# Testing the limits

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avoid material failure by testing

# Who is responsible



Prüfingenieurbüro Windels/Timm/Morgan in Gerling Ing.-Letter 1/00

#### Example of a desaster(design failure)

Conceptualización del desarrollo ocurrido en el proyecto Windgate de Bairoa Caguas



#### Example of a desaster

Conceptualización del desarrollo ocurrido en el proyecto Windgate de Bairoa Caguas



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#### Example of a desaster

Conceptualización del desarrollo ocurrido en el proyecto Windgate de Bairoa Caguas

Luego comenzaron a construir el muro con bloques individuales agarrados a una maya de plástico, a vuelta redonda del cerro que conceptualmente se vería como sigue.

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Conceptualización del desarrollo ocurrido en el proyecto Windgate de Bairoa Caguas

-6-Al final tenian una meseta para construir los edificios del proyecto y así lo hicieron.











Concrete is brittle and sensitive to flexion, splitting tensile stress





# Brittle failure of concrete





#### Very optimistic: Silicon against broken concrete







Announcing fatal failure concrete blocks initiate the collaps





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#### It is not failure of the geosynthetic



#### Final fatal failure

not of the geosynthetic!



# Exceeding deformation limits





#### THE CIVIL ENGINEER IN SOUTH AFRICA DIE SIVIELE INGENIEUR IN SUID-AFRIKA



Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. By die Poskantoor as 'n nuusblad geregistreer R9 (incl)



#### Source: K.Legge

#### Erosion along tunnel

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Source: K.Legge



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Source: K.Legge

#### **Design of Reinforcement**

 $\mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{d}} = \mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{k}}/\mathsf{A}_{1} \bullet \mathsf{A}_{2} \bullet \mathsf{A}_{3} \bullet \mathsf{A}_{4} \bullet \mathsf{A}_{5} \bullet \mathsf{\gamma}$ 

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**Design Force of GSY** Fd Fk Characteristic strength of GSY Reduction factor for longterm (creep rupture, creep)  $A_1$ Reduction factor for damage during installation  $A_2$ Reduction factor for connections, seams, joints  $A_3$ Reduction factor for environmental exposition  $A_{A}$ as weather, chemistry A<sub>5</sub> Reduction factor for cyclic loading Partial factor of safety (1.1...1.4) V

#### Characteristic strength F<sub>k</sub>



### Characteristic strength F<sub>k</sub>

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## $F_{k} = F_{5\%} = mean-1,645$ Stddev

### High Strength Geosynthetics



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## A<sub>1</sub> –longterm creep



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EN ISO 13433 1000h creep as index-test, mostly 10 000 h requested



#### A<sub>1</sub> – isochronous stress-strain curve



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#### A<sub>1</sub> –longterm creep rupture



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EN ISO 13433 one value in the area of 10 000 h requested



#### A<sub>1</sub> –longterm creep rupture

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EN ISO 13433

one value in the area

of 10 000 h requested

### Earthfall B180



#### Event occurred larger than estimated















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## $A_3$ – connections, seams, joints



## $A_3$ – connections, seams, joints





## Environment A<sub>4</sub> Chemical resistance





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## Cyclic, dynamic loading

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### Fatigue behaviour of metallic materials



### Wöhler graph and begin of damage line



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# Spider web graph

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common for fibre reinforced plastics (FRP)



Mean Strain, %

Kensche et. al 1996





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#### $\Delta z \leq 0,3 \text{ mm}$

Cause of dynamic loads	dynamic load/ Static load	Ratio min F/ maxF
Traffic under ideal conditions	15 %	0,87
Unevenness of wheels	30 bis 50 %	0,66 bis 0,77
Shock loads	200 bis 300 %	0,33 bis 0,50

## Frequency

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- single wheel 180 Hz
- wheelcouples ca. 8 bis 12 Hz
- Frequencies > 65 Hz not measured in soil
- maximum of deformation in soil < 20 Hz

#### **>>** f = 10 Hz



### Loading parameters

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parameter	value
Number of load cycles N	N = 10 <sup>7</sup>
frequency f	f ≤ 10 Hz
dynamic ratio R	R ≤ 0,66

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#### **Creep rupture curve to determine loads**

The maximum sustainable static load for the testduration was selected as upper load



## **Cyclic testing**

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#### Load cell

#### Capstan clamps

## Servo-hydraulic actuator

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## Specimen in clamp

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## Strain measurement, clamping



### **Clip on strain gages**

HBM DD1 max s: ± 2,5 mm ε ≤ 10 %

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**INSTRON** max s: ± 5 mm ε ≤ 20 %



### Load strain hysteresis of GG1-PET during 10E7 cycles

Low creep, very low change in stiffness



#### Load strain hysteresis GG4-PP during 10E7 cycles

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Remarkable creep

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low change in stiffness



### Load strain hysteresis of GG5-PE during 10E7 cycles

High initial creep, change in stiffness

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## Load strain curve before and after 10E7 cycles





Load strain curve of GG5-PE before and after cyclic loads

Low creep, very low change in stiffness







#### **Tensile tests after 10E7 cycles to determine A<sub>5</sub>**



## Admissible load in % F<sub>k</sub>



## Look to strain at admissible Force



# Design of Reinforcement $F_d = F_k/A_1 \cdot A_2 \cdot A_3 \cdot A_4 \cdot A_5 \cdot \gamma$

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If you have tested all values properly, you can exclude material failure and you are able to design properly Repair of Mudslide in Gondo Simplon Pass – Switzerland

Desaster 10. Oct. 2000: 10 houses washed out 13 casualties

Felix P. Jaecklin Dr. Sc. Tech. ETH, Dipl. Ing. ETH







## High Risks for Rockfall












Properly tested values,

## Good engineered design

safe structures with geosynthetics

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