

# **MECHANISTIC DESIGN MODELS OF LOADING AND THERMAL CURLING IN CONCRETE PAVEMENTS**

- **Objectives:**  
To Develop Separate Edge Stress Prediction Models Due to the Individual and Combination Effects of Loading and Thermal Curling Using the ILLI-SLAB Finite Element Program
- **Main Regression Algorithm Used:**  
"Projection" (PPREG) Algorithm
- **Major Findings:**
  - Two Additional Dimensionless Parameters Identified
  - Previous Problems Using Dimensional Analysis Are Now Resolved
  - Three Very Accurate and Dimensionally Correct Predictive Models Developed

## TWO ADDITIONAL DIMENSIONLESS PARAMETERS IDENTIFIED

### 1. Westergaard's Edge Loading Solutions:

$$\sigma_w = \frac{3(1 + \mu)P}{\pi(3 + \mu)h^2} \left[ \log_e \frac{Eh^3}{100ka^4} + 1.84 - \frac{4\mu}{3} + \frac{1 - \mu}{2} + 1.18(1 + 2\mu) \frac{a}{l} \right]$$

$$\delta_w = \frac{\sqrt{2 + 1.2\mu} P}{\sqrt{Eh^3k}} \left[ 1 - (0.76 + 0.4\mu) \frac{a}{l} \right]$$

$$l = \sqrt[4]{\frac{Eh^3}{12(1 - \mu^2)k}}$$

### 2. Westergaard's Thermal Curling Solutions (an infinitely long strip):

$$\sigma_y = \sigma_0 \left\{ 1 - \frac{2 \cos \lambda \cosh \lambda}{\sin 2\lambda + \sinh 2\lambda} \left[ (\tan \lambda + \tanh \lambda) \cos \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \cosh \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} + (\tan \lambda - \tanh \lambda) \sin \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \sinh \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \right] \right\}$$

$$\delta_y = -\delta_0 \frac{2 \cos \lambda \cosh \lambda}{\sin 2\lambda + \sinh 2\lambda} \left[ (-\tan \lambda + \tanh \lambda) \cos \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \cosh \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} + (\tan \lambda + \tanh \lambda) \sin \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \sinh \frac{y}{l\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{E\alpha\Delta T}{2(1 - \mu)}, \quad \delta_0 = \frac{(1 + \mu)\alpha\Delta T l^2}{h}, \quad \lambda = \frac{W}{l\sqrt{8}}$$

**TWO ADDITIONAL DIMENSIONLESS  
PARAMETERS IDENTIFIED (CONTINUED)**

1. Westergaard's Edge Loading Solutions:

$$\sigma_w = \frac{P}{h^2} * f_1 \left( \frac{a}{l}, \mu \right)$$

$$\frac{\sigma_w h^2}{P} = f \left( \frac{a}{l} \right)$$

$$\delta_w = \frac{P}{\sqrt{Eh^3k}} * f_2 \left( \frac{a}{l}, \mu \right)$$

$$\frac{\delta_w k l^2}{P} = f \left( \frac{a}{l} \right)$$

$$l = \sqrt[4]{\frac{Eh^3}{12(1 - \mu^2)k}}$$

2. Westergaard's Thermal Curling Solutions:

$$\sigma_y = E\alpha\Delta T * f_3 \left( \frac{L}{l} \text{ or } \frac{W}{l}, \mu \right)$$

$$\frac{\sigma_y}{E} = f(\alpha\Delta T, \frac{L}{l}, \frac{W}{l})$$

$$\delta_y = \frac{\alpha \Delta T l^2}{h} * f_4 \left( \frac{L}{l} \text{ or } \frac{W}{l}, \mu \right)$$

$$\frac{\delta h}{l^2} = f(\alpha \Delta T, \frac{L}{l}, \frac{W}{l}, \mu)$$

3. Deflection at the Center of the ILLI-SLAB Program:

$$\delta = \frac{\gamma h}{k}$$

4. Two Additional Dimensionless Parameters Identified:

$$D_\gamma = \frac{\gamma h^2}{kl^2}$$

$$\frac{\gamma h}{k} / \left( \frac{l^2}{h} \right)$$

$$D_P = \frac{Ph}{kl^4} = 12(1 - \mu^2) \frac{P}{Eh^2}$$

$$\frac{P}{kl^2} / \left( \frac{l^2}{h} \right)$$

where  $D_\gamma$  and  $D_P$  are dimensionless parameters to represent the relative deflection stiffness due to the self-weight of the concrete slab, external wheel load, and the possible loss of subgrade support.

## LOADING ONLY

### 1. Finite Slab Length Effect:

$$R_L = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_w} = f\left(\frac{a}{l}, \frac{L}{l}\right)$$

### 2. Finite Slab Width Effect:

$$R_W = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_w} = f\left(\frac{a}{l}, \frac{W}{l}\right)$$

Where:

$R_L$  = an adjustment (multiplication) factor for the finite slab length effect;

$R_W$  = an adjustment factor for the finite slab width effect;

$\sigma_w$  = Westergaard's edge stress solution,  $[FL^{-2}]$ ; and

$\sigma_i$  = edge stress determined by the finite element model,  $[FL^{-2}]$ .

## THERMAL CURLING ONLY

$$R_c = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_c} = f \left( \alpha \Delta T, \frac{L}{l}, \frac{W}{l}, \frac{\gamma h^2}{kl^2} \right)$$

Where:

$R_c$  = an adjustment factor for thermal curling;

$\sigma_c$  = Westergaard/Bradbury's edge stress solution,  
[FL<sup>-2</sup>]; and

$\sigma_i$  = edge stress determined by the finite element  
model, [FL<sup>-2</sup>].

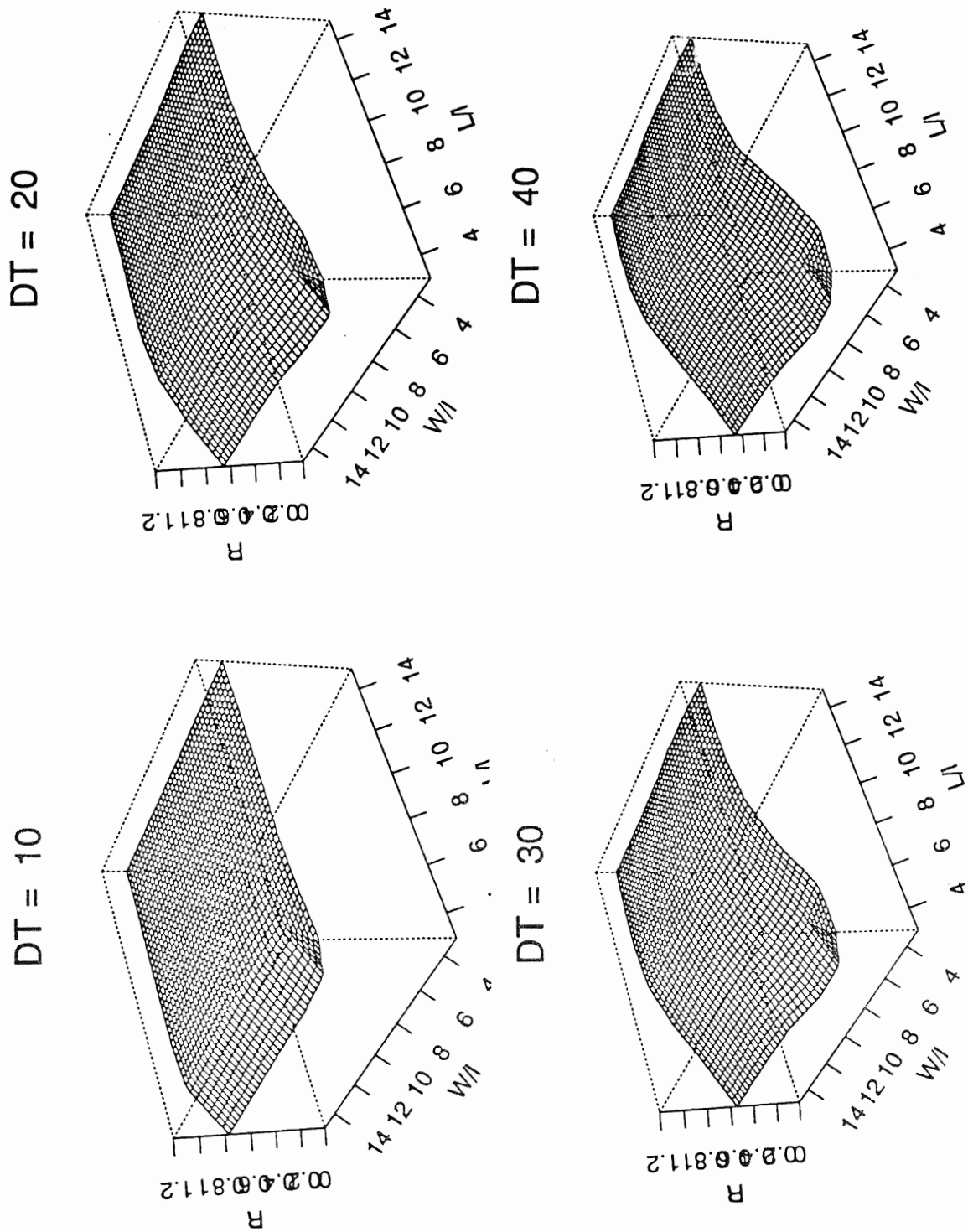


Figure 6.5 - Effect of a Positive Temperature Differential, a Finite Slab Length, and a Finite Slab Width

## LOADING AND THERMAL CURLING

$$R_T = \frac{\sigma_i - \sigma_L}{\sigma_c} = f \left( \frac{a}{l}, \alpha \Delta T, \frac{L}{l}, \frac{W}{l}, \frac{\gamma h^2}{kl^2}, \frac{Ph}{kl^4} \right)$$

Where:

$\sigma_i$  = total edge stress determined by the finite element model, [FL<sup>-2</sup>];

$\sigma_L$  = edge stress determined by the finite element model due to wheel loading alone, [FL<sup>-2</sup>];

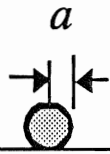
$\sigma_c$  = Westergaard/Bradbury's edge stress solution, [FL<sup>-2</sup>]; and

$R_T$  = an adjustment factor for the effect of loading plus thermal curling.

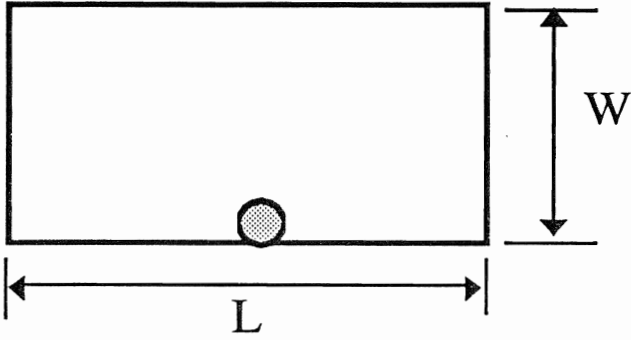


# Concrete Pavement

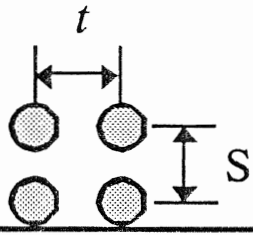
# Mechanistic Variables



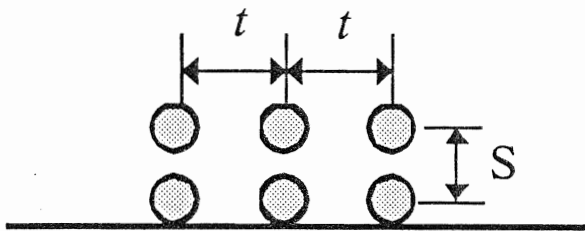
$$a/l$$



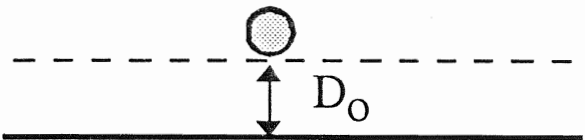
$$a/l, L/l, W/l$$



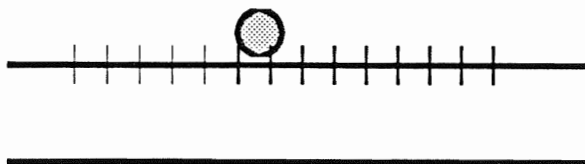
$$a/l, t/l, S/l$$



$$a/l, t/l, S/l$$



$$a/l, D_0/l$$



$$a/l, AGG/kl$$