



Civil and Environmental Engineering Department  
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

# High Performance Fiber Reinforced cement-based Composites

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# Outline

- I. Future Challenges*
- II. Characteristics of High Performance Fiber Reinforced cement-based Composites (HPFRCCs)*
- III. Damage Resistance of Bridge Structures due to HPFRCCs*
- IV. Reservations/Concerns towards HPFRCCs*
- V. Summary*



# I) Future Challenges

Structures need to be **safe** under seismic loading conditions

And in addition:

- I. Structures need to be **damage resistant** to reduce repair cost
- II. Structures need to **last longer** to enhance their service life
- III. Structures need to be **sustainable** hence preserve our resources & have low carbon footprint





# Problems with many current bridge structures:

## Deterioration

### Example #1: Bridge Columns



(ASR) Environmental Damage (Corrosion)



Seismic Damage

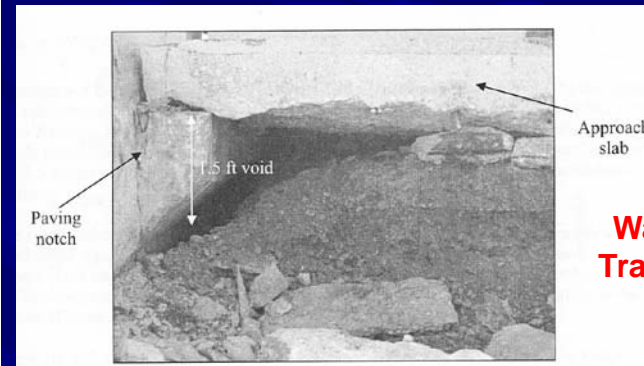
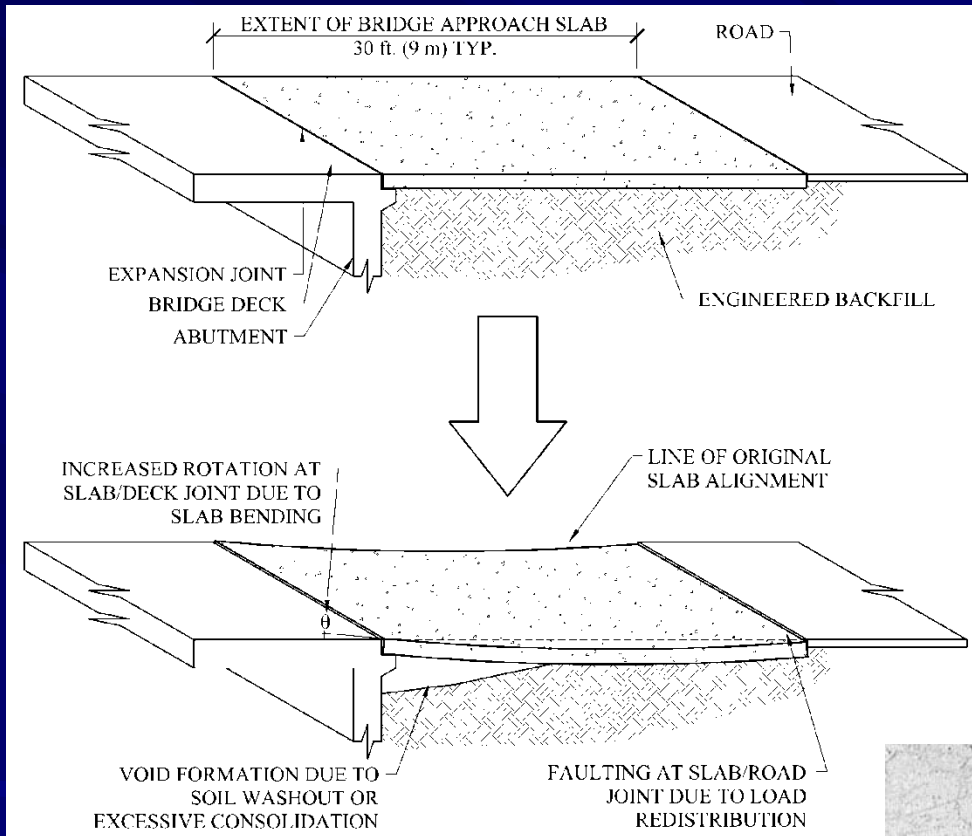
*Deterioration caused  
by  
both environmental  
and seismic loading  
conditions.*



# Problems with many current bridge structures:

## Deterioration

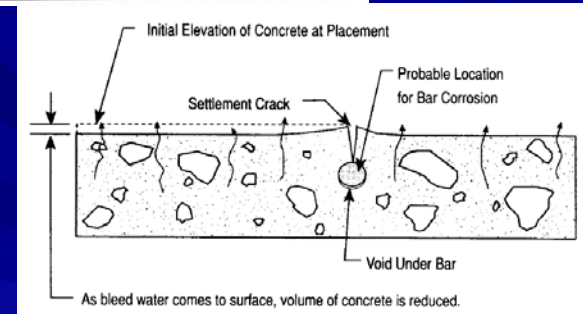
### Example #2: Bridge Approach Slabs



Washout and Traffic Loading

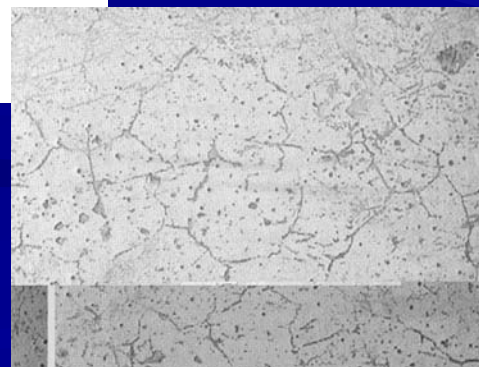
Subsidence

Plastic/Drying Shrinkage



Cracks = Reduced Flexural Stiffness and Durability

Deterioration due to both mechanical and environmental loading conditions



Spalling from Rebar Corrosion and Frost Damage

# Effective Solution

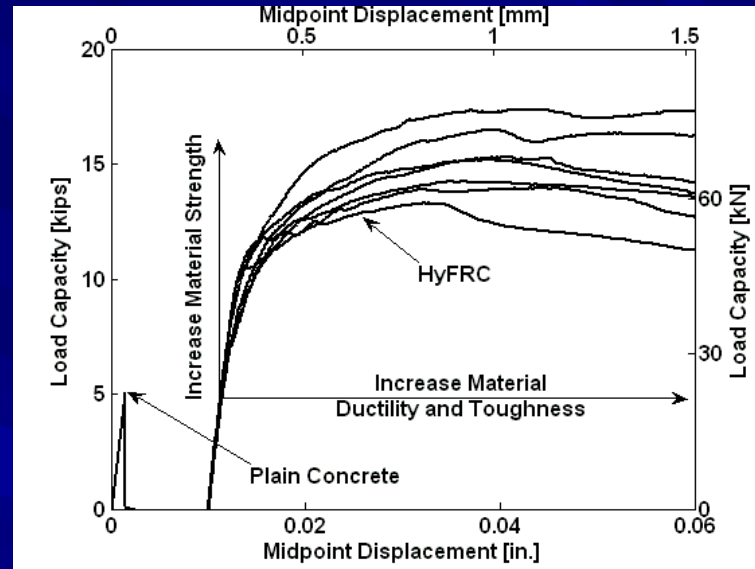
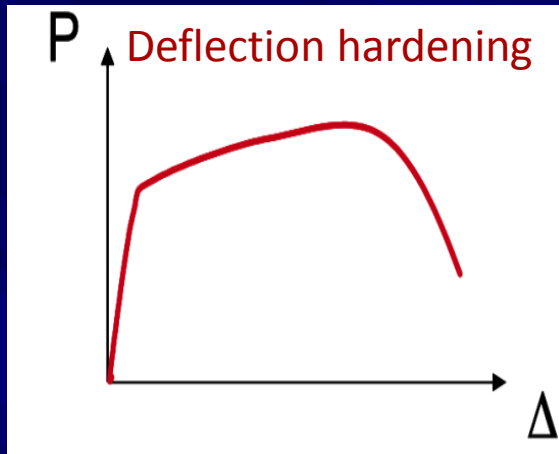
**The use of High Performance Fiber Reinforced Cement-based Composites in Concrete Structures for**

- **Higher Damage Resistance when exposed to both seismic and environmental loading conditions**
- **Extended Service Life and more Sustainable Structures**
- **Enhanced Performance**



# II) Characteristics of High Performance Fiber-Reinforced cement based Composites

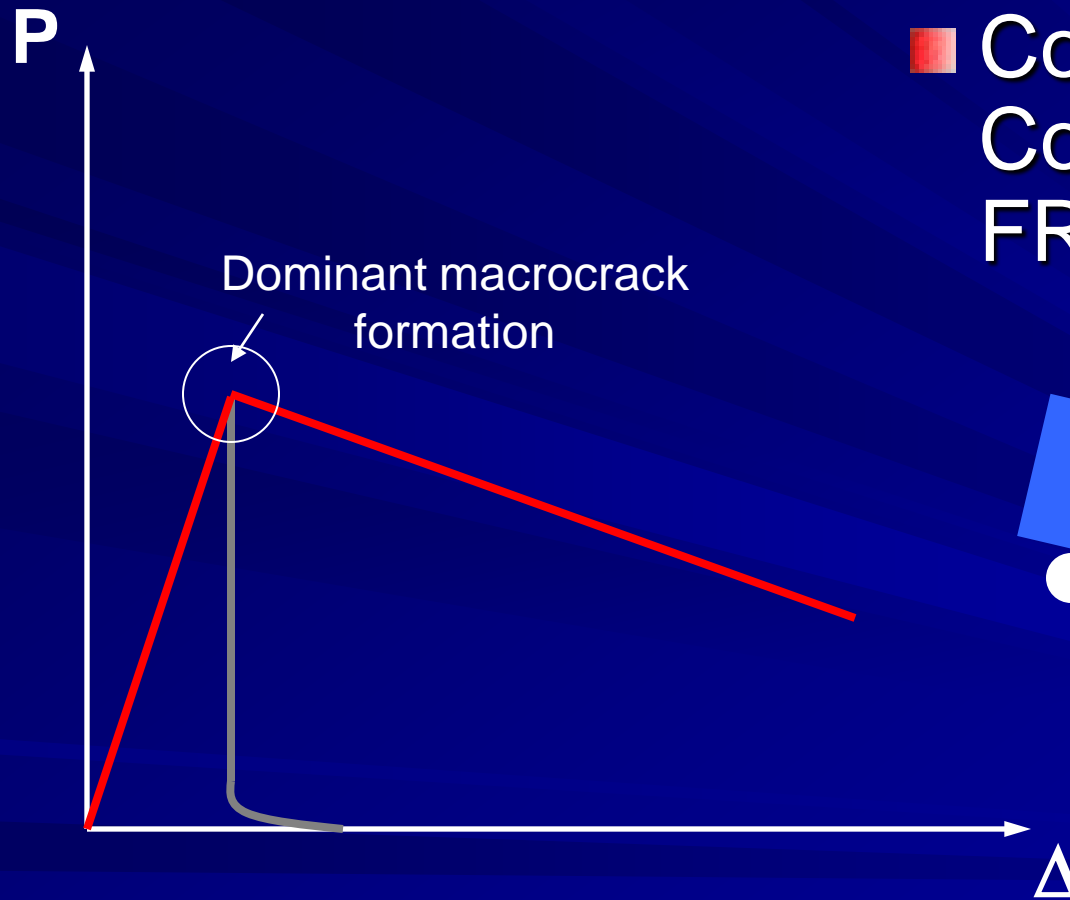
Example: Hybrid fiber reinforced concrete composite (HyFRC)



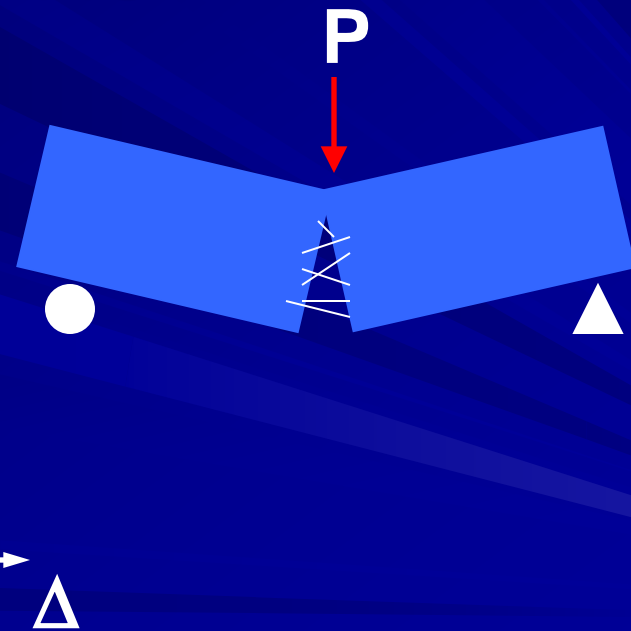
Flexure beams:  
6"x6"x28"  
 $V_f = 1.5\text{vol}\%$

# Conventional FRC

Dominant crack forms at same load level as in plain concrete

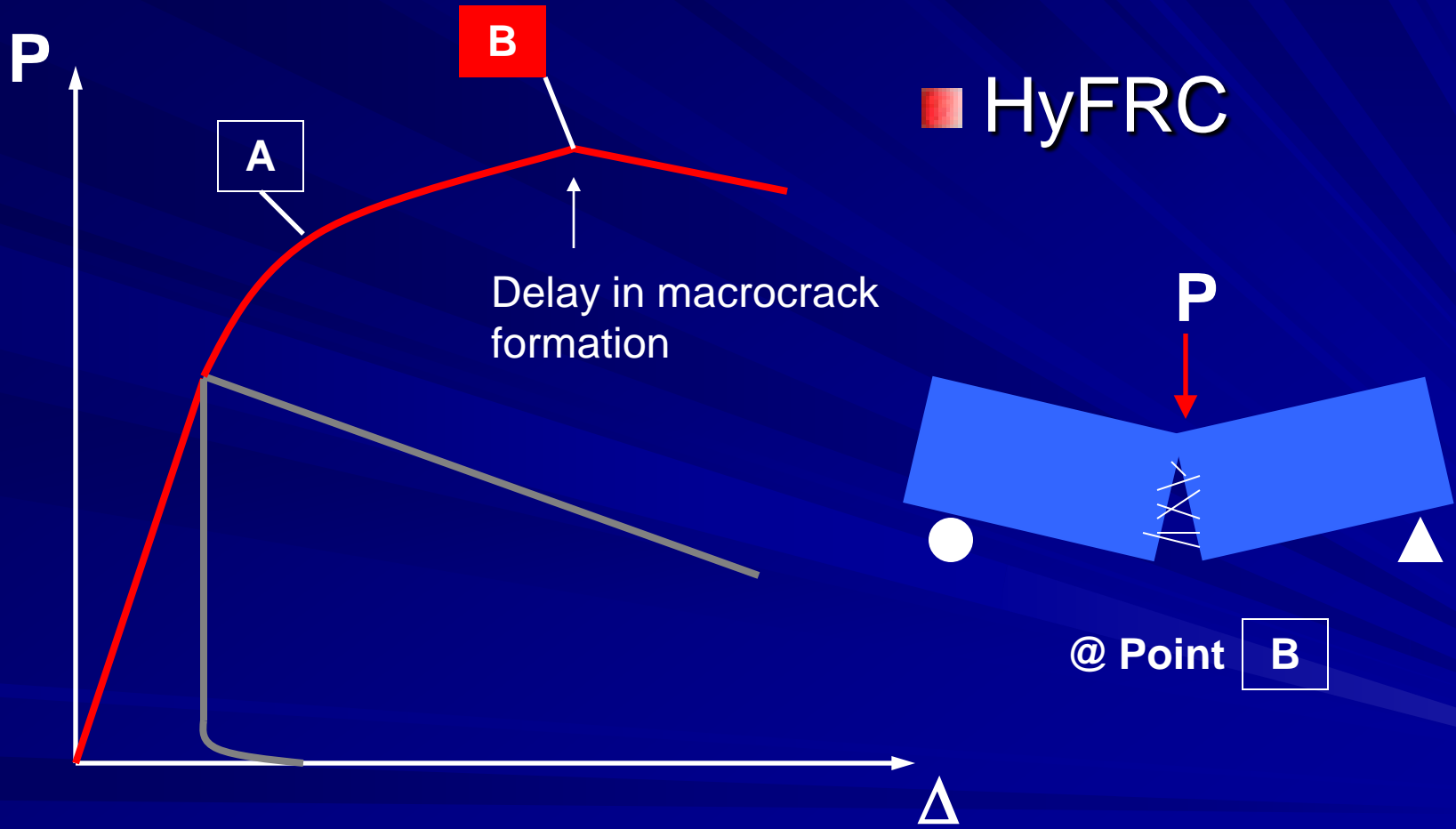


■ Concrete and Conventional FRC



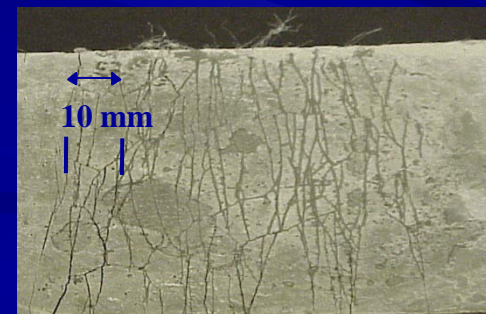
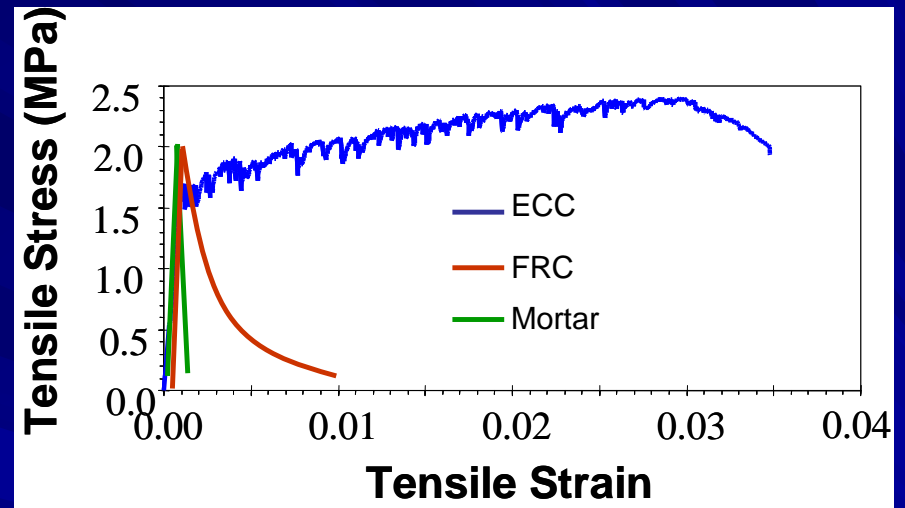
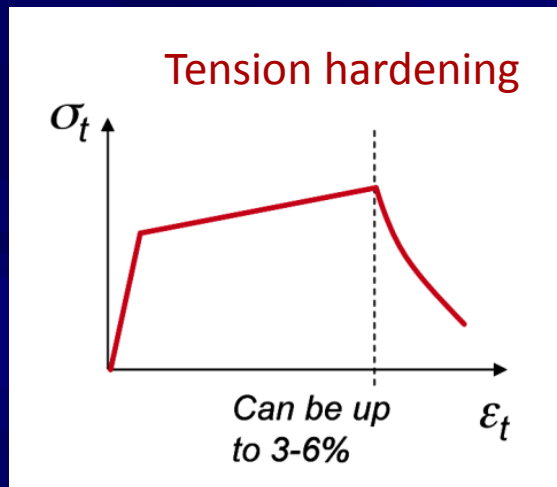


# HPFRC



## II) Characteristics of High Performance Fiber-Reinforced cement based Composites

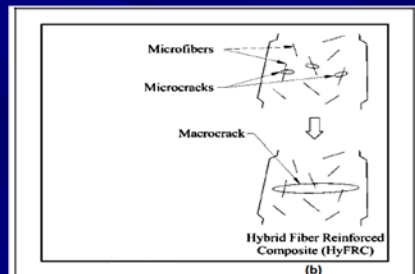
Example: Engineered Cementitious Composite (ECC)



# Examples of HPFRCCs that have been used for structural applications

**ECC:** **mortar matrix** without coarse aggregate, 2 vol% PVA fiber (developed by Prof. Li at University of Michigan)

**HyFRC:** **concrete matrix** with 9.5mm coarse aggregates, 1.5 vol% fibers (developed by Prof. Ostertag at UC Berkeley)



- **1<sup>st</sup> generation of HyFRC:** Bridge Approach Slabs for Area III (CalTrans)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> generation of HyFRC:** Self-compacting HyFRC: Bridge Columns (PEER)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> generation of HyFRC:** Service Life Enhancement and Reduction in Carbon Footprint of Highway Structures (FHWA)

	RECS 15x8	ZP305	RC-80/60-BN
<b>Material</b>	PVA	Steel	Steel
<b>Length [mm]</b>	8	30	60
<b>Diameter [mm]</b>	0.04	0.55	0.75
<b>Aspect Ratio [L/d]</b>	200	55	80
<b>Elastic Modulus [GPa]</b>	42	200	200
<b>Tensile Strength [Mpa]</b>	1600	1100	1050
<b>Volume Fraction [%]</b>	0.2	0.5	0.8
<b>Fiber Spacing [mm]</b>	0.79	6.89	7.43

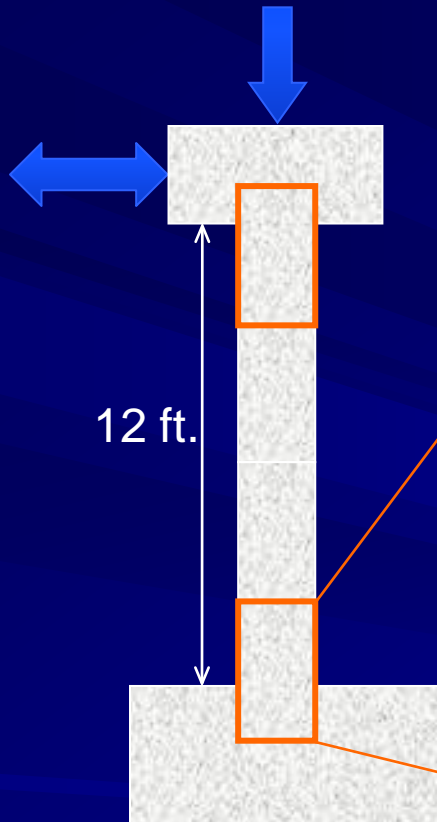
# III) Damage Resistance of bridge structures due to HPFRC

- Example #1: Precast ECC segmental bridge piers (Billington)
- Example #2: Bridge columns with Self-compacted HyFRC (SC-HyFRC); (PEER: Ostertag & Panagiotou)
- Example #3: Bridge Approach slabs in Area III with HyFRC (CalTrans: Ostertag)

# Example #1

## Damage Reduction with ECC

Precast Segmental Bridge Piers with Unbonded Post-tensioning for self-centering



ECC Hinge Region  
After ~4% drift



Reinforced Concrete  
Hinge Region  
After ~2% drift

(Rouse, 2003; Billington & Yoon, 2004; Lee & Billington, 2008)



# Example #2:

## Damage & Spalling Resistance of Bridge Columns with self-compacting HyFRC (SC-HyFRC)



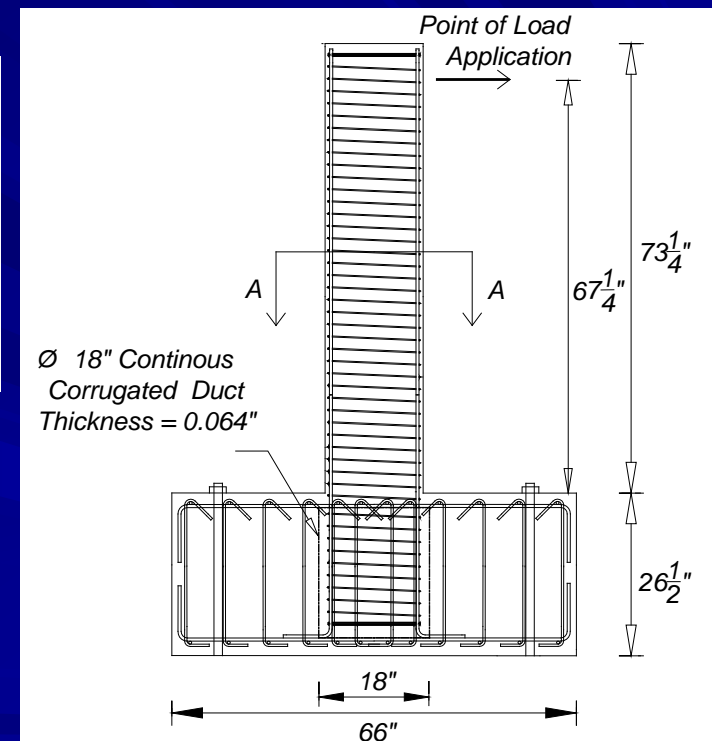
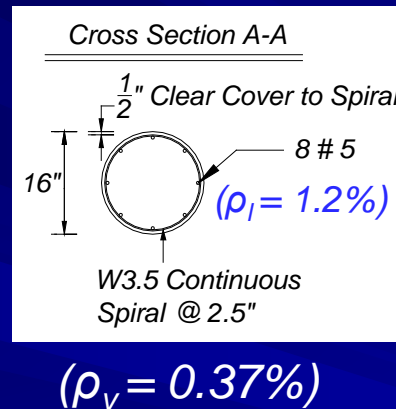
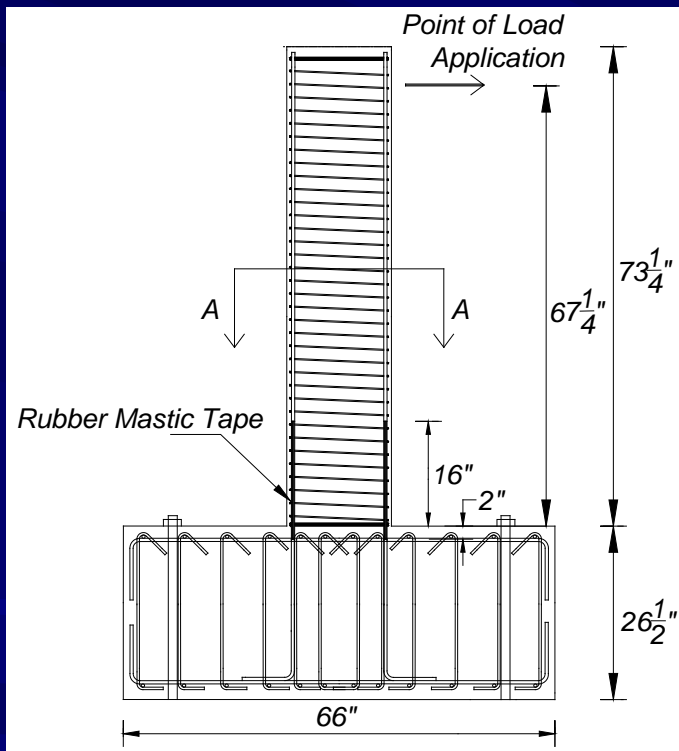
PEER funded project (Ostertag & Panagiotou)



# SC-HyFRC TEST SPECIMENS



- 1:4.7 Scale Specimens
- Aspect Ratio,  $H / D = 4$
- Axial Load Ratio,  $N / f'_c A_g = 0.1$

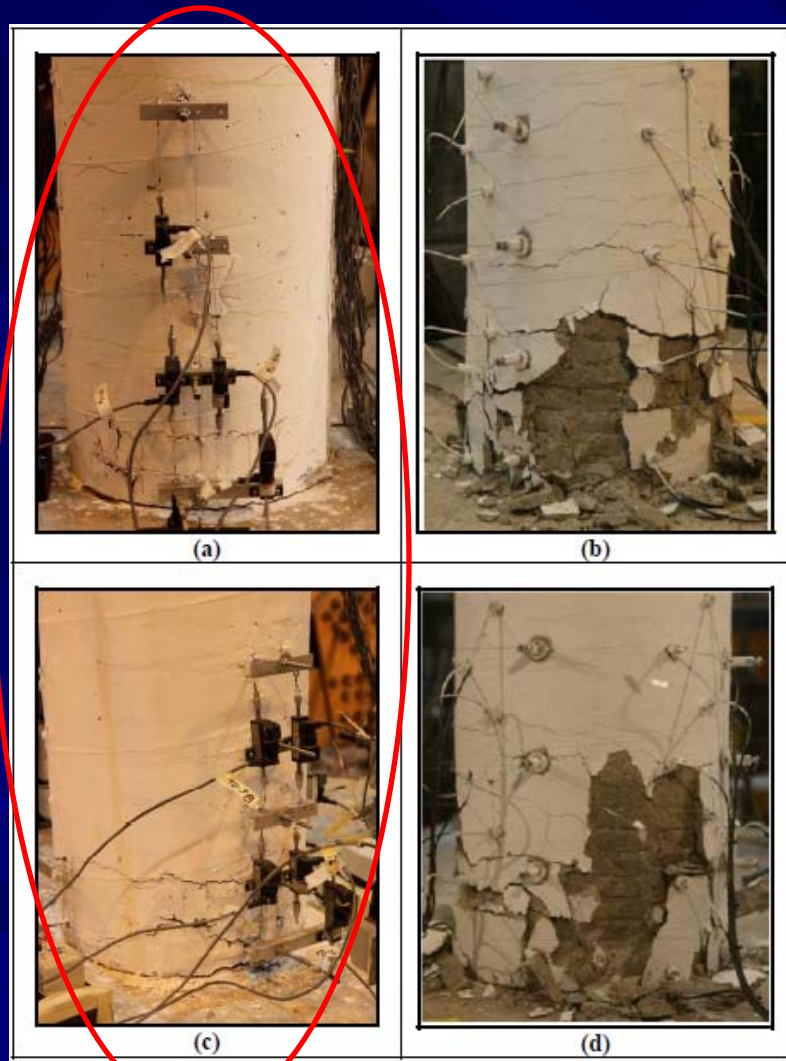


Designed to rock at column/foundation interface

Designed for plastic hinge formation



# SPALLING & DAMAGE Resistance in SC-HyFRC Bridge Columns compared to conventional concrete columns



TS-1(a), TS-2 (c); Conv. Concrete  
 $\rho_v = 0.37\%$ ;  $\rho_v = 0.7\%$

- *Damage resistance of SC-HyFRC Columns, compared to conventional Concrete Columns after being subjected to approx. same drift ratio of 4%*
- *In SC-HyFRC columns spalling of cover occurs only locally and is delayed up to 3.6% drift ratio despite half the transverse reinforcement ratio, ( $\rho_v$ ), 0.37% vs. 0.7%).*

Ostertag and Panagiotou (PEER 2011/106)  
Terzic et al, (2009)



# Damage and Spalling Resistance due to SC-HyFRC



Self-compacted HyFRC column during 11% drift

PEER (Ostertag & Panagiotou)

Drift ratio: 3.6%

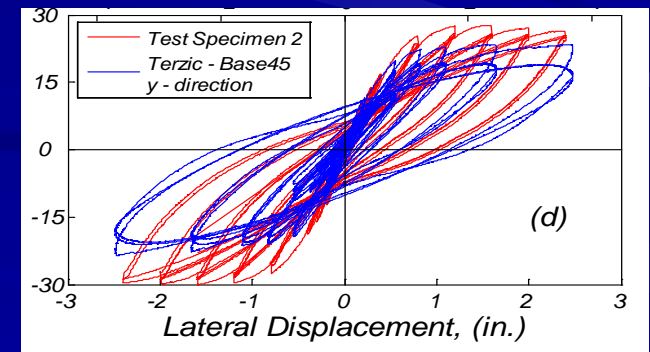


Self-compacted  
HyFRC column  
 $\rho_v=0.37\%$

4.0%

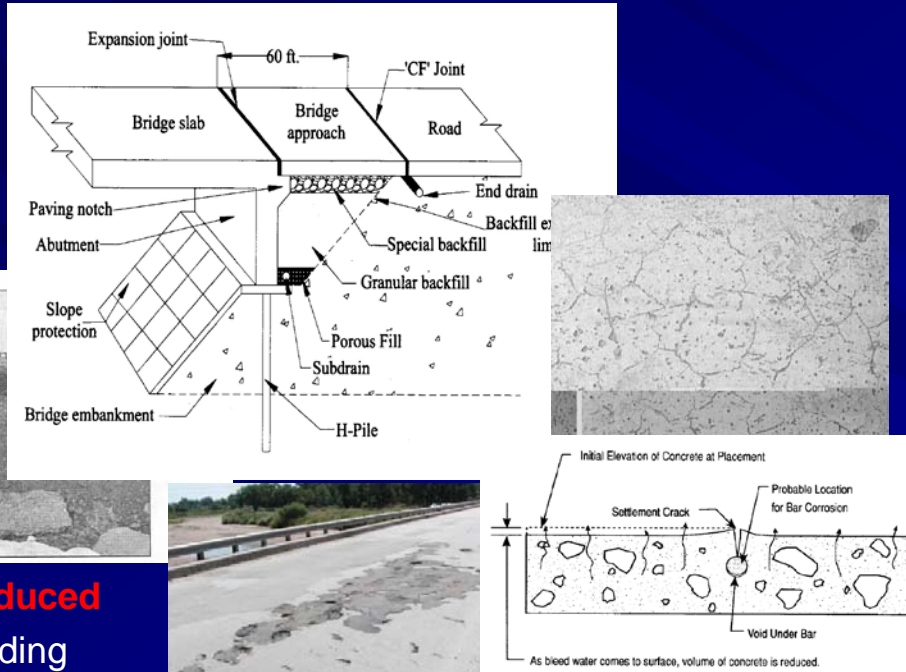


Conv. reinforced  
concrete column  
 $\rho_v=0.70\%$





# Example #3: Damage Resistance of bridge approach slabs in area III due to HyFRC



*Mitigate deterioration caused by:*  
*early age cracking,*  
*environmental,*  
*&*  
*mechanical loading conditions.*

## Mechanically induced

- Truck loading
- Soil Consolidation
- Fatigue

## Environmentally induced

- Corrosion
- Frost Action
- Alkali Silica Reaction

## Early Age Cracking

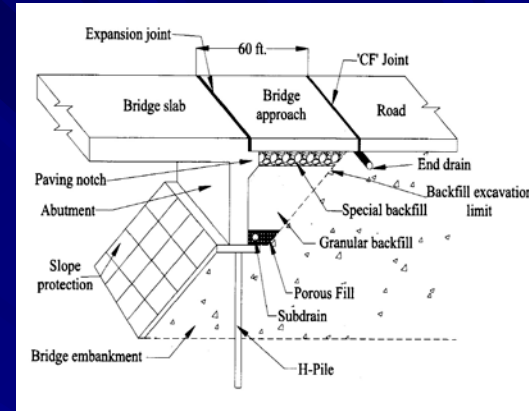
- Shrinkage
- Subsidence

CalTrans project (Ostertag)

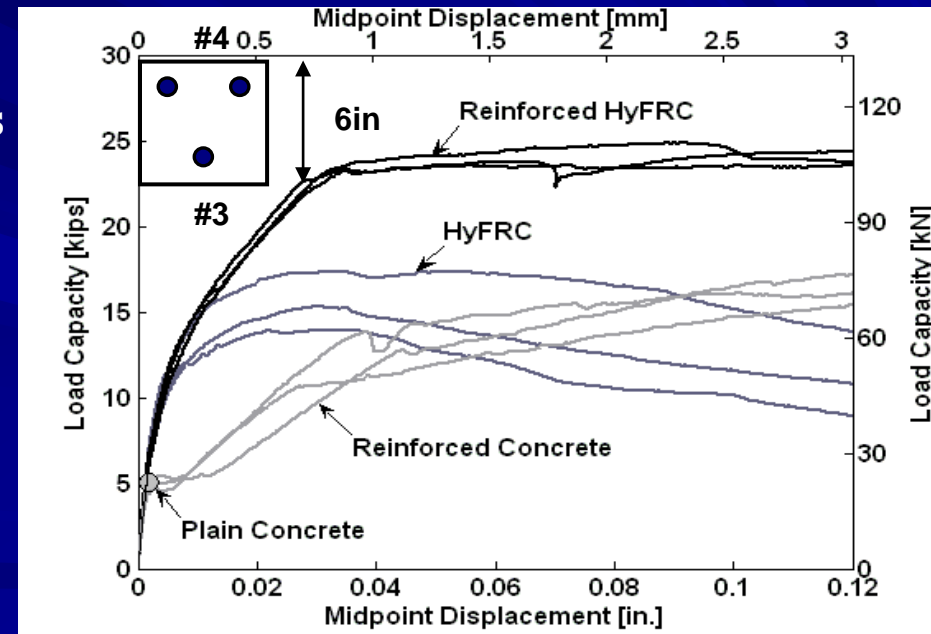
# Multi-scale crack control in HyFRC on Flexural Performance of 1/2 scale bridge approach slabs



Material	PVA	Steel	Steel
Length [mm]	8	30	60
Diameter [mm]	0.04	0.55	0.75
Aspect Ratio [L/d]	200	55	80
Elastic Modulus [GPa]	42	200	200
Tensile Strength [Mpa]	1600	1100	1050
Volume Fraction [%]	0.2	0.5	0.8
Fiber Spacing [mm]	0.79	6.89	7.43



**Beam size: 6"x6"x24" (15cm x15cm x60cm)**  
**Fibers: PVA microfibers and steel macrofibers**  
**( $V_f=1.5\%$ )**



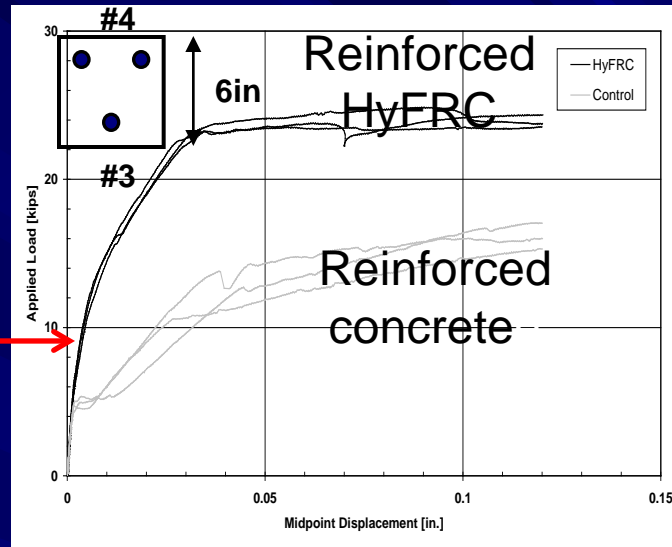
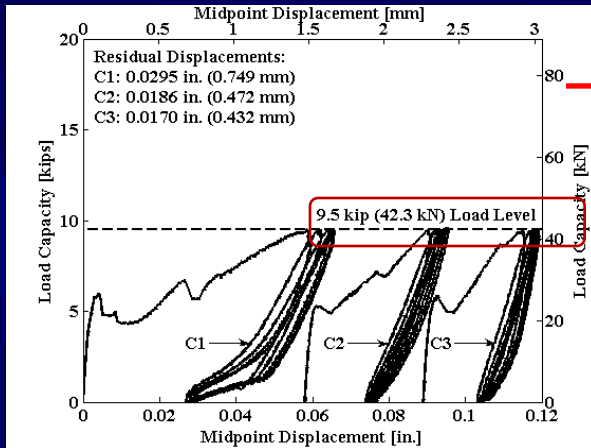
**HyFRC versus reinforced concrete**  
**1/2 scale bridge approach slab**

Blunt & Ostertag, ACI, Vol. 106, p. 265 (2009)  
 Blunt & Ostertag, ASCE, Vol. 135, p. 978 (2009)  
 CalTrans Report No. CA09-0632, 2008.

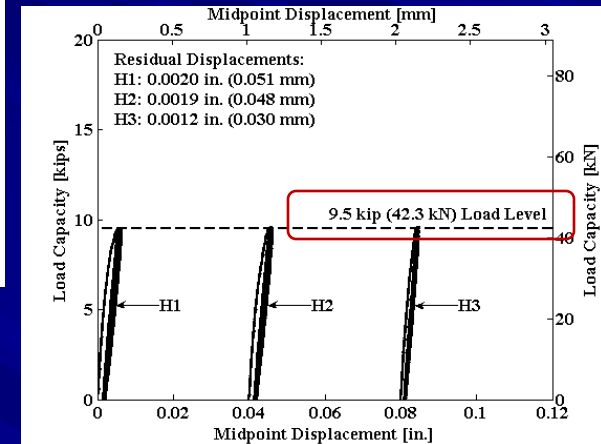
# Damage Resistance of Reinforced HyFRC



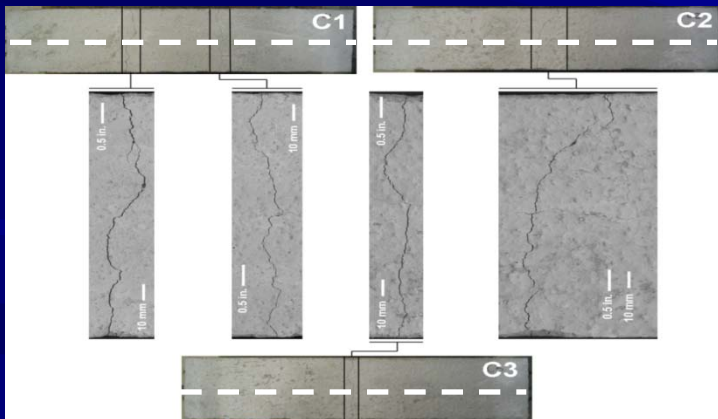
## Reinforced Concrete



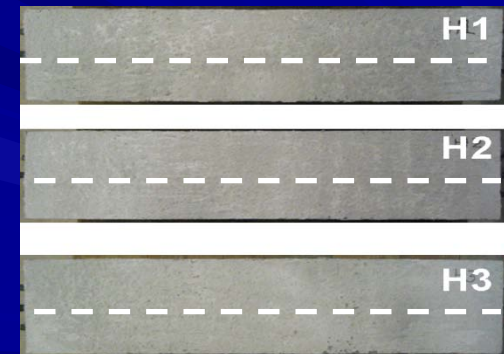
## Reinforced HyFRC



Flexural Performance of 1/2 scale bridge approach slabs



Macrocrack formation after 5 cycles of 9.5 kip loading



No crack formation after 5 cycles at 9.5 kips

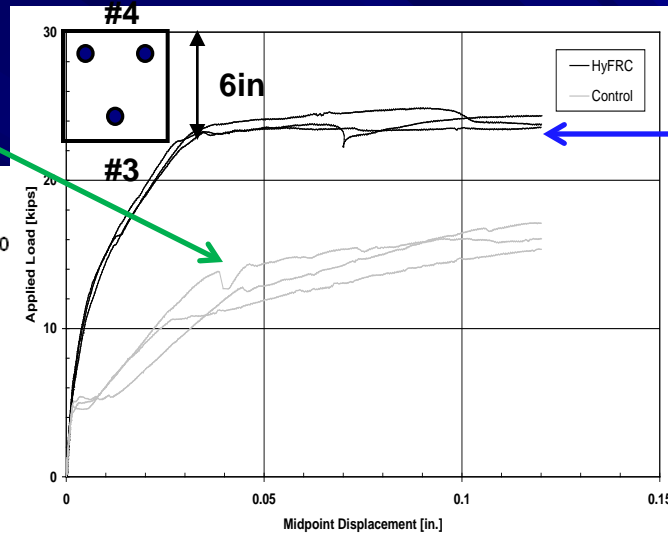
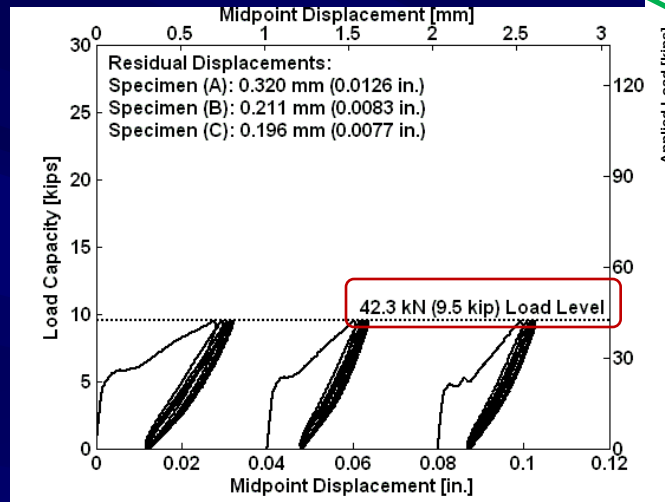
Ostertag and Blunt, FraMCoS-7 Jeju Korea, 2010

Blunt and Ostertag, ACI J. Engrg. Mech., 2009

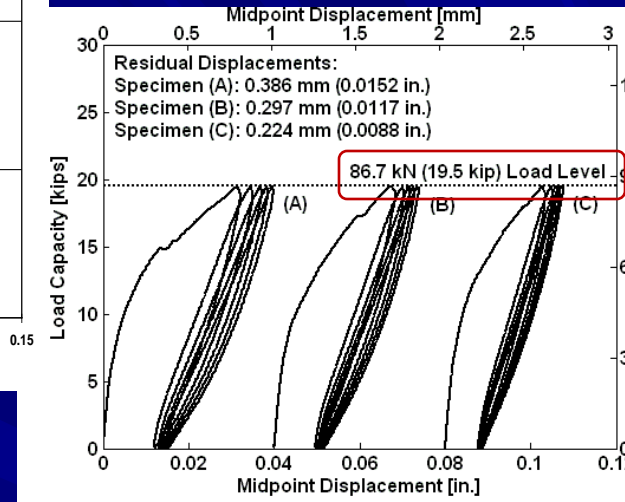
# Damage Resistance of Reinforced HyFRC despite 2x the applied load



## Reinforced Concrete

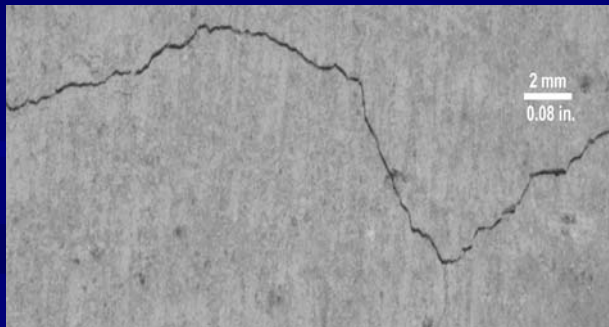


## Reinforced HyFRC



## Flexural Performance of 1/2 scale bridge approach slabs

Ostertag and Blunt, FraMCoS-7 Jeju Korea, 2010  
 Blunt and Ostertag, J. Engrg. Mech., 2009



Macro crack formed in control concrete after 5 cycles of 9.5 kip loading



Only Microcracks formed in HyFRC after 5 cycles despite double the load level

# Exposure of pre-loaded Control and HyFRC beams to 3% NaCl ponding solution



Tensile Surface (in flexure) exposed to 3% NaCl ponding solution in hot chamber (50°C at 50% RH)

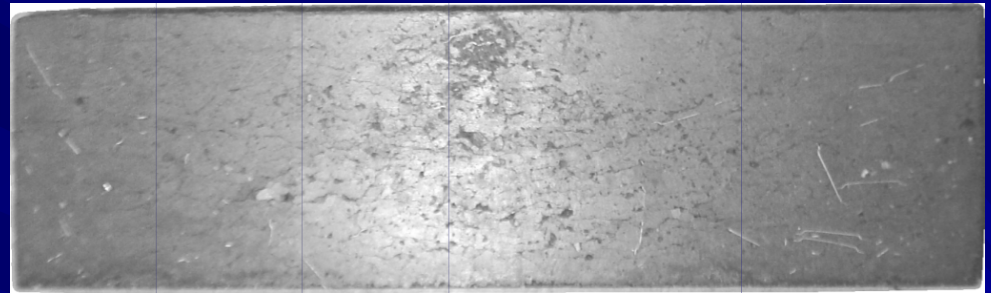
Electrochemical measurements:

- Corrosion potential measurements
- Polarization resistance measurements
- Galvanic current flow measurements

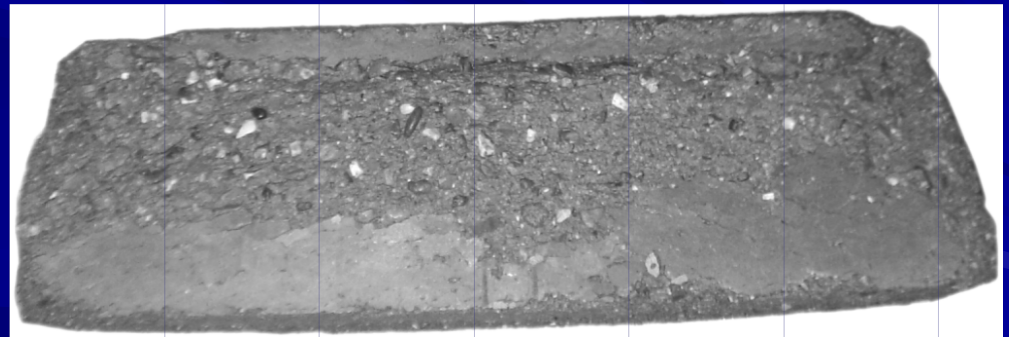
# Effect of HyFRC on Frost Resistance

ASTM C666 test

Cycling temperature:  
+4°C to -18°C



HyFRC: after **220 cycles**



Plain Concrete: after **50 cycles**

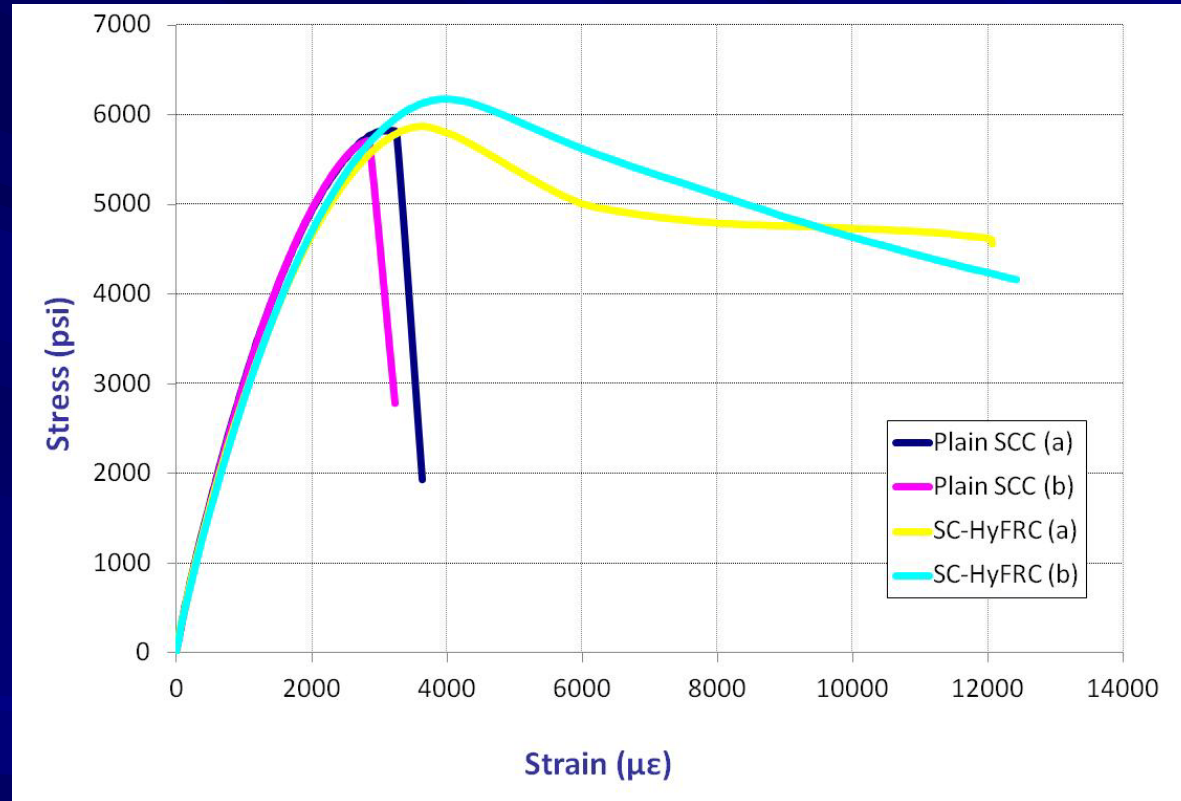
# HPFRCCs enhance damage resistance and durability plus:

- Provide **Internal confinement** and **tension-stiffening** [see student Poster (PEER funded project Billington & Ostertag on ECC and HyFRC)]



SC-HyFRC provides **internal confinement** which

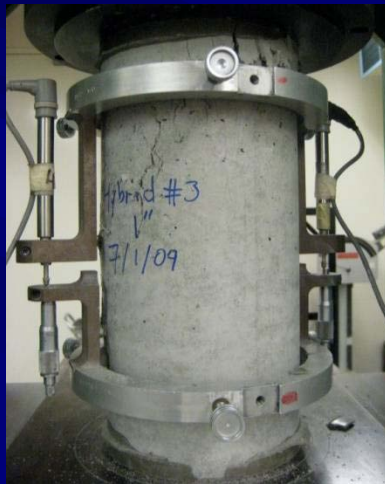
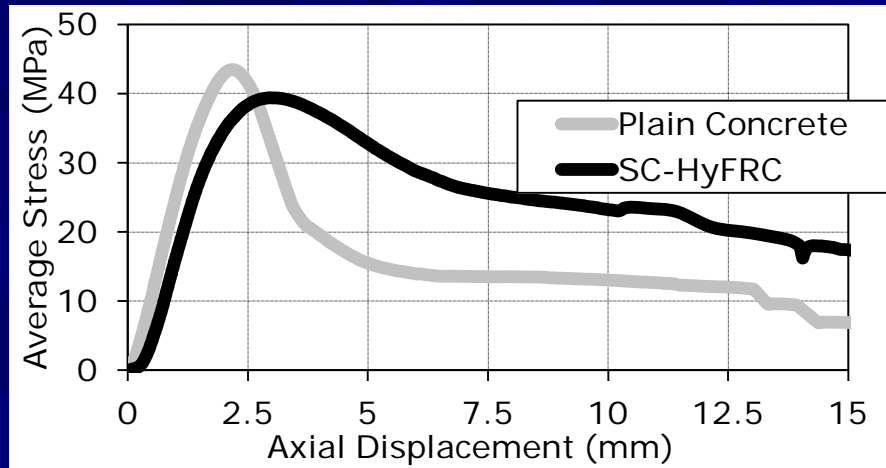
- i) Leads to stable softening behavior
- ii) Provides spalling and damage resistance &
- iii) Allows reduction in transverse reinforcements



Unconfined SC-HyFRC and Control (SCC) in compression

# Internal Confinement of HyFRC leads to **spalling and damage resistance**

Confined specimens tested in compression



$\rho_s = 0.5\%$

Cylinders:  
6"x12"



Concrete: extensive spalling



SC-HyFRC: delay in damage initiation and damage progression

PEER project Billington & Ostertag

# Large-Scale Verification

- Better performance in SC-HyFRC with **half the spiral reinforcement**

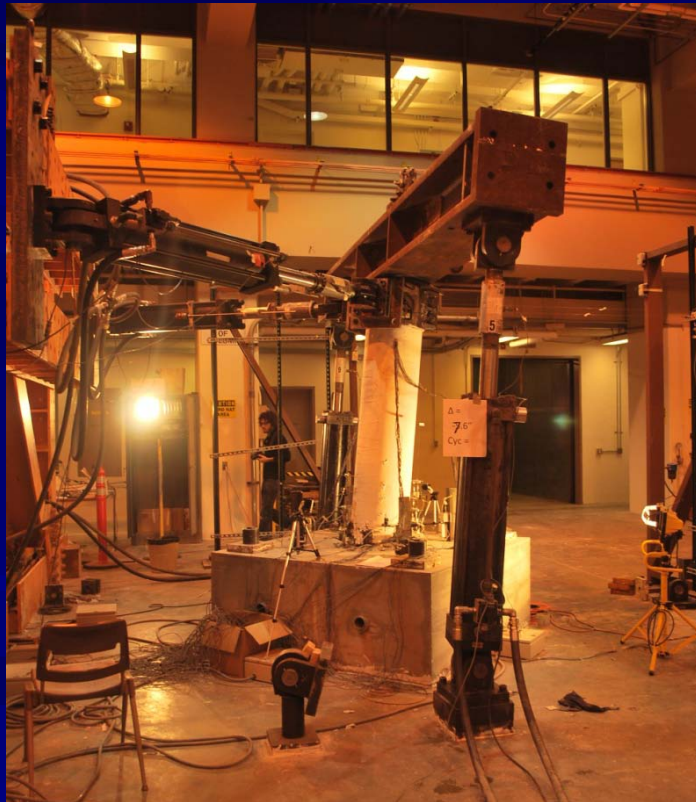
## Drift Ratio

3.6%

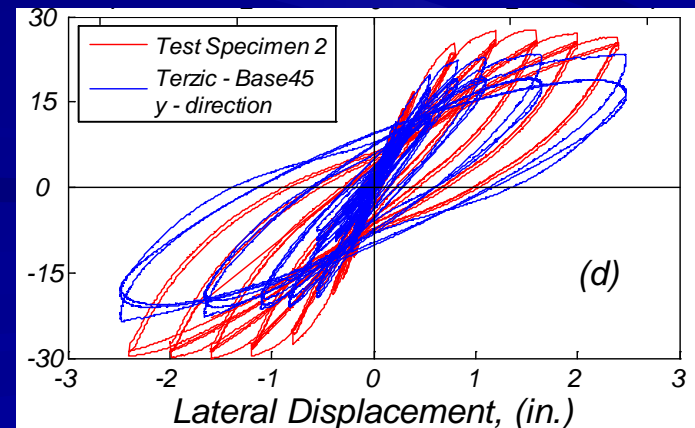
4.0%



Self-compacted HyFRC column  $\rho_s = 0.37\%$       Conv. reinforced concrete column,  $\rho_s = 0.70\%$



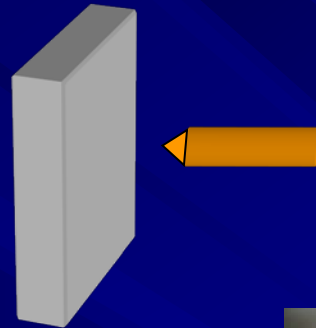
Self-compacted HyFRC column during 11% drift  
PEER (Ostertag & Panagiotou)



# HPFRCCs enhance damage resistance and durability plus:

- Provide **Internal confinement** and **tension-stiffening** (see Poster by Billington & Ostertag on ECC and HyFRC)
- Provide **Shear resistance** (Prof. Billington in TSRP session on High Performance materials and Sustainable Structural Design)
- Provide **Impact Resistance** (Dr. Vossoughi in TSRP session on High Performance materials and Sustainable Structural Design)

# Multi-scale Crack Control in HyFRC on Impact Resistance



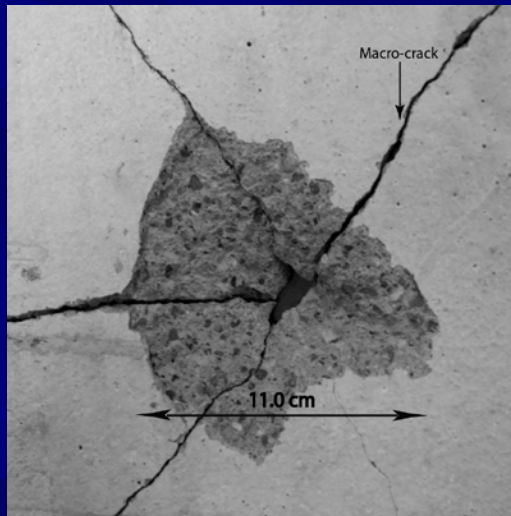
Plain Concrete

Panel size:  
12"x12"x1"

HyFRC

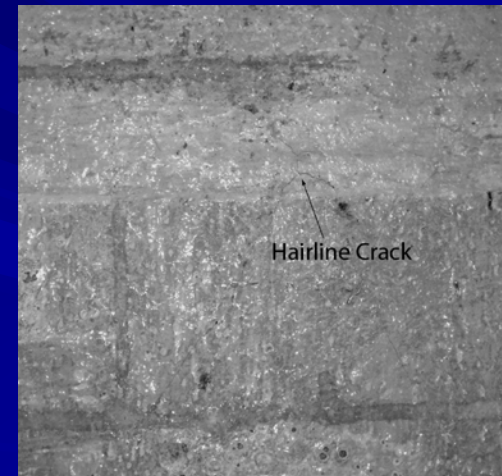


Back  
Face



Velocity of projectile: 127m/s

Back  
Face



Velocity of projectile: 167m/s

# Reservations towards HPFRCCs

**“...HPFRCCs in structures will lead to higher initial cost...”**

True..... but:

- HPFRCCs allow new design possibilities due to enhanced performance and allow reduction in steel reinforcement
- Less Repair and extended Service Life

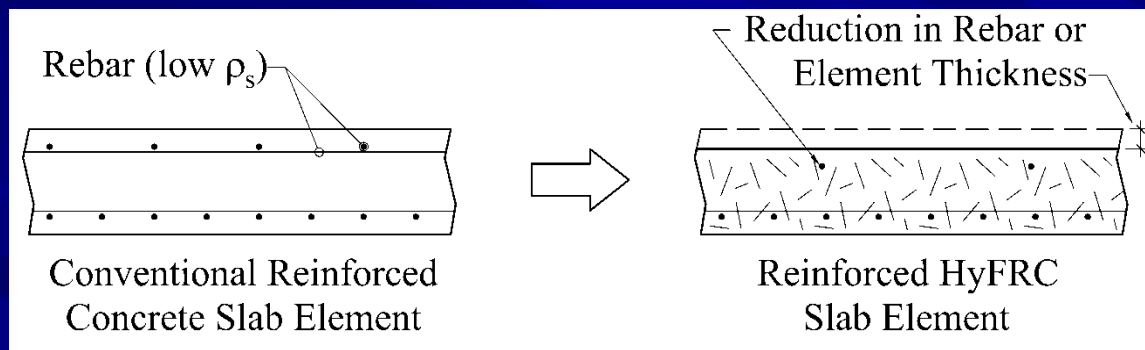
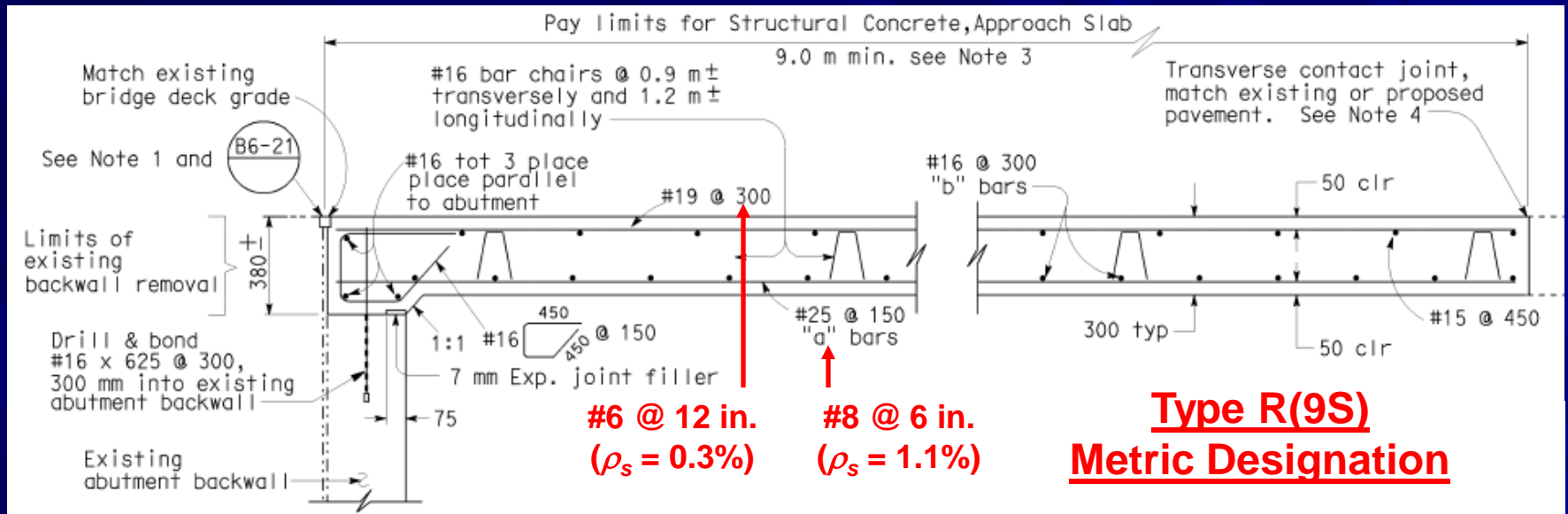
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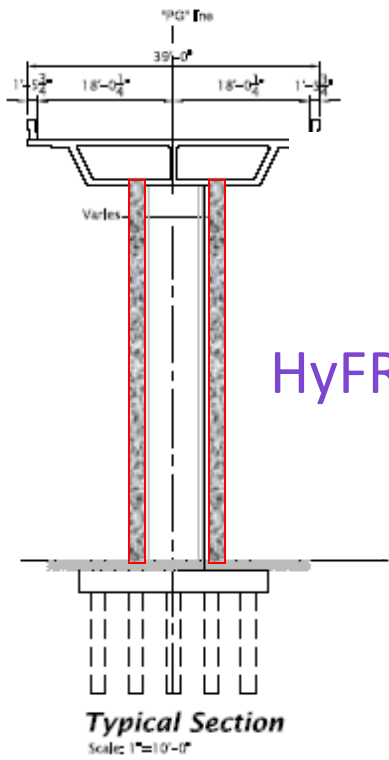
- HPFRCCs allow new design possibilities due to enhanced performance and allow reduction in steel reinforcement
- Less Repair and extended Service Life

# BAS Detail Modification due to HyFRC

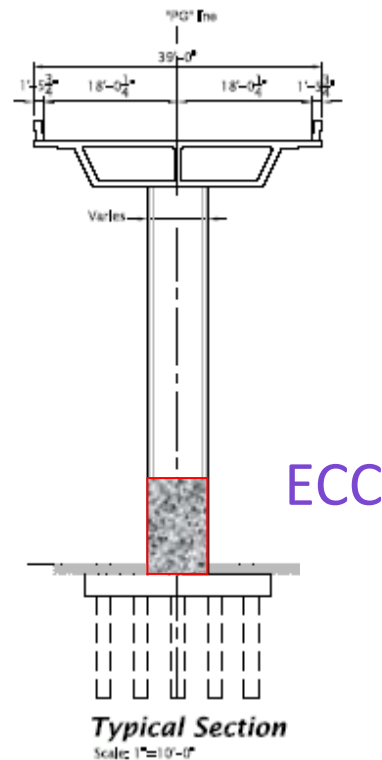




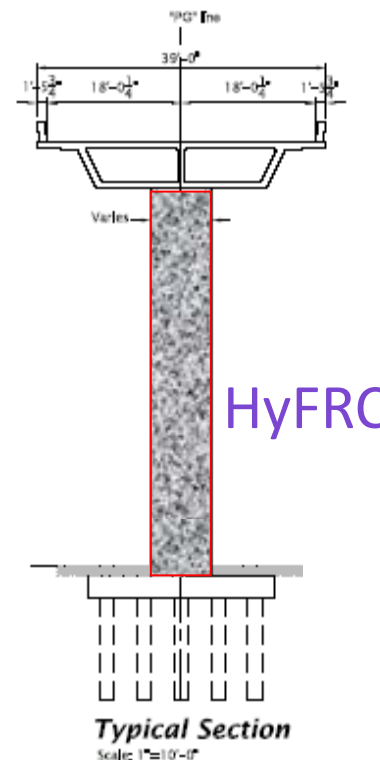
# HPFRC allow new design possibilities due to enhanced performance



HyFRC



ECC



HyFRC



Current PEER Project on precast structural HyFRC tubes as permanent formwork

# Reservations towards HPFRCCs

**“...HPFRCCs in structures will lead to higher initial cost...”**

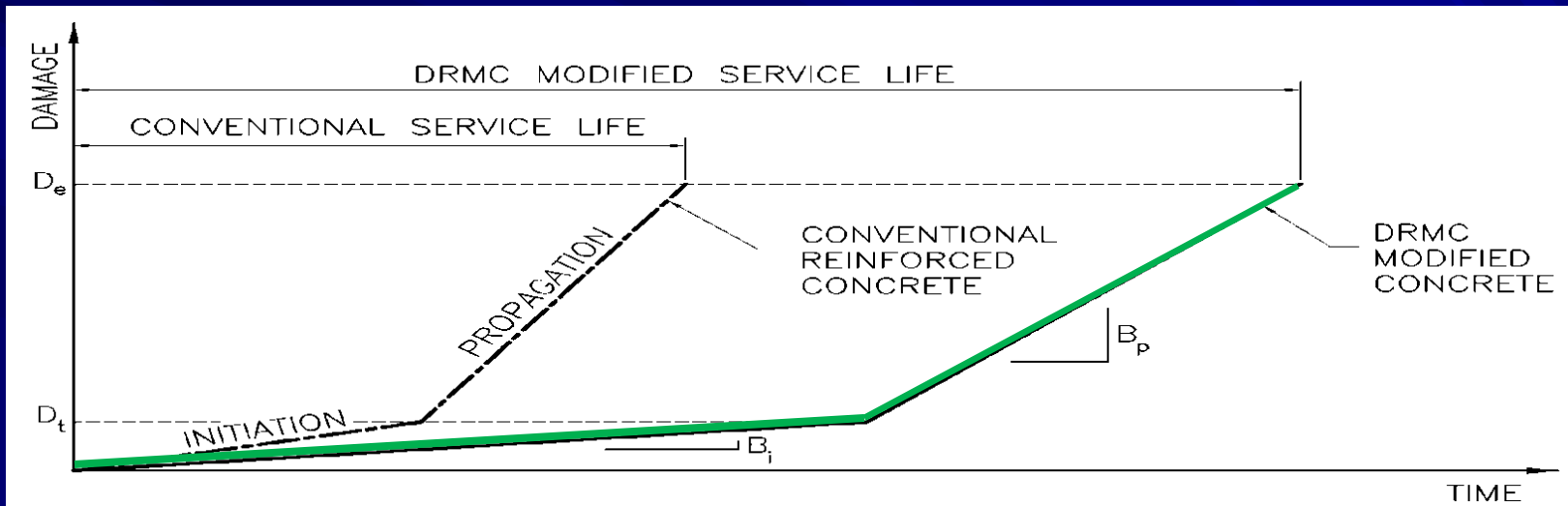
True..... but:

- HPFRCCs allow new design possibilities due to enhanced performance
- HPFRCC allow reduction in steel reinforcement
- **Less Repair and extended Service Life**

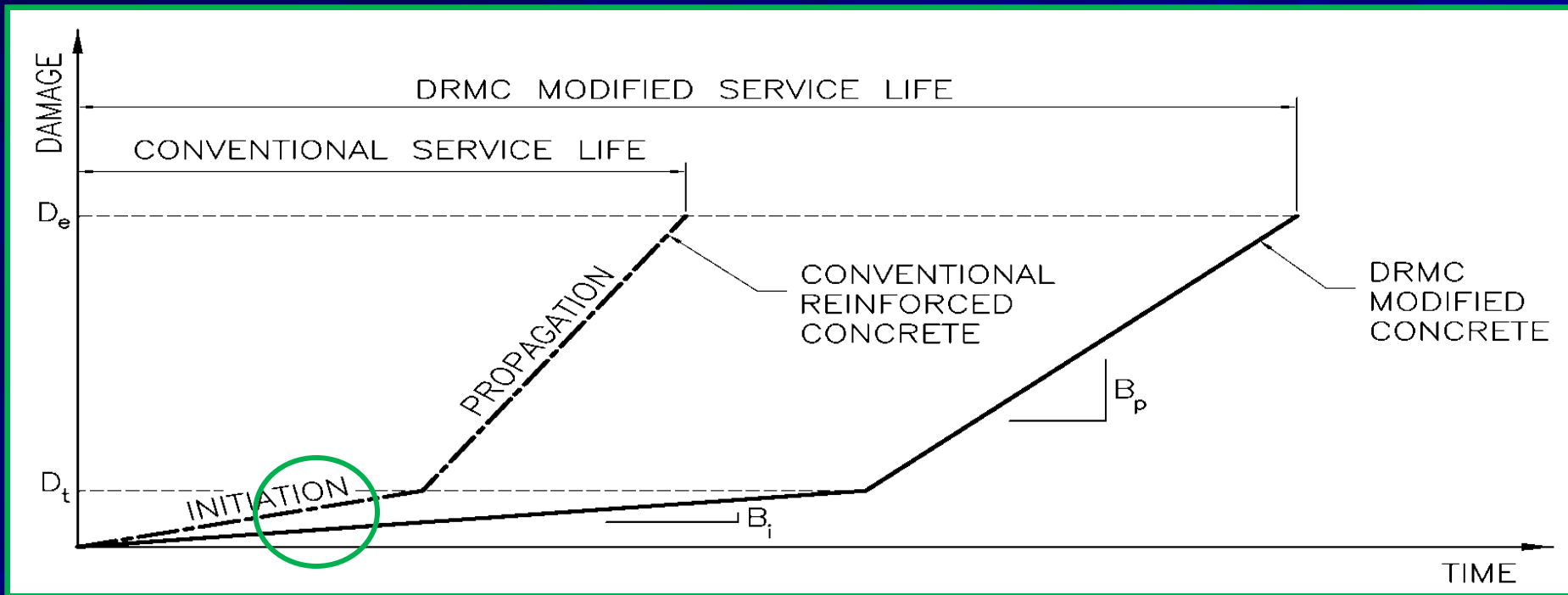


# Higher initial cost but less repair and Extended Service Life

**HPFRCCs** have the potential to extend the initiation phase and slow down the propagation phase of damage



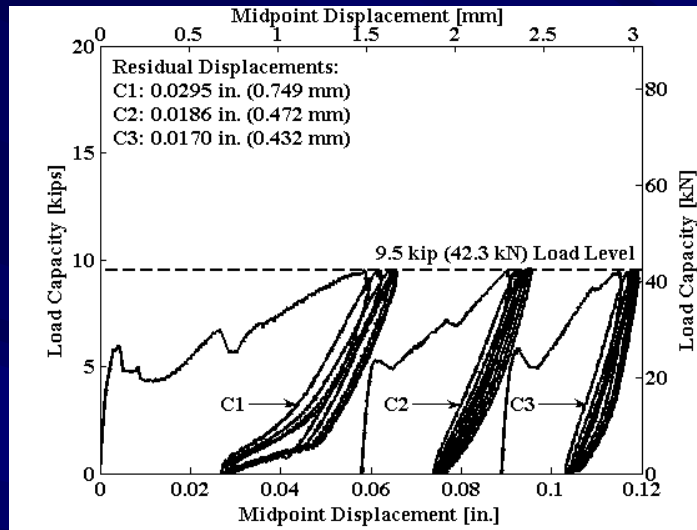
# HPFRCCs extend the Damage Initiation Phase



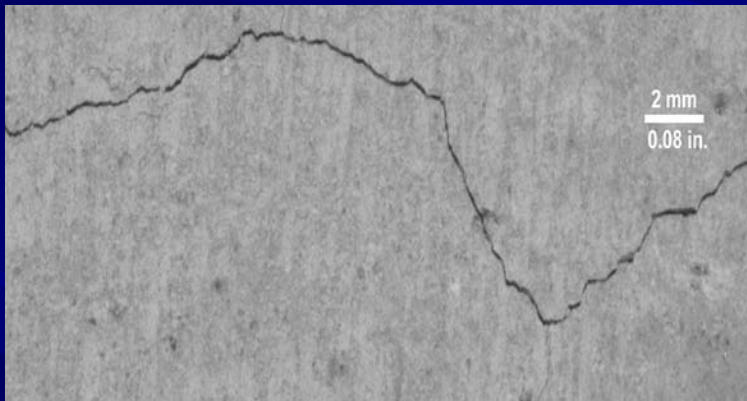
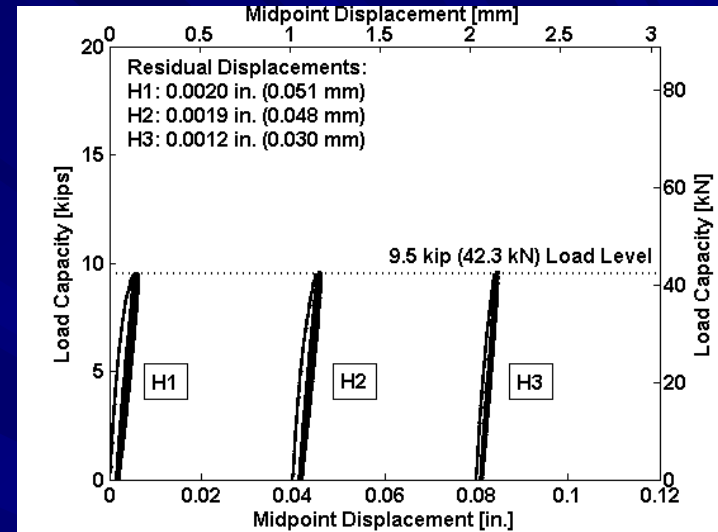
Because HPFRCCs provide the necessary crack resistance and thereby minimize ingress of aggressive agents into the concrete

# Extending Damage Initiation Phase due to HyFRC

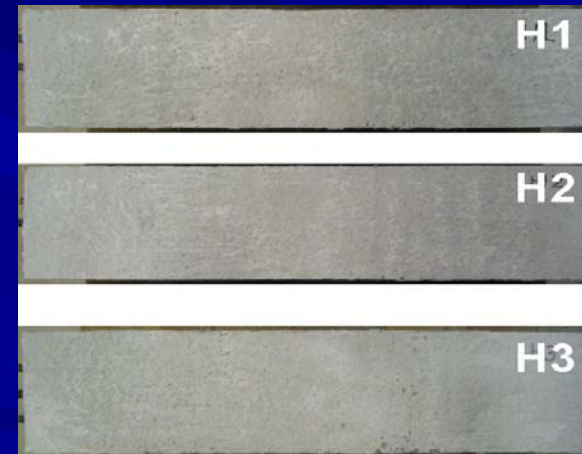
## Control BAS



## HyFRC BAS

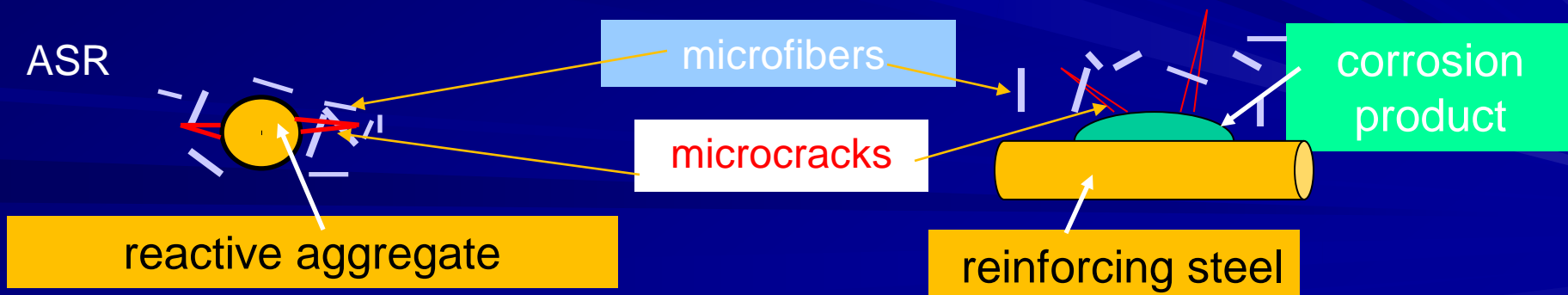
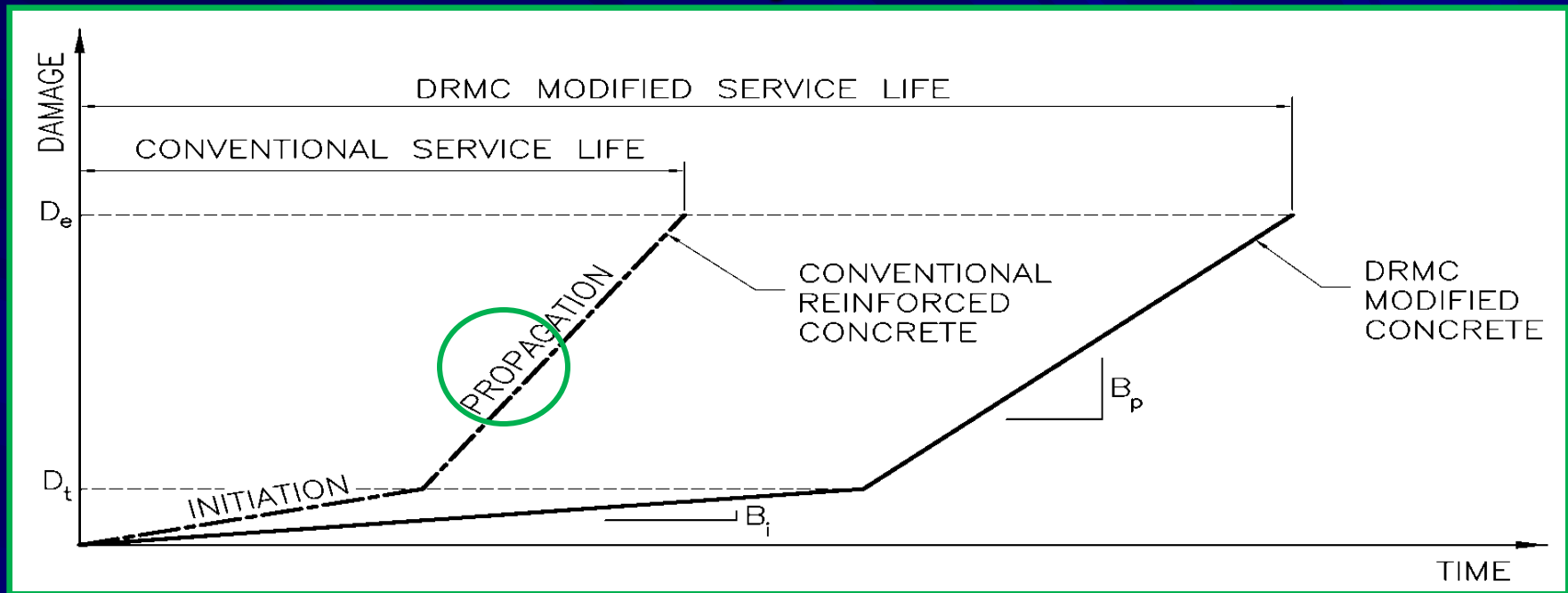


Dominant crack in control specimens after 5 cycles



No cracks in HyFRC after 5 cycles (same load)

# Slowing down Damage Propagation Phase with HyFRC



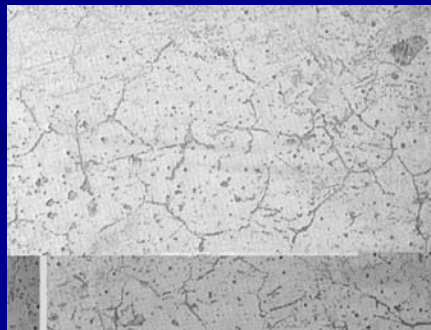
Microfibers bridge these microcracks in close vicinity to the reaction site at onset

# Reservations towards HPFRCCs

“... for Corrosion resistance why not using stainless steel rebars...”

Yes.... but

- not effective in regards to other environmental deterioration processes such as ASR, damage due to frost action, sulfate attack etc...



## Concerns in regards to HPFRCCs

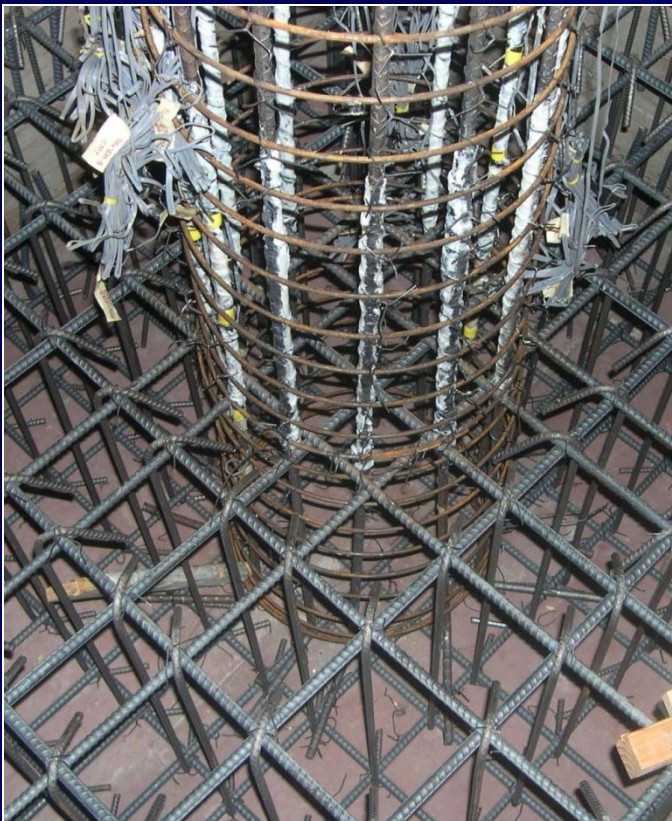
“...Adding fibers reduces workability ... makes it more difficult for CIP applications specially for structures in seismic prone regions that are heavily reinforced...”

- In principle true ... but not anymore ... due to self-compacting HPFRCCs





# SC-HyFRC FOR BRIDGE COLUMNS



*Casting of Self-compacting HyFRC bridge columns without external and internal vibration (PEER funded project; Ostertag & Panagiotou).*

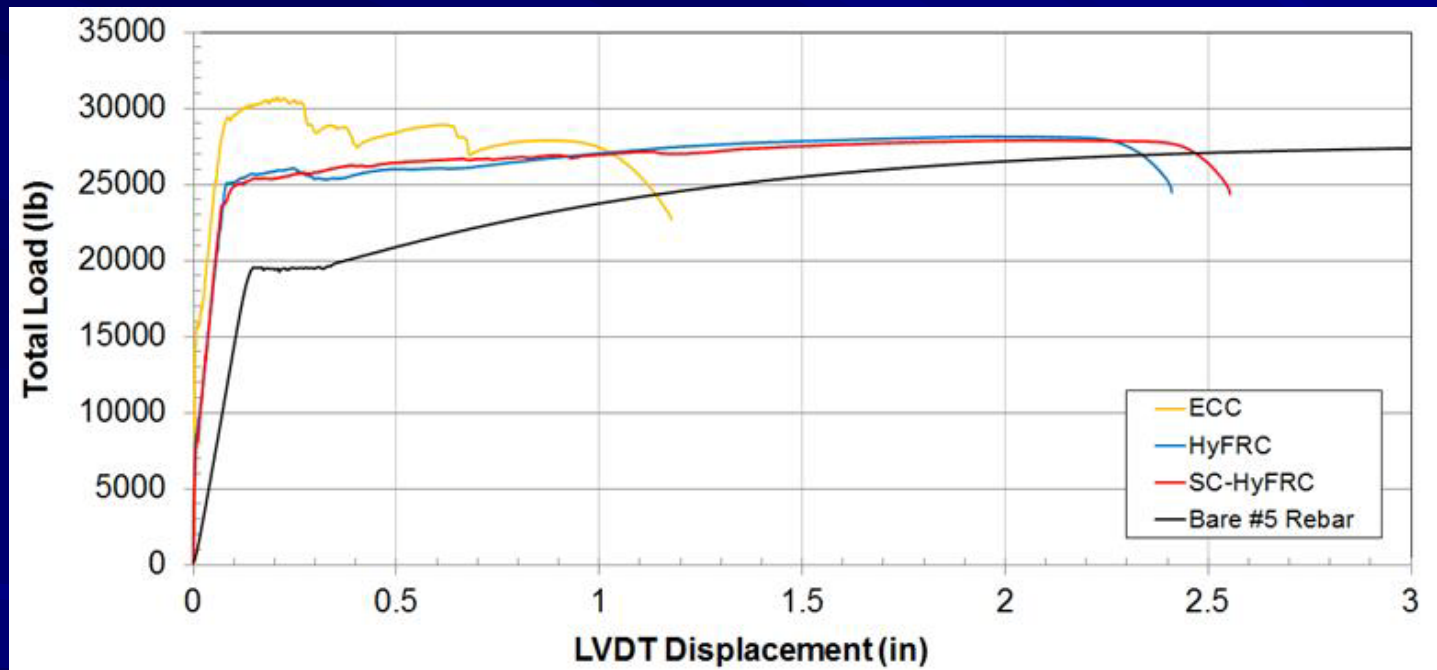
# Concerns in regards to HPFRCCs

“HPFRCC matrix grabs onto rebar and cause localization and premature failure of rebar”

- True for UHPFRC ... but not for ECC and HyFRC (see PEER student poster on confinement and tension stiffening; PEER project: Billington & Ostertag)

# Tension stiffening and high ultimate load capacity of ECC, HyFRC and SC-HyFRC

ECC, HyFRC and SC-HyFRC are able to carry tension to strains far greater than the yield strain of the steel reinforcing bar

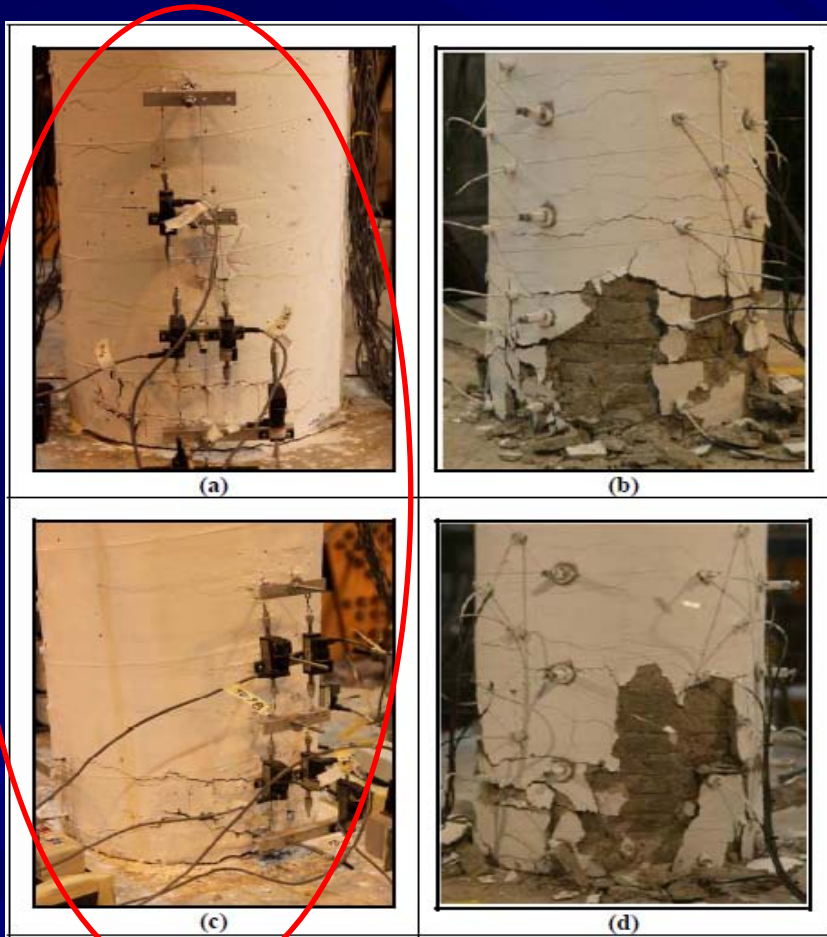


PEER Poster session: “Tension stiffening and Confinement in HPFRCCs”: Billington & Ostertag;  
Poster presenter: Will Trono (UCB)

41” long with 5”x 5”  
cross-section  
 $\rho=1.2\%$



# Summary



## HPFRCCs

- Enhance Damage Resistance (when exposed to both seismic and environmental loading conditions)
- Extend Service Life of concrete structures
- Make Structures more sustainable (by preserving our resources)

TS-1(a), TS-2 (c); *Conv. Concrete*  
 $\rho_v = 0.37\%$ ;  $\rho_v = 0.7\%$



# Summary

## HPFRCCs

- Provides a Holistic Approach towards enhancing the Durability of concrete structures

(i.e. it does not only mitigate corrosion but also ASR, frost damage, salt scaling, drying shrinkage... etc).



# Research NEEDS:

Whereas mechanical properties of plain HPFRCCs have been studied and are well documented,

- Few studies exist on synergy between HPFRCC matrix and steel rebar.
- Model development and establish design guidelines
- Need large scale test verification for HPFRCCs in CIP and ABC applications

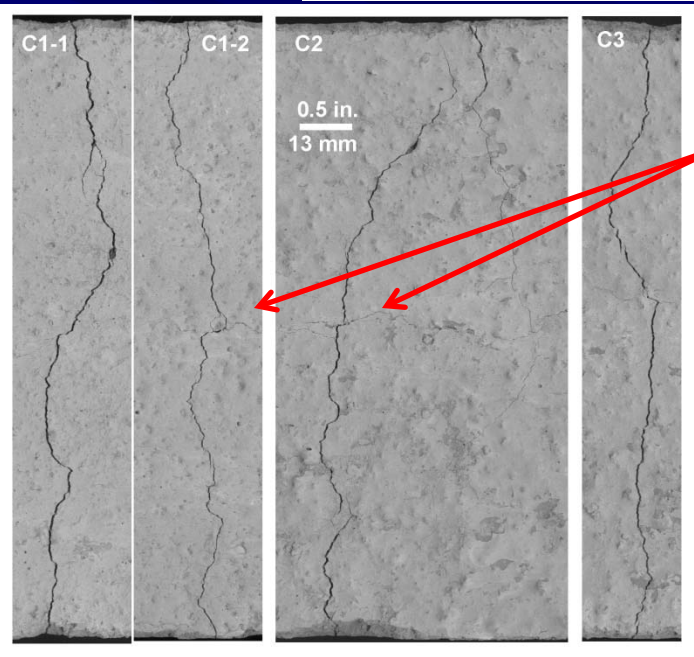
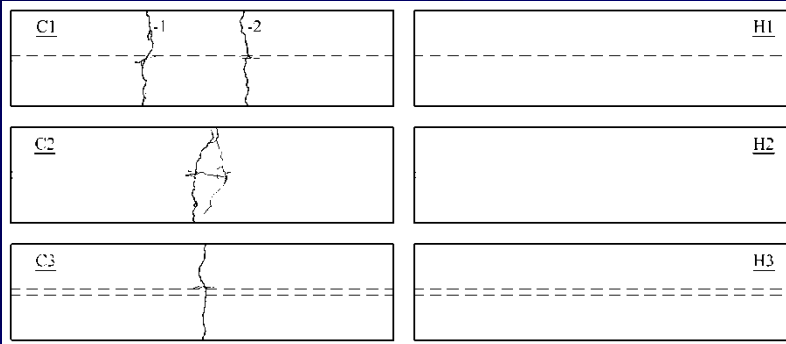
# TSRP session on High Performance Materials & Sustainable Structural Design; Session Chair: Prof. Billington (Sa afternoon)

Speakers	Affiliation	Title of presentation
Phil Hoffman	Structural	Design and Usage of Micro-Reinforced Concrete (Ducon) for Seismic jacketing and other Applications
Ying Zhou	Tongji University, Shanghai, China	High Performance Concrete Structural Walls for Tall Buildings
Fariborz Vossoughi	Ben C. Gerwick, Inc.	Impact Resistance of High Performance Materials
Sarah Billington	Stanford University	Performance and Modeling of Damage Tolerant Fiber-reinforced Concrete in Seismic Retrofits
Claudia Ostertag	UC Berkeley	Durable and Damage Resistant High Performance Fiber reinforced Bridge Structures
Lindsey Maclise	Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc	Sustainable Materials Certification
Arpad Horvath	UC Berkeley	Principles of Sustainable Design for Structures
Michael Lepech	Stanford University	Life Cycle Assessment of Concrete Structures in Multi-hazard Environments

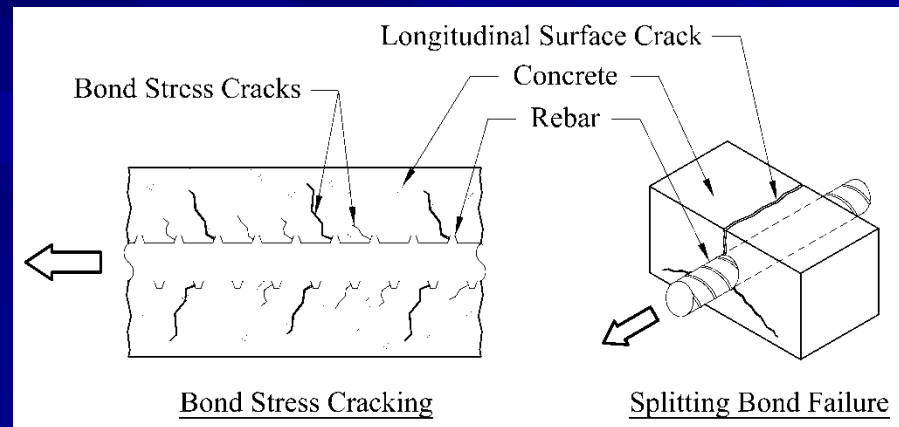
Thank you for your attention



# Corrosion Experiments revealed that splitting bond cracks in reinforced concrete increase Cl ingress



**Fine cracks parallel to rebar (splitting bond cracks) in control specimens**



Splitting bond cracks **not** observed in HyFRC due to :

- 1) Fibers reduce load demand on rebar thereby reducing bond stresses
- 2) Fibers effective in reducing crack propagation and growth of bond cracks