

# THE ENIGMA'S IN THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

2018 INGEOKRING AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM

A TRIBUTE TO PETER VERHOEF: ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AS AN EYE-OPENER FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING



“Enigma” according to Cambridge dictionary:  
*Something that is mysterious and seems impossible to understand completely*

# CURRENT PRACTICE

## (Caricature of) Projects in GC-2

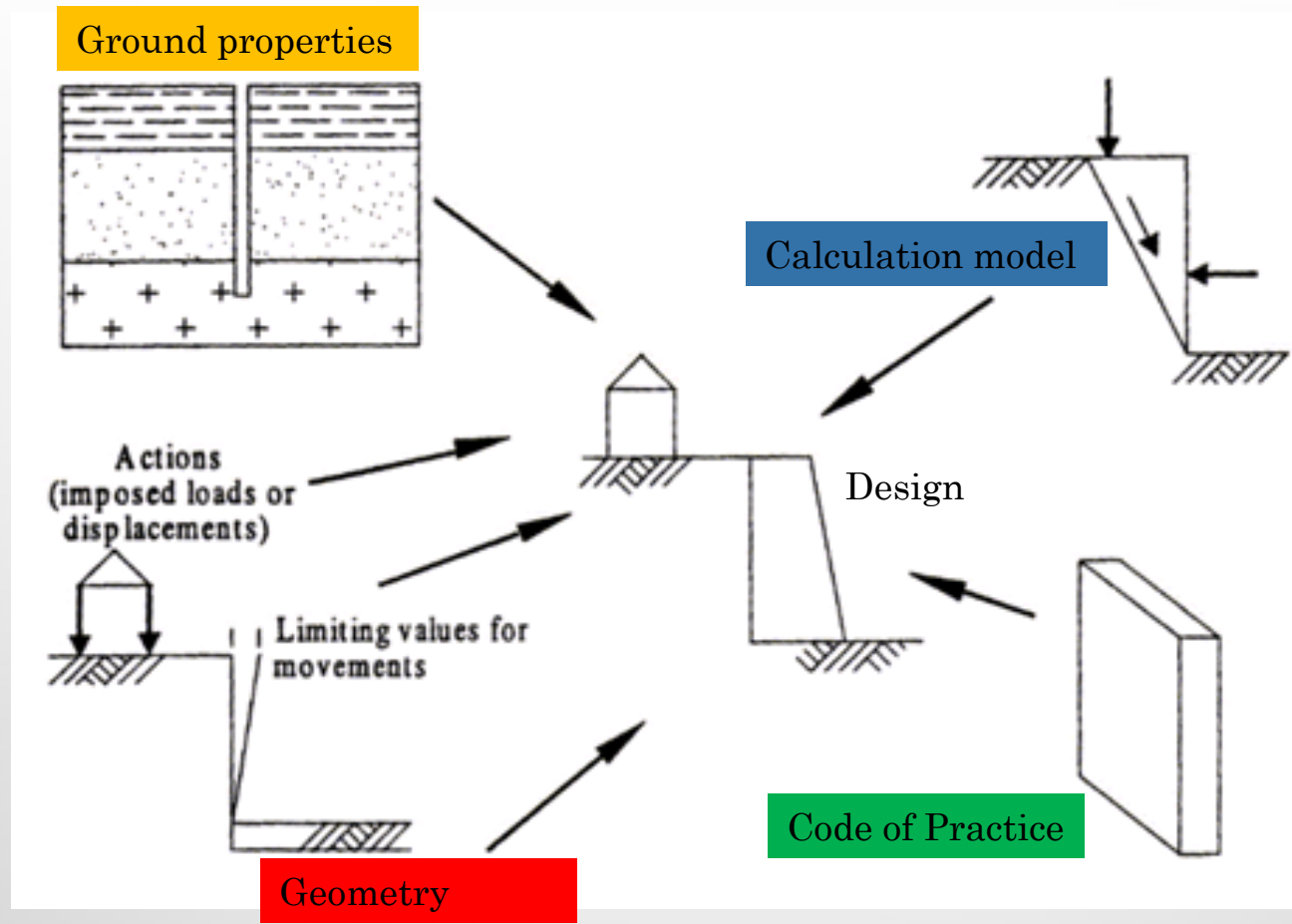
- Soil investigation performed prior to contract (sometimes Geotechnical Baseline Report).
- CPT based selection of characteristic parameters using Table 2b – NEN\_9997-1.
- Selection of CONSTANT parameter-values.
- Limit State calculation models for conventional mechanism.
- Detailed illustration of situation in Finite Element Model for detailed analysis.
- Mechanism verification and partial factors according to codes and regulations



*Does the above approach suffice  
for slope monitoring  
on these projects?*



# COMPONENTS OF (GEOTECHNICAL) DESIGN



# “A GOOD MODEL”

“Scientific understanding proceeds by way of constructing and analyzing “models” of the segments or aspects of reality under study. **The purpose of these models is not to give a mirror image of reality, not to include all its elements in their exact sizes and proportions,** but rather to single out and make available for intensive investigation those elements which are decisive. **We abstract from nonessentials, we blot out the unimportant to get an unobstructed view of the important,** we magnify in order to improve the range and accuracy of our observation. **A model is, and must be, unrealistic in the sense which the word is most commonly used.** Nevertheless, and in a sense paradoxically, **if it is a good model it provides the key to understanding reality.**”

# GROUND PROPERTIES

## CPT-based geological characterisation

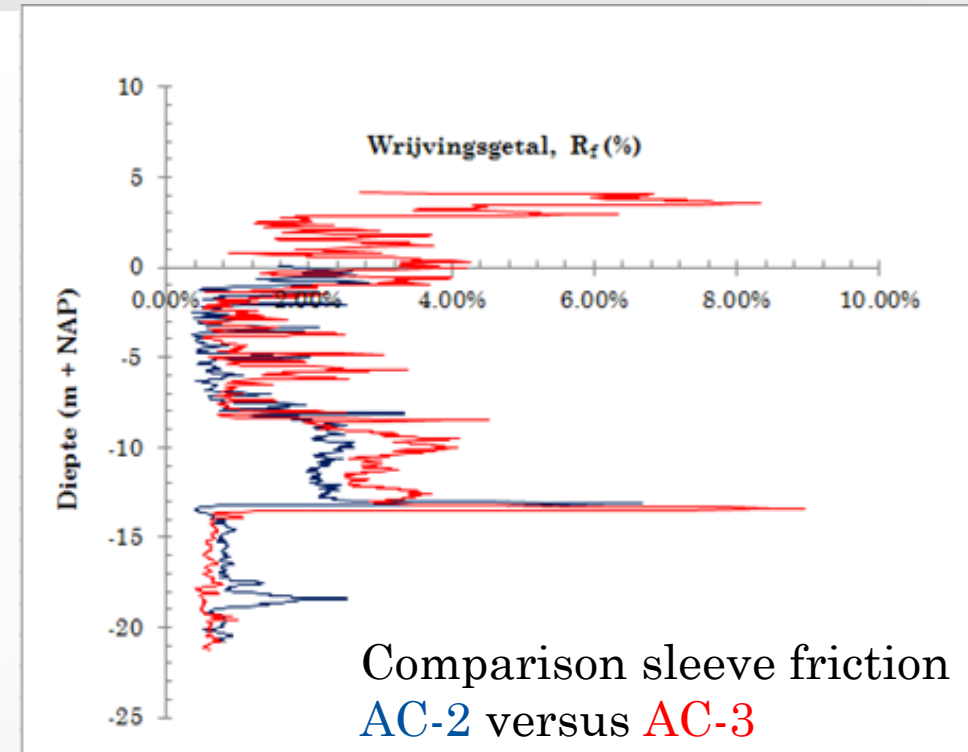
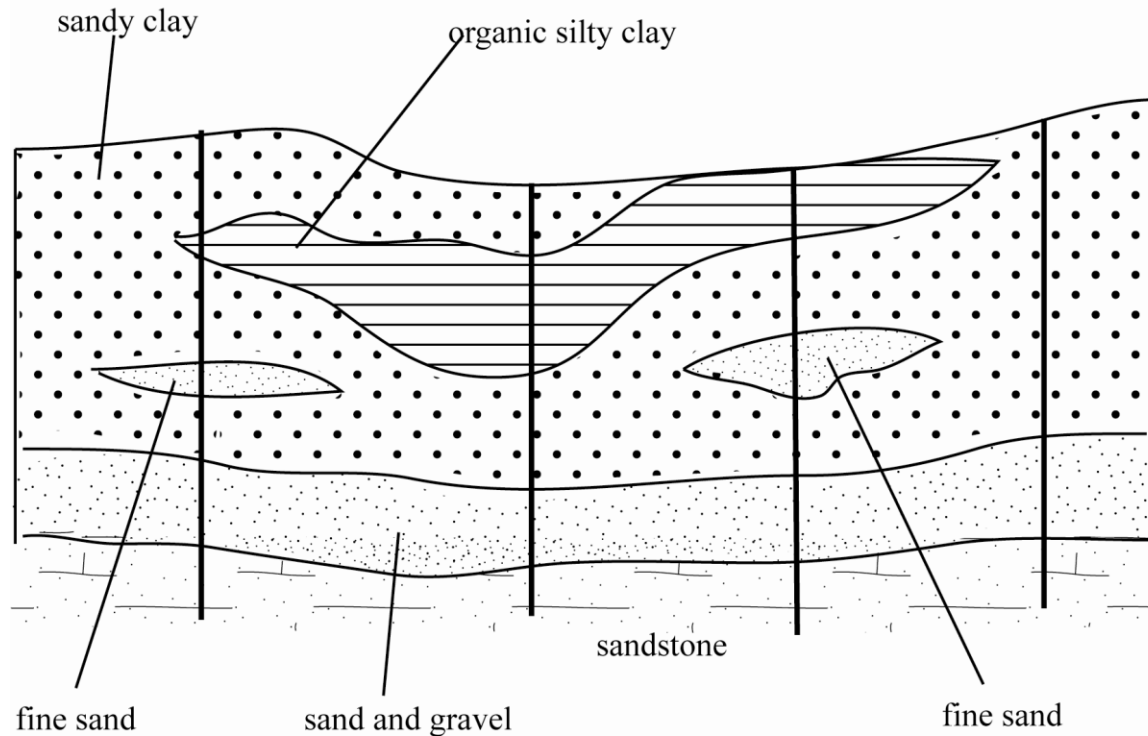
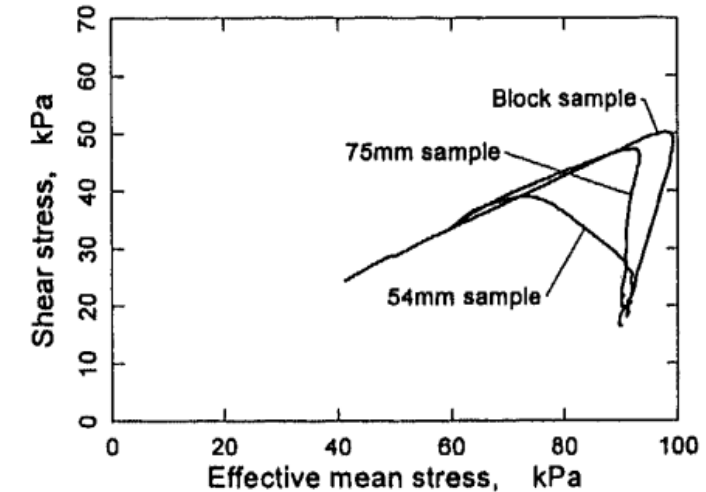
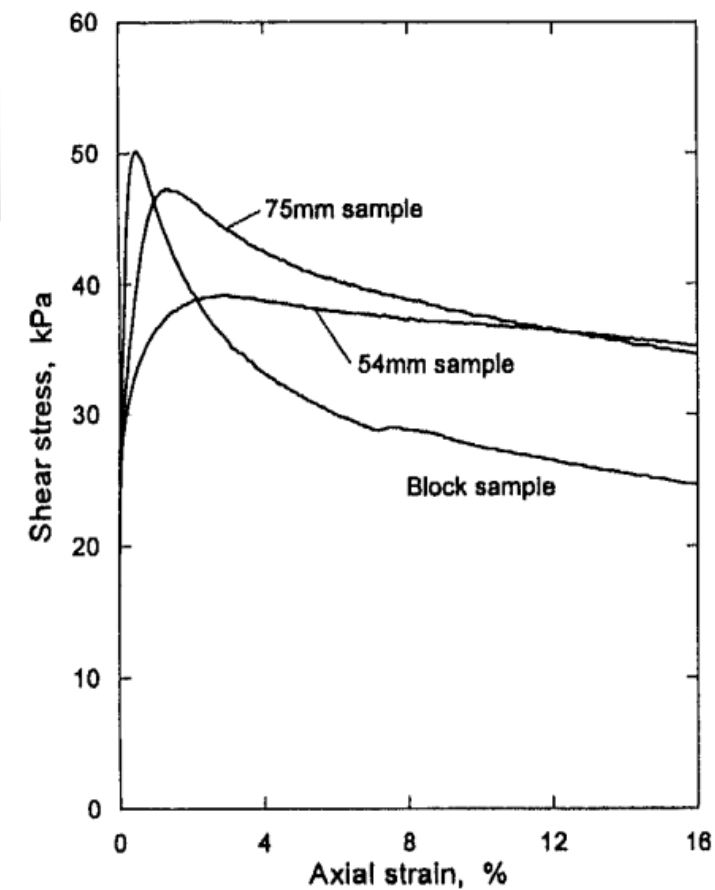
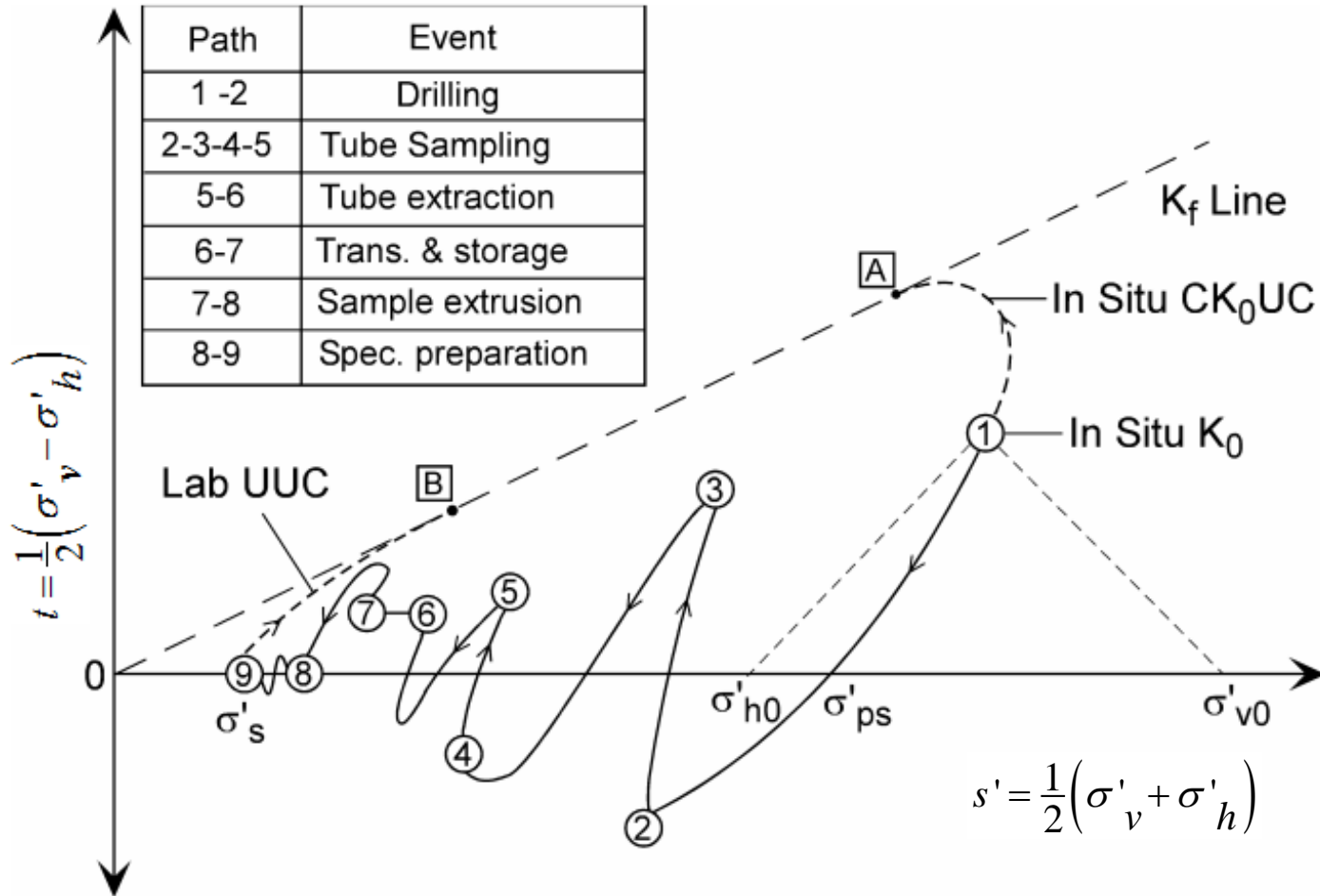


table 9.14 Average success rates (for both original and extended rules)

	Average decision rules-based success rate (%)	Average main constituent-based success rate (%)
Peat	26-33	24-37
Humose clay	45-59	64-70
Inorganic clay	27-58	46-67

# GROUND PROPERTIES

## Sampling induced disturbance



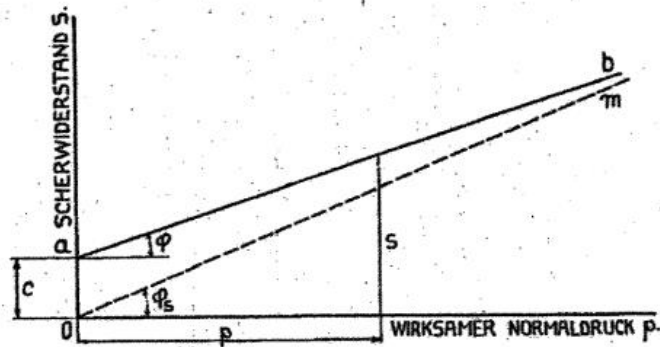
Lunne, T., Berre, T., & Strandvik, S. (1997) Sample disturbance in soft low plasticity Norwegian clay. Proc. Sym. On Recent Developments in Soil and Pavement Mechanics. Rio de Janeiro. Balkema: 81-92.

Ladd, C. C., & DeGroot, D. J. (2003) Arthur Casagrande Lecture: Recommended Practice for Soft Ground Site Characterization. 12th Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

Massachusetts. 60.

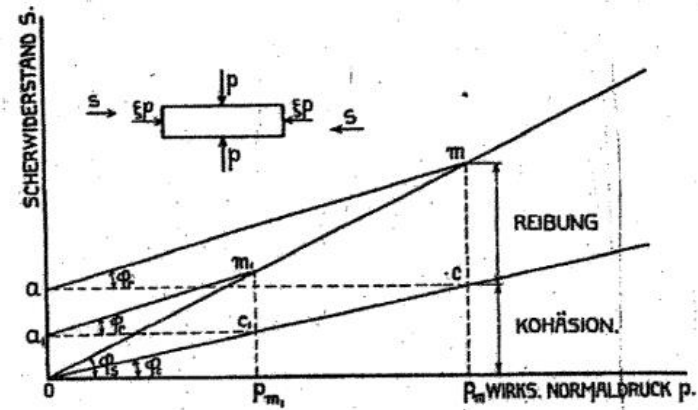
# SOIL PARAMETERS

## Coulomb's failure criterion (1/2)



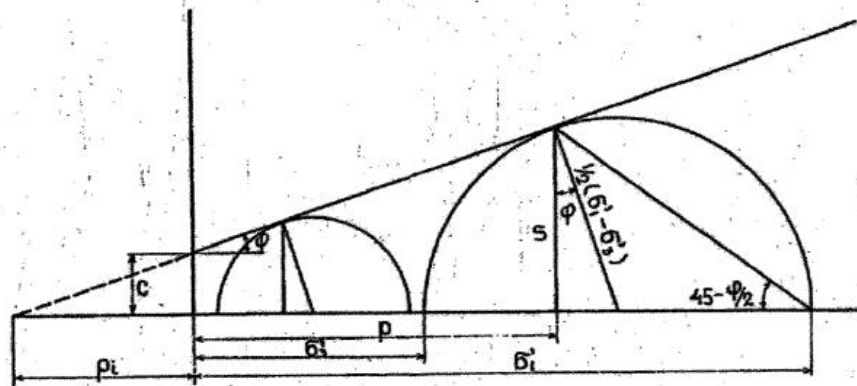
COULOMB'SCHE BRUCHBEDINGUNG.

ABB. 7.



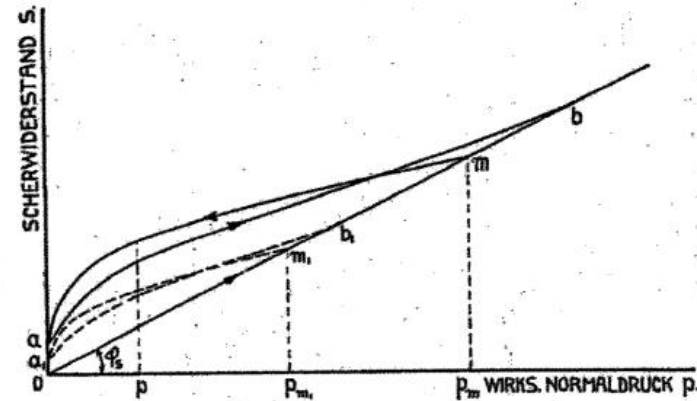
KREY-TIEDEMANN'SCHE BRUCHBEDINGUNG.

ABB. 9.



COULOMB'SCHE BRUCHBEDINGUNG IN MOHR'SCHER DARSTELLUNGSWEISE.

ABB. 10.



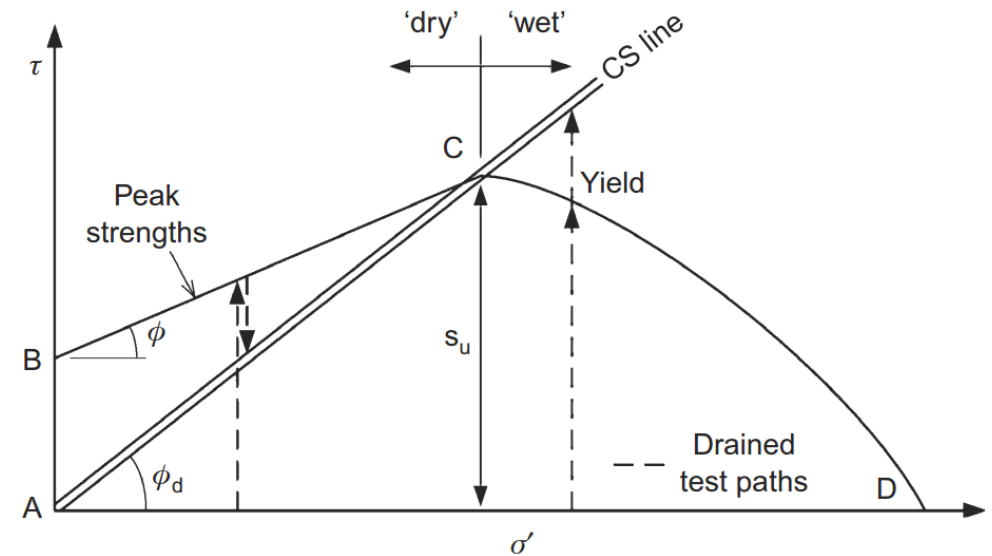
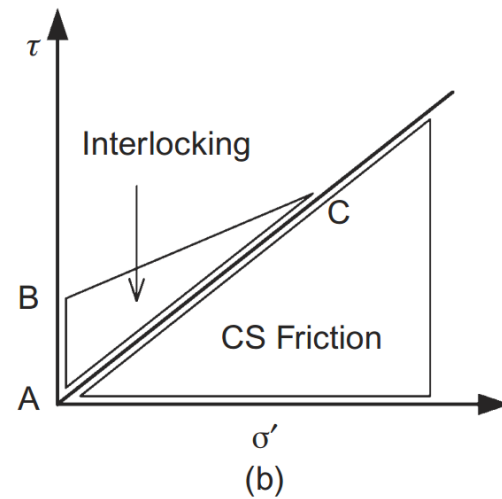
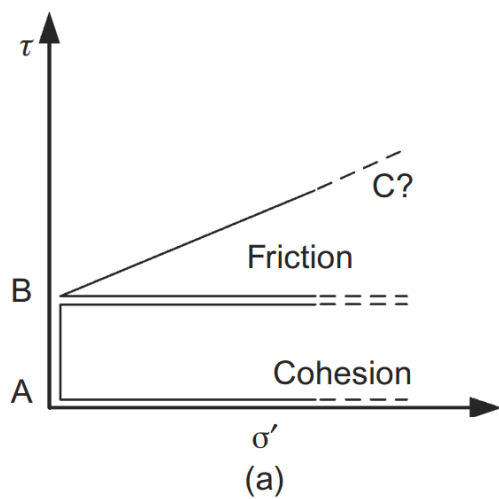
HYSTERESIS-SCHLEIFE DES SCHERWIDERSTANDES.

ABB. 11.

# SOIL PARAMETERS

## Coulomb's failure criterion (2/2)

- Soil parameters and a model are uniquely interlinked.
- Soil parameters may be assumed constant, but in reality are density, stress, temperature and rate dependent.

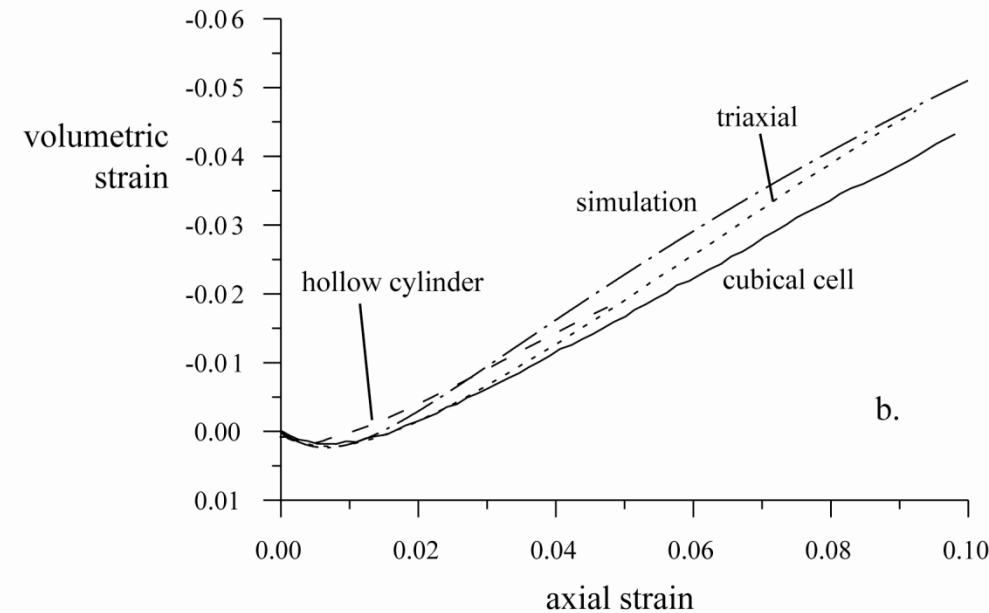
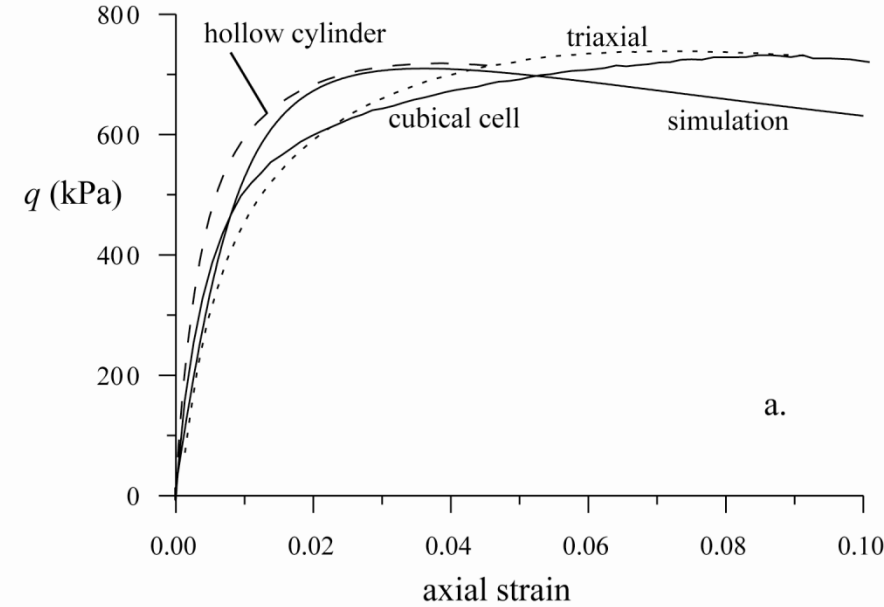




# SOIL PARAMETERS

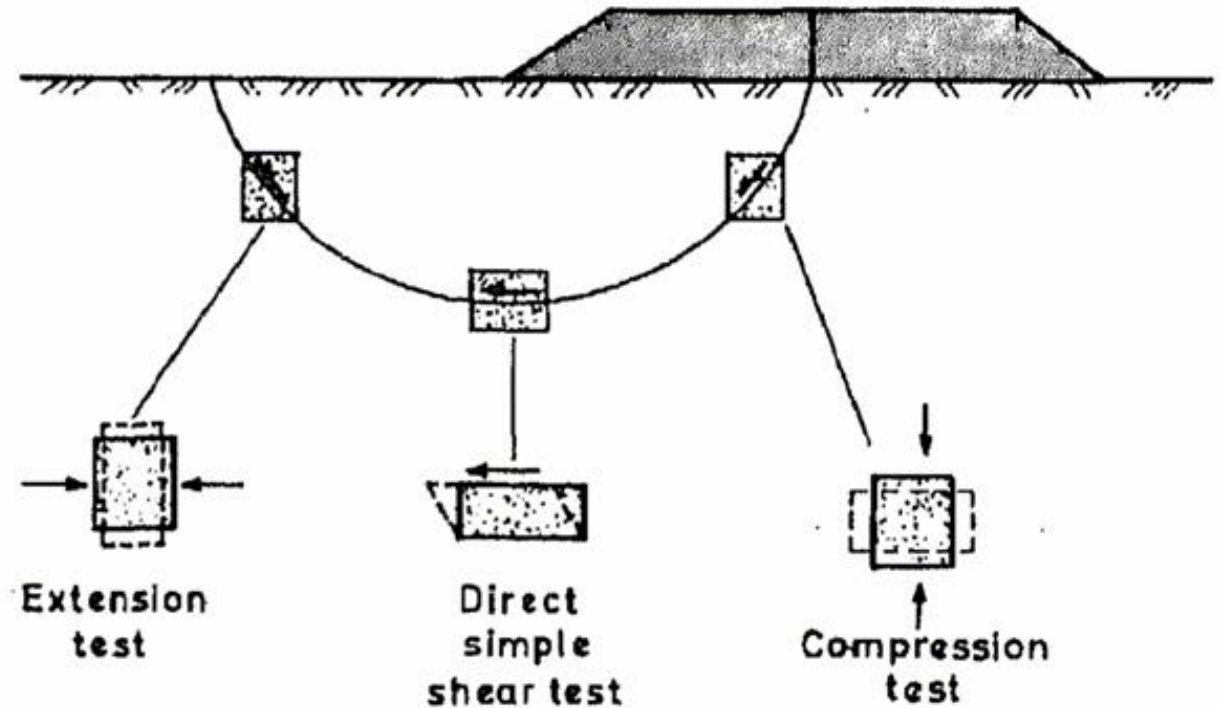
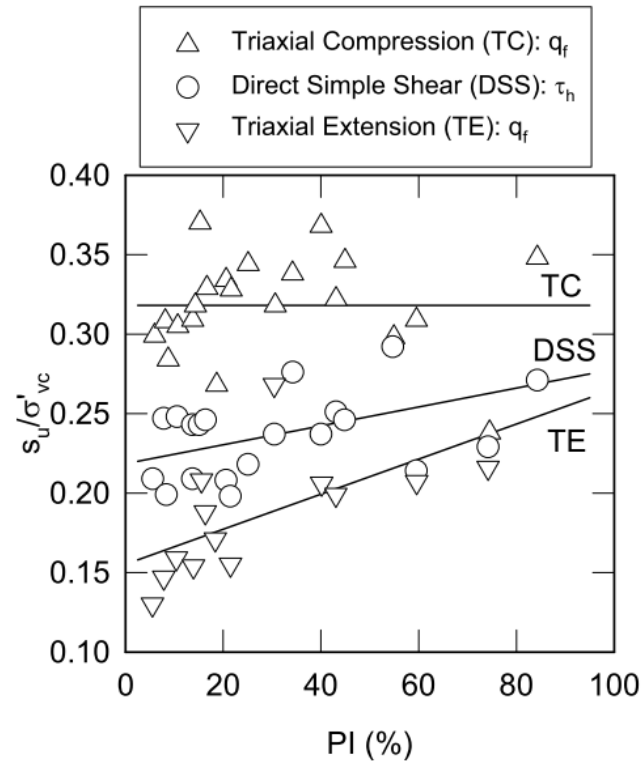
## Device dependent response

- Data from supposedly the same test in different apparatus are NOT the same
- What accuracy should be expected in comparing simulation and observation of the test?
- The various components of the geotechnical design determine the parameter value approximation.



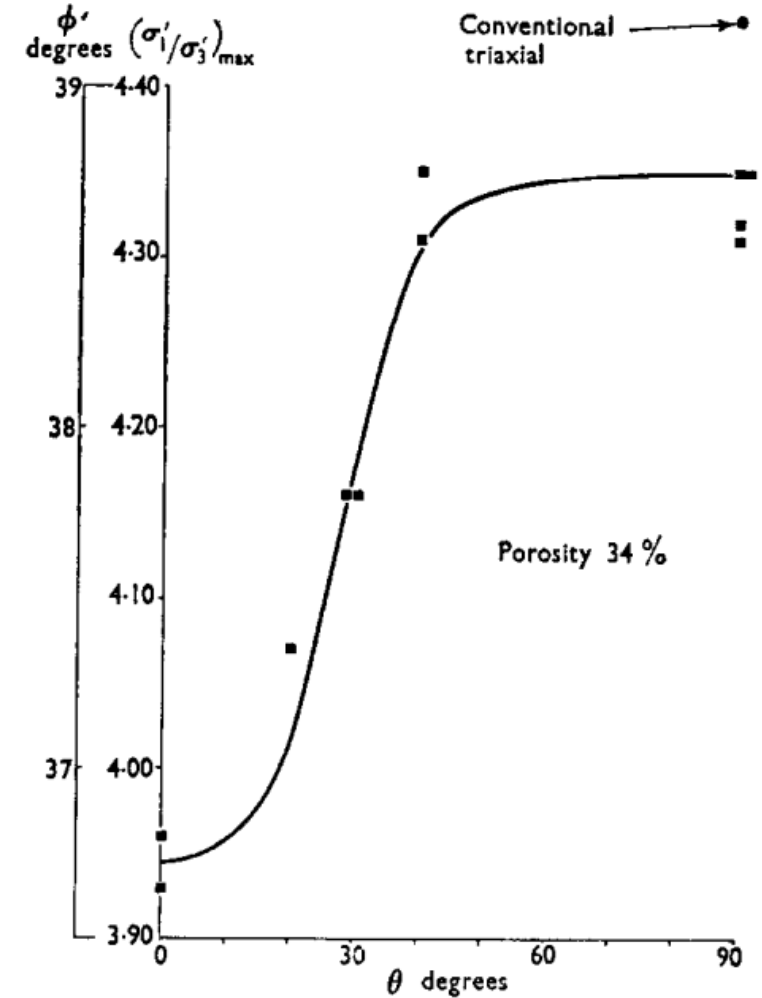
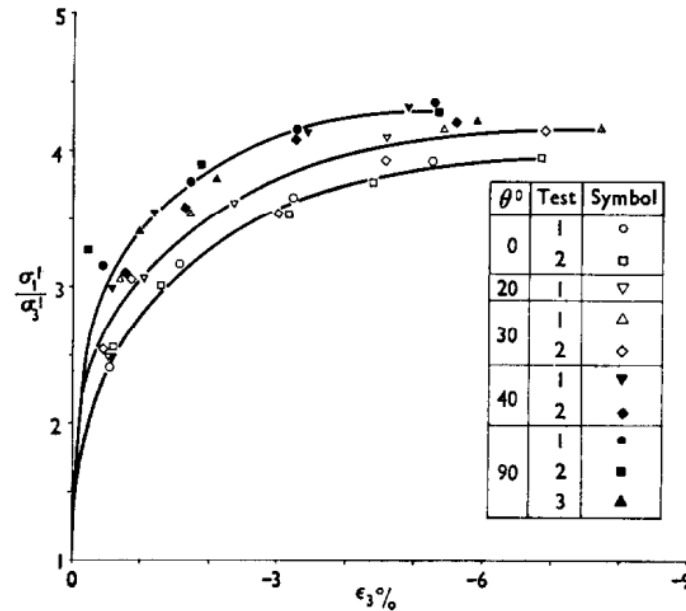
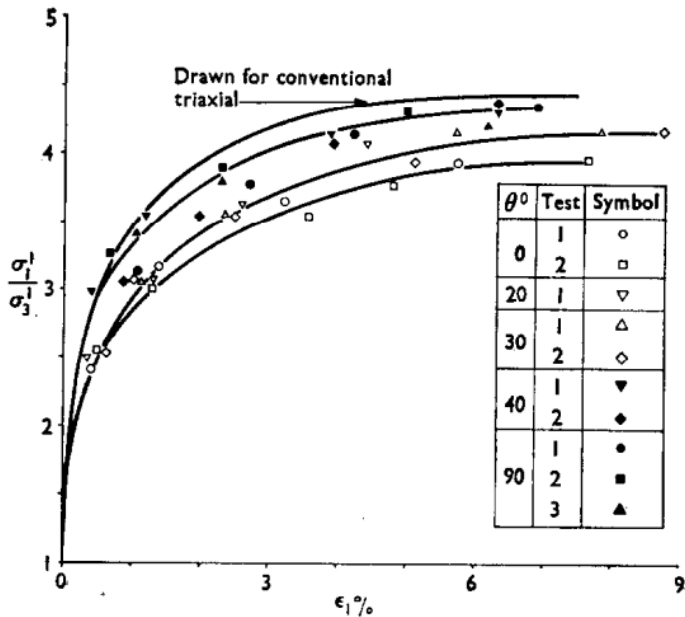
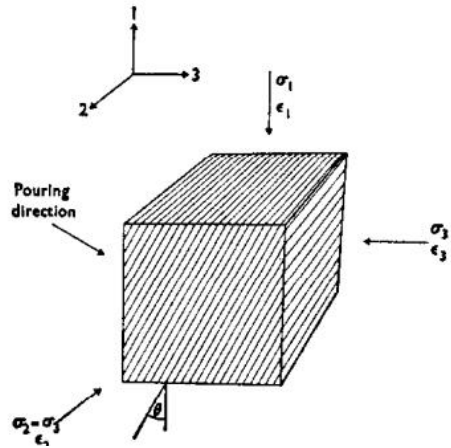
# SOIL PARAMETERS

## Anisotropy in mobilised strength ratio



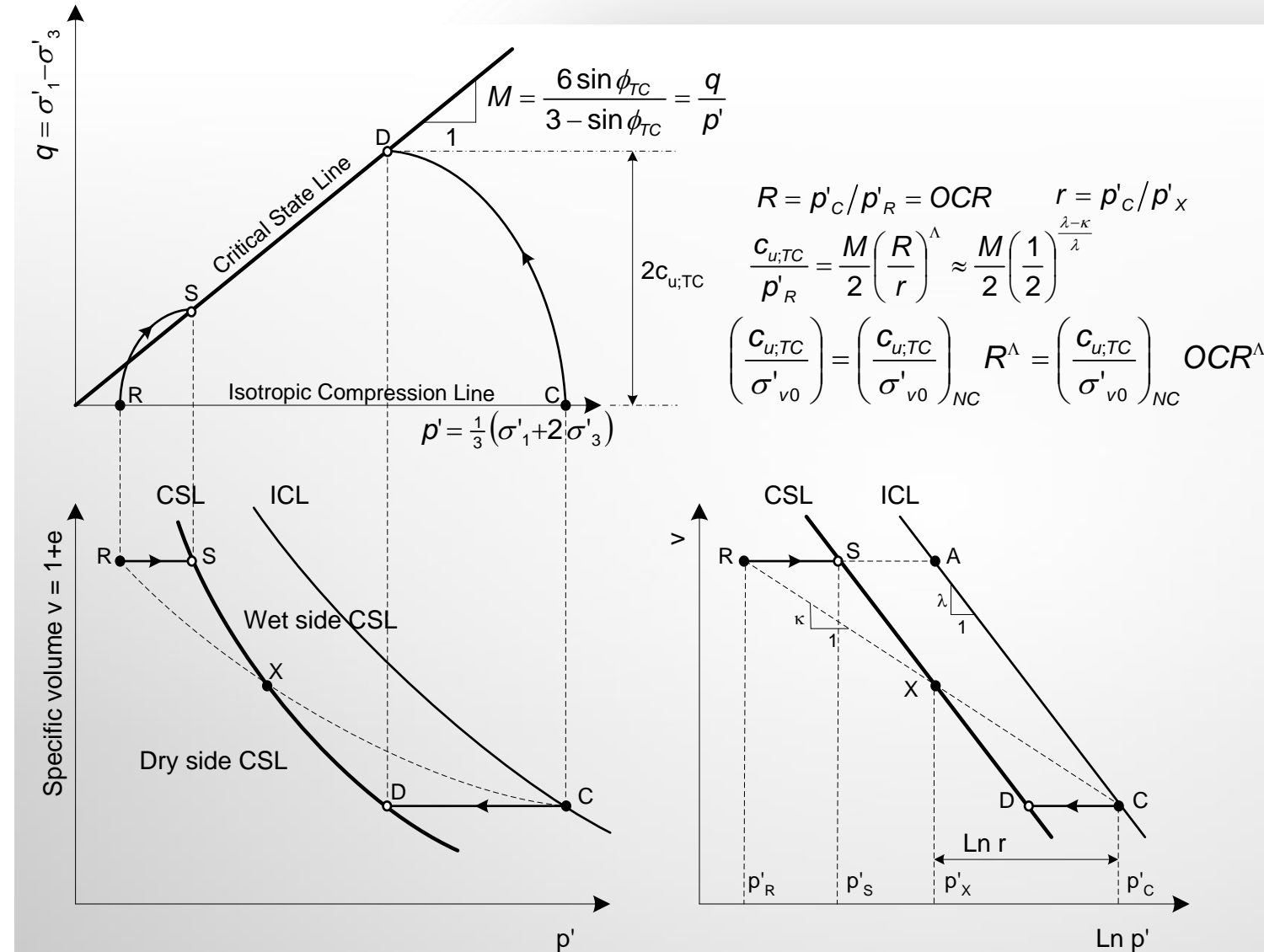
# SOIL PARAMETERS

## Inherent anisotropy in sand



# SOIL PARAMETERS

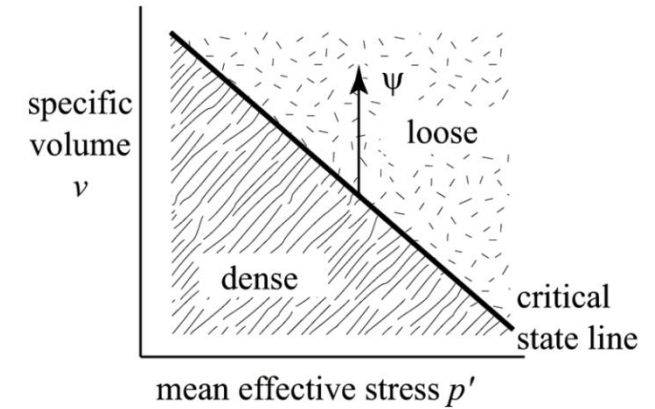
## Idealised undrained behaviour from CIUTC-tests



$$R = p'_C / p'_R = OCR \quad r = p'_C / p'_X$$

$$\frac{c_{u;TC}}{p'_R} = \frac{M}{2} \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)^\Lambda \approx \frac{M}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{\lambda - \kappa}{\lambda}}$$

$$\left( \frac{c_{u;TC}}{\sigma'_{v0}} \right) = \left( \frac{c_{u;TC}}{\sigma'_{v0}} \right)_{NC} \quad R^\Lambda = \left( \frac{c_{u;TC}}{\sigma'_{v0}} \right)_{NC} OCR^\Lambda$$

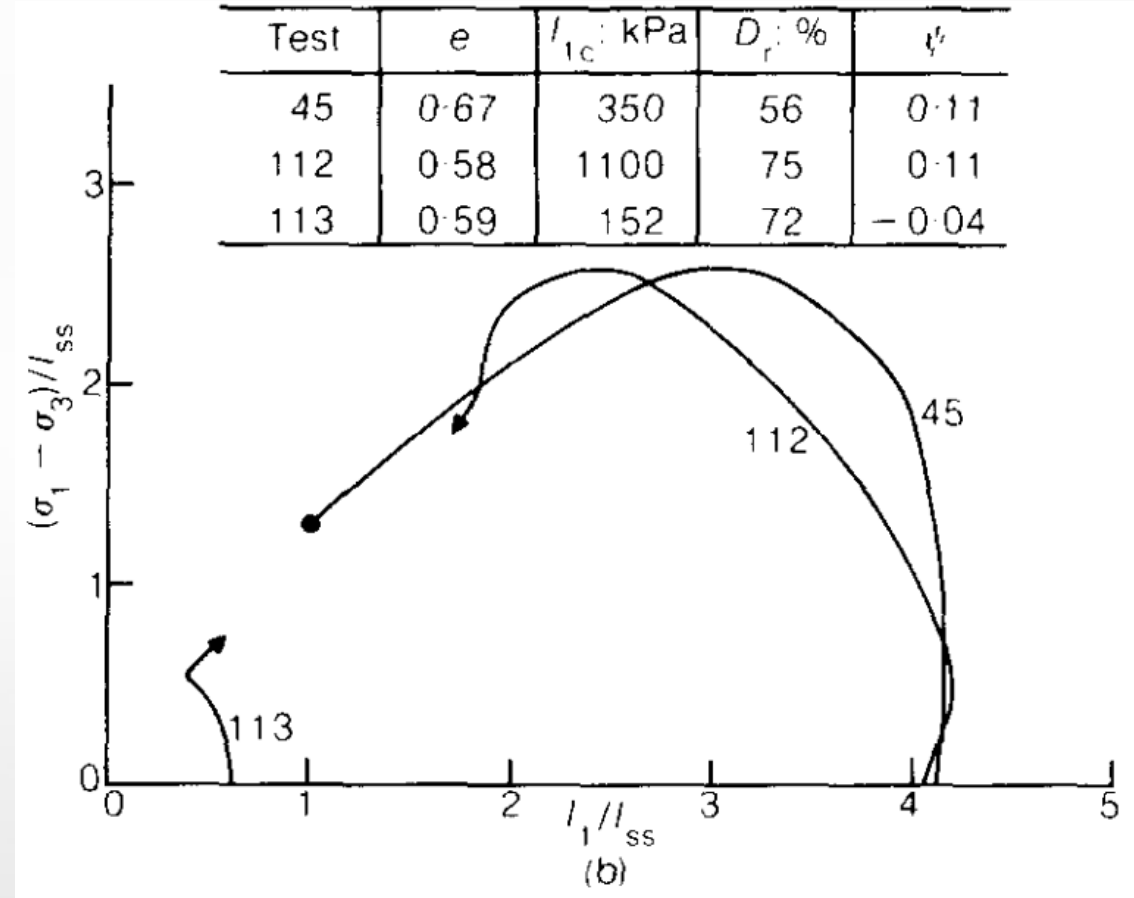
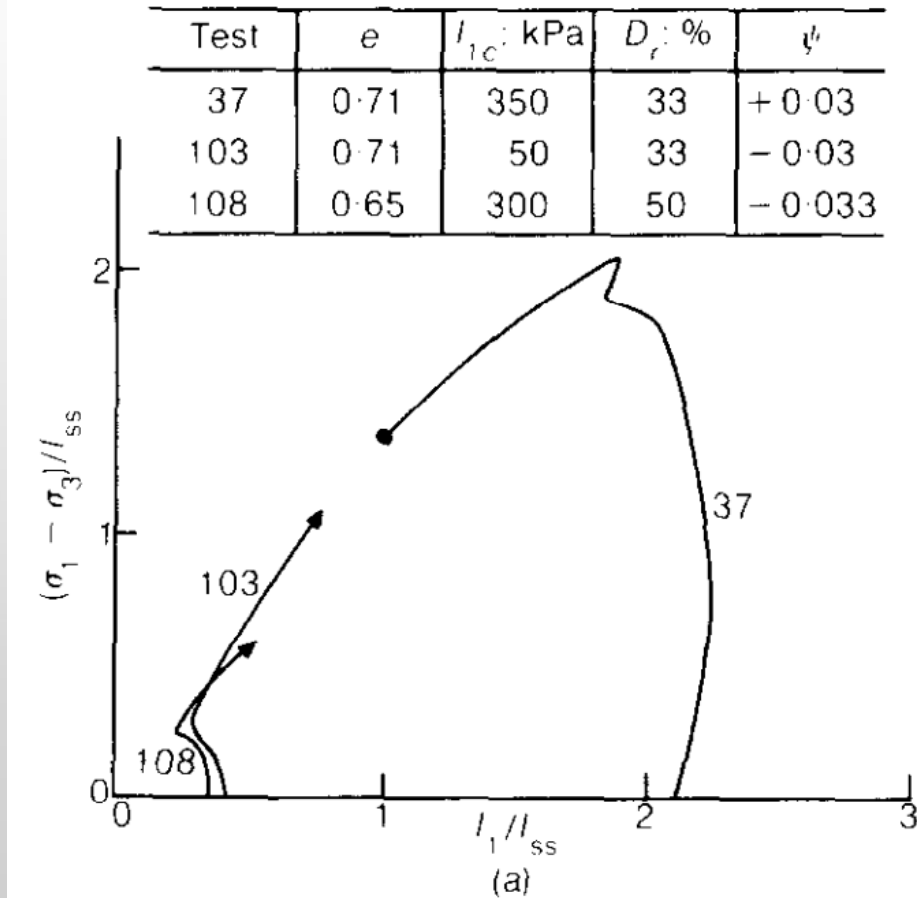


$$\psi = v - v_\lambda + \lambda \ln p'$$

$$\psi = e_c - e_{CSL}$$

# SOIL PARAMETERS

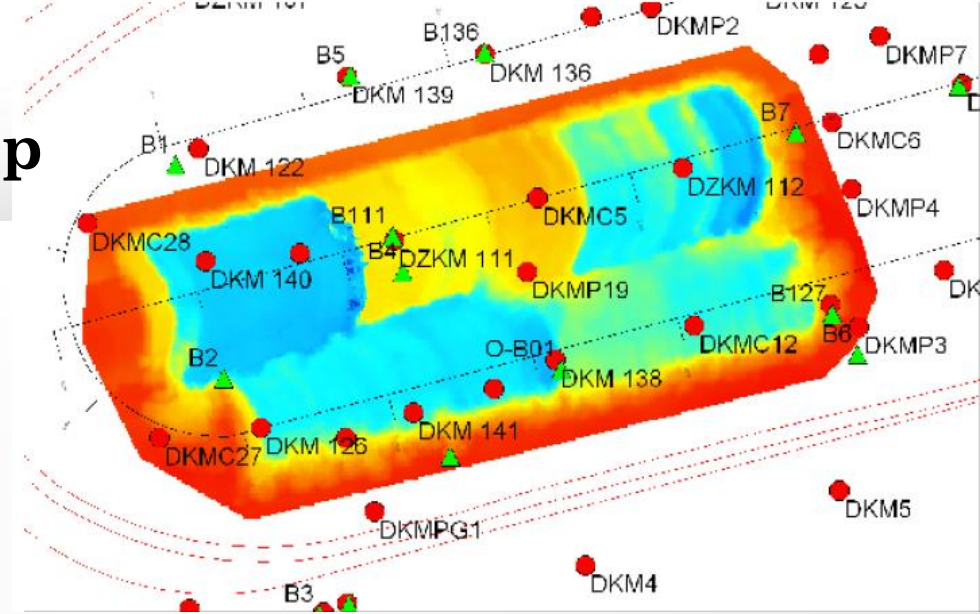
## State parameter as indicator of volumetric behaviour on loading



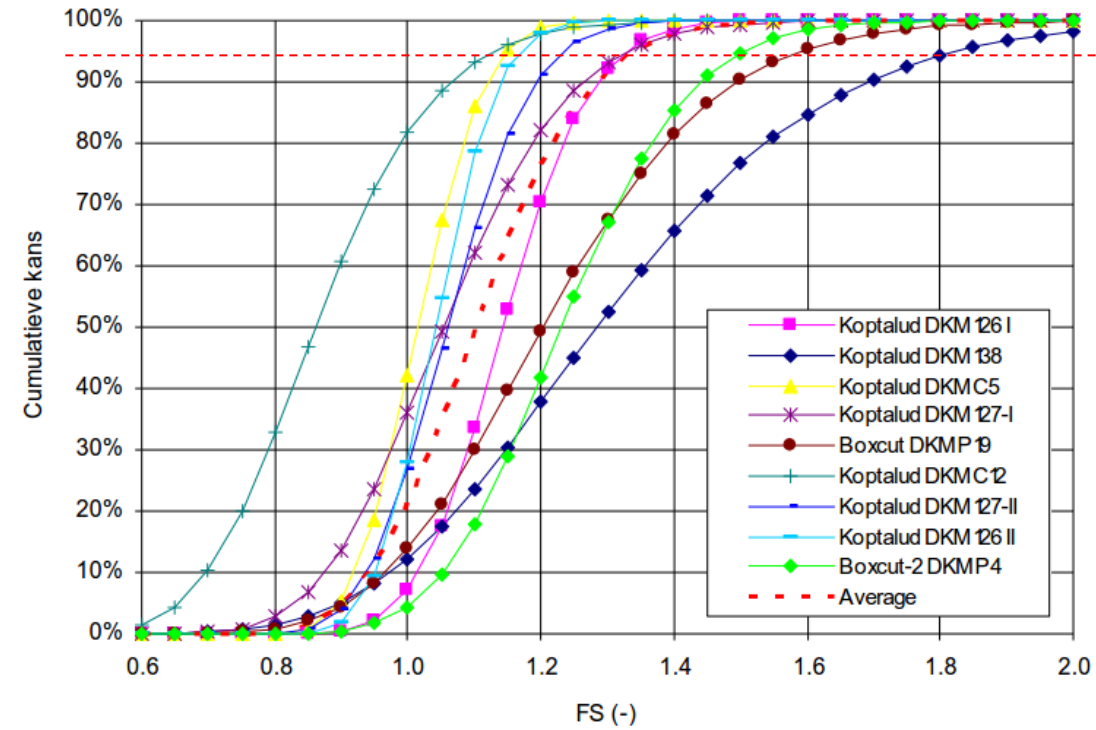
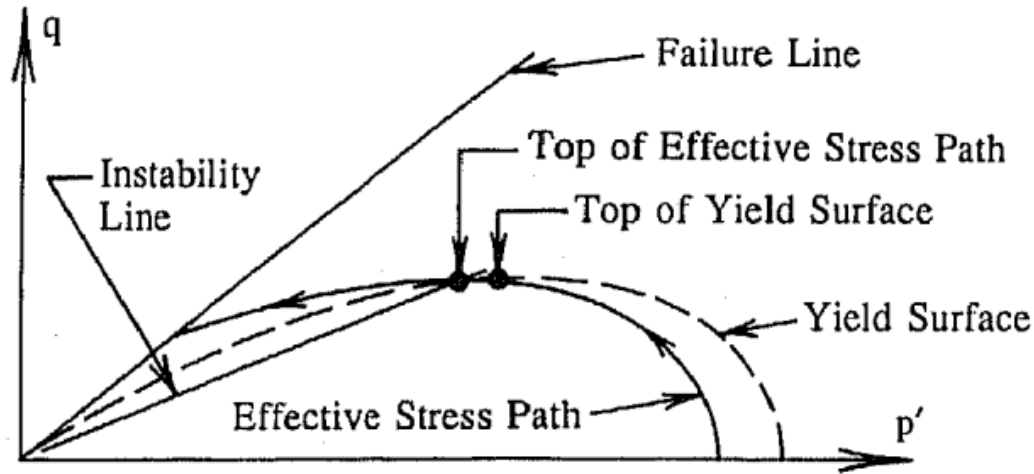
# LIQUEFACTION MODEL

## Dredge Sludge depot Hollandsch Diep

- Modified state parameter model
- 1<sup>st</sup> order 2<sup>nd</sup> moment probabilistic approach
- Validation with test failures including effect equipment and work method



$P_f = 95\%$

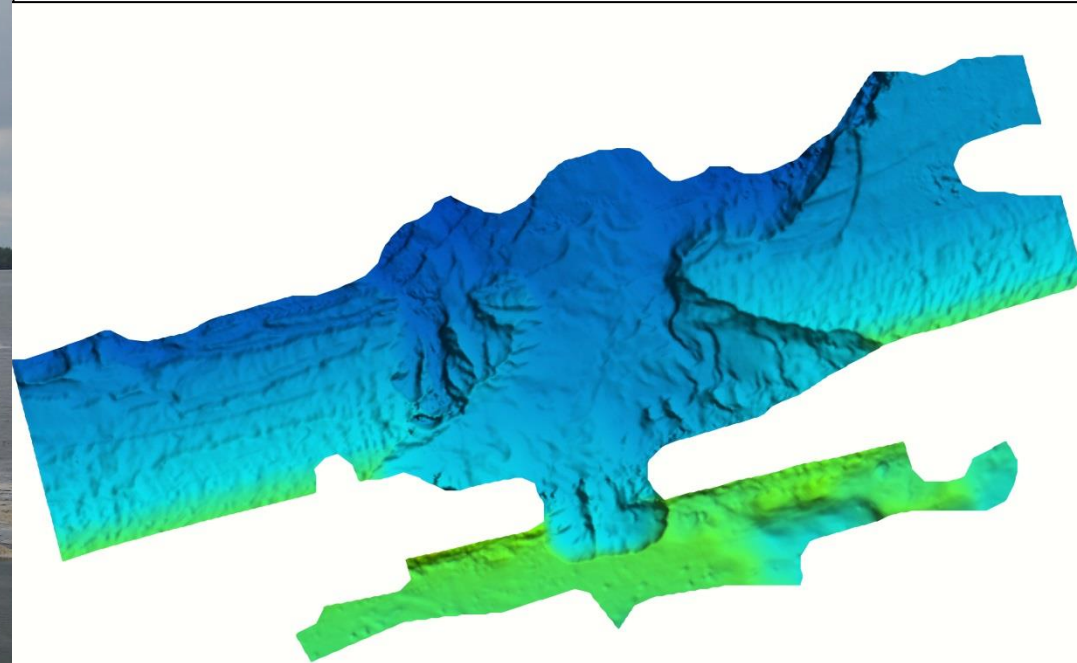
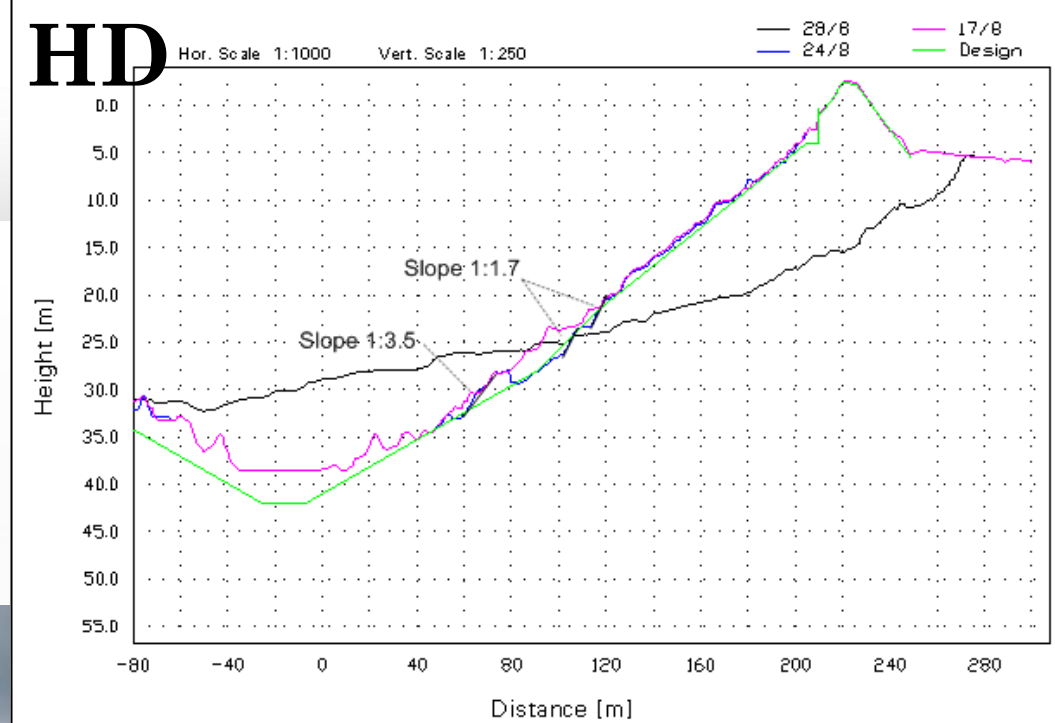


# LIQUEFACTION MODEL HD

Large (unplanned) instability

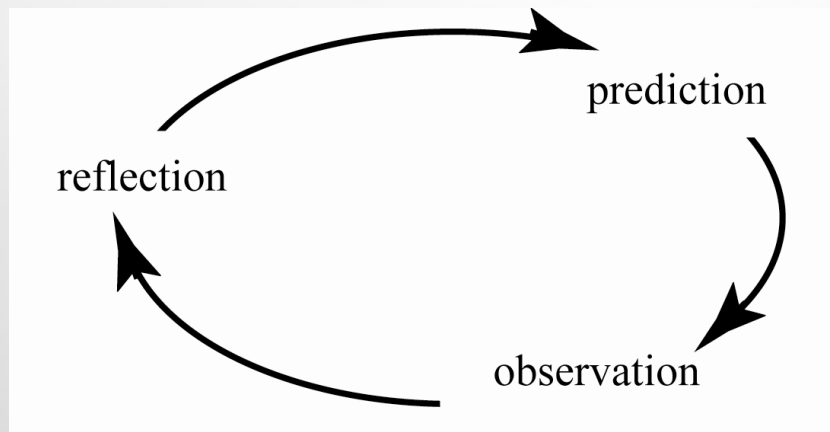
Instability of  $\sim 350,0000 \text{ m}^3$  occurred during profiling depot slopes

Paleochannel with laminated Holocene clay/ sand sediments had liquefied after longer period of time



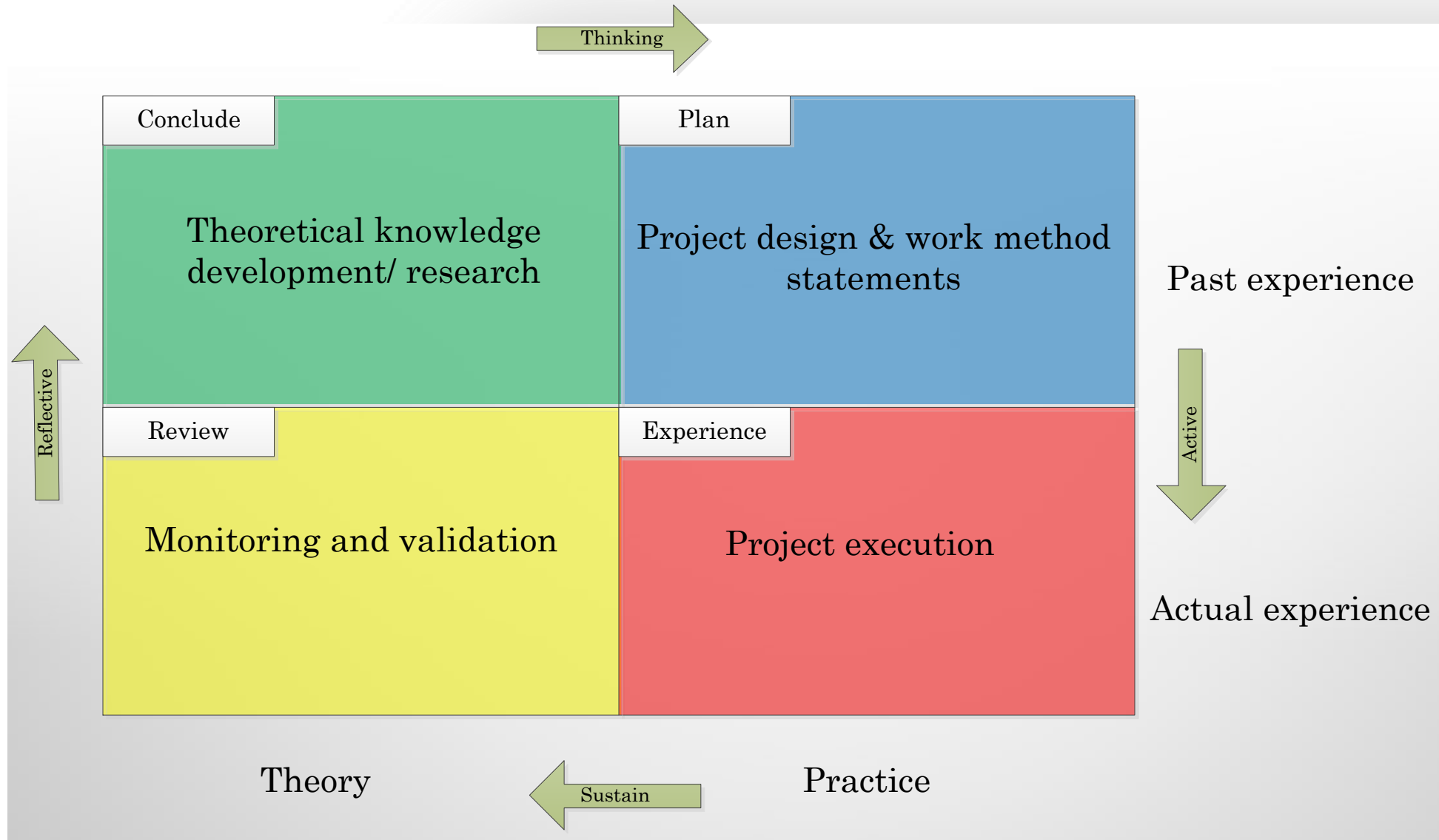
## The way forward

- Always start with prediction of what you expect to happen
- If observation is unexpected, then reflection is required to improve predictions
- A good model-test is one which surprises
  - route to advance of scientific understanding
  - design model-tests with this in mind
- Scientific conjectures cannot be proved – only refuted
- Absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence
- Rival hypotheses can be sifted using carefully chosen testing





# LEARNING CYCLE



# CHARACTER INGREDIENTS

- Zest – Enthusiasm, eagerness, energy, and interest
- Grit – Courage and determination despite difficulty
- Self-Control – The ability to control your emotions and actions
- Social Intelligence – The capacity to know oneself and to know others
- Gratitude – The feeling or quality of being grateful
- Optimism – Believe that putting in effort pays off
- Curiosity – Eagerness to explore new things

# CONCLUSIONS

## *In general:*

- Geological characterisation requires a thorough classification and state and variability assessment.
- Soil parameters are uniquely interrelated with a model.
- Experimental testing and modelling should capture the essential(s).
- The reliability of the prediction(s) is directly proportional to the degree of understanding and capturing of the essential(s).
- Reliability of the integral system is depending on the interrelationship between the various components and the variation thereof.

## *On present engineering practice:*

- Pre-tender soil investigation and GBR limits risk assessment and modelling.
- CPT based selection of characteristic parameters in Table 2b – NEN\_9997-1 (2017) does not improve understanding.
- Parameters are in general rheological models of the order:  $R(e, \sigma', \dot{e}, \dot{\sigma}')$
- Parameters are therefore NOT constant but state and loading dependent

## *Enigma code (an imperfect model concept):*

- Integral balance in geotechnical modelling
- Continuous development with learning cycle
- Character ingredients (Zest; Grit; Self-Control; Social intelligence; Gratitude; Optimism; Curiosity)

# QUESTIONS?

Measured excess pore water pressure in sand after installation piezometers on crest of dam dredge sludge depot Hollandsch Diep after closure

