

LOADTEST

Split Lateral Testing with O-Cell® Technology



INTRODUCTION

The O-cell method for testing the lateral stiffness of soil surrounding a foundation element provides numerous advantages over conventional lateral loading tests. This provides effectively the same results as a Goodman Jack but loading the full diameter of the foundation element.



Two 16 MN O-cells used to test the lateral stiffness of the Cooper Marl (between 19-21 m depth) on a 2400 mm pile for the Cooper River Bridge.

DESCRIPTION

An O-cell assembly is cast within a section of the test shaft, with the axis of the cell perpendicular to the axis of the shaft. When the O-cell is pressurized, each “semi-cylinder” is loaded laterally from within, against the surrounding soil or rock formation. Where multiple O-cells are used along the axis of the pile, the test can be conducted by adjusting the load of each cell so that approximately the same expansion occurs along the length of the test element at each loading interval.

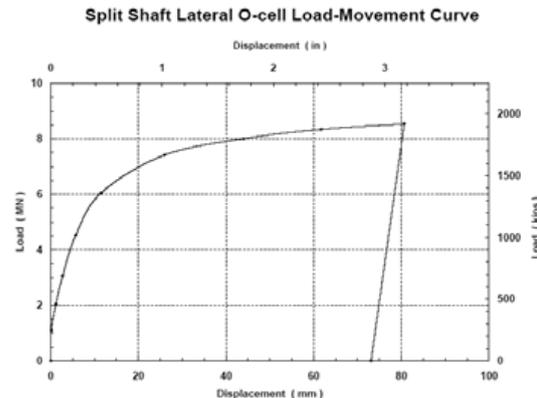
In general, the split cylinder test is not carried out in the same manner as a typical lateral load test would be performed. It should be appreciated that the loads are being applied directly to the selected zone of interest and the results not influenced by elastic lateral deformation. At each increment, load and lateral displacement are recorded and the data is tabulated and plotted for use by the engineer.



A 27MN O-cell used to test a 1500 mm long by 1200 mm diameter rock socket. Bearing plates are greased along the inside plane to facilitate concrete de-bonding.

RESULTS

The information obtained from the split-cylinder lateral test consists primarily of load and displacement data. Since the load is being applied at the actual location of the zone of interest, the approximate $p-y$ relationships for the material may be obtained directly from the data presented in the report.



Typical data presentation of lateral load movement of each shaft element.

APPLICATIONS

The O-cell method is well suited for any size and capacity drilled shaft or pile, for tests both on land and off-shore.



An O-cell assembly is prepared for installation using two 4 MN O-cells for use in a 1200 mm diameter shaft.

LOAD RANGE

Shaft/pile diameter permitting, split-cylinder lateral tests may be performed over a wide range of loads: from 1 MN to 27 MN using a single O-cell. With multiple O-cells, the vertical length of the tested zone can be increased and larger loads may be applied (Non-cylindrical elements can also be tested).

