



Syllabus of Road Geotechnique

Course Outline:

week	Topics Covered
1-3	One Dimensional Fluid Flow ,Permeability and seepage
4-6	Two Dimensional Fluid Flow, Flow through Embankments and Dams
7-10	Consolidation Theory for normally and over consolidated Soil
11-13	Shear Strength Tests, Shear Strength of Sand and Clay, The Mohr Coulomb Failure Criterion
14	Problematic Soils and Subgrade Improvement and Strengthening for highway
15	<i>Exam + Review of Exam</i>

Textbooks:

1. Lambe, T. W., and Whitman, R. V. (1979) Soil Mechanics. Wiley, New York.
 2. Mitchell, J. K. (1993) Fundamentals of soil behavior, 2nd edition. Wiley, New York
- Suggested references:

1. *Soil Mechanics by R.F.Craig, Inc., 2010.*
2. Introduction to Geotechnical Engineering, By Braja M. Das, 2009.
3. Geotechnical Aspects of Pavements. National Highway Institute. Reference Manual. 2006.



Chapter one

One Dimensional Flow

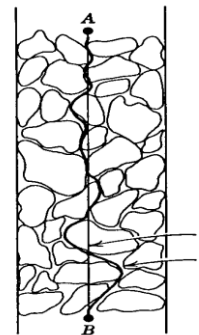
Soil is a three phase medium (solids, water, and air). Water in soils occurs in various conditions, so permeability can be defined as:

"The property of soils that allows water to pass through them at some rate. This property is a product of the granular nature of the soil"

Different soils have different permabilities, understanding of which is critical to the use of the soil as a foundation or structural element. Soil and rock are porous materials. Fluid flow takes place through interconnected void spaces between particles from a point of high energy to a point of low energy and not through the particles themselves. No soil or rock material is strictly **impermeable**

Why studying flow of water in porous media?

- 1-To estimate the quantity of underground seepage
- 2-To determine the quantity of water that can be discharged form a soil
- 3-To determine the pore water pressure/effective geostatic stresses, and to analyze earth structures subjected to water flow.
- 4-To determine the volume change in soil layers (soil consolidation) and settlement of foundation.



Flow of Water in Soils depends on:

1. Porosity of the soil
2. Type of the soil - particle size - particle shape - degree of packing
3. Viscosity of the fluid –Temperature – Chemical Components
4. Total head (difference in energy) - Pressure head - Velocity head, Elevation head.
5. The degree of compressibility of a soil is expressed by



Theory

Bernoulli's Law

The total pressure in terms of water head is formed from: pressure head; velocity head; and elevation head. This is known as the Bernoulli's equation:

$$h = P/\gamma_w + v^2/2g + Z$$

h: total head;

u: water pressure;

γ_w : unit weight of water;

v: velocity of water;

g: gravity acceleration;

Z: elevation head.

The term containing the velocity head can be neglected because the seepage velocity is small, so:

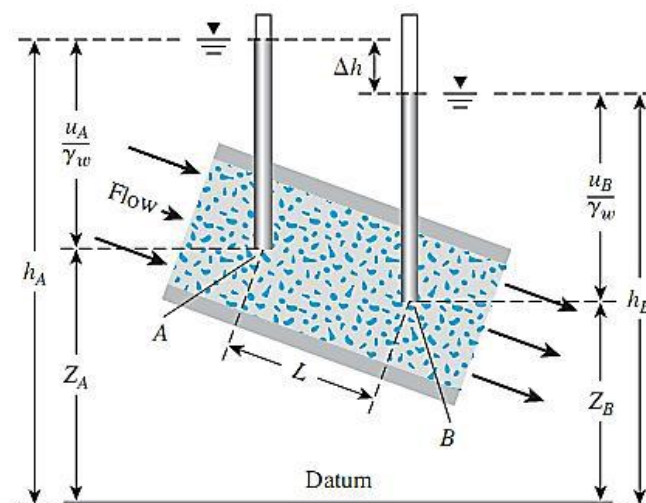
$$h = P/\gamma_w + Z$$

The loss of head between A & B is:

$$\Delta h = h_A - h_B = (P_A/\gamma_w + Z_A) - (P_B/\gamma_w + Z_B)$$

$$i = \Delta h/L$$

i is the hydraulic gradient, L is the distance between A & B and Δh is the head loss between A & B.





Darcy's Law

In 1856, Darcy published a simple equation for discharge velocity of water through saturated soils, which may expressed as

$$v = ki$$

$$q = vA = kiA$$

Where:

v = discharge velocity = quantity of water flowing in unit time through a unit gross – sectional area of soil at right angles to the direction of flow

q = flow rate

k = coefficient of permeability

A = cross-sectional area

i = hydraulic gradient

(v) is based on the gross sectional area of the soil, however the actual velocity of water (seepage velocity, v_s) through the void spaces is higher than v , this can be derived as following:

$$q = v * A = A_v * v_s$$

Where:

v_s = seepage velocity

A_v = area of void in the cross section of the specimen.

$$A = A_v + A_s$$

Where:

A_s = area of soil solids in the cross section of the specimen.

$$q = v * (A_v + A_s) = A_v * v_s$$

$$v_s = v(A_v + A_s) / A_v = v(A_v + A_s) * L / A_v L = v(V_v + V_s) / V$$

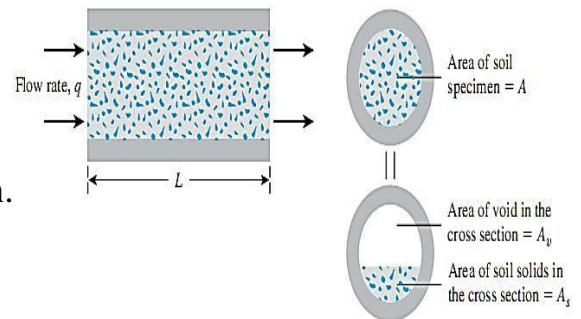
where

V_v = volume of voids in the specimen

V_s = volume of soil solids in the specimen.

$$v_s = v[(1 + V_v/V_s) / V_v/V_s] = v(1 + e/e) = v/n$$

$$v_s = v/n$$





Coefficient of permeability (Hydraulic conductivity) (K)

- ✚ It is defined as the rate of flow per unit area of soil under unit hydraulic gradient, it has the dimensions of velocity (L/T) such (cm/sec or ft/sec).
- ✚ The coefficient of permeability is also known as the hydraulic conductivity.
- ✚ Hydraulic conductivity of soils depends on several factors such as:

- fluid viscosity
- pore-size distribution
- grain-size distribution
- void ratio and
- degree of soil saturation

Typical values of hydraulic conductivity of soil.

Soil Type	k (cm/sec)
Clean gravel	1.0-100
Coarse sand	0.01-1.0
Fine sand	0.001-0.01
Silty clay	0.00001-0.001
Clay	<0.000001

Laboratory determination of hydraulic conductivity

Two standard laboratory tests are used to determine the hydraulic conductivity.

1. Constant head test

The **constant head** test is **used** primarily for **coarse-grained soils**; the test is based on the assumption of laminar flow where k is independent of i; ASTM D 2434.

2. Falling head test (Variable head test)

The **falling head** test is **used both** for **coarse-grained soils as well as fine textured soils**

Q/ What causes flow of water through soil?

Answer:

$h_t(\text{at any point inside the soil}) = h_t(\text{at begin or end point of the soil}) \mp i \times (\text{distance})$ (knowing point to point require



one-dimension Fluid Flow :

Heads

$$h_t = h_p + h_e \quad \text{where}$$

h_t = Total head

h_e = elevation head

h_p = pressure head = P/γ_w

Darcy law

$$Q = k i A \quad \leftarrow \text{Darcy law}$$

$$v = k i \quad \text{where}$$

Q = volume of fluid

k = coefficient of permeability

i = hydraulic gradient

A = Area of specimen.

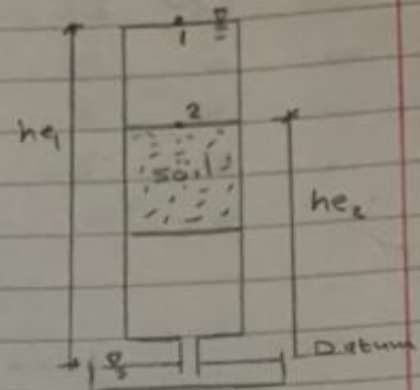
v = velocity of fluid in soil (approach velocity)

$$Q_{in} = Q_{out}$$

$$v_s = \frac{v}{n} \quad \text{where} \quad v_s = \text{seepage velocity (for soil)}$$

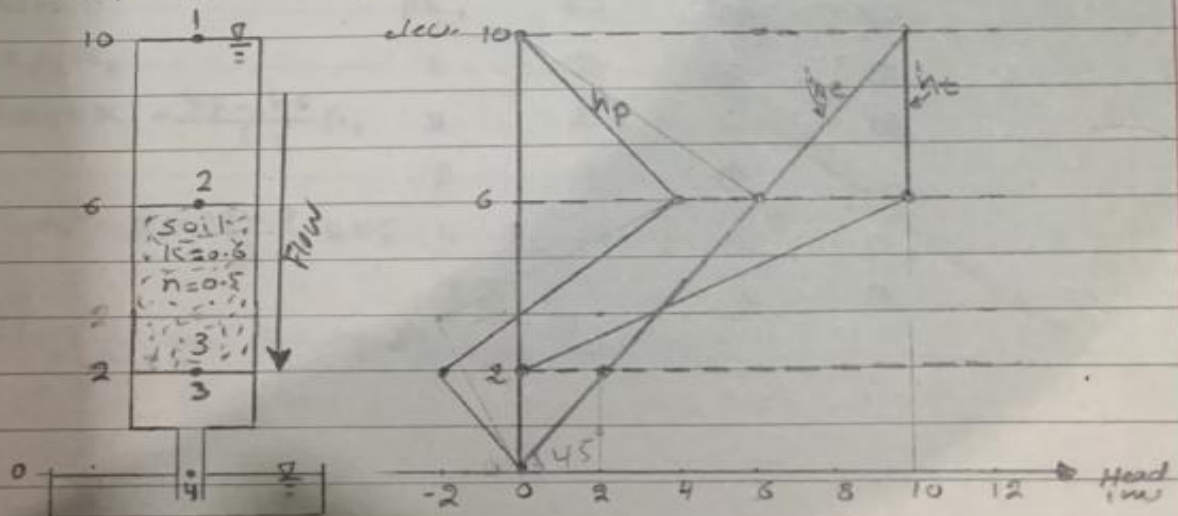
n = porosity.

$$i = \frac{\Delta h}{L} = \frac{h_2 - h_1}{L}$$



Example No. 1

Find h_e, h_p, h_t, v, v_s at pts.





$Q = KiA$
 $i = \frac{h_2 - h_3}{L} = \frac{10 - 0}{4} = 2.5$
 $V = Ki = 0.6 \times 2.5 = 1.25 \text{ cm/sec}$
 $V_s = \frac{V}{n} = \frac{1.25}{0.5} = 2.5 \text{ cm/sec}$

pts.	h_e	h_p	h_t
1	10	0	10
2	6	4	10
3	2	-2	0
4	0	0	0

Example No. 2
Find h_e, h_p, h_t, V, V_s

$Q_{in} = Q_{out}$
 $K_1 i_1 A_1 = K_2 i_2 A_2$
 $K_1 \times \frac{h_1 - h_3}{L_1} A_1 = K_2 \times \frac{h_3 - h_5}{L_2} A_2$
 $1 \times \frac{12 - h_3}{4} \times 2 = 2 \times \frac{h_3 - 0}{2} \times 0.5$
 $\frac{12 - h_3}{4} = \frac{h_3}{4} \rightarrow 12 - h_3 = h_3 \rightarrow h_3 = 6 \text{ cm}$

pt.	h_e	h_p	h_t
1	12	0	12
2	8	4	12
3	4	2	6
4	2	-2	0
5	0	0	0



Example No. 3
 Find h_e , h_p , h_t - velocities, stress

The diagram shows a well with a water table at 0.5m and a pump at 2m. The graph plots head (m) and stress (kN/m³) against elevation (m). The head profiles are: h_e (total head), h_p (pump head), and h_t (total head). The stress profiles are: σ'_t (effective stress) and σ_u (total stress).

pts.	h_e	h_p	h_t
1	4	0	4
2	0.5	3.5	4
3	2.0	1	3
4	3.0	0	3

velocities:-

$$V = K_i = 0.8 \times \frac{4-3}{1.5} = 0.4 \text{ cm/sec.}$$

$$V_s = \frac{V}{n} = \frac{0.4}{0.4} = 1 \text{ cm/sec.}$$

stress:-

$$\sigma'_t = \frac{G + Se}{1+e} \gamma_w$$

assume $S=1$

$$e = \frac{n}{1-n} = \frac{0.4}{1-0.4} = 0.67$$

$$\sigma'_t = \sigma'_{sat.} = \frac{2.65 + 0.67}{1 + 0.67} \times 10 = 20 \text{ kN/m}^3$$

pts.	$\sigma'_t = h_g \gamma_w$	$u = h_p \gamma_w$	σ'_t 's $\sigma_u = u$
3	$1 \times 10 = 10$	$1 \times 10 = 10$	0
2	$1 \times 10 + 1.5 \times 20 = 40$	$3.5 \times 10 = 35$	5



$$\sigma_o = \gamma_t b - h \gamma_w$$

$$0 = 20 \times 5 - (h+2) \times 10$$

$$100 = (h+2) \times 10$$

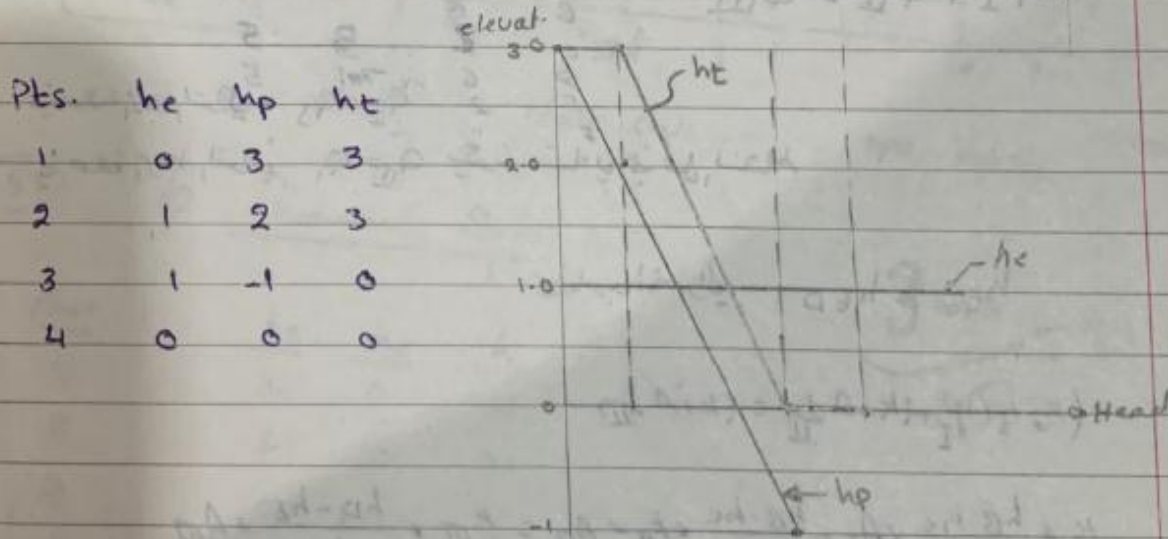
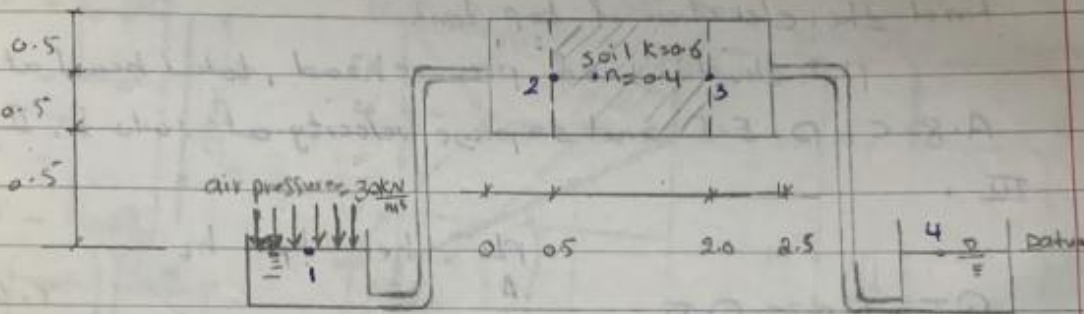
$$h+2 = 10$$

$$h = 8 \text{ m}$$

$$b. \quad i_c = \frac{\gamma_t}{\gamma_w} = \frac{20-10}{10} = 1$$

Example No. 4 :-

Find h_e , h_p , h_t . (horizontal flow)

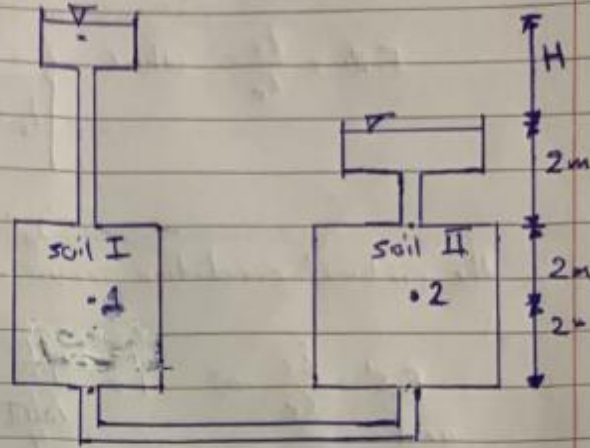




Ex. 5

For the set up shown
the total head at pts.
1 & 2 are 10m and 9.5m
respectively. Find;

1. value of H
2. seepage force per unit volume in soil I and II
3. Max hydraulic head
4. when piping occurs in soil I or II first



soil type	K	n	γ	A
soil I	$2 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}}$	0.5	$18 \frac{\text{KN}}{\text{m}^3}$	A
soil II	$4 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}}$	0.333	$18 \frac{\text{KN}}{\text{m}^3}$	A

Solution

the set up is connected series

$$q_I = q_{II}$$

$$(K \cdot i \cdot A)_I = (K \cdot i \cdot A)_{II}$$

$$K_I \cdot \left(\frac{\Delta h}{l_I}\right) \cdot A_I = K_{II} \cdot \left(\frac{\Delta h}{l_{II}}\right) \cdot A_{II}$$

$$2 \times 10^{-2} \cdot \frac{\Delta h_I}{4} \cdot A_I = 4 \times 10^{-2} \cdot \frac{\Delta h_{II}}{4} \cdot A_{II}$$

$$\Delta h_I = 2 \Delta h_{II} \Rightarrow$$

$$i \text{ from } (1 \rightarrow 2) = \frac{\Delta h_I}{l} = \frac{10 - 9.5}{2} \Rightarrow i = 0.25 = i_{II} = \frac{\Delta h_{II}}{l}$$

$$0.25 = \frac{\Delta h_{II}}{4} \Rightarrow \Delta h_{II} = 1 \text{ m}$$

$$\Delta h_I = 2 \text{ m} \quad \text{and} \quad H = \Delta h_I + \Delta h_{II} = 1 + 2 = 3 \text{ m}$$

$$2. \quad J_I = i_I \gamma_w = \frac{\Delta h_I}{l_I} \gamma_w = \frac{2}{4} \times 10 = 5 \text{ KN/m}^3$$

$$J_{II} = i_{II} \gamma_w = \frac{\Delta h_{II}}{l_{II}} = \frac{1}{4} \times 10 = 2.5 \text{ KN/m}^3$$



3. Max head occurs at critical condition $\Rightarrow F.S. = 1$

F.S. = $\frac{i_c}{i_e}$ where i_c = critical hydraulic gradient

$$i_c = \frac{\gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w}{\gamma_w}$$

$$i_e = \frac{\Delta h}{l}$$

the critical condition occurs at soil II

and $F.S. = \frac{i_c}{i_e} \Rightarrow 1 = \frac{18-10}{\frac{\Delta h_{II}}{4}} \Rightarrow \Delta h_{II} = 3.2$

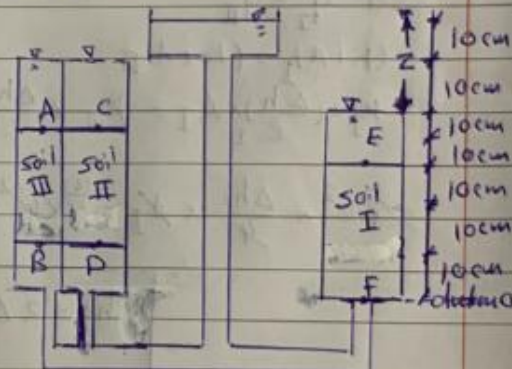
\therefore % loss of soil II = $\frac{\Delta h_{II}}{H} = \frac{1}{3} = 0.333$

$\therefore H_{max.} = \frac{\Delta h_{II}}{\% \text{ loss}} = \frac{3.2}{0.333} = 9.6 \text{ m}$

EX. 6

For the setup shown find:

1. h_e, h_p, h_f for pts. A, B, C, D, E & F & V_b for soil II ($n=0.66$)
2. the value of Z that may cause boiling



	soil I	soil II	soil III	
K	0.02	0.05	0.08	cm/sec
γ	21	20	19	

solution:

pt.	h_e	h_p	$h_f = h_p + h_e$
A	40	20	60
B	10	60	70
C	40	20	60
D	10	60	70
E	30	20	50
F	0	70	70

system is a connect parallel and upward flow



for soil II

$$v_s = \frac{v}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad v = k_i = k \times \frac{h_D - h_C}{l_D \rightarrow C}$$

$$v_s = 0.05 \times \frac{70 - 60}{30} = 0.0167 \text{ cm/sec}$$

$$v_s = \frac{v}{n} = \frac{0.0167}{0.66} = 0.025 \text{ cm/sec} \rightarrow 0.0167 \text{ o.k.}$$

2. boiling condition $\Rightarrow F.S. = 1$

$$F.S. = \frac{i_c}{i_e} = \frac{\frac{\gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w}{\gamma_w} \times \frac{21 - 10}{10}}{\frac{\Delta h}{e}} \Rightarrow \Delta h = 0.33 \text{ m} = 33 \text{ cm}$$

(Δh لا يتعد 33 سم)
أي ارتفاع المياه الجوفية لا يتعد 33 سم عن نقطة

EX.7.

For soil profile shown in fig.

Find:

- The seepage through soil ① in $\text{m}^3/\text{day}/\text{m}^2$
- effective stress (σ_v') at points A, B, C
- Max. (h) without cause boiling use $F.S. = 1.5$

solution:

$$q = k_i A = k \times \frac{\Delta h}{l} \times A$$

first must be found Δh at soil ① $\Rightarrow h_A \rightarrow h_B$
but soil profile is in series $\Rightarrow q_1 = q_2$

at pt. A $h_e = 6 \text{ m}$ $h_p = 0 \Rightarrow h_t = 6$
C $h_e = 0$ $h_p = q \Rightarrow h_t = q$

$\therefore q_1 = q_2 \Rightarrow (k_i A)_1 = (k_i A)_2$

$$2 \times 10^{-3} \times \frac{6 - h_B}{2 \times 100} \times A = 10^{-3} \times \frac{h_B - q}{4 \times 100} \times A$$

$\therefore h_B = 6.6 \text{ m}$ and $h_e = 4 \text{ m} \Rightarrow h_p = 2.6 \text{ m}$

(h_p = 0 لا يتعد في التربة)



$q = 2 \times 10^{-3} \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}} \times \frac{3600 \text{ sec}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hr}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{5.6 - 6}{2} \times 4$

$q = 0.5184 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}/(\text{m}^2)$

2. p_b

	$\alpha_v = \sum h \gamma$	$u = h_p \times \gamma_w$	$\alpha_v' = \alpha_v - u$
A	$17 \times 1 = 17$		17
B	$17 \times 1 + 18 \times 1 + 18 \times 1 = 53$	$2.63 \times 10 = 26$	$53 - 26 = 27$
C	$53 + 2 \times 19 = 19 \times 2 = 124$	$9 \times 10 = 90$	$124 - 90 = 34$

3. $F.S. = \frac{\gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w}{\Delta h} \rightarrow \frac{(\gamma_{sat} - \gamma_w) \cdot z}{\Delta h \cdot \gamma_w}$

$F.S._1 = \frac{17 \times 1 + (18 - 10) \times 2}{0.6 \times 10} = 5.5$

$F.S._2 = \frac{17 \times 1 + (18 - 10) \times 2 + (19 - 10) \times 4}{0.6 \times 10 + 2.4 \times 10} = 2.3 \approx F.S. = 1.5$

$F.S._3 = \frac{17 \times 1 + (18 - 10) \times 2 + (19 - 10) \times 4}{H \times 10} = 1.5$

$H = 4.6 \text{ m} \Rightarrow H_{max} = 4.6 - 1 = 3.6 \text{ m}$