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#### 1.1 Industry Background

Over the past few decades, China has successfully built a number of hydropower stations. According to the National Energy Development Projects (2006-2015), plenty of hydropower based constructions have been built in China.















#### Hydropower Bases









#### 1.2 Engineering Background

#### Three kinds of rock masses







#### **Example 1:** Slope Engineering



•For point A

•Before excavating:  $\sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_3 \rightarrow$  loading condition.

•After excavating:  $\sigma_1 \rightarrow \text{loading condition}, \sigma_3 \rightarrow \text{unloading condition}.$ 

#### **Example 2: Tunnel Engineering**



•For point A

Before excavating:  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ,  $\sigma_{r} \rightarrow \text{loading condition.}$ •After excavating:  $\sigma_{\theta} \rightarrow \text{loading}$ ,  $\sigma_{r} \rightarrow \text{unloading.}$ 

#### **Example 3: Foundation Engineering**



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•For point A

•Before excavating:  $\sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_3 \rightarrow$  loading condition.

•After excavating:  $\sigma_3 \rightarrow$  loading,  $\sigma_1 \rightarrow$  unloading condition.

•Dam construction:  $\sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_3 \rightarrow$  loading condition

#### Different unloading paths of the unloading rock masses



- In different forms of rock masses engineering, the mechanics action process of the rock masses is different.
- The mechanical properties of rock masses are varied during the process of bearing alterative forces.
- There are essential distinctions between the mechanical characteristics of rock masses under unloading and loading conditions.

The discrepancy between the deformations computed by using traditional method (without considering unloading condition) and the actual deformations are shown in this table.

Engineering	Actual deformation	Calculating deformation by traditional method		
Lianzi cliff dangerous rock body in the Three Gorges	2.17m	10cm		
Jinchuan mine slope	1.52m	20cm		
Ertan hydropower station	17.57cm	3cm		
The Three Gorges permanent lock slope	17.38cm	3.47cm		

Considering the above all, one should study the unloading mechanics to solve those problems as a new approach.

# 2 Methodology

#### **Multi-crossed Disciplines**

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# 2 Methodology

#### **Research Procedure**



#### (1) Division of Excavation Damage Zone

The essential of unloading rock masses is that the adjustment of the internal stress state of the rock masses leads to the damage of rock masses quality during the excavation process.

Moreover, the stress adjustment in different rock masses region changes at different levels, corresponding to the different deterioration degree of rock masses quality. Therefore, how to divide the excavation damage zone becomes one of the key problems in the study of unloading rock masses.



#### (1) Division of Excavation Damage Zone

#### Method of dividing Excavation Damage Zone

- In-situ stress measurement
- Acoustic wave test
- Numerical simulation





**Distribution of point safety factor** 

#### (2) Quality Evaluation of Unloading Rock Masses

Excavation unloading effect of rock masses is introduced into RMR.



#### (3) Anisotropy of unloading rock masses

Anisotropic mechanical characteristics of jointed rock masses is revealed by experimental study.



# (4)Size Effect

#### Four sets of discontinuities in the Three Gorges Ship Lock



Model of jointed rock masses \_ 7 Unloading curves of different geometric similarity scale 16.0 14.0 12.0 10.0 stress 8.0 6.0 A':7.07×7.07×7.07cm3  $A_10.75 \times 0.75 \times 0.75 m^3$ ,  $C_1 = 3$ B:2.25×2.25×2.25m3, C1 = 9  $C_{16}$ .75×6.75×6.75m<sup>3</sup>,  $C_{L} = 27$  $D: 20.25 \times 20.25 \times 20.25 m^3$ ,  $C_1 = 81^{10}$ 200.0 400.0 600.0 800.0 1000.0 1200.01400.0 1600.0

rheology

#### (4)Size Effect



#### Deformation modulus varies with the size

Rock masses size(m)	0.75×0.75	2.25×2.25	6.75×6.75	$20.25 \times 20.25$
Compressive deformation modulus (GPa)	50	45	38	35
Tensile deformation modulus (GPa)	6	4	2.0	1.5
Initial unloading modulus (GPa)	35	32	28	26

#### (5) Yield criterion for unloading rock masses

Drucker-Prager criterion is established by considering the shear failure characteristics of unloading rock masses.



Formulation of D-P criterion:

$$F = \alpha I_1 + J_2 + \beta \sqrt{J_2} - k = 0$$

#### **Material parameters:**

$$\begin{cases} \alpha = -m\sigma_{\rm c}/12\cos^2\theta_{\sigma} \\ \beta = m\sigma_{\rm c}\left(\sqrt{3}\sin\theta_{\sigma} + 3\cos\theta_{\sigma}\right)/12\cos^2\theta_{\sigma} \\ k = s\sigma_{\rm c}^2/4\cos^2\theta_{\sigma} \end{cases}$$

# (6) Creep behavior

The nonlinear constitutive model of unloading creep for jointed rock masses is established.



Creep behavior of jointed rock masses



#### (7) Fracture behavior

An equivalent analytical model of compression shear and tension shear for unloading rock masses is proposed.



#### (8) Constitutive model of unloading rock masses

An incremental constitutive model of unloading rock masses and a hyperbolic nonlinear elastic constitutive model of unloading rock masses are established.



Elastic-brittle-plastic constitutive model

#### **Plastic deformation**

$$\{d\sigma\} = \left[ \left[D\right]_{e} - \frac{\left\{\frac{\partial F_{b-s}}{\partial \varepsilon}\right\}^{T} \left\{\frac{\partial F_{b-s}}{\partial \varepsilon}\right\}}{A + \left\{\frac{\partial F_{b-s}}{\partial \varepsilon}\right\}^{T} \left[C\right]_{e} \left\{\frac{\partial F_{b-s}}{\partial \varepsilon}\right\}} \right] \{d\varepsilon\}$$

Yield function

$$F_{b-s} = \frac{E - E^{b}}{E^{s} - E^{b}} f_{b} + \frac{E^{s} - E}{E^{s} - E^{b}} f_{s} = 0$$

#### (9) Determination of mechanical parameters for jointed rock masses

A method, which suggests starting from the small-size fracture to the large-size fracture to study the size effect of mechanical parameters, has been proposed to obtain mechanical parameters of jointed rock masses.



#### (10) Inversion of mechanical parameters of unloading rock masses

Based on the artificial neural network, the excavation unloading effect has been considered in the inversion of rock mechanics parameters.



# 4. ENGINEERING APPLICATION

#### 4.1 Applied valley



# 4. ENGINEERING APPLICATION

#### **4.2 Applied Engineering**



# 4. ENGINEERING APPLICATION

#### **4.2 Applied Engineering**



Landslide-Geheyan



Slope-Jiangpinghe



High slope-Rumei



High slope-Jinchuan



Tunnel-Dashankou

Tunnel-Danba

Slope-Xiaowan

Slope-Dongqing

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# **5.1 Introduction of CTGU**

#### China Three Gorges University







# Gezhouba Dam

#### 5.2 Research team

#### **Team members**

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## 5.3 Research platform

 National Field Observation and Research Station of Landslides in Three Gorges Reservoir Area of Yangtze River

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10-21	2.0	4.6	4.0	82	sall.	8.42	2.0	2.8	the	92	津坡祥北不靈	-
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湖北长江三峡滑坡国家野外科学观测研究站地理位置图

湖北长江三峡滑坡国家野外科学观测研究站

**球火学国家野外滑坡观测** 



#### 5.3 Research platform

• Key Laboratory of Geological Hazards on Three Gorges Reservoir Area (China Three Gorges University), Ministry of Education





Monitoring System

# 5.3 Research platform

#### ➢Equipment (1)

使病式不能供加力变活器



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降雨器结构图

#### 5.3 Research platform

#### ≻Equipment (2)



ELE rock seepage system



**RMT-150C rock mechanics test system** 



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#### PCI-2 acoustic emission detection system



Adaptive automatic triaxial testing machine



ST500 three-dimensional noncontact surface profilometer



RLW-2000 triaxial creep test system

#### 5.3 Research platform

#### ≻Equipment (3) :



quadruple direct shear apparatus for unsaturated soil



DHJ-50 large single shear direct shear apparatus



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JSM-7500F scanning electron microscope



The soil-water characteristic curve tester



Computer controlled electro-hydraulic servo soil dynamic triaxial testing machine



HKUST-GDS unsaturated soil triaxial apparatus



# Unloading Rock masses Mechanics THANKS

