



Introduction

The Benchmarks and Verifications manual for the FEA NX is intended to demonstrate the performance and capabilities of the FEA NX solver in solving a wide range of finite element analysis problems in geotechnical engineering. The selected problems cover static and dynamics analyses as well as seepage and consolidation analyses. Both linear and nonlinear problems are included. The individual chapters are organized in terms of analysis types as summarized in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Summary of problems in chapters

Chapter	Description
2	<i>Element performances, linear static problems</i>
3	<i>Material nonlinear problems</i>
4	<i>Time history, free vibration, response spectrum</i>
5	<i>Steady-state and transient seepage problems, consolidation problems, seepage-stress sequential problems</i>
6	<i>Slope stability problems</i>

The selected benchmark problems are widely recognized and accepted as standard problems for testing the performance of general finite element programs. These include problems from the suite of NAFEMS¹ benchmarks. Also many problems are selected from refereed journal papers and technical publications as well as books from established authors. The benchmark and verification problems organized in terms of their sources are presented in Table 1.2.

Due to the characteristics of individual finite element type, a given set of elements tend to yield superior performance for certain kind of problems while results for other types of problems may exhibit poor performance in comparison. One of the objectives of this manual is to transparently provide both the performance and some of the limitations of FEA NX solver. To this end, results obtained using various types of element models in terms of their geometry and formulations are provided especially in chapter 2 where performance of elements are extensively tested. For these problems, only a small number of elements are used to obtain the results even though further mesh refinement significantly enhances the solution accuracy.

Each problem section is conveniently organized in three parts; section header, problem description and result summary. The section header includes the reference, type of elements tested and the FEA NX files used to solve the problem. The results are provided in tables and figures. Many problems contain tables organized in terms of the element types used to obtain the results. Table 1.3 summarizes the element groups and element types that are referenced in the individual problem sections.

¹ National Agency for Finite Element Methods and Standards, National Engineering Laboratory, Glasgow, U.K.



Table 1.2 Summary of benchmark problems in terms of their references

Reference type Analysis	Reference type			Total
	NAFEMS benchmarks	Journal papers	Books and other sources	
Element performance	7	6	9	22
Nonlinear materials		6	7	13
Dynamics problems	8	4	2	14
Seepage and consolidation		3	7	10
Slope stability		3		3
Total	15	22	25	62

Table 1.3 Element groups and element types

Element group	Element type (element geometry-N)*
Beam and truss	BEAM-2, TRUSS-2
Plane strain, plane stress, and shell	TRIA-3, TRIA-6, QUAD-4, QUAD-8 TRIA: triangular, QUAD: Quadrilateral
Solid	TETRA-4, TETRA-10, PYRAM-5, PYRAM-13, PENTA-6, PENTA-15, HEXA-8, HEXA-20 TETRA: tetrahedral, PYRAM: pyramid, PENTA: Pentahedral, HEXA: Hexahedral
Axisymmetric solid	TRIAX-3, TRIAX-6, QUADX-4, QUADX-8

*N: number of element nodes