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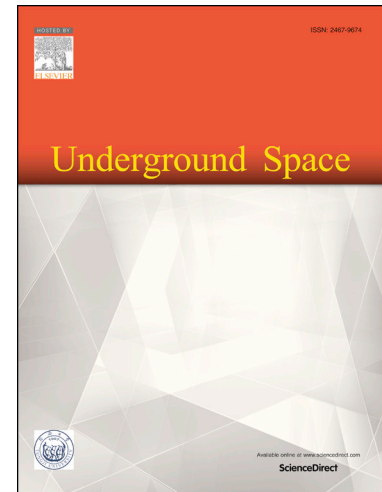
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Reliability analysis of shallow tunnels using the response surface methodology

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Abstract

A probabilistic study of a circular tunnel excavated in a soil mass using the response surface methodology (*RSM*) is presented. A deterministic model based on two-dimensional numerical simulations in a transversal section is used, and the serviceability limit state (*SLS*) is considered in the analysis. The model permits the surface settlement curve and the bending moment on the tunnel lining to be obtained. Only the soil parameters are considered as random variables. The first-order reliability method (*FORM*) and the response surface methodology (*RSM*) are utilized for the assessment of the Hasofer-Lind reliability index (β_{HL}) optimized by the use of a genetic algorithm (*GA*). Two assumptions (normal and non-normal distribution) were used for the random variables. The comparison analysis considering a correlation between the friction angle and the cohesion indicates that the results are conservative if a negative correlation among strength parameters is not taken into account.

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