



1977

387. Fellenius, B.H. 2018. Sixty Years of dynamic testing and analysis of piles—A retrospective. Keynote Lecture to the 10th International Conference on Stress-wave Theory and Testing. June 27-29, 2018, San Diego, CA, 50 p.

# Sixty Years of dynamic testing and analysis of piles

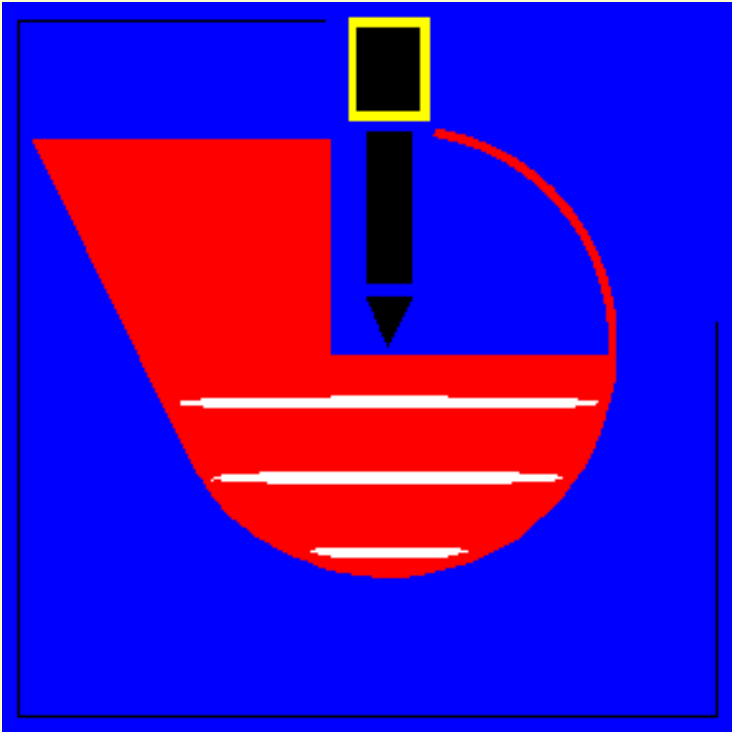
## A retrospective

*Bengt H. Fellenius*

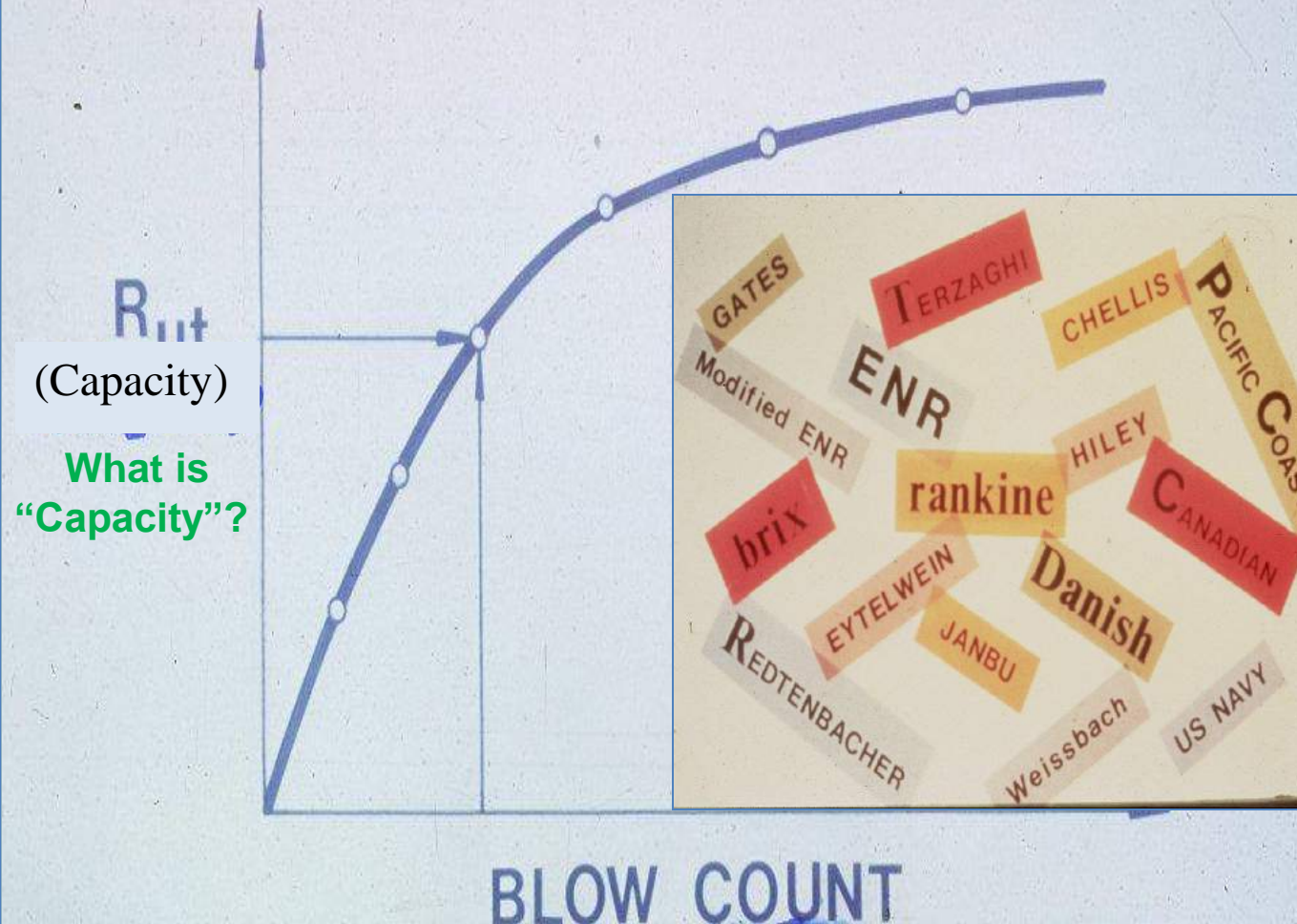
*June 29, 2018*

**10th International Conference on Stress-wave Theory  
and Testing Methods For Deep Foundations  
June 27-29, 2018, San Diego, CA**

• *Proudly Sponsored By: The Pile Driving Contractors Association*



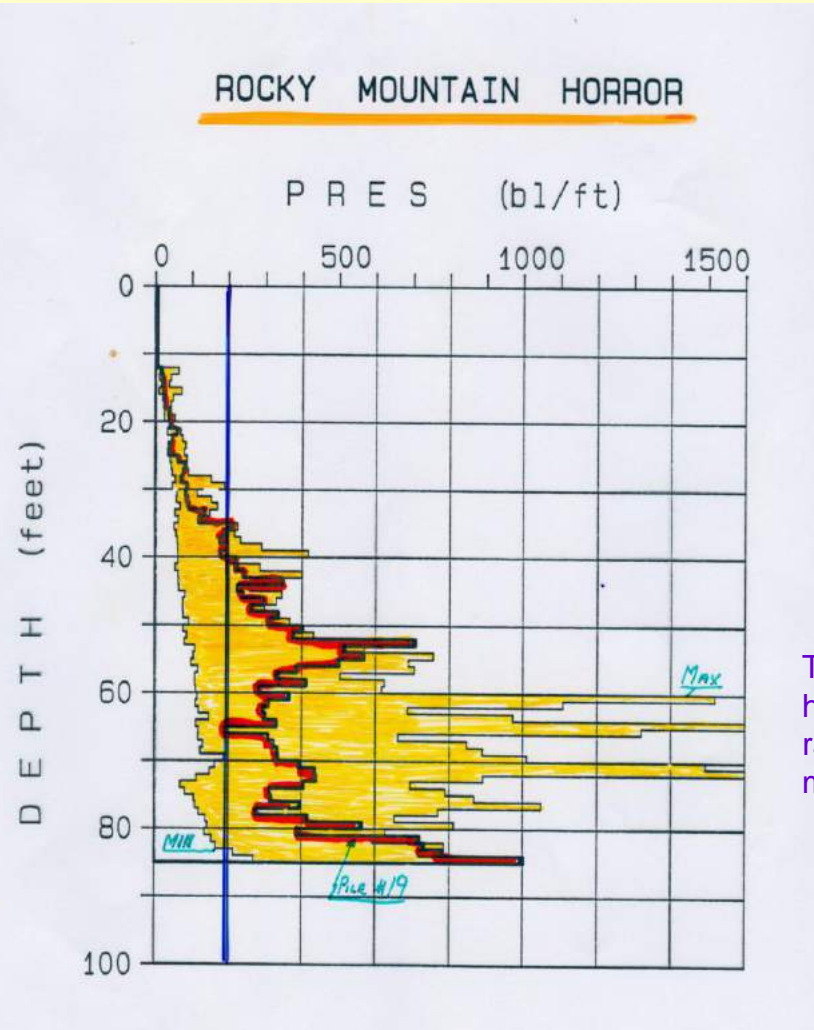
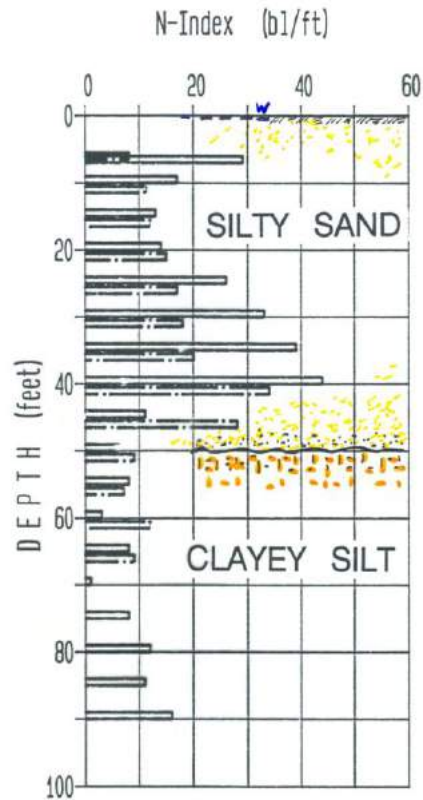
# THE BEARING GRAPH



A project in the early 1970s illustrating that, despite the diminishing return of the blow-count demonstrated by the dynamic formulae, then, as now, stupidity prevails.

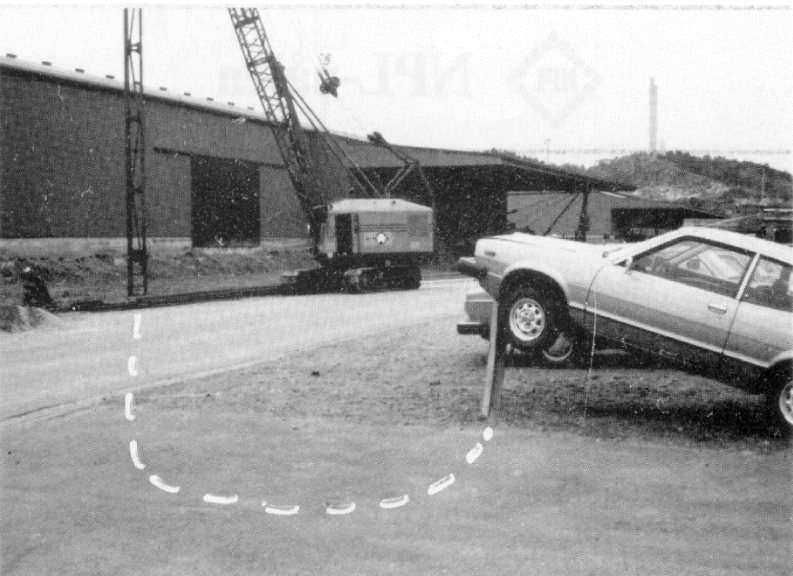
To support the tower, the design required 23 steel H-piles driven to 85 ft depth.

Soil profile and SPT N-diagram at a piled foundation for a power line tower in the middle of Alaska



The drop hammer height-of-fall was raised to more than 10 ft!

Another project at about the same time. Here the contractor had no problem getting the piles down to specified depth. The toe resistance was rather small toward the end, though.



Side View



Front View

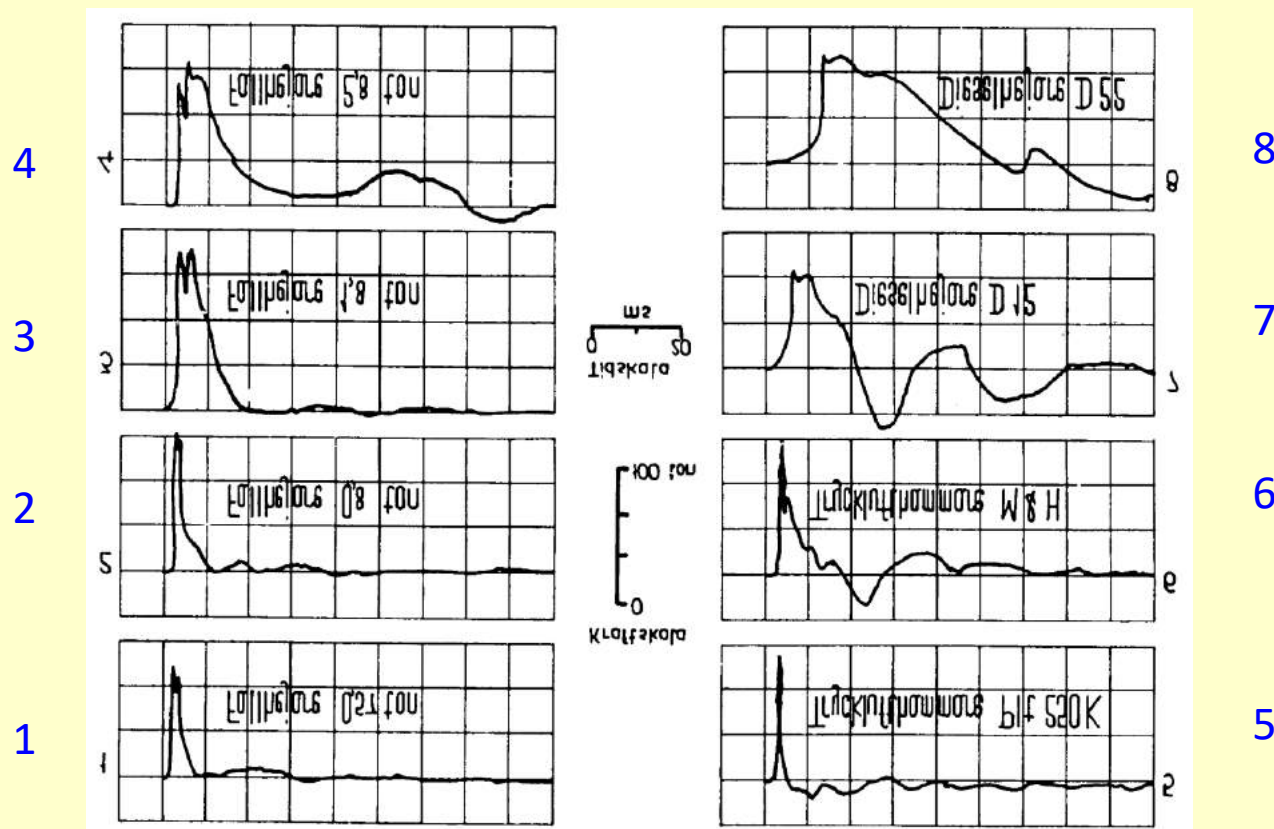
## The 1959 Gubbero Tests, Göteborg, Sweden

Comparison of strain-waves from a pile driven with several different hammers.

Nos. 1 - 4 are drop hammers (0.6, 0.8, 1.8, and 2.8 tonne)

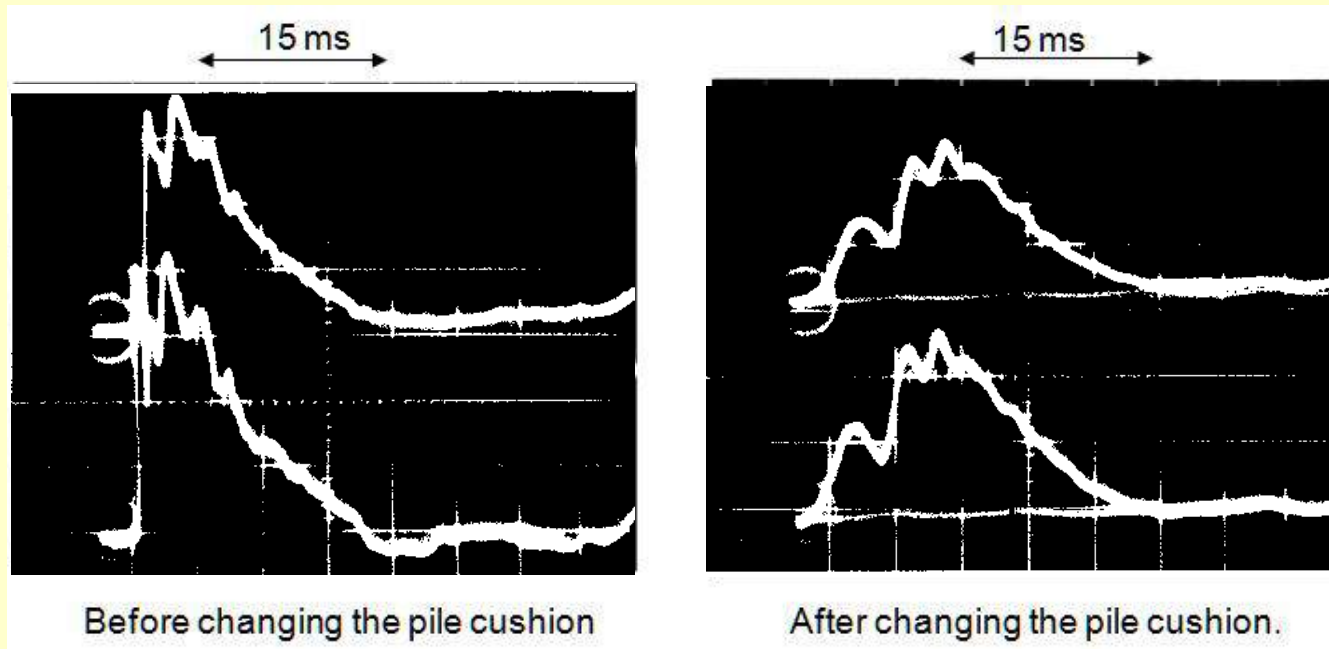
Nos. 5 - 6 are pneumatic hammers (Plt 290 K and M&H)

Nos. 7 - 8 are diesel hammers (D12 and D22)

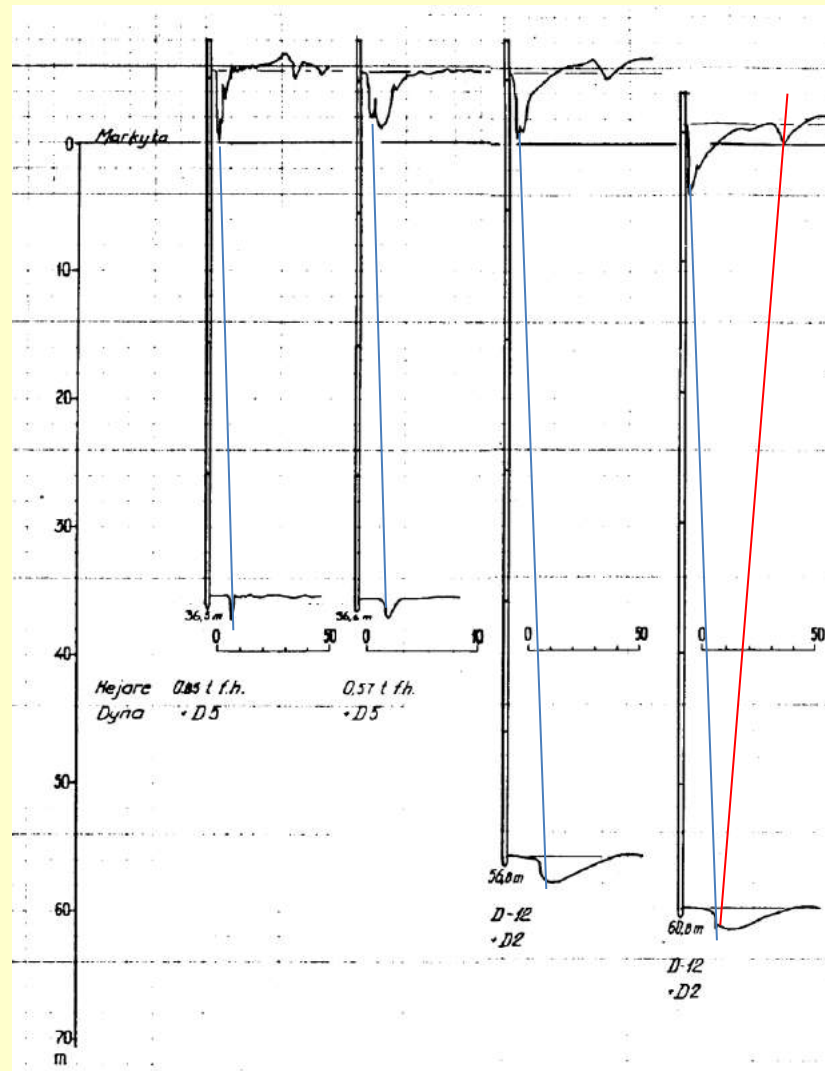


## The 1959 Gubbero Tests, Göteborg, Sweden

Stress-waves (strain) measured at the head of a 260 mm diameter, 75 m long concrete pile before and after cushion change. Two blows recorded from each event.



Stress-waves measured both at the pile head and at the pile toe.  
(Different hammers, different pile lengths, and different cushions, but travel time is the same)





Some small steps toward theoretical analysis were indeed made by man, but the main result of the 1959 Gubbero tests was the realization of the complexity of pile driving.

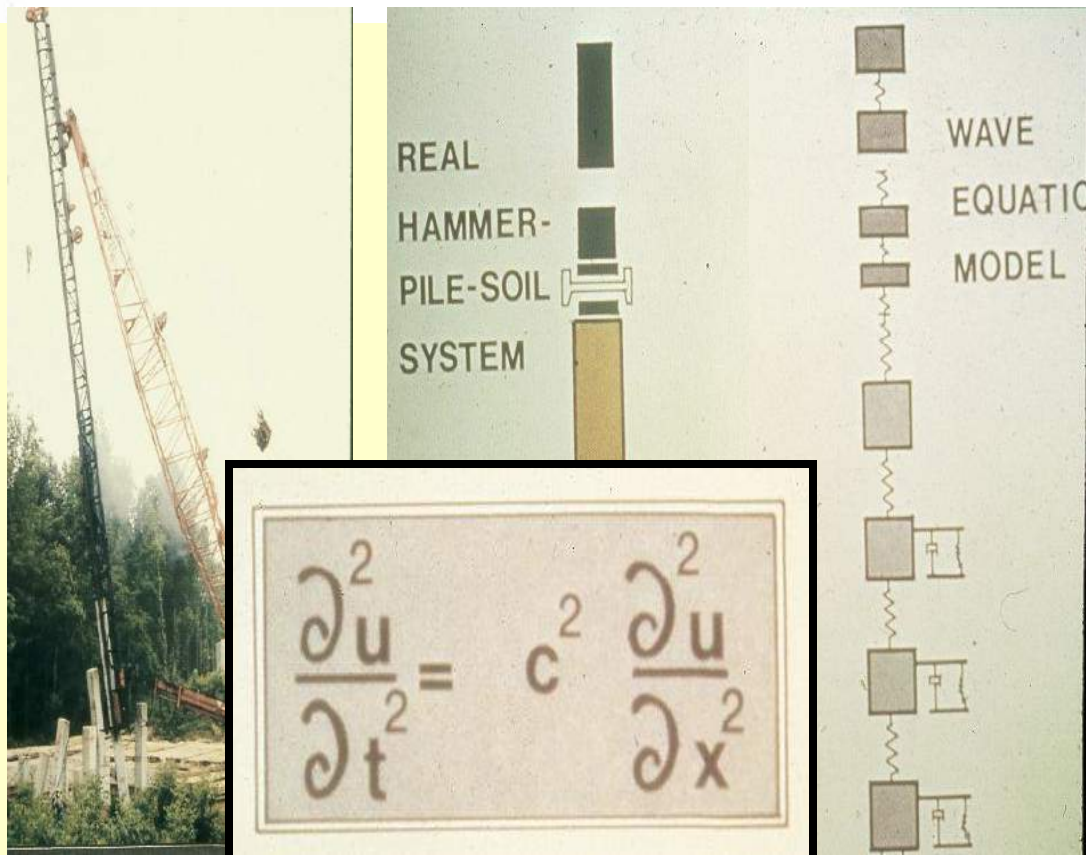
**Then, came the means to Analysis.**

**E.A.L. Smith (1960)**

Journal of the  
**SOIL MECHANICS AND FOUNDATIONS DIVISION**  
 Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers

**PILE-DRIVING ANALYSIS BY THE WAVE EQUATION**

By E. A. L. Smith<sup>1</sup>



## *Tip-toeing through, missing the point*

AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE TWO DAMPING FORMULATIONS FOR **END** RESISTANCE DEVELOPS WHEN THE STATIC **POINT** RESISTANCE IS ZERO: IN THE CASE FORMULATION, THE DYNAMIC **TOE** RESISTANCE IS FINITE (BECAUSE THE PILE **TIP** HAS VELOCITY), BUT IN THE SMITH FORMULATION IT IS ZERO.

EXAMPLE 7A: FULL FUEL, HIGH QUAKES

Hammer Information  
 Select from following list [04-11-12-2003]: ID: 11

ID	Name	Type	Ram Wt	Energy/Power
10	DELMAG D 25-32	OED	24.520	89.981
11	DELMAG D 30	OED	29.370	81.015
12	DELMAG D 30-02	OED	29.370	89.788

Hammer parameters  
 Efficiency: 0.800  
 Pressure: 9756 kPa Fixed 100 %  
 Stroke: 2.76 m Variable of Max

Ultimate Capacities (up to 10) kN

1	445.0	6	0.0
2	890.0	7	0.0
3	1334.0	8	0.0
4	1779.0	9	0.0
5	2224.0	10	0.0

Incr. 0 Action >>

Pile material  
 Concrete  Steel  Timber

Cushion Information

	Hammer	Pile	Unit
Area	0.0	0.0	cm <sup>2</sup>
Elastic Modulus	0.0	0.0	MPa
Thickness	0.0	0.0	mm
C.O.R.	0.8	0.0	
Stiffness	1839.0	0.0	kN/mm
Helmet Weight	4.23		kN

Pile Information

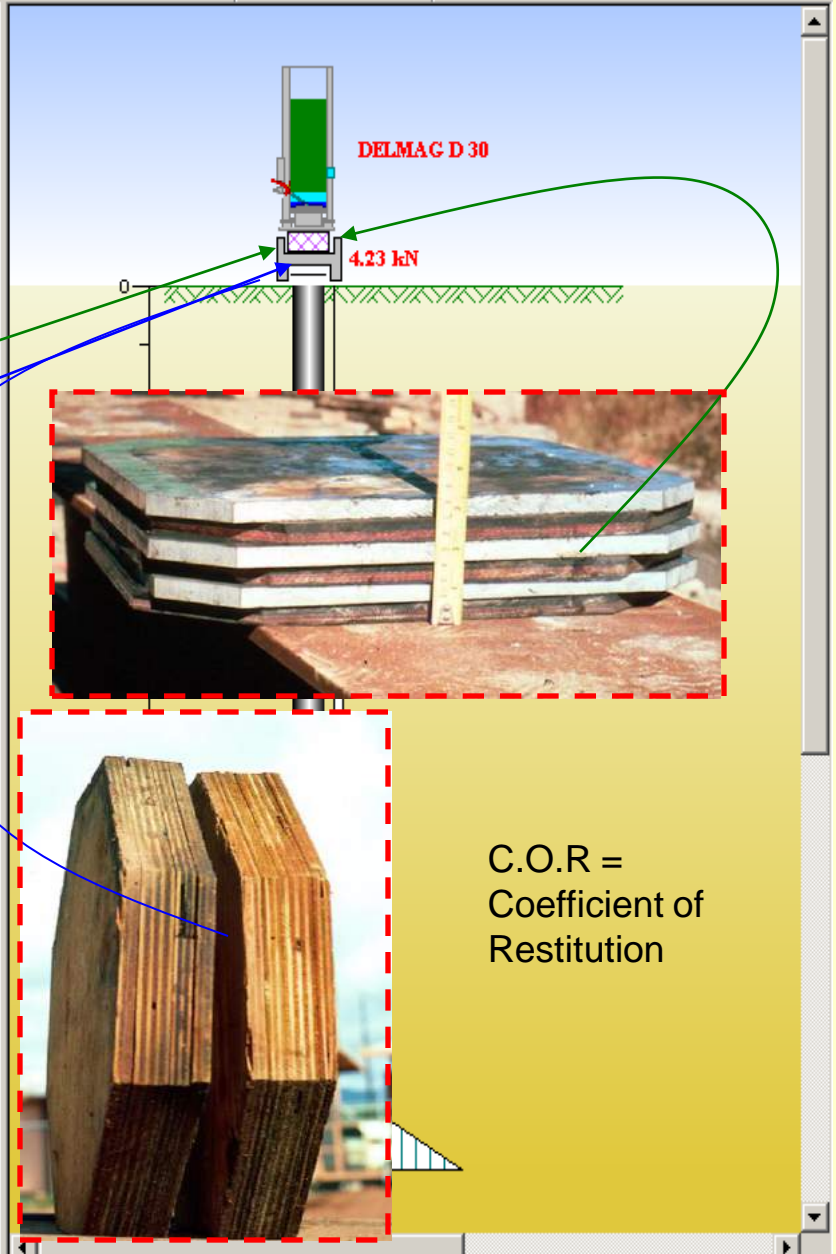
Length	22.9	m	15	Segments
Penetration	22.9	m	Auto.	S-Length
Section Area	108.0	cm <sup>2</sup>	Auto.	S-St, Wt
Elast Modulus	206843.0	MPa		
Spec Weight	77.3	kN/m <sup>3</sup>		
Strength/Yield	0.0	MPa	0	Splices
Toe Area	0.001	cm <sup>2</sup>		
Perimeter	0.0	m		Pile Type:
Pile Size	0.0	cm		Unknown

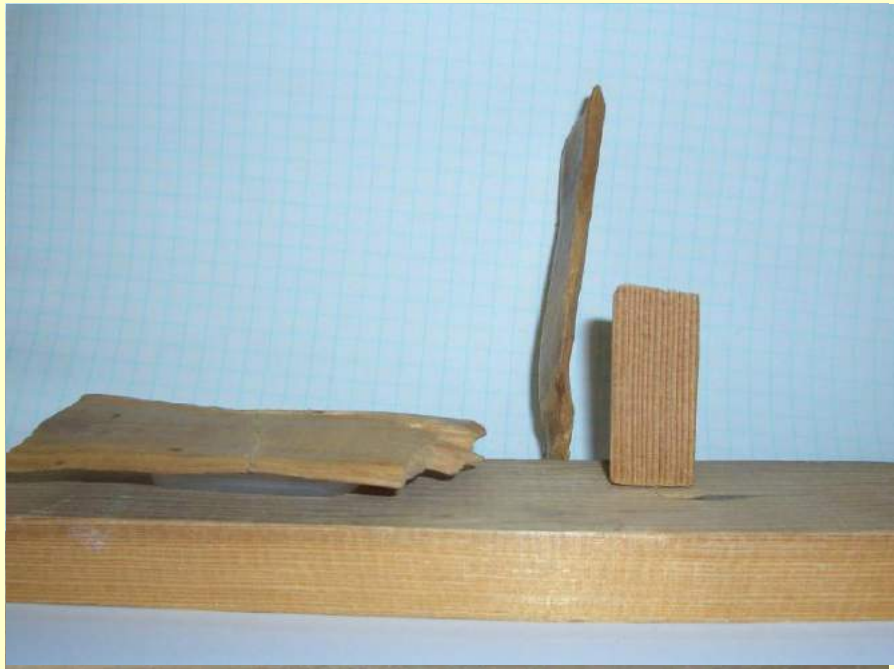
Soil Parameters  
 Quake  
 Shaft: 2.54 mm Const  
 Toe: 3.81 mm

Damping  
 Shaft: 0.1 Const  
 Toe: 0.1 Case

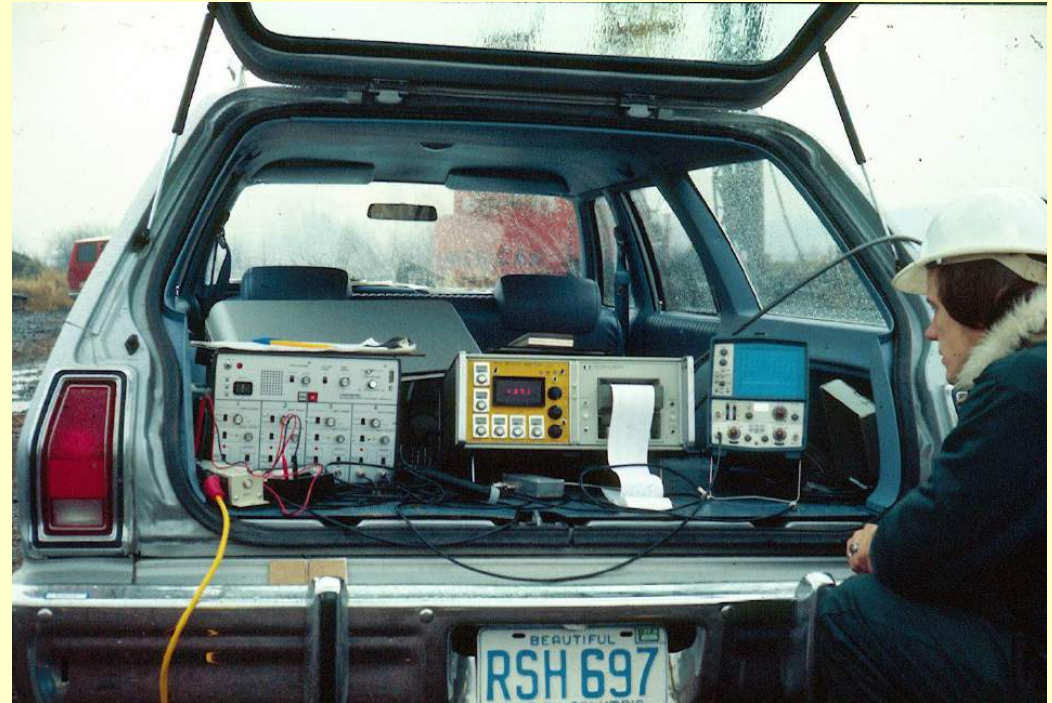
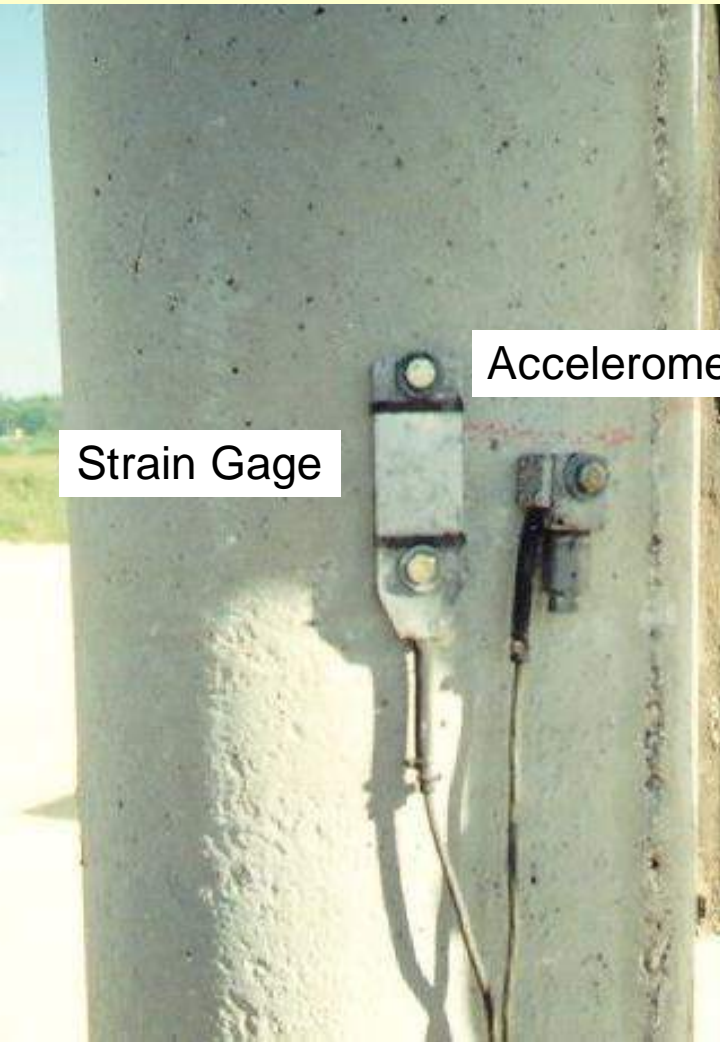
Shaft Resistance  
 Percentage: 40 %  
 Dist. Shape Num: 0.0

Residual Stress Analysis: No



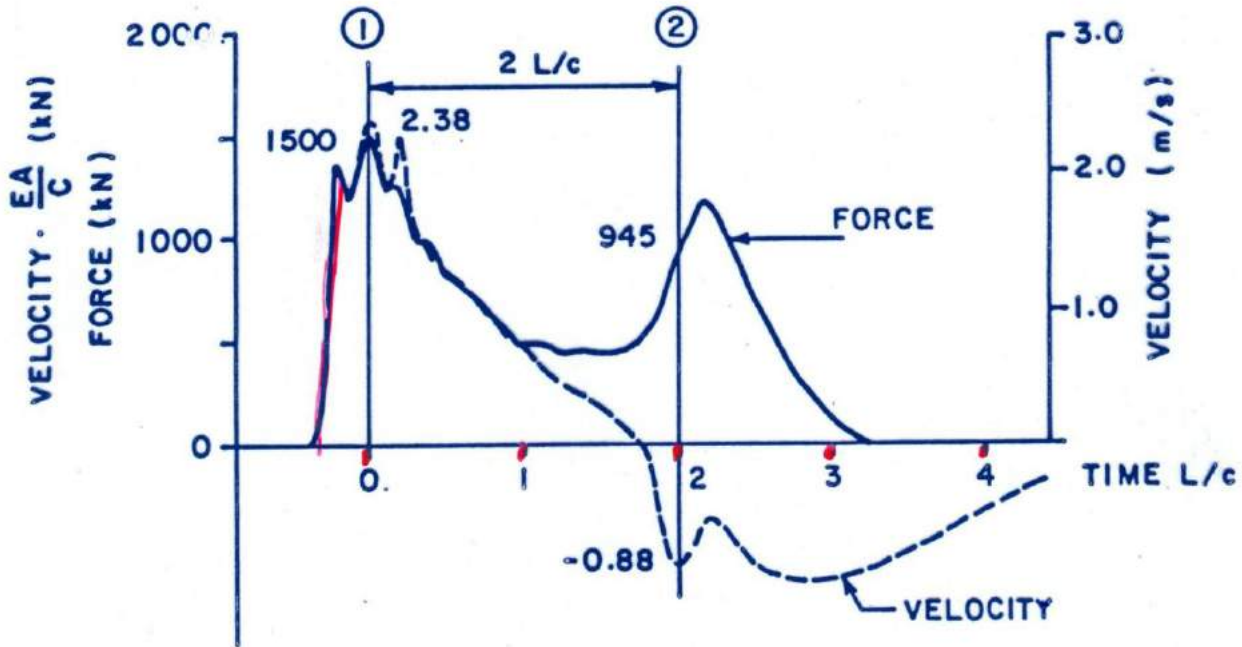


# Along with WEAP came the Pile Driving Analyzer, the PDA!



**PDA set-up in 1977**

With the break-through use of both strain-gages and accelerometers.



$$\text{MOBILIZED RESISTANCE} = \frac{F_1 + F_2}{2} + \frac{EA}{C} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (V_1 - V_2)$$

Dynamic and Static

Static Resistance includes adjustment by a damping factor

$$= \frac{1500 + 945}{2} + 638 \cdot \frac{1}{2} (2.38 + 0.88)$$

$$= 2260 \text{ kN}$$

The Case Method Estimate — CMES-RSP



# THE PIONEERS

George Goble 1975





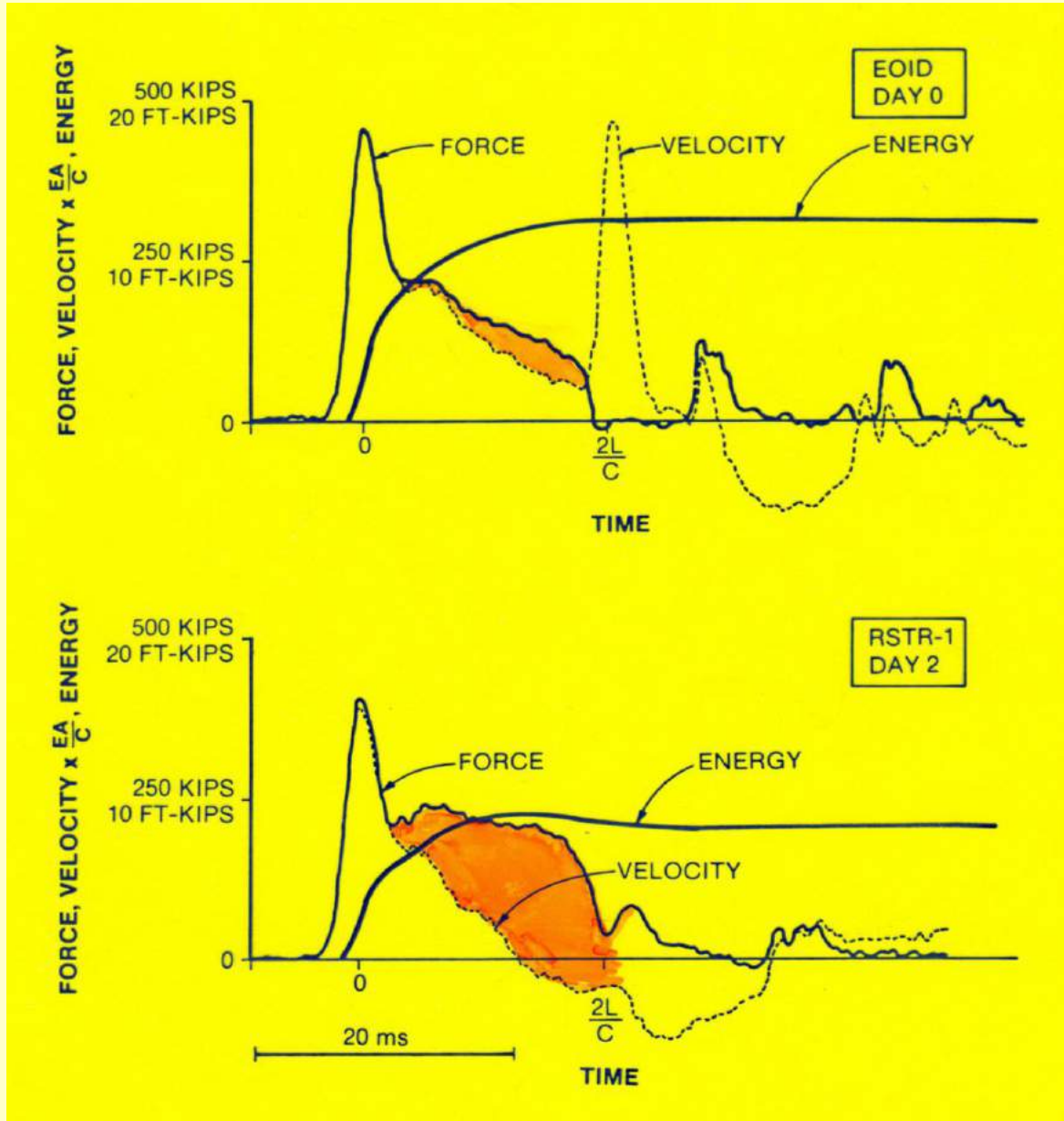
## Frank Rausche 1975

# Frank Rausche and Garland Likins 1975



Photo courtesy of Pete Bentley

# A couple of wave-trace graphs from mid 1970s



Initial  
Driving,  
EOID

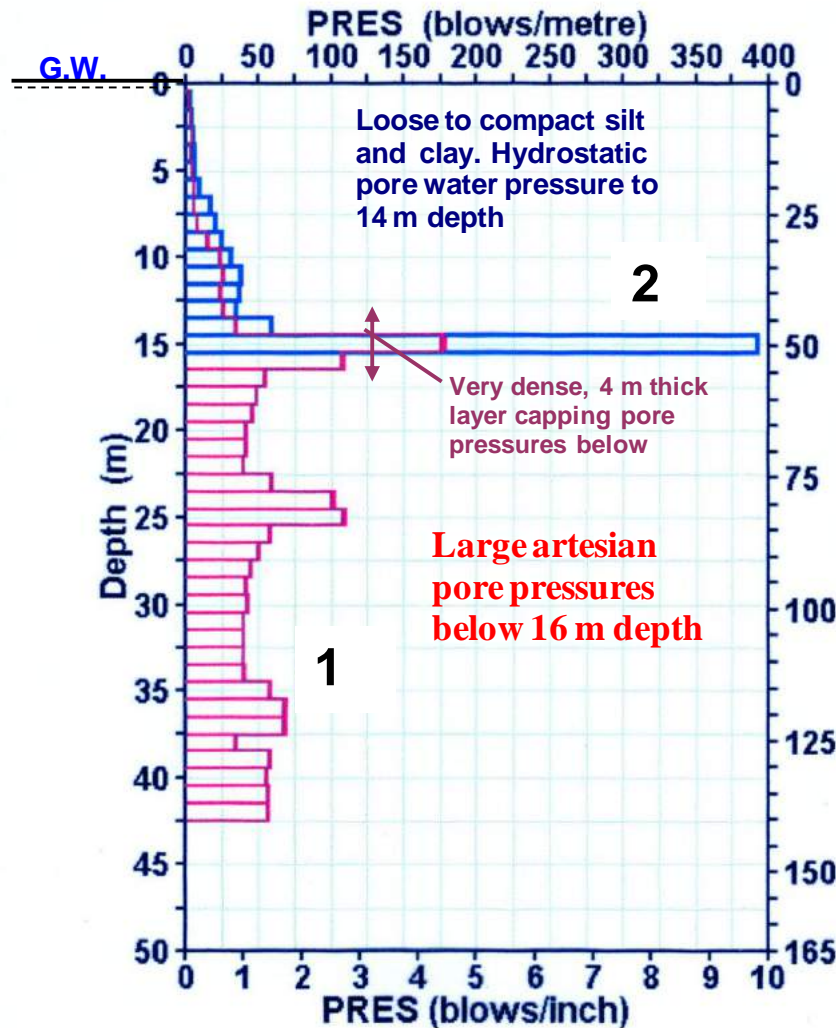
PRES  
1 bl/in

Restrike  
Driving,  
RSTR-1  
BOR-1

PRES  
3 bl/in

## A project in Salt Lake City in late 1980

Piles (similar to Pile 1, below) were driven well, but then, suddenly, they could not be driven deeper than about 15 m (e.g. Pile 2, below).

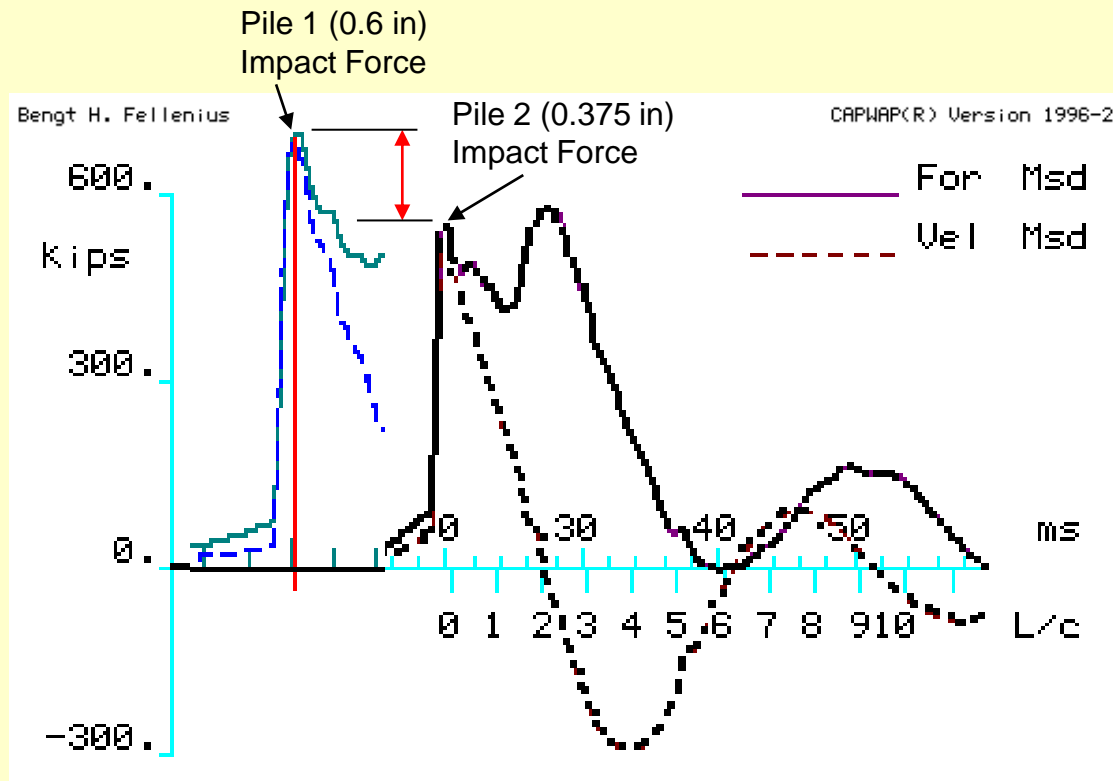


12.75-in closed-toe pipe  
piles driven with Delmag  
D30-32

Pile 1 = 0.500 inch wall

Pile 2 = 0.375 inch wall

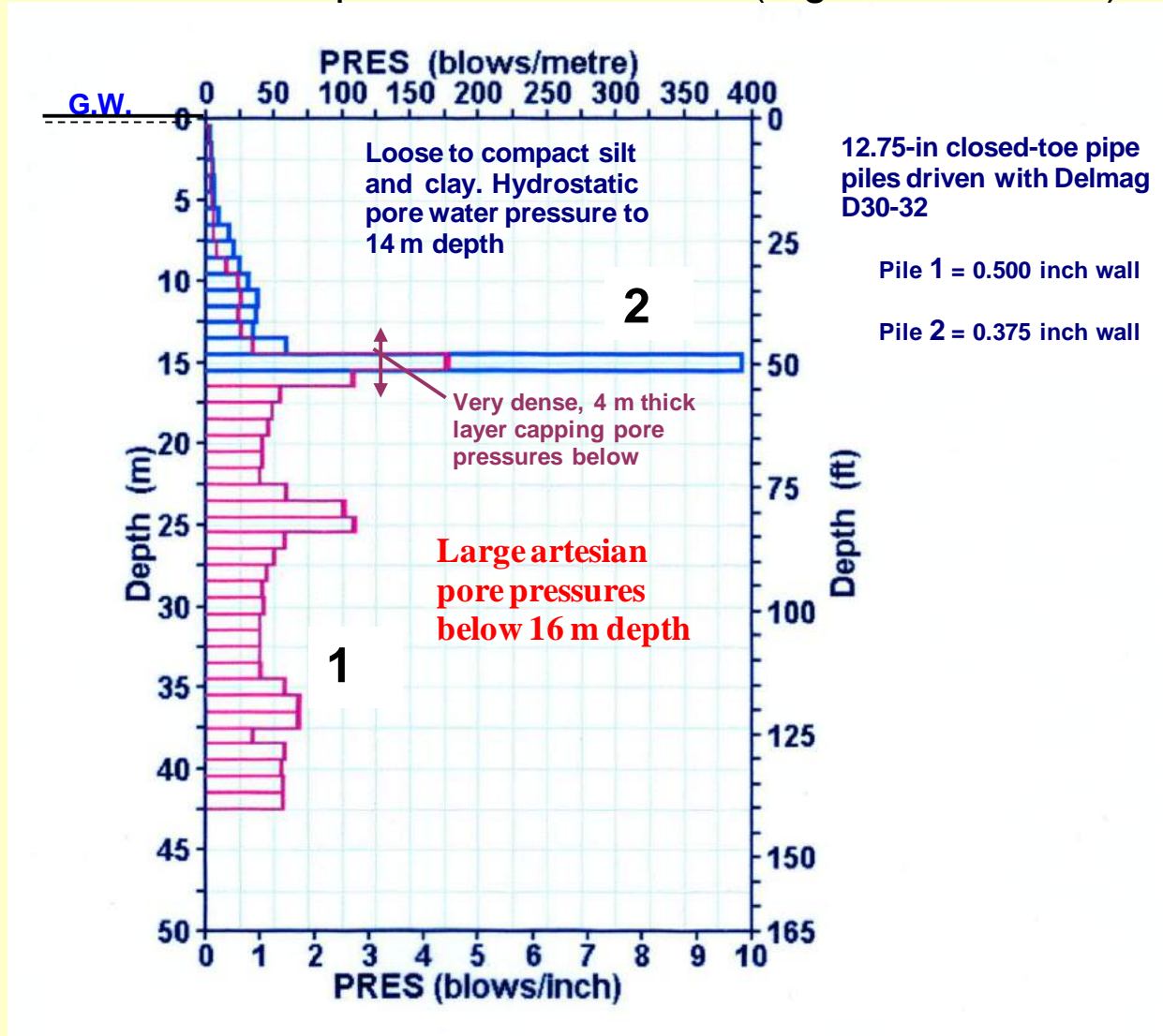
Did the pile driving hammer cease to work properly for the No. 2 piles? Or, was the difference in driving response between Piles 1 and 2 due to “changed conditions”? If the latter, the Contractor could recoup his costs.



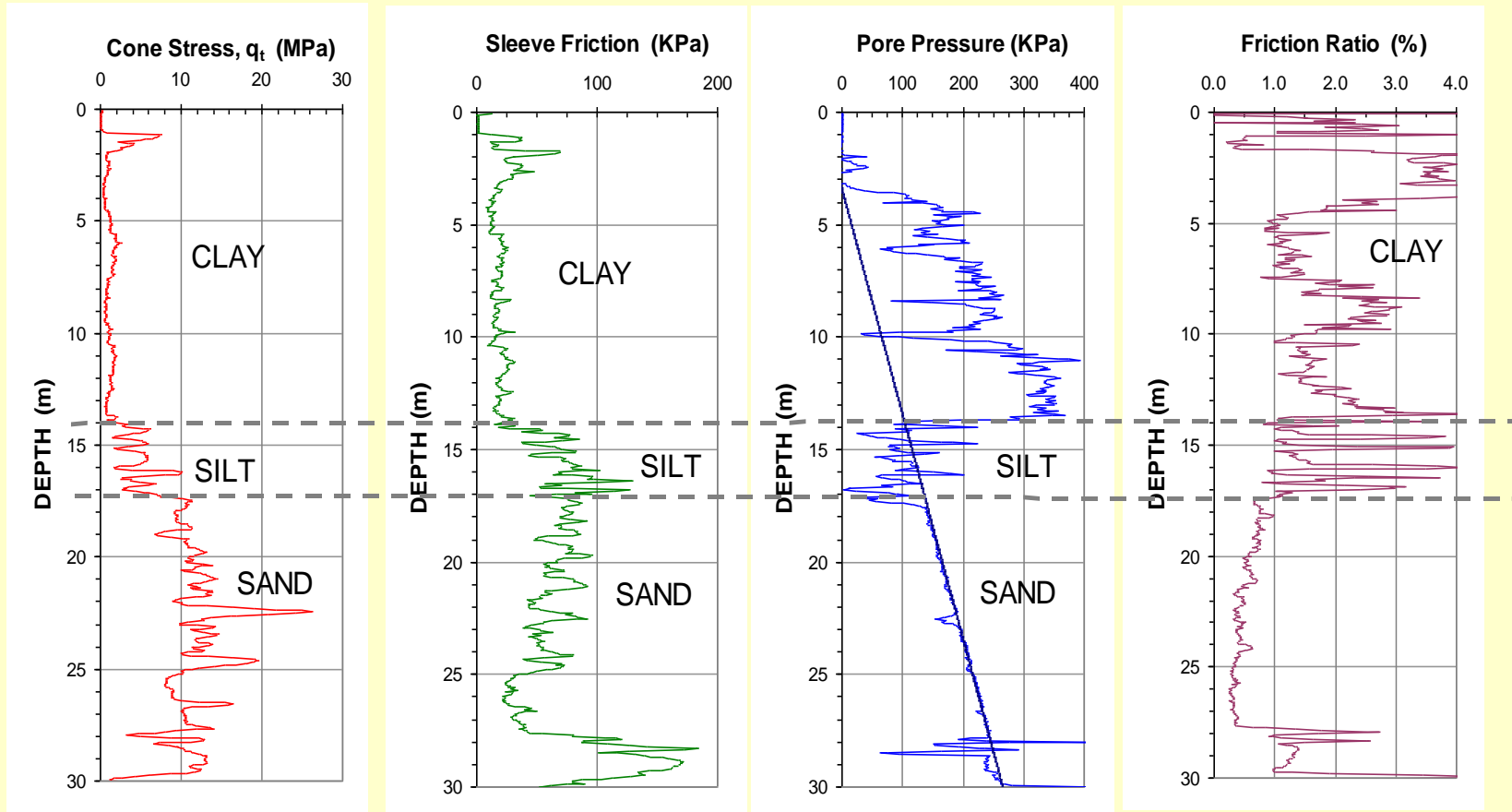
The impact stress and stress-wave length were about the same for the piles, but the impact force is stress times area and the area was larger for Pile 1. Force is what moves a pile against the soil.

## A project in Salt Lake City in late 1980

Piles (similar to Pile 1, below) were driven well, but then, suddenly, they could not be driven deeper than about 15 m (e.g. Pile 2, below).

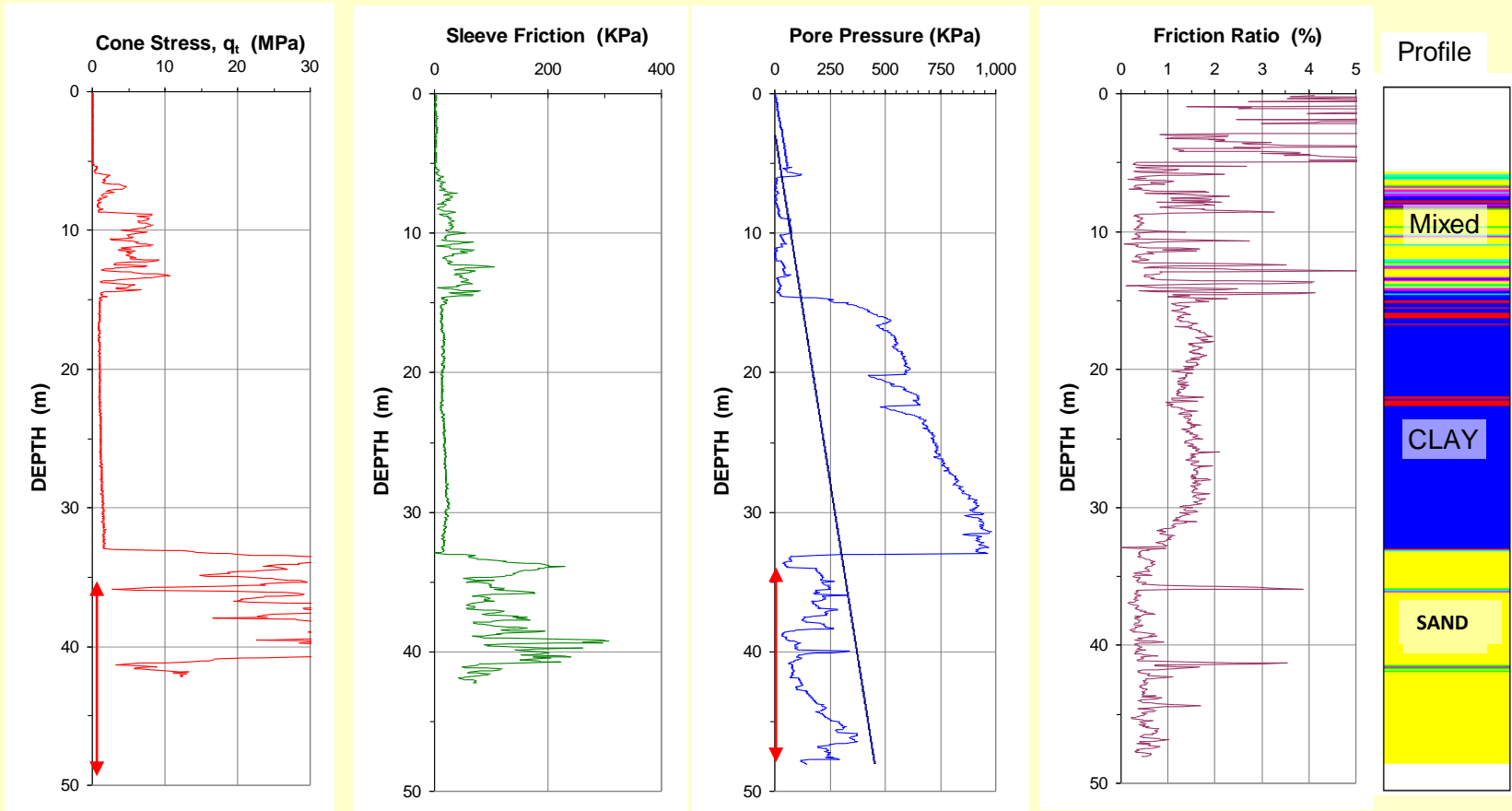


# Example 1 of a CPTU sounding from a river estuary delta (Nakdong River, Pusan, Korea)



CPTU diagrams from a sounding in non-dilatant sand

## Example 2 of a CPTU sounding from a river estuary delta (Nakdong River, Pusan, Korea)



The sand layer between 6 m and 8 m depth is potentially liquefiable.

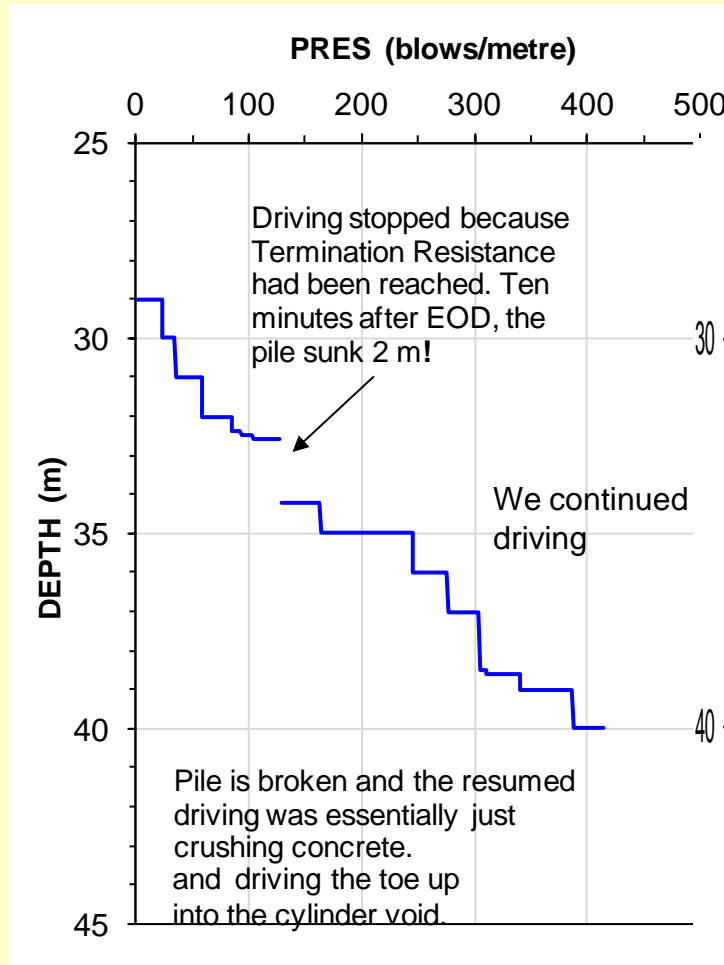
The clay layer is very soft.

The sand below 34 m depth is very dense and dilatant, i.e., overconsolidated and providing sudden large penetration resistance to driven piles and relaxation problems.

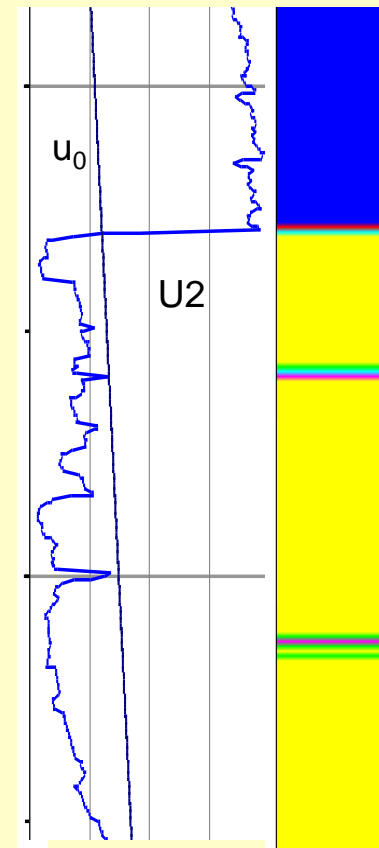


Driving a 600 mm diameter, 45 m long, closed-toe, cylinder pile at the site

## *“The Pile that Ate Its Toe!”*

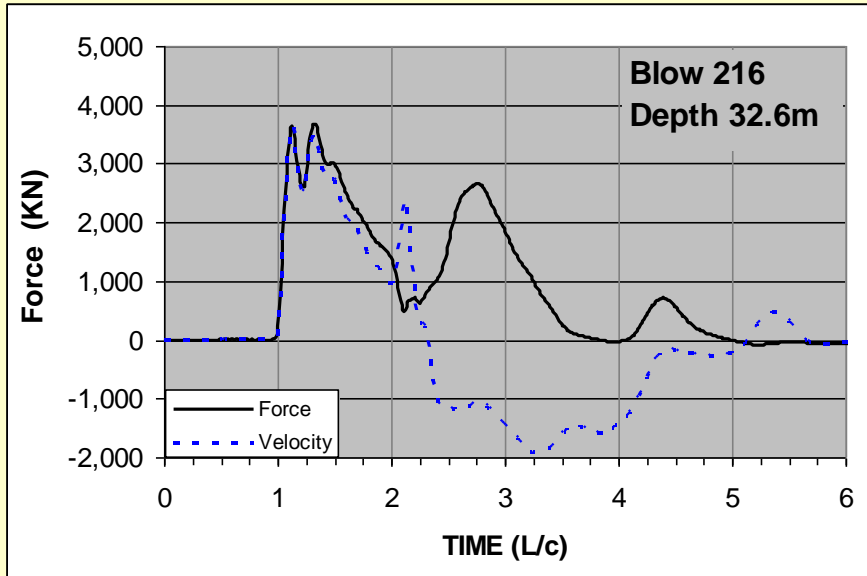


Portion of the CPTU U2-diagram

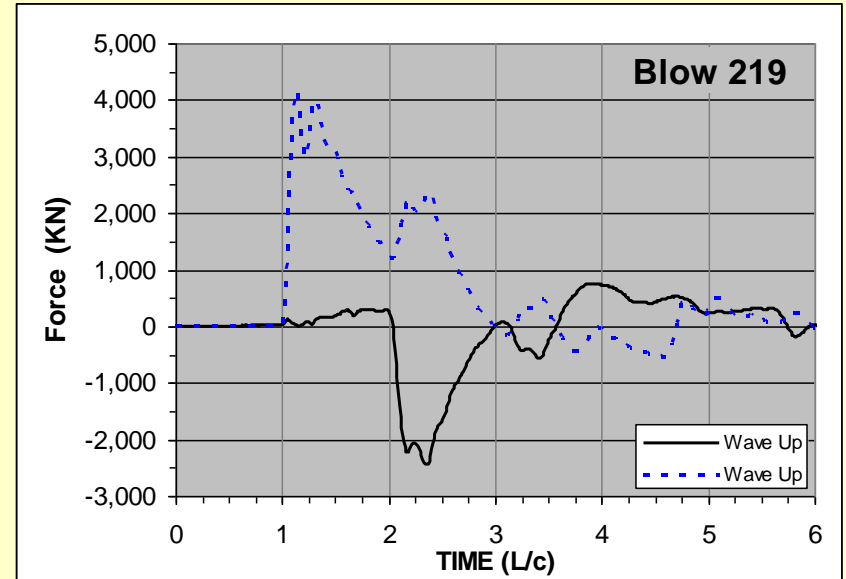
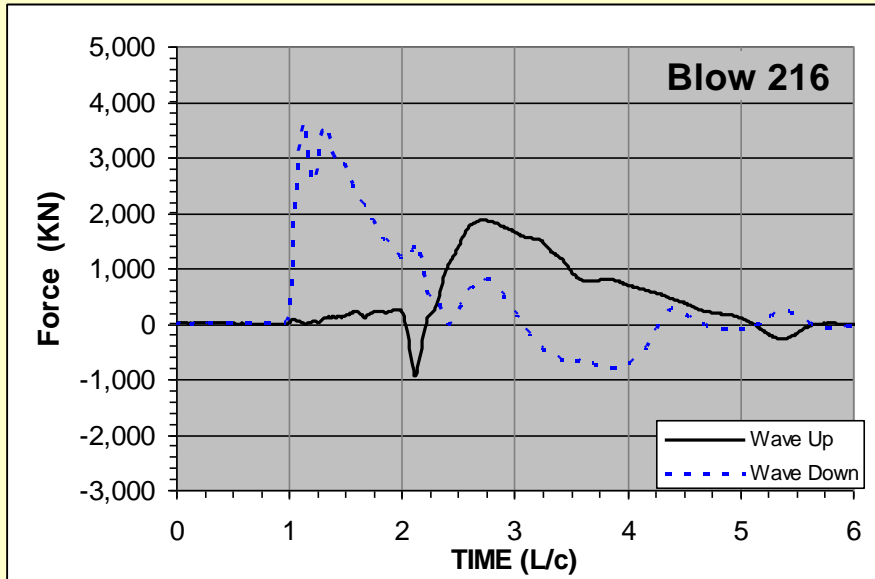
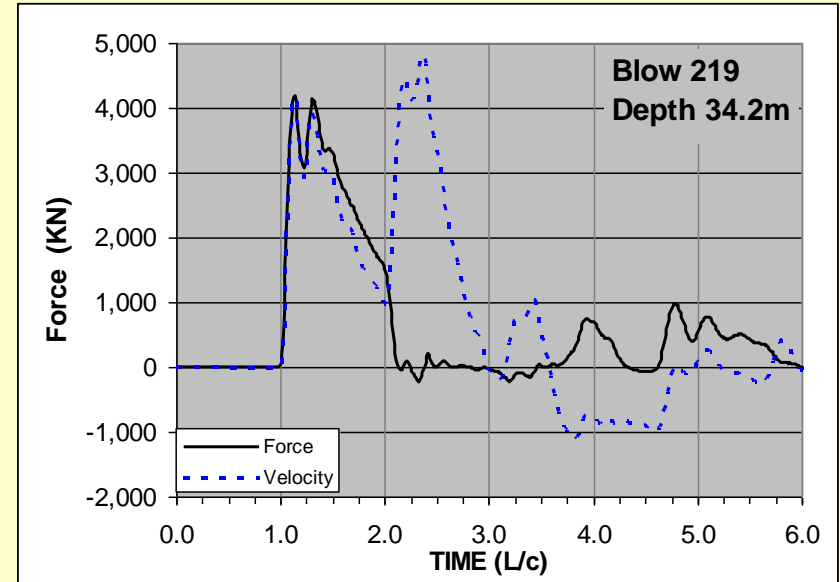


# Wave Traces from the event

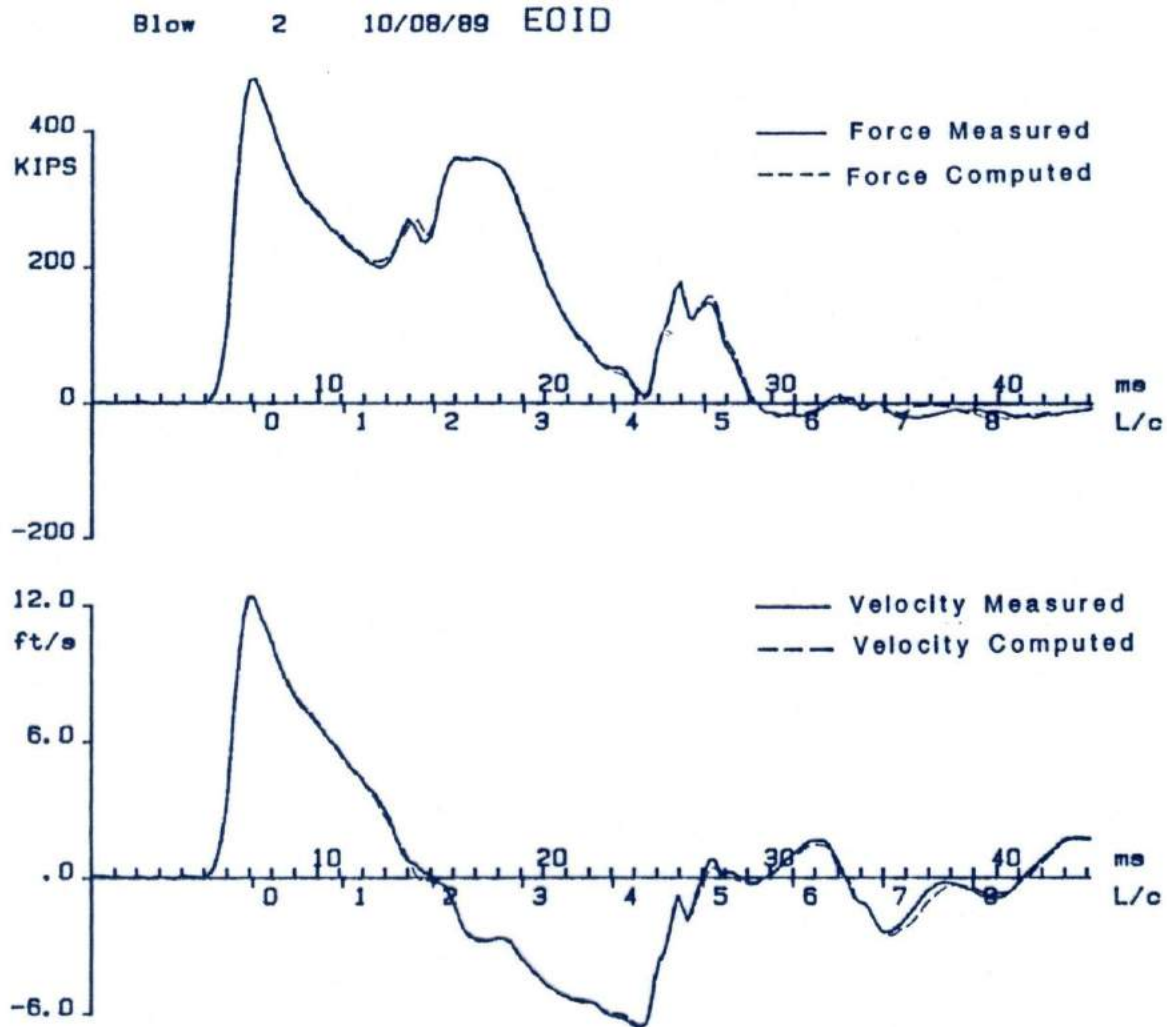
## Three blows before the event occurred



## First blow after the event



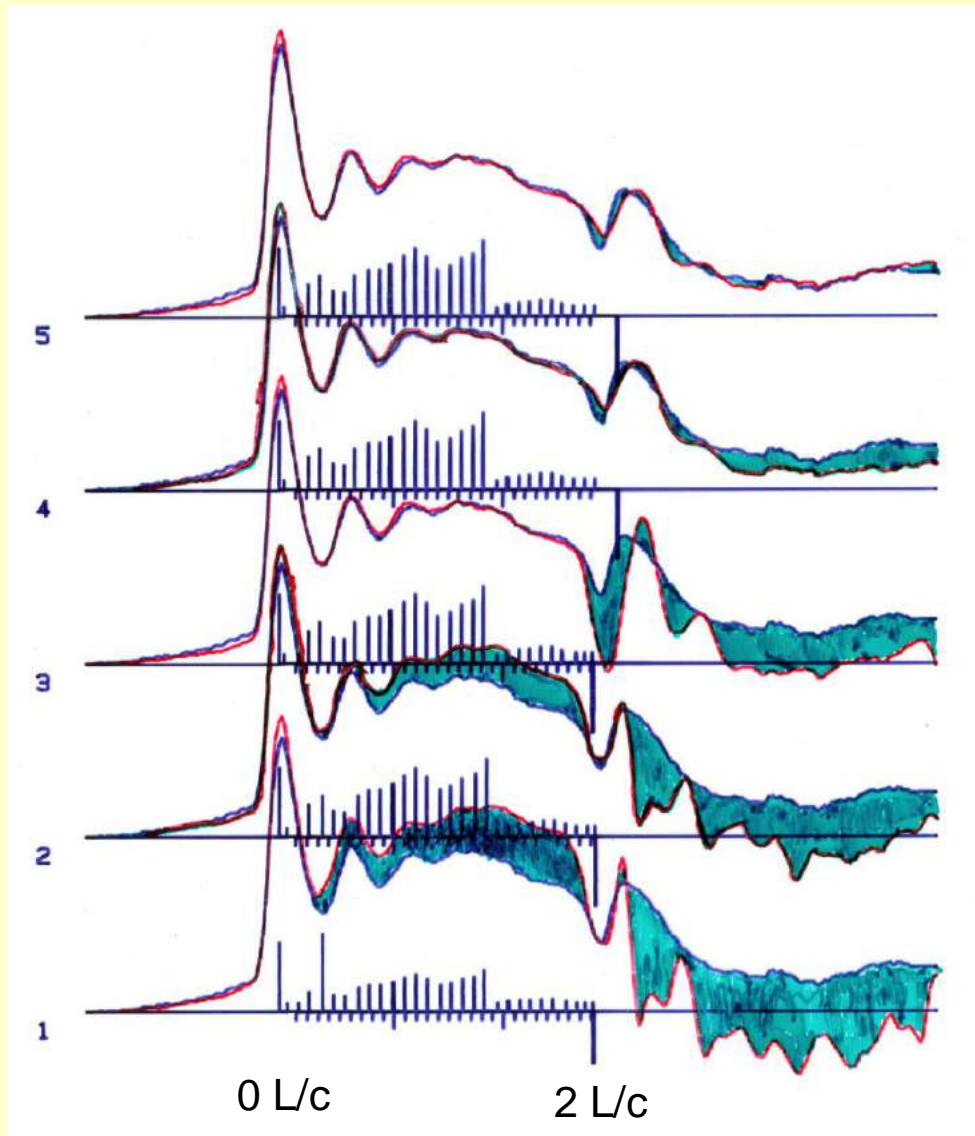
# CAPWAP Analysis



Force-match and Velocity match

(Hannigan 1990)

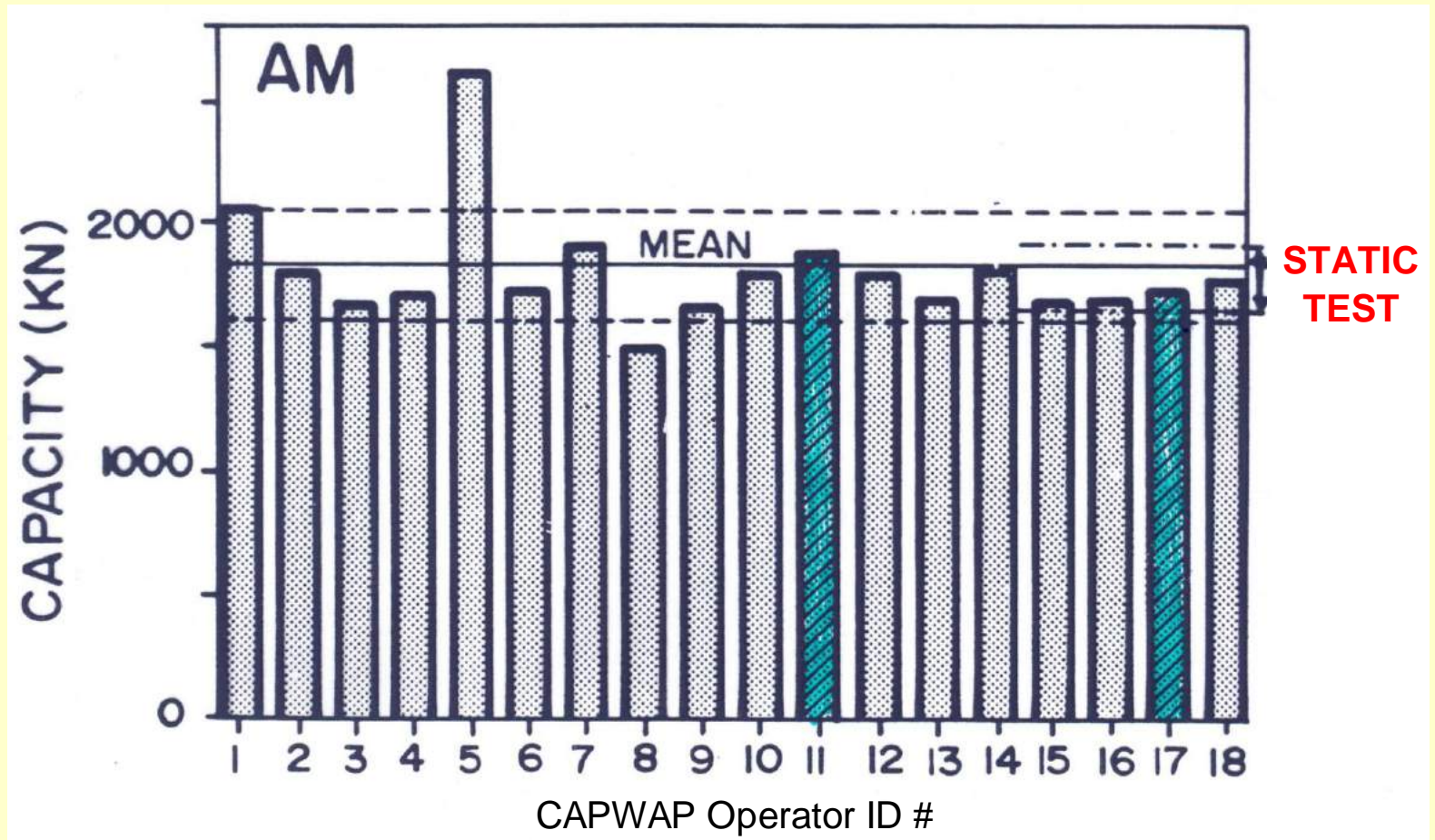
# CAPWAP Analysis Process



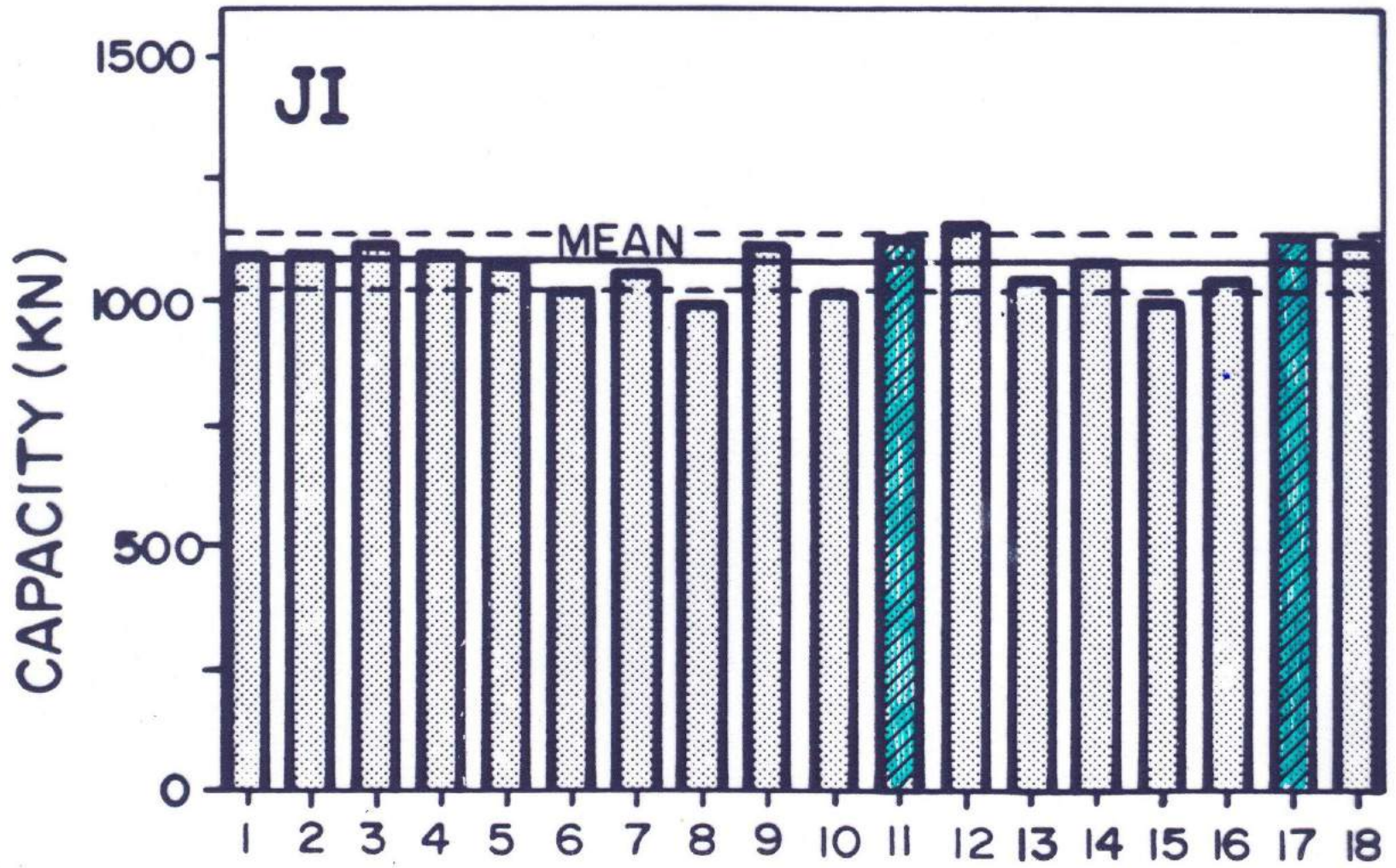
Example of force-match iterations  
(Hannigan 1990)

Back in the early days, we all wondered

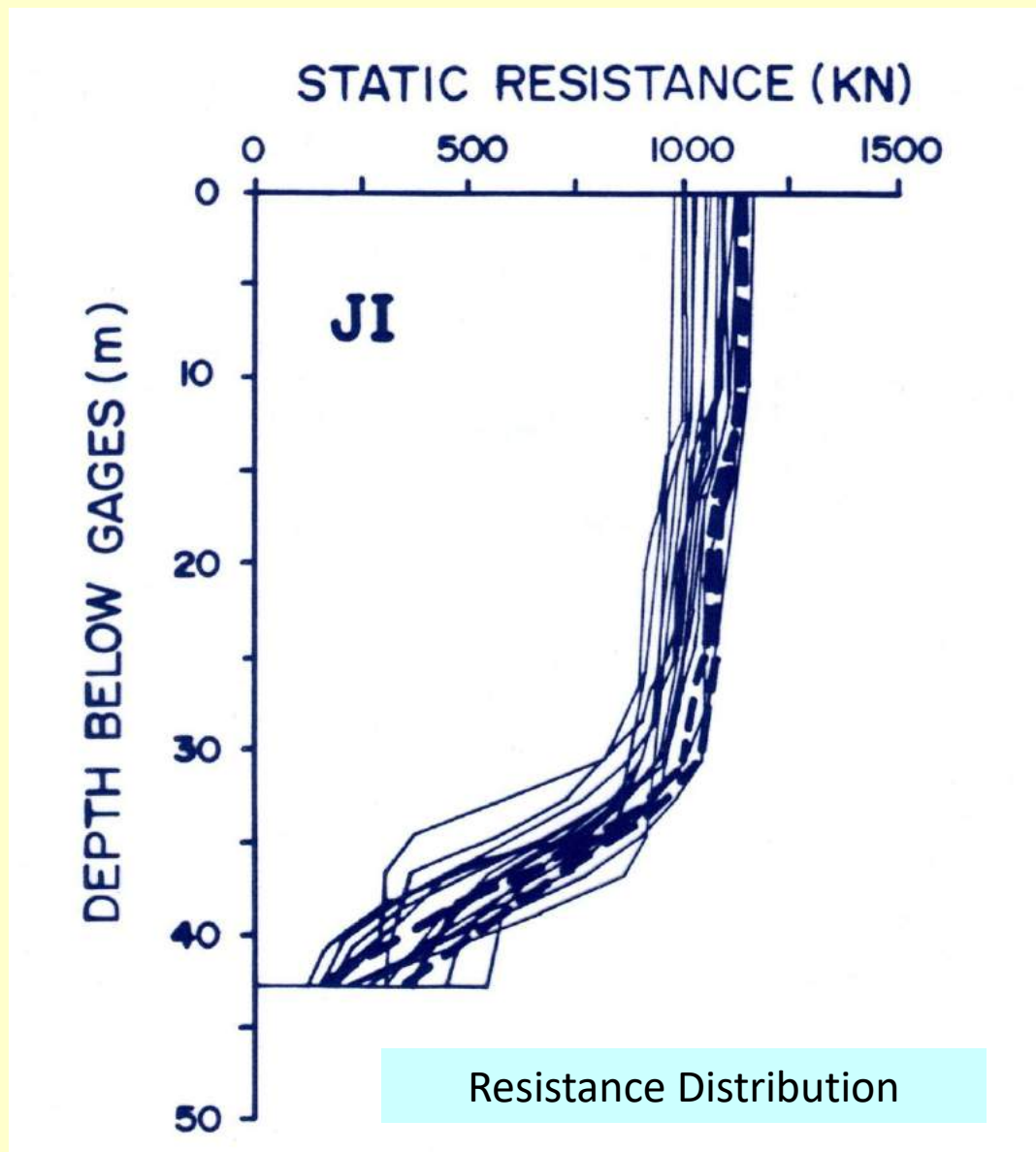
- (1) how true was the CAPWAP-determined capacity to that determined from a static loading test and
- (2) how consistent would the capacities be between analyses performed by different operators?



Compilation of CAPWAPs by different operators — AM site  
(Fellenius 1988)



Compilation of CAPWAPs by different operators — JI site  
(Fellenius 1988)



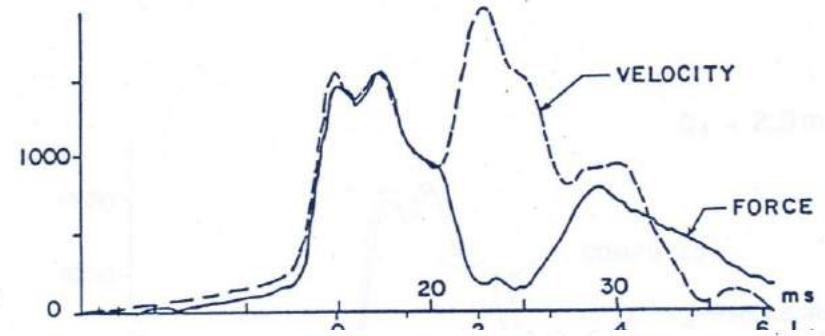
Compilation of CAPWAPs by different operators — JI site  
(Fellenius 1988)

# QUAKE!

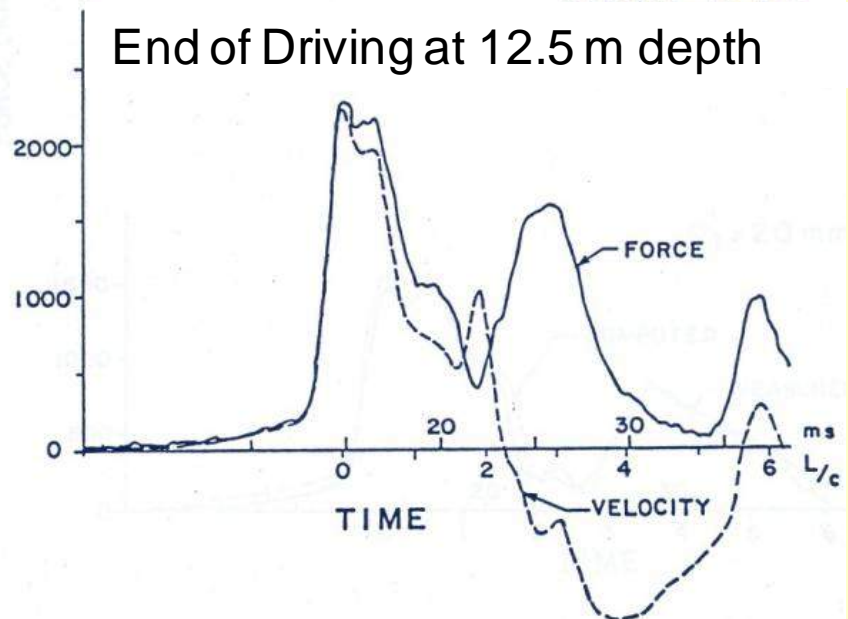
Wave traces from one of twenty-four 305 mm square, precast concrete piles were driven through about 11 m of clay deposit into **dense clayey silty** glacial till.

1st Stress-wave Conference; Authier and Fellenius (1980), reporting analysis produced by Frank Rausche, GRL.

Easy Driving at 11.3 m depth



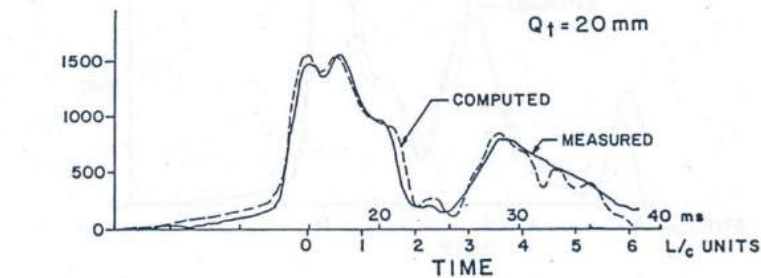
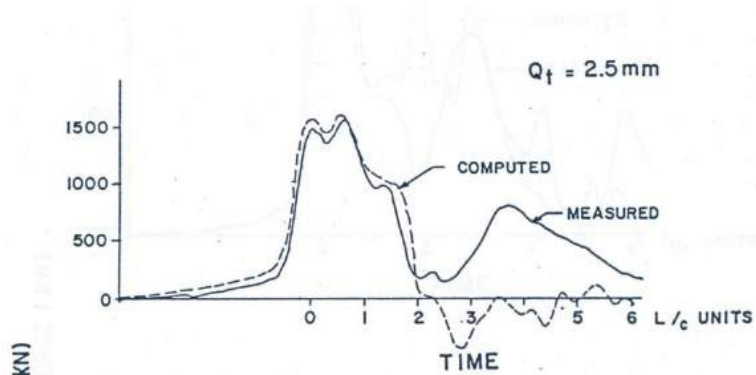
End of Driving at 12.5 m depth



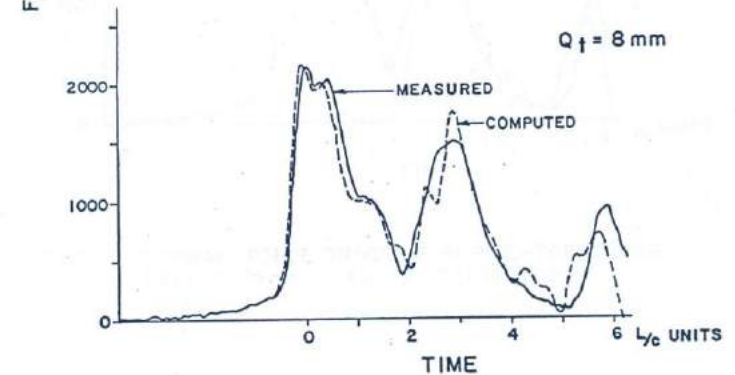
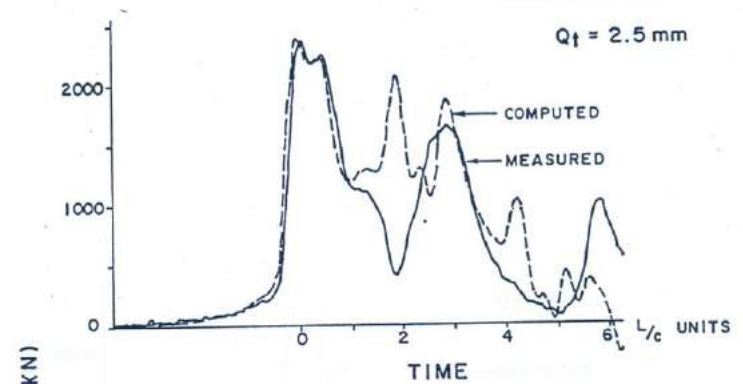


# CAPWAP Matches

## Easy Driving at 11.3 m depth

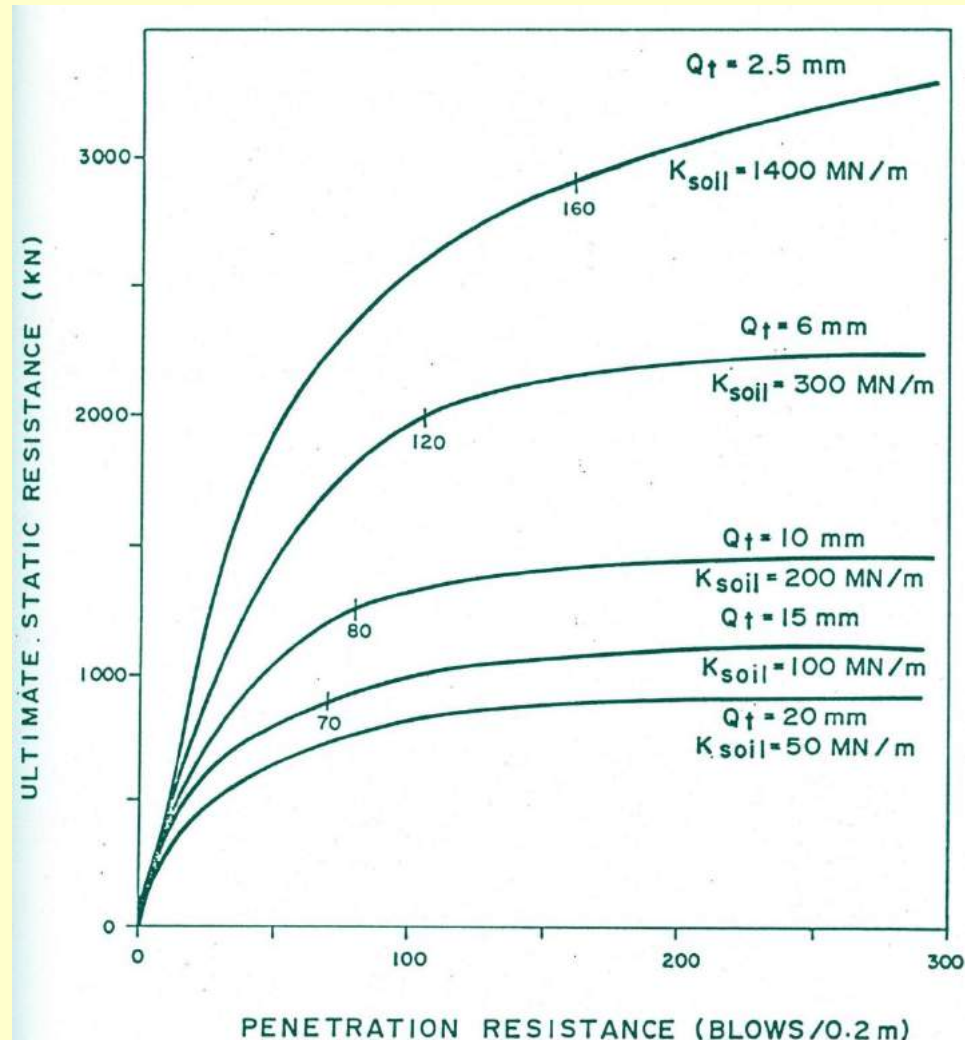


## End of Driving at 12.5 m depth



1st Stress-wave Conference; Authier and Fellenius (1980), reporting analysis produced by Frank Rausche, GRL.

# Bearing Graphs from WEAP Simulations assuming different quake magnitudes



APPLICATION OF  
STRESS-WAVE THEORY  
ON PILES

APPLICATION OF  
STRESS-WAVE THEORY  
ON PILES

Second International Conference



SWEDISH PILE COMMISSION / STOCKHOLM  
A.A. BALKEMA / ROTTERDAM / BOSTON



APPLICATION OF  
STRESS-WAVE THEORY  
TO PILES

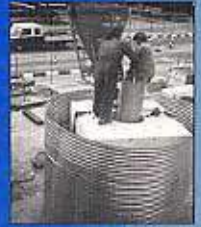
Third International Conference

Ottawa, Canada  
May 25 through 27, 1988

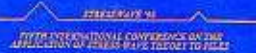
Sponsored by  
The International Society for  
Soil Mechanics and  
Foundation Engineering  
and  
The Canadian Geotechnical Society

Edited by  
Bengt H. Fellenius

Application of  
**Stress  
Wave  
Theory  
to  
Piles**



Frans B.J. Barends, Editor



SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 1995  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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**Application of  
Stress-Wave  
Theory to Piles**

Quality Assurance on  
Land and Offshore Piling

S. Niyama  
J. Beirn  
Editors

PROCEEDINGS OF  
**THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE APPLICATION OF STRESSWAVE  
THEORY TO PILES 2004**



*The Millennium Challenge*

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS MALAYSIA

**Stress  
Wave**  
Lisbon | 2008

The 8th International  
Conference on the  
**Application of  
Stress Wave  
Theory to Piles**

Science, Technology  
and Practice

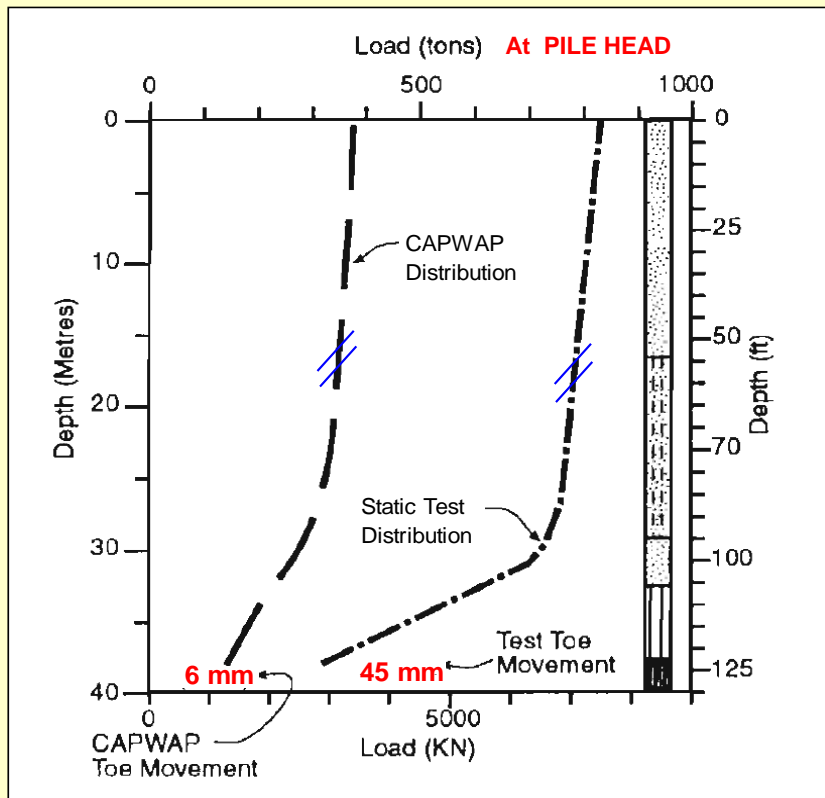
J.A. Soares  
Editor

# Stress-wave Conferences 1980 - 2008

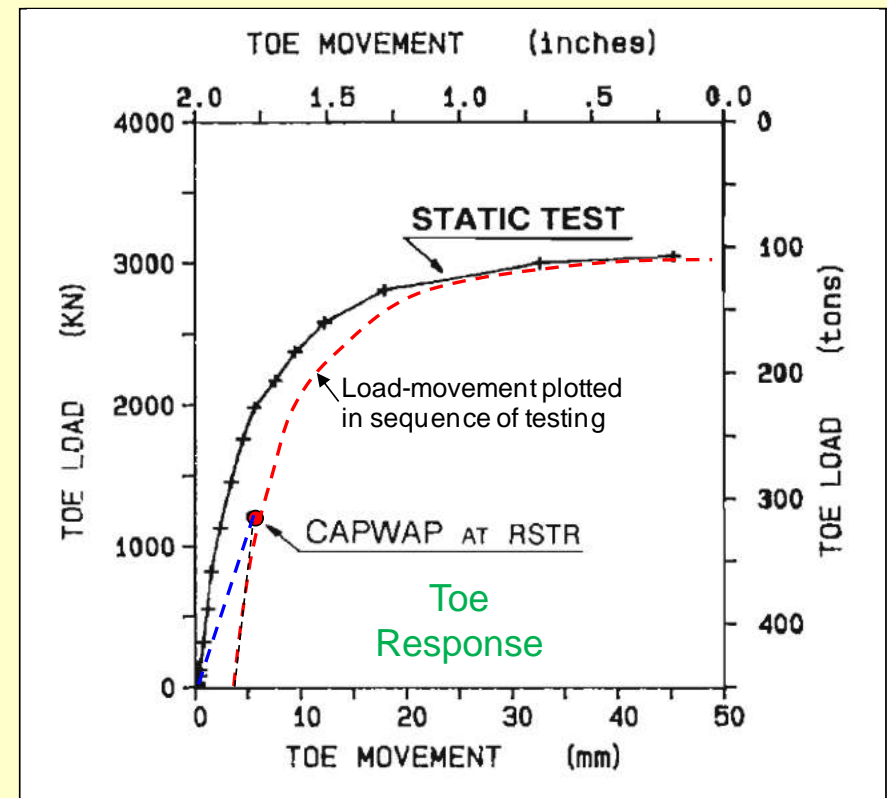
Not shown: the 9<sup>th</sup> Kanazawa 2012.

# Dynamic and static tests on a 20-inch diameter, 41 m long prestressed pile driven for Alesya Bay Bridge foundations

CAPWAP-determined capacity was 3,600 kN, but static loading test gave 8,000+ kN.  
Yet, I consider the two tests to agree perfectly.

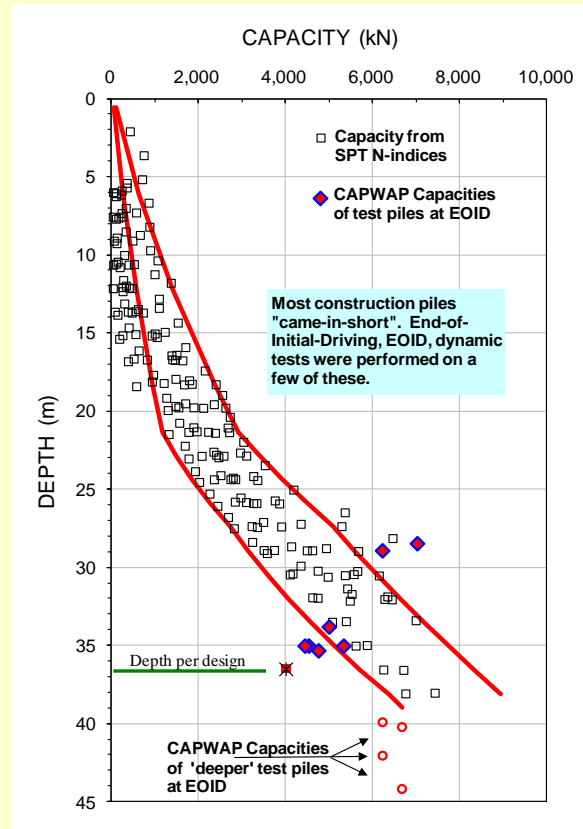


Load distribution



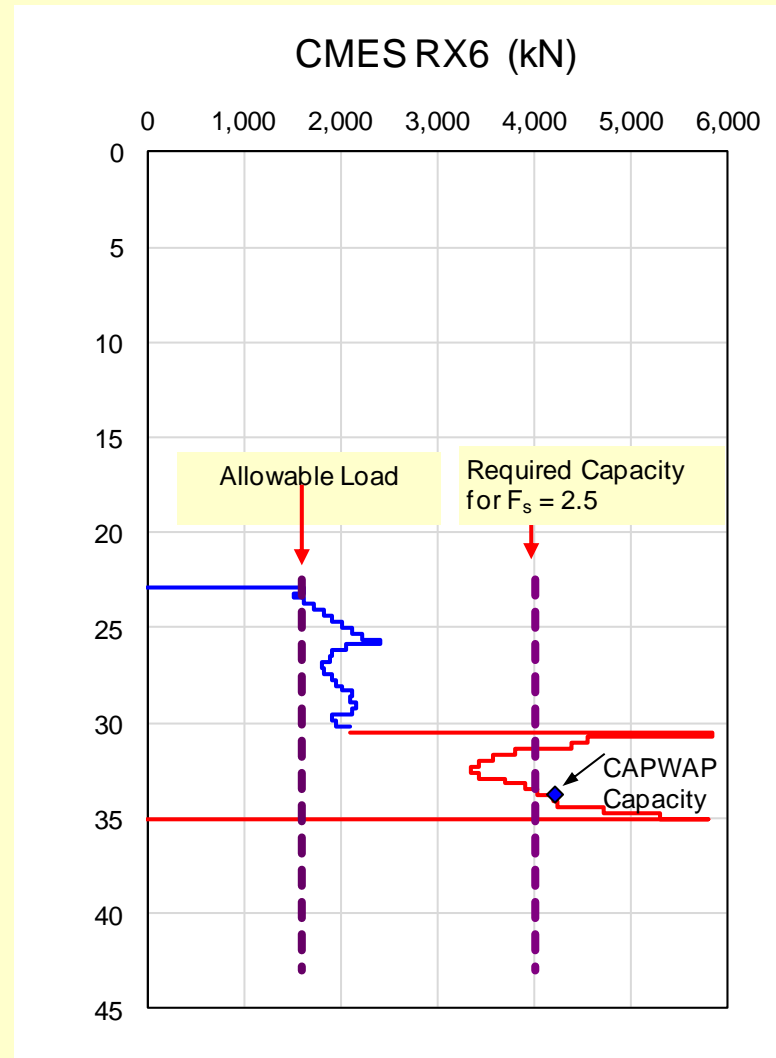
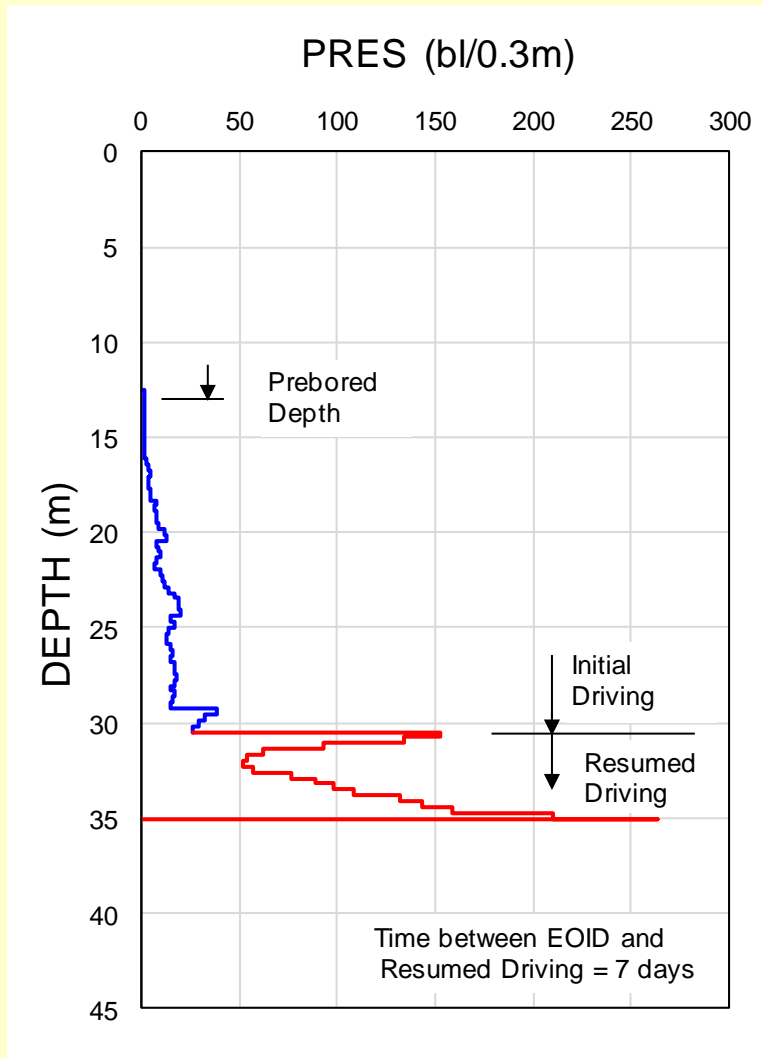
Toe load-movement response

# Design of a piled foundation LNG facility involving ≈1,000, 120 ft long, 24-inch prestressed piles



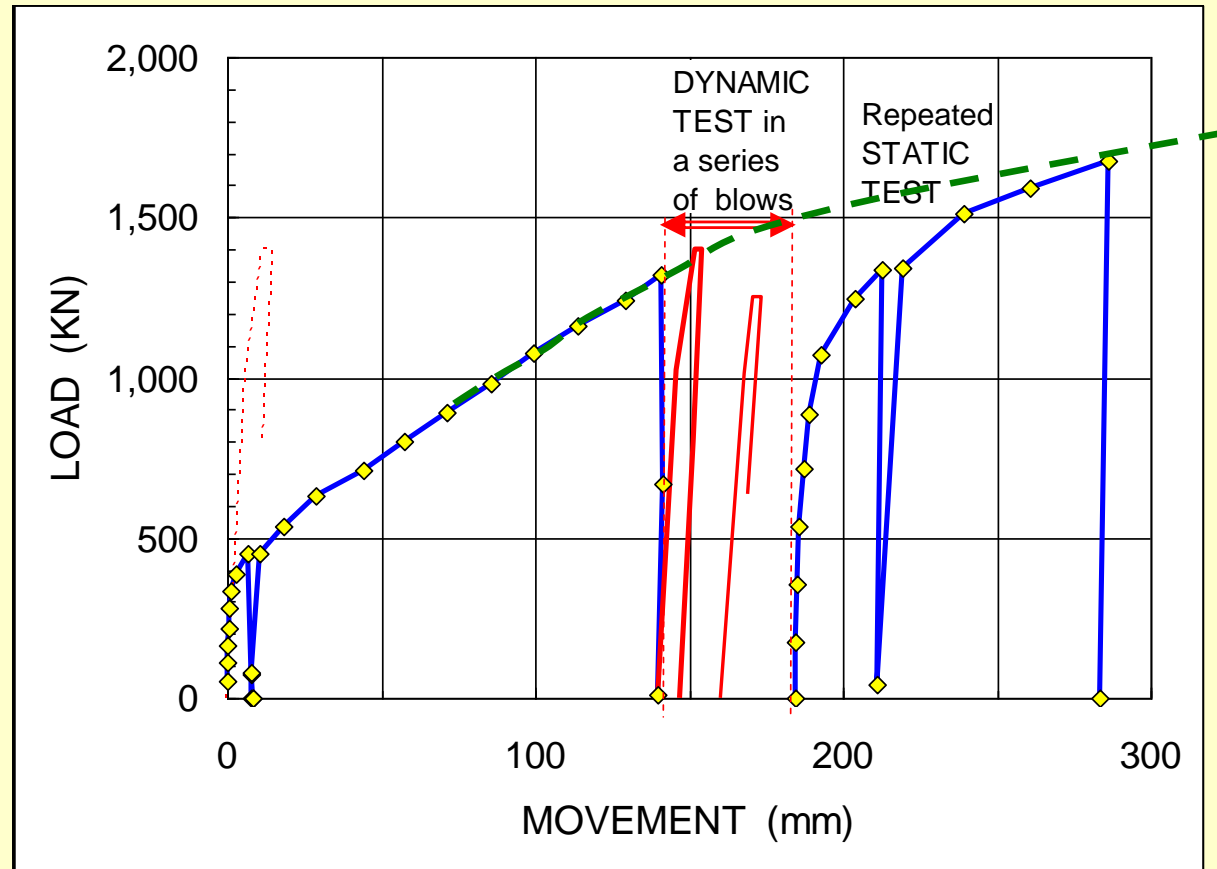
At End-of-Driving, EOD, the construction piles had been 'hammered' in excess of 100 bl/ft for several feet!

Of course, "set-up" was considered to be just an additional "conservative benefit".



*You can lead the horse to water ... !*

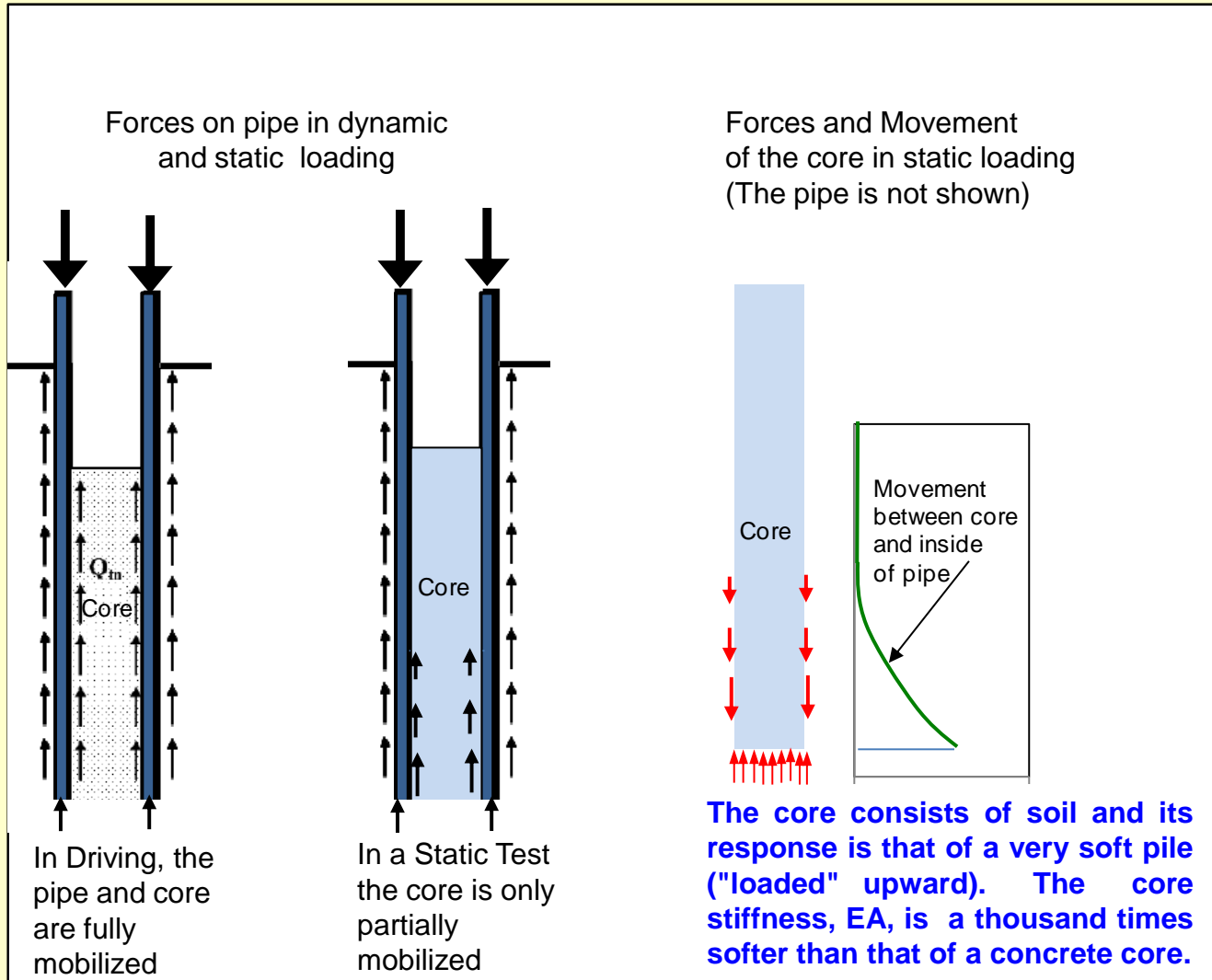
Also the best field work can get messed up if the analysis and conclusion effort loses sight of the history of the data



The dynamic test (CAPWAP) was performed after the static test.

The re-driving (ten blows) forced the pile down additionally about 45 mm.

# “Plugging” of an Open-toe Pipe Pile



**Therefore, CAPWAP-determined capacity is not likely the same as the capacity evaluated from the static loading test.**



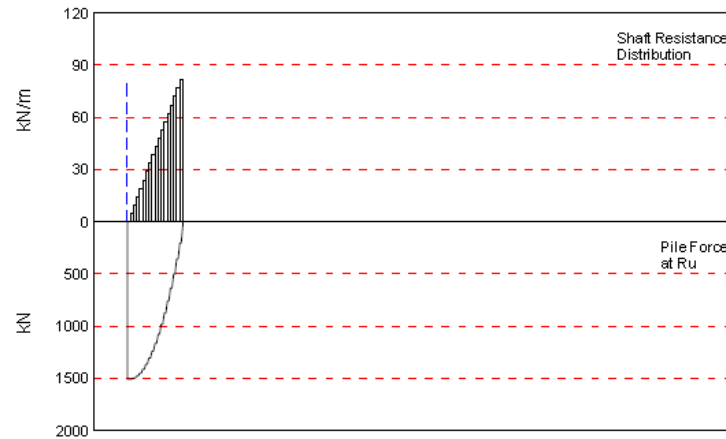
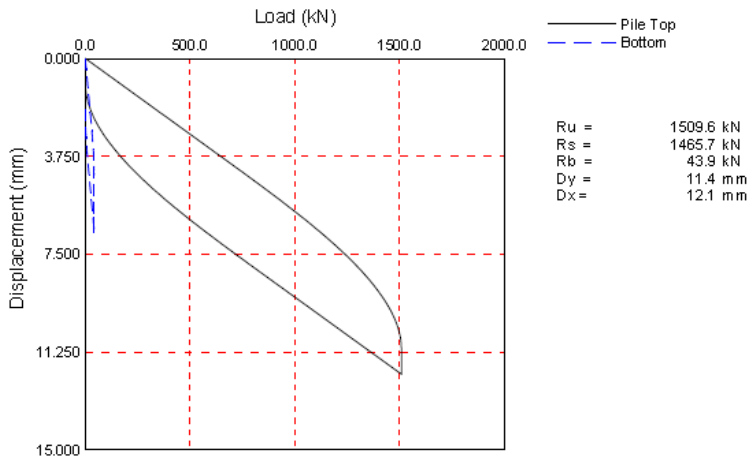
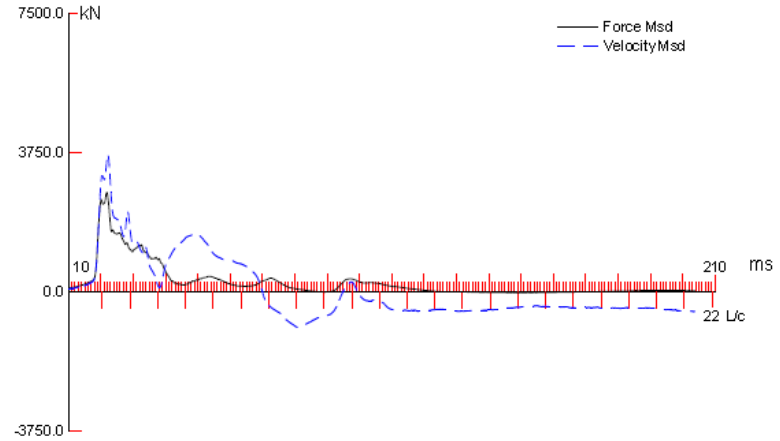
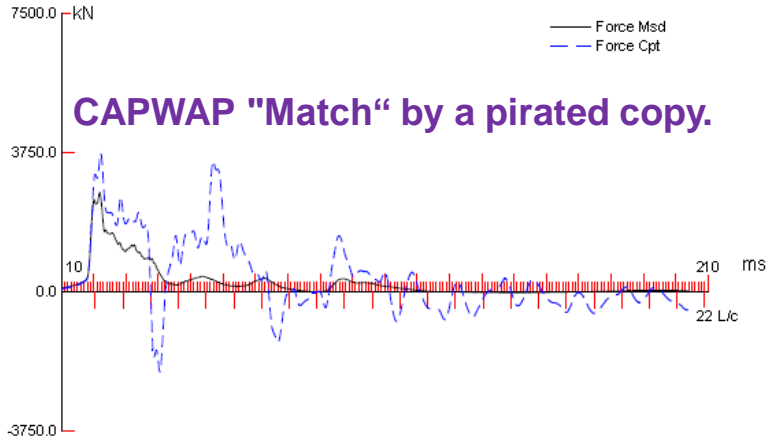
**View on October 4, 2011, taken from the south-east end of CFS building showing some of the about 1,680 piles driven for the CFS.**





Photos from the driving of piles with extension


**CAPWAP "Match" by a pirated copy.**

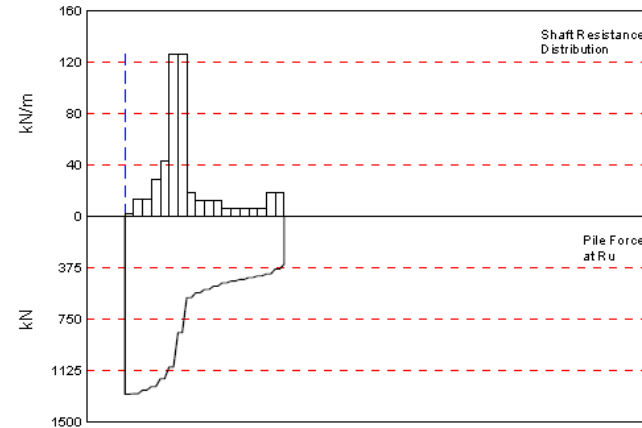
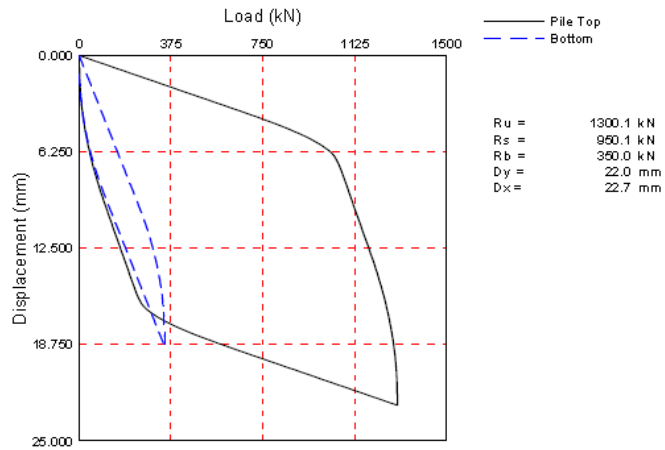
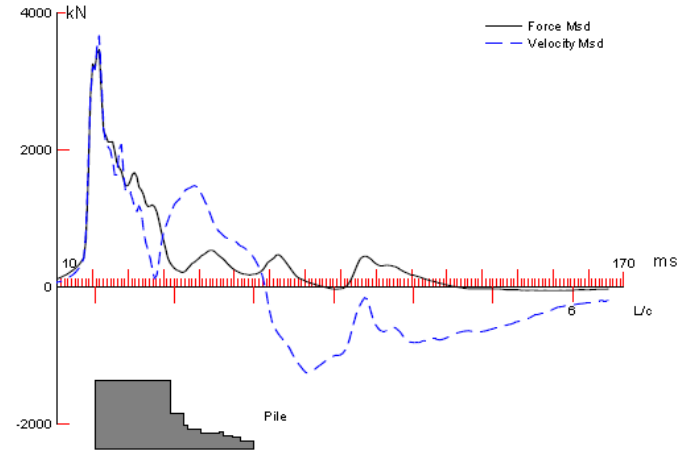
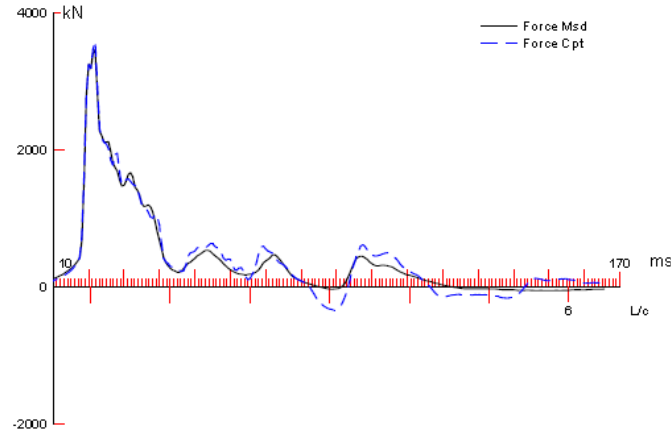


# Here, a properly performed CAPWAP

CMITC; Pile: P1; CFS;5T;; Blow: 87 (Test: 26-Aug-2011 07:38:)

AATech Scientific Inc.

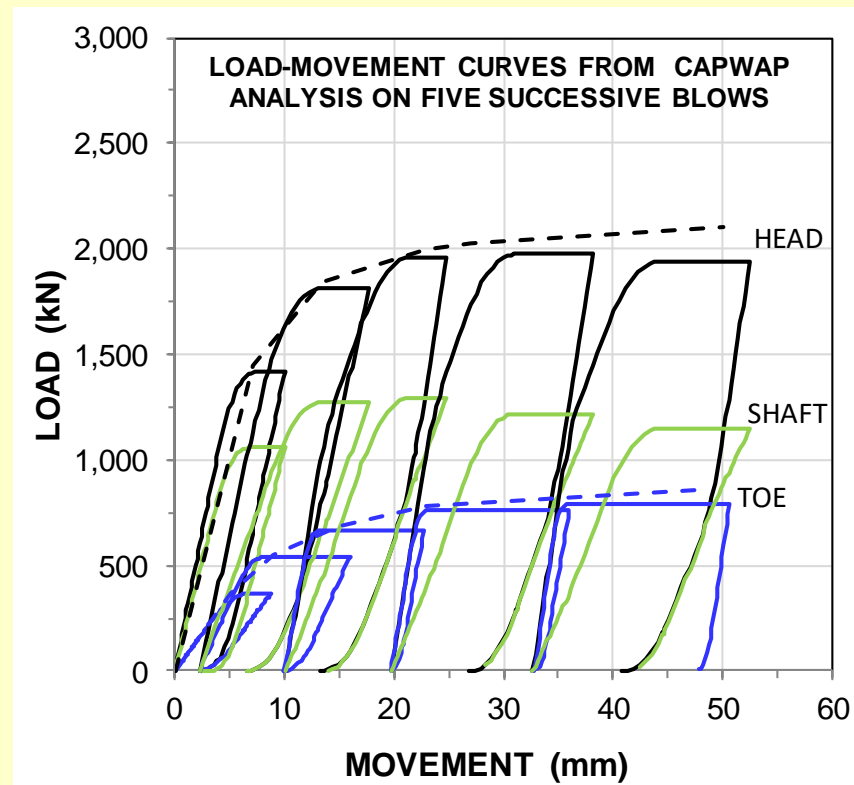
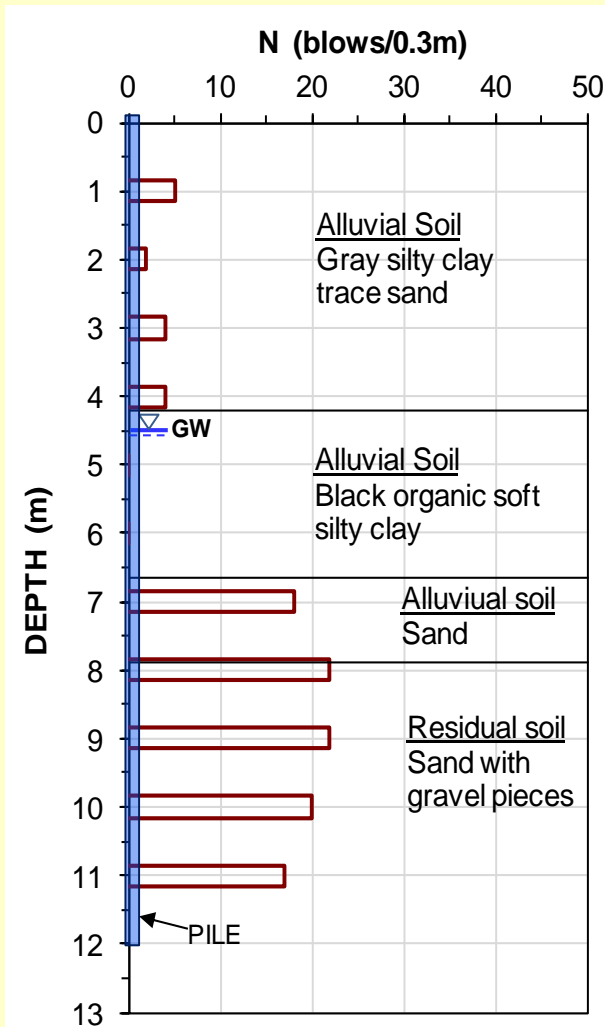
16-Jan-2012  
CAPWAP(R) 2006-2 



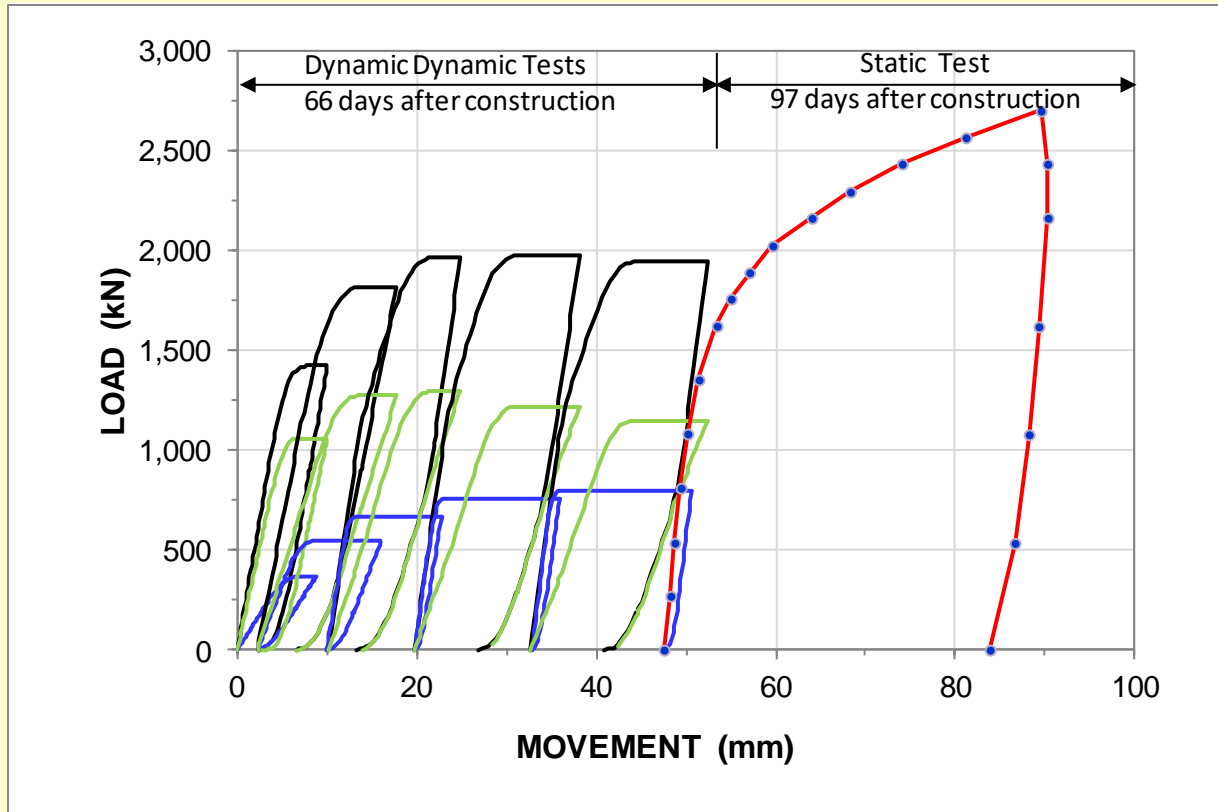
CAPWAP (R) 2006-2 Licensed to AATech Scientific Inc.

Oliveira et al. (2008) reported a case history from Sao Paulo, Brazil, where dynamic tests were combined with a static loading test performed on a 700-mm diameter, 12 m long, CFA pile. The dynamic test and static loading tests were carried out 66 days and 97 days, respectively, after constructing the pile.

The dynamic tests followed the procedure of Aoki (2000) called “Dynamic Increasing Energy Test, DIET”, consisting of a succession of blows from a special free-falling drop hammer, while monitoring the induced acceleration and strain with the Pile Driving Analyzer. Five blows were given with an 8,000-kg hammer and heights-of-fall of 200, 400, 600, 800, and 1,000 mm, respectively. Each blow was analyzed by means of the CAPWAP program.

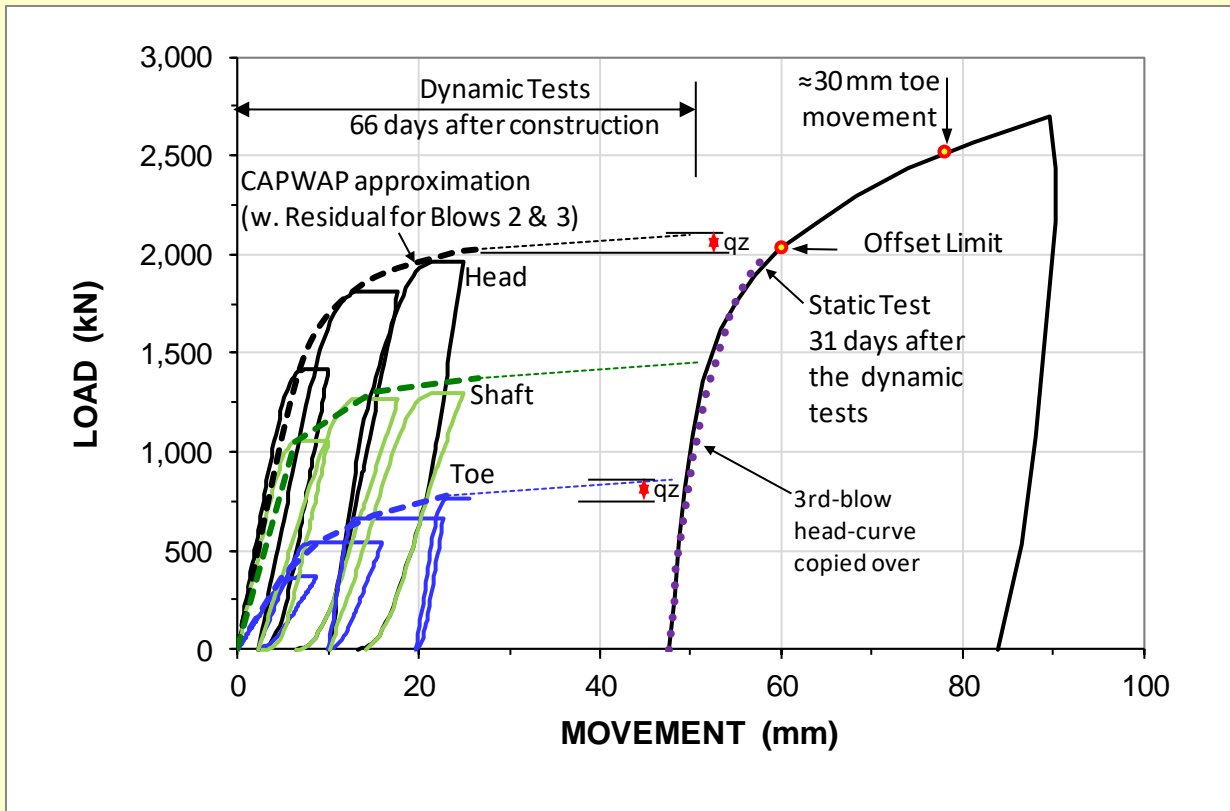


Now, with the load-movement curve from the static tests



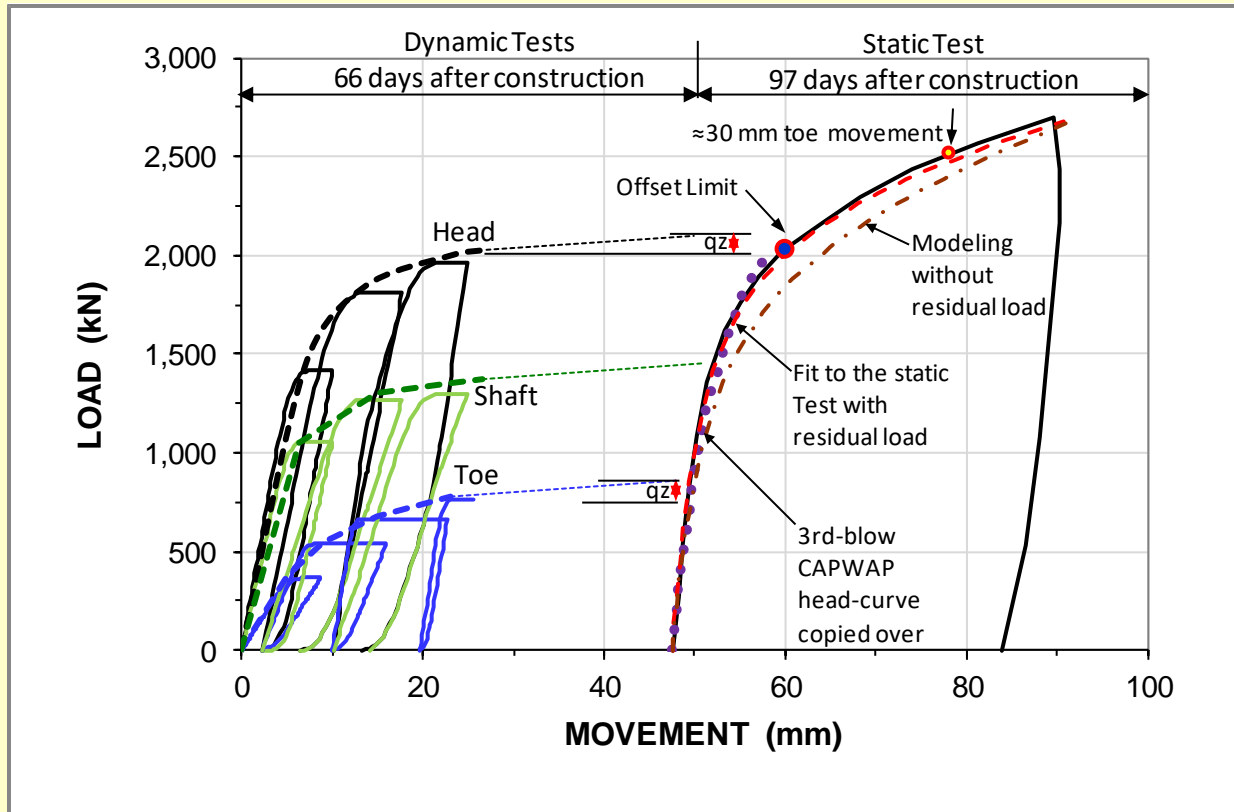
These results were used to state that the capacity determined in the dynamic test did not agree with that from the static test!

Now, with the load-movement curve from the static tests



On closer examination, the records do agree and the quality of the agreement is unusually good.

Now, with the load-movement curve from the static tests

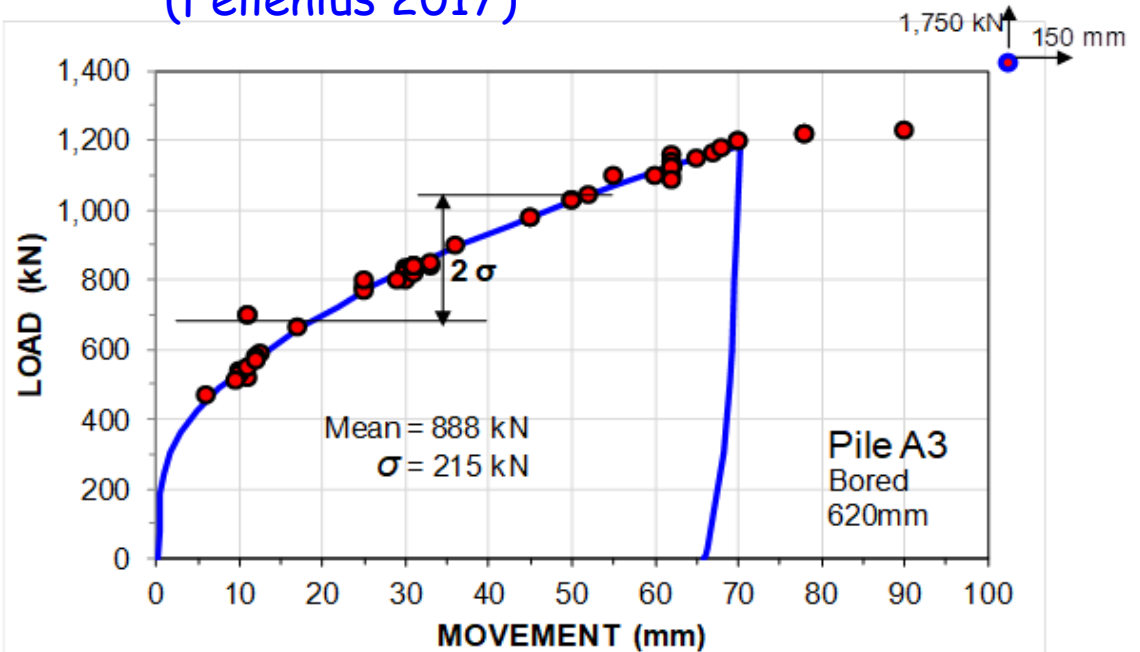
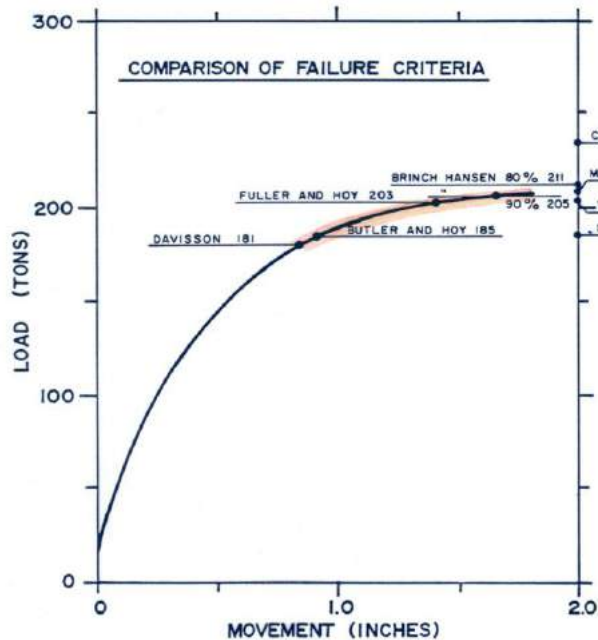


On closer examination, the records do agree and the quality of the agreement is unusually good.

As no surprise at all, the dynamic testing introduced residual load in the pile which made the pile response in the static test a little stiffer than would have been the case in the absence of a prior dynamic test (as shown by the curve "Modeling without residual load").

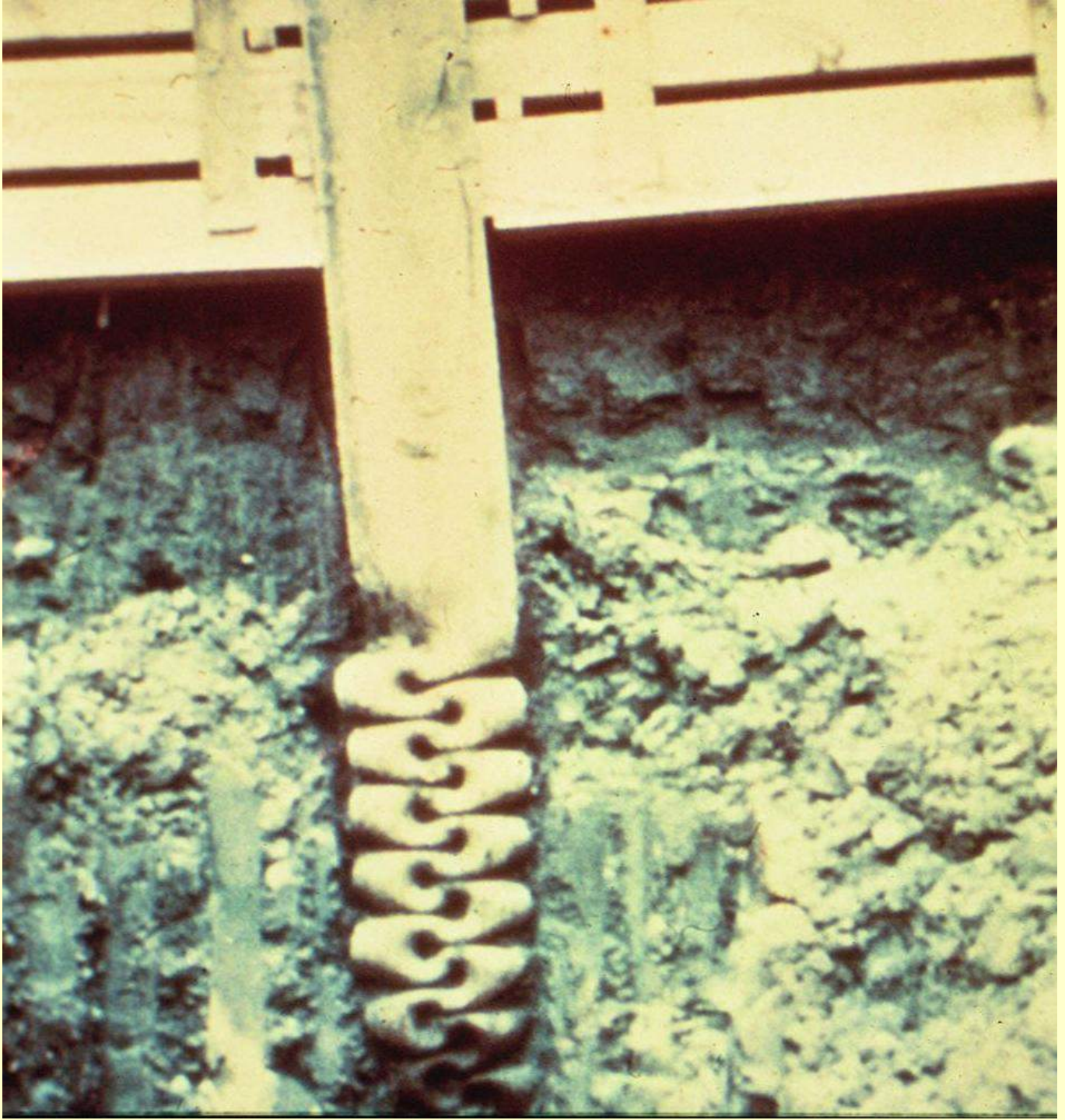


## Capacities assessed in a survey of 94 professionals and specialists (Fellenius 2017)



Range of definitions of "Capacity" (Fellenius 1975!)

You can always define a "capacity" and then determine it from the pile-head load-movement curve. So, what pile "capacity" would you assess from this static test?



Fred Kulhawy  
collection

Thank you for your attention



Hal Hunt's "Pointless" Collection