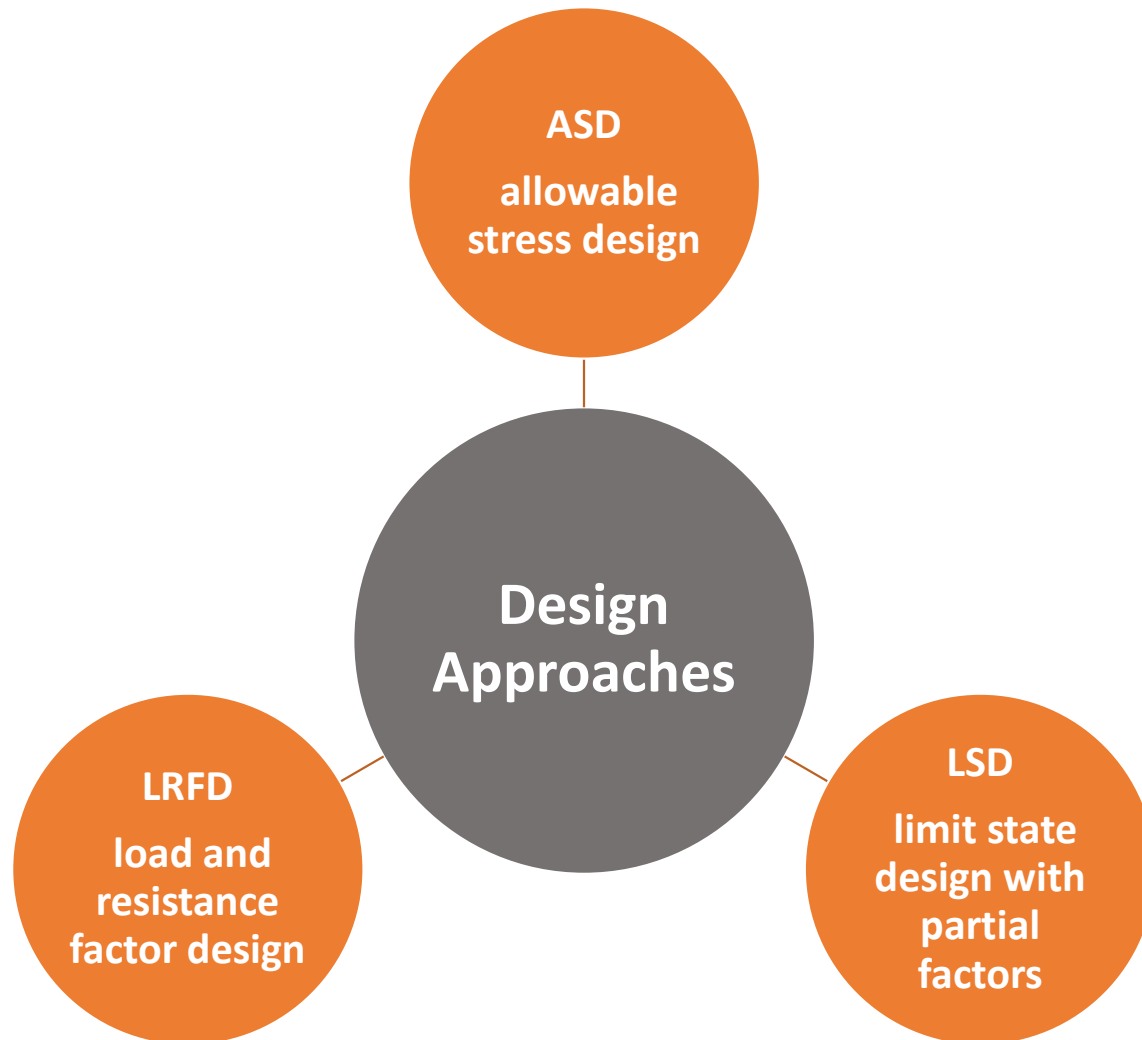


# **LRFD DESIGN OF PILES USING RSPILE SOFTWARE**

Ahmed Al-Mufti, Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Senior Geomechanics Specialist, Rocscience Inc.

STGEC 15-18 September 2025  
Williamsburg, VA, USA



# Capacity Calculations

LRFD Method US and Canada  
AASHTO, FHWA, ACI and DOTs

Calculate each soil resistance  
Apply different resistance factors on resistances based on soil type and methods used for calculation and installation, get  $R_i$   
Apply load factors on loads, get factored loads  $Q_i$   
Check  $Q_i < \text{summation of } R_i$

Limit State Design EC7

Apply factors to material properties  $\gamma_m$  such as  $c$  and  $\phi$   
Get Resistance  $R$   
Apply load factors on loads,  $\gamma_F$   
Get the applied factored loads  $E$   
Check  $E < R$

ASD Method, old BS8004 and many local codes around the world

Apply no factors and get ultimate resistance  $Q_s$  and  $Q_b$   
Apply FS1, FS2 or FS3 and FS4 and get  $Q_{all}$   
Check  $Q_{applied} < Q_{all}$

# Analysis for structural design

LRFD Method US and Canada  
AASHTO, FHWA, ACI and DOTs

Calculate each soil T-z Q-z  
or P-y  
Analyze sections as their  
code-based stress strain  
relations (such as for  
concrete and steel).  
Analyze for response using  
elastic or FEM methods.

Use resulted  $M_u, V_u, P_u$  directly  
for structural design as factored  
actions on sections.  
 $M_u < \phi M_n, P_u < \phi P_n, V_u < \phi V_n$   
etc..

Limit State Design EC7

Apply factors to material  
properties  $\gamma_m$  such as  $E, c$   
and  $\phi$ ,  
Apply load factors on loads,  
 $\gamma F$   
Analyze for response using  
elastic or FEM methods.

Use resulted  $M_u, V_u, P_u$  directly  
for structural design as factored  
actions on sections.  
 $M_u < \phi M_n, P_u < \phi P_n, V_u < \phi V_n$   
etc..

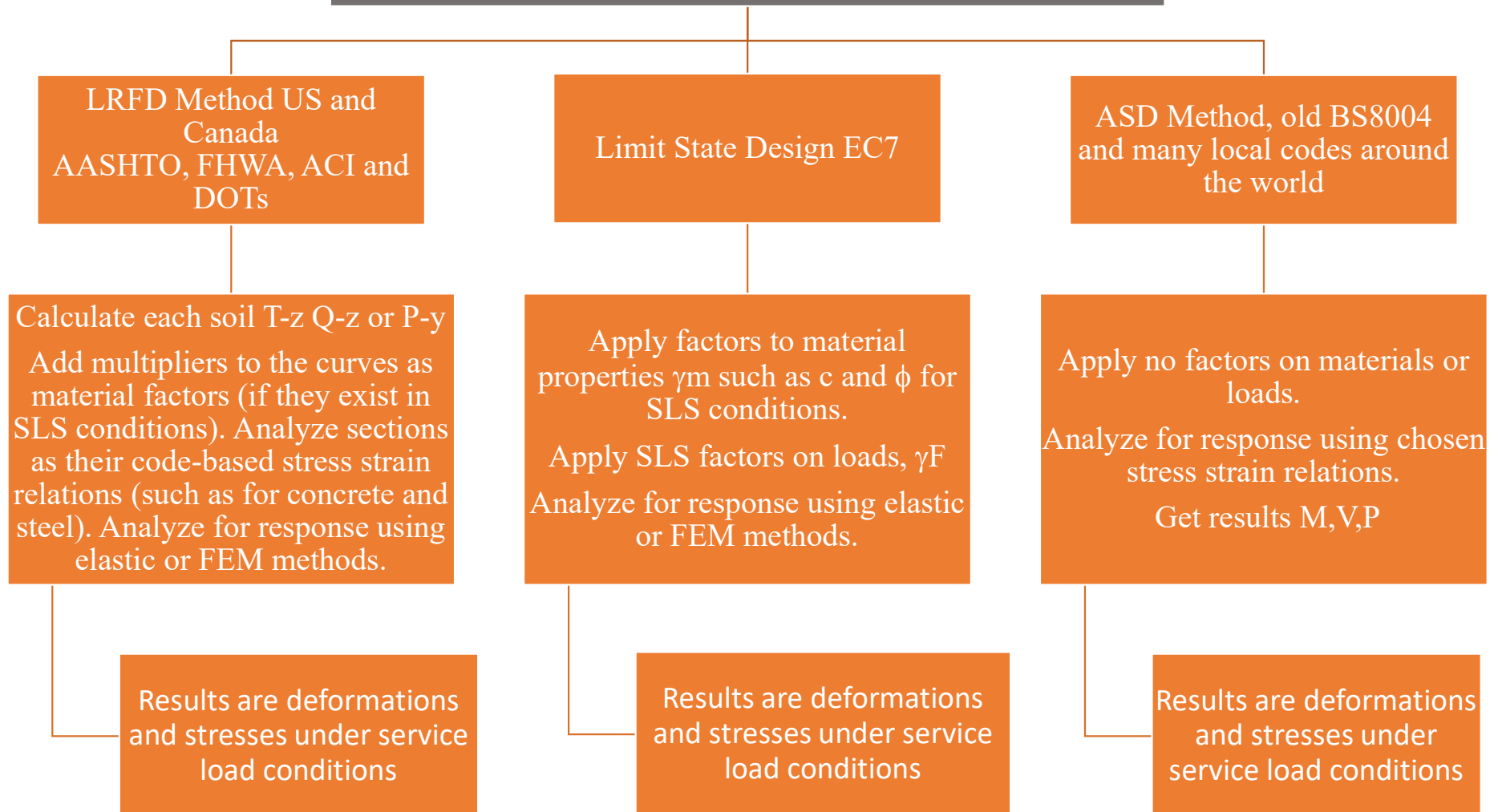
ASD Method, old BS8004 and  
many local codes around the world

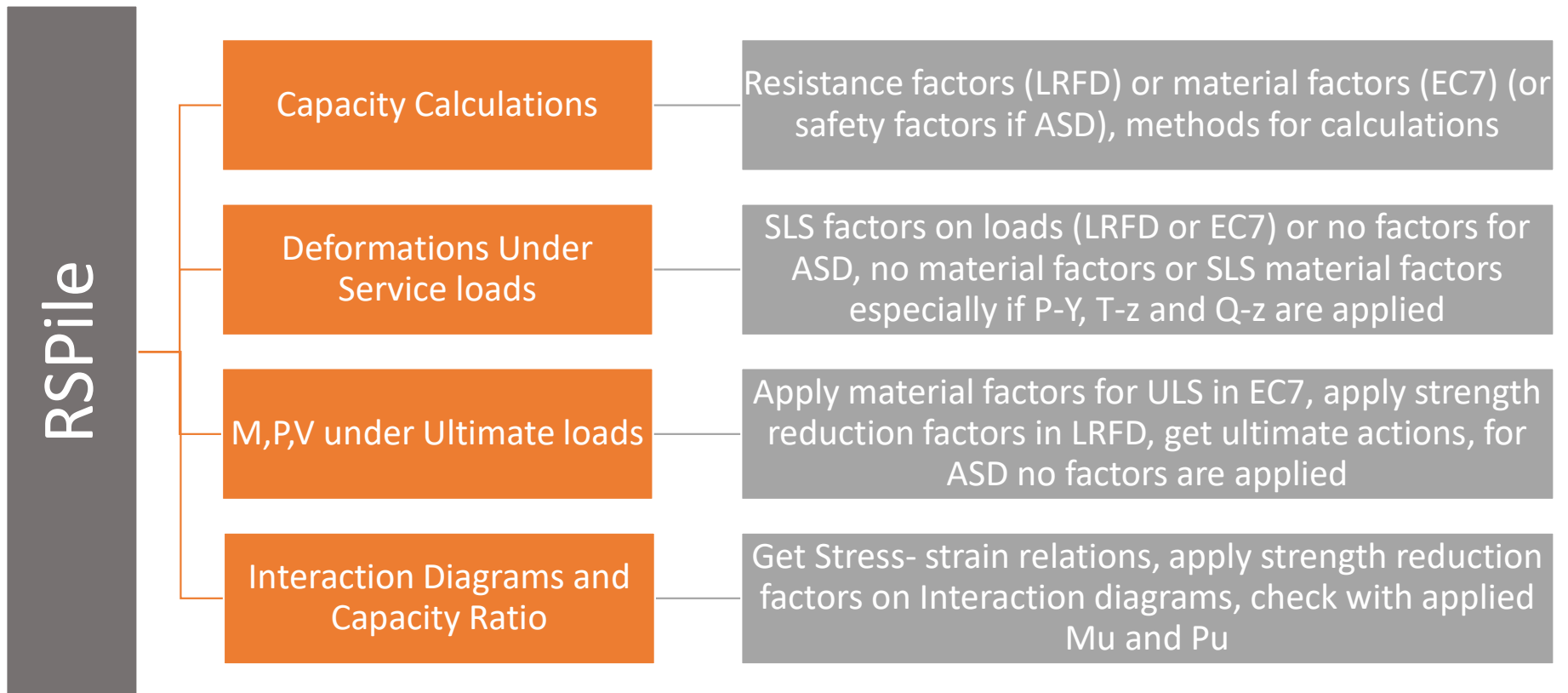
Apply no factors on  
materials or loads.  
Analyze for response using  
chosen stress strain  
relations.  
Get results  $M, V, P$

Apply average load factors to  
resulted  $M, V, P$  for structural  
design as factored actions on  
sections  $M_u, P_u, V_u$ .  
 $M_u < \phi M_n, P_u < \phi P_n, V_u < \phi V_n$   
etc..

Assuming working stress  
design is obsolete

# Analysis for deformations at service loads





$$\sum \eta_i \gamma_i Q_{ni} \leq \varphi R$$

where

$\gamma_i$  is a load factor for the load case  $i$  specified for the  
load case in the load combination of  $i$  cases

$Q_{ni}$  is the nominal load of case  $i$

$R$  is the nominal resistance estimated by traditional  
theoretical, or empirical methods or from a load test

$\varphi$  is a resistance factor specified by the local code of practice

$\eta_i$  is a ductility factor that gives weight to different load cases

for groups:

$$\sum \gamma_i Q_{ni} \leq \varphi \sum \eta R_j$$

Table 3.4.1-1—Load Combinations and Load Factors

Load Combination Limit State	DC DD DW EH EV ES EL PS CR SH	LL IM CE BR PL LS	WA	WS	WL	FR	TU	TG	SE	Use One of These at a Time				
										EQ	BL	IC	CT	CV
Strength I (unless noted)	$\gamma_p$	1.75	1.00	—	—	1.00	0.50/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Strength II	$\gamma_p$	1.35	1.00	—	—	1.00	0.50/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Strength III	$\gamma_p$	—	1.00	1.00	—	1.00	0.50/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Strength IV	$\gamma_p$	—	1.00	—	—	1.00	0.50/1.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strength V	$\gamma_p$	1.35	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Extreme Event I	1.00	$\gamma_{EQ}$	1.00	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
Extreme Event II	1.00	0.50	1.00	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	—	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Service I	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Service II	1.00	1.30	1.00	—	—	1.00	1.00/1.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Service III	1.00	$\gamma_{LL}$	1.00	—	—	1.00	1.00/1.20	$\gamma_{TG}$	$\gamma_{SE}$	—	—	—	—	—
Service IV	1.00	—	1.00	1.00	—	1.00	1.00/1.20	—	1.00	—	—	—	—	—
Fatigue I— LL, IM & CE only	—	1.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fatigue II— LL, IM & CE only	—	0.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note: For Service I, the load factor for EV equals 1.2 for Stiffness Method Soil Failure as shown in Table 3.4.1-2.



Table 10.5.5.2.3-1—Resistance Factors for Driven Piles

Condition/Resistance Determination Method		Resistance Factor
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Dynamic Analysis and Static Load Test Methods, $\phi_{dm}$	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition and dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.80
	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition without dynamic testing	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing* conducted on 100% of production piles	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing*, quality control by dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.65
	Wave equation analysis, without pile dynamic measurements or load test but with field confirmation of hammer performance	0.50
	FHWA-modified Gates dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.40
	Engineering News (as defined in Article 10.7.3.8.5) dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.10
	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Clay and Mixed Soils	
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Static Analysis Methods, $\phi_{nat}$	$\alpha$ -method (Tomlinson, 1987; Skempton, 1951)	0.35
	$\beta$ -method (Esrig & Kirby, 1979; Skempton, 1951)	0.25
	$\lambda$ -method (Vijayvergiya & Focht, 1972; Skempton, 1951)	0.40
	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Sand	
	Nordlund/Thurman Method (Hannigan et al., 2005)	0.45
	SPT-method (Meyerhof)	0.30

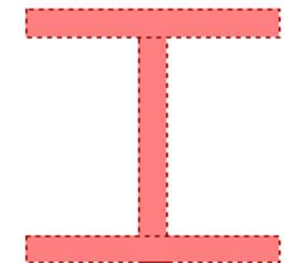
	CPT-method (Schmertmann)	0.50
	End bearing in rock (Canadian Geotech. Society, 1985)	0.45
Block Failure, $\phi_{b1}$	Clay	0.60
Uplift Resistance of Single Piles, $\phi_{up}$	Nordlund Method	0.35
	$\alpha$ -method	0.25
	$\beta$ -method	0.20
	$\lambda$ -method	0.30
	SPT-method	0.25
	CPT-method	0.40
	Static load test	0.60
Group Uplift Resistance, $\phi_{ug}$	Dynamic test with signal matching	0.50
Lateral Geotechnical Resistance of Single Pile or Pile Group	All soils	0.50
	All soils and rock	1.0
Structural Limit State	Steel piles	See the provisions of Article 6.5.4.2
	Concrete piles	See the provisions of Article 5.5.4.2
	Timber piles	See the provisions of Articles 8.5.2.2 and 8.5.2.3
Pile Drivability Analysis, $\phi_d$	Steel piles	See the provisions of Article 6.5.4.2
	Concrete piles	See the provisions of Article 5.5.4.2
	Timber piles	See the provisions of Article 8.5.2.2
	In all three Articles identified above, use $\phi$ identified as “resistance during pile driving”	

\*Dynamic testing requires signal matching, and best estimates of nominal resistance are made from a restrike. Dynamic tests are calibrated to the static load test, when available.

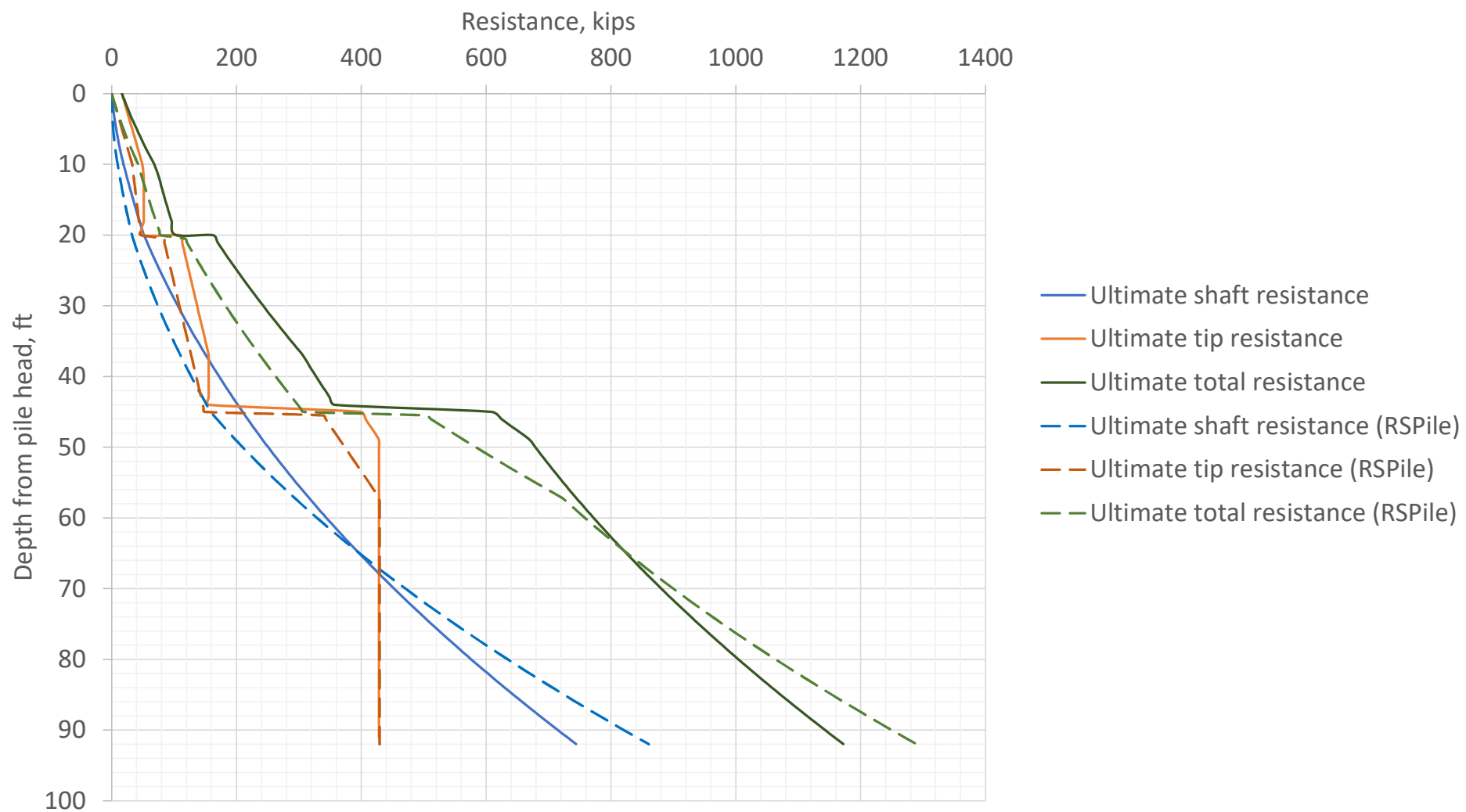
Table 10.5.5.2.4-1—Resistance Factors for Geotechnical Resistance of Drilled Shafts

Method/Soil/Condition			Resistance Factor
Nominal Axial Compressive Resistance of Single-Drilled Shafts, $\phi_{nt}$	Side resistance in clay	$\alpha$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.45
	Tip resistance in clay	Total Stress (Brown et al., 2010)	0.40
	Side resistance in sand	$\beta$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.55
	Tip resistance in sand	Brown et al. (2010)	0.50
	Side resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)	0.60
	Tip resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)	0.55
	Side resistance in rock	Kulhawy et al. (2005) Brown et al. (2010)	0.55
	Side resistance in rock	Carter and Kulhawy (1988)	0.50
	Tip resistance in rock	Canadian Geotechnical Society (1985) Pressuremeter Method (Canadian Geotechnical Society, 1985) Brown et al. (2010)	0.50
Block Failure, $\phi_{b1}$	Clay		0.55
Uplift Resistance of Single-Drilled Shafts, $\phi_{up}$	Clay	$\alpha$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.35
	Sand	$\beta$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.45
	Rock	Kulhawy et al. (2005) Brown et al. (2010)	0.40
Group Uplift Resistance, $\phi_{upg}$	Sand and clay		0.45
Horizontal Geotechnical Resistance of Single Shaft or Shaft Group	All materials		1.0
Static Load Test (compression), $\phi_{load}$	All Materials		0.70
Static Load Test (uplift), $\phi_{upload}$	All Materials		0.60

		$\gamma_{sat}$	$\gamma'$	N	$(N_1)_{60}$	$E_s$	$\phi'$	$s_u$	$k_c$	$\epsilon_{50}$
		pcf	pcf			ksf		psf	lb/in <sup>3</sup>	
1. Loose Silty Fine Sand (SM)	5 ft									
	15 ft								25	--
	10 ft	105	42.6	6	9	126	33	--	20	--
2. Medium Dense Coarse Sand Little Silt (SP)	25 ft	112	49.6	14	17	340	36	--	60	--
3. Dense Gravel with Sand (GW) (Occasional Cobbles)	47 ft	125	62.6	66	59	1416	40*	--	125	--
4. Limestone Bedrock		REC: 83% RQD: 81%								



HP 12x74



Define Pile Section Properties

Name:  Color:

Cross Section

Cross Section:

Type of Rolled Section:

Section Name:

Pile Perimeter for Skin Friction:

Tip Area for End Bearing:

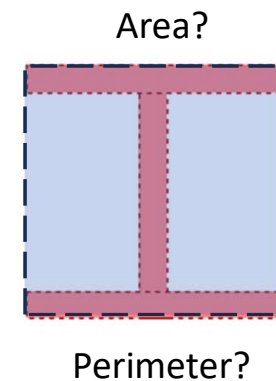
User-defined Area of Tip (ft<sup>2</sup>):

☐ Use this area for volume displaced per unit length

Display Units

Cross Section Units:

Stress Strength Units:





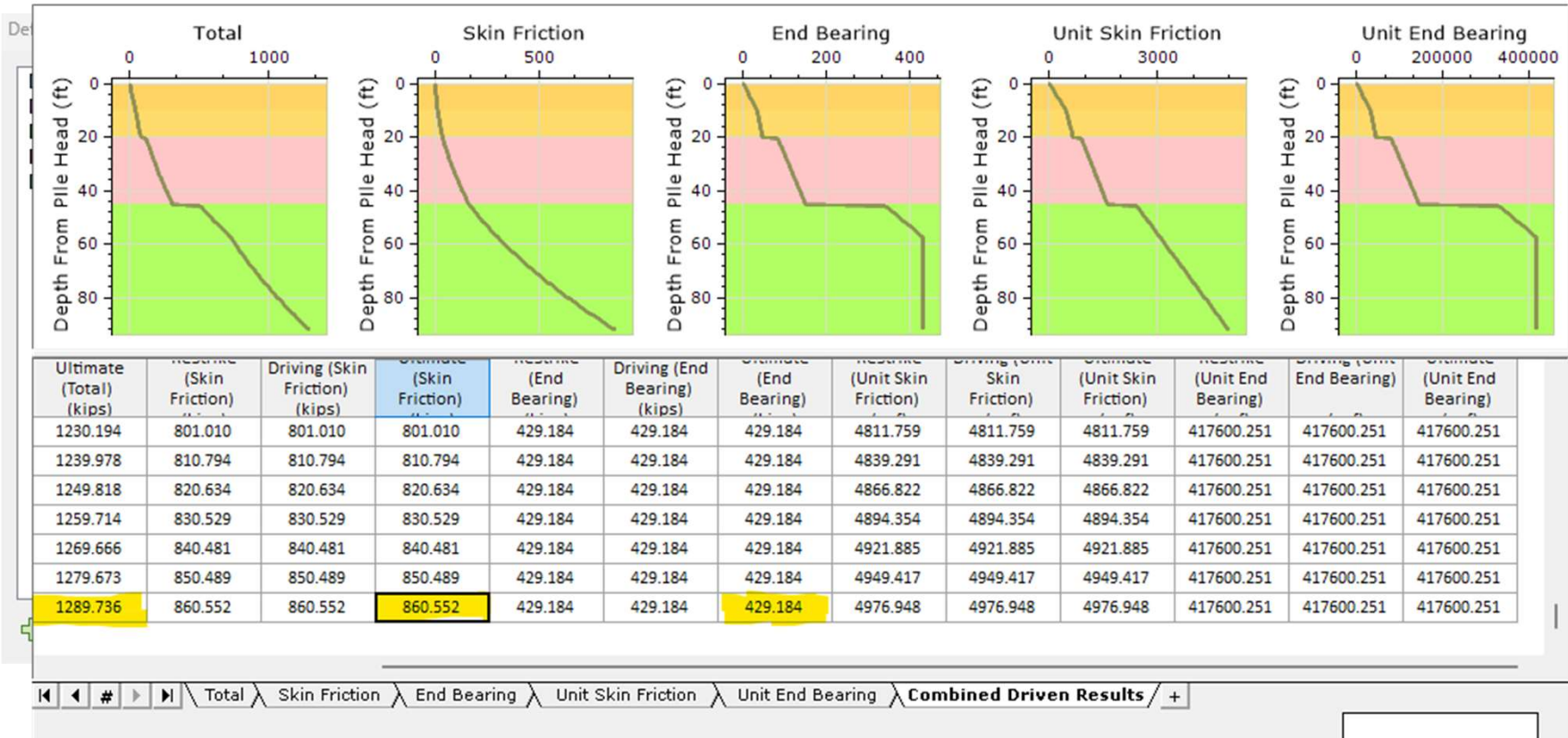


Table 10.5.5.2.3-1—Resistance Factors for Driven Piles

Condition/Resistance Determination Method		Resistance Factor
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Dynamic Analysis and Static Load Test Methods, $\phi_{dm}$	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition and dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.80
	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition without dynamic testing	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing* conducted on 100% of production piles	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing*, quality control by dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.65
	Wave equation analysis, without pile dynamic measurements or load test but with field confirmation of hammer performance	0.50
	FHWA-modified Gates dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.40
	Engineering News (as defined in Article 10.7.3.8.5) dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.10
	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Clay and Mixed Soils	
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Static Analysis Methods, $\phi_{nat}$	$\alpha$ -method (Tomlinson, 1987; Skempton, 1951)	0.35
	$\beta$ -method (Esrig & Kirby, 1979; Skempton, 1951)	0.25
	$\lambda$ -method (Vijayvergiya & Focht, 1972; Skempton, 1951)	0.40
	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Sand	
	Nordlund/Thurman Method (Hannigan et al., 2005)	0.45
	SPT-method (Meyerhof)	0.30

Methods, $\phi_{nat}$	Nordlund/Thurman Method (Hannigan et al., 2005)	0.45
	SPT-method (Meyerhof)	0.30
	CPT-method (Schmertmann)	0.50
	End bearing in rock (Canadian Geotech. Society, 1985)	0.45
Block Failure, $\phi_{B1}$	Clay	0.60
Uplift Resistance of Single Piles, $\phi_{up}$	Nordlund Method	0.35
	$\alpha$ -method	0.25
	$\beta$ -method	0.20
	$\lambda$ -method	0.30
	SPT-method	0.25
	CPT-method	0.40
	Static load test	0.60
Group Uplift Resistance, $\phi_{ug}$	Dynamic test with signal matching	0.50
	All soils	0.50
Lateral Geotechnical Resistance of Single Pile or Pile Group	All soils and rock	1.0
Structural Limit State	Steel piles	See the provisions of Article 6.5.4.2
	Concrete piles	See the provisions of Article 5.5.4.2
	Timber piles	See the provisions of Articles 8.5.2.2 and 8.5.2.3
Pile Drivability Analysis, $\phi_{di}$	Steel piles	See the provisions of Article 6.5.4.2
	Concrete piles	See the provisions of Article 5.5.4.2
	Timber piles	See the provisions of Article 8.5.2.2
In all three Articles identified above, use $\phi$ identified as "resistance during pile driving"		

\*Dynamic testing requires signal matching, and best estimates of nominal resistance are made from a restrike. Dynamic tests are calibrated to the static load test, when available.

$$1/0.45 = 2.22 = \text{old FS}$$

$$\phi R = 0.45 * 1289.74 = 580.4 \text{ kips to be compared with } \sum \gamma_i Q_{ni} \leq \phi R$$

**Thank You**