



Validation and Usage of Digital Image Correlation for High Temperature Deformation Measurement in Modern Prestressing Steel

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What is Prestressing Steel (PS)?

Conventional steel rebar



'Unbonded' PS steel



- **Advantages of post-tensioning concrete with PS steel**
 - Rapid construction
 - Shallow floors (high ceilings)
 - Increased span lengths
 - Reduces building materials

**Highly
Optimized**

UPT Building Optimization

- **Current guidance is dated and has not kept up with modern optimization trends**

“ Today’s flat-slab post-tensioned buildings, for example, with columns spaced (12 m) on center and span-depth ratios of 40 are more complex and require more engineering attention than typical flat-slab buildings of 40 years ago, with columns spaced at (6 m) on center and span-depth ratios of 20. ”
-Randall Poston (chair ACI 318)



Real UPT Slab Behaviour in Fire is Unknown

- **UPT optimization increases susceptibility to fire:**
 - Prestressing steel *more sensitive to high temperature than mild steel*
 - *Spalling* of concrete cover (HS concrete, precompression can contribute to this)
 - Tendons *run continuous*, local *damage effects the entire floor*
- Only standard furnace **tests of simple span** slabs are available:
 - *modern construction?, building materials?, real fires?*



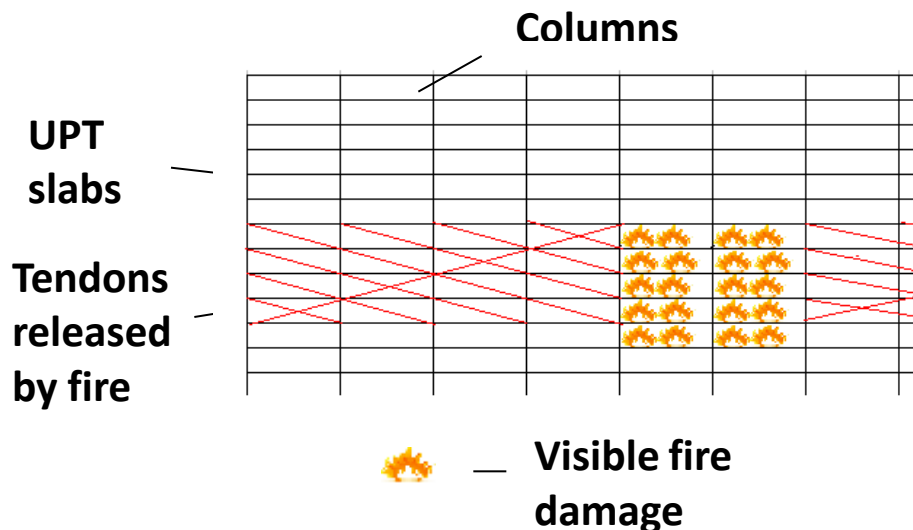
2008 standard fire test (Kelly and Purkiss)



Can standard fire tests predict true fire behaviour of these UPT buildings?

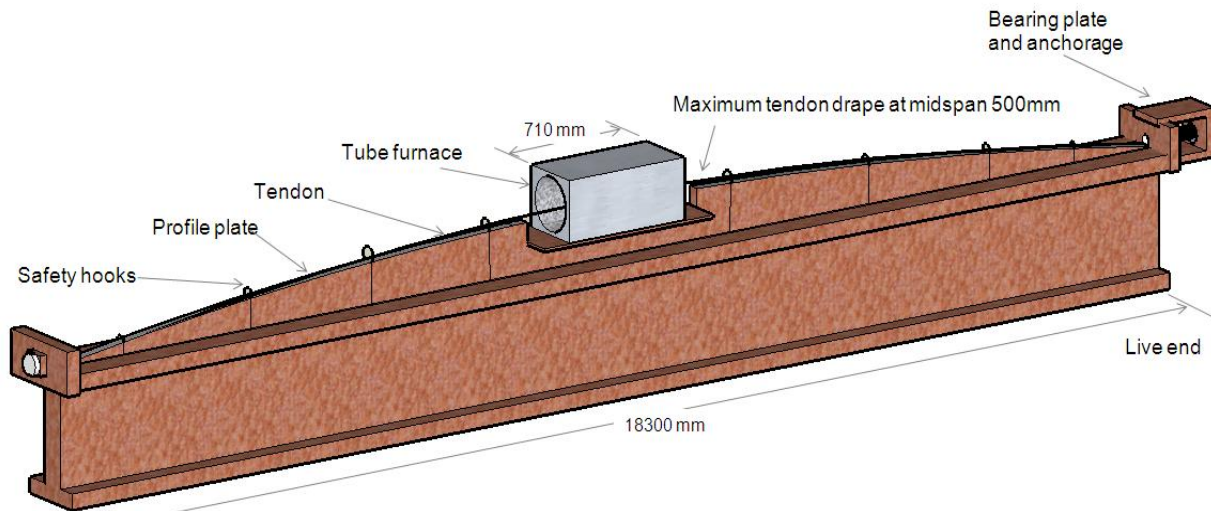
- **Key Biscayne, USA, 2000:**

- UPT tendons **continuous across 7 interior bays** (> 50m)
- **Localized fire** on 2nd floor spread vertically to 7th floor over 2 bays
- “triggered progressive failure of the UPT slab well beyond the zone of visible damage”



Localized Fire Damage

- Localized fires may be due to *spalling, travelling, ceiling jets...*
- Queens university tests in 2009 showed that **tendon rupture is more probable under localized heating**
- Complex **stress relaxation / strength interaction** - influenced by a permanent time dependent damage called, **creep**



*Localized UPT tendon tests (**strong back tests**) conducted at Queens university in Canada*



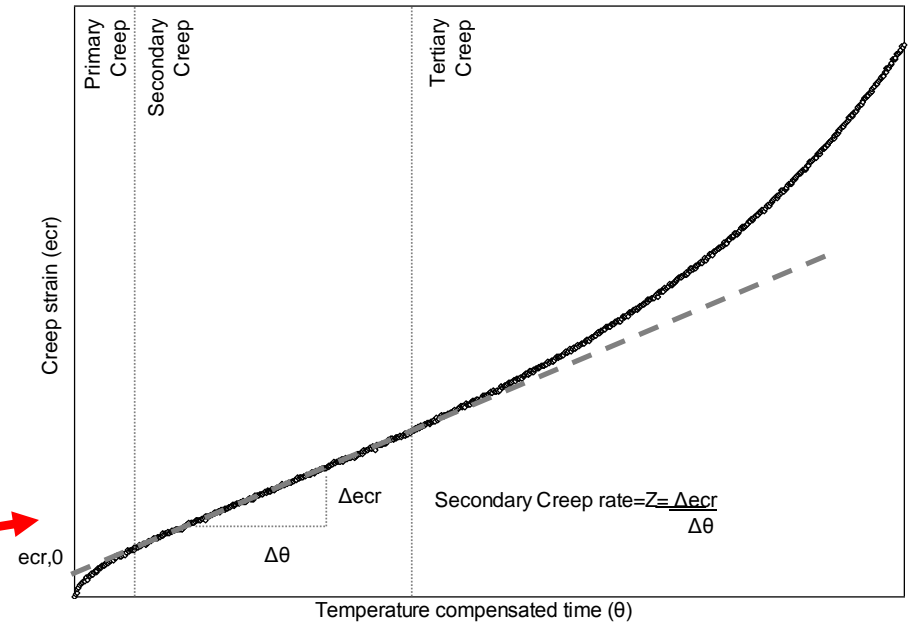
High Temperature Creep

- Creep is a **time, temperature and load** dependent deformation

- Possible to **express creep** through combined **temperature time variable** in a heated tensile test at constant load

'Dorn-Harmathy creep model' 

- Creep **parameters** for PS steel are from dated (1970) and different material compositions than modern counterparts- **Errors in creep modelling?**



Temperature Compensated Time

$$\theta = \int_0^t e^{-\Delta H / RT} dt$$

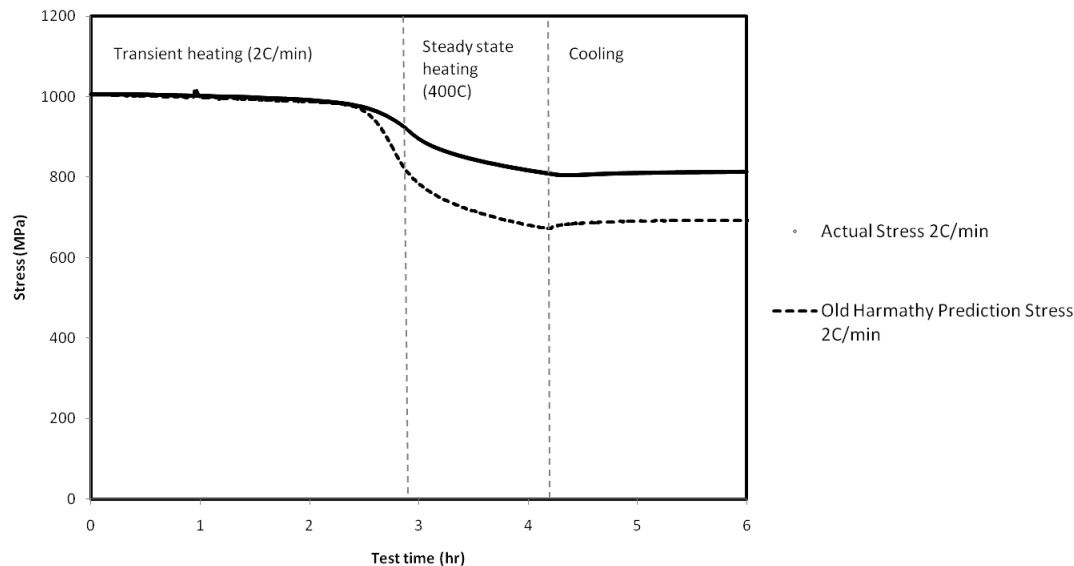
Creep in Prestressing Steel

$$e_{cr} = \frac{e_{cr,0}}{\ln 2} \cosh^{-1} \left(2^{\frac{Z\theta}{e_{cr,0}}} \right)$$



Predicting Creep for Stress Relaxation?

- Typical Queens university high temperature **stress relaxation test**



Regimes

- Transient heating
- Steady state hold
- Cooling

- **Over estimation of (creep)**
- May be due to **parameter extrapolation, older steel derivations, inaccuracies** in derivation

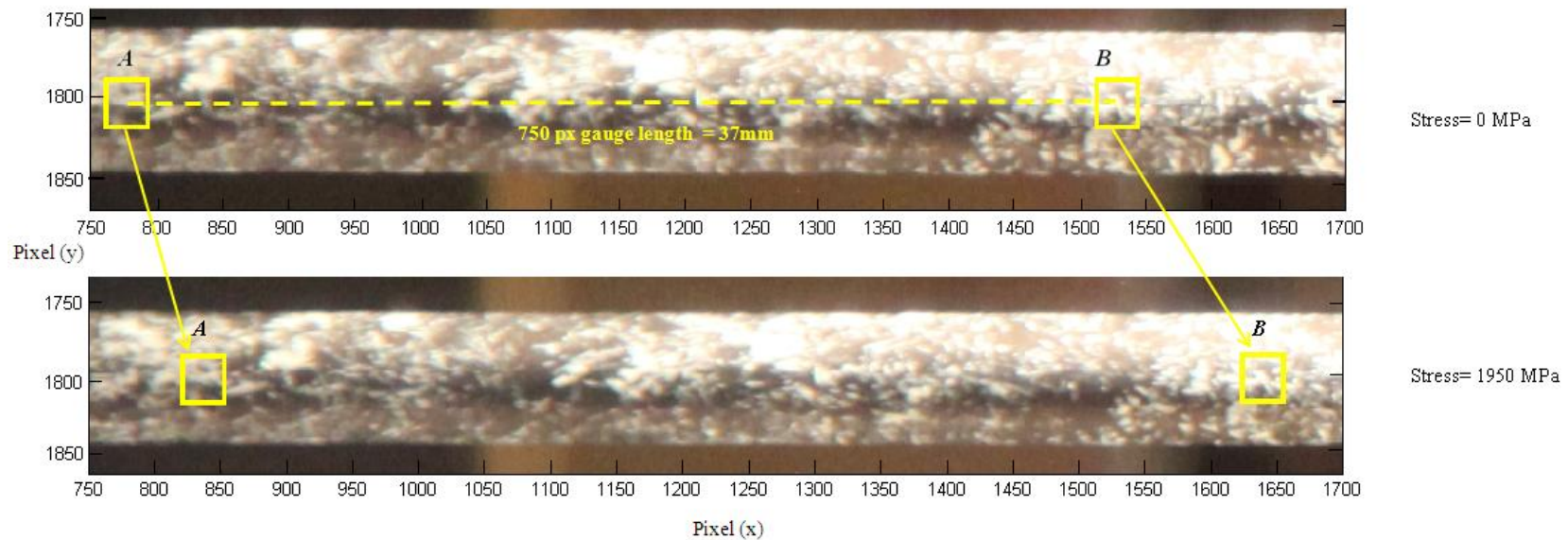


How Can We Derive Modern Creep Parameters?:



Digital Image Correlation (DIC) in transient and steady state uniaxial tensile tests to measure deformation

What is Digital Image Correlation?



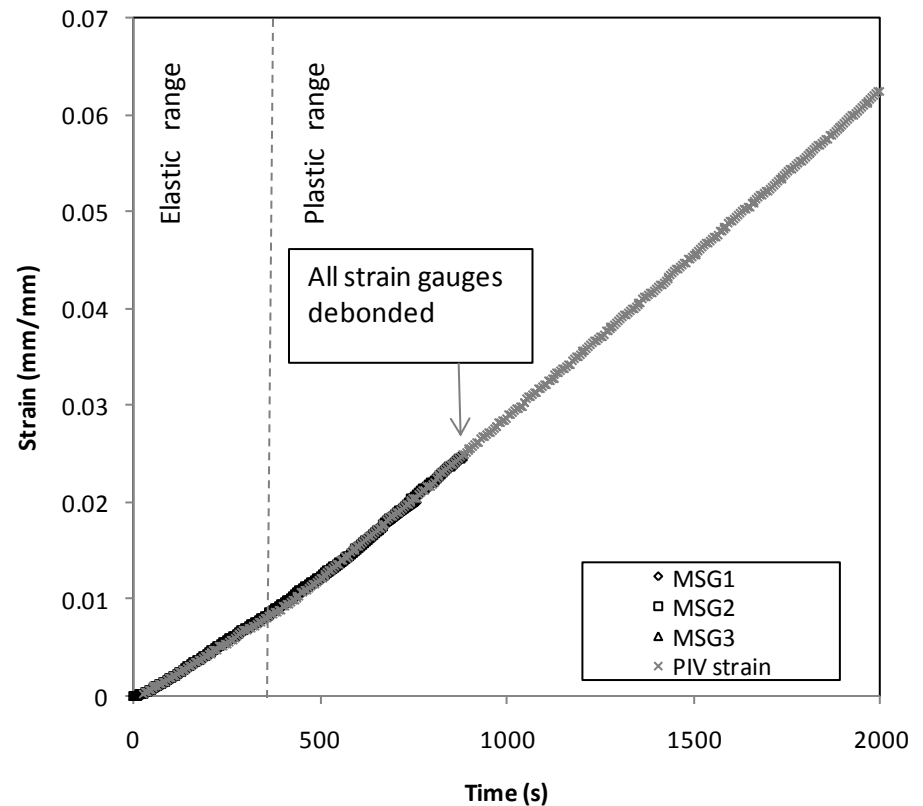
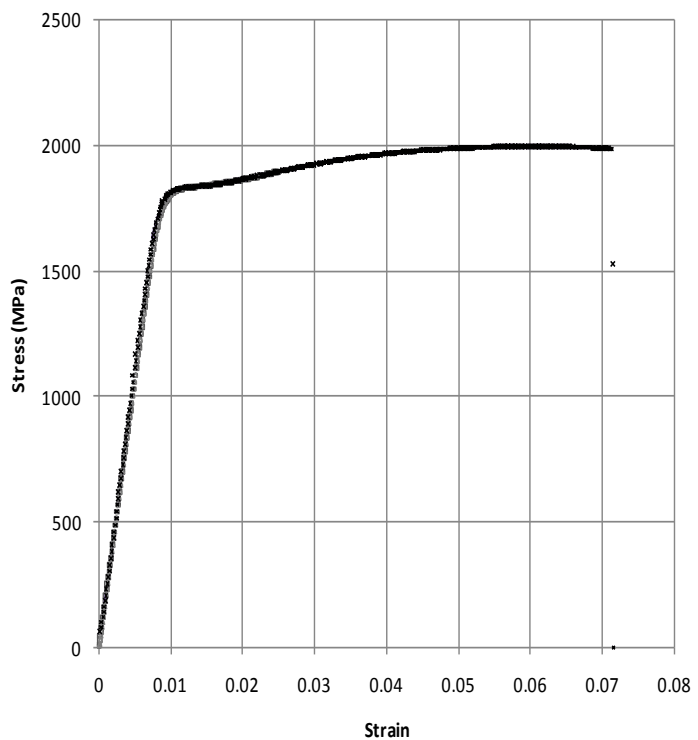
Two photos showing deformation from a uniaxial ambient strength test

Previously validated **Image correlation algorithm (by Dr Andy Take, Queens)** are used to **measure virtual deformation (strain)** through a **series of sequenced test photos**



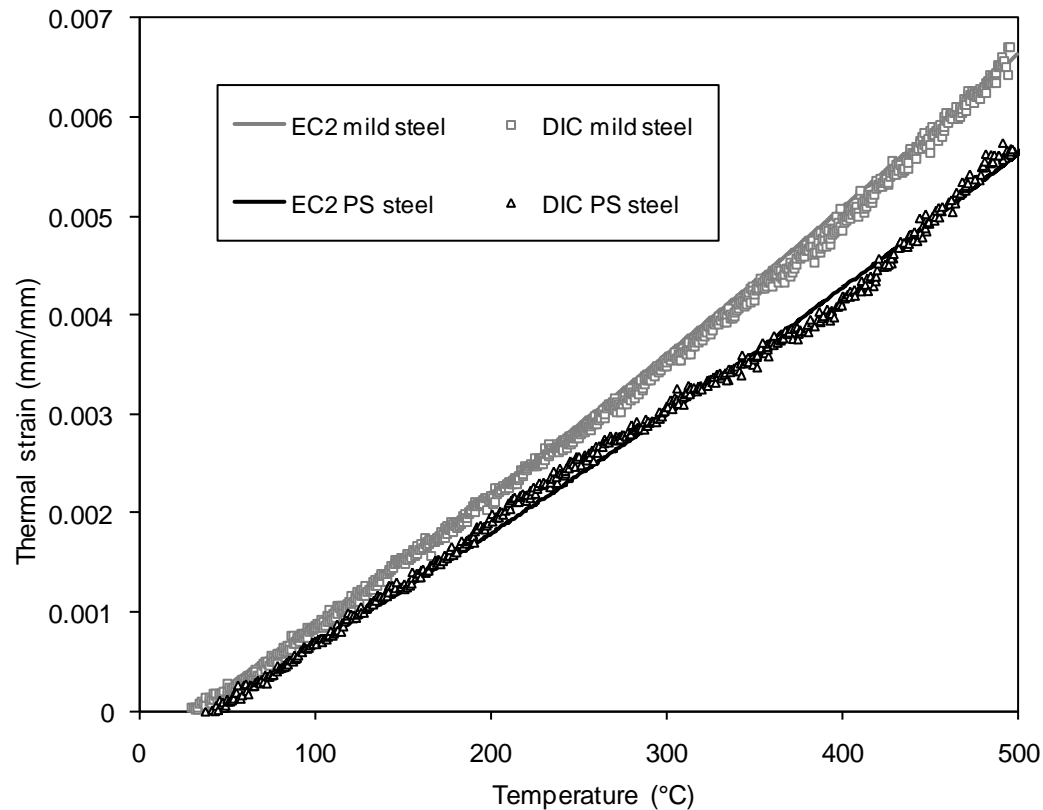
DIC Validation (1 of 2)

- Uniaxial *ambient strength test* with **comparison of DIC and bonded foil strain gauges**



DIC Validation (2 of 2)

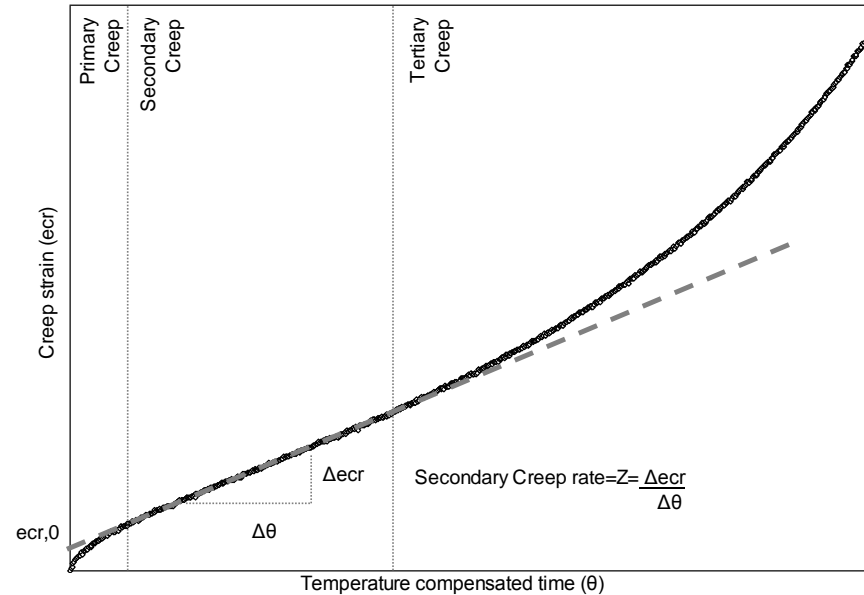
- Uniaxial *transient thermal expansion test* (unloaded) with **comparison of DIC to theoretical calculation(EC2)**



Steady and Transient State Creep Tests

- Steady and transient state testing are supposed to be equivalent in the 'Harmathy Dorn creep model' based on activation energy

Harmathy-Dorn Creep Model



Is this really valid and to what extent?

Temperature Compensated Time

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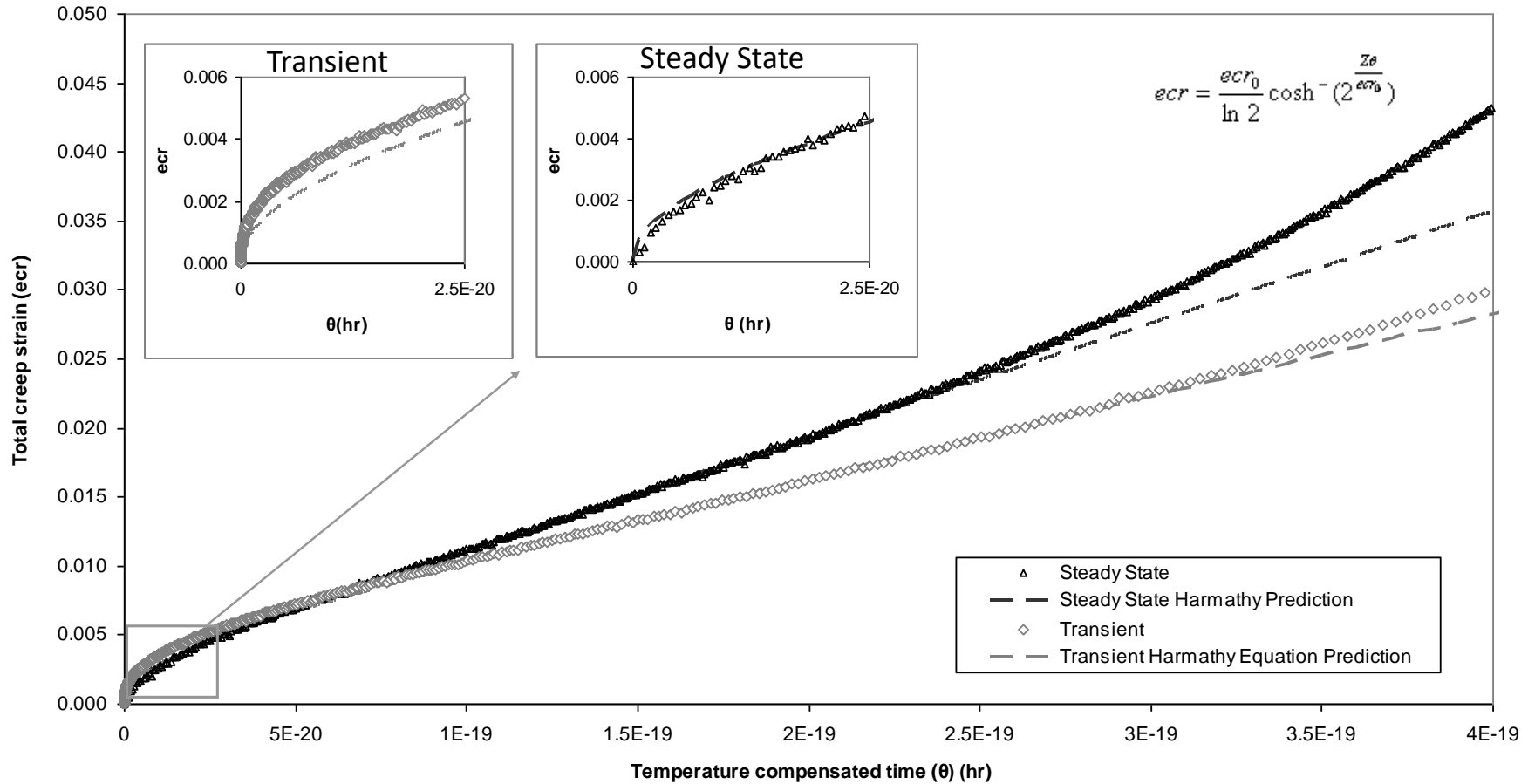
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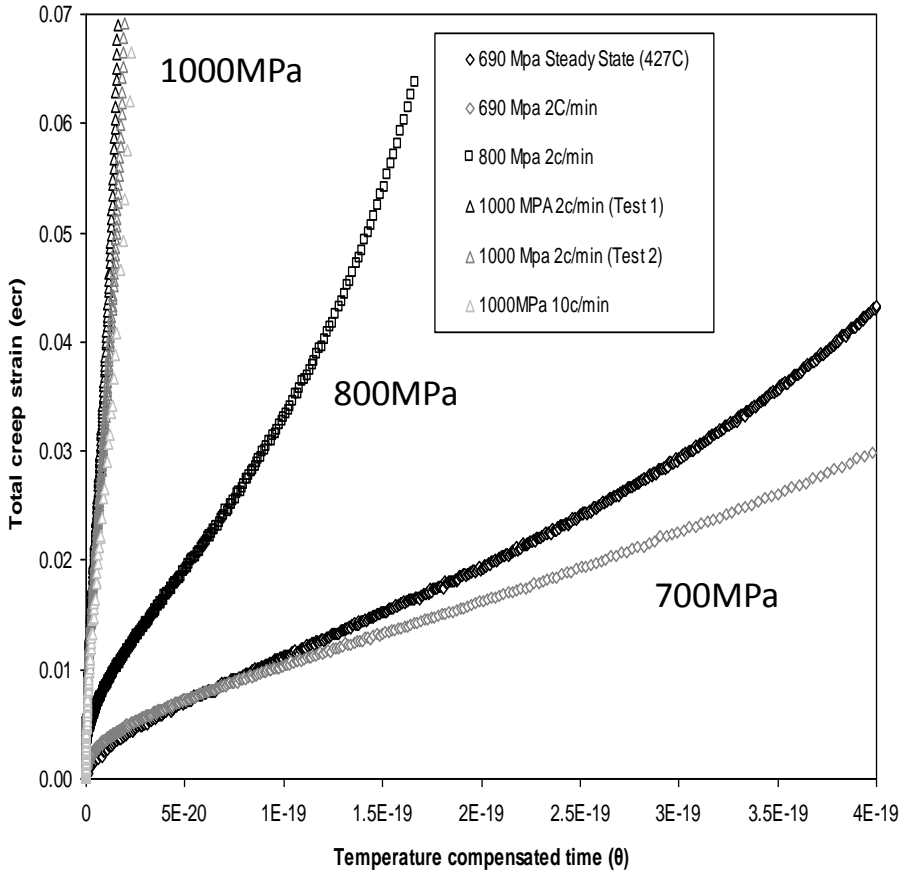


Creep Test Equivalency

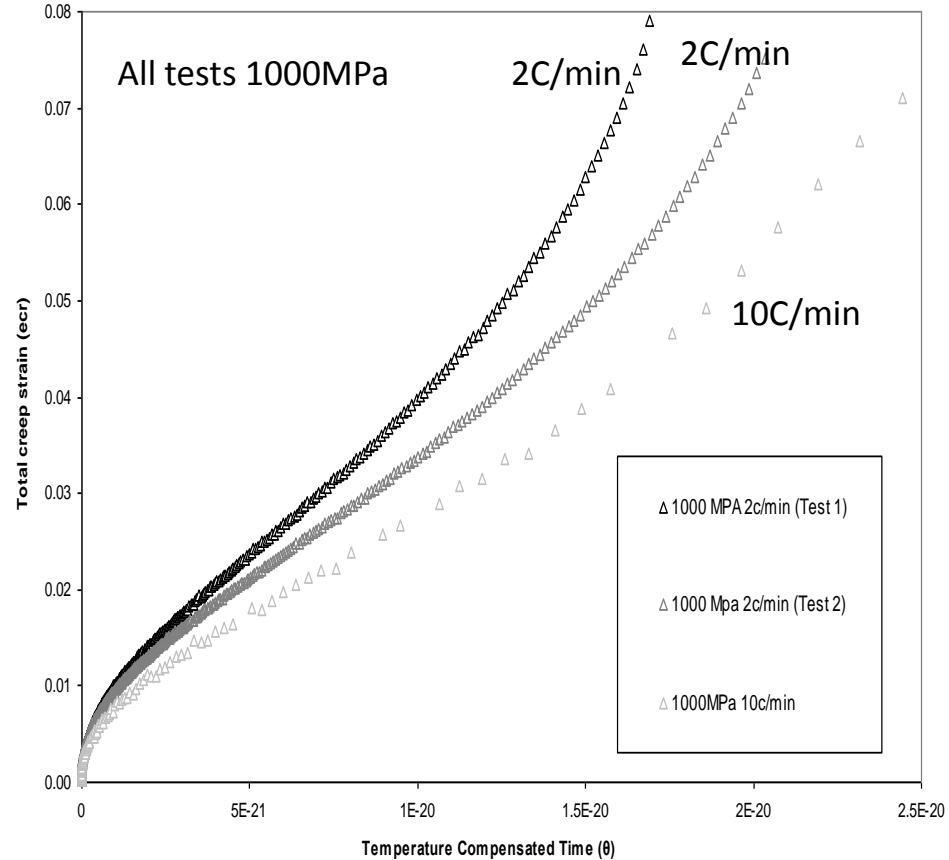
- Steady state and transient state test at 700 MPa



Varying Stress and Repeatability



Varied stress levels

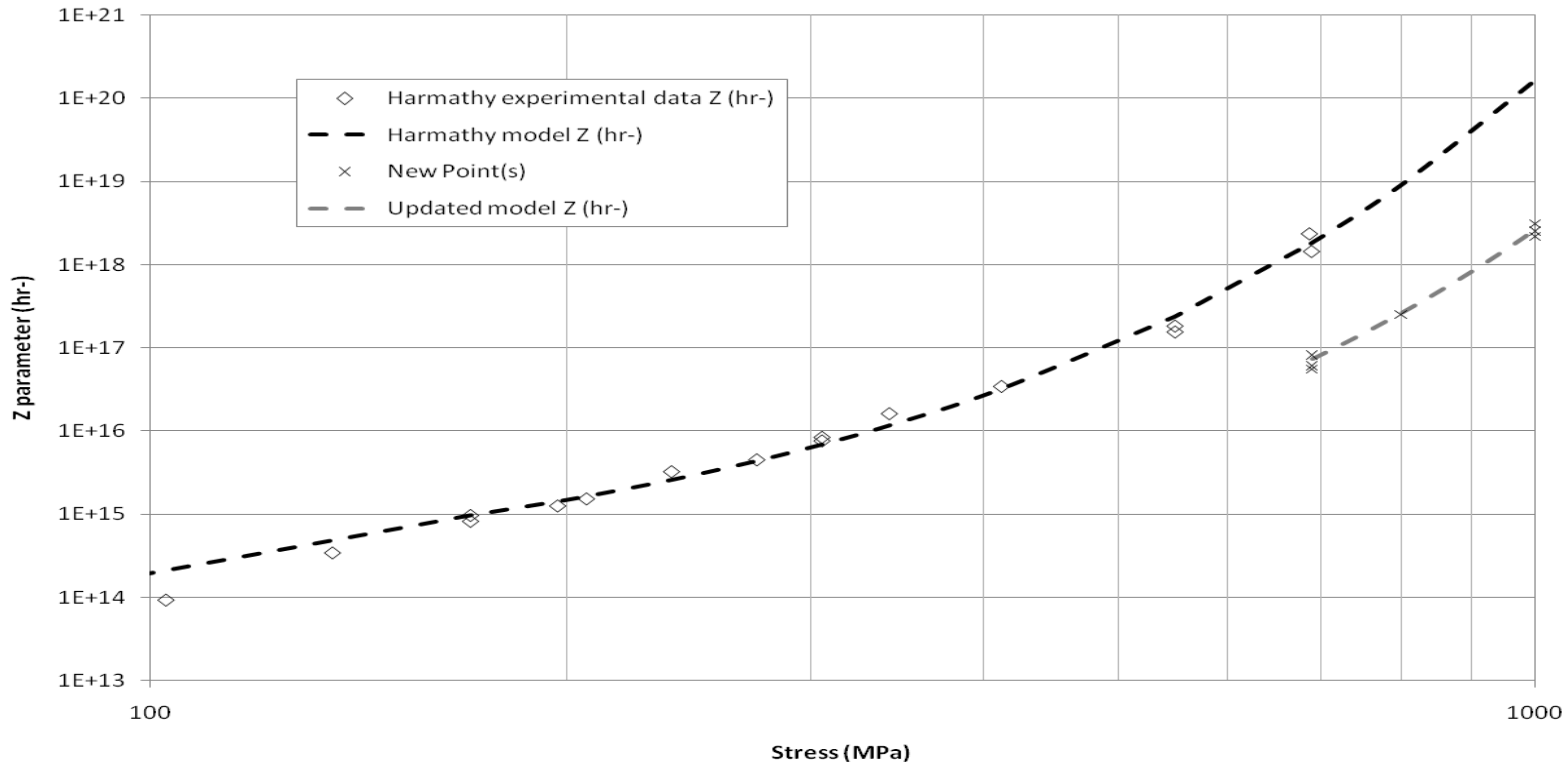


Repeatability



Parameter Updates

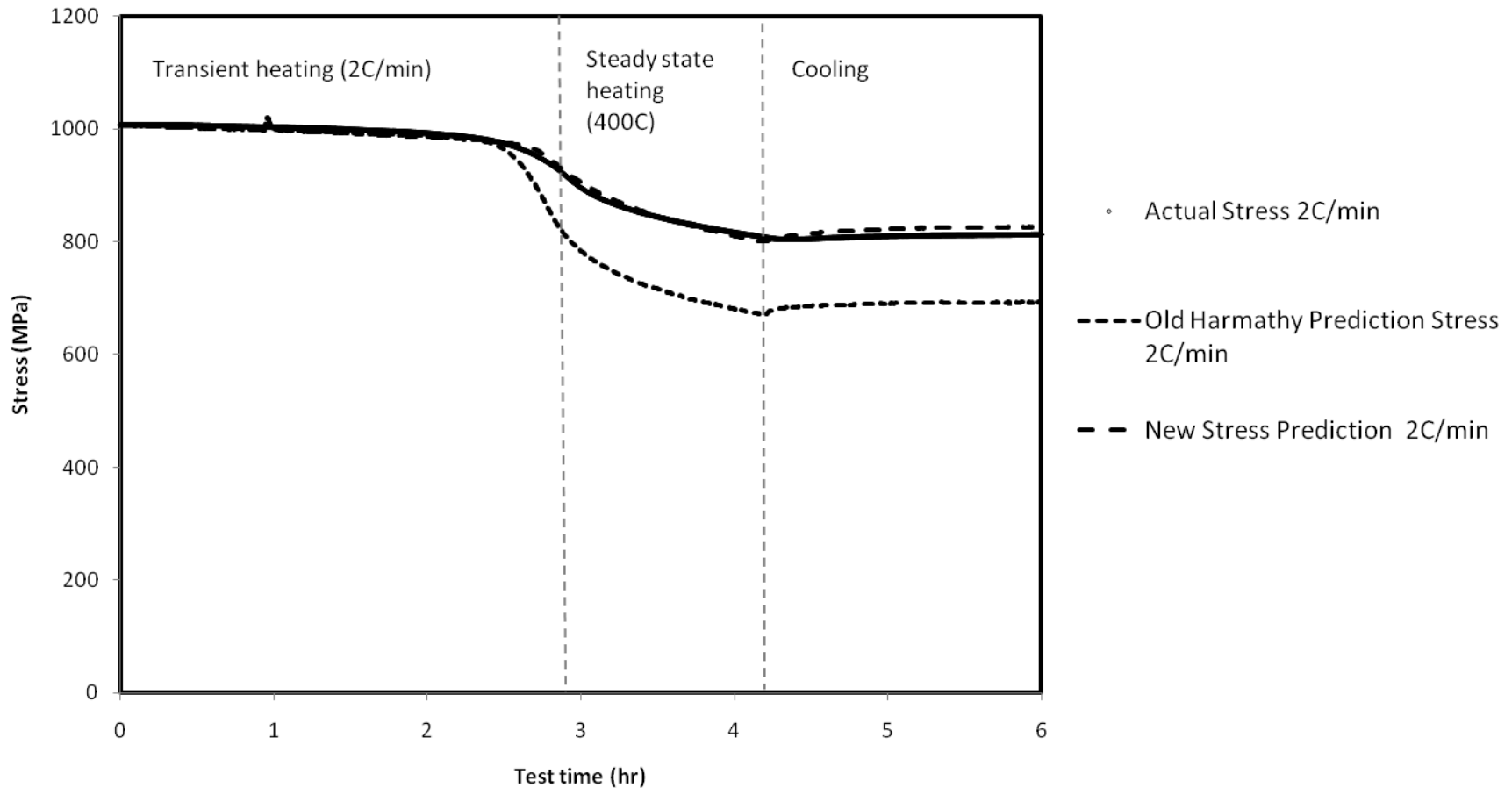
- Secondary creep parameter updates (old vs new)



- New creep parameters do not match old, suggest less creep deformation in modern PS steel



Preliminary Modelling with New Parameters



- New creep parameters are **conservative end**



Key Insights:

- DIC deformation **measurement is adequate** when shown with traditional strain prediction and instrumentation
- **Less limitations** for usage (*SGs fall off, extensometers can break in the tertiary phase of creep*)
- **New creep model params. more accurate** for high temperature PS stress relaxation (*creep*) predictions
- More **repeat testing needed** at both transient and steady state in order to truly understand and **quantify variability** and **validation** using the Dorn-Harmathy creep model for prestressing steel



Impacts of Research

- Modern UPT concrete techniques continue to promote innovation in construction; however....
 - These innovations **potentially sacrifice safety** using out of date prescriptive testing and guidance
 - Research being conducted will allow us to **rationally design for real fires in real buildings**



One Museum Park





Thank you



The Ove Arup
Foundation

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