

# *Physical Erosion*

*Göran Sällfors*

A number of SKB reports deal with the backfill, saturation, erosion and a number of practical problems ... ..



Figure 6-6. Wetting along crown of Assembly 3 (Tests 5, 6). (Note dry (empty regions along walls) and wetting (darker regions) along crown.

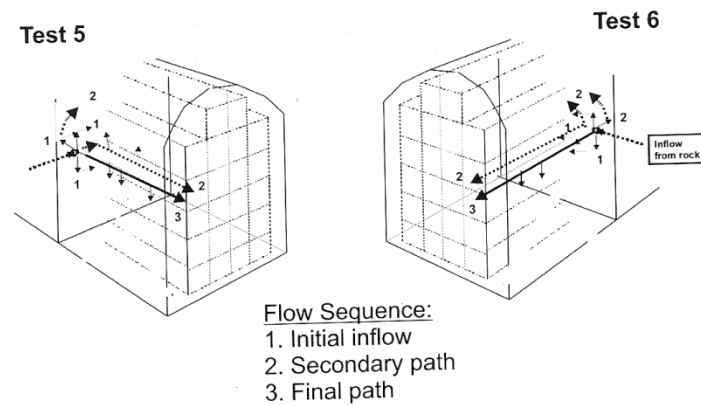
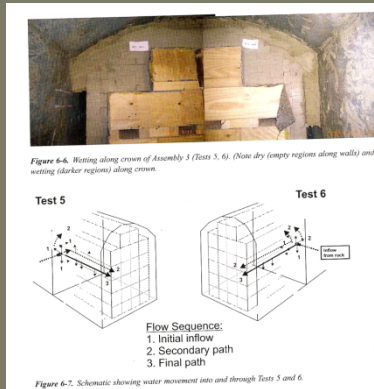


Figure 6-7. Schematic showing water movement into and through Tests 5 and 6.

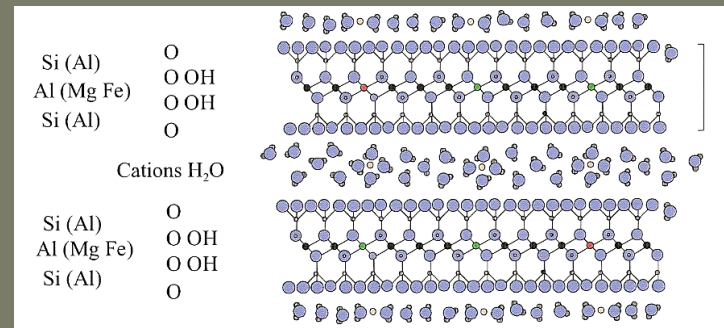
# Physical Erosion

Can occur at different scales:

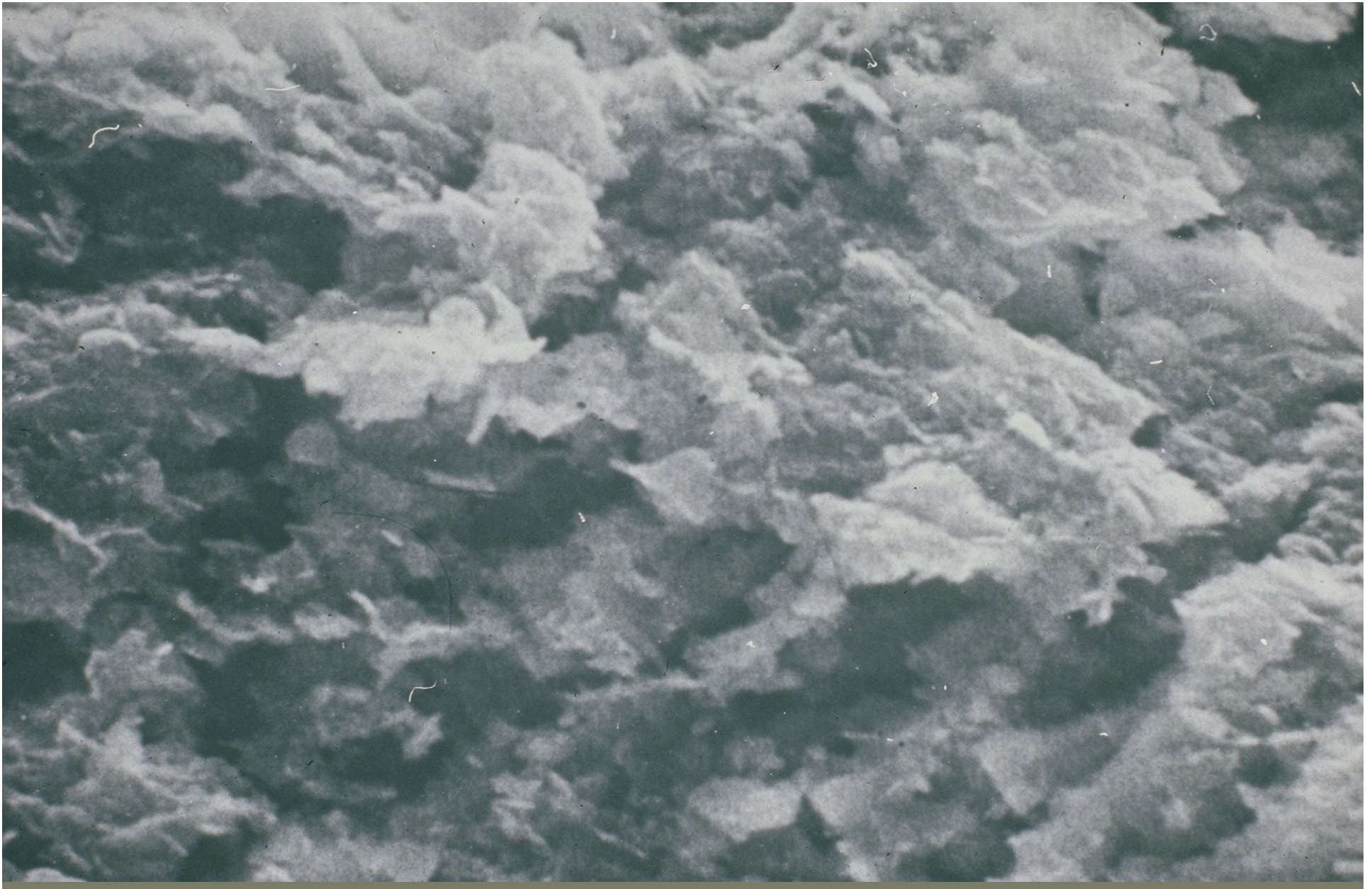
macro scale



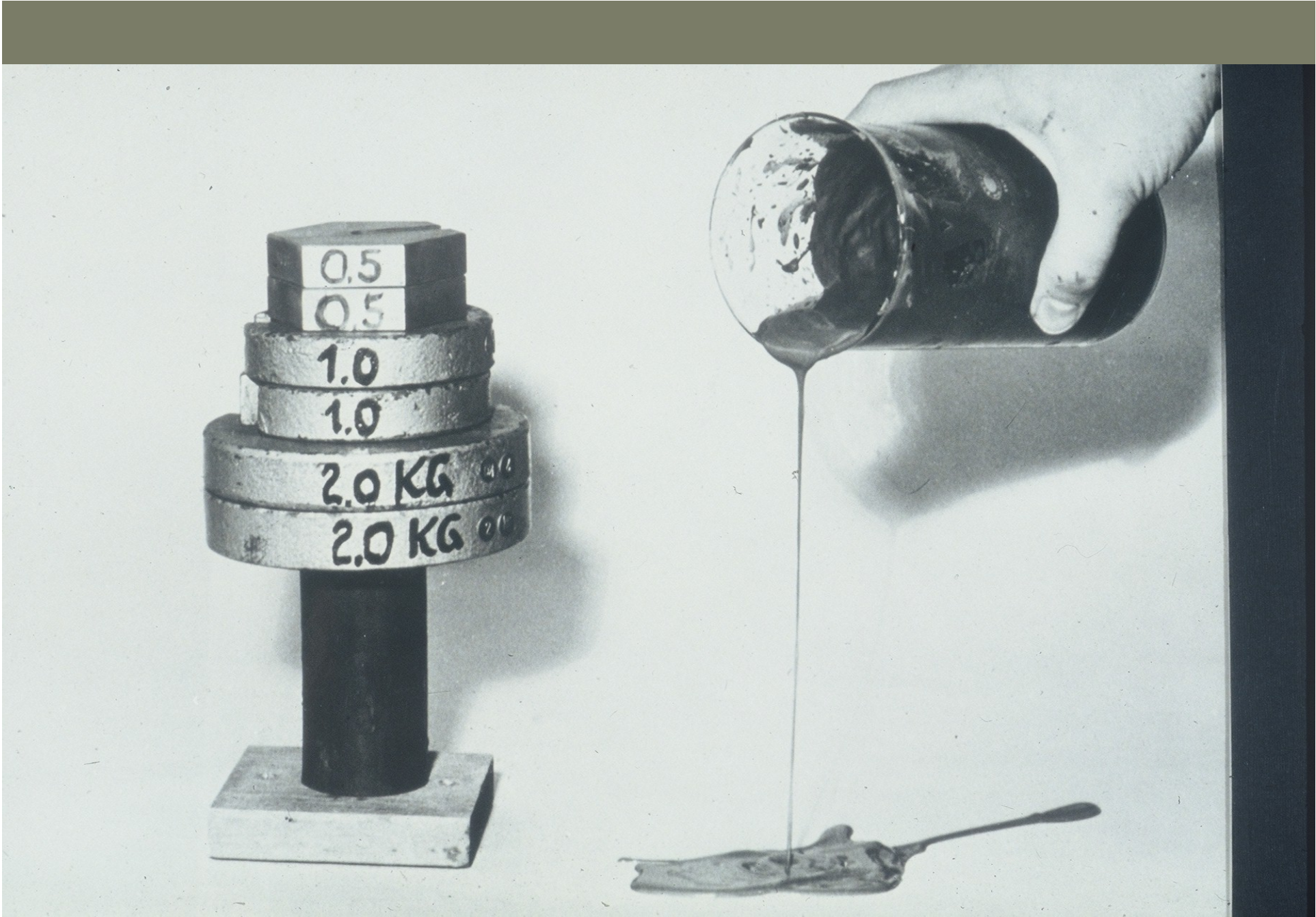
micro scale



Physical Erosion



Physical Erosion



Physical Erosion

# In the Tunnel



Figure 6-6. Wetting along crown of Assembly 3 (Tests 5, 6). (Note dry (empty regions along walls) and wetting (darker regions) along crown.

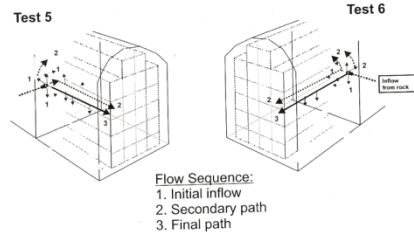
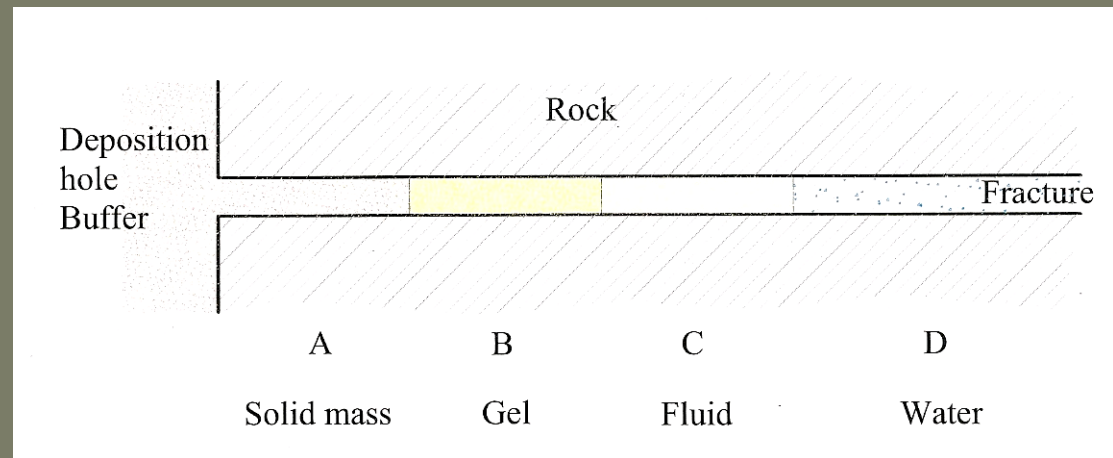


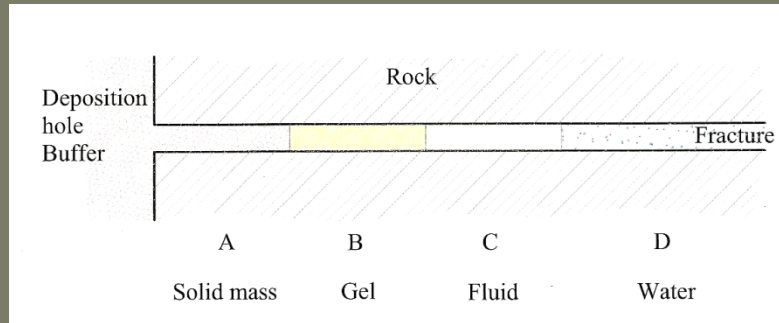
Figure 6-7. Schematic showing water movement into and through Tests 5 and 6.

# In a fracture

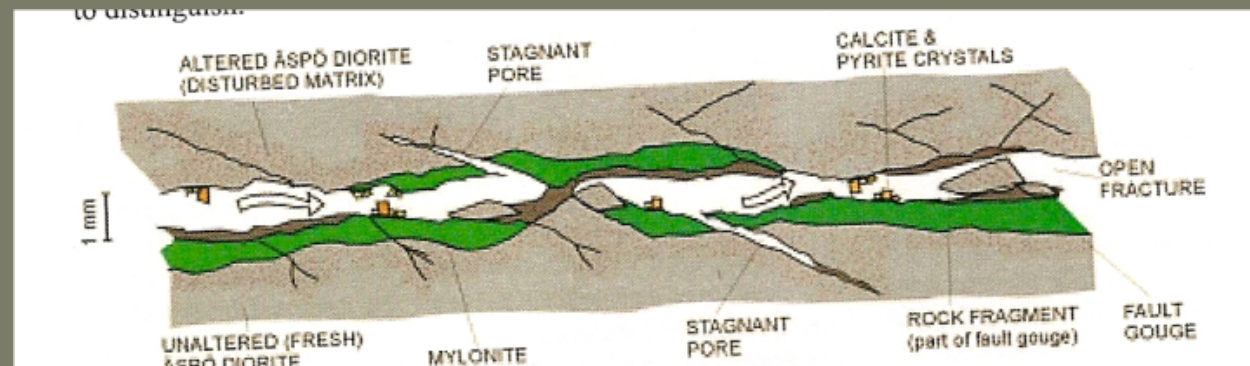
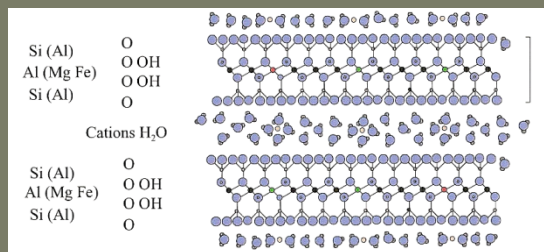


Physical Erosion

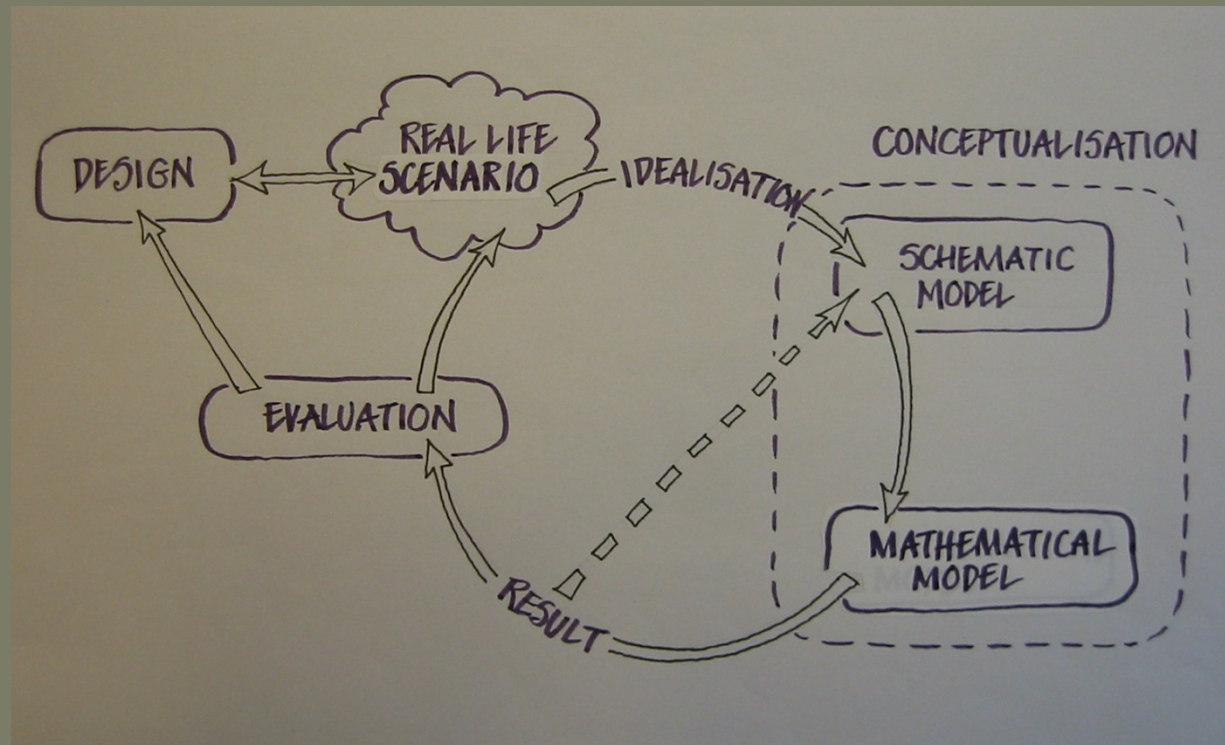
# Ideal fracture



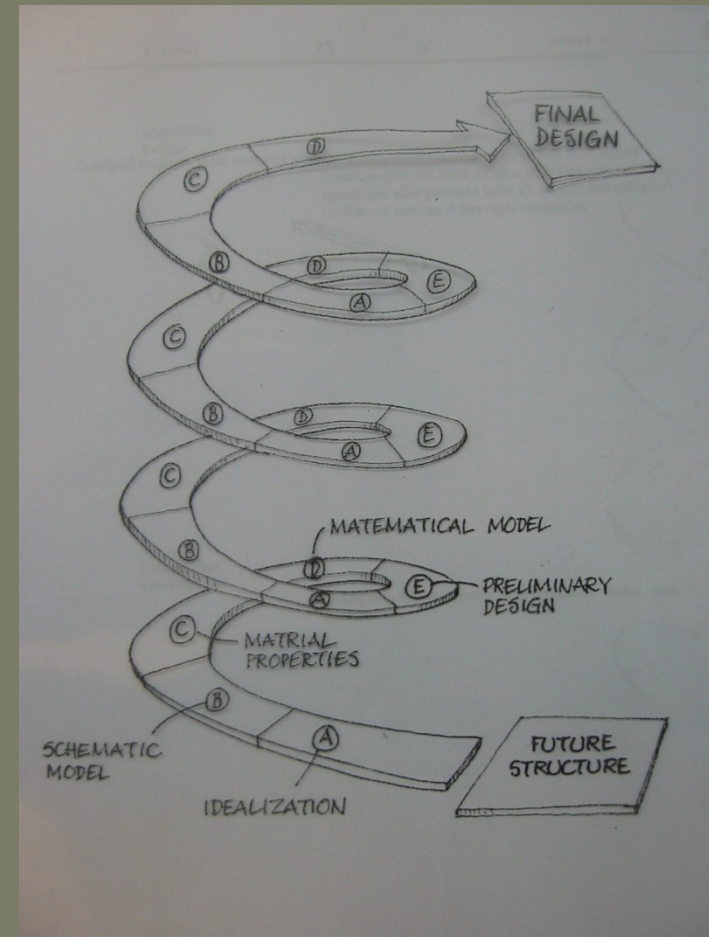
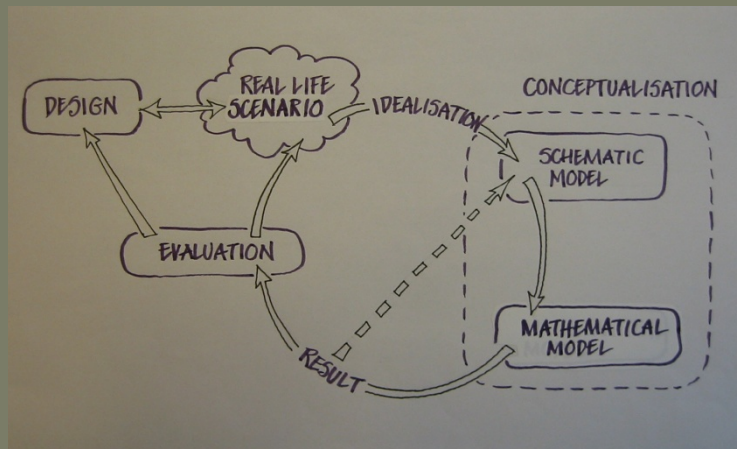
# Idealized Prototype fracture



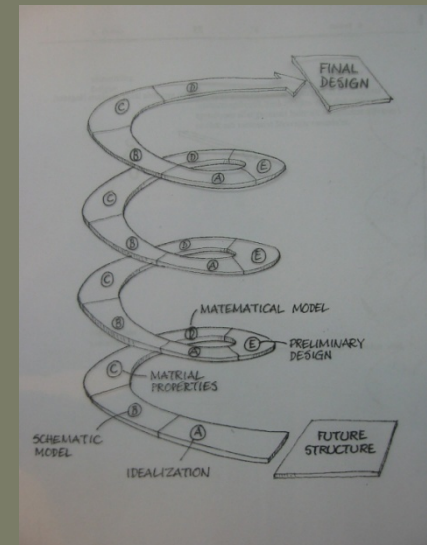
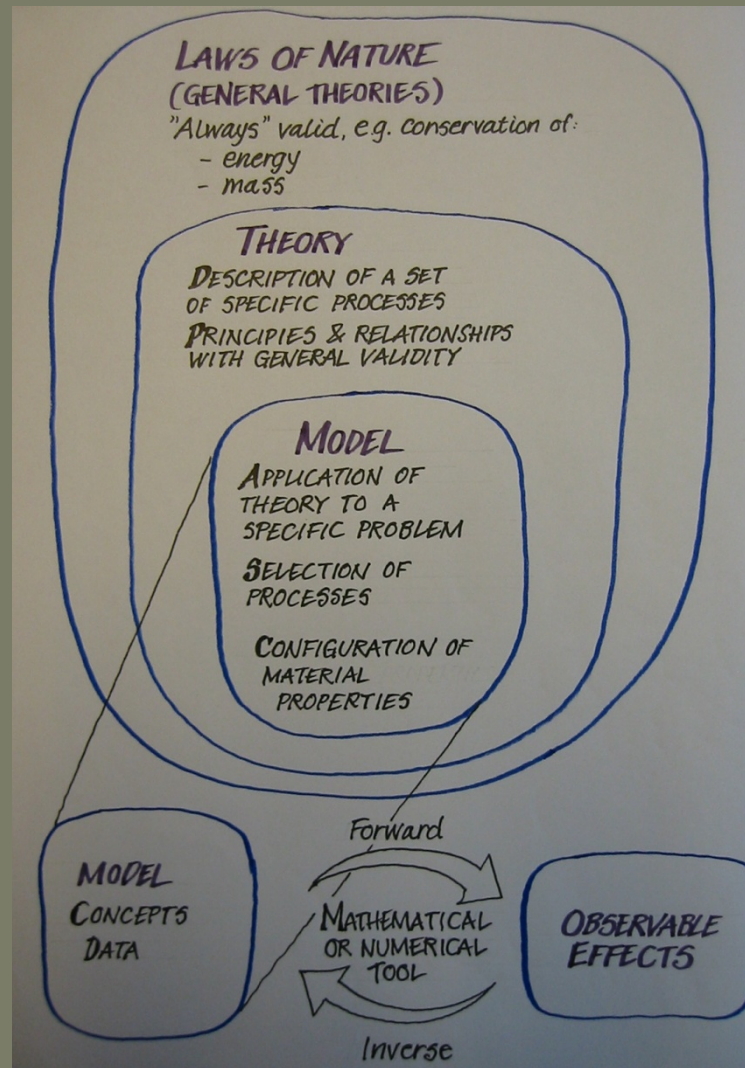
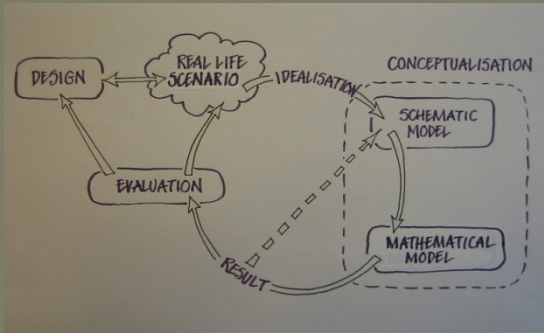
Physical Erosion



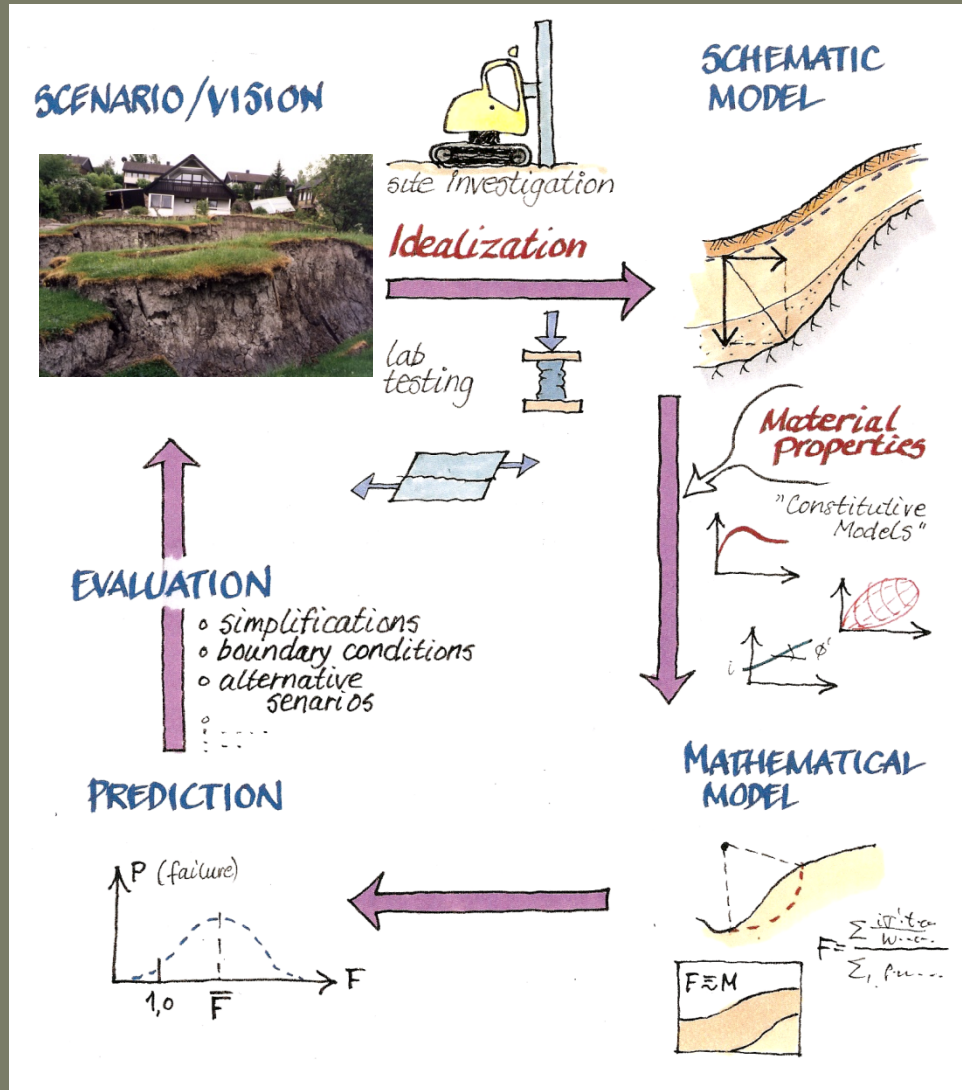
## Physical Erosion



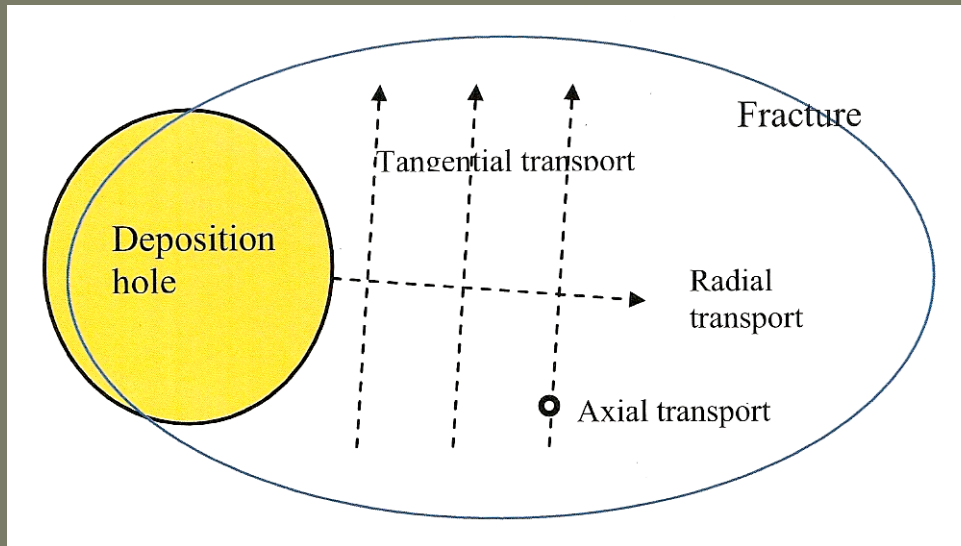
Physical Erosion



# Physical Erosion



# Physical Erosion



Börgesson et al deal with *swelling* (radial transport) and *erosion* (tangential transport) *sedimentation* (axial transport)

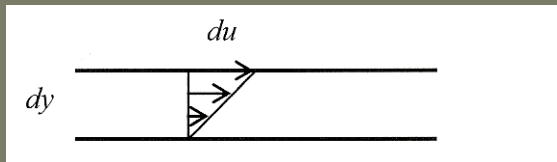
Physical Erosion

Penetration depth of bentonite determined  
by the *swelling pressure* and *friction* bentonite/wall  
and the *aperture*

$$\sigma = \sigma_1 \cdot e^{-2 \tan \phi \left( \frac{z}{a} \right)}$$

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Rheology needed for calculating the penetration depth and velocity

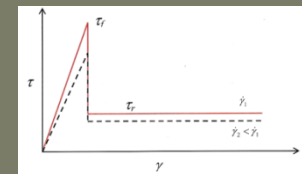


1. Newtonian flow

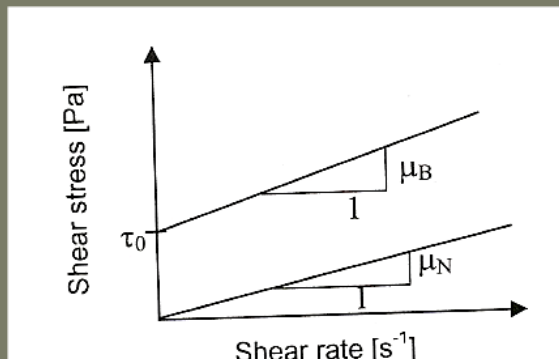
$$\tau = \mu \frac{du}{dy}$$

2. Power law  $\tau = m \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}}{\dot{\gamma}_0} \right)^n$

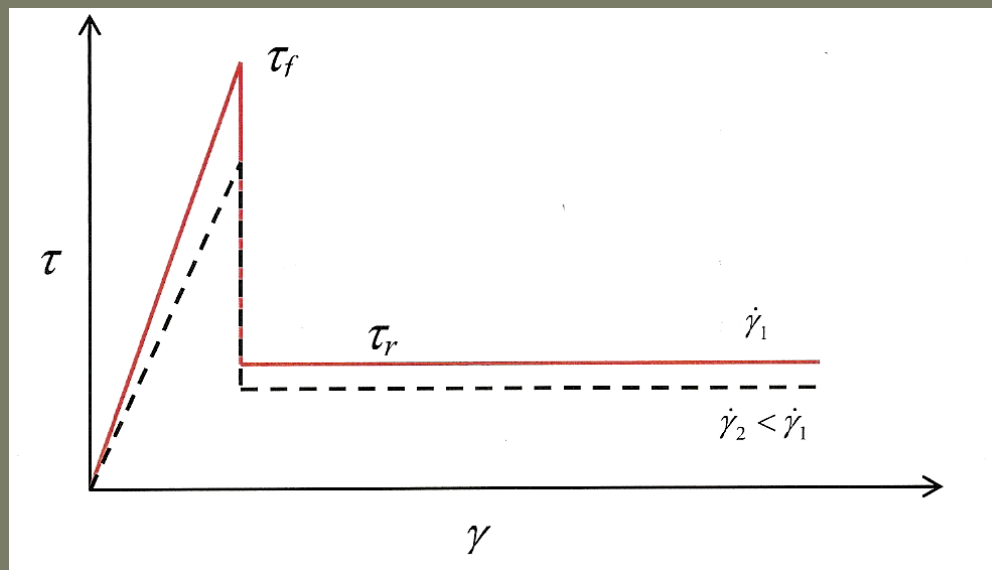
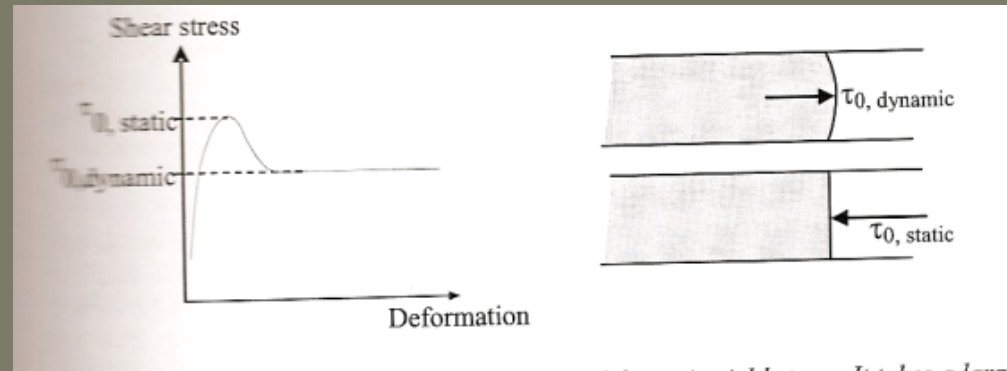
3. Stress-strain relations



4. Bingham-flow



Physical Erosion

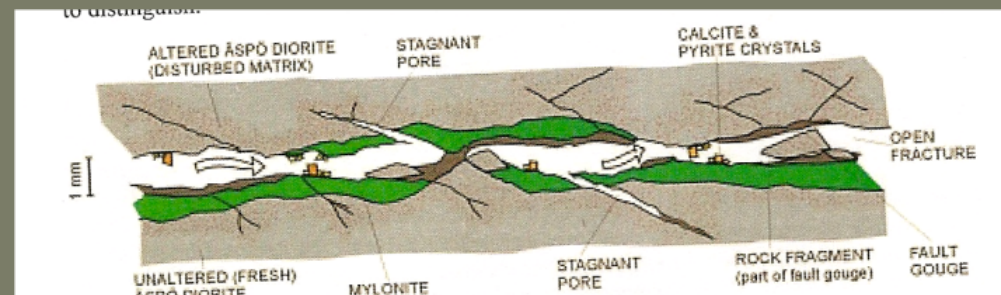


Strong idealization

Physical Erosion

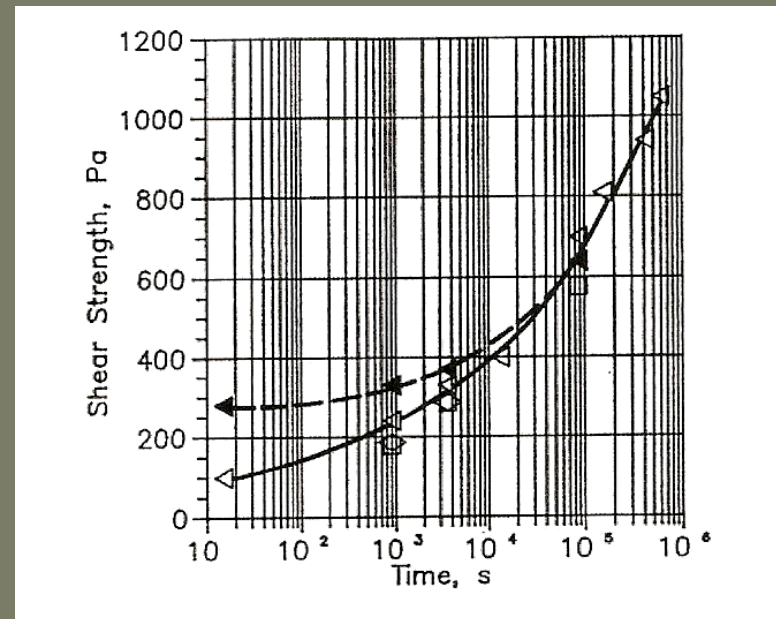
# Sedimentation

( Mason and Weaver, 1924 )



Physical Erosion

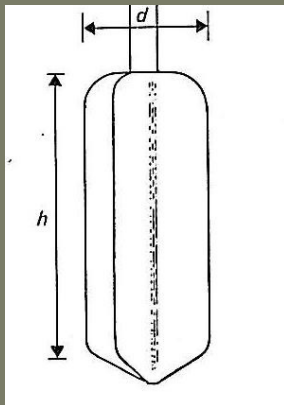
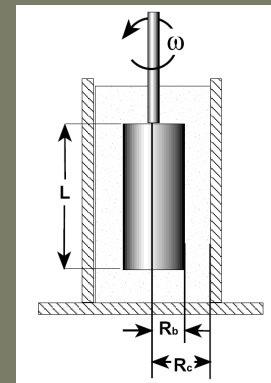
# Tixotropy



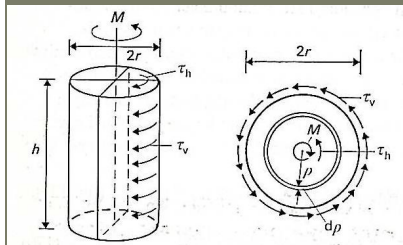
Physical Erosion

## Laboratory equipment

Viscometer



Laboratory vane



Physical Erosion

## Extensive testing with

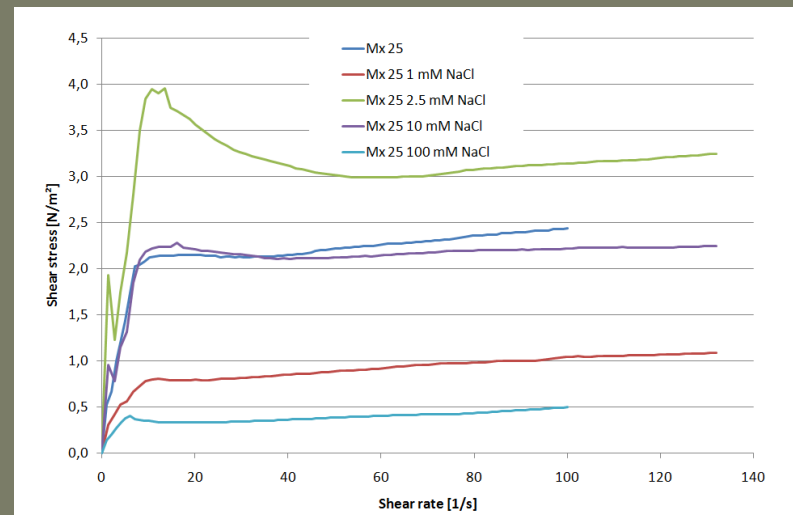
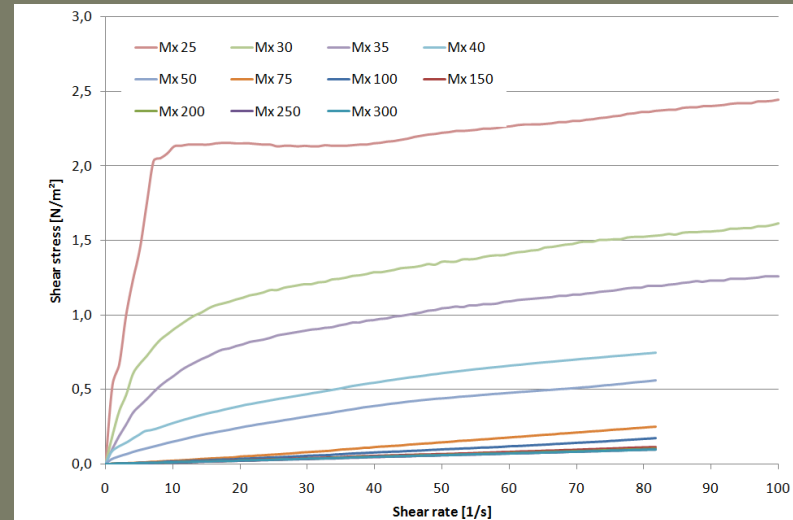
- Rate of deformation
- Time after preparation
- Bentonite composition
- Water ratios
- Water composition

In order to determine suitable model  
and model parameters

Physical Erosion

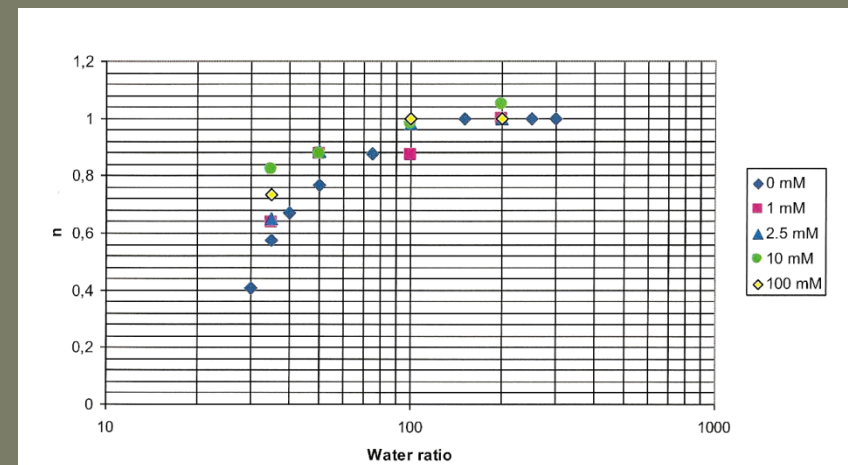
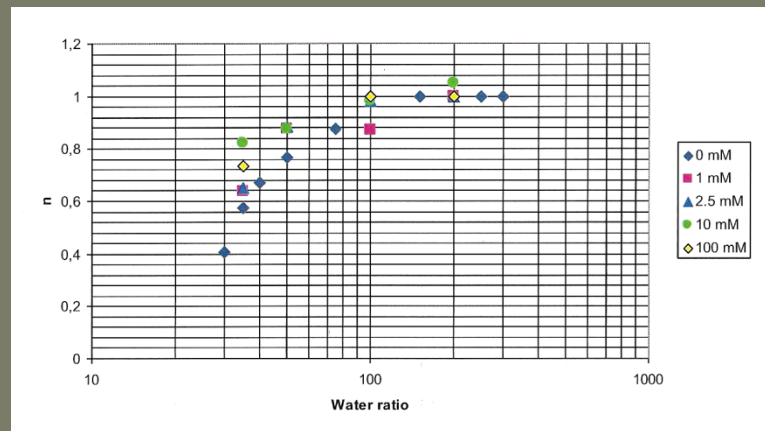
Extensive testing with

- *Rate of deformation*
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- Water ratios
- *Water composition*

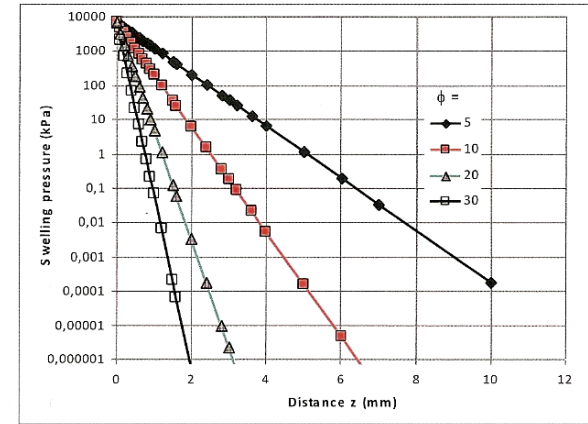
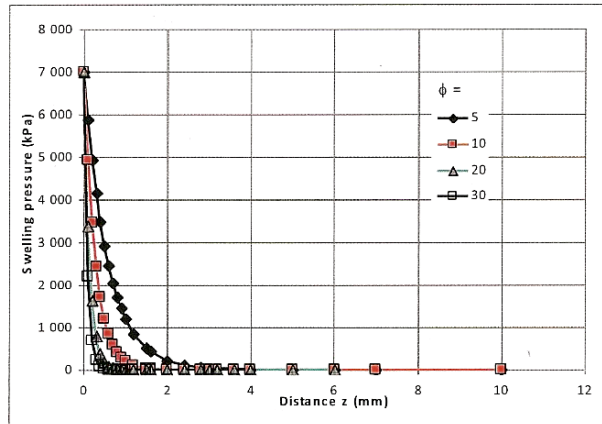
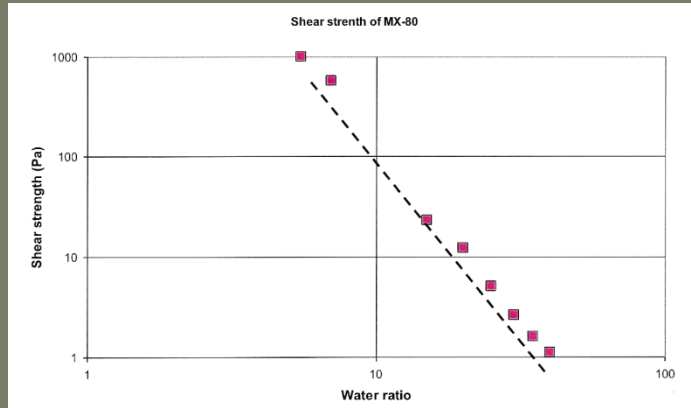


Evaluation of the parameters in eq 3.6,  $m$  and  $n$

$$\tau = m \left( \frac{\dot{\gamma}}{\dot{\gamma}_0} \right)^n$$



Physical Erosion



# Physical Erosion

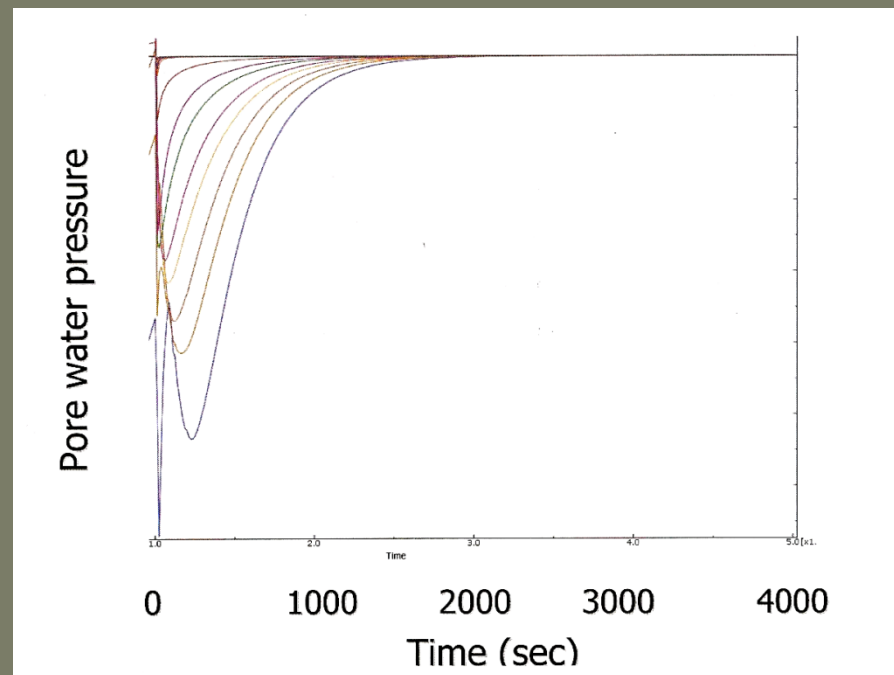
Swelling time (aperture 0.1 mm)

Assumptions:

$w < 30$  - penetration = f(swelling pressure only)

$w > 30$  - penetration = f(colloid dispersion, erosion, settlement)

- colloid dispersion faster than swelling



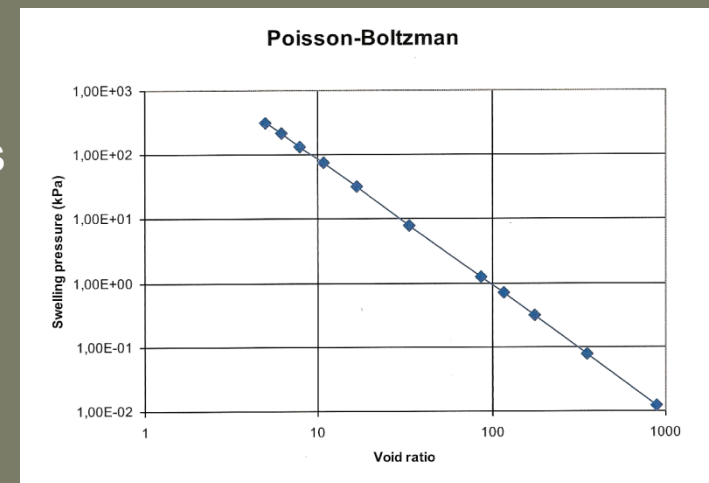
1 kg in 85 years ?

Physical Erosion

Same amount of bentonite will be lost independent of aperture width (according to this model)

Higher friction angle gives higher loss of bentonite  
(in the example 1 kg lost in 6.5 years instead of 85 years  
If friction angle 30 instead of 10)

Swelling pressure higher at low water ratios  
Larger losses  
Big question: swelling pressure =  $f(w)$



Physical Erosion

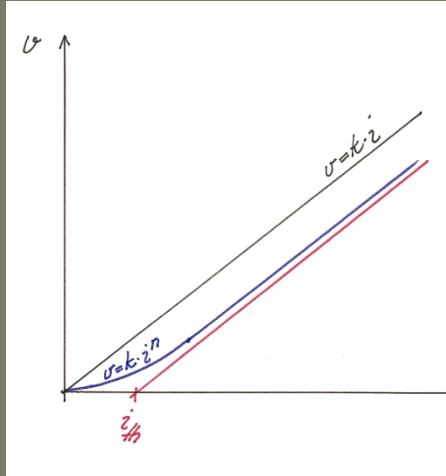
k measured up to  $w=20$  and then extrapolated

Loss =  $f(k)$

Boundary for swelling pressure 10Pa, if 1/1000 only 2,5 higher loss

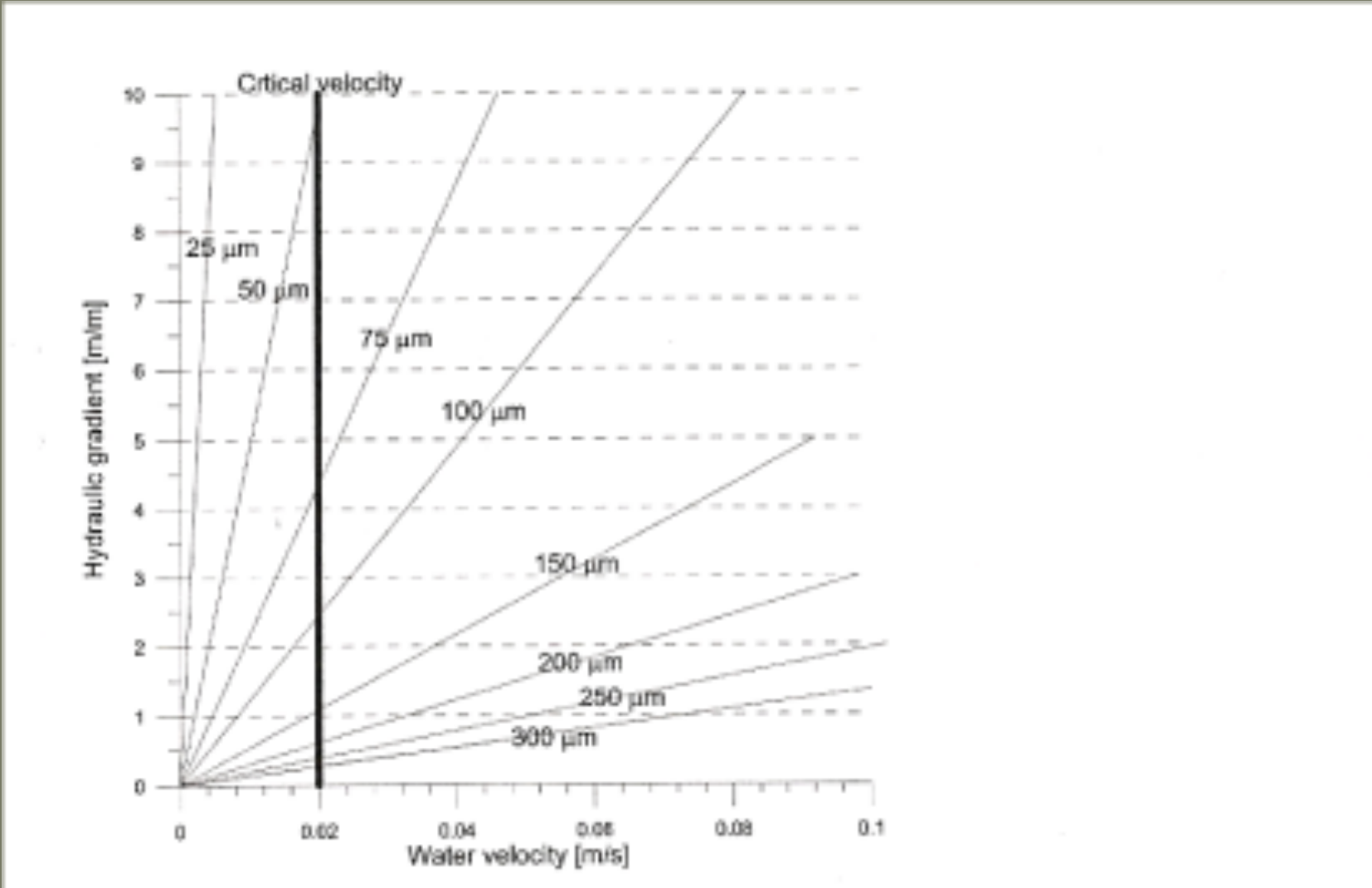
Physical Erosion

Phase		Properties		Bentonite transport model		
		WyNa in distilled water	MX-80 in distilled water	Radially (swelling)	Tangentially (viscous flow and erosion)	Axially (sedimentation)
A	Solid mass $\tau_f > 1$ kPa	$w < 10$	$w < 5$	A <sub>R</sub> . Hydro-Mechanical Friction	A <sub>T</sub> . None	A <sub>A</sub> . None
B	Gel 1 Pa $< \tau_f < 1$ kPa	$10 < w < 35$	$5 < w < 35$	B <sub>R</sub> . Hydro-Mechanical Friction	B <sub>T</sub> . Rheological Stress/strain relation	B <sub>A</sub> . None?
C1	Semi-fluid	$35 < w < 100$	$35 < w < 70$	C1 <sub>R</sub> . Hydro-Mechanical Friction (?)	C1 <sub>T</sub> . Power law	C1 <sub>A</sub> . Diffusion controlled aggregation?
C2	Fluid	100 $< w < 1000$	70 $< w < 500$	C2 <sub>R</sub> . Diffusion?	C2 <sub>T</sub> . Viscosity, Newtonian	C2 <sub>A</sub> . Diffusion controlled aggregation
D	Water	$w > 1000$	$w > 500$	D <sub>R</sub> . Diffusion?	D <sub>T</sub> . Water viscosity	D <sub>A</sub> . None?

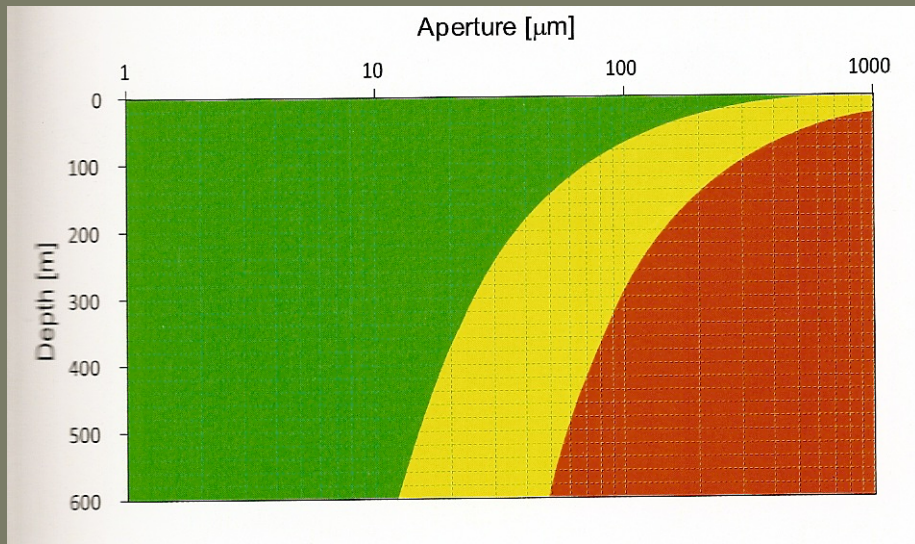


*Darcy's law*

*Valid for small gradients ?*



# Physical Erosion



Physical Erosion

Laws - rheological models

Darcy's law

Water ratios

Swelling pressure

Different phenomena

Fracture width/continuity

Testing - extrapolation

Nereetniks blobb-tests elementary  
What do we learn.  
Aperture 1,8 mm  
Clay Technology 0,2 – 0,01