



PRE-XVII CONGRESO ARGENTINO  
**de Vialidad y Tránsito**

8º EXPOVIAL ARGENTINA

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HOTEL PANAMERICANO - Buenos Aires, Argentina



# Mixture Design for Durability

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Institute for Transportation

X CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL ITS  
X SIMPOSIO DEL ASFALTO



II SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL DE PAVIMENTOS DE HORMIGÓN

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# An Emphasis on Durability

Ability of the concrete to survive the environment to which it is exposed

- What can go wrong?
- How do we prevent it?
- What's new?



But I have been doing it this way for 30 years...



# How Does Concrete Fail?

- Mechanical overload
- Internal expansion
- Cold
- External attack

For each one...

- Mechanism
- Prevention
- Testing



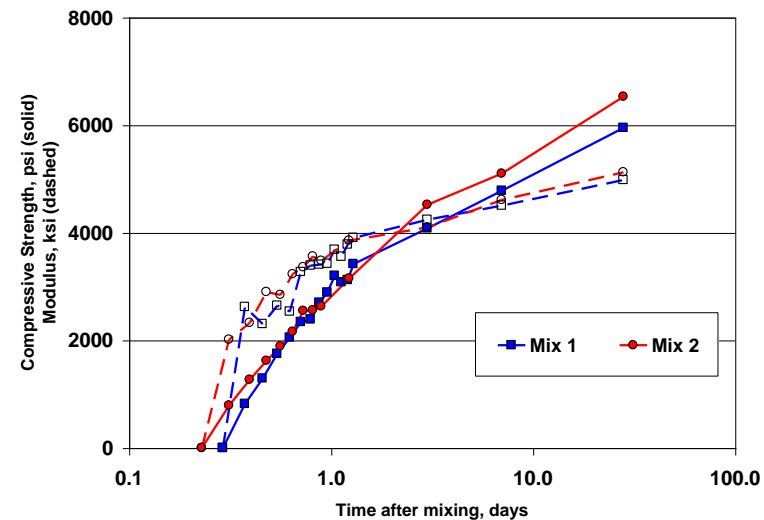
# How Does Concrete Fail

- Overload / Fatigue. Not enough:
  - Strength
  - Thickness
  - Support
  - Drainage
- Early age Cracking



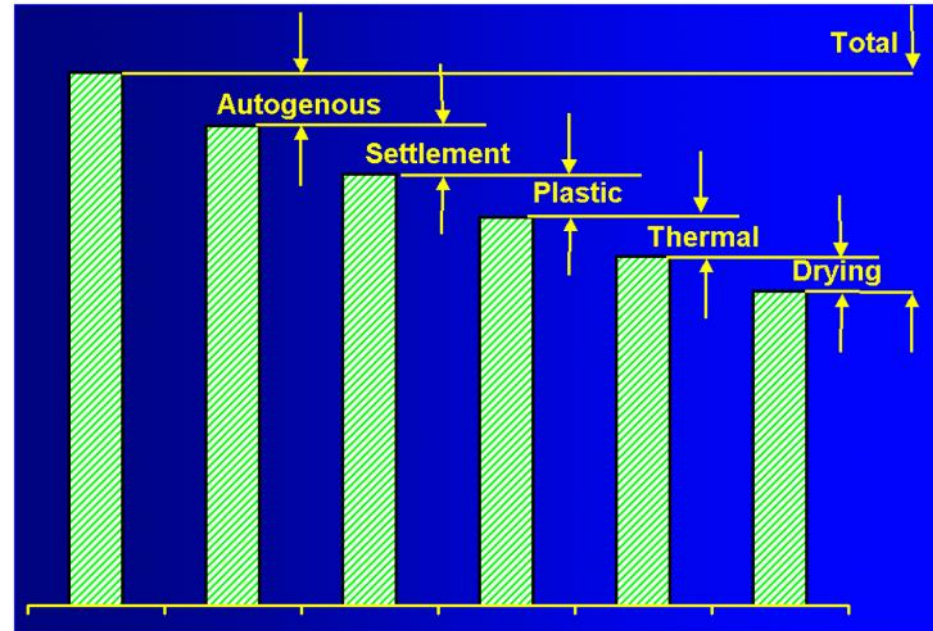
# Strength

- Strong enough
- Controlled by w/cm
  
- Stiffness?
  - High stiffness = small deflections
  - Low stiffness = high cracking risk



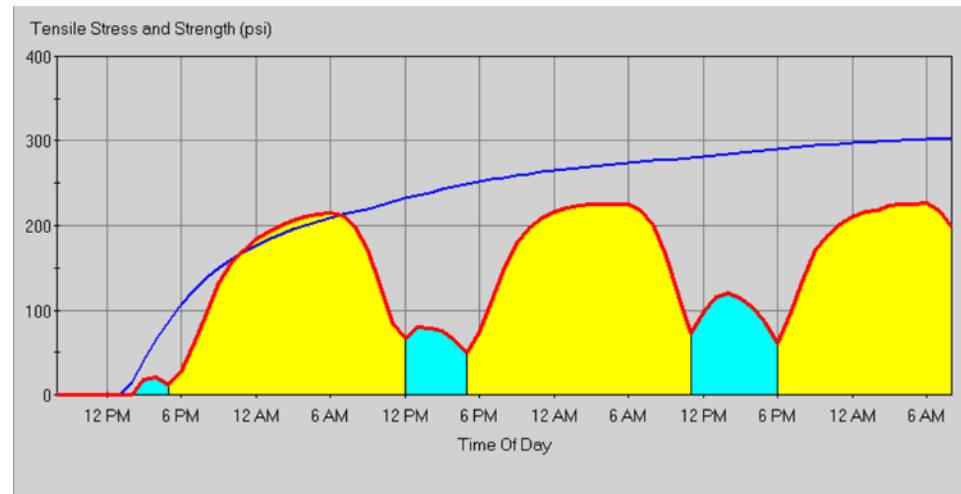
# Cracking

- Concrete always cracks
  - Control size and spacing
- Concrete moves over time:
  - Chemical changes
  - Moisture changes
  - Temperature changes
  - Loading



# Cracking

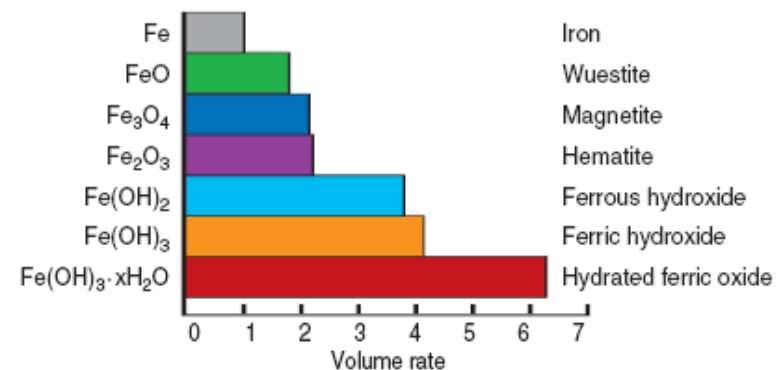
- Stress depends on
  - Contraction
  - Stiffness
  - Creep
  - Load
  
- Cracking depends on
  - Stress
  - Strength





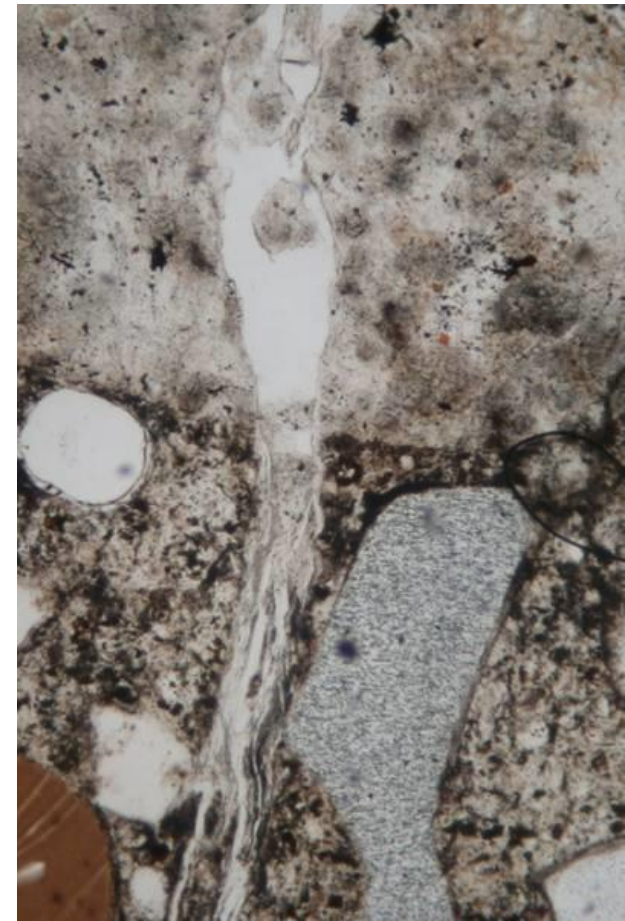
# How Does Concrete Fail

- Internal Expansion
  - AAR
  - D-Cracking
  - Steel Corrosion
  
- Choose aggregates
- Reduce permeability
- Use SCMs



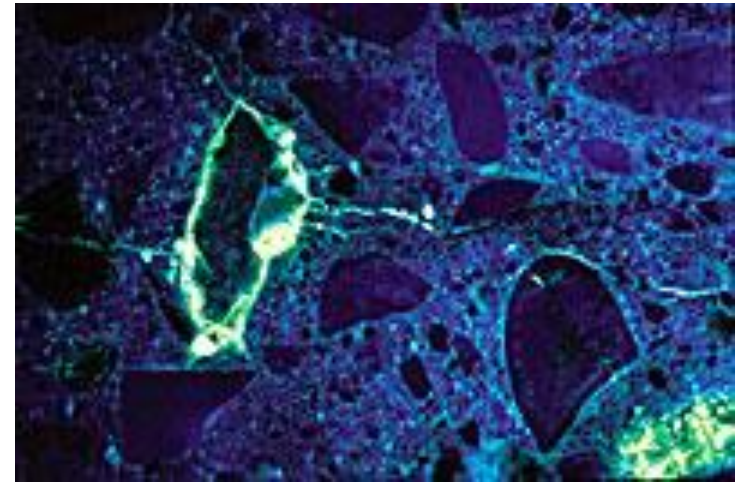
# Alkali Aggregate Reaction

- Chemical reaction with
  - Reactive aggregates
  - Alkali hydroxides
  - Water



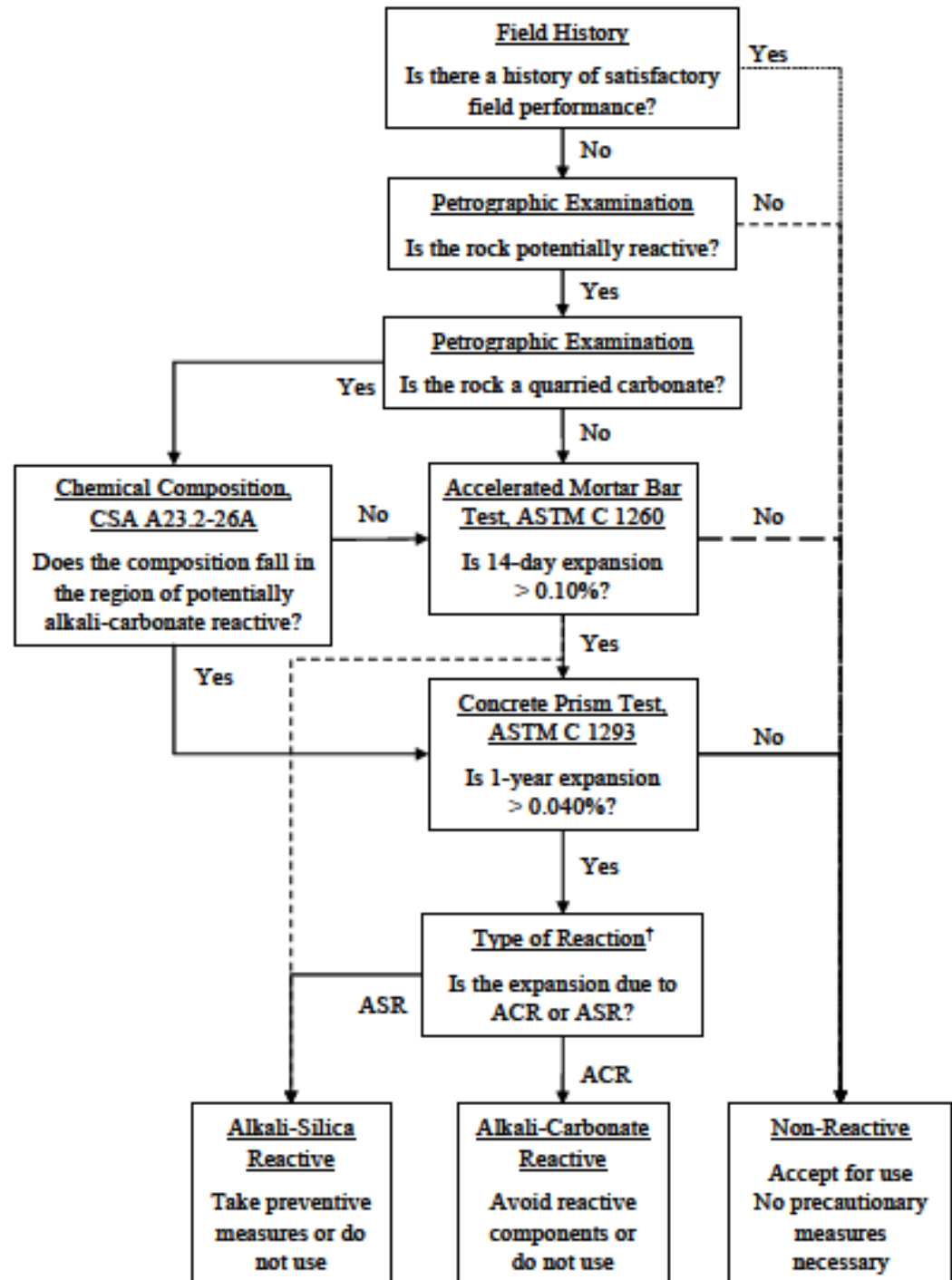
# Alkali Aggregate Reaction

- Prevention
  - SCM's at the right dosage
  - Amount of SCM depends on Calcium content
  - Lithium compounds
  - Limit alkalis
- Testing / Specification
  - AASHTO PP65



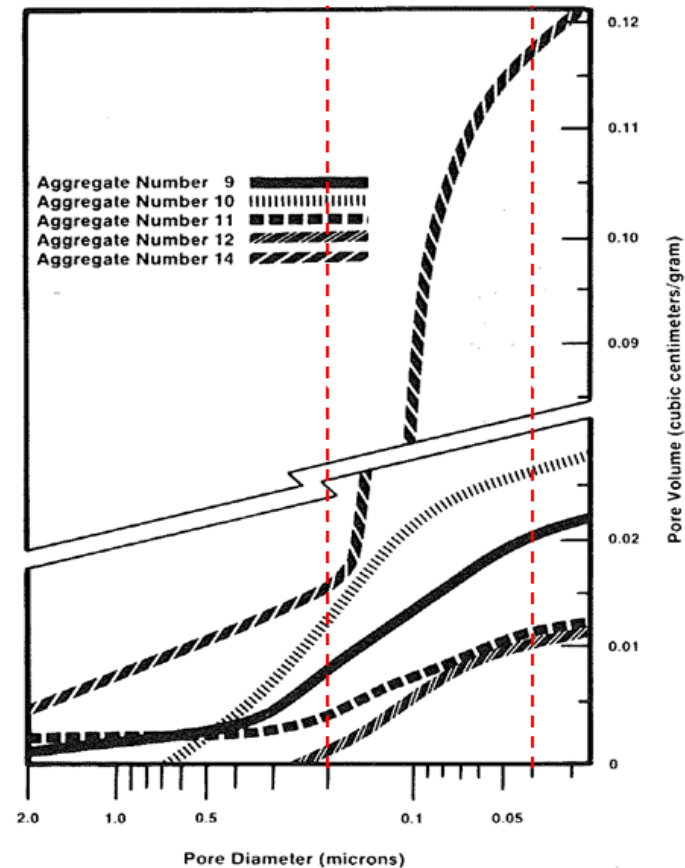
# Alkali Aggregate Reaction

*Report on Determining the Reactivity of Concrete Aggregates and  
Selecting Appropriate Measures for Preventing Deleterious  
Expansion in New Concrete Construction*



# D-Cracking

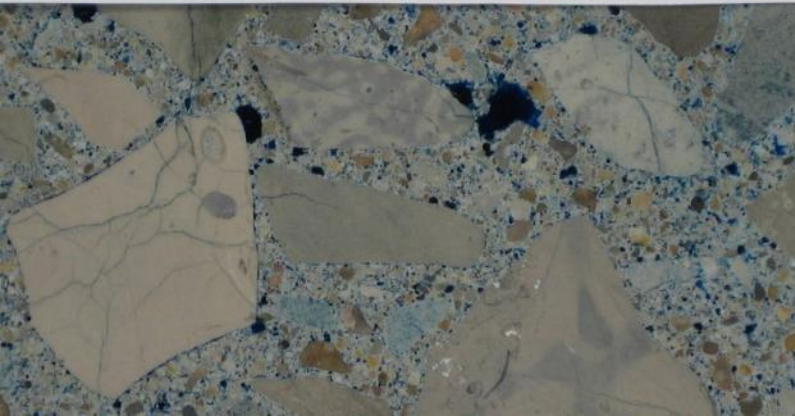
- Mechanism
  - Some limestone aggregates
  - Cold weather
  - Pores absorb water and hold it
  - Some chemical effects



Marks and Dubberke 1982

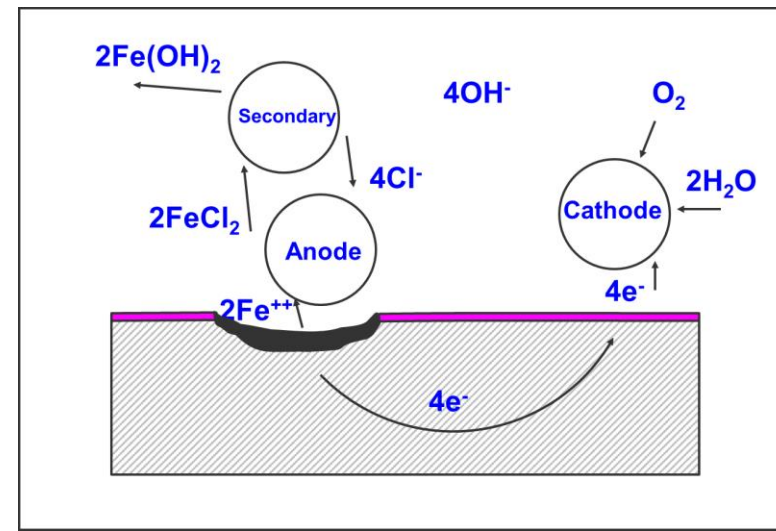
# D-Cracking

- Prevention
  - Limit risky aggregate use
  - Smaller sizes buy time
- Testing
  - Local practice



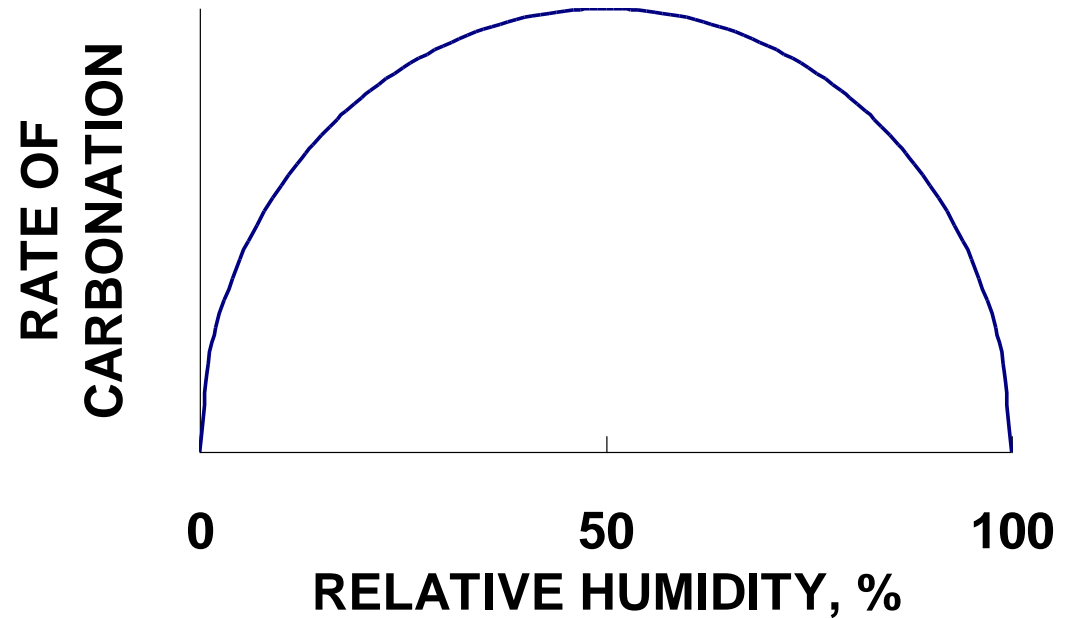
# Corrosion

- Steel expands 700% when fully oxidized
- Normally protected by paste except:
  - pH  $< \sim 9$
  - Chlorides present
- Keep chlorides out
- Prevent carbonation
- Keep water out
- Provide cover



# Carbonation

- Sensitive to moisture state
- Reduces pH





# How Does Concrete Fail

- Cold Weather
  - Freeze Thaw Cycling
  - Salt Crystallization
- Good Air
- Low Permeability



# Freeze Thaw Cycling

- Mechanisms
  - Saturated system
  - Water freezes and expands
- Normally cracks parallel to
- Depth depends on water movement and temperature range



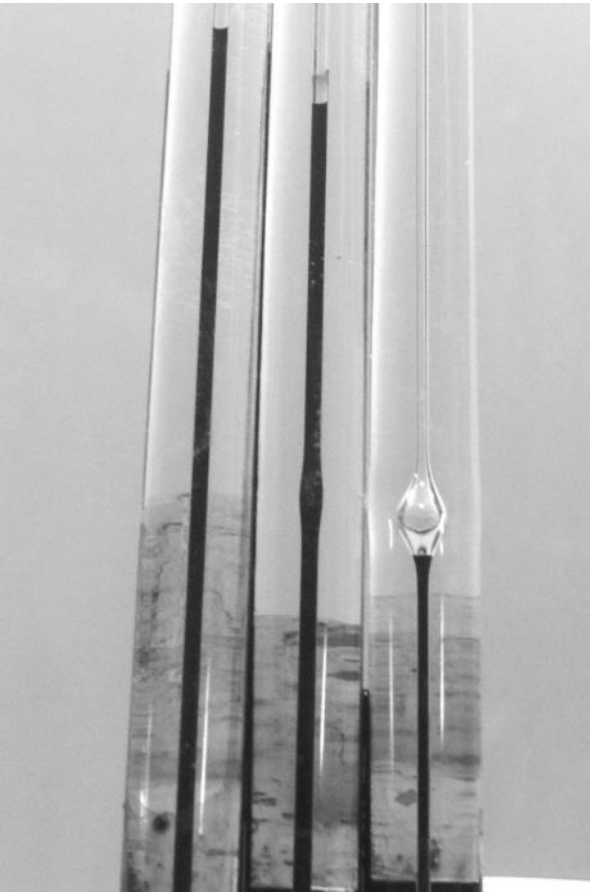
# Freeze Thaw Cycling

- Prevention
  - Air void system
  - Prevent saturation (<85%)
    - Let it dry regularly
    - Reduce permeability

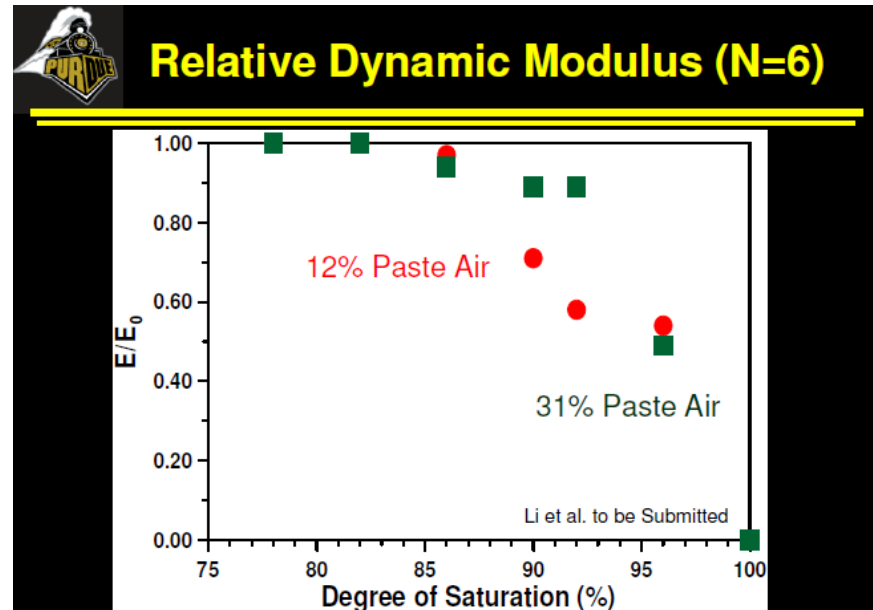


# Freeze Thaw Cycling

- Prevention
  - Air helps slow saturation

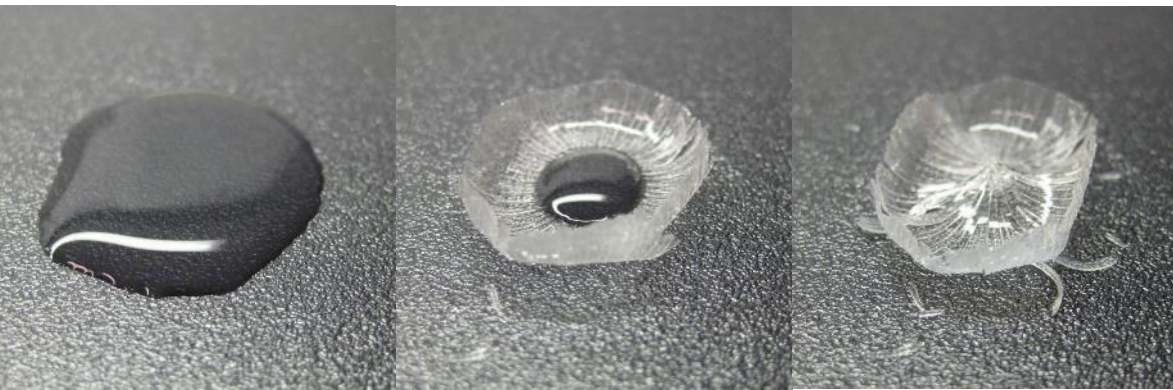


Jason Weiss



# Salt Scaling

- Mechanisms
  - Salts in solution crystallize
  - Osmosis
  - Not necessarily cold related



# Salt Scaling

- Prevention
  - Reduce permeability
  - Good air
  - System chemistry
  - Finishing



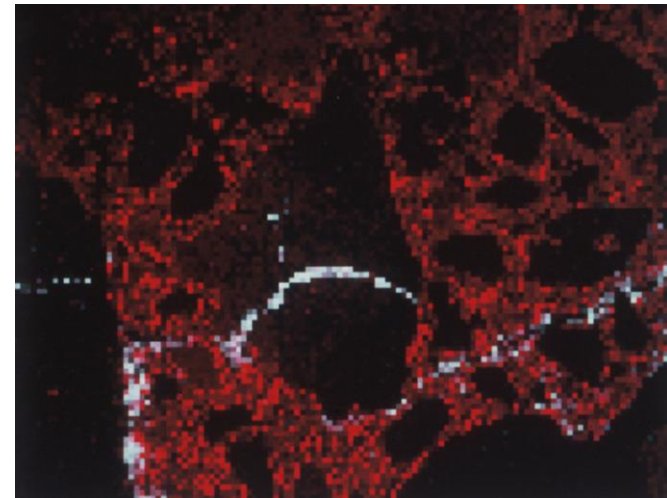
# How Does Concrete Fail

- Chemical Attack
  - Soft Water / Acid
  - Sulfates
  - De-icing Salts
- Permeability



# Sulfates

- Needs
  - Sulfates
  - Water
  - $C_3A$
- Complex reactions to form ettringite then gypsum
- Makes paste soft
  
- Reduce  $C_3A$
- Prevent access of sulfates
- Use low calcium SCMs





# Salts can cause chemical attack

- Calcium oxychloride
- Friedel's Salt – Calcium-chloro-aluminate
- Ettringite
- Saturation

Moulzolf



Sutter



CaCl<sub>2</sub> @ 40° F

# Incremental Cracking

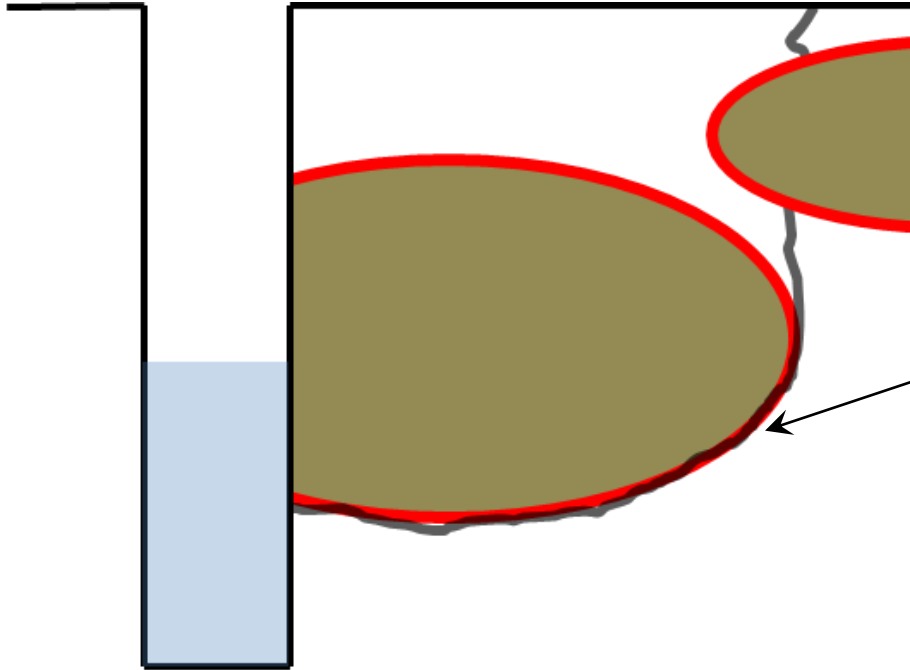


# The Symptoms

- Not typical freezing and thawing
  - No thin flakes



# Interfacial Zone



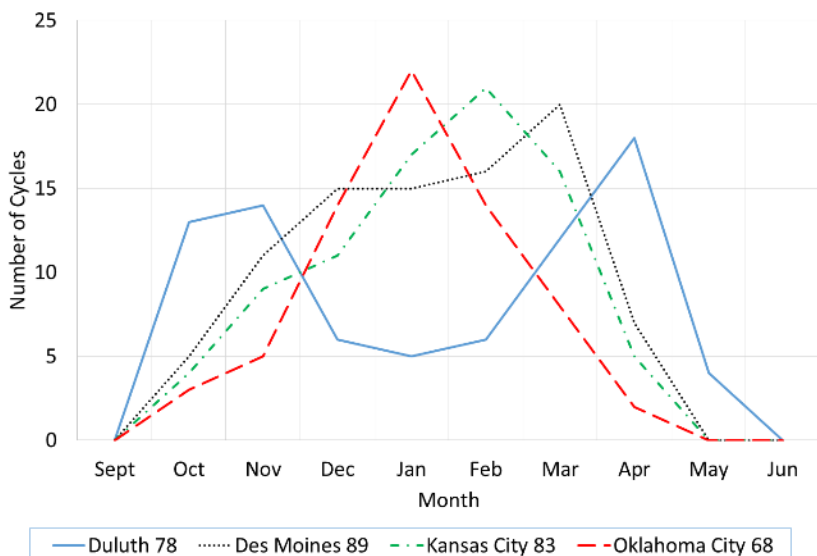
IFZ likely dissolved in salt solutions at low temperatures



# What do we do now?

- The game has changed
  - Materials are different
  - Environment is tougher
  - Demands are higher

Freeze-Thaw Cycles by City, 2013



# What do we do now?

- We have to
  - Keep water away from the concrete
  - Permeability of the concrete should be as low as practical
  - The air void system in the in-place concrete must be appropriate
  - Choose materials wisely



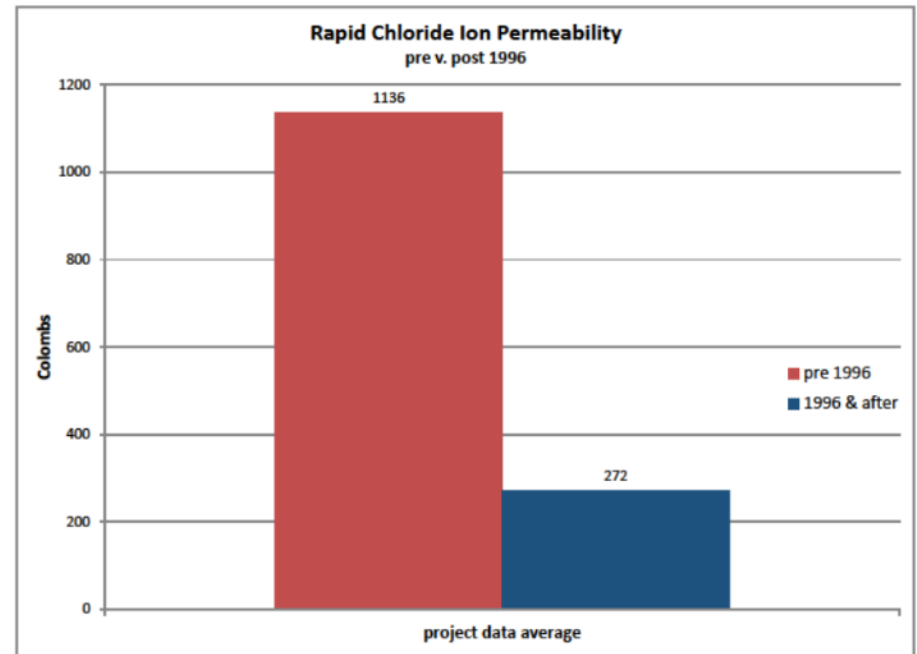
# Drainage

- Avoid bathtubs and swimming pools
- Make sure water can get away
- Where is the water table?
- Local effects



# Permeability

- Stop fluids from penetrating
  - ~0.40 to 0.42 max w/cm
  - Use appropriate SCMs



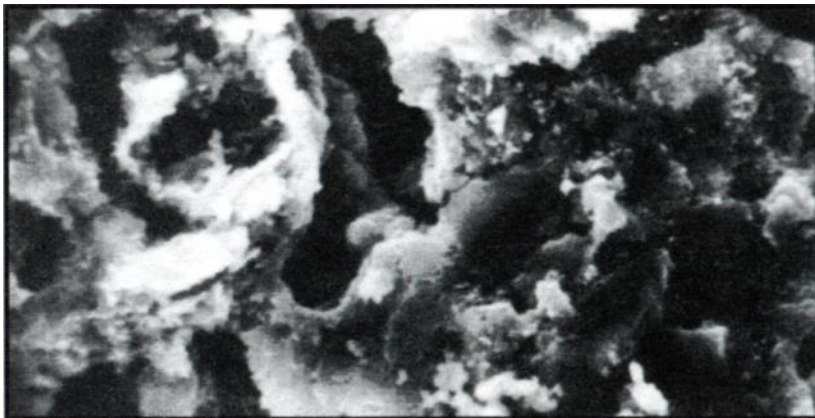
Moulzolf



# Less Water = Lower Permeability



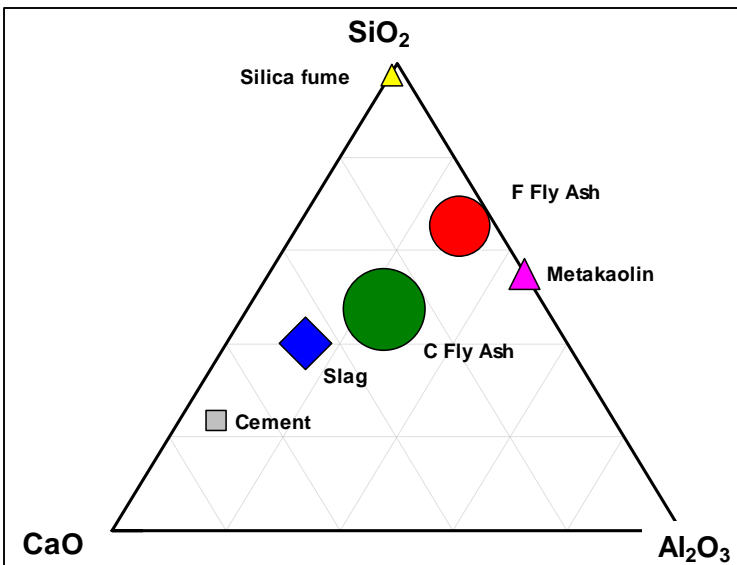
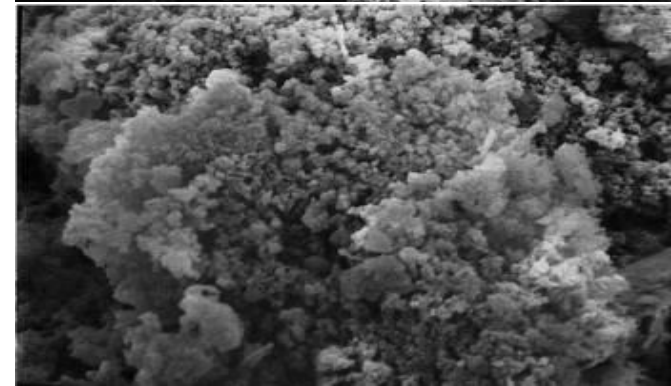
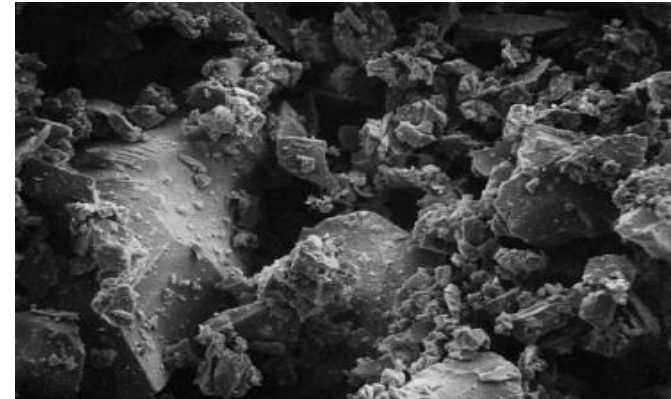
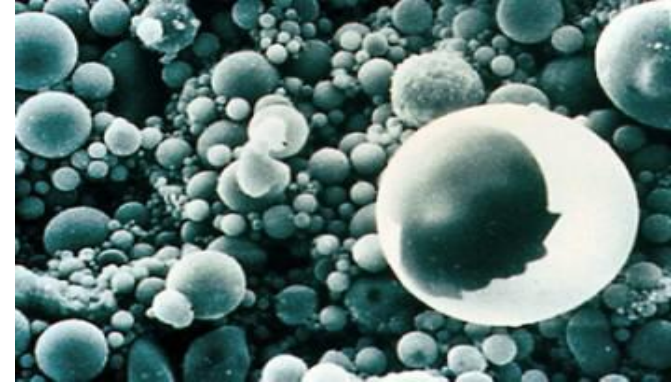
- w/c 0.43



- w/c 0.60 – dark voids where water once occupied space

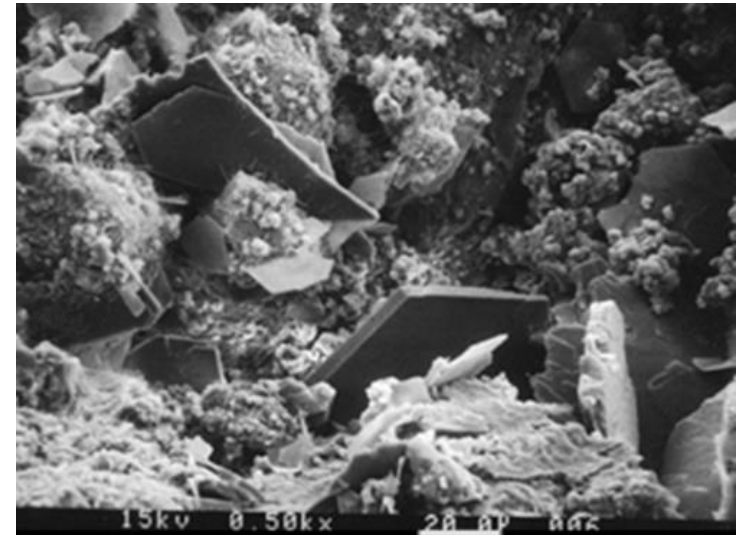
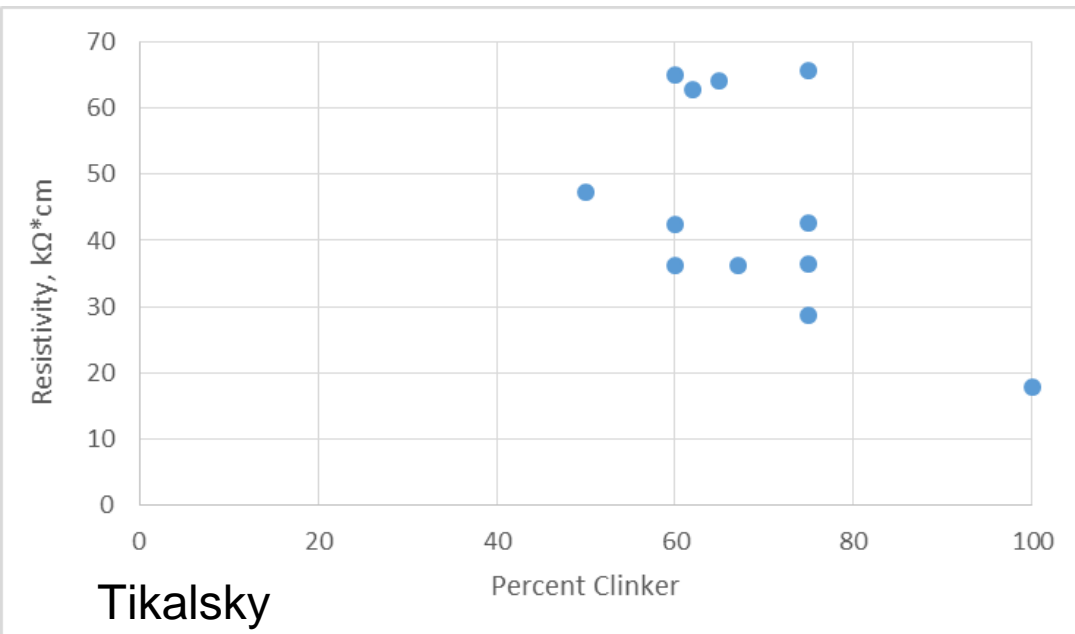
# Supplementary Cementitious Materials

- Fly ash
  - Slag Cement
  - Silica fume
- 
- Consider using ternaries



# Supplementary Cementitious Materials

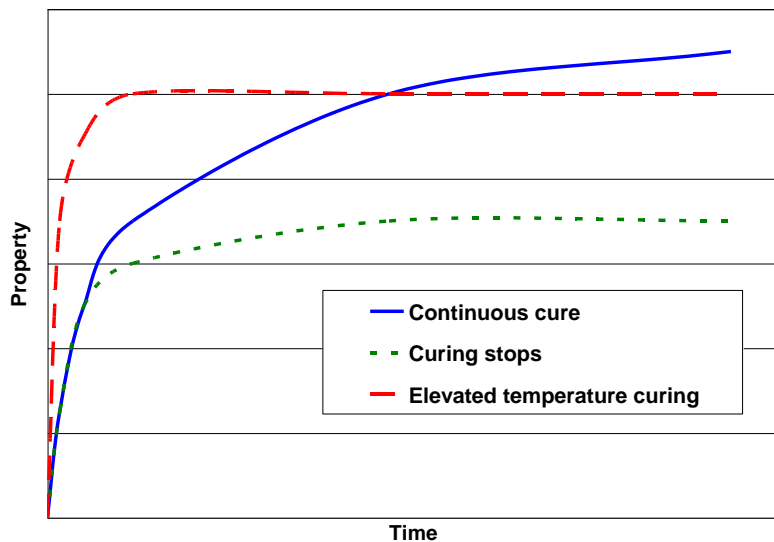
- Convert CH to CSH
- Densify the system
- Slow ASR and sulfate attack
- Change cracking risk
- Need better curing



# Curing

Provide an environment that promotes hydration

- Start early vote often
- Keep it wet and warm
- 7 Days would be nice
- Does it affect strength?



# How?

- Keep it wet
  - Flood
  - Fog
  - Cover



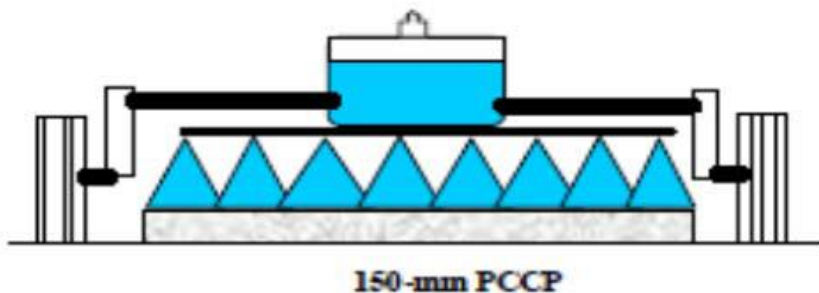
# How?

- Keep it wet
  - Curing compound
    - Poly-alpha-methylstyrene
    - ASTM C 309 (0.55 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
    - Or local requirements (e.g. 0.3 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
    - White

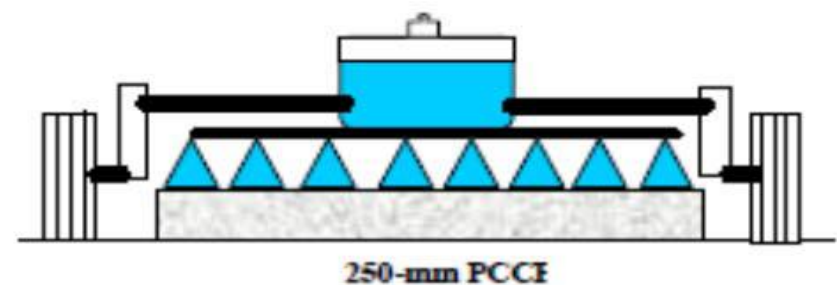


# How?

- Must
  - Be applied to moist surface
  - Be applied by machine



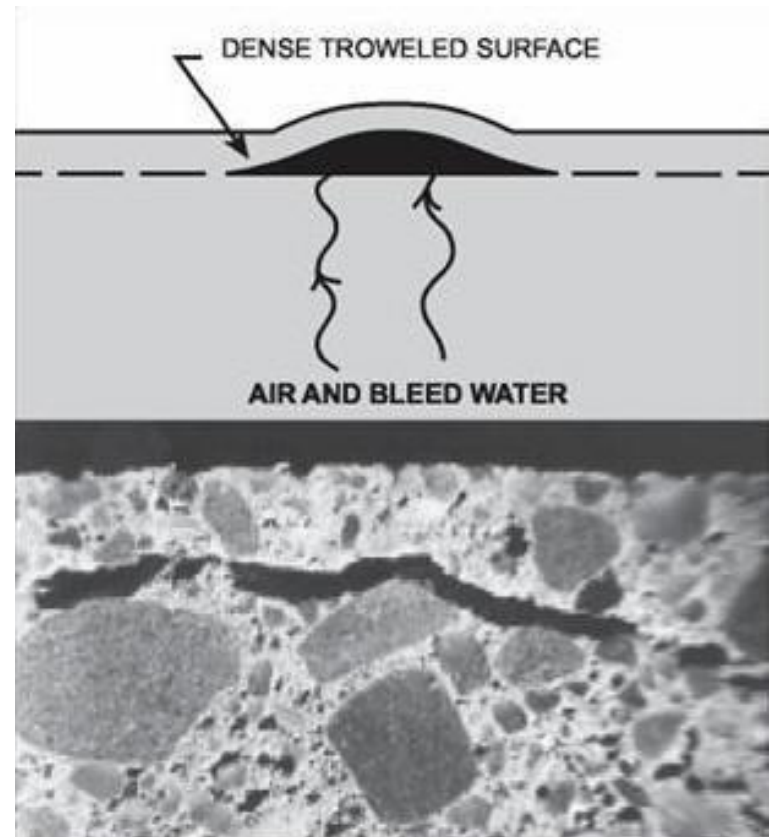
a.) Nozzle heights adjusted to obtain 30% overlap of adjacent spray patterns.



b.) Nozzles must be raised to retain 30% overlap for the 250-mm PCCP.

# When?

- Too early
  - Bleed water is trapped → flakey surface
- Too late
  - Why bother





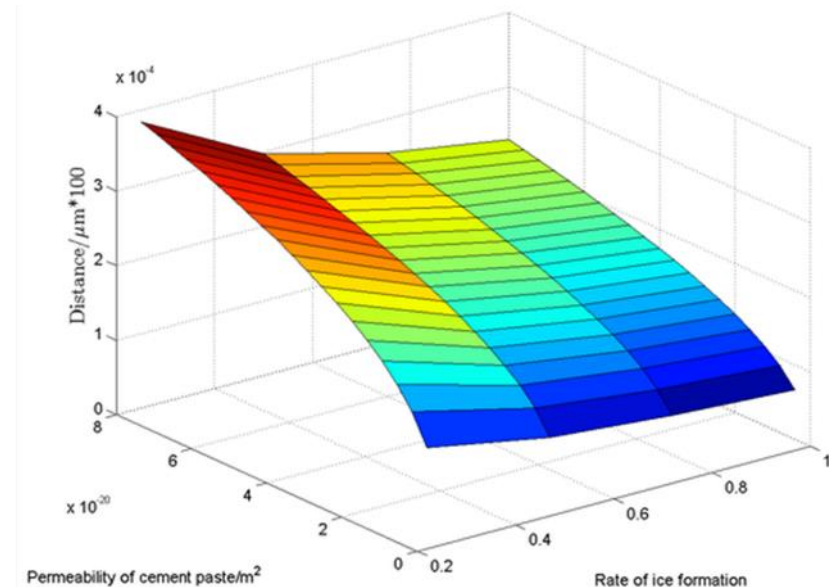
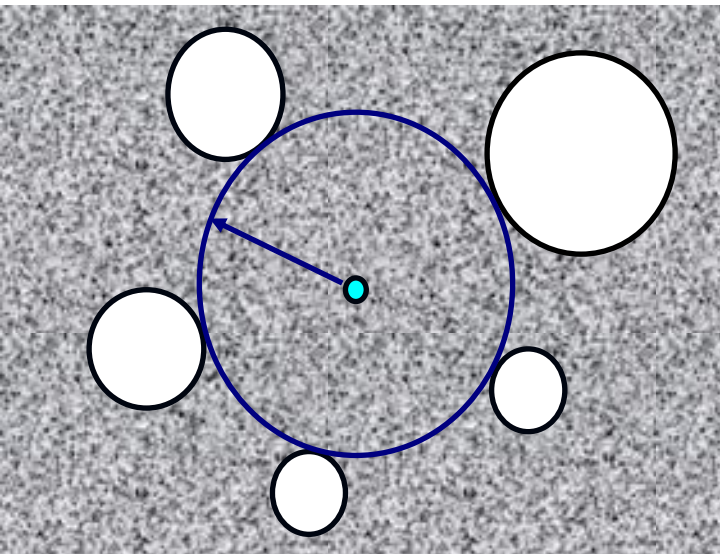
# Penetrating Sealants

- Linseed, silane, soy-methyl ester, lithium silicate
  - When do we put them on?
  - Where?
  - Which ones are good?
  - How do we know?
- More work needed



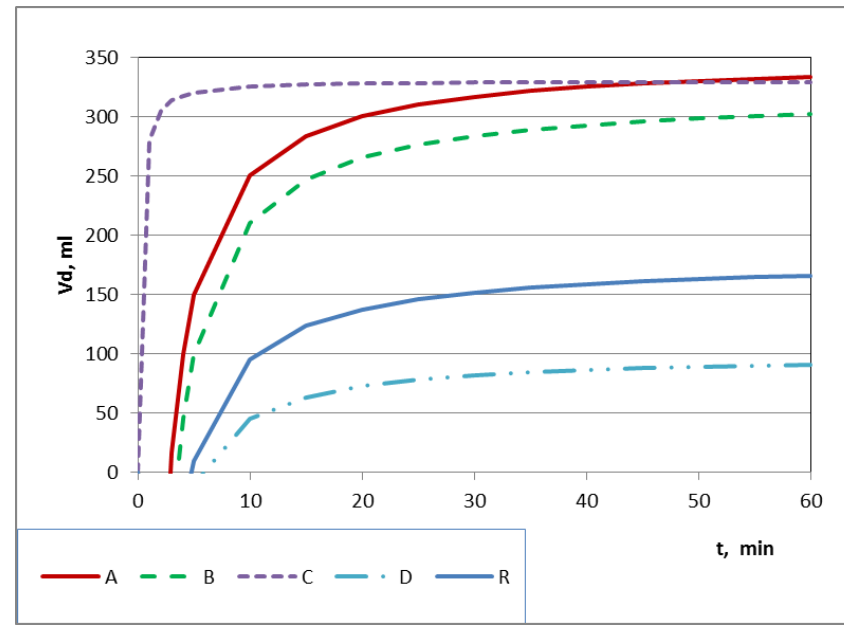
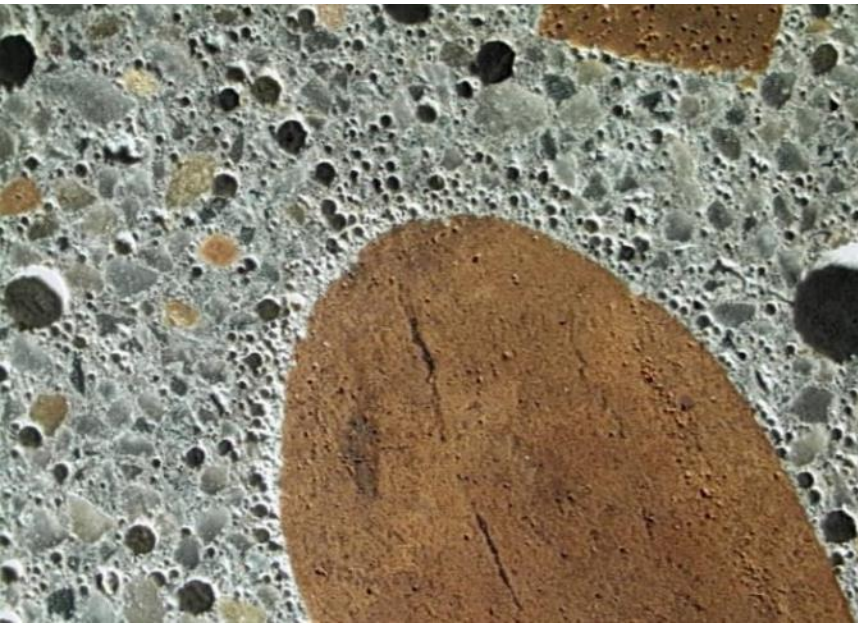
# Air-Void System

- Why?
  - Frost resistance
- What are we looking for?
  - 9% expansion
  - Air void system is more important than total air content



# Air Entrainers

- Vinsol / Rosin / Tall Oil / Synthetics
- Affect
  - Bubble size
  - Stability
  - Effects of WRA
  - Clustering



# Air Void System

- Suggested 5% minimum behind paver – or 0.2 SAM number

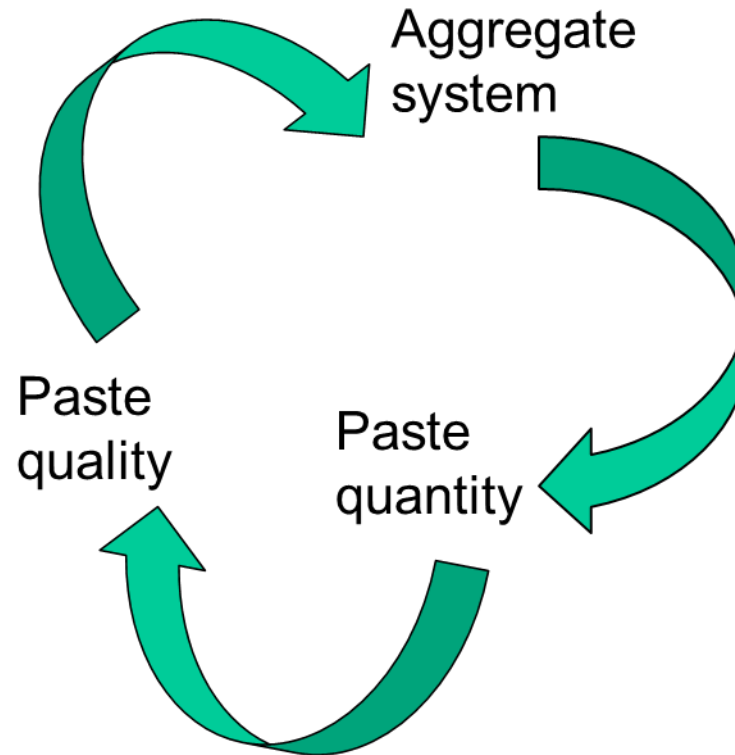


# Current Proportioning Technologies

- Developed
  - Before water reducers
  - Before supplementary cementitious materials
- Primarily focused on structural concrete
  - 100 mm (4") slump
  - 30 MPa (~4000 psi)
- ACI 211 last revised in 1991



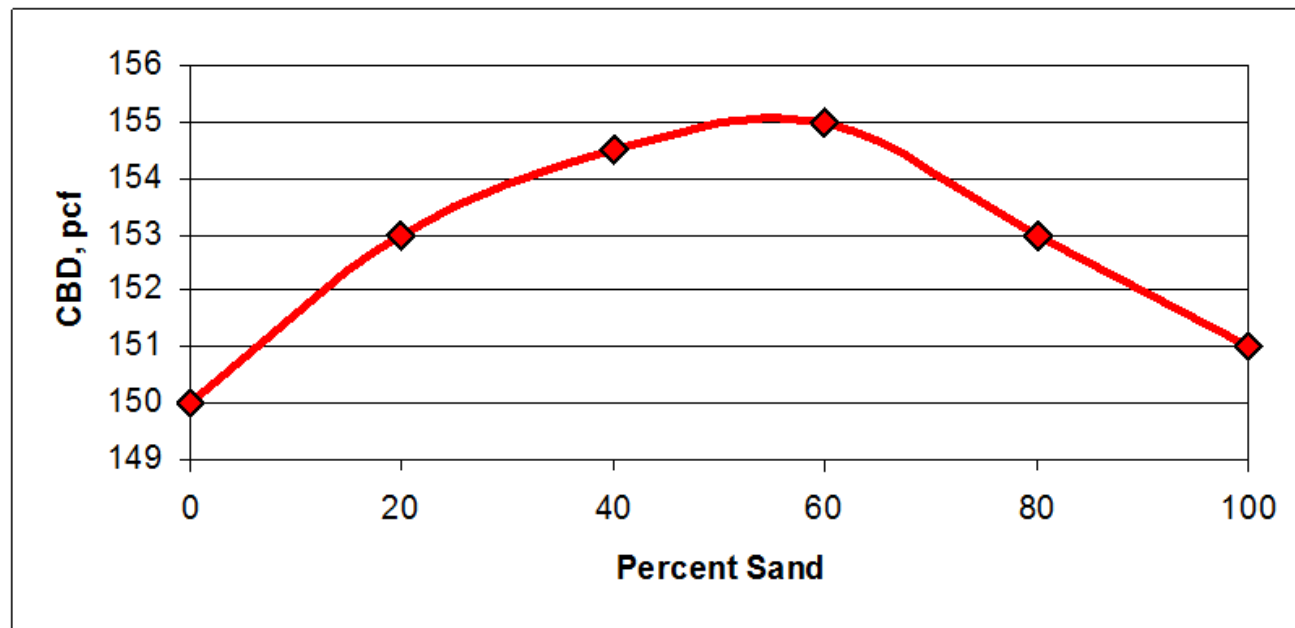
# Proposed Mixture Proportioning Procedure



# Proposed Mixture Proportioning Procedure

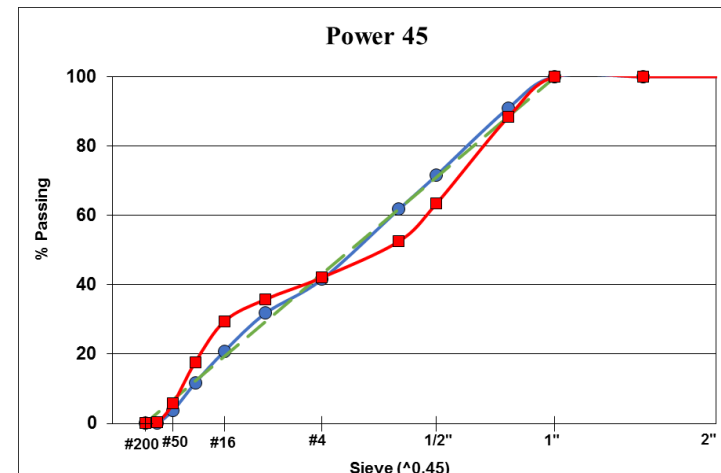
## Choose the Aggregate System

- Combined gradation
- Determine void ratio



# Aggregate System

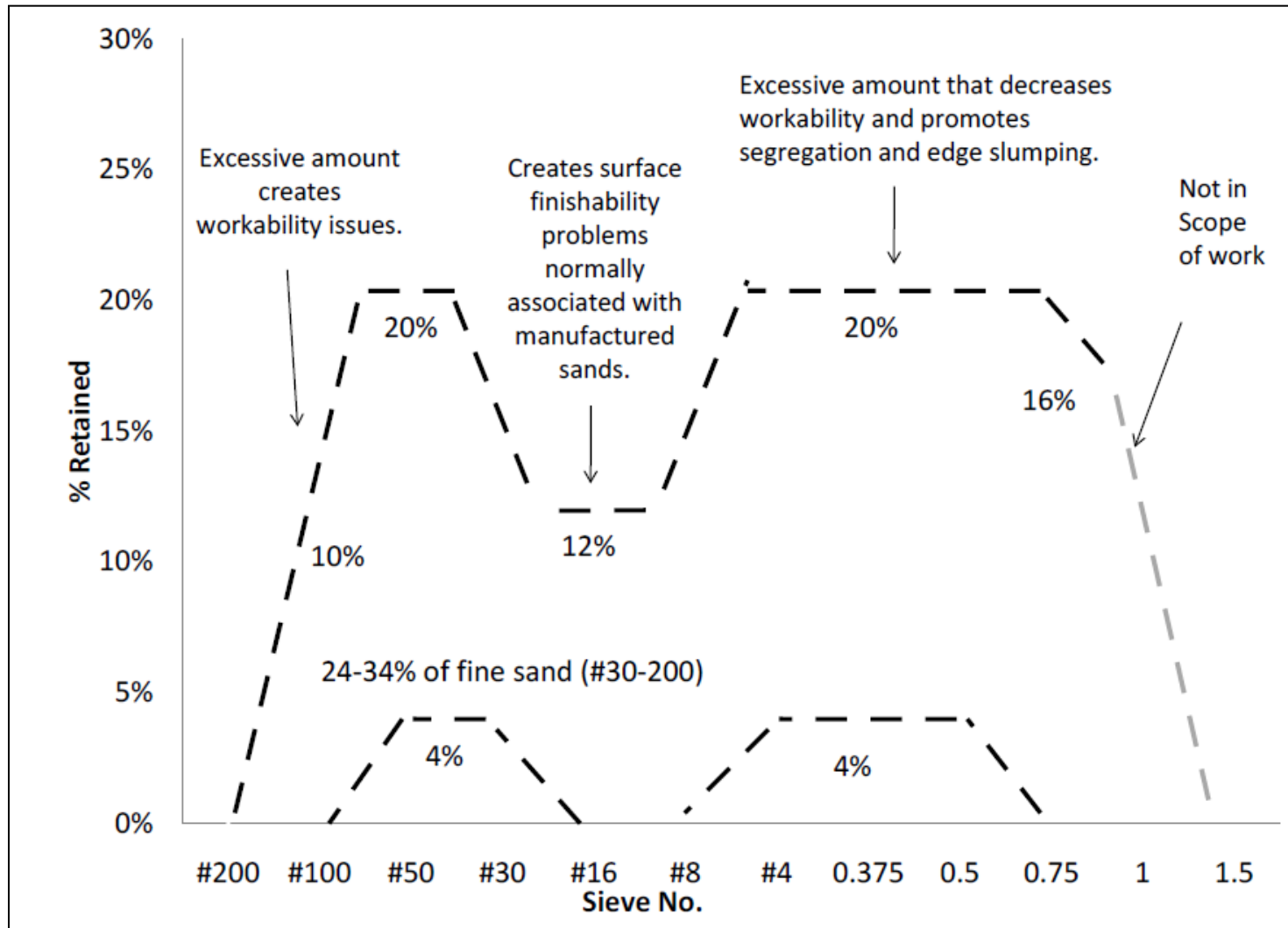
- Control combined grading to increase amount of aggregate in the mix
- Maximum aggregate size
  - Bigger NMS means
    - Less paste and lower water requirement
    - Increased risk of segregation
  - Limited by section thickness
  - $\frac{3}{4}$ " to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " is typical





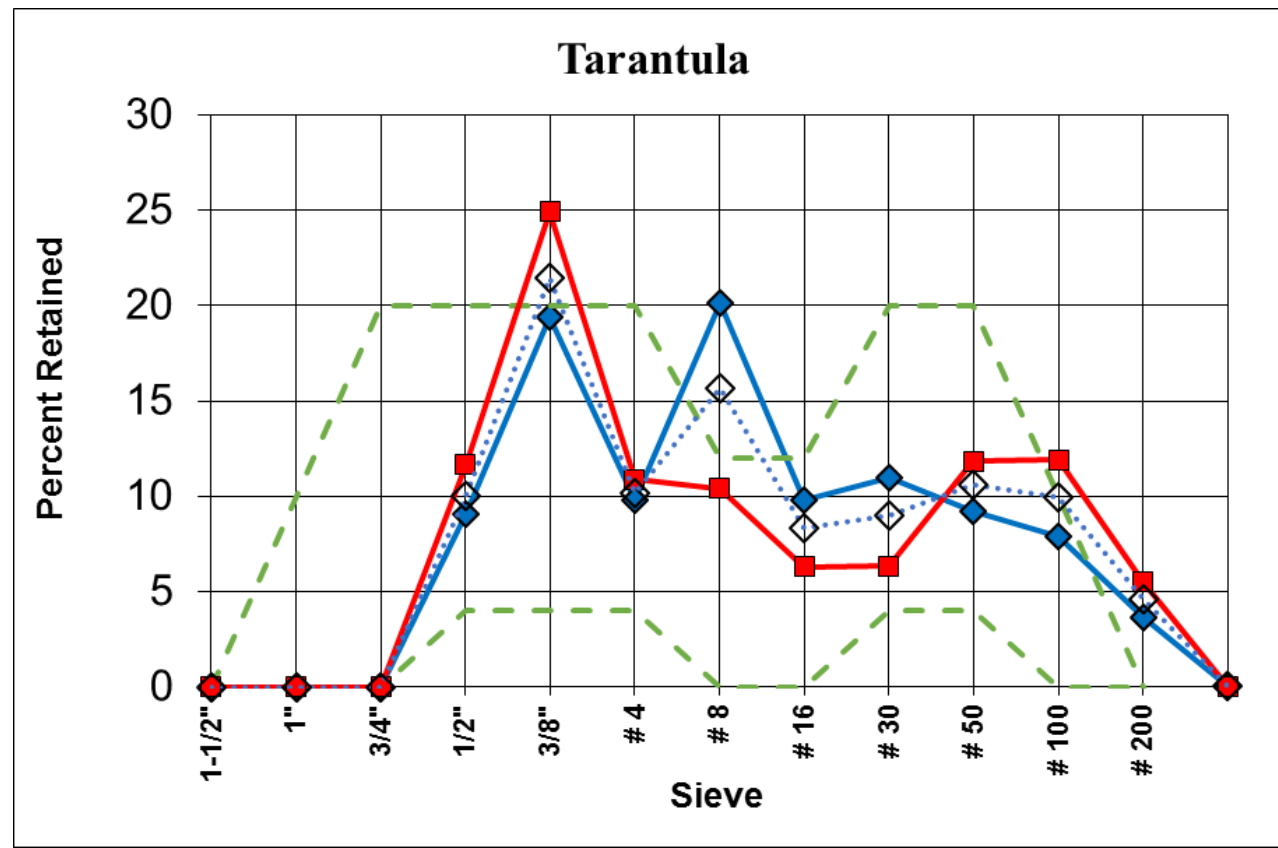
# Aggregate System

- Tarantula Curve (Ley)



# Aggregate System

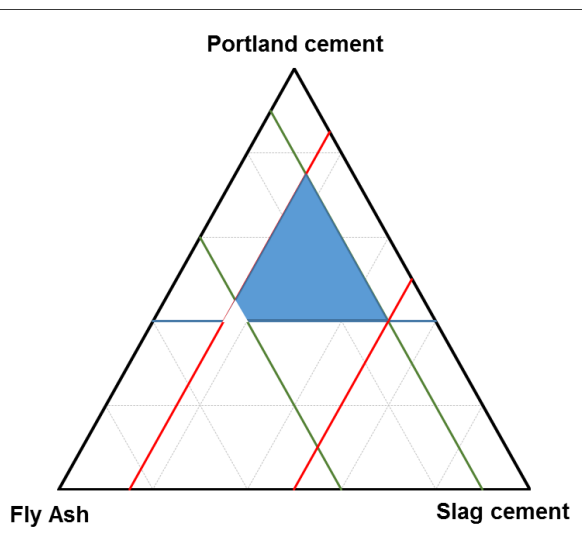
- 2 aggs – void ratio 23.2%
- 3 aggs – void ratio 19.8%
- 3 aggs (T) – void ratio 20.4%



# Proposed Mixture Proportioning Procedure

## Choose a Paste System for Performance

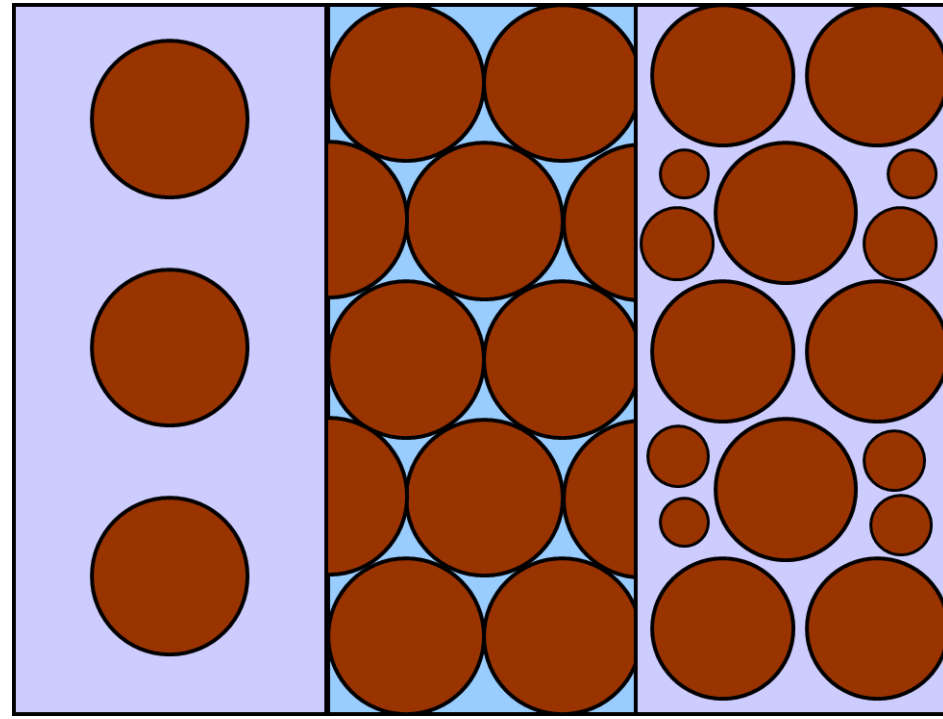
- Cementitious blend
- W/Cm
- Air content
- Chemical admixtures



# Proposed Mixture Proportioning Procedure

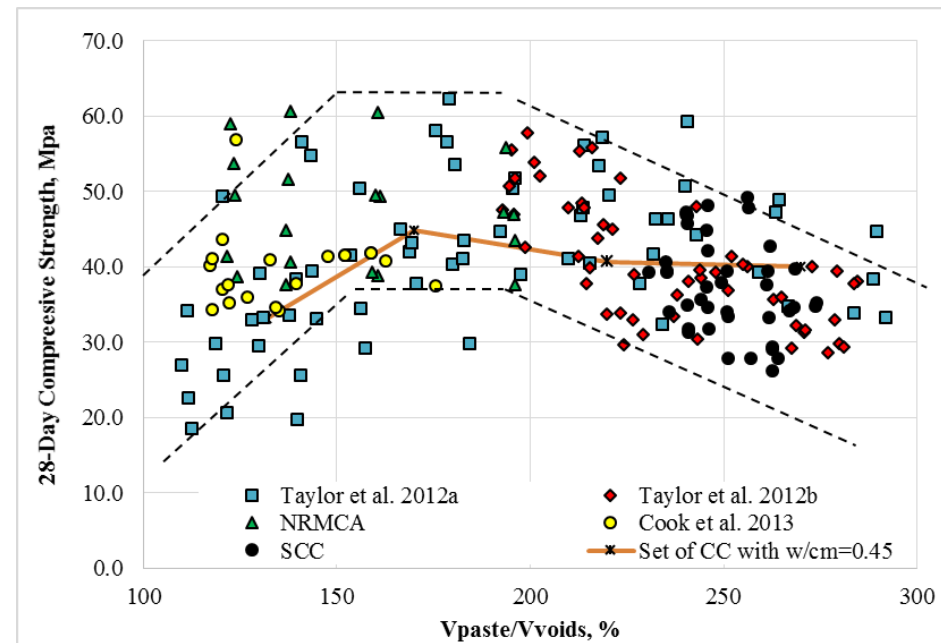
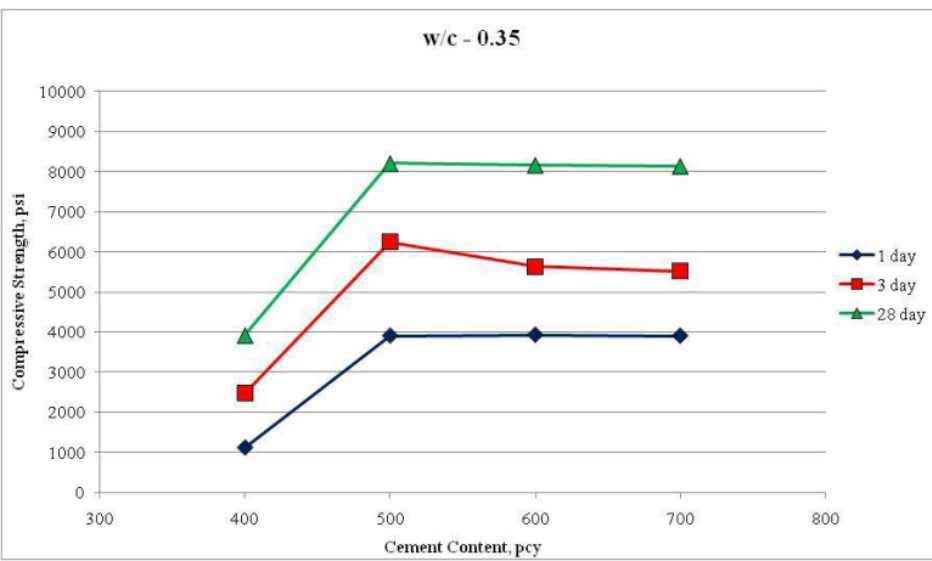
## Choose Paste Volume

- All voids must be filled with paste
- And a bit more to coat the particles for workability



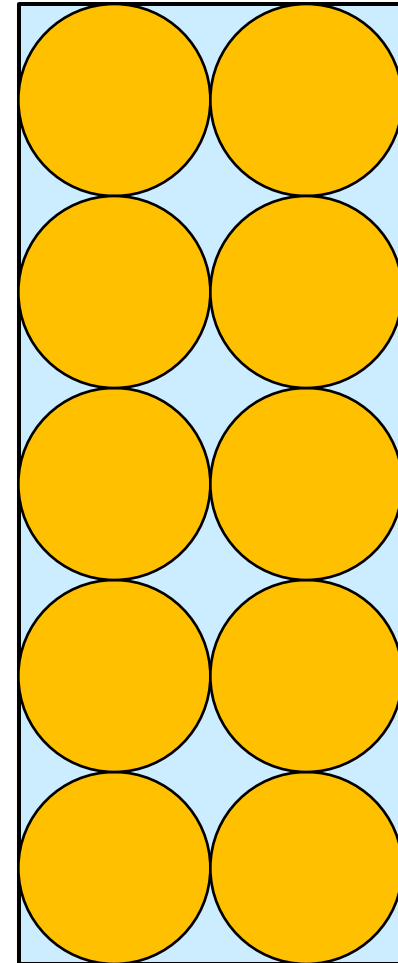
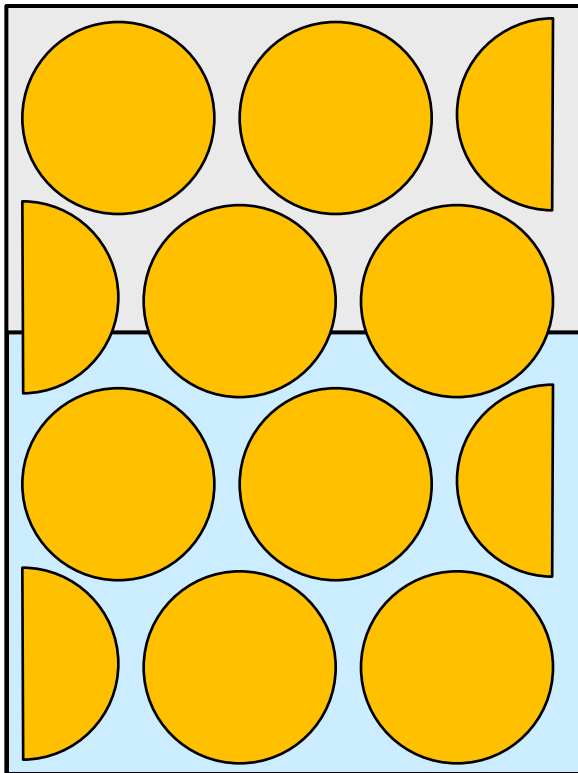
# Proposed Mixture Proportioning Procedure

- Need enough paste for mechanical properties  
~175% of voids
- And not much more



# Definitions...

- Blue =  $V_{\text{voids}}$  (C29)
- Grey + Blue =  $V_{\text{paste}}$
- Void ratio =  $V_{\text{paste}}/V_{\text{voids}}$



# What do we want to specify?

- Aggregate Stability
  - ASR – PP65
    - Mortar bar
    - Concrete prism
    - Block
  - D-Crack – local
    - Iowa Pore Index
    - Chemistry
    - Ledge analysis



# What do we want to specify?

- Air void system
  - After placement
  - Spacing factor or SAM number
  
- Freeze-thaw resistance
  - C666
  - C672 / Toronto test





# What do we want to specify?

- Mixture Permeability
  - Fluids
  - Ions



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Joint Transportation Research Program Technical  
Report Series

Joint Transportation Research Program

2010

## Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Permeability Performance

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Phil Kompare  
Purdue University

William Jason Weiss  
Purdue University

### Recommended Citation

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# What do we want to specify?

- Curing
  - How?
- Shrinkage?
- Consolidation (?)



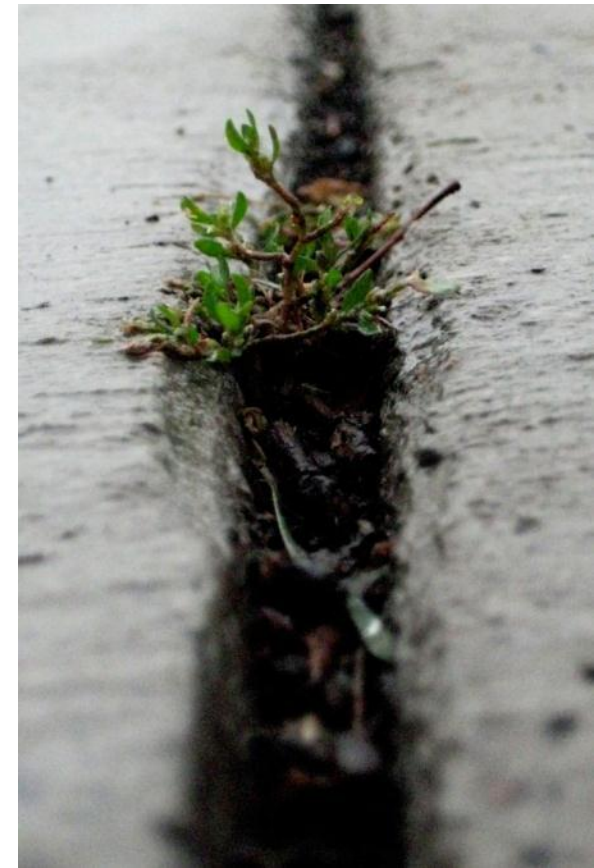
# When do we measure?

- Mixture design
  - Most critical properties
  - Accept mixture(s)
- Field trials
  - Workability and uniformity
- Acceptance
  - Is the mixture the same?
- QC
  - Are we going to get there?



# Closing

- Did you get what you thought you paid for?
- Did you measure what you really want?
- Concrete can last a long time...



# Discussion...

