

Three-dimensional Discrete Element Simulation of Interaction between Aqueduct and Tunnel

Vahab Sarfarazi^{1*}, Hadi Haeri², Kaveh Asgari³

¹ Department of Mining Engineering, Hamedan University of Technology, 6516913733 Hamedan, Iran

² State Key Laboratory for Deep GeoMechanics and Underground Engineering, Beijing 100083, China

³ Research Scholar, Department of Mining Engineering, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, 7616913439 Kerman, Iran

* Corresponding author, e-mail: sarfarazi@hut.ac.ir

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Abstract

In this investigation the effect of interaction between aqueduct and tunnel on the ground settlement has been examined using PFC3D. At first, the calibration of PFC3D was conducted based on UCS test results rendered from three different ground layer. Then intact model with dimension of 70 m × 20 m × 34.5 m (x × y × z) was built. These models are consisted of 8 layers with different mechanical and geometrical properties. Four different configurations for aqueduct were created in four models. Diameter of aqueduct was 2 m and its depth was different in four models. After aqueduct generation, tunnel with diameter of 9 m and length of 20 m was drilled in depth of 22 m. After tunnel drilling, the settlement data of ground surface were picked up. After tunnel simulation, the effect of support lining was investigated on the ground settlement. For this purpose, after each step of tunnel drilling, lining support with diameter of 35 cm was performed. The results show that the maximum value of settlement occurred when aqueduct reach to head of tunnel. Also the safety has maximum value when the distance between aqueduct and tunnel wall was 4.5 m. the ground settlement before and after support lining shows that ground settlement reach to zero by support application.

Keywords

tunnel, settlement, aqueduct, PFC3D

1 Introduction

Process of tunneling can induce surface settlements. This phenomenon is a complex process and many factors such as construction techniques, dimensions of tunnels and circumstances of soil and ground water affect this phenomenon [1]. Several new tunneling investigations has been applied for better prediction of soils respond to varieties of stress caused by construction of tunnel for providing accurate solutions for these problems [2–4]. Thus, there is still big preference for using empirical approaches in construction for initial prediction of settlement profile, this due to their simple use [5, 6]. Quick progress of computers, finite element (FE) and finite difference (FD) leads to more popularity of discrete element method (DEM) for prediction of soil respond to tunneling. Validation of these models was examined by comparing them with empirical and semi-empirical approaches, as well as, field observations. It is announced that empirical and semi-empirical approaches are still appropriate in specific circumstances and can be applied as a suitable method for validation of numerical

models [7, 8]. In general, these empirical approaches for predicting surface settlements are according to a Gaussian distribution curve, first introduced by [9].

In these approaches all factors which affect both the predicted maximum and lateral settlements, must be inputted. Despite simplicity and successful appliance of empirical methods in prediction of surface settlement with suitable judgment, there are several limitations. These limitations include applicably to various tunnel geometries, ground circumstances and techniques of construction [10]. The Gaussian equation is the most common empirical approach which was popularized by investigation of Peck [11] and Schmidt [12] showing that it provides a representation of observed settlements with appropriate accuracy. One of the models using for testing its adequacy was Centrifuge modelling, with results from [13] and [14] reporting settlement profiles of the shape suggested by a Gaussian equation. Another method which has been widely used as a comparison with this equation, is field measurements.

For instance, investigation by [15] includes such comparisons. New and O'Reilly [16] reviewed the ground movements associated with tunneling and found that the main dangers associated with the tunnel construction in urban areas with problems such as poor ground circumstances, presence of water table above the tunnel, shallow overburden and ground settlements induced by tunneling with potential damage to the existing structures and utilities on top of tunneling area. Mair and Taylor [17] studied the components of ground deformation associated with closed shield tunneling. The use of EPB machines with full tunnel face support significantly reduce the total volume loss as the tunnel advances. Clough and Schmidt [18] observed that the ground loss of the tunnel face contributed 1/4 to 1/3 to the total volume loss. The effects of interaction in between the twin tunnels on the ground subsidence, subsurface movements and spread of stress and displacement in the surrounding rock mass and the tunnel support are all being investigated experimentally and numerically by several researchers in this field of engineering [19–42]. The discrete element method can be effectively used for the stability analyses of the underground structures. Therefore, in this paper, the interaction between tunnel subway and aqueduct at Qom Province in Iran has been investigated using a three dimensional discrete element code i.e. PFC3D. In fact, the settlement of ground surface has been determined during the sequence stages of drilling, and the effect of lining has been cleared on the tunnel stability.

2 Bonded particle model and Particle Flow Code 3D (PFC3D)

A three-dimensional discrete element code originally developed by Cundall [43] is used to simulate a twin tunnels problem in this research. This sophisticated numerical code is the particle flow code (PFC3D) presented by Itasca [44]. In this modeling approach, the materials are assumed to be as an assembly of particles bonded to one another at the contact points but each particle can move independently within the assembly (Itasca [44]). In this code, the interaction contact forces and the movements of particles within a particular particle assembly are being estimated by using an explicit finite difference method of numerical analyses. In this numerical simulation process, the linear and non-linear contact models are adopted by taking into account the frictional sliding of the particles at the contact points or particle boundaries. The linear contact modeling approach is used to model the elastic

behavior of the particles contact points within the assembly (i.e., to model the relative movements and the contact forces in between the particles). The PFC3D presented by Itasca [44], provided some special subroutines to generate a parallel bond particle model for solving many complicated geomechanical problems occur in various rock mass situations. The following micromechanical properties are being used by this modeling Algorithm in PFC3D: the stiffness ratios (i.e., K_n over K_s), the ball-to-ball contact modulus, the frictional coefficients of the balls, the balls radius, the normal and shear bonding strengths of the parallel bonds, the parallel-bonds radius multiplier, the stiffness ratio and modulus of the parallel-bonds. A suitable calibration process is used in this modelling technique to establish appropriate micro-mechanical properties based on the laboratory measured properties provided by the standard testing procedures carried out on the actual material specimens. The actual material properties gained experimentally from the laboratory tests are the macro properties due to the continuum behavior assumption imposed on the specimens. However an inverse modeling technique based on the trial and error approach is adopted in PFC3D (Itasca [44]). However, this algorithm provides the appropriate micro mechanical properties for the particles in the assembly from the macro mechanical properties gained in the Laboratory by the experimental tests. This simulation procedure is needed for the solution of any geomechanical problems to be solved numerically by the explicit discrete element method. Therefore, the micro mechanical properties are assumed first and the problem is solved for the estimation of the strength and deformation characteristics near to those of macroscopic laboratory results. This is a repetitive procedure to reach to the micromechanical properties giving simulated macroscopic properties very close to those of experimentally obtained values from the laboratory tests. Then, these microscopic properties can be adopted for the numerical simulation of the discontinuous particles or blocks of the simulated material.

3 Subway tunnel in Qom province

Line A of subway tunnel in Qom Province has 14 stations with the length of 14700 m. tunnel diameter was 9 m and its depth was 22 m. The excavation method was EPB. Several aqueducts exist in excavation path (Fig. 1). In Fig. 1, dotted line shows the tunnel excavation path and the red line shows the aqueduct. The tunnel interact with aqueduct when tunneling progress was 5–6 km (Fig. 1).

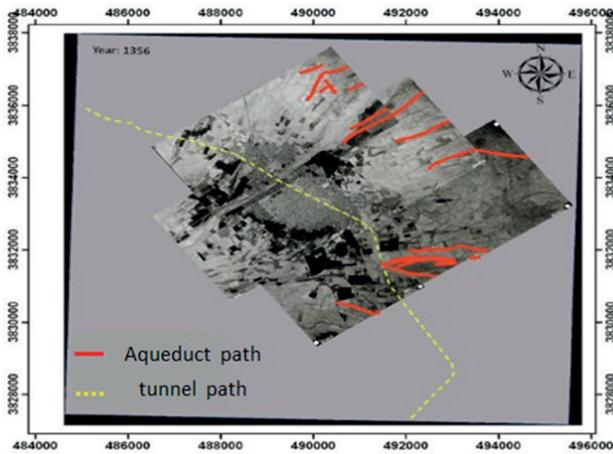


Fig. 1 Tunnel path and aqueduct

4 Calibration of PFC3D

The calibration of the PFC3D was accomplished by calibrating the mechanical properties of the specimen obtained from the rectangular models. Four steps were involved to generate a PFC3D material assembly to represent the uniaxial rectangular model: i) generating and packing of the particles; ii) installing the isotropic stress condition, iii) eliminating the floating particles; and iv) installing the particles bonding. The standard calibration process proposed by Cundall [43] and the micro-properties listed in Table 1 are adopted to calibrate the PFC3D calibration of

Table 1 Microparameter for model calibration

	k_n (N/m)	k_s (N/m)	Range of Ball diameter (m)
Layer 1	3e7	3e7	0.01–0.16
Layer 2	0.6e7	0.6e7	0.01–0.15
Layer 3	0.8e7	0.8e7	0.01–0.07
	n -bond (N/m)	s -bond (N/m)	ρ (kg/m ³)
Layer 1	1e6	1e6	2400
Layer 2	0.15e6	0.15e6	2300
Layer 3	0.45e6	0.45e6	2200

the particle assembly of the uniaxial model for three different types of soil layers. It's to be note that if the particle diameter be more than 160 mm, the number of total balls will be decreased and high settlement will be occurred during the tunneling. If the particle diameter be less than 100 mm, the number of total balls will be increased. This leads to increasing the run time of the model simulation. Also, the robust system will be necessary for this important. The porosity of model was 0.08. This value is based on the PFC manual and leads to better distribution of particles in the domain of model.

Fig. 2 also illustrates the stress-strain curve of models. Table 2 shows mechanical properties of experimental test and numerical simulation. A good accordance was

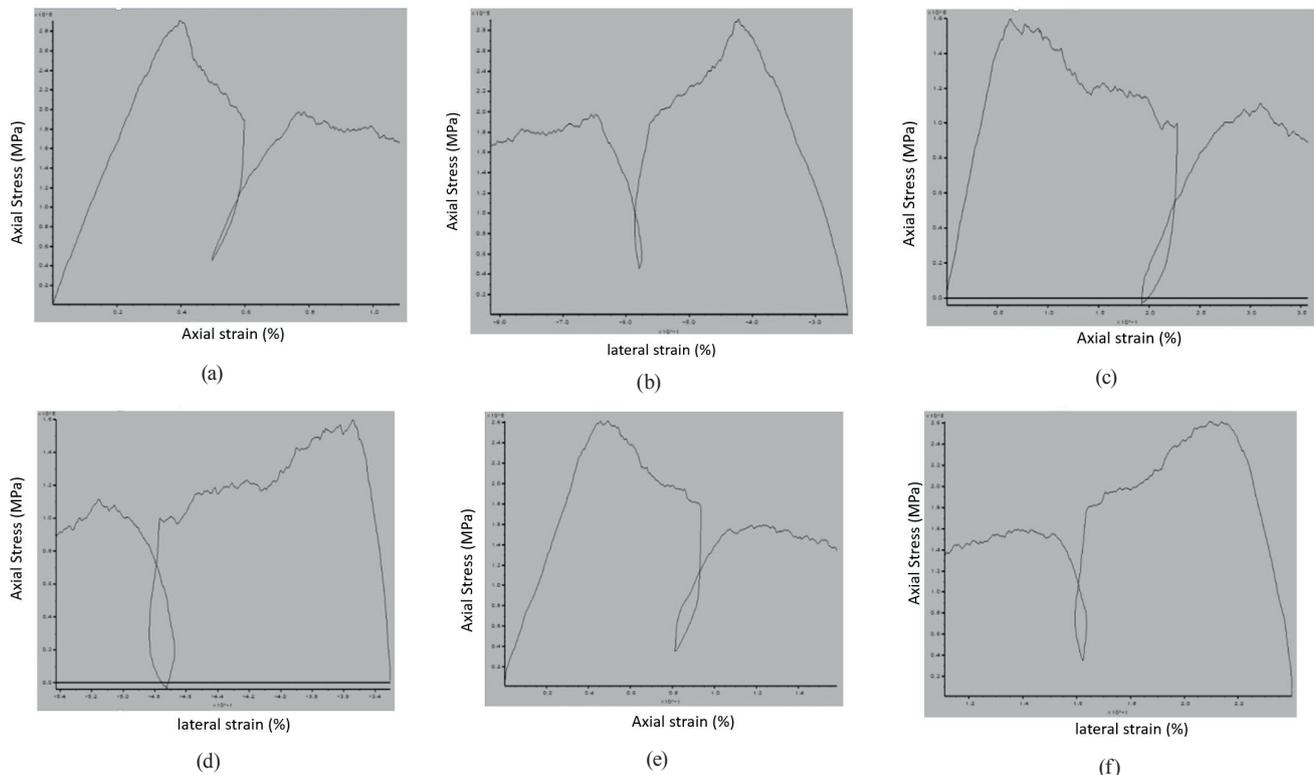


Fig. 2 a, c and e) axial stress versus axial strain; b, d and f) axial stress versus lateral strain

Table 2 mechanical property of experimental test and numerical simulation

Experimental results			
Type of simulation	Uniaxial strength (MPa)	Young modulus (GPa)	Poisson ratio
First model	0.3	1.07	0.49
Second model	0.15	3.28	0.44
Third model	0.35	5.817	0.48
Numerical simulation out puts			
Type of simulation	Uniaxial strength (MPa)	Young modulus (GPa)	Poisson ratio
First model	0.29	1.03	0.29
Second model	0.16	3.2	0.42
Third model	0.26	5.9	0.45

established between experimental test results and numerical simulation outputs. These mechanical results demonstrating a good agreement and well matching in between the numerical and experimental results and validate the calibration procedure of PFC3D.

4.1 Model calibration using 3-axial compression test in PFC3D

Three different model representatives of three different geological layers have been built. Dimensions of rectangular models were 10 m × 5 m × 5 m (Fig. 3). These models are under six confining pressure. i.e., $\sigma_c/2$ to $\sigma_c/10$. Fig. 4 shows principal stress diagram for these layers.

Table 3 shows shear properties of experimental out puts and numerical simulation results.

A good accordance was established between experimental test results and numerical simulation outputs.

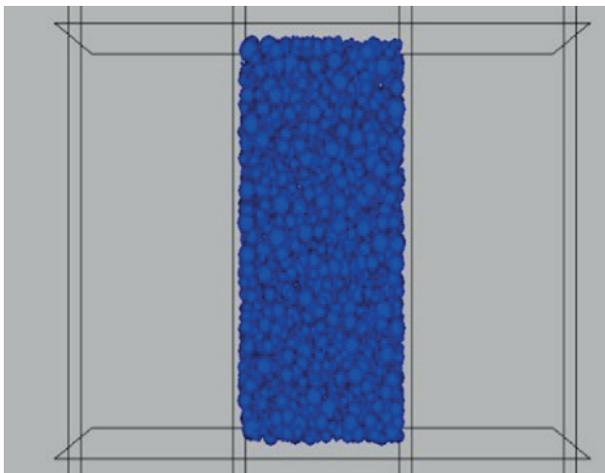


Fig. 3 Triaxial model in PFC3D

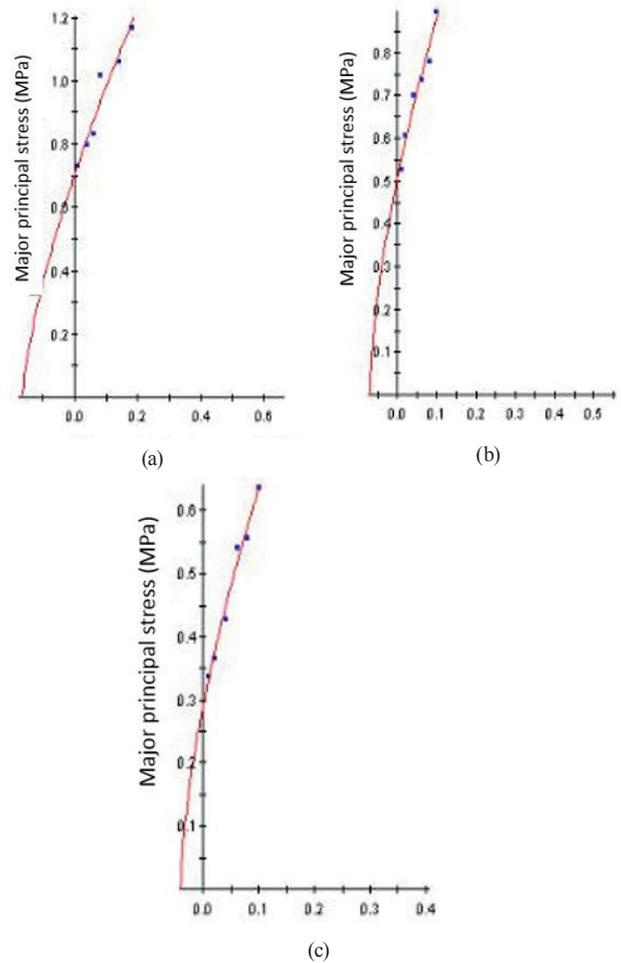


Fig. 4 principal stress diagram for three models, a) first model, b) second model, c) third model

Table 3 shear properties of three calibrated models

Experimental results		
Type of simulation	Cohesion (MPa)	Friction angle
Mechanical properties		
First model	0.02	24.2
Second model	0.007	14.5
Third model	0.026	22.3
Numerical simulation out puts		
Mechanical properties	Cohesion (MPa)	Friction angle
First model	0.02	31.35
Second model	0.007	16.43
Third model	0.024	25.86

4.2 Model preparation

The model with dimension of 70 m × 20 m × 34.5 m was built (Fig. 5). This model has been occupied with 50176 balls. This assembly was subjected to 2 MPa of confining pressure. The unbalance force and displacement vector was set to zero before tunnel generation.

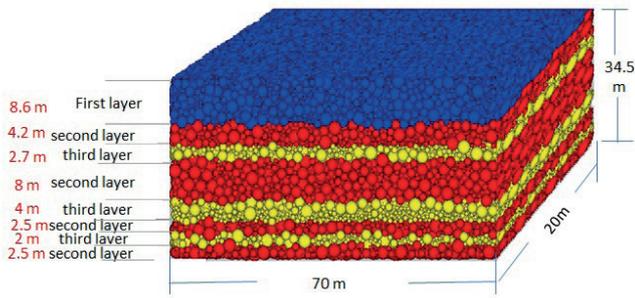


Fig. 5 Model assembly with three different soil layers

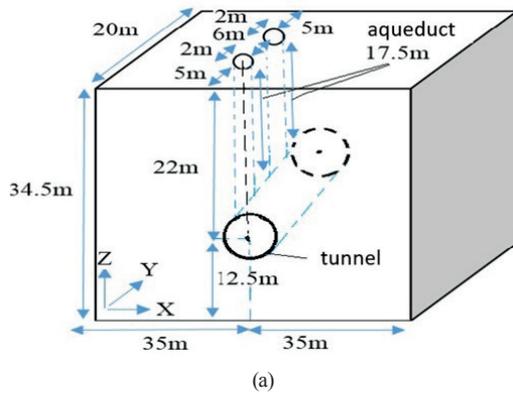
Whereas the aim of this paper is interaction between aqueduct and tunnel, four different configurations for pair of aqueduct were prepared as follow:

a) *First model: aqueducts intersect the tunnel subway*

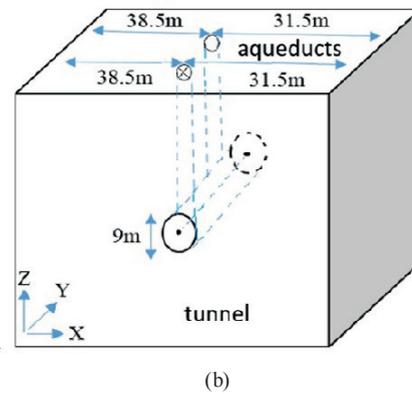
In this configuration tunnel was situated at the depth of 22 m and two aqueduct intersect the tunnel head (Fig. 6(a)). The distance between two aqueducts was equal to 6 m. Diameter of two aqueducts was 2 m.

b) *Second model: aqueducts intersect the right side of tunnel subway*

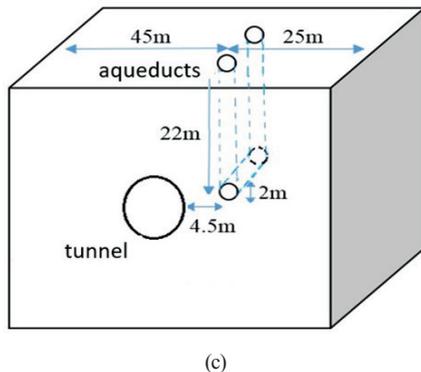
In this configuration tunnel was situated at the depth of 22 m and two aqueduct intersect the right side of the tunnel head (Fig. 6(b)). The distance between two aqueducts was equal to 6 m. diameter of two aqueducts was 2 m.



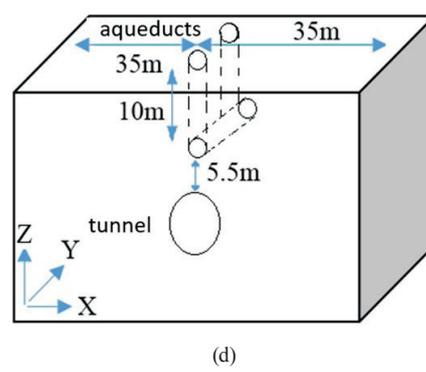
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Fig. 6 a) aqueducts intersect the right side of tunnel subway, b) Two aqueduct intersect the tunnel head, c) aqueducts exist at a distance of 4.5 m from right side of tunnel subway, d) aqueducts exist above the tunnel head

c) *Third model: aqueducts exist at a distance of 4.5 m from right side of tunnel subway*

In this condition, aqueducts exist at a distance of 4.5 m from right side of tunnel subway (Fig. 6(c)). Aqueducts depth was 22 m. One horizontal hole intersects the aqueduct. Diameter of hole was 2 m.

d) *Fourth model: aqueducts exist above the tunnel head*

In this condition, aqueducts exist above the tunnel head (Fig. 6(d)). Aqueducts depth was 10 m. One horizontal hole intersects the aqueduct. Diameter of hole was 2 m.

4.3 Tunnel drilling during several steps in PFC3D

After generating the aqueduct, tunneling with diameter of 9 m at depth of 22 were performed in 10 steps with 2 m progress in each step. Firstly one tunnel with diameter of 4.5 m was drilled in the center of the principal tunnel then principal tunnel with diameter of 9 m was created. This leads to decreasing the unbalance force in the model. Fig. 7 shows the schematic view of drilling stages and aqueduct configuration related to first condition. Fig. 8 shows the first model simulated in PFC3D. After creation of aqueduct condition, the first stage of tunnel drilling with length of 2 m was performed and then model start to balance. The settlement of 15 balls in ground surface and above the drilling face was selected and averaged as a ground settlement.

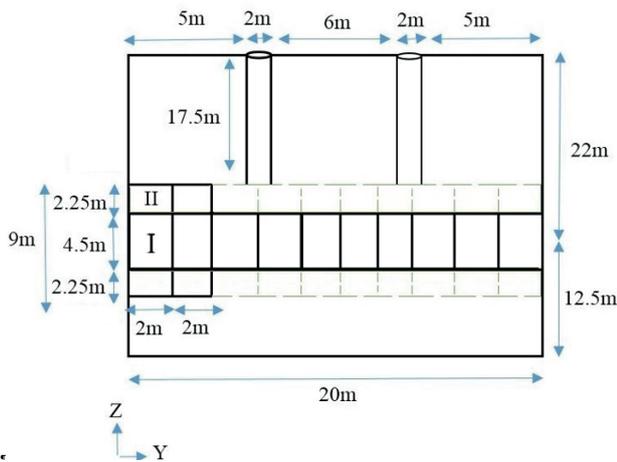


Fig. 7 the schematic view of drilling stages and aqueduct configuration related to first condition

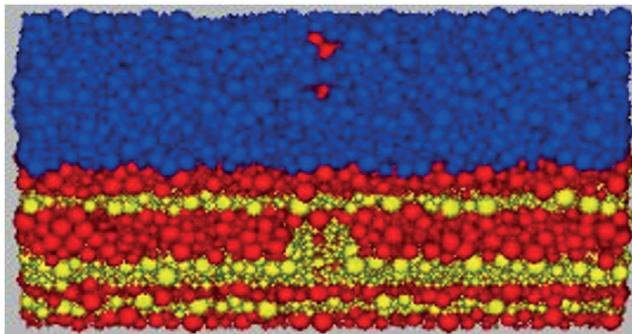


Fig. 8 the first model simulated in PFC3D

4.4 Lining support in numerical simulation

After tunneling in four model and registration of settlement data, the effect of lining support on the ground control was investigated. For this purpose, the lining support applied in place after drilling of each stage (Fig. 9).

The thickness of concrete lining was 35 cm. Table 4 shows the micro parameters of concrete lining.

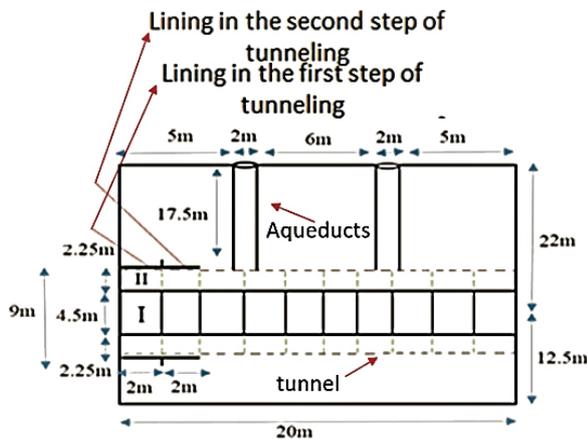


Fig. 9 Application of lining support in place after drilling of each stage

Table 4 The micro parameters of concrete lining

k_n (N/m)	k_s (N/m)	n -bond (N/m)	s -bond (N/m)	friction	ρ (kg/m ³)
2e10	2e10	1e15	1e15	0.1	2400

5 The settlement before performing the support lining

5.1 The effect of drilling on the ground settlement for different configurations of aqueducts

Fig. 10 shows the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to first model.

In total, the settlement is maximum above the tunnel face. The settlement is decreased by increasing the distance from tunnel axis. In the first model, in drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement has maximum value, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

Fig. 11 shows the longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model. In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement has maximum value, i.e. 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

Fig. 12 shows the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to second model.

Profile of ground settlement for different steps of drilling

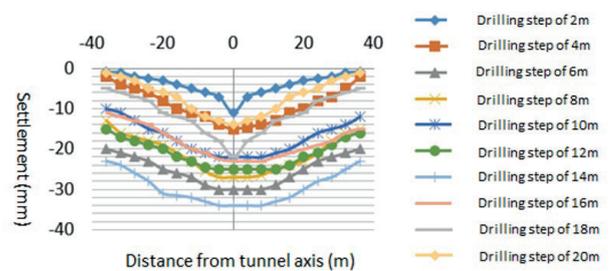


Fig. 10 the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to first model

Longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model

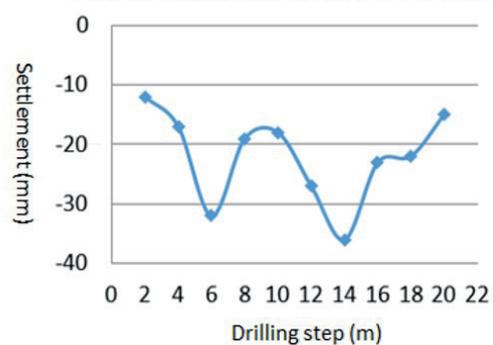


Fig. 11 the longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model

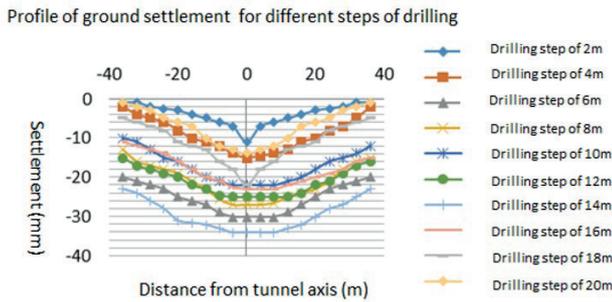


Fig. 12 the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to second model

In the first stage of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect of the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling lead to ground settlement.

During the second stage of drilling to seventh stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was un-aximetric because the aqueduct has important effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, tunneling lead to ground settlement too.

In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement was maximum, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

During the seventh stages of drilling to tenth stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling leads to ground settlement.

Fig. 13 shows the longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model. In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement was maximum, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

Fig. 14 shows the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to third model. In the first stage of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect of the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling lead to ground settlement.

During the second stage of drilling till seventh stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was un-aximetric because the aqueduct has important effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, tunneling lead to ground settlement too.

In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement has maximum value, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

During the seventh stages of drilling to tenth stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling leads to ground settlement.

Fig. 15 shows the longitudinal profile of settlement in the second model. In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement was maximum, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

Fig. 16 shows the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to forth model.

In the first stage of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect of the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling lead to ground settlement.

Longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model

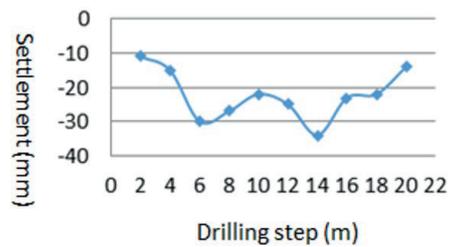


Fig. 13 the longitudinal profile of settlement in the second model

Profile of ground settlement for different steps of drilling

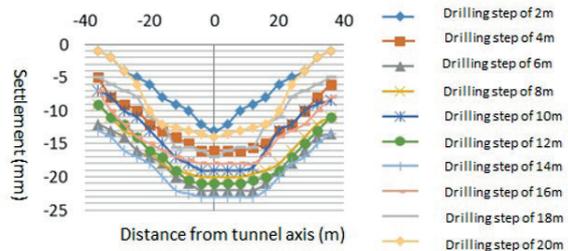


Fig. 14 the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to third model

Longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model

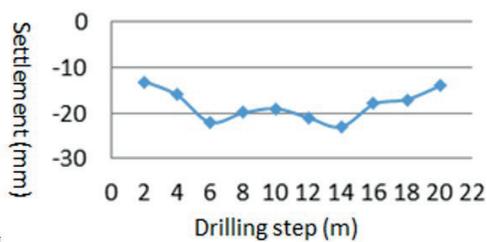


Fig. 15 the longitudinal profile of settlement in the third model

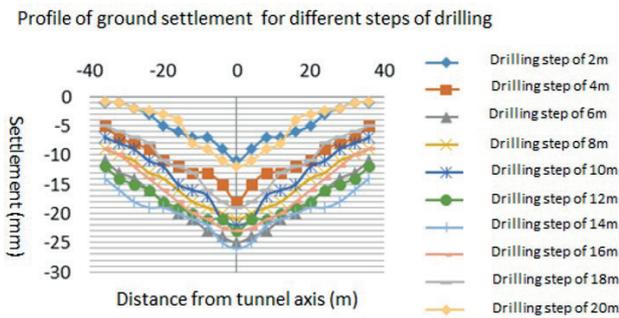


Fig. 16 the ground settlement profile during 10 stages of drilling related to fourth model

During the second stage of drilling to seventh stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was un-aximetric because the aqueduct has important effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, tunneling lead to ground settlement too.

In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement has maximum value, i.e. 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.

During the seventh stages of drilling to tenth stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling leads to ground settlement.

Fig. 17 shows the longitudinal profile of settlement in the second model. In drilling stages of 6 and 14, the settlement has maximum value, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively because the tunnel intersects with aqueducts. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueducts.

6 The ground settlement after support lining

Fig. 18 shows diagram of settlement before and after the support lining for the first model. Diagram of settlement before support lining has been shown in drilling stages of 6 and 14 that settlement has maximum value. The settlement was zero when the lining support was installed.

Longitudinal profile of settlement in the first model

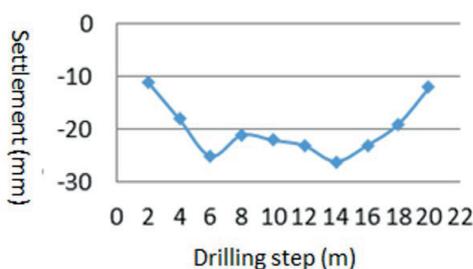


Fig. 17 the longitudinal profile of settlement in the fourth model

This behavior was similar in various sequence of tunneling for different configuration of aqueduct. Whereas this behavior was general in tunnel engineering, we didn't discuss any more.

7 Conclusions

In this investigation the influence of interaction between aqueduct and tunnel on the ground settlement has been investigated using PFC3D. At first, calibration of PFC3D was performed based on UCS test results rendered from three different ground layer. Then intact model with dimension of $70 \text{ m} \times 20 \text{ m} \times 34.5 \text{ m}$ ($x \times y \times z$) was built. These models are consisted of 8 layers with different mechanical and geometrical properties. Four different configurations for aqueduct were created in four models. Diameter of aqueduct was 2 m and its depth was different in four models. After aqueduct generation, tunnel with diameter of 9 m and length of 20 m was drilled in depth of 22 m. After tunnel drilling, the settlement data of ground surface were picked up. After tunnel simulation, the effect of support lining was investigated on the ground settlement. For this purpose, after each step of tunnel drilling, lining support with diameter of 35 cm was performed. The results show that:

- When aqueduct was situated perpendicular above the tunnel, the maximum ground settlement was occurred. This was critical configuration.
- When aqueduct was situated 4.5 m at the right side of the tunnel, the minimum ground settlement was occurred. This was safe configuration.
- In the first stage of drilling of four models, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect of the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling lead to ground settlement.
- During the second stage of drilling till seventh stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was un-aximetric because the aqueduct has important effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, tunneling lead to ground settlement too.

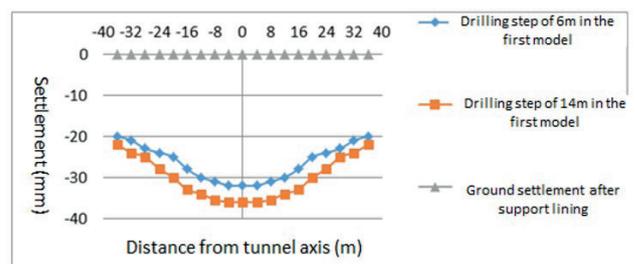


Fig. 18 diagram of settlement before and after the support lining for the first model

- In drilling stages of 6 and 14 the settlement was maximum, i.e., 32 mm and 36 mm respectively, because tunnel intersects with aqueduct. The settlement was decreased by increasing the distance from aqueduct.
- During the seventh stages of drilling to tenth stages of drilling, the ground settlement curve was aximetric because the aqueduct has not any effect on the ground settlement. In this condition, only tunneling leads to ground settlement.
- The settlement was zero when the lining support was installed. This behavior occurred in other aqueduct configuration.
- Bedding thickness and bedding layer angle have important effect on the ground settlement. The authors will study this important in a new future.

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