from various depths to perhaps 10 m depth, and the development of high quality, large-diameter samplers may be needed to avoid the complexities and expense of deep block sampling.

Although the concept of yield envelopes in soft clays may initially appear difficult and esoteric, it is really only a generalization of overconsolidation as measured for example in one-dimensional consolidation and expressed by the ratio p'_c/p'_o . There is now evidence that yield envelopes do exist in many types of post-glacial clay and that they can contribute significantly to an understanding of field performances.

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The influence of the membrane restraint on the measured strength of a soil sample failing along a single shear plane in the triaxial test

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The Author in his reply to my earlier discussion has objected to my proposal to take into account the frictional properties of the soil in deriving a membrane correction; he has interpreted this as including part of the strength of the soil in the membrane correction, apparently overlooking the fact that this added strength is produced due to the restraint of the rubber membrane.

The Author's derivation of a membrane correction is based on the assumption that this correction is totally independent of the frictional properties of the soil. The corrections formulated for a dummy specimen with a frictionless shear plane are thus superimposed on the measured strength of the soil. My proposal is to apply the superposition principle in another way: firstly to assume that the rubber membrane has zero strength, and then to switch on the strength of the membrane. The additional apparent strength, that is measured after this switching on, is the basis of the version of the membrane corrections proposed in my earlier discussion.