

# Veneer Stability Calculations



**MSW, Mixed & Hazardous Waste Landfills**  
**Superfund Sites (... that used to be Landfills)**  
**Heap Leach Pads and Tailings Impoundments**  
**Earthfill Dams**

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**Neven Matasovic**

*Geo-Logic Associates, Costa Mesa, California*  
*nmatasovic@geo-logic.com; Direct: 714.465.8240*



**Geo-Logic**  
ASSOCIATES

# OUTLINE

1. Introduction

2. “Simplified” Analyses

3. Case Study (Composite Cover)

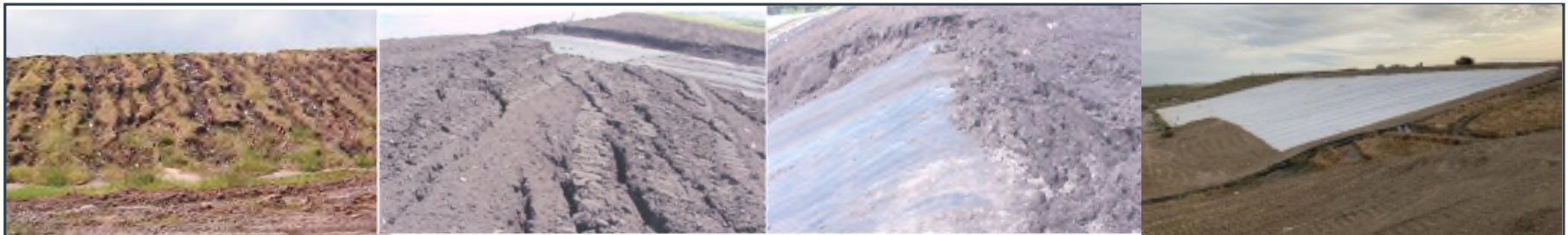
4. Special Cases

5. Advanced Analysis

6. Take-Aways ... and spreadsheets and papers to download

} State-of-the-Practice

← State-of-the-Art



# INTRODUCTION

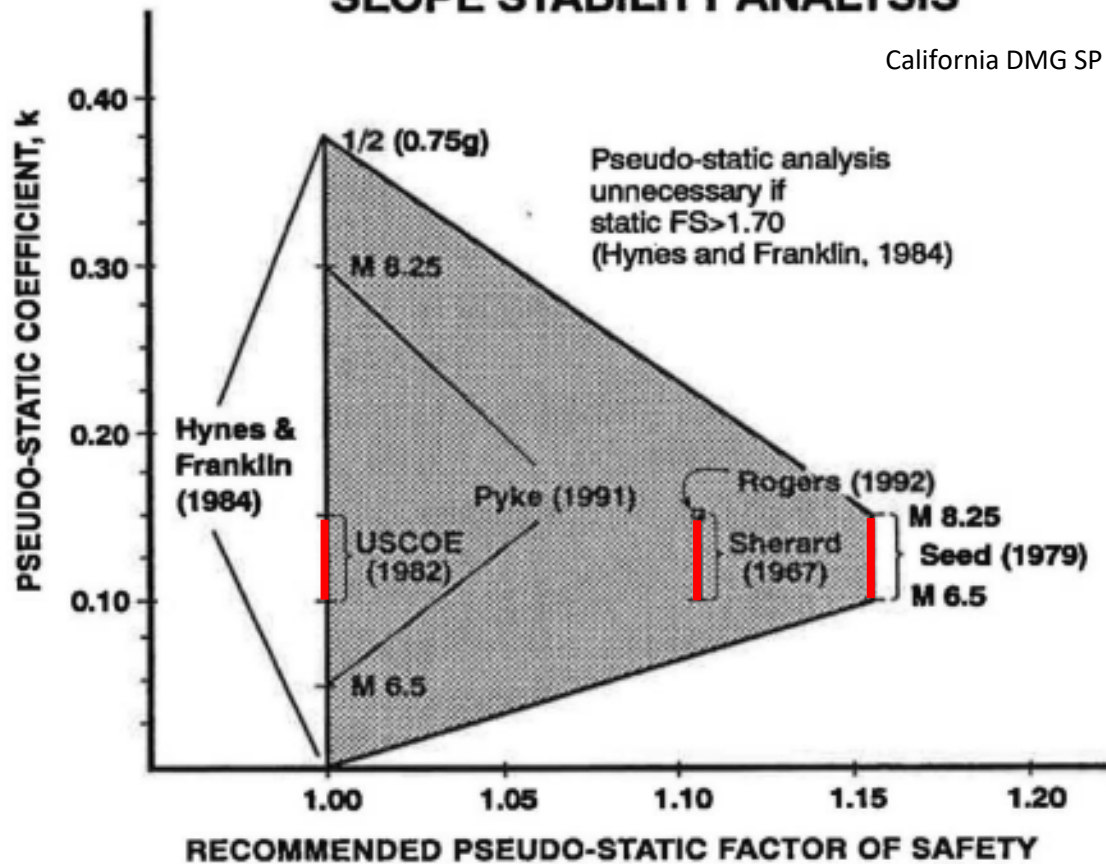




# EVALUATION OF $k_s$

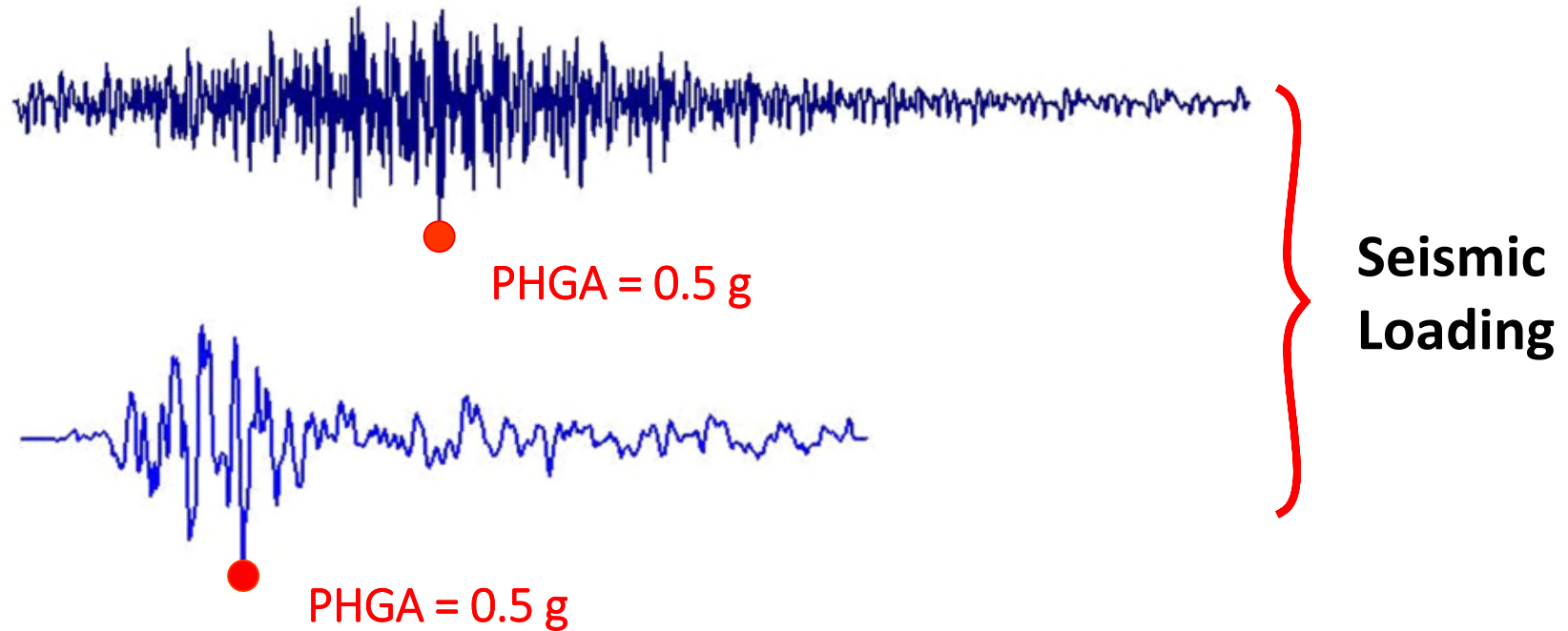
## CRITERIA FOR PSEUDO-STATIC SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

California DMG SP 117 (1997)



California Title 27 requires “Dynamic FS  $\geq 1.5$ ” (... but offers no further guidance)

# SEISMIC COEFFICIENT ( $k_s$ )



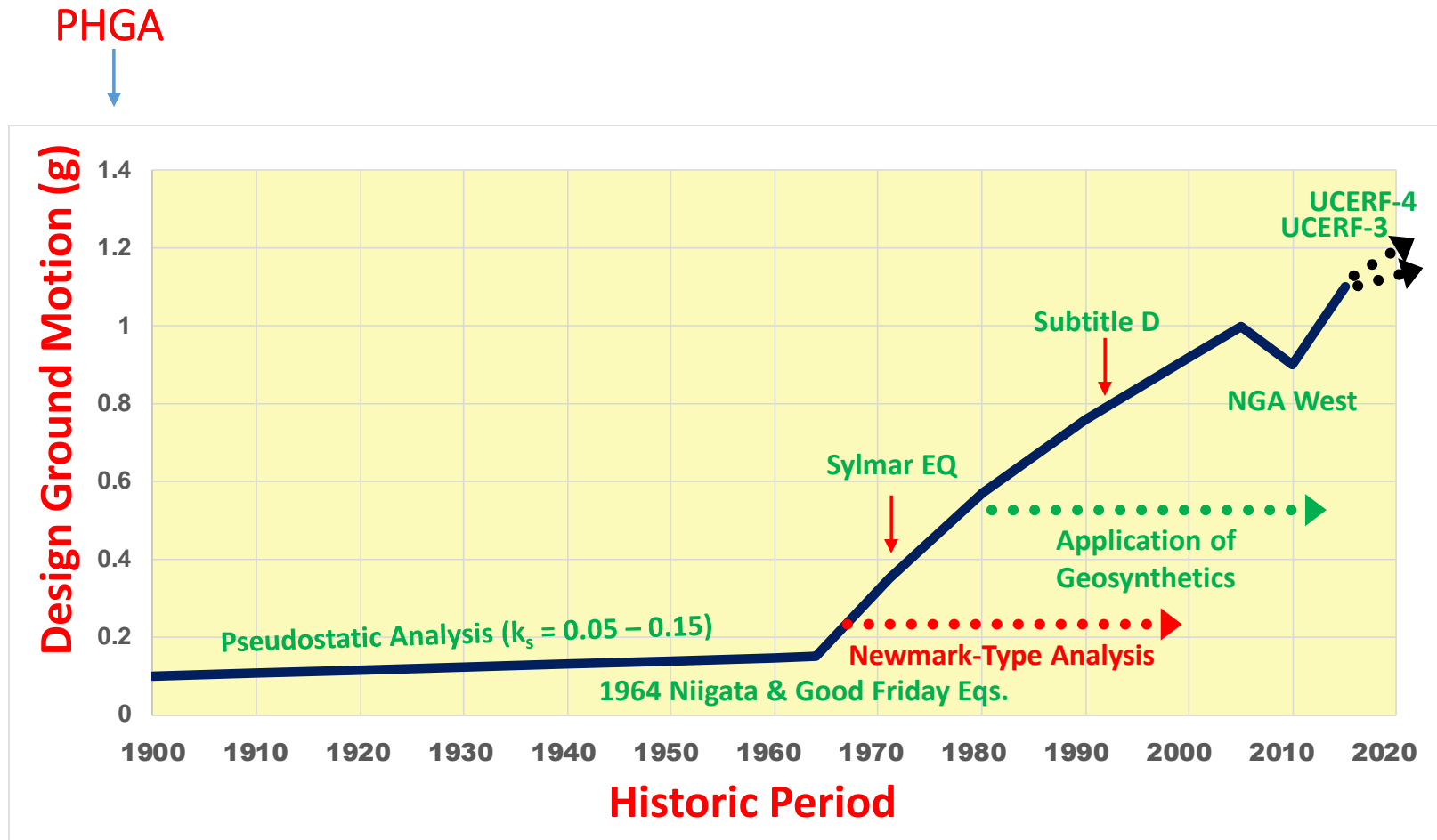
Can one evaluate  $k_s$  from PHGA?

Is damage potential induced by these two motions the same?

# SEISMIC COEFFICIENT (CONT.)



# Conceptual Trend of Ever-increasing Design Ground Motion



2014 M 6.0 South Napa (California) Eq. – Recorded PHGA = 1.0 g!



CA (MPE): Design event must be  $\geq$  than the largest historic event ...



# NEWMARK-TYPE ANALYSIS

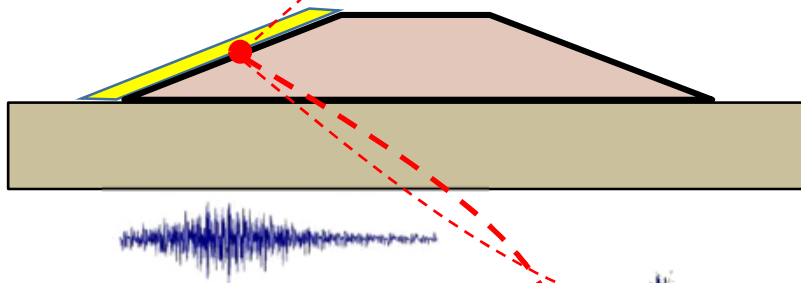
## (Sliding Block Analysis)

- **FS = 1.0 does not necessarily mean a failure! It means “block starts to move ...”**
- **Performance-Based Design – The intensity of calculated displacement controls the design**



# NEWMARK-TYPE ANALYSIS (CONT.)

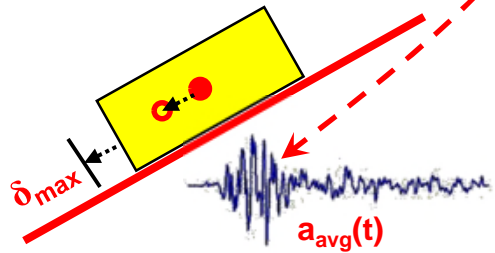
Pseudostatic Slope Stability:



$k_y$

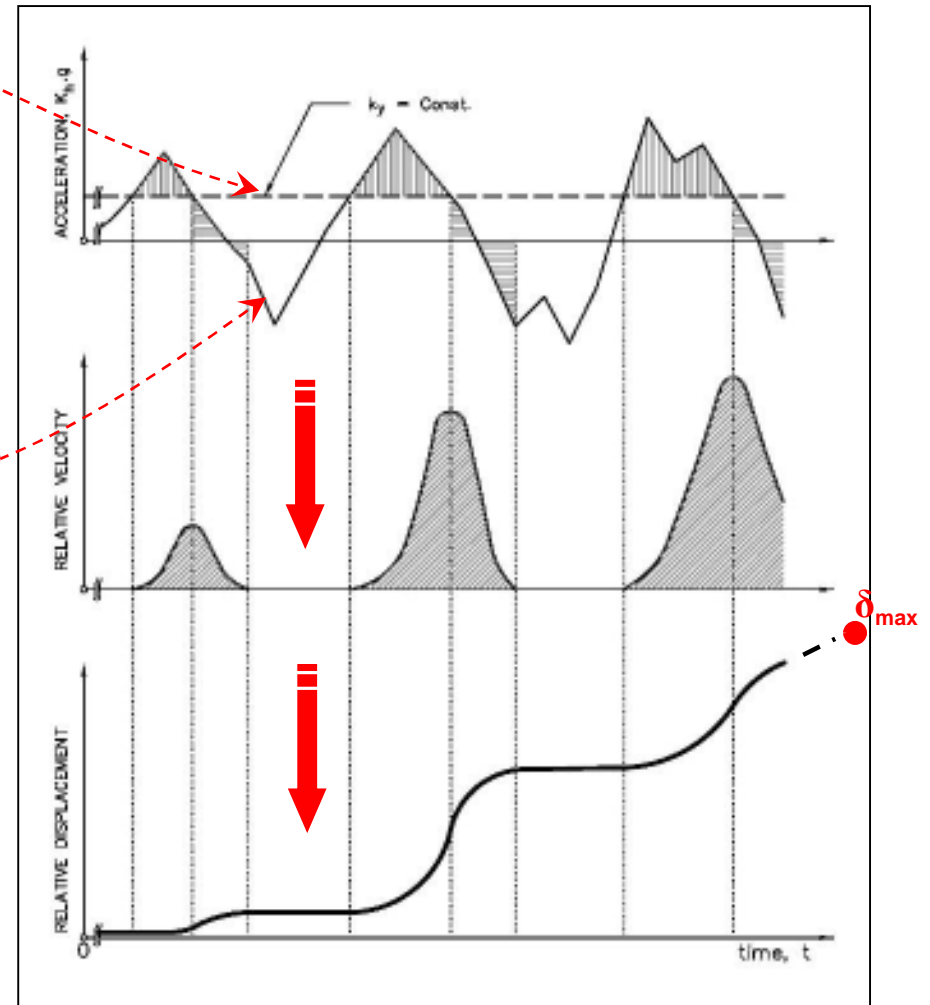
$a_{avg}(t)$

Sliding Block Model:



$\delta_{max}$

$a_{avg}(t)$



After Newmark (1965)

# NEWMARK-TYPE ANALYSIS

## (Simplified Approach / “Spreadsheet”)

### Input (“Simplified” Analyses Only):

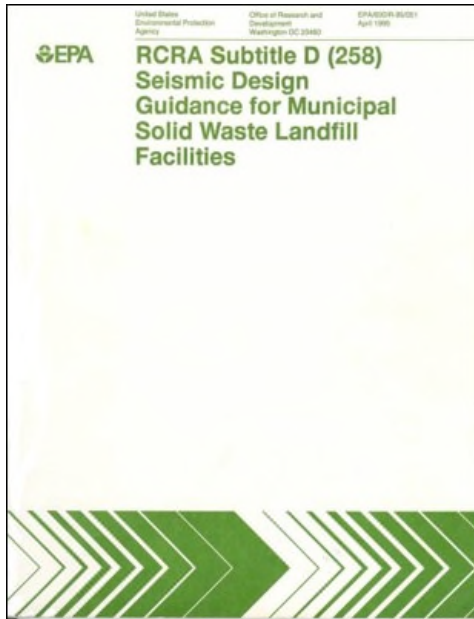
1. Yield acceleration of sliding mass ( $k_y$ ) (accel. for FS = 1.0)
2. Initial Fundamental period of sliding mass ( $T_s$ )
3. (Design) ground motion ( $M$ ,  $S_a$ , and PGV, ...)

### Output:

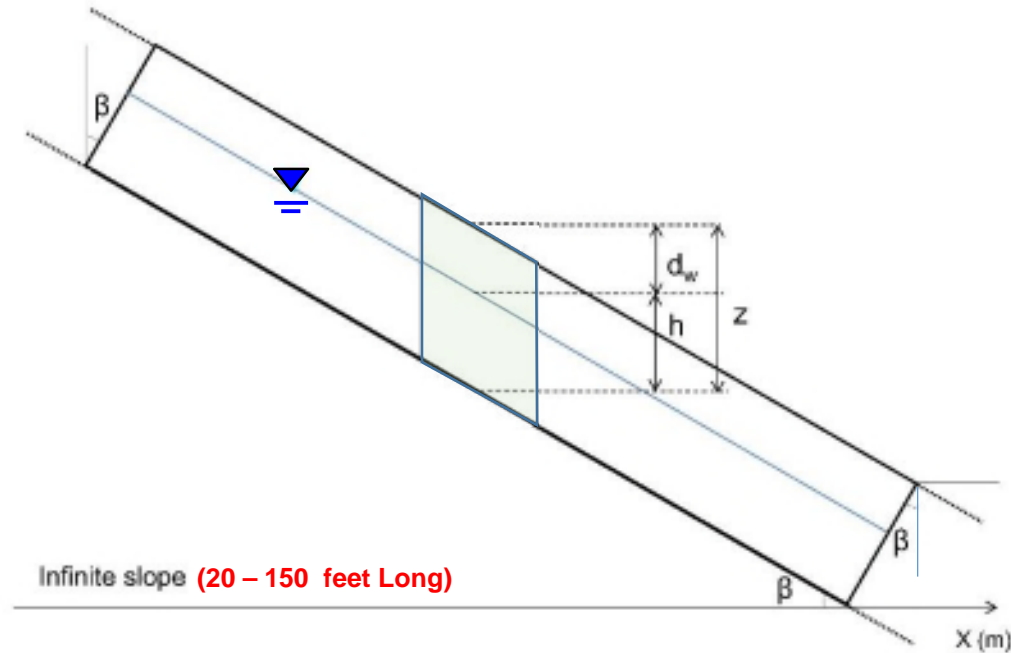
- Maximum calculated permanent seismic displacement ( $\delta_{max}$ )

Note:  $M$  = Moment Magnitude;  $S_a$  = Spectral acceleration at the base of the sliding mass ...; PGV = Peak Ground Velocity at the base of the sliding mass ...

# INP. 1. YIELD ACCELERATION ( $k_y$ )



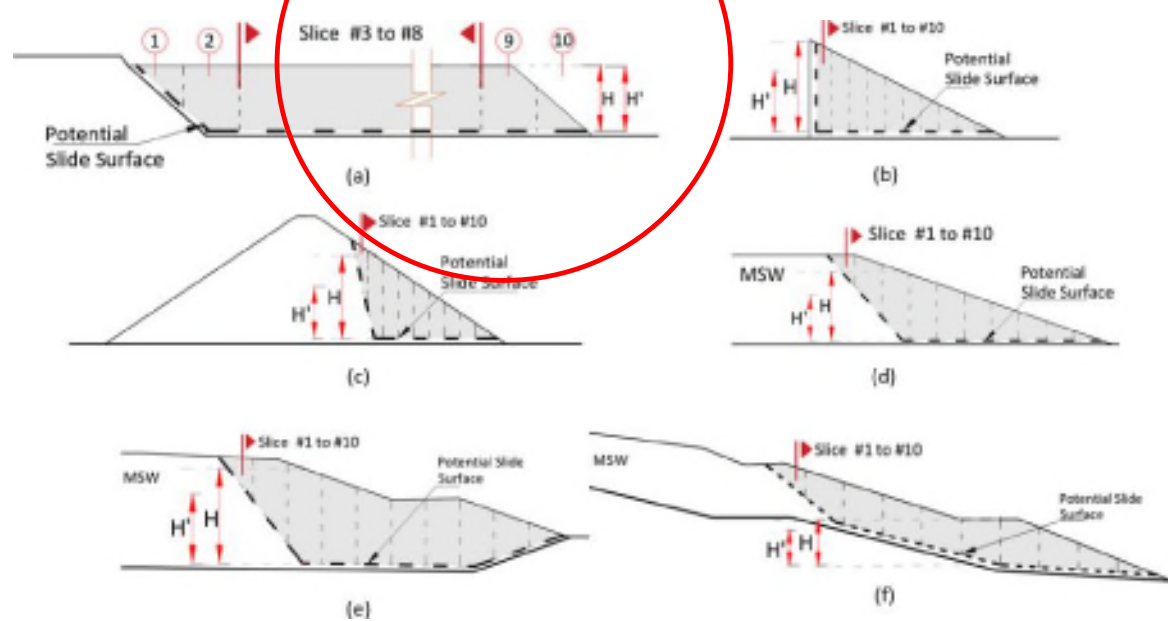
Richardson et al. (1995) or EPA (1995)



$$k_y = \frac{\frac{c}{\gamma z \cos^2 \beta} + \tan \phi \left[ 1 - \frac{\gamma_w (z - d_w)}{\gamma z} \right] - \tan \beta}{1 + \tan \beta \tan \phi}$$

Matasovic (1991)

# INP. 2. INITIAL FUNDAMENTAL PERIOD



Bray and Macedo (2021)  
 Matasovic and Thiel (2021)

$$T_s = 4 H' / V_s$$

$T_s$  = initial fundamental period of the potential sliding mass

$H'$  = the effective height of an equivalent one-dimensional sliding mass

$V_s$  = (average) shear wave velocity

# INP. 3. DESIGN GROUND MOTION

**Input:** (“Simplified” Analyses Only; USGS web page):

- A. Latitude and Longitude & “Applicable Code”
- B.  $V_{s-30}$  (NEHRP Site Class)

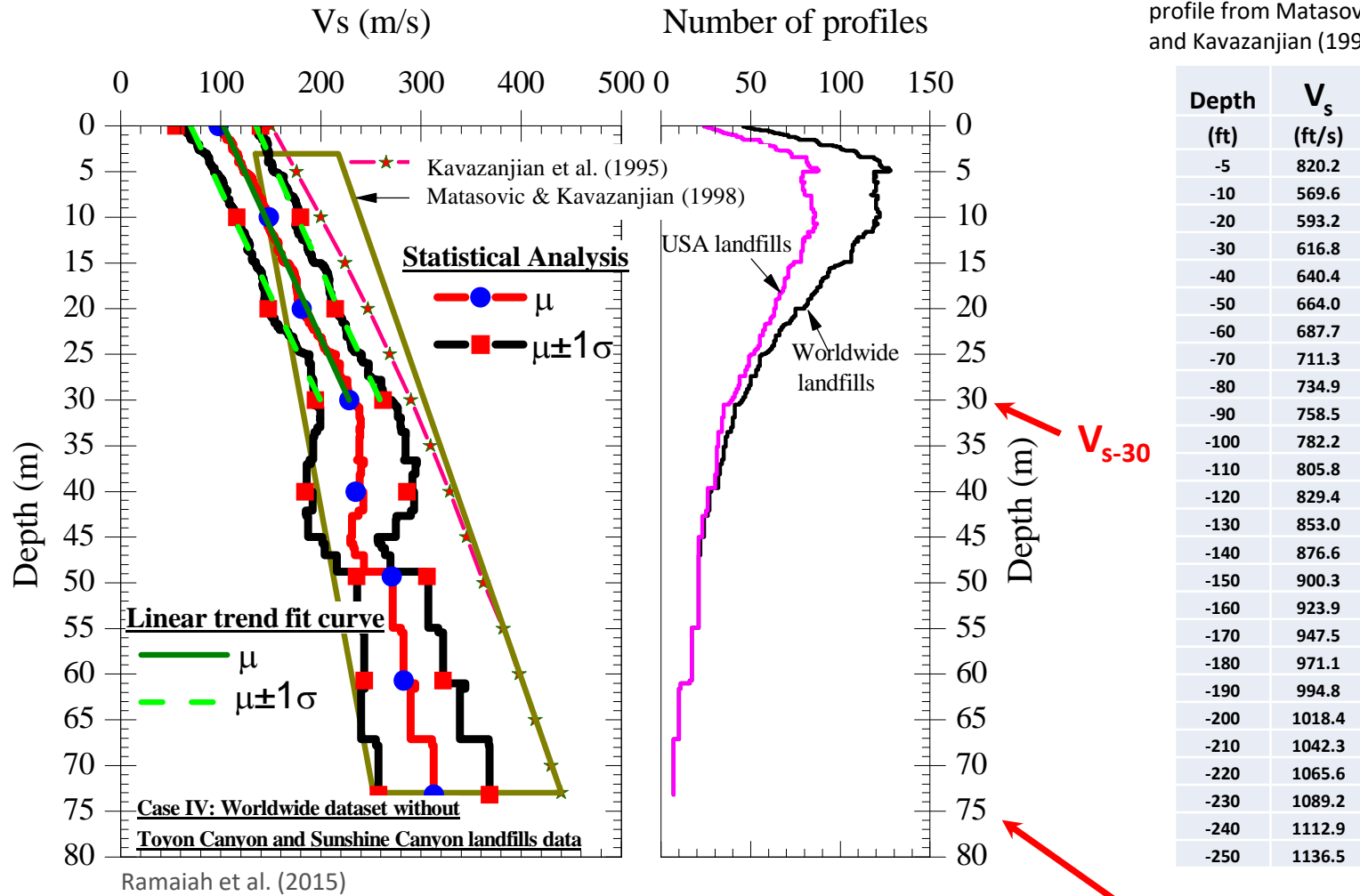
**Output:**

- $M$ ,  $S_a$  (PHGA), and PGV, ...
- Other

Note: For landfill cover, Spectral Acceleration Ordinate,  $S_a \approx$  PHGA at the landfill surface

# INP. B. SHEAR WAVE VELOCITY PROFILE

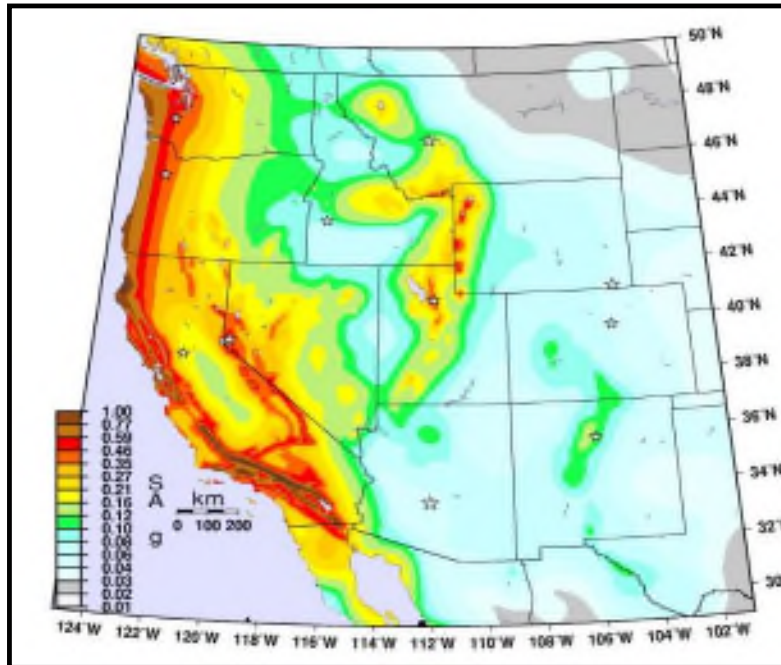
Digitized average  $V_s$  profile from Matasovic and Kavazanjian (1998)



75 m = 250 ft

$V_{s-30}$  is required to evaluate the design ground motion

# NOTE ON DESIGN GROUND MOTION



*RP = Return Period*

*PE = Probability of Exceedance*

*MPE = Maximum Probable Earthquake*

*MCE = Maximum Credible Earthquake*

California mandates deterministic seismic hazard analysis (MPE & MCE); Everybody else mandates probabilistic (2% PE in 50 years or 2,475-yr RP)\*

Building code allows for a **2/3 Reduction** of design ground motion; US Subtitles D & C do not. So, buildings in US are designed for approx. 500-yr RP, while landfills outside of CA are designed for a 2,475-yr RP

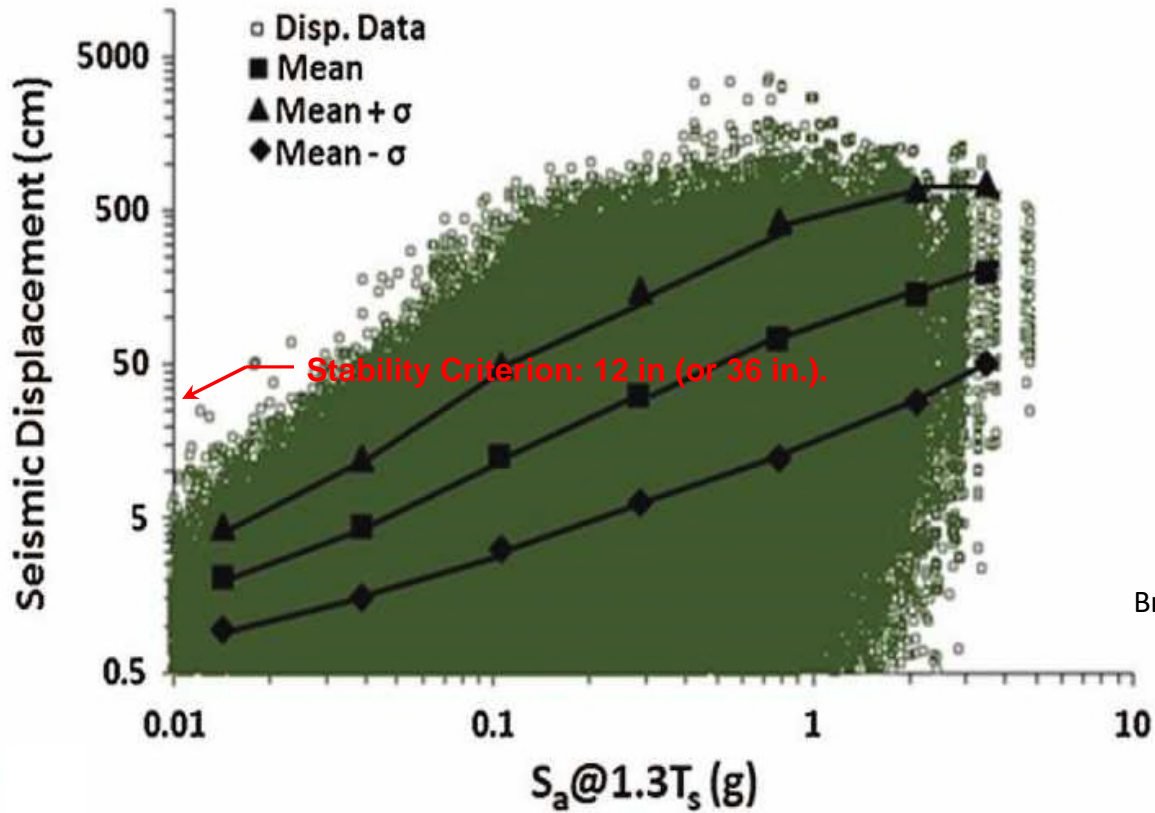
2,475-yr RP motion is typically much higher than its deterministic (MPE and MCE) counterparts

Site specific analysis is required to obtain PGV



# STATE OF PRACTICE\* – BRAY & TRAVASAROU

(Latest Update: Bray and Macedo, 2019; 2021)



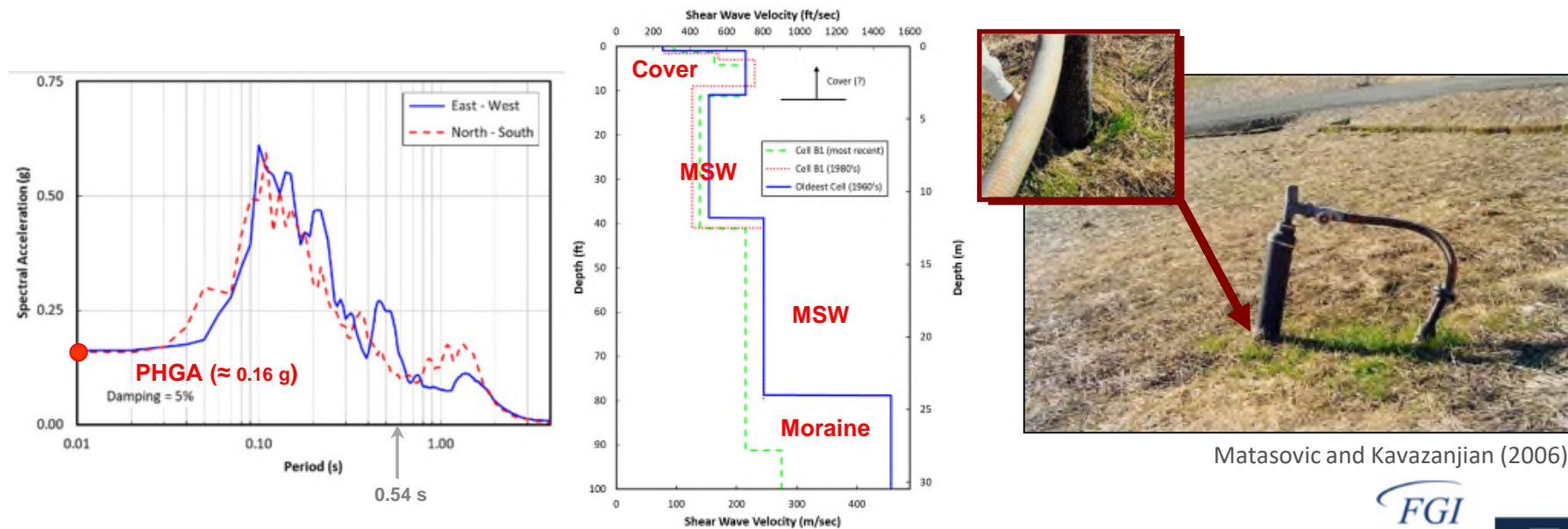
Bray and Macedo (2019)

Landfills  
( $T_s \approx 0.3 - 3.0$  s)

# OLYMPIC VIEW SANITARY LANDFILL

## (Composite Landfill Cover Seismic **Case History**)

- MSW Landfill in WA; Founded in Moraine (Weak Rock)
- 2001 M 6.8 Nisqually Eq.
  - SM: Recorded in Moraine  $\approx 1$  km from the Site
  - Weak Rock PHGA  $\approx 0.16$  g
  - Site-Specific Measurements ( $v_s$  and in-plane strength)
  - Post-EQ Observation:  $\delta_{max} = 0$  (no cracks in cover observed)

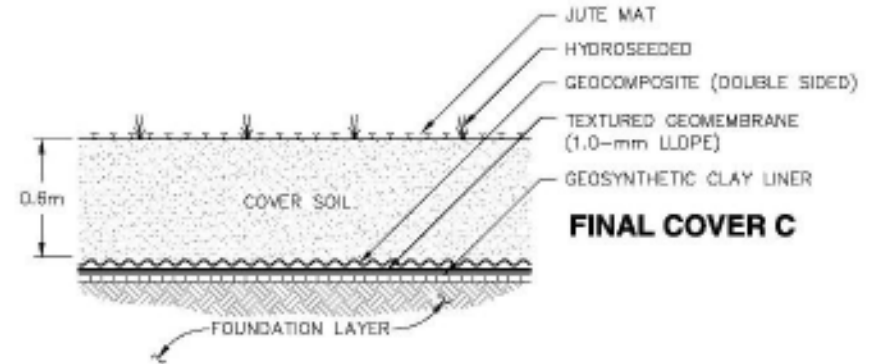
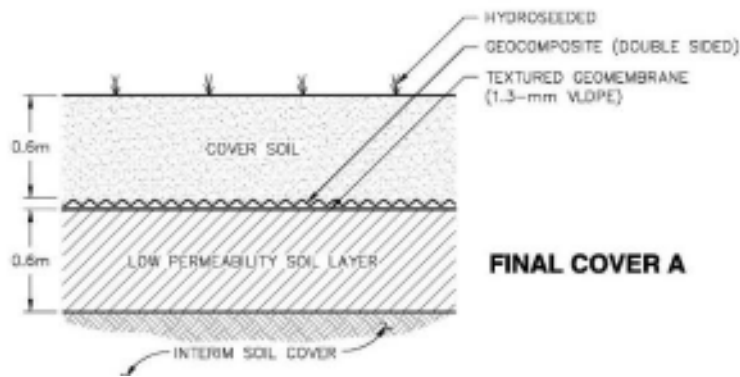
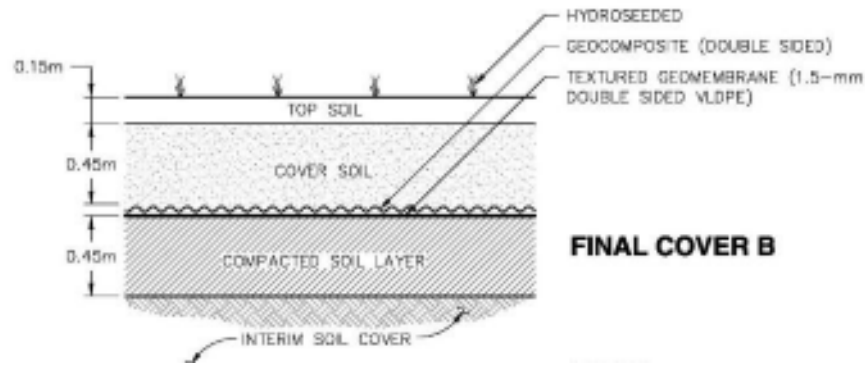


Matasovic and Kavazanjian (2006)

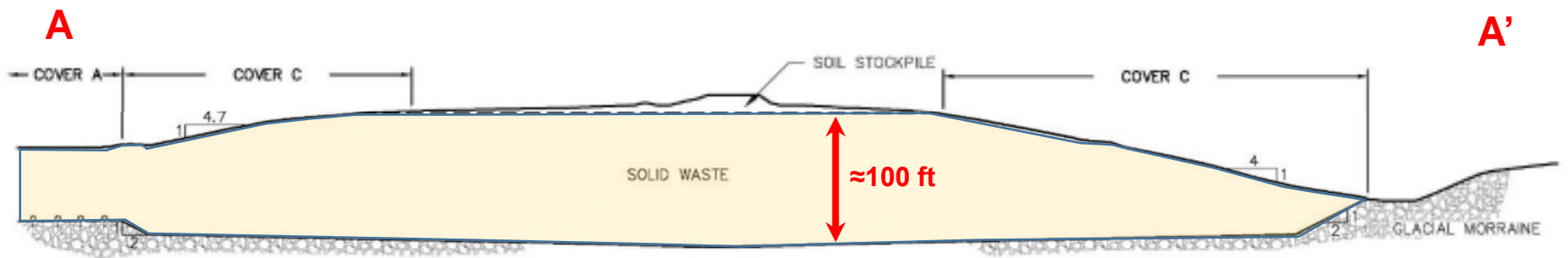
# OLYMPIC VIEW SANITARY LANDFILL – AERIAL VIEW IN 2001





# OLYMPIC VIEW SANITARY LANDFILL



Matasovic and Kavazanjian (2006)



# SITE RESPONSE & SEISMIC DEFORMATION ANALYSIS

Method	Bedrock PHGA (Input)	$a_{max}$	$k_{max}$	$\delta_{max}$ ( $k_y = 0.17$ g)	$\delta_{max}$ ( $k_y = 0.22$ g)
1 EPA (1995) / H & F Charts 	0.16 g	0.47 g	0.47 g	100 mm <sup>A</sup>	< 100 mm <sup>A</sup>
2 EPA (1995) / M & S Charts 	0.16 g	0.47 g	0.47 g	100 - 230 mm <sup>B</sup>	50 - 130 mm <sup>B</sup>
3 Bray et al. (1998)	0.16 g	0.28 - 0.34 g	0.28 - 0.34 g	30-130 mm <sup>C</sup>	6 - 40 mm <sup>C</sup>
4 De-Coupled Analysis (D-MOD2000)	0.15 g (NS); 0.16 g (EW)	0.18 - 0.19 g	0.18 - 0.19 g	< 1 mm <sup>D</sup>	0

H & F = Hynes and Franklin (1984).

M & S = Makdisi and Seed (1978).

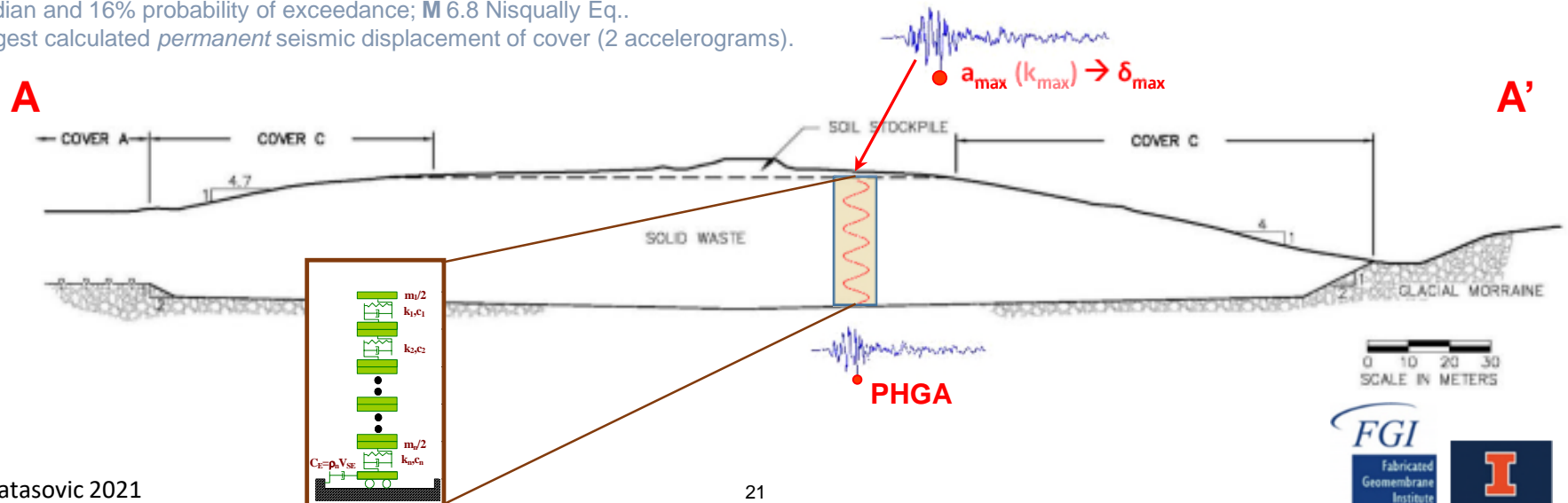
<sup>A</sup> Mean plus one standard deviation curve.

<sup>B</sup> Mean and upper bound for the M 6.5 chart.

<sup>C</sup> Median and 16% probability of exceedance; M 6.8 Nisqually Eq..

<sup>D</sup> Largest calculated *permanent* seismic displacement of cover (2 accelerograms).

Matasovic and Kavazanjian (2006)



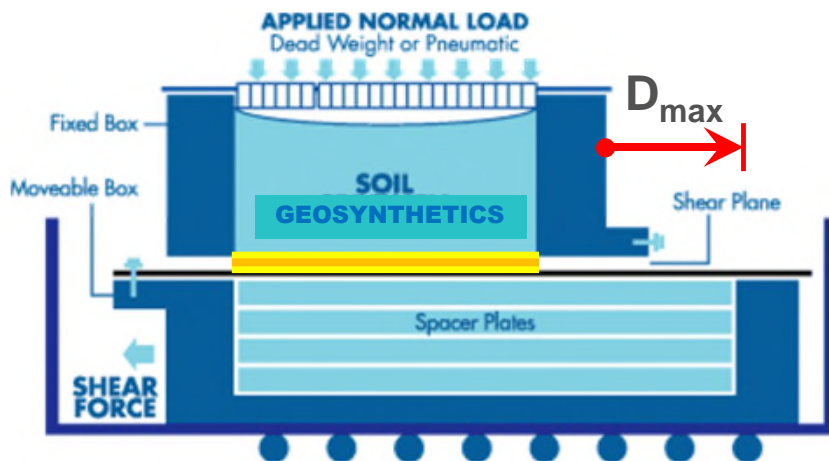
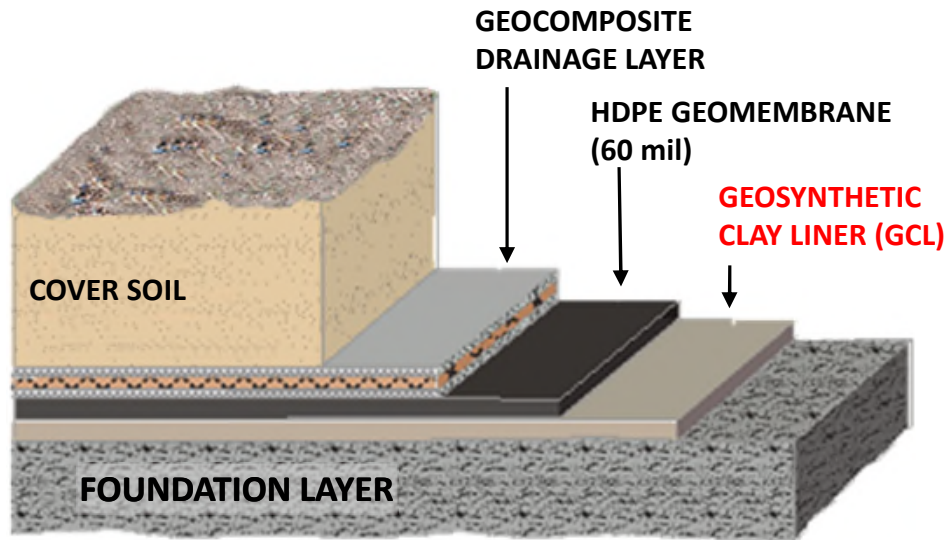
# STATE-OF-PRACTICE - DISCUSSION

- Is SOP Conservative (?)
- Is SOP Economical (?)
- Limitations of the SOP?
  - Very High Design Ground Motions
  - Complex Geometry
  - Thick Fills (350+ ft or 100+ m)
- Perf.-Based Stability Criteria (**12 – 36 in.**)
- Other ...

ET Cover

Composite Cover

# LAB MEASUREMENT OF IN-PLANE STRENGTH

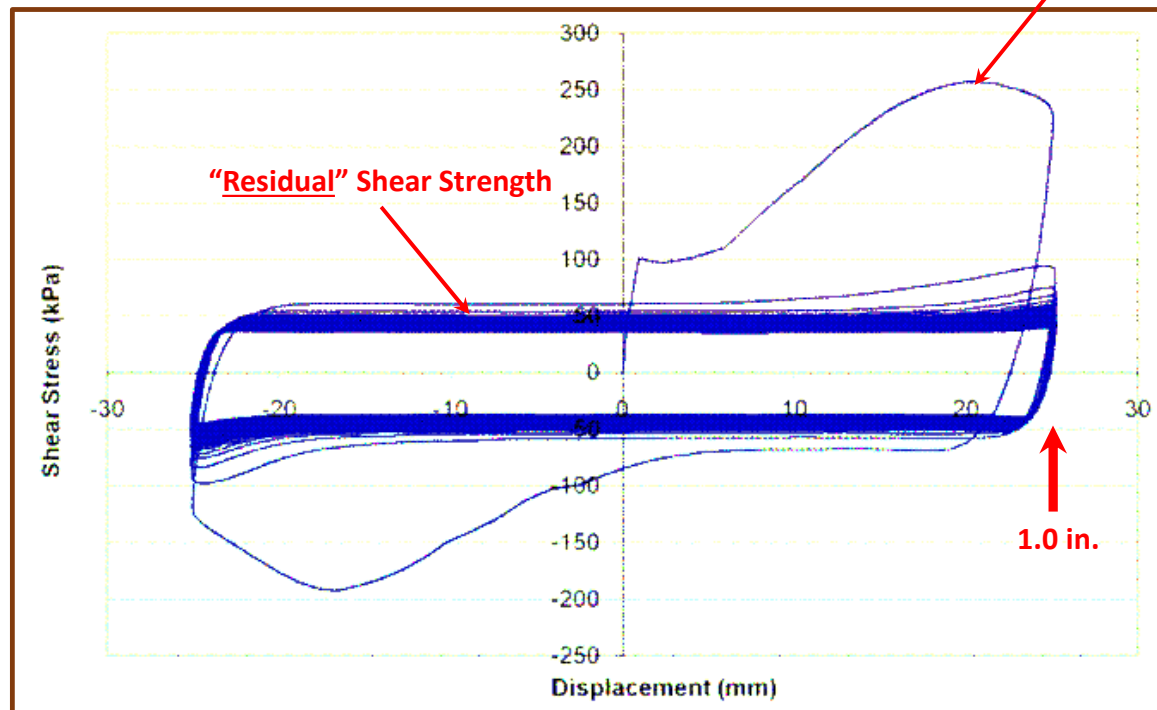


## Conventional Shear Box:

- Box: 305×305 mm (12×12 in.)
- $D_{max} = 90$  mm (3.5 in.)
- 1 mm/min (0.04 in./min) or
- 0.1 mm/min (0.004 in./min) GCL internal
- **Static Only!**

# LAB MEASUREMENT OF IN-PLANE STRENGTH

## Stress-Strain Loops (Cyclic Test):



Nye and Fox (2007)



GCL (Bentomat ST)

$\sigma_n = 141 \text{ kPa}$  (30 ft of MSW)

$D_{\text{Static}} = 0.9 \text{ m}$  (36 in.)

$D_{\text{Cyclic}} = \pm 25 \text{ mm}$  ( $\pm 1 \text{ in.}$ )

$f = 1 \text{ Hz}$

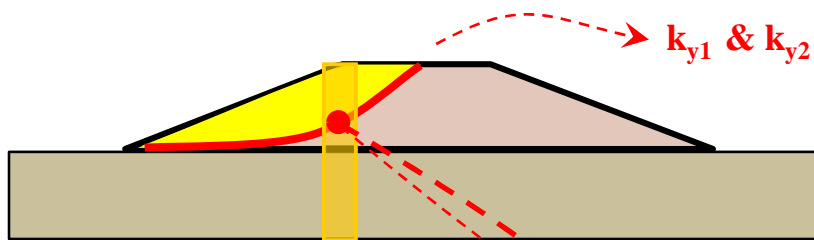




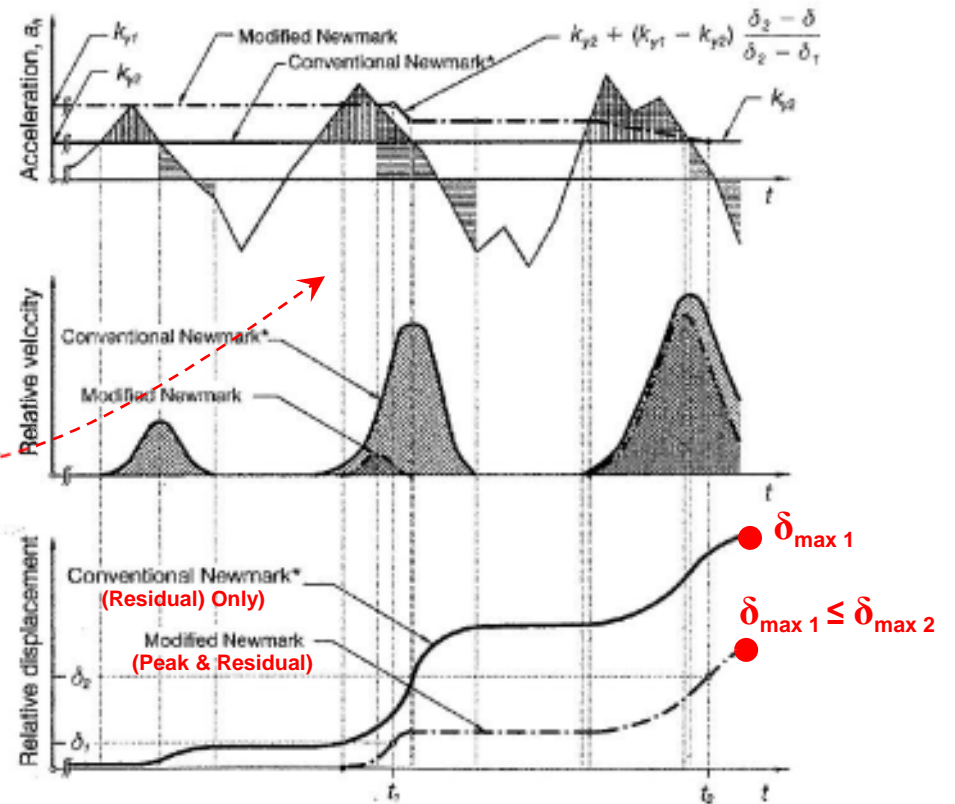
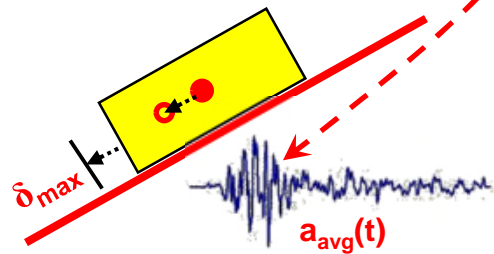
# MODIFIED NEWMARK-TYPE ANALYSIS

(Newmark-Type analysis w/ Degrading Yield Acceleration)

Pseudostatic Slope Stability:



Sliding Block Model:

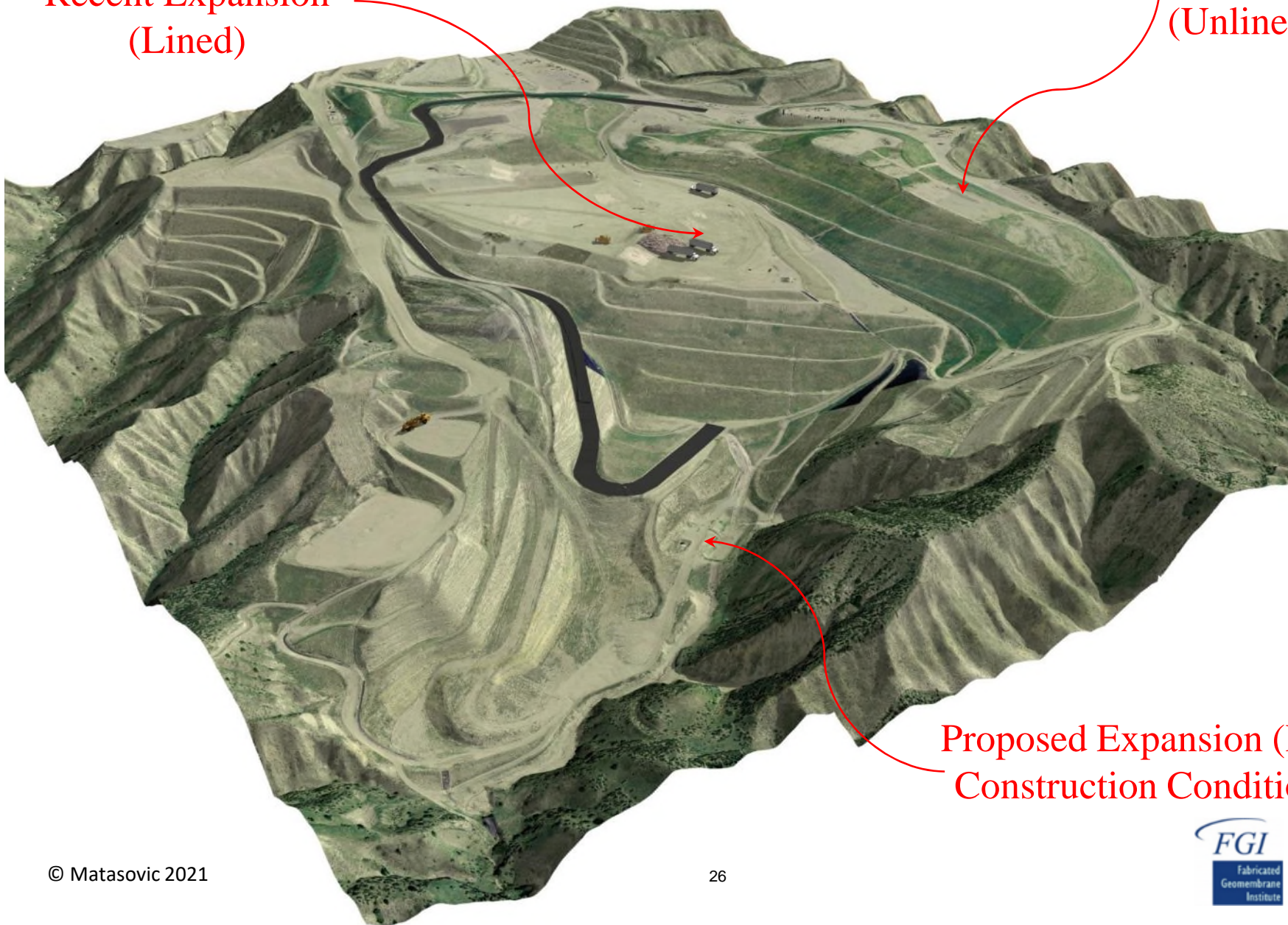


Matasovic et al. (1998)

# COMPLEX GEOMETRY / THICK FILL ...

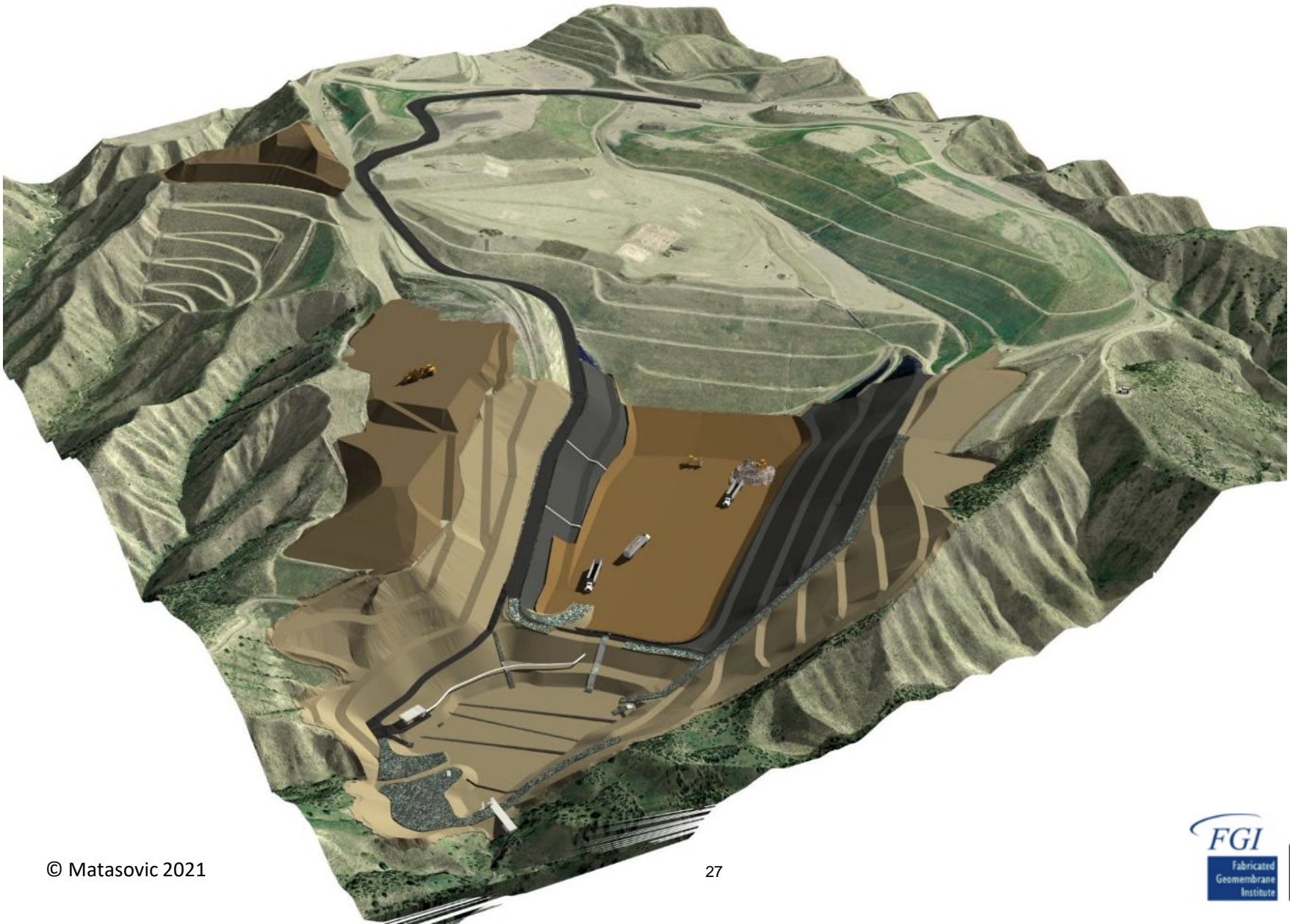
Recent Expansion  
(Lined)

Old Landfill  
(Unlined)



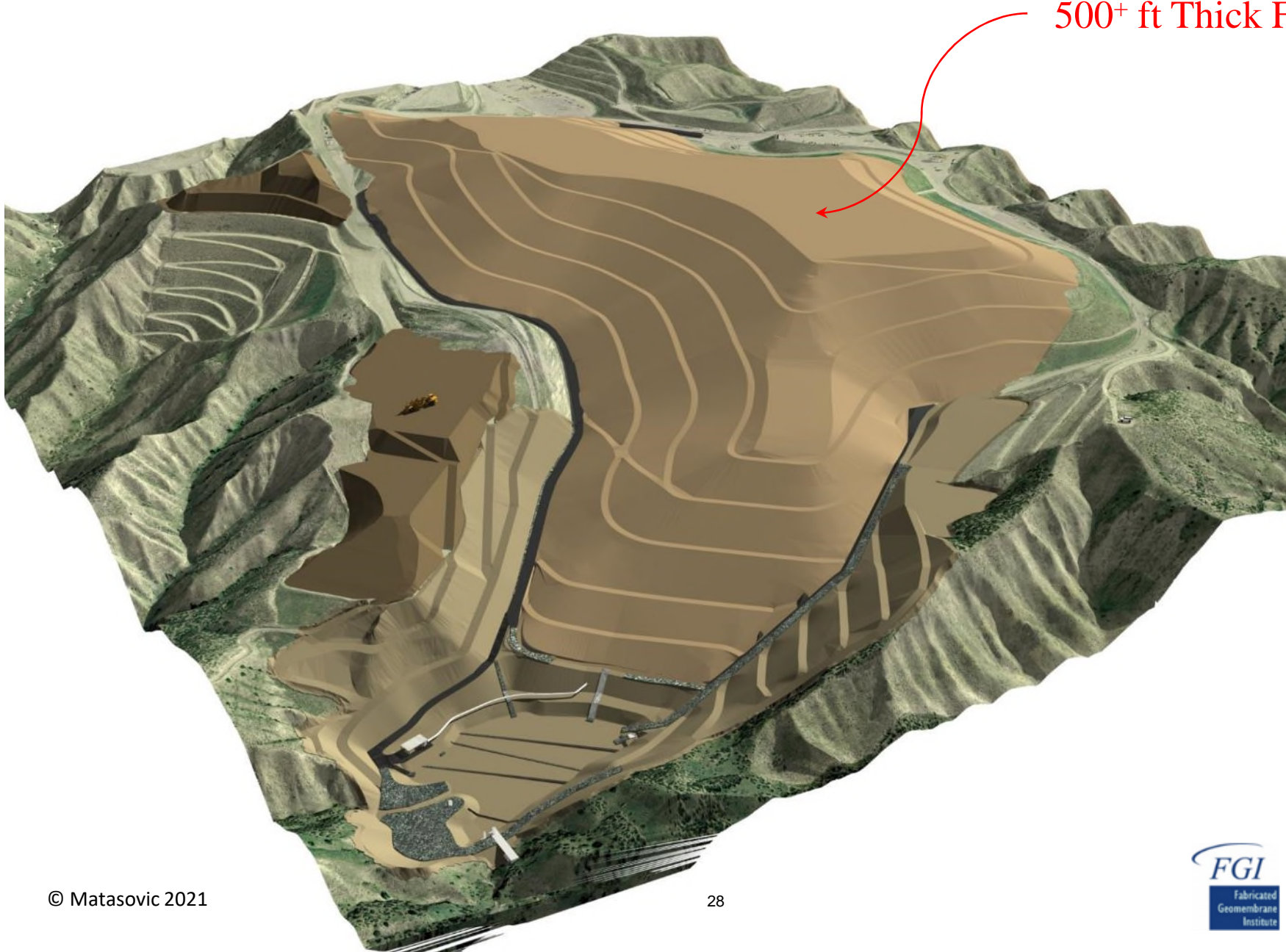
Proposed Expansion (Pre-  
Construction Condition)

# COMPLEX GEOMETRY / THICK FILL ...



# COMPLEX GEOMETRY / THICK FILL ...

500+ ft Thick Fills



## 500-ft Thick Fill



## 500-ft Thick Fill



Landfills do not respond to strong shaking like this structure (even though ...)

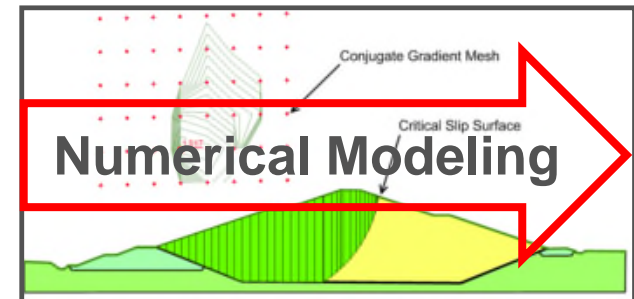


Landfills respond to strong shaking like these structures ... were not designed using charts ...

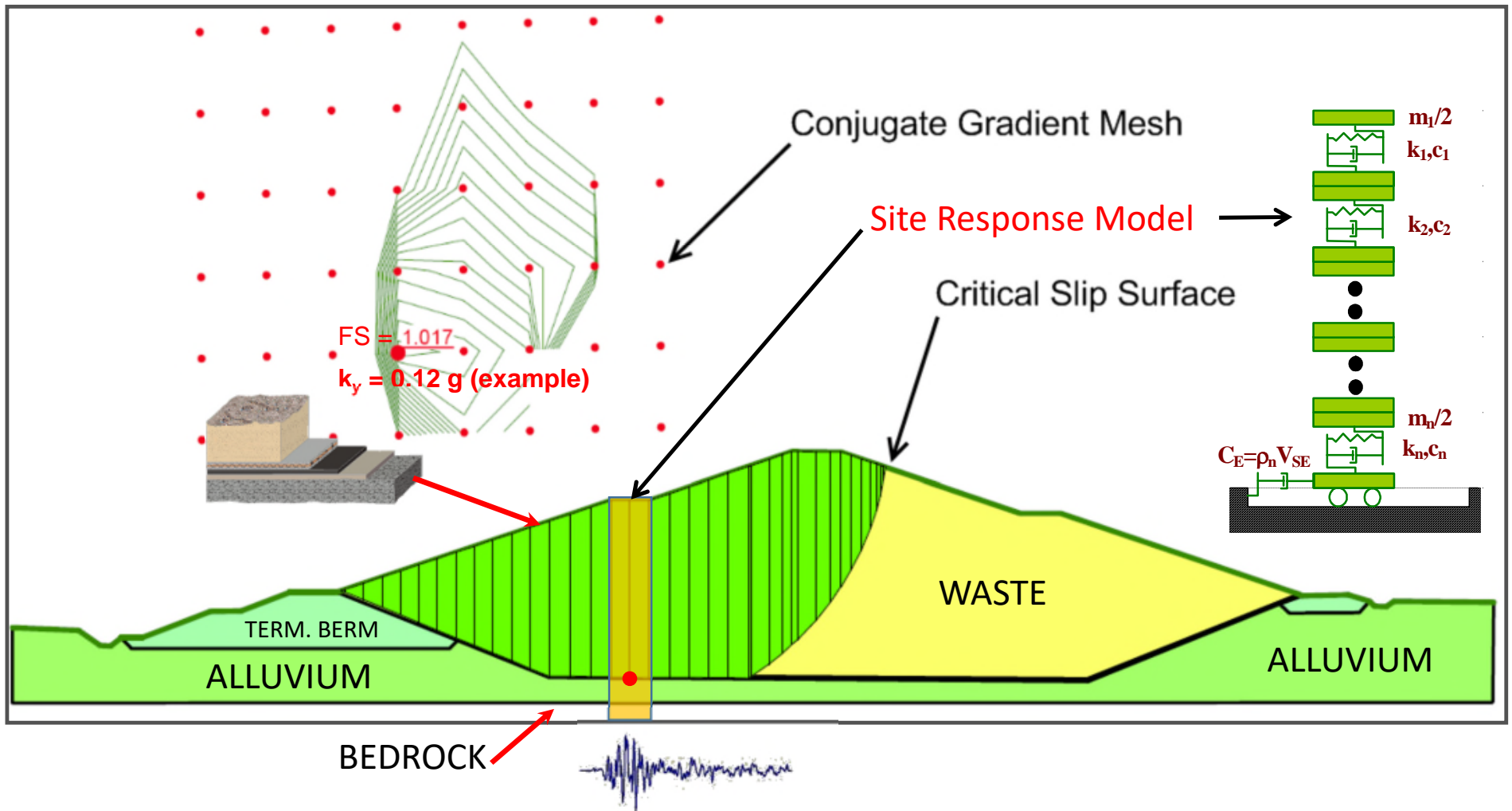


# CAN WE DO “BETTER” THAN SOP?

1. Des. Ground Motions
2. Properties of MSW
  - Static
  - Dynamic
3. In-Plane Properties
  - Static (incl. creep)
  - Dynamic
4. Other (Bedrock Prop., ...)

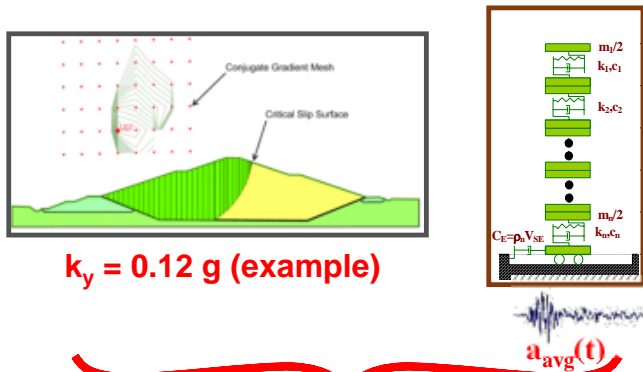


# STATE OF PRACTICE - DECOUPLED ANALYSIS

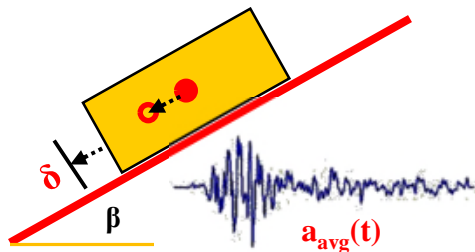




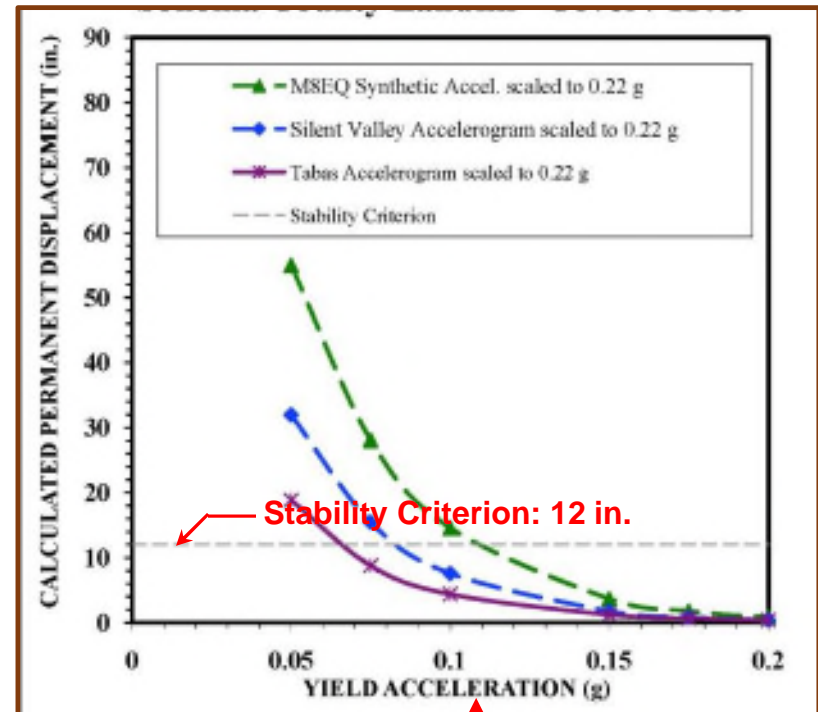
# STATE OF PRACTICE - DECOUPLED ANALYSIS



**Sliding Block Model:  
(Classical Newmark Analysis)**



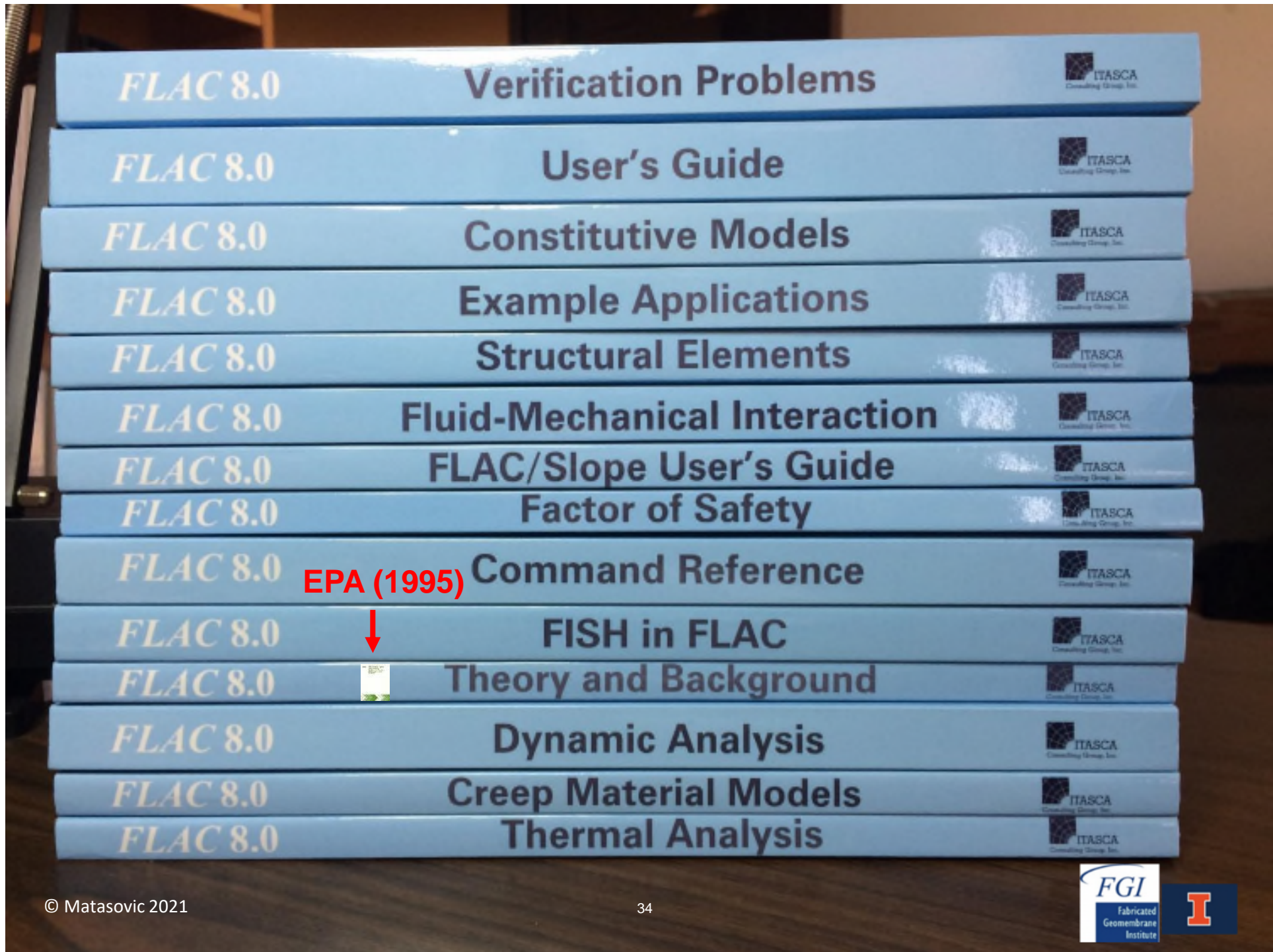
**Presentation of the Results  
& Seismic Stability Criteria:**



**$k_y = 0.12 g$  (example)**

**Decoupled Analysis is conservative ...**

Lin and Whitman [1983], Gazetas and Uddin [1994], Matasovic et al. [1997; 1998], Kramer and Smith [1997], Rathje and Bray [1999], Wartman et al. [2003; 2005], ...



*FLAC 8.0*

**Verification Problems**



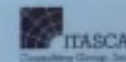
*FLAC 8.0*

**User's Guide**



*FLAC 8.0*

**Constitutive Models**



*FLAC 8.0*

**Example Applications**



*FLAC 8.0*

**Structural Elements**



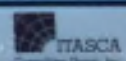
*FLAC 8.0*

**Fluid-Mechanical Interaction**



*FLAC 8.0*

**FLAC/Slope User's Guide**



*FLAC 8.0*

**Factor of Safety**



*FLAC 8.0*

**EPA (1995)**

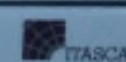
**Command Reference**



*FLAC 8.0*



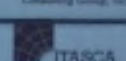
**FISH in FLAC**



*FLAC 8.0*

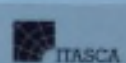


**Theory and Background**



*FLAC 8.0*

**Dynamic Analysis**



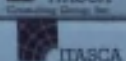
*FLAC 8.0*

**Creep Material Models**



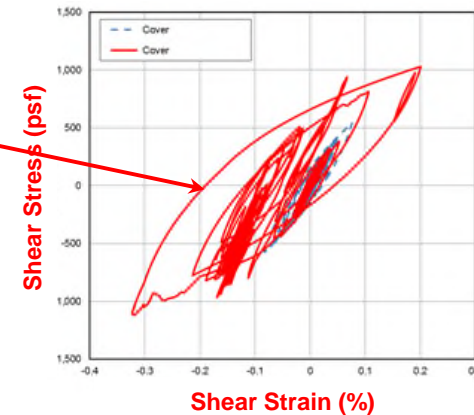
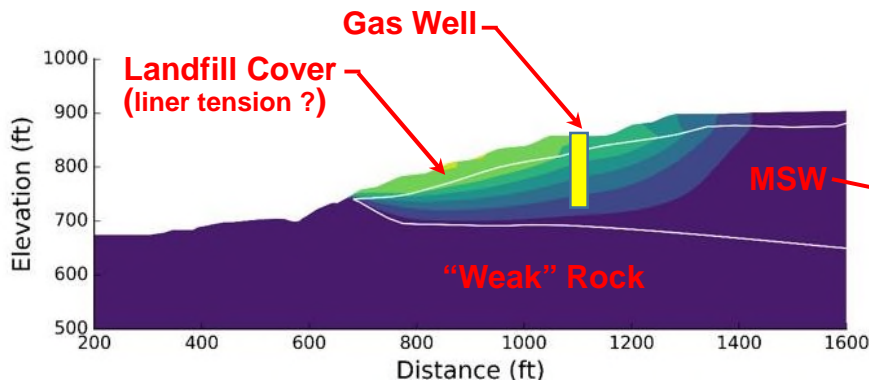
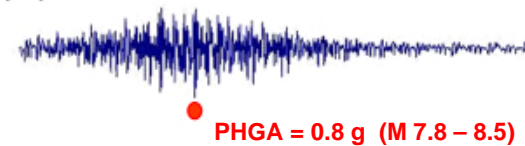
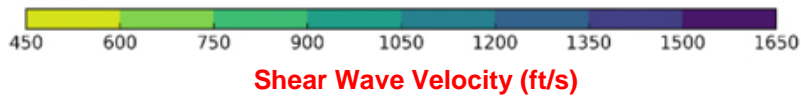
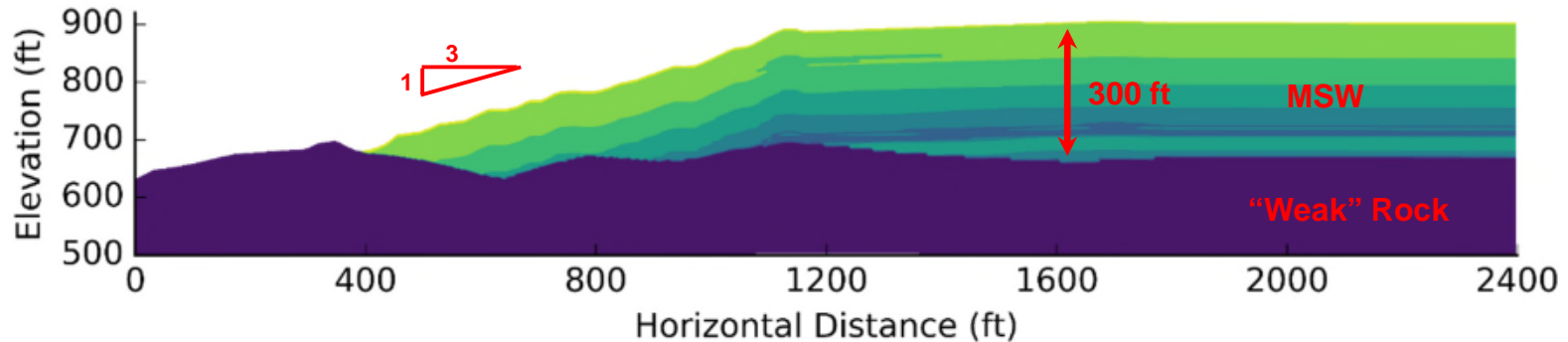
*FLAC 8.0*

**Thermal Analysis**



# ADVANCED ANALYSIS

## (Hazardous Waste Landfill in CA – Cover Design)



# TAKE-AWAYS

- Don't get deceived w/ the “infinite slope” equation - Composite landfill cover slope length should not exceed 150 ft.
- Landfill cover gas drainage layer: should be constructed from coarse sand (Coarse sand prevents capillary suction which, in turn, prevents gas migration).
- There are generic sets of material parameters of MSW and interfaces, but **design ground motions** and interface strength must be evaluated on a site-by-site basis, ...

# TAKE-AWAYS (CONT. 1)

- Always start with “simple” analysis first ...
- Pseudostatic method with  $k_s$  is O.K. when cover  $PGA \leq 0.2$  g; Performance-based design (Newmark-type analysis) should be used for  $PHGA \geq 0.2$  g.
- State-of-the-Practice (seismic) is generally conservative, ... (“cumulative” FS may be high!)
- Advanced analysis is less conservative, it is suitable for high ground motions, “thick fills,” complex geometry ...

# TAKE-AWAYS (CONT. 2)

- Nonlinear and/or 2-D site response analysis is recommended when bedrock PHGA  $\geq 0.4$  g. “Model calibration” may be required.
- The only proper way to check the results of advanced seismic stability analysis is to repeat it (for critical section ...).
- Stability criteria – ever-evolving (12 ET; 36 in. composite; ... consider release/no release of contaminants; ease of cover repair ...).
- Remember video shown at the beginning of this presentation?

\* \* \* \* \*

# SELECT REFERENCES (posted @ [www.geomotions.com](http://www.geomotions.com))

- Bray, J.D. and Travasarou, T. (2007), "Simplified Procedure for Estimating Earthquake-Induced Deviatoric Slope Displacements," ASCE Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering, Vol 133, No. 4, pp. 381-392.
- Bray, J.D and Macedo, J. (2019), "Procedure for Estimating Shear-Induced Seismic Slope Displacement for Shallow Crustal Earthquakes," Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering, ASCE, Vol. 145, No. 12, 13 p.
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- Thiel R.S. (1998), "Design Methodology for a Gas Pressure Relief Layer Below a Geomembrane Landfill Cover to Improve Slope Stability," *Geosynthetics International*, Vol. 5, No. 6, pp. 589-617.
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- Matasovic, N. (1991). "Selection of Method for Seismic Slope Stability Analysis". Proc. 2nd International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics. St. Louis, Missouri. Vol. 2, pp. 1057-1062. **INFINITE SLOPE SPREADSHEET POSTED**
- Matasovic, N. and Zekkos, D. (2017), "Modulus Reduction and Damping Curves for Landfill Covers," In: *Geotechnical Frontiers 2017: Seismic Performance and Liquefaction*, ASCE Geotechnical Special Publication No. 281, pp. 101-108.
- Matasovic, N. and Thiel, R. (2021), "Discussion of 'Procedure for Estimating Shear-Induced Seismic Slope Displacement for Shallow Crustal Earthquakes,' by J. Bray and J. Macedo," ASCE Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering, Vol. 147, No. 5.
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# QUESTIONS ?







## Contact Information



**Neven Matasovic, Ph.D., P.E., G.E.**  
Principal & Director of Geotechnical Engineering  
Geo-Logic Associates, Inc.  
[nmatasovic@geo-logic.com](mailto:nmatasovic@geo-logic.com)



**Timothy D. Stark Ph.D., P.E.**  
Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Technical Director  
Fabricated Geomembrane Institute  
[tstark@Illinois.edu](mailto:tstark@Illinois.edu)



**Jennifer Miller, M.S.**  
Coordinator  
Fabricated Geomembrane Institute  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[fabricatedgeomembrane@gmail.com](mailto:fabricatedgeomembrane@gmail.com)





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