

# Estimating scour risks from 1D, 2D, and 3D flood model results

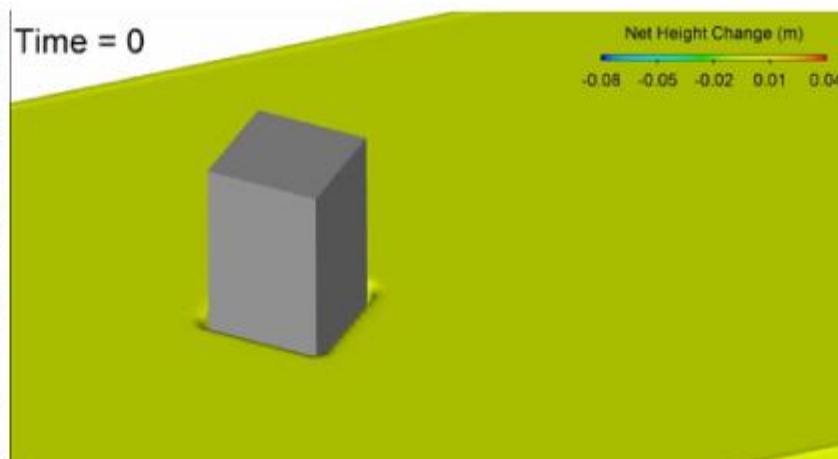
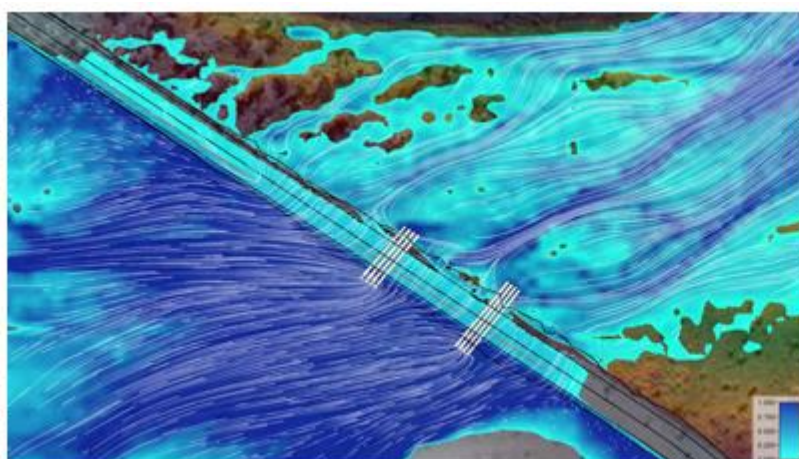
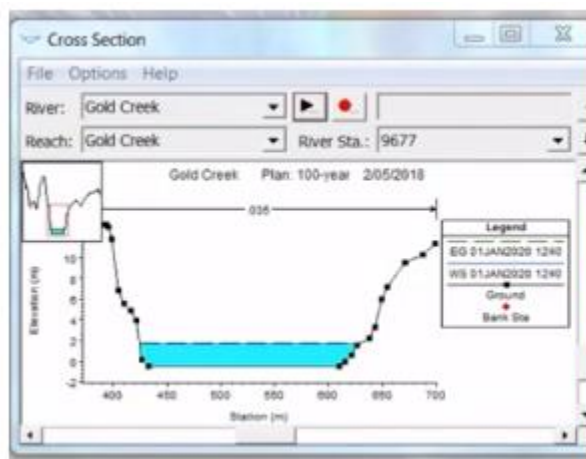


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Surface Water Solutions

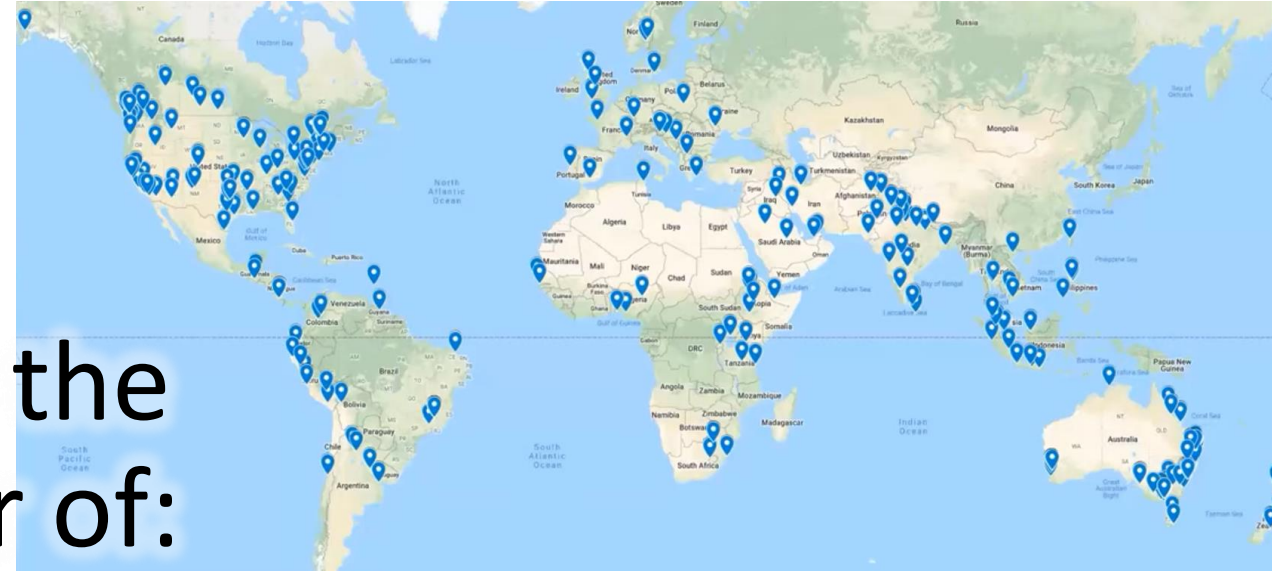
FMA National Conference  
Toowoomba QLD  
20 May 2022



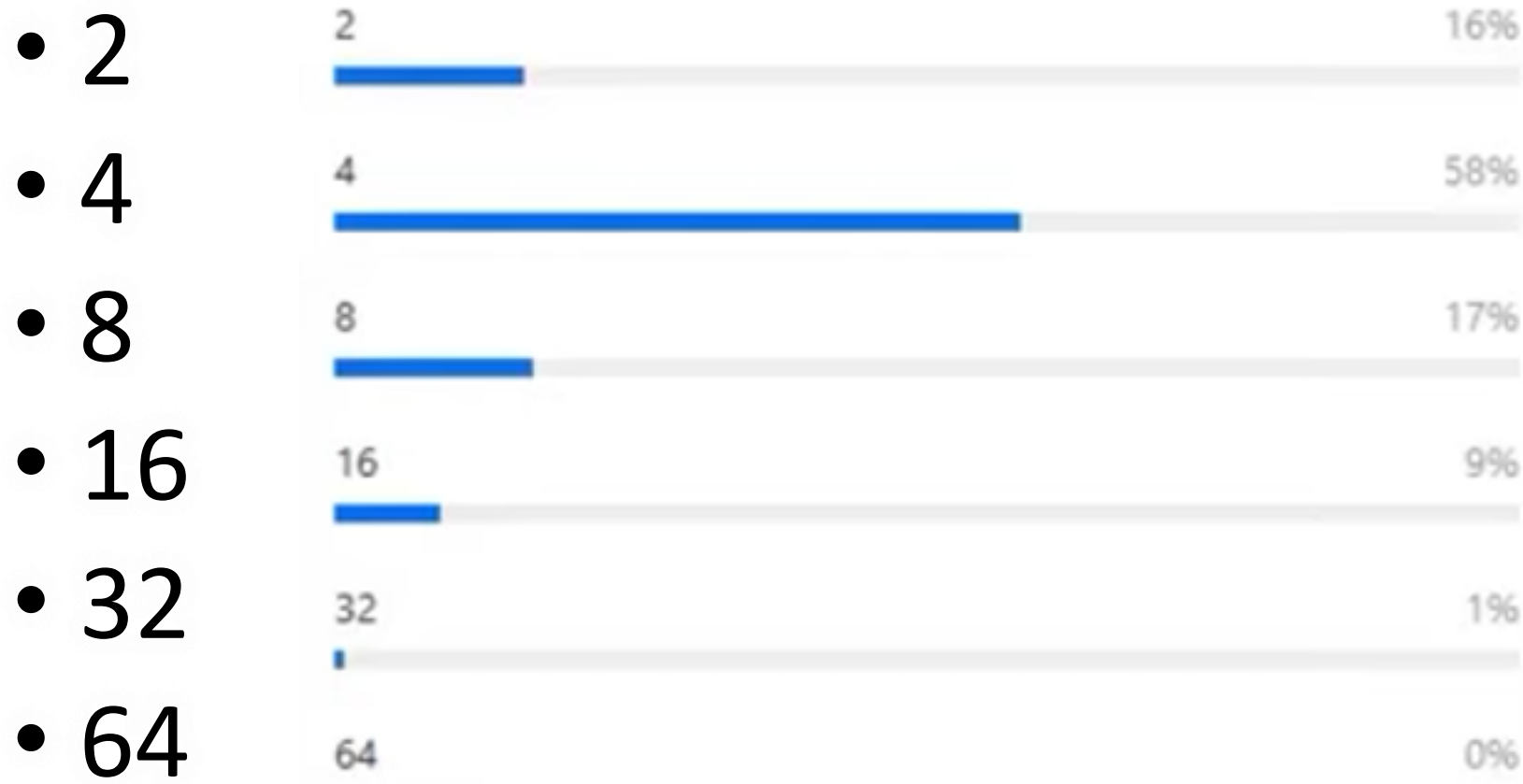
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# Poll Question



Doubling the velocity increases the required rock weight by a factor of:



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# Western Australia 2017

Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network

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Source: ABC News - Mark Bennett



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Source: Childers-Biggenden



Source: Tweed Shire Council



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Brisbane River 2011



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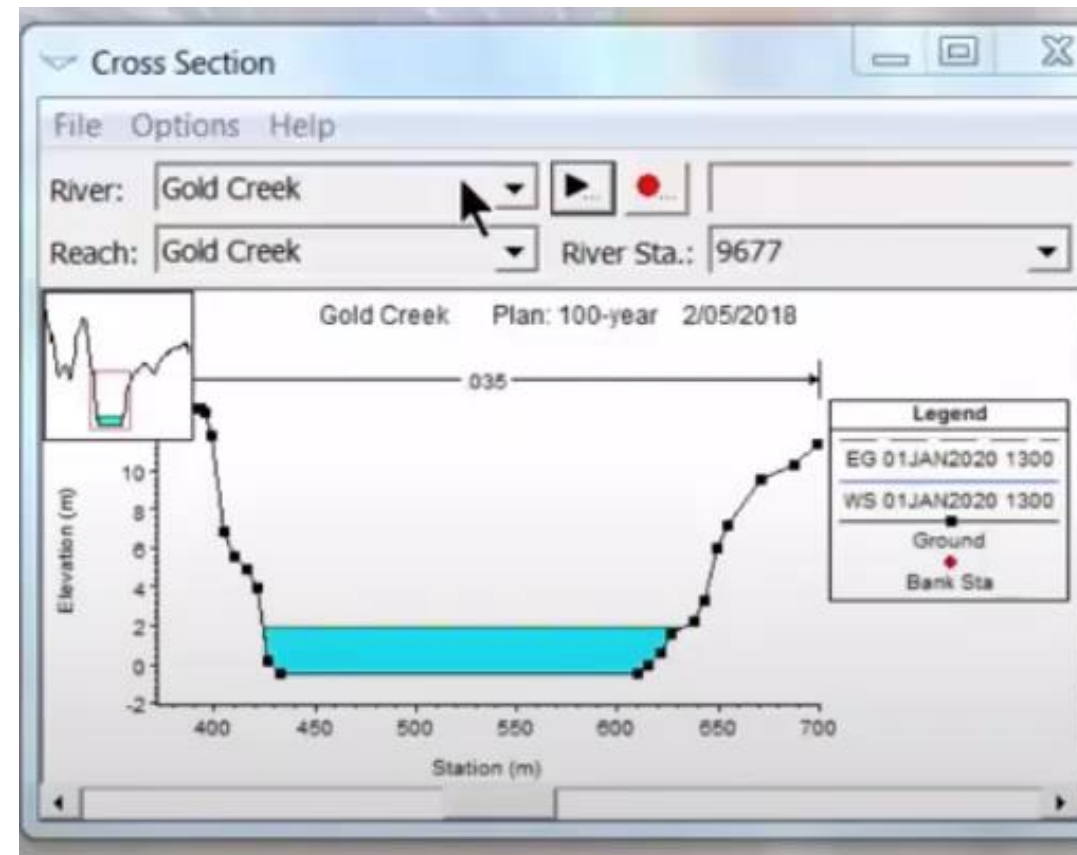


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## 1D Assumptions:

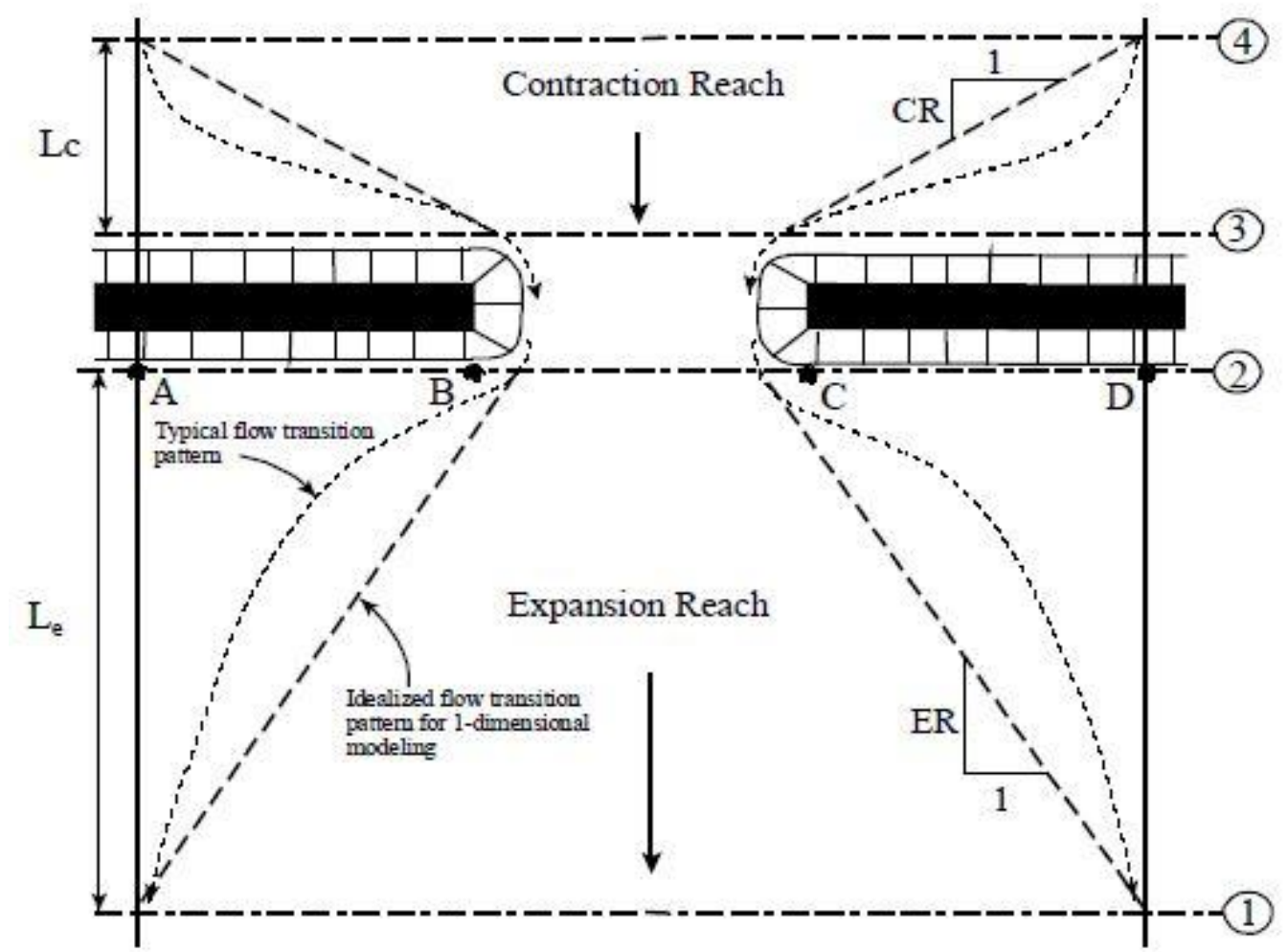
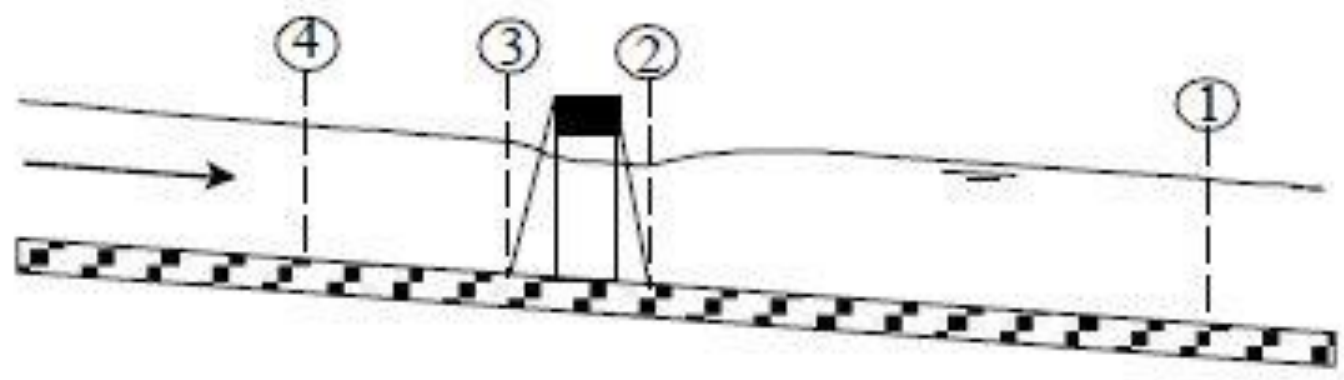
- Water surface elevations are flat across a cross section
- Velocities are flat across a cross section
- Energy gradient gradient levels are flat across a cross section
- Velocities are depth-averaged
- Normal (perpendicular) depth = vertical depth
- Horizontal length = slope length



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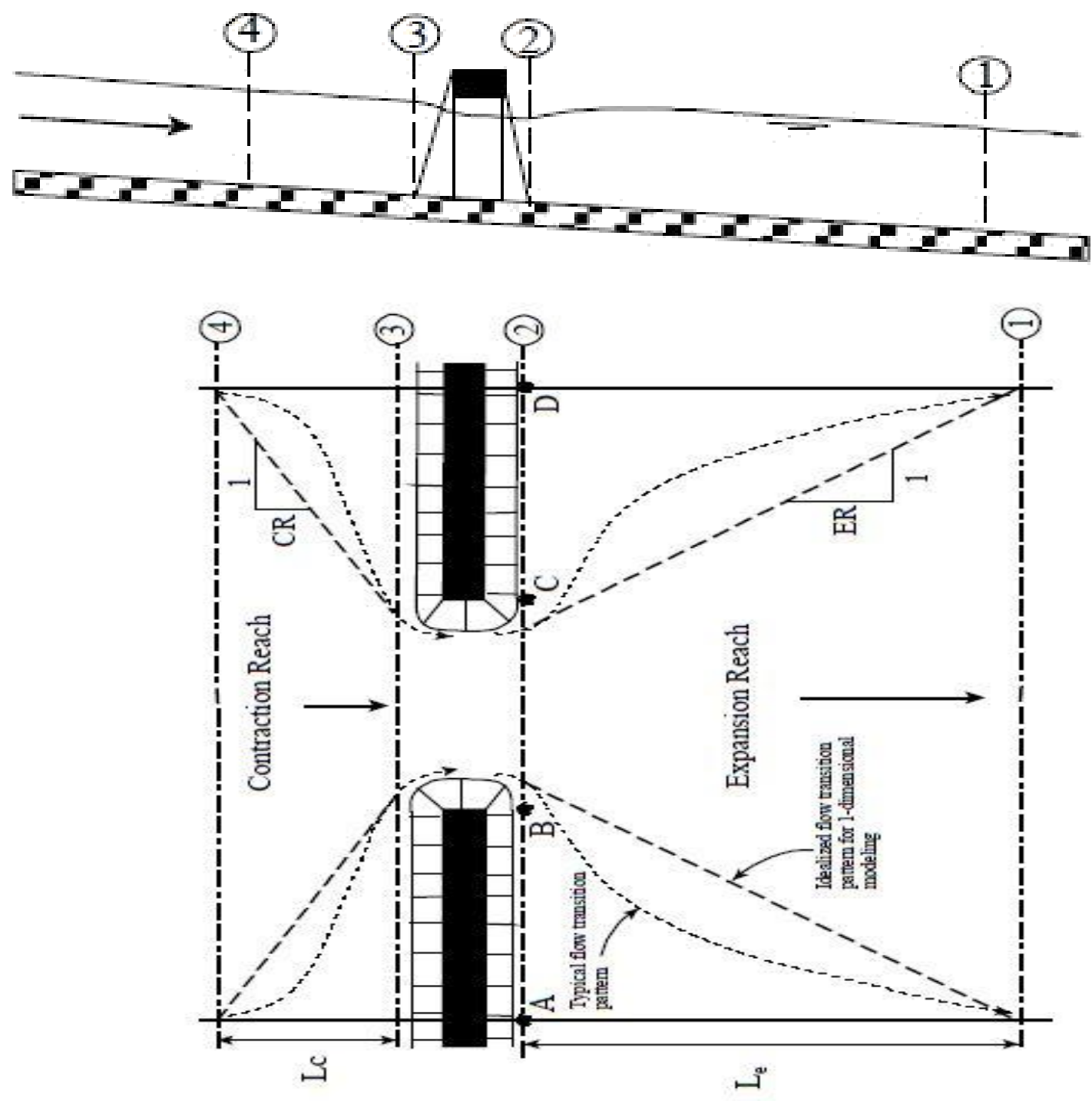
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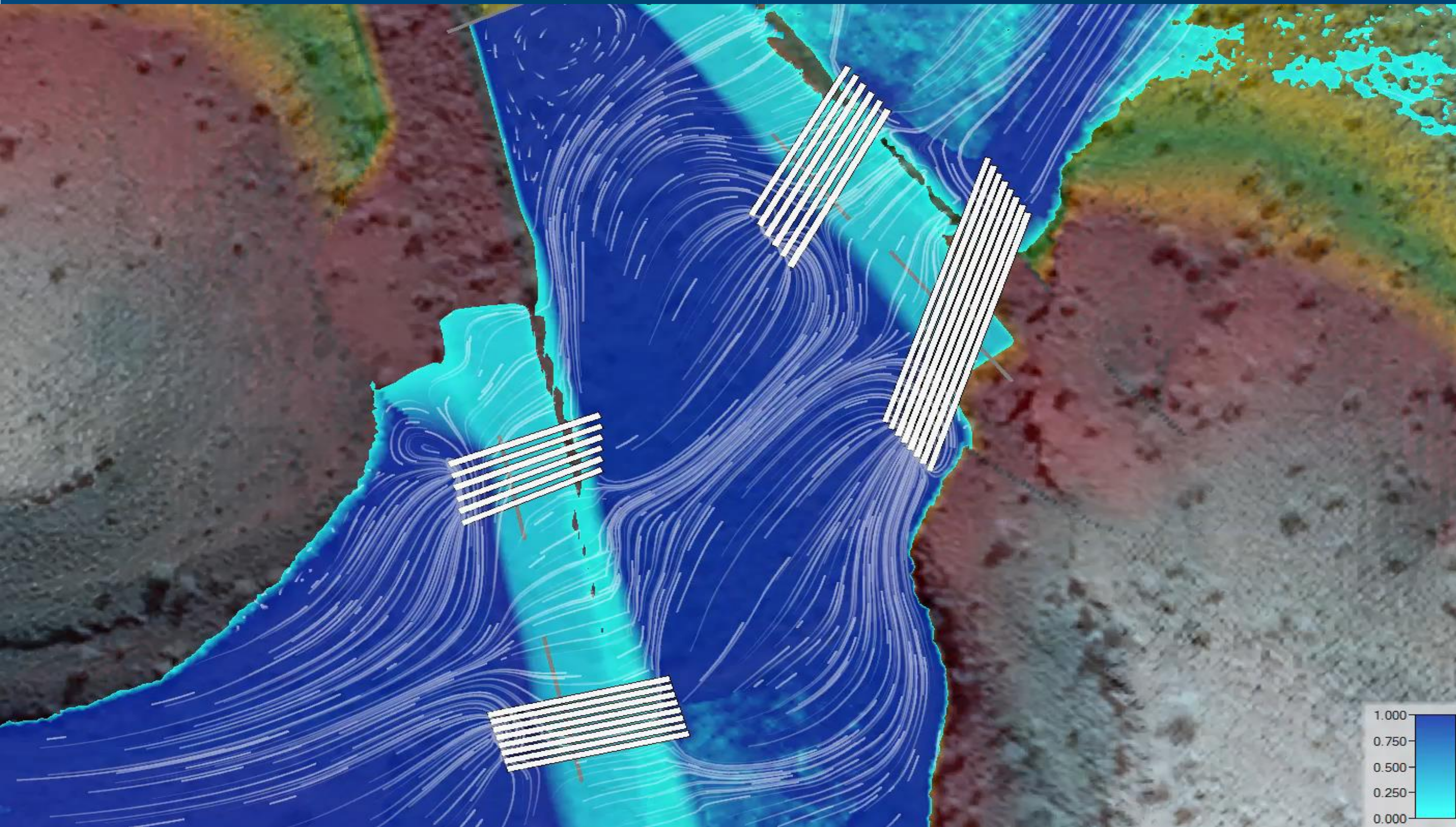
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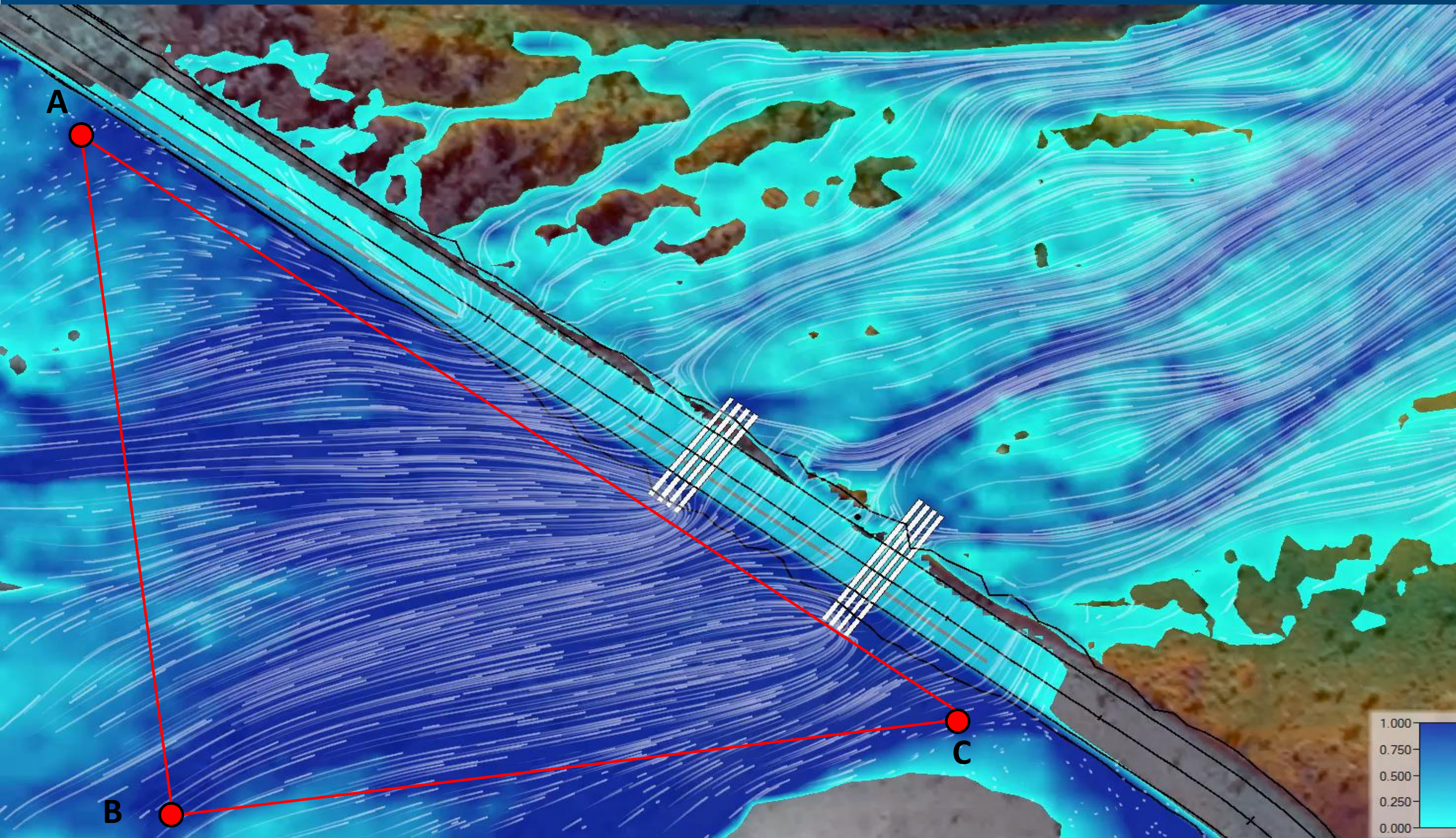
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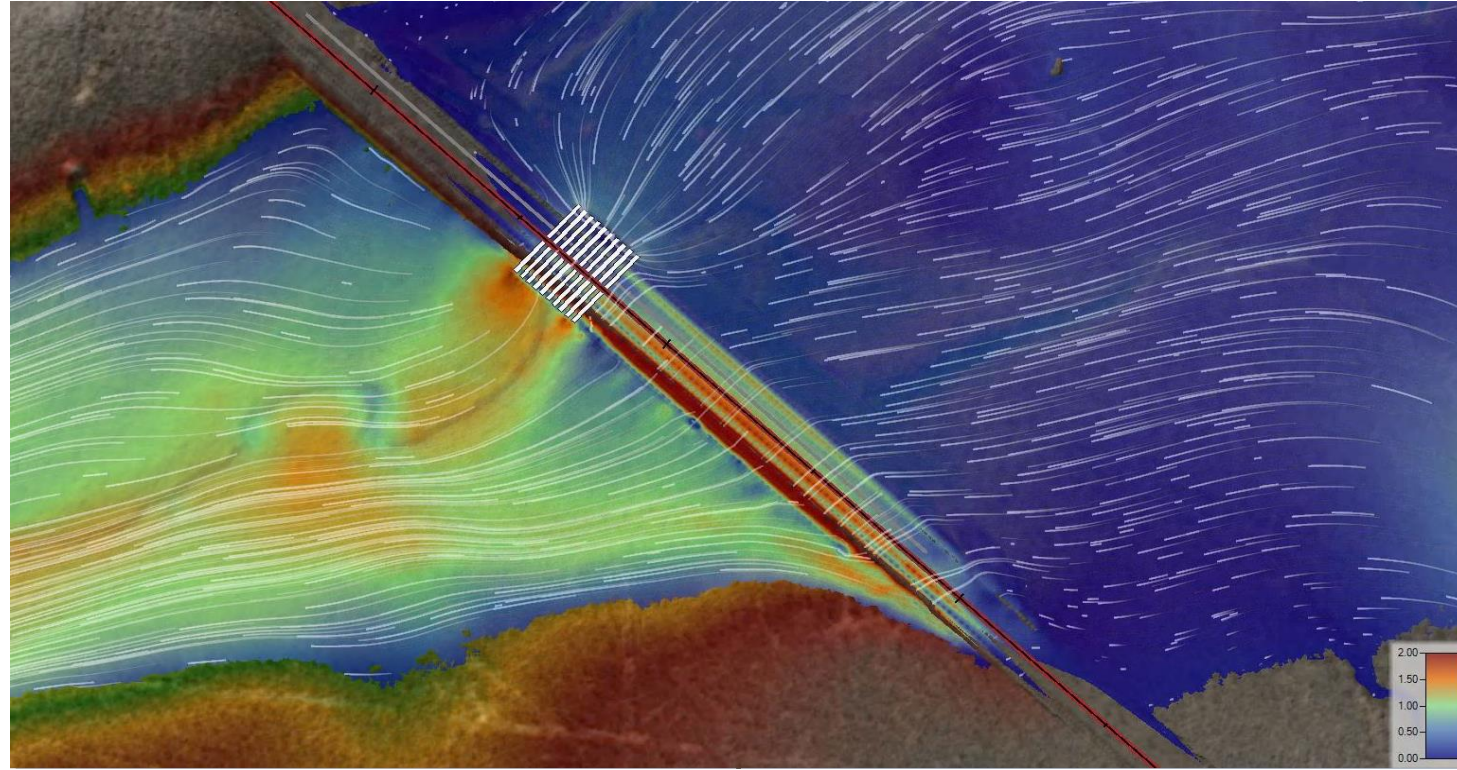


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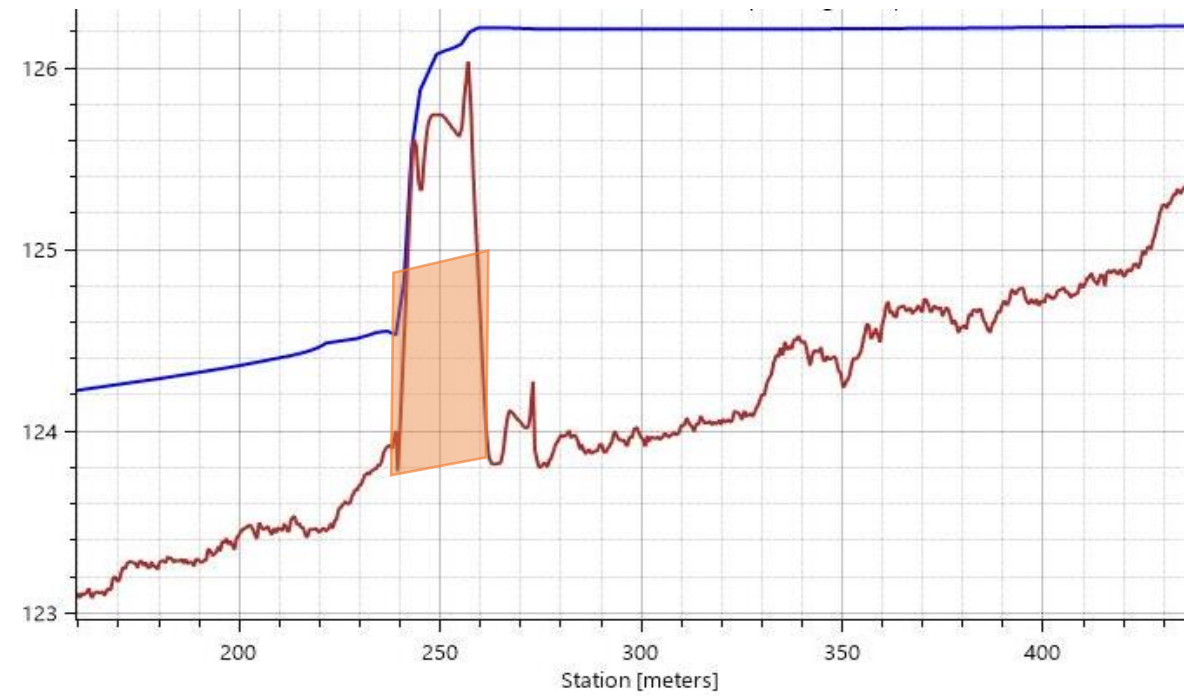
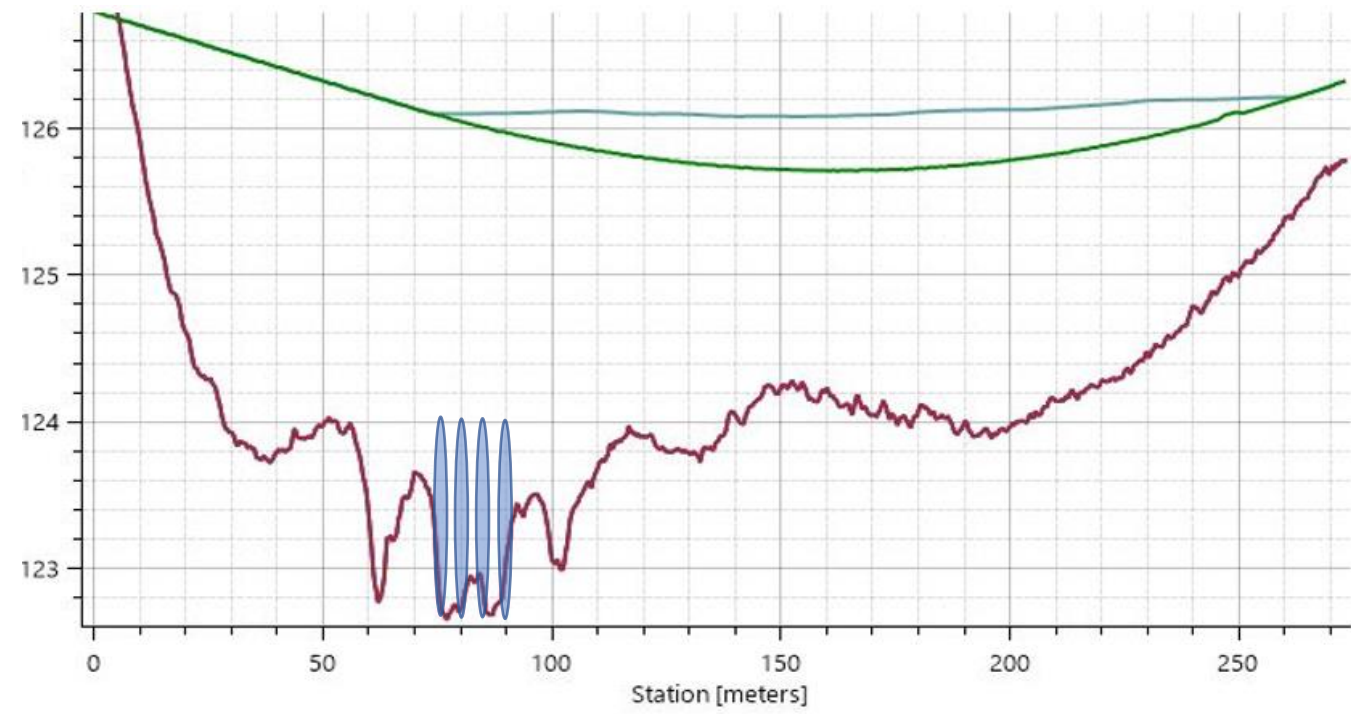


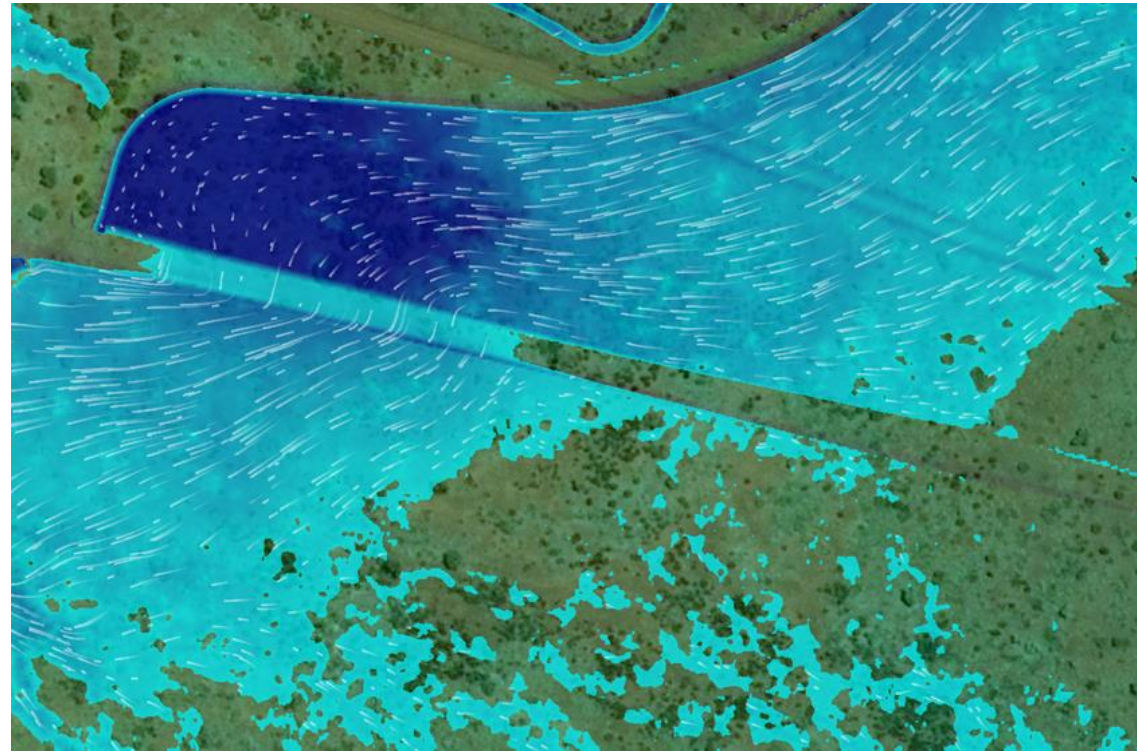
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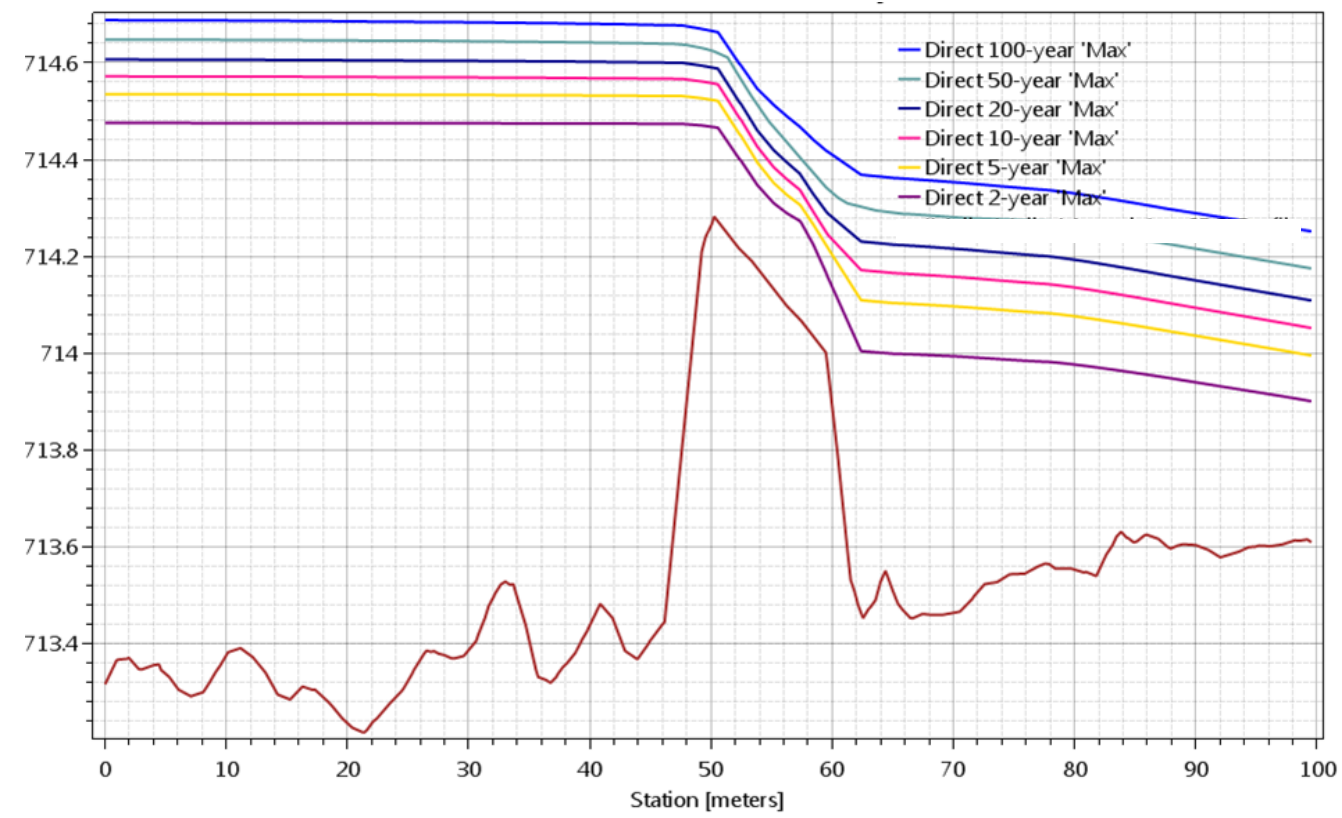
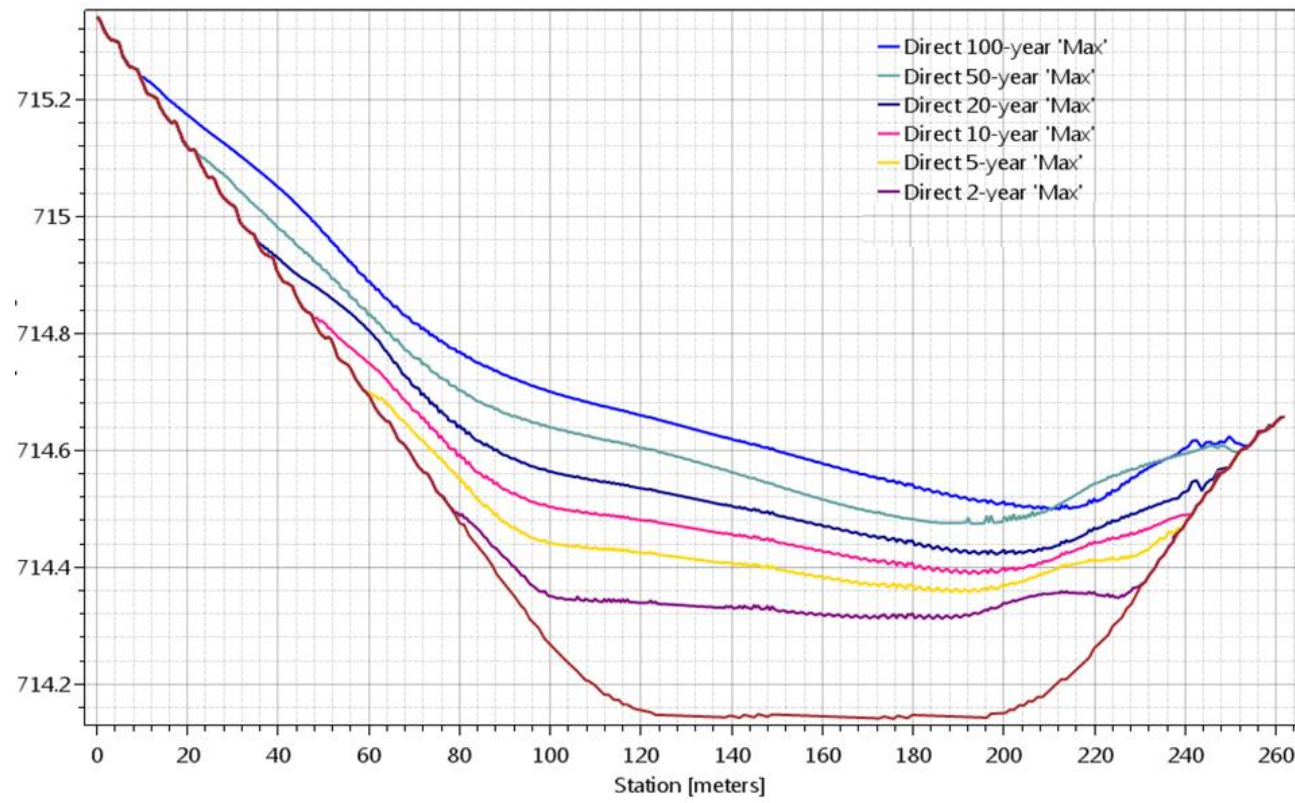


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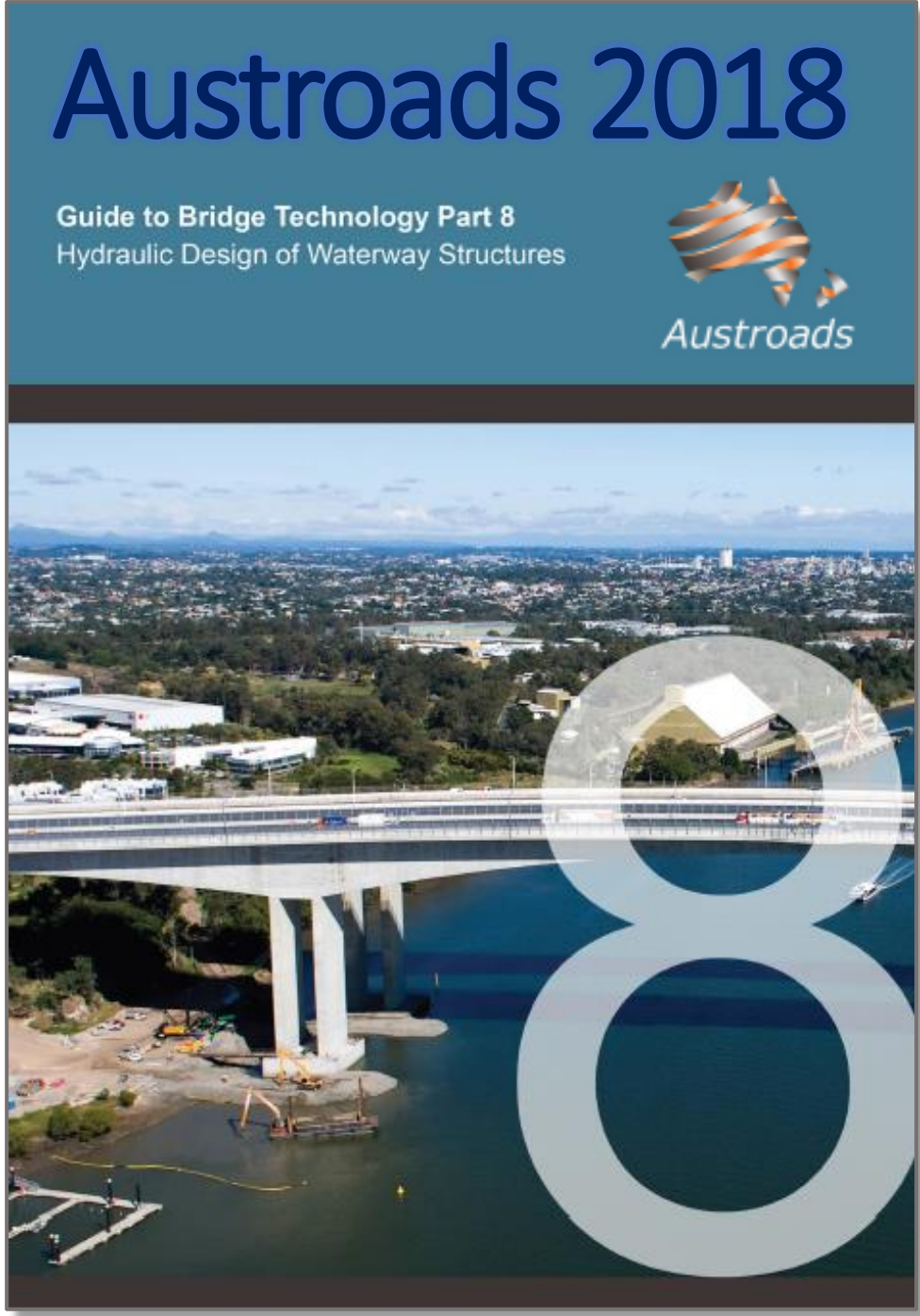
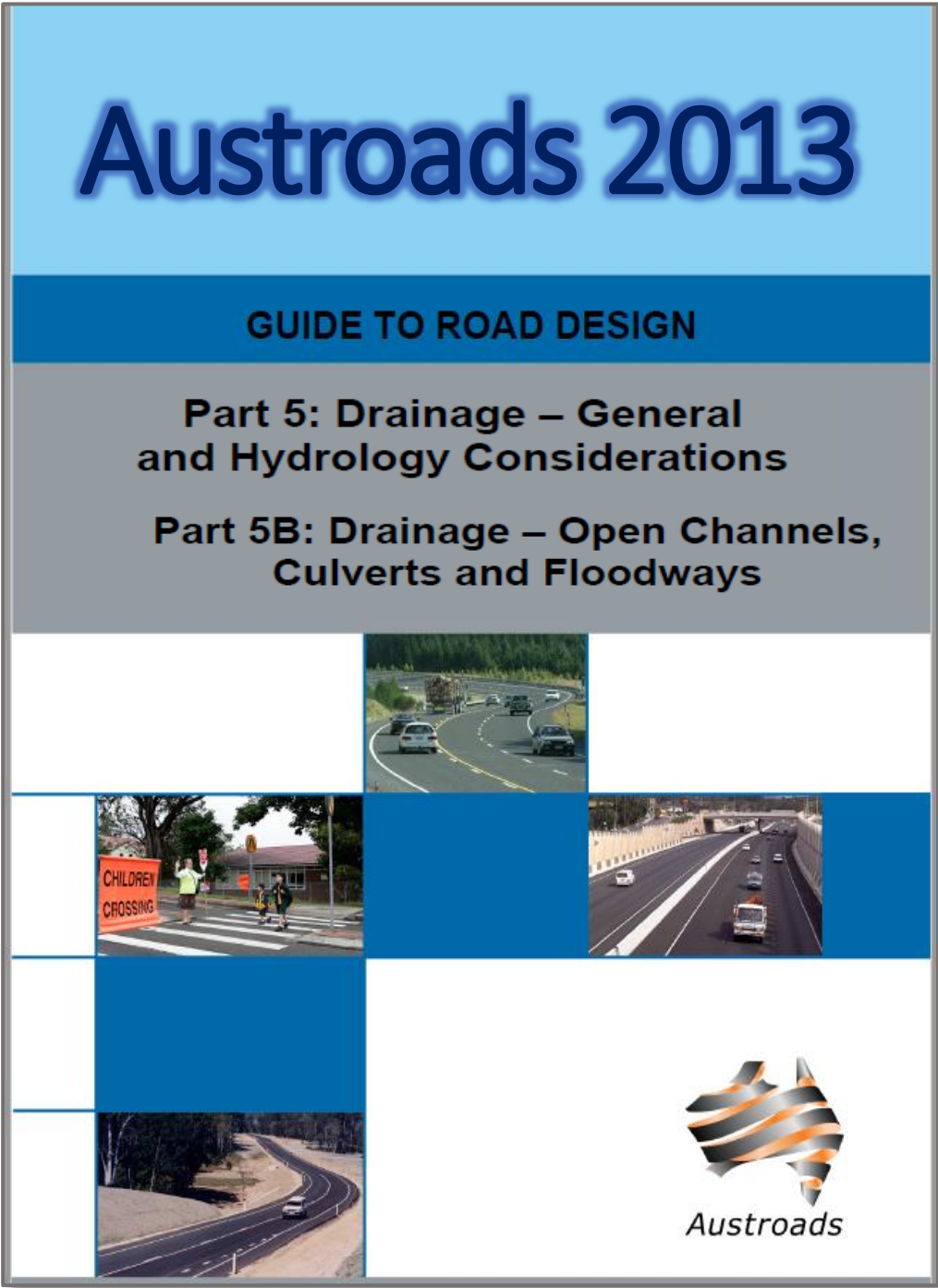




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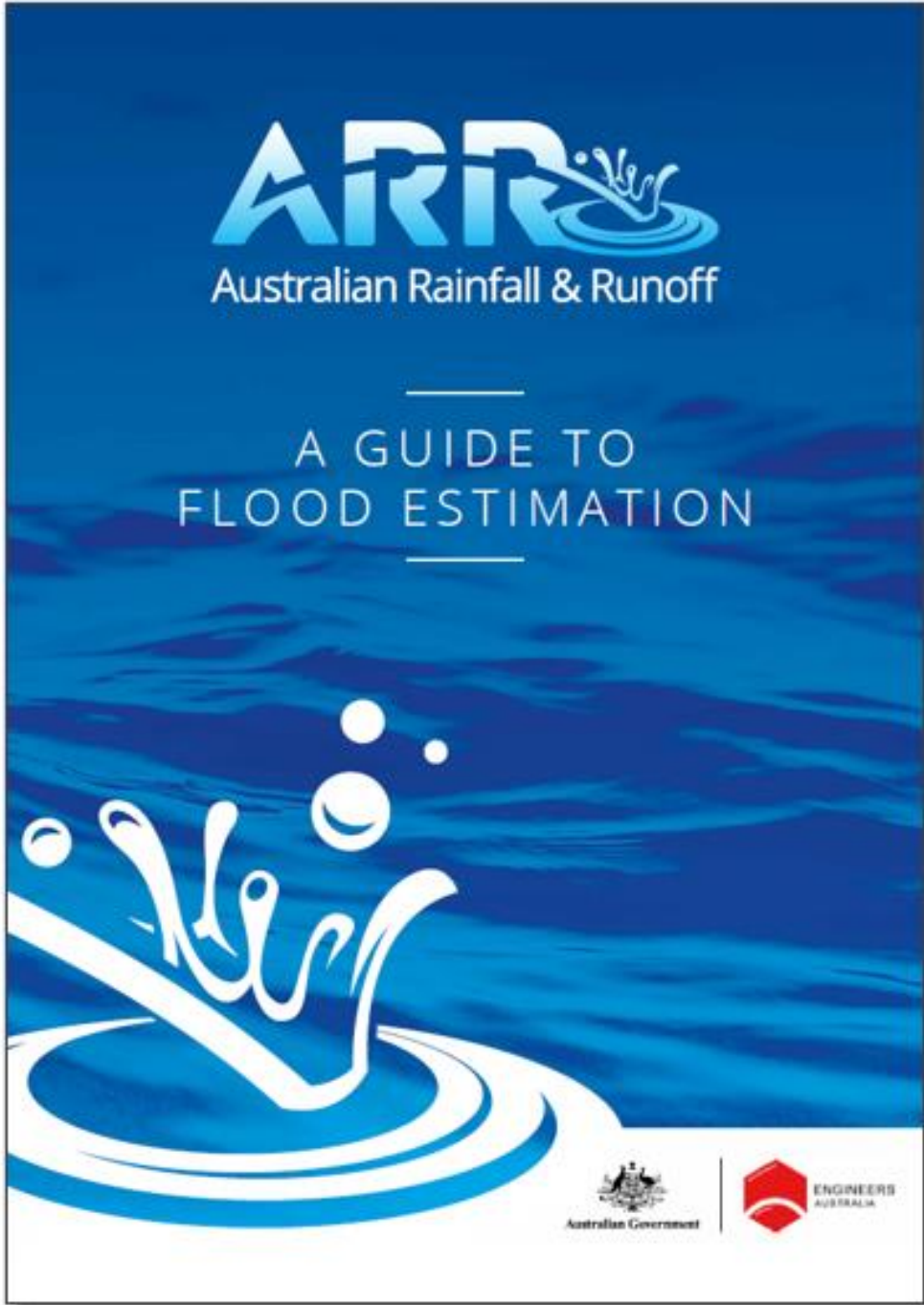
# Australian national guidance for rock sizing



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# Australian national guidance for rock sizing



## ARR 2019

### Australian Rainfall and Runoff

#### A Guide to Flood Estimation

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Australian Rainfall and Runoff: A Guide to Flood Estimation, © Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), 2019.

How to reference Book 9: Runoff in Urban Areas:  
Coombes, P., and Roso, S. (Editors), 2019 Runoff in Urban Areas, Book 9 in Australian Rainfall and Runoff - A Guide to Flood Estimation, Commonwealth of Australia, © Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), 2019.



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# Australian national guidance for rock sizing



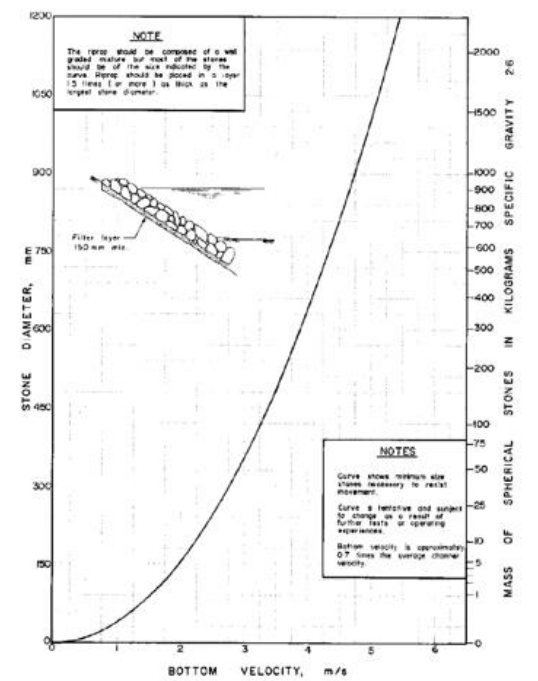
## Bridges and Floodways

Velocity (m/s)	Class of rock protection (tonne)	Section thickness, T (m)
< 2	None	-
2.0-2.6	Facing	0.50
2.6-2.9	Light	0.75
2.9-3.9	¼	1.00
3.9-4.5	½	1.25
4.5-5.1	1.0	1.60
5.1-5.7	2.0	2.00
5.7-6.4	4.0	2.50
> 6.4	Special	-

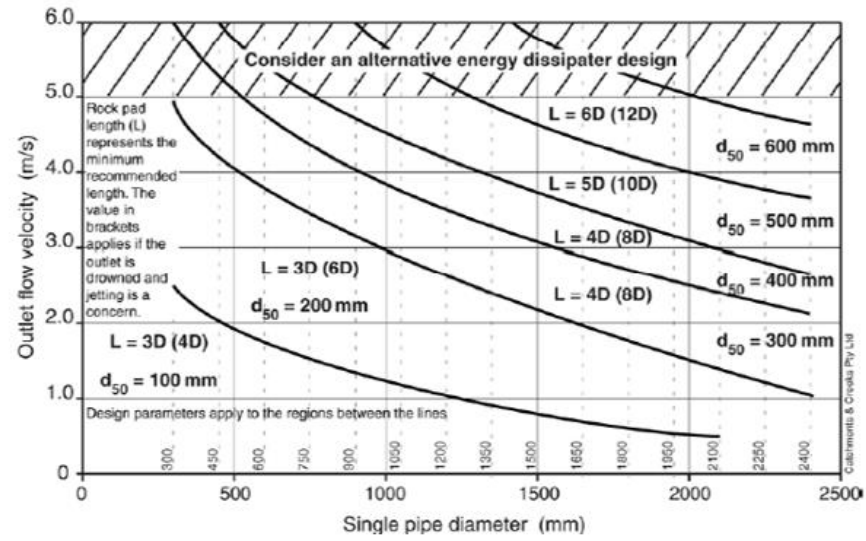


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## Lined Channels



## Culverts

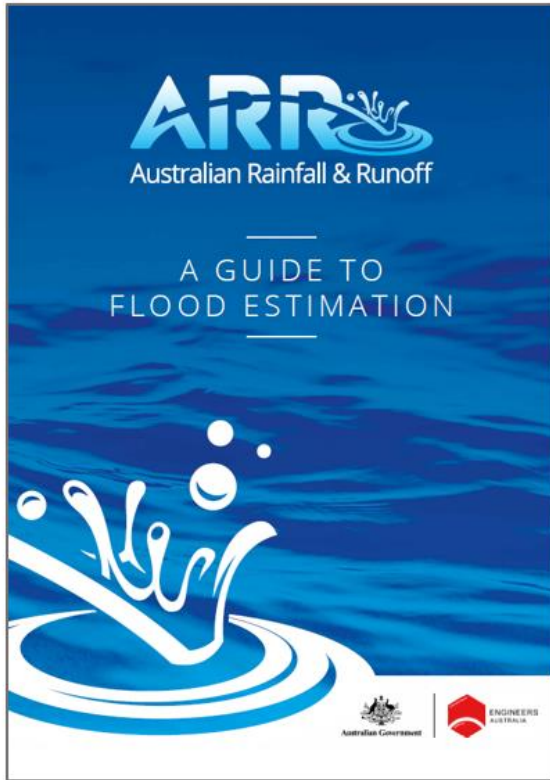


## Natural Channels

Stream bed type		Velocity (m/s)
Silt		less than 0.3
Sand	Fine	less than 0.3
	Coarse	less than 0.3
Gravel	6 mm	0.6 to 0.9
	25 mm	1.3 to 1.5
	100 mm	2.0 to 3.0
Clay	Soft	0.3 to 0.6
	Stiff	1.0 to 1.2
	Hard	1.5 to 2.0
Rocks	150 mm	2.5 to 3.0
	300 mm	3.5 to 4.0



# Australian national guidance for rock sizing



## Channels

Equation (6.2.21) applies to uniform flow, but it can be generalised to include gradually varying flow by replacing the slope,  $S$  by the friction slope,  $S_f$ . For gradually varying flow, the bed shear stress is given by:

$$\tau_o = \rho g R_h S_f \quad (6.2.25)$$

The bed shear stress is important when considering the flow velocities necessary for scour

## Spillways

The surfaces of an earthen embankment and overflow spillway must be protected against damage by scour. The degree of protection required is subject to the calculated flow velocity.

The following treatments are recommended as a guide (NSW Government, 2004)

- $V \leq 2$  m/s a dense well-knit turf cover using for example kikuyu;
- $2 \text{ m/s} < V < 7 \text{ m/s}$  a dense well-knit turf cover incorporating a turf reinforcement system; and
- $V \geq 7$  m/s hard surfacing with concrete, riprap or similar.

## Bridges

Riprap is one of the primary scour countermeasures to resist local scour forces at abutments of typical bridges. Riprap is generally abundant, inexpensive and requires no special equipment. However, proper design and placement is essential. Guidelines for proper grading and placement methods are included in QDTMR (2013).

Detailed descriptions of scour repair and protection for existing bridges is included in QDTMR (2013).

## Culverts

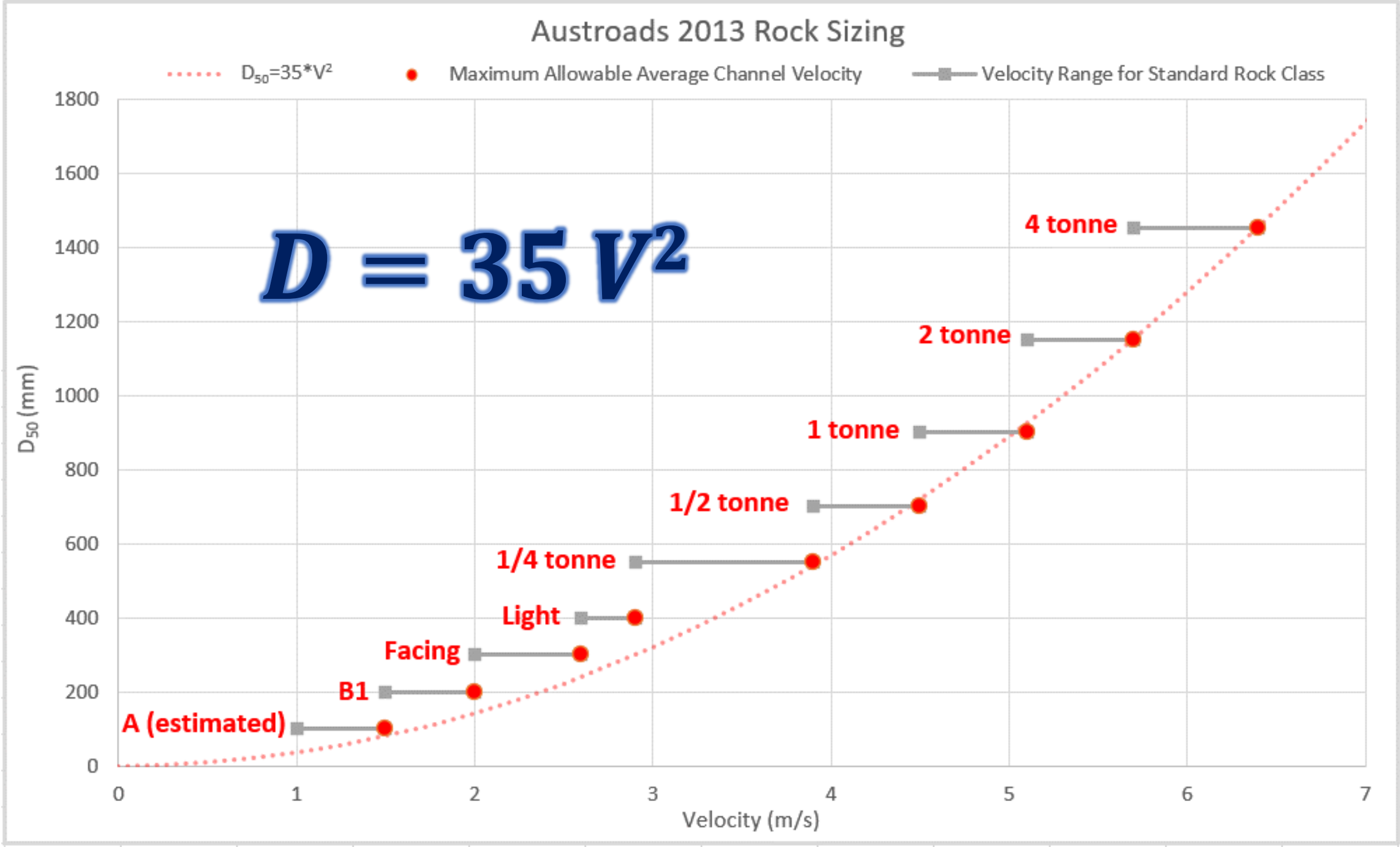
If outlet velocities exceed the acceptable limits, it may be necessary to check for potential bed scour problems. Where the outlet flows have a Froude Number ( $Fr$ ) less or equal to 1.7 and outlet velocities less than 5.0 m/s, an extended concrete apron or rock pad (commonly used) protection is recommended.

Design details are provided by Austroads (2013)



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# Australian national guidance for rock sizing



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# 1D Assumptions: Horizontal Variation



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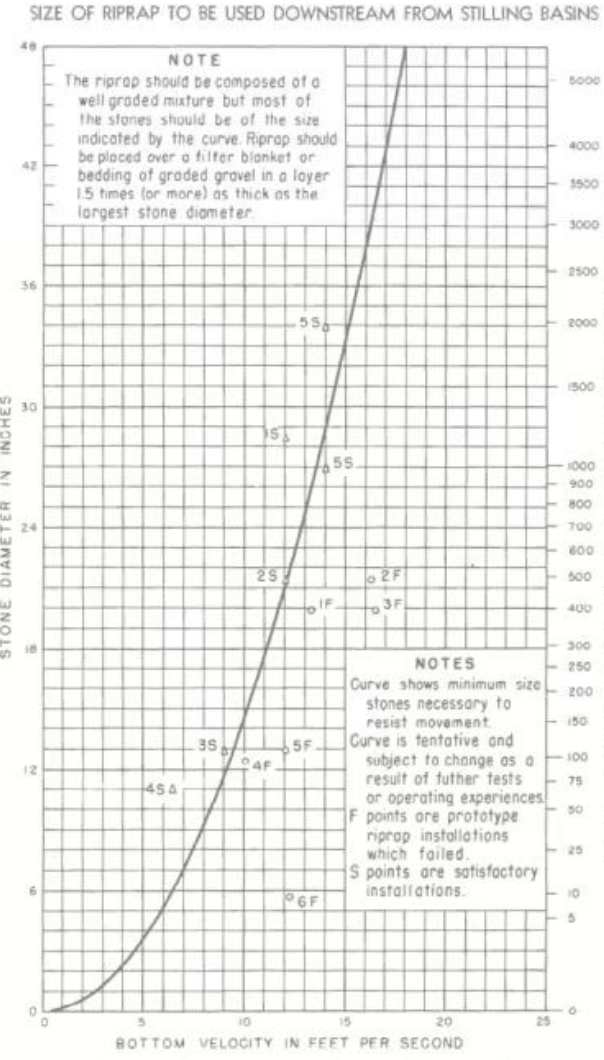
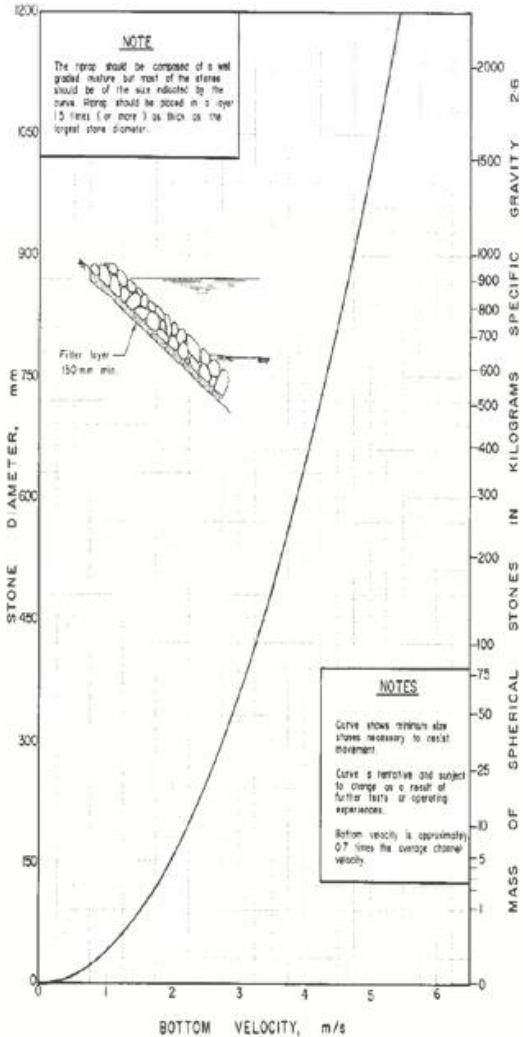
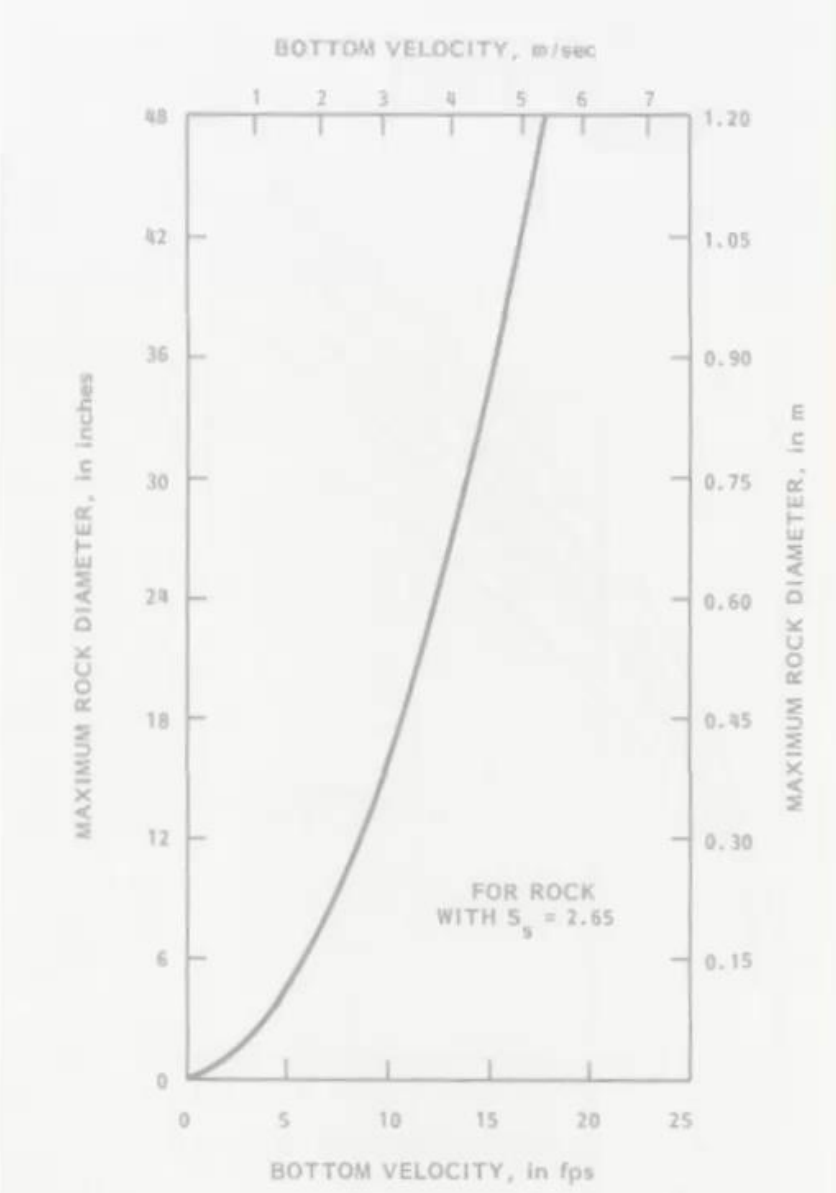
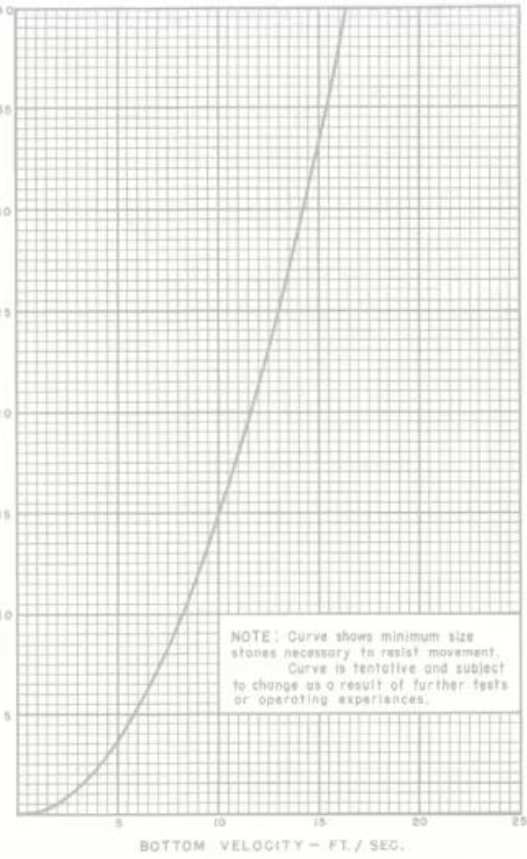
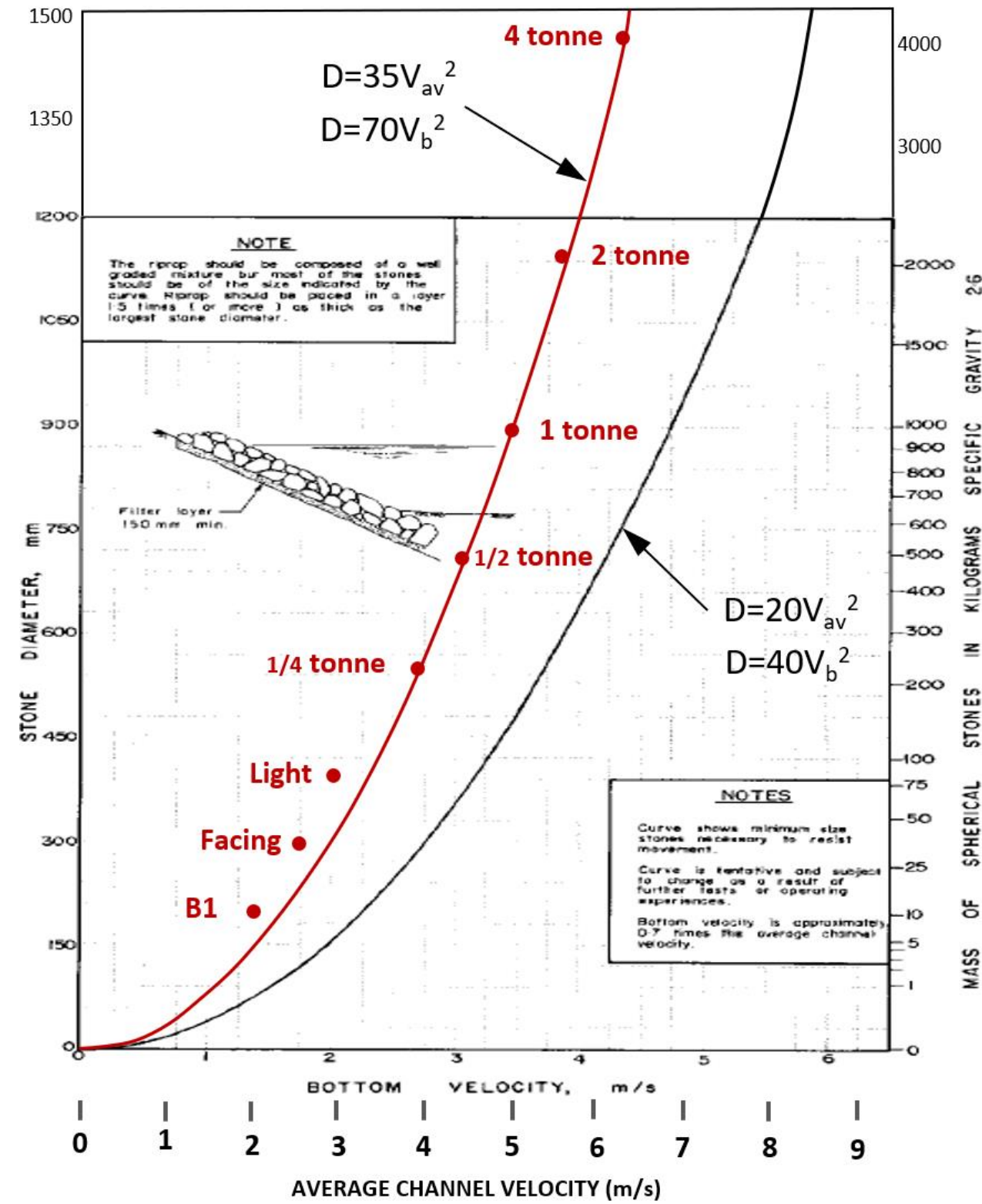
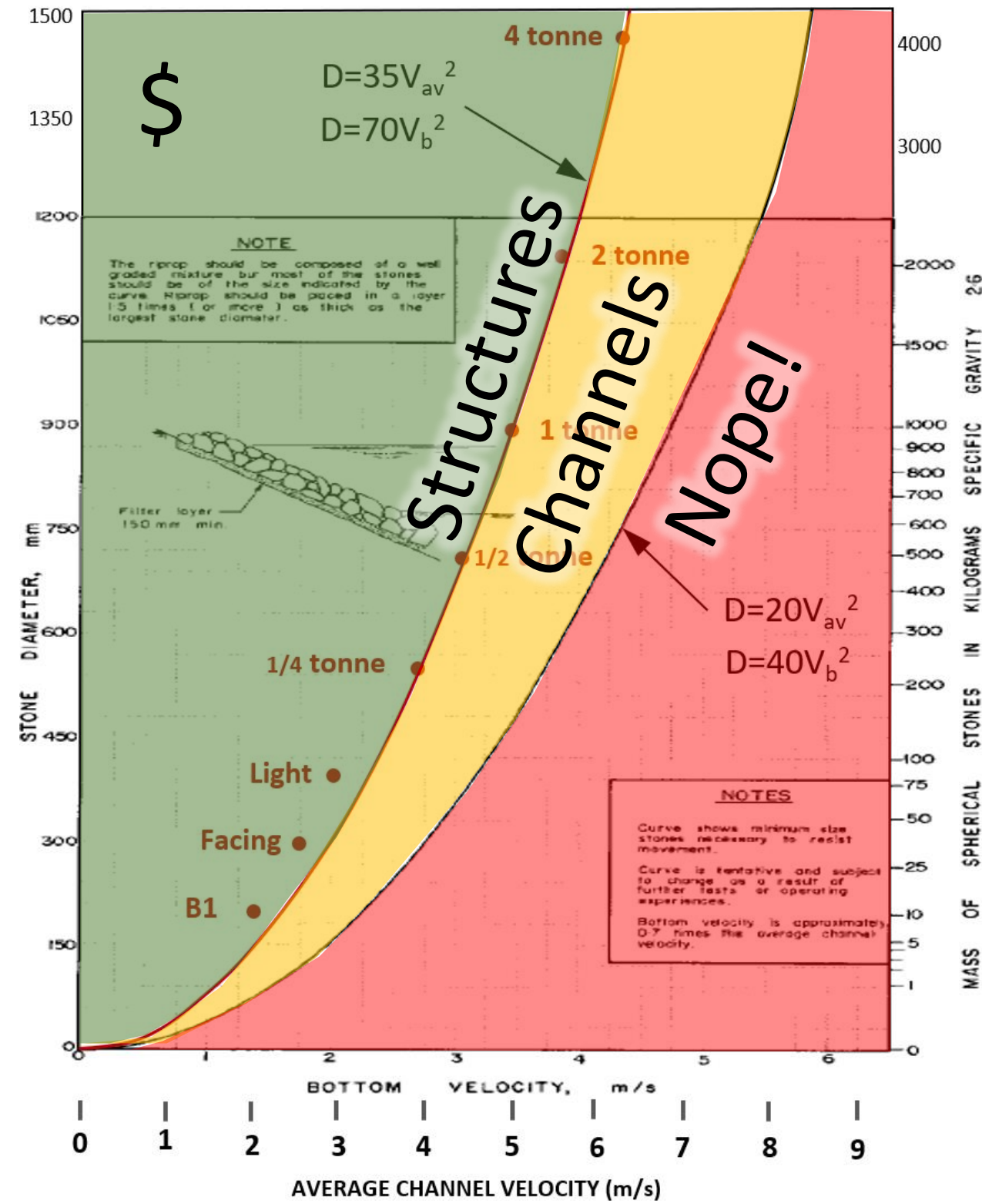


FIGURE 165.—Curve to determine maximum stone size in riprap mixture.





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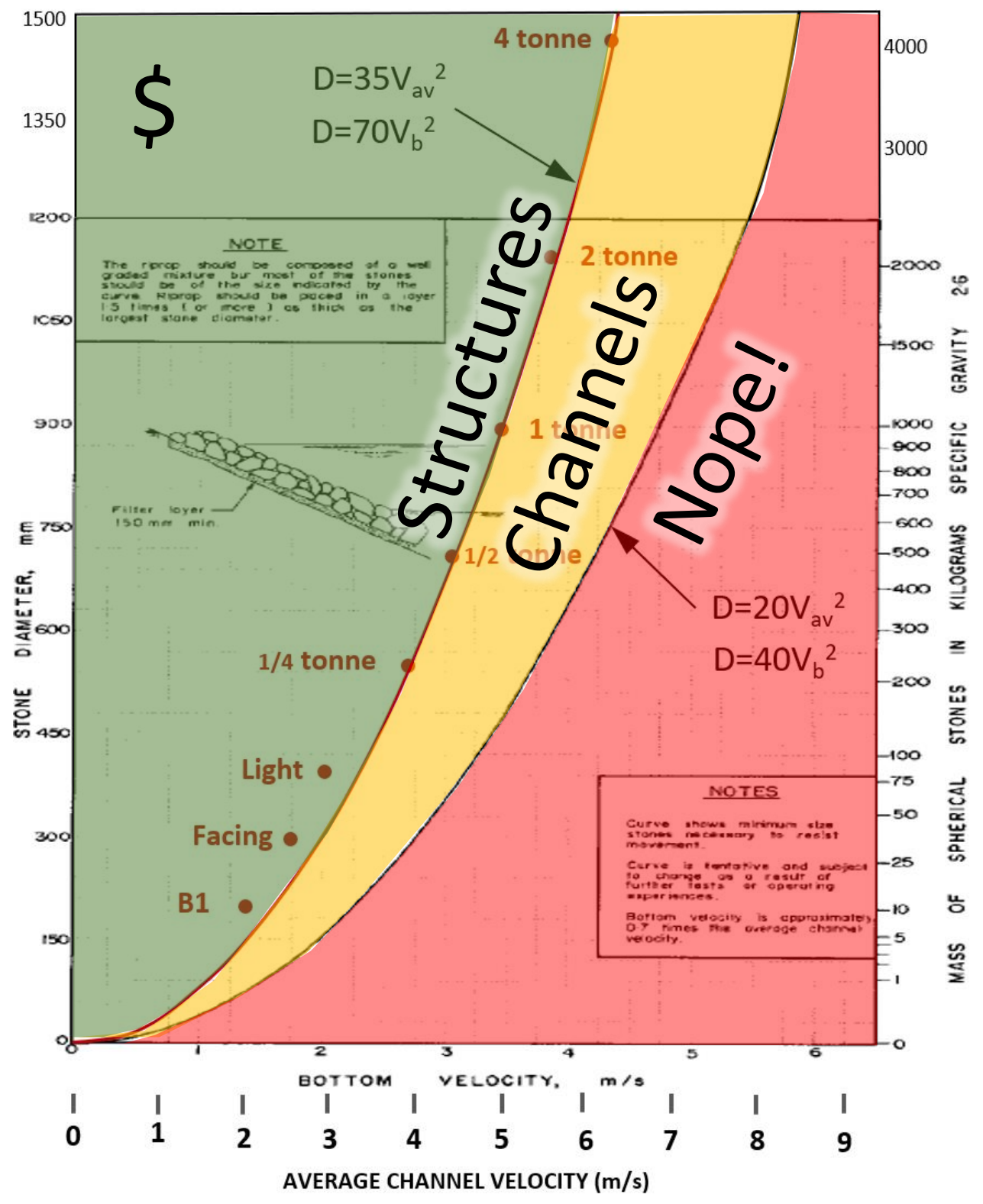
# HWRS 2021 Recommendations

- Check using at least 3 methods:

- Velocity  $D_{50} = a * V^2$
- Shear  $D_{50} = S_f * \tau$
- Velocity & Depth  $D_{30} = S_f C_s C_v C_t d \left( \frac{\gamma_w}{\gamma_s - \gamma_w} \right)^{0.5} \frac{V}{\sqrt{K_1 g d}} \right)^{2.5}$

- Clarifications needed:

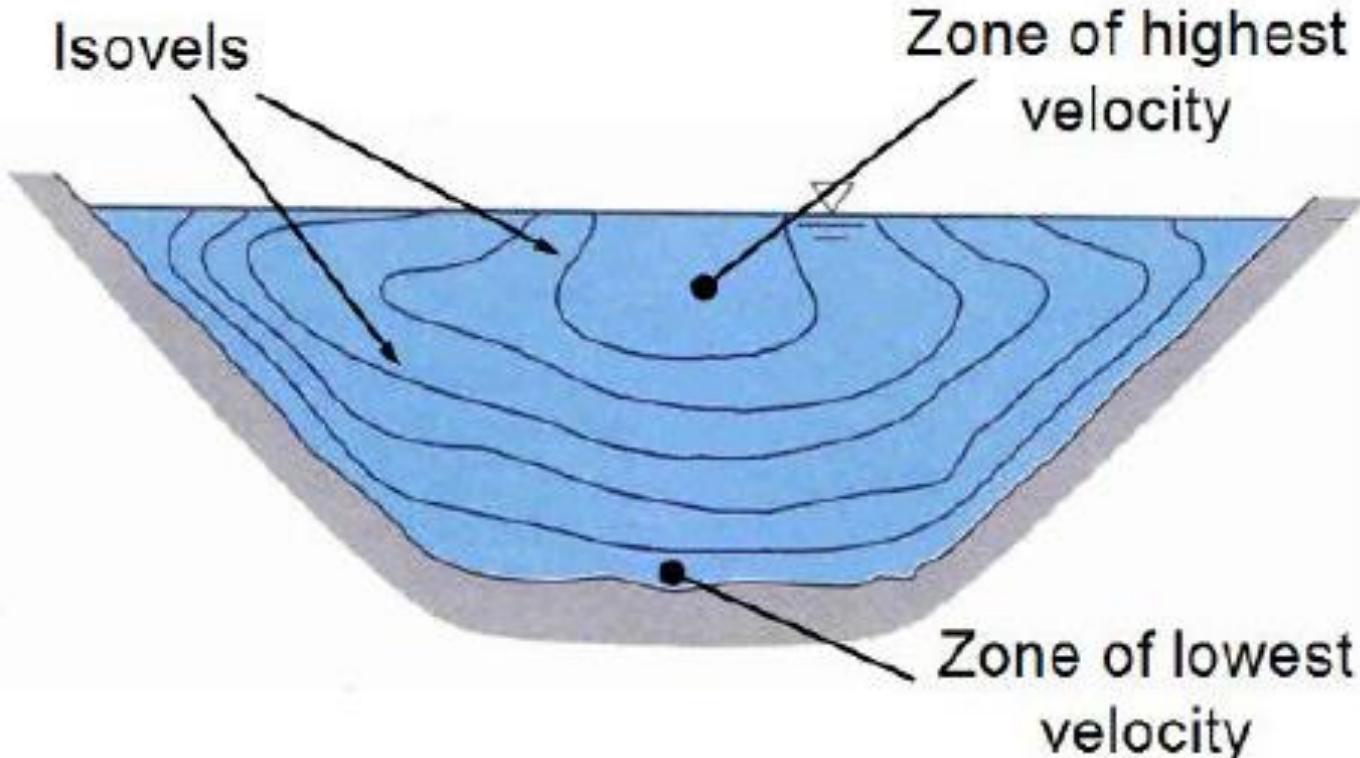
- Application: Channels vs. Structures
- Gradation:  $D_{10}, D_{50}, D_{90}$  by total weight
- Shear and Velocity Adjustments: 1D vs 2D vs 3D
- How to apply the USACE method



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# 1D Assumptions: Horizontal Variation



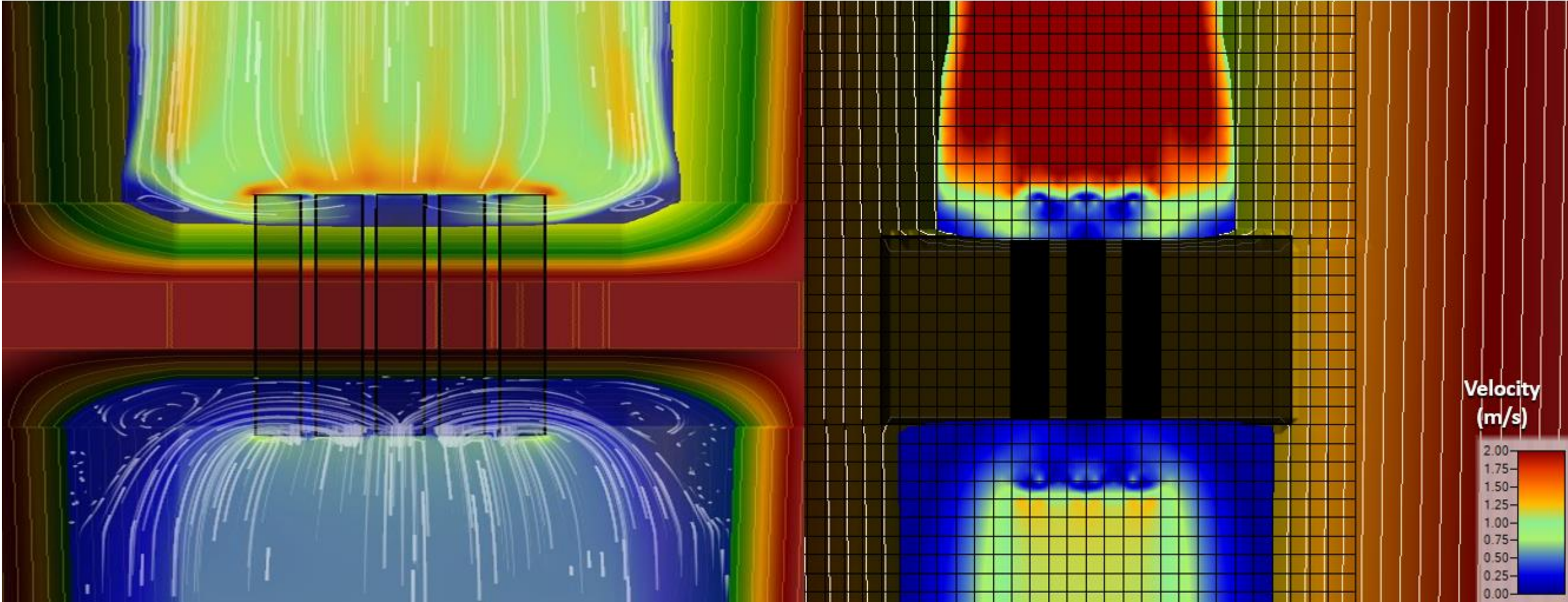
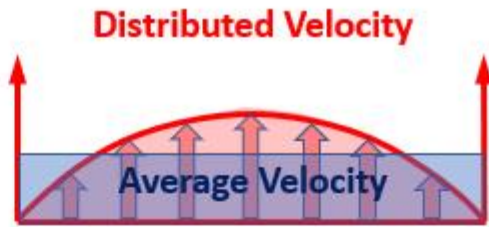
Austrroads 2013 and DTMR 2010



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# 1D vs 2D Assumptions: Horizontal Variation



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# 1D Assumptions: Horizontal Variation

$$W = \frac{0.00002V^6 sg_R csc^3(\rho - \alpha)}{(sg_R - 1)^3}$$

W = Weight of critical stone in pounds; two thirds of stone should be heavier.

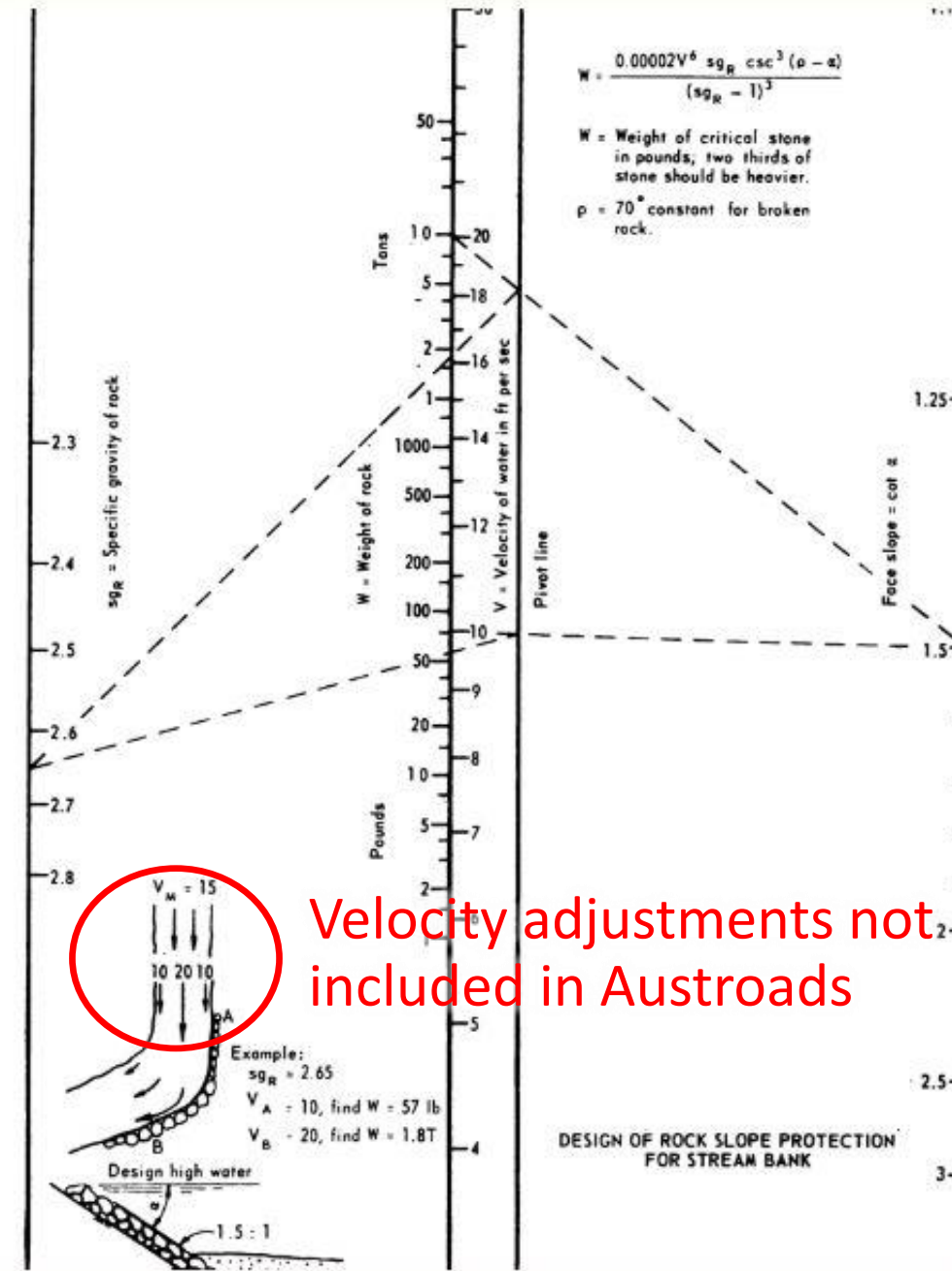
$\rho = 70^\circ$  constant for broken rock.

Basic data and assumptions: velocity ratios  $V_A:V_M:V_B = 2:3:4$ ; specific gravity of rock is  $sg_r = 2.65$ ; face slope of revetment is 1.5:1; stones grade uniformly between specified minima for class with two thirds heavier than minimum required on face;  $T = \frac{1}{3} \sqrt[3]{W_c}$ , plus 25% for Method B.

$$W = \frac{2 \times 10^{-5} V^6 sg_r}{(sg_r - 1)^3 \sin^3(\rho - \alpha)} = \frac{.00002 V^6 \cdot 2.65}{1.65^3 \cdot .592^3} = .000057 V^6$$

V = Stream velocity to which bank is exposed, ft/s  
 = 4/3 the average stream velocity for impinging velocities (on outside of bends in line with the central thread), ft/s  
 = 2/3 the average velocity for tangent (parallel) velocity, ft/s

- 2/3 vs 4/3 = 64x Weight!



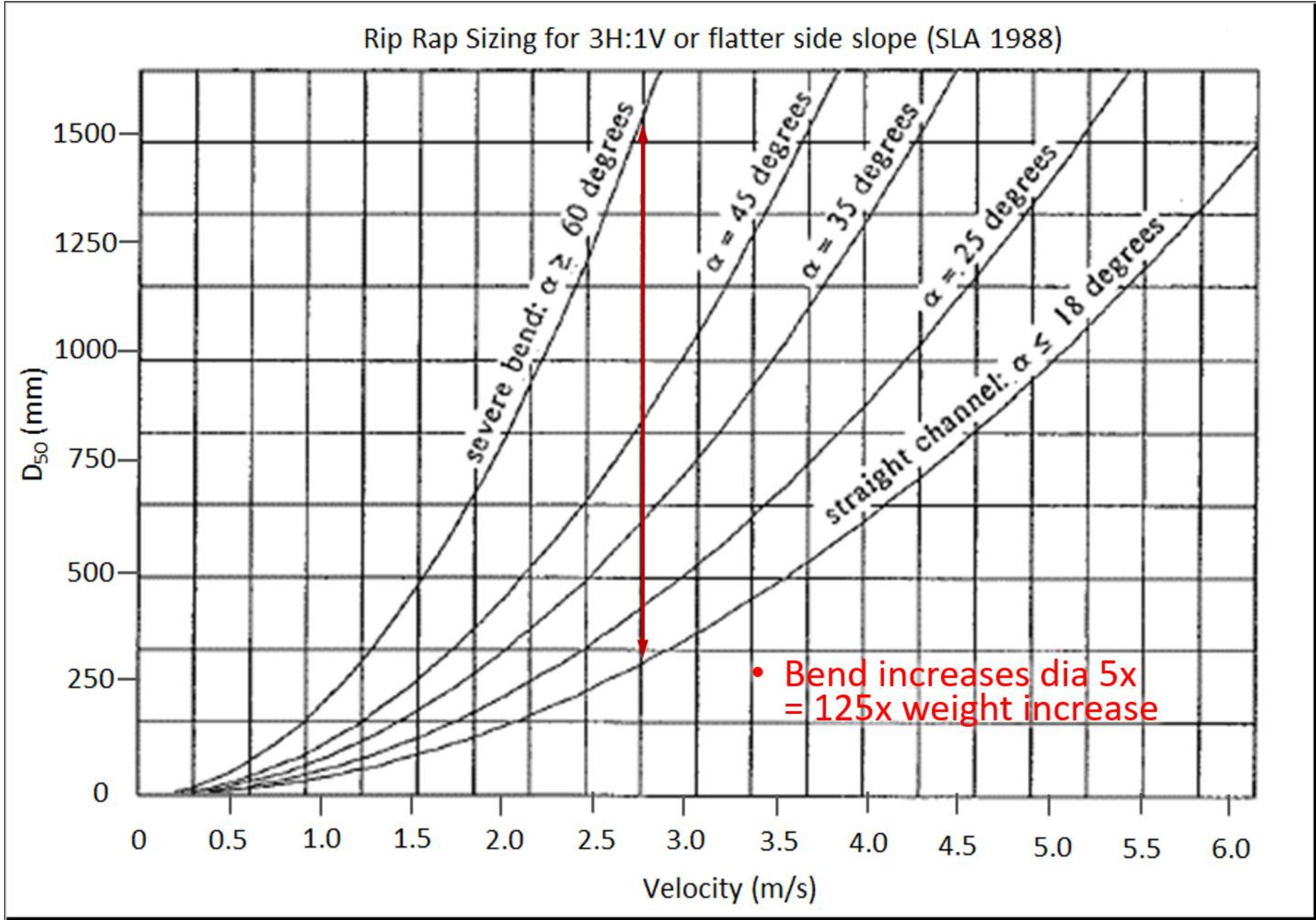
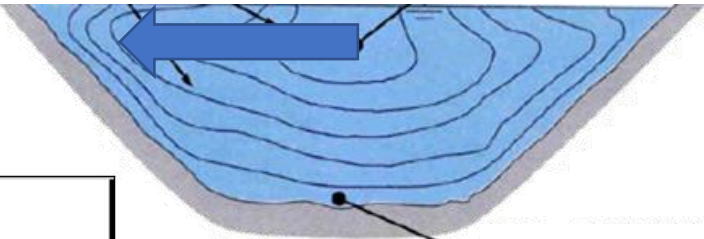
Velocity adjustments not included in Austroads



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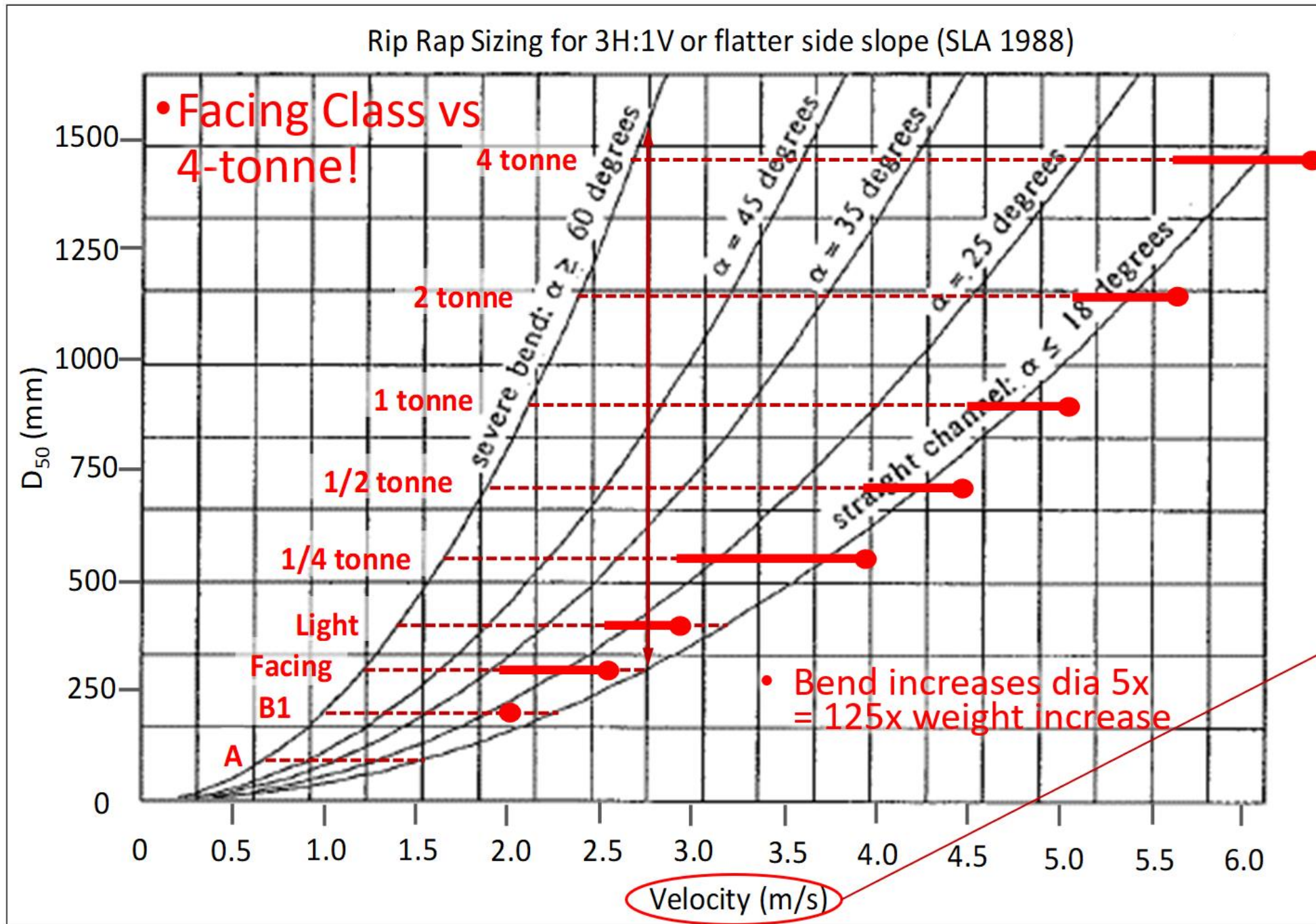
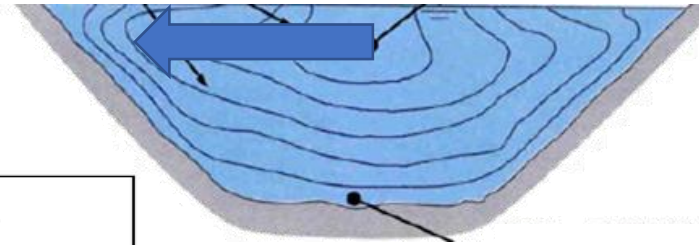
# Effect of bends



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# Effect of bends



• Facing Class vs 4-tonne!

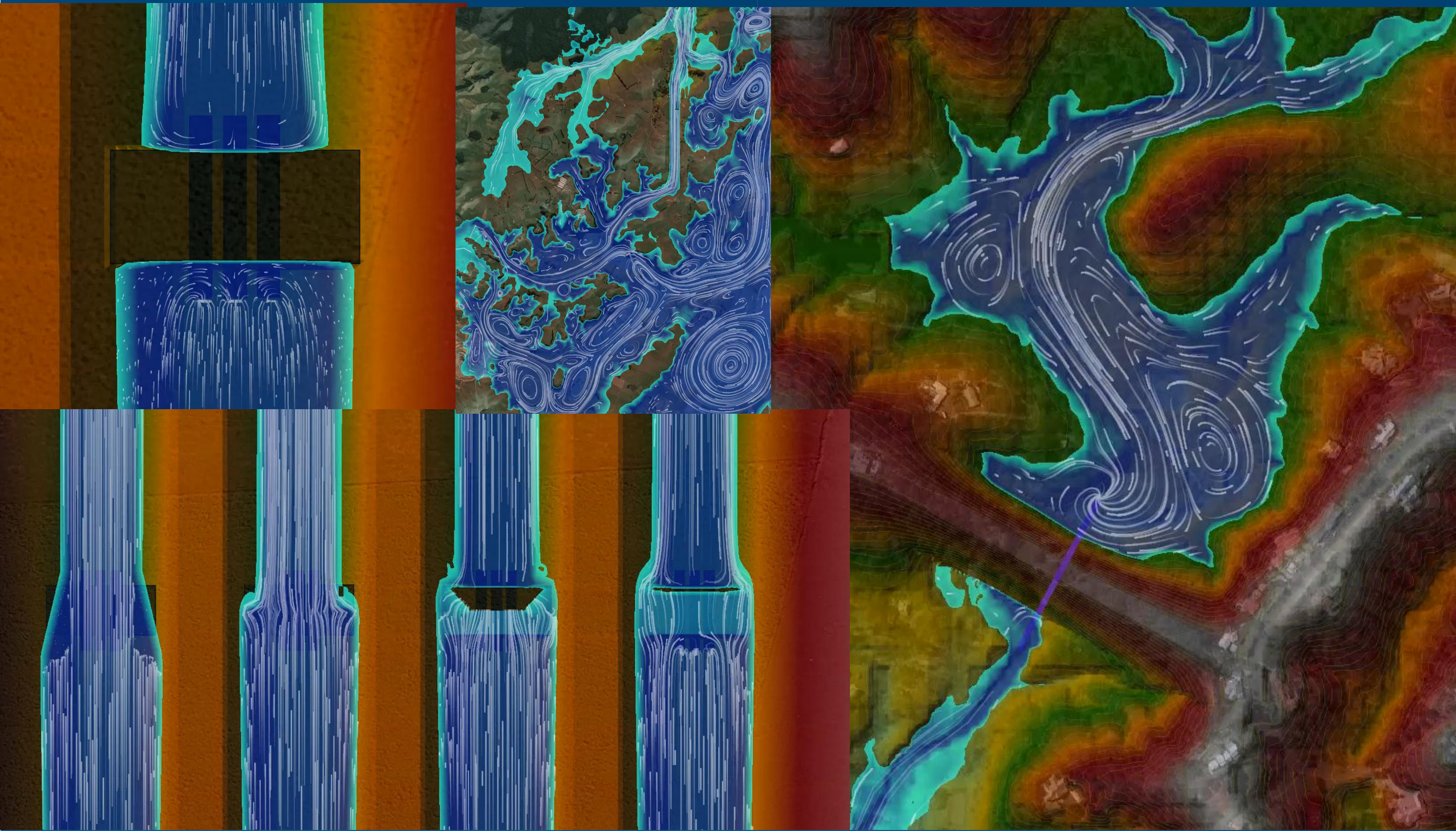
• Bend increases dia 5x = 125x weight increase

• Average velocity: Don't double count adjustment with localised 2D results!



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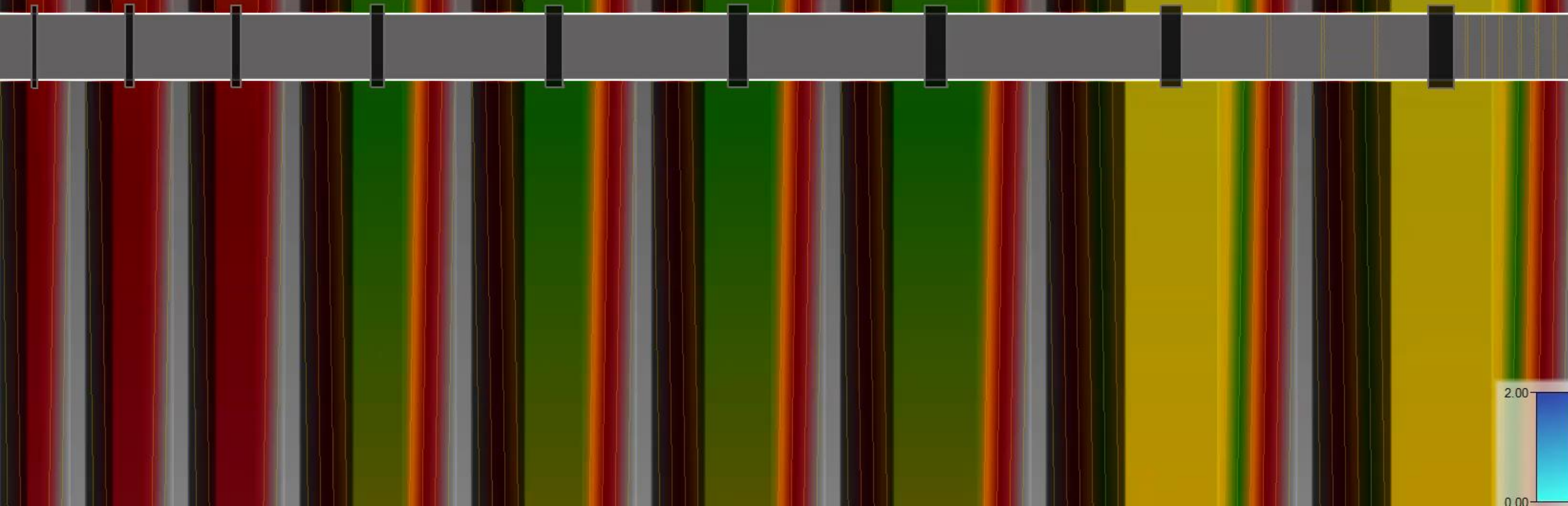


Selected: 'depth'

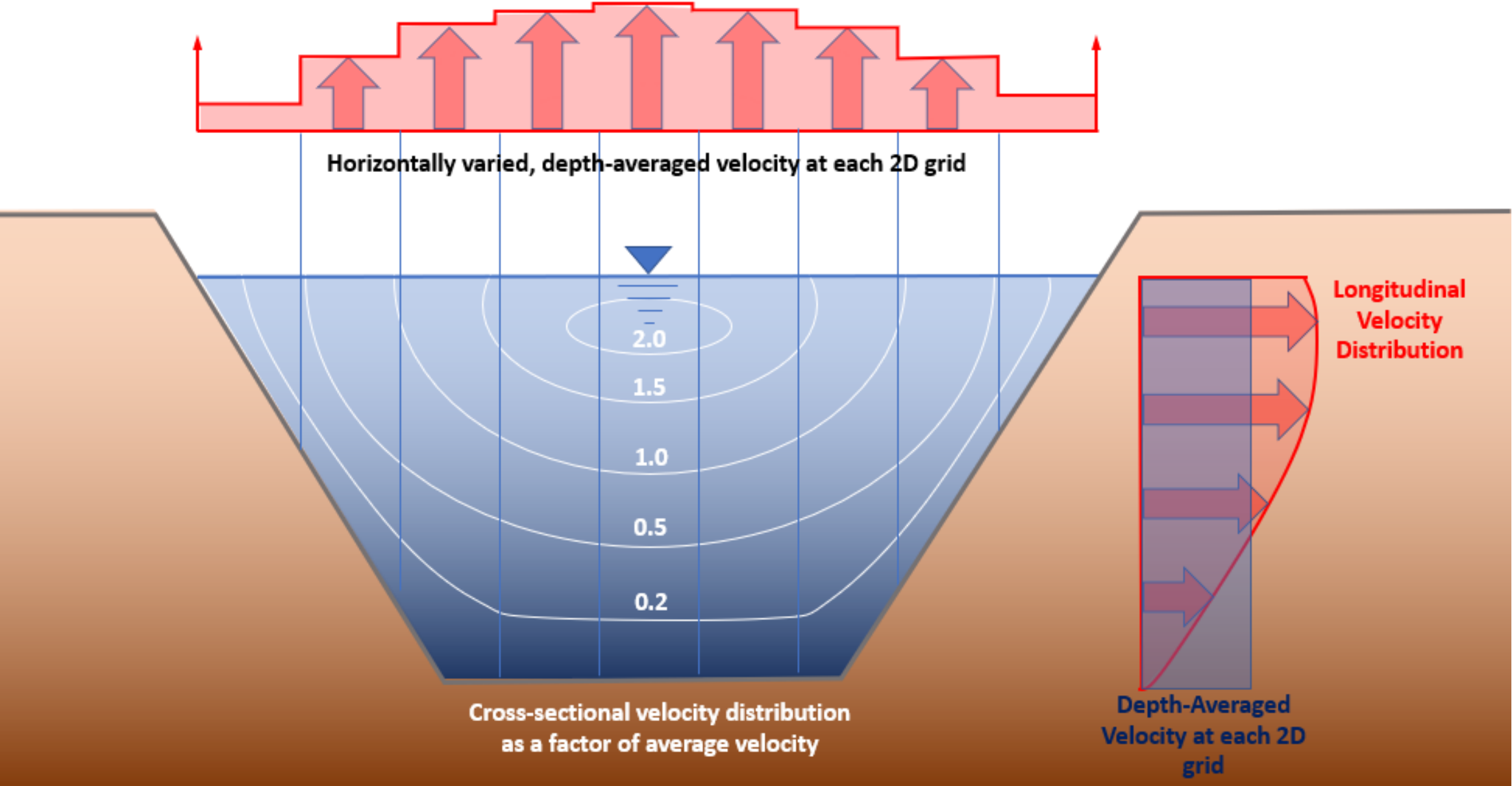
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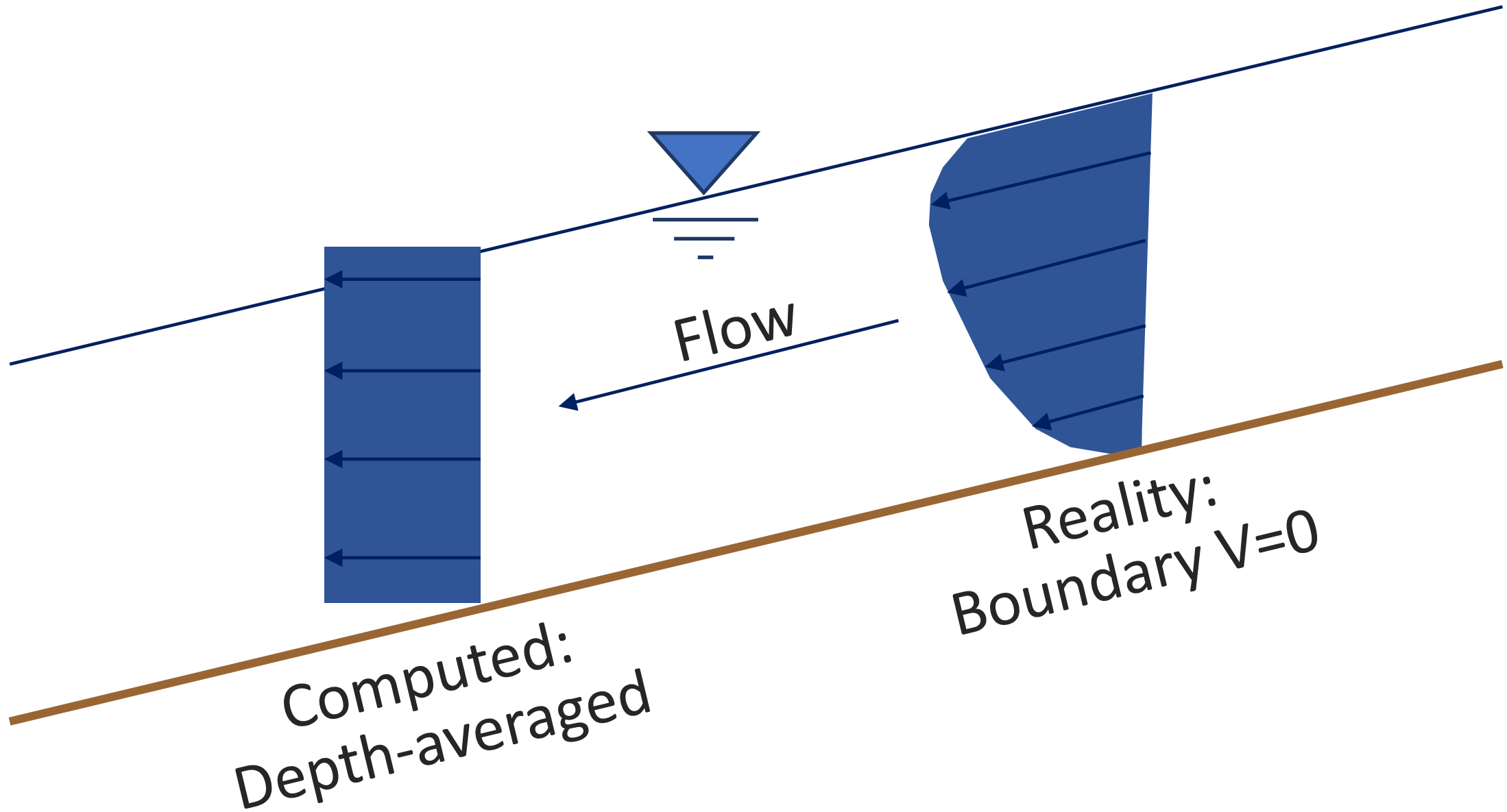
# 1D and 2D Assumptions: Vertical Variation



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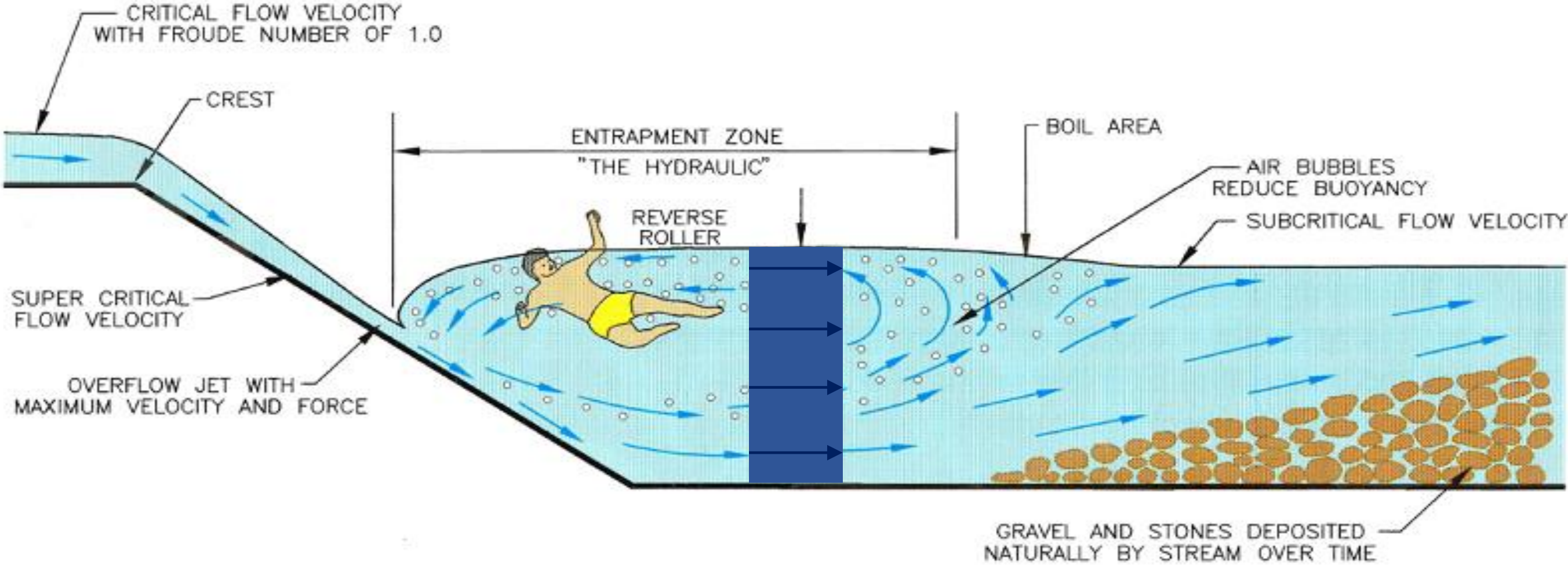
# 1D and 2D Assumptions: Depth-averaged



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# 1D and 2D Assumptions: Depth-averaged



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Courtesy of Wright Water Engineers, Inc. and ASDSO.  
Source: Wright, Kenneth R., Kelly, Jonathan M., Houghtalen, Robert J., & Bonner, Mark R. "Emergency Rescues at Low-Head Dams." Paper presented at Dam Safety 1995, the 12th annual conference of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Atlanta, GA, September 1995.

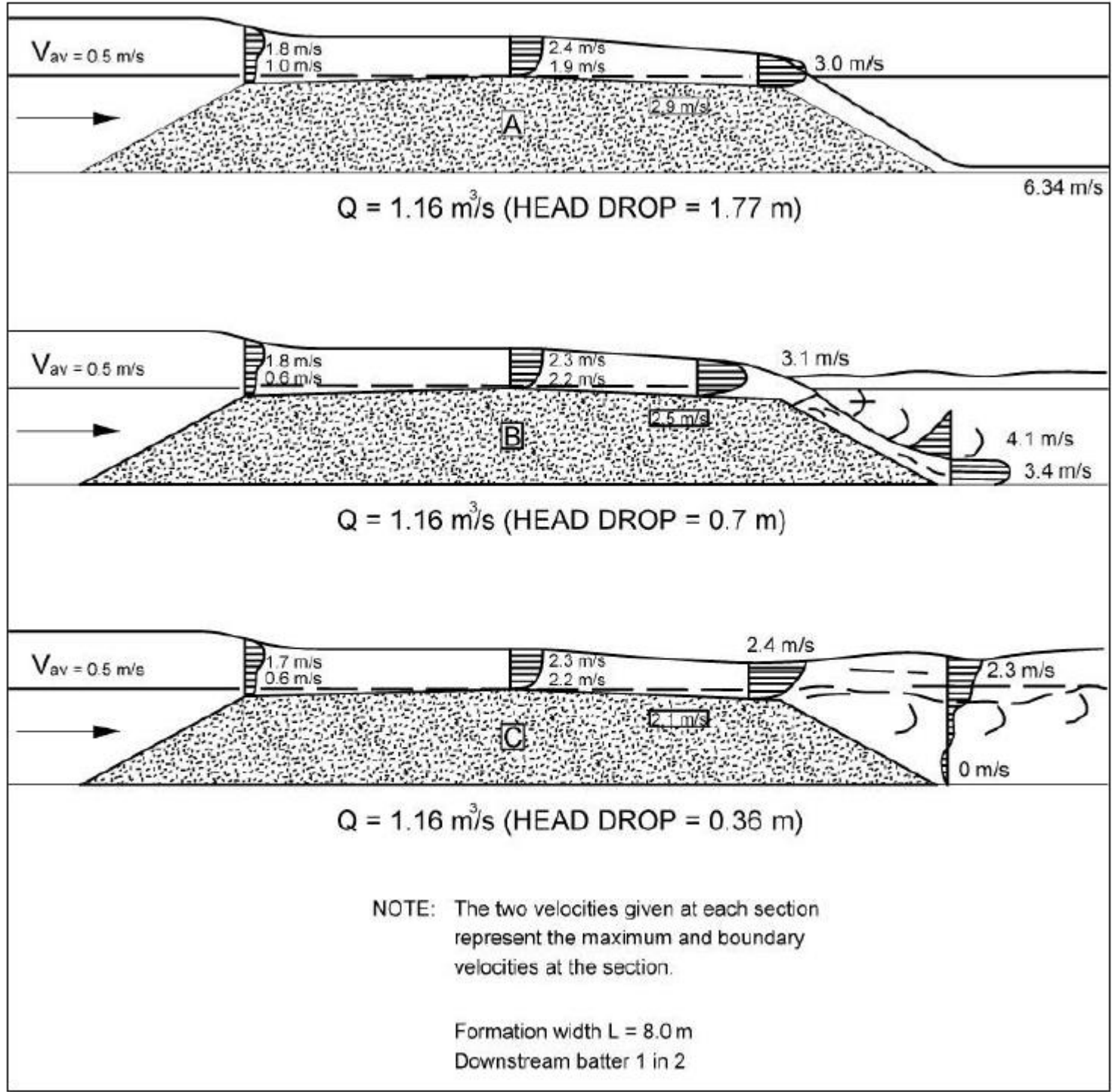




# Vertical Variation



Cameron and McNamara, Report on Model Investigation of Causeway Design for Commonwealth Department of Works, Darwin and Queensland Main Roads Department, 1966.



Source: DTMR (2010).

Source: Cameron and McNamara, 1966

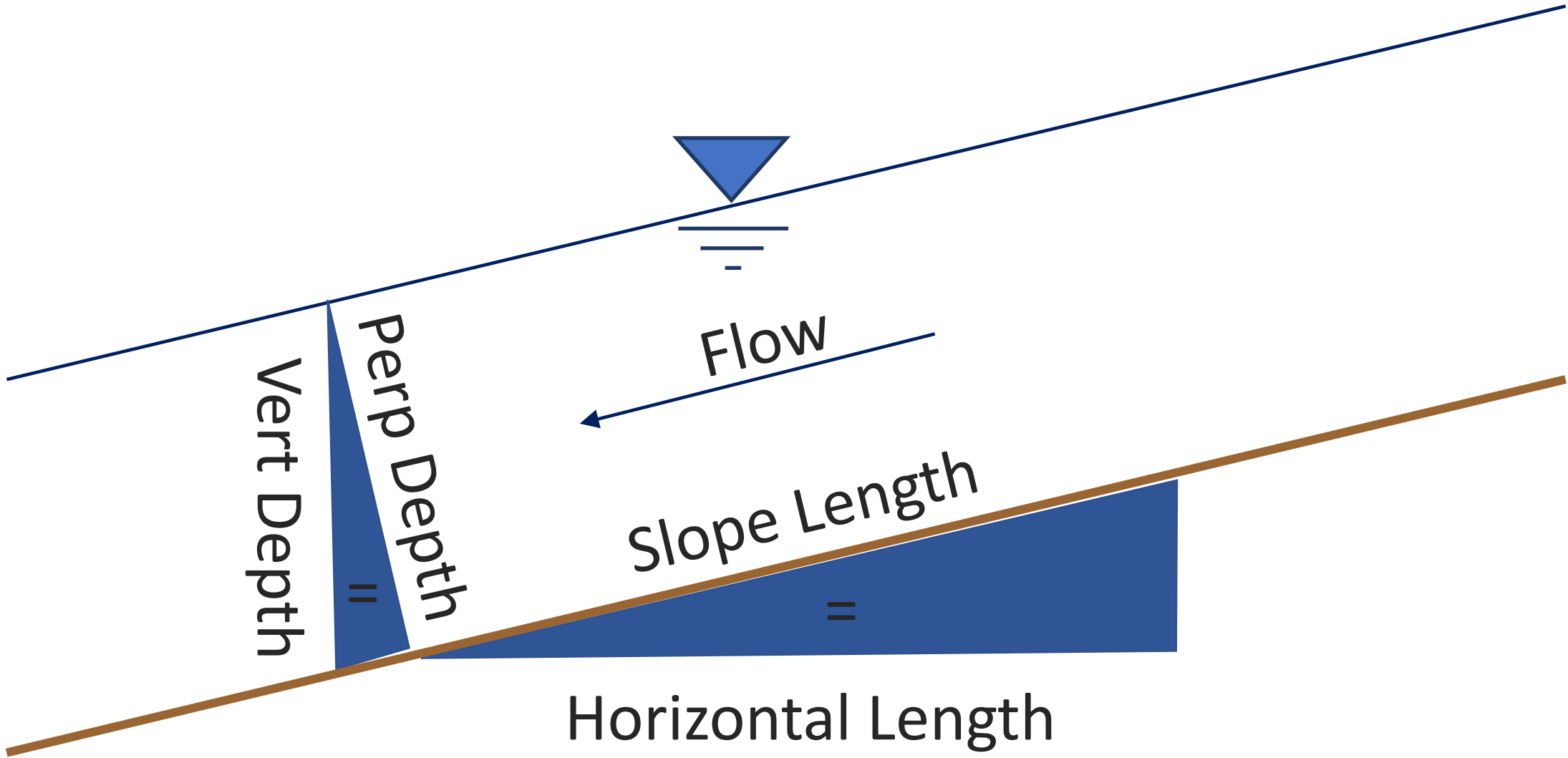
Figure 4.2: Indicative velocities of flow over a typical floodway



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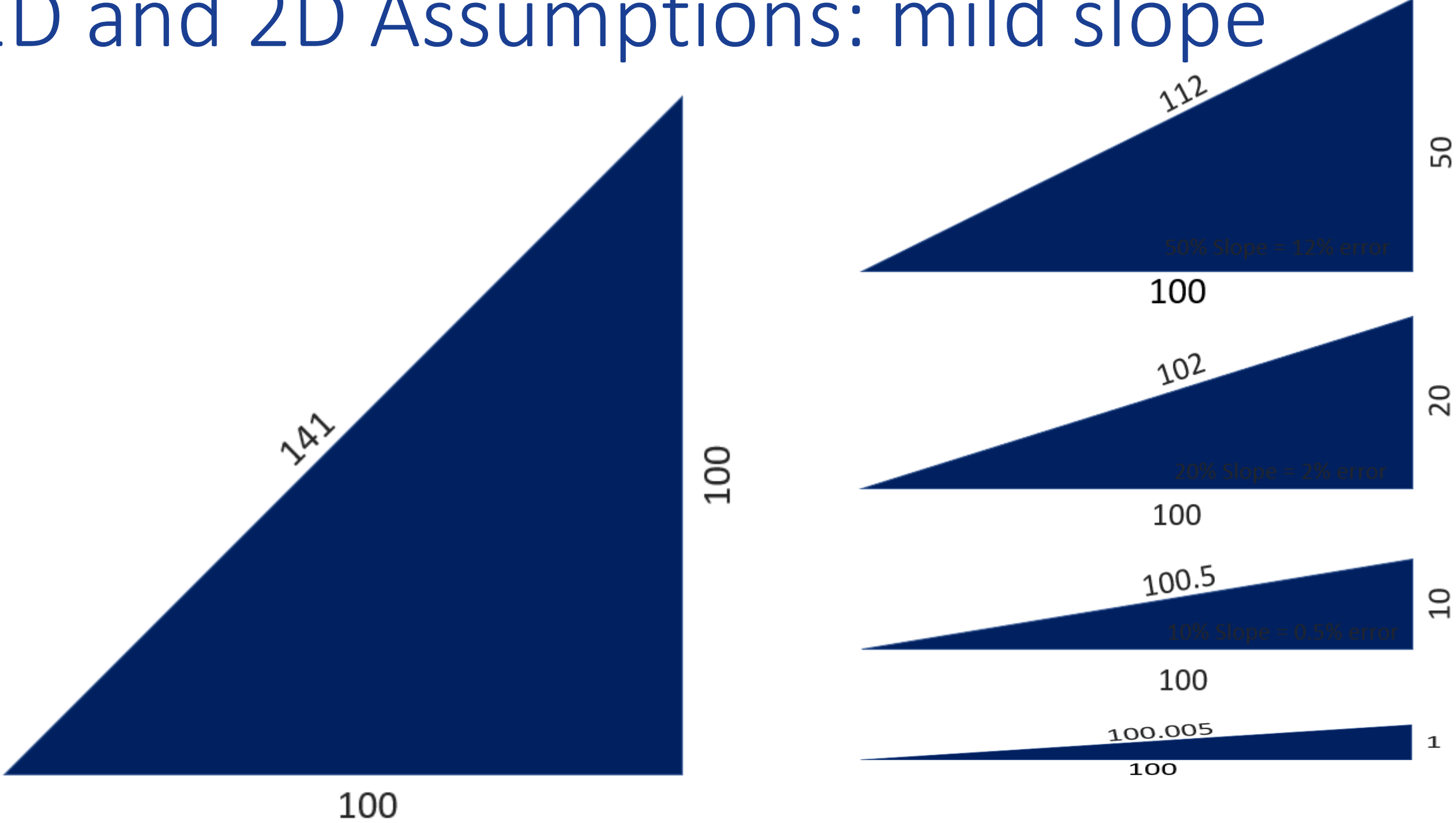
# 1D and 2D Assumptions: mild slope



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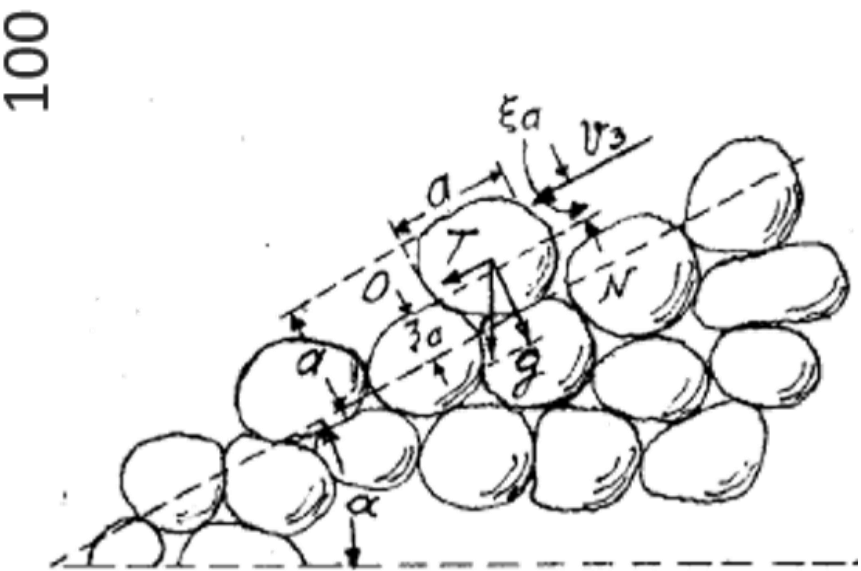
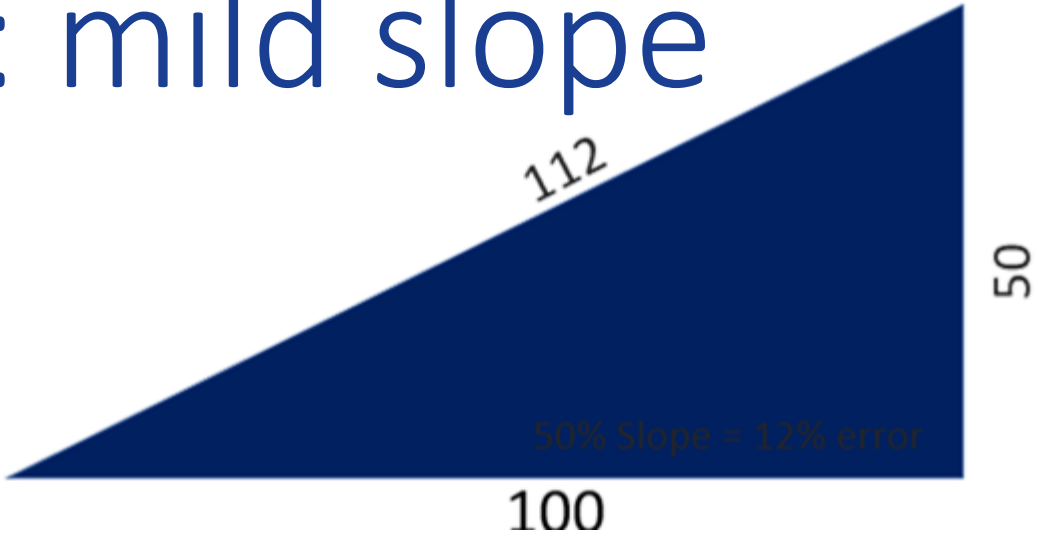
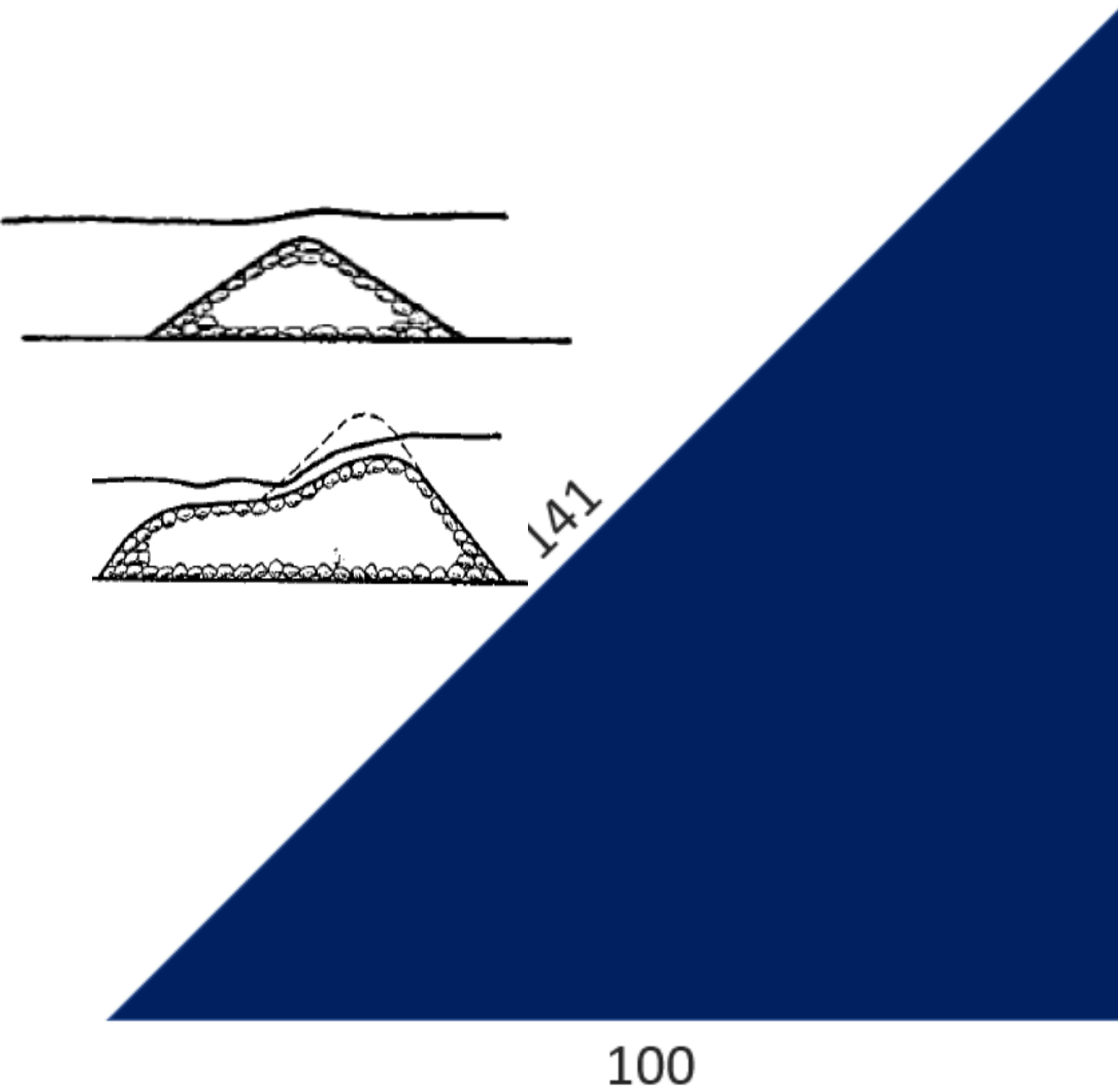
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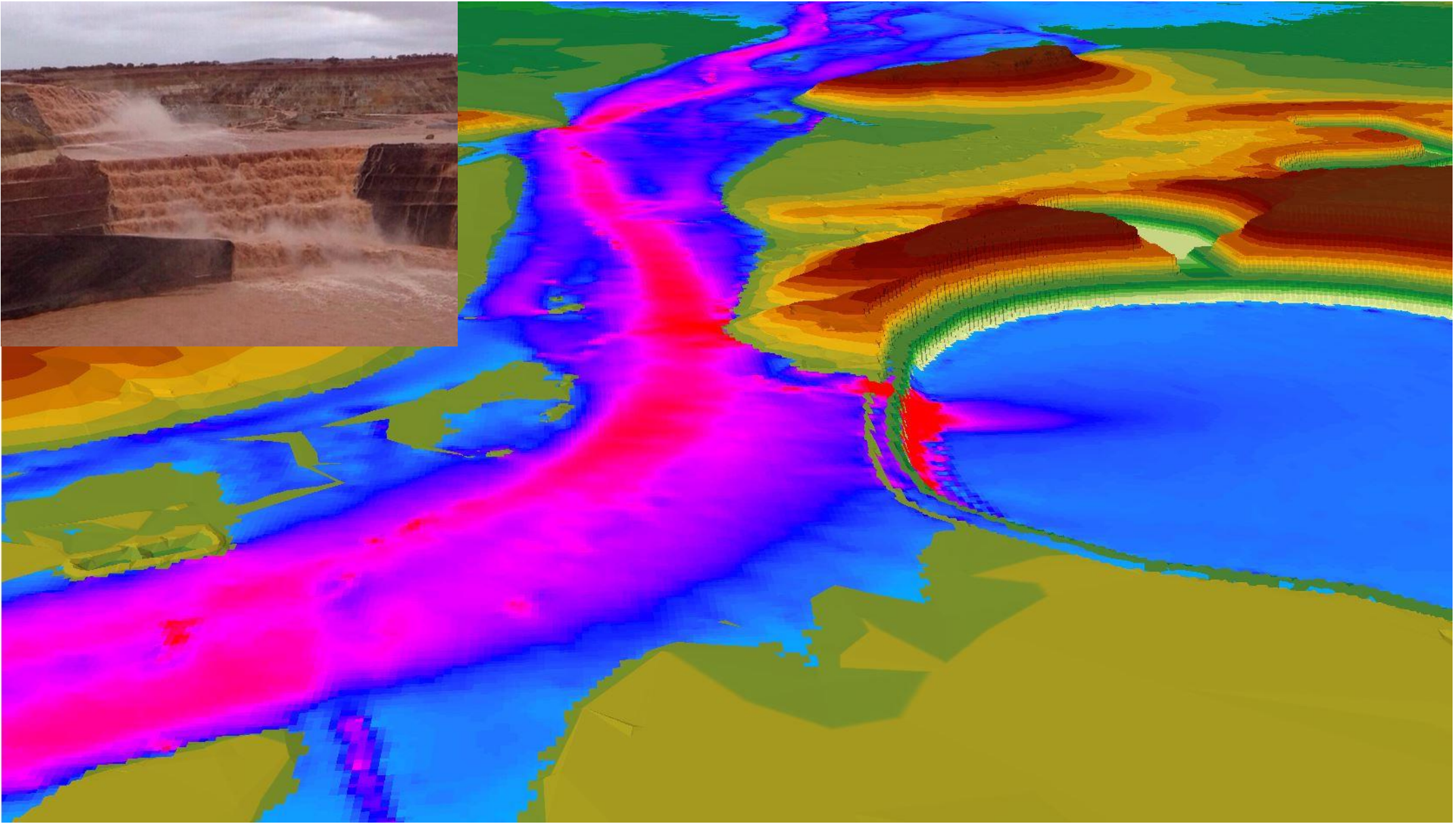
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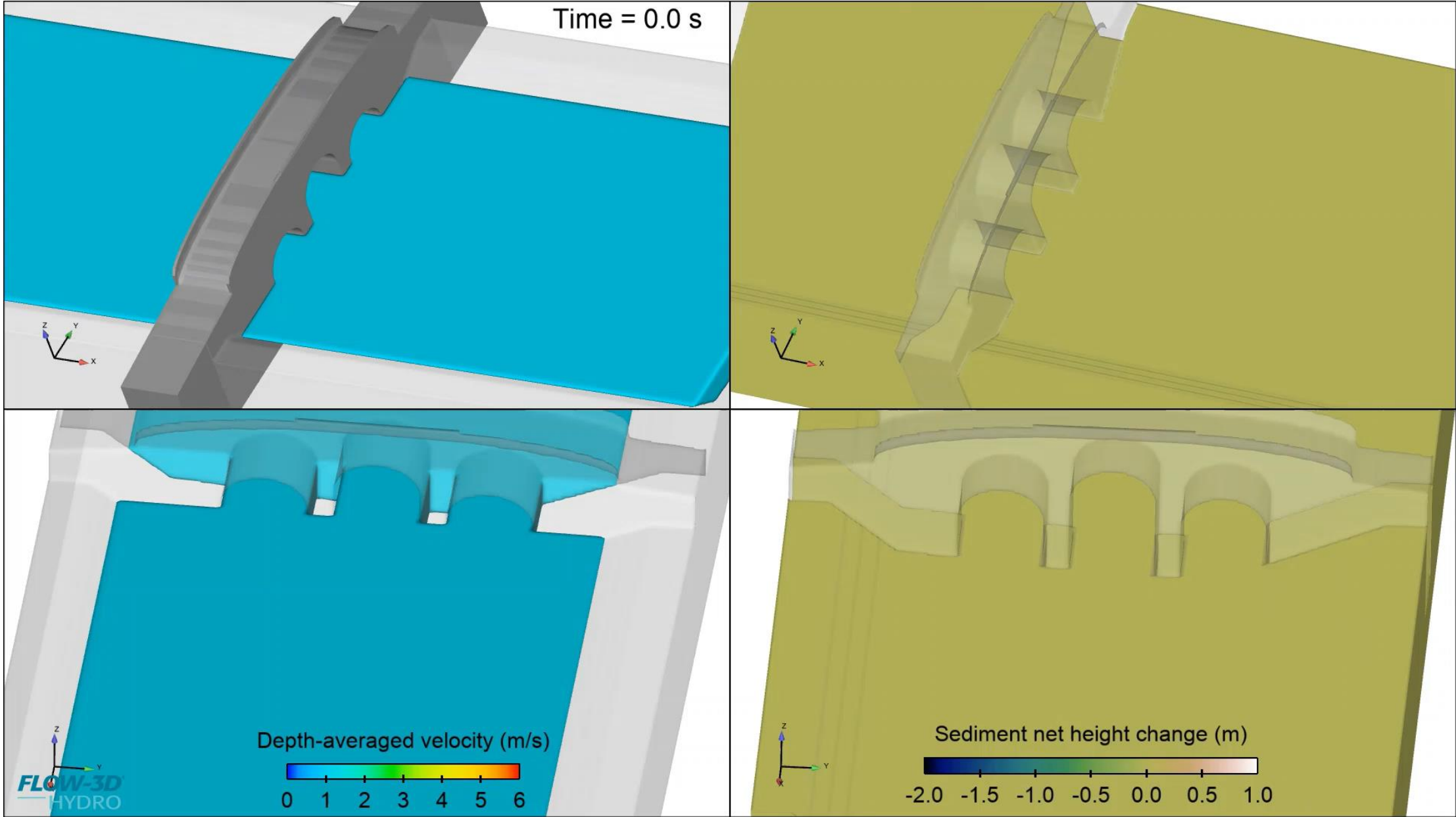
# 1D and 2D Assumptions: mild slope



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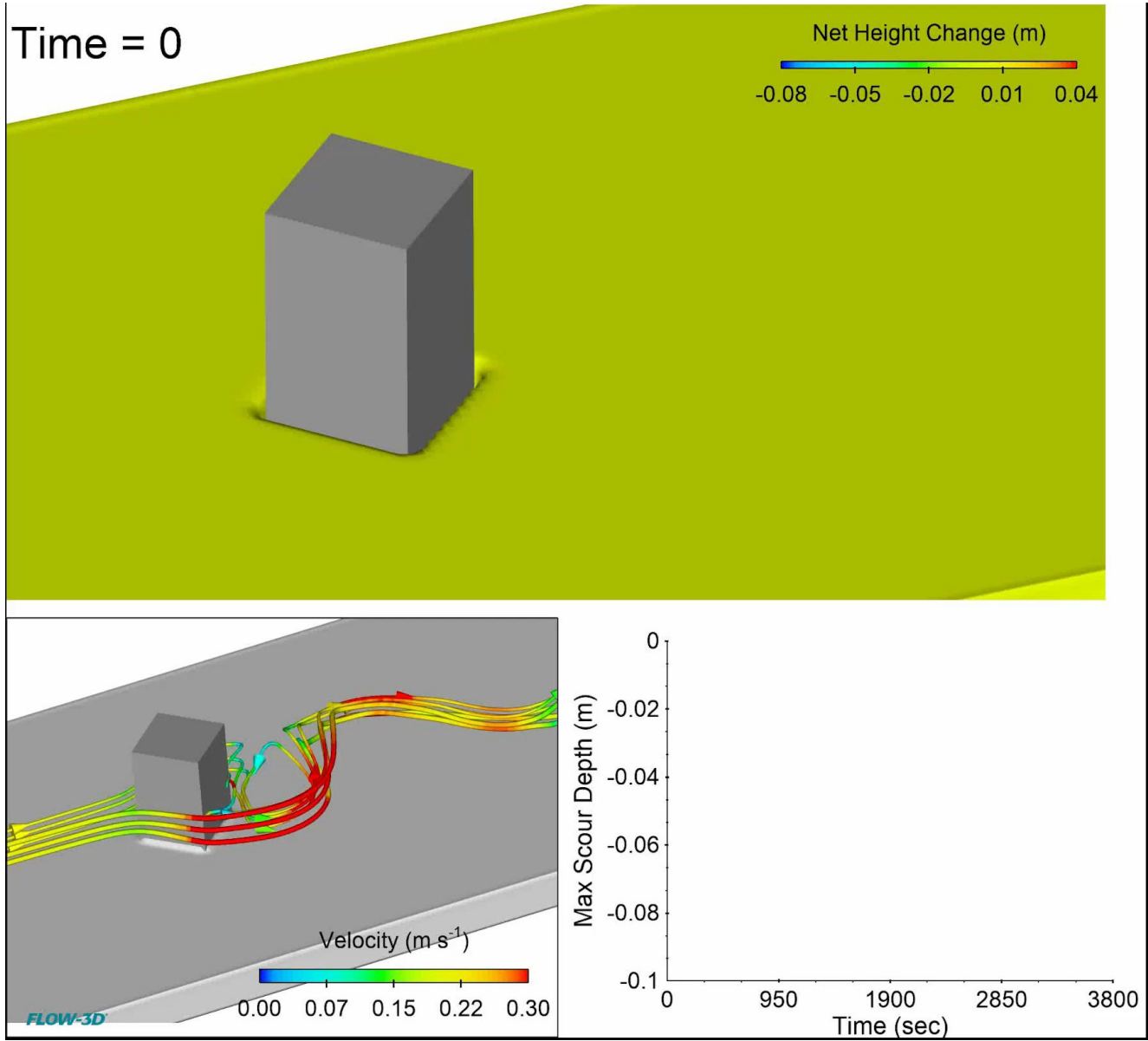
# 3D Scour Modelling



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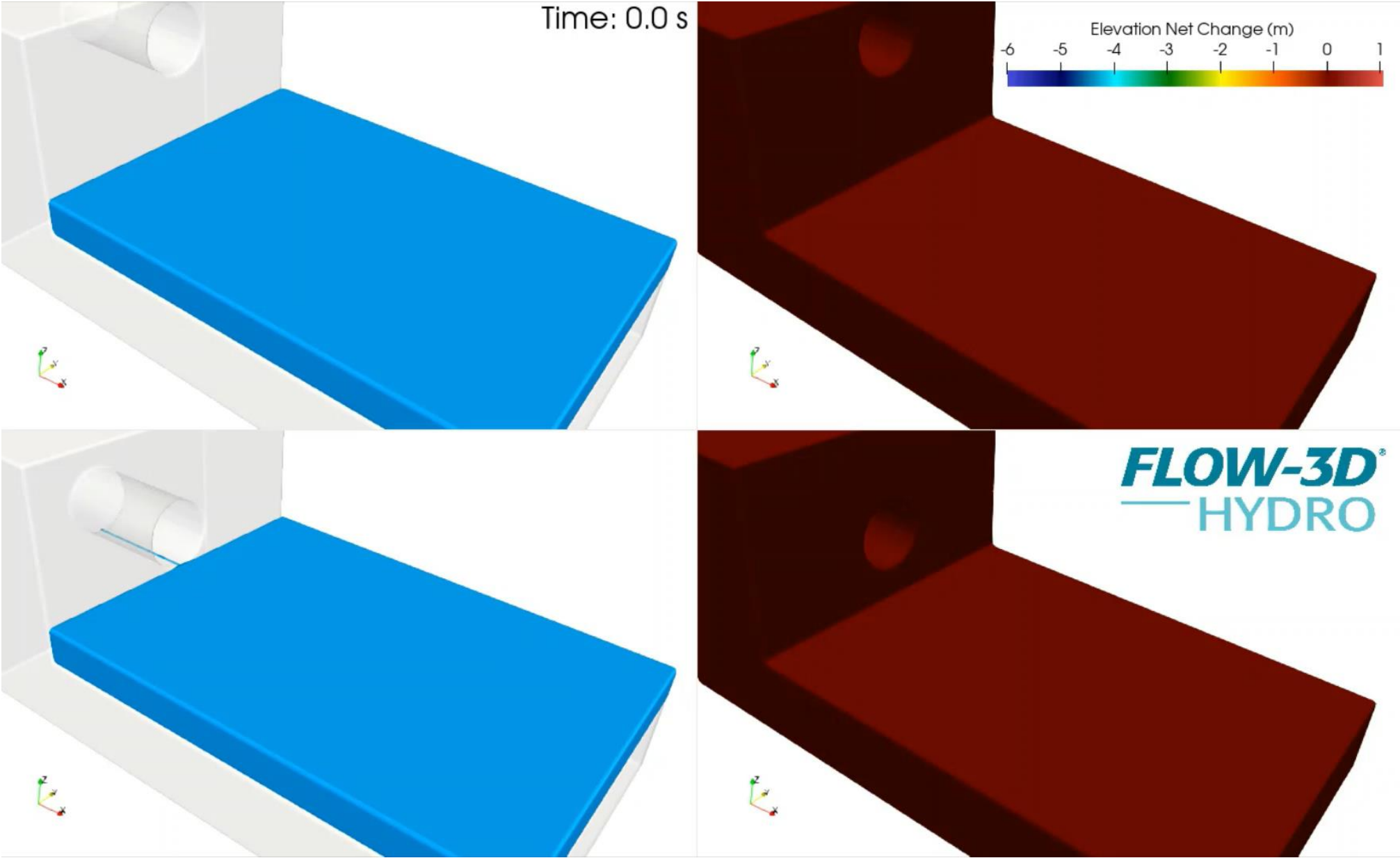
# 3D Scour Modelling



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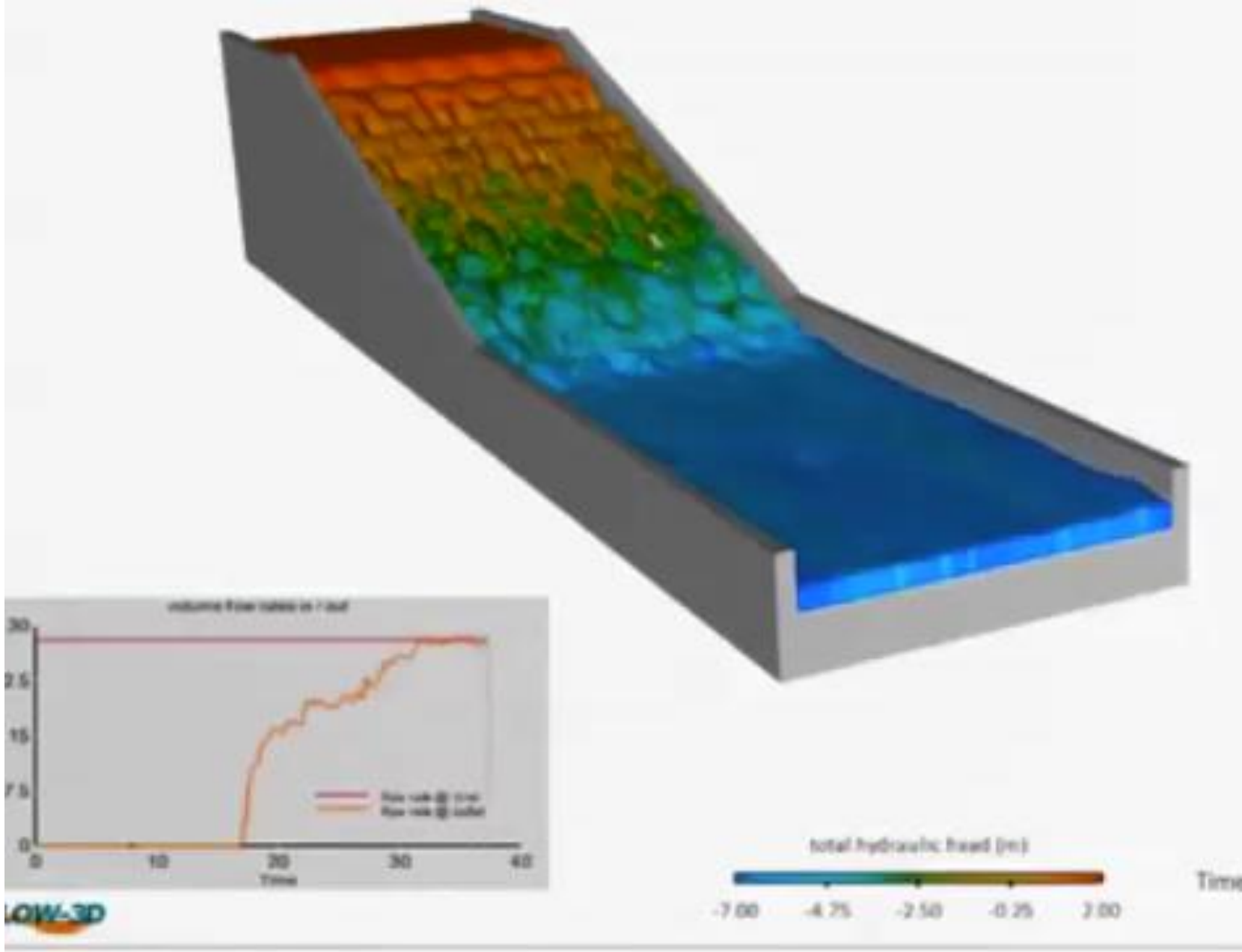


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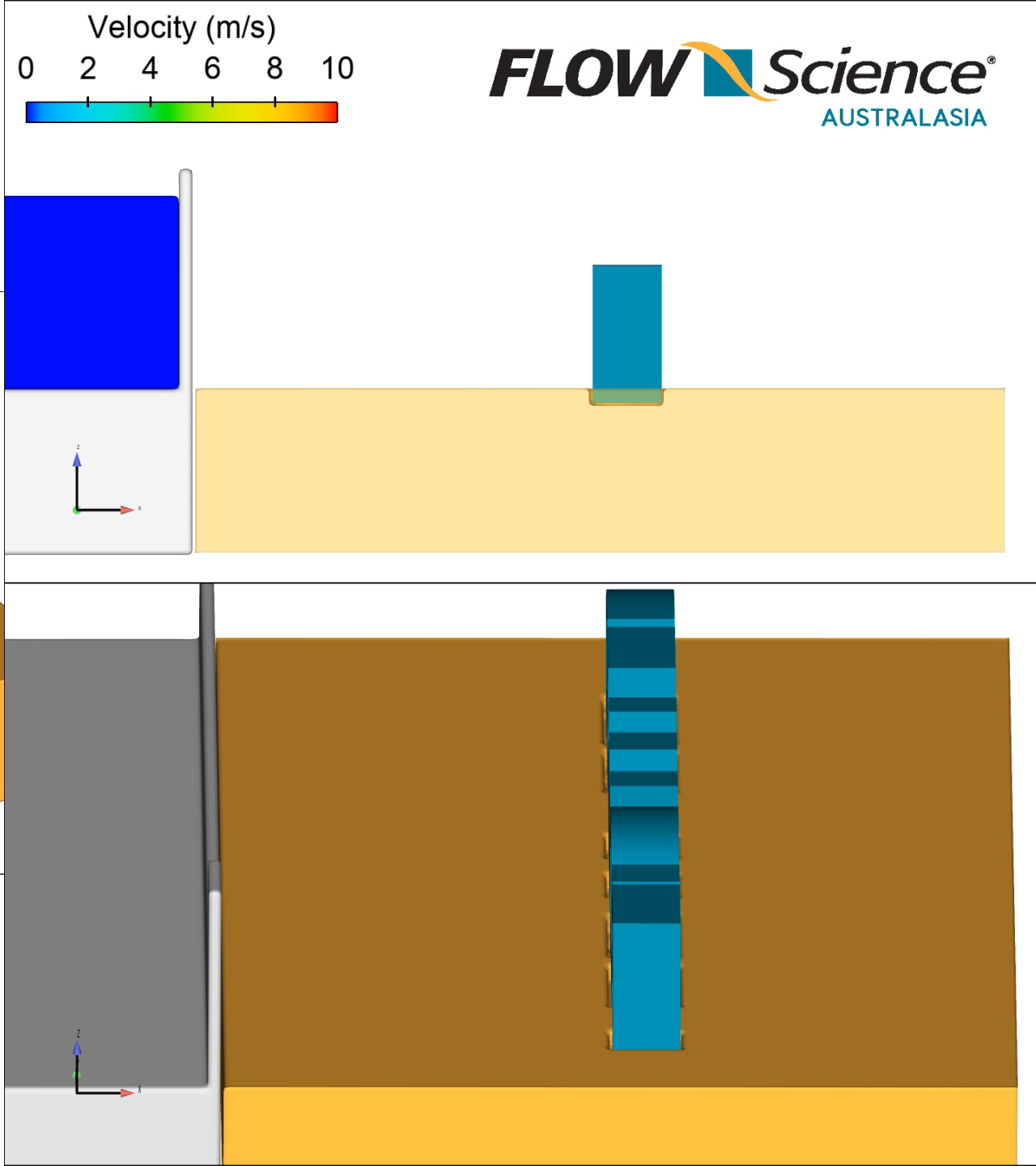
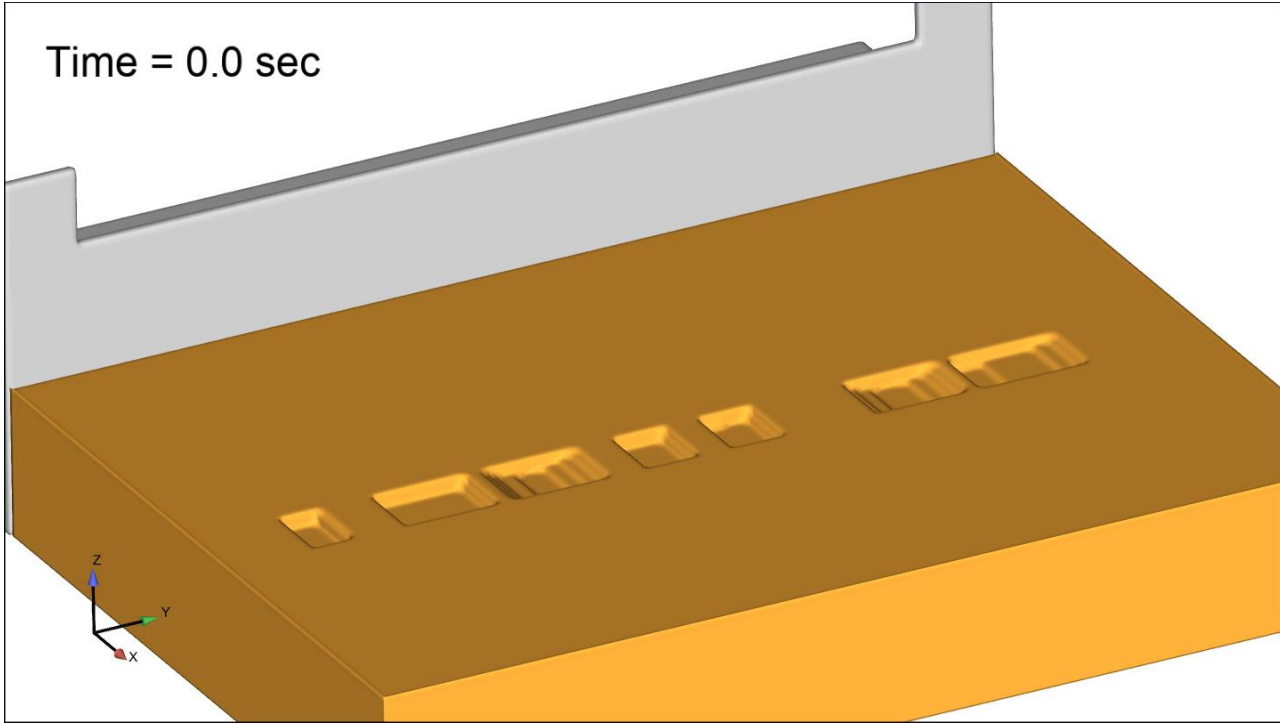
# 3D Energy Dissipation



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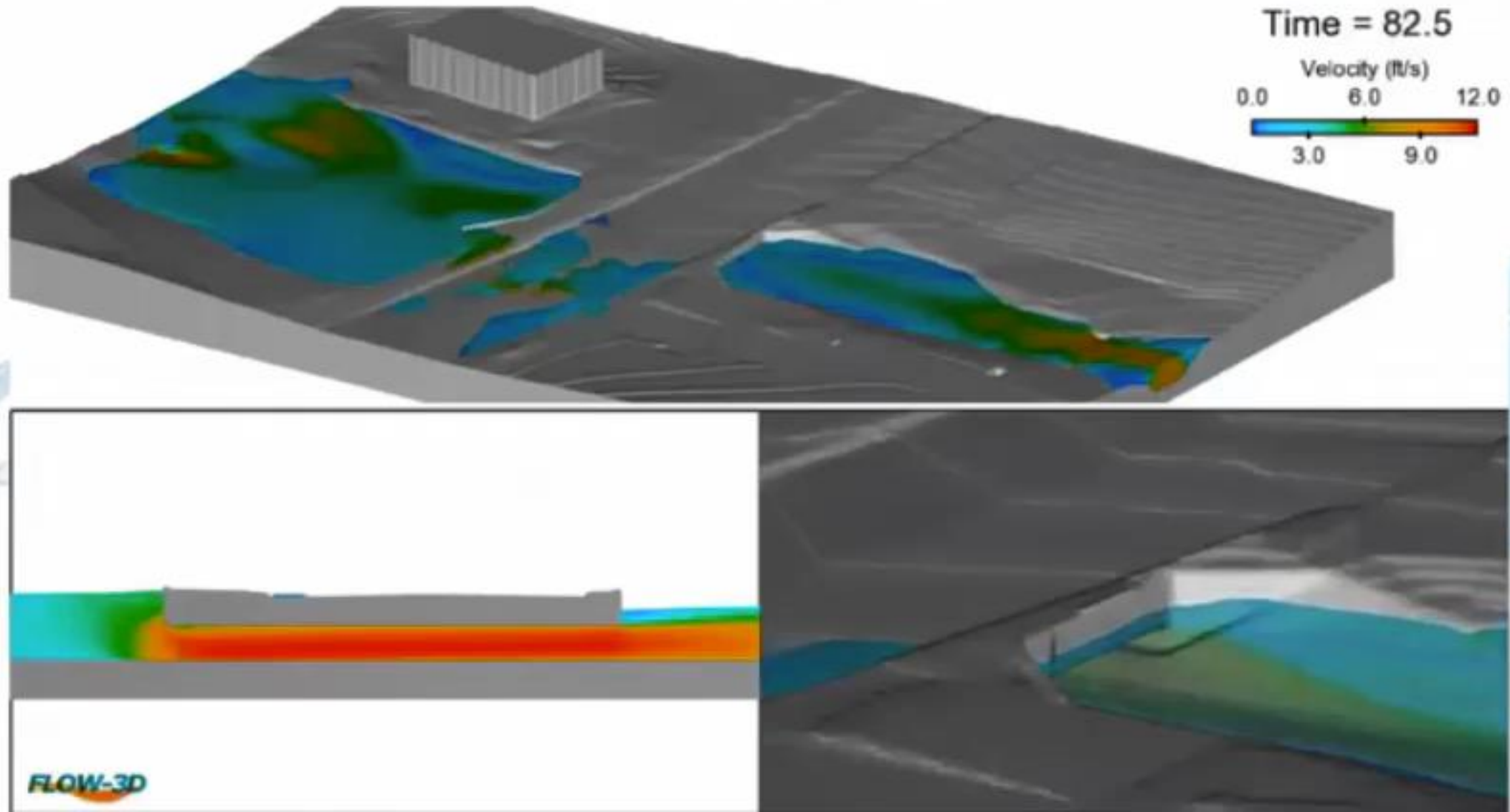
# 3D Scour Modelling



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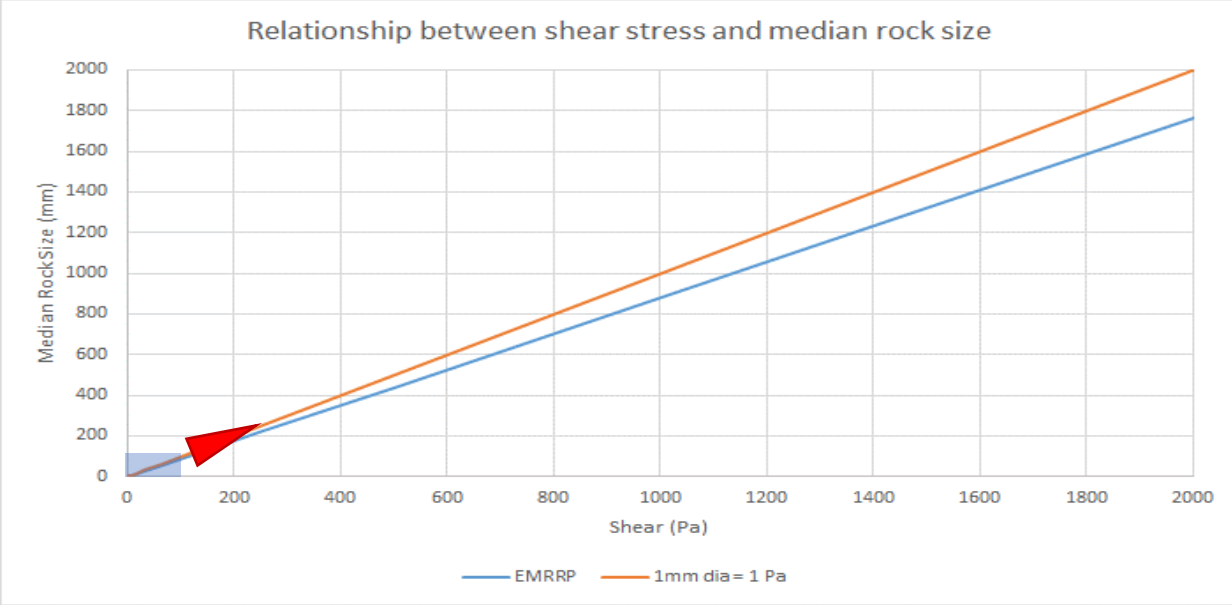
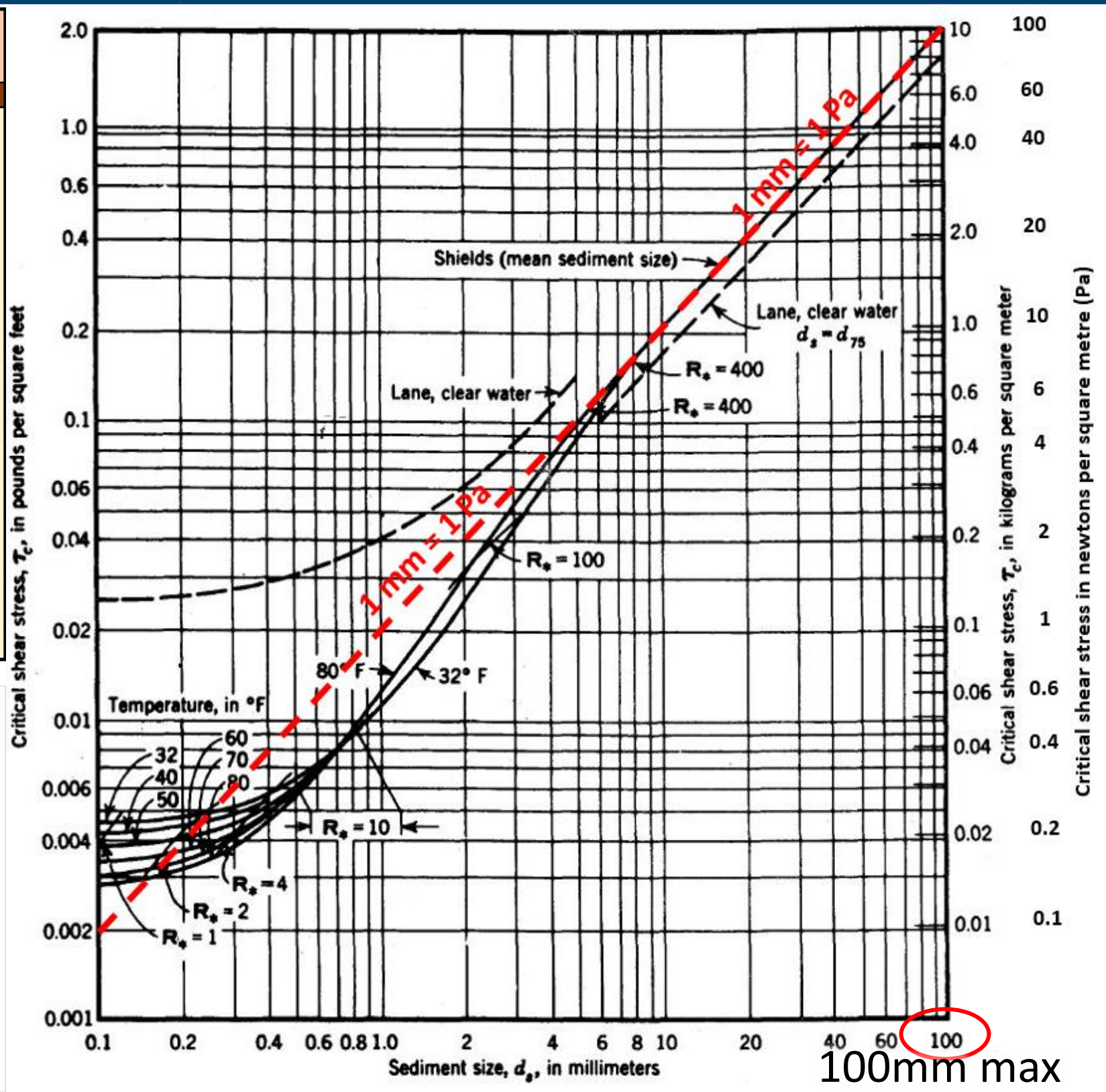
# 3D Weir flow vs orifice flow



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Rock class	Particle diameter	Angle of repose	Critical shear stress	Critical shear velocity	Particle diameter	Critical shear stress	Critical shear velocity
Class name	$d_s$ (in)	$\phi$ (deg)	$\tau_c$ (lb/sf)	$V_c$ (ft/s)	(mm)	(Pa)	(m/s)
<b>Boulder</b>							
Very large	>80	42	37.4	4.36	2032	1791	1.33
Large	>40	42	18.7	3.08	1016	896	0.94
Medium	>20	42	9.3	2.20	508	445	0.67
Small	>10	42	4.7	1.54	254	225	0.47
<b>Cobble</b>							
Large	>5	42	2.3	1.08	127	110	0.33
Small	>2.5	41	1.1	0.75	64	53	0.23
<b>Gravel</b>							
Very coarse	>1.3	40	0.54	0.52	33	26	0.16
Coarse	>0.6	38	0.25	0.36	15	12	0.11
Medium	>0.3	36	0.12	0.24	8	6	0.07
Fine	>0.16	35	0.06	0.17	4	3	0.05
Very fine	>0.08	33	0.03	0.12	2	1	0.04
<b>Sands</b>							
Very coarse	>0.04	32	0.01	0.070	1.0	0.5	0.021
Coarse	>0.02	31	0.006	0.055	0.5	0.3	0.017
Medium	>0.01	30	0.004	0.045	0.3	0.2	0.014
Fine	>0.005	30	0.003	0.040	0.13	0.1	0.012
Very fine	>0.003	30	0.002	0.035	0.08	0.1	0.011
<b>Silts</b>							
Coarse	>0.002	30	0.001	0.030	0.05	0.05	0.009
Medium	>0.001	30	0.001	0.025	0.03	0.05	0.008



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Catchment Modelling Toolkit - RIPRAP



A spreadsheet program for the design of rip-rap bank protection.

Rip-rap can be employed to provide protection to actively eroding or potentially eroding banks in rivers and channels.


<https://toolkit.ewater.org.au/Tools/RIPRAP>

catchment MODELLING TOOLKIT supported by the CRC for Catchment Hydrology

OK

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY

The Catchment Modelling Toolkit is a suite of software designed to improve the standard and efficiency of catchment modelling. [www.toolkit.net.au](http://www.toolkit.net.au)





Guidelines for the Design of River Bank Stability and Protection using RIP-RAP

Prepared by Associate Professor R. J. Keller

[www.toolkit.net.au/riprap](http://www.toolkit.net.au/riprap)

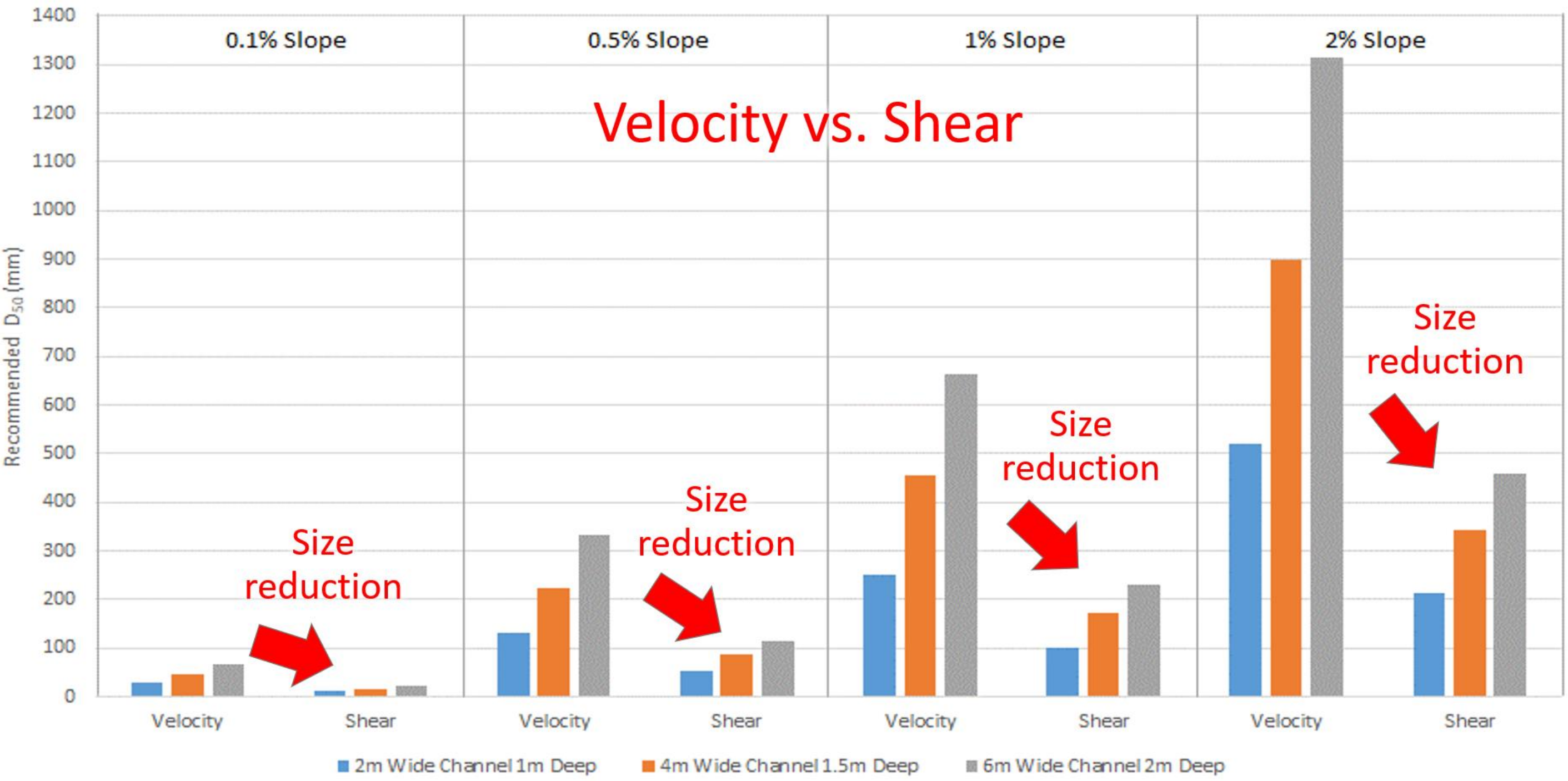
USER GUIDE


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Comparison of rock sizes based on Austroads velocity criteria vs shear stress at 1mm/Pa + 25%

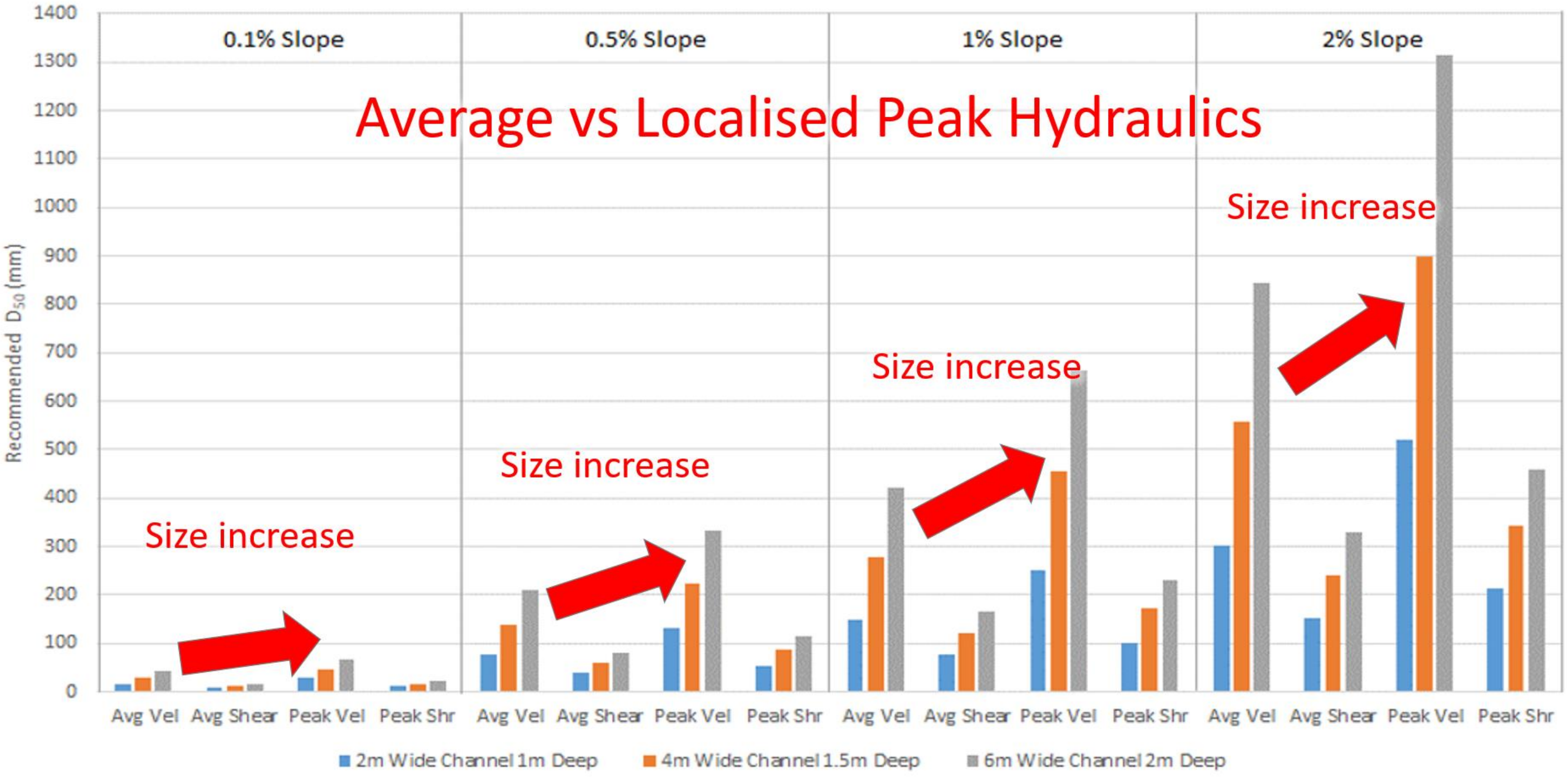


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• From Price and Westwater, IMWA 2020



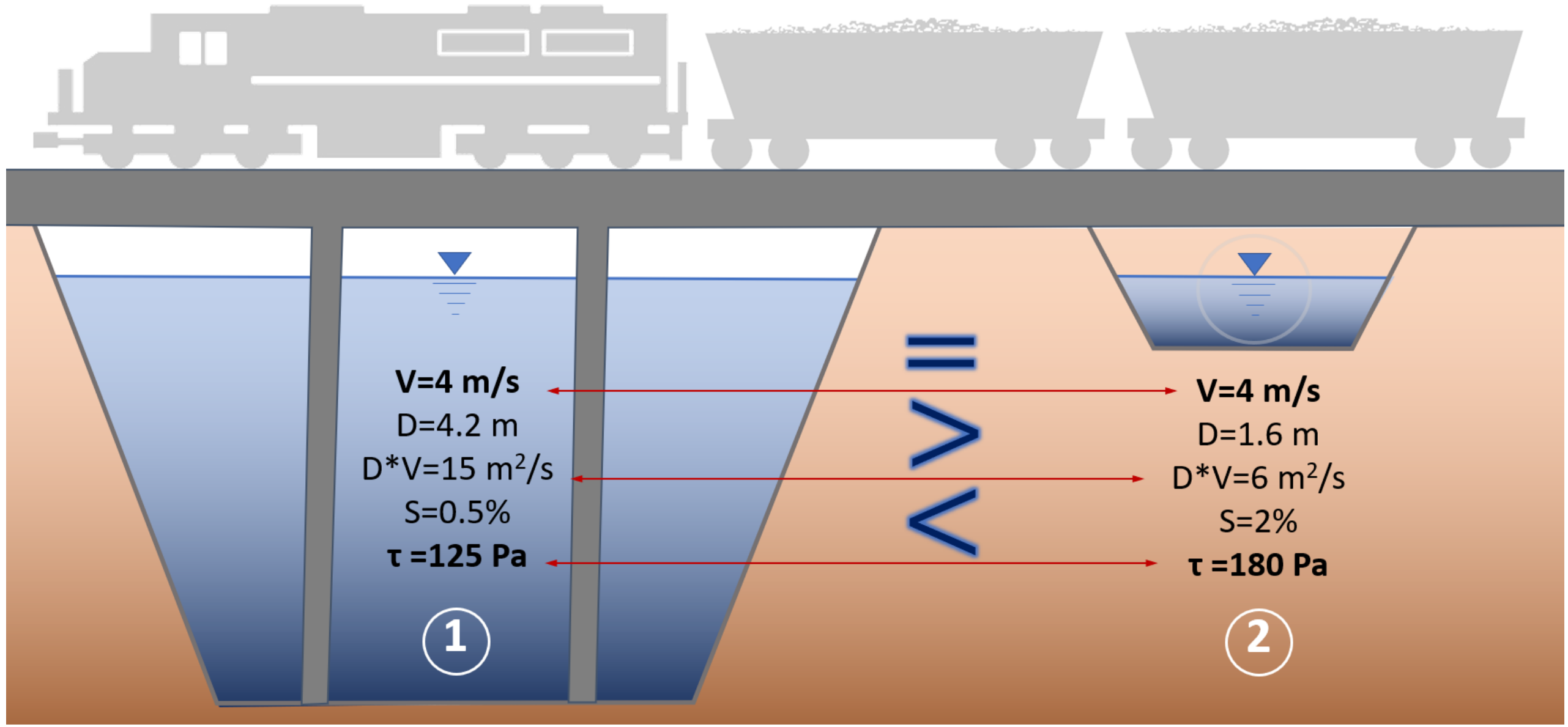
Comparison of rock sizes based on average vs maximum velocity and shear stress



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• From Price and Westwater, IMWA 2020





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Limitations:

$s < 2\%$

$F < 0.8$

$4 < d : D_{30} < 30$

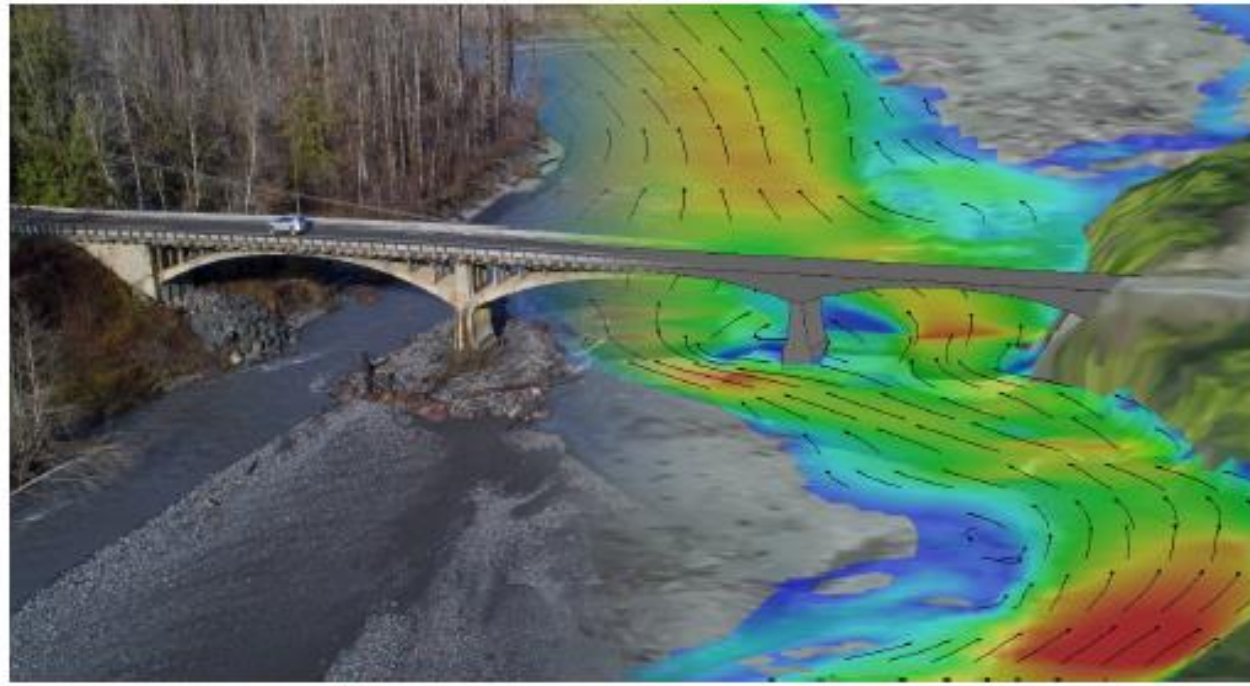


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## Two-Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling for Highways in the River Environment

Reference Document



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

- $D_{50} = 4\text{m}$ ,  $W_{50} = 40\text{ tonne}$
- $D_{90} = 6\text{m}$ ,  $W_{50} = 150\text{ tonne}$

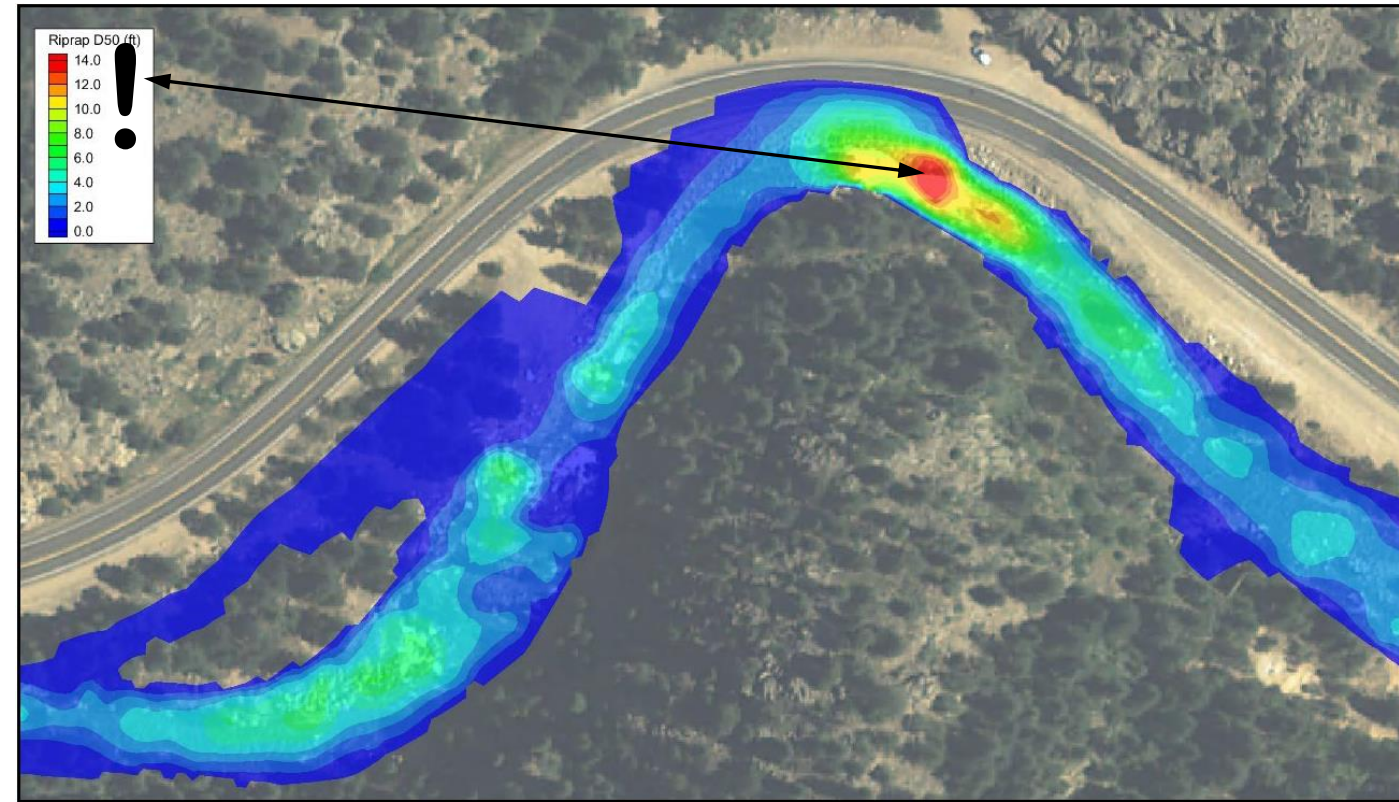


Figure 8.5. Riprap sizing contours based on 2D model depth and velocity results.



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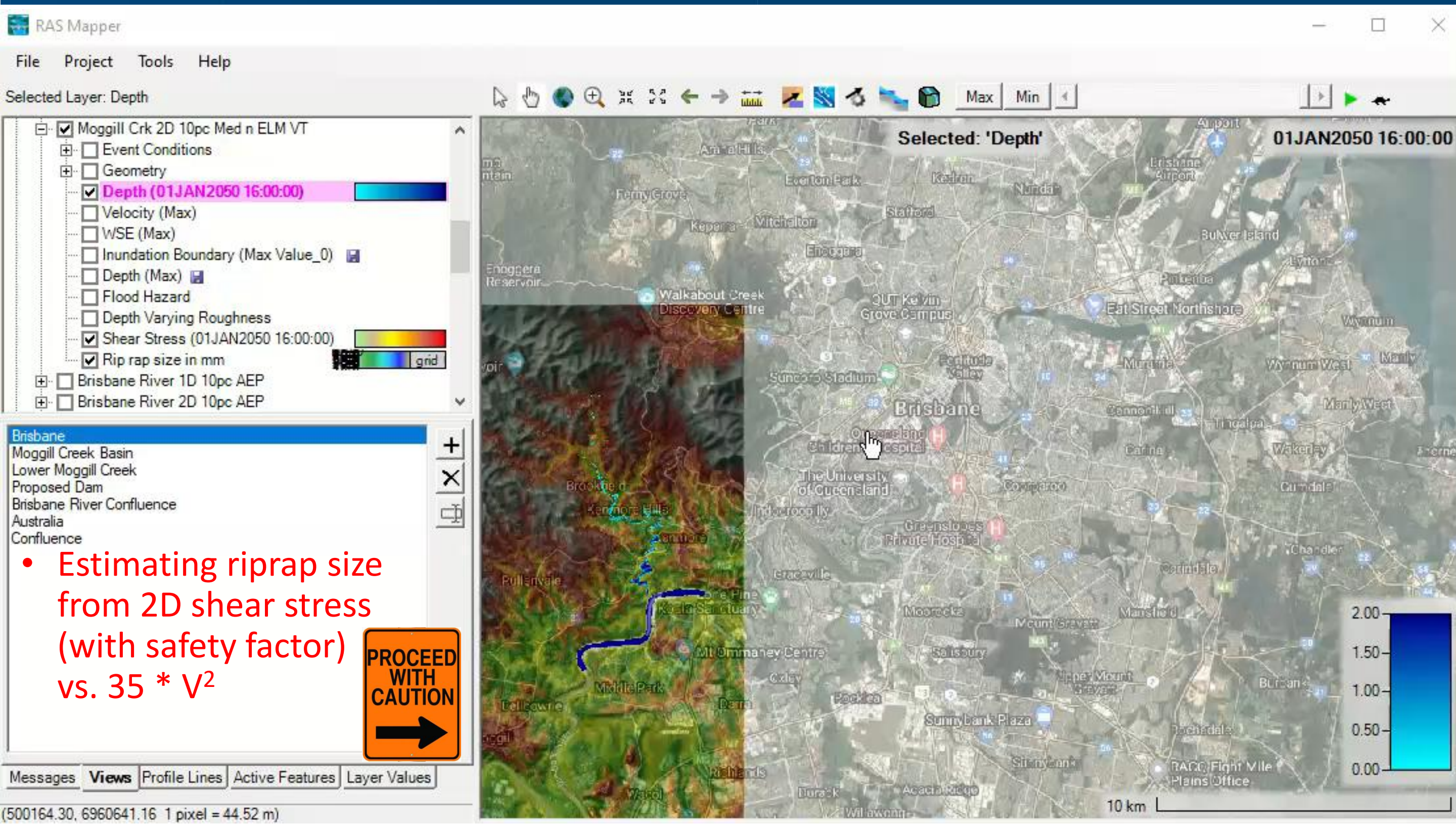


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- Estimating riprap size from 2D shear stress (with safety factor) vs.  $35 * V^2$



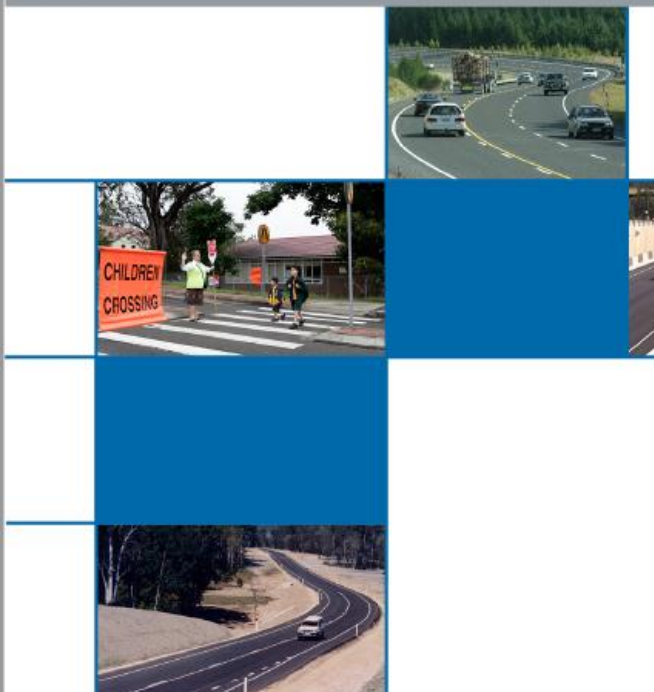
# Numerical sediment transport modelling

**Austrroads 2013**

**GUIDE TO ROAD DESIGN**

**Part 5: Drainage – General and Hydrology Considerations**

**Part 5B: Drainage – Open Channels, Culverts and Floodways**



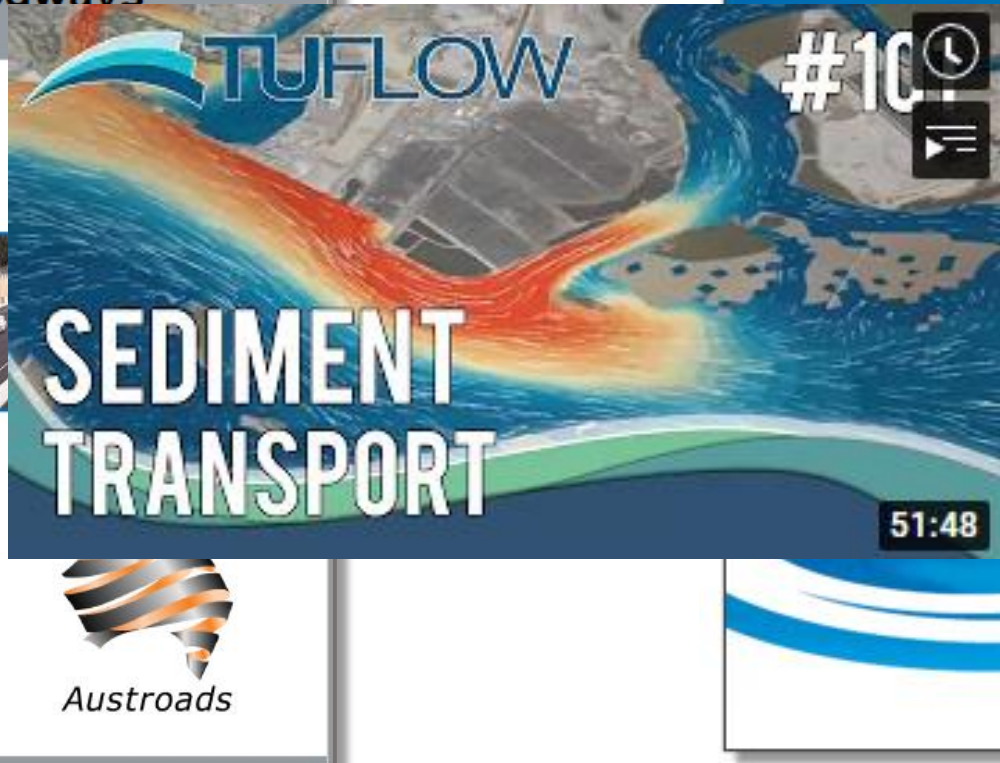
**Austrroads**

**TUFLOW**

**#10**

**SEDIMENT TRANSPORT**

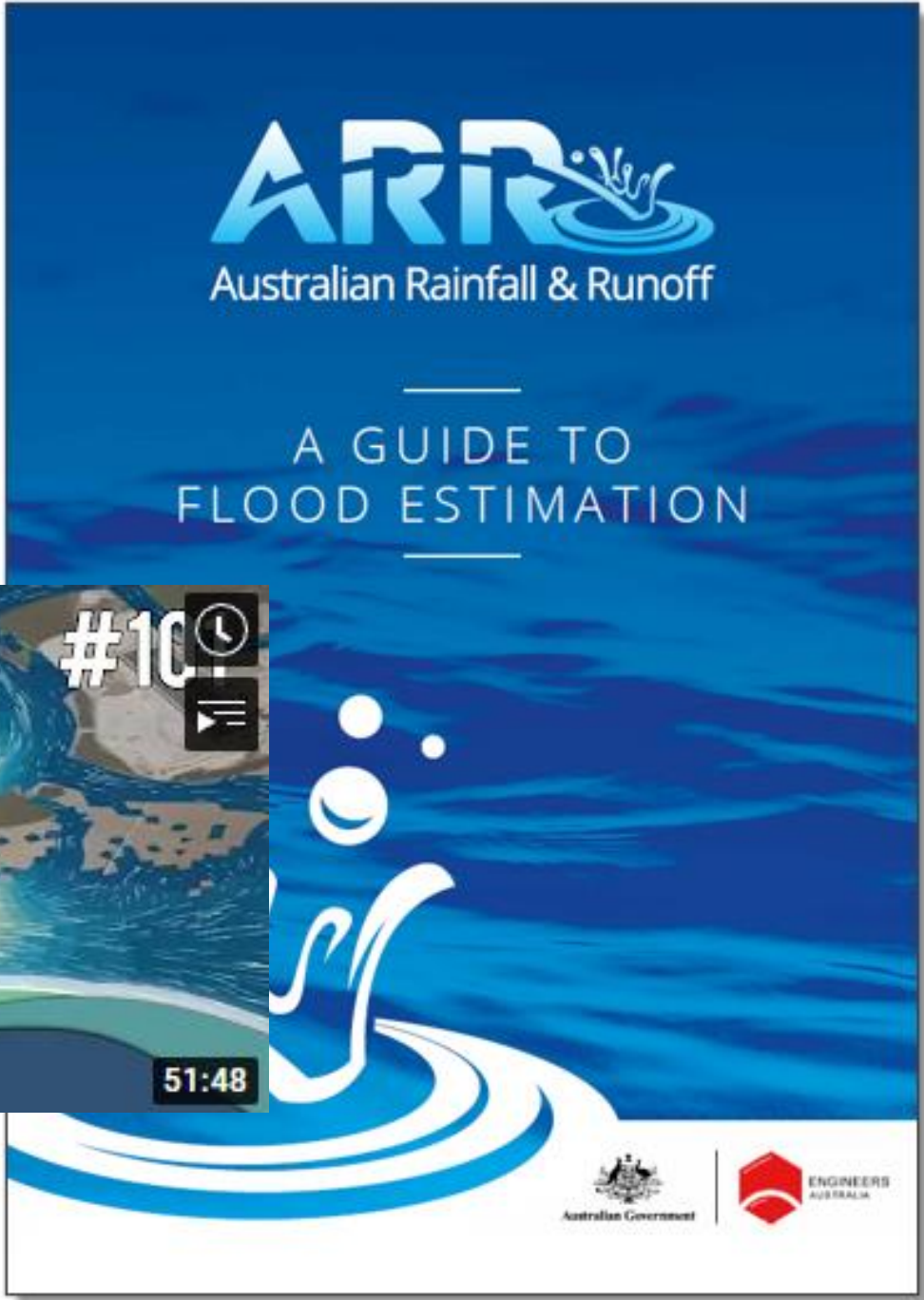
**51:48**



**Austrroads**

**ARR**  
Australian Rainfall & Runoff

**A GUIDE TO FLOOD ESTIMATION**



Australian Government | **ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA**



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# Recommendations

- Check using at least 3 methods:

## 13.2 Sizing Riprap

The basis of designing a riprap revetment is sizing the rock. Methods presented here are applicable to all bank hardening methods presented in succeeding chapters. There are many methods available and this presentation is not all-inclusive, however a sensitivity analysis has been provided on the presented methods to aid in selecting an appropriate riprap sizing equation for the site. The recommended approach is to use a minimum of three methods to define the range in values. Selection of the riprap size could be based on an average value from the range, or it may be a high or low value depending on site specific characteristics such as the geomorphic factors. There are spreadsheets and software available for computing riprap size, but the designer should be familiar with the individual riprap sizing methods to ensure they are applied correctly.

**RECLAMATION**  
*Managing Water in the West*

### Bank Stabilization Design Guidelines

Report No. SRH-2015-25  
Albuquerque Area Office  
Science and Technology  
Policy and Administration (Manuals and Standards)  
Yuma Area Office

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Technical Service Center  
Denver, Colorado

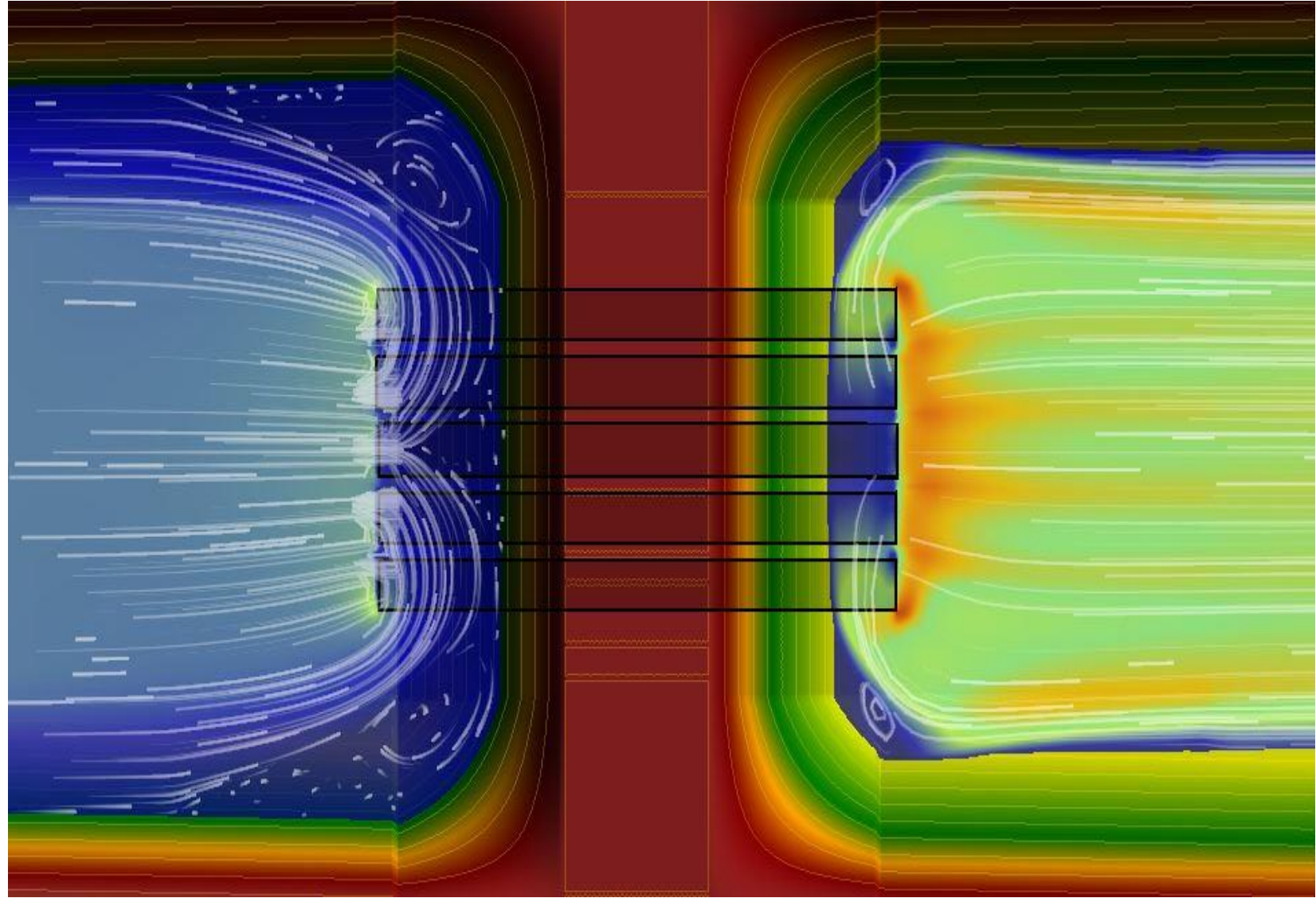
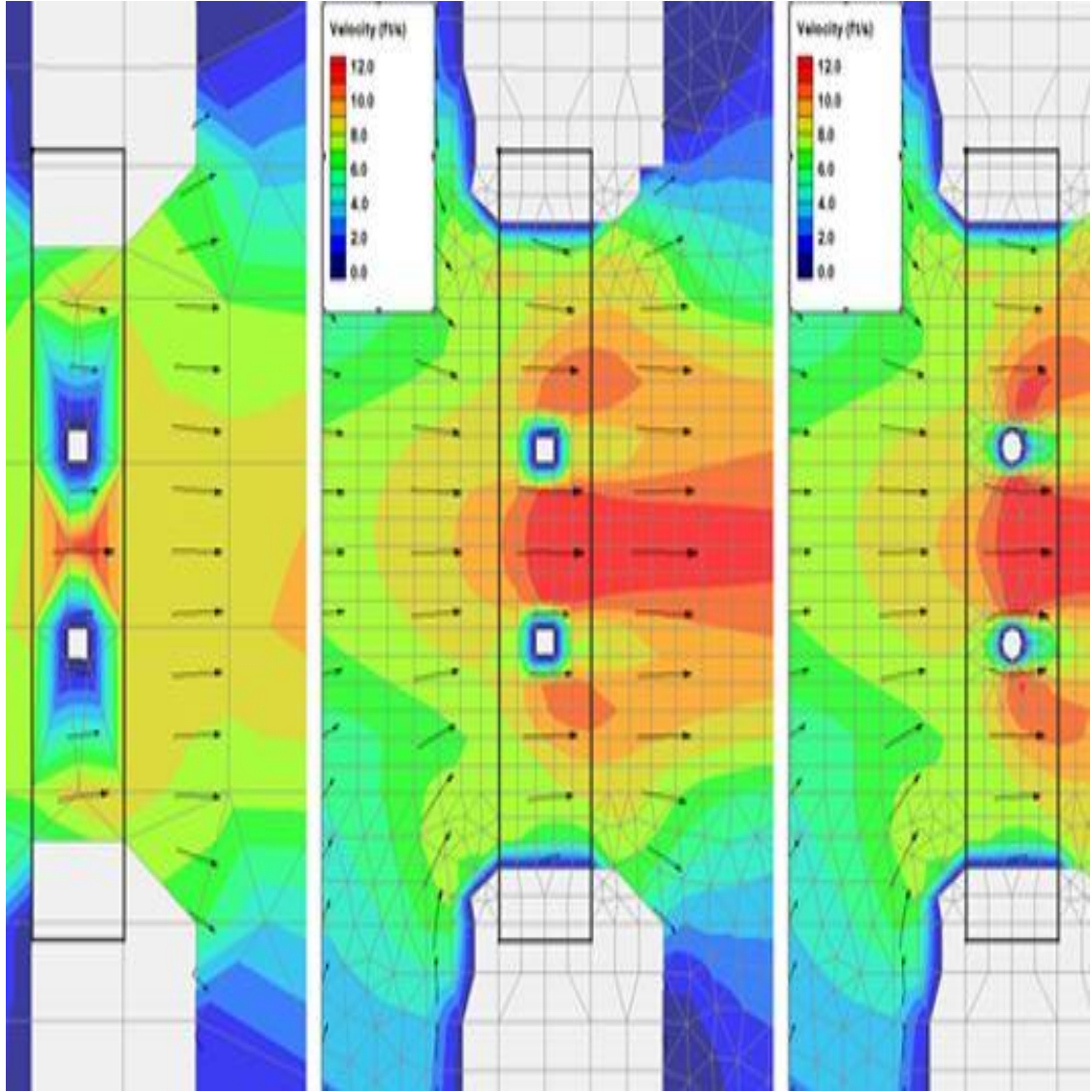
June 2015



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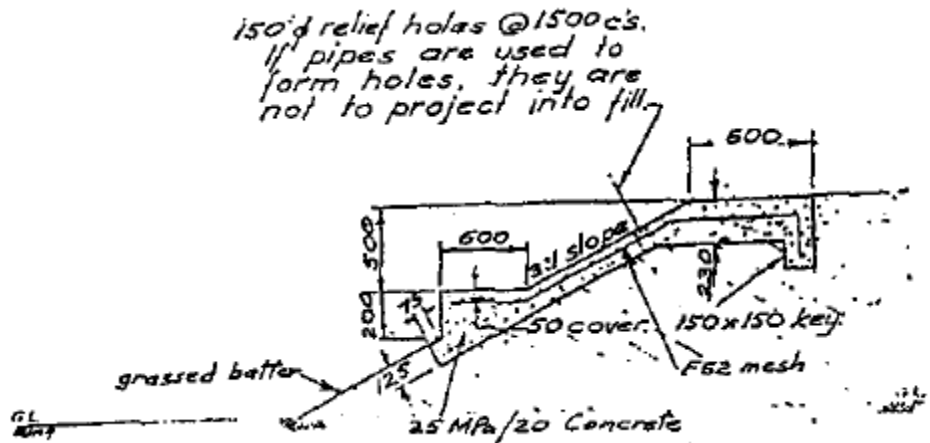
# Applying 2D and 3D results to 1D methods



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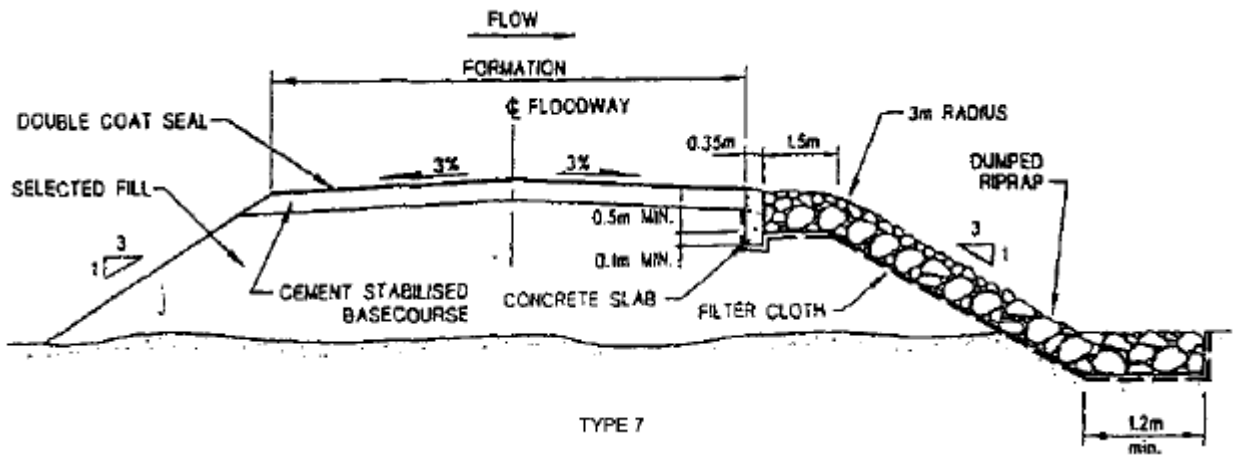
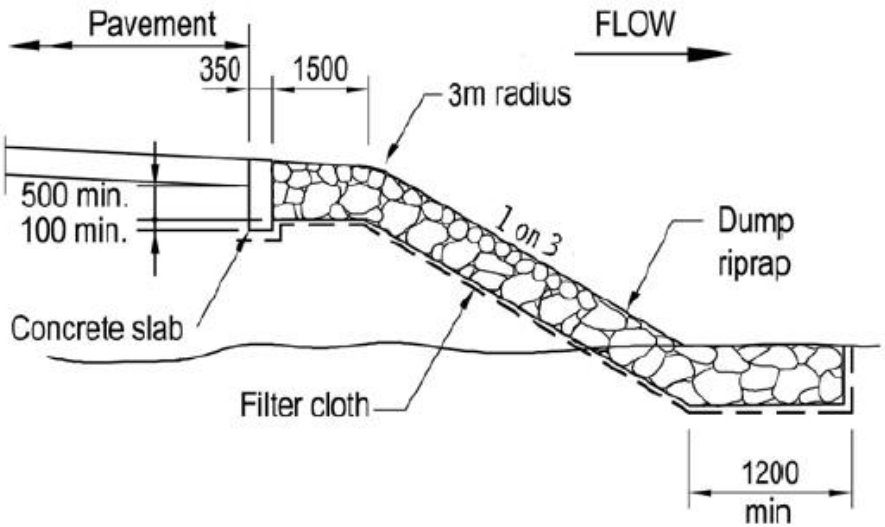
# Extent of Protection



NAASRA, Bridge Waterways Hydrology and Design, 1989.



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# Poll Question



Floodwaters moved this particle 2km downstream in less than 6 hours. Guess its weight:

- 1 t
- 10 t
- 100 t
- 1,000 t
- 10,000 t



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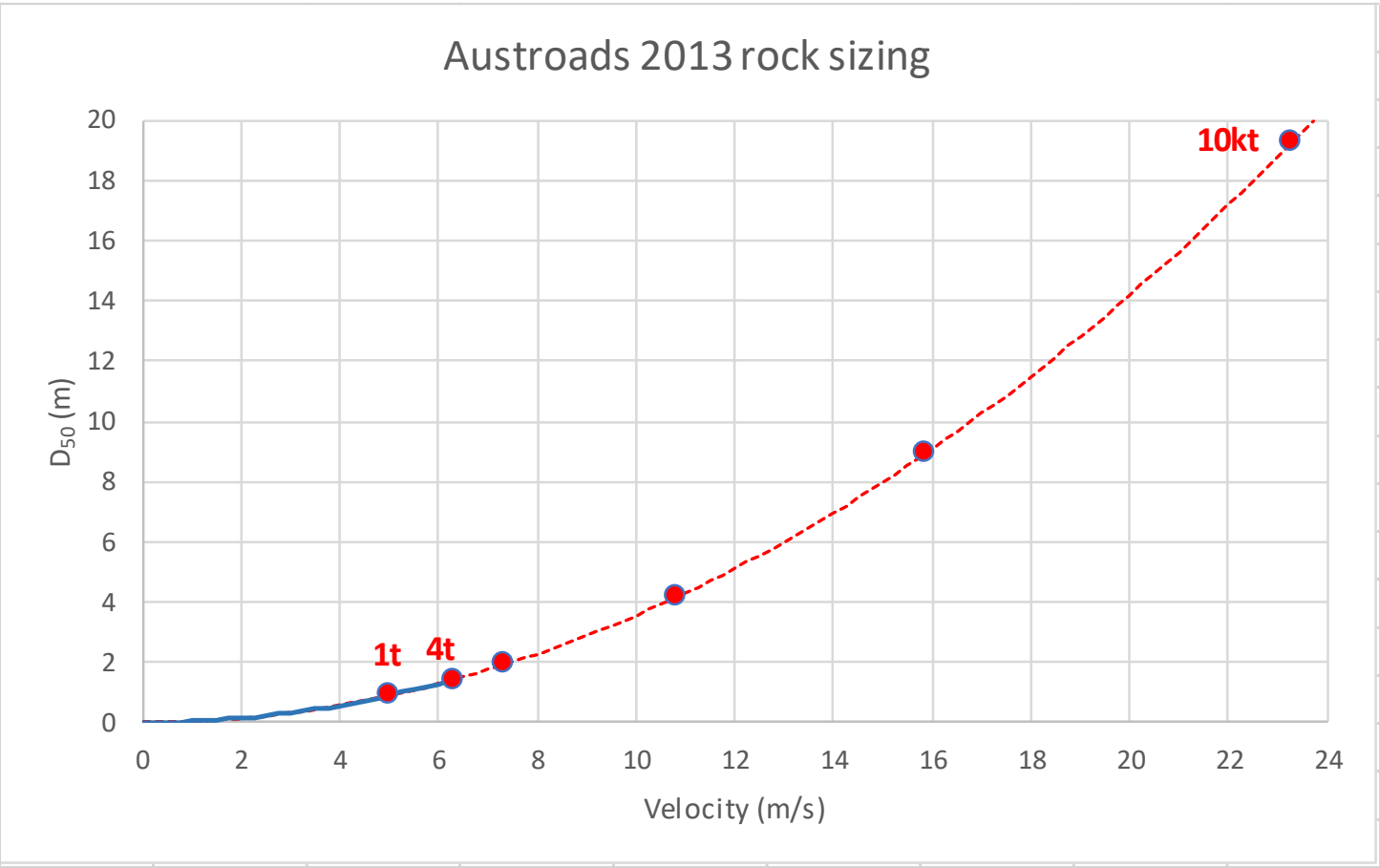


# Poll Question



Floodwaters moved this particle 2km downstream in less than 6 hours. Guess its weight:

- 1 t
- 10 t
- 100 t
- 1,000 t
- **10,000 t**



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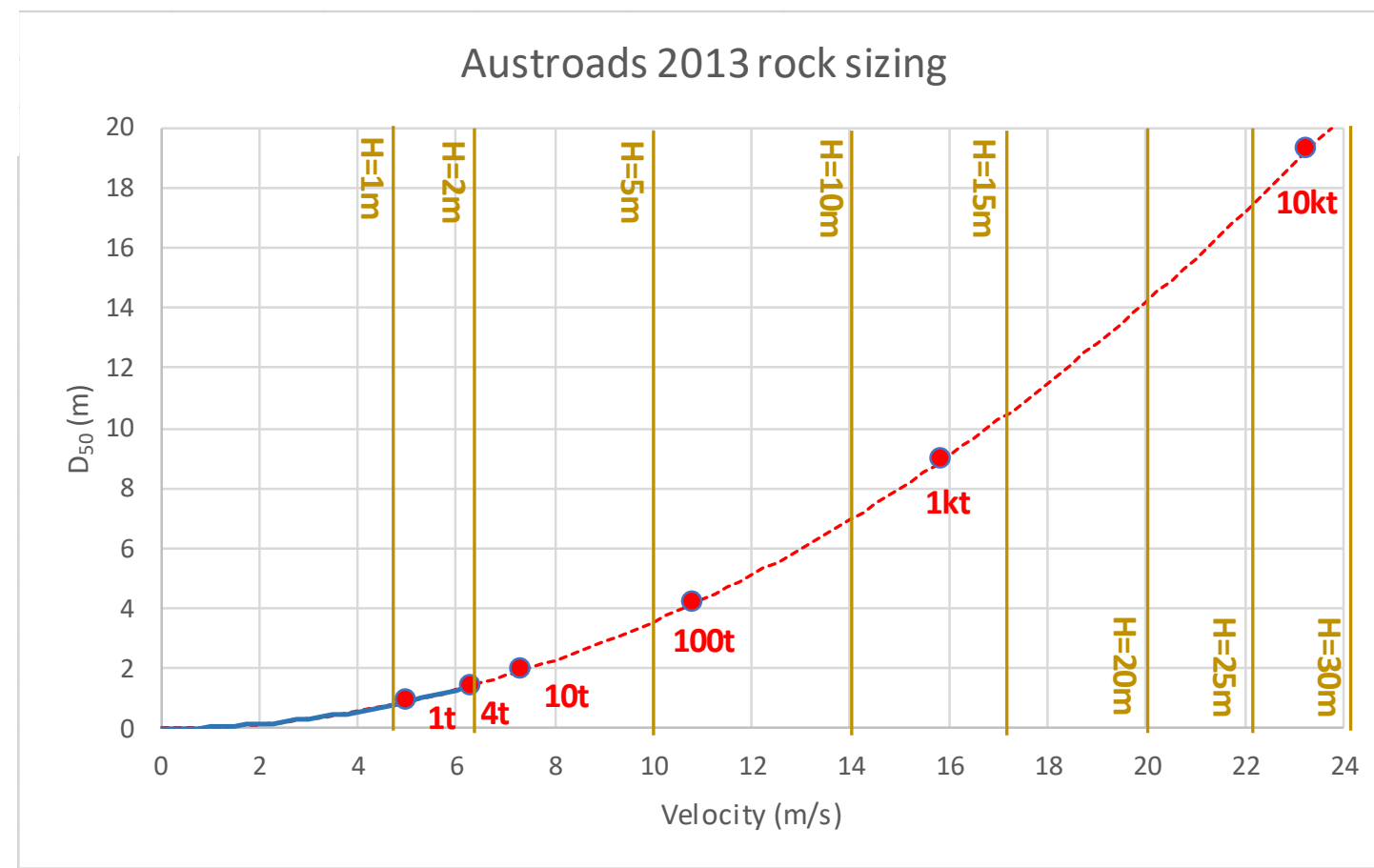


# Poll Question



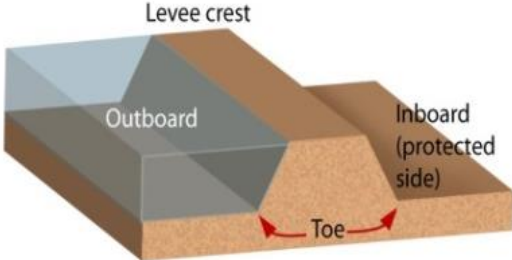
Floodwaters moved this particle 2km downstream in less than 6 hours. Guess its weight:

- 1 t
- 10 t
- 100 t
- 1,000 t
- 10,000 t

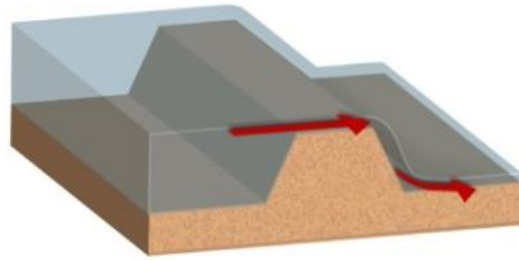


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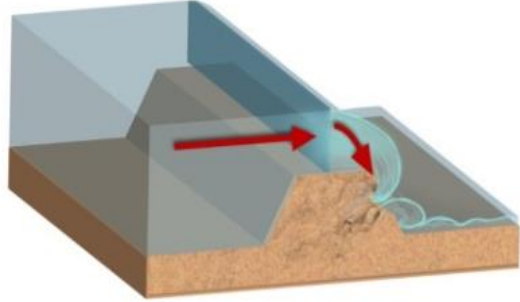
# Erosion mechanisms



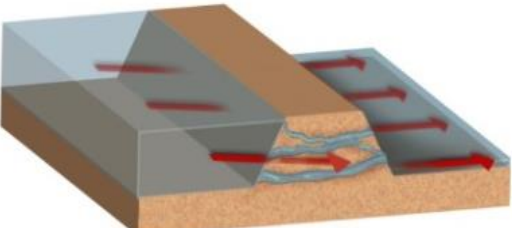
Anatomy of a levee



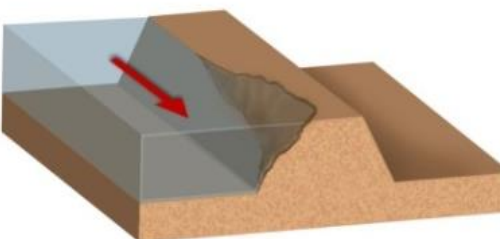
1a. Overtopping



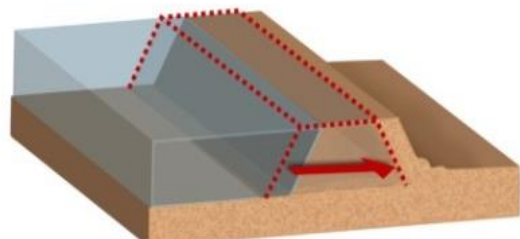
1b. Overtopping/Jetting



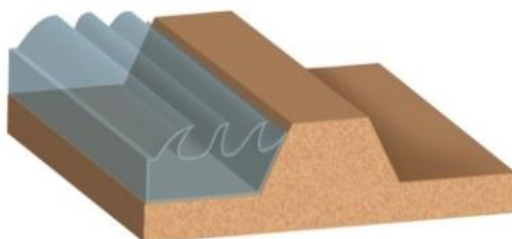
2. Internal Erosion/Piping



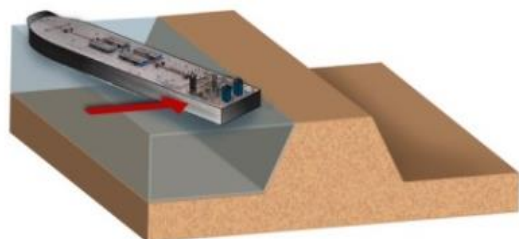
3. Surface Erosion



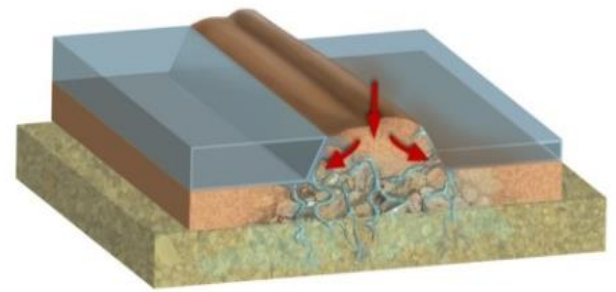
4. Sliding



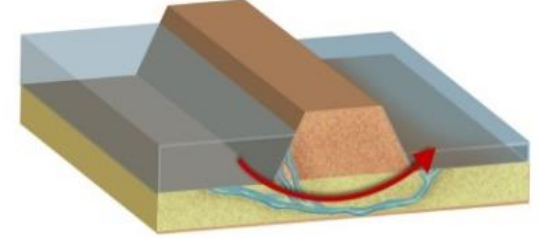
5. Wave Impacts



6. Structural Impacts



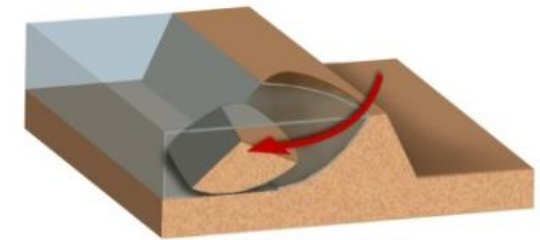
7. Liquefaction



8. Piping of substratum



9. Tree damage



10. Slope failure



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# Additional resources



ISBN number for HWRS 2021 is 978-1-925627-53-4

## Advancing Australian Riprap Sizing Approaches

Krey Price  
Surface Water Solutions  
krey.price@surfacewater.biz

### ABSTRACT

The placement of riprap is the most commonly implemented scour countermeasure in Australia. Nationwide guidance for riprap sizing is provided in Austroads and Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR) documents. ARR guidance generally defers to Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (QDTMR) publications that, in turn, defer to Austroads guidance for riprap sizing. Austroads riprap sizing procedures fall back on methods developed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). The cited procedures generally relate the recommended riprap size to flow velocity because alternative parameters such as shear stress have historically been difficult to visualise, compute, and measure.

Austroads and ARR guidance manuals cite different methods for sizing riprap associated with bridges, culverts, floodways, energy dissipation structures, and channel lining applications; in some cases, the cited methods provide conflicting guidance. Some of the references that serve as a basis for Australian riprap sizing guidance have been superseded by more recent publications that should be incorporated into future editions of Australian guidance documents.

Both Austroads and ARR manuals recommend computing shear stress to determine the potential for mobilizing material, but no guidance for applying shear-based rock sizing design criteria is presented. Recent advances in computational methods allow shear-based analyses to be more readily developed for previously impractical applications, leading to the potential introduction of standardised, shear-based, Australian riprap design approaches.

The increasing prevalence of 2D and 3D flood modelling relative to 1D modelling warrants a reappraisal of previously adopted riprap sizing criteria that have traditionally been based on 1D approaches. 2D and 3D results used for riprap sizing are subject to the proper selection of grid sizes, computational methods, turbulence coefficients, and other modelling parameters. A recommended interim approach for estimating stable design riprap size is presented using hydraulic modelling results for velocity, depth, and shear stress.

### BACKGROUND

#### The Use of Riprap in Australia

Relative to other scour countermeasures, the installation of riprap in Australia is a primary scour protection option because it is "abundant, inexpensive, and requires no special equipment" (ARR 2019). Nationwide guidance for the application of hydraulic modelling results to scour protection designs is provided by Austroads and ARR. This paper provides a literature review of the sources that serve as a basis for Australian riprap sizing approaches and recommends selected adjustments to those approaches. Guidance provided by local jurisdictions is only included in this review where referenced in the national guidelines.

#### Velocity vs Shear

Both Austroads and ARR guidance documents cite velocity-based criteria for sizing riprap. In simplest terms, flow velocities are extracted from measurements or hydraulic models and converted directly into a recommended stone size. In general, the velocity refers to a depth-averaged channel velocity, and the stone size refers to the median diameter ( $D_{50}$ ) of an individual riprap stone based on total weight of the rock classes. Figure 1 shows an example of a riprap sizing chart based on tabulated values in Austroads (2013a and 2013b).

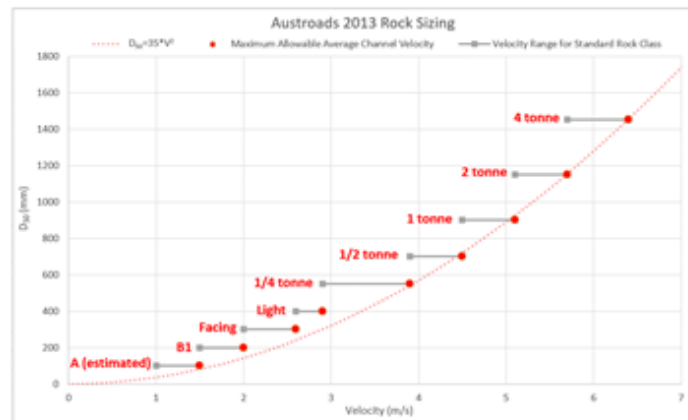


Figure 1. Riprap sizing chart (based on Austroads 2013a, 2013b).

Velocity-based riprap sizing methods can generally be summarised by stating the required rock diameter in terms of a coefficient "a" that is multiplied by the velocity raised to an exponent "b":

$$D_{50} = a * V^b \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

The coefficient "a" can vary with side slope, bend angle, density, angularity, safety factor, and other elements. The exponent "b" generally ranges between a value of 2 and 3 among the various available methods. The applicable velocity ranges associated with standard Australian rock classes are shown in Figure 1 against a relationship curve with a value of 35 for "a" and 2 for "b", where the median rock size (measured in millimetres) is 35 times the square of the velocity (measured in metres per second).

Figure 2 shows an alternative relationship where the velocity on the x axis is taken as the bottom velocity rather than a depth-averaged velocity (Austroads 2013b). The maximum allowable average channel velocities from Figure 1 are shown in red for comparison. The effective "a" values range from 20 to 35 for average channel velocities, and from 40 to 70 for bottom velocities, with the exponent "b" held constant at 2 for both curves.

Increasing the applied velocity has an exponential effect on the computed stone weight. Because the



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[www.hydroschool.com/riprap/](http://www.hydroschool.com/riprap/)

[www.catchmentsandcreeks.com.au](http://www.catchmentsandcreeks.com.au)



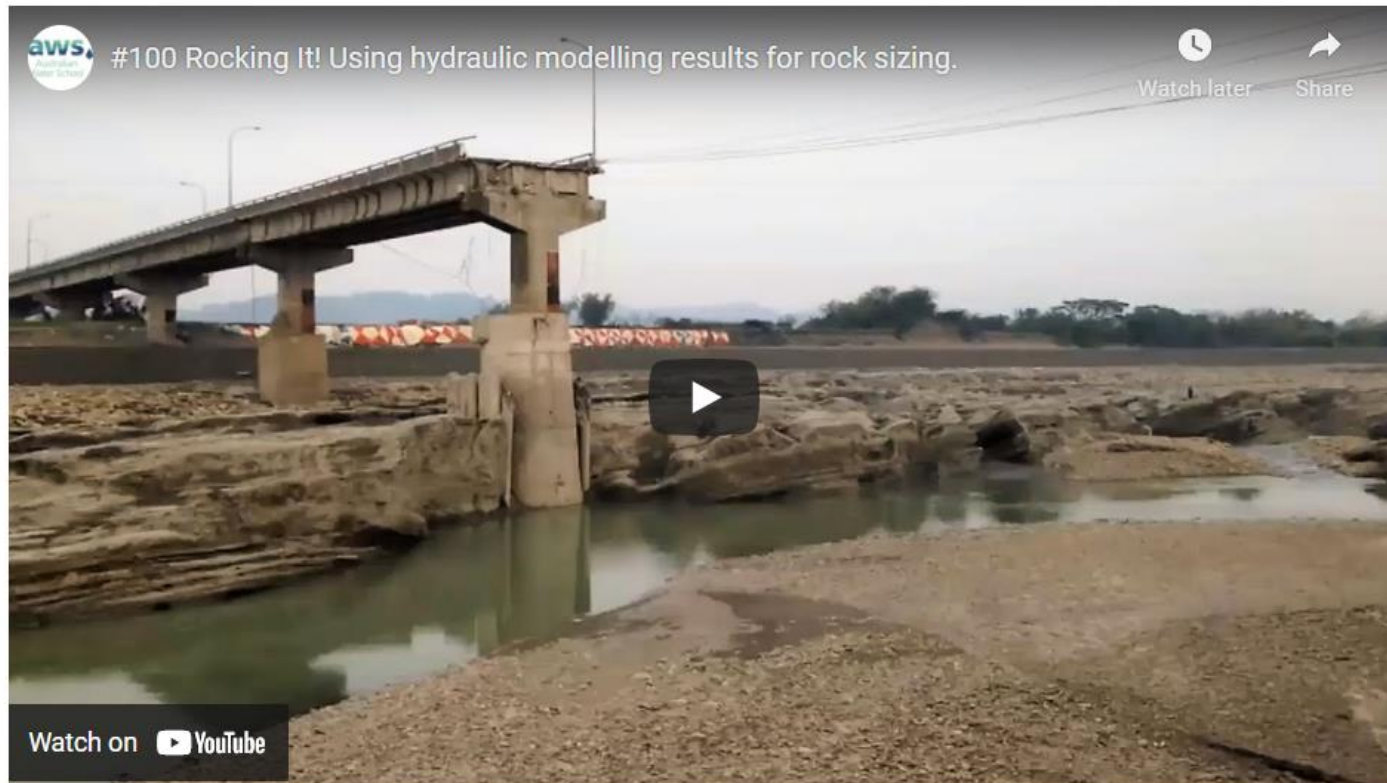
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Home > Rock sizing resources

## Rock sizing resources

We recently hosted the Australian Water School's 100th webinar, "Rocking It!" which covered using hydraulic modelling results for rock sizing. Watch the recording here:



# Catchments & Creeks

Home About Us Training Field Guides Fact Sheets Drawings

## Fact Sheets: Rock Sizing

Preview	Title & Description	Specs	File
	<b>Background to Rock Roughness Equation</b> <i>5 pages</i>	N/A	 185.75 KB
	<b>Background to Rock Sizing Equations</b> <i>52 pages</i>	N/A	 992.40 KB



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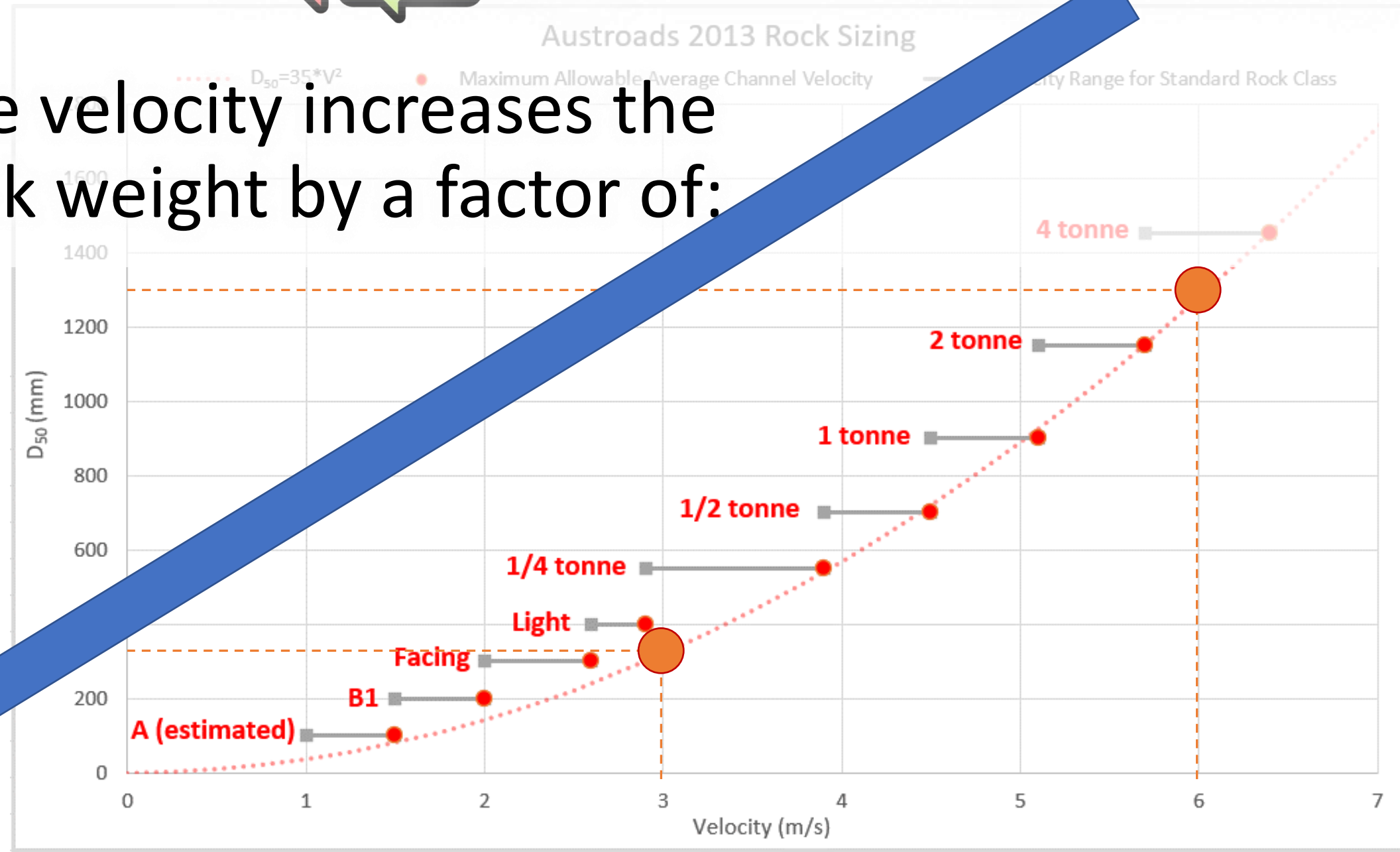


# Poll Question

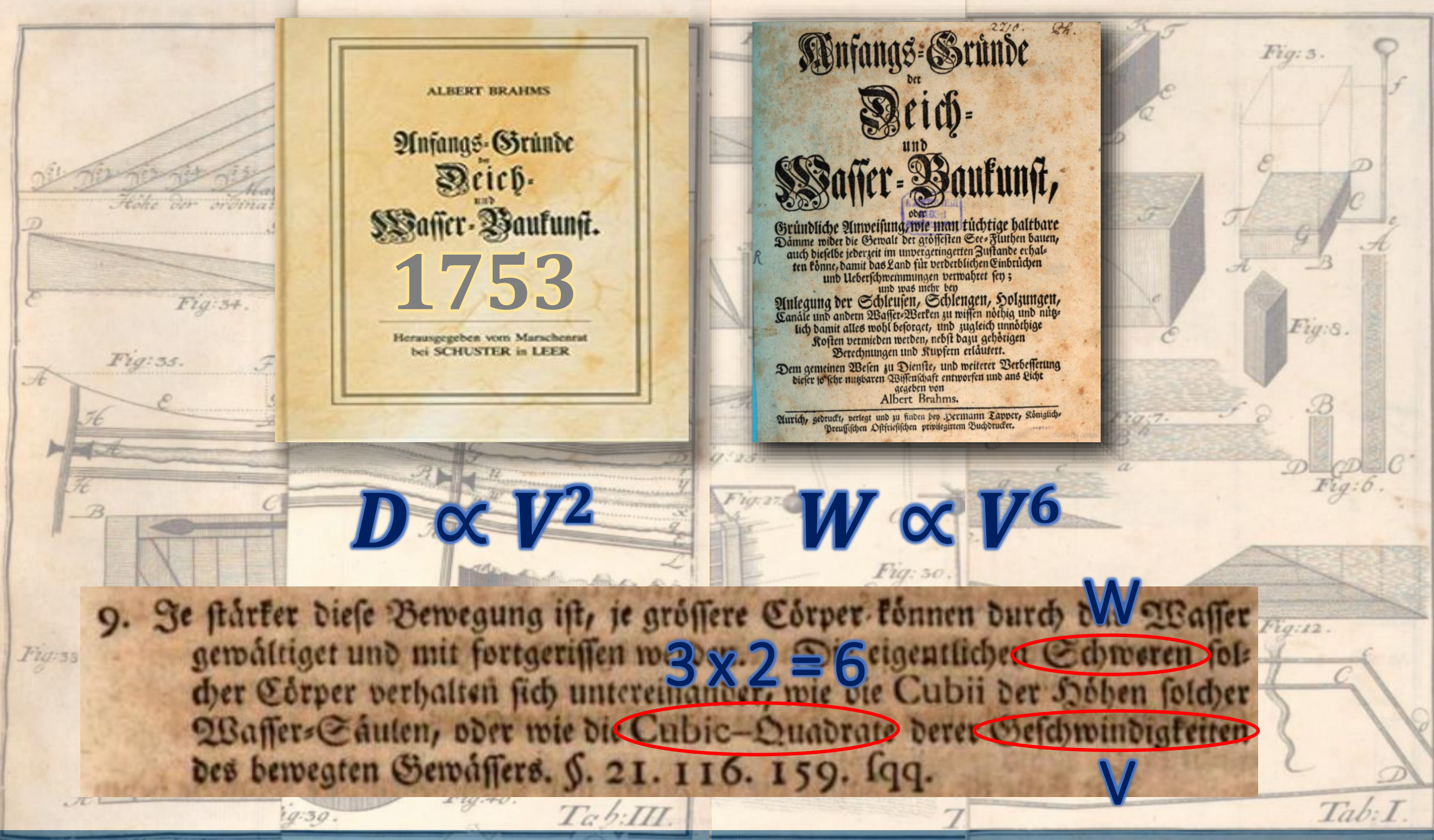
- $V=3$  m/s  $D_{50}=315$ mm  $W_{50}=43$  kg
- $V=6$  m/s  $D_{50}=1260$ mm  $W_{50}=2775$  kg

• Doubling the velocity increases the required rock weight by a factor of:

- ~~• 2~~
- ~~• 4~~
- ~~• 8~~
- ~~• 16~~
- ~~• 32~~
- 64



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$$D \propto V^2$$

$$W \propto V^6$$

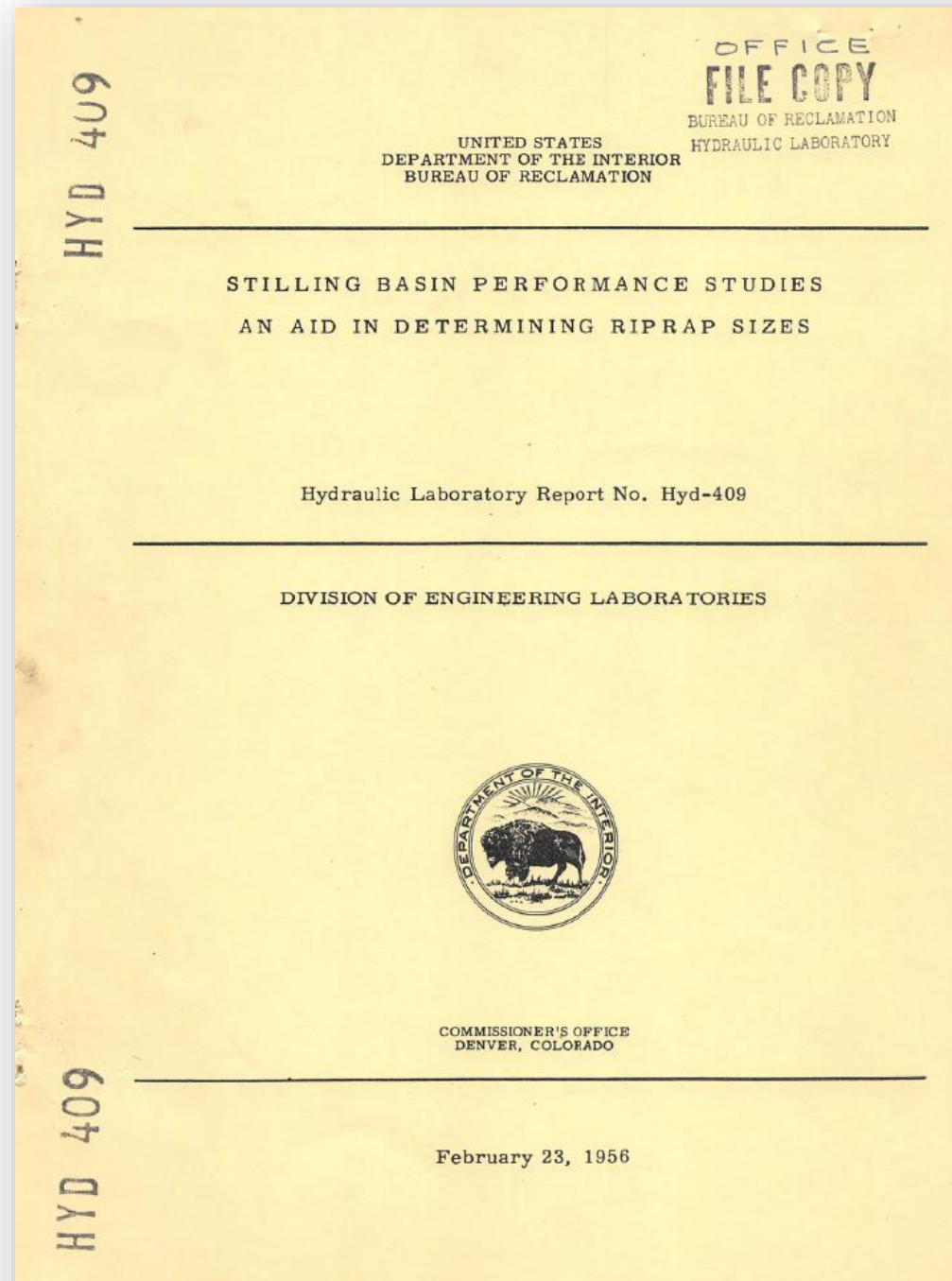
9. Je stärker diese Bewegung ist, je grössere Körper können durch das Wasser gewältiget und mit fortgerissen werden. Die eigentlichen schweren solcher Körper verhalten sich untereinander, wie die Cubii der Höhen solcher Wasser-Säulen, oder wie die Cubic-Quadrate derer Geschwindigkeiten des bewegten Gewässers. S. 21. 116. 159. 199.

$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

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# USBR 1956

## RIPRAP SIZE DETERMINATION

A suggested minimum size for riprap is given by the curve in Figure 11. The curve indicates, over most of its range, that doubling the flow velocity leaving a structure makes it necessary to provide riprap about 4 times larger in nominal diameter or 16 times larger in volume or weight.

Wrong by a factor of 4!

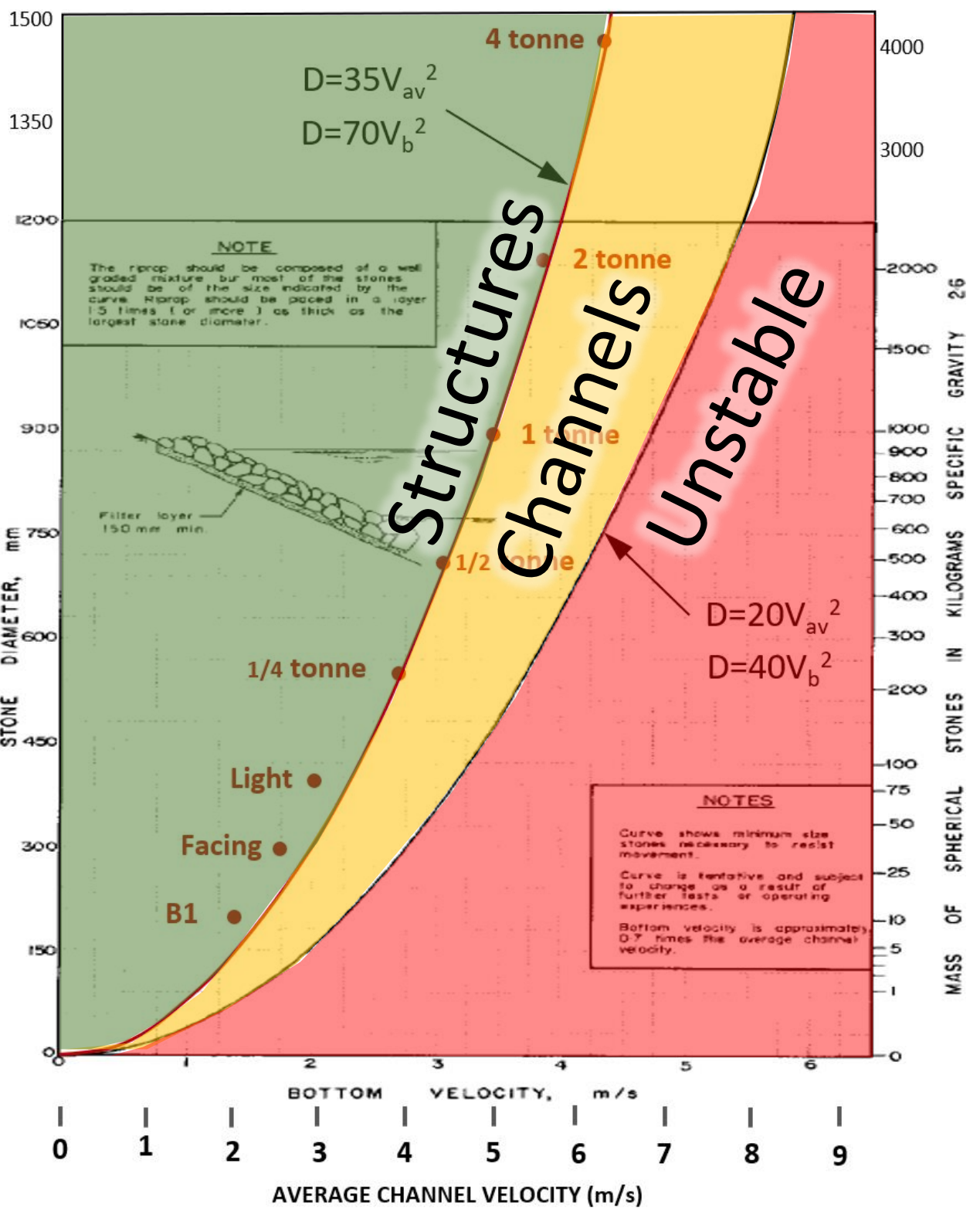


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# Recommendations

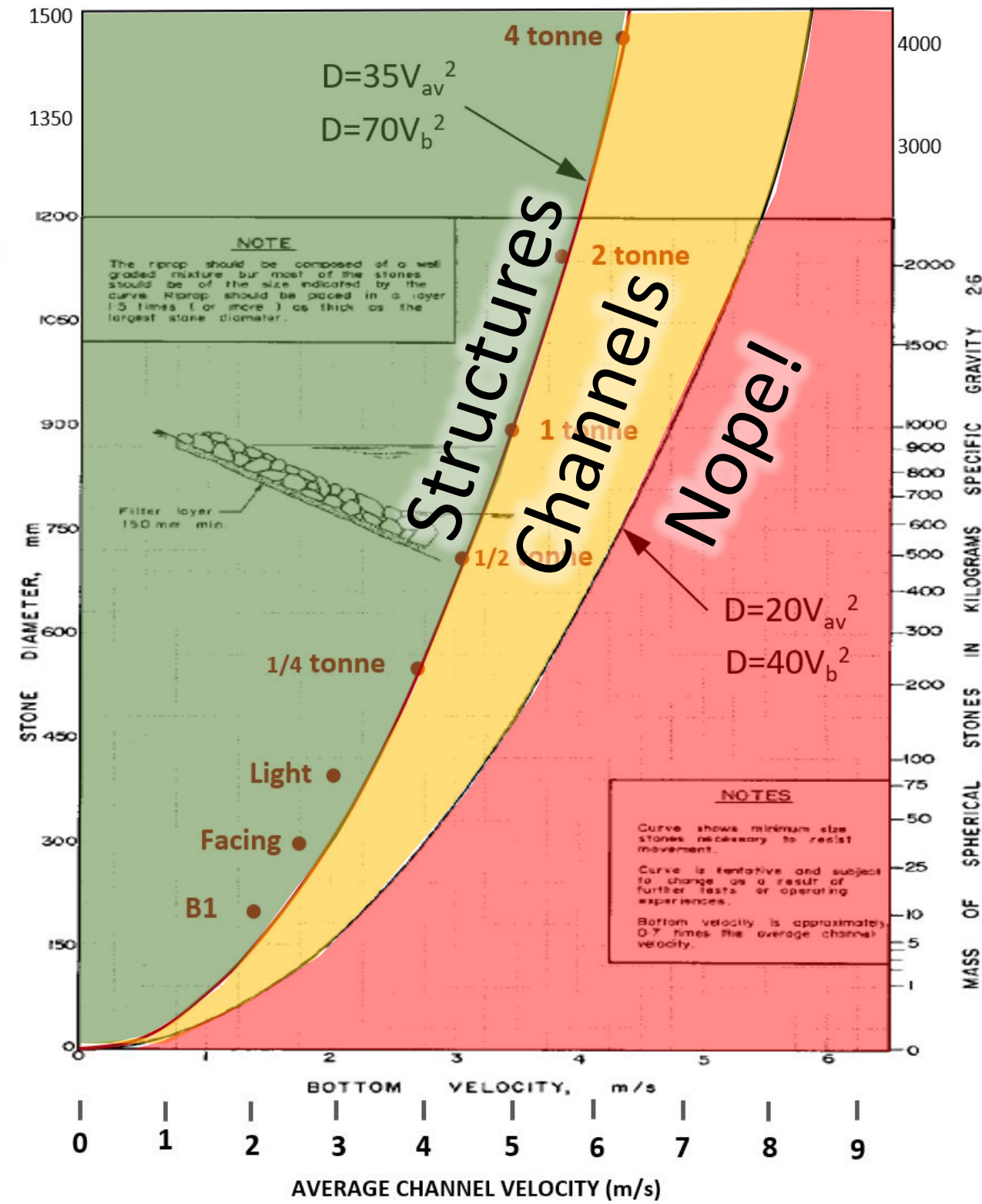
- Check stability using at least three 1D methods:
  - Velocity  $D_{50} = a * V^2$
  - Shear  $D_{50} = S_f * \tau$
  - Velocity & Depth  $D_{30} = S_f C_s C_v C_t d \left( \frac{\gamma_w}{\gamma_s - \gamma_w} \right)^{0.5} \frac{V}{\sqrt{K_1 g d}} \Big)^{2.5}$
- Clarifications needed:
  - Application: Channels vs. Structures
  - Gradation:  $D_{10}, D_{50}, D_{90}$  by total weight
  - Shear and Velocity Adjustments: 1D vs 2D vs 3D
  - How to apply the USACE method



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# Recommendations



- Gradation:  $D_{10}$ ,  $D_{50}$ ,  $D_{90}$  by total weight
- Shear and Velocity Adjustments: 1D vs 2D vs 3D
- How to apply the USACE method



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# Estimating scour risks from 1D, 2D, and 3D flood model results



Krey Price  
Surface Water Solutions

FMA National Conference  
Toowoomba QLD  
20 May 2022



Krey Price

# QUESTIONS?

