

# Coastal and Tsunami Research within RNC at the University of Auckland



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wananga o Tamaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

ENGINEERING

RESILIENCE  
TO NATURE'S  
CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa  
– Ngā Ākina o  
Te Ao Tūroa

National  
**Science**  
Challenges



# Outline

- Adaptation of coastal structures
- Tsunami impacts on horizontal infrastructure
- Tsunami impacts on vertical infrastructure
- Aligned work
  - Tsunami impacts on composite breakwaters and bridges
  - Tsunami generation by volcanic eruptions
  - Tsunami inundation and evacuation
  - Beach/seawall interactions under rising sea levels

# Adaptation of coastal structures

Stage

A. Overtopping

B. Structure stability

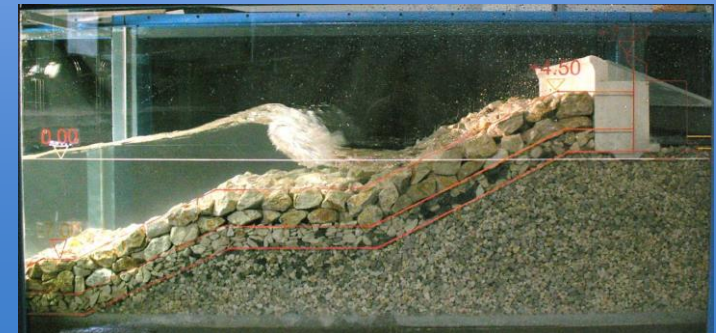
1. Structure degradation and what happens with no intervention – when is a trigger point reached

***‘what is happening now?’***



2. What are the adaptation options - Repair/retrofit/upgrade?

***‘what can we do about it?’***



# Adaptation of coastal structures



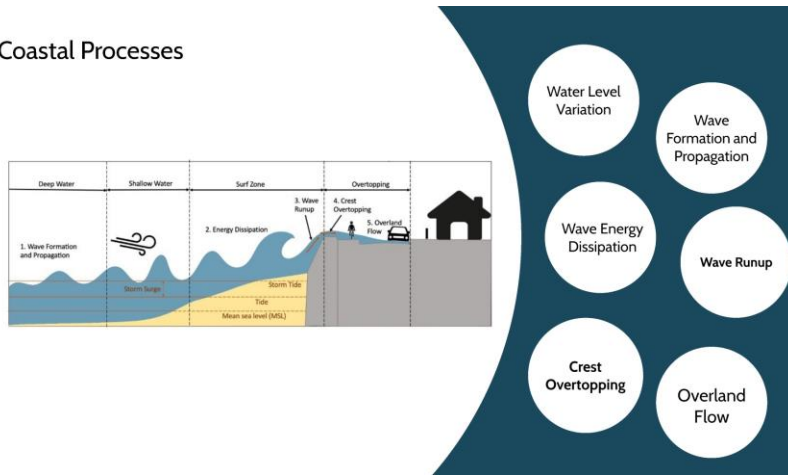
*Rarer extreme overtopping events typically draw a great deal of attention. Arguably the effects are more easily tolerated as a 'one-off' than smaller events that may become more consequential due to their comparatively higher frequency?*



Source: Simon Maude/STUFF.co.nz

# Adaptation of coastal structures

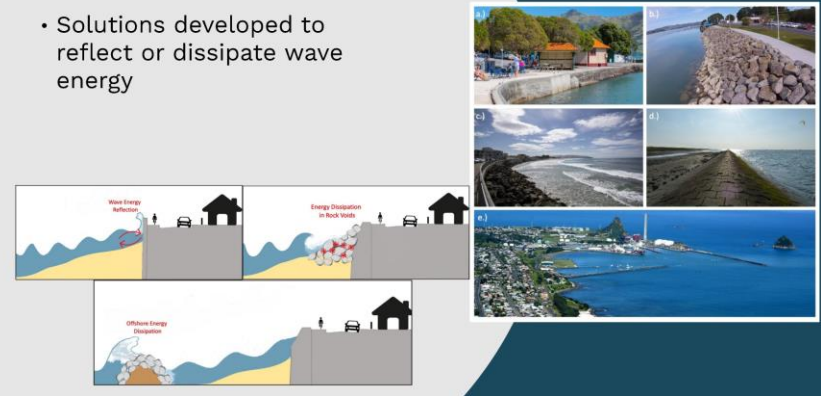
## Coastal Processes



- Water Level Variation
- Wave Formation and Propagation
- Wave Energy Dissipation
- Wave Runup
- Crest Overtopping
- Overland Flow

## Hard Engineering Solutions for Overtopping

- Solutions developed to reflect or dissipate wave energy



## Impacts

Literature categorises as:

1. Direct Hazard (a.)
2. Damage to Property or infrastructure (b. and c.)
3. Damage to coastal defence structures (d.)

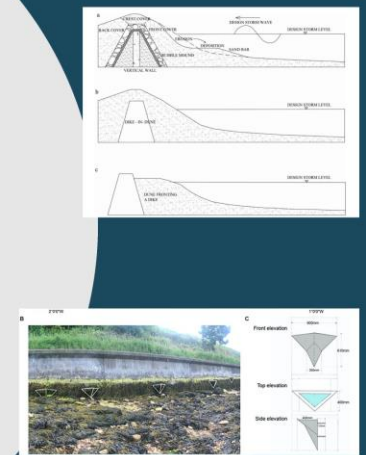
(Bouma et al. 2009; Allsop et al. 2005; Allsop et al. 2008)



## Hybrid Solutions

Combine hard and soft solutions. Some Researched Examples:

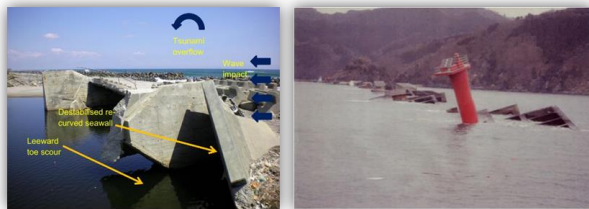
- Dune based systems (Almarshed et al. 2020; Winters et al. 2020)
- 'Vertipools' (vertical rock pools incorporated onto seawalls) (Hall et al. 2019 and O'Sullivan et al. 2020)
- Vegetation on offshore breakwaters (Rubinato et al. 2020)



# Tsunami impacts on horizontal infrastructure

PhD student progress:

- Reviewing literature on tsunami loadings, fragility functions
- Preparing for tsunami flume tests over the summer period



# Tsunami impacts on vertical infrastructure

PhD student progress:

- Reviewing tsunami loading standards (ASCE 7, MBIE, MLIT)
- Using case-study building in Wellington to compare demands from these standards
- Comparing different inundation predictions at specific sites
- Evaluating the practicality of developing multi-fidelity analysis procedures for tsunami loading on structures using seismic analysis techniques as a baseline
- Scoping flume testing that (1) can capture flexibility of the structure and (2) provides 'serviceability' tsunami loading case

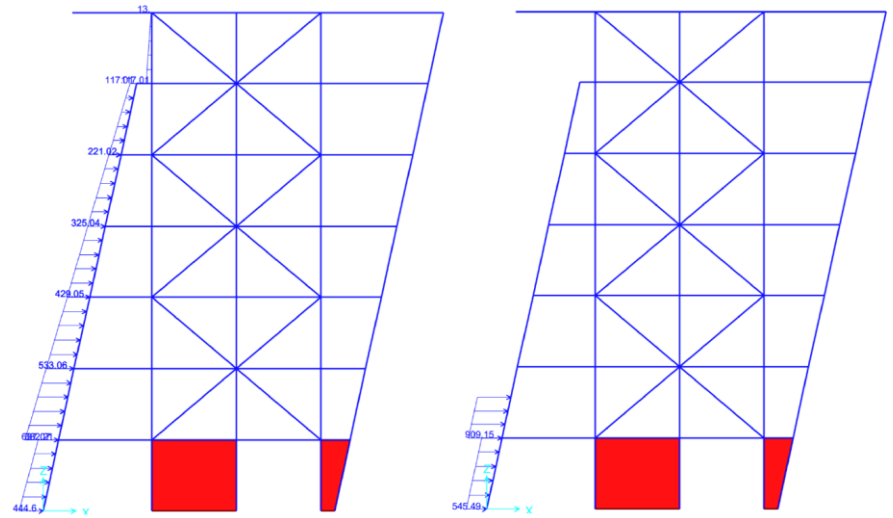
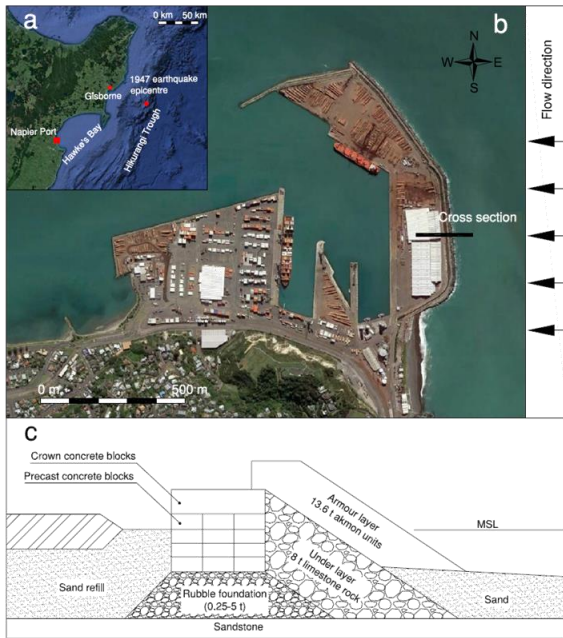


Figure 4: Hydrostatic Pressure Distribution for MLIT (left) and ASCE/MBIE (right)

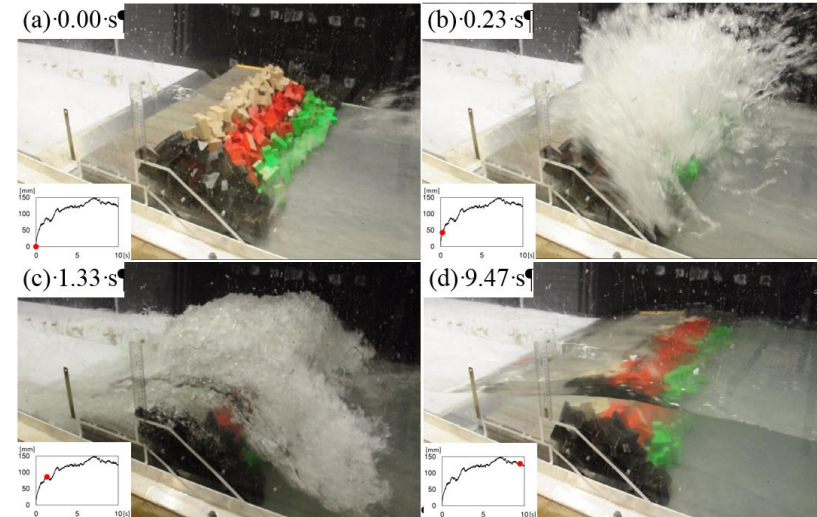
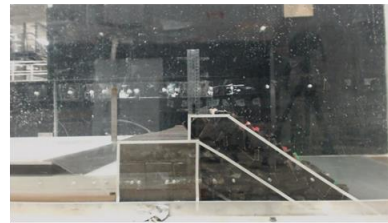
Aligned research (Stephens, FRDF):

- Determined inundation of all base-isolated buildings in central Wellington
- Currently developing detailed numerical model of building on the waterfront - will subject to loading from the various standards and from CFD

# Aligned: Damage to composite breakwaters



Sources: Google earth, GeoNet, Opus (2018)

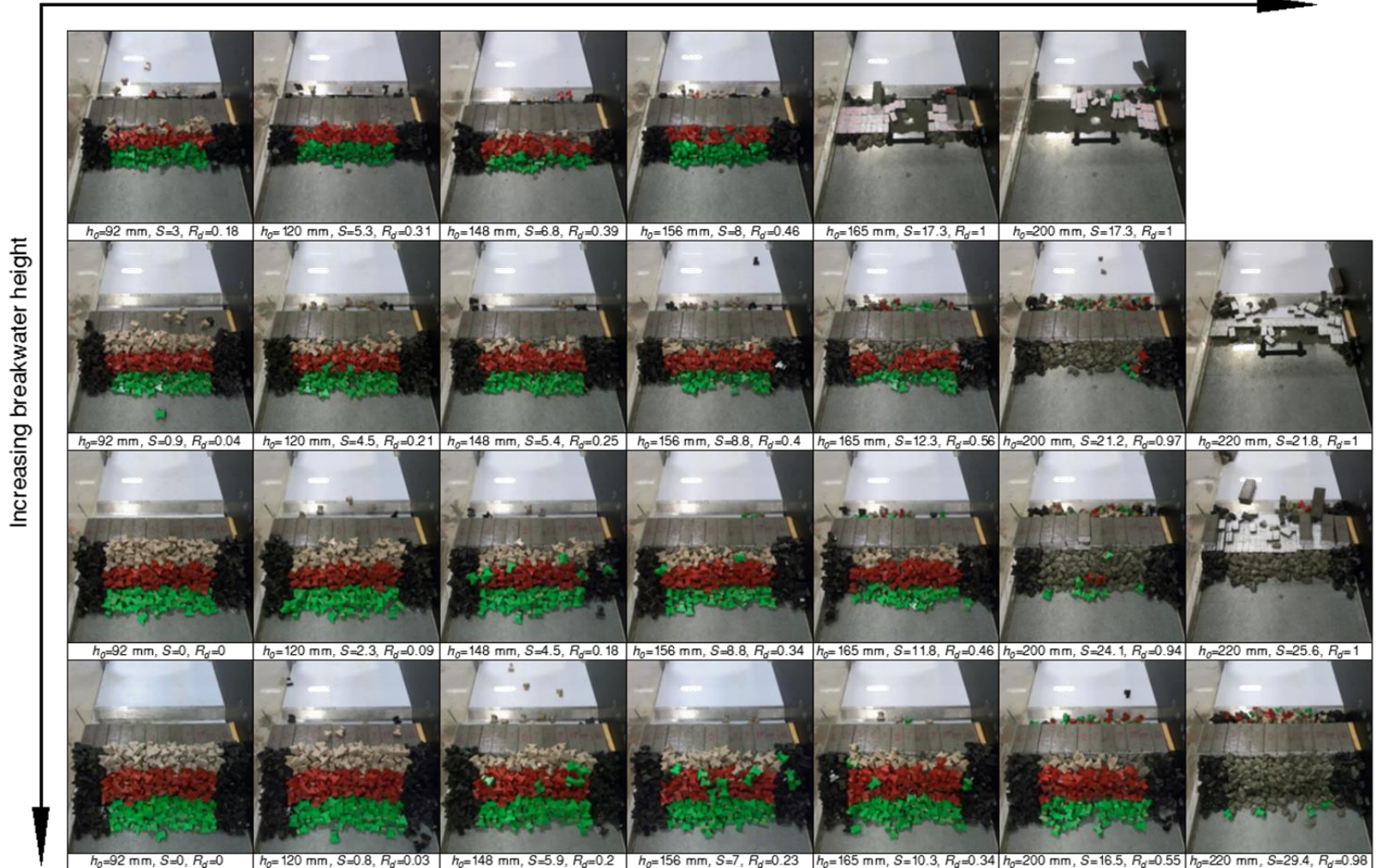


Case ID	Reservoir water depth H (mm)	Gate opening height GO (mm)	Gate opening time (s)	Maximum bore depth $h_0$ (mm)	Bore tip propagation speed U (m/s)	Average Fr in the quasi-steady period
a	300	200	10	92	1.91	1.05
b	400	200	10	120	2.41	1.49
c	500	200	10	148	2.75	1.47
d	600	200	10	156	2.92	1.49
e	700	200	10	165	3.28	1.67
f	700	300	10	200	3.31	1.39
g	900	300	10	220	4.01	1.60

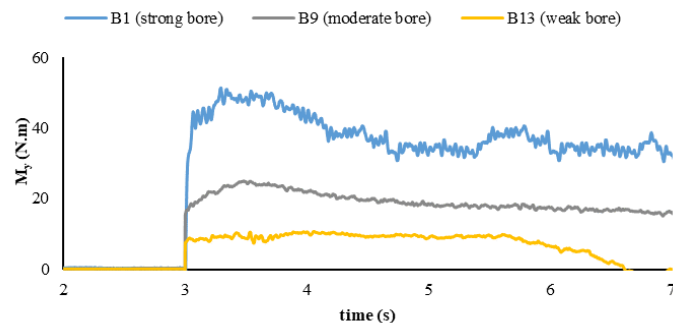
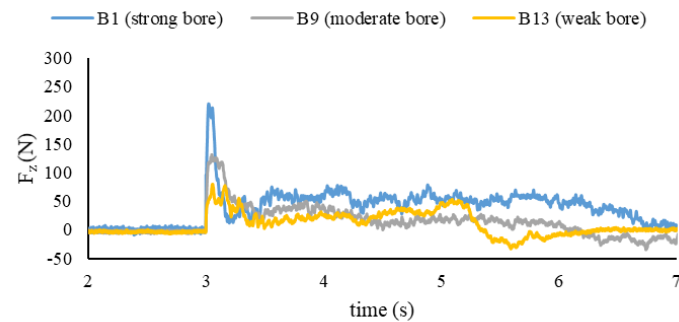
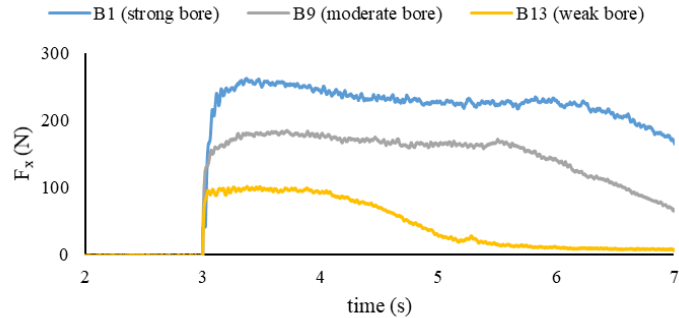


# Aligned: Damage to composite breakwaters

Increasing bore height

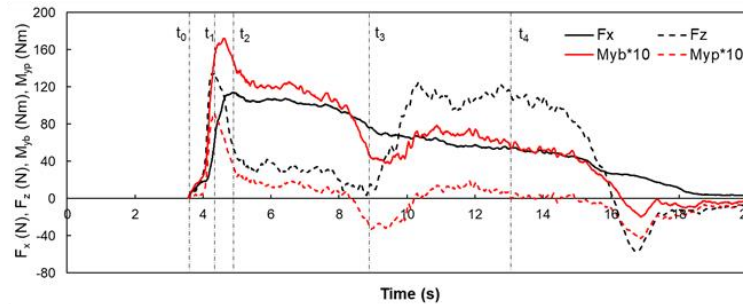


# Aligned: Tsunami impacts on bridges

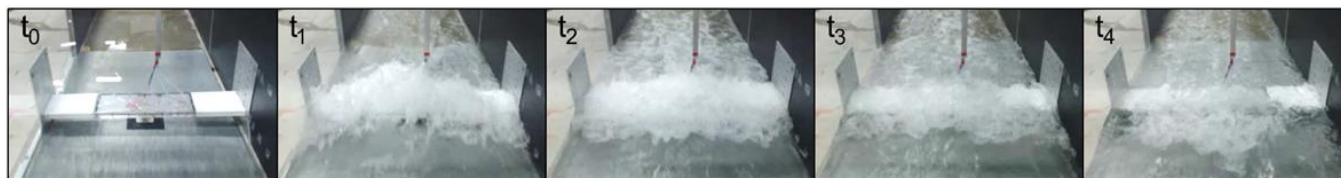
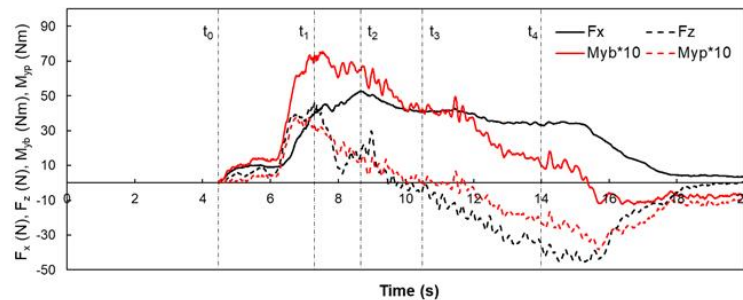


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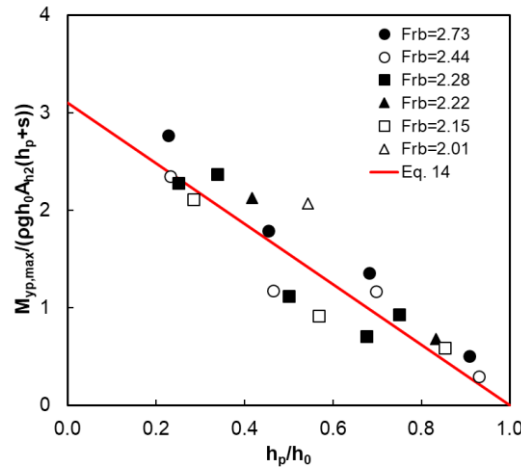
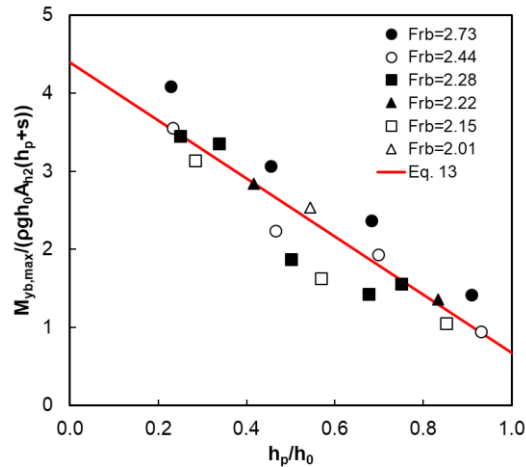
$h_0=0.215$  m



$h_0=0.148$  m

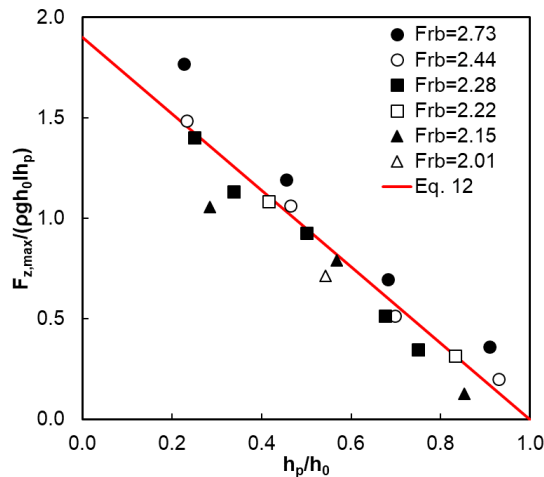


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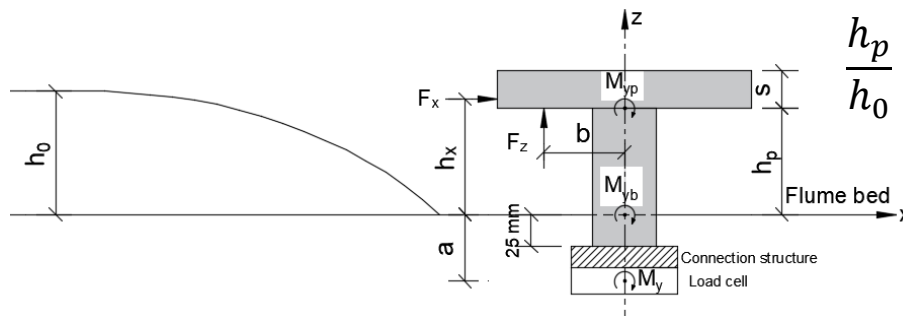
$$\frac{M_{yb,max}}{\rho gh_0 A_{h2} (h_p + s)} = 4.4 - 3.7 \frac{h_p}{h_0}$$

$$\frac{M_{yp,max}}{\rho gh_0 A_{h2} (h_p + s)} = 3.1 - 3 \frac{h_p}{h_0}$$

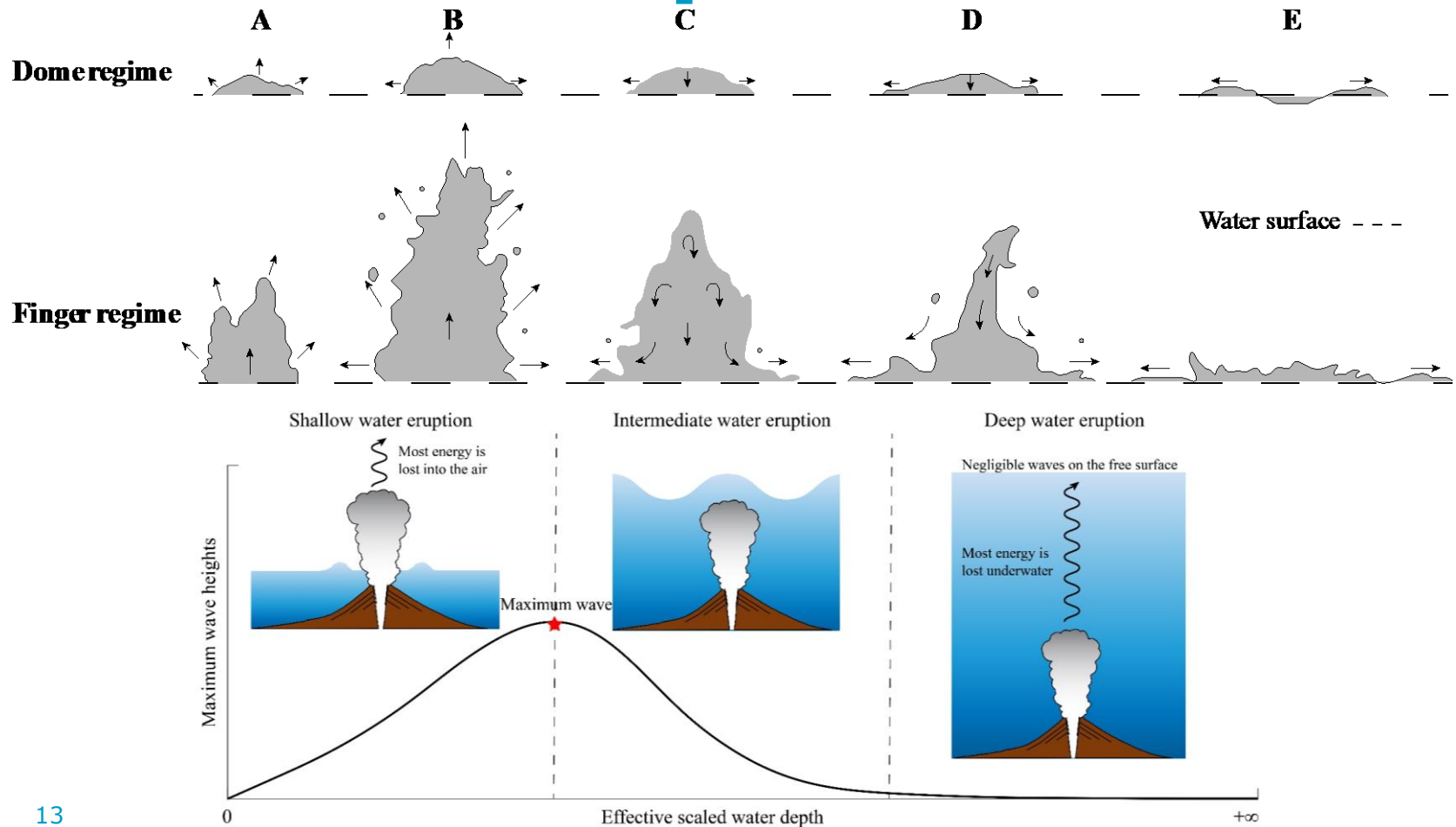


$$\frac{F_{z,max}}{\rho gh_0 l h_p} = 1.9 - 1.9 \frac{h_p}{h_0}$$

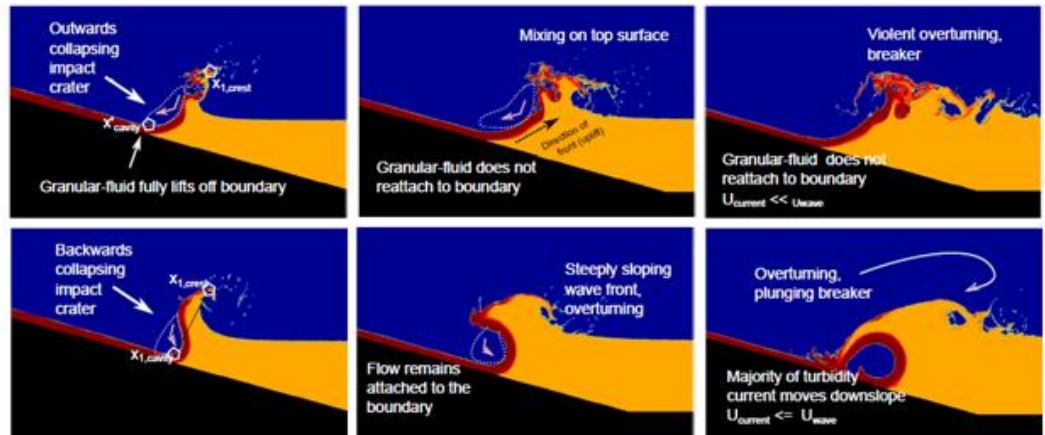
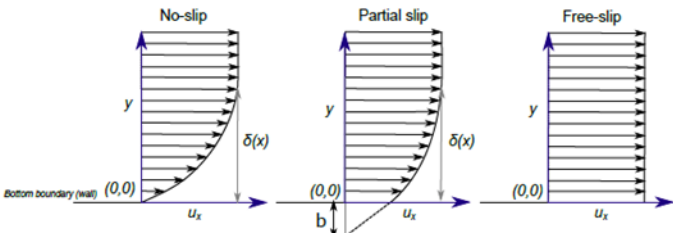
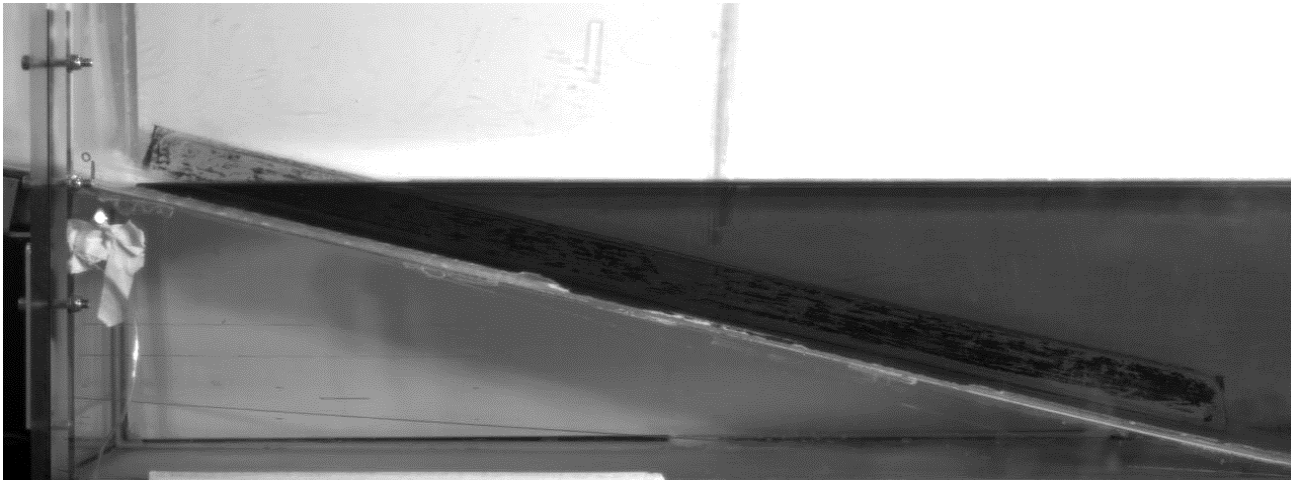
$$\frac{h_p}{h_0} = 0.23 \sim 0.93$$



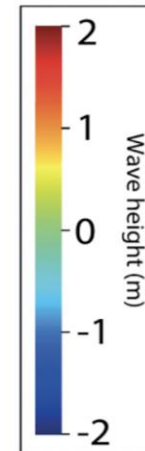
# Aligned: Tsunami generation by volcanic eruptions



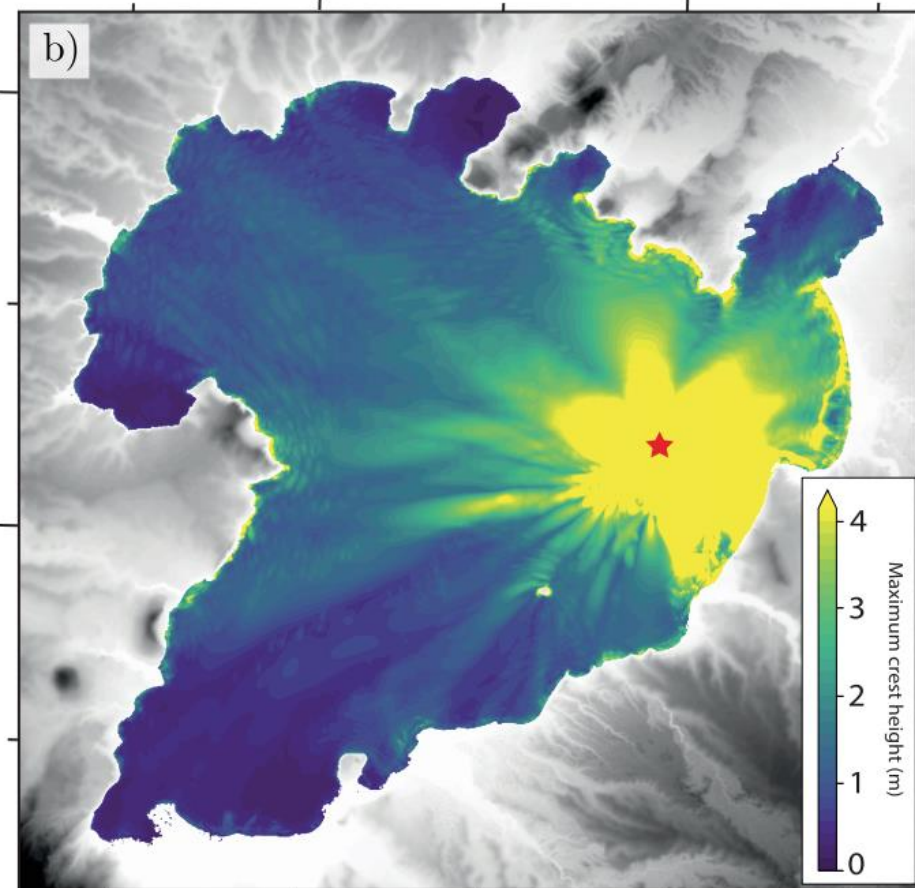
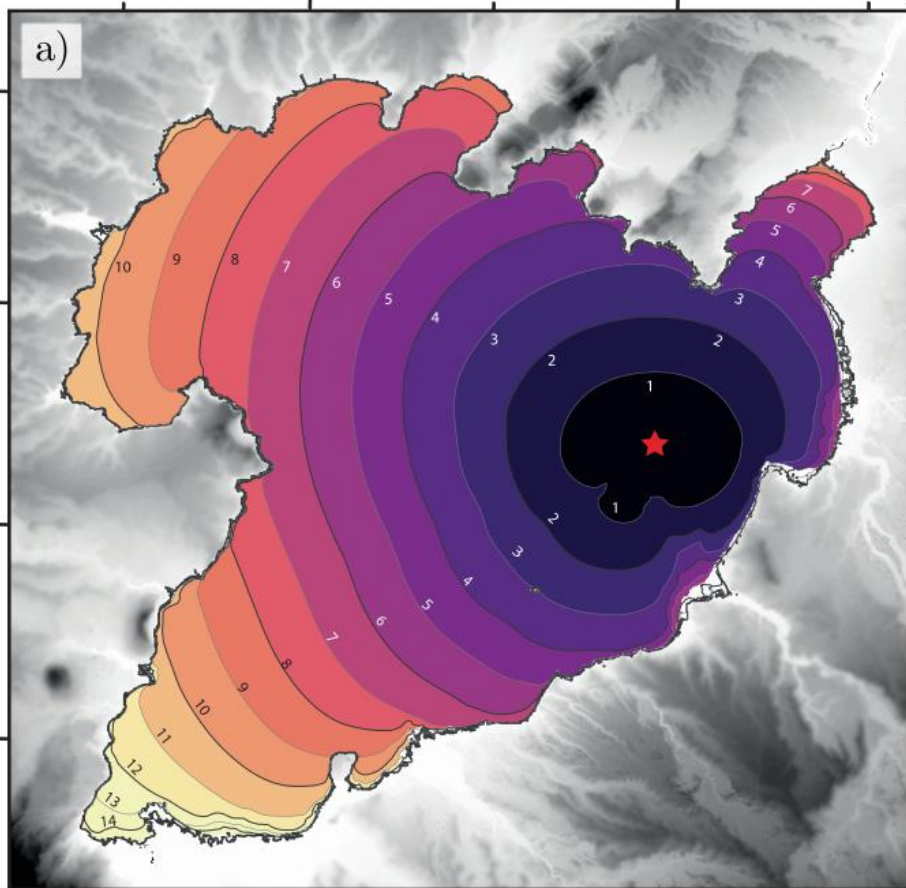
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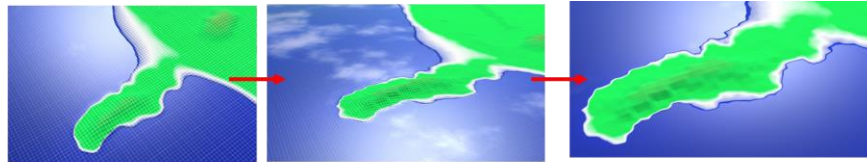
# Aligned: Tsunami generation by volcanic eruptions





# Aligned: Tsunami inundation and evacuation

1. Refining grid size  
10m → 2m → 1m



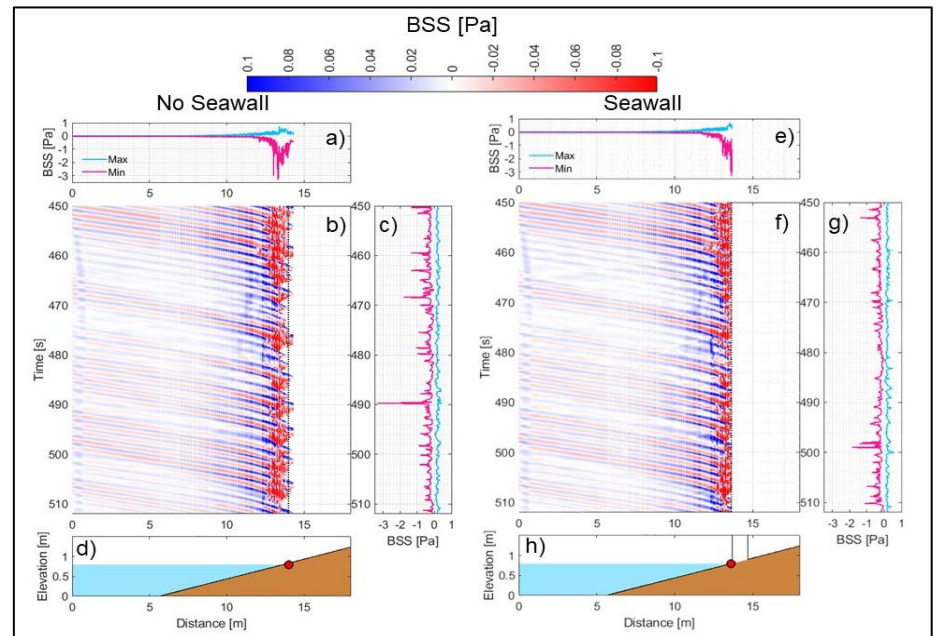
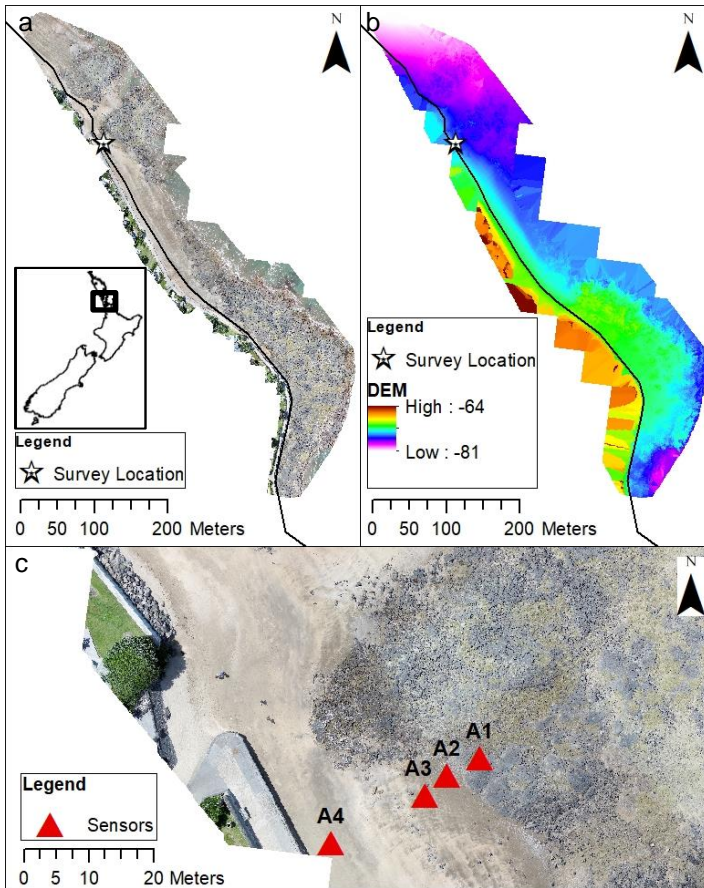
2. DEM vs  
modified DEM  
vs DSM



3. NLSW vs  
Boussinesq  
model



# Aligned: Beach/seawall interactions



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