

## Bishop Lecture

# The Assessment of Geotechnical Properties in the Information Age

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KAUST



# Alan W. Bishop (1920-1988)

## (1) Mechanical Behavior & Properties

Partially saturated soils (1959+)

Pore pressure generation (1953+)

Shear strength (crushing, stress path effects... 1950+)

Progressive failure (1967+), Residual strength (1971+)

Creep (1969)

## (2) Measurement the devil is in the details Nietzsche

Sampling, sampling effects. Remolded specimens

Field testing (1948+)

Triaxial testing (1950+)

Triaxial test at 7 MPa (1965+)

Pore pressure measurements (1953+)

Specimen size (1969) & compliance effects (1976)

Shear box (1948) Ring shear (1971) Hollow Cylinder (1970's)

## (3) Engineering driven by practical problems

Earth dams, slopes, excavations - Slices (1954+)

Earth pressure (1957+)

## Geomaterials

Sands (1948+) — Clays (1953+) — Rocks (1966+)

## Publications

Total: 68 Publications (1946 and 1981)

Last paper: "Thirty five years of soil testing"

10th ICSMFE Stockholm 1981)

## Participation at ICSMFE

3<sup>rd</sup> ICSMFE Zurich 1953

4<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE London 1957

5<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Paris 1961

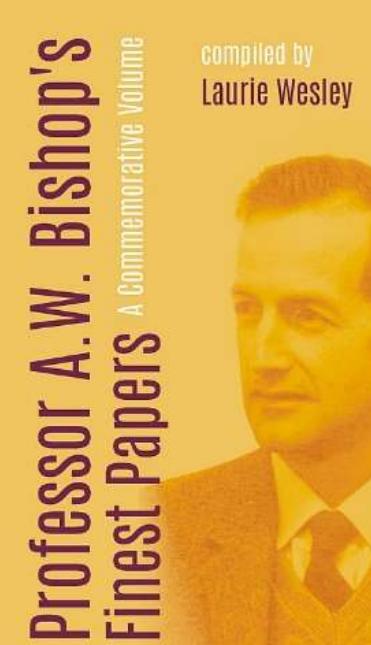
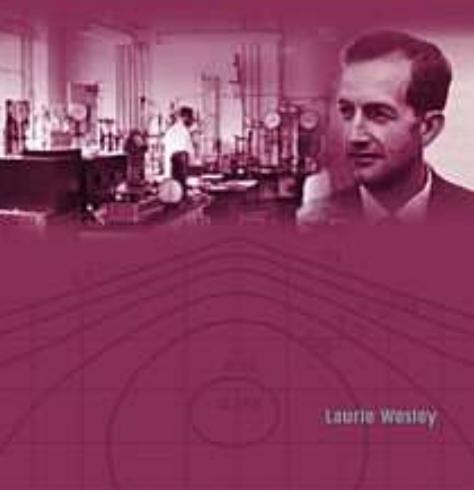
6<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Montreal 1965

7<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Mexico 1969

8<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Moscow 1973

9<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Tokyo 1977

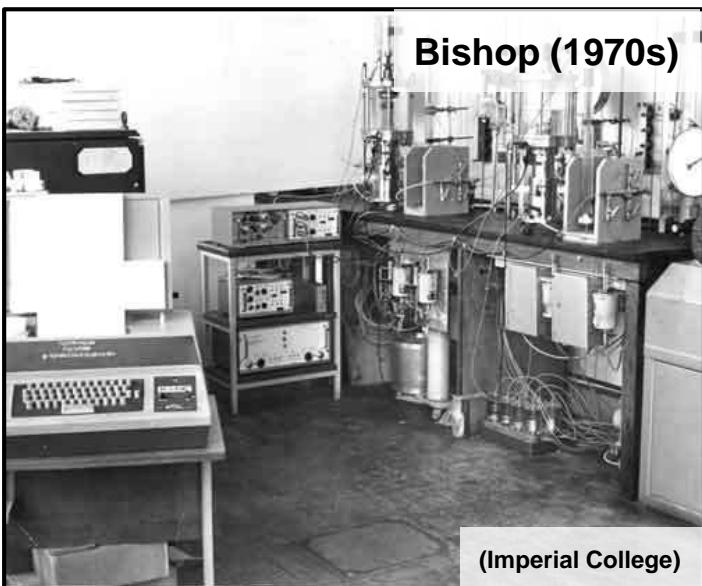
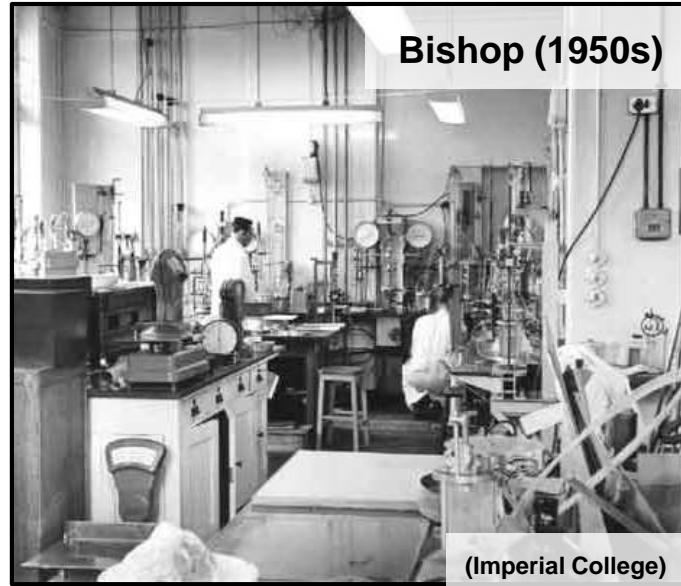
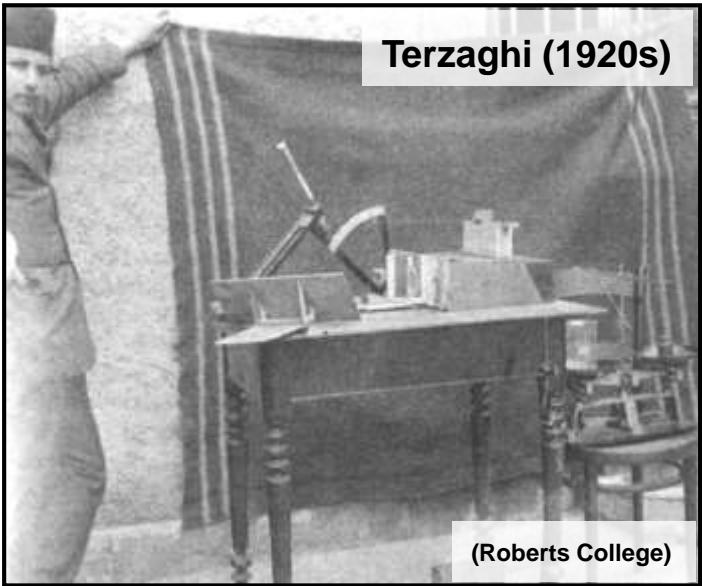
10<sup>th</sup> ICSMFE Stockholm 1981



*the soil mechanician*

*the meticulous experimentalist*

*the engineer*

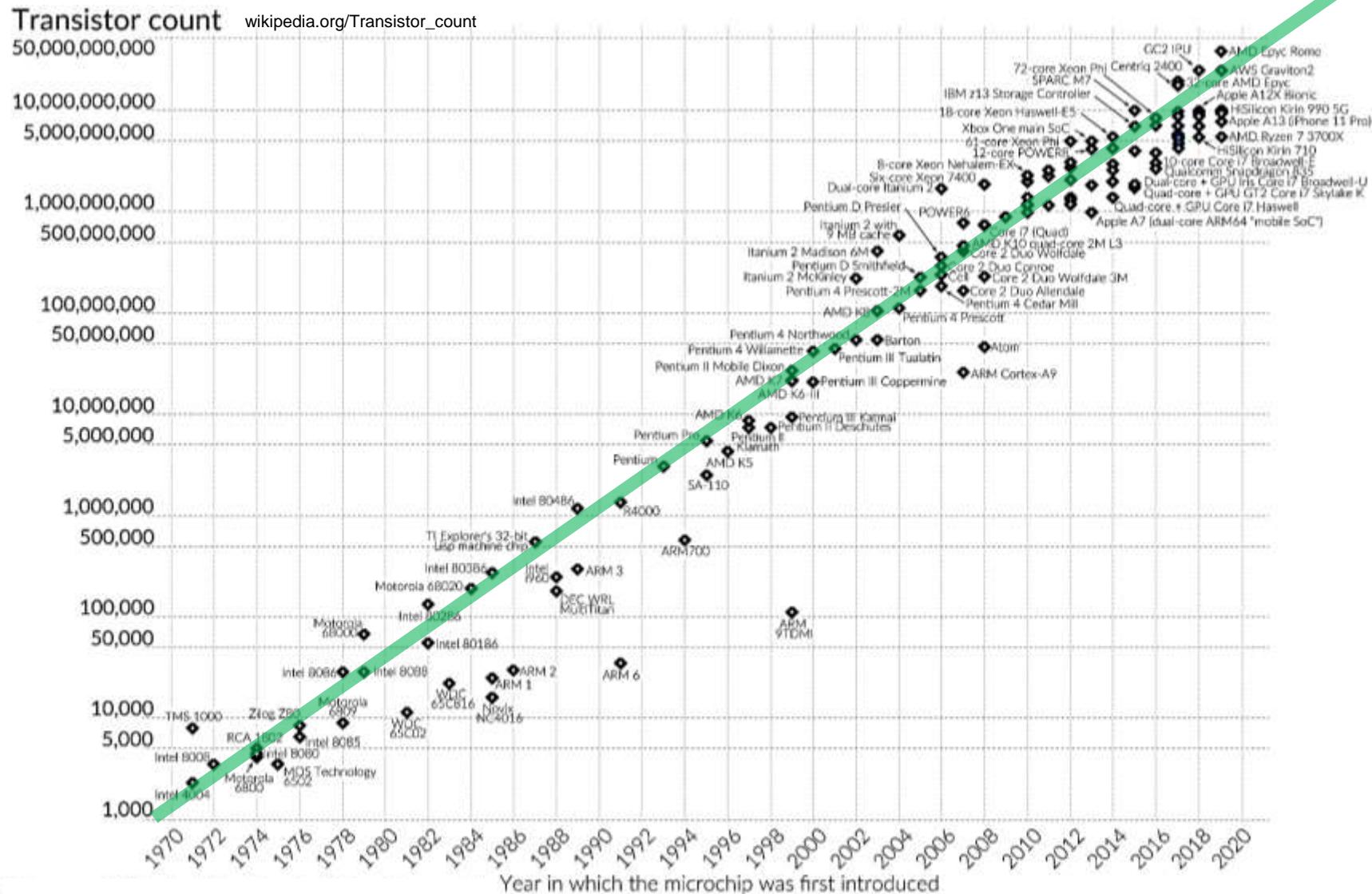


*Computer assisted  
Multi-sensor  
Multi-physics*

*Increased complexity & decreased immediacy*

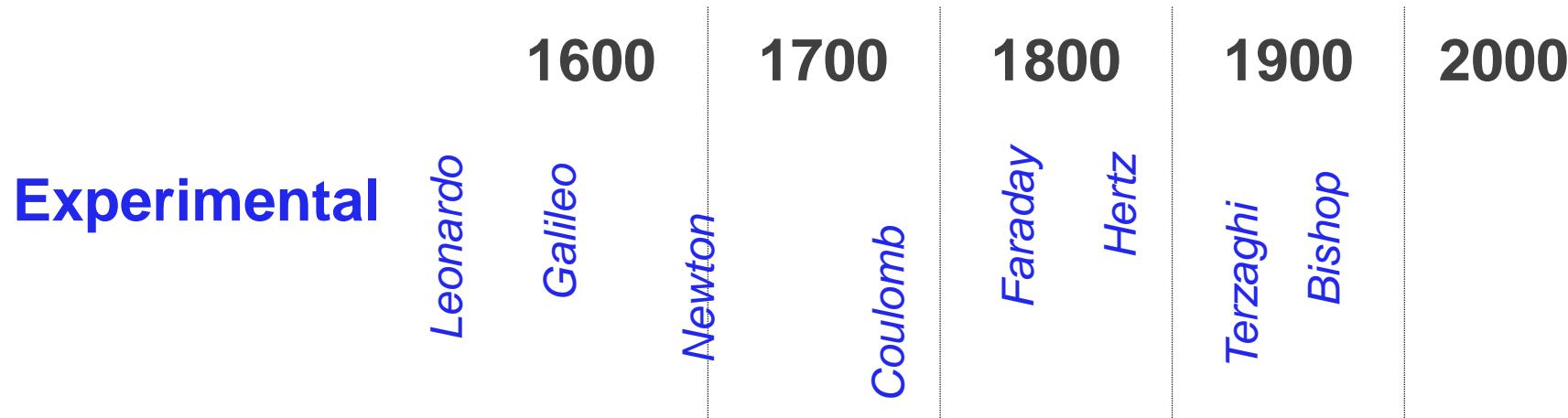
# Microelectronics: Moore's law (and sensors..!)

doubles every  
24 months

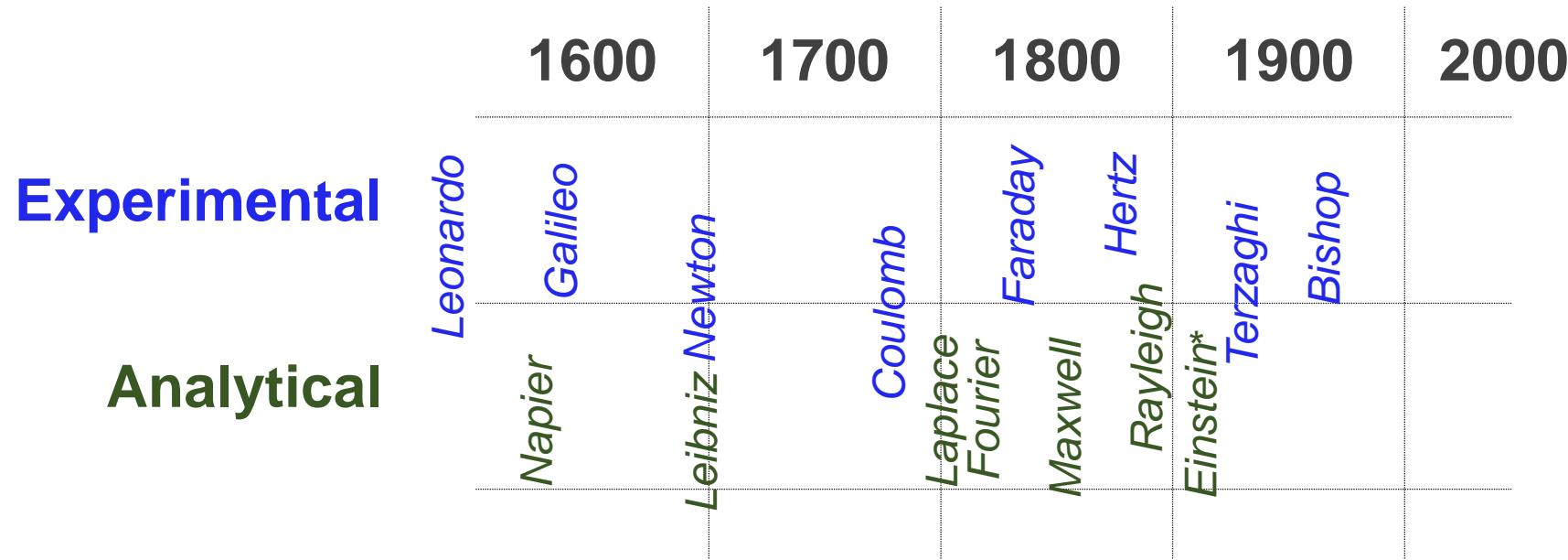


50 million times since Niel Armstrong walked on the moon...!

# Knowledge generation

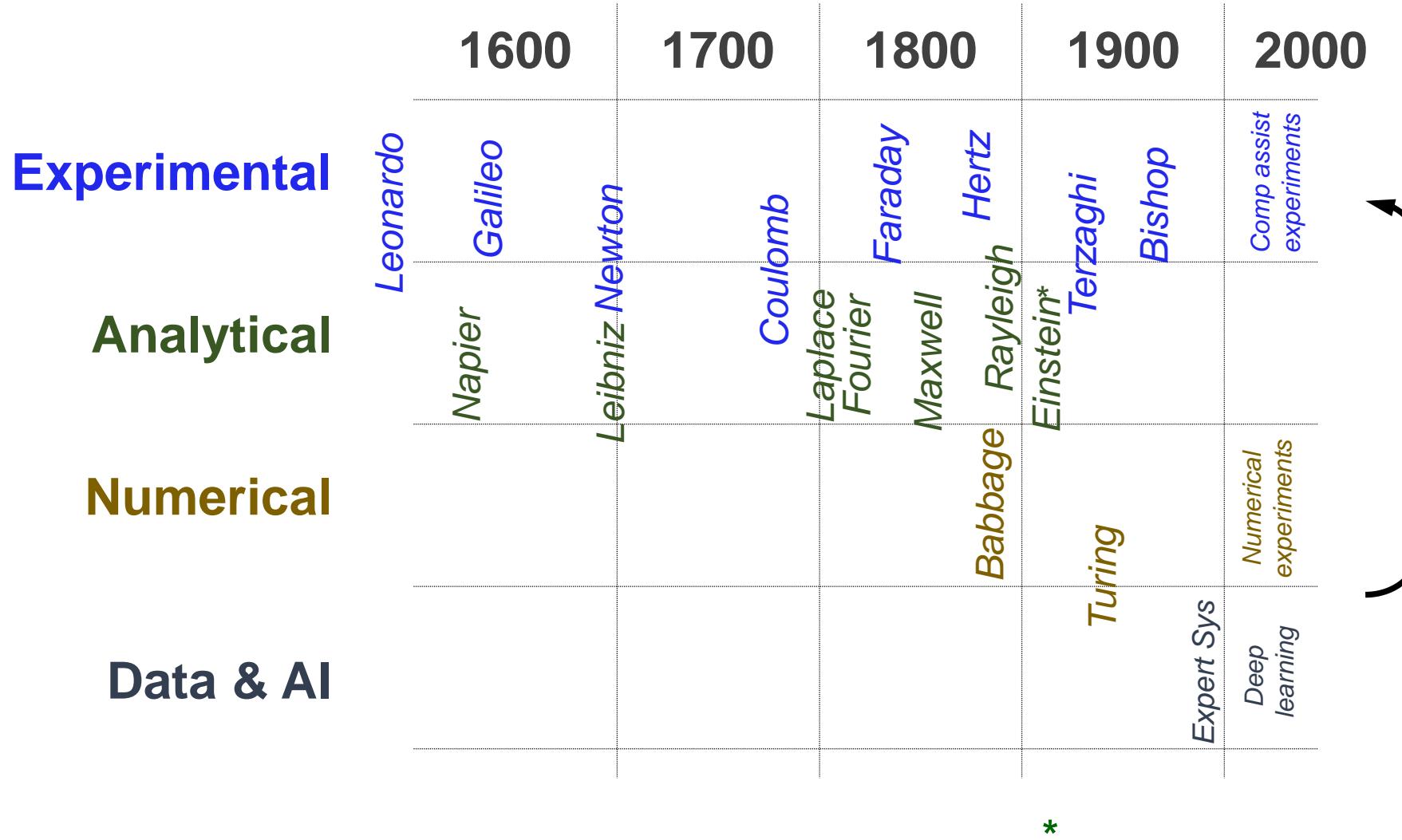


# Knowledge generation



\* thought experiments

# Knowledge generation



*Confluence of technological revolutions*

*Experimentation: reinvigorated!*

# Knowledge generation

Experimental

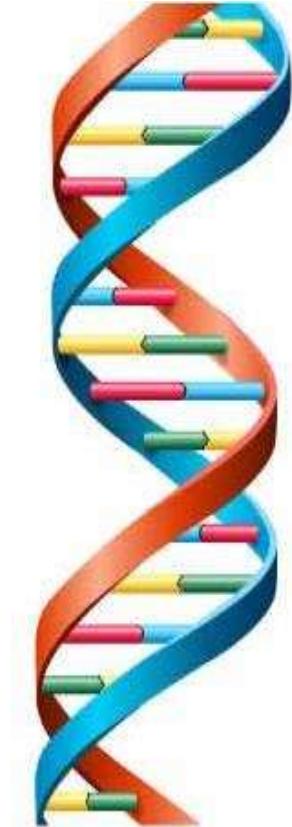
Analytical

Numerical

Data & AI

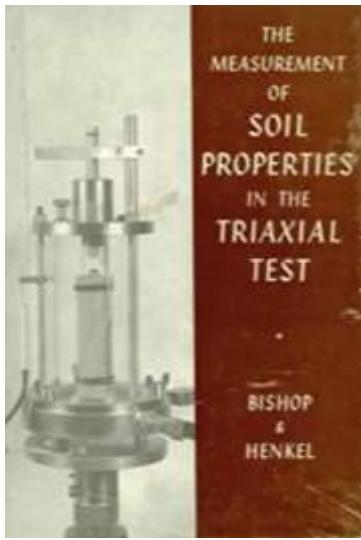
Thought

*causality & logic*



Knowledge generation in the XXI century

# Bishop lectures



1957 - Bishop & Henkel *THE MEASUREMENT OF SOIL PROPERTIES IN THE TRIAXIAL TEST*

2011 - F. Tatsuoka      Laboratory stress-strain tests for geotechnical engineering research and practice

2013 - R. Jardin      Advanced laboratory testing in research and practice

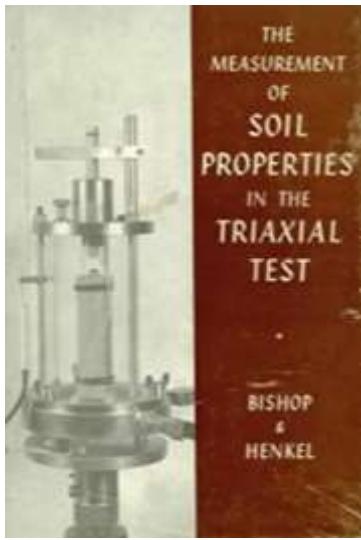
2015 - H. Di Benedetto      Advanced testing and modelling - Granular materials with/without viscous glue

2017 - D. Muir Wood      Modelling and testing

2019 - J. Koseki      Advanced laboratory testing of geomaterials - Unconventional liquefaction tests

2022 - All of us...      **The assessment of geotechnical properties in the information age**

# Bishop lectures



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2022 - **All of us...**      The assessment of geotechnical properties in the information age

**What do we measure?**

**Data → information**

**Computer-assisted experimentation**

**“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?**

**Other trends in experimentation**

**Closing thoughts**

## What do we measure?

Data → information

Computer-assisted experimentation

“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?

Other trends in experimentation

Closing thoughts

*the measurement always  
alters the measurand*

*Heisenberg's uncertainty principle*

# **What do we measure?**

**What we want to measure...**

**What we think we measured...**

**What we actually measured !!**

[anon]

# What do we measure?

**What we want to measure...**

processes at zero gravity

**What we think we measured...**

behavior at  $\mu\text{-g}$

**What we actually measured !!**

[anon]



$$F = G \frac{M m}{r^2}$$

A diagram illustrating the formula for gravitational force. The word "g" is written above a brace that covers the "M" and "m" terms in the equation. The "G" and "r<sup>2</sup>" terms are not underlined.

$$g_{\text{ISS}} = 0.88 g_{\text{earth}}$$

# What do we measure?

**What we want to measure...**

processes at zero gravity

**What we think we measured...**

behavior at  $\mu$ -g

**What we actually measured !!**

[anon]

response in free fall



$$F = G \frac{M m}{r^2}$$

A diagram of the gravitational force formula. The word "g" is written above the letter "G". The letters "M" and "m" are enclosed in a yellow circle, and the letter "r" is enclosed in another yellow circle.

$$g_{\text{ISS}} = 0.88 g_{\text{earth}}$$

# What do we measure?

What we want to measure...

g-effect

What we think we measured...

behavior at  $\mu\text{-}g$

What we actually measured !!

[anon]

response in free fall



$$F = G \frac{M m}{r^2}$$

A diagram of the gravitational force equation. The word "g" is written vertically above the symbol "G". A yellow circle highlights the terms "M m" and "r<sup>2</sup>".

$$g_{\text{ISS}} = 0.88 g_{\text{earth}}$$

What we want to measure...

temperature

What we think we measured...

$T_{\text{ceramic}} < T_{\text{carpet}}$

What we actually measured !!

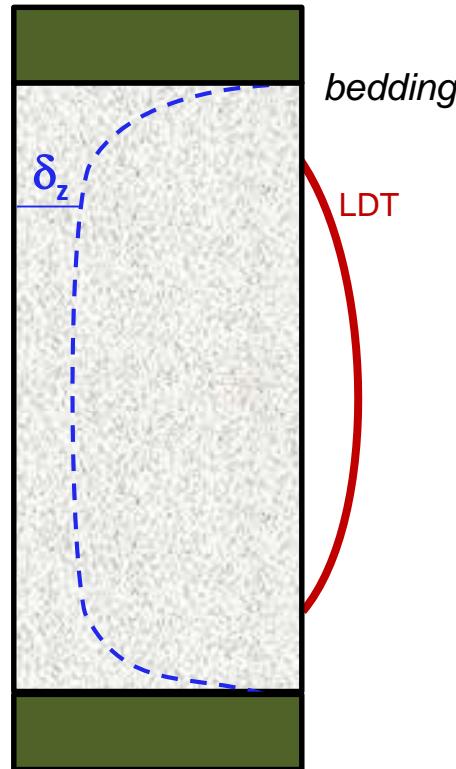
[anon]

$D_{\text{ceramic}} > D_{\text{carpet}}$



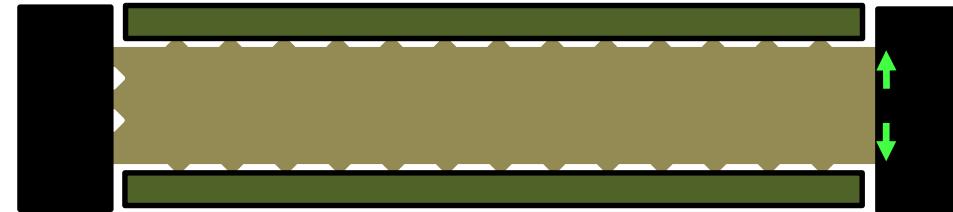
# What do we measure? Boundary effects & relative stiffness

Triaxial

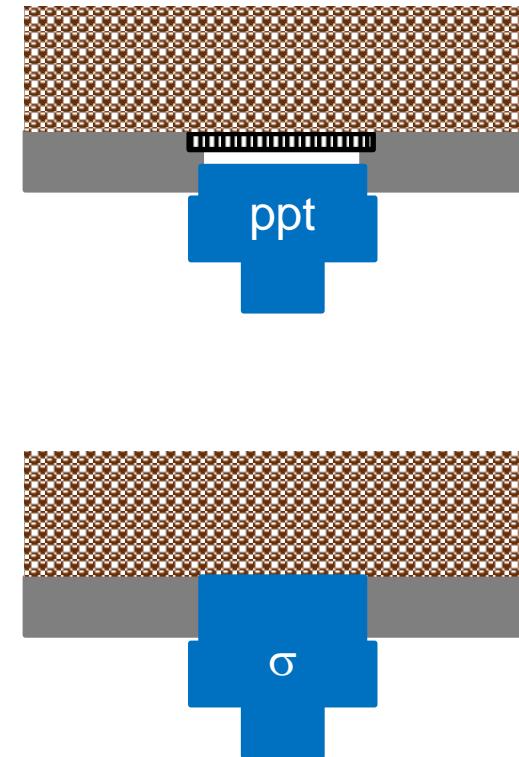


Oedometer

sampling effects  
sediment-ring gap  
cap seating effects  
side friction  $f(h/D)$   
 $k = f(z) \text{ & } m_v = f(z)$



Sensor installation



local vs. global drainage

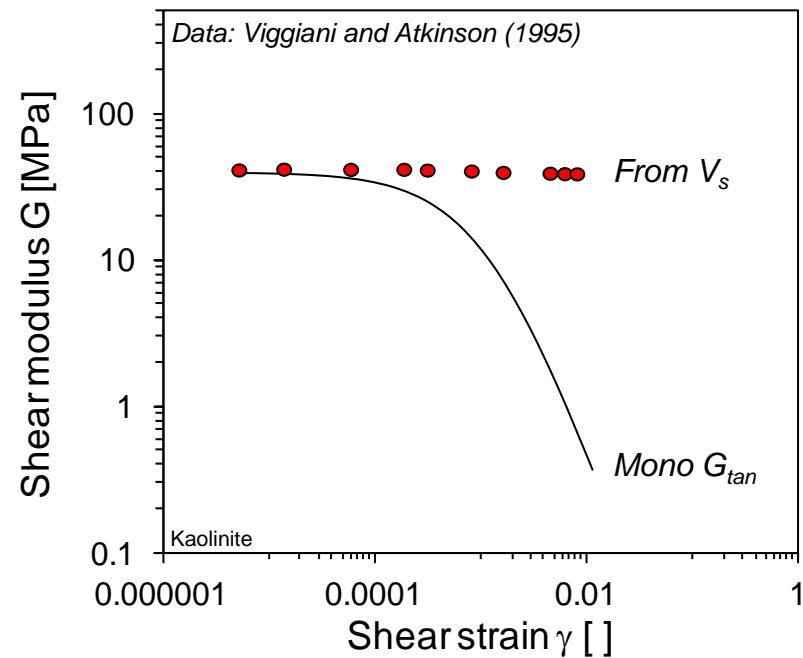
boundary effects

measurement=integral

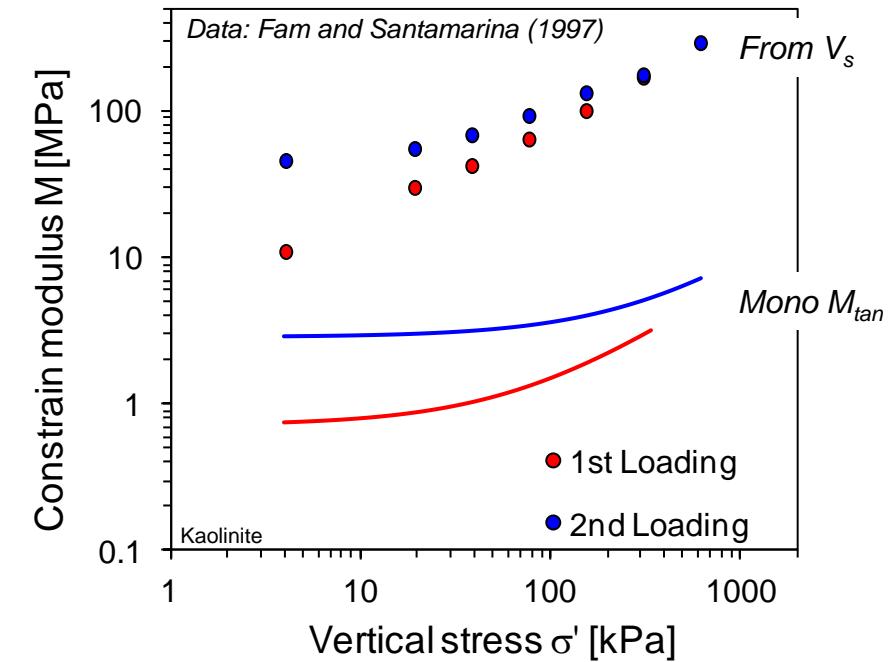
relative stiffness

# What do we measure? Tangent stiffness $E_{mono}$ -vs- $E_{prop}$

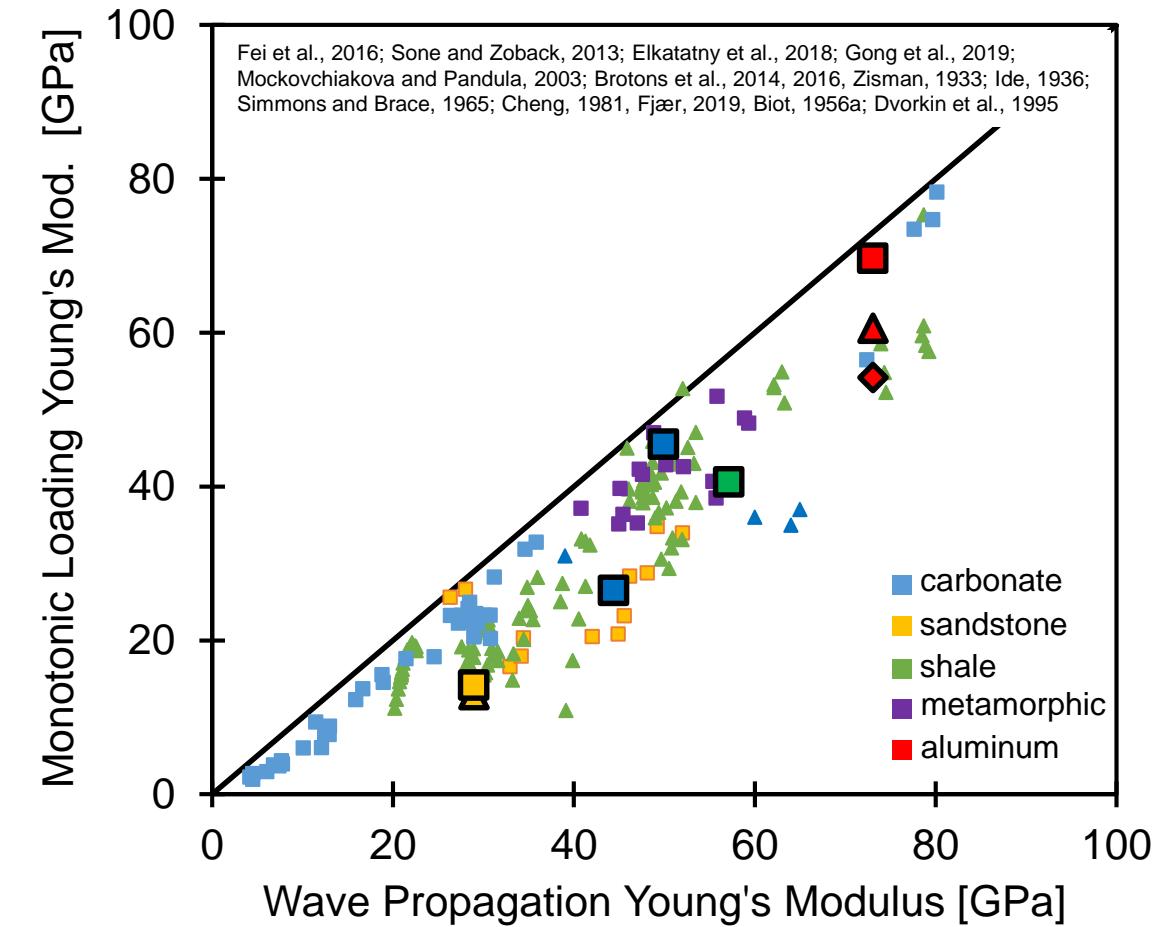
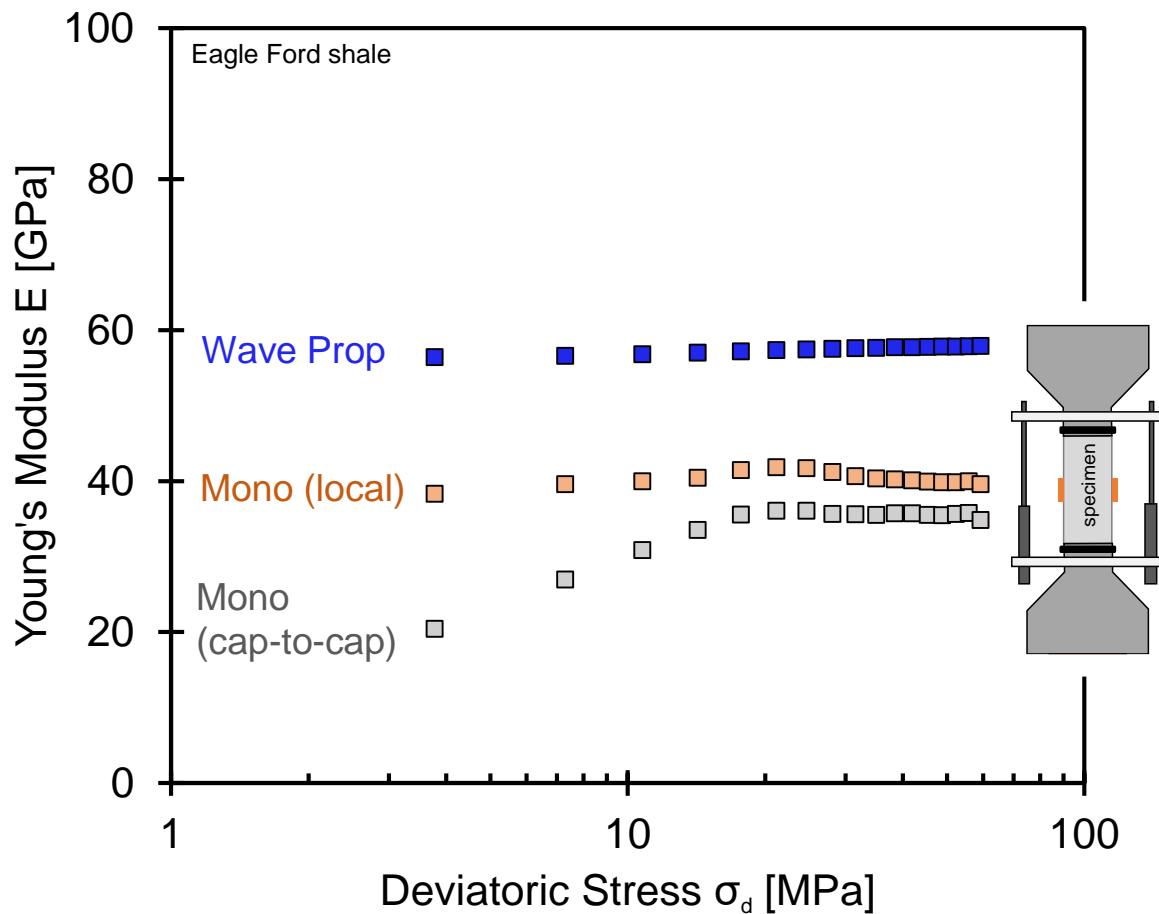
**AC Triaxial Test**



**1D Consolidation**

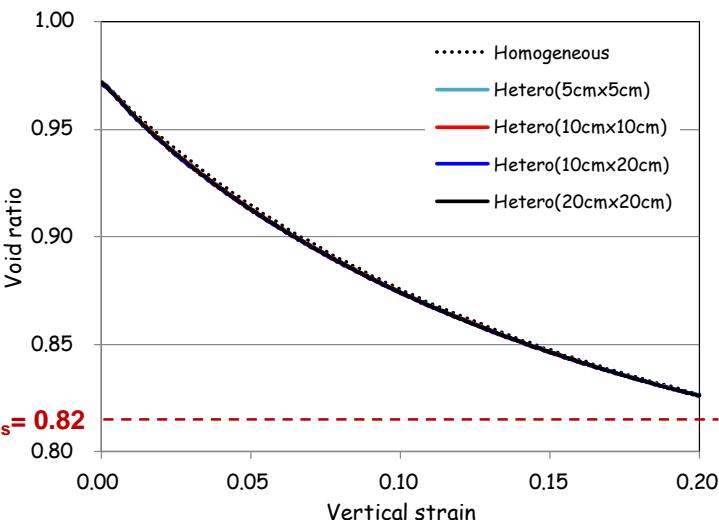
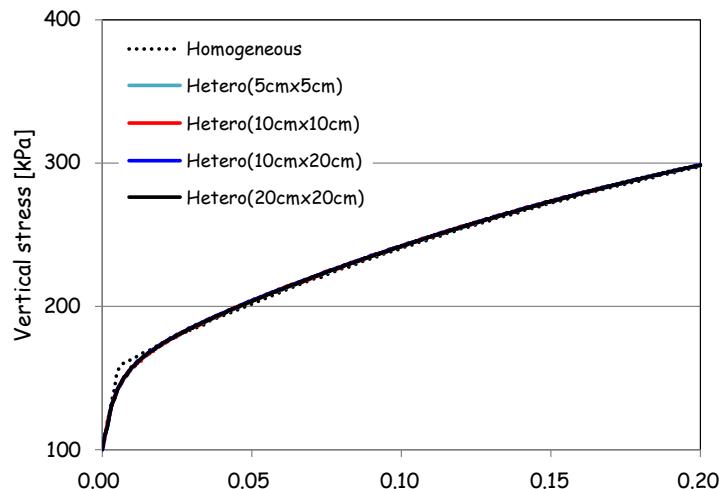


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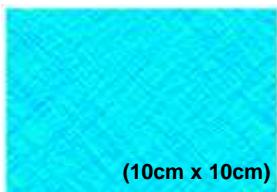


# What do we measure?

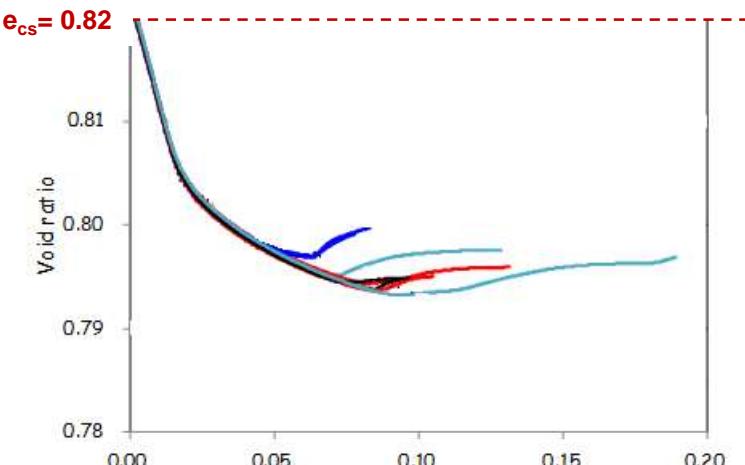
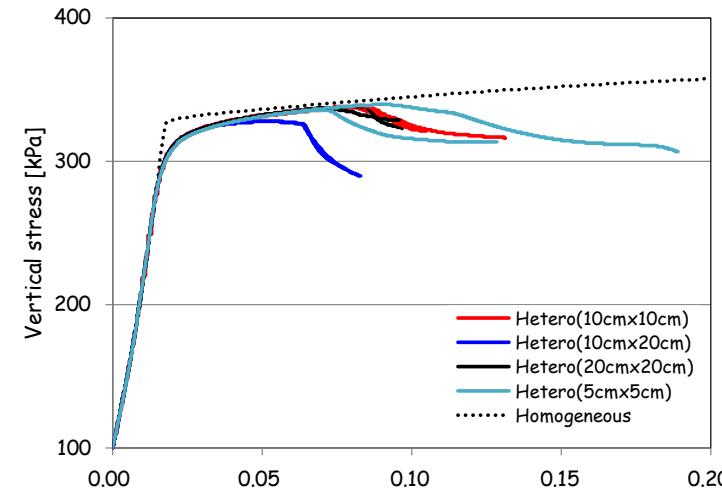
**Contractive sample:**  $\text{rnd}(e)=0.92-1.02$    **Note:**  $e_{cs} = 0.82$



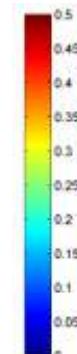
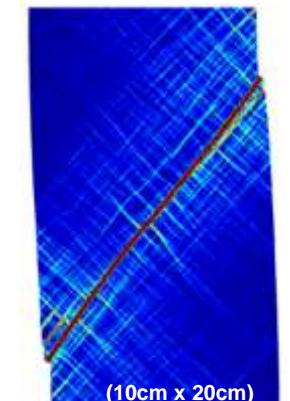
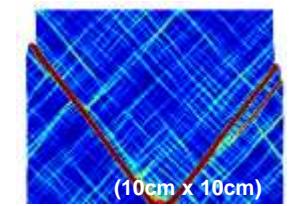
$\delta$ -fields @  $\varepsilon_z=20\%$



**At Critical State:**  $\text{rnd}(e)=0.77-0.87$    **Note:**  $e_{cs} = 0.82$



$\delta$ -fields @ end of test

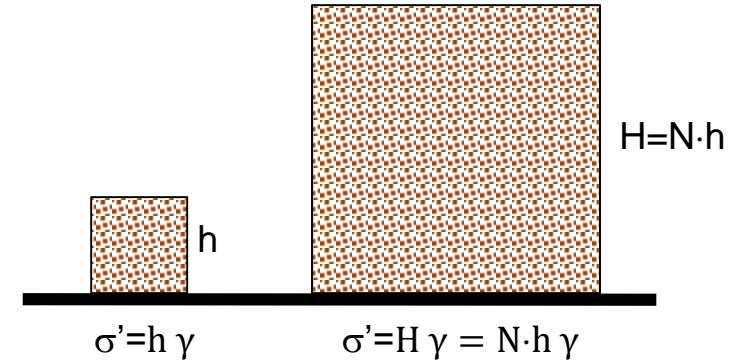


# Scales – Dimensionless ratios



**Similarity** (Galileo, 1564-1642)

*A giant made of the same proportions and material as an ordinary man would crush under his own weight*



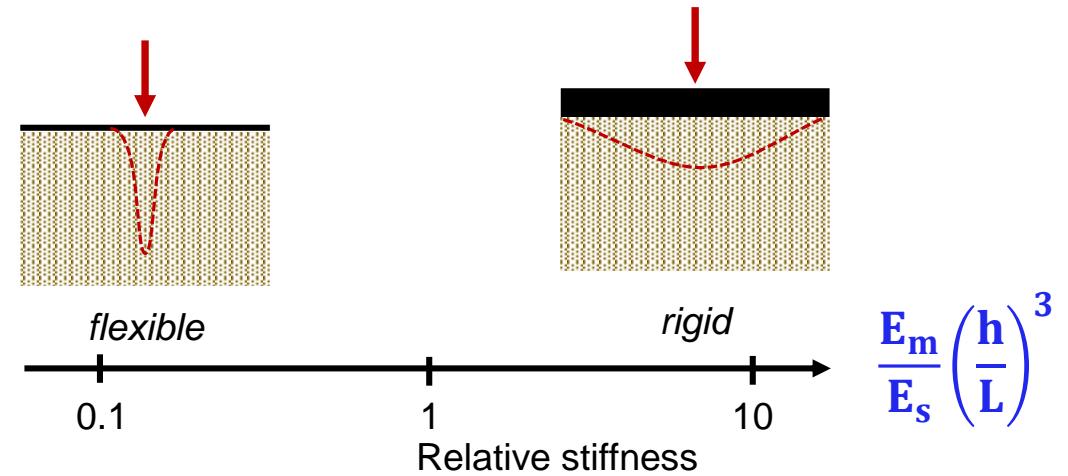
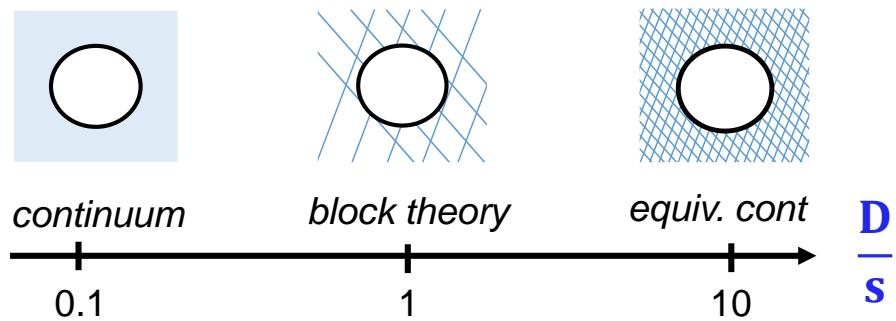
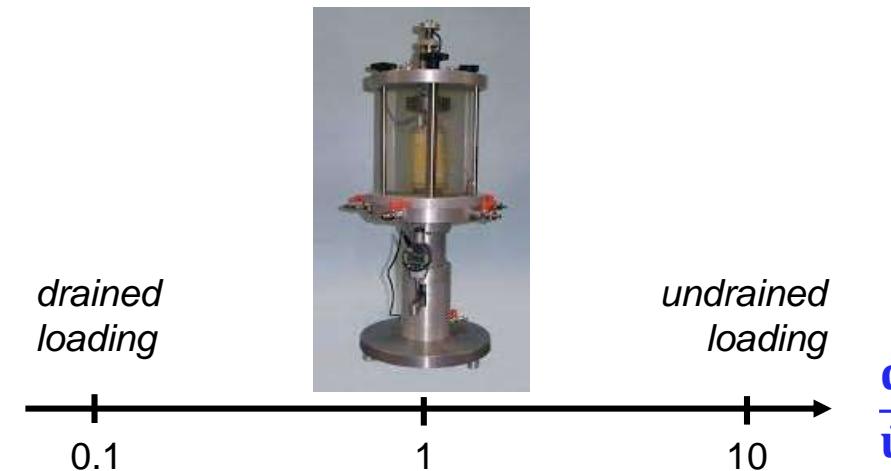
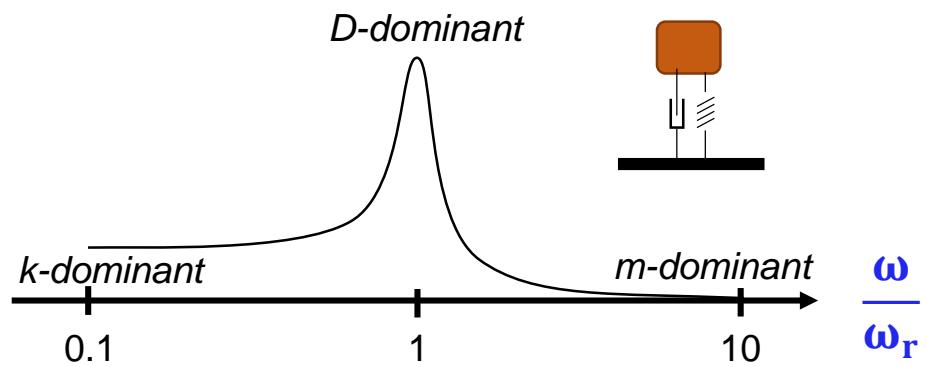
**$\pi$  theorem** (E. Buckingham 1867-1940 – Soil Physicist )

*A physical equation in terms of  $n$ -dimensional variables can be expressed as an equation of  $n-r$  dimensionless parameters where  $r$  is the number of dimensions involved.*

$$f(v_1, v_2, \dots v_n)$$

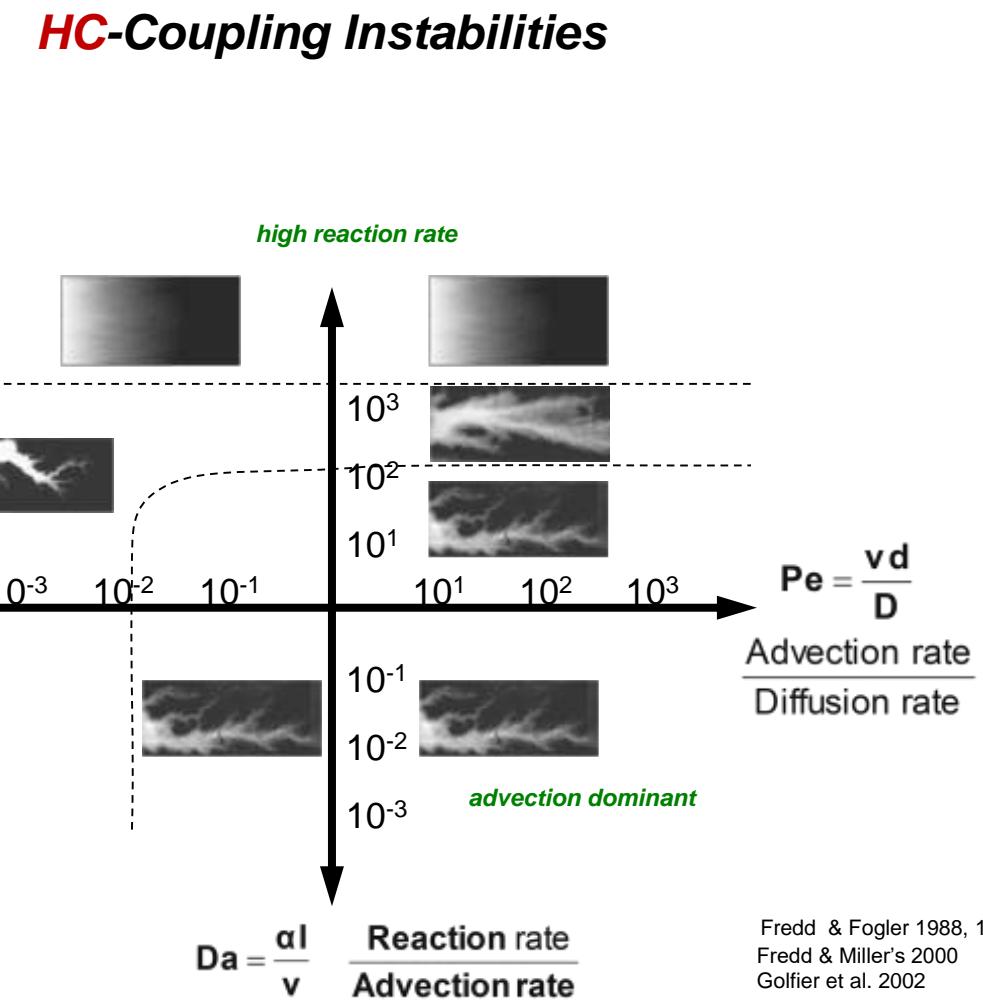
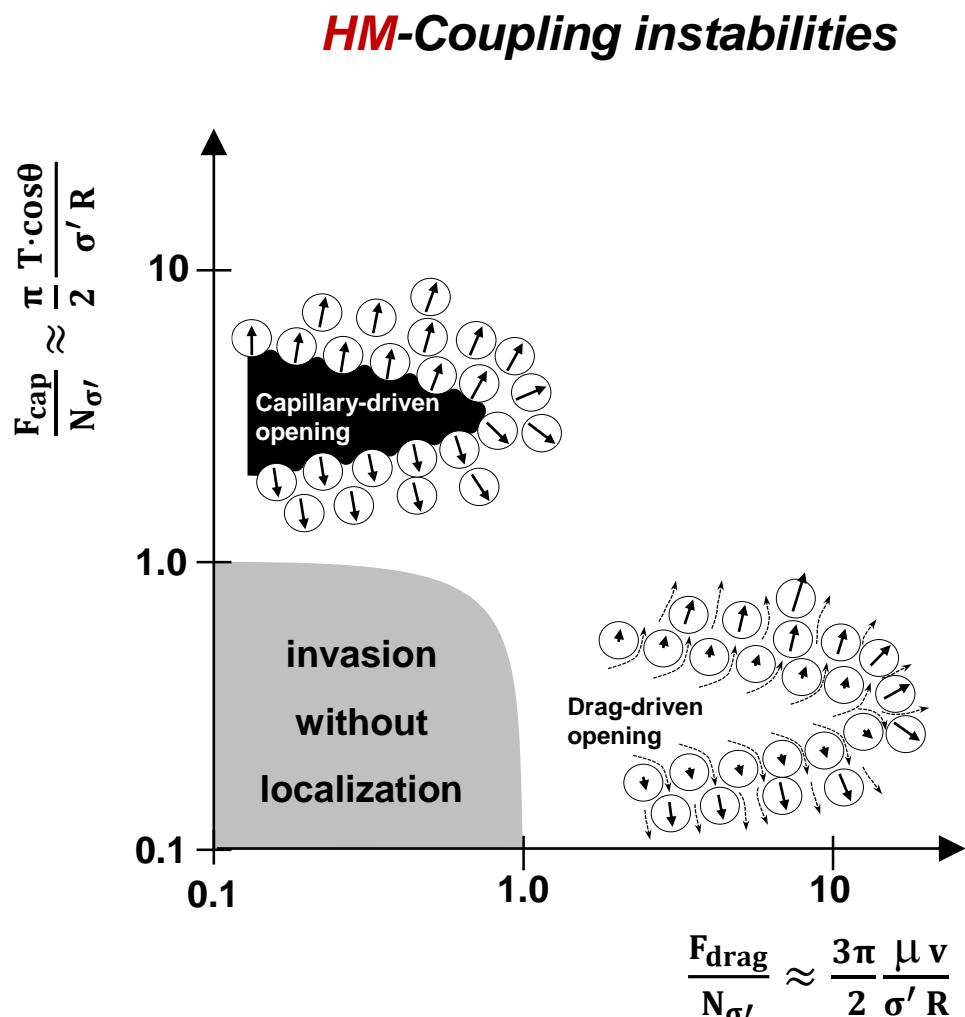
$$F(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots \pi_{n-r})$$

# $\pi$ -regime: Dominant conditions



*Characterization must be in the relevant  $\pi$ -domain*

# $\pi$ -regime: Dominant conditions



Fredd & Fogler 1988, 1998  
Fredd & Miller's 2000  
Gofier et al. 2002

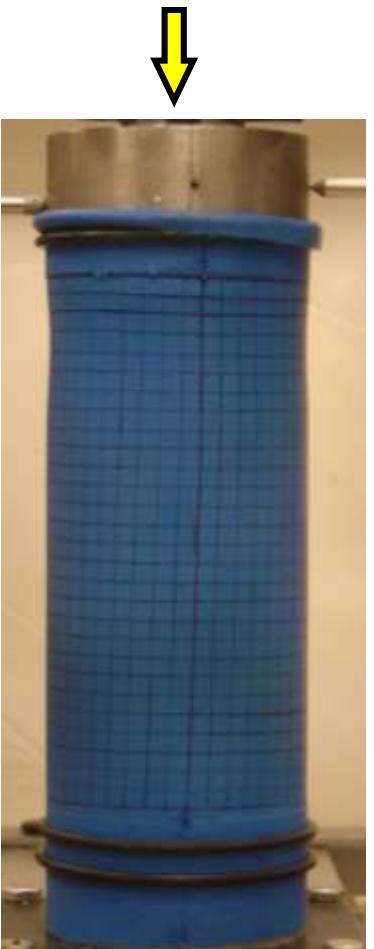
*Characterization must be in the relevant  $\pi$ -domain*

# Paradigm shift in experimentation

Old Paradigm:

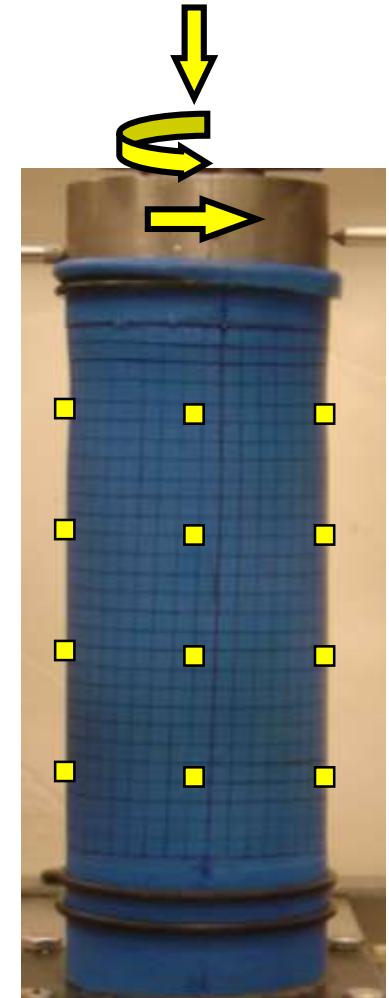
Specimen=Element

<i>Approach</i>	many simple tests
<i>Boundaries</i>	simplest possible
<i>Measurements</i>	very few
<i>Interpretation</i>	simple fitting
<i>Information per test</i>	very limited
<i>Number of tests</i>	many



# Paradigm shift in experimentation

	Old Paradigm: <u>Specimen=Element</u>	New Paradigm: <u>Specimen=System</u>
<i>Approach</i>	many simple tests	a few, information-rich tests
<i>Boundaries</i>	simplest possible	complex
<i>Measurements</i>	very few	many ( $x,y,z,t$ ) multisensory
<i>Interpretation</i>	simple fitting	model-based inversion
<i>Information per test</i>	very limited	as much as needed
<i>Number of tests</i>	many	just ~one



# Paradigm shift in experimentation

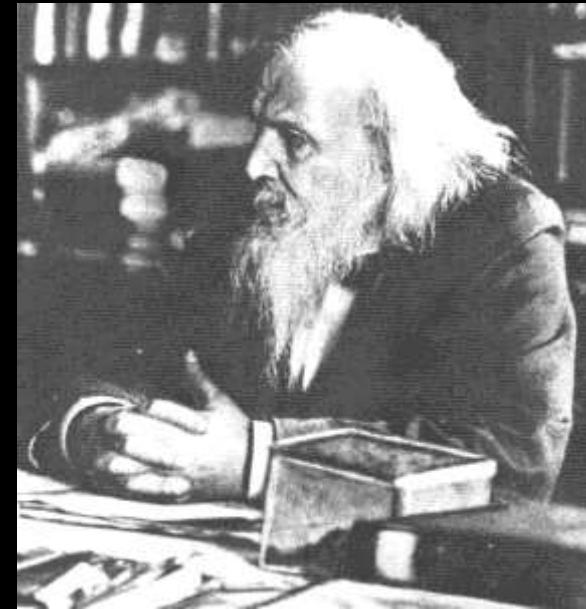
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<i>Information per test</i>	very limited	as much as needed
<i>Number of tests</i>	many	just ~one
<b>More radical?</b>	many tests	NO constitutive model !!



*The future is no longer [quite] what it used to be* (Valery 1937)

Andrade @ Caltech

Mendeleev (1860's)



What do we measure?

Data → information

Computer-assisted experimentation

“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?

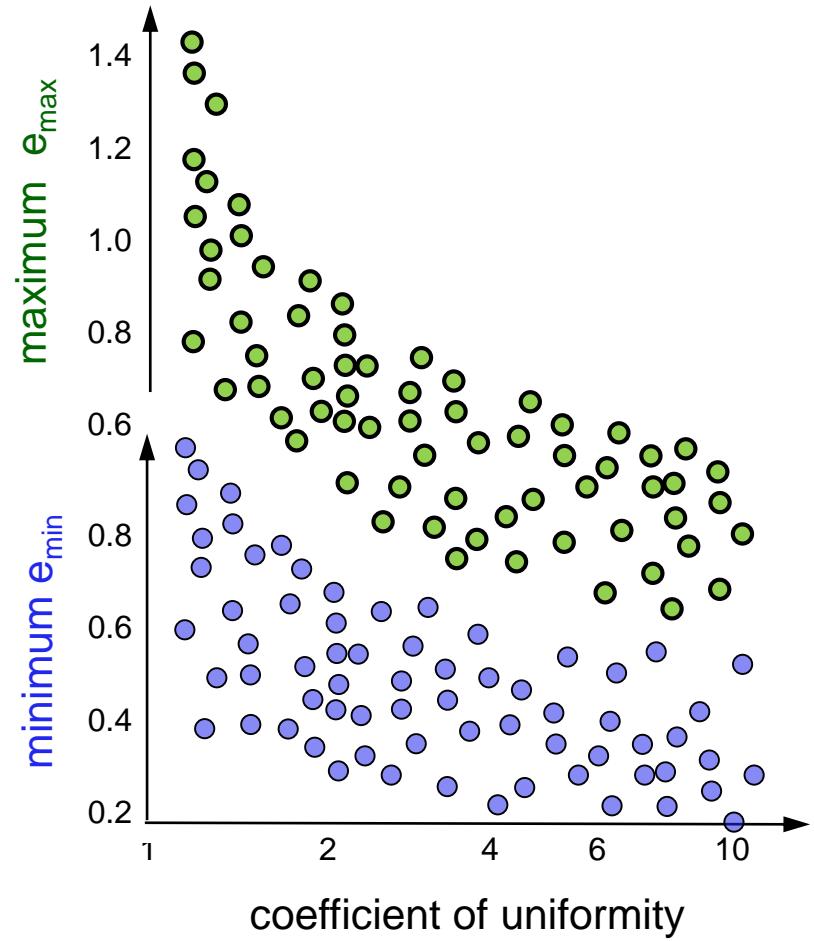
Other trends in experimentation

Closing thoughts

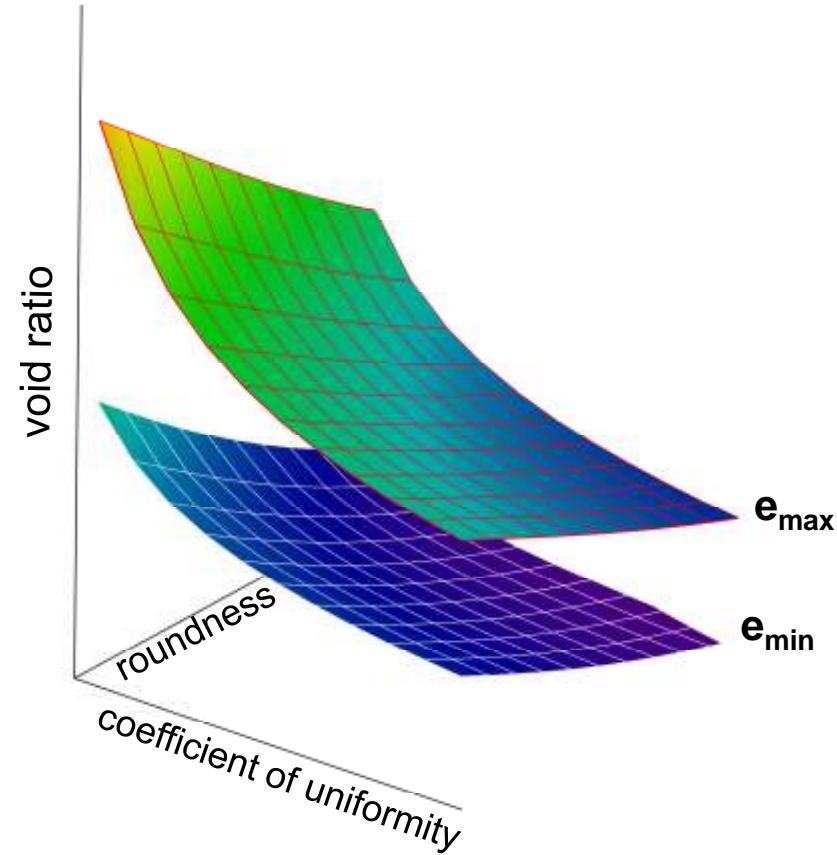
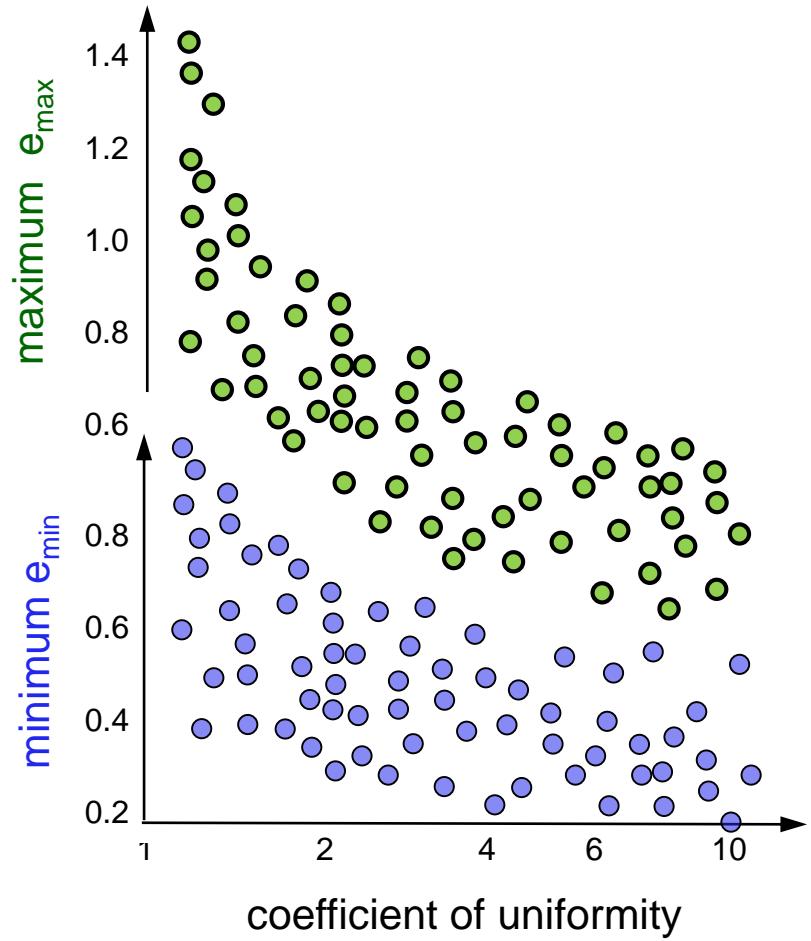


Bronowski

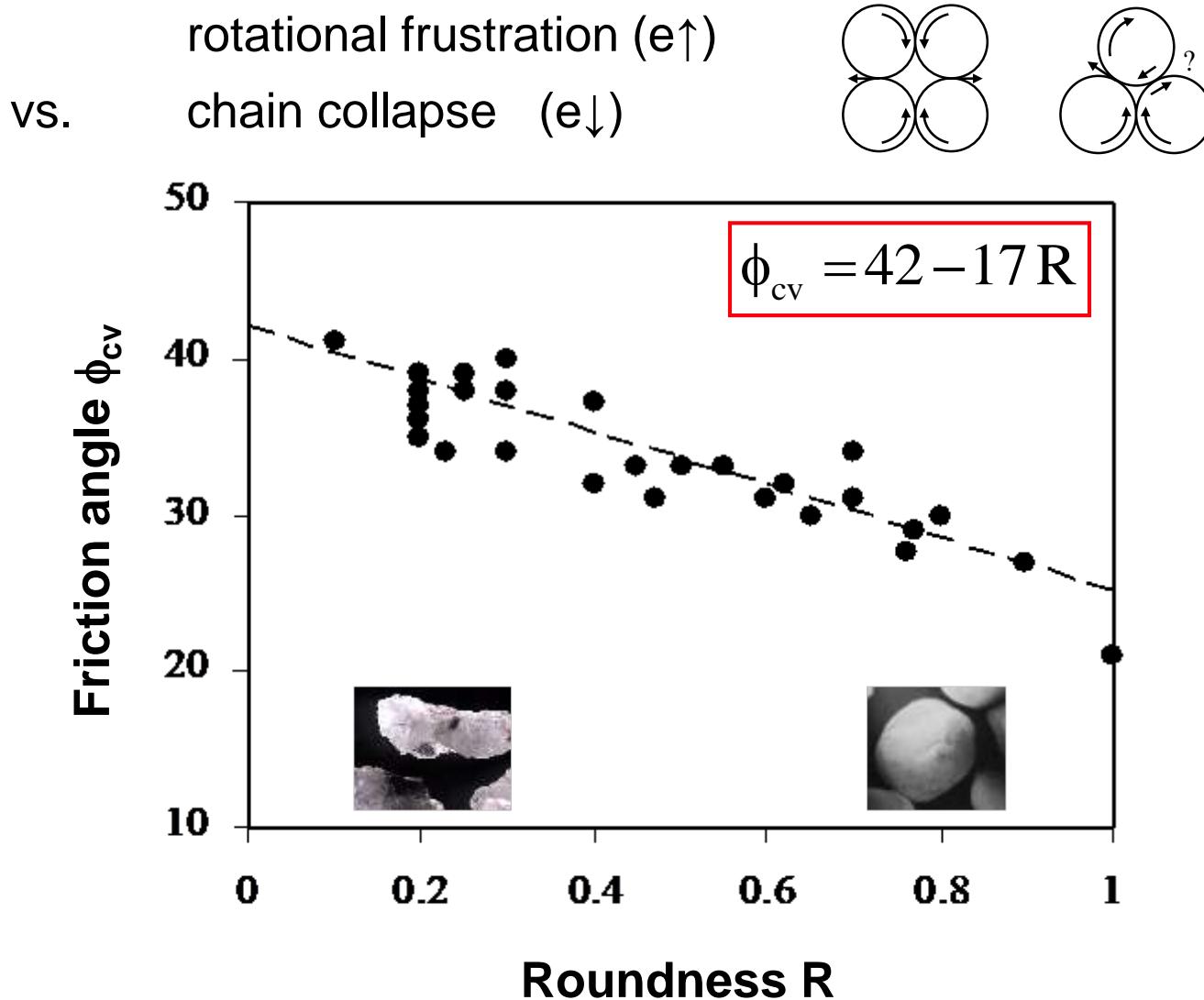
# Databases: To identify the $n^{\text{th}}$ control variable



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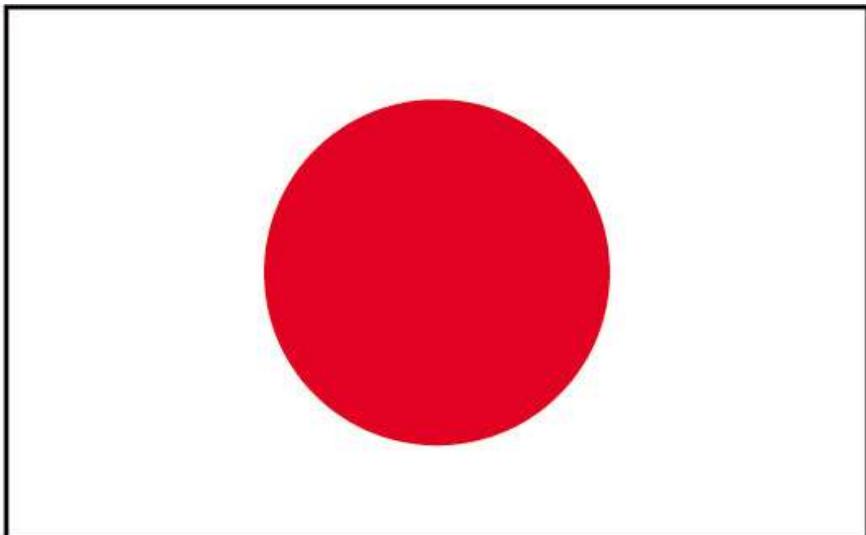


# Databases: To explore causal relations

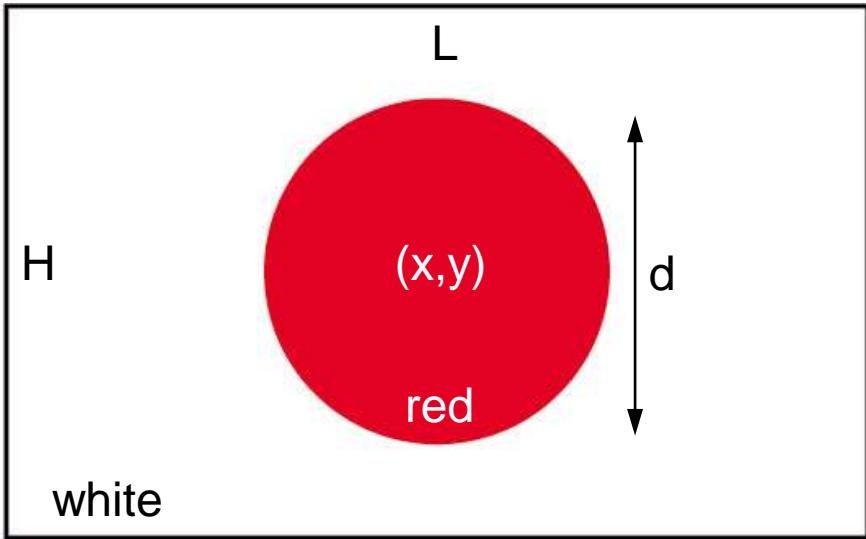


# Information needed < Information sought

100 MP  
( $10^8$  pixels !)



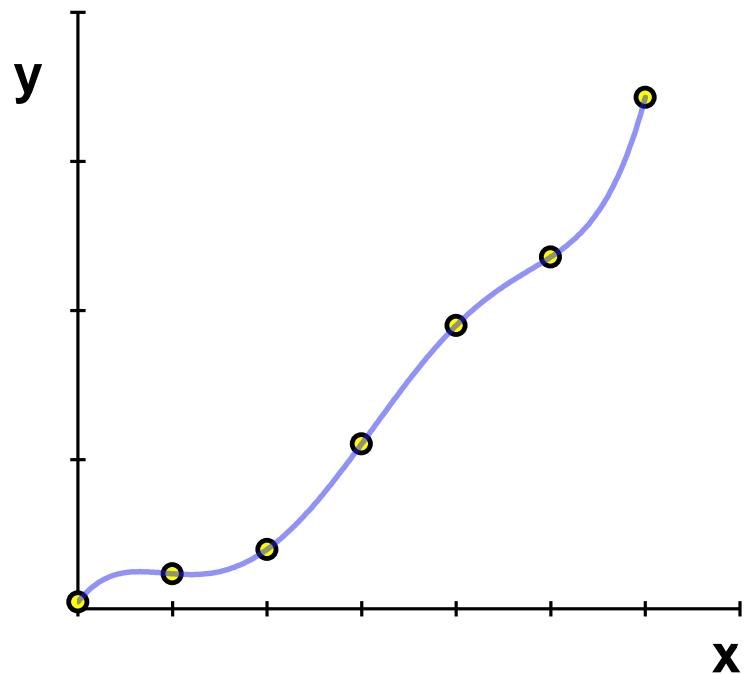
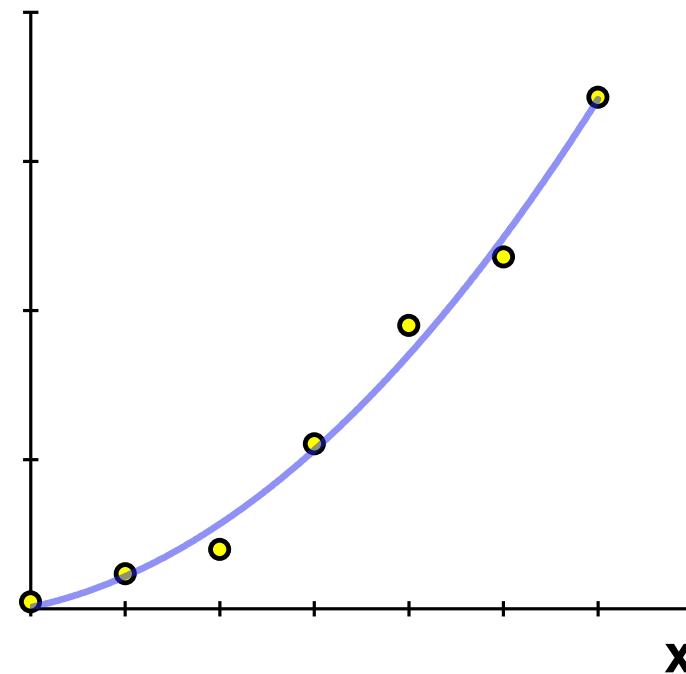
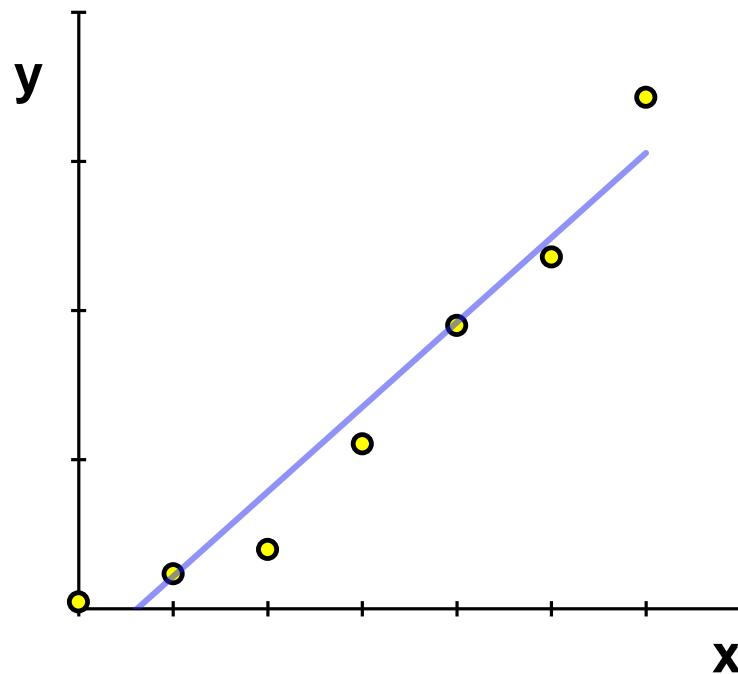
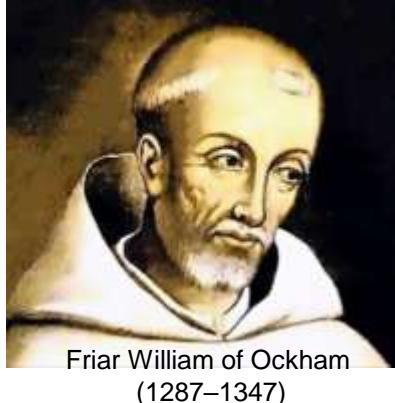
7 parameters



Paul Signac 1909 - Chateau des Papes, Avignon



# Ockham's Razor: Prefer model with fewer parameters



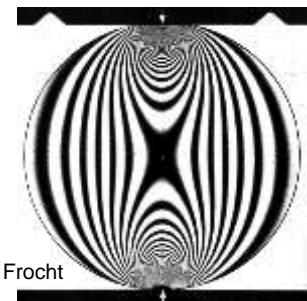
We tend to adopt overparameterized models

Deep learning? Huge- $n$

Physics-inspired models...!

# Physics-inspired... data driven: Small strain stiffness $f(\sigma')$

## Contact deformation

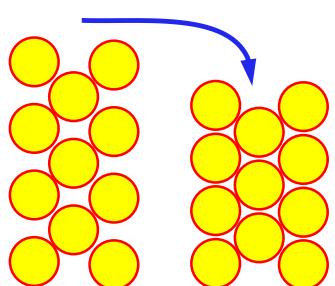


**Hertz**

$$V_s = \alpha \left( \frac{\sigma'_{mean}}{kPa} \right)^\beta$$

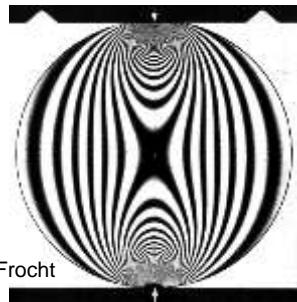
Note: NO  $f(e)$

## Fabric change



# Physics-inspired... data driven: Small strain stiffness $f(\sigma')$

## Contact deformation

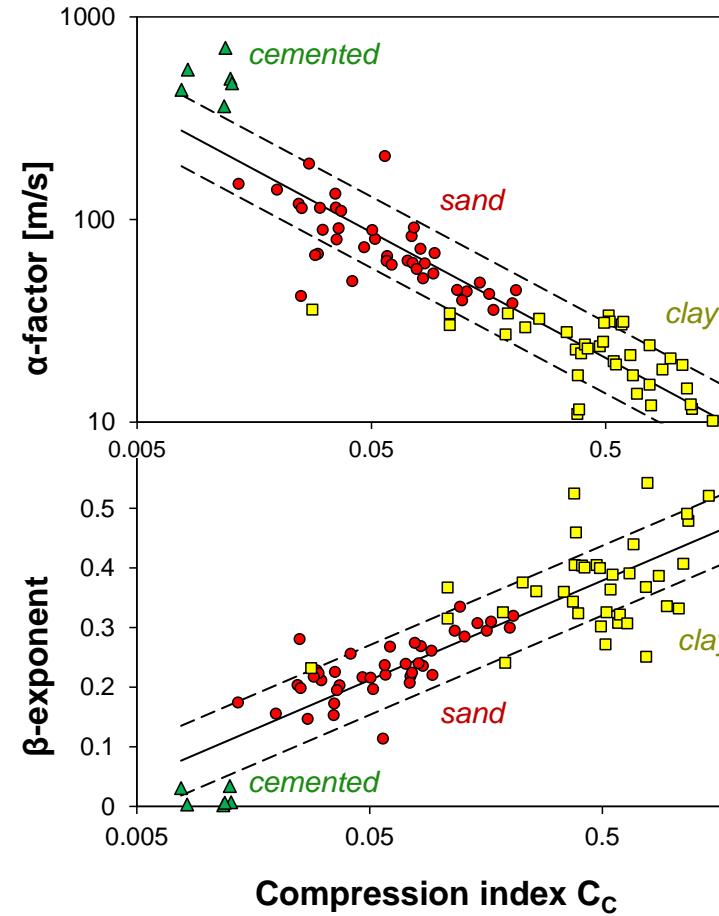
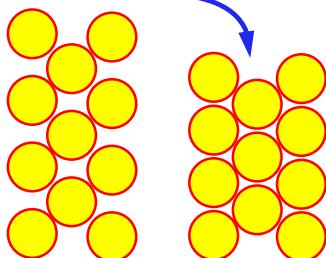


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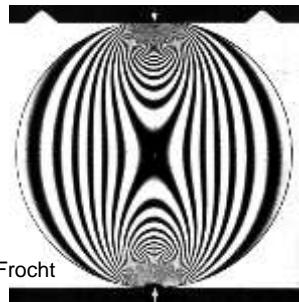
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## Fabric change



# Physics-inspired... data driven: Small strain stiffness $f(\sigma')$

## Contact deformation

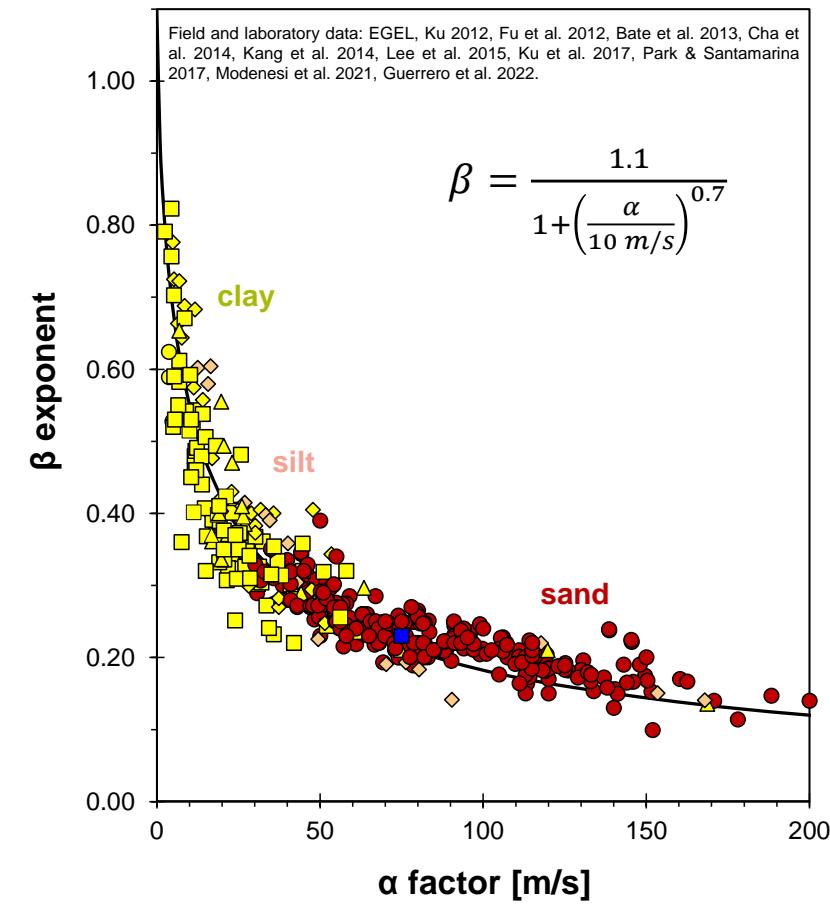
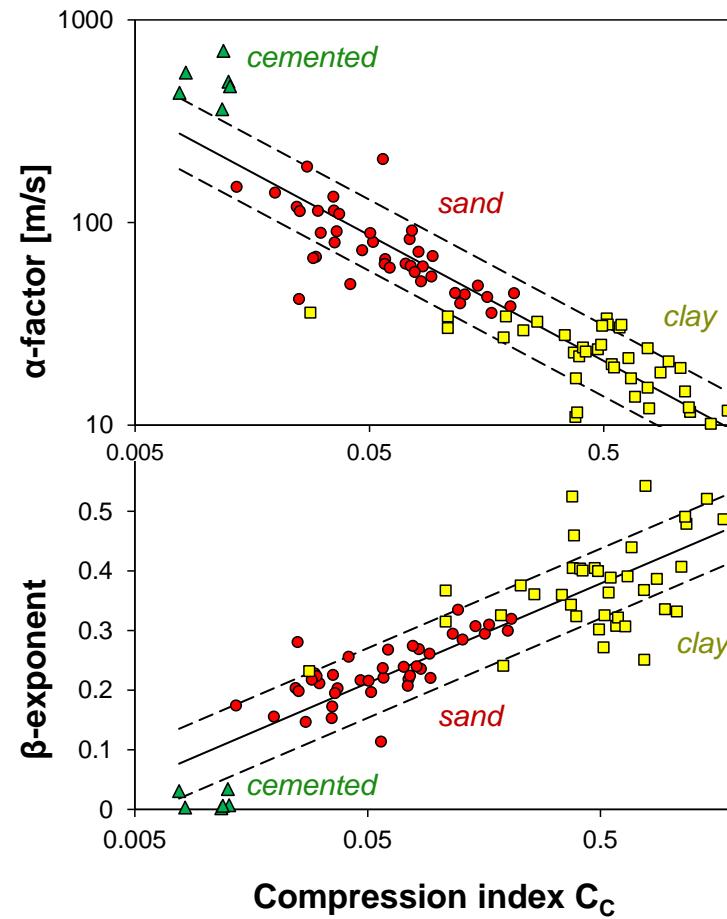
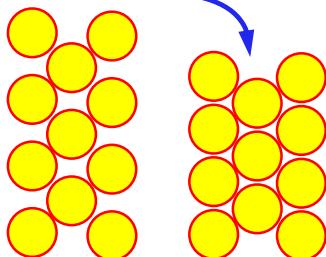


**Hertz**

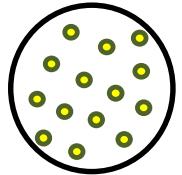
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## Fabric change



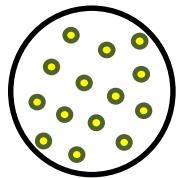
# Physics-inspired... data driven: Compressibility



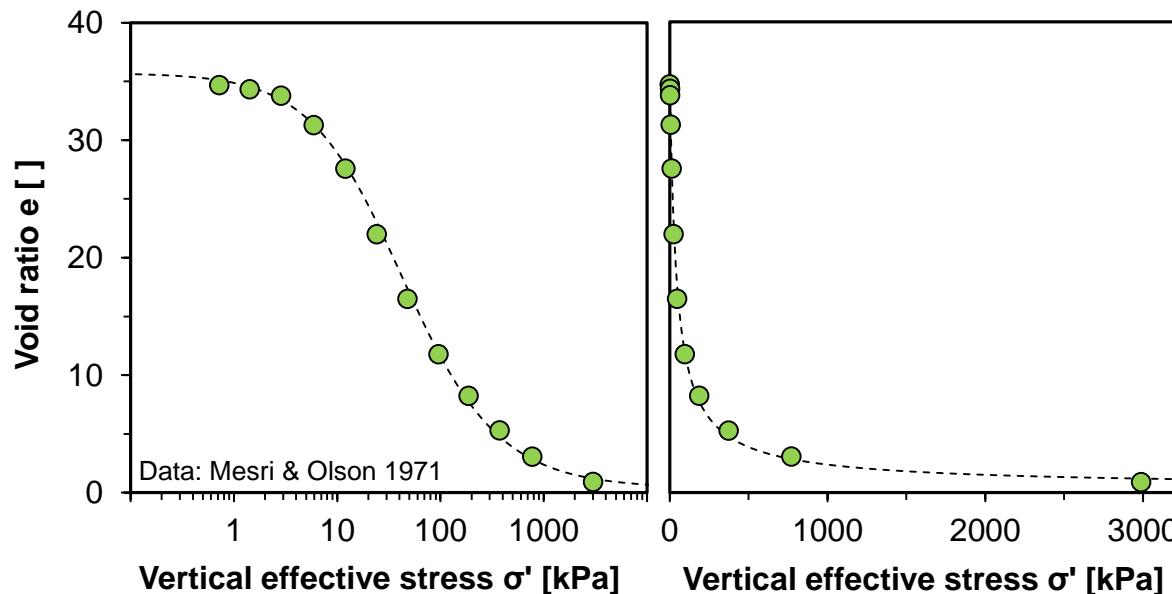
Power	From gas to soil <b>P·V=const</b>	$e = e_H + (e_L - e_H) \left( \frac{\sigma' + \sigma_c'}{\sigma_c'} \right)^{-\beta}$	Hansen (1969) Butterfield (1979) Juárez-Badillo (1981) Houlsby & Wroth, (1991) Pestana & Whittle (1995) Bauer (1996)
Exponent.	Gompertz function	$e = e_H + (e_L - e_H) \cdot \exp^{-(\sigma'/\sigma_c')^\beta}$	Cargill (1984 – $\beta=1$ ) Gregory et al. (2006)

Wide stress range: seek asymptotically correct models

# Physics-inspired... data driven: Compressibility

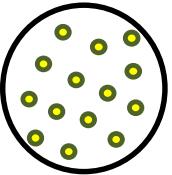


Power	From gas to soil <b>P·V=const</b>	$e = e_H + (e_L - e_H) \left( \frac{\sigma' + \sigma_c'}{\sigma_c'} \right)^{-\beta}$	Hansen (1969) Butterfield (1979) Juárez-Badillo (1981) Houlsby & Wroth, (1991) Pestana & Whittle (1995) Bauer (1996)
Exponent.	Gompertz function	$e = e_H + (e_L - e_H) \cdot \exp^{-(\sigma'/\sigma_c')^\beta}$	Cargill (1984 – $\beta=1$ ) Gregory et al. (2006)

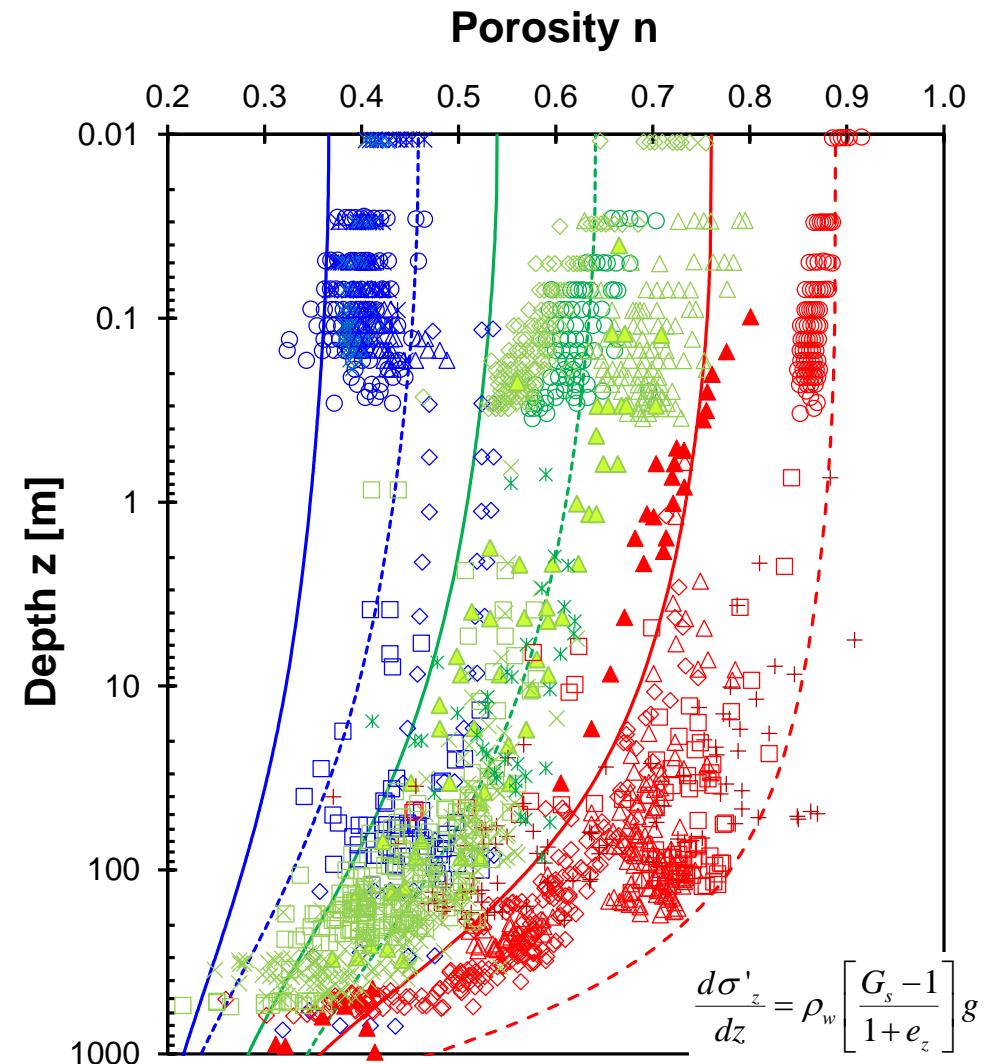
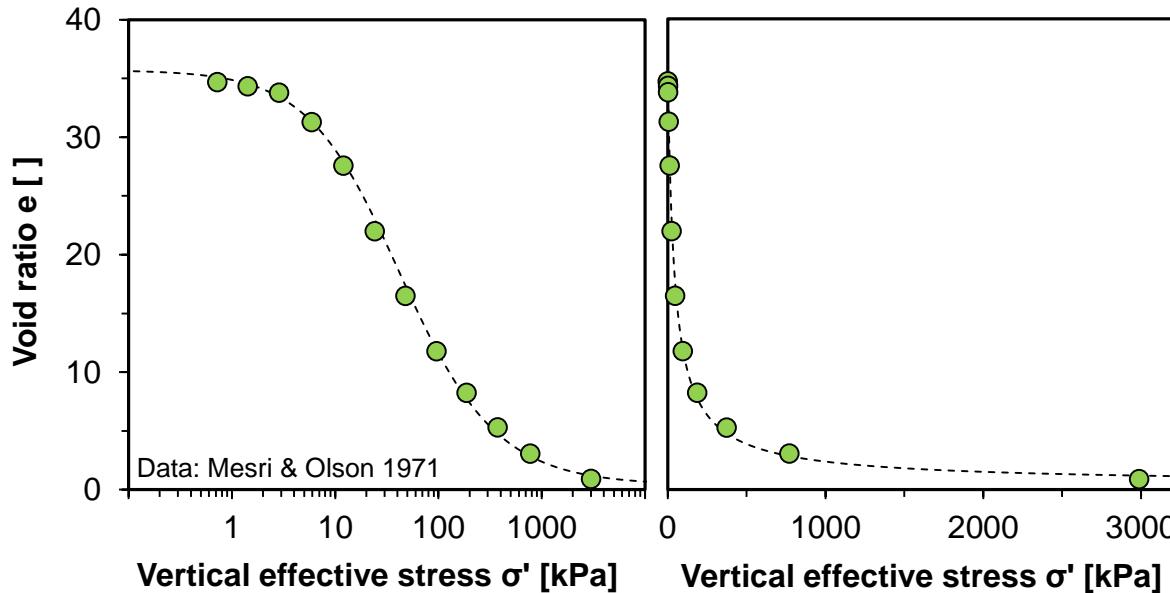


Wide stress range: seek asymptotically correct models

# Physics-inspired... data driven: Compressibility



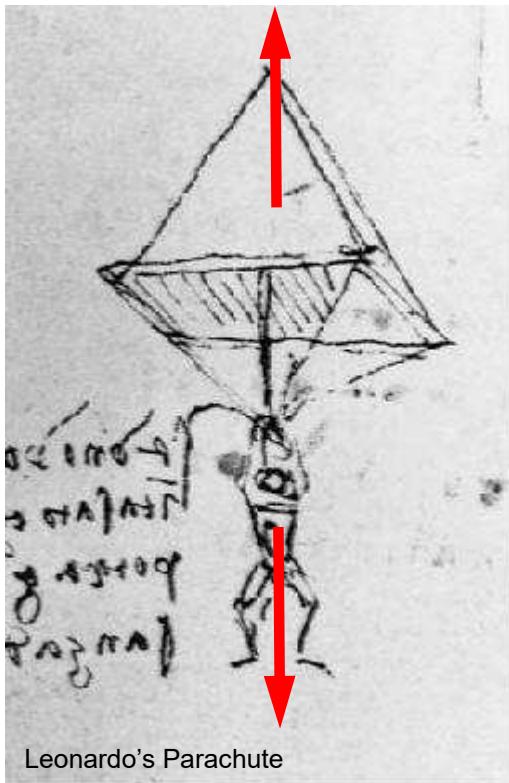
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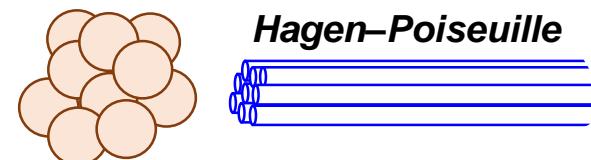
Data: Briggs (1994), Jackson et al. (1996), Richardson and Briggs (1993), Goldammer (1997), Carter et al. (1999), Feary et al. (2000), D'Hondt et al. (2003), Kominz et al. (2011).

Wide stress range: seek asymptotically correct models

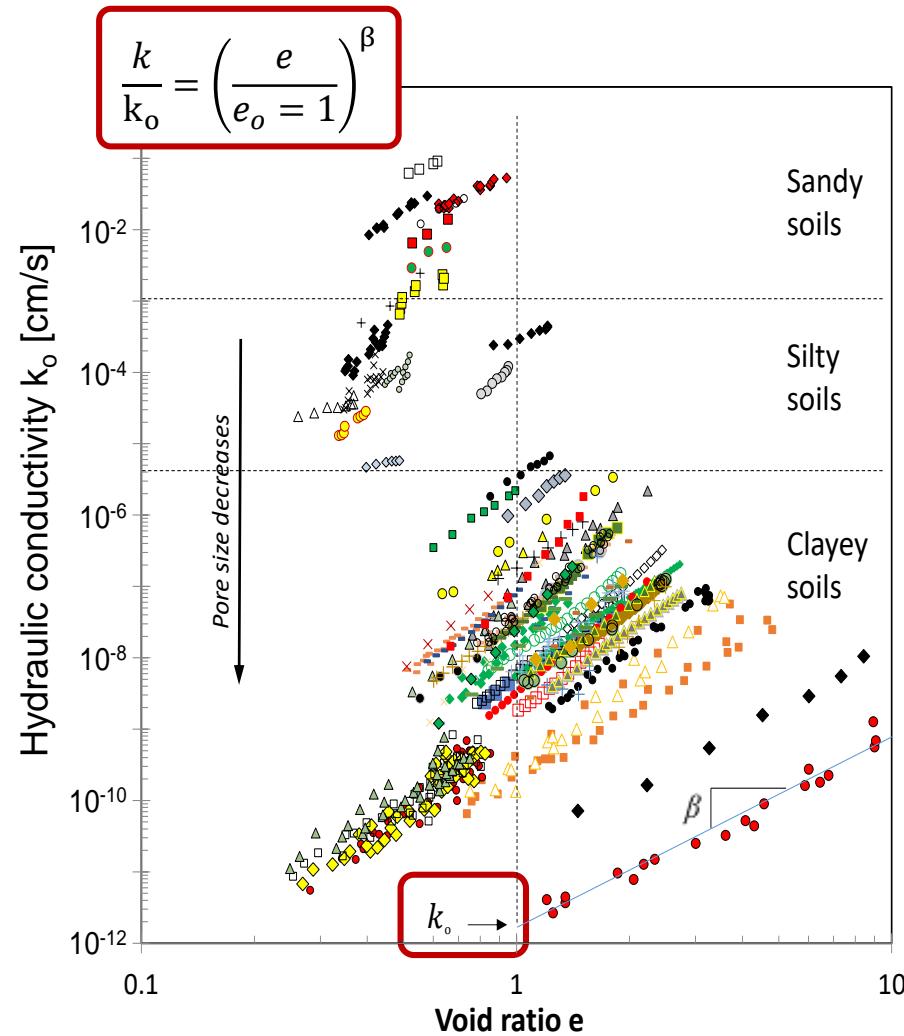
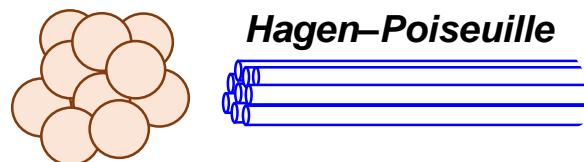
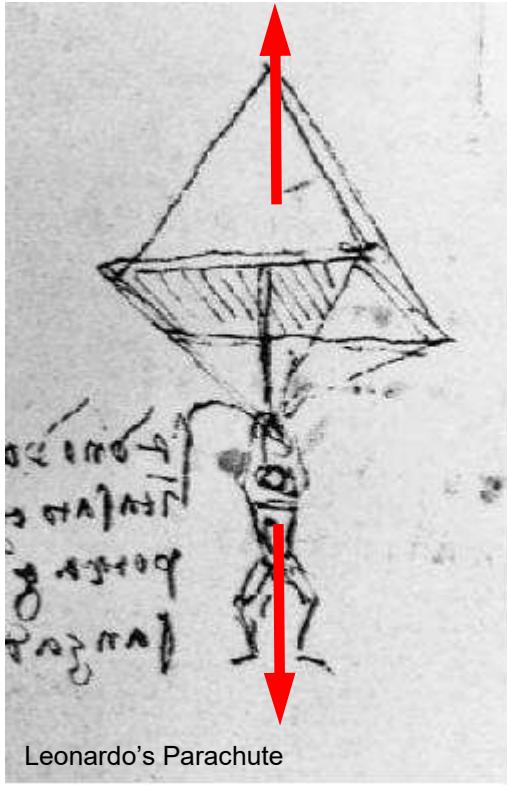
# Physics-inspired... data driven: Hydraulic conductivity



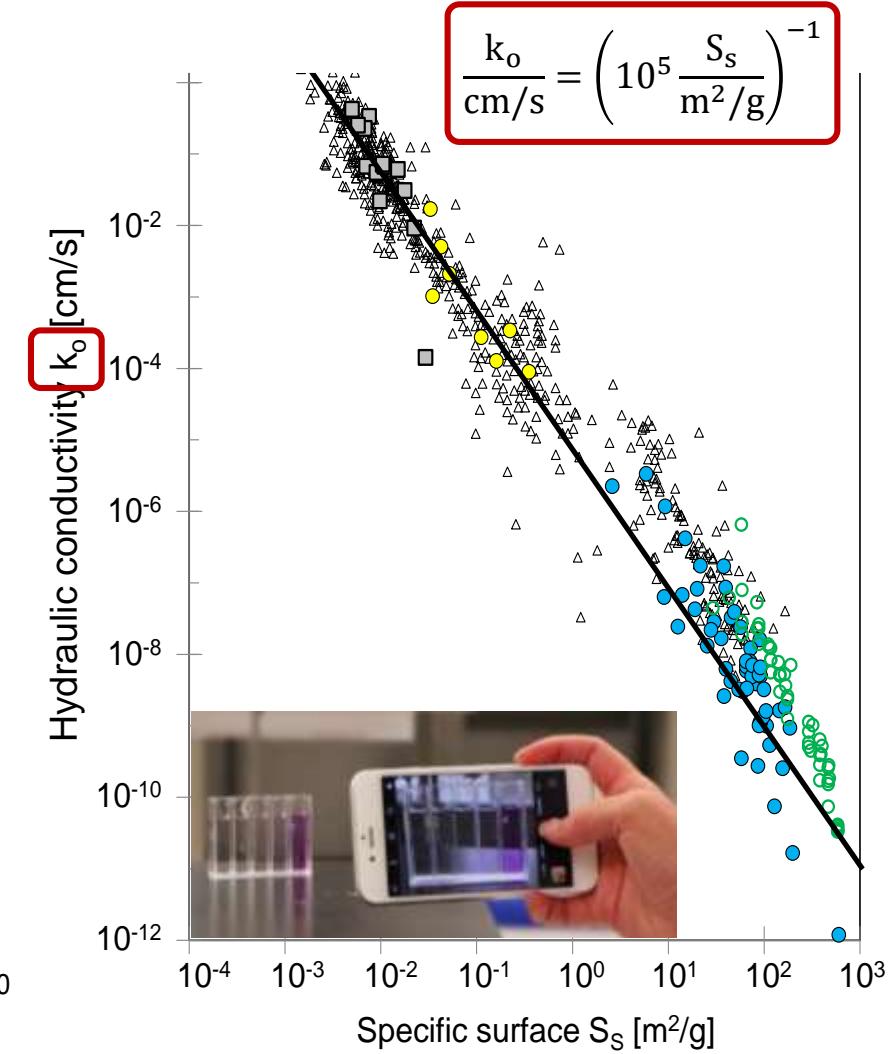
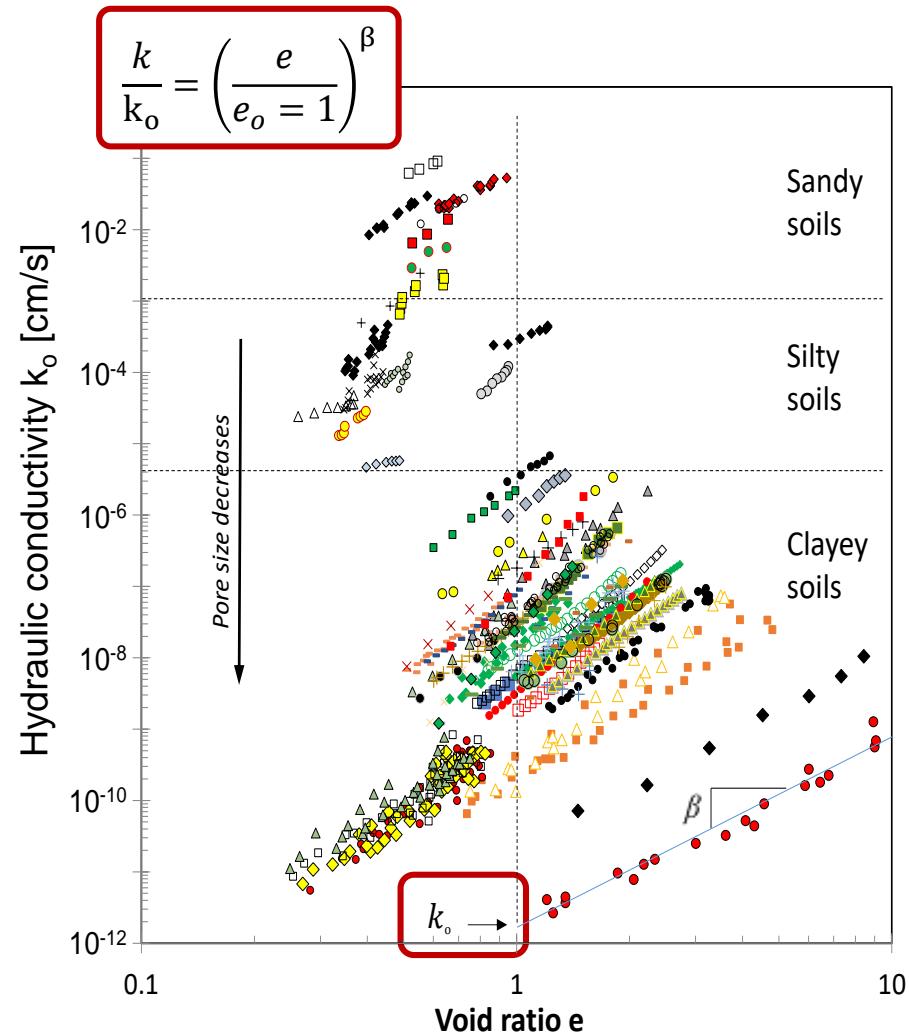
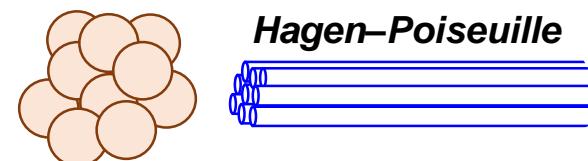
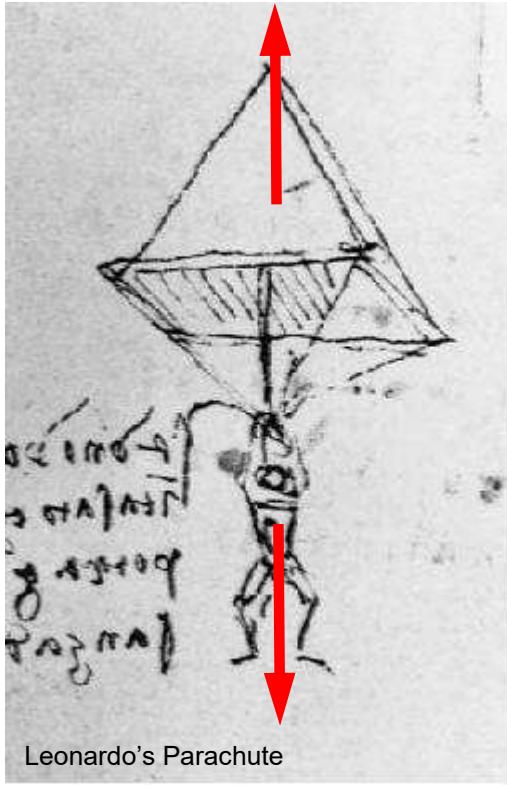
*Hagen–Poiseuille*



# Physics-inspired... data driven: Hydraulic conductivity



# Physics-inspired... data driven: Hydraulic conductivity



**What do we measure?**

**Data → information**

**Computer-assisted experimentation**

**“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?**

**Other trends in experimentation**

**Closing thoughts**

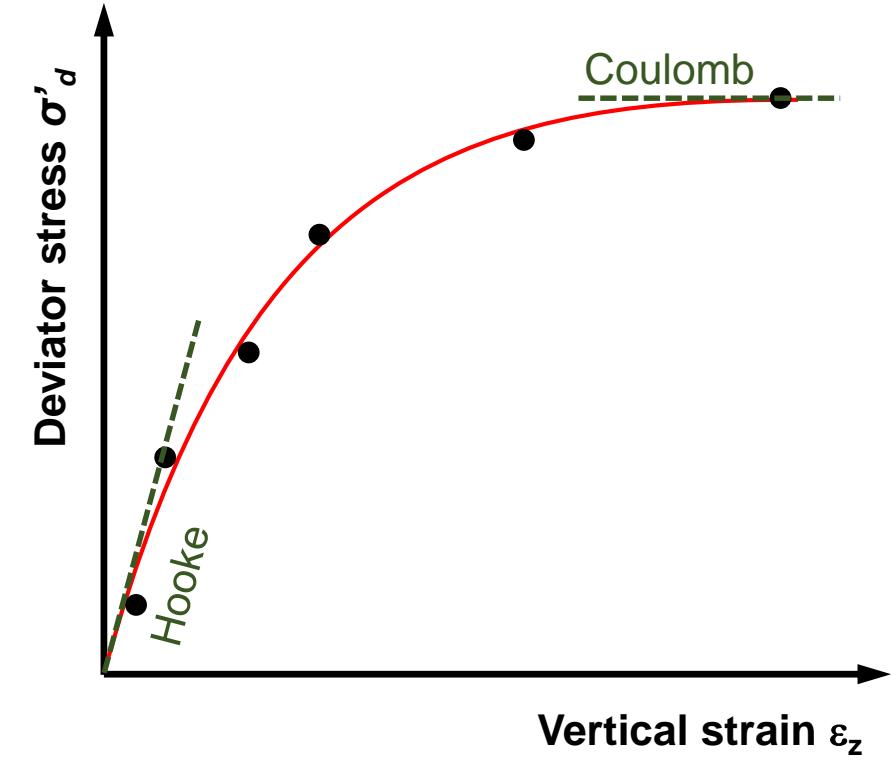
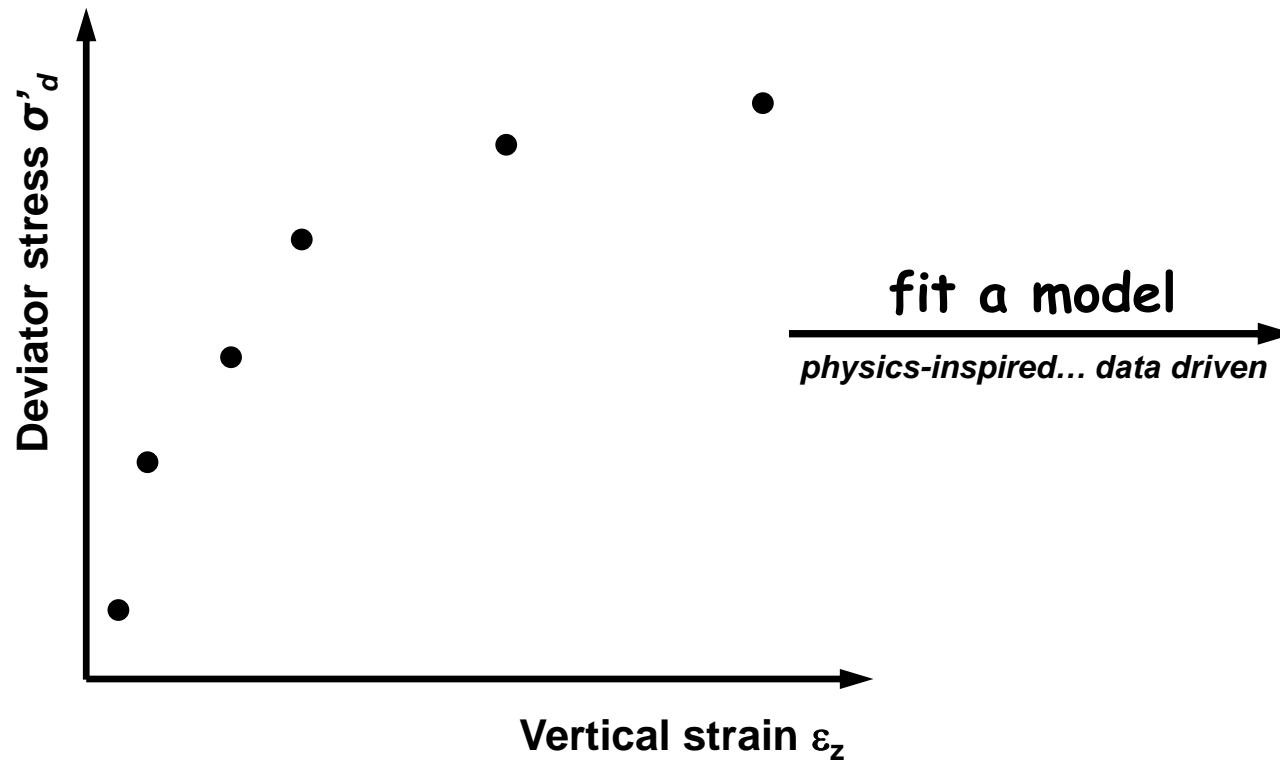


Execution

Interpretation, modeling, inversion

# Inversion: Regression

Least Squares



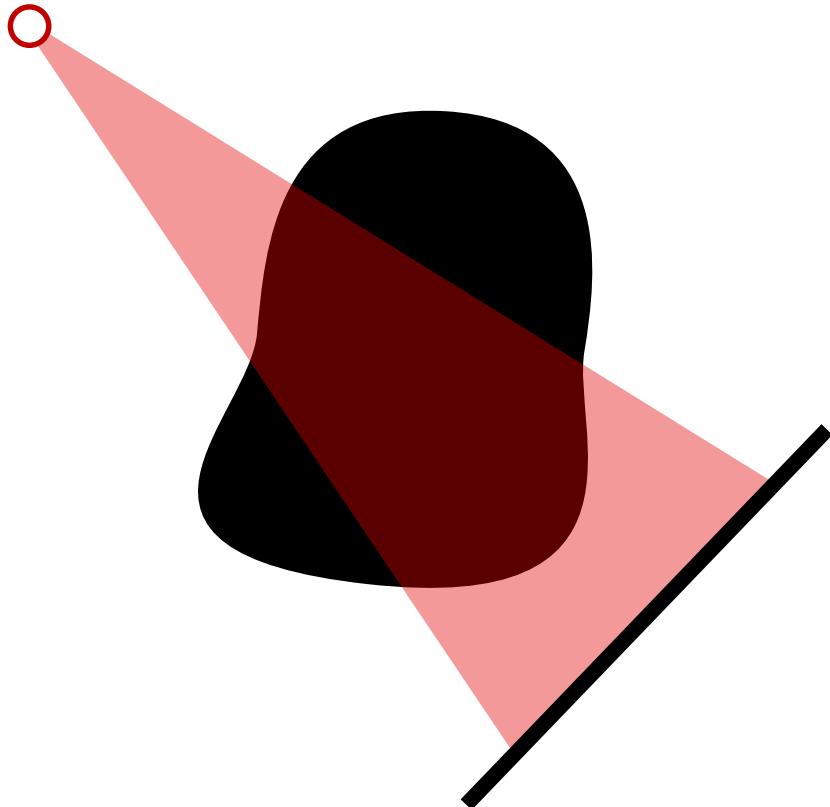
*Model = abstraction of reality → uncertain*

*"Soil property" = a model parameter*

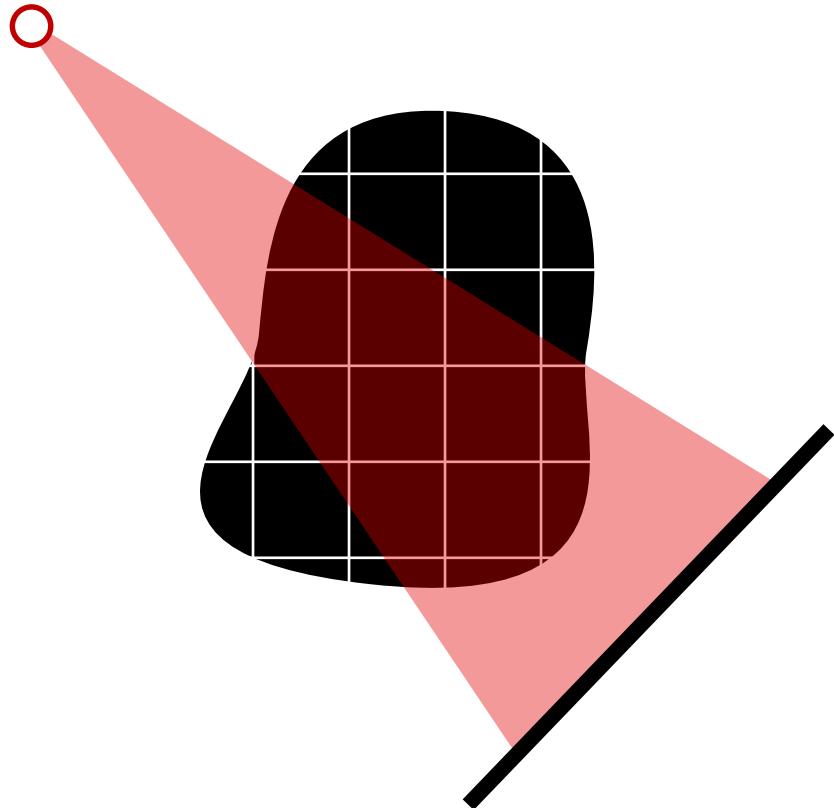
# Inversion: Tomography



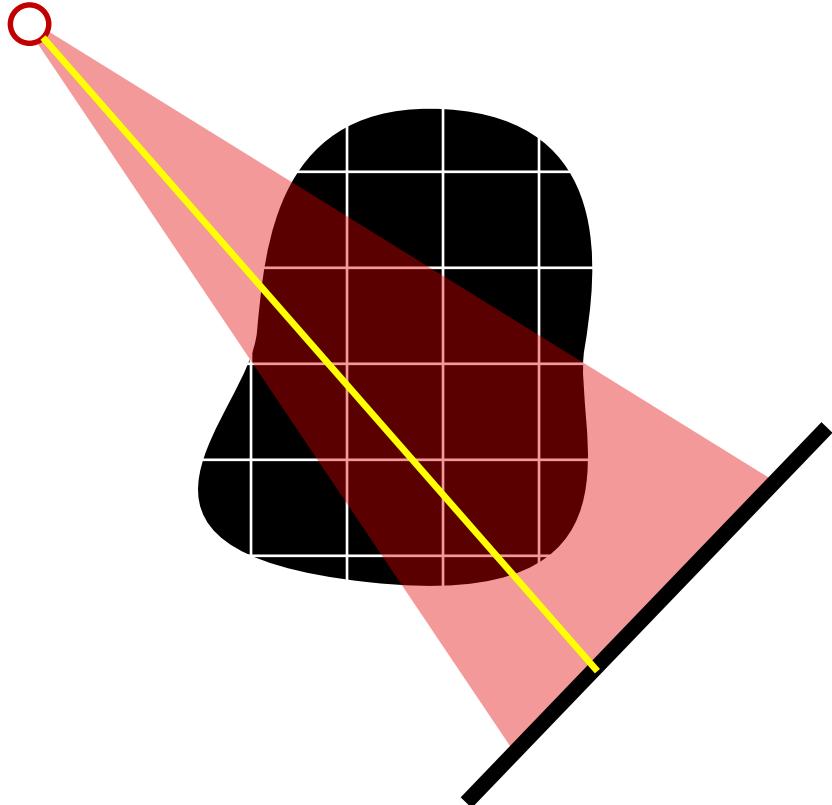
# Inversion: Tomography



# Inversion: Tomography

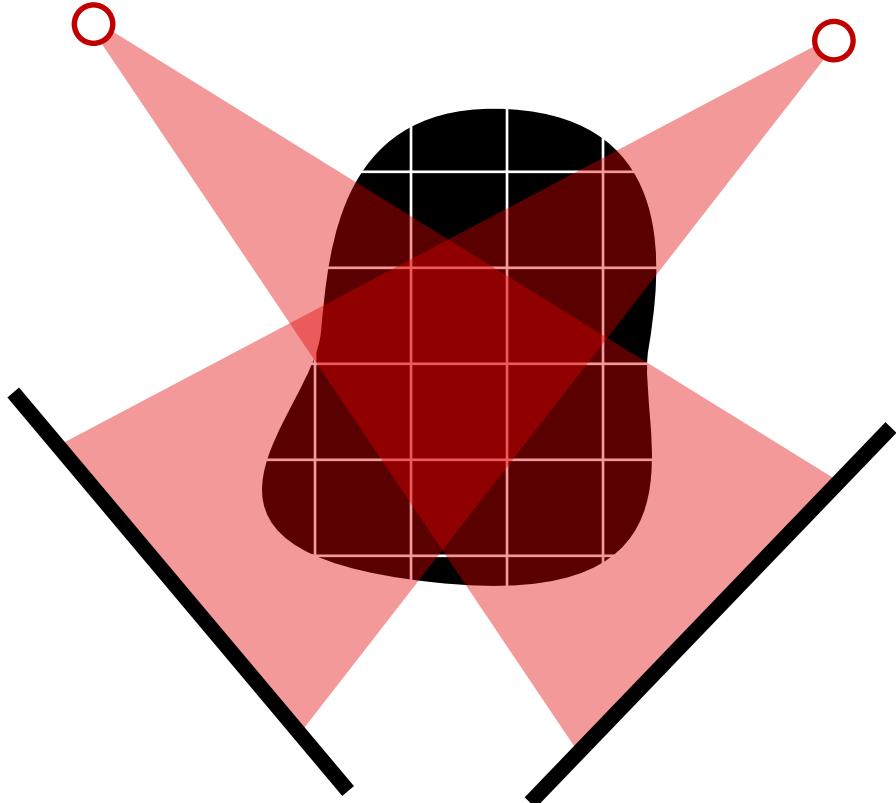


# Inversion: Tomography



$$A_i = \ell_{i,1}\alpha_1 + \ell_{i,2}\alpha_2 + \cdots + \ell_{i,N}\alpha_N$$

# Inversion: Tomography

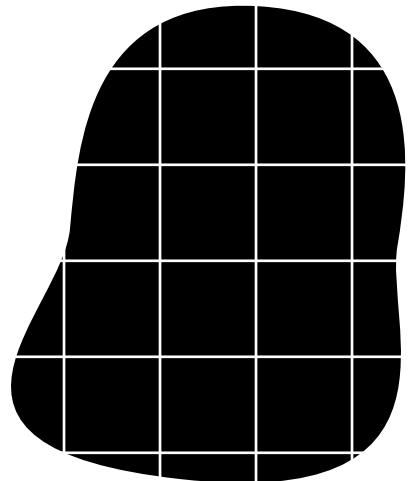


$$A_i = \ell_{i,1}\alpha_1 + \ell_{i,2}\alpha_2 + \cdots + \ell_{i,N}\alpha_N$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ \dots \\ A_m \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \ell_{1,1} & \dots & \ell_{1,N} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \ell_{m,1} & \dots & \ell_{m,N} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{measured}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \dots \\ \alpha_N \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{\text{imposed model} \\ (\text{known})}} \underbrace{\quad}_{\text{want}}$$

# Inversion: Tomography

Least Squares



$$A_i = \ell_{i,1}\alpha_1 + \ell_{i,2}\alpha_2 + \cdots + \ell_{i,N}\alpha_N$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ \dots \\ A_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \ell_{1,1} & \dots & \ell_{1,N} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \ell_{m,1} & \dots & \ell_{m,N} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \dots \\ \alpha_N \end{bmatrix}$$

↷  $A = L \alpha$

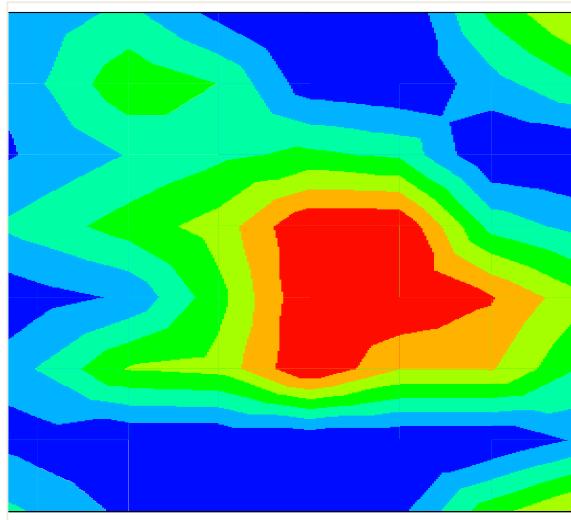
$$\alpha = (L^T L)^{-1} L^T A$$

↶ Least square

Cannot invert?

# Inversion: Tomograph

# Least Squares



$$A_i = \ell_{i,1}\alpha_1 + \ell_{i,2}\alpha_2 + \cdots + \ell_{i,N}\alpha_N$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ \dots \\ A_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \ell_{1,1} & \dots & \ell_{1,N} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \ell_{m,1} & \dots & \ell_{m,N} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \dots \\ \alpha_N \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = L \cdot \alpha$$

$$\alpha = (L^T L)^{-1} L^T A$$

$$\alpha = \underbrace{(\mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{L} + \delta \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{A}}_{\text{selected model assumptions test design}}$$

what you get..!!      selected model assumptions test design      what you measure

Increase the main diagonal!

what you  
get...!!

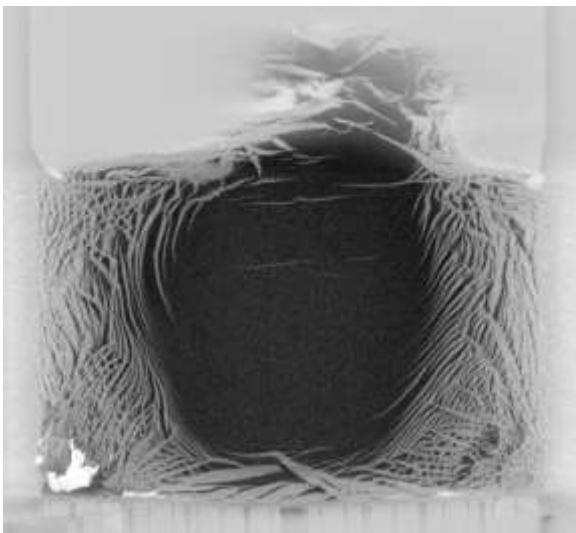
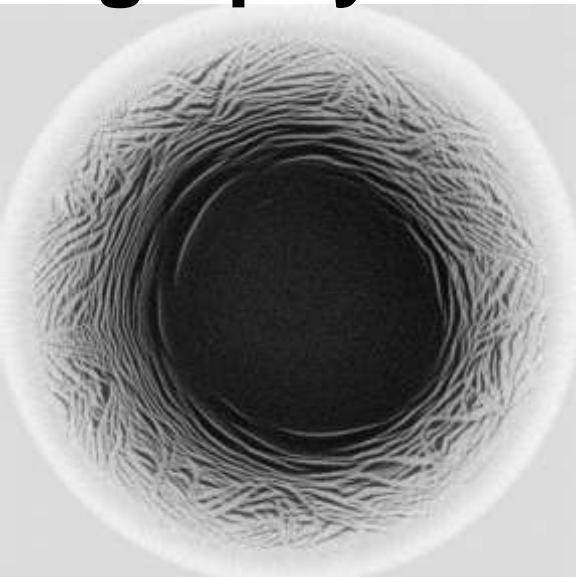
## selected model assumptions test design

## what you measure

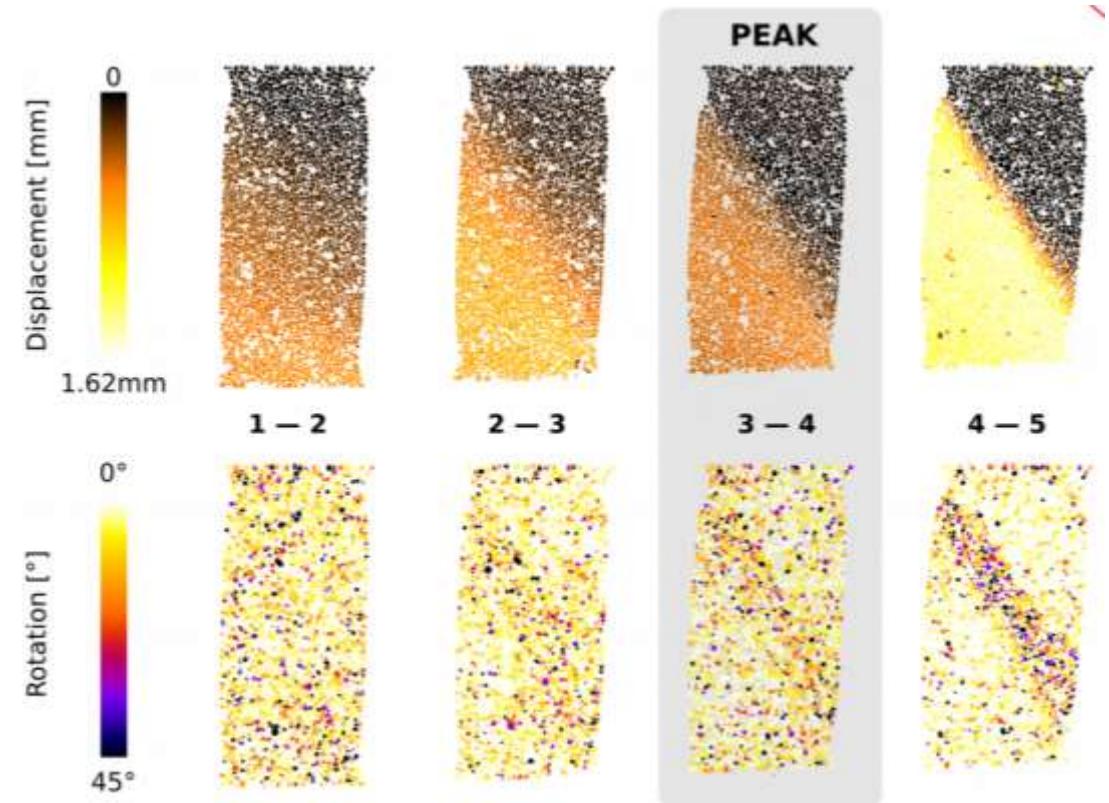
## *Caution: overparameterized model*

*Design experiments for "invertibility"*

# X-ray Tomography



Viggiani et al. 2015



Ando et al. 2012

*Lots of great data + good physical model → amazing results*

## What do we measure?

Data → information

## Computer-assisted experimentation

“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?

## Other trends in experimentation

## Closing thoughts

*To gain unprecedented insight*

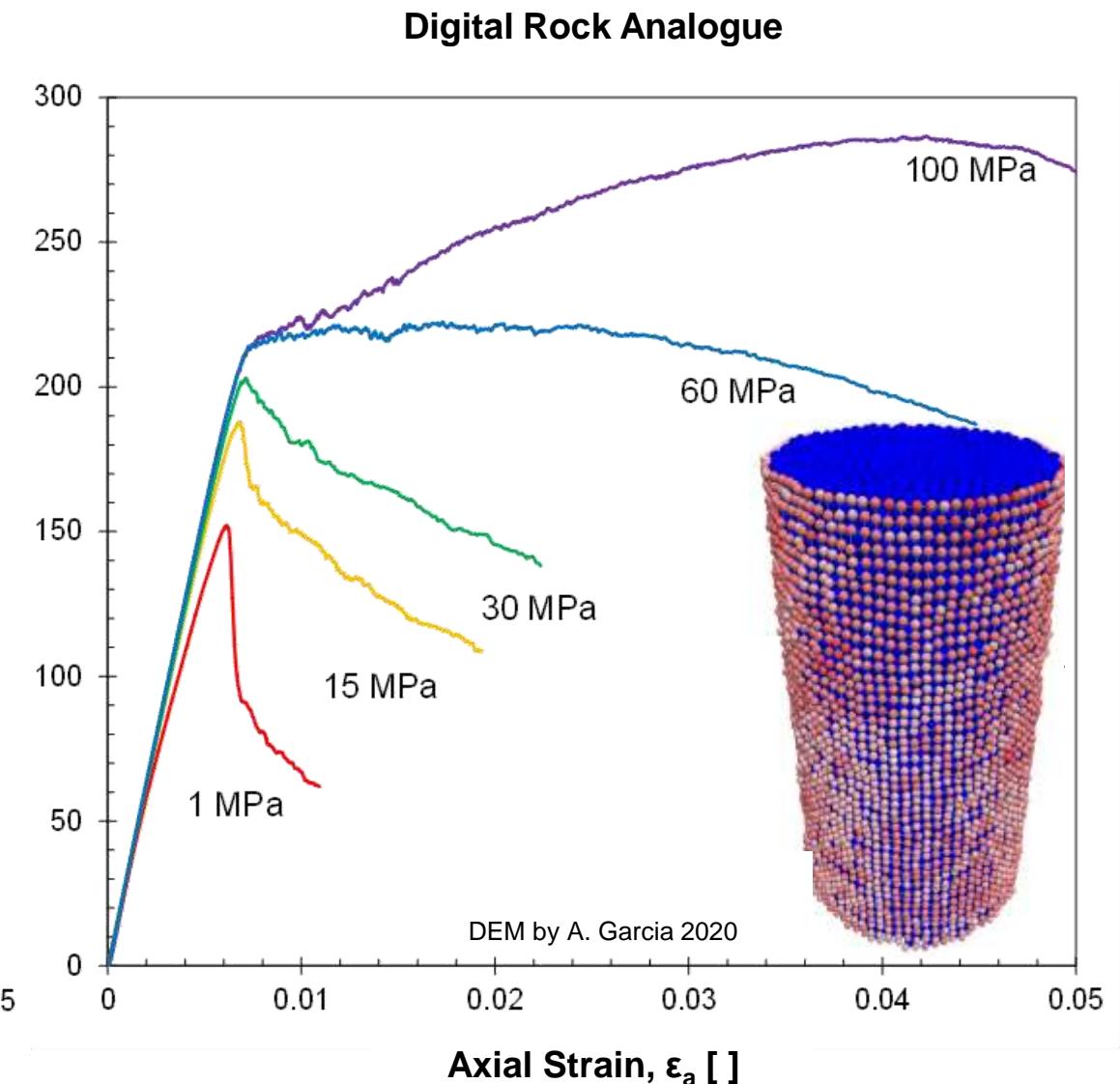
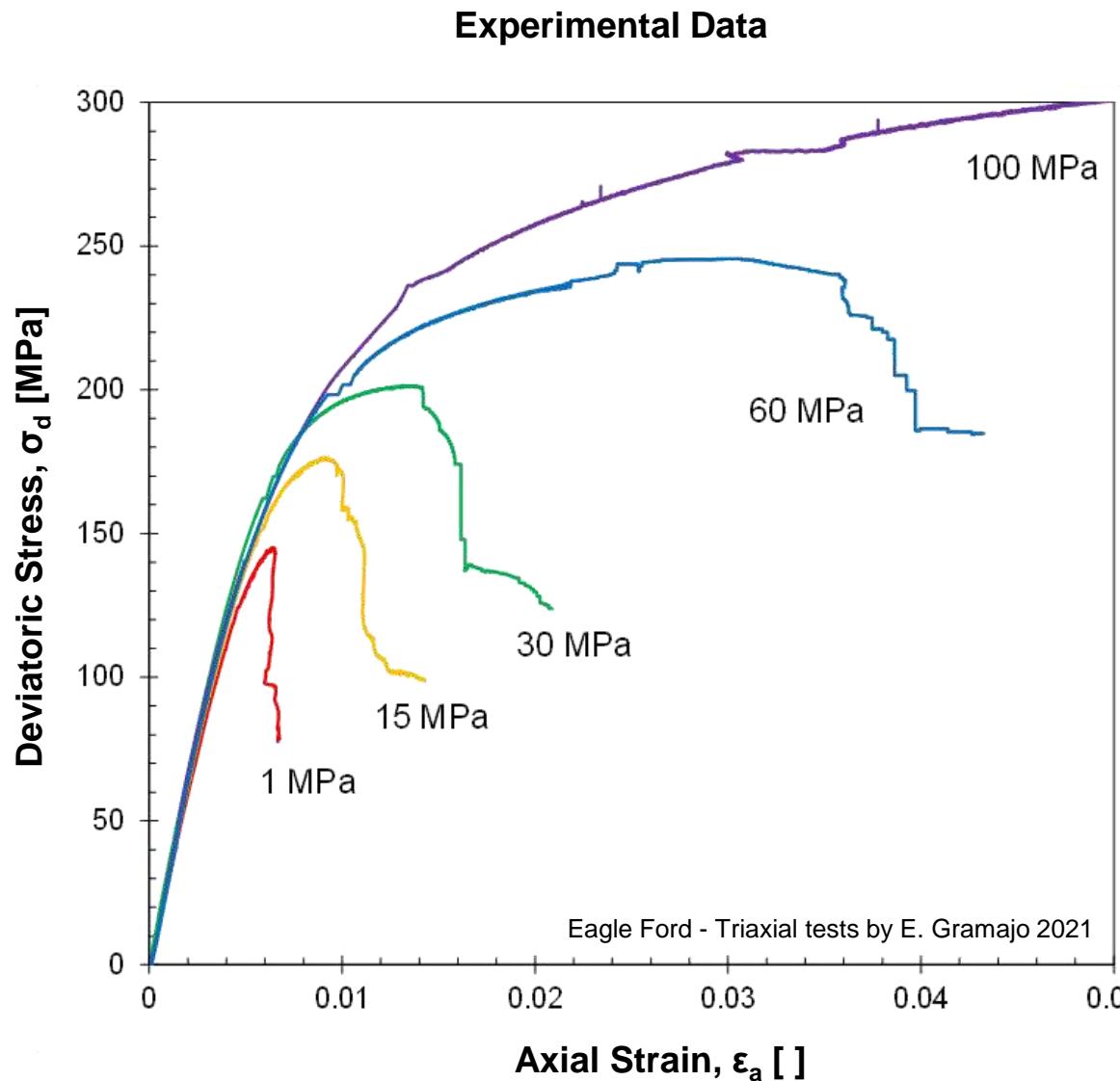
*Unfeasible experiment*

*Process lacks characteristic scale*

*Inherently multi-scale*

# To gain unprecedented insight

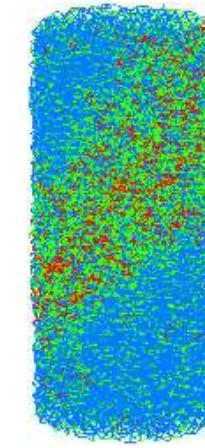
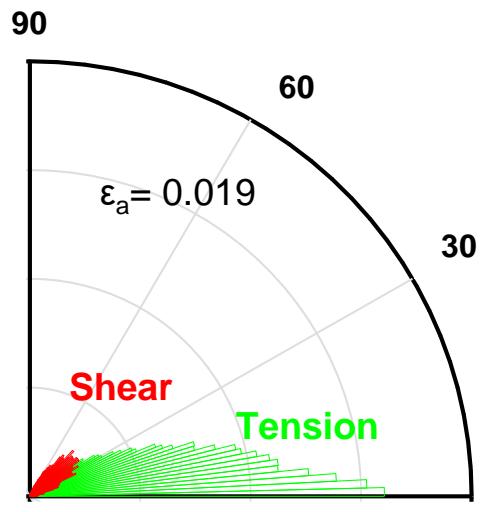
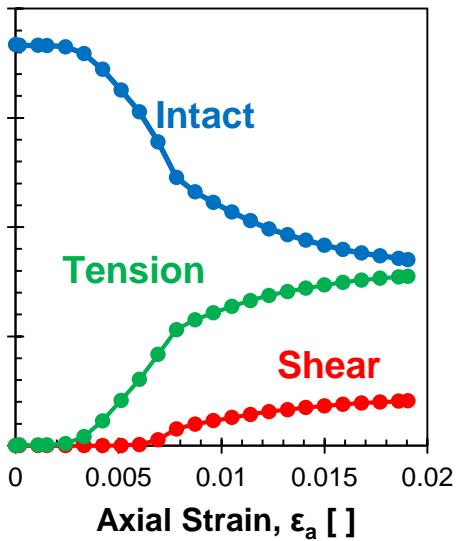
Rock stress-strain response: digital rock analogue



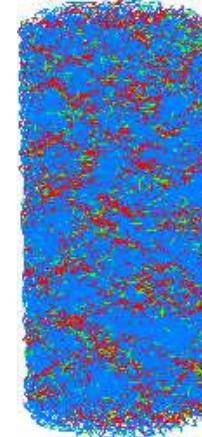
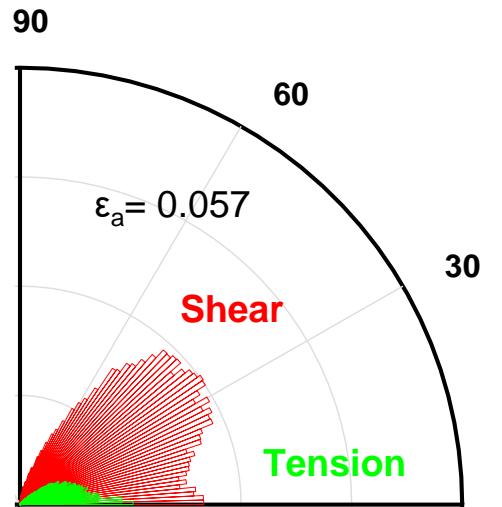
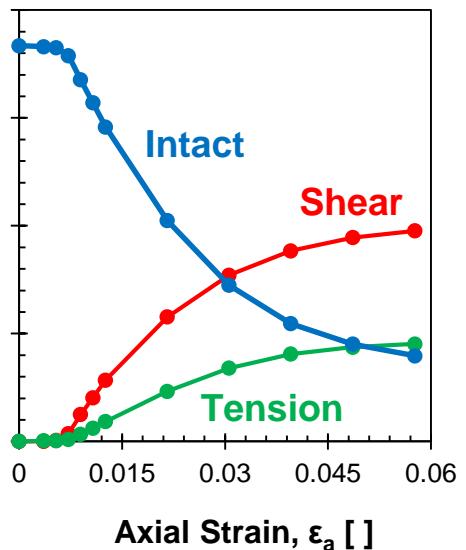
# To gain unprecedented insight

brittle-ductile transition? friction & cohesion? exhumation?

15 MPa



100 MPa



# Just can't do it...! *hydrate bearing sediments*

Replicate in the lab: takes years



DoE

Very difficult to sample  
Significant sampling effects



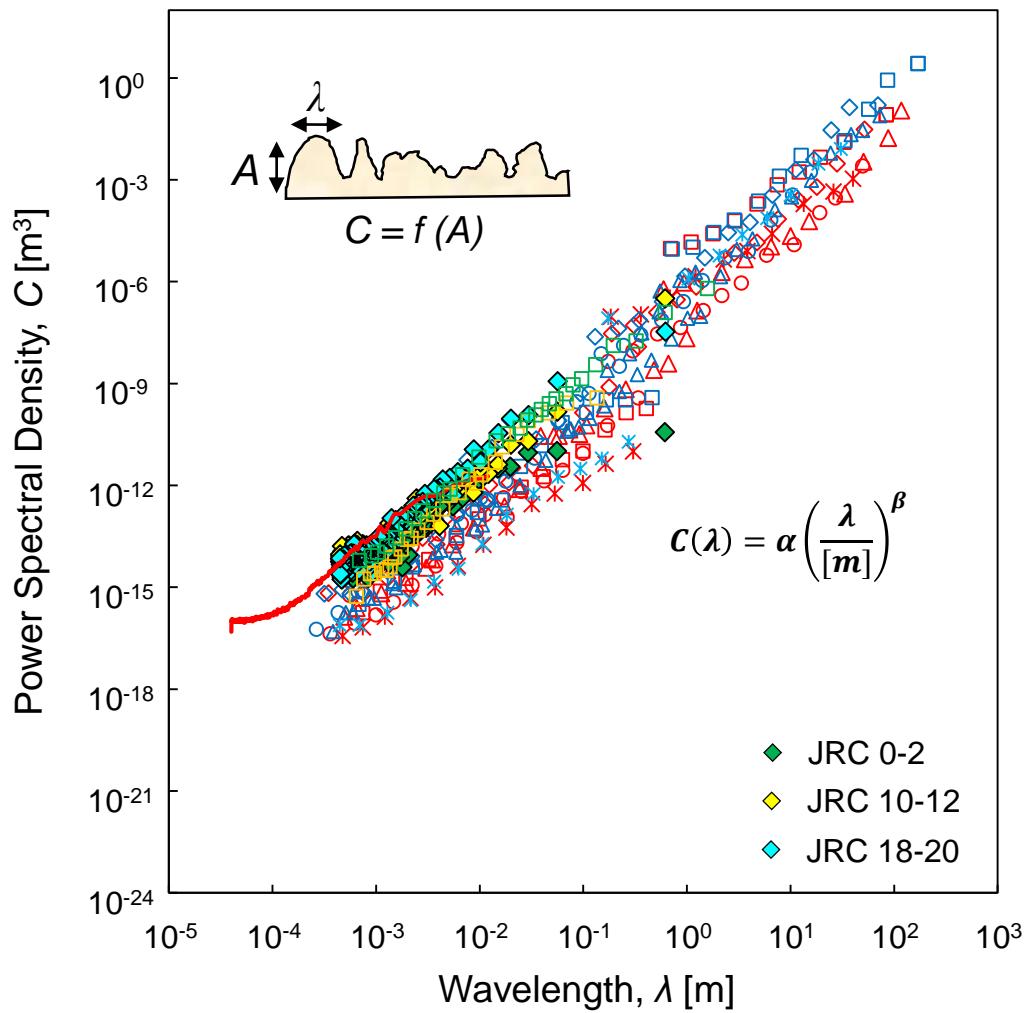
Samples: no REV



# Lacks characteristic scale

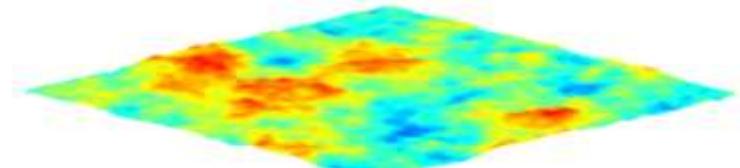
Fractures = fractal topography

Surface roughness



Numerical experiment

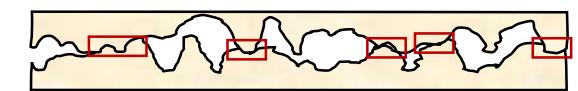
1. Fracture surface



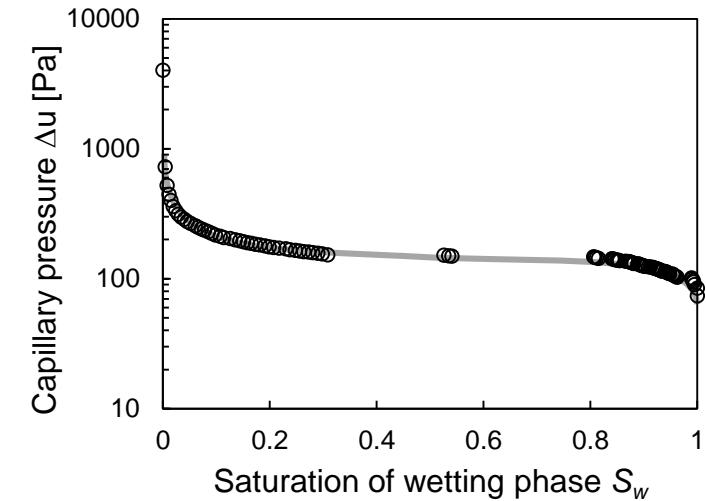
2. Shear displacement



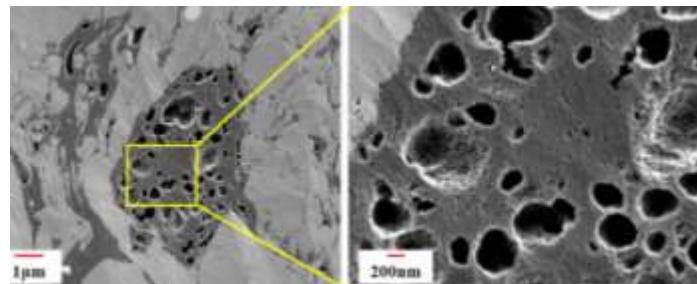
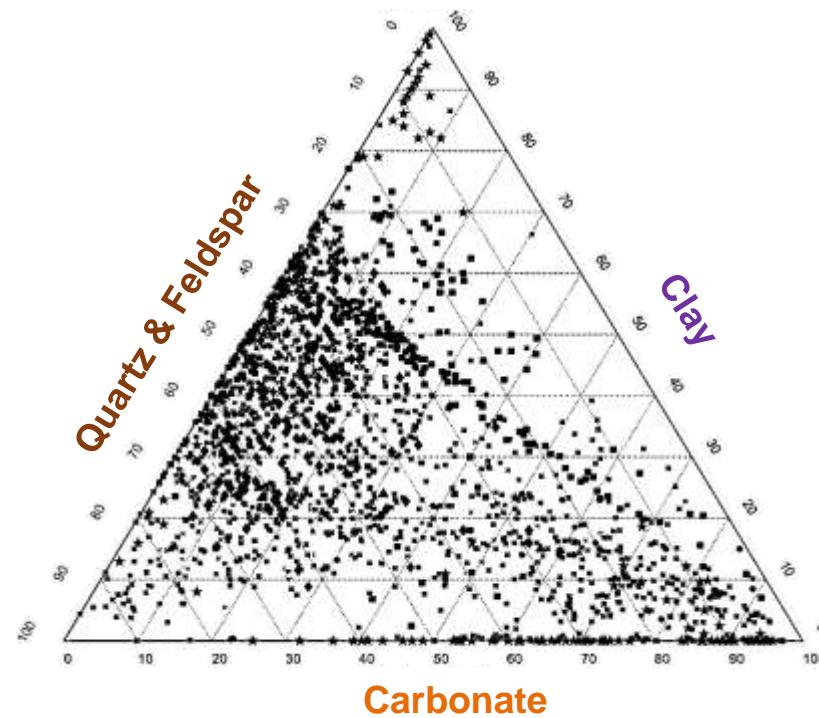
3. Normal stress  $A_c = A \frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_{yield}}$



4. Invasion percolation

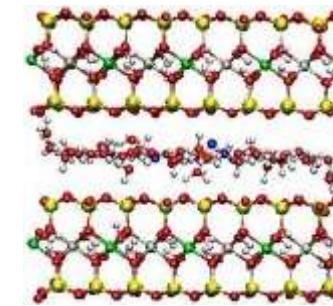


# Inherently multi-scale/multi-physics

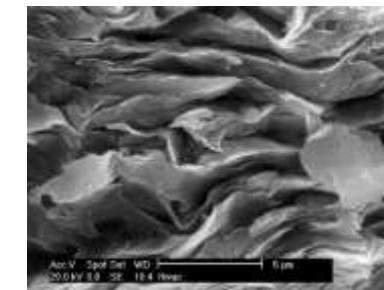


Kun Zhang et al 2020 Open Sciences

**Shales** |  
Sedimentary  
Clastic - Fine grained  
Fissile



Clay-clay  
 $10^{-9}$  m (MD)



Flock  
 $10^{-6}$  m



Layer  
 $10^{-2}$  m  
...  
Formation  
m (FEM)

**What do we measure?**

**Data → information**

**Computer-assisted experimentation**

**“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?**

**Other trends in experimentation**

**Closing thoughts**

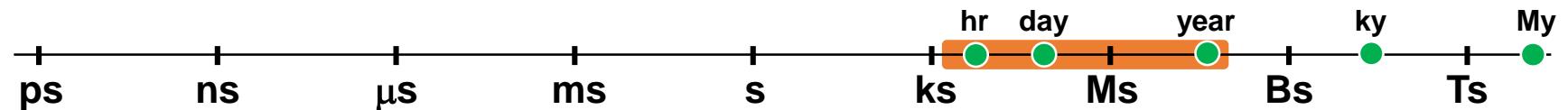
**Scale broadening  
Multiphysics HTCBM coupling  
Multiphysics repetitive  
Fluid & fluid-mineral focus  
Lab-on-a-bench?**

# Bishop's geotechnical engineering ... 65 years later

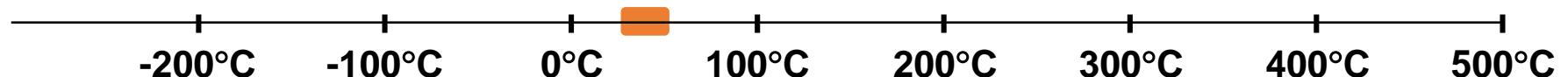
Space: 16 orders



Time: 25 orders



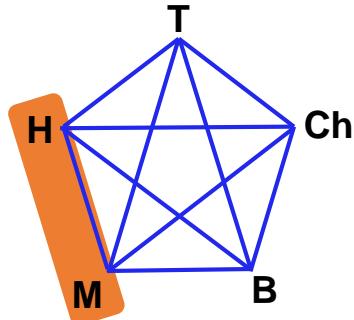
Extreme temperatures



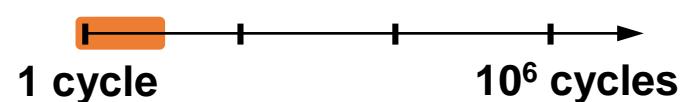
Extreme pressures



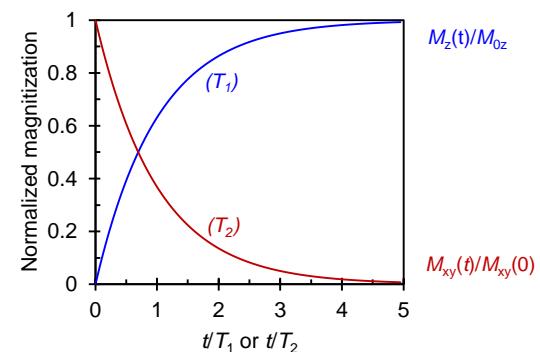
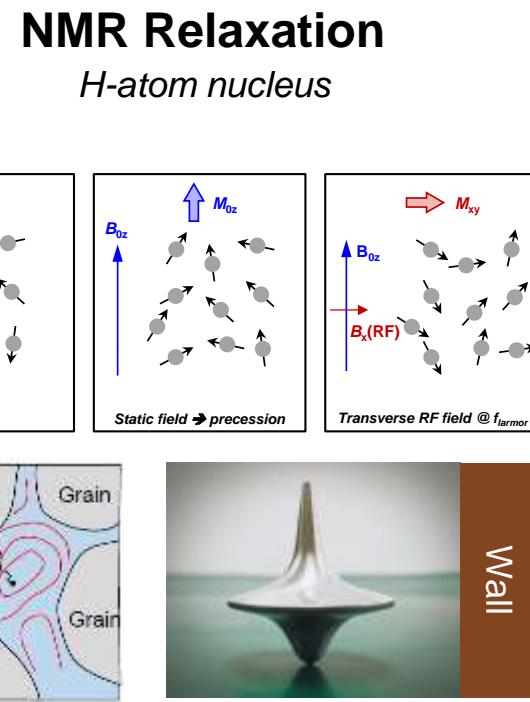
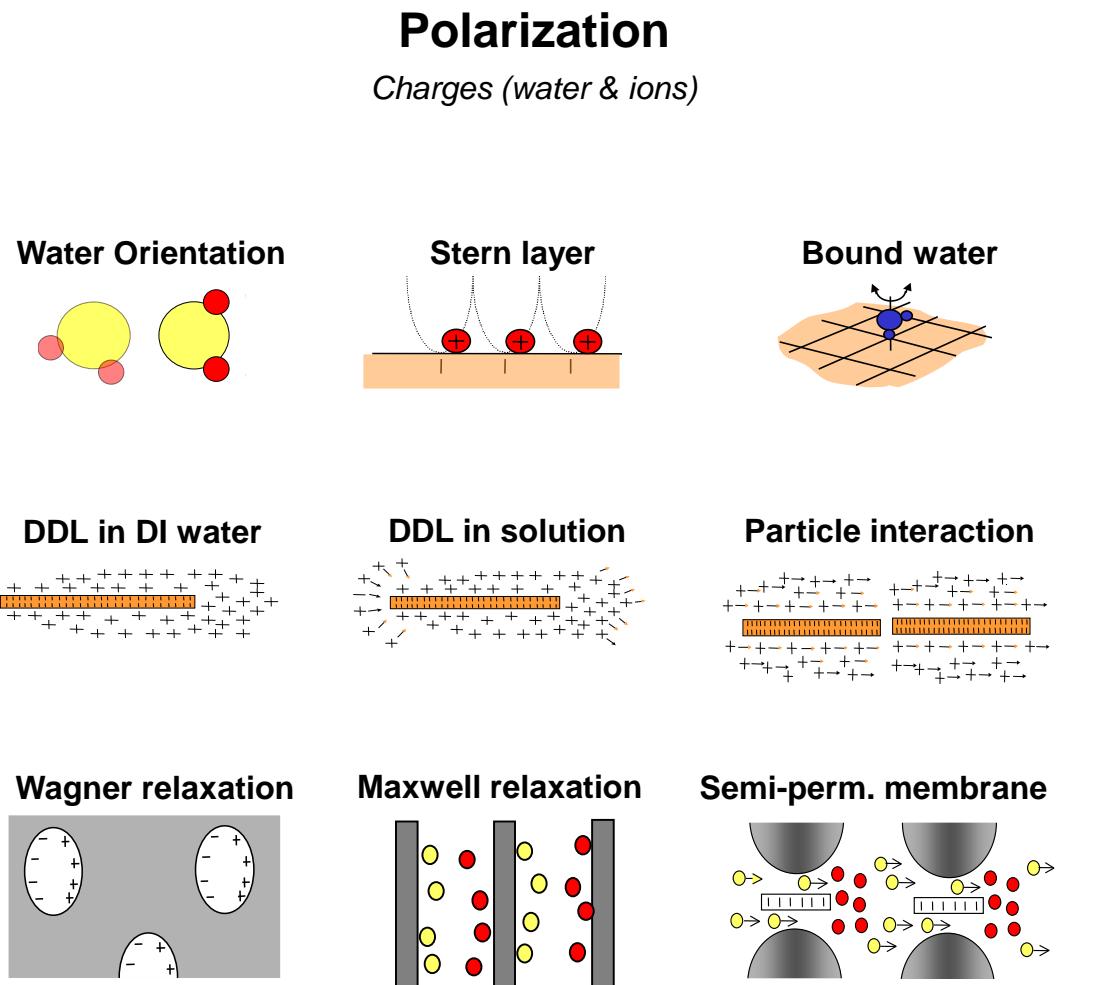
Multi-physics



Repetitive loads



# Fluids & fluid-mineral interaction



# Lab-on-a-bench

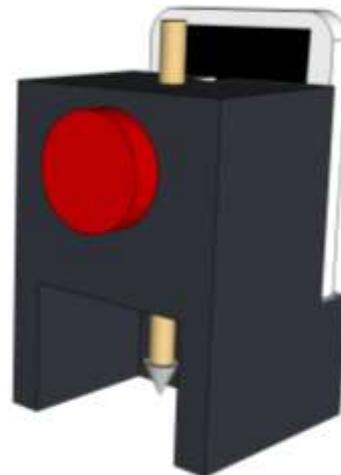
$S_s$  colorimetry



GSD light absorption



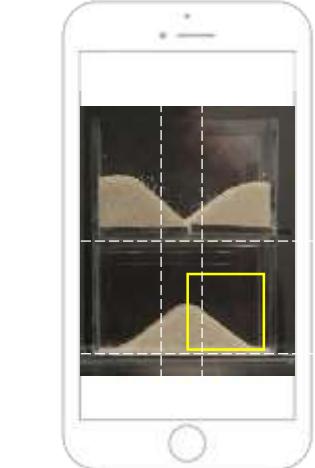
LL cell-caliper



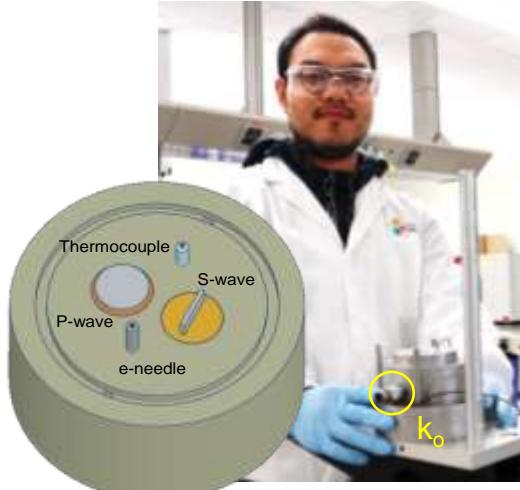
Particle size and shape



CV friction angle



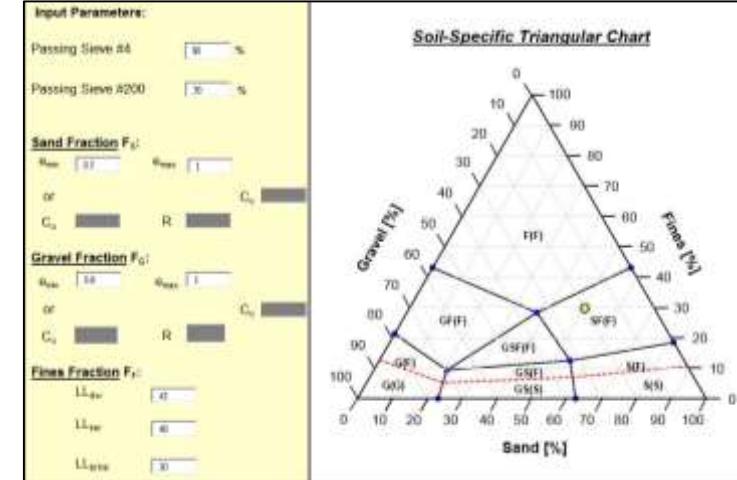
Multi-physics oedometer



Benchtop NMR & permittivity



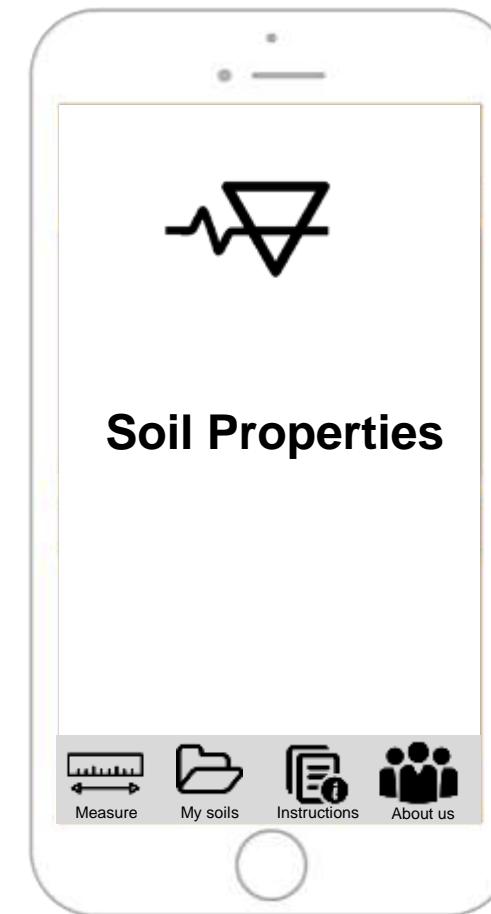
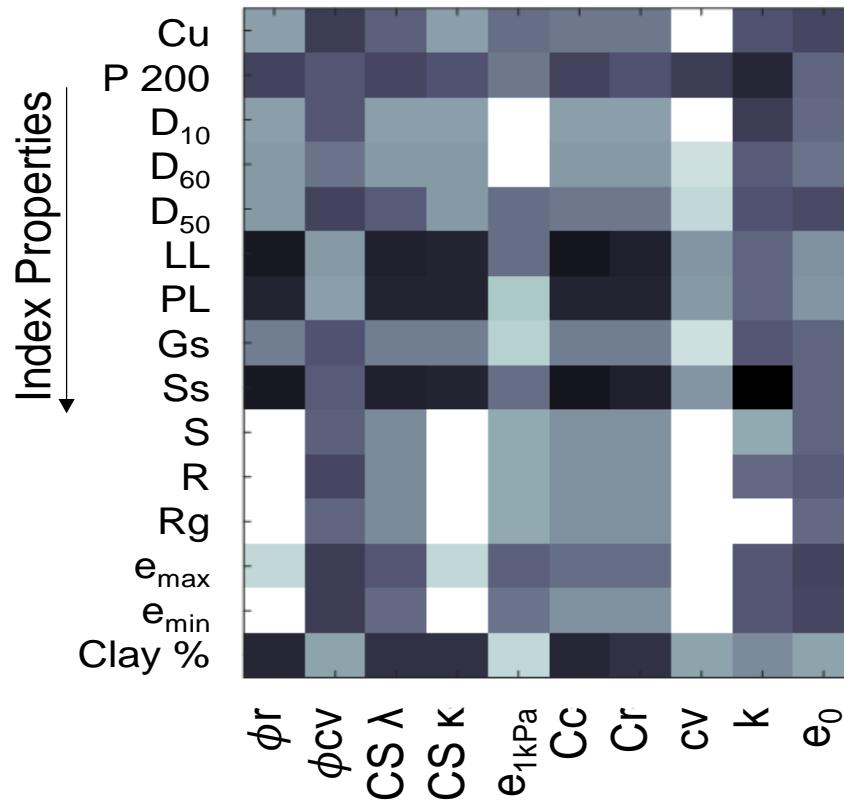
Revised Soil Classification System RSCS



*Paradigm shift in soil & rock characterization for engineering purposes*

# Index properties + database } Engineering properties

NETFLIX



- Multi-physics
- Self-consistent properties
- Predicts uncertainty
- Assess cost/benefit of new data
- Best engineering ANYwhere
- Collective effort (everywhere)



Prototypes available ... join the effort!!

**What do we measure?**

**Data → information**

**Computer-assisted experimentation**

**“Numerical experiments”... Oxymoron?**

**Other trends in experimentation**

**Closing thoughts**



***Soil mechanician  
Meticulous experimentalist  
Engineer... practical problems***

## The last 65 years:

- information & sensor revolution
- marked stretching of geotechnical scales
- loss of immediacy during test execution and analysis

## Challenges remain:

- inherent scaling, sampling & measurement effects
- what we want to measure ≠ think we measured ≠ actually measured

## We impose models to data

- choose an adequate model
- overparameterization: slippery road (Ockam's razor)
- physics inspired... data driven (asymptotically correct)
- information << data     (info needed < info sought...)

*How is it that we have so much [data] but know so little?*

Noam Chomsky

## Trends & paradigm shifts

- revival of experimentation: new tools and new philosophy → design experiments for invertibility
- new protocols to assess THCBM coupled processes (monotonic and repetitive)
- numerical experiments: may be needed ... add them to the tool box
- measurements + databases = towards credible & self-consistent parameters → reliable analyses & design



In collaboration with multiple present & past EGEL members

Related publications: [egel.kaust.edu.sa](http://egel.kaust.edu.sa)

Discussion? Data? [carlos.santamarina@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:carlos.santamarina@kaust.edu.sa)



**TC 101 Laboratory Testing**

**John Carter & Mark Jaksa**

**20th ICSMGE Team**

**Thank you !**