Soil Water

Soil water may be in the forms of ***free /gravitational water*** **and** ***held water***

- **The first type is free to move through the pore space of the soil mass under the influence of gravity.**

- **The second type is that which is held in the proximity of the surface of the soil grains by certain forces of attraction.**

Gravitational water can be subdivided into

(a) Free water (bulk water) and (b) Capillary water.

(a) Free water (bulk water). **It has the usual properties of liquid water. It moves at all times under the *influence of gravity*, or because of a difference in *hydrostatic pressure head*.**

Free water may be further distinguished as

(i) Free surface water and (ii) Groundwater

Free surface water. Free surface water may be from **precipitation**, **run-off**, **flood-water, melting snow, water from certain hydraulic operations**. It is of interest when it comes into contact with a structure or when it influences the ground water in any manner. Rainfall and run-off are erosive agents which are capable of washing away soil and causing certain problems of strength and stability in the field of geotechnical engineering.

Ground water. Ground water is that water which fills **up the voids in the soil** up to the ground water table and translocates through them. It fills coherently and completely all voids. Ground water obeys the laws of hydraulics. The upper surface of the zone of full saturation of the soil, at which the ground water is subjected to atmospheric pressure, is called the 'Ground water table'.

(b) Capillary water. Water which is in a ***suspended condition***, held by the forces of ***surface tension*** within the interstices and pores of capillary size in the soil, is called 'capillary water'.

Held Water is that water which is held in soil pores or void spaces because of certain forces of attraction. It can be further classified as-(a) **Structural water and** (b**)** **Absorbed water.**

Some-times, even 'capillary water' may be said to belong to this category of held water since the action of capillary forces will be required to come into play in this case.

(a) Structural water. Water that is ***chemically combined*** as a part of the crystal structure of the mineral of the soil grains is called 'Structural water'. ***Under the loading*** encountered in geotechnical engineering, this water ***cannot be separated*** by any means. Even drying at 105° – 110°C does not affect it. Hence structural water is considered as part and parcel of the soil grains.

Adsorbed Water. This comprises, (i) **Hygroscopic moisture** & (ii) **Film-moisture**

(i) **Hygroscopic moisture.** Soils which appear quite dry contain, nevertheless, very ***thin films of moisture*** around the mineral grains, called 'hygroscopic moisture', which is also termed ***'contact moisture' or 'surface bound moisture'***. This form of moisture is in a dense state, and surrounds the surfaces of the ***individual soil grains as a very thin film***.

(ii) **Film moisture.** Film moisture forms ***on the soil grains*** because of the ***condensation of aqueous vapour*** ; this is attached to the surface of the soil particle as a film upon the layer of the hygroscopic moisture film. This film moisture is also held by molecular forces of high intensity but not as high as in the case of the hygroscopic moisture film.

Permeability

Lecture Outline:

1. Soil Permeability
2. Bernoulli's Equation
3. Darcy's Law
4. Hydraulic Conductivity
5. Permeability Test in the Field

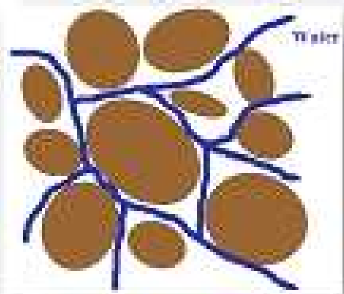
Cofferdam (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2004)

Textbook: *Braja M. Das, "Principles of Geotechnical Engineering", 7^{th} E. (**Chapter 7**).*

Soil Permeability

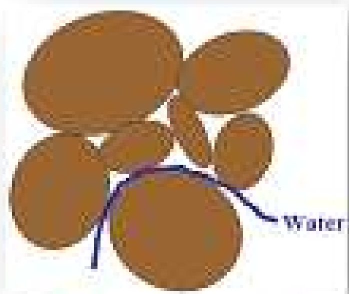
What is Permeability?

- Soils are assemblages of solid particles with interconnected voids where water can flow from a point of **high energy** to a point of **low energy**.
- ***Permeability*** is the measure of the soil's ability to permit water to flow through its pores or voids.
- It is one of the most important soil properties of interest to geotechnical engineers



Loose soil

Easy to flow - **High** permeability



Dense soil

Difficult to flow – **Low** permeability

Soil Permeability

Importance of permeability:

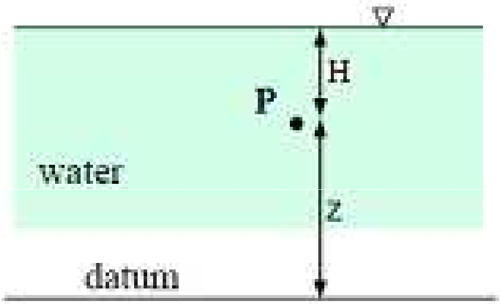
- Permeability influences the rate of settlement of a saturated soil under load.
- The design of earth dams is very much based upon the permeability of the soils used.
- The stability of slopes and retaining structures can be greatly affected by the permeability of the soils involved.
- Filters made of soils are designed based upon their permeability.

The study of permeability is important for:

- Estimating the quantity of underground seepage.
- Investigating problems involving pumping seepage of water for underground constructions.
- Analyzing the stability of earth dams and earth retaining walls subjected to seepage forces.

Bernoulli's Equation

- According to Bernoulli's equation, the total head at a point in water under motion can be expressed as the summation of the pressure, velocity, and elevation heads:



$$h = \frac{p}{\gamma_m} + \frac{v^2}{2g} + z$$

Pressure Head — Velocity Head — Elevation Head

h: total head (m)
p: water pressure (Pa)
v: velocity of water (m/s)
z: elevation head (m)

- When water flows through soils, the seepage velocity is often very small. It is even smaller when squared, and the third component in Bernoulli's equation becomes negligible compared to the first two components. Therefore, the total head at any point can be adequately represented by :

$$h = \frac{p}{\gamma_m} + z$$

Bernoulli's Equation

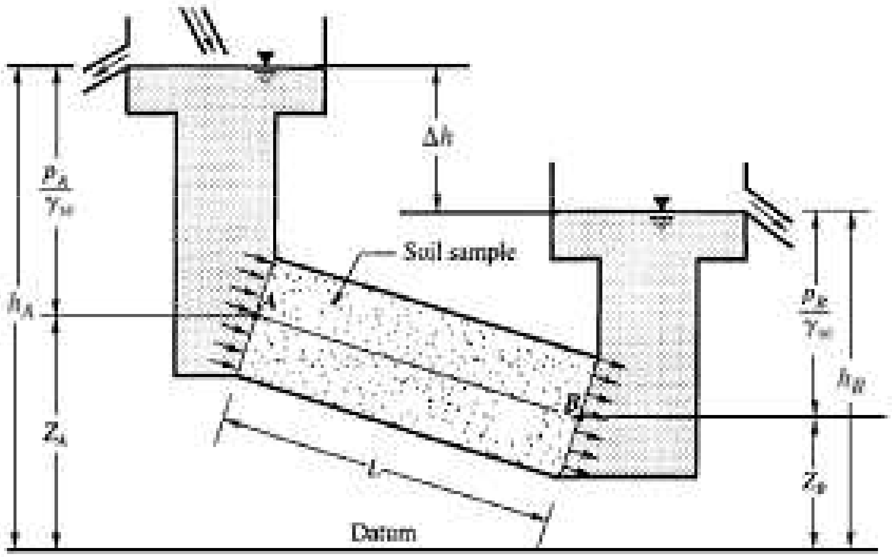
- The heads of water at points A and B as the water flows from A to B are given as follows (with respect to a datum):

- Total head at A: $h_A = \frac{p_A}{\gamma_w} + z_A$

- Total head at B: $h_B = \frac{p_B}{\gamma_w} + z_B$

- The loss of head between A and B:

$$\Delta h = h_A - h_B = \left(\frac{p_A}{\gamma_w} + z_A\right) - \left(\frac{p_B}{\gamma_w} + z_B\right)$$



- The head loss may be expressed as:

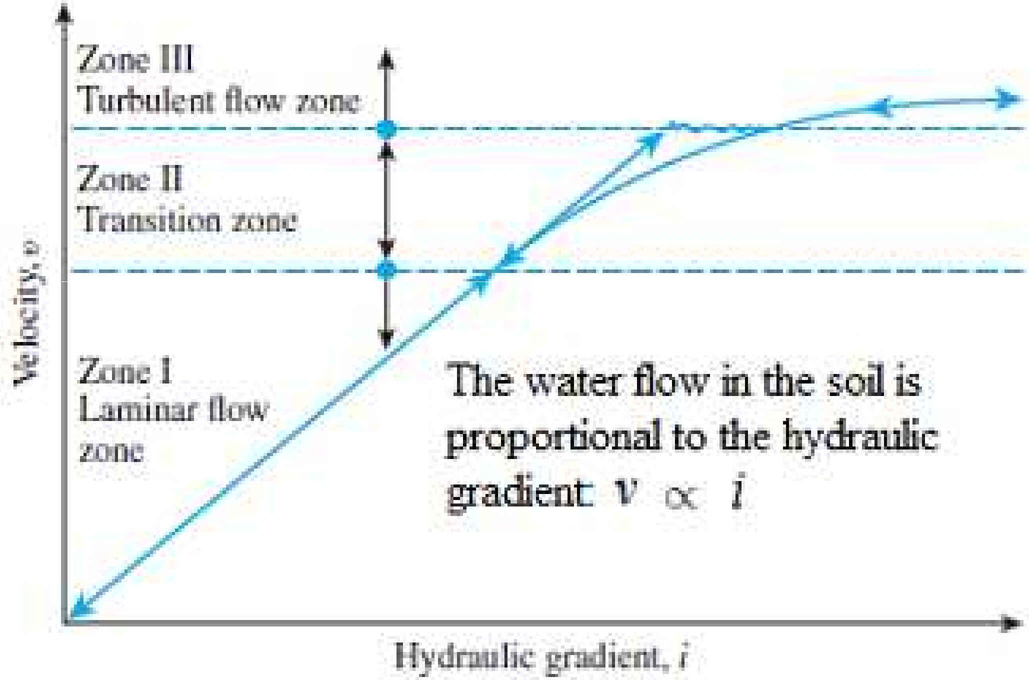
$$i = \frac{\Delta h}{L}$$

i: hydraulic gradient

L: distance between points A and B

Bernoulli's Equation

- the variation of the velocity (v) with the hydraulic gradient (i) may be divided into three main zones, as shown in the figure:



- In most soils, the flow of water through the void spaces can be considered laminar, thus: $v \propto i$

Darcy's Law

- Henri Darcy in 1856 derived an empirical formula for the behavior of flow through saturated soils. He found that the quantity of water (q) *per sec* flowing through a cross-sectional area (A) of soil under hydraulic gradient (i) can be expressed by the formula:

$$v = ki \quad \text{or} \quad q = \frac{Q}{t} = kiA$$

where,

v: discharge velocity, which is the quantity of water flowing in unit time through a unit gross cross-sectional area of soil (cm/s).

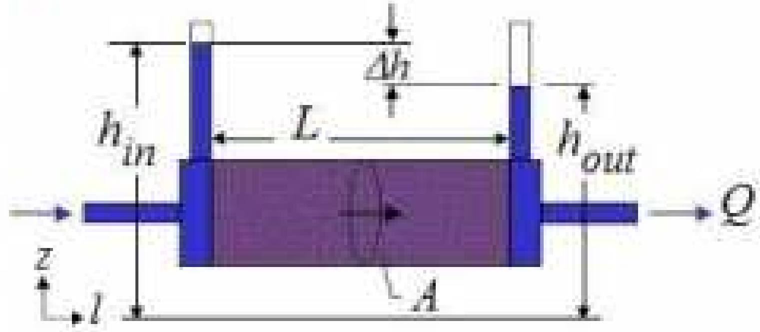
k: coefficient of permeability or hydraulic conductivity (cm/s).

q: flow rate (cm^3/s).

Q: volume of collected water (cm^3).

A: cross-sectional area (cm^3).

i: hydraulic gradient.

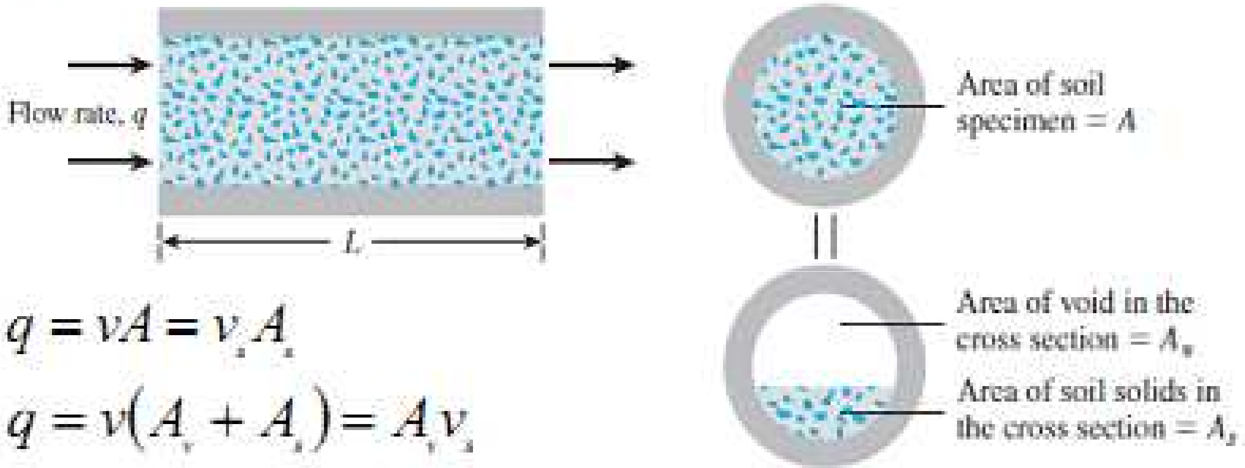


Hydraulic conductivity is generally expressed in cm/sec or m/sec in SI units.

Darcy's Law

Assumption
Soil is Homogenious
Flow is Laminar

- Seepage velocity v_s: is the actual velocity of water through the void spaces.
- v_s is greater then v.



$$A = A_v + A_s$$

$$q = vA = v_s A_v$$

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

$$v_s = \frac{v(A_v + A_s)}{A_v} = \frac{v(A_v + A_s)L}{A_v L} = \frac{v(V_v + V_s)}{V_v}$$

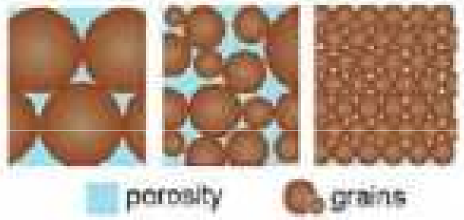
$$v_s = v\left[\frac{1 + \left(\frac{V_v}{V_s}\right)}{\frac{V_v}{V_s}}\right] = v\left(\frac{1+e}{e}\right) = \frac{v}{n}$$

where,

V_v: volume of voids.
V_s: volume of solids.
e: void ratio.
n: porosity.

Hydraulic Conductivity

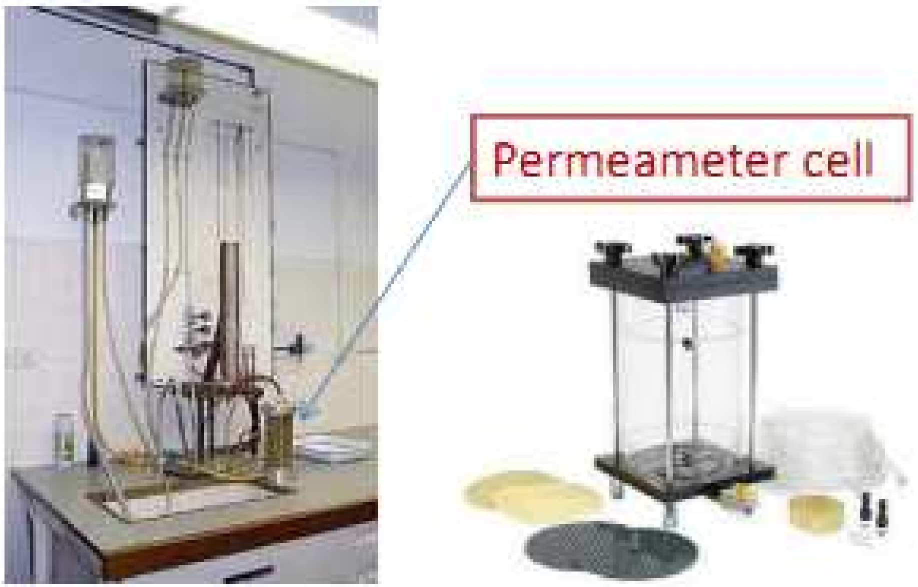
- The coefficient or permeability (k), also known as hydraulic conductivity, is a measure of soil permeability. It is generally expressed in cm/sec or m/sec in SI units.
- The hydraulic conductivity of soils depends on several factors:
  - Fluid viscosity
  - Pore size distribution
  - Grain size distribution
  - Void ratio
  - Degree of soil saturation
- k is determined in the lab using two methods:
  - Constant-Head Test
  - Falling-Head Test

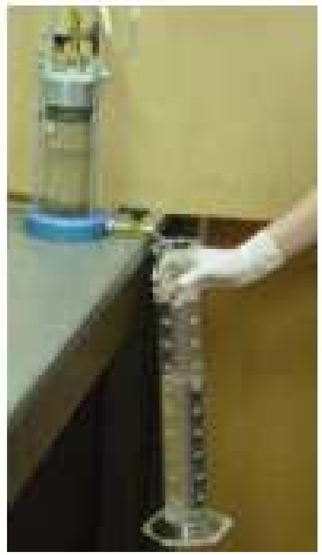


Soil type	k (cm / sec)
Clean gravel	10^{0} - 10^{2}
Coarse sand	10^{0} – 10^{-2}
Fine sand	10^{-2} – 10^{-3}
Silty	10^{-3} – 10^{-5}
Clay	< 10^{-5}

Constant Head Test

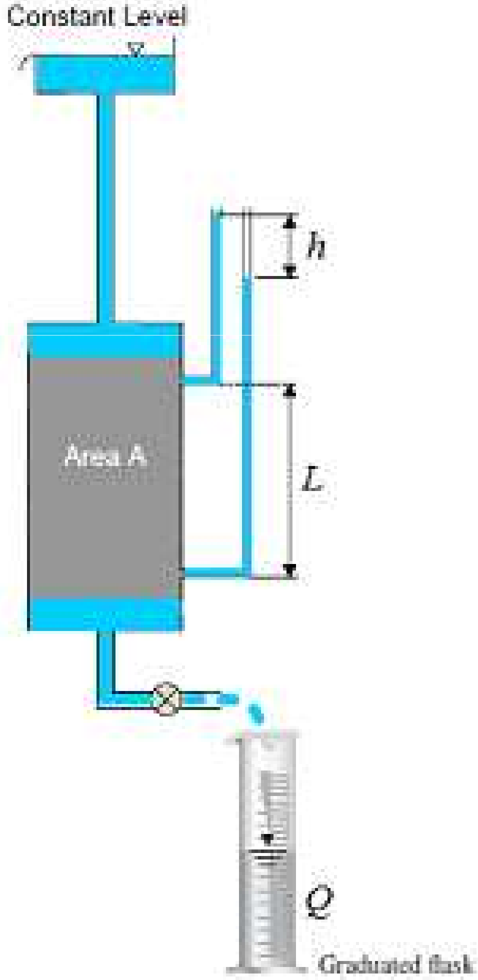
- The constant head test is used primarily for coarse-grained soils.
- It is based on the assumption of laminar flow where k is independent of i (low values of i).
- This test applies a constant head of water to each end of a soil in a "permeameter" (ASTM D 2434).
- After a constant flow rate is established, water is collected in a graduated flask for a known duration.





Constant Head Test

- The total volume of water collected may be expressed as:



$$Q = Avt$$

$$v = ki \quad \text{and} \quad i = \frac{h}{L}$$

$$Q = A\left(k\frac{h}{L}\right)t$$

therefore,

$$k = \frac{QL}{Aht} \quad [\text{m/s}]$$

Q: volume of water collected

A: area of cross section of the soil sample

t: duration of collection of water

Constant Head Test

- Test procedure (ASTM D 2434):

1. Setup screens on the permeameter
2. Measurements for permeameter, (D), (L), (H_1)
3. Take 1000 g passing No.4 soil (M_1)
4. Take a sample for M.C.
5. Assemble the permeameter–***make sure seals are air-tight***
6. Fill the mold in several layers and compact it as prescribed.
7. Put top porous stone and measure (H_2)
8. Weigh remainder of soil (M_2)
9. Complete assembling the permeameter. (keep outlet valve closed)
10. Connect Manometer tubes, but keep the valves closed.
11. Apply vacuum to remove air for 15 minutes (through inlet tube at top)
12. Run the Test (follow instructions in the lab manual) .....
13. Take readings
    - Manometer heads (h_1) & (h_2)
    - Collect water at the outlet, Q (in ml) at time t ≈60 sec.

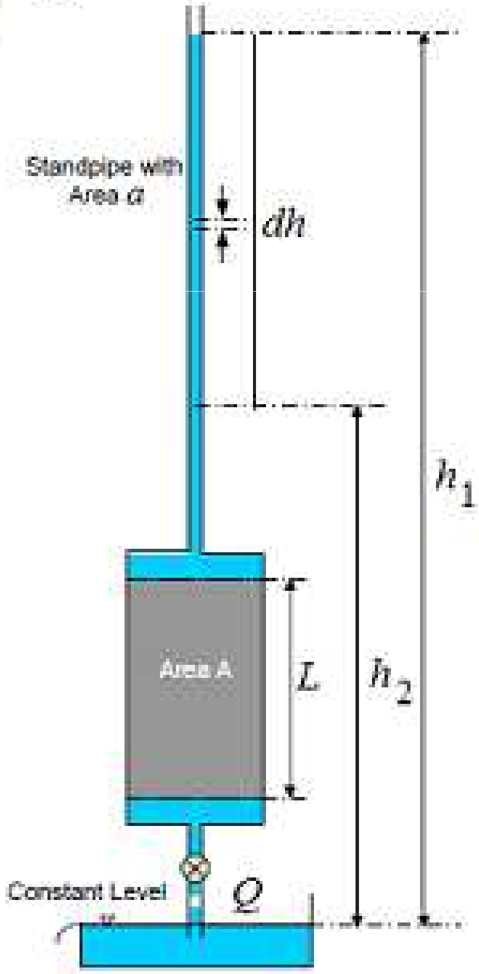
Falling Head Test

- The falling head test is used for both coarse-grained soils as well as fine-grained soils.
- Same procedure in constant head test except:
  - Record initial head difference, h_1 at $t = 0$
  - Allow water to flow through the soil specimen
  - Record the final head difference, h_2 at time $t = t_2$
  - Collect water at the outlet, Q (in ml) at time $t \approx 60$ sec

Permeameter cell

Falling Head Test

- The rate of flow of the water through the specimen at any time t can be given by:



$$q = k\frac{h}{L}A = -a\frac{dh}{dt}$$

q: rate of flow

a: cross sectional area of standpipe

A: cross sectional area of the soil sample

$$dt = \frac{aL}{Ak}\left(-\frac{dh}{h}\right) \qquad \int_0^t dt = -\frac{aL}{Ak}\int_{h_1}^{h_2}\frac{dh}{h}$$

$$t = \frac{aL}{Ak}\ln\frac{h_1}{h_2} \qquad k = \frac{aL}{At}\ln\frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

$$k = 2.33\frac{aL}{At}\log\frac{h_1}{h_2}$$

h_1: distance to bottom of the beaker before the test

h_2: distance to bottom of the beaker after the test

Hydraulic Conductivity Relationships

- For fairly uniform sand (that is, sand with a small uniformity coefficient), Hazen (1930) proposed an empirical relationship for hydraulic conductivity in the form:

$$k\,(\text{cm/s}) = cD_{10}^{2}$$

c: constant that varies from 1.0 to 1.5

D_{10}: the effective size, in mm

- The Kozeny-Carman equation (Kozeny, 1927; Carman, 1938, 1956):

$$k = \frac{1}{C_s S_s^2 T^2} \frac{\gamma_w}{\eta} \frac{e^3}{1+2}$$

C_s: shape factor, which is a function of the shape of flow channels

S_s : specific surface area per unit volume of particles

T: tortuosity of flow channels

η: viscosity

e: void ratio

Hydraulic Conductivity Relationships

- Based on Kozeny-Carman equation, Carrier (2003) suggested the following equation:

$$k = 1.99\times 10^4 \left[\frac{100\%}{\sum_i \frac{f_i}{D_{li}^{0.404}\times D_{si}^{0.595}}} \right]^2 \left(\frac{1}{SF}\right)^2 \frac{e^3}{1+e}$$

f_i: fraction of particles between a pair of two sieve sizes, li (larger) and si (smaller), in percent.

SF: shape factor

- Chapuis (2004) proposed the following empirical relationship for the hydraulic conductivity :

$$k\,(\text{cm/s}) = 2.4622\left[D_{10}^{2} \frac{e^3}{1+e} \right]^{0.7825}$$

where D_{10} is in (mm)

- Samarasinghe, Huang and Drnevich (1982) suggested that the hydraulic conductivity of normally consolidated clays can be given by:

$$k = C\left(\frac{e^n}{1+e}\right)$$

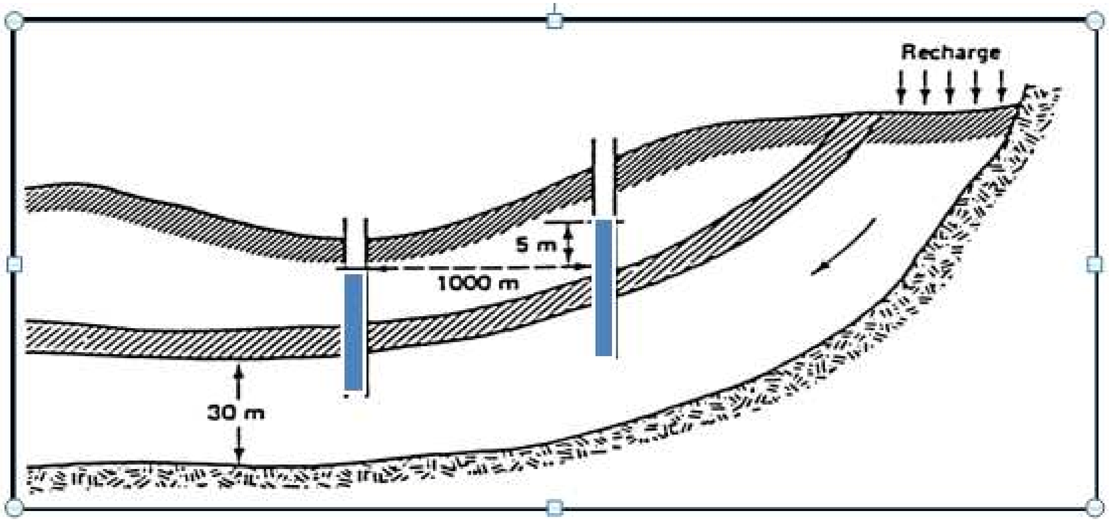
where C and n are constants to be determined experimentally

Example 1

$Q = KA\,(dh/dL)$

The hydraulic conductivity
K is a velocity, length / time

and $n = Vol_{voids} / Vol_{total}$



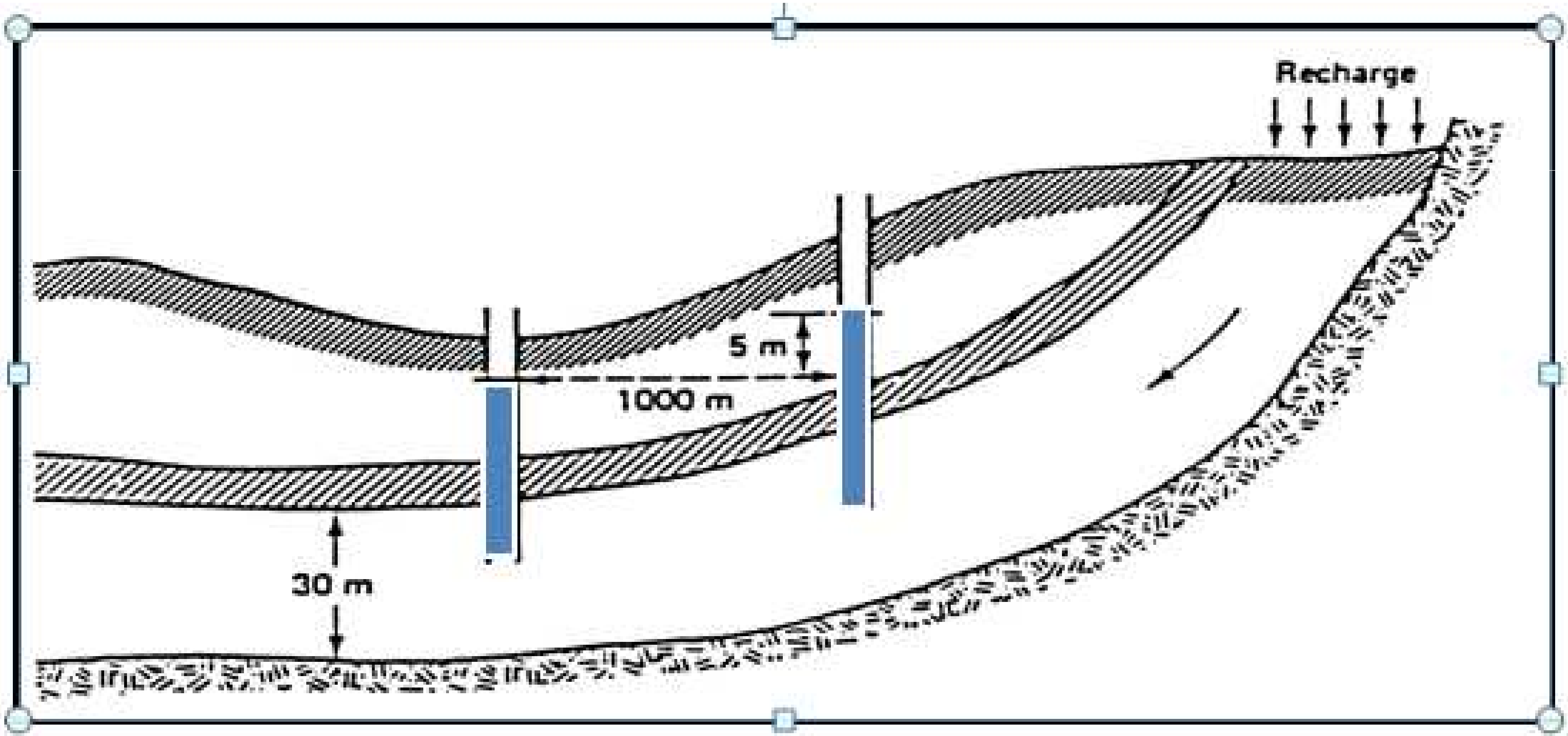
- A confined aquifer has a source of recharge.
- k for the aquifer is 50 m/day, and porosity n is 0.2.
- The piezometric head in two wells 1000 m apart is 55 m and 50 m respectively, from a common datum.
- The average thickness of the aquifer is 30 m, and the average width of the aquifer is 5 km = 5000m.

A **piezometer** is a small-diameter observation well used to measure the piezometric head of groundwater in aquifers.
Piezometric head is measured as a water surface elevation, expressed in units of length.

Compute:

(a) the rate of flow through the aquifer

(b) the average time of travel from the head of the aquifer to a point 4 km downstream

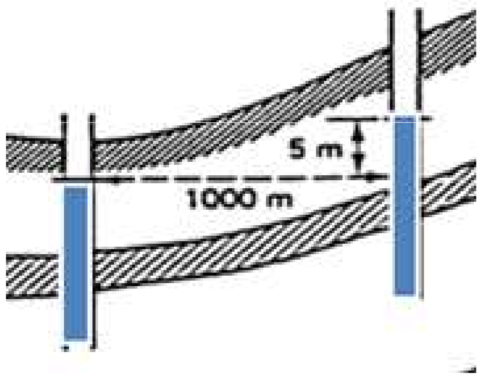


Solution

- Cross-Sectional area= 30(5000) = 1.5 x 10^5 m^2
- Hydraulic gradient dh/dL= (55-50)/1000 = 5 x 10^{-3}
- Find Rate of Flow for *k*= 50 m/day

  Q = (50 m/day) (1.5 x 10^5 m^2) (5 x 10^{-3})

  Q = 37,500 m^3/day



- Darcy Velocity: V = Q/A
- = (37,500m^3/day) / (1.5 x 10^5 m^2) = 0.25m/day

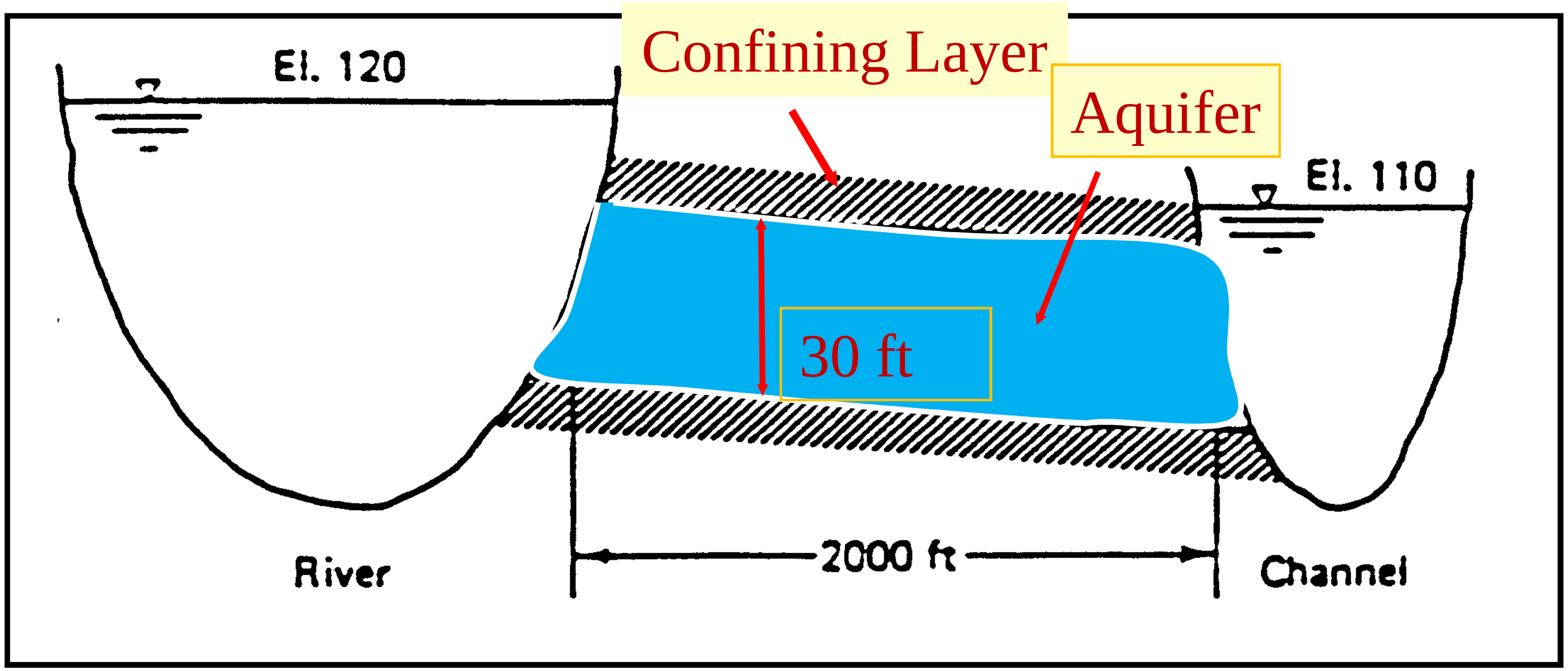
- Seepage Velocity:
  $V_S = V_D/n = (0.25) / (0.2) =$
  1.25 m/day (about 4.1 ft/day)

- Time to travel 4 km downstream:
  T = (4000m) / (1.25m/day) =
  3200 days or 8.77 years

Lesson: Groundwater moves very slowly

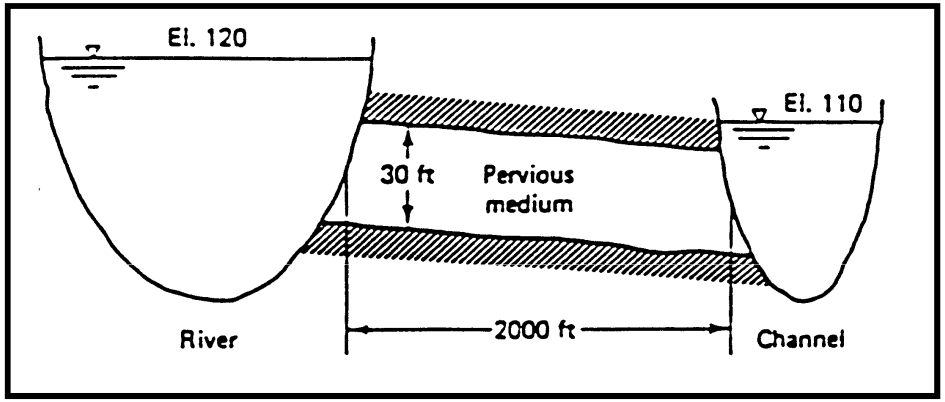
Example 2

- A channel runs almost parallel to a river, and they are 2000 ft apart.
- The water level in the river is at an elevation of 120 ft . The channel is at an elevation of 110ft.
- A pervious formation averaging 30 ft thick and with hydraulic conductivity *K* of 0.25 ft/hr joins them.
- Determine the flow rate Q of seepage from the river to the channel.



Example 2: Confined Aquifer

- Consider 1-ft (i.e. unit) lengths of the river and small channel. $Q = KA\,[(h_1 - h_2) / L]$



- Where:

  $A = (30 \times 1) = 30\ \text{ft}^2$

  $K = (0.25\ \text{ft/hr})\ (24\ \text{hr/day}) = 6\ \text{ft/day}$

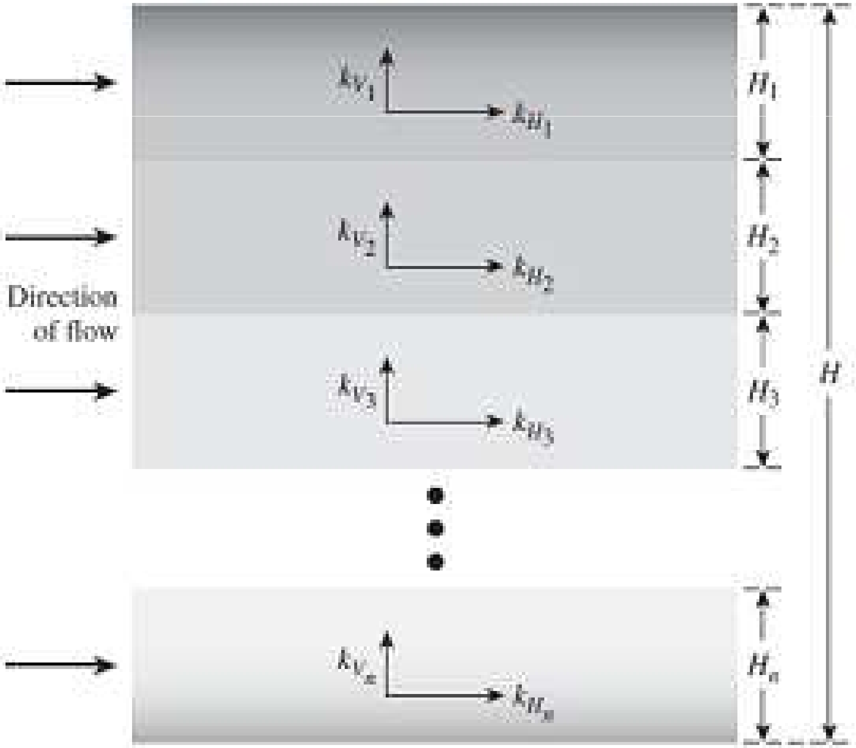
- Therefore,

  $Q = [6\text{ft/day}\ (30\text{ft}^2)\ (120 - 110\text{ft})] / 2000\text{ft}$

  $Q = 0.9\ \text{ft}^3/\text{day}$ **for each 1-foot length**

Equivalent Hydraulic Conductivity: Stratified Soil

- In a stratified soil deposit where the hydraulic conductivity for flow in a given direction changes from layer to layer, an equivalent hydraulic conductivity can be computed to simplify calculations:
- The equivalent hydraulic conductivity in the horizontal direction ($k_{H(eq)}$) is:

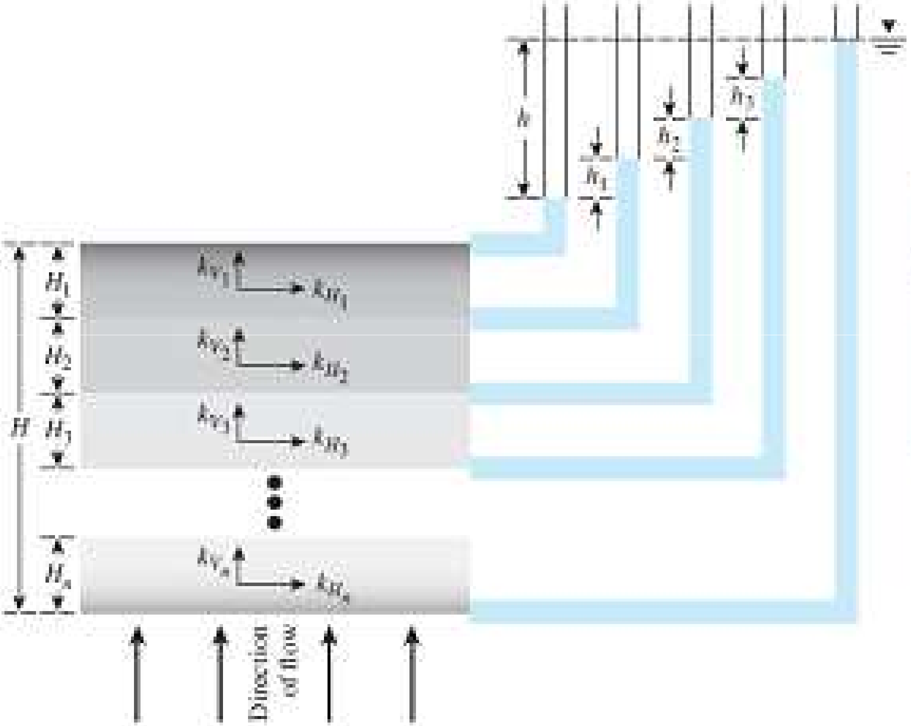


$$k_{H(eq)} = \frac{1}{H}\left(k_{H_1}H_1 + k_{H_2}H_2 + \ldots + k_{H_n}H_n\right)$$

where k_{H_1}, k_{H_2},...k_{H_n}, are the hydraulic conductivities of the individual layers in the horizontal direction

Equivalent Hydraulic Conductivity: Stratified Soil

- The equivalent hydraulic conductivity in the vertical direction ($k_{V(eq)}$) is:

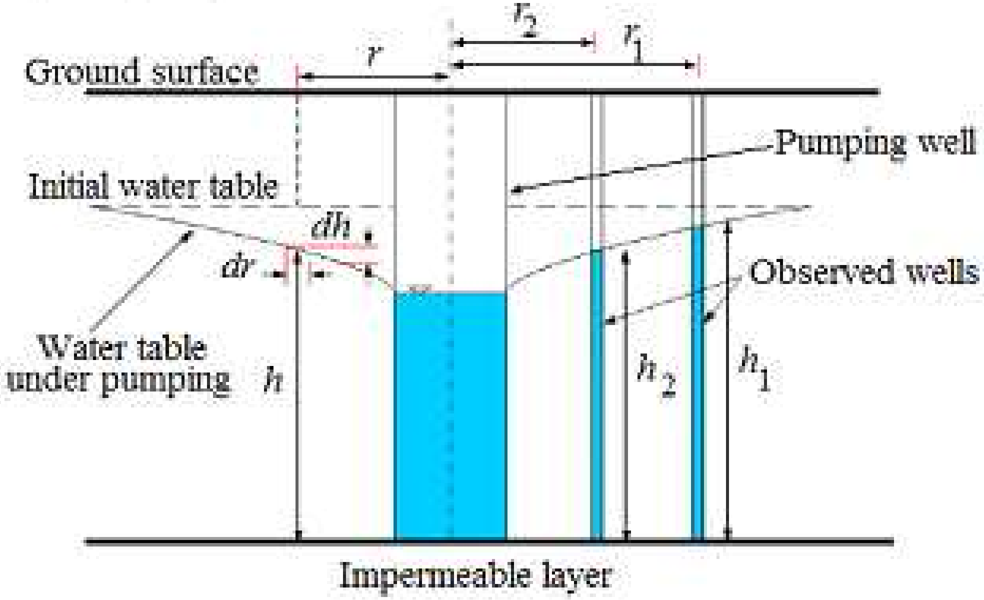


$$k_{V(eq)} = \frac{H}{\left(\frac{H_1}{k_{V_1}}\right) + \left(\frac{H_2}{k_{V_2}}\right) + \ldots + \left(\frac{H_n}{k_{V_n}}\right)}$$

where $k_{V_1}, k_{V_2}, \ldots k_{V_n}$, are the hydraulic conductivities of the individual layers in the vertical direction.

Permeability Test in the Field: Pumping Well

- Pumping test: the average hydraulic conductivity of a soil deposit in the direction of flow can be determined by performing pumping tests from wells.
- During the test, water is pumped out at a constant rate from a test well that has a perforated casing. Several observation wells at various radial distances are made around the test well.
- Steady state: the equilibrium state when the drawdown keeps no change at one particular location to the well, no further drawdown develops as pumping continues.



$$q = k\left(\frac{dh}{dr}\right)2\pi r h$$

$$\int_{r_2}^{r_1} \frac{dr}{r} = \left(\frac{2\pi k}{q}\right)\int_{h_2}^{h_1} h\,dh$$

$$k = \frac{2.303 q \log\left(\frac{r_1}{r_2}\right)}{\pi\left(h_1^2 - h_2^2\right)}$$