

# Reliability of Bearing Capacity of Footings

by

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## Introduction

THE conventional design methods in the field of geotechnical engineering are based on the deterministic approach, as the governing soil properties in the field are considered to be deterministic. However, soils by their inherent nature are variable. It is well known, that the data obtained from soil exploration and laboratory tests show large variations. Amongst the engineering materials, soils possibly have the maximum variability, which leads to uncertainty in the design procedure. It is therefore very appropriate to use probabilistic methods for the soil engineering problems, which take into account the variability and uncertainty of soil behaviour.

The conventional design methods in geotechnical engineering make use of a factor of safety to account for uncertainty and variability. However, it is widely accepted that the choice of a certain value of factor of safety does not convey the safety quantitatively. Shortcomings of the factor of safety have been pointed out by Singh (1971), Kay and Krizek (1971), and Langejan (1965). In this context the reliability based design methods can be of great significance in specifying the safety of a problem quantitatively.

The reliability concepts have been introduced to soil engineering problems by Casagrande (1965), Langejan (1965), Lumb (1966, 1970), Wu and Kraft (1967), Meyerhof (1970), and others. Soil engineering problems in various fields such as settlement, stability and foundation have been studied through probabilistic approach by Kay and Krizek (1971), Singh (1971), Matsuo and Kuroda (1974), Hoeg and Murarka (1974), Vanmarcke (1977), and Folayan et al (1976).

In the present investigation an attempt has been made to predict the bearing capacity of footings using the reliability based design method, which takes into account the variability of the governing soil properties. The Monte Carlo simulation technique and the 'Partial Derivative Method' (PDM) are used for obtaining the design charts.

## Formulation based on Probabilistic Approach

In the present investigation the design parameters viz., cohesion  $c$ , tangent of angle of shearing resistance  $\tan \phi$ , unit weight  $\gamma$  are considered random variables following normal distribution. Many investigators (Lumb 1966, Singh 1971, Matsuo 1976, Madhav and Arumugam 1979) have confirmed the validity of this assumption. The soil properties viz., grain size, water content, void ratio, consistency indices, compression

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*This paper was received in December, 1979 and is open for discussion till the end of September 1980.*

index, coefficient of consolidation, follow either normal or lognormal distribution, (Matsuo 1976). Data on mean, standard deviation and coefficient of variation of soil is scanty in literature. As a guide, one can use the values of coefficient of variation for the variable soil properties as suggested by Meyerhof (1970) and Lumb (1974).

A random variable  $x$ , can be expressed using the normality relationship as,

$$x = \bar{x}(1 + cv_x \xi_x) \quad \dots(1)$$

where  $\bar{x}$  = mean value of the random variable

$cv_x$  = coefficient of variation of  $x$ ,

$\xi_x$  = standard normal variate.

The bearing capacity,  $q_{ult}$  from deterministic approach is

$$q_{ult} = CN_c \zeta_c + \frac{1}{2} \gamma B N_\gamma \zeta_\gamma + \gamma D_f N_q \zeta_q \quad \dots(2)$$

Where  $B$  and  $D_f$  are width and depth of footing  $N_c, N_\gamma$  and  $N_q$  bearing capacity factors, (Terzaghi, 1943) and  $\zeta_c, \zeta_\gamma$  and  $\zeta_q$  shape factors (Vesic, 1975). The expression for bearing capacity in the probabilistic approach can be obtained by substituting the normality relationship (Equation 1) for each variable in Equation 2.

Individually these variables are expressed as,

$$\begin{aligned} c &= \bar{c}(1 + cv_c \xi_c) \\ \tan \phi &= \overline{\tan \phi}(1 + cv_\phi \xi_\phi) \\ \gamma &= \bar{\gamma}(1 + cv_\gamma \xi_\gamma) \end{aligned} \quad \dots(3)$$

The bearing capacity factors become

$$\begin{aligned} N_c^* &= \frac{1}{\tan \phi (1 + cv_\phi \xi_\phi)} \exp [\pi \tan \phi (1 + cv_\phi \xi_\phi)^{1 + \tan \phi^2}] x Z \\ N_\gamma^* &= 2 \overline{\tan \phi} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi) [1 + \exp (\overline{\pi \tan \phi} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi))] x Z \\ N_q^* &= \exp (\overline{\pi \tan \phi} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi)) x Z \end{aligned} \quad \dots (4)$$

$$\text{where } Z = \frac{\sqrt{\sqrt{1 + \tan \phi^2} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi)^2 + \overline{\tan \phi} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi)}}{\sqrt{\wedge 1 + \tan \phi^2} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi)^2 - \overline{\tan \phi} (1 + CV_\phi \xi_\phi)}$$

Using Equations 3 and 4, the bearing capacity for strip footing can be expressed in the probabilistic approach as,

$$\begin{aligned} q_{ult} &= \bar{C}(1 + CV_C \xi_C) N_c^* + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\gamma} B (1 + CV_\gamma \xi_\gamma) N_\gamma^* + \bar{\gamma} (1 + CV_\gamma \xi_\gamma) D_f \\ &= \bar{C} R_c + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\gamma} B R_\gamma + \bar{\gamma} D_f R_q \end{aligned} \quad \dots(6)$$

where  $R_c, R_\gamma$  and  $R_q$  are the new bearing capacity factors, in place of conventional bearing capacity factors  $N_c, N_\gamma$  and  $N_q$ ,

$$R_c = f_1 (cv_c, \overline{\tan \phi}, cv_\phi),$$

$$R_\lambda = f_2 (cv_\gamma, \overline{\tan \phi}, cv_\phi),$$

$$R_q = f_3 (cv_\gamma, \overline{\tan \phi}, cv_\phi). \quad \dots (7)$$

The bearing capacity factors  $R_c$ ,  $R_\gamma$ , and  $R_q$  in the probabilistic approach are not only dependent on  $\overline{\tan \phi}$  and  $cv_\phi$  of the soil, but also depend on the variations in other soils properties viz., cohesion, and unit weight.

The ultimate bearing capacity of square and circular footing can be written in a similar manner.

$$q_{ult} = \bar{c} (1 + cv_c \xi_c) N_c^* \left( 1 + \frac{N_c^*}{N_q^*} \right) + \frac{1}{2} 0.6 \bar{\gamma} B (1 + cv_\gamma \xi_\gamma) N_\gamma^* \\ + D_f \bar{\gamma} (1 + cv_\gamma \xi_\gamma) N_q^* \quad \dots (8)$$

### Analysis for Probability of Failure

The probability of failure of a foundation is given by Benjamin and Cornell, (1970),

$$P_f = P(R < S) = \int_{-\infty}^S f(R) dR \quad \dots (9)$$

where,  $P_f$  = the probability of failure of a foundation,  $R$  = the resistance developed,  $S$  = the load applied on the foundation,  $f(R)$  = the density function of the resistance of the foundation.

For normal density function (Gaussian distribution) Equation 9 reduces to

$$P_f = Y \left( \frac{S - \bar{R}}{\sigma_R} \right) \quad \dots (10)$$

where,  $Y$  = the cumulative distribution function of the standardised normal variable,  $\bar{R}$  and  $\sigma_R$ —design parameters viz., mean value and standard deviation.

Similarly for lognormal distribution of  $Y$  ( $\bar{m}_Y, \sigma_{\log Y}$ )

$$P_f = Y \left( \frac{\log(S/\bar{m}_Y)}{\sigma_{\log Y}} \right) \quad \dots (11)$$

where,  $\bar{m}_Y$  and  $\sigma_{\log Y}$  = parameters of the lognormal distribution.

For a predetermined probability of failure, the values of the standard normal variate are available and given in Table (Benjamin and Cornell, 1970). The design parameters viz., mean and standard deviation for normal or lognormal distribution can be obtained using either Monte Carlo method or PDM (explained in the following section) and the permissible load  $S$  determined for a given  $P_f$ . A partial factor of safety,  $F_p$ ,

is defined in the following manner (Lumb, 1970),

$$F_p = \frac{\bar{R}}{S} \quad \dots (12)$$

Unlike the conventional factor of safety  $F$ , the partial factor of safety is based on the probabilistic approach.

### Method of Solution

Solution procedure for a reliability based design method involves specifying mean, coefficient of variation of the variables, and the probability of failure. In the present investigation coefficients of variation of cohesion,  $cv_c$ , angle of shearing resistance,  $cv_\phi$ , and unit weight  $cv_\gamma$  are chosen on the basis of guidelines suggested by earlier investigators, Lumb (1970), Meyerhof (1970), and Singh (1971). Table 2 shows the ranges of the parameters considered in this study.

### Monte Carlo Method

The method consists of the following three steps :

- (i) Generation of random numbers for variables of the problem.
- (ii) Finding the value of resistance corresponding to a set of random numbers from the governing equation. This completes one experiment.
- (iii) Repetition of the experiment to get a large number of experiments.

A number of methods are available to generate random numbers with uniform density function in the range  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . A standard built-in subroutine ('RNDY1' in IBM 7044 computer) is used in the present problem.

The data obtained from the simulation method is used to get an histogram. From the histogram the distribution of the function under consideration is checked and, the design parameters of the distribution (mean and standard deviation) are obtained. Estimation of a failure probability of the order of  $10^{-8}$  requires about  $1 \times 10^6$  experiments if the answer has to have a confidence level of 90 per cent, and for smaller probabilities a much larger sample size would be required. However, simulation of such a large number of experiments would require large computer time which was not possible with the computer available. Realising this limitation, the mean and standard deviation values are obtained. These values are checked with the Partial derivative method, which is presented in the following section.

### Partial Derivative Method

The method is very simple and effective for many engineering problems. The basic principles of the method are as follows, Rao (1978).

$$\text{If } Y = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \quad \dots(13)$$

The approximate mean and variance of  $Y$  can be obtained in the following manner. Expanding the function  $f$  in Equation (13) by Taylor's series about the mean values  $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n$  as,

$$Y = g(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n) + \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_i) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_i) (x_j - \bar{x}_j) \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \dots \quad \dots(14)$$

Wherein the derivatives are evaluated at  $(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n)$ . By truncating the series after the linear terms, the first order approximation to  $Y$  can be expressed as,

$$Y = g(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n) + \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_i) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} | (\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n) \quad \dots(15)$$

The mean and variance can now be expressed as

$$\bar{Y} = g(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n) \quad \dots(16)$$

and

$$\sigma_Y^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2 \sigma_{x_i}^2 \quad \dots(17)$$

where,  $c_i$  is the value of the partial derivative  $\frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i}$  evaluated at  $(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n)$ . The standard deviation  $\sigma_Y$  is expressed as,

$$\sigma_Y = \sqrt{\sigma_Y^2} \quad \dots(18)$$

## Results and Discussions

The problem of bearing capacity of footings has been studied in the light of probabilistic analysis. A parametric study has been made for the bearing capacity factors by using reliability based design methods.

A typical histogram from Monte Carlo simulation with cumulative distribution function is presented in Figure 1. The distribution of the function (bearing capacity factors in the present study) is established to follow either normal or lognormal by conducting the Chi-square test at 5 per cent significance level. The number of experiments (samples) in the Monte Carlo method has been limited to 3000 only because of lack of a fast and large computer. Few runs with 10,000 experiments were run and the difference between the results of 3000 and 10,000 experiments found to be very small. The limitation of such a small sample size compared to  $1 \times 10^6$  samples is realised (the distribution in the tail portions is not precisely known). In addition to this method the partial derivative method is also used to get the design parameters. The values of mean and standard deviation obtained by these two methods are compared Table 3 and they are found to be in close agreement.

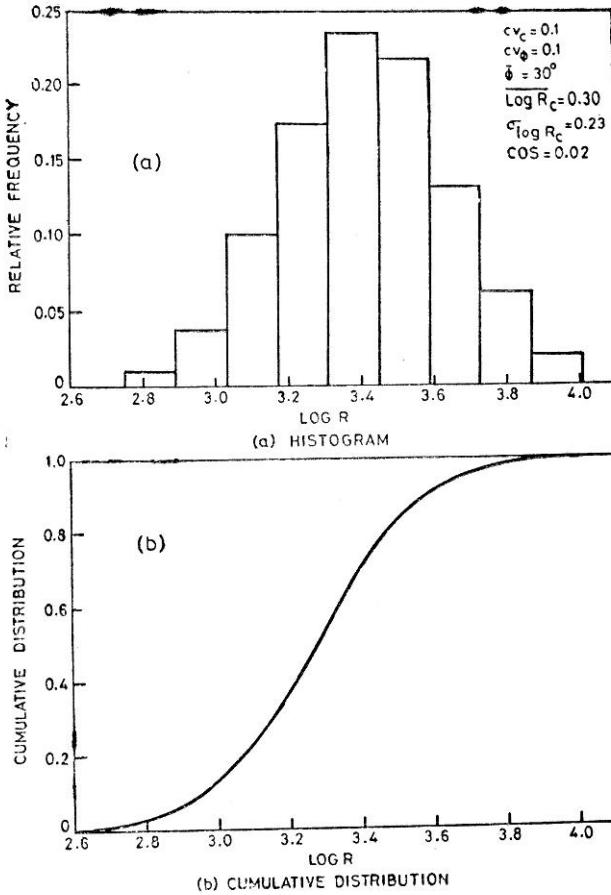


FIGURE 1 Histogram and cumulative distribution of  $R_c$

The probability of failure  $P_f$  is considered in the range  $10^{-2}$ – $10^{-5}$  in accordance with Meyerhof (1970). The choice of  $P_f$  in a foundation problem is totally governed by the designers judgement based on (i) the importance of the structure (ii) the confidence with which soil parameters are investigated and (iii) the variation of soil properties at the site. For a given  $P_f$  the reliability of the foundation  $R_f$  is estimated as,

$$R_f = 1 - P_f \quad \dots(19)$$

*Results for Strip Footing*

The bearing capacity factors  $R_c$ ,  $R_\gamma$ , and  $R_q$  follow lognormal distribution. Figures 2 to 4 show the partial safety factors  $F_p^+$  versus  $P_f^+$  relationships for the bearing capacity factors for some typical coefficients of variation of  $c$ ,  $\tan \phi$ , and  $\gamma$  for the mean value of  $\phi$  equal to  $30^\circ$ . Considering the bearing capacity factor  $R_c$ , it is seen from Figure 2 that  $P_f$  versus  $F_p$  relationship is sensitive to coefficient of variation w.r.t.  $c$  as well as  $\tan \phi$ . For higher values of coefficients of variation the uncertainty becomes

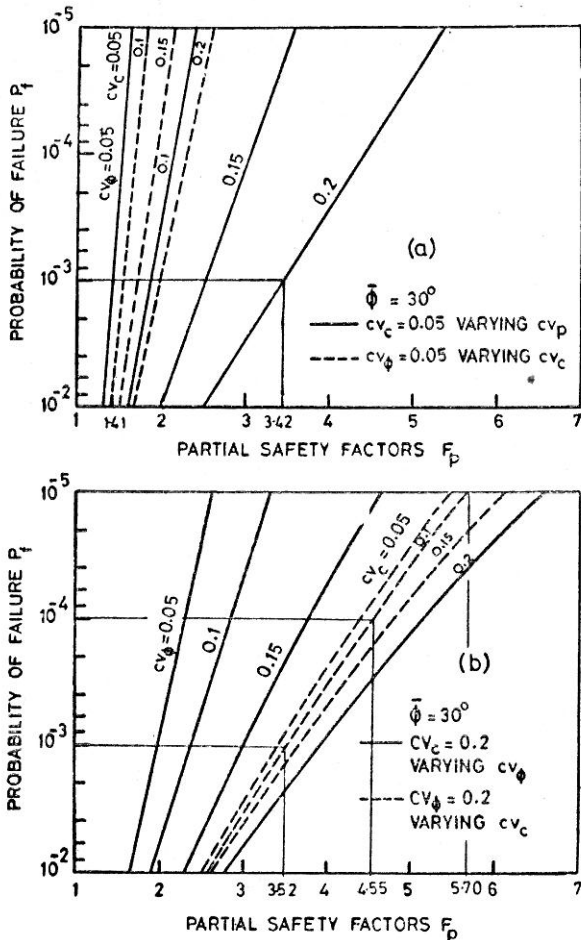


FIGURE 2 Partial safety factors for  $R_c$  ( $\bar{\phi} = 30^\circ$ )

more as  $F_p$  increases. From Figure 2a it is seen that for  $P_f$  equal to  $10^{-3}$  and  $cv_e = 0.05$ ,  $F_p$  is equal to 1.41 for  $cv_\phi$  equal to 0.05; with  $cv_\phi$  equal to 0.2, the  $F_p$  value is equal to 3.42 because uncertainty has increased. Figure 2b presents  $F_p$  values for the bearing capacity factor  $R_c$  for  $cv_e$  equal to 0.2 and different  $cv_\phi$ , and for  $cv_\phi = 0.2$  with varying  $cv_e$ . With decreasing  $P_f$ , values of  $F_p$  increase as expected, because higher safety requirement needs higher values of safety factors. From Figure 2b it is seen that for  $cv_\phi$  equal to 0.2 and  $cv_e$  equal to 0.1,  $F_p$  values are 3.52, 4.55, and 5.70 for  $P_f$  values of  $10^{-3}$ ,  $10^{-4}$ ,  $10^{-5}$ , respectively.

Figures 3 and 4 present the variations of  $P_f$  with  $F_p$  for the bearing capacity factors  $R_\gamma$  and  $R_q$ . These bearing capacity factors depend on the coefficients  $cv_\gamma$  and  $cv_\phi$ . In this case it is observed that for  $\phi$  equal to  $30^\circ$ , the effect of variation of unit weight is insignificant compared to the effect of  $cv_\phi$ . This finding agrees with the earlier results of Singh (1971). For higher  $\phi$  values the safety factors are very sensitive to the value of  $cv_\phi$ .

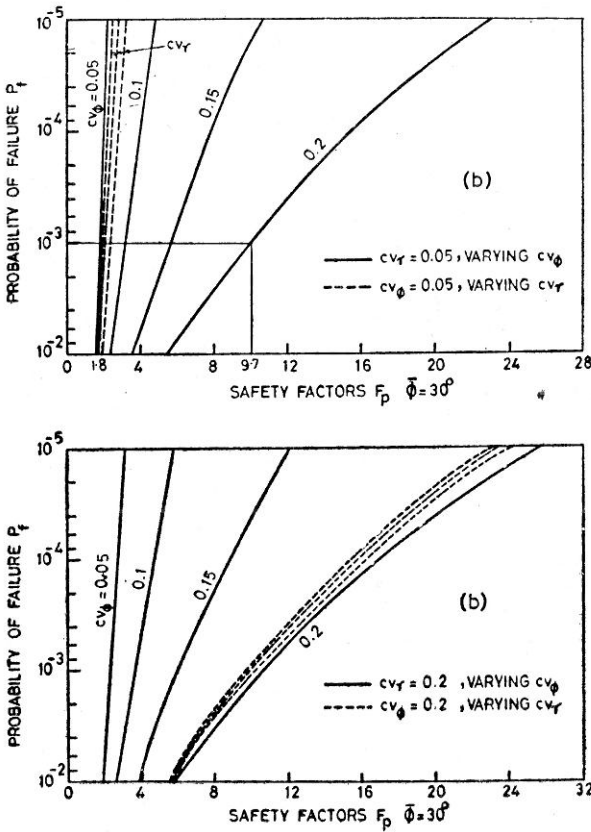


FIGURE 3 Partial safety factors for  $R_\gamma$  ( $\phi = 30^\circ$ )

Figure 3a shows  $P_f$  versus  $F_p$  for the  $R_\gamma$  term for  $cv_\gamma = 0.05$  and varying  $cv_\phi$ . It is seen that for  $P_f$  equal to  $10^{-3}$ ,  $F_p$  equal to 1.80 for  $cv_\phi$  equal to 0.05, and  $F_p$  increases to 9.70 for  $cv_\phi = 0.2$ . Figure 4 shows results for the bearing capacity factor  $R_q$ , similar to the factor  $R_\gamma$ .

Results for smaller  $\phi$  values of  $10^\circ$  are presented in Figures 5 to 7. For smaller  $\phi$  values, effects of variation of  $cv_c$  in the case  $R_c$  and effects of variation of  $cv_\gamma$  in the case of  $R_\gamma$  and  $R_q$  are significant as seen from the figures.

The effect of coefficient of variation of  $\phi$  values is shown in Figures 8 through 10.  $P_f$  versus  $F_p$  relationships for the minimum and maximum range of the variables are plotted. For lower values of  $\phi$  determination of  $cv_c$  and  $cv_\gamma$  should be more precise, whereas for higher values of  $\phi$ ,  $cv_\phi$  should be given more weightage compared to  $cv_c$  and  $cv_\gamma$ .

The bearing capacity factors for circular or square footings formulated in Equation 8 are checked for their distribution. These factors also are found to follow lognormal distribution. The shape factors  $\zeta_c$  and  $\zeta_q$  are taken to be functions of soil property  $\phi$ , whereas  $\zeta_\gamma$  is constant. In case



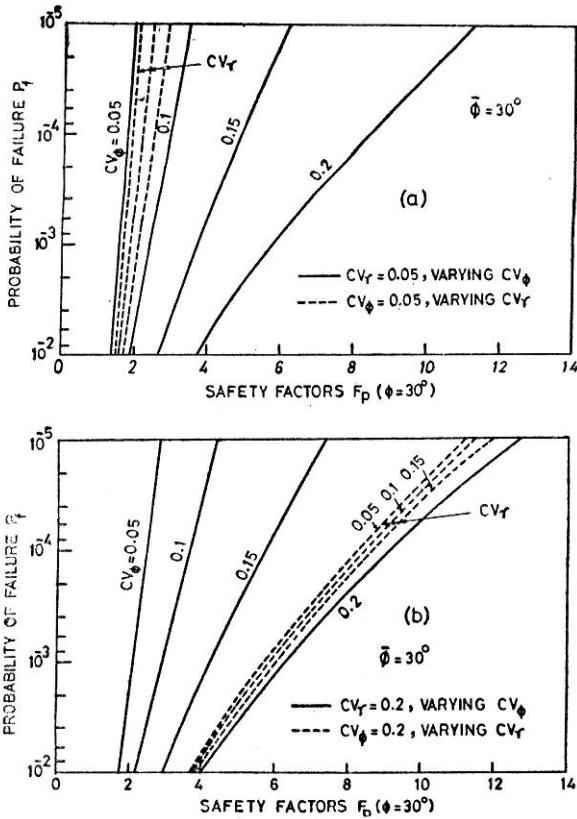


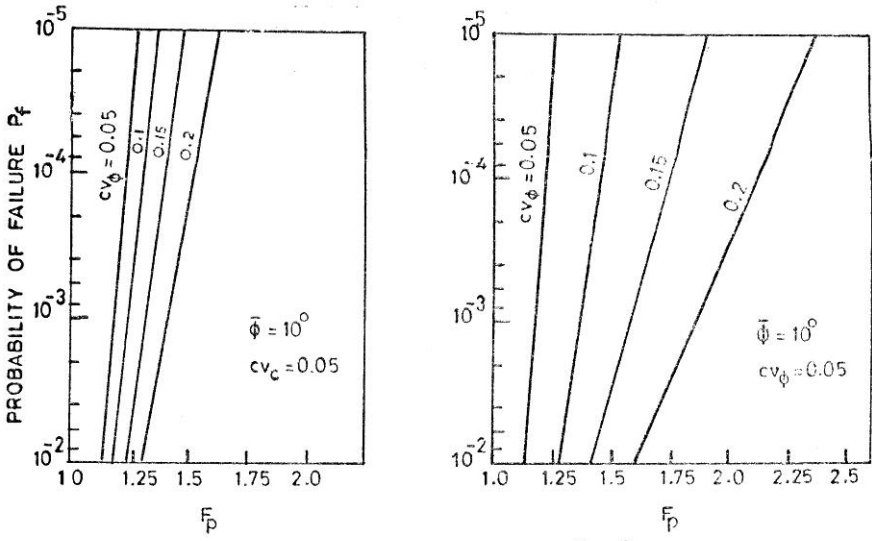
FIGURE 4 Partial safety factors  $R_q$  ( $\bar{\phi} = 30^\circ$ )

of square or circular footings the findings are similar to those observed in the case of strip footing.

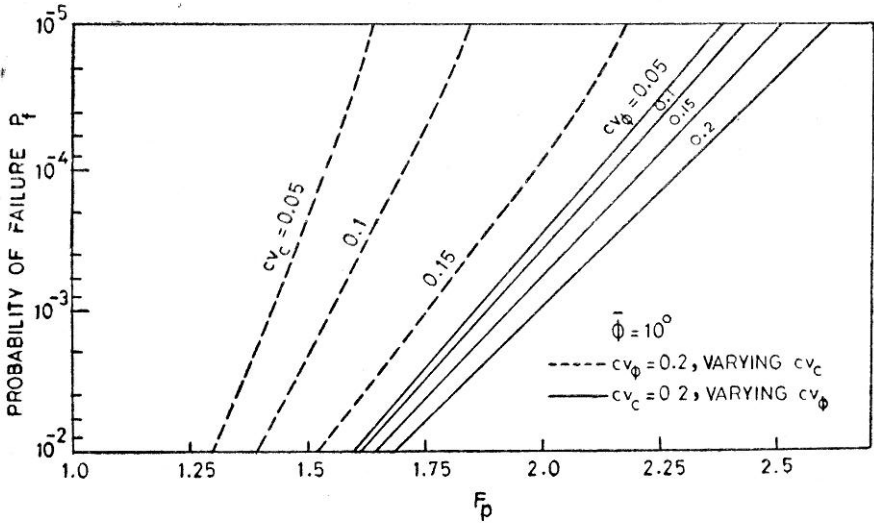
*Design Tables*

For ready use, it is preferred to present Tables 4-7 giving the partial safety factors for a wide range of  $cv$  and  $P_f$  values for the bearing capacity factors for strip and circular or square footings. For a given mean value of  $\phi$  Table 4 gives the mean values of the bearing capacity factors. These factors are similar to those used in the deterministic analysis for average value of  $\phi$ . For a given  $P_f$  and coefficients of variation of  $c$ ,  $\tan \phi$ , and  $\gamma$  the partial safety factors either of strip or circular and square footings are directly obtained from Table 5-7 and using Equation (12) the allowable load on the footing can be readily estimated.

The use of factor of safety (usually 2-3) in the conventional method gives equal weightages for uncertainty in  $N_c$ ,  $N_\gamma$ , and  $N_q$  terms. Such a method has certain limitations because as seen from the preceding discussions the effects of variations in the terms  $c$ ,  $\tan \phi$ , and  $\gamma$  are different on the terms  $R_c$ ,  $R_q$ , and  $R_\gamma$ . The present method based on probabilistic concept is believed to be more rational as it gives proper weightages depending upon the coefficients of variations of each design variable.



(a) PARTIAL SAFETY FACTORS FOR  $\bar{\phi} = 10^\circ$



(b) PARTIAL SAFETY FACTORS FOR  $\bar{\phi} = 10^\circ$

FIGURE 5 Partial safety factors for  $R_c$  ( $\bar{\phi} = 10^\circ$ )

*Example Problem*

A square isolated footing  $2m \times 2m$  rests in a soil at a depth of 1m. The average soil properties are  $c = 1 \text{ t/m}^2$ , unit weight  $= 1.8 \text{ t/m}^3$  and angle of shearing resistance  $\phi = 30^\circ$ .

(i) *Conventional Procedure*

As per the conventional procedure, ultimate bearing capacity of the footing is estimated using Equation (5.3) and equals,

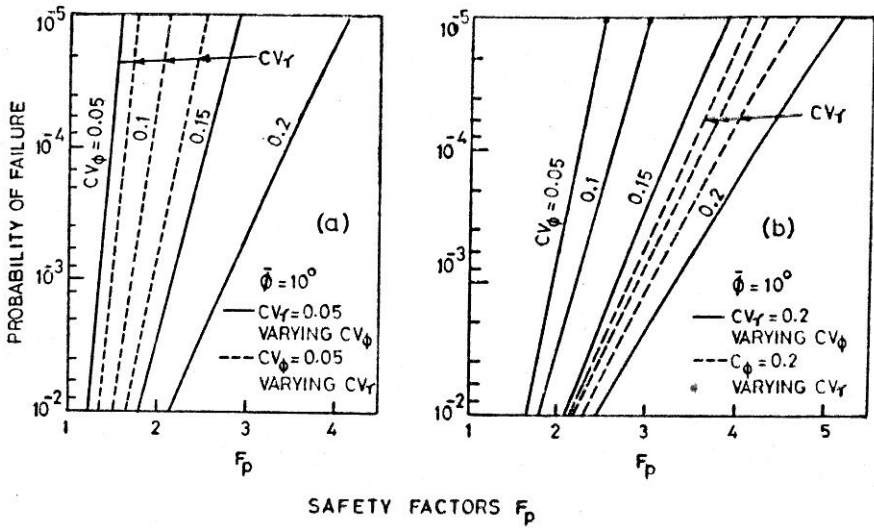


FIGURE 6 Partial safety factors for  $R_\gamma$  ( $\bar{\phi} = 10^\circ$ )

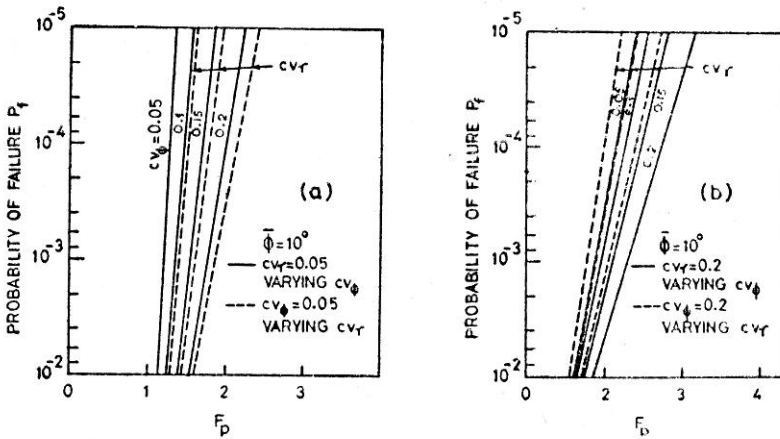


FIGURE 7 Partial safety factors  $R_q$  ( $\bar{\phi} = 10^\circ$ )

$$q_{ult} = 125.39 \text{ t/m}^2$$

Using a factor of safety of 3,

$$q_{all} = 41.80 \text{ t/m}^2.$$

The  $q_{all}$  determined does not convey any reliability or safety in quantitative terms.

(ii) Reliability Based Design Method

The coefficient of variation of soil properties  $cv_v$ ,  $cv_\phi$ , and  $cv_\gamma$  are taken equal to 0.1 (Here the values are selected arbitrarily; but in an actual field situation the values are determined in a rational way). Referring to Table 4 and 8 the partial safety factors are obtained and the

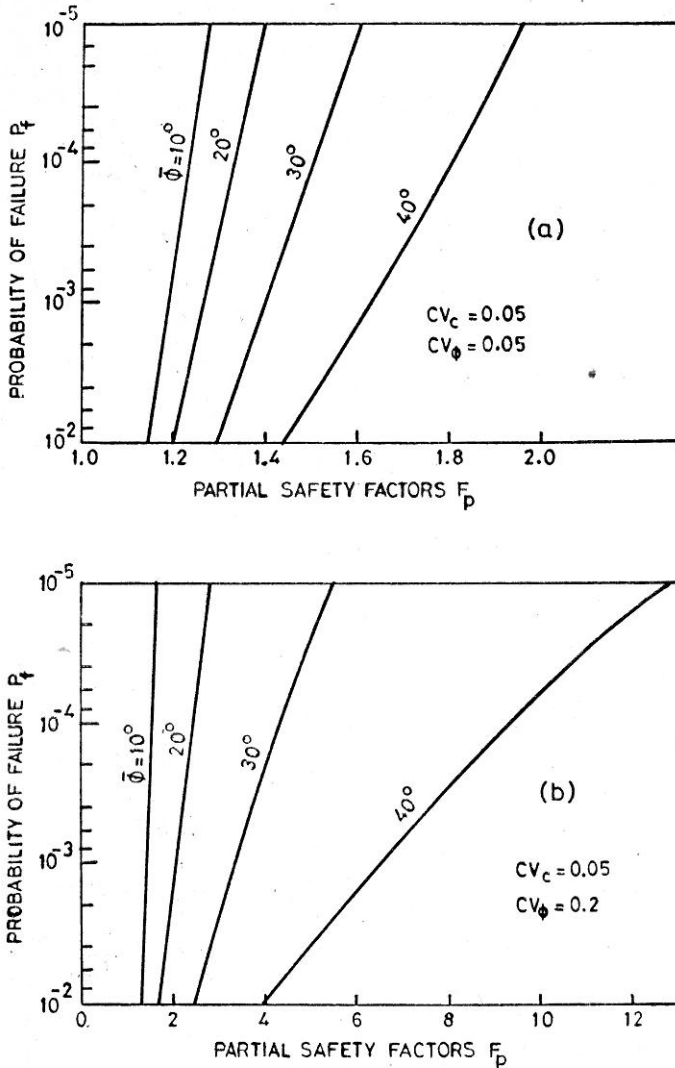


FIGURE 8 Effect of variation of  $CV_\phi$  on  $R_c$

allowable bearing capacity estimated for different levels of probability of failure as,

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_{all} &= 44.78 \text{ t/m}^2 \text{ for } P_f \text{ of } 10^{-3} \text{ i.e., } R_f = 99.9 \text{ per cent} \\
 &= 37.38 \text{ t/m}^2 \text{ for } P_f \text{ of } 10^{-4} \text{ i.e., } R_f = 99.99 \text{ per cent} \\
 &= 31.64 \text{ t/m}^2 \text{ for } P_f \text{ of } 10^{-5} \text{ i.e., } R_f = 99.999 \text{ per cent}
 \end{aligned}$$

The reliability based design method gives the allowable load for different levels of  $P_f$  quantifying the safety. The example, thus shows the advantage of the reliability based design method in predicting allowable bearing capacity of footings.

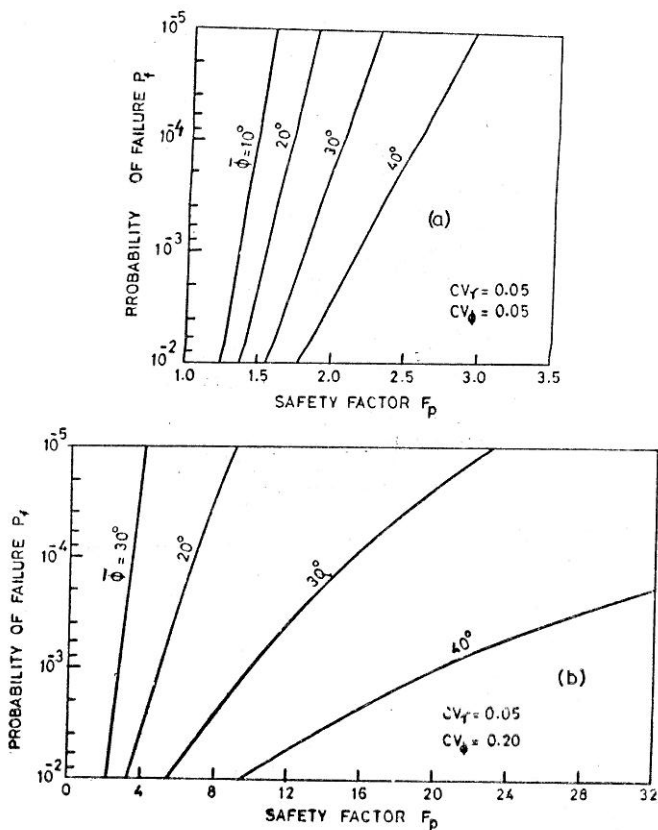

 FIGURE 9 Effect of  $CV_\phi$  on  $R_\gamma$ 

TABLE 1

 Standard Normal Variables Versus  $P_f$ 

(Ref. Benjamin and Cornell, 1970)

$P_f$ in per tent	Reliability in per cent	Standard Normal Variate
50	50	0
20	80	-0.85
15	85	-1.04
10	90	-1.28
1	99	-2.32
0.1	99.9	-3.09
0.01	99.99	-3.72
0.001	99.999	-4.27

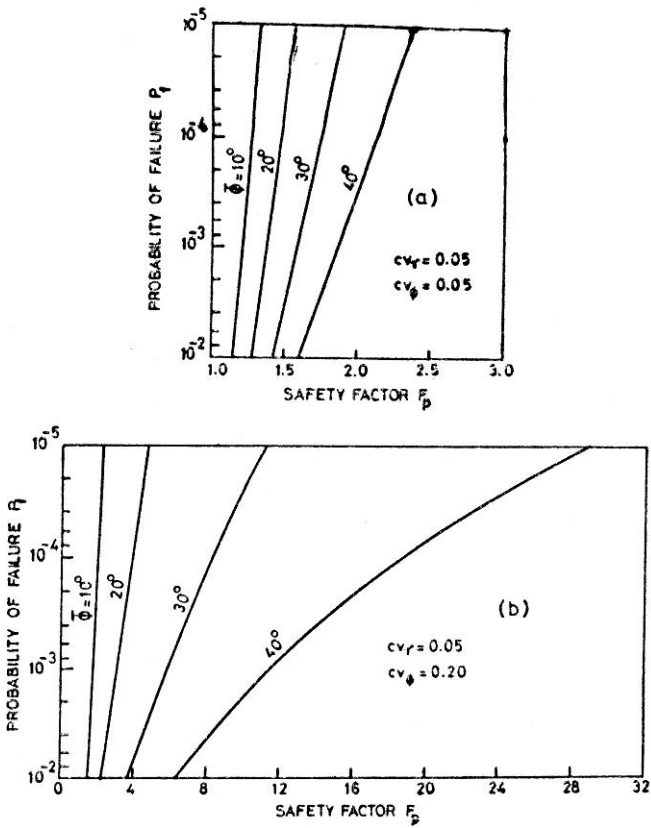


FIGURE 10 Effect of  $CV_\phi$  on  $R_q$

TABLE 2

Parameters And Their Ranges

Parameter	Range
(i) For footings on homogeneous soil	
$\phi$	10°–40°
$cv_c$ and $cv$	0.05–0.2
$cv_\phi$	0.05–0.2

TABLE 3  
 Comparison of Mean and Standard Deviations by Monte Carlo  
 and Partial Derivative Methods

$cv_c = 0.1$ ,  $cv_\gamma = 0.1$ , and  $cv_\phi = 0.1$

$\phi$	$R_c$				$R_\gamma$				$R_q$							
	Monte Carlo method $\bar{R}_c$	$\sigma R_c$	$\bar{R}_c$	$\sigma R_c$	Monte Carlo method $\bar{R}_\gamma$	$\sigma R_\gamma$	$\bar{R}_\gamma$	$\sigma R_\gamma$	PDM $\bar{R}_c$	$\sigma R_c$	PDM $\bar{R}_\gamma$	$\sigma R_\gamma$	Monte Carlo method $\bar{R}_q$	$\sigma R_q$	PDM $\bar{R}_q$	$\sigma R_q$
10°	8.30	0.96	8.34	0.94	1.21	0.24	1.22	0.23	2.46	0.34	2.47	0.33	2.46	0.34	2.47	0.33
20°	14.76	2.33	14.83	2.28	5.34	1.52	5.38	1.49	6.37	1.36	6.40	1.33	6.37	1.36	6.40	1.33
30°	30.02	6.81	30.13	6.67	22.22	8.62	22.40	8.52	18.26	5.75	18.40	5.49	18.26	5.75	18.40	5.49
40°	75.03	24.08	75.29	23.69	108.30	54.80	109.37	54.37	63.75	26.32	64.17	25.97	63.75	26.32	64.17	25.97

**TABLE 4**  
**Mean Values of Bearing Capacity Factors for Strip, Circular, and Square Footings**

	$\bar{R}_c$	$\bar{R}_c^*$	$\bar{R}_\gamma$	$\bar{R}_\gamma^*$	$\bar{R}_q$	$\bar{R}_q^*$
$\phi$	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square
10°	8.34	10.81	1.22	0.73	2.47	2.90
20°	14.83	21.23	5.38	3.17	6.40	8.73
30°	30.13	48.33	22.40	13.44	18.40	29.02
40°	75.29	139.46	109.37	65.62	64.17	118.02

### Conclusions

A reliability based design method has been presented for predicting bearing capacity of footings resting on homogeneous soil profile conditions. The necessity of the probabilistic analysis for predicting the bearing capacity arises because of the variation in soil properties. The conventional factor of safety does not convey reliability of the foundation quantitatively and due weightages should be given to variation of soil properties.

The bearing capacity factors are expressed as functions of mean value of angle of shearing resistance and variations of cohesion, tangent of angle of shearing resistance, and unit weight of the soil. Bearing capacity of strip, circular and square footings are evaluated.

The Monte Carlo method is used to generate a large number of samples, which are tested for the mode of distribution. It is observed that the bearing capacity factors follow lognormal distribution. The PDM is used to get the mean and standard deviation values of the functions for different sets of coefficients of variation. A close agreement is found between the results of the Monte Carlo simulation and PDM.

The partial safety factors suggested by Lumb (1970) are obtained to arrive at the values of allowable design loads for a given probability of failure. Higher values of coefficient of variation of the soil properties and lower values of probability of failure give rise to larger values of partial safety factors.

Design tables are presented for estimating the bearing capacity of footings resting on homogeneous soil. These tables given for a wide range of coefficients of variation and failure probability of  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-5}$  can readily be used. To highlight the investigation an example problem is solved which compares the deterministic and probabilistic approaches.



TABLE 5  
 Partial Safety Factors  
 (Angle of Shearing Resistance  $\phi = 10^\circ$ )

$cv_c$ or $cv_\gamma$	$cv_\phi$	Probability of Failure $P_f$							
		$10^{-2}$		$10^{-3}$		$10^{-4}$		$10^{-5}$	
		Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square
0.05	0.05	1.14*	1.14	1.19	1.20	1.23	1.24	1.27	1.28
		1.25**	1.25	1.35	1.35	1.43	1.43	1.51	1.51
		1.17+	1.18	1.23	1.25	1.28	1.31	1.33	1.36
	0.10	1.18	1.20	1.25	1.27	1.31	1.34	1.36	1.40
		1.49	2.16	2.79	2.79	3.44	3.44	4.13	4.13
		1.27	1.31	1.37	1.43	1.47	1.54	1.55	1.64
	0.20	1.30	1.35	1.42	1.50	1.53	1.62	1.63	1.74
		2.16	2.16	2.79	2.79	3.44	3.44	4.13	4.13
		1.54	1.65	1.78	1.95	2.00	2.23	2.22	2.52
0.1	0.05	1.27	1.27	1.38	1.38	1.47	1.47	1.55	1.56
		1.35	1.35	1.49	1.49	1.62	1.62	1.74	1.74
		1.29	1.30	1.40	1.42	1.50	1.52	1.60	1.62
	0.10	1.30	1.31	1.41	1.43	1.52	1.54	1.62	1.65
		1.56	1.56	1.81	1.81	2.04	2.04	2.27	2.27
		1.37	1.40	1.52	1.57	1.65	1.71	1.78	1.86
	0.20	1.39	1.44	1.56	1.65	1.70	1.79	1.84	1.95
		2.22	2.22	2.89	2.89	3.58	3.58	4.33	4.33
		1.61	1.72	1.89	2.05	2.15	2.38	2.41	2.70
0.2	0.05	1.60	1.60	1.86	1.87	2.12	2.12	2.37	2.37
		1.65	1.95	1.95	2.23	2.23	2.52	2.52	2.52
		1.61	1.62	1.88	1.89	2.14	2.16	2.40	2.42
	0.10	1.61	1.62	1.89	1.91	2.16	2.17	2.41	2.44
		1.82	1.82	2.22	2.22	2.62	2.62	3.02	3.02
		1.66	1.69	1.97	2.01	2.26	2.32	2.55	2.62
	0.20	1.68	1.72	2.00	2.06	2.31	2.38	2.61	2.71
		2.44	2.44	3.28	3.28	4.18	4.18	5.16	5.16
		1.87	1.96	2.30	3.45	2.72	2.94	3.16	3.45

\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_c$  and  $R_c^*$

\*\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_\gamma$  and  $R_\gamma^*$

+Safety factor to be used with  $R_q$  and  $R_q^*$

TABLE 6

## Partial Safety Factors

(Angle of Shearing Resistance  $\phi = 20^\circ$ )

$cv_c$ or $cv_\gamma$	$cv_\phi$	Probability of Failure $P_f$							
		$10^{-2}$		$10^{-3}$		$10^{-4}$		$10^{-5}$	
		Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square
0.05	0.05	1.19*	1.22	1.27	1.30	1.33	1.37	1.39	1.43
		1.38**	1.38	1.53	1.53	1.67	1.67	1.80	1.80
		1.27+	1.31	1.38	1.43	1.47	1.54	1.56	1.64
	0.10	1.34	1.40	1.48	1.57	1.60	1.72	1.70	1.86
		1.84	1.84	2.25	2.25	2.66	2.66	3.07	3.07
		1.55	1.65	1.80	1.95	2.02	2.23	2.25	2.51
0.20	1.74	1.90	2.09	2.36	2.43	2.81	2.77	3.27	
	3.30	3.33	4.96	4.96	6.88	6.88	9.15	9.15	
	2.35	2.66	3.13	3.68	3.94	4.80	4.83	6.06	
0.10	0.05	1.30	1.32	1.43	1.45	1.54	1.57	1.64	1.68
		1.46	1.46	1.66	1.66	1.83	1.83	2.01	2.01
		1.37	1.40	1.52	1.56	1.65	1.71	1.78	1.86
	0.10	1.43	1.48	1.61	1.68	1.77	1.88	1.93	2.06
		1.90	1.90	2.35	2.35	2.80	2.80	3.26	3.26
		1.62	1.71	1.90	2.05	2.17	2.37	2.43	2.69
0.20	1.80	1.96	2.19	2.46	2.57	2.92	2.95	3.46	
	3.39	3.39	5.07	5.07	7.07	7.07	9.44	9.44	
	2.41	2.72	3.22	3.78	4.10	4.96	5.04	6.29	
0.20	0.05	1.62	1.63	1.90	1.92	2.17	2.19	2.43	2.46
		1.74	1.74	2.09	2.09	2.42	2.42	2.76	2.76
		1.66	1.67	1.97	2.01	2.27	2.32	2.56	2.62
	0.10	1.71	1.75	2.04	2.11	2.37	2.46	2.69	2.81
		2.13	2.13	2.74	2.74	3.37	3.37	4.03	4.03
		1.87	1.96	2.31	2.45	2.74	2.94	3.18	3.44
0.20	2.04	2.19	2.58	2.85	3.14	3.52	3.71	4.24	
	3.61	3.61	5.53	5.53	7.84	7.84	10.63	10.63	
	2.63	2.93	3.62	4.20	4.71	5.62	5.92	7.26	

\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_c$  and  $R_c^*$ \*\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_\gamma$  and  $R_\gamma^*$ +Safety factor to be used with  $R_q$  and  $R_q^*$

TABLE 7  
 Partial Safety Factors  
 (Angle of Shearing Resistance  $\phi = 30^\circ$ )

$cv_c$ or $cv_\gamma$	$cv_\phi$	Probability of Failure							
		$10^{-2}$		$10^{-3}$		$10^{-4}$		$10^{-5}$	
		Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square	Strip	Circle or square
0.05	0.05	1.29*	1.34	1.41	1.47	1.51	1.59	1.60	1.71
		1.55**	1.55	1.80	1.80	2.03	2.03	2.25	2.25
		1.41+	1.47	1.59	1.67	1.74	1.86	1.89	2.04
	0.10	1.60	1.72	1.88	2.06	2.13	2.39	2.39	2.72
		2.36	2.36	3.14	3.14	3.96	3.96	4.86	4.86
		1.94	2.11	2.42	2.70	2.89	2.31	3.39	3.95
	0.20	2.52	2.91	3.42	4.16	4.40	5.16	5.48	7.17
		5.51	5.51	9.70	9.70	15.42	15.42	23.11	23.11
		3.71	4.39	5.73	7.18	8.18	10.73	11.16	15.24
0.10	0.05	1.39	1.42	1.54	1.60	1.69	1.76	1.82	1.91
		1.62	1.62	1.91	1.91	2.17	2.17	2.44	2.44
		1.49	1.55	1.70	1.79	1.90	2.01	2.09	2.23
	0.10	1.67	1.79	1.98	2.17	2.28	2.54	2.57	2.91
		2.42	2.42	3.24	3.24	4.11	4.11	5.07	5.07
		2.00	2.17	2.52	2.80	3.04	3.45	3.58	4.15
	0.20	2.57	2.97	3.52	4.26	4.55	5.73	5.70	7.42
		5.57	5.57	9.86	9.86	15.72	15.72	23.62	23.62
		3.77	4.45	5.85	7.31	8.38	10.96	11.48	15.62
0.20	0.05	1.68	1.71	1.99	2.04	2.29	2.36	2.59	2.68
		1.88	1.88	2.31	2.31	2.74	2.74	3.19	3.19
		1.76	1.81	2.13	2.26	2.48	2.59	2.84	2.98
	0.10	1.92	2.03	2.39	2.56	2.84	3.10	3.33	3.67
		2.64	2.64	3.64	3.64	4.73	4.73	5.95	5.95
		2.23	2.39	2.91	3.19	3.61	4.04	4.37	4.97
	0.20	2.79	3.19	3.93	4.49	5.16	6.43	6.62	8.47
		5.84	5.84	10.48	10.48	16.93	16.93	25.72	25.72
		4.00	4.70	6.33	7.84	9.22	11.94	12.84	17.25

\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_c$  and  $R_c^*$

\*\*Safety factor to be used with  $R_\gamma$  and  $R_\gamma^*$

+Safety factor to be used with  $R_q$  and  $R_q^*$

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## Notation

Bar signifies mean; suffix of a variable corresponds to the parameter defined.

- $B$  = width of footing
- $C$  = cohesion
- $CV$  = coefficient of variation
- $D_f$  = depth of footing

$F_p$	= partial safety factors
$N_c, N_q, N_\gamma$	= bearing capacity factors
$P_f$	= probability of failure
$q_{ult}$	= ultimate bearing capacity
$R$	= resistance developed
$R_f$	= reliability of foundation
$S$	= load applied on the footing
$x$	= random variable
$Y$	= cumulative distribution function
$\gamma$	= unit weight
$\zeta_c, \zeta_q, \zeta_\gamma$	= shape factors
$\sigma$	= standard deviation
$\phi$	= angle of shearing resistance
$\zeta$	= standard normal variate