

# Concrete truck mixer as a rheometer

*- mæling á sigmáli steypu með tromlu steypubíls*

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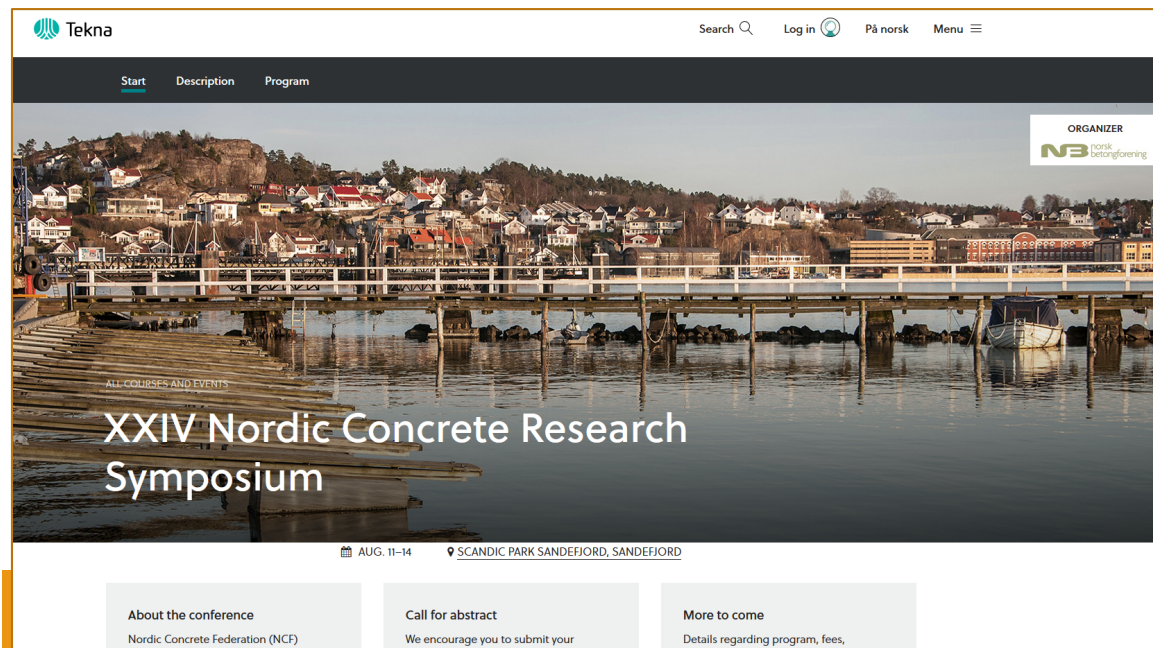


Innovation Center  
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# Nordic Concrete Research Symposium Sandefjord Aug (11)12th-14th 2020

Get to together and exchange experience  
and ideas within our Nordic community

Abstracts will be accepted until February 23<sup>rd</sup>



The screenshot shows the Tekna website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Tekna logo, a search icon, and links for 'Log in', 'På norsk', and 'Menu'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Start', 'Description', and 'Program'. The main content area features a large image of a coastal town with a pier and boats. Overlaid on this image is the text 'XXIV Nordic Concrete Research Symposium' and 'ALL COURSES AND EVENTS'. In the top right corner of the image area, there is a box labeled 'ORGANIZER' with the NCF logo and the text 'Nordic Concrete Federation'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with three columns: 'About the conference' (Nordic Concrete Federation (NCF)), 'Call for abstract' (We encourage you to submit your), and 'More to come' (Details regarding program, fees,). The date 'AUG. 11-14' and location 'SCANDIC PARK SANDEFJORD, SANDEFJORD' are also visible in the footer.



[www.nordicconcrete.net](http://www.nordicconcrete.net)

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# Bingham mod

Two rheological parameters are commonly used in describing the rheological behavior of fresh conc

Yield stress  $\tau_0$  ("tau")

Plastic viscosity  $\mu$  ("mu")

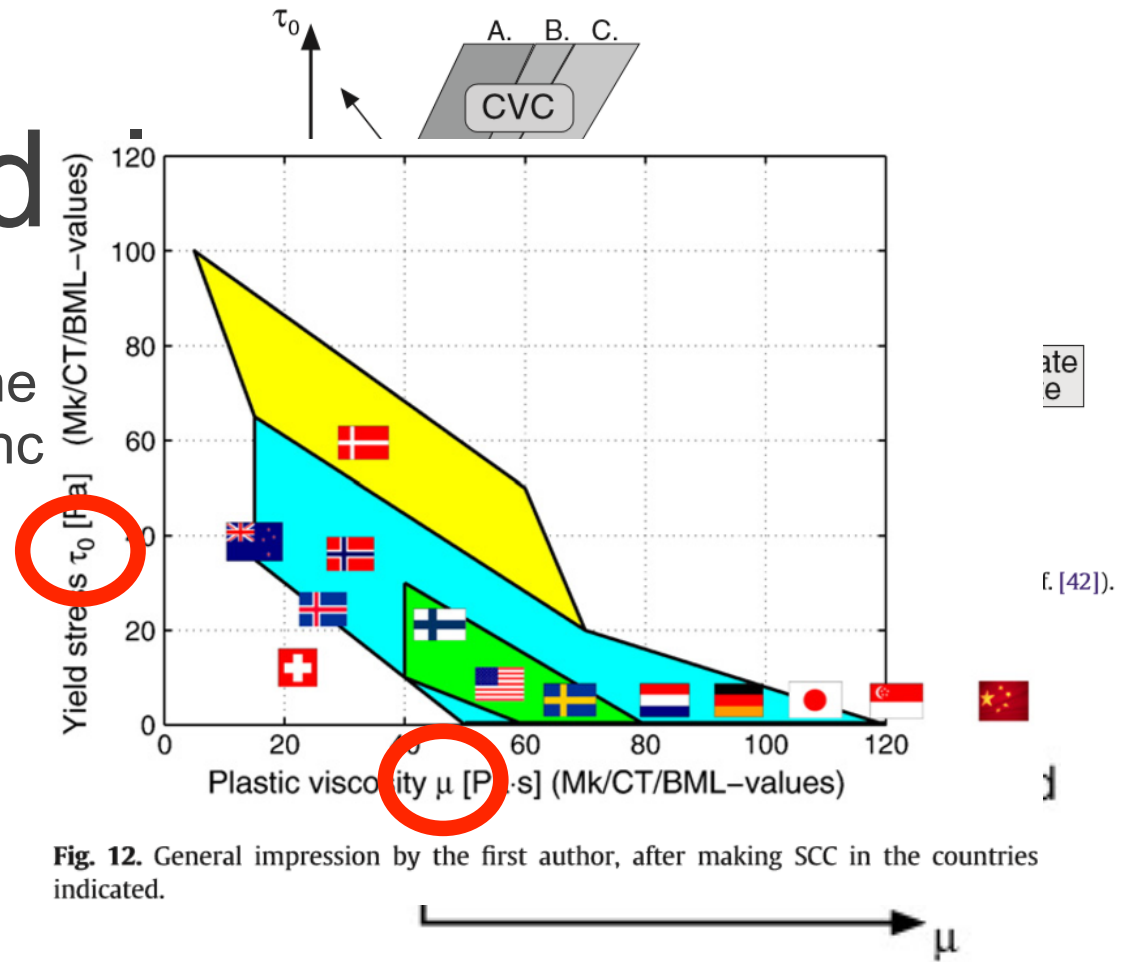
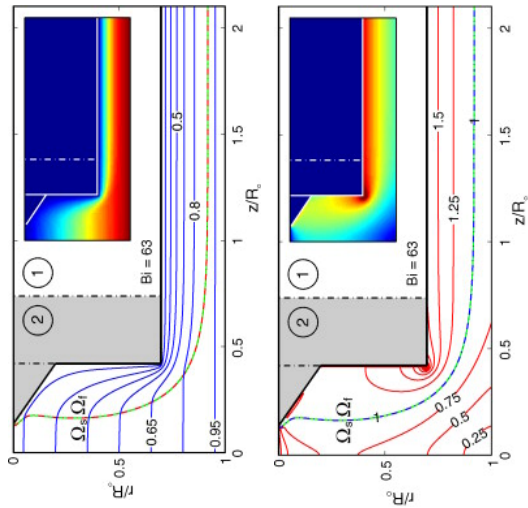
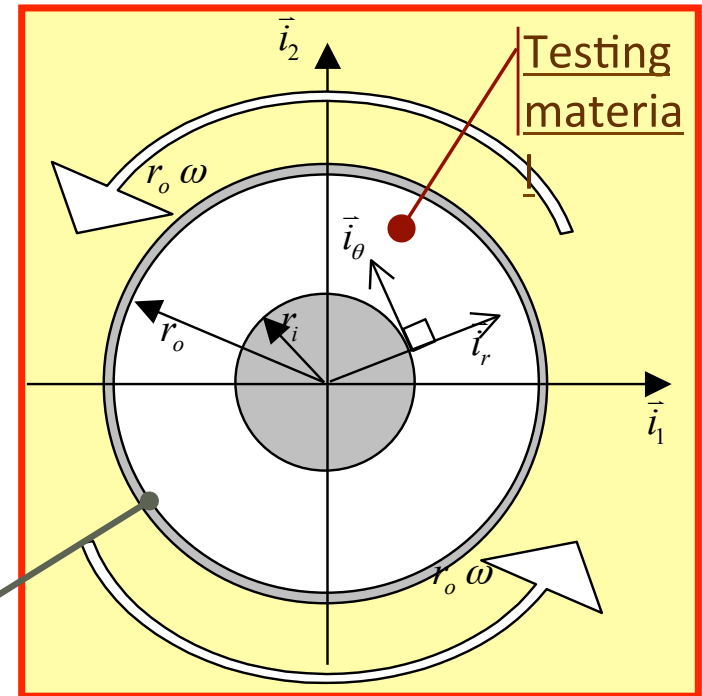


Fig. 12. General impression by the first author, after making SCC in the countries indicated.

# Measurement of $\tau_0$ and $\mu$

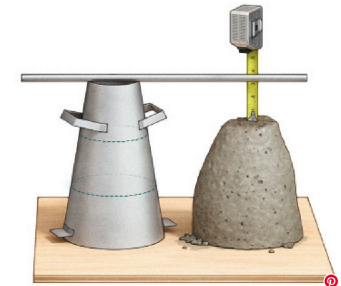
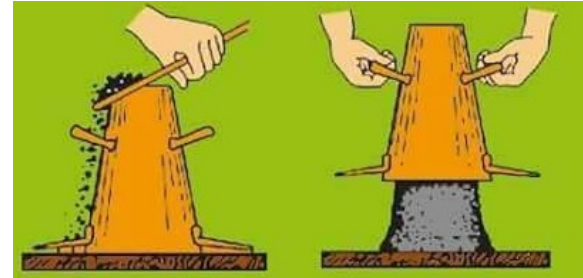


The container which the cement based material is pored in to



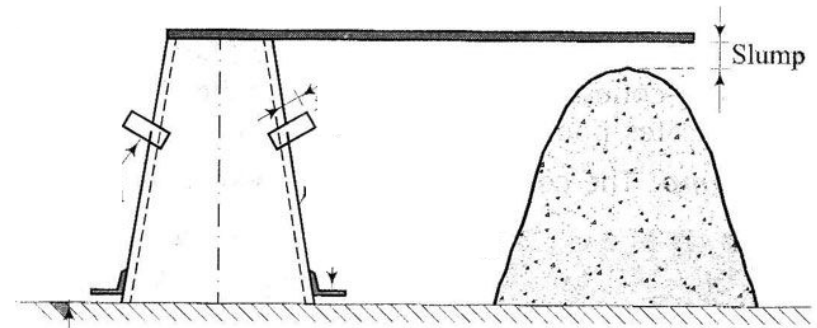
The inner cylinder is stationary and registers the applied torque from the testing material

# Slump (sigmál)





$\tau_0$   
yield stress



$\tau_0$

Low yield stress  
= high slump  
(self leveling /  
compacting  
concrete)

$\tau_0$

Hi yield stress  
= small slump  
(stiff concrete)



# Plastic viscosity $\mu$

Time index: 0.000000 (100 = 1 sec)

```
rho = 2350 kg/m3  
mu = 110 Pa.s  
tau0 = 90 Pa  
no slippage case  
No. of cells = 405504  
OpenFOAM 2.3.x
```



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$\mu$

Low plastic viscosity  
(fast fluid flow)

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$\mu$

High plastic  
viscosity  
(slow fluid  
flow)

$\tau_0 = 30 \text{ Pa}$   
 $\mu = 40 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$   
 $\rho = 2350 \text{ kg/m}^3$

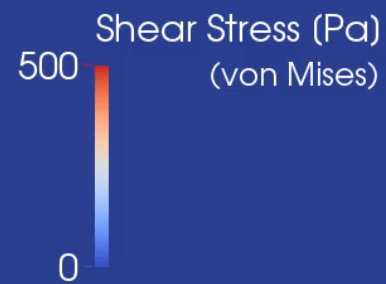


$\tau_0 = 30 \text{ Pa}$   
 $\mu = 110 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$   
 $\rho = 2350 \text{ kg/m}^3$



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$\tau_0 = 30 \text{ Pa}$   
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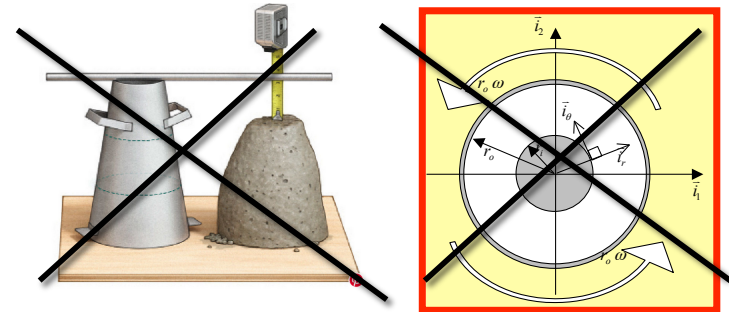


$\tau_0 = 30 \text{ Pa}$   
 $\mu = 110 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$   
 $\rho = 2350 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Time index: 0.000000  
(100 = 1 sec)



Measurement of  $\tau_0$  and  $\mu$



# NISTIR 7333



Figure 2: View of the truck used, the slump indicator, and the interior of the drum

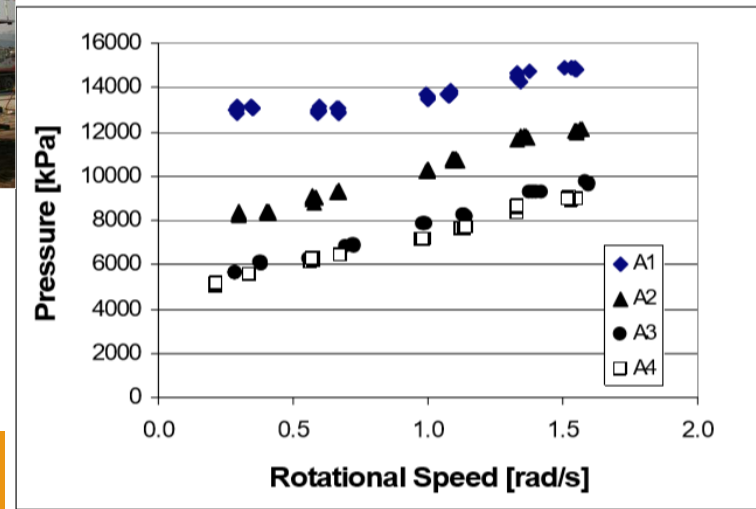
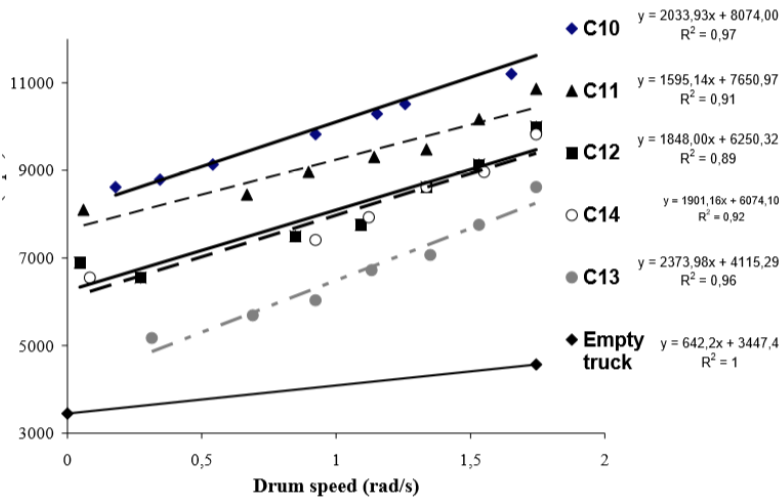


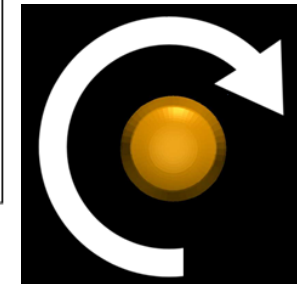
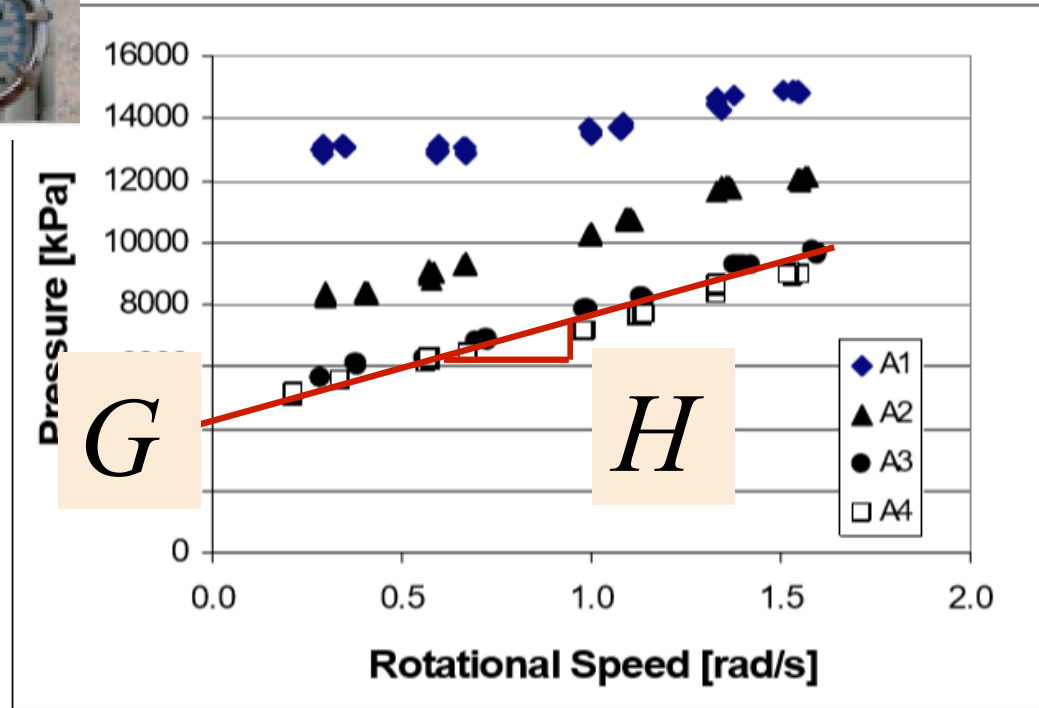
- monitor rotation speed
- power is recorded

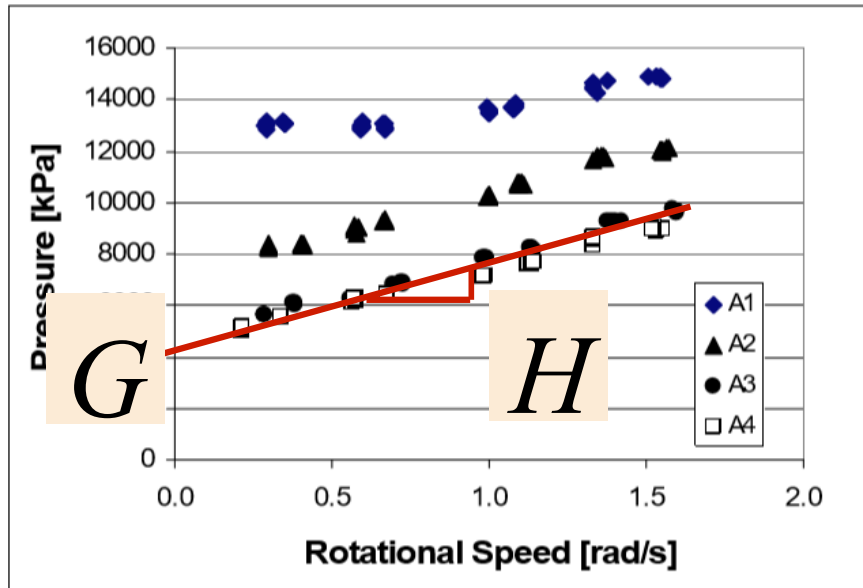
# NISTIR 7447



Top Row: left to right: Richard Arnold, Chris Doss, Ken Floyd, Max Peltz, Joe Grein, Scott Rogers, Steve Verdino, Roy Cooley  
 Bottom Row: left to right: Ed Dunstan, Chiara Ferraris, Mike Topputo, Terry Miller, Dave Westcott

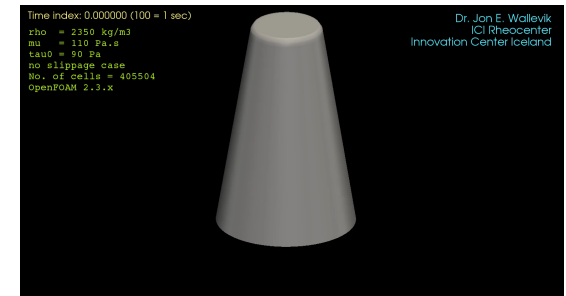
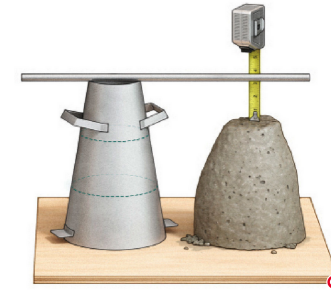




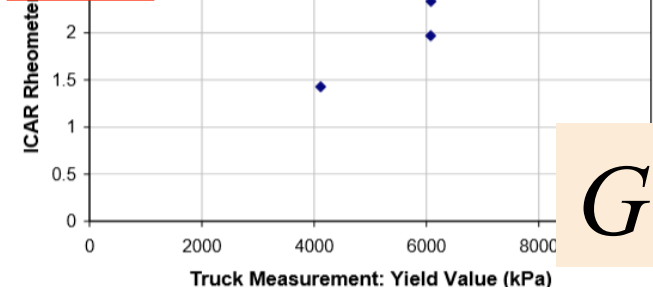


$$G = Q_1 \tau_0$$

$$H = Q_2 \mu$$



$\tau_0$



NISTIR  
7333

$G$

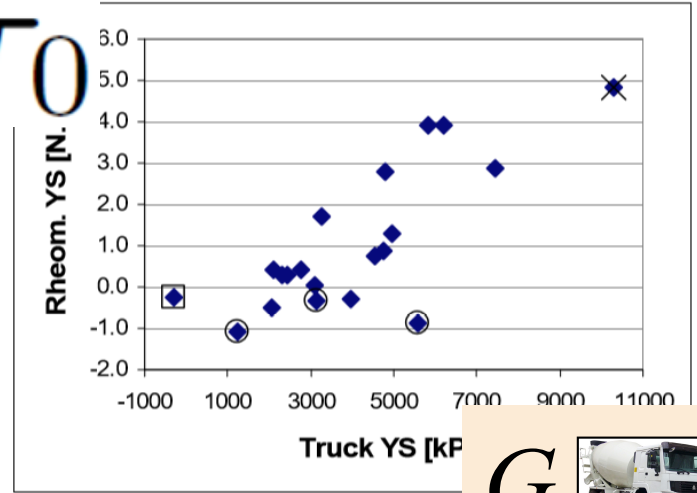


$$H = Q_2 \mu$$

$$G = Q_1 \tau_0$$

?

$\tau_0$

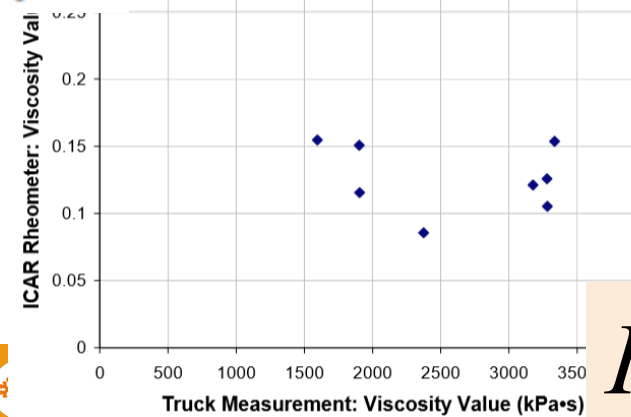


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7447

$G$



$\mu$

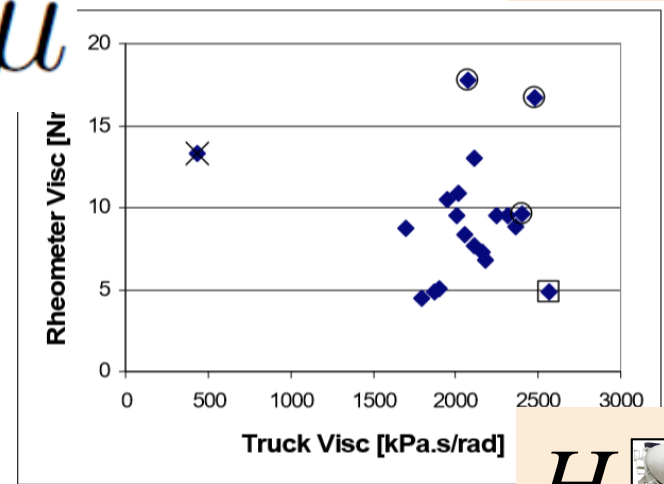


NISTIR  
7333

$H$



$\mu$



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7447

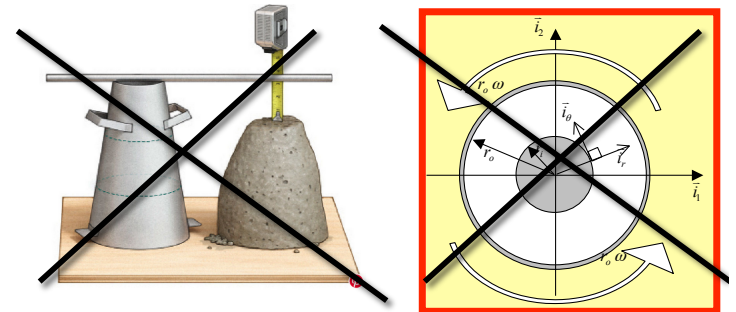
$H$



# For real experiments: experimental errors

- C.F. Ferraris, R. Cooley, J. Grein, M. Peltz, M. Topputo, S. Verdino, Feasibility of Using a Concrete Mixing Truck as a Rheometer (Orlando, Florida), NISTIR 7447, September 2007:
  - Mechanical friction between the drum and the rest of the truck,
    - *from gearing box, bearing balls, carrying rollers and so forth*
  - incorrect truck sampling
  - insufficient mixing time after addition of chemical admixtures
  - ...

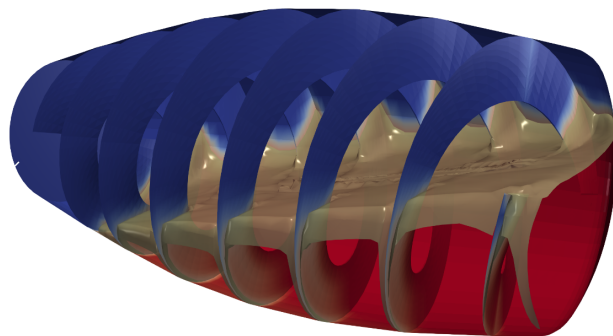
# Measurement of $\tau_0$ and $\mu$



The current work is done to investigate the feasibility in using the truck mixer as a rheological device

The power is calculated in kilowatts [kW]

- can be related to the hydraulic pressure to turn the drum i.e. slump meter



# Icelandic High Performance Computing (IHPC)

- <http://ihpc.is>



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND



Garðar



Garpur (active)





# KARRENA 9/5



Drum volume of 15.7 m<sup>3</sup>

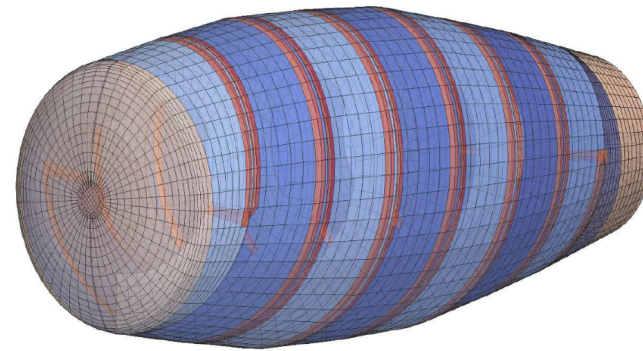
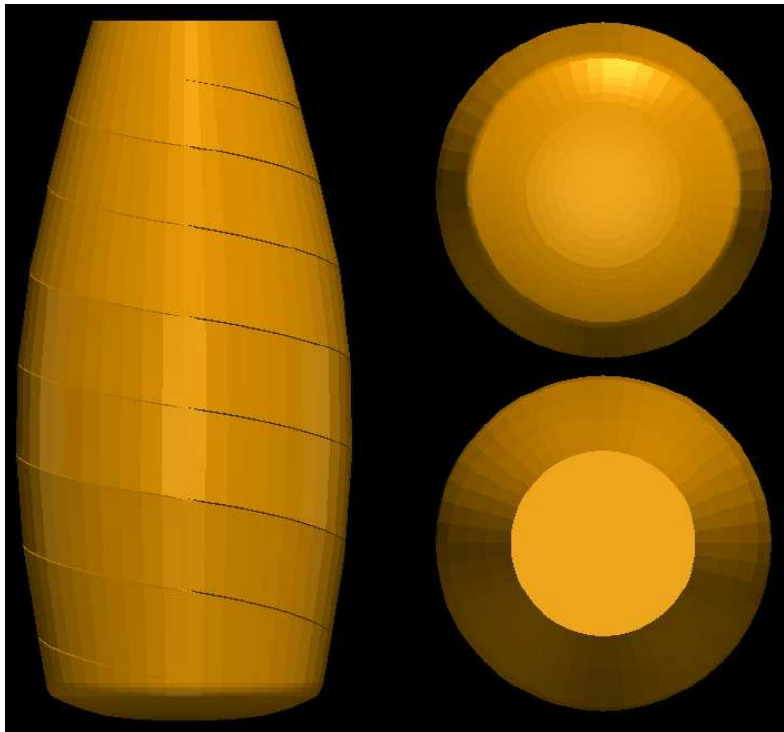
Max rated drum capacity is 9 m<sup>3</sup>

Drum speed is between 0 and 0.23 rps

- i.e. from 0 and 14 rpm

Inclination of the drum relative to the horizontal, is 11 degrees

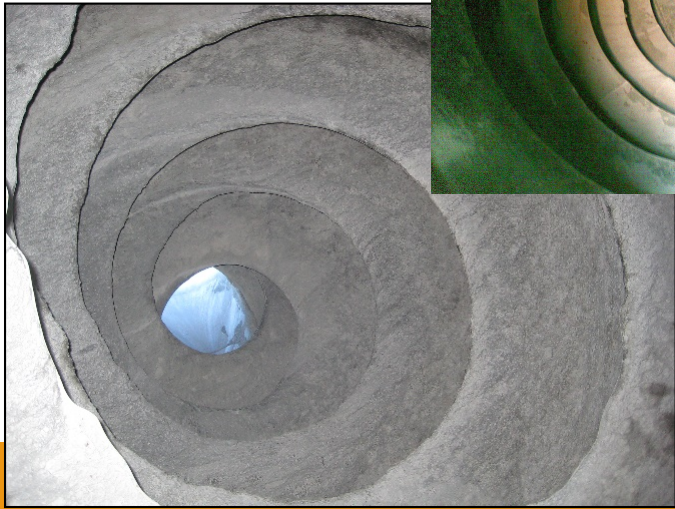
Meshing of the drum was made with OpenFOAM utility called blockMesh



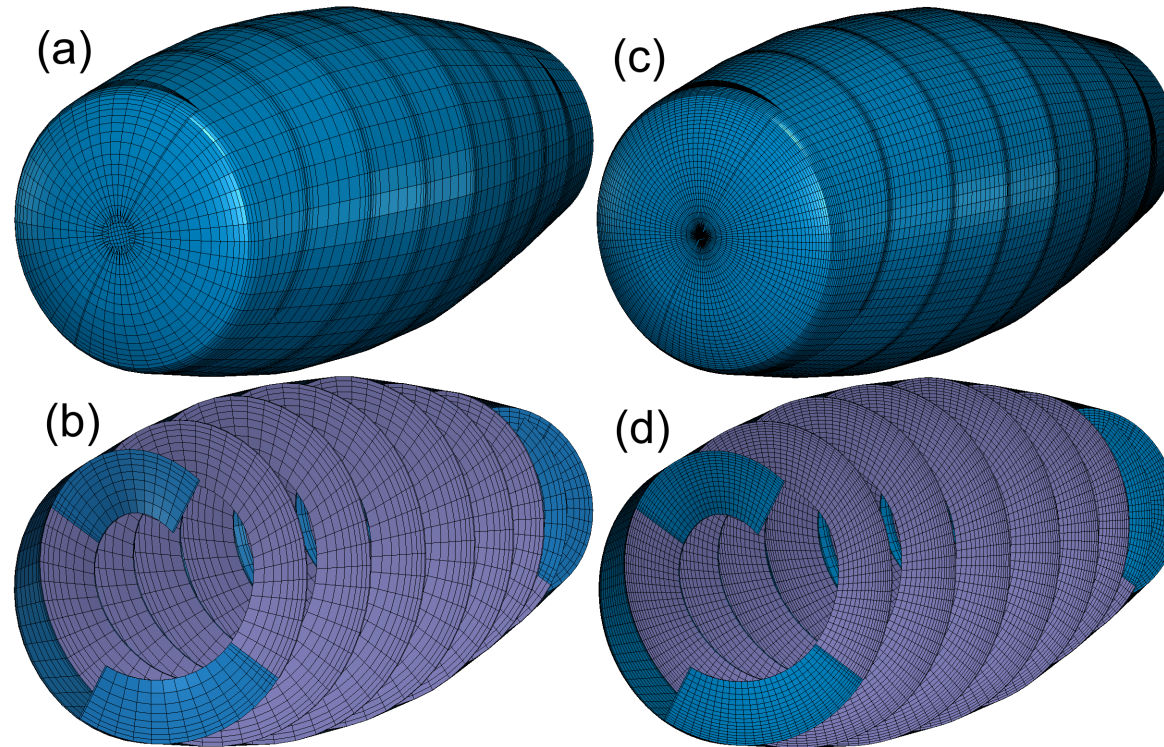
Trying to get drawings of the drum on the inside was not successful. Therefore a direct measurements of the drum was necessary!



This was done at the ready-mix plant Steypustöðin ehf in Reykjavik with one of their truck mixer



# Mesh independence analysis



About 60,000 cells (to the left) & about 400,000 cells (to the right)



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Cement and Concrete Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cemconres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cemconres)



### Concrete mixing truck as a rheometer

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#### ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**

Truck mixer  
Rheology  
Bingham model  
Fresh concrete  
CFD

#### ABSTRACT

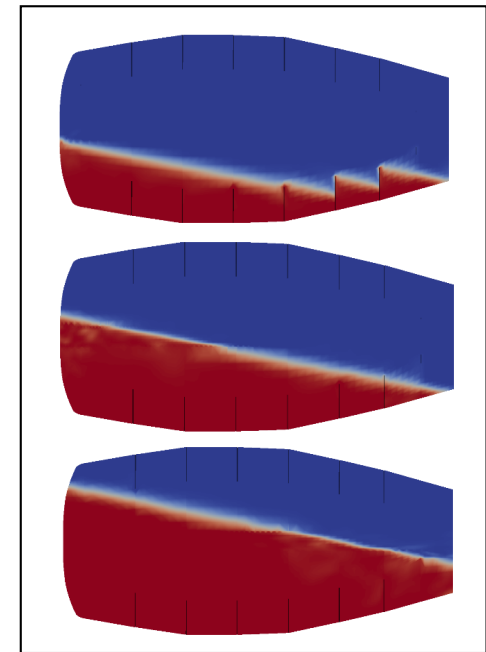
An increasing interest has emerged in correlating the output of the concrete mixing truck to values obtained by rotational rheometers. The output of the former has usually been the hydraulic pressure needed to turn the drum. In such research, experimental errors can be higher than usual, which makes it harder to obtain confident relationships. To better understand the physical characteristics of the truck's rheological values, the above analysis is made by a series of computer simulations (i.e. with CFD). From this, it is evident that the slope  $H$  of the truck's pressure values depends both on the plastic viscosity  $\mu$  as well as on the yield stress  $\tau_0$ . However, for the intercept  $G$  of the truck's values, it is mostly dependent on the yield stress  $\tau_0$ . In addition to this, both values  $H$  and  $G$  depend on volume of concrete in the truck as well as on density.

# Test setup



The power analysis is done as a function of drum charge volume  $2.5 \text{ m}^3$ ,  $5.4 \text{ m}^3$  and  $8.2 \text{ m}^3$

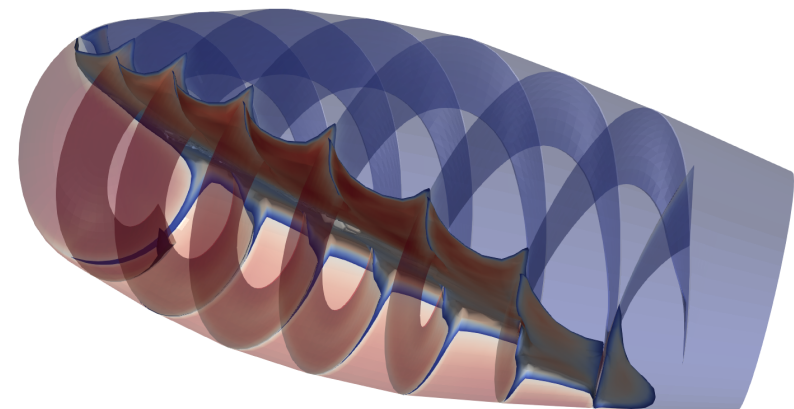
At different drum rotational speed  
 $f = 0.03, 0.07, 0.11, 0.15, 0.19$  and  $0.23 \text{ rps}$



# Test setup (cont.)

Yield stress and plastic viscosity,...

- $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 25 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 150 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 25 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 300 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 25 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 75 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 150 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 75 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 300 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 75 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 125 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 150 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 125 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
- $\tau_0 = 300 \text{ Pa}$  &  $\mu = 125 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$



More than 150,000 CPU hours on the IHPC

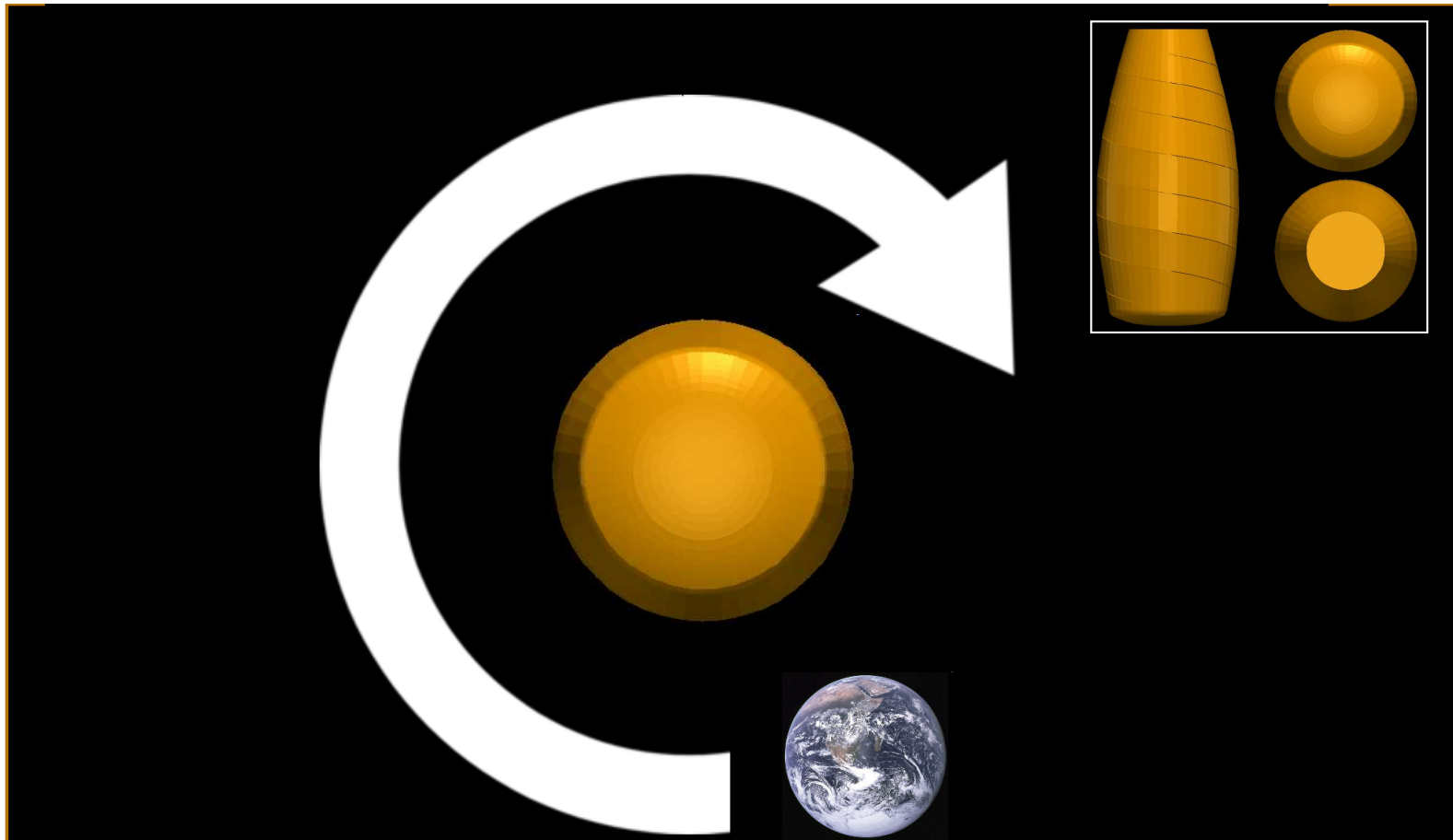
# Rotation of the drum



## Gravity rotation

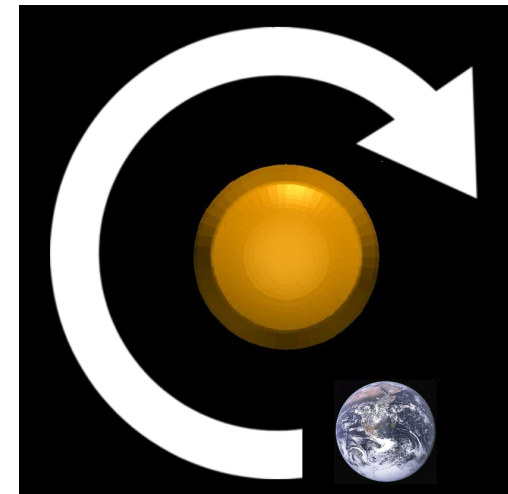
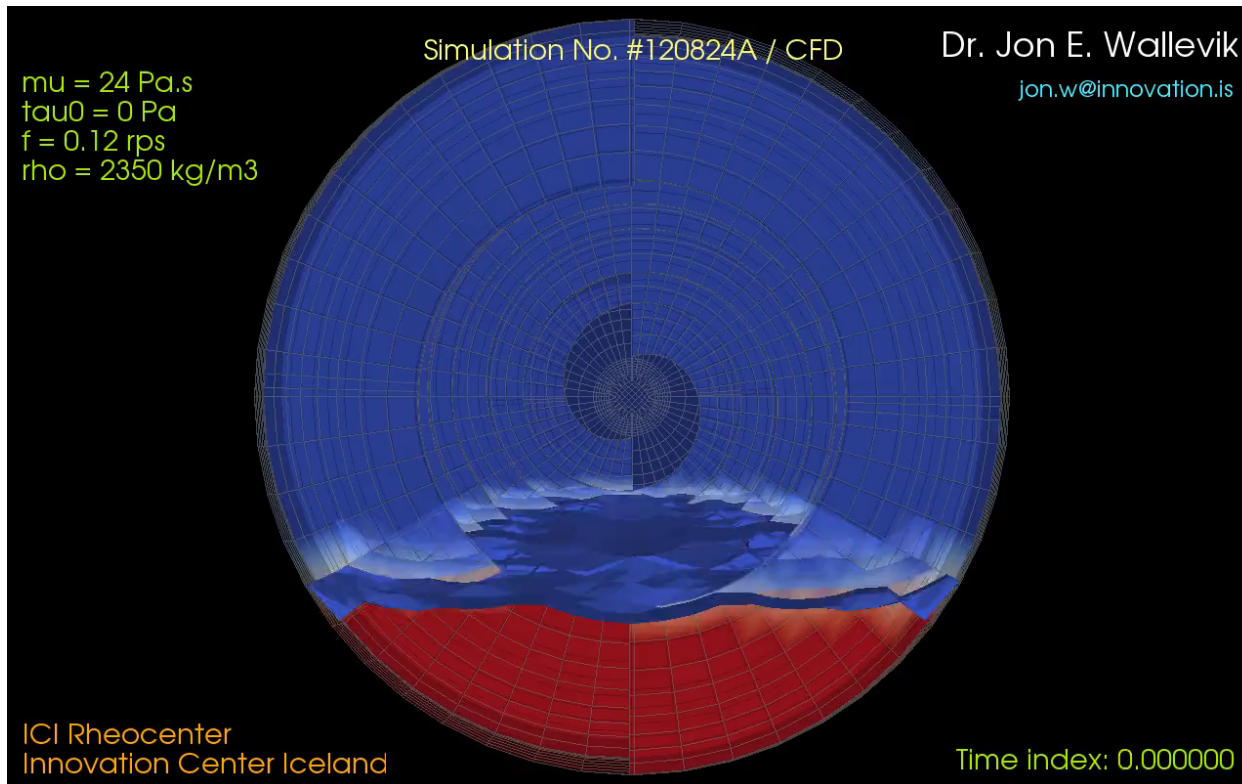
- Instead of physically rotate the computational mesh, the gravity-field is rotated
- The system represents no longer an inertial reference frame
  - **Coriolis force and the centrifugal force have to be included**





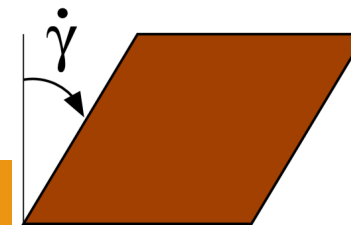
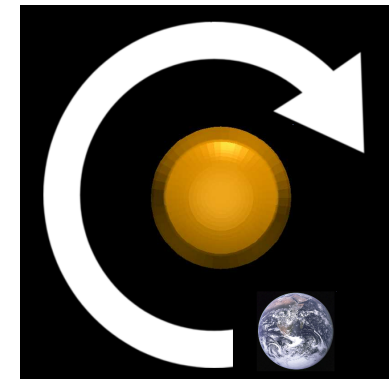
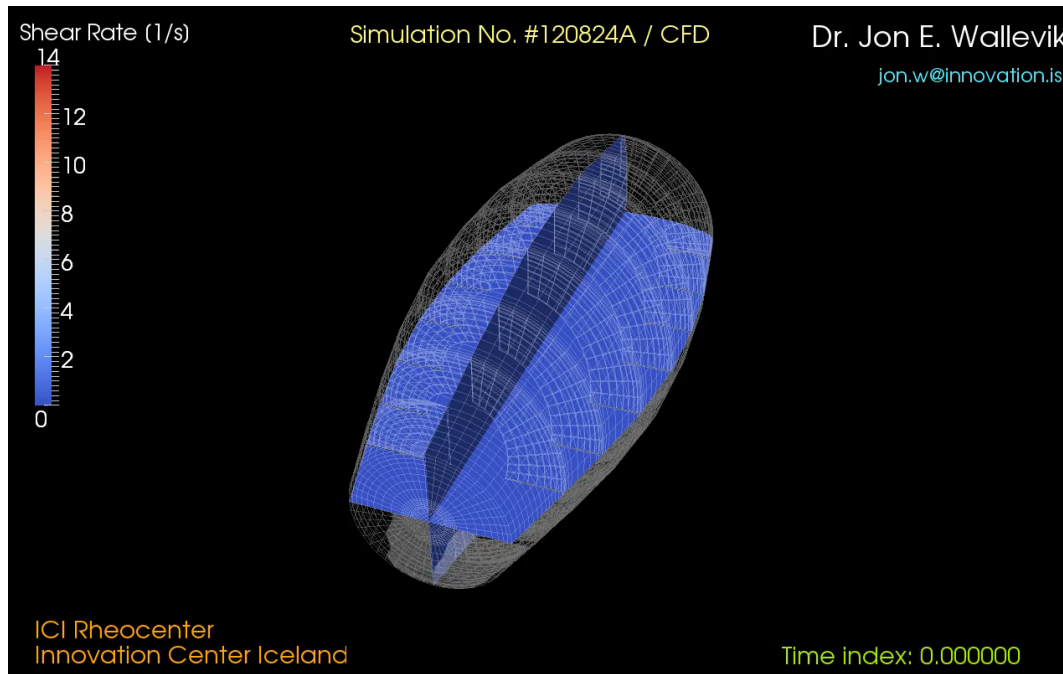
Instead of **rotating the drum** on a **stationary Earth**,  
the **drum is stationary** and the **Earth rotates** around it

# Single Rotating Reference Frame (SRF) Modeling (i.e. here by gravity rotation)



# Single Rotating Reference Frame (SRF) Modeling (i.e. here by gravity rotation)


$$\dot{\gamma} \equiv \sqrt{2 \dot{\epsilon} : \dot{\epsilon}}$$



$$\left(\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{U}}{\partial t}\right) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}) + \mathbf{F}_{\text{cor}} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{cen}} = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T} + \rho \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{F}_s.$$


Cement and Concrete Research 95 (2017) 9–17

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**Analysis of shear rate inside a concrete truck mixer** 

Jon Elvar Wallevik<sup>a,\*</sup>, Olafur Haralds Wallevik<sup>b</sup>

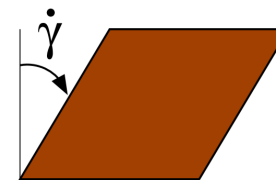
<sup>a</sup>ICI Rheocenter, Innovation Center Iceland, Arleyrnir 2, Reykjavik IS-112, Iceland  
<sup>b</sup>ICI Rheocenter, Reykjavik University and Innovation Center Iceland, Arleyrnir 2, Reykjavik IS-112, Iceland

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<p><b>ARTICLE INFO</b></p> <p><i>Article history:</i>          Received 28 November 2016          Accepted 10 February 2017          Available online 20 February 2017</p> <p><i>Keywords:</i>          Truck mixer          Shear rate          Fresh concrete          Rheology          Finite volume method</p>	<p><b>ABSTRACT</b></p> <p>In addition to the mixing energy applied to the fresh concrete (i.e. shearing during mixing), the shear history after mixing is also important. This applies especially to binder rich concretes like the different types of high performance concrete (HPC). With this in mind, the shear rate is analyzed inside a drum of a concrete truck mixer. The objective is to better understand the effect of transport of fresh concrete, from the ready mix plant to the building site. The analysis reveals the effect of different drum charge volume and drum rotational speed. Also, the effect of yield stress and plastic viscosity is investigated. The work shows that the shear rate decreases in an exponential manner with increasing drum charge volume. It is also shown that for a given drum speed, the shear rate decreases both with increasing plastic viscosity and yield stress.</p> <p>© 2017 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a>).</p>
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$$\mathbf{T} = 2 \eta \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}$$

$$\eta = \mu + \tau_0 / \dot{\gamma}$$



$$\dot{\gamma} = \sqrt{2 \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} : \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}}$$

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{U} + (\nabla \mathbf{U})^T)$$

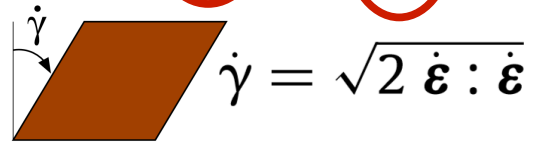
# Rate of work (mechanical power)

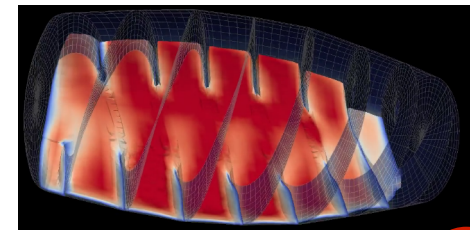
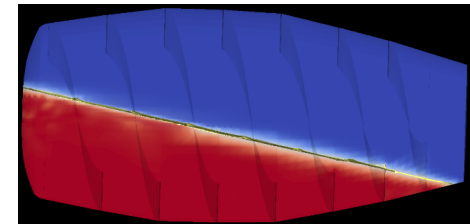
Mase, G.T. and Mase, G.E. [13]; Malvern, L.E. [8]

$$P = \iiint_V \rho \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{v} dV + \iint_{\partial V} \mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{v} dA$$

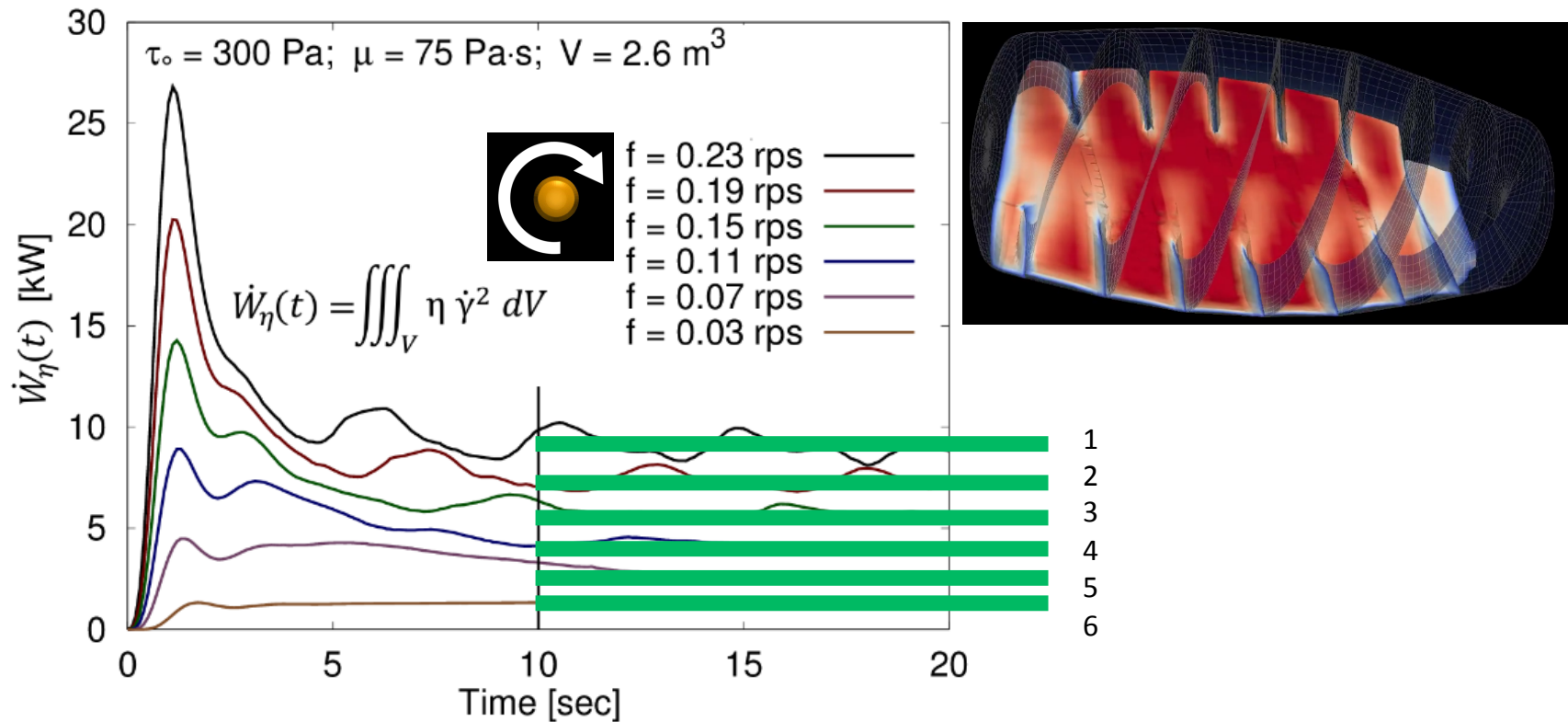
$V$  = Volume of concrete

Wallevik, J.E., Ref. [11] pp. 386 – 389

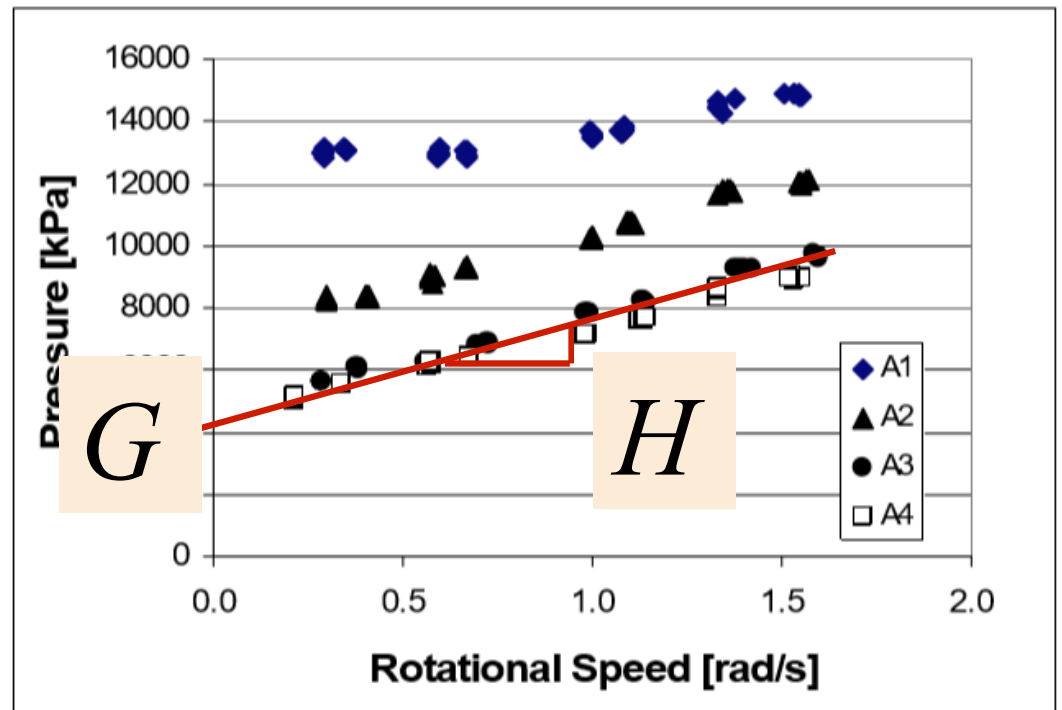
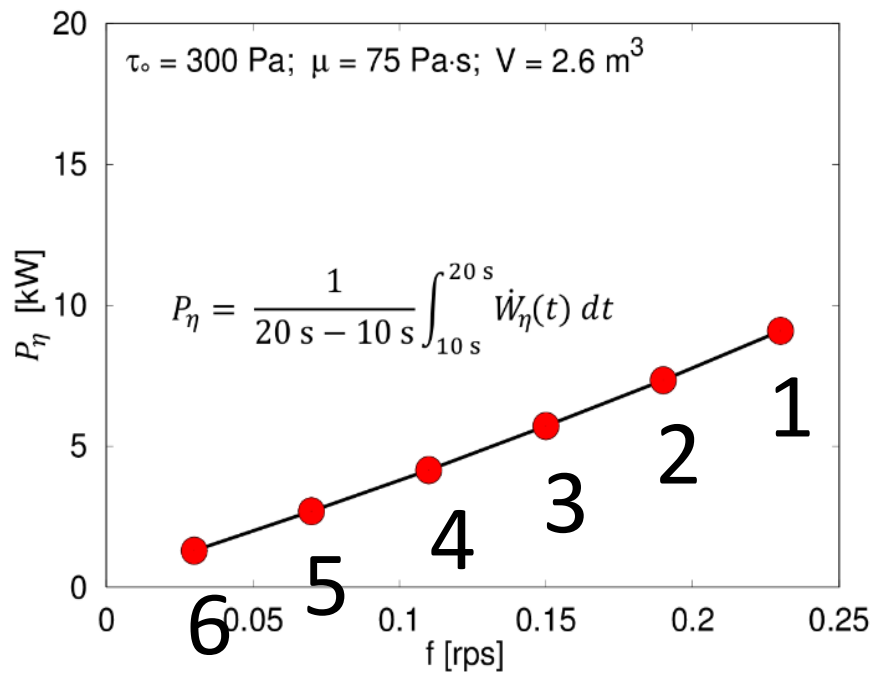
$$P = \iiint_V \rho \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{2} \right] dV + \iiint_V \eta \dot{\gamma}^2 dV \rightarrow \eta = \mu + \tau_0 / \dot{\gamma}$$


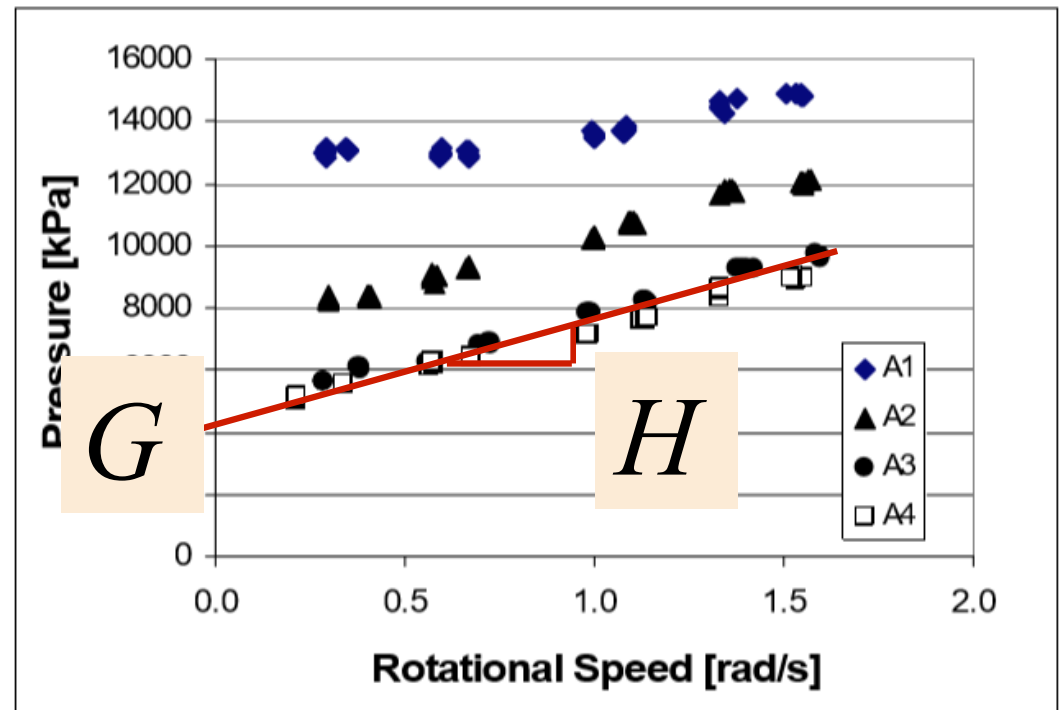
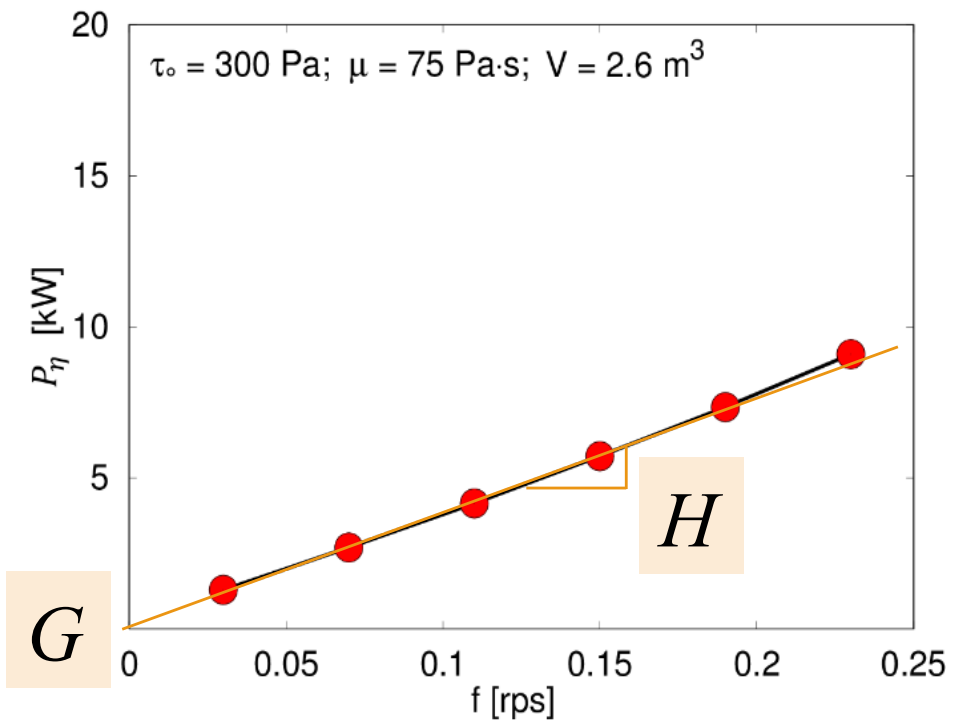


## To generate quantifiable data for comparison

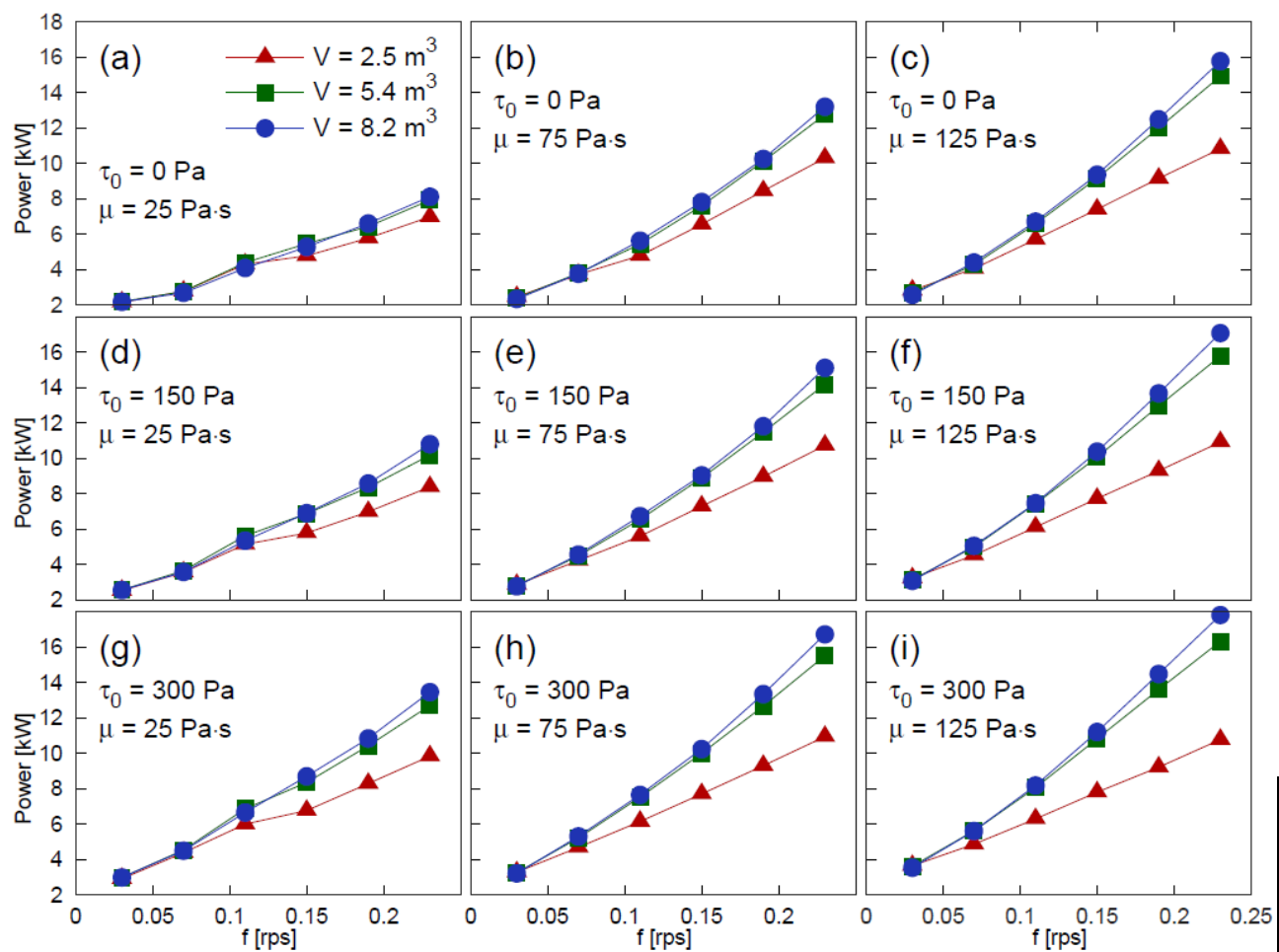


$$P = \frac{1}{20 \text{ s} - 10 \text{ s}} \int_{10 \text{ s}}^{20 \text{ s}} \dot{W}(t) dt = \text{Power at equilibrium}$$







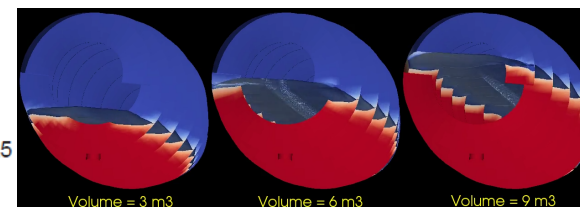


Drum charge volume:

$V = 2.5 \text{ m}^3$ ,

$V = 5.4 \text{ m}^3$

$V = 8.2 \text{ m}^3$

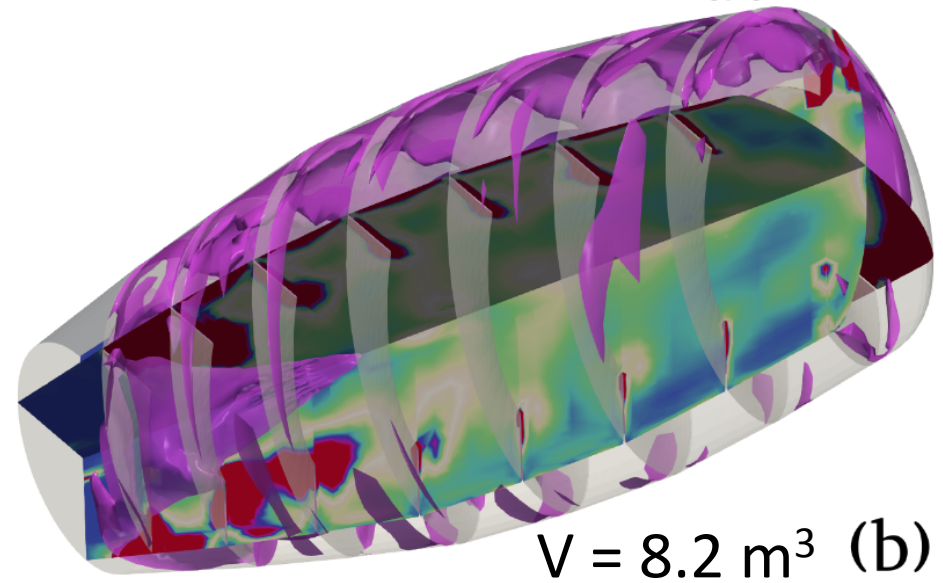
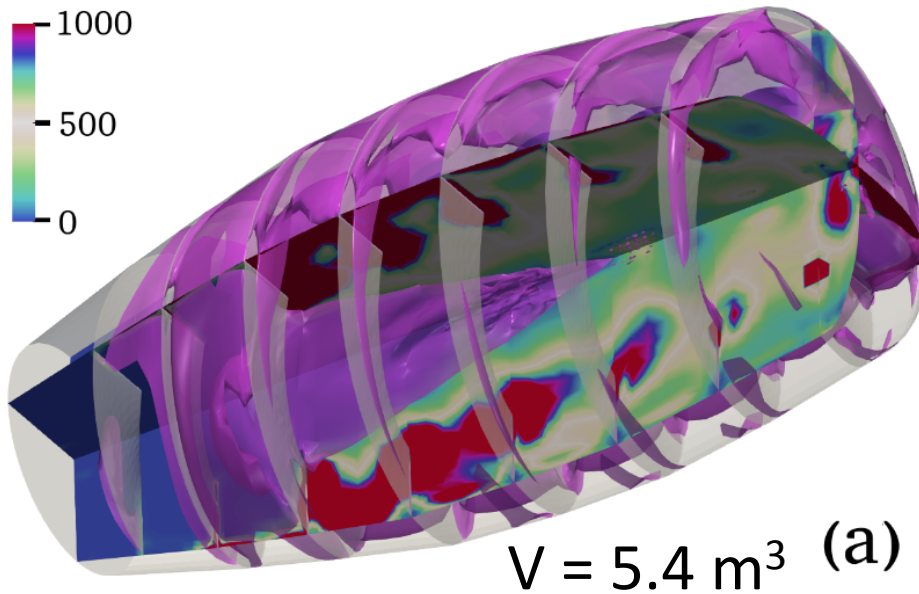
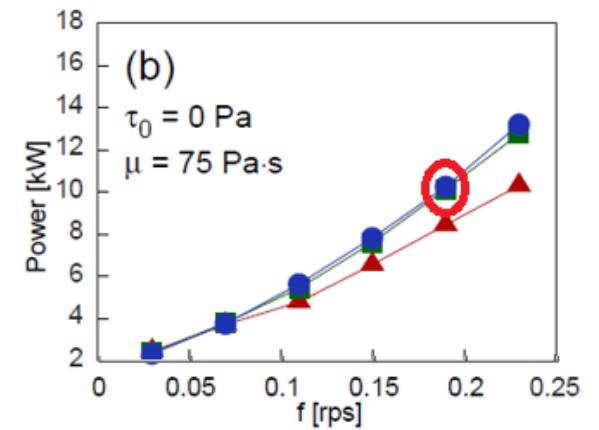


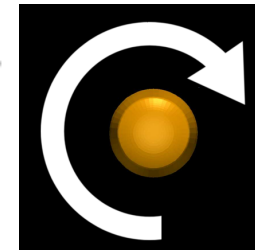
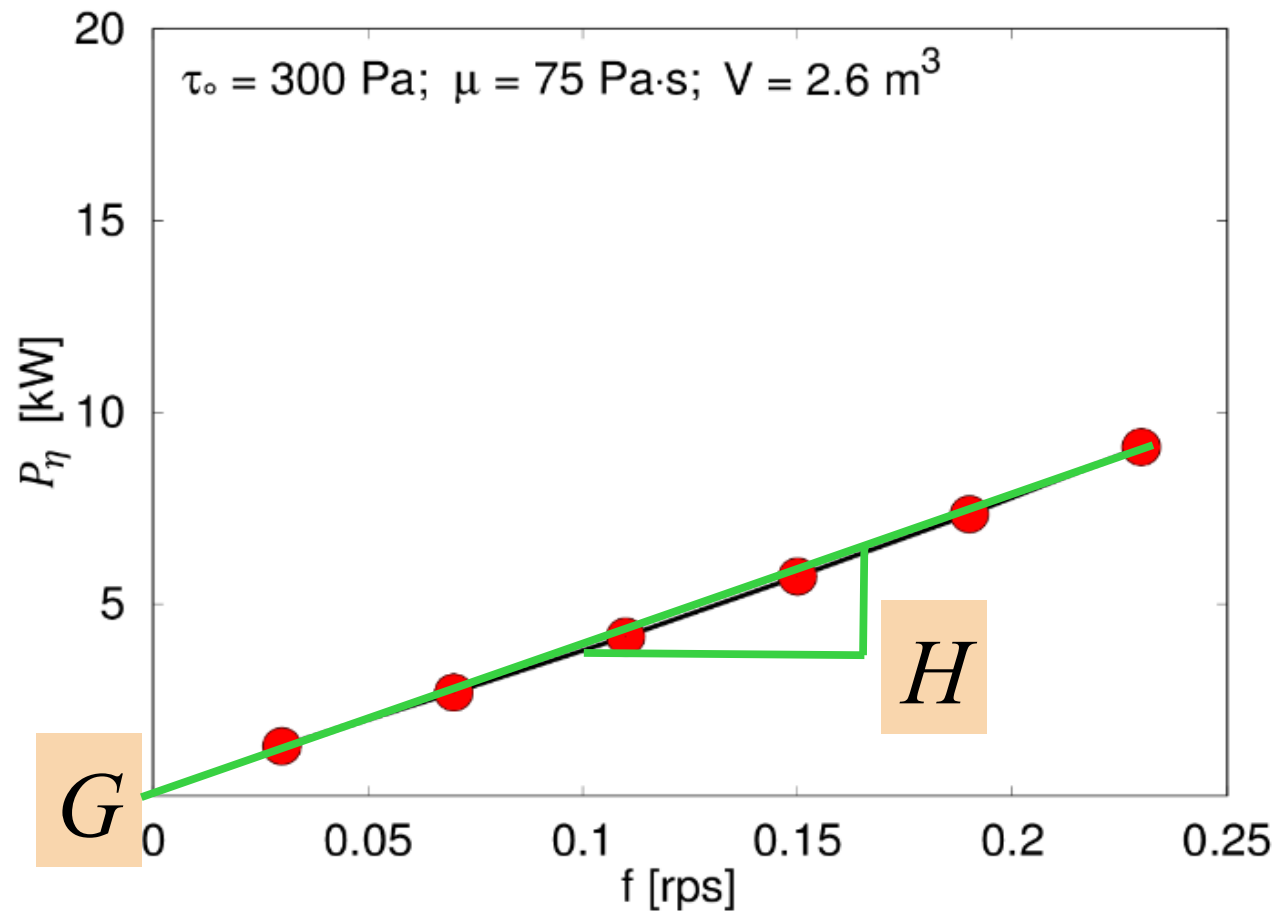
Cross-section of  $\eta \dot{\gamma}^2$  (in [Pa/s])

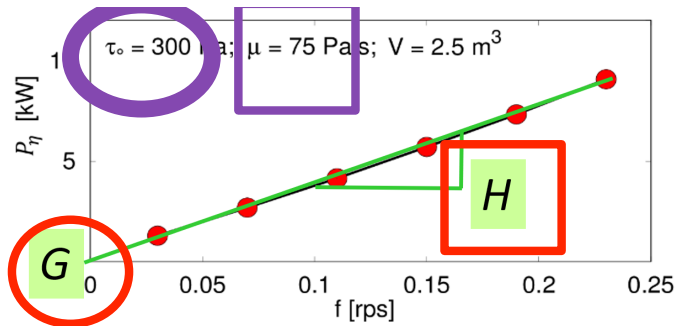
$\tau_0 = 0$  Pa and  $\mu = 75$  Pa.s,  $f = 0.19$  rps and time  $t = 16.5$  s,

Increased volume  $V$  results in lower intensity of  $\eta \dot{\gamma}^2$

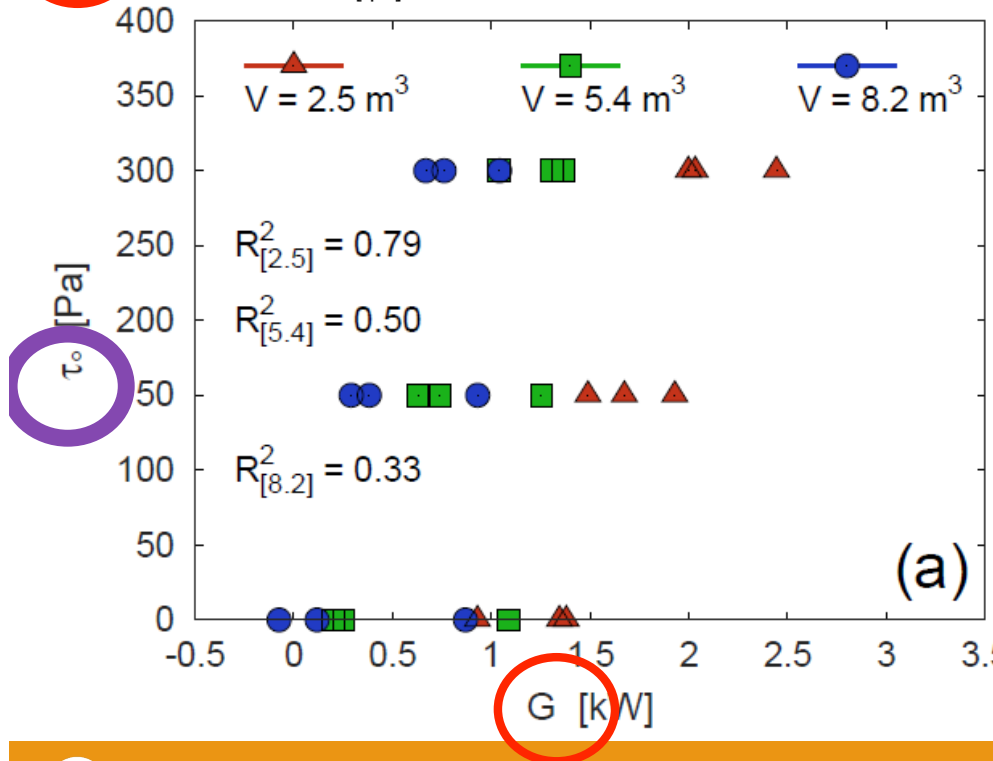
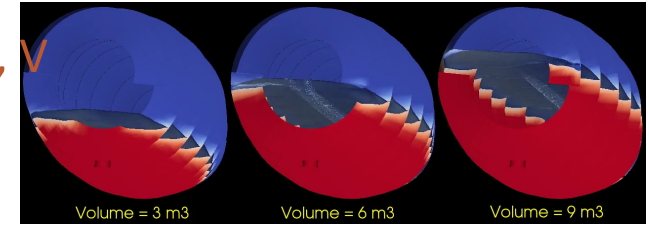
$$\iiint_V \eta \dot{\gamma}^2 dV$$

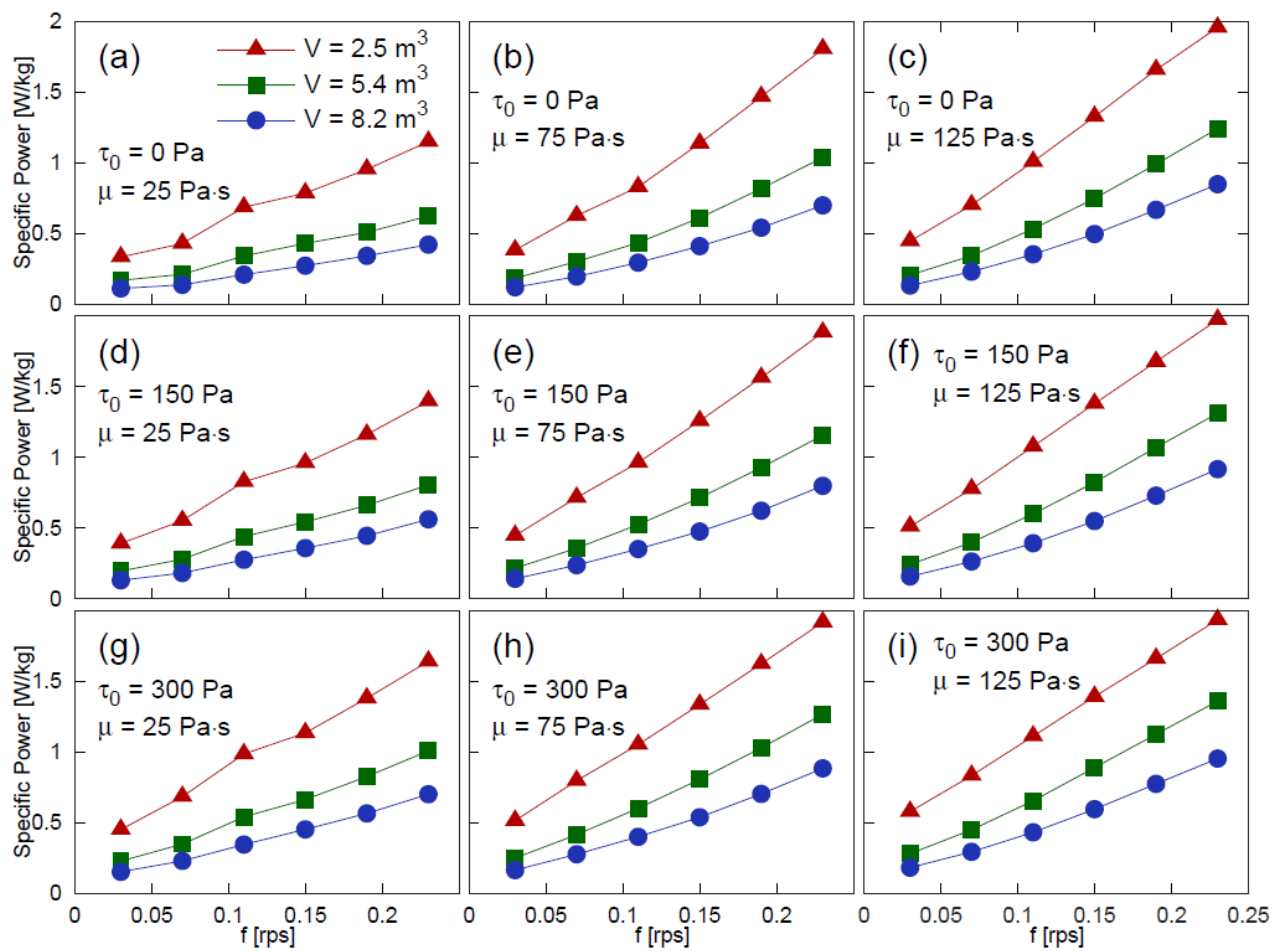


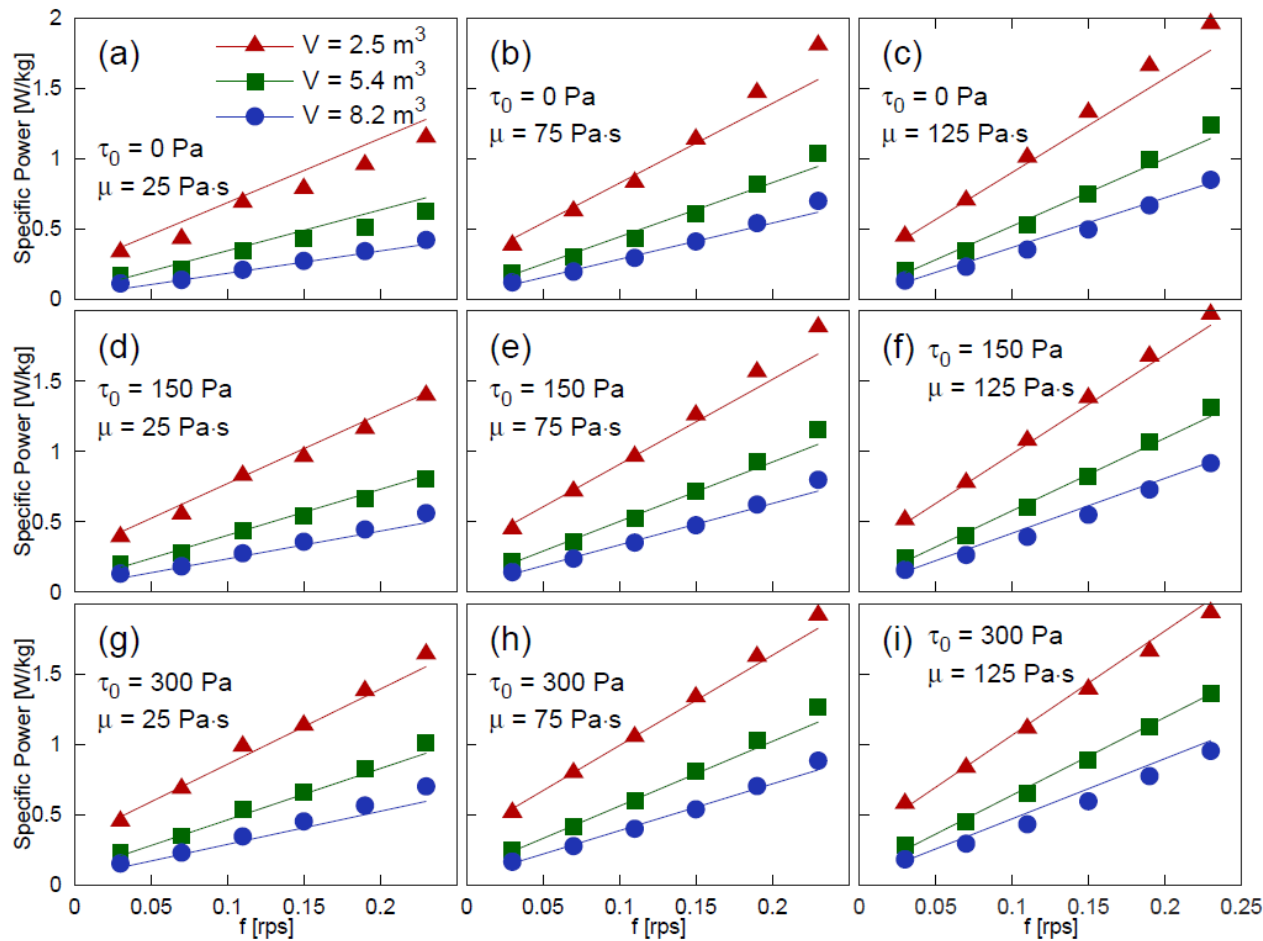




Drum charge volume:  $V = 2.5 \text{ m}^3$ ,  
 $= 5.4 \text{ m}^3$  and  $V = 8.2 \text{ m}^3$







$$G = \rho_1 \left( q_6 \tau_0 + \frac{q_7}{V} + \frac{q_8}{\mu + q_9} \right)$$

$$H = \rho_1 V \left( q_1 \tau_0 + q_2 \mu + q_3 (V + q_4)^2 + \frac{q_5}{V} \right)$$

Specific values

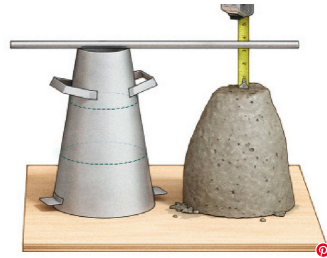
$$g = G / (\rho \cdot V)$$

$$h = H / (\rho \cdot V)$$

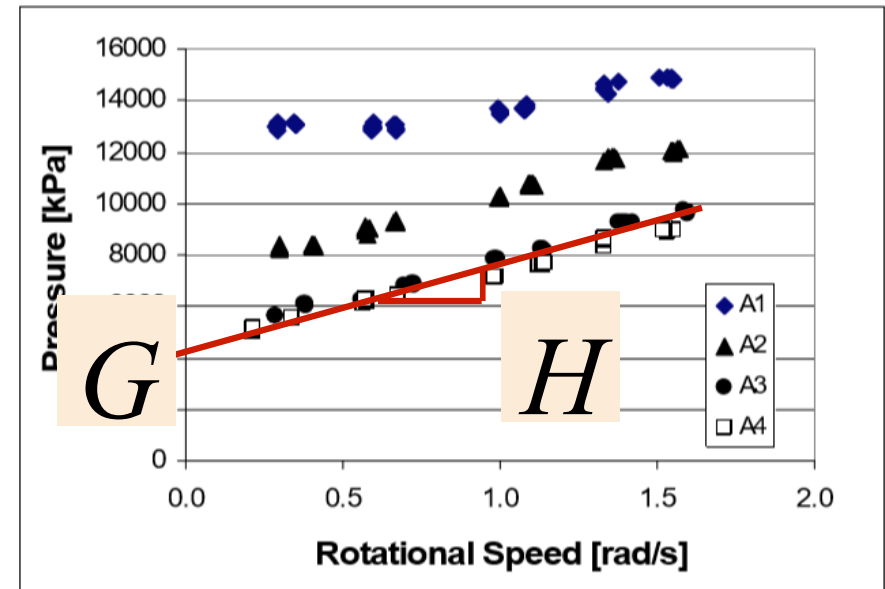
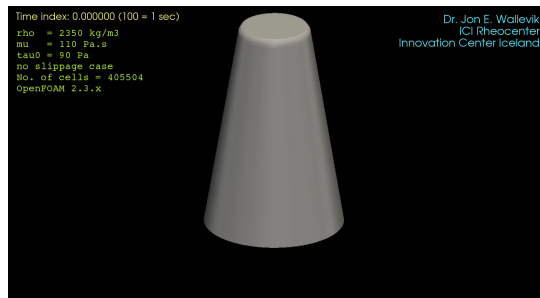
$$p = P / (\rho \cdot V)$$

$$p = h f + g$$

$$G = Q_1 \tau_0$$



$$H = Q_2 \mu$$



$$G = \rho_1 \left( q_6 \tau_0 + \frac{q_7}{V} + \frac{q_8}{\mu + q_9} \right)$$

$$H = \rho_1 V \left( q_1 \tau_0 + q_2 \mu + q_3 (V + q_4)^2 + \frac{q_5}{V} \right)$$

# Conclusions

Both the yield stress  $\tau_0$  and the plastic viscosity  $\mu$  do influence the slope  $H$ , to similar or the same extent

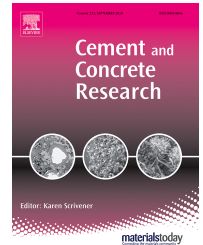
- This can explain why it has been difficult to experimentally correlate only the plastic viscosity  $\mu$  to the  $H$  value, as reported in [18, 19, 20]

Although the plastic viscosity  $\mu$  affects the  $G$  value, its influence is only minor

- This can explain why it has been easier (relatively to the above) to experimentally correlate yield stress  $\tau_0$  to the  $G$  value, as reported in [18, 19, 20].

$$G = Q_1 \tau_0 \quad G = \rho_1 \left( q_6 \tau_0 + \frac{q_7}{V} + \frac{q_8}{\mu + q_9} \right)$$

$$H = Q_2 \mu \quad H = \rho_1 V \left( q_1 \tau_0 + q_2 \mu + q_3 (V + q_4)^2 + \frac{q_5}{V} \right)$$



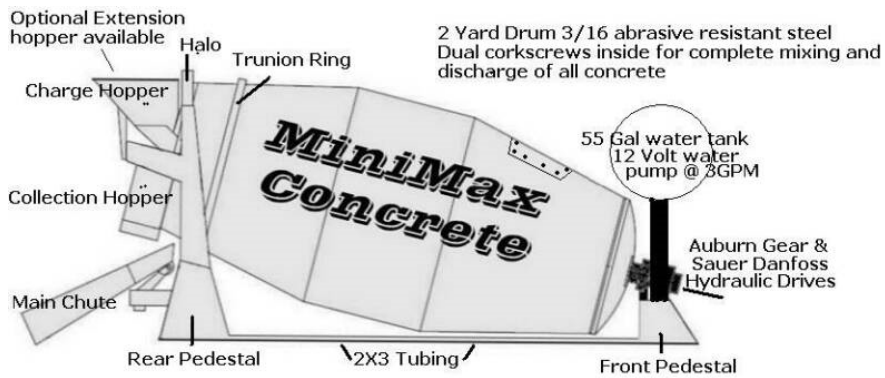




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All hydraulics run by 24 HP V-twin Honda engine complete with electric start, gas tank, battery and control handle for full control of forward and reverse capable of 18 RPM

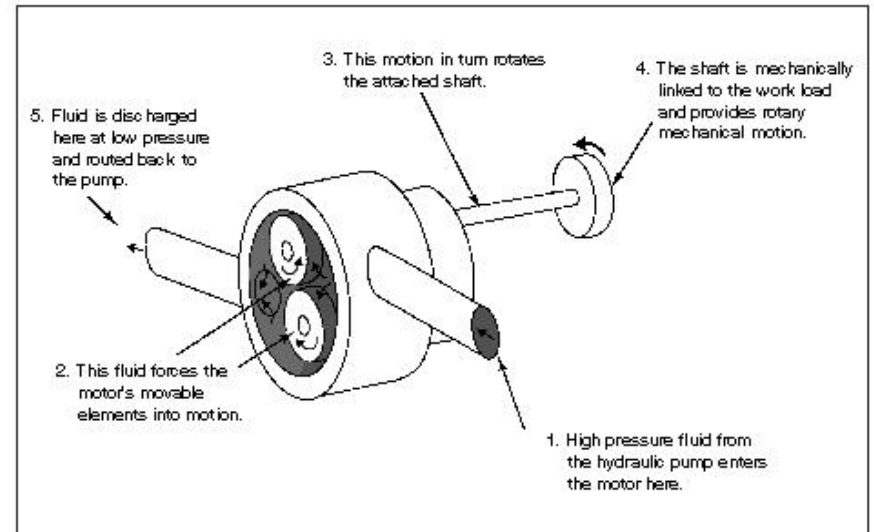
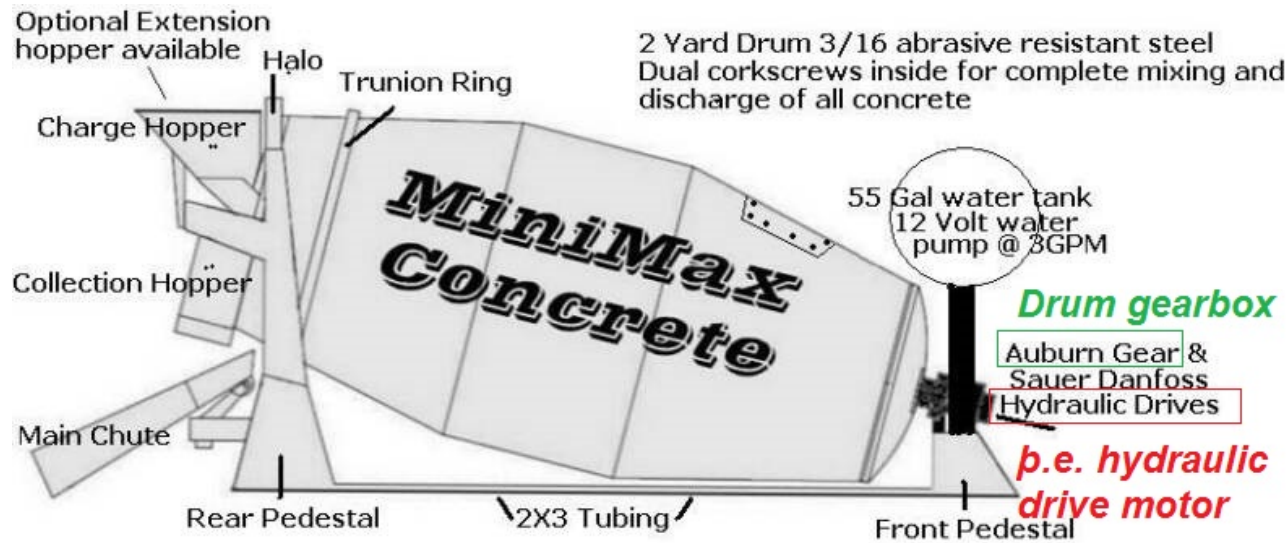


Figure 4-9. Basic operations of a hydraulic motor





All hydraulics run by 24 HP V-twin Honda engine complete with electric start, gas tank, battery and control handle for full control of forward and reverse capable of 18 RPM