

# A MECHANISTIC APPROACH FOR PAVEMENT VEHICLE INTERACTION IN LCA

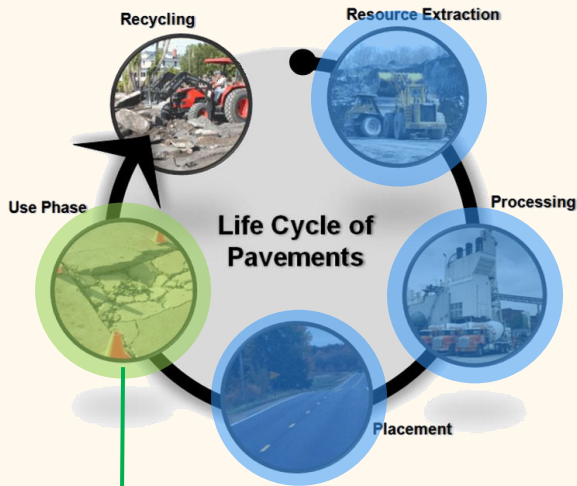
Mehdi Akbarian (MIT)

## Outline

### **Introduction**

Pavement-Vehicle Interaction  
Model  
Results: LTPP Network Analysis  
Conclusion and Future Work

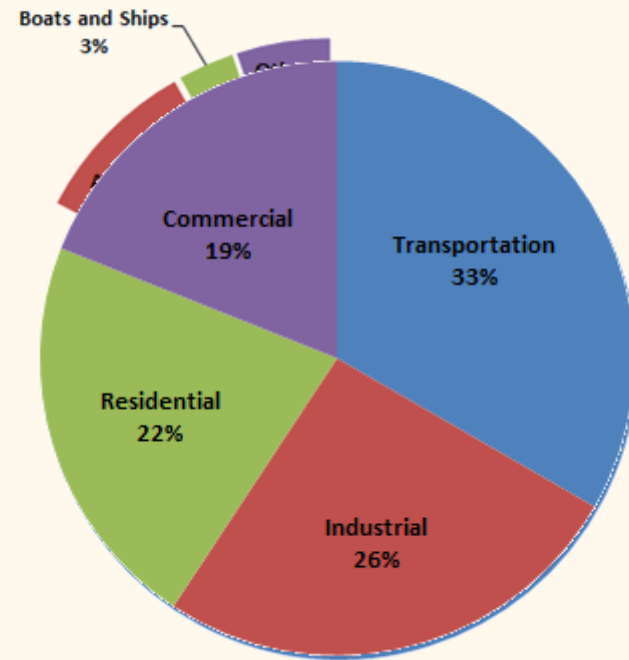
## Why Bother: Transportation Accounts for 20% of US CO2 Emissions



LCA & LCCA Boundaries

Pavement Vehicle  
Interaction: 72%

Transportation CO2 Emissions by Sector Type



## Outline

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**Pavement-Vehicle Interaction**

Model

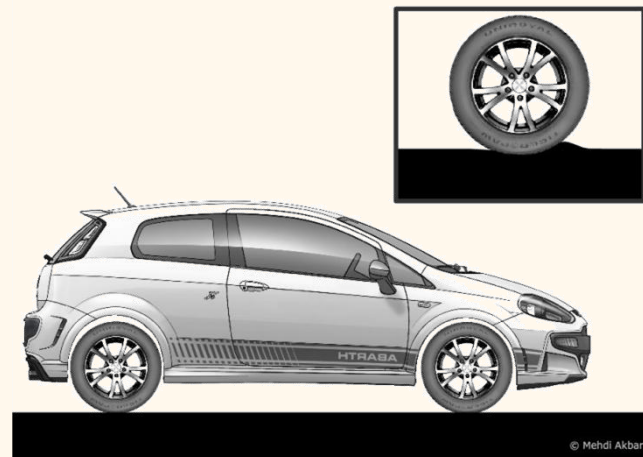
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## Pavement-Vehicle Interaction



Pavement Roughness\*

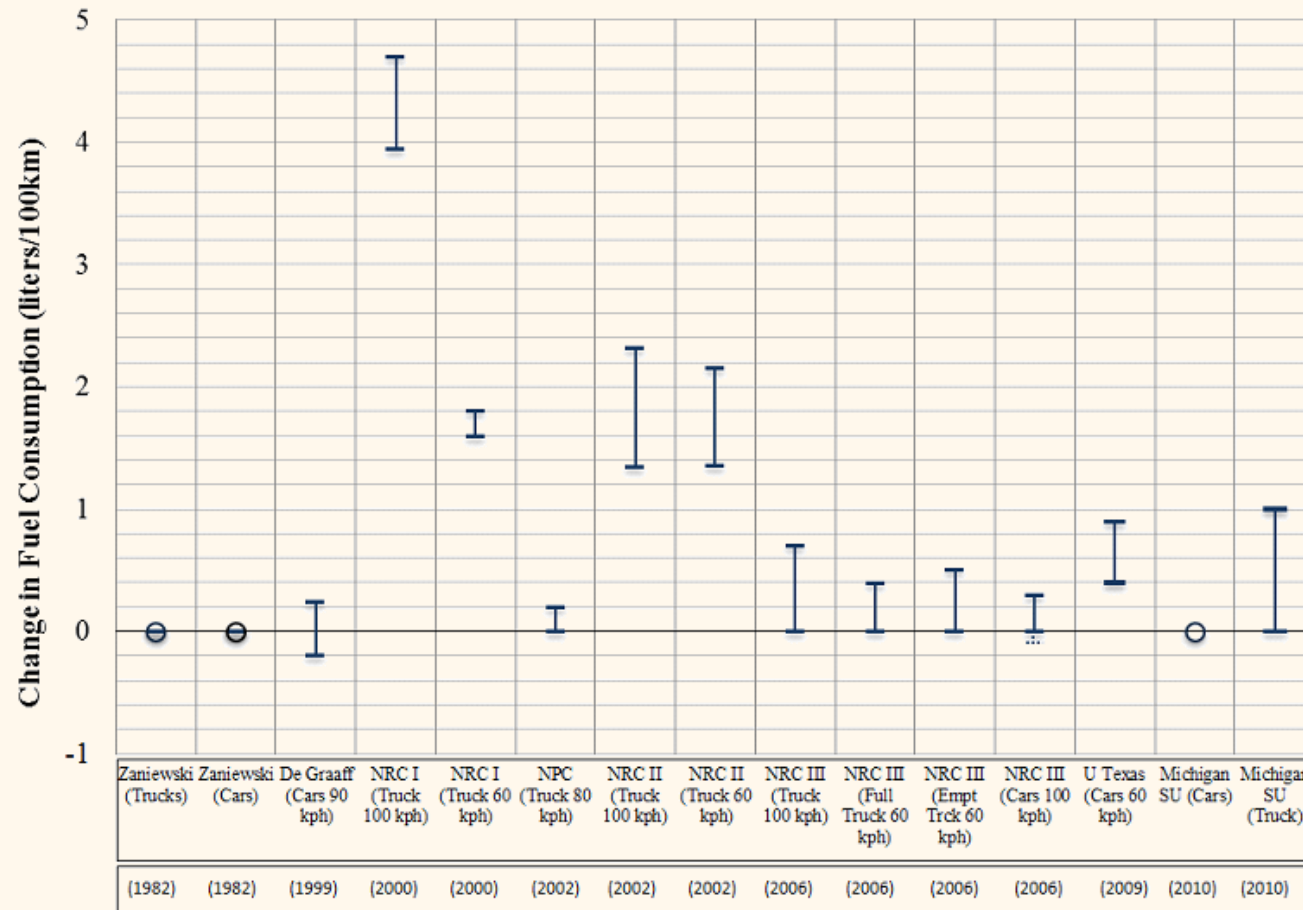


Pavement Deflection



\* Zabaar and Chatti (2010) Calibration of HDM-4 Models for Estimating the Effect of Pavement Roughness on Fuel Consumption for U.S. Conditions

## Literature: Empirical Studies on Pavement Deflection



### Empirical Database:

- High uncertainty
- High variability
- Question of objectivity
- Binary material view:
  - Asphalt vs. concrete
- No structural consideration

### Need:

- Model is missing to relate fuel consumption to:
  - Deflection
  - Structure
  - Material

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## PVI Deflection Model

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### **Research Problem:**

- Evaluate, in first order, the mechanics behind pavement vehicle interaction

### **Research Goal:**

- Create a model that relates fuel consumption to:
  - Deflection
  - Structure
  - Material properties

### **Simplest model:**

- Bernoulli Euler beam on viscoelastic foundation
- Calibrate model parameters
- Validate with experimental data



## Bernoulli Euler beam on viscoelastic foundation

$$EI \frac{\partial^4 y}{\partial x^4} + m \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} + c \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} + ky = q(x, t) \quad [eq. 1]$$

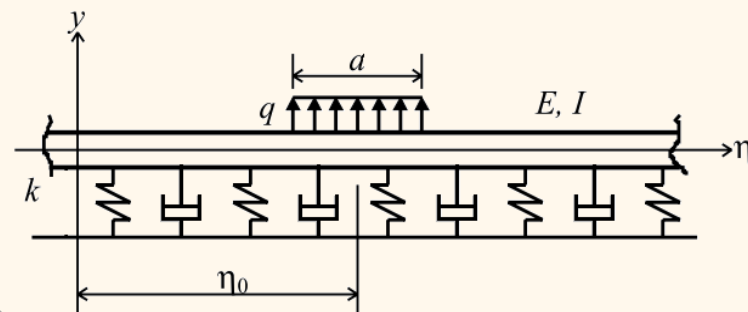
Moving coordinate system:  $\eta = x - Vt$  [eq. 2]

$$EI \frac{\partial^4 y}{\partial \eta^4} + m \left( \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} - 2V \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t \partial \eta} + V^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial \eta^2} \right) + c \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - V \frac{\partial y}{\partial \eta} \right) + ky = q(\eta, t) \quad [eq. 3]$$

$\xi$  (and  $\Omega^*$ ) are transformed fields of  $\eta$  and  $t$

$$y(\eta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{Q(\xi)}{EI\xi^4 - mV^2\xi^2 + k(1 + 2i\zeta)} e^{i\xi\eta} d\xi$$

$$Q(\xi) = q \int_{-a/2}^{a/2} e^{-i\xi\eta} d\eta \quad [eq. 5]$$



### Input:

- E:** Elastic Modulus of Top Layer
- h:** Thickness of Top Layer
- k:** Elastic Modulus of Subgrade
- ζ:** Damping Ratio
- m:** Mass of beam per unit length

### Output

**$y(\eta)$ :** Deflection

(\* in the case of periodic load, not considered in what follows)

## Model Parameter Study

### Inputs:

- ***E***: Top layer modulus
- ***h***: Top layer thickness
- ***k***: Substrate modulus
- ***M***: Vehicle mass

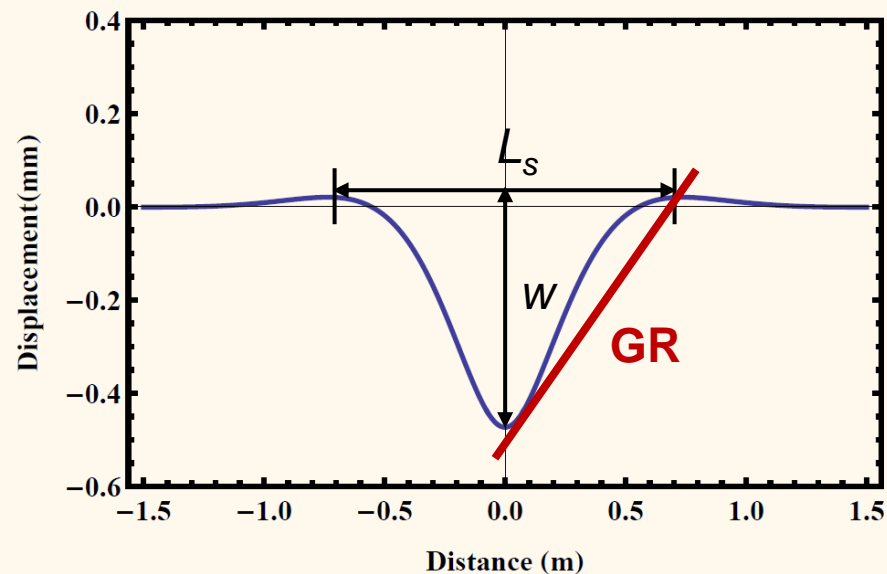
$IFC \sim GR \times M \times g$  : Gradient Force

$$GR \sim \frac{w}{L_s}$$

$$w \sim M^1 E^{-1/4} k^{-3/4} h^{-3/4}$$

$$L_s \sim E^{1/4} k^{-1/4} h^{3/4}$$

$$IFC \sim M^2 \times E^{-1/2} k^{-1/2} h^{-3/2}$$

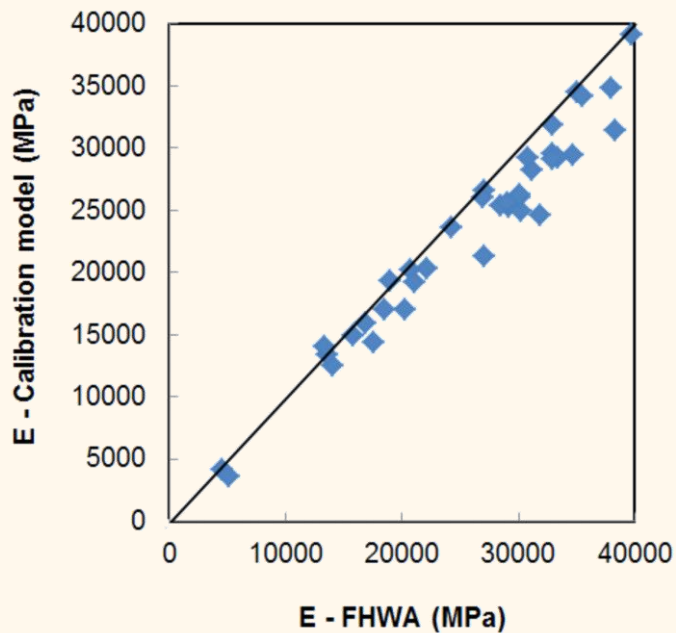


\* Mechanistic Approach to Pavement-Vehicle Interaction and Its Impact in LCA - *Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 2012.

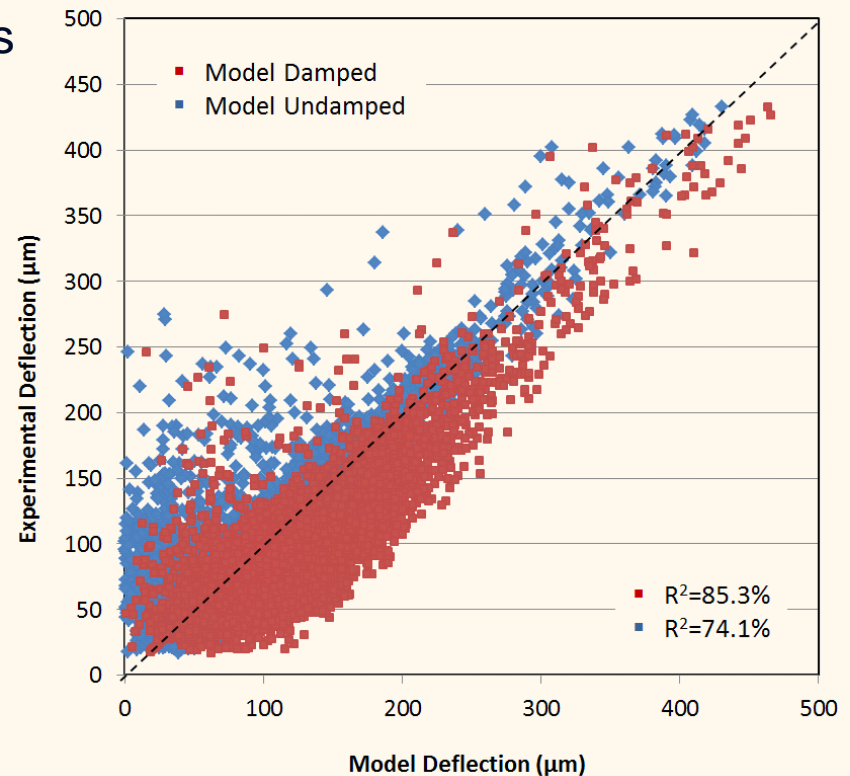
## Calibration – validation: FHWA DATA

### FWD Time Histories:

1. Calibration: Arrival time of signal
2. Validation: Maximum deflection at offsets

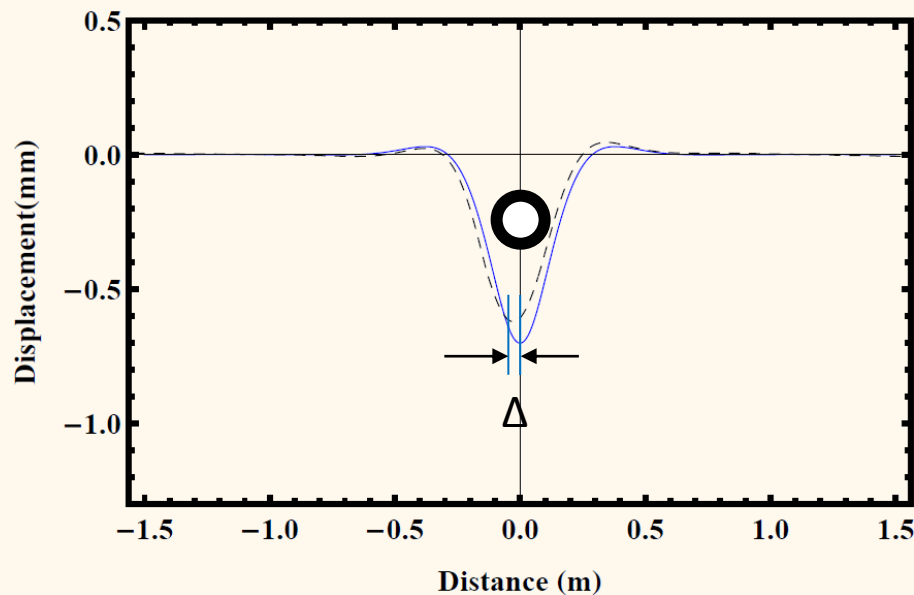


**Calibration**



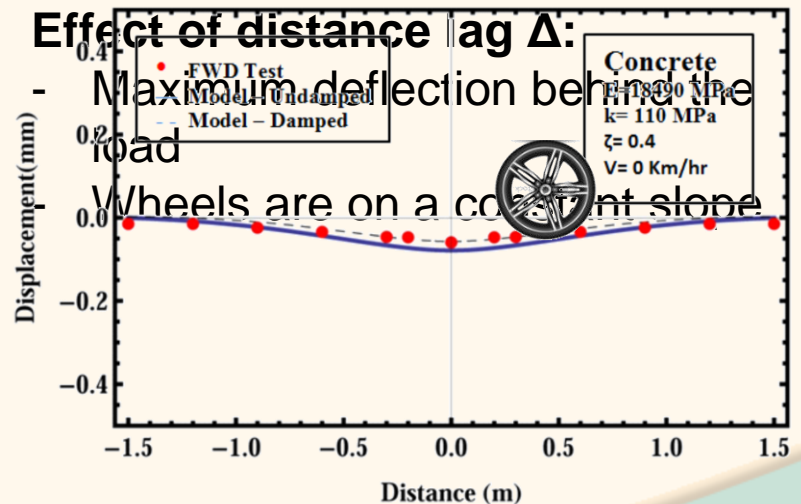
**Validation**

## Role of Damping



### Effect of damping:

- 1- Distance lag  $\Delta$  due to increase in damping.
- 2- Decrease in maximum deflection.
- 3- But, second-order effect.



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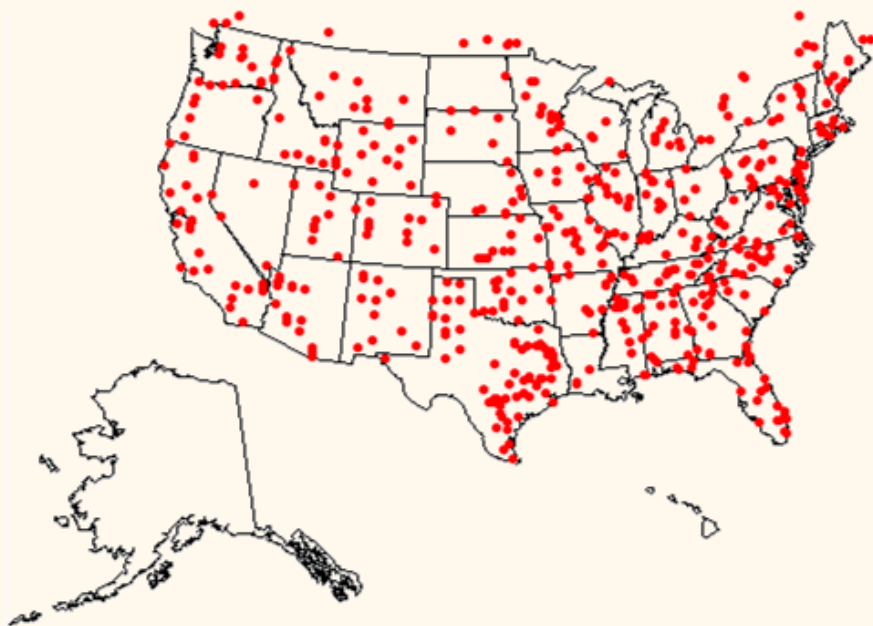
**Results: LTPP Network Analysis**

Conclusion and Future Work

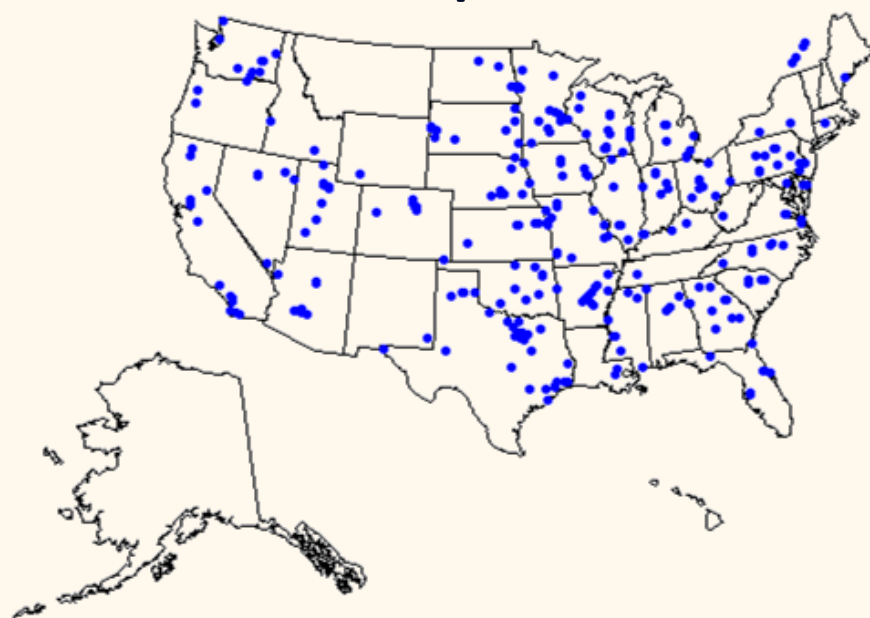
## LTPP Monitored Sections

Total of 5643 sections: 1079 rigid, 4564 flexible

### Concrete



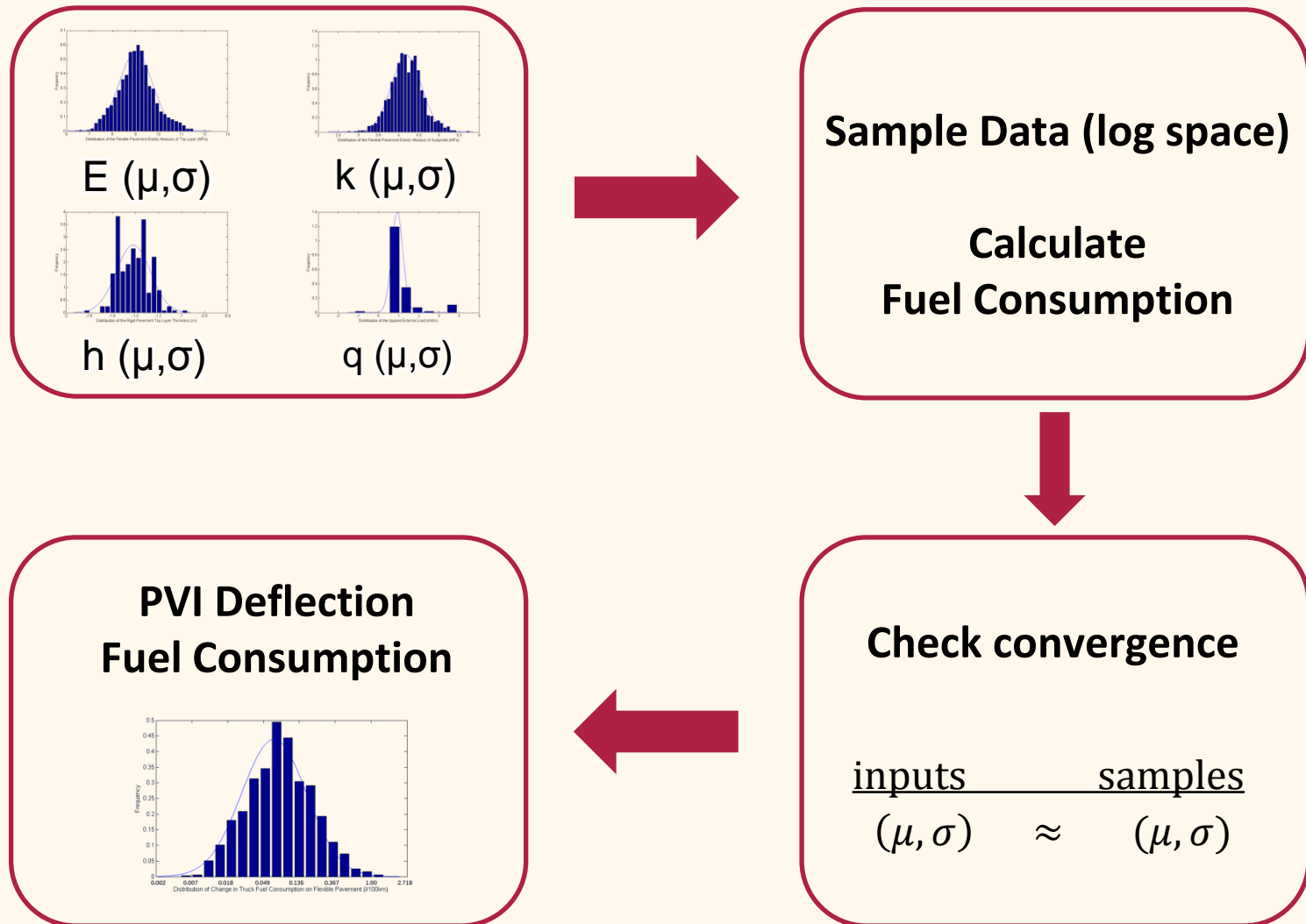
### Asphalt



#### Data used:

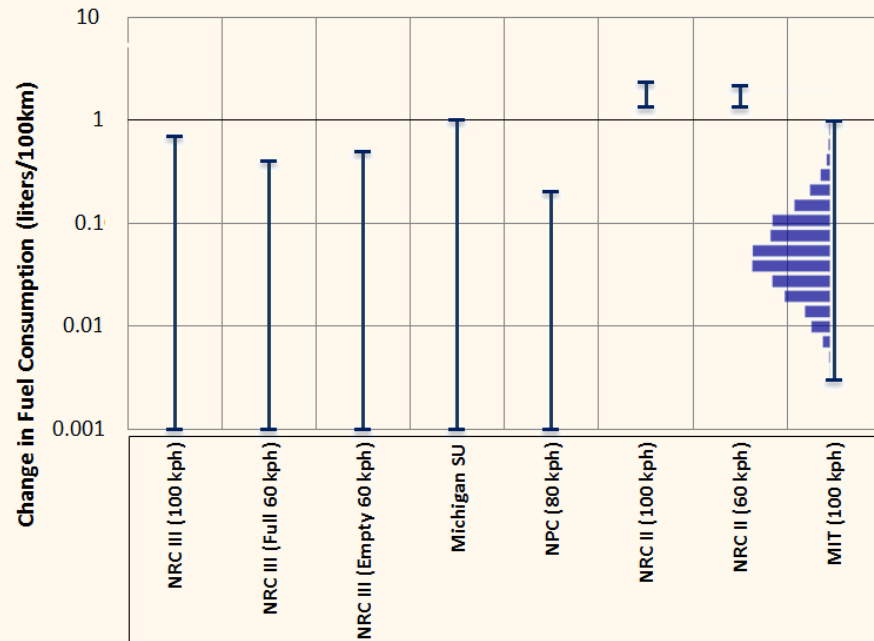
- Top layer modulus  $E$
- Subgrade modulus  $k$
- Top layer thickness  $h$
- Loading condition  $q$
- Traffic Volume (AADT, AADTT)

# Monte-Carlo Procedure

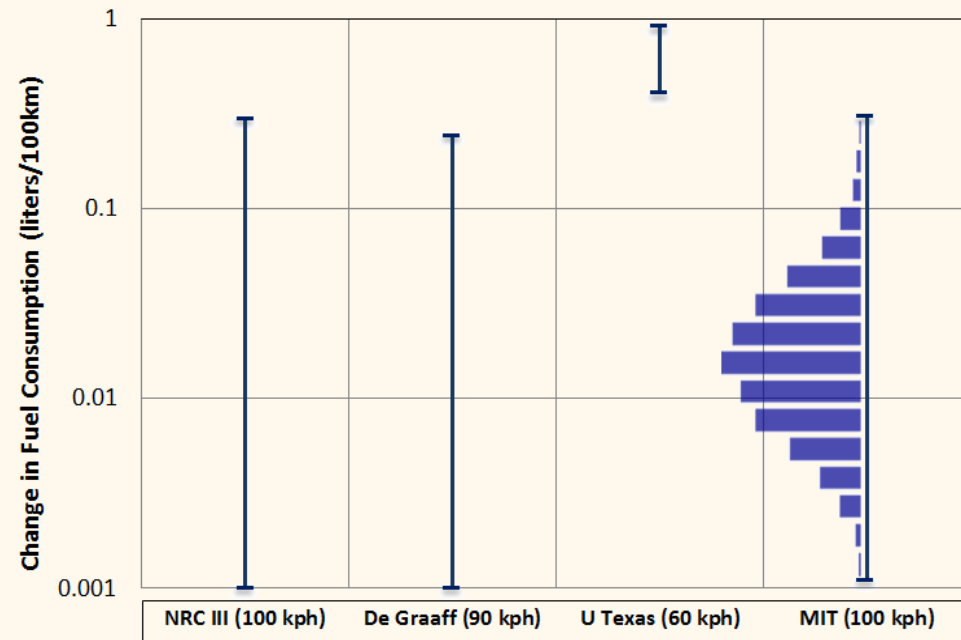


## Deflection Induced Fuel Consumption

### Trucks:



### Cars:



### Report:

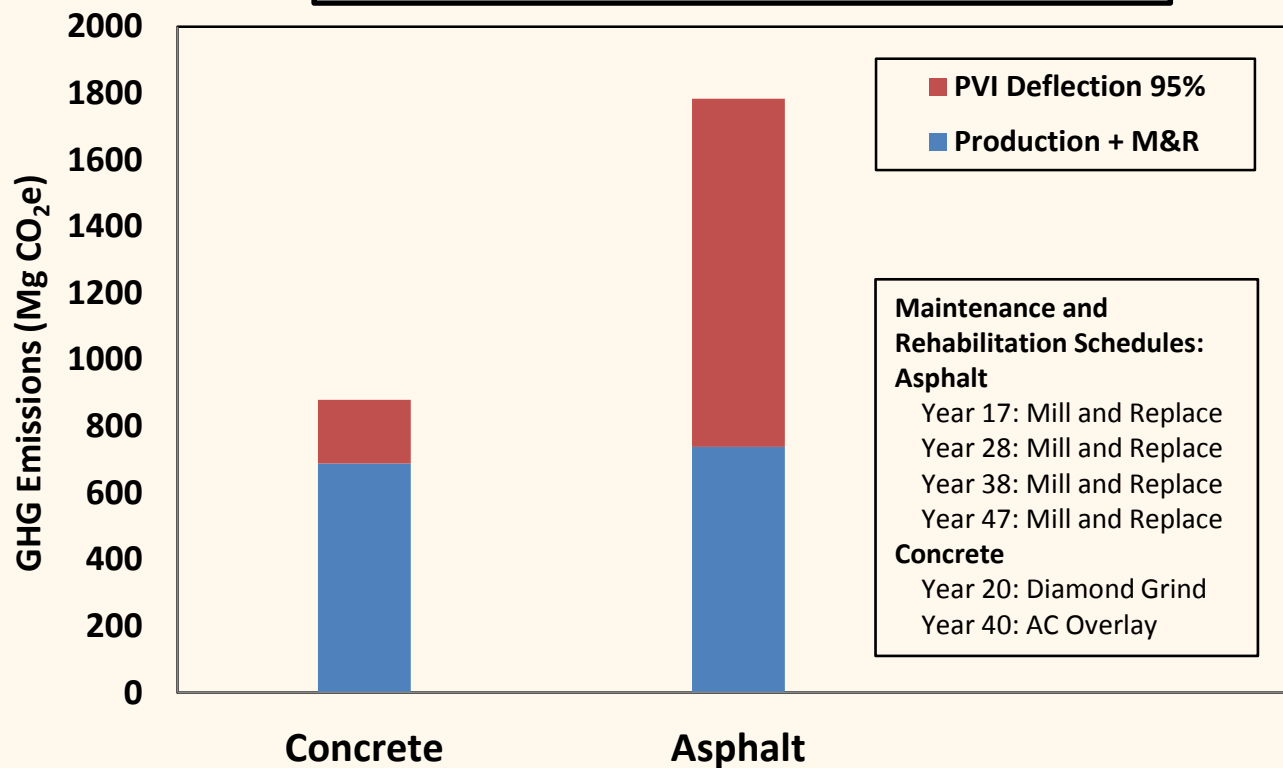
\*Akbarian M., Ulm J-F. 2012. Model Based Pavement-Vehicle Interaction Simulation for Life Cycle Assessment of Pavements. Concrete Sustainability Hub. MIT



## Use in a LCA

### 50 yr GHG Emissions of Two Pavement Scenarios Relative to a “Flat” Pavement

$$Total\ IFC \sim E^{-1/2} k^{-1/2} h^{-3/2} \sum_i (N_i W_i^2)$$



\*Embodied GWP for Canadian High Volume Traffic Scenario : Athena (2006)

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## Conclusion

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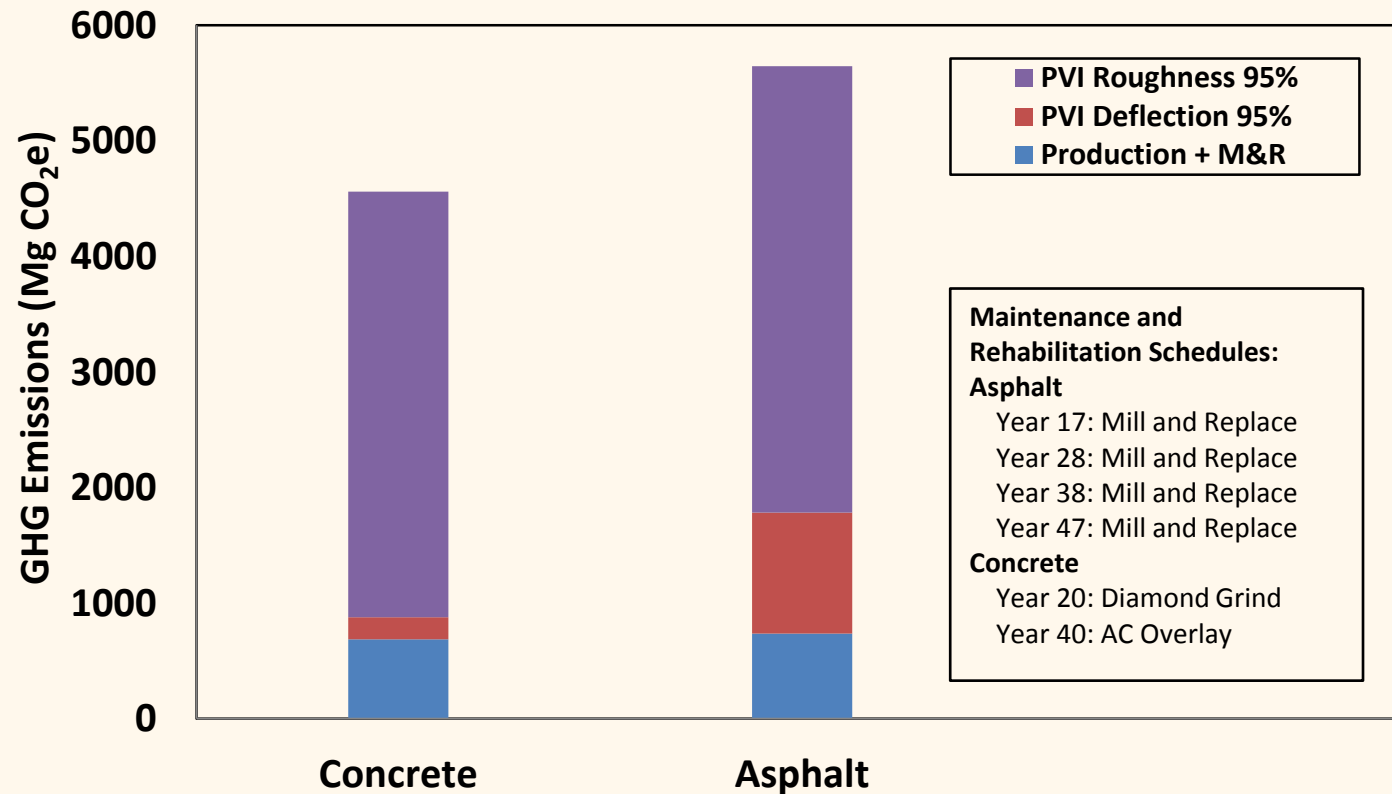
### **Developed:**

- Relationship between material and structural pavement properties with PVI
- Calibration – Validation of model
- Model provides realistic estimates of FC for vehicles and current trends

### **Future Work:**

- More accurate pavement model
- Realistic vehicle model
- Network application

## Use in a LCA – with roughness



Embodied GWP for Canadian High Volume Traffic Scenario : Athena (2006)  
IRI design criterion = 160 in/mile