

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial TRB-CMTS Conference: From Sail to Satellite:  
Delivering Solutions for Tomorrow's Marine Transportation Systems  
Conference, June 21-23, 2016, Washington, DC**

## **Advanced Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites for Corrosion Mitigation in Water Infrastructure**

**Ray Liang and GangaRao Hota**

Constructed Facilities Center and NSF-I/UCRC Sponsored CICI

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# US NSF Industry/University Collaborative Research Center – **Center for Integration of Composites into Infrastructure (CICI)**

## ❑ **NSF I/UCRC**

- Develop long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government;
- Promote research and development programs of mutual interest, and
- Enhance the intellectual capacity of the engineering workforce through the integration of research and education

## ❑ **CICI**

- Established with a planning grant in 2008 and full grant in 2009 from NSF
- Only I/UCRC focusing on polymer composites for infrastructure applications

## CICI Mission

- To accelerate the adoption of polymer composites and innovated construction materials into infrastructure applications through collaborative research
  - ◆ Highway, railway and waterway
  - ◆ Buildings and housing
  - ◆ Pipelines
  - ◆ Utilities and energy industries

# Types of Resins

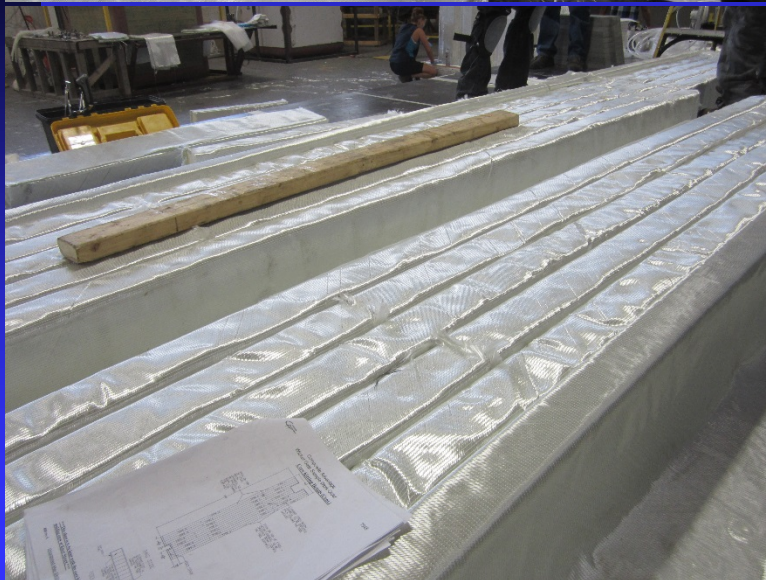
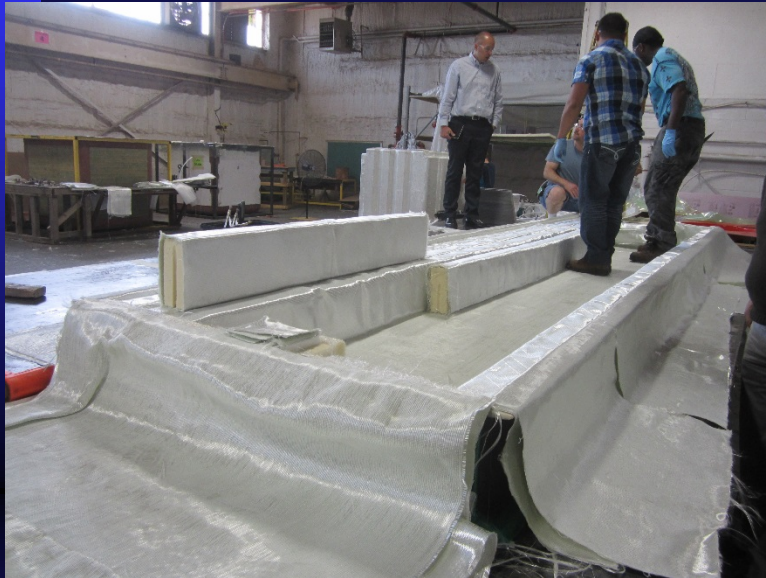
- Thermoplastic Resins
- Thermoset Resins
  - Inability to reshape due to cross-links.
  - Provide better bonding between the fibers and matrix.
  - Provide better creep resistance than thermoplastics.
  - Common thermoset resins
    - ◆ Polyester Resins
    - ◆ Vinyl Ester Resins
    - ◆ Epoxy Resins
    - ◆ Polyurethanes
    - ◆ Phenolic Resins



# Manufacturing Methods for Composites

- Hand Lay-up
- Pultrusion
- Filament Winding
- Resin Transfer Molding (RTM)
- Sheet Molding Compound (SMC)
- Compression Molding
- Spray-up
- Vacuum Bag / Pressure Bag / Autoclave Molding
- Rotational Molding
- Bulk Molding Compound
- Injection Molding
- Others

# Infusion



Composite Advantage

# QA/QC of Manufacturing

- Good fiber wet-out
- Cure percent of resin
- Low void content
- High interlaminar shear strength
- Controlling shrinkage
- Cure cycle

# Field Joint Failure, Leakage, De-bonding of Sandwich Panel



Photograph 2.4.1.4-2

End of ICI Panel. Note gap at field joint and water leaking from deck form hole.



# De-bonding and no-Bonding in Pure Sandwich



**Figure 9-8. No Adhesive Between Facesheet and Core Webs.**

# Crushing of Webs in Pultruded Deck Plates





# “60 Tonne Traffic” Effect on Pultruded Deck



‘Heavy duty’ pultrusion  
deck panels: splitting  
under traffic loads



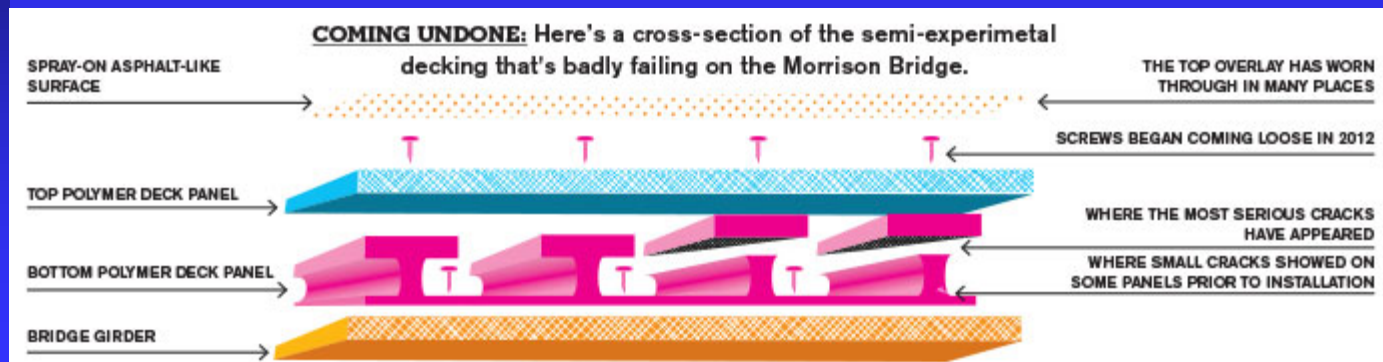
Field  
joint



Crack

# Achilles Heel of Pultrusions

- Extreme anisotropy
- Cracking and splitting along fibre direction

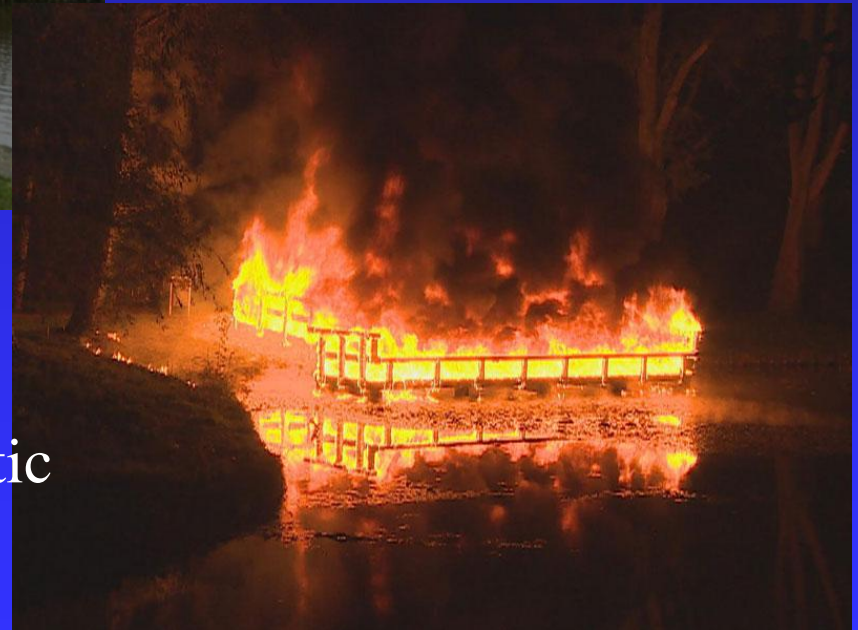




# Thermoplastic Bridges: Risk of Fire



Recycled Thermoplastic  
Beams



# Extensive Studies of FRP Rebars

McKinleyville Bridge





# Highways & Bridges



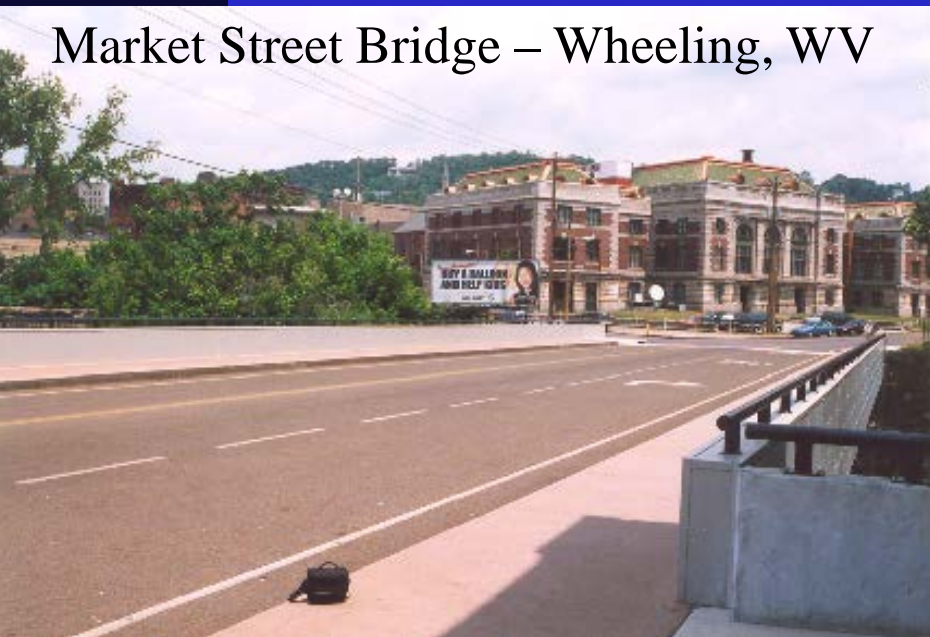
FRP Rebar, WV Route 9, Martinsburg, WV



# Highways & Bridges



Market Street Bridge – Wheeling, WV



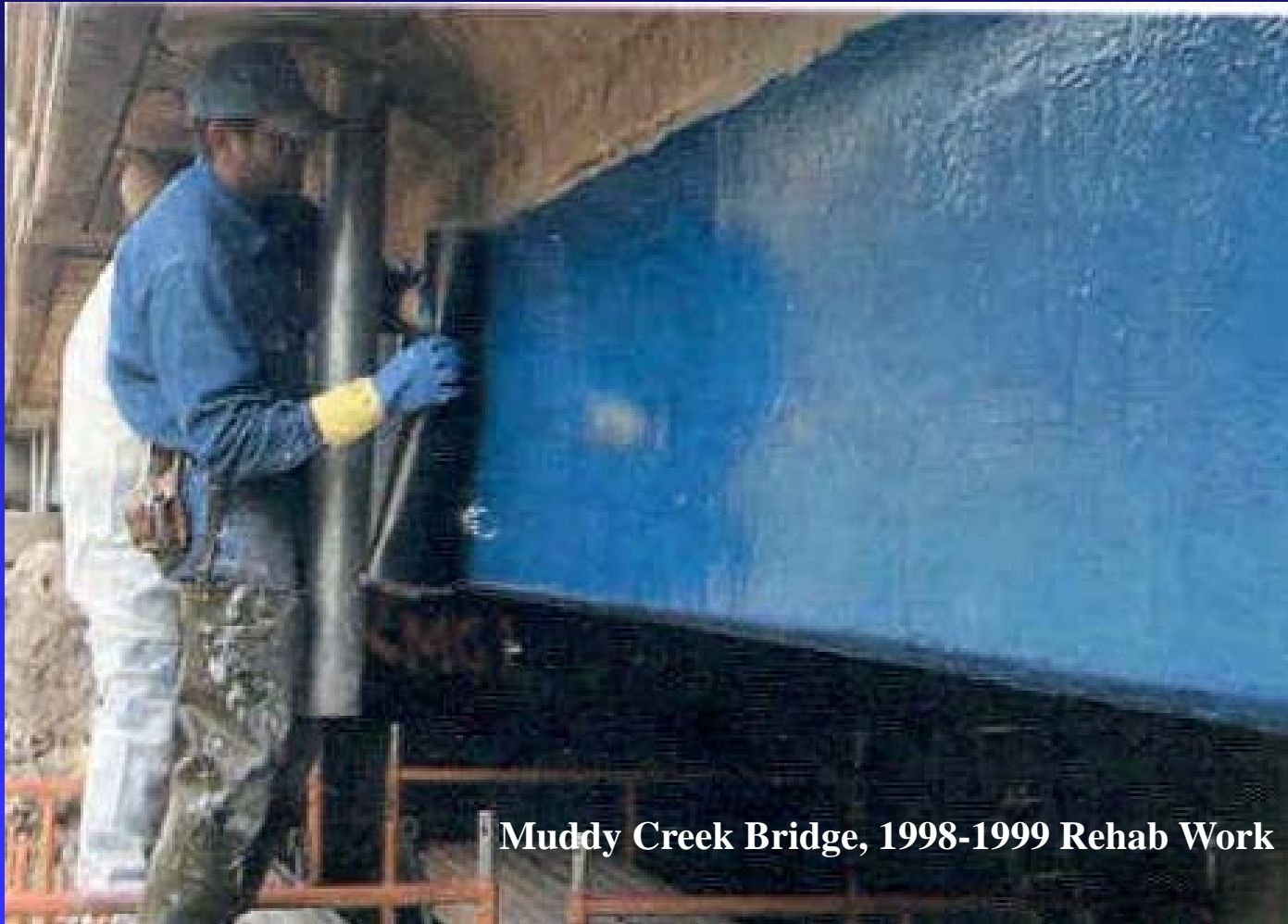
## FIBER REINFORCED POLYMER COMPOSITE BRIDGES OF WEST VIRGINIA

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

West Virginia Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways

Compiled by:  
West Virginia University  
Constructed Facilities Center  
2001

# Rehab of Highways & Bridges using FRP Wraps



Muddy Creek Bridge, 1998-1999 Rehab Work



# Retrofitting of Railroad Bridges Using FRP Wraps, SBVR, Moorefield, WV (July 2010)





# Durable FRP Gas Tank

Replacement of Single Shell Fuel Tank with Double Shell Tank



# Utility Poles

- \$4 billion treated wood poles annually in US



A 16" diameter FRP pole/pipe being tested at WVU- CFC Laboratory





# Composite Turbine Blades for Wind Energy



Global market for wind turbines: \$935 billion in 2020

As per Global Wind Energy Council,

China: 114 GW

US: 66 GW

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

# Pipelines



- Each year, ~1000 miles new natural gas pipelines go into service while ~1000 miles is replaced

# Chimneys/Flues

- FRP composites are used in smoke stacks for pollution controls
- Large diameter FRP structures are needed





# Cooling Tower



# FRP Building



WVU-CFC designed, manufactured, and constructed the first FRP modular building in 1995 in collaboration with WV DOT (photos taken on Aug 27, 2009)



# Rapid Housing



**FRP composite home being erected at BRP  
Inc. manufacturing facility**

# FRP Sheet Piles and Pipe Piles



**Long Beach, New York  
Hurricane Sandy Repair and  
Protection (2013)**

**Credit: Creative Pultrusion**



# Composite Anti-Collision Bumper System for Bridge Protection



Credit : Nanjing Tech University



# FRP Composites Demonstrations in Collaboration with US Army Corps of Engineers

Steel miter blocks were replaced with FRP Composite Miter Blocks

Corroded steel miter blocks



STA 2+23.105  
STA 2+47.105  
MONSULT 4 JUNT

DISCHARGE PORTS

15 SPACES @ 2'-8" = 100'-0"

STA 4+02.225  
MONSULT 1 JUNT  
STA 4+25.125

US Army Corps  
of Engineers



# Recess Panels at Willow Island Locks and Dam, Ohio

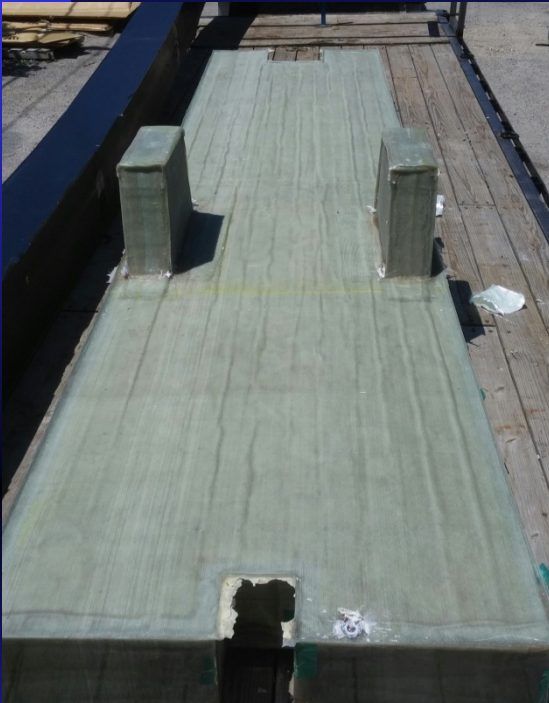


**Finished panels to be installed Summer 2016.**



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# Fabrication, Evaluation and Field Installation of Composite Wicket Gates



Tested to twice the working  
load of a timber wicket.



Composite wickets installed on  
Illinois River, Rock Island District  
in August 2015



Credit: USACE

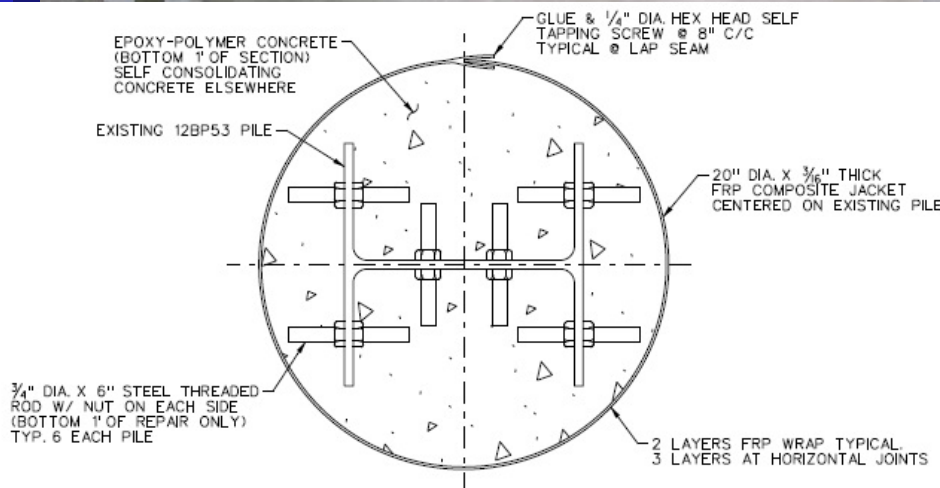


# Rehab of Corroded Steel H-Piles, East Fork Bridge, Huntington, WV

Another Full Presentation at this Conference: Rehabilitation of East Lynn Lake Bridge with Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites



Bring load capacity back to original at 25% of traditional repair cost, with use of composite shell, wrapped, and then filled with SCC



Credit: USACE

# Moveable Muiden Bridge with FRP





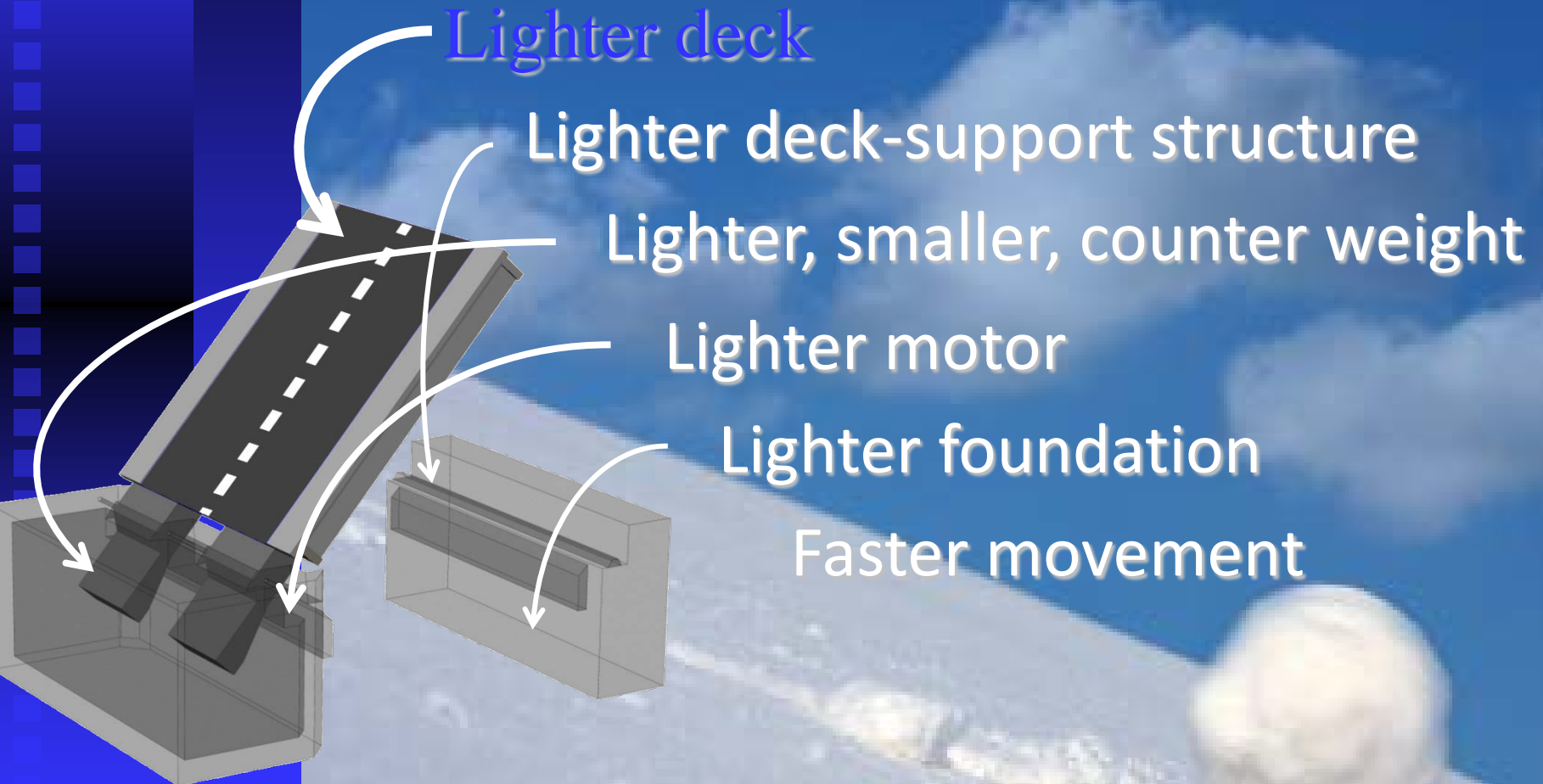
# 2014: Muiden



## Traffic bridge Muiden

dimensions	: 16,3 x 11,7 m
span	: 11,5 m
traffic class	: class 600 kN
year	: 2014

# Snowball-effect Moveable Bridges with FRP





# FRP Lock Doors



Werkendam

dimensions  
year  
principal

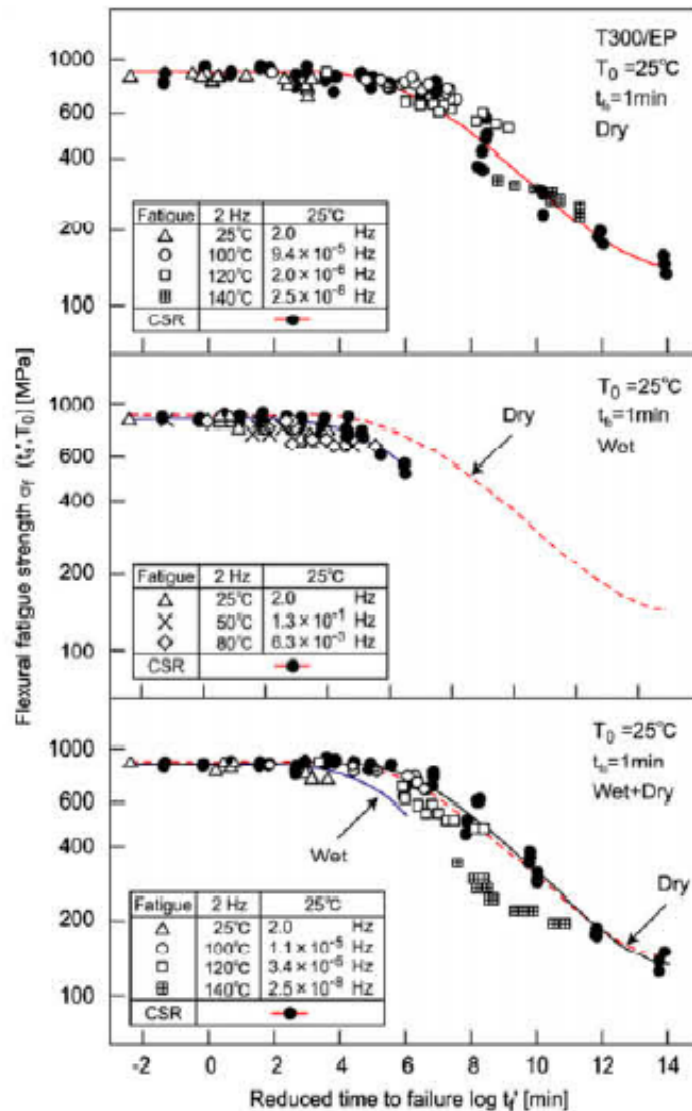
: 6 x 3m  
: 1999, 2005  
: Bouwdienst RWS

**InfraCore**<sup>®</sup>inside

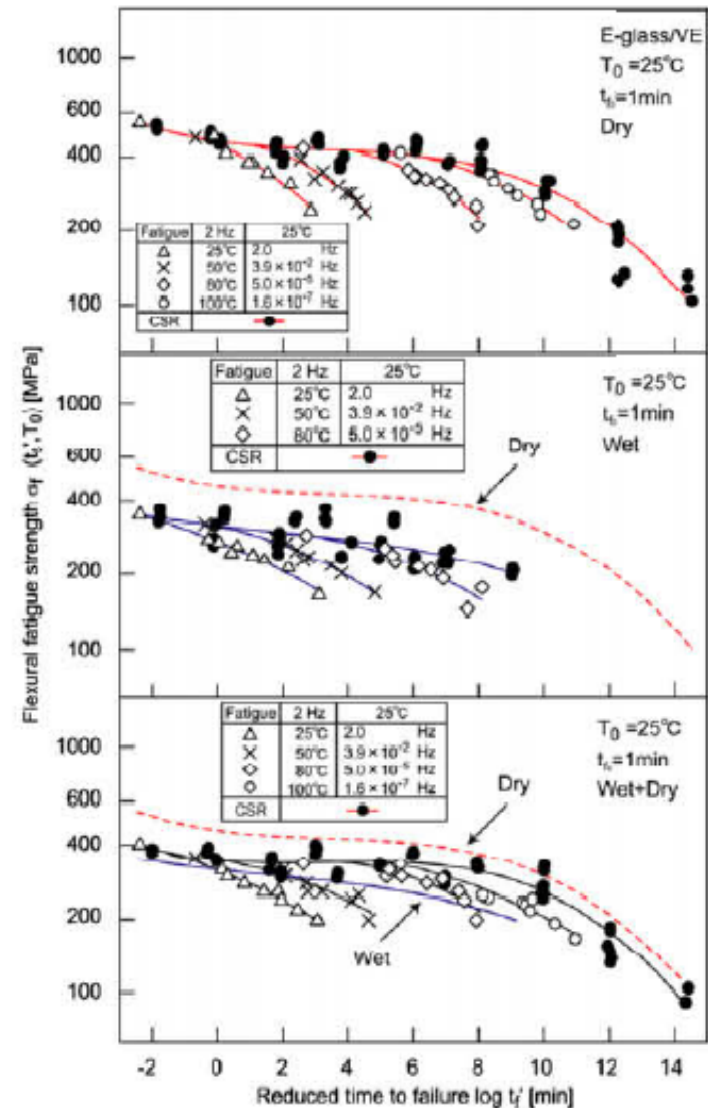
# Factors Affecting FRP Durability

- Moisture including pH variation from 2 to 12
- Temperature influence including freeze-thaw
- Sustained loading and fatigue
- Fire responses (not an issue in hydraulic structures)
- Synergistic effects of above

# Master curves of flexural fatigue strength for T300/EP and E-glass/VE in dry, wet and wet-dry environments



T300/EP

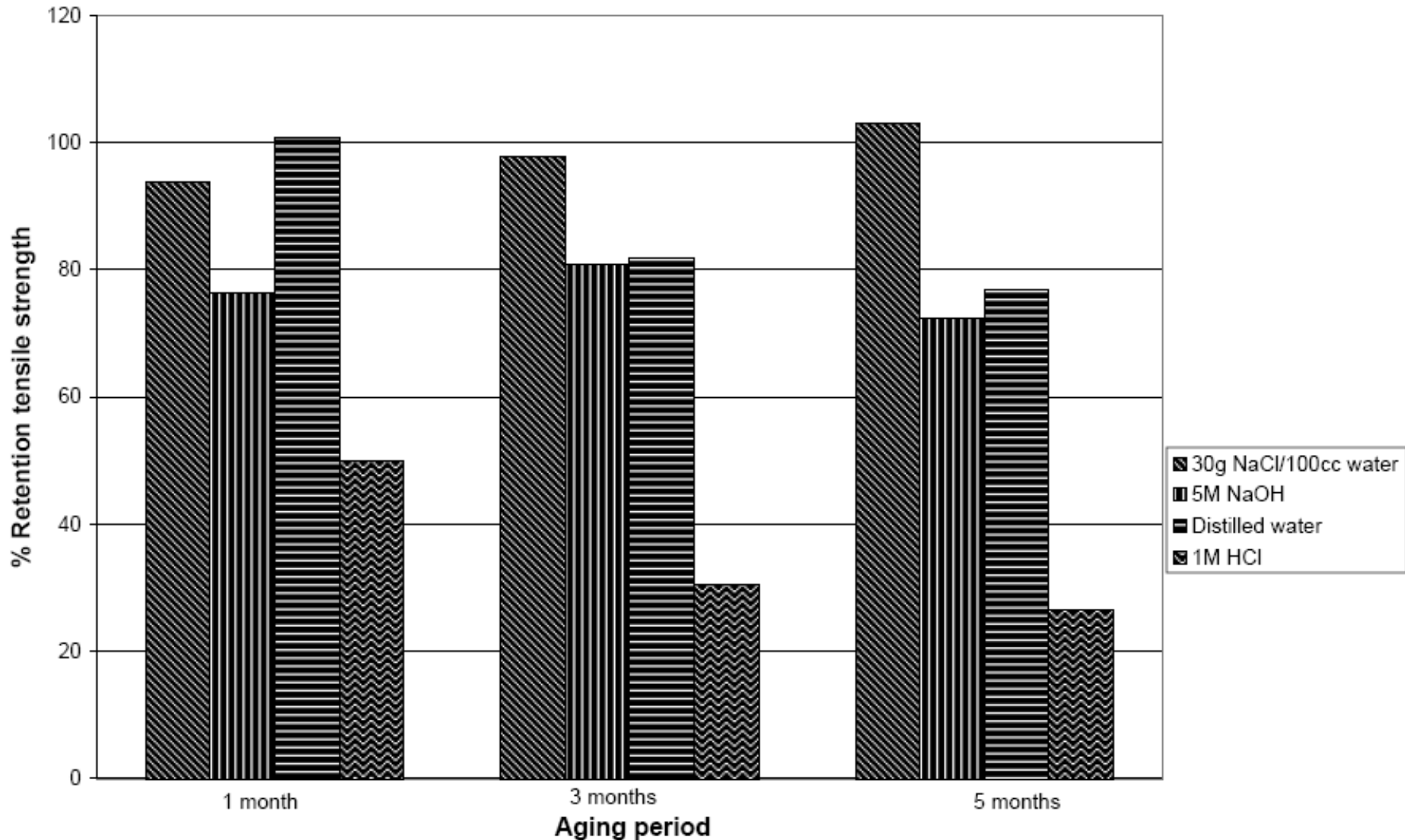


E-glass/VE

(Credit: Nakada & Miyano)

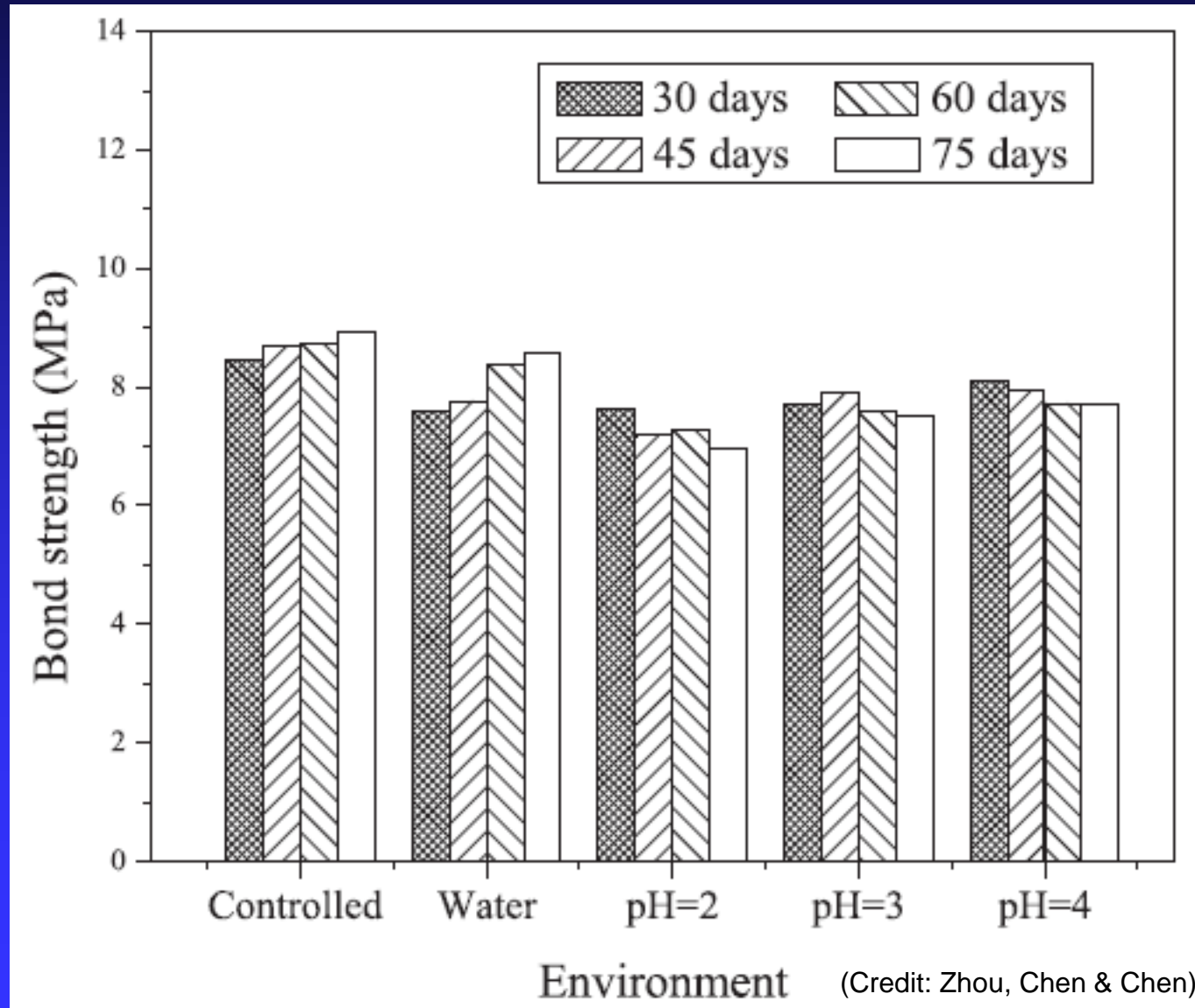


# Comparison of percent retention of tensile strength of composite aged indifferent solutions at RT

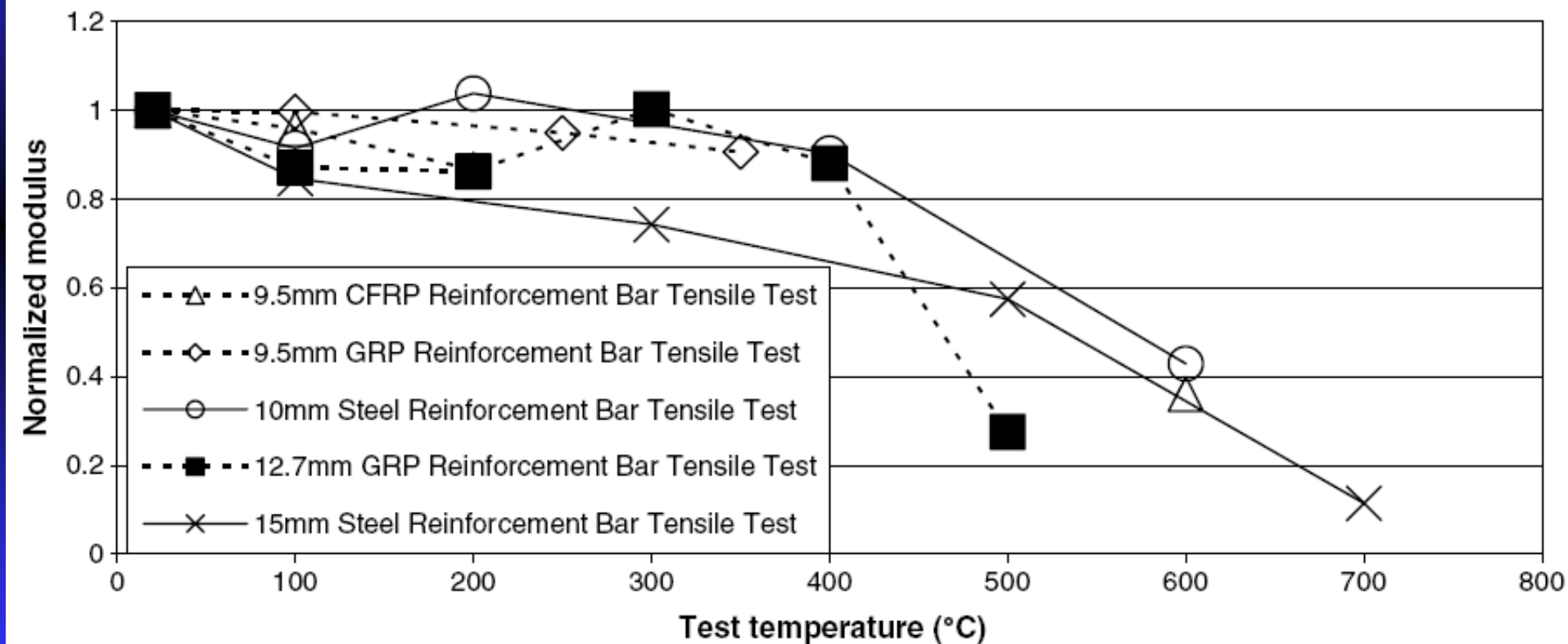


(Credit: Somjoy, Gangarao, Gupta)

# Variation of bond strength of GFRP bars under tap water and acid solution



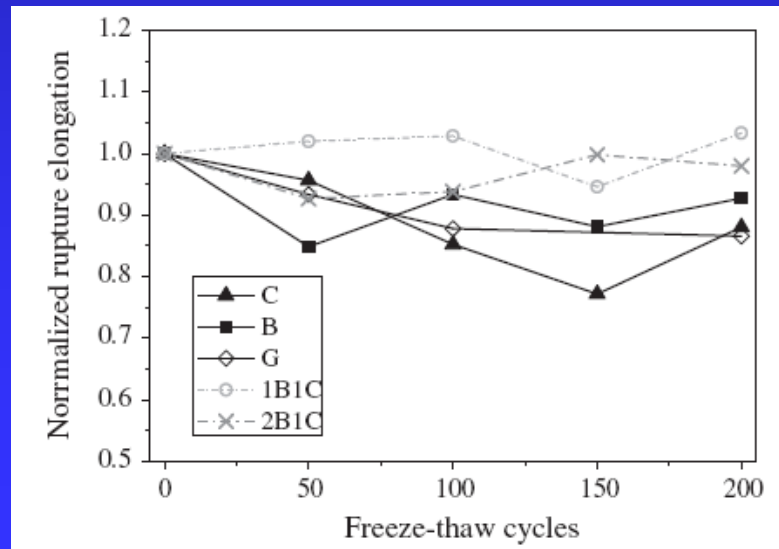
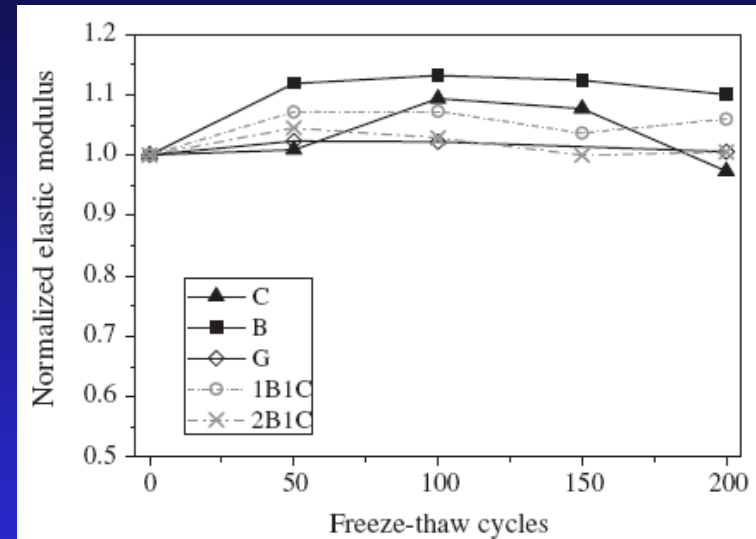
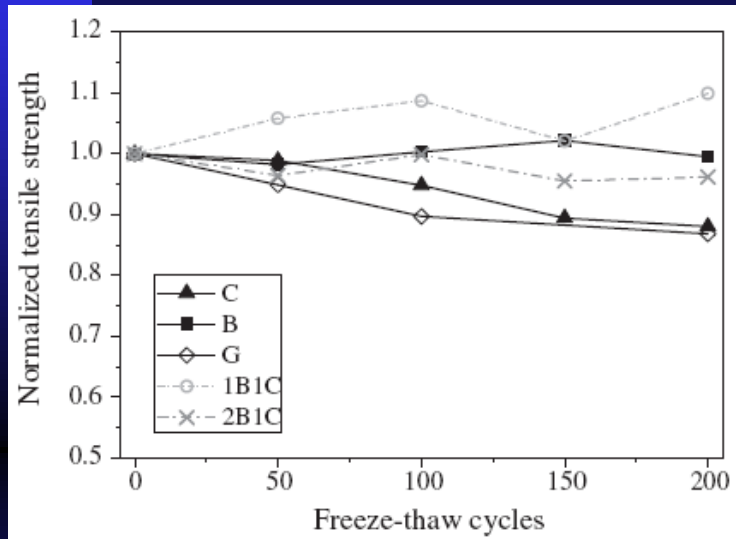
# Comparison of elastic modulus as a function of temperature for FRP and steel bars



(Credit: Wang, Wong, Kodur)



# Normalized tensile properties of FRP composites versus freeze-thaw cycles

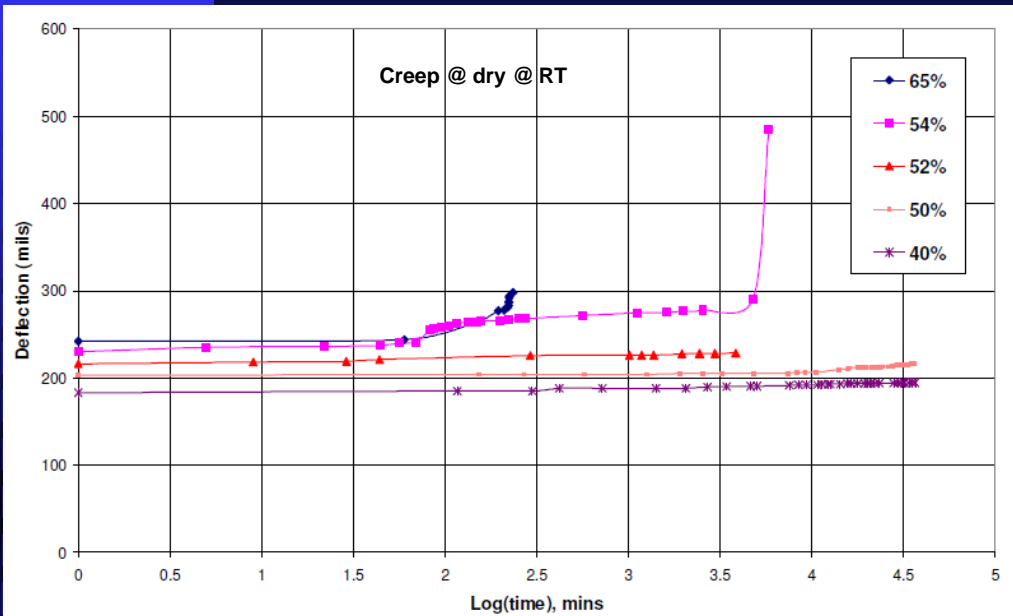


- (a) Tensile strength
- (b) Elastic modulus
- (c) Rupture elongation

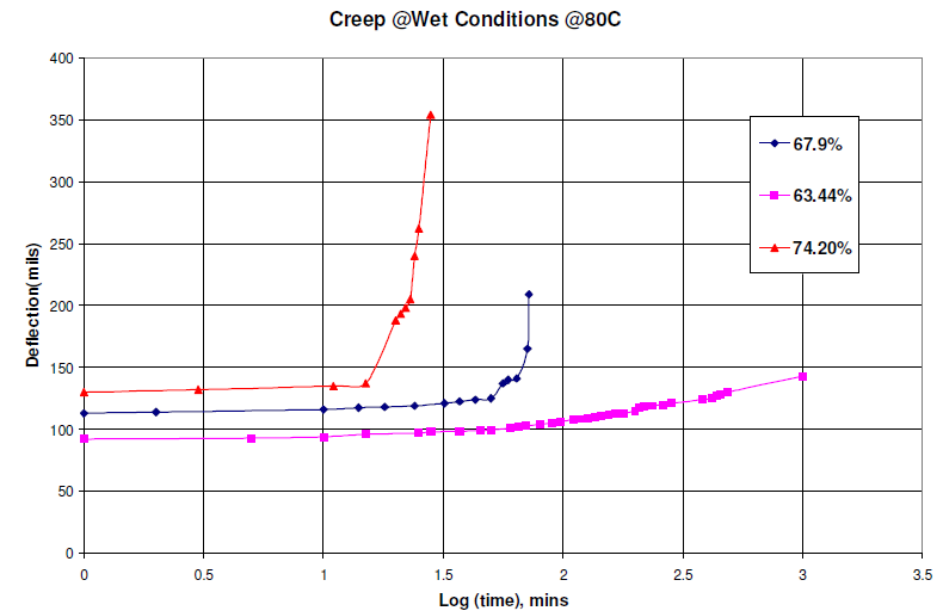
C- CFRP  
B- BFRP  
G- GFRP  
1B1C – CFRP/BFRP

(Credit: Shi, Zhu, Wu)

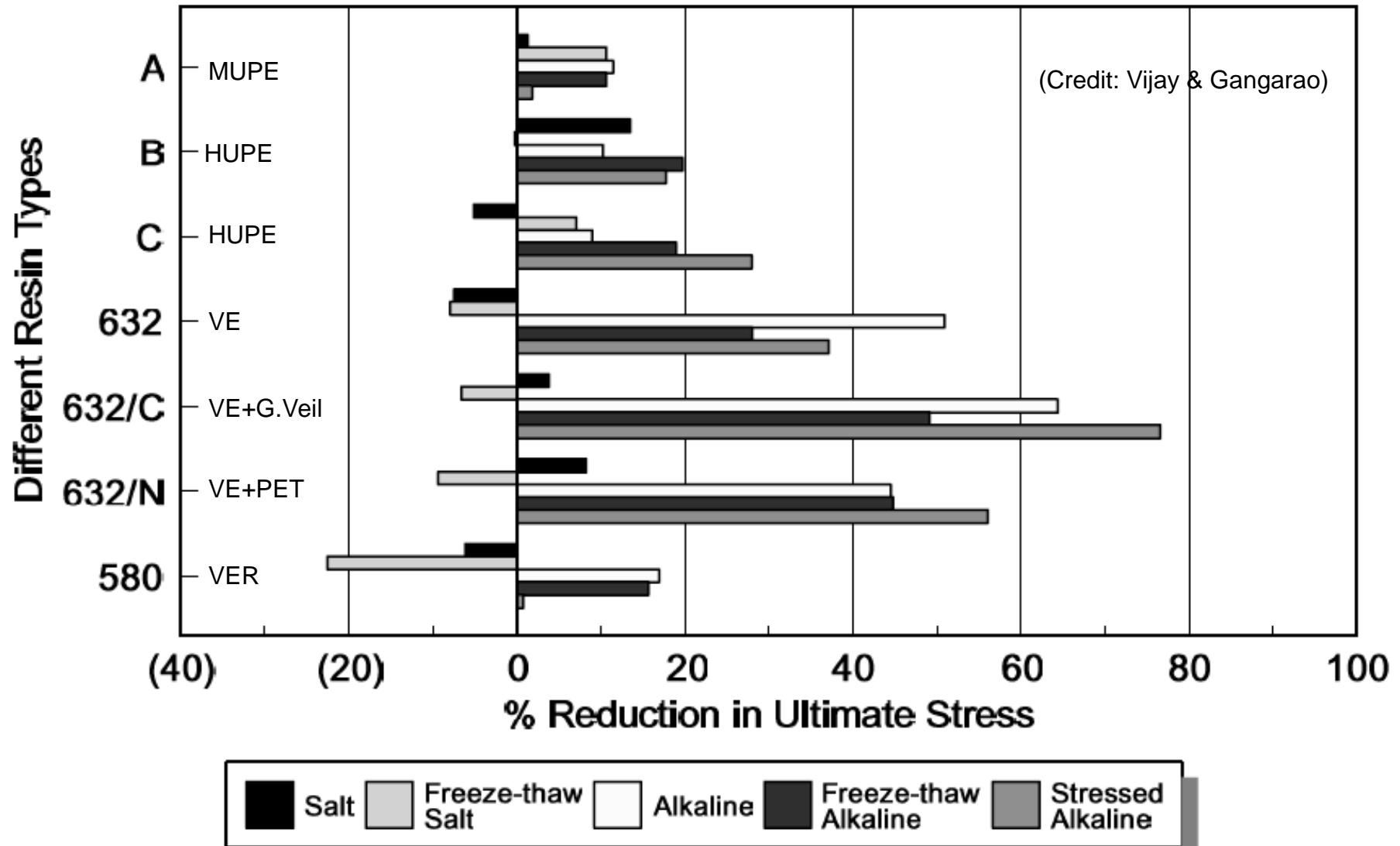
# Creep responses of three point bending creep with constant loads



(Credit: Batra)



# Variation of tensile strength in GFRP bars in different conditions





# Strength reduction factor for FRP under coupled effects of sustained stress and environment

FRP type	Sustained stress level	Environment	Strength reduction factor	Data resource
Glass/vinylester	45%	60°C, deionized water, 139 days	0.43 (T)	Helbling and Karbhari <sup>82</sup>
	45%	40°C, deionized water, 500 days	0.44 (T)	
	30%	60°C, deionized water, 668 days	0.34 (T)	
Sand-coated GFRP bar	29%	60°C, pH = 13, 2 months	0.89 (T)	Debaiky et al. <sup>60</sup>
Glass/polyester and Glass/vinylester	30%	60°C, 2000 h	0.85–0.9 (T)	Miller <sup>88</sup>
Sand-coated GFRP bar	37%	RM, pH = 13, 6 months	0.51 (T)	Vijay et al. <sup>14</sup>
	27%	RM, saltwater, 8 months	0.73 (T)	
	40%	66°C, pH = 13, 4 months	0.15 (T)	
Sand-coated GFRP bar reinforced concrete	30%	250 cycles, –25 to 15°C, followed by 1,000,000 cycles at 1.5 Hz and 25% of stress level	0.77 (B)	Alves et al. <sup>90</sup>

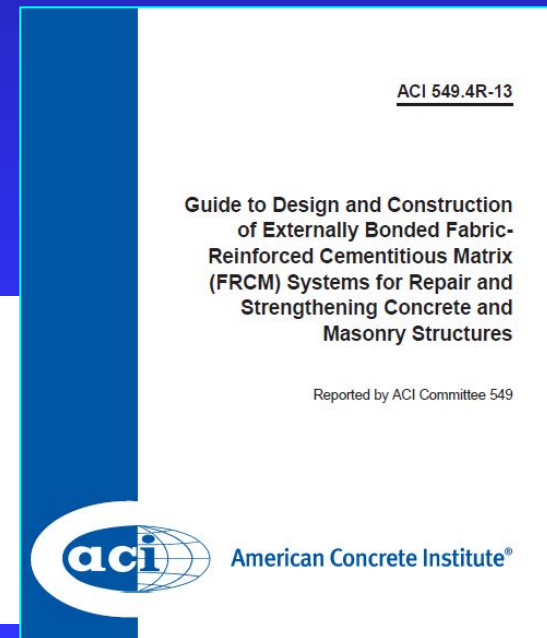
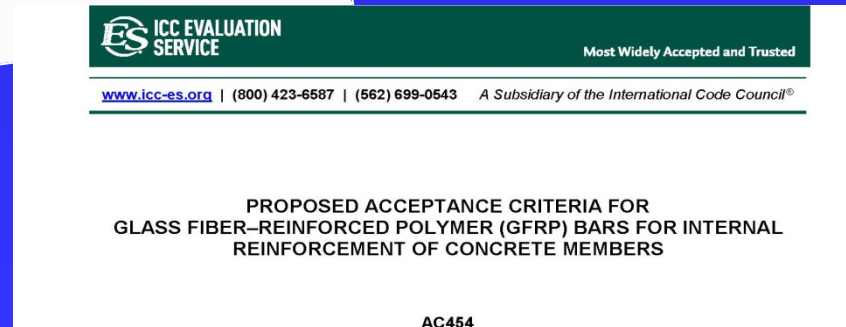
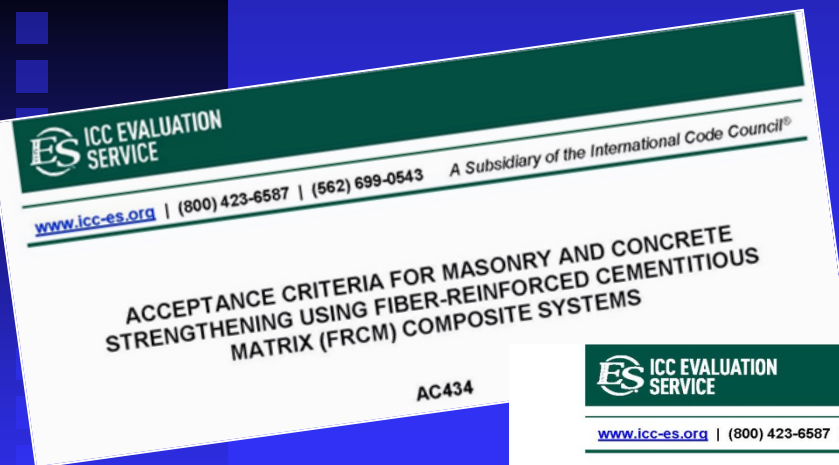
Abbreviations: T: tensile strength; B: bond strength.

# Summary of FRP composite durability responses

- $H_2O$  including pH variation weakens strength more than stiffness
- Extreme acidity is more aggressive than alkalinity except for GFRP
- Although Fickian phenomenon is more popular, superposition of independent contributions of  $H_2O$  and creep are ok at higher temp.
- Temp. strongly affects  $H_2O$  absorption rate; thus FT needs evaluation
- Creep accelerates property degradation
- For design several strength reduction factors are suggested accounting  $H_2O$ , temp, pH, creep

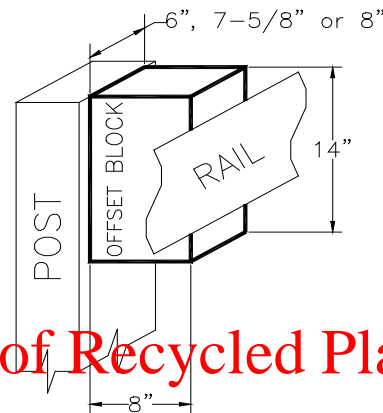
# Codes, Specifications and Guidance

- Construction industry relies on design codes and specifications, such as ACI 440.1R.03 & AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Guide; ICC-ES AC434; and AC454
- New design code entitled, “Pre-standard for Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) of Pultruded Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Structures” by ACMA-ASCE





# Engineered Recycled Thermoplastic Composites



Offset Blocks Made of Recycled Plastic

Field Installation and Testing of Full Scale RR Ties Made with Recycled Polymer Composite Shell and Used Wood Tie as a Core



# Conclusions

- Academia in cooperation with government and industry has made major strides with FRPs for infrastructure applications.
- With code acceptance, FRP composite materials will become an integral part of civil infrastructure including rehab of aging structures at 15-30% of conventional repair costs.
- Increased use of reliable and durable composite materials results in low maintenance, longer service life, and greener products, provided durability concepts are properly integrated in design.

# Acknowledgement

- Many of the projects presented were carried out under NSF-IUCRC-CICI program as joint efforts among WVU-CFC, WVDOT, USACE, NSF, FHWA and Industries.
- East Lynn Bridge Rehab was honored with 2014 USACE Innovation of the Year Award and the 2014 Engineering Excellence Award of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of USACE.
- Many graduate students of WVU-CFC have participated in various projects.

**PIANC WG 191 Composites for Hydraulic Structures Working Group Meeting, June 20, 2016, Washington DC. Please email: [ghota@wvu.edu](mailto:ghota@wvu.edu)**



# Questions and discussions

