

TSLOPE

Tutorial – starting with a 2D slope model and extending to 3D

1. Introduction

TSLOPE is a slope stability analysis package that has been developed around a fully 3D model of a slope. The analyses that can be carried out may be either 3D, or 2D, with the 2D sections aligned in arbitrary user defined directions through the model.

It is expected that many TSLOPE users will have access to programs that can be used to develop a 3D geological model that will be used to constrain the 3D slope model. Importing surfaces from other programs to TSLOPE is a simple matter using common file formats.

However, some TSLOPE users may only have a 2D representation of their slope problem, and need to be able to transfer the relevant geometry into TSLOPE.

A problem that is initially defined in 2D can also be readily expanded to 3D. This tutorial is designed to help with understanding this process.

As TSLOPE works in a 3D world, all points will have x, y and z coordinates. Therefore when you are working in 3D, surfaces are referred to as ellipsoids or spheres (the equivalent of ellipses or circles in 2D). If you start with a 2D representation of your slope problem, the TSLOPE model will always have a width that you can specify, in the y direction.

TSLOPE is able to handle real world coordinate systems, with a large number of significant figures attached to each coordinate. TSLOPE may simplify the displayed values for purposes of legibility.

2. 2D Slope Example

The slope problem that we are going to set up in TSLOPE is an example that has been described by Duncan et al. $(2014)^1$. It is their Example 3: Excavated slope in stiff-fissured clay, as described by Skempton and LaRochelle $(1965)^2$, a deep excavation in the London Clay at Bradwell.

The geometry of the excavation and the layers forming the slope are shown in Figure 1.

¹ Duncan, J.M., S.G. Wright, T.L. Brandon 2014 Soil strength and slope stability (second edition) John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 317pp

² Skempton, A.W. and LaRochelle, P. 1965 The Bradwell Slip: A short-term failure in London clay. Geotechnique 15 (3); 221-242



Figure 1. Cross section of excavated slope, after Duncan et al. (2014) Figure 7.13.

The materials in the slope have the following properties:

Material	Unsaturated density	Saturated density	cohesion	Friction angle
	-			
Clay Fill		110 pcf	0	0
Marsh Clay		105 pcf	300 psf	0
London Clay		120 pcf	Varies from datum 875 psf at	0
			-3 ft with gradient of 65 psf/ft	
			to maximum of 3000 psf	

Table 1. Material properties.

3. Setting up TSLOPE

Open TSLOPE by clicking on the icon on your desktop



This opens a new project as shown on the next figure. There are menu items down the lefthand side, and a *Project* pane where a graphical representation of the slope model will be shown.



We will work down each item in the *directory tree* panel, starting with the first item - *Title & Description*. The labelled panels *Title:* and *Description:* below the menu tree are shown, and are open for data entry.

In *Title:*, we will put Duncan et al. 2014 Example 3

In *Description:*, we will put Excavated slope in stiff – fissured clay

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Surfaces	
Loads	
Cross-sections	
Slope Cases	

Title:	
Duncan et al. 2014 Example 3	
Description:	
Exvcavated slope in stiff - fissured clay	*
	Ŧ
Starting TSLOPE	*

We can use the *Description:* box to add any other useful information related to this TSLOPE project file.

Now that we have some data entered, it is good practice to save our work. From the *File* tab choose *Save As* ... and provide an appropriate file name and directory for the project file to be saved.

TSLOPE saves project files with a .tsz extension.

While at the top of the TSLOPE active window, check out the various options that are available as shown below:



Under the *File* tab, you will see the following:

<u> </u>	Score and a second s
File	Edit View Help
	New
	Open
	Save
	Save As
	Export HTML Report
	Print Report
	Print Preview Report
	Page setup
	Exit

While you are working with TSLOPE, a report is being compiled in the background. That is in HTML format, giving your flexibility in adapting the report to your own format. Using *Print Preview Report*. As you get different graphic views of your project, you can add them to the report by clicking on the camera icon shown towards the top of the TSLOPE active window.

These images are collected and available for review from the *Report Snapshots* panel at the bottom of the window.

The next menu item is *Preferences*. This opens a panel with default values that we may need to change:

Ë	Project		
	Units	Metric	
	Weight of water (kN/m3	9.8	
	Atmospheric Pressure (k	101.3	
\Box	Project Clipping		
	Enable clipping	False	
Ξ	Graphics		
	Background colour	White	
\Box	Contours		
	Definition	auto	
	Interval (m)	10	
\Box	Export HTML Report		
	Embed Images	False	

The defaults are shown, we will need to make some changes as we are working in units of feet and pounds

\Box	Project	
	Units	U.S. Customary 🗾
	Weight of water (pcf)	62.4
	Atmospheric Pressure (p	2116.2
\Box	Project Clipping	
	Enable clipping	False
Ξ	Graphics	
	Background colour	White
\Box	Contours	
	Definition	auto
	Interval (ft)	10
Ξ	Export HTML Report	
	Embed Images	False

We will left click on the right tab to pull-down the menu item U.S. Customary, and set this for the project units.

4. Entering slope data

The *Materials* menu shows a *Default* tab already set up. Selecting *Default* we open a panel with the following:

Ş	Material 0	
0	Id	0
	Label	Default
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb
Ξ	Unit Weights	
	Unsaturated (pcf)	100
	Saturated (pcf)	112
Mohr-Coulomb		
	Cohesion function	Constant
	Cohesion (psf)	0
	Angle of friction (deg)	10

Sometimes the user will want to leave the default label intact - for instance if there is only one material in the problem – but normally the user will want to overwrite the default label and properties with his/her own choices.

In this case we need to input the appropriate values for the three layers, as given in Table 1. Starting with the first layer in the stratigraphy:

E)	Material 0		
	Id	0	
	Label	Clay Fill	
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb	
Ξ	Unit Weights		
	Unsaturated (pcf)	110	
	Saturated (pcf)	110	
Mohr-Coulomb			
	Cohesion function	Constant	
	Cohesion (psf)	0	
	Angle of friction (deg)	0	

The Material Id is used internally and provides an alternative label should the user not provide input into the Label field

TSLOPE requires that a total unit weight be specified for both saturated and unsaturated conditions. In this example there is no phreatic surface and all materials are presumed to be unsaturated so we just specify the same value for the saturated unit weight.

To add the next material, go back to the *Materials* menu and right click on the mouse to open the tab for *Add Material*...



The *Material* pane then comes up with:

Naterial 1		
~	Id	1
	Label	Copy of Clay Fill
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb
Ξ	Unit Weights	
	Unsaturated (pcf)	110
	Saturated (pcf)	110
\Box	Mohr-Coulomb	
	Cohesion function	Constant
	Cohesion (psf)	0
	Angle of friction (deg)	0

We make appropriate changes:

Y	Material 1	
~0	Id	1
	Label	Marsh Clay
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb
Ξ	Unit Weights	
	Unsaturated (pcf)	105
	Saturated (pcf)	105
Ξ	Mohr-Coulomb	
	Cohesion function	Constant
	Cohesion (psf)	300
	Angle of friction (deg)	0

We then add a further material, for London Clay

É	Material	
	Id	2
	Label	London Clay
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb
Ξ	Unit Weights	
	Unsaturated (pcf)	120
	Saturated (pcf)	120
Ξ	Mohr-Coulomb	
	Cohesion function	Constant 🔽
	Cohesion (psf)	Constant
	Angle of friction (deg)	Varies with depth
		Varies from datum

We set the appropriate unit weights, and use the pull-down tab to choose Cohesion function -Varies from datum

2	Material 2	
	Id	2
	Label	London Clay
	Failure criterion	Mohr-Coulomb
Ξ	Unit Weights	
	Unsaturated (pcf)	120
	Saturated (pcf)	120
Ξ	Mohr-Coulomb	
	Cohesion function	Varies from datum
	Cohesion (psf)	290
	Datum z (ft)	6
	Delta cohesion (psf/ft)	70
	Max. cohesion (psf)	3000
	Angle of friction (deg)	0

We fill in the appropriate values from Table 1 in the *Mohr-Coulomb* panel The next menu item, *Surfaces*, allows us to begin to define the geometry of the slope problem.



We will open the *Top* menu option by right mouse click, and we get the following:



We then select *Add Extruded Section*... and automatically generate a simple 3D surface. This is initially a horizontal plane, with the parameters shown in the panel. We are at present only interested in the 2D cross section through this surface but the program calls it an "extruded" section because the 2D section is automatically extruded to 3D and we are set up to use the model in a 3D slope stability analysis at a later point.

Fil	e Edit View Help					
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4	- 🐌 TSLOPE					
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	Clay Fill March Clay					
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	🐌 Basal					
	Phreatic					
	GeoImages					
	Boundary lin	es				
_						
	Extruded Section	4				
	Id	1				
	Label	Top Extruded Section 1				
	Туре	Extruded Section				
_	Kind	Top Surface				
	Geometry					
	Is locked	♥				
		(0, 0, -100)				
	X	0				
	ř 7	100				
	L Extrusion bearing (day)	-100				
	Overall width (#)	100				
	Doints: X (ft) 7 (ft)	(0, 0), (100, 100)				
	Surface style	(0, 0), (100, 100)				
	GeoImage	None				
	Colour	(19,170,38)				
	Opacity	100				
	Surface representation	Surface				
	Shading	Flat				
	Show surface					
	Show contours					

The *Project* panel now shows the surface with a top down view (X - Y axes).



Using the mouse buttons, the plane can be rotated, panned, and zoomed as required. Left mouse is for rotation, centre mouse for dragging, right mouse for zooming.



Or, more usefully it can be viewed in 2D by going to the View pull-down menu and selecting another view, normally S > N.

We then need to make appropriate changes to the *Extruded Section* parameters:

Unlocking the Extruded Section Geometry changes the display in the Project panel:

	Extruded Section				
	Id	1			
	Label	Excavation surface			
	Туре	Extruded Section			
	Kind	Top Surface			
\Box	Geometry				
	Is locked				
	Origin (ft)	(0, 0, 0)			
	Х	0			
	γ	0			
	Z	0			
	Extrusion bearing (deg)	0			
	Overall width (ft)	200			
	Points: X (ft), Z (ft)	(0, 0), (100, 100)			
\Box	Surface style				
	GeoImage	None			
	Colour	(19,170,38)			
	Opacity	100			
	Surface representation	Surface			
	Shading	Flat			
	Show surface	✓			
	Show contours	✓			

Change the *Label* to a suitable one for the slope

Uncheck the *Is locked* box

Set the Z Origin to 0 and Overall width (ft) to 200. Then from the *Points* box, mouse click on the button to the right to activate the edit profile points menu



The solid balls can be moved by the mouse to alter the width and orientation of the plane. However we will use the Edit Profile Points menu so that we can add new points, and have precise control of our changes.

The *Edit Profile Points* menu pops up in the Project panel. It can be moved and expanded as necessary.

To	Top Extruded Section 1 profile points				
	X (ft)	Z (ft)	Add		
1	0.0	0.0	Insert		
2	100.0	100.0	Delete		
			Up		
			Down		
			File import		
OK Cancel					

Because we are working from a 2D representation of the slope we can align the section with the X Z axes. TSLOPE sets the positive Y axis oriented to the "north" of the model. Z is always positive in an upward direction.

	X (ft)	Z (ft)	Add
1	-100.0	17.5	Insert
2	0.0	17.5	
3	11.5	6.0	Delete
4	23.5	6.0	Llp
5	32.5	-3.0	p
6	38.5	-3.0	Down
7	52.5	-31.0	F 1. 1
8	200.0	-31.0	File import
	ОК	Ca	ncel

Using the *Add* button, we input the X Z coordinates for all the points where there is a changes in slope.

We mouse click on OK, and the Project view changes to show the 3D view of the excavated surface. We need to check the *Is Locked* box again to ensure that we don't inadvertently move the surface relative to its origins when viewing the 3D graphics.



The next step is to right mouse click on *Layers* and follow a similar process we have been through for the Excavation surface.



From the *Layers* menu item we select *Add Extruded Section* ...

We expand the *Layers* menu to show the new *Layer Extruded Section 1*

A 🔚 Layers	=
🖉 🖉 Layer Extruded Section 1	
Zones	
> 📲 Loads	
Cross-sections	
Slope Cases	

Lay	/er1	
Ξ	Extruded Section	
	Id	1
	Label	Layer Extruded Section 1
	Туре	Extruded Section
	Kind	Layer Surface
	Material	0: Clay Fill
\square	Geometry	
	Is locked	✓
Ξ	Origin (ft)	(0,0,0)
	Х	0
	Υ	0
	Z	0
	Extrusion bearing (deg)	0
	Overall width (ft)	200
	Points: X (ft), Z (ft)	(0, 4.85), (48.5, 53.35)
	Surface style	
	Colour	(136,121,147)
	Opacity	100
	Surface representation	Surface
	Shading	Flat
	Show surface	✓
	Show contours	✓

We unlock the Geometry check box, and make the appropriate changes to show the top layer. In this slope, the uppermost layer is Clay Fill (this was entered as a default value). To define its geometry, we input the coordinates for the top of the layer.

Referring to Figure 1, there will only be 3 points defining the top of Clay Fill coincident with the excavation surface, and terminating at the contact with underlying Marsh Clay.

The TSLOPE convention is to enter the layer tops. The bottom of the layer is then automatically defined as the top of the next layer in the negative Z direction. The lowest layer will extend below the limit of the model.

We can change the Colour to match the colour used in Figure 1. In this case, we use the RGB values (208,182,177). We also change the Label to Clay Fill. Note that the Material has defaulted to 0: Clay Fill.

As we did with the Top surface, we mouse click on the Points box to open the menu to edit and add points to define the Clay Fill Layer.

Layer 1					
\square	Extruded Section				
	Id	1			
	Label	Clay Fill			
	Туре	Extruded Section			
	Kind	Layer Surface			
	Material	0: Clay Fill			
Ξ	Geometry				
	Is locked				
Ξ	Origin (ft)	(0,0,0)			
	Х	0			
	Υ	0			
	Z	0			
	Extrusion bearing (deg)	0			
	Overall width (ft)	200			
	Points: X (ft), Z (ft)	(0, 4.85), (48.5, 53.35)			
\square	Surface style				
	Colour	(208,182,177)			
	Opacity	100			
	Surface representation	Surface			
	Shading	Flat			
	Show surface	✓			
	Show contours	✓			

	53.35		
Lay	er Extruded Sec	tion 1 profile p	oints 💌
	X (ft)	Z (ft)	Add
1	0.0	4.85	Insert
2	48.5	53.35	Delete
			Down
			File import
	ОК	Can	cel

T Layer Extruded Section 1 profile points					
	X (ft)	Z (ft)	Add		
1	-100	17.5	Insert		
2	0	17.5			
3	11.5	6	Delete		
			Up		
			Down		
			File import		
	ОК	Cano	:el		







The yellow highlighted shape is the top of the Clay Fill layer that we have just entered.

Using the same process, we enter the top of the Marsh Clay, Brown London Clay, and Blue London Clay layers.

Make sure that you set the appropriate *Material* for each of the layers. The London Clay material will be used for both Brown London Clay and Blue London Clay layers. To keep the colours consistent with Figure 1, set the *Surface style – Colour* RGB values to (167,163.20) for Marsh Clay, (142,115,97) for Brown London Clay, and (46,94,167) for Blue London Clay.

We now have the full geometry and material property information entered and we can view the 3D model in the Project panel:

To confirm that we have the soil stratigraphy correct, click on the **Top** – **Excavation surface** menu and in the bottom panel, **Surface style**, uncheck the **Show surface** and **Show contours** boxes.



If we want to view the model in a section view, we can use the *View* tab to get the options as shown:



We chose the bottom option S - N to get a section view



To check the coordinate points move the mouse to a point, and pressing the 'p' on the keyboard. The pop up box will give you the appropriate data.

To go back to a 3D view select *View Top* and use the mouse buttons to move the 3D model as required.



The view can be toggled between solid and wire frame by typing w (and s to go back to solid).



5. Building a 2D Slope Case

Slope Case is the term used to describe the combinations of surfaces, layers and other elements that make up a particular slope stability analysis. The Slope Cases can be either 3D, or 2D.

To build a 2D Slope Case, we must define a Cross-section. This is our next task.

From the *View* tab select Top and view the model in the X Y plane:



This is a good view to locate a cross section. If we want to be able to show the section used to generate the model, then we need to orient the section in the X axis direction, at Y=0.

From the Cross-sections menu, select Add cross-section ...



The section line will show up as a yellow line with balls at each end of the section. The end point balls can be dragged with the mouse to change the section length, and orientation. The line can also be selected and moved retaining the length and orientation.



\square	Cross-section 1				
	Label	Cross-section 1			
	Is locked	\checkmark			
\Box	Start point (ft)	(-100, 0)			
	Х	-100			
	Y	0			
\Box	End point (ft)	(200, 0)			
	Х	200			
	Y	0			
	Bearing (deg.)	90			
	Length (ft)	300			
\square	Visual Properties				
	Colour	(241,156,105)			
	Opacity (0100)	50			
	Show	✓			

When the section is in the correct location, remember to lock it.

Right click with the mouse on the *Slope Cases* menu item:



A pop up box then appears that shows the Surfaces and other parameters that will be used in the analysis.

_	Slope 1	
	Label	Slope 1
	Dimension	2D
	Cross-section	1: Cross-section 1
	Define Basal failure surface	One basal surface
Ξ	Surfaces	
	Тор	1: Excavation surface
	Basal	None
	Phreatic	None
	Pore-pressure	None
-	Loads	
	Load case	No Loads
	Slope Clipping	
-	Visual Properties	
	Min. z	100
	Background colour	White

In this case, the values that have been put in automatically are correct. However, we may want to change the Label, and add a Description

With the mouse, click on OK to accept the values.

We now have another tab alongside the Project tab labelled "2D Slope Case A".

The Project view is shown in plan view with a new surface created under the *Surfaces* – *Basal* menu; It is automatically labelled as "Critical circle 2 for slope 1". We will change the label to Critical circle for Slope Case A. The bottom panel on the left shows that the new surface is an Ellipsoid (a circle is a 2D representation of a sphere, which is a special case of an ellipsoid).



We can change the graphic view, and see how the ellipsoid intersects the 3D model:



We then open the 2D Slope Case A panel.



Here we have the 2D cross section that shows the excavation surface. There is a large circle (from the automatically generated basal ellipsoid), and red and purple sliders at each end of the circle. When we set up the Slope Case, there was an option to specify a Basal surface. We did not have a basal surface set up in our model, and the default became a critical circle; TSLOPE then automatically generated an ellipse that would provide a starting point for a search.

Note that the X coordinates shown on the 2D Slope Case view are not the same as the project coordinates. The X displayed is the horizontal offset from the origin of the Cross-section. Further details of the Cross-section location can be obtained from the *Cross-sections* menu (start and end points, bearing, length).

We then open the *Analysis* tab on the menu, and confirm that the *Materials definition* has been set at the Layers option.

		A	ply			Solve]
Slo	Slope Descripti		on	Ana	lysis		
\square	Slop	e 1					
	Ana	lysis type	Cri	tical s	earch	n	
	Met	hod	Spe	encer	s		
	Expe	ected FS	No	ne			
	Mat	erials defi	Lay	/ers			•
	Use	Basal Surf	Fal	se			
\Box	Tens	sion Crack	C				
	TC d	lefinition	No	ne			
\Box	2D S	lice Para	net	ers			
	No. slices 30						
	Use	Equal wid	Fal	se			
	Corr	idor widtł	30				
\Box	Out	er Bounds	5				
	Left	x (ft)	0.1	66763	;		
	Righ	t x (ft)	300)			
	Criti	cal Searcl	h				
	Left	inner bou	u 0.166763				
	Right inner bo)			
	Max	iteration	50				
\Box	Adv	anced					
	Wat	er weight	62.	4			

We then left mouse click on the slider (solid triangle) and drag the sliders to define a grey box at either end of the slope to control the location of exit points of the critical circle:



a zoom to fill the screen. To recover, go to the *View* tab and select Zoom Extents to get back to a useful view. There is also a short cut way to do this – use the icon, fifth from the left (looks like a magnifying glass).

As you drag the sliders near the toe of the slope, you will get a pop up that allows you to Snap to the Toe Point of the slope. That can be useful, if you know that the basal failure surface should be constrained to that point.



In this case, we accept.



The critical circle is now truncated, and will be regenerated once we start the stability calculations.

While we have the 2D Slope Case A tab open, we also get access to the *Slope* and *Analysis* panels on the left.

v Apply Solve Slope Description Analysis Slope 1 Label 2D Slope Case A 2D Dimension Cross-section 1: Cross-section 1 Define Basal f: One basal surface Ŧ Surfaces Тор 1: Excavation surface Basal 2: Critical circle 2 for Slope Case A Phreatic None Pore-pressure None Loads Load case No Loads Visual Properties -140 Min. z Background c White

Note that there is now a Surface selected for the Basal surface.

In the *Analysis* panel we get the following:

Ap		ply			Solve		
Slo	pe [Descripti	on	Ana	lysis		
Ξ	Slope	1					
	Analysis type		Cri	tical s	earch	1	
	Method		Spe	encer	s		
	Expected FS		None				
	Materials defin		Lay	/ers			
	Use Ba	Fal	se				
\square	Tensio	on Crack					
	TC de	finition	De	pth			
	Depth	11.	5				
	Z limit	t (ft)	0				
	TC flu	id defin	Percent filled				
	Fluid v	weight (62.4				
	Fluid o	depth (%	0				
\square	2D Sli	ce Parar	net	ers			
	No. sli	ces	30				
	Use Ec	qual wid	Fal	se			
	Corrid	30					
\square	Outer Bound						
	Left x	(ft)	53.868028				
	Right	x (ft)	152	2.5			
\square	Critical Search		1				
	Left inner bou		87.	85086	j –		
	Right i	inner bo	152	.5			
	Max. it	teration	50				
\square	Advan	iced					
	Water	weight	62.	4			

We need to select Critical search Then set Tension Crack TC definition to Depth. For this problem the tension crack will extend through the depth of Clay Fill, so set the Depth (ft) to 11.5

We will accept the other default values.

Then mouse click on the *Solve* button.

You will then enjoy a little animation as TSLOPE iterates to find the critical circle before presenting the results:



Congratulations! You have carried out a successful 2D slope stability calculation using TSLOPE.

The program firstly finds the critical circle for the Ordinary Method, then proceeds with the calculations for Spencer's Method. We only present the critical circle for the minimum factor of safety calculated using Spencer's Method, and report out the corresponding results for Spencer's Method and the Ordinary Method using that circle.

Remember that TSLOPE compiles a report as you work through the various steps of the analysis. This can be viewed by selecting Print Preview Report from the *File* menu.

The lower left panel gives further information related to the stability calculations:

Slope Description Analysis Results						
\square	□ Spencer's 1: F=1.766 (0.00%, 0.00%)					
	Factor of Safety	1.766				
	Equilibrium error (%)	0.00 %				
	Sum negative eff. norm	0.00 %				
	Converged?	True				
	β (°)	-25.86				
	Number of iterations	21				
\square	Sum forces (%)					
	ΣFs	0				
	ΣFr	0				
\square	Sum moments (%)					
	ΣMt	0				
\square	Ordinary 2: F=1.766 (0	.00%, 0.00%)				
	Factor of Safety	1.766				
	Equilibrium error (%)	0.00 %				
	Sum negative eff. norm	0.00 %	Ш			
\Box	Sum forces (%)					
	ΣFs	0				
	ΣFr	0				
\square	Sum moments (%)					
	ΣMt	0				
\square	Other Results					
	Number of columns	30				
	Volume (ft³/ft)	1490.4				
	Weight (lbf/ft)	1.6999e+05				
\Box	Surface Areas (ft ² /ft)					
	Top surface area	99.092				
	Basal surface area	82.755				
\square	Left intercept point	(79.204459, 0, 17.5)				
	Х	79.204459	_			
	Υ	0				
	Z	17.5				
\Box	Right intercept point	(152.5, 0, -31)	÷			

Note that the factor of safety calculated by Spencer's and Ordinary Method are the same, and close to the results tabulated from other software packages by Duncan et al. (2014).

Full data from the stability analysis can be sent to a .csv file by selecting the Save column data as CSV file... option from the *Data* menu.

Following computation of the Factor of Safety, shown by the arrow indicating the direction of failure, TSLOPE also displays the calculated line of thrust as a red line. In this case it is located above the failure surface as expected. TSLOPE also shows the normal stresses acting at the base of each slice, as scaled black arrows. The details of each slice can be obtained by positioning the mouse pointer near the base of the slice and using the 'p' key to bring up a pop up box as shown below.



You may not have exactly the same factor of safety that is shown above. It depends on how you have set the limits for the potential slip circle, which is the area shaded in grey.

With the present implementation of TSLOPE, we have not given the user access to the parameters that control the minimisation routine. As a guide, you should make the width of the zone between each of the limits as narrow as possible, so long as the exit point of the potential slip circle that is calculated is near the middle of the zone you will have a satisfactory result. It is recommended that you try a number of settings until you are able to find a minimum factor of safety, but at all times making sure that the circle that you are investigating is credible.

For this example, it would seem a good idea to check on other potential modes of slope failure.

Given the soil stratigraphy, it might be possible for a shallow near surface slope failure to occur in the Marsh Clay.

Therefore we will set up another 2D Slope Case to consider that possibility. We will call this 2D Slope Case B.

We recommend that you do not change the input parameters in a slope case that you have already run as this can lead to confusion. Set up a new slope case for each variation of the problem and the program will keep track of all the cases and results for you.

We will set up the new Slope Case following the steps we used for 2D Slope Case A. A quick way to do this is to duplicate the 2D Slope Case A.



A new Basal surface is created, the Critical circle for slope 2. We will change the names of the Slope Case and Basal surface to Slope Case B.

Move the sliders that define the right-hand exit box for the critical circle so that you cover the boundary between Marsh Clay and Brown London Clay.

You will then be prompted to Snap to Toe Point – select Yes.

- 40	Snap to Toe Point?
10 Z	Snap to Toe Point at x=138.5? Yes No
- 60)	150

Depending on how you have placed the left sliders to define the box for the exit of the critical circle, you might get the following message:



In this case, you should move the left (red) slider further left until you no longer get the message.

Select the Solve button, and compare the result with Slope Case A.



The above results suggests that the top of the London Clay might be a potential slide surface, therefore we should investigate a further 2D slope case where we set the Brown London Clay layer as a basal surface for the analysis.

This is shown in the Slope panel for a new 2D Slope Case C:

2	A	oply	Solve		
Slope Descript		ion Ana	lysis		
\square	Slope 3				
	Label	2D Slope	2D Slope Case C		
	Dimension	2D			
	Cross-section	1: Cross-section 1			
	Define Basal fa Basal surface clipped by layer				
\square	Surfaces				
	Тор	1: Excavation surface			
	Basal	4: Critical circle for Slope Case C			
	Phreatic	None			
	Pore-pressure	None			
	Layer as basal	3: Brown London Clay			
\square	Loads				
	Load case	No Loads			
	Visual Proper	ties			
	Min. z	-60			
	Background o	W	nite		

Change Define Basal failure surface to Basal surface clipped by layer

Select Layer as basal – Brown London Clay

When we *Solve* this Slope Case, we get the following result:



6. Building a 3D Slope Case

To build a 3D slope case, we follow the same procedure as with a 2D slope case. We need to make sure that there is a defined basal surface that we can use. The TAGAsoft developers are testing various options for searching for the critical 3D failure surface, but have not yet implemented on in TSLOPE.

Reviewing the basal surfaces we have in the project; these are critical circles used for the 2D slope cases:



Mouse click on Critical circle for Slope Case A gives:



We will select the Duplicate option.



We will then rename the surface.



For each of the first three basal surfaces on the list, we will uncheck the boxes Show surface and Show contours so they are no longer visible in the Project view.



Checking the Basal ellipsoid for 3D slope Case A parameters:

	Basal GeoImages Boundary lines	e for Slope Case A e for Slope Case B e for Slope Case C d for 3D Slope Case A	4	
	Ellipsoid	-		
	ld			
	Label	Basal ellipsoid for 3D Slope Case A		
	Type	Ellipsoid		
	Kind	Basal Surface		
_	Material	None		
	Geometry			
	Is locked		_	
	Spherical:	162 015455		
_	Kadius (ft)	105.010400	_	
	v	(00.545445, 0, 120.025005)	—	
	N V	0	_	
	7	128 025603		
	Centre on Cross-section	1: Cross-section 1		
E	XS Centre (ft)	(188.345445_0_128.025603)	—	
	X	188.345445		
	Y	0		
	Z	128.025603		
Ŧ	Bounding Box		_	
Ξ	Surface style			
	Colour	(102,102,102)		
	Opacity	100		
	Surface representation	Surface		
	Shading	Phong		
	Show surface	✓		
	Show contours	✓		

We change the Spherical? box to False

In the Project panel we see a graphical view of the ellipsoid (or sphere). The coloured balls can be selected by left mouse click and moved to change the lengths of the ellipse axes. We will move the black ball to change the Y radius of the ellipsoid.



The next graphic shows the sphere modified to an ellipse elongated in the X axis direction.



When we have the ellipse with the appropriate geometry, we need to check the Is locked box in the Geometry panel.

From the *Slope Cases* menu item, we Add 3D Slope... and get the Create new Slope menu:

Ť	Create new Slope	×	
Ξ	Slope 4		
	Label	3D Slope Case A	
	Dimension	3D	The default values
	Define Basal failure surface	One basal surface	for Surfaces are
Ξ	Surfaces		correct, and we can
	Тор	1: Excavation surface	change the Label.
	Basal	5: Basal ellipsoid for 3D slope Case A	
	Phreatic	None	
	Pore-pressure	None	
Ξ	Loads		
	Load case	No Loads	
	Slope Clipping		
	Enable clipping	False	
Ξ	Visual Properties		
	Min. z	100	
	Background colour	White	

When we select OK, we get a 3D view of the slope showing the discretisation with uniform vertical columns. The columns that overly the basal (failure) surface are shown in the darker shade.

There are relatively few columns that will be involved in the stability analysis, so we can increase the number of columns to provide a better model without potential edge effects. In the Analysis panel, we increase the No. columns/width to the maximum allowed, 200.

Ap		Apply	Solve		
pe	Description	Analysis			
Slope 4					
Analysis type		Defined s	Defined surface analysis		
Met	hod	Spencer's	5		
Expected FS		None	None		
Materials definition		n Layers			
Tens	sion Crack				
TC o	lefinition	None			
3D (Column grid				
Grid definition		Num. col	umns/overall w	vidth	
No. columns/width		h 200	200		
Auto align grid		False	False		
Grid bearing (deg)		0	0		
Column width (ft)		1.58536	1.58536		
Adv	anced				
Wat	er weight (pcf	62.4			
	pe Slop Ana Met Expe Mat TC c 3D C Grid No. Auto Grid Colu Advz Wat	pe Description Slope 4 Analysis type Method Expected FS Materials definitio Tension Crack TC definition 3D Column grid Grid definition No. columns/widt Auto align grid Grid bearing (deg) Column width (ft) Advanced Water weight (pcf)	Apply Description Analysis Slope 4 Defined s Analysis type Defined s Method Spencer's Method Spencer's Expected FS None Materials definition Layers To definition None 3D Column grid False Grid definition Num. col No. columns/width 200 Auto align grid False Grid bearing (deg) 0 Auto align grid 1.58536 Advanced Yet Water weight (pcf) 62.4	Apply Solve Apply Solve Apply Solve Slope 4 Spencer's Analysis type Defined surface analysis Method Spencer's Expected FS None Materials definition Layers Tension Crack To definition TC definition None 3D Column grid Num. columns/overall w No. columns/width 200 Auto align grid False Grid bearing (deg) 0 Column width (ft) 1.58536 Advanced Water weight (pcf)	

We then check the *Apply* button, and the columns are recalculated.



The ellipsoid that we have used to locate the active columns in the stability analysis extends beyond the slope, and includes the base of the excavation. To be consistent with the 2D analysis, we need to limit the model to the base of slope.

To do this, we go to the *Slope* menu and check the *Enable clipping* box. We change the Enable clipping option from False to True.

3D Slope Case A				
3D				
Define Basal failure : One basal surface				
5: Basal ellipsoid for 3D slope Case A				
None				
None				
No Loads				
False 🔽				
False				

The graphic view of 3D Slope Case A then changes:



Left mouse click on one of the balls at the ends of the axes, and move as necessary to clip the model. As you move the ball, you will see the associated clipping plane move with it. In this example, we need to move the ball located at X=200 Y=0 towards the slope, until the plane coincides with the foot of the slope. The columns at the base of the excavation will then not be part of the stability analysis.

When we have the clipping planes in their correct place, we hit the *Apply* button. We can then turn the clipping planes off from the *Clipping is Locked* menu item.



Selecting the *Solve* button, the 3D slope stability calculations are carried out:



The graphic output shows the factor of safety (Spencer's Method), and the direction of sliding.

Selecting the *View* tab and selecting only the View basal surface option, we can then show parameters at the base of each column.



From the *Data* tab:



The graphic view of the 3D Slope Case A will now show the local factors of safety. That is the ratio of resisting to driving forces at the base of each column as calculated using the Ordinary Method of Columns.



The columns with Local FS less than 1.00 are the driving columns, and the columns with Local FS greater than 1.00 are resisting.

This result shows that 3D analysis of a slope with a constant cross-section can make a difference, and may be important for your project. See for instance the case studies provided at <u>www.tagasoft.com/case-studies/</u>