

## Buried Piping

### Tutorial for Buried Piping Modeling and Analysis using CAEPIPE

The following are the Steps to perform Buried Piping Modeling and Analysis using CAEPIPE.

#### General

In CAEPIPE, Soil in Buried piping analysis is modeled using bilinear restraints with an initial stiffness and an ultimate load. After the ultimate load is reached, the displacement continues without any further increase in load, i.e., the yield stiffness is zero. The initial stiffness is calculated by dividing the ultimate load by the yield displacement which is initially assumed to be  $D/25$  where  $D$  is outside diameter of the pipe.

Soil modeling is based on Winkler's model wherein the soil resistance is represented by an infinite number of closely spaced elastic springs. Soil stiffness is calculated for all three directions at each node. Pressure value in the load is suitably modified to consider the effect of static overburden soil pressure. Model is analyzed for operating ( $W+P1+T1$ ) condition and the displacements in the three global directions are noted. A check is made for whether skin friction is mobilized and the soil has attained the yield state. If true, then the spring is released in that direction indicating that soil no longer offers resistance in that direction. This modified model is again analyzed and checked for yield stage. The iterative process is continued till the percentage difference between displacements at each node for two successive iterations is less than 1%. The final stiffness in each direction is the true resistance offered by the soil to the pipe in that direction.

From the above, you may note that elastic springs representing the soil stiffnesses in the Global X, Y and Z directions are to be added at as many nodes in the buried portion of the Stress model as required to simulate Winkler's soil model. So, it is important that even long buried straight pipes are discretized so that such elastic springs are added at all intermediate nodes generated along those long buried straight pipes. In addition, it is at the bends, elbows, and branch connections that the highest stresses are found in buried piping subjected to thermal expansion of the pipe. These stresses are due to the soil forces that bear against the transverse run. The stresses are proportional to the amount of soil deformation at the elbow or branch connection. Hence, before performing the analysis, discretize the stress layout as given below.

Piping elements at the junction of bends, elbows, and branch connections as well as long straight buried pipes can be refined through Layout window > Edit > Refine Nodal Mesh > Buried Piping. Refinement length for adding intermediate nodes is based on the influence length computed as below.

#### Modulus of Subgrade Reaction (k)

This factor  $k$  defines the resistance of the soil or backfill to pipe movement due to the bearing pressure at the pipe/soil interface. Several methods for calculating modulus of subgrade reaction ( $k$ ) have been developed in recent years. As per Trautmann, C.H., and O'Rourke, T.D., "Lateral Force-Displacement Response of Buried Pipes," Journal of Geotechnical Engineering, ASCE, Vol. 111, No. 9 Sep 1985, pp. 1077-1092, the modulus of subgrade reaction,  $k$ , can be calculated as per Eq. (2) in Appendix VII of ASME B31.1-2014 code.

$$k = C_k N_h w D$$

where,

$C_k$  = a dimensionless factor for estimating horizontal stiffness of compacted backfill.  $C_k$  may be estimated at 20 for loose soil, 30 for medium soil, and 80 for dense or compacted soil. In the current version of CAEPIPE, the value of  $C_k$  is internally set as 80 for both cohesive and cohesionless soil.

$D$  = pipe outside diameter, in

$w$  = soil density, lb/in<sup>3</sup>

$N_h$  = a dimensionless horizontal force factor from Fig. 8 of above stated technical paper. For a typical value where the soil internal friction angle is 30 deg. the curve from Fig. 8 may be approximated by a straight line defined by

$$N_h = (0.285H)/D + 4.3$$

$H$  = the depth of pipe below grade at the pipe centerline, in

# Buried Piping

## Influence Length ( $L_k$ )

The influence length is defined as the portion of a buried transverse pipe run which is deflected or “influenced” by pipe thermal expansion along the axis of the buried longitudinal run.

From Hetenyi’s theory, (Beams on Elastic Foundation, The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan 1967) (also, see Section VII-3.3.2 of Appendix VII of ASME B31.1-2014 code)

$$L_k = \frac{3\pi}{4\beta}$$

where,

$$\beta = \left[ \frac{k}{4EI} \right]^{1/4}$$

Pipe / Soil System Characteristics =

E = modulus of elasticity of pipe at reference temperature

I = moment of inertia of pipe cross section

k = modulus of subgrade reaction of soil as detailed above.

## Tutorial

Snap shot shown below is a sample model for Buried Piping Modeling and Analysis.

The screenshot displays two windows from the Caepipe software. The left window, titled 'Caepipe: Layout (969) - [buriedpiping.mod (c:\tutorials\buriedpiping)]', shows a data table with columns for Node, Type, DX, DY, DZ, Matl, Sect, Load, and Data. The right window, titled 'Caepipe: Graphics - [buriedpiping.mod (c:\tutorials\buriedpiping)]', shows a 3D wireframe model of a piping system with various components like valves, weldolets, and supports, along with a coordinate system (X, Y, Z).

#	Node	Type	DX (ft/in)	DY (ft/in)	DZ (ft/in)	Matl	Sect	Load	Data
4	30	Bend	-19.2913	-7.1522	-19.2913	C6	30U	R	
5	40				-14.4619	C6	30U	R	
6	50				-1.3944	C6	30U	R	Weldolet
7	50	Location							Rest. Supp
8	60				-1.8865	C6	30U	R	
9	70	Valve			-5.4593	C6	30U	R	
10	80				-1.8865	C6	30U	R	Weldolet
11	80	Location							Rest. Supp
12	90				-1.3944	C6	30U	R	
13	100				-38.1398	C6	30U	R	Guide
14	110				-6.2336	C6	30U	R	
15	120				-4.0453	C6	30U	R	
16	130				-4.8409	C6	30U	R	Rest. Supp
17	140				-2.1325	C6	30U	R	
18	150	Valve			-5'5"	C6	30U	R	Rest. Supp
19	160				-2.1325	C6	30U	R	Guide
20	170				-29.7720	C6	30U	R	
21	180				-35.6955	C6	30U	R	Welding tee
22	180	Location							Rest. Supp
23	190				-98.4252	C6	30U	R	Welding tee
24	190	Location							Rest. Supp
25	200	Bend			-41'8"	C6	30U	R	
26	200A	Location							Rest. Supp
27	210	Bend		3.2808	-3.2808	C6	30U	R	
28	220				-47.3097	C6	30U	R	

## Buried Piping

### Step 1:

First define soils using the command Layout window > Misc > Soils.

The image shows two dialog boxes for defining soil properties. The first dialog, 'Soil # 1', is for a Cohesive soil. It has fields for Soil name (S2), Density (150 lb/ft3), Strength (100 psi), Delta (empty), Ks (empty), and Ground level (3'3" ft'in"). It also has checkboxes for 'Value entered is Depth of Soil above pipe centerline' and 'Include Insulation thickness for computing maximum soil loads'. The second dialog, 'Soil # 2', is for a Cohesionless soil. It has fields for Soil name (S3), Density (150 lb/ft3), Strength (empty), Delta (30 deg), Ks (0.80), and Ground level (6'6" ft'in"). It also has the same checkboxes as the first dialog. Both dialogs have OK and Cancel buttons.

Two types of soils can be defined - Cohesive and Cohesionless.

**Cohesive soil** is hard to break up when dry, and exhibits significant **cohesion** when submerged. **Cohesive soils** include clayey silt, sandy clay, silty clay, clay and organic clay.

**Cohesionless soil** is any free-running type of **soil**, such as sand or gravel, whose strength depends on friction between particles.

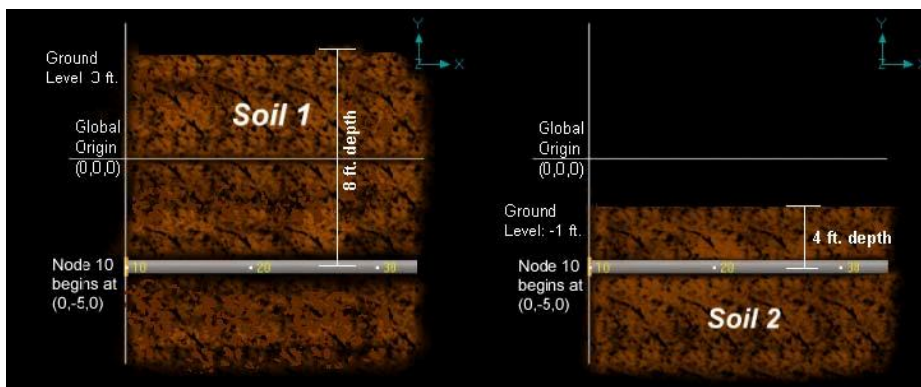
**Soil density** and **Ground level** are input for both cohesive and cohesionless soils. The **Ground level** is used to calculate depth of the buried section. For cohesive soil, **Strength** is the un-drained cohesive strength (Cs). For cohesionless soil, **Delta** is angle of friction between soil and pipe, and **Ks** is Coefficient of horizontal soil stress.

### Ground Level

Ground level for a soil is the height of the soil surface from the global origin (height could be positive or negative). It is NOT a measure of the depth of the pipe's centerline.

In the figure below, the height of the soil surface for Soil 1 is 3 feet from the global origin. Pipe node 10 [model origin] is defined at (0,-5, 0). So, at Node 10, the pipe is buried 8' [= (3' - (-5'))] deep into the soil. Define similarly for the other soil.

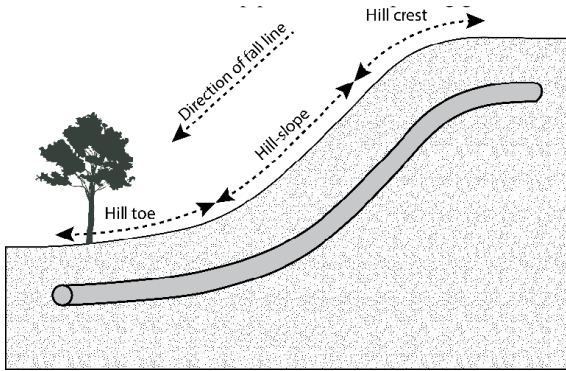
The pipe centerline is calculated by CAEPIPE from the given data.



## Buried Piping

### Depth of Soil above Pipe's Centerline

When the option "Value entered is Depth of Soil above pipe centerline" is turned ON in Soil input, then CAEPIPE will compute maximum soil loads for the sections buried using the Depth entered. This option will be helpful for modeling pipes that are running up or down a hill with same depth of soil filled above pipe's centerline as shown in the figure given below.



### Warning:

Assign Soil only to those elements that are really buried in soil when the option "Value entered is Depth of Soil above pipe centerline" is turned ON.

### Step 2:

Tie the soils defined above with pipe sections through Layout window > Misc > Sections or Ctrl+Shft+S (to list Sections). Double click on the required section property. You will see the field Soil in the bottom right corner. Pick the soil name from the drop-down combo box.

#	Name	Nom Dia	Sch	OD (inch)	Thk (inch)	Cor.Al (inch)	M.Tol (%)	Ins.Dens (lb/ft3)	Ins.Thk (inch)	Lin.Dens (lb/ft3)	Lin.Thk (inch)	Soil
1	30U	Non Std		30	0.87402		5.0					S2
2	50U	2"	XS	2.375	0.218		12.5					S3
3	50	2"	40	2.375	0.154		12.5					
4	20U	Non Std		20	0.55906		5.0					S3
5	16U	Non Std		15.921	0.49213		12.5					S3
6	20	Non Std		20	0.55906		12.5					
7	14	14"	40	14	0.43701		12.5					
8	10	10"	40	10.75	0.365		12.5					
9	FIL	Non Std		44.016	1.1811	0.11811						
10	20F	Non Std		24.252	1.9685	0.11811						

## Buried Piping

Section # 1

Section name: 300

ANSI  DIN  JIS  ISO

Nominal diameter: Non Std Schedule: [ ]

Outside diameter: 30 (inch) Thickness: 0.87402 (inch)

Corrosion allowance: [ ] (inch) Mill tolerance: 5.0 (%)

Insulation: Density: [ ] (lb/ft3) Thickness: [ ] (inch)

Lining: Density: [ ] (lb/ft3) Thickness: [ ] (inch)

OK Cancel Insulation Soil: S2

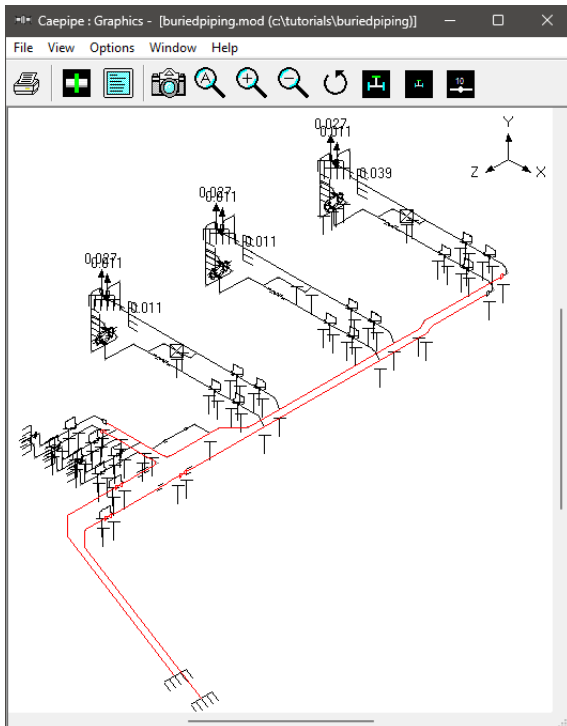
If a part of a piping system uses a certain pipe section with some portion of it buried and the balance not buried, then two separate sections have to be defined, with one of them without soil and the other with soil.

### Step 3:

Assign the appropriate section for each buried element on the Layout window with the correct soil around it.

### Step 4:

Review the stress layout by highlighting the buried sections of the model in graphics. If your model contains sections that are above ground and buried, then you can selectively see only the buried sections of piping in CAEPIPE graphics by highlighting the section that is tied to the soil. Use the Highlight feature under the Section List window and place highlight on the buried piping section (see Highlight under List window>View menu, or press Ctrl+H). The Graphics window should highlight only that portion of the model that is using that specific section/soil. See the portion shown in green in the figure below.



## Buried Piping

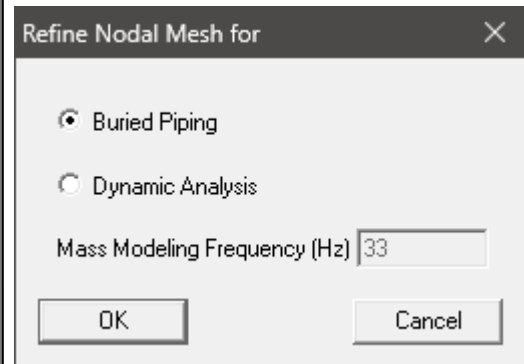
### Step 5:

It is at the bends, elbows, and branch connections that the highest stresses are found in buried piping subjected to thermal expansion of the pipe. These stresses are due to the soil forces that bear against the transverse run. The stresses are proportional to the amount of soil deformation at the elbow or branch connection. Hence, piping elements at the junction of bends, elbows and branch connections are to be refined in the stress layout.

This can be performed through Layout window > Edit > Refine Nodal Mesh > Buried Piping. Please see the section titled "Buried Piping" in CAEPIPE User's Manual for details on "Nodal mesh generation".

The screenshot shows the CAEPIPE Layout window with the 'Edit' menu open. The 'Refine Nodal Mesh' option is highlighted. The background table shows the following data:

#	Length (ft/in)	Matl	Sect	Load	Data
4	19.2913	C6	30U	R	
5	14.4619	C6	30U	R	
6	1.3944	C6	30U	R	Weldolet
7					Rest. Supp
8	1.8865	C6	30U	R	
9	5.4593	C6	30U	R	
10	1.8865	C6	30U	R	Weldolet
11					Rest. Supp
12	1.3944	C6	30U	R	
13	38.1398	C6	30U	R	Guide
14	5.2336	C6	30U	R	
15	10.0453	C6	30U	R	
16	1.8409	C6	30U	R	Rest. Supp
17	2.1325	C6	30U	R	
18	3'5"	C6	30U	R	Rest. Supp
19	2.1325	C6	30U	R	Guide
20	29.7720	C6	30U	R	
21	35.6955	C6	30U	R	Welding tee
22					Rest. Supp
23	38.4252	C6	30U	R	Welding tee



### Step 6:

Now, to best simulate Winkler's soil model, discretize even the remaining long straight buried pipe elements in the stress layout as detailed below.

Starting from CAEPIPE Version 10.30, a feature was included to discretize the long straight buried pipe elements through Layout Window > Edit > Refine Nodal Mesh > Buried Piping. In other words, the procedure listed below in this step is done automatically using this command.

For example, a long-buried pipe element at row no. 3 is split as given below. Since the split length is not known, Influence Length is calculated as explained above by obtaining the properties required from the CAEPIPE model. The resulting length is then used to split the long-buried pipe element automatically.

Density of soil  $S_2 = 150 \text{ lb/ft}^3 = \mathbf{0.087 \text{ lb/in}^3}$

As explained above, dimensionless factor (Ck) is taken as 80 for cohesive and cohesionless soil.

Pipe OD (D) for element at row #3 = **30"**

Pipe ID (d) for element at row #3 =  $30" - (2 \times 0.874) = \mathbf{28.252"}$

Being a sloped pipe, the average height at the middle of the pipe is considered as given below

$H = \text{Depth of Pipe below grade} = 3'3" + (11' + 3')/2 = 10'3" = \mathbf{125"}$

## Buried Piping

$$N_h = (0.285H)/D + 4.3 = (0.285 \times 125"/30") + 4.3 = \mathbf{5.4875}$$

$$\text{Modulus Subgrade Reaction} = k = C_k \cdot N_h \cdot w \cdot D = 80 \times 5.4875 \times 0.087 \times 30 = \mathbf{1145.79 \text{ psi}}$$

$$\text{Moment of Inertia (I)} = \frac{\pi}{64} (D^4 - D_i^4) = (3.14/64.0) \times (30^4 - 28.252^4) = \mathbf{8487.99 \text{ in}^4}$$

$$\text{Modulus of elasticity of Pipe at Reference Temperature (E)} = \mathbf{30.8E+6 \text{ psi}}$$

$$\text{Pipe / Soil System Characteristics} = \beta = \left[ \frac{k}{4EI} \right]^{1/4} = [1145.79 / (4 \times 30.8E+6 \times 8487.99)]^{1/4} = \mathbf{0.0057}$$

$$\text{Influence Length (L}_k) = \frac{3\pi}{4\beta} = 3 \times 3.14 / (4 \times 0.0057) = \mathbf{413 \text{ in}}$$

$$\text{Based on the above, number of splits} = (\text{Total Length} / 413) + 1 = (1758 / 413) + 1 = 5.25 = 6$$

So, starting from CAEPIPE Version 10.30, the long-buried pipe element at row no. 3 is automatically split in 6 equal lengths. The above procedure is followed to automatically split other long buried straight pipe elements in the stress model.

However, in CAEPIPE Version 10.20 or earlier, long straight buried pipe element at row no. 3 in the stress layout needs to be discretized manually using "Multiple Split..." command available through Layout Window > Edit by highlighting the pipe element at row no. 3.

Split Row # 3

Pipe From 10 To 20  
Length = 146.5040 (ft'in")

Intermediate Starting Node

Node Increment

No. of Splits

OK Cancel

### Step 7:

Save the refined model as "BuriedPipingRefined\_StPipes.mod". Analyze the model through File > Analyze. Upon successful analysis, CAEPIPE displays an option "Soil Restraints" in addition to other analysis results.

Results

Sorted stresses       Support load summary

Code compliance       Support loads

Flange report       Element forces

Rot. equip report       Displacements

Soil restraints

OK Cancel

## Buried Piping

Caepipe : Soil Restraints - [buriedpipingrefined\_stpipes.res (c:\tutorials\buriedpiping)]

File Results View Options Window Help

#	From	To	Name	Type	Axial		Transverse		Vertical Down		Vertical Up	
					Stiffness (lb/inch)	Max Load (lb)	Stiffness (lb/inch)	Max Load (lb)	Stiffness (lb/inch)	Max Load (lb)	Stiffness (lb/inch)	Max Load (lb)
1	10	20000	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	7.826E+6	9390709	4.306E+6	5166812	7.701E+6	9240631
2	20000	20010	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	8.072E+6	9686963	4.310E+6	5171866	8.028E+6	9633850
3	20010	20020	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	8.319E+6	9983217	4.314E+6	5176920	8.356E+6	1.00E+7
4	20020	20030	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	8.566E+6	1.03E+7	4.318E+6	5181974	8.684E+6	1.04E+7
5	20030	20040	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	8.813E+6	1.06E+7	4.323E+6	5187025	9.011E+6	1.08E+7
6	20040	20	S2	Cohesive	12484	14981	9.060E+6	1.09E+7	4.327E+6	5192079	9.339E+6	1.12E+7
7	20	30	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.886E+6	2262834	886519	1063823	1.953E+6	2343343
8	30	40	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.896E+6	2275256	886696	1064035	1.967E+6	2359831
9	40	50	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.906E+6	2287679	886872	1064247	1.980E+6	2376319
10	50	60	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.917E+6	2300101	887049	1064459	1.994E+6	2392808
11	60	70	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.927E+6	2312524	887226	1064671	2.008E+6	2409296
12	70	80	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.7	1.937E+6	2324946	887402	1064883	2.021E+6	2425785
13	80	90A	S2	Cohesive	1202.1	1442.6	914660	1097592	417359	500830	955347	1146416
14	90B	100	S2	Cohesive	2103.4	2524.0	1.660E+6	1992143	707549	849059	1.694E+6	2032874
15	100	110	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.6	2.123E+6	2548164	861682	1034018	2.195E+6	2633760
16	110	120	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.6	2.240E+6	2687480	863598	1036317	2.344E+6	2812676
17	120	130	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.6	2.356E+6	2826795	865514	1038617	2.493E+6	2991591
18	130	140	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.6	2.472E+6	2966111	867431	1040917	2.642E+6	3170507
19	140	150A	S2	Cohesive	807.6	969.1	804987	965984	274429	329315	865655	1038786
20	150B	160	S2	Cohesive	1725.8	2071.0	1.758E+6	2109735	606923	728307	1.963E+6	2355210
21	160	170	S2	Cohesive	2556.4	3067.6	2.604E+6	3125043	899004	1078805	2.907E+6	3488652
22	170	180	S2	Cohesive	2281.3	2737.5	2.324E+6	2788760	802263	962716	2.594E+6	3113242
23	180	190	S2	Cohesive	712.9	855.5	726244	871492	250709	300850	810745	972893
24	190	200	S2	Cohesive	964.5	1157.4	982553	1179063	339190	407028	1.097E+6	1316251
25	210	220	S2	Cohesive	964.5	1157.4	982553	1179063	339190	407028	1.097E+6	1316251
26	220	230	S2	Cohesive	712.9	855.5	726244	871492	250709	300850	810745	972893
27	230	240	S2	Cohesive	19500	23400	1.986E+7	2.38E+7	6.858E+6	8229074	2.218E+7	2.66E+7
28	240	250	S2	Cohesive	3187.1	3824.5	3.247E+6	3896030	1.121E+6	1344959	3.624E+6	4349346
29	250	260	S2	Cohesive	2068.2	2481.9	2.107E+6	2528315	727339	872806	2.352E+6	2822492