

P.E. Civil Exam Review:
GEOMECHANICS

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GEOMECHANICS



National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying

<http://www.ncees.org/>

The screenshot shows the NCEES website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The browser's address bar displays <http://www.ncees.org/>. The website's header features the NCEES logo and navigation tabs for ABOUT NCEES, EXAMS, RECORDS, LICENSURE, CREDENTIALS EVALUATIONS, and LICENSING BOARDS. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome to NCEES:** A paragraph describing NCEES as a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing professional licensure for engineers and surveyors. A link for [More About NCEES >](#) is provided.
- NCEES News:** A section with three news items:
 - Update on October 2010 exam results:** All exam results have been released to state boards. [more >](#)
 - February 2011 Licensure Exchange:** Read the latest issue of Licensure Exchange. [more >](#)
 - NCEES approves new engineering education standard for credentials evaluations:** NCEES will begin using new standard January 1, 2011. [more >](#)A link for [All News >](#) is at the bottom.
- FE, FS, PE, and PS study materials:** A large banner featuring a woman thinking, with the text "FE, FS, PE, and PS study materials" and "Start studying for your exam today >".
- Students:** Learn about the licensure process and what comes next. [more >](#)
- Engineers:** Find out more about engineering licensure, including the path to the P.E. [more >](#)
- Surveyors:** Find out how to become a licensed surveyor. [more >](#)
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- Educators:** Learn about resources for those who teach engineering or surveying. [more >](#)
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On the right side of the page, there are three promotional boxes:

- Next challenge? The PE/PS. We've got your edge.** Study materials for the FE, FS, PE, and PS. [more >](#)
- Meet a higher standard.** Compete at a higher level. Get licensed. [more >](#)
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STUDY REFERENCES

- Foundation Engineering; Peck Hanson & Thornburn
- Introductory Soil Mechanics and Foundations; Sowers
- NAVFAC Design Manuals DM-7.1 & 7.2
- Foundation Analysis and Design; Bowles
- Practical Foundation Engineering Handbook; Brown

Soil Classification Systems

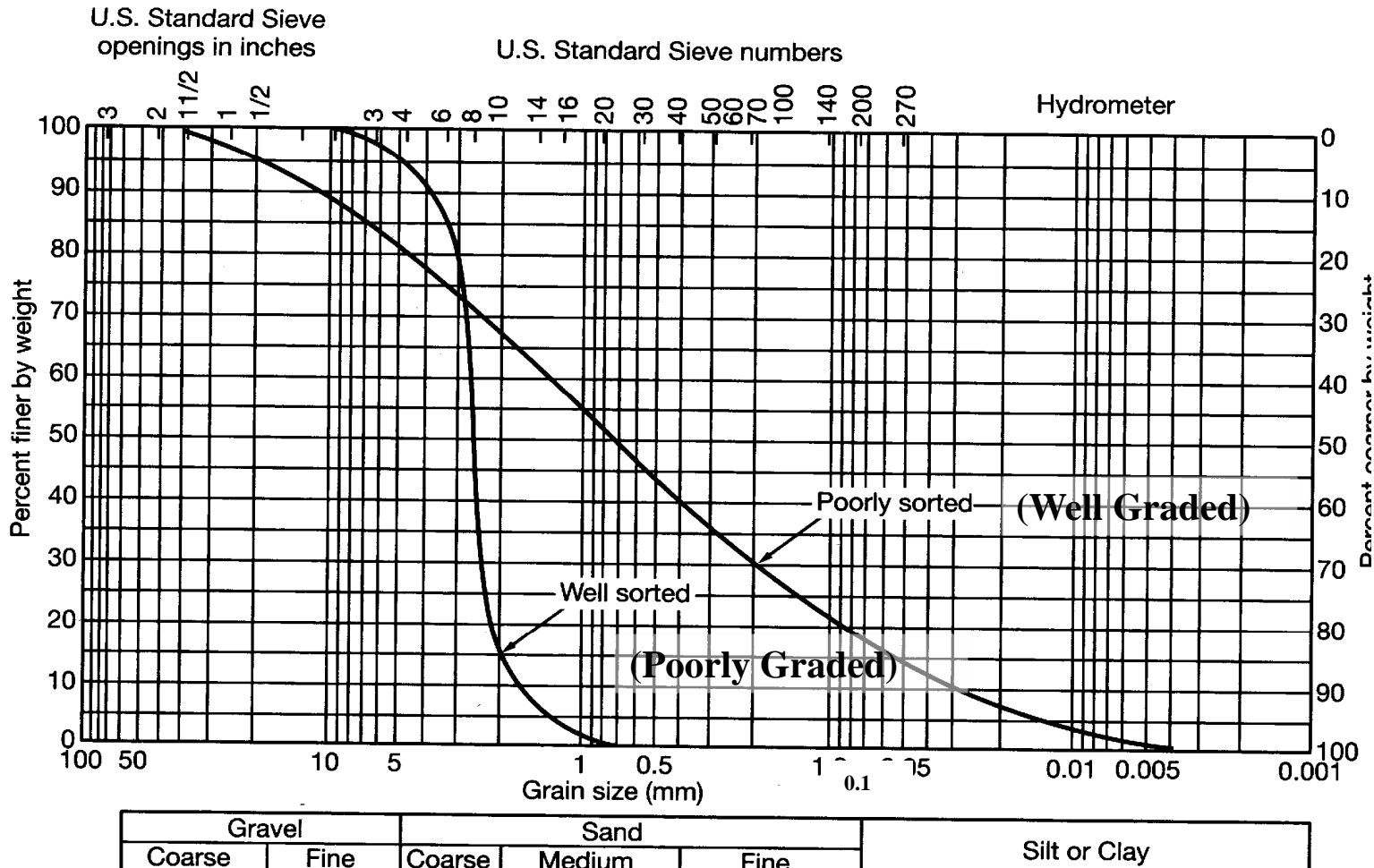
*** Unified Soil Classification System**

*** AASHTO**

Need: Particle Sizes and Atterberg Limits



Particle Sizes (Sieve Analysis)



Atterberg Limits

Liquid, Plastic & Shrinkage Limits

Plasticity Index (PI)

$$\text{PI} = \text{Liquid Limit} - \text{Plastic Limit}$$

(range of moisture content over which soil is plastic or malleable)

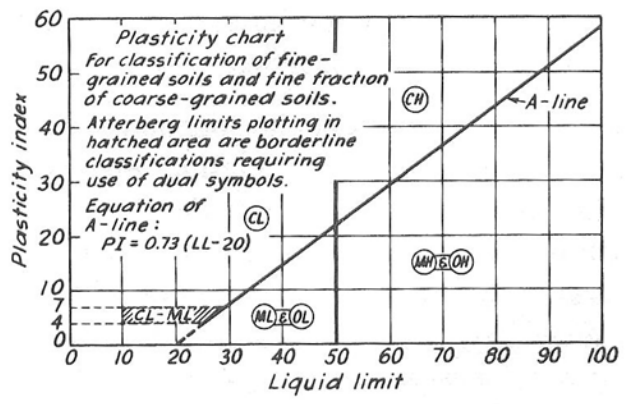
UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

ASTM D-2487

Major Divisions	Group Symbols	Typical Names	Classification Criteria		
Coarse-Grained Soils More than 50% retained on No. 200 sieve	Gravels 50% or more of coarse fraction retained on No. 4 sieve	Clean Gravels	GW Well-graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	$C_u = D_{60}/D_{10}$ Greater than 4 $C_z = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3 Not meeting both criteria for GW	
		Gravels with Fines	GP Poorly graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines		
		Gravels with Fines	GM Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures		
	Sands More than 50% of coarse fraction passes No. 4 sieve	Clean Sands	GC Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures	Atterberg limits plot above "A" line and plasticity index greater than 7	
			SW Well-graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines	$C_u = D_{60}/D_{10}$ Greater than 6 $C_z = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3 Not meeting both criteria for SW	
		Sands with Fines	SP Poorly graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines	Atterberg limits plot below "A" line or plasticity index less than 4	Atterberg limits plotting in hatched area are borderline classifications requiring use of dual symbols
			SM Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures	Atterberg limits plot above "A" line and plasticity index greater than 7	
			SC Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures		
			ML Inorganic silts, very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands		
			CL Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays		
Fine-Grained Soils 50% or more passes No. 200 sieve	Sands and Clays Liquid limit 50% or less	OL Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity			
		MH Inorganic silts, micaceous or diatomaceous fine sands or silts, elastic silts			
	Sils and Clays Liquid limit greater than 50%	CH Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays			
		OH Organic clays of medium to high plasticity			
Highly organic soils	Pt	Peat, muck and other highly organic soils	Visual-manual identification		

Classification on basis of percentage of fines
 GW, GP, SW, SP
 GM, GC, SM, SC
 Borderline classification requiring use of dual symbols

Less than 5% Pass No. 200 sieve
 More than 12% Pass No. 200 sieve
 5% to 12% Pass No. 200 sieve



Group Symbols	Typical Names	Classification Criteria
<i>GW</i>	Well-graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	$C_u = D_{60}/D_{10}$ Greater than 4 $C_z = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3
<i>GP</i>	Poorly graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Not meeting both criteria for <i>GW</i>
<i>GM</i>	Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures	Atterberg limits plot below "A" line or plasticity index less than 4
<i>GC</i>	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures	Atterberg limits plot above "A" line and plasticity index greater than 7
<i>SW</i>	Well-graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines	$C_u = D_{60}/D_{10}$ Greater than 6 $C_z = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ Between 1 and 3
<i>SP</i>	Poorly graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines	Not meeting both criteria for <i>SW</i>
<i>SM</i>	Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures	Atterberg limits plot below "A" line or plasticity index less than 4
<i>SC</i>	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures	Atterberg limits plot above "A" line and plasticity index greater than 7

Classification on basis of percentage of fines

Less than 5% Pass No. 200 sieve
 More than 12% Pass No. 200 sieve
 5% to 12% Pass No. 200 sieve

GW, GP, SW, SP
GM, GC, SM, SC

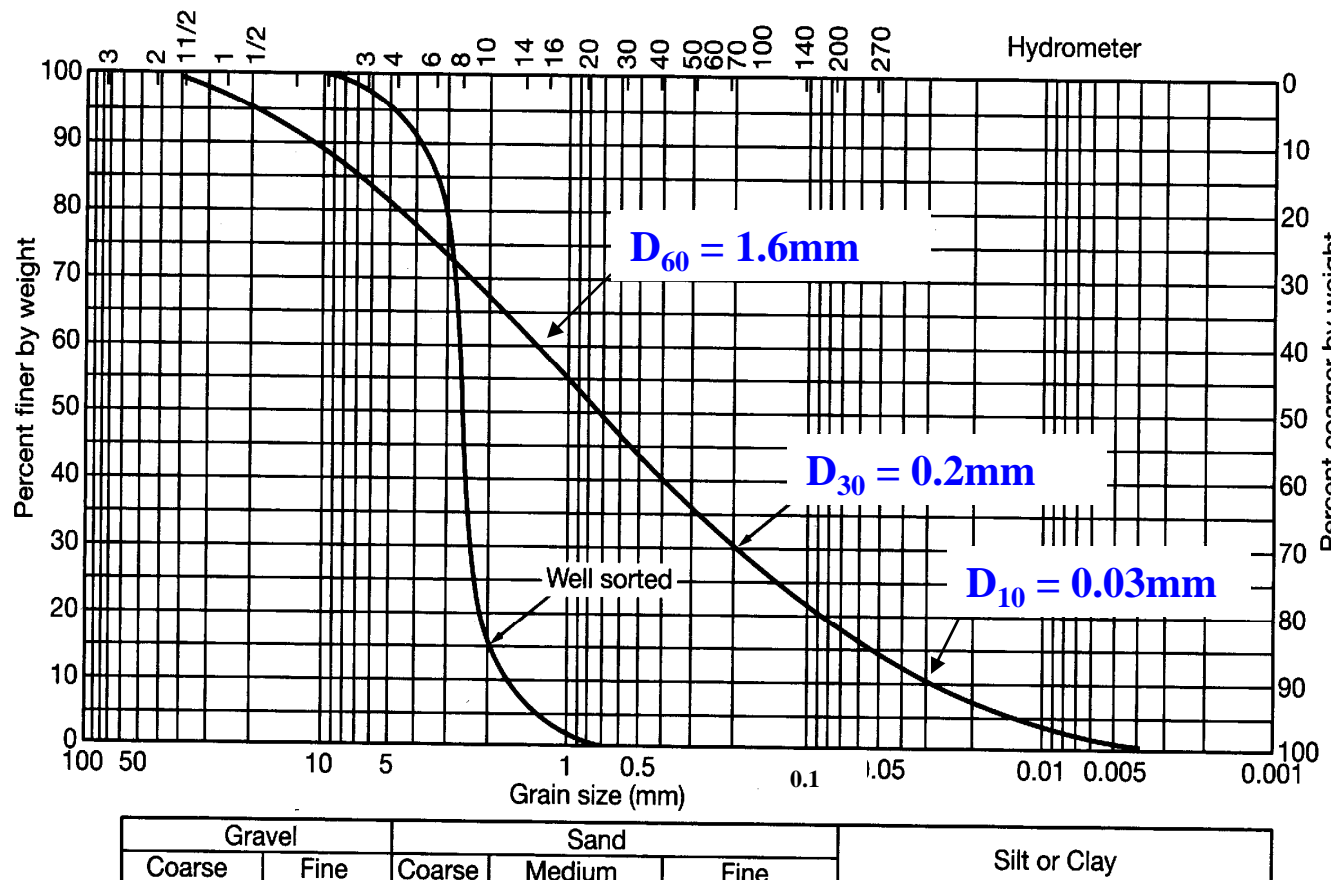
Borderline classification
 requiring use of dual symbols

Atterberg limits plotting in hatched area are borderline classifications requiring use of dual symbols

Atterberg limits plotting in hatched area are borderline classifications requiring use of dual symbols

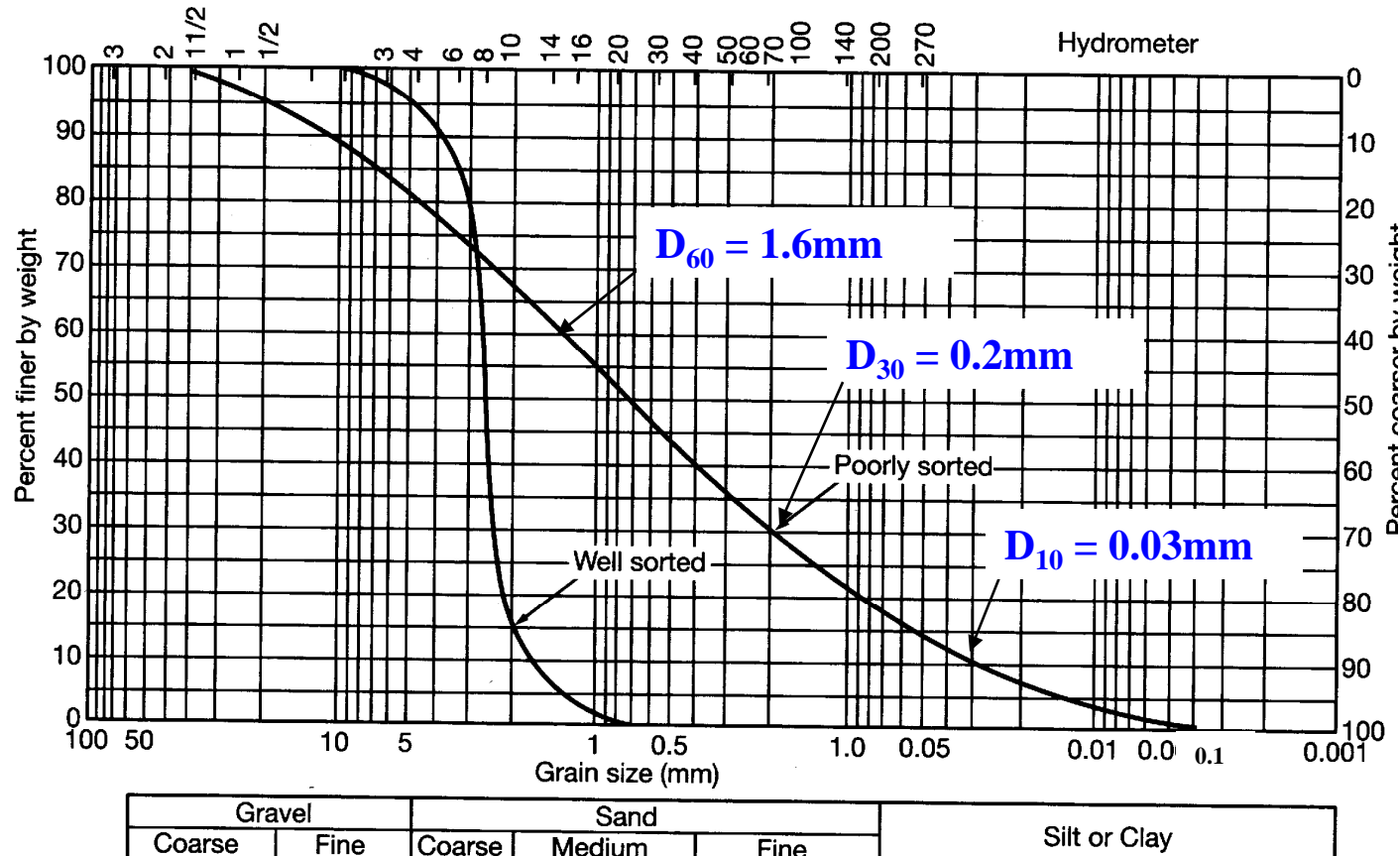
Effective Size = D_{10}

10 percent of the sample is finer than this size



Uniformity Coefficient (C_u) = D_{60}/D_{10}

Coefficient of Curvature (C_z) = $(D_{30})^2/(D_{10} \times D_{60})$



Well Graded - Requirements

50% coarser than No. 200 sieve

Uniformity Coefficient (Cu) D60/D10

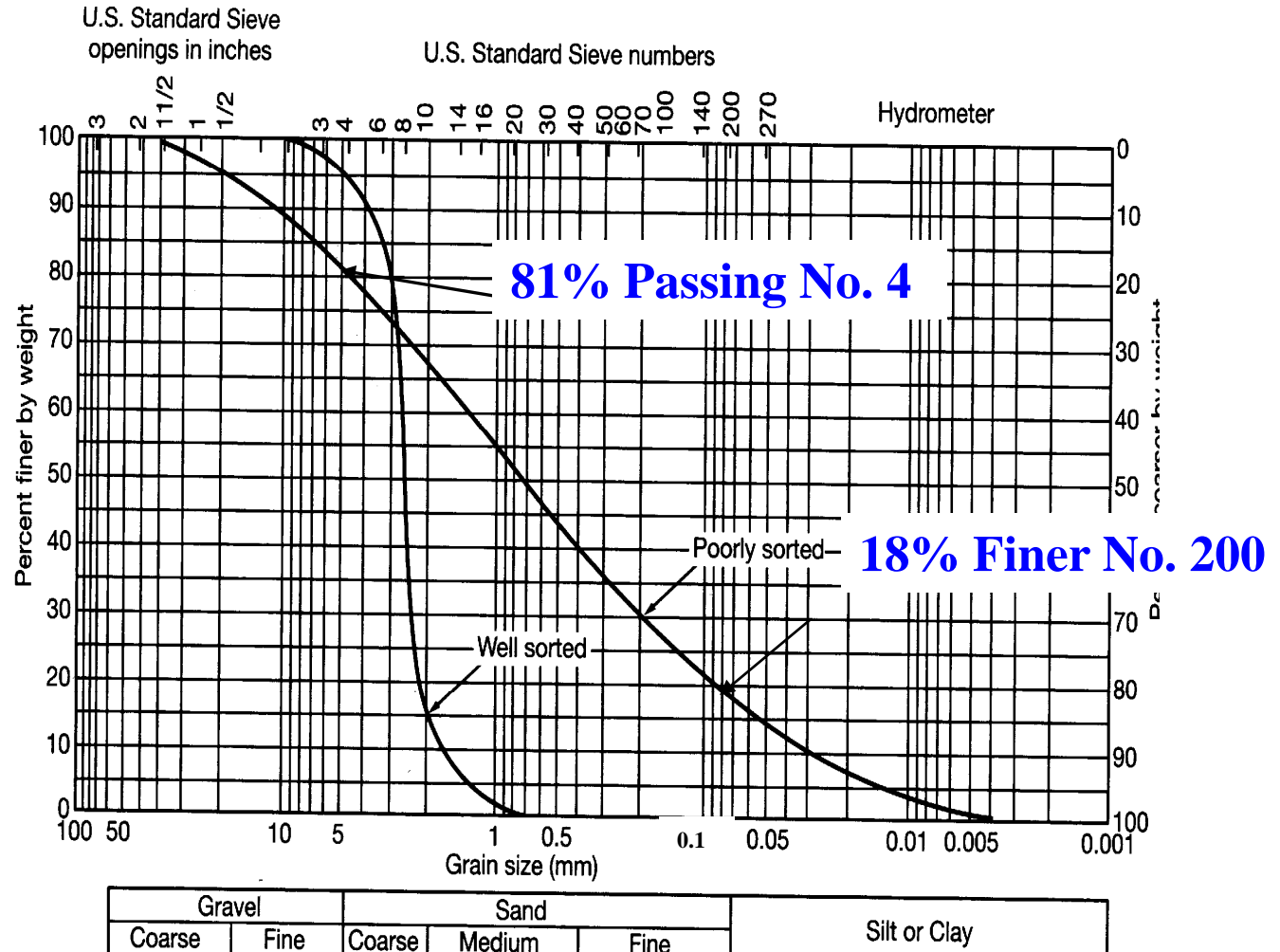
≥ 4 for Gravel

≥ 6 for Sand

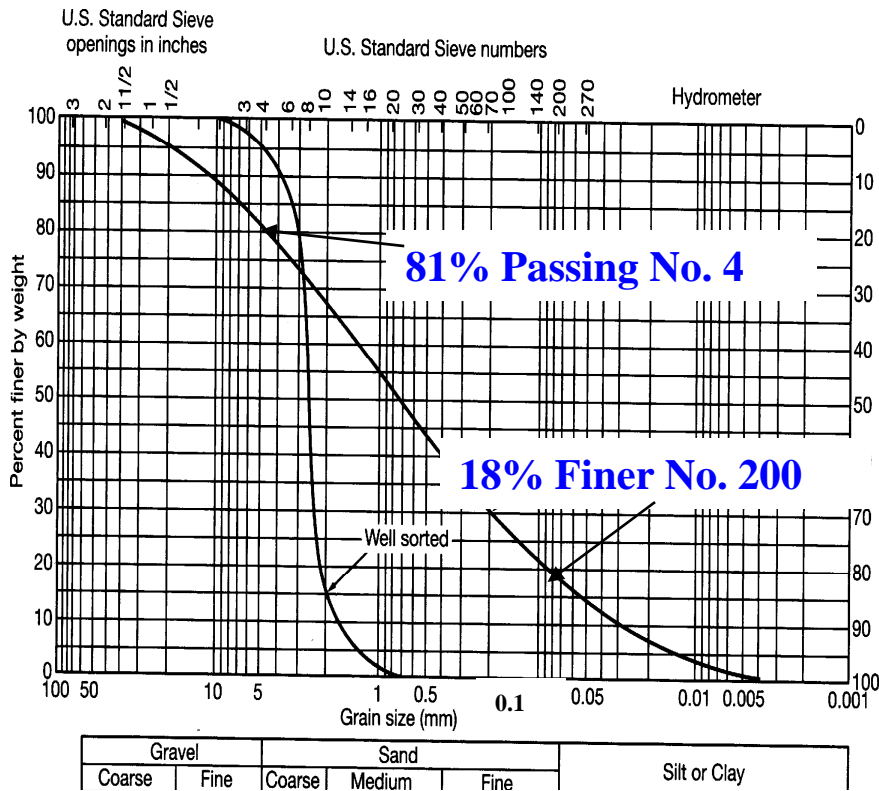
Coefficient of Curvature (Cz)

$= (D30)^2 / (D10 \times D60) = 1 \text{ to } 3$

Is the better graded material a gravel?



Gravel if > 50 Percent Coarse Fraction retained on No. 4 sieve



% Retained on No. 200 = 82%

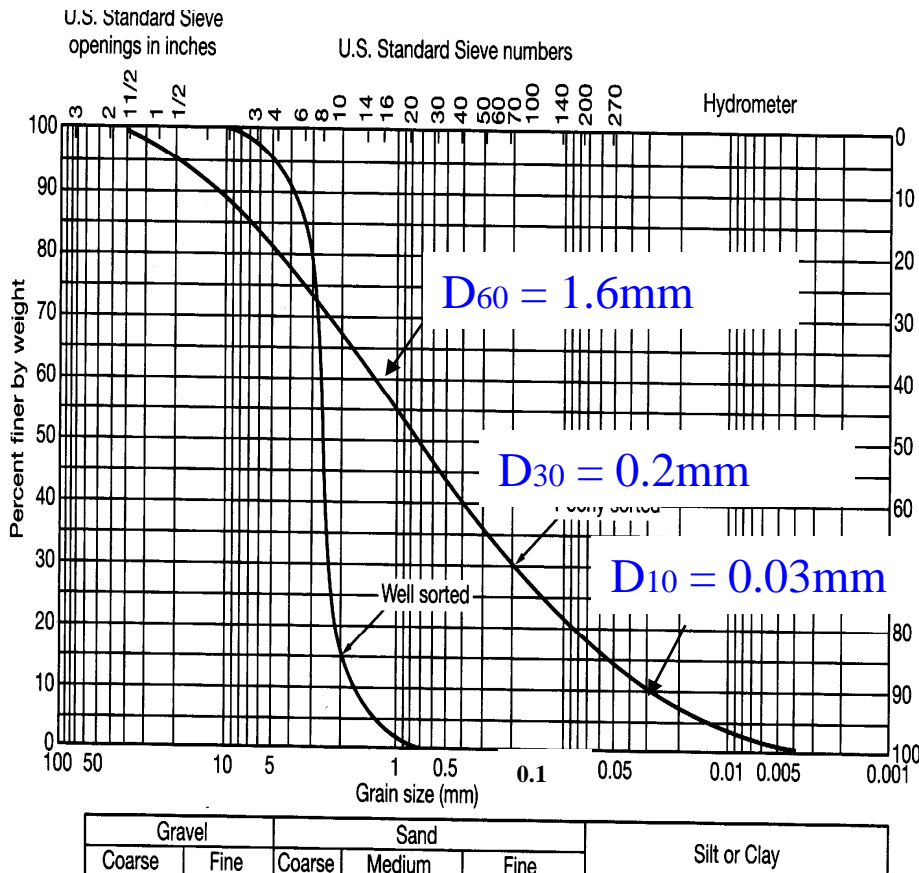
1/2 = 41%

19% (100-81) retained on No. 4 sieve (gravel)

19 < 41 half of coarse fraction

∴ sand (“S”)

Well Graded Sand?



Uniformity Coefficient (Cu)

must be ≥ 6

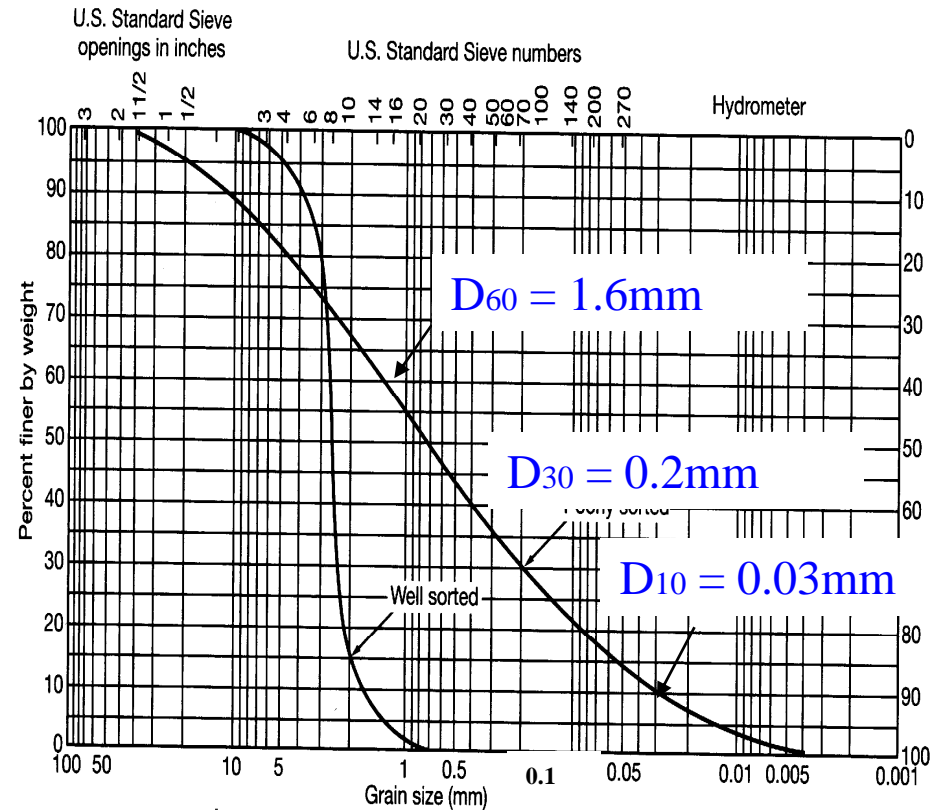
$$= D_{60}/D_{10}$$

Coefficient of Curvature (Cz)

must = 1 to 3

$$= (D_{30})^2/(D_{10} \times D_{60})$$

Well Graded Sand?



Gravel		Sand			Silt or Clay
Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	

Uniformity Coefficient (Cu)

$$D_{60}/D_{10} = 1.6/.03 = 53 > 6$$

Coefficient of Curvature (Cz)

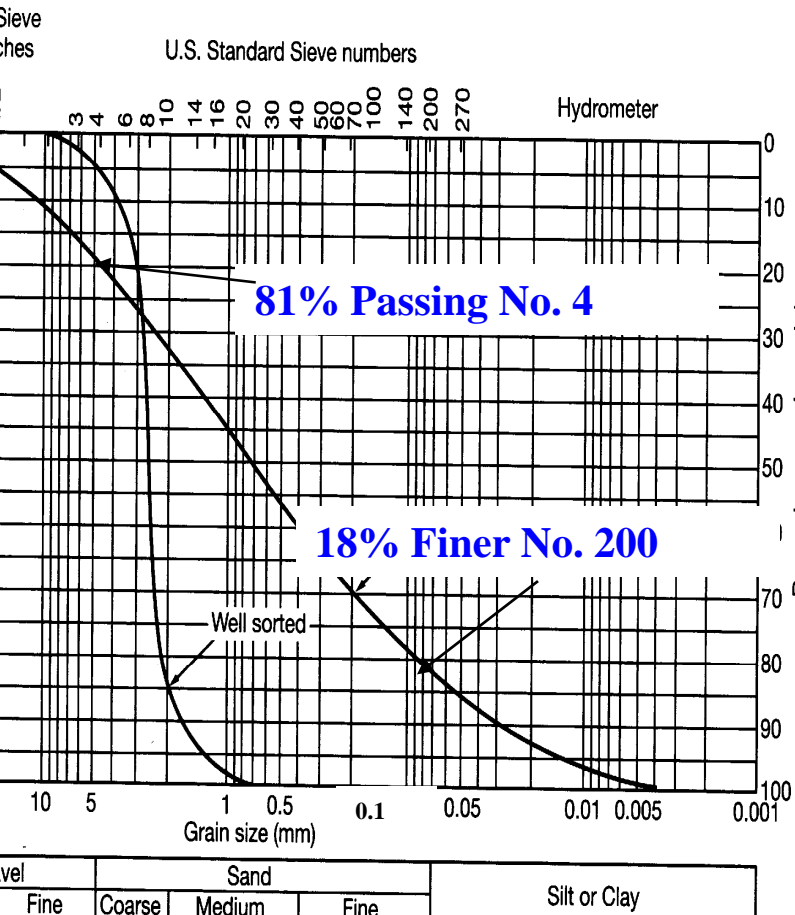
$$= (D_{30})^2/(D_{10} \times D_{60})$$

$$= 0.2^2/ (.03 \times 1.6)$$

$$= 0.83 < 1 \text{ to } 3$$

\therefore Poorly graded

What classification?



Unified Classification of Coarse Soils with Fines

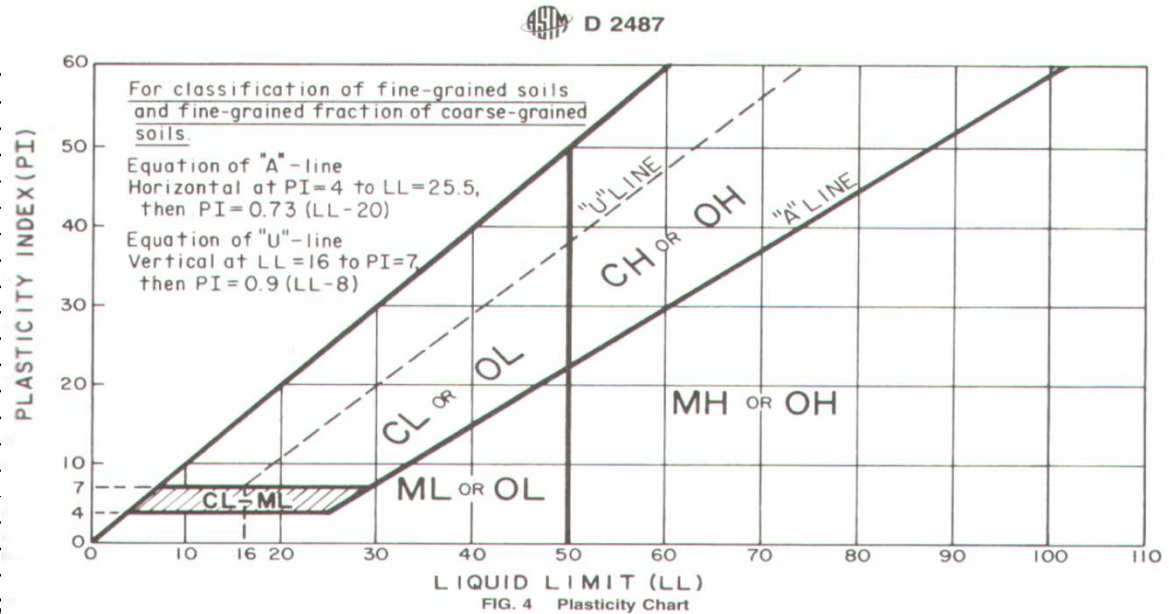
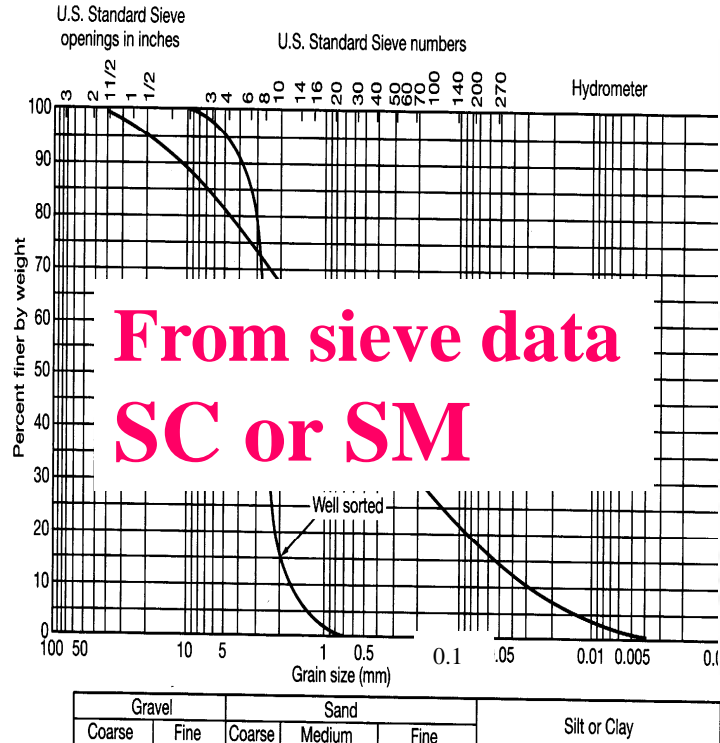
< 5% Passing No. 200 sieve: GW, GP, SW, SP

**5% - 12% Passing No. 200 sieve:
Borderline- use dual symbols**

> 12% Passing No. 200 sieve: GM, GC, SM, SC

**>12% passing No. 200 sieve
Since = "S" ∴ SC or SM**

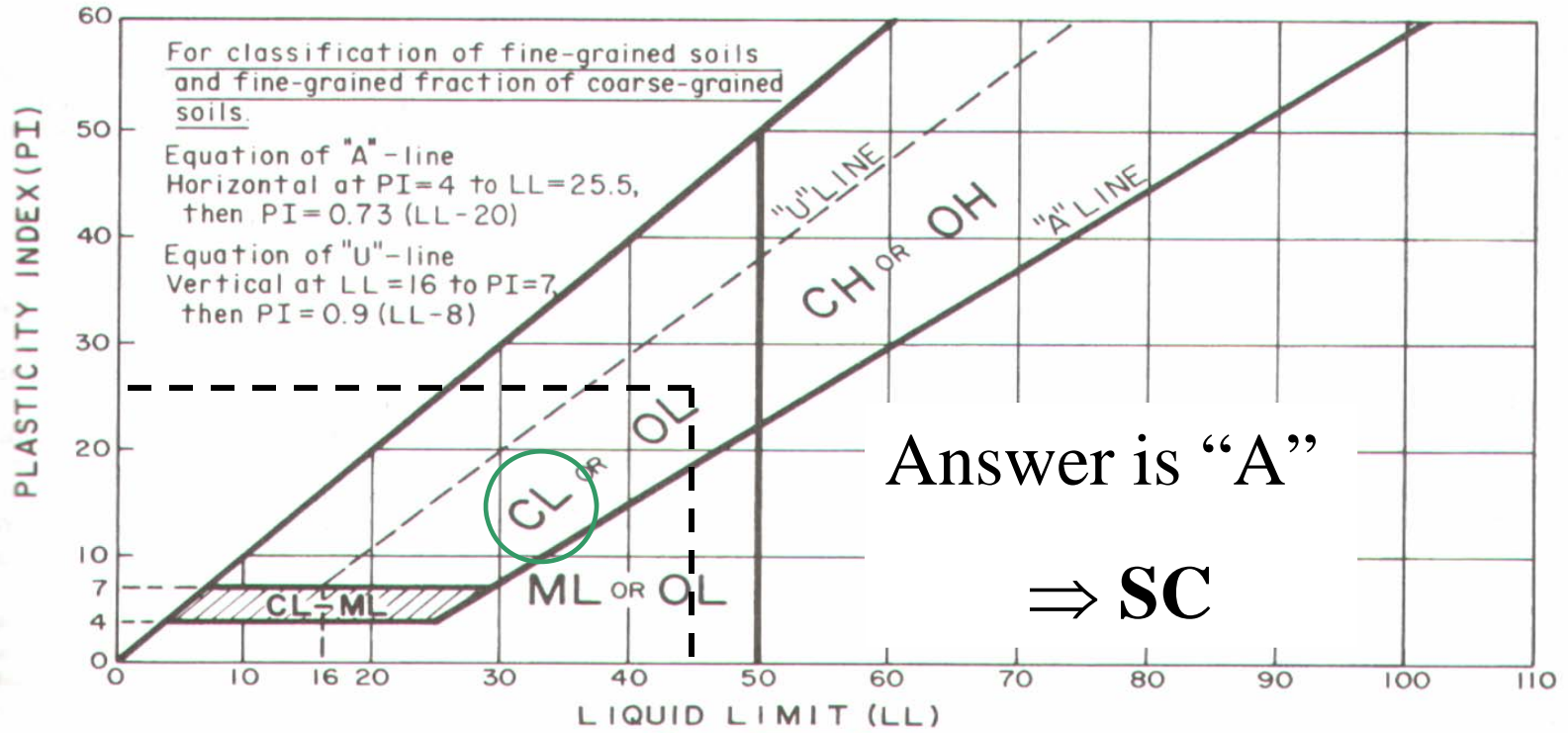
What Unified Classification if LL= 45 & PI = 25?



A) "SC" B) "SM" C) "CL" or D) "SC & SM"

Unified Classification

ASTM D 2487



AASHTO

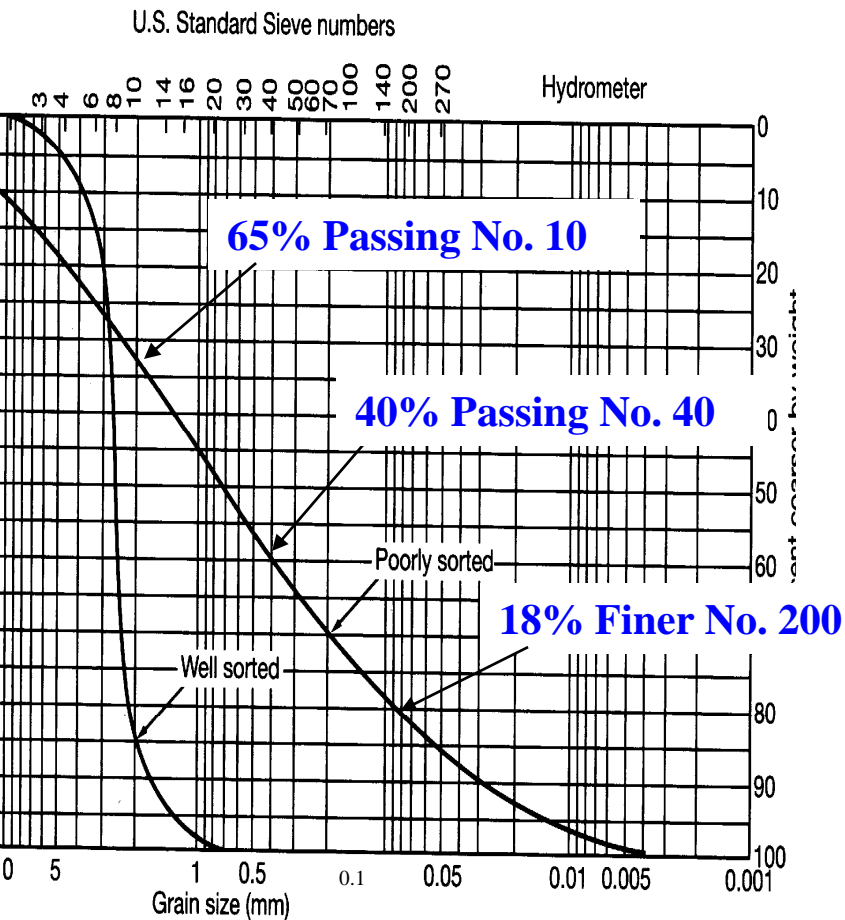
(American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials)

Classification of Soils and Soil-Aggregate Mixtures

General classification	Granular materials (35% or less passing No. 200)							Silt-clay materials (More than 35% passing No. 200)			
Group classification	A-1		A-3	A-2				A-4	A-5	A-6	A-7
	A-1-a	A-1-b		A-2-4	A-2-5	A-2-6	A-2-7				A-7-5 A-7-6
Sieve analysis, percent passing: No. 10 No. 40 No. 200	50 max 30 max 15 max.	— 50 max. 25 max.	— 51 min. 10 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.
Characteristics of fraction passing No. 40: Liquid limit Plasticity index	— 6 max.		— N.P.	40 max. 10 max.	41 min. 10 max.	40 max. 11 min.	41 min. 11 min.	40 max. 10 max.	41 min. 10 max.	40 max. 11 min.	41 min. 11 min.*
Usual types of significant constituent materials	Stone fragments, gravel and sand		Fine sand	Silty or clayey gravel and sand				Silty soils		Clayey soils	
General rating as subgrade	Excellent to good							Fair to poor			

*Plasticity index of A-7-5 subgroup is equal to or less than L L. minus 30. Plasticity index of A-7-6 subgroup is greater than L L. minus 30.

What is the AASHTO Classification?



- 1) 18 % passing No. 200 sieve
- 2) 65% passing No. 10 sieve
- 3) 40% passing No. 40 sieve
- 4) assume LL = 45 & PI = 25

	Sand			Silt or Clay
	Coarse	Medium	Fine	
ine				

**18 percent passing No. 200 sieve; 65 percent passing No. 10 sieve
40 percent passing No. 40 sieve; assume LL = 45 & PI = 25**

Classification of Soils and Soil-Aggregate Mixtures

General classification	Granular materials (35% or less passing No. 200)							Silt-clay materials (More than 35% passing No. 200)			
Group classification	A-1		A-3	A-2				A-4	A-5	A-6	A-7
	A-1-a	A-1-b		A-2-4	A-2-5	A-2-6	A-2-7				A-7-5 A-7-6
Sieve analysis, percent passing: No. 10 No. 40 No. 200	50 max 30 max 15 max.	— 50 max. 25 max.	— 51 min. 10 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 35 max.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.	— — 36 min.
Characteristics of fraction passing No. 40: Liquid limit Plasticity index	— 6 max.		— N.P.	40 max 10 max.	41 min 10 max.	40 max 11 min.	41 min 11 min.	40 max 10 max.	41 min 10 max.	40 max 11 min.	41 min. 11 min.*
Usual types of significant constituent materials	Stone fragments, gravel and sand		Fine sand	Silty or clayey gravel and sand				Silty soils		Clayey soils	
General rating as subgrade	Excellent to good							Fair to poor			

*Plasticity index of A-7-5 subgroup is equal to or less than L L. minus 30. Plasticity index of A-7-6 subgroup is greater than L L. minus 30.

AASHTO Classification

Classification of Soils and Soil-Aggregate Mixtures

General classification	① Granular materials (35% or less passing No. 200)							Silt-clay materials (More than 35% passing No. 200)
Group classification	A-1		A-3	A-2				
	A-1-a	A-1-b		A-2-4	A-2-5	A-2-6	A-2-7	
Sieve analysis, percent passing: No. 10 No. 40 No. 200	② 50 max. 30 max. 15 max.	③ 50 max. 25 max.	- 51 min. 10 max.	- 35 max.	- 35 max.	- 35 max.	- 35 max.	
Characteristics of fraction passing No. 40: Liquid limit Plasticity index	④ - 6 max.		- N.P.	40 max. 10 max.	41 min. 10 max.	40 max. 11 min.	④ 41 min. 11 min.	
Usual types of significant constituent materials	Stone fragments, gravel and sand		Fine sand	Silty or clayey gravel and sand				
General rating as subgrade	Excellent to good				Fair to poor			

- 1) 18 % passing No. 200 sieve
- 2) 65% passing No. 10 sieve
- 3) 40% passing No. 40 sieve
- 4) assume LL = 45 & PI = 25

*Plasticity index of A-7-5 subgroup is equal to or less than L.L. minus 30. Plasticity index of A-7-6 subgroup is greater than L.L. minus 30.

AASHTO Group Index

The first term is determined by the LL



$$\text{GI} = (F_{200} - 35)[0.2 + 0.005(\text{LL} - 40)] \\ + 0.01(F_{200} - 15)(\text{PI} - 10)$$



The second term is determined by the PI

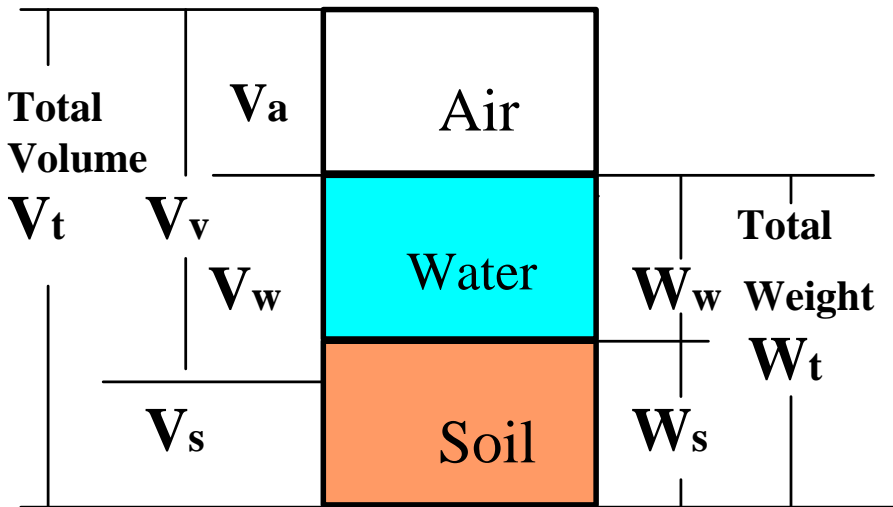
F200: percentage passing through the No.200 sieve

For Group A-2-6 and A-2-7 use the second term only

$$\text{GI} = 0.01(F_{200} - 15)(\text{PI} - 10)$$

In general, the rating for a pavement subgrade is inversely proportional to the group index, GI.

Mass-Volume (Phase Diagram)



- Unit volume of soil contains:
 - Air (gases)
 - Water (fluid)
 - Solid Particles

Moisture Content = ω

weight of water/ weight of dry soil

$$\omega = W_w/W_d$$

water loss/(moist soil weight - water loss)

$$\omega = W_w/(W_m - W_w)$$

and

$$\omega = (W_m - W_d)/W_d$$

Mass - Volume Relationships

Density or Unit Weight = γ

Moist Unit Weight = γ_m

$$\gamma_m = W_m/V_t = \gamma_d + \omega \gamma_d$$

$$\omega = (\gamma_m - \gamma_d) / \gamma_d$$

$$\omega \gamma_d + \gamma_d = \gamma_m$$

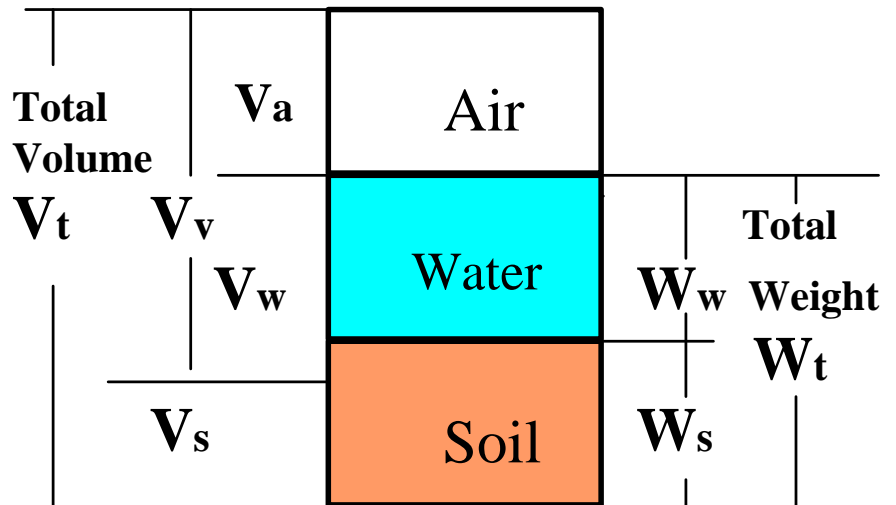
$$\gamma_m = (1 + \omega) \gamma_d$$

$$\gamma_d = \gamma_m / (1 + \omega) \quad \checkmark$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Volume} &= \\ \Sigma \text{ Volume (solid + water + air)} & \\ &= V_s + V_w + V_a \end{aligned}$$

\therefore

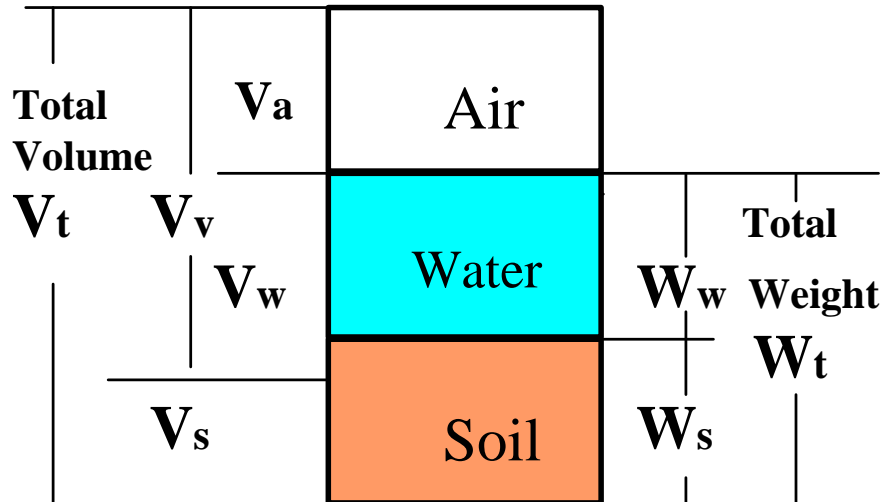
$$V_a = V_t - V_s - V_w$$



Relationship Between Mass & Volume

$$\text{Volume} = \text{Mass} / (\text{Specific Gravity} \times \text{Unit Weight of Water})$$

$$= W_s / (SG \times W_w)$$



Specific Gravity =
weight of material/ weight of same volume of
water

Soil Specific Gravity

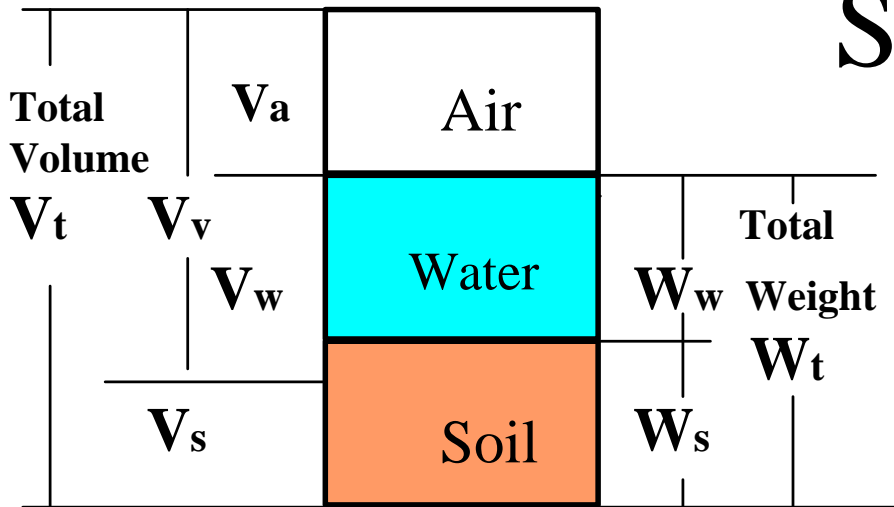
Typical Range

2.65 to 2.70

Specific Gravity of Water = 1

Saturation = S expressed as percent

$S = \text{volume of water} / \text{volume of voids} \times 100$



$$S = V_w / V_v \times 100$$

Always ≤ 100

Porosity

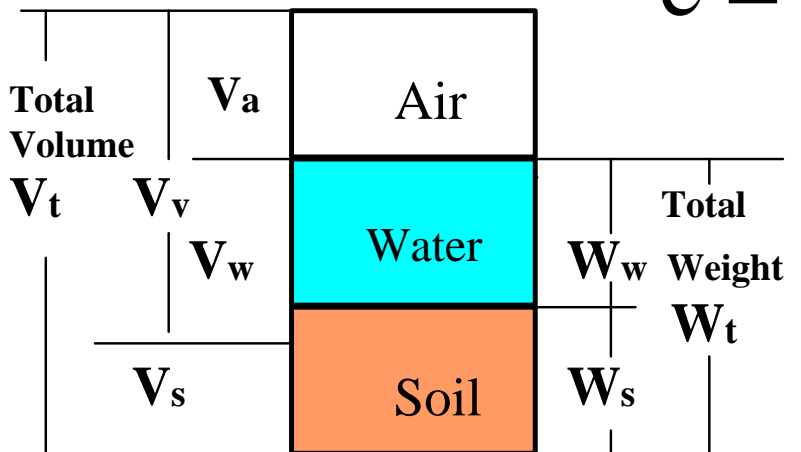
$n = \text{volume of voids} / \text{total volume}$

$$n = V_v / V_t$$

Void Ratio

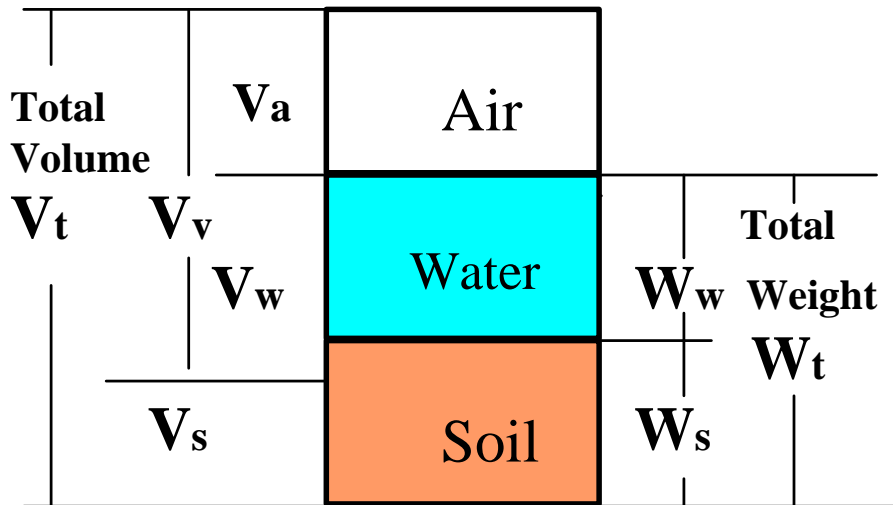
$e = \text{volume of voids} / \text{volume of solids}$

$$e = V_v / V_s$$



What is the degree of saturation for a soil with:

$SG = 2.68$, $\gamma_m = 127.2$ pcf & $\omega = 18.6$ percent



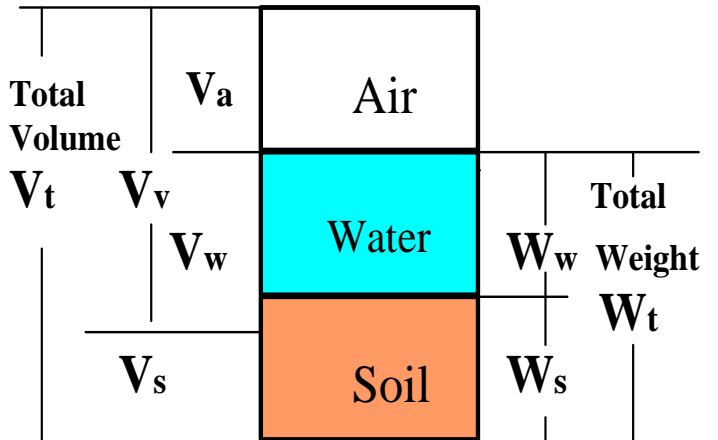
A) 88.4

B) 100.0

C) 89.1

What is degree of saturation for a soil with:
 $SG = 2.68$, $\gamma_m = 127.2$ pcf & $\omega = 18.6$ percent

$$\gamma_d = \gamma_m / (1 + \omega) = 127.2 / (1.186) = 107.3 \text{ pcf}$$



$$W_w = \gamma_m - \gamma_d = 19.9 \text{ pcf}$$

$$V_w = W_w / 62.4 = 0.319 \text{ cf}$$

$$V_s = \gamma_d / (SG \times 62.4) = 0.642 \text{ cf}$$

$$V_a = V_t - V_w - V_s$$

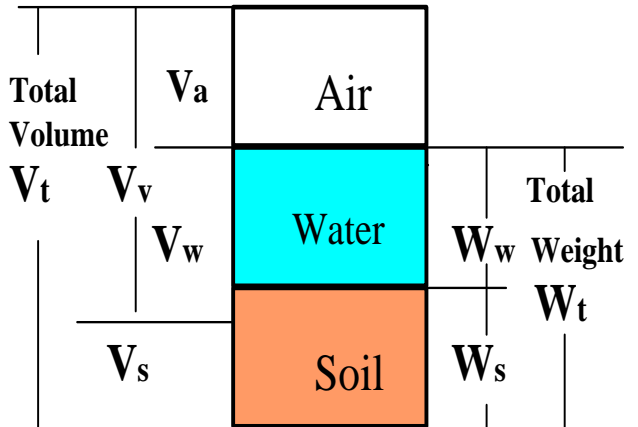
$$= 1 - 0.319 - 0.642 = 0.039 \text{ cf}$$

$$V_v = V_w + V_a = 0.358 \text{ cf}$$

What is degree of saturation for a soil with:
 $SG = 2.68$, $\gamma_m = 127.2$ pcf & $\omega = 18.6$ percent

$$V_w = 0.319 \text{ cf}, V_s = 0.642 \text{ cf},$$

$$V_v = 0.358 \text{ cf}$$



$$\text{Degree of Saturation} = V_w/V_v \times 100$$

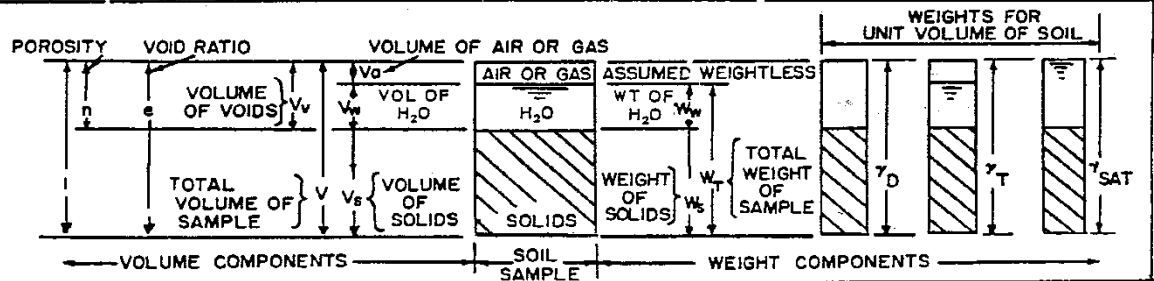
$$= 0.319/0.358 \times 100 = \mathbf{89.1\%}$$

Answer is “C”

TABLE 3-5
Volume and Weight Relationships

Property		Saturated sample (W_s, W_w, G, e are known)	Unsaturated sample (W_s, W_w, G, V are known)	Supplementary formulas relating measured and computed factors			
Volume components	V_s volume of solids		$\frac{W_s}{G\gamma_w}$	$V - (V_a + V_w)$	$V(1 - n)$	$\frac{V}{(1 + e)}$	$\frac{V_v}{e}$
	V_w volume of water		$\frac{W_w}{\gamma_w^*}$	$V_v - V_a$	SV_v	$\frac{SV_e}{(1 + e)}$	$SV_s e$
	V_a volume of air or gas	zero	$V - (V_s + V_w)$	$V_v - V_w$	$(1 - S)V_v$	$\frac{(1 - S)V_e}{(1 + e)}$	$(1 - S)V_s e$
	V_v volume of voids	$\frac{W_w}{\gamma_w^*}$	$V - \frac{W_s}{G\gamma_w}$	$V - V_s$	$\frac{V_s n}{1 - n}$	$\frac{V_e}{(1 + e)}$	$V_s e$
	V total volume of sample	$V_s + V_w$	measured	$V_s + V_a + V_w$	$\frac{V_s}{1 - n}$	$V_s(1 + e)$	$\frac{V_v(1 + e)}{e}$
	n porosity		$\frac{V_v}{V}$	$\frac{1 - V_s}{V}$	$1 - \frac{W_s}{GV\gamma_w}$	$\frac{e}{1 + e}$	
e void ratio		$\frac{V_v}{V_s}$	$\frac{V}{V_s - 1}$	$\frac{GV\gamma_w}{W_s} - 1$	$\frac{W_w G}{W_s S}$	$\frac{n}{1 - n}$	$\frac{wG}{S}$
Weights for specific sample	W_s weight of solids	measured	$\frac{W_T}{(1 + w)}$	$GV\gamma_w(1 - n)$	$\frac{W_w G}{eS}$		
	W_w weight of water	measured	wW_s	$S\gamma_w V_v$	$\frac{eW_s S}{G}$		
	W_t total weight of sample	$W_s + W_w$	$W_s(1 + w)$				
Weights for sample of unit volume	γ_D dry unit weight	$\frac{W_s}{V_s + V_w}$	$\frac{W_s}{V}$	$\frac{W_s}{V(1 + w)}$	$\frac{G\gamma_w}{(1 + e)}$	$\frac{G\gamma_w}{1 + wG/S}$	
	γ_I wet unit weight	$\frac{W_s + W_w}{V_s + V_w}$	$\frac{W_s + W_w}{V}$	$\frac{W_T}{V}$	$\frac{(G + Se)\gamma_w}{(1 + e)}$	$\frac{(1 + w)\gamma_w}{w/S + 1/G}$	
	γ_{SAT} saturated unit weight	$\frac{W_s + W_w}{V_s + V_w}$	$\frac{W_s + V_v\gamma_w}{V}$	$\frac{W_s}{V} + \left(\frac{e}{1 + e}\right)\gamma_w$	$\frac{(G + e)\gamma_w}{(1 + e)}$	$\frac{(1 + w)\gamma_w}{w + 1/G}$	
	γ_{SUB} submerged (buoyant) unit weight	$\gamma_{SAT} - \gamma_w^*$	$\frac{W_s}{V} - \left(\frac{1}{1 + e}\right)\gamma_w^*$	$\left(\frac{G + e}{1 + e} - 1\right)\gamma_w^*$	$\left(\frac{1 - 1/G}{w + 1/G}\right)\gamma_w^*$		
Combined relations	w moisture content	$\frac{W_w}{W_s}$	$\frac{W_s}{W_s} - 1$	$\frac{Se}{G}$	$S\left[\frac{\gamma_w^*}{\gamma_D} - \frac{1}{G}\right]$		
	s degree of saturation	1.00	$\frac{V_w}{V_v}$	$\frac{W_w}{V_v\gamma_w^*}$	$\frac{wG}{e}$	$\frac{w}{\frac{\gamma_w^*}{\gamma_D} - \frac{1}{G}}$	
	G specific gravity		$\frac{W_s}{V_s\gamma_w}$	$\frac{Se}{w}$			

Ref:
NAVFAC DM-7



^a γ_w is unit weight of water, which equals 62.4 pcf for fresh water and 64 pcf for sea water (1.00 and 1.025 gm/cc). (Where noted with * the actual unit weight of water surrounding the soil is used.) In other cases use 62.4 pcf.
Values of w and s are used as decimal numbers.

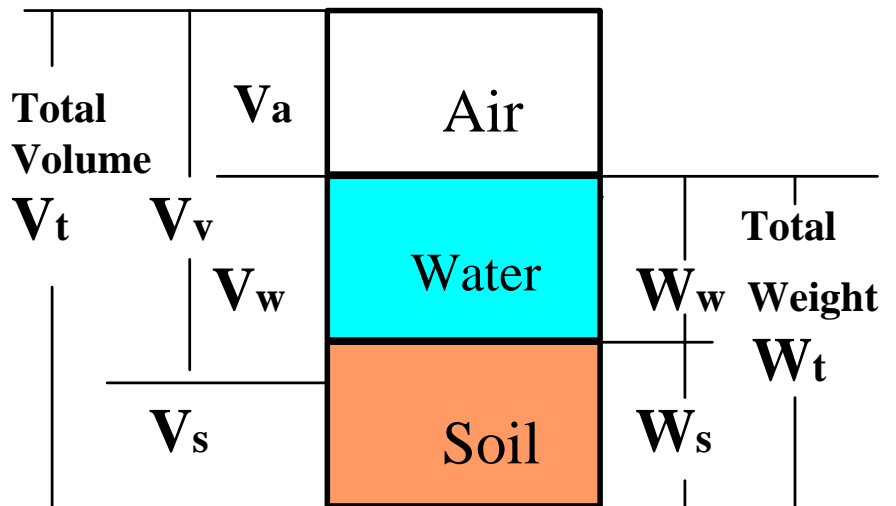
Borrow Fill Adjustments

Borrow Material Properties: $\gamma_m = 110 \text{ pcf}$ & $\omega = 10\%$

Placed Fill Properties: $\gamma_d = 105 \text{ pcf}$ & $\omega = 20\%$

How much borrow is needed to produce 30,000 cy of fill?

How much water must be added or removed from each cf of fill?



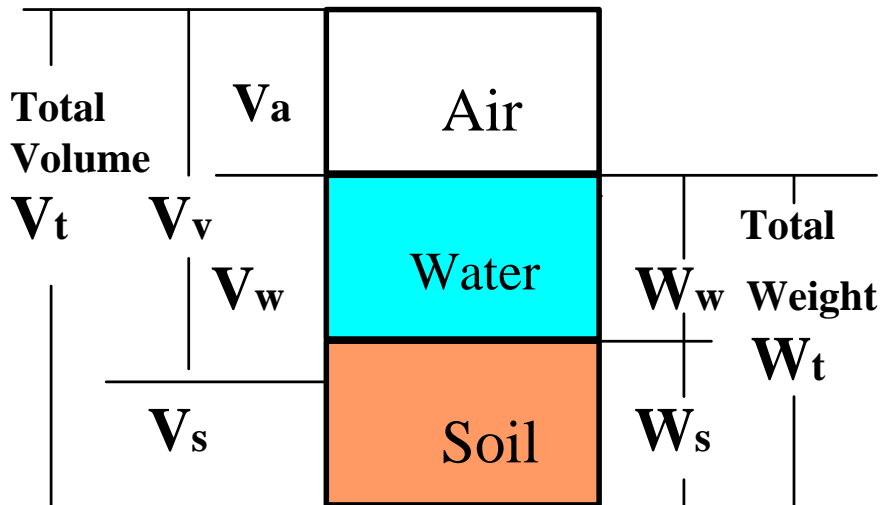
Borrow Fill Adjustments

Borrow Material Properties: $\gamma_m = 110$ pcf & $\omega = 10\%$

$\gamma_d = \gamma_m / (1 + \omega) = 110 / (1.10) = 100$ pcf; $W_w = 110 - 100 = 10$ lbs

Placed Fill Properties: $\gamma_d = 105$ pcf & $\omega = 17\%$

$W_w = \omega \times \gamma_d = 0.17 \times 105 = 17.9$ lbs



Borrow Fill Adjustments

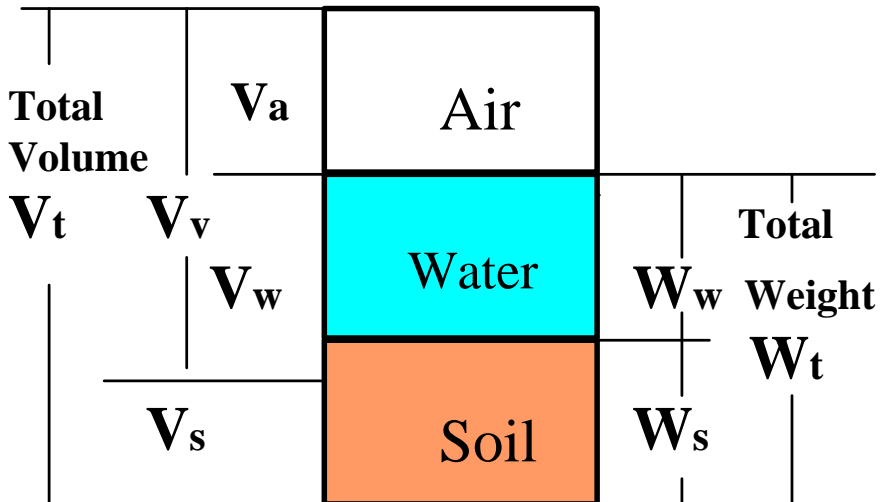
Borrow Properties: $\gamma_m = 110$ pcf, $\gamma_d = 100$ & $\omega = 10\%$

Placed Fill Properties: $\gamma_d = 105$ pcf & $\omega = 20\%$

Since borrow $\gamma_d = 100$ pcf & fill $\gamma_d = 105$ pcf, $105/100 = 1.05$

It takes 1.05 cy of borrow to make 1.0 cy of fill

For 30,000 cy, $30,000 \times 1.05 = 31,500$ cy of borrow



Borrow Fill Adjustments

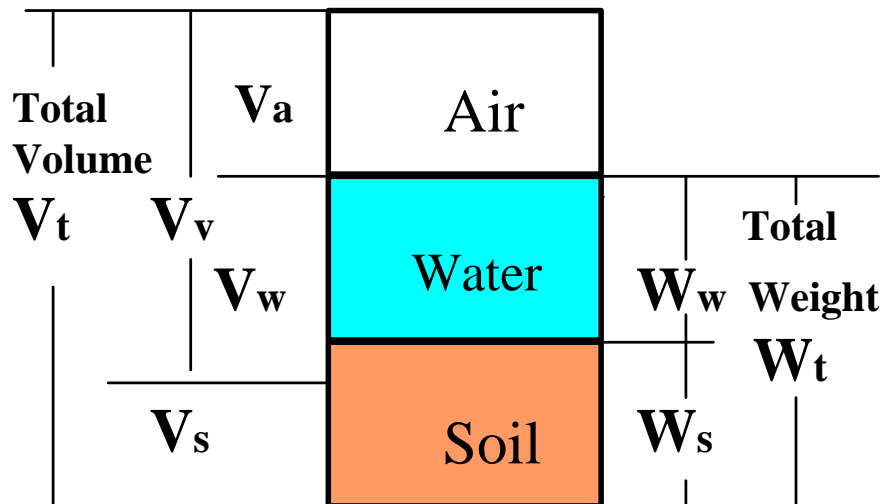
Borrow Material Properties: $W_w = 10 \text{ lbs}$

Placed Fill Properties: $W_w = 17.9 \text{ lbs}$

Water supplied from borrow in each cf of fill

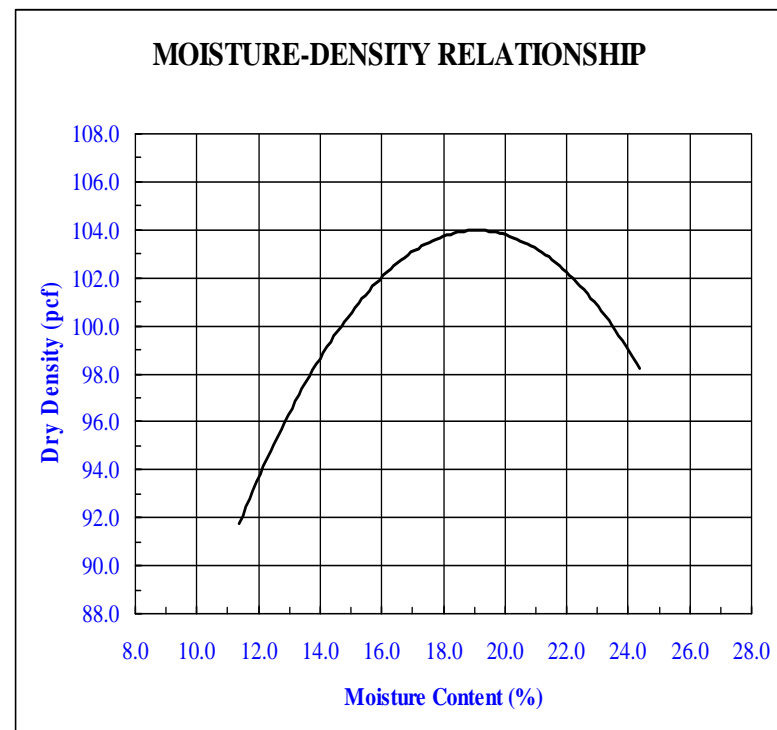
$= 10 \times 1.05 = 10.5 \text{ lbs}$; $17.9 \text{ lbs} - 10.5 = 7.4 \text{ lbs short/1.05 cf}$

$7.4 \text{ lbs/1.05 cf} = 7.0 \text{ lbs of water to be added per cf borrow}$



Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships

Establishes the unique relationship of moisture to dry density for each specific soil at a specified compaction energy



Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships



Standard: ASTM D-698

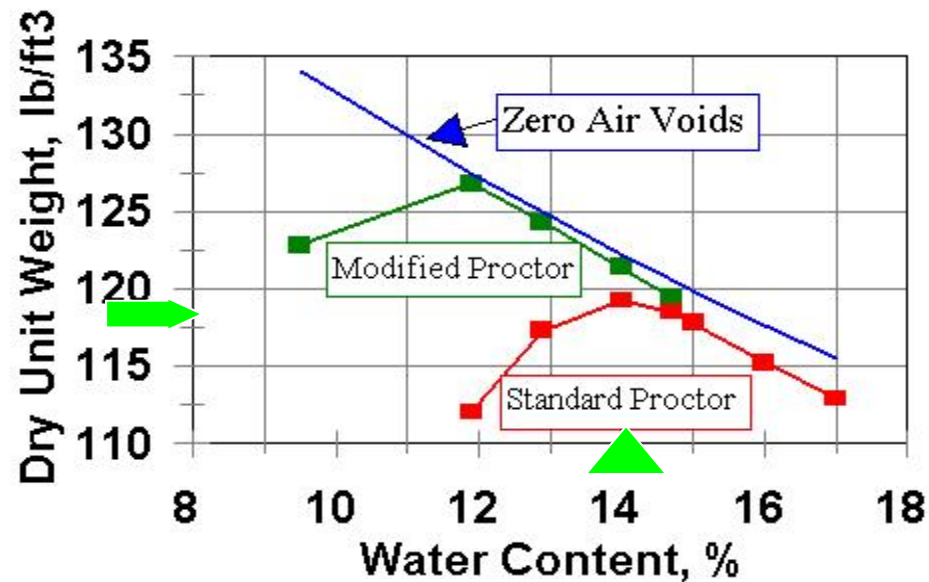
AASHTO T-99

Modified: ASTM D-1557

AASHTO T-180

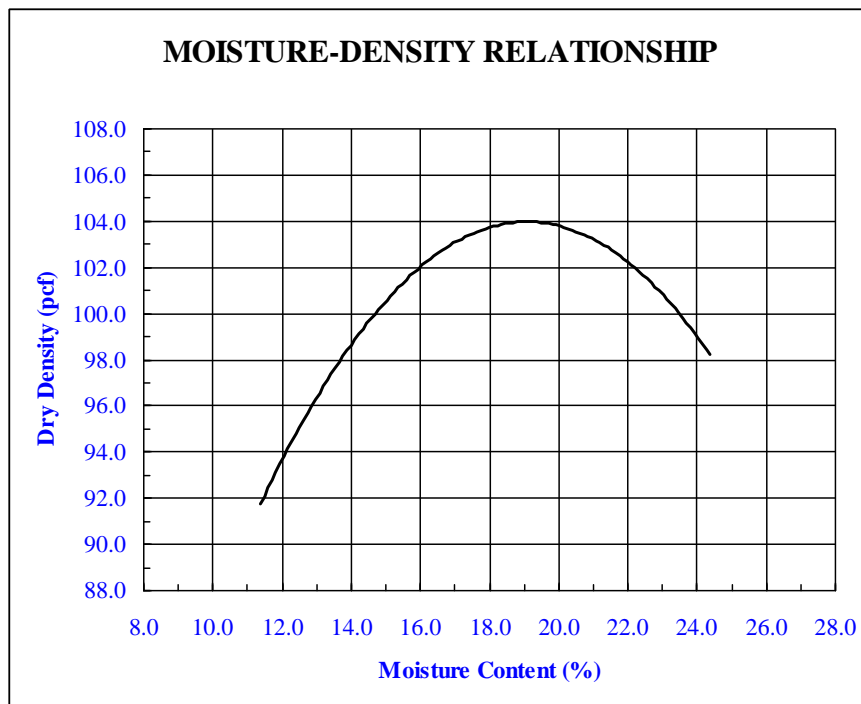
- 4" mold 25 blows
- 6" mold 56 blows
- Standard
 - 5.5 lb hammer
 - dropped 12 in
 - 3 layers
- Modified
 - 10 lb hammer
 - dropped 18 in
 - 5 layers

PROCTOR COMPACTION TEST



- ➡ Maximum Dry Density - Highest density for that degree of compactive effort
- ▲ Optimum Moisture Content - Moisture content at which maximum dry density is achieved for that compactive effort

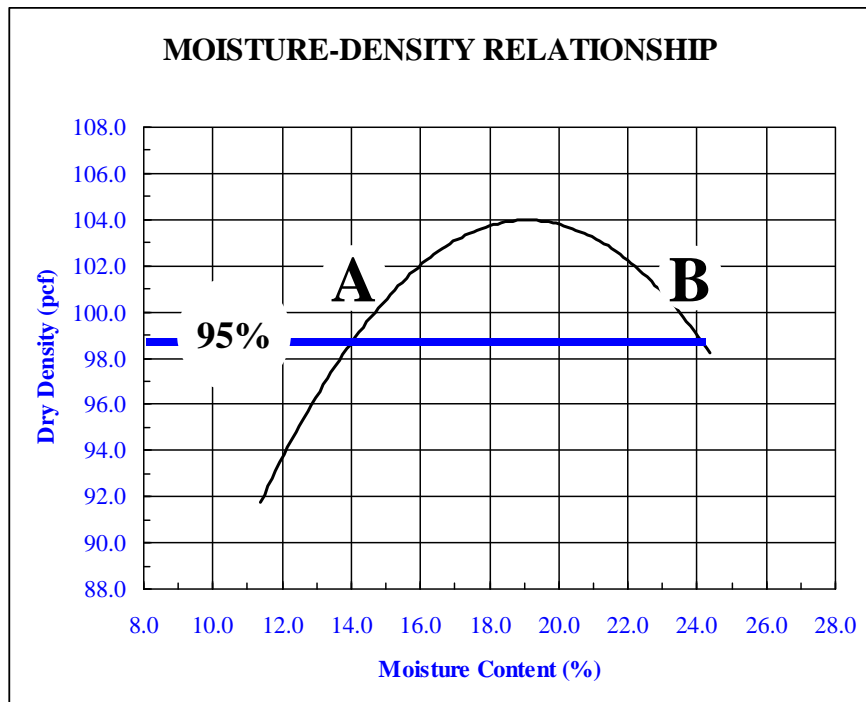
Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships



What density is required for 95% Compaction?

What range of moisture would facilitate achieving 95% compaction?

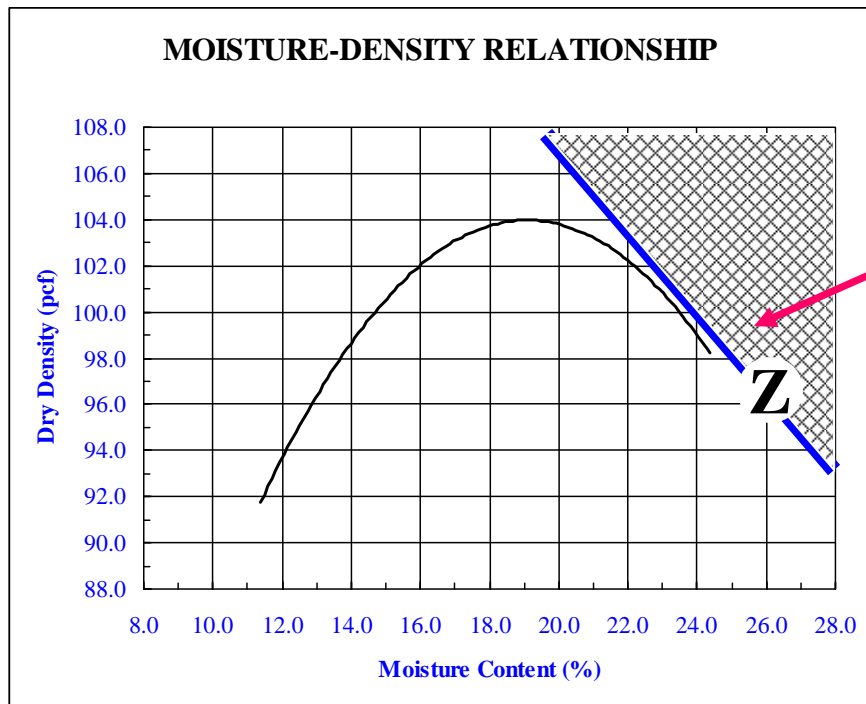
Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships



$$104 \times .95 = 98.8 \text{ pcf}$$

Range of moisture is within
the curve A to B
(14 to 24 %)

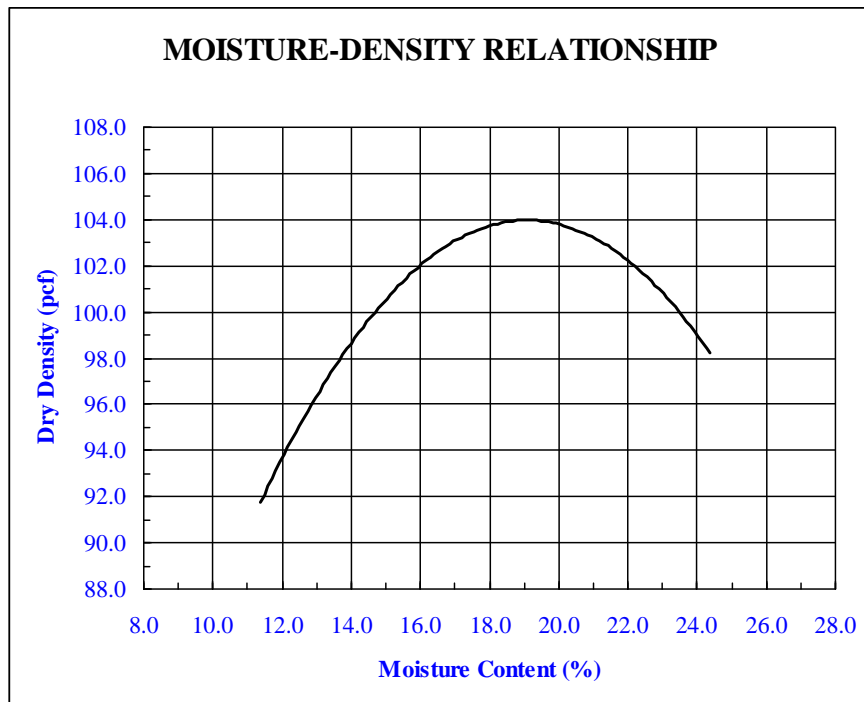
Proctor: Zero Air Voids Line



Relationship of density to moisture at saturation for constant specific gravity (SG)

Can't achieve fill in zone right of zero air voids line

Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships



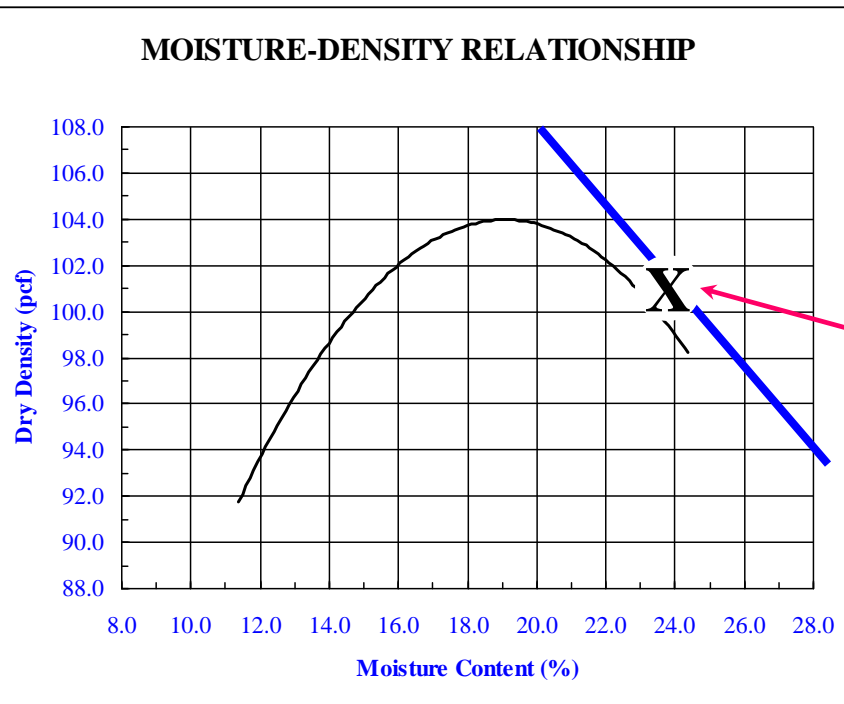
If $SG = 2.65$ & moisture content is 24%

What dry density achieves 100% saturation?

A) 100.0 pcf

B) 101.1 pcf

Proctor: Moisture Density Relationships



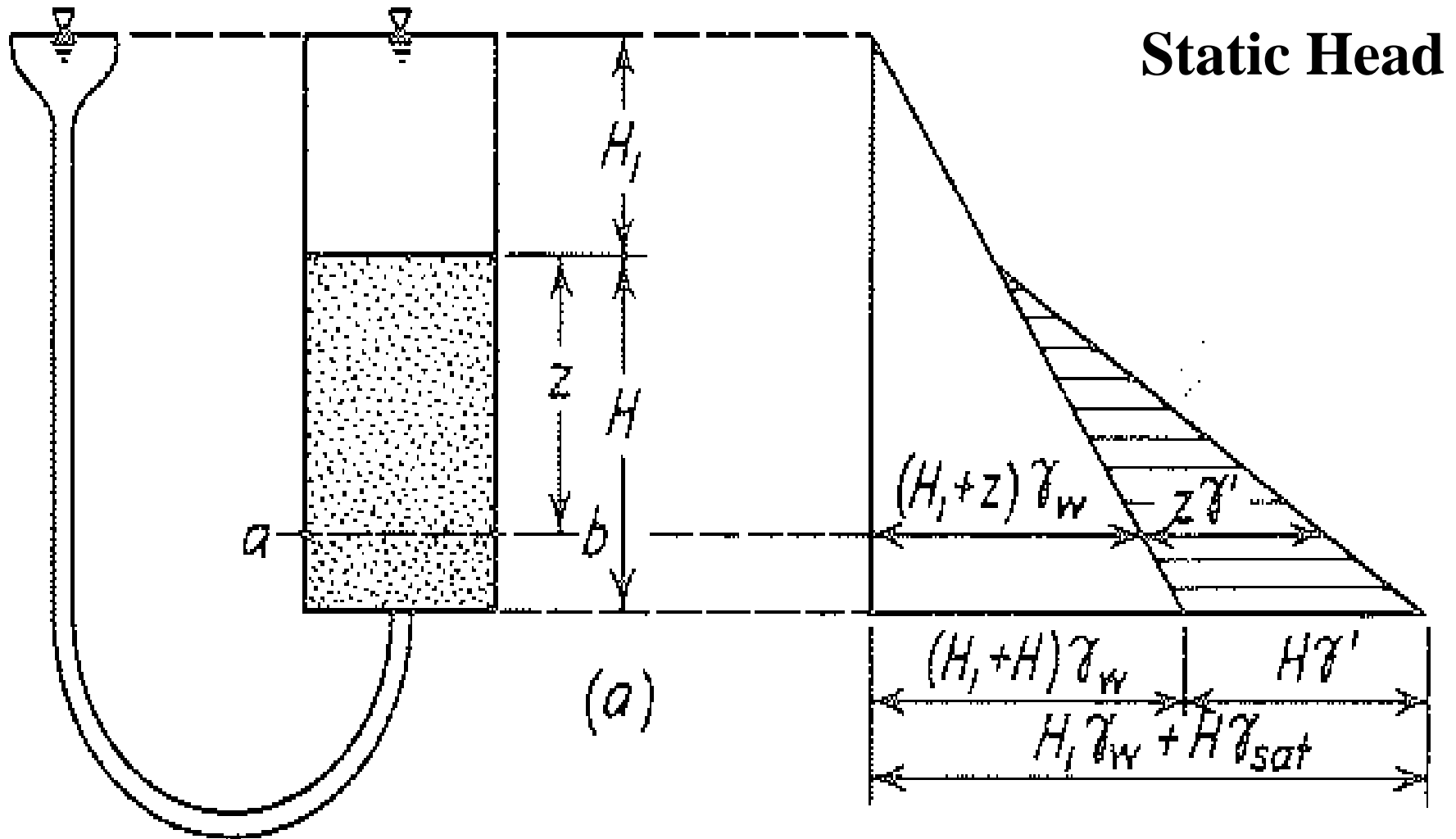
$$\gamma_d = \frac{SG \cdot 62.4}{1 + \omega \cdot SG / 100}$$

$$\gamma_d = \frac{2.65 \times 62.4}{1 + 24 \times 2.65 / 100}$$

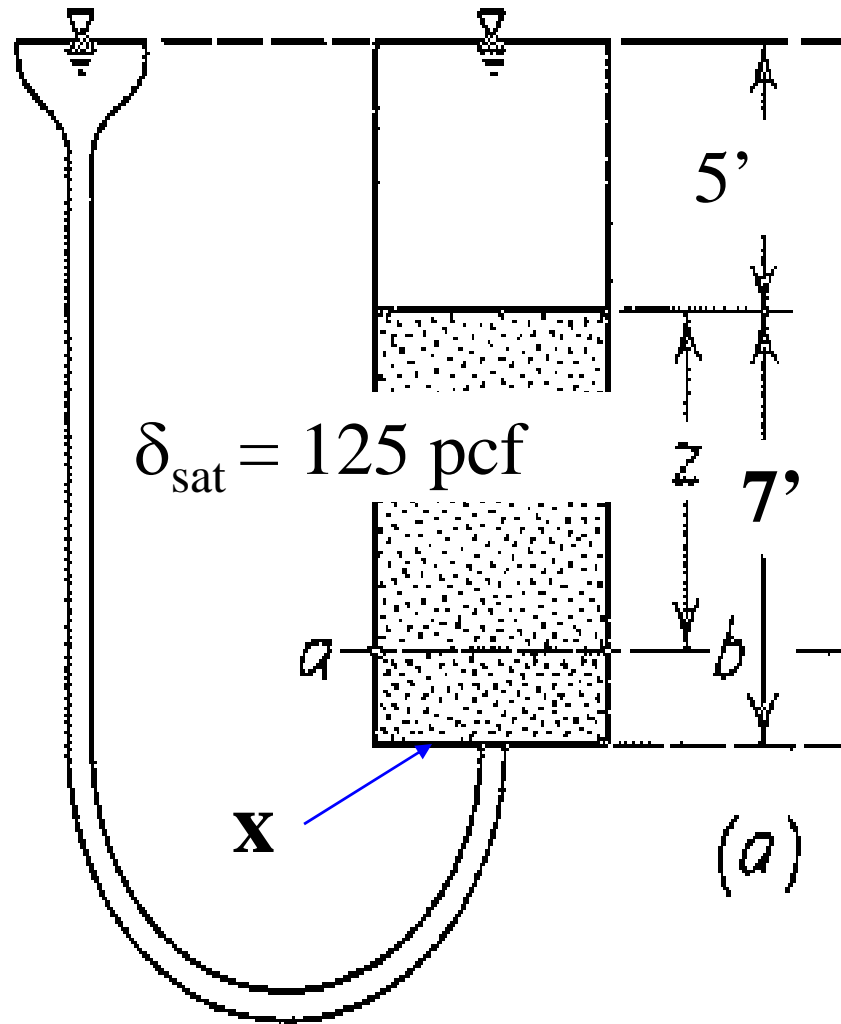
$$\gamma_d = 101.1 \text{ pcf}$$

Answer is "B"

Effective and Porewater Pressures



Calculate effective stress at point x



Saturated Unit Weight δ_{sat}

Moist Unit Weight δ_M

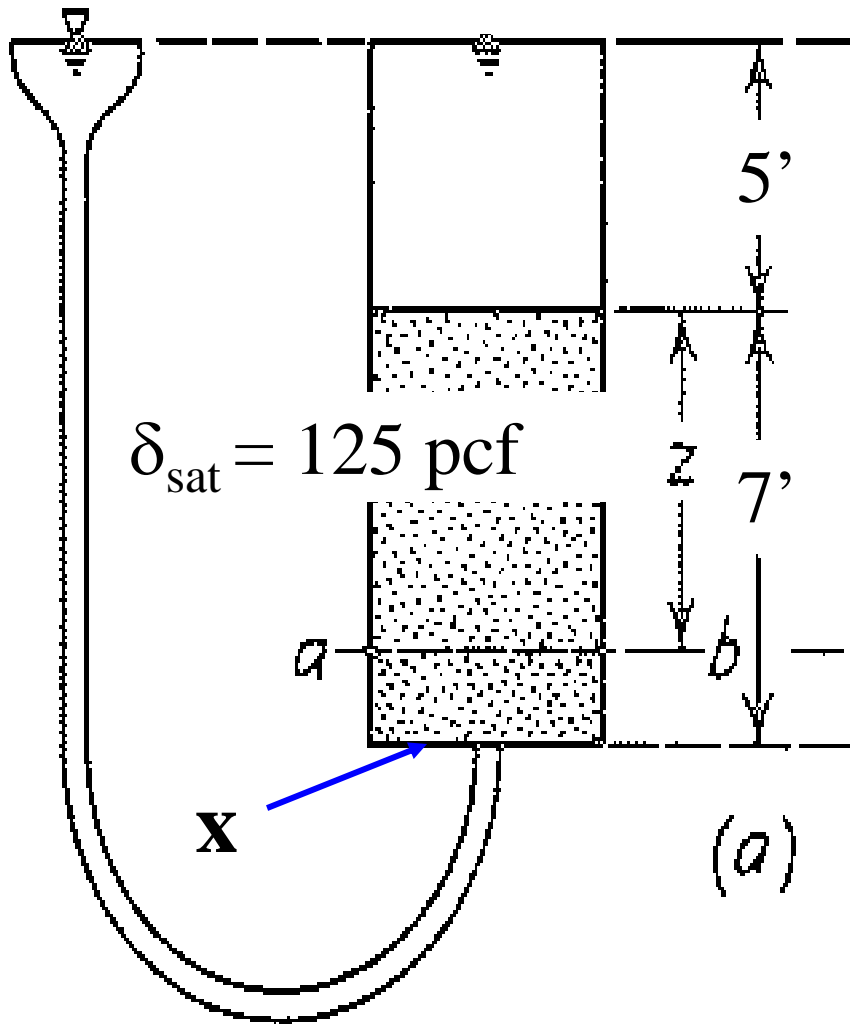
Dry Unit Weight δ_{Dry}

Submerged (buoyant) Unit Weight

$$= \delta_{sat} - 62.4$$

(a)

Calculate effective stress at point x



Total Stress at X

$$= 5 \times 62.4 + 7 \times 125 = 1187 \text{ psf}$$

Pore Pressure at X

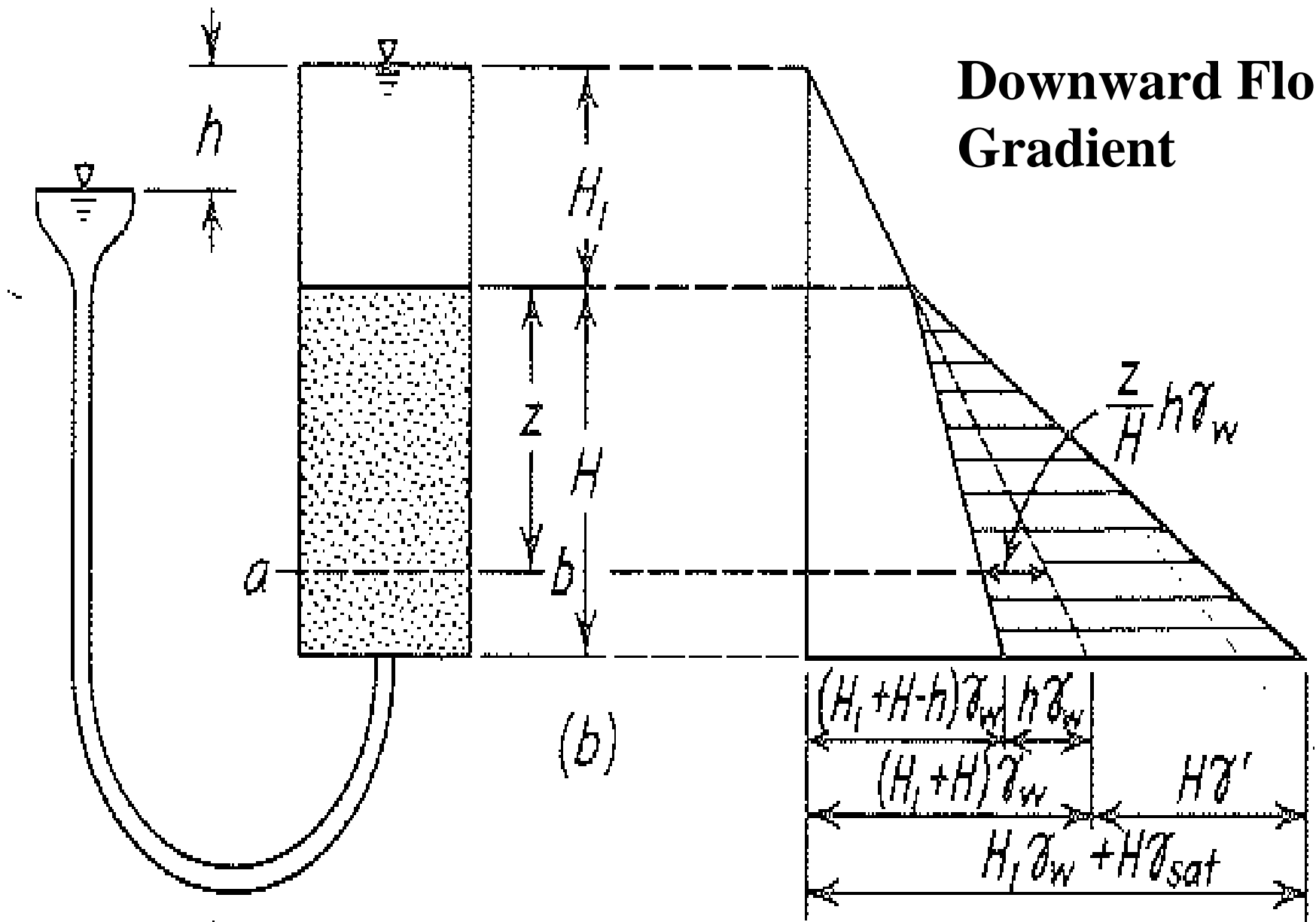
$$= 12 \times 62.4 = 749 \text{ psf}$$

Effective Stress at X

$$= 1187 - 749 = 438 \text{ psf}$$

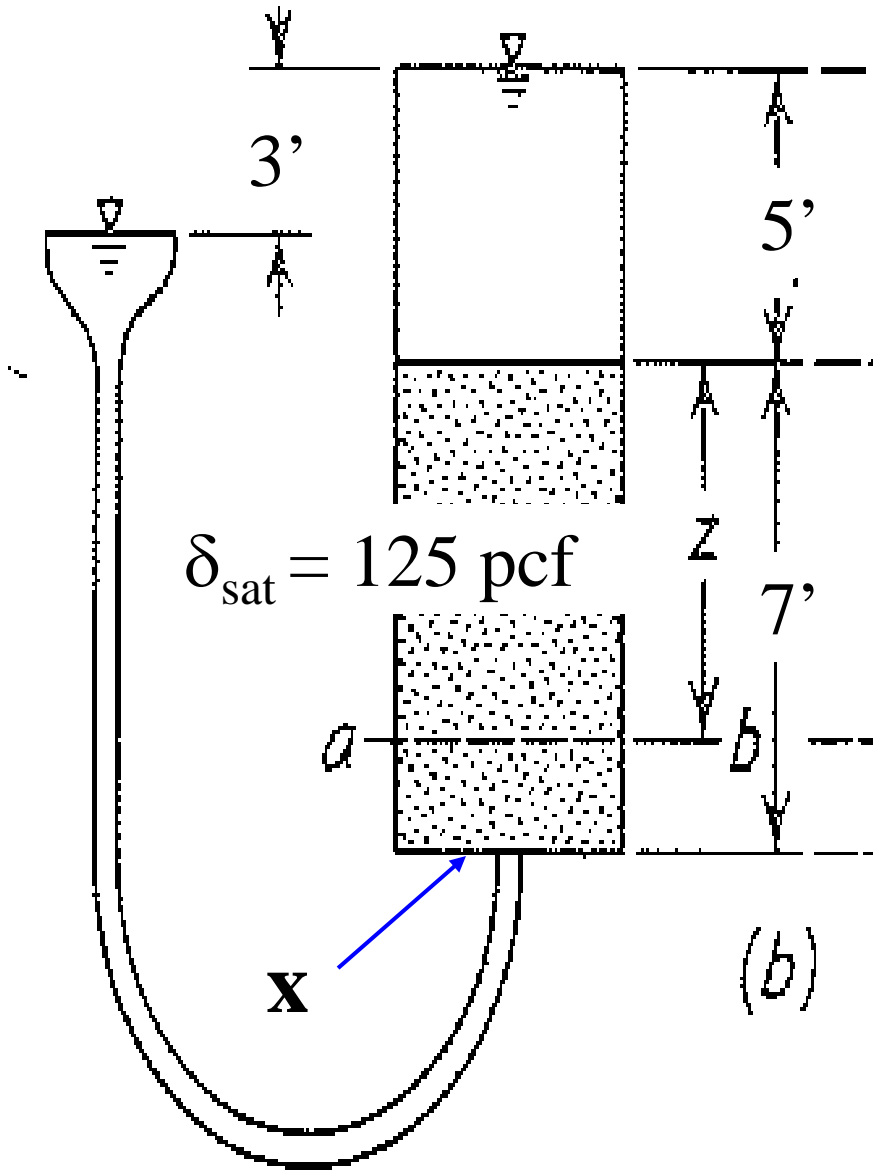
$$\text{or } (125 - 62.4) \times 7 = 438 \text{ psf}$$

Downward Flow Gradient



(b)

Downward Flow Gradient



Total Stress at X

$$= 5 \times 62.4 + 7 \times 125 = 1187 \text{ psf}$$

Pore Pressure at X

$$= (12 - 3) \times 62.4 = 562 \text{ psf}$$

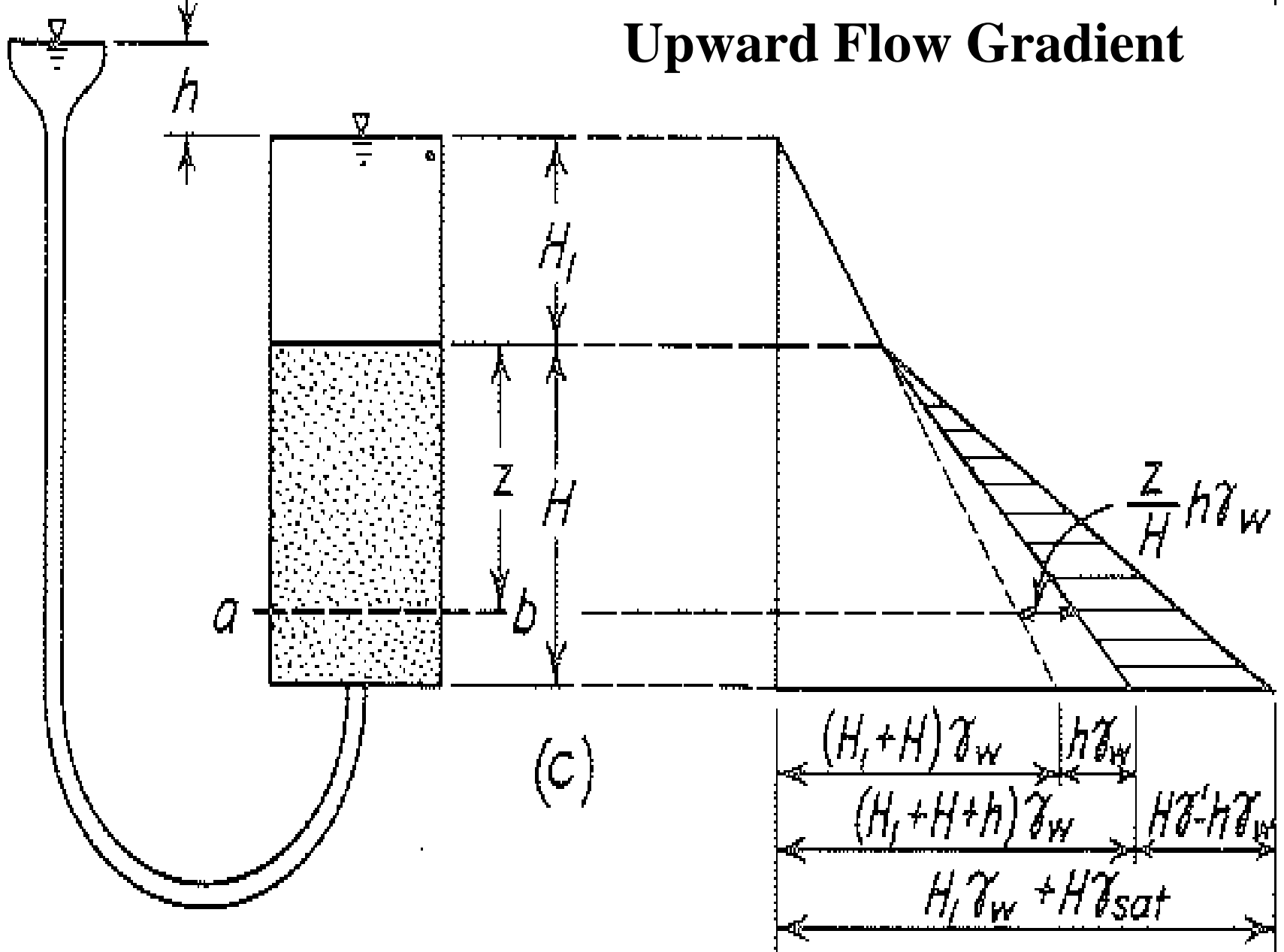
Effective Stress at X

$$= 1187 - 562 = 625 \text{ psf}$$

$$\text{or } 438 + 3 \times 62.4 = 625 \text{ psf}$$

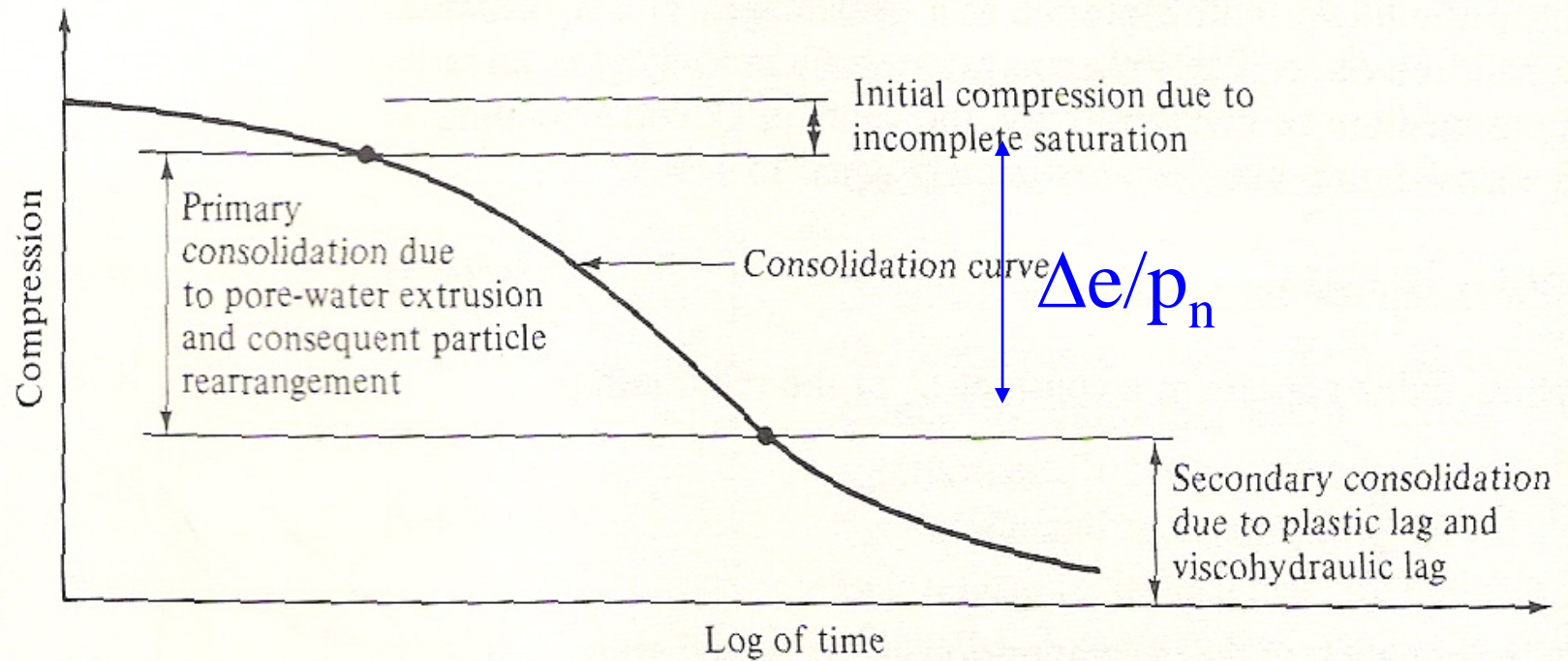
see previous problem

Upward Flow Gradient



Ref: Peck Hanson & Thornburn

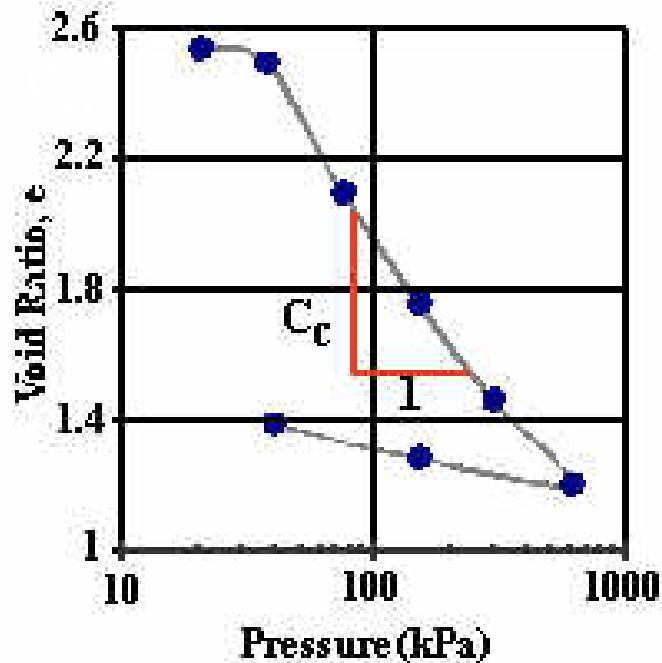
One Dimensional Consolidation



Primary Phase Settlement (e log p)

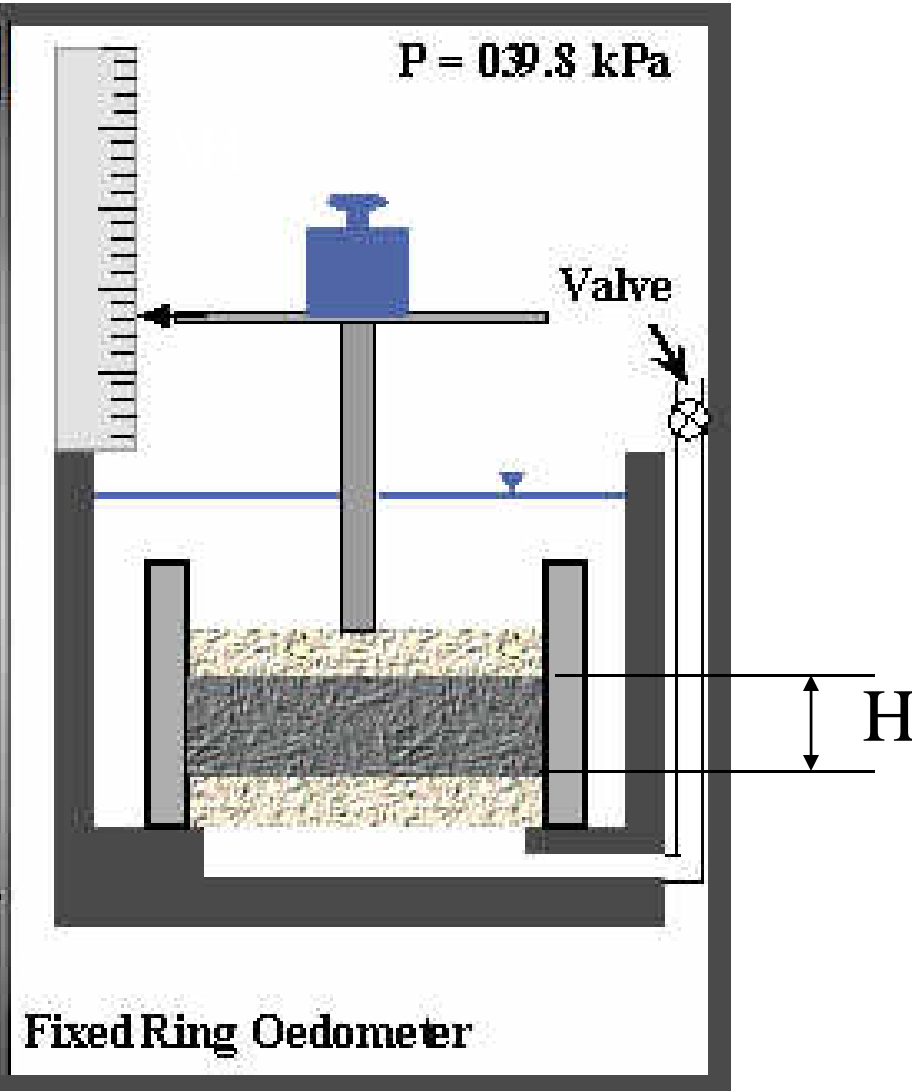
$$\Delta H = (H \times \Delta e) / (1 + e_o)$$

Soils Laboratory

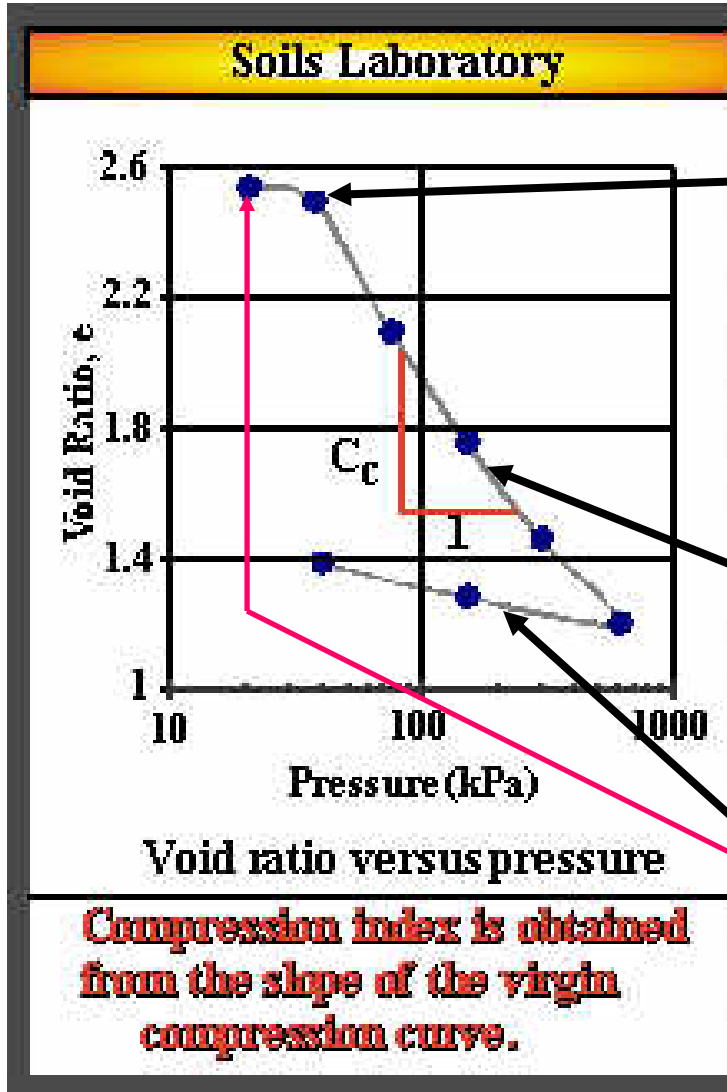


Void ratio versus pressure

Compression index is obtained from the slope of the virgin compression curve.



Consolidation Test

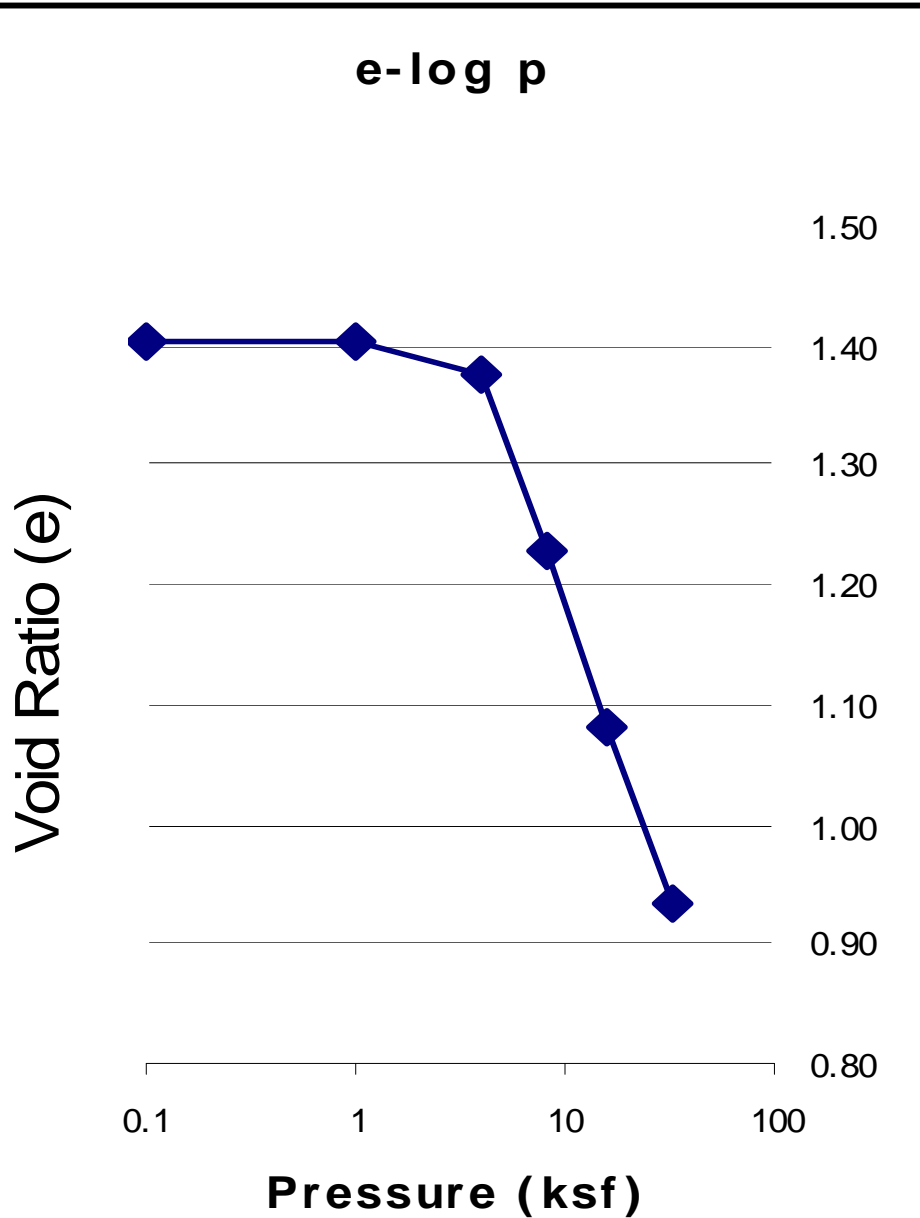


Pre-consolidation Pressure

C_c = slope of $e \log p$ virgin curve
est. $C_c = 0.009(\text{LL}-10\%)$ Skempton

Rebound or recompression curves

Calculate Compression Index; C_c



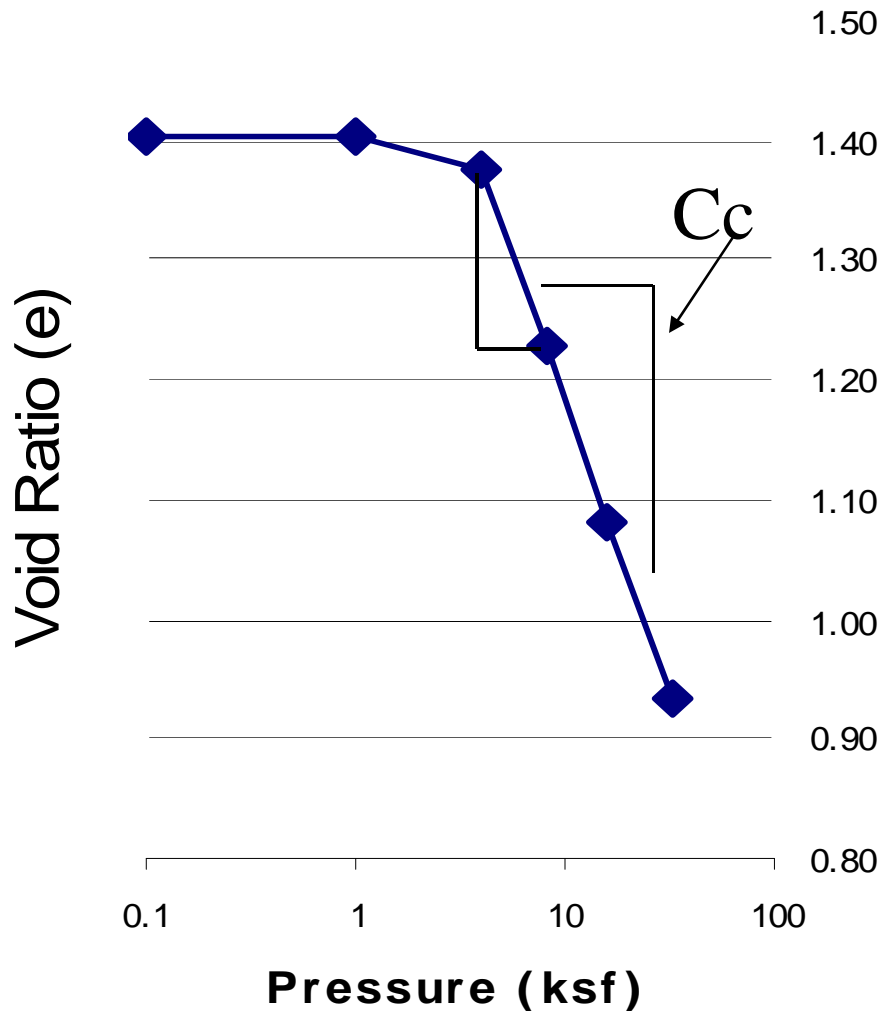
ksf	(e)
0.1	1.404
1	1.404
4	1.375
8	1.227
16	1.08
32	0.932

A) 0.21

B) 0.49

C_c is the slope of the virgin e-log p

e-log p



$$C_c = -(e_1 - e_2) / \log(p_1 / p_2)$$

$$C_c = -(1.375 - 1.227) / \log(4/8)$$

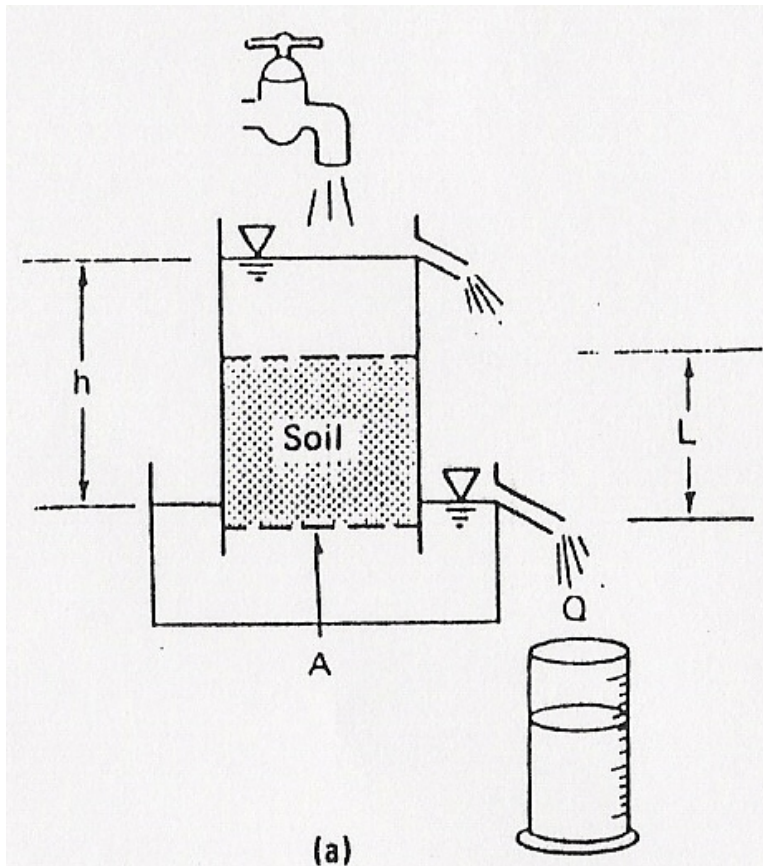
$$C_c = 0.49$$

Answer is “B”

ksf	(e)
0.1	1.404
1	1.404
4	1.375
8	1.227
16	1.08
32	0.932

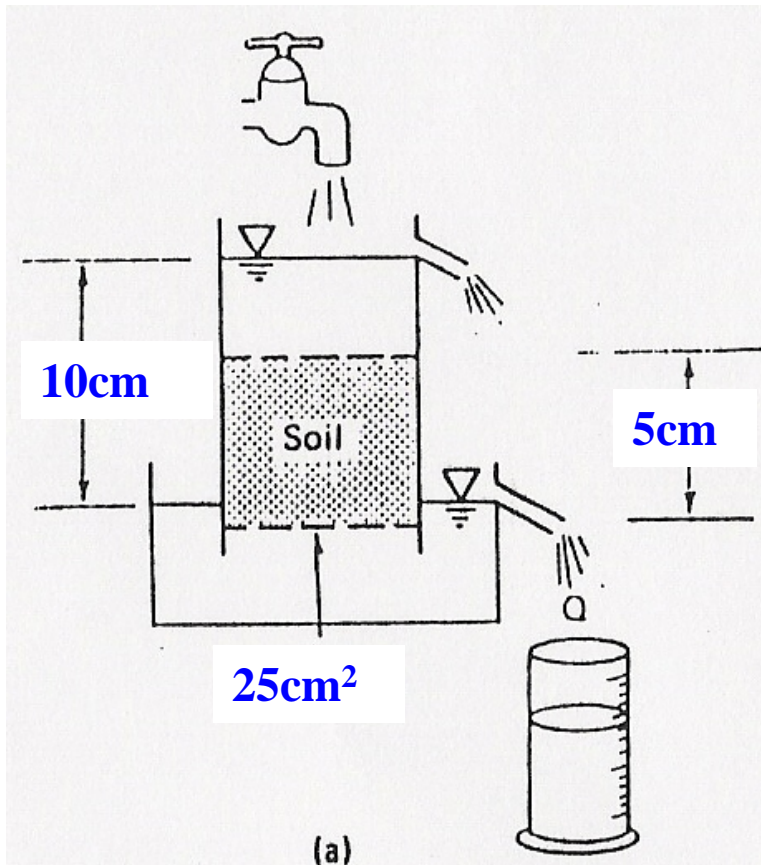
Permeability

Constant Head Conditions



- $Q = kiAt$
- $Q = k (h/L)At$
- $k = QL / (Ath)$
- $Q =$ flow Volume
- $k =$ permeability
- $i =$ hydraulic gradient h/L
- $A =$ x-sectional area
- $t =$ time
- $q =$ flow rate Q/t

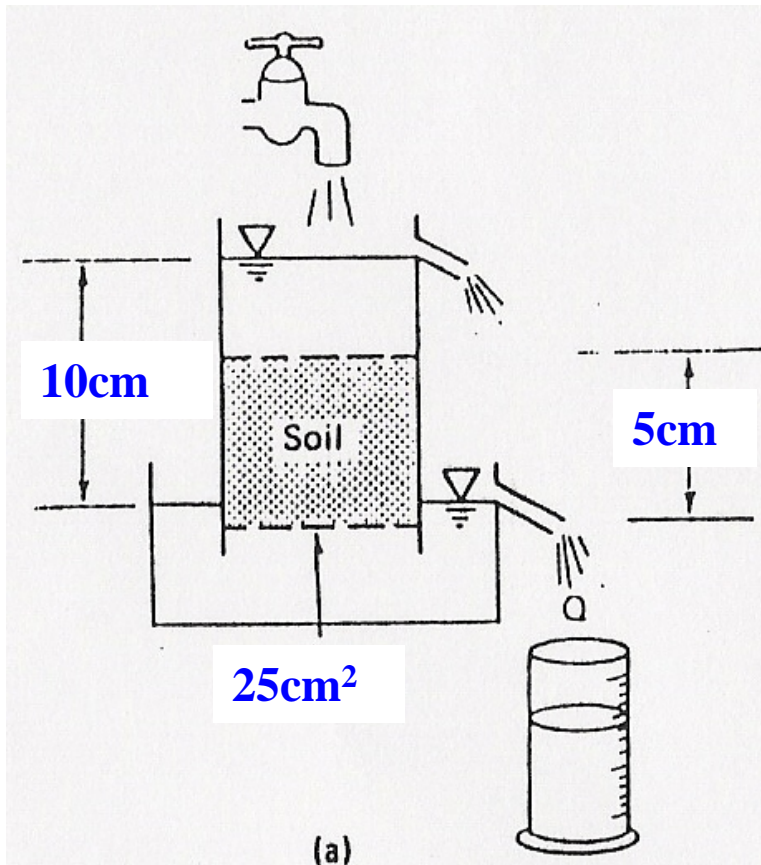
If $Q = 15\text{cc}$ & $t = 30\text{ sec}$
what is the permeability



$$k = QL / (Ath)$$

- A) 0.01 cm/sec
- B) 0.01×10^{-2} cm/sec
- C) 0.1 cm/sec

Constant Head Permeability



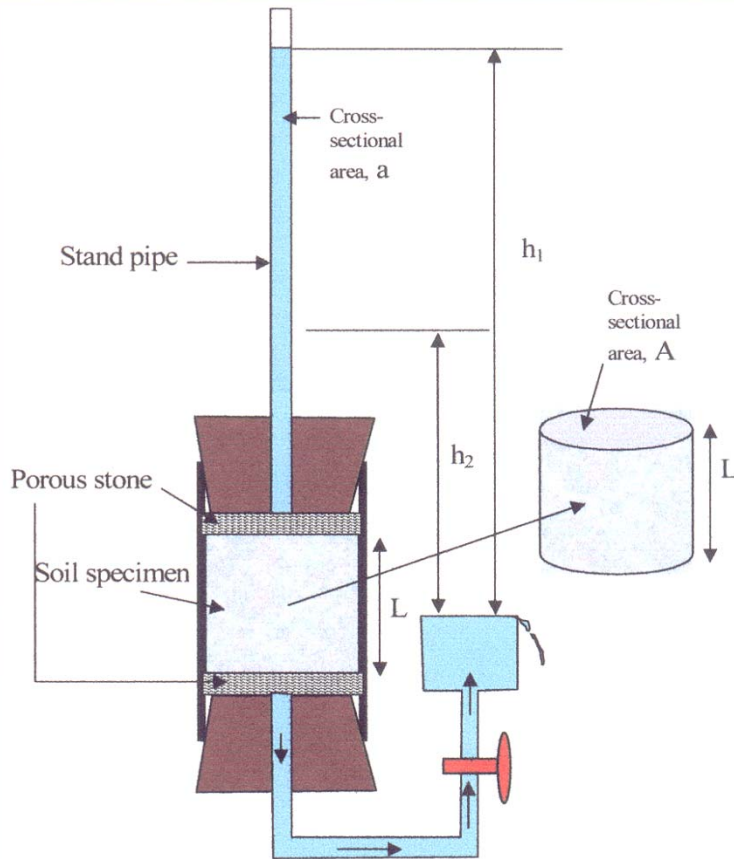
Calculate k

$Q = 15 \text{ cc}$ & $t = 30 \text{ sec}$

- $k = QL / (Ath)$
- $k = (15 \times 5) / (25 \times 30 \times 10)$
- $k = 0.01 \text{ cm/sec}$

Answer is “A”

Falling Head Permeability

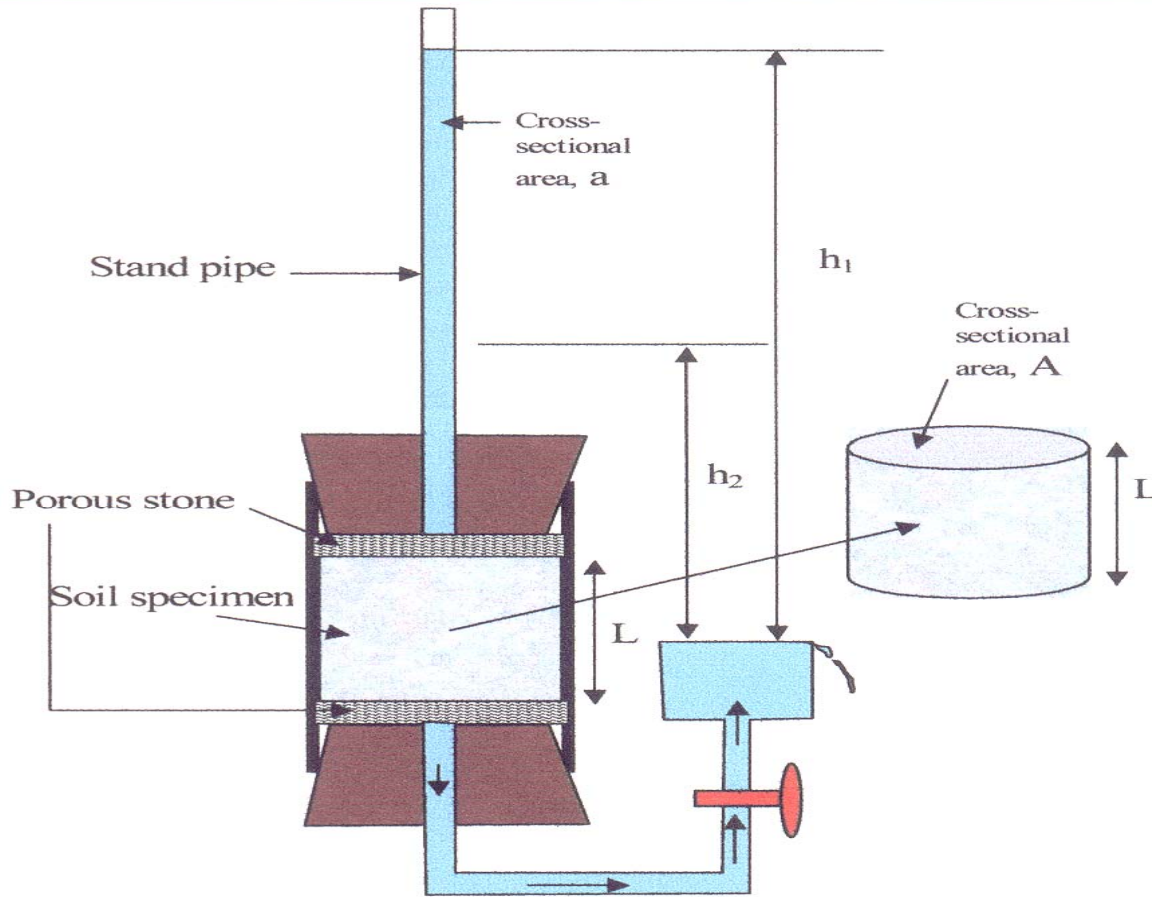


$$k = 2.303 [a L / (A t)] \log_{10} (h_1 / h_2)$$

where t = time to drop from h_1 to h_2

- $k = QL / (Ath)$
(but h varies)
- $k = (2.3aL / (At)) \log (h_1 / h_2)$
- where a = pipette area
- h_1 = initial head
- h_2 = final head

If $t = 30$ sec; $h_1 = 30$ cm; $h_2 = 15$ cm
 $L = 5$ cm; $a = 0.2$ cm²; $A = 30$ cm²; calculate k

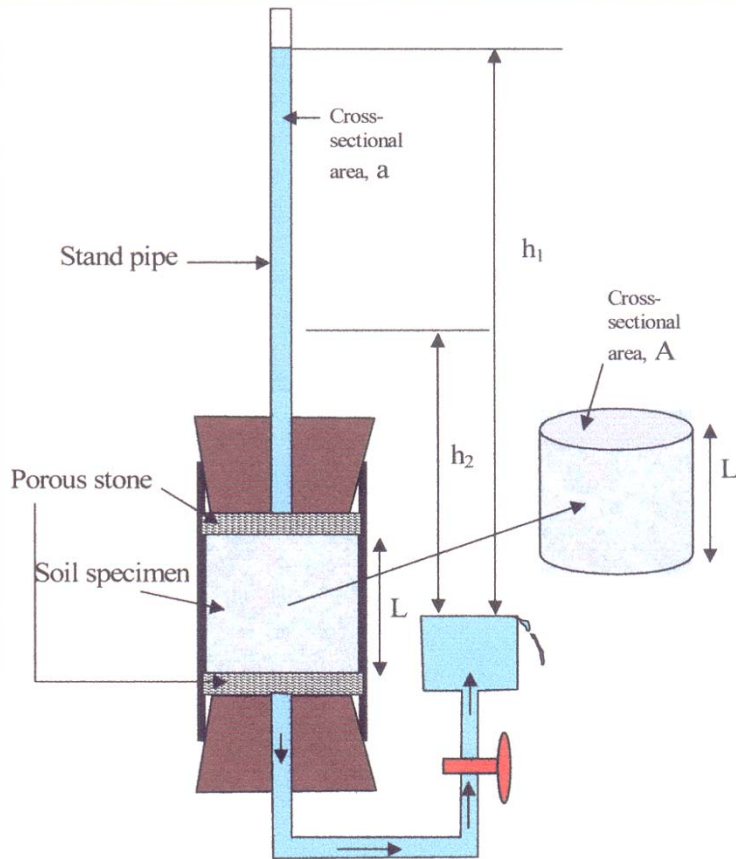


- A) 2.3×10^{-3} cm/sec
- B) 8.1×10^{-6} cm/sec
- C) 7.7×10^{-4} cm/sec

$$k = 2.303 \left[\frac{a L}{A t} \right] \log_{10} \left(\frac{h_1}{h_2} \right)$$

where t = time to drop from h_1 to h_2

Falling Head Permeability



$$k = (2.3aL / (At)) \log (h_1/h_2)$$

$$k = (2.3 (0.2) 5 / (30 \times 30)) \log (30/15)$$

$$k = 7.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm/sec}$$

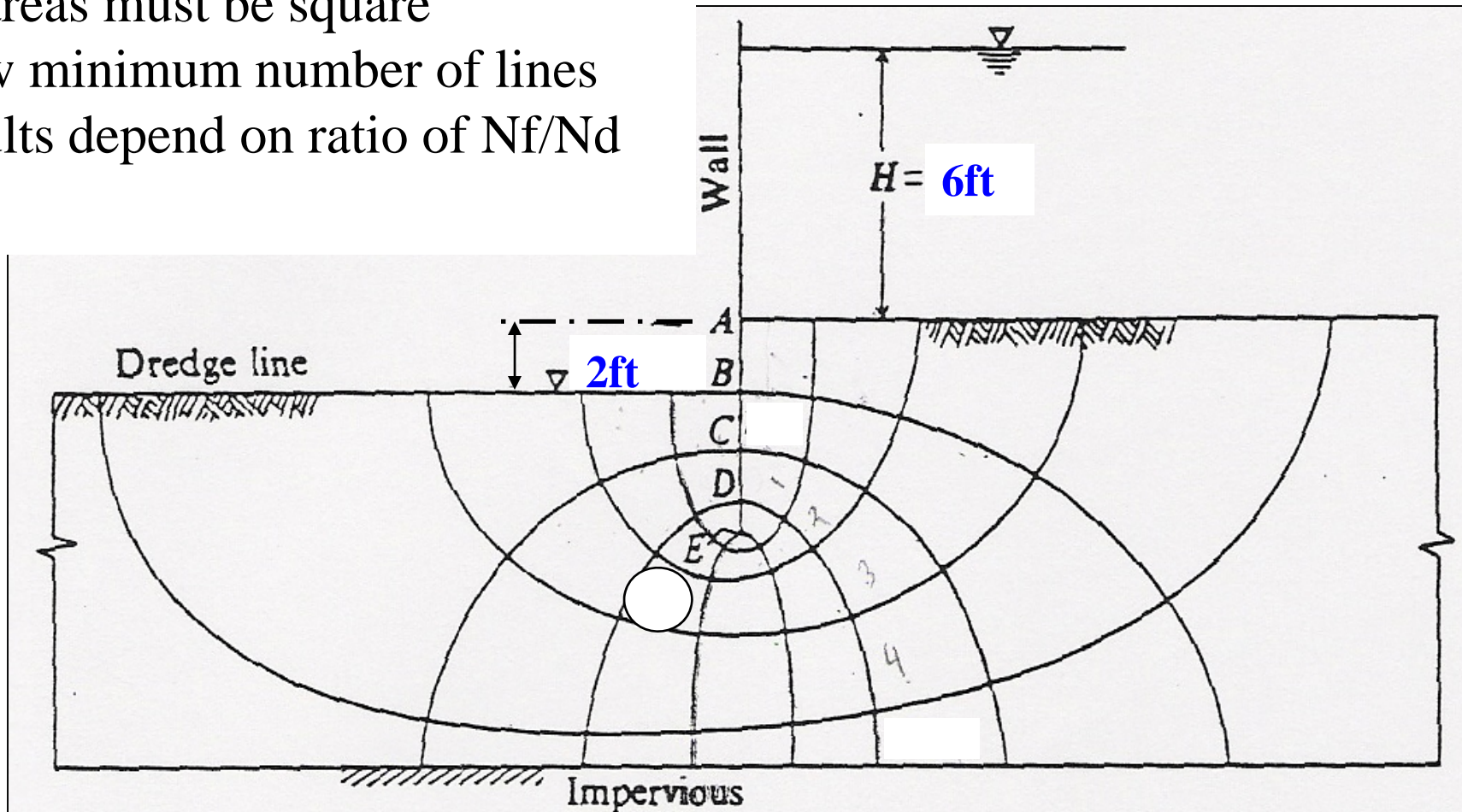
Answer is "C"

$$k = 2.303 [a L / (A t)] \log_{10} (h_1/h_2)$$

where t = time to drop from h_1 to h_2

Flow Nets

- Flow lines & head drop lines must intersect at right angles
- All areas must be square
- Draw minimum number of lines
- Results depend on ratio of N_f/N_d

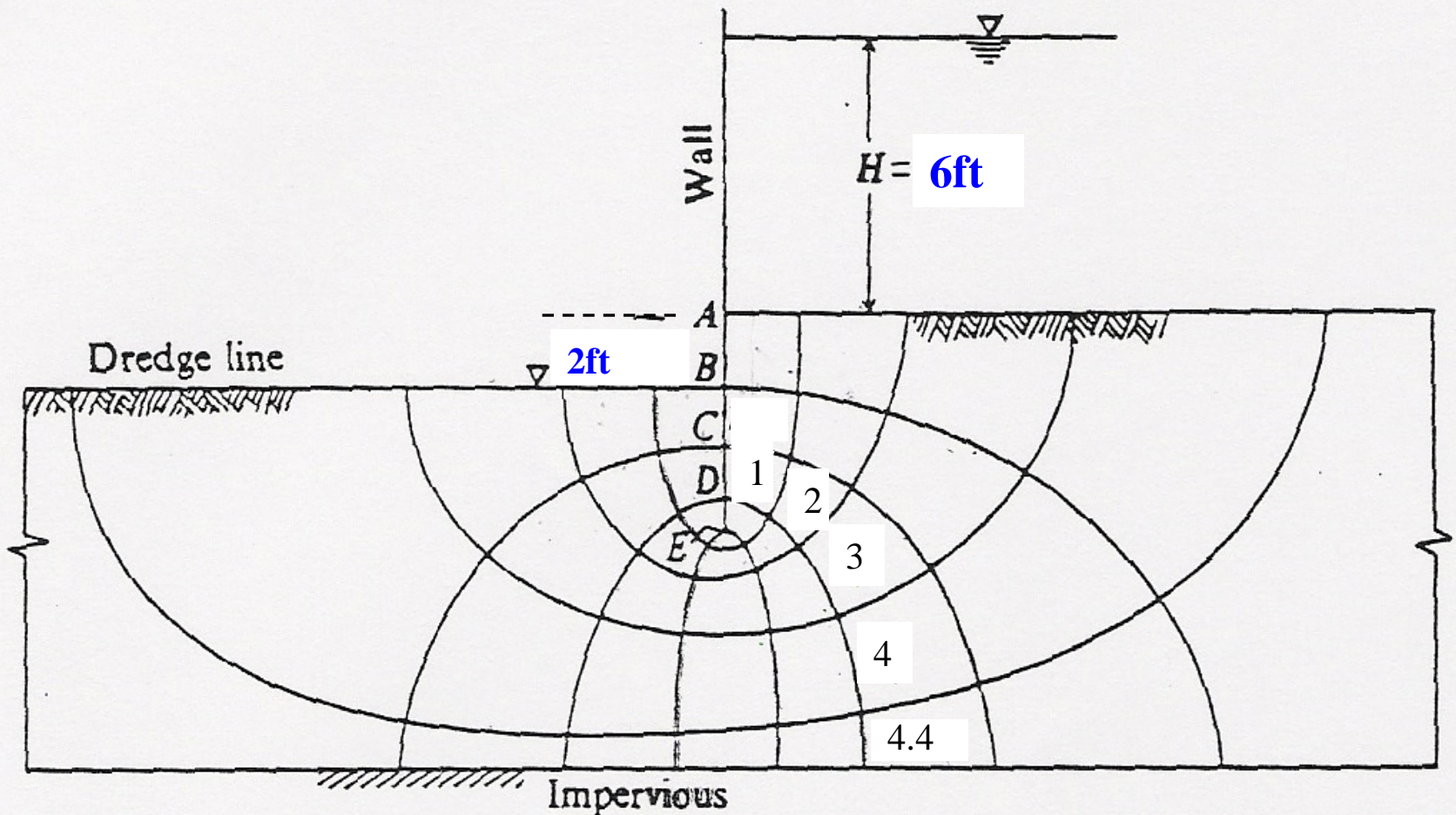


$$Q = k i a = k H N_f / N_d w t \text{ (units = volume/time)}$$

w = unit width of section

t = time

Flow Nets



Flow Nets

What flow/day?

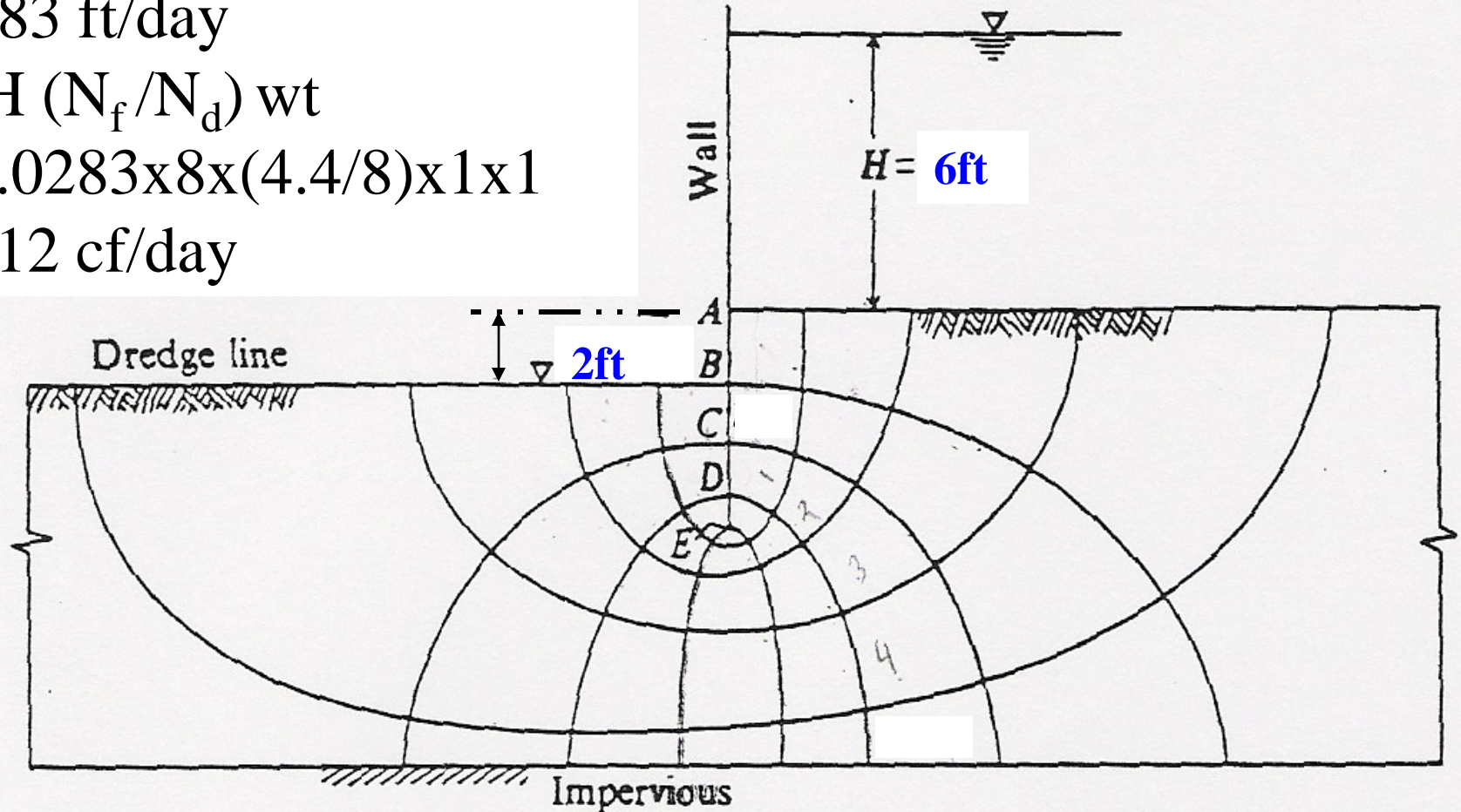
assume $k = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ cm/sec

$= 0.0283$ ft/day

$Q = kH (N_f / N_d) wt$

$Q = 0.0283 \times 8 \times (4.4 / 8) \times 1 \times 1$

$Q = 0.12$ cf/day



Check for “quick conditions”

$$p_c = 2(120) = 240 \text{ psf (total stress)}$$

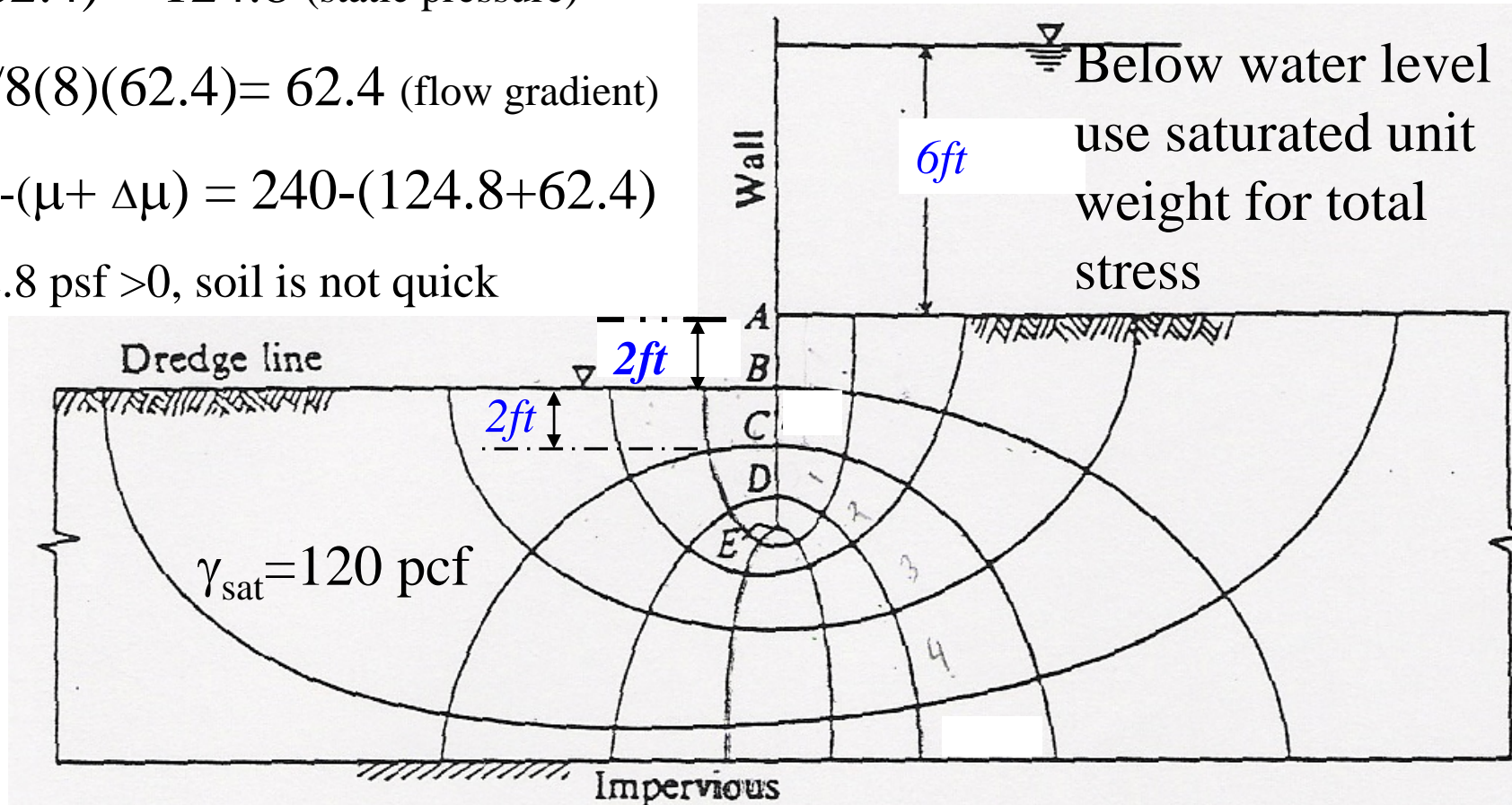
$$\mu = 2(62.4) = 124.8 \text{ (static pressure)}$$

$$\Delta\mu = 1/8(8)(62.4) = 62.4 \text{ (flow gradient)}$$

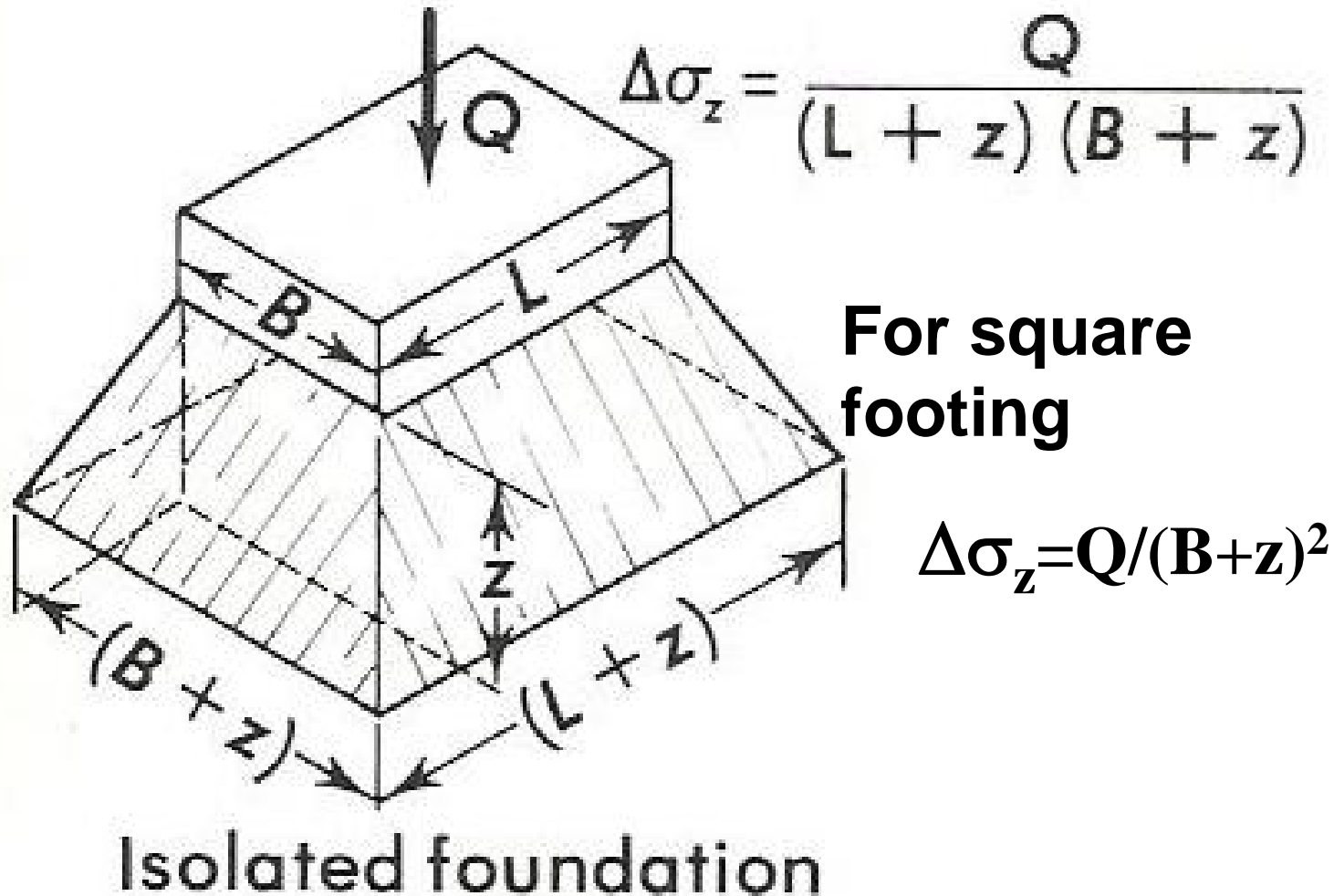
$$p'_c = p_c - (\mu + \Delta\mu) = 240 - (124.8 + 62.4)$$

$$p'_c = 52.8 \text{ psf} > 0, \text{ soil is not quick}$$

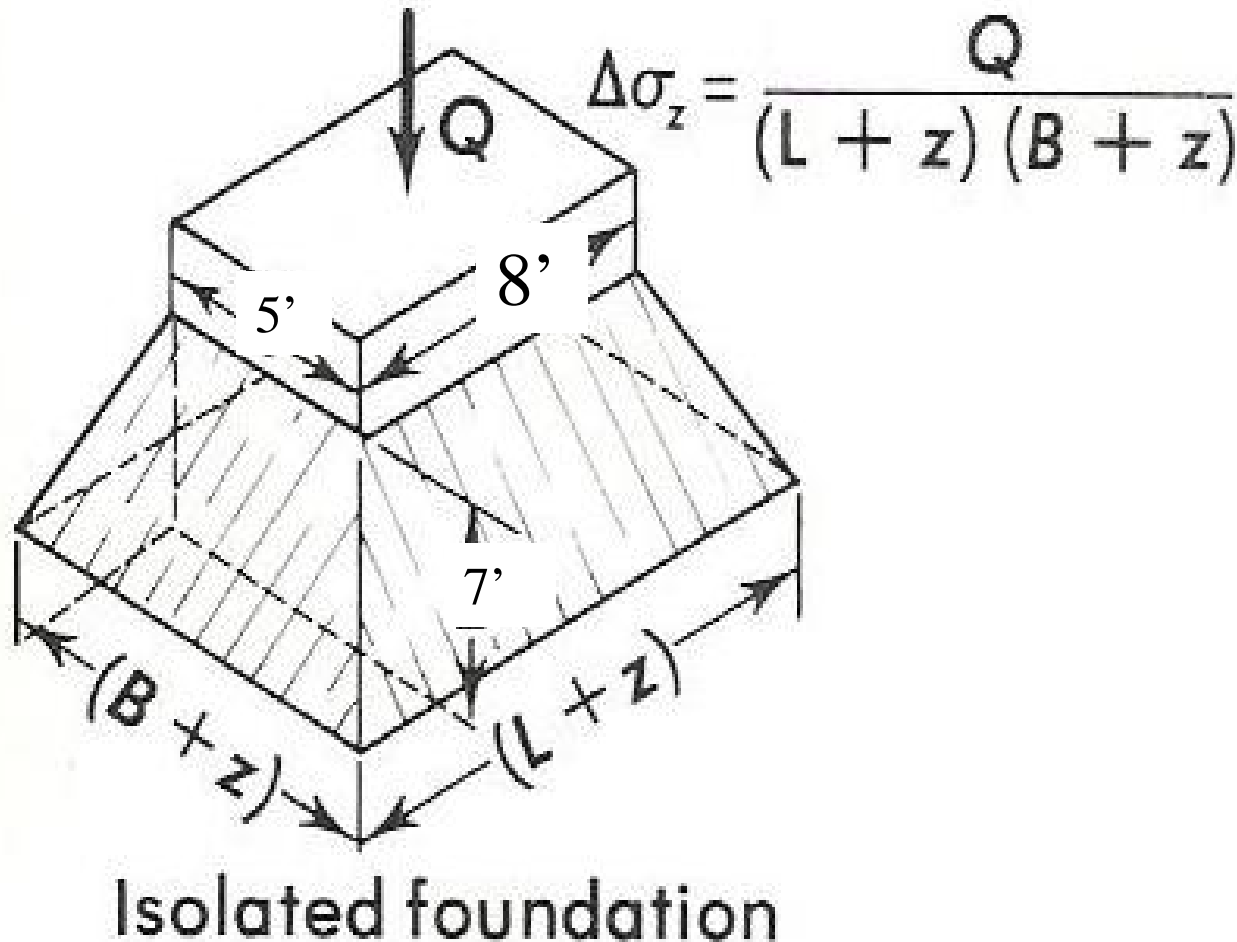
Flow Nets



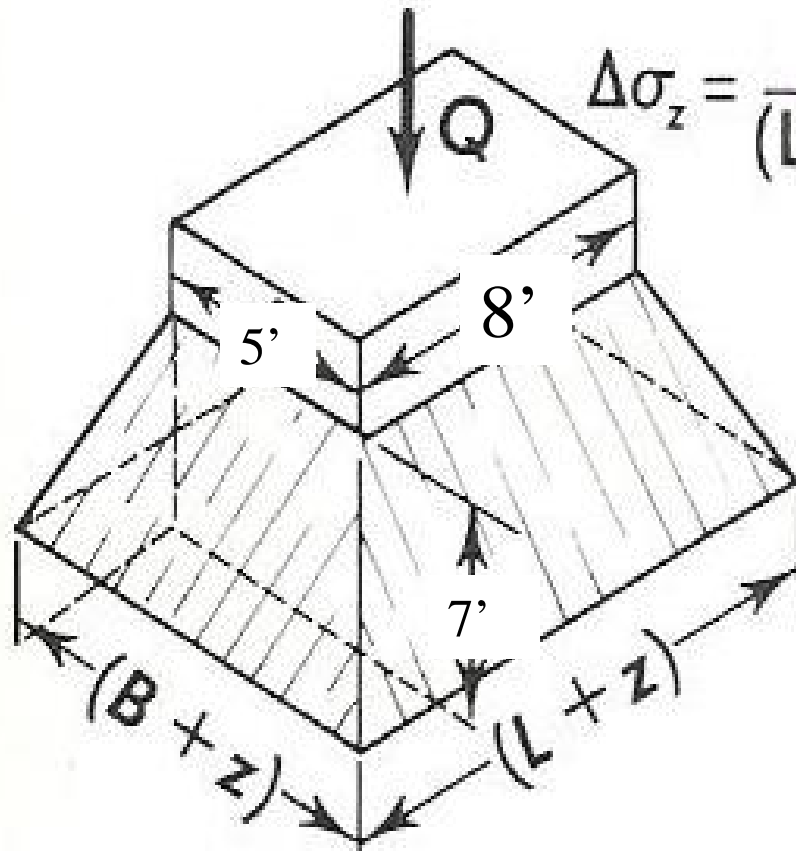
Stress Change Influence (1H:2V)



If $Q = 20$ kips, Calculate the vertical stress increase at 7 feet below the footing bottom



If $Q = 20$ kips, Calculate the vertical stress increase at 7 feet below the footing bottom



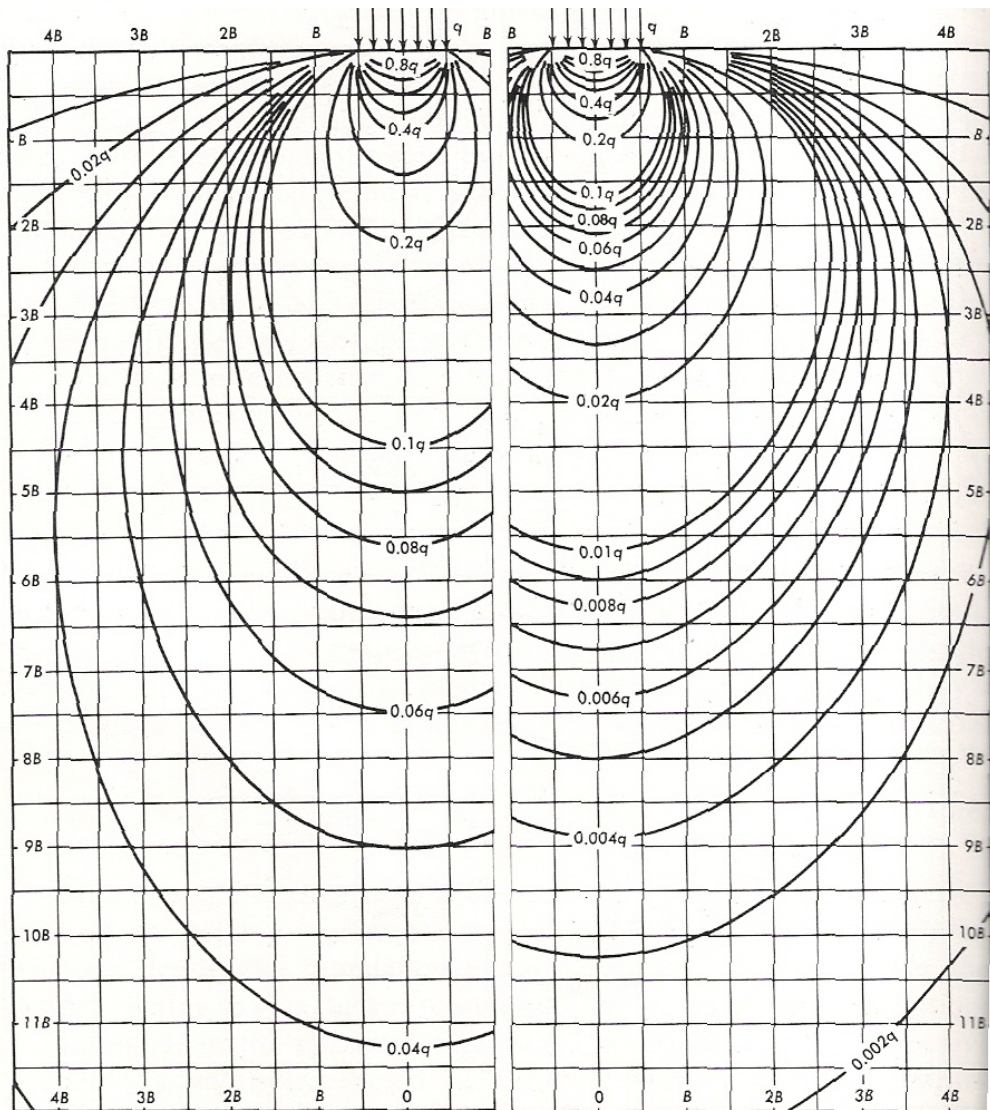
$$\Delta\sigma_z = \frac{Q}{(L + z)(B + z)}$$

$$\Delta\sigma_z = \frac{20000}{(8+7)(5+7)}$$

$$\Delta\sigma_z = 111 \text{ psf}$$

Isolated foundation

Westergaard (layered elastic & inelastic material)



a. Infinitely long foundation

b. Square foundation

If $B = 6.3'$ in a square footing with 20 kips load, what is the vertical stress increase at 7' below the footing bottom?

Westergaard

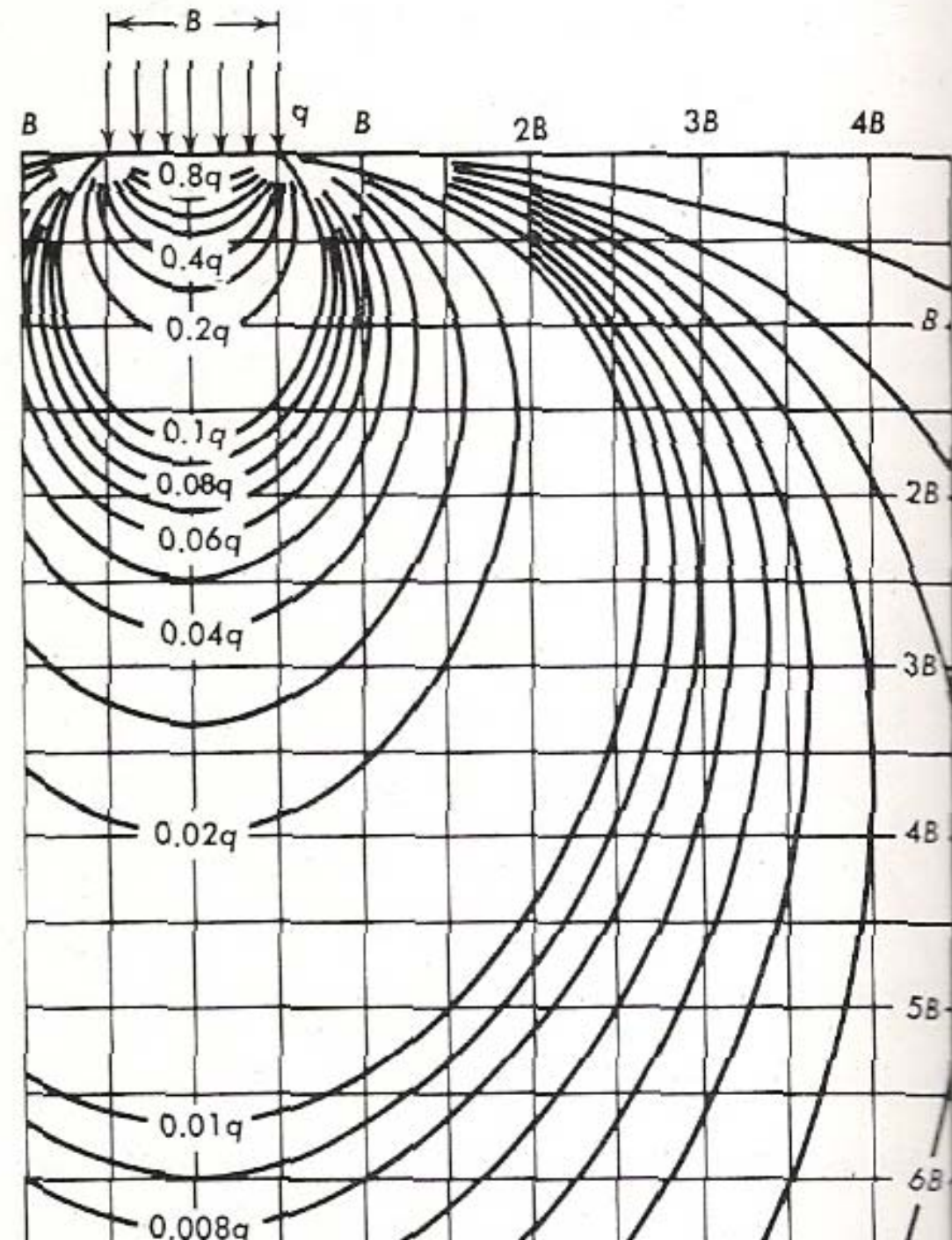
Square Footings

$$Q = 20 \text{ kips}$$

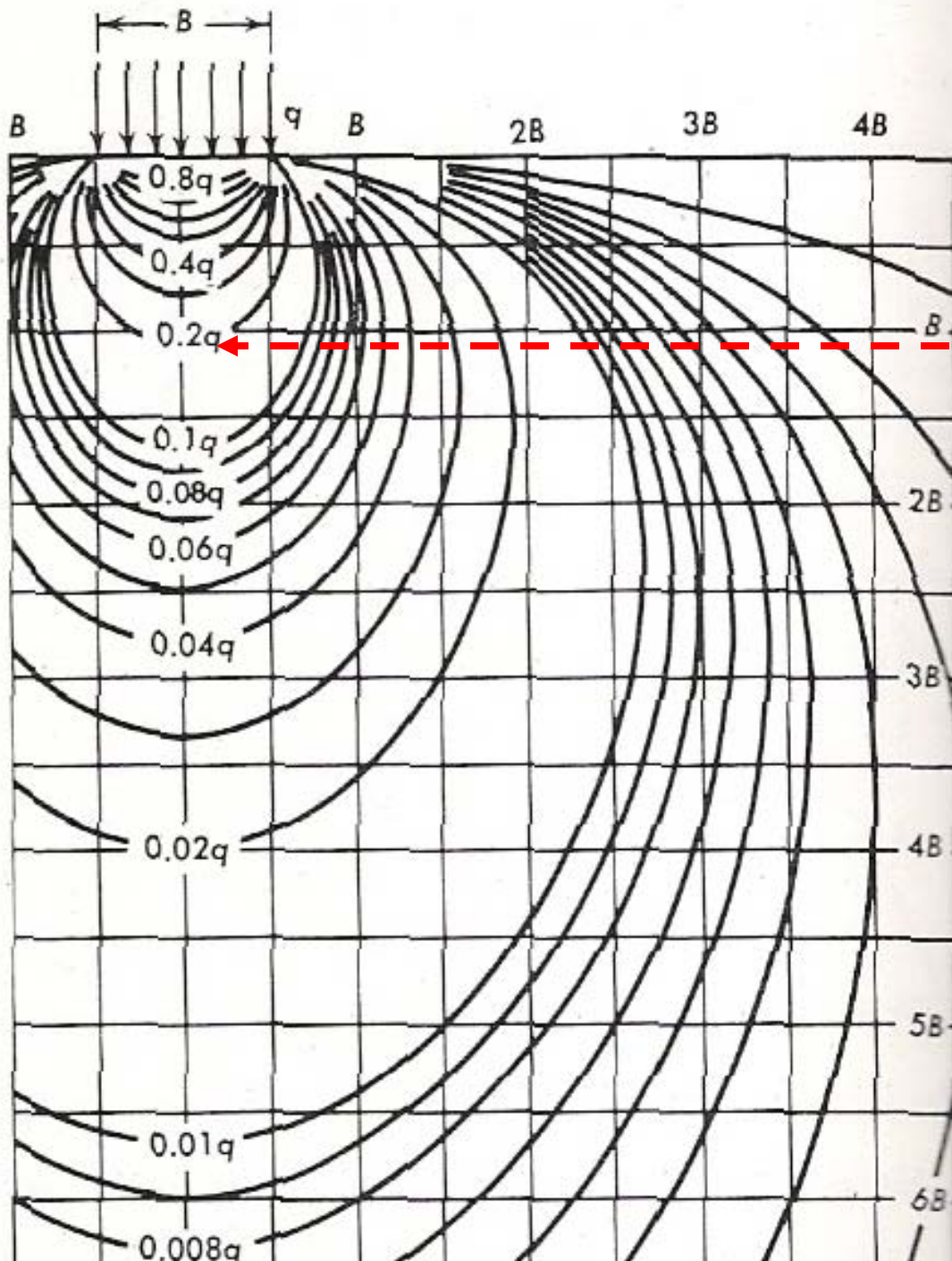
$$B = 6.3'$$

$$Z = 7'$$

$$\Delta\sigma_z = ?$$



Westergaard

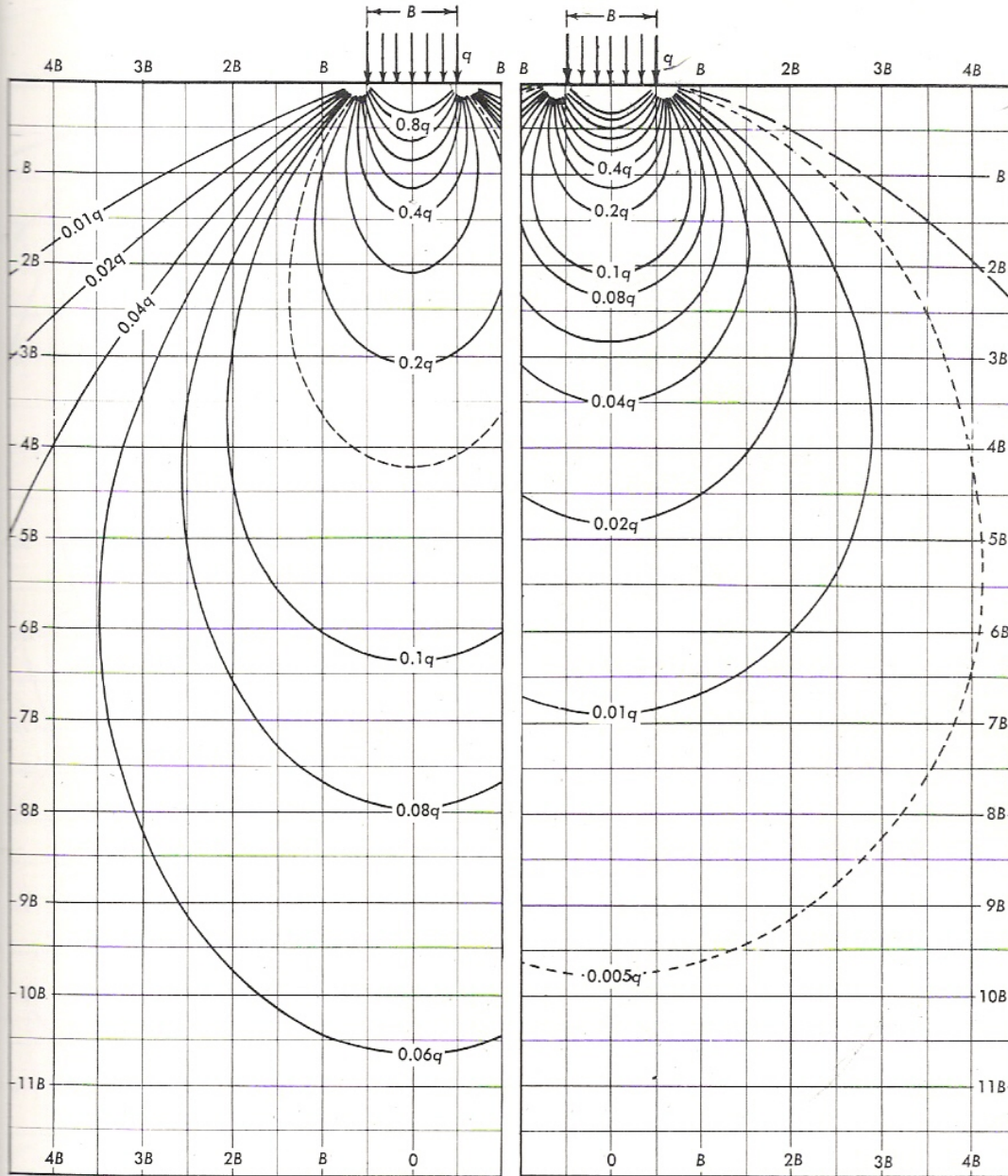


$$7' / 6.3' = 1.1B$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\sigma_z &= 0.18 \times 20000 / 6.3^2 \\ &= 90.7 \text{ psf} \end{aligned}$$

Boussinesq

(homogeneous elastic)



a. Infinitely long foundation

b. Square foundation

$$Q = 20 \text{ kips}$$

$$B = 6.3'$$

$$Z = 7'$$

$$\Delta\sigma_z = ?$$

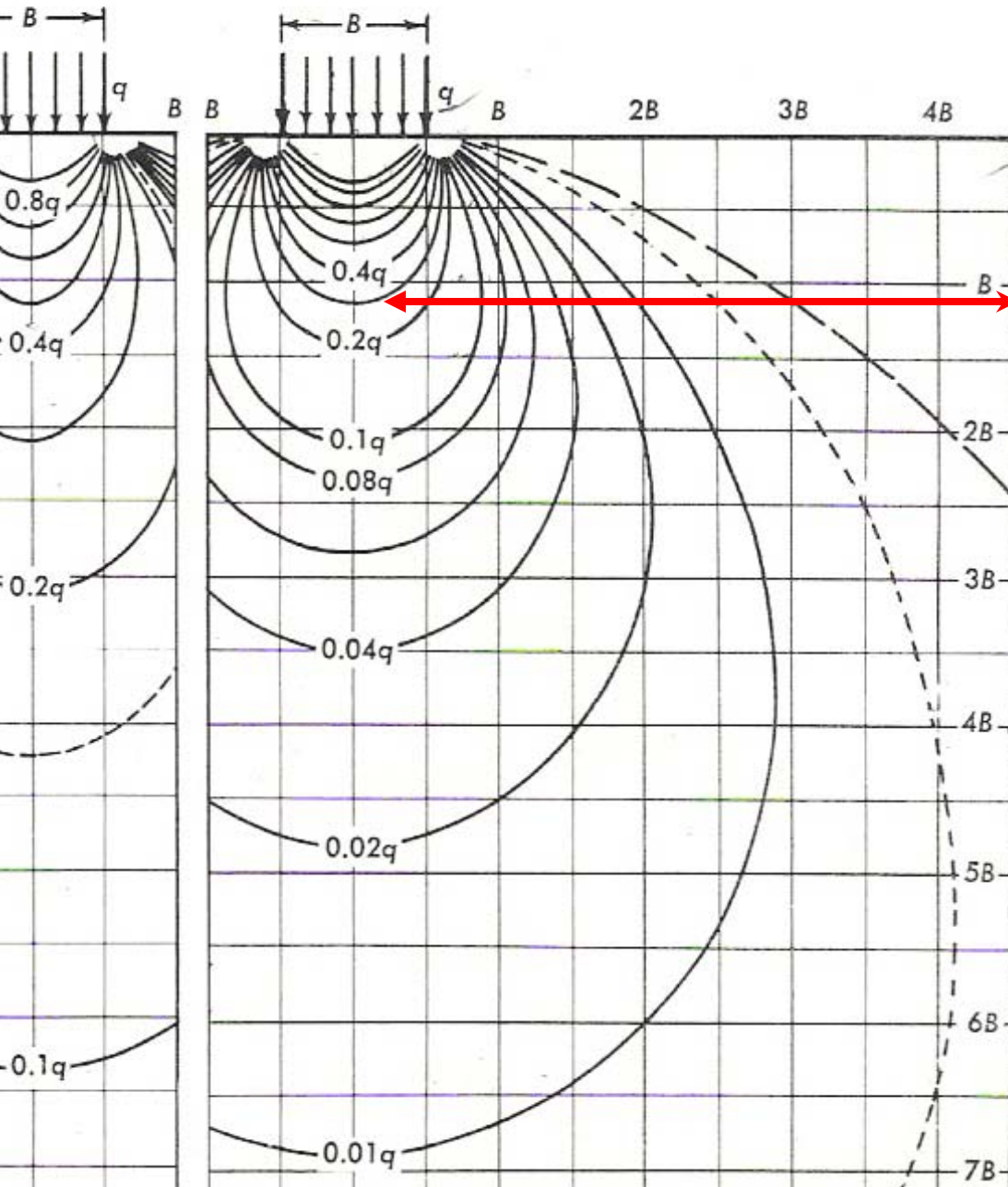
Boussinesq

Square Footing

$$Z/B = 1.1$$

$$\Delta\sigma_z = 0.3 \times 20000/6.3^2$$

$$= 151 \text{ psf}$$



Thanks for participating in the PE review course on
Soil Mechanics!



More questions or comments?

You can email me at:
gtv@gemeng.com