

Design of Pavements on Expansive Clay Subgrades

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Foundation Performance Association
Houston, Texas
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Outline

- Performance of pavements on expansive clays
 - Roughness
 - Cracking
- Pavement monitoring program
- Suction envelopes for design
- Prediction of movement
 - Edge of pavement
 - Wheel path

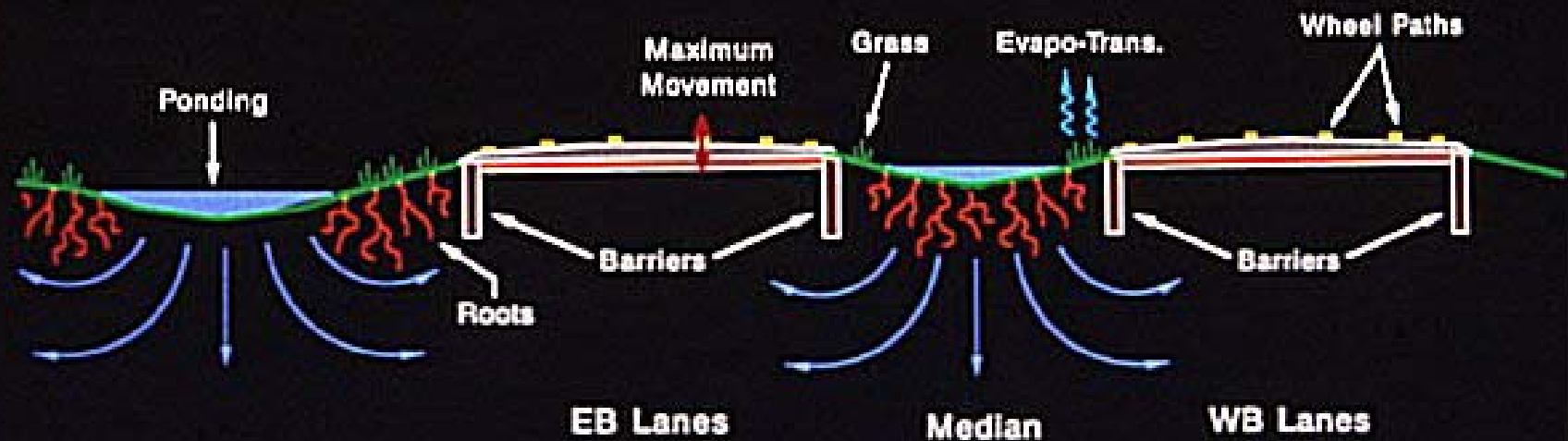
Outline, cont.

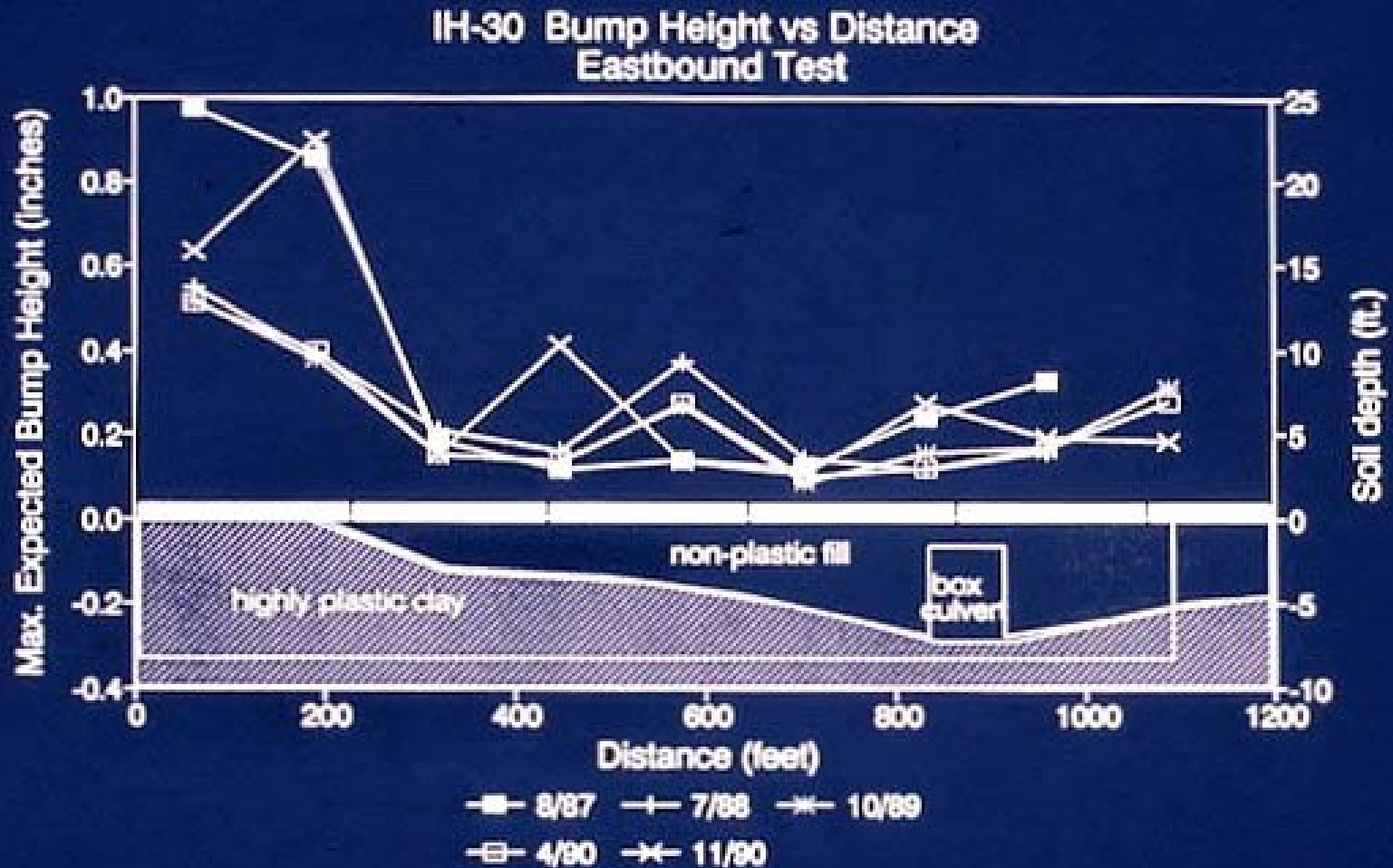
- Prediction of roughness
- Longitudinal cracking over expansive soils
 - Design countermeasures
 - Crack spacing
- Features of design program WinPRES
- WinPRES demonstration

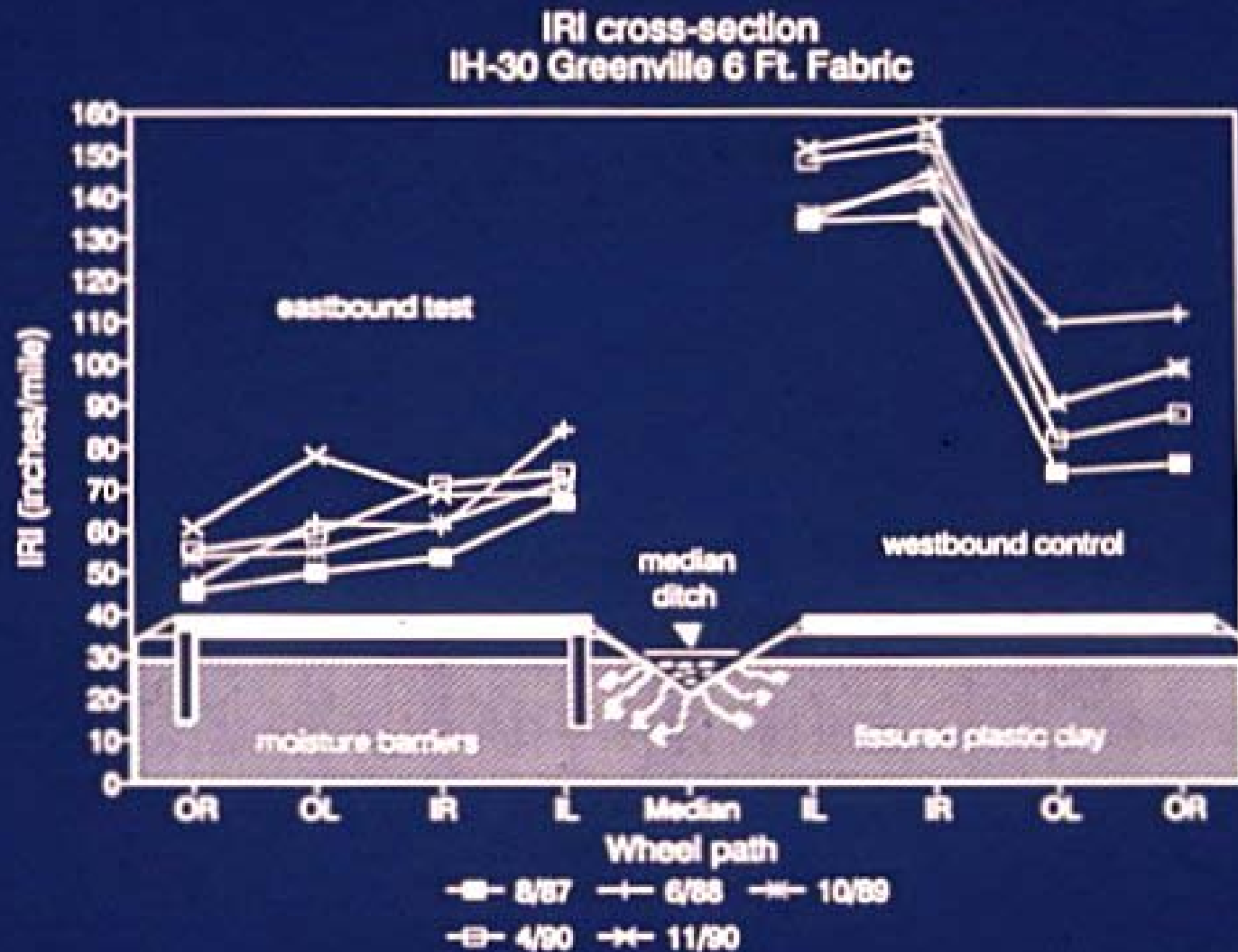


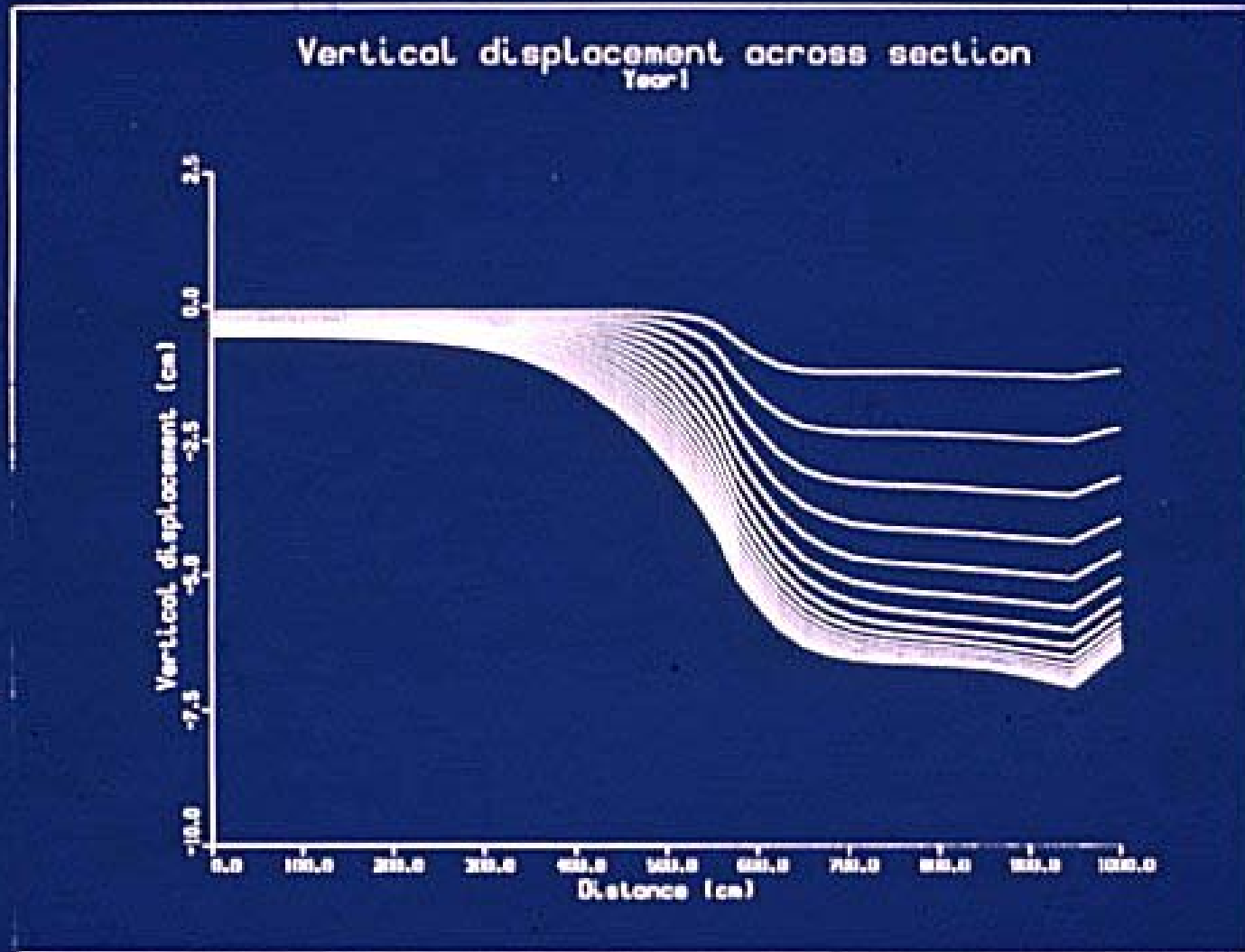
**Guardrail between pavement lanes
on expansive clay subgrade
IH37, San Antonio, Texas (c. 1974)**

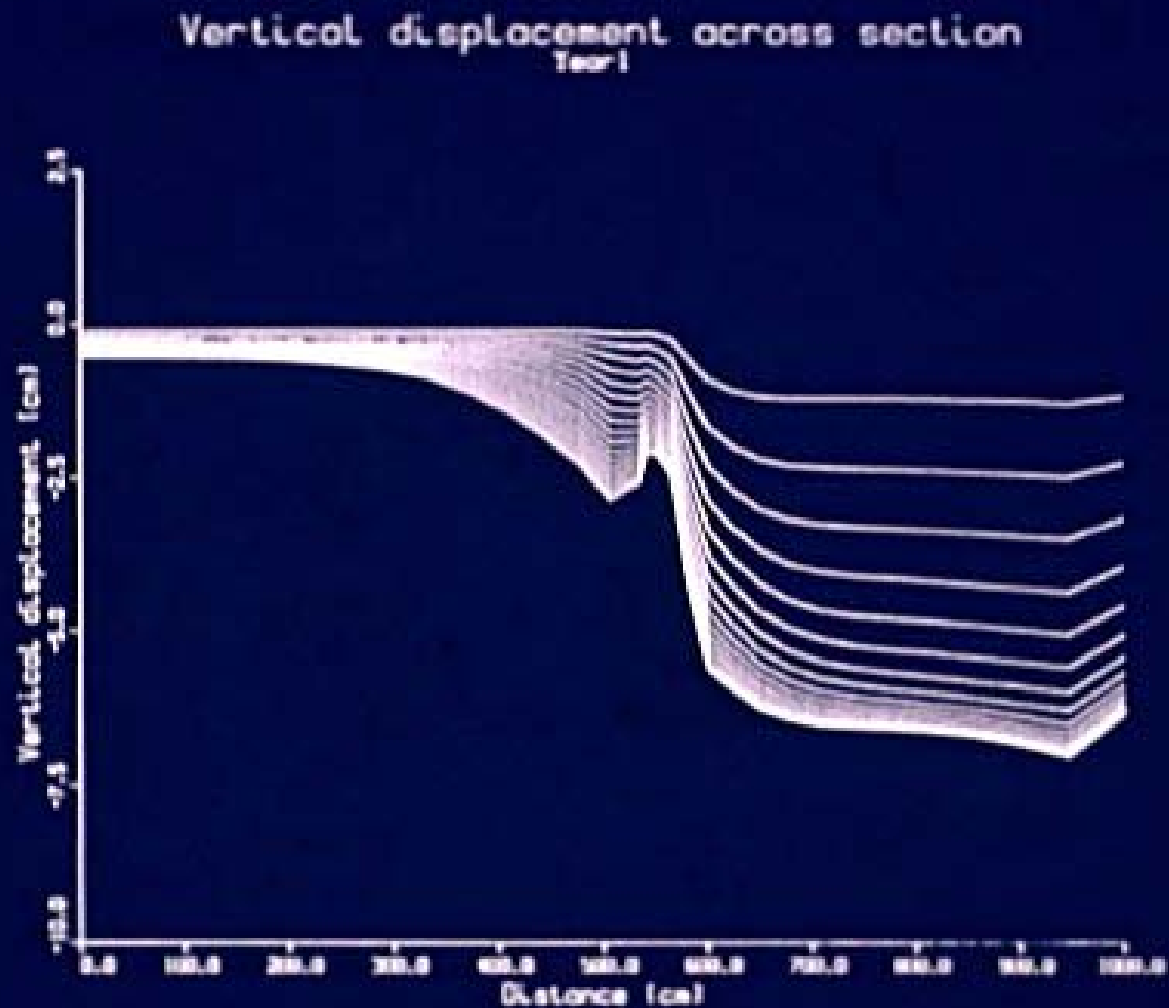
MONITORING ANALYSIS OF CROSS SECTION

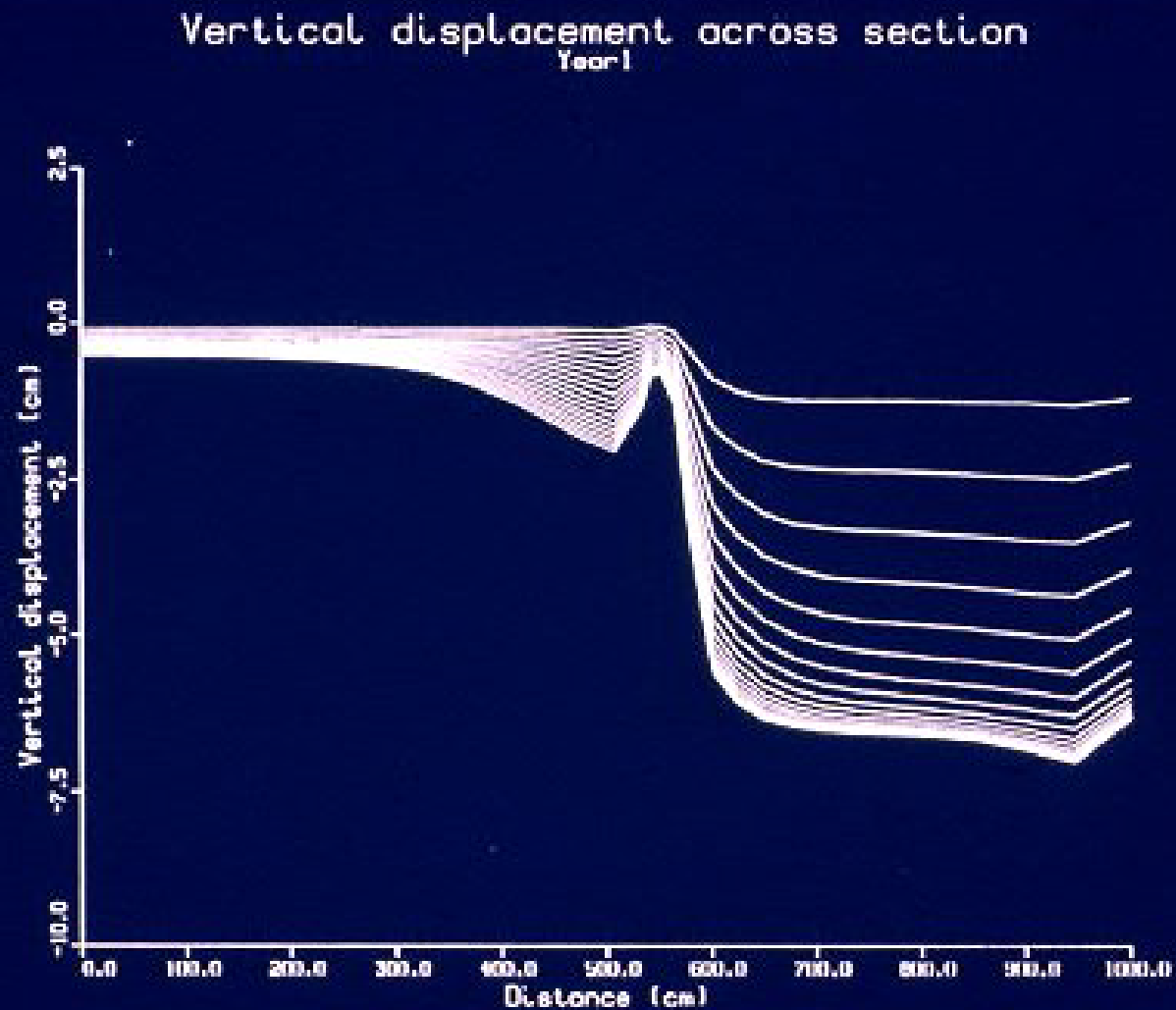


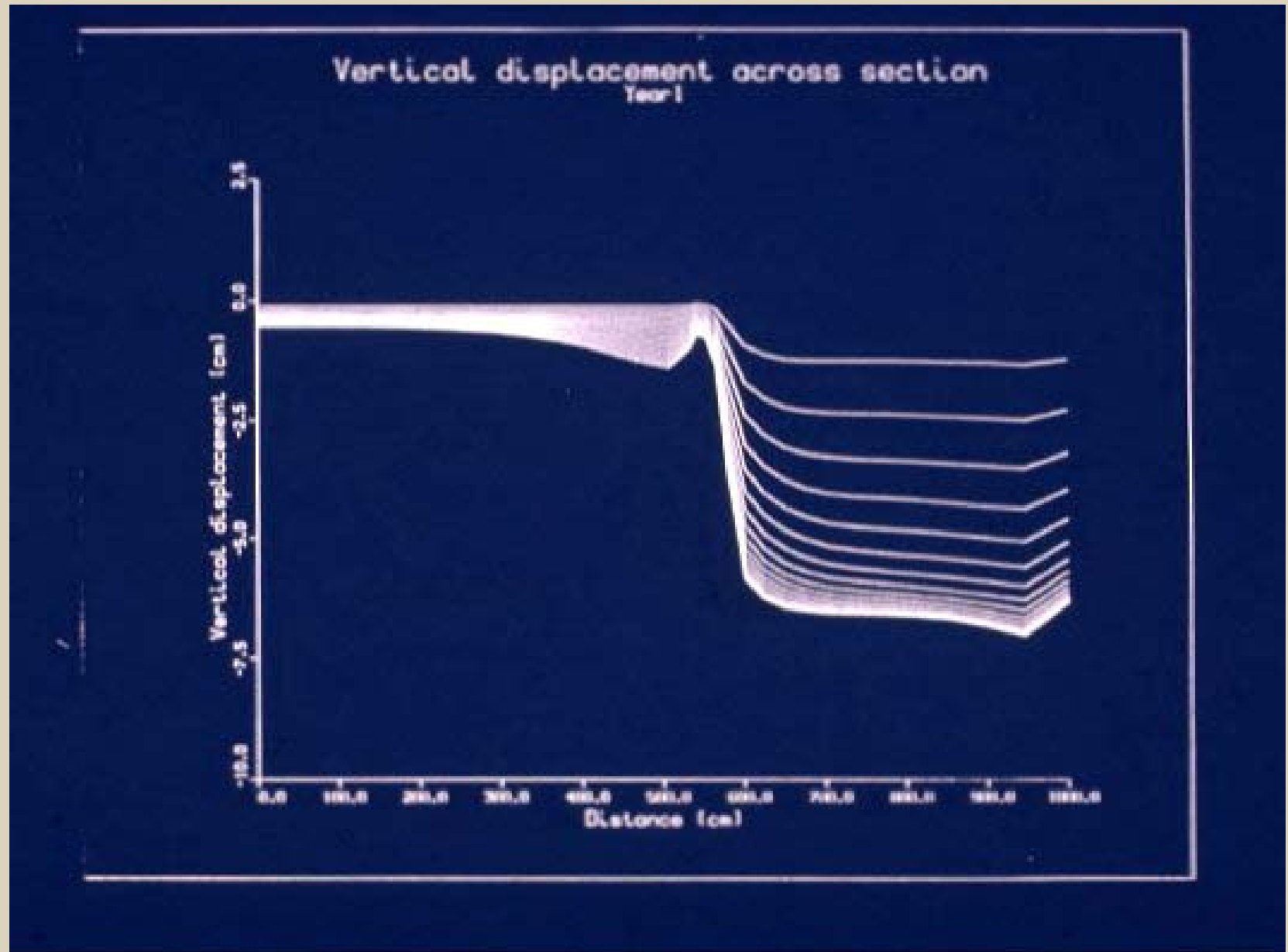


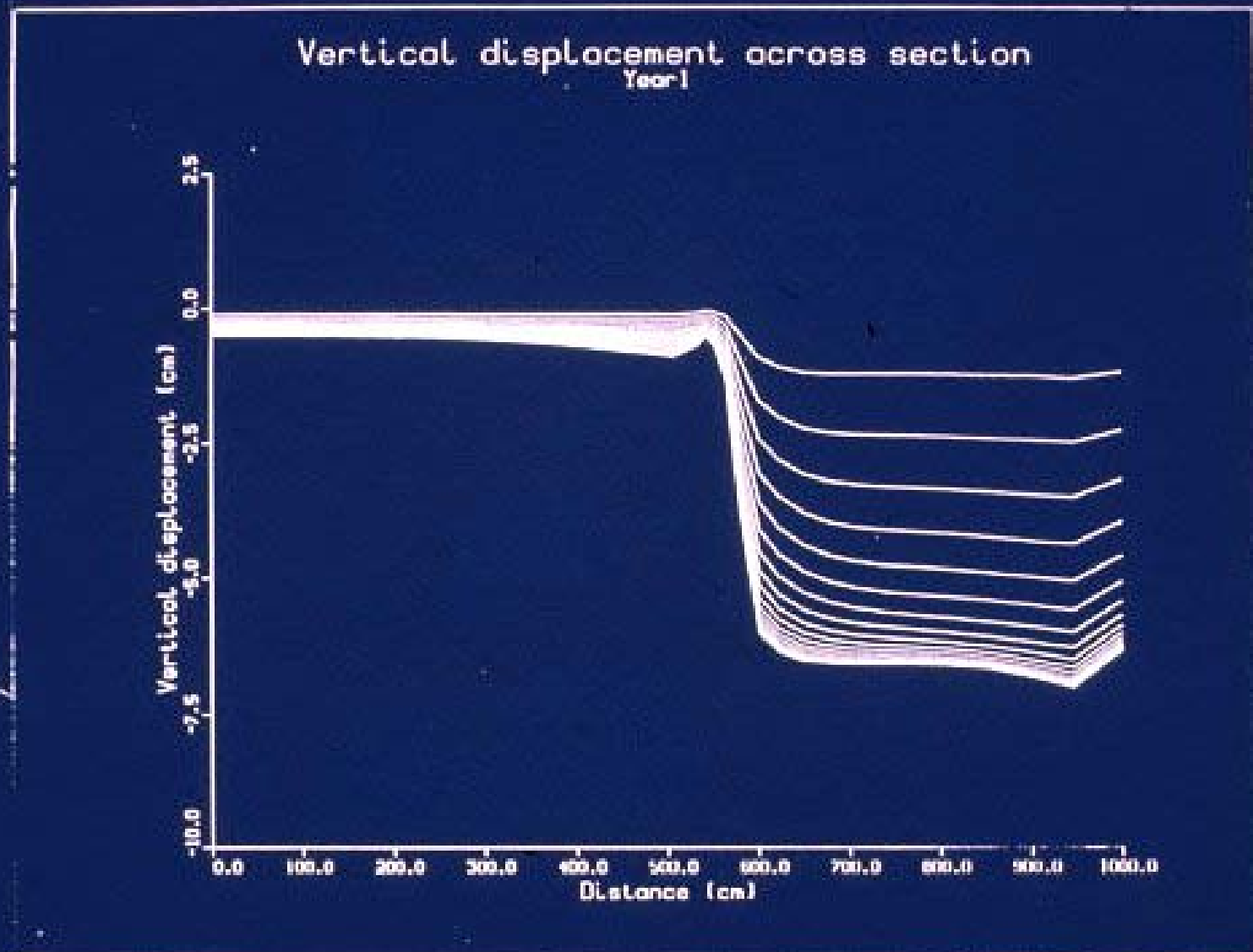




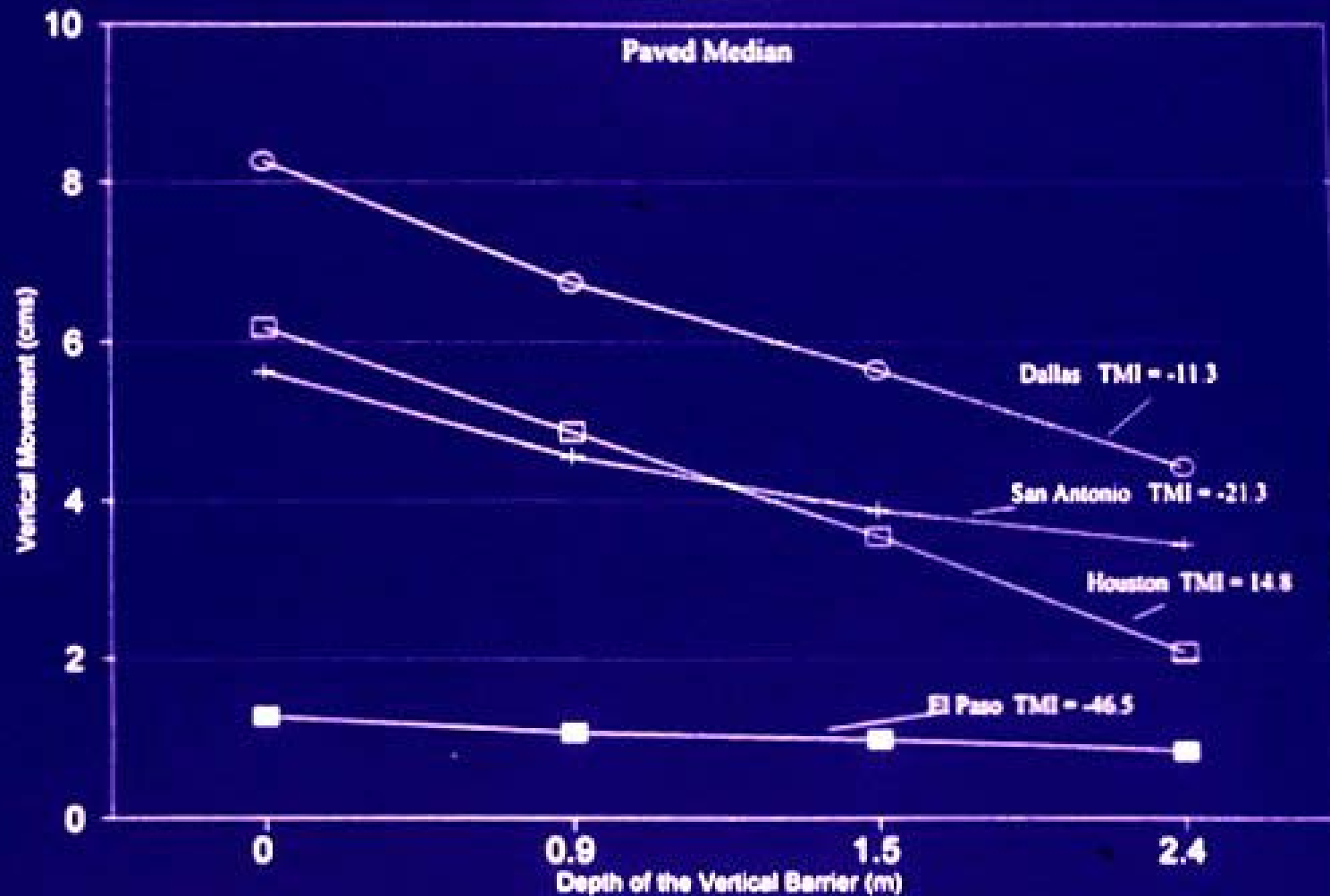




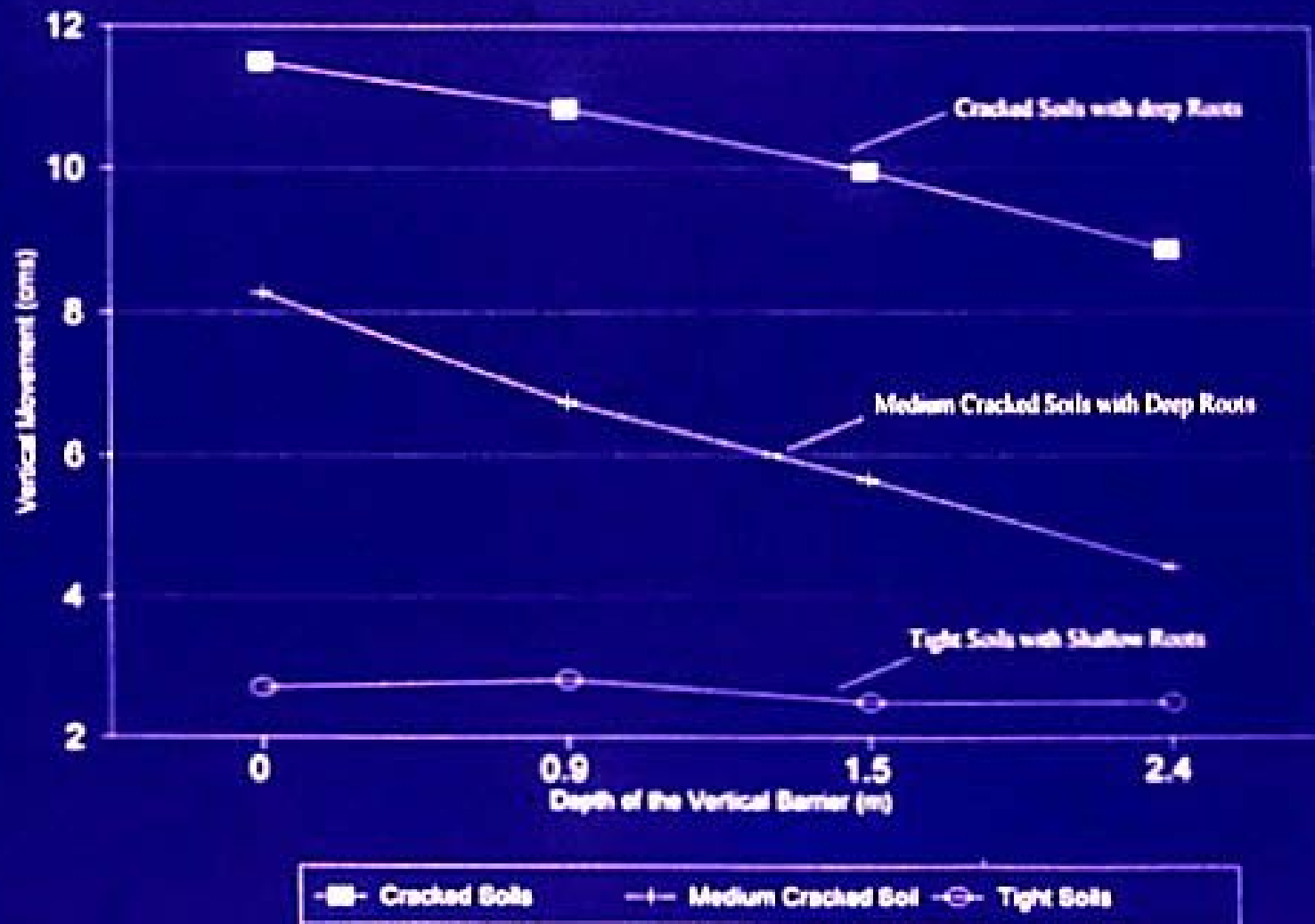


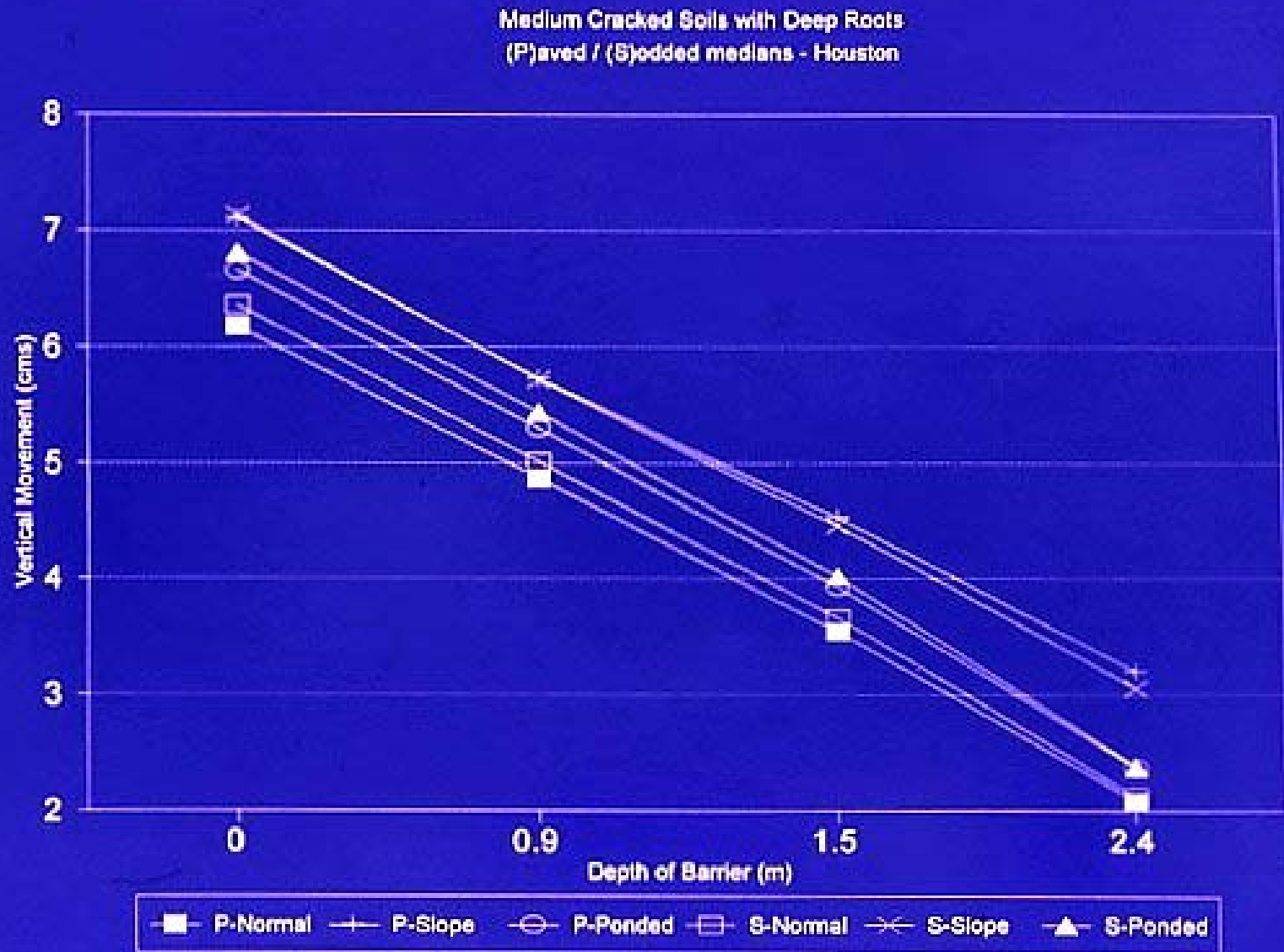


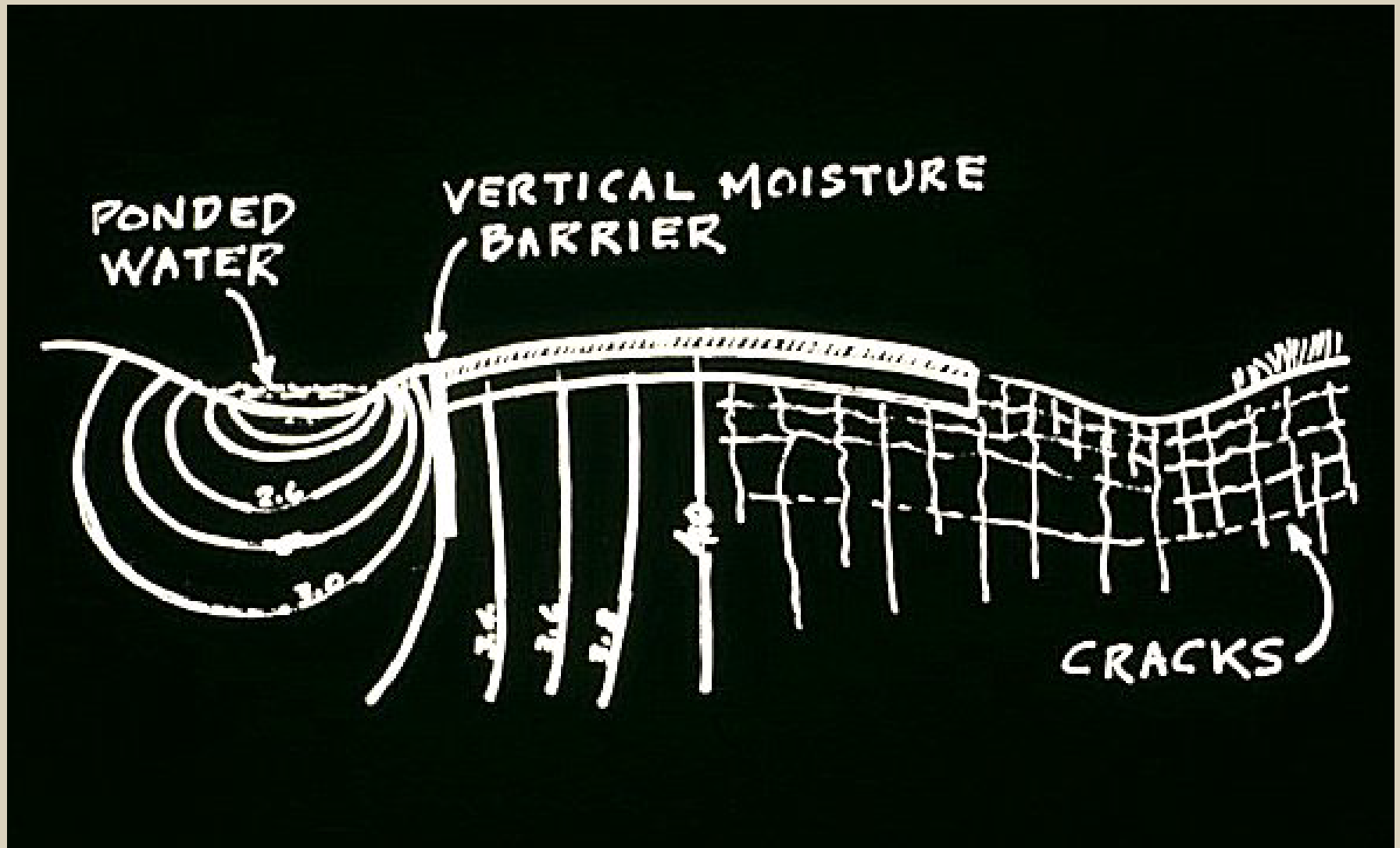
Vertical Barrier Effectiveness
Normal Drainage/Medium Cracked Soils

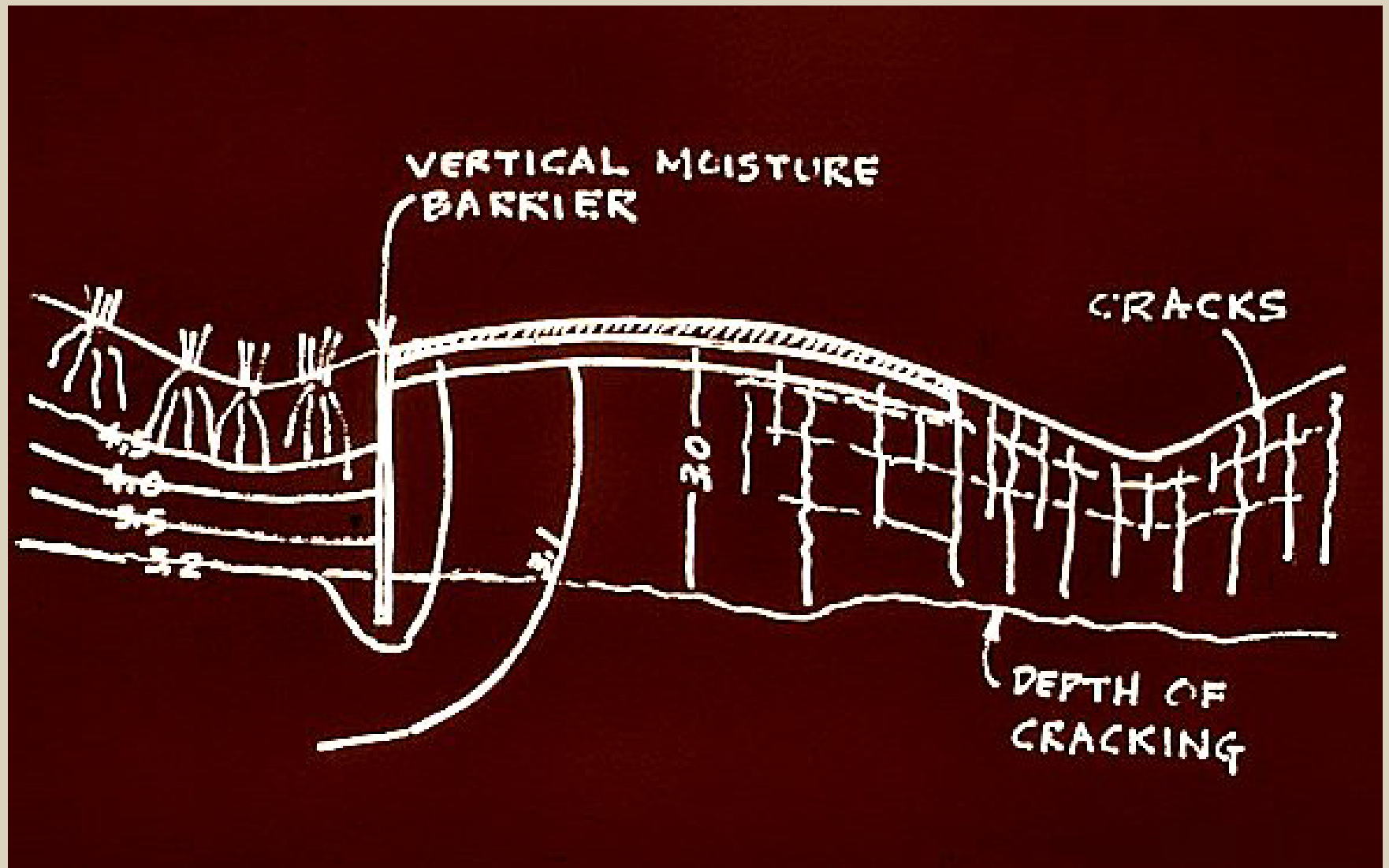


Vertical Barrier Effectiveness
Normal Drainage/Paved Median - Dallas







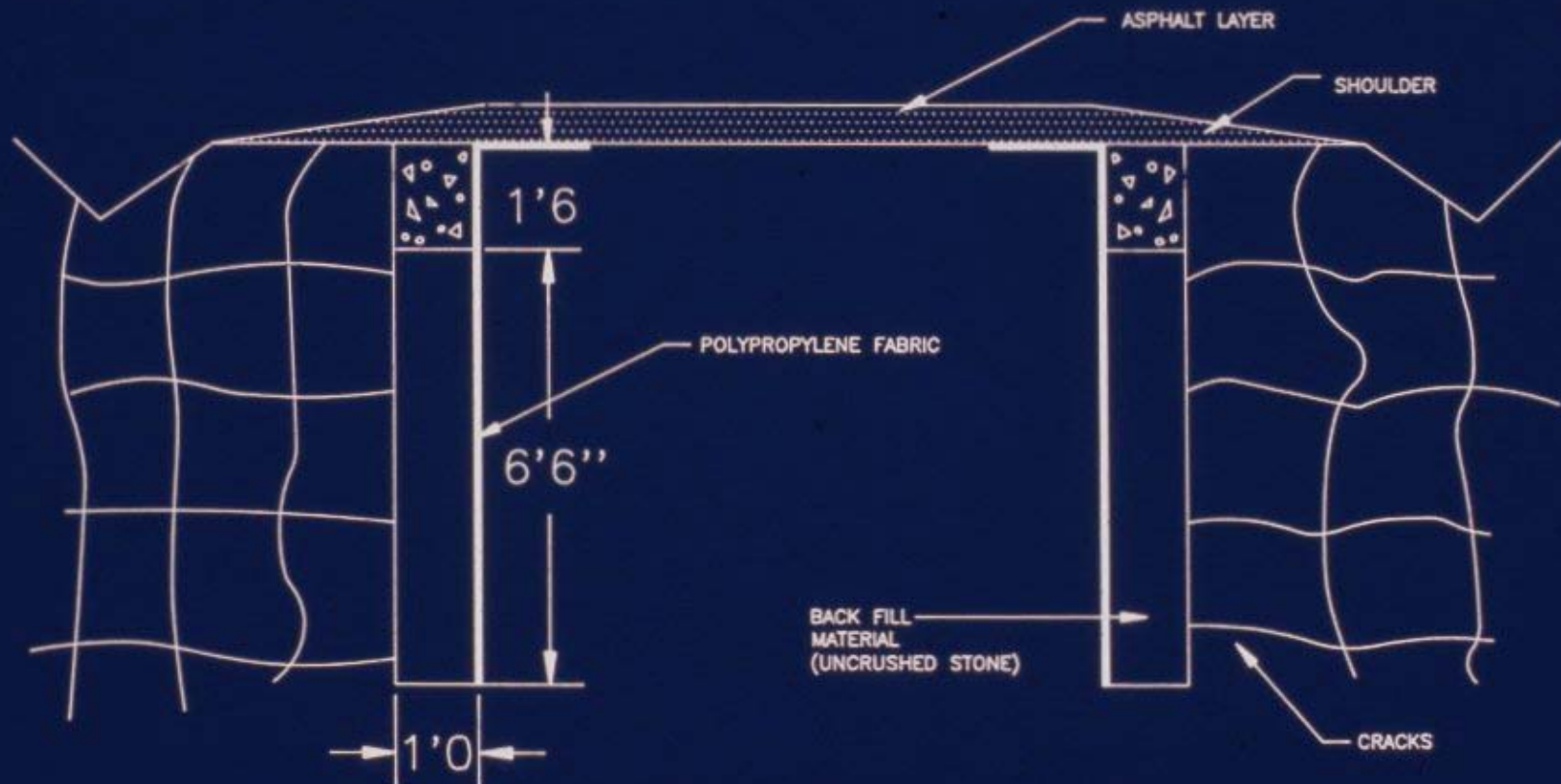




**Guardrail between pavement lanes
on expansive clay subgrade
IH37, San Antonio, Texas (c. 1974)**



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION WITH MOISTURE BARRIER



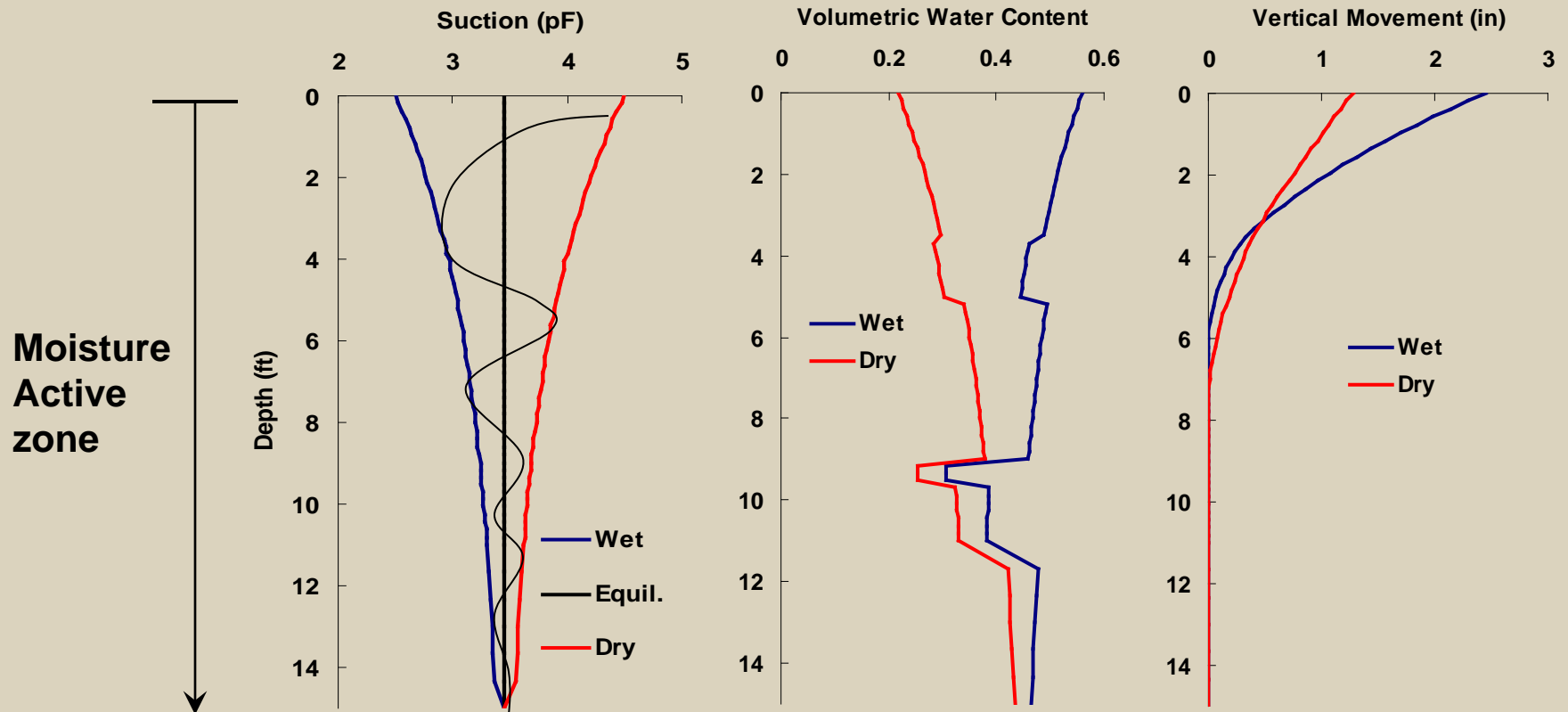


Exponential Suction Profile for Extreme Wetting and Drying Condition

$$U(Z, t) = U_e + U_o \exp\left(-\sqrt{\frac{n\pi}{\alpha}} Z\right) \cos\left(Z \sqrt{\frac{n\pi}{\alpha}}\right) \quad \text{Mitchell (1979)}$$

$$U(Z) = U_e + U_o \exp\left(-\sqrt{\frac{n\pi}{\alpha}} Z\right)$$

Fort Worth Interstate 820



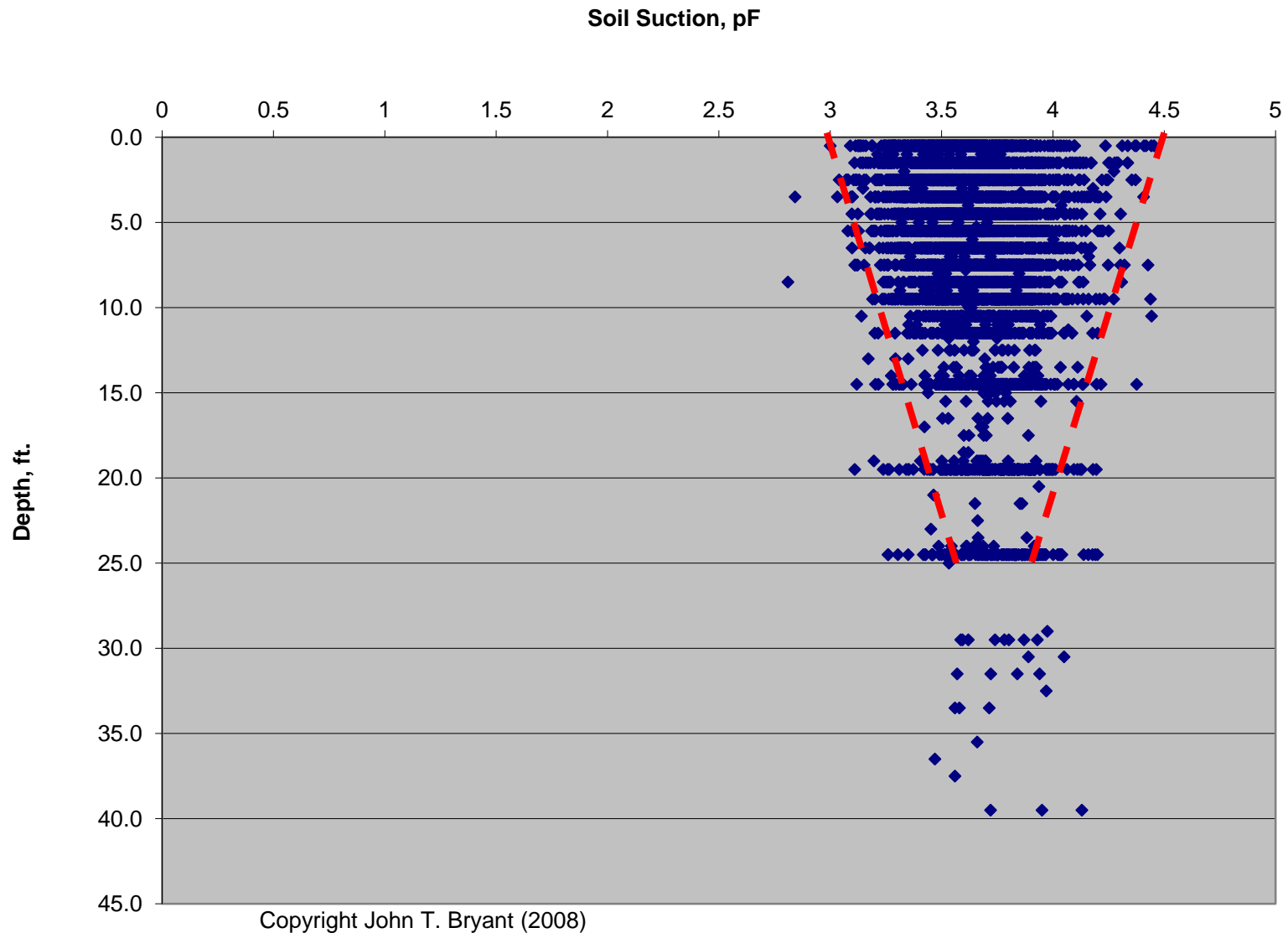
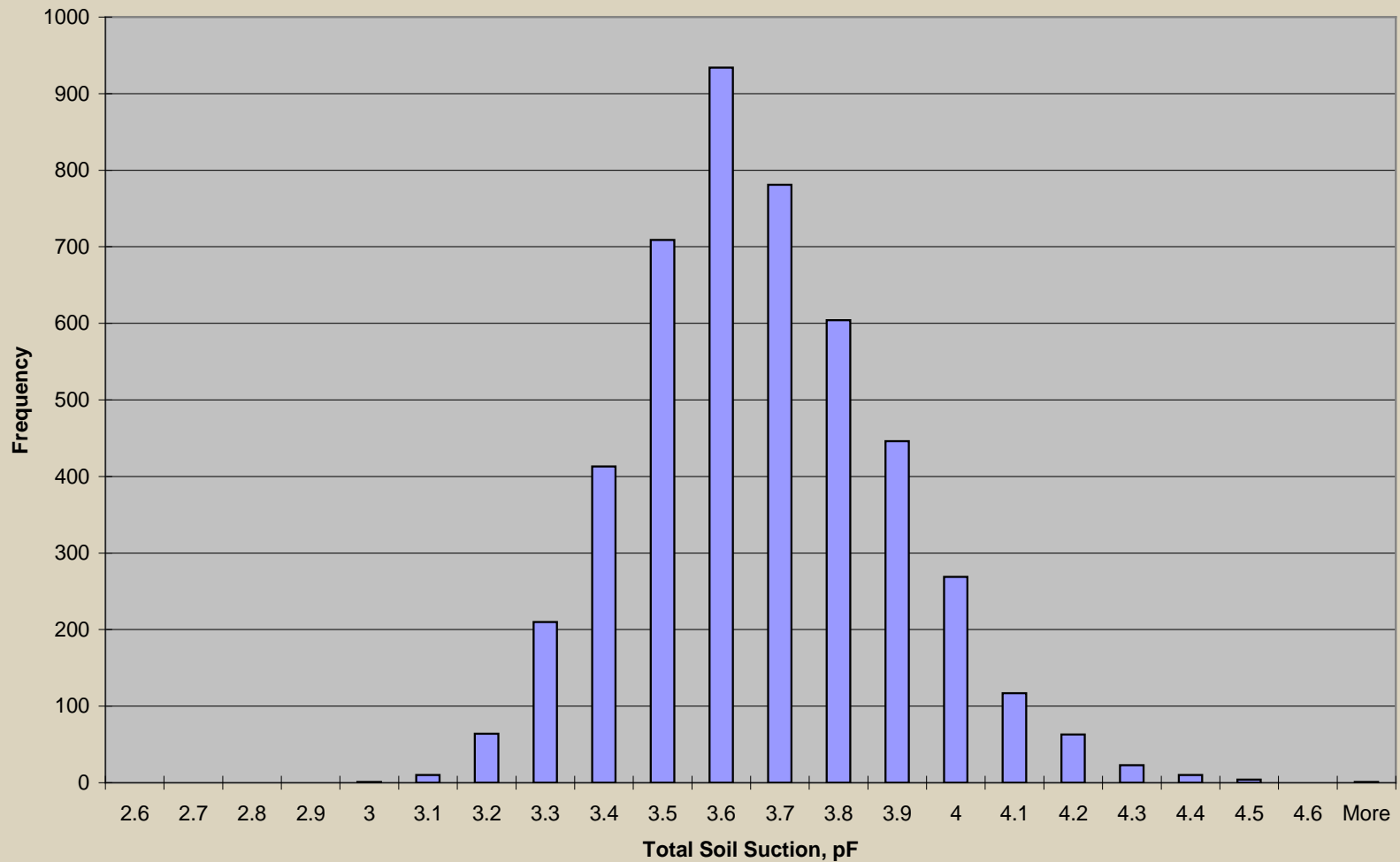
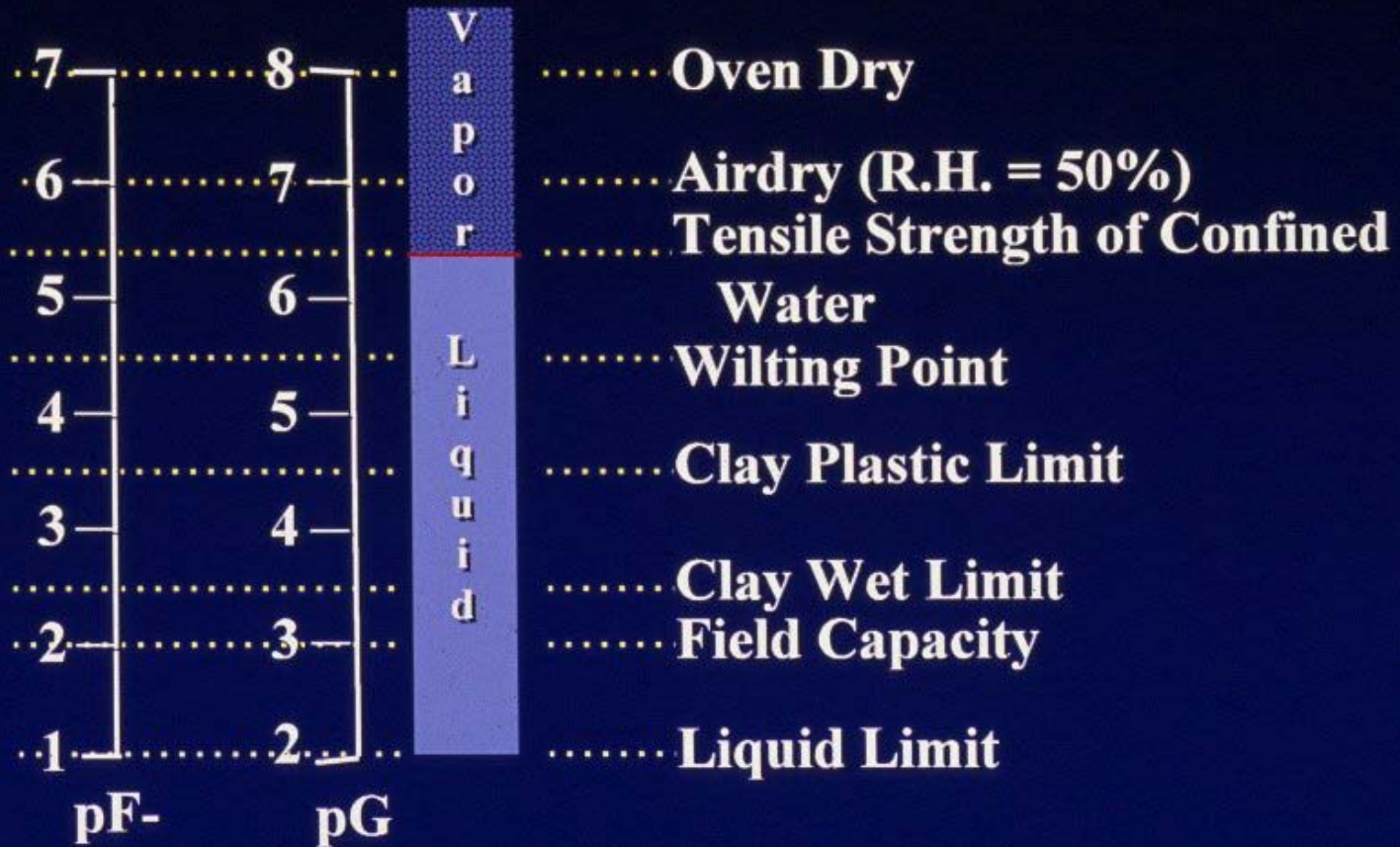


Figure 1 - Total Soil Suction Histogram for 2006



Physical Meaning of Scales



Performance Criteria for Engineering Structures

Engineering Structure	Performance Criteria
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differential movement: vertical and lateral and allowable stresses• Differential movement and allowable stresses• Total vertical and lateral movement; lateral pressure; allowable stresses
Pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roughness spectrum, International Roughness Index, Longitudinal cracking• Roughness spectrum, Pilot and Passenger acceleration
Retaining Walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lateral pressure and movement, allowable stresses

Performance Criteria for Engineering Structures, cont.

Engineering Structure	Performance Criteria
Pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roughness spectrum, allowable stress, fatigue criteria, corrosion
Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Downhill movement, shallow slope failure, slope stability
Canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combination of the performance criteria of retaining walls, pipelines, and slopes; thermal and shrinkage cracking; permeability of the cracks and joints
Moisture Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of the movement of water in the soil and of total vertical movement
Land Fill Covers and Liners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moisture and leachate transmission (including the effects of cracks)

The Design Problem

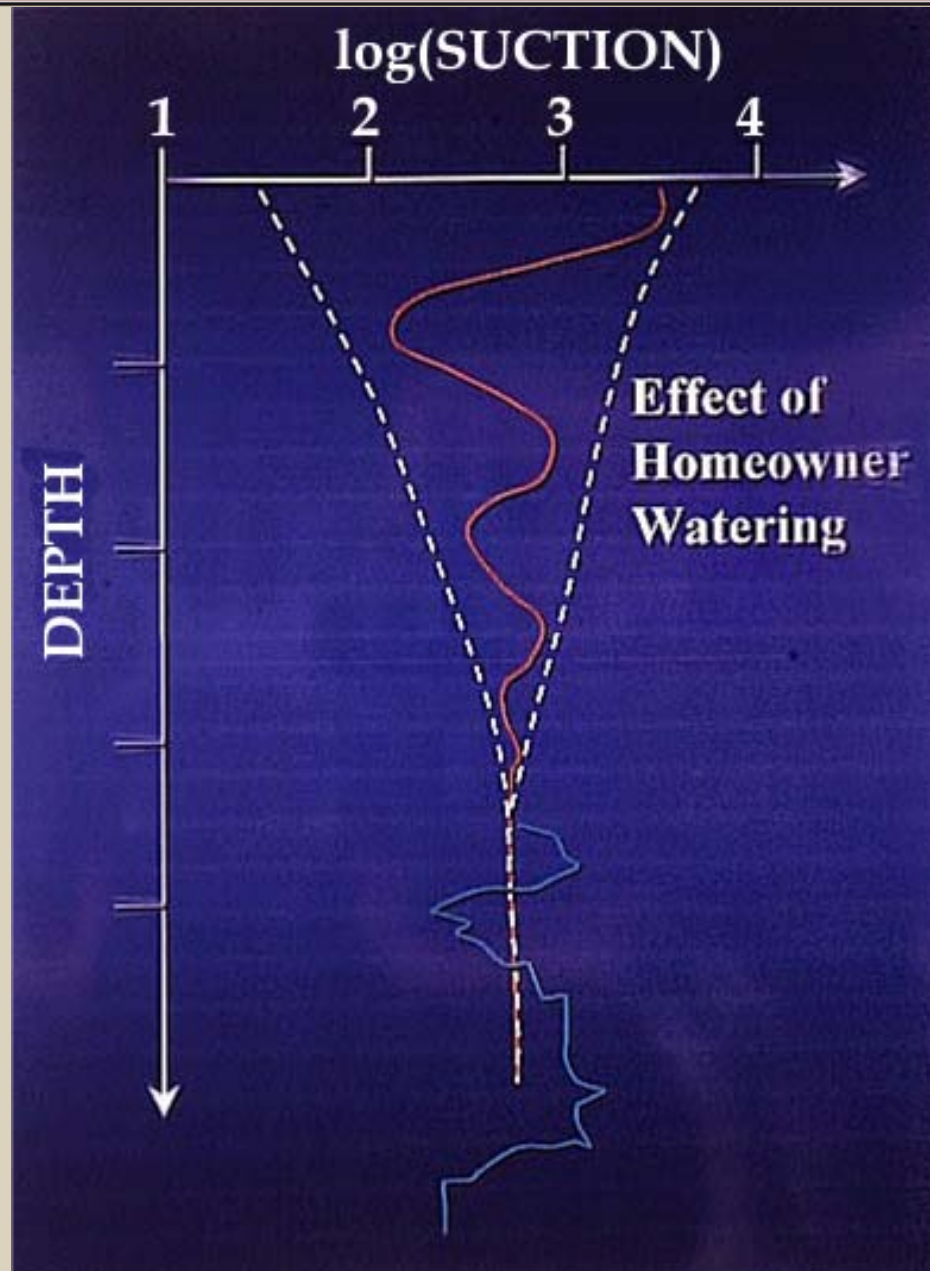
How do you design a foundation to perform successfully when you have poor site conditions?

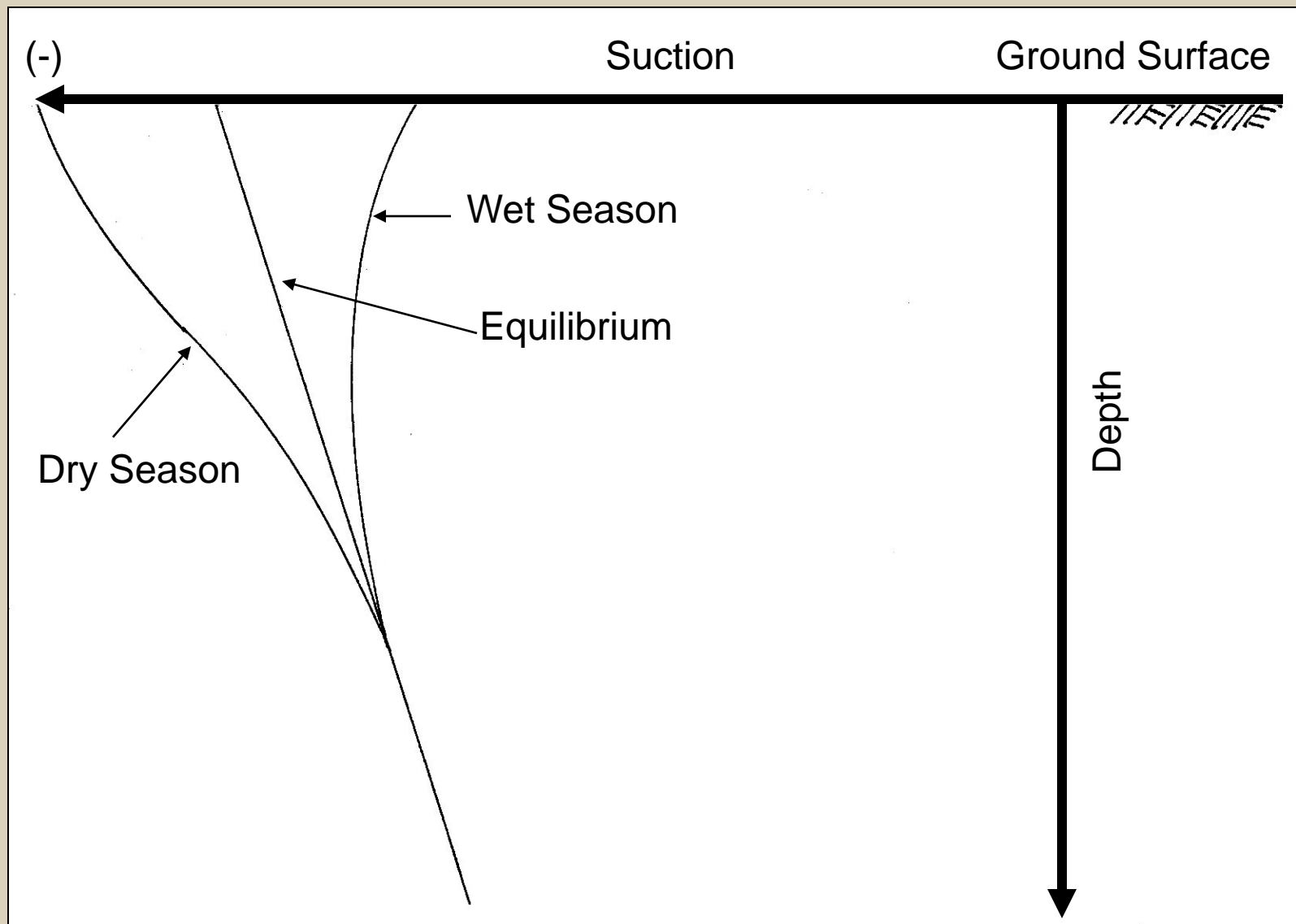
- Vegetation
- Drainage
- Slopes

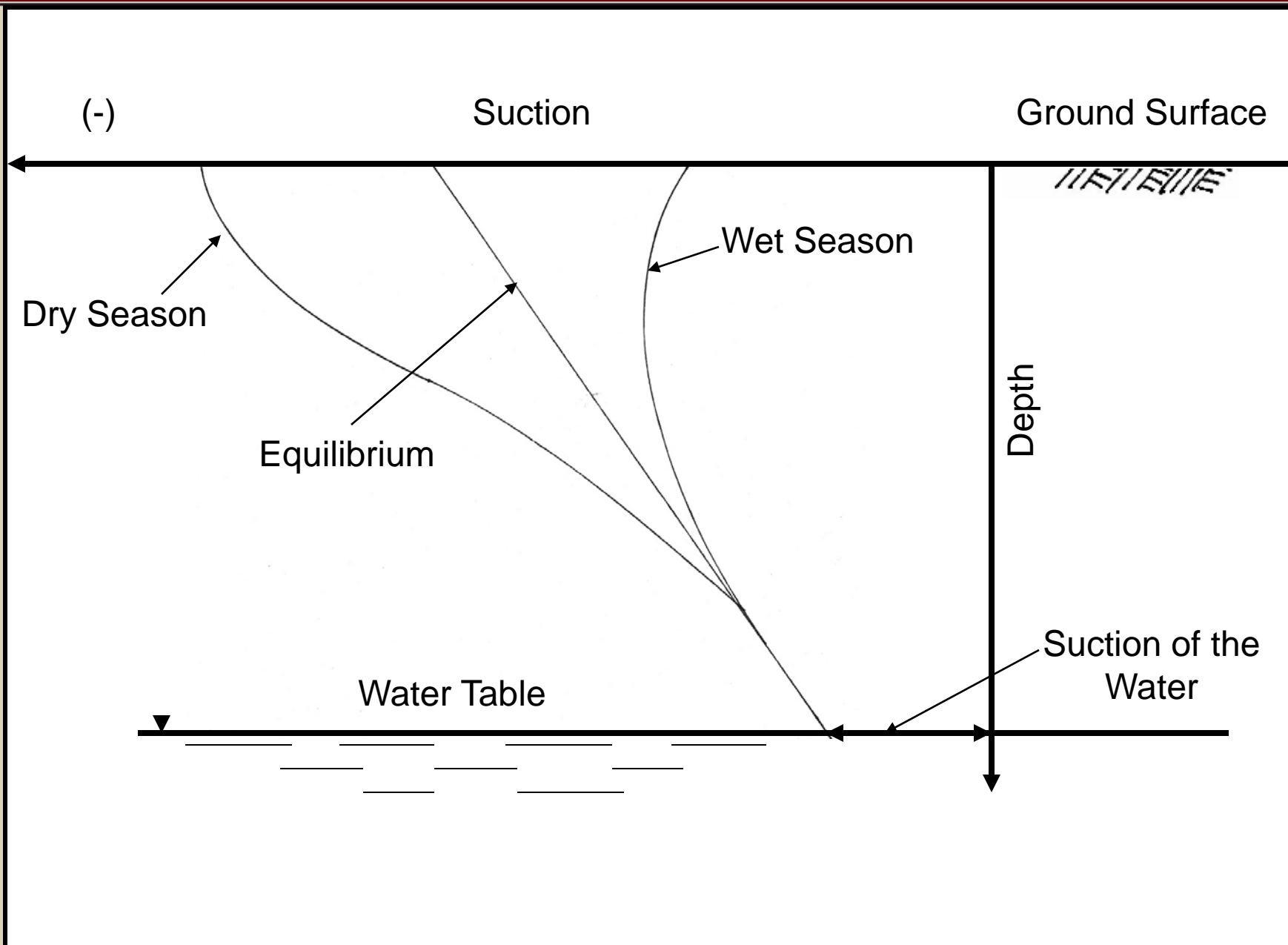
Answer: Design for the worst that they can do

Site condition	Problem	Limiting Condition
Vegetation	Drying shrinkage	Wilting point $pF=4.5$
Poor drainage	Swelling	Clay wet limit $pF>2.5$
Slopes	Downhill creep, shallow slides	Uphill offsets, drainage control

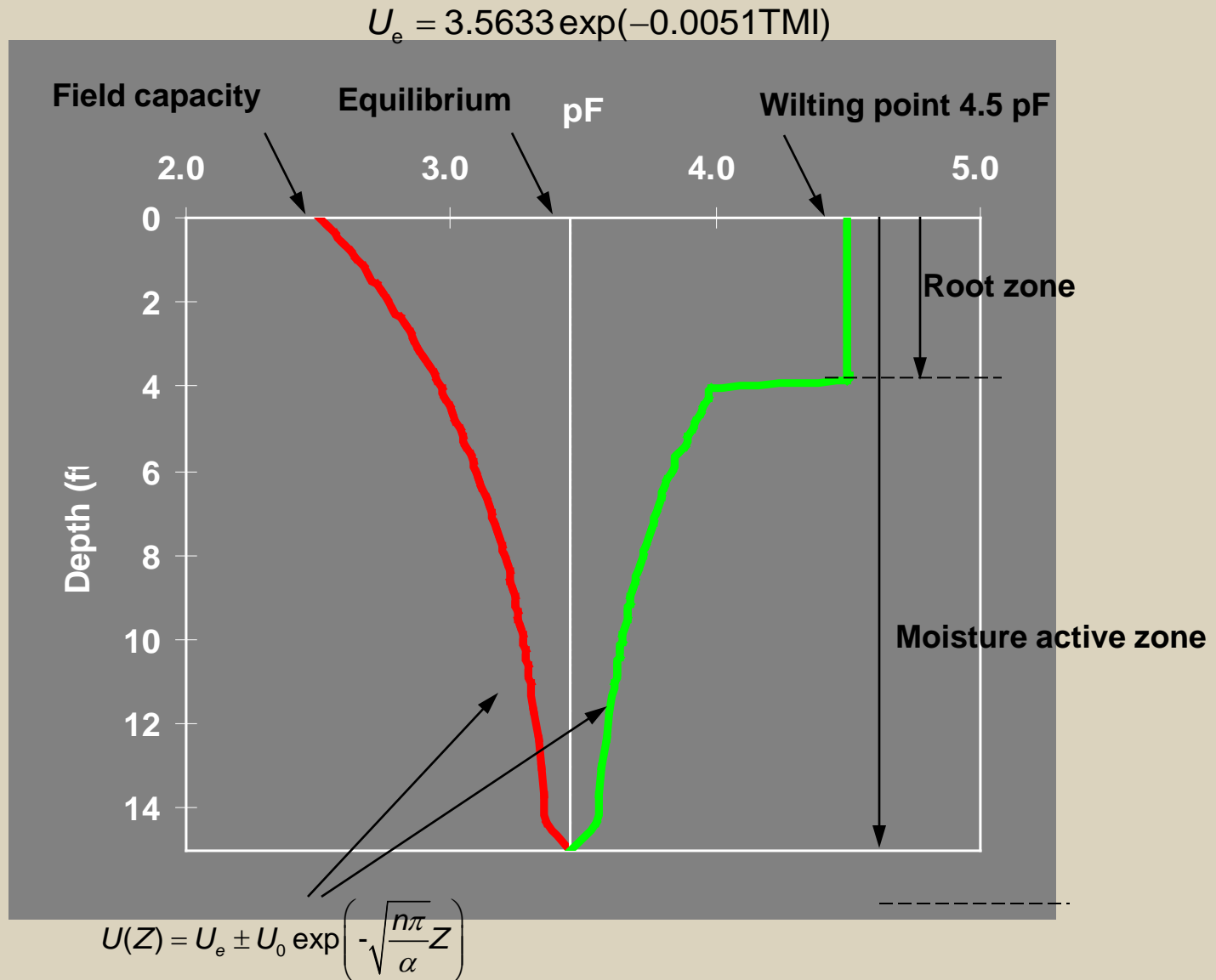
Answer: use suction envelopes to determine the worst that they can do

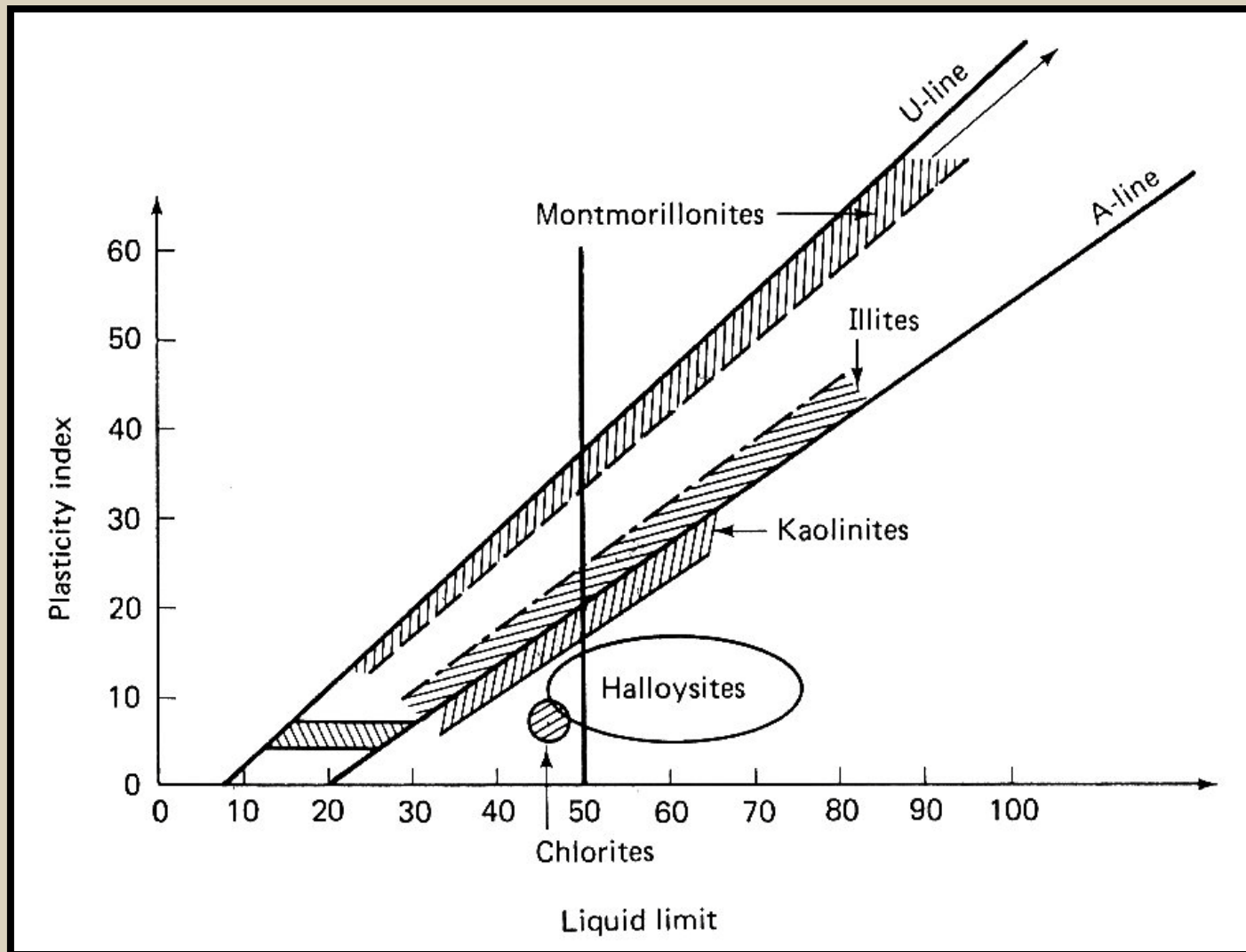




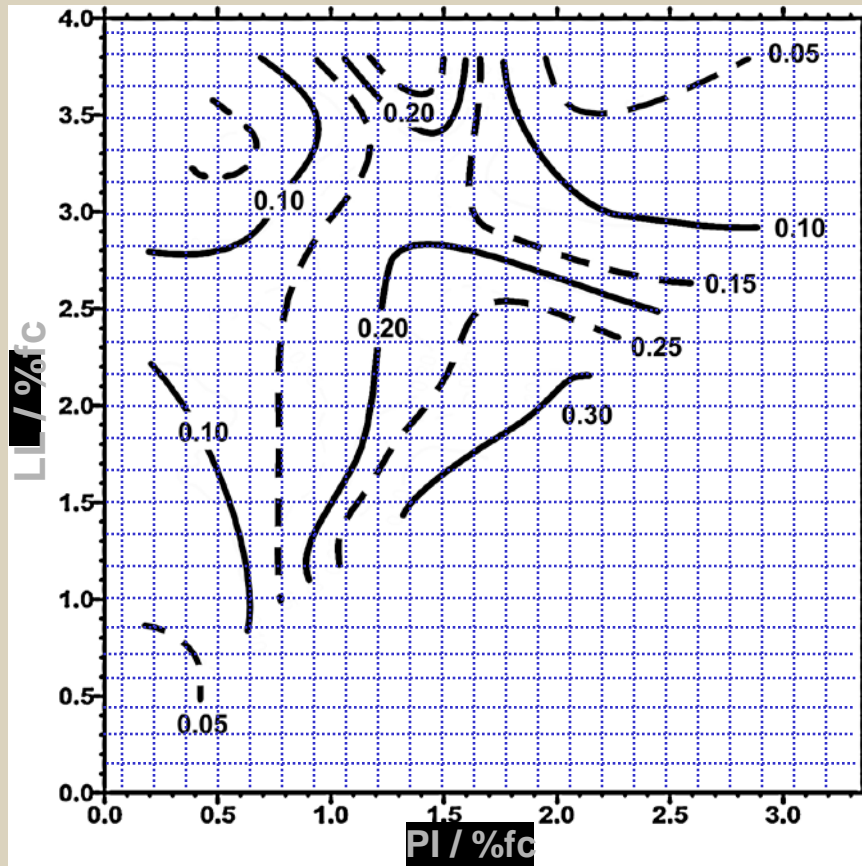


Field Conditions





Volume Change



Zone III (Covar and Lytton, 2001)

$$\%fc = \frac{\% - 2 \mu m}{\% - \text{No.200 sieve}}$$

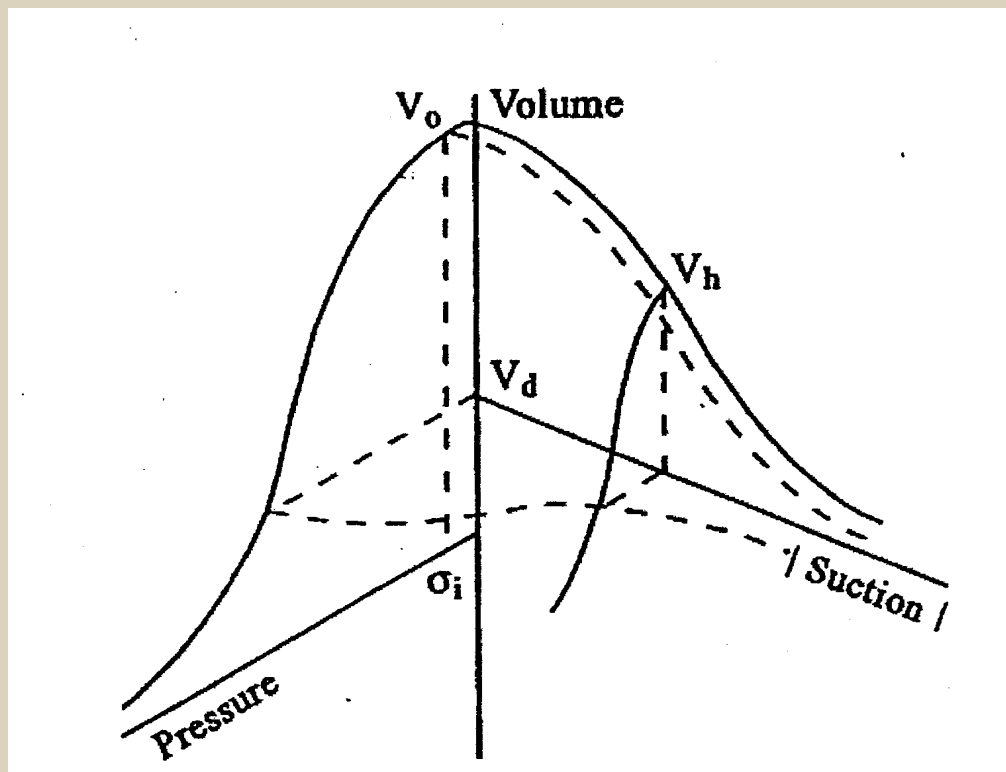
$$\gamma_h = \gamma_0 \times \left[\frac{\% - 2 \mu m}{\% - \text{No.200 sieve}} \right]$$

$$\gamma_\sigma = \gamma_h \frac{1}{1 + \frac{h}{\theta \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta} \right)}}$$

(Lytton, 1994)

Volume Change

$$\frac{\Delta V}{V} = -\gamma_h \log_{10} \left(\frac{h_f}{h_i} \right) - \gamma_\sigma \log_{10} \left(\frac{\sigma_f}{\sigma_i} \right) \quad (\text{Lytton, 1977})$$



Volume—Mean Principle Stress-Suction surface

$$\frac{\Delta H}{H} = f \left(\frac{\Delta V}{V} \right)$$

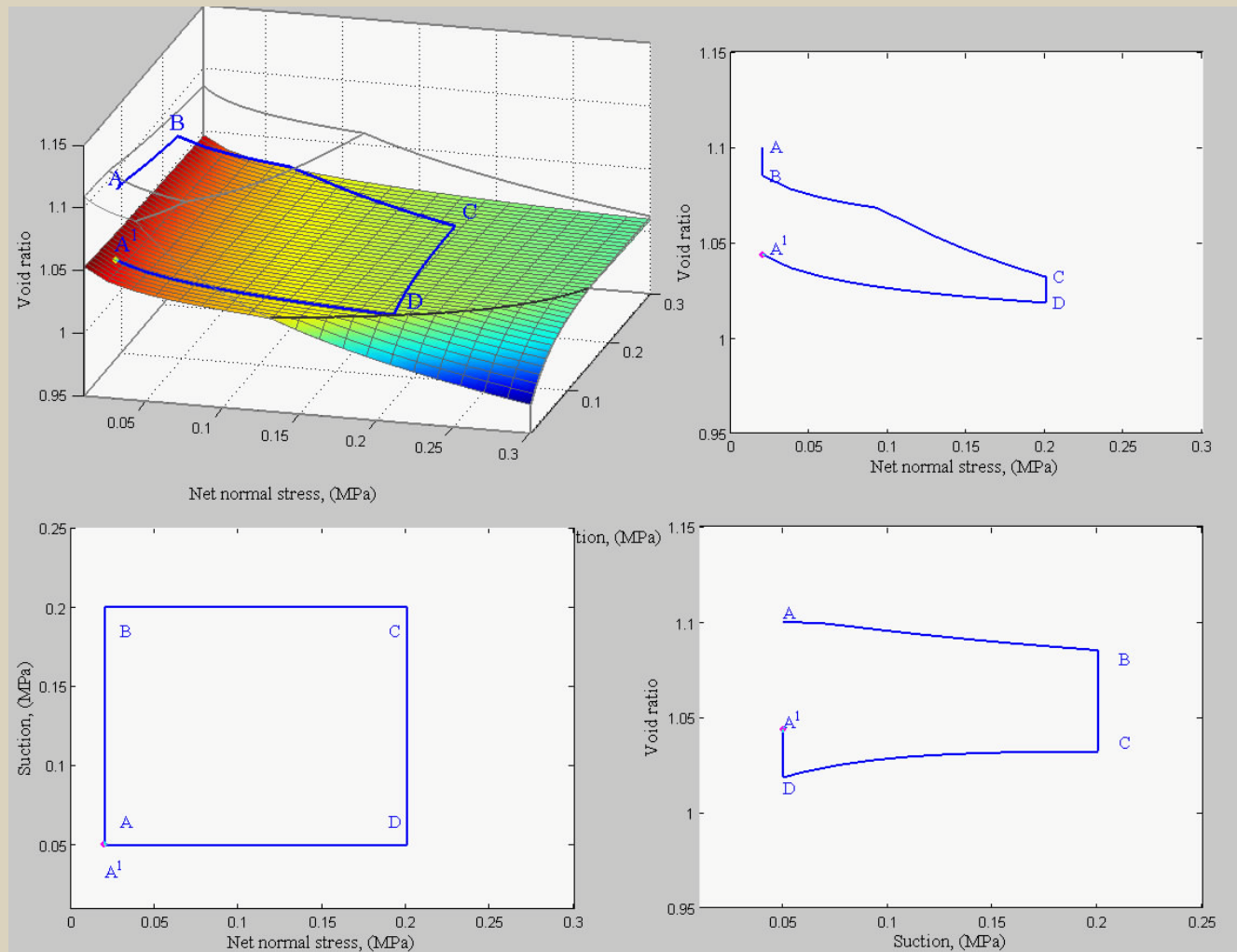
$$f = 0.67 - 0.33\Delta pF$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} f = 0.5 \text{ when drying;} \\ f = 0.8 \text{ when wetting} \end{array} \right)$$

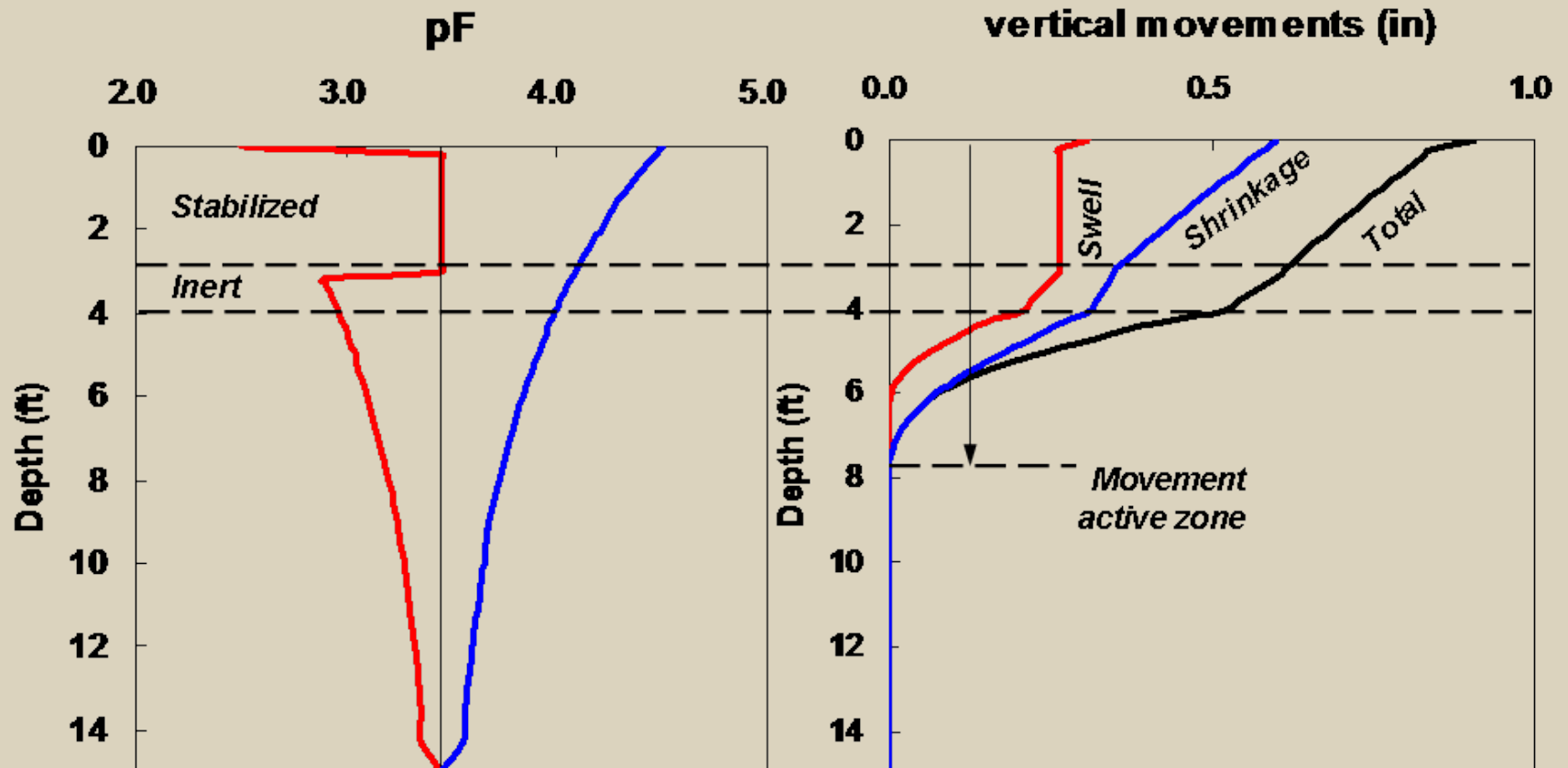
$$\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \left[\frac{\Delta V}{V} \right]_i \cdot \Delta Z_i$$

Suction vs. Pressure vs. Volume Surface

Formation of Suction vs. Pressure vs. Volume Surface

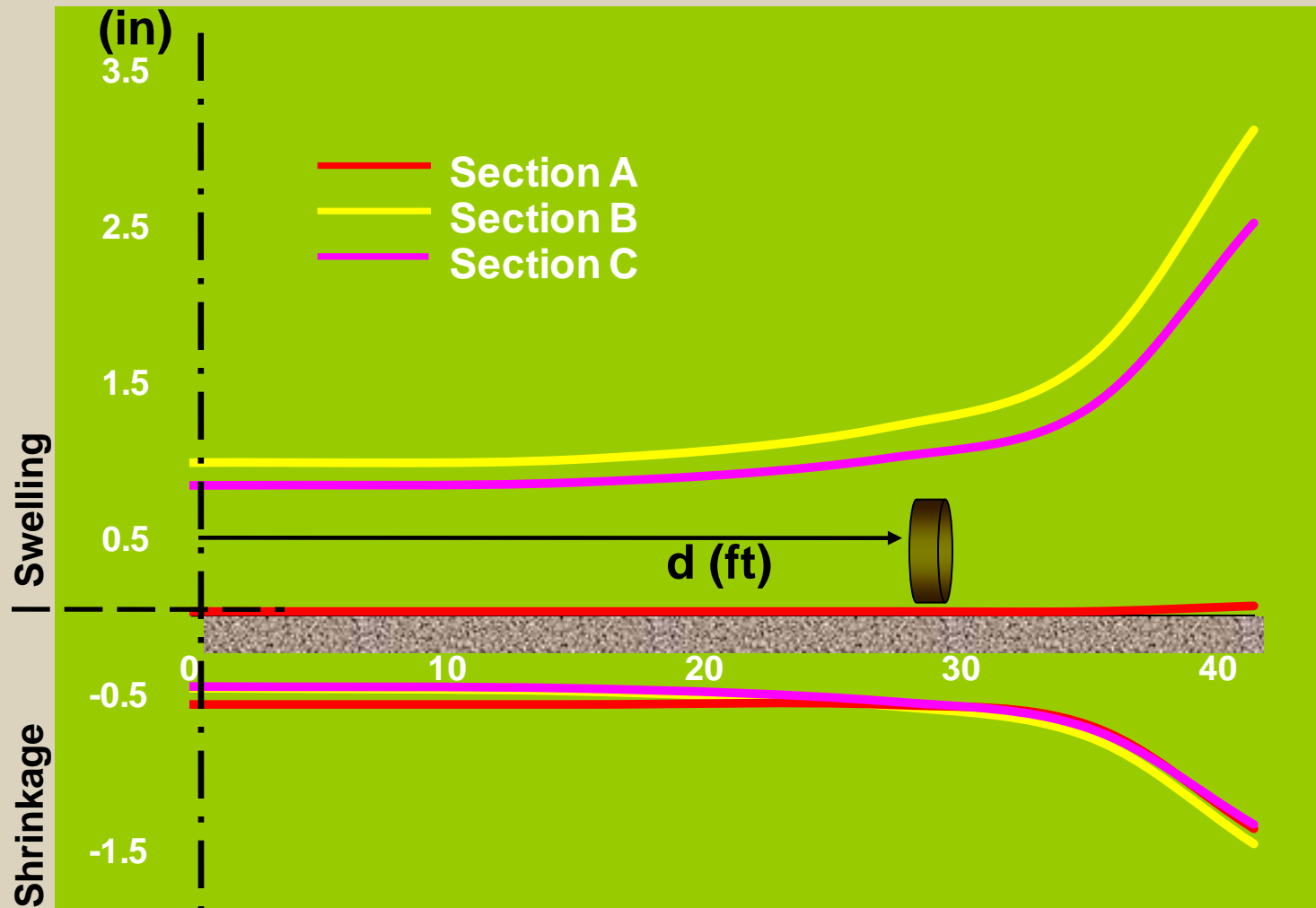


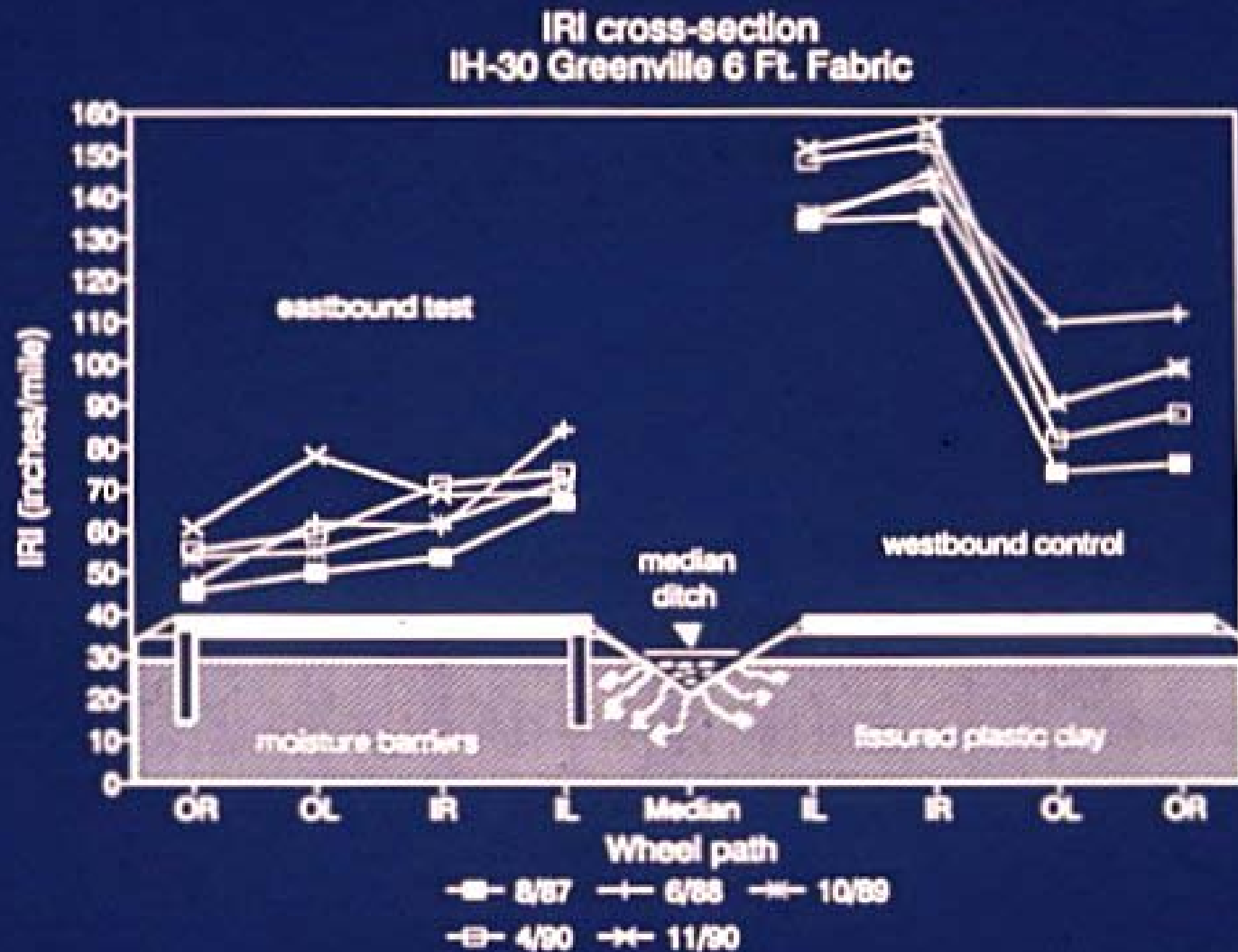
Calculated Vertical Movement



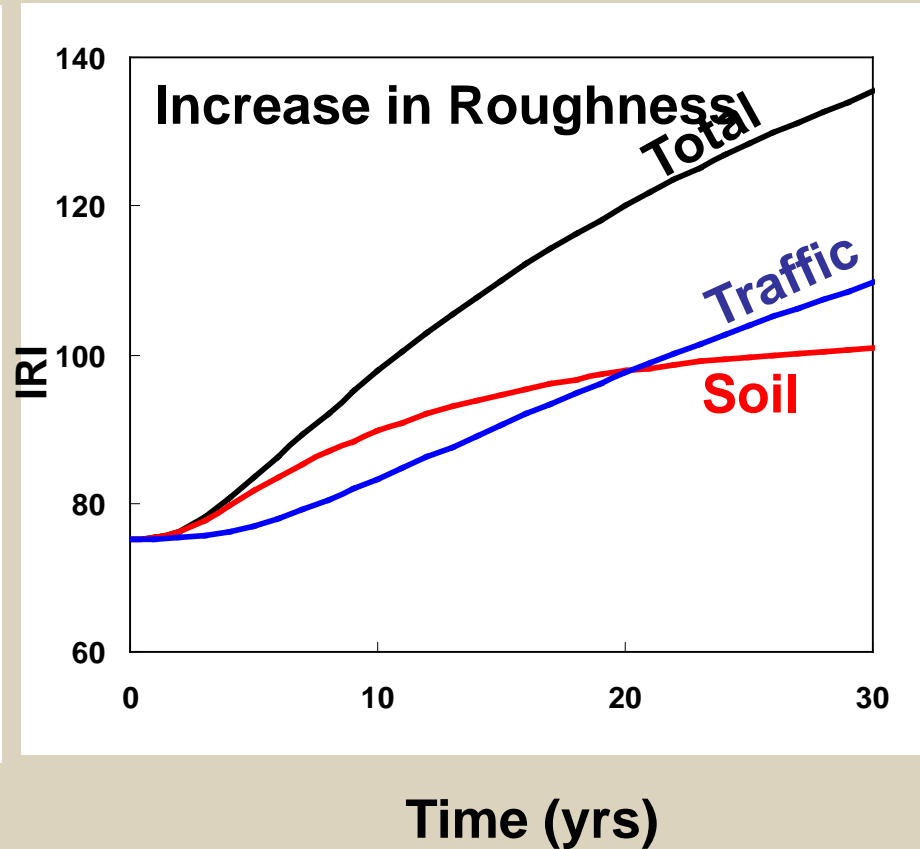
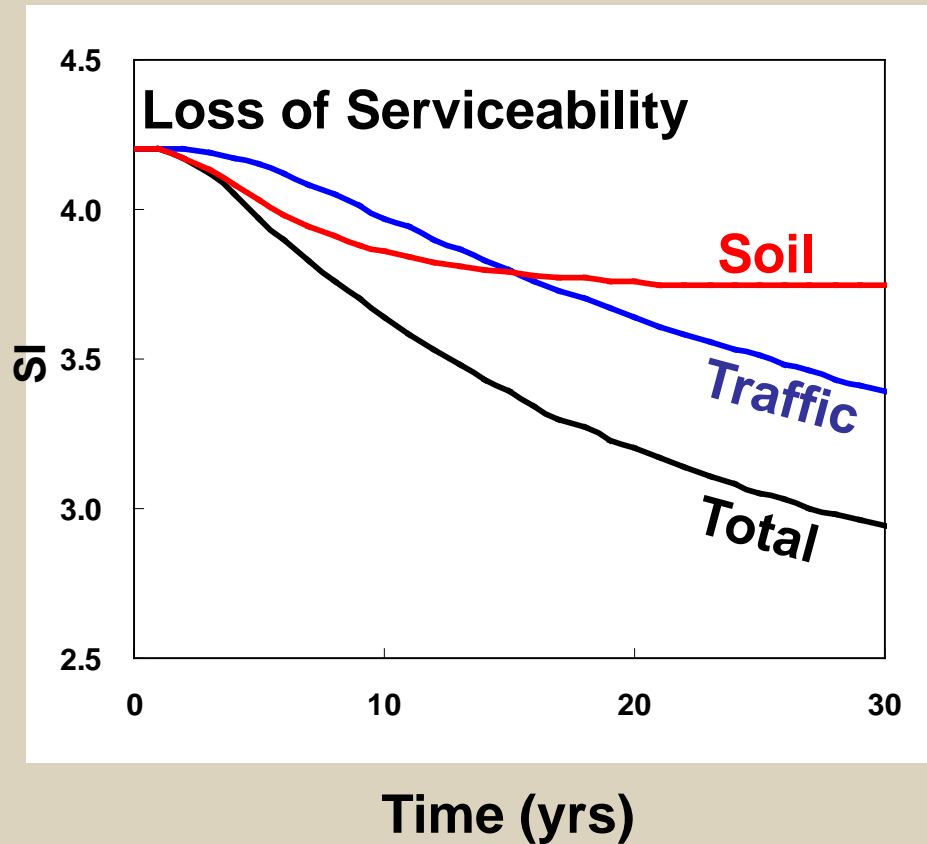
Fort Worth Interstate 820 B

Transverse Distribution of Vertical Movements





Predicted Roughness vs. Time; Fort Worth I-820 B



Predicting Changes in IRI (R)

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \beta_1 (\Delta H) + \beta_2$$

- Pavement categories:

- Moisture barriers with paved medians

$$\beta_1 = 0.619, \beta_2 = 1.295$$

- Moisture barriers with sodded medians

$$\beta_1 = 1.583, \beta_2 = 2.011$$

- Control section with and without medians

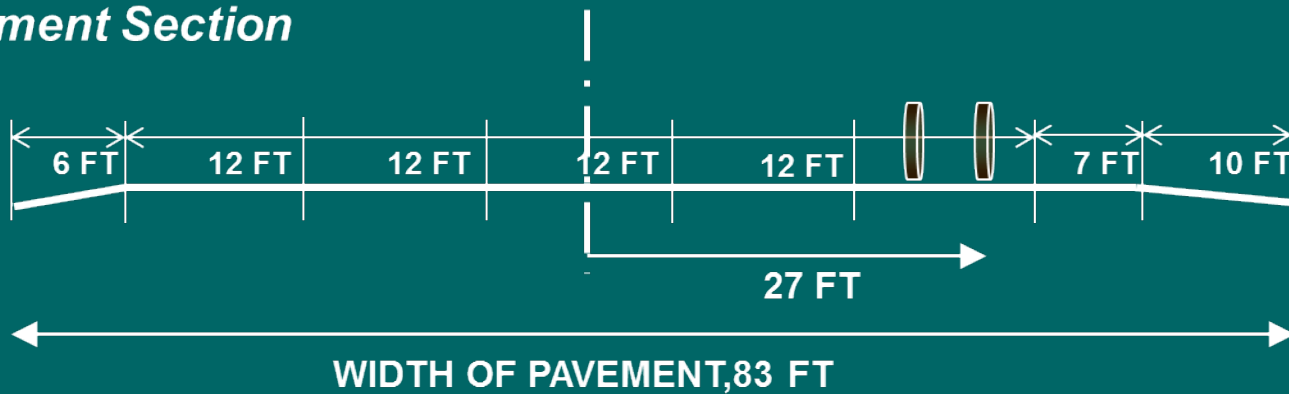
$$\beta_1 = 2.701, \beta_2 = 4.015$$

IRI vs. PSI

International Roughness Index		Serviceability Index
(m/km)	(in/mile)	
0.95	60	4.68
1.03	65	4.51
1.10	70	4.35
1.18	75	4.21
1.26	80	4.07
1.34	85	3.94
1.42	90	3.82
1.50	95	3.70
1.58	100	3.59
1.66	105	3.48
1.74	110	3.39
1.82	115	3.29
1.89	120	3.20
1.97	125	3.11
2.05	130	3.03
2.13	135	2.95
2.21	140	2.87
2.29	145	2.79
2.37	150	2.72
2.45	155	2.65

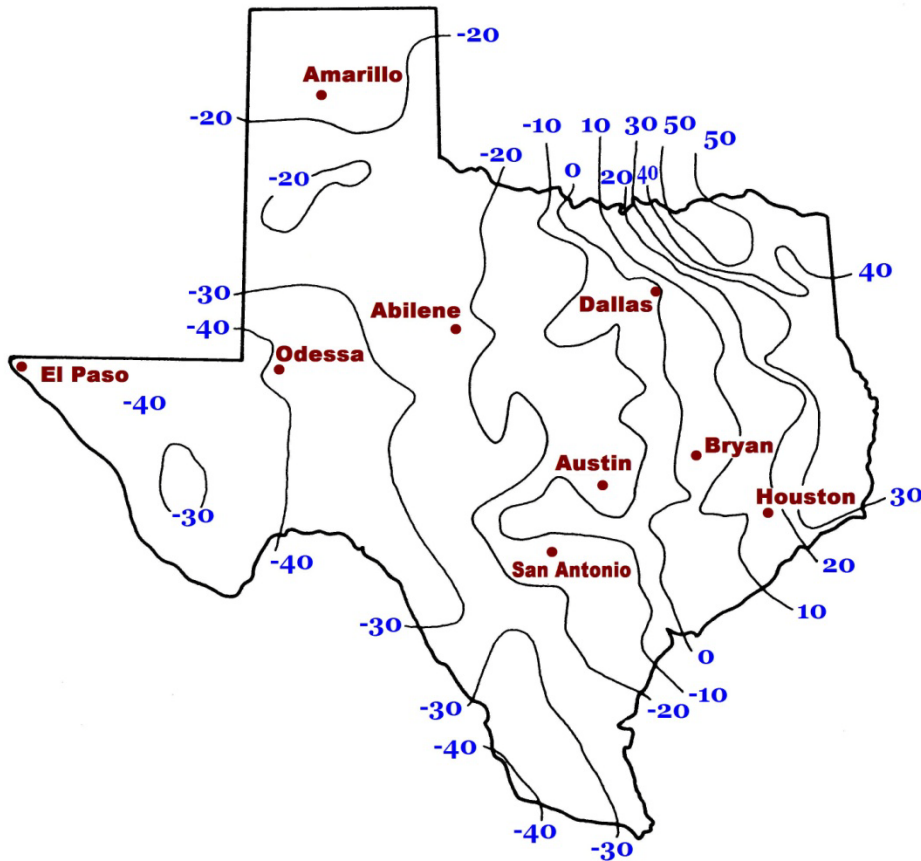


Pavement Section



Climatic Conditions

Thornthwaite Moisture Index (TMI, 1948)



$$TMI = \frac{100R - 60DEF}{E_p}$$

R = runoff moisture depth
DEF = deficit moisture depth
 E_p = evapotranspiration

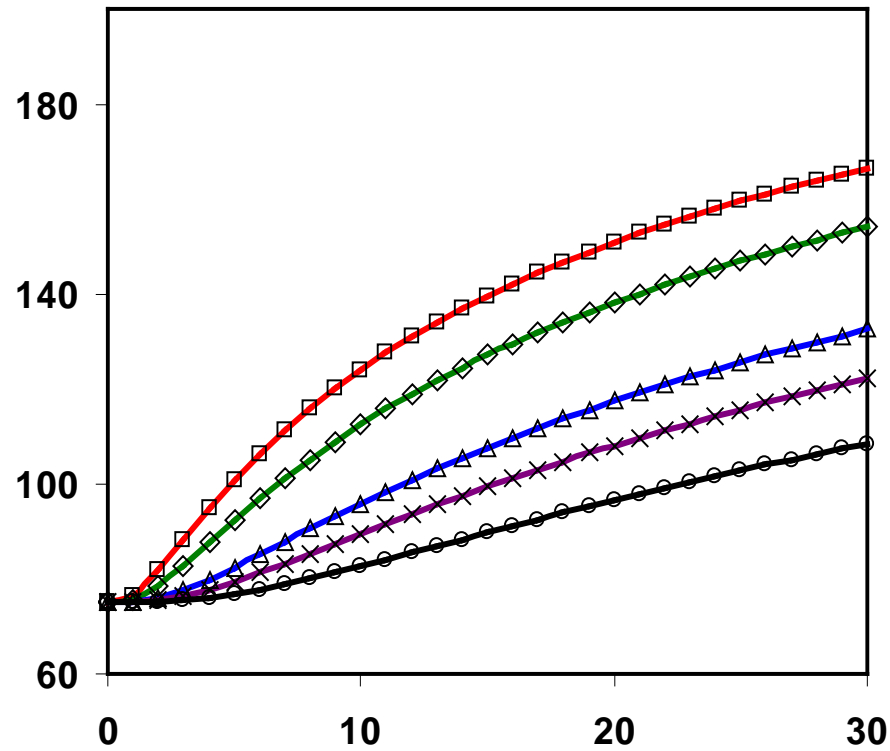
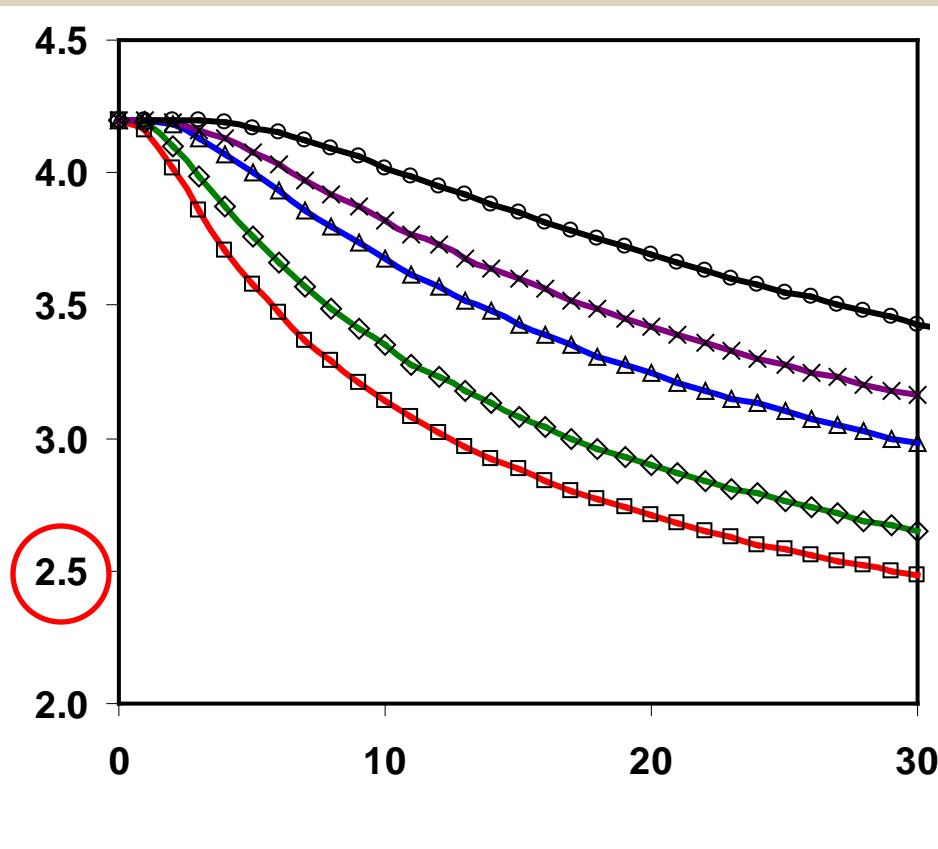
Roadside Drainage Conditions

Longitudinal Drainage

	Hill	Slope	Valley
Cut	2.3 pF	2.0 pF	2.0 pF
Flat	2.5 pF	2.2 pF	2.2 pF
Fill	2.6 pF	2.3 pF	2.3 pF

Lateral
Slope

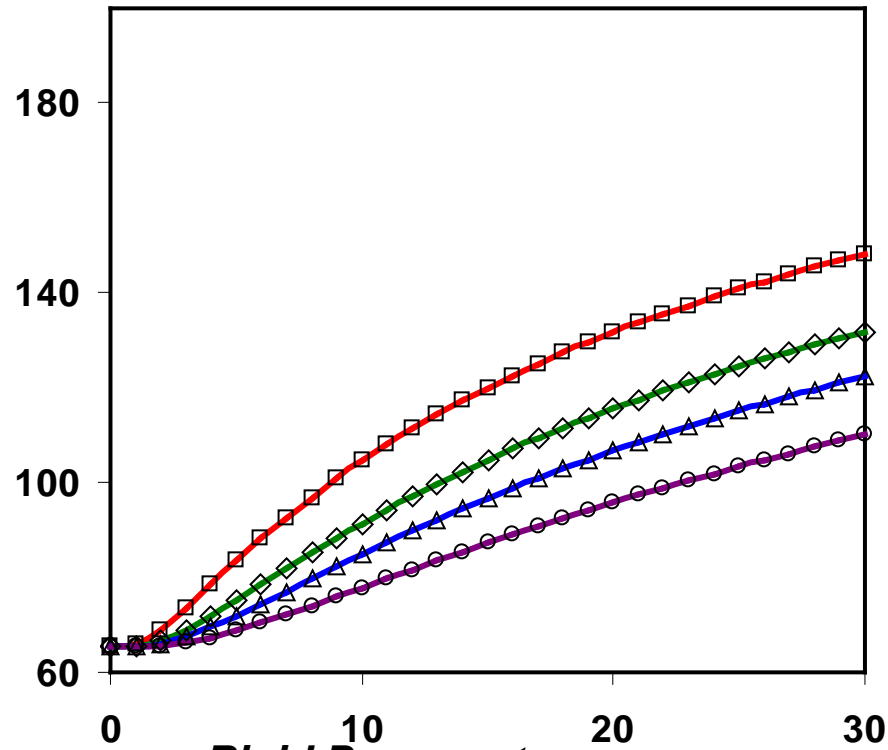
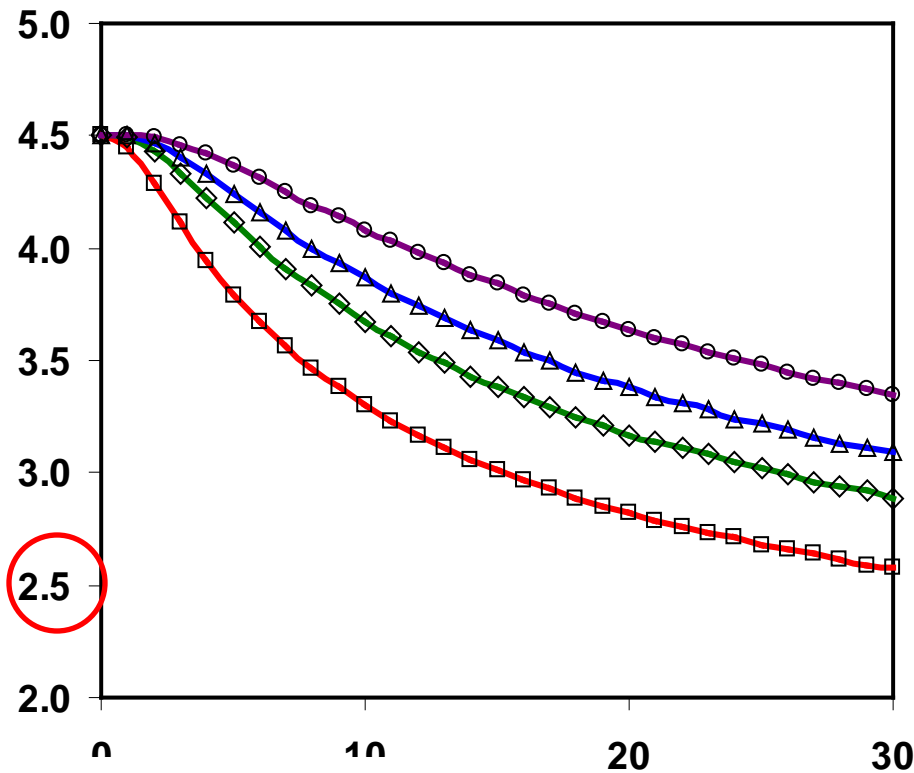
Acceptable Predicted Performance



-  LTS 2.8 ft
-  LTS 2.8 ft and Inert 2.0 ft
-  LTS 3.0 ft and Inert 2.0 ft
-  LTS 3.2 ft
-  LTS 3.5 ft

Flexible Pavement
Fort Worth I-820 A

Acceptable Predicted Performance



- LTS 1.5 ft, Inert 1.8 ft
- ◇ LTS 2.0 ft, Inert 1.5 ft
- △ LTS 2.0 ft, Inert 2.0 ft
- LTS 2.0 ft, Inert 3.0 ft

Rigid Pavement

Austin SR-1

Longitudinal Cracking over Expansive Soil

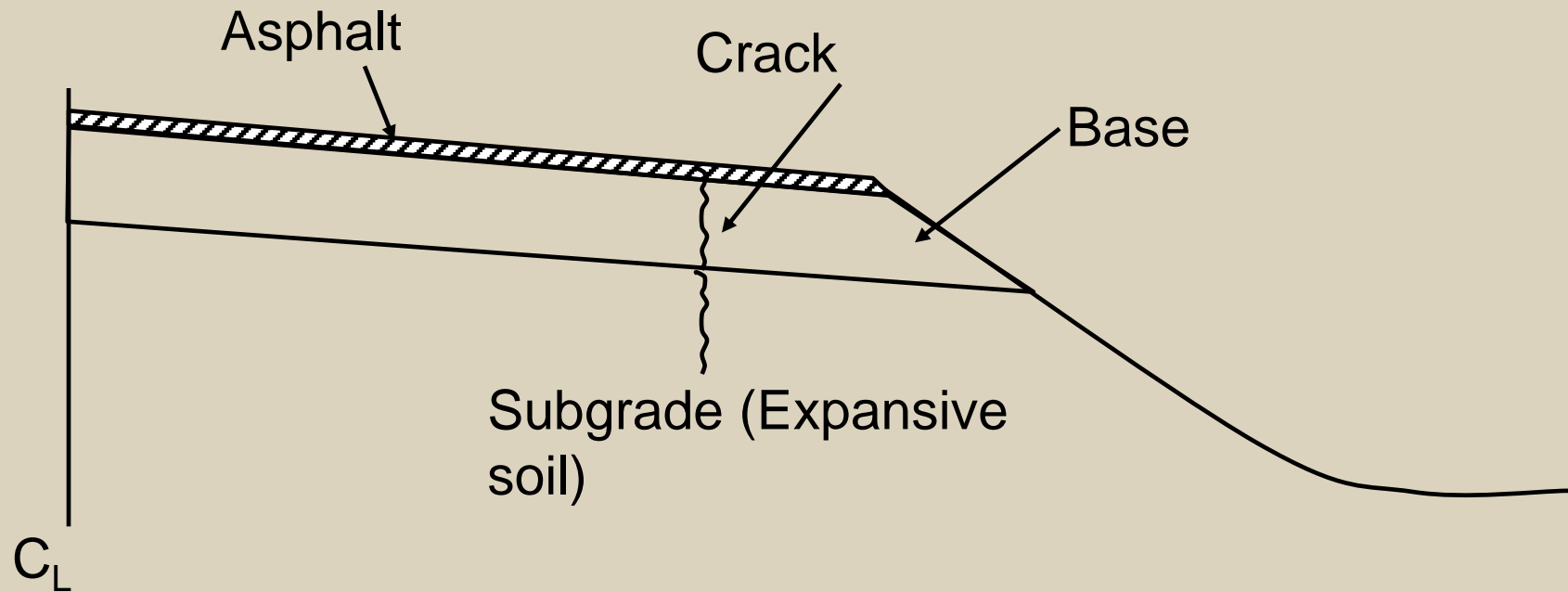
- Expansive soil
 - Experiences volumetric change when subjected to moisture variation
- Longitudinal crack
 - Initiates in shrinking expansive subgrade
 - Propagates to pavement surface



Practice of Lime Treatment

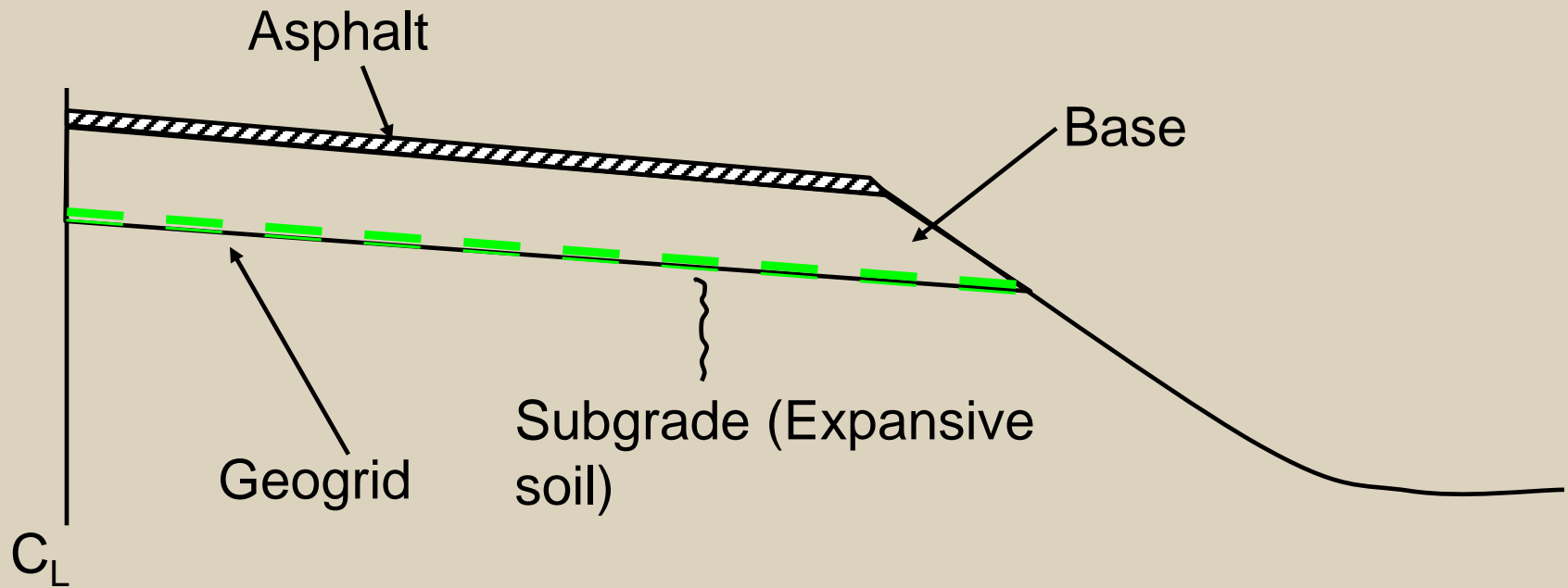


Without Geogrid Reinforcement...

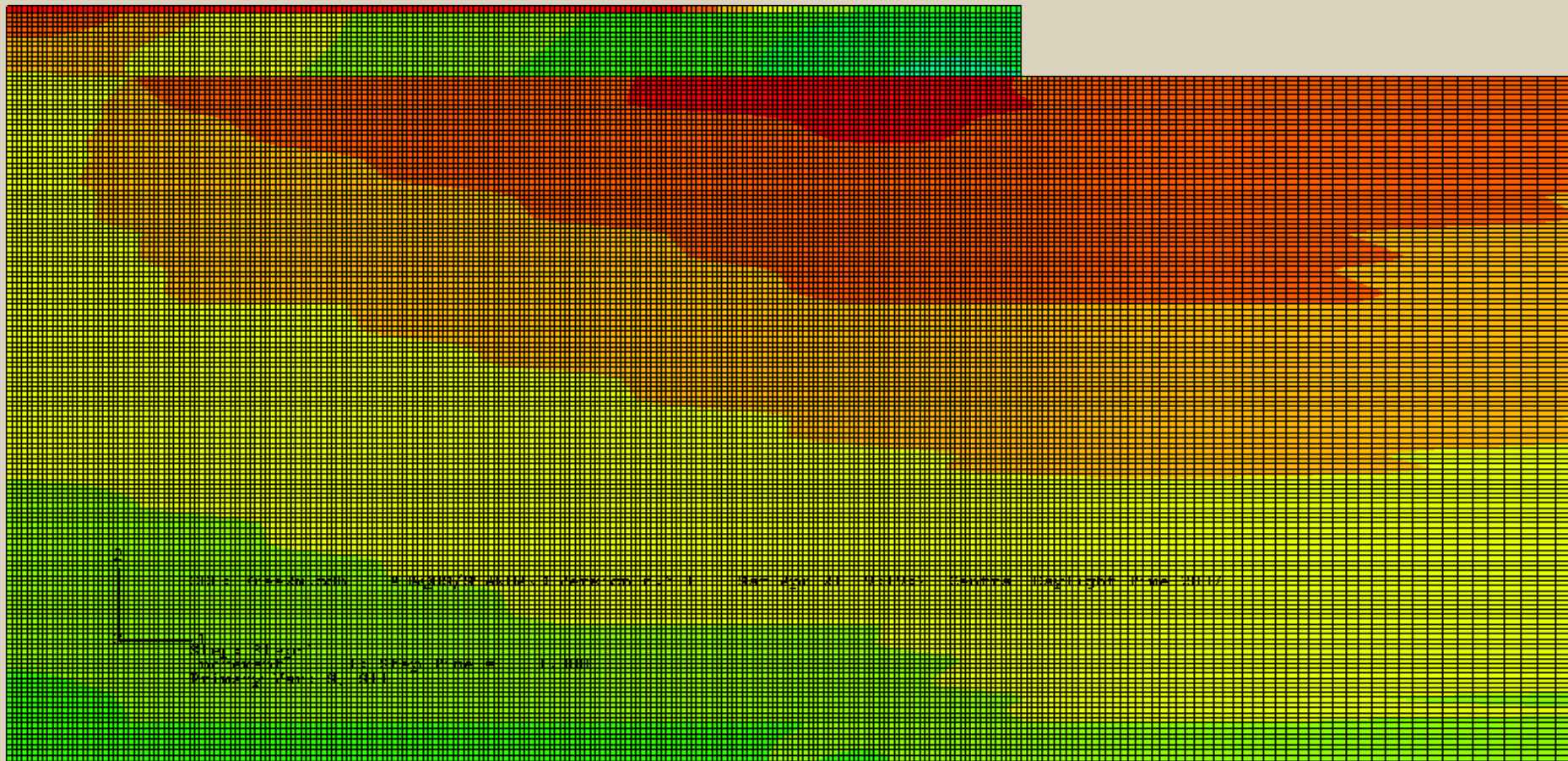
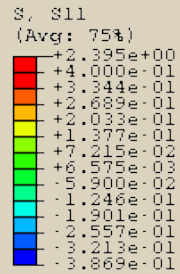


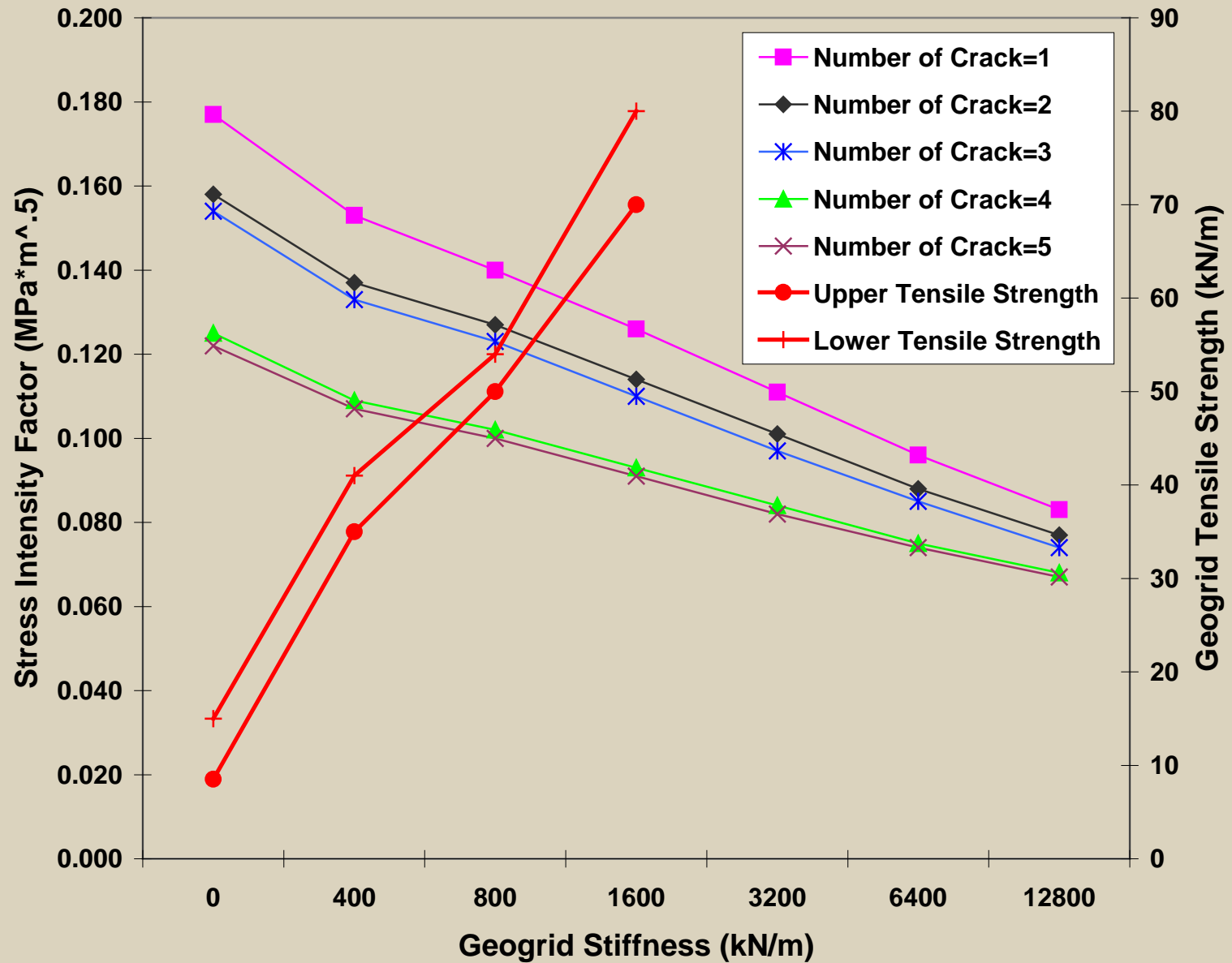
* Rong Luo, Texas A&M University

With Geogrid Reinforcement...

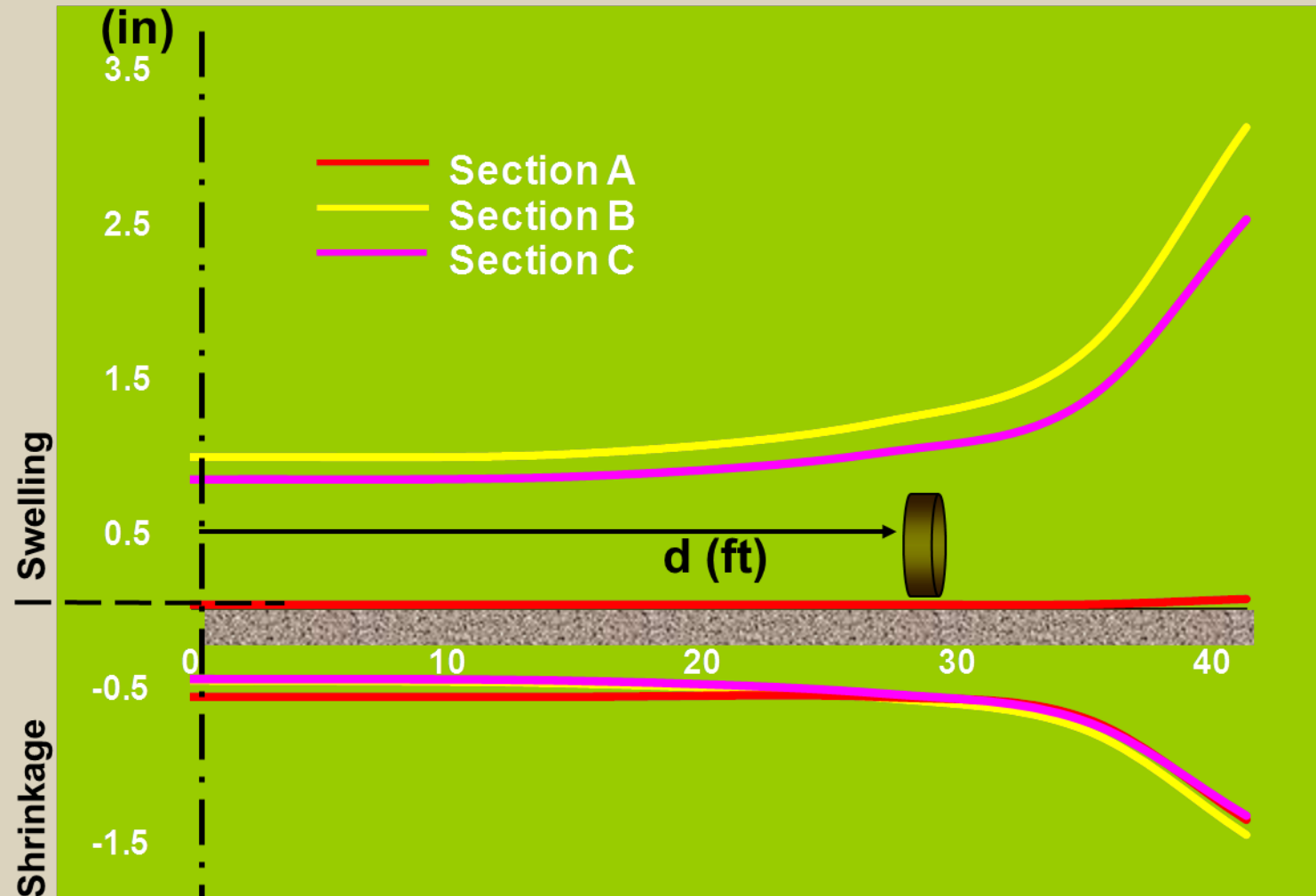


Transverse Stress Distribution in Pavement (Crack at Edge of Shoulder)

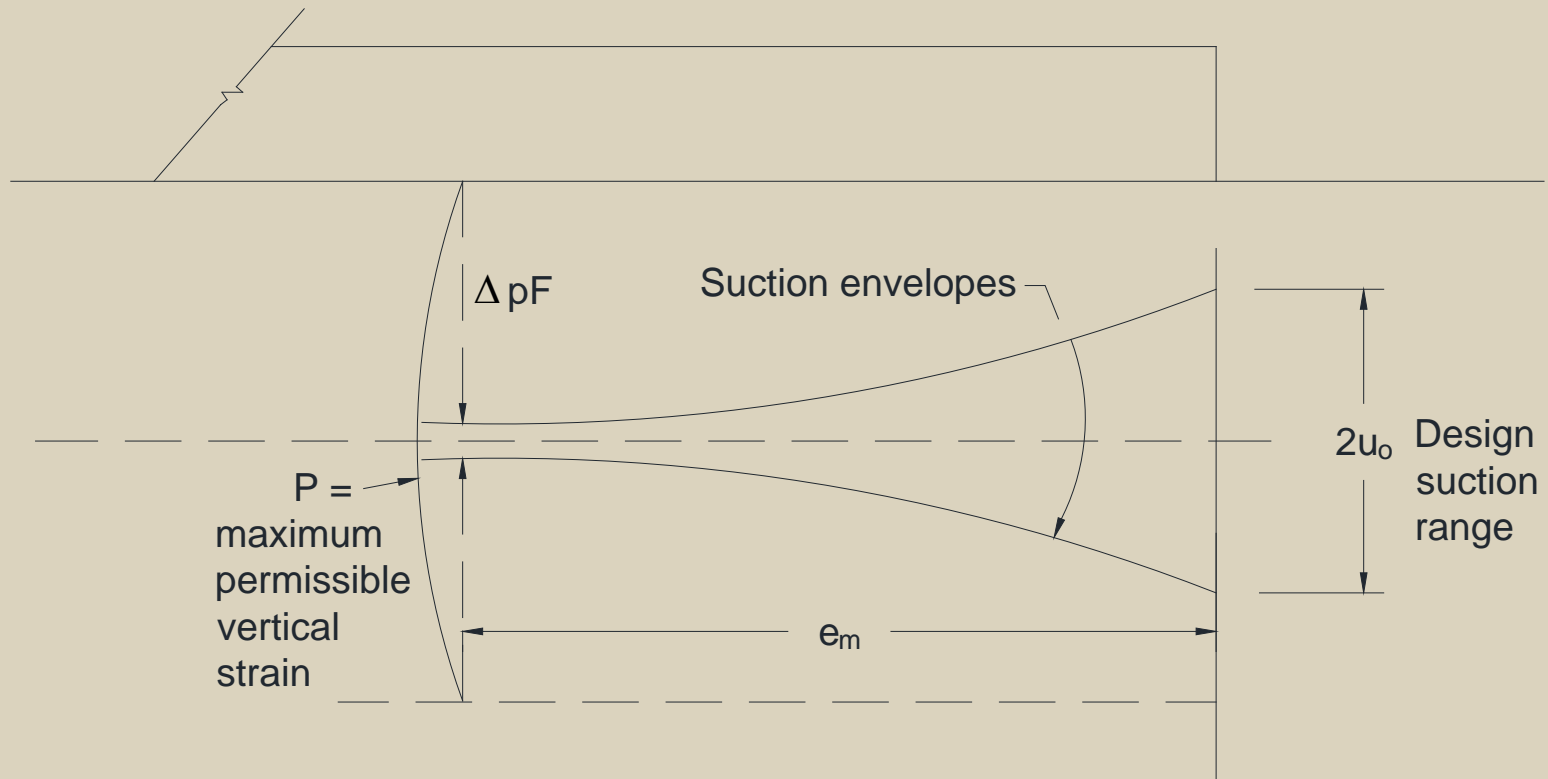




Transverse Distribution of Vertical Movements

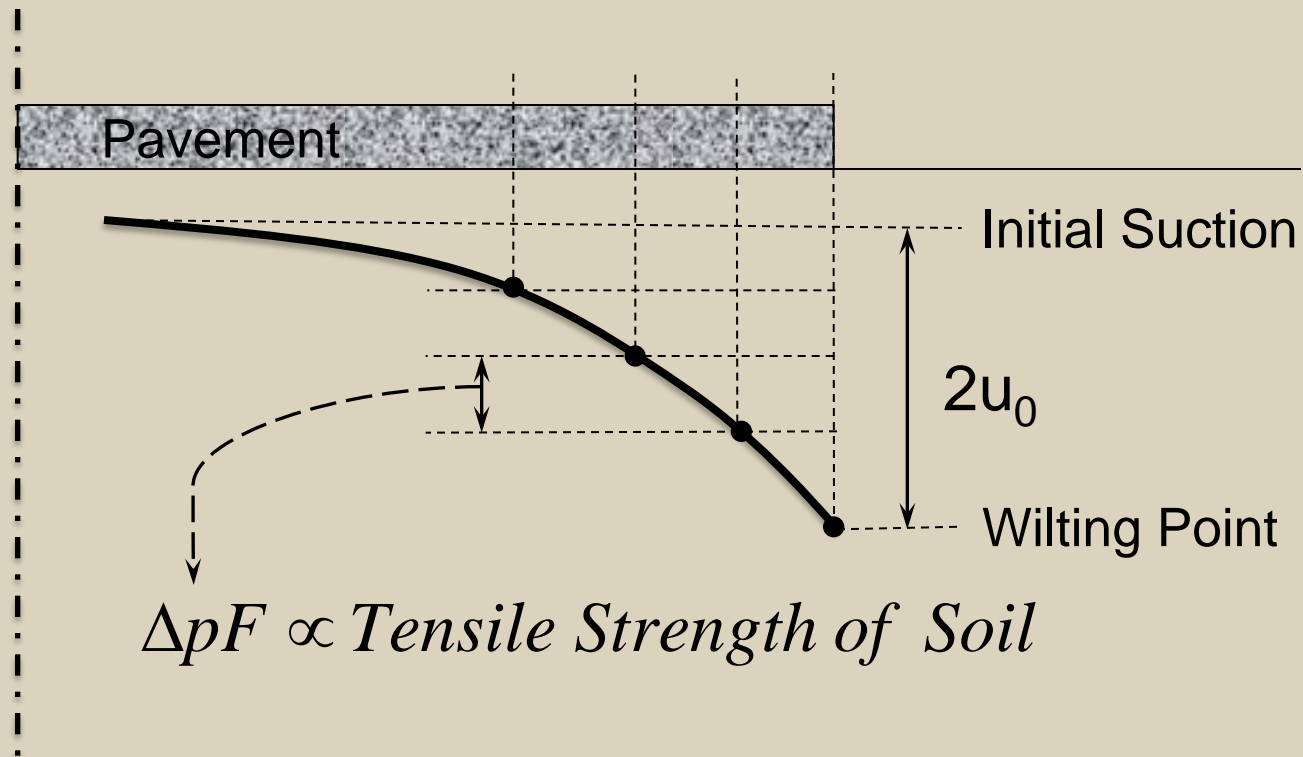


Edge Moisture Variation Distance, e_m



$$e_m = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha T}{\pi}} \ln\left(\frac{2u_0}{\Delta pF}\right) \quad \Delta pF = 1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{3p}{\gamma_h}}$$

Longitudinal Crack Spacing



Shrinkage Strain

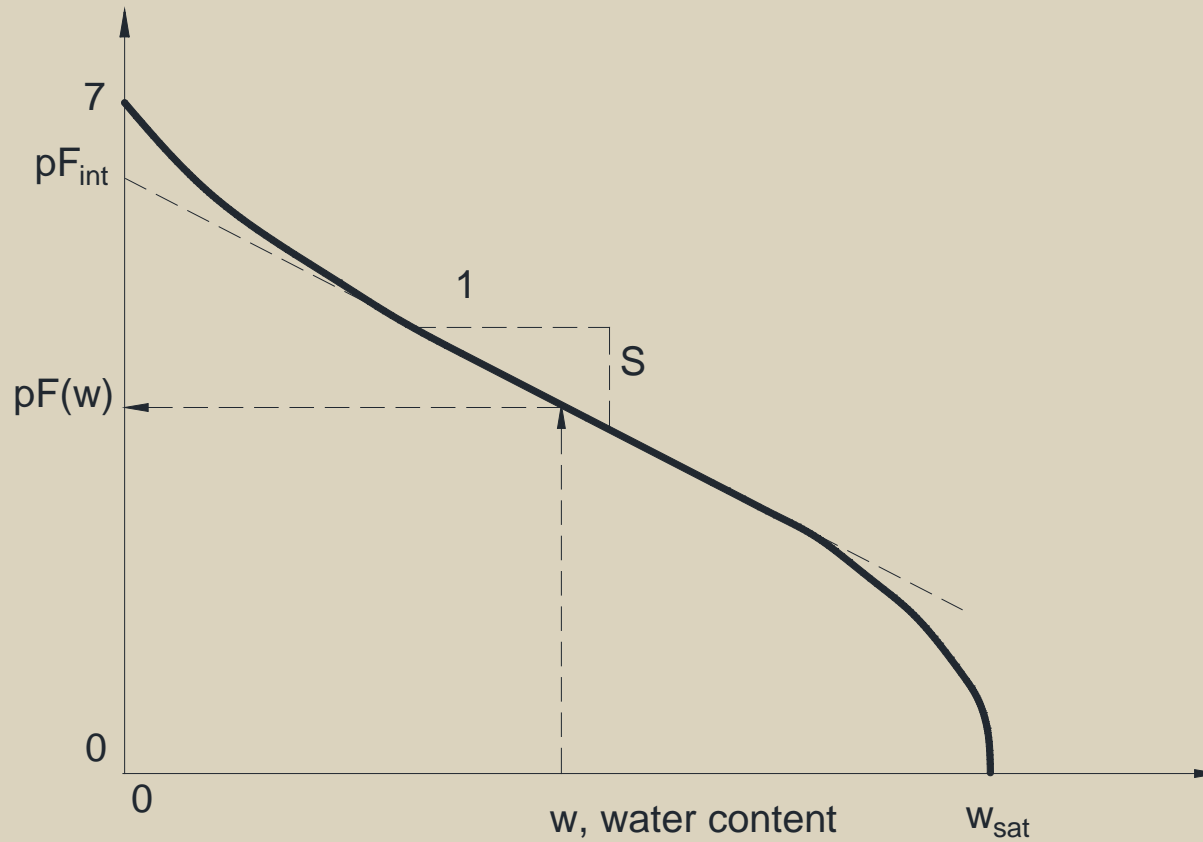
$$\varepsilon_s = \frac{1}{6}(1 + \Delta p F) \left[-\gamma_h(\Delta p F) \right]$$

Distance to First Shrinkage Crack

$$x_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha T}{\pi}} \ln\left(\frac{2u_0}{2u_0 - \Delta p F}\right)$$

Diffusivity

$$\alpha \left(\frac{m^2}{\text{sec}} \right) = [0.0029 - 0.000162(S) - 0.0122(\gamma_h)] \times 10^{-4}$$



$$Sw = pF(w) - pF_{intercept}$$

$$pF_{intercept} = 5.622 - 0.0041(\% \text{ fine clay})$$

Alternative

- Use built-in empirical expression:

$$\alpha = 0.0029 - 0.000162 S - 0.0122 \gamma_h$$

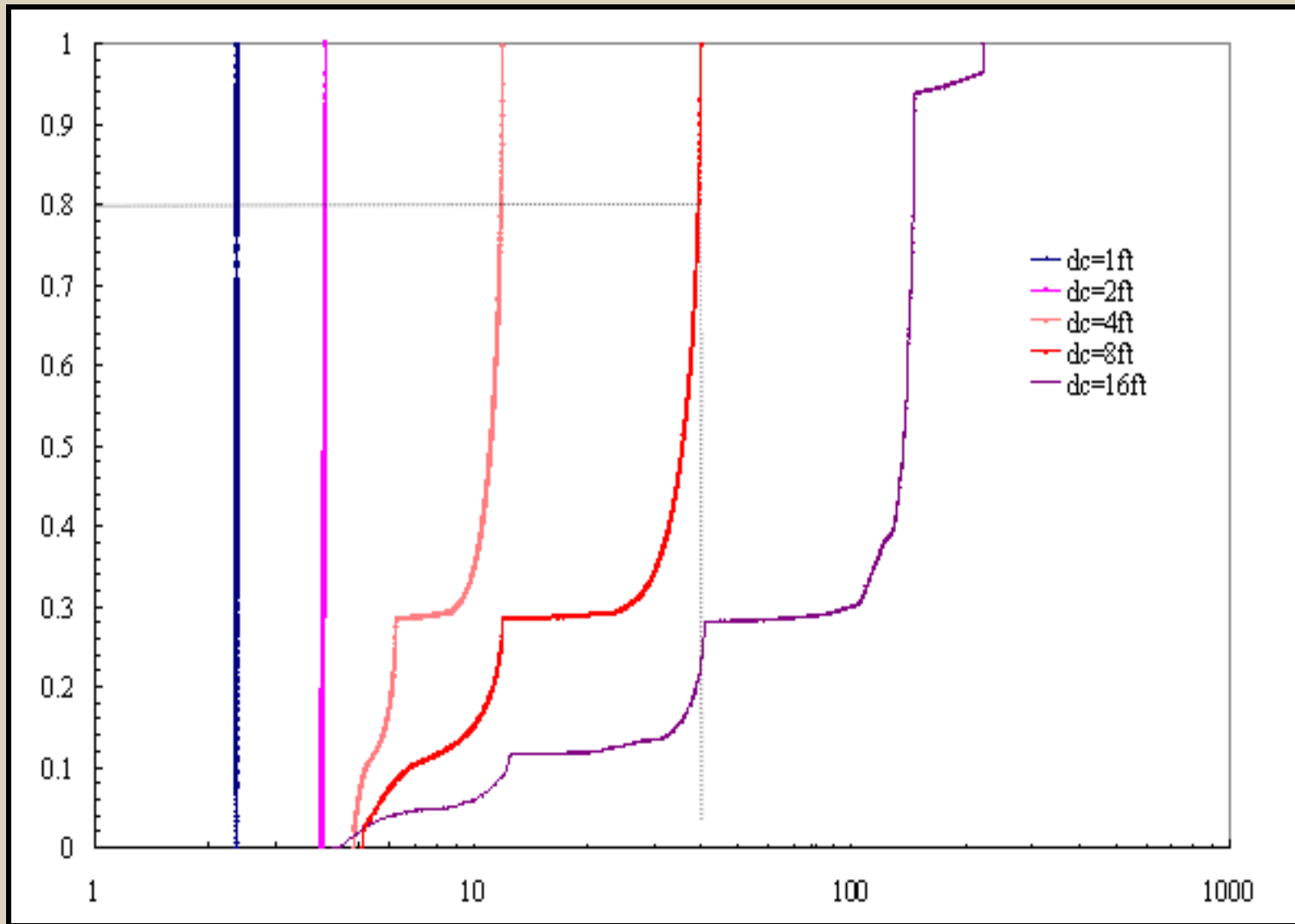
- where:

- $S = -20.3 - 0.155 (\text{LL}) - 0.117 (\text{PI}) + 0.068 (\% - \text{No. 200})$

- $\gamma_h = \gamma_o \times \left[\frac{\% - 4\mu\text{m}}{\% - \text{No.200 sieve}} \right]$



Field to Laboratory Diffusion Coefficient Ratio



Field α /laboratory α_0

Program WinPRES

Soil Properties

INPUT

Structural Properties of Pavement

Traffic and Reliability

Roughness

Diffusivity

Project Information

Units and Pavement Types

Environmental and Geometric Conditions

Soil Properties

Barrier and Wheel path

Soil Profile

Layer

2

natural soil

Thickness of Soil Layer :

3.5

(ft)

Dry Unit Weight

:

100

(pcf)

Liquid Limit

:

55

(%)

The Plasticity Index

:

30

(%)

% Passing #200 Sieve :

80

(%)

% Less than 2 Microns

:

25

(%)

Add

Delete

Previous

Next

Layer	Soil Type	Thickness (ft)	Dry Unit Weight(pcf)	LL(%)	PI(%)	% Passing #200 Sieve	% Less than 2 Microns
1	natural	5	100	40	25	85	30
2	natural	3.5	100	55	30	80	25

Run

Result

67

Lane/Barrier configuration

Structural Properties of Pavement	Traffic and Reliability	Roughness	Diffusivity
Project Information	Units and Pavement Types	Environmental and Geometric Conditions	
Soil Properties		Barrier and Wheel path	

Depth of Vertical Moisture Barrier

☒ Specify (ft)
 ☐ Zero
 ☐ Calculate

Wheel Path and Distance from the Center

Width of Pavement : (ft)
 Number of Wheel Path :

Wheel Path 1

Distance from the Center of Pavement : (ft)

Center of pavement

Edge of pavement

Half width of pavement 32 (ft)

1

Initial Serviceability

INPUT

Project Information	Units and Pavement Types	Environmental and Geometric Conditions	
Soil Properties		Barrier and Wheel path	
Structural Properties of Pavement	Traffic and Reliability	Roughness	Diffusivity

Initial Roughness

Wheel Path 1

Initial Serviceability Index : 4.2

Initial International Roughness Index : 75.2 (in/mi)

Years Roughness Calculation Required : 30 (yr)

Terminal Roughness (For Calculating the Depth of Vertical Barrier Required)

Wheel Path 1

Terminal Serviceability Index : 0

Terminal International Roughness Index : 0 (in/mi)

Years to Reach Terminal SI or IRI : 0 (yr)

Previous Next

Run Result

Diffusivity

INPUT

Project Information Units and Pavement Types Environmental and Geometric Conditions

Soil Properties Barrier and Wheel path

Structural Properties of Pavement Traffic and Reliability Roughness **Diffusivity**

Diffusivity

Soil Layer 1

☒ Calculate $\alpha = 0.0029 - 0.000162(S) - 0.0122(\gamma_h)$

☐ Lab Value 0.0001 [cm²/sec]

Soil Mass Multiplier 50

Previous Next

Run Result

Slope of SWCC

Suction Compression Index

Traffic/Reliability

Project Information	Units and Pavement Types	Environmental and Geometric Conditions
Soil Properties	Barrier and Wheel path	
Structural Properties of Pavement	Traffic and Reliability	Roughness
		Diffusivity

Traffic Analysis

Wheel Path 1

Traffic Analysis Period, C : (yr)

ADT(Average Daily Traffic) in One Direction T=0 :

ADT(Average Daily Traffic) in One Direction T=C :

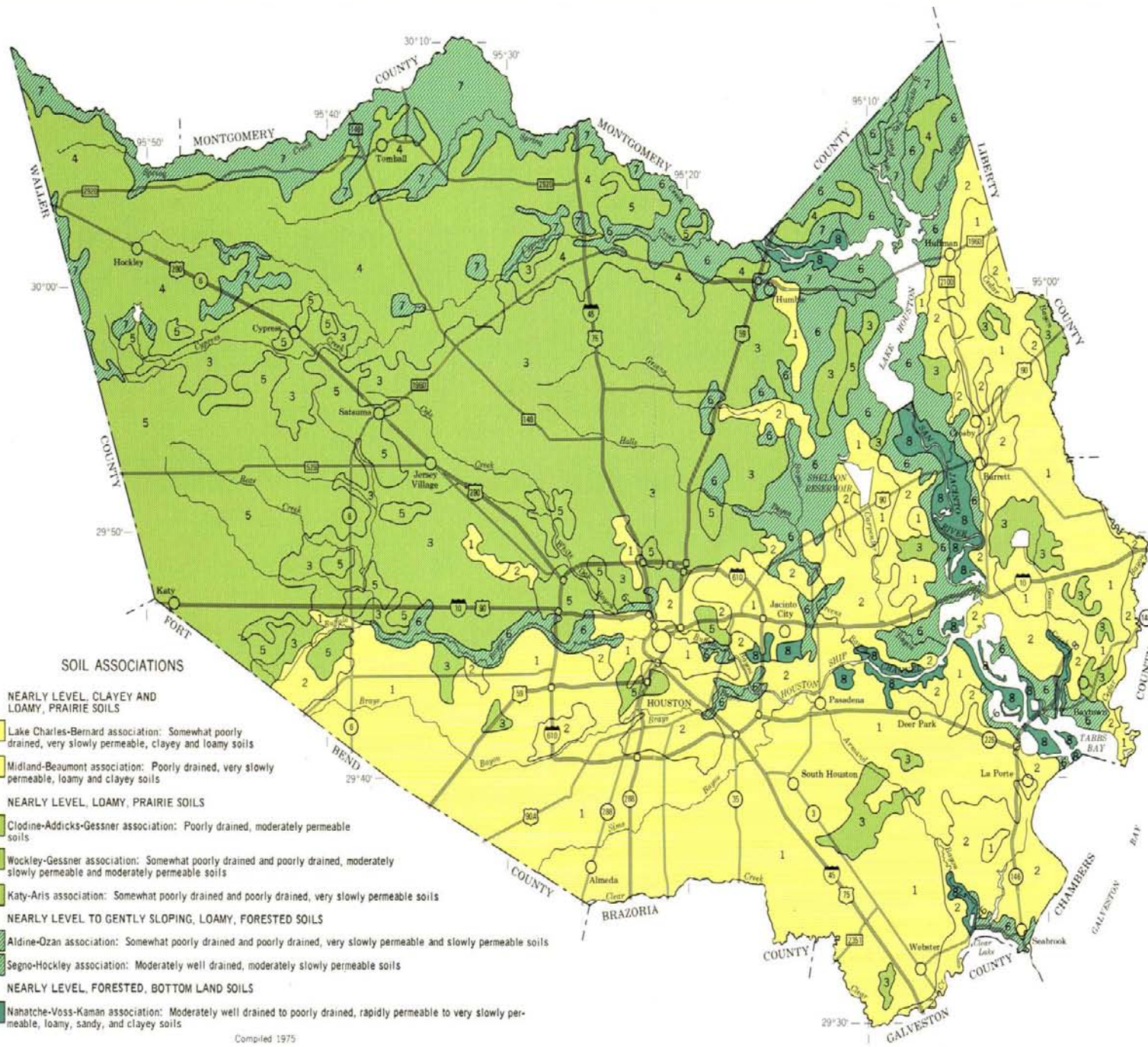
18 kip Single Axles T=C :

Reliability

Reliability for Traffic (AASHTO model) : (%)

Reliability for Expansive Soil Roughness Constants : (%)

WinPRES Demo



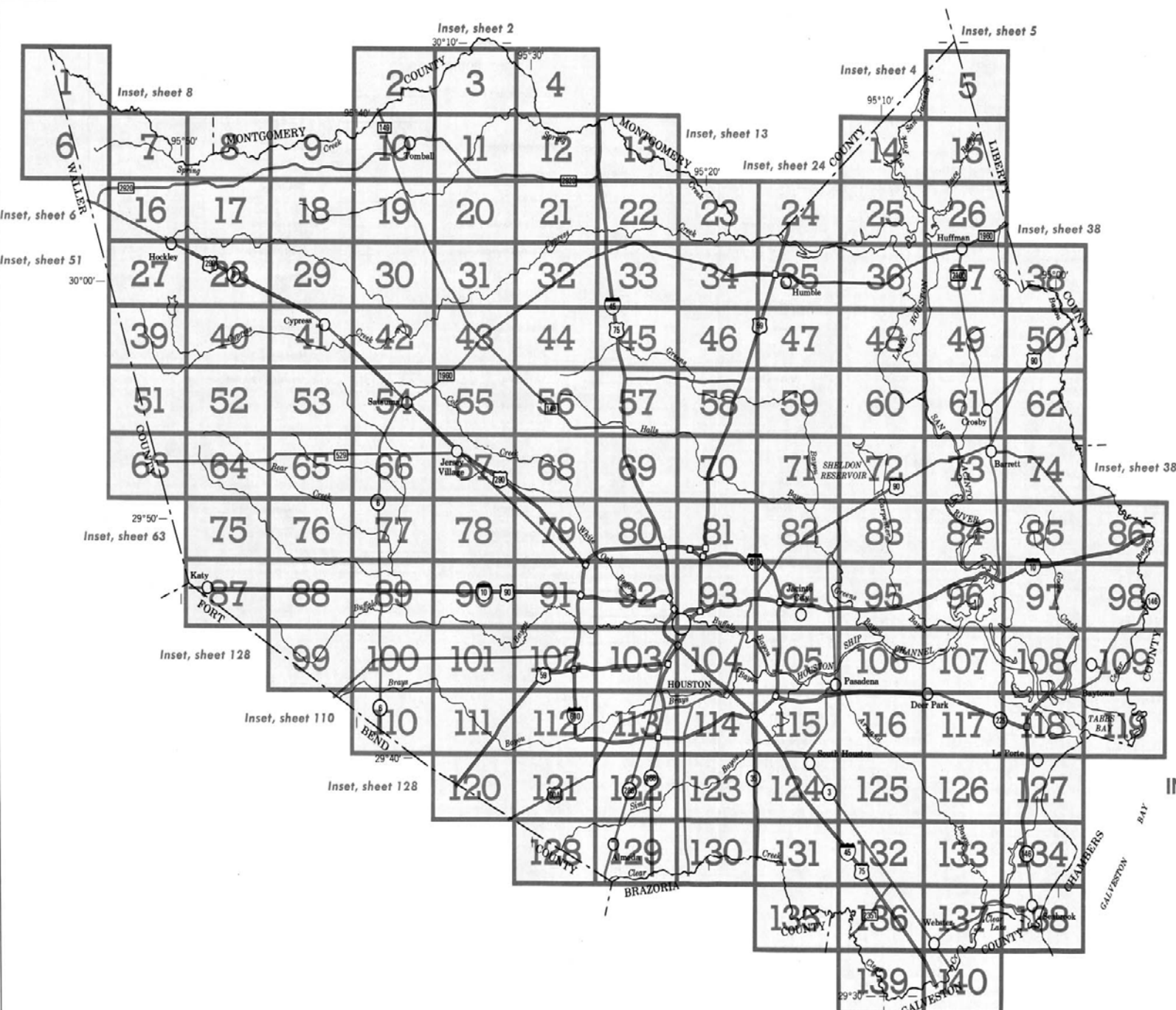
Each area outlined on this map consists of more than one kind of soil. The map is thus meant for general planning rather than a basis for decisions on the use of specific tracts.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
AND
HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

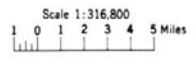


GENERAL SOIL MAP HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Scale 1:316,800
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



INDEX TO MAP SHEETS
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS





Mile
5,000 Feet

(Joins sheet 104)

Scale 1:20000

705 000 FEET

4,000

3,000

2,000

1,000

0

0



715 000 FEET

(Joins sheet 102)

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS NO. 103

WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE

RICE UNIVERSITY

HOUSTON
(county seat)

Buffalo Bayou

Brays Bayou

Soil Survey of Harris County, Texas

■ Lake Charles series

B2t1—50 to 65 inches; prominently mottled light gray (10YR 6/1), strong brown (7.5YR 5/6), and red (2.5YR 4/6) clay loam; few medium distinct gray (10YR 5/1) mottles; moderate coarse prismatic structure parting to moderate coarse blocky; extremely hard, very firm; few fine roots mostly between ped faces; continuous dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay films mainly on faces of blocks; fine sandy loam coatings 1 to 5 millimeters thick on prism faces; slightly acid.

The A horizon is 18 to 30 inches thick. It is slightly acid or medium acid. The Ap horizon is dark grayish brown, grayish brown, or brown. The A2 horizon is brown, pale brown, very pale brown, yellowish brown, or light yellowish brown. Mottles of yellowish brown and gray are in the A2 horizon in some places. The B2t horizon is prominently mottled gray, grayish brown or light brownish gray, yellowish brown or strong brown, and red or yellowish red. The dark red centers of some red mottles in the lower part of the B2t horizon are plinthite. The amount of plinthite ranges from 0 to about 3 percent. Some ped faces are coated with very dark gray or dark gray in most profiles. The B2t horizon is clay loam, sandy clay loam, or clay. Clay makes up 25 to 35 percent of the control section. The B2t horizon is strongly acid through neutral. Some profiles are moderately alkaline below a depth of 50 inches.

Kenney series

The Kenney series consists of deep, acid, nearly level to gently sloping, sandy soils on forested uplands. These soils have a thick sandy layer underlain by a reddish loamy layer (fig. 14). They formed in thick beds of unconsolidated sediment of loamy sand, sandy loam, and sandy clay loam.

Brown, mottles of red, brown, and yellow are in the B2t horizon in some places. The B2t horizon is fine sandy loam, sandy clay loam, or clay loam. It is very strongly acid to slightly acid. In a few places, plinthite is in the upper part of the B2t horizon and the plinthite makes up less than 4 percent of the soil.

Lake Charles series

The Lake Charles series consists of deep, neutral, nearly level to gently sloping, clayey soils on upland prairies. These soils are clayey throughout the profile and have wide deep cracks and intersecting slickensides (fig. 15). They formed in alkaline marine clay.

Undisturbed areas of these soils have gilgai microrelief, in which the microknolls are 6 to 12 inches higher than the microdepressions. When these soils are dry, deep, wide cracks form on the surface. Water enters the cracks rapidly, but when the soils are wet and the cracks are sealed, water enters very slowly. These soils are somewhat poorly drained. Surface runoff is very slow or medium. Internal drainage is very slow. Permeability is very slow, and the available water capacity is high.

These soils are used mainly for rice and pasture. Some are in urban uses.

Representative profile of Lake Charles clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, at the center of a microdepression, in pasture, from the intersection of Cook Road and Alief Road in

Lake Charles series, cont.

Alief, 1.11 miles west along Alief Road, 1.37 miles north on Synott Road, and 75 feet west:

- Ap—0 to 22 inches; black (10YR 2/1) clay, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) dry; moderate fine blocky structure; very hard, very firm, very sticky and plastic; many fine roots; few fine iron-manganese concretions; shiny pressure faces; neutral; diffuse wavy boundary.
- A12—22 to 36 inches; very dark gray (10YR 3/1) clay, dark gray (10YR 4/1) dry; moderate fine blocky and subangular blocky structure in upper 12 inches and breaking to moderate fine and medium blocky in the lower part; the lower part contains common large wedge-shaped peds having long axes tilted 10 to 60 degrees from the horizontal and bordered by intersecting slickensides; extremely hard, very firm, very sticky and plastic; aggregates have shiny pressure faces; few fine iron-manganese and calcium carbonate concretions; mildly alkaline; diffuse wavy boundary.
- AC1g—36 to 52 inches; dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay, gray (10YR 5/1) dry; common fine and medium distinct mottles of olive (5Y 4/3) and few fine distinct mottles of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4); common large wedge-shaped peds having long axes tilted 10 to 60 degrees from the horizontal and bordered by intersecting slickensides, peds break to moderate medium and coarse blocky structure; extremely hard, very firm, very sticky and plastic; few fine roots; aggregates have shiny pressure faces; few fine iron-manganese concretions; few calcium carbonate concretions as much as 1 centimeter in diameter; mildly alkaline; diffuse wavy boundary.
- AC2g—52 to 74 inches; gray (5Y 5/1) clay, gray (5Y 6/1) dry; common fine and medium distinct mottles of light olive brown (2.5Y 5/4) and few fine distinct mottles of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6); weak fine angular blocky structure; extremely hard, very firm, very sticky and plastic; few fine iron-manganese concretions; few intersecting slickensides; few irregularly shaped pitted calcium carbonate concretions generally less than 3 centimeters in size; mildly alkaline.

In undisturbed areas, gilgai microknolls are 6 to 12 inches higher than microdepressions. The center of the microknolls is about 4 to 16 feet from the center of the microdepressions. When the soils are dry, cracks 1 to 2 inches wide form on the surface and extend into the ACg horizon. Intersecting slickensides begin at a depth of about 20 to 30 inches. The A horizon is black or very dark gray. It ranges from slightly acid through mildly alkaline. The ACg horizon is very dark gray, dark gray, or gray. Mottles in the ACg horizon are olive, yellowish brown, light olive brown, strong brown, yellow, or red. The ACg horizon is clay or silty clay. It ranges from neutral through moderately alkaline. In some places it is calcareous in the lower part.

Soil Survey of Harris County, Texas

■ Engineering properties and classifications

TABLE 16.--ENGINEERING PROPERTIES AND CLASSIFICATIONS--Continued

Soil name and map symbol	Depth	USDA texture	Classification		Percentage passing sieve number--				Liquid limit	Plasticity index
			Unified	AASHTO	4	10	40	200		
Lake Charles: LcA, LcB-----	0-22 22-74	Clay----- Clay-----	CH CH	A-7 A-7	100 98-100	99-100 98-100	80-100 80-100	75-100 75-100	64-80 54-90	40-55 37-60
¹ Lu: Lake Charles part	0-22 22-74	Clay----- Clay-----	CH CH	A-7 A-7	100 98-100	99-100 98-100	80-100 80-100	75-100 75-100	64-80 54-90	40-55 37-60

Soil Survey of Harris County, Texas

■ Engineering test data

TABLE 19.--ENGINEERING TEST DATA--Continued

Soil name and location	Depth from surface	Shrinkage				Mechanical analysis ¹								Liquid limit ²	Plasticity index	Classification	
		Linear	Limit ²	Ratio	Volumetric	Percentage passing sieve--				Percentage smaller than--						AASHTO ³	Unified ⁴
						No. 4	No. 10	No. 40	No. 200	0.05 mm	0.02 mm	0.005 mm	0.002 mm				
	Depth																
Kenney loamy fine sand: From Spring, 3.75 miles west on Spring-Stuebner Road to Rothwood Road, 1.8 miles north on Rothwood Road and 40 feet west in timber (modal). Texas re- port no. 1271L-347, 348.	9-56	1.7	18.3	1.83	5.2		100	99	21	4	1	0	0	21	7	A-2-4(0)	SM-SC
	56-80	3.5	18.6	1.71	10.4			100	34	24	15	12	12	25	9	A-2-4(0)	SC
Lake Charles clay: From Alief, 1.11 miles west on Alief Road to Synott Road, then 1.37 miles north on Synott Road and 75 feet west in pas- ture (modal). Texas re- port no. 1271L-198, 199, 200.	0-22	26.2	12.5	2.02	60.0			100	96	67	64	57	56	87	60	A-7-6(20)	CH
	36-52	29.9	6.0	2.23	65.7	99	99	98	92	86	79	61	56	92	66	A-7-6(20)	CH
	52-74	29.0	6.3	2.14	64.6	95	94	93	90	87	84	71	66	91	64	A-7-6(20)	CH

Soil Survey of Harris County, Texas

- Profile of Lake Charles clay

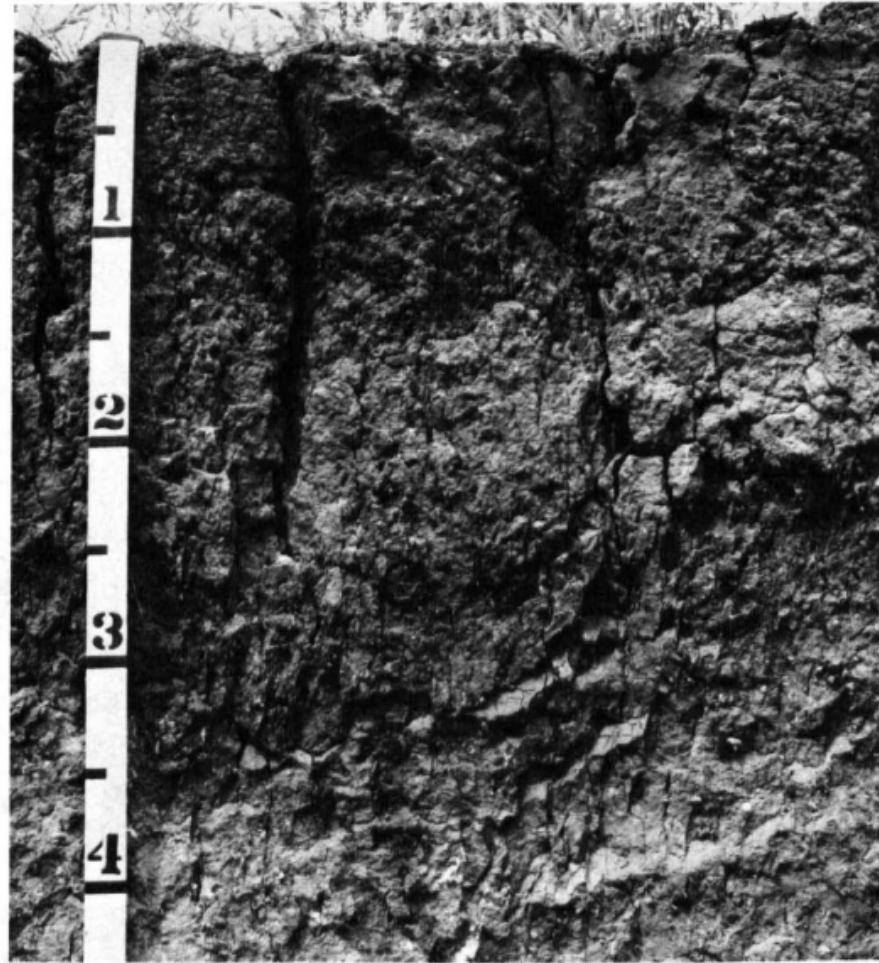


Figure 15. —Profile of Lake Charles clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes. Wide, deep cracks are in the upper layers, and intersecting slickensides are in the lower layers.

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