

# NAPETOSTNO ODVISNO RAZMIKANJE PESKA UPOŠTE- VAJOČ DROBLJENJE ZRN

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## Ključne besede

kot razmikanja; strižni kot; drobljenje delcev; pesek;  
triosni preizkus

## Izvleček

V članku je predstavljeno napetostno odvisno razmikanje peska z upoštevanjem drobljenja zrn. Za ta namen je bil izveden niz dreniranih triosnih preizkusov na kremenovem pesku številka 5 in predhodno zdrobljenih peskih, ki so bili pridobljeni z več dreniranimi triosnimi preizkusi na kremenovem pesku številka 5 pri 3 MPa bočnega tlaka, s čimer je ponazorjeno striženje peska pri visokih tlakih, to pa ima za posledico drobljenje delcev. Za podani začetni količnik por je bilo ugotovljeno, da ima drobljenje delcev za posledico zmanjšanje napetostno odvisnega razmikanja peska, kar se kaže bodisi kot kontrakcijsko obnašanje ali kot zmanjšanje maksimalne vrednosti kota razmikanja in s tem zmanjšanje dodatnega strižnega kota (razlika med vrhunsko vrednostjo strižnega kota ter strižnim kotom pri kritičnem stanju). Z uvedbo koncepta količnika por skeleta pri obravnavanju drobljenja zrn je predlagan linearen odnos za napetostno odvisno razmikanje v obliki zveze med maksimalnim kotom razmikanja, dodatnim strižnim kotom in vrhnjo vrednostjo količnika por skeleta v pol-logarimični ravnini. Ta zveza je nato razširjena na mobilizirano napetostno-deformacijsko stanje. Dobljena enačba napetostno odvisnega razmikanja, ki vključuje drobljenje zrn, je uporabna za oceno vpliva drobljenja zrn na napetostno odvisno razmikanje peska.

# STRESS-DILATANCY BEHAVIOR OF SAND INCORPORATING PARTICLE BREAKAGE

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## Keywords

dilatancy angle; friction angle; particle breakage; sand; triaxial tests

## Abstract

*This paper presents the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand incorporating particle breakage. A series of the drained triaxial tests were conducted on the Silica sand No.5 and the pre-crushed sands that were produced by several drained triaxial tests on Silica sand No.5 under 3MPa confining pressure in simulating the high-pressure shear process to result in particle breakage, to investigate the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand incorporating particle breakage. For a given initial void ratio, particle breakage was found to result in deterioration of the stress-dilatancy behavior in the impairment of the dilatancy of sand to become more contractive with a reduction in the maximum dilatancy angle and the excess friction angle (the difference between the peak-state friction angle and the critical-state friction angle). By introducing the concept of the skeleton void ratio in considering particle breakage, a linear stress-dilatancy relationship between the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle and peak-state skeleton void ratio was proposed in semi-logarithmic plane and popularized to the mobilized stress-stain state as a stress-dilatancy equation pertaining to particle breakage, which would be useful in assessing the evolution of the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand during particle breakage.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Since the dilatancy phenomenon of granular materials was firstly mentioned by Reynolds (1885) [17], the dilatancy behavior of soil plays a very significant role in soil behavior, e.g., stress-dilatancy behavior of soil (e.g., [4], [5], [18], [27]), and stress-dilatancy behavior of soil in relation to particle breakage or fine content (e.g., [6], [7], [19], [22], [25], [28], [29], [30]). For a given initial void ratio, the increase of the particle breakage or the non-plastic fines was found to lead to a decrease of the dilatancy behavior of soil in a great deal of previous studies (e.g., [2], [3], [14], [16], [20], [21], [28], [29], [30]). Also, particle breakage or non-plastic fines revealed a great influence on the critical state behavior of the soil: critical state line, critical-state stress and critical-state friction angle (e.g., [2], [16], [21], [26], [28], [29], [30]). In addition, the intergranular void ratio has been used to represent the behavior of the mixed soils (e.g., [13], [15], [19], [21]). The excess friction angle (the difference between peak-state friction angle and critical-state friction angle) was widely employed in relation to the peak-state dilatancy rate for representing the stress-dilatancy behavior of soils (e.g., [3], [4], [23], [27], [29]). However, a question arises as to what role particle breakage plays in the stress-dilatancy behavior of soil, especially for the stress-dilatancy equation of soil, which has not been fully studied yet.

In this paper, with the main attempt being to establish a stress-dilatancy equation incorporating particle breakage, a series of the drained triaxial test were conducted to investigate the influence of particle breakage on the stress-dilatancy behavior of the pre-crushed sands that were produced by several triaxial tests on Silica sand No.5 under 3MPa confining pressure in simulating the high-pressure shear process to result in particle breakage. The excess friction angle, dilatancy angle and the relation of the maximum dilatancy angle over the excess friction angle of the pre-crushed sands were discussed in detail in view of particle breakage. By introducing the skeleton void ratio in considering the influence of particle breakage, a linear relation between the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle and the peak-state skeleton void ratio was proposed in semi-logarithmic plane and extended to the mobilized stress-stain state as a stress-dilatancy equation for particle breakage.

## 2 LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS

### 2.1 Materials and methods

As a kind of natural silica sand, Silica sand No.5 from the Seto area of Aichi prefecture, Japan-which has some of the purest sands in Japan-was tested by triaxial tests in this paper with its physical properties in Table 1 and its original grain size distribution curve in Figure 1 (JGS 0131-2009, 2009 [9]; JGS 0161-2009, 2009 [10]). Silica sand No.5 is classified as a poorly graded sand (SP) according to the Unified Soil Classification System (ASTM D2487-11, 2011 [1]).

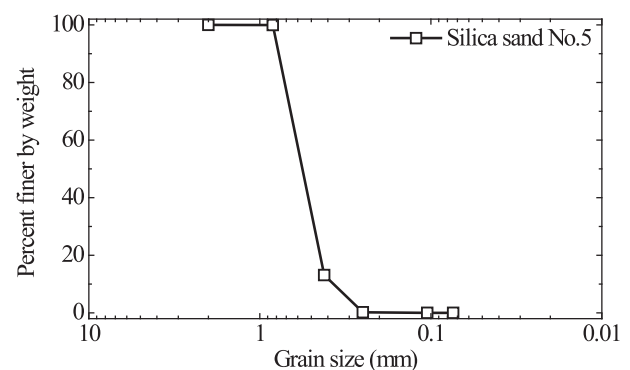
For consistency with the previous studies [28, 29, 30], a series of Consolidated-Drained (CD) triaxial tests were conducted on Silica sand No.5 and its pre-crushed sands using a strain-controlled high-pressure triaxial apparatus with maximum 3MPa confining pressure (JGS 0524-2009, 2009 [12]). All the specimens in diameter 75mm and height 160mm were prepared by air pluviation into a mound with a 1-mm-thick membrane in eight layers with the necessary tamping to reach the designated void ratio (JGS 0520-2009, 2009 [11]). To prevent the membrane from being pierced by sharp edges of soil particles and minimizing the membrane penetration under high effective stress, a 1-mm-thick membrane was employed for all the tests. All the triaxial tests were conducted on saturated specimens with Skempton's  $B$  value over 0.98 using the de-aired water to flush the specimens under around -100kPa vacuum.

After the shearing of each test, the whole material of the specimen was dried in an oven and later mixed uniformly, and then laid open uniformly as a thin

cylindrical shape on a large tray, which was divided into four sectors uniformly. The diagonal two of them were removed until around 200g left by repeating this method, with the aim to have around 200g uniform material of specimen to sieve. Hereafter, the around 200g of specimen was employed for sieve analysis to obtain the grain size distribution curve (JGS 0131-2009, 2009 [9]).

**Table 1.** Physical properties of Silica sand No.5.

Property	Silica sand No.5
Specific gravity, $G_s$	2.761
Minimum void ratio, $e_{\min}$	0.766
Maximum void ratio, $e_{\max}$	1.215
Fine content, $F_c$	0.02%
Coefficient of uniformity, $C_u$	1.647
Coefficient of curvature, $C_c$	0.378



**Figure 1.** Original grain size distribution curve of silica sand No.5.

### 2.2 Quantification of particle breakage

In this paper, the Relative Breakage ( $B_r$ ) [8] was introduced to assess the extent of particle breakage, where the area between initial grain size distribution curve and the grain size distribution curve after loading can be regarded as the total breakage  $B_t$ , and the area between initial grain size distribution curve and the vertical line of 0.075mm sieve size can be regarded as the breakage potential  $B_p$ . The relative breakage  $B_r$  is defined as a ratio of the total breakage  $B_t$  over the breakage potential  $B_p$  as illustrated in Figure 2.

### 2.3 Test results

As shown in Figure 3, several drained triaxial tests were sheared under 3MPa to the designated axial strain levels from 0% to 50% using a 10% increment for producing the crushed sands with progressively increased extent of particle breakage, which can be called the pre-crushed sands shown in Figure 4. Note that the original sand

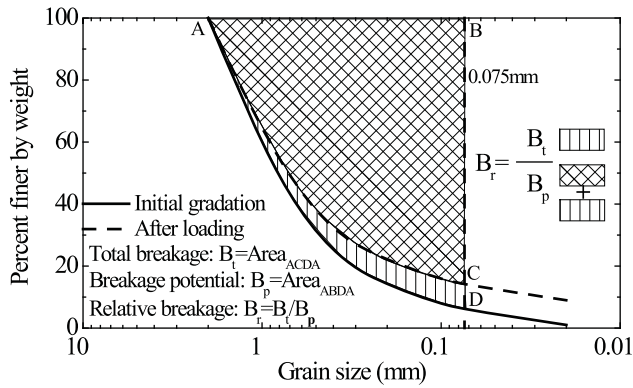


Figure 2. Definition of relative breakage (Hardin, 1985).

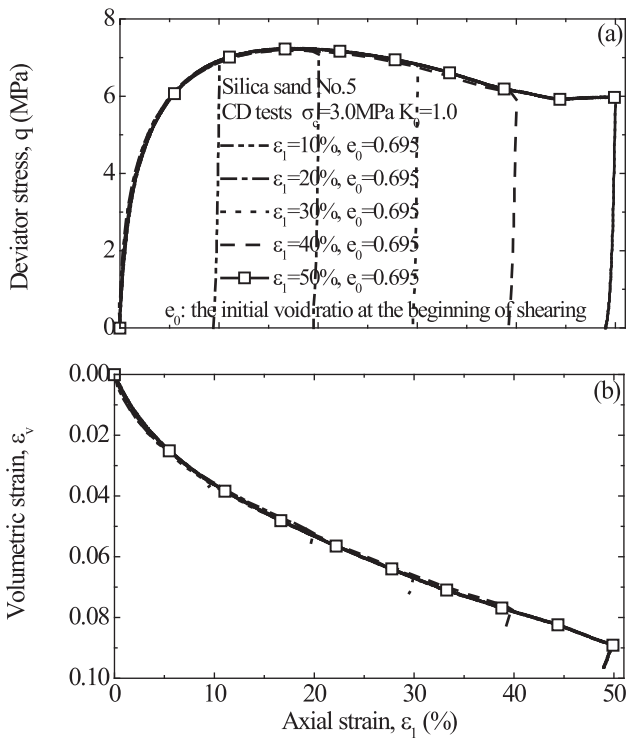


Figure 3. Drained shear tests for producing the pre-crushed sands.

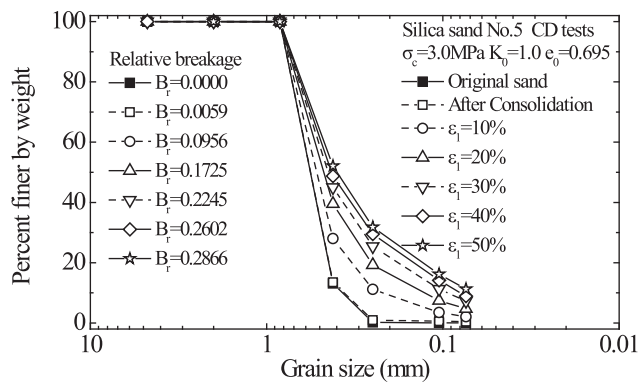


Figure 4. Grain size distribution curves of the pre-crushed sands.

can be regarded as a kind of pre-crushed sand with  $B_r=0.0000$ , and the original sand and pre-crushed sands are hereafter called the pre-crushed sands by a general designation. For investigating the influence of particle breakage on the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand, the

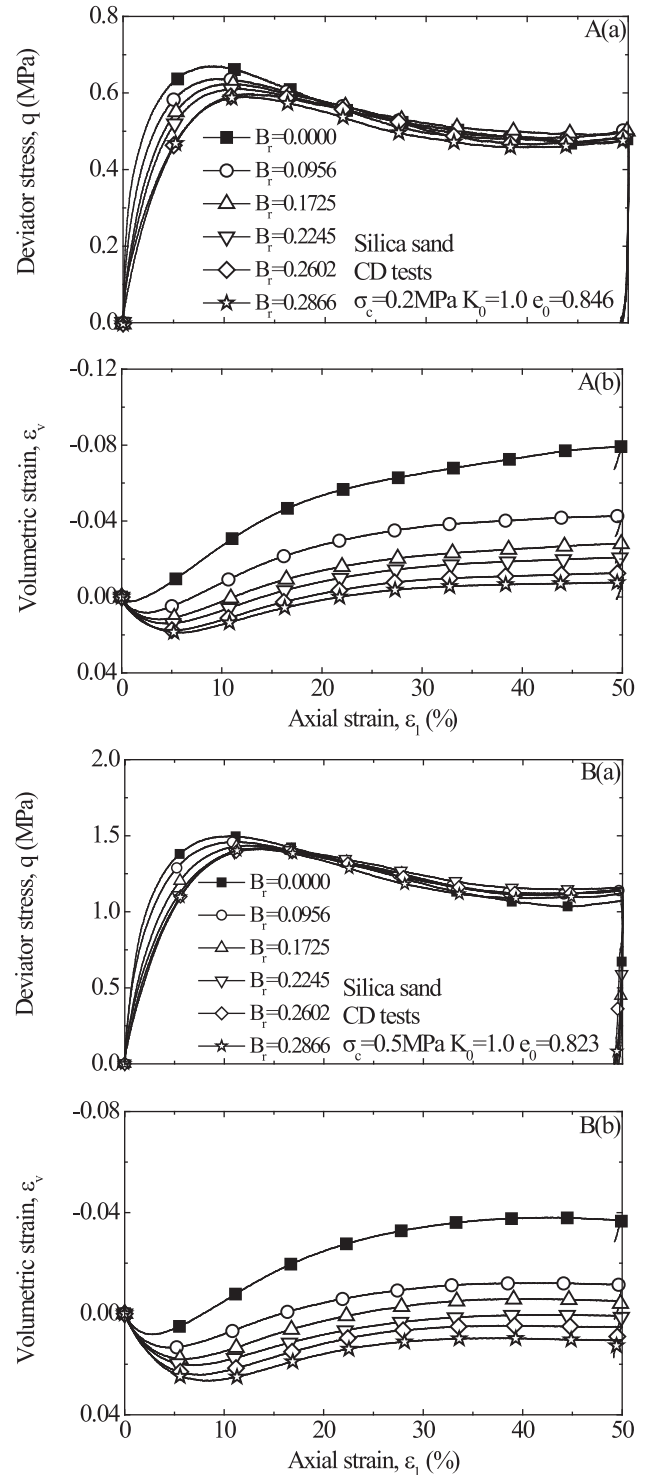


Figure 5. Drained shear results on the pre-crushed sands: (A) under 0.2MPa; (B) under 0.5MPa.

pre-crushed sands were re-employed to constitute the new specimens, which would reach the same initial void ratio after the isotropically drained consolidation and then would be re-sheared to reach the critical states under 0.2MPa and 0.5MPa confining pressures, respectively, as shown in Figure 5. Herein, the 0.2MPa and 0.5MPa, as the relatively low confining pressures were employed in the drained triaxial shear for trying not to crush the pre-crushed sands any more in clearly detecting the influence of particle breakage on the shear behavior of the pre-crushed sands. Note that the particle breakage has a significant influence on the soil behavior, e.g., for a given initial void ratio, particle breakage results in a deterioration of stress-strain behavior in the impairment of dilatancy of sand to become more contractive.

### 3 DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Angles of shearing and dilatancy

The shear strength and dilatancy of soil has a significant influence on soil behavior. The mobilized angles of shearing and dilatancy of soil are defined and given respectively by

$$\sin \varphi_m = \left[ \frac{\sigma'_1 / \sigma'_3 - 1}{\sigma'_1 / \sigma'_3 + 1} \right]_m \quad (1)$$

$$\sin \psi_m = \left[ -\frac{d\varepsilon_v}{d\gamma_{13}} \right]_m \quad (2)$$

where  $\varphi_m$  is the mobilized angle of shearing,  $\psi_m$  is the mobilized angle of dilatancy,  $\sigma'_1/\sigma'_3$  is the mobilized effective principal stress ratio,  $d\varepsilon_v$  is the volumetric strain increment and  $d\gamma_{13}$  is the maximum shear strain increment that can be calculated by  $d\gamma_{13}=2d\varepsilon_1-d\varepsilon_v$  ( $d\varepsilon_1$  is the axial strain increment) for the plain strain shear and traditional triaxial shear (e.g., [4], [19]).

By introducing the peak-state and critical-state stresses and strains to equations (1) and (2), the angles of shearing and dilatancy in peak state and critical state would be obtained, as represented by  $\varphi_{ps}$  and  $\psi_{ps}$  for peak-state friction angle and peak-state dilatancy angle, respectively, and by  $\varphi_{cs}$  and  $\psi_{cs}$  for critical-state friction angle and critical-state dilatancy angle, respectively.

The excess friction angle ([23], [27], [29]) is defined as

$$\varphi_{excess} = \varphi_{ps} - \varphi_{cs} \quad (3)$$

And, corresponding to the concept of the excess friction angle, the excess dilatancy angle  $\psi_{excess}$  can be also be defined by

$$\psi_{excess} = \psi_{ps} - \psi_{cs} \quad (4)$$

In addition, the maximum dilatancy rate of soil is widely accepted to be associated with the peak state of shear (e.g., [4]), which means that the peak-state dilatancy angle  $\psi_{ps}$  could be treated as being equal to the maximum dilatancy angle  $\psi_{max}$ , i.e.  $\psi_{ps}=\psi_{max}$ . And the critical-state dilatancy angle would be equal to zero, i.e.  $\psi_{cs}=0$ , according to the concept of critical state.

Therefore, the equation (4) gives

$$\psi_{excess} = \psi_{ps} = \psi_{max} \quad (5)$$

Figure 6 shows that the excess friction angles decrease approximately in up concavity to converge with increasing particle breakage. As shown in Figure 7, the maximum dilatancy angles are found to decrease gradually in slightly up concavity with increasing particle breakage. It is evident to image that the excess friction angle and maximum dilatancy angle should finally converge to a constant with increasing particle breakage to the limit particle breakage, i.e., the ratio of maximum dilatancy

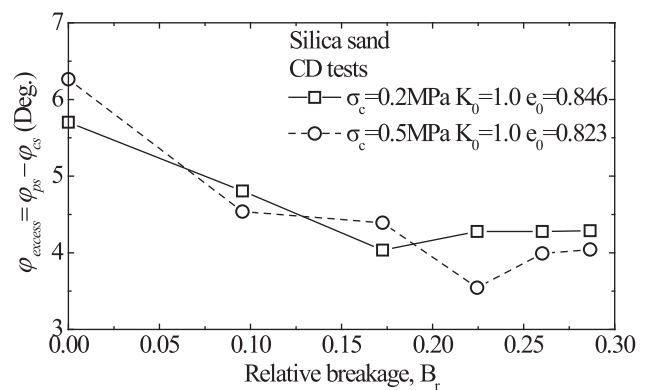


Figure 6. Evolution of the excess friction angle against relative breakage.

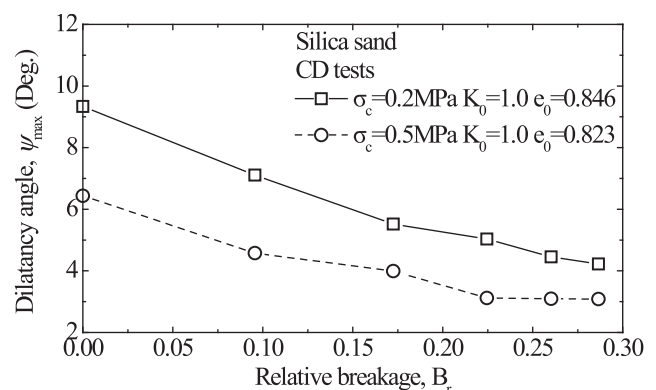
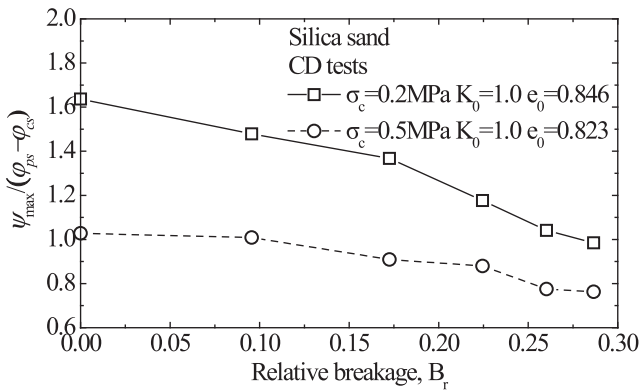


Figure 7. Evolution of the maximum dilatancy angle against relative breakage.

angle over the excess friction angle should finally converge gradually to a constant with increasing particle breakage to the limit particle breakage. Figure 8 shows the evolution of the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle (or the excess dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle) against the relative breakage, i.e., in detail, the ratio of the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle decreases gradually in down concavity.



**Figure 8.** Evolution of the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle against relative breakage.

### 3.2 Microstructure framework for the pre-crushed sands

The increased fine content that squeezed into voids among the sand particles would result in the reduction of the maximum void ratio and minimum void ratio, which represents a reduction in the void ratios (e.g., [14], [19], [21]). For a given overall void ratio of soil with almost all the fines in voids, in the microstructure framework of granular mix, the skeleton void ratio  $e_{skfc}$  (e.g., [13], [19], [21]) can be approximately in consideration of the composite mix of coarse and fine grain skeletons as if the fines were voids, as defined by

$$e_{skfc} = \frac{1+e}{1-f_c} - 1 \quad (6)$$

where  $e$  is the void ratio and  $f_c$  is the fine content.

As shown in Figure 3, the pre-crushed sands were produced by the progressive triaxial shear on poorly graded silica sand No.5 with very few initial fine content and lots of voids among the soil particles. With the progressive triaxial shear, the particle breakage in pre-crushed sands were regarded as being progressive, and the fine content in the pre-crushed sands can be assumed to be squeezed into the voids in the sand skeleton as if the fines were voids in being same as the concept of the skeleton void ratio. Consequently, for the

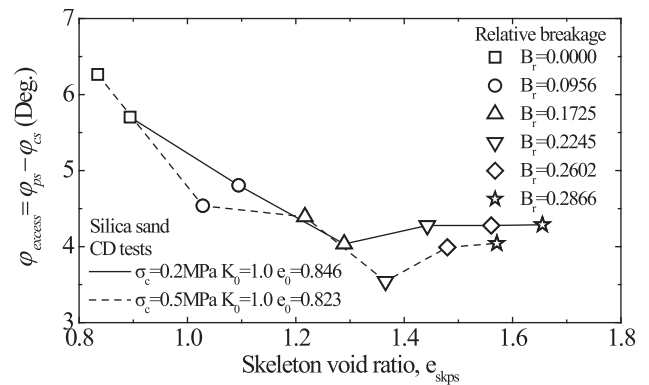
pre-crushed sands with progressive particle breakage, the skeleton void ratio was introduced and redefined as the relative breakage skeleton void ratio in replacing the fine content  $f_c$  by the relative breakage  $B_r$  for considering particle breakage, as represented by

$$e_{sk} = \frac{1+e}{1-B_r} - 1 \quad (7)$$

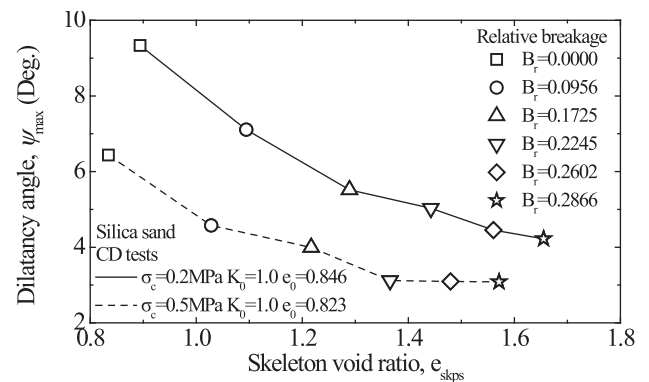
where  $e$  is the void ratio of original sand and  $B_r$  is the relative breakage ( $0 \leq B_r < 1$  corresponding to  $e \leq e_{sk}$ ). The  $e_{sk}$  with ( $B_r=0$ ) is equal to the void ratio of original sand ( $B_r=0$ ), and the  $e_{sk}$  is to increase monotonically with increasing particle breakage ( $B_r$ ) which reveals that  $e_{sk}$  can interpret the influence of particle breakage produced by the original sand on the void ratio.

### 3.3 Stress-dilatancy behavior incorporating particle breakage

As illustrated in Figure 9 and Figure 10, both the excess friction angle and the maximum dilatancy angle decrease in up concavity when increasing the peak-state skeleton void ratio, which are consistent with the findings found in Figure 6 and Figure 7. As mentioned above, the ratio of maximum dilatancy angle over the



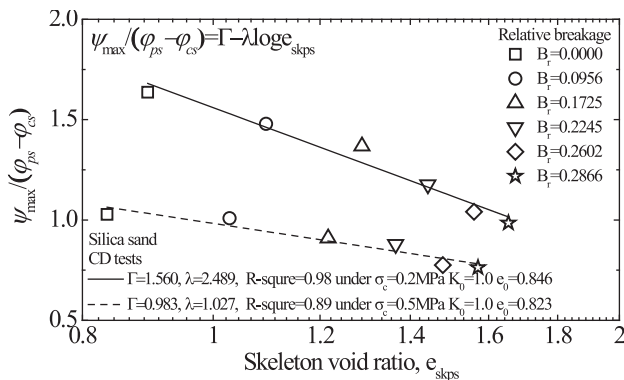
**Figure 9.** Evolution of the excess friction angle against peak-state skeleton void ratio.



**Figure 10.** Evolution of the maximum dilatancy angle against peak-state skeleton void ratio.



excess friction angle should finally converge gradually to a constant with increasing particle breakage to the limit particle breakage. Meanwhile, in view of the mapping from  $B_r$  in domain  $[0,1]$  to  $e_{sk}$  in domain  $[e, \infty)$ , a linear relation of the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle and the peak-state skeleton void ratio can be drawn in semi-logarithmic plane, as displayed in Figure 11. It is also shown in Figure 11 that the different confining pressures have a significant influence on this stress-dilatancy relation, i.e., lower stress (0.2MPa) results in a much sharper decrease than the relative higher stress (0.5MPa).



**Figure 11.** Evolution of the maximum dilatancy angle-over-the excess friction angle against peak-state skeleton void ratio.

As shown in Figure 11, the linear correlation between  $\psi_{\max}/\varphi_{\text{excess}}$  and  $e_{sk}$  can be represented by

$$\psi_{\max} / \varphi_{\text{excess}} = \Gamma - \lambda \log e_{skps} \quad (8)$$

where  $\Gamma$  and  $\lambda$  are the model parameters. By substituting equations (2), (3) and (7) into equation (8), equation (8) can be rearranged by

$$\left[ -\frac{d\varepsilon_v}{d\gamma_{13}} \right]_{\max} = \sin \left\{ \left[ \Gamma - \lambda \left( \log \frac{1+e_{ps}}{1-B_r} - 1 \right) \right] (\varphi_{ps} - \varphi_{cs}) \right\} \quad (9)$$

The relation, i.e., equation (9), can be extended into the whole shear stage in replacing the peak-state variables: maximum dilatancy angle, peak-state friction angle and peak-state void ratio by the mobilized variables during shear [24], as rewritten by

$$\left[ -\frac{d\varepsilon_v}{d\gamma_{13}} \right]_m = \sin \left\{ \left[ \Gamma - \lambda \left( \log \frac{1+e}{1-B_r} - 1 \right) \right] (\varphi_m - \varphi_{cs}) \right\} \quad (10)$$

where  $e$  is the void ratio of the original sand,  $\varphi_m = \arcsin[(\sigma'_1/\sigma'_3 - 1)/(\sigma'_1/\sigma'_3 + 1)]_m$  is the mobilized friction angle. Equation (10) as a stress-dilatancy relation in relation to particle breakage ( $B_r$ ) can be employed for application in assessing the evolution of the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand in considering the particle breakage.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

A series of the drained triaxial tests were conducted on the Silica sand No.5 and the pre-crushed sands that were produced by several drained triaxial tests on Silica sand No.5 under 3MPa confining pressure in simulating the high-pressure shear process to result in particle breakage, to investigate the stress-dilatancy behavior of sand incorporating particle breakage. The major findings can be summarized as what follows:

- For a given initial void ratio, particle breakage had a significant influence on the stress-dilatancy behavior, in impairment of dilatancy of sand to become more contractive. The skeleton void ratio was introduced in replacing the fine content by relative breakage to consider the influence of the particle breakage.
- A linear relation between  $\psi_{\max}/(\varphi_{ps} - \varphi_{cs})$  and  $e_{skps}$  was proposed in  $\psi_{\max}/(\varphi_{ps} - \varphi_{cs}) - \log e_{skps}$  plane and popularized to the mobilized stress-strain state for establishing a new stress-dilatancy equation pertaining to particle breakage in assessing the stress-dilatancy behavior subjected to particle breakage.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) "Light of West China" Program (Grant No.Y6R2250250), the Key Research Program of Frontier Sciences, CAS (Grant No.QYZDB-SSW-DQC010), the National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program) (Grant No.2013CB733201), the One-Hundred Talents Program of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Lijun Su) and the China Scholarship Council (Grant No.2011671035). A special acknowledgement should be expressed to Professor Ikuro Towhata for his invaluable assistance in the performance of the tests in this paper in the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory of The University of Tokyo, Japan.

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