



ITA COSUF Workshop

Safety versus Economics, Cost-efficiency of tunnel safety measures

Rome 22 June 2012

Fire Design of Tunnel Lining Segments

Niels Peter Høj

Convener fib TG4.3

HOJ Consulting

Alberto Meda

Convener fib WP 4.3.5

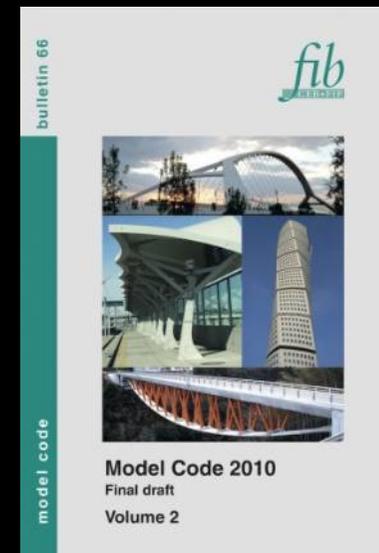
University of Rome

«Tor Vergata»



Introduction

- Fire design seen from a structural / concrete technology point of view
- In fib a working party WP4.3.5 "Fire design of concrete tunnels" has been established in task group TG4.3
- The aim is to prepare a Bulletin on this topic – helping the designer adopting an efficient approach



Introduction

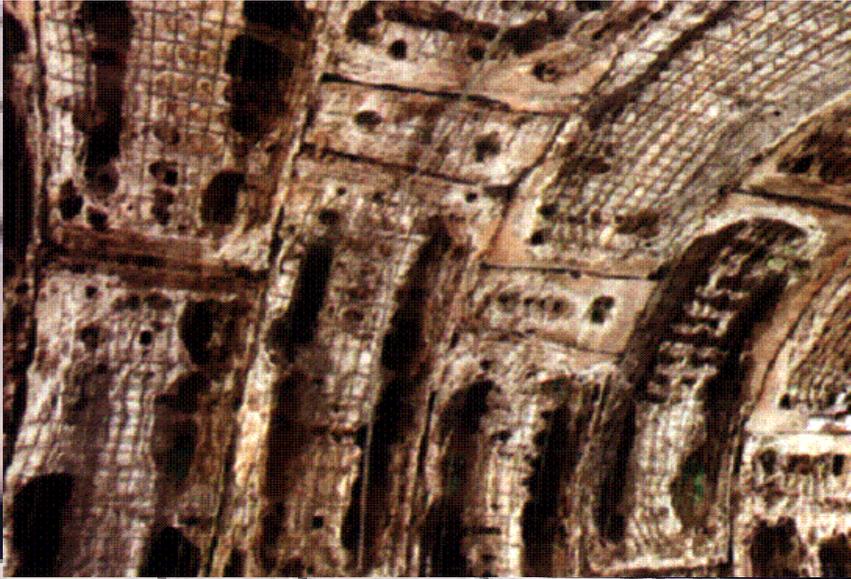
- The fib bulletin will cover:
- Conventional tunnels – with continuous lining
- Mechanical excavated tunnels – segmental lining
- Cut & cover tunnels / immersed tunnels
- Utilisation: road, rail and metro



Lessons from real fires

- No collapse in the main structure
- No flooding
- Spalling is common



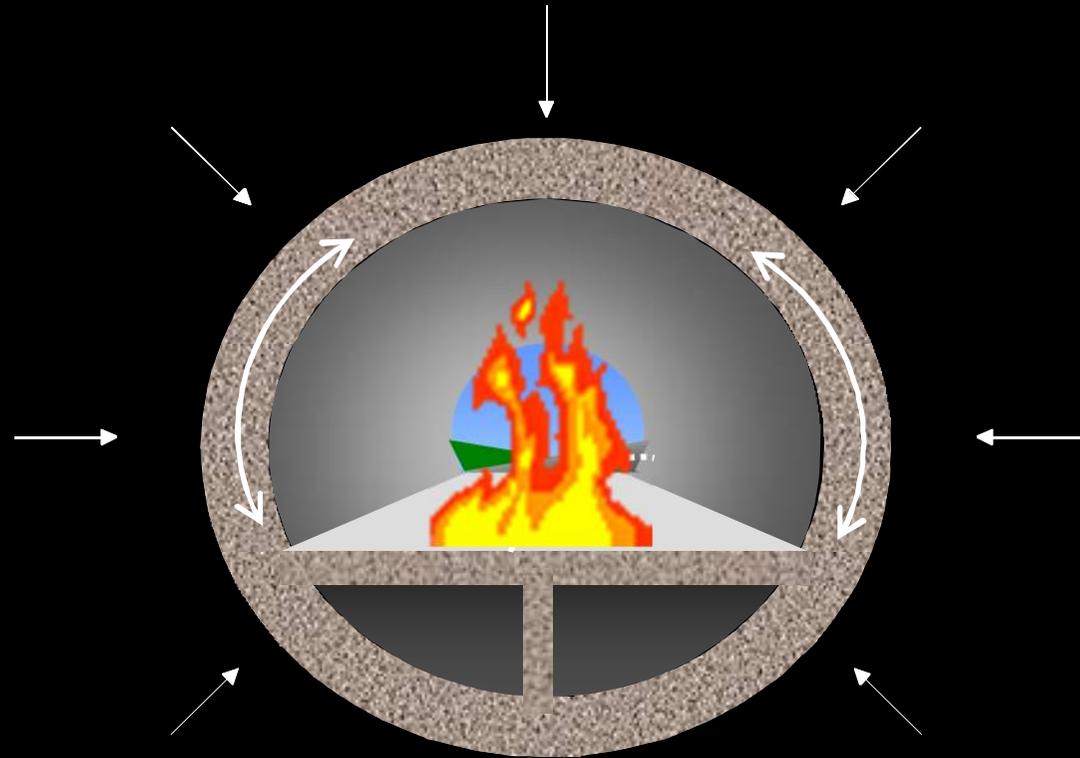


Tunnel fires / Channel tunnel



Channel Tunnel fire was close to
being fatal

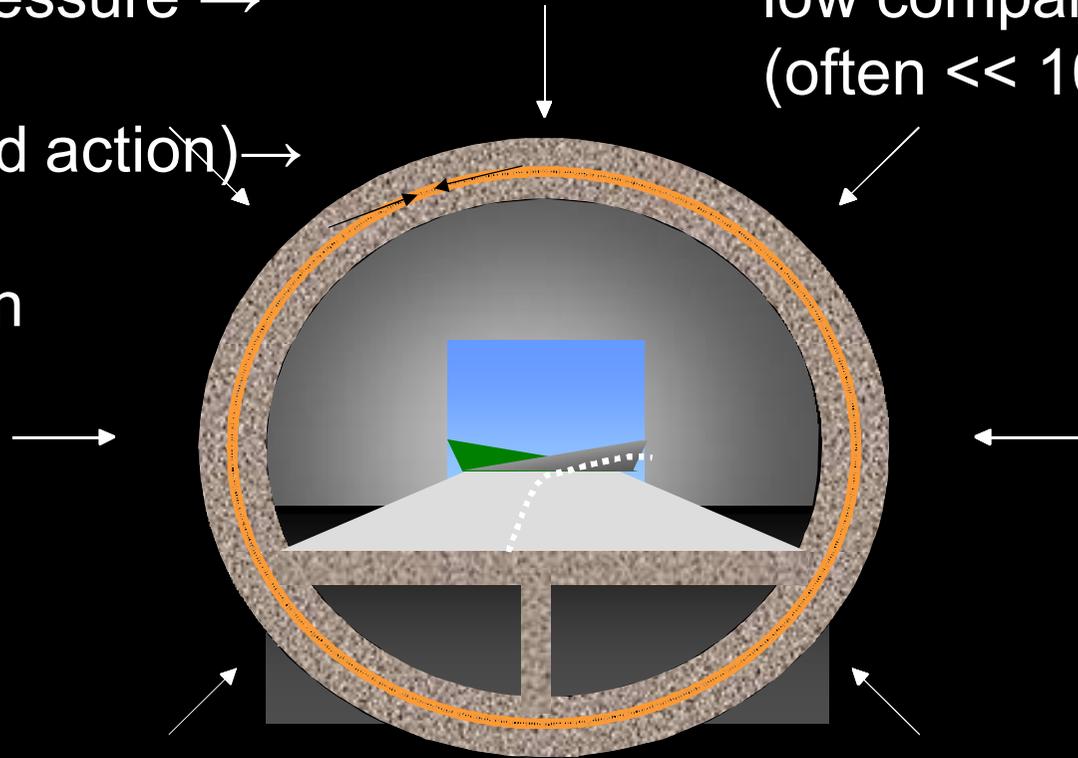
Exposure from fire



Mechanism

Ground and water load:
Ideal hydrostatic pressure →
Hoop load
(circular path of load action) →
(Circular) lining
in pure compression

The hoop load is typically very
low compared to lining capacity
(often $\ll 10\%$)



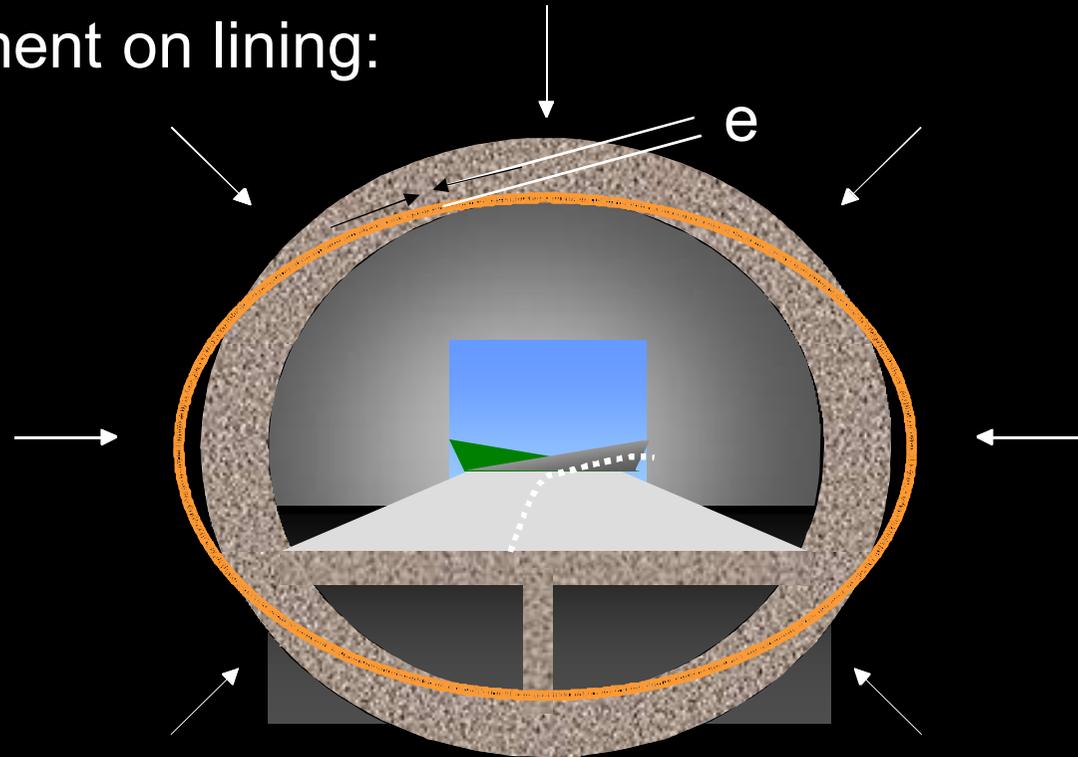
Mechanism

Ground pressure non-hydrostatic (shallow overburden) →

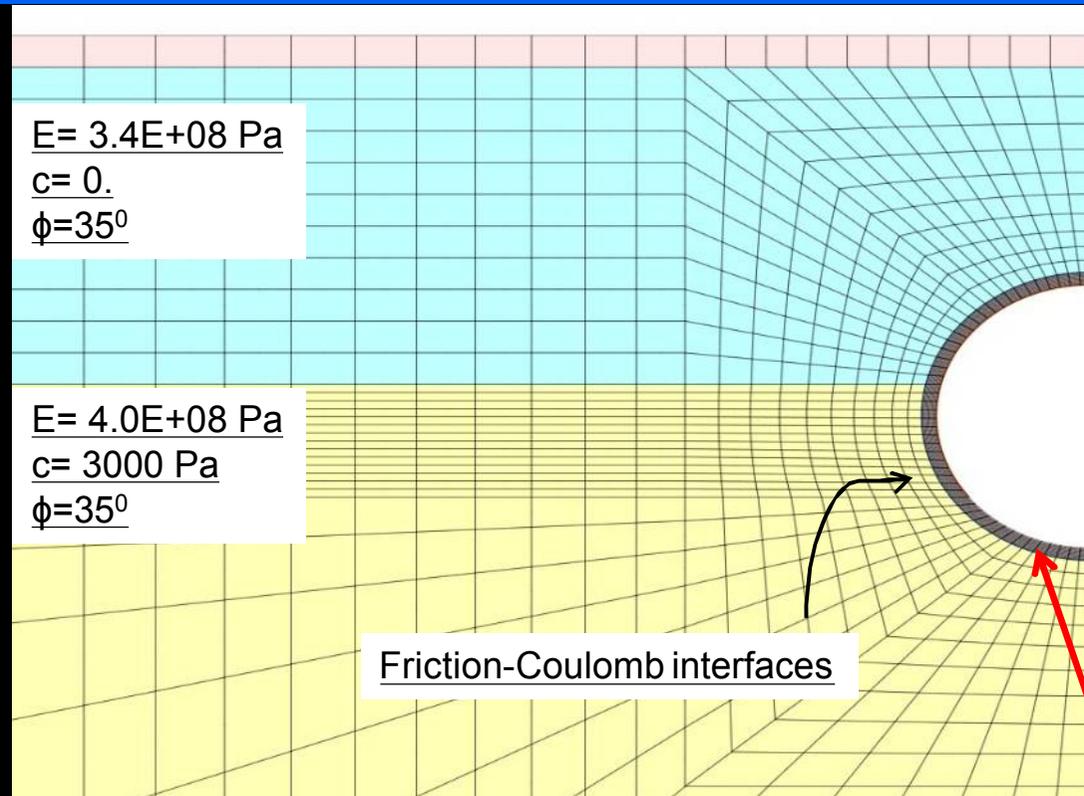
Non-circular path of load action →

Normal force + Moment on lining:

N ; $N \cdot e$



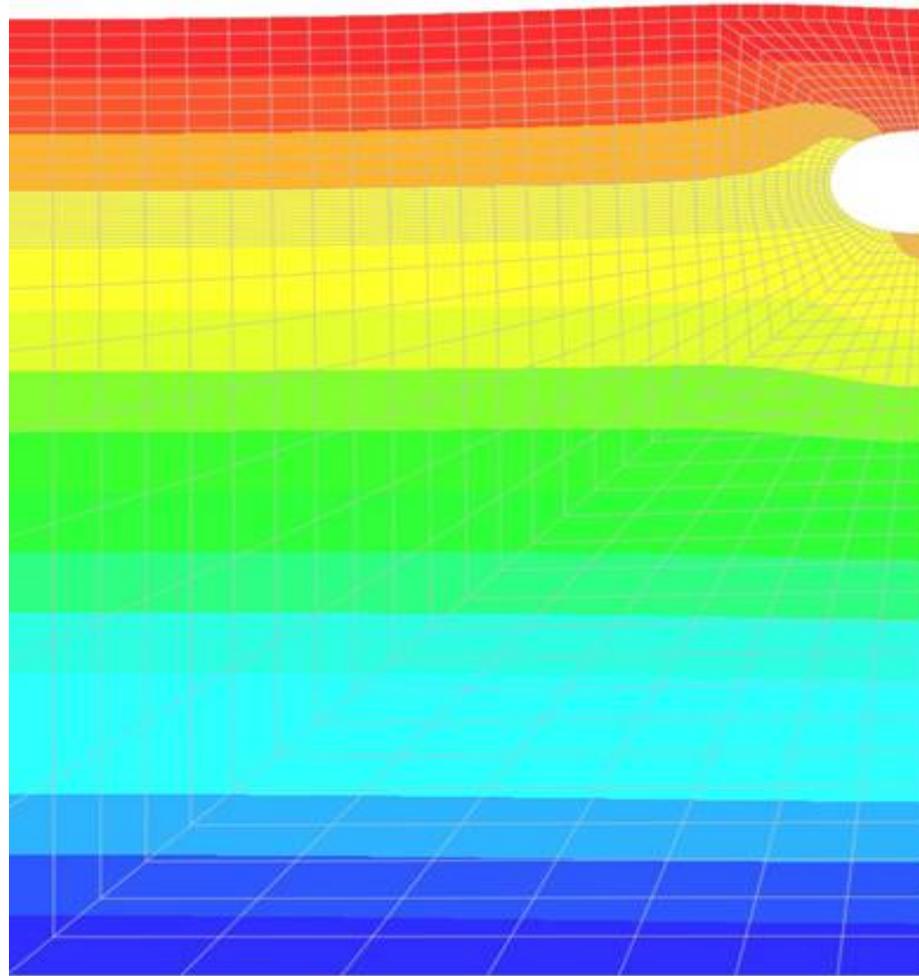
Analysis procedure



1. Stress initialization in the soil before excavation (K0 procedure)
2. Excavation and installation of the tunnel segment
3. Fire

Here: continuous lining is shown

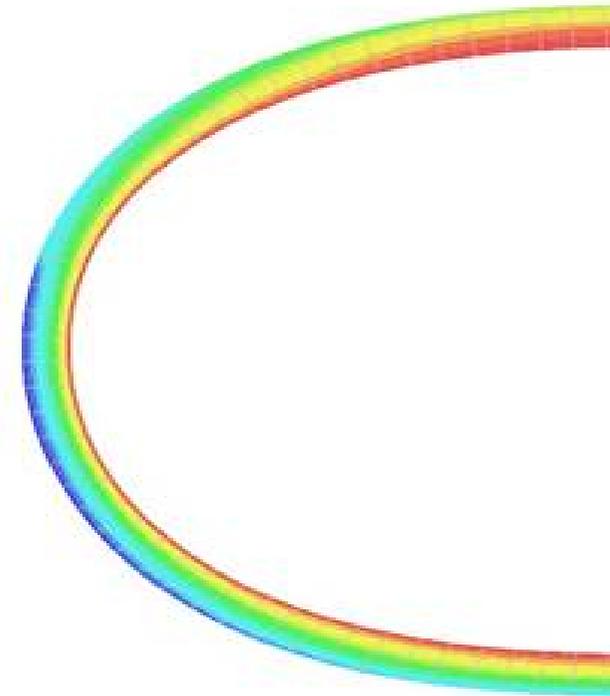
Results- Initial stresses before the fire



σ_{yy}



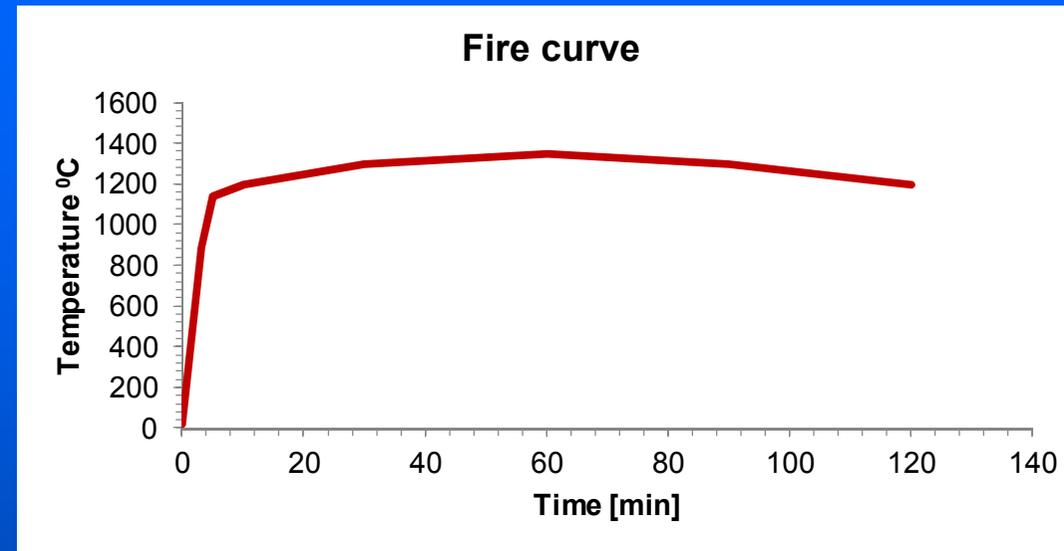
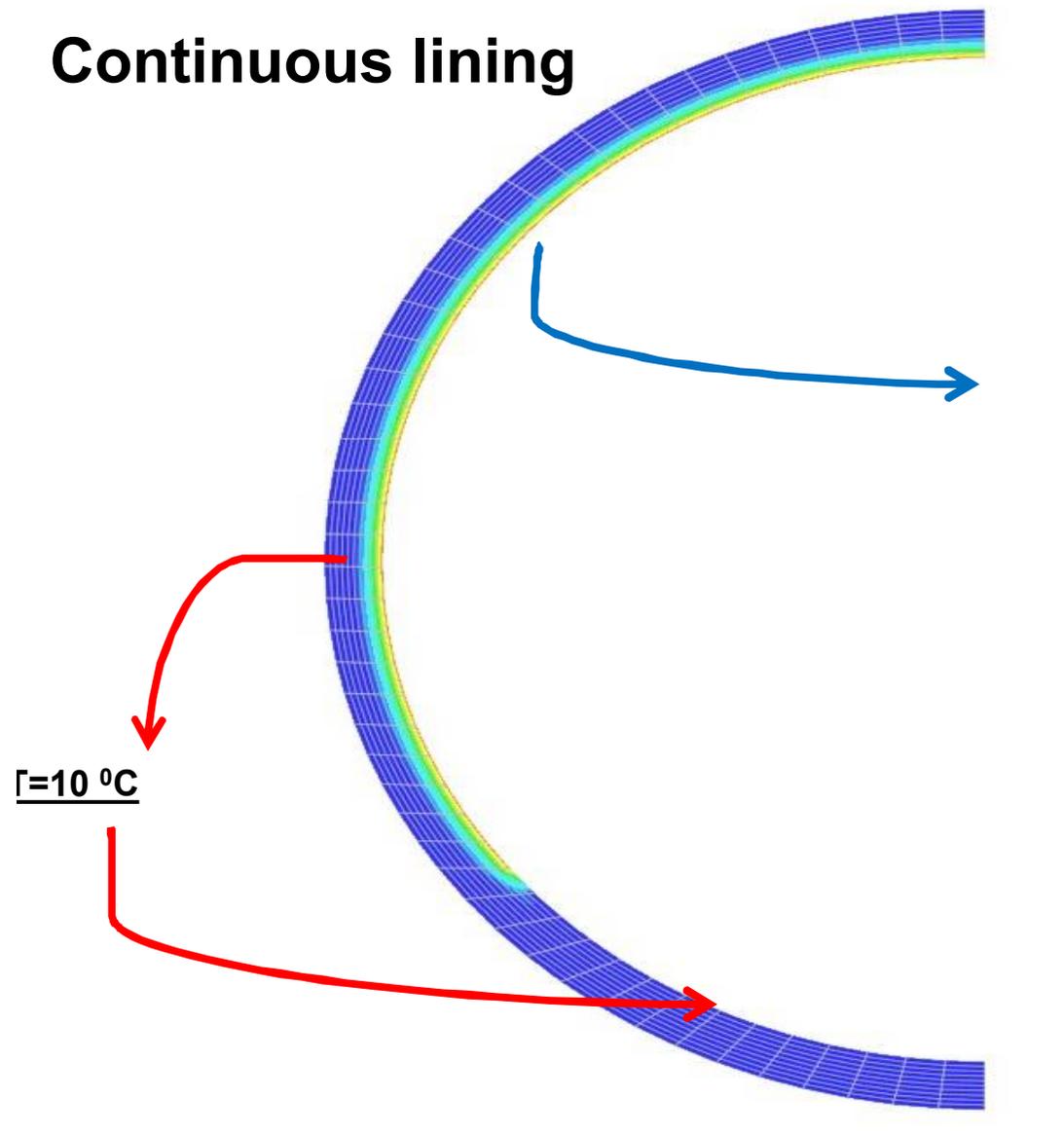
σ_1



Continuous lining

Thermal analysis

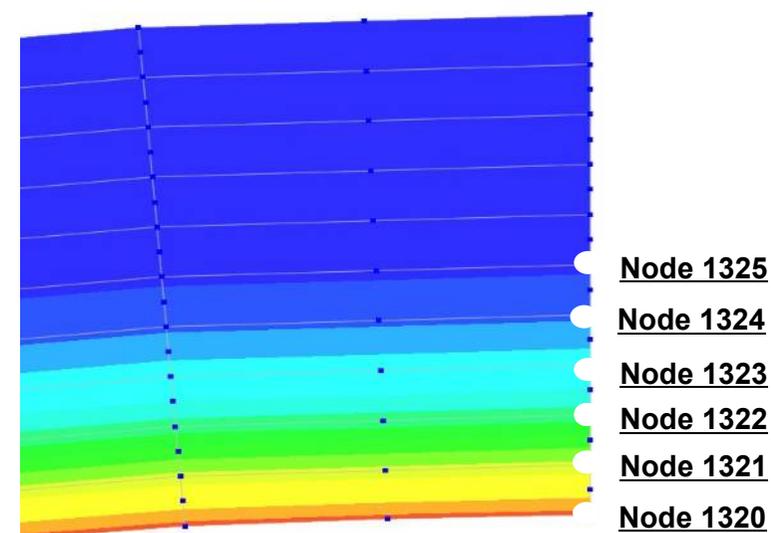
Continuous lining



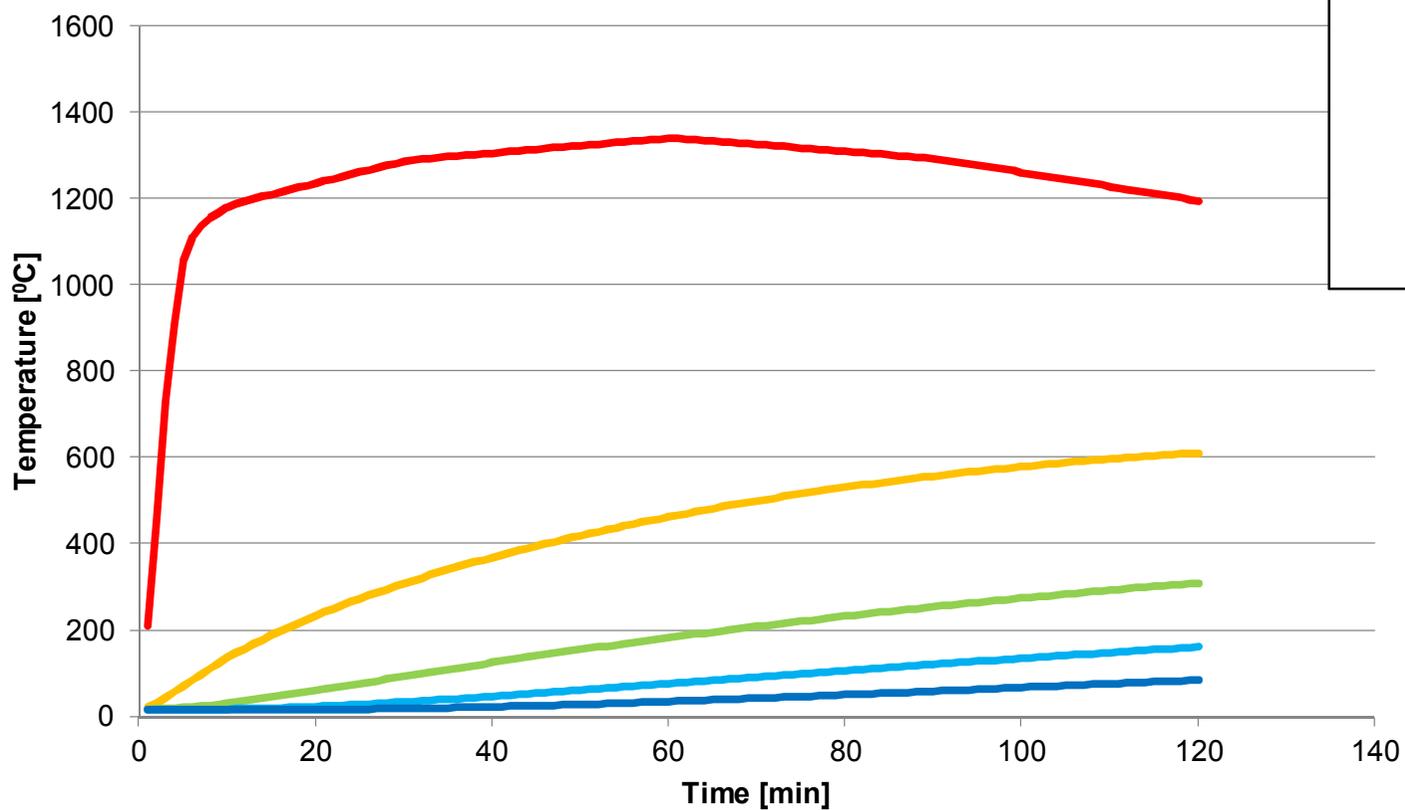
- **Conduction, convection and radiation**
- **Thermal properties vary with temperature**

Thermal analysis

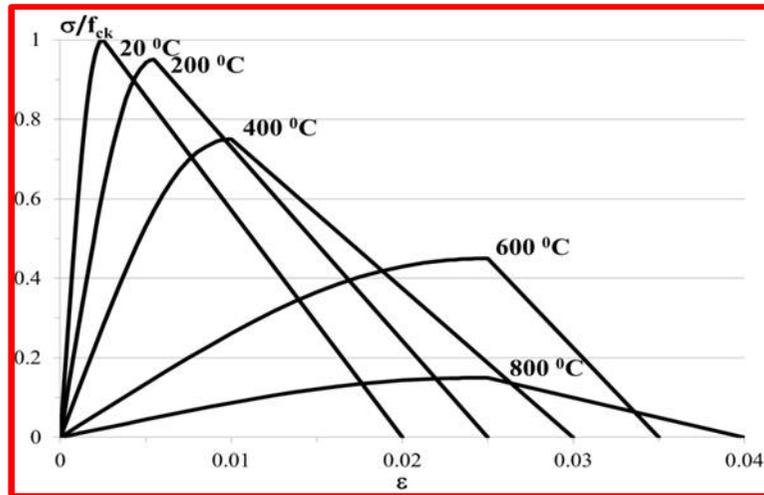
Intrados



Extrados



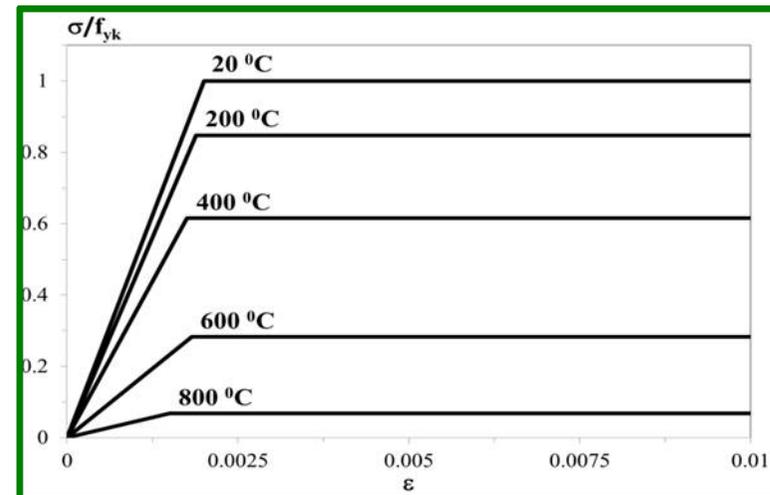
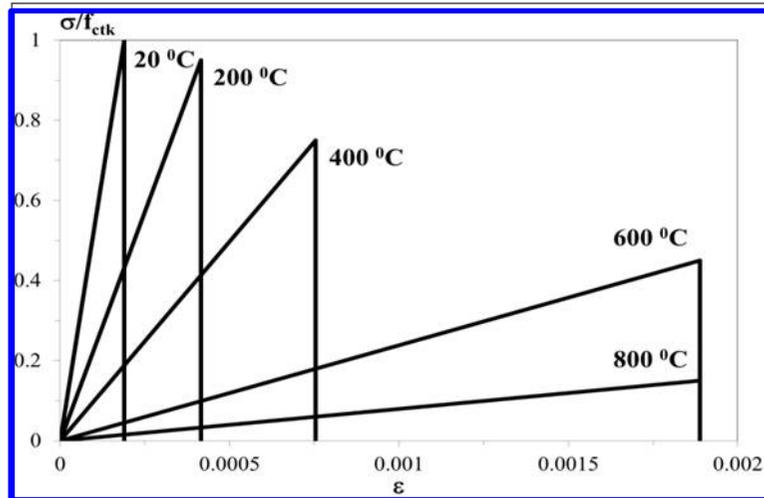
Physical properties



CONCRETE IN COMPRESSION

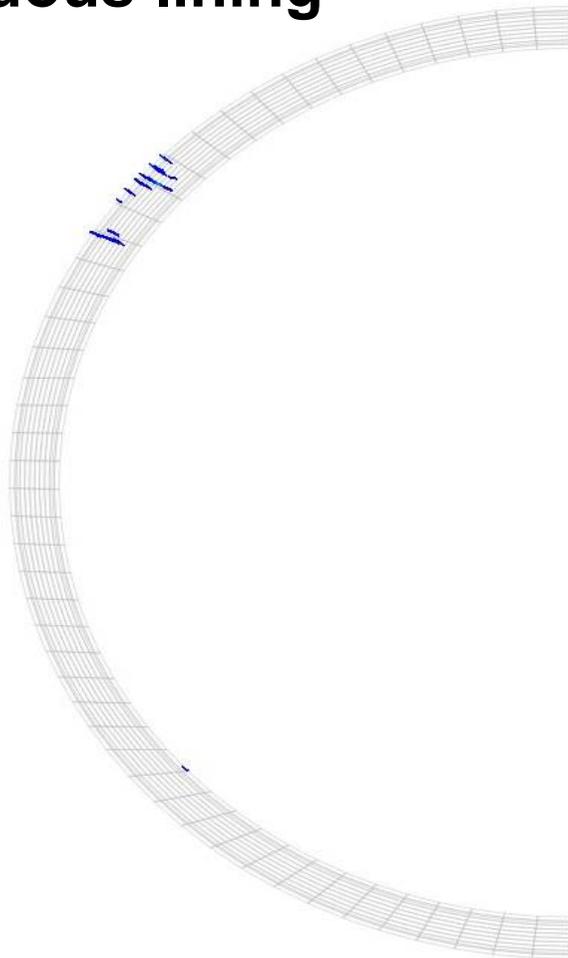
CONCRETE IN TENSION

REINFORCEMENT STEEL

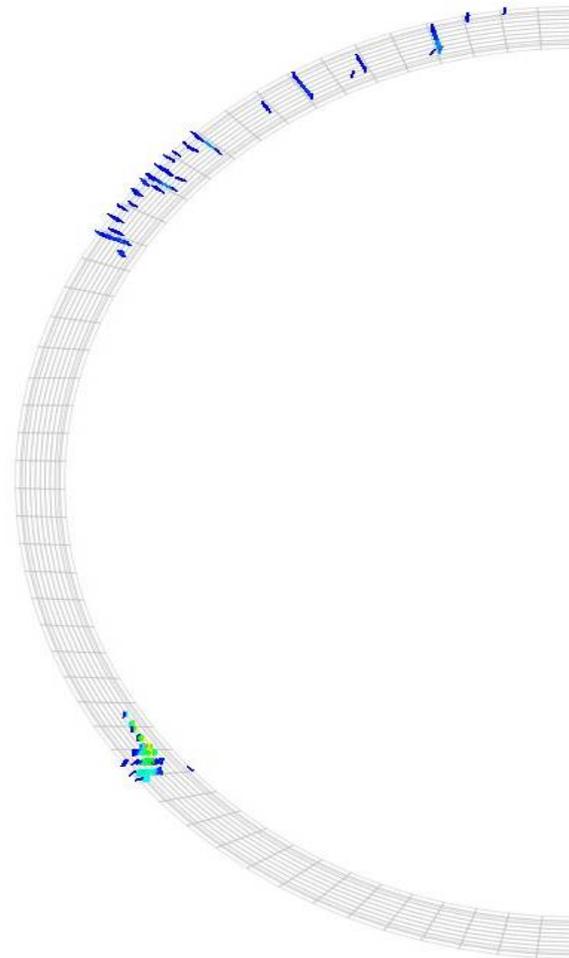


Cracking from dilatation

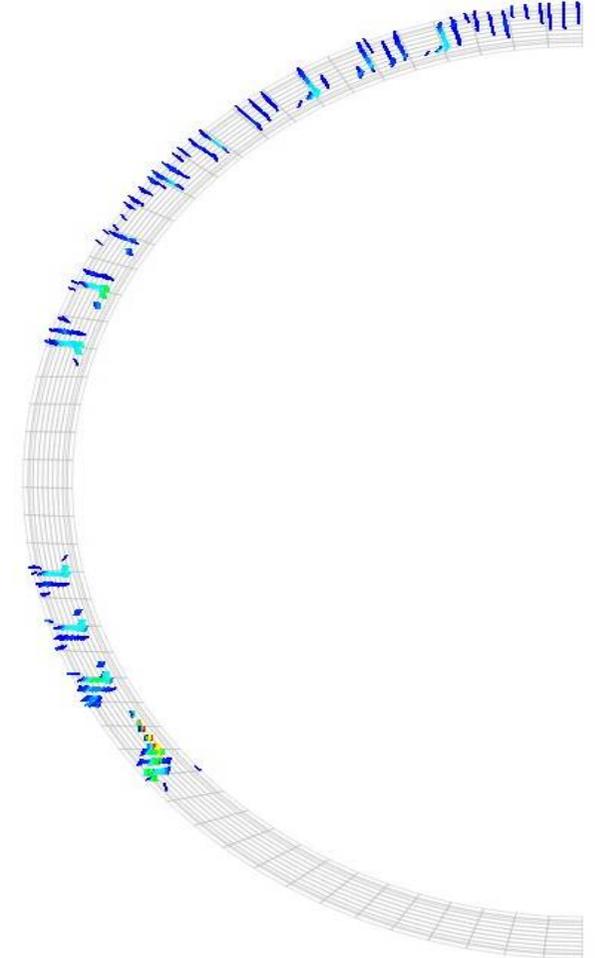
Continuous lining



t=25 min



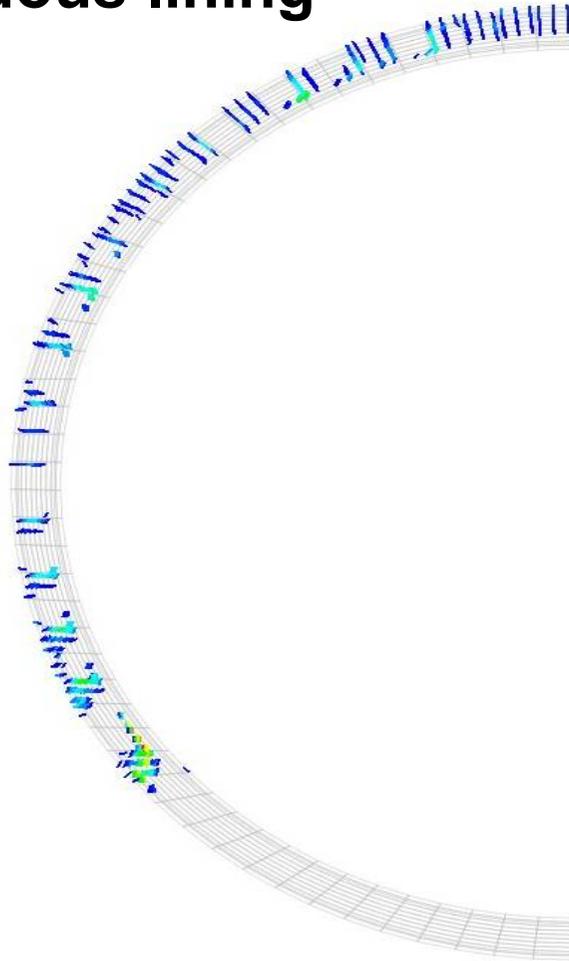
t=30 min



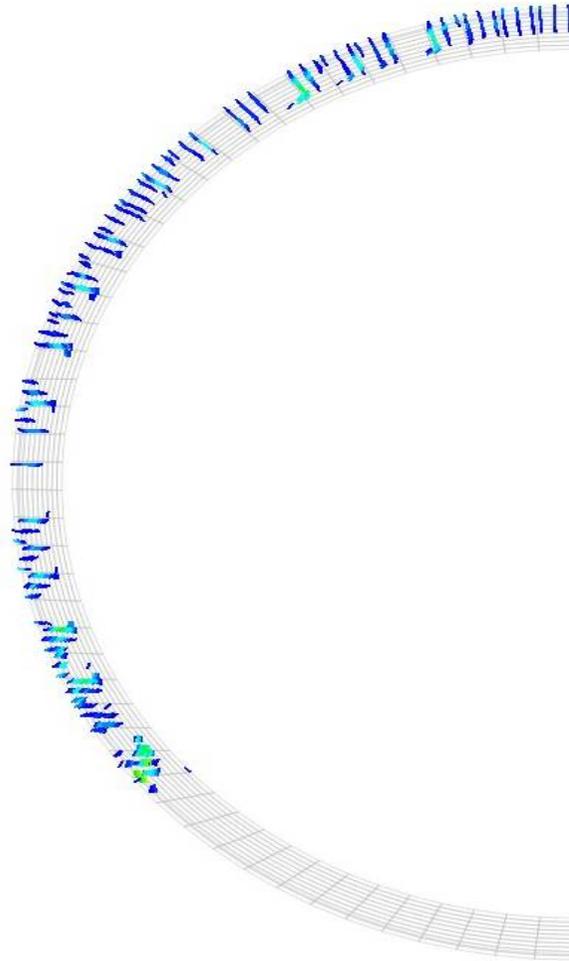
t=40 min

Cracking from dilatation

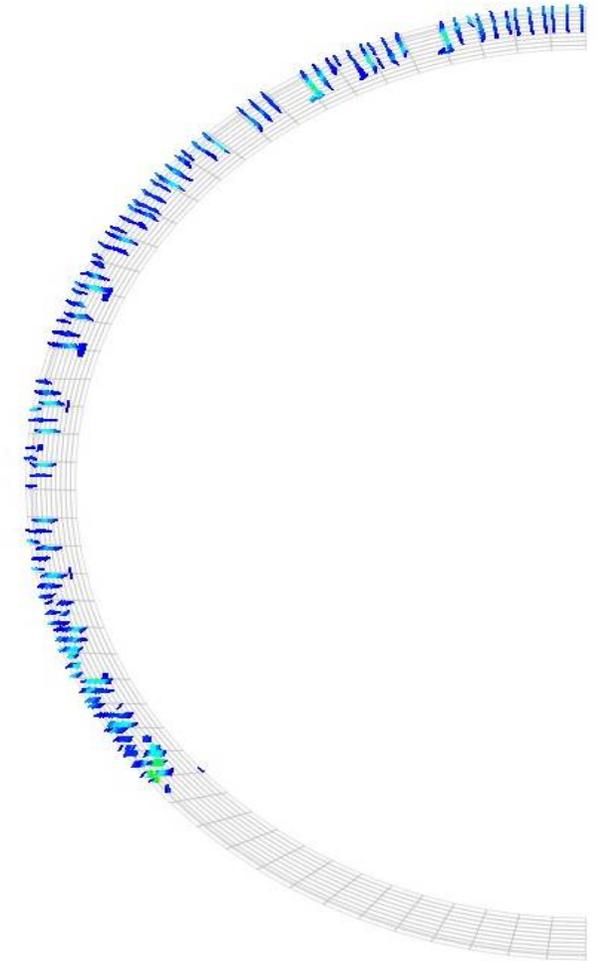
Continuous lining



t=60 min



t=90 min

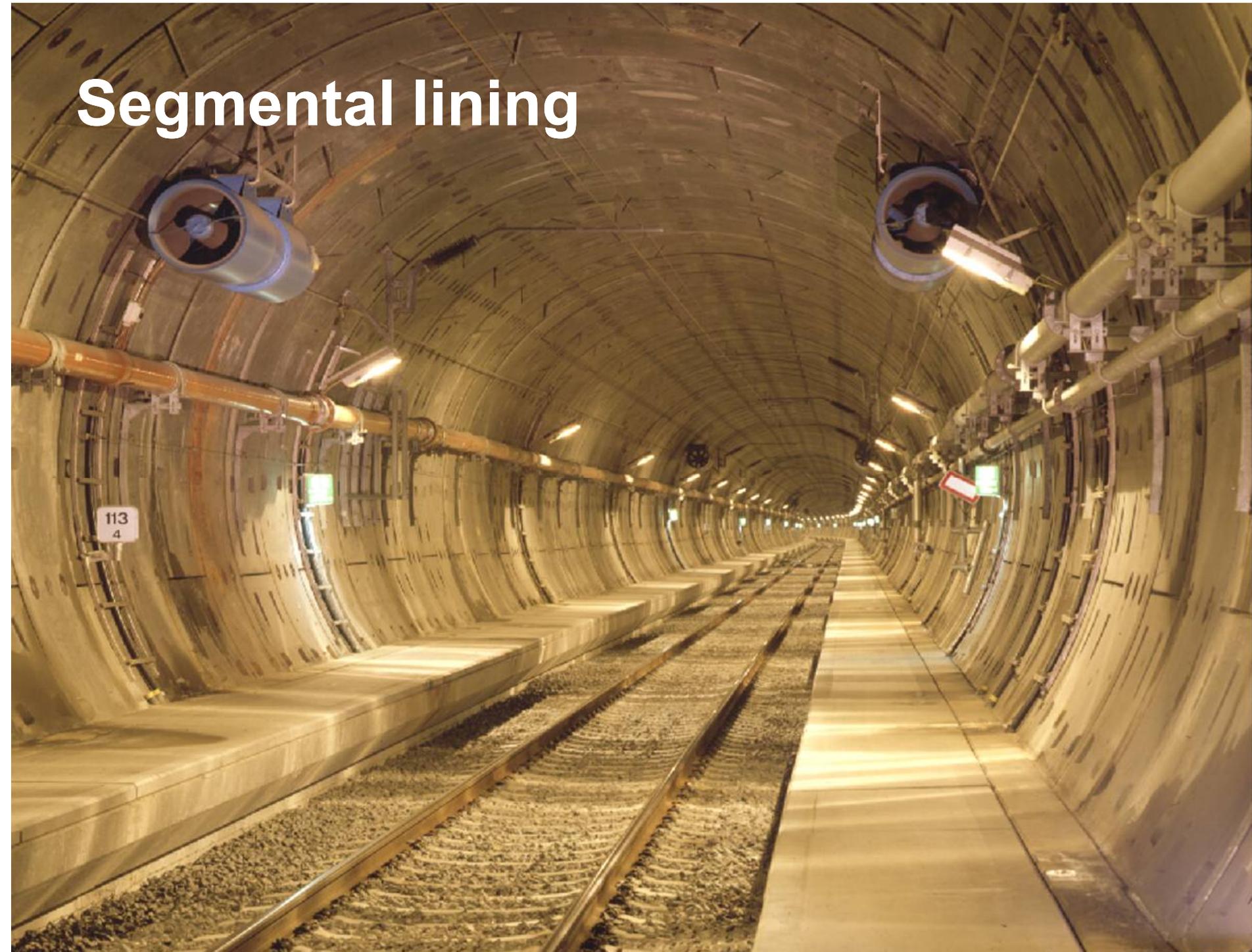


t=120 min

Remarks

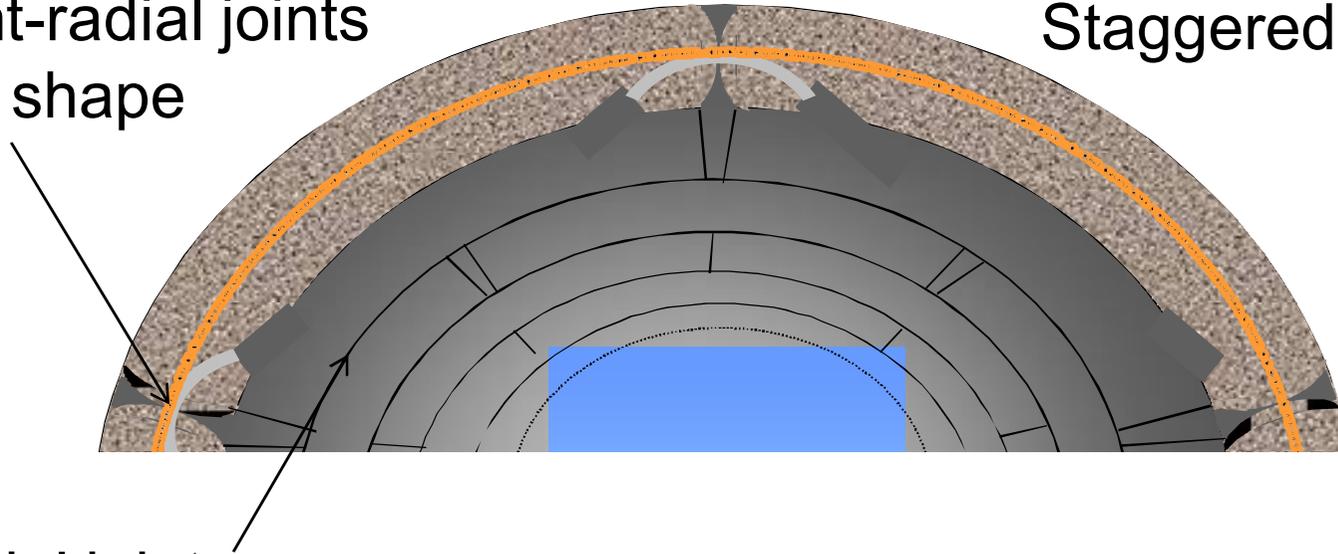
- **The most critical situation can occur in shallow tunnel in soft soil**
- **A correct analysis should consider the lining-soil interaction**
- **Safety of the structure under fire is guaranteed, against predictions from classical analysis**
- **The analysis shows a weak spot of the structure at the road level**

Segmental lining



Zero-moment-radial joints
With circular shape

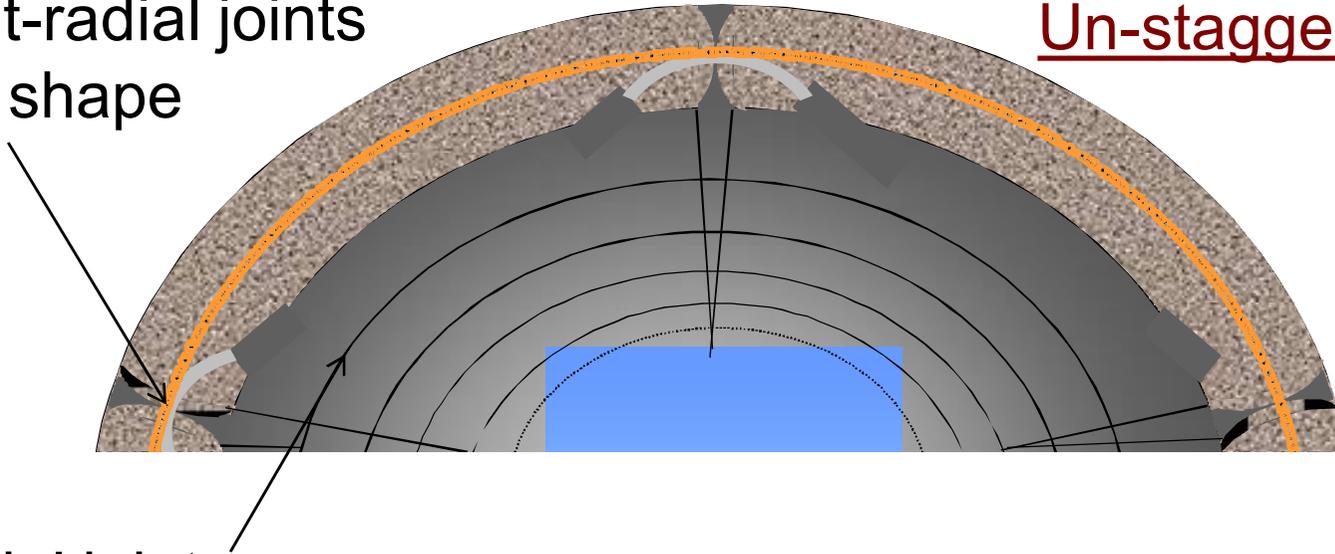
Staggered segments



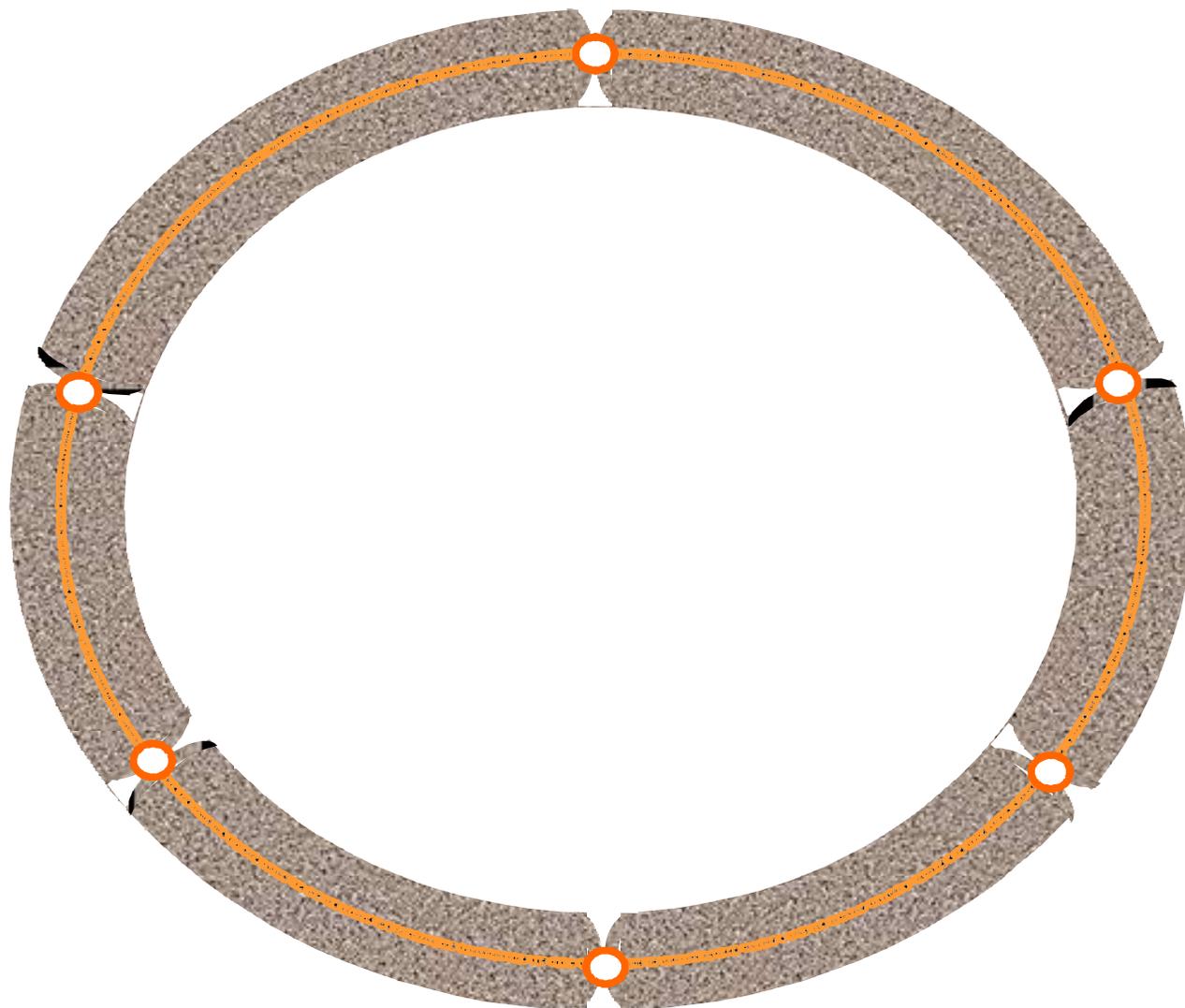
Circumferential joints
Transmission of forces by friction
(bitumenous felt packers etc: limit the friction)

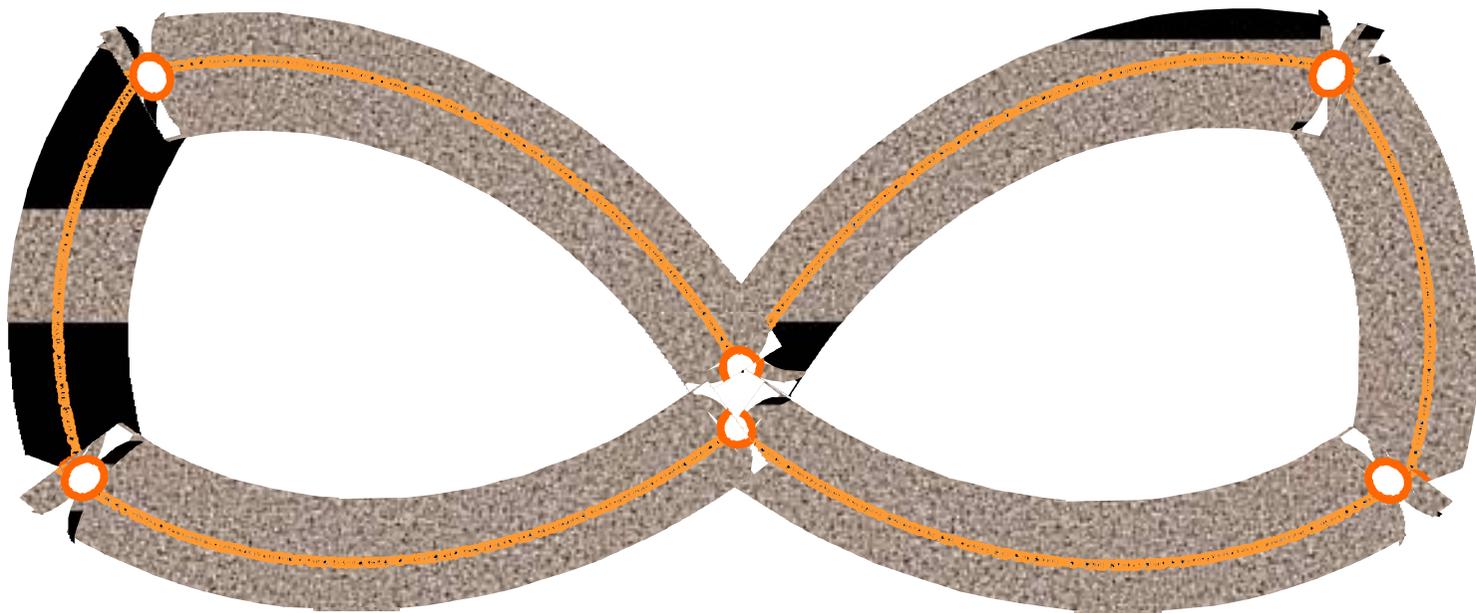
Zero-moment-radial joints
With circular shape

Un-staggered segments



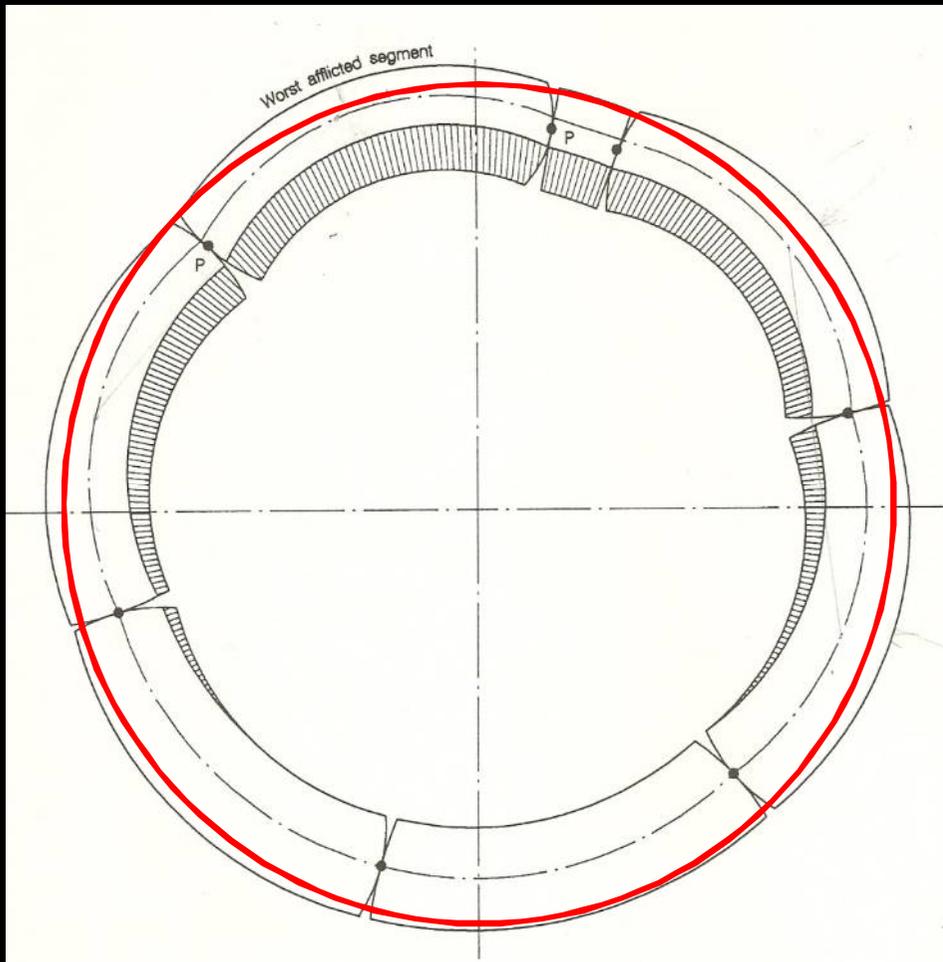
Circumferential joints
Transmission of forces by friction
(bitumenous felt packers etc: limit the friction)



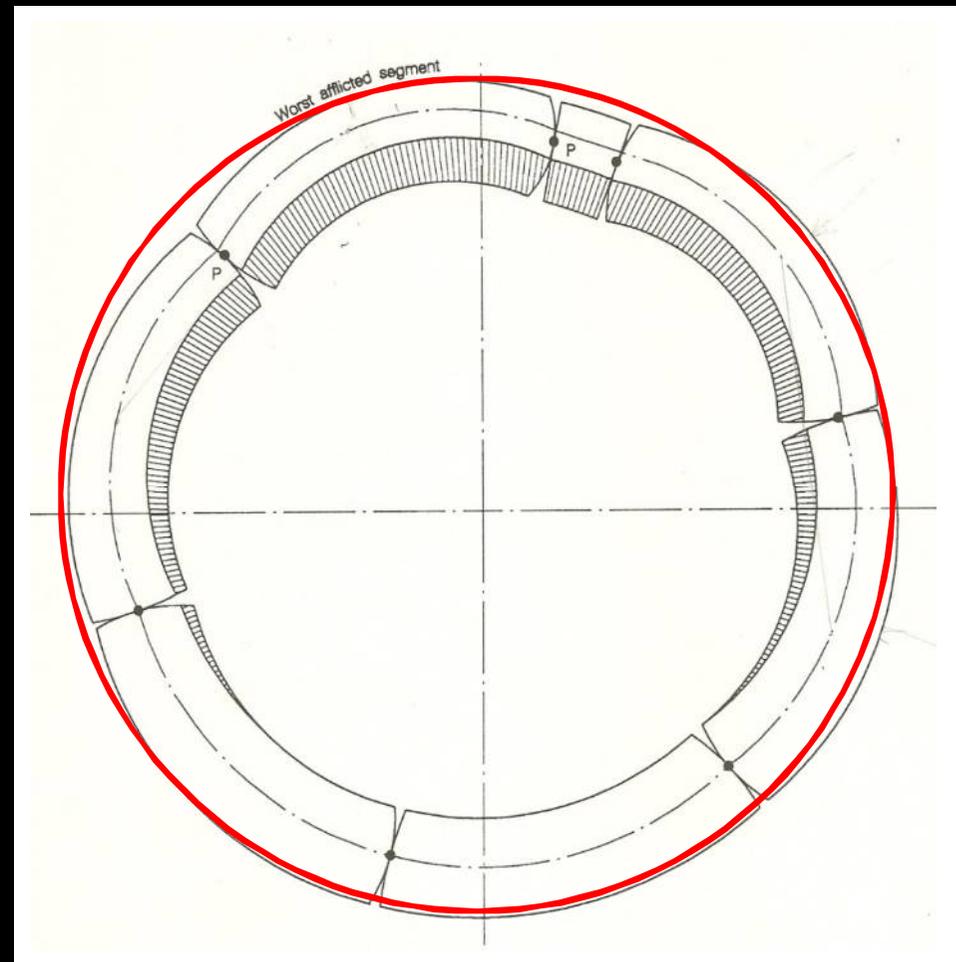


Ground – tunnel interaction

Soft ground



Hard ground / rock

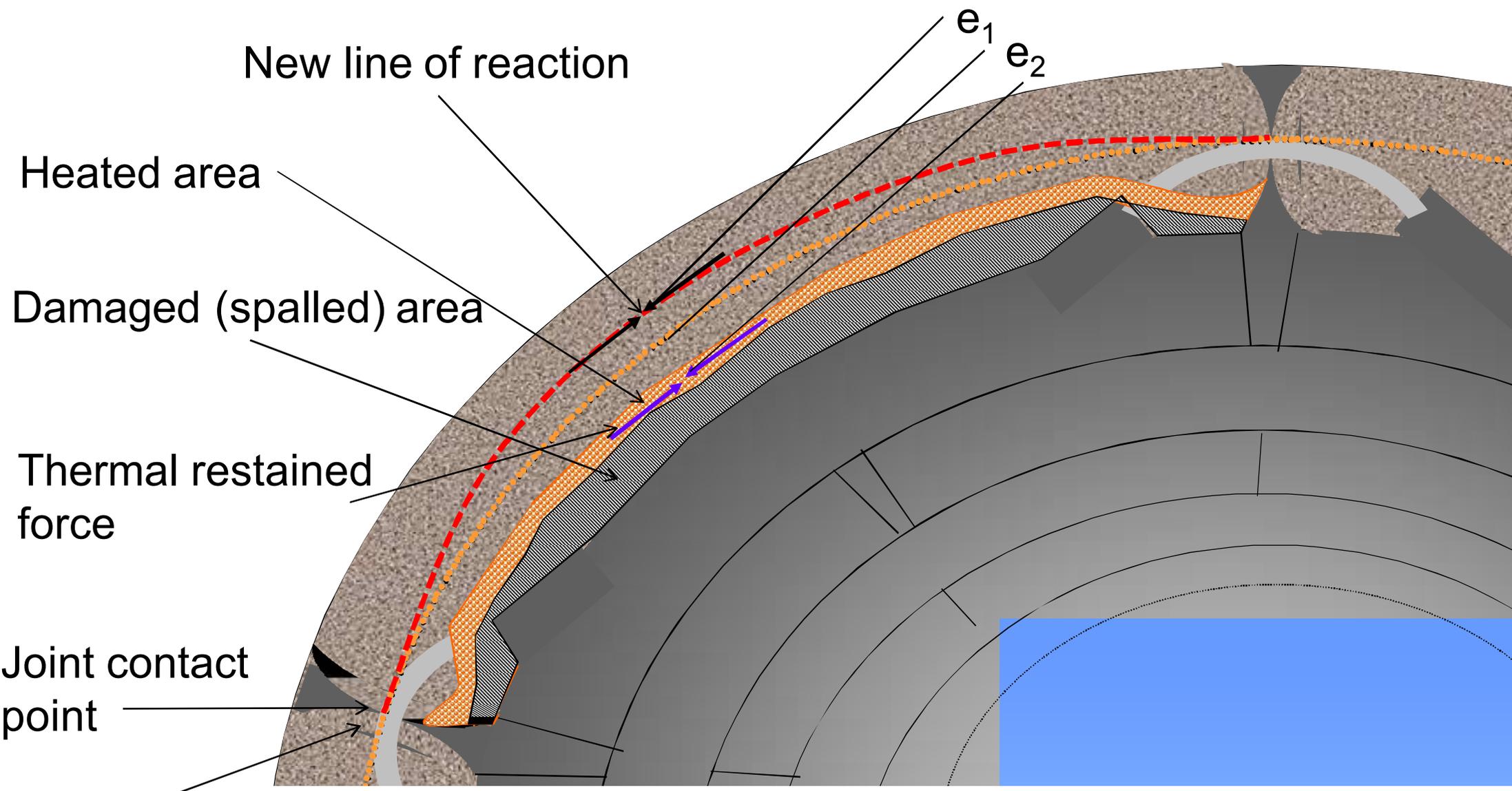


Here shown: moment action from eccentricity of the normal force

Concrete behaviour due to fire

Heating:

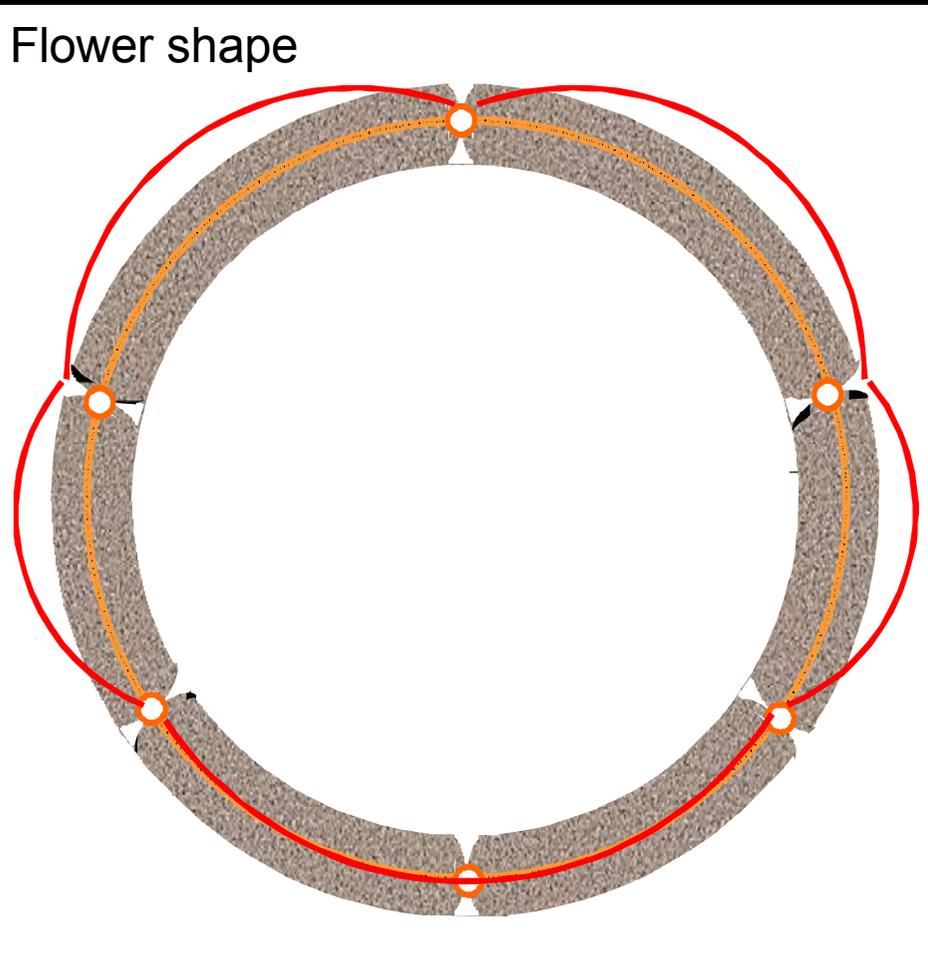
- **Loss of section**
- **Loss of stiffness**
- **Loss of strength**
- **Expansion**



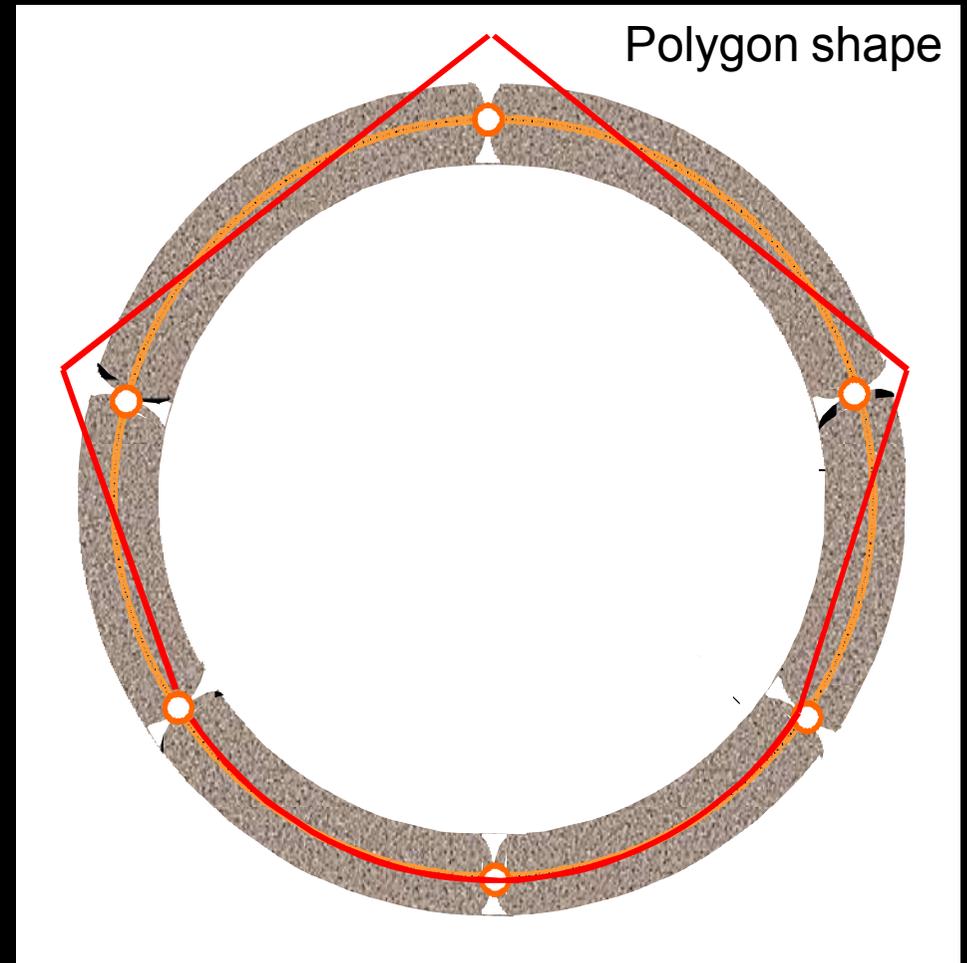
Segment deformation influences joint rotation and eccentricity
 Segment deformation dependent on tunnel-ground interaction

Tendency of deformation of segments

Moment dominated by e_1

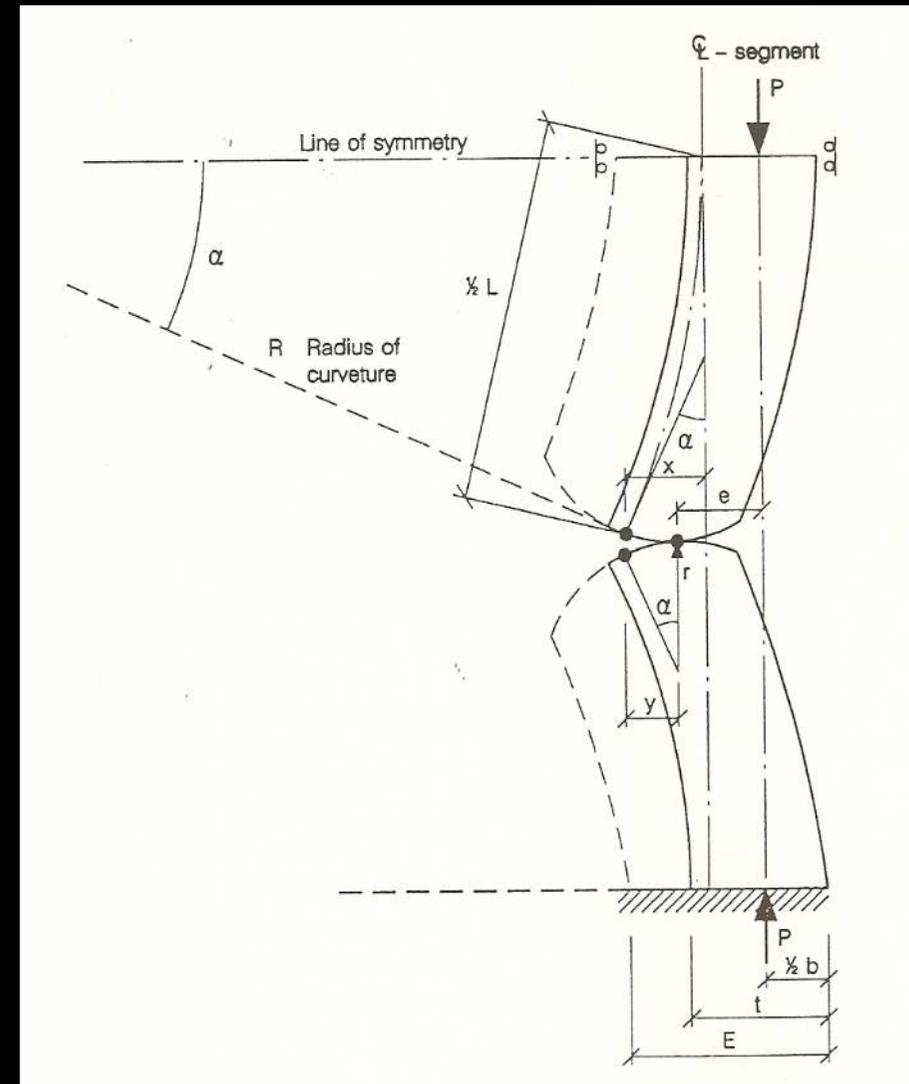


Moment dominated by e_2

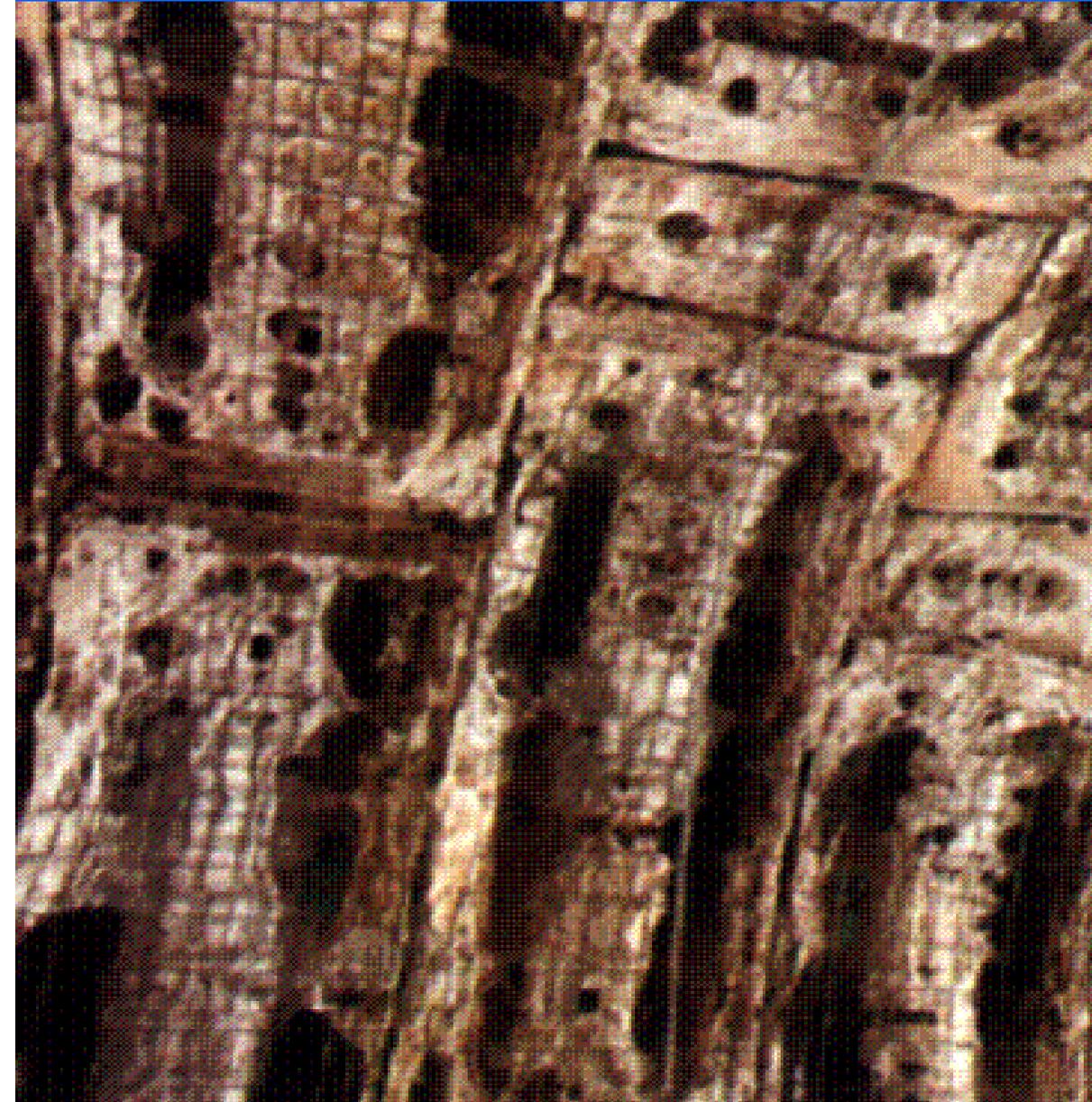


Here shown: soft ground

Rotation of joint



Spalling

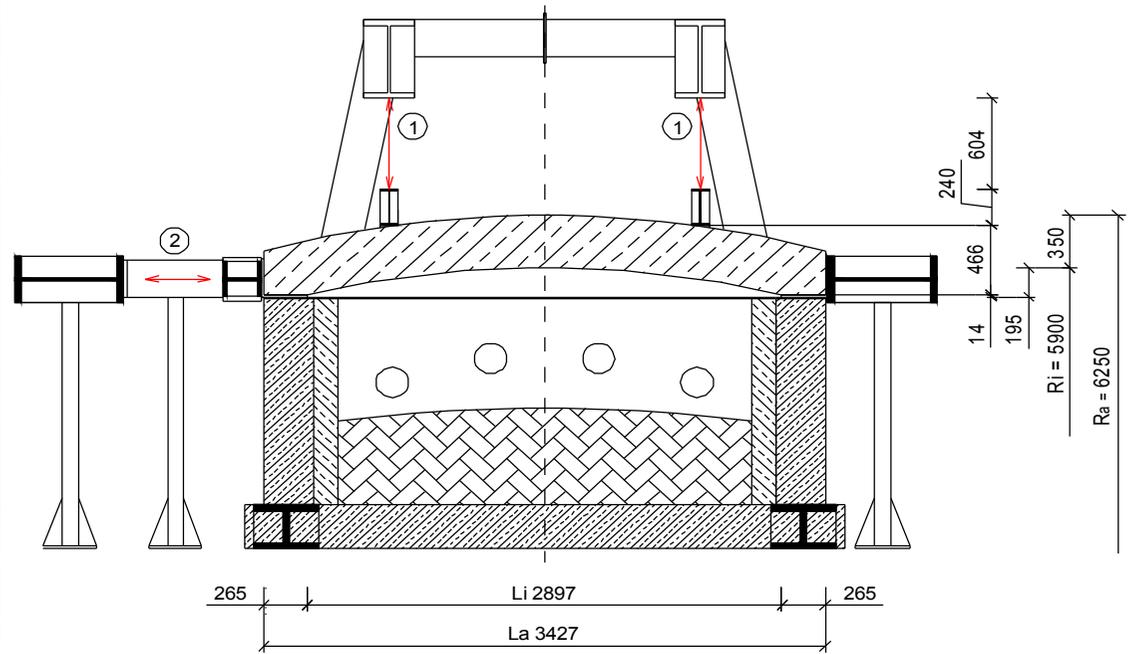


- Spalling is a sudden dislocation of concrete – explosive spalling is caused by vapour pressure in the concrete
- No quantitative models exist
- pp-fibers significantly reduce the risk of spalling
- Tests may be necessary in order to investigate the spalling behaviour (both with and without pp fibres)

Fire effects

- Tests to update physical models
- (Lab-) Tests for the structural behaviour of a tunnel is difficult





30 jacks,
from 5 T to 300 T



**MPFA
Leipzig
Germany**

**CERIB
France**

Thank you for your attention



Niels Peter Høj, HOJ Consulting



Alberto Meda, University of Rome Tor Vergata

