### 8. Excavation design in stratified rock

# **8.1 Design factors**

- Principal engineering properties of bedding planes
- Low or zero tensile strength in direction perpendicular to the plane
- Low shear strength of surface
- Features of excavations in a stratified rock mass
- Immediate roof and floor of the excavation coincide with bedding planes.
- Factors to be considered in the design of excavation in a stratified rock mass
- (a) State of stress compared with the strength of the anisotropic rock mass
  - Surface spalling and internal fractures
- (b) Stability of the immediate roof
- Detachment/deflection into the void(c) Floor heave in the excavation
  - Weak rock under the excavation



# 8.2 Rock mass response to mining

- Design process
  - 1) Determining the elastic stress distribution around the excavation in plan
  - 2) Define the zones of tensile/compressive stress exceeding the rock mass strength and a zone of slip on bedding planes.
  - 3) Excavation shape is modified or support/reinforcement zone is defined.

$$|\sigma_{zx}| = \sigma_{zz} \tan \phi + c$$



## 8.2 Rock mass response to mining

- General rules of potential slip on bedding planes
- Low span/bed thickness (s/t): slip occurs only in the haunch area with opening of cracks subperpendicular to bedding
- High span/bed thickness (s/t): slip occurs throughout the whole span of immediate roof, and downward deflection /separation occur at the roof center



# 8.3 Roof bed deformation mechanics

#### • History

- Fayol (1885): rock arching is formed in beams and load of the uppermost beam is transferred laterally.
- Jones & Llewellyn-Davies (1929): mapped the morphology of roof failure.
- Bucky & Taborelli (1938): a vertical tension fracture is induced at the center of the lower beam of a particular span.
- Evans (1941): recognizing the relation between vertical deflection, lateral thrust and stability of fractured roof bed, developed an analytical procedure for assessing roof beam stability.
- Sterling (1980): studied beam deflection, induced lateral thrust and eccentricity of the lateral thrust.

## 8.3 Roof bed deformation mechanics



0~1: initial elastic range
2: central crack developed
2~7: (reversible) linear load-deflection
7~10: non-linear response with crushing at either top center or lower edge
10~17: spalling at upper center or lower ends



## 8.3 Roof bed deformation mechanics

- Lorig & Brady (1983): adopted a linked BE-DE scheme to analyze roof deformation mechanics. Bed separation over only the center of the span is major difference from Evans model (1941).



- Voussoir beam model (Diederichs and Kaiser)
- Indeterminate problem: requires assumptions on unknown properties
- Assumptions: triangular load distribution, line of thrust tracing parabolic arch
- s: span, t: thickness, h: height of the load distribution, n=h/t

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$$z_0, z:$$
 (initial) moment arm  $z_0 = t - \frac{2}{3}h = t\left(1 - \frac{2}{3}n\right)$   $z = \sqrt{z_0^2 - \frac{3s}{8}\Delta L}$ 

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$$\delta$$
: deflection =  $z_0 - z_0$ 



- *L*: length of parabolic arch of the thrust line



-  $M_A$ : moment by beam weight,  $M_R$ : moment by lateral (thrust) stress

$$M_{A} = \frac{1}{8}\gamma ts^{2}, M_{R} = \frac{1}{2}f_{c}ntz$$
$$M_{A} = M_{R} \rightarrow f_{c} = \frac{\gamma s^{2}}{4nz}$$

- Determination of deflection and stability by numerical analysis
- 1) Find out solvable *n* among predefined values  $(0.01 \sim 1.0 \text{ by } 0.01)$ .
- 2) Calculate  $z, f_c(f_m)$  and  $\Delta L$  (initially set 0).
- 3) Find out *n* (and corresponding *z*) making  $f_c$  minimum.
- 4) Calculate deflection and safety factors.
- *n* is known to be around 0.75 for stable beams at equilibrium and below 0.5 for critical (unstable) beam state.



- Safety factor against crushing at lower abutments and top midspan

$$S.F. = \frac{\sigma_c}{f_c}$$

- Safety factor against shear failure (slip) at abutments

Capacity: 
$$T = \frac{1}{2} f_c nt \tan \phi$$
, Demand:  $V = \frac{1}{2} \gamma st$   
 $S.F. = \frac{Cacpacity}{Demand} = \frac{f_c n}{\gamma s} \tan \phi$ 

- Threshold of midspan deflection  $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ 

Onset of non-linear behavior:  $\delta = 0.1t$  (allowable yield limit in roof design) Ultimate failure:  $\delta = 0.25t$ 

#### 8.5 Roof beam analysis for large vertical deflection

• Load depth fraction, *n* 

$$n = \frac{1}{0.22s_n + 2.7}$$



#### 8.5 Roof beam analysis for large vertical deflection

• Normalized deflection,  $\delta_n (= \delta/z_0)$ 

