



ARGOS - SIKA 2025

**JUNTOS**  
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# New Technological Advances in Rheology

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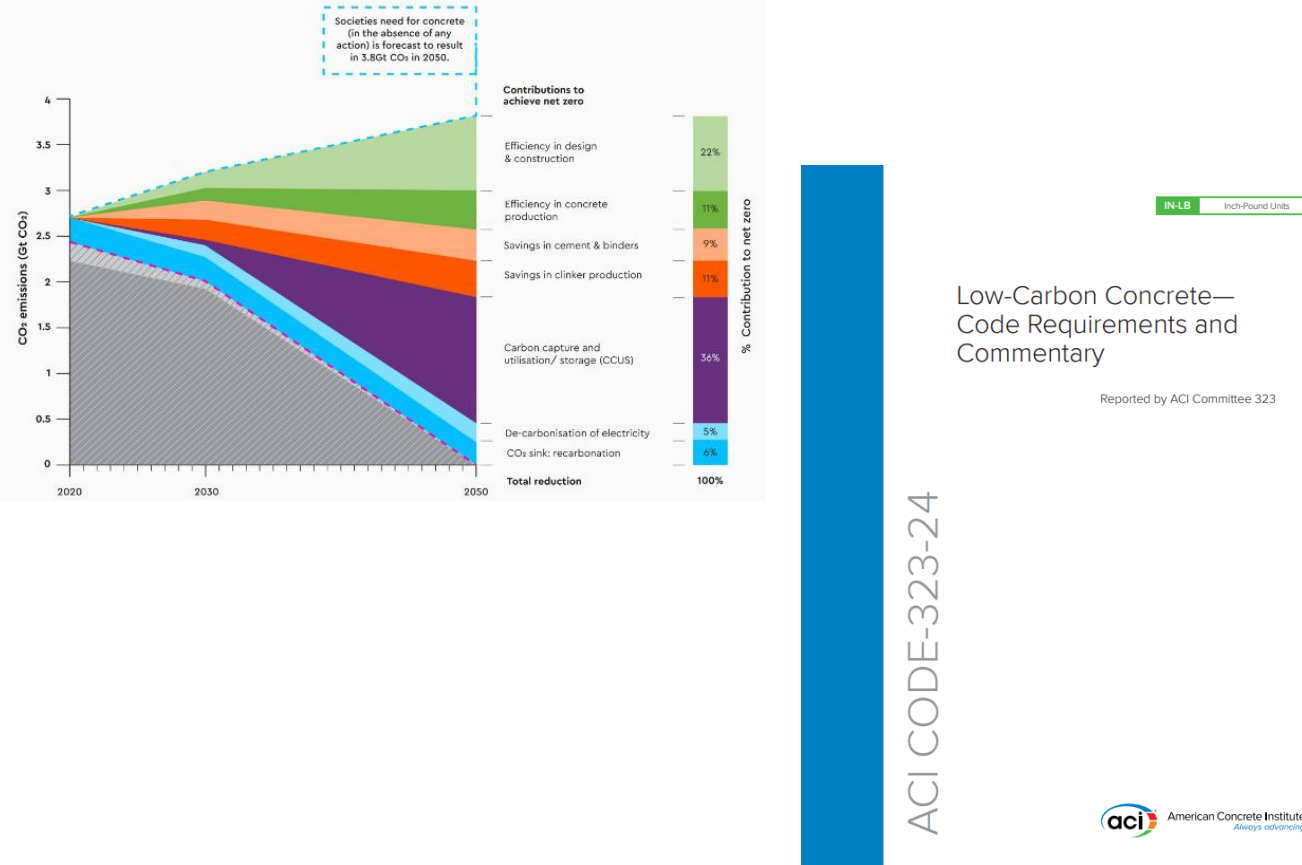
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# Agenda

- Sustainability Initiatives
  - Important Driver
- Importance of Low Viscosity of Concrete
  - Overview of Rheology
  - Cases Studies
- What is next in terms of technology?

# Adoption of Sustainable Initiatives as Driver



**1. Type IL/IP/IT/GU blended cements**  
(currently 5-15% limestone, >30% GU cements)

**2. Fly Ash & Calcined clay and other SCM's**  
(reduced supply/higher cost)

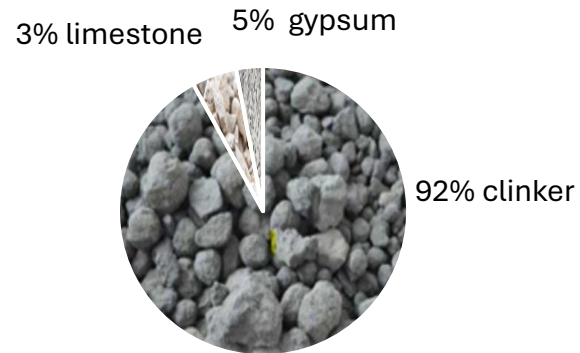
**3. Lower cementitious content while maintain durability requirement**  
(sustainability initiatives)

**4. Closer aggregates**  
(sources not used before Low GWP)

**Source:** Global cement and Concrete Association & ACI Code 323-24

# 1. Cements continue to change

**OPC – ASTM C150 Clinker, Gypsum and Limestone**



**Type 1L - ASTM C595 Clinker, Gypsum and Limestone (higher content)**



**ASTM GU -Clinker, Gypsum, Limestone, and Pozzolan**



**Cement 1P25 – ASTM C595 Clinker, Gypsum, Limestone, and Pozzolan**

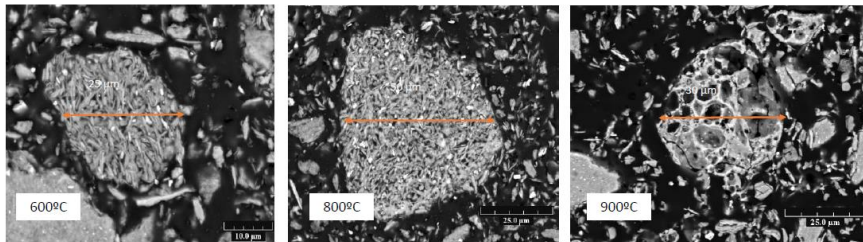


## 2. New Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCM)

### Calcined clay – LC3



#### Impact of calcination on clay morphology



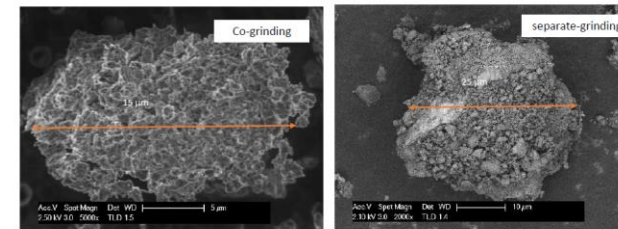
#### Agglomeration (calcination)

- 600°C attraction forces
- 800°C sintering
- 900°C melting

Clay agglomeration during calcination  
(source: PhD thesis A. Alujas)



#### Impact of grinding on clay agglomeration



#### Agglomeration (grinding)

- Co-grinding: smaller agglomerates
- Separate grinding: larger agglomerates

Impact of grinding on agglomerates  
(source: PhD L. Vizcaino)

**HIGHER SURFACE AREA**

Source: <https://lc3.ch/>

### 3. Performance and Durability

#### Industry demand:

- Low water-cement ratio
- Extend lifecycles of buildings
- Low cementitious content could be one first approach to approach sustainability requirements
- Concrete mix design contain higher proportion of SCMs
  - Reactive materials such as **Natural pozzolan** and **calcined clay** are available in LATAM and NA. As well **Slag** and **Fly ash**.





A photograph of a construction site. In the foreground, there is a large, conical pile of brown sand. To the left, a concrete mixer with a red frame and a grey drum is visible. In the background, there is a wooden frame structure, possibly for a building, and some bare trees under a clear blue sky.

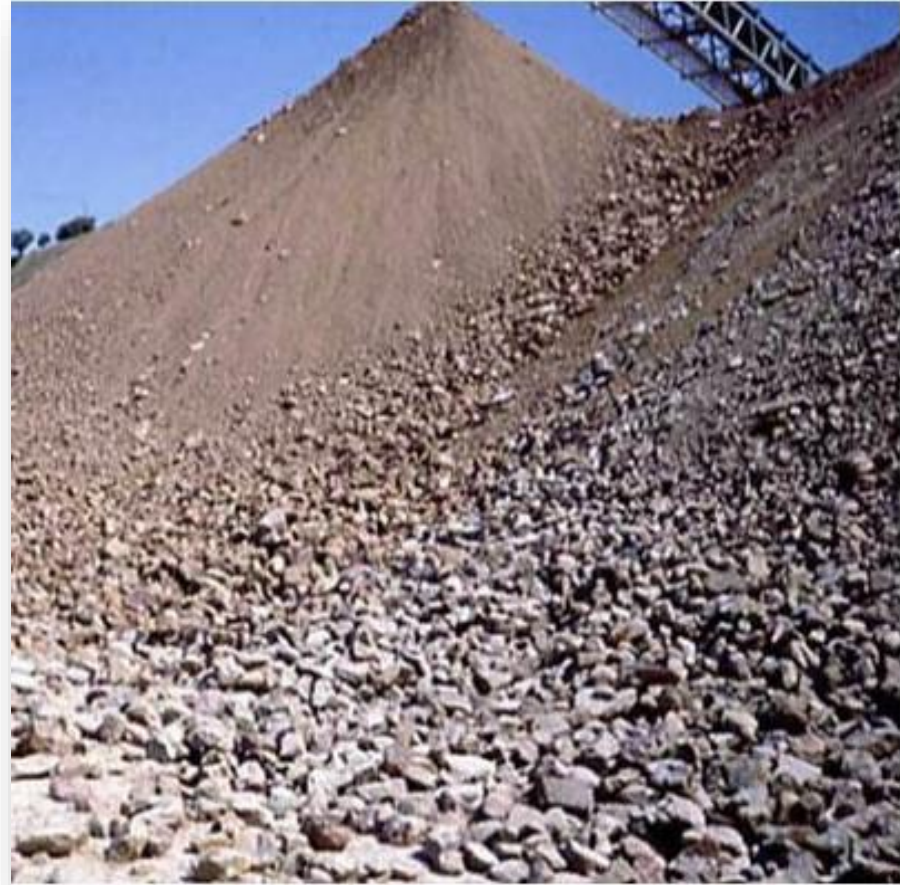
#### 4. Aggregates

**Which challenge does the industry faces?**  
**- Availability of easy to work materials**



## 4. Aggregates availability

Reality in LATAM

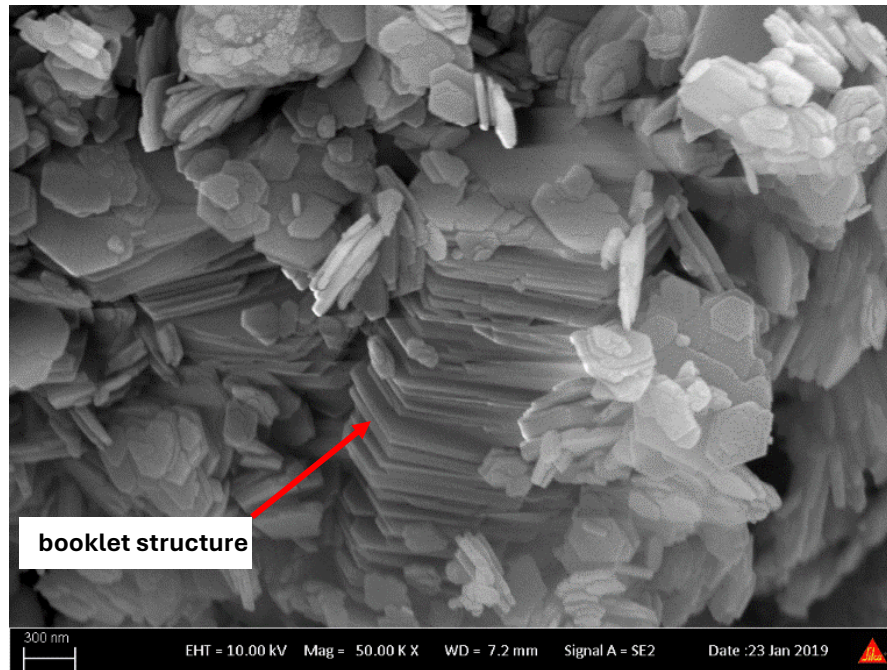




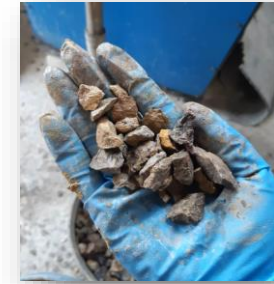
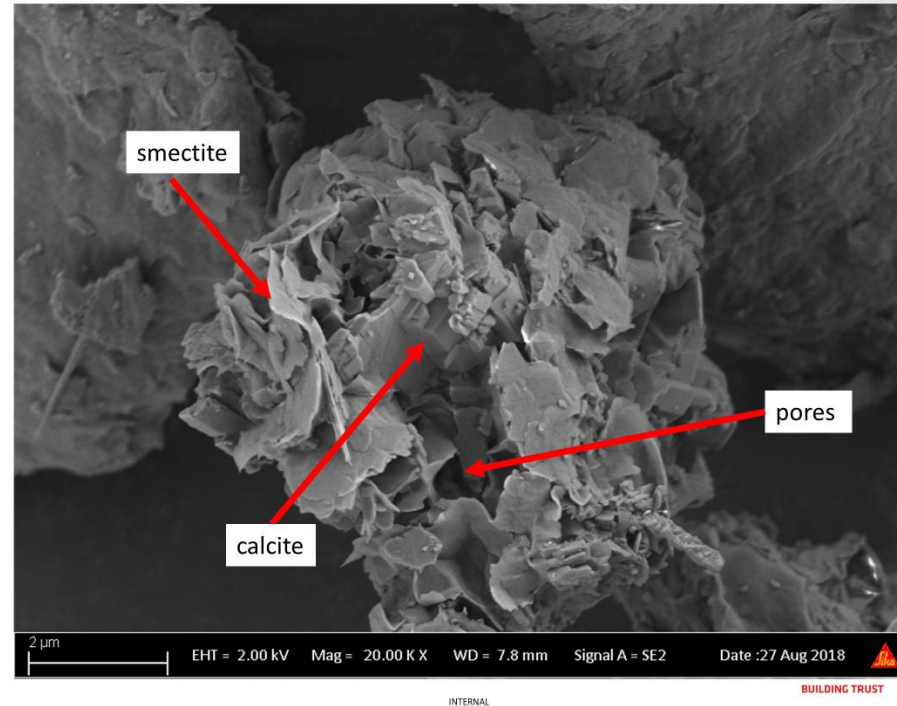
# 4. Aggregates play an Important Role in Concrete

## UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL MINERALS

Kaolinite



Bentonite



# Driving the need to decrease concrete Viscosity

## Industry challenges

### **Type IL/IP/IT/GU blended cements**

(currently 5-15% limestone, >30% GU)

\*Expected to increase as high as 45% - LC3



Viscosity increase/water demand

### **Fly Ash & CC, and other SCM's**

(availability and distance)



Viscosity increase, mobility

### **Quality aggregates**

(increased demand/cost and GWP)

\*More frequent use of man sand & crushed, angular aggregates



Water demand, viscosity, mobility

### **Lower cementitious content**

(sustainability initiatives)



Stability, cohesiveness, finishability

# Driving the need to decrease concrete Viscosity

Importance on applications



*Finishing*



*Finishing*



*Pumping*

# Understanding Concrete Viscosity is Key

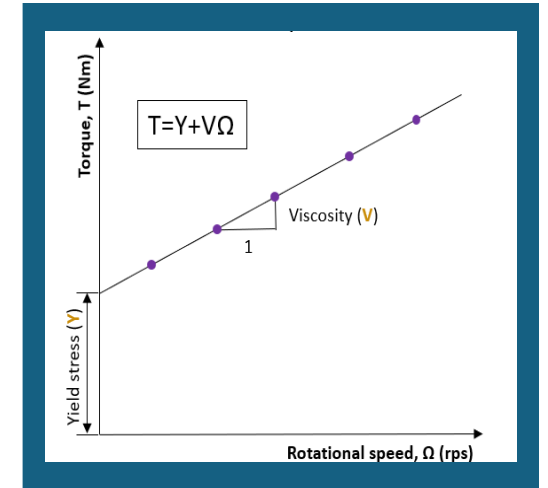


**New cements**

**Additional or  
New SCMs**

**Performance &  
Durability  
required**

**Challenging  
Aggregates**







# Importance of Low Viscosity

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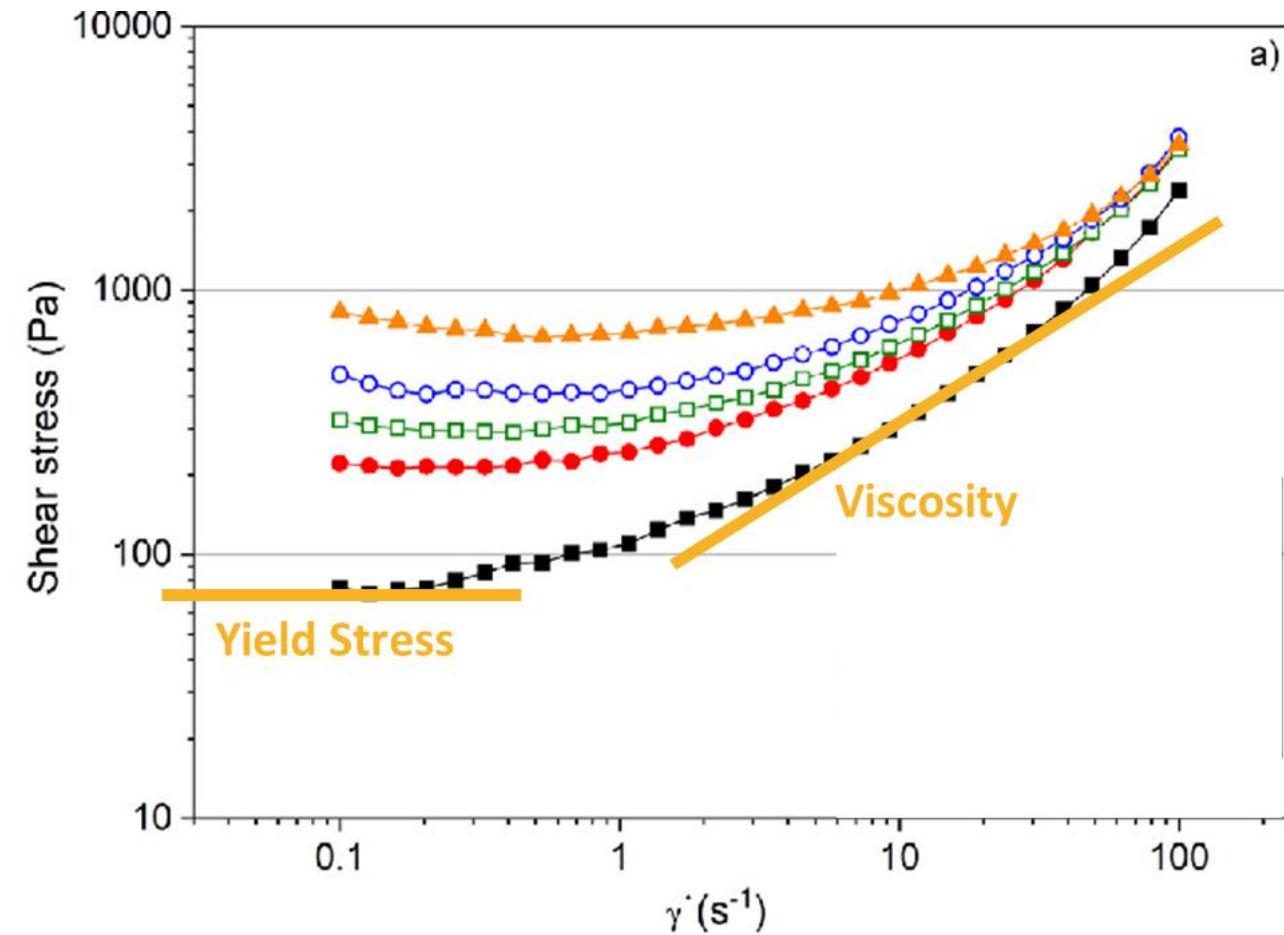


# ENABLING LOW CO2 CONCRETE

## SOFTNESS · LOW VISCOSITY. FROM GUT FEELING TO NUMBERS



Softness in reality!



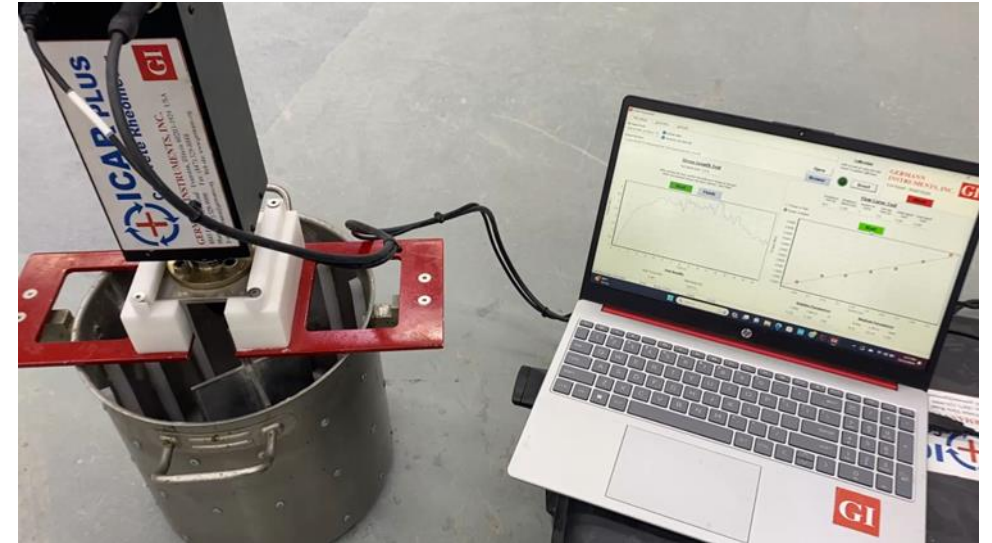
Softness in theory!

# Understanding Concrete Rheology

**Rheology** – study of how the matter deforms and flow

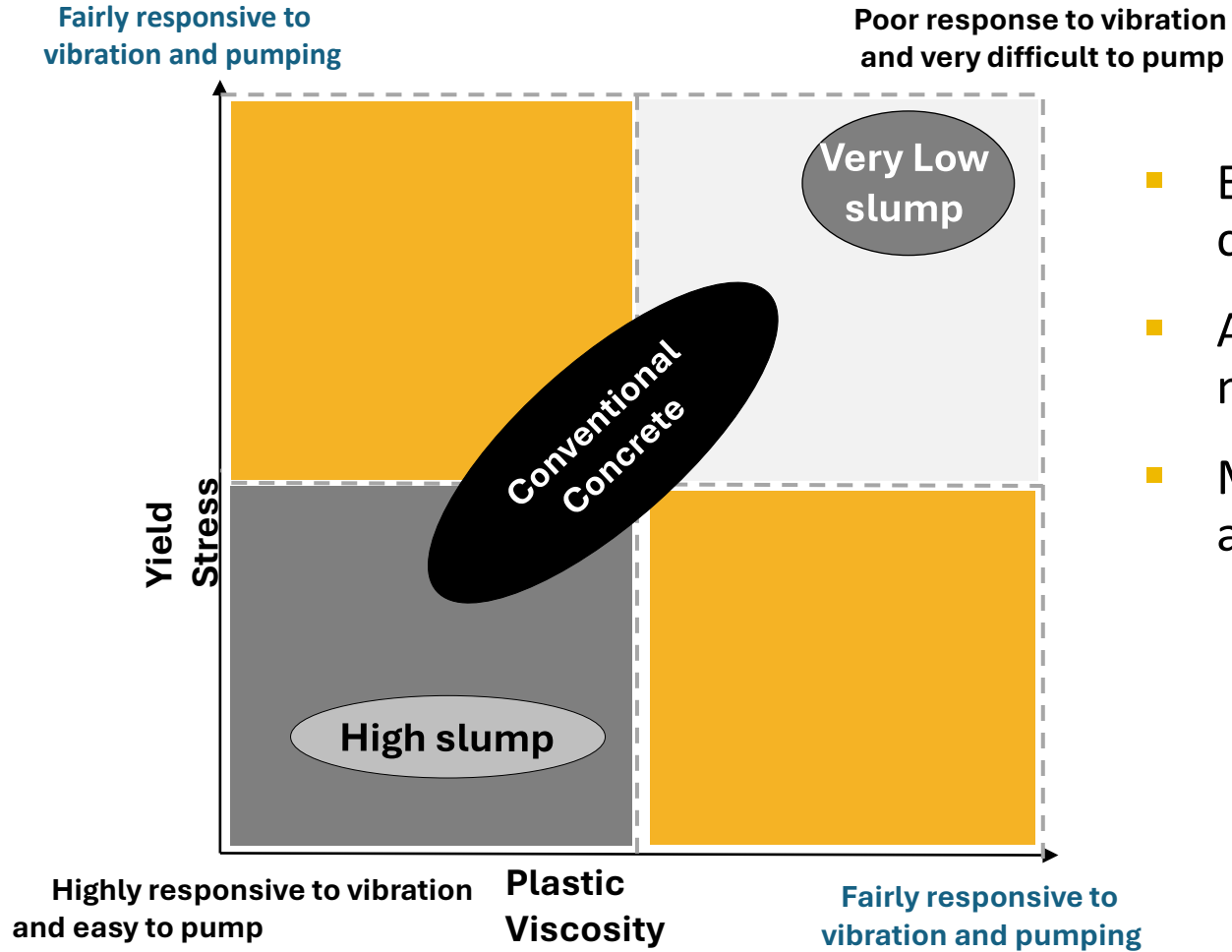
**Yield Stress** and **Plastic Viscosity** are the key parameters to describe concrete rheology

- **Yield Stress** – Related to the force required to initiate the flow
- **Plastic Viscosity** – Describes the resistance of concrete to flow
  - Two different concrete mixes can have the same yield stress but different viscosity, or the same viscosity but different yield stress



ICAR - Practical tool for measuring concrete rheology

# Concrete Rheology



- Every concrete has its own rheological characteristics.
- Applications is key to define the target rheology needed on a project.
- Materials used in concrete mix designs is key as well.



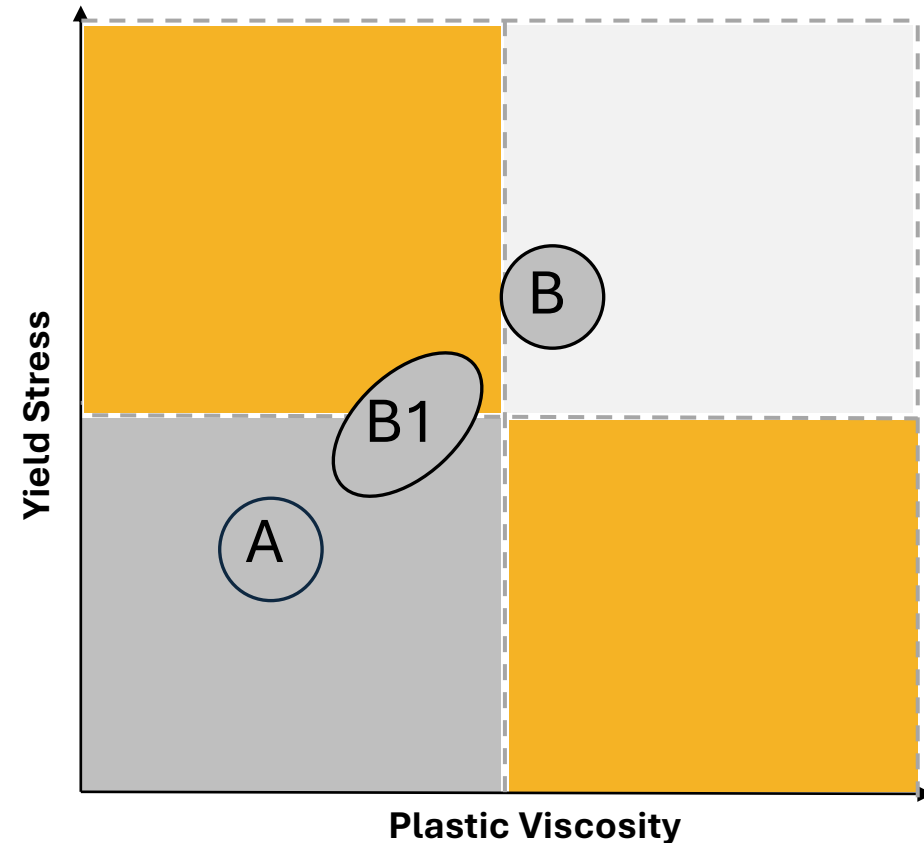
# Methods to Alter the Rheology of Concrete

- **Water**
  - More water reduces viscosity and yield stress (**can be detrimental to concrete**)
  - Less water increases viscosity and yield stress (**not helpful for rheology**)
- **Paste**
  - More paste reduces yield stress but can increase viscosity (**careful with shrinkage**)
  - Less paste increases yield stress (**challenge for rheology**)
- **Aggregate Type & Ratio**
  - Optimized gradation reduces yield stress and viscosity (**improved rheology**)
- **Different Cement Types** – Type II, Type I/II, Type III, GU, HE, IP, LC3, etc.
  - Chemical composition, particle size and distribution, water requirement, etc.
- **Different SCM's** – Fly Ash, Slag, Metakaolin, Calcinated Clays, etc.
  - By varying combinations and amounts, viscosity and yield stress can be tailored according to the desired performance

# Methods to Alter the Rheology of Concrete

- **Air Entraining Admixture**
  - Lowers viscosity and slightly reduces yield stress (**improved rheology**)
- **Plasticizer/Superplasticizer**
  - Variable effect on viscosity and can significantly reduce yield stress
- **Viscosity Modifying Admixture**
  - Reduces segregation by increasing viscosity & yield strength
- **Rheology Modifying Admixture**
  - Lowers yield stress and viscosity without the detrimental effects of other options and support the mix optimizations.

# Concrete Rheology

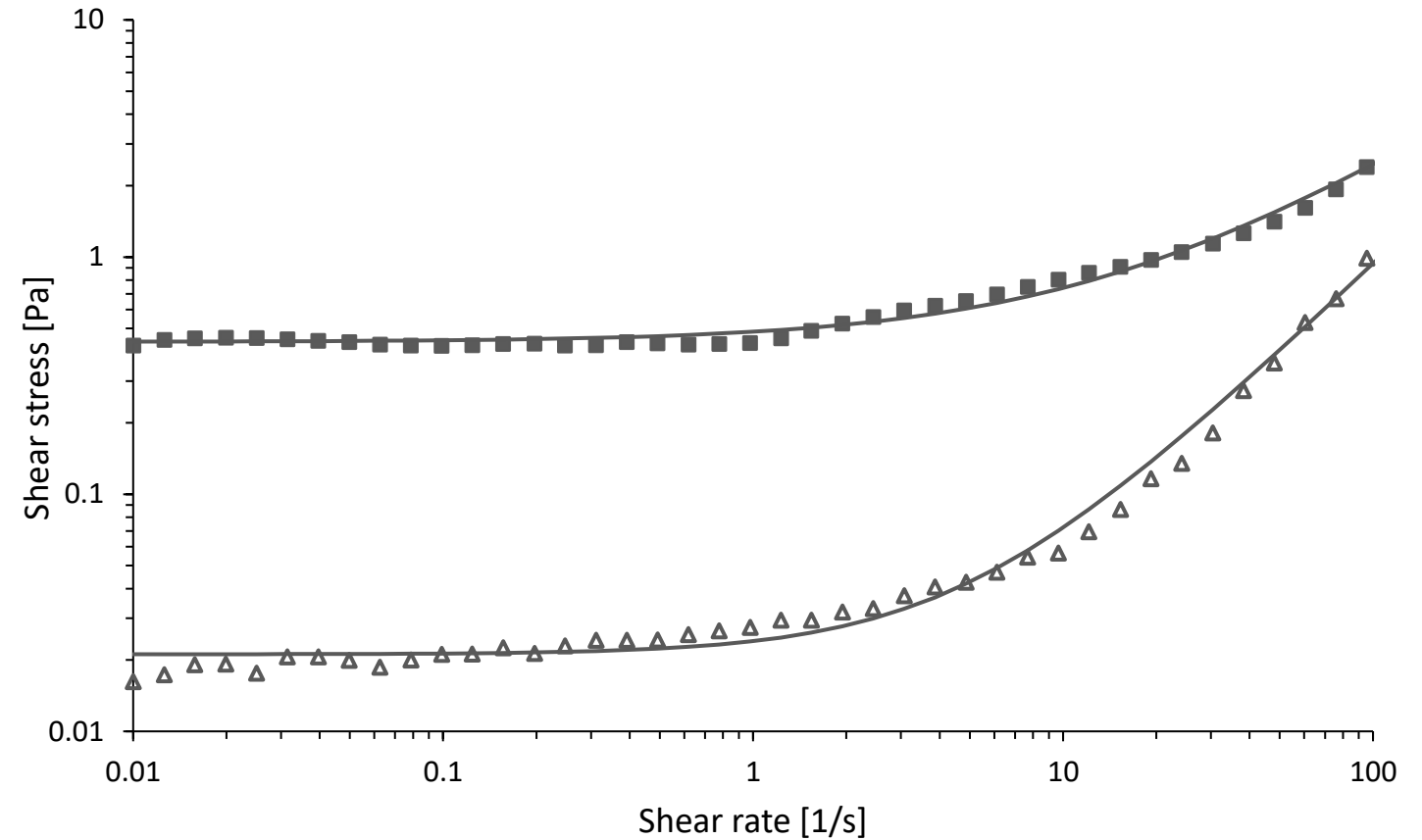
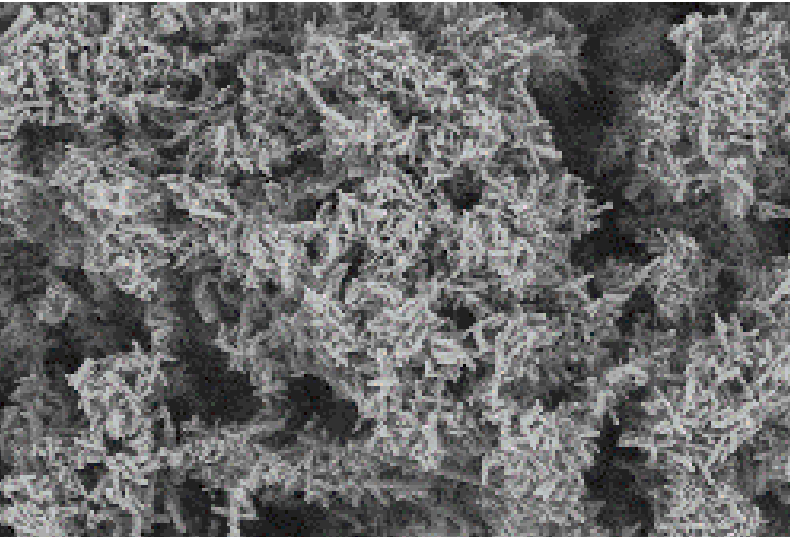
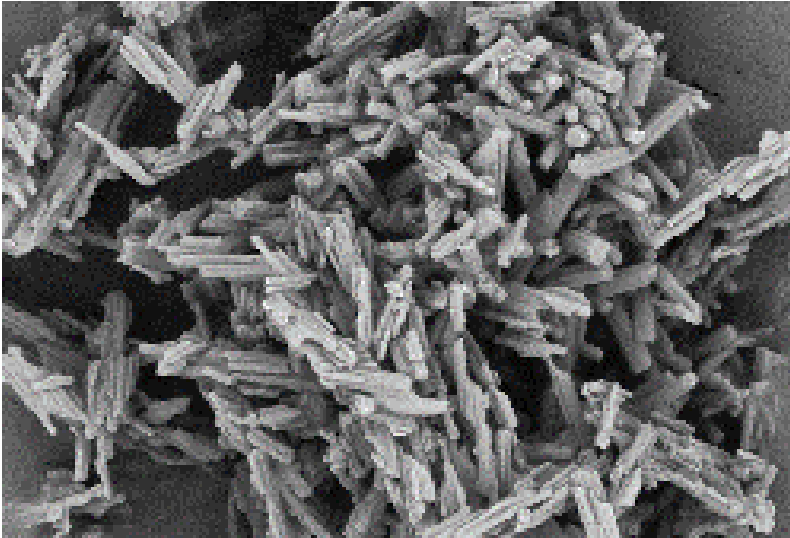


## Rheology of **SCC** mix:

- **Zone A:** Represents a well optimized mix design with quality aggregates that are well graded and proportioned, etc.
- **Zone B:** Represents a poorly optimized mix design with poorly graded and proportioned aggregates, etc.
- **Zone B1:** Represents a mix design from Zone B with the same raw materials, including some optimization and the addition of a rheology modifying admixture

# SOFTNESS · KNOW HOW & UNDERSTANDING GENERATION

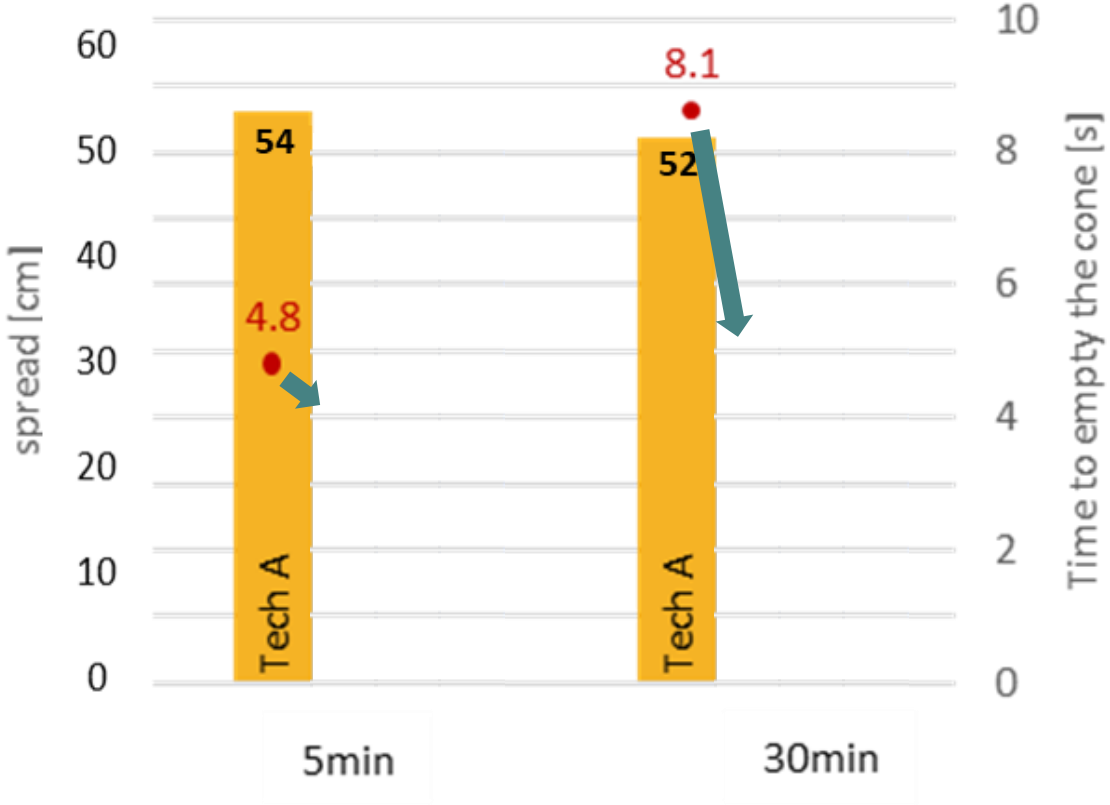
## IMPACT OF HYDRATES MORPHOLOGY ON VISCOSITY





# ENABLING LOW CO2 CONCRETE

## SOFTNESS · TECHNOLOGY VALIDATION



Reality!

# Benefits of concrete with optimum rheological properties

- **Improved concrete pumping operations**
  - Reduced pump pressure results in lower maintenance cost & improved safety
- **Improved concrete placement operations**
  - Less time & energy required during placement and consolidation
- **Improved concrete finishing operations**
  - Easier & faster with better surface appearance
  - Reduced wear of finishing equipment
- **Reduced water and cement = reduced shrinkage & cracking**

Rheology modifying admixtures allows mix design optimization and assists with sustainability initiatives.

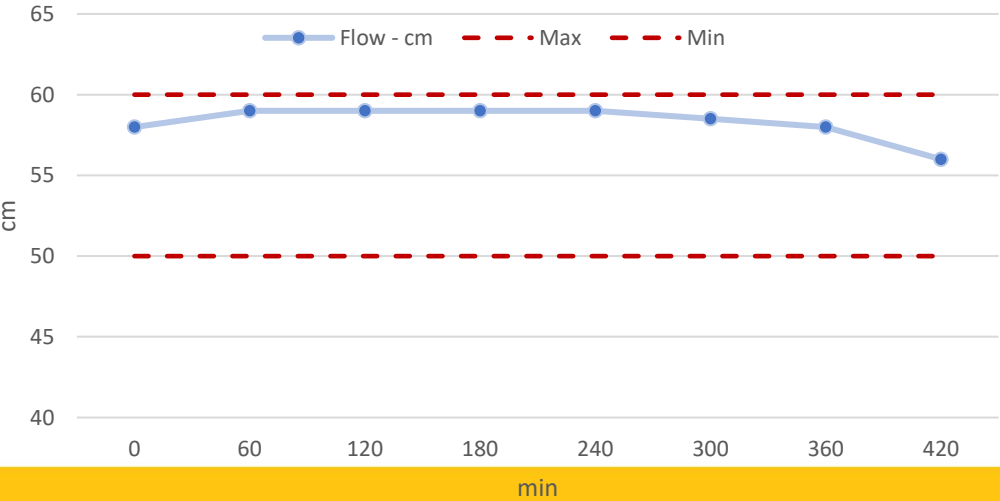
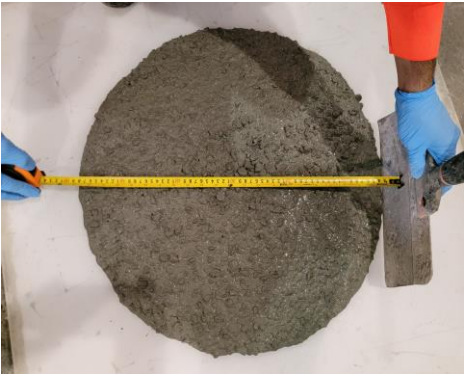


# Case 1: Infrastructure Project

Mix Design	Unit	Value	Gs
Cement TII	kg	370	3.10
Puzzolana	kg	70	2.29
Water	kg	180	1
basalt crushing sand	kg	2,355	
Gravel # 7 - 12.5 mm	kg		
Air Content	%		
SikaViscocrete 3077	kg		
SikaStabilizer 80	kg		

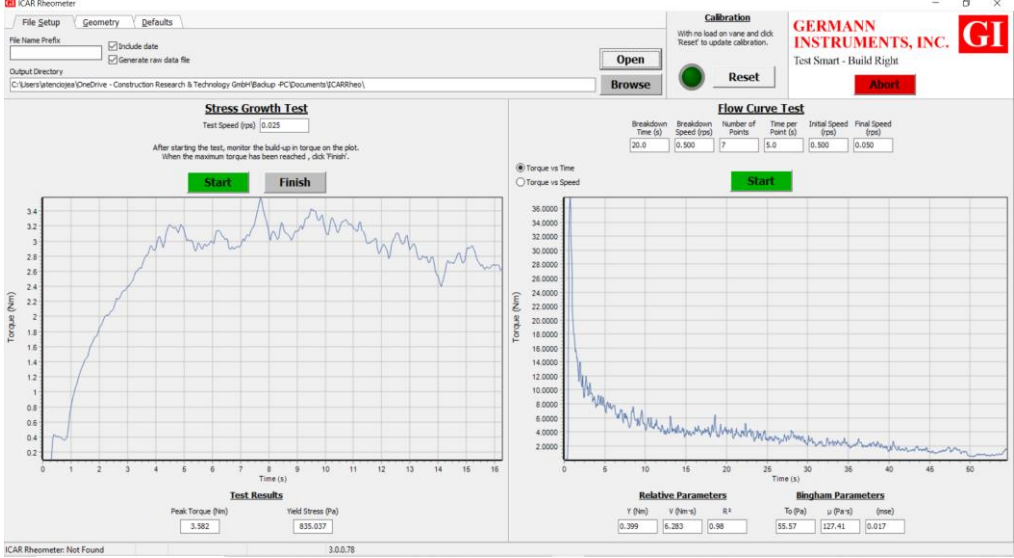
Rel. water/cement 0.41  
mix design for piles

2,355

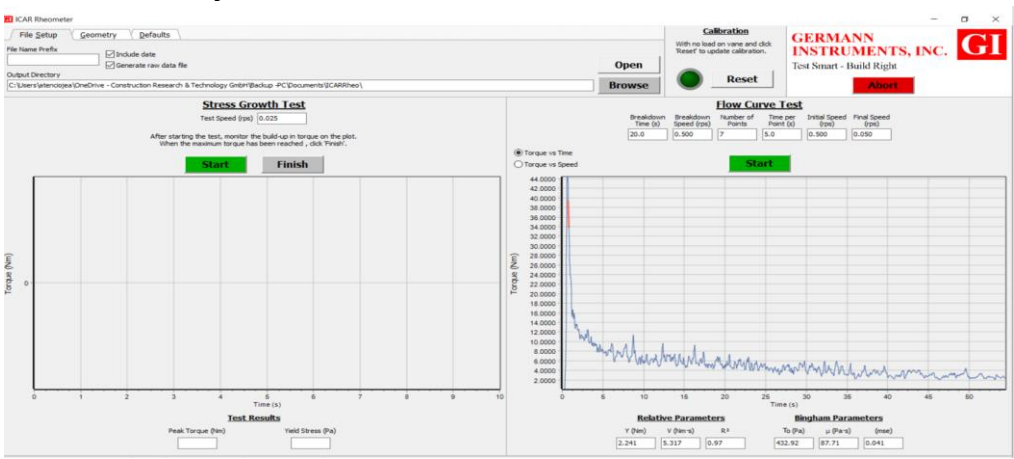


Days	kg/cm2
28	550

## High viscosity – 127.41 Pa\*s - Reference



## Low viscosity – 87.71 Pa\*s – SikaViscocrete 3077





## Case 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridge



RMA technology was a solution to deal with use of manufactured sand, SCM (Silica fume and Natural Pozzolan), w/c = 0.35 to 0.37, Low permeability < 1000 coulomb (RCPT), high amount of reinforcement.



Viscosity measure by T50:

Target = 7 sec

- Reference mix= 10-12 sec
- Optimized mix and RMA = 2-5 sec



# Case 3: Repair of Condominium

## Repair of Increased Columns Sections



# Case 3: Repair Condominium

## Increased Columns Sections

- Repair of Increased Columns Sections
- High content of reinforcement
- Column repair required very low viscosity Self Consolidating Concrete (SCC)





**What is next?  
What are we  
working on?**

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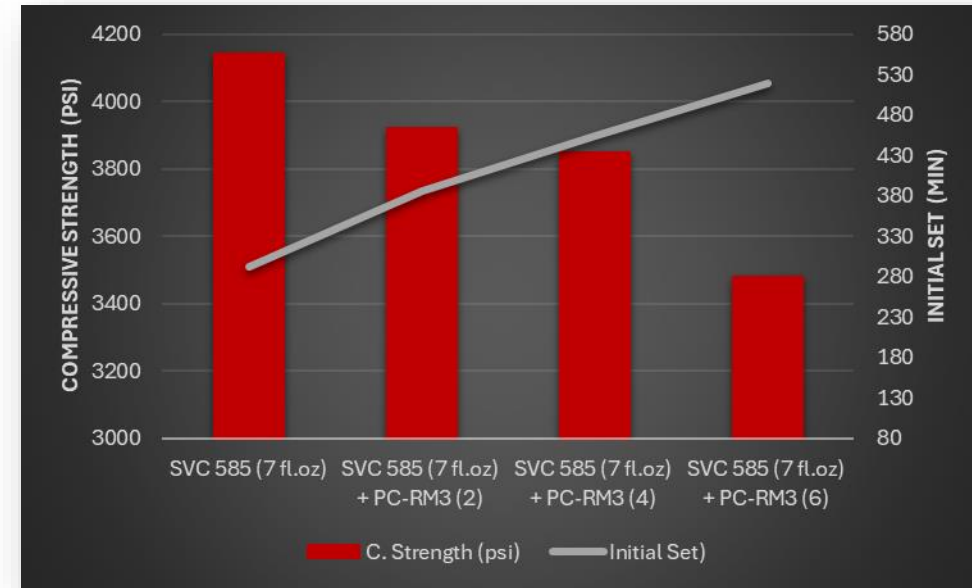
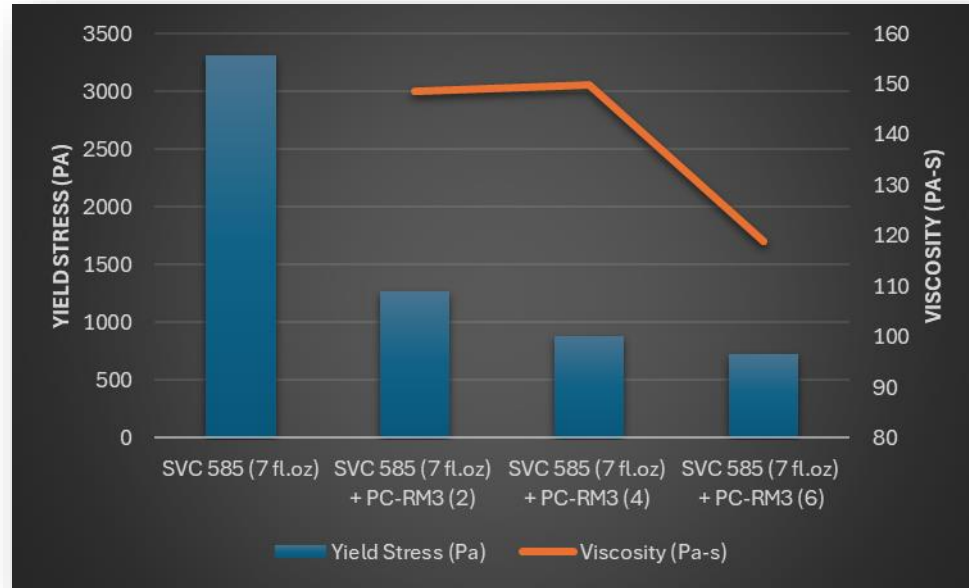


# What else we need to do to reduce concrete technology from PCE?



# LOW VISCOSITY CONCRETE PROJECT

## MIX@ 0.42 W/C – SVC 585 & PC-RM3

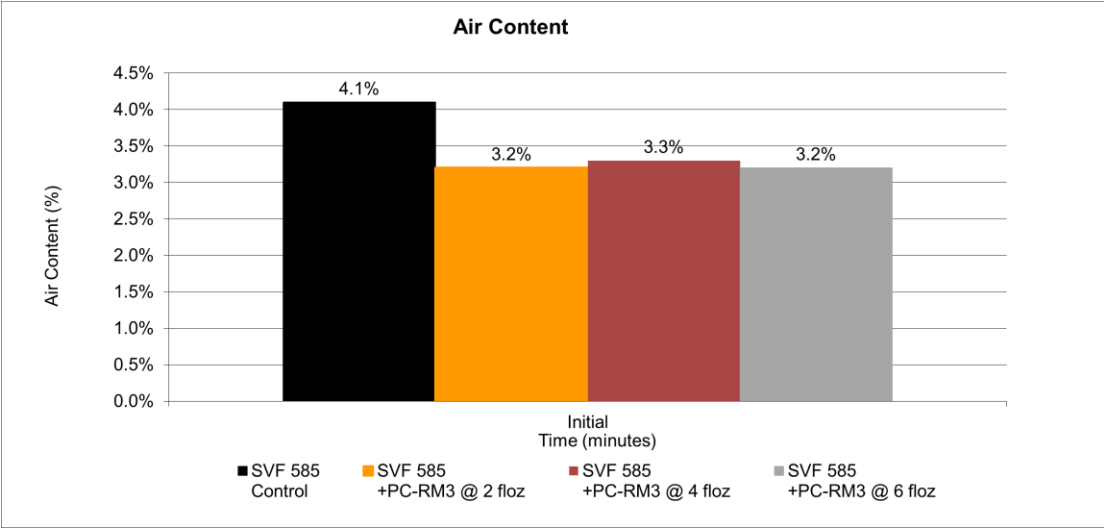
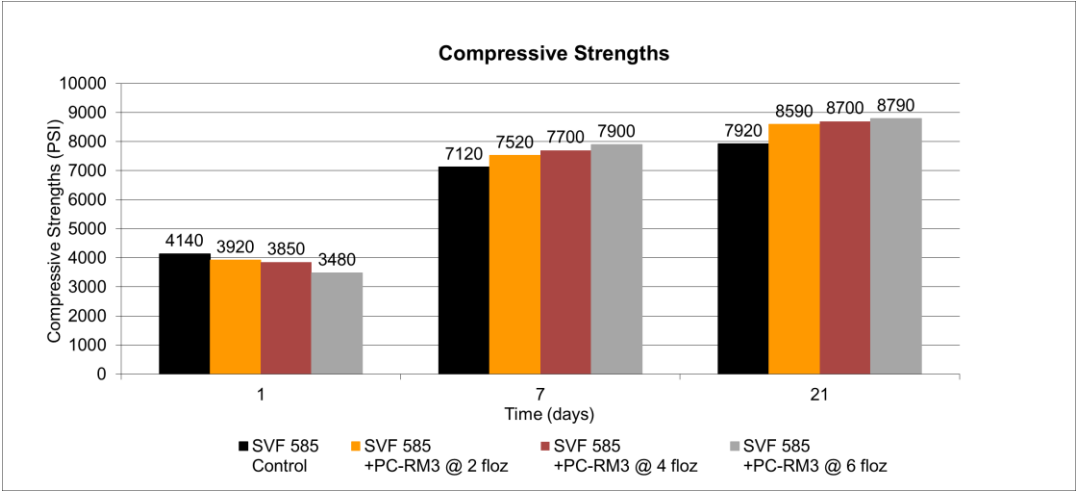
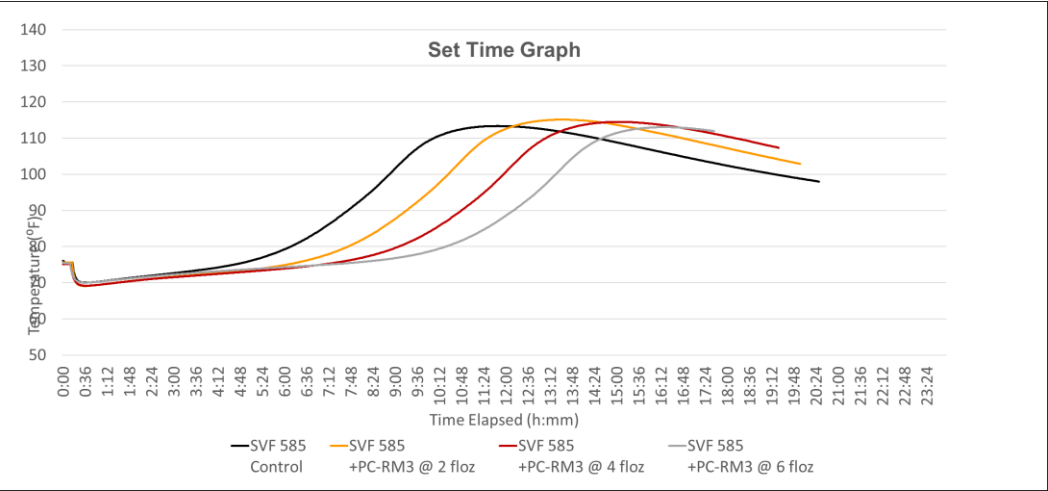


Admixture	Dosage (fl.oz)	w/c	Slump (in)	Air (%)	Yield Stress (Pa)	Viscosity (Pa-s)	Initial Set (min)	Final Set (min)	1 Day- C. Strength (psi)	7 Day- C. Strength (psi)
SVC 585	7	0.42	14	4.1%	3312	225.2	292	513	4140	7120
SVC 585 PC-RM3 (2)	7 2	0.42	17 3/4	3.2%	1274	148.6	386	611	3920	7550
SVC 585 PC-RM3 (4)	7 4	0.42	19	3.3%	887	149.9	454	696	3850	7700
SVC 585 PC-RM3 (6)	7 6	0.42	20 1/2	3.2%	722	118.9	519	785	3480	7900



# LOW VISCOSITY CONCRETE PROJECT

## MIX@ 0.42 W/C – SVC 585 & PC-RM3



# Summary

- Adoption of **sustainable initiatives** is pushing the industry toward the widespread use of alternative materials.
  - When *materials are readily available near project sites*, there is a strong tendency to explore the use of other materials.
  - Incorporation of *alternative materials can represent performance challenges* in concrete, particularly on rheological properties.
- **Reducing Concrete Viscosity:**
  - *Superior concrete rheology improve placements* which reduces the time and cost for placing concrete on site.
  - Everything is possible if we understand the concrete needs
  - *Sika continue to work toward finding more solutions* as industry continues to move on the sustainability trends.

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