

Abstract:

In order to do a good estimation of the pores pressures in earth dams. A finite element numerical program was elaborated for the analysis of steady flows with free surface through earth dams, considering the flow in the unsaturated zone above the free surface.

The relative permeability and water content in the unsaturated zone where the pore pressure is negative are approximated by continuous functions. These one were calculated in gauss's points inside the finite element. The hydraulic non linearity is treated iteratively by fixing point method. The water table and flow nets are located in finite element by interpolation between nodal values of pressures or heads. The comparison of the present results with other numerical and experimental ones, chows the efficiency of our software.

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