



ITA COSUF Workshop

Safety versus Economics, Cost-efficiency of tunnel safety measures

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Fire Design of Tunnel Lining Segments

Niels Peter Høj

Convener fib TG4.3

HOJ Consulting

Alberto Meda

Convener fib WP 4.3.5

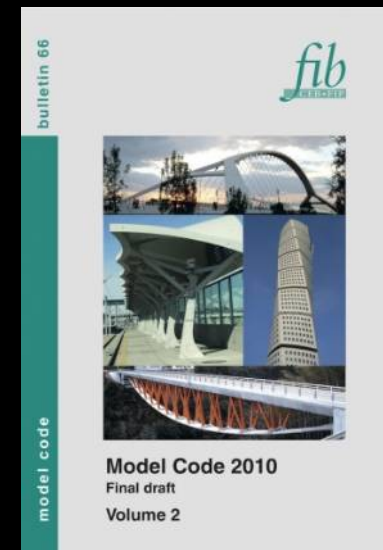
University of Rome

«Tor Vergata»



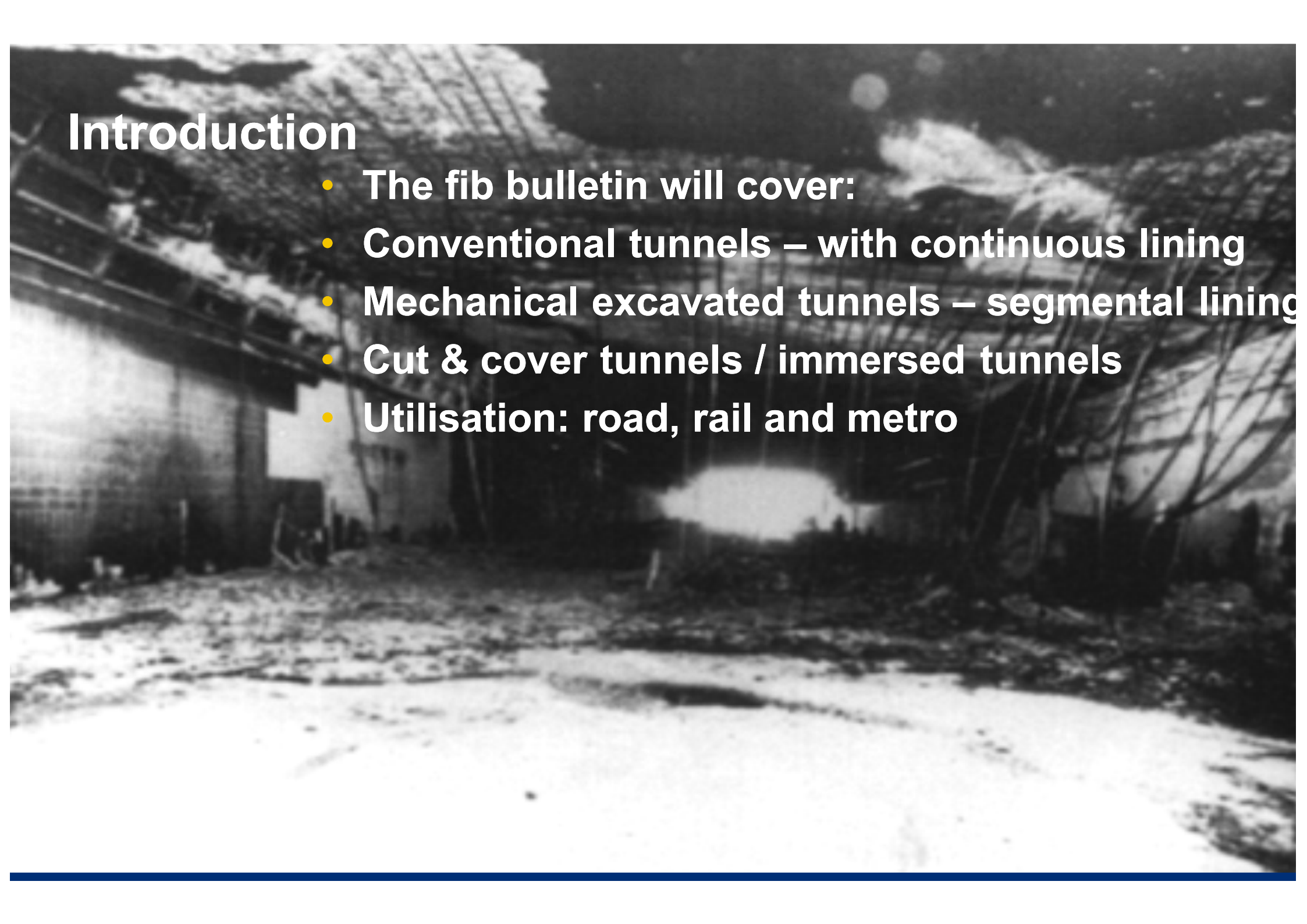
Introduction

- 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



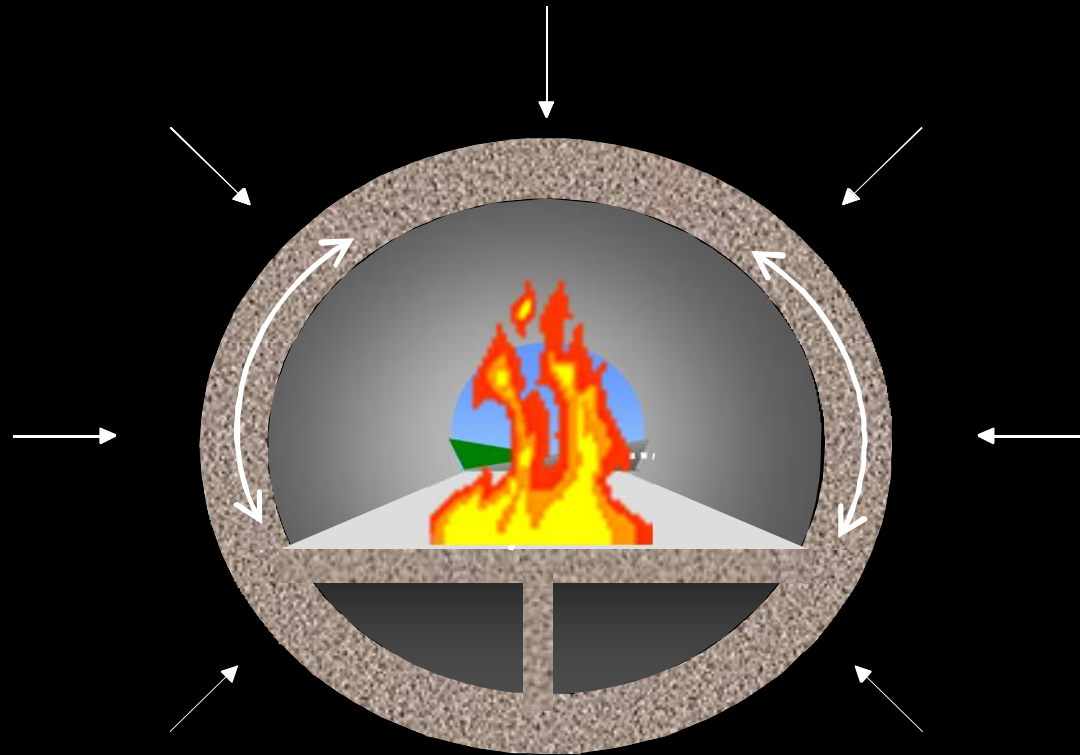


Tunnel fires / Channel tunnel



Channel Tunnel fire was close to
being fatal

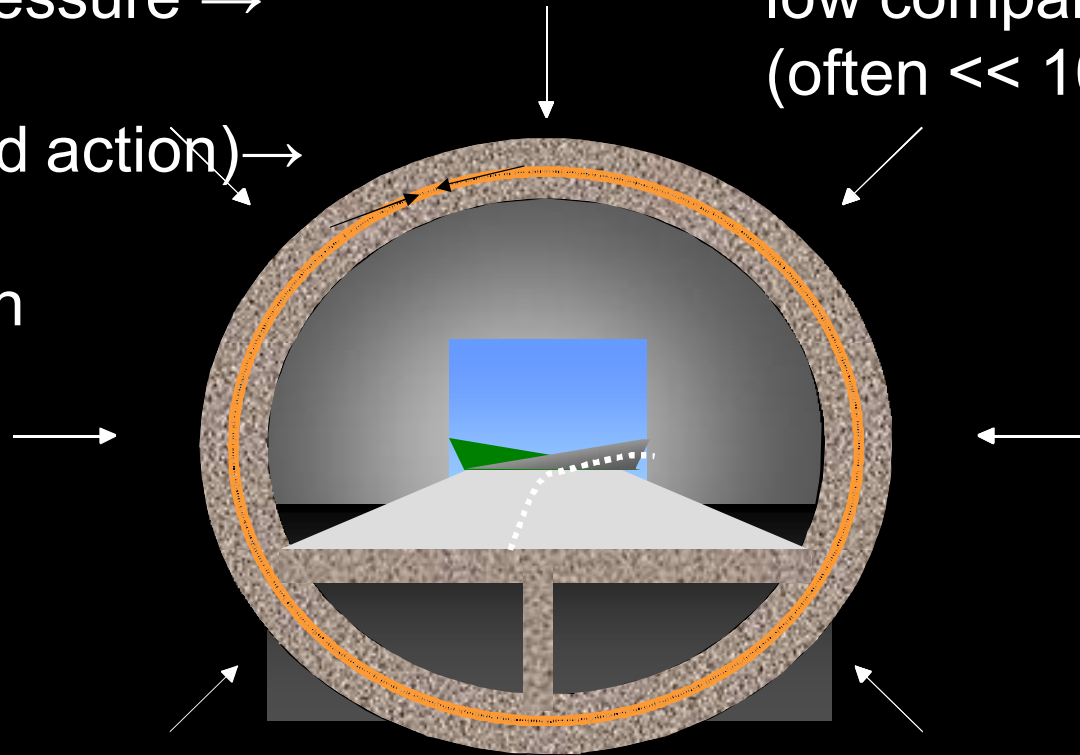
Exposure from fire



Mechanism

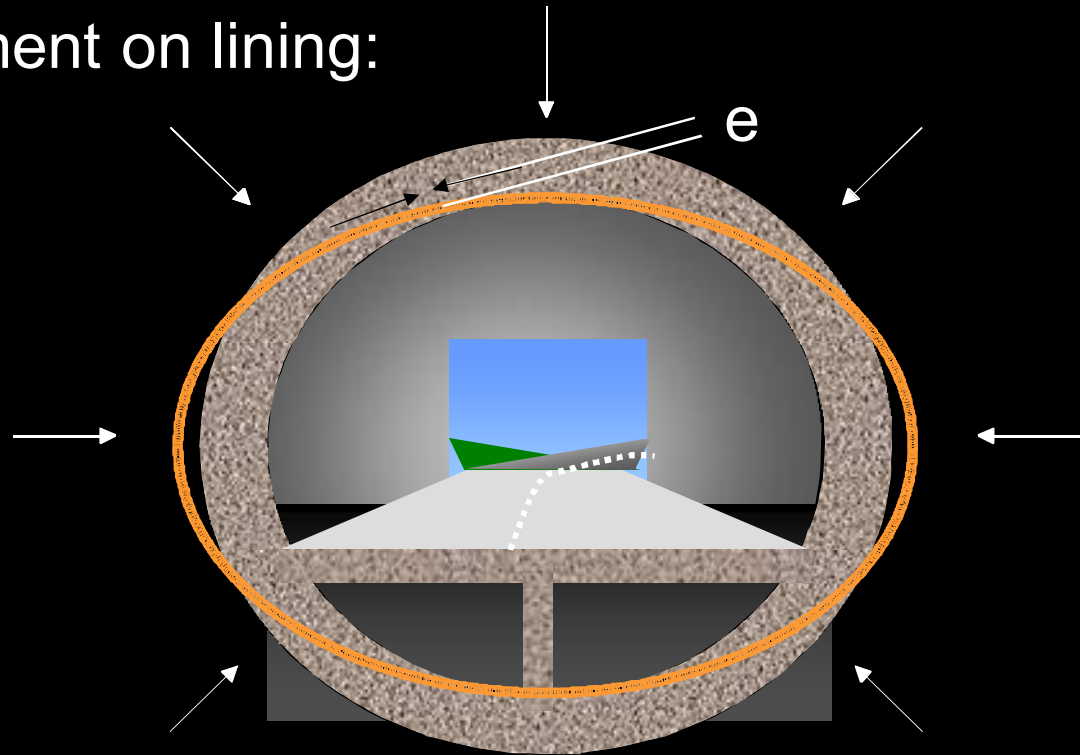
Ground and water load:
Ideal hydrostatic pressure →
Hoop load
(circular path of load action) →
(Circular) lining
in pure compression

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

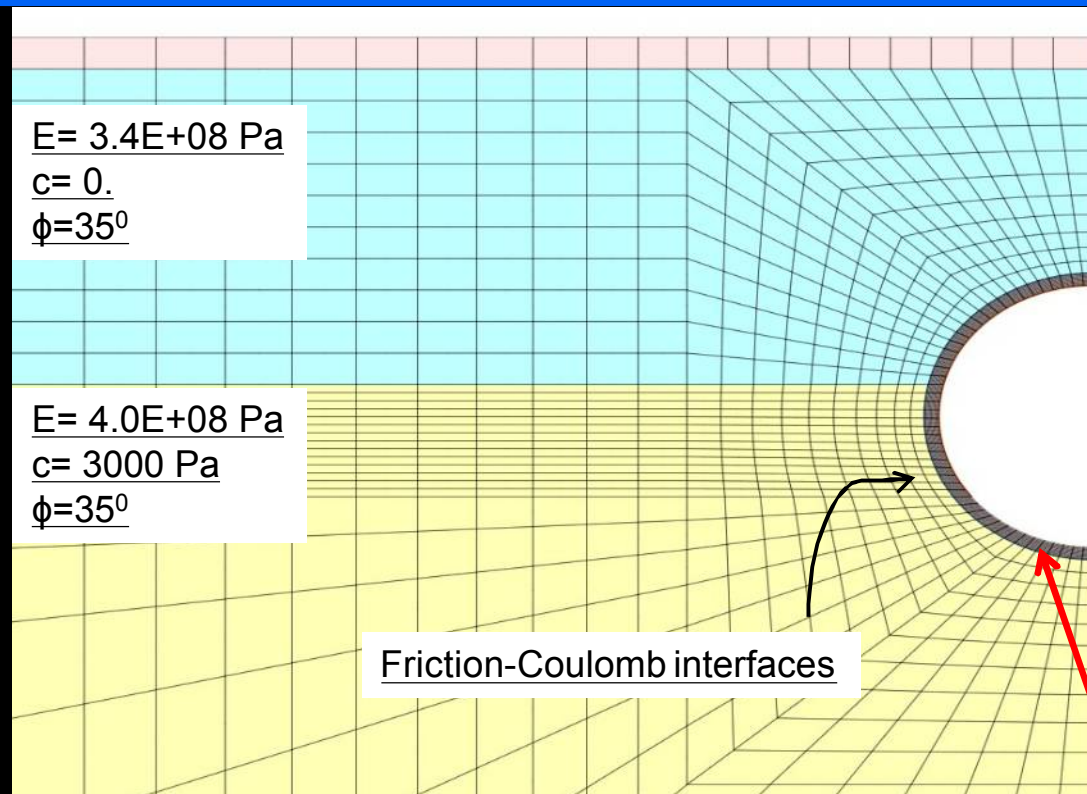


Mechanism

Ground pressure non-hydrostatic (shallow overburden) →
Non-circular path of load action →
Normal force + Moment on lining:
 N ; $N \cdot e$



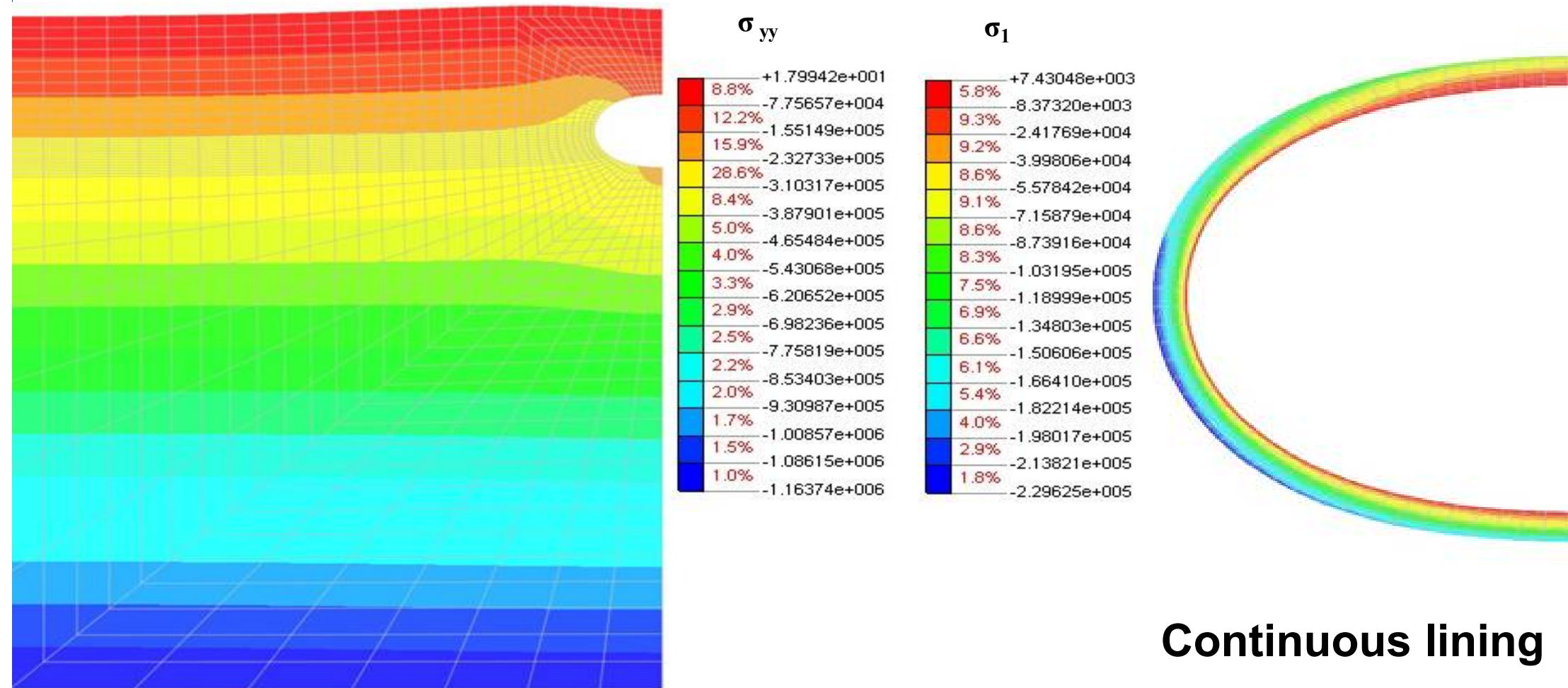
Analysis procedure



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

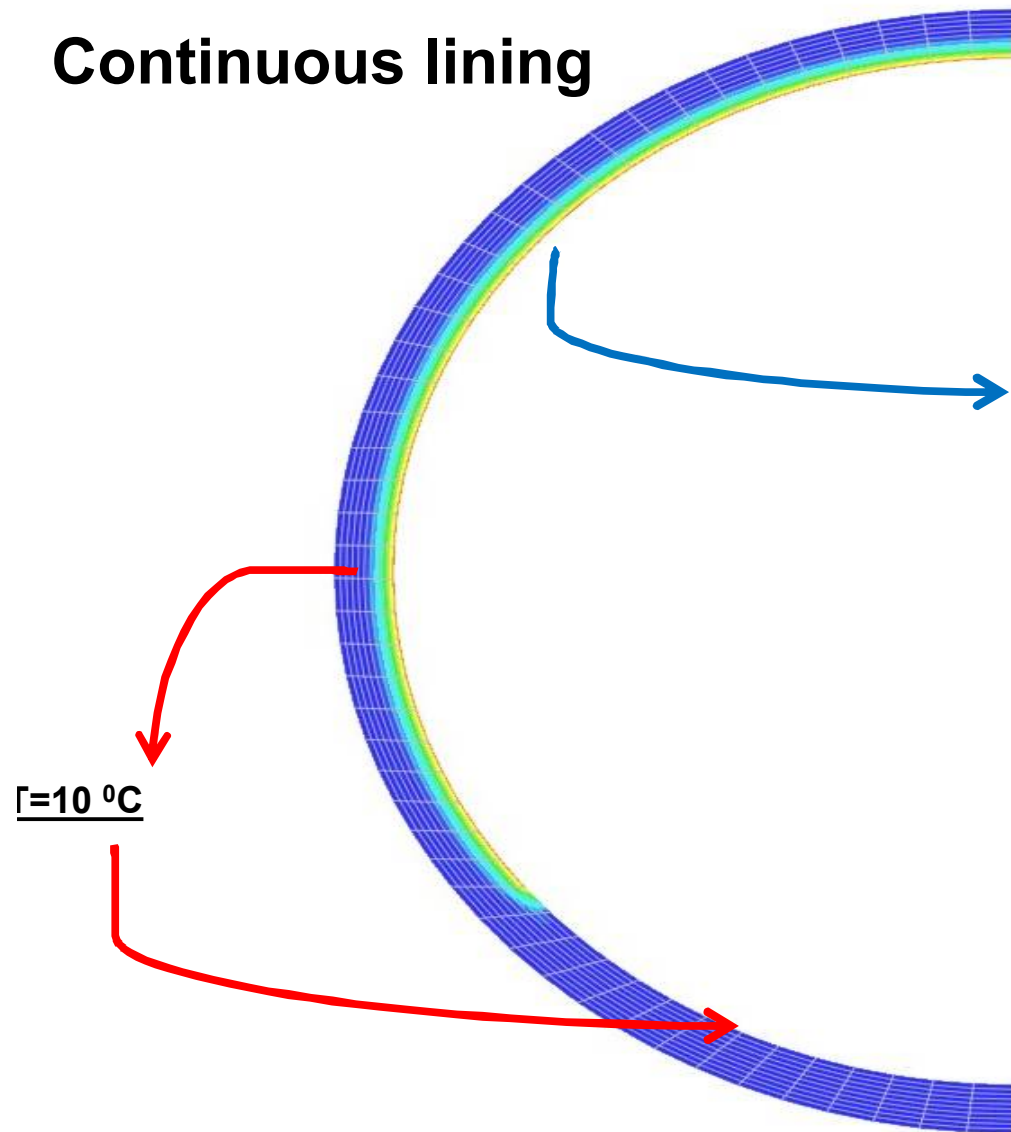
Here: continuous lining is shown

Results- Initial stresses before the fire

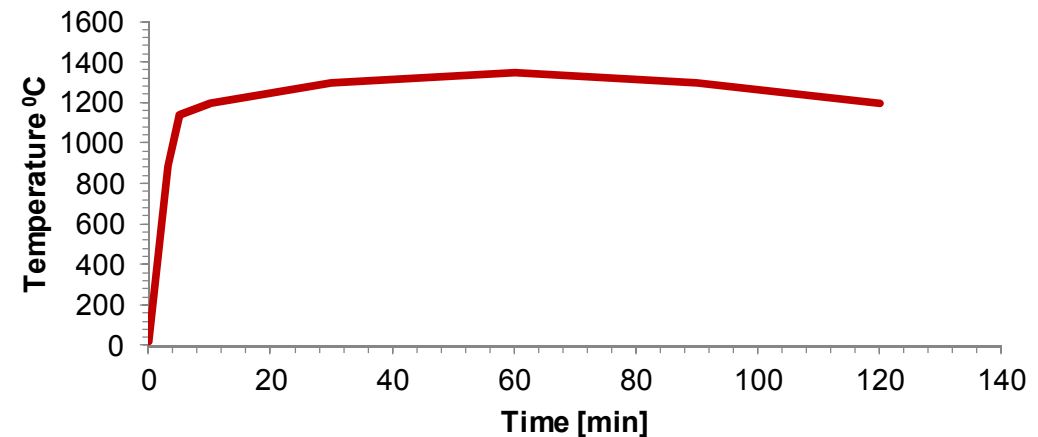


Thermal analysis

Continuous lining



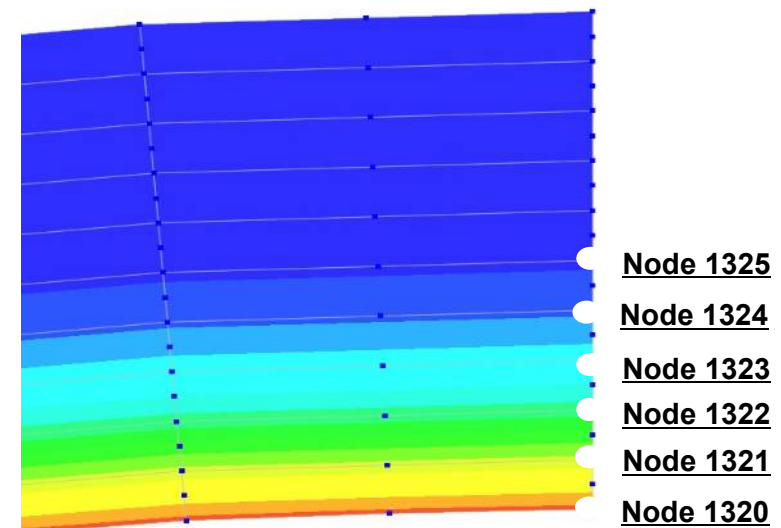
Fire curve



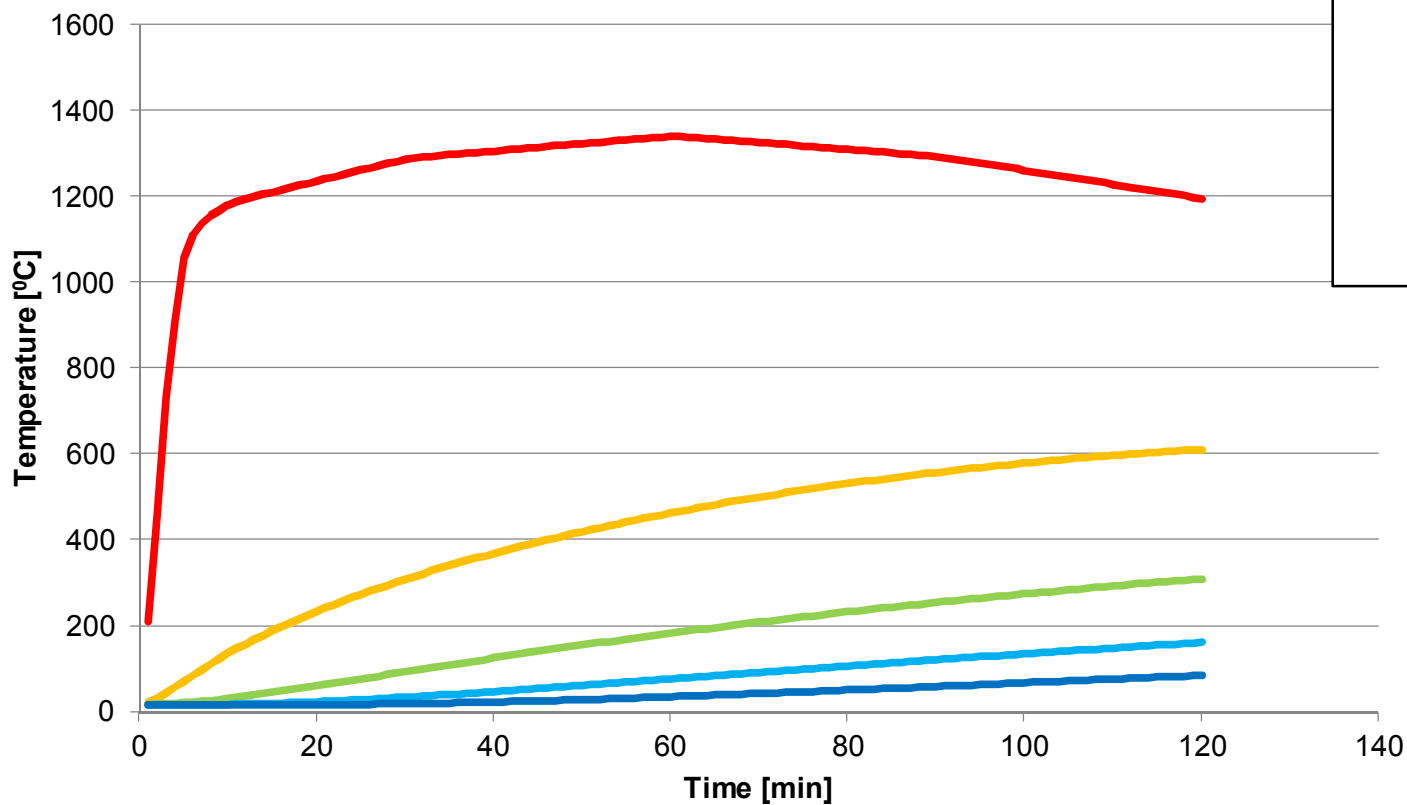
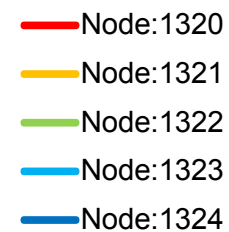
- Conduction, convection and radiation
- Thermal properties vary with temperature

Thermal analysis

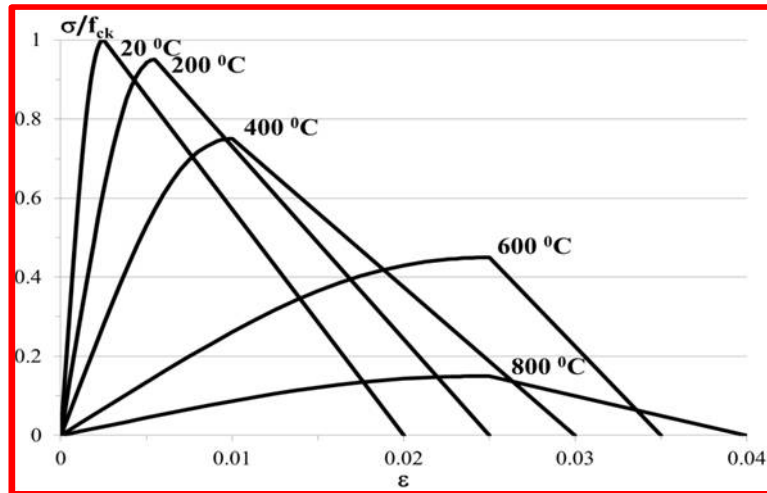
Intrados



Extrados



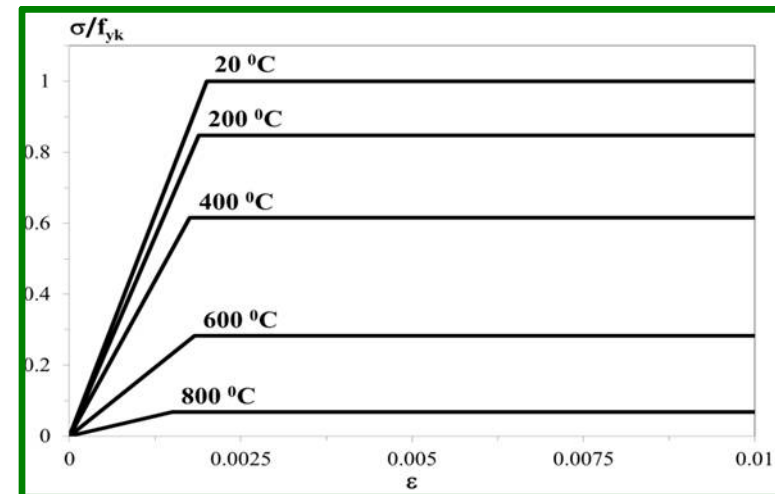
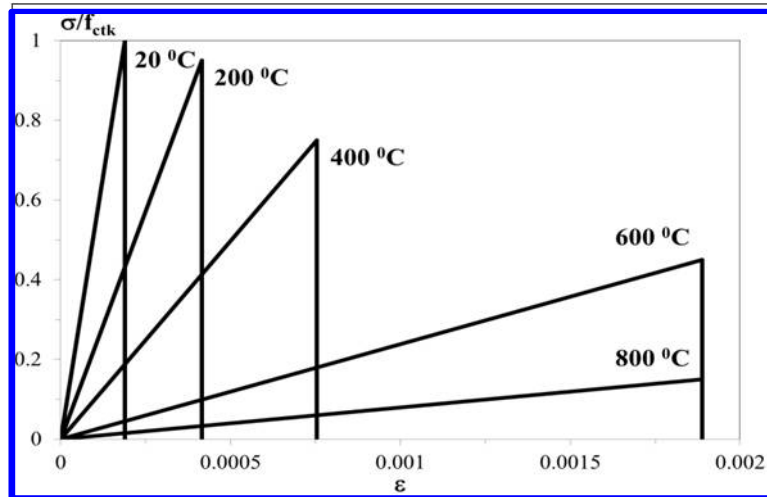
Physical properties



CONCRETE IN COMPRESSION

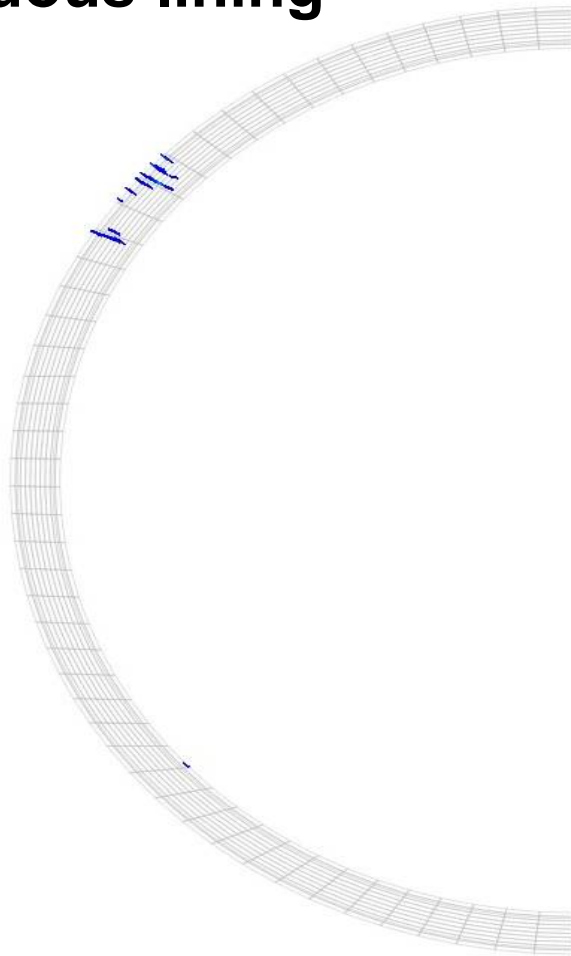
CONCRETE IN TENSION

REINFORCEMENT STEEL

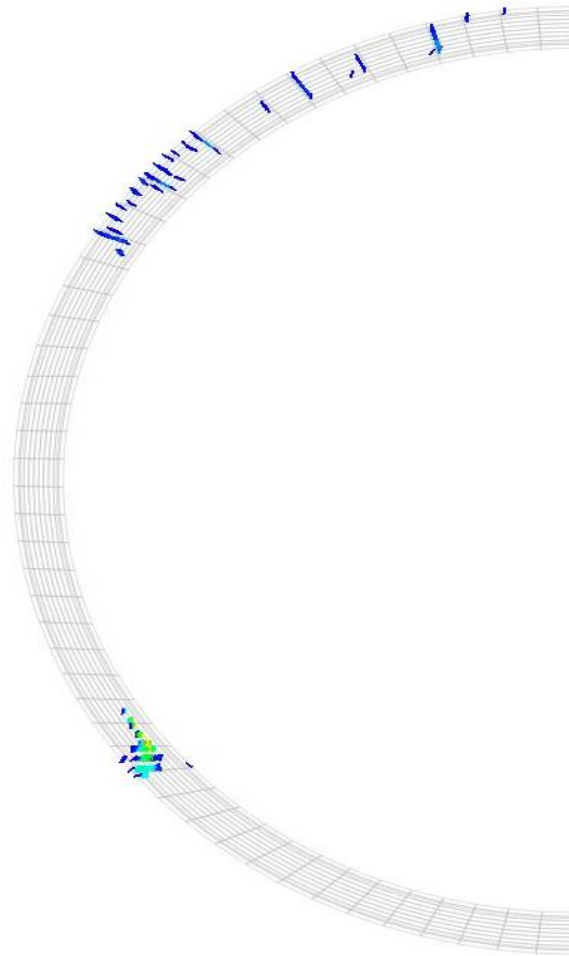


Cracking from dilatation

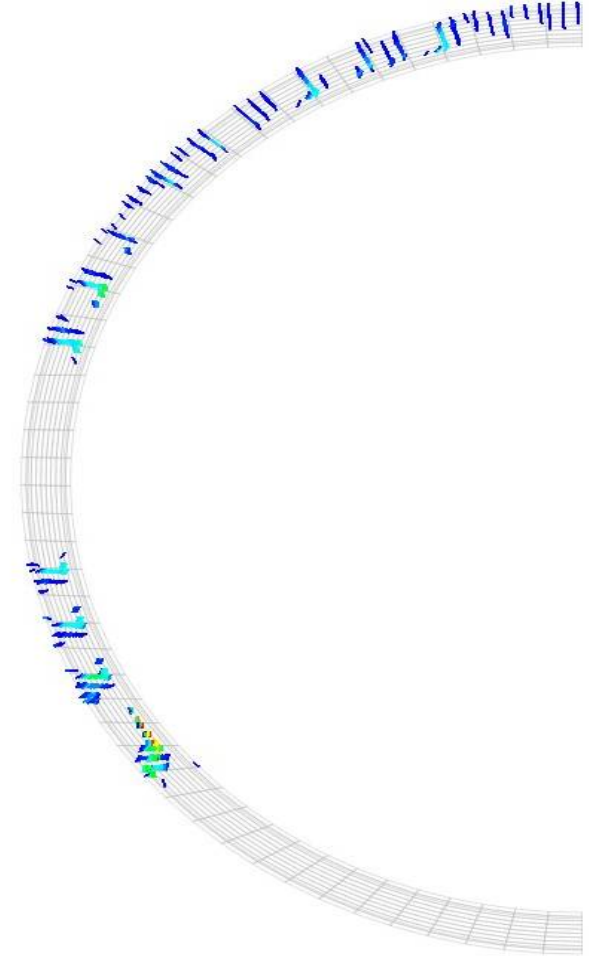
Continuous lining



t=25 min



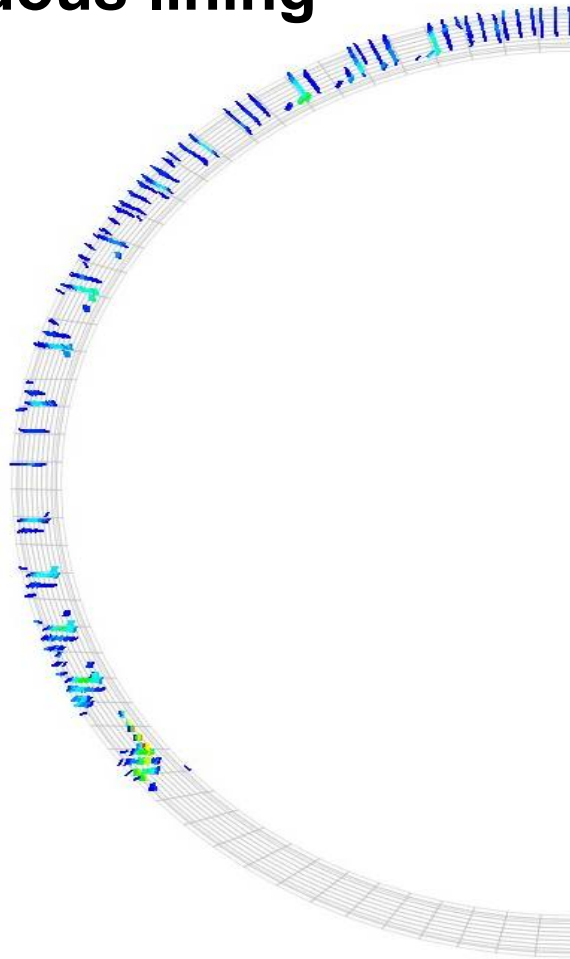
t=30 min



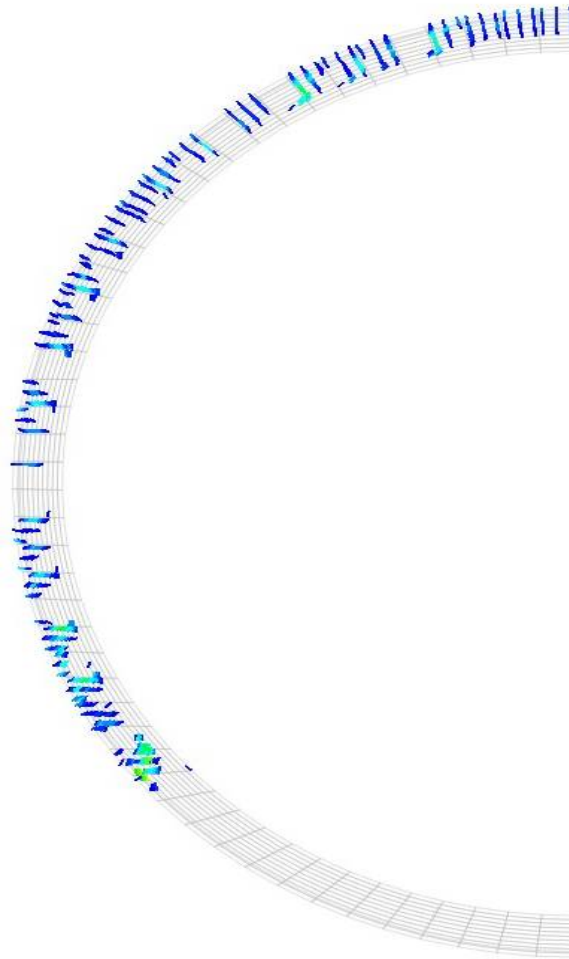
t=40 min

Cracking from dilatation

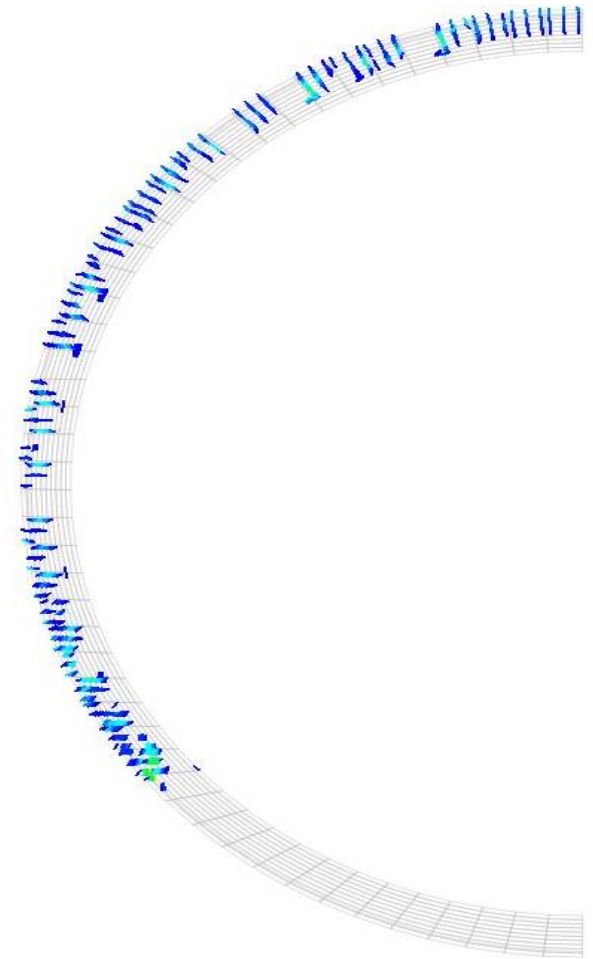
Continuous lining



t=60 min



t=90 min

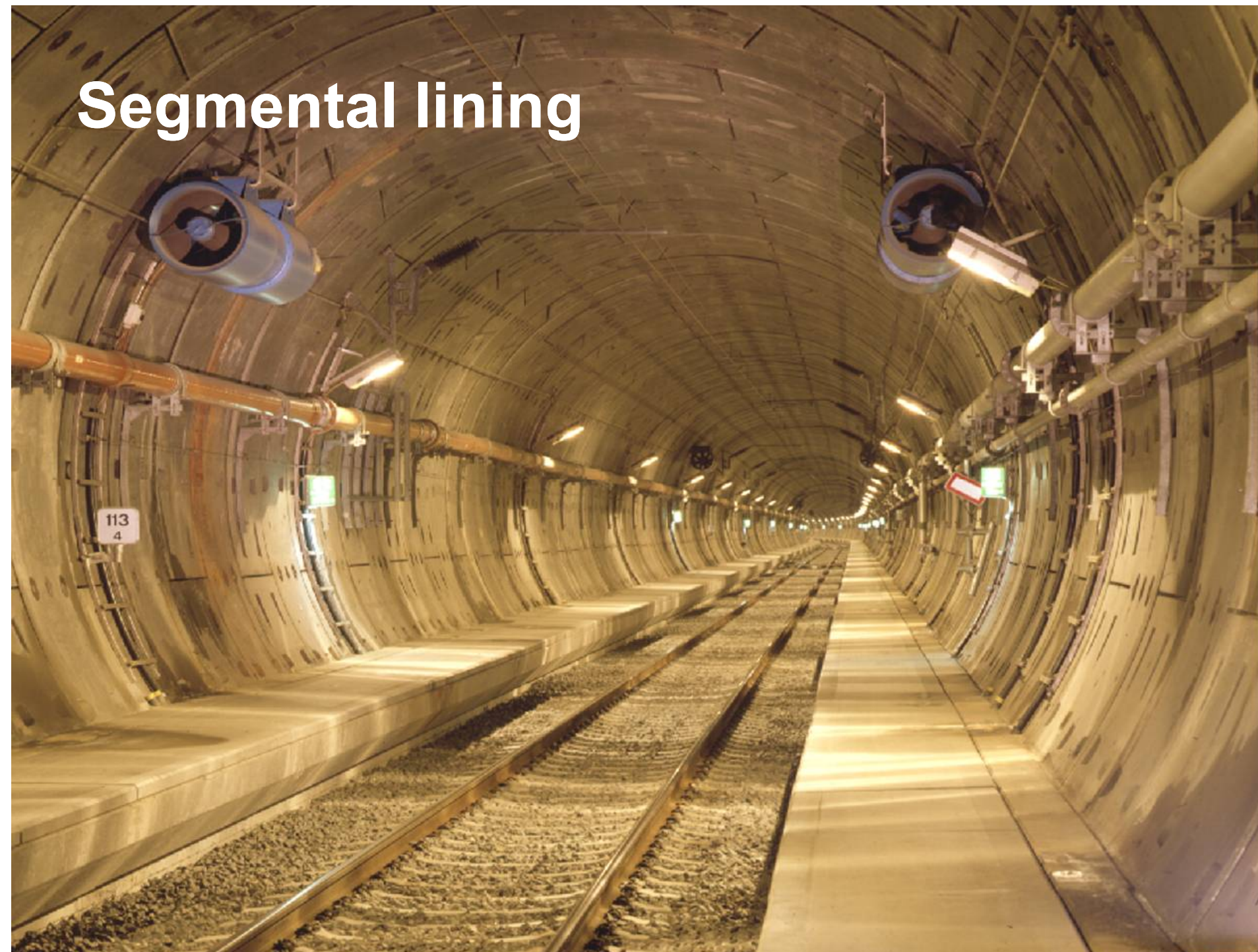


t=120 min

Remarks

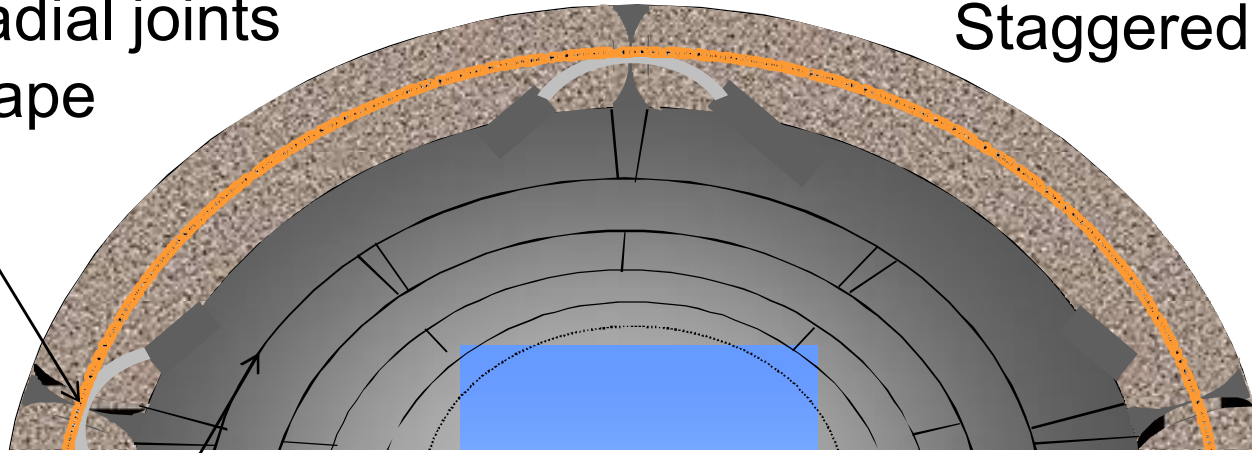
- **The most critical situation can occur in shallow tunnel in soft soil**
- **A correct analysis should consider the lining-soil interaction**
- **Safety of the structure under fire is guaranteed, against predictions from classical analysis**
- **The analysis shows a weak spot of the structure at the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

Segmental lining



Zero-moment-radial joints
With circular shape

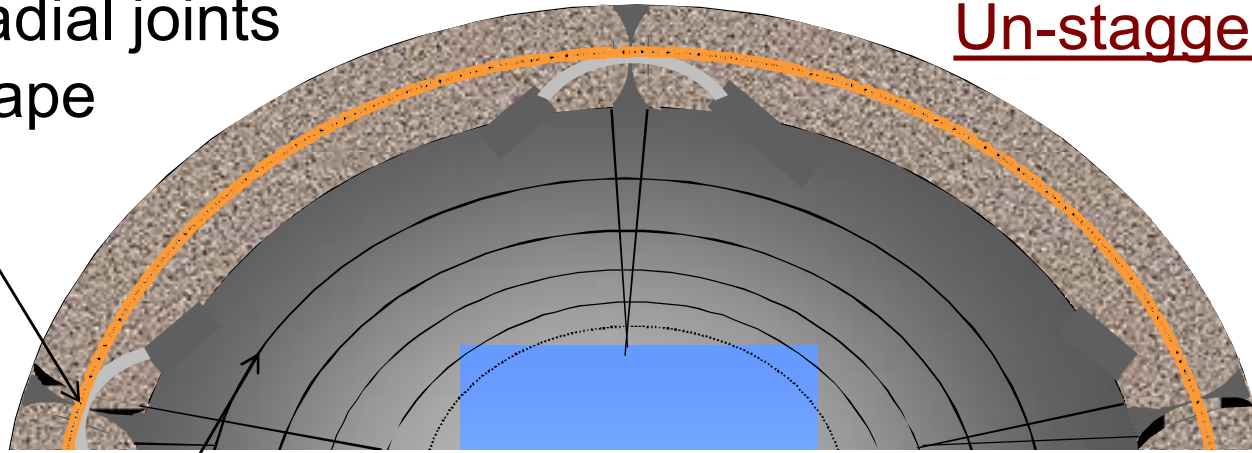
Staggered segments



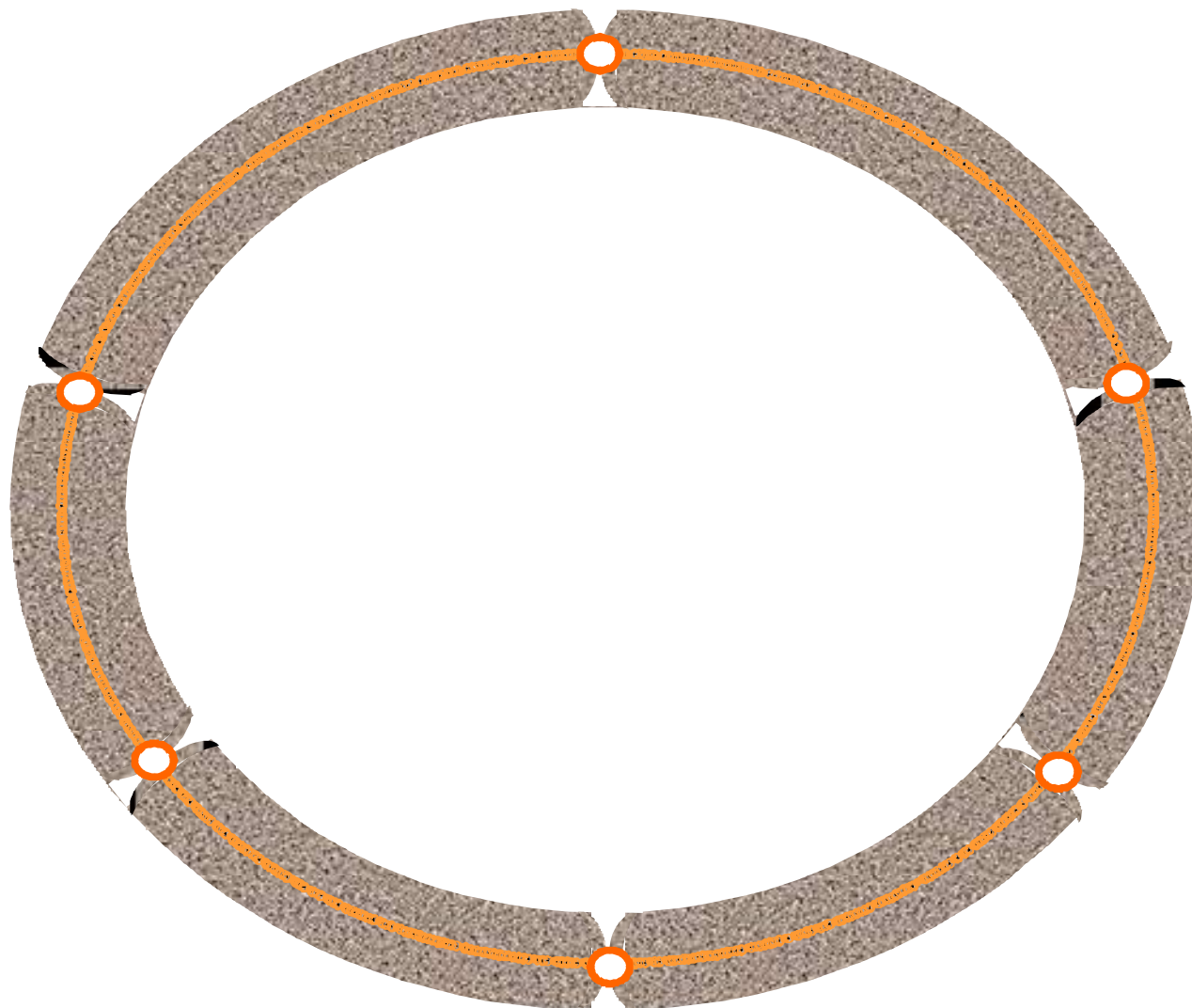
Circumferential joints
Transmission of forces by friction
(bitumenous felt packers etc: limit the friction)

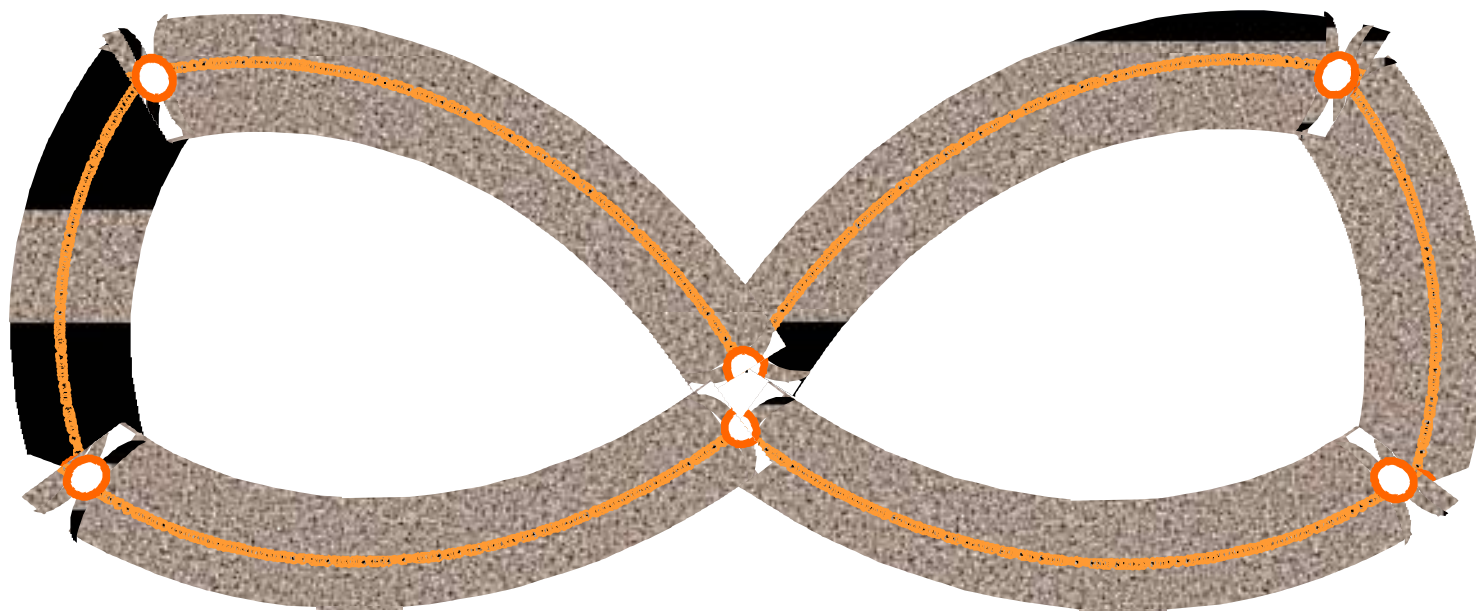
Zero-moment-radial joints
With circular shape

Un-staggered segments



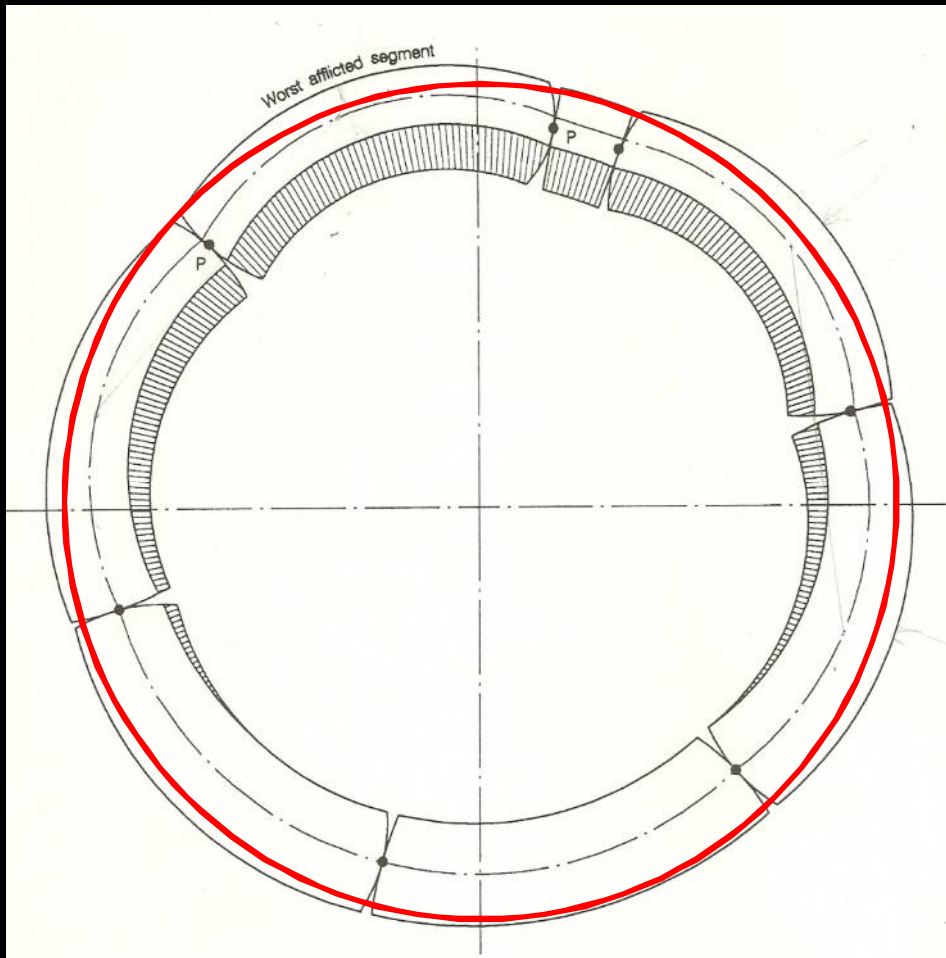
Circumferential joints
Transmission of forces by friction
(bitumenous felt packers etc: limit the friction)



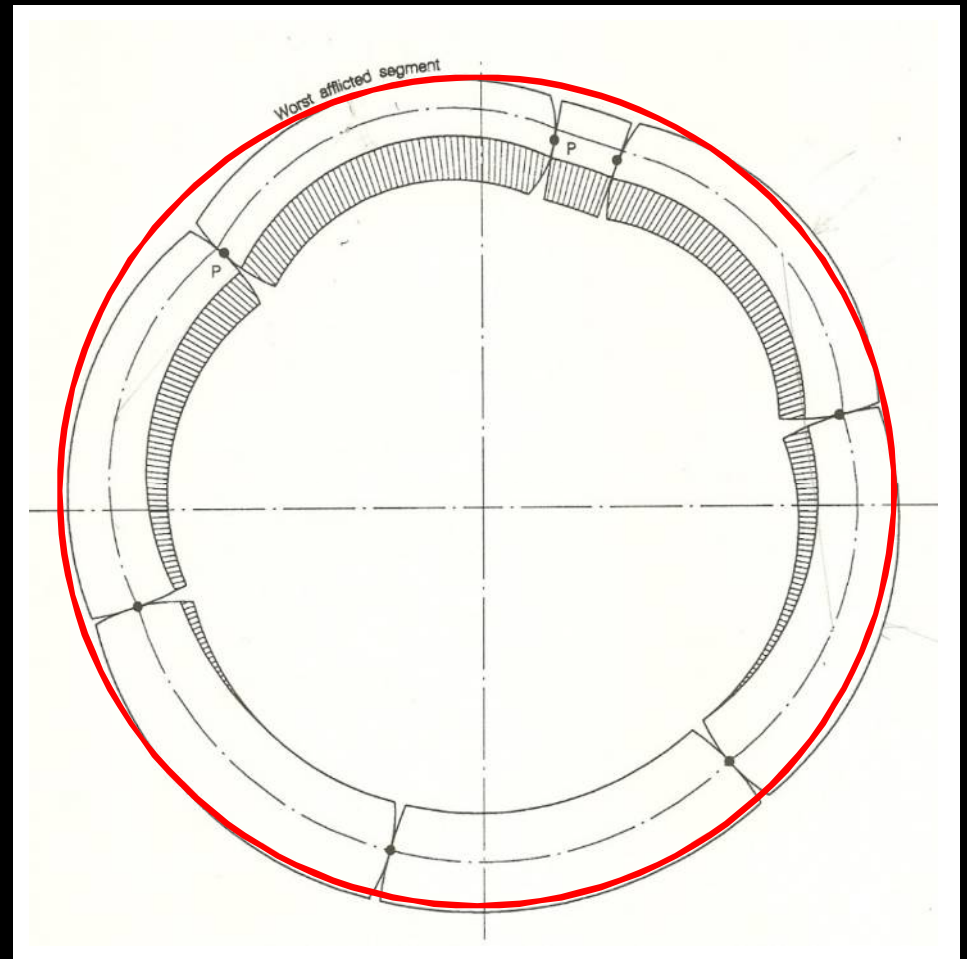


Ground – tunnel interaction

Soft ground



Hard ground / rock

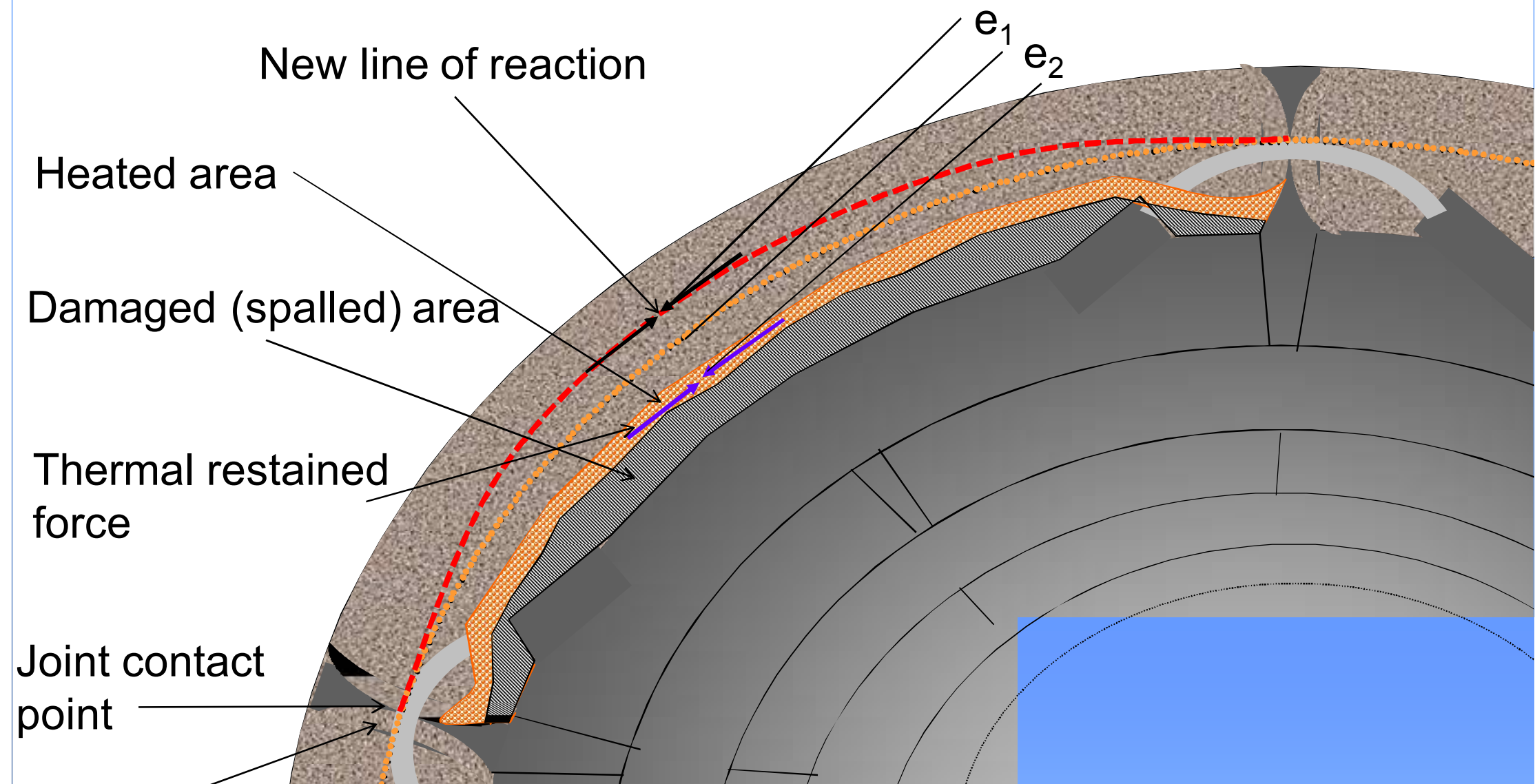


Here shown: moment action from eccentricity of the normal force

Concrete behaviour due to fire

Heating:

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

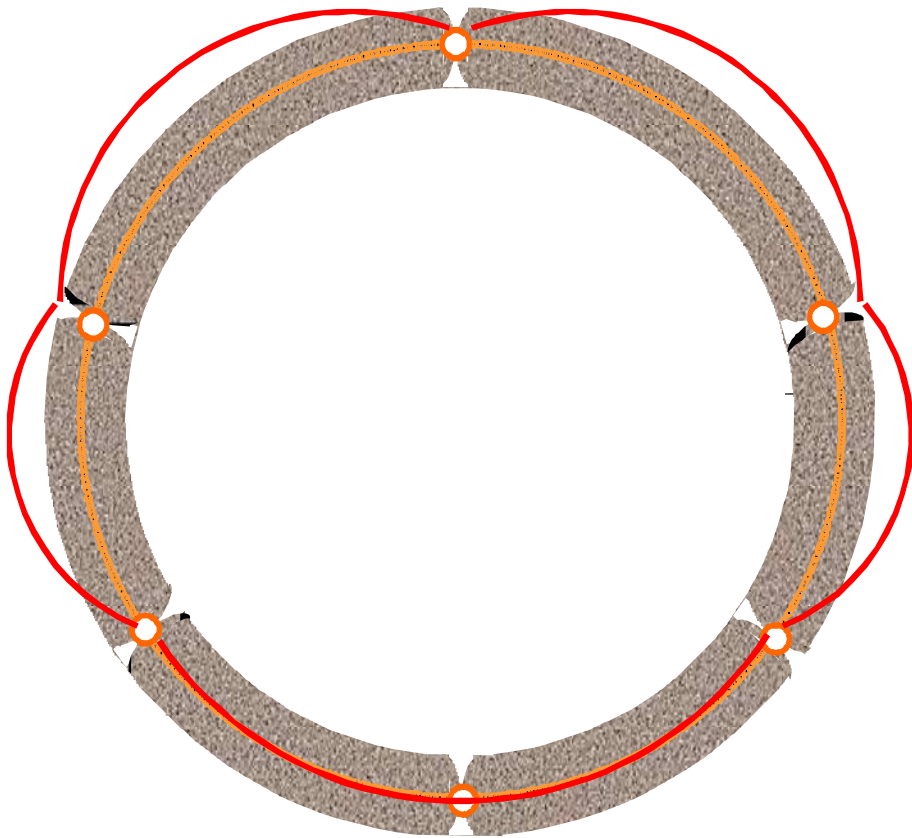


Segment deformation influences joint rotation and eccentricity
Segment deformation dependent on tunnel-ground interaction

Tendency of deformation of segments

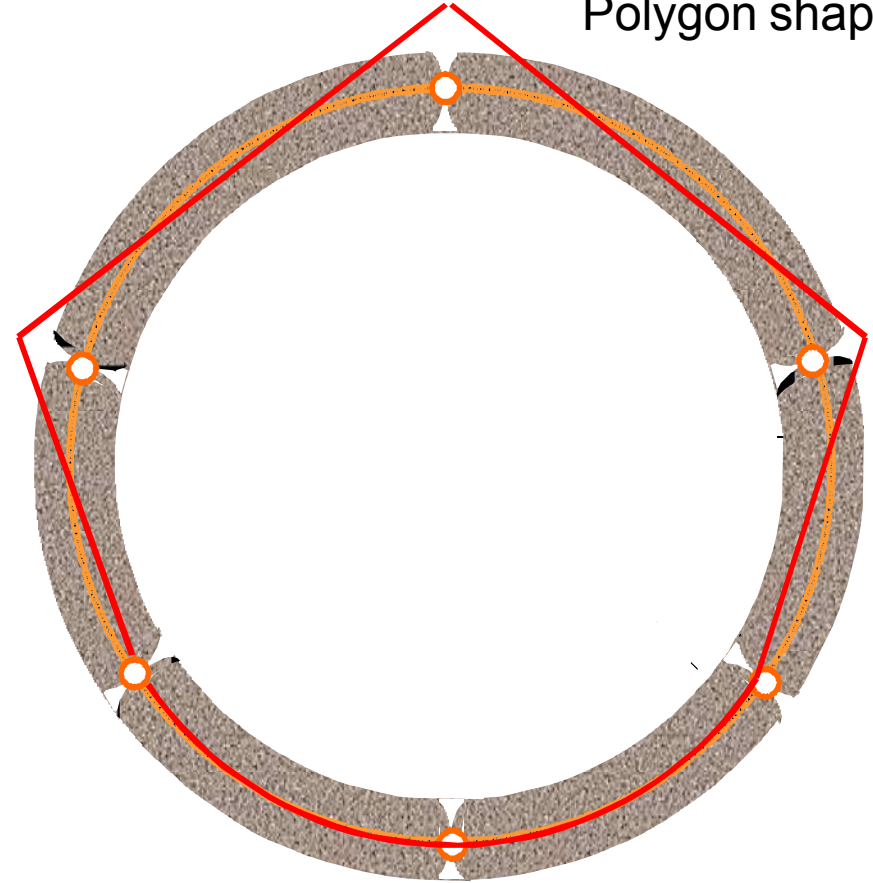
Moment dominated by e_1

Flower shape



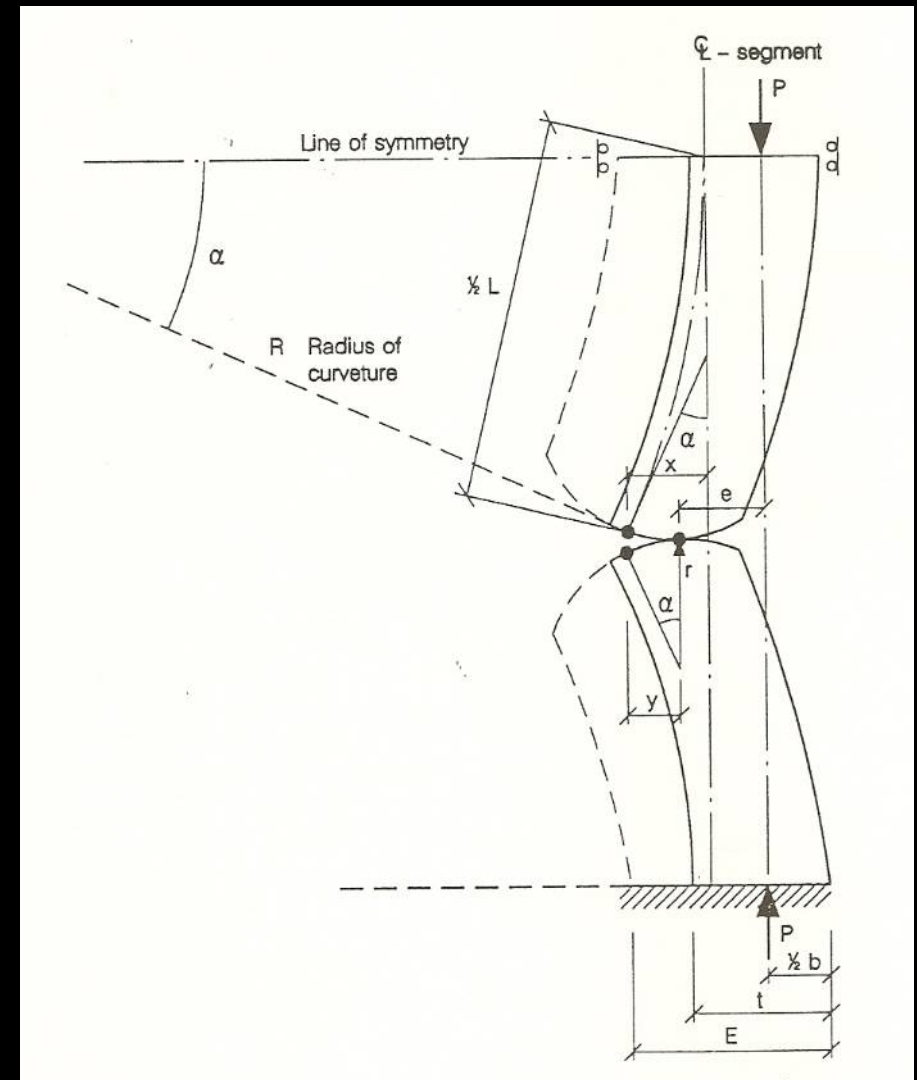
Moment dominated by e_2

Polygon shape



Here shown: soft ground

Rotation of joint



Spalling

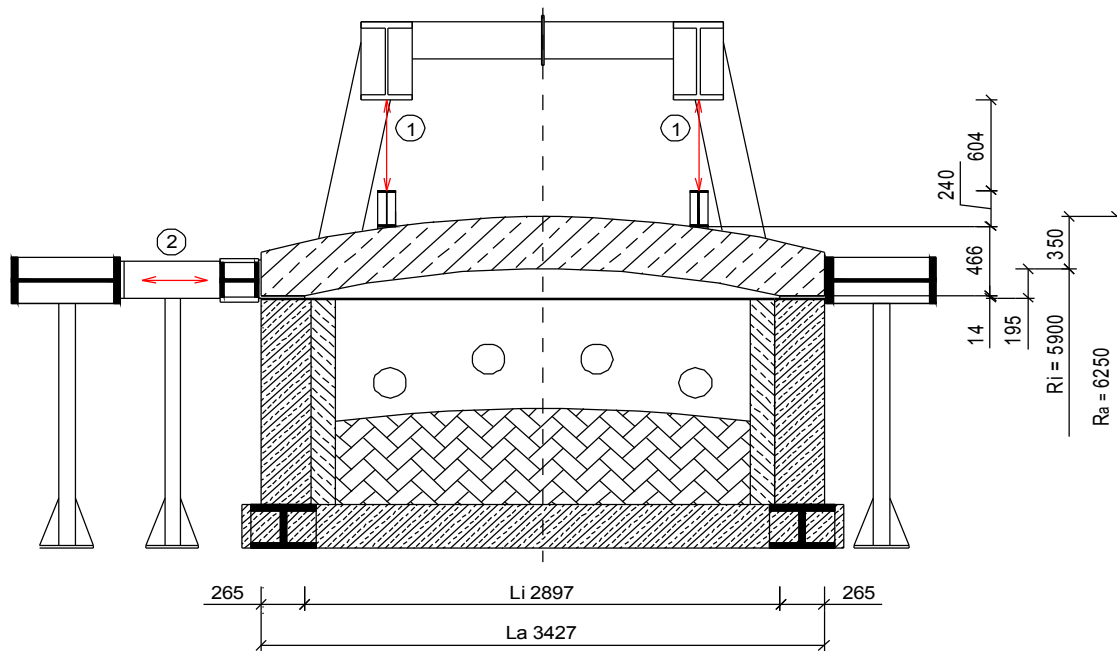


- Spalling is a sudden dislocation of concrete – explosive spalling is caused by vapour pressure in the concrete
- No quantitative models exist
- pp-fibers significantly reduce the risk of spalling
- Tests may be necessary in order to investigate the spalling behaviour (both with and without pp fibres)

Fire effects

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





**MPFA
Leipzig
Germany**

**CERIB
France**

30 jacks,
from 5 T to 300 T

Thank you for your attention



Niels Peter Høj, HOJ Consulting



Alberto Meda, University of Rome Tor Vergata

