

**4.461: Building Technology 1  
CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS**

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**FALL TERM 2004**

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING: MIT**

**Concrete and Composites**



Stadelhofen Station  
Zurich  
Santiago Calatrava Valls

Image courtesy of Per Waahlen, photographer, and Structurae

# **concrete and composites**

## **1. Introduction**

practice

research

## **2. Concrete Issues**

ductility

CO<sub>2</sub> generation

durability

## **3. Improved Structural Materials**

substitution

dematerialization

technology transfer

## **4. Material Selection and Evaluation (CES)**

multi-objective optimization

material indices/ CES software

## **5. New and Emerging Materials**

new concretes

composites

## **6. Architectural Form and Research Priorities**

research development: NFRC

design

# concrete and composites

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**ductility**

**CO<sub>2</sub> generation**

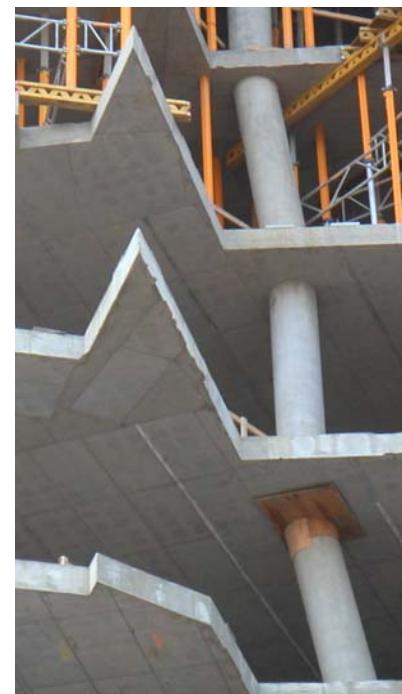
**durability**

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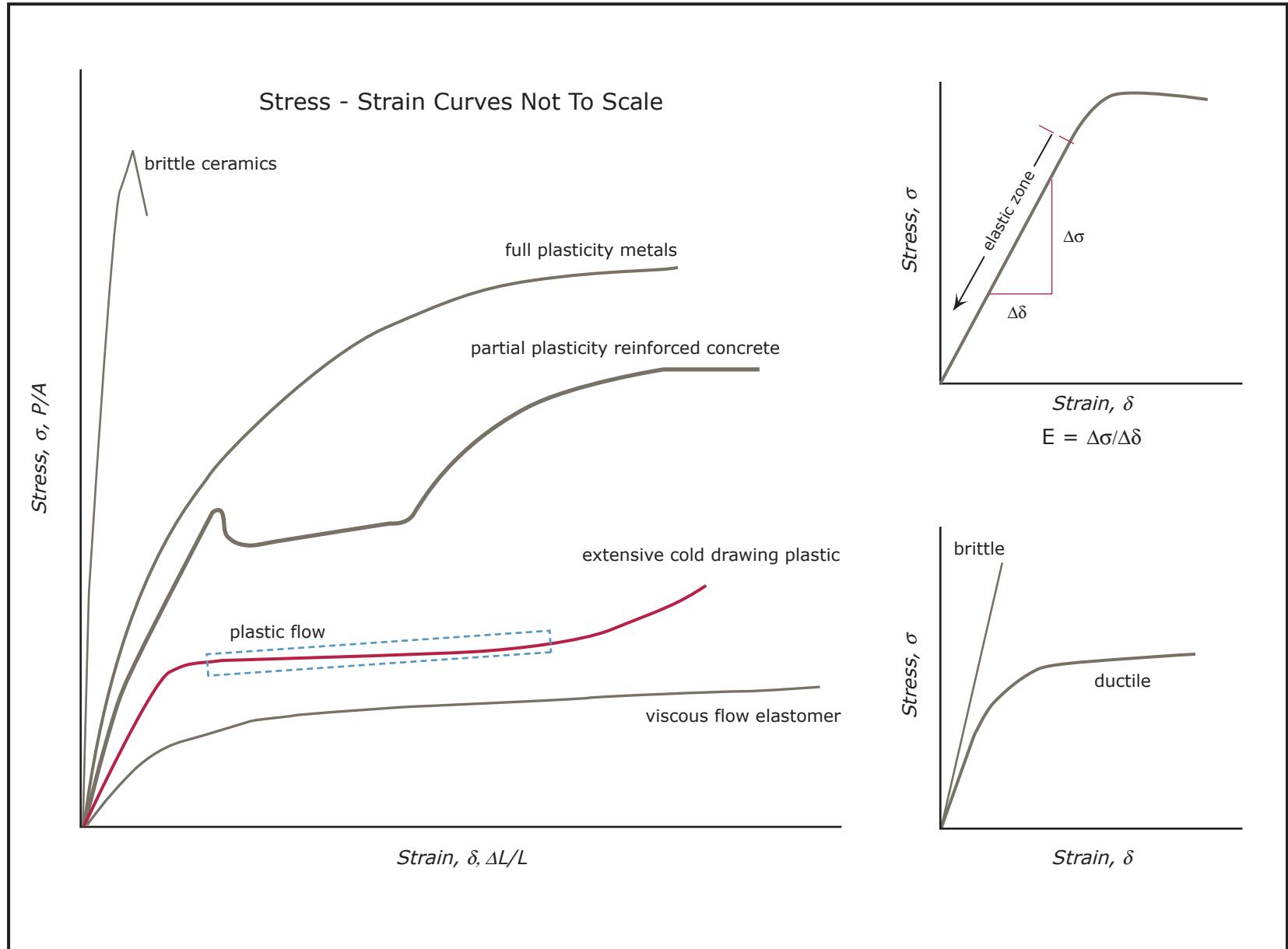
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## Failure strain, $\epsilon_f$

$\epsilon_f$  - measure of the deformation of the material at final fracture stress

Ceramics

Fracture and failure is unpredictable

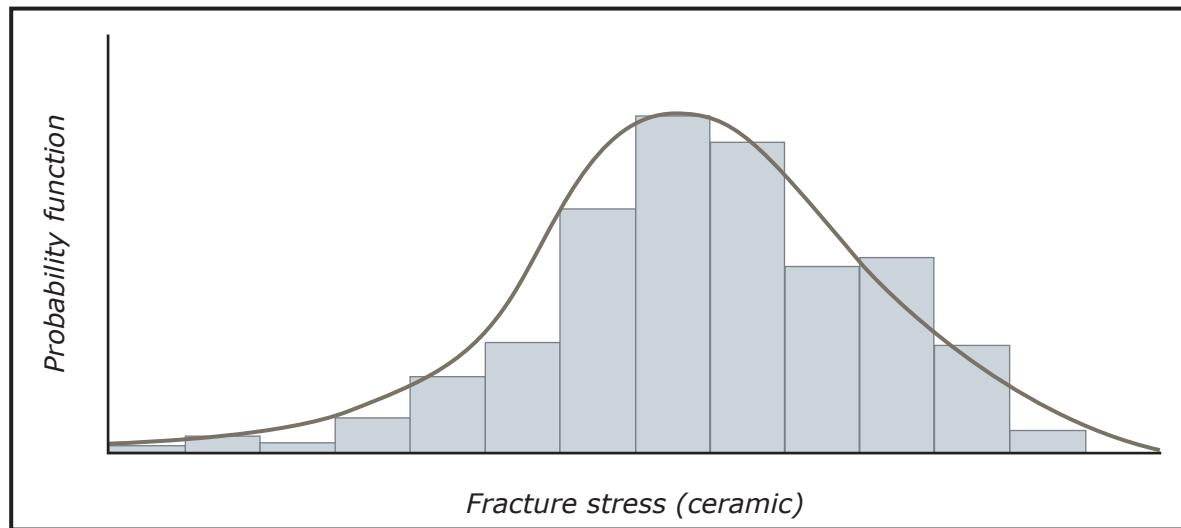


Figure X

Material	$\epsilon_f$
concrete, unreinforced (compression)	0
concrete, reinforced	0.02
soda glass	0
low-alloy steel	0.02-0.03
mild steel	0.18-0.25
carbon steel	0.2-0.3
stainless steel, austenitic	0.45-0.65
stainless steel, ferritic	0.15-0.25
cast irons	0-0.18
iron	0.3
aluminum	0.5
copper	0.55
brasses and bronzes	0.01-0.7
natural rubber	5.0

Tensile Ductility,  $\epsilon_f$  (except for certain materials such as concrete, unreinforced)

Images by MIT OCW.

## Toughness, $G_f$ , and Fracture toughness, $K_c$

measures of energy absorption potential through resistance to crack propagation.

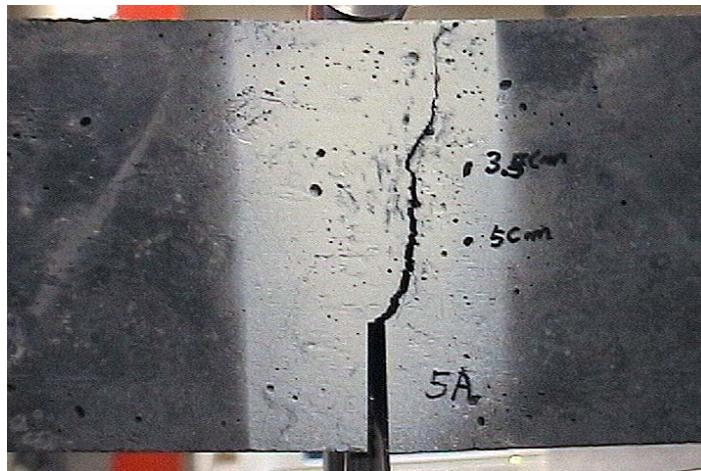
$G_f$  (toughness),  $K_c$  (fracture toughness) - both material properties.

$G_f$  = energy per unit of crack area

Various ways of measuring depending on the material.

Therefore, search for materials that have high resistance to cracks that are formed through loading or other lifecycle stresses.

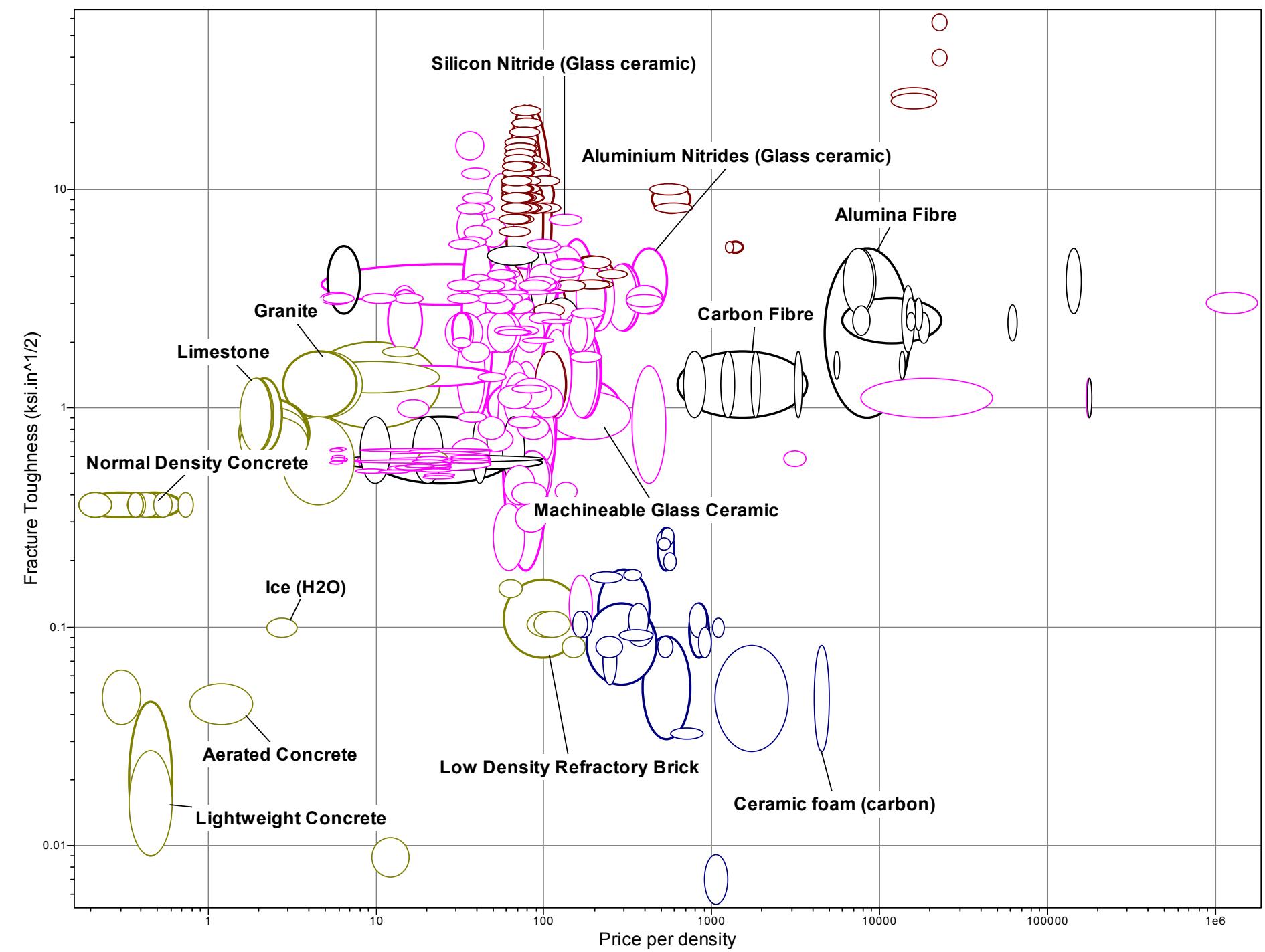
Sometimes toughness is also referred to as the area under the stress-strain curve.

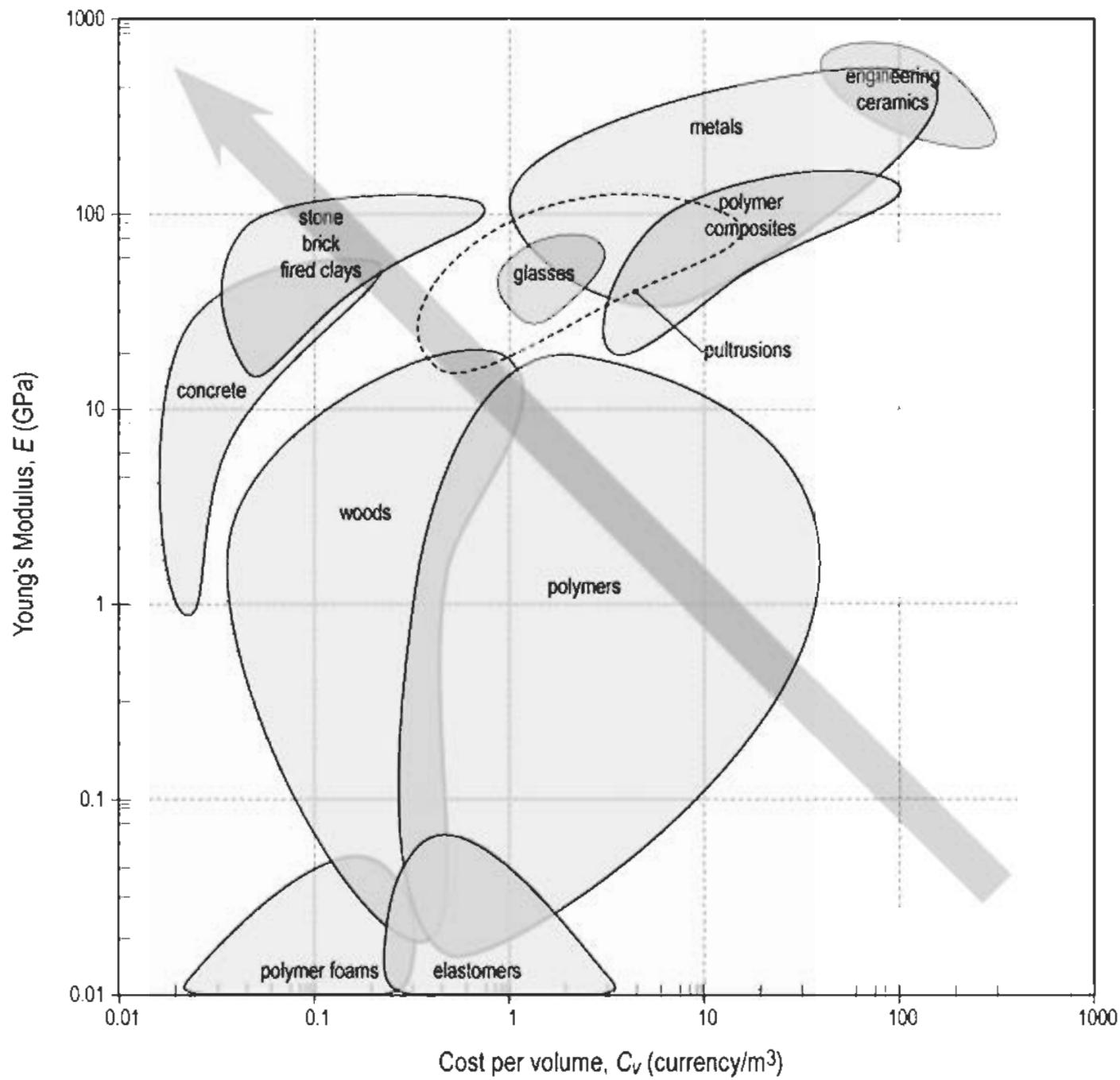


Material	$G_f$ (kJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	$K_c$ (MN/m <sup>3/2</sup> )
concrete, unreinforced	0.03	0.2
concrete, reinforced	0.2-4	10-15
soda glass	0.01	0.7-0.8
mild steel	100	140
medium carbon steel	13	51
high strength steel	15-118	50-154
cast irons	0.2-3	6-20
aluminum alloys	8-30	23-45
pure ductile metals Cu, Ni, Al	100 -1000	100-350
GFRP	10-100	20-60
CFRP	5-30	32-45
fiberglass	40-100	42-60
common woods    to grain	0.5-2	0.5-1
granite	0.1	3
polypropylene	8	3
polyethylene (low density)	6-7	1
polyethylene (high density)	6-7	2

Figure X

Toughness,  $G_f$ , and fracture toughness,  $K_c$ , for a variety of materials.





## Ecological Issues

Concrete production contributes 8% of world's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

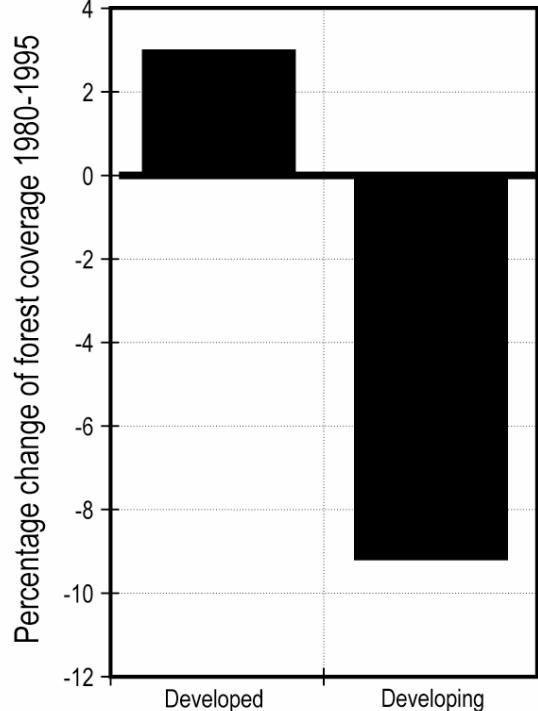
Research in building materials for the developing world is a moral obligation.

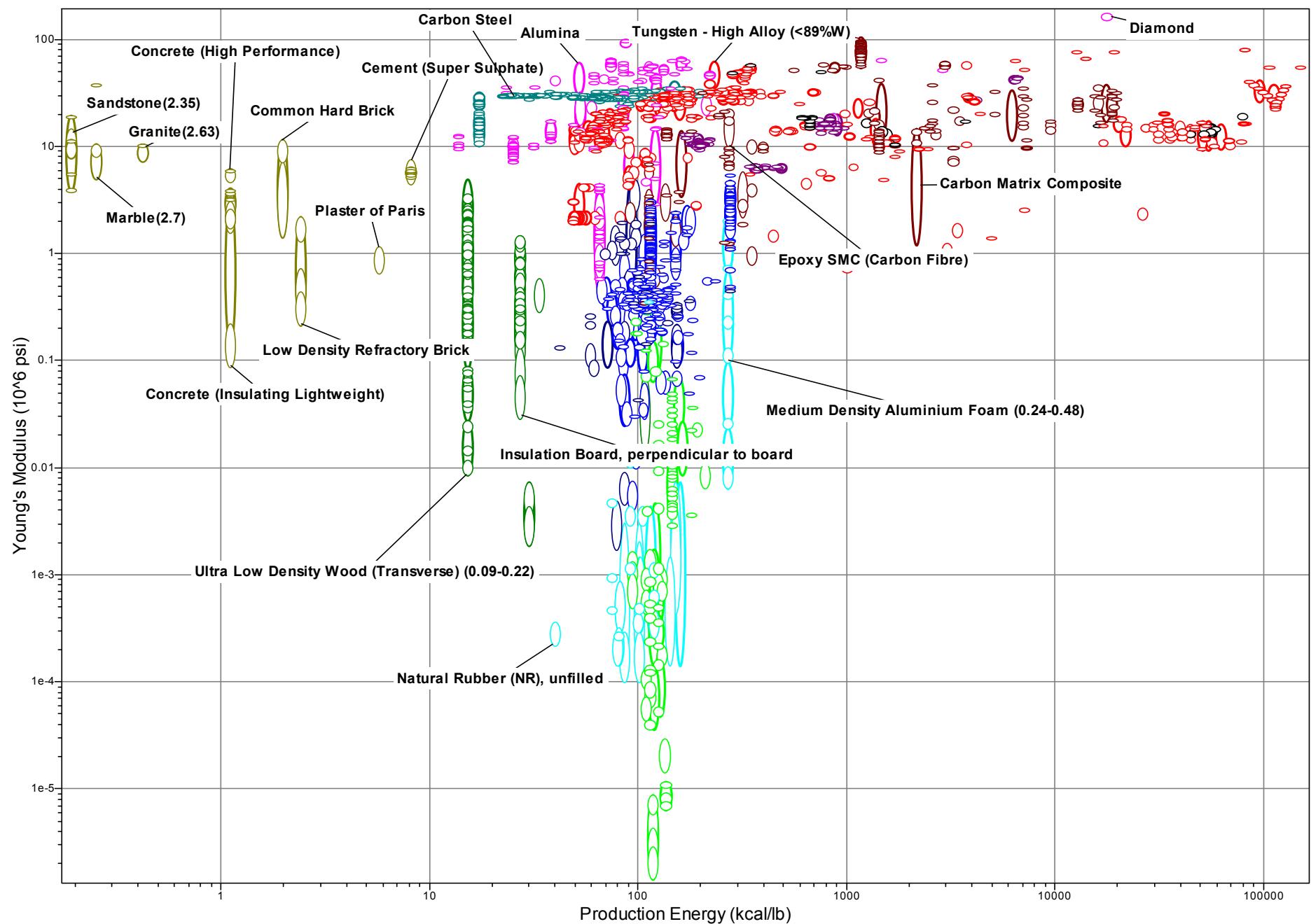
### Issues

- Poverty alleviation
- Safety
- Health (IAQ, toxicity)
- Resource Management

### Cultural Issues

- Form (resonance with place)
- Process (acknowledges local skill set)
- Material (regional resources)

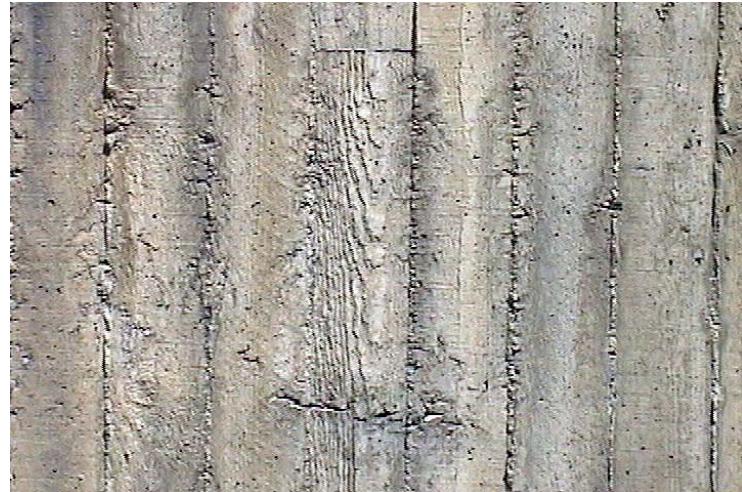




## Concrete

Need for durable reinforcing and water impermeable concrete matrix

Especially for freeze/thaw climates



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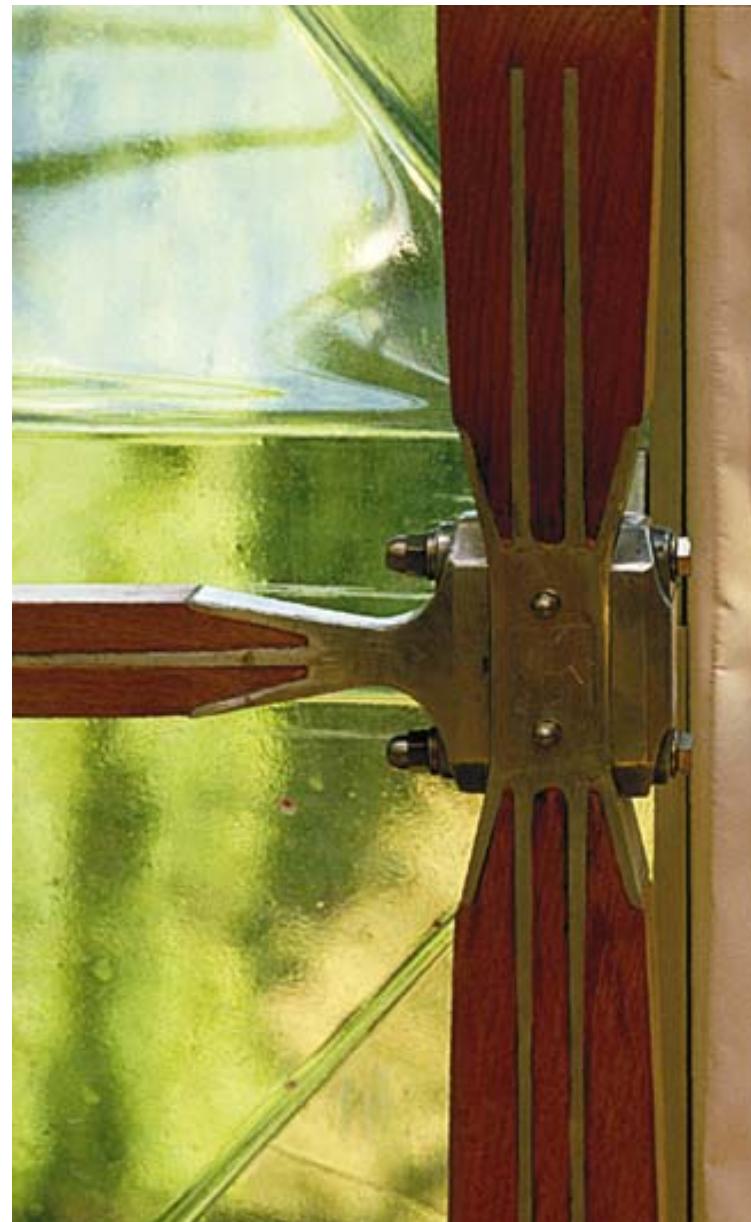
new concretes

composites

## 6. Architectural Form

research development

design



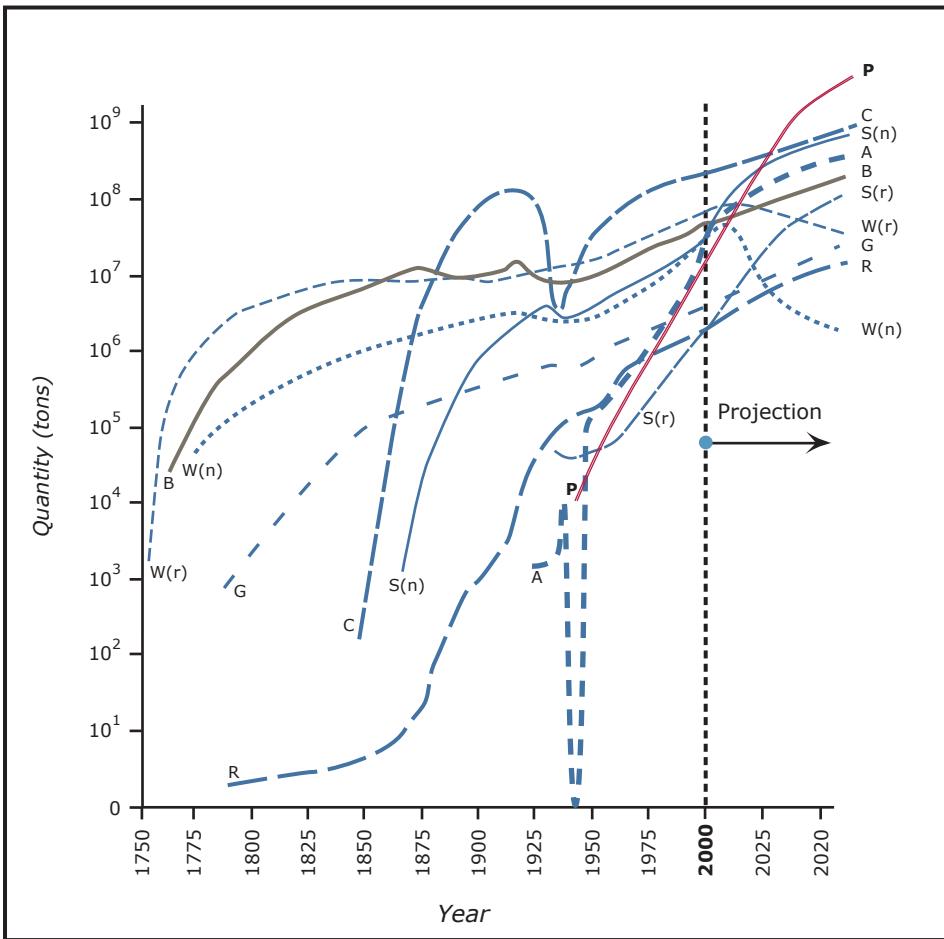


Image by MIT OCW.

US materials use in construction			
A:	aluminum	R:	copper
B:	brick	S(r):	steel
C:	concrete	S(n):	steel, non-residential
G:	glass	W(r):	wood, residential
P:	polymers	W(n):	wood, non-residential

Assembled with data from the following sources:

Moavenzadeh: pg. 517.  
USGS Reports  
US Minerals Reports  
NAHB  
Others

## Common abbreviations

## Polymers (homopolymers)

CA	cellulose acetate	1910	-	Rayon
CN	cellulose nitrate	1924	-	Acetate
CSF	casein-formaldehyde	1930	-	Rubber
EP	epoxide	1939	-	Nylon
PA	polyamide	1939	-	Vynylon
PA66	polyamide 66	1941	-	Saran
PAN	poly(acrylonitrile)	1946	-	Metallic
PBA	poly(butylacrylate)	1949	-	Modacrylic
PC	polycarbonate	1949	-	Olefin
PCTFE	poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene)	1949	-	Acrylic
PE	polyethylene	1950	-	Polyester
PE-HD	high-density polyethylene	1953	-	Spandex
PE-LD	low-density polyethylene	1959	-	Aramid
PEEK	poly(etheretherketone)	1961	-	PBI
PET	poly(ethyleneterephthalate)	1983	-	Sulfar
PF	phenol-formaldehyde	1983	-	
PI	polyimide			
PIB	polyisobutylene			
PIR	polyisocyanurate			
PMMA	poly(methylmethacrylate)			
PP	polypropylene			
PS	polystyrene			
PSU	polysulfone			
PTFE	poly(tetrafluoroethylene)			
PU	polyurethane			
PVB	poly(vinylbutyral)			
PVC	poly(vinylchloride)			
PVC-P	plasticized poly(vinylchloride)			
PVC-U	unplasticized poly(vinylchloride)			
SI	silicone			
SP	saturated polyester			
UF	urea-formaldehyde			
UP	unsaturated polyester			
VF	vulcanized rubber			

## Copolymers

ABS	acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene
EPDM	ethylene-propylenediene
ETFE	ethylene/tetrafluoroethylene
SB	styrene butadiene

## Concrete

**Dematerialization:** a decrease in the material input per unit service

Is occurring in certain industrial sectors but 'ecological rucksack' needs to be accounted for

**Substitution:** substituting concrete best in situations in which safety is at high risk of compromise

**Technology transfer:** best employed in situations in which to lengthen lives of existing building stock (such as infrastructure refurbishment using carbon/epoxy reinforcing)

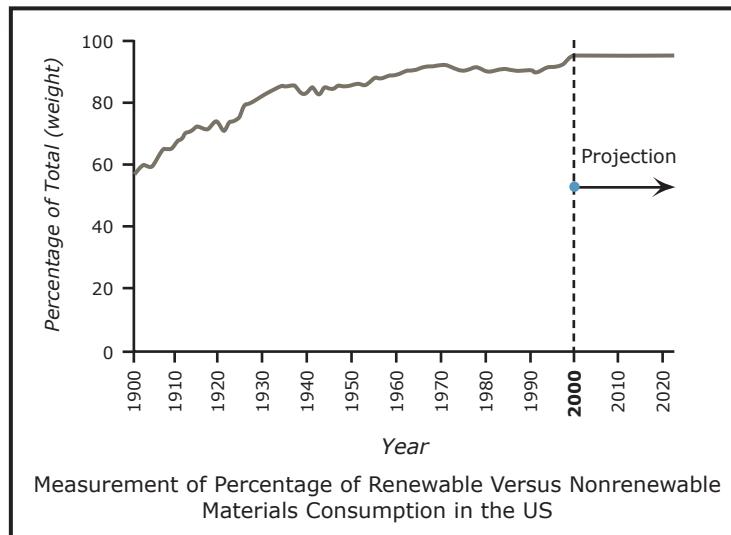
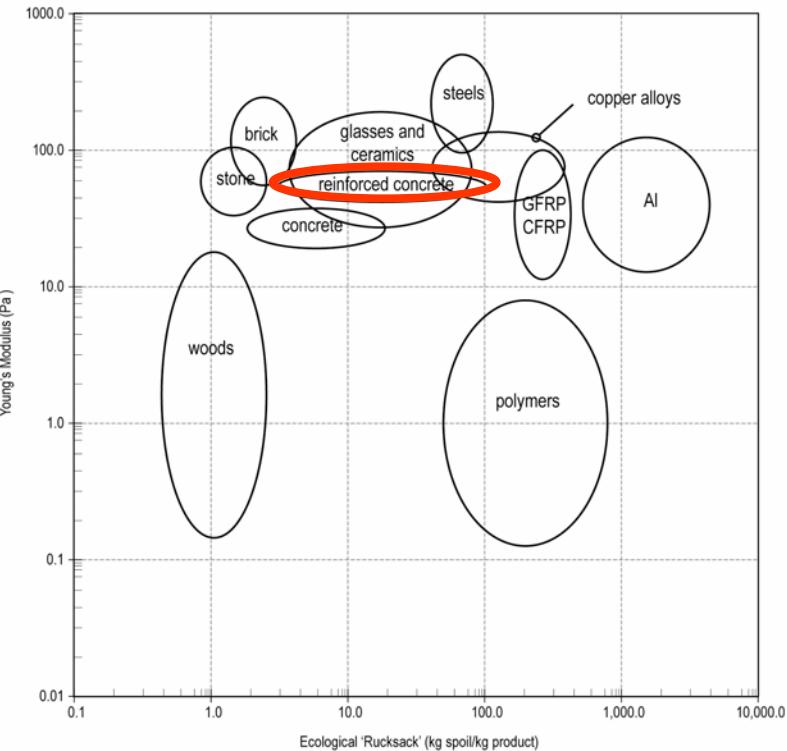


Image by MIT OCW.

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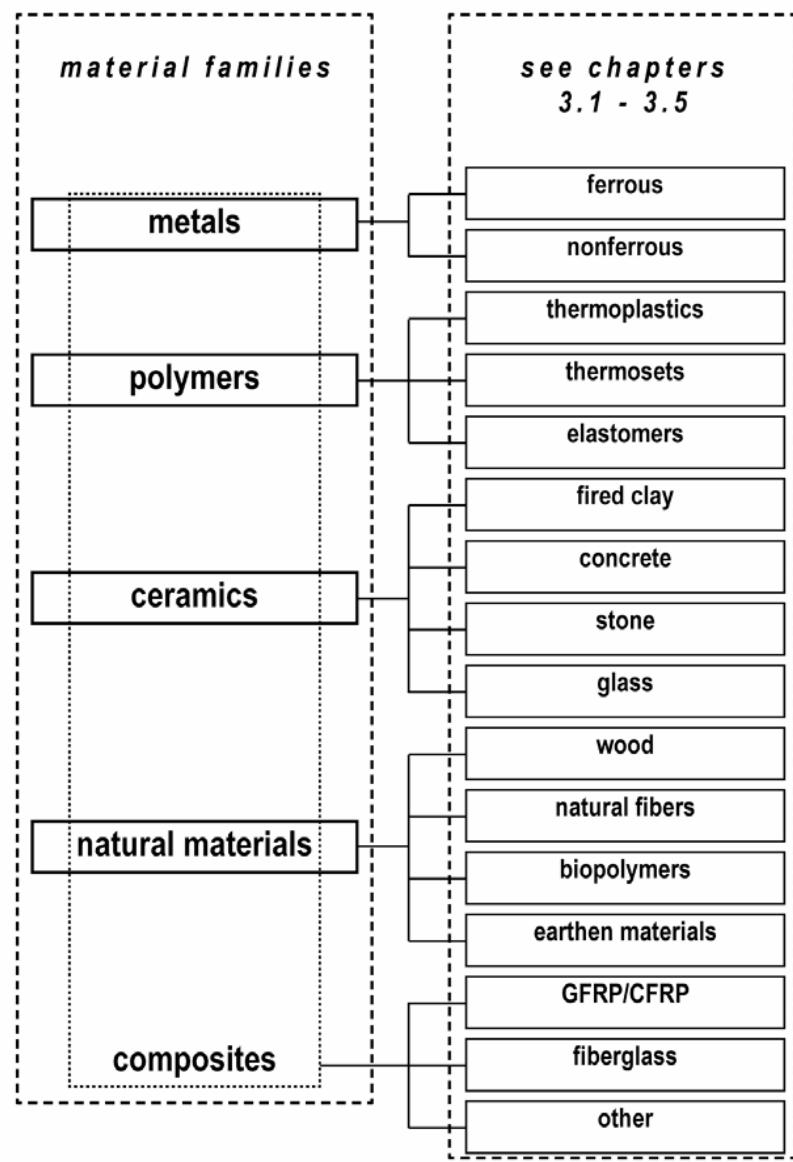
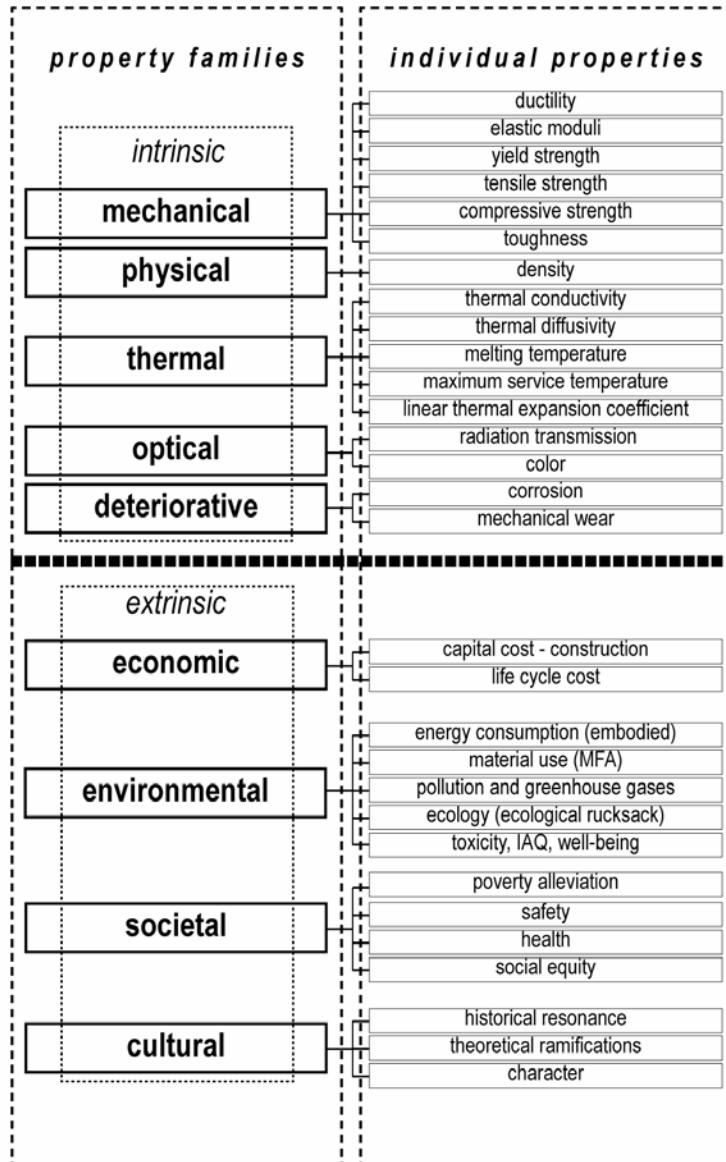
new concretes

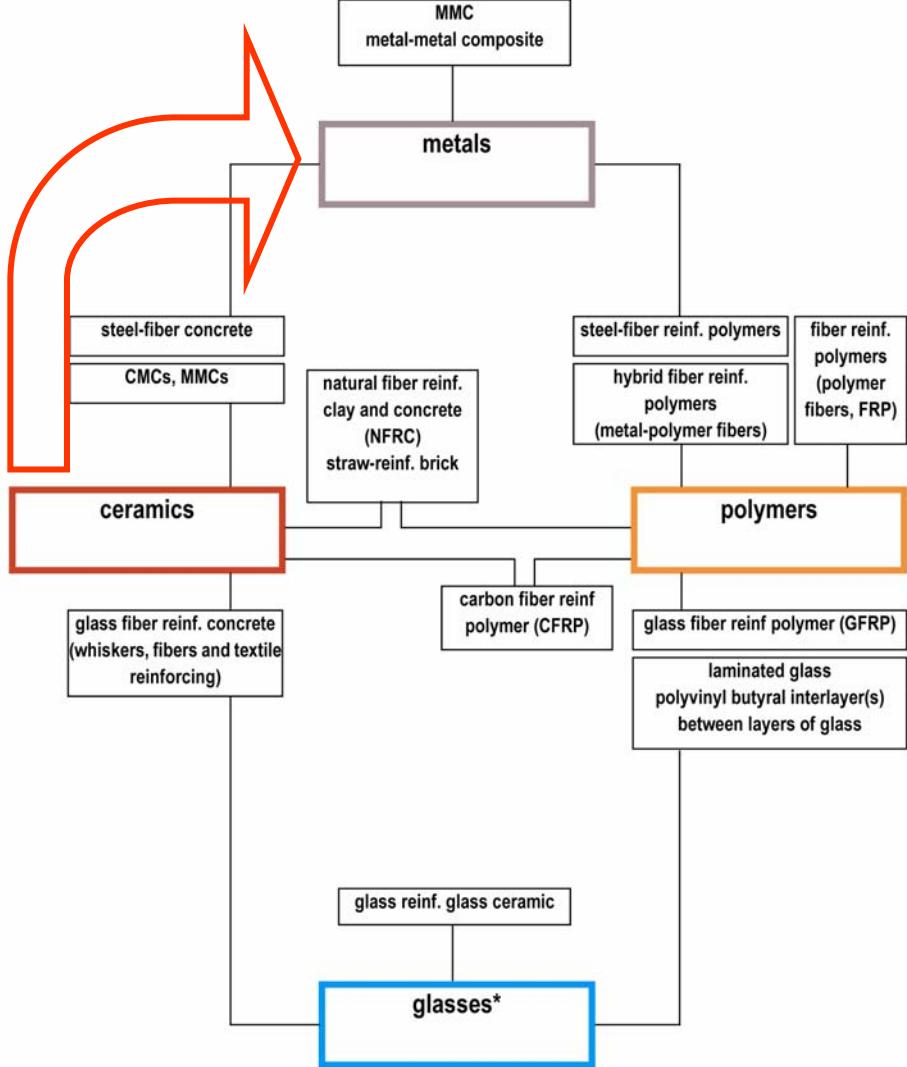
composites

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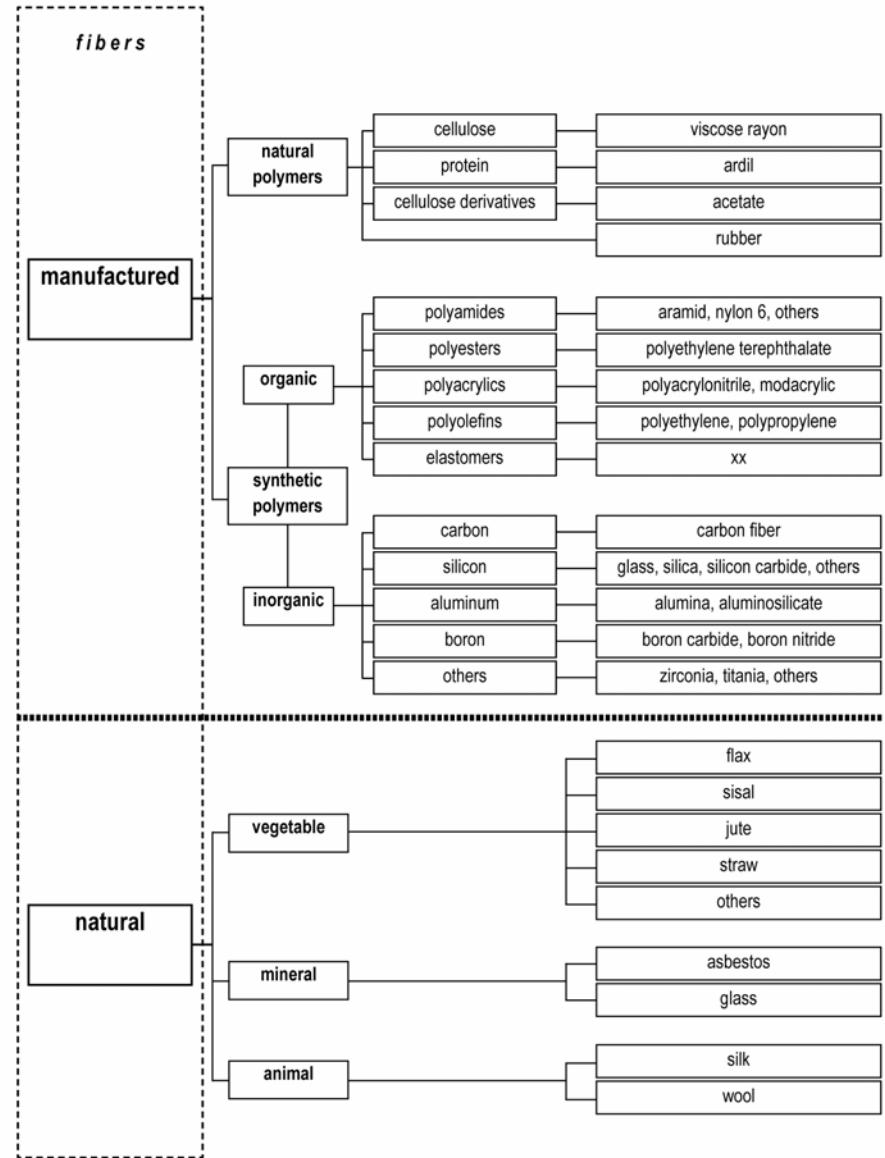
research development

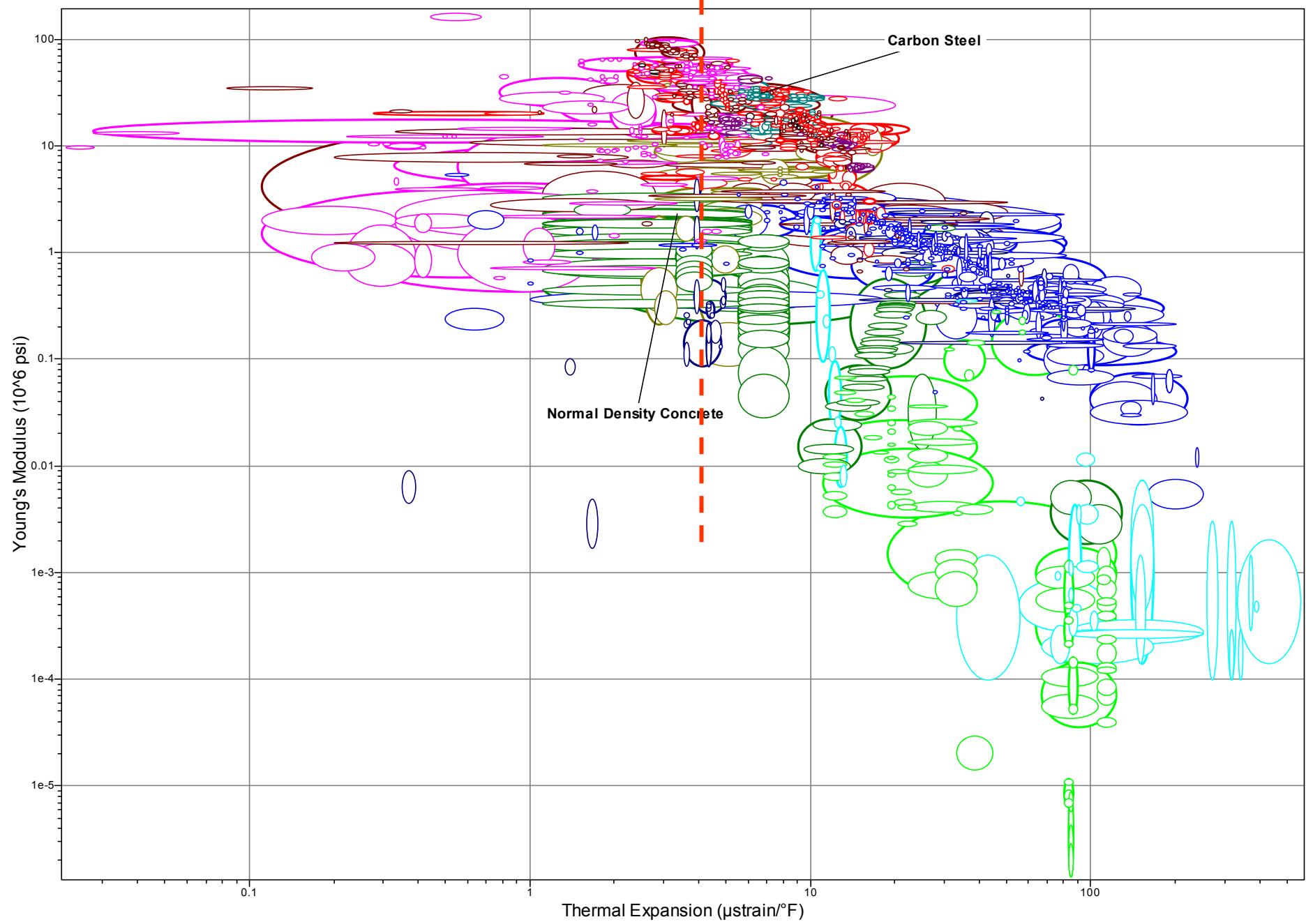
design





\*Glassees have been separately represented here because of the importance of glass whiskers, fibers and textiles in the reinforcement of various types of composites.





## ceramics

- Glass ceramics

*Machineable, good fracture toughness*

- Very HPC (Ductal)

*Ductile concrete*

- Ceramic foams

*Lightweight, structural material*

- New laminated glasses

*Laminated glass (Dupont SGP interlayer)*



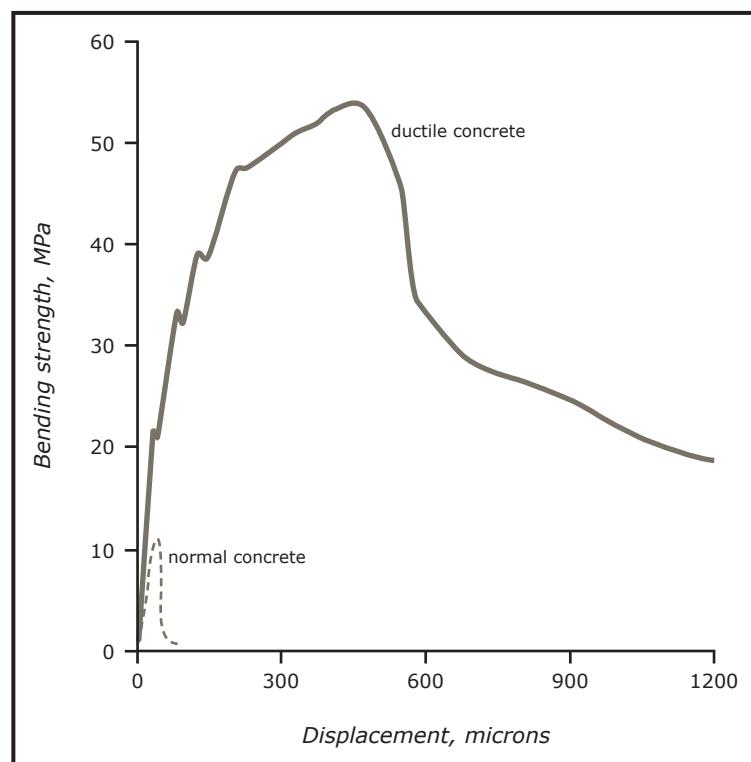
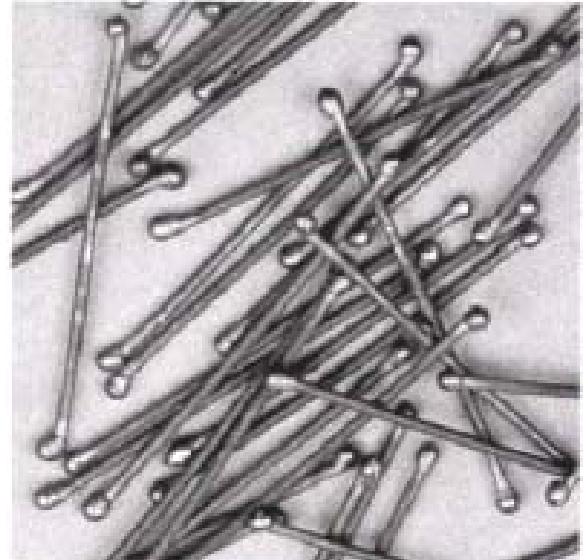
**Ductile concrete****Steel whisker reinforcement****Increased toughness****Increased water impermeability (few micropores)**

Image by MIT OCW.