

STABILITY CHARTS FOR EARTH SLOPES

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by

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The stability of natural and man-made slopes represents an important area of geotechnical engineering practice as history continues to show that landslides in natural slopes and instability in embankments and dams have claimed many human lives and damaged valuable property. The analysis of slope stability is a complex endeavor demanding the understanding and application of geotechnical principles and the art of discretion and engineering judgement. Iterative computations are often the rule to determine the most probable failure conditions. Engineers have attempted to make this task easier by idealizing various slope conditions and developing simple stability charts.

The objectives of the study described in this report are two-fold. First, a literature survey was conducted to locate, examine and classify the various slope stability charts which were available. Second, these charts were evaluated from the perspective of their usefulness in practice.