solutions
- 935 Asphalt grouts
- 939 Miscellaneous
- 94 **Freezing**
  - 940 General
  - 941 Liquid refrigerant
  - 942 Gaseous refrigerant
  - 943 Solid refrigerant
- 95 **Stabilization (by mixing with other soils, cement, bitumen, etc.)**
  - Cf 872.1*
  - 950 General
  - 951 Correction of grading
  - 952 Addition of cement
  - 953 Addition of a bituminous stabilizer
  - 959 Miscellaneous
- 96 **Ion exchange. Electrochemical hardening**
- 97 **Other methods for improvement of soils**
- 98 **Foundations**
  - 980 General
  - 981 Spread foundations. Pier foundations
  - 982 Pile foundations
    - Stability of piles, see 56
    - 982.0 General
    - 982.1 Pile types
    - 982.2 Location of piles (spacing, inclination, etc.)
    - 982.3 Installation of piles (driving, preboring, etc.)
    - 982.4 Bond, connection to pile cap, anchorage, etc.
    - 982.5 Methods of increasing bearing capacity of piles
    - 982.9 Miscellaneous
  - 983 Displacement of soil
  - 989 Miscellaneous
- 99





LIST OF PUBLICATIONS  
FROM THE ROYAL SWEDISH GEOTECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE

*Proceedings*

- No. 1. Soil Sampler with Metal Foils. Device for Taking Undisturbed Samples of Very Great Length. *W. Kjellman, T. Kallstenius, and O. Wager* ..... 1950
2. The Vane Borer. An Apparatus for Determining the Shear Strength of Clay Soils Directly in the Ground. *Lyman Cadling and Sten Odenstad* ..... 1950
3. Device and Procedure for Loading Tests on Piles. *W. Kjellman and Y. Liljedahl* ..... 1951
4. The Landslide at Sköttorp on the Lidan River, February 2, 1946. *Sten Odenstad* ..... 1951
5. The Landslide at Surte on the Göta River, September 29, 1950. *Bernt Jakobson* ..... 1952
6. A New Geotechnical Classification System. *W. Kjellman, L. Cadling, and N. Flodin* ..... 1953

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- Nr 1. Kortfattat kompendium i geoteknik 1946 ..... 1946
2. Redogörelse för Statens geotekniska instituts verksamhet under åren 1944—1948 ..... 1949
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