

# MFront Cohesive Zone Models for Code\_Aster

## MFront User Meeting

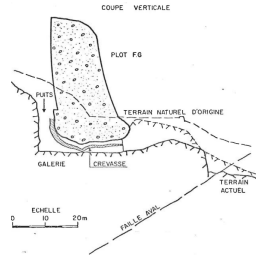
G. Bacquaert

EDF R&D, 7 Boulevard Gaspard Monge, 91120 Palaiseau

20/11/2025



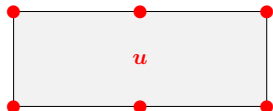
- ★ Failure scenarios of geotechnical structures (gravity and arch **dams**) with localized **and identified** fracture patterns at some interfaces.



**Figure:** The Malpasset arch dam: failure by the sliding of the foundation (1959).

- ★ Possible **water flows** along the interface.

Primal formulation



Mixed formulation

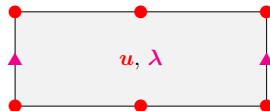
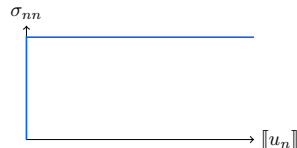
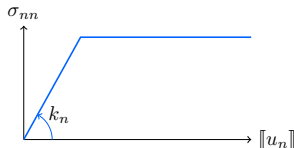


Figure: Exploded view of the joint and interface element.

$$\int_{\Gamma} e(\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket) d\Gamma$$

$$\int_{\Gamma} \left[ e(\boldsymbol{\delta}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot (\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}) + \frac{r}{2} \|\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}\|^2 \right] d\Gamma$$



- ★ To benefit from the **mixed FE formulation** of Code\_Aster with CZM constitutive equations solved by the help of MFront.
- ★ To take into account fluid flows **along the interface**.

- 1 Formulation of a simple constitutive model
- 2 Simple example
- 3 Proposition of a more realistic constitutive model
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- ★ A **rigid-plastic** behaviour obeying to Mohr-Coulomb plasticity with an **associated flow rule**.
- ★ A hydromechanical coupling using the **Terzaghi** effective stress concept ( $\sigma' = \sigma + p\mathbf{I}$ ).

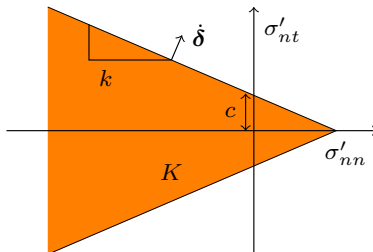
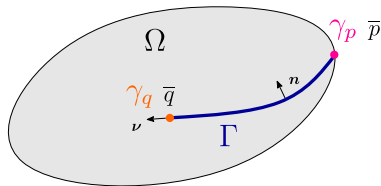


Figure:  $K : f(\sigma \cdot n, p) = |\sigma'_{nt}| + k\sigma'_{nn} - c \leq 0$ .

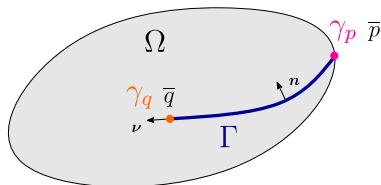
- ★ A laminar flow of an incompressible fluid driven by **Darcy's law**.

## Variational formulation of the problem



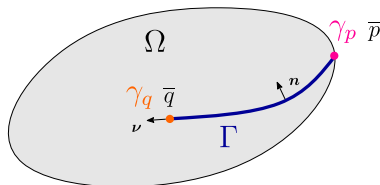
$$E_{\Omega}(\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}, p, \boldsymbol{\delta}) = E_{\Omega \setminus \Gamma}(\mathbf{u}) + \int_{\Gamma} \left[ \underbrace{\pi_K(\Delta \boldsymbol{\delta}) - p \Delta \delta_n - \frac{K}{2} \|\nabla p\|^2 \Delta t}_{e(\boldsymbol{\delta}, p, \nabla p)} + \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot (\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}) + \frac{r}{2} \|\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}\|^2 \right] d\Gamma - \int_{\gamma_q} \bar{q} p d\gamma$$





★ First order optimality conditions:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{u} : & \boldsymbol{\lambda} + r(\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}) = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n} \quad (\Gamma) \\ \boldsymbol{\delta} : & \boldsymbol{\lambda} + r(\llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta}) + p\mathbf{n} \in \partial\pi_K(\Delta\boldsymbol{\delta}) \quad (\Gamma) \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} : & \llbracket \mathbf{u} \rrbracket - \boldsymbol{\delta} = 0 \quad (\Gamma) \\ p : & \Delta\delta_n + \operatorname{div}(-K\nabla p)\Delta t = 0 \quad (\Gamma), \quad (-K\nabla p)\Delta t \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu} = \bar{q} \quad (\gamma_q) \end{array} \right.$$



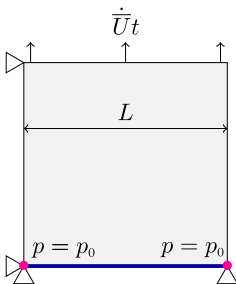
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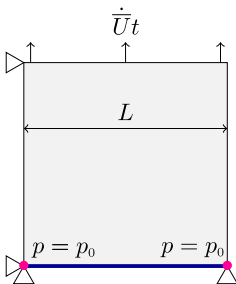
- ★ A FE with a P2-P1-P2 interpolation for the **DOFs**  $(\mathbf{u}, \lambda, p)$ .
- ★ A monolithic Newton scheme on the DOFs at the global scale.
- ★ An **analytic resolution** of the constitutive law on  $\delta$  at the integration points, using MFront with the **@DSLGenericBehaviour**.

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## Illustration of the opening rate of the interface



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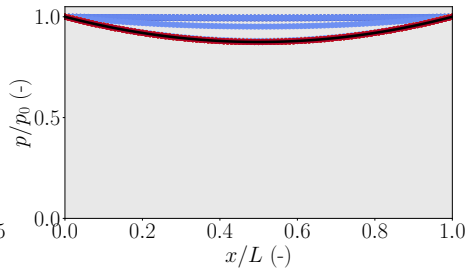
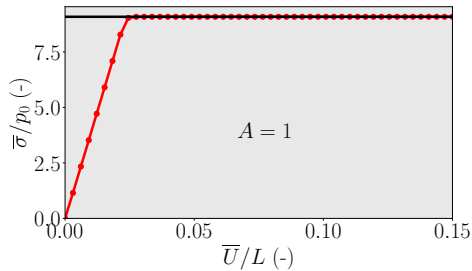
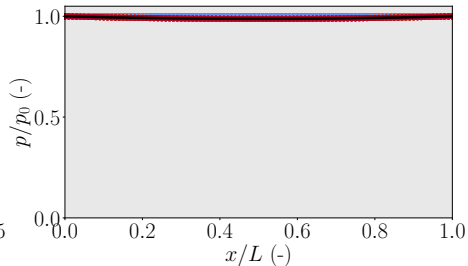
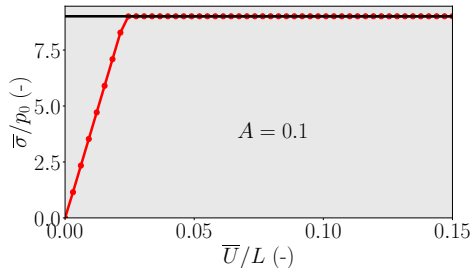


★ Solution for  $t \gg L^3(1 - \nu^2)/(\pi^2 KE)$ :

$$\sigma = \frac{c}{k} - p_0 + \frac{\dot{U}}{12K} L^2$$
$$p(x) = p_0 + \frac{\dot{U}}{2K} x(x - L)$$

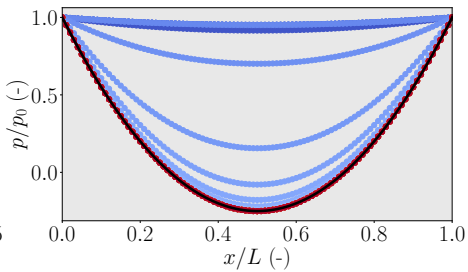
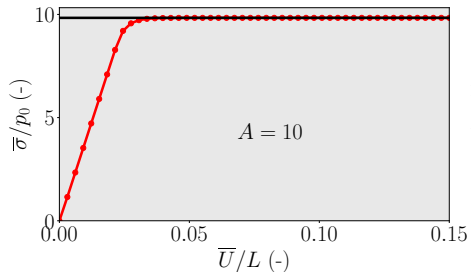
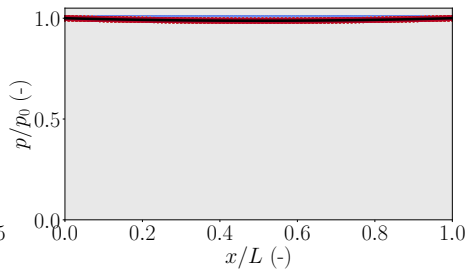
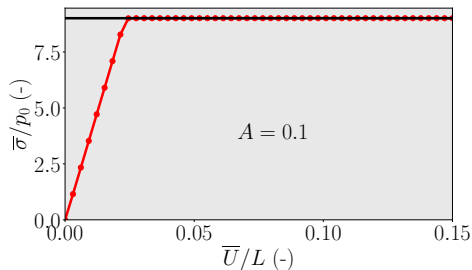
★ Dimensionless number  $A = \dot{U}L^2/(p_0K)$  to weight the 2 contributions.

## Illustration of the opening rate of the interface



★ More "hardening" and parabolic pressure profile for higher  $A$ .

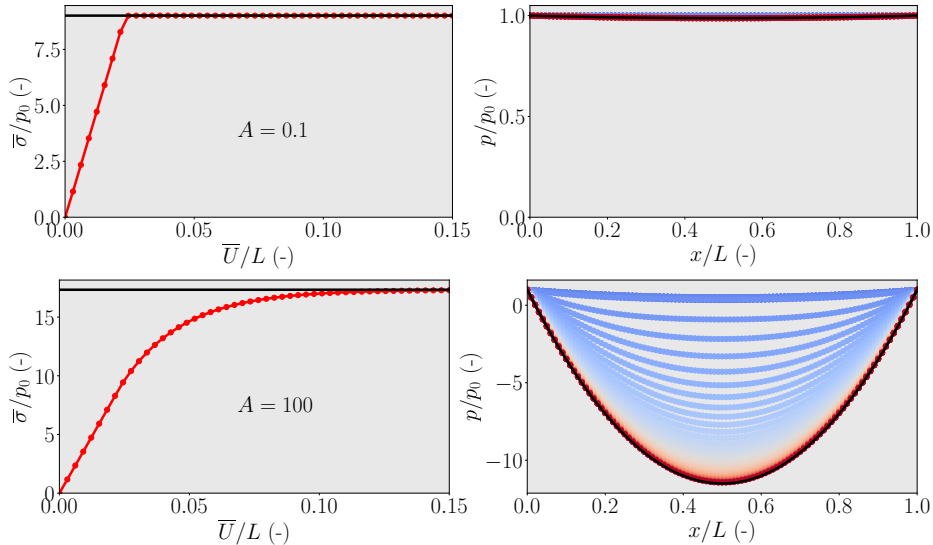
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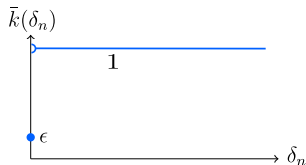
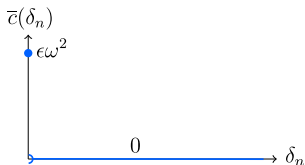
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- ★ Currently, fluid pressure profile is linear in a still-closed interface (solution of  $\operatorname{div}(-K\nabla p) = 0$ ).
- ★ Not very realistic.

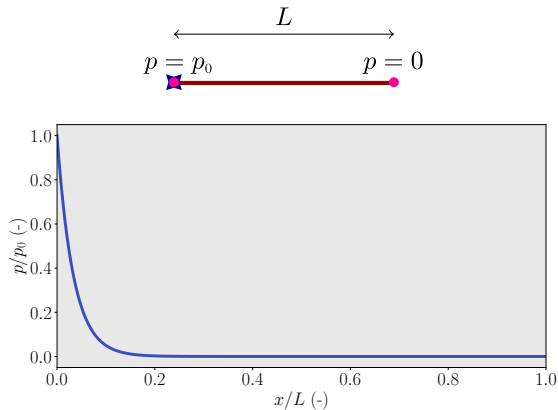
## Main idea

- ★ Currently, fluid pressure profile is linear in a still-closed interface (solution of  $\text{div}(-K\nabla p) = 0$ ).
- ★ Not very realistic.
- ★ Main idea: change the fluid mass conservation equation for a still-closed interface:

$$\Delta\delta_n + K [\bar{c}(\delta_n)p + \text{div}(-\bar{k}(\delta_n)\nabla p)] \Delta t = 0 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{c}(\delta_n) = \epsilon\omega^2 1_{\{0\}}(\delta_n) \\ \bar{k}(\delta_n) = 1 - (1 - \epsilon) 1_{\{0\}}(\delta_n) \end{array} \right.$$

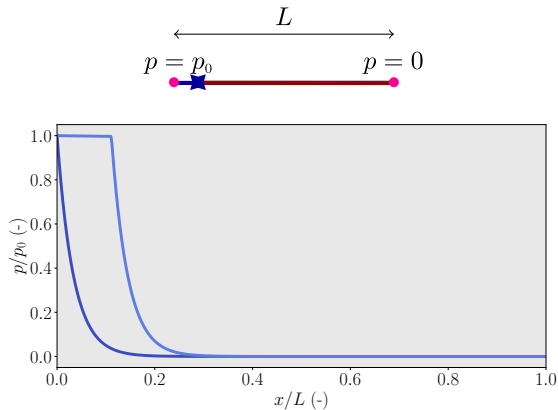


## Graphical illustration ( $K$ "large")



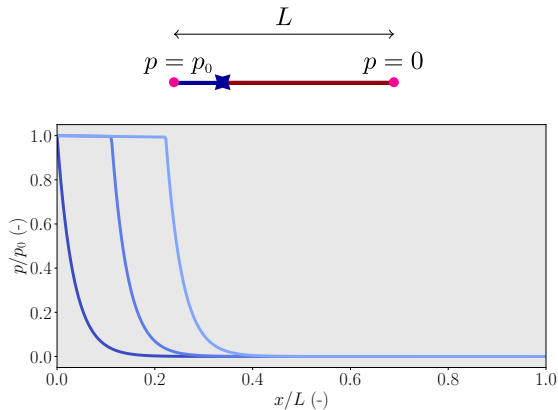
- ★ Exponential decay in the still-closed region mainly controlled by  $\omega$ .

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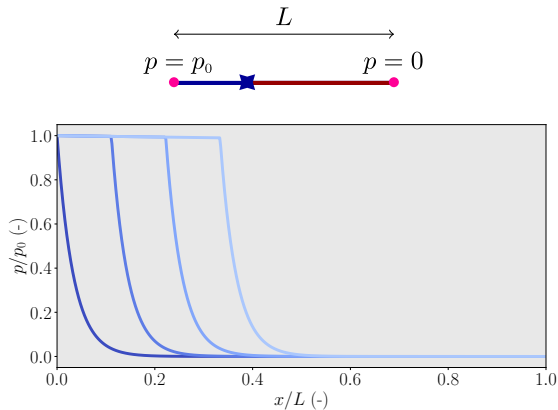
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## Graphical illustration ( $K$ "large")



- ★ Exponential decay in the still-closed region mainly controlled by  $\omega$ .
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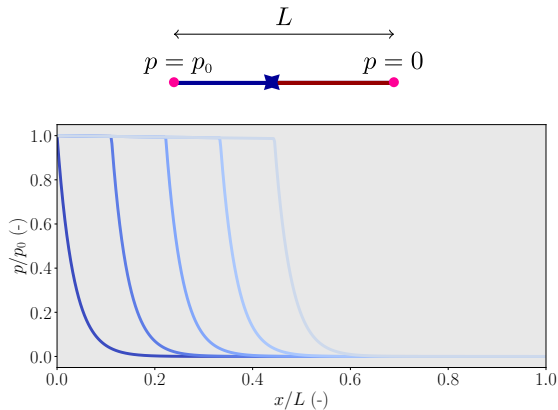
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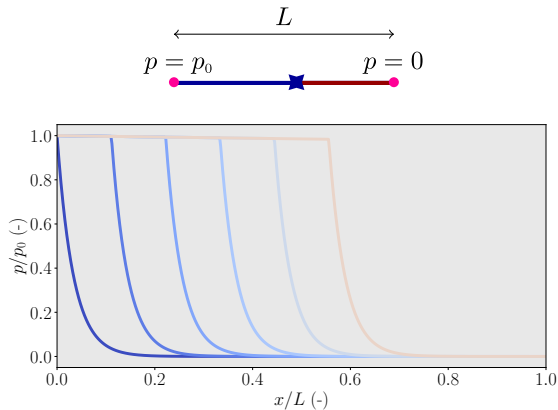


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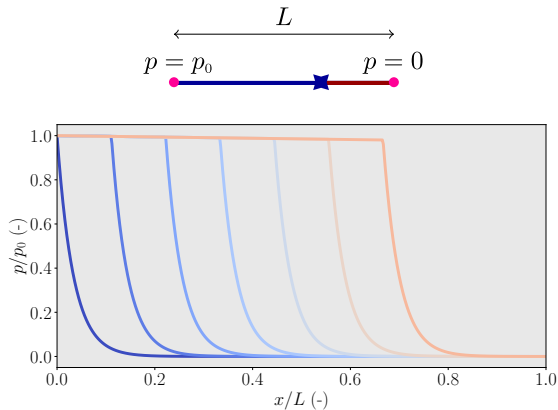
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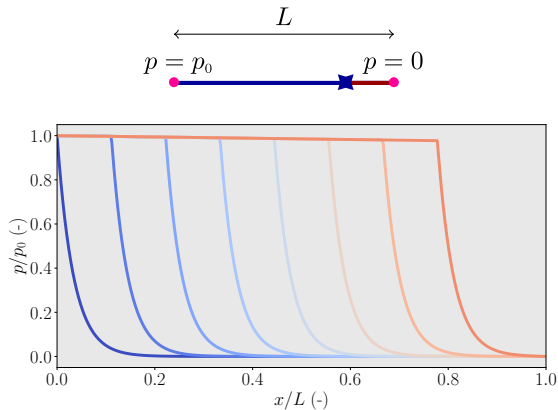
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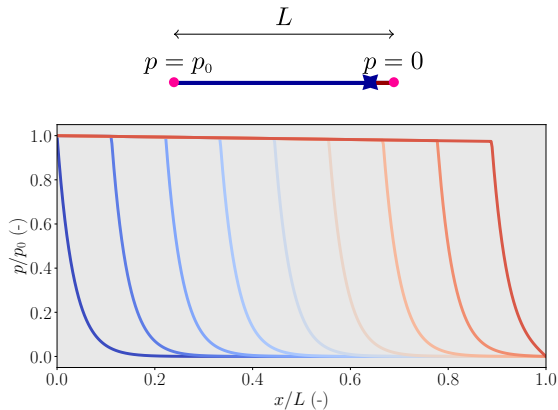
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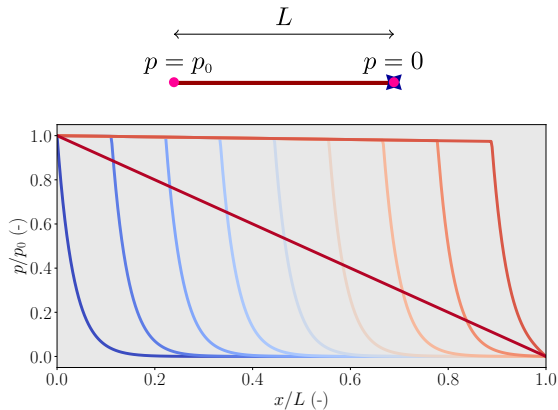
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- ★ Exponential decay in the still-closed region mainly controlled by  $\omega$ .
- ★ Slope in the open region controlled by  $\epsilon$ .
- ★ Once fully open, the linear fluid pressure profile is recovered.

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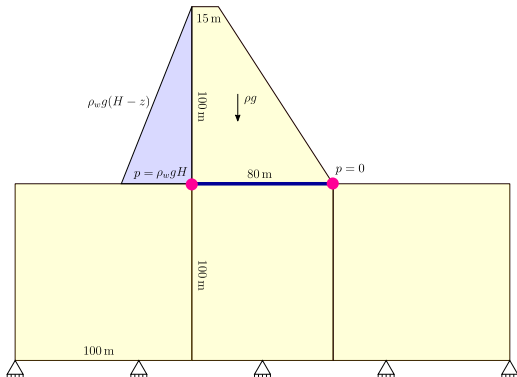
## Problem set-up

### ★ Behaviour:

- Dam / Foundation:  $E = 15 \text{ GPa}$ ,  $\nu = 0.3$ ,  $\rho = 2400 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .
- Interface:  $c = 0$ ,  $k = 0.3$ ,  $K$  "large",  $\omega = 0.1 \text{ m}^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon = 10^{-5}$ .

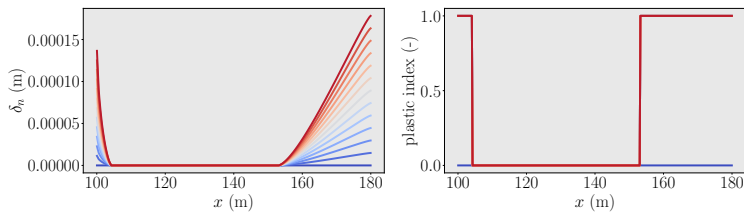
### ★ Two steps loading:

- 1) Dam weight applied in 5 years.
- 2) Water filling during 1 month.

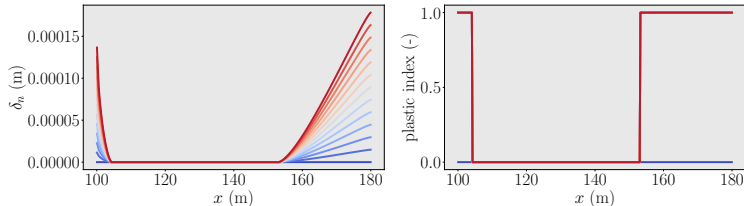


### ★ Comparison between the simple and the more realistic CZM.





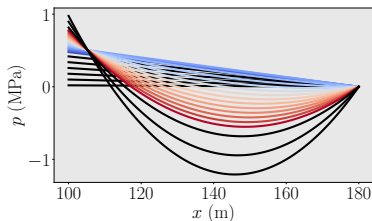
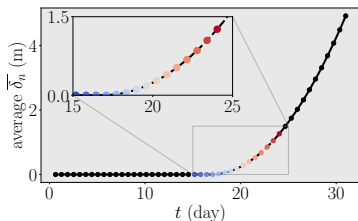
(a) Simple model.



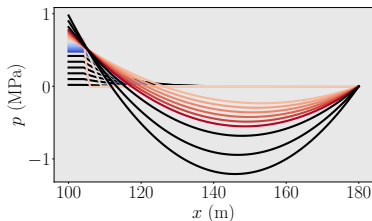
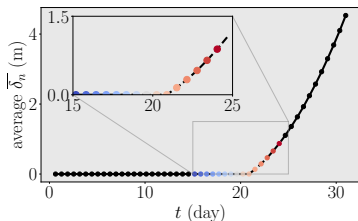
(b) More realistic model.

★ Very small opening of the interface near both extremities of the dam.

## Water filling step



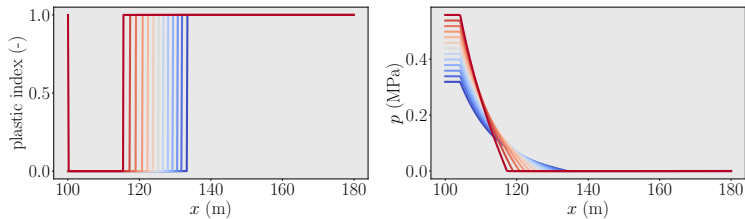
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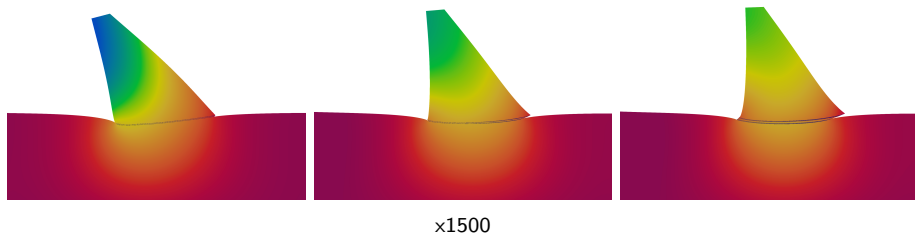
(b) More realistic model.

★ Different pressure distribution  $\rightarrow$  different time for which a sudden large opening happens.

## Water filling step (2)



- ★ Opening propagates from the right dam extremity to the left, which explains the pressure profile evolution.



- ★ A FE mixed formulation + Mohr-Coulomb plasticity + hydromechanical full coupling.
- ★ CZM solved in MFront (@DSLGenericBehaviour).
- ★ Description of the fluid flow for opening interfaces.
- ★ *Numerical performances much better than penalized formulations.*

## Outlooks

- ★ Integration of a less trivial mechanical behaviour (i.e. with hardening).
- ★ Account of a shear-driven fluid flow.
- ★ Industrial (3D) applications.

