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Modeling the Stress-Dilatancy Relationship of Unsaturated Silica Sand in Triaxial Compression Tests

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4 **ABSTRACT**

It is well known that partial saturation increases the shear strength and dilatancy of unsaturated 5 sand. However, little research has been carried out on the actual stress-dilatancy relationship. This 6 paper shows that the increase in peak shear strength caused by partial saturation is consistent with 7 an increase in dilatancy, and that conventional stress-dilatancy theories are still valid for unsatu-8 rated sand. The use of state indexes, as a proxy for dilatancy, were investigated and extended to 9 unsaturated sands. Additionally, these indexes can be used to establish a critical state line which 10 is based on material properties only. The validity of the stress-dilatancy theories and the use of 11 state indexes offer simplicity in modeling the shear behavior of unsaturated sand. This will be 12 demonstrated in this paper with the Nor-Sand model, and with which the wetting collapse can be 13 explained as a consequence of a loss of dilatancy characteristics. 14

Keywords: Stress-dilatancy theory, critical state theory, state indexes, unsaturated sand, consti tutive modeling.

17 INTRODUCTION

Since the early work of Taylor (1948), it has been recognized that the development of the shear strength is a consequence of grains interlocking and the critical state strength, which was shown by Roscoe et al. (1958) to be uniquely defined. Roscoe and Schofield (1963) were driven by this idea and expressed Taylor's stress-dilatancy theory in terms of stress invariants. However, it was

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later recognized that the contribution of dilatancy, or interlocking, was not as significant as was
 previously believed (*i.e.* Bolton 1986; Stroud 1971). Amongst others, Nova (1982) introduced a
 dilatancy parameter to minimize the influence of dilatancy on the shear strength (Eq. 1).

$$\eta' = M + (N-1)D\tag{1}$$

where $\eta' = q/p'$ is the effective stress ratio with q the deviatoric stress and p' the mean effective stress, M the critical state stress ratio, N the dilatancy parameter and $D = \frac{d\varepsilon_v^p}{d\varepsilon_d^p}$ the dilatancy rate, $d\varepsilon_v^p$ and $d\varepsilon_d^p$, respectively, the plastic volumetric and deviatoric strain increments.

Roscoe and Schofield (1963) established the Original Cam-Clay model from the stress-dilatancy theory by assuming that the development of plastic volumetric strains followed the development of the shear strength. In turn, Roscoe and Burland (1968) simplified the equation to formulate the Modified Cam-Clay model. Roscoe (1970) later recognized the limitations of these models in predicting the behavior of sand, and the necessity of introducing a hardening law based on a strain invariant which would relate to the critical state. Jefferies (1993) suggested using the state parameter (Been and Jefferies 1985) as a strain invariant (Eq. 2).

$$\psi = e - e_{cs} \tag{2}$$

where ψ is the state parameter, e the void ratio and e_{cs} the critical state void ratio.

The state parameter is a measurement of how much the sand has to contract or dilate in order to reach the critical state. Jefferies (1993) then derived Nova's stress-dilatancy rule (Eq. 1) to formulate the Nor-Sand model which, unlike the Cam-Clay models, included the void ratio as a model variable. It also allowed plasticity to take place prior to the peak state.

The idea of introducing plasticity before the peak state was not new (Drucker et al. 1957). Dafalias and Popov (1975) introduced it in a bounding surface model for cyclic loading, and Bardet (1986) for triaxial loading. Hashiguchi and Chen (1998) introduced the sub-loading surface concept, which also allowed plasticity to take place prior to the peak state by reformulating the consistency condition. This allowed existing models, such as the Cam-Clay models, to be updated.
 Nor-Sand resembles these models in the sense that it predicts the hardening rate by comparing the
 current stress state with an estimated peak state.

Despite the fact that all Cambridge-type theories and models originate from the stress-dilatancy 47 theory, it is surprising that little attention has been given to these relationships when modeling the 48 behavior of partially saturated soils. Alonso et al. (1990) carried out a straightforward extension of 49 the modified Cam-Clay model for unsaturated soils by introducing the loading-collapse (LC) curve. 50 However, it did not include sub-loading surface and hence plasticity prior to the peak state. The 51 LC curve enhanced the preconsolidation pressure with partial saturation. Therefore, it assumed 52 that the peak strength was a yielding point which violates the stress dilatancy theory. Cui and De-53 lage (1996) also observed the enhancement by partial saturation of both the peak strength and the 54 dilatancy rates. However, they still considered the peak state as a yielding point and, consequently, 55 suggested a different shape of the yield surface to accommodate this modeling assumption. Chiu 56 and Ng (2003) understood the importance of the stress-dilatancy theory in developing new stress-57 strain relationships for unsaturated sand, and proposed a model which would capture the peak 58 strength as a consequence of dilatancy. However, this model was developed on mildly dilative 59 soils, which did not offer sufficient data to extend any state index (Ng and Menzies 2007). Rus-60 sell and Khalili (2006) suggested a bounding surface model for both unsaturated clays and sands, 61 which allowed plasticity to take place prior to the peak and was able to predict wetting-collapses 62 without introducing a loading-collapse curve. Many of the available models show good abilities 63 in modeling the behavior of unsaturated soils (D'Onza et al. 2011). However, these models relied 64 on a vast number of model parameters, which do not necessarily have any physical meaning or are 65 not easily quantifiable. 66

This paper aims to demonstrate the validity of the stress-dilatancy theory for unsaturated sand, and explains the increase of peak strength as the consequence of an increase of the dilatancy rates. The use of state indexes as proxies for dilatancy can be extended to unsaturated sand, and can be used to predict the peak state. The ability to predict both the critical state and peak states offers

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simplicity in modeling the behavior of unsaturated sands, and will be demonstrated with the Nor Sand model. It will also be shown that the on-set of a wetting collapse can be understood, and
 modeled as a loss of dilatancy characteristics rather than a yielding point.

74 CRITICAL STATE STRENGTH AND STRESS VARIABLES

The critical state theory (Roscoe et al. 1958) suggests that any soils sheared sufficiently will ultimately reach a unique state called the critical state. In this state, the soil will be continuously deformed without any changes in volume or stress state. Therefore, the stress-dilatancy theory (Eq. 1) and the state parameter (Eq. 2) at critical state yield to Eq. 3.

$$D := 0 \quad \to \quad \eta' = M, \quad \psi = 0 \tag{3}$$

Partial saturation is known to enhance the critical state strength of soil. However, its expression depends on the choice of the stress variables. There is little consensus on which variables to use. Bishop (1959) suggested a generalized formulation of Terzaghi's effective stress (Eq. 4) which directly took into account the contribution of partial saturation through suction *s* and a coupling parameter χ .

$$p' = p^{net} + \chi s \tag{4}$$

where p' is the mean effective stress, $p^{net} = p^{tot} - p_a$ the mean net stress with p^{tot} the mean total stress and p_a the pore air pressure, $s = p_a - p_w$ the matric suction with p_w the pore water pressure and χ the coupling parameter.

⁸⁷ Bishop's effective stress (Eq. 4) provides a stress variable, which explains any change in strains ⁸⁸ by a change in stresses. However, the quantification of the coupling parameter χ has been a matter ⁸⁹ of debate since its original formulation (*i.e.* Aitchison 1960; Bishop and Blight 1963; Coleman ⁹⁰ 1962). Its incapacity to explain the wetting-collapse in the framework of elasticity made it unpopu-⁹¹ lar (Jennings and Burland 1962), despite evidence that the wetting-collapse was a plastic behavior ⁹² (Leonards 1962). It was only later that the plastic nature of the wetting-collapse reached a consen-⁹³ sus with the introduction of the LC-curve (Alonso et al. 1990). However, the use of Bishop's effec-

tive stress was still unpopular, as it could not explain the peak strength in an elastic-plastic frame-94 work. In this context, it was acknowledge that the coupling parameter χ would mainly depend on 95 the degree saturation S_w (Bishop and Blight 1963) but would have to include some dependency 96 to pressure (Aitchison 1960), to the stress history (Coleman 1962), and even to the soil structure 97 (Alonso et al. 2010). Khalili et al. (2004) pointed out that most arguments against Bishop's effec-98 tive stress were formulated within the context of linear elasticity. Non-recoverable deformations, 99 such as dilation or collapses, could not even be explained for saturated soils in terms of effective 100 stresses alone without invoking appropriate plasticity theories. It is known for saturated sand that 101 the peak strength is a consequence of dilatancy, and that plasticity takes place prior to the peak. 102 Dilatancy is density and pressure dependent (Been and Jefferies 1985; Bolton 1986) and plasticity 103 is stress path dependent. Therefore, it is believed that the only reason that the peak strength could 104 not be predicted with Bishop's effective stress is due to limitations of the elastic-plastic modeling 105 framework. 106

Khalili and Khabbaz (1998) suggested a non-linear coupling parameter χ as a function of ma-107 tric suction s only, and overcame some of the historical skepticism in using Bishop's effective 108 stress. The non-linearity was necessary as it was used to predict the peak strength in associa-109 tion with a Mohr-Coulomb model for unsaturated soils (Fredlund et al. 1978), which is set in the 110 elastic-plastic framework. It can be argued that the proposed non-linear coupling parameter χ en-111 capsulated the non-linearity present in the soil water retention curve (SWRC). However, it was 112 later shown that this empirical relationship could be adapted to capture the critical state strength 113 (Loret and Khalili 2000). However, the coupling parameter χ was found to be different for unsat-114 urated clays and sands (Russell and Khalili 2006). Nuth (2009) reviewed the data of Wheeler and 115 Sivakumar (1995), Maatouk et al. (1995), Cui and Delage (1996), Geiser (1999), Rampino et al. 116 (2000) and Toll and Ong (2003), and showed that the critical state stress ratio M was uniquely 117 defined when the coupling parameter χ was taken as the degree of saturation. Other authors (*i.e.* 118 Bolzon et al. 1996; Lu and Likos 2004) suggested using the effective degree of saturation (Eq. 5) 119 as a coupling parameter χ . Alonso et al. (2010) suggested a similar coupling parameter χ which 120

¹²¹ yields to Eq. 5 for silica sand.

$$\chi = S'_w = \frac{S_w - S_{res}}{1 - S_{res}} \qquad \text{if} \quad S_w \ge S_{res} \tag{5}$$

where S'_w is the effective degree of saturation, S_w the degree of saturation and S_{res} the residual degree of saturation.

The advantage of using the effective degree of saturation S'_w instead of the degree of saturation S_w is that it avoids exponentially increasing values of suction stress $(s \cdot S'_w)$ around the residual degree of saturation, whilst no affecting much the suction stress at higher degree of saturation.

127 CHIBA SAND

In this study, the mechanical behavior of an unsaturated silica sand, called Chiba, sand was undertaken. Chiba sand is a poorly graded silica sand with a particle size ranging from 0.01 mm to 1.00 mm. It has a coefficient of uniformity of 2.1 and a coefficient of curvature of 1.1. The grain-size distribution was obtained by sieving and sedimentation and is shown in Fig. 1(a). The minimum and maximum void ratios were found to be respectively 0.500 and 0.946, and its specific gravity 2.72. The critical state friction angle was found to be 33°, a typical value for silica sand.

The SWRC was obtained for the drying path by Robert (2010) and for three different densities 134 using the axis translation technique. The specimens were subjected to matric suctions of 2 to 60 135 kPa. Pressure ranging from 2 to 10 kPa were applied by means of negative water head (buret) 136 and the 60 kPa with a pressure plate. Complimentary investigations were carried out on a loose 137 specimen and the air entry value s_e , which was found to be 0.5 kPa, the residual degree of saturation 138 around 20%, and a very small hysteresis was found. Similar results were obtained by Schnellmann 139 et al. (2013) for Eschenbach Sand and Russell (2004) for Kurnell Sand. However, the SWRC were 140 obtained using similar techniques which could explain similar results and high residual degree of 141 saturation. The SWRC were fitted with a van Genuchten (1980) model (Eq. 6) for each density and 142 the results are summarized in Table 1. Fig 1(b) shows the experimental results and model fittings. 143

$$S'_{w} = \left[1 + (\alpha_{w}s)^{n_{w}}\right]^{-m_{w}}$$
(6)

where a_w, n_w, m_w are model parameters.

A series of constant-water-content triaxial compression tests were carried out on Chiba sand 145 and additional information on the test program is given in Appendix A. The choice of using this 146 data set instead of suction-controlled tests was motivated by the wide range of initial densities 147 and pressures. Furthermore, the accuracy of a water or air controller is typically around 1 kPa, 148 which makes suction-controlled tests very difficult to carry out on unsaturated sand in the funicu-149 lar regime. These tests were carried out in duplicates at two different strain rates, which allowed a 150 comparison of the volumetric deformation, and to detect any inconsistency in the measurements. 151 The constant-water-content test implies that the mass of water is conserved throughout the en-152 tire test and, hence, the degree of saturation and the matric suction were free to change with the 153 volumetric deformation. Toll (1988) and Ng and Menzies (2007) showed that the changes in ma-154 tric suction in granular material were consistent with the changes in volume for matric suction 155 within the funicular regime. Sand tends to dilate and the degree of saturations decreases through-156 out most of the test. Therefore, it is reasonable to estimate the matric suction of dilative sands 157 with the drying SWRC. Russell and Khalili (2006) carried out both constant-water-content and 158 suction-controlled triaxial compression tests on Kurnell sand, and showed that both methods gave 159 similar results. Fern et al. (2015) also compared suction-controlled and constant-water-content tri-160 axial compression tests of Chiba sand, and also showed that they gave similar results. The matric 161 suction of the constant-water-content tests was estimated with the SWRC. However, the matric 162 suction in sand is typically lower than 10 kPra and, hence, its contribution to the mean effective 163 stress is limited. Nevertheless, the validity of the effective stress principle is paramount for the 164 stress-dilatancy theory and hence for the analysis. 165

166 STRESS-DILATANCY RELATIONSHIP

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The results of triaxial tests are commonly presented in two figures, one for the shear strength

and one for the volumetric behaviour. However, it is possible to present both behaviours in a single 168 figure in the form of a stress-dilatancy curve. The use of a stress ratio allows a better comparison 169 between tests at different confining pressures. Fig. 2 shows a schematic description of a triaxial 170 compression test. Fig. 2(a) shows the development of the effective stress ratio with dilatancy, Fig. 171 2(b) the development of strength with deviatoric strains and Fig. 2(c) the volume changes with 172 deviatoric strains. In triaxial compression tests, the specimen first undergoes a short contraction 173 of typically 1% volumetric strain for 1% to 5% deviatoric strain (points A to B). It can be seen 174 that this contraction appears to be more significant in the stress-dilatancy curve due to the low 175 stresses ($\eta' = q/p'$). At point B, the specimen starts dilating and developing a peak strength which 176 is reached at point C. The specimen then softens from point C to B' but is still dilating. It reaches 177 the critical state at point B'. 178

In order to facilitate the reading, all the figures shown in this paper have the same marker and color convention. The markers correspond to the three different initial densities (\circ loose, medium-dense and \Diamond dense) and the color to their initial water content - black for saturated specimens, and shadings of gray for partially saturated specimens. The void ratio and the degree of saturation used for the analyses were updated throughout the tests with the volumetric strain.

Fig. 3 shows the stress-dilatancy curves of the constant-water-content tests with an axial rate of 0.1%/min. The three top sub-figures (a-c) show the results for the dense specimens, the three middle sub-figures (d-f) for the medium-dense and the three bottom sub-figures (g-i) for the loose specimens. Each series of sub-figures (a-c, d-f & g-i) are, respectively, for three different initial mean net pressures ($p_0^{net} = 20, 40 \& 80$ kPa). Each sub-figure contains two stress-dilatancy curves, respectively, for a water content of 10% and 17%. A trend line has been plotted for each test in order to facilitate the interpretation of results.

The results show an initial contraction (D > 0) followed by dilation (D < 0). The magnitude of the contraction and dilation phases increased as the initial density increased. The transition point between both phases (D = 0) occurred at a stress state which, in some cases, differed from the critical state. The loose and medium-dense specimens (d-i) reached this transition state at

an effective stress ratio lower or equal to the critical state value and the dense specimens (a-c) 195 for values equal or slightly higher. It is also common for saturated sand to exhibit a transition 196 point different from the critical state value (Jefferies and Been 2006; Jefferies and Shuttle 2011). 197 Beyond this point, all specimens dilated. The minimum dilatancy rate was reached in the region of 198 the maximum effective stress ratio. The results show that there was an increase in the peak strength 199 and the dilatancy rates with density, but also with partial saturation. Fig. 4(a) shows the peak states 200 (D_{min}, η'_{max}) of all tests in which the influence of partial saturation can clearly be seen. The peak 201 strengths and dilatancy rates evolved simultaneously with density and partial saturation following 202 the same stress-dilatancy slope. This slope defines the dilatancy parameter N in Nova's flow rule 203 (Eq. 1) and was found to be 0.3. Fig. 4(b) shows a schematic description of the observed increases 204 in peak states. The influence of partial saturation on the peak state was more significant for dense 205 specimens than for the loose ones. Specimens softened after reaching the peaks state and headed 206 towards the critical state. The critical state stress ratio ($\eta'_{cs} = M$) was uniquely defined when 207 expressed as effective stresses. However, the contribution of suction on the critical state effective 208 stresses is small, albeit necessary from a theoretical point of view. The results show that, despite 209 tending towards the critical state, dense specimens underwent strain localization. This can be seen 210 in Fig. 3(a-c). The stress-dilatancy curve suddenly goes from a smooth softening slope to a plateau 211 $(\eta' = cst > M, D \rightarrow 0)$. The strain localization in dense specimens prevents them from reaching 212 the critical state. This issue has been discussed for saturated sand in Roscoe (1970) and Desrues 213 et al. (1996). Higo et al. (2011) showed that partial saturation increased the susceptibility of dense 214 specimens to exhibit strain localization. Loose specimens were not sheared sufficiently to reach 215 the critical state, and the final stress state did not reach the nil dilatancy condition. 216

Despite little research on the behavior of unsaturated sands, there is some experimental evidence of the enhancement of both the peak strength and the dilatancy rates. However, the investigation of the dilatancy characteristics requires a large number of tests in order to capture the contribution of density, pressure and partial saturation, which are rarely available. Schnellmann et al. (2013) carried out suction-controlled direct shear tests on a silica sand called Eschenbach sand,

and the results clearly show an enhancement of the peak strength and dilatancy rates with little 222 changes in the critical state strength. However, the testing program was limited to a single density. 223 Russell (2004) carried out triaxial compression tests on unsaturated Kurnell sand at two different 224 densities but at two different pressures. Additionally, the specimens were largely in the pendular 225 regime. Robert (2010) carried out constant-water-content direct shear tests and suction-controlled 226 triaxial compression tests on Chiba sand and Cornell sand. The direct shear tests clearly showed an 227 enhancement of the dilatancy characteristics with partial saturation. The suction-controlled tests 228 were carried out for one density which limited the investigation of the dilatancy characteristics. 229

Toll (1988, 1990) suggested that partial saturation caused a modification of the soil fabric 230 which disturbed the way the packets of grains override one another during the development of 231 strength. Ng and Menzies (2007) also believed in a modification of the soil fabric by partial sat-232 uration. Scholtès et al. (2009) concluded, on the basis of discrete element modeling, that partial 233 saturation would inevitably result in a different fabric as the formation of new inter-particles bonds 234 would modify the way force are transmitted from one end of the specimen to another. Oda (1972), 235 Tatsuoka (1987) and Lam and Tatsuoka (1988) showed for saturated Toyoura sand that a modifi-236 cation of the soil fabric caused an enhancement of the peak strength and the minimum dilatancy 237 rate. Furthermore, Oda (1972) observed that the stress-dilatancy slope, captured by the dilatancy 238 parameter N in Eq. 1, remained constant. The results suggest that the enhancement of the mini-239 mum dilatancy rate is due to a modification of the soil fabric caused by the presence of menisci. 240 From a micro-mechanical point of view, the formation of menisci results in the enhancement of 241 tensile strength and, from a macro-mechanical point of view, the formation of menisci results in an 242 enhancement of the dilatancy characteristics and effective stresses, and therefore of strength. The 243 effective stress alone is insufficient to explain the enhancement of the peak strength. 244

245 STATE INDEXES

The prediction of the minimum dilatancy rate can be achieved with state indexes such as the state parameter (Been and Jefferies 1985) or the relative dilatancy index (Bolton 1986). They have been shown to be powerful modeling proxies for dilatancy and are commonly used in constitutive modeling. The state parameter (Eq. 2) is a theoretical state index which was developed from the critical state theory and relies on it to be quantified. Jefferies (1993) suggested estimating the minimum dilatancy rate by converting the state parameter with the dilatancy coefficient X (Eq. 7) introduced by Jefferies and Shuttle (2002). It was later recognized by (Jefferies and Been 2006) that the dilatancy coefficient X would be fabric dependent.

$$D_{min} = X \cdot \psi \tag{7}$$

where ψ is the state parameter, e the void ratio and e_{cs} the critical state void ratio

An alternative to the state parameter is the relative dilatancy index (Eq. 8) which is a better suited index for experimental data as it does not require the establishment of the critical state line.

$$I_R = I_D \cdot I_C - 1 \tag{8}$$

The relative dilatancy index takes into account the contributions of density through the relative density index (Eq. 9), and pressure through the relative pressure index (Eq. 10).

$$I_D = \frac{e_{max} - e}{e_{max} - e_{min}} \tag{9}$$

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$$I_C = \ln\left(Q/p'\right) \tag{10}$$

Bolton (1986) suggested using the relative dilatancy index as a proxy for the maximum axial dilatancy rate $D_{1,min}$ by using a dilatancy coefficient α . Tatsuoka (1987) pointed out that this conversion was fabric dependent. The maximum axial dilatancy rate $D_{1,min}$ is fully equivalent to the dilatancy rate D defined in this paper. However, the conversion from the axial dilatancy rate to a dilatancy rate is non-linear. The same applies to the relative dilatancy index and the state parameter despite both indexes being fully equivalent.

$$D_{1,max} = max \left(\frac{d\varepsilon_v}{d\varepsilon_1}\right) = \alpha \cdot I_R \tag{11}$$

where I_R is the relative dilatancy index, I_D the relative density index, I_C the relative pressure index, e_{max} , e_{min} and e are respectively the maximum, minimum and actual void ratios and Q the crushing pressure for which values are given in Bolton (1986).

The relative dilatancy index is believed to be valid for unsaturated sand as its components 269 remain valid. The relative density index is a description of the pore space regardless of the fluids 270 inside and, therefore, should be independent of partial saturation. Both the minimum and the 271 maximum void ratio are considered to be material properties. The crushing pressure is a property 272 of the mineral as discussed in (Bolton 1986). If the effective stress principle is valid for unsaturated 273 sand, the relative dilatancy index should also be valid. However, an increase in effective stresses 274 by partial saturation would result in a lower relative dilatancy index and in dilatancy rate for a 275 given α . An increase in the inter-particle bonding forces, due to the presence of menisci, would 276 prevent some dilatancy as particles are bonded to one another and, hence, the relative dilatancy 277 index is correctly smaller. However, experimental observations (Fig. 4a) show an enhancement of 278 the dilatancy rates which suggests that α would change with partial saturation. 279

There is an alternative approach to investigate the validity of the relative dilatancy index. Mitchell and Soga (2005) showed that the relative dilatancy index could be converted into a critical state line as the relative dilatancy index are nil at critical state (Eq. 12) and that the critical state density is not influenced by the soil fabric.

$$e_{cs} = e_{max} - \frac{e_{max} - e_{min}}{\ln(Q/p')} \tag{12}$$

This critical state line is non-linear with a sharp change in slope as the pressure increases towards the crushing pressure. Fig. 5(a) shows the critical state line for saturated Toyoura sand from Verdugo and Ishihara (1996). It demonstrates that the relative dilatancy index can predict the critical state void ratio of saturated silica sand. Russell and Khalili (2006) noticed that, unlike for unsaturated clays, the critical state line of Kurnell sand was the same as for saturated and unsaturated sands when stresses were expressed as effective (Fig. 5b).

Fig. 6(a) and (b) show the evolution of void ratio for dry and unsaturated medium-dense Chiba 290 sand, respectively, for an axial strain rate of 0.1%/min and 5.0%/min. The choice of presenting 291 the medium-dense tests was to avoid tests which were not sufficiently sheared or had undergone 292 strain localization. The dry specimens were prepared by dry pluviation and the unsaturated by wet 293 tamping which inferred different fabrics to the soil. However, both the dry and the unsaturated 294 specimens reached the same critical state line. The results suggest that the critical state line is 295 unique for unsaturated Chiba sand and that the relative dilatancy index is valid. The establishment 296 of a critical state for unsaturated sand permits a quantification of the state parameter. This is a 297 major difference with other researchers who used conventional critical state lines to quantify the 298 state parameter. 299

Fig. 7(a) and (b) show, respectively, the relative dilatancy index and the state parameter for Chiba sand for the different strain rates which offered redundancy in the computed variables. Whilst the relative dilatancy index and the state parameter are still valid for unsaturated sand, the results suggest that their conversion to a dilatancy rate are partial saturation dependent. This is consistent with Tatsuoka (1987) and Jefferies and Been (2006) who suggested a dependency to the soil fabric.

It is common in unsaturated soil mechanics, but not exclusive, to use the matric suction as a 306 model variable. Sands have a very small air entry value, often below 1 kPa (i.e. Likos et al. 2010). 307 Therefore, the error committed by neglecting this air entry value is limited. It is then possible to 308 use the degree of saturation S_w as a model variable which allows the model to be formulated over 309 the entire domain of saturation. There is some evidence that the shear strength and dilatancy drops 310 beyond the residual degree of saturation (i.e. Donald 1956; Vanapalli et al. 1996; Lu and Likos 311 2006). Robert (2010) showed this drop in strength for Chiba sand in direct shear tests. Russell and 312 Khalili (2006) showed evidence of loss of strength with increasing suction in suction-controlled 313 oedometer which is consistent with the collapse of a sand castle by drying. By using the degree of 314 saturation as a model variable, it is possible to differentiate the changes in mechanical properties 315 by drying and wetting. 316

The enhancement of the dilatancy coefficient with partial saturation can be decomposed into a 317 saturated term and a partially saturated term (Eq. 13). 318

$$X = X_{sat} + \Delta X \cdot f_{(S'_w)} \tag{13}$$

where X_{sat} is the dilatancy coefficient for saturated and dry conditions, ΔX the maximum en-319 hancement value and $f_{(S_w')}$ the shape function. The enhanced part of the dilatancy coefficient can 320 be formulated as a maximum enhancement ΔX , which would occur at a certain degree of satura-321 tion S_w^{max} , and a shape function. 322

Vanapalli et al. (1996) suggested that the maximum strength enhancement would occur around 323 the residual degree of saturation. Therefore, the degree of saturation at maximum strength would 324 relate to the residual degree of saturation. However, in order to be general and avoid confusion, 325 the degree of saturation at maximum enhancement will be referred to as S_w^{max} . The shape function 326 can be formulated as a function of the effective degree of saturation S'_w and expressed in Eq. 14. 327

$$f_{(S'_w)} = \frac{\exp(-\beta \cdot {S'_w}^2) - \exp(-\beta)}{1 - \exp(-\beta)}$$
(14)

328

The effective degree of saturation, has a maximum value of 1 at $S'_w = 0$ and 0 at $S'_w = 1$, can be formulated over the entire domain of saturation as shown in Eq. 15. 329

$$S'_{w} = \begin{cases} \frac{S_{w} - S_{w}^{max}}{1 - S_{w}^{max}} & \text{if } S_{w} \ge S_{w}^{max} \\ \\ \frac{S_{w}^{max} - S_{w}}{S_{w}^{max}} & \text{if } S_{w} < S_{w}^{max} \end{cases}$$
(15)

where f is the shape function, S'_w the effective degree of saturation, S'^{max}_w the degree of saturation 330 at maximum enhancement and β the shape function coefficient. 331

Fig. 8(a) shows the shape function for different vales of β in which it can be seen that high 332 values of the shape parameter concentrate the enhancement around the nil effective degree of sat-333

³³⁴ uration. The shape function is continuously derivable over the entire domain of saturation and for ³³⁵ any value of β . This implies that the value of β can differ from the wet and dry side. High values ³³⁶ of β minimizes the influence of the neglected air entry value at full saturation. Fig. 8(b) shows ³³⁷ the calibration of the shape function for the constant-water-content tests on Chiba sand. The black ³³⁸ markers are the mean values obtained from Fig. 7.

339 CONSTITUTIVE MODELING

The stress-dilatancy rule (Eq. 1) was shown to be valid for both saturated and partially satu-340 rated sands which implies that existing constitutive models for saturated sands can be extended to 341 partially saturated conditions. The ability to predict the critical state effective stress ratio M and 342 the dilatancy rates at peak state offers unprecedented convenience in modeling. Jefferies (1993) 343 suggested a model called Nor-Sand which was developed from Nova's stress-dilatancy rule (Eq. 344 1) by means of normality (Drucker et al. 1957) and, therefore, preserves the shape of the yield 345 function for partially saturated conditions. The Nor-Sand models was made non-associative by 346 Borja and Andrade (2006) and will be used to demonstrate the enhancement by partial saturation 347 of the dilatancy characteristics. 348

The Nor-Sand model can be viewed as an Original Cam-Clay model (Roscoe and Schofield 1963) with sub-loading surface (Hashiguchi and Chen 1998) for sands and for which the maximum yield surface is determined as a function of the dilatancy characteristics. It assumes that plasticity takes place prior to the peak state. The Nor-Sand model sizes the yield and the potential surfaces with the image pressures which correspond to the pressure at the tip of the surface as shown in Fig. 9. The image pressures are equal to the mean effective stress at critical state ($p' = p_i = p_{i,p}$). Eqs. 16 and 17 give the yield and potential functions, respectively.

$$F = \eta' - \frac{M}{N_f} \left[1 + (N_f - 1) \left(\frac{p'}{p_i}\right)^{\frac{N}{1 - N_f}} \right] \quad \text{for} \quad N_f > N_p > 0 \tag{16}$$

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$$P = \eta' - \frac{M}{N_p} \left[1 + (N_p - 1) \left(\frac{p'}{p_{i,p}} \right)^{\frac{N_p}{1 - N_p}} \right] \quad \text{for} \quad N_f > N_p > 0 \tag{17}$$

where F is the yield function, P the potential function, N_f and N_p the dilatancy parameters for respectively, the yield and potential functions, and p_i and $p_{i,p}$ the image pressures for the yield and potential functions, respectively.

The inclusion of a new variable to capture the partial saturation implies that the consistency condition has to be extended (Eq. 18) and the derivatives of the yield and potential functions have to be obtained consequently.

$$dF = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \sigma} d\sigma + \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial \varepsilon_d^p} d\varepsilon_d^p + \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial p_i}{\partial S_w} dS_w$$
(18)

The Nor-Sand model assumes that the hardening and softening rates are proportional to the distance between the current state, characterized by the image pressure p_i , and the maximum predicted state, characterized by the maximum image pressure $p_{i,max}$. The proportionality between the hardening rate and the difference in image pressures defines the hardening modulus H. The maximum image pressure is estimated by considering the dilatancy characteristics of the soil (Eq. 19).

$$\frac{p_{i,max}}{p'} = \left(1 + D_{min} \cdot \frac{N_f}{M}\right)^{\frac{N_f - 1}{N_f}} \tag{19}$$

 $_{370}$ where $p_{i,max}$ is the maximum image pressure

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The hardening concept is similar to the one expressed for bounding surface models (*i.e.* Russell and Khalili 2006) or subloading surfaces (*e.g.* Hashiguchi and Chen 1998). The hardening rule can be expressed as shown in Eq. 20.

$$\frac{\dot{p}_i}{\varepsilon_d^p} = H \cdot M \exp\left(1 - \frac{\eta'}{M}\right) \cdot \left(p_{i,max} - p_i\right)$$
(20)

where $H = H_{min} \exp(\delta_H I_D)$ is the hardening modulus, which is dependent on the state parameter (Jefferies and Been 2006), and H_{min} is the minimum hardening modulus for very loose sand and δ_H its enhancement by density.

The prediction of minimum dilatancy rate (Eq. 21) was updated due to the non-associativity

(Borja and Andrade 2006) and for which the dilatancy parameter N_p is obtained from the stressdilatancy curves (Fig. 4).

$$D_{min} = \chi \cdot \frac{1 - N_p}{1 - N_f} \cdot \psi_i \tag{21}$$

Partial saturation enhances the mean effective stress and the dilatancy characteristics which then enhance the maximum image pressure $p_{i,max}$. It results in a higher peak strength as well as an enhancement of the hardening and softening rates which infer additional brittleness to the material and a higher susceptibility to strain localization.

The Nor-Sand model considers the tangent elastic properties which are those of an unloadingreloading cycle. It is widely accepted that the shear modulus G increases with pressure (Eq. 22).

$$G = A \left(\frac{p'}{p_{ref}}\right)^n \tag{22}$$

Alonso et al. (2010) suggested a similar expression in which the enhancement of the elastic properties is solely captured by the enhancement of the effective stress. The bulk modulus K may then be deduced from the shear modulus (Eq. 23). The Poisson ratio is assumed to be constant.

$$K = \frac{2(1+\nu)}{3(1-2\nu)} \cdot G$$
(23)

where G is the shear modulus, A is the shear modulus constant, n the shear modulus exponent, p_{ref} the unit reference pressure, K the bulk modulus and ν the Poisson ratio.

391

Simulating triaxial compression tests

The calibration of the model parameters is obtained from laboratory tests with the exception of the hardening modulus H and the dilatancy parameter of the yield function N_f . The values of the model parameter are summarized in Table 2. The elastic parameters (A, n, p_{ref}) have been calibrated on an unloading and reloading cycle and the Poisson ratio ν was taken as a constant. The critical state effective stress ratio M and the dilatancy coefficient for the potential function N_p were obtained from the stress-dilatancy curves. The dilatancy coefficient for the yield surface N_f was progressively reduced from $N_f = N_p$ until matching the experimental data. The minimum and maximum void ratios e_{min} and e_{max} were obtained by laboratory testing. The crushing pressure Q is given in Bolton (1986). The minimum hardening modulus H_{min} and its coefficient δ_H were obtained empirically. The saturated dilatancy coefficient X_{sat} , its maximum enhancement ΔX and the shape function coefficient β_{wet} were obtained from the dilatancy analysis. The shape function parameter β_{dry} was set at 0.5 arbitrarily as no data was available and no simulations will be carried out in that region of saturation.

The triaxial compression tests, presented in Fig. 3, were simulated using a single-element code 405 and the results are presented in Fig. 10 and 11. The simulations of the dense specimens (Fig. 10a-b 406 and 11a-b) are in agreement with the experimental data. The hardening phase, the peak strength 407 and the minimum dilatancy rate are well captured by the model. However, some differences emerge 408 between the simulations and the experimental data in the softening phase. This is largely because 409 of strain localization, which is accentuated by the enhancement of the dilatancy characterized, and 410 cannot be captured by single-element simulations. However, the Nor-Sand model is capable of 411 capturing the formation of shear bands as it was demonstrated by Andrade (2006). 412

The simulations of the medium-dense specimens (Fig. 10c-d and 11c-d) are in better agreement with the experimental data due to the absence of strain localization. The hardening phase, the peak strength and the minimum dilatancy rate were well captured by the model as well as the softening phase due to the absence of strain localization. The specimens, therefore, underwent a homogeneous failure which is in accordance with the stress-dilatancy and critical state theories.

The simulations of the loose specimens (Fig. 10e-f and 11e-f) are in good agreement with the experimental data. Both the simulations and the experimental data show small dilatancy rates and, hence, peak strengths. Furthermore, the stiffness in the hardening phase is reduced. However, loose specimens have initial void ratios close to the critical state line and, therefore, small errors in the estimation of the initial void ratio as well as small errors in the modeling of the critical state line lead to errors in the estimation of the dilatancy rate. The mechanical behavior of loose sand is sensitive to its initials density. This issue has been pointed out by Jefferies and Been (2006) who highlighted the importance of obtaining accurate initial void ratios. This sensitivity is increased at
low pressures where dilatancy is more significant.

The overall results of the simulations are very consistent with the experimental data and this over a wide range of densities and for three different pressures. Unlike classical elastic-plastic models, the presented model is able to capture the correct peak strength and dilatancy rates of partially saturated sand and this with only four additional parameters.

431

Simulating wetting-collapses

The collapse of soil upon wetting is a major concern in terms of understanding and modeling of unsaturated soil. Leonards (1962) suggested that the collapse was due to a rearrangement of the grains resulting in a smaller packing and, therefore, a loss of dilatancy characteristics. Alonso et al. (1990) succeeded in modeling the wetting-collapse by introducing the loading-collapse (LC) curve which assumes that the on-set of collapse was a yielding point. However, as Russell and Khalili (2006) and Masin and Khalili (2008) demonstrated, the inclusion the loading-collapse is only a necessity for models which consider the peak state as a yielding point.

Fig. 12 shows a triaxial compression tests in which wetting was undertaken at an axial strain 439 of 4% (point B). As wetting took place, the dilatancy characteristics and the mean effective stress, 440 albeit more limited, decreased which caused a decrease of the maximum image pressure and, 441 hence, the peak state. From point B to C, the maximum image pressure was larger than the image 442 pressure and the model predicted some swelling. The hardening rule (Eq. 20) was positive. From 443 point C to D, the maximum image pressure was smaller than the image pressure and the model 444 predicted a collapse. The hardening rule (Eq. 20) was negative. Fig. 13 illustrates both behaviors. 445 The continuous line corresponds to the yield surface defined by the current image pressure. The 446 dashed line corresponds to the peak state yield surface defined by the maximum image pressure. 447

The ability of the model to capture both the enhancement of the peak strength and the wetting behaviors is not a coincidence. The size of the maximum yield surface is controlled by the dilatancy characteristics. When the soil is wetted, the loss of dilatancy caused the maximum yield surface to shrink. Therefore, the predicted peak strength is lower. If the maximum yield surface shrinks

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sufficiently to be smaller than the current yield surface, a collapse will occur. The large collapse
 shown in Fig. 12 is due to the large loss of dilatancy characteristics of Chiba sand. Sands with
 smaller dilatancy characteristics would result in smaller collapses.

455 **CONCLUSIONS**

The investigation of the stress-dilatancy relationship of an unsaturated silica sand showed that the stress-dilatancy theory was still valid. The increase in peak strength was found to be solely a consequence of an increase of the dilatancy characteristics. These increases are consistent with a modification of the soil fabric. The formation of menisci at inter-particle contact which change the way packets of grains override one another. The modification of the dilatancy characteristics also explains the changes in the hardening and softening rates and, hence, the higher susceptibility of partially saturated dense sand to undergo strain localization (Higo et al. 2011).

The use of state indexes as proxies for dilatancy were also found to be valid. However, the modification of the soil fabric by partial saturation lead to an enhancement of the dilatancy coefficients. This is consistent with observation made for saturated sands. However, it can be argued, from a micro-mechanical point of view, that the conversion of a state index to a dilatancy rate cannot be captured by a scalar (*e.g.* Li and Dafalias 2012) and additional investigations should be undertaken.

The validity of the stress-dilatancy rule for unsaturated sand and the ability to predict the peak 469 state offers unprecedented ease in modeling the mechanical behavior of unsaturated sand. This was 470 demonstrated with the Nor-Sand model (Jefferies 1993; Borja and Andrade 2006) for which only 471 four additional parameters were required to capture the increase in shear strength and dilatancy 472 rates as well as the swelling and collapse by wetting. The proposed modification to the Nor-Sand 473 model is not unlike the one proposed by Alonso et al. (1990) for the Cam-Clay model but is applied 474 to the maximum image pressure instead of the preconsolidation pressure and is included the density 475 as a model variable. 476

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478

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APPENDIX A - TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST PROGRAM

The specimens for the triaxial tests were prepared to achieve a specific density and water content. The specimens were then prepared by wet tamping and shaped into 100 mm x 50 mm cylinders. The tamping protocol was strictly followed for each specimen in order to obtain repeatable test. The specimens were consolidated to a specific net pressure. The pressure were chosen to be low in order to favor the dilative behavior of Chiba sand.

The constant-water-content tests were carried out as 'undrained' in the sense the mass of water 489 was conserved throughout the test in a similar way Russell (2004) did for Kurnell sand. The 490 volume change was monitored with the cell water and care was taken to avoid any entrapment 491 of air in the cell volume which would lead to errors in the assessment of the volumetric strain 492 increments used to compute the dilatancy rates and the degrees of saturation. The pressure was 493 kept constant during the entire shearing process. The peak state, which is of concern, was reached 494 in less than 15 minutes for the longest test and around 3 minutes for the shortest. Therefore, 495 secondary deformation of the cell casing can be neglected. Furthermore, the tests carried out at 496 0.1%/min and 5.0%/min were exact duplicates and showed consistent changes in volume. Tables 497 3 and 4 give the initial state after consolidation. 498

The matric suctions were estimated from the degree of saturation using the water retention curves (Fig. 1b). These curves were obtained on the drying path which is consistent with dilative sand. The influence of the hysteresis on the effective stress is expected to be significantly lower than the influence of strain localization on the critical state strength. The suction of sand is very low and the suction-induced effective stress less than 10 kPa.

504 NOTATION

- 505
- The following symbols are used in this paper:

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- a = micro-structure exponent;
- $_{507}$ A =shear modulus constant;
- D = dilatancy rate;
- D_{min} = minimum dilatancy rate;
- $D_{1,max}$ = maximum axial dilatancy rate;
- d = grain size;
- e = void ratio;
- e_{cs} = critical state void ratio;
- e_{max} = maximum state void ratio;
- e_{min} = minimum void ratio;
- f = shape function;
- F =yield function;
- ⁵¹⁸ P =potential function;
- G =shear modulus;
- H = hardening modulus;
- H_{min} = minimum hardening modulus;
- I_C = relative pressure index;
- I_D = relative density index;
- I_R = relative dilatancy index;
- 525 K =bulk modulus;
- M = critical state stress ratio;
- $m_w = \text{van Genuchten model parameter;}$
- $_{528}$ N = dilatancy parameter;
- N_f = dilatancy parameter for yield function;
- N_p = dilatancy parameter for potential function;
- n = shear modulus exponent;
- $n_w = \text{van Genuchten model parameter;}$

 $p_a = \text{pore air pressure;}$

- $p_w = \text{pore water pressure;}$
- p' = mean effective stress;
- 536 p'_{cs} = critical state mean effective stress;
- p'_{max} = maximum mean effective stress;
- $p_i' = \text{image pressure of yield function;}$
- $p'_{i,p} = \text{image pressure of potential function;}$
- $p'_{i,max}$ = maximum image pressure;
- 541 p'_{ref} = reference unit pressure;
- p^{net} = mean net stress;
- p^{tot} = mean total pressure;
- $_{544}$ q = deviatoric stress;
- q_{cs} = critical state deviatoric stress;
- $_{546}$ Q = crushing pressure;
- s = matric suction;
- $s_{e} = air entry matric suction;$
- S_{res} = residual degree of saturation;
- $S_{w} =$ degree of saturation;
- $S_{w}' = \text{effective degree of saturation};$
- S_{w}^{max} = maximum strength degree of saturation;
- 553 α = dilatancy coefficient;
- $\alpha_w =$ van Genuchten model parameter;
- $\beta = \text{shape function coefficient;}$
- δ_H = hardening modulus coefficient;
- $\Delta X = \text{dilatancy coefficient enhancement};$
- $\varepsilon_1 = axial strain;$
- $\varepsilon_d = \text{deviatoric strain};$

- $\varepsilon_d^p = \text{plastic deviatoric strain;}$
- $\varepsilon_v =$ volumetric strain;
- $\varepsilon_{v}^{p} = \text{plastic volumetric strain;}$
- 563 η' = effective stress ratio;
- 564 η'_{max} = maximum effective stress ratio;
- 565 X =dilatancy coefficient;
- X_{sat} = saturated dilatancy coefficient;
- 567 χ = Bishop's coupling parameter;
- 568 ψ = state parameter;
- 569 ν = Poisson ratio;

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TABLE 1. van Genuchten (1980) SWRC parameters for Chiba sand

e	S_{res}	α_w	n_w	m_w
[-]	[-]	$[kPa^{-1}]$	[-]	[-]
0.963	20%	0.50	3.0	0.3
0.815	22%	0.38	3.0	0.3
0.699	24%	0.22	3.2	0.3

 TABLE 2. Unsaturated Nor-Sand parameters for Chiba sand.

Label	Symbol	Value
Shear modulus constant	A	2500 kPa
Shear modulus exponent	n	0.5
Reference pressure	p_{ref}	1 kPa
Critical state effective stress ratio	M	1.33
Maximum void ratio	e_{max}	0.946
Minimum void ratio	e_{min}	0.500
Crushing pressure	Q	10 MPa
Dilatancy parameter for yield function	N_f	0.35
parameter for potential function	N_p	0.3
Minimum hardening modulus	H_{min}	160
Hardening modulus coefficient	δ_H	2
Saturated dilatancy coefficient	X_{sat}	2.5
Maximum dilatancy coefficient enhancement	ΔX	3.1
Shape function coefficient on dry side	β_{dry}	0.5
Shape function coefficient on wet side	β_{wet}	3.0
Degree of saturation at maximum enhancement	S_w^{max}	21%

Group	w	e_0	$S_{w,0}$	p_0^{net}	$d\varepsilon_1$	$I_{D,0}$	$I_{R,0}$	ψ_0
	[-]	[-]	[-]	[kPa]	[%/min]	[-]	[-]	[-]
Loose	10%	0.842	32%	20	0.1	23%	0.09	-0.01
	10%	0.818	33%	40	0.1	29%	0.47	-0.04
	10%	0.808	34%	80	0.1	30%	0.43	-0.04
	17%	0.845	55%	20	0.1	23%	0.06	-0.01
	17%	0.830	56%	40	0.1	26%	0.28	-0.03
	17%	0.820	56%	80	0.1	28%	0.29	-0.03
MedDense	10%	0.742	37%	20	0.1	46%	1.63	-0.13
	10%	0.738	37%	40	0.1	47%	1.46	-0.12
	10%	0.725	38%	80	0.1	50%	1.34	-0.13
	10%	0.739	37%	40	0.5	46%	1.44	-0.12
	17%	0.745	62%	20	0.1	45%	1.58	-0.12
	17%	0.734	63%	40	0.1	48%	1.52	-0.13
	17%	0.719	64%	80	0.1	51%	1.41	-0.13
	17%	0.734	63%	40	0.5	47%	1.51	-0.13
	27%	0.739	100%	40	0.5	46%	1.44	-0.12
Dense	17%	0.656	41%	20	0.1	65%	2.93	-0.22
	17%	0.659	41%	40	0.1	64%	2.49	-0.20
	17%	0.653	42%	80	0.1	66%	2.14	-0.20
	17%	0.657	70%	20	0.1	65%	2.91	-0.22
	17%	0.648	71%	40	0.1	67%	2.63	-0.22
	17%	0.641	72%	80	0.1	68%	2.28	-0.21

 TABLE 3. Initial conditions for long duration triaxial compression tests

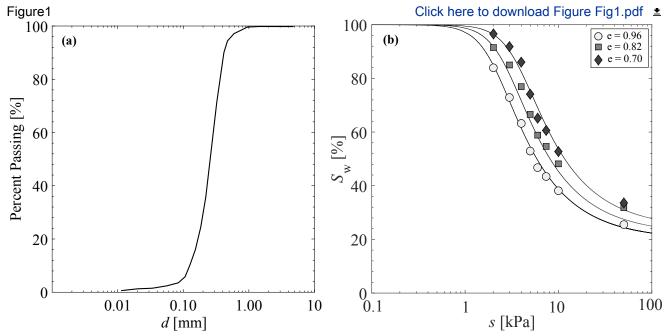
Group	w	e_0	$S_{w,0}$	p_0^{net}	$d\varepsilon_1$	$I_{D,0}$	$I_{R,0}$	ψ_0
	[-]	[-]	[-]	[kPa]	[%/min]	[-]	[-]	[-]
Loose	10%	0.838	32%	20	5.0	24%	0.38	-0.03
	10%	0.832	33%	40	5.0	26%	0.34	-0.03
	10%	0.823	33%	80	5.0	28%	0.29	-0.03
	17%	0.834	55%	20	5.0	25%	0.53	-0.04
	17%	0.829	56%	40	5.0	26%	0.43	-0.04
	17%	0.816	57%	80	5.0	29%	0.40	-0.04
MedDense	10%	0.741	37%	20	5.0	46%	1.50	-0.12
	10%	0.737	37%	40	5.0	47%	1.37	-0.12
	10%	0.725	38%	80	5.0	50%	1.27	-0.12
	17%	0.742	62%	20	5.0	46%	1.75	-0.13
	17%	0.732	63%	40	5.0	48%	1.60	-0.13
	17%	0.715	65%	80	5.0	52%	1.48	-0.14
Dense	10%	0.655	42%	20	5.0	65%	2.68	-0.21
	10%	0.649	42%	40	5.0	67%	2.46	-0.21
	10%	0.645	42%	80	5.0	67%	2.14	-0.21
	17%	0.656	70%	20	5.0	65%	2.95	-0.22
	17%	0.647	71%	40	5.0	67%	2.66	-0.22
	17%	0.639	72%	80	5.0	69%	2.30	-0.21

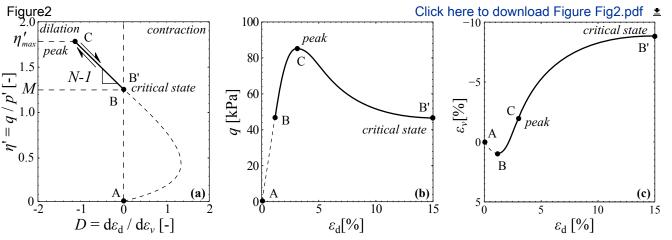
TABLE 4. Initial conditions for short duration triaxial compression tests

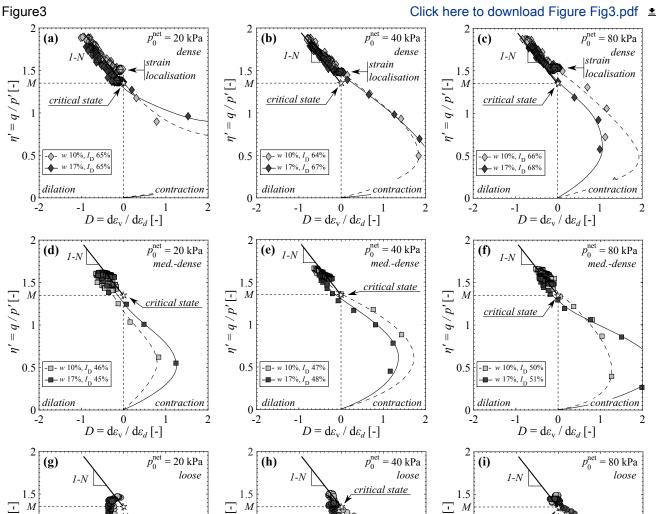
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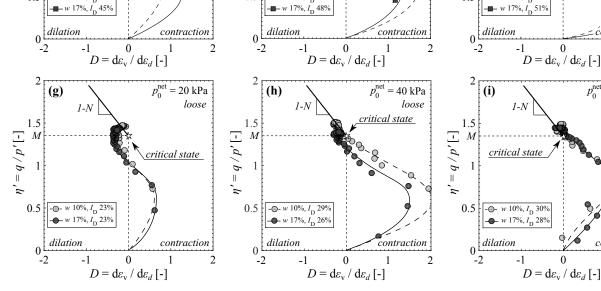
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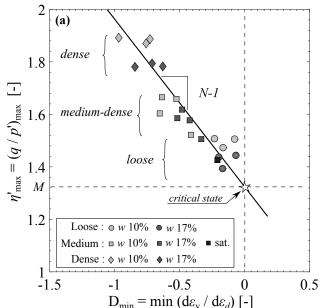




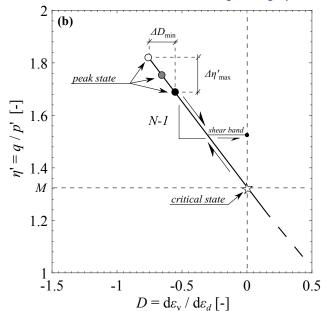
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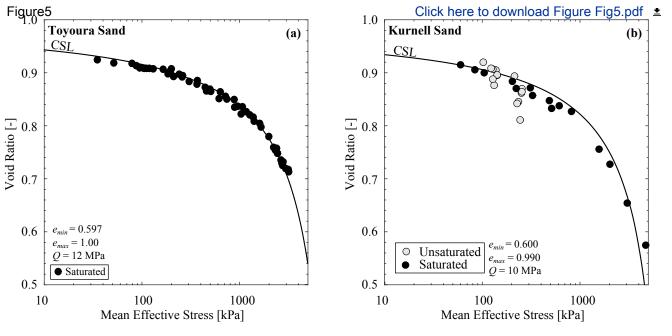


Figure6

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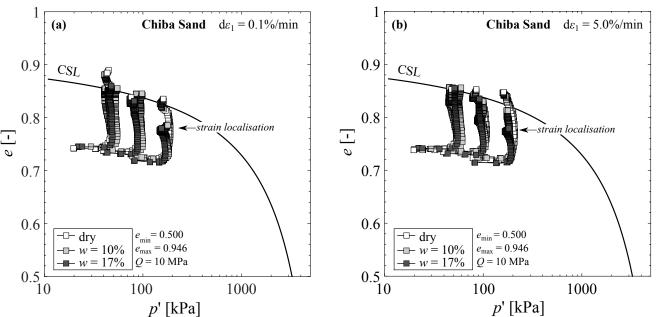


Figure7

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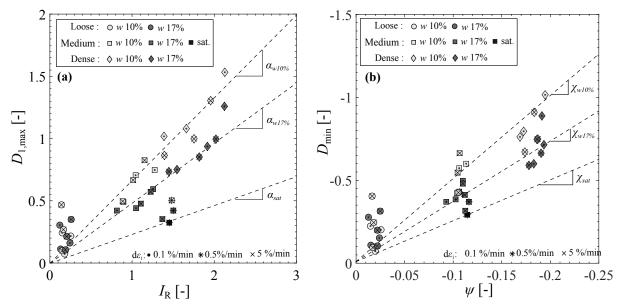
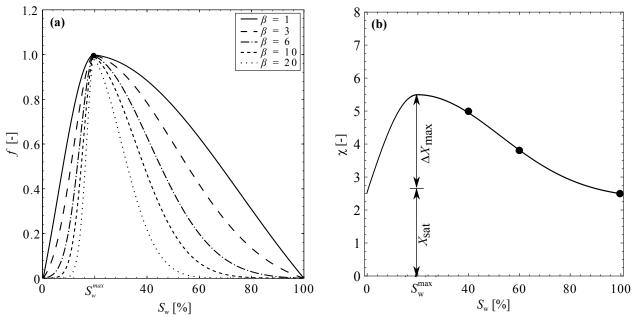
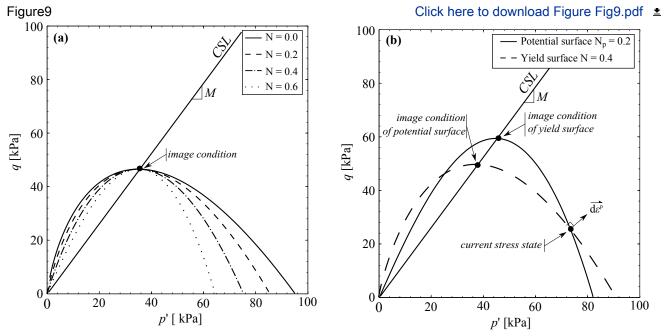
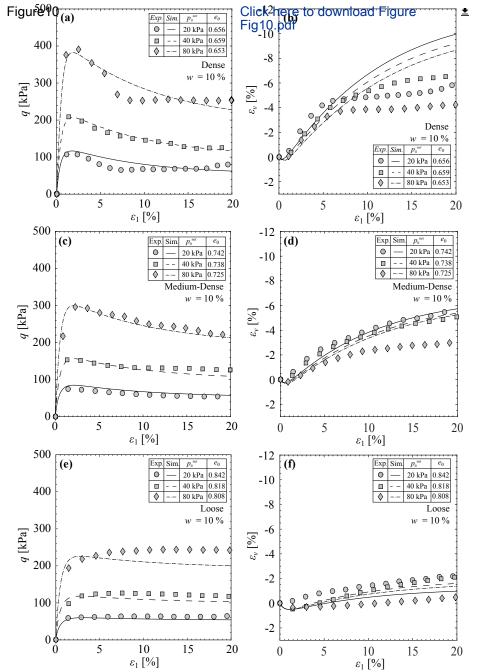


Figure8

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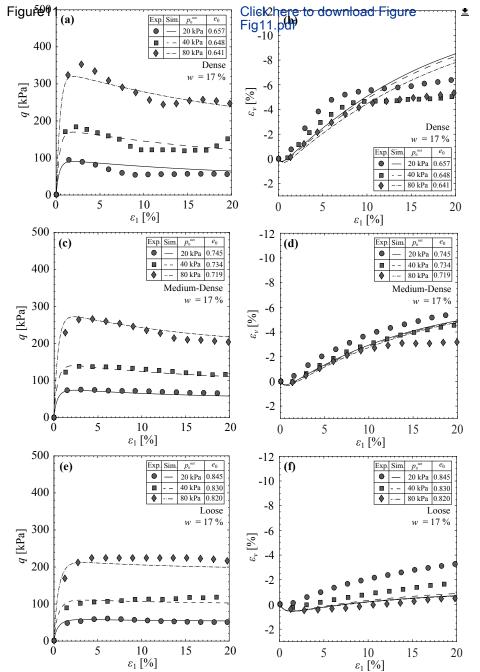


Figure12

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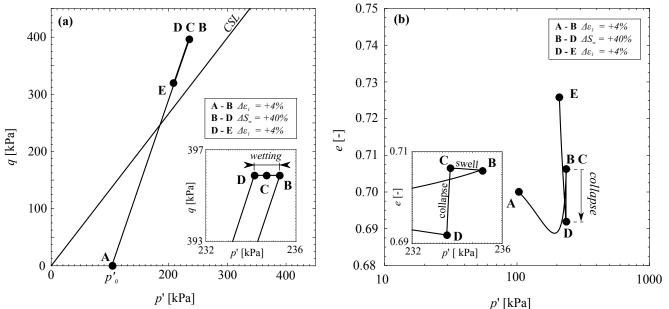


Figure13

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