

---

# UPLIFT PRESSURES FOR SEISMIC AND POST-SEISMIC SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF GRAVITY DAMS

**Pierre Léger (Ph.D, UCB 1982-86),  
Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal University, Canada**



**Berkeley**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Pr. A.K Chopra Retirement Symposium – Oct. 2-3, 2017

# UPLIFT PRESSURES FOR SEISMIC AND POST-SEISMIC SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF GRAVITY DAMS

---

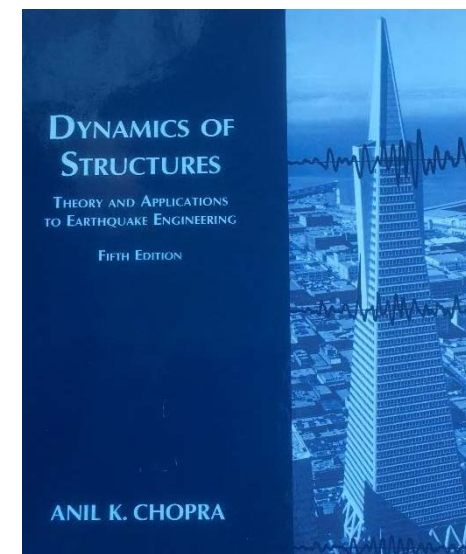
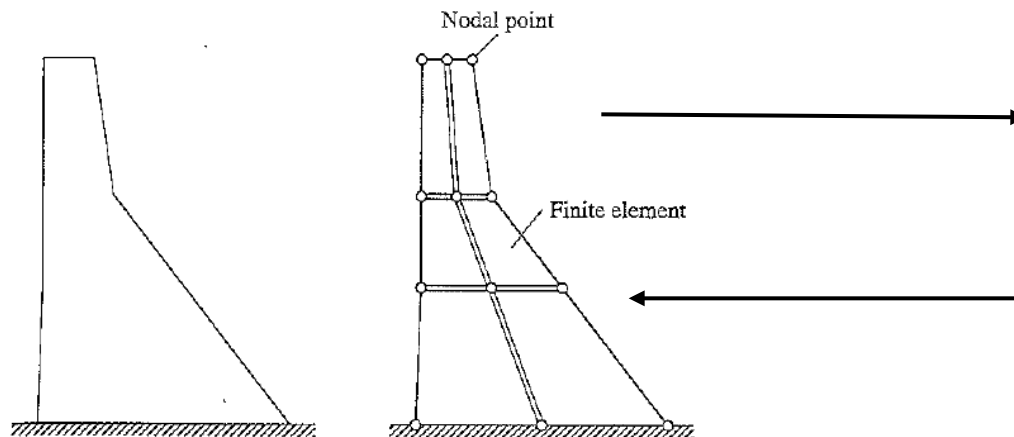
- 1. Computational tools to investigate seismic (post-seismic) gravity dam stability and uplift pressure assumptions (Pr. *Chopra*)**
- 2. Seismic uplift pressures during earthquakes**
- 3. Post-seismic uplift pressures**
- 4. R&D Perspectives**

# SEISMIC ..... DAMS ..... Contributions

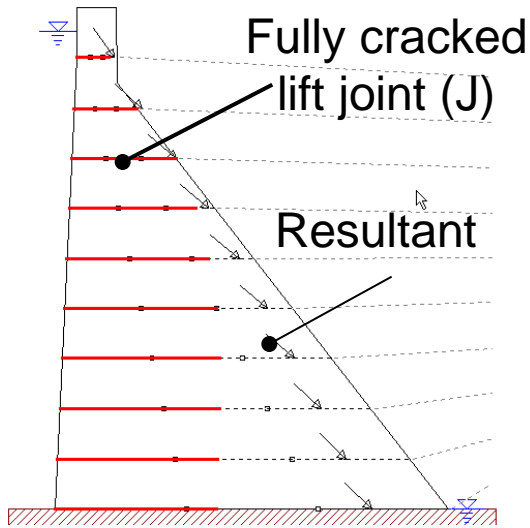


- Seismic+Dams = 908 000 results
- A.K. Chopra+Dams = 336 000 results
- A.K. Chopra+Dam+Koyna = 153 000 results
- A.K. Chopra+Dam+Koyna+Seismic 3 790 results
- A.K. Chopra+Dam+Koyna+Seismic+  
Dynamic of Structures (5<sup>th</sup> Ed) .... 1 result

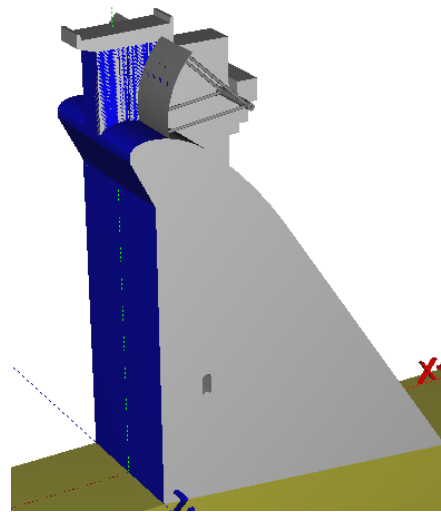
Dynamic of Structures (5<sup>th</sup> Ed) ....



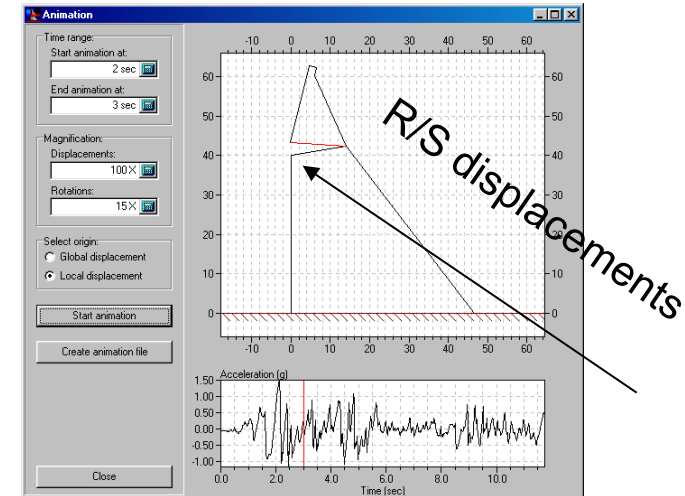
# «USER FRIENDLY» COMPUTATIONAL TOOLS TO STUDY MODELLING ASSUMPTIONS



Pseudo-dynamic RSA - (CADAM2D)



Pseudo-dynamic RSA - (CADAM3D)



Rigid body dynamics (RS-DAM) Rocking-Sliding

## SIMPLIFIED ANALYSIS FOR EARTHQUAKE RESISTANT DESIGN OF CONCRETE GRAVITY DAMS

REPORT NO.  
UCB/EERC-85/10  
JUNE 1986

GREGORY FENVES  
ANIL K. CHOPRA

TECHNICAL REPORT SL-89-4

## SIMPLIFIED EARTHQUAKE ANALYSIS OF GATED SPILLWAY MONOLITHS OF CONCRETE GRAVITY DAMS

by  
Anil K. Chopra, Hanchen Tan  
University of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, California 94720

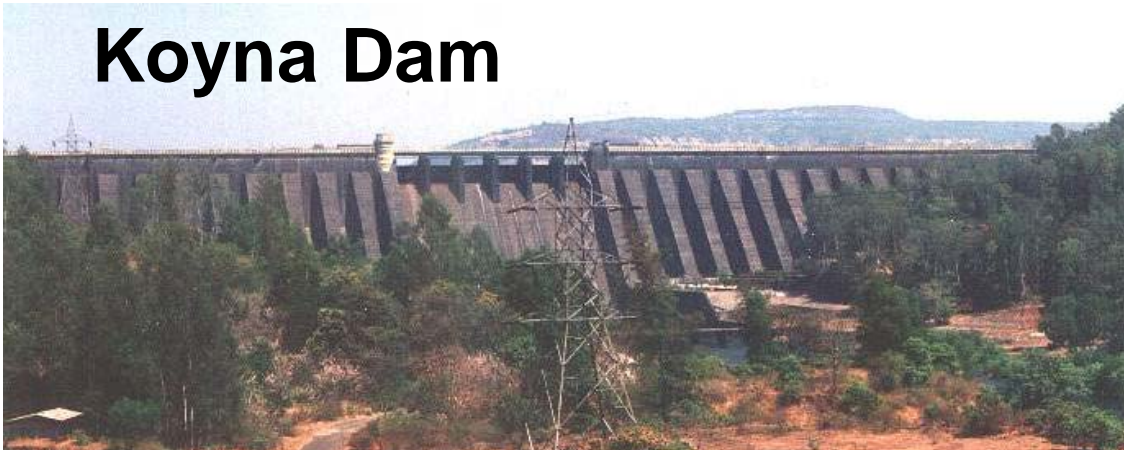
## BASE SLIDING RESPONSE OF CONCRETE GRAVITY DAMS TO EARTHQUAKES

REPORT NO.  
UCB/EERC-91/05  
MAY 1991

ANIL K. CHOPRA  
LIPING ZHANG

# KOYNA DAM – 1967 Earthquake (M6.2)

## Koyna Dam



Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. Vol. 63, No. 2, pp. 381–397. April 1973

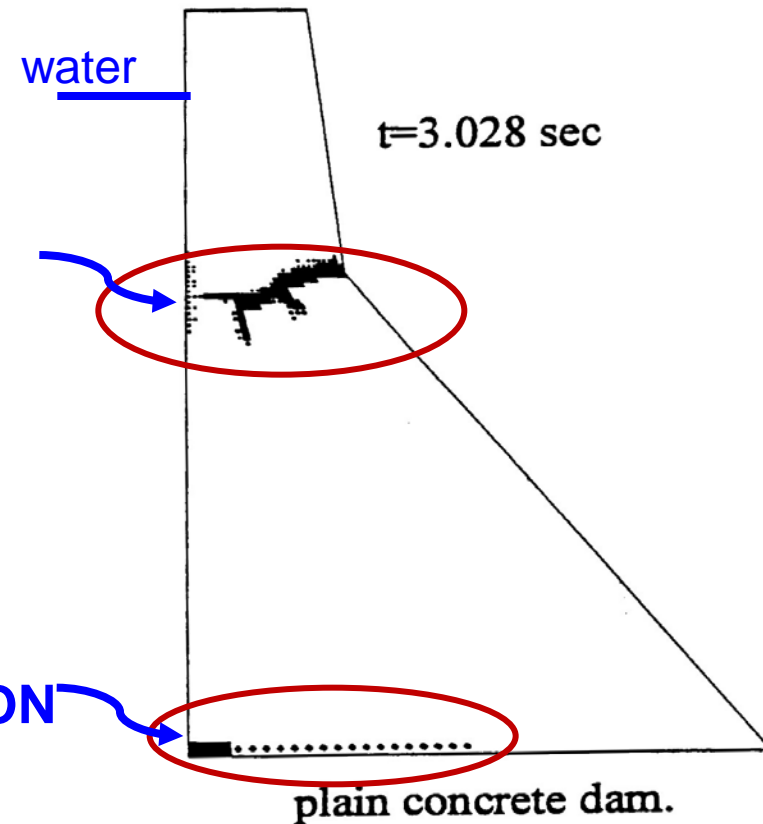
### THE KOYNA EARTHQUAKE AND THE DAMAGE TO KOYNA DAM

BY ANIL K. CHOPRA AND P. CHAKRABARTI

- **DAM-FOUNDATION-RESERVOIR INTERACTION MECHANISMS**

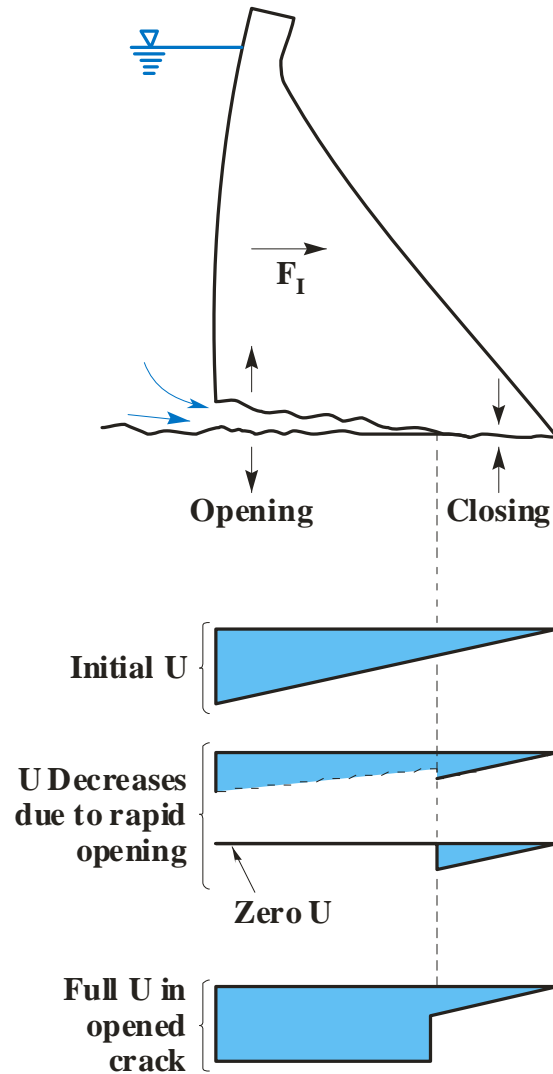
- **PRESSURISED WATER PENETRATION IN SEISMIC CRACKS ( ? )**

### FE Seismic cracking analysis 1967 Earthquake

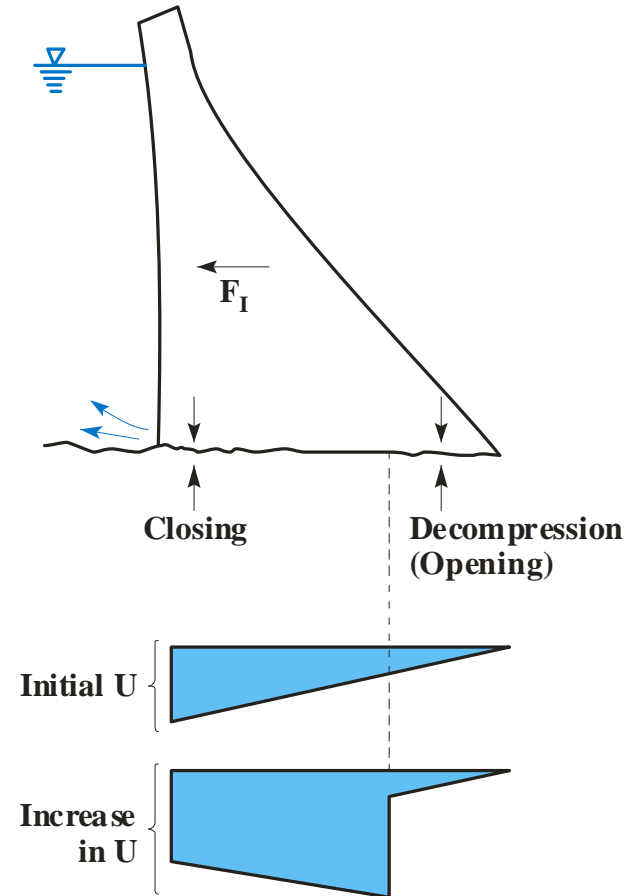


# TRANSIENT UPLIFT PRESSURES DURING EARTHQUAKES

(a) Opening Mode



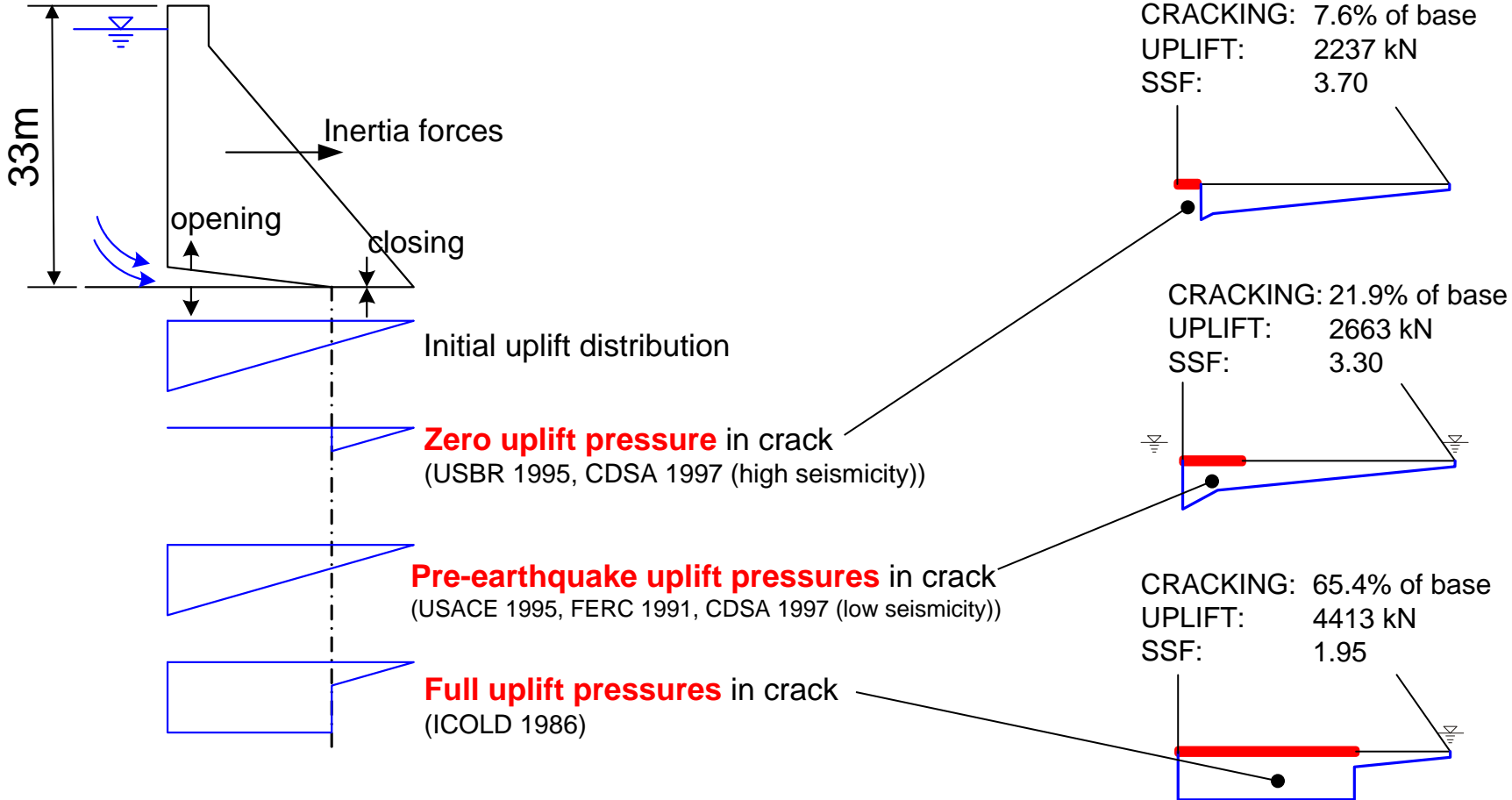
(b) Closing Mode



# UPLIFT PRESSURES IN SEISMIC CRACKS

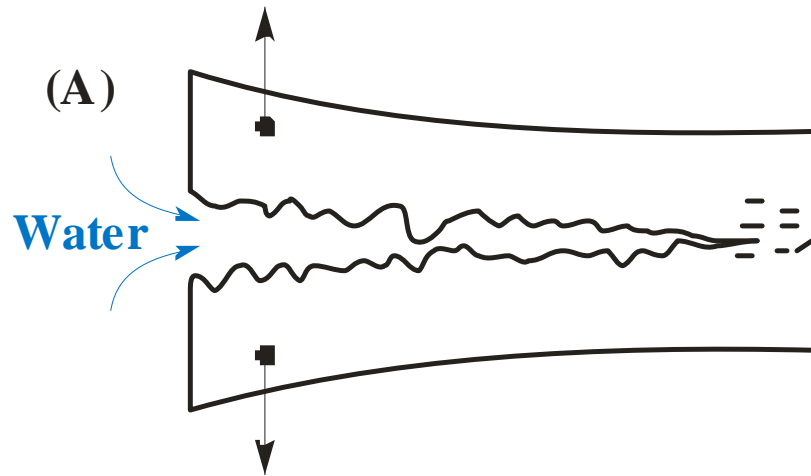
## DAM SAFETY GUIDELINES

## CADAM SEISMIC ANALYSES

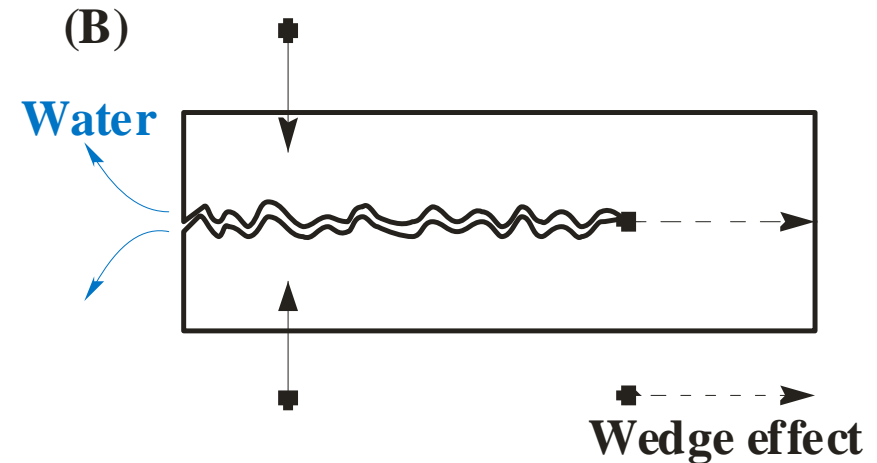


**NEED HYDRO MECHANICAL MODELS + VV (Experimental Data Needed)**

# Seismic Crack-Water Interaction Mechanisms + Cyclic Damage



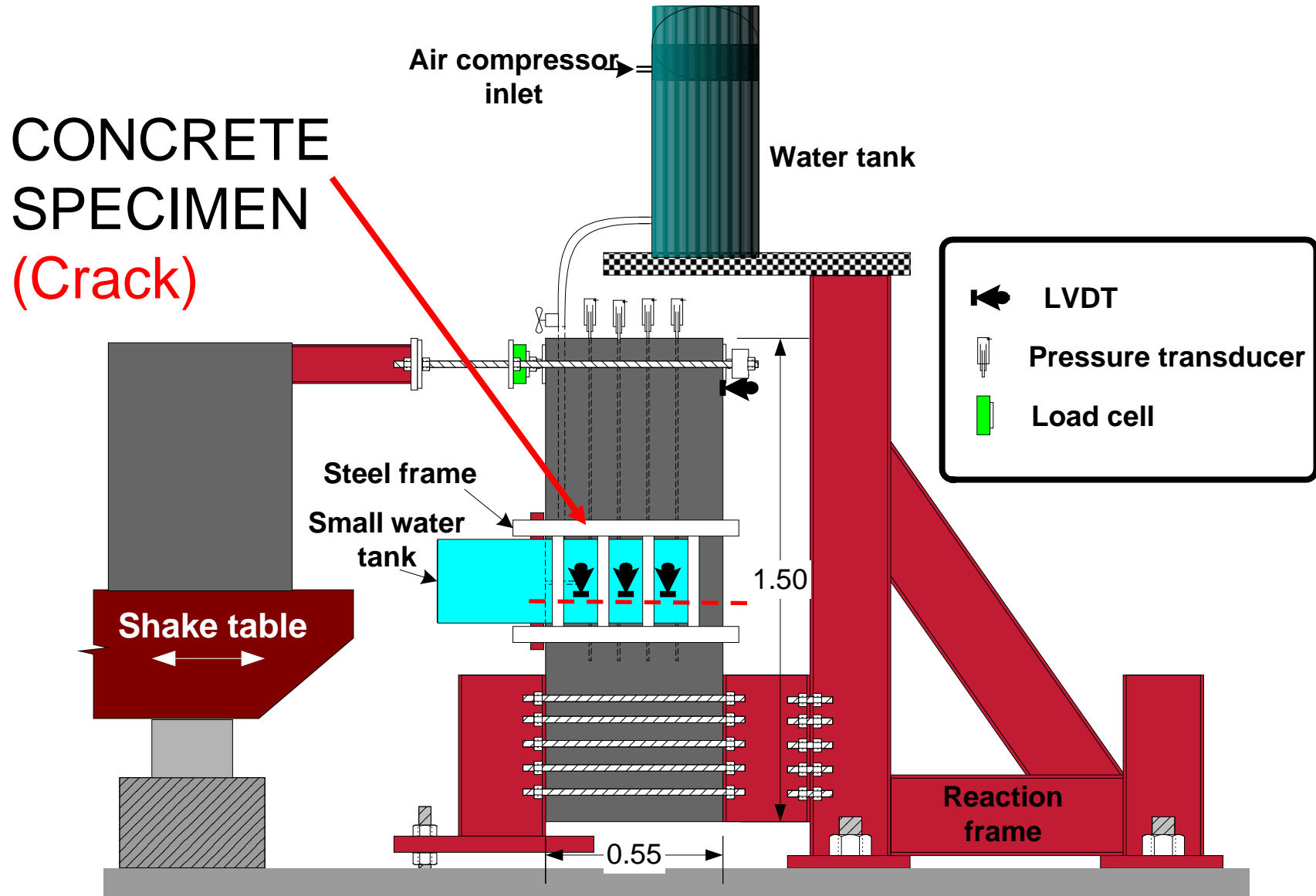
- Opening mode:
- **Velocity of water front vs crack front**
- **Water in tension can vaporize (cavitation)**



- Closing mode:
- **Impact and crushing of wall asperities**
- **Expulsion of water**

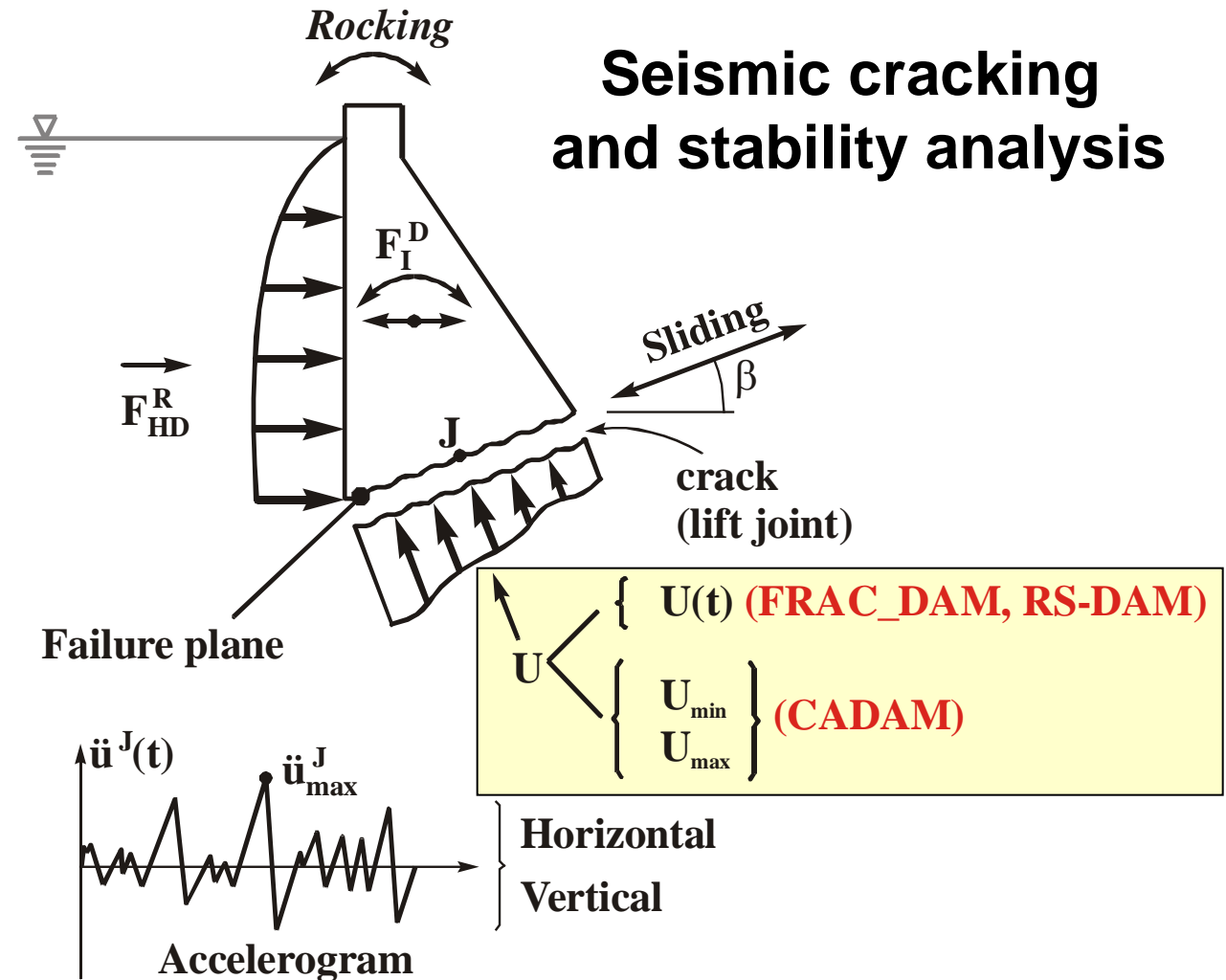
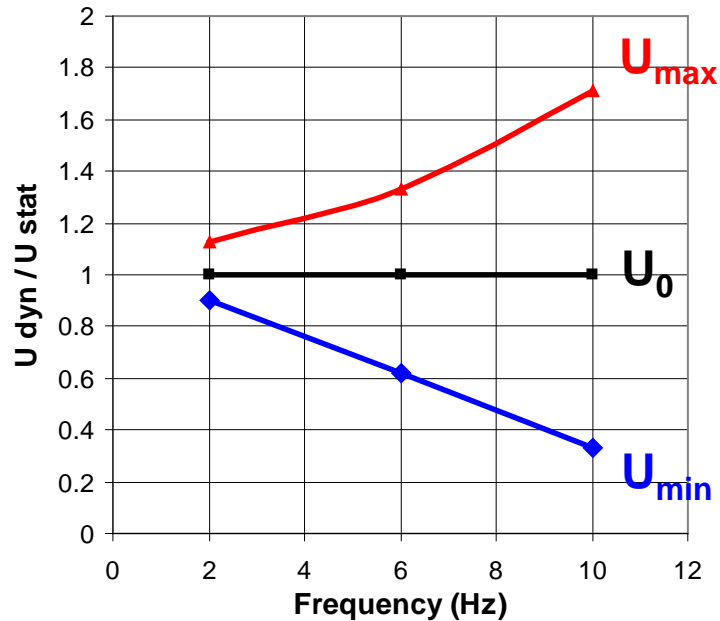


# EXPERIMENTAL TESTING PROCEDURE



# TRANSIENT SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES

Dynamic amplification  
(reduction) of  $U_0$  vs Crack  
Walls Opening / Closing  
Frequency

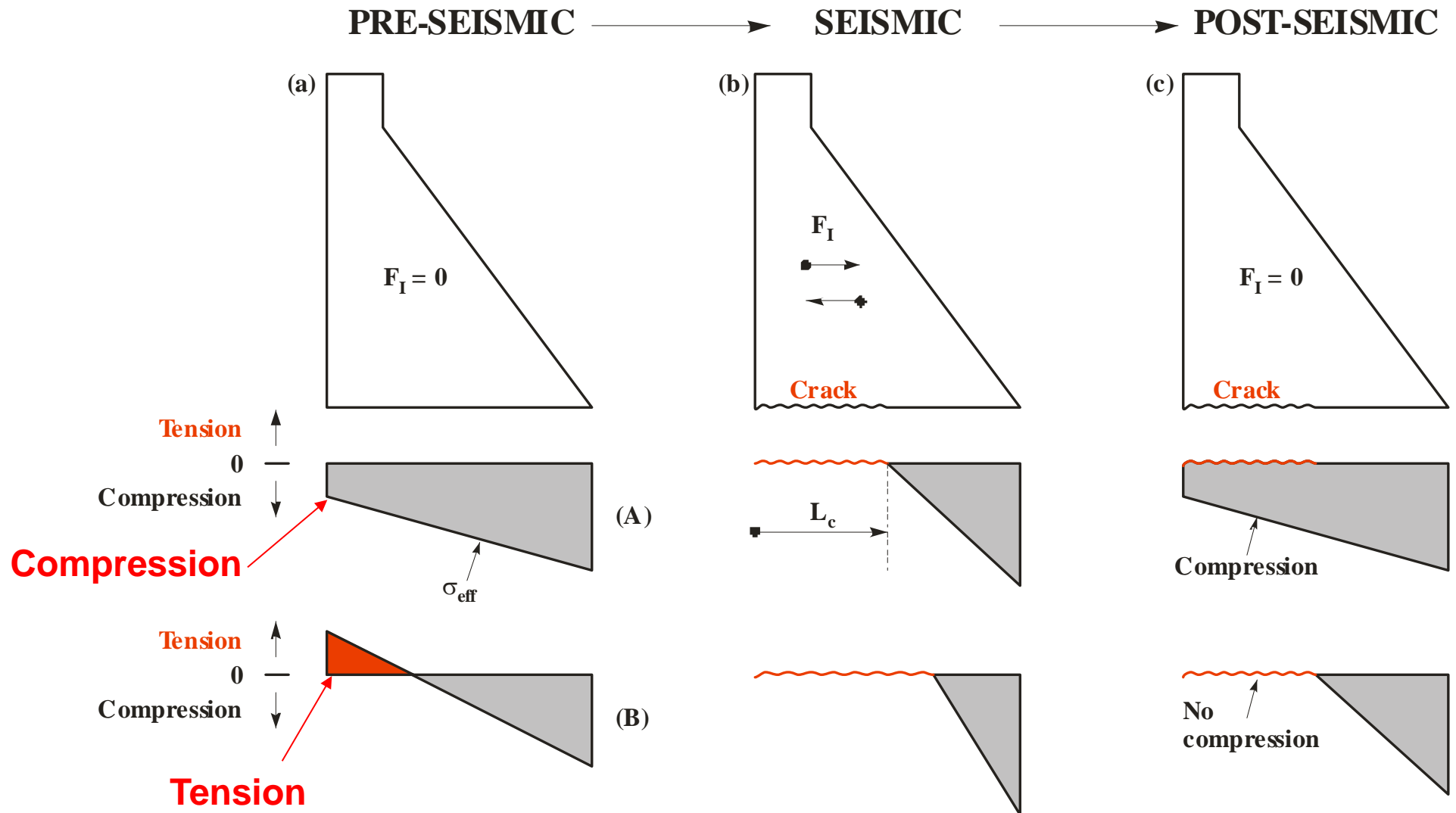


# SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES DURING EARTHQUAKES

---

- **New crack** in opening mode:  $U(t)$  close to zero near the propagating tip, some pressure build-up along the crack walls.
- **Existing pressurised crack** with cyclic opening / closing :  $U(t)$  oscillate around the average initial uplift pressure  $U_0$  that remained constant.
- Magnitudes of **pressure** drops during **crack opening** (cavitation) and pressure increases during **crack closing** depend **on loading frequency**.
- If we do not recognise explicitly the dynamic variation of  $U(t)$ , it appears **reasonable**, with our current knowledge, to assume that during the earthquake the **uplift pressure remains unchanged** from its pre-seismic value.

# POST-SEISMIC CRACKS – EFFECTIVE STRESSES



Uplift pressures in cracks (?)

# POST-SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES

---

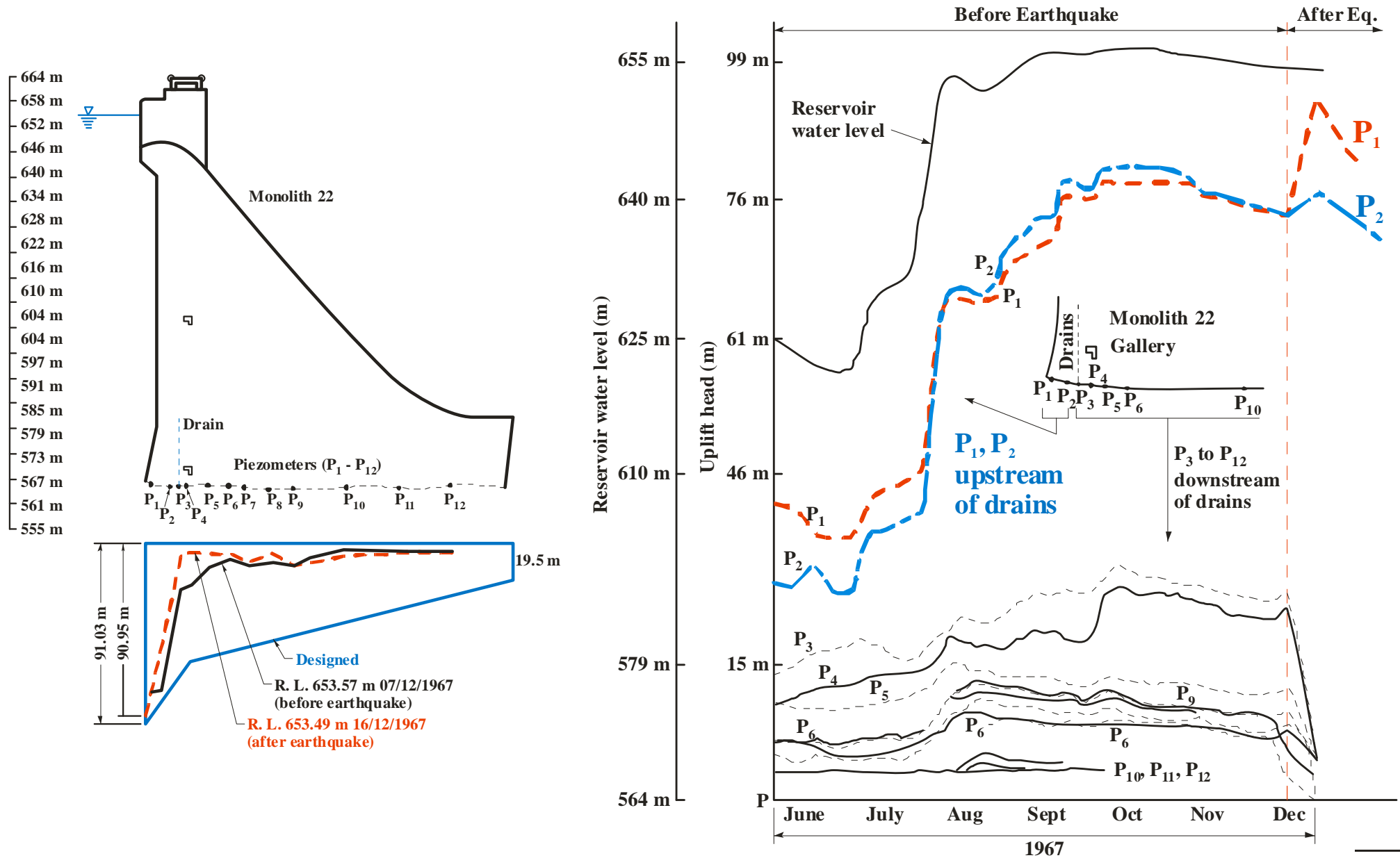
- **Post-Seismic Uplift Pressures Depend on:**
  - Post-seismic stress and displacement conditions along the crack plane (**compression** or tension)
  - Post-Seismic seepage path; (crack hydraulic conductivity, aperture... boundary conditions)
  - Presence of drains, pressure relief at crack boundaries (water stops damaged or not )
  - Post-earthquake drain efficiency

# Historical Evidences : Post-Seismic Uplift Pressures

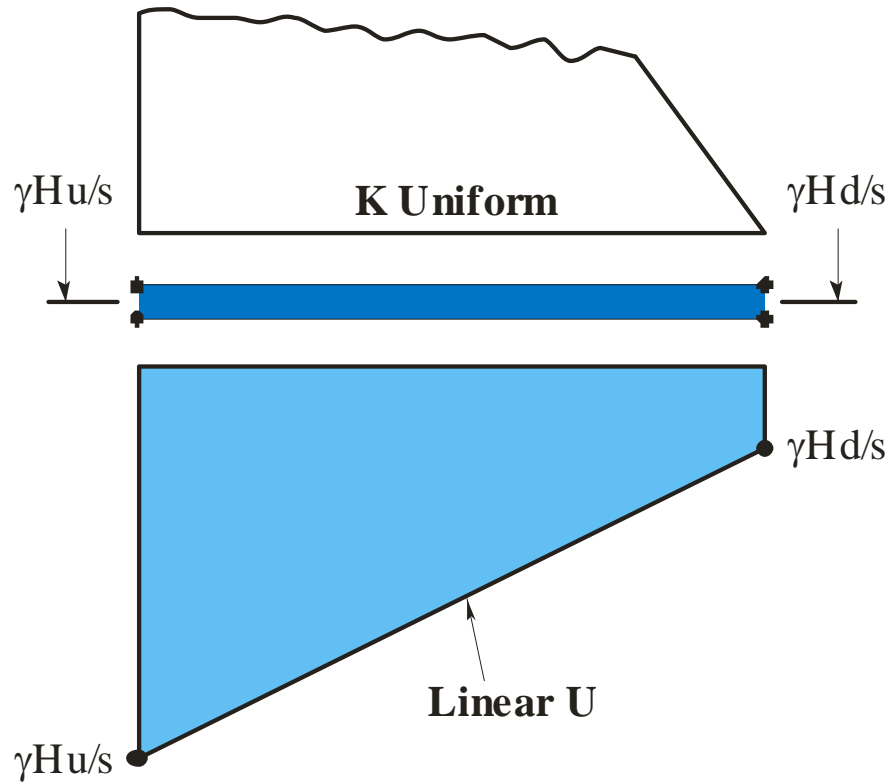
---

- Kobe M7.2 EQ Japan 1995 – Several dams affected  
  
Yuzuruha Gravity Dam (42m high) 43 km from epicentre (minor damage)  
« Drainage water and uplift both slightly increased after the quake, but stabilized later » (Matsumoto et al. 1996)
- Sefid Rud Buttress Dam, Iran (106m high), M7.3 EQ in 1990, very close  
« Uplift water pressures were found to have strongly decrease after the earthquakes, perhaps as a result of the closure of joints or of increased compressive forces across the seepage paths » (ICOLD 2001)
- Koyna Dam, India (103m high), M6.2 EQ in 1967, 3km from epicentre

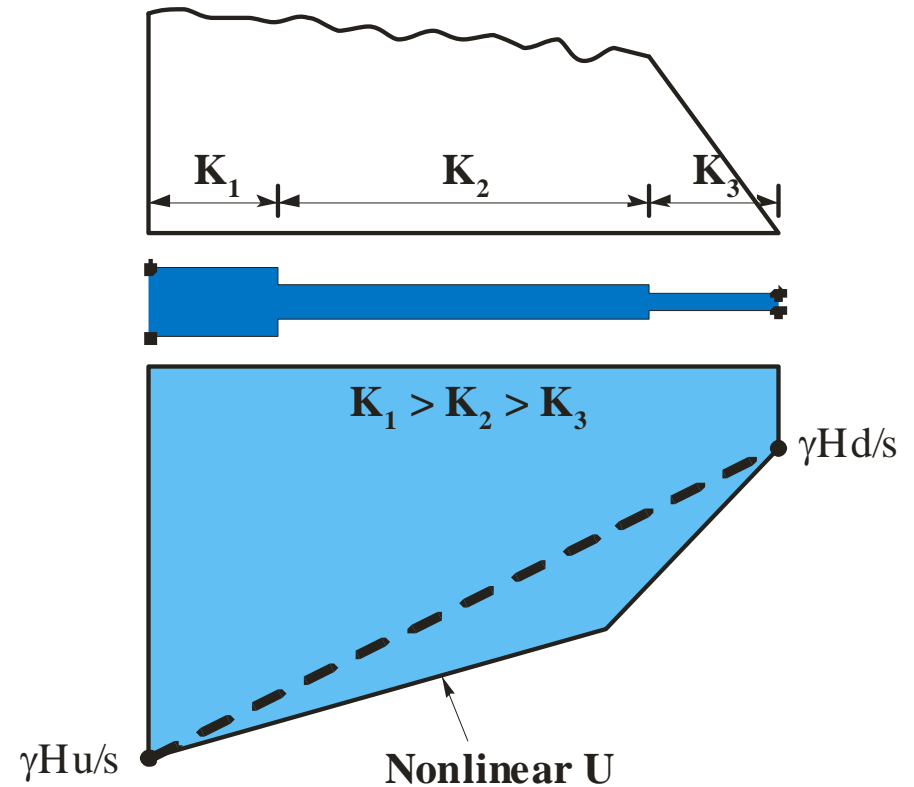
# KOYNA DAM – POST-SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES (Part 1990)



# POST-SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES UNDRAINED (COMPRESSED) CRACK



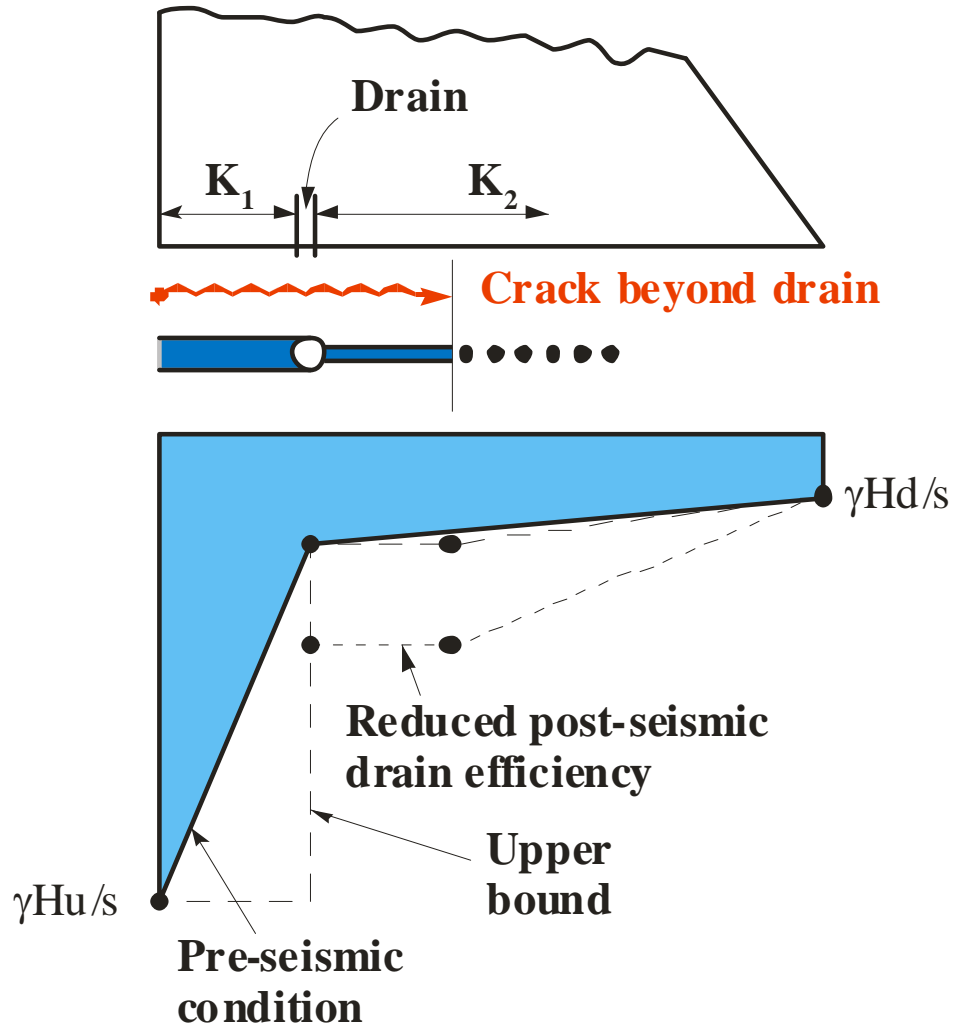
(a) Uniform Aperture



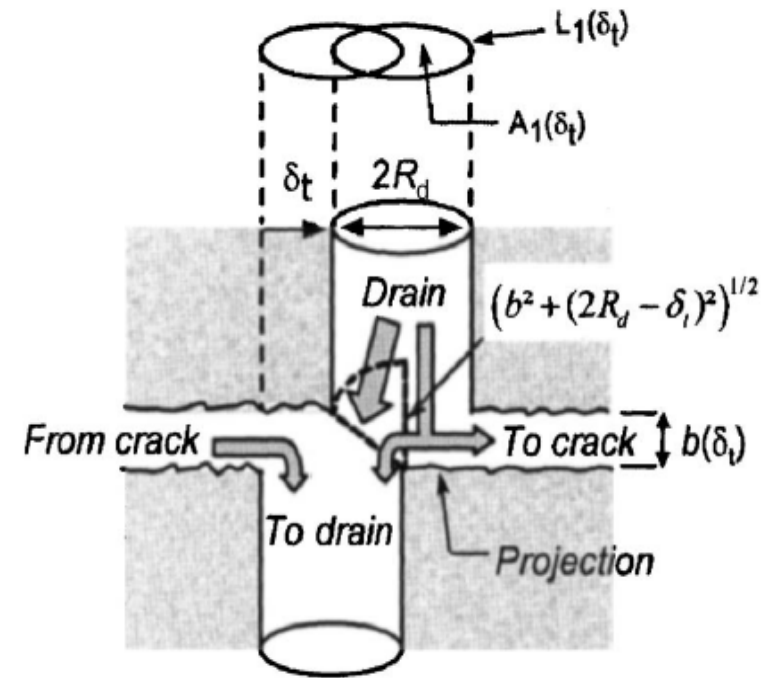
(b) Tapered Aperture



# POST-SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES – DRAINED (COMPRESSED) CRACK



(d) Drained Crack



**HYDRO-MECHANICAL  
MODELS – NL Analyses**

**R&D Perspectives**

**static/seismic loads**

**Computational - Experimental**

# POST-SEISMIC UPLIFT PRESSURES

---

- **Undrained complete compressed crack**: full uplift pressures  
(too (?) conservative, hydraulic conductivity, Boundary Cond.)
- **Drained Compressed cracks** – drains minimal disruption by sliding
  - Maintain some drain efficiency
  - Possibility (1) : return to pre-seismic uplift pressures
  - Possibility (2) : full headwater pressures up to line of drains, significant reduction past the line of drains (e.g. tailwater pressures + 50% of the difference between headwater and tailwater).

# CONCLUSIONS

Analytical/Num. models    Computational tools    Validation/Verification    Applications

Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. Vol. 63, No. 2, pp. 381–397. April 1973

- Anagram

THE KOYNA EARTHQUAKE AND THE DAMAGE TO KOYNA DAM

BY ANIL K. CHOPRA AND P. CHAKRABARTI

Pr. CHOPRA - THANK YOU

ANIL K. CHOPRA ---> KOYNA

VisionarY -----> DAM

ANIL K. CHOPRA ---> ARCH