



ACI 544.7R-16

Report on Design and  
Construction of Fiber-  
Reinforced Precast  
Concrete Tunnel  
Segments

Reported by ACI Committee 544

*Emerging Technology Series*



# ACI 544.7R16–Design and Construction of Fiber Reinforced Precast Concrete Tunnel Segments

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The Concrete Convention  
and Exposition

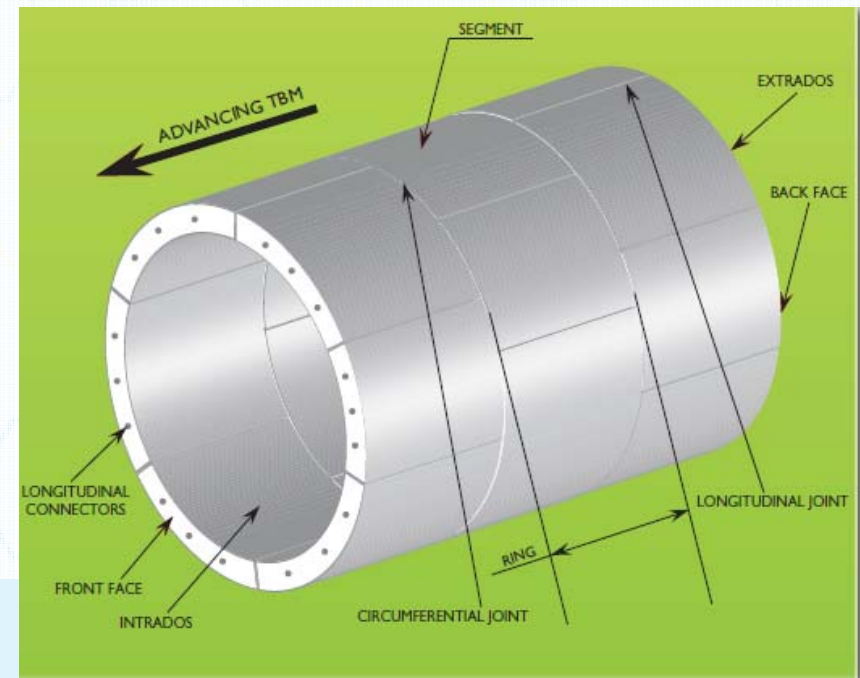


# Outline

- **Introduction to Precast Segments**
- **Strength Design Method for Segments (ULS):**
  - **Governing Load Cases, Load Factors & Load Combinations**
- **Methods of Analysis for Governing Load Cases**
- **Design with Fibers as an Alternative to Reinforcing Bars**
- **Strength Design Example for FRC Tunnel Segment**
- **Future Materials to be Added to Document**
- **Conclusions**

# Precast Segmental Tunnel Lining

- Serves as both **initial ground support & final lining** in modern TBM tunnels
- Providing the required operational **cross-section**
- Controlling **groundwater inflow**



# Governing Loads Cases

- **Production and transient load cases:**  
Stripping (demolding), storage, transportation and handling
- **Construction load cases:**  
TBM thrust jack forces, tail skin grouting, secondary (localized) grouting
- **Final service load cases:**  
Ground, groundwater and surcharge loads, longitudinal joint bursting, additional distortion, other specific loads

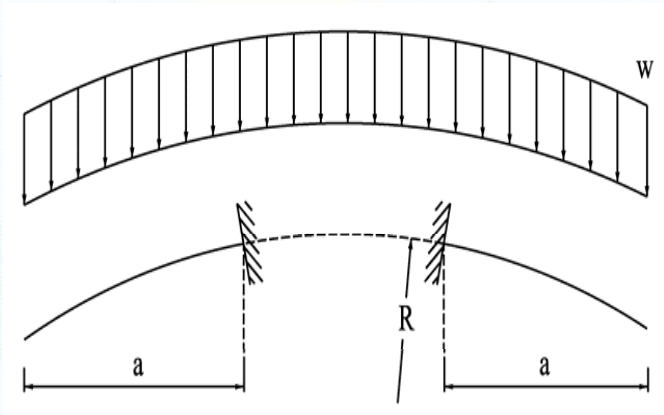
# Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD)

- **Load factors:** 1.25 -1.5 depends on nature of applied loads
- **Strength reduction factors:** 0.7 except bearing (0.65)
- **Load combinations:**

Load Case	Required Strength (U)
Load case 1: stripping	$U = 1.4w$
Load case 2: storage	$U = 1.4(w + F)$
Load case 3: transportation	$U = 1.4(w + F)$
Load case 4: handling	$U = 1.4w$
Load case 5: thrust jack forces	$U = 1.2J$
Load case 6: tail skin grouting	$U = 1.25(w + G)$
Load case 7: secondary grouting	$U = 1.25(w + G)$
Load case 8: earth pressure and groundwater load	$U = 1.25(w + WA_p) + 1.35(EH + EV) + 1.5 ES$
Load case 9: longitudinal joint bursting	$U = 1.25(w + WA_p) + 1.35(EH + EV) + 1.5 ES$
Load case 10: additional distortion	$U = 1.4M_{distortion}$
Note: $w$ = self-weight; $F$ = self-weight of segments positioned above; $J$ = TBM jacking force; $G$ = grout pressure; $WA_p$ = groundwater pressure; $EV$ = vertical ground pressure; $EH$ = horizontal ground pressure; $ES$ = surcharge load; and $M_{distortion}$ = Additional distortion effect	

# Segment Stripping & Segment Handling

- Simulated by two cantilevers loaded under its self weight (e.g. at 5-6 h)

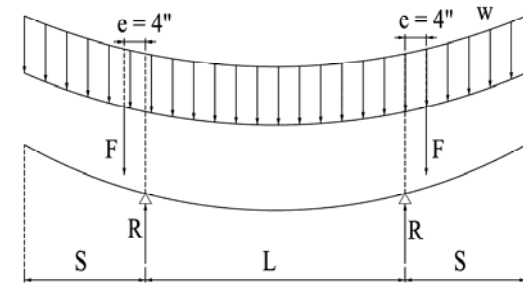
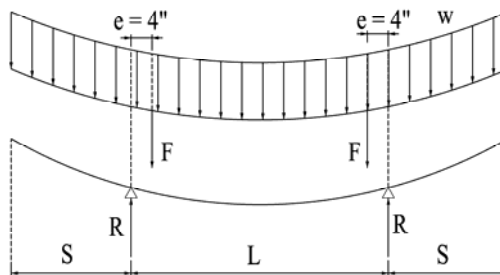


Phase	Dynamic Shock Factor	Maximum Developed Bending Moment	Key Design Parameters
Demolding	N.A	$wa^2/2$	$f'_c$ and $\sigma_p^*$ at 5-6 h
Handling	2.0	$w(L^2/8-S^2/2)+w(L/2+S)f$ (slings) $wa^2/2$ (others)	$f'_c$ and $\sigma_p^*$ at 28 d

\*  $\sigma_p$  is the back calculated residual tensile strength for fiber reinforced concrete

# Segment Storage & Transportation

- Simulated by simply supported beams loaded under its self-weight and eccentricity (e.g. 5-6 h)
- Segments comprising a ring piled up within one stock



Phase	Dynamic Shock Factor	Maximum Developed Bending Moment	Key Design Parameters
Storage	N.A	$w(L^2/8-S^2/2)+F_1e$ $w(S^2/2)+F_1e$	$f'_c$ and $\sigma_p^*$ at 5-6 h
Transportation	2.0	$w(L^2/8-S^2/2)+F_2e$ $w(S^2/2)+F_2e$	$f'_c$ and $\sigma_p^*$ at 28 d

\*  $\sigma_p$  is the back calculated residual tensile strength for fiber reinforced concrete

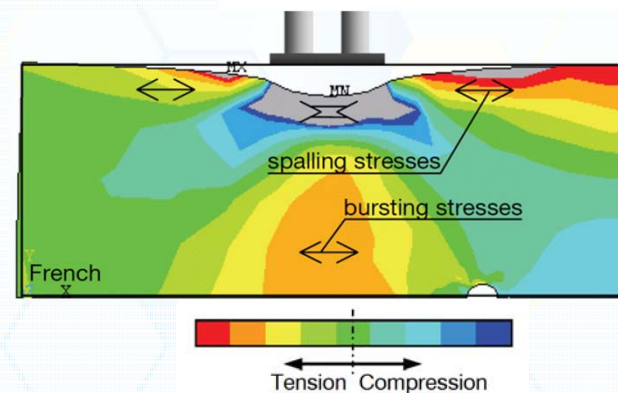
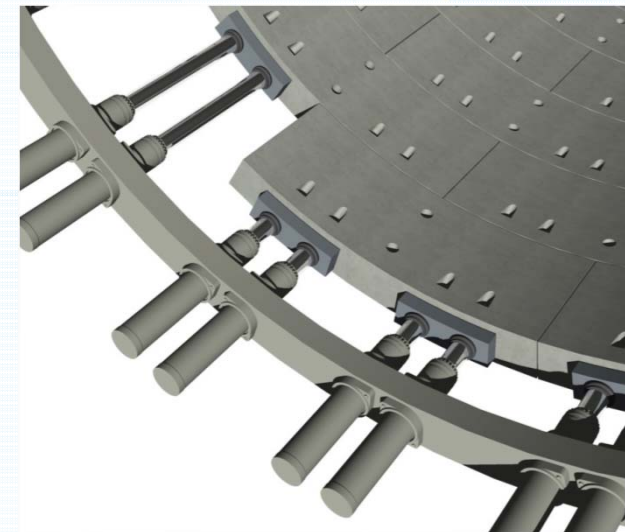
# TBM Thrust Jack Forces

## Design checks:

- Bursting tensile stresses
- Spalling tensile stresses
- Compressive stresses

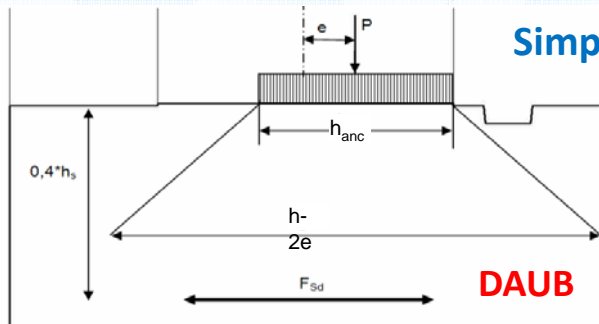
## Analysis and design methods:

- Simplified equations
- Analytical methods
- Finite Element Analyses (2D/3D)
- Non-linear Fracture Mechanics

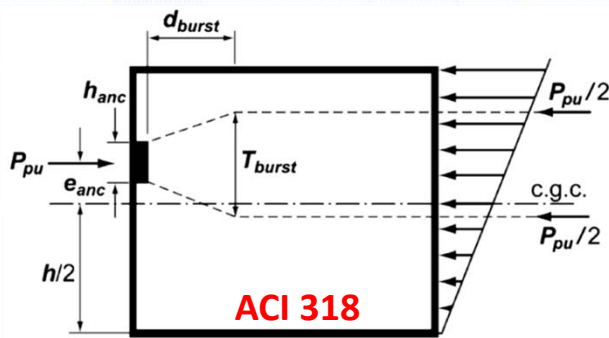




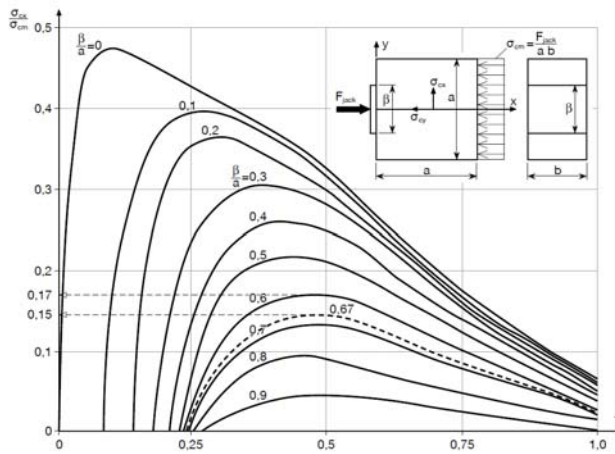
# Analysis & Design Methods for Jack Forces



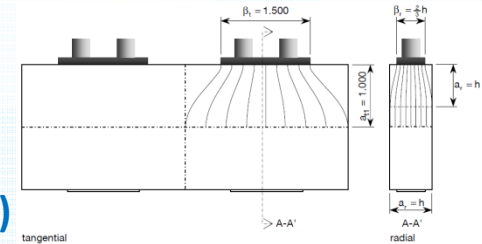
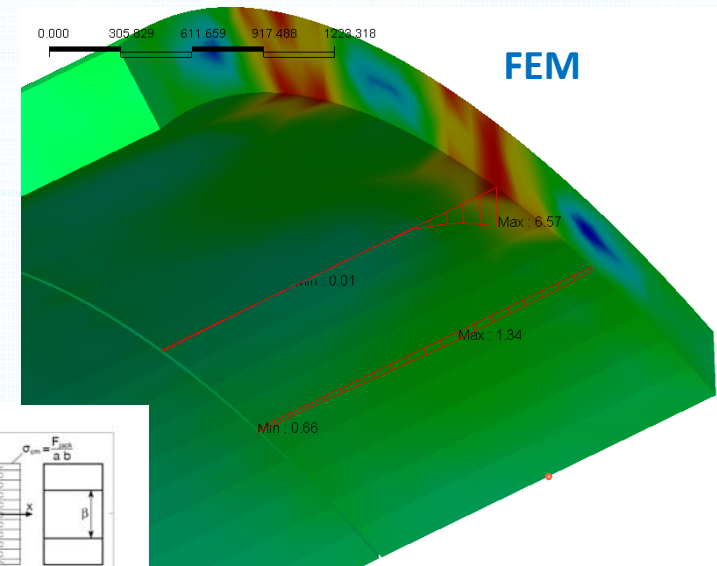
$$T_{burst} = 0.25 P_{pu} \left( 1 - \frac{h_{anc}}{h - 2e_{anc}} \right); d_{burst} = 0.4(h - 2e_{anc})$$



$$T_{burst} = 0.25 P_{pu} \left( 1 - \frac{h_{anc}}{h} \right); d_{burst} = 0.5(h - 2e_{anc})$$



Analytical Methods (Iyengar, 1962)



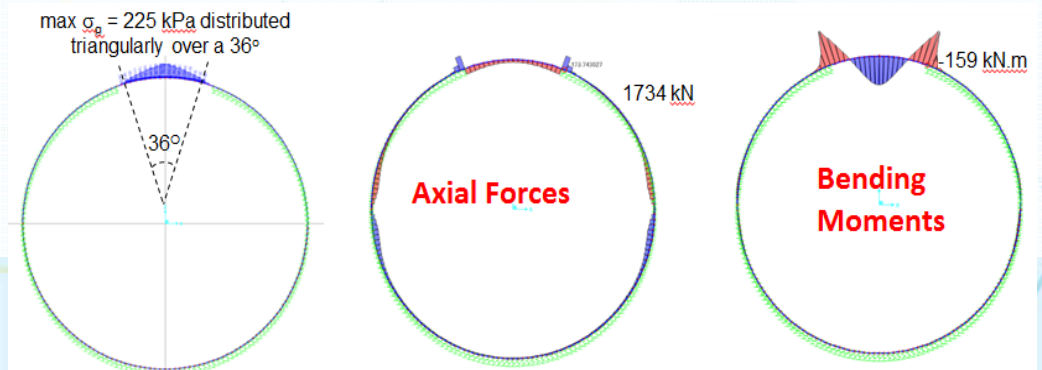
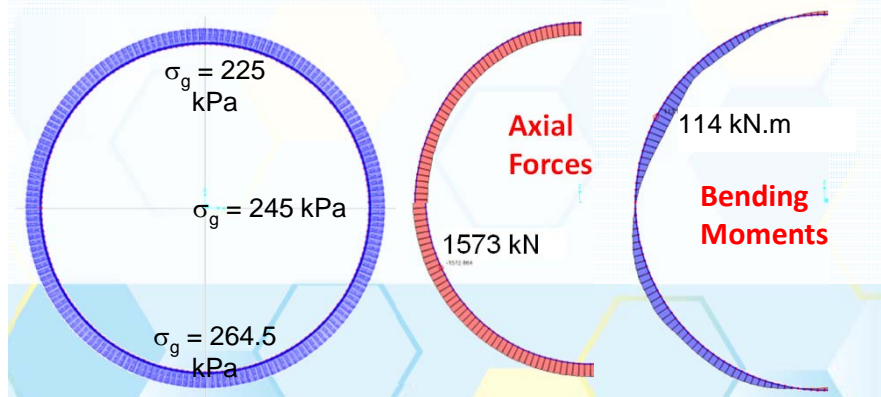
# Tail Skin and Secondary Grouting Pressure

## Tail Skin Grouting

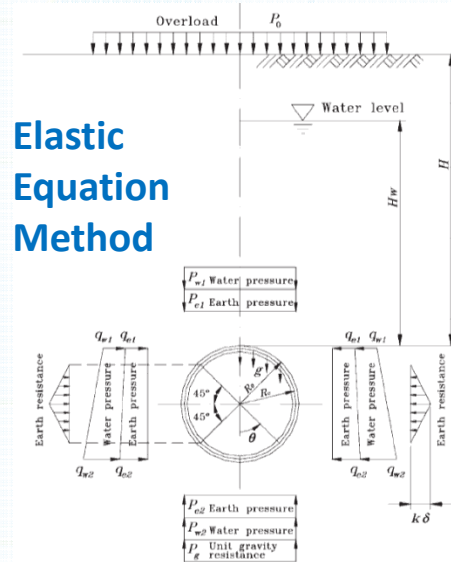
- Simulated in 2D by a solid ring
- Grout pressure at crown is slightly higher than groundwater pressure
- Invert grout pressure calculated from equilibrium b/w grout pressure, self-weight and shear stresses of grout
- Radial pressure applied w/ linear distribution

## Secondary Grouting

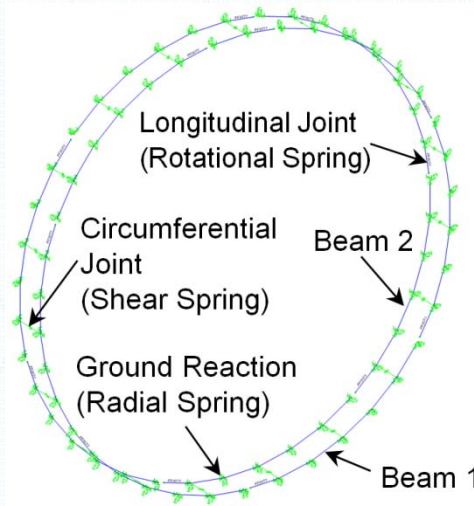
- To fill a local gap b/w lining & excavation profile after primary grouting
- Simulated in 2D
- Interaction with ground is modeled by radial springs
- Grout pressure applied w/ triangular distribution



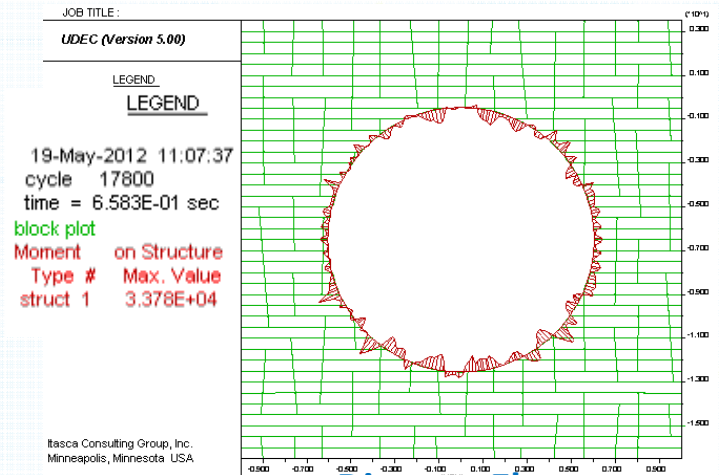
# Ground and Groundwater Loads



Elastic Equation Method



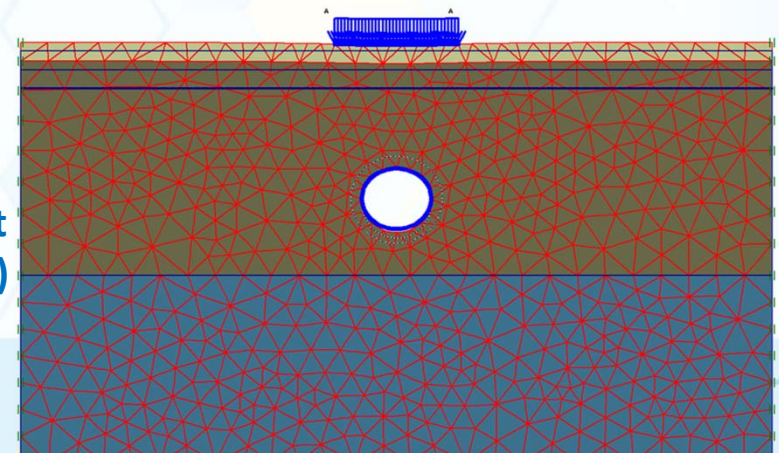
Beam-Spring Method



Discrete Element Method (DEM)

Load	Bending Moment	Axial Force	Shear Force
Vertical Load ( $P = p_{e1} + p_{w1}$ )	$(1-2S2) * P * R_c^2 / 4$	$S2 * R_c * P$	$-SC * R_c * P$
Horizontal Load ( $Q = q_{e1} + q_{w1}$ )	$(1-2C2) * Q * R_c^2 / 4$	$C2 * R_c * Q$	$-SC * R_c * Q$
Horizontal Triangular Load ( $Q' = q_{e2} + q_{w2} - q_{e1} - q_{w1}$ )	$(6-3C-12C2+4C3) * Q' * R_c^2 / 48$	$(C+8C2-4C3) * Q' * R_c / 16$	$(S+8SC-4SC2) * Q' * R_c / 16$
Soil Reaction ( $P_k = k * \delta_n$ )	$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ $(0.2346 - 0.3536C) * R_c^2 * k \delta$ $\pi/4 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ $(-0.3487 + 0.5S2 + 0.2357C3) * R_c^2 * k \delta$	$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ $0.3536C * R_c * k \delta$ $\pi/4 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ $(-0.7071C + C2 + 0.7071S2C) * R_c * k \delta$	$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/4$ $0.3536S * R_c * k \delta$ $\pi/4 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ $(SC - 0.7071C2S) * R_c * k \delta$

Finite Element Method (FEM)



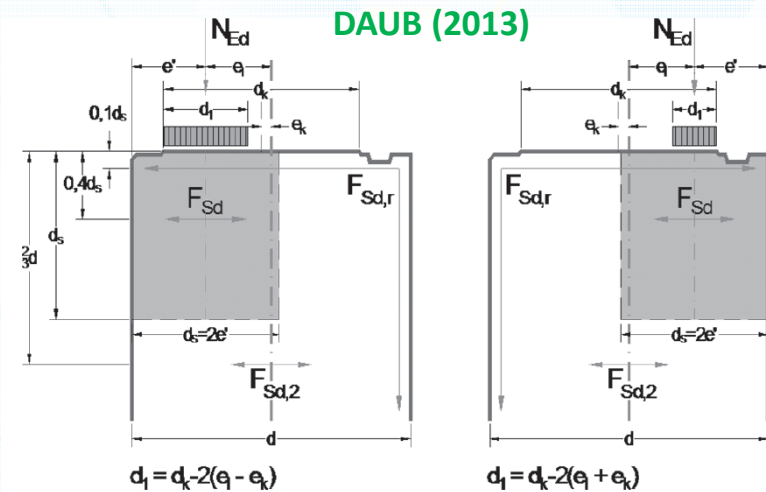
# Longitudinal Joint Bursting Forces

## Design checks:

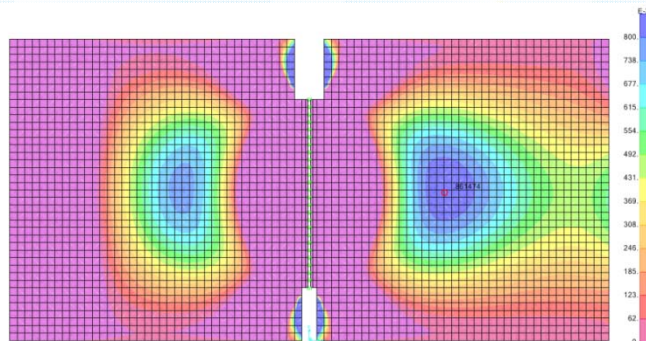
- Bursting tensile stresses
- Compressive stresses

## Analysis and design methods:

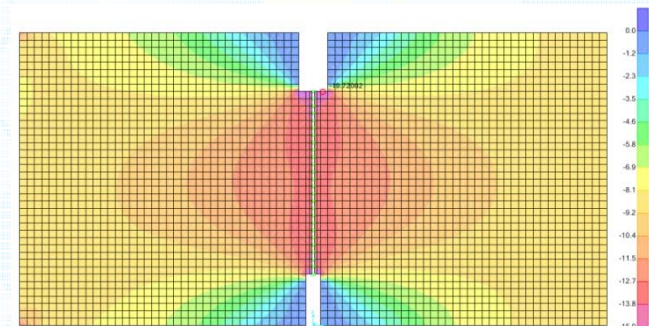
- Simplified equations
- Analytical methods
- Finite Element Analyses (2D/3D)



Tensile Stress



Compressive Stresses



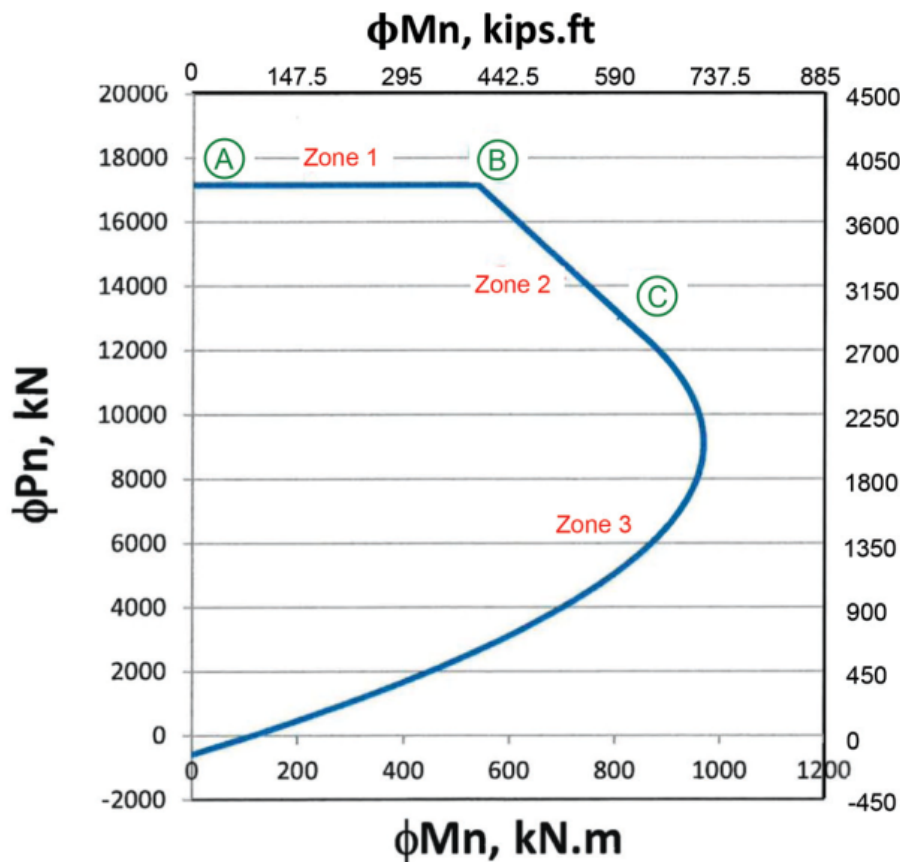
# Fibers as an Alternative to Reinforcing Bars

## Advantages

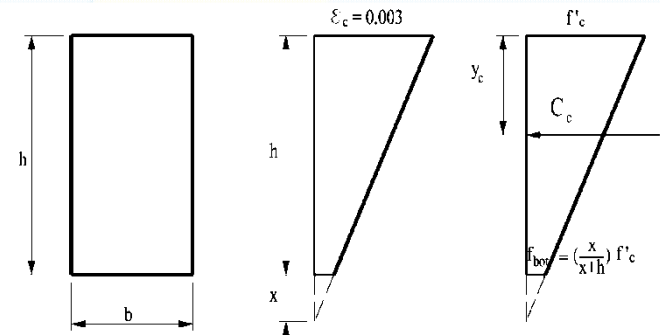
- Cost saving (10-40%)
- Improved precast **production efficiency**
- Reduce **spalling** or **bursting** of concrete cover at vulnerable edges and corners
- **Ductility & robustness**
- **Crack width** reduction
- High strength against unintentional **impact loads**



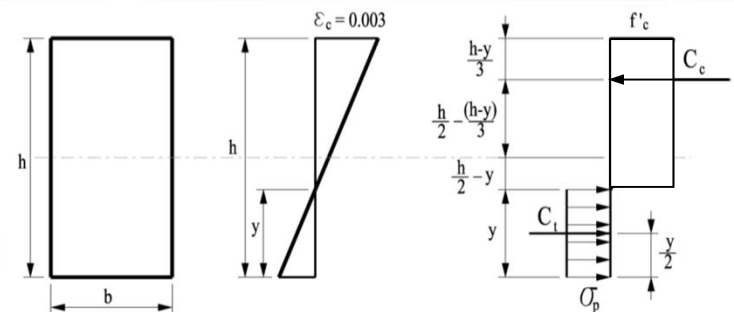
# FRC (Only) Segments: Axial Force-Bending Moment Interaction Diagram



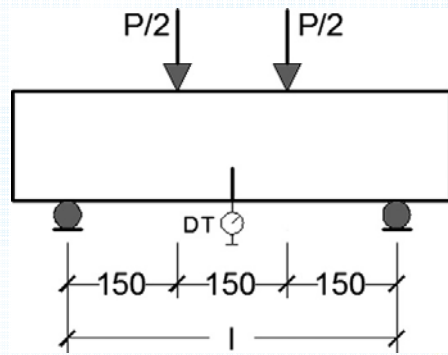
**Zones  
1&2**



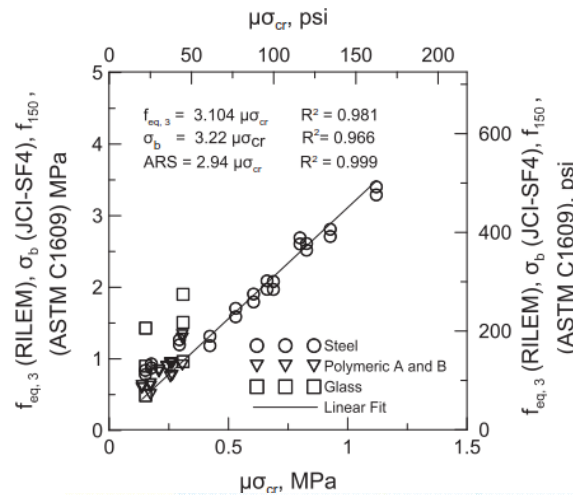
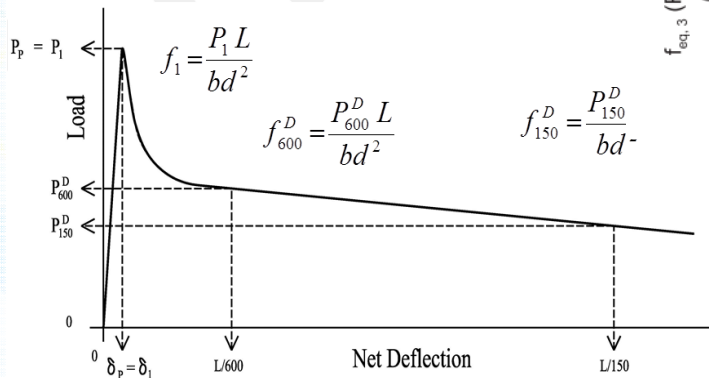
**Zone 3**



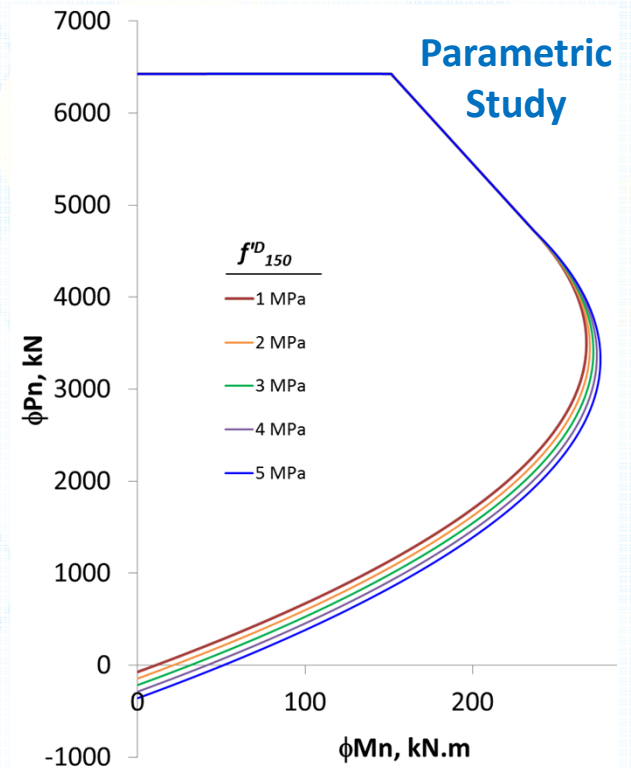
# How to Implement FRC Residual Strength



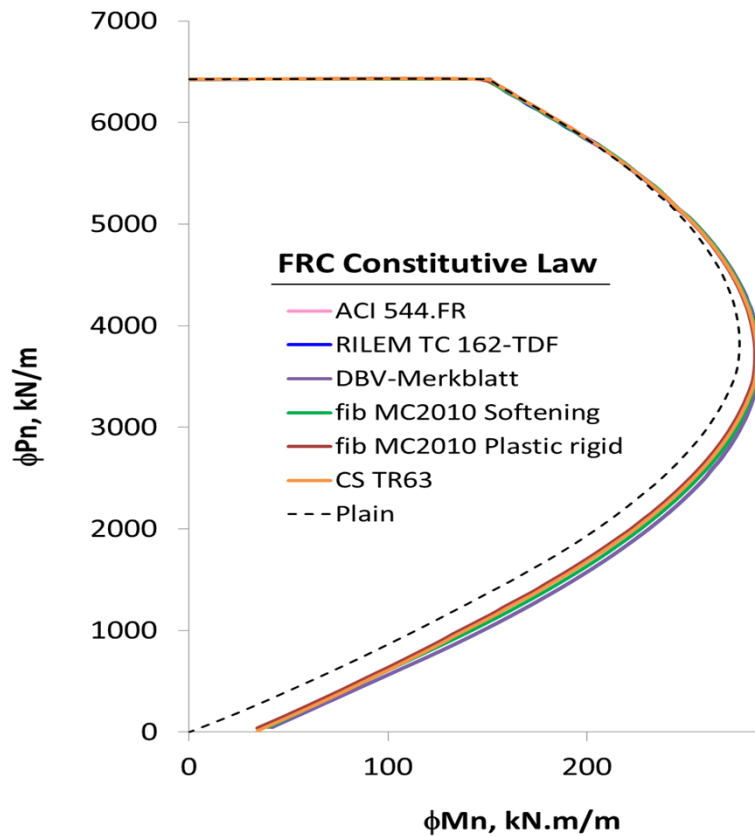
ASTM C1609



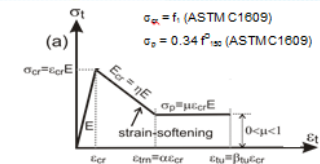
Required Reduction Factor



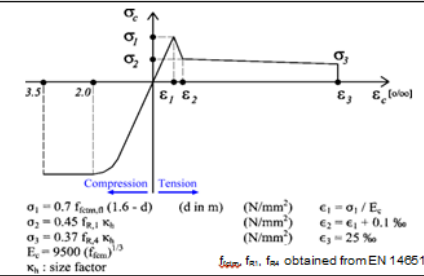
# FRC Segments: Choice of Constitutive Law



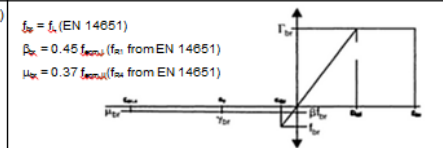
ACI 544.FR Report



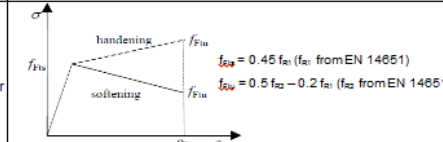
RILEM TC 162-TDF Recommendation  
New Zealand NZS 3101.2 standard



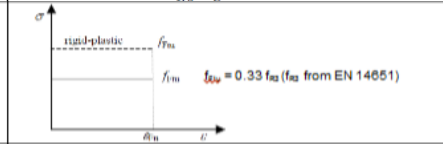
DBV (German society of concrete) Recommendation



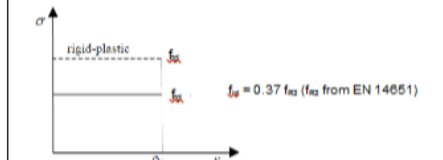
-fib Model Code 2010  
-Italian Guide CNR-DT 204/2006  
-Spanish Concrete Code EHE-08  
-ÖVBB (Austrian society for construction technology) Guide



-fib Model Code 2010  
-Italian Guide CNR-DT 204/2006  
-Spanish Concrete Code EHE-08



CS (Concrete Society)TR63 Report



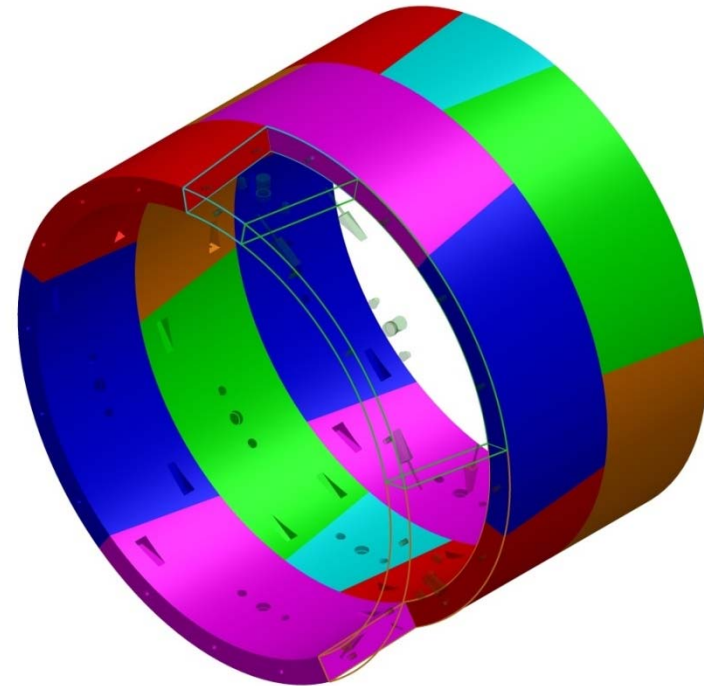


# Strength Design Example—FRC Segment

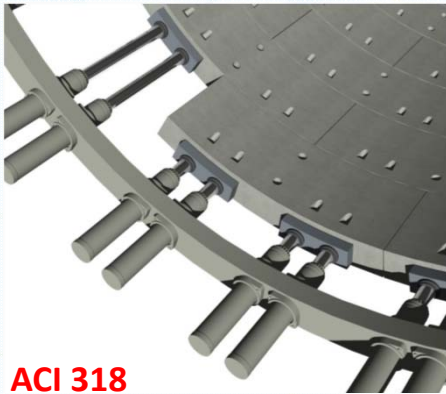
## Geometry and Strength Parameters

- $D_i = 5.5$  m (18 ft)
- $b = 1.5$  m (5 ft)
- $h = 0.3$  m (12 in)
- $L_{curved} = 3.4$  m (11.2 ft)
- $f'_c @ 4h$ : 15 MPa (2,200 psi)
- $f'_c @ 28d$ : 45 MPa (6,500 psi)
- $f_1 = 3.8$  MPa (540 psi)
- $f'^D_{150} @ 4h$ : 2.5 MPa (360 psi)
- $f'^D_{150} @ 28d$ : 4 MPa (580 psi)
- $TH_{TBM} = 20,000$  kN on 16 jack pairs
- Jack Shoes Contact Area: 0.2 x 0.87m

- Ring composed of 5+1 segments
- Tunnel excavated in fractured rock



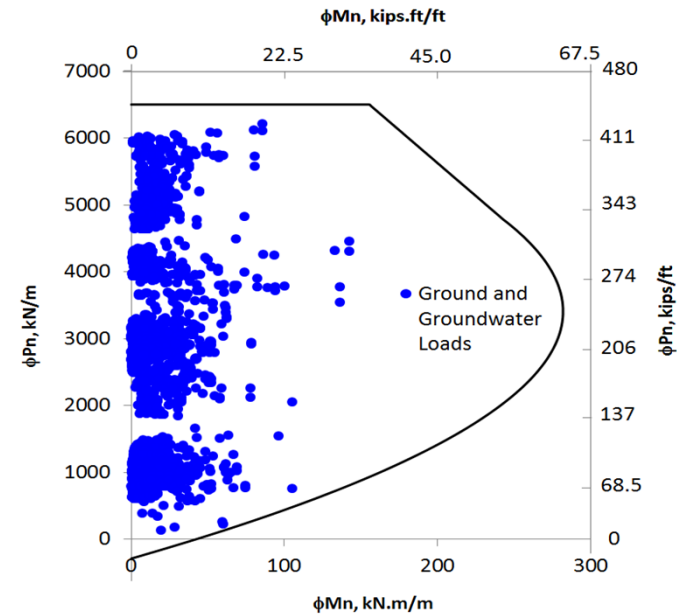
# Design Checks for Strength (ULS)



**ACI 318**

Tangential direction: 
$$\sigma_p = \frac{1.2T_{burst}}{\phi h_{anc} d_{burst}} = \frac{1.2 \times 17.32 \times 1000}{0.7 \times 8 \times 1.77 \times 12} = 174 \text{ psi (1.2MPa)}$$

Radial direction: 
$$\sigma_p = \frac{1.2T_{burst}}{\phi a_l d_{burst}} = \frac{1.2 \times 17.55 \times 1000}{0.7 \times 34 \times 5} = 177 \text{ psi (1.22MPa)}$$

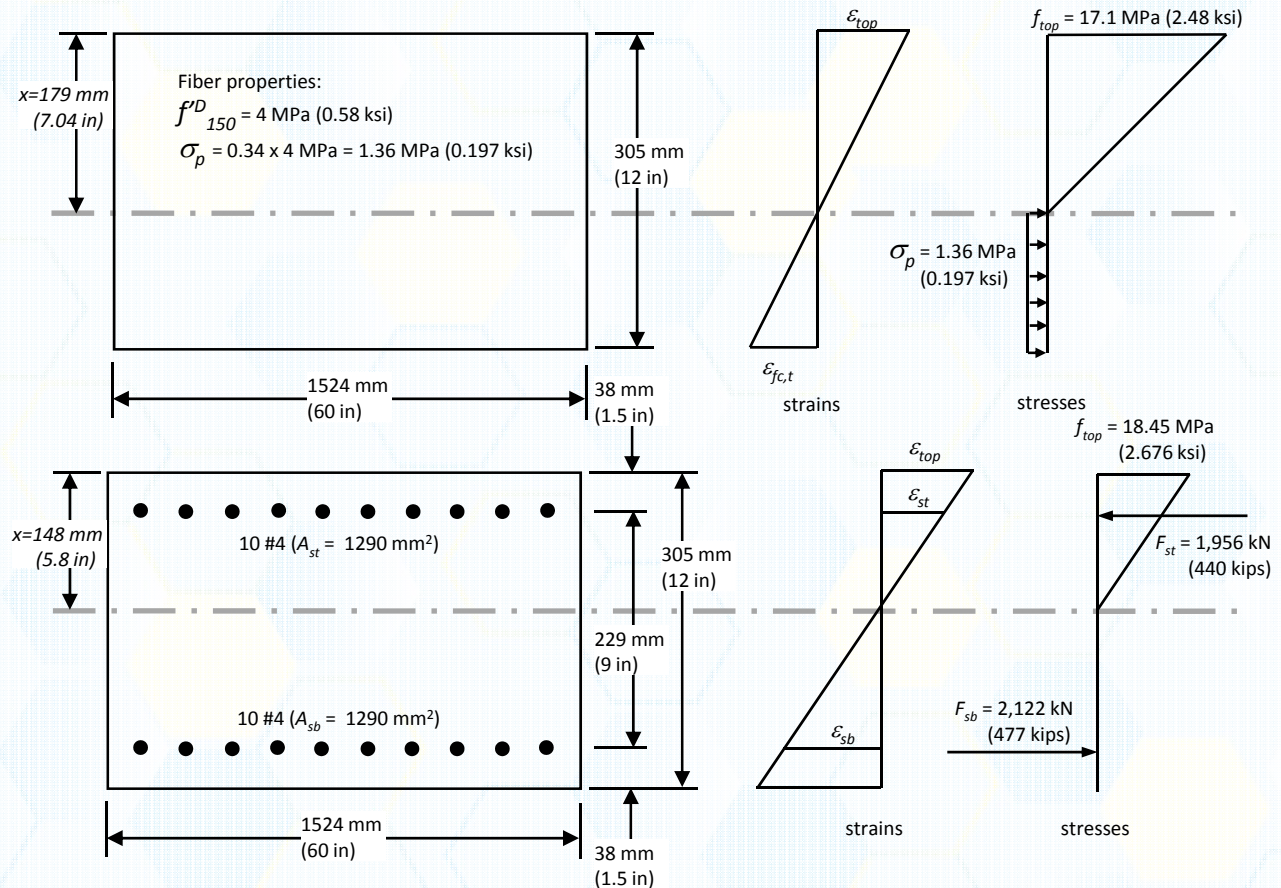


Phase	Specified Residual Strength, MPa (psi)	Maximum Bending Moment, kNm/m (kipf-ft/ft)	Bending Moment Strength, kNm/m (kipf-ft/ft)
Demolding	2.5 (360)	5.04 (1.13)	26.25 (5.91)
Storage	2.5 (360)	18.01 (4.05)	26.25 (5.91)
Transportation	4.0 (580)	20.80 (4.68)	42.00 (9.44)
Handling	4.0 (580)	10.08 (2.26)	42.00 (9.44)

# Future Materials: Design for Service-Crack Width

## Steps for FRC segments:

- 1- Determination of neutral axis
- 2- Determination of compressive/tensile strains at extreme fibers
- 3- Calculation of crack width using gauge length concept



# Future Materials: Crack Width Reduction Under Excessive Service Loads

Service Loads:

$M = 239 \text{ kN.m}$  (177 kips-ft)

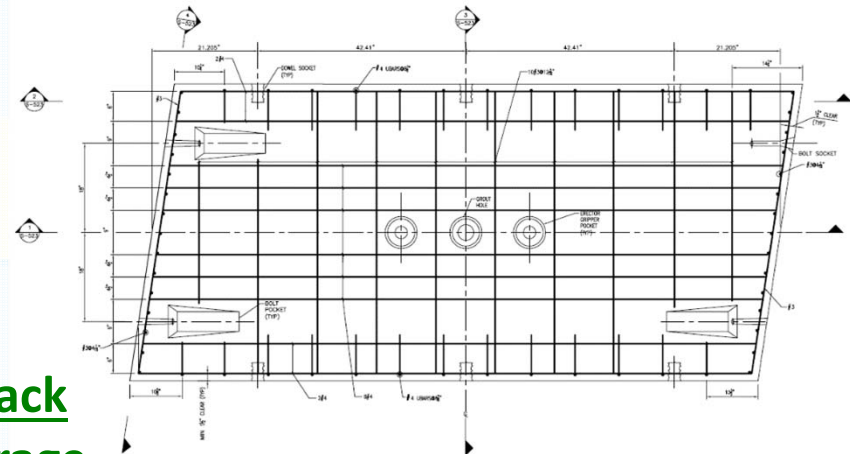
$N = 2,068 \text{ kN}$  (465 kips)

Alternatives:

1- RC

2- FRC

**FRC results in ~45% crack width reduction in average**



Maximum Crack Width in RC Segments

ACI 224.1R (2007) - Gergely & Lutz

0.10 mm  
(0.0039 in)

ACI 224.1R (2007) - Frosch

0.14 mm  
(0.0056 in)

JSCE (2007)

0.14 mm  
(0.0053 in)

EN 1992-1-1 (2004)

0.07 mm  
(0.0028 in)

Maximum Crack Width in FRC Segments

fib Model Code (2010)  
CNR-DT 204 (2006)

0.10 mm  
(0.0040 in)

RILEMTC 162-TDF (2003)

0.04 mm  
(0.0017 in)

DAfStb (2012)

0.047 mm  
(0.0018 in)

# Future Materials: Allowable SLS Crack Width

## Concrete Codes:

- ACI 224.1R (2007): 0.3 mm (0.012 in)
- EN 1992-1-1 (2004): 0.3 mm (0.012 in)
- Model Code (2010): 0.2 mm (0.008 in)

## Tunnel Codes:

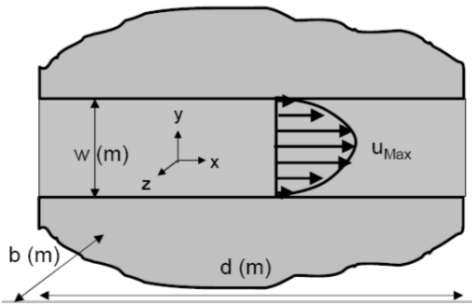
- LTA (2007): 0.3 mm (0.012 in)
- DAUB (2013): 0.2 mm (0.008 in)
- JSCE (2007): 0.004 d<sub>c</sub>
- ÖVBB (2011): ↓

Requirement Class	Designation	Application	Requirement	Allowable Crack Width
AT1	Largely dry	- One-pass lining with very tight waterproofing requirements - Portal areas	Impermeable	<b>0.20 mm (0.008 in)</b>
AT2	Slightly moist	- One-pass lining for road and railway tunnels with normal waterproofing requirements (excluding portals)	Moist, no running water in tunnel	<b>0.25 mm (0.010 in)</b>
AT3	Moist	- One-pass lining without waterproofing requirements - two-pass lining systems	Water dripping from individual spots	<b>0.30 mm (0.012 in)</b>
AT4	Wet	- One-pass lining without waterproofing requirements - two-pass lining as drained system	Water running in some places	<b>0.30 mm (0.012 in)</b>

# Ongoing Studies: Crack Width vs. Infiltration

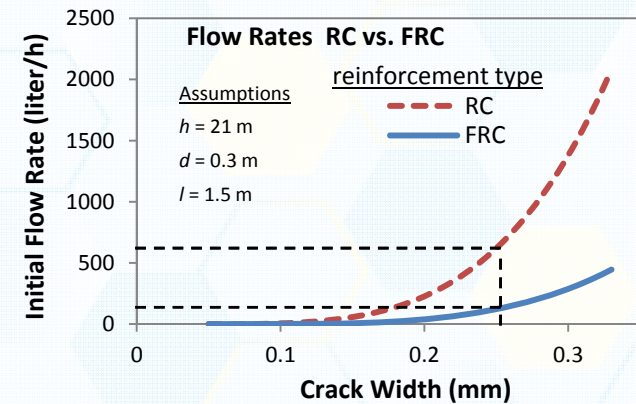
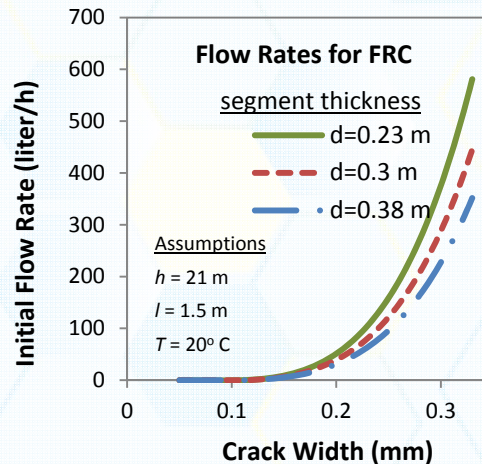
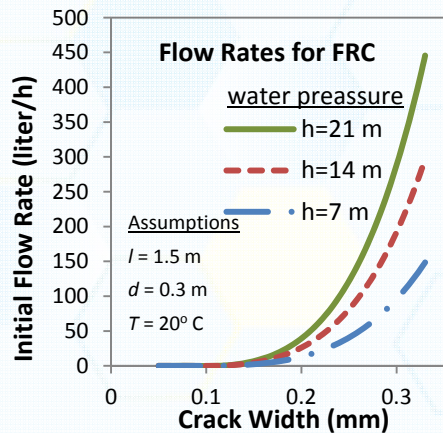
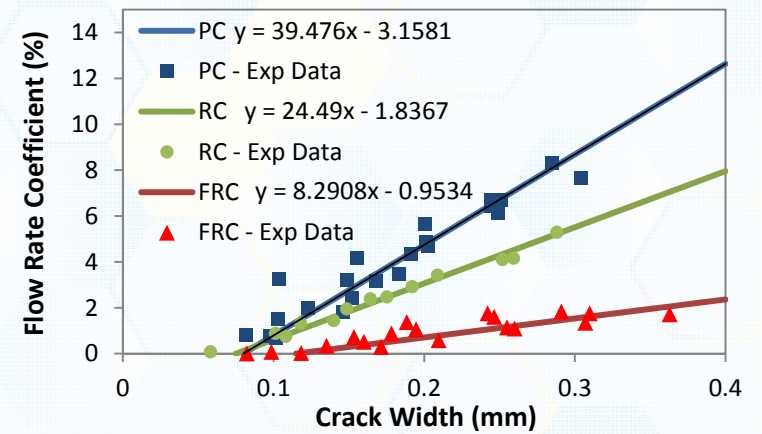
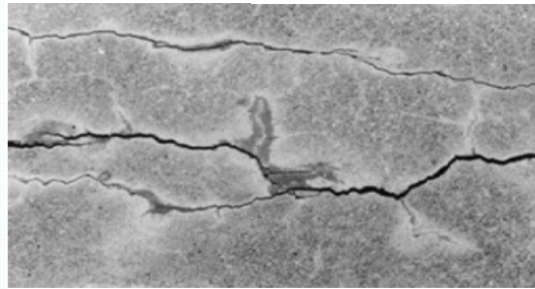
Flow through parallel plates

$$Q = \frac{w^3 \cdot b \cdot \Delta P}{12 \mu \cdot d}$$



Flow through Concrete

$$Q = \xi \frac{\Delta P l w^3}{12 \mu d} = \xi \frac{g l l w^3}{12 v}$$



# Future Materials: Hybrid Reinforcement

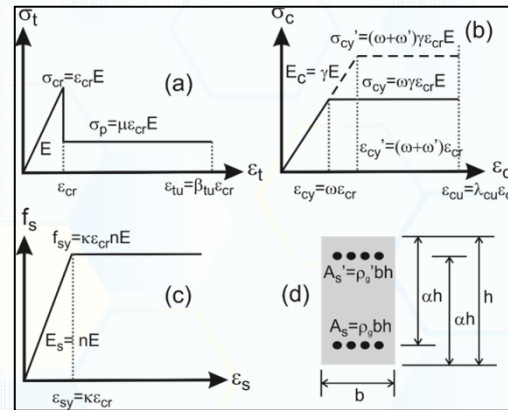
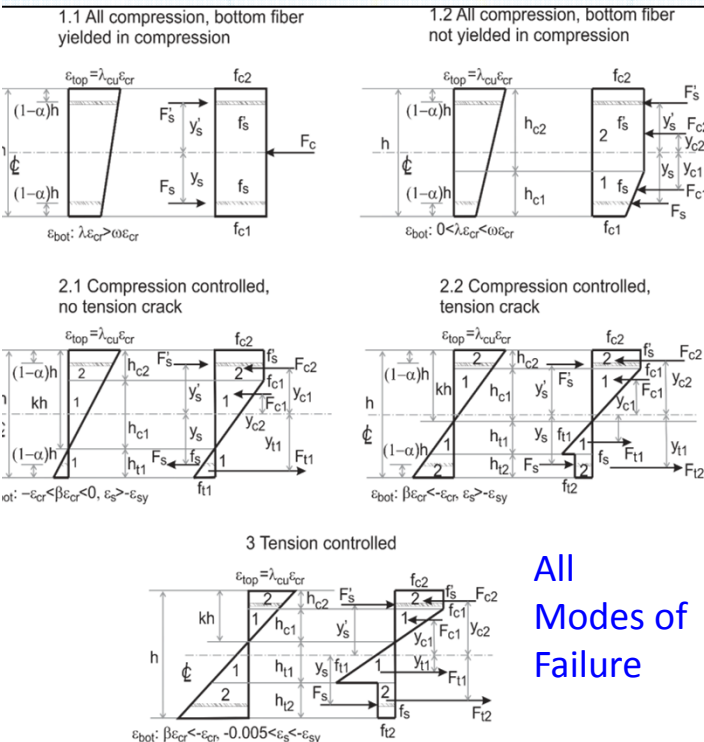
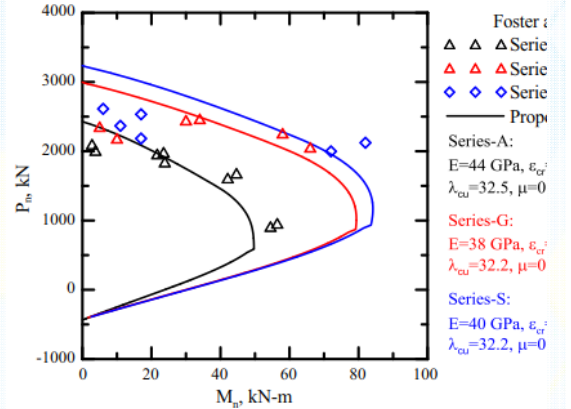
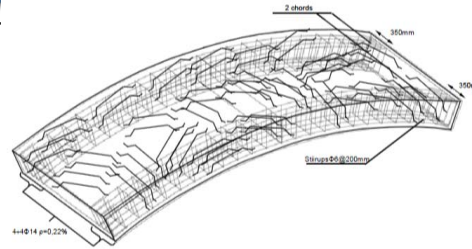
Materials and Structures (2018)51:35  
<https://doi.org/10.1617/s11527-018-1159-2>



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Interaction diagrams for design of hybrid fiber-reinforced tunnel segments

Yiming Yao · Mehdi Bakhshi · Verya Nasri · Barzin Mobasher



### Material Models

### Closed-Form Solution

Mode	$P'$
Force	$\begin{aligned} 1.1 & \quad \bar{R}_1 = 2\kappa n \rho_g + \omega \gamma \\ 1.2 & \quad \bar{R}_2 = \frac{(\lambda^2 + \omega^2 - 2\omega \lambda_{cu})\gamma + 2n\rho_g(\chi + \kappa)(\lambda - \lambda_{cu})}{2(\lambda - \lambda_{cu})} \\ 2.1 & \quad \bar{P}_{21} = -\frac{(\omega^2 \gamma - 2\omega \lambda_{cu} + \beta \lambda_{cu})k + n\rho_g(\chi + \kappa) + \frac{\beta}{2}}{2\lambda_{cu}} \\ 2.2 & \quad \bar{P}_{22} = \frac{(\omega^2 \gamma + \omega \gamma)k + \frac{2\beta\mu + 2\mu - 1}{2\beta}(k-1) + n\rho_g(\chi + \kappa)}{2\lambda_{cu}} \\ 3.1 & \quad \bar{P}_{31} = \frac{(\omega^2 \gamma + \omega \gamma)k + \frac{2\beta\mu + 2\mu - 1}{2\beta}(k-1)}{2\lambda_{cu}} \\ 3.2 & \quad \bar{P}_{32} = \frac{(\omega^2 \gamma + \omega \gamma)k + \frac{2\beta\mu + 2\mu - 1}{2\beta}(k-1) - n\rho_g(\lambda_{cu} - \kappa) + \frac{n\rho_g(\alpha - 1)\lambda_{cu}}{k}}{2\lambda_{cu}} \end{aligned}$
Moment	$\begin{aligned} 1.1 & \quad M_{11} = 0 \\ 1.2 & \quad M_{12} = \frac{C_1 \lambda_{cu}^2 + C_2 \lambda_{cu} + C_3 \beta^2 + 2\omega^3 \gamma}{2(\beta - \lambda_{cu})^2} \\ 2.1 & \quad M'_{21} = C_4 k^2 + C_5 k + C_6 \\ 2.2 & \quad M'_{22} = C_7 k^2 + C_8 k + C_9(\chi - \kappa) + C_{10} \\ 3.1 & \quad M'_{31} = C_7 k^2 + C_8 k - 2C_9 + C_{10} \\ 3.2 & \quad M'_{32} = C_7 k^2 + C_8 k + C_{11} + \frac{C_{12}}{k} \end{aligned}$

where  $k = \frac{\lambda_{cu}}{\beta + \lambda_{cu}}$ ,  $C_1 = 6n\rho_g(2\alpha - 1)(\chi - \kappa)$ ,  $C_2 = 12\beta^2 n\rho_g(2\alpha + 1)(\chi - \kappa) - 3\beta\gamma\omega(\omega - 2\lambda_{cu})$ ,  
 $C_3 = \beta^2 C_1 - \gamma\omega^2(2\omega - 3\lambda_{cu})$ ,  $C_4 = \frac{\omega^3 \gamma}{\lambda_{cu}^2} - \frac{3\omega^2 \gamma}{\lambda_{cu}} - 3\omega\gamma + \beta$ ,  $C_5 = -\frac{1}{2}(\frac{3\omega^2 \gamma}{\lambda_{cu}} - 6\omega\gamma + \beta)$ ,  
 $C_6 = 3n\rho_g(2\alpha - 1)(\chi - \kappa) - \frac{\beta}{2}$ ,  $C_7 = -\frac{\omega - 3\lambda_{cu}}{\lambda_{cu}^2} \gamma\omega^2 - 3(\gamma\omega + \mu) - \frac{6\mu - 3}{\beta} + \frac{3\mu - 2}{\beta^2}$ ,  
 $C_8 = \frac{3\gamma\omega^2}{2\lambda_{cu}} + 3(\gamma\omega + \mu) + \frac{18\mu - 9}{2\beta} + \frac{6\mu - 4}{\beta^2}$ ,  $C_9 = -3n\rho_g(2\alpha - 1)$ ,  $C_{10} = -\frac{6\mu - 3}{\beta} - \frac{3\mu - 2}{\beta^2}$ ,  
 $C_{11} = \frac{3\gamma\omega^2}{2\lambda_{cu}} + 3(\gamma\omega + \mu) + \frac{18\mu - 9}{2\beta} + \frac{6\mu - 4}{\beta^2}$ ,  $C_{12} = \frac{3\mu - 2}{\beta^2}$ .

## Conclusion

- ACI 544.7R successfully addressed the demand in industry for a guide on FRC segments
- In mid-size tunnels use of fiber reinforcement can lead to **elimination of steel bars** required for strength, resulting in construction cost saving of up to 40%.
- Use of fiber in tunnel segments results in **reduction of crack width by ~45%** under the service load for Serviceability Limit State (SLS) design.
- **Service design** and **hybrid reinforcement** strength design will be added in the future to ACI 544.7R.





# Thank you for your attention

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