



Precision and Bias Testing

Electrical Resistivity and Formation Factor

September 27th – National Concrete Consortium

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Edwards Distinguished Professor, Oregon State University



Concrete Quality



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Concrete Quality

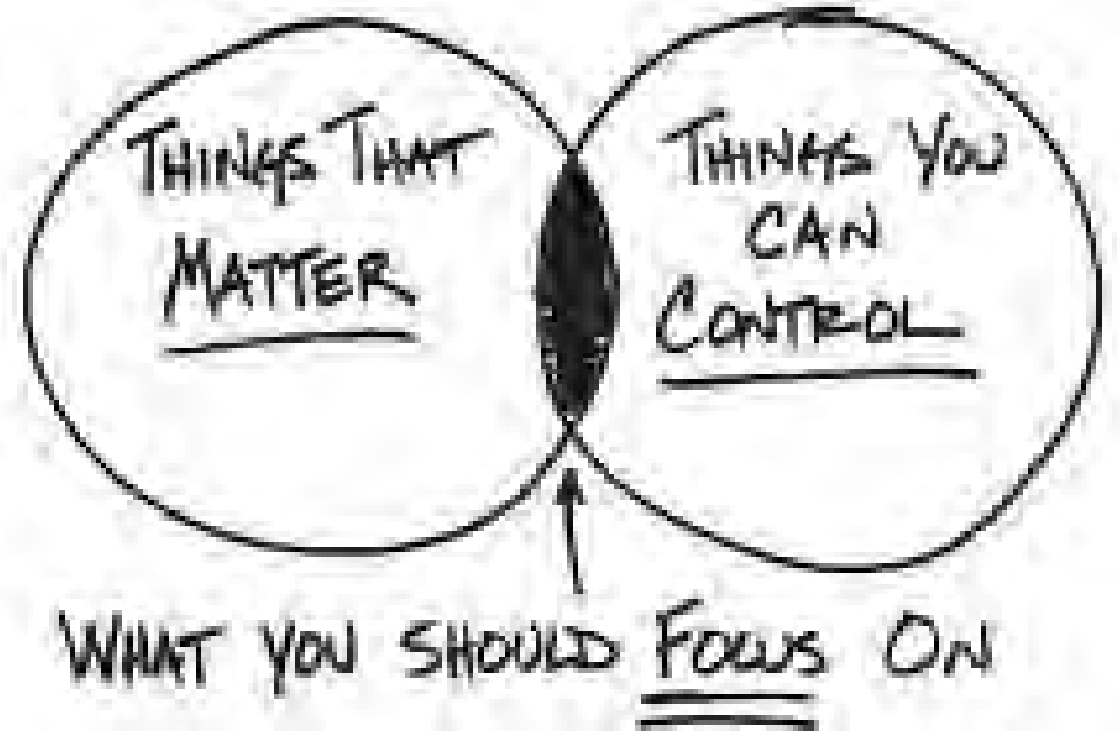


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Concrete Quality

- A large part of good concreting is doing what we already know
- We can control the capillary pores by controlling the w/c (SCM and WRA good)
- Excess water leads to pores and increased transport
- ‘Low Hanging Fruit’ all can reach
- Lower w/c general move in right direction

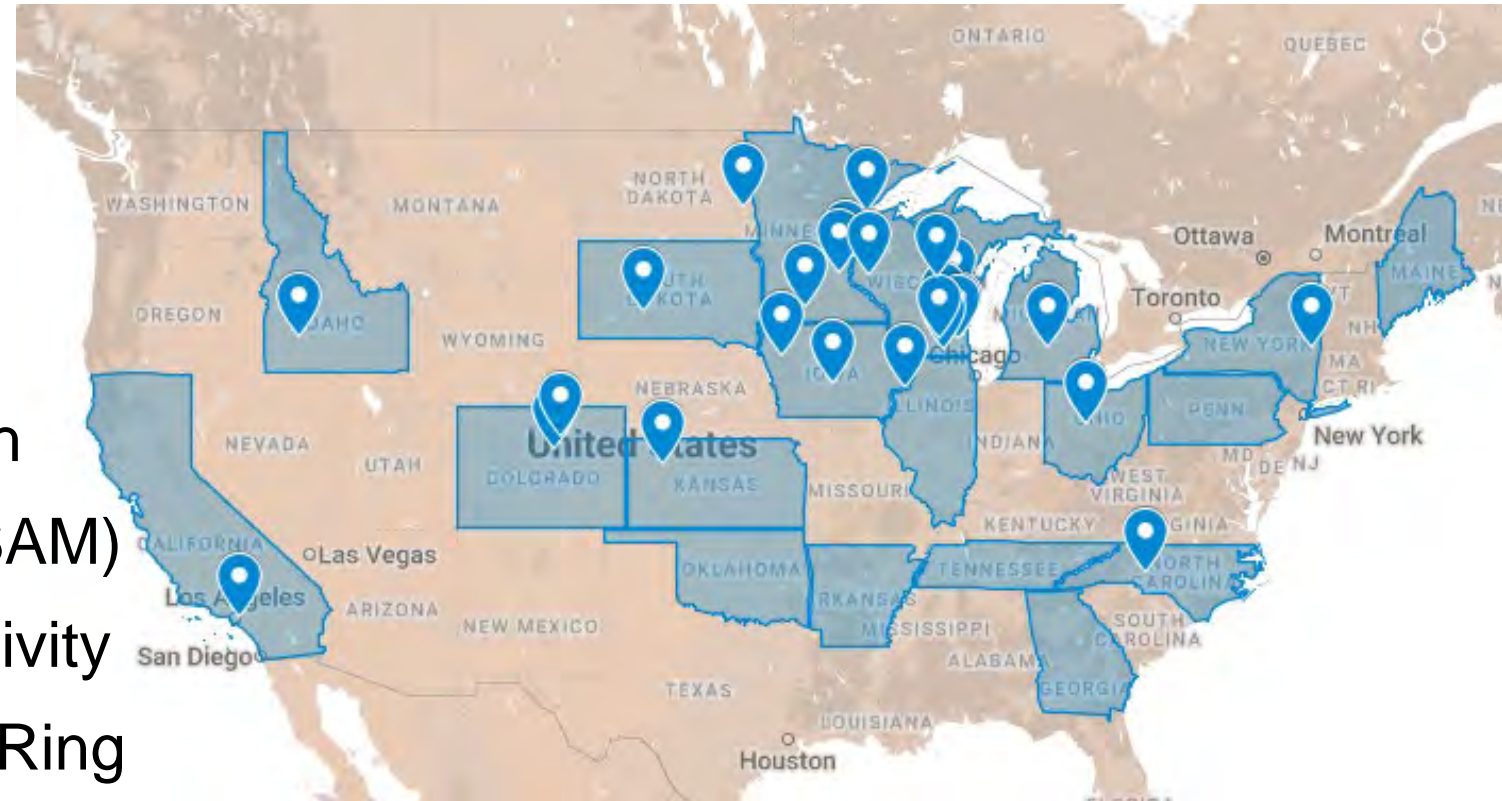


Concrete Durability FHWA – PEM Effort



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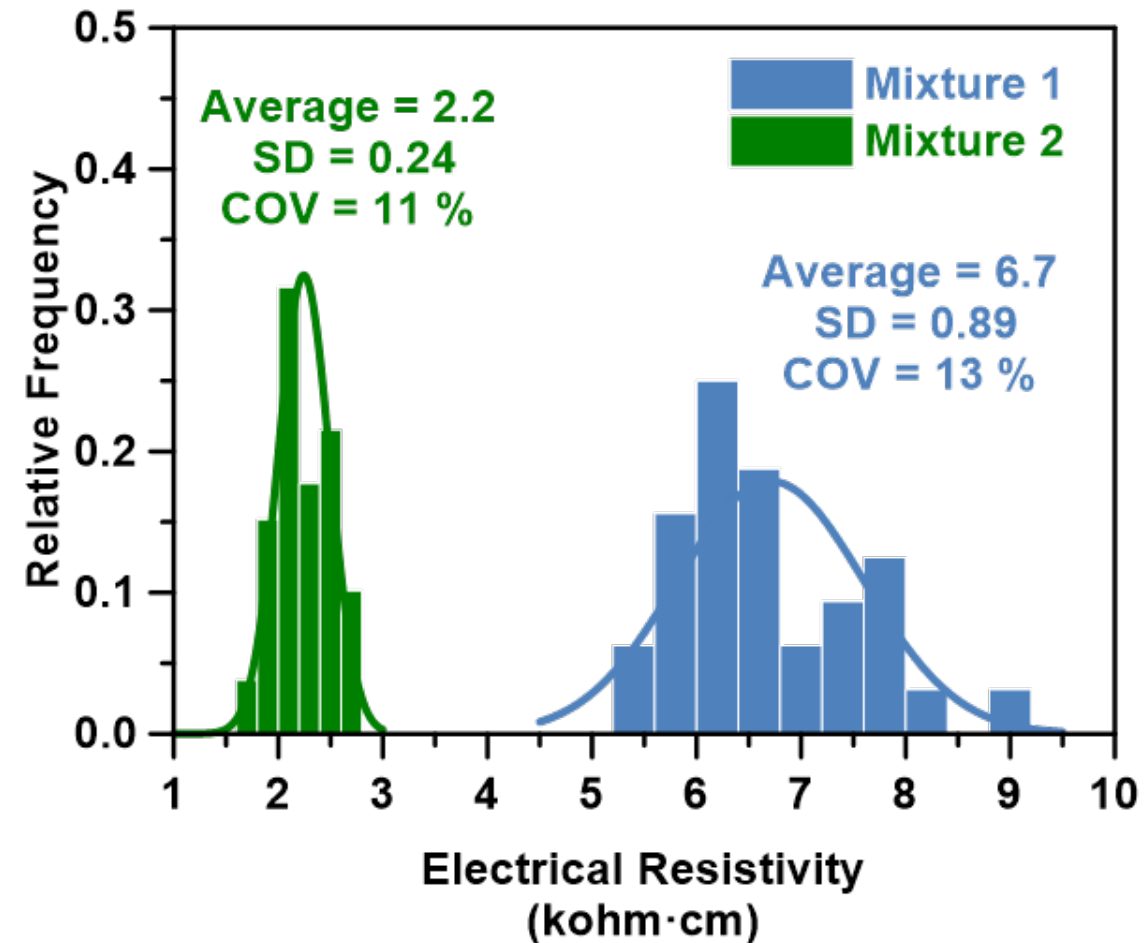
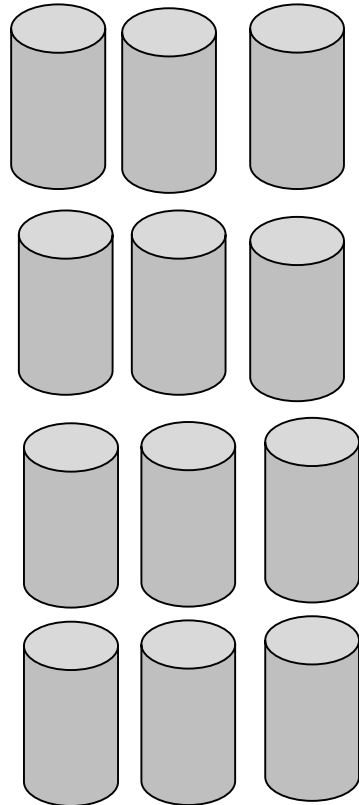
- AASHTO R101
 - Transport (and Corrosion): Resistivity/F Factor
 - Freeze-Thaw Durability: Critical Saturation Approach
 - Freeze-Thaw Durability: (SAM)
 - Calcium Oxychloride Reactivity
 - Shrinkage Cracking - Dual Ring
 - Workability – V Kelly
 - Workability – Box



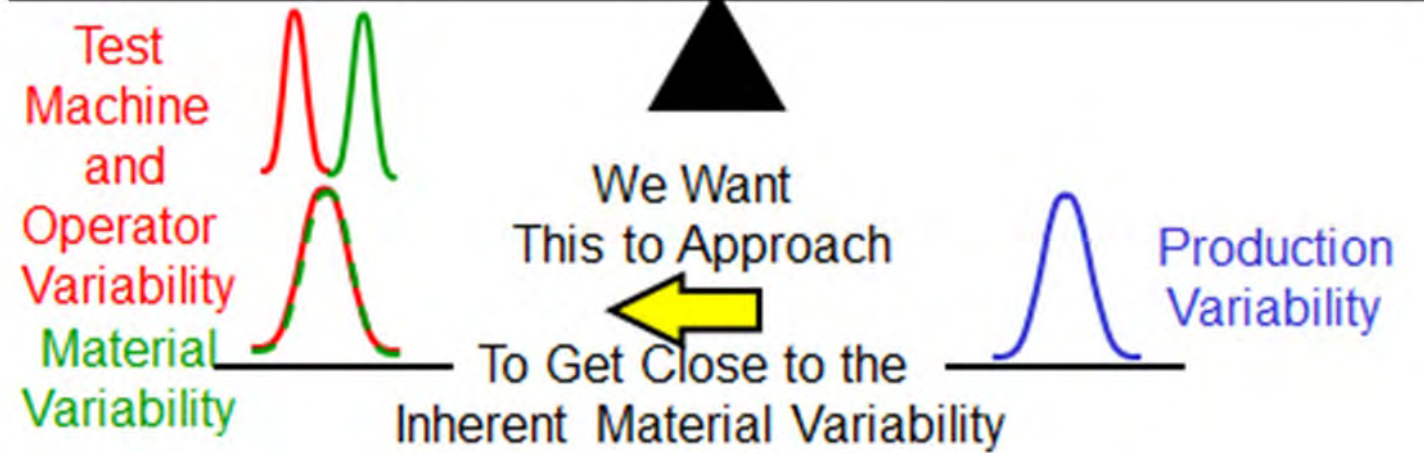
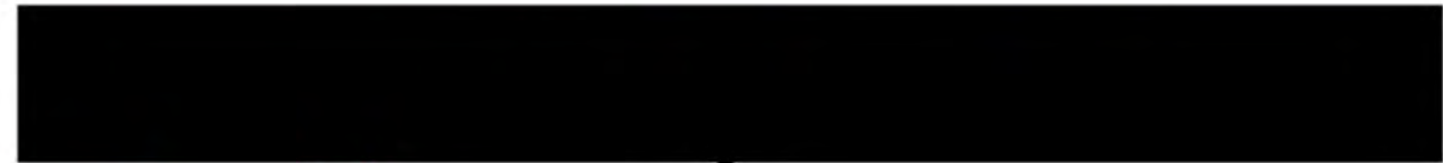
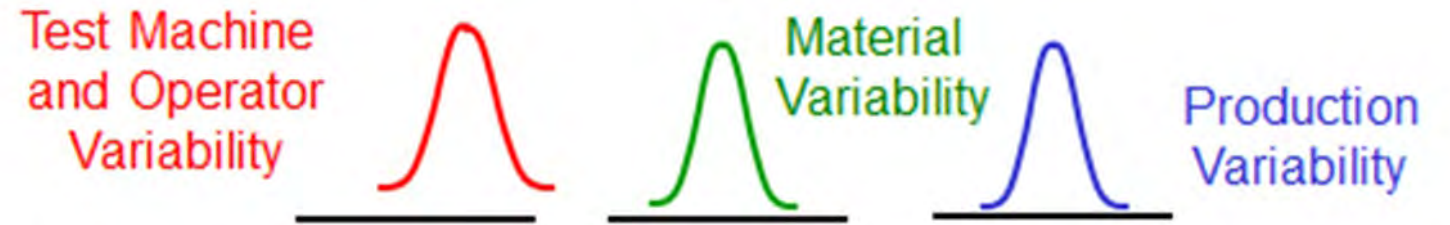
Quality Assurance and Quality Control



- Measurements during construction
- Owner: Is this the same mixture we qualified?
- Producer: Is this the mixture we want to produce?
- Test with good repeatability
- Easy tests allow for large sample size, statistical information as well



Concrete Quality



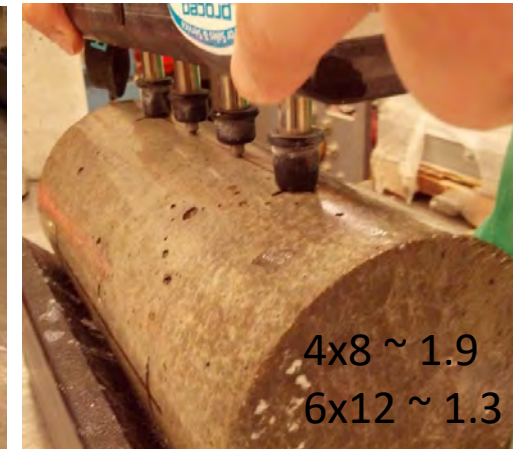
A Few Issues (Fixable)



- Improper correction for geometry
- Not accounting for temperature
- Drift, cable damage, or improper size
- Importance and implication of sample
 - curing – allowing microstructure in the sample to fully form/hydrate
 - conditioning – allowing the pore solution to be well known
- Standards need to be followed for
 - accurate results
 - correct data interpretation

$$\rho = R_{\text{cylinder}} \left(\frac{A}{L} \right)$$

$$\rho = \frac{R}{2\pi a} * (f_{\text{confinement}})$$



Frank was not a specification follower



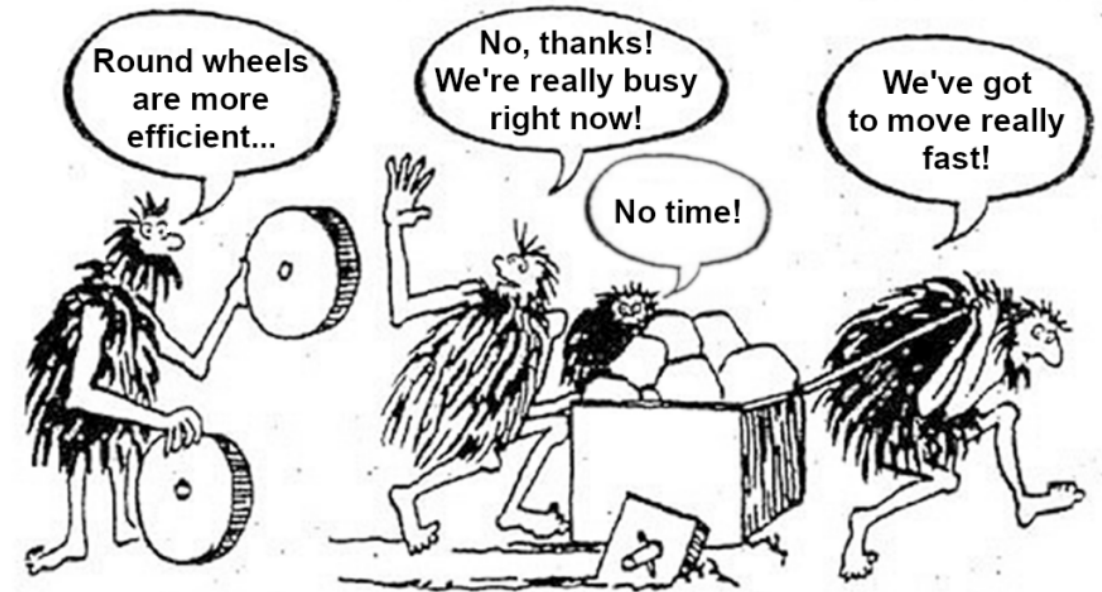
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A lot done on resistivity over the last century



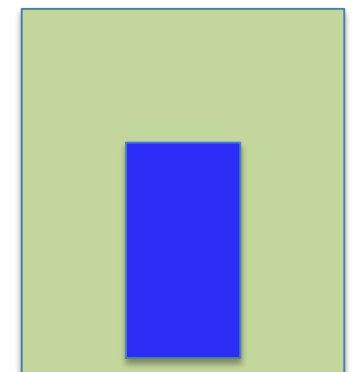
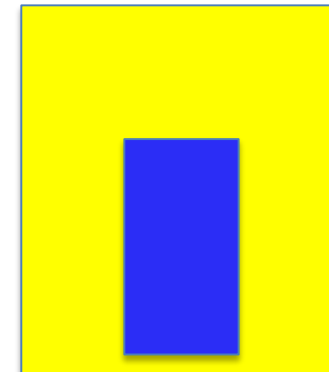
- A lot is known about concrete and a lot is known about the electrical properties of concrete
- However, in many ways we are not considering what is known
- Are we too busy as this comic suggests
- Do we need to learn it for ourselves
- We are missing some basics that will hinder us in the long run
- [Example - reports and calls](#)



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Keep Encouraging Training

P&B study

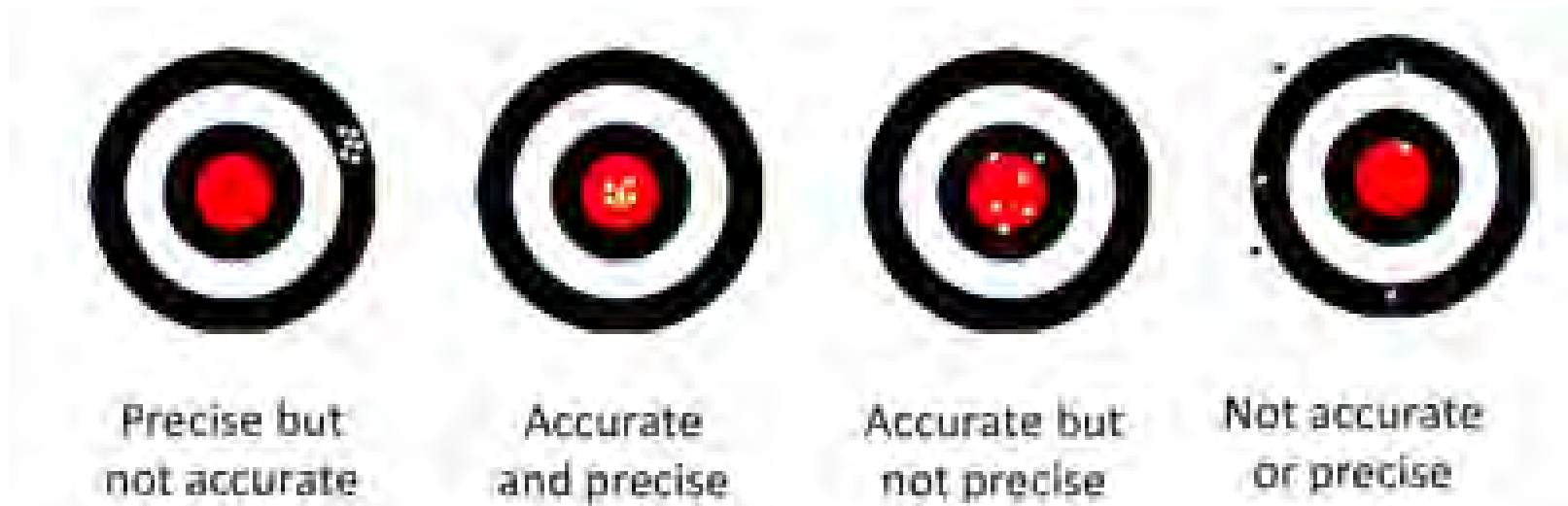


- Several round robin tests have been conducted (Spragg et al.2012)
 - Single-operator COV = 4.4 % (Bulk), 4.3% (Surface)
 - Multi laboratory COV = 13.2 % (Bulk), 11.5% (Surface)
 - Curing/conditioning a key issue
- Current AASHTO standards need precision and bias statements that follow the standards and are conditioned per standard



Precision and Bias

- Bias “the difference between a population mean of the measurements or test results and an accepted reference or true value” (Bainbridge 1985).
- Precision is the “spread of the data ... attributable to the statistical variability present in the sample” (Debanne 2000).



- Bias and precision combine to define the performance of an estimator.

Overall Study Approach



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- To provide **precision** and **bias** data for AASHTO TP119 and AASTHO T358
- **Phase A:** Identify participating labs and sample preparation for Phase C (1 month)
- **Phase B:** Develop and deliver training tools (2 months)
- **Phase C:** Controlled Curing to Isolate Testing Operator and Testing Equipment Variation (4 months)
- **Phase D:** Curing in Participating Laboratories to Include Curing Variation (5 Months)

Resistivity Testing



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THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Will be done at
your home labs

Goal is to have
trainings and then
evaluations

Special physical
testing tools

Phase A Participating Labs and Sample Prep



- Link to fill in the participation form



<https://forms.gle/qTUHR8cgZuFhfKu17>

- We need to know the labs that will be involved in testing
- 10 **resistivity calibration devices** are ready, shipped in October. (More can be made if desired)
- Concrete samples need to be cast but we need to know how many samples are being made and where they are going



Resistivity Precision & Bias Study Participation

Please submit this form if you are interested to join the precision and bias study for the resistivity testing. For any questions, email krishna.chopperla@oregonstate.edu

 weissw@oregonstate.edu (not shared) [Switch account](#) 

* Required

Agency or Laboratory Name *

Your answer

Contact Name *

Your answer

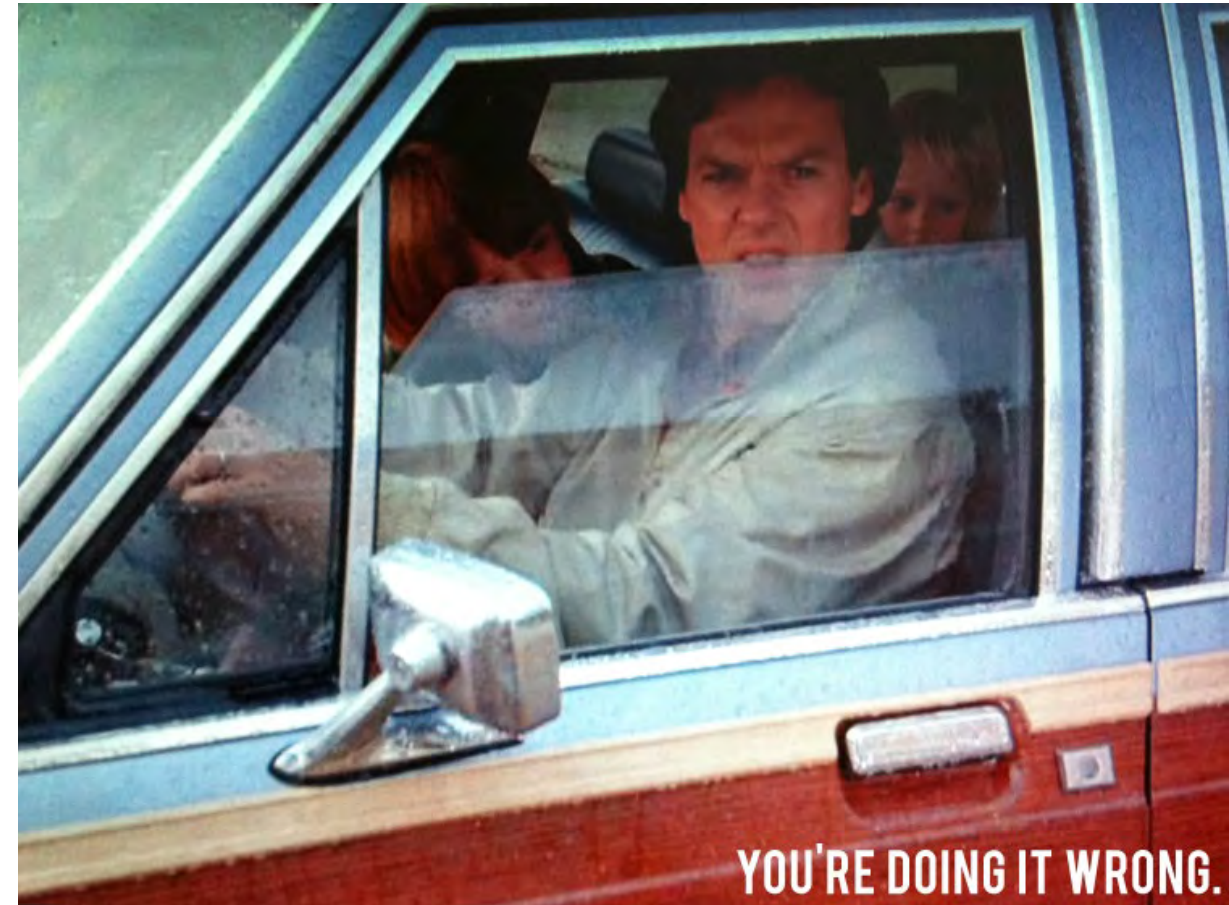
Contact Information (Email) *

Your answer

Phase B - Training Tools



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Phase B – Training Tools



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Develop and deliver training tools

- A video as the training tool for performing the test
- A video/webinar – factors that impact testing
- Calibration cell to make sure folks are doing this correctly
- Worksheet to enter the data will be shared with the participating laboratories
- Test of knowledge at the end



Phase C – Test Equipment, Operator, Well Cured Sample



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- **After online webinar**
 - Review AASHTO TP119/358
 - Testing the calibration cell
 - Mature (56d) samples will be sent to the labs (to minimize curing variation)
 - 2 mixtures – bridge deck and pavement
 - Results from the labs will be compared to OSU results
 - Results will be compared with other testing labs
- **Determining**
 - identifies equipment variation
 - Identifies operator variation
 - Identifies pooled variation when curing is not varied

Phase D – Varied Sample Curing and Conditioning



Curing in Participating Laboratories to Include Curing Variation

- Prepared samples will be sent at an early age (36-72 hours)
- **Curing and conditioning (ask you to return solutions)**
 - Option A – 5-gal bucket with simulated pore solution
7.6 g/L NaOH (0.19 M); 10.64 g/L KOH (0.19 M); 2 g/L Ca(OH)₂.
 - Option B – Seal cured
 - Option D – Lime water bath
- **A precision statement**
 - for the testing equipment and operator
 - curing and conditioning

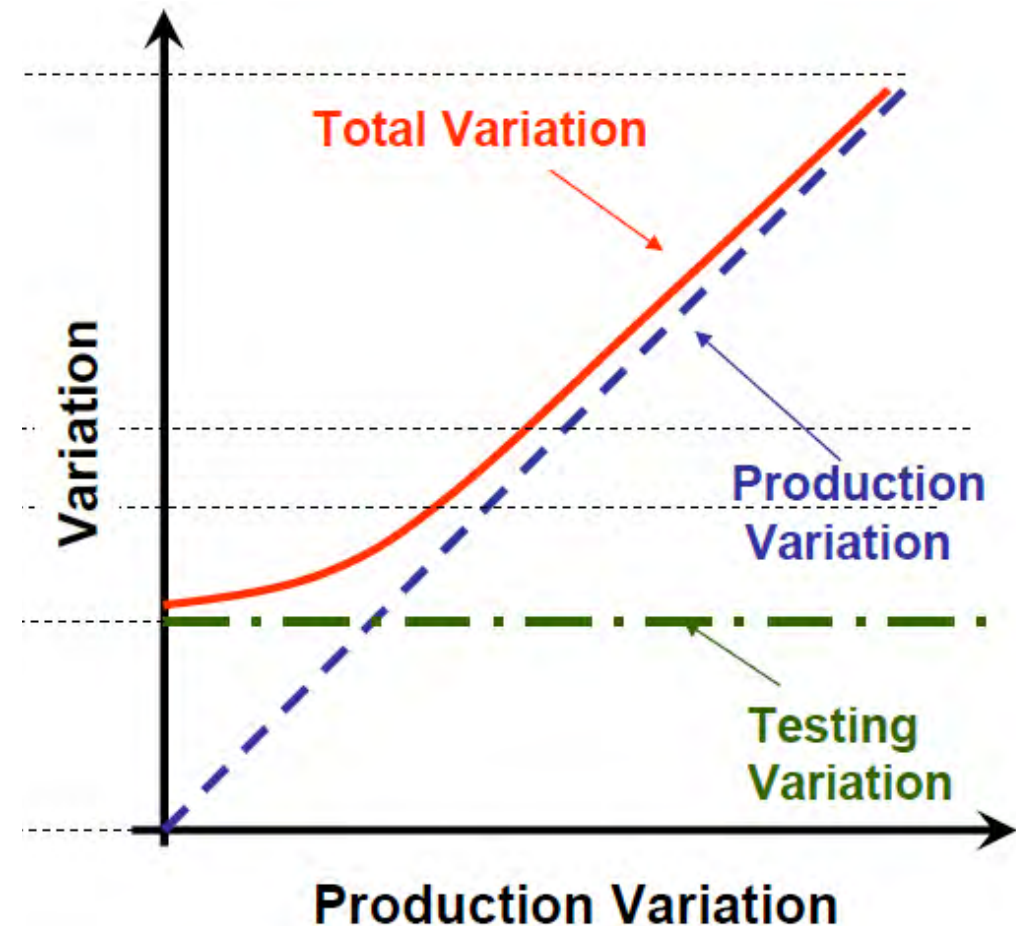
Output from the study



AASHTO TP 119 (T358)

- precision and bias statement
- help consideration as a full test standard
- any final modifications to the provisional standard

Helps to set specification limits that are realistic and capture production variation



Calibration Samples

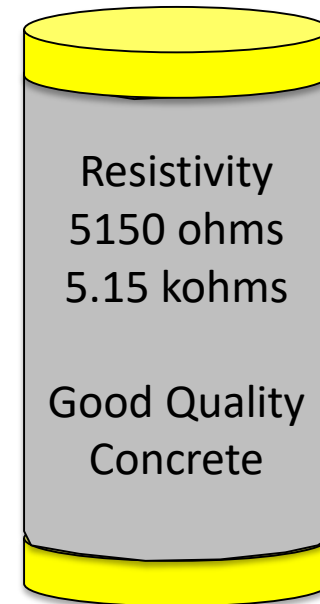
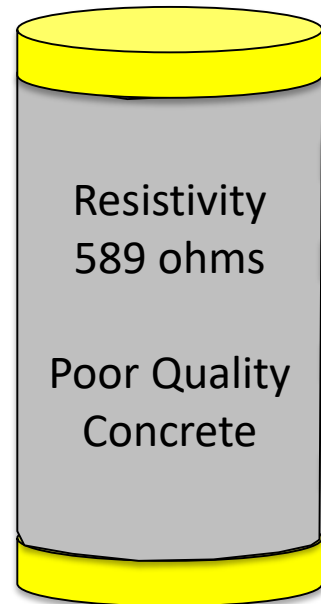


- In 2008 we stated that calibration/reference devices were needed
- Some suppliers have made some items but we needed to develop the calibration cell at OSU to verify the equipment is setup correctly

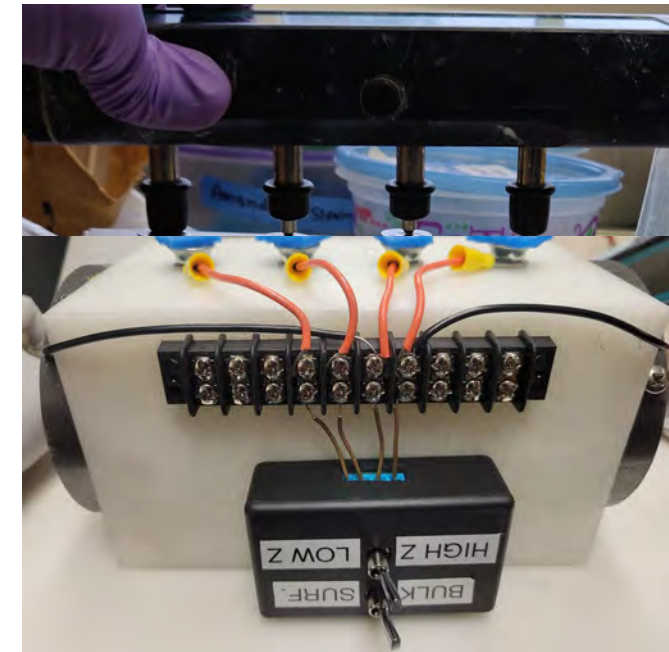
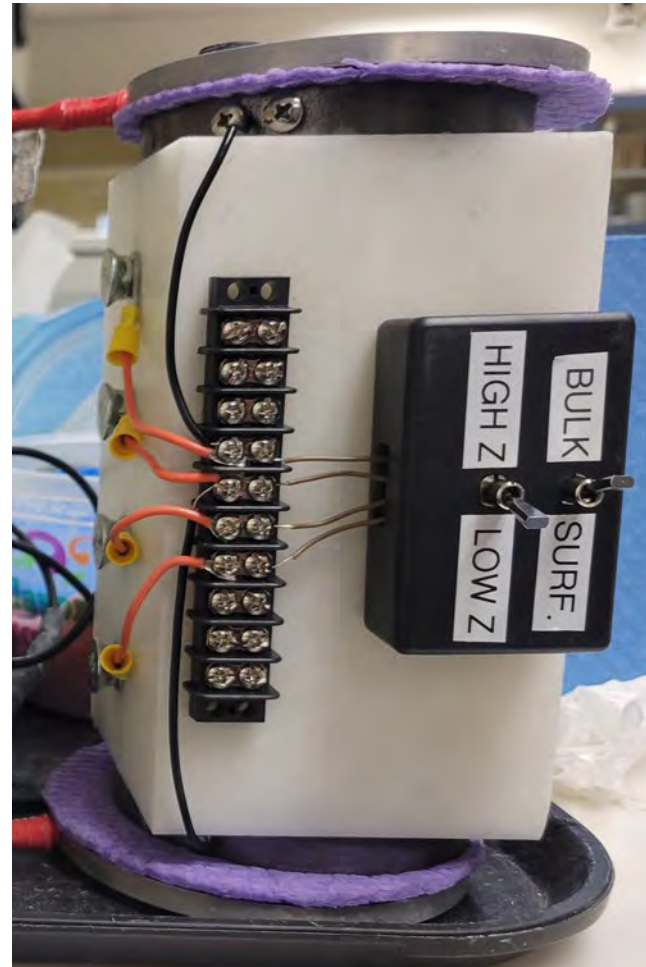
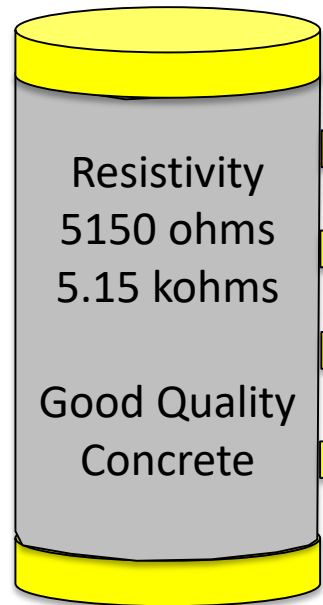
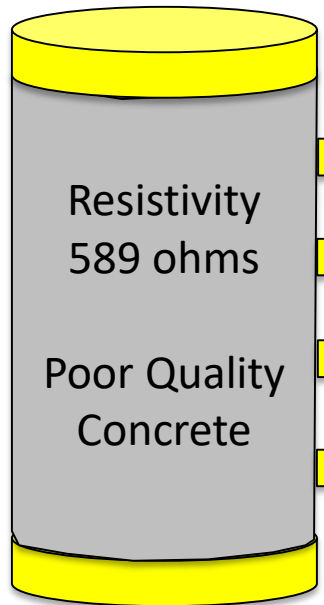
- Specifically:

- Correct sponges and the solution used
- Electrical connections are not faulty

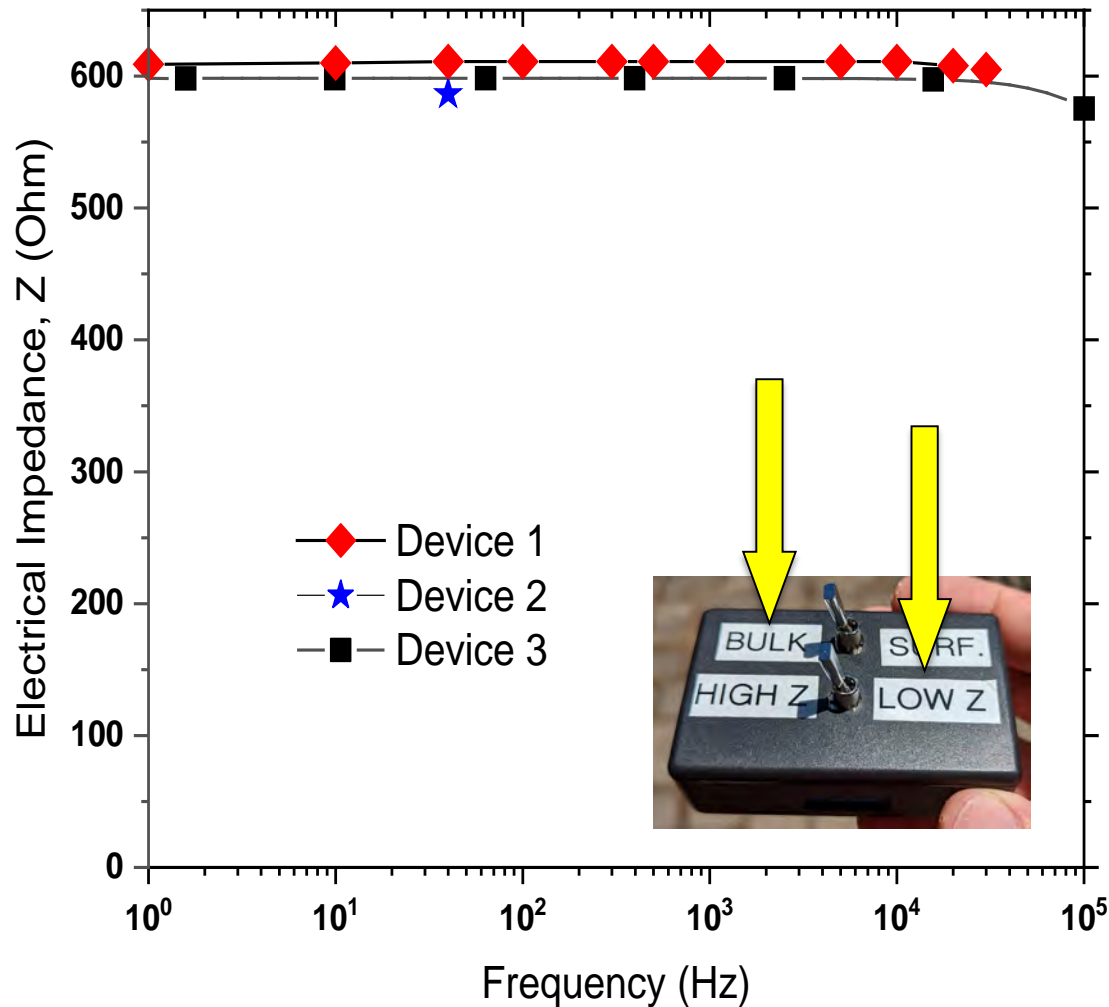
- Real examples of issues



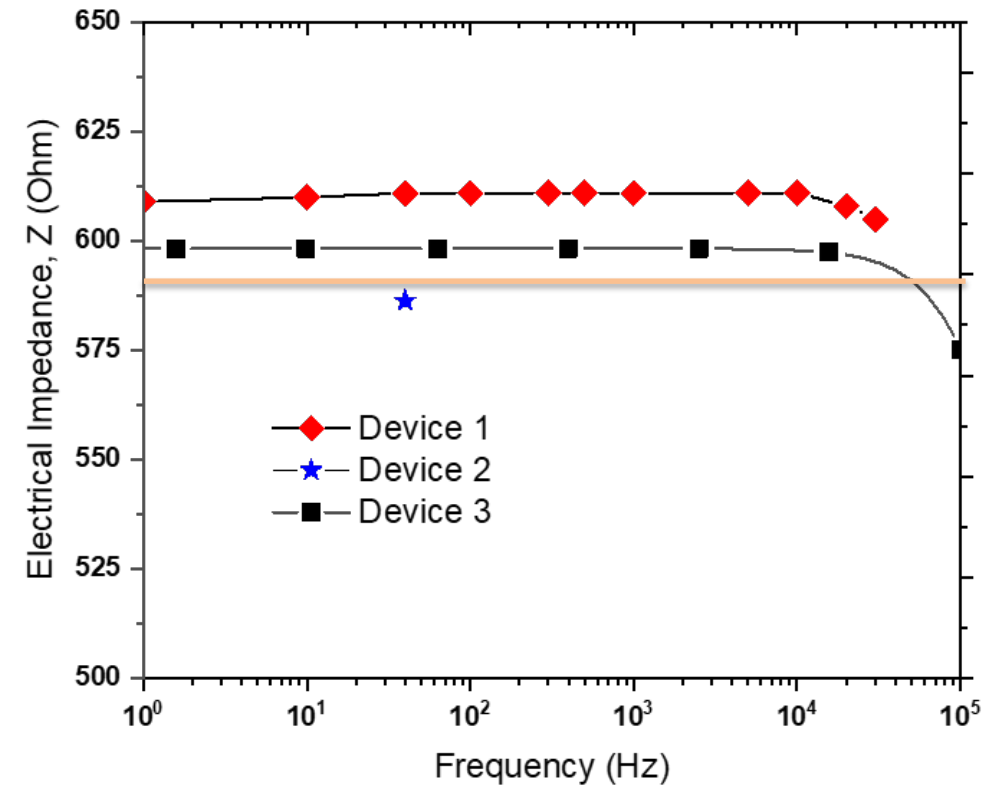
Calibration Samples



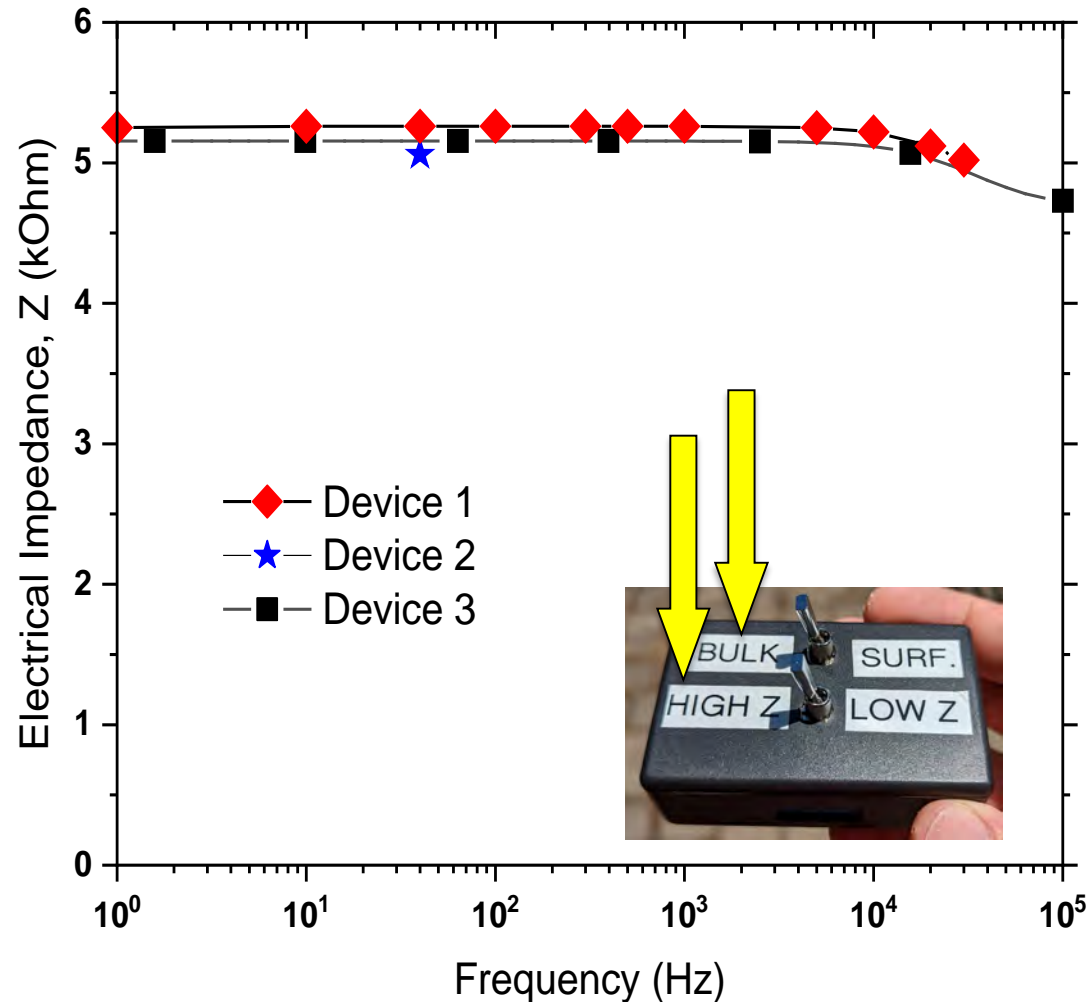
Known Materials (low)



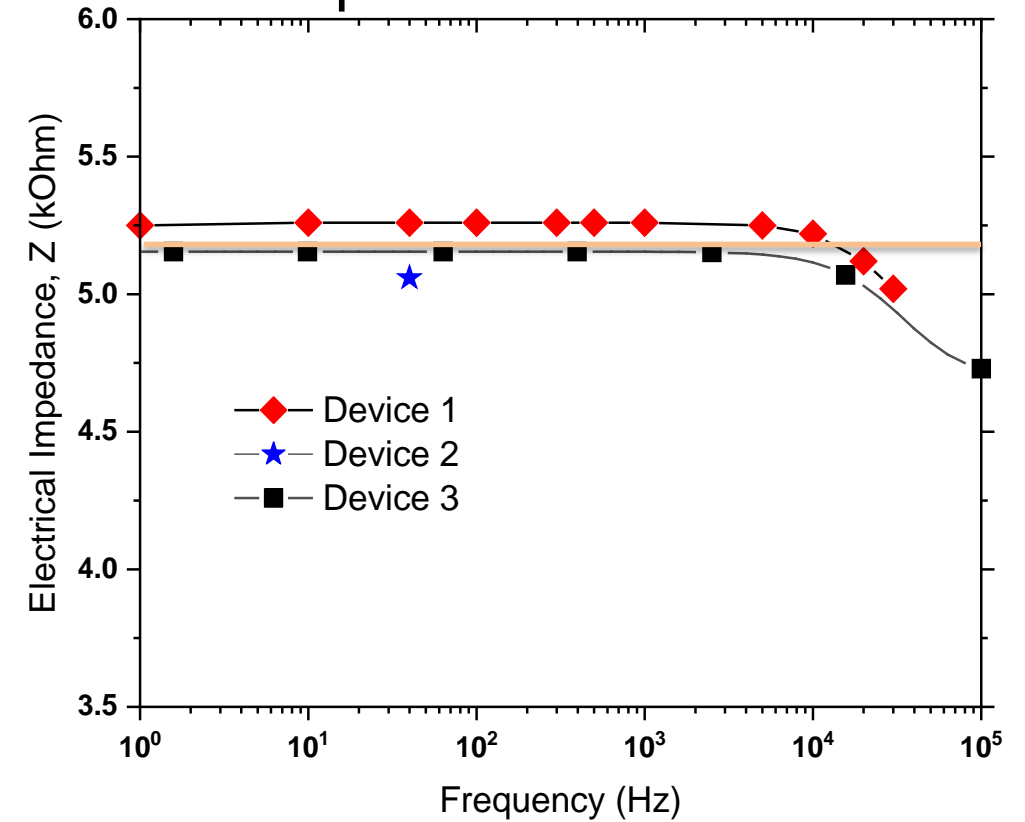
- Tested known sample
- Actual Impedance 589 ohms



Known Materials (high)



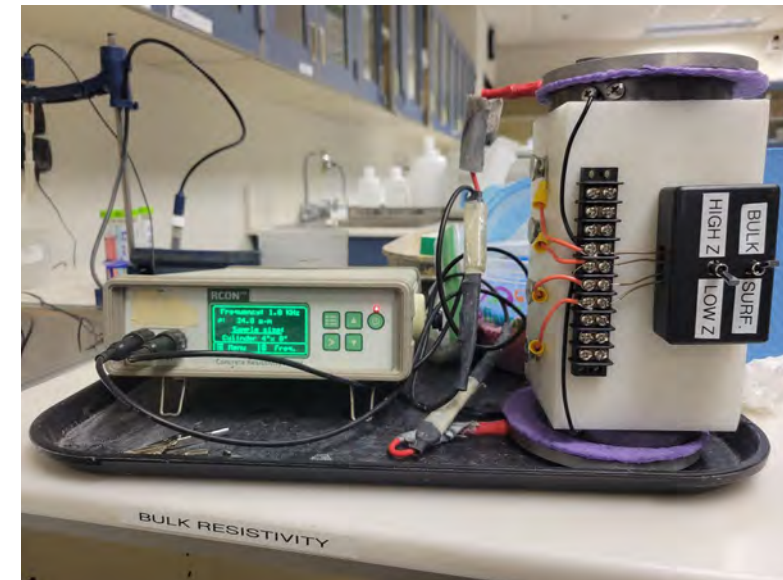
- Tested known sample
- Actual Impedance 5.15 kohms



Resistivity calibration device



- Effect of using different sponges (Corrected)
 - Thickness: 0.55", 0.35", 0.04"
 - Using sponges thicker than 0.35" can cause > 4% change in measured resistivity (typically 1%)
- Effect of conductive solution for sponges
 - Using DI water instead of conductive solution (simulated pore solution or lime water) can cause up to 8% increase in resistivity measurement
- Effect of using defective wires
 - Can cause fluctuations in measurements and effect the consistent measurements



Summary



- Concrete Quality – related to water content and connectivity of pores
- Resistivity (Formation Factor) – related to water content and connectivity of pores
- PEM – Enabled different groups to become familiar with resistivity
- Now that we are familiar there is an opportunity to tighten up how we are testing – education and verification
- Huge value in proper calibration cells
- We will conduct a precision and bias study – Looking for testing labs

Fresh Concrete Study



- Travel to Iowa
 - SAM testing
 - V- Kelly Testing
 - Box Testing



<https://www.roadbridges.com/concrete/article/10648919/stop-being-premature>

Phase A Participating Labs and Sample Prep



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- Link to fill in the participation form

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krishna.chopperla@oregonstate.edu

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Contact Information (Email) *

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Submit

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