

**KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OPEN-FILE REPORT 2001-46**

The Design and Analysis of Pumping Tests  
for Aquifer Evaluation  
Workshop Notebook

Training Workshop for Division of Water Resources  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Topeka, Kansas  
October 16, 2001

by

James Butler

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Workshop Notebook  
|  
The Design and Analysis  
of Pumping Tests for  
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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- General Design Guidelines
- Direct Push Applications
- Major Methods for Data Analysis
- Data Analysis Strategies
- Conclusions

# Well Tests - An Introduction

- What?
  - in-situ estimation of the transmissive and storage properties of a formation
- When?
  - water quantity/quality investigations
- Why?
  - quantitative assessments of groundwater flow and transport
- How?
  - introduce stress and measure response

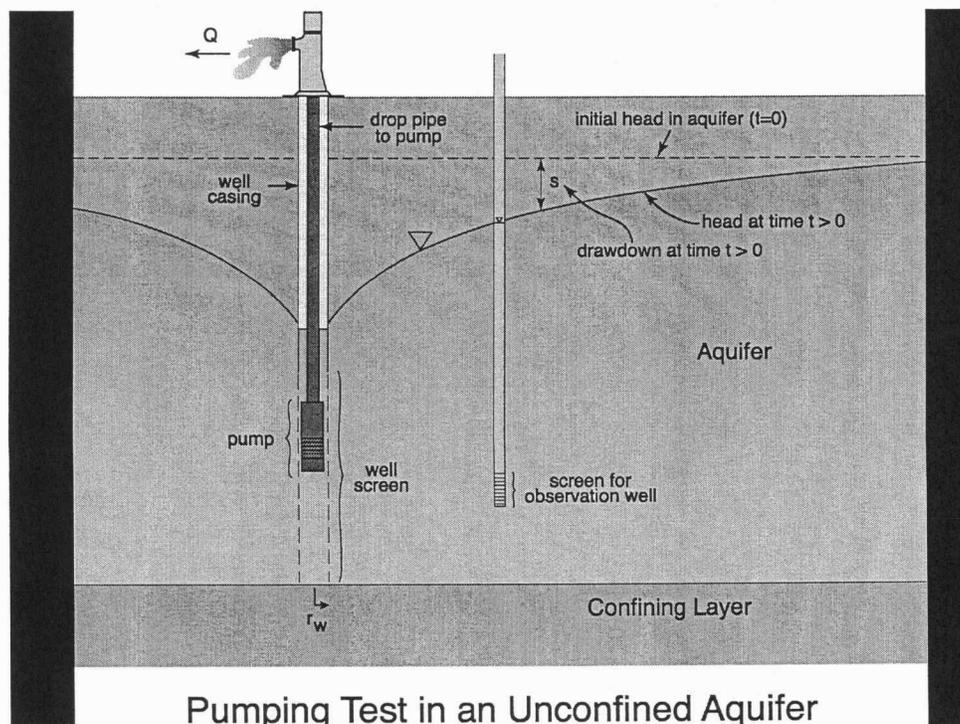
# The Pumping Test

- Purpose

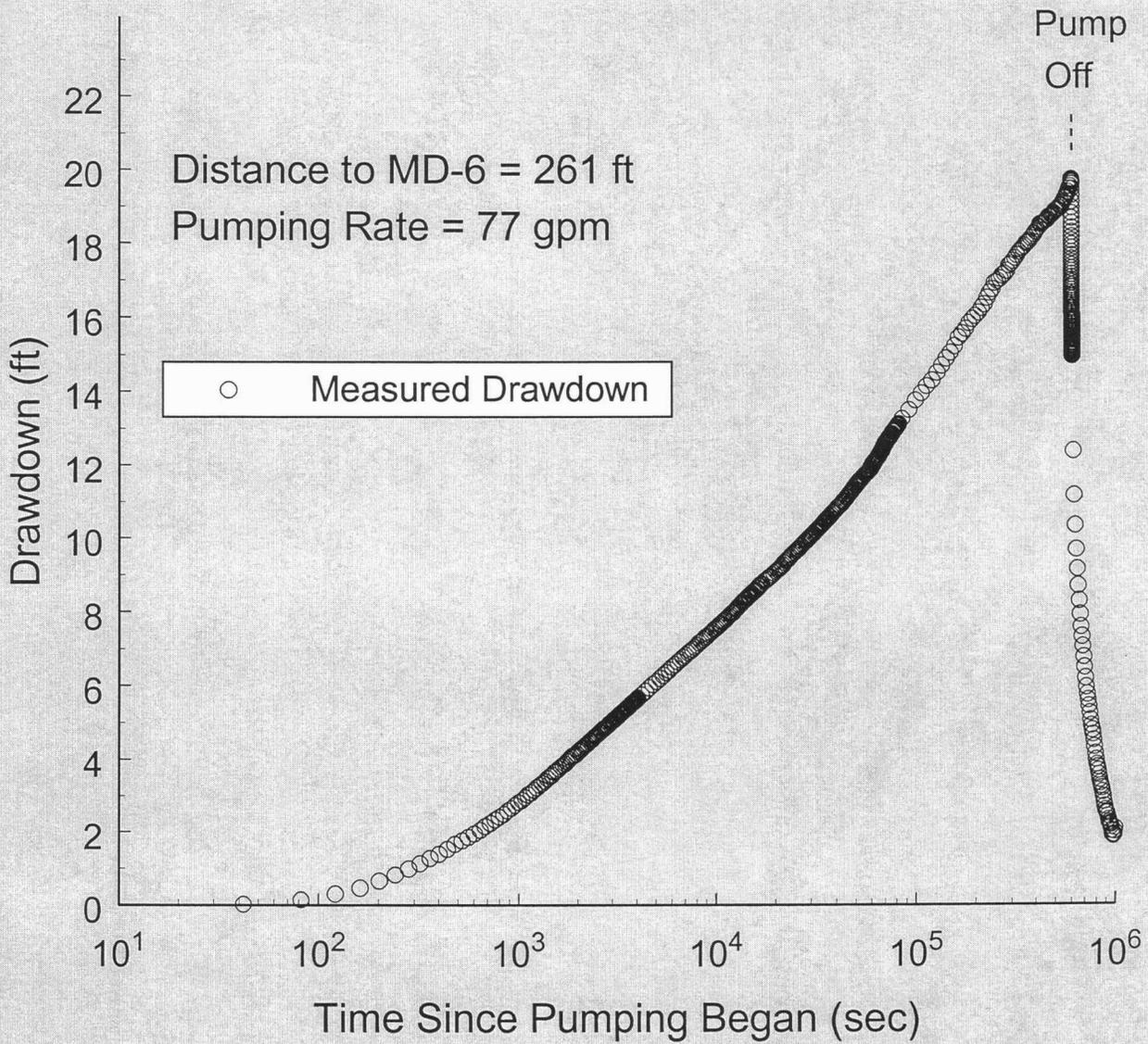
- in-situ estimation of large-scale hydraulic properties
  - transmissivity (T) and storativity (S)
- hydraulic boundaries
  - laterally bounded?
  - tight confining unit?
- conditions at pumping well
  - pumping efficiency

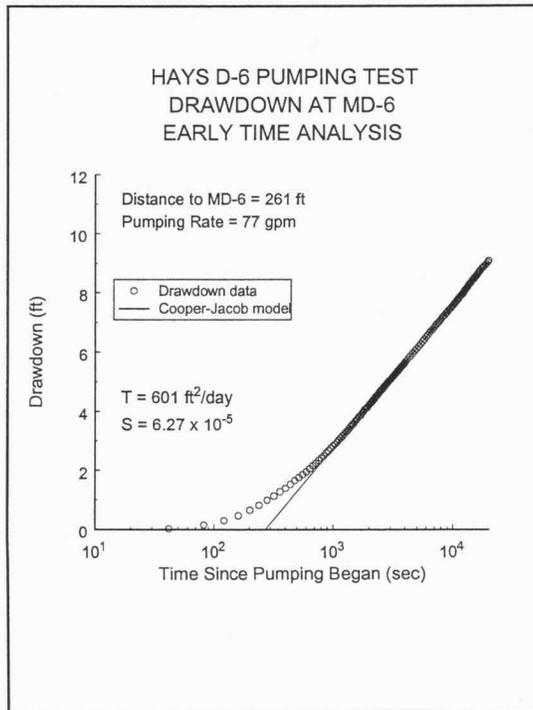
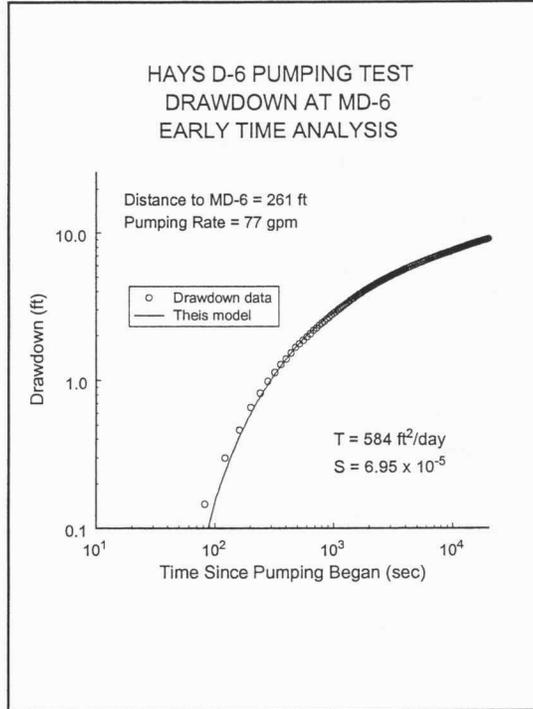
- Mechanics

- pump well to produce change in water level (or head) in formation
- measure change (drawdown) at pumped and nearby wells
- analyze drawdown measurements



# HAYS D-6 PUMPING TEST DRAWDOWN FROM MD-6 7/7/97 - 7/19/97





# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

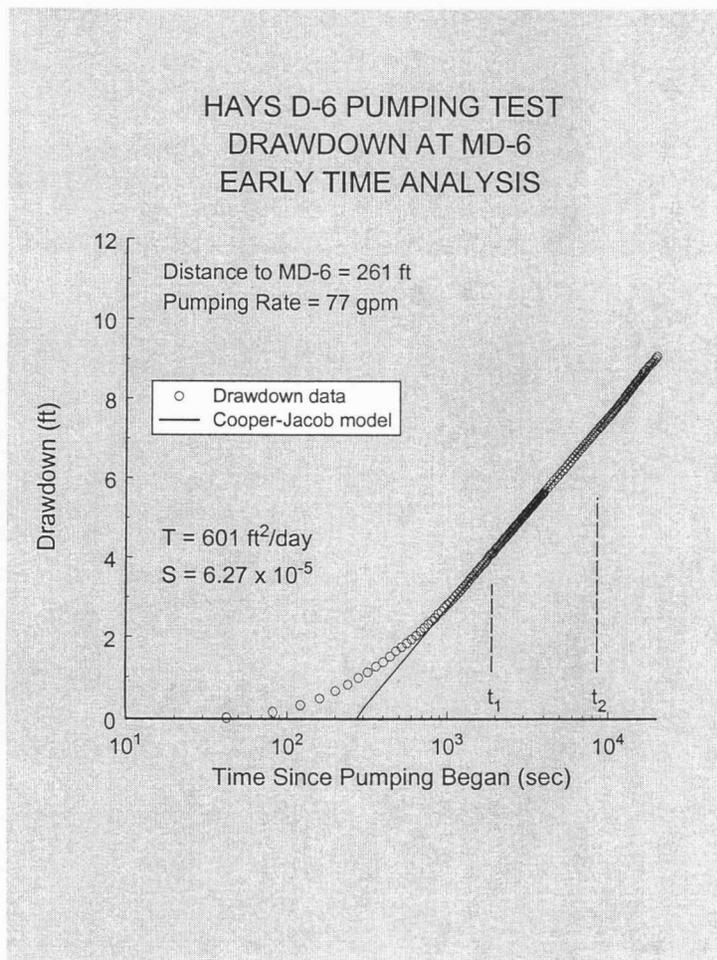
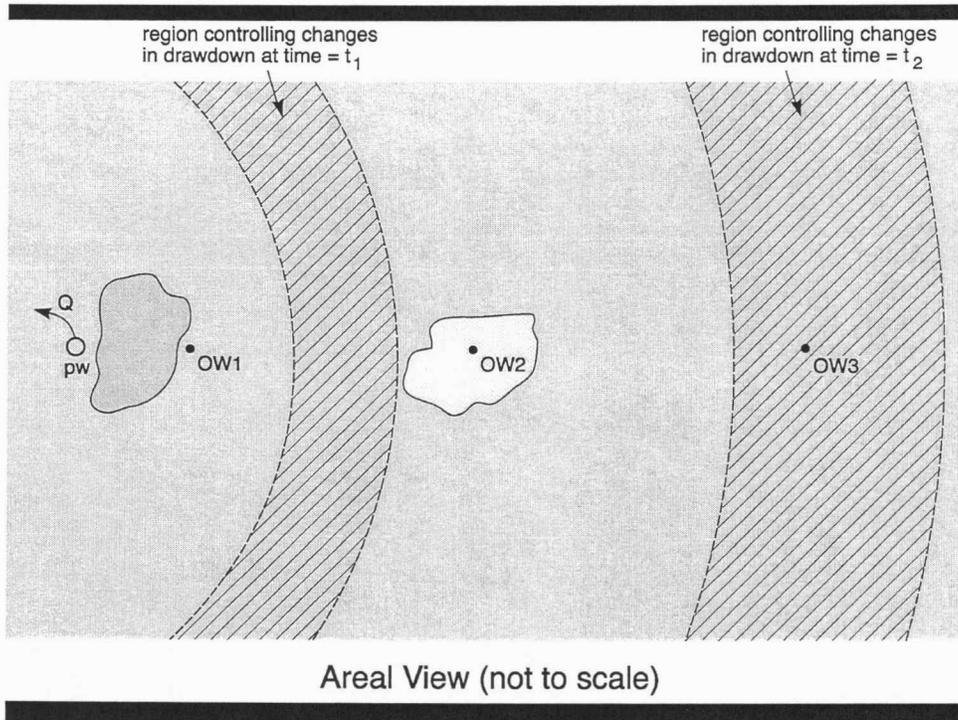
- Introduction
- **General Design Guidelines**
- Direct Push Applications
- Major Methods for Data Analysis
- Data Analysis Strategies
- Conclusions

## General Design Guidelines for Pumping Tests

- Overall Goal
  - Justify model selection
  - Confidence in T and S estimates
- Key Elements
  - Location of observation wells
  - Pumping rate and duration
  - Preparation for problems

## Location of Observation Wells

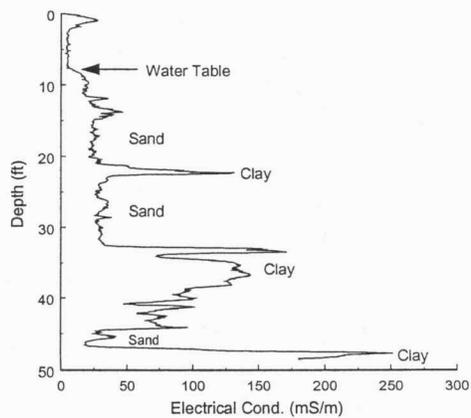
- **Purpose of Test**
  - **Bulk properties and boundaries**
    - close to pumping well
  - **Discrete regions**
    - pairs of observation wells
    - slug tests
  - **Hydraulic connection**
    - region of interest
- Geologic Framework
  - Place within same aquifer
    - geologic and geophysical logs



## Location of Observation Wells

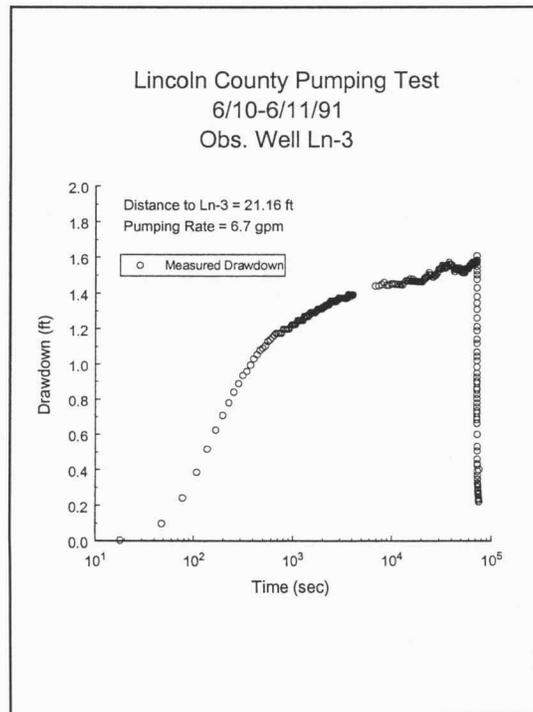
- Purpose of Test
  - Bulk properties and boundaries
    - close to pumping well
  - Discrete regions
    - pairs of observation wells
    - slug tests
  - Hydraulic connection
    - region of interest
- **Geologic Framework**
  - **Place within same aquifer**
    - geologic and geophysical logs

Larned - East of River - Site 1  
Electrical Conductivity Log - 6/20/01



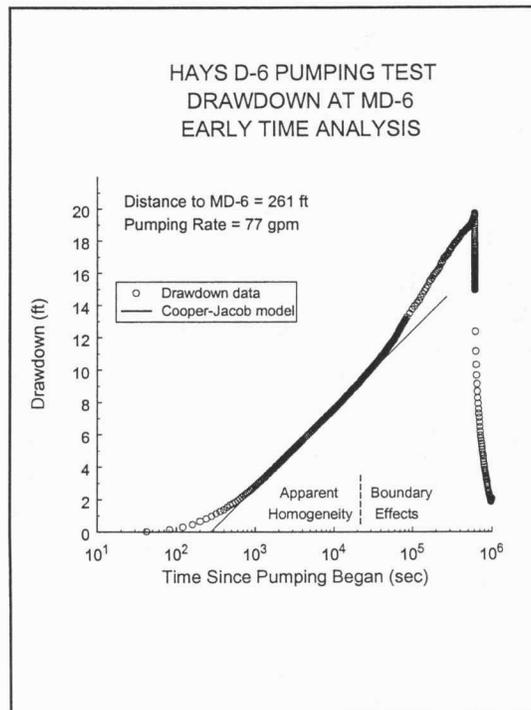
## Pumping Rate and Duration

- **Pumping Rate**
  - affects signal to noise ratio
  - no effect on test scale
    - relative contribution does not change
- **Pumping Duration**
  - scale increases with duration
    - early homogeneous aquifer behavior followed by boundary effects



## Pumping Rate and Duration

- **Pumping Rate**
  - affects signal to noise ratio
  - no effect on test scale
    - relative contribution does not change
- **Pumping Duration**
  - **scale increases with duration**
    - **early homogeneous aquifer behavior followed by boundary effects**



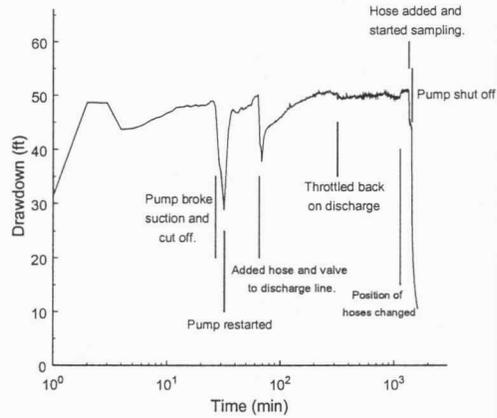
## Common Problems in Pumping Tests

- Variable Pumping Rate
- Drawdown at Pumping Well
- Nearby Pumping Wells
- Barometric Pressure and  
Precipitation

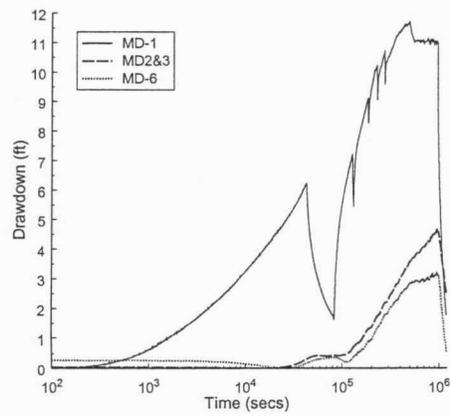
## Common Problems in Pumping Tests

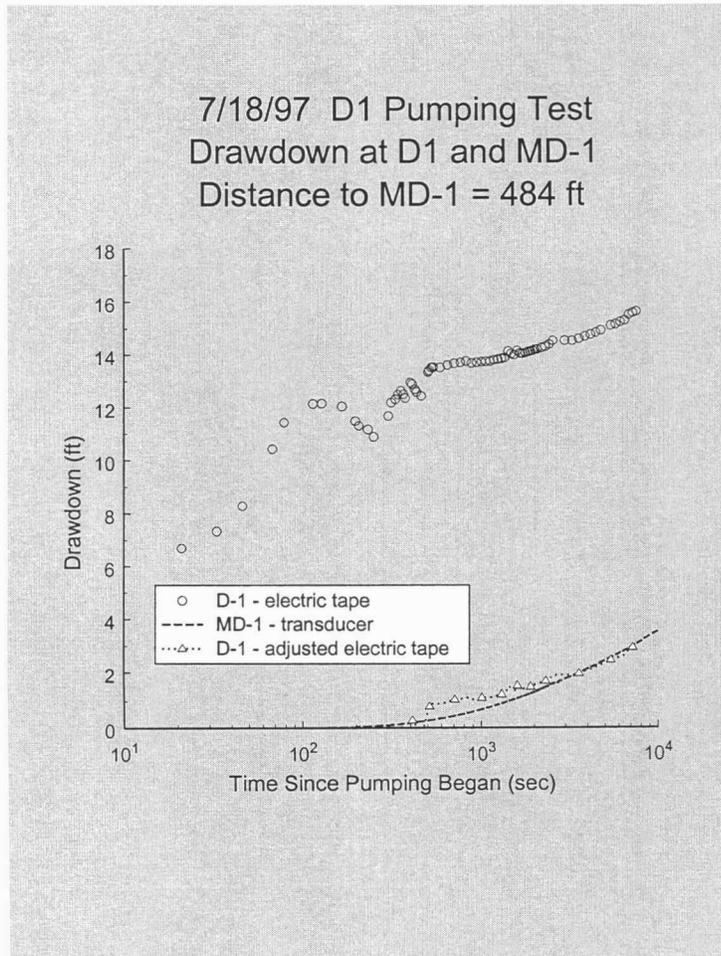
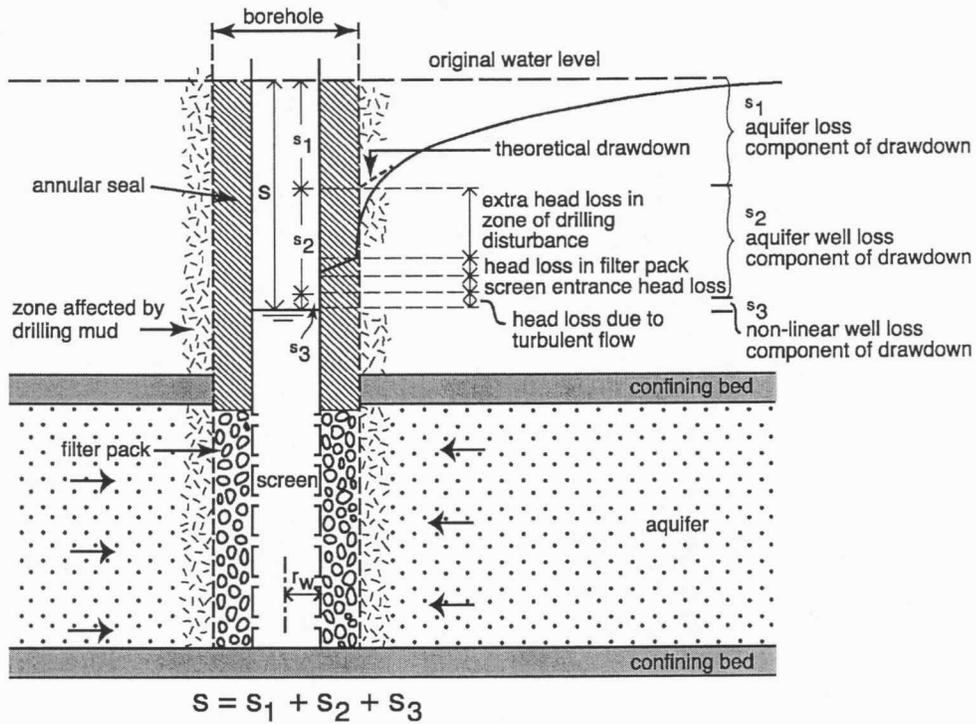
- **Variable Pumping Rate**
- **Drawdown at Pumping Well**
- Nearby Pumping Activity
- Barometric Pressure and  
Precipitation
- **General Strategy**
  - measure and incorporate
  - analyze unaffected intervals
  - use recovery data

Wallace County Pumping Test  
5/3-5/4/97 - Initial Q=7.8 gpm



Hays D-1 Pumping Test  
7/18-7/29/97  
Drawdown at MD-1, MD-2&3, and MD-6

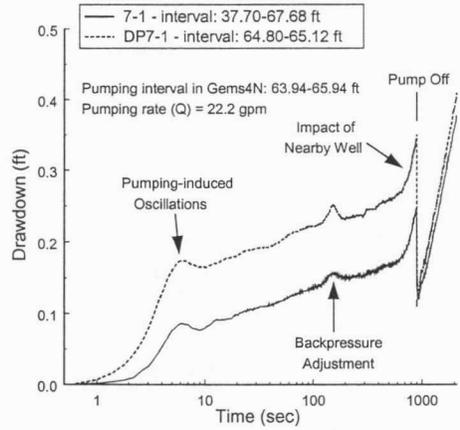




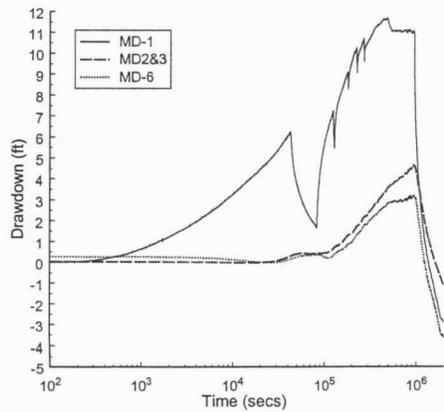
# Common Problems in Pumping Tests

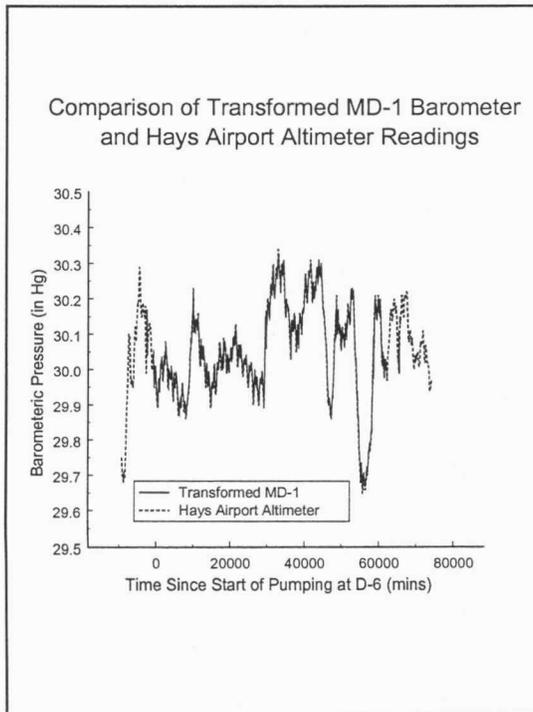
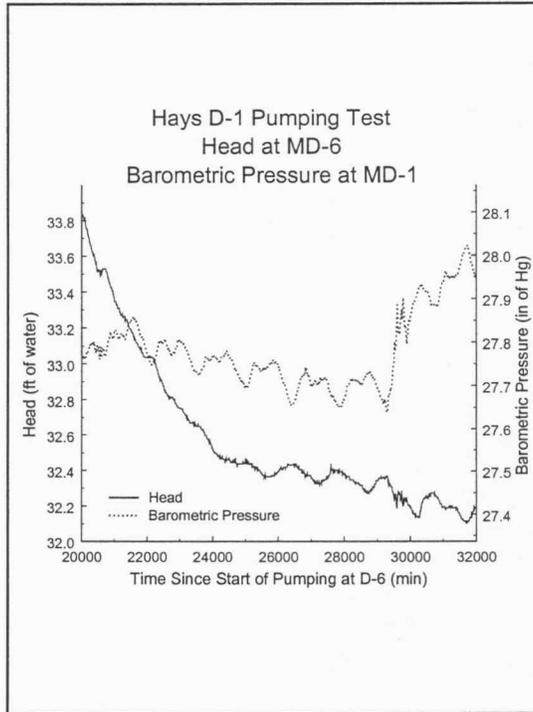
- Variable Pumping Rate
- Drawdown at Pumping Well
- **Nearby Pumping Activity**
- **Barometric Pressure and Precipitation**
  
- **General Strategy**
  - measure and incorporate
  - analyze unaffected intervals
  - schedule carefully
  - observation well close to pumping well

Pumping Test in Sand and Gravel Aquifer  
GEMS - 8/13/99



Hays D-1 Pumping Test  
7/18-7/29/97  
Drawdown at MD-1, MD-2&3, and MD-6



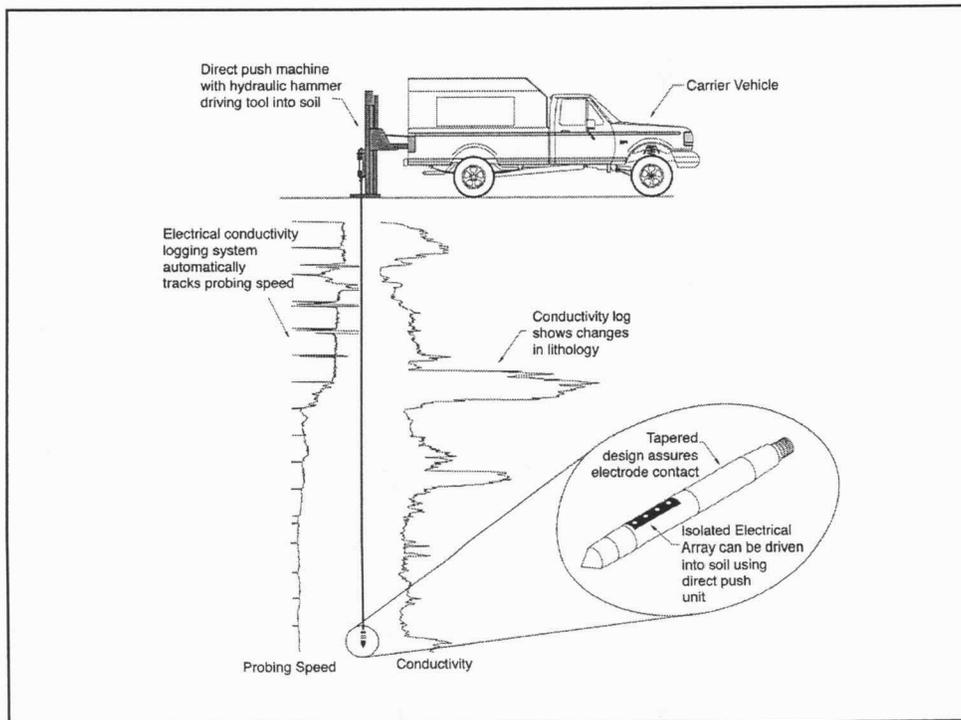
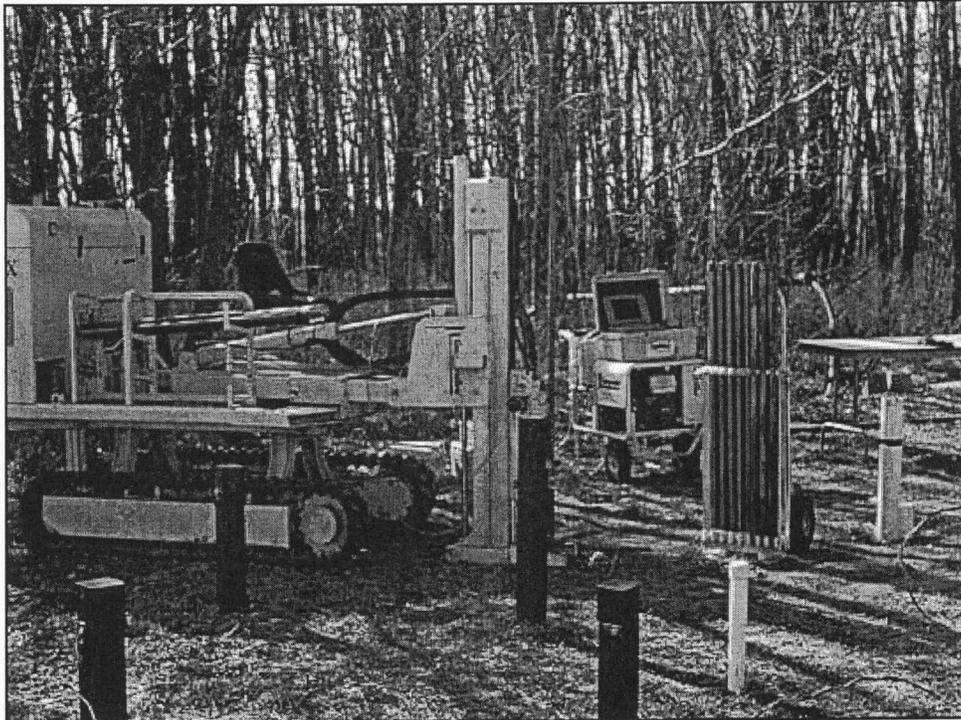


## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- General Design Guidelines
- **Direct Push Applications**
- Major Methods for Data Analysis
- Data Analysis Strategies
- Conclusions

## Overview of Well Tests with Direct Push Tools

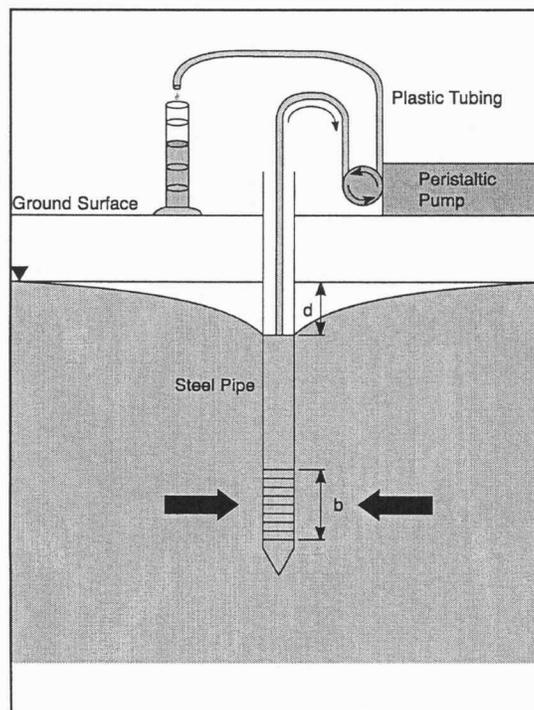
- Direct Push Methods
  - rapid installation of temporary observation wells
  - reduce nonuniqueness
  - improve stratigraphic control
- Equipment
  - Electrical conductivity log
  - Shrouded screen tool
  - Head measurement
  - Well development
- Important Considerations
  - Degree of compaction
  - Well development





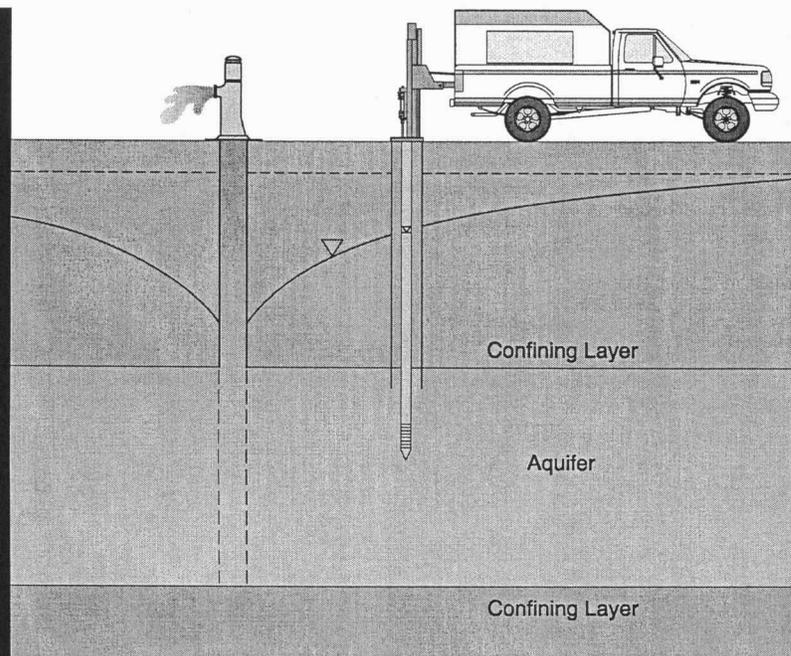
## Well Tests with Direct Push Tools

- Pumping Tests
  - **Pumping well**
    - **constant-head tests**
  - Observation well
    - shrouded screen
    - electrical conductivity log



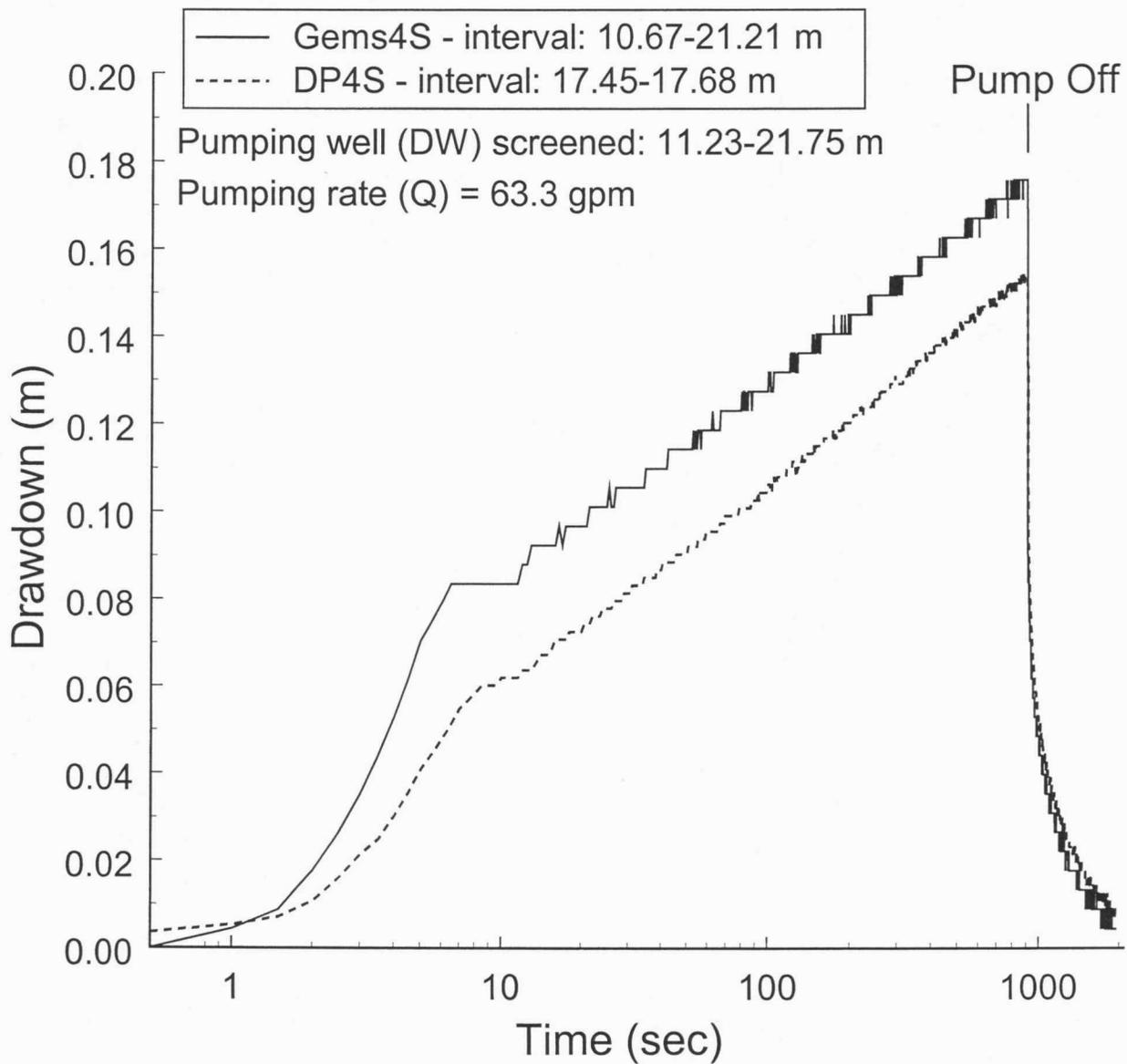
## Well Tests with Direct Push Tools

- Pumping Tests
  - Pumping well
    - constant-head tests
  - **Observation well**
    - **shrouded screen**
    - **electrical conductivity log**



Pumping Test in a Confined Aquifer

# GEMS - 3/16/99 Pumping Test Direct-push and conventional well



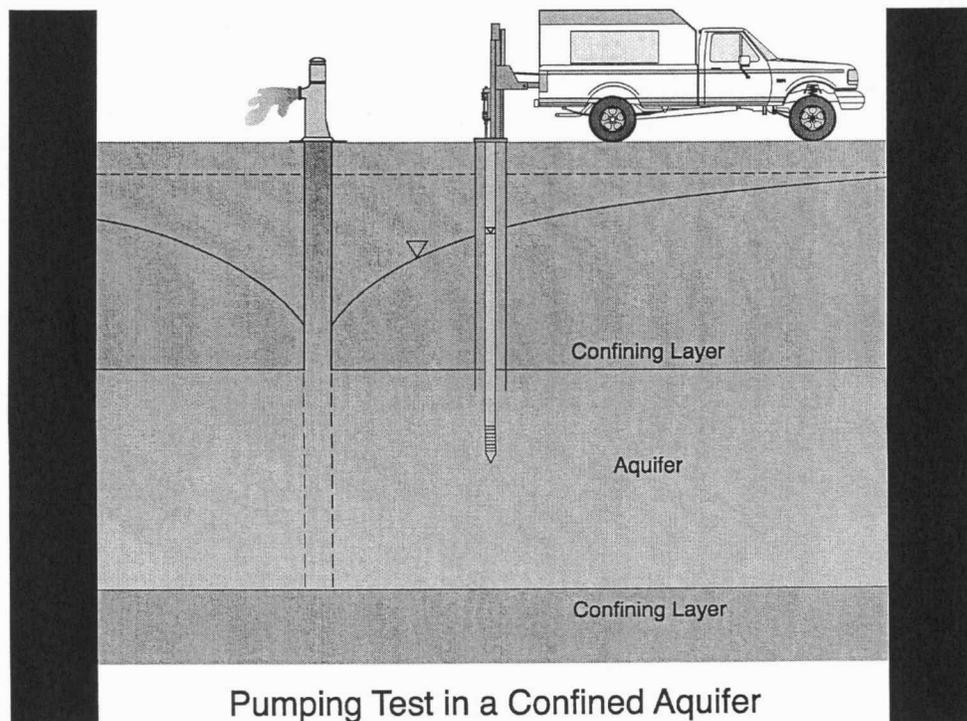
# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- General Design Guidelines
- Direct Push Applications
- **Major Methods for Data Analysis**
- Data Analysis Strategies
- Conclusions

# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Confined Aquifers**
- Leaky Aquifers
- Unconfined Aquifers
- Recovery Methods
- Additional Mechanisms
- Less Common Settings/Tests



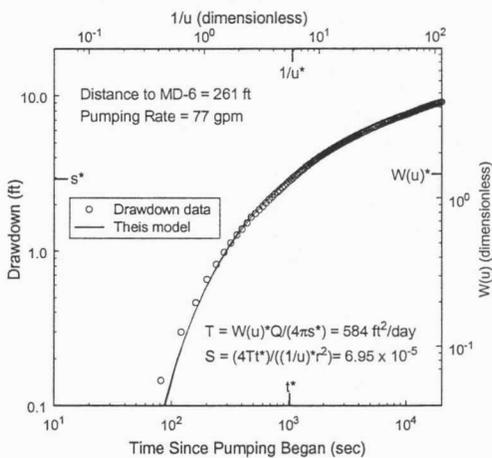
Pumping Test in a Confined Aquifer

# Pumping Tests

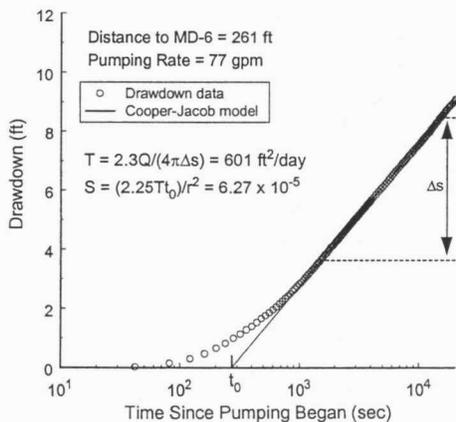
## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Confined Aquifers**
  - Theis method
    - log-log plot
    - type curve matching
      - type curve = theoretical response
      - total drawdown
  - Cooper-Jacob method
    - semilog plot
      - straight line fit
    - changes in drawdown
  - Thiem method
    - quasi-steady-state conditions
      - steady shape
      - same as Cooper-Jacob for distance

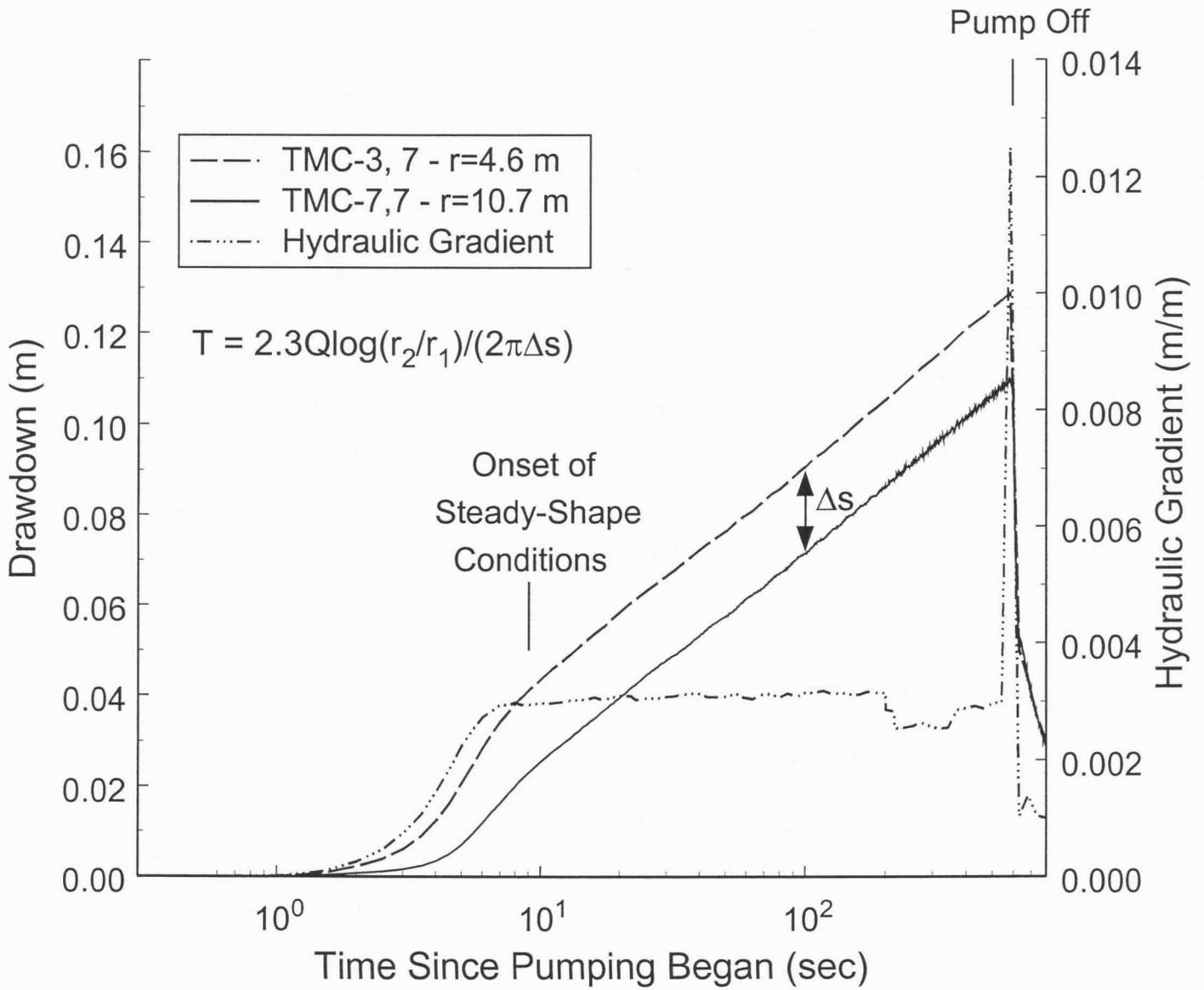
HAYS D-6 PUMPING TEST  
DRAWDOWN AT MD-6  
THEIS ANALYSIS



HAYS D-6 PUMPING TEST  
DRAWDOWN AT MD-6  
COOPER-JACOB ANALYSIS



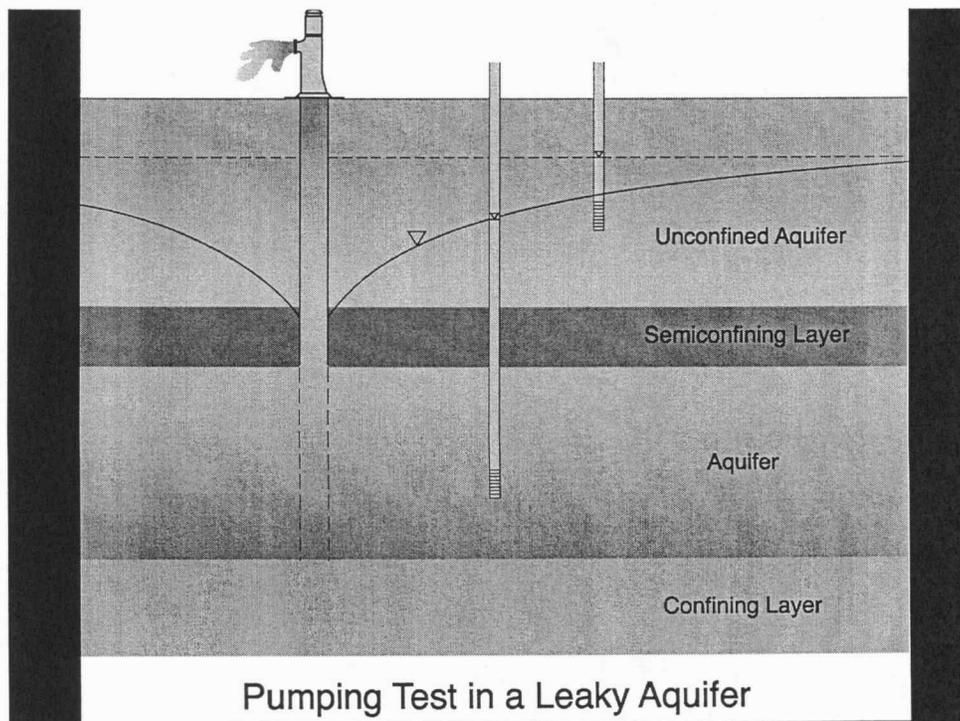
# GEMS - 8/12/97 Pumping Test #1



# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- Confined Aquifers
- **Leaky Aquifers**
- Unconfined Aquifers
- Recovery Methods
- Additional Mechanisms
- Less Common Settings/Tests

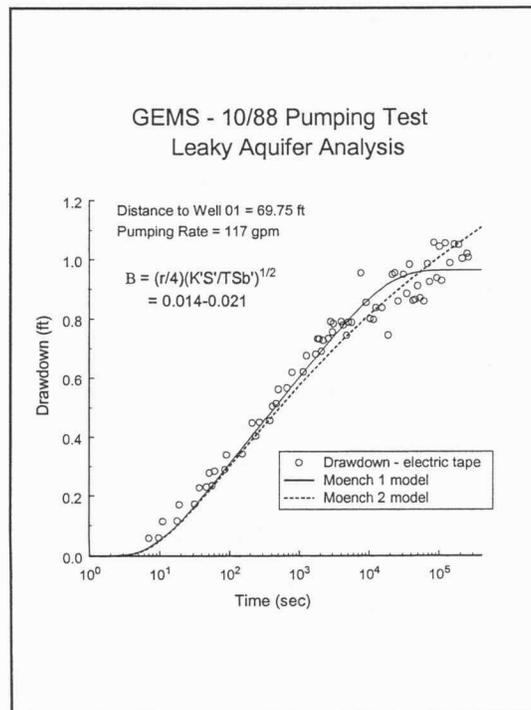
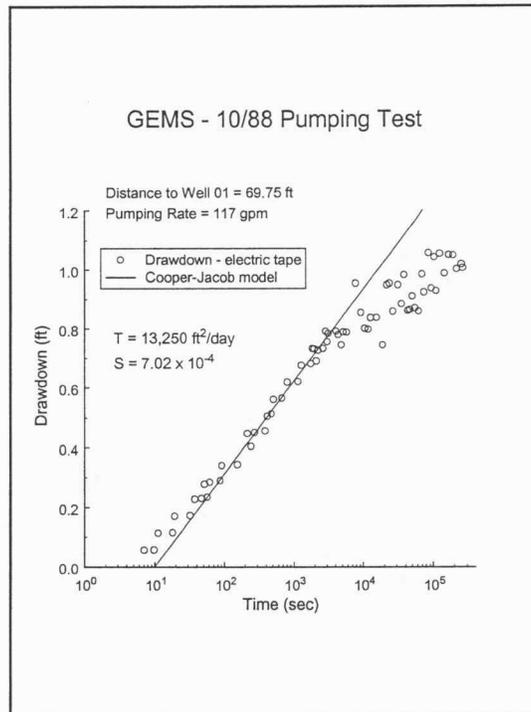


## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Leaky Aquifers**
  - log-log type curve methods
    - Hantush-Jacob/Walton
    - Hantush
    - Neuman and Witherspoon
    - Moench
  - significant issues
    - representation of aquitard
      - aquitard storage
    - nature of vertical boundaries
    - appropriate driving force

## Analysis of Pumping Tests in Leaky Aquifers

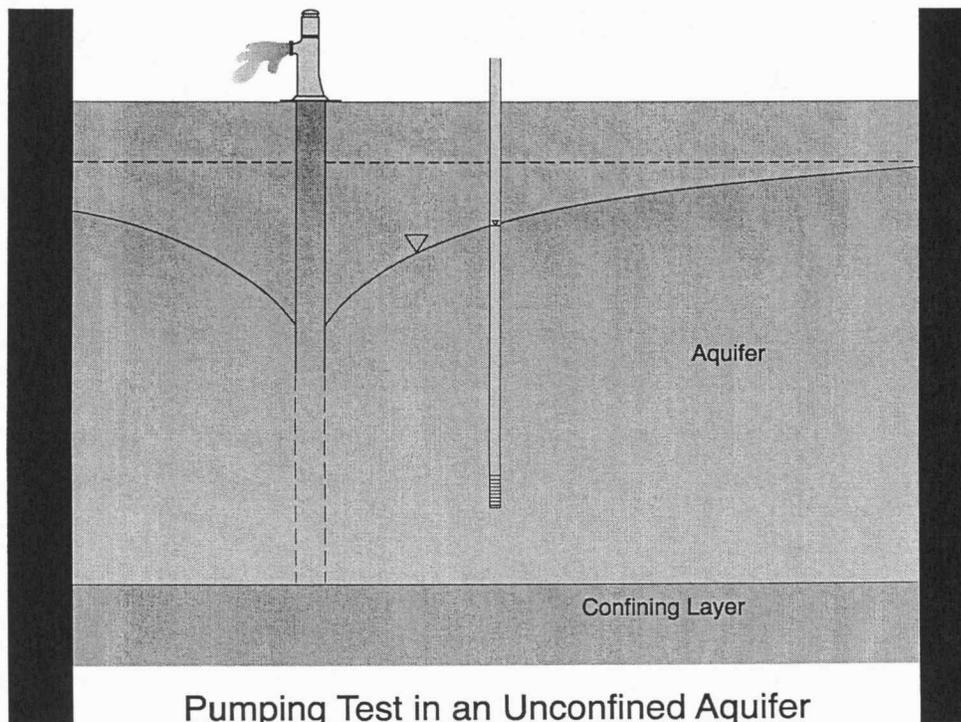
- Hantush-Jacob
  - aquitard storage ignored
  - overlying constant-head aquifer
- Hantush
  - includes aquitard storage
  - two aquitards
  - three configurations
- Neuman and Witherspoon
  - Hantush except overlying aquifer not at constant head
- Moench
  - Hantush with well-bore storage
  - appropriate at all times



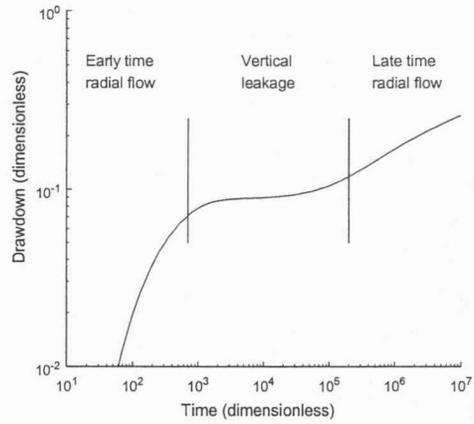
# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

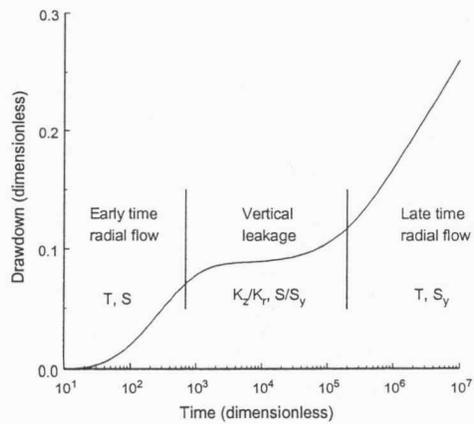
- Confined Aquifers
- Leaky Aquifers
- **Unconfined Aquifers**
- Recovery Methods
- Additional Mechanisms
- Less Common Settings/Tests



Theoretical Drawdown for Pumping Test  
in an Unconfined Aquifer



Theoretical Drawdown for Pumping Test  
in an Unconfined Aquifer

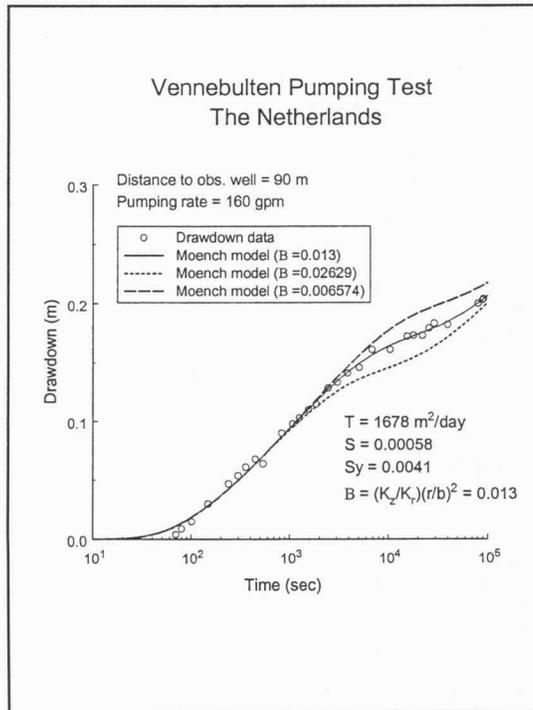
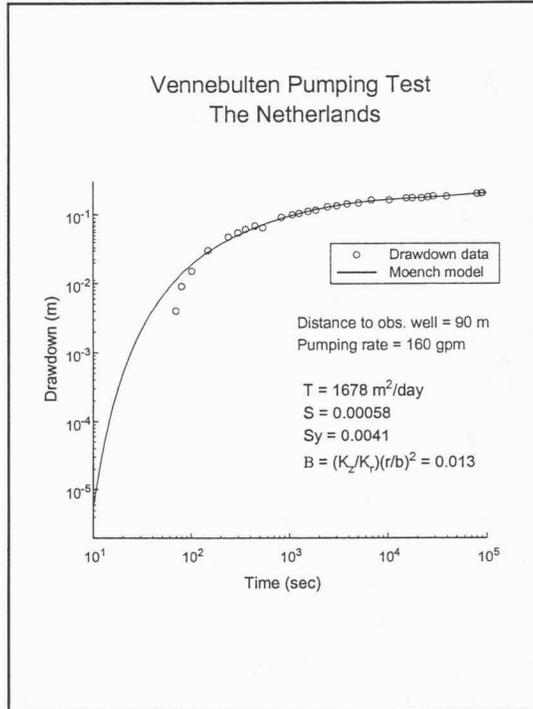


## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Unconfined Aquifers**
  - log-log type curve methods
    - Theis with Jacob correction
    - Neuman
    - Moench
  - significant issues
    - vertical drainage
    - drawdown relative to aquifer thickness

## Analysis of Pumping Tests in Unconfined Aquifers

- **Theis with Jacob correction**
  - no vertical leakage
    - use for analysis of late-time radial flow
  - good when drawdown is large relative to thickness of aquifer
- **Neuman**
  - vertical leakage
    - instantaneous release of water from unsaturated zone
  - drawdown is small relative to thickness of aquifer
- **Moench**
  - Neuman with additions
    - well-bore storage
    - non-instantaneous release of water from unsaturated zone
    - computationally efficient



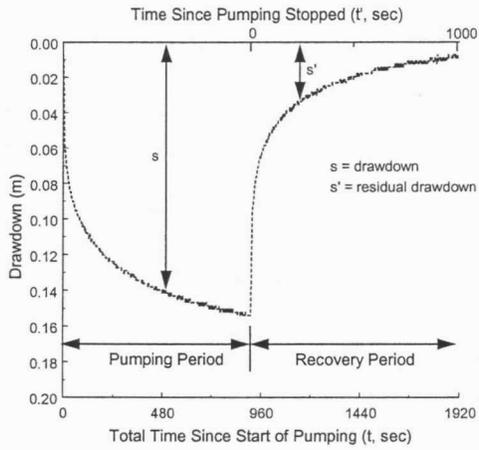
## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- Confined Aquifers
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- Unconfined Aquifers
- **Recovery Methods**
- Additional Mechanisms
- Less Common Settings/Tests

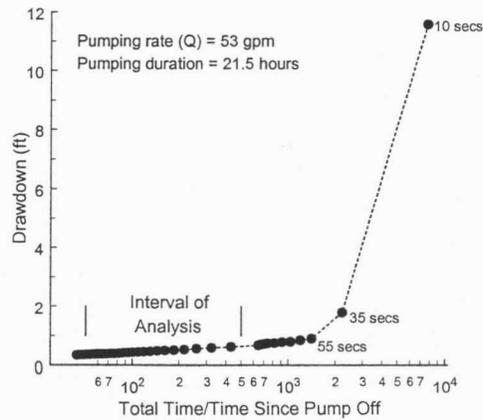
## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

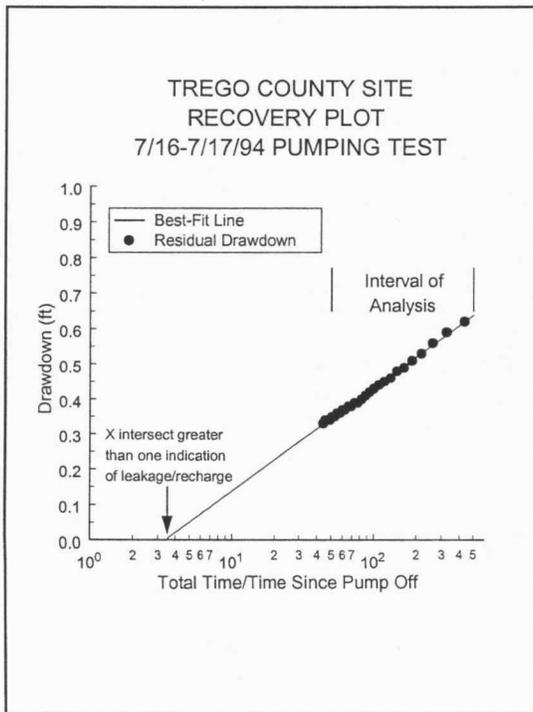
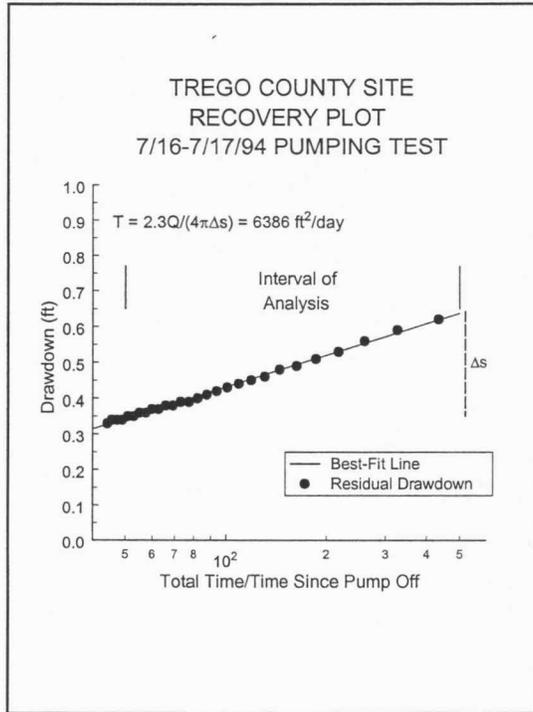
- **Recovery Analyses**
  - analysis of drawdown after cessation of pumping
  - Theis recovery method
    - semilog plot
      - straight-line fit
      - changes in drawdown
  - advantages
    - useful at pumping well
      - no pumping-induced noise
      - negligible well losses
    - relatively insensitive to rate variations

GEMS - 3/16/99 Pumping Test  
Drawdown and Recovery Plot



TREGO COUNTY SITE  
RECOVERY PLOT  
7/16-7/17/94 PUMPING TEST





# Pumping Tests

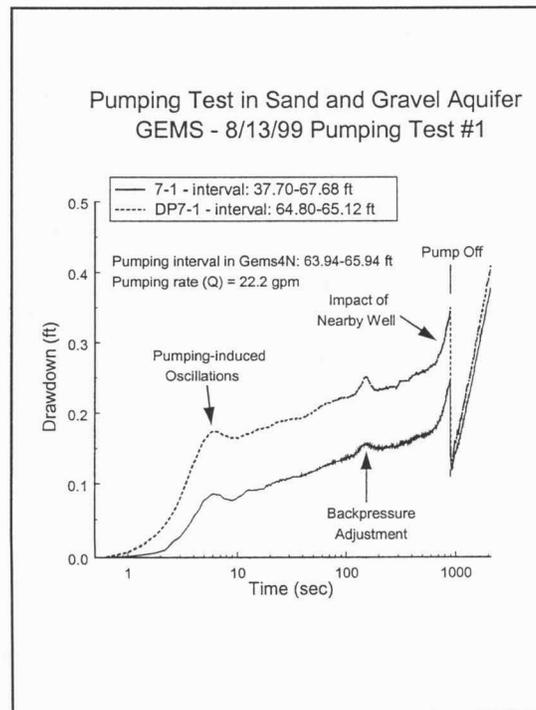
## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- Confined Aquifers
- Leaky Aquifers
- Unconfined Aquifers
- Recovery Methods
- **Additional Mechanisms**
- Less Common Settings/Tests

# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Additional Mechanisms**
  - wellbore storage
    - important at and near pumping well
    - only influences early-time drawdown
  - oscillating water levels
    - important at and near pumping well
    - only influences early-time drawdown

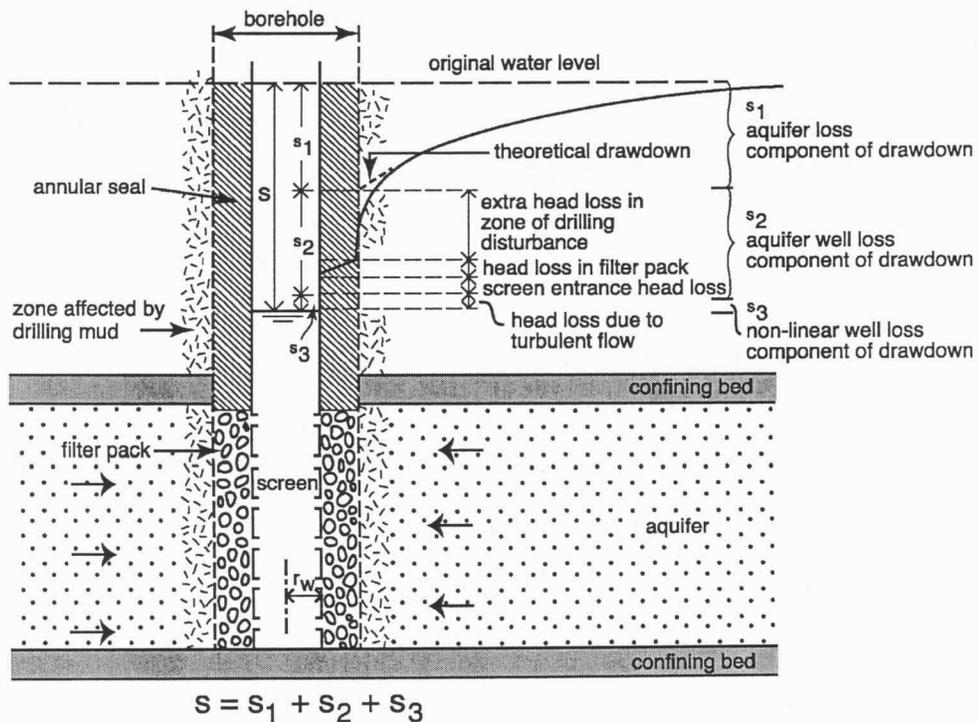


# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Additional Mechanisms**

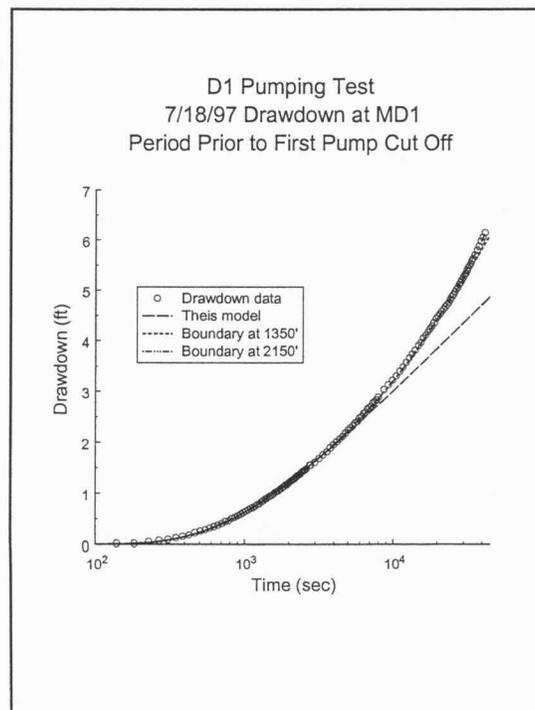
- well losses
  - only important at pumping well
  - influence drawdown at all times
    - constant factor added to drawdown
- partial penetration
  - important at and near the pumping well
  - influences drawdown at all times
    - constant factor at later times



# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Additional Mechanisms**
  - lateral boundaries
    - important at all well locations
    - influence drawdown at later times

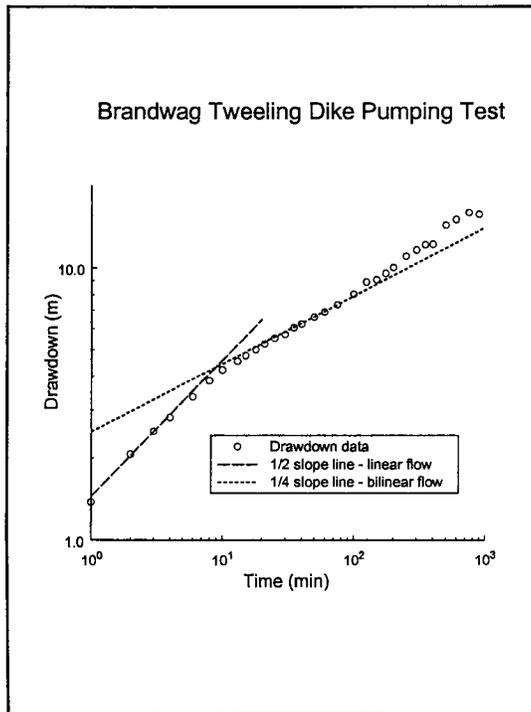
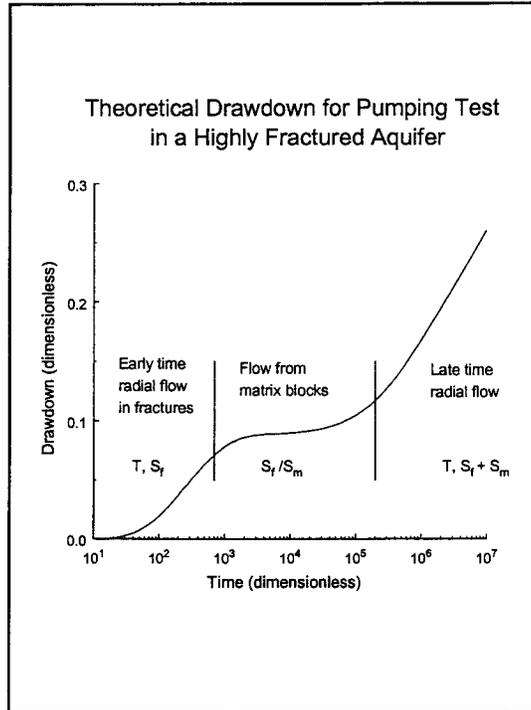


## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- Confined Aquifers
- Leaky Aquifers
- Unconfined Aquifers
- Recovery Methods
- Additional Mechanisms
- **Less Common Settings/Tests**

## Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Less Common Settings/Tests**
  - fractured aquifers
    - double-porosity models
      - Moench
    - discrete-fracture models
    - fracture zone in less permeable matrix
      - Butler and Liu
        - KGS web site

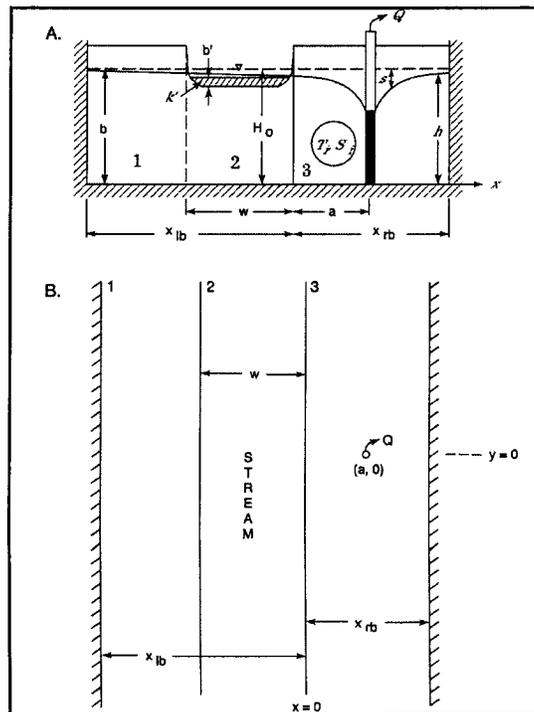


# Pumping Tests

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

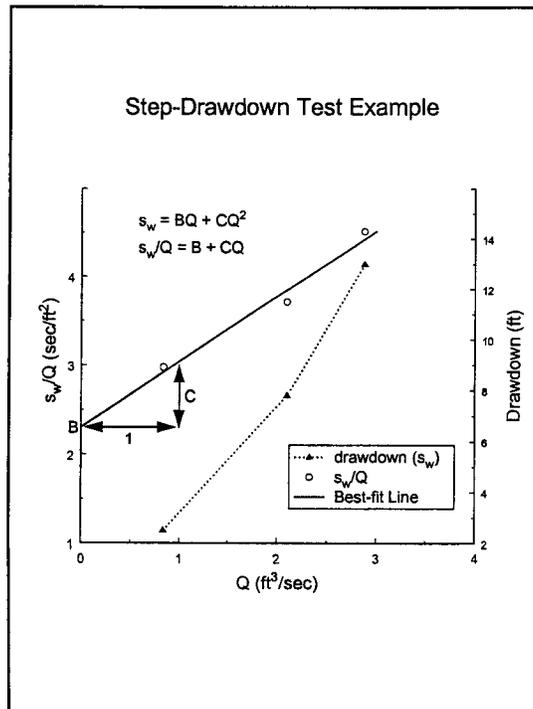
- **Less Common Settings/Tests**

- stream-aquifer interactions
  - fully penetrating stream
    - Glover-Balmer, Jenkins
  - partially penetrating stream
    - Butler et al.
    - KGS web site



# Pumping Tests Major Methods for Data Analysis

- **Less Common Settings/Tests**
  - step-drawdown tests
    - well performance
    - multiple short-term pumping periods

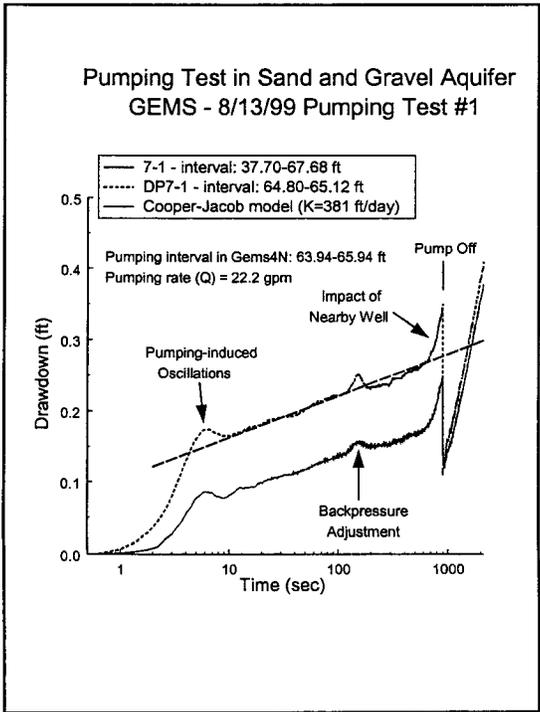
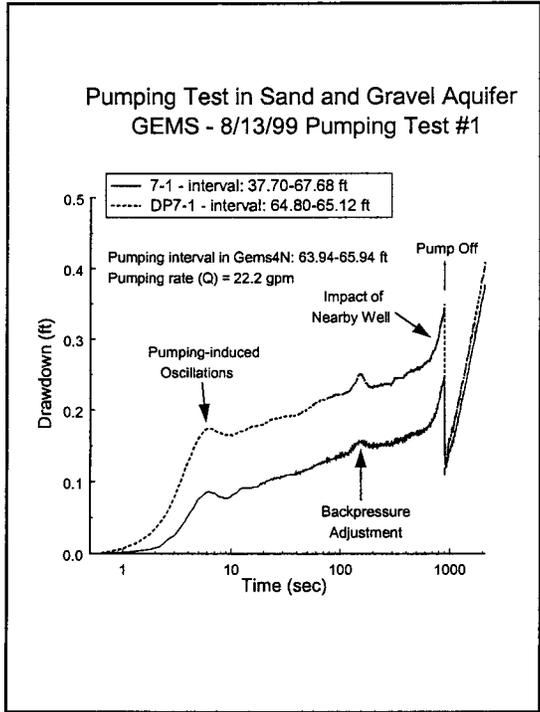


## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- General Design Guidelines
- Direct Push Applications
- Major Methods for Data Analysis
- **Data Analysis Strategies**
- Conclusions

## Data Analysis Strategies Pumping Tests

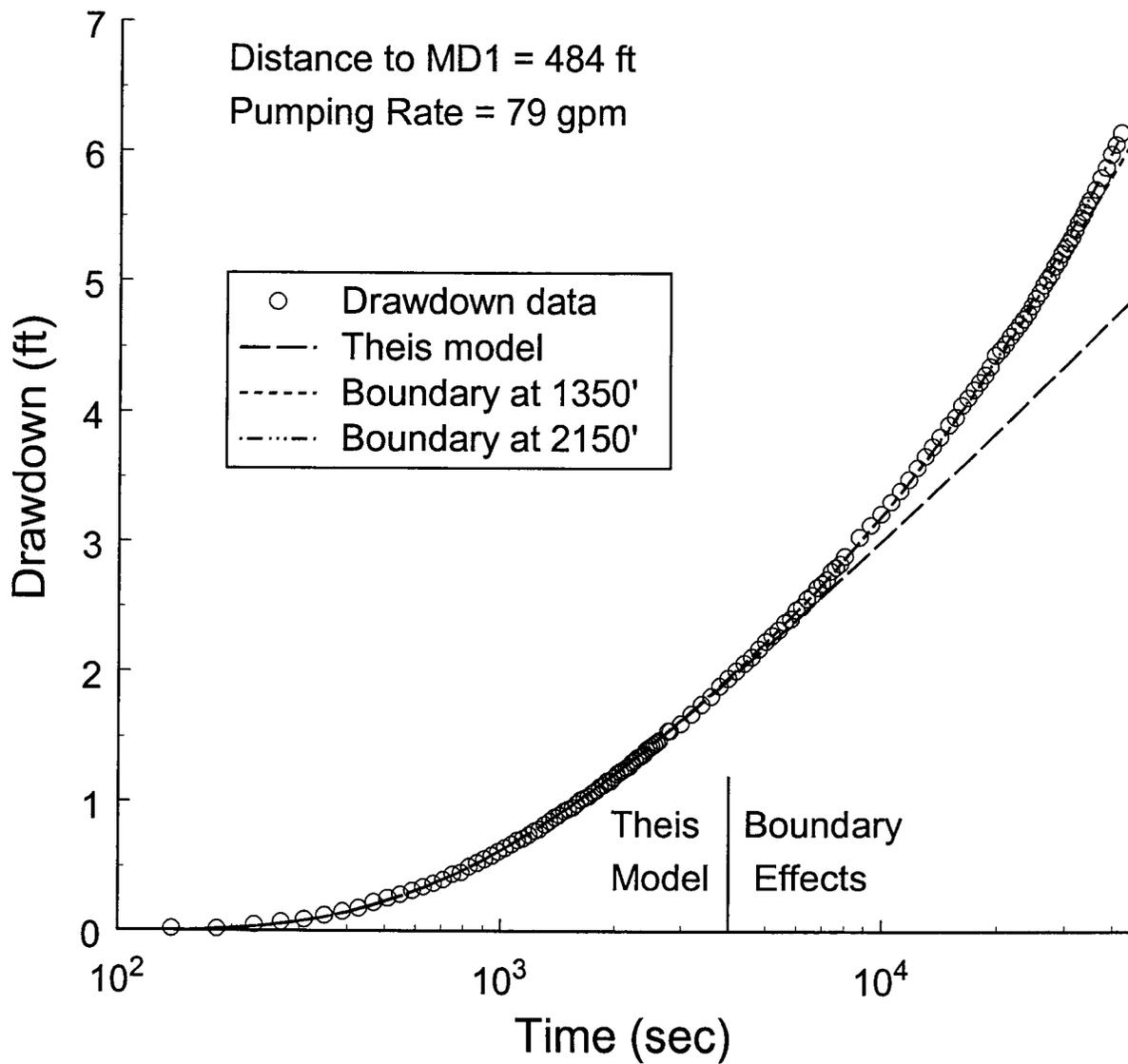
- Select Appropriate Model
  - test design
    - consistent with target parameters
    - consistent with geologic framework
    - attempt to minimize complexities
  - specialized plots
    - assist in the identification of flow regimes
      - radial, linear, bilinear, etc.
- Principle of Parsimony
  - identify radial flow regime
    - analyze with Theis or Cooper-Jacob model
  - analyze remainder of record
    - consistent with objectives of test



# D1 Pumping Test

## 7/18/97 Drawdown at MD1

### Period Prior to First Pump Cut Off



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
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- Direct Push Applications
- Major Methods for Data Analysis
- Data Analysis Strategies
- **Conclusions**

# Pumping Tests

- The Need for Care
  - Design
    - Justify model selection
    - Confidence in parameter estimates
    - Minimize complexities
  - Performance
    - Rate - appropriate signal to noise ratio
    - Duration - consistent with objectives
  - Analysis
    - Principle of parsimony
      - Cooper-Jacob model or recovery variant
      - consistent with objectives
- Large Scale Hydraulic Properties
  - Extrapolate to larger times with caution
    - Additional boundaries

## LIST OF NOTATION

B = linear loss coefficient in step-drawdown equation,  $[T/L^2]$ ;

b = aquifer thickness, [L];

b' = thickness of aquitard, [L];

C = quadratic loss coefficient in step-drawdown equation,  $[T^2/L^5]$ ;

K' = hydraulic conductivity of aquitard, [L];

$K_r, K_h$  = radial (horizontal) component of the hydraulic conductivity of the formation, [L/T];

$K_z$  = vertical component of the hydraulic conductivity of the formation, [L/T];

Q = pumping rate,  $[L^3/T]$ ;

r = distance to observation well, [L];

$r_c$  = effective radius of well casing, [L];

$r_w$  = effective radius of well screen, [L];

S = storativity of formation, [dimensionless];

S' = storativity of aquitard, [dimensionless];

$S_f$  = storativity of fractures, [dimensionless];

$S_m$  = storativity of matrix, [dimensionless];

$S_s$  = specific storage of formation, [1/L];

$S_y$  = specific yield of formation, [dimensionless];

s = drawdown, [L];

s' = residual drawdown, [L];

$s_w$  = drawdown at pumping well, [L];

$\Delta s$  = change in drawdown in time or space used in Cooper-Jacob and Thiem methods,  
respectively, [L];

$T$  = transmissivity of formation, [ $L^2/T$ ];

$t$  = total time since the start of the test, [T];

$t_0$  = time at which Cooper-Jacob straight line intersects x axis, [T];

$u = r^2 S / 4 T t$ , dimensionless term used in Theis equation;

$z$  = vertical direction, [L];

$B = (K_z / K_r)(r/b)^2$ , dimensionless parameter for pumping tests in unconfined aquifers;

$B = (r/4)(K'S'/TSb')^{1/2}$ , dimensionless parameter for pumping tests in leaky aquifers;

# REFERENCES

## General

- Batu, *Aquifer Hydraulics*, Wiley, 727 pp., 1998 – good theoretical treatment of mostly pre-1980 methods – place to go for derivations of classic methods but not for practical aspects.
- Kruseman and de Ridder, *Analysis and Evaluation of Pumping Test Data, ILRI Publication 47* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), 377 pp., 1990 - henceforth, KdeR – most complete coverage currently available – stresses practical side.

## General Design Guidelines

KdeR – Chapter 2.

- Butler, The role of pumping tests in site characterization: Some theoretical considerations, *Ground Water*, 28(3), 394, 1990 – discussion of observation-well placement.
- Butler and Healey, Relationship between pumping-test and slug-test parameters: Scale effect or artifact, *Ground Water*, 36(2), 305, 1998 – includes discussion of pumping tests in heterogeneous aquifers.
- Driscoll, *Groundwater and Wells*, Johnson Division, St. Paul, 1986 – good coverage from a water-well industry perspective.
- Fetter, *Applied Hydrogeology*, Prentice Hall, 2001 (4<sup>th</sup> edition) – pp. 210-213.

## Design of Tests in Low-K Media

- Cho, Wilson, and Beck, Measuring vertical profiles of hydraulic conductivity with in-situ direct push methods, *Jour. of Environmental Engineering*, 126(8), 775, 2001 – constant drawdown pumping test performed in direct-push pipe using a suction pump – although approach is applied to test in an aquifer, it would work best in a low-K formation.

## Design of Tests in High-K Media

- Zhan and Butler, Hydraulic tests in highly permeable aquifers: A new analytical solution and insight for hydraulic tomography (abstract), *Eos*, 82(20), S160 (2001 Spring AGU Conference) – most complete analysis to date - article to follow shortly.
- Shapiro – Interpretation of oscillatory water levels in observation wells during aquifer tests in fractured rock, *Water Resources Research*, 25(10), 2129, 1989 – good introduction to topic but only considers inertial effects in observation well.

## Direct Push Applications

- Butler, Healey, McCall, Garnett, and Loheide, Hydraulic tests with direct-push equipment, *Ground Water*, 39(6), in press – covers both pumping and slug tests.
- Butler, J.J., Jr., J.M. Healey, L. Zheng, W. McCall, and M.K. Schulmeister. 1999a. Hydrostratigraphic characterization of unconsolidated alluvium with direct-push sensor technology (abstract). *GSA 1999 Annual Meeting Abstracts with Program*. v. 31, no. 7: A350 (full report (*Kansas Geological Survey Open-File Rept. 99-40*) available at [www.kgs.ukans.edu/Hydro/Publications/OFR99\\_40/index.html](http://www.kgs.ukans.edu/Hydro/Publications/OFR99_40/index.html)) – covers direct-push electrical conductivity logging.
- Cho, Wilson, and Beck, Measuring vertical profiles of hydraulic conductivity with in-situ direct push methods, *Jour. of Environmental Engineering*, 126(8), 775, 2001 – constant drawdown pumping test performed in direct-push pipe using a suction pump.

## Major Methods for Data Analysis

Batu – Chapters 3-11.

KdeR – Chapters 3-15, 17-19.

- Butler, The role of pumping tests in site characterization: Some theoretical considerations, *Ground Water*, 28(3), 394, 1990 – detailed discussion of Theis and Cooper-Jacob models.
- Butler and Liu, Pumping tests in non-uniform aquifers – the linear strip case, *Jour. of Hydrology*, 128, 69, 1991 – solution for fracture zone in less-permeable matrix.
- Butler, Zlotnik, and Tsou, Drawdown and stream depletion produced by pumping in the vicinity of a partially penetrating stream, *Ground Water*, 39(5), in press, 2001 – solution for pumping near a stream – can be run online at <http://www.kgs.ukans.edu/StreamAq>.
- Hantush, Modification of the theory of leaky aquifers, *Jour. of Geophysical Research*, 65(11), 3713, 1960 – first work to include aquitard storage.
- Hantush and Jacob, Non-steady radial flow in an infinite leaky aquifer, *AGU Transactions*, 36, 95, 1955 – early work that neglects aquitard storage.
- Moench, Double-porosity models for a fissured groundwater reservoir with fracture skin, *Water Resources Research*, 20(7), 831, 1984 – preferred method for analysis of tests in double-porosity aquifers.
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- Moench, Flow to a well of finite diameter in a homogeneous, anisotropic water table aquifer, *Water Resources Research*, 33(6), 1397, 1997 – preferred method for analysis of tests in unconfined aquifers.
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- Neuman and Witherspoon, Theory of flow in a confined two aquifer system, *Water Resources Research*, 5(4), 803, 1969 –leaky system with changing water levels in unpumped aquifer.
- Walton, Selected analytical methods for well and aquifer evaluation, *Illinois State Water Survey Bulletin No. 49*, 81 pp., 1962 – includes type curve implementation of Hantush and Jacob (1955) solution.