

# Exercise 1

**Earthquake verification of a gravity dam according to the Swiss directives**

**CIVIL-411**

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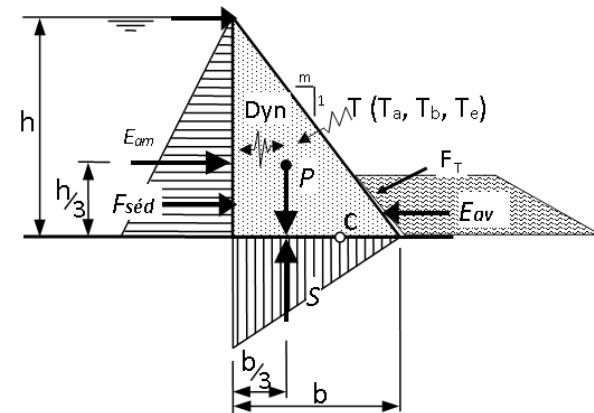


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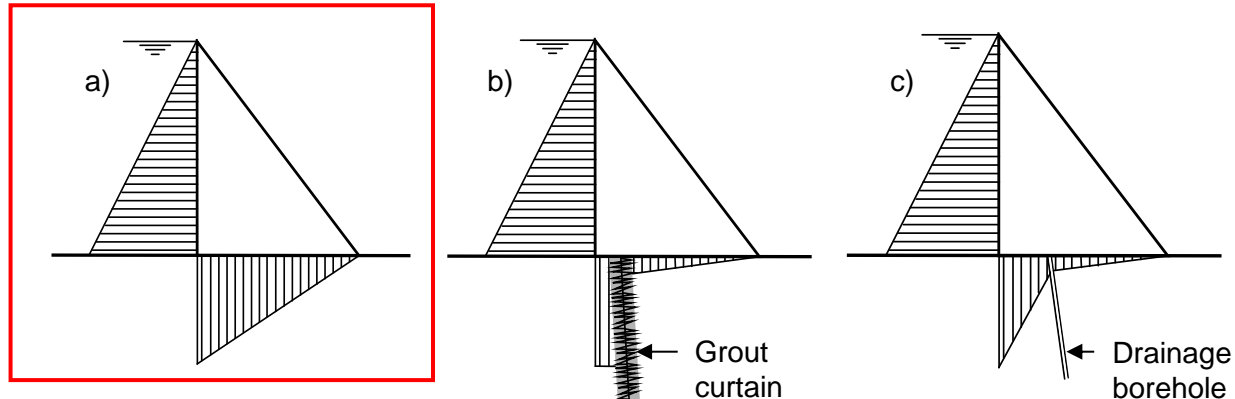
- Earthquake verification of a gravity dam according to the Swiss directives
- Available documents:
  - Design, Safety and Operation of Dams (A.J. Schleiss and H. Pougatsch)
  - *Directive relative à la sécurité des ouvrages d'accumulation, **Partie C3** : sécurité aux séismes* [1]
- Analysis of the reservoir behavior during the earthquake (the behavior of the reservoir after the earthquake is not analyzed within this exercise).
- The analysis of the case with **full reservoir** is generally sufficient for checking the seismic safety of reservoirs.

[1] [Directive C3](#)

- Static principle:
  - Self-weight counters the water pressure by the resulting friction
  - Each element is stable (no arch or bi-directional effect)
  - Normal load case: only compressive stresses (non-reinforced concrete)
- Principal forces acting on a gravity dam:
  - Self-weight
  - Upstream water pressure
  - Downstream water pressure
  - Uplift
  - Active earth pressure (sediments)
  - Ice load
  - Seismic load
  - Temperature

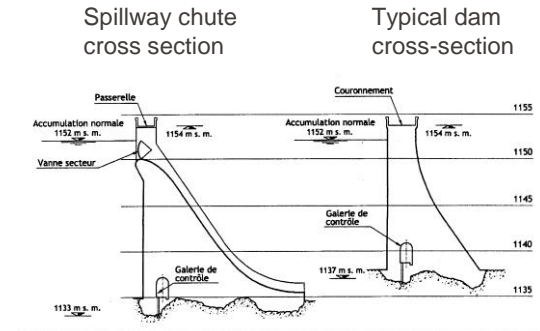


- Important active hydrostatic force (especially for gravity dams)
- Difficult to assess: many assumptions about its distribution
- Acts both inside the concrete and the foundation
- Establishment of a flow pattern inside the concrete and the rock mass





- Essential controls for gravity dams:
  - **Safety against overturning** → Dam stability
  - **Safety against sliding** → Dam stability
  - **Safety against internal failure** → Concrete strength (stresses)
  - (safety against lifting)
  
- In this exercise:
  - **Only full reservoir**
  - 2 x-sections only: **typical XS**, **spillway chute XS**
  - Exercise in 2 parts:
    - Static analysis
    - Dynamic analysis (pseudo-static)
  - Triangular distribution (a) of uplift
    - Static analysis:  $k=0.4$
    - Dynamic analysis:  $k=1$  (considered during earthquakes)
  - Temperature effects will be neglected
  - *Bonus: Empty reservoir + eligibility of the dam for simplified verification*



## ■ Part 1: Static analysis

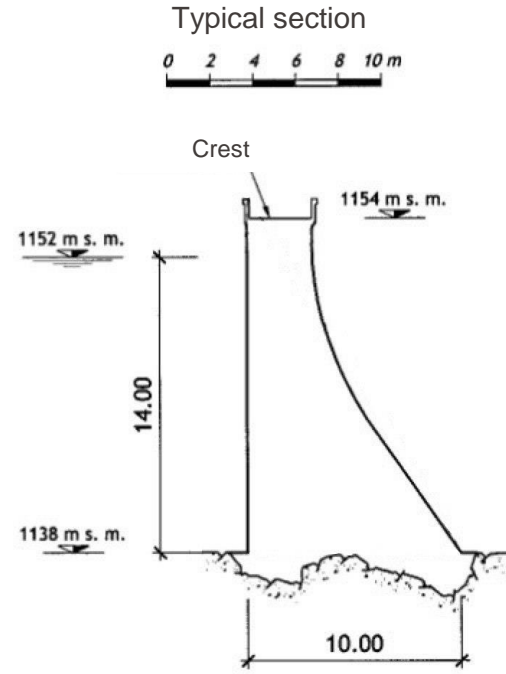
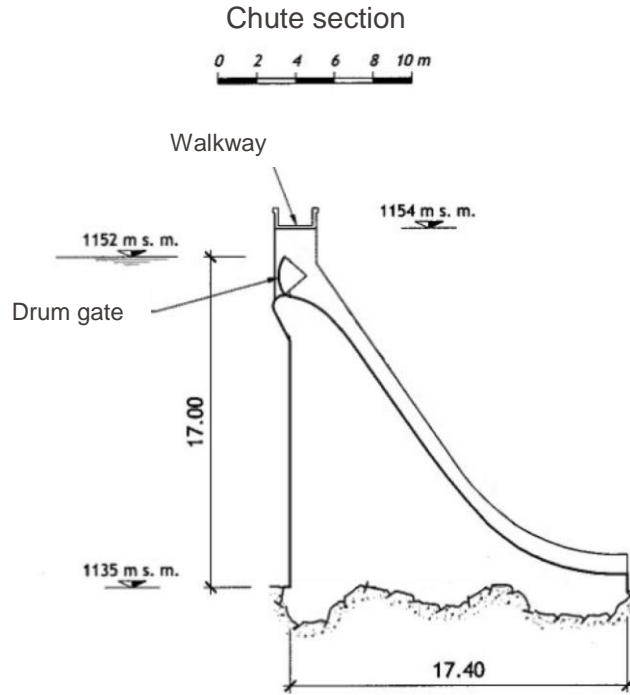
- Friction angle ground-concrete to be determined according to Barton
- Verification of dam stability
  - Safety against failure (stresses) not necessary for part 1
  - Generalized safety against overturning ( $S_{O,stat} \gg 1$ )
  - Generalized safety against sliding ( $S_{S,stat} \gg 1$ )
- Normal load case (to be defined)
- Comment on results: Importance of the uplift coefficient  $k$ ?

## ■ Part 2: Dynamic analysis

- Earthquake verification according to current Swiss directives (dynamic analysis)
  - Safety against failure: stress verification (compare with materials strength)
  - Safety against sliding
  - Safety against overturning ( $S_{O,dyn} > 1.1$ )
- Exceptional load case (earthquake)
- Pseudo-static analysis (with the Westergaard method)

# Considerations for exercise 1

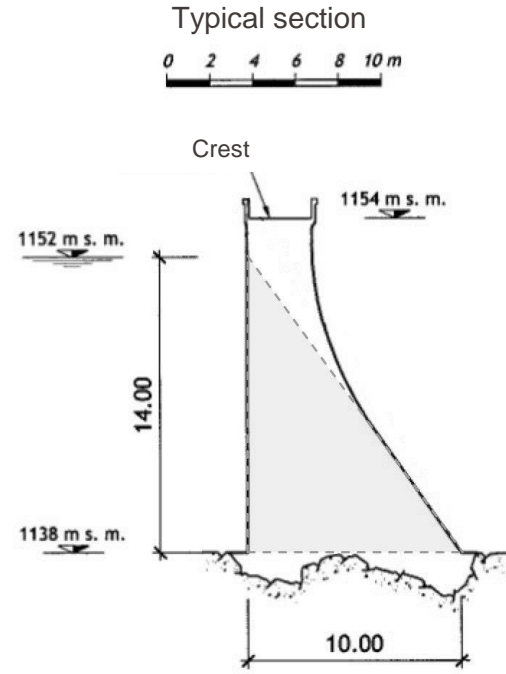
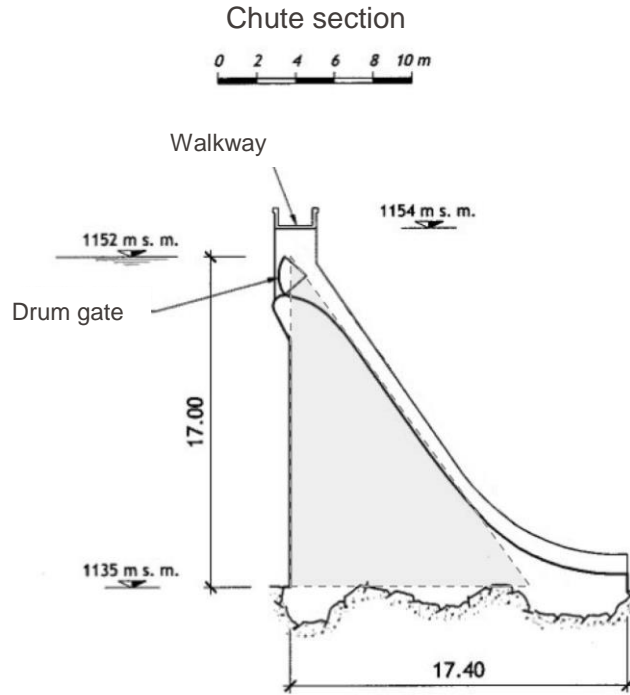
## Geometry





# Considerations for exercise 1

## Geometry



# Friction angle at ground-dam interface

- To determine according to Barton

$$\Phi' = \Phi_r + [JRC \cdot \log(JCS/\sigma'_n)]$$

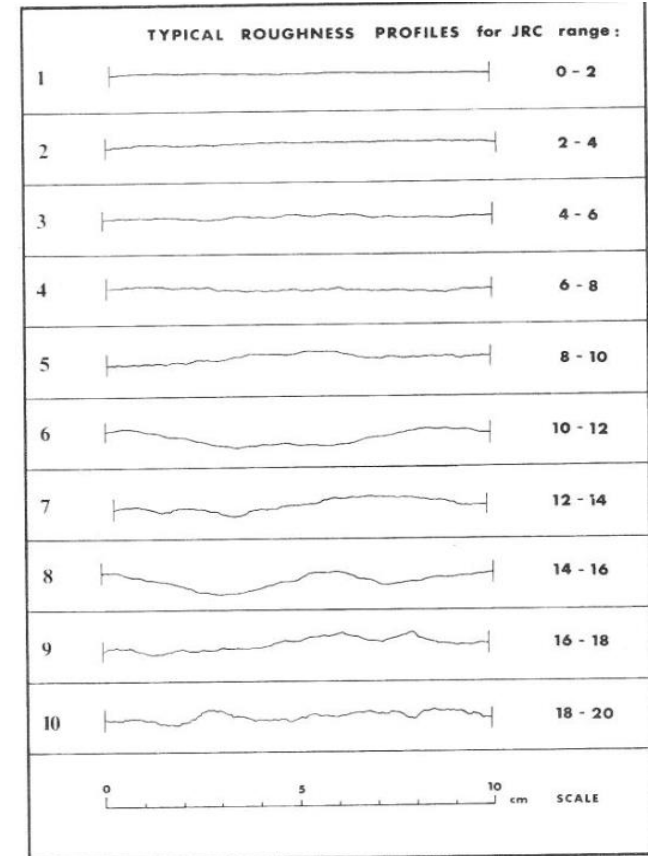
- $\Phi_r$ : residual friction angle
- $JRC$ : Geometric joint roughness coefficient
- $JCS$ : Equal to the simple compressive strength of the rock
- $\sigma'_n$ : Normal effective stress

# Friction angle at ground-dam interface

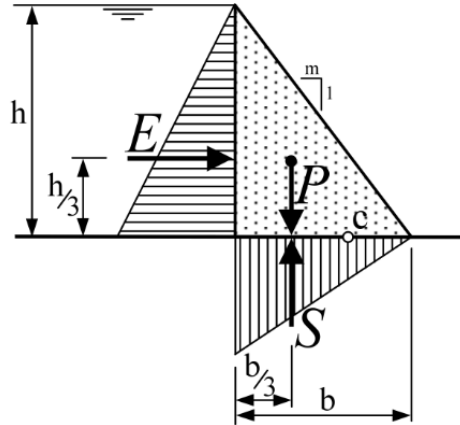
$$\Phi' = \Phi_r + [JRC \cdot \log(JCS/\sigma'_n)]$$

## Values for the angle of friction ( $\tan\phi'$ )

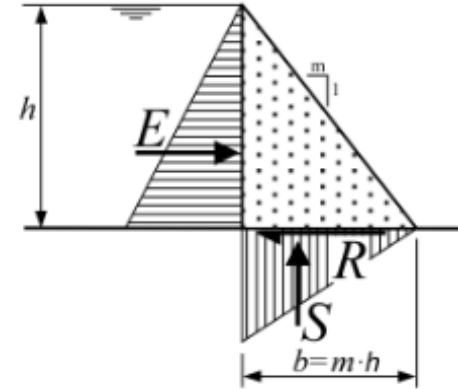
1	Concrete-concrete	Fissure in the dam body, crack	$\tan\phi'$ : 2.0 à 3.0
		Lift joint, neat (soigné)	: 1.5 à 2.1
2	Concrete-rock	Good rock quality	: 1.5 à 1.9
		Bad to medium rock quality	: 0.5 à 1.5
3	Rock-rock	Good quality and few joints	: 1.0 à 1.9
		Medium quality and a lot of joints	: 0.5 à 1.0



## Safety against overturning

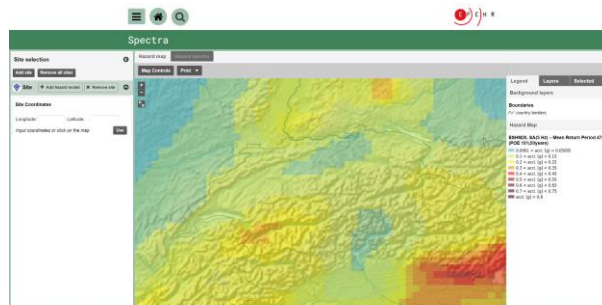


## Safety against sliding



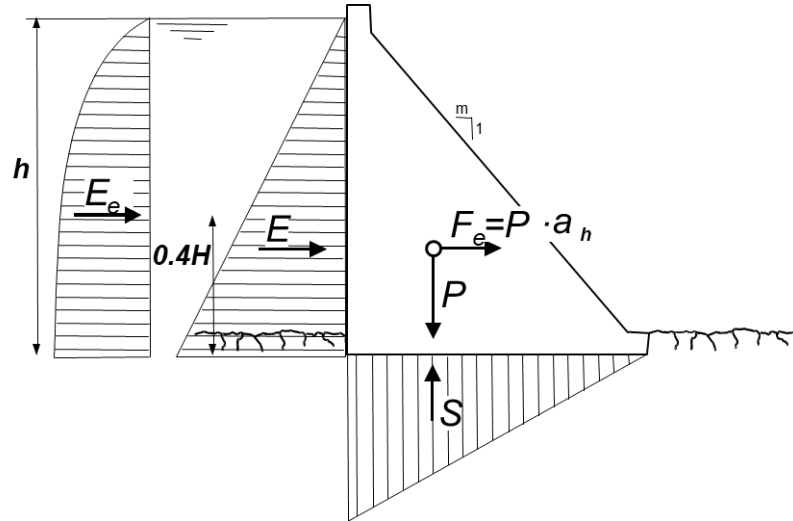
## ■ Spectral acceleration:

1. Determine the reference acceleration  $S_{a0.15SED}$  from the hazard spectrum [2] at the provided location
2. Compute the peak ground acceleration  $a_{gd}$  according to the C3 directive [4.3.2]
3. Determine the elastic spectral acceleration  $S_e$  according to the C3 directive [4.3.4] depending on:
  - Fundamental period  $T_s$
  - Foundation characteristics
  - Damping

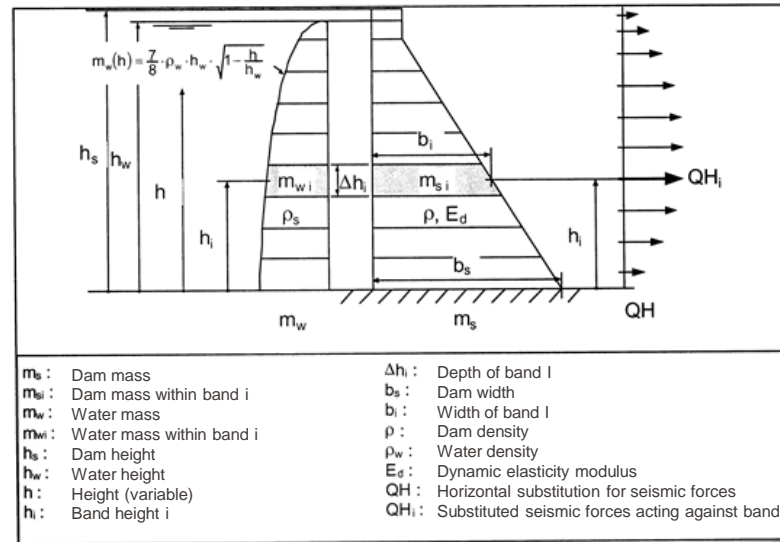


[2] [EFEHR: hazard spectra](#)

- Pseudo-static method:
  - The inertial forces of the dam ( $F_e$ ) and the reservoir ( $E_e$ ) are added to the forces P-E-S
  - No reduction of the uplift (hypothesis of a rupture of the grout curtain:  $k=1$ )



- Slice method:
  - Seismic substitution forces acting on slice i
  - Added-mass of according to Westergaard



- Hand-in as technical calculation note
  - Report PDF
  - Directly on Moodle
  
- Contact:
  - [enrico.pinelli@epfl.ch](mailto:enrico.pinelli@epfl.ch)

**Hand-in date: According to program**