

Shear wave velocity testing is performed in conjunction with the piezocone penetration test (SCPTu) in order to collect interval velocities. For some projects seismic compression wave (V_p) velocity is also determined.

ConeTec's piezocone penetrometers are manufactured with a horizontally active geophone (28 hertz) that is rigidly mounted in the body of the cone penetrometer, 0.2 meters behind the cone tip.

Shear waves are typically generated by using an impact hammer horizontally striking a beam that is held in place by a normal load. In some instances an auger source or an imbedded impulsive source maybe used for both shear waves and compression waves. The hammer and beam act as a contact trigger that triggers the recording of the seismic wave traces. For impulsive devices an accelerometer trigger may be used. The traces are recorded using an up-hole integrated digital oscilloscope which is part of the SCPTu data acquisition system. An illustration of the shear wave testing configuration is presented in Figure SCPTu-1.

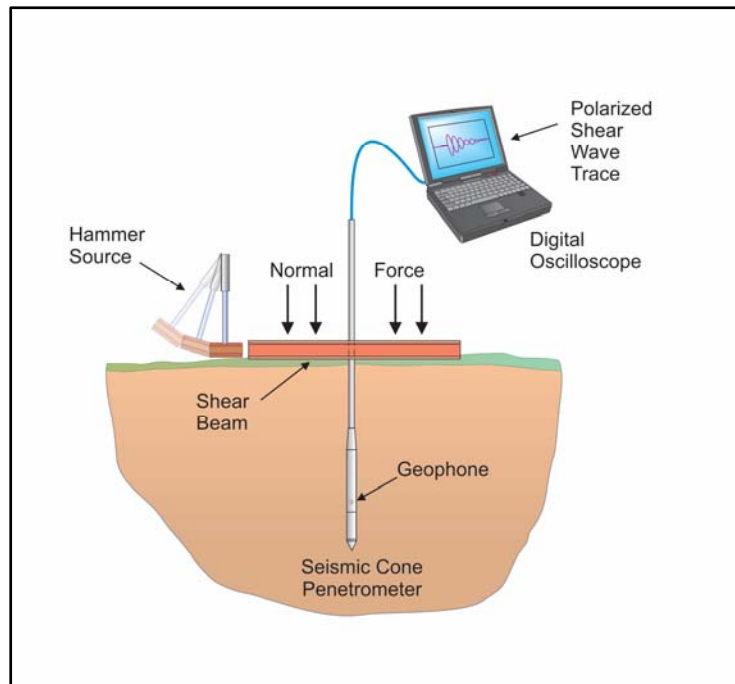


Figure SCPTu-1. Illustration of the SCPTu system

All testing is performed in accordance to ConeTec's SCPTu operating procedures.

Prior to the start of a SCPTu sounding, the procedures described in the Cone Penetration Test section are followed. In addition, the active axis of the geophone is aligned parallel to the beam (or source) and the horizontal offset between the cone and the source is measured and recorded.

Prior to recording seismic waves at each test depth, cone penetration is stopped and the rods are decoupled from the rig to avoid transmission of rig energy down the rods. Multiple wave traces are recorded for quality control purposes. After reviewing wave traces for consistency the cone is pushed to the next test depth (typically one meter intervals or as requested by the client). Figure SCPTu-2 presents an illustration of a SCPTu test.

For additional information on seismic cone penetration testing refer to Robertson et.al. (1986).

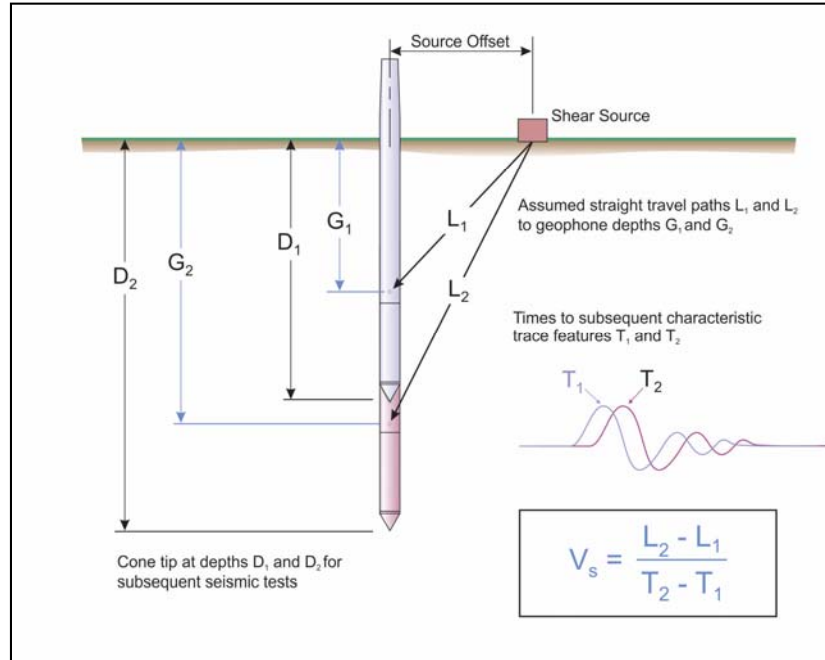


Figure SCPTu-2. Illustration of a seismic cone penetration test

Calculation of the interval velocities are performed by visually picking a common feature (e.g. the first characteristic peak, trough, or crossover) on all of the recorded wave sets and taking the difference in ray path divided by the time difference between subsequent features. Ray path is defined as the straight line distance from the seismic source to the geophone, accounting for beam offset, source depth and geophone offset from the cone tip.

The average shear wave velocity to a depth of 30 meters (V_{s30}) has been calculated and provided for all applicable soundings using an equation presented in Crow et al., 2012.

$$V_{s30} = \frac{\text{total thickness of all layers (30m)}}{\sum(\text{layer traveltimes})}$$

The layer travel times refers to the travel times propagating in the vertical direction, not the measured travel times from an offset source.

Tabular results and SCPTu plots are presented in the relevant appendix.

References

Crow, H.L., Hunter, J.A., Bobrowsky, P.T., 2012, "National shear wave measurement guidelines for Canadian seismic site assessment", GeoManitoba 2012, Sept 30 to Oct 2, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Robertson, P.K., Campanella, R.G., Gillespie D and Rice, A., 1986, "Seismic CPT to Measure In-Situ Shear Wave Velocity", Journal of Geotechnical Engineering ASCE, Vol. 112, No. 8: 791-803.