

# Presentation on in-situ concrete strength evaluation systems

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# Today's strength subjects

1. Lab specimens
2. Cores
3. Pullout
4. Rebound hammer
5. Ultrasound
6. Windsor Probe

# Overview

- Background
- Correlations
- Cases
- Pullout with LOK-TEST
- Pullout with CAPO-TEST
- Cores, Rebound Hammer, Ultrasound and Windsor Probe
- Conclusions
- Workshop information
- Implementation of the systems  
[www.NDTitans.com](http://www.NDTitans.com)

# In-Situ Strength, why?

- Potential strength superimposed by effects of transportation, pumping, compaction, maturity and curing conditions, in-place
- Testing the final product, the structure itself, not only relying on laboratory testing
- Low strength of laboratory specimens
- Changed mixes, intentionally / not intentional
- Strength of existing structures for QA / QC, and calculation of load carrying capacity, e.g. for further loading
- Timing of safe and early loading operations
- Quality of the critical cover layer protecting the reinforcement in terms of penetrability

**Examples of collapses that could have been prevented by testing reliably the compressive strength, in-situ**

# Formwork Removal



- Multi-story building collapse in Boston, USA.
- Standard cylinders tested had passed the requirement.
- Subsequent investigation showed the in-place strength to be 50% of the cylinder strength at the time of formwork removal.

# Willow Island, W.Va., USA

## Cooling Tower Collapse, April 1978

- Failure due to insufficient strength to support next "lift"
  - 51 deaths
  - Timing of next lift was determined by cylinders

LOK-TEST was subsequently used to estimate in-place strength before moving to the next lift



Courtesy of NIST

# Beam collapse



- Beam collapse in a Russian grocery store
- 7 people killed
- Lab cylinders had passed the required strength 40 MPa
- Capo-Test showed 7-9 MPa strength in-place after collapse



# Rana Plaza collapse, Bangladesh



RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE,  
textile factory, Dhaka,  
Bangladesh, 2016

Another 3 story's were  
build on top of the  
existing factory. Cracking  
in the walls happened  
prior to the collapse  
killing at 1,132 people and  
injured more than 2,500

- Lab testing unknown.
- Strength testing of the concrete quality months before collapse was made by rebound hammer, UPV and cores

# Test Methods

## ACI 228.1R-19

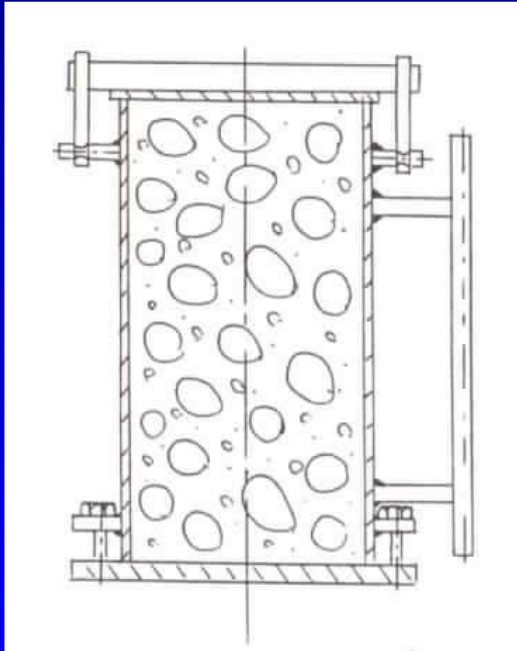
- 1. Lab cylinders for potential strength

### In-Situ Test Methods:

- 2. Cores
- 3. Pullout
- 4. Rebound hammer
- 5. UPV (Ultrasound)

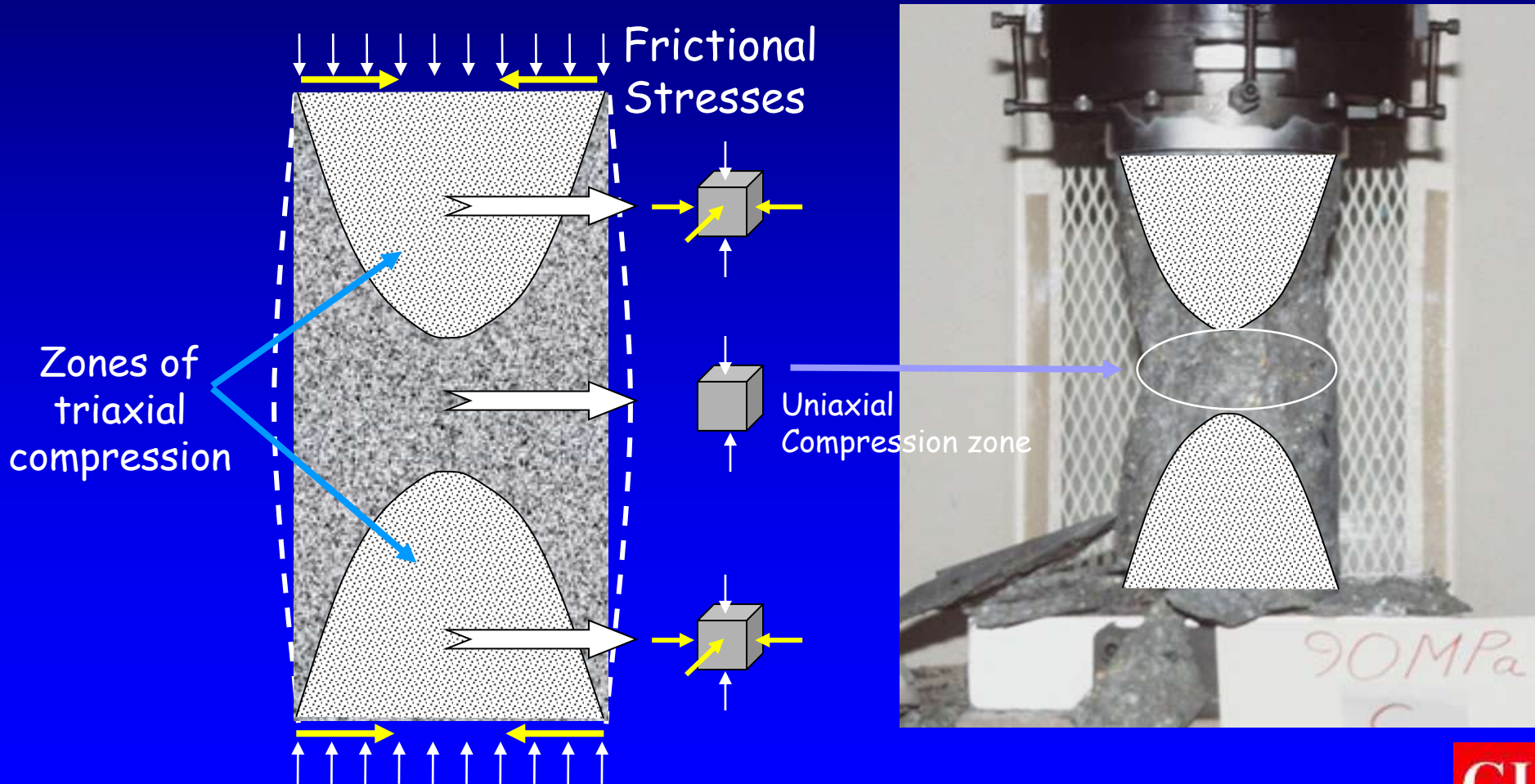


# 1. Lab cylinders for potential strength



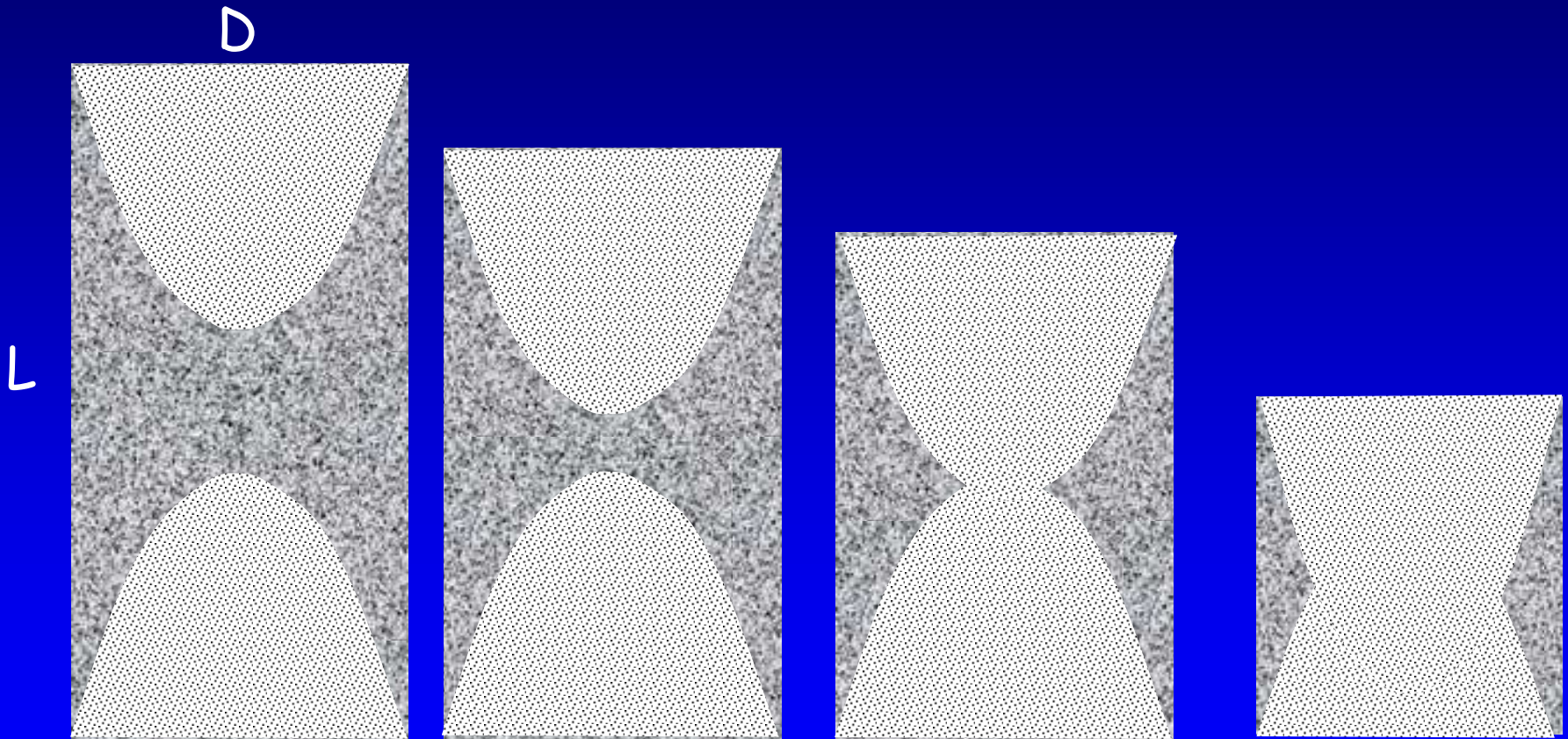
- Mix is cast in the 150 mm x 300 mm steel forms
- Compacted in three layers on vibration table
- Stripped after setting
- Cured in water at 20° C
- Tested in compression at 28 days (maturity days,  $M_{20}$ )

# Uniaxial compression, middle Triaxial Compression, end faces



**Why is the strength from a 150 mm cube  
higher than a 150 mm x 300 mm cylinder  
?**

Specimen strength increase for decreasing  $L/D$   
due to change from uniaxial to triaxial compression  
state in the middle of the specimen



hence, the compression strength of a 150 mm cube is  
up to 30% higher than a 150 mm x 300 mm cylinder

## 2. Cores

ACI 214.4R-10  
(Reapproved 2016)

### Guide for Obtaining Cores and Interpreting Compressive Strength Results

Reported by ACI Committee 214



American Concrete Institute®

## In My Judgment by Adam Neville

### Core Tests: Easy to Perform, Not Easy to Interpret



**M**any engineers have the experience of ordering the taking of cores. The operation is not difficult, usually undertaken by skilled specialist personnel. Once

first place the value of the load in Newtons (or pounds), under which failure by crushing occurs, which is then to be divided by the cross-sectional area of the core in square millimeters (or square inches). Dividing the first of these by the second gives a number in megapascals (or psi); but does this number represent the compressive strength of concrete in the structure from which the core was cut?

The answer is no. Not only must the number be processed, but the resulting value of strength also must be carefully interpreted. Because cores are generally taken when there is a problem, or suspected problem, with concrete, the situation usually involves two or more parties, and they may have

than specified. But there may be other reasons: the cylinders may have been incorrectly consolidated (compacted); they may have been damaged in transit, subjected to freezing at a very early age, badly cured, or incorrectly tested; or the resulting compressive strength may have been incorrectly calculated or recorded.

The contractor has reasons to suggest that it is the cylinders that are unsatisfactory, while the concrete in the structure is as specified. On the other hand, the engineer has a professional responsibility to ensure the structural adequacy of the concrete, as well as a responsibility to the client (or owner) to ascertain that the quality of concrete corresponds to

Concrete international / NOVEMBER 2001

# Cores





# Some Factors Affecting Core Strengths

- Core size
- Location of core
- Direction of coring
- Moisture conditioning
- Length-diameter ratio
- End preparation
- Embedded steel

# CORES

- The ratio of the maximum aggregate size in the concrete to the diameter of the core has a significant influence on the measured strength when it is greater than about 1:3.
- Testing a core with a nominal diameter of 100 mm and equal length ( $L/D=1$ ) gives a strength value equivalent to the strength value of a 150 mm cube manufactured and cured under the same conditions.
- Testing a core with a nominal diameter at least 100 mm and not larger than 150 mm and with a length to diameter ratio equal to 2.0 gives a strength comparable to a 150 mm by 300 mm cylinder manufactured and cured under the same conditions.

**Preferred diameter of core is 100 mm**

# Research Findings

ACI MATERIALS JOURNAL

E 7-6-94  
TECHNICAL PAPER

Title no. 91-M21

ACI Materials Journal / May-June 1994

## Effect of Moisture Condition on Concrete Core Strengths



by F. Michael Bartlett and James G. MacGregor

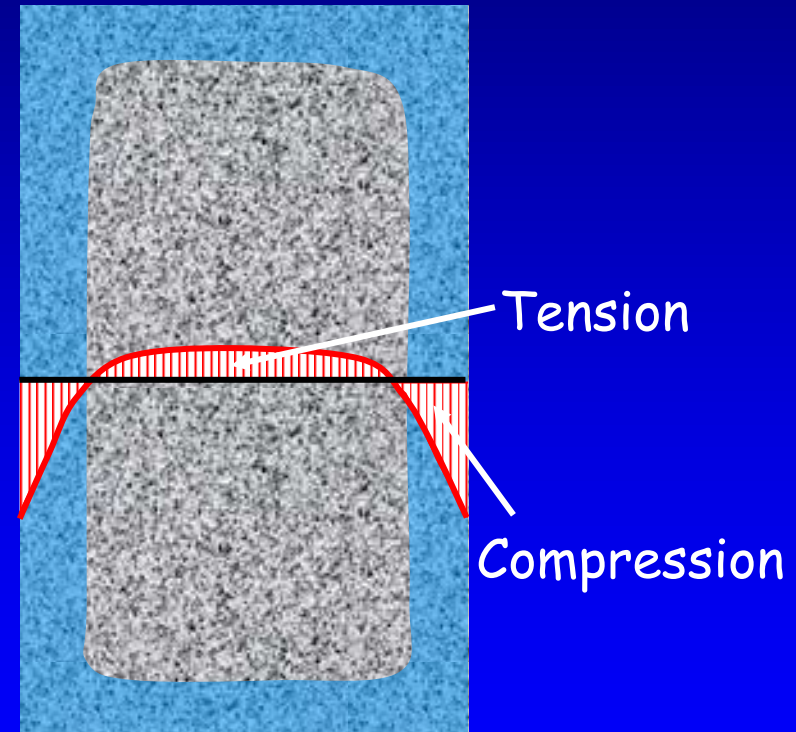
*In accordance with the provisions of ASTM C 42-90 and ACI 318-89, it is current practice to either dry concrete core specimens in air for 7 days or soak them in lime-saturated water for at least 40 hr before they are tested. In this paper, the effect of moisture condition on the strengths of mature cores obtained from well-cured elements is investigated by reviewing available literature and performing regression analyses of data from tests of 727 core specimens.*

*It is shown that the compressive strength of a concrete specimen is*

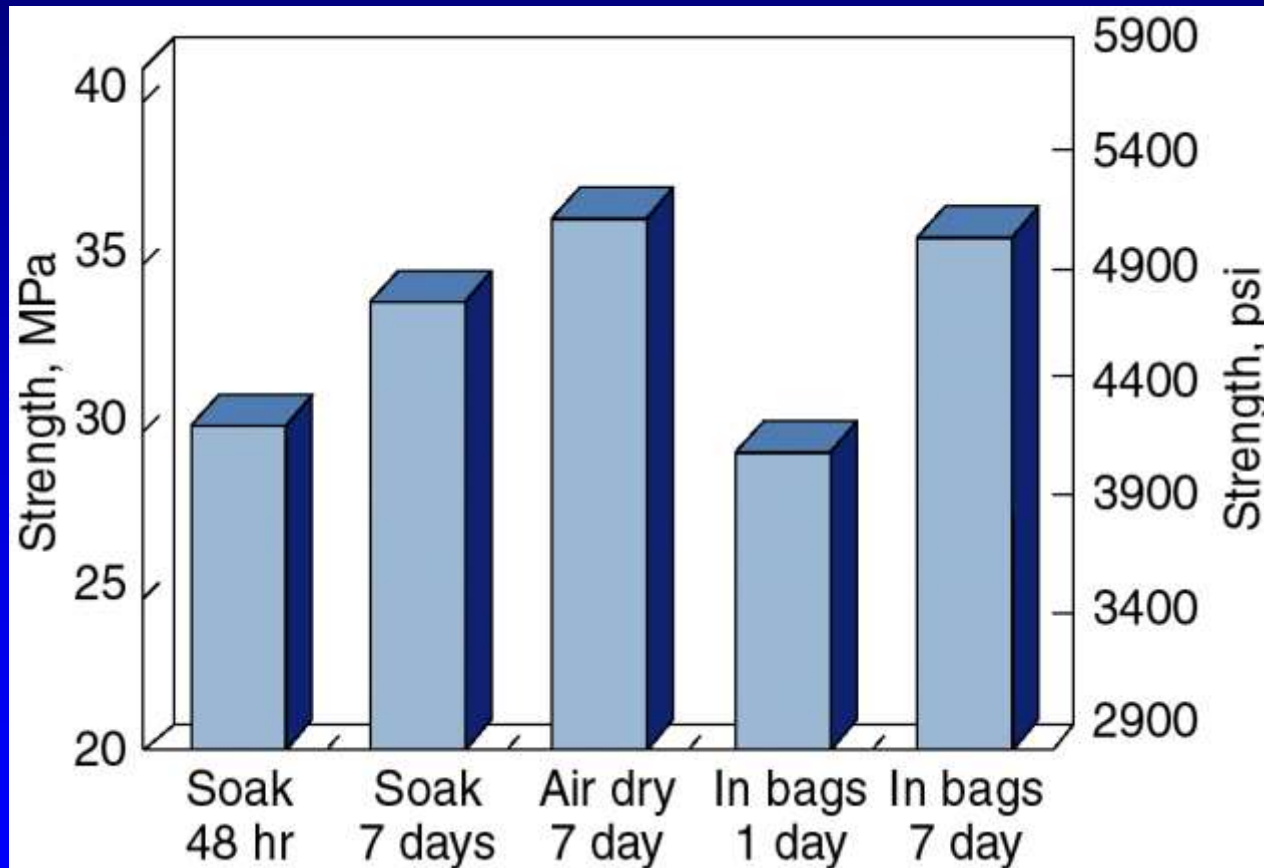
*crete Society<sup>6</sup> recommends that cores be capped and then soaked for at least 2 days before testing. If the concrete in the structure is wet, the equivalent actual cube strength is taken to be 1.5 times the crushing strength of a core with length-to-diameter ratio equal to 1. If the concrete in the structure is dry, the equivalent actual cube strength is taken to be 1.65 times the core crushing strength.*

# Moisture Gradients Immediately After Wet Drilling

- Moistened concrete tends to swell
- Swelling is restrained by dry interior
- Results in internal stresses; outer region in compression
- Measured strength is reduced



# Effect of Core Conditioning on Strength



CT003

# Moisture Conditioning ASTM C42/C42M

- Wipe off drilling water, surface dry
- Place in watertight containers
- Wait at least 5 days between wetting due to drilling or sawing and testing
- Other procedure permitted when required by the "specifier of tests"

# ACI 214.4R for coring

$$f_c = F_{l/d} F_{dia} F_{mc} F_d f_{core}$$

In-place strength

Core strength

Correction for L/D

Correction for "damage"  
due to coring

Correction for D

Correction for  
moisture content

Equivalent  
specified strength

$$f'_{c,eq} = K \overline{f_c}$$

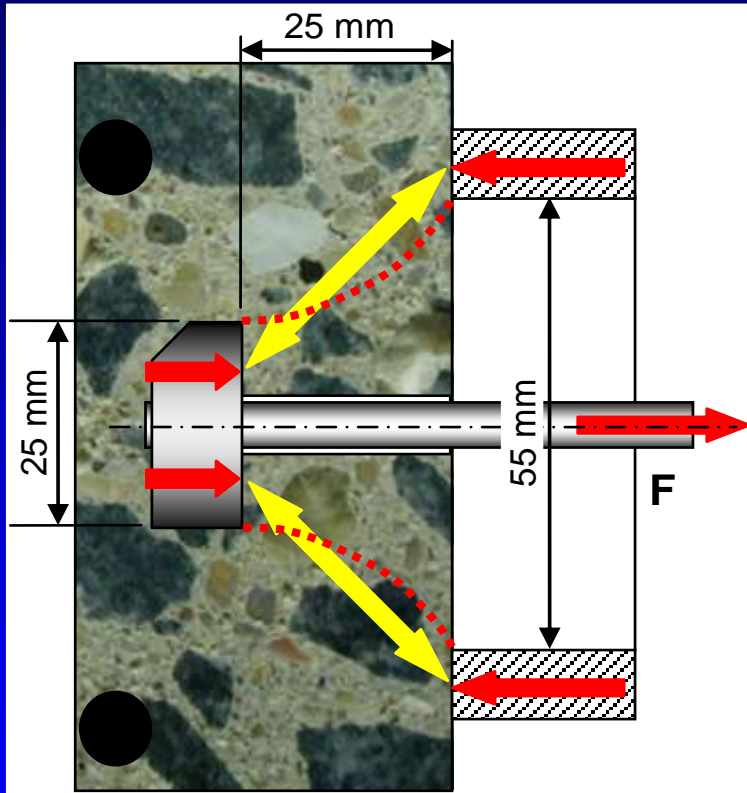
Average in-place  
strength

Statistical factor

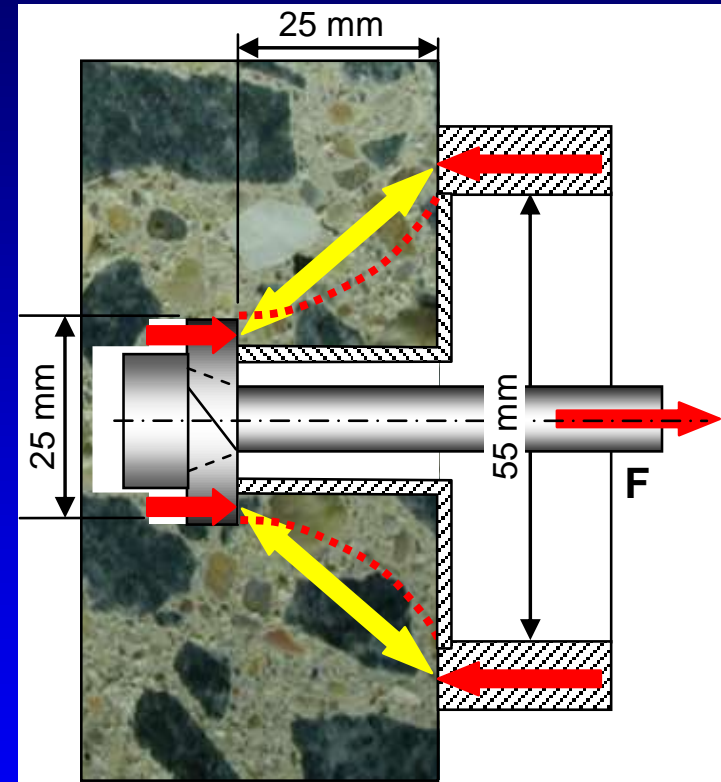
$$f_c \neq \frac{f_{core}}{0.85}$$



# 3. Pullout



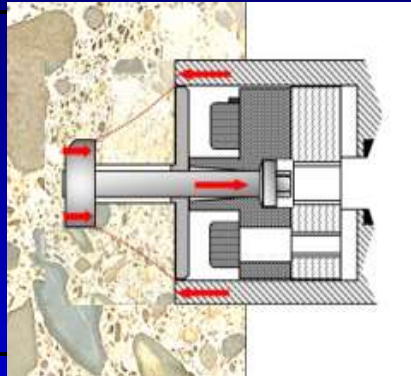
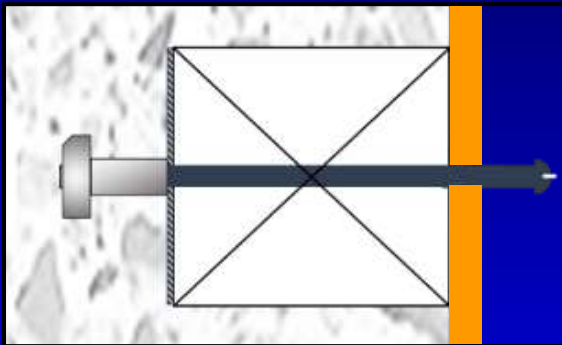
## LOK-TEST



## CAPO-TEST

# Testing the “interior” with pullout

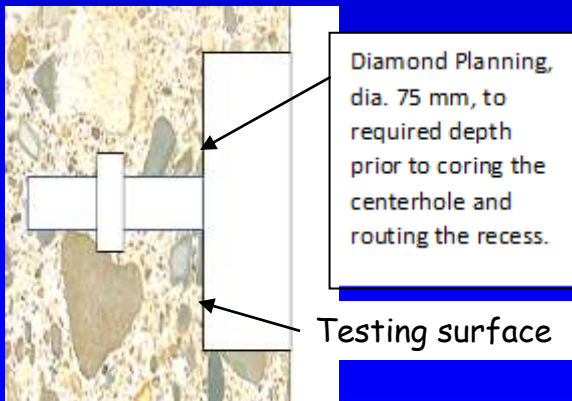
## LOK-TEST



Example:

Testing surface 30 mm deep, pullout force 30.0 kN compared to 29.5 kN at 25 mm depth

## CAPO-TEST



testing surface 5 mm deep



testing surface 32 mm deep

Example:

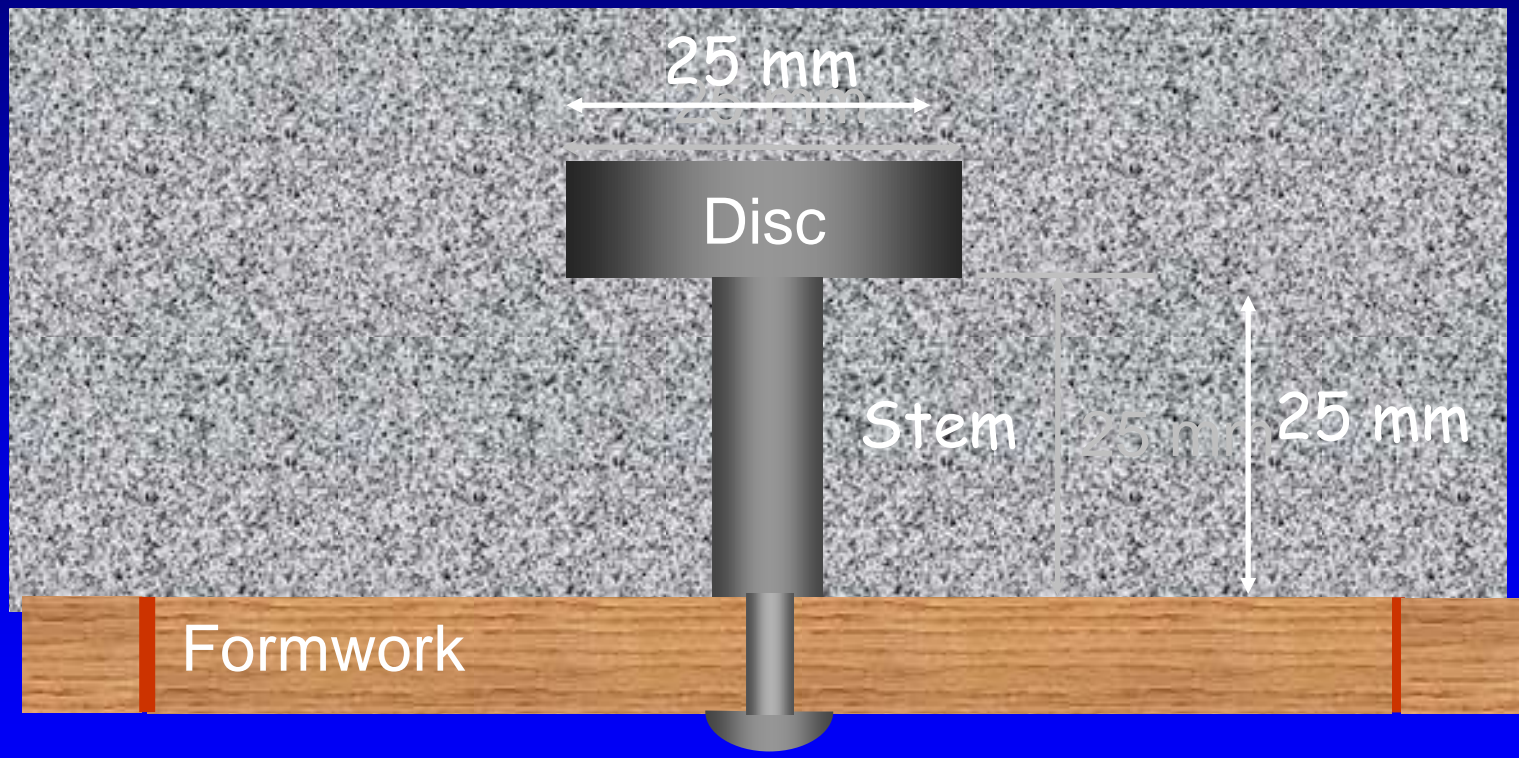
Testing surface 5 mm deep 39.0 kN and testing surface 32 mm deep 38.8 kN pullout force

# LOK-TEST

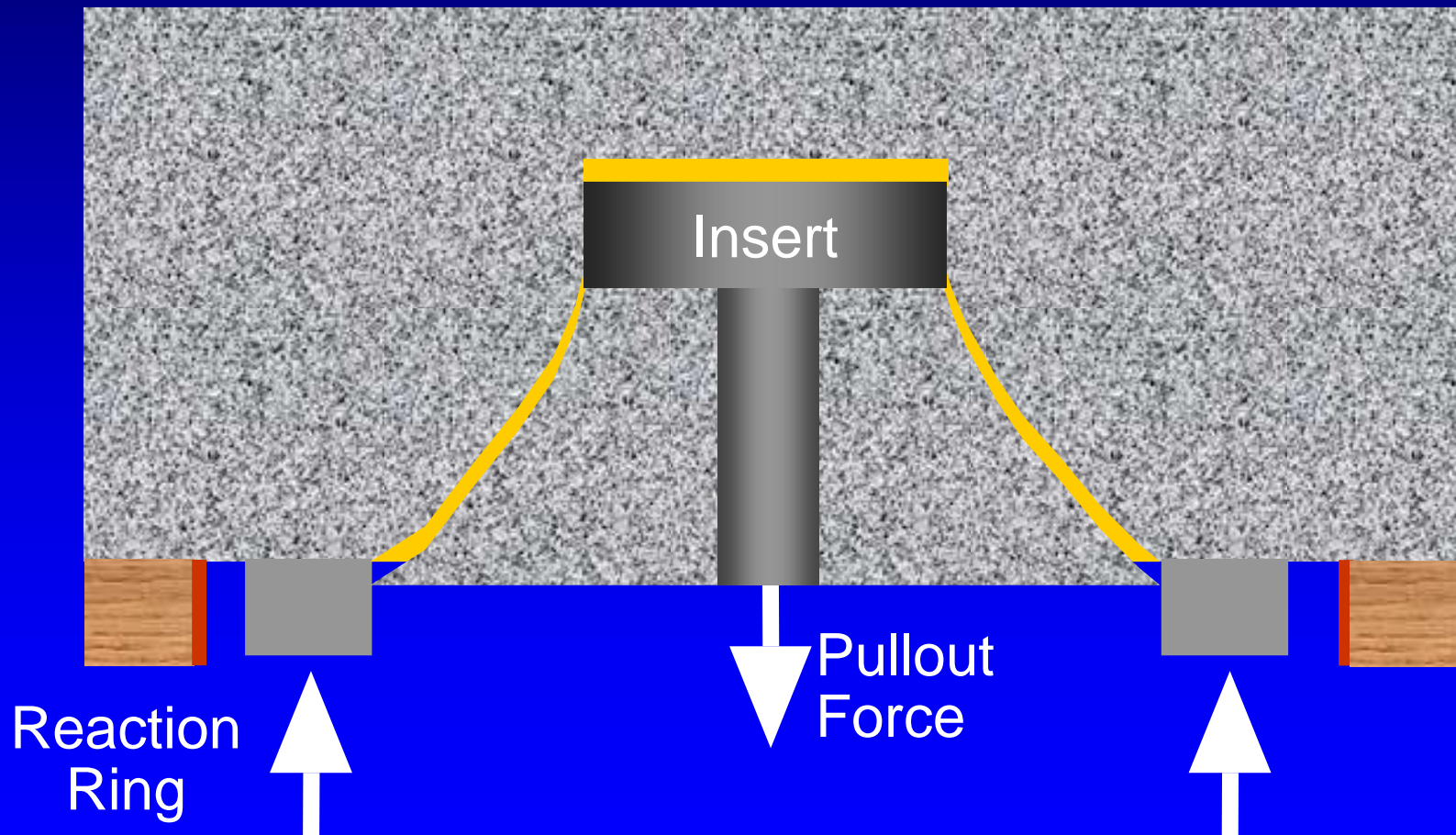
## for new structures

- Install inserts
- Ready the testing
- Perform the LOK-TEST either to a required strength or to top-peak loading
- Transform the kN pullforce to compressive strength of lab cubes (or cores) or lab cylinders by general correlation

# LOK-TEST



# LOK-Test Pullout



# Insert Hardware



Nailed to  
formwork

Attached to  
formwork cutouts



Floated  
into surface

# Nailing (L-40)



# Insert Hardware



Nailed to  
formwork

Attached to  
formwork cutouts



Floated  
into surface





**Sealant**

- **Attach insert assembly to form**
- **Apply sealant**
- **Place concrete**
- **Test from below**

# LOK-TEST for early and safe loading operation



10 inserts tested in less than 1 hour

# Insert Hardware



Nailed to  
formwork

Attached to  
formwork cutouts



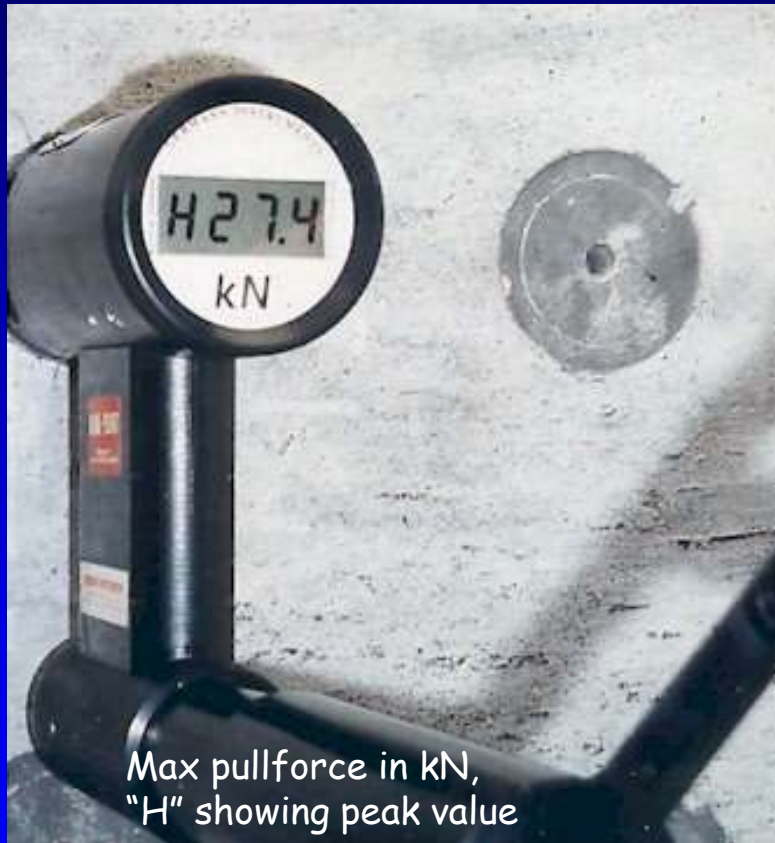
Floated  
into surface

# Floating (L-49)



# LOK-TEST

***Bring the compression machine to the structure***



Loading Options:

- Loading to a required strength and no further (no visible damage to the surface)
- Loading exactly to failure (shown), minimal damage to the surface
- Loading to past failure and pullout, dislodging the failure cone

For pre-installed LOK-TEST inserts, the test provides a reliable strength measurement in less than 5 minutes

# CAPO-TEST for existing structures

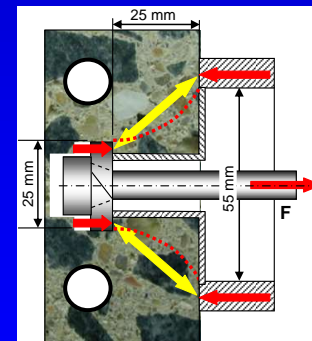
*Bring the compression machine to the structure*



Capo Testing on columns to be further loaded. One observation is recommended to be the average of 2 or 3 Capo-Tests  
Terracon,  
Houston, USA

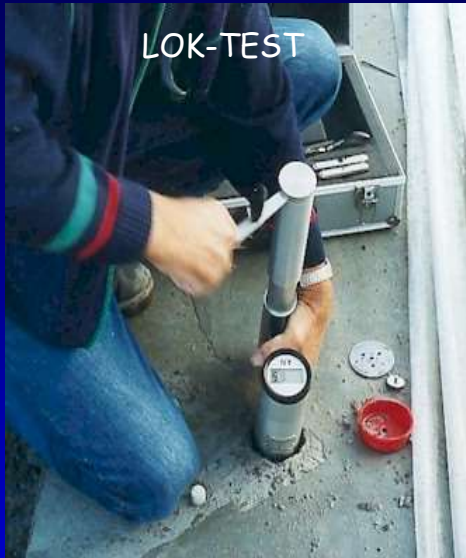
Capo giving immediate reliable result, based on one correlation.

If needed, to be used in highly congested reinforcement areas after location of the reinforcement



About 15 minutes per test for a trained operator  
Minimum damage, easy to patch

# Other Examples



London, UK  
Strength of industrial floor



Translink, UK,  
Residual strength of tunnel segments



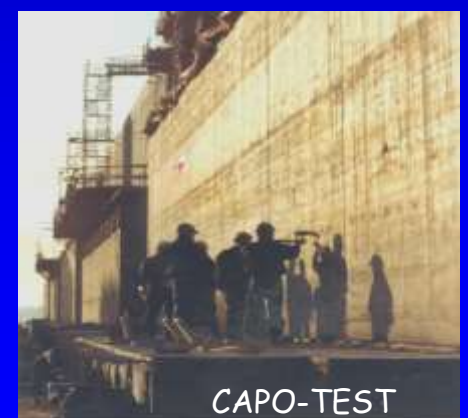
Trinity Square, Toronto, Canada  
Strength for early loading



Bridge Leznów, Poland  
Residual strength



Cigar Lake Uranium Mine, Canada  
Strength of gunite concrete  
*Test smart – Build right*



Great Belt Link, Denmark  
Strength of cover layer



# Failure Mechanism



# Analysis by Jensen & Bræstrup

- Jensen, B.C. & Bræstrup, M.W.: "LOK-Test Determine the Compressive Strength of Concrete", Nordisk Betong, 3-1976

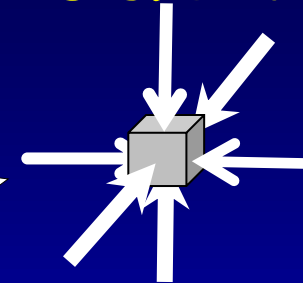
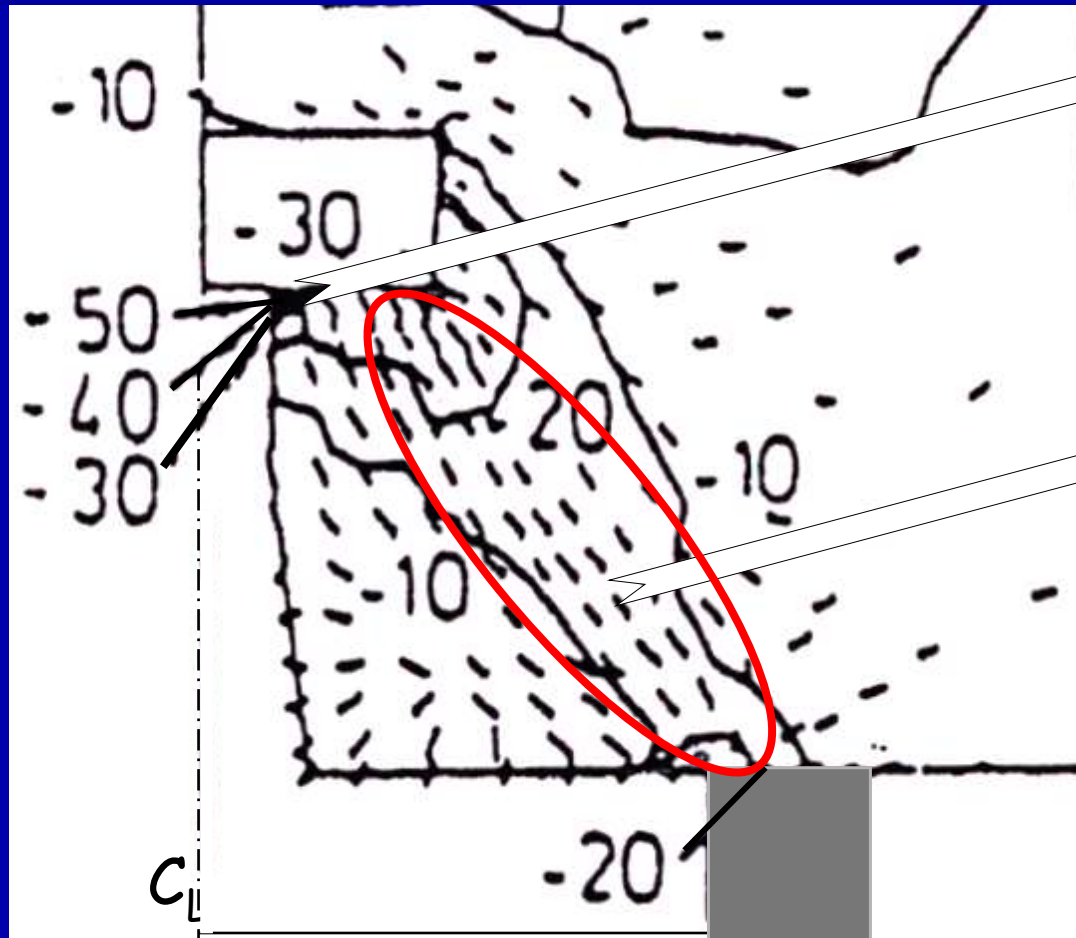
## Conclusion:

"Plastic analysis may be applied to determine the load-carrying capacity of the concrete embedded disc which is pulled out under application of a counterpressure (LOK-TEST). It is shown that when the angle between the direction of deformation and the failure surface is equal to the angle of friction for the concrete, then the pull-out force is proportional to the concrete compressive strength"

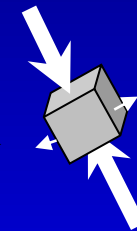
# Analysis by Ottosen

- Ottosen, N.S.: "Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis of Pull-Out Test", Journal of the Structural Division, ASCE, Vol. 107, No ST4, April 1981

# Stress curves at 65% loading



"Strut"  
stress of  
20 MPa



Large compressive forces run from the disc in a band ("strut") towards the support. The stress state in this strut is biaxial compression superimposed by small tensile stresses

Stresses in MPa are negative when stresses are compression

Ref Ottosen p. 597

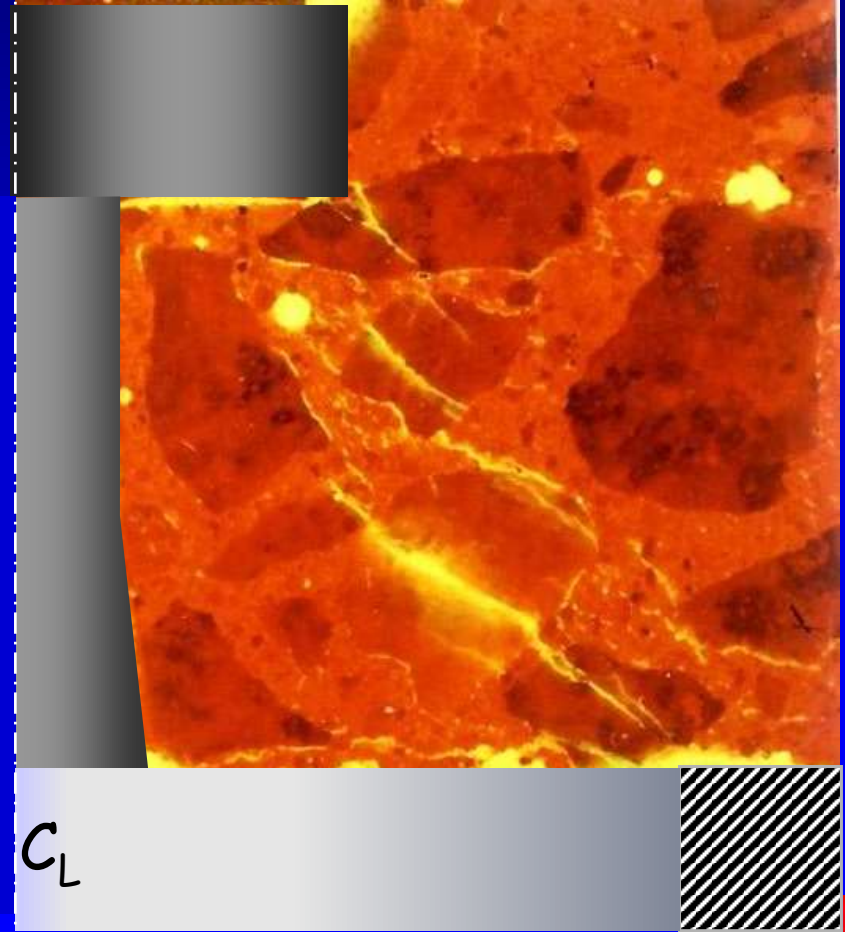
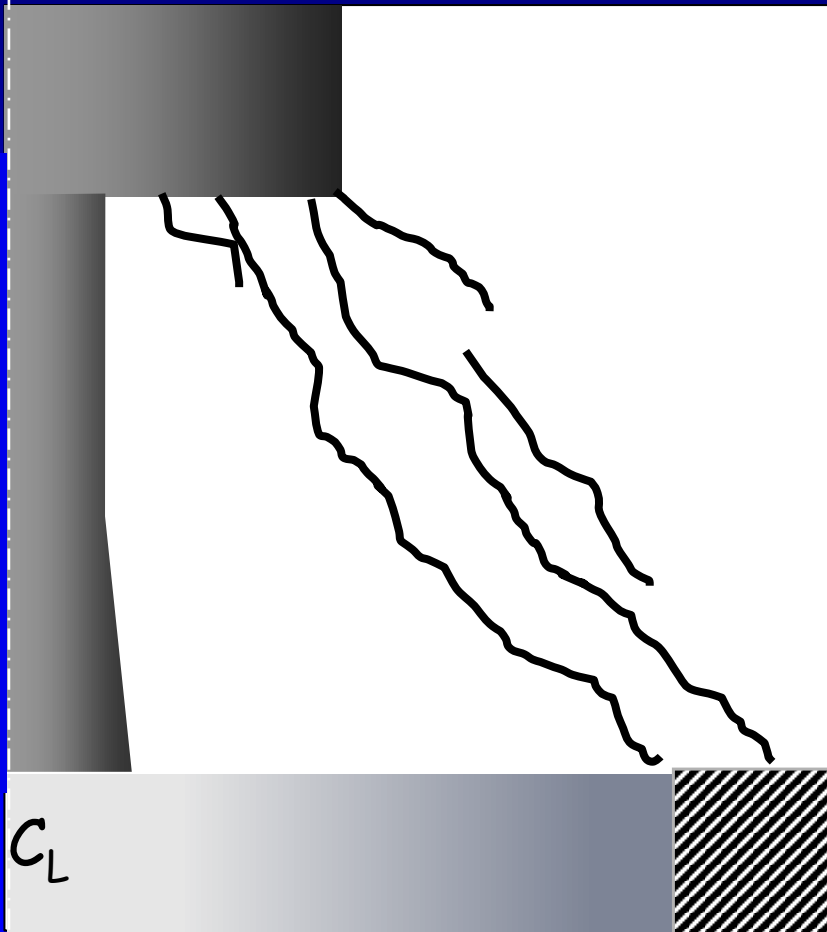
Calculations are made for a uniaxial compressive strength of 31.8 MPa. Note the much higher stresses (up to 50 MPa) are present right below the disc due to concentrated tri-axial loading in this area.

*Test smart – Build right*

# Compressive cracking, 98% loading, Finite element analysis and experimental analysis

Ref.: Ottosen, N.S.: Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis of  
Pull-Out Test, JSD, ASCE, Vol. 107, No ST4, April 1981

Krenchel, H. & Shah, S.P.: "Fracture analysis of the pullout test",  
Dept. of Structural Engineering, Technical University of Denmark,  
RILEM, Materials and Structures, Dunod, Nov-Dec. 1985 no 108



# Conclusion by Ottosen

"It has been shown that large compressive forces run from the disc in a rather narrow band towards the support, and this constitutes the load-carrying mechanism. Moreover, the failure in a LOK-TEST is caused by crushing of the concrete and not by cracking. Therefore, the force required to extract the embedded steel disc is directly dependent on the compressive strength of the concrete".

# Fracture analysis

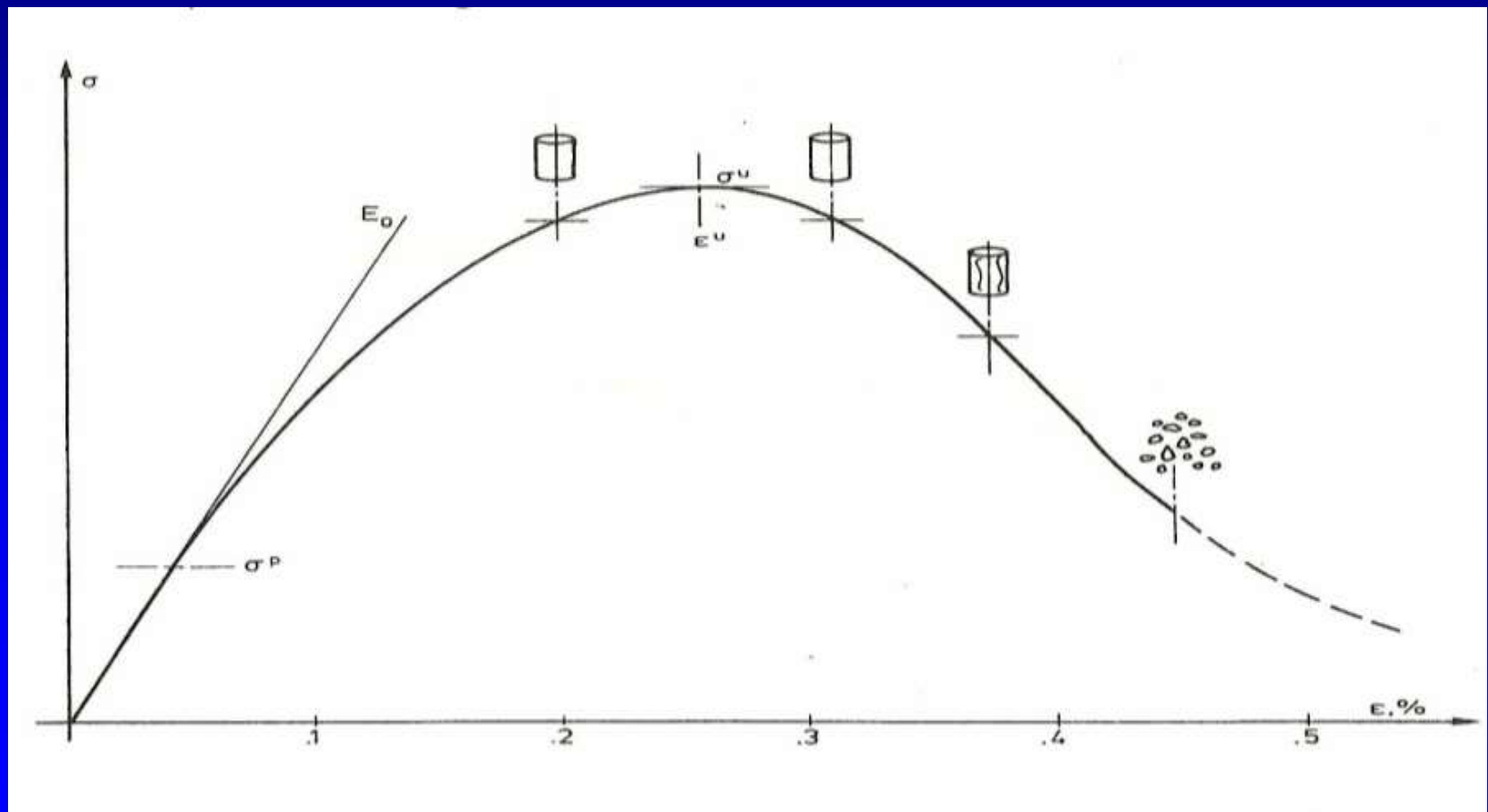
Krenchel, H. & Shah, S.P.: "Fracture analysis of the pullout test", Dept. of Structural Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, RILEM, Materials and Structures, Dunod, Nov-Dec. 1985 no 108

Krenchel, H. & Bickley, J.A. : "Pullout Testing of Concrete, Historical Background and Scientific Level Today", Dept. of Structural Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, Nordic Concrete Research, The Nordic Concrete Federation, 1987

Krenchel, H. & Mossing, P.: "LOK-Styrkebestemmelse af Beton, Brudmekanisk Analyse", Deptment of Structural Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, Serie R, No 198, 1985

# Stress-strain curve from uniaxial compressive test

Linearity      Compression      Softening regime

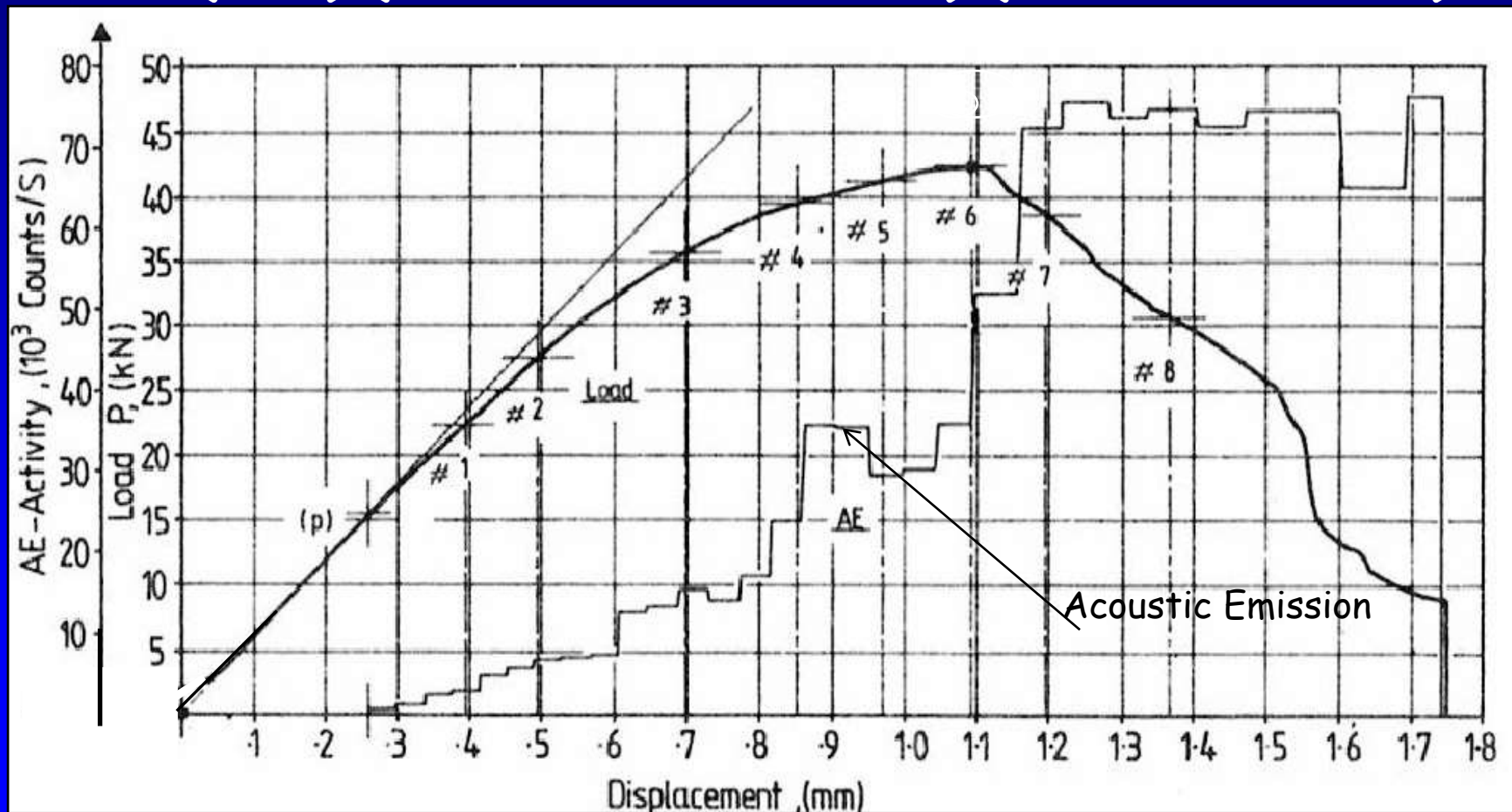


# Load displacement curve for pullout test

Linearity

Compression

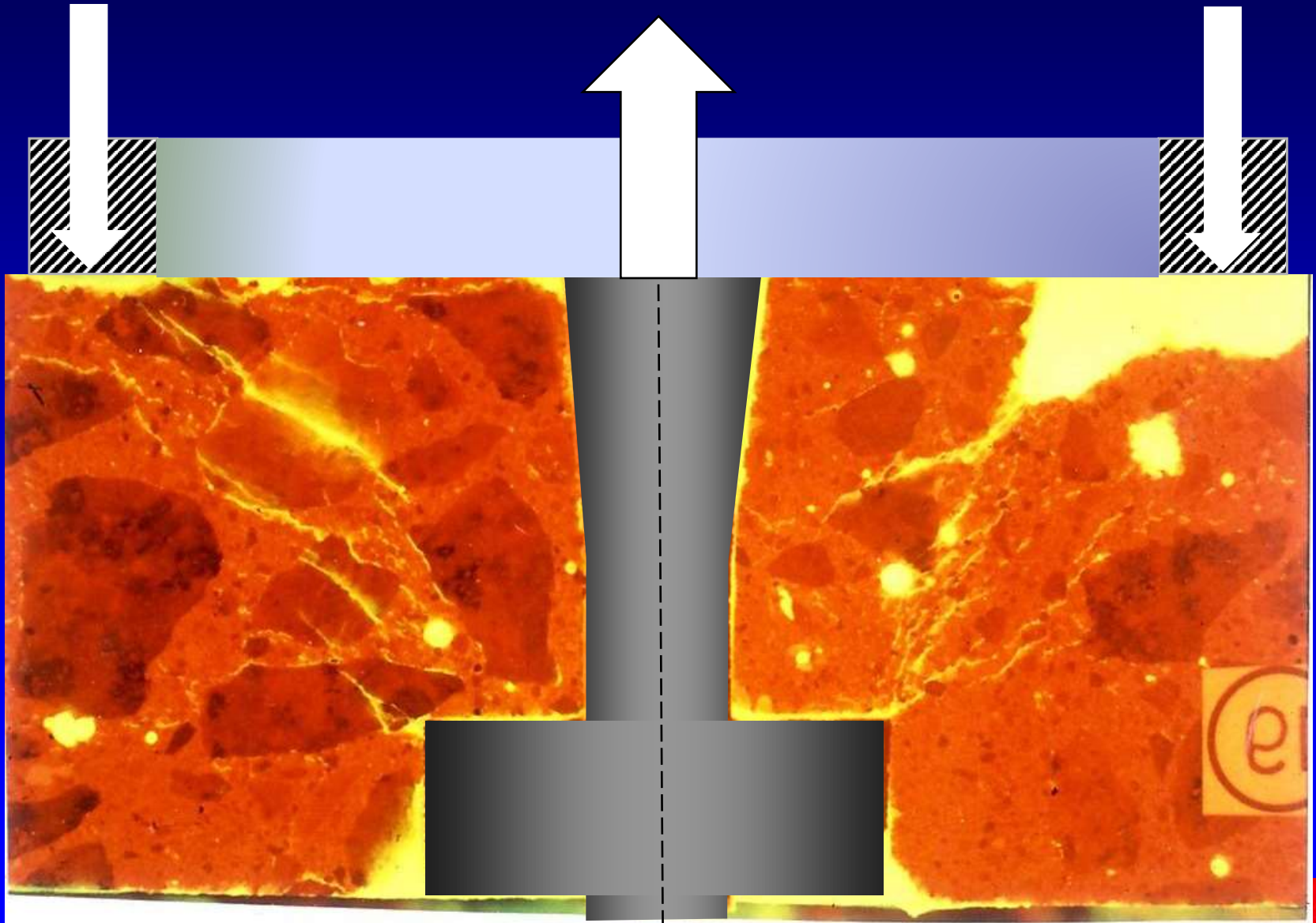
Softening regime



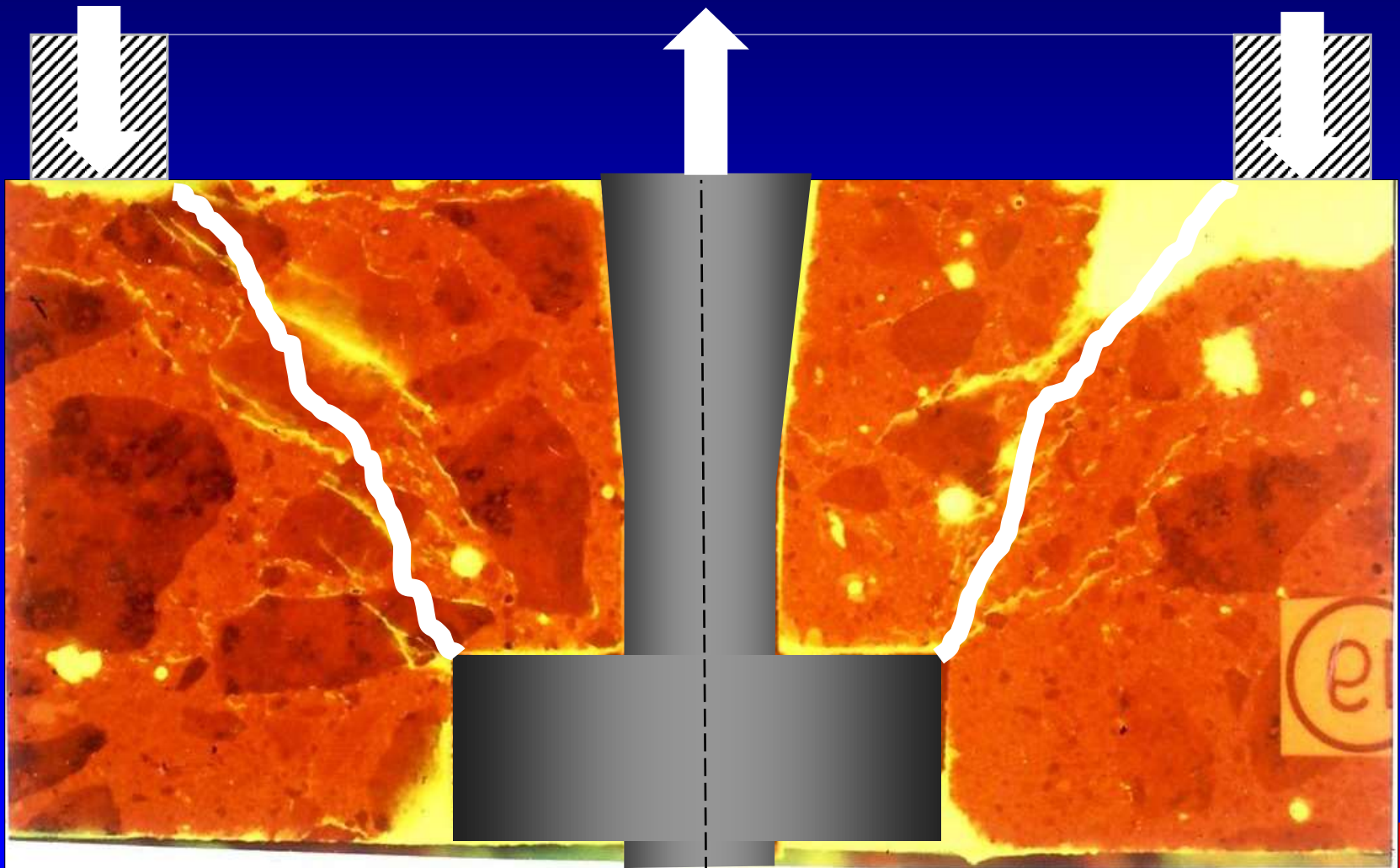
Test smart – Build right



# 98% load level

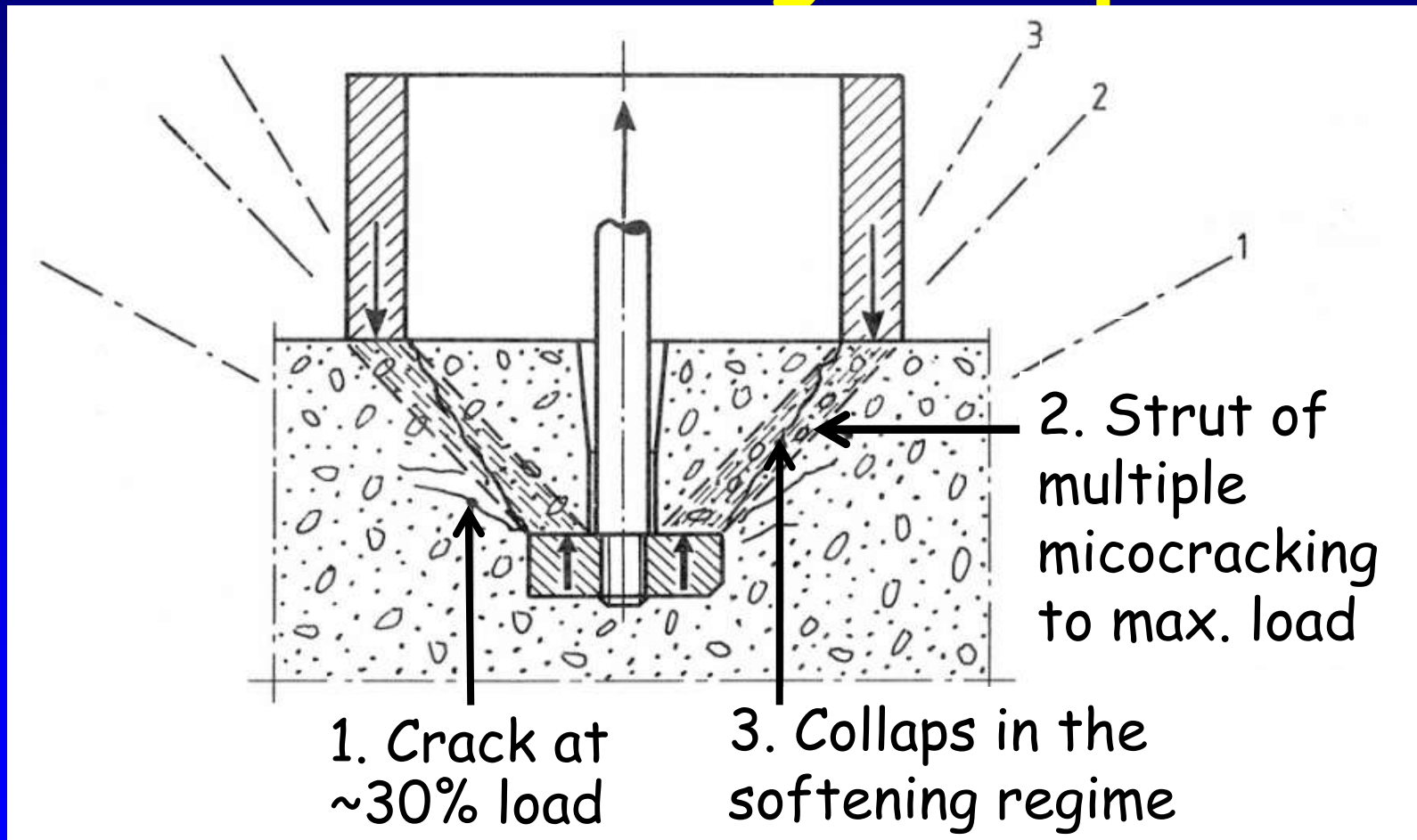


# Situation at collapse into the softening regime



Test smart – Build right

# The three different stages of internal cracking in a pullout

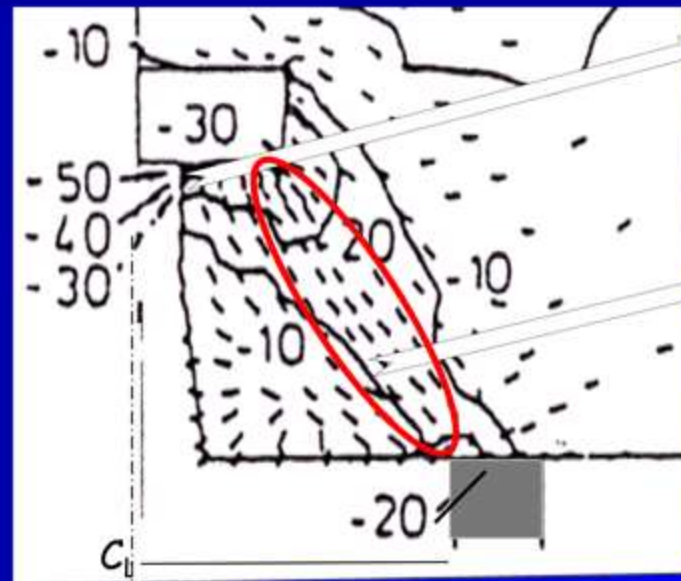


# Explanation

1. At about 30% of the load a circumferential crack is developed at a open angle running from the outer edge of the disc. This is where the linearity is lost.
2. From thereon multiple microcracks are developed in a compression strut between the disc and the counterpressure
3. A collapse happens into the softening regime at increased loading, forming the final pullout cone

12

## Stress curves at 70% loading



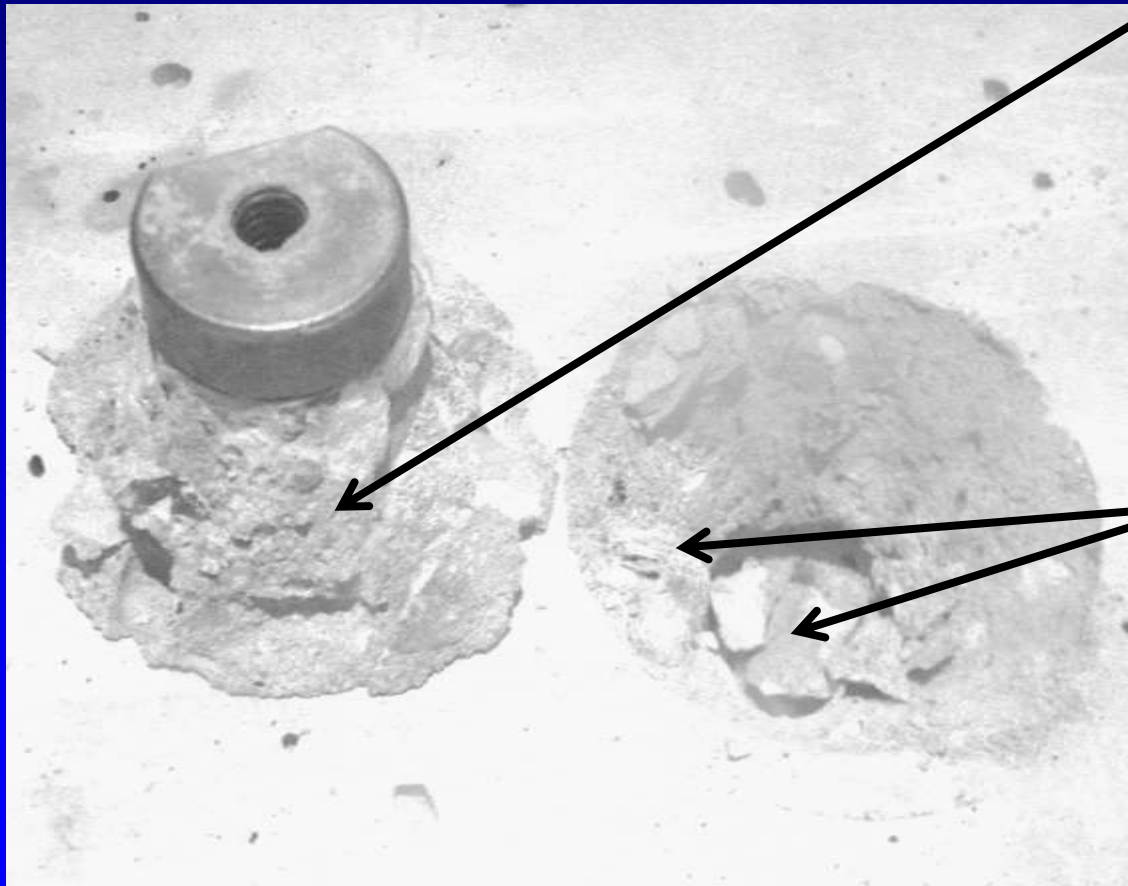
Stresses in MPa ( negative when stresses are compressive ).  
Calculation are made for uniaxial compressive strength of 31.8 MPa.

Note the higher stresses (up to 50 MPa) are present right below the disc due to concentrated tri -axial loading in this area while the stress in the "strut" (red area) is dominated by uniaxial stress

Test smart – Build right

GI

# LOK-TEST pullout failure



"Leaves" from the second crack pattern with the concrete in compression being intersected in the softening regime

Crushed material in the compression zone

# CAPO-TEST pullout failure



"Leaves" from the second crack pattern with the concrete in compression being intersected in the softening regime

Crushed material in the compression zone

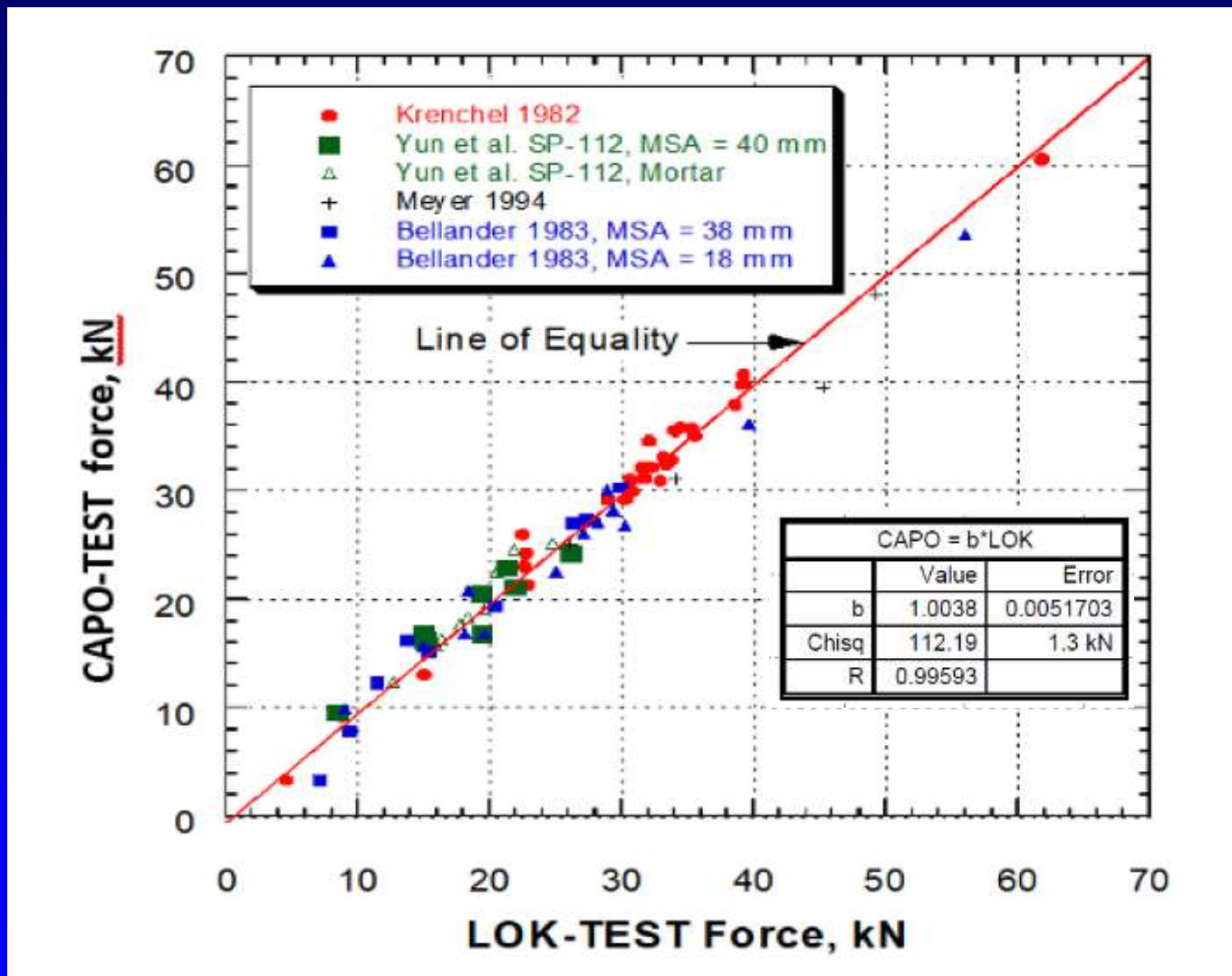
# CAPO-TEST Failure



"Leaves" from the 2nd crack pattern with the concrete in compression being intersected in the softening regime



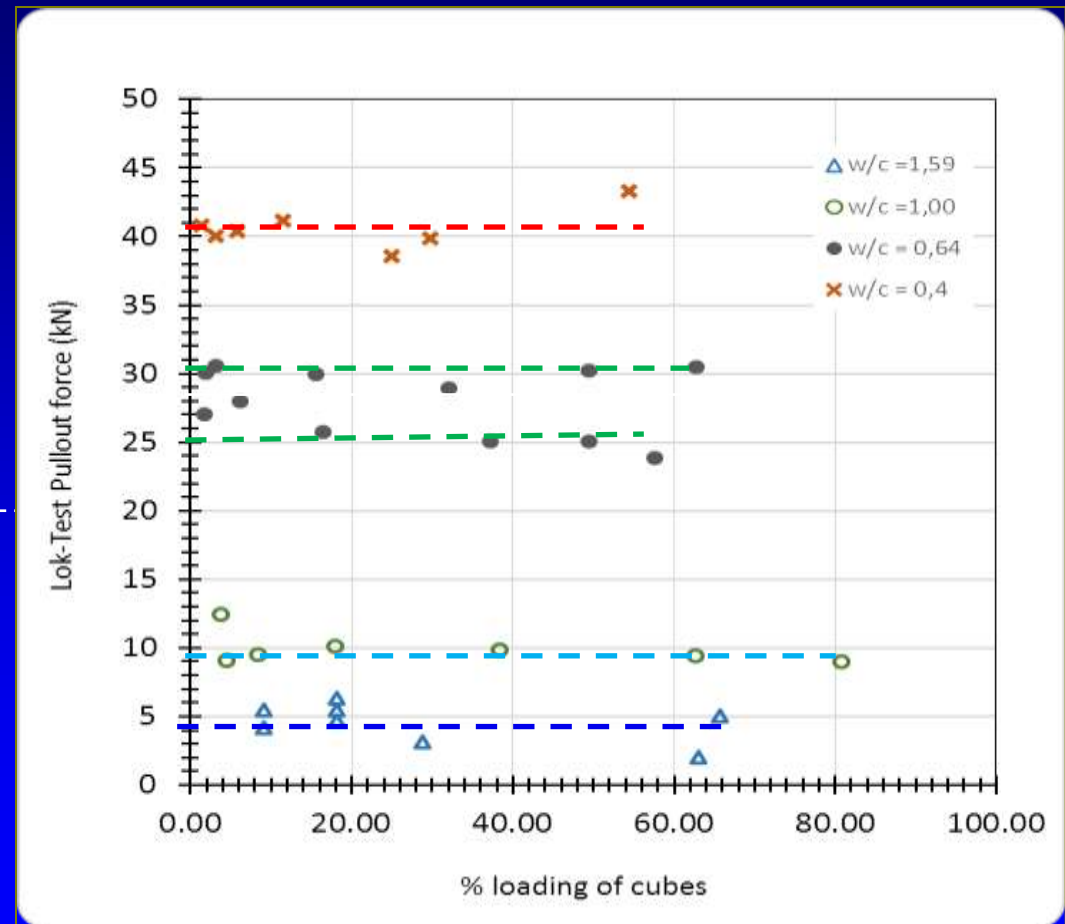
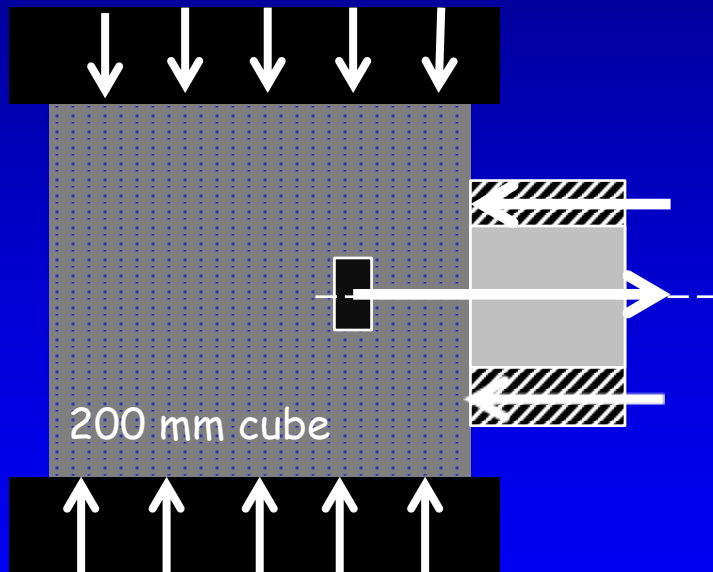
# LOK-TEST to CAPO-TEST



# NOTE

- LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST measure **the compressive strength** of concrete (2nd crack pattern). This constitute the load-carrying mechanism
- The tests are **NOT** testing the tensile, **NOR** the shear strength, only the compressive strength
- The tensile crack develops at about 30% of the ultimate load. This crack release stresses in the pullout area. Therefore, pullout values are not affected by inherent stresses in the structure (ref.: Jehrbo Jensen, J.K.: "Influences of Stresses in a Structure on the LOK-TEST Pullout Force", AUC, Deptm. of Building Technology and Structural Engineering, Aalborg, Denmark, 1990), next slide

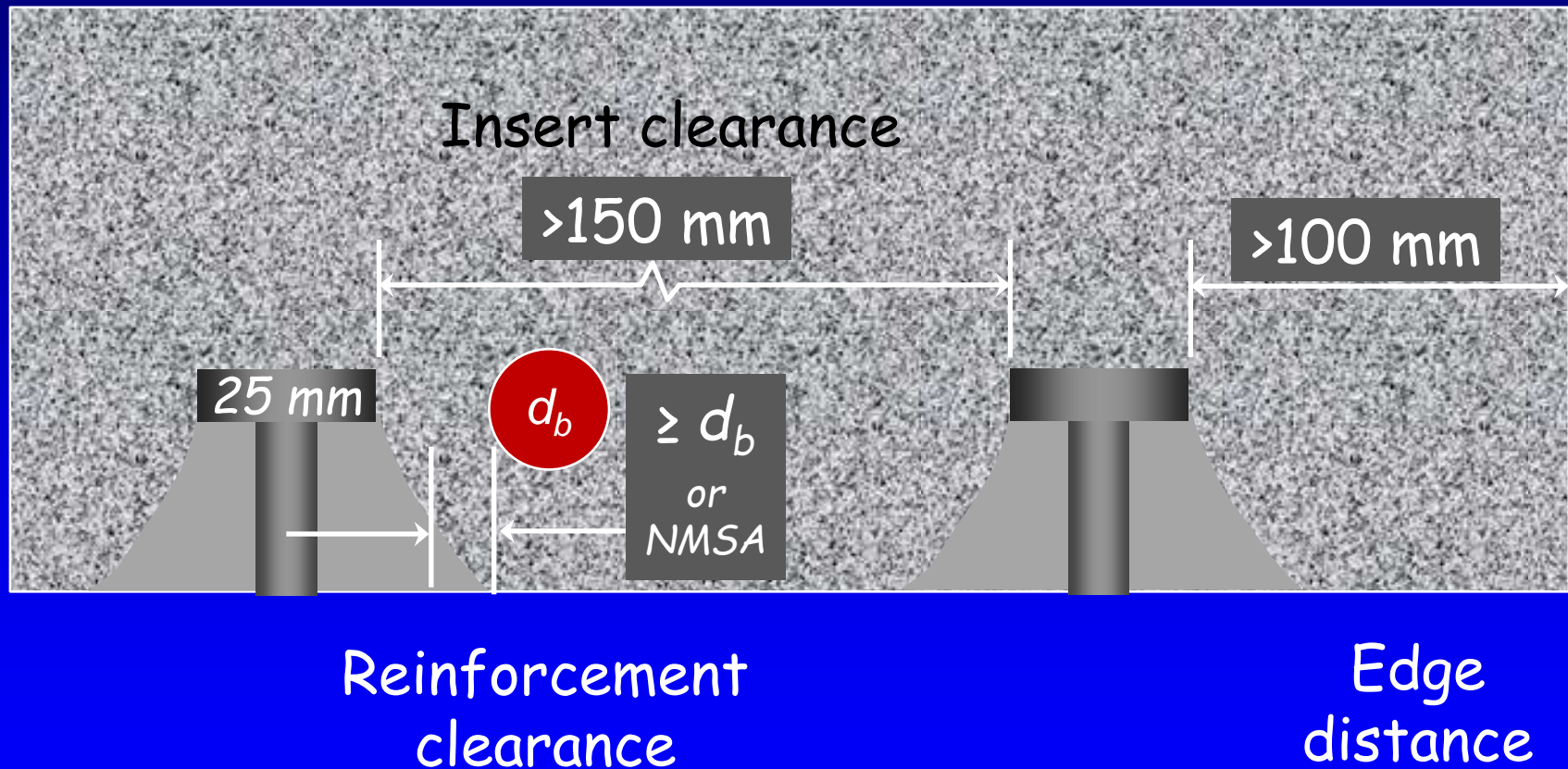
Jehrbo Jensen, J.K.: "Influences of Stresses in a Structure on the LOK-TEST Pullout Force", AUC, Deptm. of Building Technology and Structural Engineering, Aalborg, Denmark, 1990



Conclusion: Stresses in the structure is not affecting the strength estimate with LOK-TEST

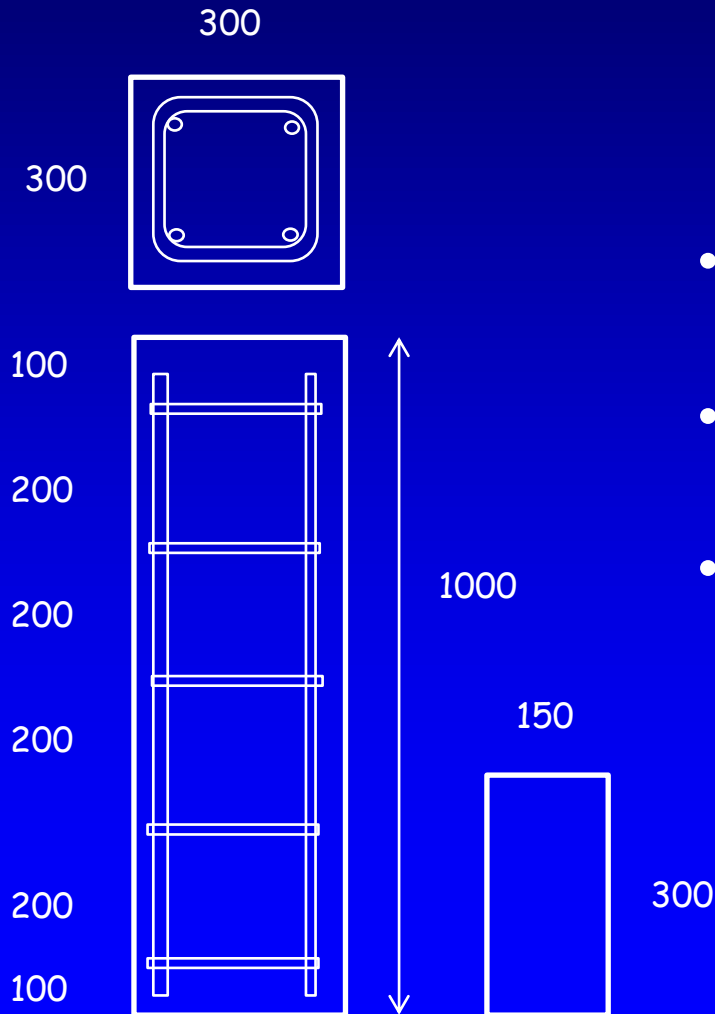
Test smart – Build right

# Clearance Requirements ASTM C900



# Correlations

# Comparative testing, reported 1978, DTU, Denmark



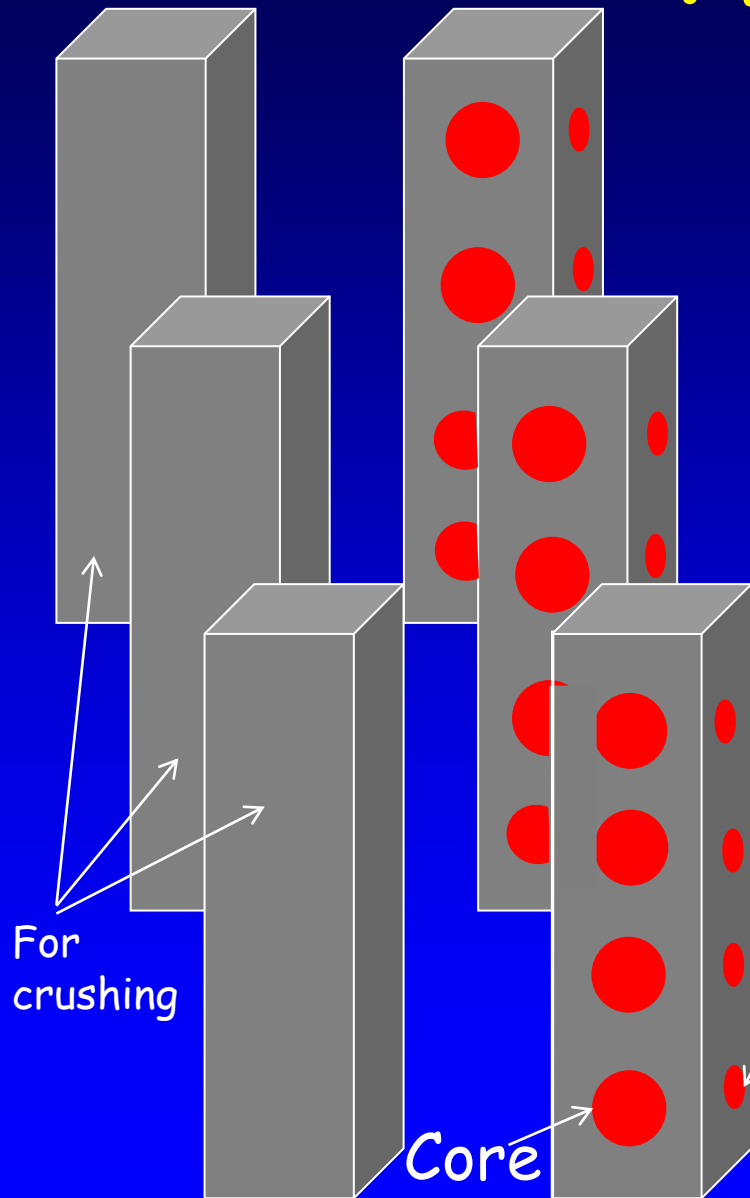
- Columns 1000 mm high, 300 mm x 300 mm in square
- Five strength levels, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 MPa
- Each batch consisting of 6 columns and 10 standard cylinders

5 x 6 columns

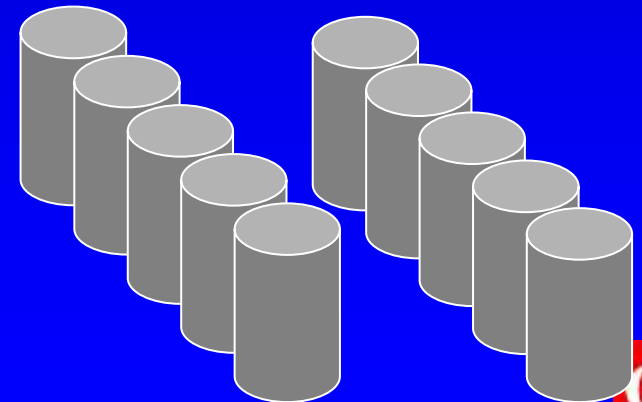
# Program

Five batches, ea with 6 columns:

- 3 columns crushed in compression for in-situ strength
- 3 columns tested by cores 100 mm dia. x 300 mm (4 pcs), UPV, Rebound Hammer and LOK-TEST (4 pcs), at same location
- 10 Cylinders in each batch

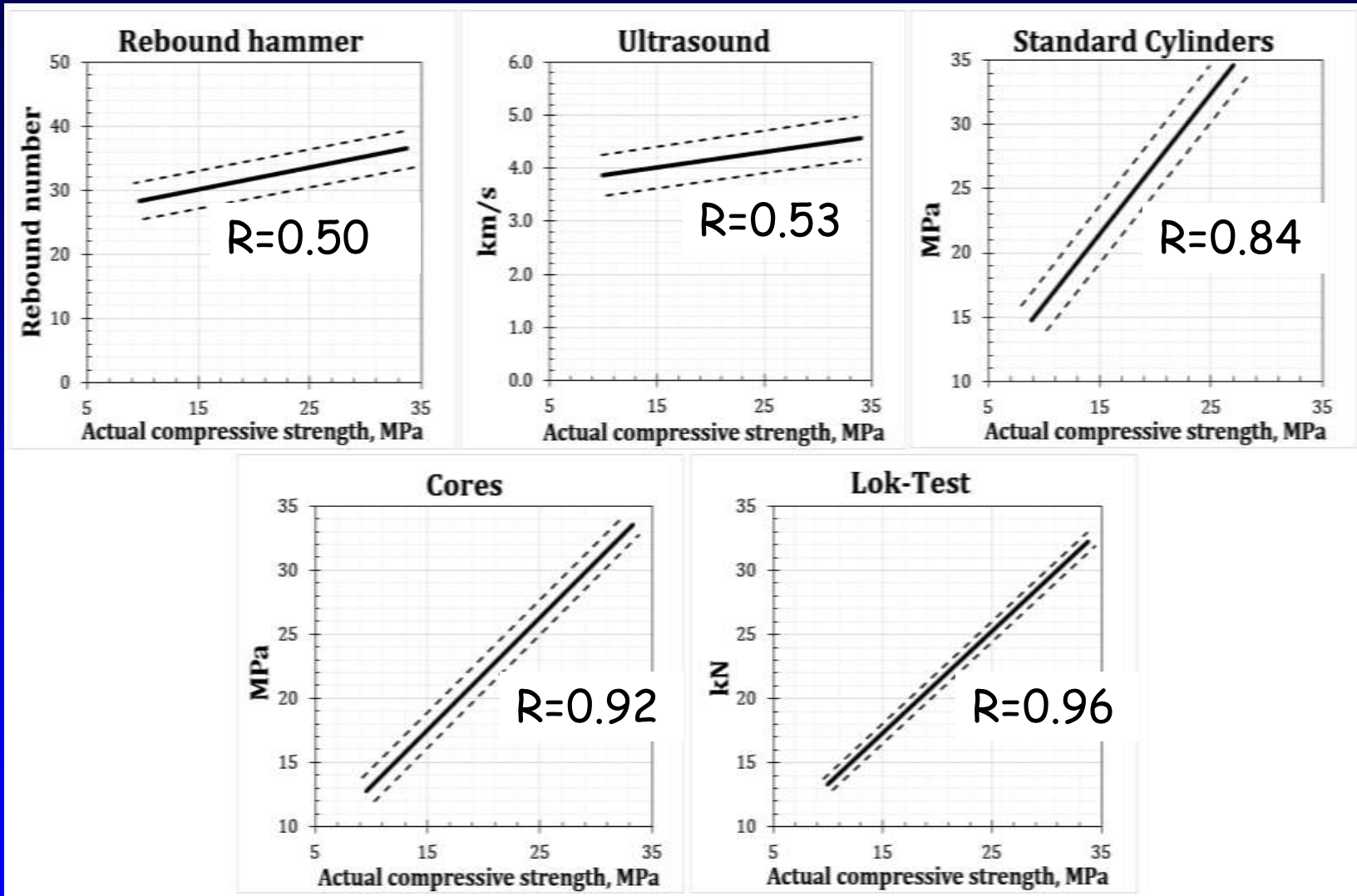


UPV, Rebound Hammer & LOK-TEST before coring



*Test smart – Build right*

# Results

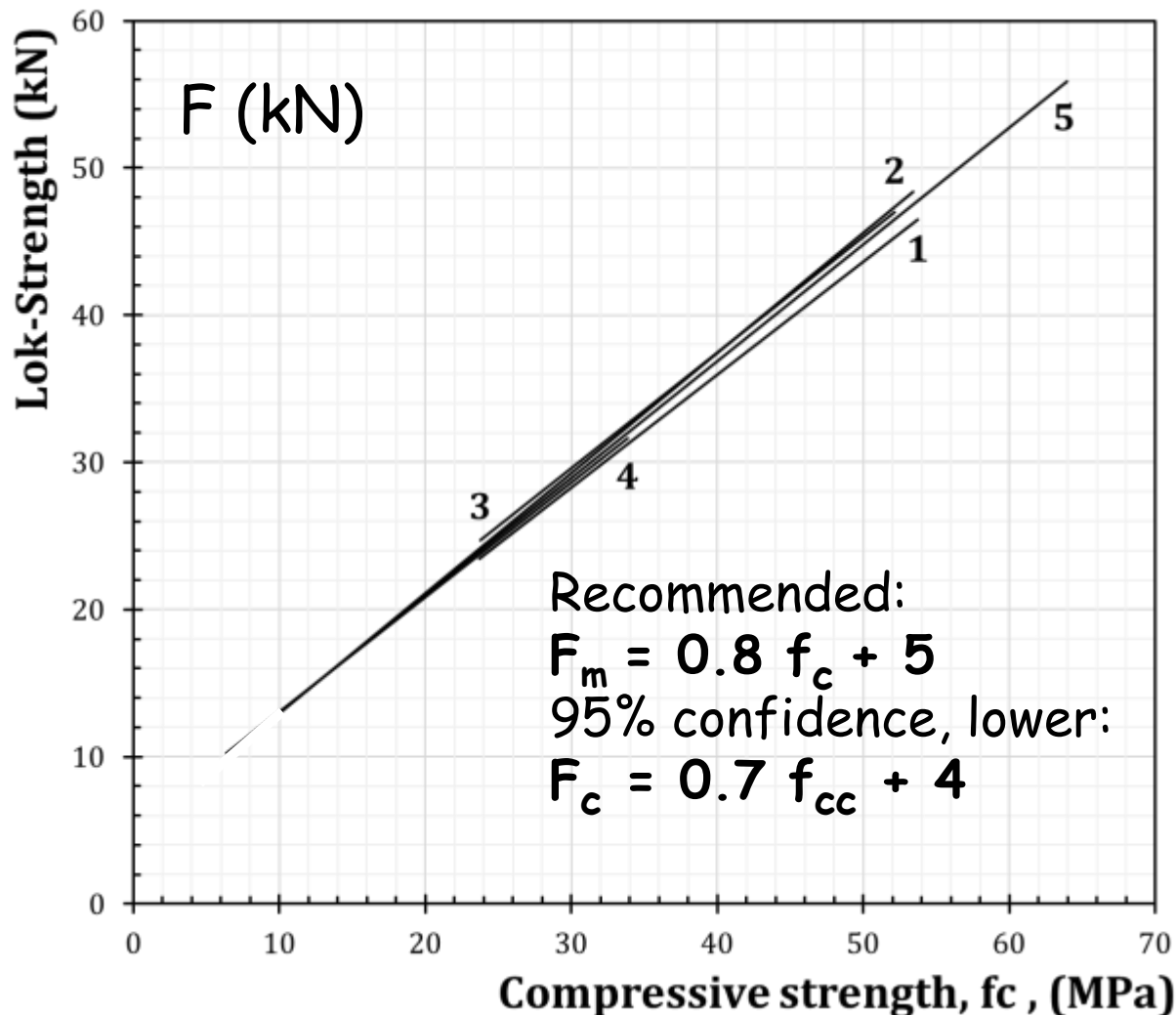


Refs (1) Poulsen, E.P. "Vurdering af betons styrke ved prøvning af udborede kerner, Del 1 og Del 2, DIAB, Nov 1975

(2) Kierkegaard-Hansen, P.: "LOK-TEST, Historical Background", DIAB, Oct 1978



# Lok-Test Correlations before 1978



Refs:

[1] Kierkegaard-Hansen, P., 1974, DIAB

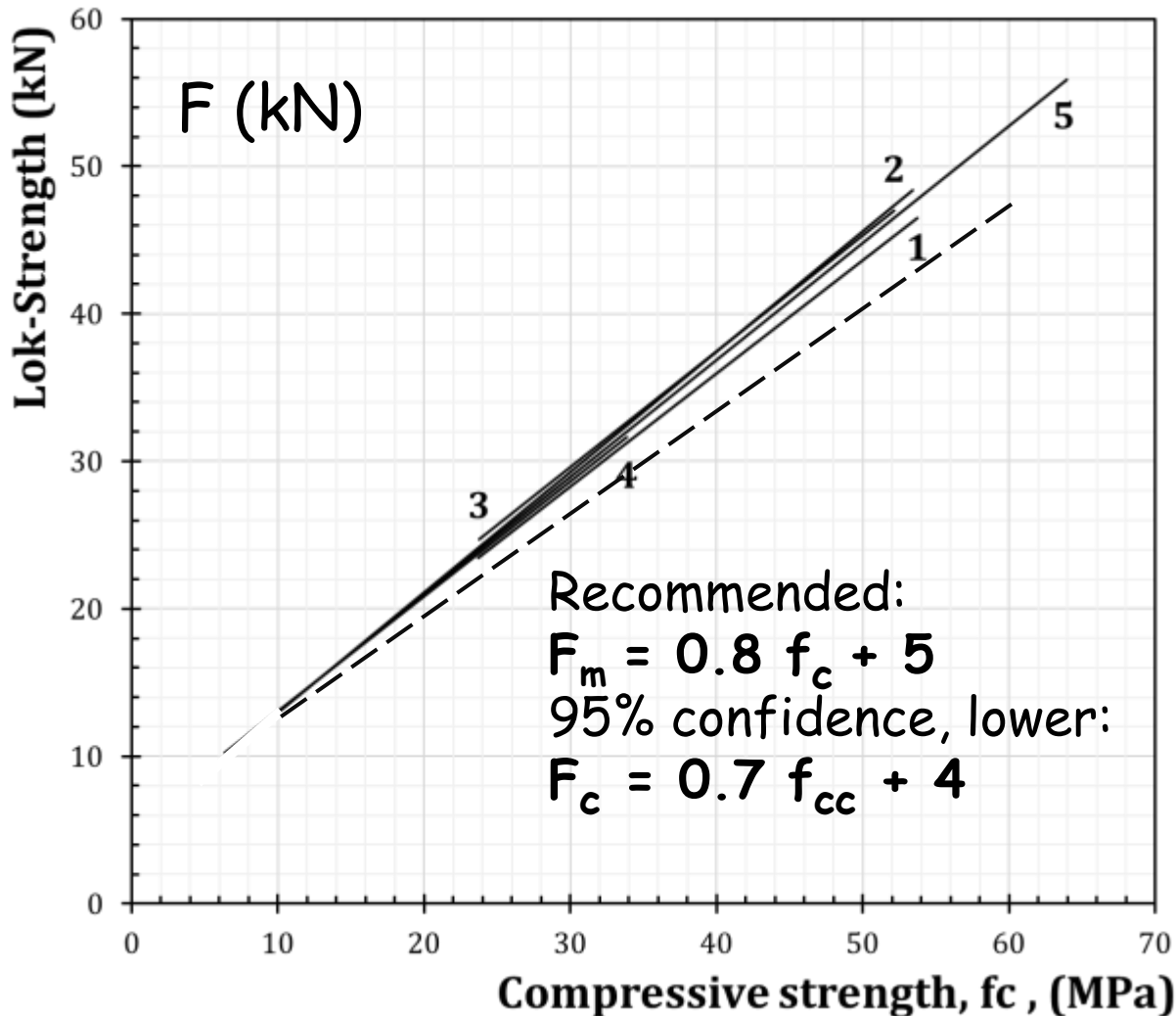
[2] Rapport nr. S 3/69 1974: Danish Technical University

[3] Jensen, O. & Leksø, S. 1976 / 1977, Danish Road and Bridge Lab & Danish State Railways

[4] Poulsen, P.E., Danish Institute of Technology & DIAB, 1978.

[5] Leksø, S., Danish Road and Bridge Lab. 1976.

# Correlations before 1978



Refs:

[1] Kierkegaard-Hansen, P., 1974, DIAB

[2] Rapport nr. S 3/69  
 1974: Danish Technical University

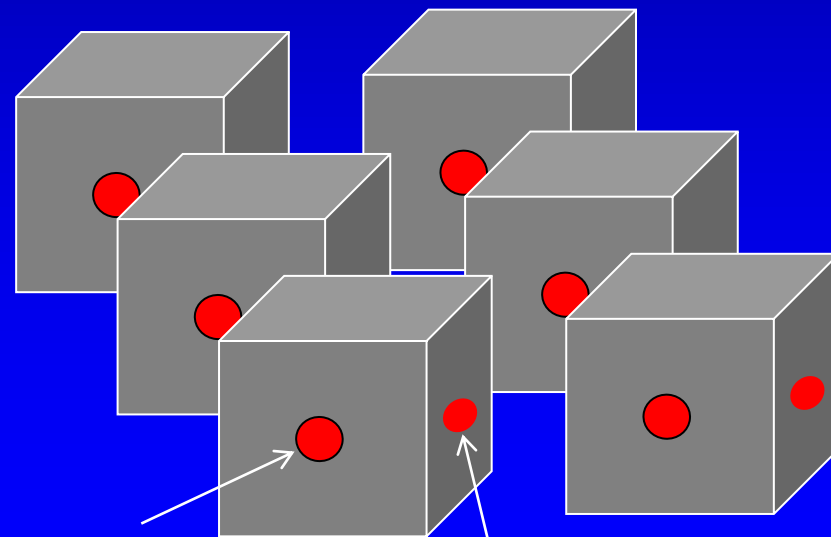
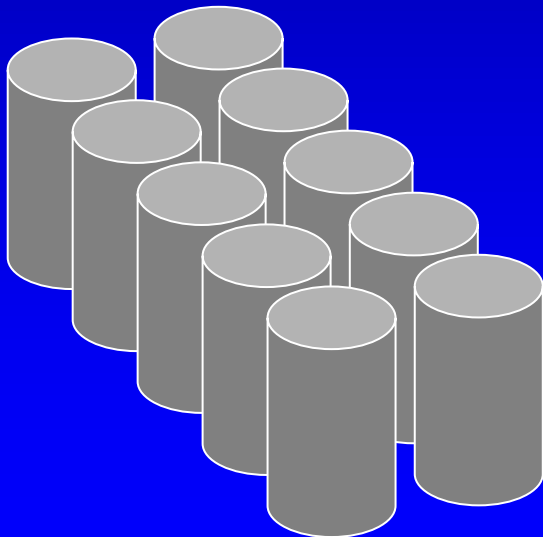
[3] Jensen, O. & Leksø, S. 1976 / 1977, Danish Road and Bridge Lab & Danish State Railways

[4] Poulsen, P.E., Danish Institute of Technology & DIAB, 1978.

[5] Leksø, S., Danish Road and Bridge Lab. 1976.

# Correlation Testing after 1978

- Prepare cylinders (or cubes)
- Prepare 200 mm cubes with inserts
- Compact and cure under same conditions

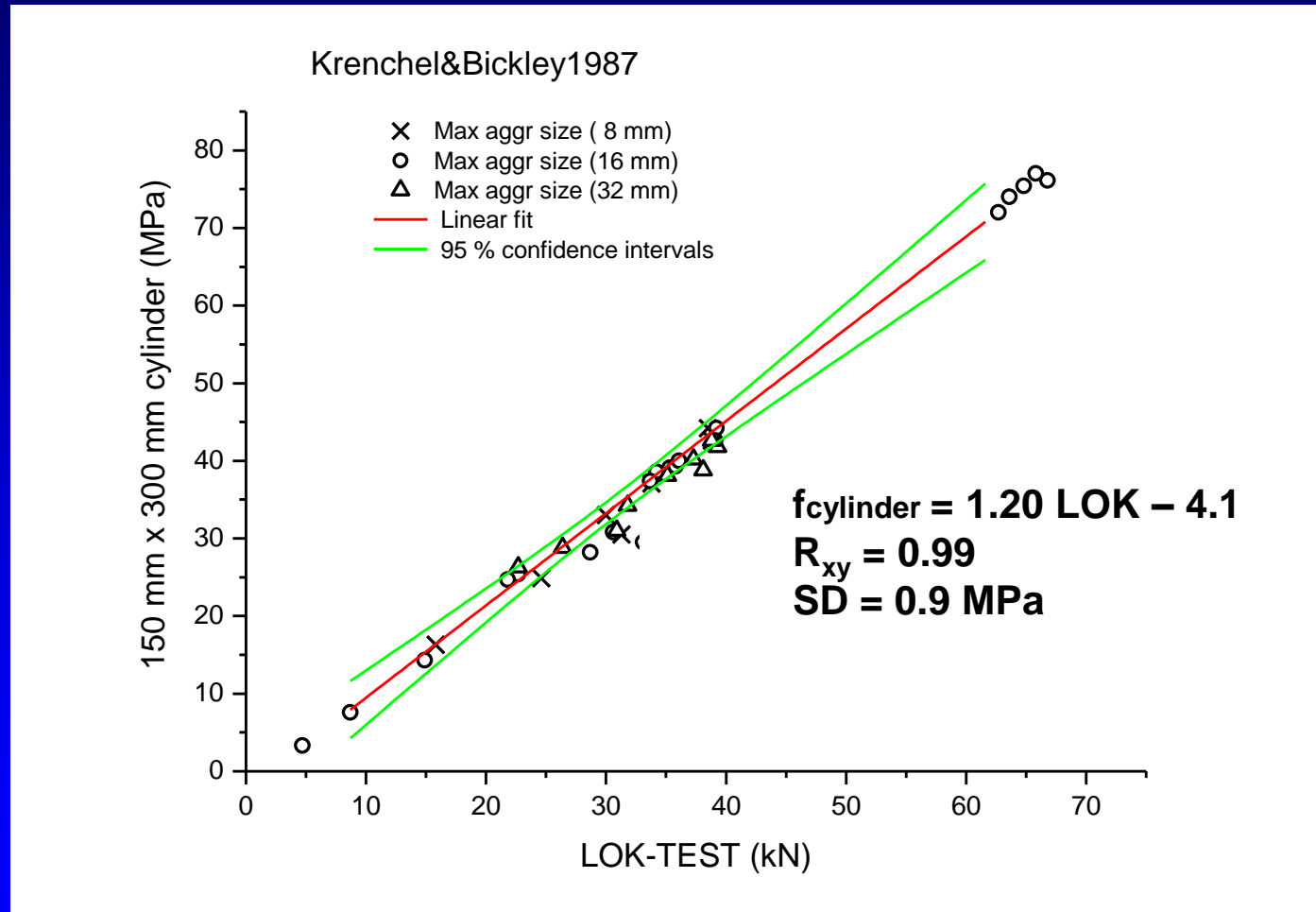


2 x LOK-Test

2 x CAPO-Test

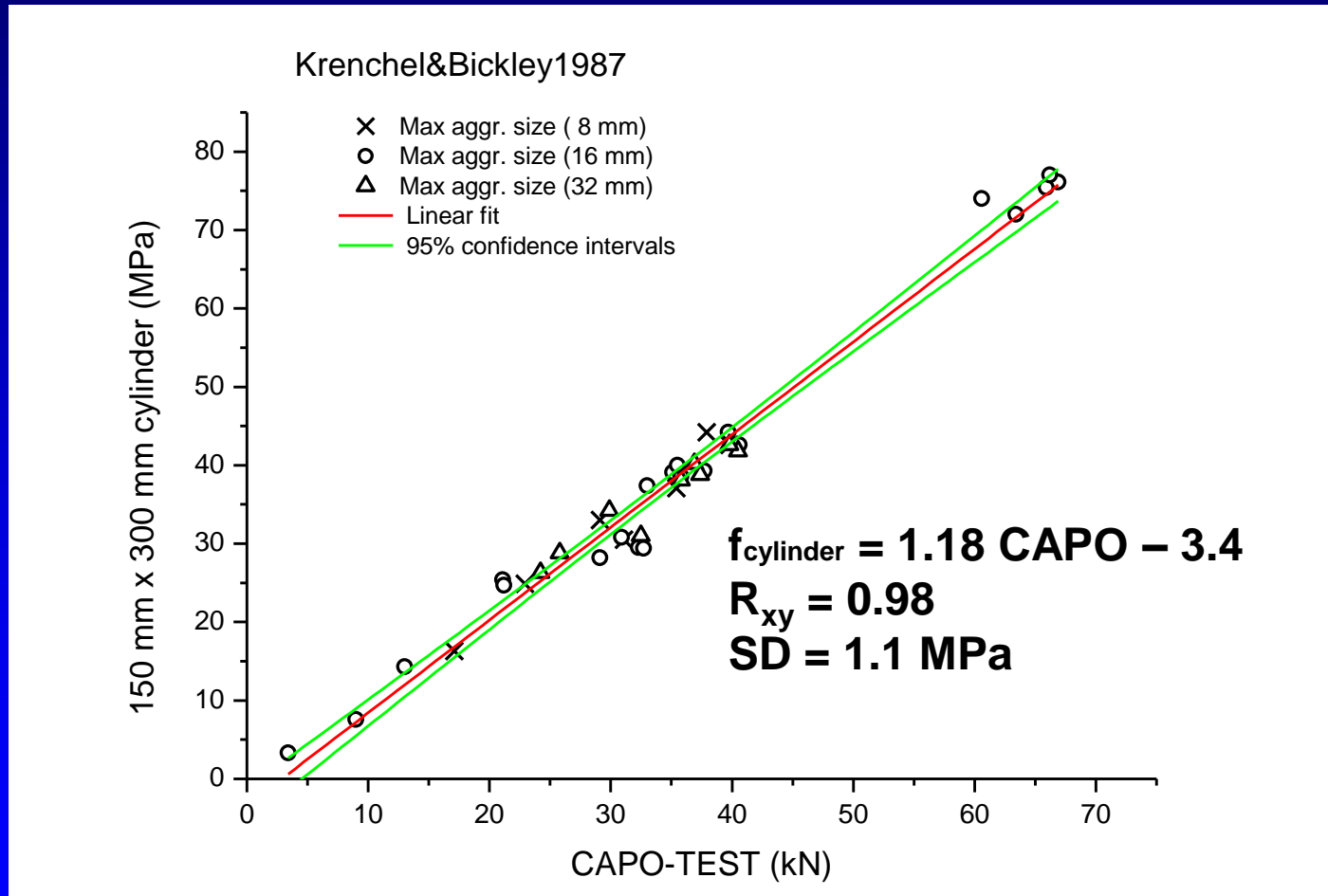
# Cylinder relationships

# LOK-TEST to cylinder strength, 1st major correlation 1987, DTU, Denmark



Aggregate type: Sea Gravel and Granite (for strength > 70 MPa)

# CAPO-TEST to cylinder strength, 1st major correlation 1987, DTU, Denmark



Aggregate type: Sea Gravel and Granite (for strength > 70 MPa)

## Eighteen correlation between 150 mm dia x 300 mm standard cylinder strength $f_{cyl}$ and pullout (Lok or Capo) in kN

### Methods

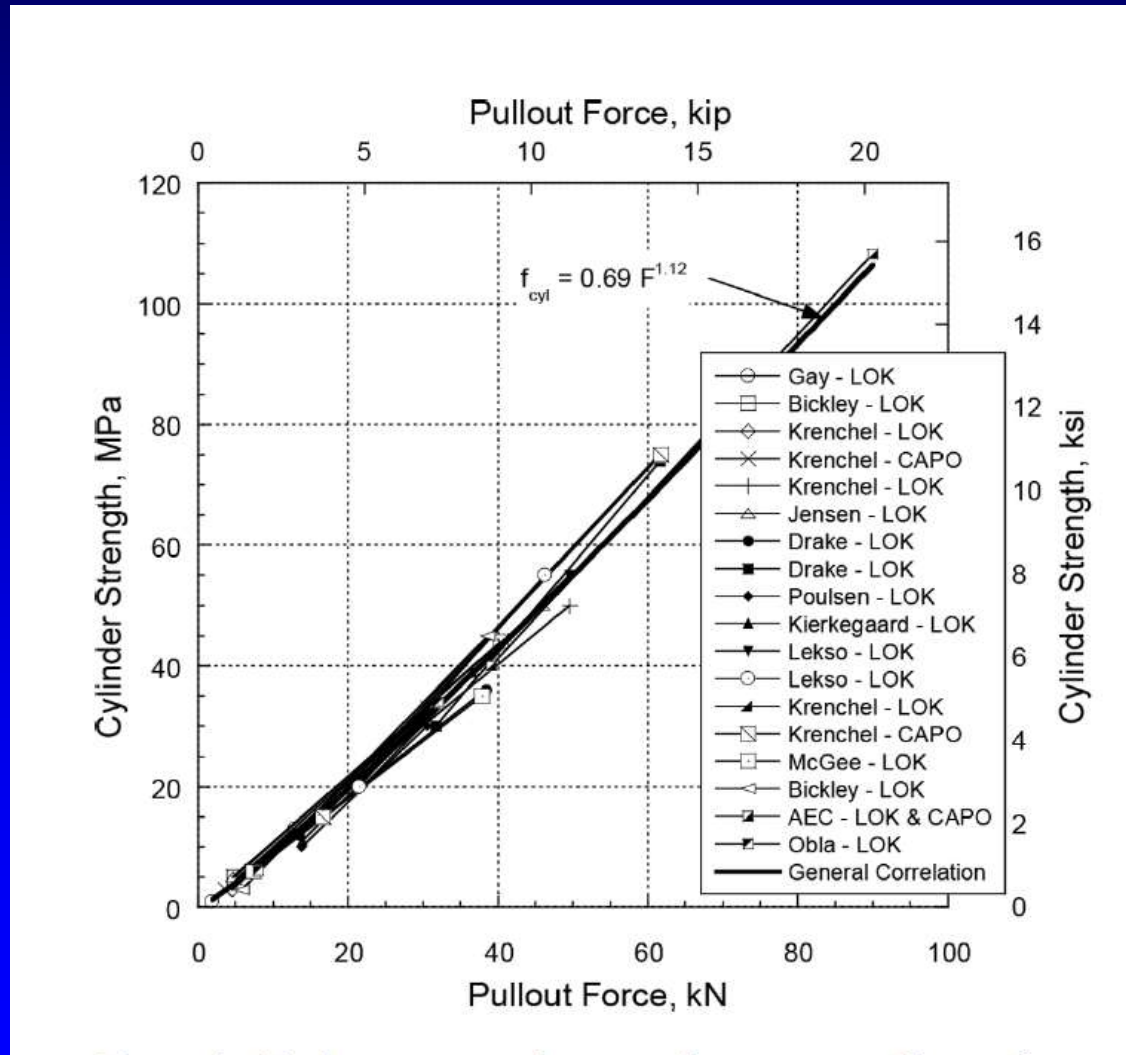
1. 150 mm x 300 mm cylinders, LOK-TEST inserts in the bottom pulled exactly to failure, cylinders capped and tested in compression
2. 150 mm x 300 mm cylinders, pullout centrally placed on vertical faces of 200 mm cubes
3. 0.3 m x 0.3 m x 1 m columns crushed in compression, pullout on other matching columns
4. 150 mm x 300 mm cylinders, pullout on structures in-situ, same maturity
5. 150 mm x 300 mm cylinders and cores, pullout on panels, same maturity

# Eighteen correlations, standard cylinders to LOK-TEST or CAPO-TEST

	Author / ref.	Correlation	Range	Method	Country
1	Gay, G.	$f_{cyl} = 1.08 \text{ Lok} - 0.97$	1-13 Mpa	1	USA
2	Bickley, J.	$f_{cyl} = 1.10 \text{ Lok} - 0.35$	5-44 MPa	1	Canada
3	Krenchel, H.	$f_{cyl} = 1.14 \text{ Lok} - 2.16$	3-33 MPa	2	Denmark
4	Krenchel, H.	$f_{cyl} = 1.11 \text{ Capo} - 1.02$	3-33 MPa	2	Denmark
5	Krenchel, H.	$f_{cyl} = 1.02 \text{ Lok} - 0.54$	5-50 MPa	2	Denmark
6	Jensen, J.	$f_{cyl} = 1.09 \text{ Lok} - 0.04$	5-50 MPa	2	Denmark
7	Drake, K.D.	$f_{cyl} = 0.96 \text{ Lok} - 0.90$	12-36 MPa	2	USA
8	Drake, K.D.	$f_{cyl} = 1.47 \text{ Lok} - 16.62$	30-74 MPa	2	USA
9	Poulsen, E.	$f_{cyl} = 1.20 \text{ Lok} - 6.62$	10-30 MPa	3	Denmark
10	Kierkegaard, P.	$f_{cyl} = 1.24 \text{ Lok} - 6.32$	11-39 MPa	1	Denmark
11	Lekso, S.	$f_{cyl} = 1.25 \text{ Lok} - 7.40$	20-55 MPa	5	Denmark
12	Lekso, S.	$f_{cyl} = 1.41 \text{ Lok} - 10.28$	20-55 MPa	4	Denmark
13	Krenchel, H.	$f_{cyl} = 1.32 \text{ Lok} - 6.18$	15-75 MPa	2	Denmark
14	Krenchel, H.	$f_{cyl} = 1.33 \text{ Capo} - 7.06$	15-75 MPa	2	Denmark
15	McGee, R.L.	$f_{cyl} = 0.95 \text{ Lok} - 0.95$	6-35 MPa	1 + 2	USA
16	Bickley, J.	$f_{cyl} = 1.28 \text{ Lok} - 4.51$	3-45 MPa	1	Canada
17	AEC	$f_{cyl} = 1.32 \text{ Lok} - 11.53$	40-110 MPa	2	Denmark
18	Bishr, H.A.M.	$f_{cyl} = 1.25 \text{ Lok} - 2.88$	8-35 MPa	5	KSA



# 18 correlations to cylinder strength 1990-2013



Remember:  
Compression of  
the cylinders  
were made on  
different  
compression  
machine

# Variations

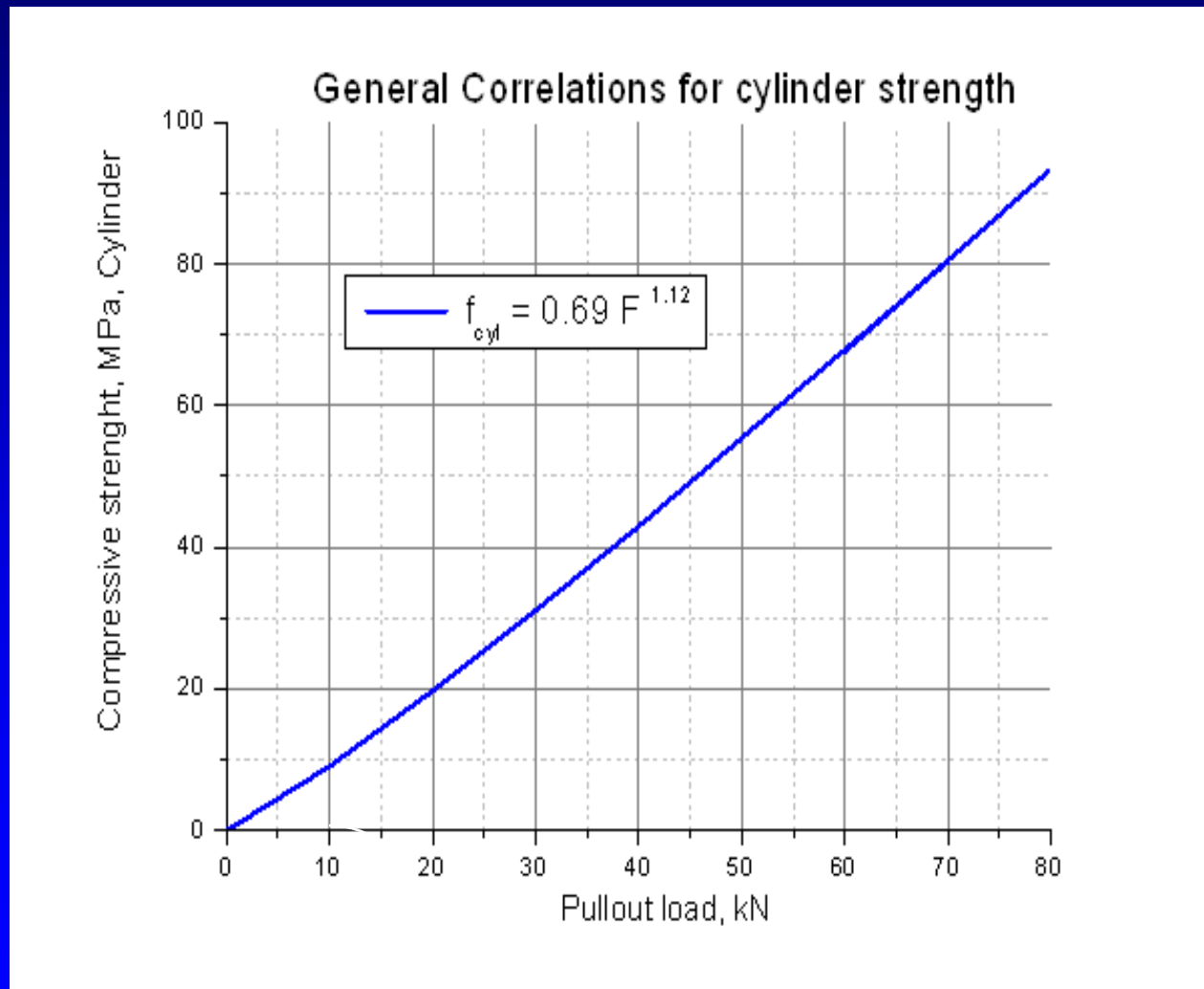
Calibration Procedure, laboratory	Pullout		Stand. specim.	
	SV	n	SV	n
Danish	9.4 %	2188	4.3%	1177
North American	7.5%	994	6.4%	994
Swedish/Dutch/English	6.8%	1180	6.2%	963

Structure, On-site testing	LOK-TEST		CAPO-TEST	
	SV	n	SV	n
Shotcrete			3.2%	310
Slabs, bottom	10.5%	5320	7.1%	35
Slabs, top	12.9%	955	9.3%	623
Beams & Columns	8.1%	677	8.0%	434
Walls & Foundations	10.1%	1020	10.4%	534
Dubious Structures	14.7%	1225	15.3%	3334

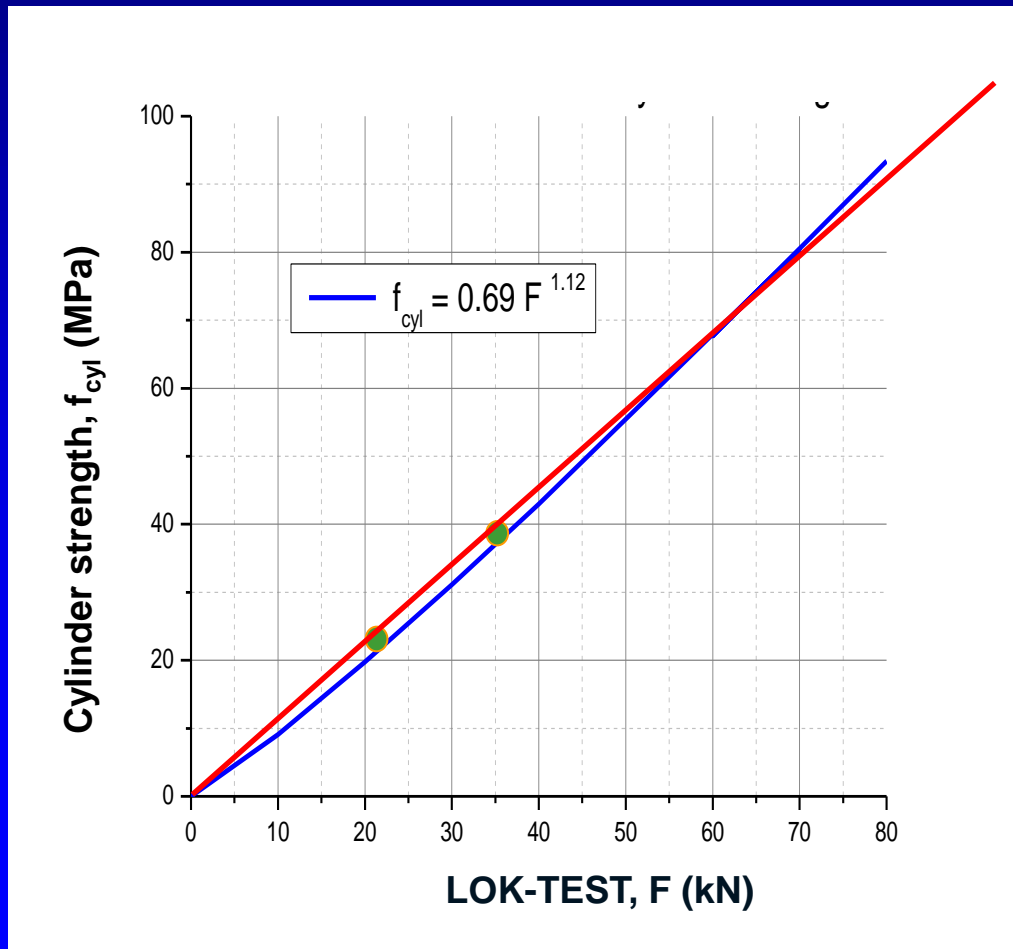
Ref.: Petersen (1994)

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# General cylinder relation to pullout strength by LOK/CAPO



Theoretical investigations relating LOK-TEST pullout force  $F$  in kN to cylinder compressive strength  $f_{cyl}$  in MPa, compared to the General Correlation for cylinders  $f_{cyl} = 0.69 F^{1.12}$

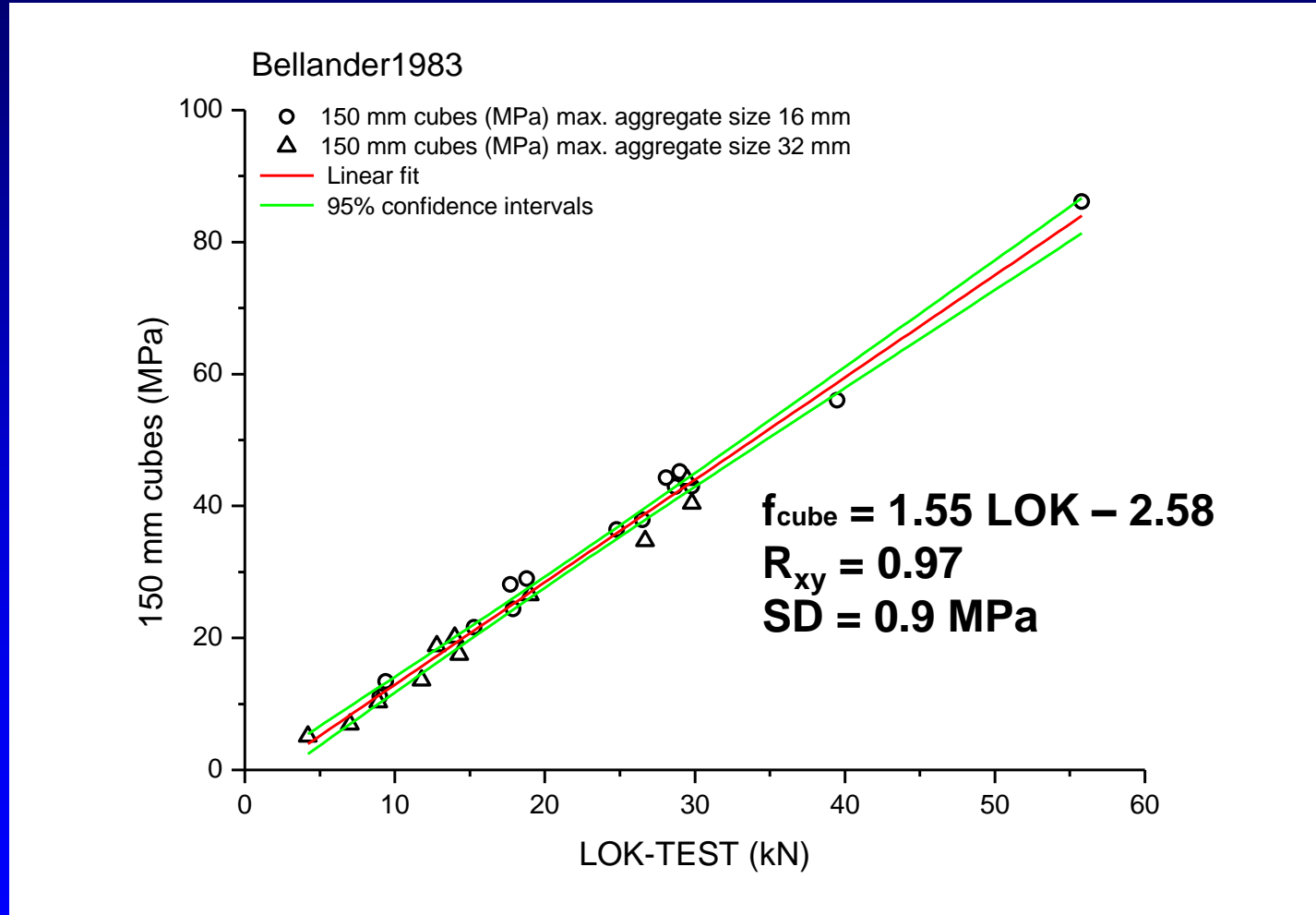


● Ottosen, N.S.: "Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis of Pull-Out Test", Journal of the Structural Division, ASCE, Vol. 107, No.ST4, April 1981

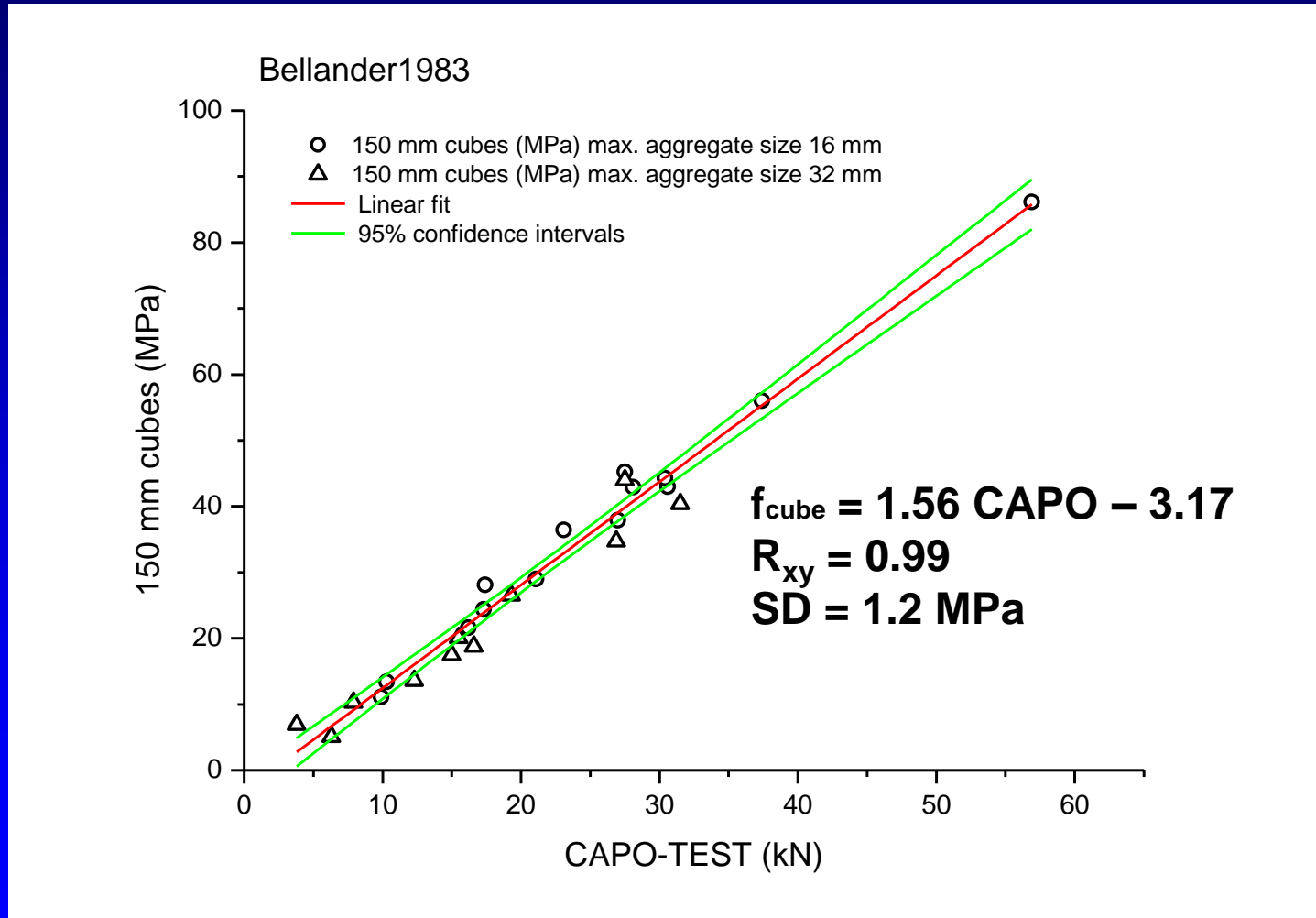
— Jensen, B.J. & Bræstrup, M.W.: "Lok-Tests determine the compressive strength of concrete", Nordisk Betong 2-1976  
( $F = 0.89 f_{cyl}$ )

# Cube relationships

# LOK-TEST to cube strength, 1st major correlation 1983, CBI, Sweden



# CAPO-TEST to cube strength, 1st major correlation 1983, Sweden



## 13 Correlations between 150 mm cube strength $f_{\text{cube}}$ and/or cores (100 mm dia x 100 mm long) $f_{\text{core}}$ in MPa and pullout load (Lok or Capo) in kN

### Methods:

1. 150 mm cubes for compression test, pullout on vertical faces of 150 mm cubes (or 200 mm cubes for high strength)
2. 150 mm cubes for compression test, pullout on vertical faces of 150 mm cubes (for high strength kept in steel frame or kept in the steel mold)
3. 150 mm cubes and 100 mm dia x 100 mm cores for compression, pullout on panels in the top
4. 100 mm dia. cores x 100 mm on vertical panels for compression, pullouts on panels in-situ
5. 100 mm dia. cores x 100 mm on vertical panels for compression, pullouts on panels in the lab
6. 100 mm dia. Cores x 100 mm in-situ, Capo-Test in-situ

### Assumption:

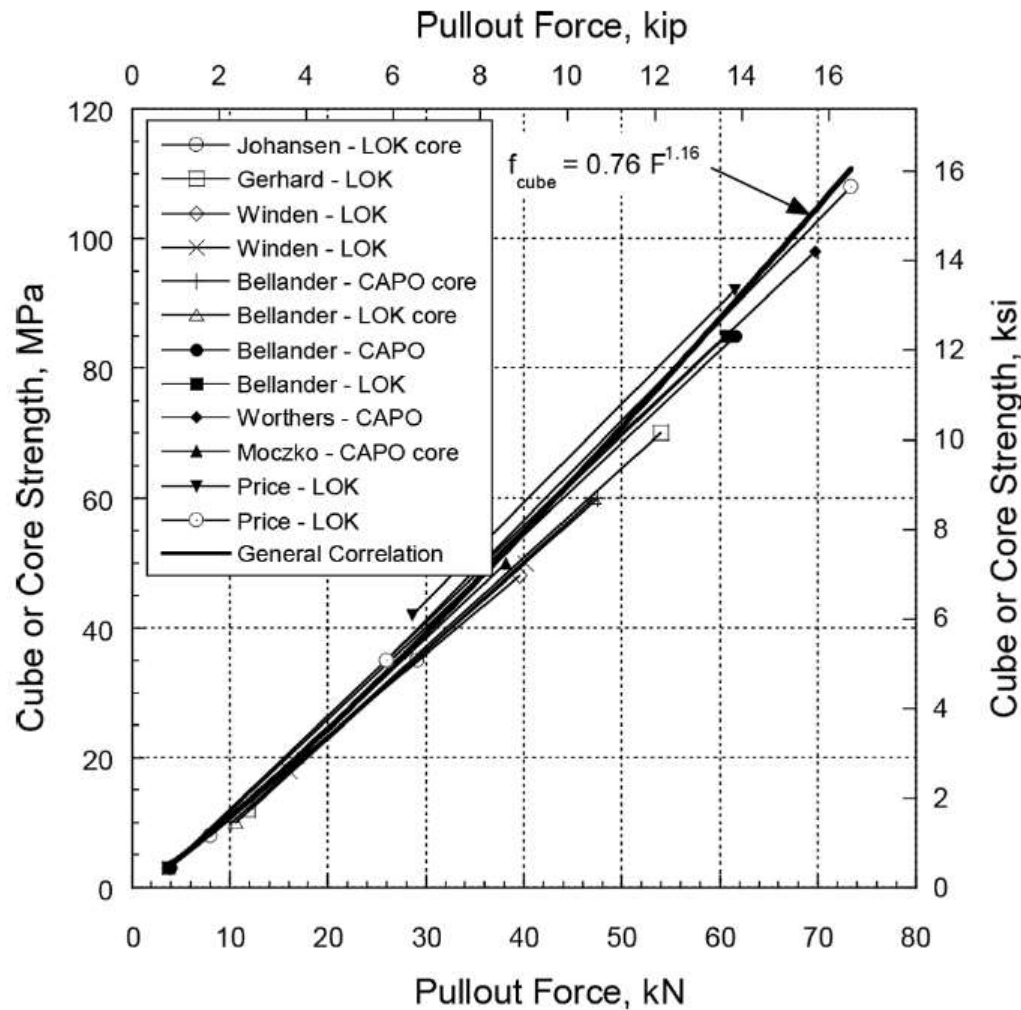
The 150 mm x 150 mm x 150 mm cube strength has the same compressive strength as drilled-out cores, 100 mm diameter, 100 mm long



# 13 Correlations between 150 mm cube strength $f_{cube}$ and/or cores (100 mm dia x 100 mm long) $f_{core}$ in MPa and pullout load (Lok or Capo) in kN

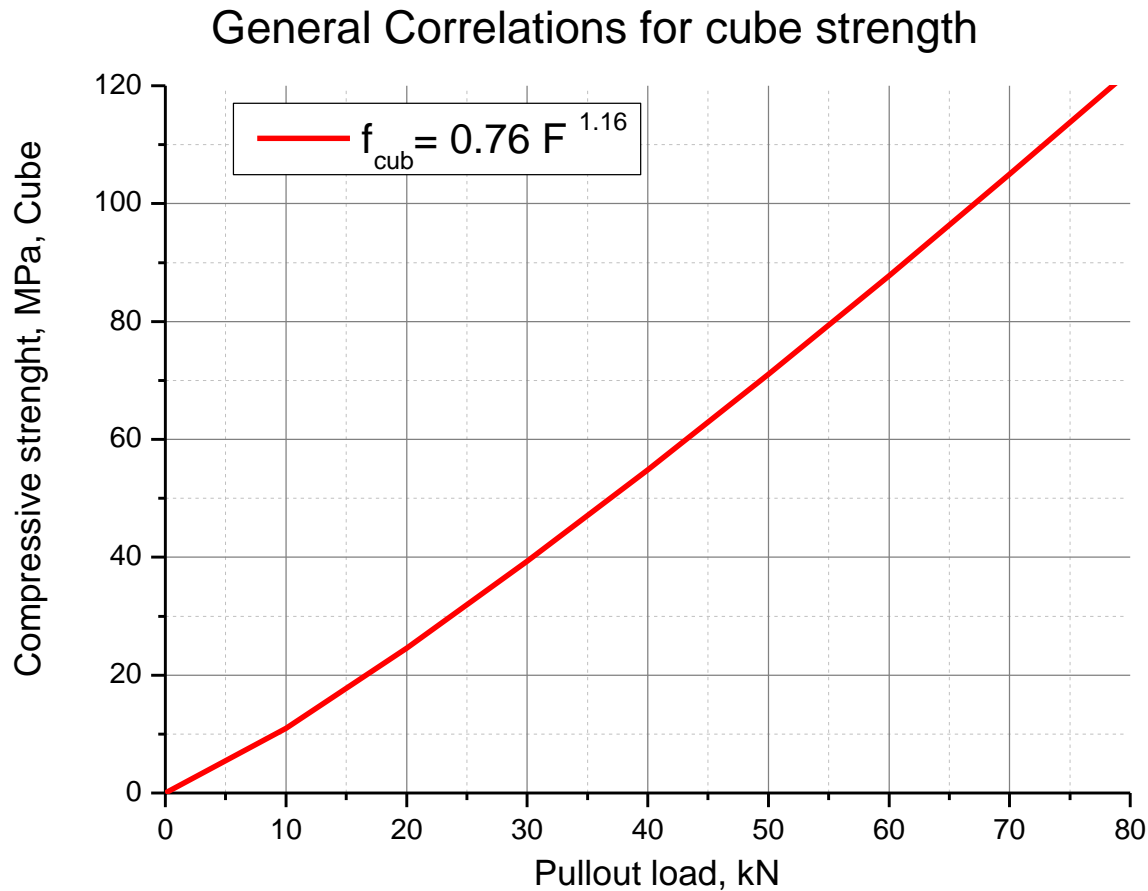
	Author / ref.	Correlation	Range	Method
1	Johansen, R.	$f_{cube/core} = 1.28 \text{ Lok} - 2.18$	8-35 MPa	3
2	Gelhard, R.	$f_{cub} = 1.23 \text{ Lok} - 2.46$	12-64 MPa	1
3	Winden, N.	$f_{cube} = 1.26 \text{ Lok} - 1.89$	3-48 MPa	1
4	Winden, N.	$f_{cube} = 1.32 \text{ Lok} - 3.07$	18-50 MPa	1
5	Bellander, U.	$f_{cube/core} = 1.34 \text{ Lok} - 3.70$	10-60 MPa	4 + 1
6	Bellander, U.	$f_{core} = 1.37 \text{ Lok} - 4.57$	10-60 MPa	5
7	Bellander, U.	$f_{cube} = 1.56 \text{ Lok} - 2.80$	3-85 MPa	2
8	Bellander, U.	$f_{cube} = 1.58 \text{ Capo} - 2.66$	3-85 MPa	1
9	Worthers, P.	$f_{cube} = 1.42 \text{ Capo} - 1.00$	50-98 MPa	2
10	Moczko, A.	$f_{core} = 1.42 \text{ Capo} - 4.20$	20-50 MPa	6
11	Thun.U	$f_{core} = 0.98 \text{ Capo}^{1.12}$	11-105 MPa	6
12	Price, W. F.	$f_{cube} = 1.52 \text{ Lok} - 1.49$	42-92 MPa	1
13	Price, W. F.	$f_{cube} = 1.54 \text{ Lok} - 5.00$	35-108 MPa	1

# 13 correlations to cube strength

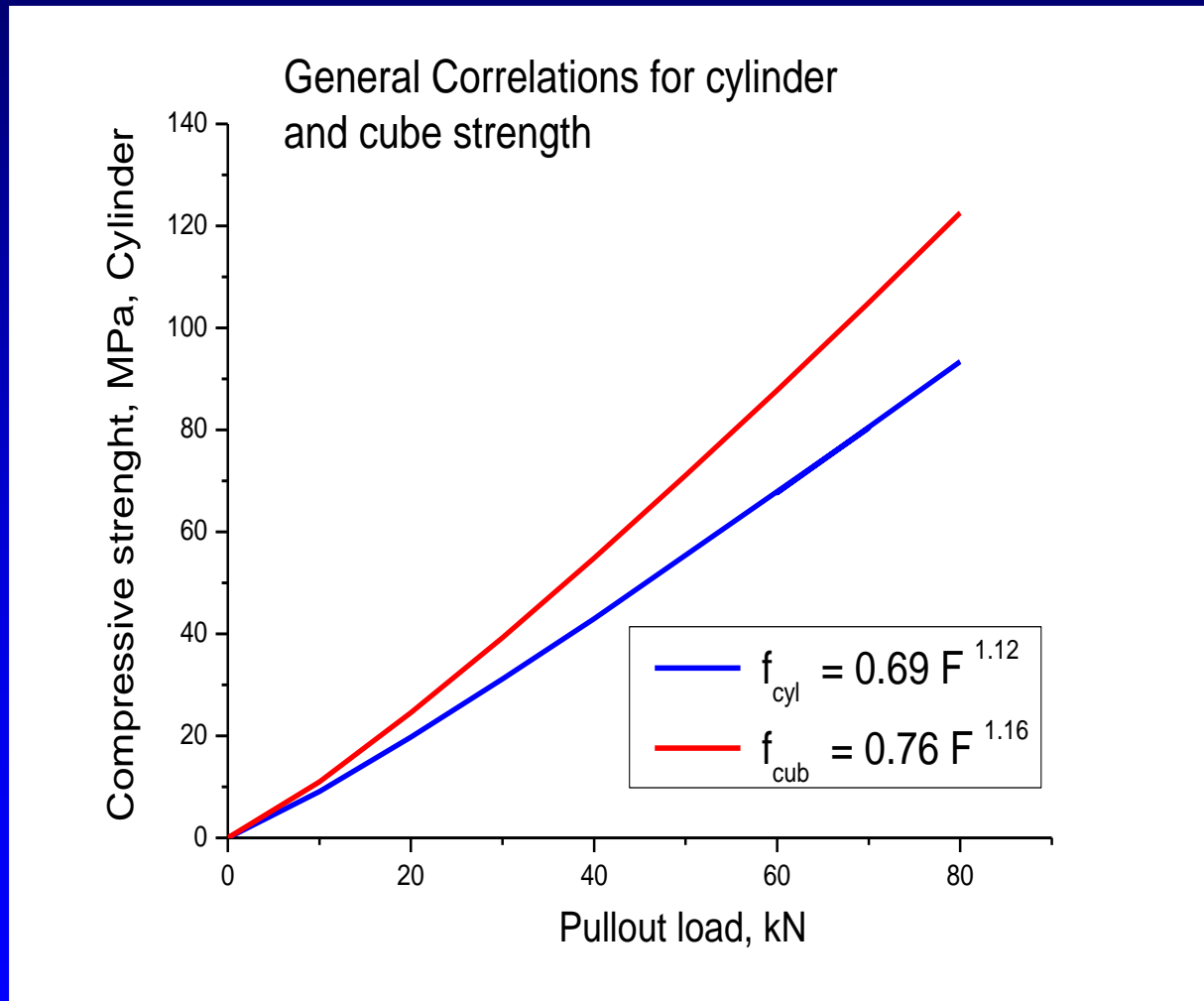


Remember:  
Compression of  
the cores / cubes  
were made on  
different  
compression  
machine

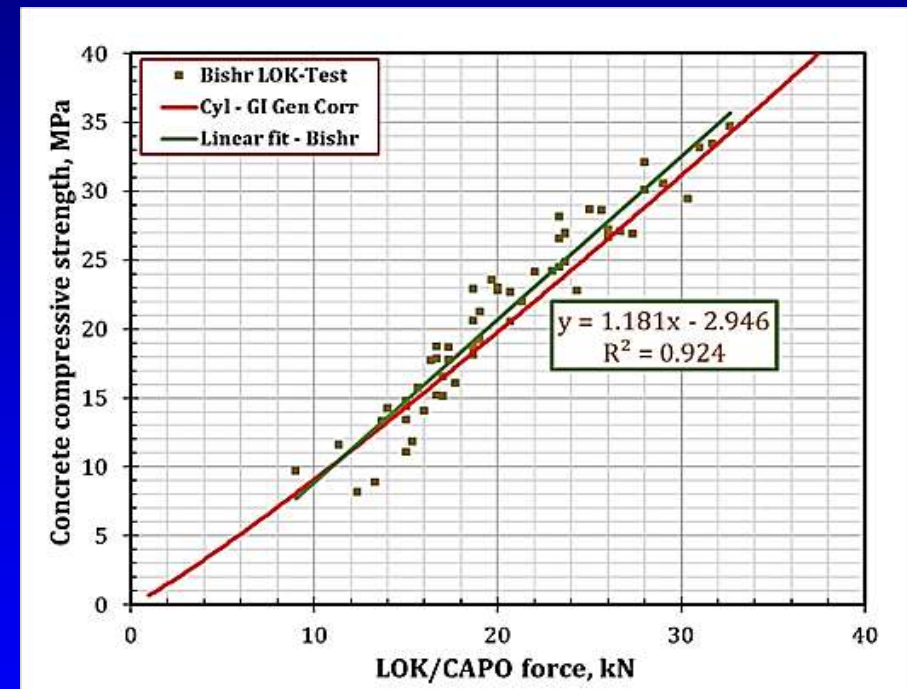
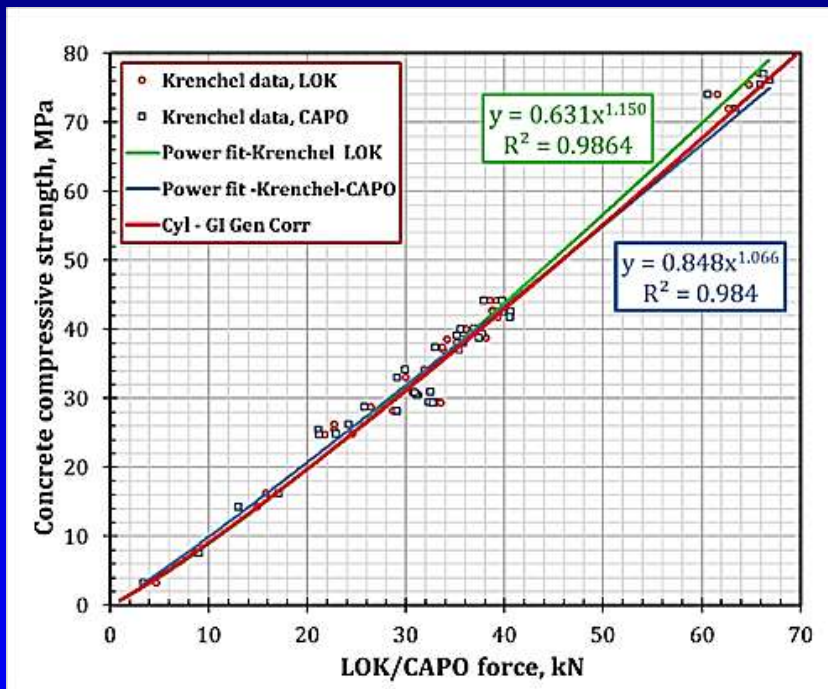
# General cube / core relation to pullout strength by LOK/CAPO



# The two general correlations



# Precision Data for calculation

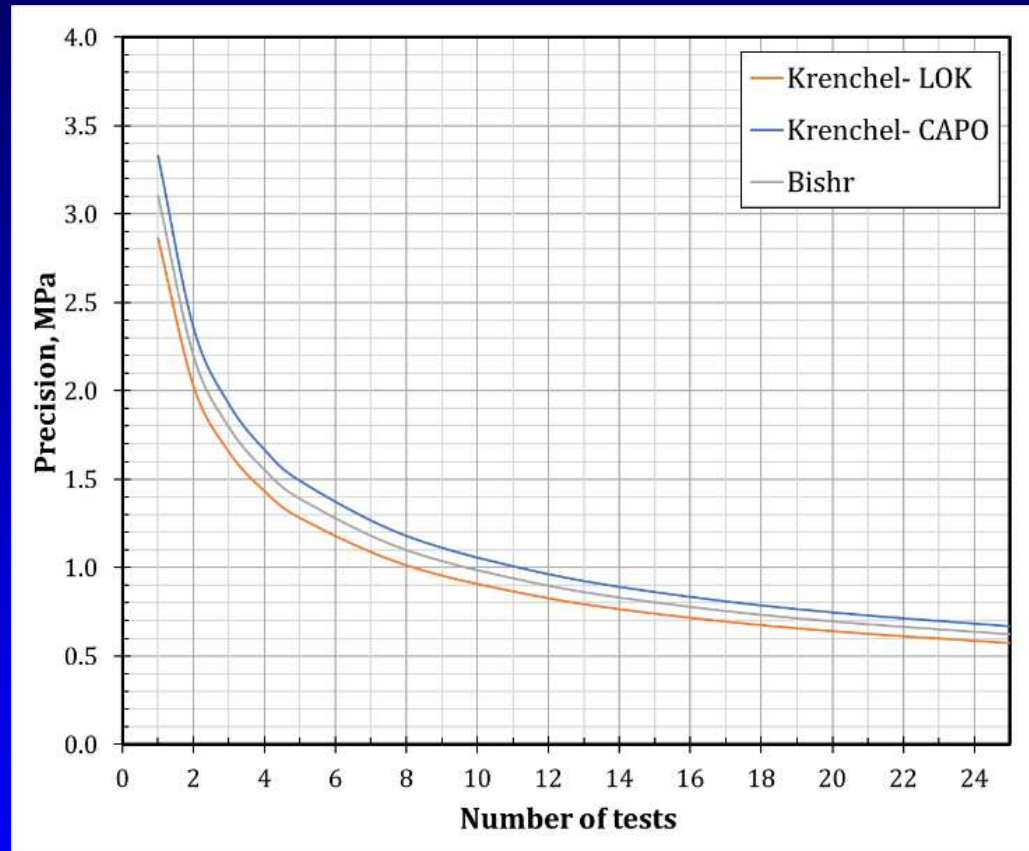


$$P = \frac{z \cdot C_v}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$C_v = \frac{s_p}{\bar{x}}$$

$$s_p = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2 + \dots + (n_m - 1)s_m^2}{n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_m - m}}$$

# Precision



Precision curves for LOK/CAPO test, calculated with the average of the standard deviation and with the pooled standard deviation. LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST has a precision of  $\pm 3$  MPa for one test and  $\pm 2$  MPa for two tests, based on the general correlations.

# Robust Correlations

Not affected by:

- Cementitious materials
- Water-cement ratio
- SCC mixtures
- Fibers
- Age
- Air entrainment
- Admixtures
- Curing conditions
- Age and depth of carbonation
- Stresses in the structure
- Shape, type or size of aggregate < 38 mm
  - Lightweight aggregate, however, produce a significantly different correlation

# Conclusions

- The failure mechanism in LOK-TEST/CAPO-TEST is well understood. Compression occurs in the **strut** between the 25 mm disc/ring, 25 mm deep, and the 55 mm inner diameter. Counter pressure on the surface, hence the pullout force is a direct measure of the compressive strength
- LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST gives the same pullout force on the same concrete quality
- Correlations between laboratory specimens and LOK-TEST or CAPO-TEST show robust general correlations to standard cylinders or to standard cubes / drilled out cores no matter what parameter is considered. The correlations have been investigated up to 40 mm maximum aggregate size. Only for lightweight aggregates another correlation has been found



# Conclusions, cont'd

- The most comprehensive and reliable physical correlations made until today are the ones by Krenchel and Bickley, slide 67-68 for cylinders and for cubes the ones by Bellander, slide 76-77
- They are reflected in the general correlations, slide 82
- For these correlations the precision of the strength estimate by LOK-TEST or CAPO-TEST is within  $\pm 3$  MPa for one test and  $\pm 2$  MPa for two tests, slide 83

# LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST examples and procedure

# Other Examples



London, UK  
Strength of industrial floor



Translink, UK,  
Residual strength of tunnel segments



Trinity Square, Toronto, Canada  
Strength for early loading



Bridge Leznów, Poland  
Residual strength



Cigar Lake Uranium Mine, Canada  
Strength of gunite concrete  
*Test smart – Build right*



Great Belt Link, Denmark  
Strength of cover layer



# Pullout on the Great Belt Link, Denmark for QC of the cover layer

92



COMA-Meter used for maturity. The LOK-TEST or CAPO-TEST values, corrected for maturity, had to be minimum 90% of the lab cylinder strength

CAPO-TEST in progress

Note: insufficient curing protection by a thin, loose plastic sheet

# Great Belt Link

Example, 6 CAPO-TEST performed  
in a control section of one of the westbridge's  
pillars for QC of the cover layer



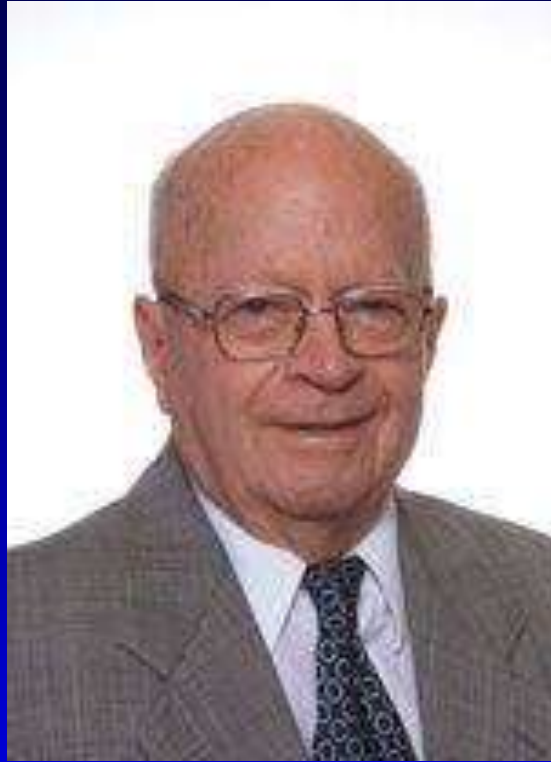
CAPO test readings, kN	Compressive strength cylinders, Mpa $0.69 \cdot F^{1.12}$
41	44.2
36	38.2
40	43.0
42	45.4
40	43.0
41	44.2
<b>Average, MPa</b>	43.0
<b>Std dev, MPa</b>	2.51
<b>K (natrella)</b>	1.86
<b>Lower 10th percentile, MPa (Danish method)</b>	38.30

Ref: Pullout testing by LOK-test and CAPO-TEST with particular reference  
to the in-place concrete of the Great Belt Link, p.69

# LOK-TEST for early and safe loading operation



10 inserts tested in less than 1 hour



**John Aubrey Bickley**  
D.Sc (Honoris Causa), P.Eng., FICE, FCSCE  
Canada

LOK-TEST, the "HOLY GRAIL"

# Strength for Formwork Removal



Scotia Plaza – Toronto,  
Canada.

- SAFE and EARLY stripping of forms using LOK-TEST for estimating in-place strength has been done in North America on about 400 major structures
- Earnings due to speeding up construction schedule reported to be about 0.2 to 1.5 M Dollars

Source: Bickley, J.A.: "How to Build Faster for Less – The Role of In-Place Testing in Fast Track Construction", ACI, Spring Convention, San Francisco, 1994

Test smart – Build right



	20 Storey Building	15 Storey Headquarter	30 Storey Building	Twin Towers	14Storey Building <sup>5</sup>	3Storey Centre	9Storey Condom.
<b>Savings</b>	(All Numbers are \$/1000)						
Interest	600	1750	188	NC	NC	533	43
Earlier Rental	200	NC	25	NC	NC	466	40
Formwork	120	25 <sup>4</sup>	NC	75	NC	NC	NC
Reshoring	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Winter Heating	NC	NC	114	(0.3/pour/day)	NC	NC	NC
f <sup>1</sup> <sub>c</sub> at 91 days	NA	50	38	62	23	NA	NA
Design	120	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Overhead	NC	NC	20	NC	NC	NC	NC
Sub-Total	1040	1825	385	137	NC	999	83
<b>Costs</b>							
Concrete	20 <sup>1</sup>	320	152	56	93	20	0
Testing	15 <sup>2</sup>	38	24	10	14	10	4
Sub-total	35	358	176	66	107	30	4
<b>Net Saving</b>	1005 <sup>3</sup>	1467	209	71	NC	969	79

**Accelerated construction, Savings to Owners**

# LOK-TEST equipment

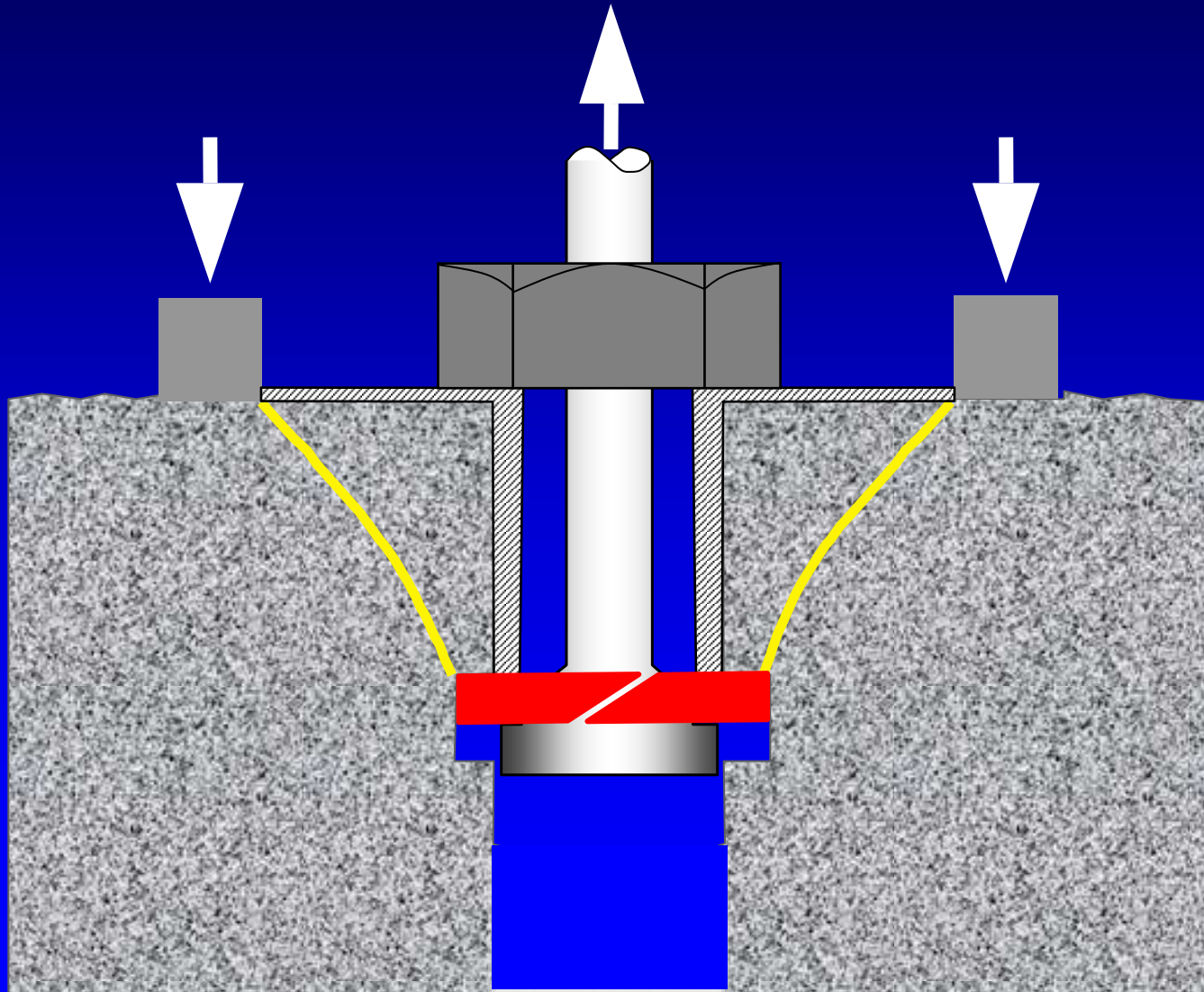


Plus inserts

John A. Bickley, Canada: "The Holy Grail"

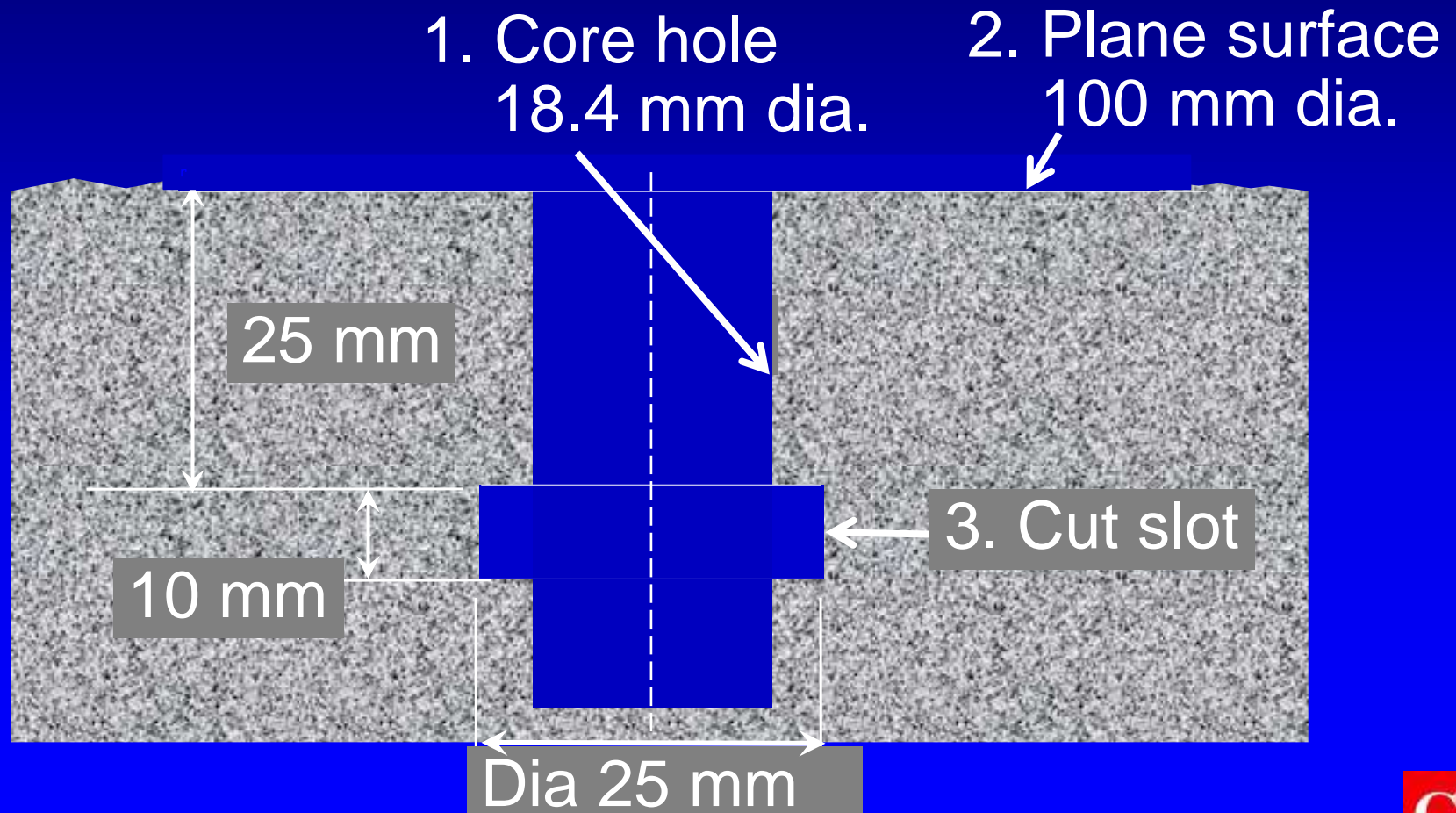
# CAPO-TEST for existing structures

# CAPO-TEST Pullout



*Test smart – Build right*

# Prepare Concrete



# Core Hole



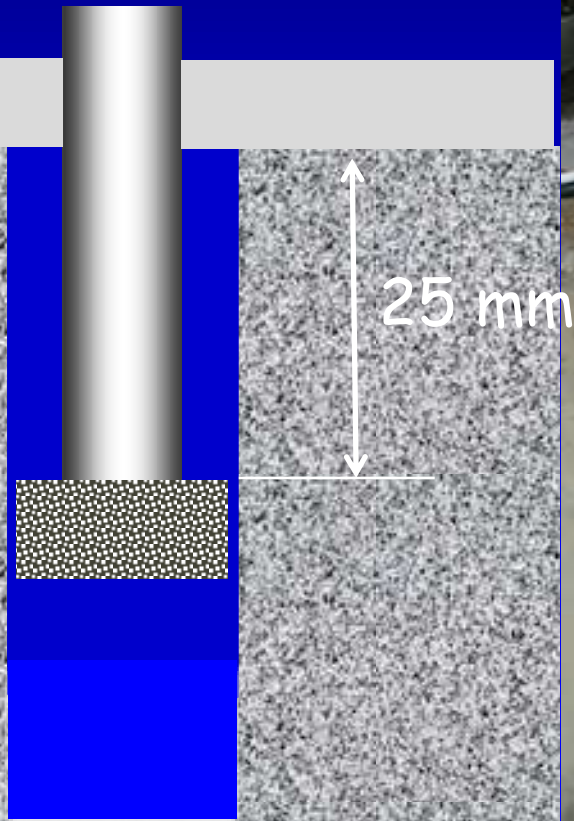
# Plane surface







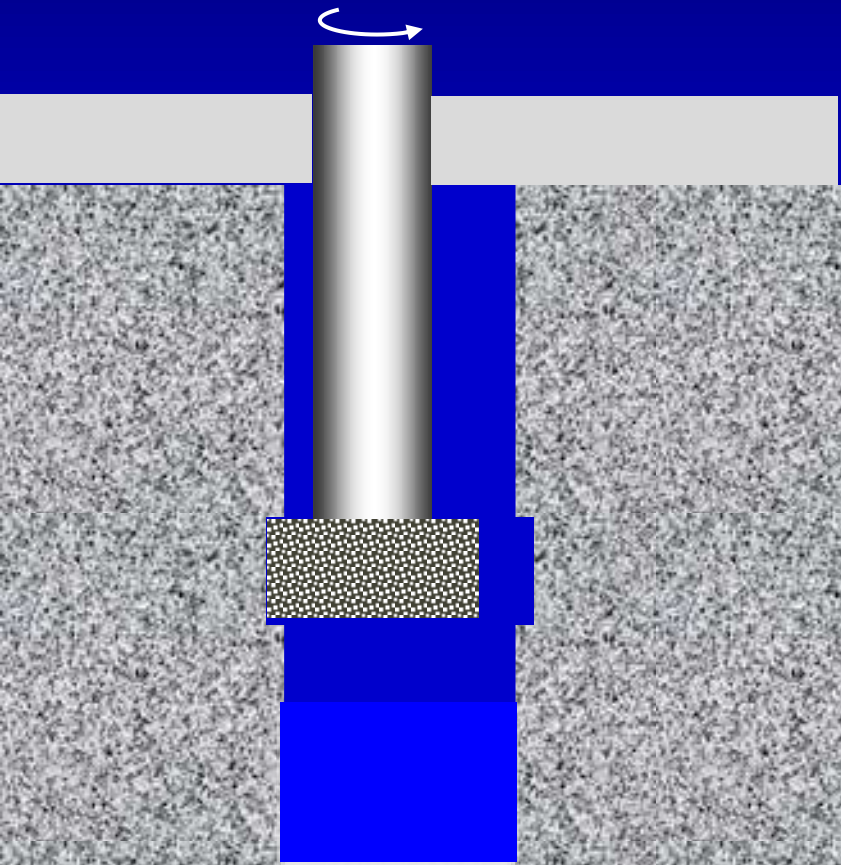
# Cut Slot



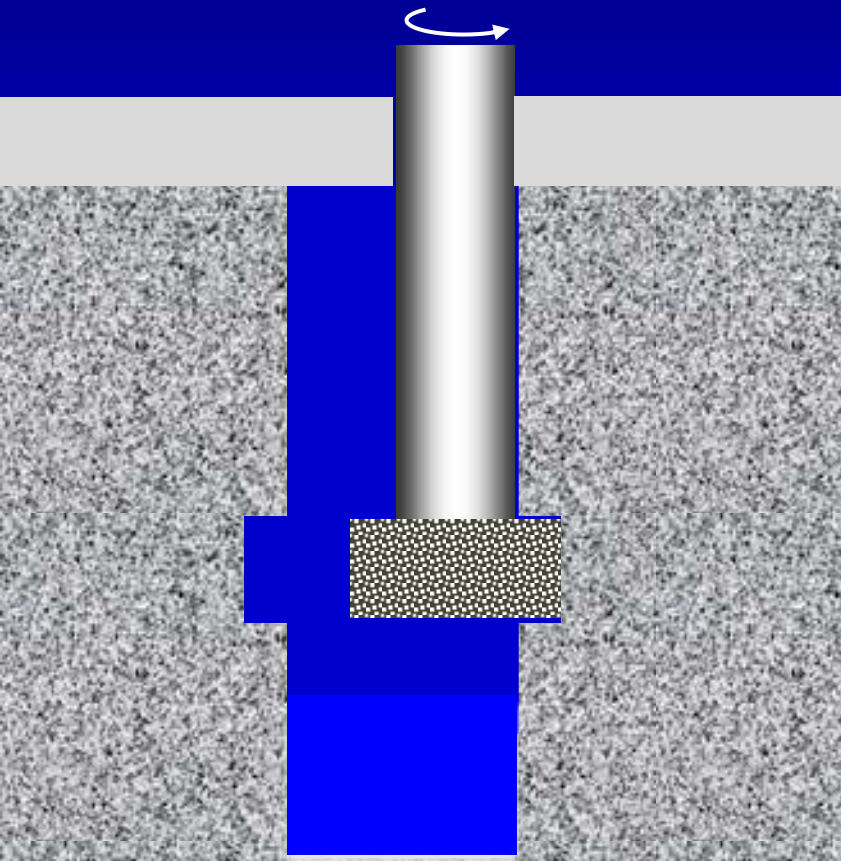
*Test*



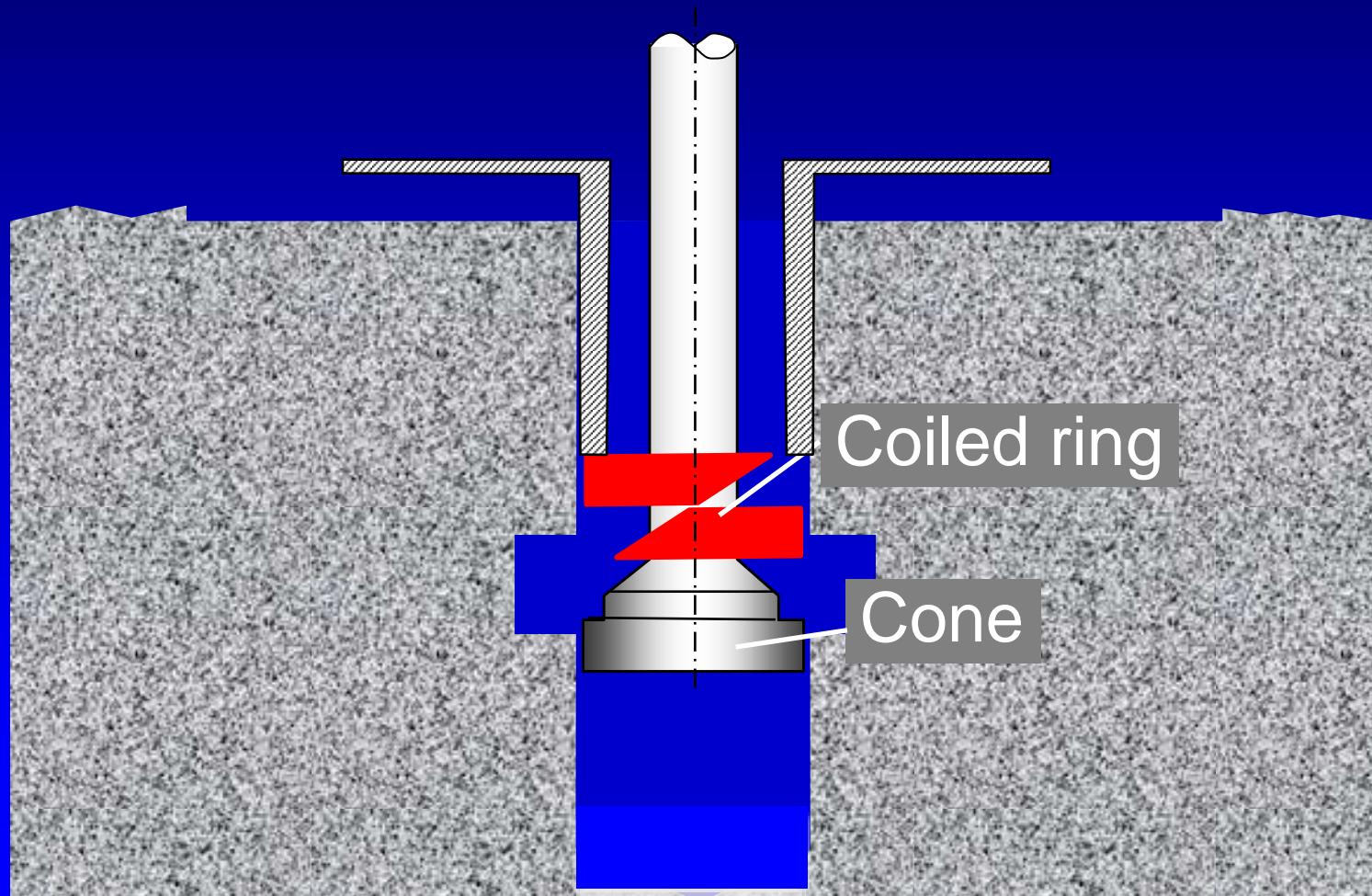
# Cut Slot



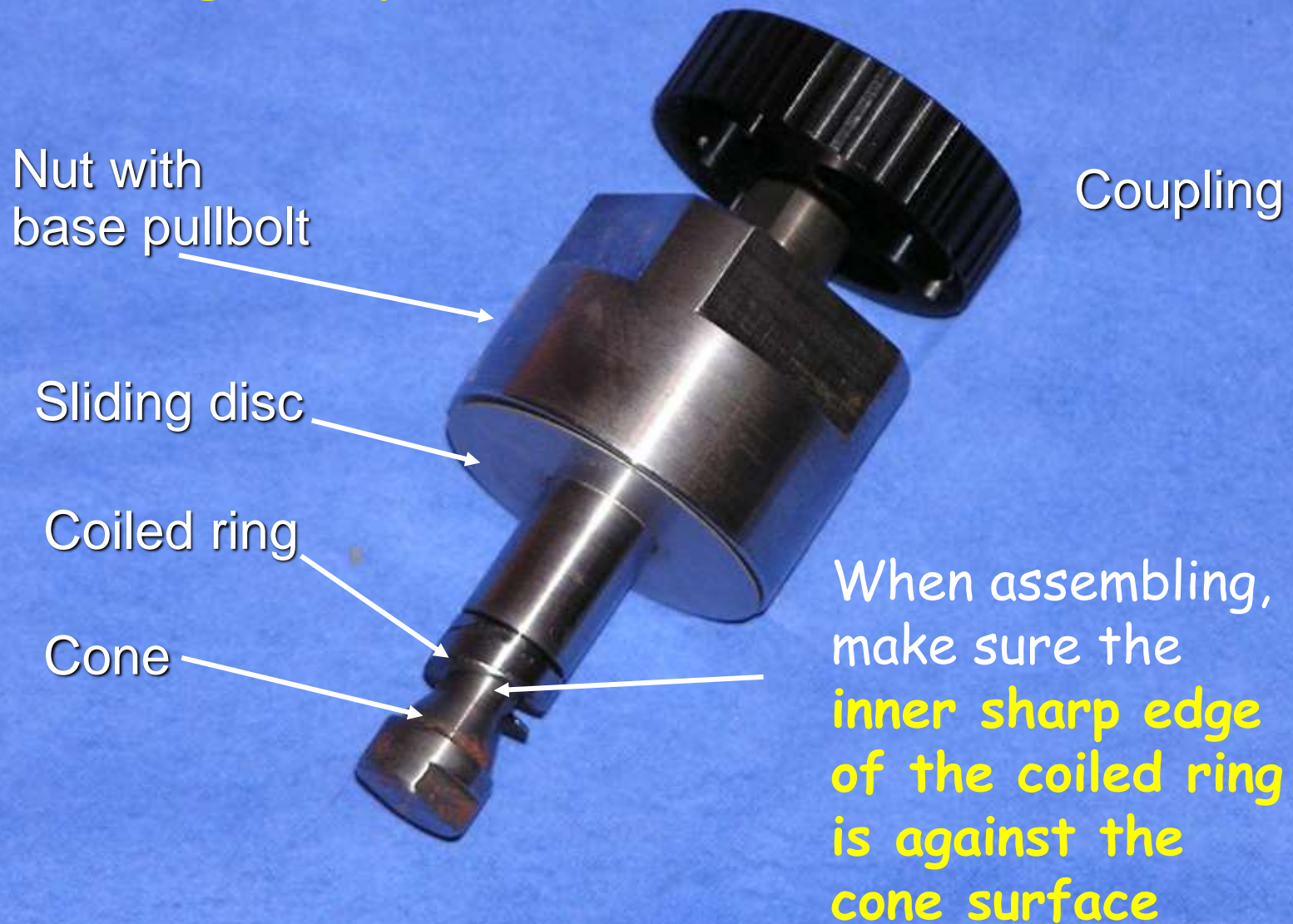
# Cut Slot



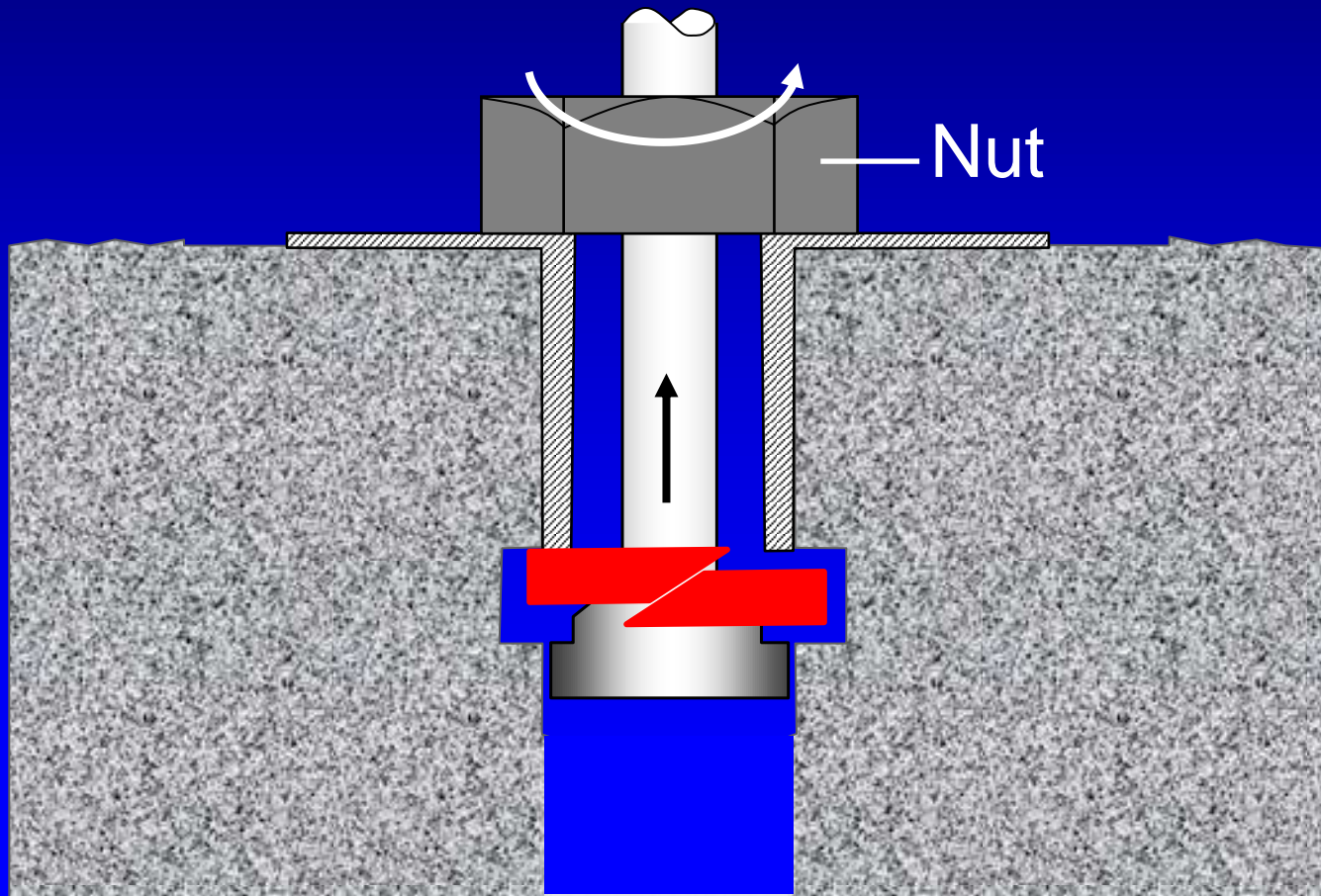
# Insert Expansion Cone and Coiled Split-Ring



# Ring Expansion Hardware



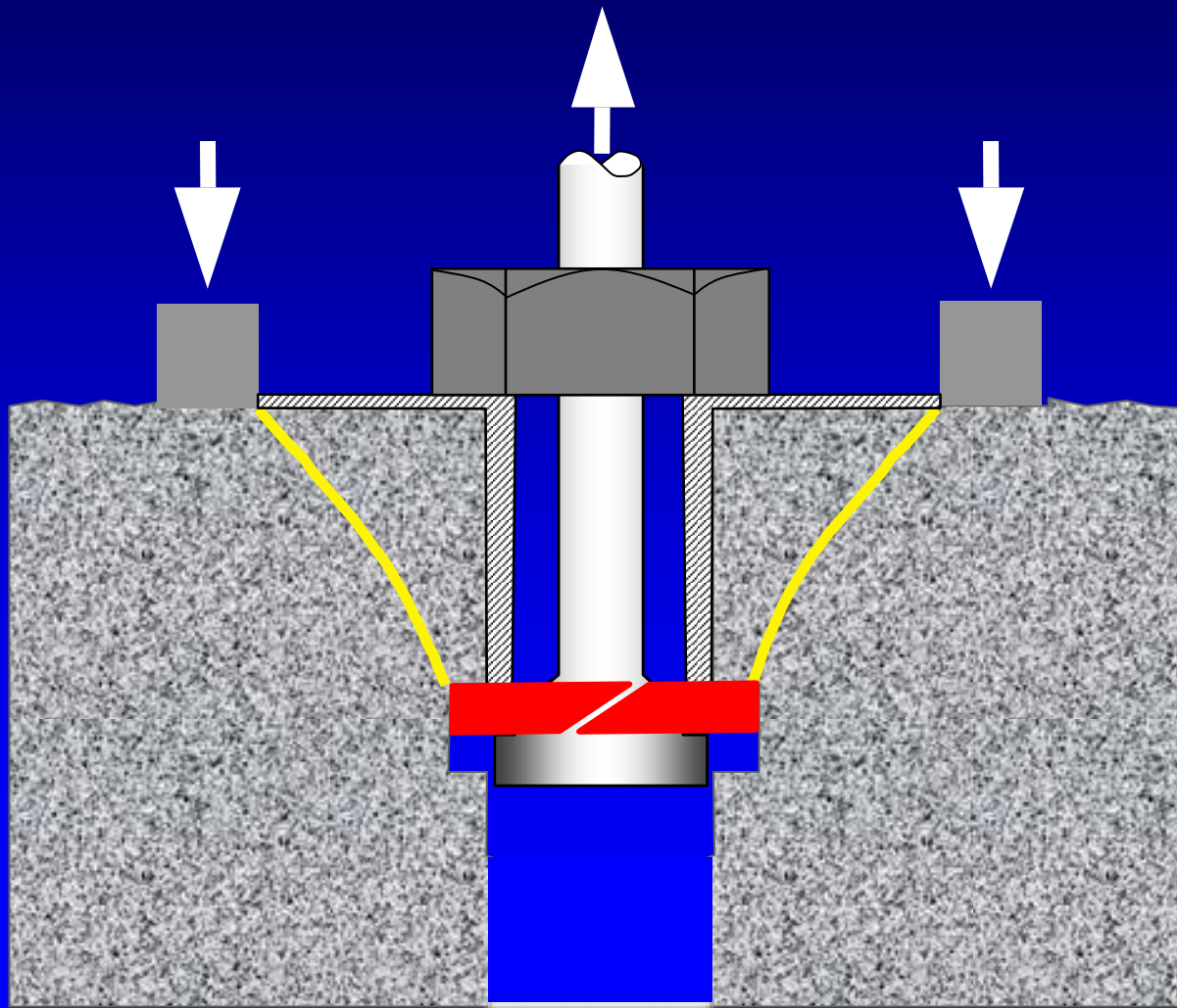
# Expand Ring



# Expand Ring



# Pullout the Expanded Ring against a 55 mm counterpressure





# Couple and Apply Pullout Force



# Acceptable Test

Sharp 55 mm  
diameter edge  
from  
counterpressure



# Criteria for correct CAPO testing



# CAPO-TEST



# CAPO-TEST failure





Capo-Test on shotcrete,  
Note the failure zone is unaffected by water  
needed during coring / recessing

# Comparative study Polish bridges for increased loading

- Cores, sawcut, capped, tested after 5 days drying in lab conditions (100 mm dia x 100 mm cores)
- CAPO-Test in-situ, double amount of cores
- Schmidt Hammer in-situ, up to 20 locations, each 6 tests
- Schmidt Hammer on side of cores prior to compression tests

NOTE: All Schmidt Hammer results have been reduced by an "Aging Factor" of 1.4 recommended by manufacturer. The "Aging Factor" is not substantiated or explained by the manufacturer of the Schmidt Hammer

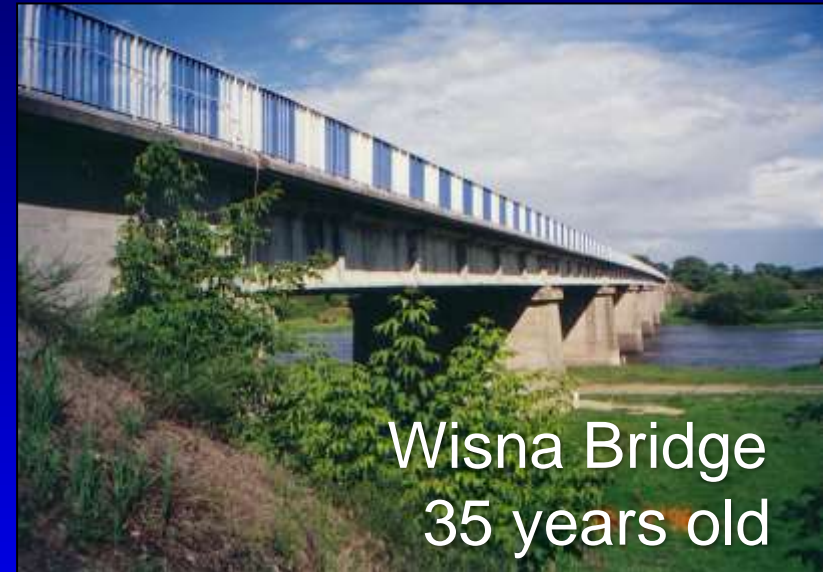
# CAPO-TESTing on Polish bridges

COMA-Meter





# Comparative Strength Estimates from 50 Polish Bridges, examples



Average	Cores (MPa) V (%)		CAPO-TEST (MPa) V (%)		Schmidt / Structure (MPa) V (%)		Schmidt / Cores (MPa) V (%)	
Strength	32.8	9.5	33.5	11.7	55.9	16.4	44.5	15.1

**Carbonation depth: 2 mm - 35 mm**

**Source:** Moczko, A.: "Comparative Study of In-Situ Strength Measurements on 50 Polish Bridges", University of Wroclaw, Poland, 2007

Bridge No.	Cores from structure		Capo-Test on structure		Schmidt Hammer on structure		Schmidt Hammer <sup>122</sup> on cores	
	MPa	Av. of	MPa	% dif	MPa	% dif	MPa	% dif
1	19.6	6	20.3	+3.4%	36.9	+88.3%	28.4	+44.9%
2	24.7	3	26.9	+8.9%	37.4	+51.4%	28.8	+16.6%
3	29.7	4	31.8	+7.1%	49.5	+66.7%	38.2	+28.6%
4	34.2	3	36.8	+7.6%	56.8	+66.1%	43.1	+26.0%
5	33.3	4	32.3	-3.0%	61.6	+85.0%	49.3	+48.0%
6	34.2	3	37.6	+9.9%	54.5	+59.4%	36.5	+6.7%
7	35.4	4	37.1	+4.8%	66.3	+87.3%	57.0	+61.0%
8	37.1	3	35.9	-3.2%	56.9	+53.4%	46.1	+24.3%
9	37.5	4	36.8	-1.9%	70.9	+89.1%	61.0	+62.7%
10	42.0	3	39.7	-5.5%	68.4	+62.9%	57.4	+36.7%
<b>Avg.</b>	<b>32.8</b>		<b>33.5</b>	<b>+2.1</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>+70.0%</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>+36.0%</b>

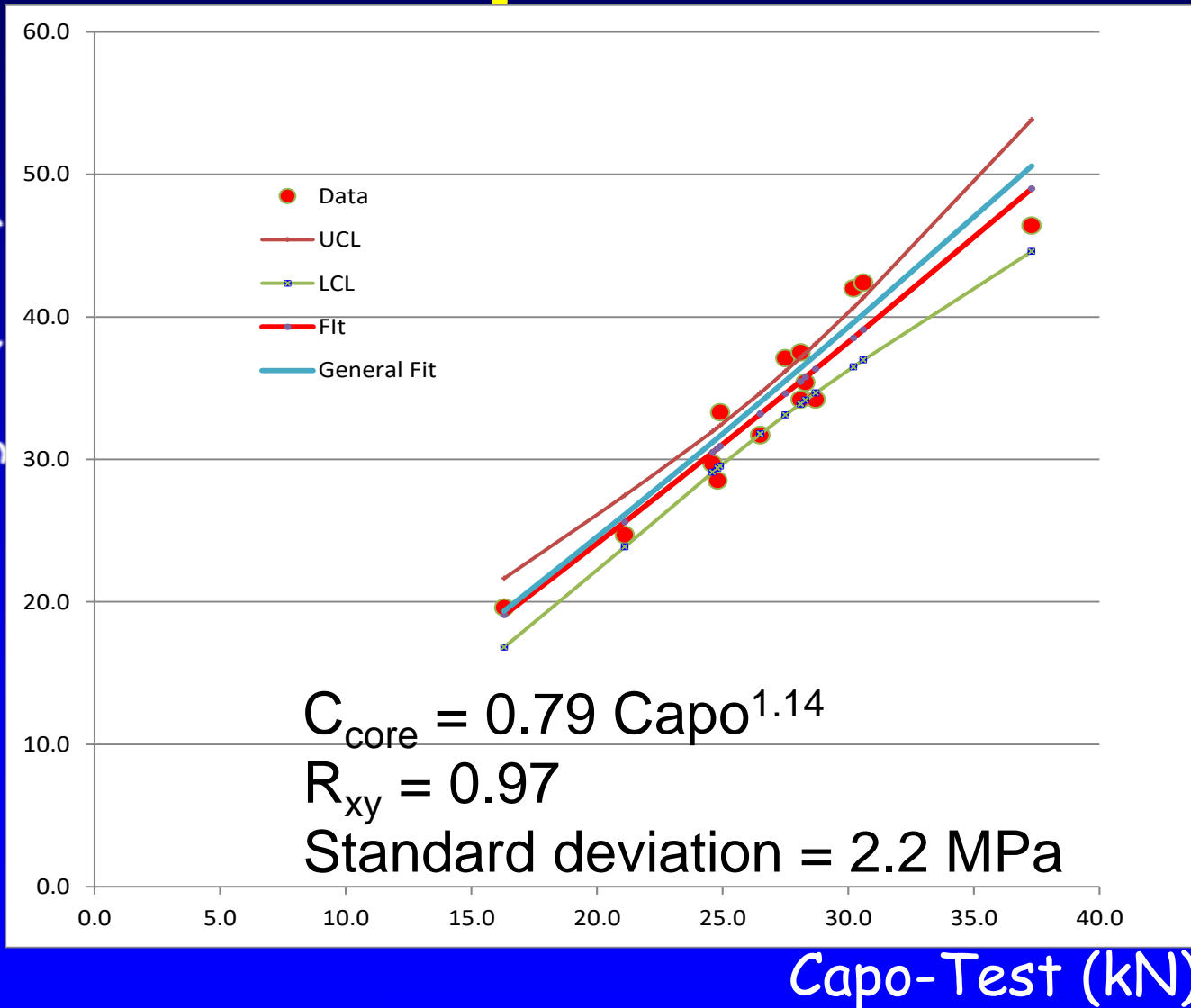
Comparative testing, Polish experience, bridges 20-30 years old, ref. A. Mozcko,, Wroclaw University  
 Note: The Schmidt Hammer results have been reduced by 1.4, the "aging" factor recommended by the manufacturer

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# Cores compared to CAPO

100 mm dia x 100 mm core  
strength (MPa) equiv. to 150  
mm cube strength (MPa)



## Comparison to the general correlation for cubes

Note that the correlation found  $C_{core} = 0.79 \text{ Capo}^{1.14}$  match closely the general correlation for cubes  $C_{cube} = 0.76 \text{ Capo}^{1.16}$

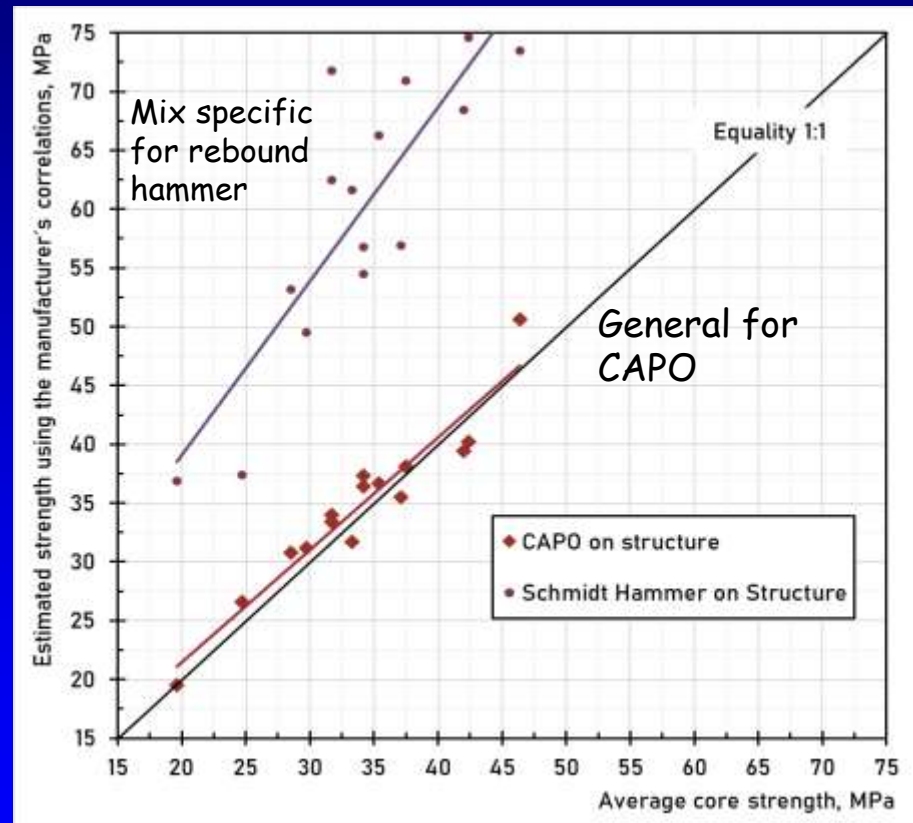
As a 100 mm dia. core, 100 mm long gives a strength equivalent to the strength value of a 150 mm cube, the following general relationship may be applied:

$$C_{cube} = 0.79 \text{ Capo}^{1.14}$$

## Core, CAPO and Schmidt Hammer strength estimates, 15 bridges

1	2	3	4	5
Bridge No.	Name	Average core strength, MPa ( $C_{core}$ )	CAPO, Estimated compressive strength, MPa ( $f_{CAPO}$ )	Schmidt Hammer on Structure (MPa)
1	Zyrow	34.2	36.4	57.9
2	Dobrut	24.7	26.6	51.5
3	Wizna	46.4	50.6	73.5
4	Jablonica	34.2	37.3	57.1
5	Kamion	37.1	35.5	60.1
6	Modlin	42.0	39.4	71.8
7	Modlin	37.5	38.1	71.6
8	Jablonica	35.4	36.7	69.6
9	Leszno	42.4	40.2	74.6
10	Wierzbica	33.3	31.7	59.9
11	Zyrow	29.7	31.2	52.4
12	Zofka	28.5	30.8	53.2
13	Zglobice	31.7	33.4	71.8
14	Terеспol	31.7	34.0	62.5
15	Minsk	19.6	19.5	38.8

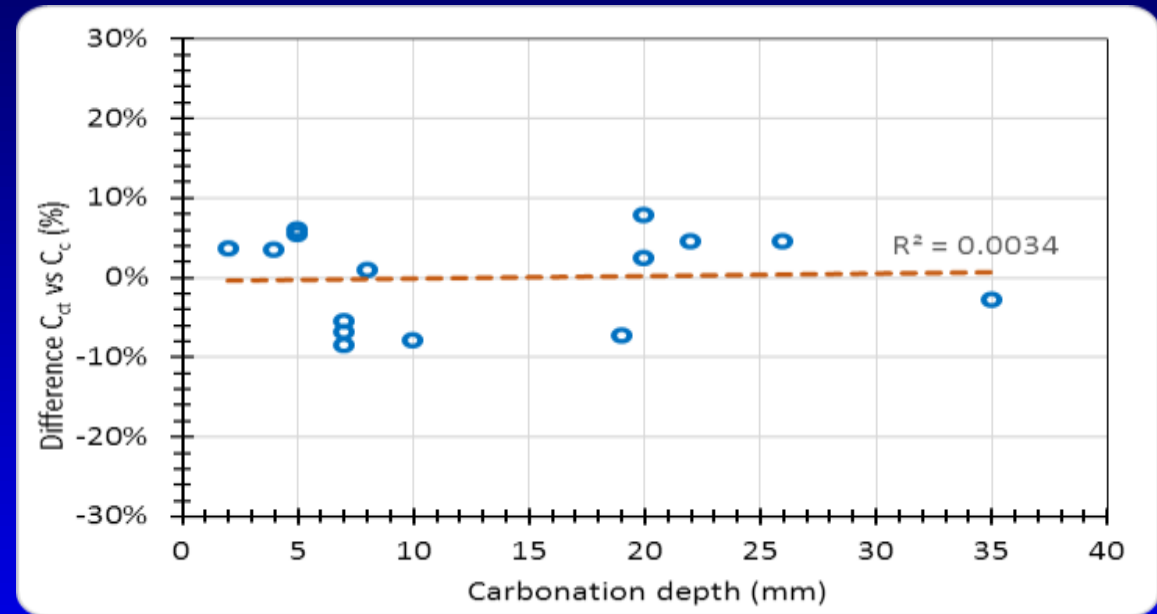
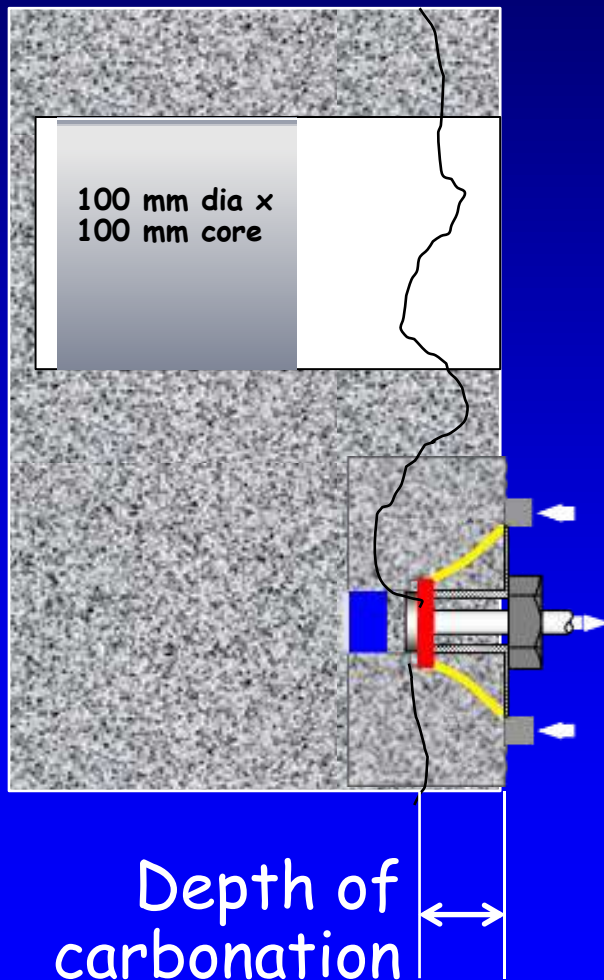
# Schmidt Hammer and CAPO strength estimates, 15 bridges



In average, the Schmidt Hammer is overestimating the strength by 71%

*Test smart – Build right*

# Effect of carbonation on CAPO



Avg. Core 33.9 MPa, Avg. CAPO 33.7 MPa, Diff -0.6%  
Avg. Carbonation Depth 13.1 mm

Ref: Moczko, (2016)

Conclusion:  
Neglectable effect  
from carbonation

# Considerations using LOK-TEST / CAPO-TEST

- Testing depth is 25 mm, samples for coring are taken deeper in the structure
- If needed, inserts may be placed deeper than 25 mm from the surface, slide 26, the "interior"
- LOK-TEST / CAPO-TEST will never give higher strength estimates than lab testing
- LOK-TEST on slabs have shown up to ~10-15% higher strength of the bottom compared to the top surface, partly due to better compaction, and partly better curing at the bottom



# Considerations, cont'd

- Capo-Test is unaffected by depth of carbonation (Polish data)
- Minimum distance to edges and corners of 100 mm has to be observed
- Minimum distance from the "strut" to reinforcement ~ 10 mm
- Relationships have not been investigated for max. aggregate size > 40 mm

# Considerations

Quality of the cover layer protecting the reinforcement on new structures using modern concrete mixes:

Experience has shown that badly cured cover layer tested with pullout may give up to 20% reduction of the strength compared to cores or standard laboratory specimens.

Experience has also shown that the electrical conductivity of the cover layer is increased 40%-50%, indicating a negative effect on the cover layer from cracking, insufficient compaction and/or bad curing conditions on-site, increasing the chloride permeability.

To check this effect, LOK-TEST inserts may be embedded deeper in the structure, and surface planing prior to CAPO-TEST may be done at a required depth, slide 28.

# CAPO-Test vs. Cores

- Instant results alternatively to cores
- Cause only a small fracture cone hole compared to a 100 mm coring hole.
- Does not require pre-planning of test locations
- Can perform test at any accessible location
- Permits testing of existing structures,
- ~15 minutes per test.
- Portable equipment (electricity and water is needed)

# Summary

- LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST are reliable methods for estimating in-situ compressive strength
- Can be used for new construction and existing construction
- General correlations according to **EN 12505-3: 2005** and **CS A23.2-15**
- Following **ASTM C 900-19** confirm general correlations for LOK-Test
- For CAPO-Test cores can be drilled out for comparison to the general correlation

## Standards mentioning the correlations

### **EN 12505-3: 2005:**

It has been shown that for a given type of apparatus the relationship between pullout force and compressive strength is similar over a wide range of concretes and that a general correlation can be used with reasonable accuracy"

### **ASTM C 900-19:**

"For a given concrete and a given test apparatus, pullout strengths can be related to compressive strength test results"

### **CSA Group 2014, A23.2-15**

"Pullout strength is correlated to compressive strength of standard cylinders. For a given configuration of insert, bearing system and depth of insert, there is a correlation between pullout strength and standard cylinder's compressive strength"

# Recent published papers on CAPO-TEST



**Journal of Testing and Evaluation**

Zheng Li, Jigar Dasai,<sup>1</sup> and Wesley Bullock<sup>2</sup>

DOI: 10.1520/JTE20170687

### In-Place Estimation of Concrete Compressive Strength Using Postinstalled Pullout Test – A Case Study

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ACI MATERIALS JOURNAL TECHNICAL PAPER

Title No. 113-M76

### CAPO-TEST to Estimate Concrete Strength in Bridges

by Andrzej T. Moczko, Nicholas J. Carino, and Claus Germann Petersen

The paper addresses whether calibration in existing concrete structures affects the compressive strength estimated using the CAPO-TEST pre-installed pullout test conforming to ASTM C1609and E1294-1. Fifteen bridges spanning from 2.5 to 32 years of age at the time of testing were investigated. For each bridge, average values of core strength and CAPO pullout strength were obtained. Carbonation depth, which varied from 0 to 15 mm (0.0 to 1.4 in.), was measured using ultrasonic testing methods. It was anticipated that, in the depth of carbonation, increased air-pullout strength would increase the core's underlying concrete strength. That, an in-place compressive strength obtained on the basis of the manufacturer's general correlation would be expected to systematically exceed the strength measured by the cores. It was found that, on average, the compressive strength estimated from the CAPO-TEST and the general correlation was only 2.8% greater than the measured core strength. More importantly, there was no correlation between depth of carbonation and the relative error of the estimated strength based on the CAPO-TEST.

Keywords: CAPO-TEST; calibration; core strength; correlation; existing structures; in-place strength; pullout test

#### INTRODUCTION

The aging of concrete bridges in combination with increased service loads and high replacement costs increases the need for assessment, maintenance, and, if needed, strengthening of these existing structures. One of the key parameters in any structural assessment is the in-place compressive strength of the concrete.

Traditionally, the in-place compressive strength has been evaluated by taking and testing cores. With this method, cores are drilled and shipped carefully to the laboratory, set out to the proper length, moisture-conditioned, and capped (or ground, and sealed) in the laboratory using a reinforced compression testing machine. The strength obtained depends on many factors such as core size, aggregate size, location of core, direction of casting, relative conditions at time of testing, length-to-diameter ratio, and preparation, and presence of embedded steel. The taking of cores leaves holes in the structure that must be repaired and the entire process of drilling, specimen preparation, and testing is time-consuming and costly.

Alternative methods for assessing the in-place compressive strength may include the rebound hammer, measuring ultrasonic pulse velocity, or the CAPO-TEST.<sup>1</sup> These are indirect methods that require the use of an empirical correlation to estimate the in-place compressive strength from the parameter measured by the test method.

<sup>1</sup>Rebound hammer measurements on old, reinforced structures have shown accuracy of rebound numbers of up to 30% compared with semi-carbonated concrete of the same strength.<sup>2,3</sup> The same phenomenon has been observed by use

of the rebound<sup>4</sup> in a comparison of strength estimated by rebound hammer compared with measured core strength. Despite the use of a recommended "aging reduction factor" (ART) to account for carbonation, the estimated compressive strength from rebound values was found to be, on average, approximately 15% higher than the core strength.<sup>4</sup> Without applying this "aging reduction factor," the strength estimates would have been, on average, approximately 80% higher than the core strength. There is no general correlation between rebound number and compressive strength. Therefore, such structures are to be evaluated based on a correlation developed with cores from that structure.

Another popular technique for assessing the strength of a pulse of ultrasonic stress waves, typically called the ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV). For a given concrete strength, there are several factors that will affect the UPV of the concrete, such as aggregate type, aggregate content, and moisture content.<sup>5</sup> In most concrete, small differences in UPV can correspond to large differences in compressive strength, due to UPV is relatively insensitive to changes in concrete strength. In addition, it is not clear, however, the presence of weaknesses can lead to inaccurate values of UPV. While UPV is not known to be influenced by carbonation, the UPV method is not a good choice for obtaining reliable estimates of in-place compressive strength, the method is more appropriate for assessing the uniformity of the concrete in a structure.

The CAPO-TEST<sup>6</sup> is a pre-installed pullout test conforming to the requirements of ASTM C900<sup>7</sup> and EN 12934-1.<sup>8</sup> The term "pre-installed" means that the CAPO-TEST does not require predrilling inserts in fresh concrete. The test can be performed on an existing structure at any accessible location. In the CAPO-TEST, ultrasonic strength is assessed within a 25 mm (1 in.) deep region. The CAPO-TEST will be described in detail.

This paper focuses on the correlation between CAPO-TEST results and the compressive strength of correlative cores taken from 11 existing reinforced bridges with varying carbonation depth. This correlation is compared to the general correlation established previously based on a series of independent studies for uncarbonated concrete. For practical field testing, it will be interesting to compare if the general correlation is reliable for estimating in-place concrete strength in old structures with a carbonated surface layer.

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https://doi.org/10.1051/mateconf/202236107006

### Practical cases in the application of the pullout method (LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST) for in-place compressive strength

Claus Germann Petersen<sup>\*</sup>

Germann Instruments A/S, Copenhagen, Denmark. www.germanninstruments.com

**Abstract.** The pullout methods LOK-TEST and CAPO-TEST for in-place compressive strength are presented with their theoretical analysis' background and correlation from 30 major studies, made worldwide, showing robust general correlations between pullout force and strength by cylinders or cubes' cores. The coefficient of variation of the systems are shown, reported in 1984. Practical cases using the systems are described. Case 1. In-situ compressive strength testing of quantified precast concrete tunnel lining segments using CAPO-TEST, UK. Case 2. Strength testing with CAPO-TEST on old bridges for further loading, Poland. Case 3. Safe and early form stripping with LOK-TEST, Canada. Case 4. Curing of the cover layer evaluated by pullout and salt sensitivity, Denmark.

#### 1 Introduction

Reliable and quick testing of existing structures for strength may be important for purposes such as documentation of unknown strength, for upgrading for further loading or for documentation of doubtful structures in cases where questions are raised in relation to compliance with code specifications. Pullout offers such advantages. Testing of cores from the structure is doubtful, depends on many factors such as moisture, placement, aggregate size, L/D ratio and presence of reinforcement. Coring is also time consuming expensive and causes large holes in the structure. The use of indirect methods such as the rebound hammer and/or ultrasonic (UPV) requires for every structure many cores for establishing the correlation, and the relationships obtained are not sensitive.

On new structures, production control of the in place actual strength of the structure is essential, not only trusting laboratory strength, but also considering the effects on in-situ strength of the actual mix delivered, the transportation, the pumping, the casting, the compaction, and the curing of the cover layer, especially in aggressive environments. Again, rebound hammer and ultrasonic pulse velocity require correlation testing for each structure, involving lab testing. Estimation of strength by maturity requires a pre-established maturity-strength relationship for the mixture used and does not consider the effects of transportation, pumping, casting, consolidation and curing.

Pullout produces reliable estimates of strength in place, based on one correlation, the test systems are rapid and economical, only minor damage cause to the structure, and can be used without testing of cores.<sup>[10]</sup>

A special feature in testing of the cover layer, the "peel" of the structure protecting the reinforcement. The curing of this "Peel" is essential on new structures in terms of durability, not at least if chlorides are present from de-icing salts, the sea or airborne. Pullout can be used for this purpose for production control.

#### 2 The pullout systems

Invented at the Danish Technical University (DTU) in the late 1940's and 1970's, [1, 2], the LOK-TEST (the Danish name for "Punch-Test") uses a disc cast into the fresh concrete, and the CAPO-TEST (Cut And Pull Out-Test) uses a ring embedded in an undercure recess in existing concrete, [3-6]. Pullout is made through a compressive with dimensions as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, producing compression forces between the expanded ring and the compressive, hence the pullout force is a direct measure of the compressive strength.

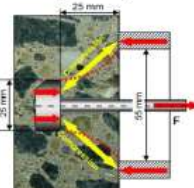


Fig. 1. LOK-TEST.

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author: germann@germann.com

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[In-Place Estimation of Concrete Compressive Strength Using Postinstalled Pullout Test – A Case Study](#), Journal of Testing and Evaluation, ASTM, August 31, 2018

[ACI publication: CAPO-TEST to Estimate Concrete Strength in Bridges.](#)

[MATEC Web of Conferences 361, 0 \(2022\) Concrete Solutions 2022 7006 Concrete Solutions 2022 7006](#)



# NOTE

## In-Place Strength Without Testing Cores: The Pullout Test

Nicholas J. Carino, PhD

*Consultant, Chagrin Falls, OH, USA*

*6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar on Advances  
in Cement & Concrete Technology for  
Sustainable Development*

[In-Place Strength Without testing cores.](#)

# Costs CAPO-TEST vs. Cores

CAPO-TEST	
Coring	5 minutes
Planing	2 minutes
Recess routing	2 minutes
Expansion of ring	3 minutes
Pullout	5 minutes
Repair of cone hole	5 minutes
	~20 minutes

Based on an hourly rate of 150 USD the costs of one Capo-Test is ~50 USD /test

Test result immediately available on-site

Two well-trained technicians can perform 30-50 Capo-Test per day

CORES	
Coring	20 minutes
<i>Specimen preparation</i>	
Freight to lab	30 minutes
End preparation	40 minutes
Curing in lab	3 days
Testing	30 minutes
Repair of core hole	30 minutes

Total excluding curing in the lab ~2 hours

Based on an hourly rate of 150 USD the costs of one core is minimum 300 USD

Test result available of about 1-2 weeks





# User comment

First, thanks for creating this wonderful test method!

I would like to point out that for performing CAPO test we charge \$250 per sample for typical existing structures where strength information is needed. We are generally testing minimum 3 or 4 locations. For a project where many tests were needed, we would discount the pricing to about 50 percent off. On average it takes us 20 min per location depending on surface conditions

Why charge this much? Repairs and replacement parts are a little pricy at times and there is a considerable investment upfront.

\$250 is still less than core sample extraction, patching, conditioning, capping and testing. Extraction and patching alone is close to \$250 these days. Plus \$100-120 for testing.

Charging this much makes it more attractive for service providers. Client reaction has been very positive.

Todd Allan, Radarview, USA

# Equipment CAPO-TEST, C-1000



C-101 Prep. - Kit  
+ tray



C-102 SV-Kit



C-104 Pullmaschine



C-112 Inserts

# CAPO-TEST, C-2000 alternative, without suction plate



# Other systems for homogeneity



Rebound Hammer



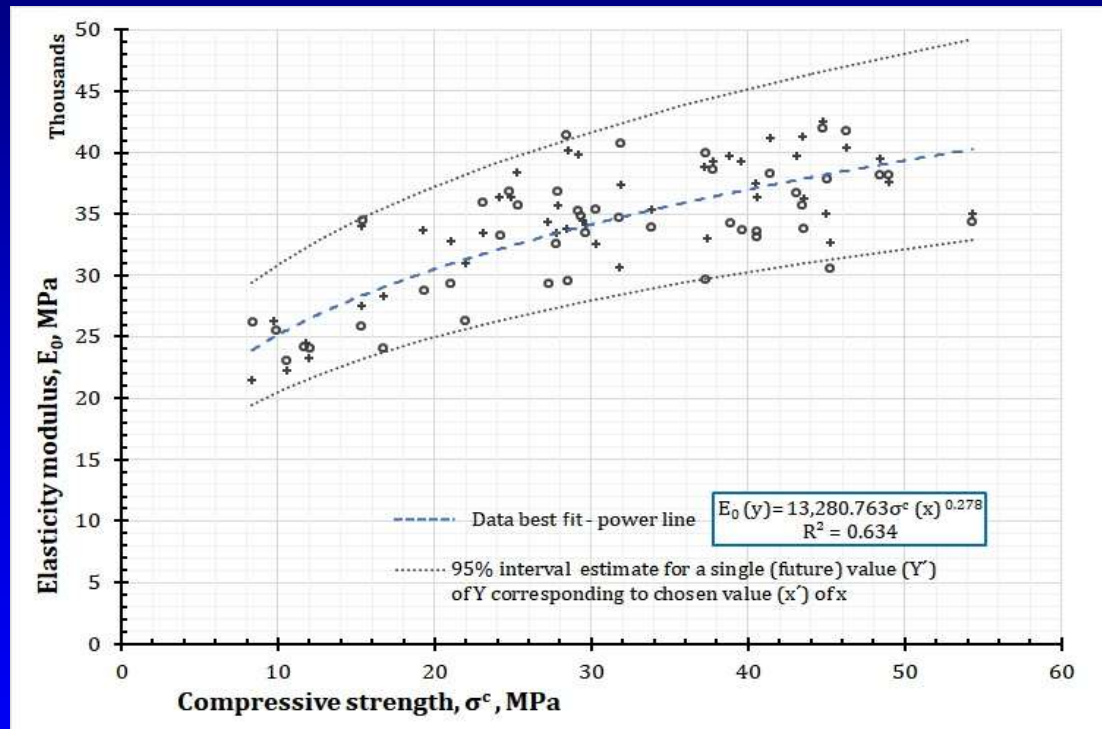
Ultrasound (UPV)

# Factors Affecting Rebound Number

- Elastic modulus of concrete
- Aggregate type
- Air voids
- Carbonation
- Surface texture
- Surface moisture condition
- Rigidity of test object
- Mix specific

# Elasticity and compressive strength

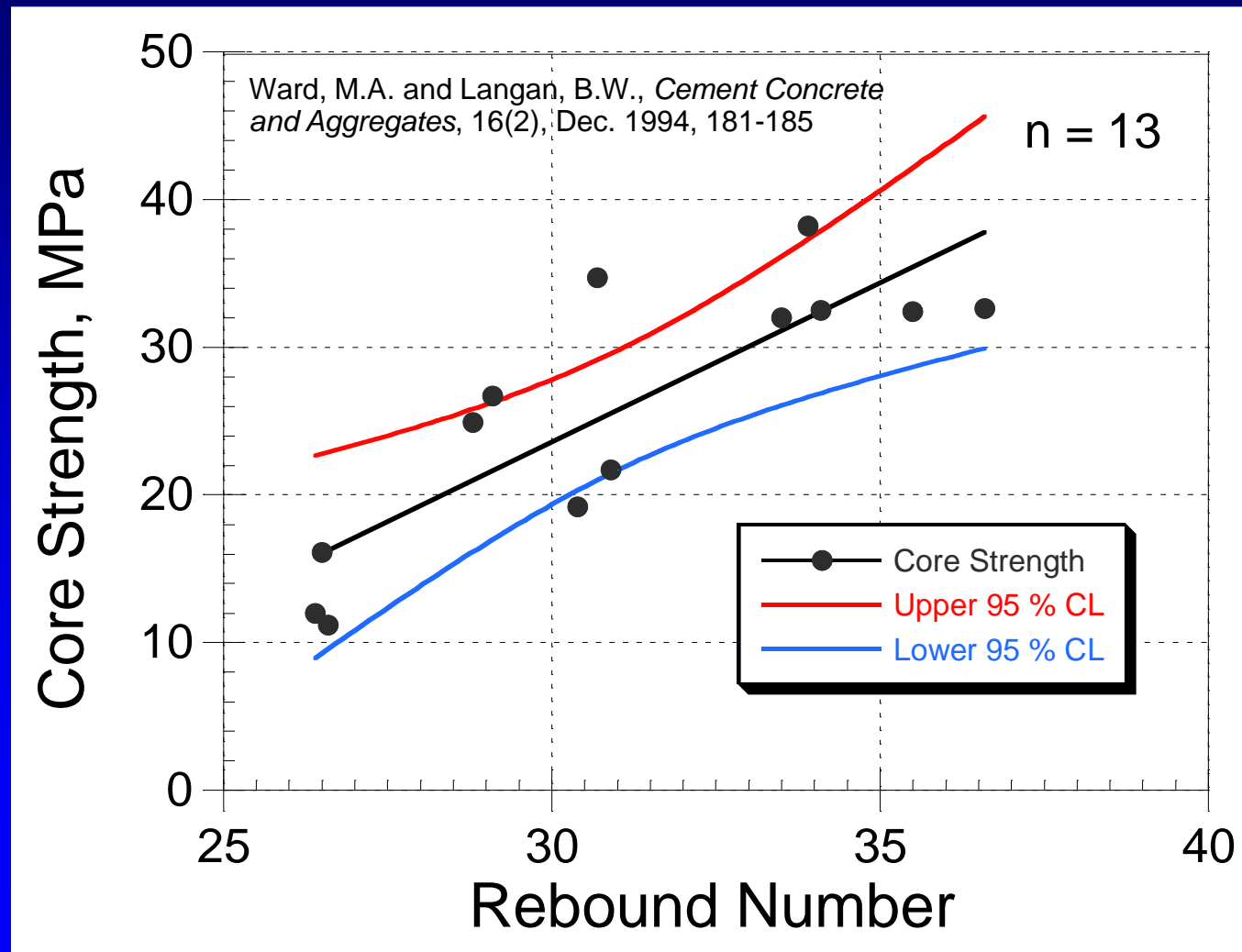
$$E \propto \sqrt{f_c}$$



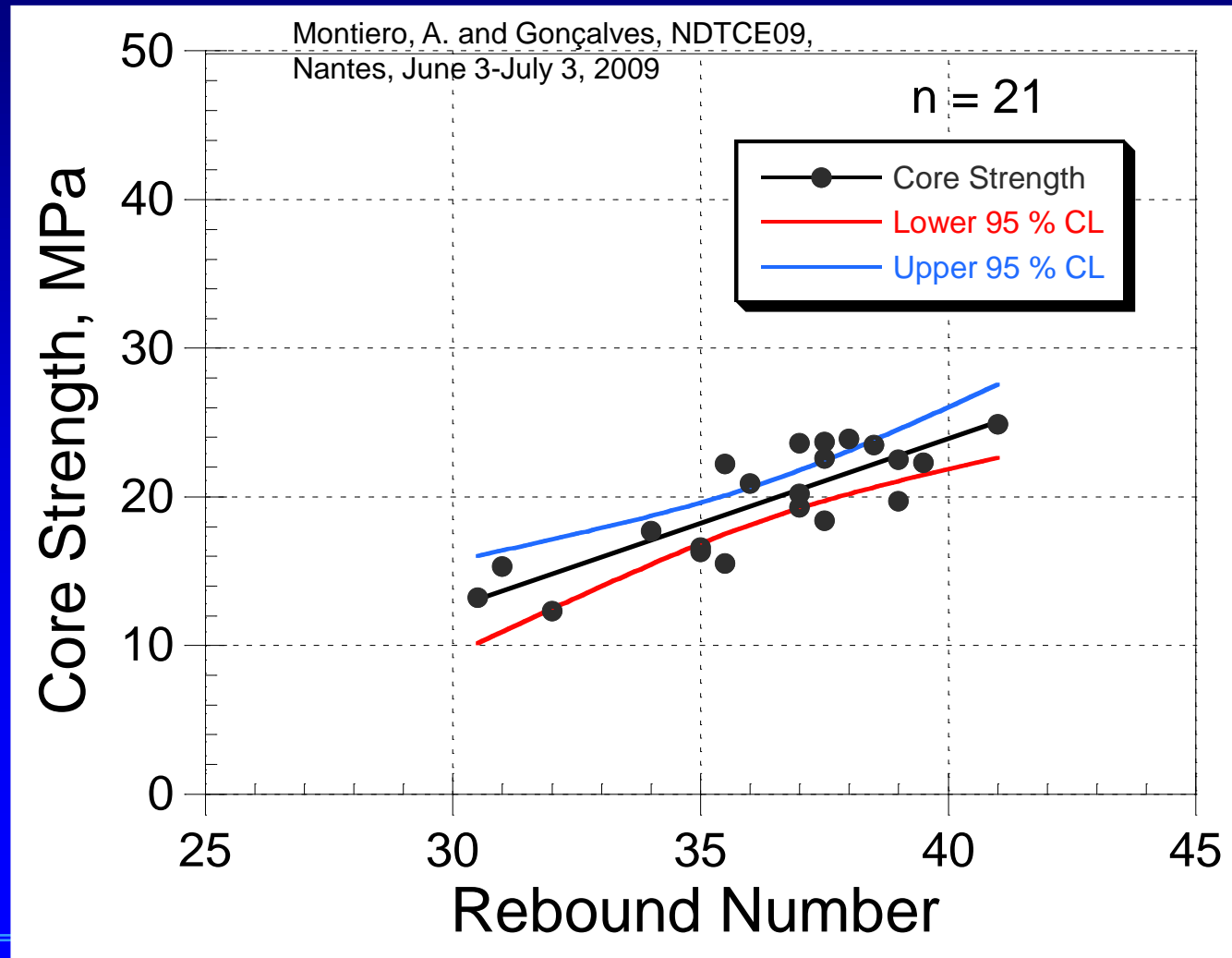
Elasticity has a weak relationship to compressive strength with a large scatter

Ref DTU, Denmark, 1987,  
Prof. K.V.Johansen: "coffee grounds"

# Rebound to cores, case 1

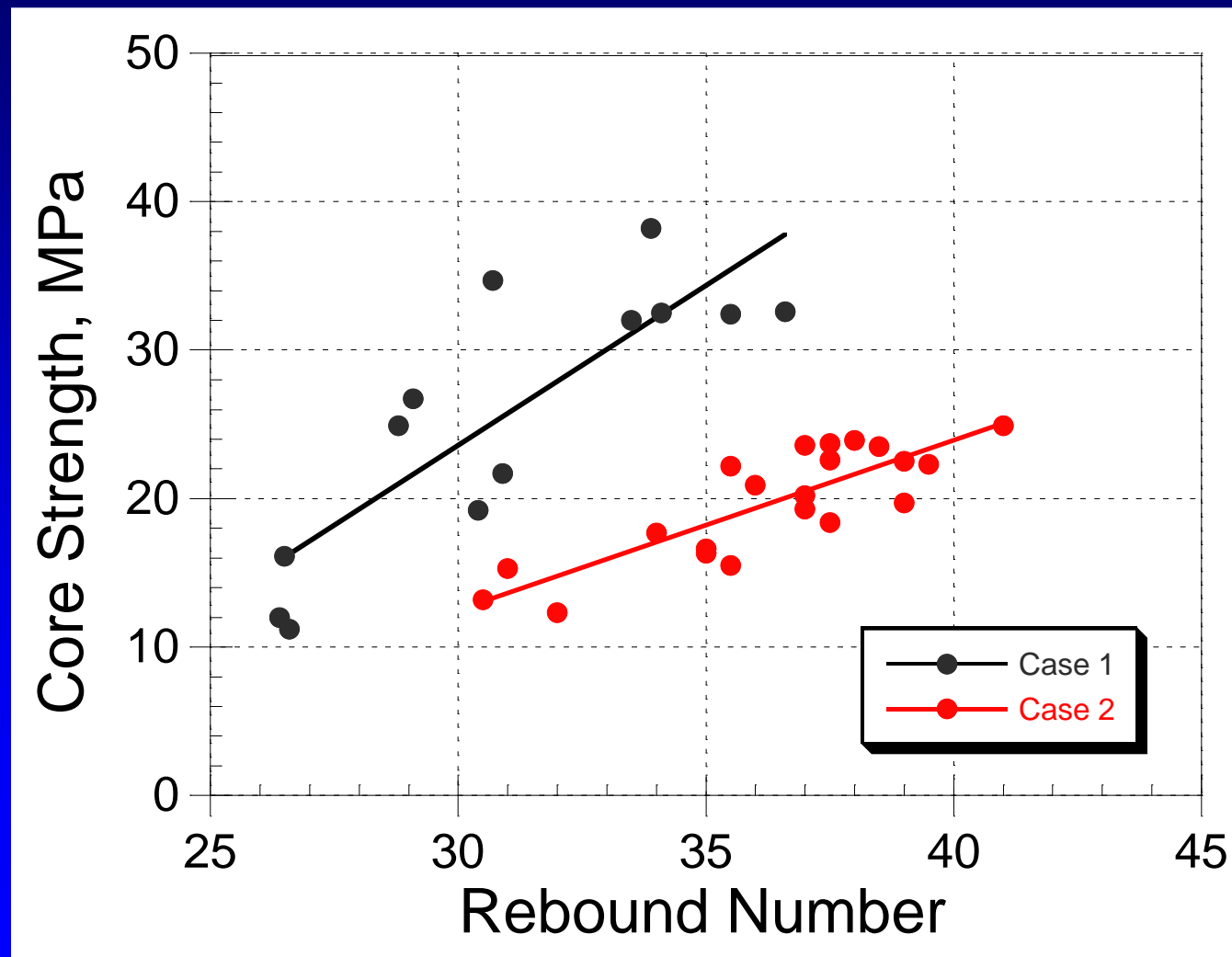


# Rebound to cores, case 2





# Comparison of Relationships

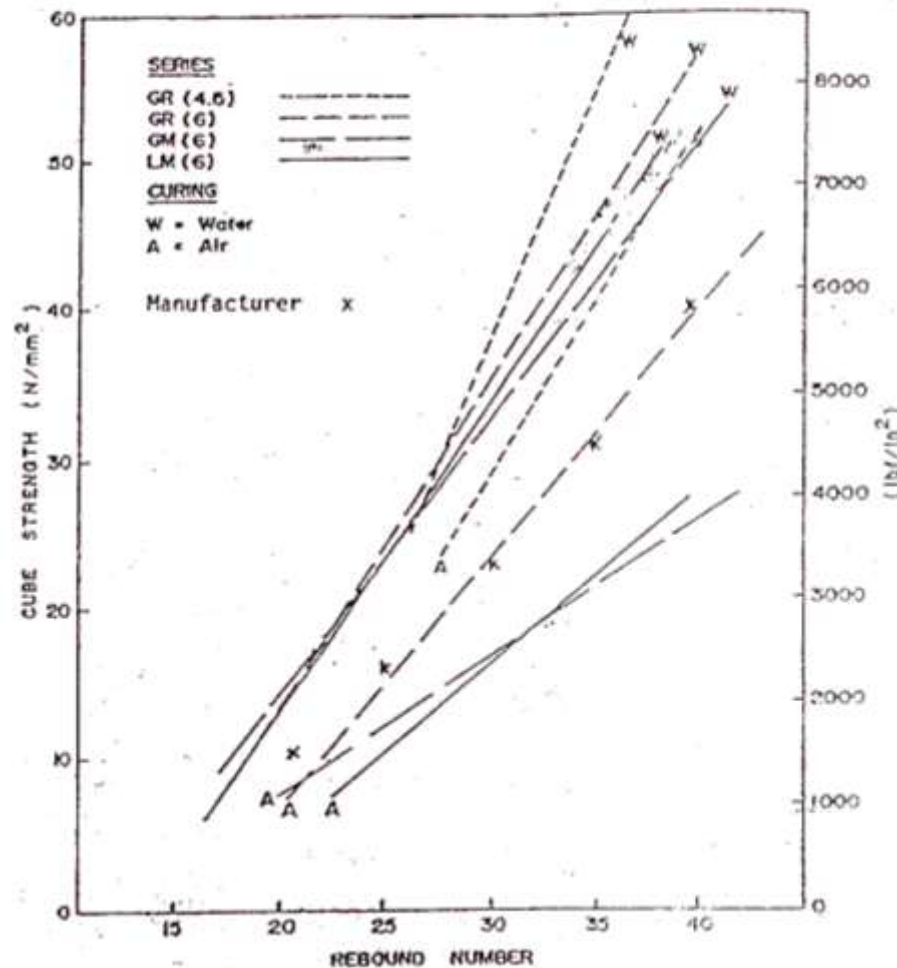


## Rebound Hammer related to cube strength

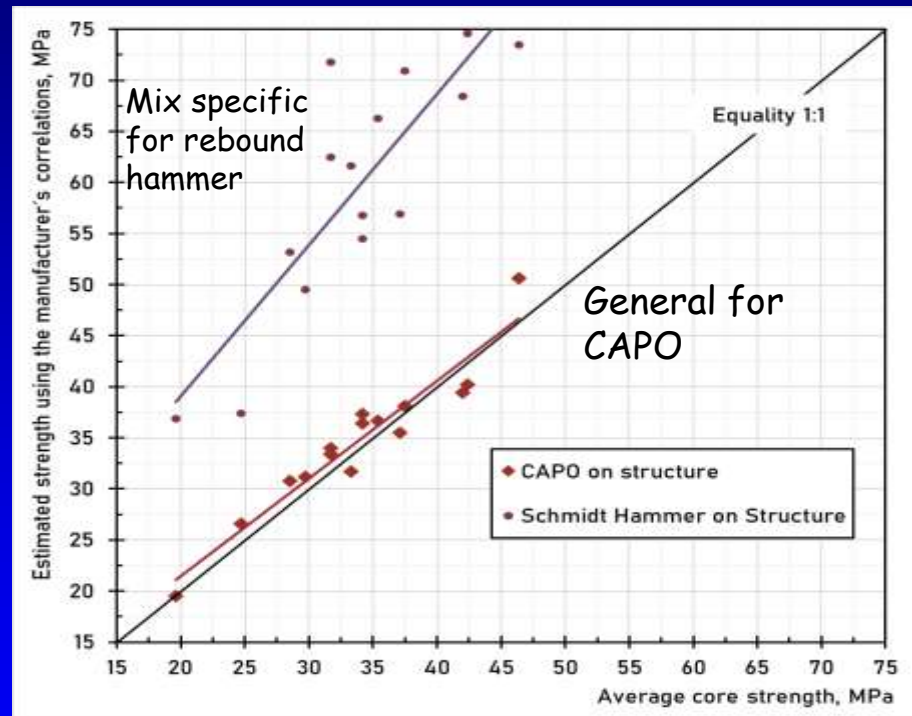
Average relationships shown for granite and limestone aggregates and curing conditions (water and air)

Ref: Tam, C.T.: "Application of NDT in Appraisal of Buildings", 4th Int. Conf. On Inspection, Appraisal, Repair and Maintenance of Buildings & Structures, 28-30 March, 1995, Hong Kong

Series	Aggregate		Aggregate-cement ratio
	coarse	fine	
GR(4.5)	granite	river sand	4.5
GR(6)	granite	river sand	6.0
GM(6)	granite	mining sand	6.0
LM(6)	limestone	mining sand	6.0



# Schmidt Hammer and CAPO strength estimates, 15 bridges



In average, the Schmidt Hammer is overestimating the strength by 71%, even with the recommended deduction of an "aging factor" of 1.4 recommended by Proceq. Without the "aging" factor reduction the estimate of the compression strength by the Schmidt Hammer would have been 99.4%, in average.

# Schmidt Rebound Hammer

- Strength is not measured physically as it is with cores or LOK-TEST / CAPO-TEST pullout
- A rebound value is obtained, related not only to the Elasticity of the material, but also Aggregate type, Air voids, Carbonation, Surface texture Surface moisture condition and Rigidity of the test object
- Correlation to strength can only be made by comparing the rebound numbers to cores for every structure
- Such correlations have great variations, and the relationship(s) obtained are not sensitive as they have no 45° slopes, with large scatter of results

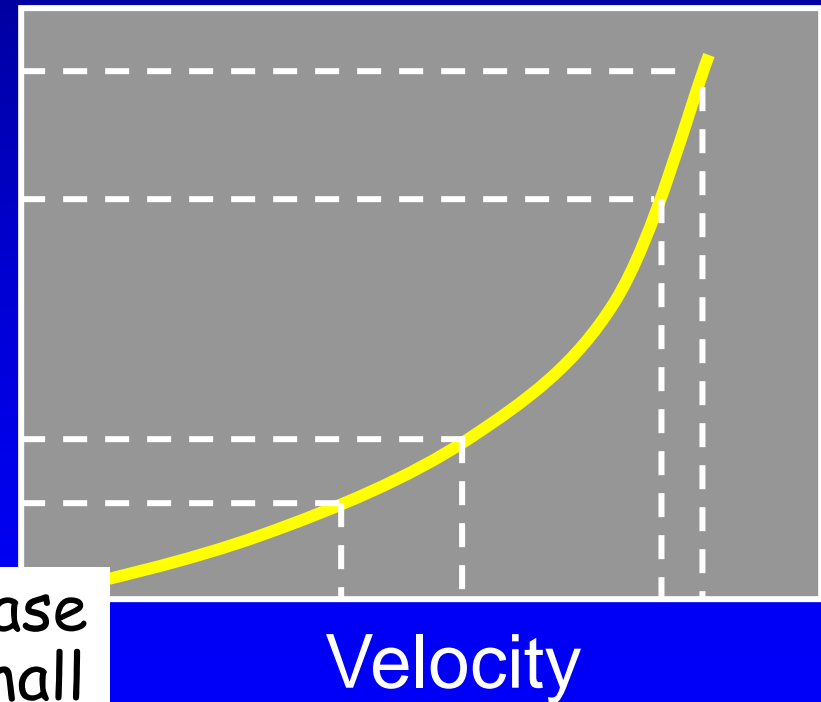
# Strength Relationship UPV

Physics:  $V \propto \sqrt{E}$

Empirically:  $E \propto \sqrt{f_c}$

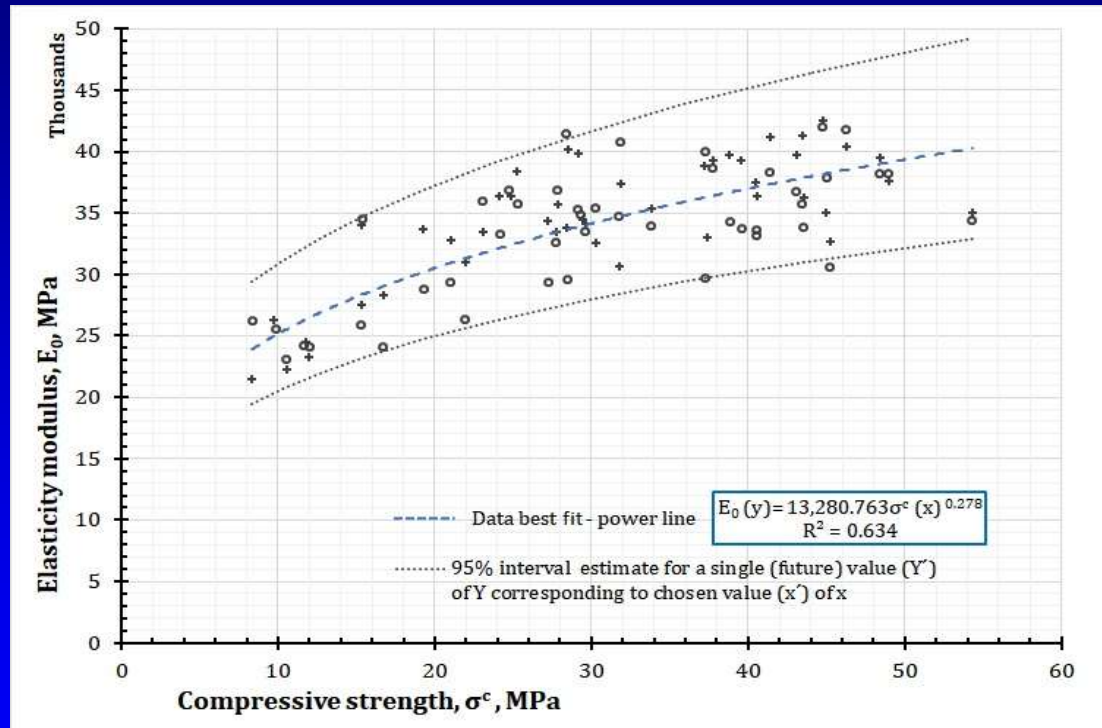
$$\therefore f_c \propto (V)^4$$

For mature concrete, large increase in strength is accompanied by small increase in velocity, mix specific.



# Elasticity and compressive strength

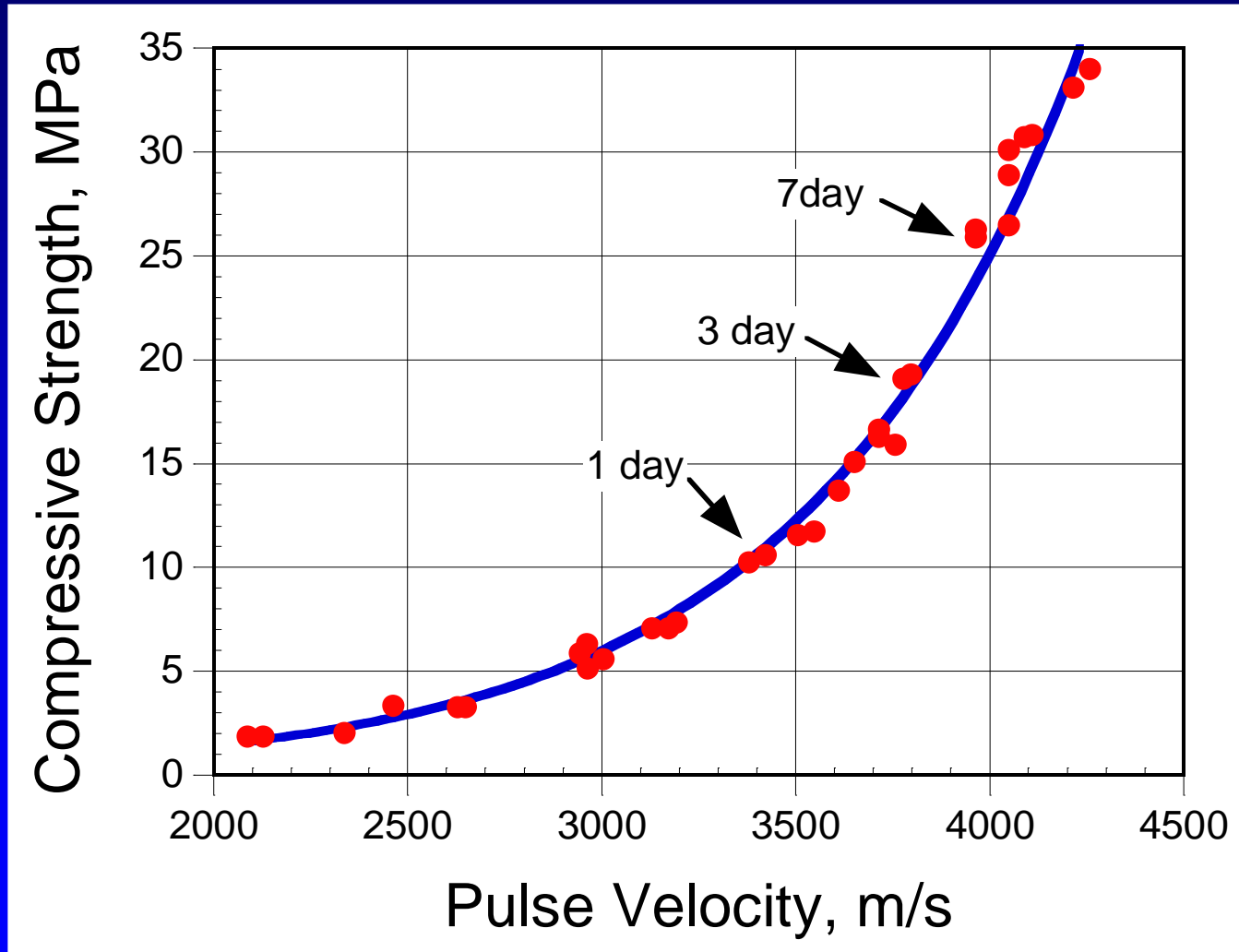
$$E \propto \sqrt{f_c}$$



Elasticity has a weak relationship to compressive strength with a large scatter

Ref DTU, Denmark, 1987,  
Prof. K.V.Johansen: "coffee grounds"

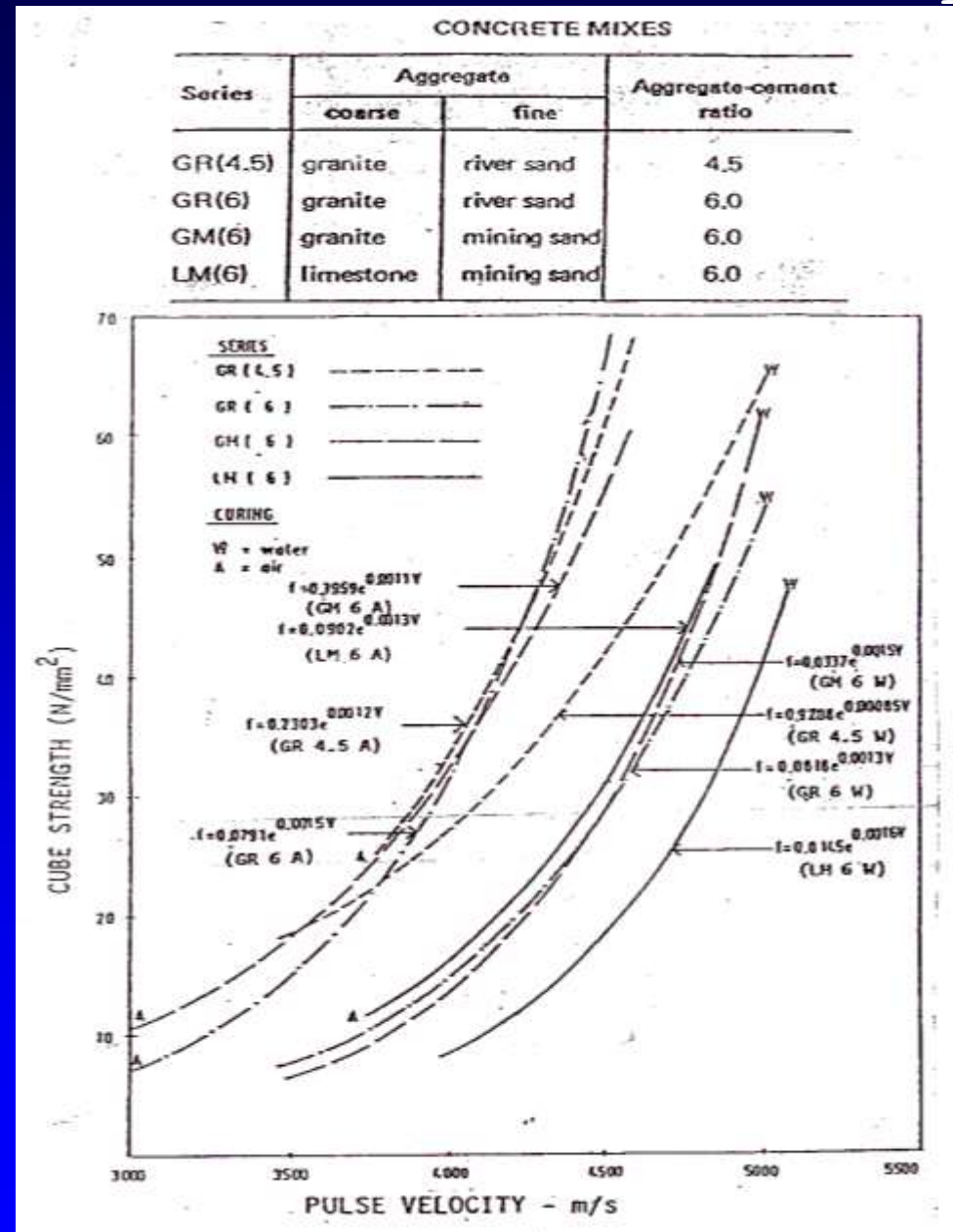
# Lab relationship for a specific mix



## UPV (Ultrasound Pulse Velocity) related to cube strength

Average relationships shown for granite and limestone aggregates and curing conditions (water and air)

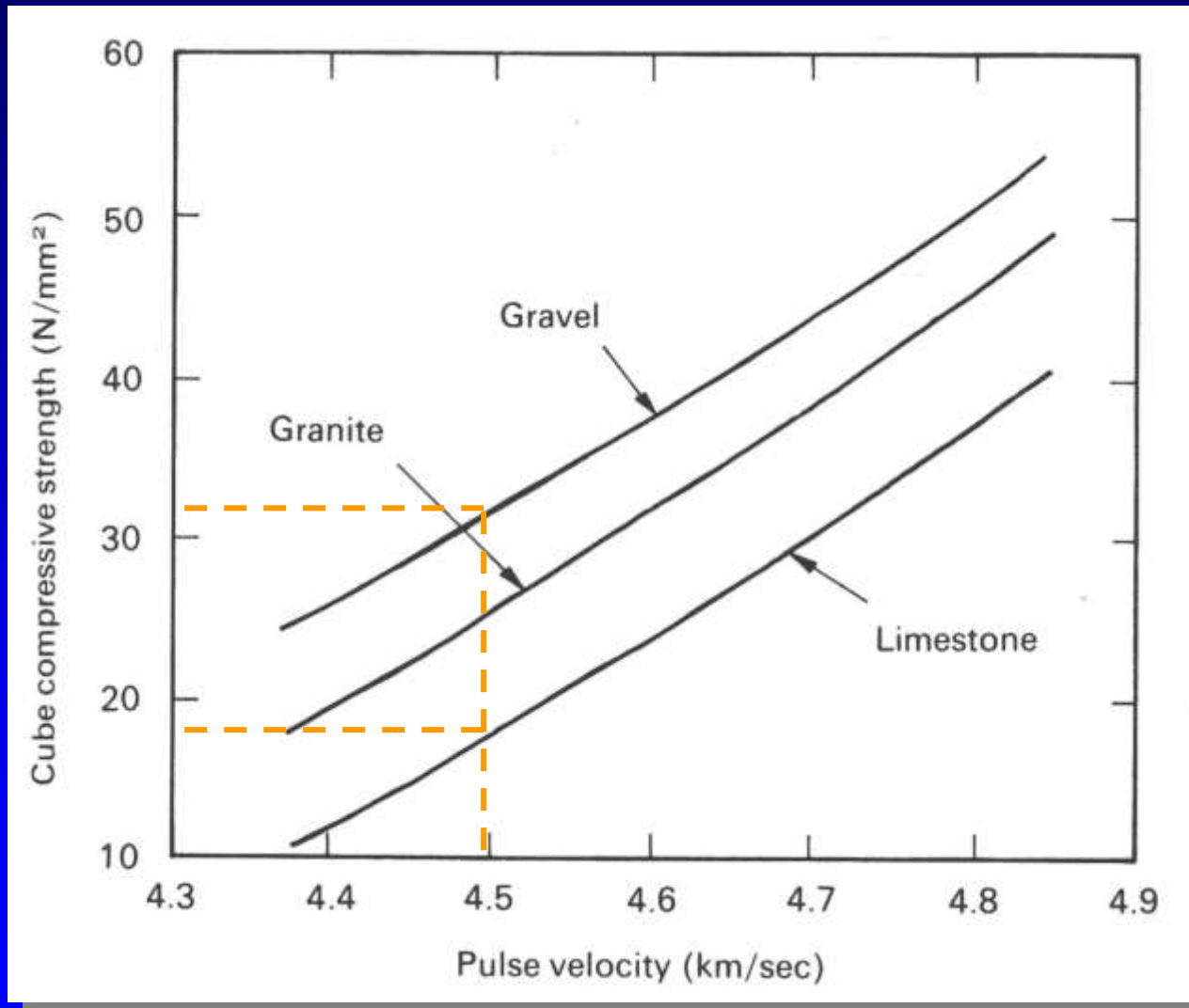
Ref: Tam, C.T.: "Application of NDT in Appraisal of Buildings", 4th Int.'l Conf. On Inspection, Appraisal, Repair and Maintenance of Buildings & Structures, 28-30 March, 1995, Hong Kong





# Example

## Aggregate Type

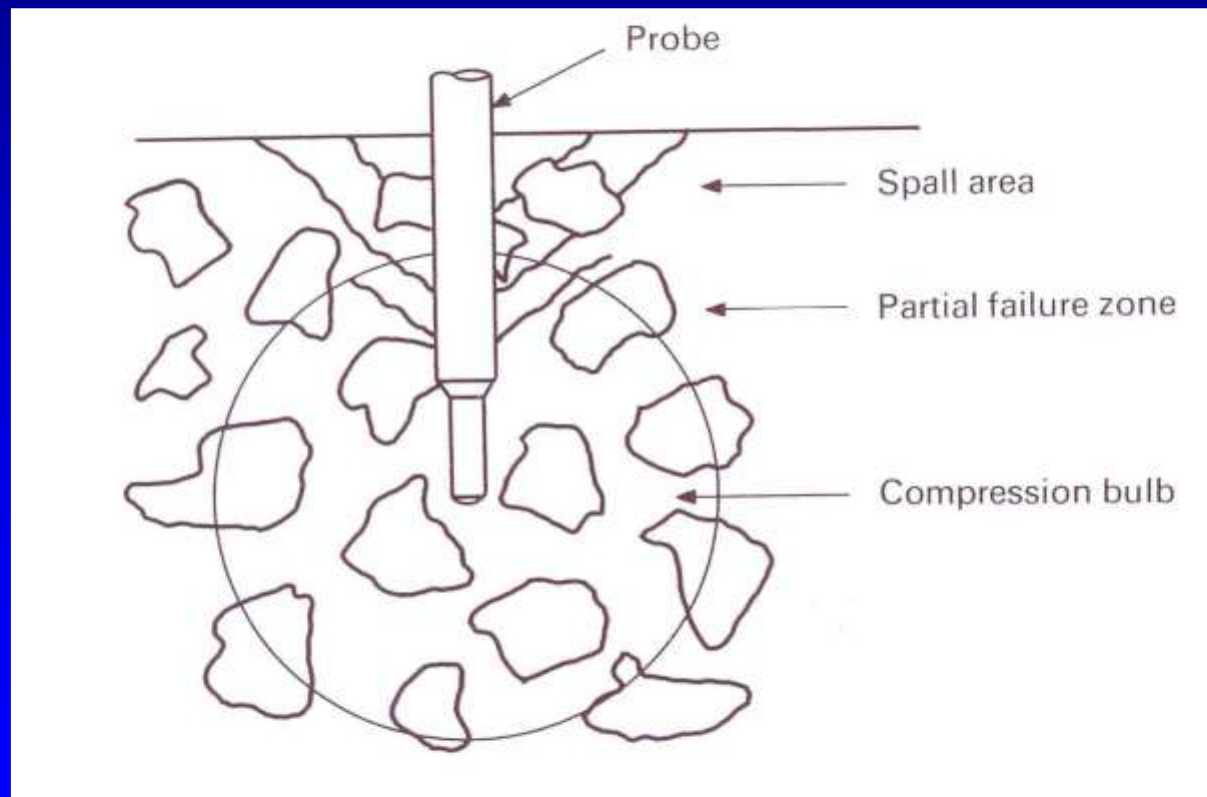


# Factors Affecting UPV for Given Concrete Mix

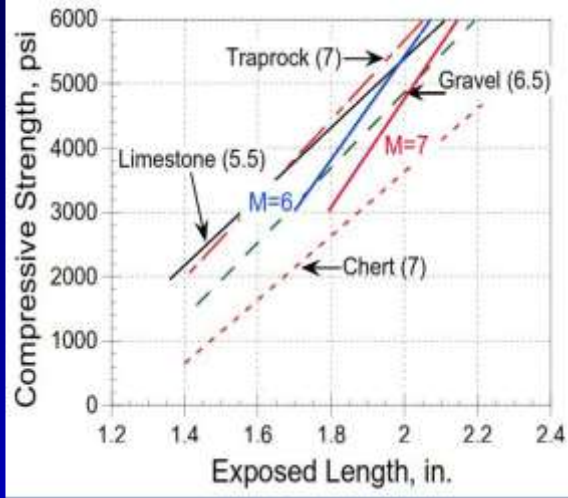
- Aggregate type
- Aggregate content
- Moisture content
  - Saturated concrete 5 % greater UPV than dry
- Presence of reinforcement
  - Perpendicular to pulse path
  - Parallel to pulse path

# Windsor Probe

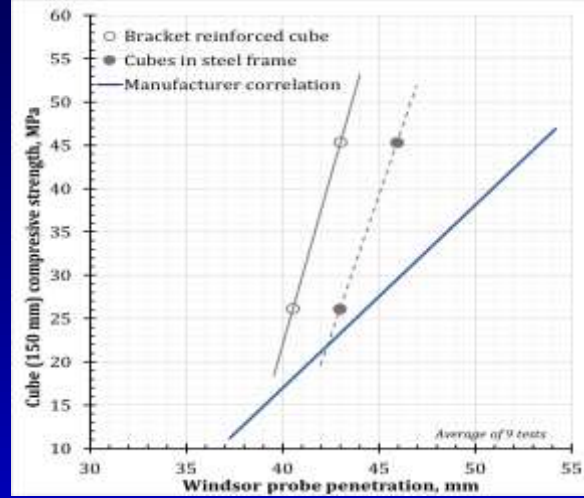
Penetration Resistance of Hardened Concrete by shooting a probe into the concrete and measure the penetration depth



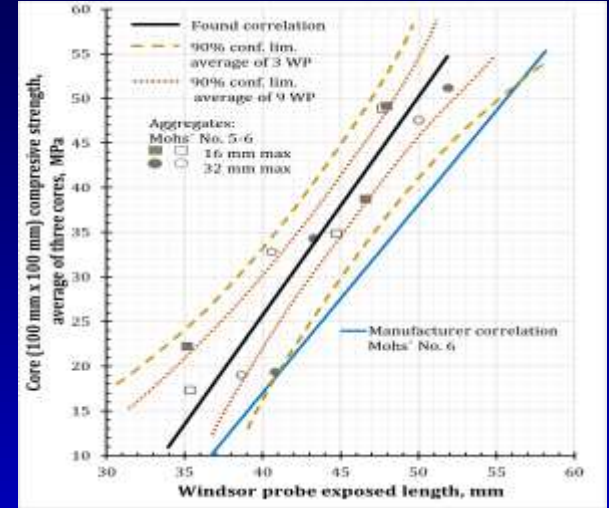
# Correlations



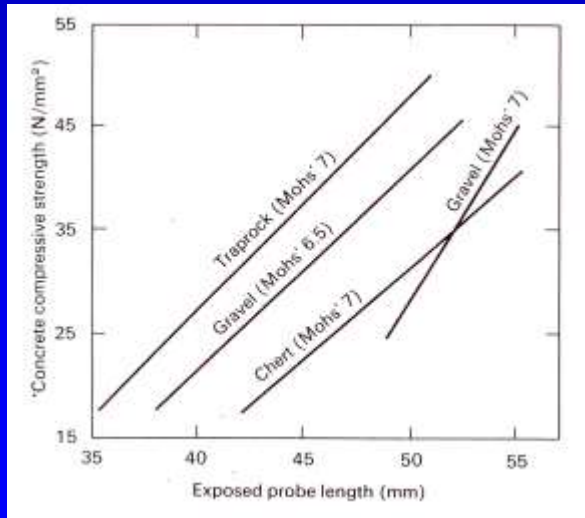
Malhotra, 1974



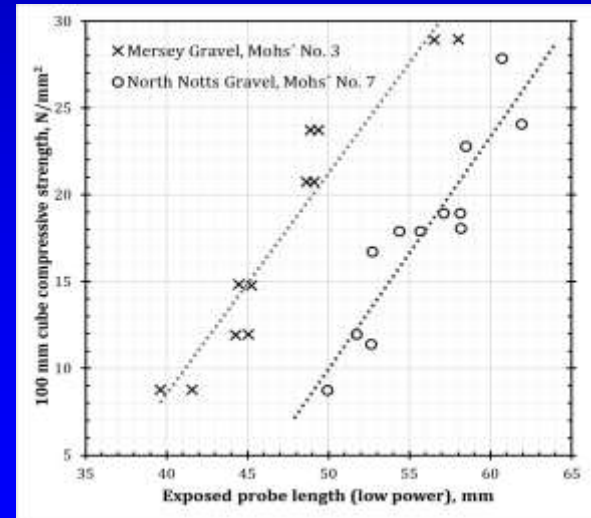
CBI, 1978



CBI, 1978

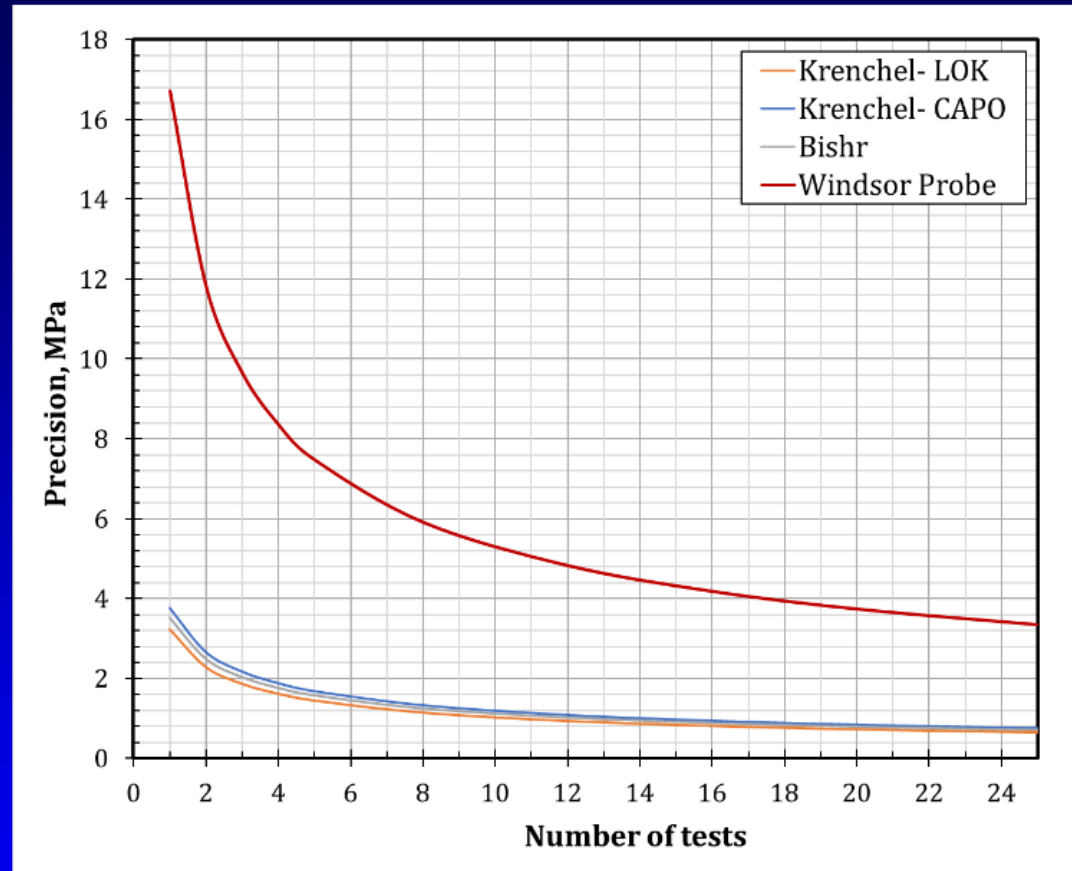
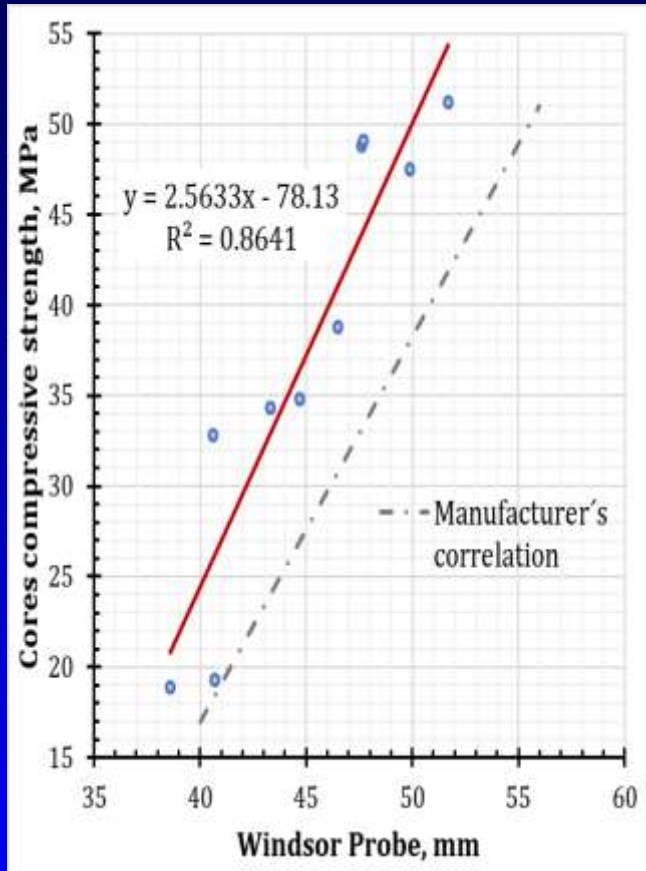


Bungey, 2002



Bungey, 2002

# Precision



Precision of Windsor Probe based on one mix specific correlation CBI Report 7869 compared to LOK/CAPO precision, general correlation, slide 83-84

# ACI Committee 228

## Report on Methods for Estimating In-Place Concrete Strength

Reported by ACI Committee 228

## 1.4—Recommendations in other ACI documents

After the 1995 version of this report was published, other ACI documents incorporated in-place tests as alternative procedures for estimating in-place strength. One of these documents is ACI 301, a specification for new concrete construction. In the 2016 version of **ACI 301**, Section 1.6.4.2 on in-place testing of hardened concrete includes the following:

Use of the rebound hammer in accordance with ASTM C805/C805M or the pulse-velocity method in accordance with ASTM C597 may be specified by Architect/Engineer to evaluate uniformity of in-place concrete or to select areas to be cored. These methods shall not be used to evaluate in-place strength.

# In-Place Strength Without Testing Cores: The Pullout Test

Nicholas J. Carino, PhD  
*Consultant, Chagrin Falls, OH, USA*

*6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar on Advances  
in Cement & Concrete Technology for  
Sustainable Development*

[In-Place Strength Without testing cores.](#)



# CONCLUSIONS

## Current Practice for Acceptance Testing of Concrete

- Standardized testing of specimens made from concrete delivered to the project
  - Standard consolidation
  - Standard curing
- Provides assurance that correct concrete was delivered
- Indicates potential strength
  - Does not account for actual consolidation and curing

# Future Performance-Based Specifications

- Measure in-place properties of concrete to ensure structure will perform as intended
- Methods for estimating in-place strength
  - Testing drilled cores → High cost
  - Rebound number method
  - Probe penetration test
  - Ultrasonic pulse velocity
  - Pullout test → Reliable estimates

Requires correlation testing for each concrete mixture

# Evaluation techniques by

Pullout, LOK-TEST / CAPO-TEST

Cores

Rebound hammer

UPV

Pull-off test

Maturity method

are dealt with in detail in workshops

[www.ndtitans.com](http://www.ndtitans.com)

as well as advanced methods

[www.germanninstruments.com](http://www.germanninstruments.com)

Thank you for your attention

[www.germanninstruments.com](http://www.germanninstruments.com)

[www.NDTitans.com](http://www.NDTitans.com)