

# Terramechanics 2

- Soil bearing parameters
- Bulldozing
- Tandem wheels



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UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

**Terramechanics**  
**ENAE 788X - Planetary Surface Robotics**

# Terzaghi Soil Bearing Capacity Factors

$$N_q = \frac{\exp \left[ \left( \frac{3\pi}{2} - \phi \right) \tan \phi \right]}{2 \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\phi}{2} \right)}$$

$$N_c = \cot \phi \left\{ \frac{\exp \left[ \left( \frac{3\pi}{2} - \phi \right) \tan \phi \right]}{2 \cos^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\phi}{2} \right)} - 1 \right\} = \cot \phi (N_q - 1)$$

$$N_\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{K_{p\gamma}}{\cos^2 \phi} - 1 \right) \tan \phi$$

$$K_{p\gamma} = (8\phi^2 - 4\phi + 3.8) \tan^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{\phi}{2} \right)$$



$K_c$   $\equiv$  Modulus of density of soil deformation

$$K_c = (N_c - \tan \phi) \cos^2 \phi$$

$K_\gamma$   $\equiv$  Modulus of cohesion of soil deformation

$$K_\gamma = \left[ \frac{2N_\gamma}{\tan \phi} + 1 \right] \cos^2 \phi$$

$\alpha$   $\equiv$  Angle of approach of wheel to soil

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{2z}{D} \right)$$

$\gamma$   $\equiv$  Weight density of soil  $\left( \frac{N}{m^3} \right)$



# Soil Bearing Limit

Safe weight on the soil

$$W_s = A \left( cN_c + \gamma z N_q + \frac{1}{2} \gamma b N_\gamma \right)$$

$c \equiv$  Soil cohesion ( $Pa$ )

$b \equiv$  Wheel width ( $m$ )



# Bulldozing Resistance

General case:

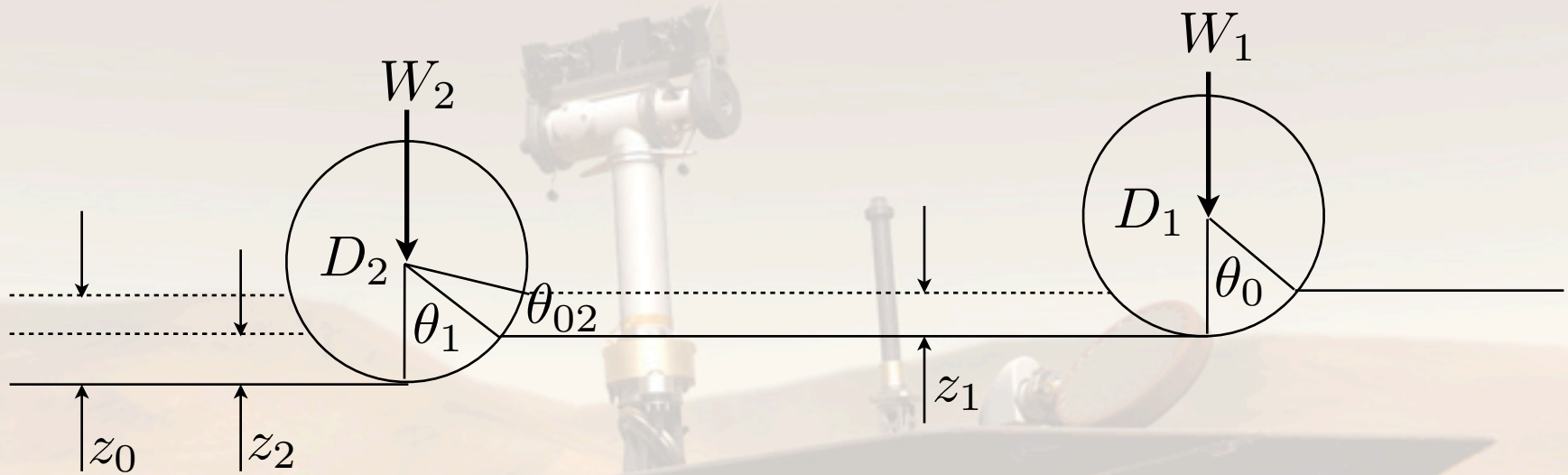
$$R_b = \frac{b \sin(\alpha + \phi)}{2 \sin \alpha \cos \phi} (2zcK_c + \gamma z^2 K_\gamma) + \frac{\pi \ell_o^3 \gamma (\frac{\pi}{2} - \phi)}{3\pi} + \frac{c\pi \ell_o^2}{\pi} + c\ell_o^2 \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$
$$\ell_o = z \tan^2\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$

For tracked vehicles, only the first term applies:

$$R_b = \frac{b \sin(\alpha + \phi)}{2 \sin \alpha \cos \phi} (2zcK_c + \gamma z^2 K_\gamma)$$



# Tandem Wheels



$$z_0 = z_1 + z_2$$

$$\text{Assume } n = \frac{1}{2} \implies P = k\sqrt{z}$$

$$P_1 = k\sqrt{z_1}$$

$$P_2 = k\sqrt{z_1 + z_2}$$



# Soil Weight Bearing Analysis

In general,

$$W = \int_0^{\theta_0} dF \cos \theta = \int_0^{\theta_0} P b \, ds \cos \theta$$

$$W = \int_0^{\theta_0} b k \sqrt{z} \cos \theta \, ds$$

$$ds = r \, d\theta \quad z = r(\cos \theta - \cos \theta_0)$$

$$W = \int_0^{\theta_0} b k r \sqrt{r(\cos \theta - \cos \theta_0)} \cos \theta \, d\theta$$



# Generic Wheel Soil Suspension

Assuming small sinkage,

$z \rightarrow$  small,  $\theta \rightarrow$  small,

$$\cos \theta \approx 1 \quad \cos \theta d\theta \approx d\theta$$

$$\cos \theta \approx 1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2} + (\text{higher order terms})$$

$$W = \frac{bkr^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^{\theta_0} \sqrt{\theta_0^2 - \theta^2} d\theta$$

$$W = \frac{bkr^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{2} \left[ \theta_0^2 \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{\theta}{\theta_0} \right) + \theta \sqrt{\theta_0^2 - \theta^2} \right]_0^{\theta_0}$$





# Weight on the Front Wheel

$$W = \frac{\pi b k r^{3/2}}{4\sqrt{2}} \theta_0^2$$

Front wheel:  $z_1 = r_1 - r_1 \cos \theta_0$

$$z_1 = r_1 - r_1 \left( 1 - \frac{\theta_0^2}{2} + \dots \right) \implies \theta_0^2 \cong 2 \frac{z_1}{r_1}$$

$$W_1 \cong \frac{\pi b k z_1 \sqrt{r_1}}{2\sqrt{2}}$$



# Weight on Back Wheel

Change to limits of integration:

$$0 \longrightarrow \theta_0, \quad r \longrightarrow r_2$$

$$W_2 = \frac{bkr_2^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^{\theta_0} \sqrt{\theta_{02}^2 - \theta^2} d\theta$$

$$\sqrt{\theta_{02}^2 - \theta^2} \cong \theta_{02} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\theta^2}{\theta_{02}^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$\int_0^{\theta_0} \sqrt{\theta_{02}^2 - \theta^2} d\theta \cong \theta_{02}\theta_1 - \frac{1}{6} \frac{\theta_1^3}{\theta_{02}} = \theta_{02}\theta_1 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{6} \frac{\theta_1^2}{\theta_{02}^2} \right) \cong \theta_{02}\theta_1$$



# Weight on Back Wheel

$$W_2 = \frac{bkr^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}} \theta_{02} \theta_1$$

$$z_0 \cong r_2 \frac{\theta_{02}^2}{2}$$

$$z_2 \cong r_2 \frac{\theta_1^2}{2}$$

$$\theta_{02} \cong \sqrt{2 \frac{z_0}{r_2}}$$

$$\theta_1 \cong \sqrt{2 \frac{z_2}{r_2}}$$

$$W_2 = bk\sqrt{2r_2}\sqrt{z_0z_2}$$



# Track Depth of Tandem Wheels

$$\text{Front: } z_1 = \frac{2\sqrt{2}W_1}{\pi bk\sqrt{r_1}}$$

$$\text{Back: } z_2 = \left[ \frac{W_2}{bk\sqrt{2r_2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{z_0}} \right]^2$$

$$z_0 = z_1 + z_2 = \frac{2\sqrt{2}W_1}{\pi bk\sqrt{r_1}} + \frac{W_2^2}{(bk)^2 2r_2} \frac{1}{z_0}$$

Much algebra then ensues...

$$z_0^2 - \frac{2\sqrt{2}W_1}{\pi bk\sqrt{r_1}} z_0 + \frac{W_2^2}{(bk)^2 2r_2} = 0$$



# Rolling Resistance of Tandem Wheels

Solve the quadratic equation to get

$$z_0 = \frac{1}{bk} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}W_1}{\pi\sqrt{r_1}} + \sqrt{\frac{2W_1^2}{\pi^2 r_1} + \frac{W_2^2}{2r_2}} \right)$$

This was all done for  $n = \frac{1}{2} \implies R = \frac{2}{3}bkz_0^{3/2}$

$$R = \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{bk}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}W_1}{\pi\sqrt{r_1}} + \sqrt{\frac{2W_1^2}{\pi^2 r_1} + \frac{W_2^2}{2r_2}} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$R = \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{bk}} \left( \frac{2W_1}{\pi\sqrt{D_1}} + \sqrt{\frac{4W_1^2}{\pi^2 D_1} + \frac{W_2^2}{D_2}} \right)^{3/2}$$



# Nondimensional Forms

Total wheel load  $W = W_1 + W_2$       Wheel weight ratio  $a \equiv \frac{W_1}{W_2}$

$$\text{For } W_1 = W_2 = \frac{W}{2} \implies a = 1$$

$$W_1 = \frac{a}{1+a}W \quad W_2 = \frac{1}{1+a}W$$

$$R = \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{(a+1)^{3/2}} \frac{W^{3/2}}{\sqrt{bk}} \left( \frac{2a}{\pi\sqrt{D_1}} + \sqrt{\frac{4a^2}{\pi^2 D_1} + \frac{1}{D_2}} \right)^{3/2}$$

Define wheel diameter ratio  $\rho \equiv \frac{D_1}{D_2}$



# Nondimensional Forms

$$R = \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{(a+1)^{3/2}} \frac{W^{3/2}}{D_2^{3/4} \sqrt{bk}} \left( \frac{2a}{\pi \sqrt{\rho}} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4a^2}{\pi^2 \rho}} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\text{Let } \xi \equiv \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{(a+1)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{2a}{\pi \sqrt{\rho}} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4a^2}{\pi^2 \rho}} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$R = \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{bk}} \frac{W^{3/2}}{D_2^{3/4}}$$



# Simple Example Case

Consider  $\rho = 1$  ( $D_1 = D_2 = D$ )

$$a = 1 \left( W_1 = W_2 = \frac{W}{2} \right)$$

For tandem wheels,  $R = \frac{0.580 W^{3/2}}{\sqrt{bk} D_2^{3/4}}$

For single wheel ( $n=1/2$ ),  $R = \frac{0.876 W^{3/2}}{\sqrt{bk} D_2^{3/4}}$

Tandem wheels reduce rolling resistance by 34%





# Dual Wheels

Equivalent to single wheel case twice as wide  $b \implies 2b$

$$R = \frac{0.876}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{bk}} \frac{W^{3/2}}{D_2^{3/4}}$$

$$R_{dual} = \frac{0.619}{\sqrt{bk}} \frac{W^{3/2}}{D_2^{3/4}}$$

Dual wheel rolling resistance 29% less than single,

7% higher than tandem



# ATHLETE in Partial Gravity Suspension



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