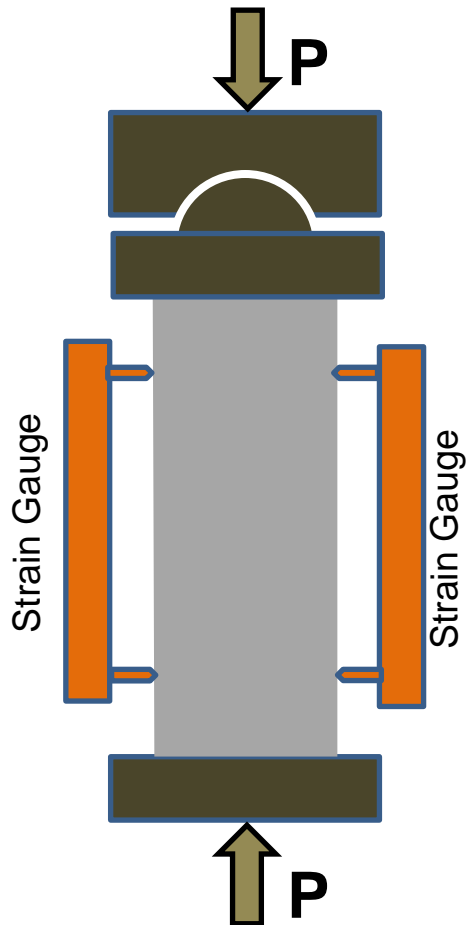


# Compressive fatigue testing a new approach

Mohsen Minaeijavid  
PhD candidate, Tufts University



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY



THE WORLD'S GATHERING PLACE FOR ADVANCING CONCRETE



# Outlines:

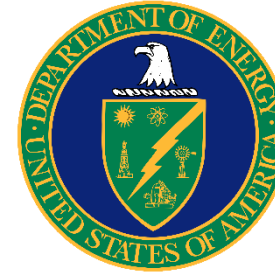
- Introduction of the project
- Use of concrete in offshore and onshore wind turbine structures and foundations
- Brief introduction of fatigue testing / loading
- Data base and the variation in results (effect of concrete strength)
- Recommended Protocol for Compression Fatigue Testing of Concrete
- Future Work

# Introduction to the Project:

## EFFECT OF FATIGUE ON THE CAPACITY AND PERFORMANCE OF STRUCTURAL CONCRETE

### Stated Project Goal

This project's primary goal is to advance innovation in concrete offshore wind support structures (i.e. towers and foundations) by an experimental study that quantifies the effect of fatigue on the strength, stiffness, and durability of marine concretes, and then uses this data to advance models and standards. Currently, the impact of fatigue on structural concrete in standards is treated the same for all concretes regardless of the type of concrete material, and it neglects the benefits of fibers, bar reinforcements, and other effects. This one fatigue model can be conservative by more than a factor of 10 which leaves existing capacity on the table, and does not support simple design solutions that enable higher fatigue stresses to be tolerated. This is a major barrier to the competitiveness of concrete solutions. The new data, models, and standards that this project can deliver will give designers and developers the tools they need to drive innovation, reduce costs, and produce more resilient concrete Offshore Wind Support Structures (OWSS).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



aci CONCRETE  
CONVENTION

THE WORLD'S GATHERING PLACE FOR ADVANCING CONCRETE



# Selected Concrete Support Structures for Wind Turbines

Onshore wind turbine concrete towers



Offshore wind turbine concrete fixed base foundations



Offshore wind turbine floating foundations



Concrete anchors for floating Offshore wind turbines



THE WORLD'S GATHERING PLACE FOR ADVANCING CONCRETE

# Response of concrete material to static and cyclic loading

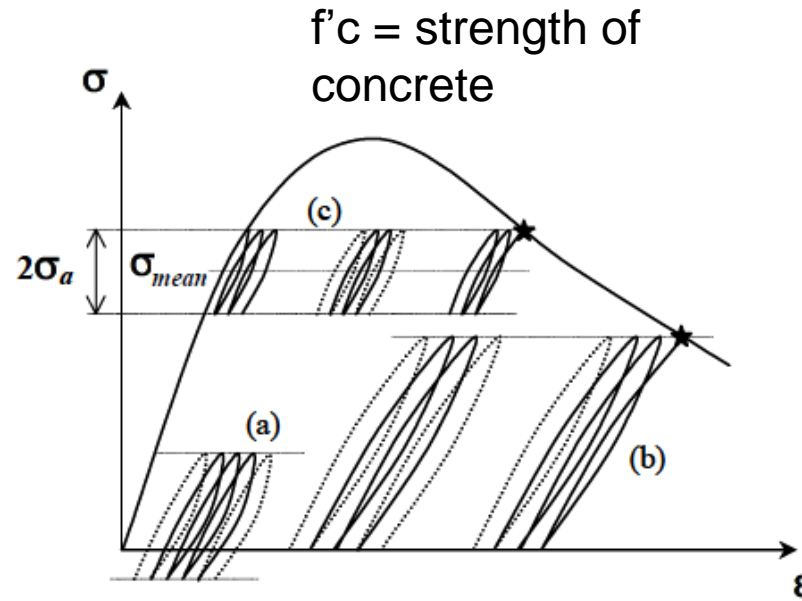
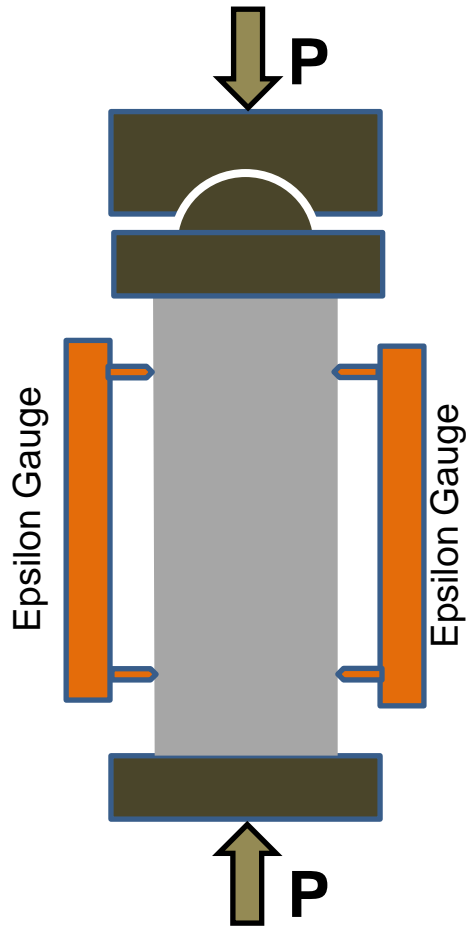


Figure 5.2. Behavior of concrete under cyclic loading: a) alternate loading; b) repeated loading; c) undulated loading

ASTM C39 Monotonic testing  
Loading rate  $35 \pm 7$  psi/sec

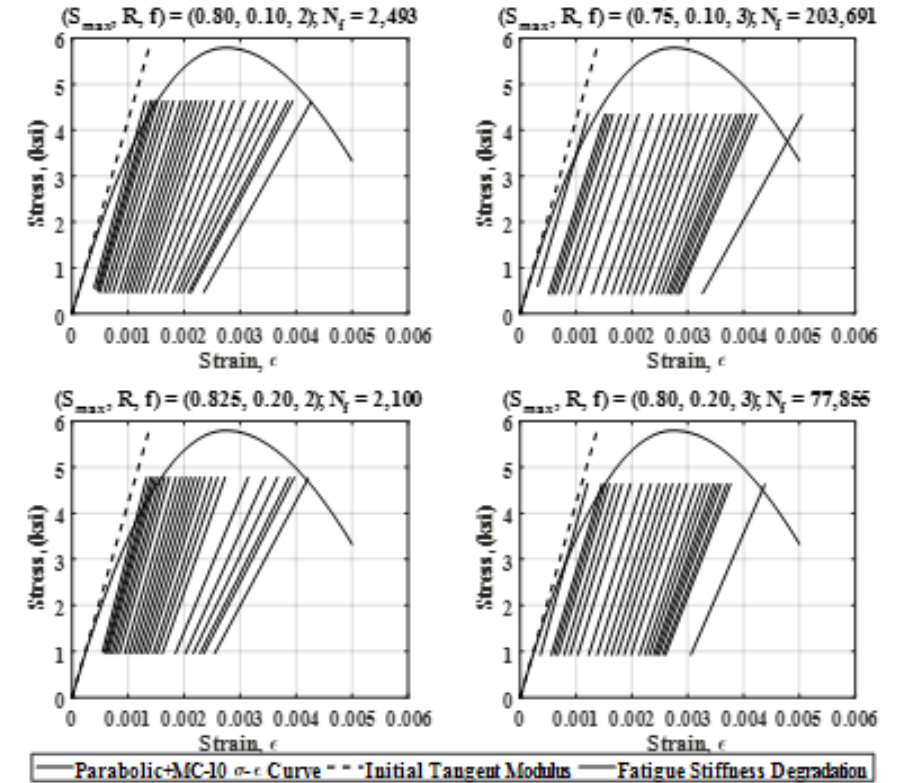
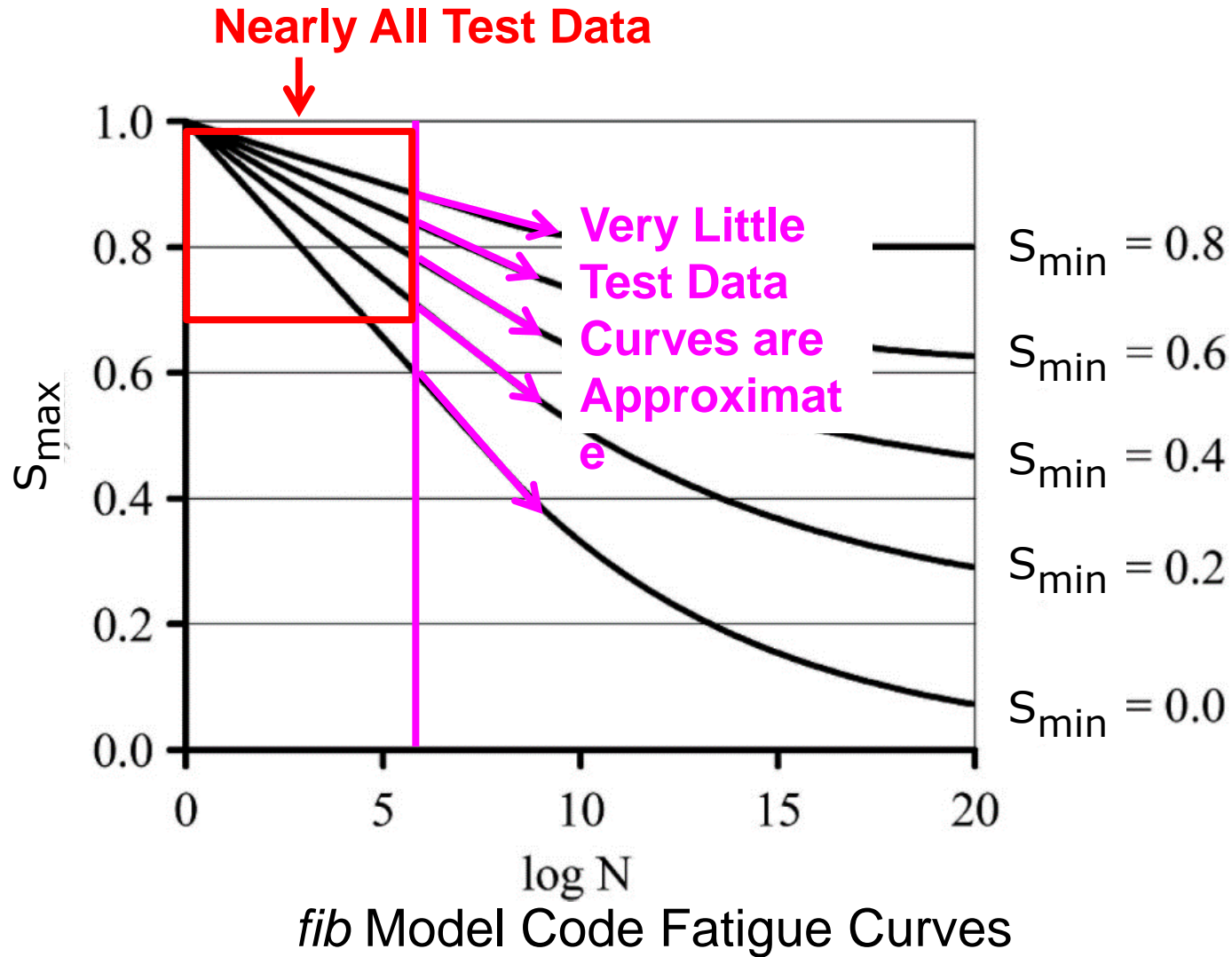


Figure 12: Secant stiffness degradation under fatigue loading for different  $(S_{max}, R, f)$  combinations, along with relationship of stiffness degradation to failure (1ksi = 6.89 MPa)

(Viswanath et al., 2021)



# Concrete Fatigue (S-N) Models (Model Code 2010)

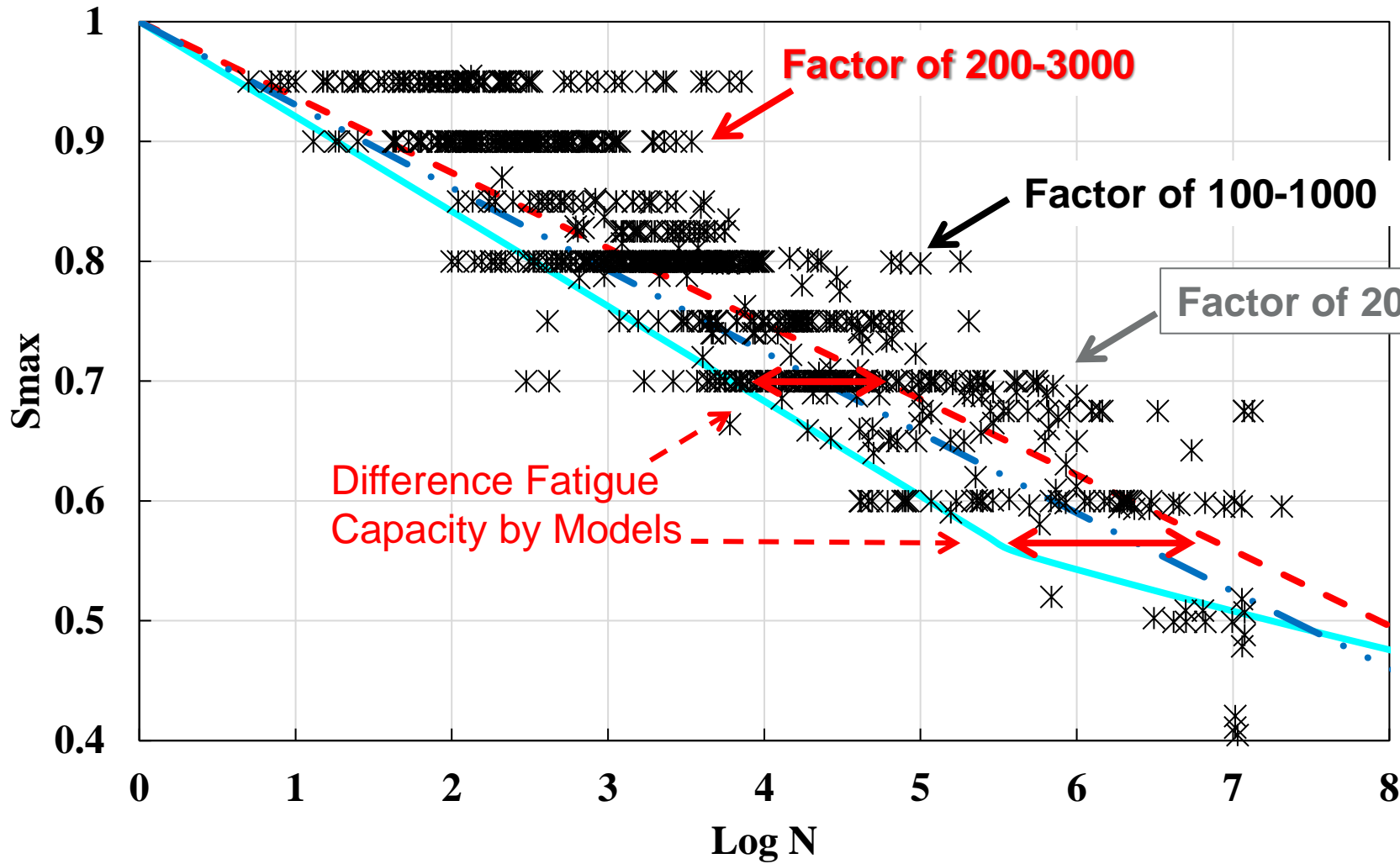


$$S_{max} = \frac{\text{(Max. Applied Stress in Cycle)}}{\text{(Monotonic Stress Capacity)}}$$

$$S_{min} = \frac{\text{(Min. Applied Stress in Cycle)}}{\text{(Monotonic Stress Capacity)}}$$

# Concrete Fatigue (S-N) Models and Data Base

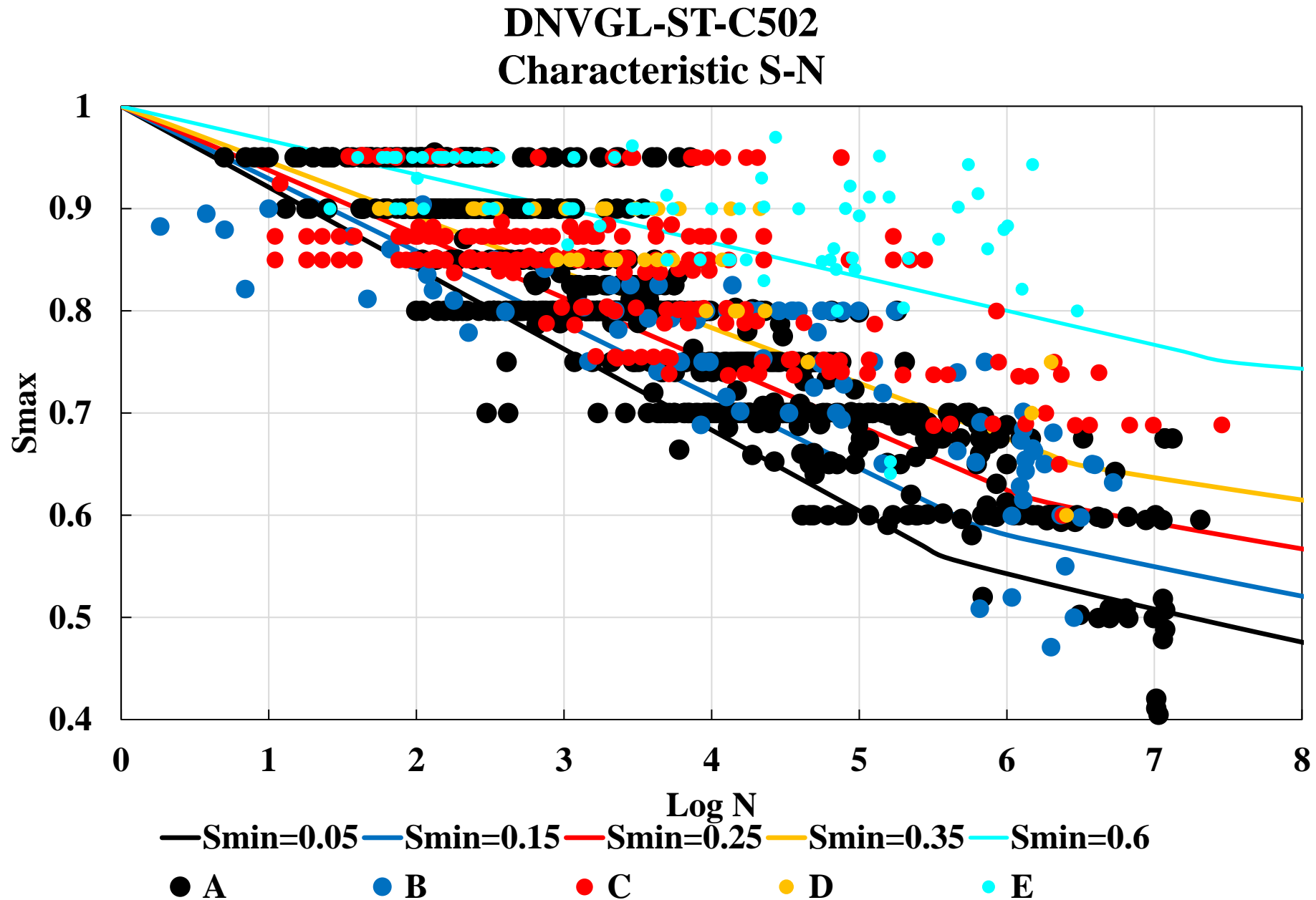
## Characteristic S-N



Smax=  
 $\sigma_{max}/\text{strength}$

— DNVGL-St-C502    - - ModelCode2010    — EuroCode2    \* Smin=0.05







# Recommended Protocol for Compression Fatigue Testing of Concrete

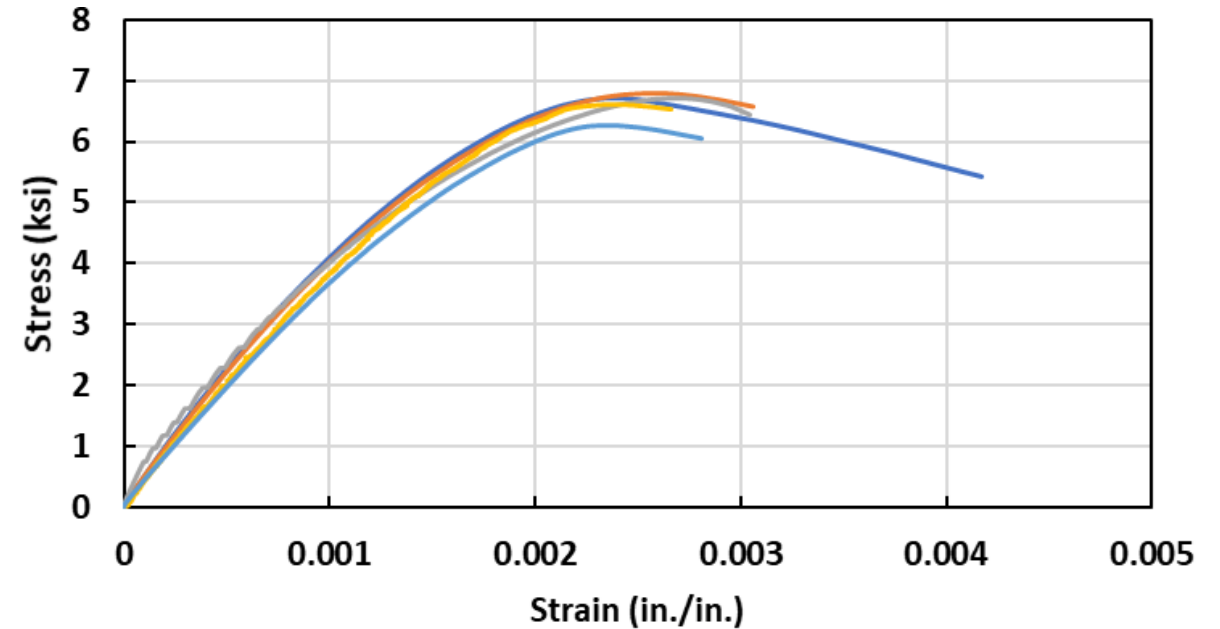
## Tech Note for ACI fatigue Committee 215



# Effect of variation in strength of concrete

Monotonic compressive stress-strain curves

Coefficient of variation = 2%

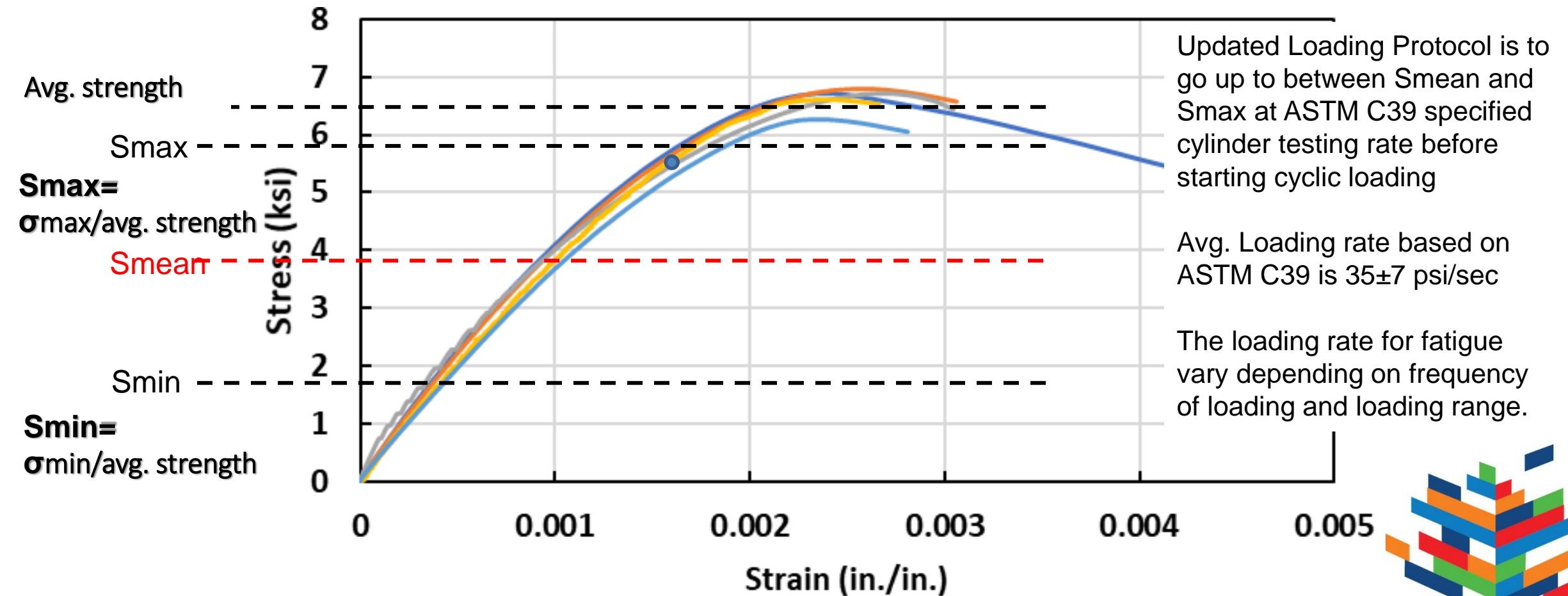


fcm	Smax	Smin	Number of cycles to failure (Nf)		
			Model Code 2010	DNV	Eurocode
fcm-5% (If strength was 5% lower)	0.84	0.21	1,797	269	386
fcm (Planned Smax=0.80)	0.80	0.20	10,208	1,000	1,711
fcm+5% (If strength was 5% higher)	0.76	0.19	54,996	3,594	7,582
fcm-5% (If strength was 5% lower)	0.63	0.21	33,572,059	417,112	2,208,912
fcm (Planned Smax=0.60)	0.60	0.20	104,199,038	1,000,000	7,220,567
fcm+5% (If strength was 5% higher)	0.57	0.19	322,815,611	2,805,597	23,602,833

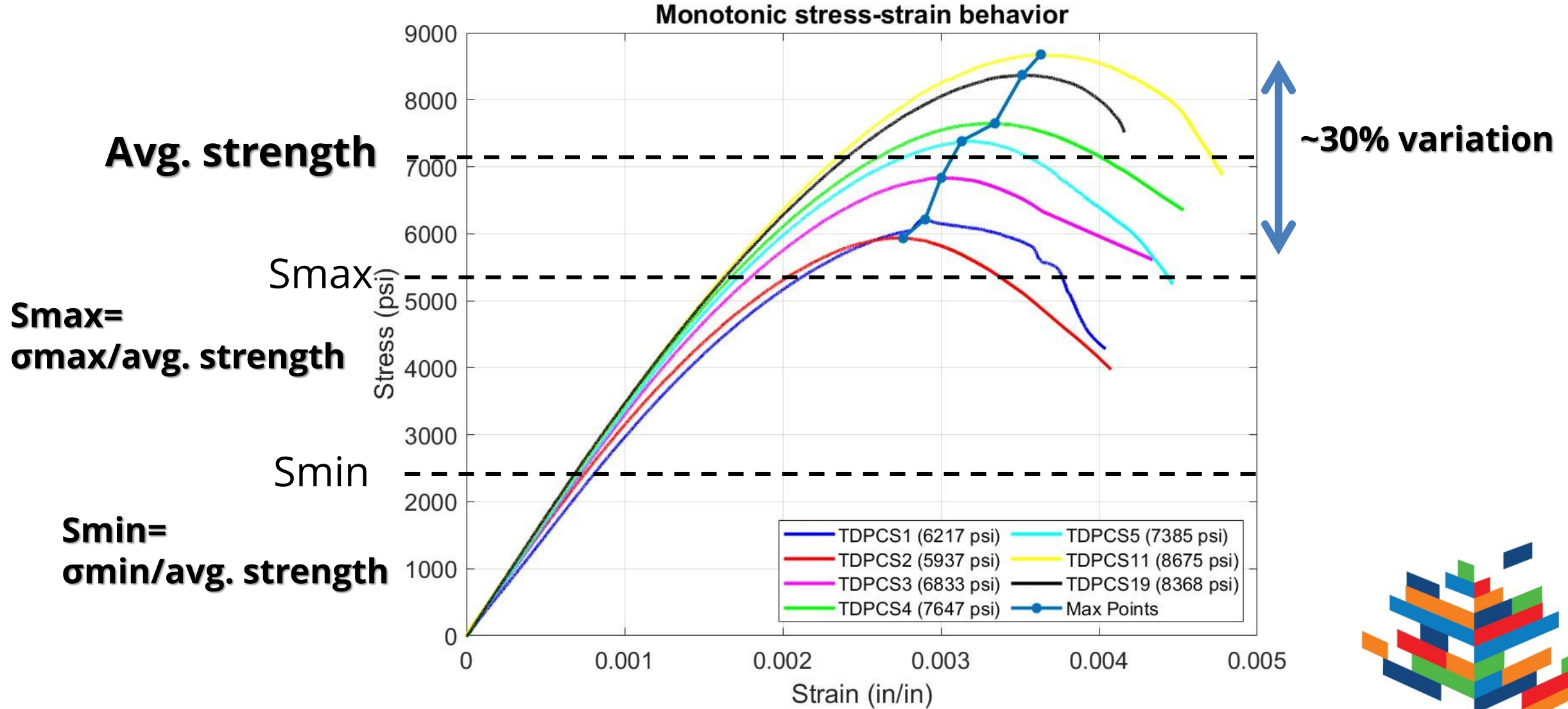


# New method for compressive fatigue testing

## Guesstimating strength of concrete ( $f'_c$ )

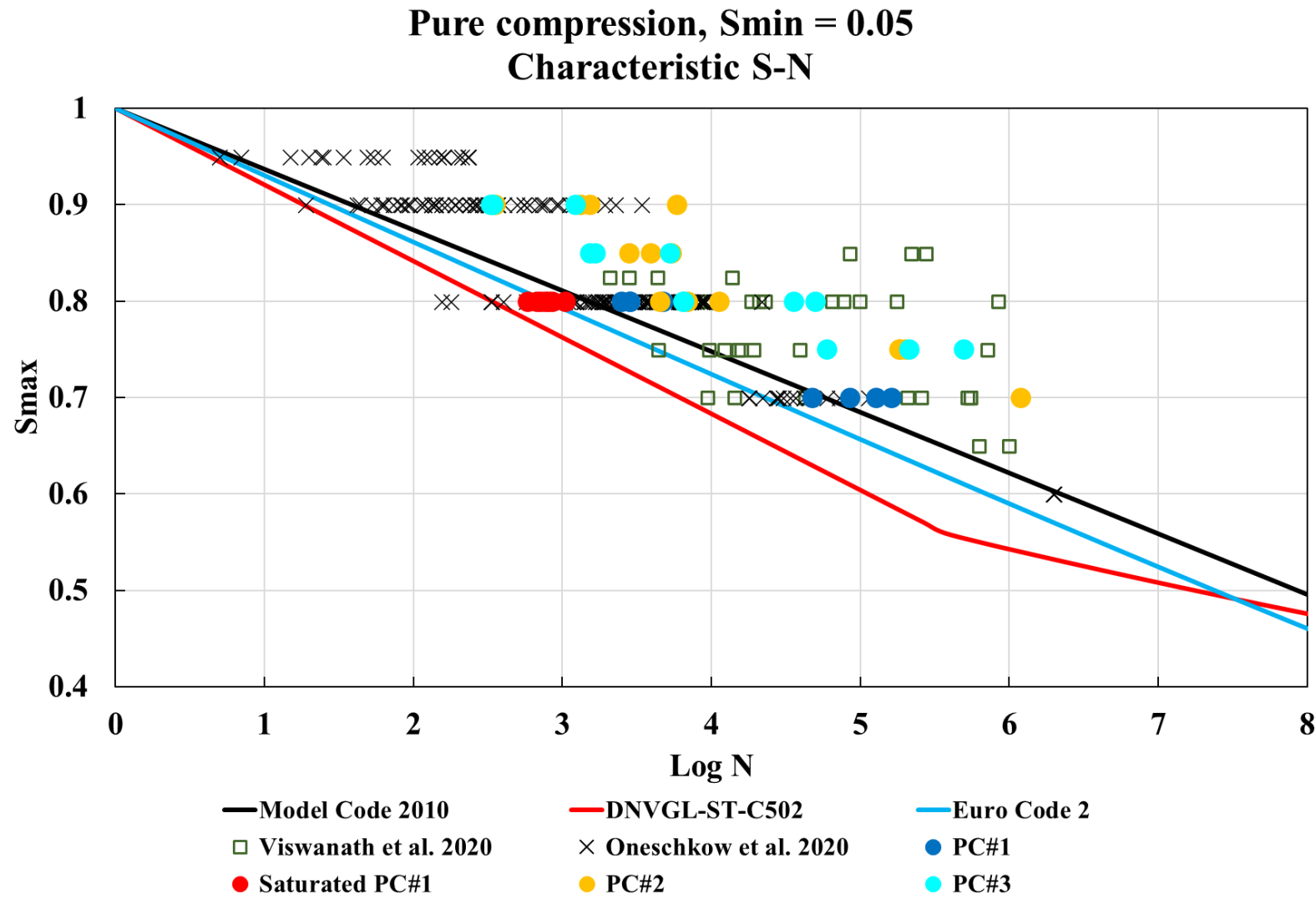


# New method for compressive fatigue testing



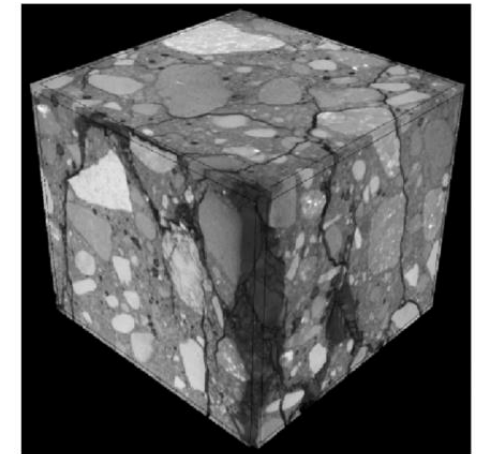


# Effect of the new method on the recent test results



# Continued experiments and works:

- Ongoing testing with 3 different types of concrete to verify usefulness of suggested methods (LWA concrete, Concrete with crushed granite aggregate, concrete with river based round aggregate)



- X-Ray Microtomography (aka computed tomography) on couple of concrete specimens to explore possible link between internal damage and the strain accumulation due to fatigue

# Takeaways

- The suggested method of compressive fatigue testing considering the variation of concrete strength in defining the fatigue loading protocol will reduce the fatigue capacity testing results range
- Having a standardized method for defining fatigue capacity model (curve) will help to have a more optimized design of the structure

# Thank you for your attention!

Mohsen Minaeijavid

PhD candidate, Tufts University

[Mohsen.Minaeijavid@tufts.edu](mailto:Mohsen.Minaeijavid@tufts.edu)





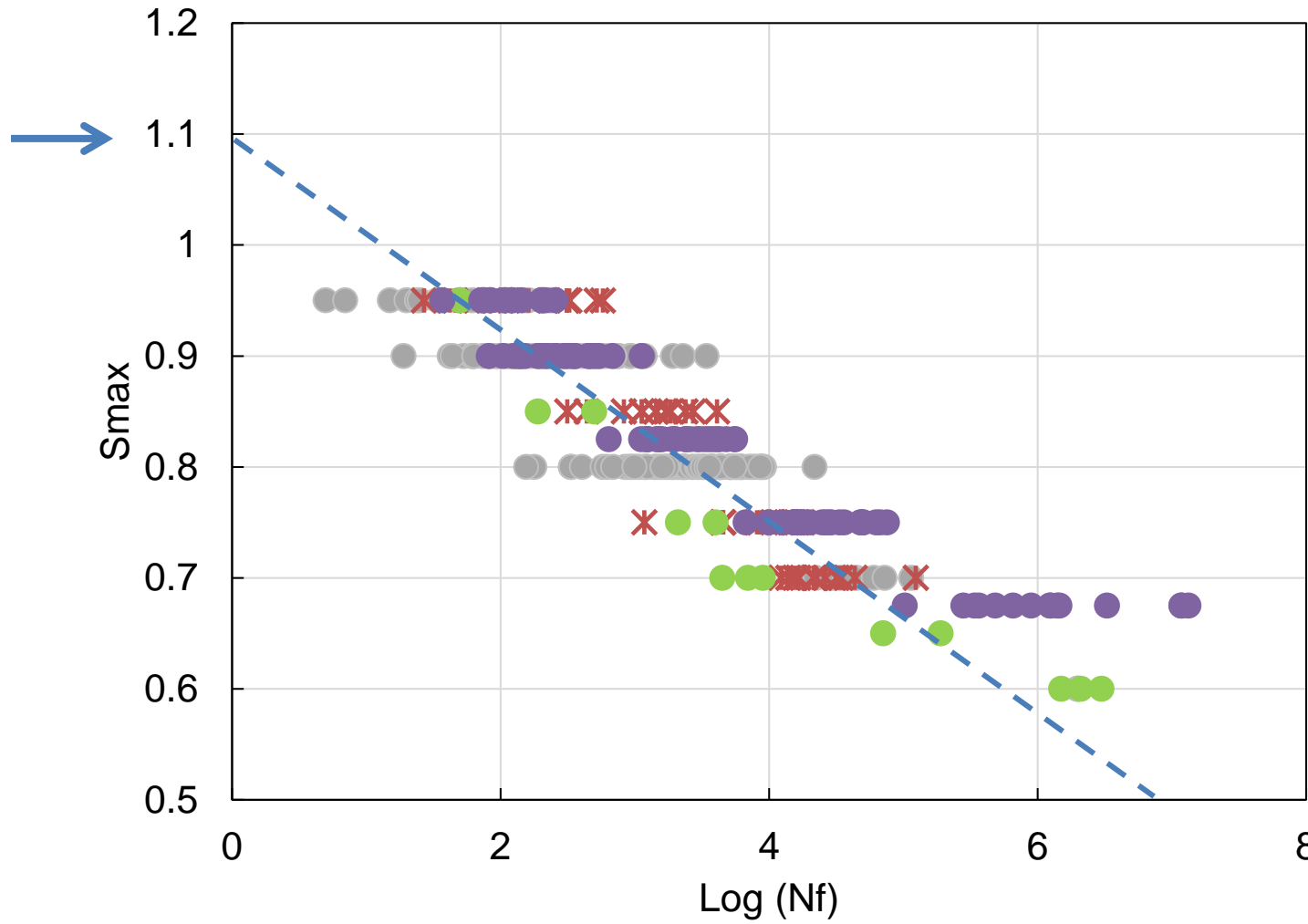
## Tech Note #2

# Procedure for Concrete Compression Fatigue S-N Curve Development (Certification by Testing)



# Why we need a standard method for developing S-N Curve?

Pure Compressive Fatigue ( $S_{min} = 0.05$ )

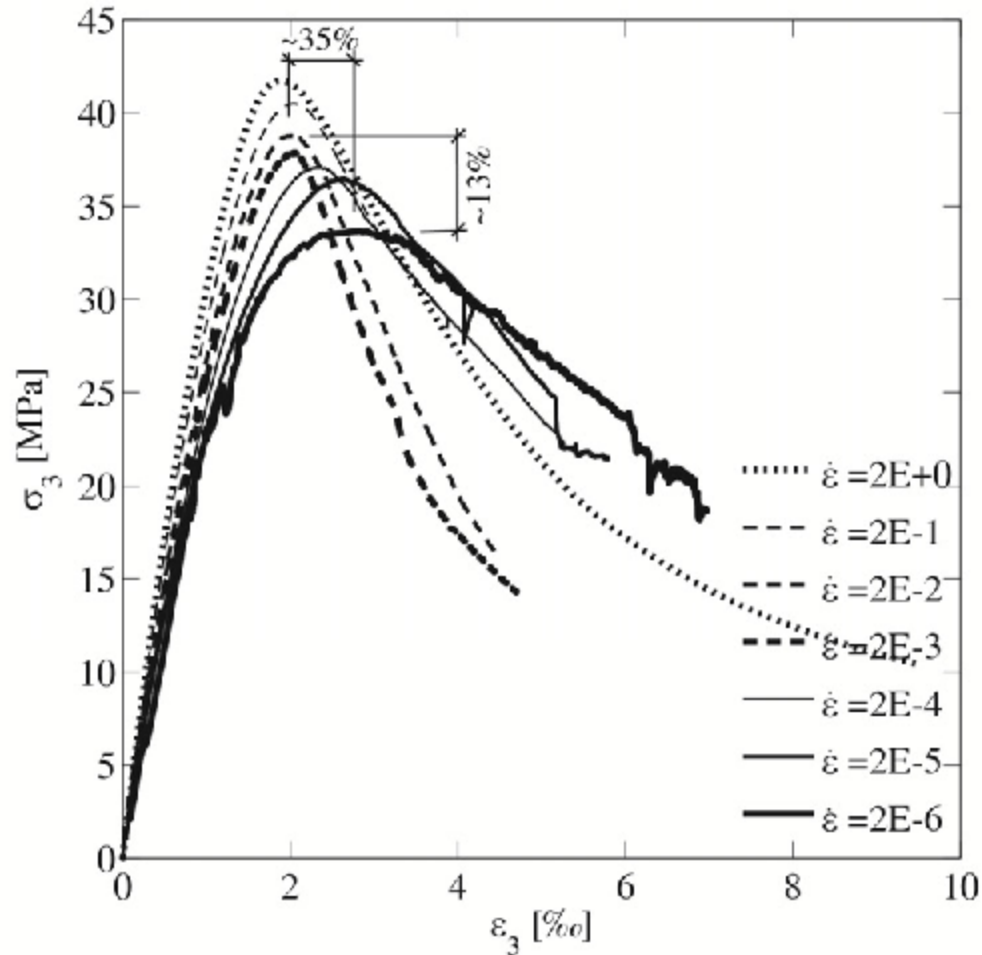


Standard monotonic test (ASTM C39) loading rate is equal to  $35 \pm 7$  psi/sec

Fatigue loading rate is 150-300 times faster than standard rate

- Oneschkow et al. 2020
- ✕ Do et al. 1993
- Petkovic et al. 1990
- Holmen 1979

# Why we need a standard method for developing S-N Curve?

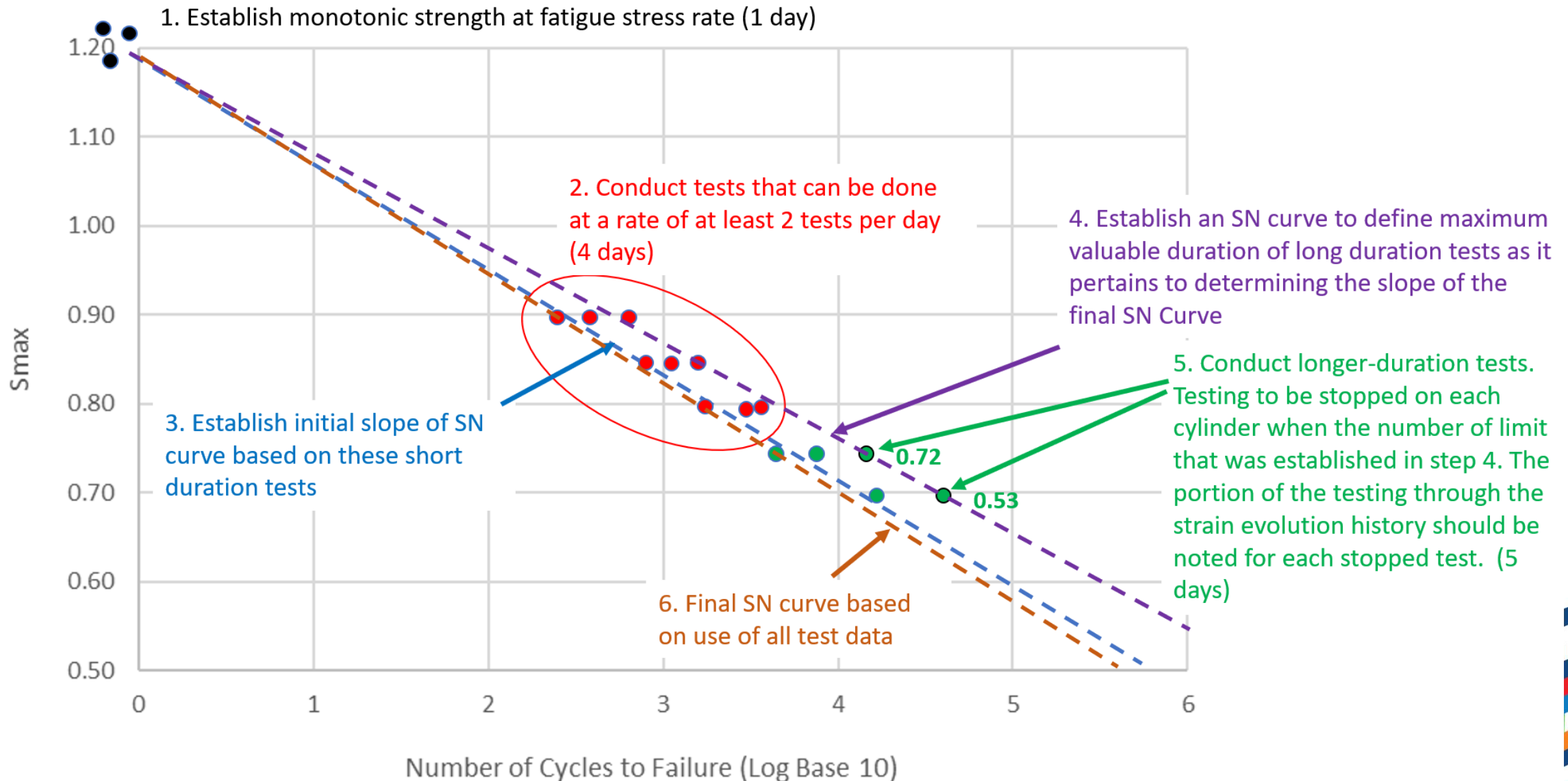


Standard monotonic test  
(ASTM C39) loading rate is equal to  
 $35 \pm 7$  psi/sec

Fatigue loading rate is 150-300  
times faster than standard rate

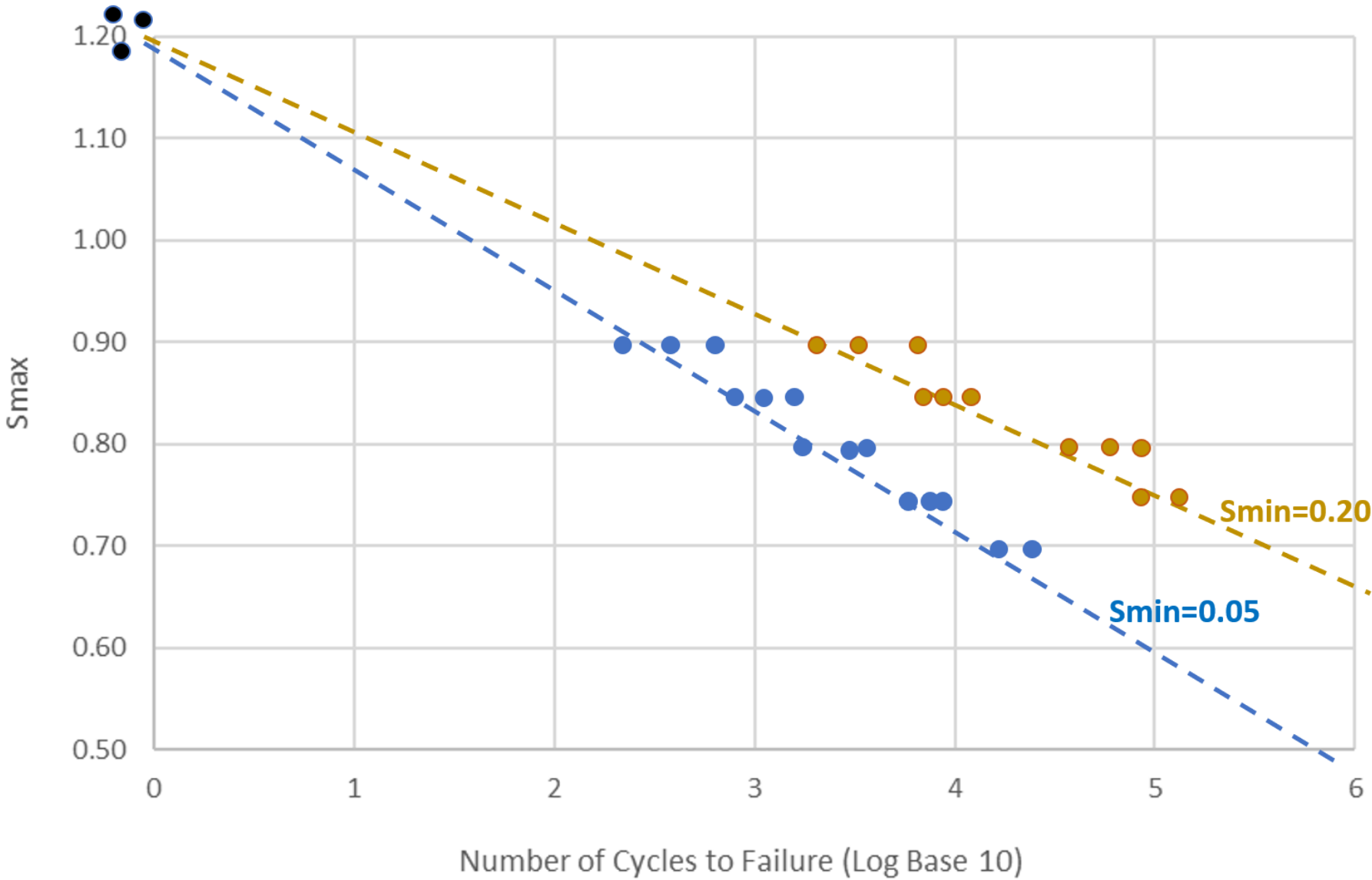
Higher rate of loading will result in higher strength

# Procedure for Developing of a SN Curve



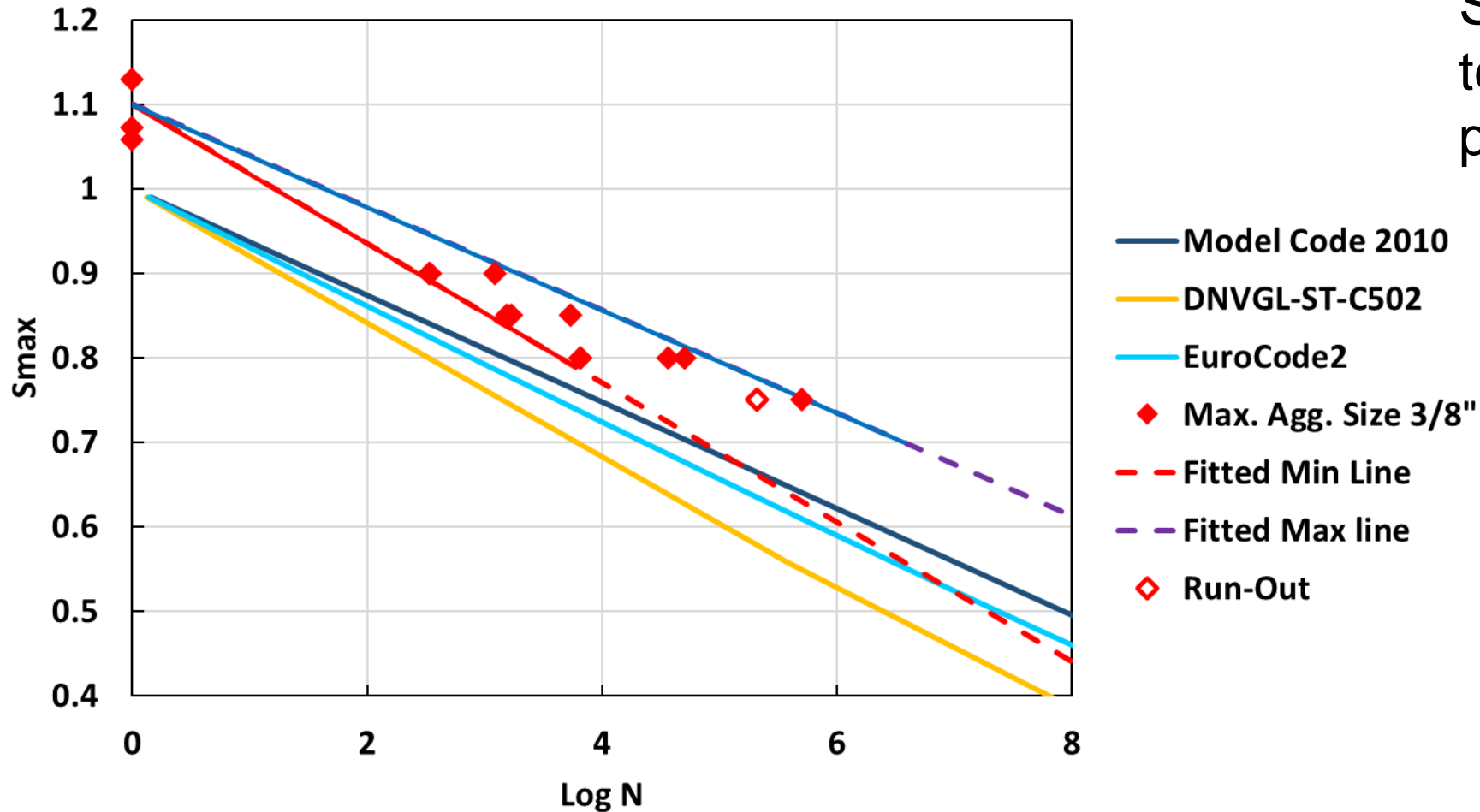


# Procedure for Developing of a SN Curve



# Example for Developing of a SN Curve

Compressive Fatigue Capacity ( $S_{min}=0.05$ )  
Max Agg. Size of 3/8"



S-N data from current testing showing that this proposal is working