

# 1. Screening



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# Objectives

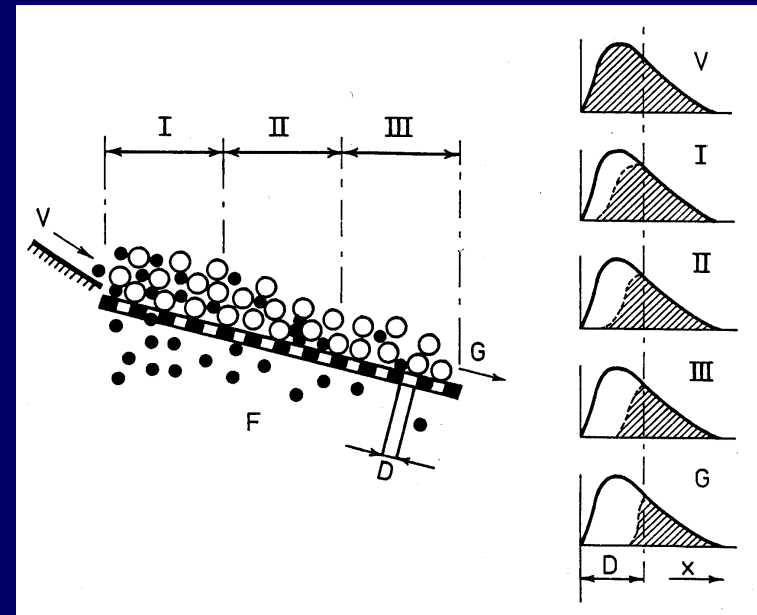
- Splitting in several size classes, each intended for a process optimised for that particular size class
- Classifying into sizes as required by the market (examples: heating coal, gravel, sands)
- Undersize removal before crushing
- Recovery of HMS medium solids (drain and rinse screening)
- Desliming (generally below 0.5 mm)
- Dewatering

### Effect of material properties:

- particle shape
- bulk density
- moisture content
- electrostatic charge
- percentage of problematic size fraction ( $0.7 < x < 1.5$ ) with  $x$  = mesh size.

### Effect of the screening method:

- amplitude of vibration
- frequency of vibration
- screen angle with the horizontal
- screen length and width
- direction of vibration
- feeding method
- capacity.



### Effect of the screen deck:

- mesh size
- mesh shape
- uniformity of the deck
- free screen surface
- construction material (steel, rubber or plastics).

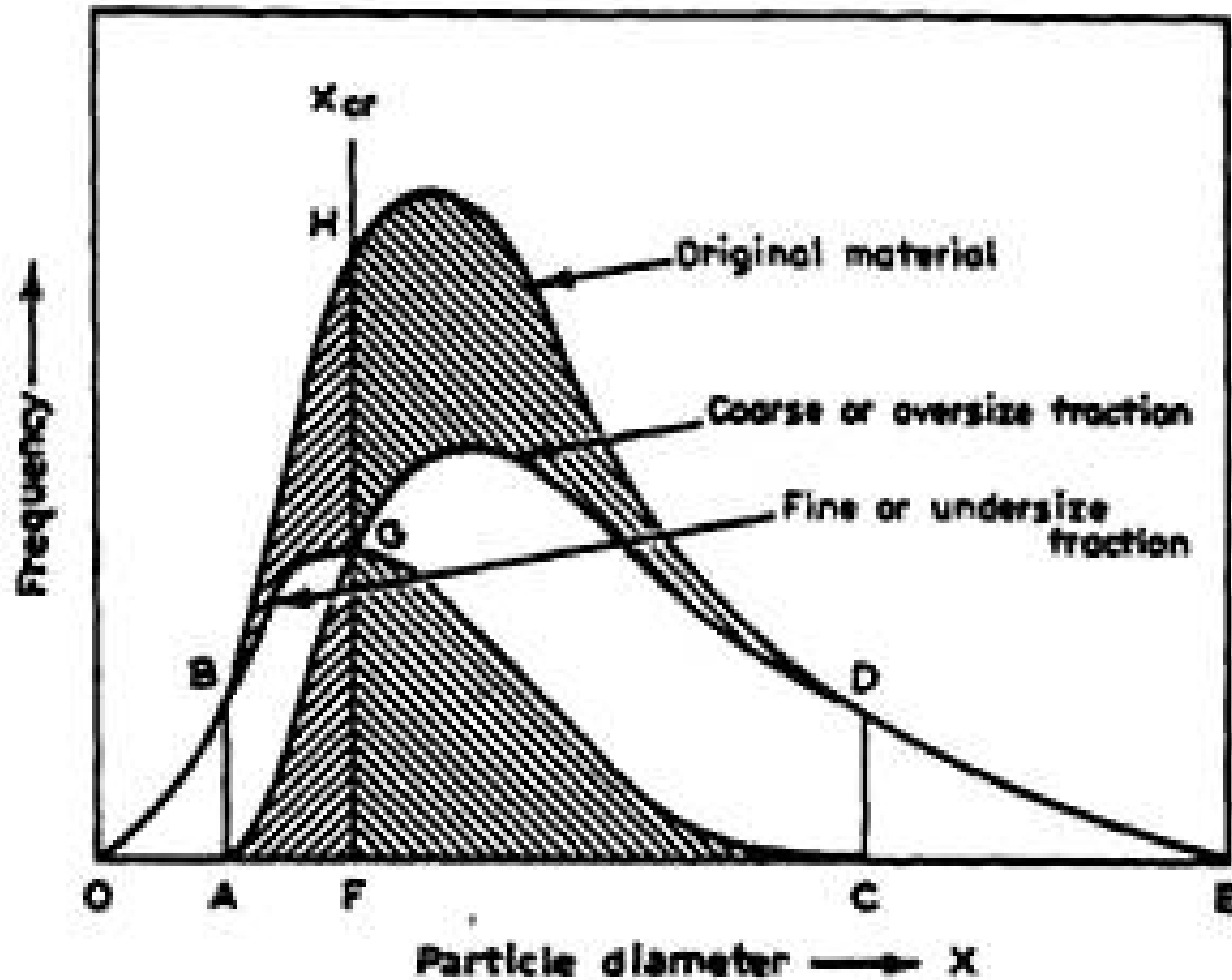
# Mesh versus $\mu\text{m}$

Tyler mesh size is the number of openings per (linear) inch of mesh. To calculate the size of the openings in a mesh the thickness of the wires making up the mesh material must be taken into account.

Sieve size (mm)	Tyler (approx)
4.75	4
2.00	9
1.00	16
0.422	35
0.251	60
0.152	100
0.125	115
0.104	150
0.066	250
0.044	325

# Screening result

$X_{cr}$  = critical  
particle size



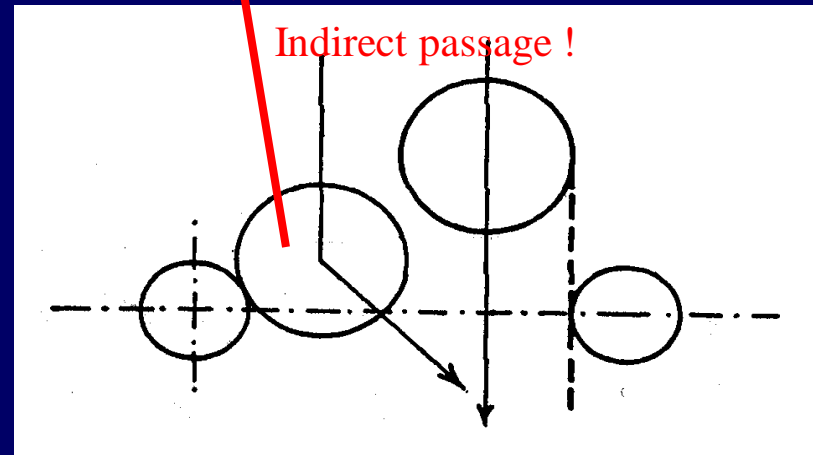
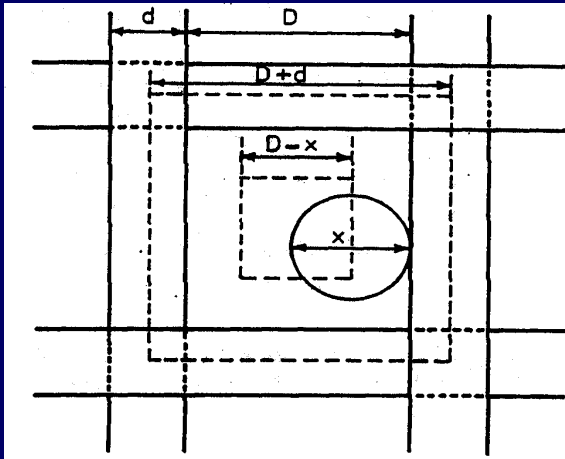
# Passage probability

Passage probability:

$$P = \frac{(D-x)^2}{(D+d)^2} \rightarrow P = \frac{(D-x)^2}{D^2} \cdot \frac{D^2}{(D+d)^2}$$

Part. Size / Mesh width      Open / Total surface

$$P \geq \frac{(D-x)^2}{D^2} \quad \text{when } d \ll D$$



Probability that particle is still on the screen:

after 1 attempt  $1 - P = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2 \right]$

after i attempts  $r_i = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2 \right]^i$







# Screen index / effective opening

$$r_i = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2 \right]^i \rightarrow \text{Simplify} \rightarrow \ln(r_i) = i \cdot \ln \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2 \right]$$

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$$\rightarrow \text{Taylor series} \rightarrow \quad \ln(r_i) \approx i \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2$$

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$$\rightarrow \text{Take } x=d_{0.5} \text{ and } r_i=0.5 \rightarrow \ln(0.5) = -i \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{d_{0.5}}{D} \right)^2 \rightarrow d_{0.5} = D - \left( \frac{0.832 \cdot D}{\sqrt{i}} \right)$$

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$I$  = passage trials /  $m$  = screen index

$L$  = screen length

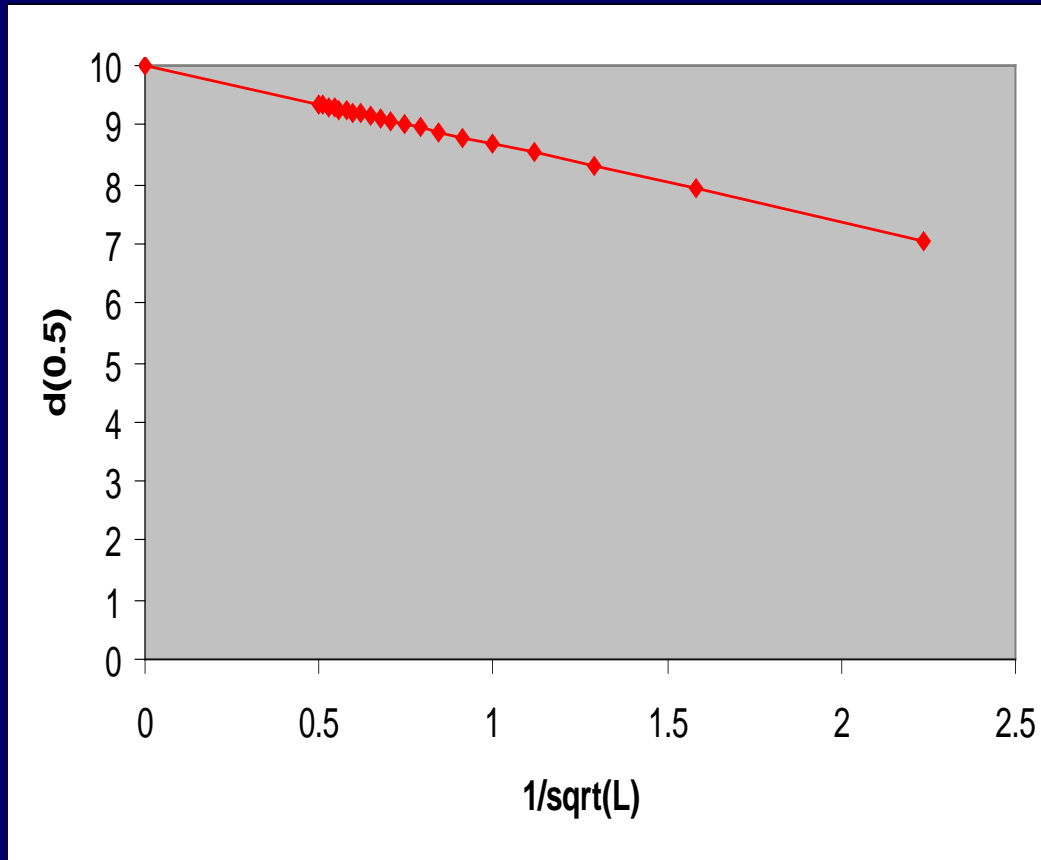
$D$  = effective screen opening

$$d_{0.5} = D - \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \cdot \left( \frac{0.832 \cdot D}{\sqrt{I}} \right)$$

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D = 10 mm

I = 40 passages/m



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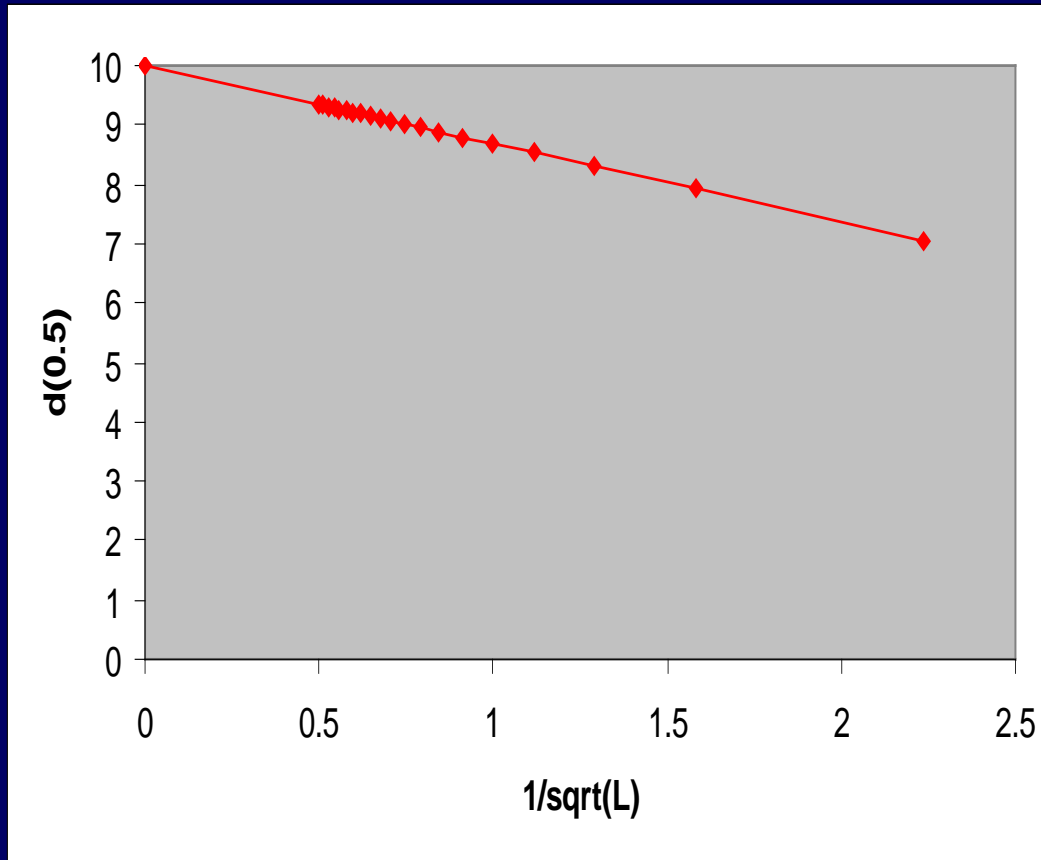
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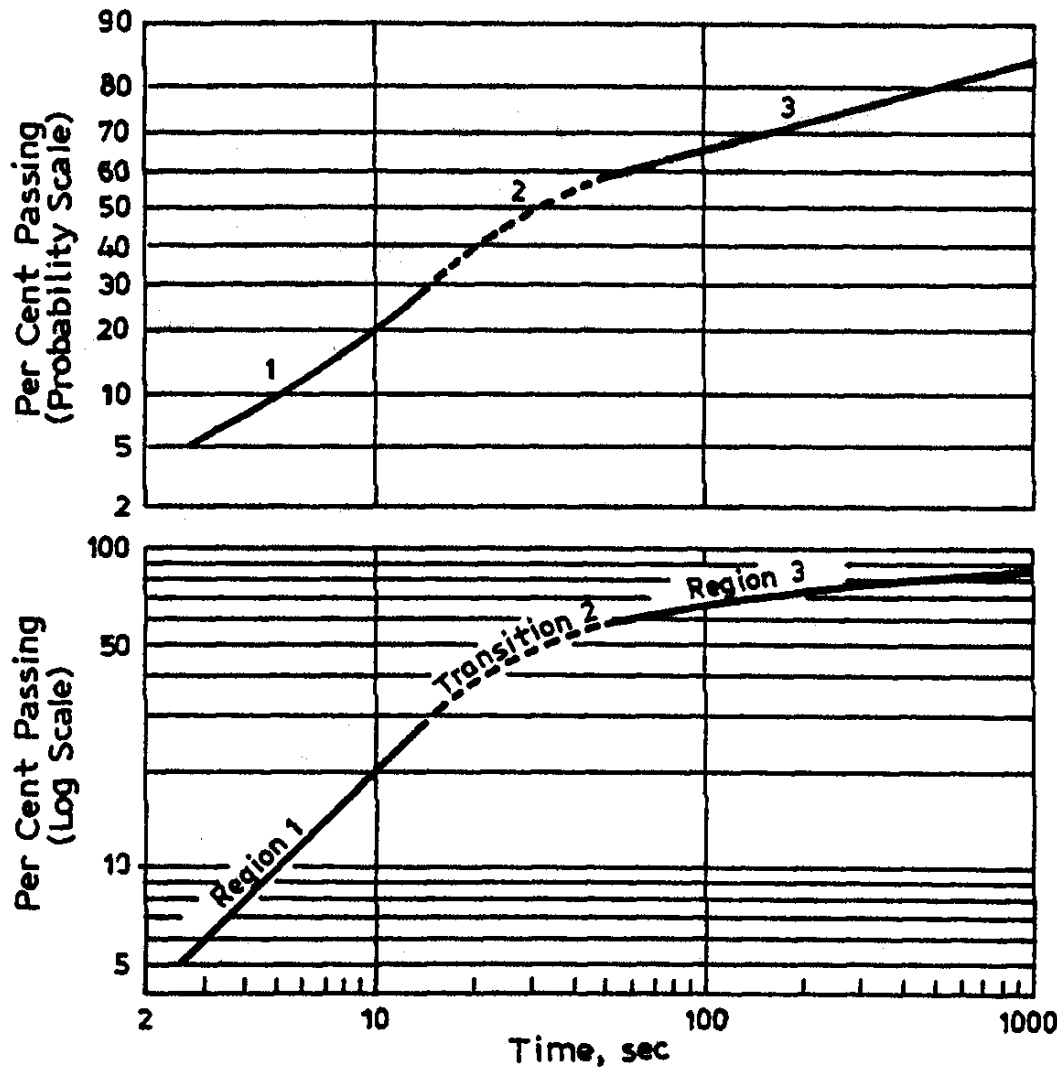
$$i = I \cdot L$$

$$r_i = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{D-x}{D} \right)^2 \right]^i$$

Predict size distribution  
under-, overflow



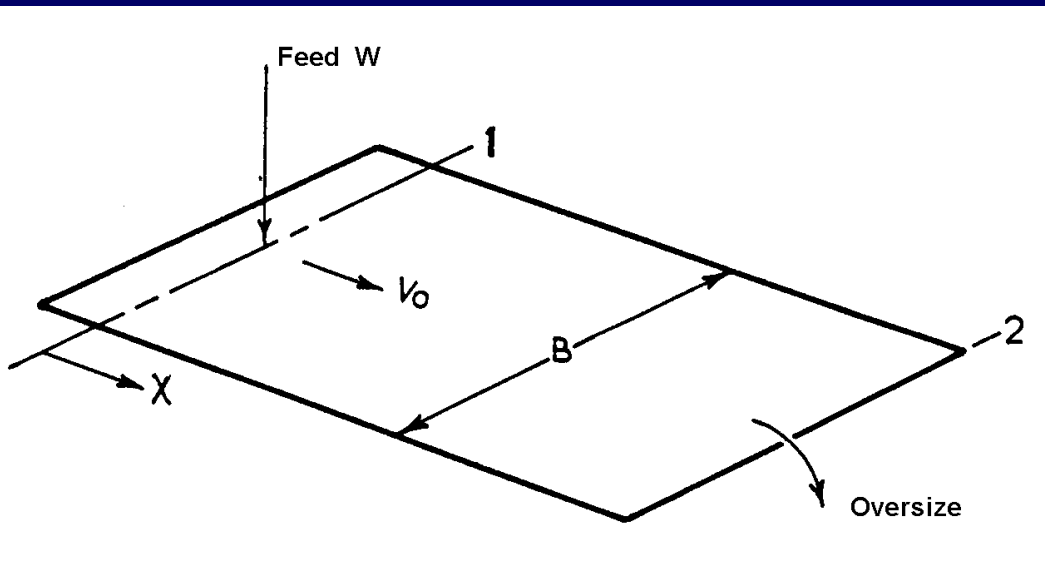
# Screening kinetics



Experiments Whitby (1958)

1. Linear relationship between  $\log(\text{undersize})$  against time
2. Transition
3. Linear relationship between undersize on a log-probability scale against time (also equilibrium zone)





Region 1

$$\frac{dC(W, t)}{dt} = K \cdot \frac{W}{A}$$

Region 2,3

$$\frac{dC(W, t)}{dt} = f(t) \cdot \frac{W}{A}$$

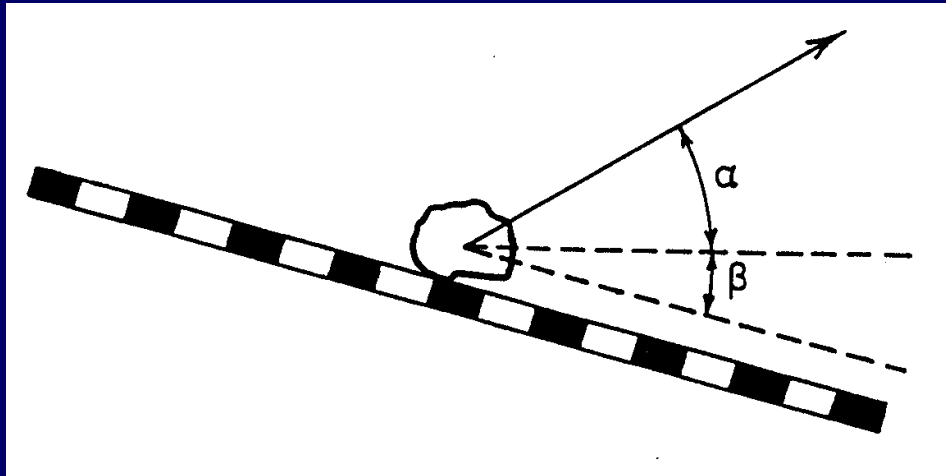
Approximation of kinetics:  $C(W, t) = 100 \cdot \left[ 1 - \exp(-kt)^n \right] \%$  (n, k = constant)

Taylor's series

$$C(W, t) \approx 100 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + kt^n} \right) = 100 \cdot \frac{kt^n}{1 + kt^n} \quad K, n: \text{Constants}$$

# Screening parameters

$a$	Amplitude of the screen deck	[cm]
$n$	Frequency	[min <sup>-1</sup> ]
$\omega$	Angular velocity	[s <sup>-1</sup> ]
$\alpha$	Throw angle	[°]
$\beta$	Inclination of screen deck	[°]

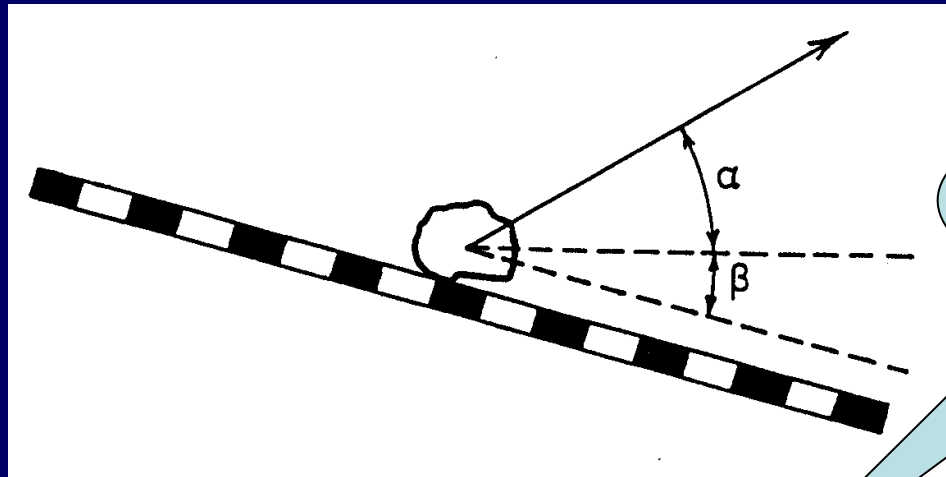


*Throw angle  $\alpha$  and inclination  $\beta$ .*

Machine parameter 
$$K = \frac{a\omega^2}{g} \approx \frac{an^2}{90000}$$

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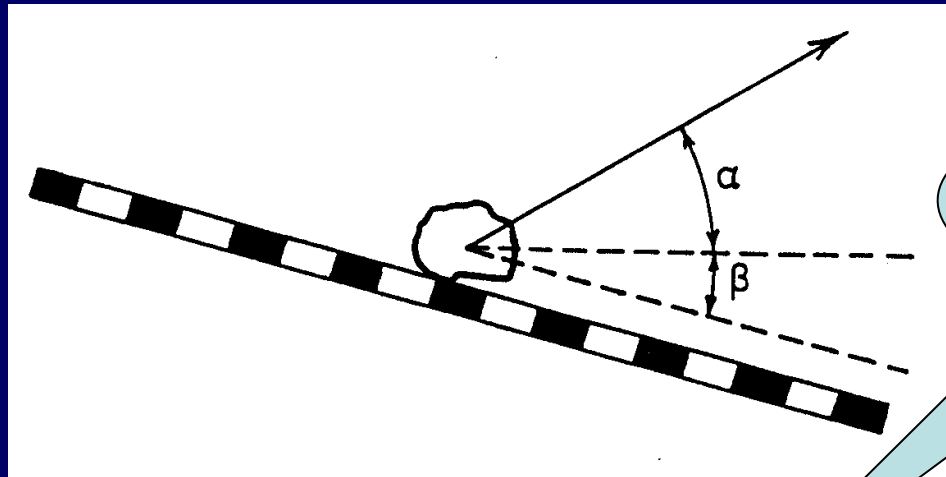
*Throw angle  $\alpha$  and inclination  $\beta$ .*

Generated  
acceleration

Machine parameter  $K = \frac{a\omega^2}{g} \approx \frac{an^2}{90000}$

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a	Amplitude of the screen deck	[cm]
n	Frequency	[min <sup>-1</sup> ]
ω	Angular velocity	[s <sup>-1</sup> ]
α	Throw angle	[°]
β	Inclination of screen deck	[°]



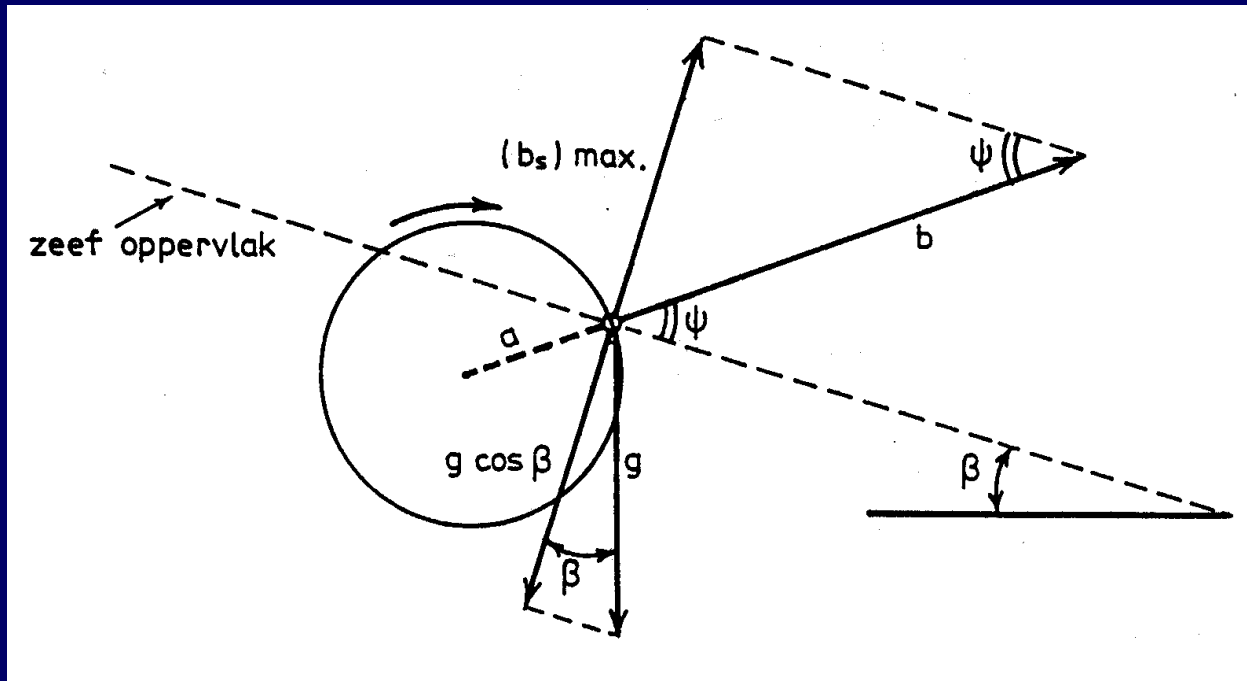
Throw angle  $\alpha$  and inclination  $\beta$ .

Generated acceleration

Gravity acceleration

Machine parameter  $K = \frac{a\omega^2}{g} \approx \frac{an^2}{90000}$

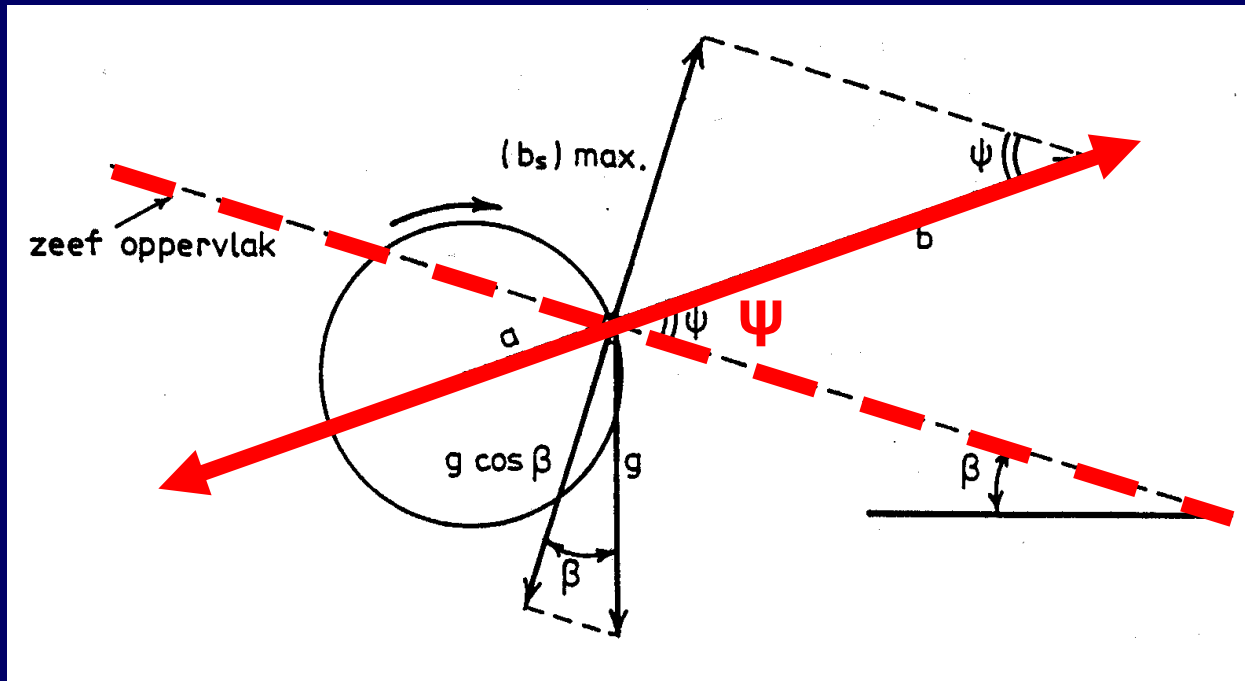
Screen parameter  $K_v = \frac{(b_s) \max}{g \cdot \cos(\beta)}$



Particle jumps if:

$$K_v > 1$$

Screen parameter  $K_v = \frac{(b_s) \max}{g \cdot \cos(\beta)}$



Particle jumps if:

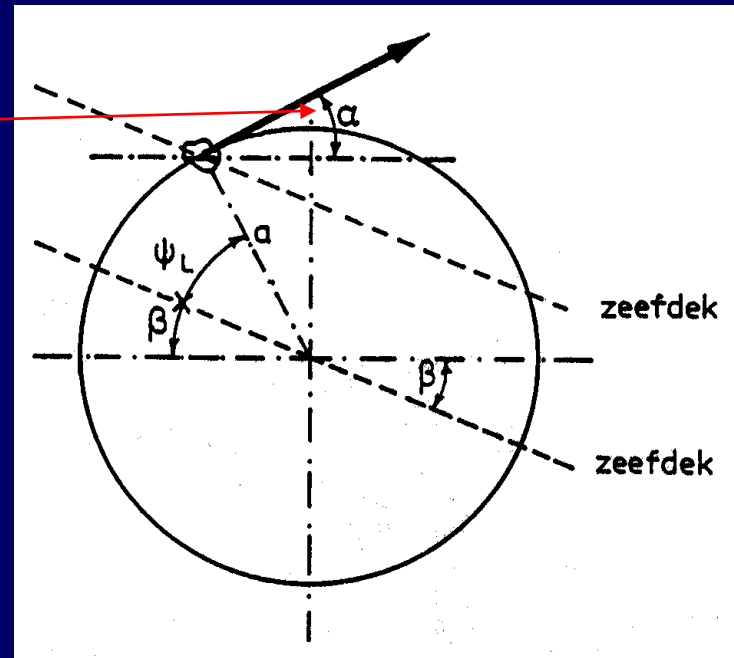
$$K_v > 1$$

$\psi$  = angle between centrifugal acceleration vector and screen surface

Particle thrown upward for  $\Psi = \Psi_L$

$$\sin(\Psi_L) = \frac{g \cdot \cos(\beta)}{a \cdot \omega^2} = \frac{\cos(\beta)}{K} = \frac{1}{K_v}$$

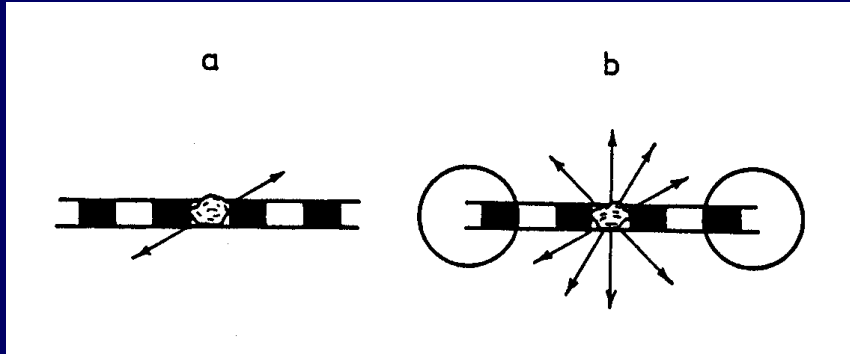
Throw angle  
 $\alpha = 90^\circ - (\Psi_L + \beta)$



# Optimised screening conditions

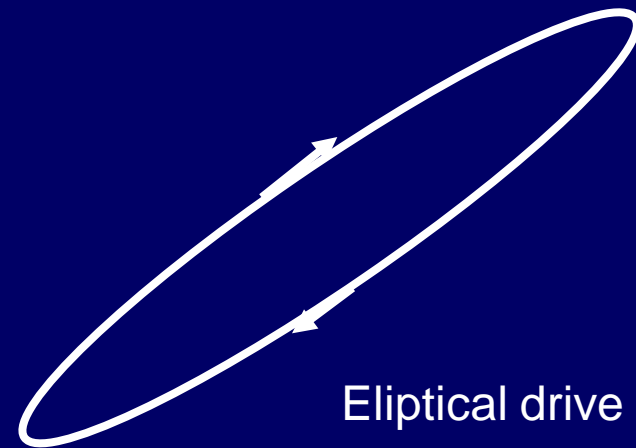
- Calculate  $\alpha$  for different  $K$  and  $\beta$
- Calculate particle trajectory
- Determine impact location
- Optimise
  - Amplitude  $a$
  - Frequency  $n$
  - Angle  $\beta$for a given feed material



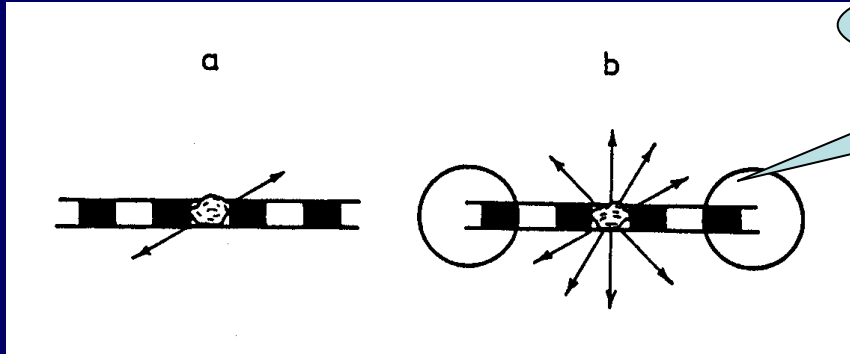


Linear,

circular drive



Elliptical drive

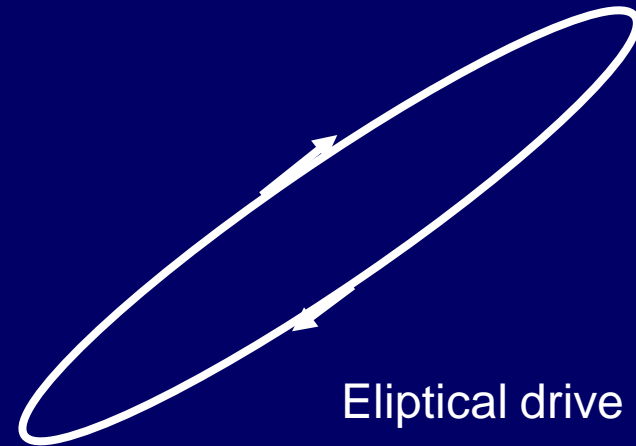


Linear,

circular drive

Inclination required

!



Elliptical drive

# Optimised $K_v$

$K_v < 1.5$  no screening

$1.6 < K_v < 1.8$  soft minerals, coal

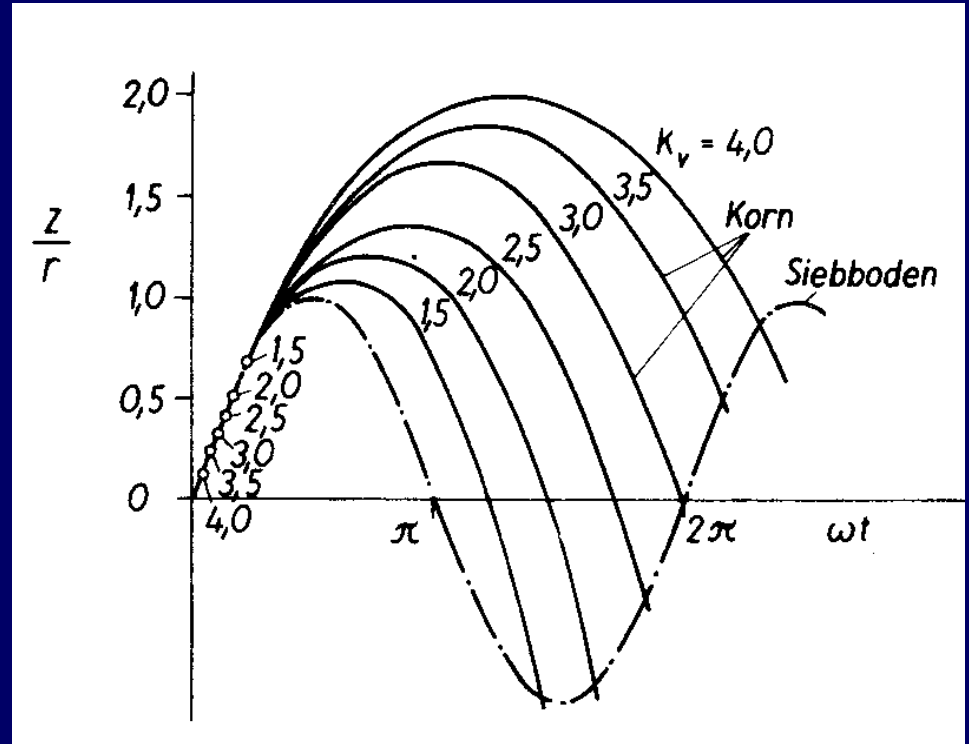
$2.1 < K_v < 2.3$  difficult materials, cokes

$3 < K_v < 3.5$  easy mat., high capacity

$K_v \approx 3.3$  resonance, optimum

$$K_v = \sqrt{1 + (n\pi)^2}$$

$K_v \gg 4$  transport only



Feed size determines optimised **a** and **n** at a given  $K_v$ :

- For loosening coarse feed: larger **a**, lower **n**
- *For finer feeds it is reverse.*

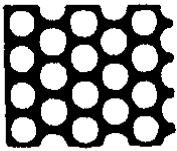
At constant  $K_v$  materials are thrown higher at larger **a** and lower **n** as reverse.

As a consequence for fines screening small **a** at higher **n** are used, and reverse for coarse feeds.

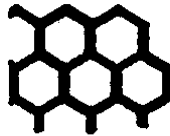
# Screen decks

## PLATE: Apertures (Flow directions indicated)

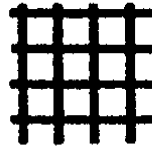
Round, staggered ↓



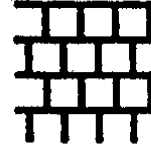
Hexagonal, staggered ↓



Square, straight ↓



Square, staggered ↓



Slot, end staggered ↓



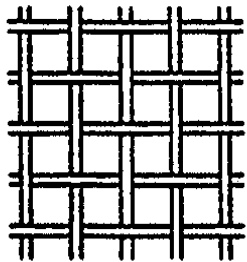
Slot, side staggered ↓



Slot, straight ↙

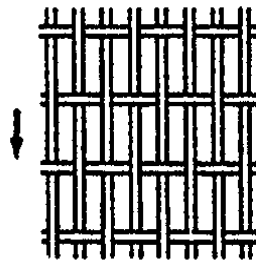


## MESH: Apertures (Usual flow direction indicated)



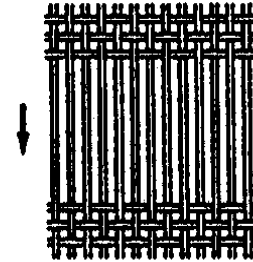
Square

Most widely used mesh. Gives most accurate sizing of all meshes. Regular shape particles most suitable.



Rectangular

Allows increased throughput because of increased % open area, or heavier wire for given % open area. Decreased accuracy, reduced blinding.



Triple slotted elongated

Maximum open area, reduced accuracy. (Accuracy can be increased by running slots at right angles to flow). Minimum blinding because of slot length and wire vibration.

## MESH: Crimps

Flat Top



Gives freest flow across surface. Minimises blinding and material breakage. Uniform wear gives accurate sizing during life. Relatively low efficiency, good for scalping.

Double Crimp



Most commonly used. Rigid construction. Uneven surface breaks up material being screened and increases throughput. Gives good sizing with small apertures, or small % open area.

Locked Crimp



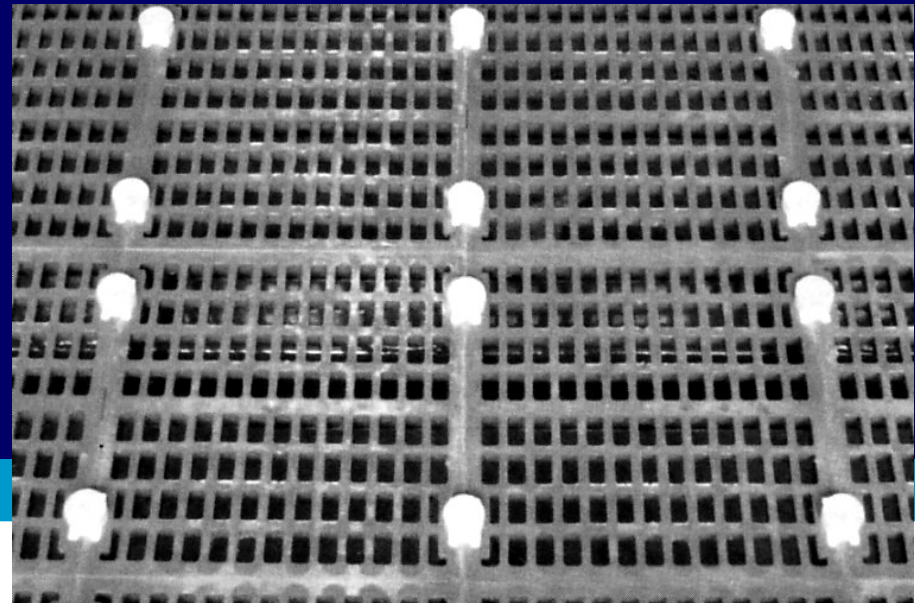
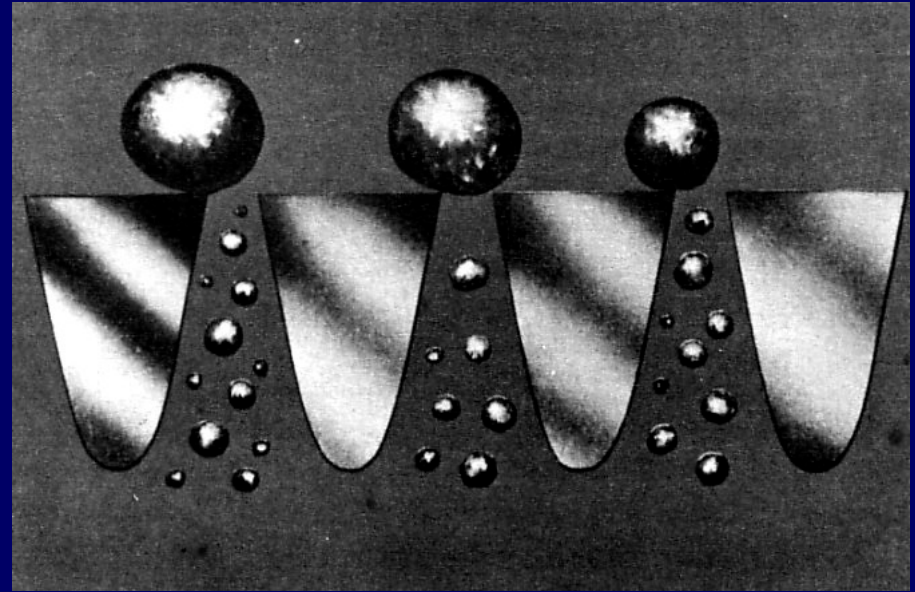
Firmer mesh for larger % open area, especially on vibrating screens. Suitable for scalping operations.

Corrugated Crimp



Wires in every third or fifth crimp to give rigid mesh with large % open area. Not suitable for heavy duty.

- Perforated plate
- Grizzly rod deck
- Bar deck
- Rod deck
- Wedge-wire deck
- Woven wire screen media
- PU screening media
- Rubber screening media



# Screening efficiency

	Fractions		
	<i>Mass</i>	<i>% coarse</i>	<i>% fine</i>
<i>feed</i>	$G_v$	$g_v$	$f_v$
<i>oversize</i>	$G_g$	$g_g$	$f_g$
<i>undersize</i>	$G_f$	$g_f$	$f_f$

Newton's screening efficiency:

$$E_n = 100 \cdot \left[ \frac{(G_v - G_f) \cdot g_g}{G_v \cdot g_v} - \frac{(G_v - G_f) \cdot (1 - g_g)}{G_v \cdot (1 - g_v)} \right]$$

Coarse in oversize

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Coarse in feed



Coarse in oversize

Fine in oversize

Fractions			
	Mass	% coarse	% fine
<i>feed</i>	$G_v$	$g_v$	$f_v$
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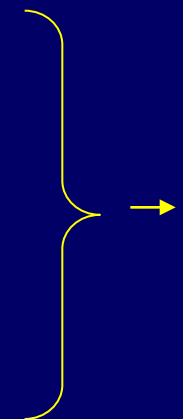
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Fine in feed

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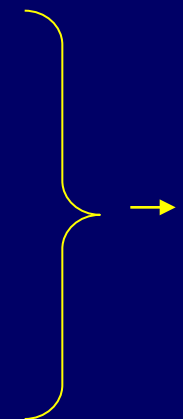


Mass balance:  $G_v \cdot g_v = (G_v - G_f) \cdot g_g + G_f \cdot g_f$

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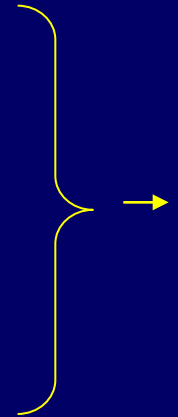
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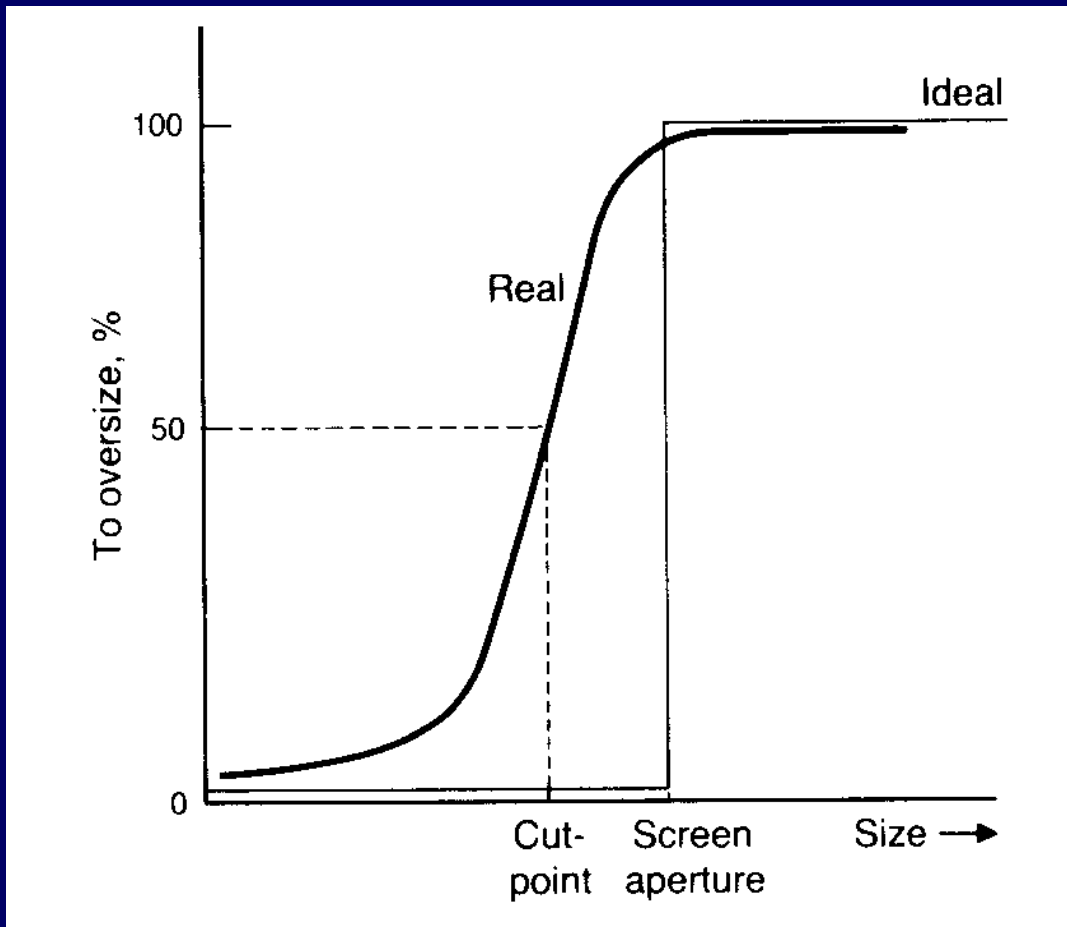
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65% <  $E_n$  < 75% compromise capacity / efficiency

$E_n = 90\%$  dry lab. test

# Partition curve



Ecart probable

$$E_p = \frac{x_{75} - x_{25}}{2}$$

Imperfection

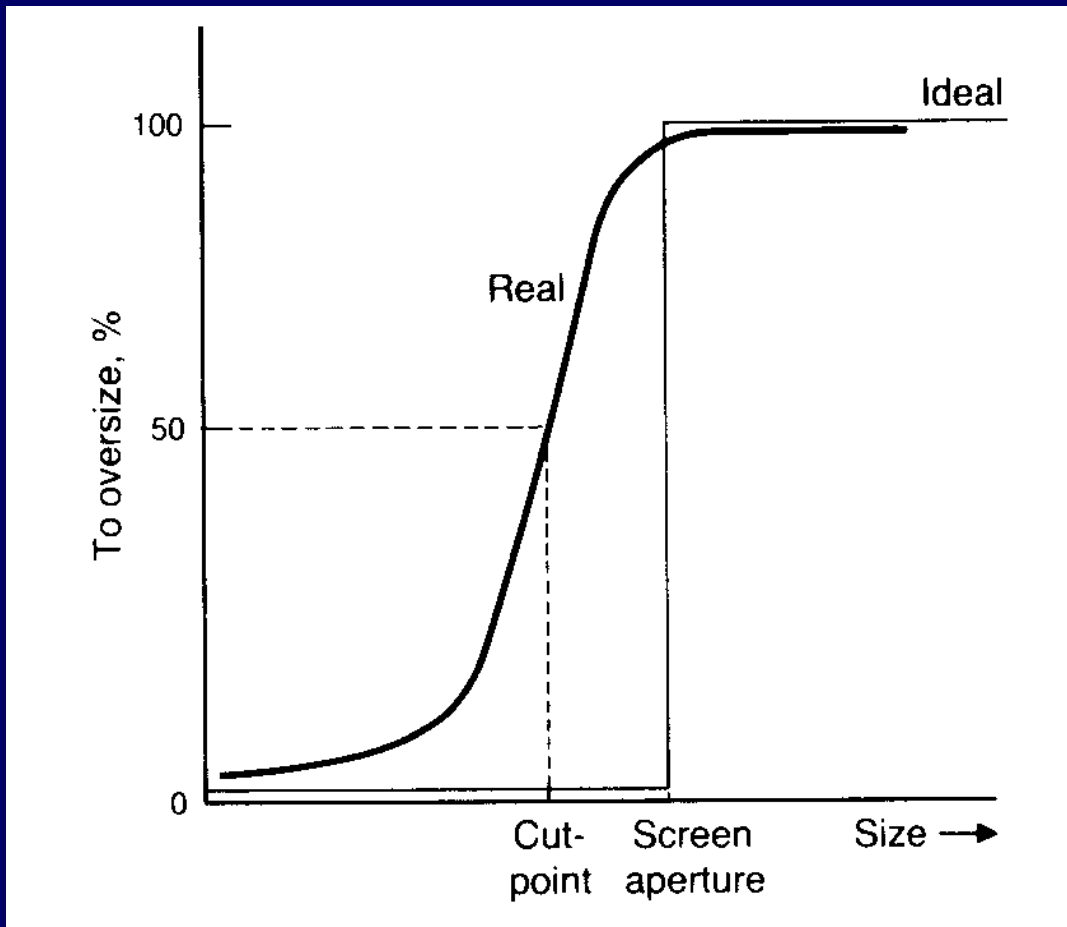
$$I = \frac{E_p}{x_{50}} = \frac{x_{75} - x_{25}}{2x_{50}}$$

Particle spread

$$H = \frac{x_{75}}{x_{25}}$$

Separation sharpness

$$T = \tan(\alpha_{x_{50}})$$



# Screening capacity

- Capacity  $\approx$  proportional to mesh size
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- Dry screening  $< 2$  mm rarely applied

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Vibratory screen:

$$C = 1.4 \cdot \frac{\rho}{\gamma} \cdot D^{0.6} \text{ t/hr.m}^2$$

Solid density in g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
“Difficult” fraction  $0.5D < x < 1.5D$

- Square mesh openings of a deck with at least 50% open surface.
- $\gamma < 15\%$  (otherwise transport becomes a delimiting factor)
- $0.5 \text{ mm} < (\text{mesh size}) < 250 \text{ mm}$



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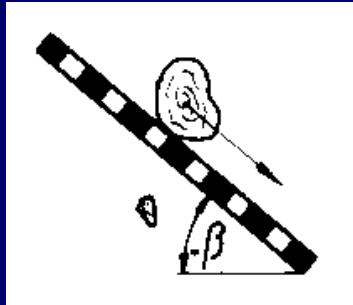
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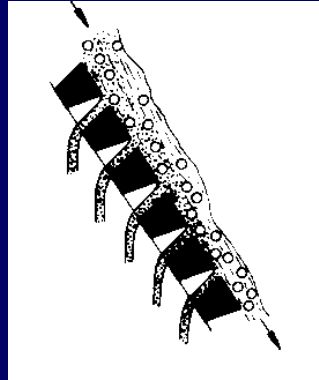
Moisture has a major effect on capacity:

- levels between 8% and 10% reduce capacity down to  $0.8C$
- efficient spraying may increase it up to  $1.25C$

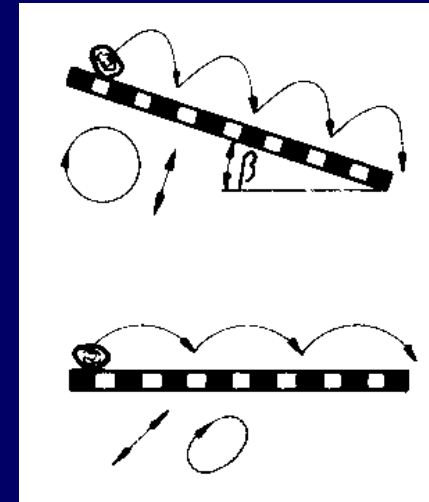
# Screening equipment



Static dry



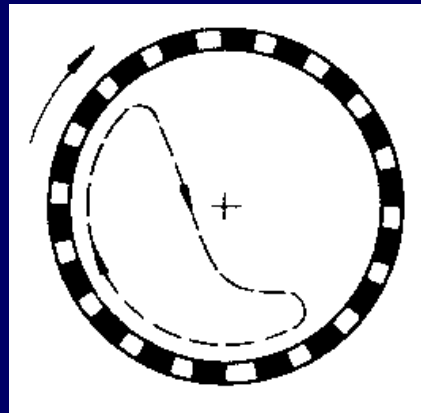
Static wet



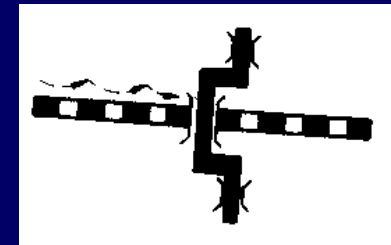
Vibrating



Roller

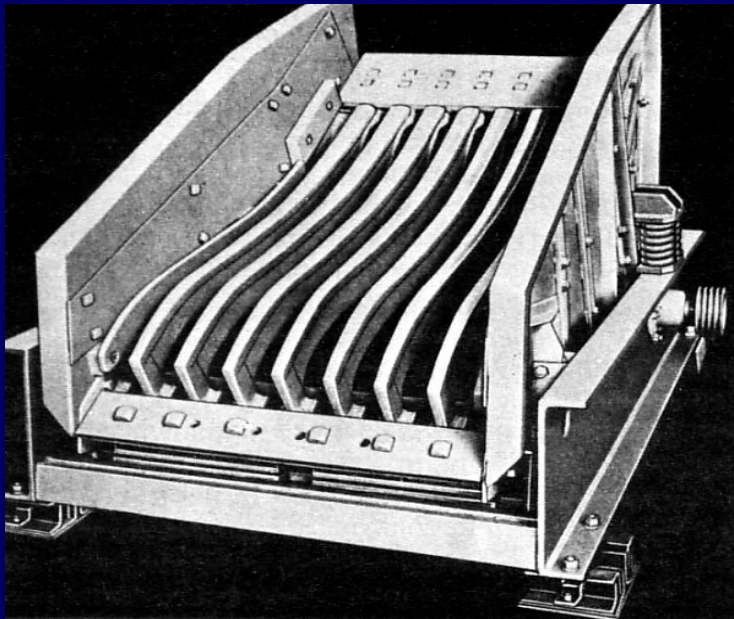


Trommel



Circular inclined

# Grizzly / drain panel



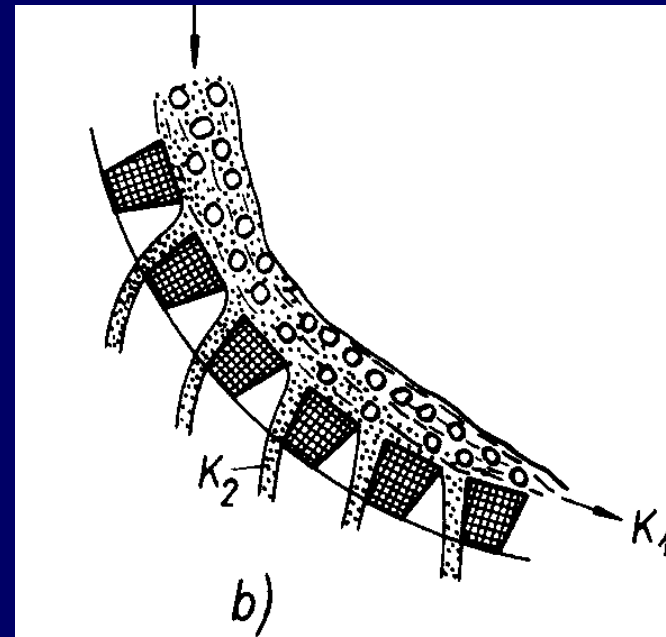
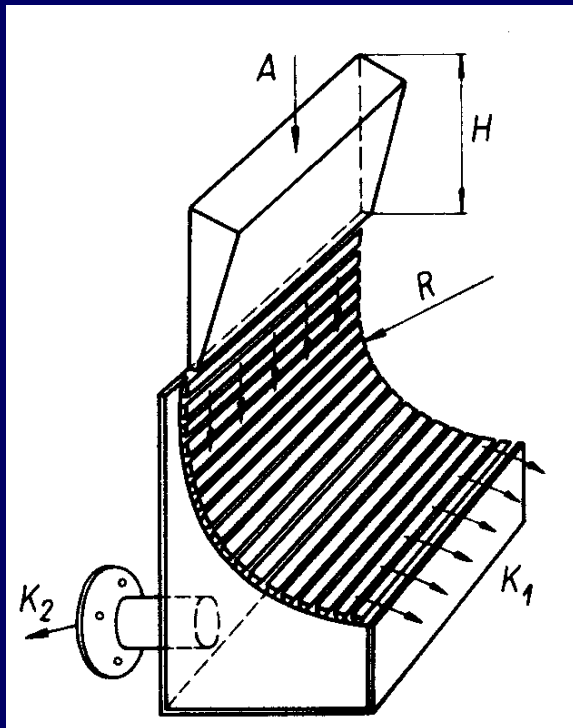


(Ankerpoort N.V.)



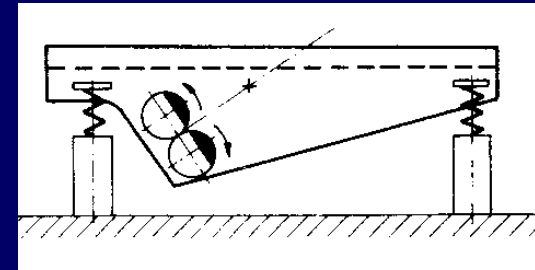
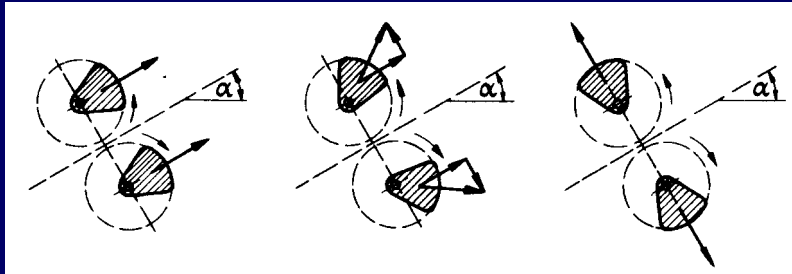
(Steenberg Laura)

# Sieve bend

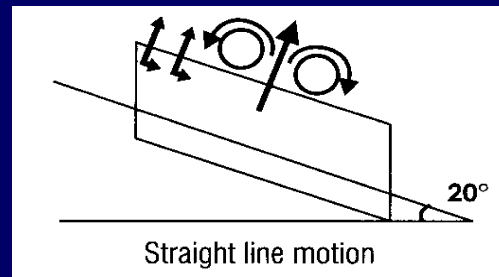
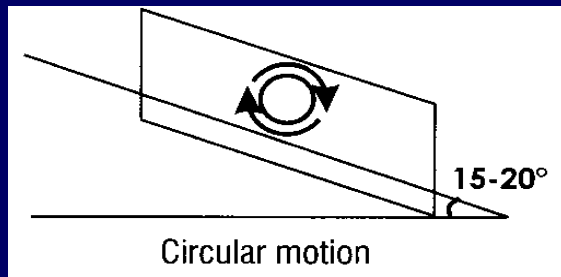


- For dewatering fines
- “centrifugal effect” sweeping off water
- Cut size  $0.5 \dots 1 \text{ mm} = 0.5 * \text{slot size}$
- Invented by Staatsmijnen (DSM) in the 1950's for fine coal

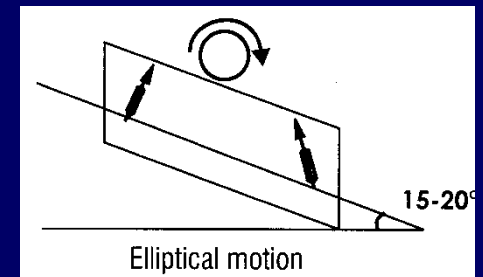
# Vibrating screens



- (Double) unbalance drives (common)
- Electromagnetic drives (0.1 ... 4 mm only)
- Excenter drives (only older installations)



(linear)

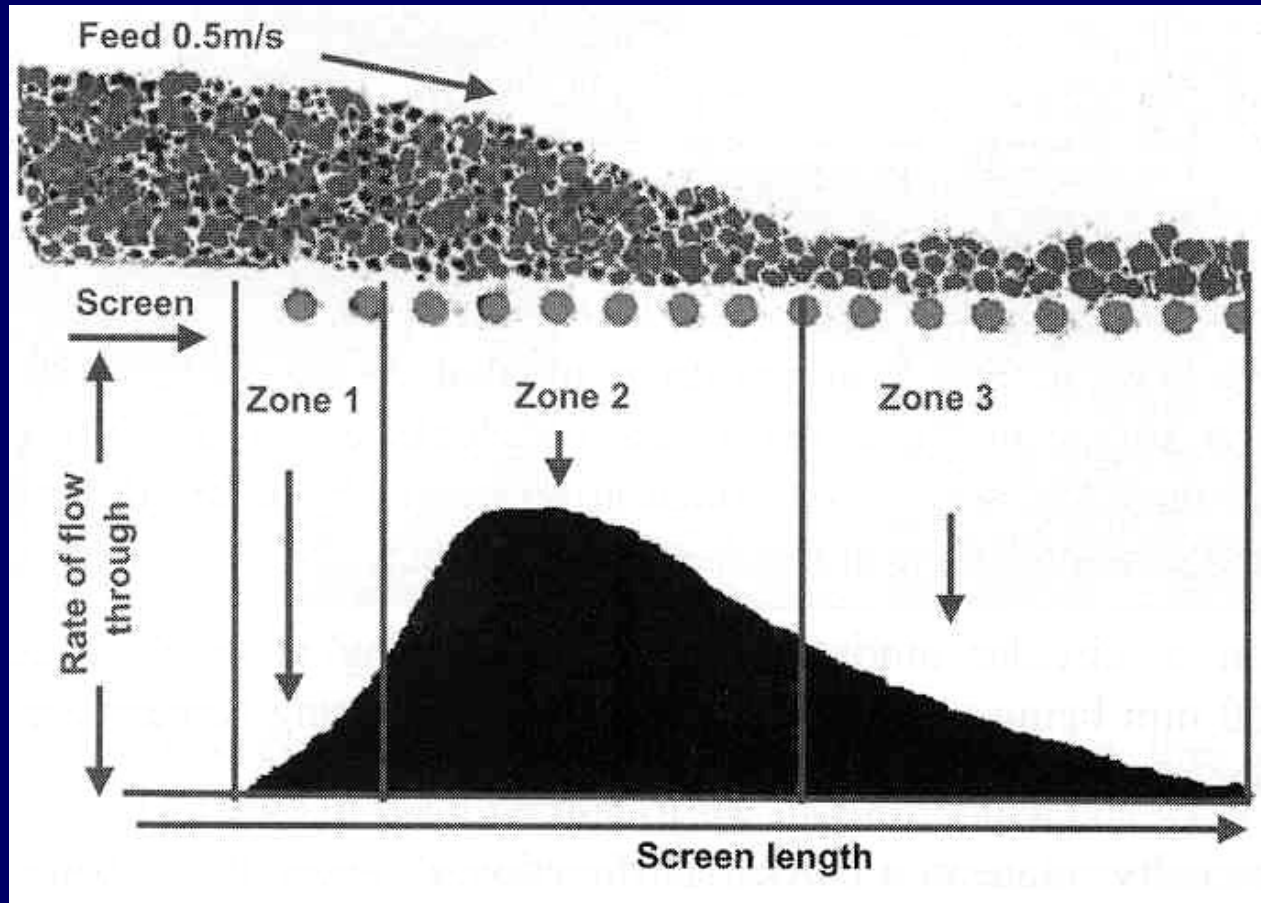


# Vibrating screens

- Linear horizontal
- Linear inclined
- Banana
- Circular inclined
- Elliptical inclined
- Resonance
- Modular, Omni screen
- Multi-deck screen



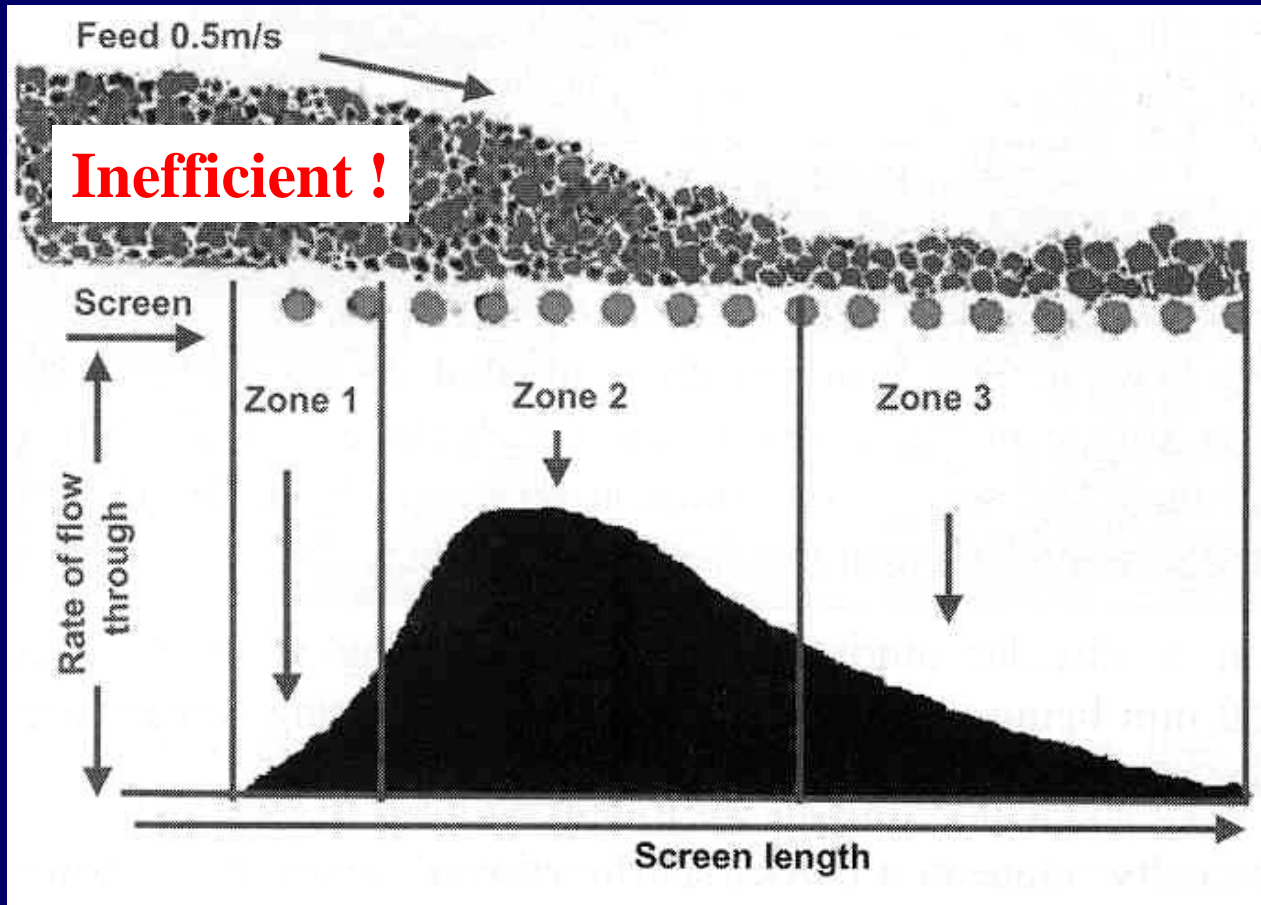
# Horizontal screen





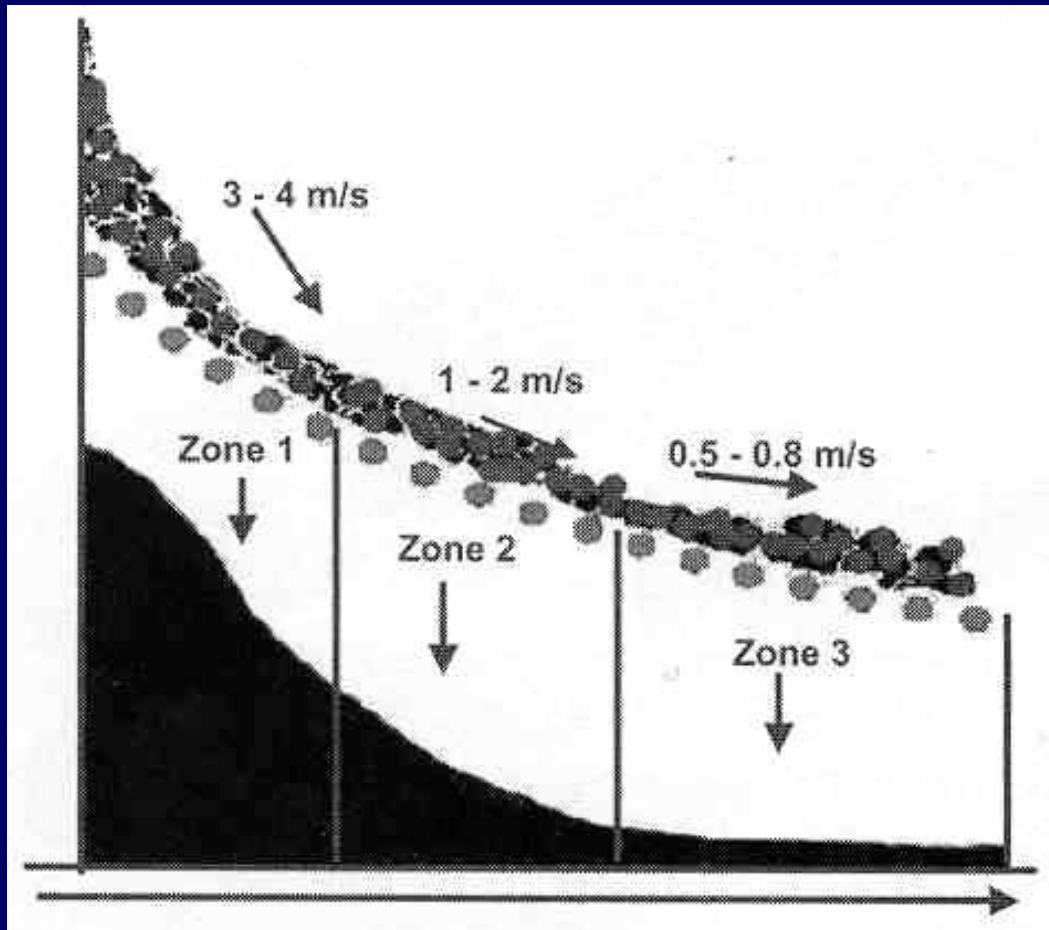
(Limcoal, Genk)

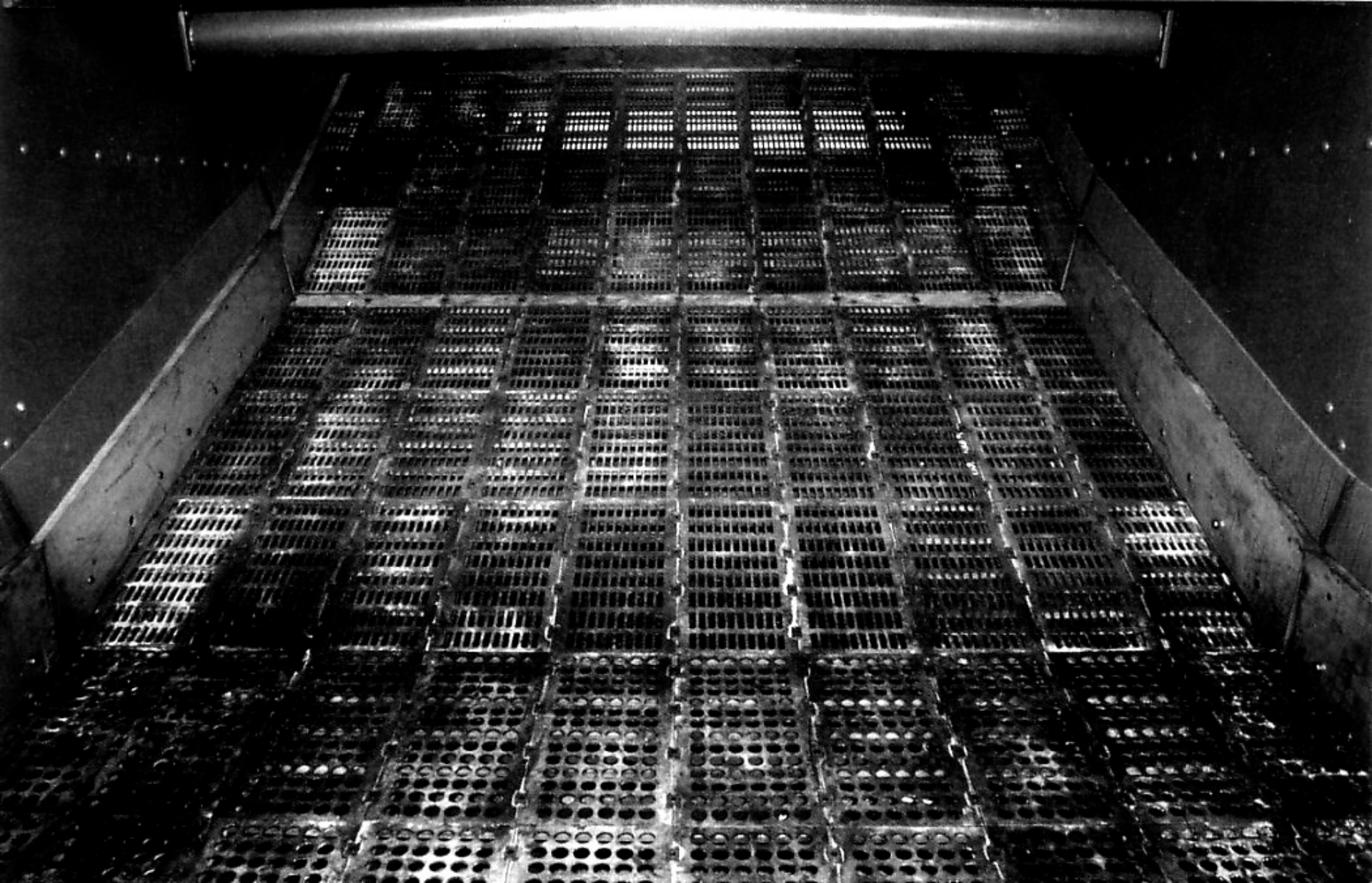
# Horizontal screen



# Multi-slope / Banana screen

- Better feed distribution
- For high fines content





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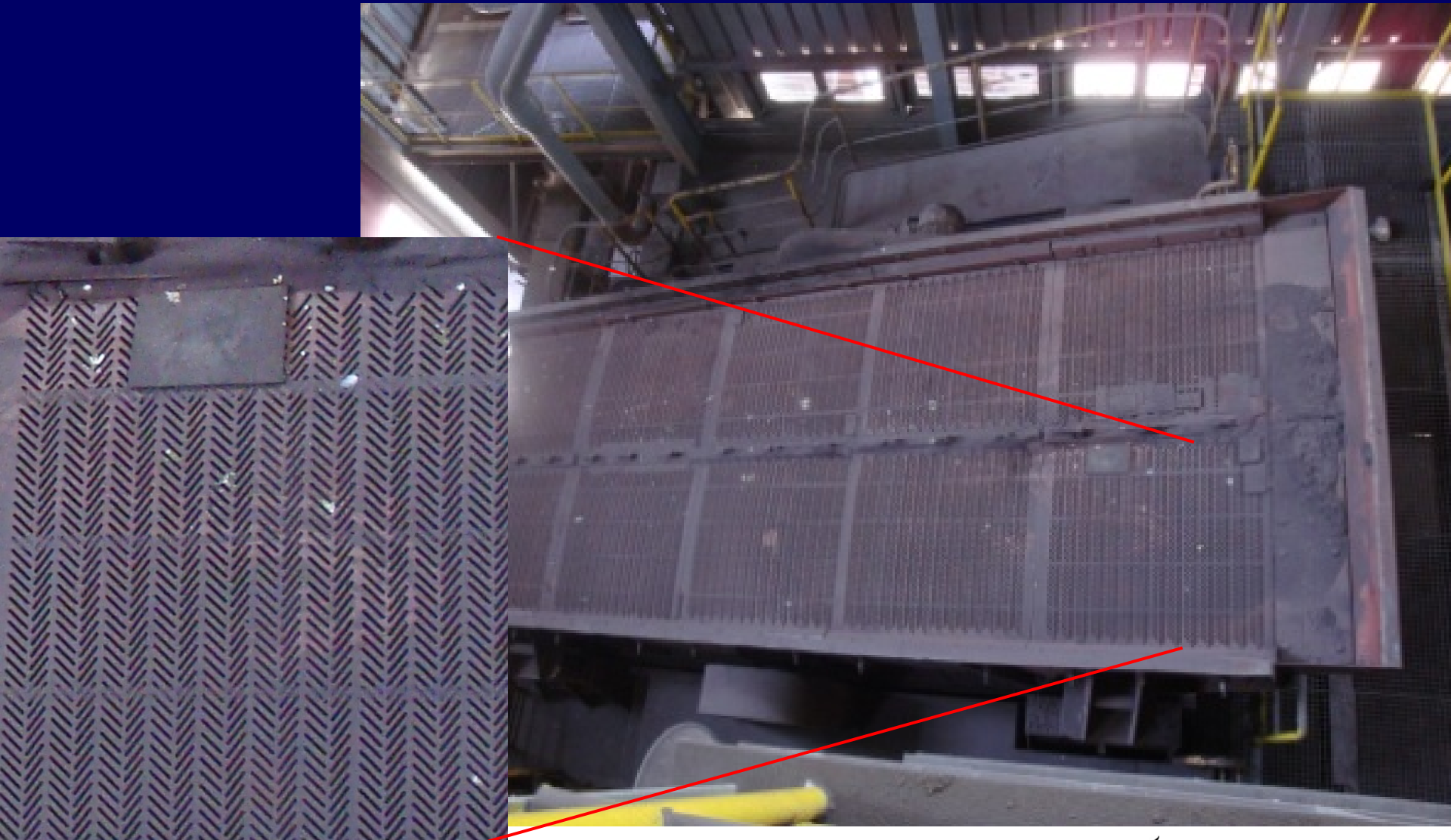
# Vibrating inclined



Novemb

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# Vibrating inclined: deck



# Allgaier screen

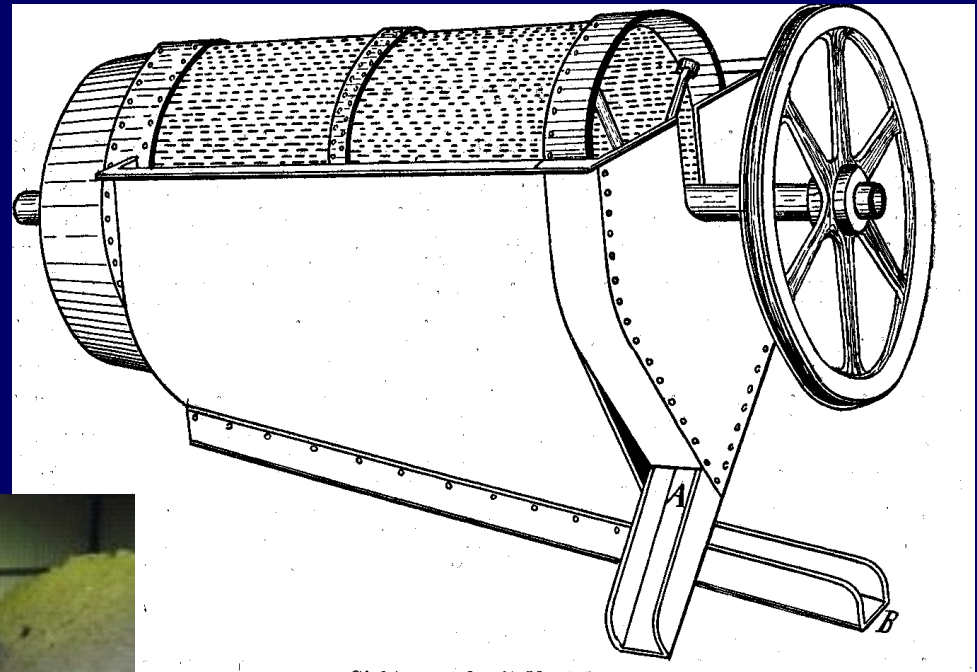
- Circular screen deck, central feed
- Compact design
- Extraction of more than 2 size fractions





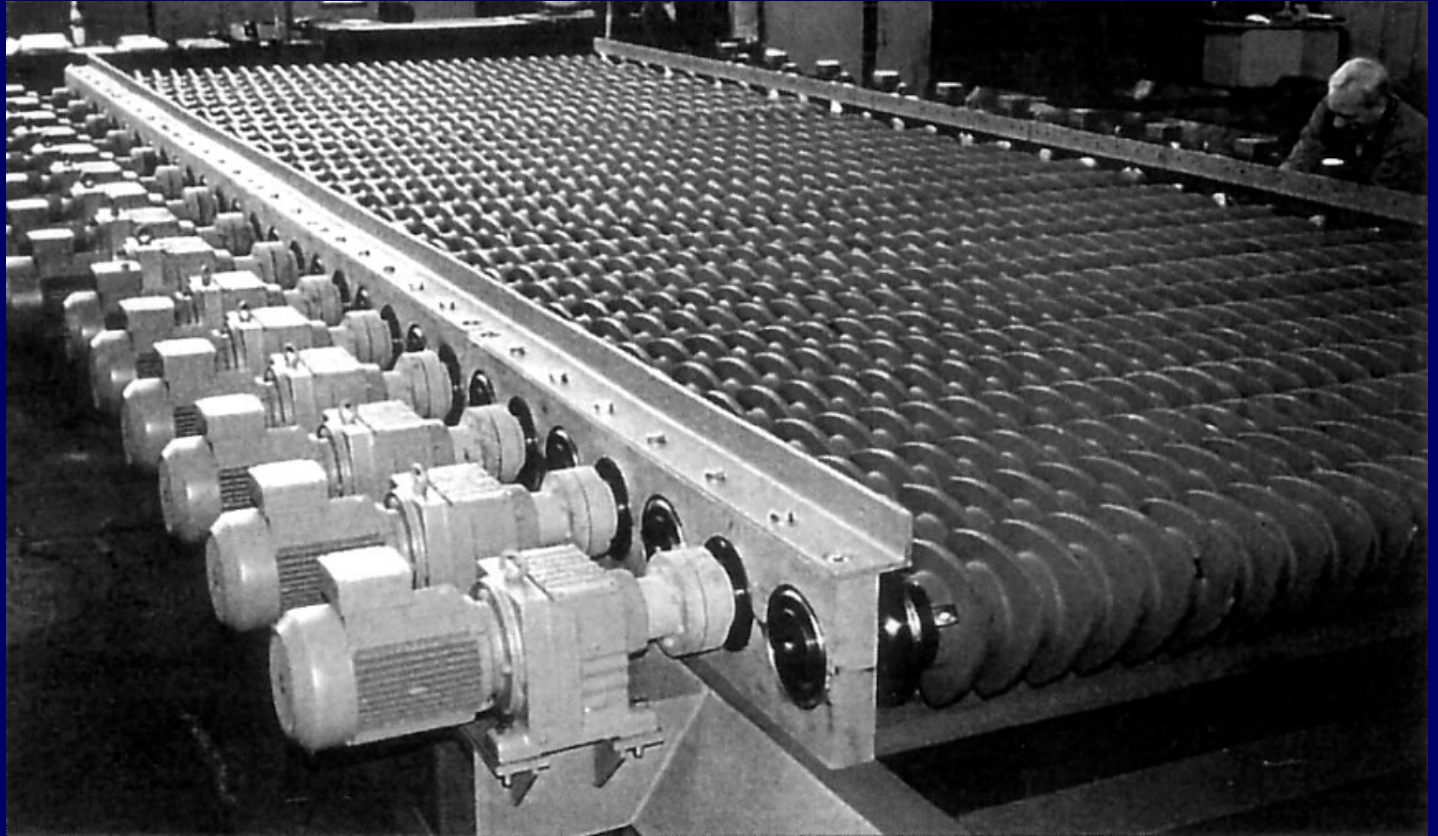
# Non-vibrating screens

## Trommel screen

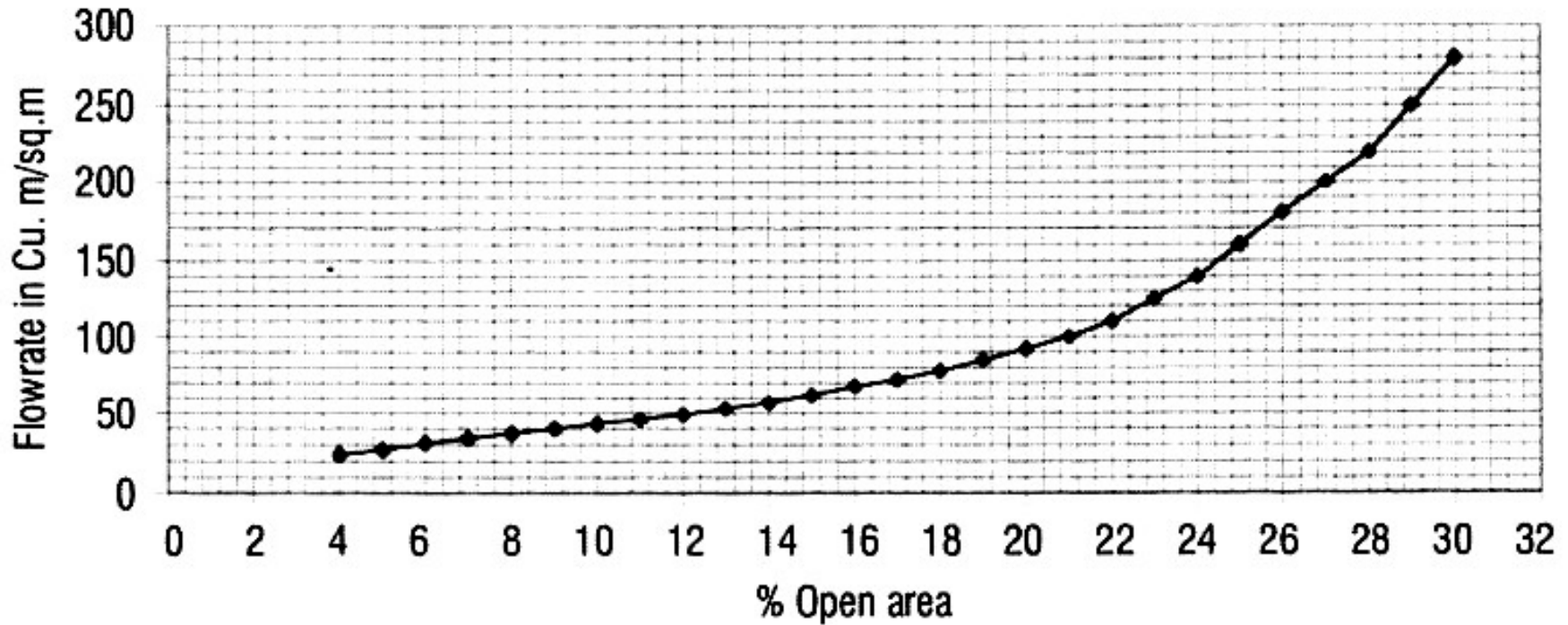


# Non-vibrating screens

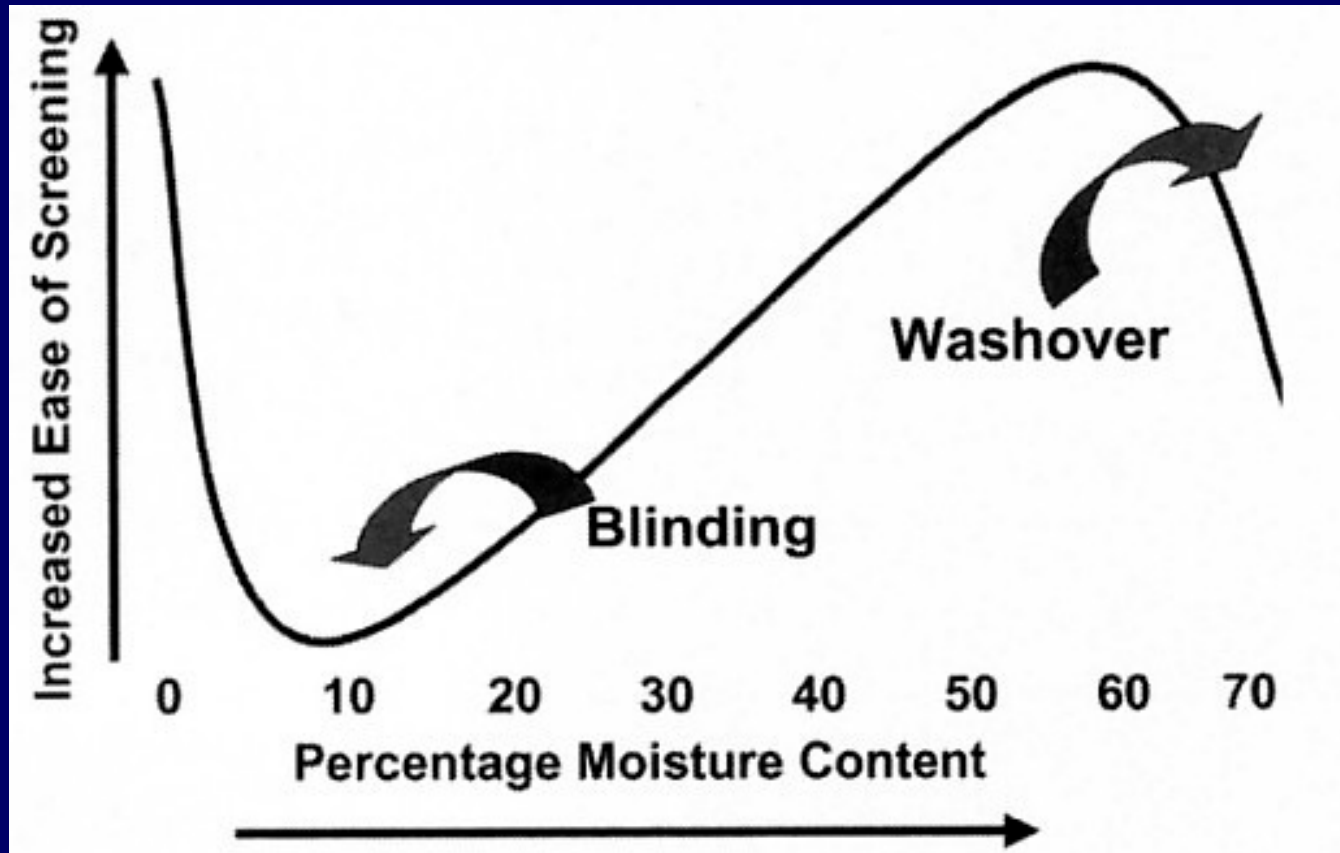
Roller screen



# Wet fines screening



# Fines screening



# Dry fines screening

Problematic moisture content  $\approx 10\%$  (for coal)  $\rightarrow$  **agglomeration**

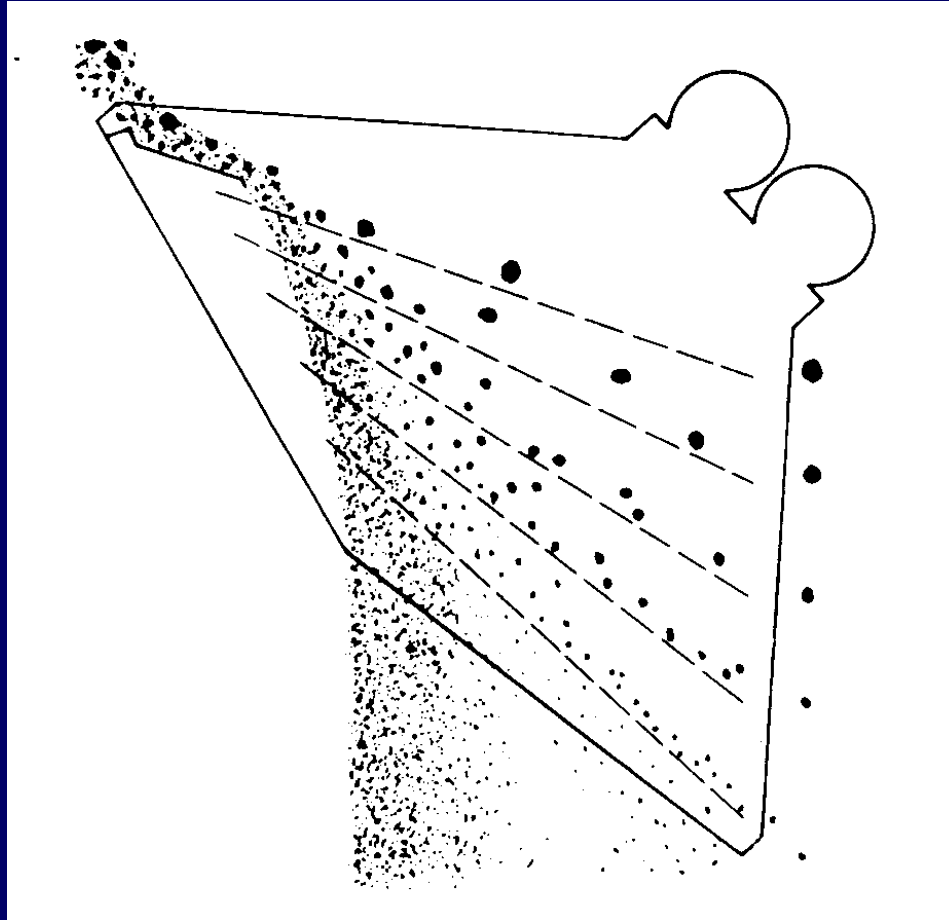
Solution:

- **Increase the forces** on the particles (increase  $K_v$ ).
- **Drying** of the feed
- **Adding water** to the feed

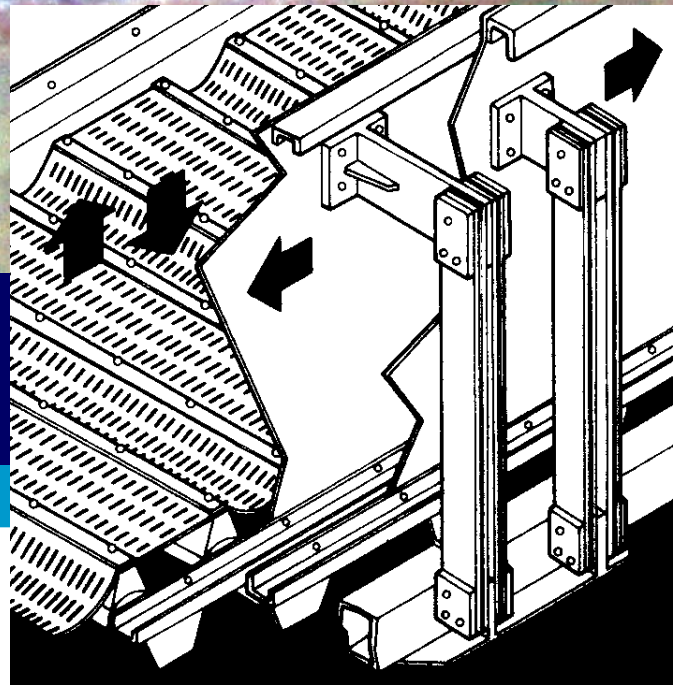
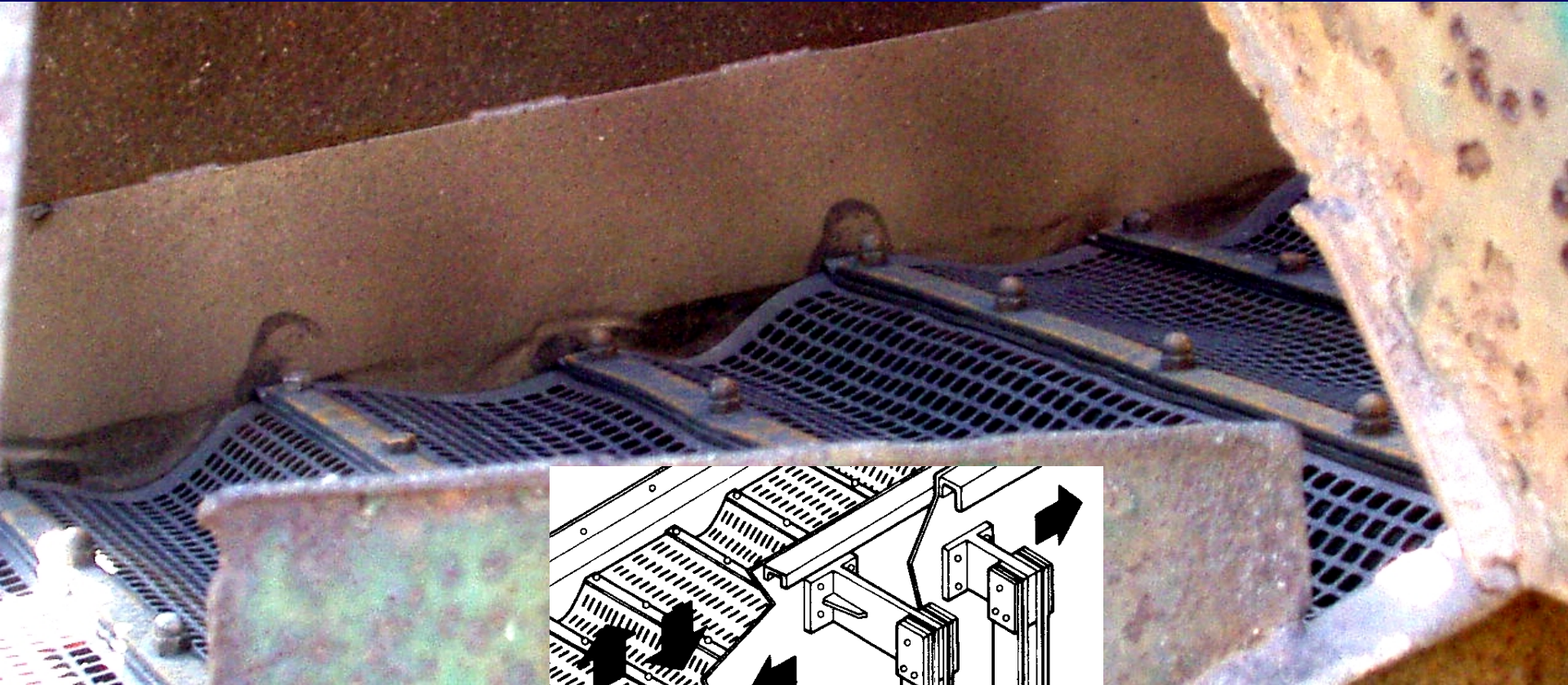
# Dry fines screening

- **Heated-deck screens**: Stickiness is reduced by heating the mesh by electric currents.
- **Piano-wire decks**: Individually tensioned pieces of piano-wire in the direction of flow avoid bridge formation by vibration of the wire.
- **Harp screens, duo-sieves** etc. have a corrugated wire shape and rely on the same principle.
- **Sta-Kleen decks**: Captive rubber balls are mounted below a standard mesh. As the screen vibrates, the balls strike the mesh and destroy any bridges.
- **Probability screens** (Mogensen)
- **Flip-flow or Hein Lehmann screen**

# Mogensen sizer



# Flip-flow /Hein Lehmann



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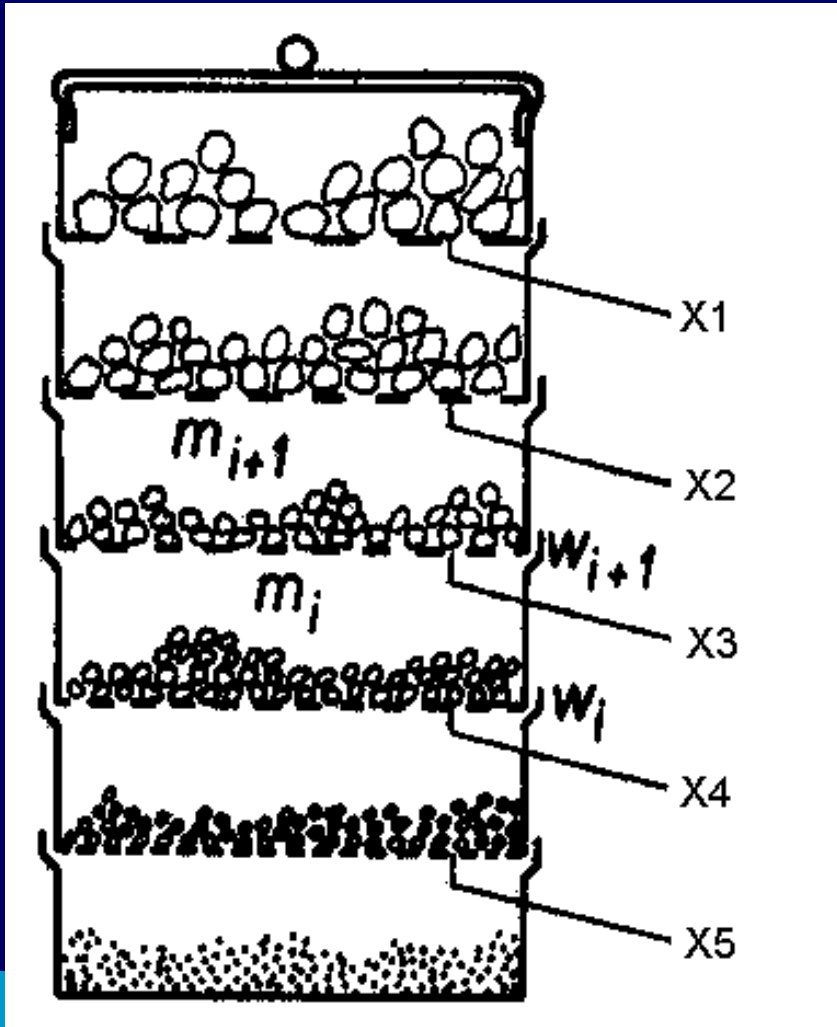
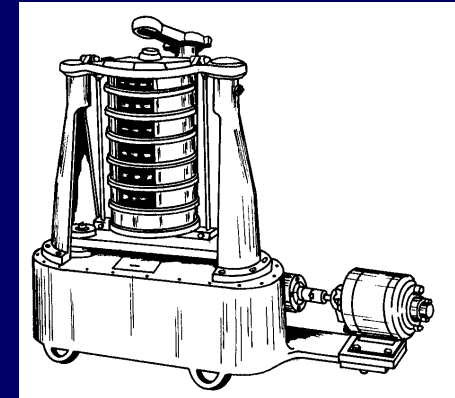
(Steenberg laura)

# Dewatering screen



(Anglo coal)

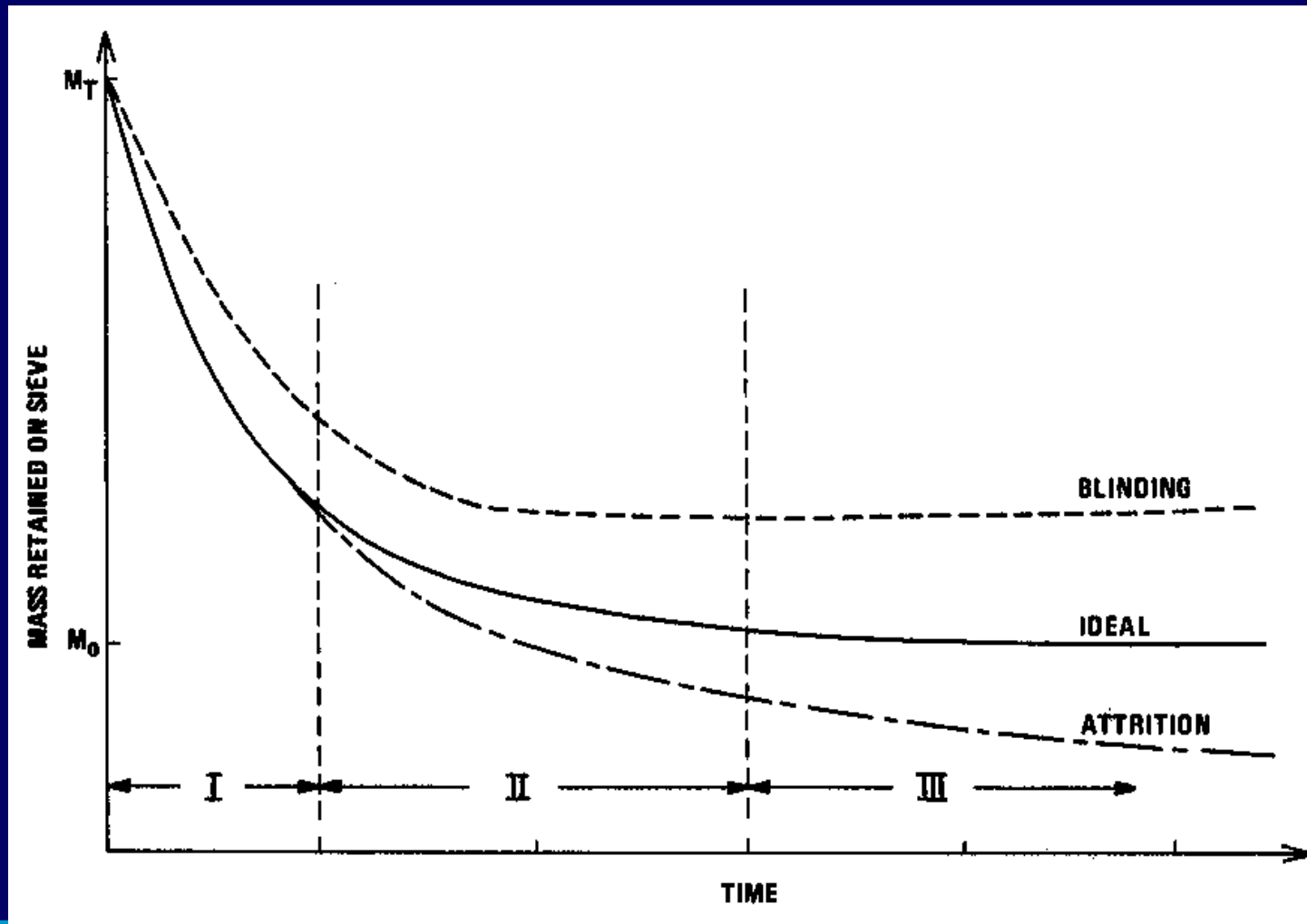
# Sieve analysis



Geometric mean:

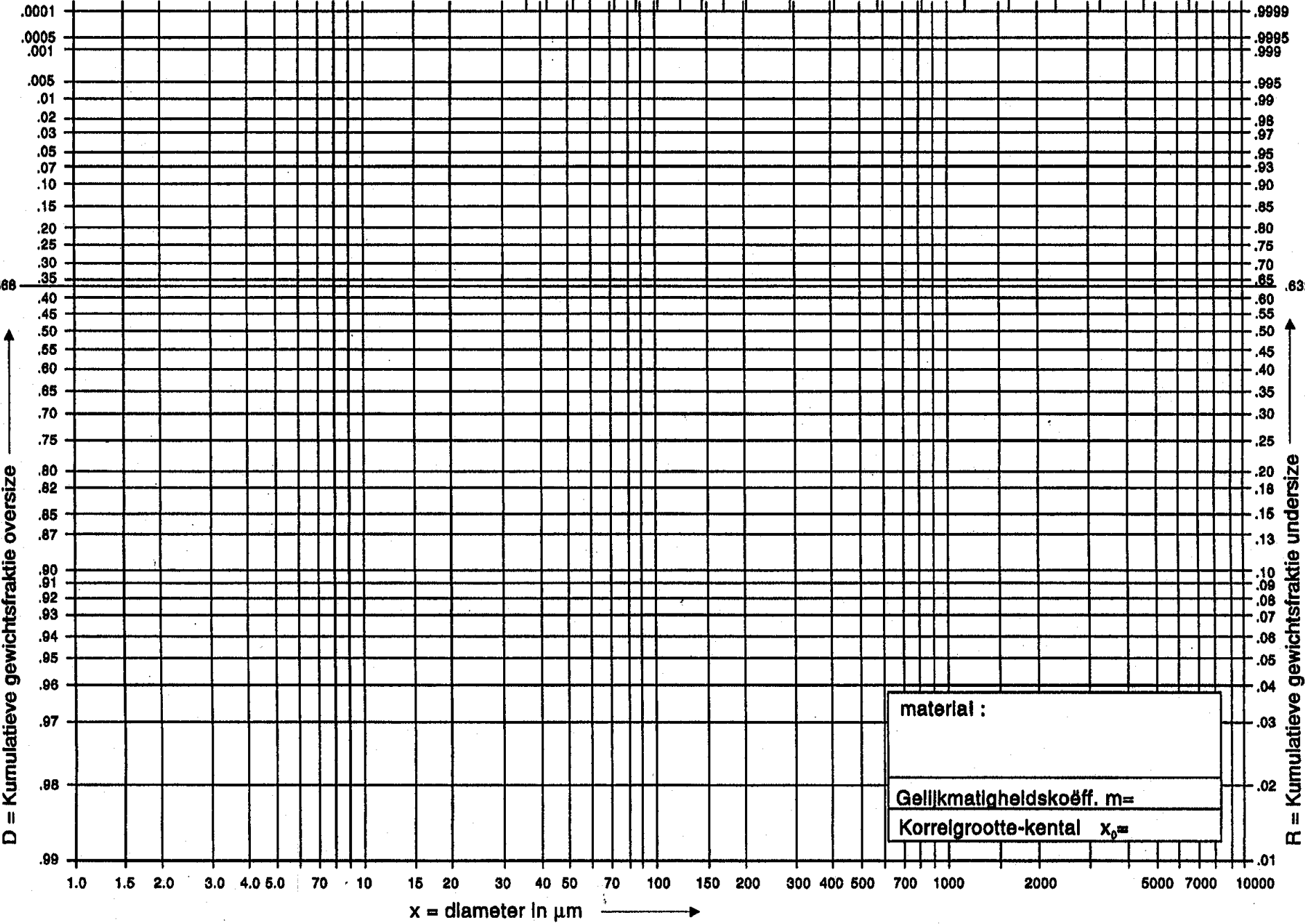
$$x_i = \sqrt{m_i m_{i+1}}$$

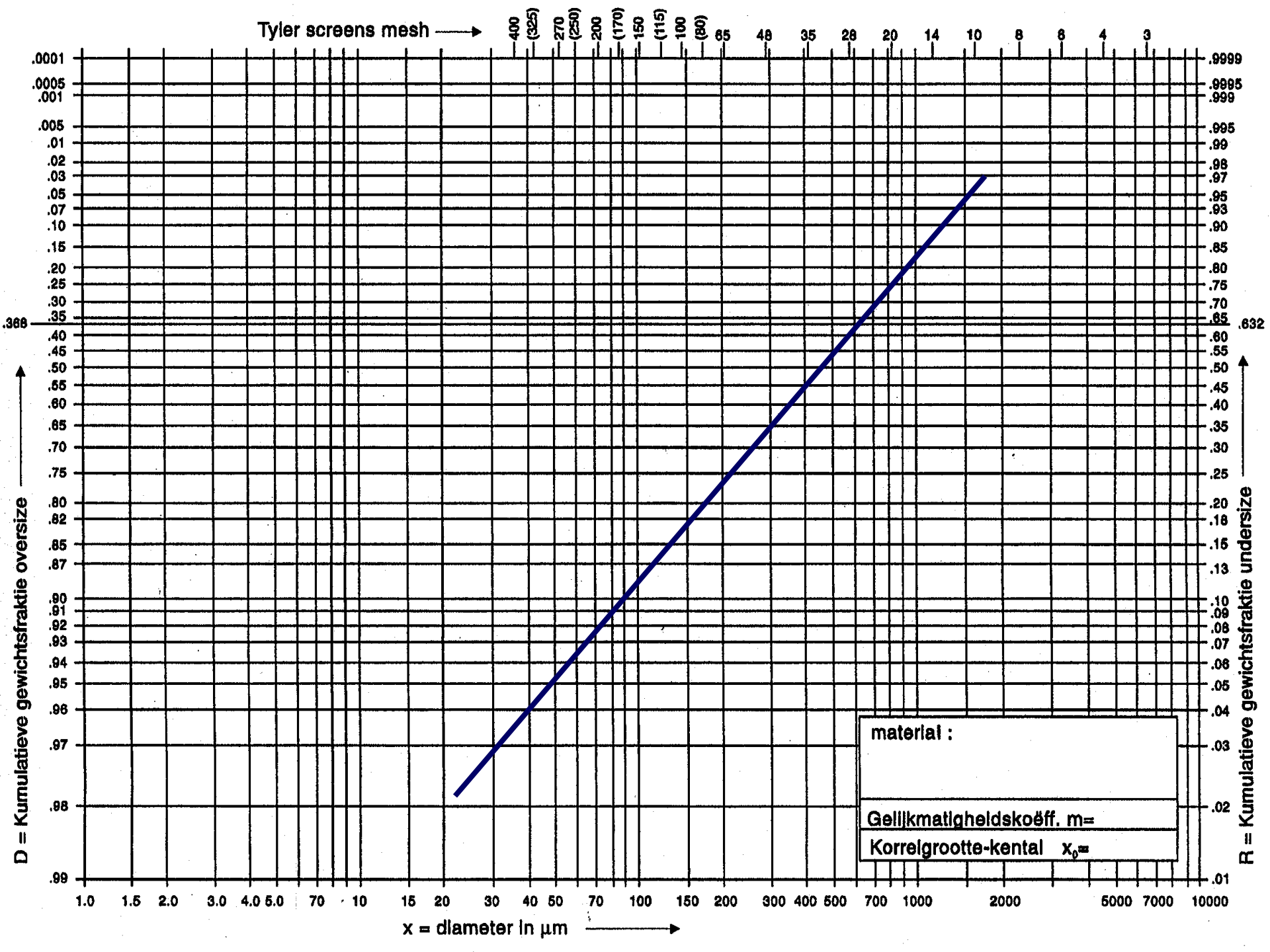
# Sieve kinetics

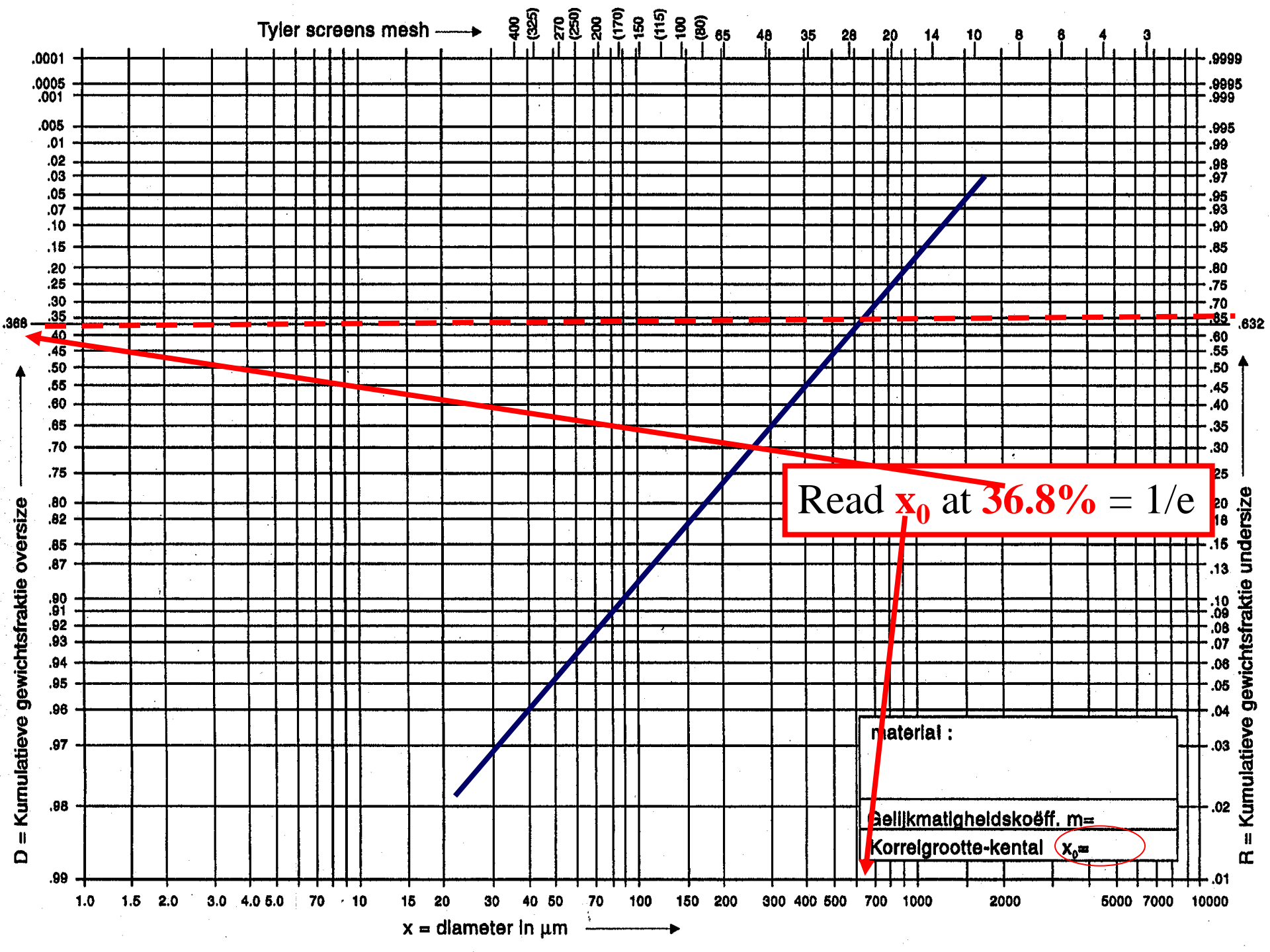


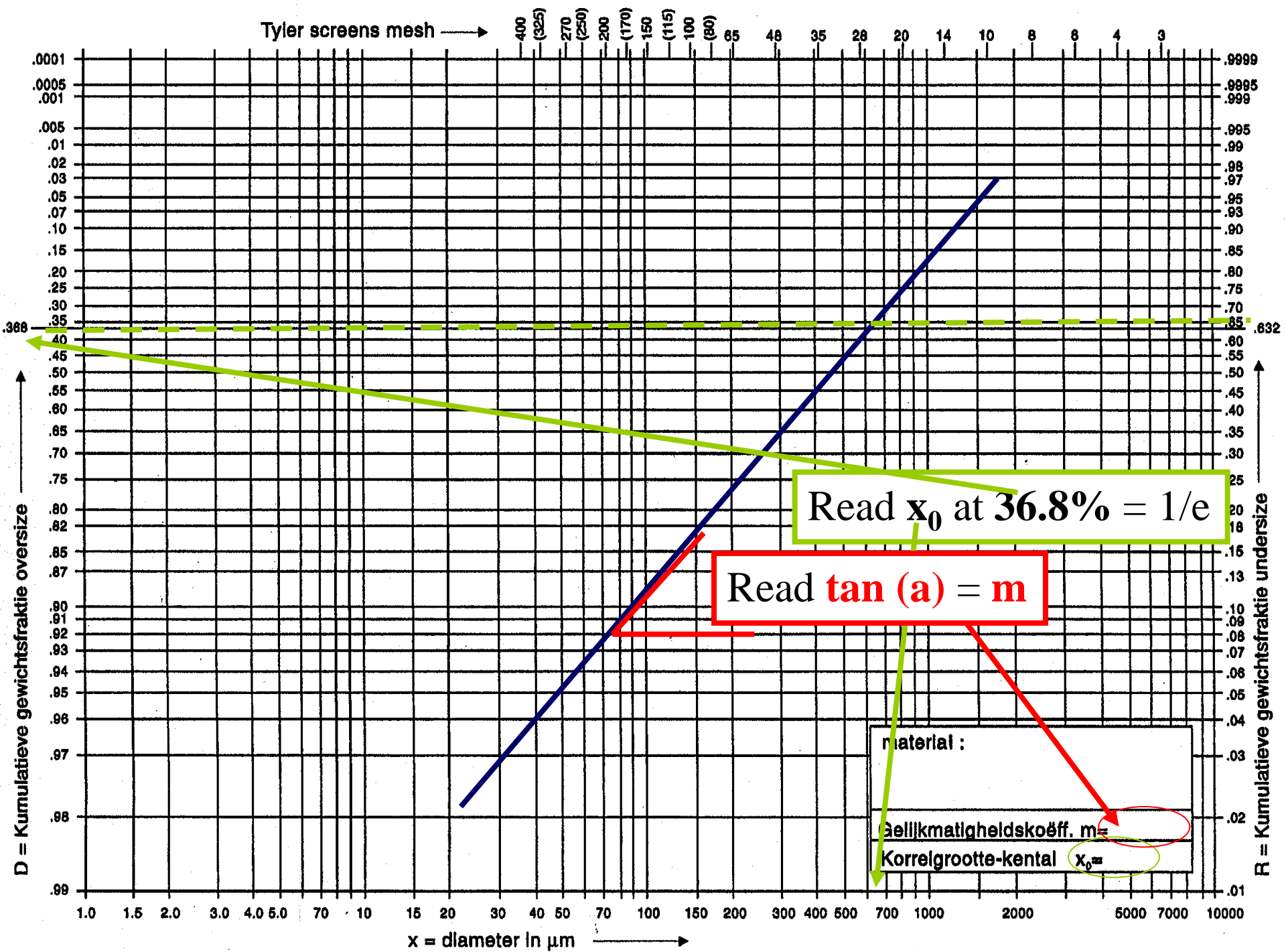
Tyler screens mesh →

400 (325) 270 (250) 200 (170) 150 (115) 100 (80) 65 48 35 28 20 14 10 8 6 4 3











# 2. Classification



# Contents

1. Introduction
2. Principle
3. Hydraulic classifiers
4. Pneumatic classifiers
5. Cyclones

# Objectives of classification

- Separation on particle size
  - (Sometimes)
    - On density
    - On particle shape
    - On a combination of the three
      - Density and shape influence result !
- } Known as density or shape separation

# Why classification ?

## Screening:

- Capacity  $\approx$  proportional to mesh size
- Wet screening  $< 0.2 \text{ mm}$  rarely economic
- Dry screening  $< 2 \text{ mm}$  rarely applied

## Typical grinding operation:

- $20 - 150 \mu\text{m}$

# Pneumatic classification

- **Gravity**
  - Horizontal
  - Vertical  
air current
- **Centrifugal force**
  - Cyclone
  - Windsifter

# Hydraulic classification

- **Gravity**
  - Sedimentation tank
  - Rising current
  - Thickener
  - Multi-directional water
  - Pulsating
- **Centrifugal**
  - Clarifier
  - Hydrocyclone

# Principle

Settling velocity of larger particles in air or water is

- Higher

Trajectory of larger particles is more difficult to change by

- Air flow
- Water flow

*See part B*

# Hydraulic classifiers

1. Clearing cones, settling cones
2. Mechanical classifiers
3. Rising current classifiers



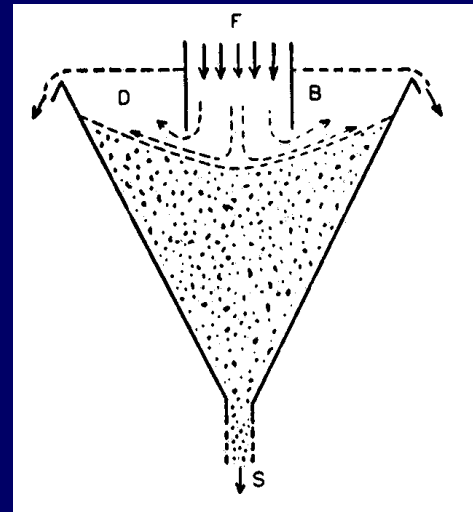
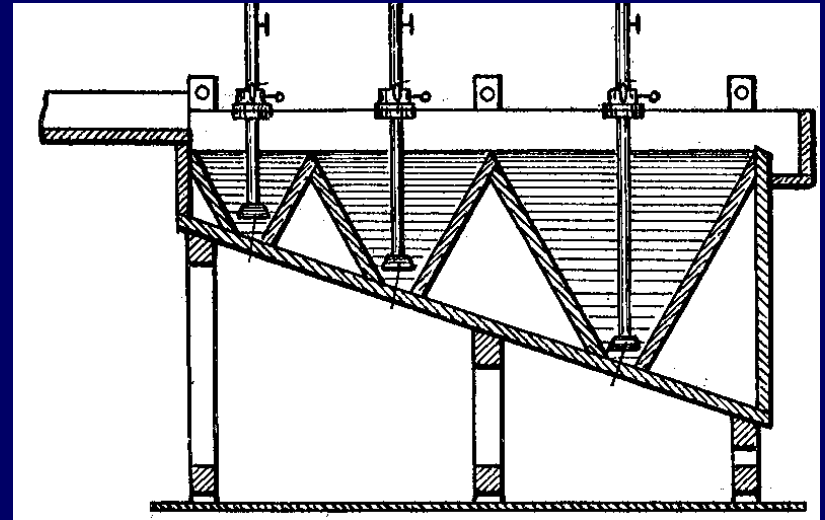
# Clearing cones

**Single** stage or **Multi** stage

- Feed  $< 3$  mm
- Cut size  $0.25 - 0.1$  mm

## Applications

- Sand processing
- Coal slurry thickening



# Mechanical classifiers

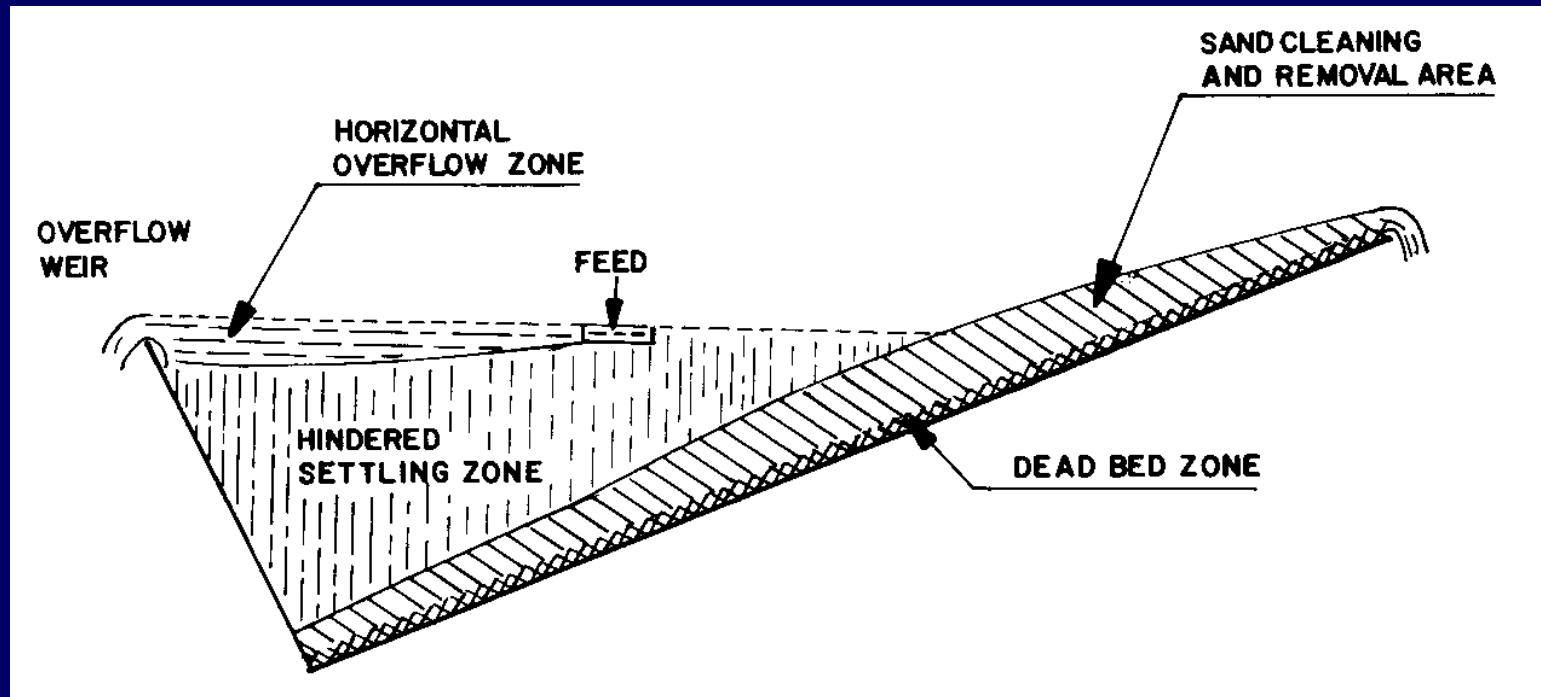
- Rake classifiers
- Screw classifiers

## Applications

- Cut sizes in the mm range
- Grinding circuits, but
  - Modern systems: cyclones (50-250  $\mu\text{m}$ ) or screens (larger cut sizes)
- Water treatment
- Environmental engineering

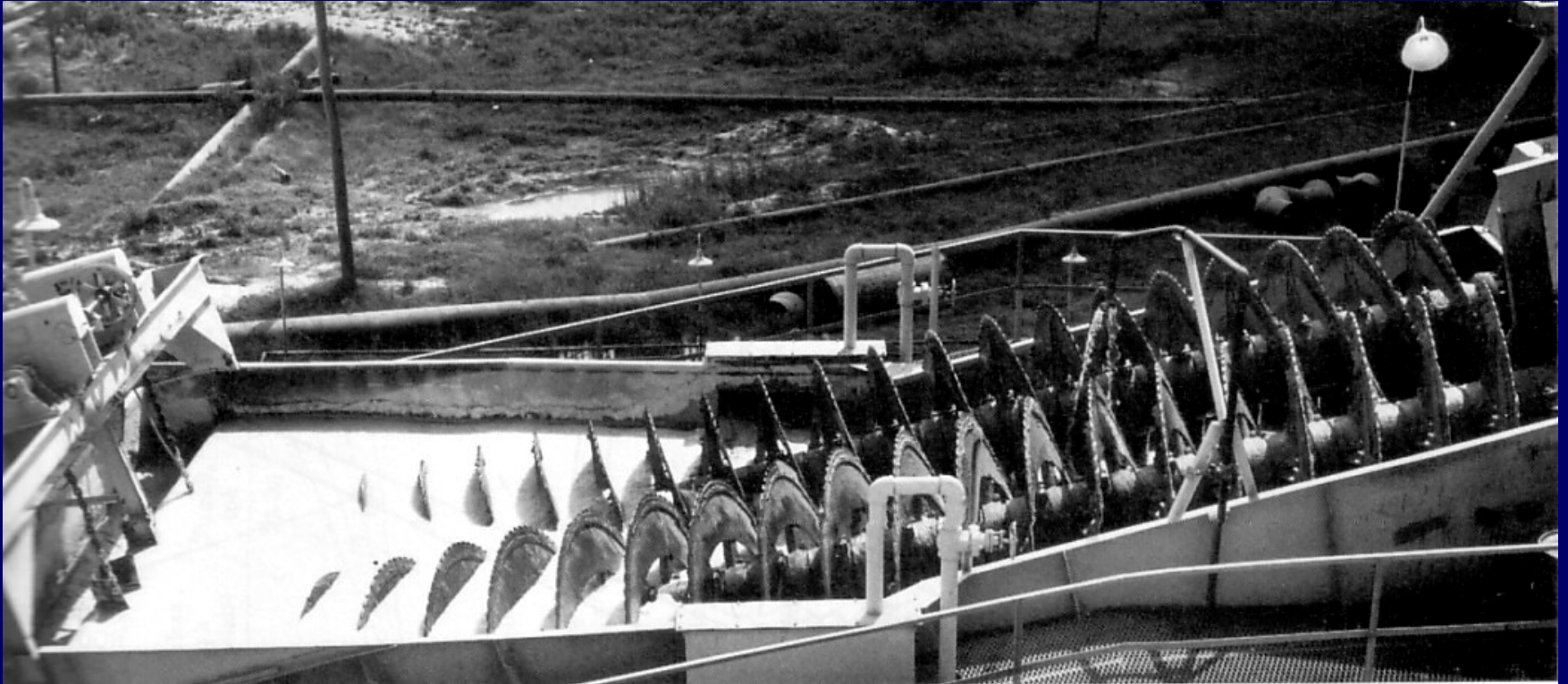
Method to estimate capacity on page 38, 39 of course notes

# Principle mech. classifier

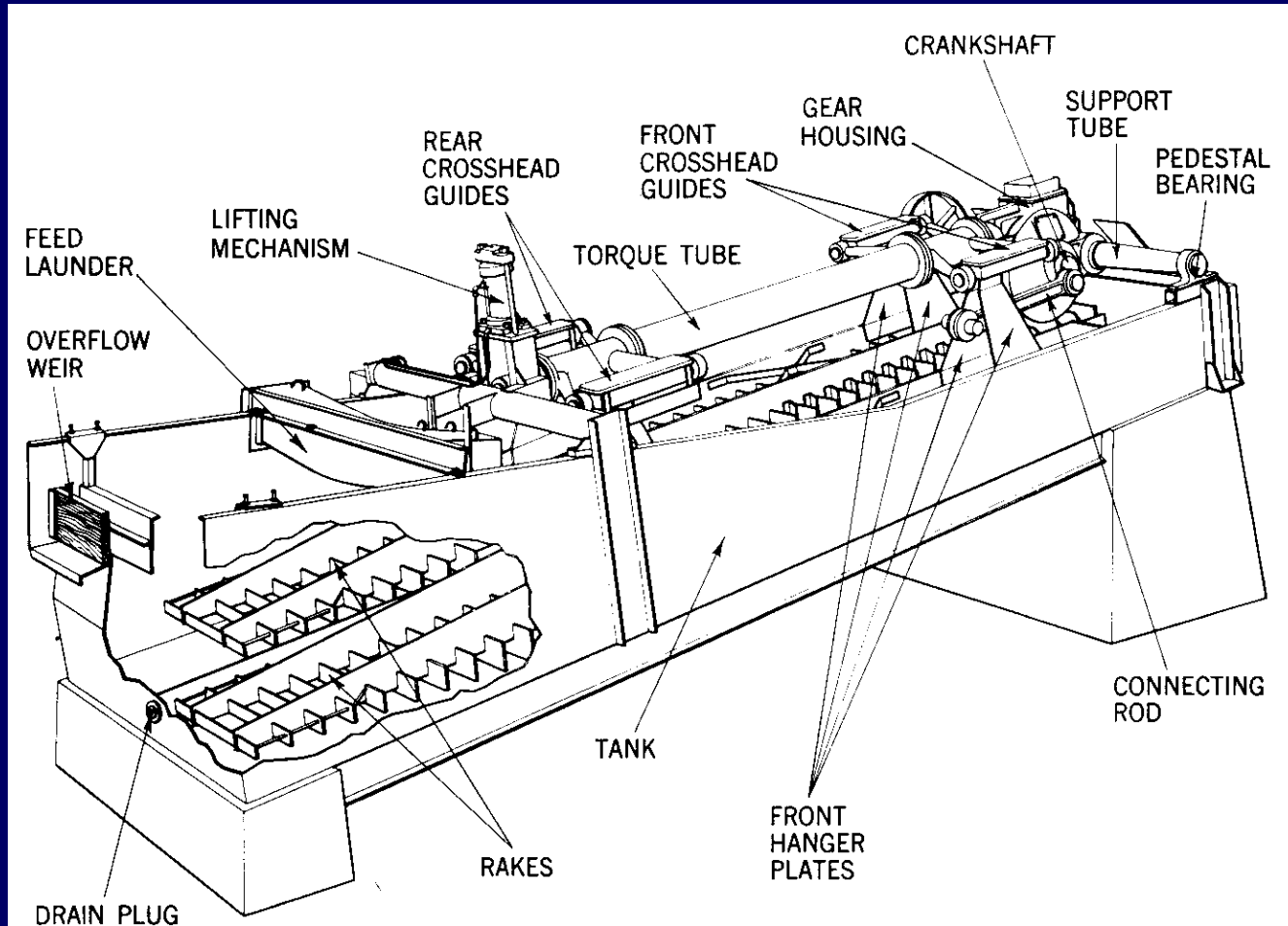


# Screw classifier

- Most common



# Rake classifier



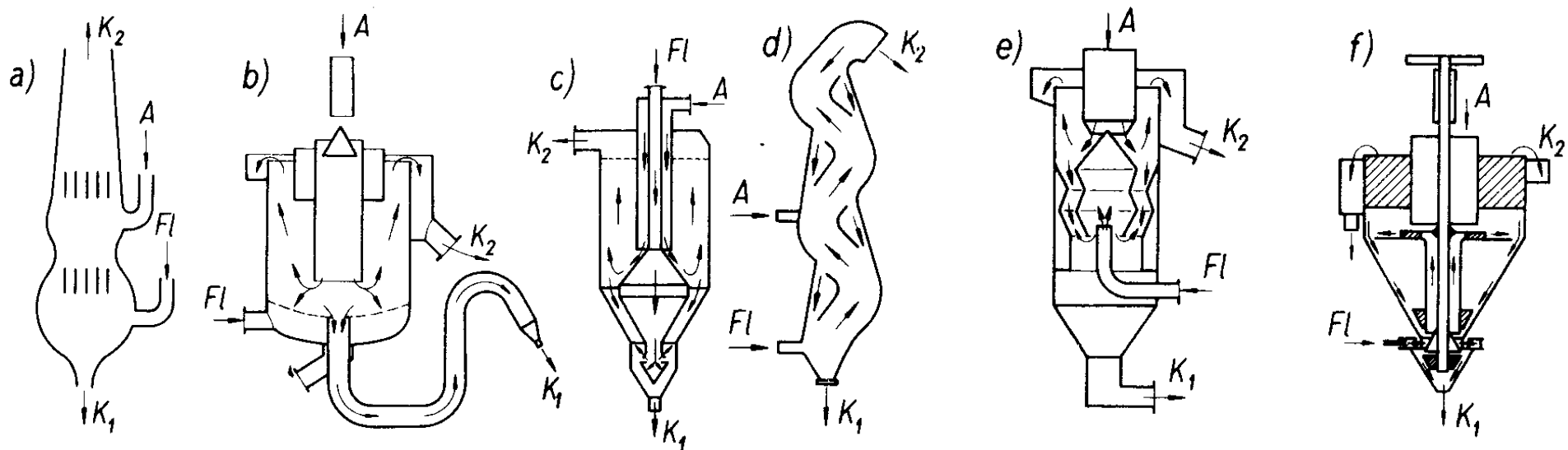
# Rising current

- Cut sizes 0.4 – 2.5 mm
- $1.4 < E_p < 2.2$
- Numerous designs exist

$$E_p = \frac{x_{75} - x_{25}}{2}$$

## Applications

- Dredging, sand cleaning, industrial minerals



# Pneumatic classifiers

- Cut sizes 5 – 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , sometimes more
- Air is:
  - Recycled,
  - fresh,
  - or a combination
- Tasks of the classifier:
  1. Constant feed supply to separation zone
  2. The separation
  3. Separating air from products

# Cross flow classifier

- Simple
- Cut sizes 0.2 – 0.6 mm
- Solids concentration  $< 1.5 \text{ kg/m}^3$

$$C_{sift} = Auc_s = A\delta v_{CS}c_s$$

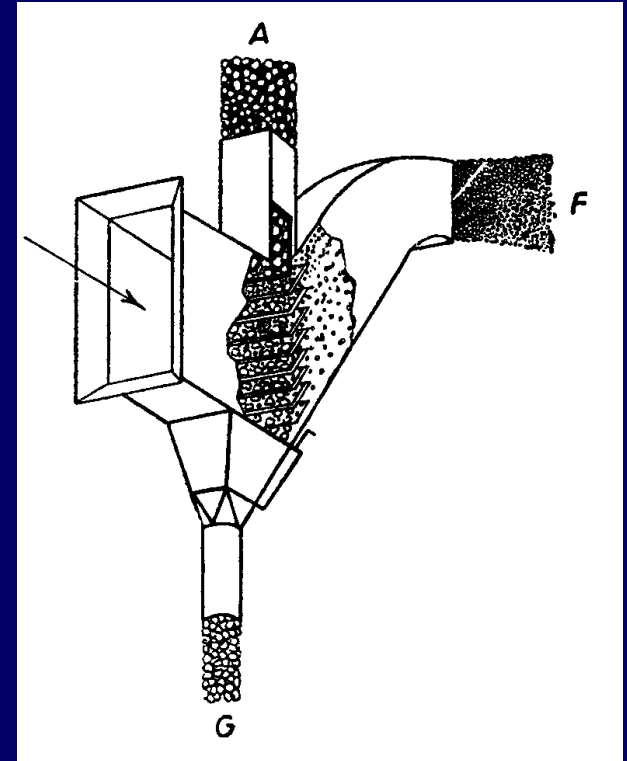
A=cross sectional area of sifter,

u=air velocity,

$c_s$ =solids concentration of sifter air,

$v_{CS}$  stationary settling velocity of the cut-size particle

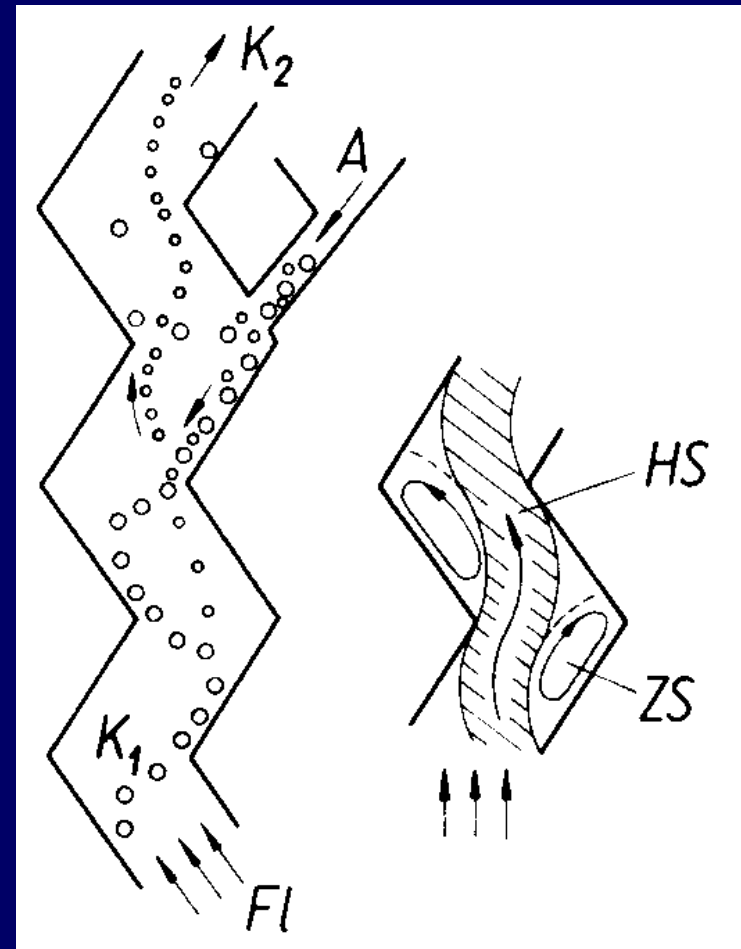
$\delta = u/v_{CS}$ .





# Zig-Zag classifiers

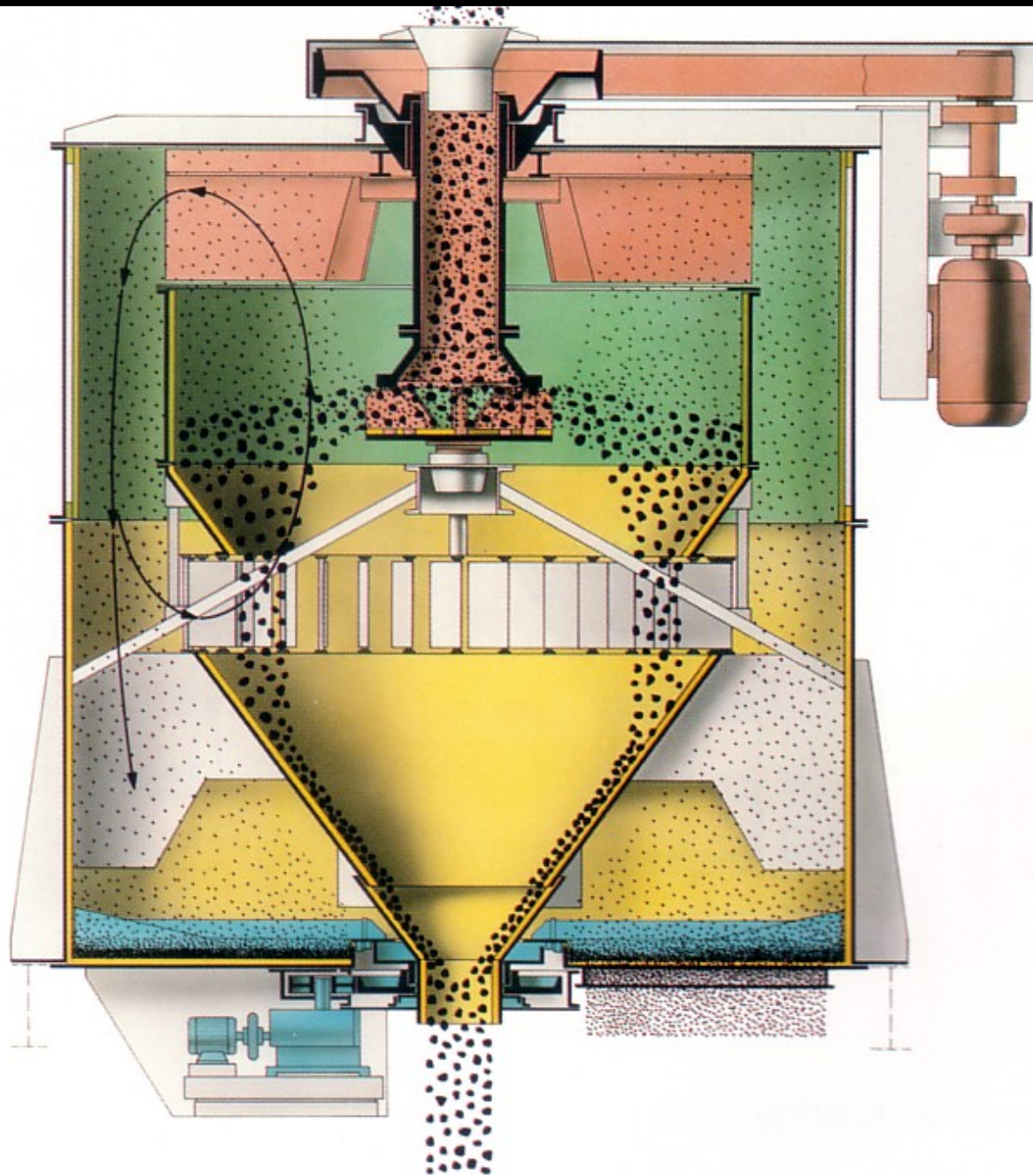
- Cut sizes 0.1 – 10 mm
- $1.2 < E_p < 1.7$
- Multi-stage arrangement





# Centrifugal classifier (“Deduster”)

- Feed injected in air current from rotating table
- Cut size variable by changing table speed
- Cut sizes 0.05 – 0.6 mm
- $1.5 < E_p < 3.0$
- Diameters up to 8 m, 500 t/h
- Applications: Limestone, cement, coal



# Capacity data

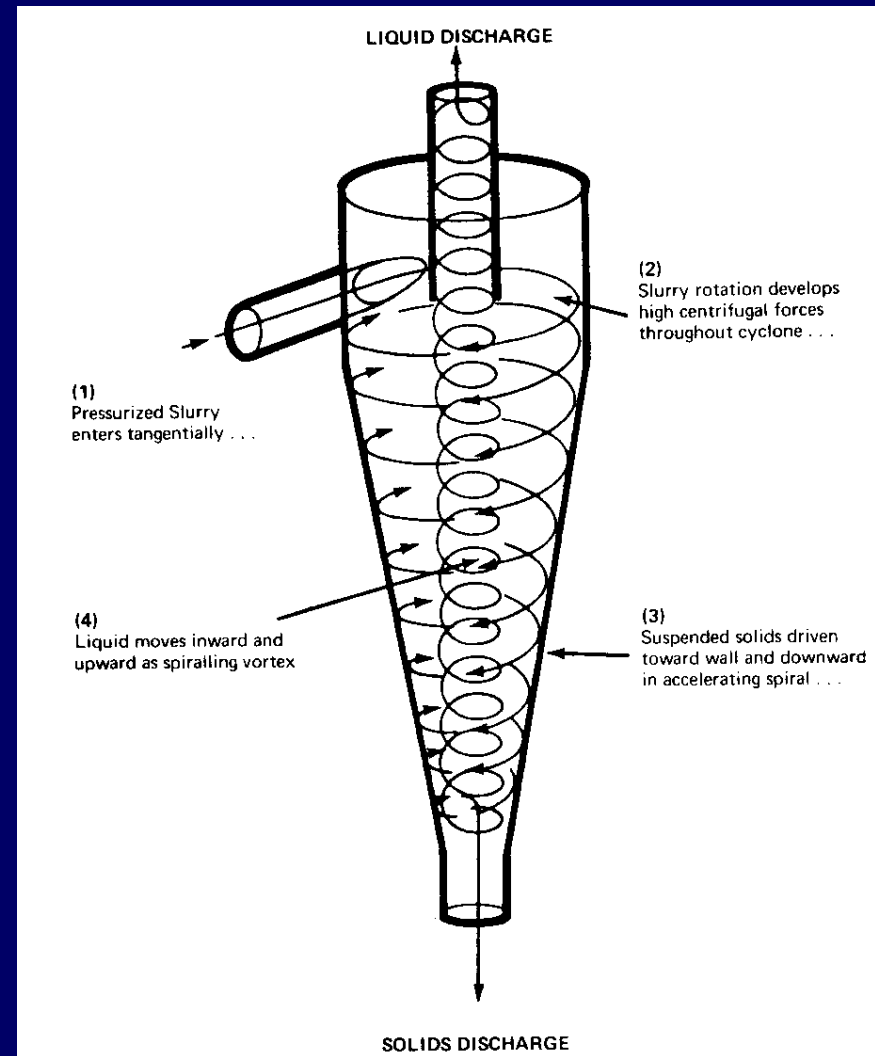
<b>Cement</b>		Cut size $\approx 90\mu\text{m}$ , $60\% < 90\mu\text{m}$	
Sifter diameter [m]		Capacity [t/h]	Power draw [kW]
1.5		5...6	4...6
2.5		15...20	7...15
3.5		30...60	20...40
5.0		50...120	50...75
<b>Coal</b>		Cut size $500\mu\text{m}$ , $\approx 25\% < 500\mu\text{m}$	
Sifter diameter [m]		Capacity [t/h]	Power draw [kW]
1.5		$\approx 14$	$\approx 6$
2.5		$\approx 75$	$\approx 16$
3.5		$\approx 150$	$\approx 30$



# Cyclones

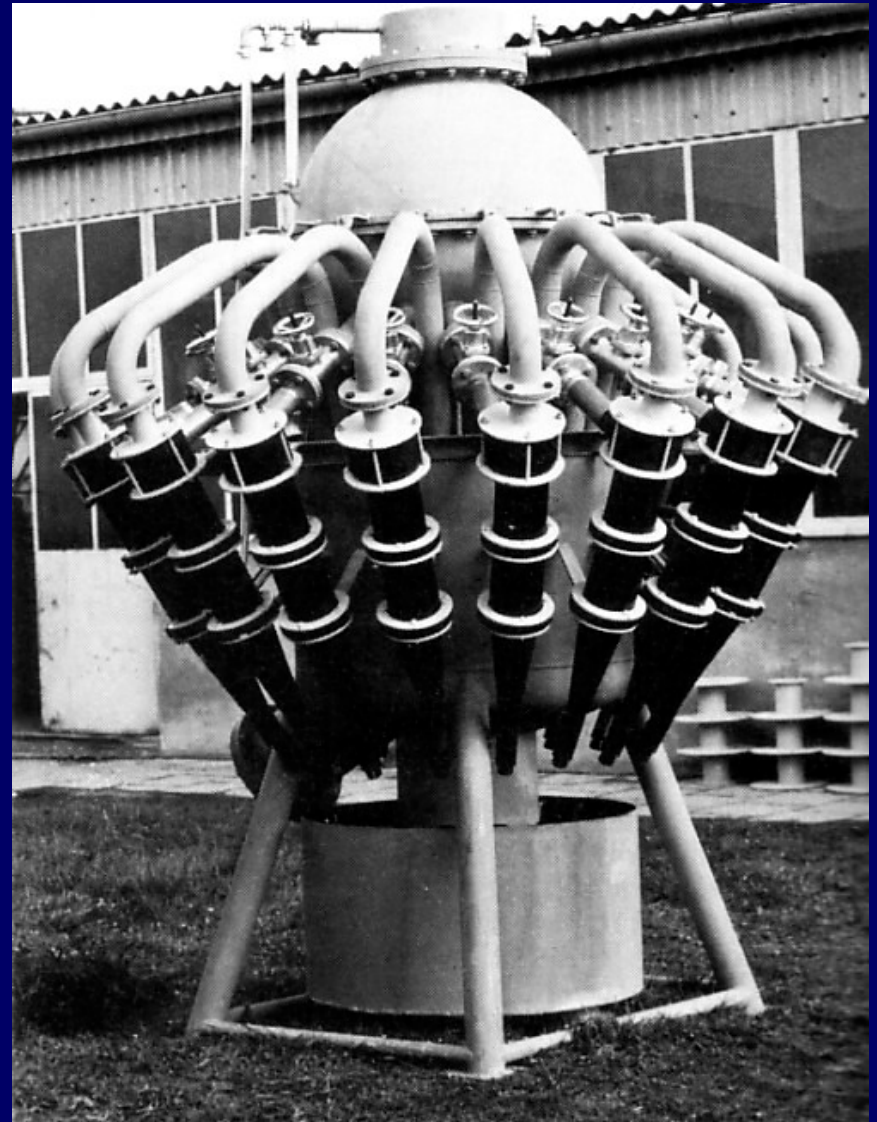
- “Wrap-around” settling tank
- Centrifugal acceleration
- Simple and cheap
- **Diameter determines  $d_{50}$**
- Mining industry:
  - Typically 4- - 220  $\mu\text{m}$
  - Diameter 250 – 830 mm
- High dilution
- Not for viscous fluids

→ *Principles in part B !*

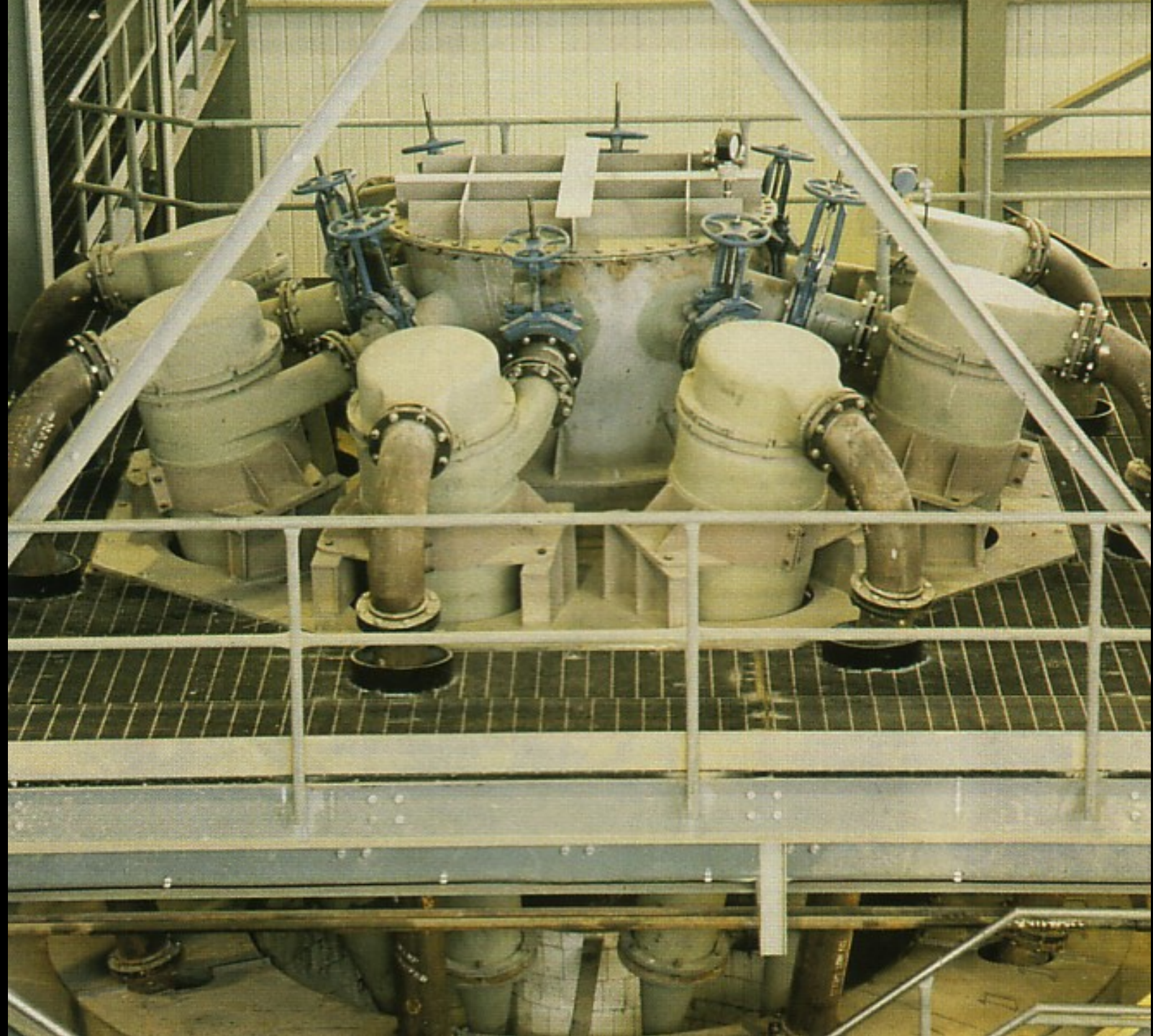


# Bank of cyclones

- High capacity
- Small cut size

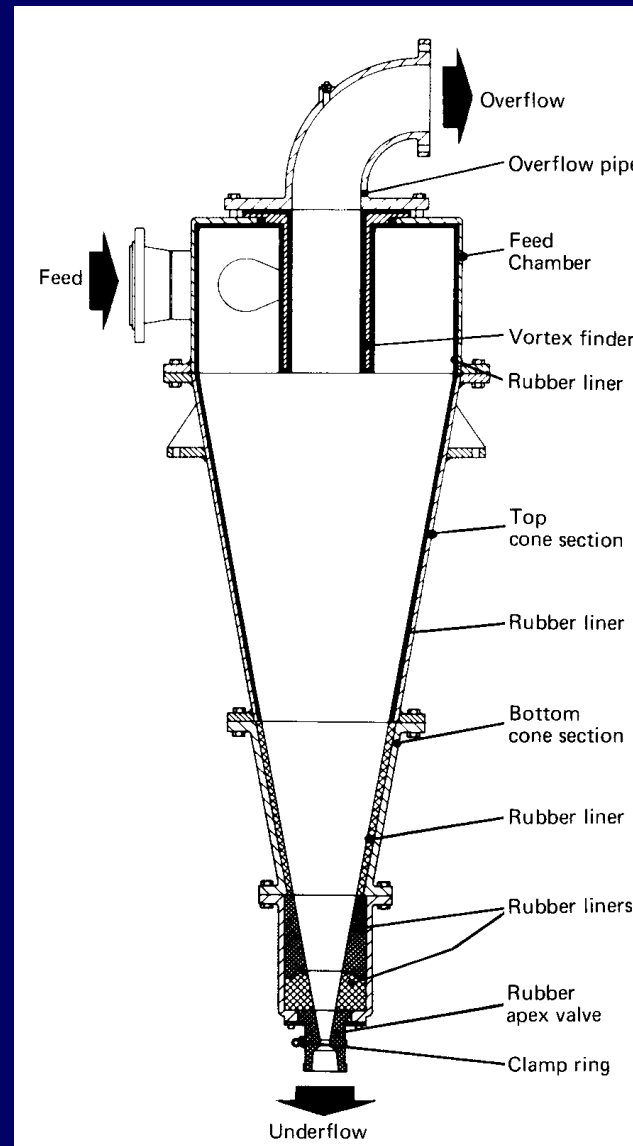






# Cyclone design

Wear of liner and in-, outlets is an issue



# Performance chart

