

# HYDRAULICS OF DIKE BREACHING

---

L. Schmocker and Willi H. Hager

**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau,  
Hydrologie und Glaziologie

# ***Content***

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Hydraulic model**
- 3. Effect of seepage**
- 4. Erosion process**
- 5. Scale effects**
- 6. Conclusions**

# 1 *Introduction*

Dike erosion is a significant process due to:

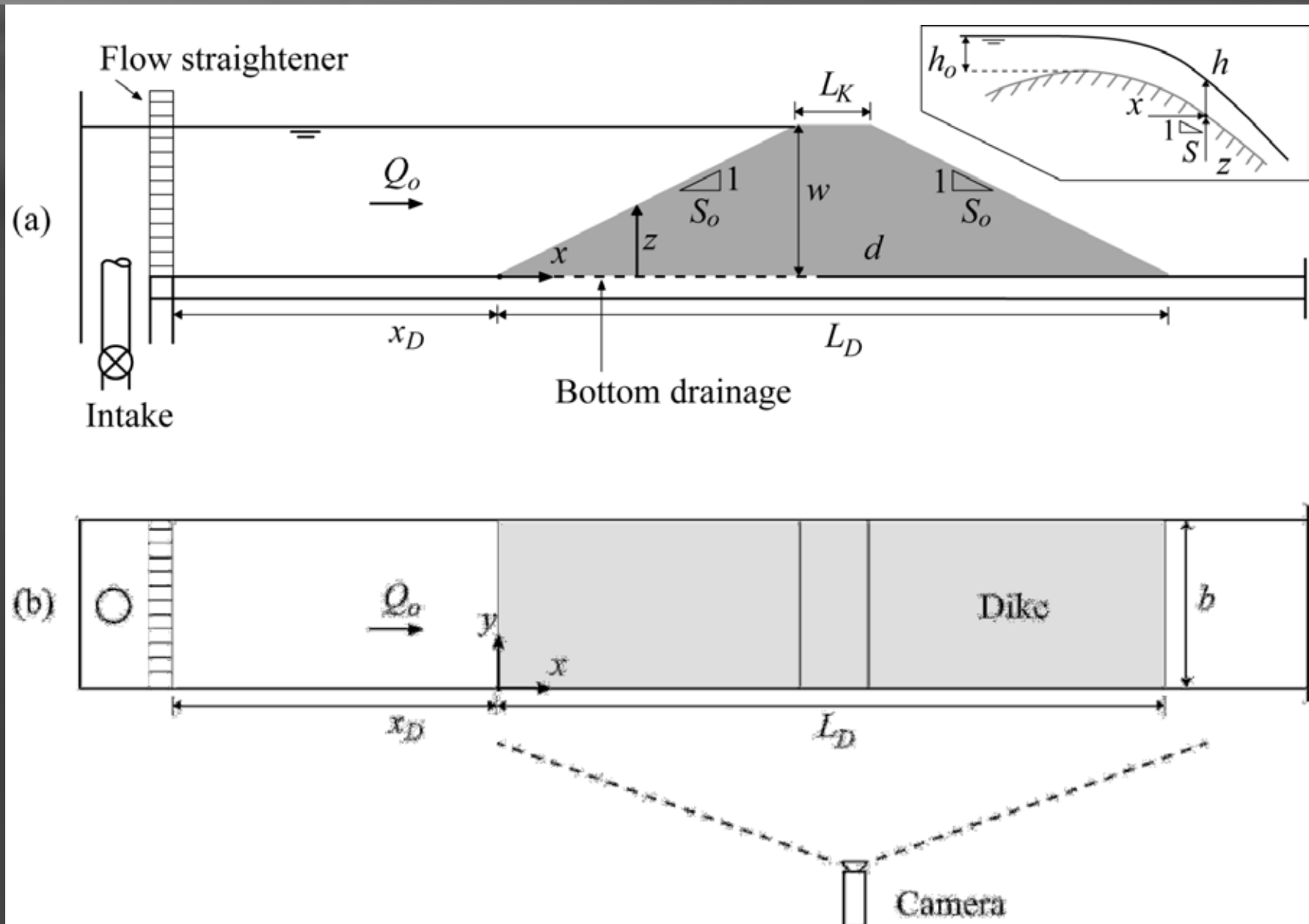
- Relevance for flooding prediction
- Stability assessment of existing dikes
- Analysis of erosion process in time and location
- Definition of generalized sediment transport equation
- Beauty of hydraulic features

## 2 *Hydraulic Model*

Simple model dike:

- Trapezoidal
- Homogenous, non-cohesive sand or gravel
- No surface protection or core
- Plane erosion process
- Steady inflow discharge

## 2 Hydraulic Model

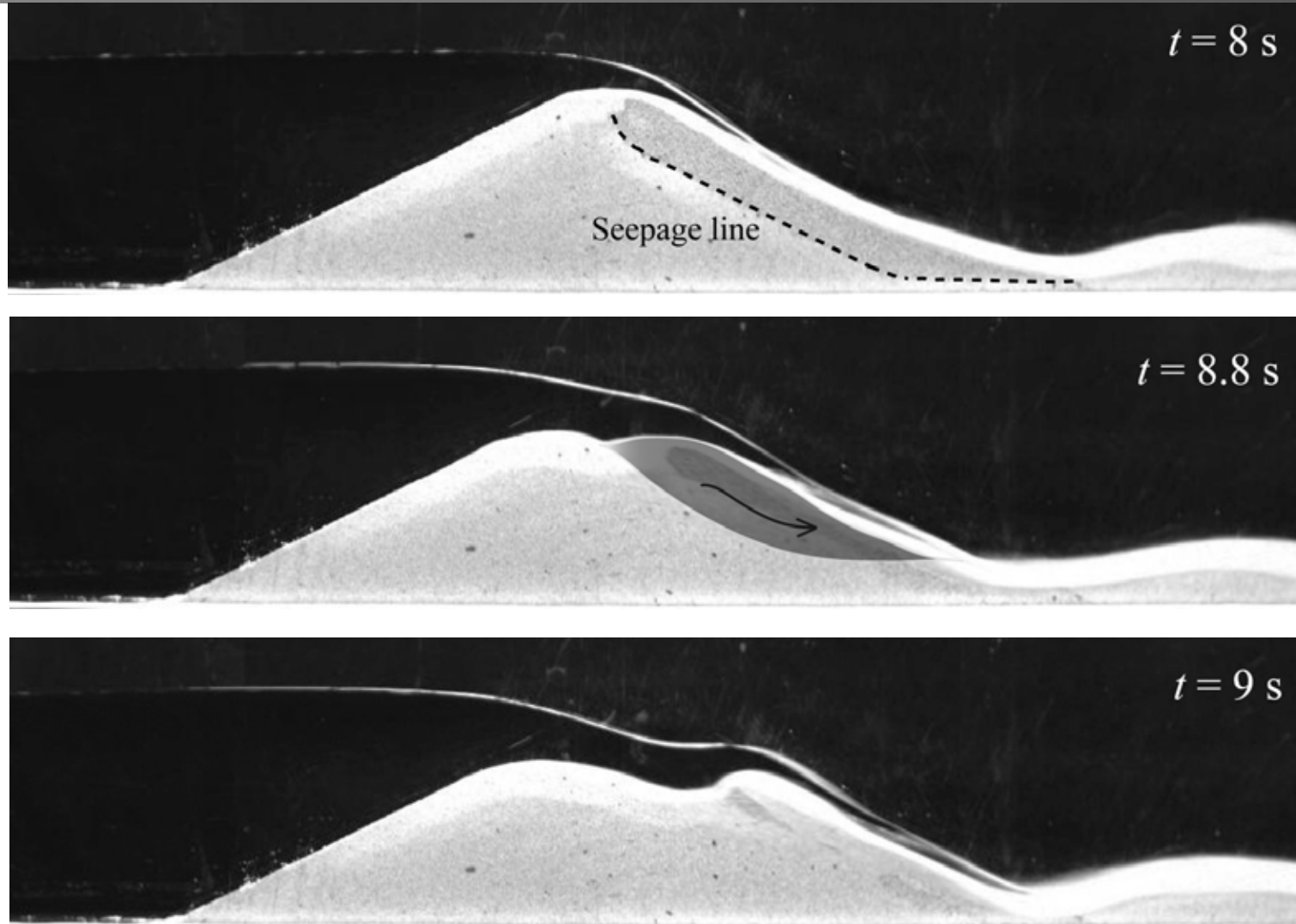


## 2 *Hydraulic Model*

Investigated Parameters:

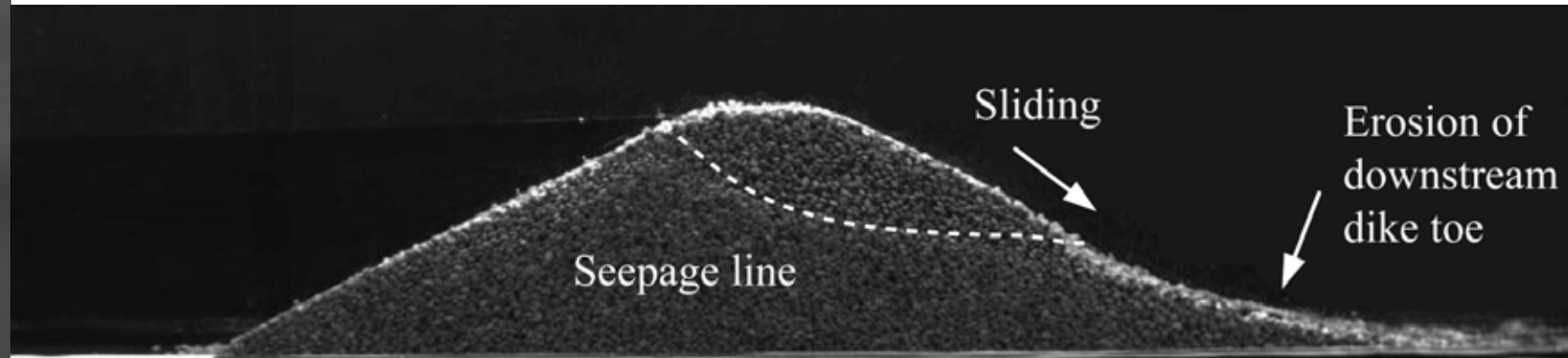
- $Q_o = 1$  to 64 l/s
- $w = 0.10, 0.20, 0.40$  m
- $b = 0.10, 0.20, 0.40$  m
- $L_K = 0.05, 0.10, 0.20$  m
- $d = 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 4.0, 8.0$  mm

### 3 *Effect of Seepage*

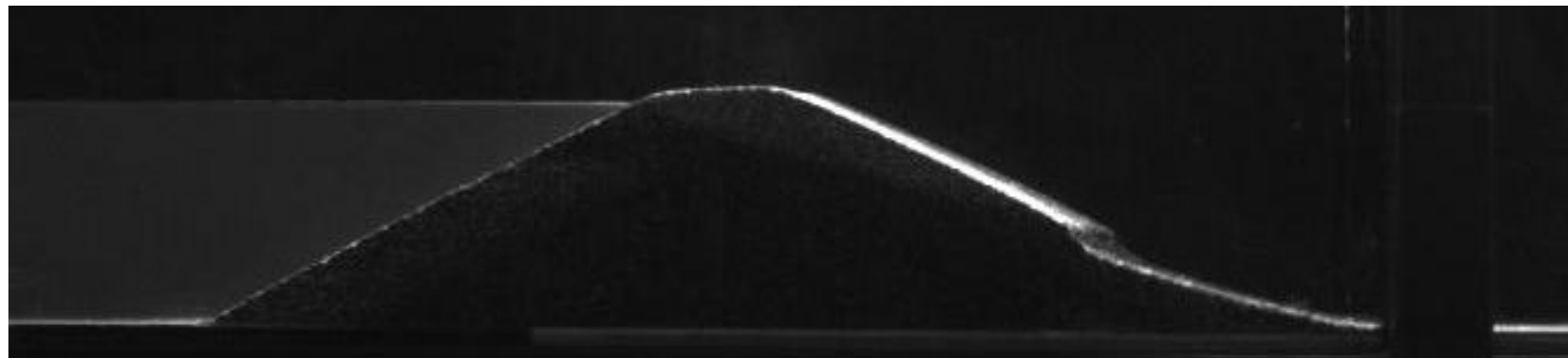


Sliding of downstream dike slope due to combined erosion *and* seepage

### 3 *Effect of Seepage*

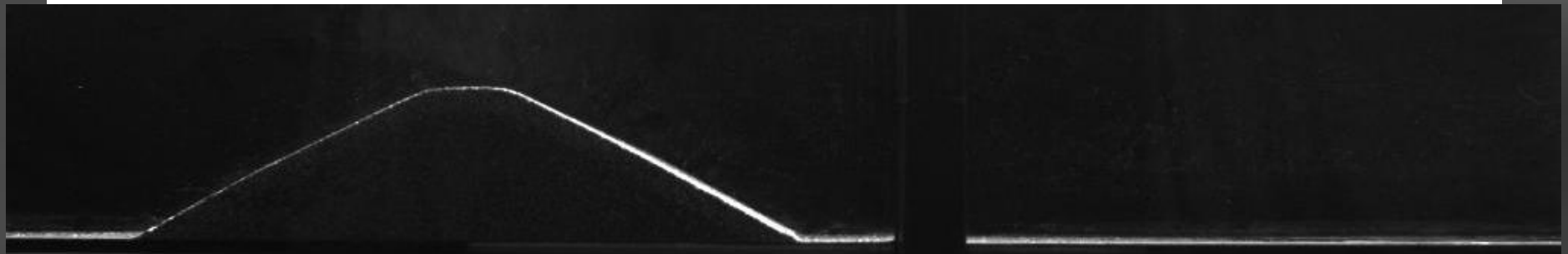


Erosion of downstream dike toe due to seepage ( $d = 8.00$  mm)



Erosion of downstream dike toe due to seepage (long reservoir filling time)

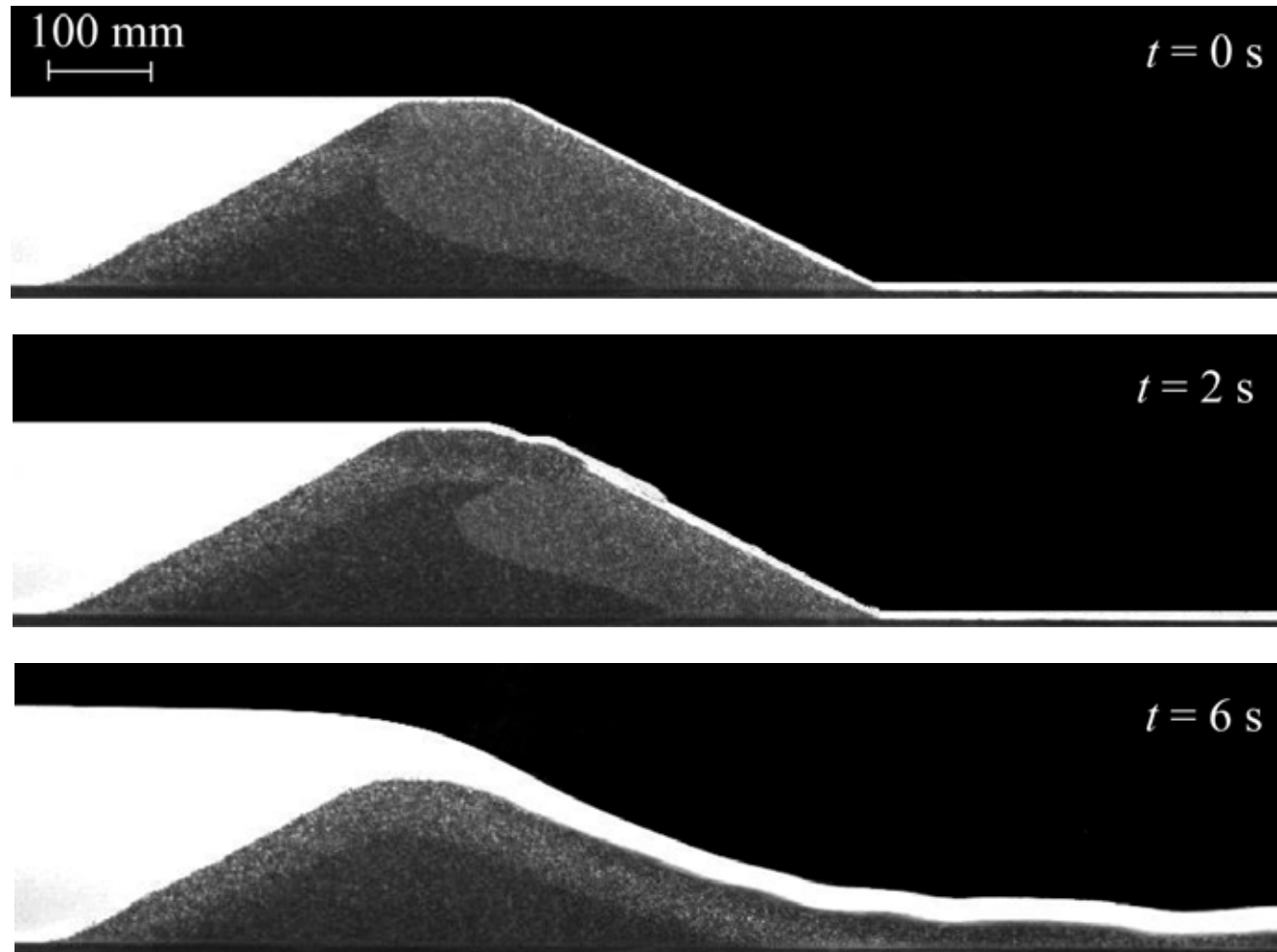
## 4 *Erosion Process*



Temporal progress of dike erosion for

$$Q_o = 10 \text{ l/s}, w = 0.20 \text{ m}, b = 0.20 \text{ m}, d = 2.0 \text{ mm}$$

## 4 Erosion Process



$Q = 11.3 \text{ l/s}$ ,  $w = 0.20 \text{ m}$ ,  $b = 0.20 \text{ m}$ ,  $L_K = 0.10 \text{ m}$ ,  $d = 2.00 \text{ mm}$

## 4 Erosion Process



$Q = 11.3 \text{ l/s}$ ,  $w = 0.20 \text{ m}$ ,  $b = 0.20 \text{ m}$ ,  $L_K = 0.10 \text{ m}$ ,  $d = 2.00 \text{ mm}$

# 5 Scale Effects

## 3 Scale Families

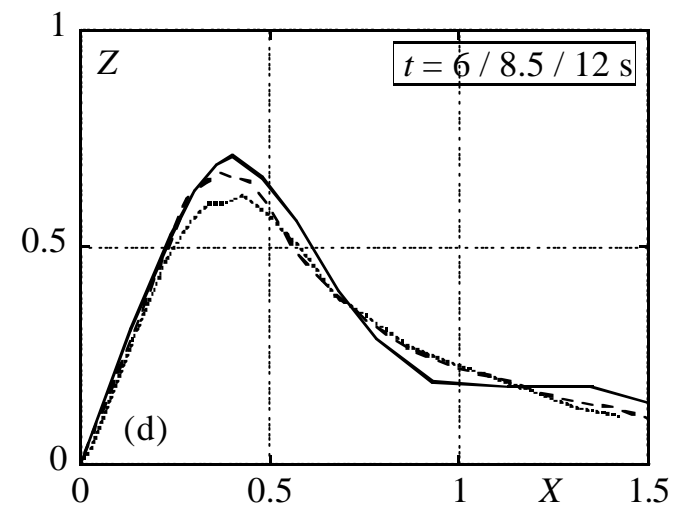
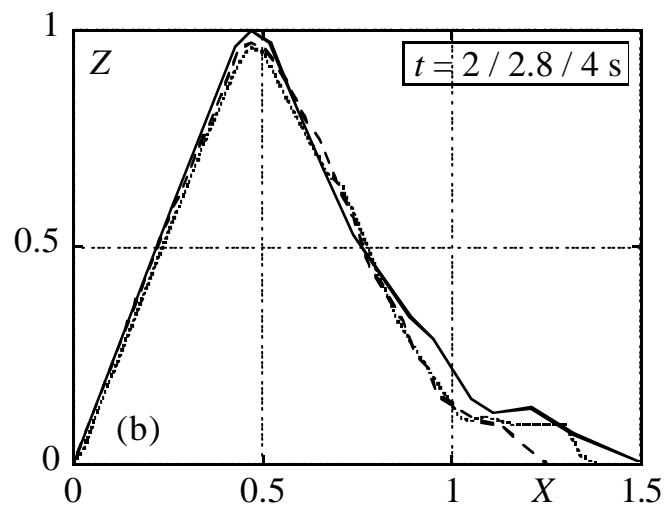
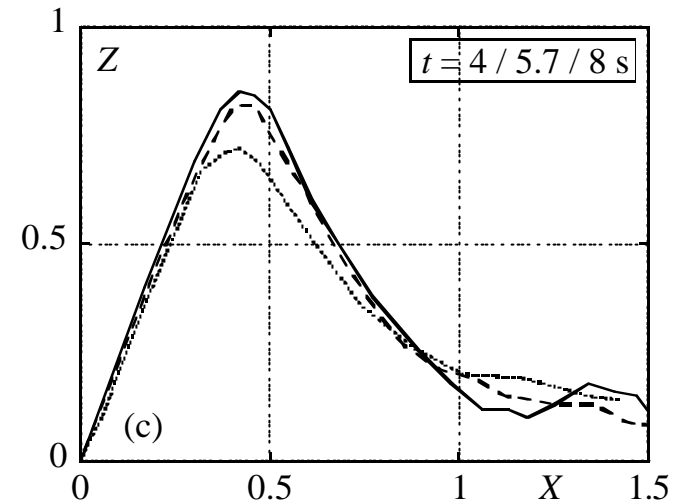
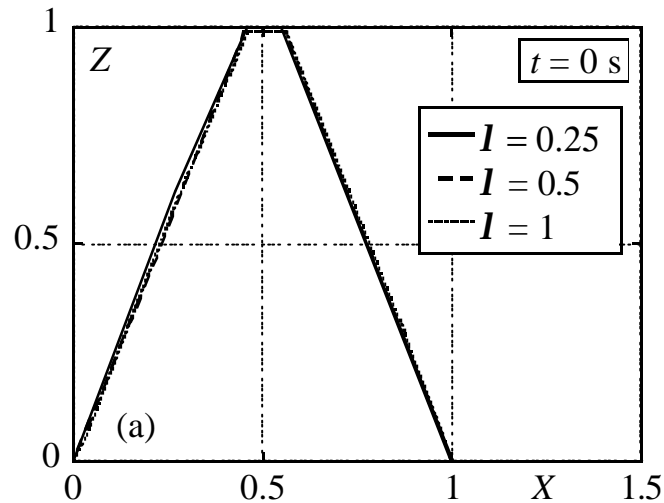
	1	2	3
$\gamma_1 = 1:$	$w = 0.40 \text{ m}$ $b = 0.40 \text{ m}$ $L_K = 0.20 \text{ m}$ $d = 4.00 \text{ mm}$ $Q_o = 64 \text{ l/s}$	$Q_o = 32 \text{ l/s}$	$d = 8.00 \text{ mm}$

$\gamma_2 = 0.5$  and  $\gamma_3 = 0.25$

Comparison of temporal dike surface profiles  $Z(X)$  based on Froude similitude  
 (  $Z = z/w, X = x/L_D$  )

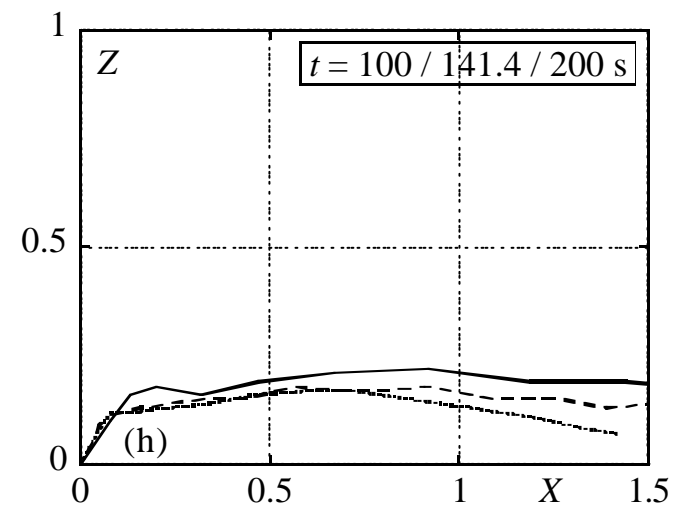
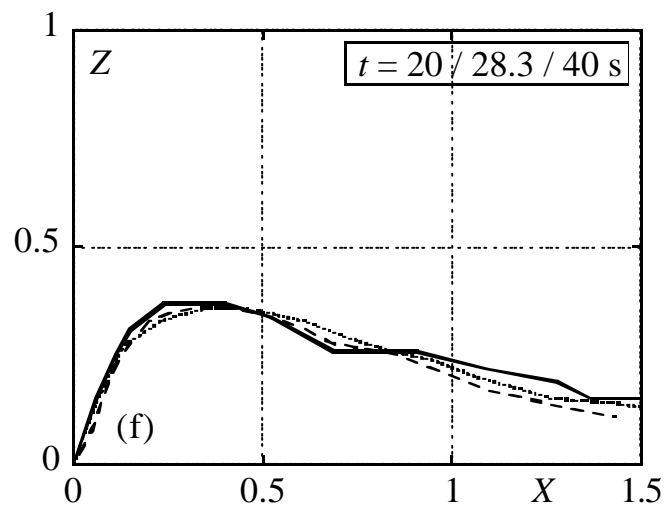
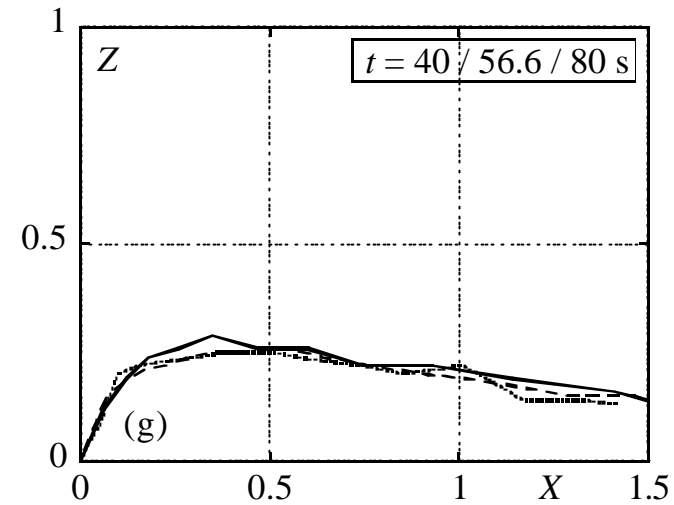
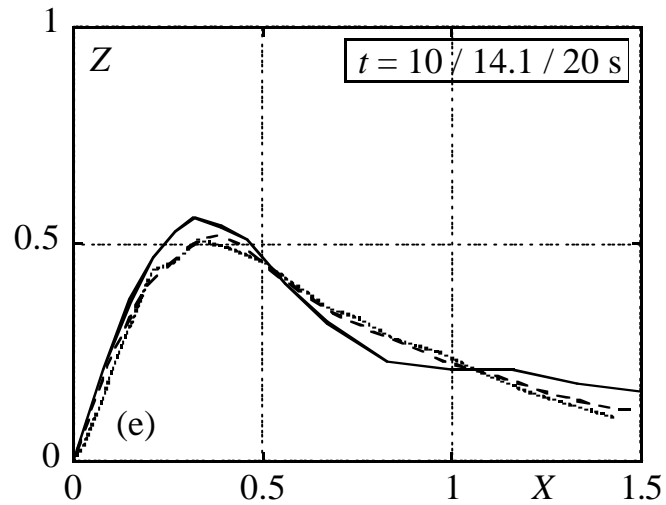
# 5 Scale Effects

Dike surface profiles  $Z(X)$  at various times  $t$



# 5 Scale Effects

Dike surface profiles  $Z(X)$  at various times  $t$



## 6 *Conclusions*

No major scale effects, if sliding failure is excluded!

Definite minimum model dike dimensions:

$$w = 0.20 \text{ m}$$

$$1.00 \text{ mm} = d = 4.00 \text{ mm}$$

$$b = 0.20 \text{ m}$$

$$q_o = 20 \text{ l/sm}$$

***Thank  
you!***

---

**Lukas Schmocker**

**Willi H. Hager**

**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Laboratory of Hydraulics,  
Hydrology and Glaciology