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## Creating Transparent and Accessible Methods For Approximating the Composite Strength of Concrete Sandwich Wall Panels

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Best of 2019

## Concrete: the most destructive material on Earth

📍 Limestone quarries and cement factories are often sources of air pollution. Photograph: Zoonar GmbH/Alamy

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/feb/25/concrete-the-most-destructive-material-on-earth>

## Climate change: The massive CO2 emitter you may not know about

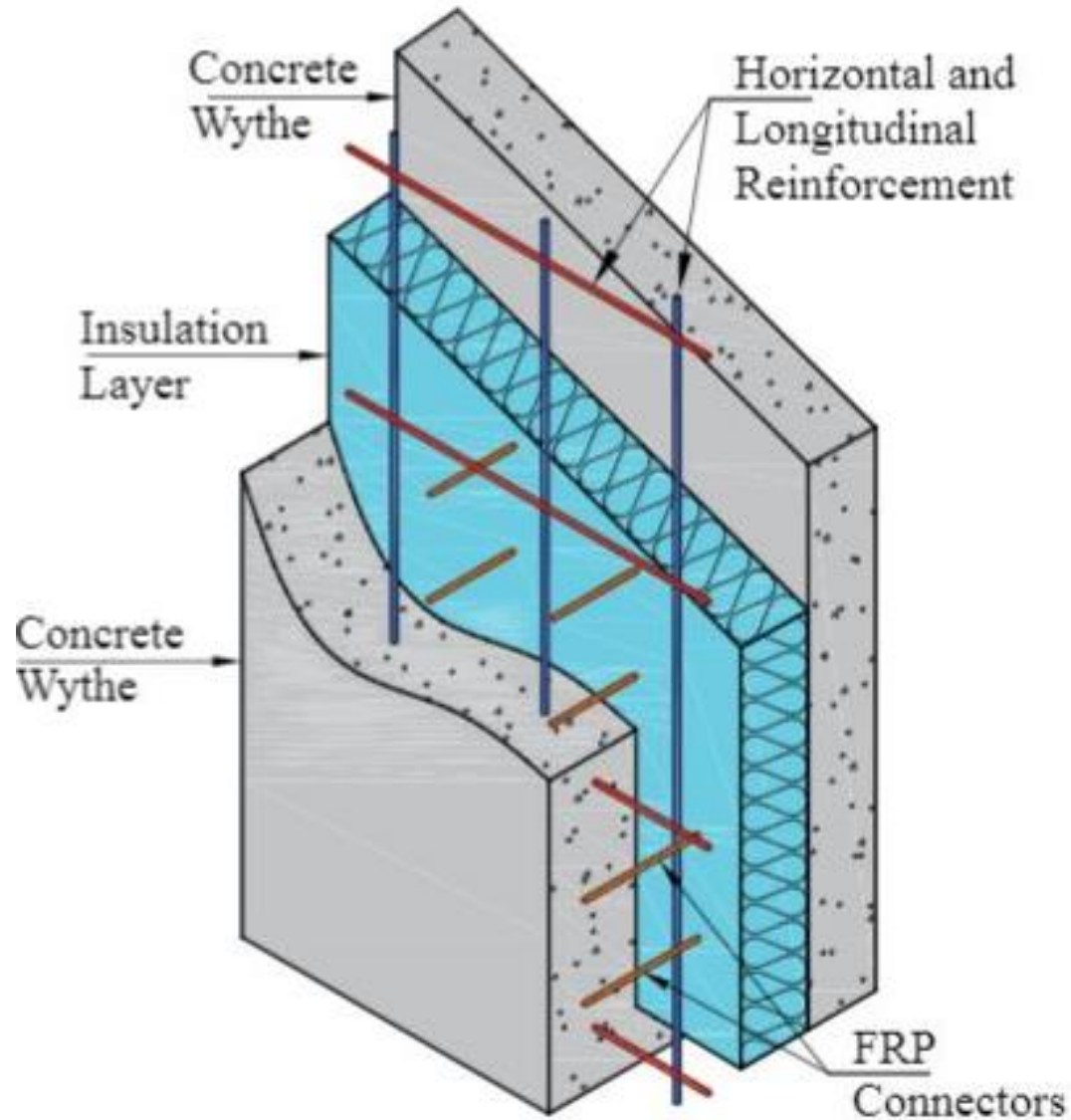
By Lucy Rodgers  
BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46455844>

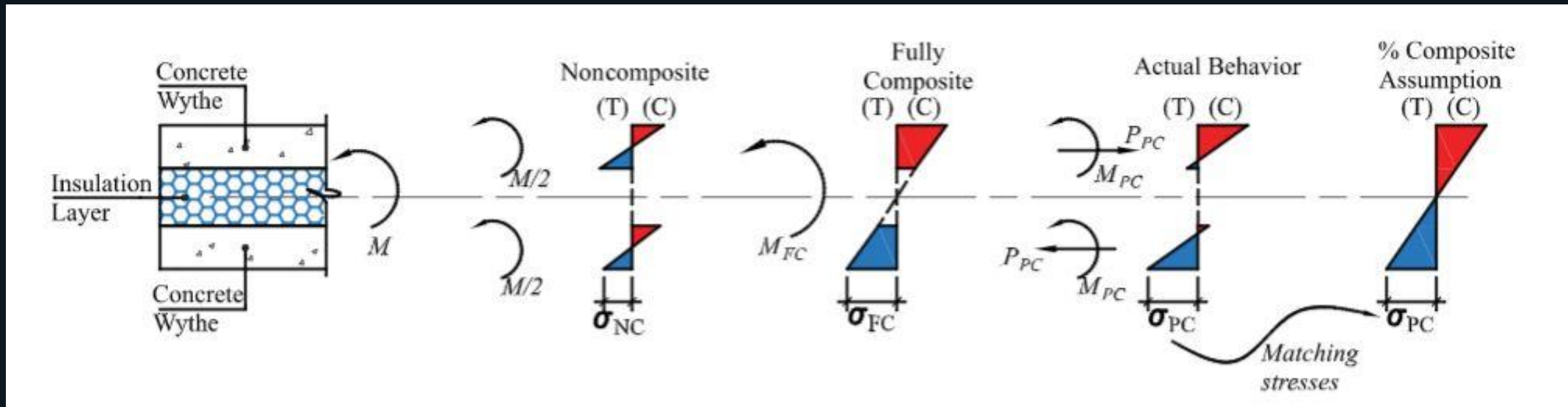
“If the cement industry were a country, it would be the **third largest** carbon dioxide emitter in the world” [3]

# Partially Composite Sandwich Wall Panels (SWPs)

- Original design of *non-composite* insulated concrete wall panels (ICWPs) dated back to 1906
- *Partially composite* ICWPs/SWPs rapidly overtaking design trends
- Stronger and more environmentally efficient
- **Construction has outpaced regulation and guidelines on structure**



“General configuration of an ICWP [...]” [5]



“Stress distributions through panel depth for noncomposite, fully composite, and partially composite panels” [5]

## Percent Composite Action

- main method used to design partially composite SWPs
- Relative measure of the strength of the wall on the scale from non-composite (0%) to fully composite (100%)

# The need for *approximations* for practicing engineers

- Theoretical formulas for calculating percent composite
- Proprietary software
- Rely on values from manufacturers

Creating Transparent and Accessible  
Methods for Approximating the  
Composite Strength of Concrete  
Sandwich Wall Panels



# Variable Candidates

## Two ranges of variables

- FULL range
- “COMMON” range

## Wall dimension variables

- Span/height (L)
- Wythe 1 thickness (WT1)
- Wythe 2 thickness (WT2)
- Insulation layer thickness (Ins)
- Overall wall width (Width)

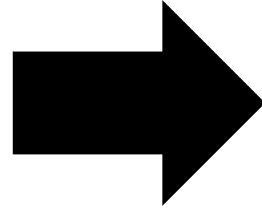
## Wall characteristic variables

- Elasticity (Ec)
- Tensile strength (fr)
- Connector stiffness (K)

Variable	“Common” Range	Possible Range	Increment
L	240-540 (in)	120-1020 (in)	0.25 in
WT1	3-4 (in)	1-5 (in)	0.25 in
WT2	3-4 (in)	1-5 (in)	0.25 in
Ins	3-4 (in)	1-5 (in)	0.25 in
Width	96-144 (in)	24-192 (in)	1 in
Ec	4,000-5,100 (ksi, ksi=1000*psi)	3,000-10,000 (ksi, ksi=1000*psi)	Any real #
fr	0.53-0.70 (ksi, ksi=1000*psi)	0.30-2.0 (ksi, ksi=1000*psi)	Any real #
K	0-200 (kip/in)	0-3600 (kip/in)	Any real #

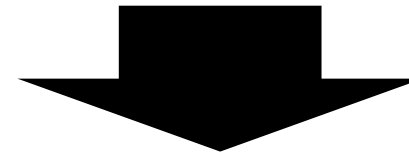
# Translating code and data simulation

MATLAB code  
applying ISBT\*  
method on data set



Functions in R for any single wall  
configuration or data set:

Examples:  
`connector_locations()`  
`ISBT()`



Data simulation  
functions:

Example:  
`randomdata()`

Multiple data sets  
per range  
~1,000,000  
observations each

ISBT applied to data

Example:  
`ISBT_randomdata()`

\*Iterative Sandwich Beam Theory Method

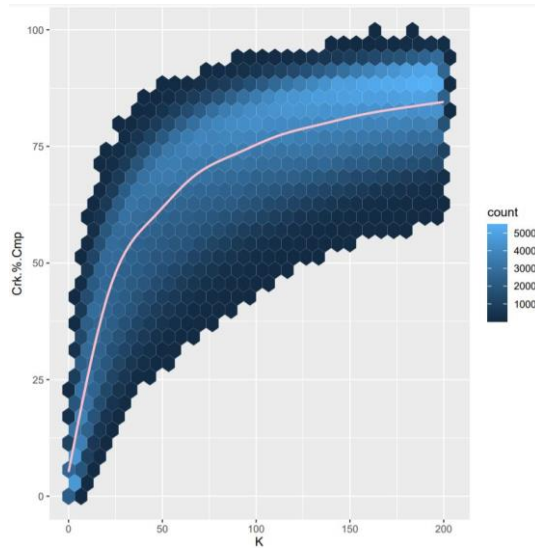


# Data exploration and variable selection

- Penalized regression
  - Random forest variable importance plots
  - Regression trees
  - Variable selection process in GAM package
- 
- Two universally important variables: **K** (average shear stiffness) and **L** (span)

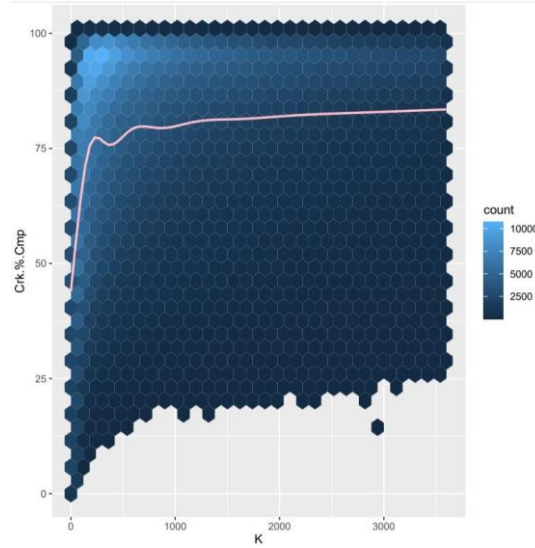
# Percent Cracking Composite (CrkCmp)

LIMITED RANGE



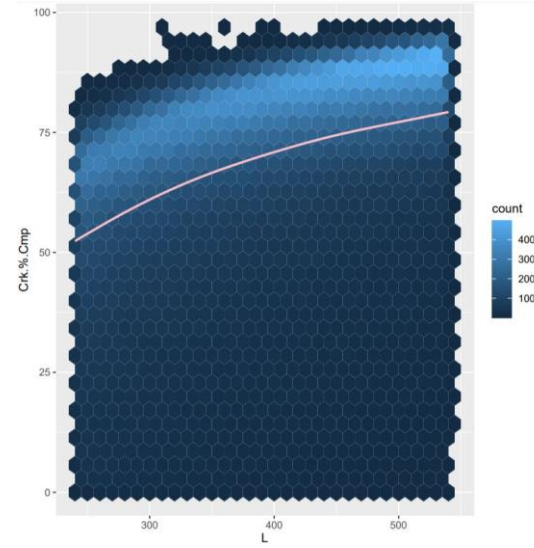
CrkCmp vs K

FULL RANGE



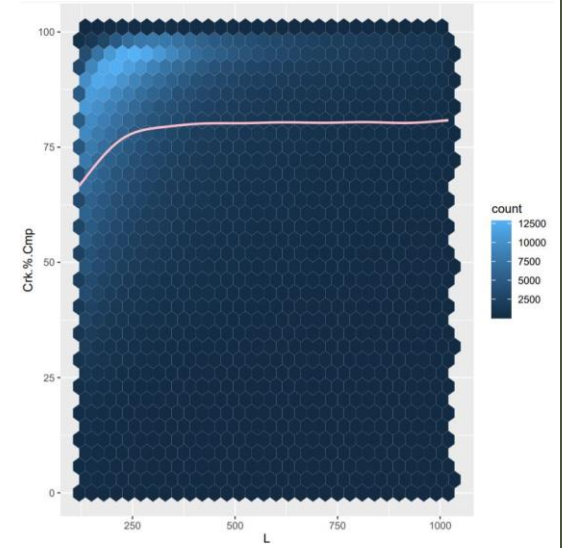
CrkCmp vs K

LIMITED RANGE



CrkCmp vs L

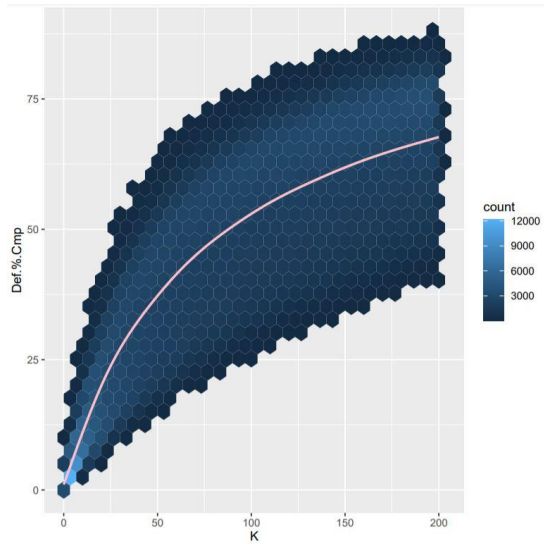
FULL RANGE



CrkCmp vs L

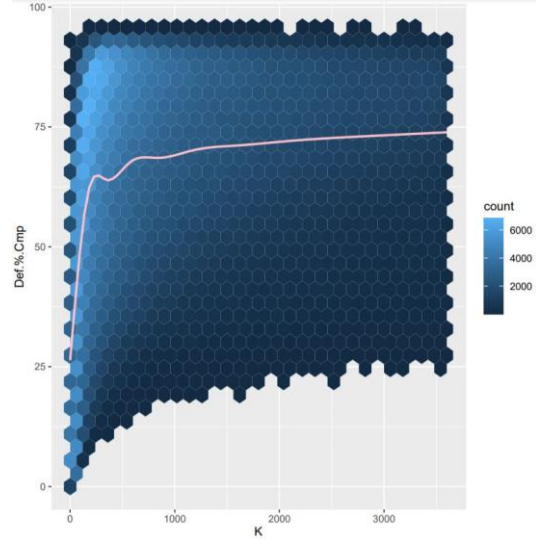
# Percent Deflection Composite (DefCmp)

LIMITED RANGE



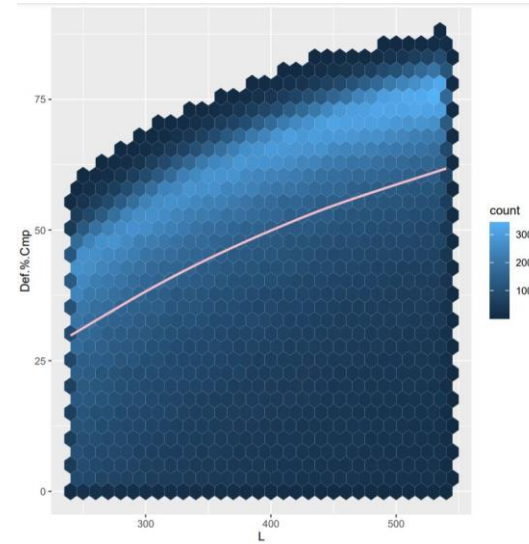
CrkCmp vs K

FULL RANGE



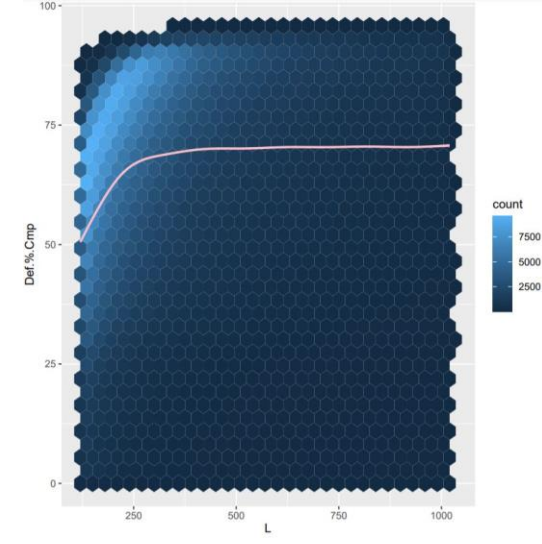
CrkCmp vs K

LIMITED RANGE



CrkCmp vs L

FULL RANGE



CrkCmp vs L

# Models for “common” range

- Linear Regression

$$(Def.\%Cmp)^{1.5} = 2.631294(K) + 1.041109(L - 240)$$

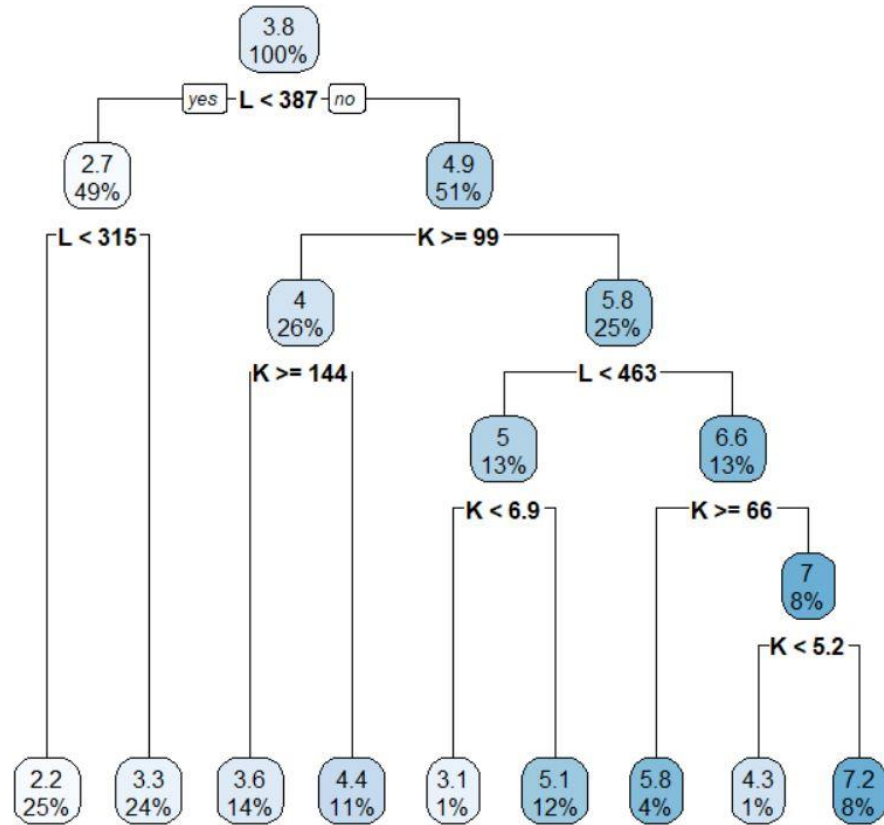
$$(Crk.\%Cmp)^2 = 32.430691(K) + 12.136964(L - 240)$$

- Quantile Regression

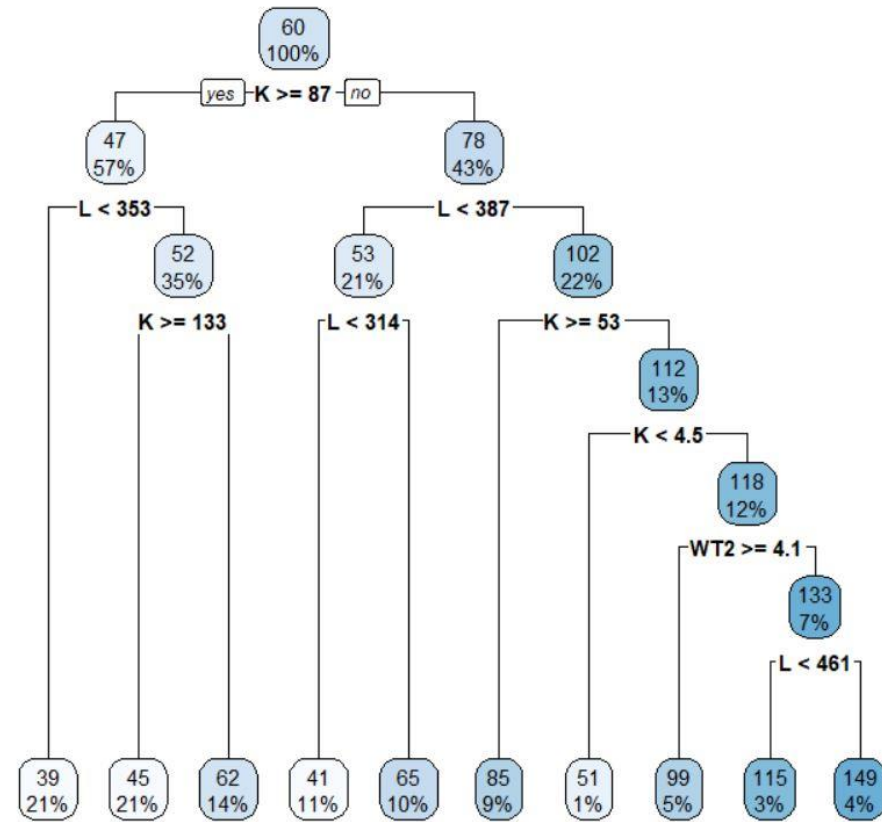
$$(Def.\%Cmp)^{1.5} = 2.1493264(K) + 0.8137442(L - 240)$$

$$(Crk.\%Cmp)^2 = 30.58032(K) + 10.99243(L - 240)$$

## Coefficient Tree: Cracking Composite



## Coefficient Tree: Deflection Composite

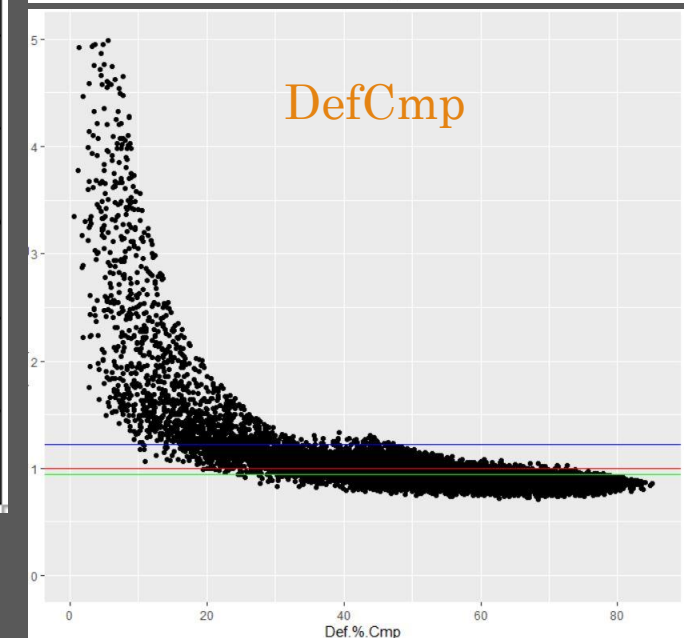
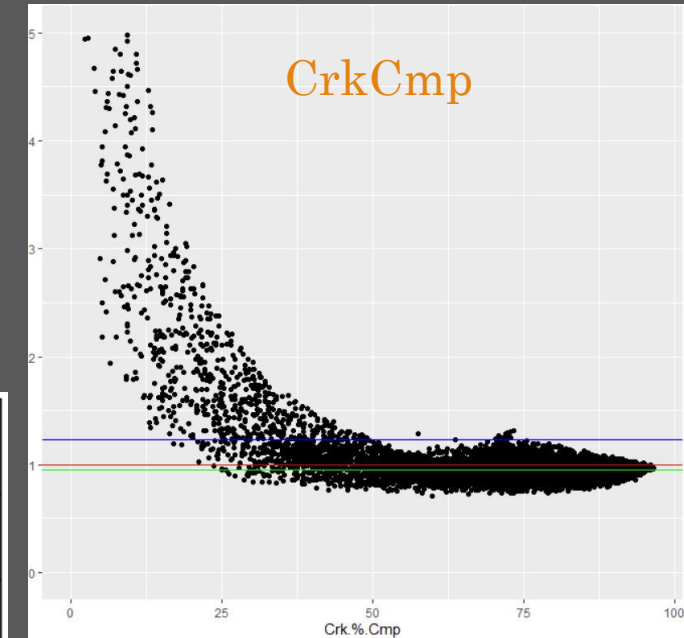


# Error Rates

- *Overprediction*
- Coefficient Tree most accurate

Common Range Data Set				
% Composite	Regression	MSPR	MRPR	Pred/Obs
Deflection Composite	OLS	58.89617	Median: 0.0822, Mean: 0.452	Median: 1.0238, Mean: 1.397
	Quantile, $\tau=0.3$	61.81704	Median: 0.0971, Mean: 0.485	Median: 0.970, Mean: 1.331
	Coefficient Tree	<b>25.90623</b>	Median: 0.0772, Mean: 0.104	Median: <b>1.0089</b> , Mean: <b>1.0243</b>
Cracking Composite	OLS	83.34617	Median: 0.0643, Mean: 0.655	Median: 0.988, Mean: 1.578
	Quantile, $\tau=0.3$	86.977	Median: 0.0798, Mean: 0.633	Median: 0.953, Mean: 1.514
	Coefficient Tree	<b>41.80993</b>	Median: 0.0663, Mean: 0.171	Median: <b>1.0058</b> , Mean: <b>1.100</b>

Predicted/Observed Ratio Plots



**Input:**

(You may enter decimals for any of the following variables. Example values are shown.)

**K** (the average elastic stiffness of the connectors in kip/in) min=0 kip/in, max=3600 kip/in:

**L** (the height/span of the wall panel in inches) min=120 in, max=1020 in:

**Width** (the total width of the wall panel in inches) min=24 in, max=192 in:

**Wythe 1** (the thickness of wythe 1 in inches) min=1 in, max=5 in:

**Wythe 2** (the thickness of wythe 1 in inches) min=1 in, max=5 in:

**Insulation** (the thickness of the insulator width in inches) min=1 in, max=5 in:

**Ec** (the modulus of elasticity of the concrete in ksi=1000\*psi) min=3000 ksi, max=10,000 ksi:

**fr** (the modulus of rupture of the concrete in ksi=1000\*psi) min=0.3 ksi, max=2.0 ksi:

**Maximum iterations** (the max number of iterations to be used in calculations) default=500:

**Tolerance** (threshold for the difference between  $Aslip[2]$  and  $Aslipn[2]$  that determines when to end iterations) default=1 E-9:

**Decimal places** (how many decimal places you would like the percent composite values to include) default=3:

**Variable Ranges:**

**ISBT Method:**

K: 0-3600 kip/in

L: 120-1020 inches

Width: 24-192 inches

WT1: 1-5 inches

WT2: 1-5 inches

Insulation: 1-5 inches

E: 3,000-10,000 ksi (1000\*psi)

fr: 0.3-2.0 ksi (1000\*psi)

**Linear, Quantile Regression and Tree Regression:**

K: 0-200 kip/in

L: 240-540 inches

Width: 96-144 inches

WT1: 3-5 inches

WT2: 3-5 inches

Insulation: 3-4 inches

E: 4,000-5,100 ksi (1000\*psi)

fr: 0.53-0.7 ksi (1000\*psi)

**Wythe thickness ratio (Wythe 1 / Wythe 2):**

**Deflection Composite Action (%)**

Iterative Sandwich Beam Theory (ISBT) Method

Linear Regression Model

Quantile Regression Model

Regression Tree

**Cracking Composite Action (%)**

Iterative Sandwich Beam Theory (ISBT) Method

Linear Regression Model

Quantile Regression Model

Regression Tree

# APP



## Continuing work

Piecewise regression for  
multiple variables

Asymptotic regression  
for multiple variables

Updating and releasing  
R package and app

Questions?

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