

Keynote paper: Recent advances in slope stabilization

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ABSTRACT: This paper reviews physical means of slope stabilization, particularly subsurface drainage and rock/soil control and retention systems, which have been improved and technically advanced in recent years because of innovative changes in design, analysis, and construction methods. The subjects dealt with in greatest detail are drainage, control of rockfall hazards, and the stabilization of soil slopes by means of geosynthetic retention systems. Several cases are presented in which new slope-stabilization techniques have been applied.

1 INTRODUCTION

The term "landslide" traditionally has been defined as the downward and outward movement of slope-forming materials: rock, soils, artificial fills, or combinations of these materials (Varnes 1958). In theory, landslides comprise the group of slope movements wherein shear failure occurs along a specific surface or combination of surfaces; thus, strictly speaking, it does not apply to all types of slope movements (Varnes 1978). However, because of the common usage of "landslides," particularly in civil engineering literature, the author has decided to follow common practice and to use landslides as the collective term for all types of slope movements in soil or rock.

Effective landslide hazard management has done much to reduce economic and social losses due to slope failure by avoiding the hazards or by reducing the damage potential. This has been achieved primarily by four mitigative approaches: (a) restriction of development in landslide-prone areas, (b) evolvment and application of excavating, grading, landscaping, and construction codes, (c) use of physical measures to prevent or control slope failures, and (d) landslide warning systems. The third of these methods, physical measures to prevent or control the gravitational and/or dynamic failure of slopes, is known as slope stabilization.

The use of crude slope-stabilization techniques, such as surface drainage and simple retaining walls, predates written

history. However, some techniques for implementing these methods are relatively new or have undergone considerable upgrading in the past few years in terms of technology, lower costs, or increased harmony with the environment. This paper will discuss these relatively recent advances. The use of product, trade, proprietary, and company names is for clarity of expression; it does not imply endorsement or superiority of these specific procedures or of the equipment used.

2 CATEGORIES OF SLOPE STABILIZATION

The most commonly used physical approaches for control of unstable slopes are:

(a) Drainage -- Because of its high stabilization efficiency in relation to cost, drainage of surface water and groundwater is the most widely used, and generally the most successful, slope-stabilization method. Underground drainage systems and pumping wells collect and remove groundwater; surface water is diverted from unstable slopes by ditches.

(b) Slope modification -- Increased slope stability can be obtained by removing all or part of the landslide mass.

(c) Earth buttresses -- Earth buttress counterforts placed at the toes of unstable slopes often are successful in preventing failure. In many nations, this is the most common mechanical (as contrasted to hydrologic) method of landslide control.

(d) Earth retention systems -- Where

methods (a) to (c) will not ensure slope stability by themselves, structural controls, such as retaining walls, piles, caissons, fences, anchors, or internal reinforcement of the earth materials, are commonly used to prevent or control slope movements. Properly designed retention systems are useful in stabilizing most types of slope failures where these failures do not involve large volumes and where lack of space precludes slope modification.

Earth retention systems often are used in conjunction with drainage, slope modification, and/or construction of earth counterfort berms. Outstanding recent examples of large-scale use of combined remedial measures are the stabilization of slopes associated with Tablachaca Dam in Peru and the Clyde Power Project in New Zealand. In the early 1980's, Tablachaca Dam was endangered by a 3-million-m³ creeping mass of rock and colluvium on the right abutment (Fig. 1). Deere and Perez (1985) noted that approximately US\$40 million was spent by the Peruvian government in landslide stabilization measures consisting of (1) a 460,000 m³ toe buttress founded on compacted river sediments, (2) 405 prestressed rock anchors, (3) 1,300 m of drainage tunnels, 190 radial drains, and 3,300 m of surface ditches, (4) 68,500 m³ of rock excavation, (5) improvement of the river-channel flow pattern, and (6) numerous inclinometers, piezometers,

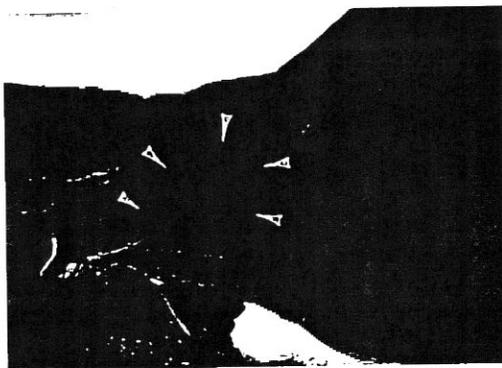


Fig. 1. Creeping rock slide (outlined by arrows) endangering Tablachaca Dam and Reservoir, Mantaro River, Peru. Complex stabilization measures, consisting of a reservoir-level earth buttress, surface and subsurface drainage, and rock anchors, were used to reduce the threat of a catastrophic slope failure to Peru's largest hydropower dam. Photograph was taken in February 1982 before most mitigative measures had been installed.

extensometers, and other instrumentation (Morales Arnao et al. 1984).

The toes of several major actively creeping landslides in the Cromwell Gorge of the Clutha River on the South Island of New Zealand will be inundated by the planned 1992 filling of Lake Dunstan behind Clyde Dam (Gillon & Hancox in press). This 102-m-high concrete gravity dam is now complete, but impoundment of Lake Dunstan has been delayed pending stabilization of several large landslides that threaten the dam and reservoir. The following extensive multiple remedial measures currently are being implemented to offset the effects of reservoir filling on the landslides: (1) gravity drainage, using drainage tunnels, drill holes, and surface drainage systems, (2) free-draining rock- and gravel-fill buttresses at the landslide toes, (3) grout curtains, and (4) pumped drainage.

These types of physical control methods have been discussed at length in the landslide literature (e.g., Baker & Marshall 1958, Veder 1981, Zaruba & Mencl 1982, Hausmann 1990). All are in common use worldwide, and all are continually being improved by modern methods of analysis, design, and construction. However, in the author's opinion the greatest innovations in slope stabilization in recent years, in terms of technology, economy, and environmental improvements, have been in drainage and in rock/soil retention systems; thus, this paper will accentuate recent advances in these stabilization methods.

3 RECENT APPROACHES TO SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE AS A METHOD OF SLOPE STABILIZATION

Subsurface drainage as a method of lowering the groundwater table in an unstable slope has traditionally consisted of one or more of the following technologies: (1) drainage trenches, (2) drainage wells, (3) drainage galleries, tunnels, or adits, (4) subhorizontal (commonly called "horizontal") drains drilled either from the slope surface or from drainage wells or galleries, and (5) subvertical drains drilled upward from drainage galleries. Most often, these systems drain by means of gravity flow; however, pumps are occasionally used to lift water from low-level collector galleries or wells. This section will discuss recent advances in the above types of drainage systems; in addition, it will briefly mention less commonly used, but innovative, means of drainage, such as electroosmotic dewatering, vacuum and siphon drains, geosynthetic drains and filters, and blasting.

3.1 Drainage trenches

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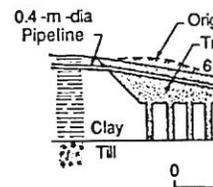


Fig. 2. Trench and stabilization system of the Assiniboine & Graham (1988).

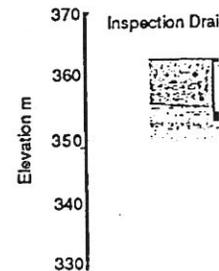


Fig. 3. Vertical drainage system, Motorway, Italy (Collotta et al. 1987).

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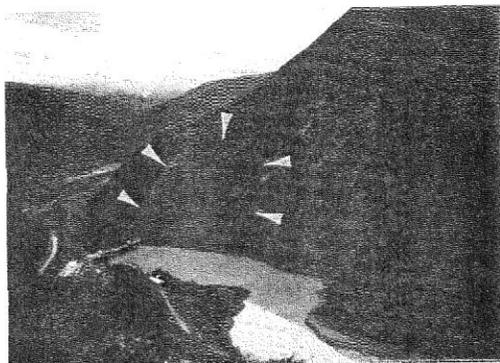


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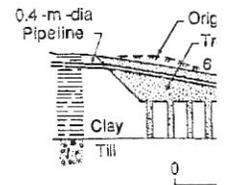


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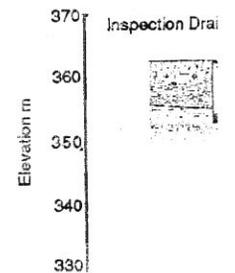


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3.1 Drainage trenches

Trench drains, filled with free-draining materials, have been used for effective shallow subsurface drainage for several decades. If they fully penetrate firm bedrock, they are often called "counterfort" drains. Backhoe-type excavators are used to depths of 5-6 m and clamshells for greater depths. For clamshell excavation, the diaphragm method is used, undertaking excavation and concreting in alternating panels (Collotta et al. 1988). Cancelli et al. (1987) reviewed the theory behind trench drains in their excellent paper on groundwater problems in embankments, dams, and natural slopes. A systematic study of the efficiency of trench drains was carried out by Hutchinson (1977) using the finite-element method and assuming two-dimensional steady-state flow. Stanic (1984) followed, using finite-element analysis for three-dimensional flow in trench drains on sloping surfaces. Di Maio and Viggiani (1987) have considered the non-steady-state-flow case based on intermittent rainfall.

An increasingly used technique utilizes vertical drains to remove water from the bottom of drainage trenches. Lew and

Graham (1988) described a project along the Assiniboine River in Canada in which compacted sand drains were connected to the base of a drainage trench to stabilize a slope in which a high-pressure gas pipeline was buried (Fig. 2). The design used 0.75-m-diameter augered holes backfilled with sand connecting to trench drains placed on either side of the pipeline.

3.2 Drainage wells

Deep wells increasingly are being used to drain unstable slopes, particularly where the depths needed are too deep for economical construction of drainage trenches. Collotta et al. (1988), Bianco & Bruce (1991), Beer et al. (in press), Bianco and Bruce (in press), and Peila et al. (in press) have described the development and use in Italy of large-diameter (up to 2-m) vertical wells (trade name: RODREN) spaced in rows at 5-20 m, center-to-center, and reaching depths of as much as 50 m. Each shaft is connected to its neighbor by a horizontal drill hole, placed just above the base of the well. These holes are lined with 76-to-100-mm PVC pipe and serve as gravity collector drains. Two thirds of the wells are filled with 3-to-20-mm-diameter free-draining material and serve as vertical drains; every third well is kept open for (1) physical inspection and cleaning, and (2) monitoring and adjustment of flow rates. The innovation of this system is that it allows gravity discharge of water from the wells by means of the small-diameter PVC pipes that are installed using mini-drilling rigs placed on the bottoms of the wells. This method has been successfully used to stabilize a slope along the Florence-Bologna Motorway (Fig. 3) (Collotta et al. 1988) and to control the edge of a large landslide in the city of Ancona on the Adriatic Coast (Beer et al. in press).

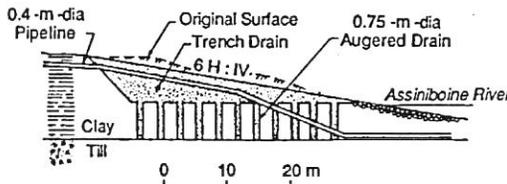


Fig. 2. Trench and augered sand-drain slope stabilization system for gas-pipeline crossing of the Assiniboine River, Canada (after Lew & Graham 1988).

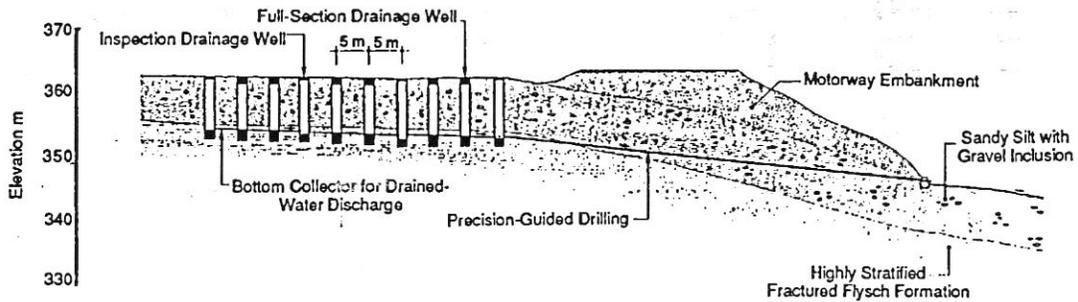


Fig. 3. Vertical drainage shafts connected to a horizontal PVC outlet drains, Florence-Bologna Motorway, Italy (after Collotta et al. 1988).

A similar drainage scheme was used for a slide area encountered in relocation of German Federal Highway B-10 where it crosses the Rhine valley near the village of Albersweiler (Wichter et al. 1988). As the main part of the stabilization scheme, 172 wells (1.5-m-diameter) and 13 maintenance shafts (1.8-m-diameter) were installed across the landslide to depths of 16-25 m. The shafts were filled with filter sand. Unlike the Italian examples noted above, these wells were spaced very closely (3 m, center-to-center); however, the outlet drain from the system required a 170-m-long subhorizontal directional borehole from the foot of the hill to one of the maintenance shafts. The short connecting holes between the wells were drilled using augers driven by compact drill rigs that fit within the casing of the vertical wells.

Gabus et al. (1988) have described an extensive stabilization effort on the Arveyes landslide in the Swiss Alps in which 16 vertical pumped drains were installed in a 1-km² unstable area. The deepest well reached a depth of 95 m, and the piezometric level locally was lowered more than 50 m.

In 1991, "belled" (i.e., bell-shaped) drainage caissons backfilled with fine gravel were used to stabilize a slow-moving slide in a construction cut on Colorado Highway 93 near the city of Golden (Chou, N.N.S. 1991, personal communication, Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver). As shown in Fig. 4, the caissons were closely spaced so that the bells overlapped, allowing gravity drainage along the line of caissons to the ground surface outside the perimeter of the landslide. The use of bells for horizontal drainage precluded the need for horizontal drilling and insertion of drain pipe between the bottoms of the wells.

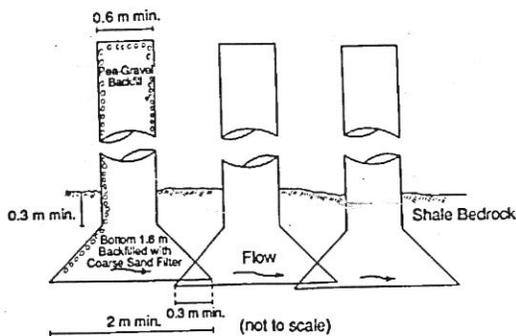


Fig. 4. Overlapping belled drainage caissons for deep drainage of slopes (courtesy of Colorado Department of Transportation).

In most cases, collected water flows from the bottoms of drainage wells or caissons by gravity. However, if the base of the well is low enough, pumping may be needed. Olcese et al. (1991) have reported on a slope-stabilization project near Genoa, Italy, in which submersible motor-driven pumps were used to remove water from the bottoms of small-diameter (200-mm) drainage wells. The pumps were automatically activated when the water surface in the wells reached predesignated levels.

3.3 Drainage tunnels, adits, or galleries

On large slope-stabilization projects, such as those sometimes needed for hydropower projects, deep drainage galleries are being used increasingly. Groundwater is intercepted directly by the galleries and by collection from fan drains drilled from the galleries. The galleries commonly are placed by conventional tunneling techniques. In addition to being drainage collectors, galleries and tunnels provide access for at-depth study of the landslides; they also enable at-depth installation of monitoring equipment, such as piezometers and extensometers.

As is the case for deep drainage wells, most drainage galleries are designed to drain by gravity. In some cases, however, to be effective as collector drains the wells must be placed at sufficiently low elevations that the collected water has to be pumped to the surface.

Classic recent examples of the use of drainage tunnels and galleries are the slope-stabilization projects at the Downie slide on the Revelstoke (power) Project, British Columbia, Canada, and at the above-mentioned Tablachaca Dam in Peru and the Clyde Power Project in New Zealand. To prevent reactivation of the 1.5-billion-m³ Downie rockslide by filling of the reservoir behind 160-m-high concrete-gravity Revelstoke Dam, deep drainage adits and connecting vertical drains were installed in the lower part of the slide before the reservoir was filled in 1984 (Imrie et al. in press). The drainage works were successful in lowering piezometric levels considerably below where they were before river level was raised 70 m, and thus stabilized the slide. At Tablachaca Dam, 1,300 m of gravity-drained collector tunnels were driven in the valley wall. On the Clyde Power Project, 49 tunnels (total length: 16,392 m) were driven into nine landslides around the reservoir (Gillon & Hancox, in press). Most of these tunnels were situated above reservoir level, and thus

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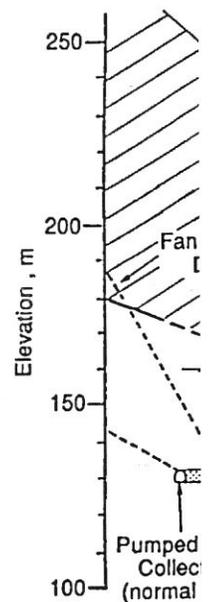


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could be drained by gravity. However, to stabilize the Brewery Creek slide, the toe of which is at lower elevation than the pre-reservoir level of the Clutha River, it was necessary to install a low-level (i.e., below-river-level) collector gallery (Fig. 5) from which water must be pumped to the surface. Interesting features of the Brewery Creek landslide stabilization scheme are a zoned earthfill blanket and connected grout curtain; both will act as barriers to flow from the reservoir through the landslide to the drainage works (Gillon et al. in press). The zoned earthfill blanket is in effect a canal lining that is made up of wave-armor, shoulder, transition, core, and filter zones. The low-level drainage tunnel and its fan drains will intercept any water that passes through the blanket and the grout curtain.

3.4 Subhorizontal drains

Conventional subhorizontal drains (henceforth referred to as "horizontal drains," a more common usage) are used worldwide. For example, in the State of California more than 300,000 m of horizontal drains were used effectively during the period 1940-1980 as an economical method of draining unstable slopes (Smith 1980).

Horizontal drains can be inserted from the ground surface or by drilling from drainage galleries, large-diameter wells, or caissons. The typical horizontal drain hole is 120-150 mm in diameter and is lined with slotted plastic casing (commonly PVC) 60-100 mm in diameter. Conventional rotary techniques are adequate for drilling most horizontal drain holes; however, it often is necessary to use precision drilling to connect a horizontal drain to a drainage shaft. In recent years, precision drilling techniques have progressed to where horizontal directional boreholes as long as 200 m have been installed (Sembenelli 1988).

In 1980, the California Department of Transportation conducted a study of the long-term effectiveness of 20 of its horizontal-drain installations (Smith 1980). The main conclusions reached were: (1) a 30-40-year life span is about the maximum that can be expected from perforated metal pipe casing, (2) slotted PVC will provide longer service life than metal pipe casing, (3) slotted PVC casing allows considerably less sediment to enter the drain than the standard U.S. 3/8-inch (9.5-mm) perforated metal pipe, (4) high-pressure water cleaning systems used for cleaning sewers and unplugging culverts can be adapted for horizontal-drain cleaning, and (5) most

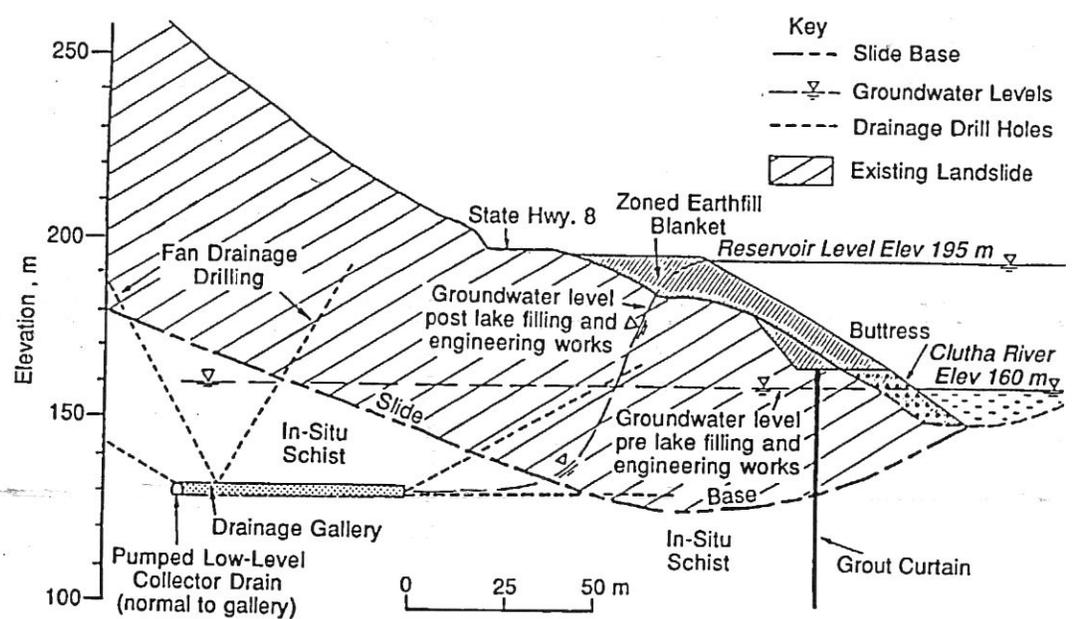


Fig. 5. The Brewery Creek landslide-stabilization scheme, Clyde Power Project, New Zealand (after Gillon et al. in press).

drains need to be cleaned once every 5-8 years (heavy root growth or exceptionally fine-grained sediments can change this requirement to every 2 years).

When using horizontal drains to dewater an unstable slope, the length, spacing, and position of the drains must be chosen. These drain-placement parameters are usually selected on the basis of engineering judgment or design charts. However, Nakamura (1988) has developed a numerical-analysis technique to evaluate time-related drop in groundwater level in a slope as a result of use of horizontal drains, and Resnick and Znidarcic (1990) have tested model slopes in a geotechnical centrifuge to determine the influence of horizontal drains on distribution of piezometric levels within the slopes.

As noted above, there is an annular space between the horizontal casing and the soil or rock of the drillhole. Filling this space with uniformly graded filter sand is difficult, and checking the actual quality of the work in the hole is impractical. Sembenelli (1988) has noted that many attempts have been made to eliminate the need for this awkward sand filter. In the past, pipes with very fine slots have been used; however, these are being supplanted by pipes with coarse slotting protected on the outside by one- or two-ply synthetic geotextile stockings.

3.5 Subvertical drains drilled upward from tunnels

Fans of subvertical drains are now commonly driven upward from drainage galleries or tunnels. Groundwater flows by gravity from these drains into the larger collectors, from which it either drains by gravity or is pumped to the surface. The use of a system of subvertical fan drains to remove groundwater from the Brewery Creek landslide in New Zealand is discussed above and illustrated in Fig. 5.

3.6 Less commonly used drainage methods

3.6.1 Electroosmotic dewatering

In the mid 1930's, Professor Leo Casagrande introduced the concept of electroosmotic drainage into geotechnical engineering practice, and many papers (e.g., Casagrande, 1948) have since been published on this subject. Despite some success in the past in slope stabilization, this process has not received wide application because of the costs of operation and remaining technical uncertainties. However,

Lo et al. (1991a, 1991b) have improved the process by using specially designed copper electrodes to prevent gas accumulation around the electrode and to allow free water to flow from the cathode without pumping. In field tests conducted on the soft, sensitive Leda clay of eastern Canada, undrained shear strength increased by about 50 percent in a period of 32 days throughout the depth of the electrodes. Because no pumping was needed, both installation and electricity costs were reduced considerably compared with earlier electroosmotic drainage installations.

3.6.2 Vacuum dewatering

Arutjunyan (1988) has reported on the use of vacuum in drill holes to dewater soils of low permeability in slopes in the Soviet Union. The technique has been applied to landslides as a quickly installed temporary measure until long-term stabilization could be effected. The vacuum treatment increases soil suction and accelerates the process of soil consolidation. It has proved to be successful to depths of 30-35 m by applying the vacuum for a period of 2-4 weeks.

3.6.3 Drainage by siphoning

Siphon drains for slope stabilization have been installed at 40 sites in France in the past 5 years (Gress in press). These drains have the advantage of being able to raise water to the surface without pumping. Siphoning of water from unstable strata is accomplished by sealed PVC pipe systems. A recent example of the successful use of siphoning to lower the groundwater table under a highway embankment on an unstable slope occurred at Venarey-Les-Laumes near Dijon, France, where five vertical siphon drains, spaced at intervals of 10 m, lowered the piezometric level from an original depth of 2 m beneath the highway to a depth of 8 m (Fig. 6).

3.6.4 Use of geosynthetics for drainage

ASTM Committee D-35 (1991) defined a "geosynthetic" as "a planar product manufactured from polymeric material used with soil, rock, earth, or other geotechnical engineering related material as an integral part of a man-made project, structure, or system." Geosynthetics include geotextiles, geogrids, geomembranes, geonets, and geocomposites (Koerner 1990). Correctly designed and installed geotextiles ("thin, flexible, permeable sheets of synthetic

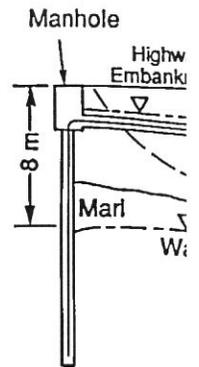


Fig. 6. Cross section of a siphon drain installed in an unstable slope.

material used for slope stabilization. The performance of geosynthetics in engineering applications depends on the filter, drain, and geologic material. They can be used for drainage of fine-grained soils (clays) if the required direction, rate, and plane of the flow are known. Geotextiles are commonly used for embankments, retaining walls, and as pore-water filters.

In-place stabilization can also be accomplished using geosynthetics. A geosynthetic material formed integrally joined drainage with filter fabric or any other geosynthetic material, or geonets, are used in extrusion processes to form a netlike configuration which is free-draining. Geonet mats are used because they are geotextiles, geonets are all geotextiles, their outer surface materials are k

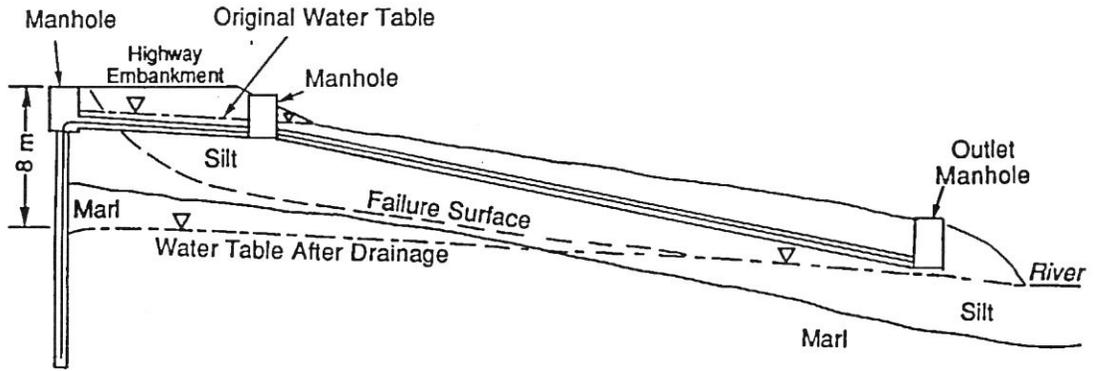


Fig. 6. Cross section of siphon-drain stabilization of highway embankment and underlying unstable slope near Dijon, France (after Gress in press).

material used to stabilize and improve the performance of soil associated with civil engineering works" have the ability to filter, drain, reinforce, and separate geologic materials (Ingold & Miller 1988). They can be used for lateral or vertical drainage of fine-grained soil masses (silts or clays) if the required flow rates are modest. When used for drainage, flow is in the planar direction, rather than moving across the plane of the fabric as is the case when geotextiles are used as filters. Needle-punched fabrics, that often are as much as 6-mm thick and can be made much thicker, provide the most effective drainage, particularly when used in layers. Their most common usage on slopes is for drainage of embankments, within reinforced earth walls, and as pore-pressure dissipators behind retaining walls (Koerner 1990).

In-place subsurface drainage capability can also be accomplished by use of geonets, the most recently introduced members of the geosynthetics family. Koerner (1990) has defined a geonet as "a netlike polymeric material formed with intersecting ribs integrally joined at the junctions used for drainage with foundation, soil, rock, earth, or any other geotechnical-related material as an integral part of a human-made project, structure, or system." In manufacture, geonets are usually formed by a continuous extrusion process of polyethylene into a netlike configuration of intersecting ribs which is free-draining. In use for drainage, geonet mats are commonly 5-13 mm thick. Because they do not function as filters, geonets are always confined by a geotextile, geomembrane, or other material placed on their outer surfaces; such combinations of materials are known as geocomposites.

A recent example of the use of geofabric drains to help stabilize a steep slope in residual soil and weathered rock in Singapore has been presented by Broms & Wong (1986). Woven geofabric was wrapped around sand-and-gravel drains that cut across failure surfaces. The fabric functioned as both a filter around the drains and as reinforcement in the slope.

3.6.5 Blasting for drainage of rock slopes

List (1988) has described the reduction of pore pressures in unstable bedrock open-pit mine slopes by means of blasting. The procedure was used in an open-pit oil-sand mine in northeastern Alberta, Canada. During oil-sand excavation, large block slides occurred in the 60-m-high sedimentary-rock wall of the pit. Local stability was obtained by setting off explosive charges of as much as 1500 kg of Heavy AN/FO per hole in boreholes along the face. The explosive forces reduced pore pressures by forming microfractures and fractures in the rock.

4 RECENT ADVANCES IN USE OF EARTH-RETENTION SYSTEMS IN SLOPE STABILIZATION

In this paper, I will treat earth-retention systems as a broad category of remedial or control measures that include conventional retaining walls, rock fences and nets, soil and rock anchors, soil nailing, and reinforced-earth-type walls, as well as changes in physical/chemical character of the earth mass by processes other than drainage.

For clarity, the discussion will be divided into uses of retention systems on (1) rock slopes and (2) soil slopes, although there are obvious overlapping uses in these two categories of geologic materials.

4.1 Retention systems for rock faces and slopes

Although several different categories of failures occur on rock slopes, only rockfalls, rock topples, rock slumps, and rock slides can be prevented or controlled at reasonable expense. Rock avalanches, another major type of rock-slope failure, in most cases are too large to be controlled; however, rock avalanches often start as relatively small falls, topples, slides, or slumps that are controllable at the source. This section will deal mainly with stabilization of slopes that are subject to rockfall, because it is in this area of rock-slope engineering that the most recent advances have been made. Several of the new techniques considered here also are applicable to rock topples, slumps, and slides.

Increasing traffic volumes in mountainous areas have heightened public awareness of the danger of potential rockfalls, resulting in significant ongoing research and development of innovative measures for rockfall prediction and control. In much of the United States, rockfall accidents are no longer considered to be "acts of God;" the traveling public increasingly demands protection from rockfalls on mountain highways (Barrett & White 1991). An important factor in stabilization of slopes subject to rockfall has been the prioritization of slopes that are most subject to catastrophic failure; this prioritization enables unstable slopes to be stabilized before accidents occur. An example of a system of prioritization is the Rockfall Hazard Rating System (RHRS) developed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (Pierson 1991). Rockfall risks have been rated on the basis of: (1) slope height, (2) ditch effectiveness, (3) average vehicle risk (percentage of time a vehicle will be in the rockfall hazard zone), (4) sight distance for drivers, (5) roadway width, (6) geologic character of the slope, (7) block size or quantity of rockfall per event, (8) presence of water on the slope, and (9) rockfall history. The Oregon RHRS system is intended to be a proactive tool that will allow transportation agencies to rationally address rockfall hazards instead of simply reacting to rockfall accidents.

The measures most commonly used to prevent rockfall from encroaching upon a highway, railway, or other structure or

development are (1) rock nets, fences, walls, attenuators, benches, and ditches, and (2) rock bolting and buttresses (Fig. 7). In addition, even though it is expensive, under extreme conditions tunneling can be used to avoid rockfall.

4.1.1 Rock nets, fences, walls, attenuators, benches, and ditches

The most important rockfall input factors in design of systems to prevent rockfall from reaching a highway, railway, or other critical structure include (1) trajectory (height of bounce), (2) velocity, (3) impact energy, and (4) total volume of accumulation. Nearly 30 years ago, Ritchie (1963) documented that by varying slope steepness and length, height of rock bounce, velocity, and distance of travel are greatly affected. In recent years, computer programs have been developed to provide statistical analysis of probable rockfall behavior for a given slope

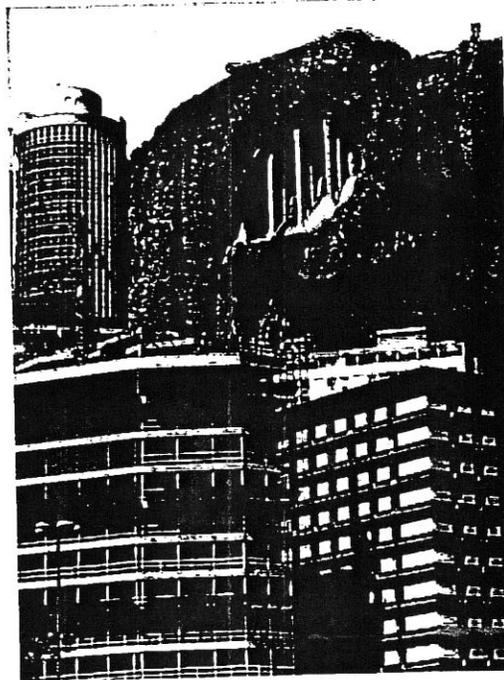


Fig. 7. Anchored-concrete-pillar support of huge block of gneiss above high-rise buildings, Cantaglo Hill, Rio de Janeiro. The 25-m maximum-height pillars were installed by the Rio de Janeiro Geotechnical Control Office in 1967. (1990 photograph courtesy of Rio de Janeiro Geotechnical Control Office).

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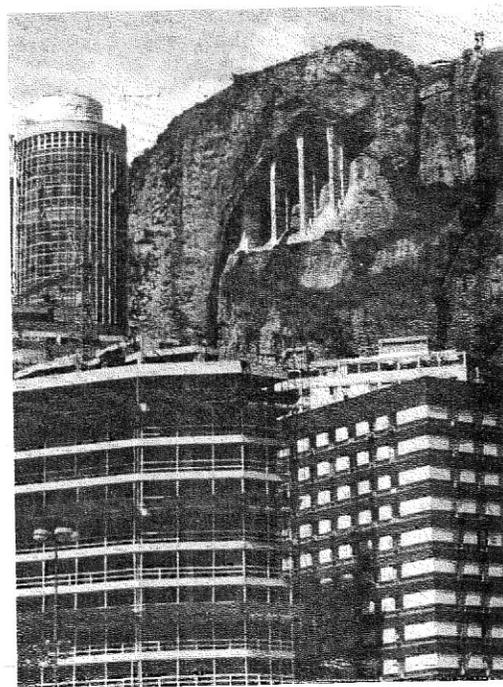


Fig. 7. Anchored-concrete-pillar support of huge block of gneiss above high-rise buildings, Cantaglo Hill, Rio de Janeiro. The 25-m maximum-height pillars were installed by the Rio de Janeiro Geotechnical Control Office in 1967. (1990 photograph courtesy of Rio de Janeiro Geotechnical Control Office).

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Programs such as CRSP are constantly being refined as experience is gained in their application to design of rockfall retention walls, fences, benches, and ditches. The Colorado Department of Transportation is using CRSP for design of rockfall retention walls in construction of Interstate Highway 70 (I-70) through the rugged gorge of Glenwood Canyon in western Colorado (Barrett & White 1991). An example of this use was the 1990 design and construction of a rubber-tire-faced, geosynthetically reinforced soil and concrete rockfall retention wall to protect I-70 near the town of Gypsum, Colorado; the 5-m design height of the constructed wall was based on rock rebound height as estimated by CRSP (Figs. 8 & 9) (Andrew in press).

Highways and railways in the mountains of North America commonly have been protected from rockfall by traditional single-twist mesh fencing supported by fixed, rigid posts; thus, in the United States the term "rock fence" often is associated with this basic style, commonly referred to as "chain-link" fence (Barrett & White 1991). This basic fence, as a single-mesh layer, is relatively inexpensive and will effectively contain small rockfalls. However, larger and heavier duty rockfall catch fences or nets have been in use for many years in the Alpine countries of Europe to protect highways, railways, and mountain communities from rockfall events; these systems evolved from avalanche protection systems developed in the 1950's to protect Alpine villages (Yarnell 1991).

The European technology is now being used extensively in the mountainous parts of the United States in spite of its higher cost

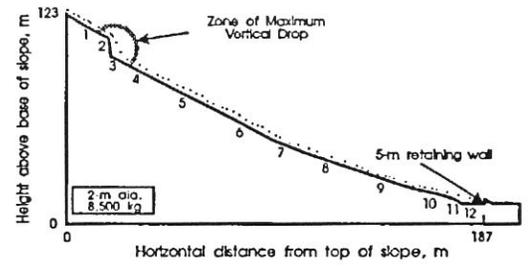


Fig. 8. Schematic rockfall trajectory produced by Colorado Rockfall Simulation Program (Pfeiffer et al. 1990) for rockfall on Interstate Highway 70 at Gypsum, Colorado. The slope was divided into 12 segments with surface characteristics determined by field study. For this analysis, individual rock spheres were chosen with a diameter of 2 m and weight of 8,500 kg each. Design of 5-m-high retaining wall shown at a horizontal distance of 187 m from the top of the slope was based on this rockfall simulation.

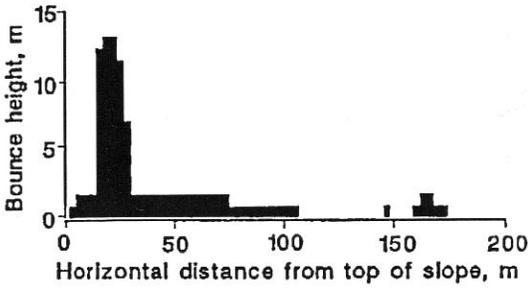


Fig. 9. Computer-produced Colorado Rockfall Simulation Program histogram of bounce heights for 25 2-m-diameter rocks on slope at Gypsum, Colorado (Fig. 8).

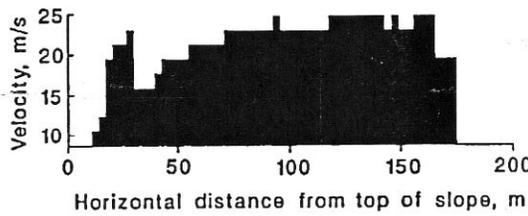


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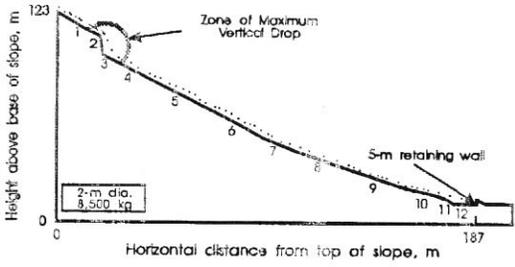


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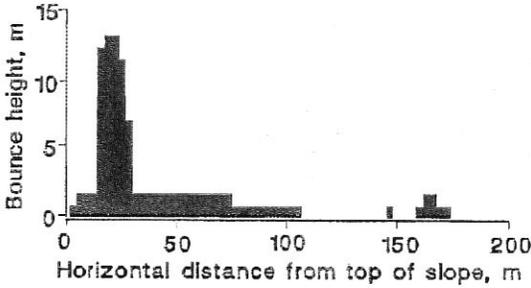


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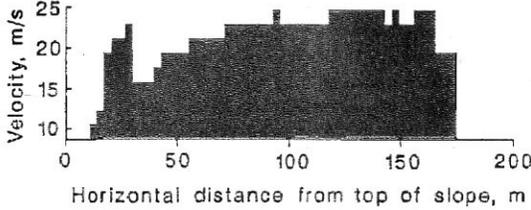


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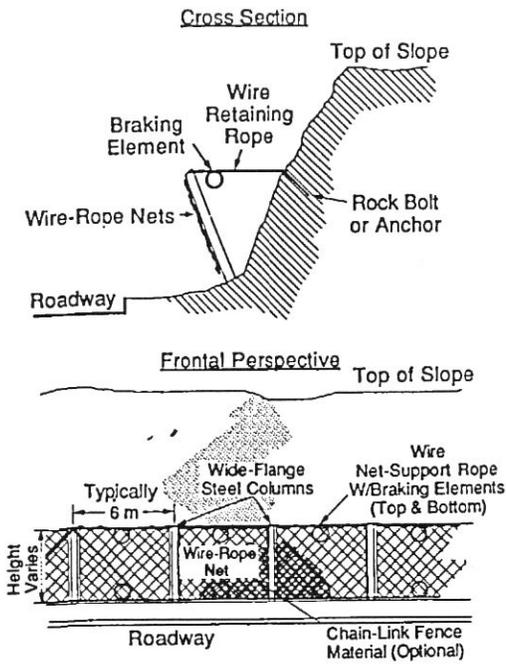


Fig. 11. Schematic cross section and frontal perspective of a typical wire-rope rock-fall barrier net (after Yarnell 1991.)

as compared to chain-link fence. Most United States applications of wire-rope safety nets are found in the eastern States (Yarnell 1991). This may be the result of limited rights-of-way along eastern transportation corridors, which preclude the use of other mitigative measures. However, rockfall nets/fences also can be used to control rock slopes of great heights, such as those found in the western United States.

Rockfall problem areas have been identified along 5,000 km of California highways (McCauley et al. 1985). The 1985 study concluded that rolling rocks up to 0.6 m in diameter can be restrained by chain-link fence; however, this type of restraining device frequently suffers severe damage when hit by rocks of this size and is inadequate to stop larger rocks. Thus, a rigorous field testing program of "European-style" rock fences (Fig. 11) was conducted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (Smith & Duffy 1990). Many of these fences are proprietary. The two types tested by Caltrans were high-impact wire-rope net systems developed by Brugg Cable Products, Inc., (Switzerland) and The Industrial Enterprise Corporation (France). Both types of fences rely on

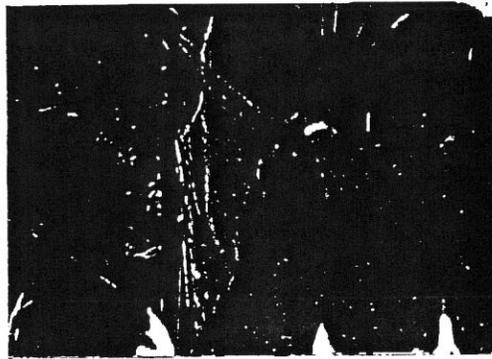


Fig. 12. Three-ton boulder impacting panel of rock net in field tests by California Department of Transportation. (Photograph by J. L. Walkinshaw, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.)

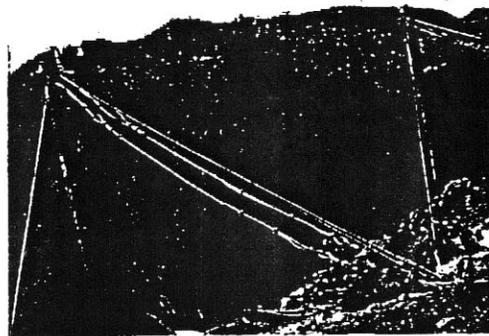


Fig. 13. Upslope side of Isomat Italia s.p.a. wire-rope rockfall-retaining-net fence. Friction brakes are enclosed in modules at lower right. (Photograph courtesy of Isomat Italia s.p.a., Milan, Italy.)

friction braking devices. When the bouncing rocks collide with the fences, producing deformation of the nets, the nets engage the energy-absorbing friction brakes, thus extending the time of collision, and thereby significantly increasing the capacity of the nets to restrain the rocks. This approach allows the use of lighter, less costly elements, thus reducing the cost of the fences. The Caltrans field tests were conducted on an 80-m-long, 34° slope below State Highway 1 between Big Sur and San Simeon, California. Large boulders (135 to 6000 kg) were rolled down the slope into the net (Fig. 12), imparting rotational energy on individual components of the fence. Design-load rockfalls were effectively stopped by

both types of rockfall fences (Fig. 13) with friction brakes produced by Isomat Italia. These fences have been used successfully to protect the relocated highway at the Val Pola landslide.

One disadvantage of the wire-rope fence is that the friction brakes require maintenance after each significant impact. For this reason, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) uses a system called Colorado Flex (Barrett & Whitcomb) that grouting bundle casings, posts, and cables have the ability to be flexible. This system is designed to redirect the energy of the impact, dissipating it over a larger area. The posts rebound immediately after impact, and the system requires less maintenance than the wire-rope fence. It is also more expensive than the wire-rope fence, but it is safer for the public, and it is more durable. The California Department of Transportation has used this system successfully in several locations.

An untested type of rockfall fence is the post-and-rail fence. This type of fence utilizes a post and a rail that causes boulders to roll under the rail. The energy of the impact is dissipated by the rail, and the boulder becomes a large force moving

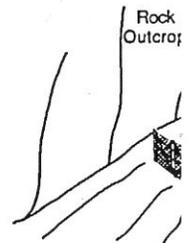


Fig. 14. Schematic diagram of a post-and-rail rockfall fence. The mesh is dotted.

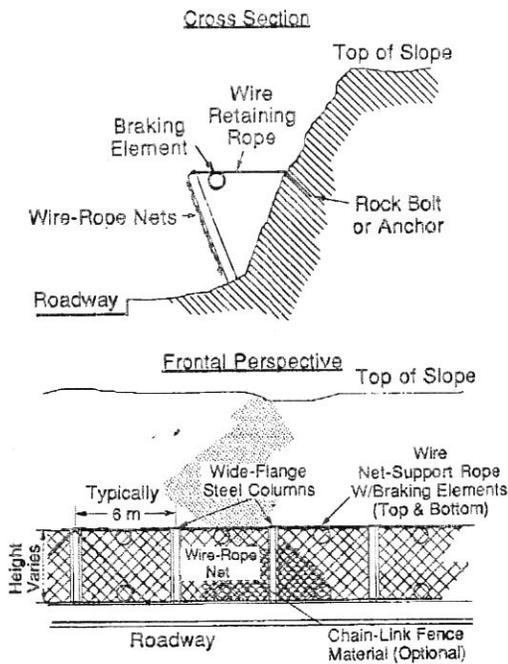


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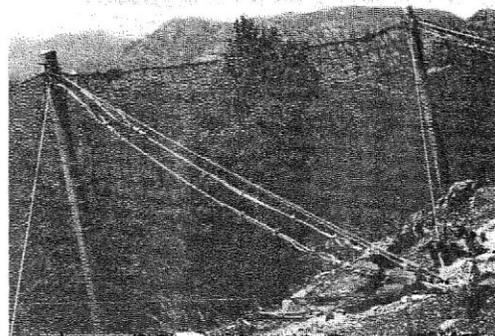


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both types of rock (Fig. 13) with friction produced by Isomat control in northern California. It has been used successfully to relocate a highway at the Val Pola landslide.

One disadvantage of friction energy is that the friction after each significant long-term maintenance. For this reason, the Transportation Colorado Flex (Barrett & Whitcomb) grouting bundle casings, posts, and ability to be flexible support the mesh. The system is designed to redirect boulder energy, dissipating it immediately after the boulder rebounds, the next time it hits. To ensure that this is safe to the public, the Colorado Department of Transportation thus, its design is untested.

An untested wire-rope post fence utilizes friction that causes boulders to go underneath the slope surface. If the surface is dissipated (Barrett & Whitcomb), as a result of large forces, the rock becomes more

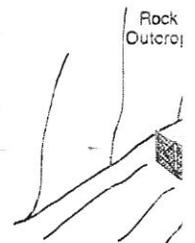
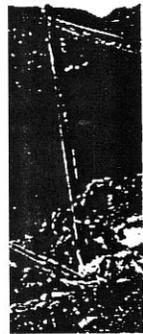


Fig. 14. Schematic of Rockfall Fence. The mesh is dotted.



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One disadvantage of systems that use friction energy-absorbing brake systems is that the friction brakes require resetting after each significant rockfall, a factor in long-term maintenance costs of the systems. For this reason, the Colorado Department of Transportation has recently developed the Colorado Flexible-Post Rockfall Fence (Barrett & White 1991) (Fig. 14). By grouting bundles of wire tendons into steel casings, posts are produced that have the ability to be flexible, yet are rigid enough to support the mesh netting. The principle for the system is: the fence catches and redirects bouncing rocks to energy-dissipating collisions with the slope; immediately after each collision, the flexible posts rebound, leaving the fence ready for the next encounter without needing maintenance (Barrett & White 1991). To insure that this innovative system is available to the public, it has been patented by the Colorado Department of Transportation; thus, its design and use are public property.

An untested variation of the Colorado flex-post fence utilizes a long tail of wire mesh that causes bouncing rocks to "mole" (i.e., go underneath) between the mesh and the slope surface until all energy has been dissipated (Barrett & White 1991) (Fig. 15). If, as a result of its rotation, a bouncing rock becomes entangled in the wire mesh, large forces may suddenly be applied to the

mesh, cable, and posts, resulting in flexing of the posts.

Another type of energy-absorbing fence has recently been used to contain rockfall on a slope above a housing development in Springdale, New Foundland, Canada (Boyd 1991). The 240-m-long fence, which was designed for a rock impact energy of 100 KNm, incorporates a series of high-strength cables that run horizontally along the slope and parallel to each other, and are supported by 3-m-high galvanized-steel posts set in concrete foundations. The fence absorbs energy from rock impacts by stretching of the cables. The cable system is covered by galvanized-steel mesh to aid in absorbing rotational energies and to intercept flying rock fragments.

Polymer grids (discussed as a means of soil reinforcement in section 4.2.1.1.3) have been used in Hong Kong as fences to protect a housing development from rockfall (Threadgold & McNichol 1984). In Norway, similar geogrid fences are being used as protection against avalanches during the spring thaw (Bush 1988).

Another approach to controlling rockfall is to partially absorb or attenuate the energy of bouncing or rolling rocks without actually stopping them. The Colorado Department of Transportation has developed an attenuation system that utilizes columns of used tires and rims mounted on vertical 75-mm-diameter steel pipes suspended from a large-diameter wire rope mounted across the rockfall chute (Barrett & White 1991; Andrew in press) (Fig. 16). Rock anchors are used to secure the ends of the wire rope to the bedrock walls of the gully. To address aesthetic concerns, a facade of wooden timbers is usually suspended from a wire rope immediately

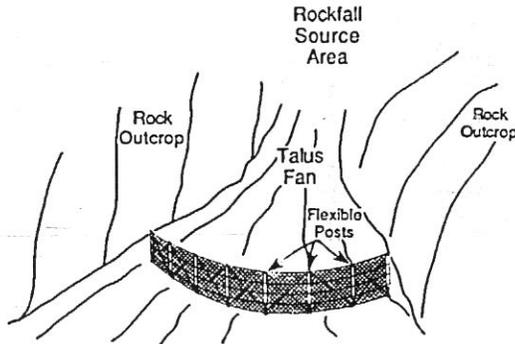


Fig. 14. Schematic diagram of Colorado Department of Transportation Flexible-Post Rockfall Fence (after Barrett & White 1991). The mesh is double-twist hexagonal wire.

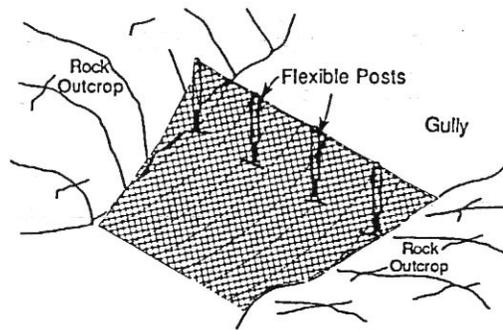


Fig. 15. Colorado "mole" fence (after Barrett & White 1991). Posts are flexible; mesh is double-twist hexagonal wire.

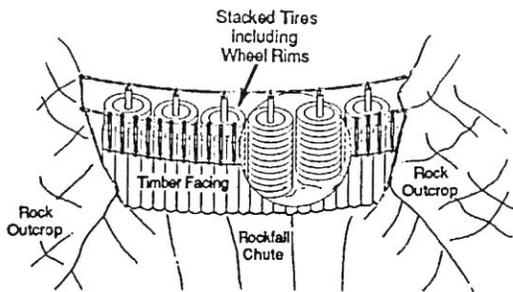


Fig. 16. Schematic diagram of Colorado Department of Transportation rockfall attenuator (after Andrew in press).

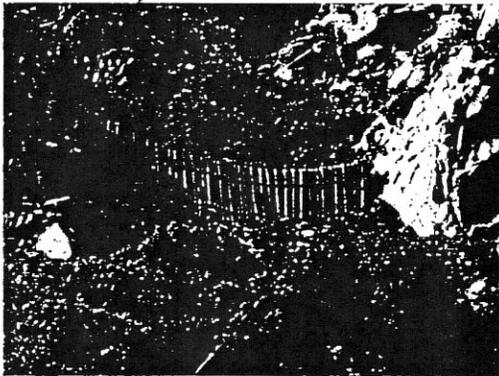


Fig. 17. Uphill view of Colorado Department of Transportation rockfall attenuator located in rockfall chute above Interstate Highway 70; Glenwood Canyon, Colorado. Note timber facing on downchute side of the attenuator.

downslope of the hanging tires (Fig. 17). The Colorado "rockfall attenuator" is designed to absorb most of the kinetic energy and to reduce rebounding heights from incoming rockfall; after a rock passes through the attenuator, the system returns to its original position without maintenance.

4.1.2 Rock bolting

Rock bolting has been used for several decades to stabilize rock slopes. Tensioned rock bolts are positioned across potential rock failure surfaces and anchored in stable rock beyond the surfaces. The application of tensile stress in the bolts results in increased normal stress in the direction of the bolts and decreased shear stress on the failure surface. Methods of securing the distal end of the bolt in the drill hole include cement

anchors). For permanent anchorage, grout, resin, and mechanical anchors (e.g., slot-and-wedge and expansion-shellgrouted bolts are preferred because they provide better bonding between the rock and the bolt, and are resistant to corrosion (Wyllie 1991). If the face plate for the bolt fails or corrodes away, the bolt force continues to be transferred to the rock by means of the grout bond. The grout can be a nonshrinking Portland-cement mix or a plastic (high-density polymer). Plastics with variable setting rates often are chosen so that the grout in the anchorage zone hardens first, allowing tensioning before the rest of the grout sets. Current world practice in design and installation of rock anchors has recently been summarized by Littlejohn (1990).

Barley (1991) has described five recent cases in the United Kingdom in which rock-bolting systems were used to stabilize rock and soil slopes. Unique methods of rotary percussive drilling, water jetting to clean the holes, and grouting were used in these installations. An interesting concept of multiple "unit anchors" within a single borehole is provided by the Single Bore Multiple Anchor (SBMA) system. Each anchor has its own tendon, and each anchor is encapsulated in a corrosion-protection system; the anchor "capsules" are located at staggered depths within the borehole, so that each anchor, loaded with its own stressing jack, transfers its load to a discreet length of the anchor bore. This system almost eliminates the effect of the progressive failure mechanism that occurs in normal anchorage systems and allows the simultaneous mobilization of almost the entire ground strength throughout the full length of the borehole (Fig. 18). The SBMA system has been used successfully to stabilize a coastal slope at Alexander Quay, Southampton, England (Barley 1991).

Rock anchors often are combined with other methods of stabilization. One of the best-known examples was the use of 405 rock anchors to control the slide on the right abutment of Tablachaca Dam, Peru, mentioned earlier in this report. These anchors accompanied a large toe buttress, surface and subsurface drainage, rock excavation, and improvement of the river-channel flow pattern (Morales Arnao et al., 1984).

4.1.3 Tunneling as a means of avoiding rock-slope failures

Because of its expense, tunneling seldom is used to avoid rock-slope problems. However, after a section of the main line of

BC Rail in Br... been blocked for years, and continuing rockfall on the line, the re... new 1.2-km-long... unstable slopes... was completed... million. This permanent, so... problem of rock

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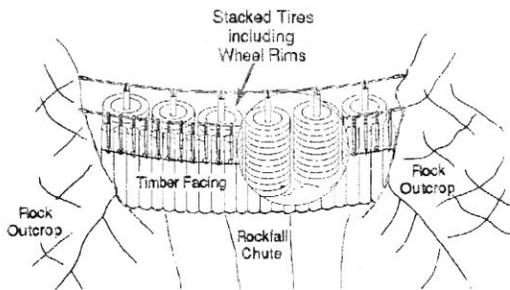


Fig. 16. Schematic diagram of Colorado Department of Transportation rockfall attenuator (after Andrew in press).

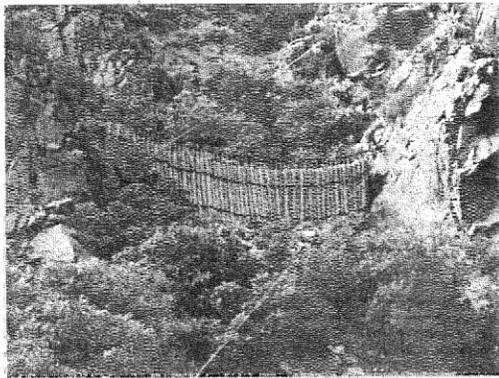


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BC Rail in British Columbia, Canada, had been blocked for 22 days within a period of 2 years, and geologists had predicted continuing rockslide/rockfall problems for the line, the railroad company constructed a new 1.2-km-long tunnel that bypassed the unstable slopes (Leighton 1990). The tunnel was completed in 1989 at a cost of US\$6.6 million. This was an expensive, but permanent, solution to a very difficult problem of rock slope instability.

4.2 Retention systems for soil slopes

Figure 19 summarizes the current methods of earth retention; these methods have been presented in two groups depending on whether they provide external or internal stabilization. Examples of externally and internally stabilized earth retention systems are presented in Figure 20. Externally stabilized systems rely on external structural walls against which stabilizing forces are mobilized. Prior to the late 1960's, external walls, mainly gravity and cantilever walls, were the predominant types of retaining structures. The principles and use of external walls are well understood, and will not be discussed here. Internally stabilized earth retention systems rely on reinforcement that is installed within the slope and extends

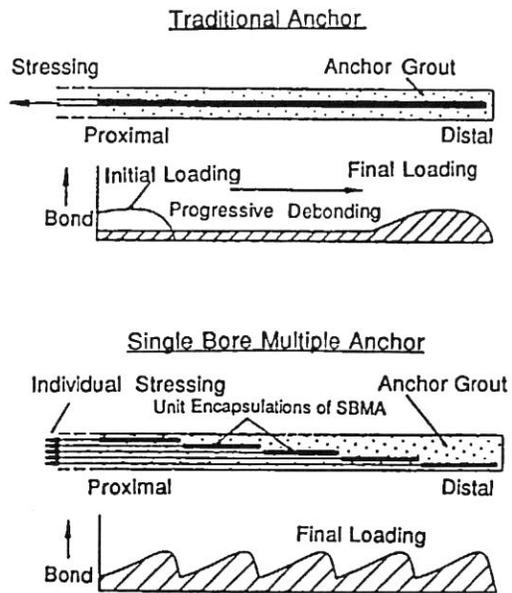


Fig. 18. Schematic illustration of load distributions for a traditional rock anchor and the Single Bore Multiple Anchor (SBMA) system (after Barley 1991).

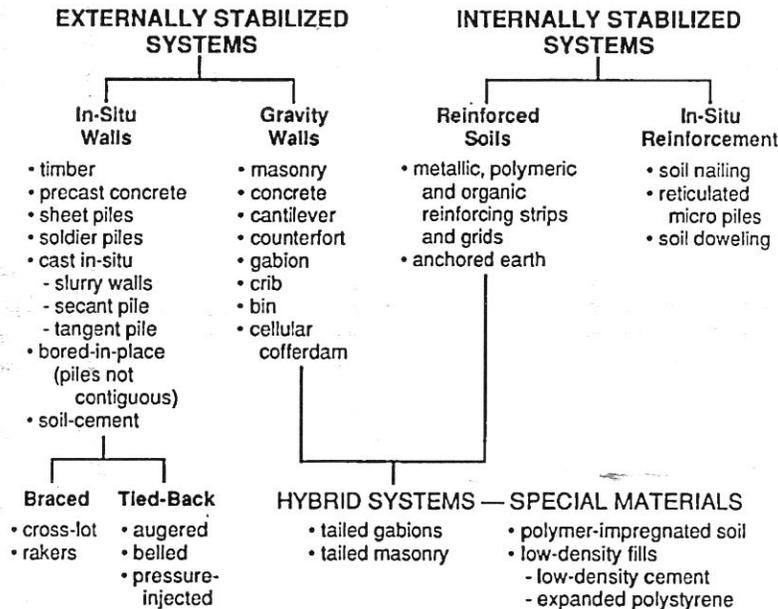
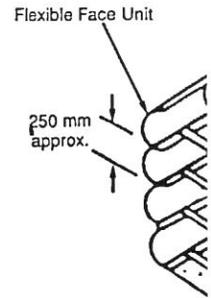
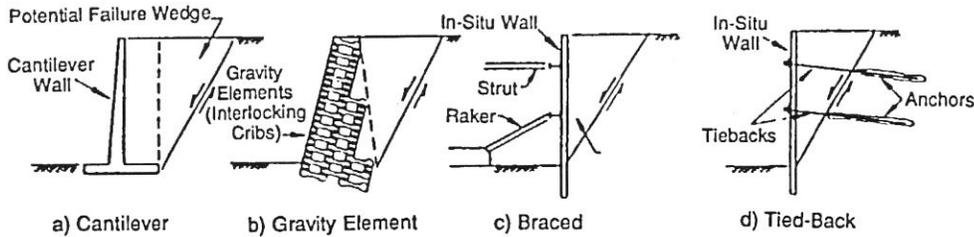


Figure 19. Classification scheme for earth retention systems (after O'Rourke & Jones 1990).

Externally Stabilized Systems



Internally Stabilized Systems

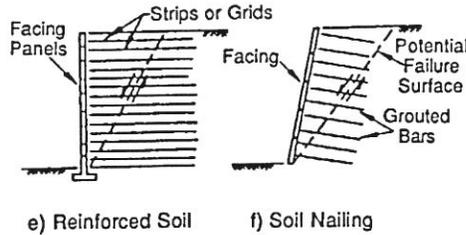


Fig. 21. Example of strip reinforcing (Jones 1990).

between the soil and reinforcement, and resistance to reinforcement oriented normal movement between soil.

Finite-element (1990) and centrifuge (Jaber et al. 1990) reinforced soil walls, mats, geogrids, and have indicated predicted and reinforcement elements.

As coherent, reinforced soil is well suited for use (Mitchell & Villet 1987) degree of structure the dynamic energy

Table 1. Summary of walls constructed in New Zealand

Wall height	Total Number (Total Percent)
Low < 3 m	
Medium 3-7 m	
High > 7 m	

Fig. 20. Examples of externally and internally stabilized earth retention systems (after O'Rourke & Jones 1990).

beyond the potential failure surfaces into stable ground. General references on this topic are Jones (1985), Mitchell & Villet (1987), Christopher et al. (1989 & 1990), Mitchell & Christopher (1990), and O'Rourke & Jones (1990). This section will deal with advances in the use of these internally stabilized earth retention systems, which are known generically as "reinforced soil."

4.2.1 Reinforcement of soil slopes and embankments by internal stabilization

Earth reinforcement (reinforced soil), which can be defined as the inclusion of resistant elements in a soil mass to improve its overall strength, has emerged over the past 25 years as a technically attractive and cost-effective technique for extending the use of soil to a stable construction and slope-forming material. Internal reinforcement can be used to stabilize natural slopes or the slopes of embankments, or to retain excavations. Reinforced soil structures have the following advantages over traditional retaining walls: (1) they are coherent and flexible, and thus are tolerant of large deformations, (2) a wide range of backfill materials can be used, (3) they are easy to construct, (4) they are resistant to seismic loadings, (5) the variety

of available facing types makes possible aesthetically pleasing structures, and (6) they are often less costly than conventional retaining structures or piles (Mitchell & Villet 1987). Steep slopes of reinforced soil reduce the required width of new transportation rights of way and are especially suitable for the widening of existing constricted rights of way.

The modern concept of earth reinforcement was originated by Professor Arthur Casagrande, who proposed reinforcing weak soils by laying high-strength membranes between layers of soil (Westergaard 1938). Internally stabilized earth retention systems rely on transfer of shear forces to mobilize the tensile capacity of closely spaced reinforcing elements. Advances in this concept have led to increased use of internal reinforcing elements, either by incremental burial to create reinforced soils (Fig. 21) or by systematic in-situ installation of reinforcing elements, such as soil nails. The common types of inclusions are steel strips, steel or polymeric grids, geotextile sheets, and steel nails, that are capable of withstanding tensile loads, and, in some cases, shear and bending stresses as well (Mitchell & Christopher 1990). The two main mechanisms of stress transfer between the reinforcement and the soil are: (1) friction

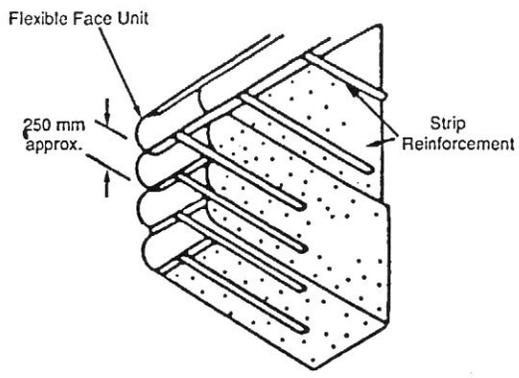
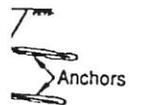


Fig. 21. Example of incremental burial of strip reinforcing elements (after O'Rourke & Jones 1990).

between the soil and the surface areas of the reinforcement, and (2) passive soil bearing resistance on reinforcement surfaces that are oriented normal to the direction of relative movement between the reinforcement and the soil.

Finite-element studies by Adib et al. (1990) and centrifuge model experiments by Jaber et al. (1990) of four types of reinforced soil walls (using steel strips, bar mats, geogrids, and non-woven geotextiles) have indicated good agreement between predicted and measured stresses in reinforcement elements.

As coherent, but flexible, gravity masses, reinforced soil structures are particularly well suited for use in seismically active areas (Mitchell & Villett 1987). They provide a high degree of structural damping that absorbs the dynamic energy associated with

earthquakes. Seismic design of reinforced soil systems can be based on numerical calculations and shaking-table model tests (Bonaparte et al. 1986; Segrestin and Bastick 1988).

An important recent element in earth reinforcement is the use of geosynthetics as the reinforcing components. As noted earlier, geosynthetics include geotextiles, geogrids, geonets, geomembranes, and geocomposites. Each of these classes of geosynthetics is currently being used for soil reinforcement or slope drainage. A limitation of geosynthetics as reinforcement is that they possess low stiffness (relative to steel); consequently the amount of deformation required to attain maximum shear strength can exceed the allowable deformation of the soil structure.

All materials used as elements in soil reinforcement are subject to deterioration with time when exposed to soil, groundwater, and the elements. Elias (1990) has discussed the durability/corrosion of soil-reinforced structures in detail.

Table 1 summarizes the use of geosynthetically reinforced permanent retaining walls in North America through 1987. Most of the recent walls have used geogrids as the primary means of reinforcement (Koerner 1990).

As suggested by Mitchell & Villett (1987) and Christopher et al. (1990), this section is divided into placed soil reinforcement systems: (1) strip reinforcement, (2) sheet reinforcement (3) grid, bar, and mesh reinforcement, (4) placed soil-anchor reinforcement, and (5) fiber reinforcement, and in-situ soil reinforcement systems: (1) soil nailing, (2) inserted soil anchors, and (3) root piles.

Table 1. Summary of types of geosynthetically reinforced permanent retaining walls constructed in North America through 1987 (after Yako & Christopher 1988).

Wall height	Woven geotextile	Nonwoven geotextile	Geogrid	Other
Low < 3 m	4	3	5	1
Medium 3-7 m	5	7	14	1
High > 7 m	1	1	4	0
Total Number (Total Percent)	10 (22%)	11 (24%)	23 (50%)	2 (4%)



Fig. 22. Tiered Reinforced Earth wall on Vail Pass, Interstate Highway 70, Colorado. (Photograph courtesy of Reinforced Earth Company, MacLean, Virginia.)

4.2.1.1 Placed soil reinforcement systems

4.2.1.1.1 Strip reinforcement

In strip reinforcement systems, a coherent strengthened material is formed by placing metal or geosynthetic strips horizontally between successive backfill layers. The modern concept of soil reinforcement by means of galvanized steel strips was introduced by the French architect and engineer Henri Vidal in the early 1960's. Vidal named his development "Terre Armee," or "Reinforced Earth," terms that have become generic in many countries, being used to describe all forms of soil reinforcement. However, in some countries, including the United States and Canada, Reinforced Earth is trademarked (Jones 1985). As of 1991, 16,000 Reinforced Earth walls with a total face area of 9,600,000 m² have been constructed worldwide (McKittrick, D., 1991, personal communication, Reinforced Earth Company, McLean, Virginia). Schlosser (1990) has noted that 33 percent of the Reinforced Earth wall area in the world has been built in Europe and 34 percent in the United States (e.g., Fig. 22) and Canada.

The introduction of Reinforced Earth by Vidal led to rapid development of the concept of soil reinforcement. Much fundamental research was sponsored by government

agencies, notably the Laboratoire des Ponts et Chaussées in France, the United States Department of Transportation, and the United Kingdom Department of Transport. Recently, Yoo and Ko (1991) have conducted centrifuge tests on Reinforced Earth models to investigate the behavior and failure mechanisms of walls subjected to self loading and to surcharge. Experiments were conducted by changing strip lengths, materials, and geometries. Test results were analyzed and compared to various current design methods to verify design feasibility for Reinforced Earth.

Vidal originally proposed the use of fiber-glass-reinforced polymers as the strips in Reinforced Earth (Schlosser 1990). However, in 1966 an experimental wall using fiber-glass-reinforced plastic strips failed after 10 months, apparently as the result of bacterial attack. This resulted in the use of stainless steel and aluminum strips for Reinforced Earth walls built in France. However, as of 1990 (10-15 years after construction), a large number of the stainless steel strips and some of the aluminum strips were corroded, indicating that these materials were not sufficiently resistant to corrosion to be used in soil. As a result, all Reinforced Earth walls currently are constructed using galvanized steel strips. However, even galvanized steel is subject to corrosion, and is thus restricted to use as reinforcement in cohesionless, granular, free-draining backfills to reduce the potential for chemical and water attack (Carroll & Richardson 1986). As one result, epoxy-coated steel reinforcements have been developed that offer potential for high resistance to corrosion.

In recent years non-metallic reinforcing materials, such as geotextiles, fiberglass, plastics, and composites, have been used extensively for soil reinforcement. These materials do not corrode, but may undergo other chemical and/or biological forms of deterioration. Many of these materials are new, and the effects of long-term burial and exposure to the elements are not well known (Elias 1990). For this reason, research is currently being undertaken on their weathering characteristics.

In 1973, the first polymeric strips were introduced in construction of a highway retaining wall in Yorkshire, United Kingdom (Holtz 1978). The reinforcing strips were made of continuous glass fibers embedded lengthwise in a protective coating of resin. An example of a recently marketed geosynthetic strip is the Paraweb strip (Fig. 23), in which the fibers are made of high-tenacity polyester or polyamidid.

4.2.1.1.2 Sheet

Sheet reinforcement geotextiles placed on embankment reinforced soil transfer and predominantly from Christopher et al. Ltd. & Geoserv geotextiles with properties and be used, included or heat-bonded and woven polypropylene (Christopher et al. the geotextile reinforcement polypropylene from silty sand



Fig. 23. Schematic strip reinforcement (Villet 1987).

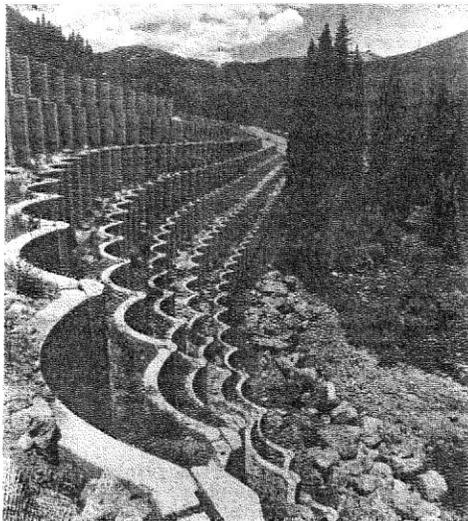


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4.2.1.1.2 Sheet

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4.2.1.1.2 Sheet reinforcement

Sheet reinforcement commonly consists of geotextiles placed horizontally between layers of embankment soils to form a composite reinforced soil; the mechanism of stress transfer and sheet reinforcement is predominantly friction (Mitchell & Villet 1987; Christopher et al. 1989; STS Consultants, Ltd. & Geoservices Inc, 1990). A variety of geotextiles with a wide range of mechanical properties and environmental resistance can be used, including nonwoven needle-punched or heat-bonded polyester and polypropylene, and woven polypropylene and polyester (Christopher et al. 1989). However, most of the geotextile fabrics used in earth reinforcement are made of either polyester or polypropylene fabrics. Granular soil ranging from silty sand to gravel commonly is used as

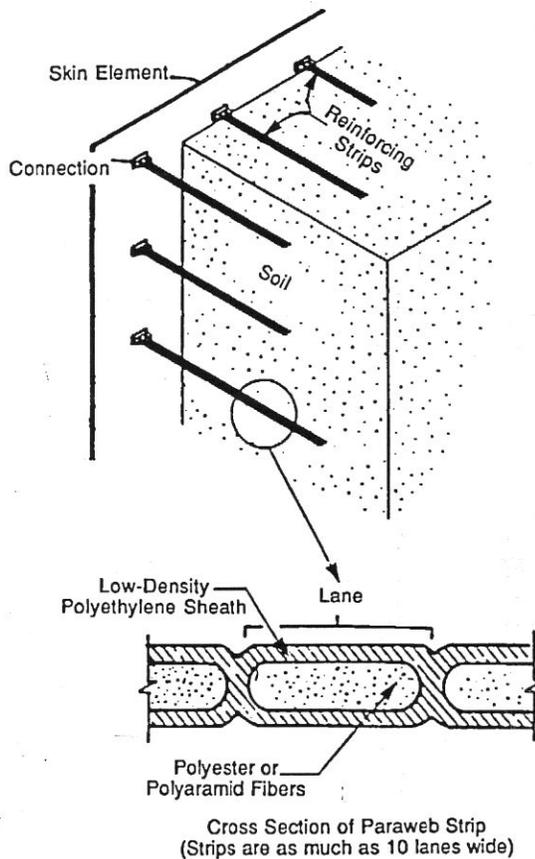


Fig. 23. Schematic diagram of a nonmetallic-strip reinforced soil wall (after Mitchell & Villet 1987).

backfill. Facing elements are formed by wrapping the geotextile around the soil at the face (Fig. 24) and covering the exposed fabric with gunite, asphalt emulsion, or shotcrete, or with soil and vegetation, for long-term protection from ultraviolet light and vandalism. Typical applications of geotextile-reinforced walls include slope stabilization on mountain roads and retaining walls for temporary or permanent road widening or diversion.

The use of geotextiles in reinforced soil walls resulted from the beneficial effect of geotextile reinforcement in highway embankments over weak subgrades. The first geotextile-reinforced wall was built in France in 1971. The first full-size fabric retaining wall in the United States was a 3.3-m-high wall (Fig. 25) built by the U.S. Forest Service to reconstruct a failed road fill

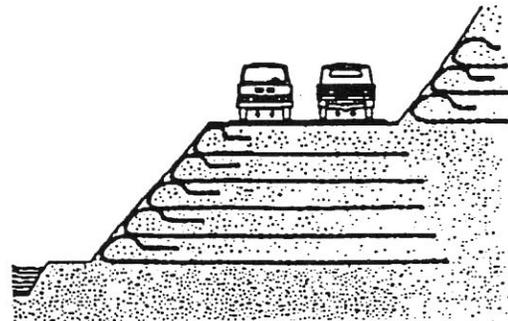


Fig. 24. Schematic cross section of a geotextile reinforced soil wall (after STS Consultants, Ltd. & Geoservices Inc 1990).

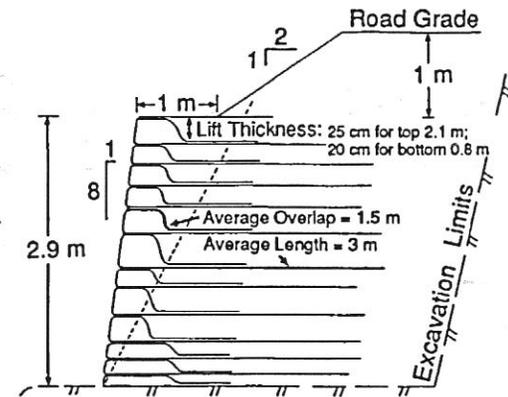


Fig. 25. Geotextile reinforced and faced wall, Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon (after Bell & Steward 1977).

in Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon; the fabric for this wall was a synthetic, nonwoven, needle-punched, spunbonded polypropylene (Bell & Steward 1977). This fabric was permeable and, when buried, was resistant to rotting. However, it was subject to deterioration when exposed to ultraviolet light; therefore, the wall was finished with a gunite facing to protect it from sunlight.

During the 1980's, studies were conducted in various countries to determine the effects of outdoor exposure on geotextiles used for slope reinforcement (Elias 1990). One of the most comprehensive of these studies was carried out by the Hong Kong Geotechnical Control Office to determine the outdoor-exposure performance of 14 geotextiles subjected to Hong Kong conditions (Brand & Pang 1991). All of the geotextiles (12 nonwoven, one woven, and one composite) lost strength and became brittle due to the combined influence of sunlight, temperature, rainfall, wind, oxygen, and atmospheric pollution. The average loss of strength in the first month was less than 16 percent. Long-term performance varied widely, with some geotextiles losing virtually all of their strength after 6 months of exposure. These data confirm that use of geotextiles for slope stabilization should be limited to short-term projects if they are not protected from the elements.

4.2.1.1.3 Grid, bar, and mesh reinforcement

Grid reinforcement systems consist of polymer or metallic elements arranged in rectangular grids, metallic bar mats, and wire mesh. The two-dimensional grid/soil interaction involves both friction along longitudinal members and passive bearing resistance against the transverse members. Because of the passive resistance developed on the cross members, grids are more resistant to pullout than strips; however, full passive resistance develops only for relatively large displacements (5-10 cm) (Schlosser 1990).

The greatest advance in development and use of rectangular grids for soil reinforcement has been in the area of polymeric "geogrids." As defined by Koerner (1990), a geogrid is "a deformed or non-deformed gridlike polymeric material formed by intersecting ribs joined at the junctions used for reinforcement with foundation, soil, rock, earth, or any other geotechnical engineering-related material as an integral part of a human-made project structure or system". Geogrids are relatively stiff, netlike materials with open spaces called "apertures," that usually

measure 1-10 cm between the ribs. The first use of polymer grids was by Japanese engineers in the 1960's to reinforce subgrade soils for railway embankments (Jones 1985). Because these original grids were made of non-oriented polymers, they were relatively fragile, lacking the necessary tensile strength to serve as slope reinforcement. In the 1970's, advances in the formulation of polymers led to significant improvements in strength and stiffness of geogrids. In the late 1970's, geogrids were developed with oriented polymers, which provided increased directional strength. These new geogrids were used in 1979 in construction of a reinforced soil wall at a railroad station in Yorkshire, United Kingdom (O'Rourke & Jones 1990). In 1981, the development of soil reinforcement advanced into a new area of application when synthetic grid materials were used to repair failures in cuts on the M1 and M4 motorways in England (Jones 1985).

In 1983, the first geogrid wall in the United States was built to stabilize a landslide on the Oregon coast (Szymoniak et al., 1984). This 9-m-high geogrid wall with a face slope of 80° was selected over other alternatives because (1) it had the lowest estimated cost, and (2) the open face of the grid wall allowed establishment of vegetation, which provided a natural appearance compatible with the surroundings of an adjacent state park. The geogrid was a high-density polyethylene stabilized with carbon black to provide resistance to ultraviolet light. At about the same time, Forsyth and Bieber (1984) reported on the construction of a geogrid wall to reinforce a California slope 9.5 m high with a slope angle of 48°. This wall was built along State Highway 84 near La Honda to repair a small slide. Since the construction of these early walls, more than 300 polymeric geogrid wall and slope projects have been constructed in the United States (Mitchell & Christopher 1990).

Manufacturing processes have evolved to the point where strong and durable geosynthetic soil reinforcing elements can be mass produced. The most familiar products in earth retention systems are high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene grids (O'Rourke & Jones 1990). An example is Tensar (Fig. 26), a proprietary plastic grid reinforcement developed in the United Kingdom in the early 1980's.

Several proprietary and non-proprietary systems of bar and mesh reinforcement have been developed that rely on both frictional and passive resistance to pullout. In 1974, the first "bar-mat" system of soil reinforcement was developed by the California Department of Transportation

(Caltrans) to con Interstate High California; these cross-linking ste coarse "welded-1978). For propr bar-mesh reinf designated "M Embankment" (M Reinforced Earth) difficulties with deterioration of t recent centrifug and Elgamal (19 potential failure localized deterior strips in an effo effects of this strength.

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Plan View of T

Fig. 26. Scher reinforced wall geogrid reinf backfill.

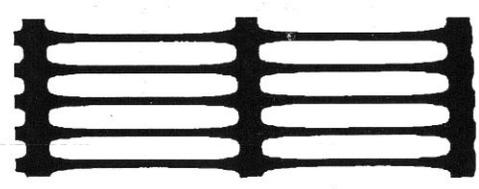
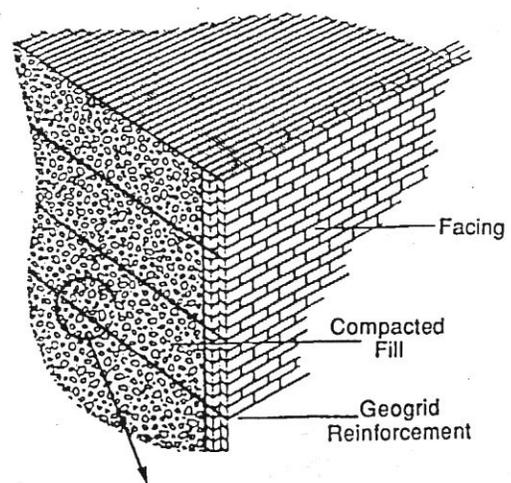
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(Caltrans) to construct a 6-m-high wall along Interstate Highway 5 near Dunsmuir, California; these crude grids were formed by cross-linking steel reinforcing bars to form a coarse "welded-wire" bar mat (Forsyth 1978). For proprietary reasons, the Caltrans bar-mesh reinforcement technique was designated "Mechanically Stabilized Embankment" (MSE), in agreement with the Reinforced Earth Company. One of the difficulties with MSE in the field has been deterioration of the bar-mesh reinforcement. Recent centrifuge model studies by Ragheb and Elgarni (1991) have investigated the potential failure mechanisms associated with localized deterioration of MSE reinforcement strips in an effort to better understand the effects of this deterioration on long-term strength.

Evolving in the United States from the Caltrans project were other similar techniques: Hilfiker Welded Wire Wall and Hilfiker Reinforced Soil Embankment, VSL Retained Earth, and the Georgia Stabilized Embankment System.



Plan View of Tensar Geogrid Reinforcement

Fig. 26. Schematic diagram of a geogrid reinforced wall, and plan view of Tensar geogrid reinforcing element as placed in the backfill.

Hilfiker Welded Wire Wall (WWW) uses welded-wire reinforcing mesh of the type that is commonly placed in concrete slabs; the facing is a continuation of the horizontal mesh reinforcement. The material is fabricated in 2.4-m-wide mats with grid spacing of 15 x 61 cm. To the casual observer, WWW may appear to be a type of gabion wall. However, gabion walls, which are gravity walls made by encasing coarse-grained fill in wire baskets, are based on the principle of confinement and gravity retention rather than on internal tensile reinforcement (Hausmann 1990). The first commercial WWW was built for the the Southern California Edison Power Company in 1977 for road repair along a power line in the San Gabriel Mountains of southern California. By 1980, the use of WWW expanded to larger projects, such as a 250-m-long, 5-m-high wall built by the Union Oil Company at their Parachute Creek oil-shale development in Colorado (Mitchell & Villet 1987). During the 1980's, the use of WWW for retaining structures expanded rapidly; by 1990 about 1600 WWW projects had been completed in the United States (Mitchell & Christopher 1990).

The Hilfiker Reinforced Soil Embankment system (RSE), which resembles Caltrans Mechanically Stabilized Embankment, is a continuous welded-wire reinforcement system with precast concrete facing. It was introduced commercially in 1983 on New Mexico State Highway 475 northeast of Santa Fe, where four reinforced soil structures were built with a total of 1600 m² of wall facing. By 1990, more than 50 additional RSE walls had been constructed in the United States (Mitchell & Christopher 1990).

VSL Retained Earth utilizes strips of steel-grid ("bar-mat") reinforcement that is bolted to hexagonal precast concrete panels. The first VSL Retained Earth wall in the United States was constructed in Hayward, California, in 1983. By 1990, more than 600 VSL Retained Earth walls with some 465,000 m² of wall facing had been built in the United States (Mitchell & Christopher 1990). The system is licensed in the United States under a Reinforced Earth patent, but it uses its own patented system for connecting the bar-mat reinforcement to the concrete facing panels.

The Georgia Stabilized Embankment, which was recently developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation, is another steel-grid, or bar-mat, reinforcing system, that has seen extensive use in the United States. It is licensed in the United States under a proprietary agreement with the Reinforced Earth Company.

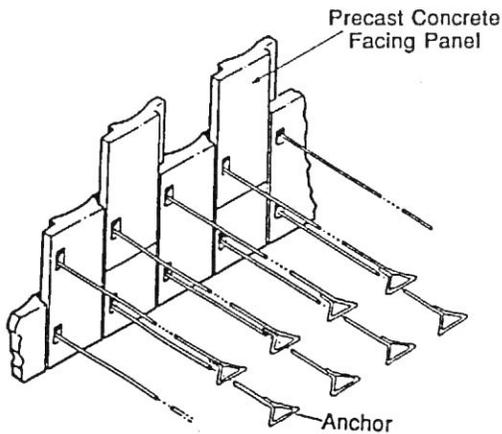


Fig. 27. Schematic diagram of an Anchored Earth retaining wall (after Murray & Irwin 1981).

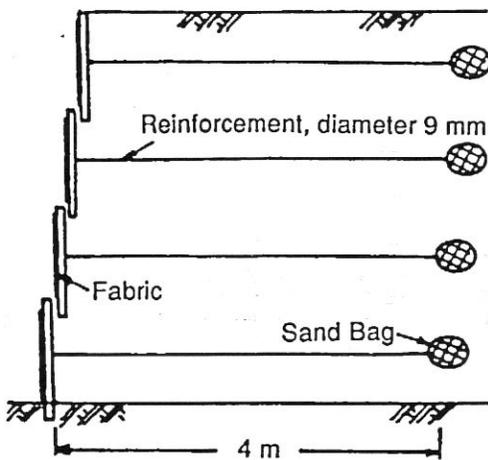


Fig. 28. Schematic cross section through proposed fabric-faced reinforced-soil wall with multiple tie bars attached to bags of sand that serve as anchors. The rods and anchors are embedded in the embankment during construction. (After Fukuoka 1986).

4.2.1.1.4 Emplaced earth-anchor reinforcement

Embankment slopes can be reinforced during construction by emplacement of slender steel rods bent at one end to form "anchors." This type of retaining wall is still in an experimental stage. Soil-to-rod stress transfer is mainly by means of passive resistance on the "anchor," which implies that the system provides stability in the same

manner as tied-back retaining structures, and thus is not truly a reinforced soil system (Mitchell & Villett 1987). However, the system is discussed here because it is analogous in placement technique to other methods of soil reinforcement in embankments.

The concept of emplaced earth-anchor reinforcement was developed and patented by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory (TRRL) of the United Kingdom as "Anchored Earth" (Murray & Irwin 1981). The reinforcement consists of 16- to 20-mm-diameter mild-steel bars. The outer end of each bar is threaded to fit into concrete facing panels; the other end is formed into an anchor in the form of a "Z" or triangle (Fig. 27). Unlike other soil reinforcement methods described here, which are based on the premise that frictional stress develops along the entire length of the reinforcement, Anchored Earth is designed to rely only on passive resistance developed against the deformed ends ("anchors") of the reinforcing bars. Centrifuge model tests of Anchored Earth were conducted recently by Craig et al. (1991) to better understand the Anchored Earth concept at prototype stress levels. In the centrifuge tests, different stress paths were used to approach failure of the models, either by gravity, by increasing body forces to induce collapse, or by applying external loading. Because Anchored Earth is still in the research and developmental stages, none of its applications can be considered to be routine. However, it does appear to be a promising approach to soil reinforcement. It is likely that Anchored Earth will prove most beneficial on projects where clean granular backfill is not available.

A similar concept was used successfully in Japan in the late 1970s to construct a 5-m-high fabric-faced retaining wall with multiple anchors (Fukuoka & Imamura 1982). Each of the 20-mm-diameter steel tie bars was attached to a 40 x 40 cm concrete plate embedded in the backfill soil. Fukuoka (1986) has proposed a similar system in which the tie bars are attached to bags of sand that are embedded in fill during construction (Fig. 28).

4.2.1.1.5 Fiber reinforcement

Fiber reinforcement of backfill soil, which is analogous to fiber reinforcement of concrete, is still in the developmental stage. Materials being investigated for possible fiber reinforcement include synthetic fibers (geotextile threads), metallic fibers (metal threads), and natural fibers (reeds and other plants) (Mitchell & Villett 1987). A recent innovation is a three-dimensional

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4.2.1.2 In-situ

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reinforcement technique that was developed in France at the Laboratoire des Ponts et Chaussées (LCPC) in 1980 (Schlosser 1990). The technique consists of polymer impregnation of granular backfill soil by mixing the soil with a small continuous polymer filament with a diameter of 0.1 mm and a tensile strength of 10 kN (Leflaive 1982). Approximately 0.1-0.2 percent of the composite material (known as "Texsol") consists of filament, resulting in a total length of reinforcement of 200 m per cubic meter of reinforced soil. The first Texsol wall was built in France in 1983 (Leflaive 1988). By the end of 1988, 85 Texsol projects had been completed in France, using 100,000 m³ of Texsol-reinforced soil (Schlosser 1990). These walls have demonstrated high bearing capacity and resistance to erosion. However, there are difficulties associated with efficiently mixing the fibers with the backfill; the mixing process must be perfected before fiber inclusion can become an economically feasible and routinely used means of soil reinforcement.

Another material that has been suggested for use as fiber reinforcement is bamboo, which is one of the fastest growing and most replenishable biological materials. Bamboo can also be used as continuous elements in other types of reinforced soil. Fang (1991) has presented data on the strength and durability of bamboo as soil reinforcement.

4.2.1.2 In-situ soil-reinforcement systems

4.2.1.2.1 Soil nailing

Soil "nails" are steel bars, metal rods, or metal tubes that are driven into in-situ soil or soft rock or are grouted into predrilled boreholes. Together with the soil, they form coherent reinforced soil structures capable of stopping the movement of unstable slopes (Fig. 29) or of supporting temporary excavations (Fig. 30). Nailing differs from tieback support systems in that the nails are passive elements that are not post-tensioned as tiebacks are, and the nails are spaced more closely than tiebacks. Commonly one nail is used for each 1 to 6 m² of ground-surface area. Stability of the ground surface between the nails commonly is provided by a thin layer (10-15 cm) of shotcrete reinforced with wire mesh (Fig. 30), by intermittent rigid elements similar to large steel washers, or by prefabricated steel panels (which later may be covered by shotcrete). Soil nailing can be used to restrain two different types of unstable slopes: (1) potentially unstable slopes, where little or no movement is

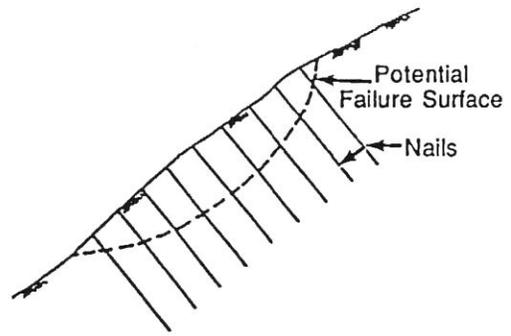


Fig. 29. Schematic cross section of soil nailing for slope stabilization.



Fig. 30. Soil nails extruding from shotcrete surface of temporary excavation for tunnel portal, Interstate Highway 70, Glenwood Canyon, Colorado.

occurring, but where safety factors are low enough to indicate a strong possibility for future movement, and (2) creeping slopes, in which movement is actually occurring.

Soil nailing has been used for slope stabilization for nearly 20 years. In North America, the system was first used in Vancouver, Canada, in the early 1970's for temporary excavation support. In Europe, the earliest reported soil-nailing projects were for retaining wall construction in Spain

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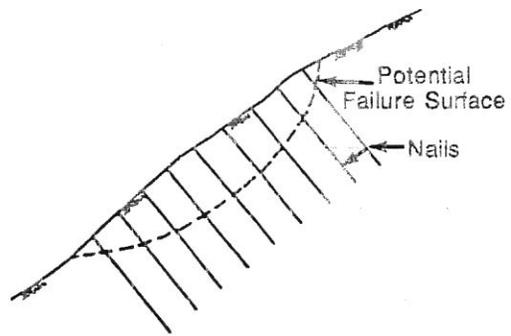


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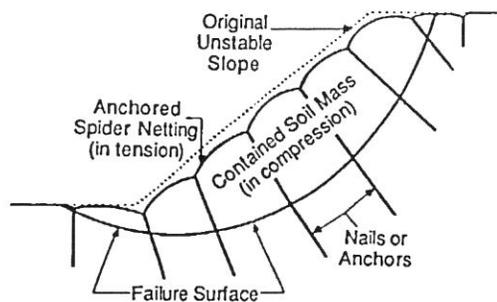


Fig. 31. Schematic cross section of anchored geosynthetic "spider netting" used with soil nails or anchors to stabilize a slope (after Koerner and Robins 1986).

(1972), France (1973), and Germany (1976), in connection with highway or railway cut-slope construction or temporary support for building excavations (Elias & Juran 1991). Today the technique of soil nailing is widespread in France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, and the United States.

The stability of soil-nailed reinforcement relies upon: (1) development of friction or adhesion mobilized at the soil-nail interface and (2) passive resistance developed at the face of the nail. Soil nailing is most effective in dense granular soils and low plasticity stiff silty clays. It is generally not cost-effective or practical in the following soils (Mitchell & Christopher 1990):

- (1) loose granular soils with standard penetration N values lower than about 10 or relative densities of less than 30 percent,
- (2) poorly graded soils with uniformity coefficients of less than 2 (nailing is not practical because of the necessity of stabilizing the cut face prior to excavation),
- (3) soft cohesive soils with undrained shear strengths of less than 48 kPa, because of the inability to develop adequate pullout resistance, and
- (4) highly plastic clays ($PI > 20$ percent), due to excessive creep deformation.

Soil nailing currently is used mainly for temporary structures because of the uncertainty of the corrosion rate of steel bars used in the process. However, new types of reinforcements and reinforcement coatings with high resistance to corrosion are being developed. For example, in 1987 fiber-glass nails were used to retain nearly vertical cuts for a freeway tunnel excavation in Reutlingen, southern Germany (Gassler in press).

Analysis of soil nailing and procedures for design have been presented by Juran et al. (1990) and Elias & Juran (1991). To increase the confidence of engineers in the potential

use of this method for permanent slope stabilization, additional research is being conducted on field performance of soil-nailed structures (Plumelle et al. 1990; Stocker & Riedinger 1990). In 1986, a 4-year, US\$4 million national research program, titled CLOUTERRE, was initiated by the French Minister of Transport to improve the state of knowledge and develop design and construction guidelines for soil-nailed retention systems (Schlosser & Unterreiner in press).

A new method of soil nailing uses geotextiles, geogrids, or geonets to cover the ground surface (Koerner & Robins 1986). The geosynthetic material is reinforced at distinct nodes and anchored to the slope using long rods (soil nails) at the nodes (Fig. 31). When the rods are properly fastened, they pull the surface netting into the soil, placing the net ("spider netting") in tension and the constrained soil in compression.

Soil nailing systems are both flexible and massive, and thus are resistant to seismic loading. An example of this dynamic stability was provided by the lack of damage to three California soil-nailing projects that were located within 33 km of the epicenter of the 1989 magnitude-7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake (Ferworn & Weatherby in press). However, current understanding of the dynamic behavior of soil-nailed earth structures is limited, and research is needed to develop procedures for earthquake-resistant design.

There are no proprietary restrictions on the use of soil nailing. However, some specific systems of nails and/or facing are patented. A recently patented (by Soil Nailing Limited, United Kingdom) soil-nailing technique inserts reinforcing nails into the ground by means of a compressed-air "launcher," which was originally developed in the United Kingdom for military use in shooting projectiles into the air (Bridle and Myles 1991). Under favorable conditions, the launcher can inject 38-mm-diameter nails up to 6 m long into a soil slope at a rate of one every 2-3 minutes.

4.2.1.2.2 Soil anchors

Stabilization of soil slopes by deep prestressed anchors is being used increasingly. Hutchinson (1984) has described the stabilization of a landslide in glacial deposits in southern Wales, United Kingdom (Fig. 32). Prior to treatment in 1980, movements of as much as 15 mm per year were occurring at the head of the slide and of 2-5 mm per year at the toe. Because of severe spatial constraints, anchoring into

the underlying proved to be the measure.

4.2.1.2.3 Root piles

Another recent development is the use of in-situ soils and micropiles (commonly called root piles). A root-pile system is a soil reinforced soil critical failure surface. The difference between soil-nailing systems and root piles is provided by root piles by their three-dimensional geometric arrangement (Rogers 1991).

Root piles are concrete piles with diameters of 7.5 to 30 cm. In these systems, the critical failure surface is reinforced by root piles with larger diameter reinforcing bars. Root piles are a type of soil reinforcement (Christopherson 1979). "Root Piles" are originally called micropiles and were first developed by Lizzi and were first used in the Fondedile of Naples (Italy) for the stabilization of a slope (Fondedile of Naples 1979). Root piles were installed in the system by using a technique called "underpinning"; this technique expired (Christopherson 1979) but has been in the past used for the stabilization of slopes. Root piles have been used for slope stabilization and constructed with

4.2.2 Stabilization of soil slopes with admixtures

One means of soil stabilization is the use of engineering stabilizers. These are chemical admixtures such as cement; this application has been used for many decades for soil stabilization. In the mid-1970s, lime base materials were used in the stabilization of soil slopes. This problem encountered with stabilization has been solved by the insertion of the stabilizer into the soil. However, in recent years, lime slurry has been obtained by mixing lime slurry into the soil, which forms a bedding surface. This technique is used to overcome surface weakness, is a type of soil stabilization (Rogers 1991). Root piles are pushed into the soil and injected with a

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the underlying Coal Measures bedrock proved to be the most effective stabilization measure.

4.2.1.2.3 Root piles

Another recent approach to reinforcement of in-situ soils and soft rocks is the use of micropiles (commonly known as "root piles"). A root-pile system forms a monolithic block of reinforced soil that extends beneath the critical failure surface (Fig. 33). The main difference between root piles and traditional soil-nailing systems is that reinforcement provided by root piles is strongly influenced by their three-dimensional root-like geometric arrangement (Schlosser & Juran 1979).

Root piles are cast-in-place reinforced concrete piles with diameters ranging from 7.5 to 30 cm. In the smaller-diameter range, these insertions are provided with a central reinforcing rod or steel pipe, while those with larger diameters may be provided with a reinforcing bar-cage bound with spiral reinforcement (Christopher et al. 1989).

"Root Piles" and "Reticulated Root Piles" were originally developed in the 1950's by F. Lizzi and were patented by the Italian firm Fondedile of Naples, which introduced and installed the system worldwide (mainly for underpinning); the original patents have now expired (Christopher et al 1989). It has only been in the past 20 years that root piles have been used for slope stabilization, and most root-pile slope-stabilization works have been constructed within the past 10 years.

4.2.2 Stabilization by use of chemical admixtures

One means of improving a soil to meet engineering standards is to mix it with chemical admixtures, such as lime or Portland cement; this approach has been in use for many decades for highway subgrades. Lime stabilization in the United States was first used in the mid-1940's to stabilize clay-gravel base materials for highways. A major problem encountered in using lime for slope stabilization has been to obtain adequate insertion of the lime into the soil at depth. However, in recent years, insertion has been obtained by means of pressure injection of lime slurry into the soil (Fig. 34). The slurry, which follows natural fracture zones, bedding surfaces, and other surfaces of weakness, is injected through 40-mm-diameter pipes fitted with perforated nozzles (Rogers 1991). The pipes are hydraulically pushed into the ground, and the slurry is injected to refusal at depth intervals of 30-45

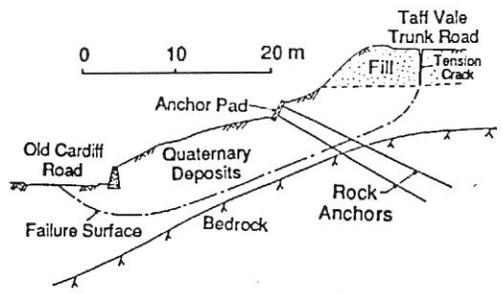


Fig. 32. Cross section of landslide in Quaternary deposits at Nangarw, south Wales, United Kingdom (after Hutchinson 1977). The slide has been stabilized by deep anchors in underlying bedrock.

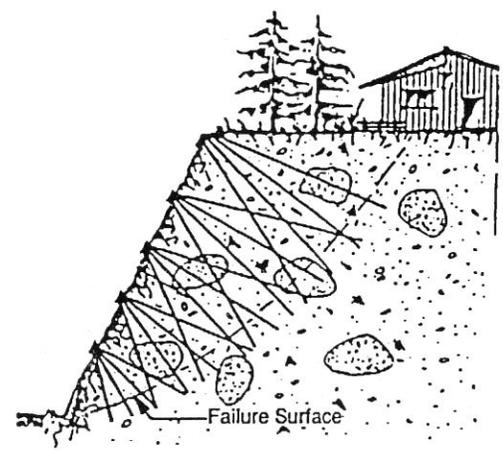


Fig. 33. Schematic cross section illustrating the use of root piles for stabilization of a slope (after Lizzi 1977).

cm. Typical injection pressures range from 350 to 1,300 kN/m². Depths of more than 40 m can be treated in this way. Blacklock and Wright (1986) have discussed restoration of failed soil embankments along the Interstate Highway system in Alabama, Arkansas, and Missouri using the lime- and L/FA-slurry injection method of in-situ soil stabilization. Baez et al. (1992) have evaluated the use of L/FA injection on the slope rehabilitation of a levee on the Lower Chariton River in Dalton, Missouri. Their studies showed that double injection of L/FA slurry increased the strength of the levee soil by 15-30 percent. Furthermore, since the levee was treated with L/FA injections in April 1988, there have been no slope failures in the rehabilitated stretch of the levee, whereas there have been failures in adjacent untreated areas.

A new type of retaining wall utilizing facing-panel units anchored into Portland-cement-stabilized backfill has been developed for the Texas Highway Department by the Texas Transportation Institute of Texas A&M University (Morris & Crockford 1990). Only short anchors were required, and because the strength properties of the soil were significantly improved by addition of the cement, the structure became a conventional mass-gravity structure. One of the advantages of the system is that it is non-proprietary.

5 VEGETATIVE STABILIZATION OF SLOPES

Vegetative slope stabilization can be provided: (1) directly by vegetation or (2) by biotechnical slope protection (the use of vegetation combined with structural slope-stabilization elements). The basic concepts of vegetative stabilization are not new; for example, the U.S. Forest Service made specific recommendations for the use of vegetation to stabilize slopes in the western United States as early as 1936 (Kraebel 1936). However, continuing research and new developments in design now enable more effective use of vegetation than in the past. For additional details on the effects of vegetation on slopes, refer to Gray (1970), Gray and Leiser (1982), Greenway (1987), and Wu (1991).

Vegetation contributes to stability of slopes by: (1) Restraint -- root systems physically bind or restrain soil particles, (2) Interception -- foliage and plant residues absorb rainfall energy, (3) Retardation -- above-ground residues increase surface roughness and slow the velocity of runoff, (4) Infiltration -- root and plant residues help to maintain soil porosity and permeability, and (5) Transpiration -- depletion of soil moisture by plants delays onset of saturation and runoff (Gray & Leiser 1982).

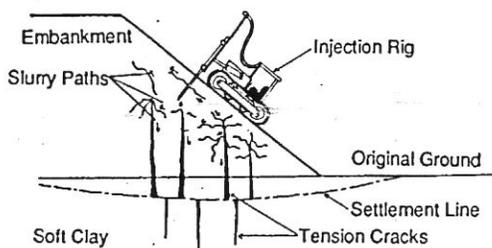


Fig. 34. Schematic cross section illustrating process of lime-slurry pressure injection for stabilization of an embankment slope (after Boynton & Blacklock 1985).

Case studies have shown that slope failures can be attributed to the loss of tree roots as slope reinforcement (e.g., Wu et al. 1979; Riestenberg & Sovonick-Dunford 1983; Riestenberg 1987). Wu (1991) has quantified this protection in terms of root reinforcement and reduction of soil moisture and pore pressures.

In recent years, trees have been planted on many slopes worldwide to increase slope stability. Examples with which the author is familiar follow:

One element of a program to correct an embankment failure on Interstate Highway I-77 near Caldwell, Ohio, was the planting of the slope with black locust seedlings at a spacing of 1.2 m. The long-term objective was to help lower the groundwater table and to develop root stabilization. As of 1987, the project appeared to be successful; however, in that short a period of time root development was not great enough to increase the factor of safety substantially (Wu 1987).

Another recent well-documented case of the planting of tree seedlings occurred as part of the stabilization program of the Cucaracha landslide in the Gaillard Cut on the Panama Canal. The historic Cucaracha slide was reactivated in 1986, almost blocking the canal (Berman 1991). As part of a comprehensive stabilization program, portions of the surfaces of the Cucaracha slide and other landslide areas in the Canal Zone were planted with 60,000 fast-growing acacia and gmelina seedlings beginning in 1987 (Rivera 1991). Although the failure surfaces in these landslides are deep-seated and generally won't be affected directly by the tree roots, the trees have significantly improved the groundwater regime, thus increasing stability.

The planting of trees to control slope failures (mostly debris torrents, flows, and avalanches) in the Vorariberg of Austria has been documented by the Austrian Federal Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control (Olz 1990). Since 1945, this federal agency has planted 4.8 million fir and mixed-forest trees on 740 hectares of potentially unstable land. As noted by Olz, "forests grow while steel avalanche defenses grow rusty and they are and always will be an alien element in the midst of nature."

Research into the engineering role of vegetation for slope stabilization in Hong Kong may be the most comprehensive such program in the world (Barker 1991). Especially notable have been the root-reinforcement studies conducted on vegetated slopes in Hong Kong by Greenway et al. (1984), Greenway 1987), and Yin et al. (1988) under the auspices of the Geotechnical Control Office of Hong Kong. In addition,

the "Geotechnical Control Office of Hong Kong" (Geotechnical Control Office) has used an excellent tabular system for hydrological effects.

Stabilization of vegetation elements working in a manner is known as biotechnical stabilization. This is generally considered a cost-effective use of structural elements. The use of indigenous vegetation trees and shrubs in slope stabilization systems; however, terms of preventing soil erosion may be much less (Gray & Leiser 1982).

Grasses and other plants are often used in biotechnical slope stabilization as a true reinforcement structure. The above a low rate of the structure of the vegetation within and between the stability of all trees with open grid-like structure from such vegetation illustrate advanced stabilization.

Gray and Sot (1989) use the 1989 use of buttress combination layer fill to stabilize highway in M buttress was placed brush-layer fill of plant species that rooted re branches acted horizontal drainage embedded stabilization.

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Stabilization of slopes by the combined use of vegetation and man-made structural elements working together in an integrated manner is known as "biotechnical slope stabilization." Biotechnical slope stabilization is a relatively new concept that is generally cost effective as compared to the use of structures alone; it increases environmental compatibility, and allows the use of indigenous natural materials. Vegetative treatments alone are commonly much less expensive than earth retaining structures or other constructed protection systems; however, their effectiveness in terms of arresting slope movement or preventing soil loss under extreme conditions may be much less than that of the structures (Gray & Leiser 1982).

Grasses and woody plants are used most often in biotechnical stabilization. They have a true reinforcing function and should not be considered merely a cosmetic adjunct to the structure. They may be planted on a slope above a low retaining wall, or the interstices of the structure may be planted with vegetation whose roots bind together the soil within and behind the structure. The stability of all types of retaining structures with open grid-work or tiered facings benefit from such vegetation. The following cases illustrate advances in the use of biotechnical stabilization:

Gray and Sotir (in press) have described the 1989 use of a drained rock-blanket buttress combined with an earthen brush-layer fill to stabilize a roadcut along a scenic highway in Massachusetts. The rock buttress was placed at the toe of the cut; the brush-layer fill included stems and branches of plant species, such as willow and dogwood, that rooted readily from cuttings. The branches acted as reinforcement and as horizontal drains, and rooting of the embedded stems provided secondary stabilization.

Barker (1991) has noted the recent use in the United Kingdom of a composite vegetated geotextile/geogrid reinforced structure named "Biobund." The prototype for this structure was the 1986 Schuepfen Bund along the T6 Bern-Biel Autobahn in Switzerland. This 300-m-long, 4.5-m-high visual and acoustic barrier incorporated more than 33,000 willow cuttings between pockets of geotextile-wrapped fill. Another 5,000 container-grown rooted shrubs and trees were interspersed with the willow cuttings.

Suyama (in press) has discussed the use of forests in Japan: (1) to control slope erosion,

(2) to stabilize landslide scars, and (3) to absorb debris-flow and rockfall impacts. In very interesting full-scale field experiments, estimations of the resistance of trees to the impact energy of debris flows and rockfalls were determined.

6 USE OF LIGHTWEIGHT FILLS TO FACILITATE SLOPE STABILIZATION

To reduce the gravitational driving force behind slope-stabilizing retaining structures, various types of lightweight backfills have been used. Sawdust, burned coal, and fly-ash wastes have been used in areas where these waste products are readily available. In the past few years, two new types of lightweight fill have been proposed and tested for use in lightweight backfills for slope stabilization: styrofoam blocks and shredded waste car and truck tires.

The introduction of superlight expanded polystyrene (EPS; styrofoam) blocks in 1972 allowed the construction of lightweight fills for highways. In addition, it has been used successfully for road-base insulation in cold regions for several years. By 1987, the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute was involved in more than 100 projects where this superlight material had been used with great success (Flaate 1987). As superlight fill, EPS is used in the form of large blocks with a density of 0.02 t/m³, a drastic reduction in density compared to other lightweight materials.

The most common application of EPS as superlight fill has been for highway embankments, and especially for bridge approaches. However, the Colorado Department of Transportation recently has successfully used EPS for slide correction. During the spring of 1987, an 8400-m³ slide closed the eastbound lane of heavily traveled U.S. Highway 160 in southern Colorado. The slide area was successfully stabilized by using a counterfort berm at the toe and replacing the slide material in the highway embankment with EPS (Yeh & Gilmore in press).

Another recently applied lightweight fill for slide correction is shredded waste rubber car and truck tires. Nearly 300 million tires are discarded annually in the United States, creating a major disposal problem. Shredded tires have a compacted dry unit weight of about 0.64 t/m³ (Humphrey & Manion in press). About 580,000 shredded rubber tires were used as lightweight fill in correction of a landslide that occurred in 1989 under a highway embankment on U.S. Highway 42 in the State of Oregon (Read et al. 1991). The force driving the slide was

considerably reduced by replacing the slide material with the lightweight shredded tires.

7 FUTURE TRENDS IN SLOPE STABILIZATION

Research in analysis, design, and construction of systems for subsurface drainage, rockfall control, and soil retention will continue to provide new approaches to the development and use of these slope-stabilization systems. Particularly important is the development of new economical, strong, corrosion-resistant, and environmentally acceptable materials that can be used as elements in stabilization systems for both rock and soil slopes. For steep rock slopes, new computerized approaches will allow increased understanding of the rockfall process that will lead to better rockfall control. New experimental techniques, such as the use of the geotechnical centrifuge, will complement analytical approaches to better understand the mechanics of failure of retention systems, thus leading to improvements in design.

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