

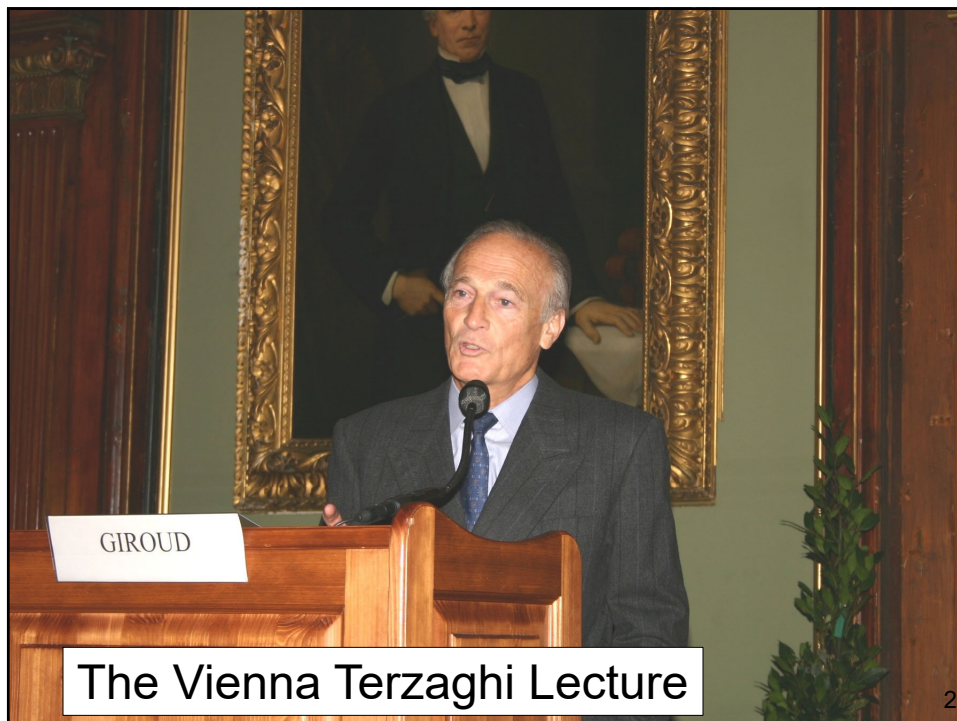
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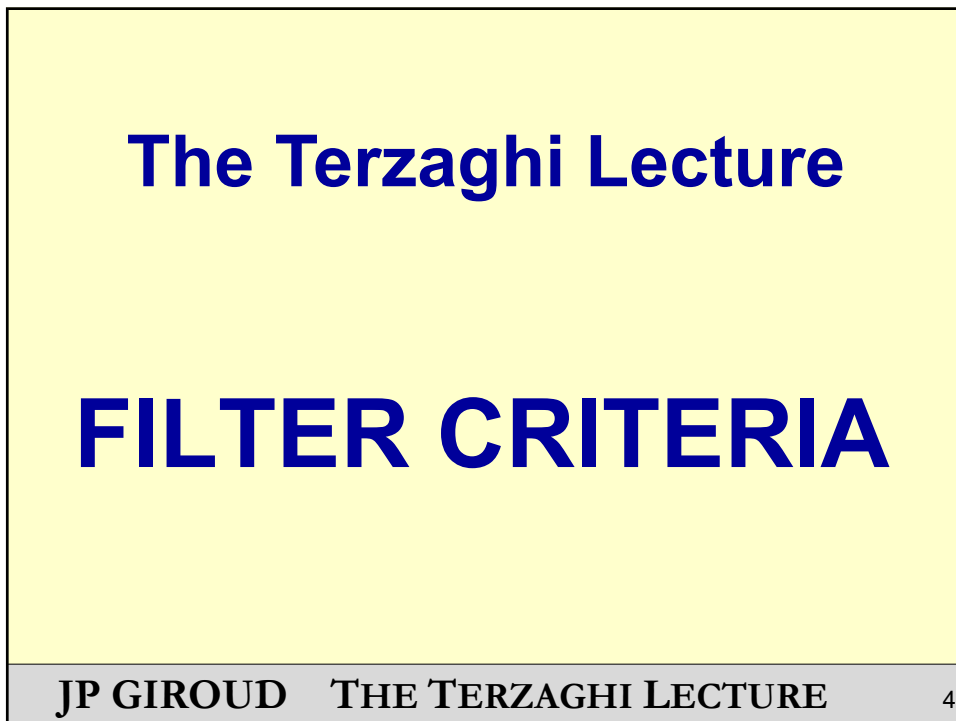
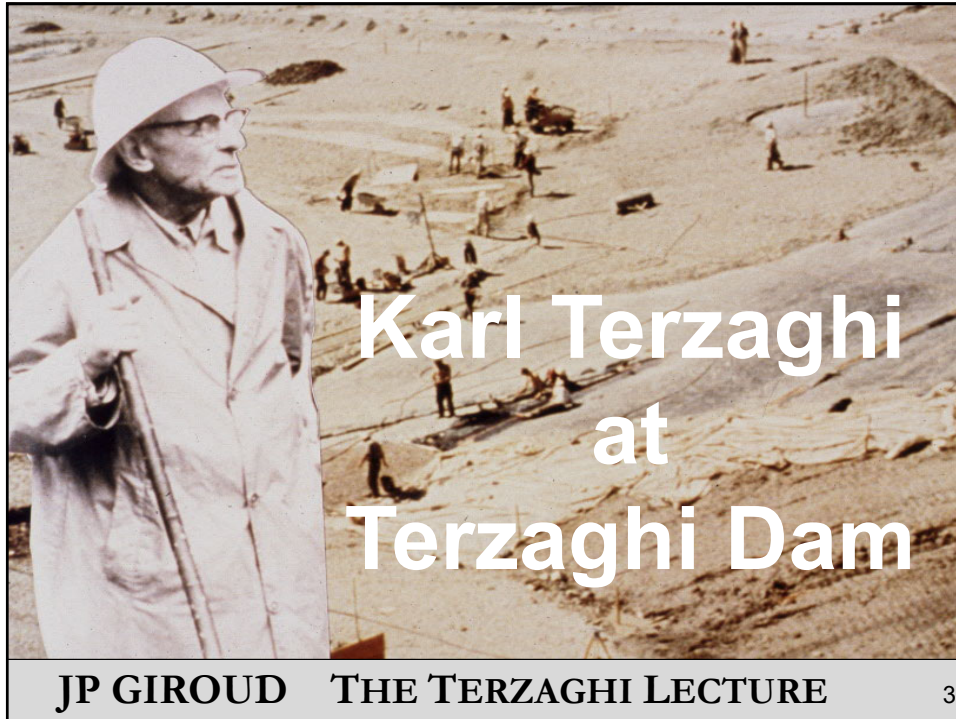
The Terzaghi Lecture

by

J.P. GIROUD

revised after
Texas A&M Presentation
November 2009





- Work on filter criteria has been published by many authors.
- It is not possible to present all of this work in a lecture.
- I will only present the work I have done.
- This does not mean I ignore work done by others, but I had to limit the scope.

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- The work I have done on filter criteria is **essentially theoretical**.
- This does not mean I ignore experimental work.
- In fact, I use experimental data.
- But, by just doing rational analyses, it was possible to build a **coherent system** of filter criteria.

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- I want to present the development of this **coherent system**, because this provides an opportunity to better understand the mechanisms of filtration.
- This **coherent system** of filter criteria has many practical applications, and I want to make geotechnical engineers aware of these possibilities.

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- I did this work to improve criteria for **geotextile filters**, but this work is applicable to **granular filters** as well.
- In fact, the first steps of the development of criteria for geotextile filters were inspired by granular filter criteria.
- As a result, the lecture often refers to **Terzaghi's filter criteria**.

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Terzaghi's criteria for granular filters are well known:

$d_{15F} \geq 4 \text{ or } 5 d_{15S}$ The d_{15} of the filter must not be too **small**.

This is the permeability criterion.

$d_{15F} \leq 4 \text{ or } 5 d_{85S}$ The d_{15} of the filter must not be too **large**.

This is the retention criterion.

The difference between the factors **4** and **5** is not significant.

I will use the factor **5** in the discussions.

Both Terzaghi's criteria are expressed using the d_{15} of the granular filter.

This is possible because the d_{15} of a granular material is related to the size of its openings.

The relationship is :

$$\text{OPENING SIZE} \approx d_{15} / 5$$

(based on theoretical and experimental work on arrangements of particles by Silveira, Wittmann, Witt, Kenney, etc.)

The **opening size**
of a filter
(any type of filter)
is defined
as the diameter
of the largest sphere
that can pass through
the filter.

In the 1970s,
several criteria for “filter fabrics” were used,
some of them
inspired by Terzaghi’s criteria.

This is an example of a set of criteria
used in the early 1970s:

$$k_F > k_S$$

$$0.150 \text{ mm} < O_F < d_{85S}$$

$$4\% < \text{Open area} < 36\%$$

Early on, it was explicitly mentioned that **nonwoven** “filter fabrics” **should not be used**.

In any case,
many nonwoven fabrics were eliminated by the requirement: $O_F > 0.150$ mm (which was even $O_F > 0.250$ mm in an early stage) and **all** nonwoven fabrics were eliminated by the requirement: Open area $< 36\%$.

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Progressively, the anti-nonwoven clauses disappeared.

However, the remaining criteria for “**filter fabrics**”:

$$k_F > k_S$$

$$O_F < d_{85S}$$

$$\text{Open area} > 4\%$$

were not satisfactory, as we will discuss.

The terminology “**geotextile**” appeared in 1977, and it will be used in the rest of this lecture.

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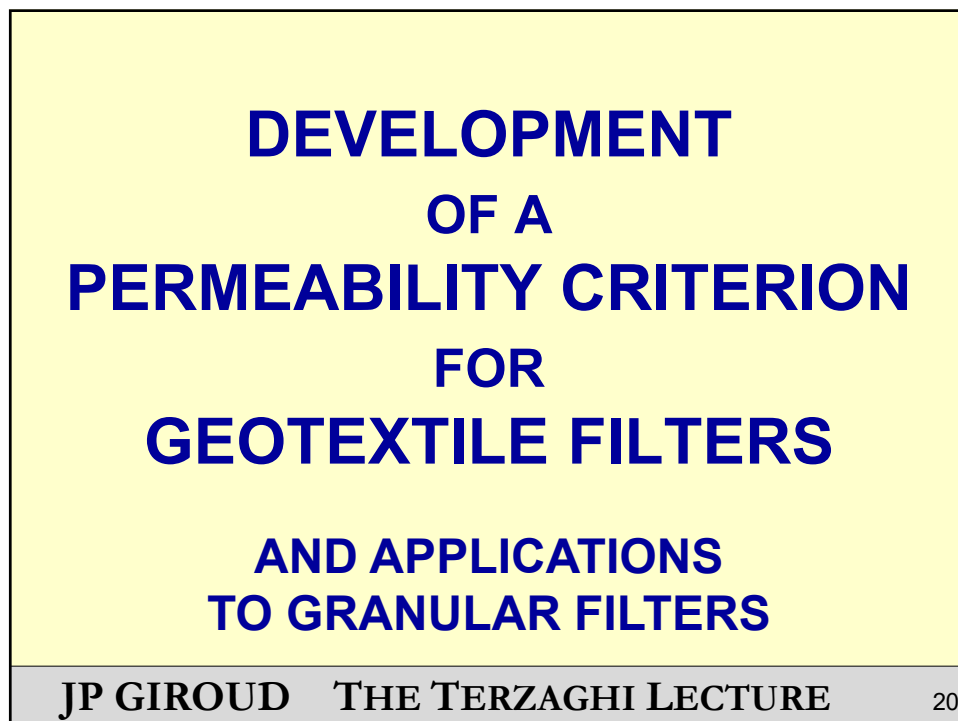
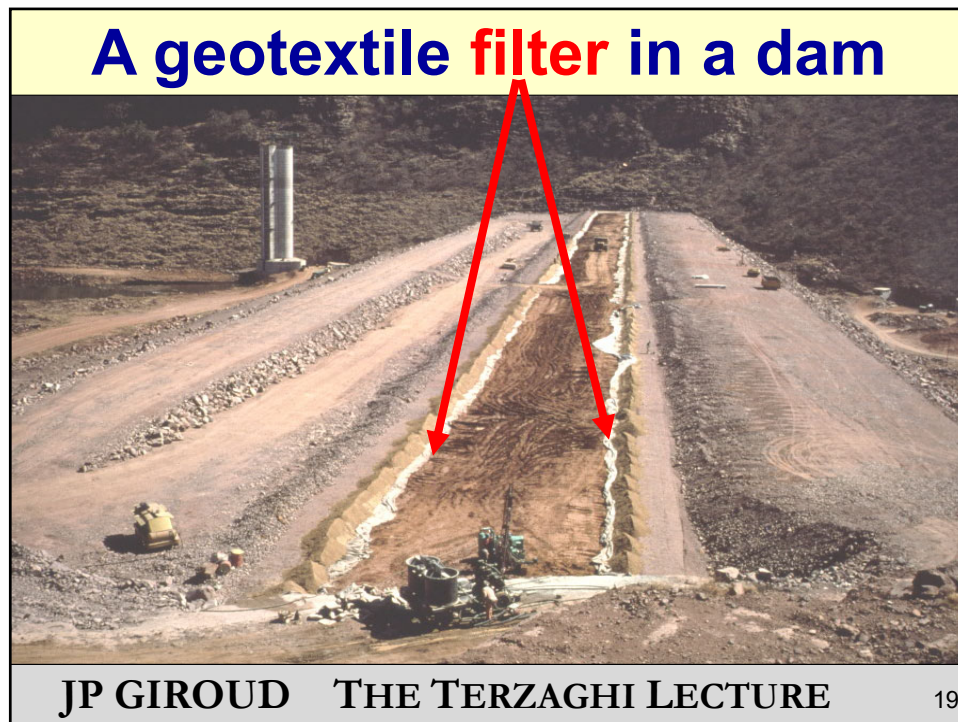
In this lecture, I will:

- discuss **problems** related to the old criteria I just mentioned,
- present the **development** of proposed filter criteria, and
- discuss the **application** of the proposed criteria to geotextile filters and granular filters.

Granular filters are well known.
Let's see examples of geotextiles filters.

EXAMPLES OF GEOTEXTILE FILTERS





The presence of a filter disturbs the flow of water in the soil upstream of the filter.

The selected filter must be such that the disturbance is **small and **acceptable**.**

The disturbance can affect the **pore pressure and the **flow rate**.**

**Therefore,
the permeability criterion
includes two requirements:**

- a **pore pressure** requirement;
and**
- a **flow rate** requirement.**

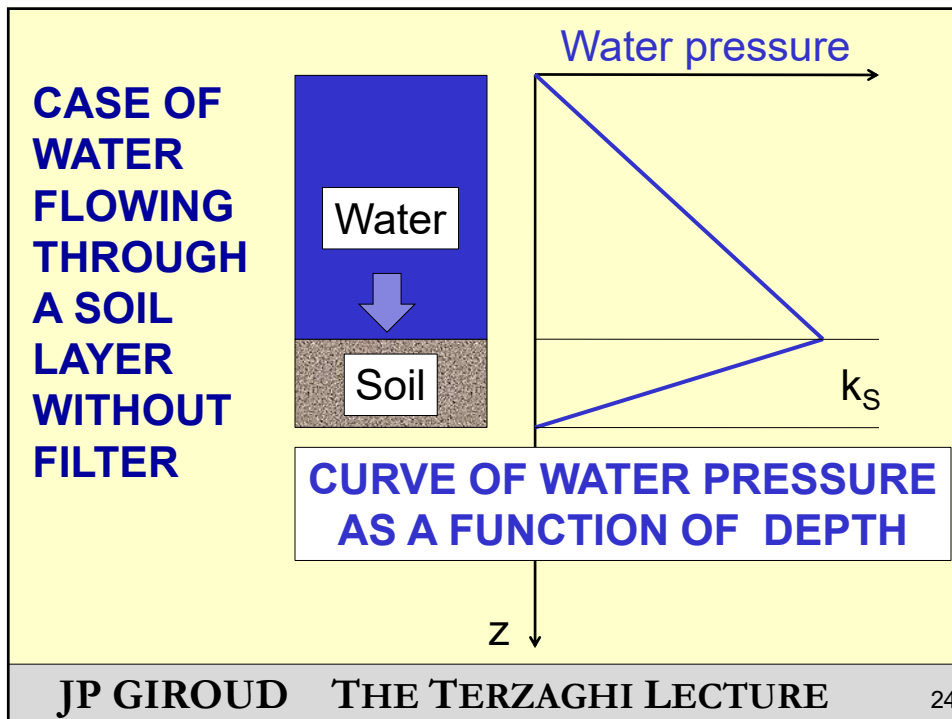
**First,
the pore pressure requirement:**

The presence of a filter
potentially **increases**
the pore pressure
in the soil upstream of the filter.

The selected filter should be such
that the pore pressure increase
is as **small** as possible,
ideally **zero**.

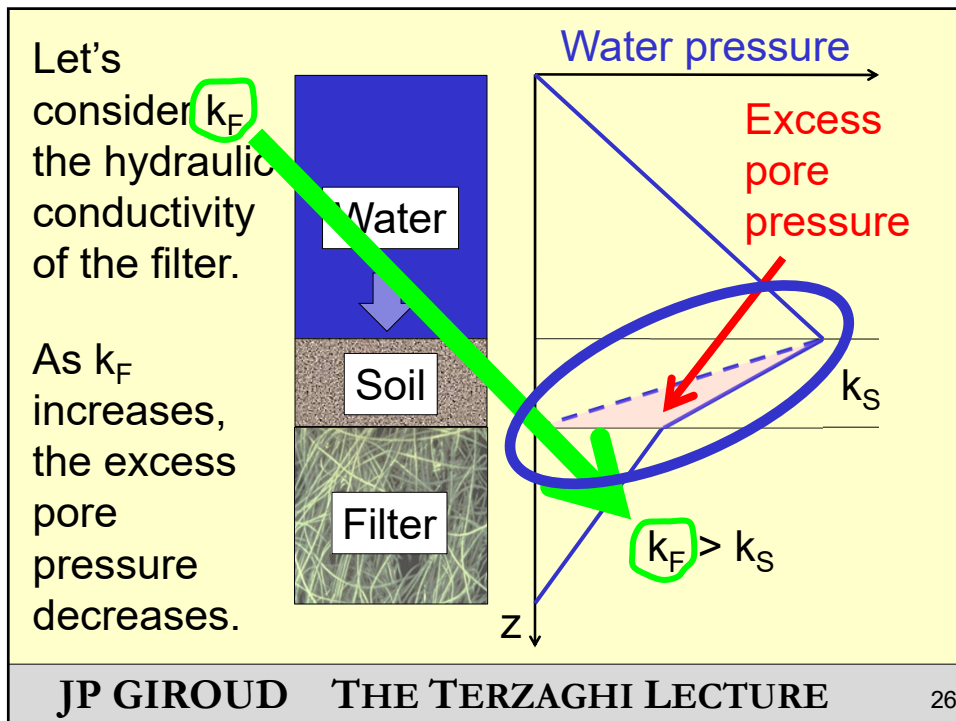
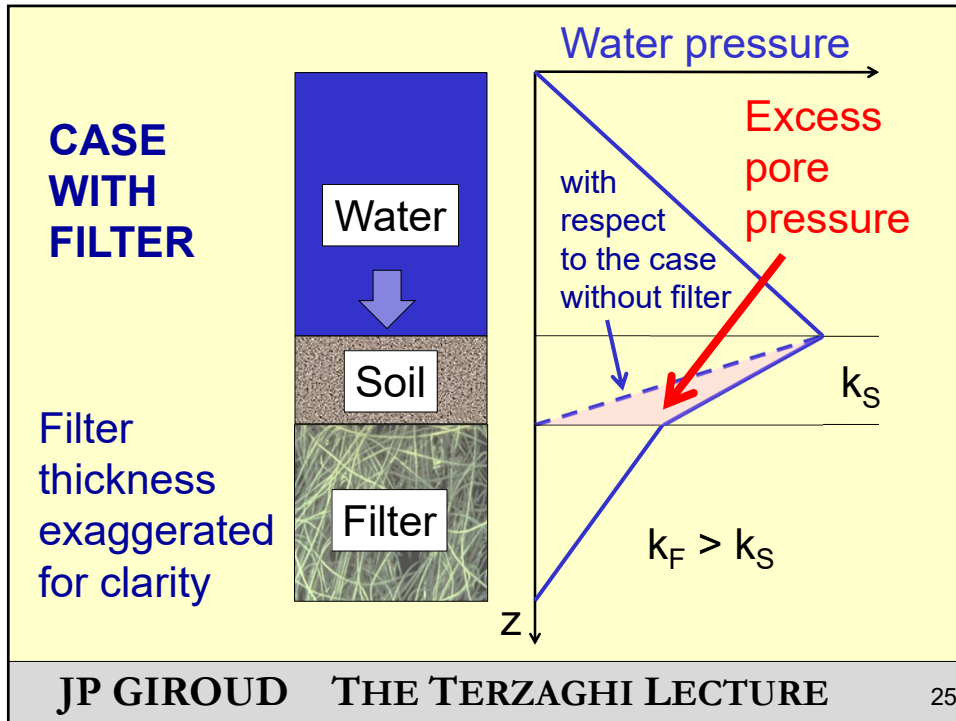
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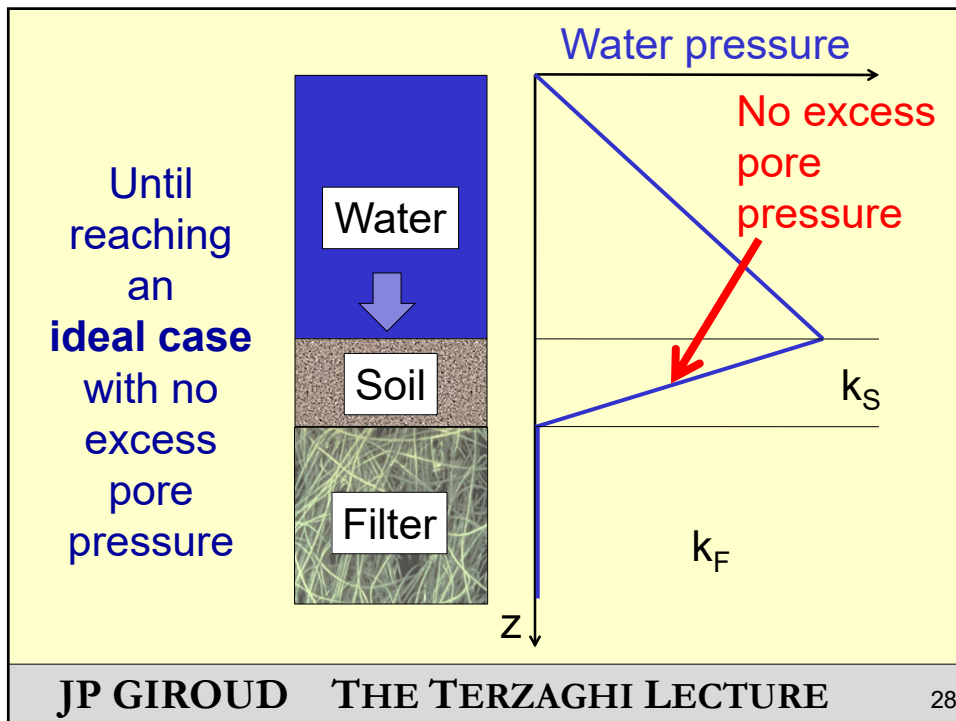
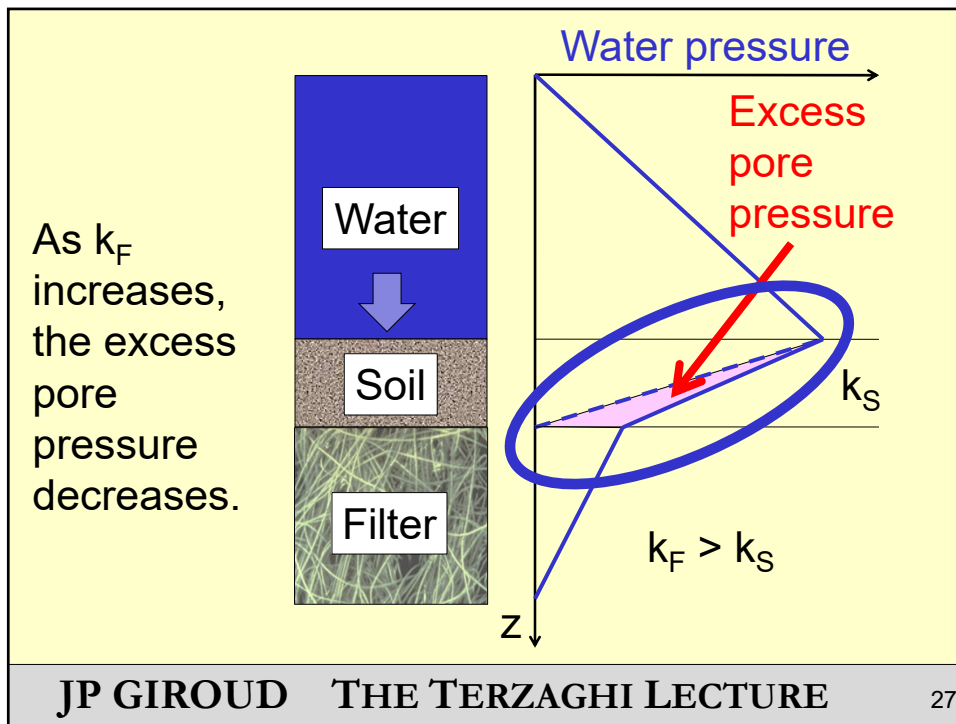
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PORE PRESSURE REQUIREMENT

The analysis
of the pore pressure diagram shows
that
the presence of the filter
causes **no pore pressure increase**
if : $k_F \geq i_s k_S$

where:

k_F = permeability of filter material

k_S = permeability of soil

i_s = hydraulic gradient in soil next to filter

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TYPICAL HYDRAULIC GRADIENTS IN SOIL NEXT TO FILTERS

Application	Hydraulic gradient
Dewatering trench	≤ 1.0
Vertical wall drainage	1.5
Road edge drain	≤ 1.0
Inland waterway protection	≤ 1.0
Landfill drainage layer	1.5
Dam toe drain	2.0
Drain behind dam clay core	3 to >10
Liquid impoundment with clay liner	> 10

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**TYPICAL HYDRAULIC GRADIENTS
IN SOIL NEXT TO FILTERS**

Application	Hydraulic gradient
Dewatering	≤ 1.0
Landfill gas collection	1.5
	≤ 1.0
	≤ 1.0
Dam toe drains	1.5
Dam toe drains	2.0
Dam toe drains	3 to >10
Liquid impoundment with clay liner	> 10

Values are typically less than 2, with the exception of filters behind thin clay layers.

and rarely exceed 20.

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**The permeability criterion
includes two requirements :**

- a pore pressure requirement;
and
- a flow rate requirement.

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FLOW RATE REQUIREMENT

The presence of a filter,
even very permeable,
decreases the liquid flow rate
compared with
the case without filter.

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FLOW RATE REQUIREMENT

Calculations done with Darcy's equation
show that the **flow rate decrease**
is **less than 10%**
of the flow rate without filter
if the following conditions are met:

$k_F \geq k_S$ for a filter thickness 1 to 10 mm

$k_F \geq 25 k_S$ for a filter thickness 250 to 2500 mm

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The 1 to 10 mm thickness applies to geotextile filters.

Therefore, the first condition:

$$k_F \geq k_S \quad \text{for a filter thickness 1 to 10 mm}$$

becomes: $k_F \geq k_S$ for geotextile filters

The 250 to 2500 mm thickness applies to granular filters.

Therefore, the second condition:

$$k_F \geq 25 k_S \quad \text{for a filter thickness 250 to 2500 mm}$$

becomes: $k_F \geq 25 k_S$ for granular filters

DISCUSSION OF THE TWO REQUIREMENTS

PORE PRESSURE REQUIREMENT AND FLOW RATE REQUIREMENT

For GEOTEXTILE FILTERS

$k_F \geq k_S$ (flow rate requirement)

is **more stringent** or **less stringent** than

$k_F \geq i_S k_S$ (pore pressure requirement)

depending on hydraulic gradient.

For GRANULAR FILTERS

$k_F \geq 25 k_S$ (flow rate requirement)

is generally **more stringent** than

$k_F \geq i_S k_S$ (pore pressure requirement)

because i_S is generally less than 25.

It is important to note that
the flow rate requirement for granular filters
($k_F \geq 25 k_S$)
can be expressed in terms of particle size.

Indeed, it is well known that
the permeability of a granular material
is **proportional to the square** of
a small particle size such as d_{10} or d_{15} :

$$k_F \approx \kappa (d_{15F})^2 \quad k_S \approx \kappa (d_{15S})^2$$

[from the classical Hazen's equation, which is
a special case of Kozeny-Carman's equation.]

Combining the three equations:

$$k_F \geq 25 k_S \quad k_F \approx \kappa (d_{15F})^2 \quad \text{and} \quad k_S \approx \kappa (d_{15S})^2$$

shows that

$$k_F \geq 25 k_S \text{ is equivalent to: } d_{15F} \geq 5 d_{15S}$$

**This is the classical
permeability criterion
for granular filters.**

This discussion shows that
the **classical permeability criterion**
for granular filters,
is only the **flow rate requirement**.

In other words, it does not include
the **pore pressure requirement**
(but it is generally **more stringent**).

Therefore, there is a difference between
geotextile filters and **granular filters**
regarding the permeability criterion:

- In the case of **geotextile filters**,
the **pore pressure** requirement or
the **flow rate** requirement governs
(*depending on hydraulic gradient*);
whereas
- In the case of **granular filters**,
the **flow rate** requirement (**Terzaghi's criterion**)
generally governs.

Clearly, to develop
an appropriate permeability criterion
for geotextile filters,
it would have been
incorrect to simply imitate
Terzaghi's permeability criterion
for granular filters.

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It is true that
Terzaghi's permeability criterion
provided a **starting point**
for the derivation
of a permeability criterion
for geotextile filters.

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However, to extend
to geotextile filters
the work of Terzaghi
on granular filters,
it was necessary
to **thoroughly understand**
the requirements
related to water flow
through a filter.

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Now, the second criterion

**DEVELOPMENT
OF A
RETENTION CRITERION
FOR
GEOTEXTILE FILTERS
AND APPLICATIONS TO
GRANULAR FILTERS**

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RETENTION CRITERION FOR GEOTEXTILE FILTERS

**How should we select
the maximum allowable opening size
of a geotextile filter to retain a soil?**

A simple answer consists in adapting to geotextiles
Terzaghi's retention criterion for granular filters:

$$d_{15 \text{ FILTER}} \leq 5 d_{85 \text{ SOIL}}$$

It is known that $O_{\text{FILTER}} \approx d_{15 \text{ FILTER}} / 5$

Combining these two equations gives:

$$O_{\text{FILTER}} \leq d_{85 \text{ SOIL}}$$

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$$O_{\text{FILTER}} \leq d_{85 \text{ SOIL}}$$

- This equation means that a filter should **only** retain **large** soil particles.
- Retaining **only** large soil particles works if the **large** particles **retain smaller** particles.

In other words, if the soil is internally stable.

Therefore,
an **ideal** retention criterion
should take into account
not only the **opening size** of the filter,
but also the **internal stability** of the soil.

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Thus,
Terzaghi's retention criterion
is **incomplete**
because it does not take into account
the internal stability
of the soil retained by the filter.

However,
Terzaghi's retention criterion
has been **successfully used**
during decades for **granular filters**.

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There are two reasons for the success
of Terzaghi's retention criterion
in granular filter design.

The first reason is that,
to a certain degree,
granular filters function,
even if the soil lacks
internal stability,
because they **are thick**.

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The mechanism is the following:

**Particles that are not retained
may accumulate in the filter,
thereby decreasing
the filter opening size,
until the filter functions.**

**In other words, a granular filter
may adapt itself to the soil
(to a certain degree).**

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But, filter thickness alone does not explain the success of Terzaghi's retention criterion with granular filters.

The **second**, and most important, **reason** for the success of Terzaghi's retention criterion is that **its use has been limited to the most stable soils,**

i.e. soils with a maximum particle size less than a certain value, typically 4.75 mm.

hence, the practice of truncation of the particle size distribution curve, which will be discussed later.

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While granular filters benefit
(to a certain degree) from their thickness,
geotextile filters are thin,
which has created
an incentive for developing
a more accurate
retention criterion.

A criterion that takes into account
the **internal stability** of the soil.

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In **internally stable** soils,
there are particles of a certain size
that form a **continuous skeleton**.

This continuous skeleton
entrap particles
that are a **little smaller**
than the skeleton particles.

In turn, these particles
entrap particles
that are a **little smaller**, and so on.

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Therefore, if a filter has openings such that the skeleton is retained, then all **particles smaller** than the skeleton particles **are retained**.

Also, particles **larger** than the skeleton particles **will be retained** because, if a filter retains certain particles, it will retain coarser particles.

But, if a filter has **openings too large** to retain the skeleton, the soil is **not** retained because the particles retained in this case **do not form a continuous skeleton**.

In conclusion,
a **filter** must have **openings**
such that
the skeleton is retained.

This leads to two questions:

- **What is the size of the skeleton particles?**
- **What is the maximum filter opening size that can retain a given skeleton?**

This leads to two questions:

- **What is the size of the skeleton particles?**
- What is the maximum filter opening size that can retain a given skeleton?

**As mentioned earlier,
retention of the skeleton
is essential
for the retention
of an **internally stable soil**.**

**Internal stability depends on the
particle size distribution of the soil,
which is characterized by
the **coefficient of uniformity**.**

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Geometric considerations show that,
in a soil
with a **coefficient of uniformity**
of approximately **3**,
particles are tightly interlocked.

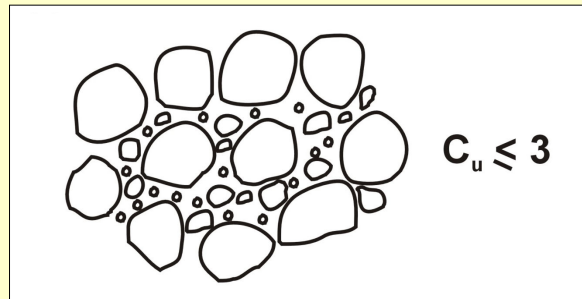
**In other words, such a soil
has **maximum internal stability**.**

This is illustrated in the following slides.

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When a soil has a coefficient of uniformity
equal to or less than 3,
the coarsest particles
form a **continuous skeleton**
that entraps all other particles.

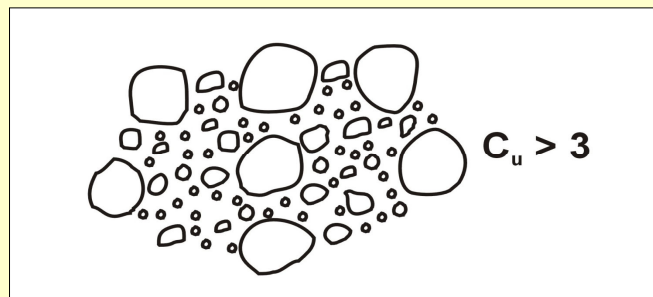


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When a soil has a coefficient of uniformity
greater than 3,
the coarsest particles are **not in contact**.

As a result,
they do not form a continuous skeleton
that entraps other particles.

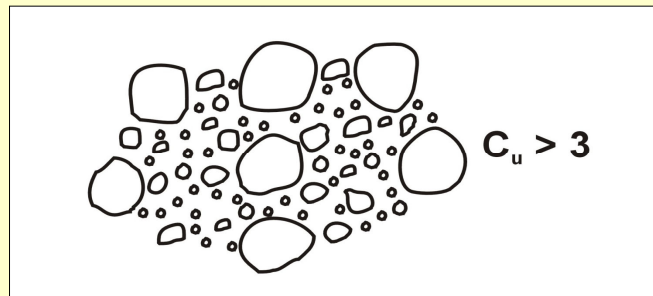


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In other words, when a soil has a coefficient of uniformity **greater than 3**, the coarsest particles **“float”** in the matrix formed by the other particles.

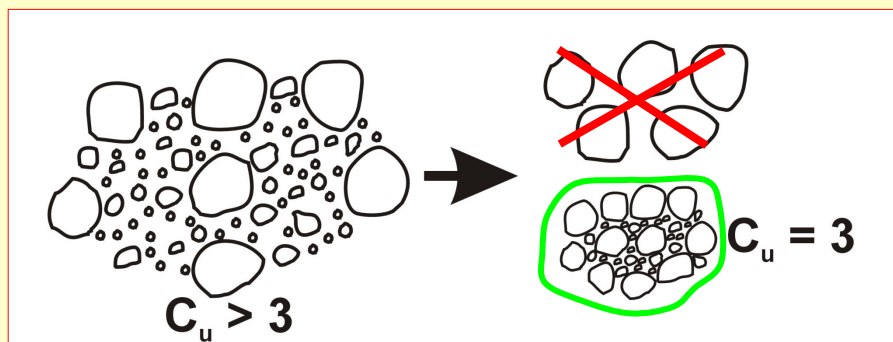
In this case, the coarsest particles **do not contribute** to internal stability.



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To develop a retention criterion for soils having a coefficient of uniformity greater than 3, we **only consider the fraction** of this soil that has a coefficient of uniformity equal to 3.

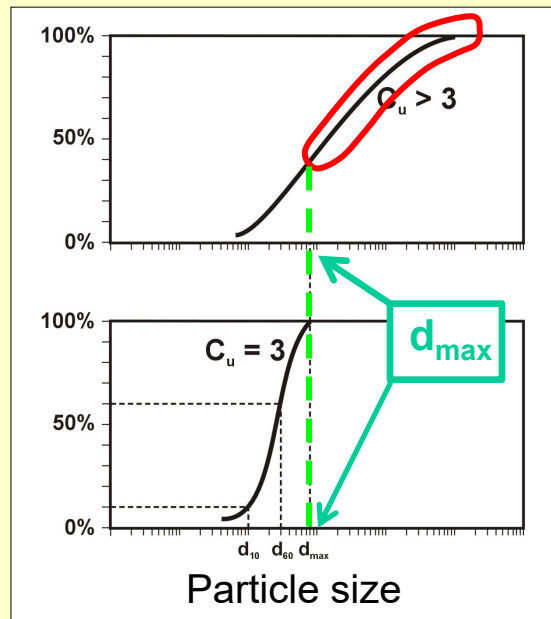


In other words, we ignore the coarse fraction.

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This means that we **truncate** the particle size distribution curve and consider only the particles smaller than d_{max} .



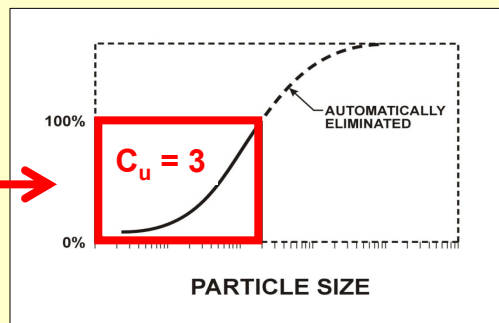
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The user of the proposed retention criterion does not have to do the truncation.

The **truncation is done automatically** (it is included in the equations that express the retention criterion).

Only this fraction of the curve (with $C_u = 3$) is used in the criterion.



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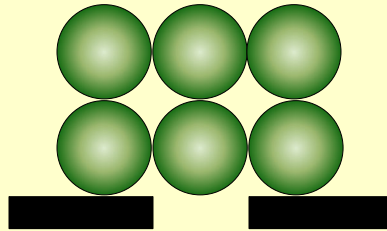
**We answered the first
of the two questions:**

- **What is the size
of the skeleton particles?**
- What is the
maximum filter opening size
that can retain
a given skeleton?

**Let's answer the second
of the two questions:**

- What is the size
of the skeleton particles?
- **What is the
maximum filter opening size
that can retain
a given skeleton?**

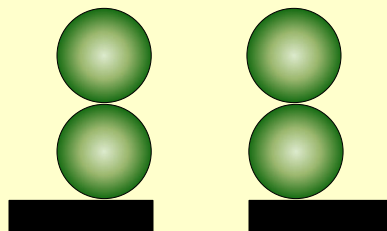
If the soil is in a **loose** state
(represented by a cubic arrangement),
particles pass if the opening size
is **just larger** than particle size.



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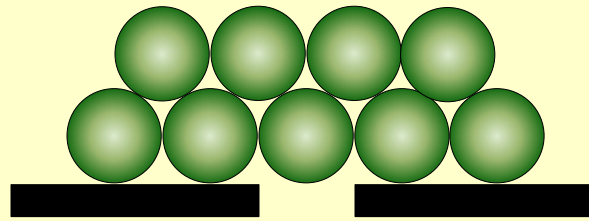
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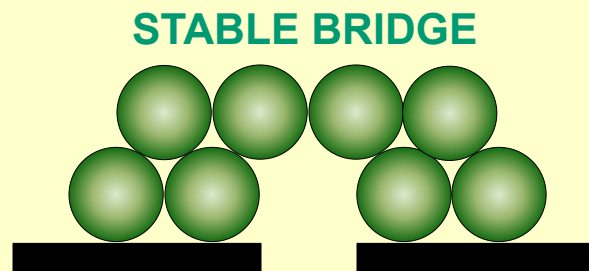
If the soil is in a **dense** state
(represented by an hexagonal arrangement),
particles do not pass if the opening size
is **as large** as particle size.



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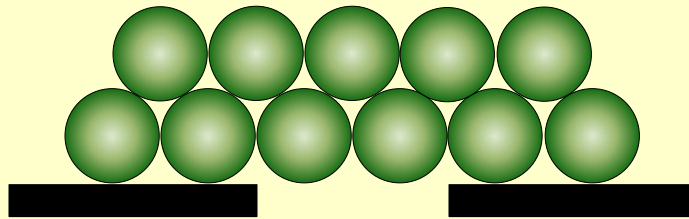
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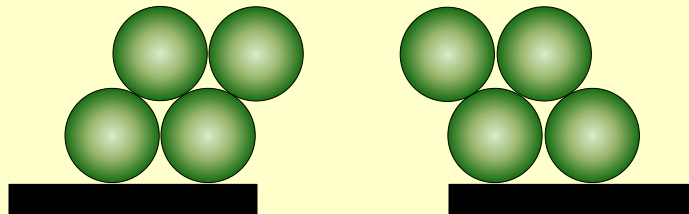
If the soil is in a **dense** state,
particles pass if the opening size
is **twice as large** as particle size.



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If the soil is in a **dense** state,
particles pass if the opening size
is **twice as large** as particle size.



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Based on this demonstration,
the internal stability of a soil
depends not only on
its **coefficient of uniformity**,
but also on its **density**.

So far, in this lecture,
the presentation of the retention criterion
has been mostly qualitative,

but I have done
a mathematical analysis of the role
of the **coefficient of uniformity**
and the **density** of soil.

Calculations, not presented here,
lead to the following equations.

RETENTION CRITERION EQUATIONS		
Soil density (Relative density)	Linear coefficient of uniformity of the soil C'_u	
	$1 \leq C'_u \leq 3$	$C'_u \geq 3$
loose ($I_D \leq 35\%$)	$O_F \leq (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{9}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
medium dense ($35\% < I_D \leq 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 1.5 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{13.5}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
dense ($I_D > 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 2 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{18}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$

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Here, the role of soil density

Soil density (Relative density)	Linear coefficient of uniformity of the soil C'_u	
	$1 \leq C'_u \leq 3$	$C'_u \geq 3$
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and here, the role of uniformity

Soil density (Relative density)	Linear coefficient of uniformity of the soil C'_u	
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RETENTION CRITERION EQUATIONS

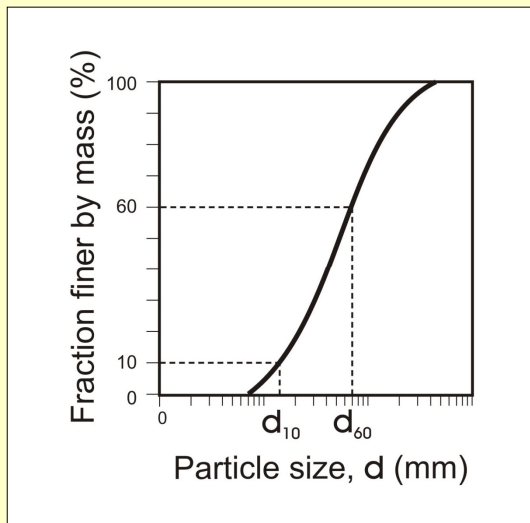
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loose ($I_D \leq 35\%$)	$O_F \leq (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{9}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
medium dense ($35\% < I_D \leq 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 1.5 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{13.5}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
dense ($I_D > 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 2 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{18}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$

In these equations, we use the linear coefficient of uniformity rather than the coefficient of uniformity to obtain simple equations.

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All geotechnical engineers know the definition
of the coefficient of uniformity.

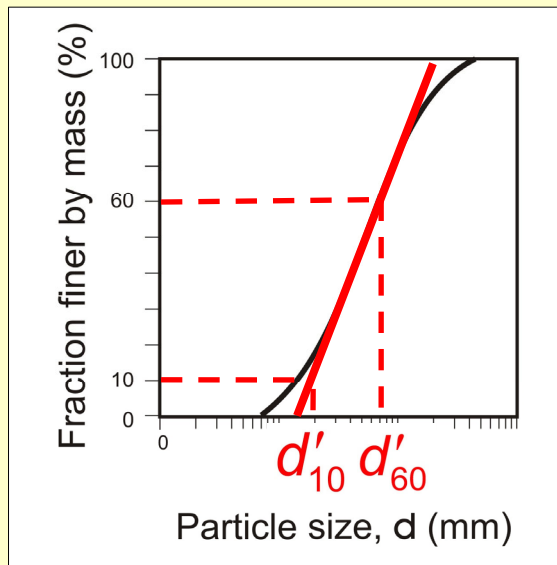
$$C_u = \frac{d_{60}}{d_{10}}$$



The **linear** coefficient of uniformity
is defined using a **straight line**
that closely follows
the central part
of the actual
particle size distribution curve.

The linear coefficient of uniformity

$$C'_u = \frac{d'_{60}}{d'_{10}}$$

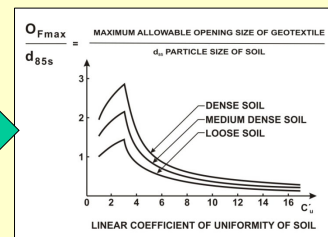


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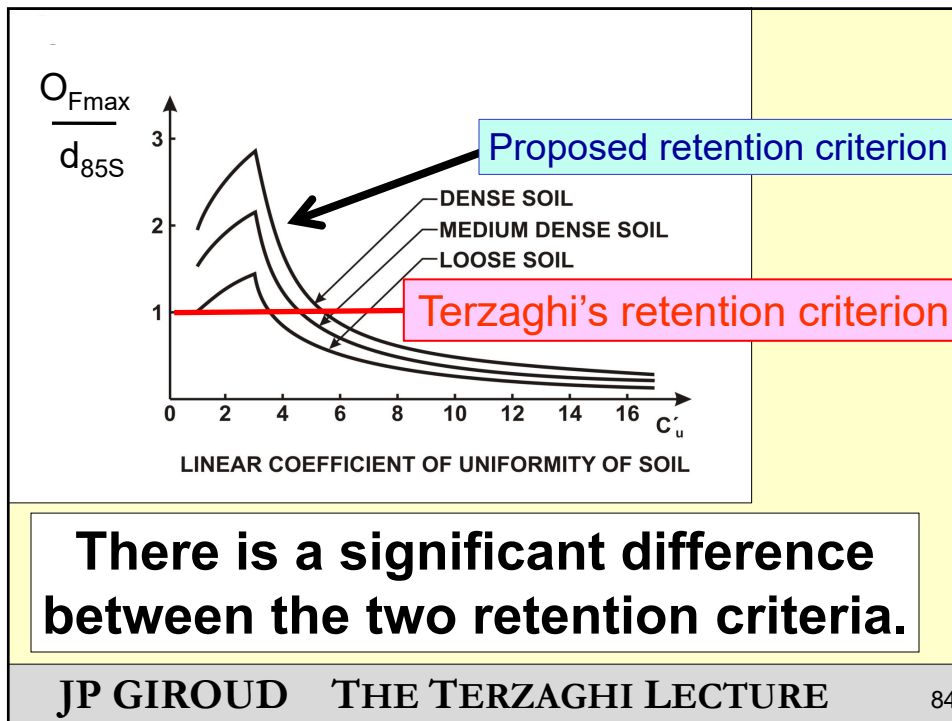
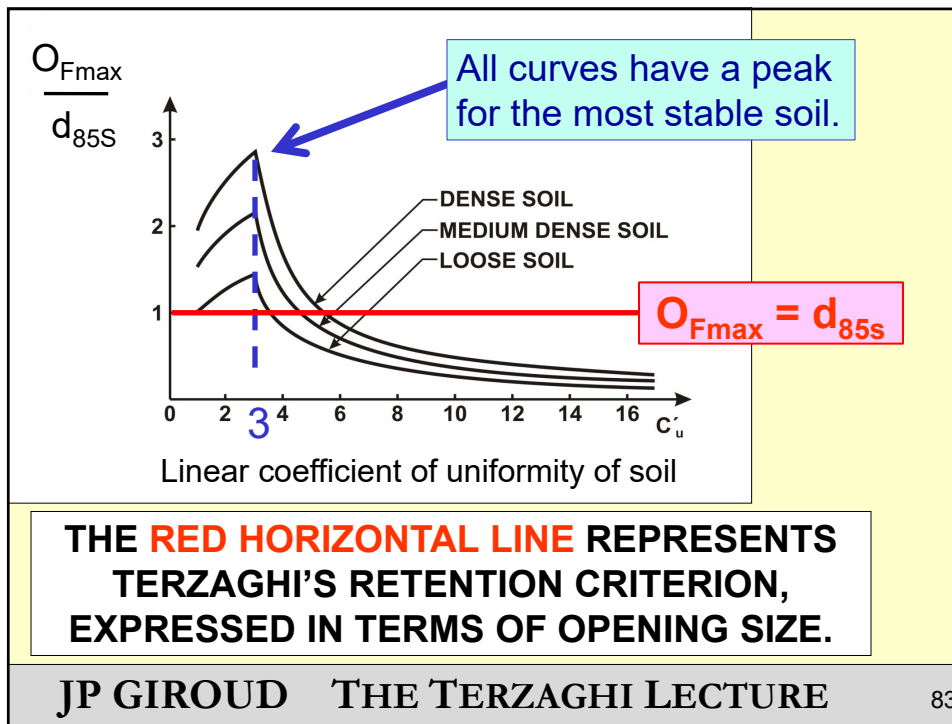
The equations
for the proposed retention criterion
can be represented graphically.

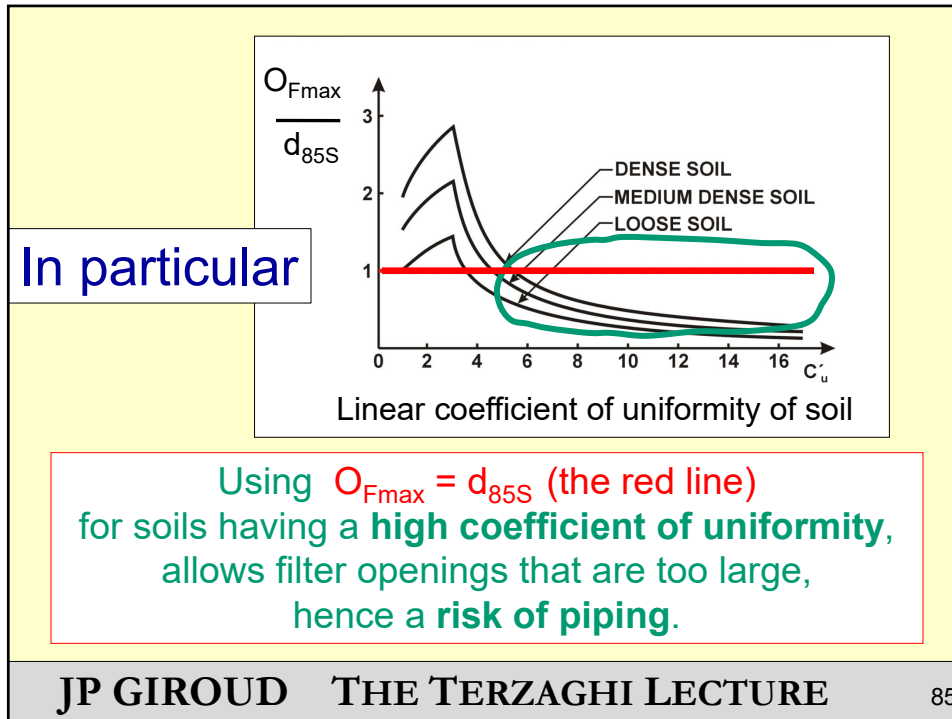
Soil density (Relative density)	Linear coefficient of uniformity of the soil C'_u	
	$1 \leq C'_u \leq 3$	$C'_u \geq 3$
loose ($I_D \leq 35\%$)	$O_F \leq (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{9}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
medium dense ($35\% < I_D \leq 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 1.5 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{13.5}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
dense ($I_D > 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 2 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{18}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$



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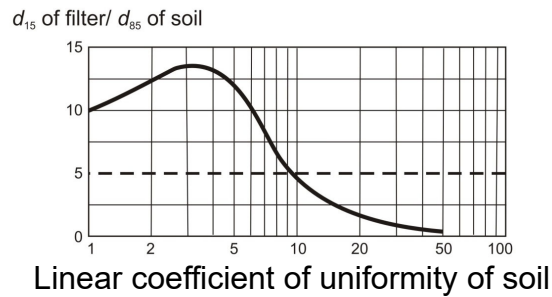


Therefore,
a geotextile filter is safer
if it is designed with
the retention criterion
that takes into account
the internal stability
of the soil.

The same can be done
with granular filters.

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The retention criterion developed for geotextile filters has been extended for granular filters.

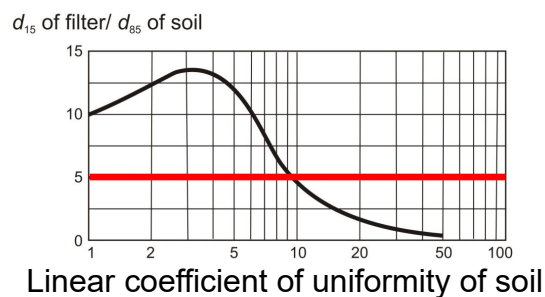


Here, the vertical axis is d_{15F} / d_{85S} to be consistent with the practice for granular filters.

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The retention criterion developed for geotextile filters has been extended for granular filters.



The Terzaghi's retention criterion is represented here by the horizontal line $d_{15F} / d_{85S} = 5$.

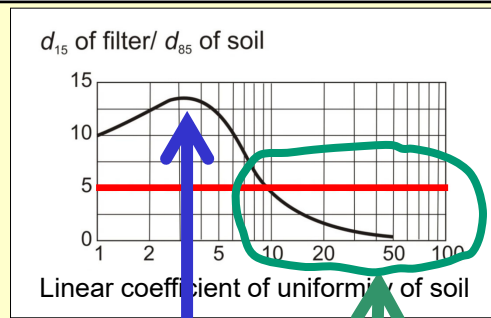
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RETENTION CRITERION FOR GRANULAR FILTERS

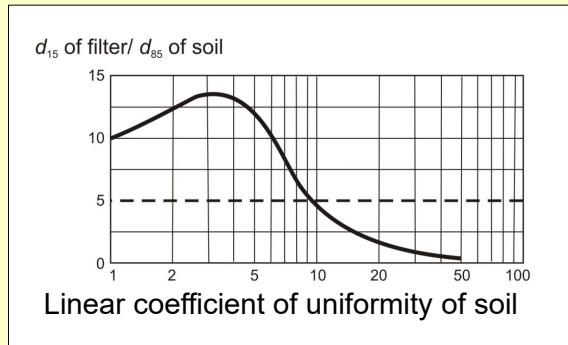
The values of d_{15F} / d_{85S} **greater than 5**
for uniform soils
are consistent with experimental data
by Bertram, Sherard and others.

And, for large coefficients of uniformity,
Terzaghi' criterion is unconservative.



It is for this reason that **truncation**
of the particle size distribution curve
is used for of granular filters.

Truncation artificially decreases
the coefficient of uniformity of the soil
to compensate for the fact that
Terzaghi's retention criterion
is unconservative
for large coefficients of uniformity.



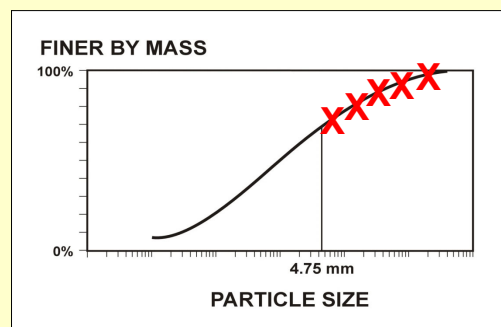
RETENTION CRITERION FOR GRANULAR FILTERS

- This retention criterion is applicable regardless of maximum particle size.
- In other words, it is not limited to particles smaller than 4.75 mm.

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Therefore, the need for the potentially inaccurate operation of truncating particle size distribution curves at 4.75 mm is eliminated.



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**In fact, with
the proposed retention criterion,
truncation is done **automatically****
(in other words
it is included in the equations).

**More importantly,
the **automatic truncation**
takes place
at the **appropriate location**,
which is generally not 4.75 mm.**

Therefore,
by extending to granular filters
the retention criterion
developed for geotextile filters,
we have obtained a tool
for designing granular filters
that is **simpler** and **safer**
**than the traditional criterion
in the case of soils having
a large coefficient of uniformity.**

So far we have discussed
the use for geotextile filters
of the **two criteria** used for granular filters:

- the permeability criterion;
and
- the retention criterion.

But, **two additional criteria**
are needed
for geotextile filters.

Indeed, since there are almost unlimited possibilities
in geosynthetic manufacturing,
it is possible to imagine
extreme geosynthetics materials
that would be unlikely to perform properly as filters,
such as:

- geosynthetics with very few openings,
- some extremely thin
nonwoven geotextiles.

Criteria are needed to prevent the use as filters
of such extreme materials.

Therefore, for geotextile filters,
two additional criteria are needed:

- a criterion to ensure that
the **number of openings** is sufficient;
- a criterion to ensure that
the **filter thickness** is sufficient.

First, let's discuss
the criterion for number of openings.

We will see that
the criterion
that ensures that
*“the number of filter openings
is sufficient”*
results in
a porosity criterion.

DEVELOPMENT OF A POROSITY CRITERION FOR GEOTEXTILE FILTERS

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Flow of liquids
through porous media,
such as granular or fibrous filters,
takes place in **tortuous channels**.

These channels
are called **flow channels**.

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It is possible to demonstrate that the number of flow channels per unit area is **greater in the soil** than in a filter that meets the retention criterion for that soil.

As a result, the flow of liquid is **disturbed** at the soil-filter interface due to **flow concentration** into a smaller number of flow channels.

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Disturbance of the flow at the soil-filter interface could cause displacement of fine soil particles in the vicinity of the filter, which could result in **accumulation** of fine soil particles at the surface of the filter or inside the filter.

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This **accumulation** of fine particles could cause clogging of the soil-filter system.

Therefore,
the number of flow channels in the filter per unit area should be **as large as possible** in order to **minimize disturbance** of the flow of liquid from the soil (retained by the filter) to the filter.

There is an additional reason for the number of flow channels in the filter per unit area to be **as large as possible**.

In spite of the presence
of a properly designed filter,
there is **always the possibility**
that some fine soil particles will move.

If such fine particles
clog some flow channels in the filter,
their **impact** on flow rate
will be reduced
if the **number of flow channels**
in the filter per unit area is **larger**.

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Depending on the filter structure,
the number of **flow channels**
is equal, or proportional,
to the number of **filter openings**.

Therefore, to achieve
a large number of flow channels,
a filter should have
as many openings as possible
per unit area.

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It should be noted that many **geotextiles are so permeable** that, even if a geotextile has a small number of openings per unit area, it may still meet the permeability criterion.

Clearly, the **permeability criterion is not sufficient** to eliminate geotextile filters that do not have enough openings.

Therefore, **a criterion specific to the number of openings per unit area** is needed.

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I do not know
a rational analysis
of the required number
of filter openings.

The only guidance is
that we know
that granular filters work.

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Thus, it may be assumed that **if** the **number of filter openings** in a **geotextile** filter is equal to, or greater than, the **number of filter openings** in a typical **granular** filter then the geotextile filter should work, i.e. should have a **sufficient number of openings**.

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Therefore, the **first step** of the analysis is to determine the **number of filter openings** in a typical **granular** filter.

The number of openings depends on the **geometric characteristics** of the granular filter.

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Herein, we will express the number of openings as a function of one of its geometric characteristics: the **opening size**.

This will make it possible to **objectively** compare geotextile filters and granular filters having the **same** opening size.

Calculations show that the number of openings per unit area is approximately:

$$N \approx \frac{0.1}{(O_F)^2} \quad \text{for typical granular filters}$$

where O_F = filter opening size

This will be used as a minimum value for the number of openings per unit area **for geotextile filters**.

**Calculations show that
the number of openings per unit area is:**

$$N = \frac{A_R}{(O_F)^2} \quad \text{for woven geotextiles}$$

where A_R = relative open area (open area / total area)

Comparing with:

$$N = \frac{0.1}{(O_F)^2} \quad \text{for granular filters}$$

gives the **following condition**
for woven geotextiles :

$$A_R = 0.1$$

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Therefore,
the relative open area
of a woven geotextile filter
should be equal to or greater than 0.1

to ensure that
the **number of openings**
in the woven geotextile filter
is **at least equal**
to the **number of openings**
in a granular filter
having the same opening size.

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In the case of **nonwoven** geotextile filters, the determination of the number of openings per unit area is difficult.

Only an **approximate calculation** has been done, and only lower and an upper boundaries were obtained.

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Here are the **lower** and **upper** boundaries, for the number of openings per unit area in nonwoven geotextile filters:

$$\frac{(1 - \sqrt{1 - n})^2}{(O_F)^2} \leq N \leq \frac{4(1 + 0.4n - \sqrt{1 - n})^2}{\sqrt{3}(O_F)^2}$$

where n = porosity of the nonwoven geotextile

Comparing with:

$$N = \frac{0.1}{(O_F)^2} \text{ for granular filters}$$

and . . .

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performing calculations for a wide range of values of the porosity, n , give a **conservative criterion**, which ensures that the **number of openings** in the nonwoven geotextile filter is **at least equal** to the **number of openings** in a granular filter *having the same opening size.*

The **conservative criterion** is that the **porosity** of a nonwoven geotextile filter should be equal to or greater than **0.55**.

In conclusion, the two criteria are:

$$A_R \geq 0.1 \quad \text{for woven geotextiles}$$

and

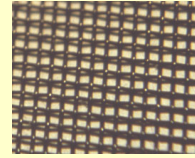
$$n \geq 0.55 \quad \text{for nonwoven geotextiles}$$

The relative open area of a woven geotextile (A_R) is the **two-dimensional equivalent of porosity** (n).

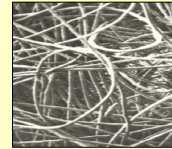
Therefore, the two criteria can be grouped under the terminology "**porosity criteria**".

Since the criteria for the two types of geotextile filters are of the **same** nature, one may wonder why the numerical values are so **different**:
0.10 for **woven** geotextile filters
0.55 for **nonwoven** geotextile filters.

The reason is that,
in **woven** geotextile filters,
most of the pore space
is used for flow,



whereas in **nonwoven** geotextile filters,
a significant fraction
of the pore space
is not used for flow.



The case of **granular** filters is intermediate,
because **particles** occupy
a larger fraction of the pore space
than **fibers** of a nonwoven geotextile.

As a result, among filters
having the same opening size,
the **same number of openings** per unit area
is achieved by:

Woven geotextile filters
with a relative open area
(i.e. *two-dimensional porosity*) of **10%**

Granular filters with a porosity of **20-30%**

Nonwoven geotextile filters
with a porosity of **55%**

The porosity criterion
has never been formulated
for **granular filters**
because all granular filters
have approximately the same porosity.

In contrast, the porosity criterion
is important for **geotextile filters**,
because there is
a **wide range** of porosities,
from 0.01 for some **woven** geotextiles
to 0.92 for some **nonwoven** geotextiles.

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Based on the analysis,
woven geotextiles with
a **relative open area less than 0.1**
should not be used as filters.

However,
many **woven geotextiles** have
a relative open area less than 0.1;
and some of them are used as filters
. . . with a high risk of clogging.

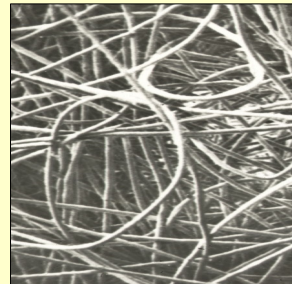
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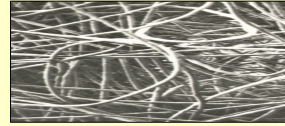
All **nonwoven geotextiles**
(even subjected to compressive stress)
meet the porosity criterion ($n \geq 0.55$),
because their porosity is typically
0.7-0.9 (uncompressed) and
0.6-0.8 (compressed).

In fact, in the case of
nonwoven geotextile filters,
the porosity criterion should be applied
to **uncompressed** geotextiles.

Indeed, a compressive stress
normal to the plane
of a nonwoven geotextile
does not change
the number of openings,



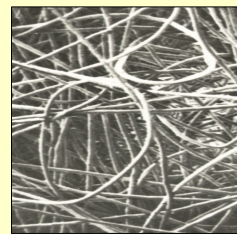
Indeed, a compressive stress
normal to the plane
of a nonwoven geotextile
does not change
the number of openings,



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Indeed, a compressive stress
normal to the plane
of a nonwoven geotextile
does not change
the number of openings,
and the calculations
presented earlier in this lecture
were performed
for a **quasi isotropic** geotextile,
which is representative of the
uncompressed state
of a nonwoven geotextile.



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**Remember that, for geotextiles,
two additional criteria are needed:**

- a criterion to ensure that
the number of openings is sufficient;
- a criterion to ensure that
the **filter thickness** is sufficient.

The discussion of filter thickness will address
nonwoven geotextile filters and granular filters.
*(Woven geotextile filters will not be considered
because thickness is not relevant in their case.)*

DEVELOPMENT OF A THICKNESS CRITERION FOR GEOTEXTILE FILTERS

(NONWOVEN GEOTEXTILES ONLY)

To understand the role of filter **thickness**, it is necessary to understand how a soil particle travels through a filter.

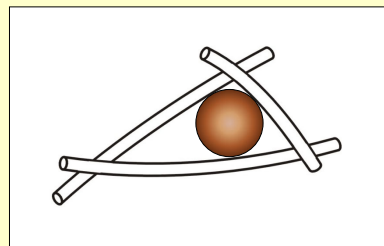
A soil particle that travels through a filter (any filter, granular or geotextile) must go through **narrow passages** called **constrictions**.

(A terminology proposed by Kenney.)

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In the case of a geotextile filter, a **constriction** is a passage between fibers.



The **size of a constriction** is the **diameter** of the **largest spherical particle** that passes through the constriction.

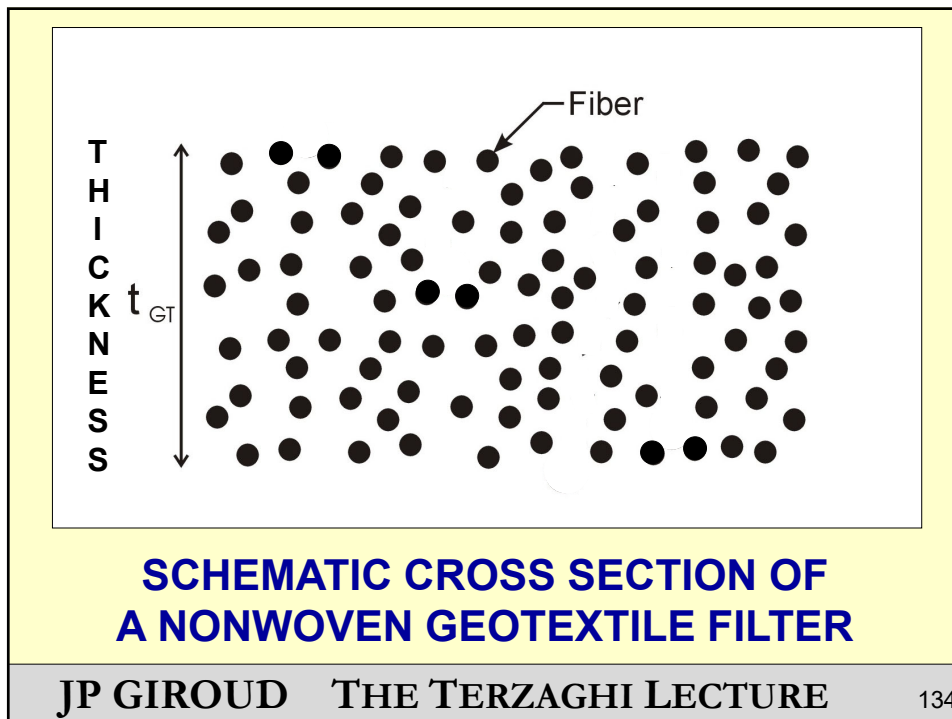
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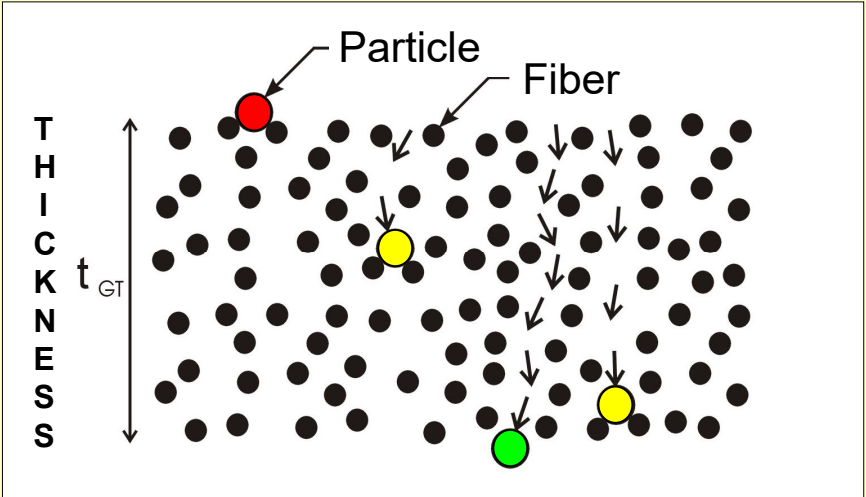
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A soil particle

that travels through a filter
moves from one constriction
to another,
thereby following a **filtration path**
(which is identical to a flow channel).

**The particle will be stopped
or will pass
depending on the size of constrictions
along the filtration path.**





THICKNESS t_{GT}


Particle

Fiber

Particles can be stopped on top (**RED**), stopped inside (**YELLOW**) or pass (**GREEN**).

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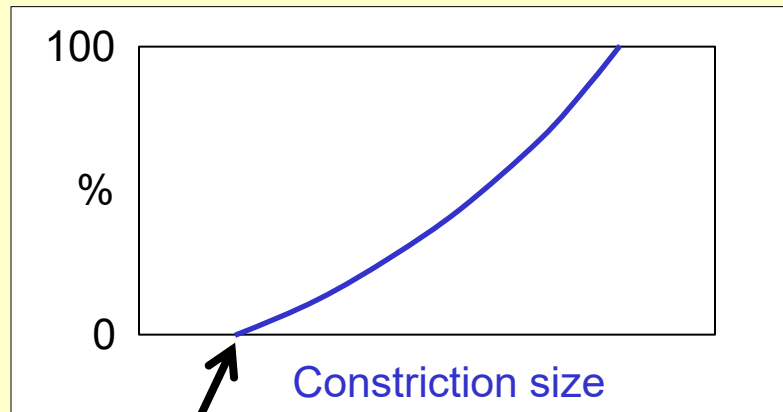
Consider the **nonwoven material** used to make a nonwoven geotextile.



This **material** is characterized by a constriction size distribution curve.

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CONSTRICTION SIZE DISTRIBUTION CURVE



**An important point on the curve
is the smallest constriction size.**

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The **constriction size distribution curve** is a characteristic of the **material** from which the geotextile is made.

The **constriction size distribution curve** **is not** a characteristic of the geotextile.

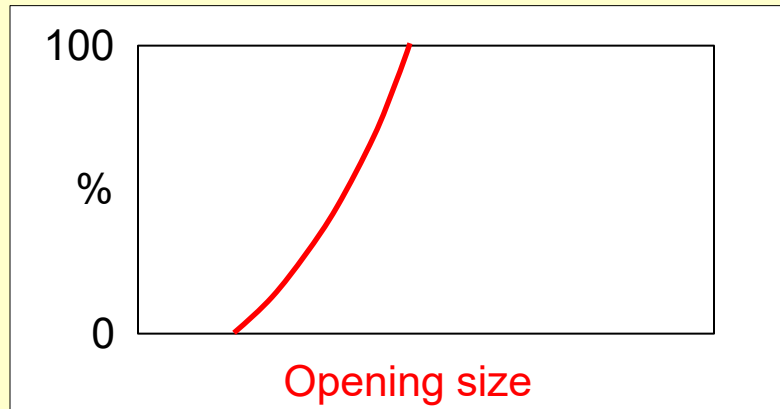
A geotextile filter, i.e. a nonwoven material **with a given thickness**, is characterized by another curve.

A geotextile filter is characterized by an **opening size distribution curve**.

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OPENING SIZE DISTRIBUTION CURVE



Why is there a curve and not a **single value** of the opening size (as for granular filters)?

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This is a legitimate question because, so far in this lecture, each geotextile filter has been characterized by a **unique opening size**.

To answer this question, a long demonstration is needed.

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Each filtration path contains
a number of constrictions.

A soil particle can go through the filter
if it is smaller than
the **smallest constriction** in a path.

Therefore,
each filtration path is characterized
by the **smallest constriction**
that exists in that path.

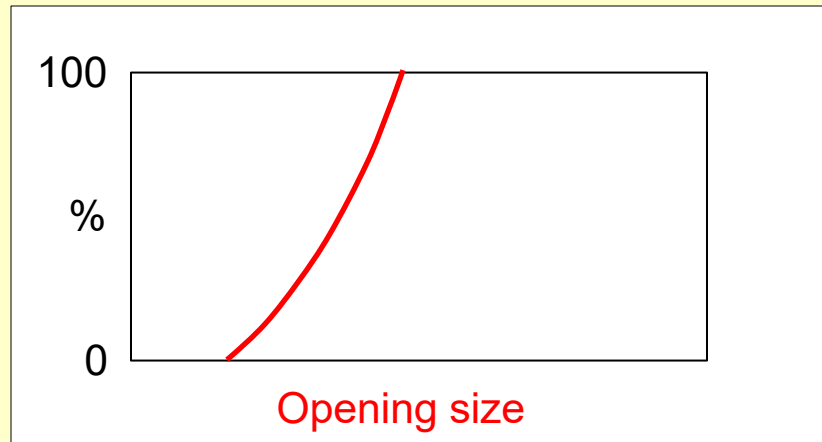
Thus, the **smallest constriction**
in a **given filtration path**
is the **opening size** of that filtration path.

In general, the smallest constriction
is **different** in each filtration path.

Therefore, each filtration path
has a **different** opening size.

As a result, a filter is characterized by
an **opening size distribution curve**.

Here again is the
**OPENING SIZE DISTRIBUTION CURVE
OF A FILTER**



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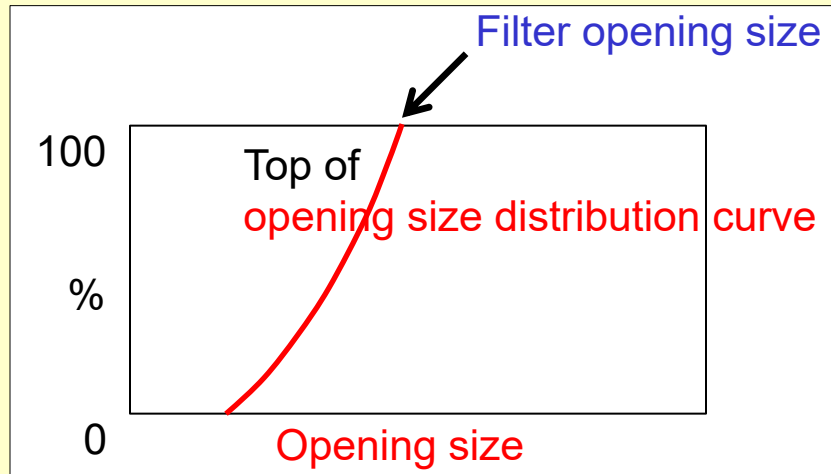
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Knowing that
the **opening size of a filter**
is defined as the diameter
of the largest sphere
that can pass through the filter,
it is possible to **visualize**
the opening size of the filter
on the
opening size distribution curve.

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The **opening size of the filter** is naturally the largest opening size of the filtration paths.



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What is the relationship between the **opening size distribution curve** (which characterizes a **filter** with a given thickness)

and

the **constriction size distribution curve** (which characterizes the filter **material**)?

Geometric considerations must be made.

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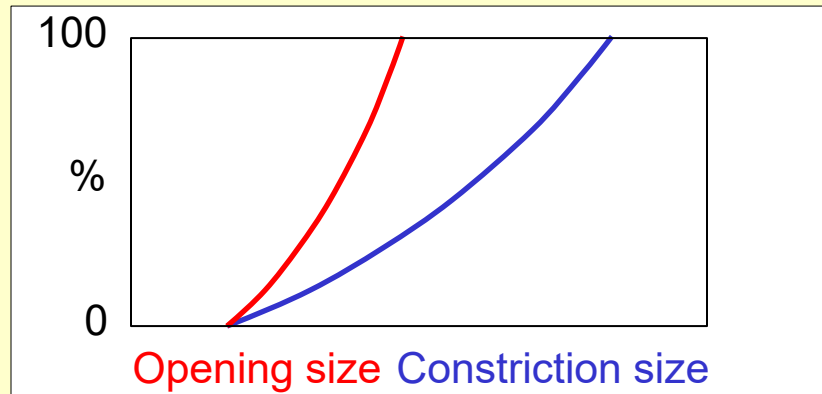
Geometric considerations:

- In a filter (granular or geotextile), there is a **very large number** of filtration paths (millions per m²).
- In a nonwoven geotextile filter, due to the limited thickness, there are **not many** constrictions in each filtration path (10 to 100).

Statistically the conclusion is:

- The smallest filtration path opening size **is** the smallest constriction size.
- The largest filtration path opening size **is not** the largest constriction size.

Accordingly, the two curves have the same origin,
but not the same top.



This demonstration may seem too quick,
but it is easier to understand using limit cases.

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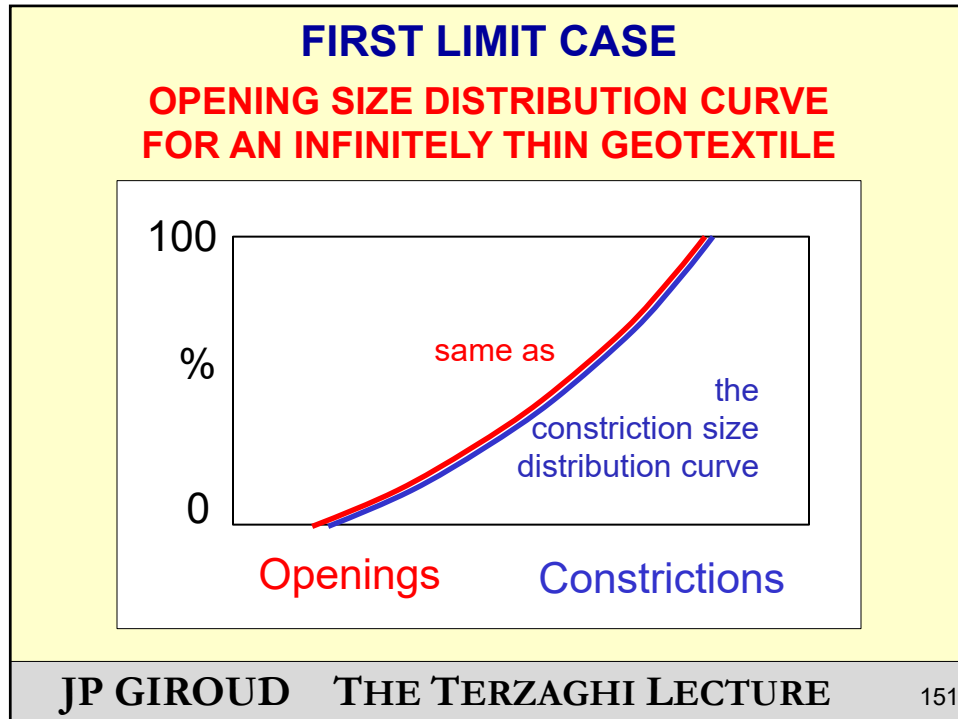
FIRST LIMIT CASE

If a filter has **quasi-zero thickness**,
there is only
one constriction per filtration path.

Therefore, in this case,
the opening size distribution curve
is the same as
the constriction size distribution curve.

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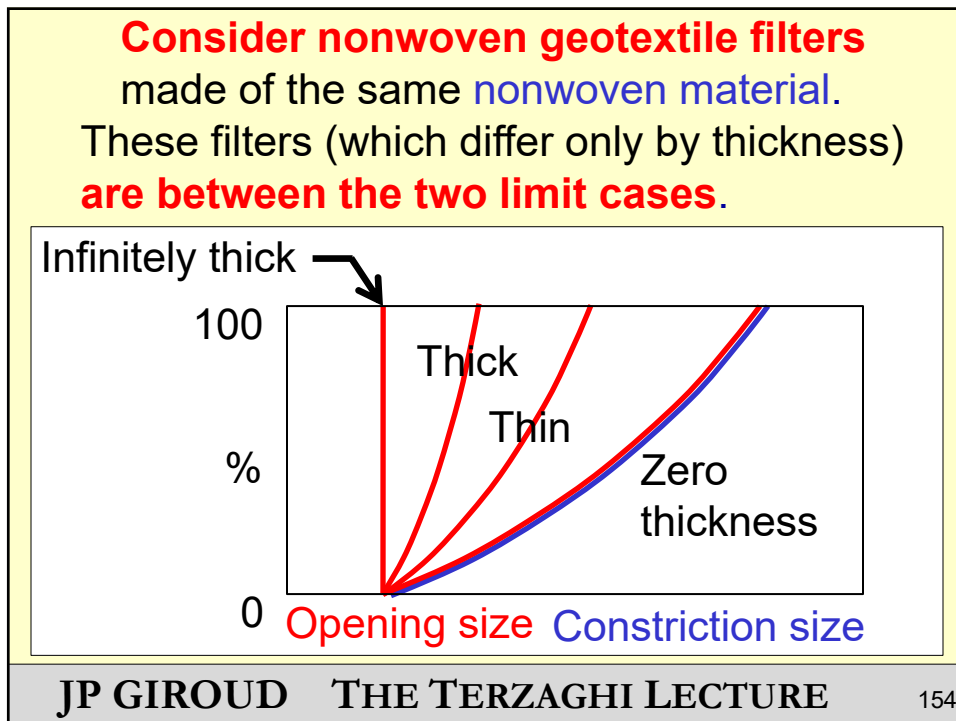
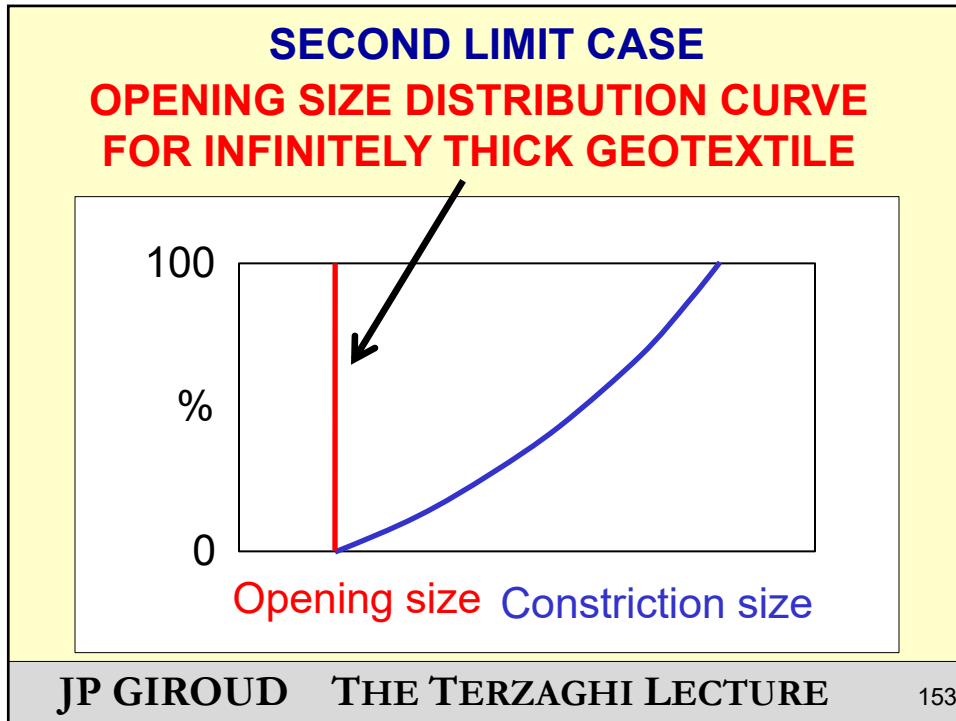
SECOND LIMIT CASE

If a filter has **infinite thickness**, the probability for having the **smallest constriction** in every filtration path is 100%.

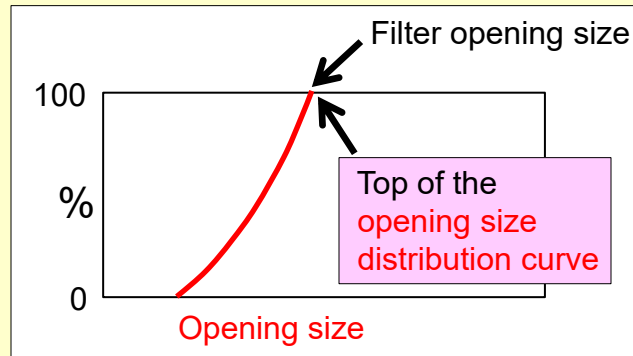
As a result, all the filtration paths have the **same opening size**, which is the smallest constriction size.

Therefore, in this case, the opening size distribution curve is a **vertical line**.

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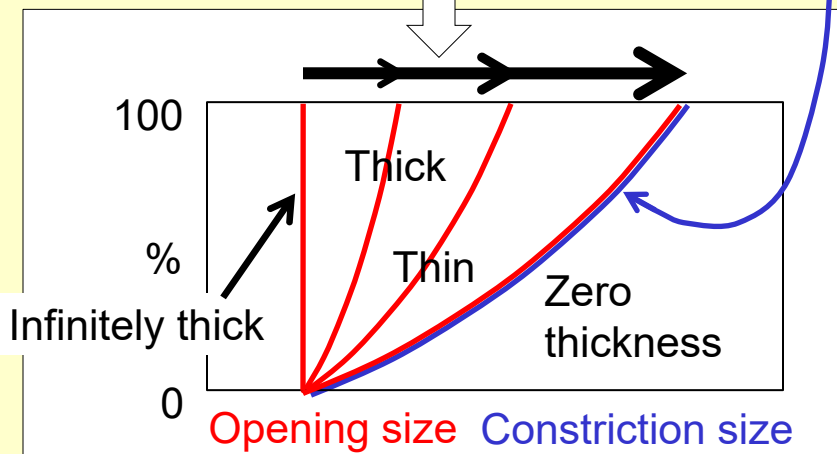


And, since the opening of a filter is the **top** of the opening size distribution curve . . .



it is possible to infer that . . .

For filters made of the **same material**, the **opening size** increases with decreasing thickness.



IMPORTANT CONCLUSION

For a given filter **material**
(characterized by a unique
constriction size distribution curve),
**the opening size of a filter
depends on its thickness.**

In fact, the opening size
decreases for increasing values
of the thickness of the filter.

This is true for all types of filters , but . . .

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From a practical standpoint,
there is a major difference
between **nonwoven geotextile filters**
and **granular filters**.

Granular filters have
a **quasi-infinite thickness**.

Therefore **granular filters**
made from the same granular material
have an **opening size**
that does not depend on thickness.

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From a practical standpoint,
there is a major difference
between **nonwoven geotextile filters**
and **granular filters**.

Whereas
nonwoven geotextile filters
made from the same nonwoven material
have an opening size
that depends on thickness.

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So far, in this lecture, the impact
of **geotextile thickness**
on filter opening size
has been discussed qualitatively.

However, this impact
can be evaluated quantitatively.

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I have proposed this relationship
between
nonwoven geotextile **opening size**
and nonwoven geotextile **thickness**.

$$\frac{O_F}{d_f} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-n}} - 1 + \frac{10n}{(1-n)t_{GT}/d_f}$$

O_F = opening size; t_{GT} = geotextile thickness;
 n = porosity of the geotextile; d_f = fiber diameter

Equation developed theoretically
and checked using experimental data

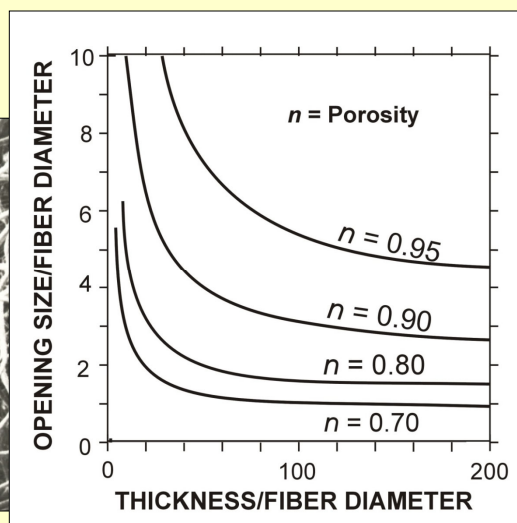
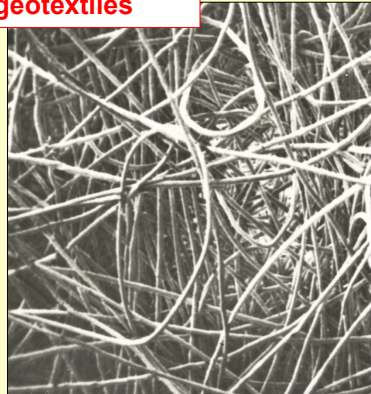
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The relationship is a **family of curves** that give

Opening size/Fiber diameter vs. Geotextile thickness/Fiber diameter

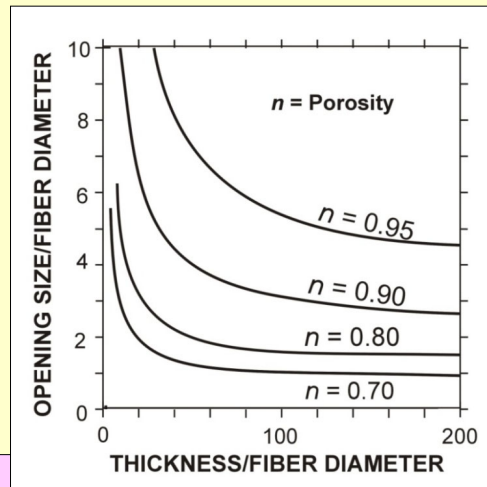
For nonwoven
geotextiles



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Consistent with what we have just discussed, we see on the graph that:

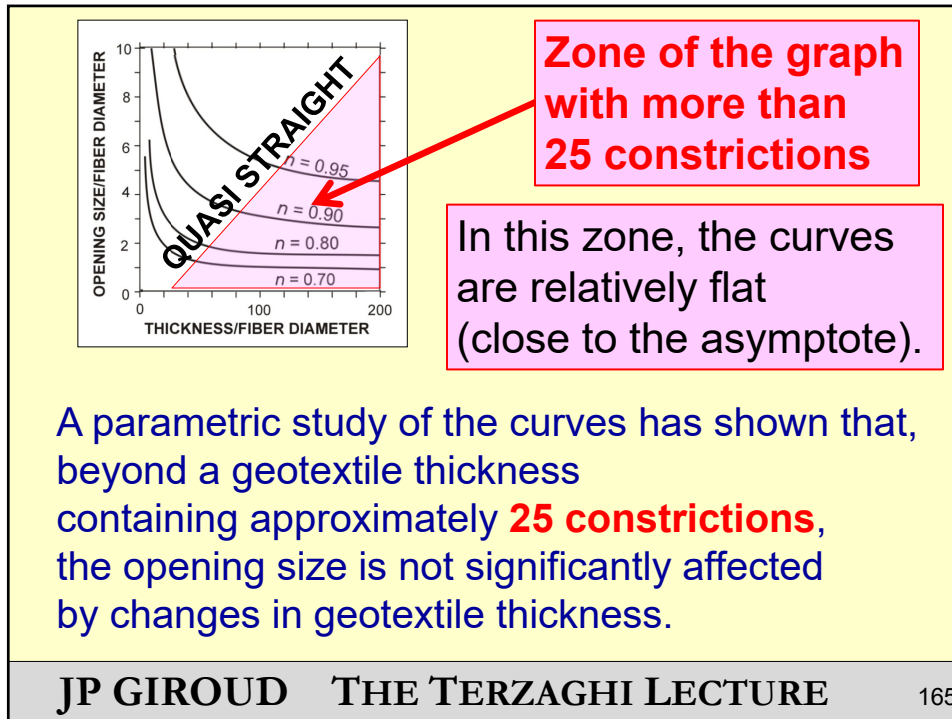


For a given porosity (i.e. for a given nonwoven material under a given normal stress), the geotextile filter **opening size decreases** for increasing values of the geotextile **thickness**.

Based on the same analysis:
The **number of constrictions** through a nonwoven geotextile filter can be calculated using:

$$N_{constrictions} = \frac{\mu_{GT}}{\rho_f d_f \sqrt{1-n}}$$

where: μ_{GT} = mass per unit area of geotextile
 n = porosity of geotextile
 ρ_f = fiber density
 d_f = fiber diameter



Therefore, to be reliable, a nonwoven geotextile filter should have a thickness that corresponds to at least 25 constrictions.

This is the thickness criterion.

It is **convenient to express the thickness in terms of numbers of constrictions**, so the criterion is independent of geotextile porosity and fiber diameter.

The ASTM standard D 7178 on filters uses this work.

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In summary, **four filter criteria**
have been established
for geotextile filters:

- Permeability criterion
- Retention criterion
- Porosity criterion
- Thickness criterion

A last question is . . .

**Do the four criteria form
a complete set of filter criteria?**

- Filtration is governed by filter openings.
- The characteristics of filter openings are
the **size**, **shape**,
density (number per unit area)
and **distribution**.
- The four criteria address
three of these four characteristics:
the **size**, **density** and **distribution**.

Do the four criteria form
a complete set of filter criteria?

- The **shape** of filter openings is not addressed in the four criteria.
- The shape of filter openings is likely to be a **minor consideration** in the case of materials with a **quasi-random structure** such as **granular** filters and **nonwoven geotextile** filters.

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Do the four criteria form
a complete set of filter criteria?

- In contrast, the shape of openings may be a relevant issue in the case of some **woven geotextiles** and some other types of man-made filters (such as perforated plates).

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Do the four criteria form
a complete set of filter criteria?

- Clearly, more work is needed on the impact of the shape of filter openings on the performance of filters.
- In the meantime, the set of four criteria discussed in this lecture can be considered complete, at least for granular and nonwoven filters.

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Furthermore,
the set of four criteria
discussed in this lecture
is a **coherent set of criteria**,
because it addresses only
parameters that are **relevant**
to the filtration function.

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Other types of requirements, such as **strength** requirements (called survivability requirements) and **durability** requirements, which are sometimes presented as part of geotextile filter criteria, **are not filter criteria** because they are not intrinsic to the filtration function.
(They can be used for geotextiles performing other functions.)

This is the end of the presentation of research on filter criteria conducted over thirty years.

And, now a case history . . .

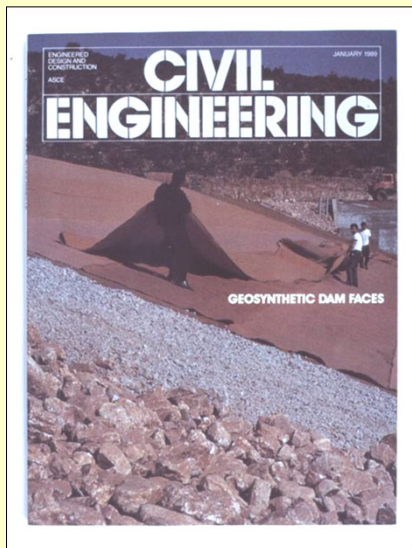
A case history
that has been cited
by various authors
in several publications.

THE FIRST GEOTEXTILE FILTER IN A DAM

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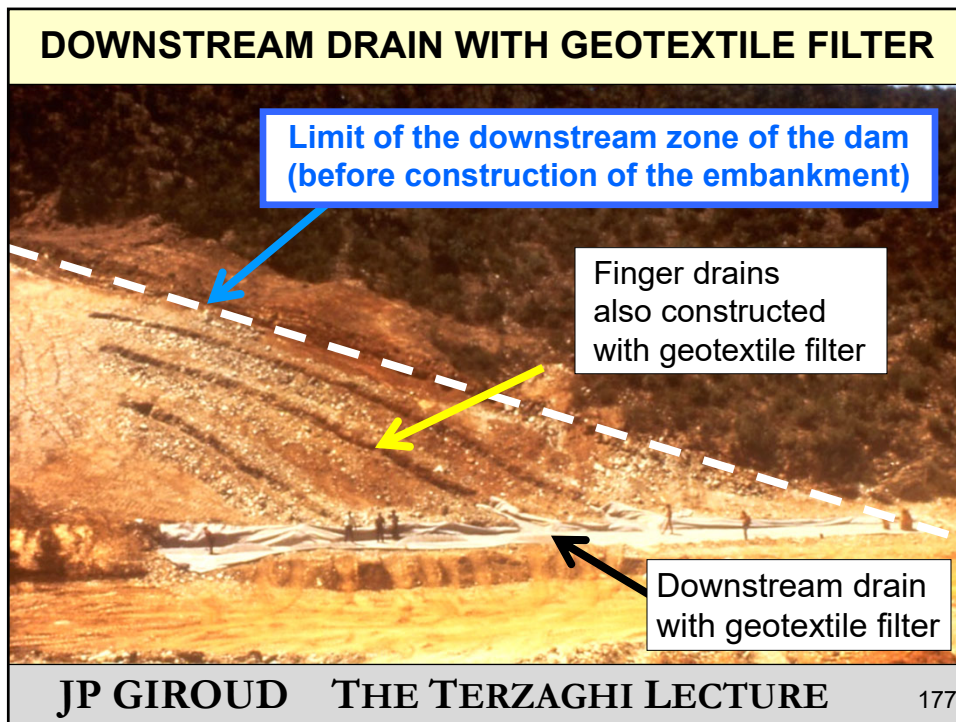
VALCROS DAM, FRANCE (1970)



In 1989, this dam
was on the cover of
CIVIL ENGINEERING.
Almost 20 years before,
it had been
the first dam constructed
with geotextiles:
on the upstream slope,
as we see here,
but, more importantly . . .

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- 17 m high homogeneous dam
- Silty sand, 30% < 0.075 mm
- I was the design engineer for the dam and I could not get adequate sand filter.
- I elected to use a **nonwoven geotextile** (never used before as a filter).

The dam has been in service ever since 1970.



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The performance has been satisfactory:

- **Constant trickle of clean water.**
- **Flow rate** consistent with the hydraulic conductivity of the embankment soil.
- **No seepage** of water ever observed through the downstream slope.
- **Geotextile filter** in good condition and **clogging absolutely negligible** (0.2% of the pore volume of the geotextile).

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as demonstrated by tests on samples of geotextile removed from the actual filter, 6 years and 22 years after construction.

**VALCROS DAM
DOWNSTREAM
SLOPE**

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VALCROS DAM

The outstanding performance of the geotextile filter can be explained.

FIRST COMMENT

Fortunately, the Valcros Dam filter was not designed using classical filter criteria.

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In reality, I did not use filter criteria
to select the geotextile filter for Valcros Dam.

I selected the geotextile
on the basis of limited experimental data
available at that time (1970).

Therefore, some degree of luck was involved
in the success of the Valcros Dam filter.

Ten years later, in the 1980s,
I felt compelled to “repay” for that luck
and started working on filter criteria.

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Today,
we can finally use
geotextile filter criteria
for Valcros Dam.

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It is easy to check that:

- the permeability criterion,
- the porosity criterion, and
- the thickness criterion

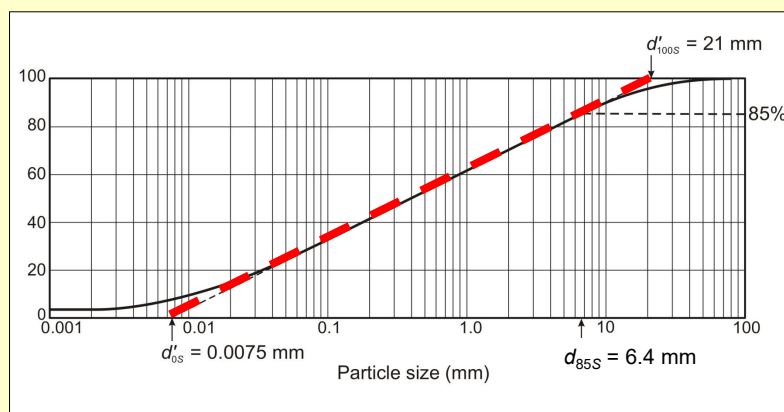
are met.

Only the retention criterion
will be discussed.

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VALCROS DAM
PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION CURVE

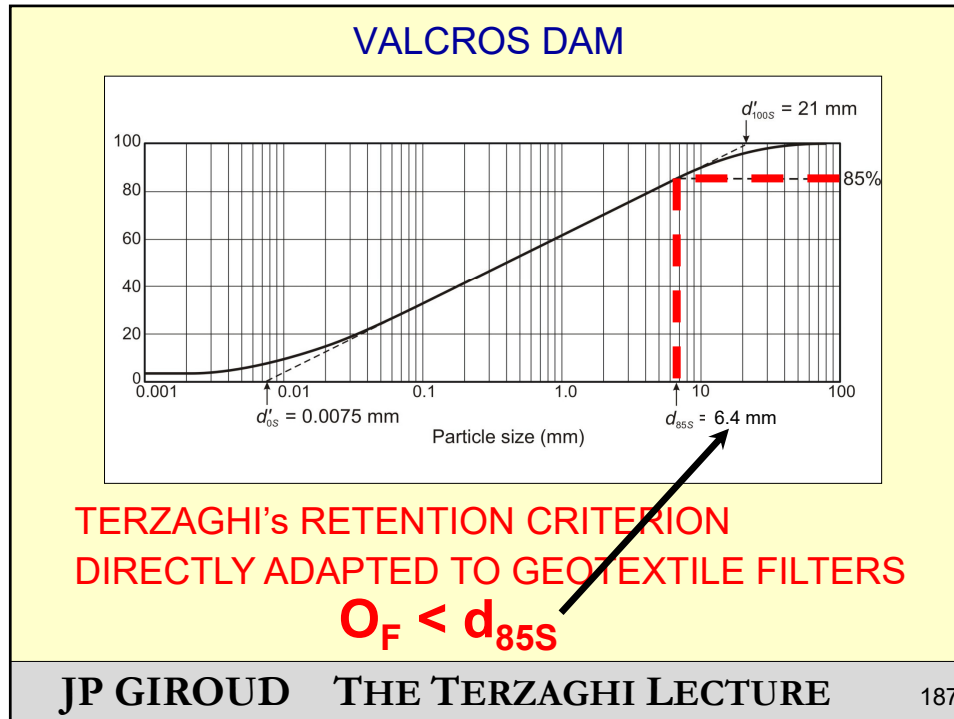


COEFFICIENT OF UNIFORMITY **$C_u = 90$**

LINEAR COEFFICIENT OF UNIFORMITY **$C'_u = 53$**

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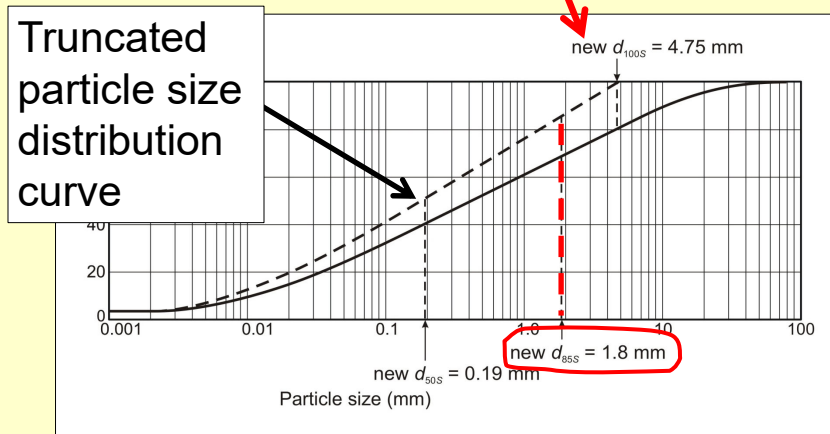
An opening size of 6.4 mm
is very large.

Such an opening size
does not seem adequate
to retain a silty sand.

The problem is caused by
the **large coefficient of uniformity**
of the silty sand.

This problem with **large coefficient of uniformity** is known by geotechnical engineers.

Traditional solution: TRUNCATION



An opening size of 1.8 mm is still very large and does not seem adequate to retain a silty sand.

One may object that, so far, I used the retention criterion for **cohesionless soils**, whereas the soil in Valcros Dam has 30% particles smaller than 0.075 mm, which may generate some cohesion.

Sherard proposed a retention criterion depending on the percentage of particles smaller than 0.075 mm.

I used Sherard's criterion and obtained: **2.67 mm**.

This is very large.

Then, I used Sherard's criterion with the **truncated** particle size distribution curve.

I obtained: 0.83 mm.

This is still very large.

The soil in Valcros Dam seems to defy all retention criteria.

Use of the proposed retention criterion

Soil density (Relative density)	Linear coefficient of uniformity of the soil C'_u	
	$1 \leq C'_u \leq 3$	$C'_u \geq 3$
loose ($I_D \leq 35\%$)	$O_F \leq (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{1}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
medium dense ($35\% < I_D \leq 65\%$)	$O_F \leq 1.5 (C'_u)^{0.3} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{1.5}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$
dense ($I_D > 65\%$)	$O_F \leq \frac{1.5}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$	$O_F \leq \frac{18}{(C'_u)^{1.7}} d_{85S}$

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USE OF THE PROPOSED RETENTION CRITERION

$$O_F \leq \frac{18 d_{85S}}{(C'_u)^{1.7}}$$

Equation for dense soil
and coefficient of uniformity ≥ 3

Application to the Valcros Dam soil

with $d_{85S} = 6.4$ mm and $C'_u = 53$

$$O_F \leq \frac{(18)(6.4)}{(53)^{1.7}} = 0.135 \text{ mm}$$

Application to the **truncated** particle size distribution curve

with $d_{85S} = 1.8$ mm and $C'_u = 25$

$$O_F \leq \frac{(18)(1.8)}{(25)^{1.7}} = 0.135 \text{ mm}$$

Same result with or without truncation.

This remarkable result confirms the validity of the proposed retention criterion.

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Clearly, the potentially inaccurate operation of **truncation** of the particle size distribution curve is **not needed** with the proposed retention criterion.

This has just been shown in the case of a **geotextile filter**; it could be shown in the case of a **granular filter**.

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In conclusion, the required value of the Valcros Dam geotextile filter opening size is **0.135 mm**.

This seems more reasonable, for a silty sand, than the values obtained with other criteria:
6.4 mm, 2.7 mm, 1.8 mm and 0.8 mm.

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The opening size
of the geotextile filter
measured on samples
taken from the dam
is **0.1 mm**.

Therefore,
the retention criterion
($O_F \leq \mathbf{0.135 \text{ mm}}$)
is met.

The **opening size** of the Valcros Dam filter
can be **calculated**

knowing the physical characteristics of the filter

$$\mu_{GT} = 0.3 \text{ kg/m}^2, \rho_f = 1380 \text{ kg/m}^3, d_f = 0.027 \text{ mm}, n = 0.92$$

using an equation presented earlier
in this lecture:

$$\frac{O_F}{d_f} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-n}} - 1 + \frac{10n\rho_f d_f}{\mu_{GT}}$$

which gives:
0.099 mm

This is in good agreement with
the measured value of 0.1 mm.

It is useful to be able to **calculate**
the **opening size of a nonwoven** geotextile filter
knowing that its measurement is often inaccurate.

More importantly the calculation
makes it possible
to **predict the opening size**
of a nonwoven geotextile filter
in its **compressed state** inside a dam,

which is quasi impossible
to measure in the laboratory.

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CONCLUSION OF THE VALCROS DAM CASE HISTORY

The geotextile filter
has performed well since 1970.

The **four filter criteria are met**,
which is consistent
with the good performance.

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SUMMARY

- We have reviewed the two classical filter criteria, the **permeability** criterion and the **retention** criterion, for both granular and geotextile filters.
- We have added two criteria for geotextile filters: the **porosity** criterion and the **thickness** criterion.

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CONCLUSION FOR GEOTEXTILE FILTERS

The four proposed criteria for geotextile filters form a **coherent set of criteria** that allow safe design of geotextile filters.

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CONCLUSION FOR GRANULAR FILTERS

The retention criterion
for **granular** filters
can be improved
based on developments
made for the retention criterion
of **geotextile** filters.

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Therefore,

What started as **technology transfer
from geotechnical engineering
to geosynthetics engineering**

has resulted in **technology transfer
from geosynthetics engineering
to geotechnical engineering.**

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I am sure that Terzaghi would have agreed that his famous filter criteria were not frozen forever, but, rather, could lead to new developments.

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I am sure that Terzaghi would have agreed that, with a new filter material, the geotextile, it was not sufficient to simply adapt his criteria, but it was necessary to review the fundamentals of filtration, and develop new criteria.

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**Just imitating the great masters
is not the best approach
to solving modern problems.**

**We do not have to do today
what Terzaghi would have
done 50 years ago.**

**We need to do today
what Terzaghi would do today.**

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Thank you

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