

# Contents

- Preface . . . . . 8**
- 1. Introduction . . . . . 9**
  - 1.1 General remarks . . . . . 9
  - 1.2 Causes of dam failures . . . . . 9
  - 1.3 Failure of embankment dams caused by overtopping . . . . . 12
- 2. Basic definitions and parameters of embankment dam failures due to overtopping . . . . . 14**
  - 2.1 Time related parameters . . . . . 14
  - 2.2 Dimensional parameters of a breach . . . . . 15
  - 2.3 Discharge . . . . . 15
- 3. Failure statistics for dams and levees . . . . . 16**
  - 3.1 Large dams . . . . . 16
    - 3.1.1 Existing statistics for dams . . . . . 16
    - 3.1.2 Dam failure classification . . . . . 19
    - 3.1.3 Dam failure statistics . . . . . 19
  - 3.2 Small reservoirs . . . . . 34
  - 3.3 Flood levees . . . . . 35
  - 3.4 Lessons learned from recorded failures . . . . . 37
- 4. Mechanisms of embankment dam failures due to overtopping . . . . . 38**
  - 4.1 Causes and development of failures . . . . . 38
    - 4.1.1 Homogeneous embankment dams . . . . . 41
    - 4.1.2 Dams with artificial sealing elements . . . . . 45
  - 4.2 Evaluation of the erosion process . . . . . 48
    - 4.2.1 The beginning of erosion . . . . . 48
      - 4.2.1.1 Unlined surfaces . . . . . 48
      - 4.2.1.2 Lined surfaces . . . . . 51
    - 4.2.2 Transport of sediments . . . . . 54
      - 4.2.2.1 Bed load transport . . . . . 55
      - 4.2.2.2 Total bed load transport . . . . . 56
      - 4.2.2.3 Changes to the cross-sectional area of a breach . . . . . 56
      - 4.2.2.4 Comparison of the results of calculations and experiments . . . . . 58
- 5. Deterministic models of embankment dam failures due to overtopping . . . . . 62**
  - 5.1 Introduction to deterministic models . . . . . 62
  - 5.2 Empirical equations . . . . . 63
    - 5.2.1 Estimation of time characteristics . . . . . 63
    - 5.2.2 Breach characteristics . . . . . 65
    - 5.2.3 Estimation of maximum breach discharge . . . . . 67
  - 5.3 Mathematical models of dam failure due to overtopping . . . . . 70
  - 5.4 A simplified model of dam failure . . . . . 72
    - 5.4.1 Analytical solutions . . . . . 73
    - 5.4.2 Numerical solution . . . . . 76
      - 5.4.3 Sensitivity analysis . . . . . 77
        - 5.4.3.1 Breach shape analysis . . . . . 78
        - 5.4.3.2 Effects of coefficients  $\alpha_1$  and  $\beta_1$  . . . . . 80
        - 5.4.3.3 Effects of coefficients  $\alpha_2$  and  $\beta_2$  . . . . . 80
      - 5.4.4 Concluding remarks . . . . . 80
  - 5.5 Numerical model applied using the BREACH program . . . . . 81
    - 5.5.1 Basic information about the program, and input data requirements . . . . . 81
    - 5.5.2 Computational algorithm . . . . . 83
    - 5.5.3 Breach discharge and the water level in the reservoir . . . . . 84
    - 5.5.4 Breach hydraulics . . . . . 85
    - 5.5.5 The beginning of downstream face erosion . . . . . 86

5.5.6	Calculation of breach shape and size	86
5.5.7	Transport of particles	87
5.5.8	Further capabilities of the program, and requirements for calculation	87
5.5.8.1	Breach increase due to landslide	87
5.5.8.2	Calculation requirements	88
<b>6.</b>	<b>Statistical modelling</b>	<b>89</b>
6.1	The Monte-Carlo method	89
6.1.1	Latin Hypercube Sampling	89
6.1.2	Generating pseudo-random numbers	90
6.1.3	Probability distributions	91
6.1.4	Descriptive statistics	92
6.2	The "NATRZ" program	93
<b>7.</b>	<b>Experimental research</b>	<b>94</b>
7.1	General remarks	94
7.1.1	Remarks on similarity	94
7.1.2	Laboratory scale models	95
7.1.3	Large-scale field experiments	95
7.2	Research carried out at the Laboratory of the Institute of Water Structures FCE BUT	96
7.2.1	Description of the experimental equipment	96
7.2.2	Description of measuring facilities and devices	99
7.2.3	The course of the experiment	100
7.2.4	Measurements and observations	101
7.2.5	Evaluation of the experiment and records	107
<b>8.</b>	<b>Practical applications of particular methods</b>	<b>111</b>
8.1	Comparison of the experiment with the results of calculations	111
8.1.1	Comparison with the results of the analytical solution	111
8.1.2	Comparison with the results of the numerical solution	113
8.1.3	Results of statistical modelling	114
8.2	The Slusovice Dam	116
8.2.1	Characteristics of the dam site	116
8.2.2	Characteristics of the dam body and dam equipment	117
8.2.3	Analysis of potential causes of dam failure	118
8.2.4	Results of the solution	119
8.2.4.1	Preliminary estimate using empirical equations	119
8.2.4.2	Analytical procedure	120
8.2.4.3	Numerical solution using the BREACH program	121
8.2.4.4	The analogy method	122
8.2.5	Discussion of results	124
8.2.6	Statistical assessment	126
8.3	The Korycany Dam	128
8.3.1	Characteristics of the dam site	128
8.3.2	Characteristics of the dam body and dam equipment	129
8.3.3	Analysis of the potential cause of dam failure	130
8.3.4	Results of the solution	131
8.3.4.1	Preliminary estimate using empirical equations	131
8.3.4.2	Numerical solution using the BREACH program	132
8.3.4.3	Statistical modelling using the NATRZ program	132
8.3.5	Discussion of results	134
8.4	Levee failure by the village of Kvasice	135
8.4.1	Characteristics of the levee site	135
8.4.2	Characteristics of the levee body	135
8.4.3	Analysis of the levee failure	136
8.4.4	Results of modelling	137
8.5	Incidents of small dams during extreme floods in the Czech Republic	138
8.5.1	Basic data for analysis	139

8.5.1.1	The August 2002 flood . . . . .	139
8.5.1.2	Details of ponds studied . . . . .	140
8.5.1.3	Hydrological data . . . . .	141
8.5.2	Analysis of the failures of small dams . . . . .	142
8.5.2.1	General comments . . . . .	142
8.5.2.2	Upper pond – the Melin Dam . . . . .	142
8.5.2.3	The Metelsky Dam . . . . .	143
8.5.3	Modelling of dam breaks . . . . .	144
8.5.4	Summary . . . . .	145
<b>9.</b>	<b>Conclusions and recommendations for practical applications . . . . .</b>	<b>146</b>
9.1	Possible means of increasing the resistance of dams at their overtopping . . . . .	146
9.2	Conclusions concerning the resistance of dams at their overtopping . . . . .	150
9.3	Predicting the process of a dam failure at its overtopping . . . . .	153
<b>10.</b>	<b>List of variables . . . . .</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>List of abbreviations . . . . .</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>References . . . . .</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Index. . . . .</b>	<b>164</b>