

Relevanz von Thixotropie und Strukturaufbau für die
Verarbeitungseigenschaften von Beton

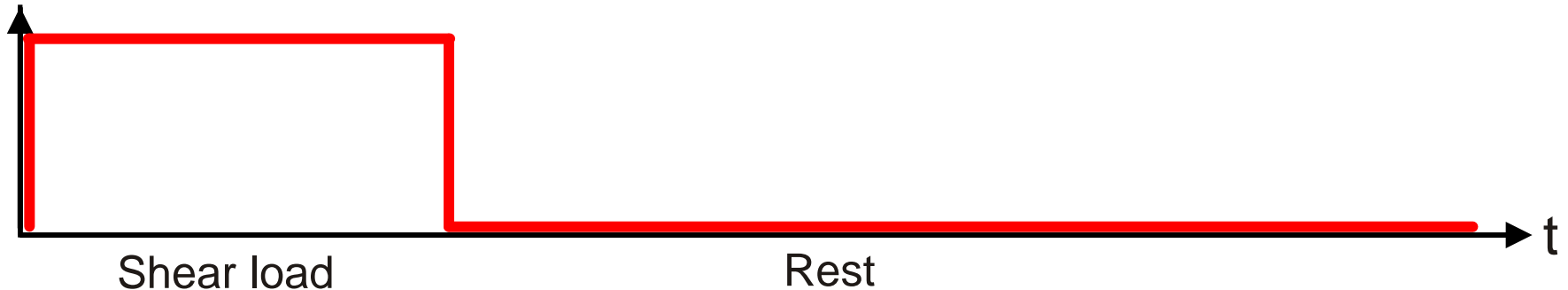
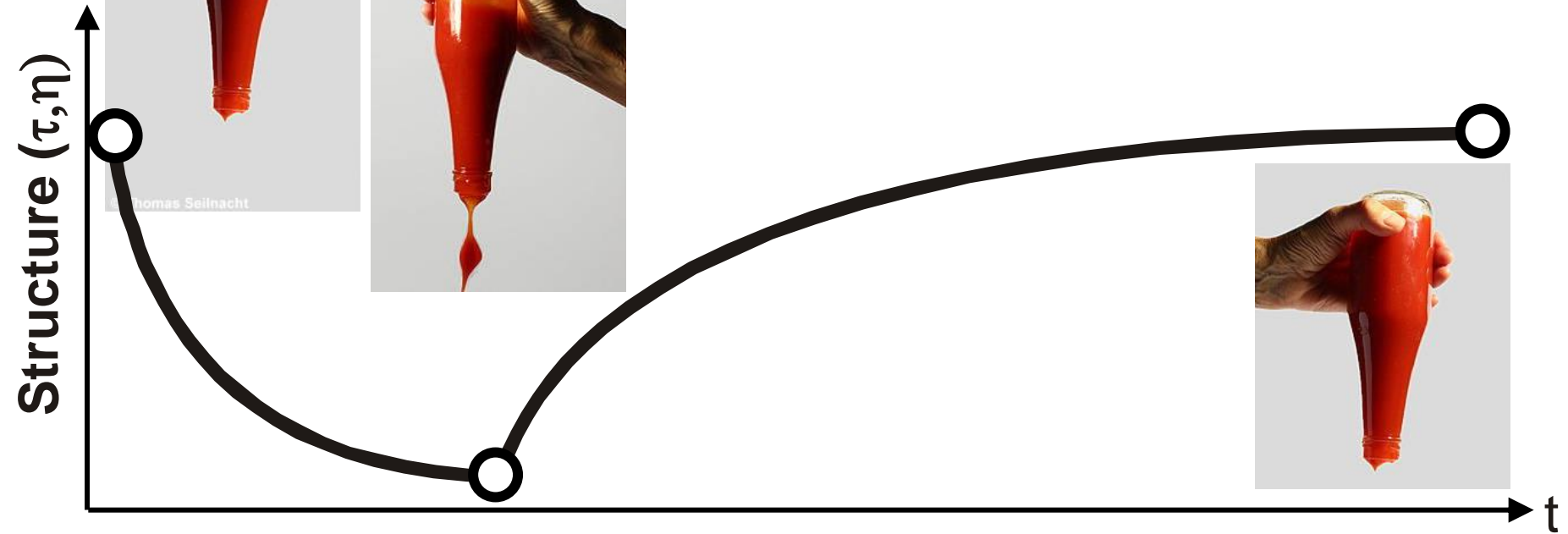
Relevance of thixotropy and structural build-up for workability of concrete

Dirk Lowke, Thomas Kränkel & Oliver Mazanec

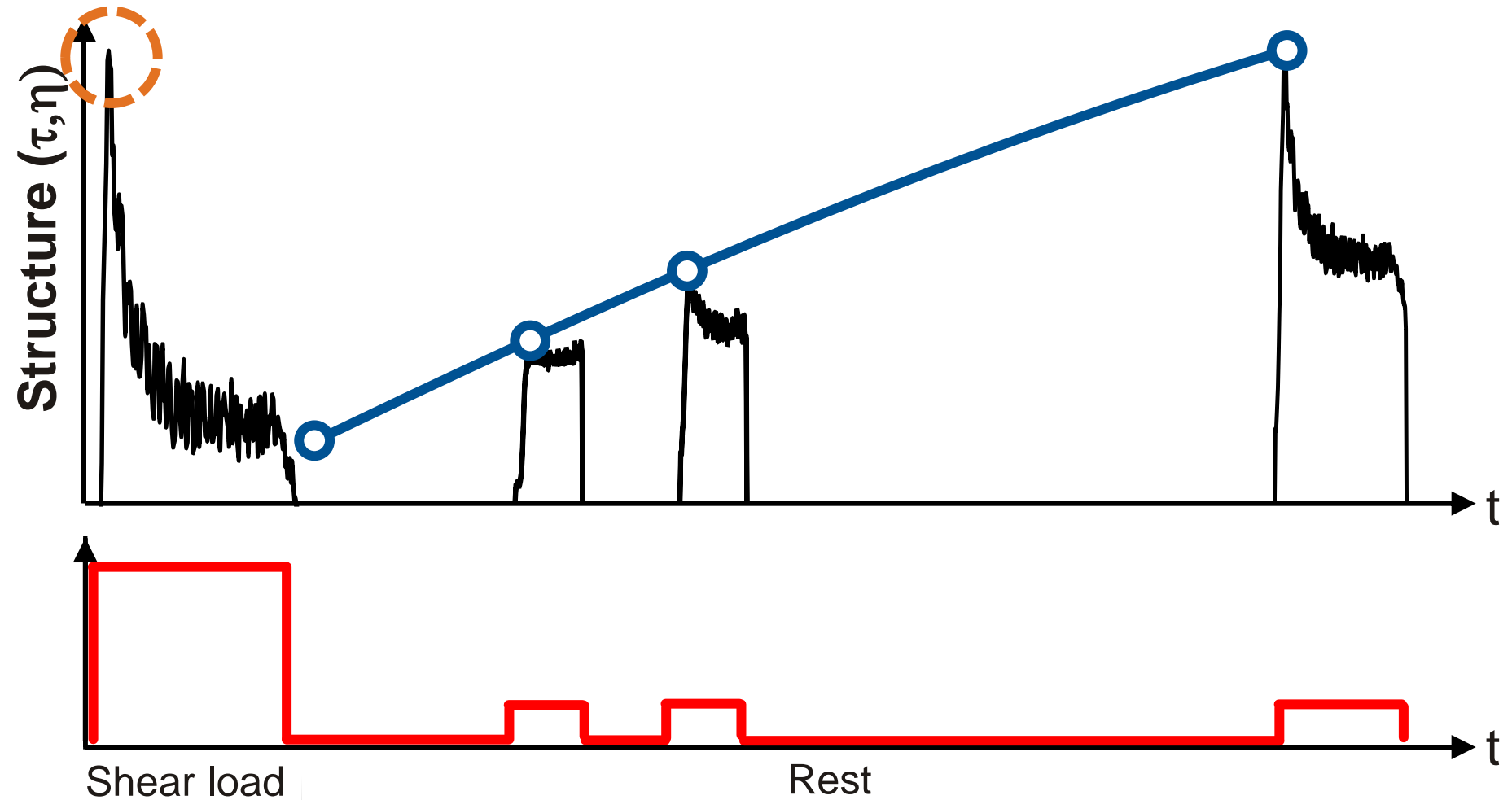
TU München
Centre for Building Materials (cbm)

Thixotropy

Thixotropy [greek] property of certain two-component-systems, to fluidify under mechanical load (stir, shake, ultra sonic) at constant water content. At rest, the substance hardens again. - **Herbert Freundlich** (1880-1940)

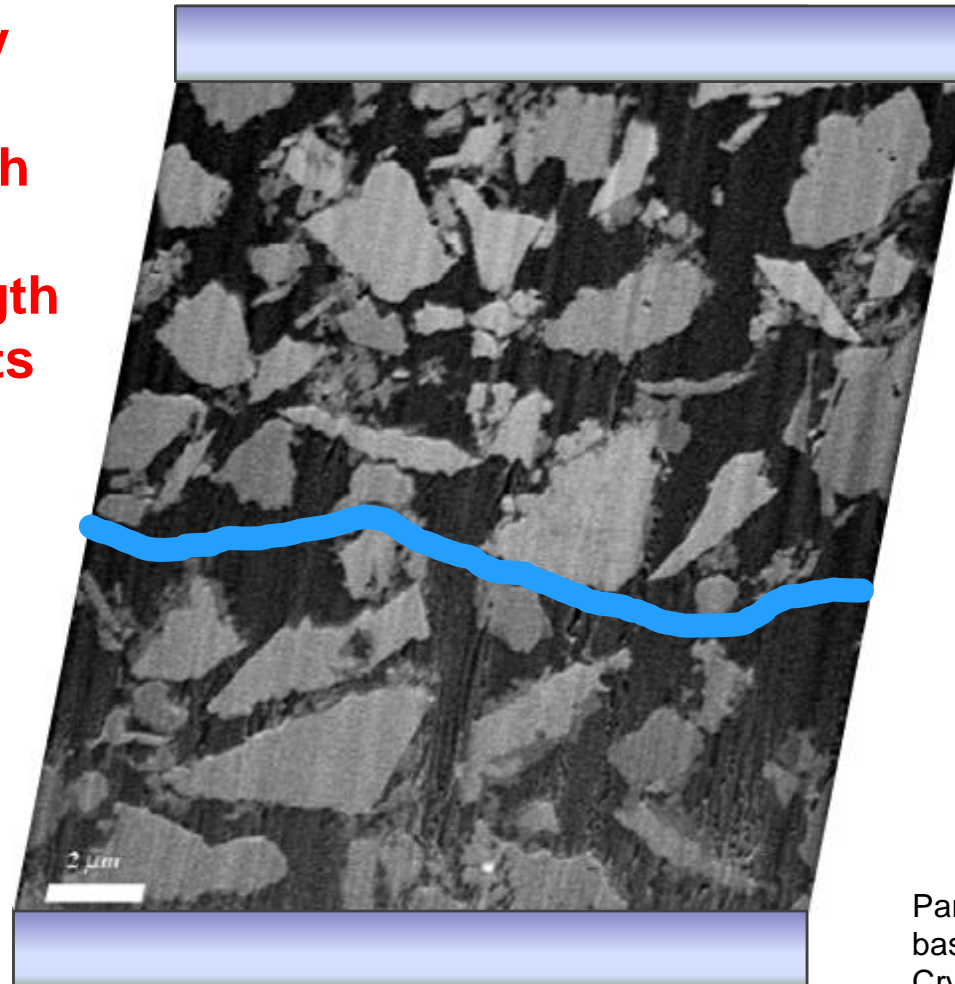


Thixotropy of cement-based suspensions



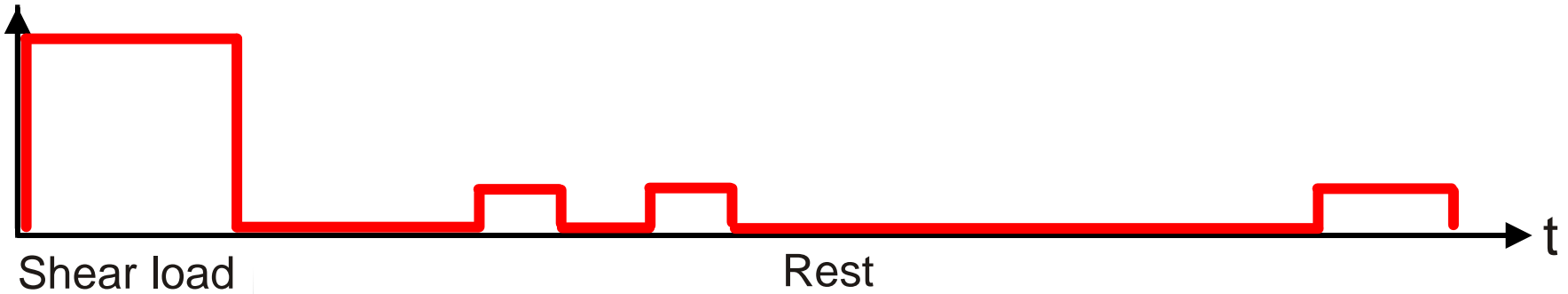
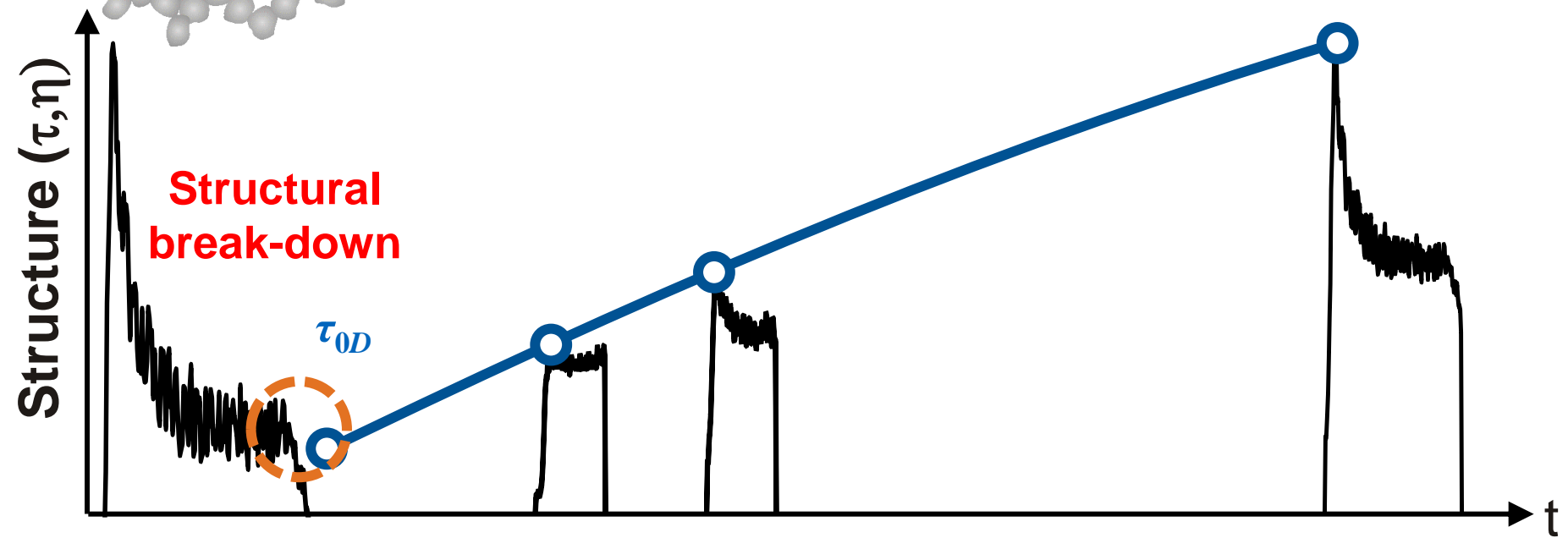
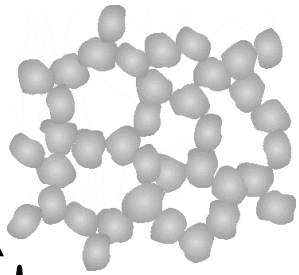
Microstructure in cement-based suspensions

“Static” rheology
=
Structural strength
=
Number and strength
of particle contacts



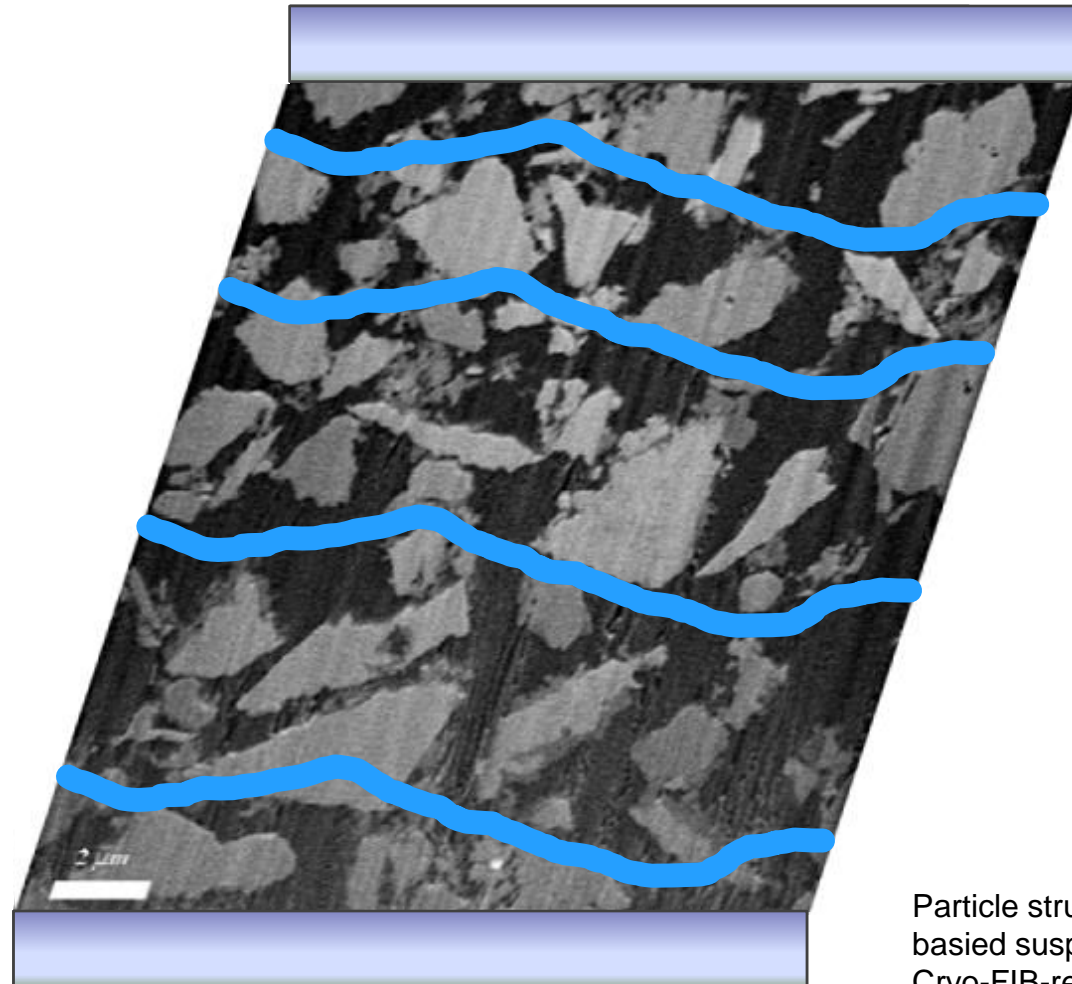
Particle structure in a cement-based suspension.
Cryo-FIB-record
duration of hydration: 24 min
Zingg [2008]

Microstructure in cement-based suspensions



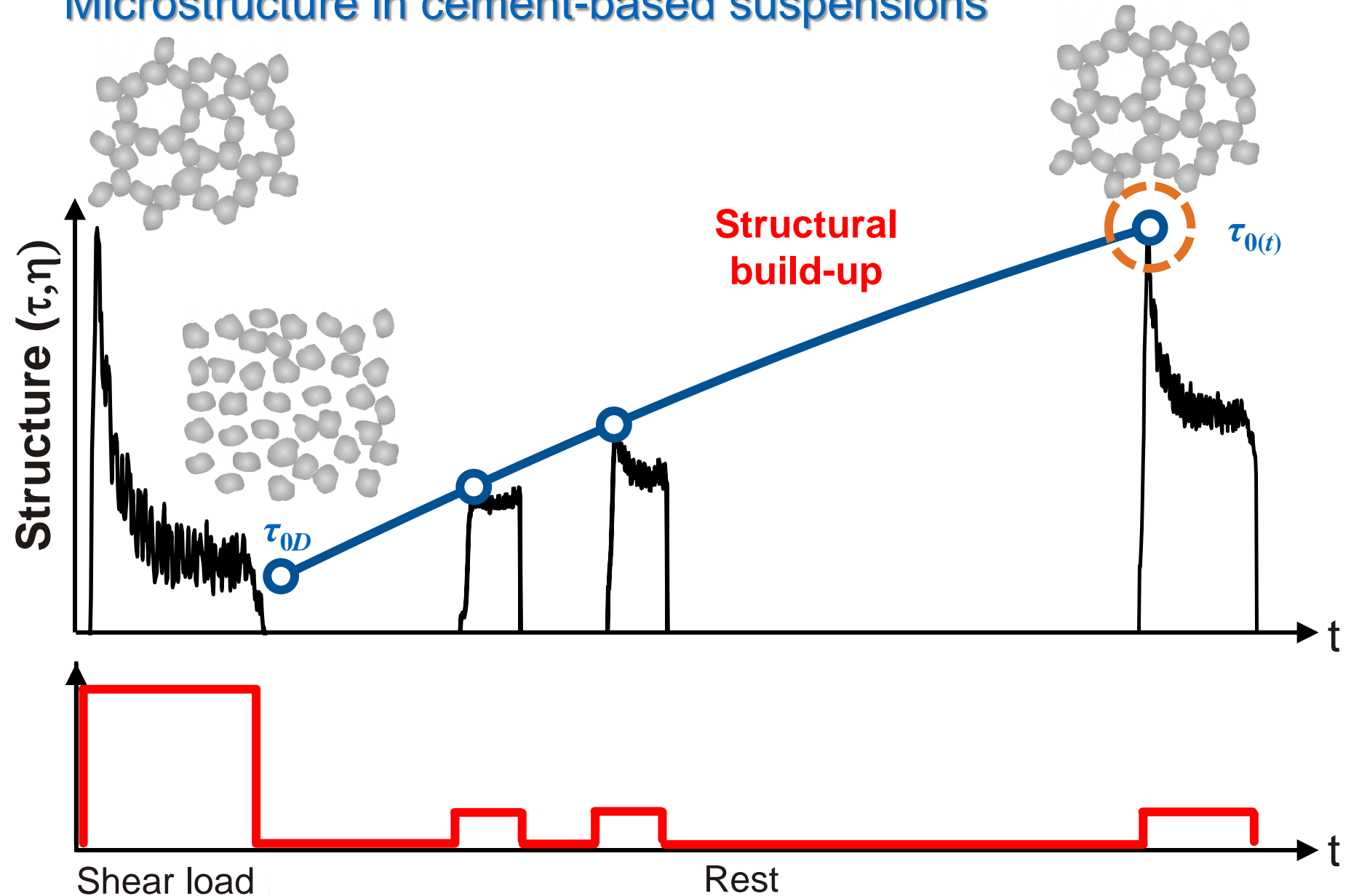
Microstructure in cement-based suspensions

**Dynamic
Rheology
=
Structural
break-down**



Particle structure in a cement-based suspension.
Cryo-FIB-record
duration of hydration: 24 min
Zingg [2008]

Microstructure in cement-based suspensions



Structural build-up – Mechanisms and temporal progression

COLLOIDAL SURFACE
INTERACTIONS

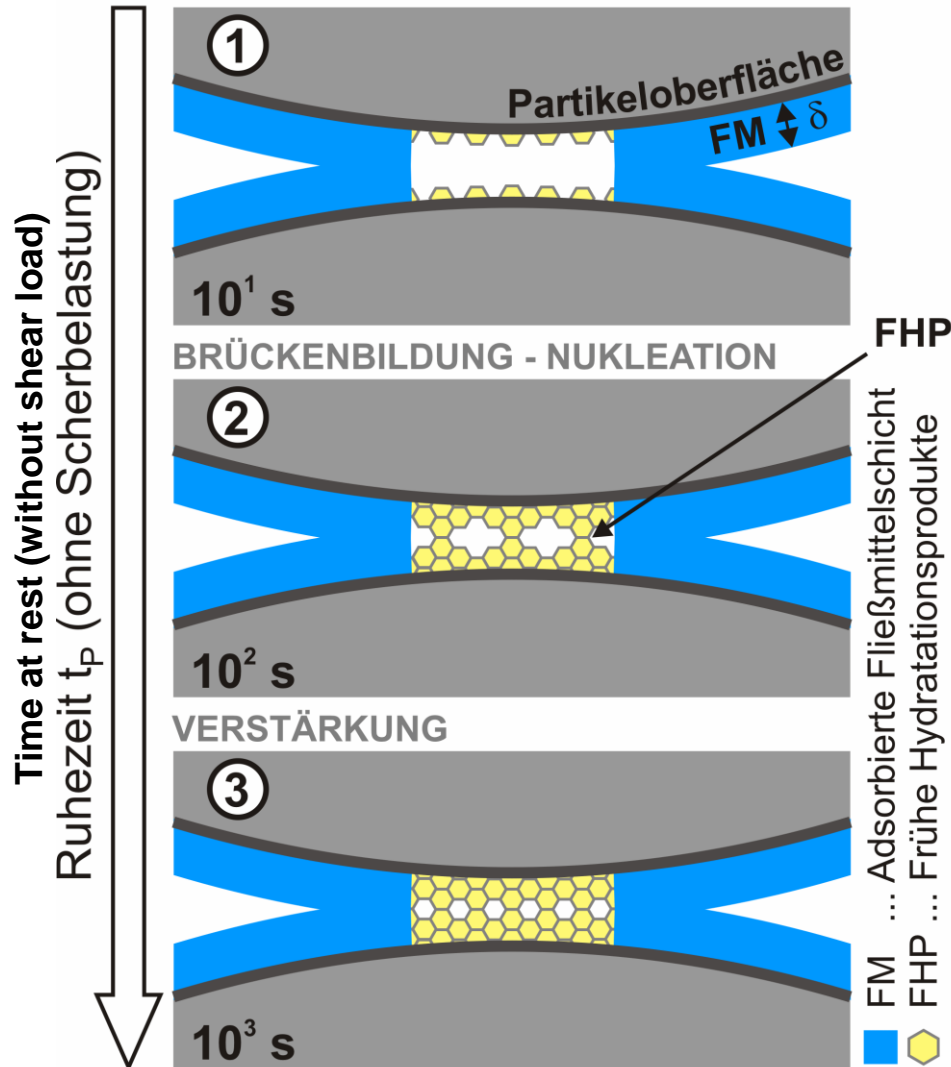
KOLLOIDALE OBERFLÄCHEN-
WECHSELWIRKUNGEN

BRIDGING - NUCLEATION

BRÜCKENBILDUNG - NUKLEATION

STRENGTHENING

VERSTÄRKUNG



Microstructure during construction process

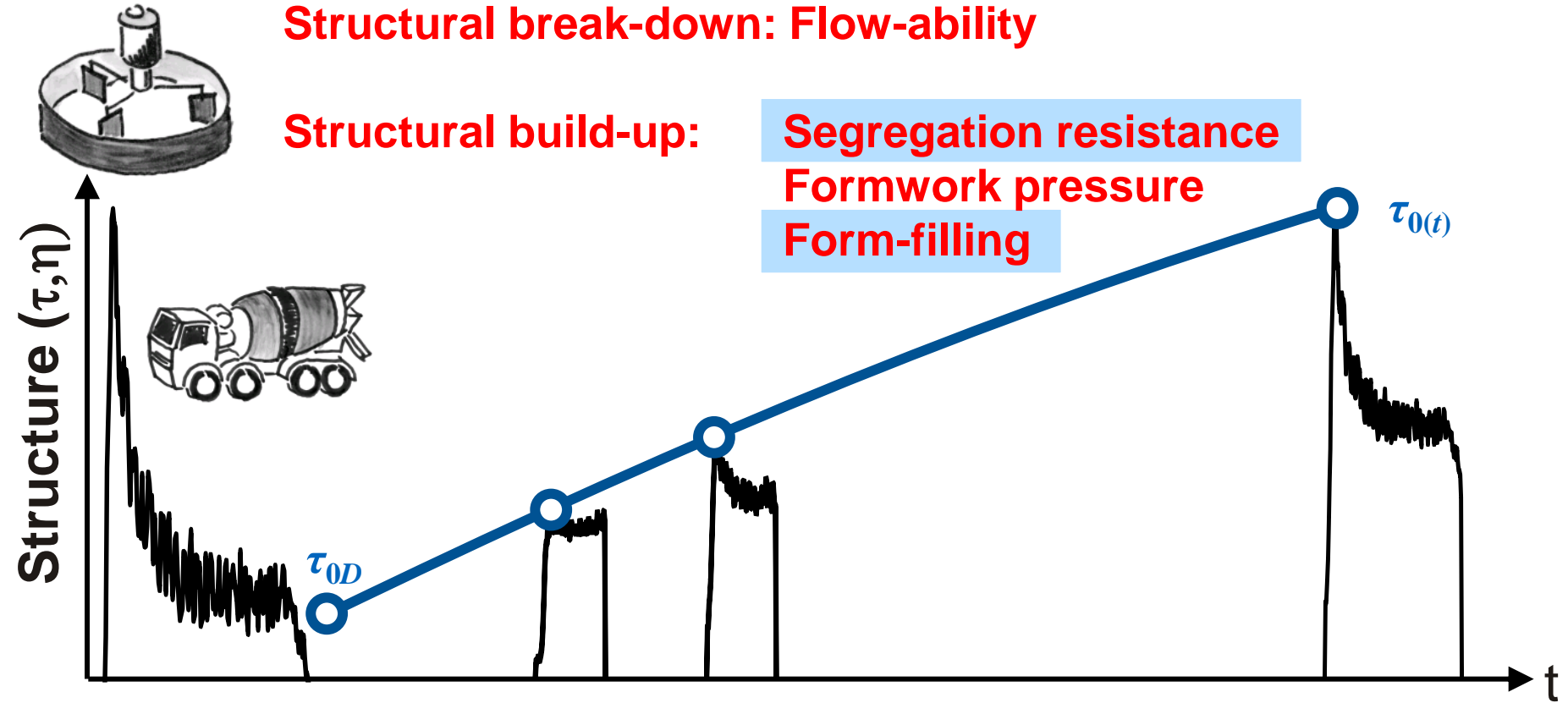
Structural break-down: Flow-ability

Structural build-up:

Segregation resistance

Formwork pressure

Form-filling



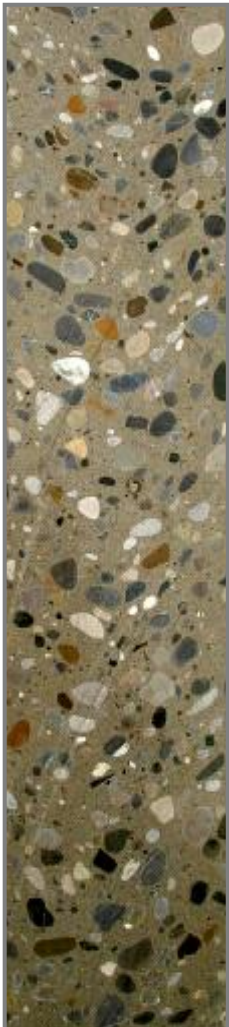
mixing,
transport
processing

end of processing til setting
or low shear processes

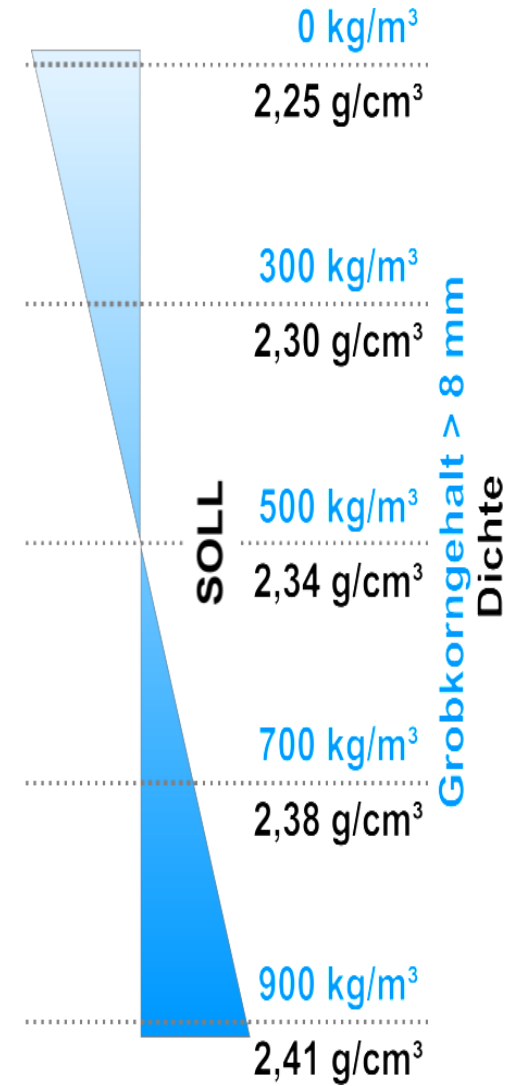
High shear load

Rest / Low shearing

Segregation resistance

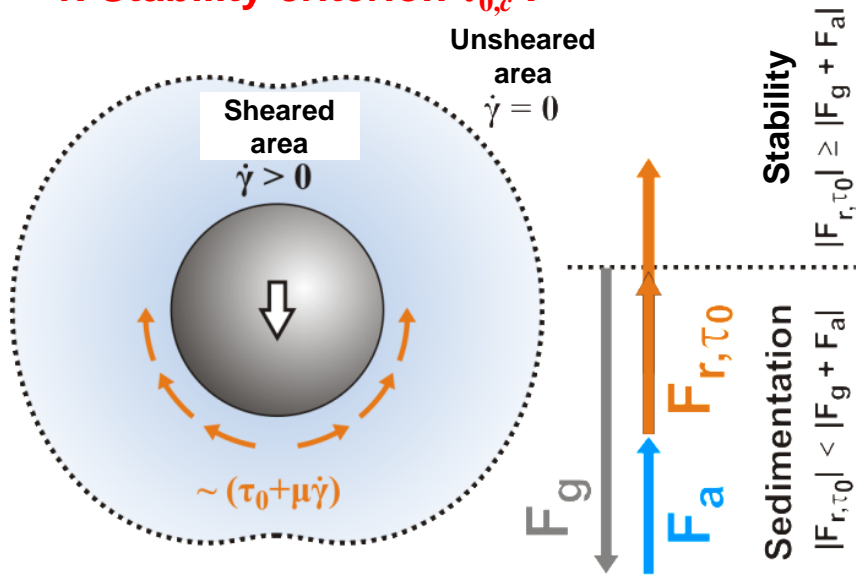


Overdosage of water



Theoretical Background

1. Stability criterion $\tau_{0,c}$:



$$F_m = F_g + F_a = V \Delta\rho g = \frac{\pi d^3}{6} (\rho_s - \rho_f) g$$

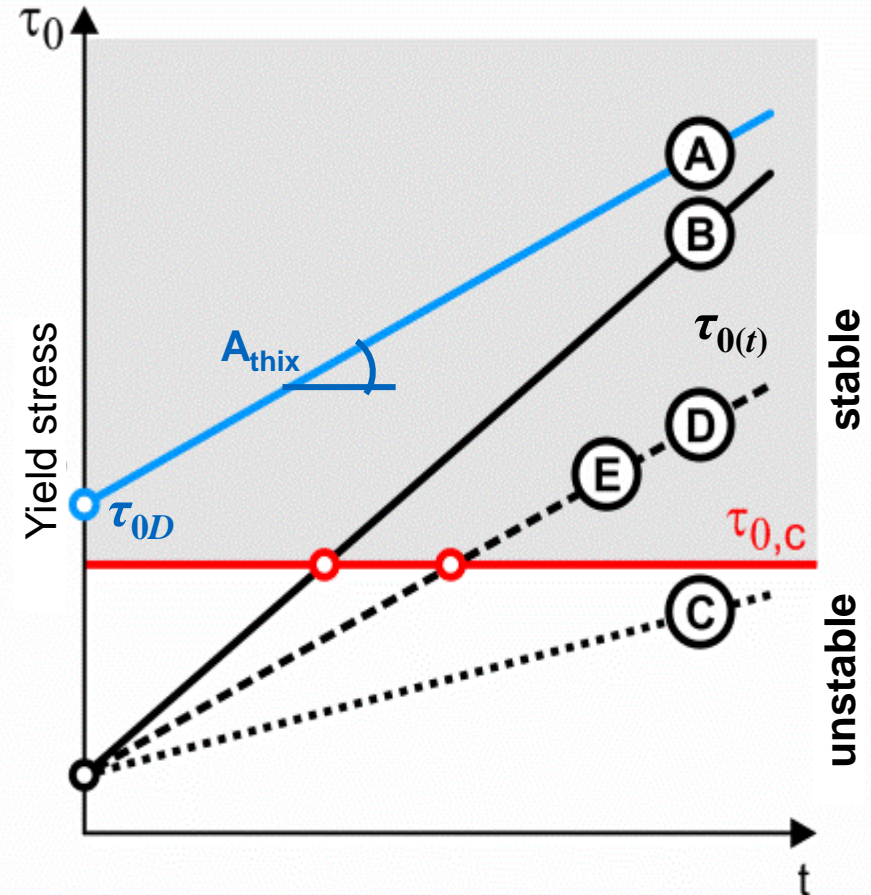
$$F_r = 3\pi d \mu v_s + 3\pi d^2 \tau_0$$

$$\tau_{0,c} \geq \frac{d}{18} (\rho_s - \rho_f) g$$

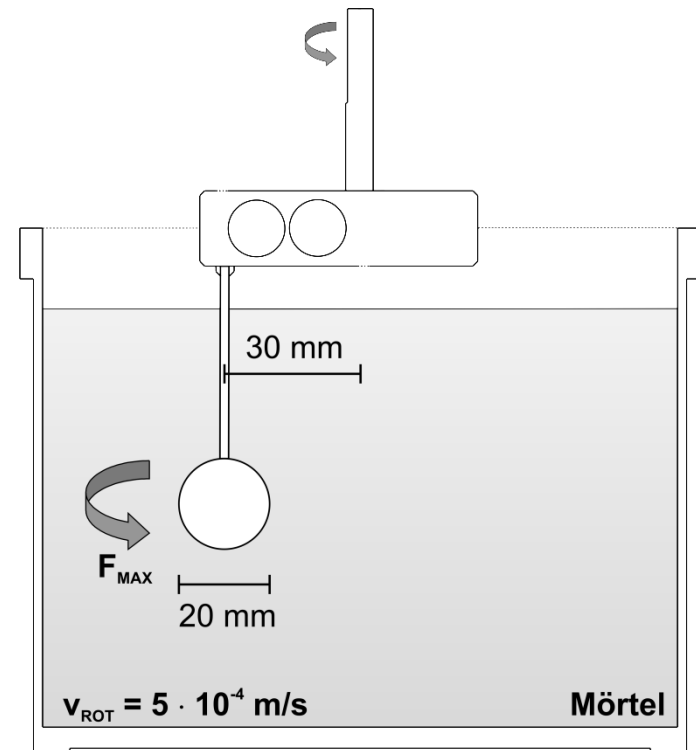
2. Structural build-up $\tau_{0(t)}$

$$\tau_{0(t)} = \tau_{0D} + t \cdot A_{thix}$$

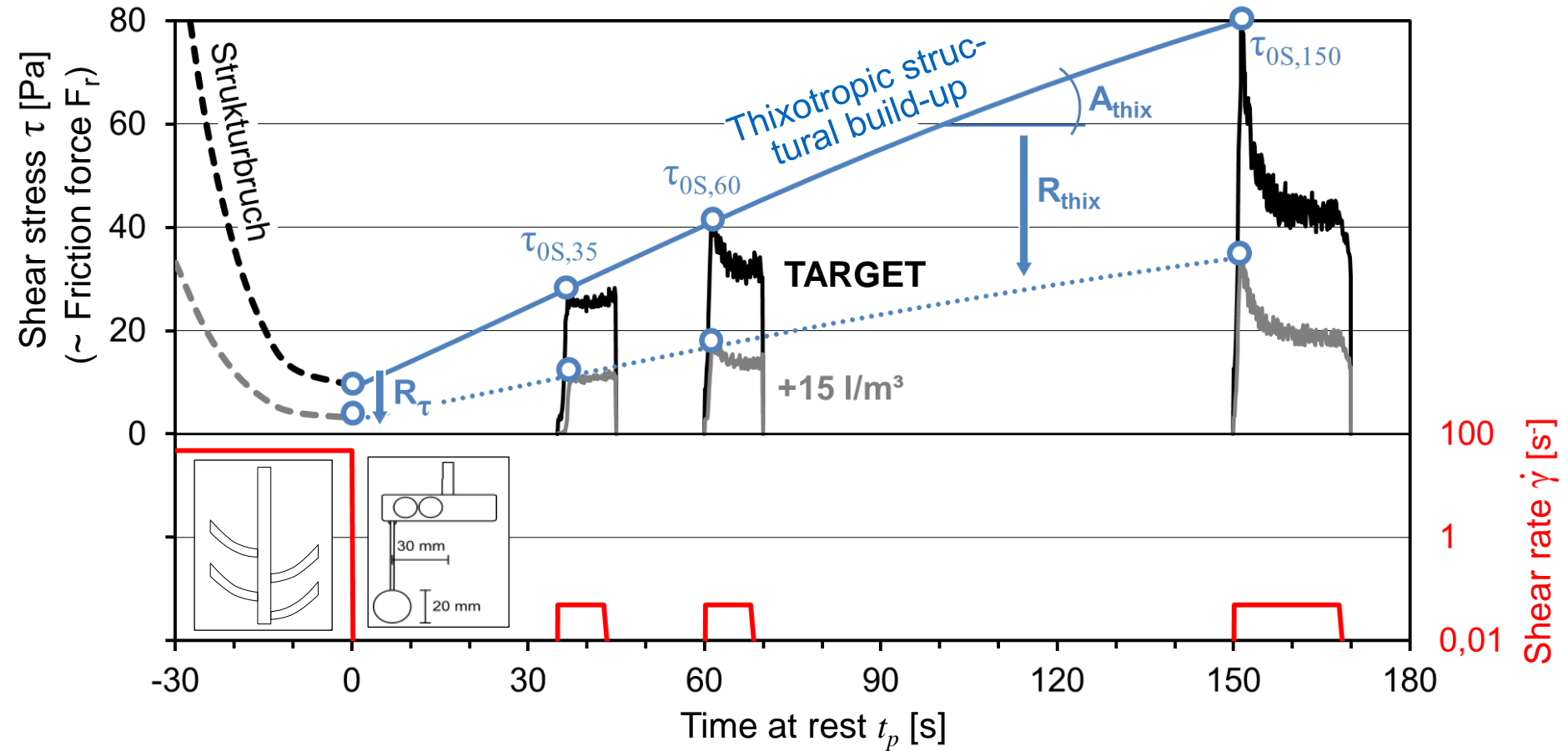
3. Strategies to ensure segregation resistance



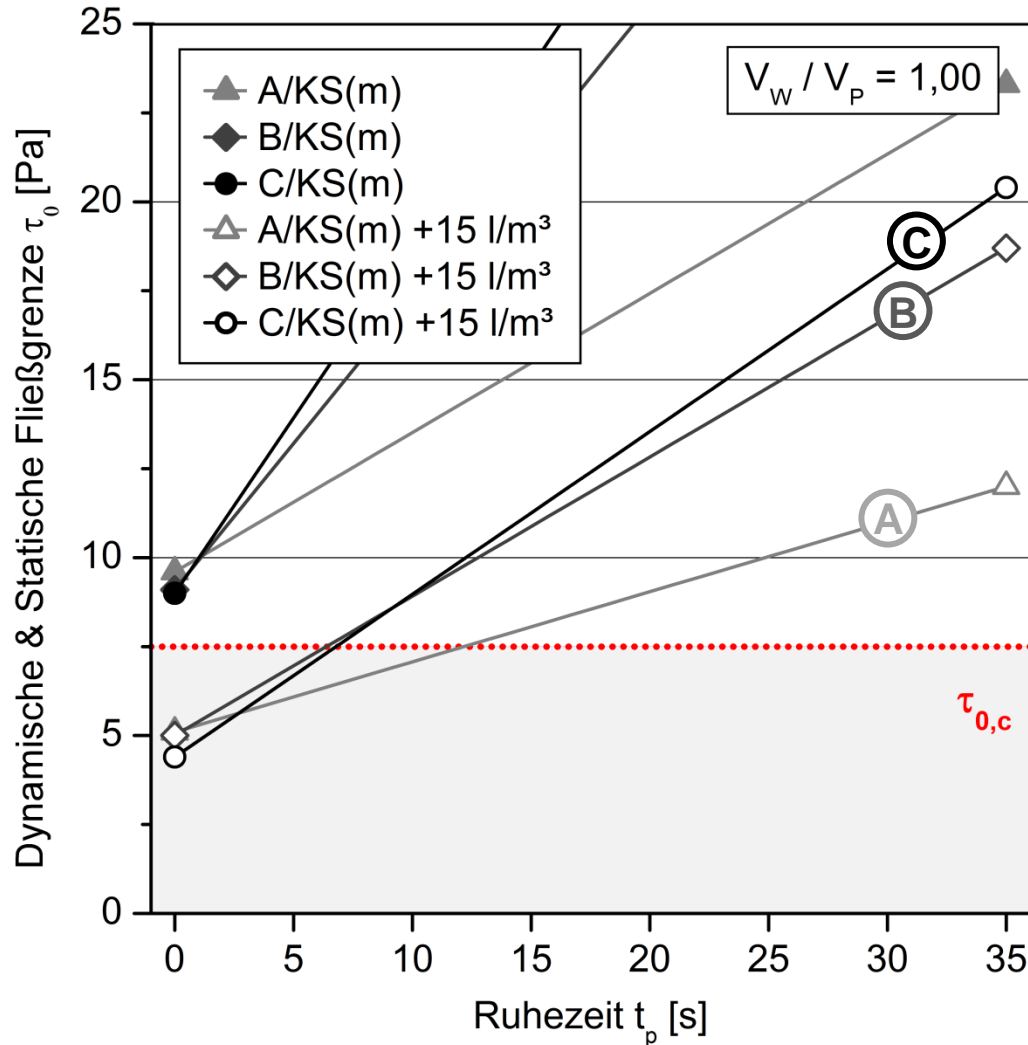
Rheology - Characterisation of Thixotropy



Rheology - Characterisation of Thixotropy



Variation Zusammensetzung Zement (Fließmittelbedarf)

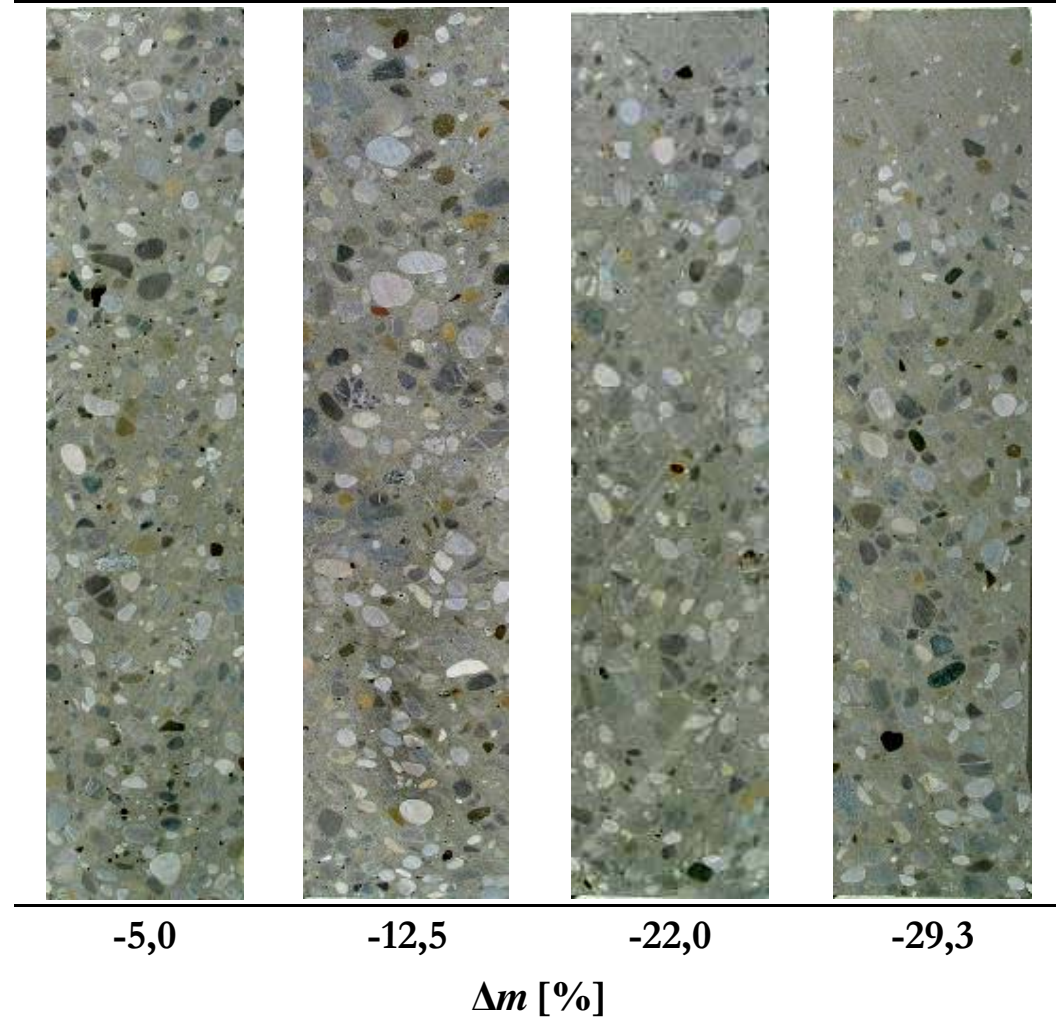


FM(θ): A > B > C

► Thixotropie

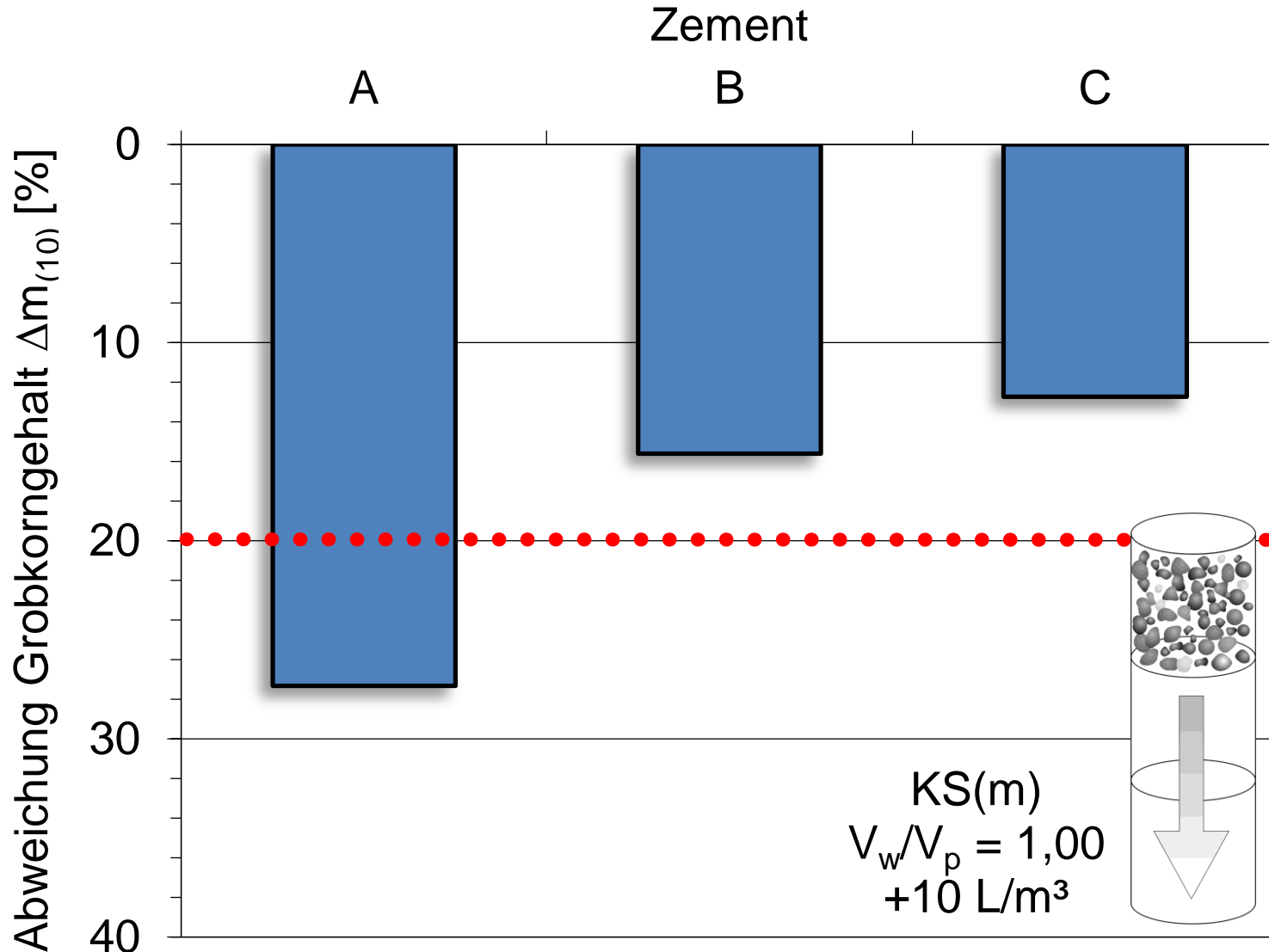
$$A_{thix,C} > A_{thix,B} > A_{thix,A}$$

Cylinder-Sedimentation-Test



$$\Delta m = \max \left| 3 \cdot \frac{m_i}{\sum_{i=1}^3 m_i} - 1 \right| \cdot 100 \quad [\%]$$

Segregation of coarse aggregate in concrete

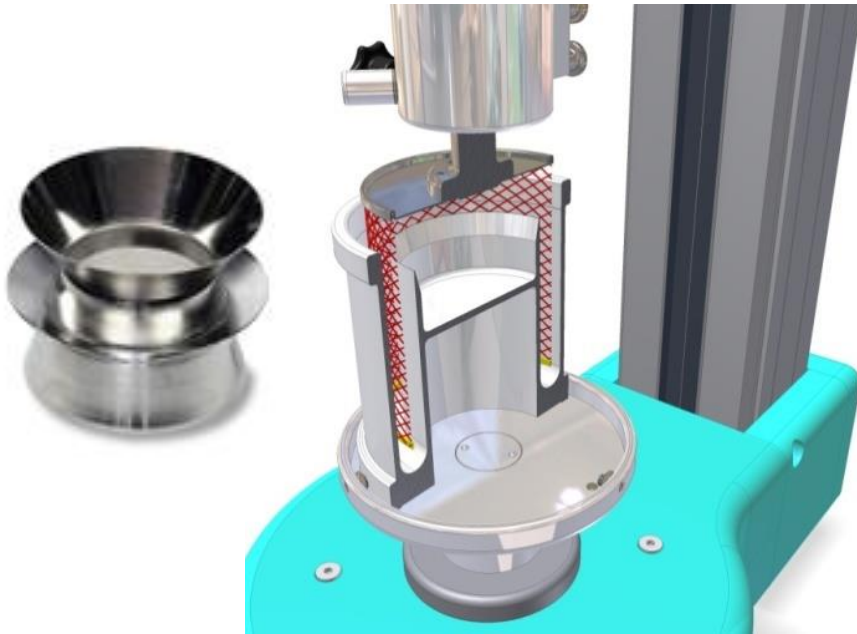


Form-filling properties

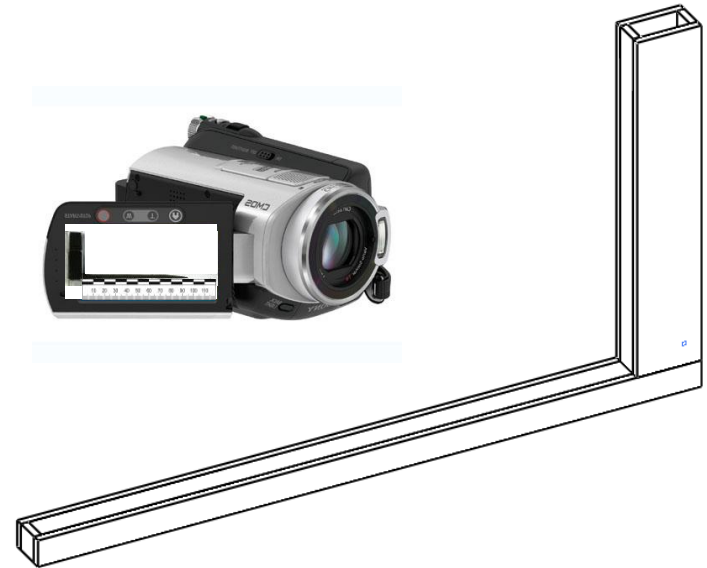


Experimental setup

Rheology



Form-filling



Concrete composition and yield stress

V_w / V_p	0,60*	0,65	0,60	0,55	0,47
V_{cement}	55 Vol.%	----- 65 Vol.% -----			
V_{quartz}	30 Vol.%	----- 20 Vol.% -----			
V_{paste}	----- Constant -----				
Slump flow	Constant at 70 ± 2 cm				
Yield stress $\tau_{0,4c}$	Constant at 13 - 18 Pa				

Flow distance in LCPC-Box for SCC [Roussel 2007]

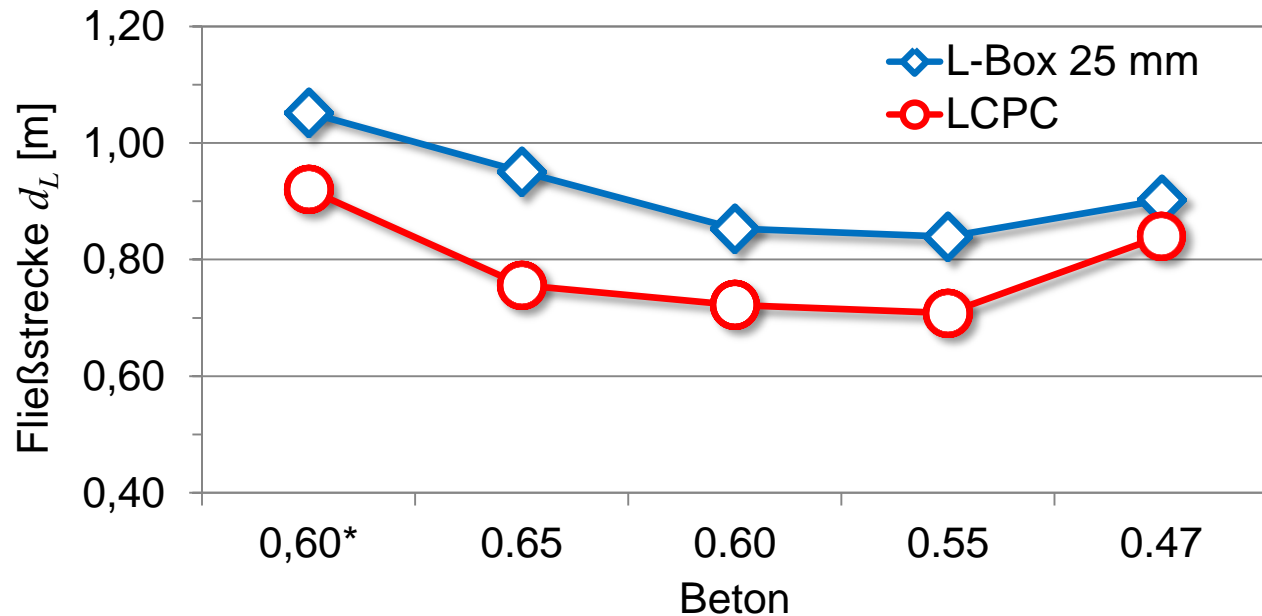
$$V = l_0 \int_0^{h_0} x \, dh = \frac{l_0^4 \rho g}{2\tau_0} \left(\ln \left(1 + \frac{2h_0}{l_0} \right) + 0,5 \left(\frac{2h_0}{l_0} \left(\frac{2h_0}{l_0} - 2 \right) \right) \right)$$

$$L = \frac{h_0 \rho g l_0}{2\tau_0} + \frac{l_0^2 \rho g}{4\tau_0} \ln \left(\frac{l_0}{l_0 + 2h_0} \right)$$



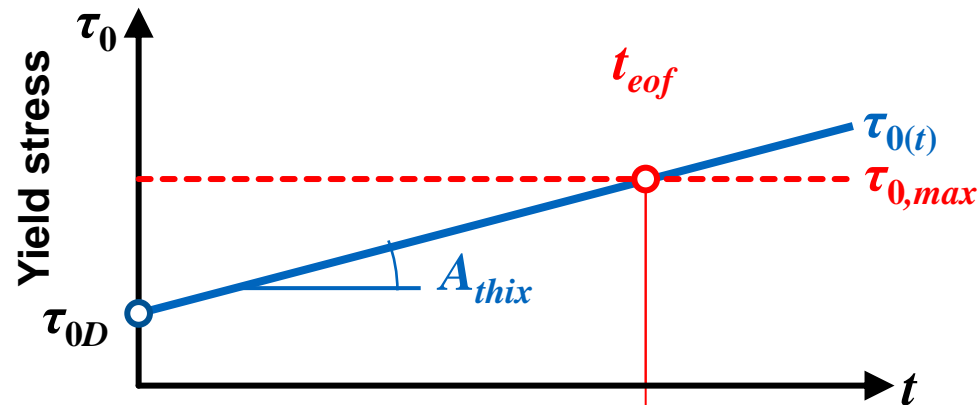
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Effect of viscosity and thixotropy on form-filling - Theory

V_w / V_p	0,60*	0,65	0,60	0,55	0,47
Yield stress $\tau_{0D,4c}$	Constant at 13 - 18 Pa				



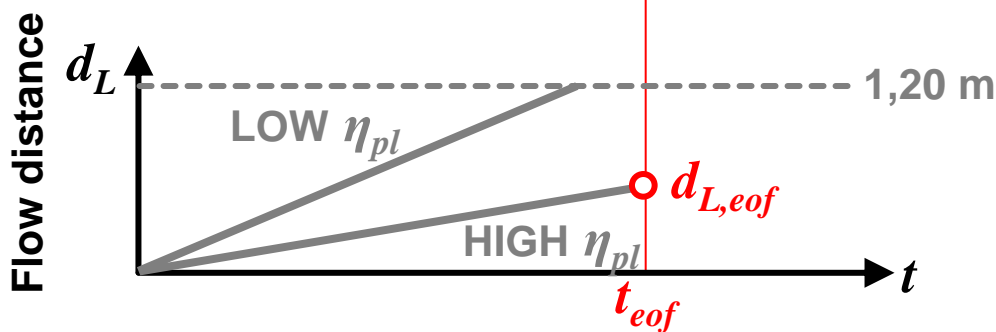
1. **Yield Stress** - Flow condition :

$$\tau_0 = f(t) \stackrel{!}{<} \tau_{0,max}$$

2. **Thixotropy** - End-of-flow-time t_{eof} :

$$\tau_{0(t)} = \tau_{0D} + t \cdot A_{thix}$$

$$t_{eof} = (\tau_{0,max} - \tau_{0D}) / A_{thix}$$



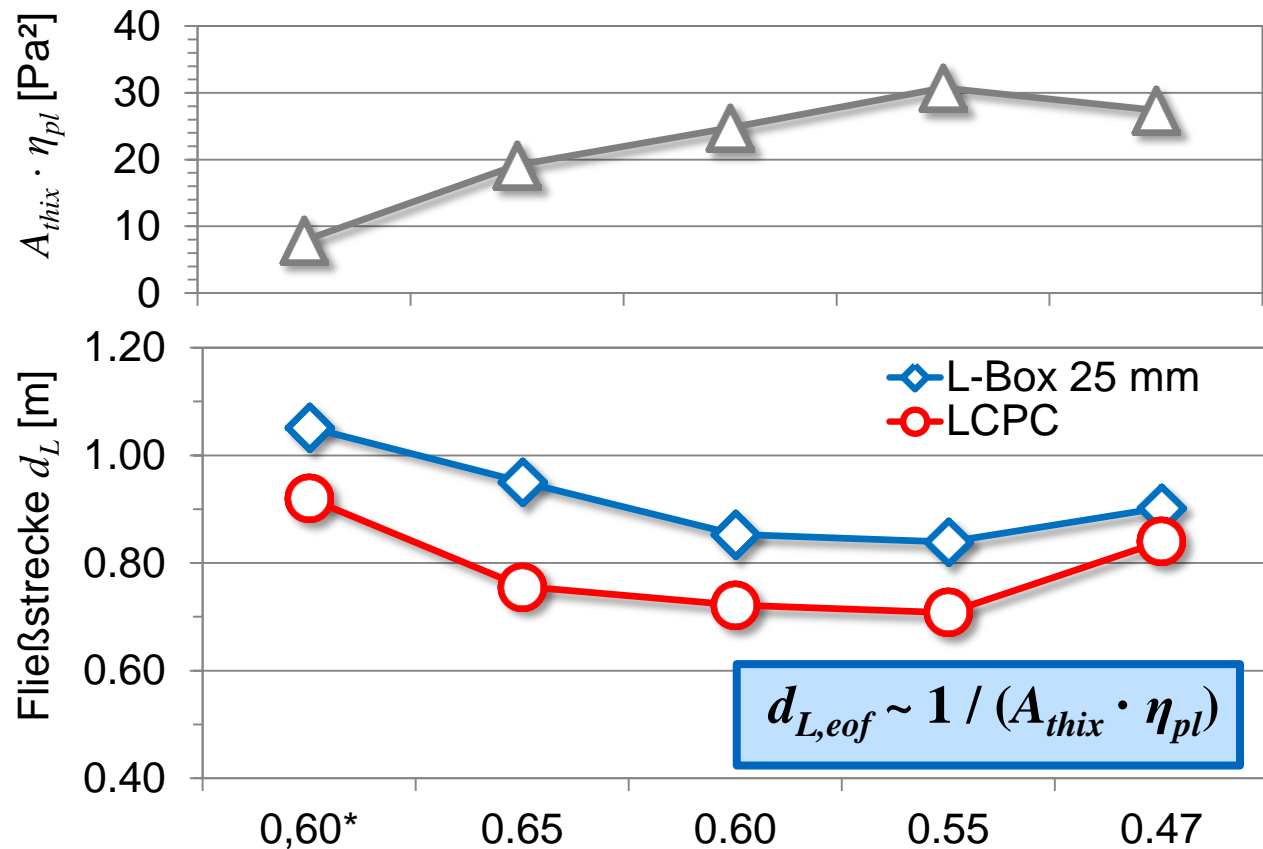
3. **Viscosity** - End-of-flow-distance $d_{L,eof}$:

$$d_{L(t)} \sim t / \eta_{pl}$$

$$d_{L,eof} \sim 1 / (A_{thix} \cdot \eta_{pl})$$

Effect of viscosity and thixotropy on form-filling - Results

V_w / V_p	0,60*	0,65	0,60	0,55	0,47
Yield stress $\tau_{0D,4c}$	Constant at 13 - 18 Pa				

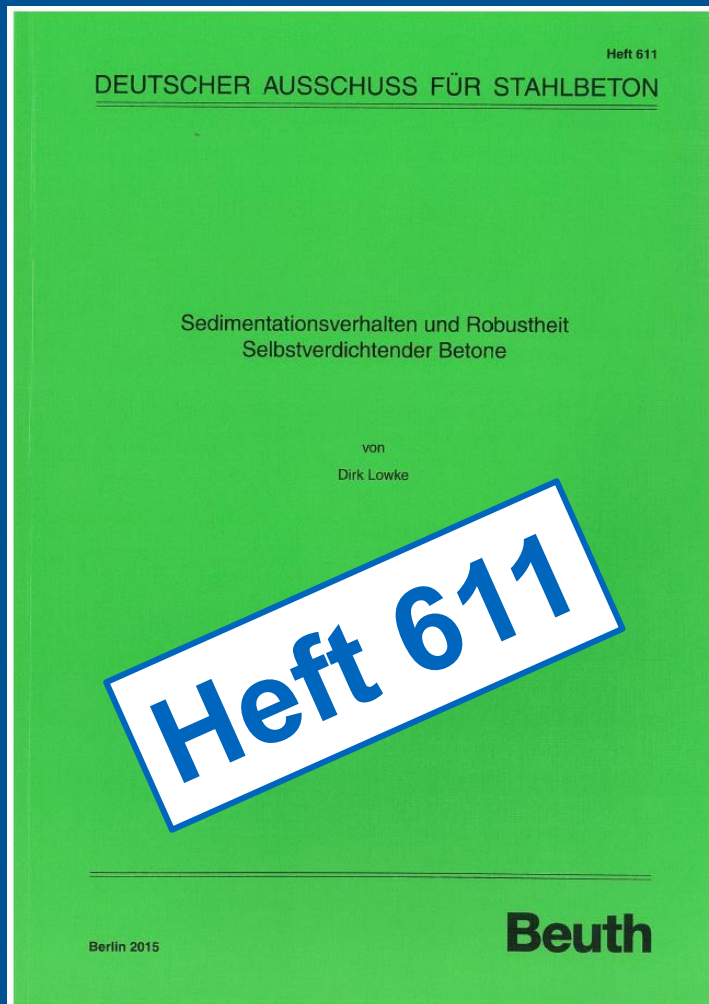


Thixotropy is decisive for...

- **Form-filling of filigree structures**
- **Workability over long processing time**
(e.g. deep foundation concrete)
- **Segregation resistance**
- **Formwork pressure**

As well as

- **Rheological measurements**
(constant time span between structural breakdown and start of measurement)



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