

# Recent advances on SHM of reinforced concrete and masonry structures enabled by self-sensing structural materials

F. Ubertini<sup>1</sup>, A. D'Alessandro<sup>1</sup>, A. Downey<sup>2</sup>, Enrique García-Macías<sup>3</sup>,  
S. Laflamme<sup>2</sup>, Rafael Castro-Triguero<sup>4</sup>

- 1 University of Perugia (Italy)
- 2 Iowa State University (USA)
- 3 Universidad de Sevilla (Spain)
- 4 University of Cordoba (Spain)



IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY



SMARTERICK

November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017



# Outline

**Aim: to introduce a novel approach to SHM of civil structures based on self-sensing structural materials and sensors**



## Motivation

## Smart Concrete

- Concept and fabrication
- Micromechanics modeling: fundamentals
- Smart concrete embedded strain sensors
- Smart RC structural components



## Smart Bricks

- Concept and fabrication
- Smart masonry structural components

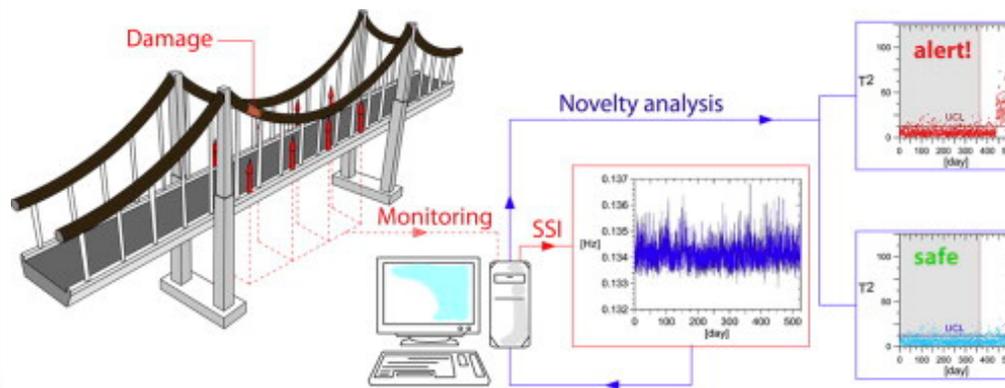
## Conclusions

November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





# Motivation: the scalability challenge in SHM

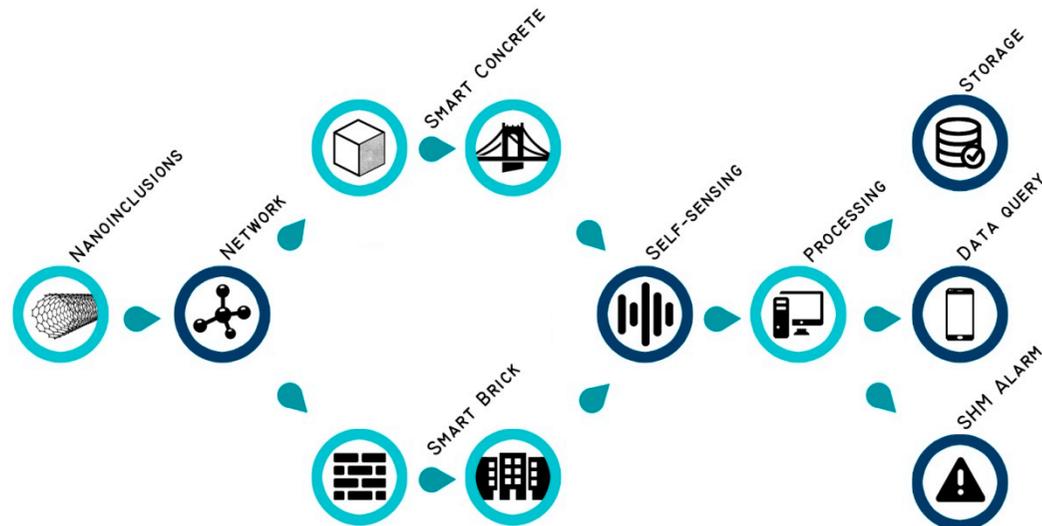
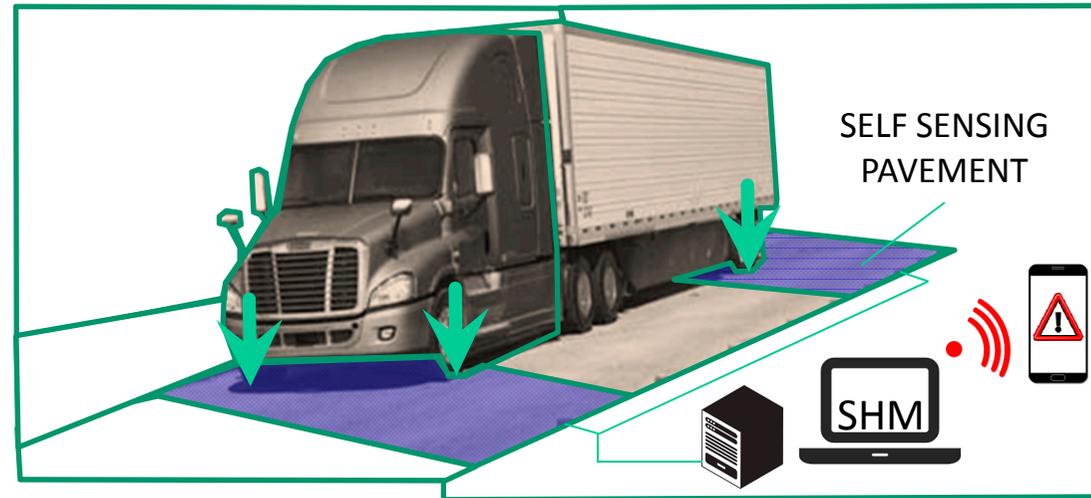


November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





## Motivation: what is a self-sensing system?



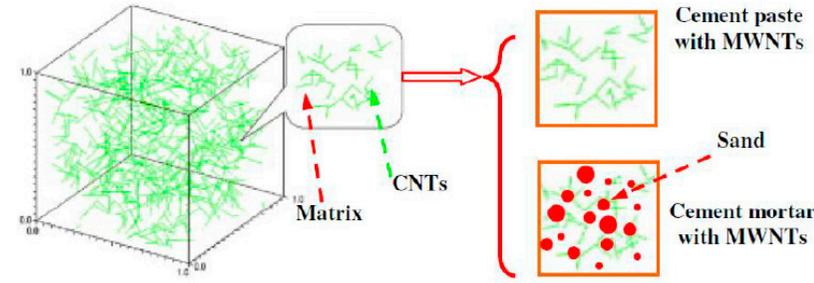
November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





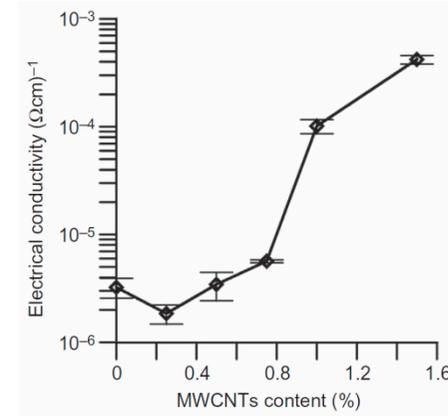
# Smart Concrete: concept and fabrication

Idea: diffused sensing for SHM of concrete structures



Han et al., 2011

## Percolation

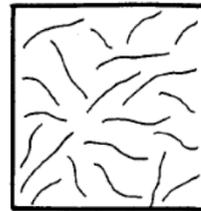


## Effect of dispersion

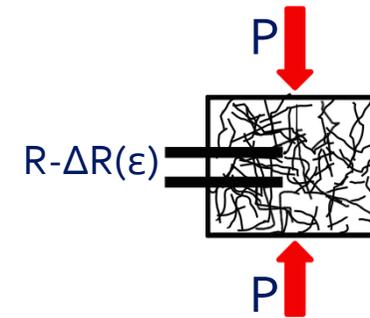
Bad dispersion: no percolation  $R = \infty$



Good dispersion: percolation ( $R < \infty$ )



Chung et al., 2003

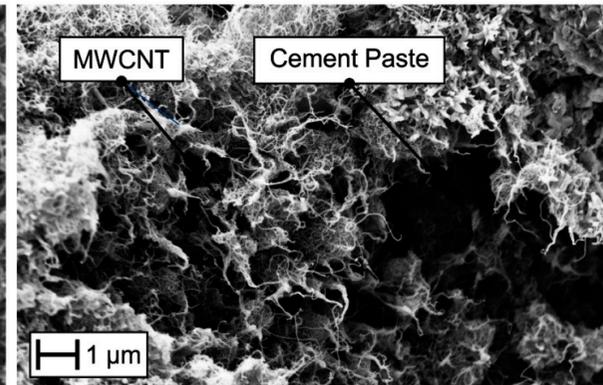
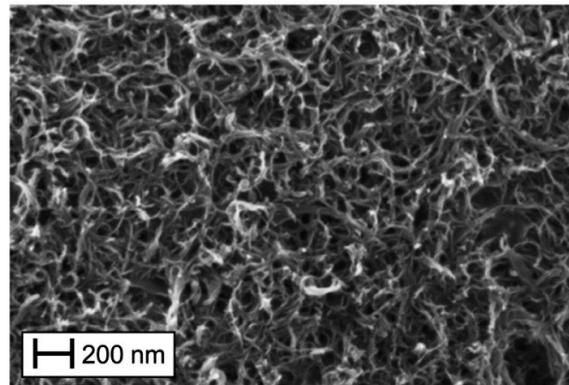
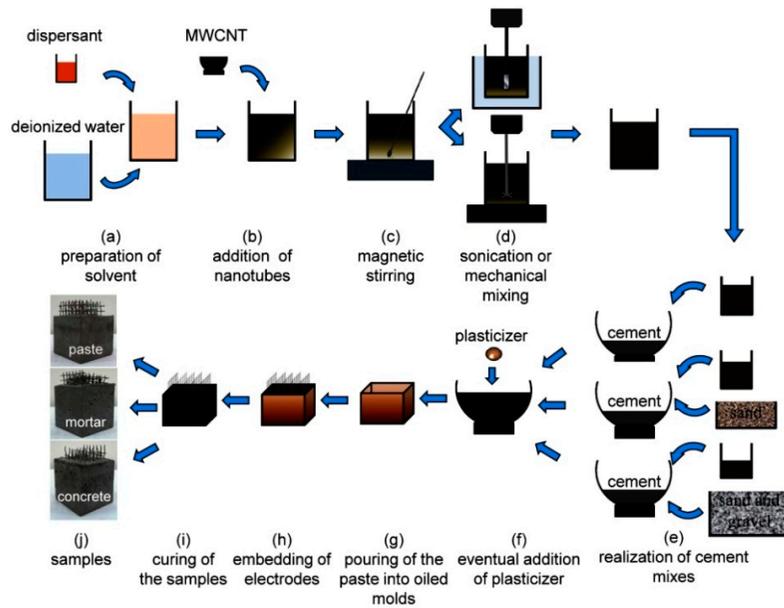


$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = -\lambda \epsilon$$





# Smart Concrete: concept and fabrication



November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

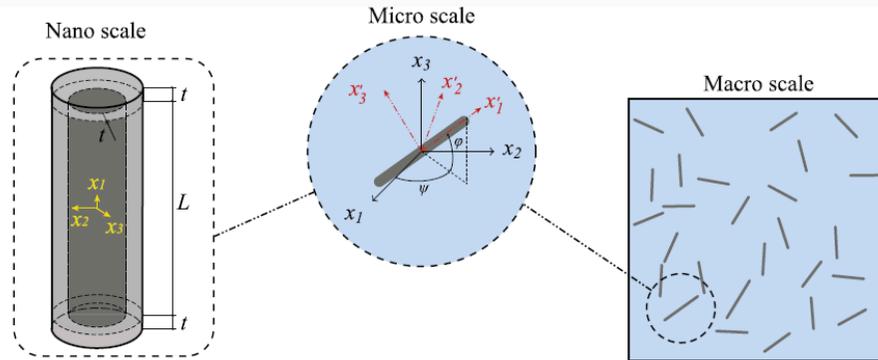
A.L. Materazzi, F. Ubertini, A. D'Alessandro, 2013, Carbon nanotube cement-based transducers for dynamic sensing of strain, Cement & Concrete Composites, 37(1): 2-11.



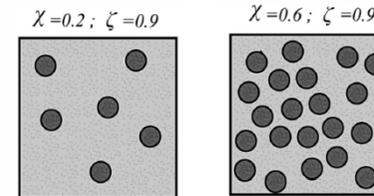
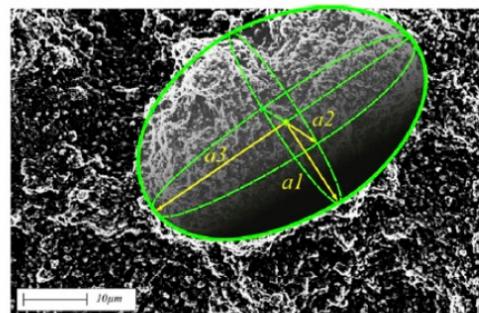
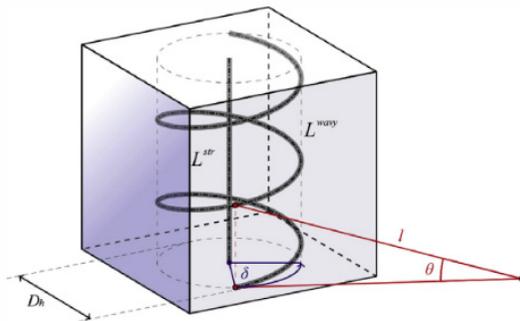
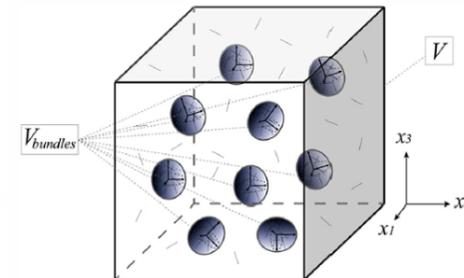


# Smart Concrete: micromechanics modeling

Mori-Tanaka extension of single inclusion Eshelby's problem to multiple inhomogeneities embedded in a finite domain.



$$\sigma_{eff} = \sigma_m + (1 - \zeta) \frac{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \{f_{eff}(\sigma_{EH} - \sigma_m) \mathbf{A}_{EH}\} p(\varphi, \psi) \sin \varphi d\varphi d\psi}{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi p(\varphi, \psi) \sin \varphi d\varphi d\psi} + \zeta \frac{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \{f_{eff}(\sigma_{CN} - \sigma_m) \mathbf{A}_{CN}\} p(\varphi, \psi) \sin \varphi d\varphi d\psi}{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi p(\varphi, \psi) \sin \varphi d\varphi d\psi}$$



November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

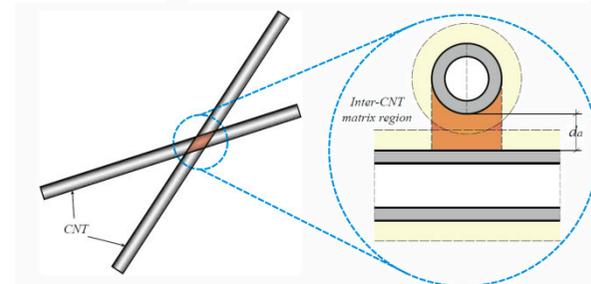
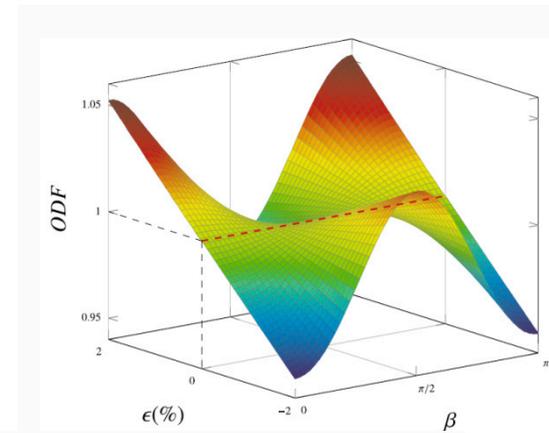
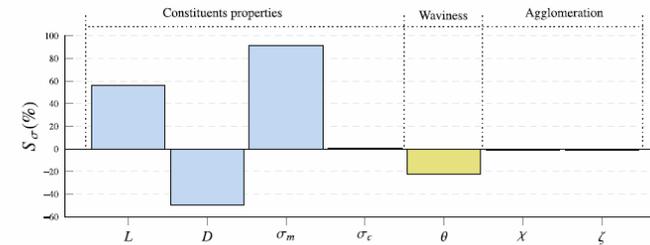
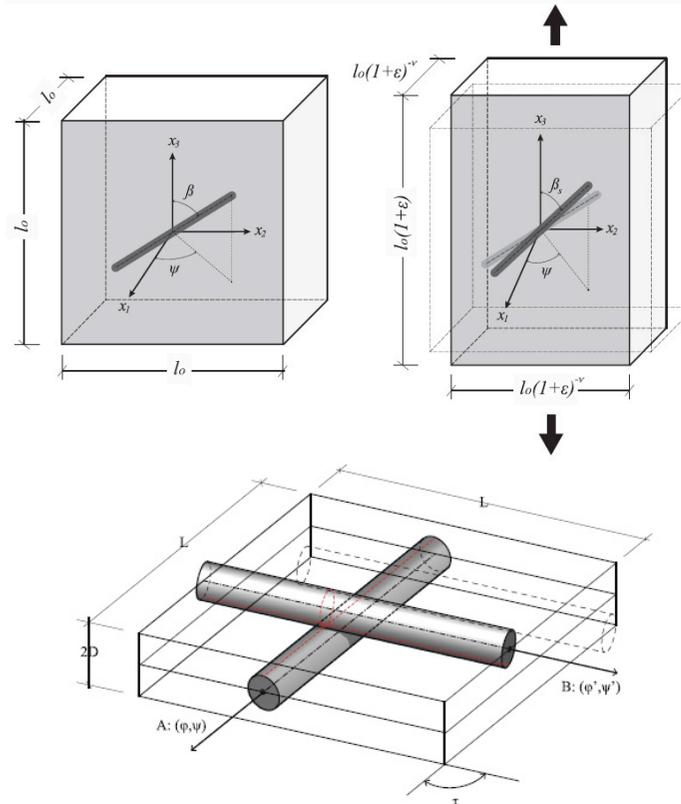
García-Macías, E., D'Alessandro, A., Castro-Triguero, R., Pérez-Mira, D., Ubertini, F., Micromechanics modeling of the electrical conductivity of carbon nanotube cement-matrix composites (2017), Composites Part B: Engineering, Volume 108, Pages 451-469.





# Smart Concrete: micromechanics modeling

1. Volume expansion and fibers re-orientation
2. Change in conductive networks
3. Change in the tunnelling resistance



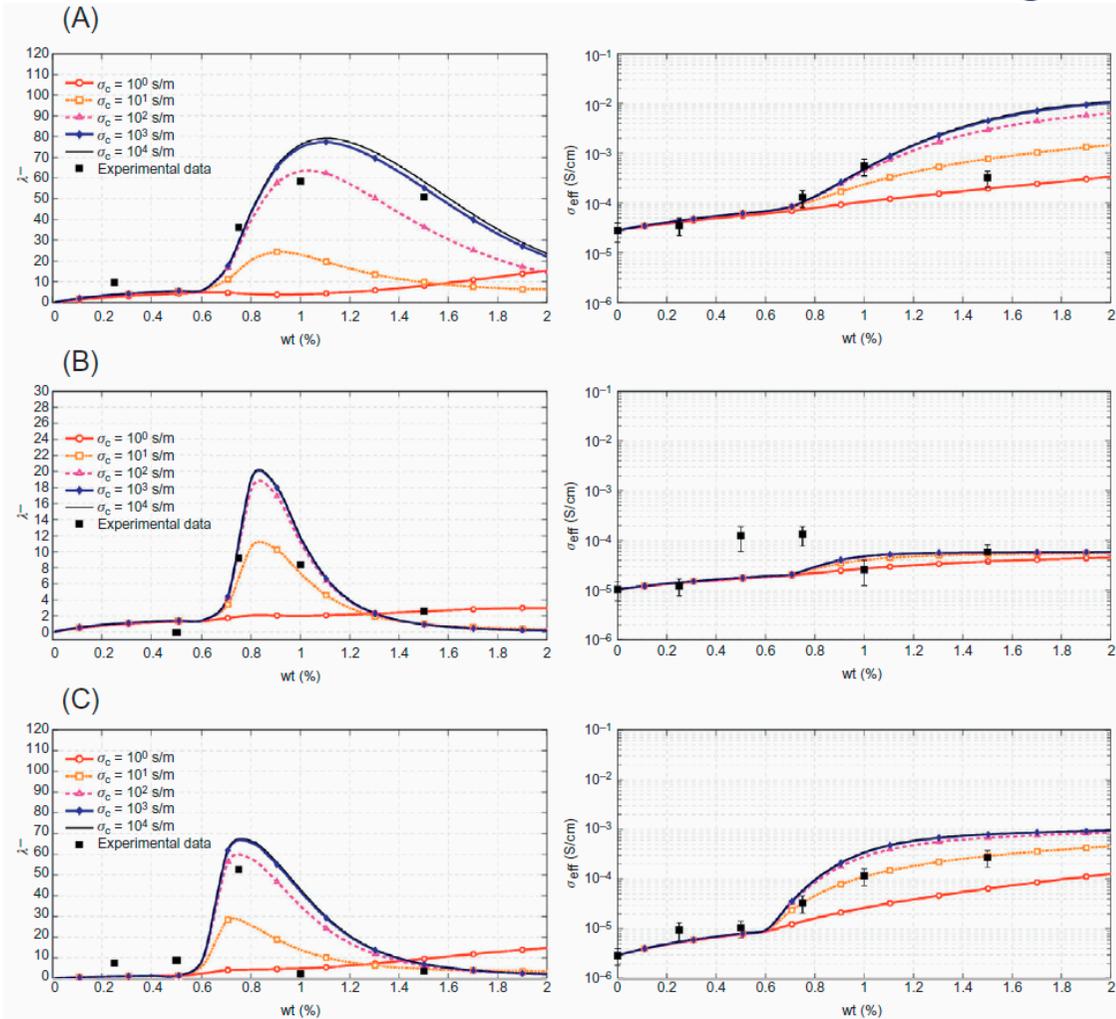
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

García-Macías, E., D'Alessandro, A., Castro-Triguero, R., Pérez-Mira, D., Ubertini, F., Micromechanics modeling of the uniaxial strain-sensing property of carbon nanotube cement-matrix composites for SHM applications (2017) Composite Structures, 163, pp. 195-215.





# Smart Concrete: micromechanics modeling



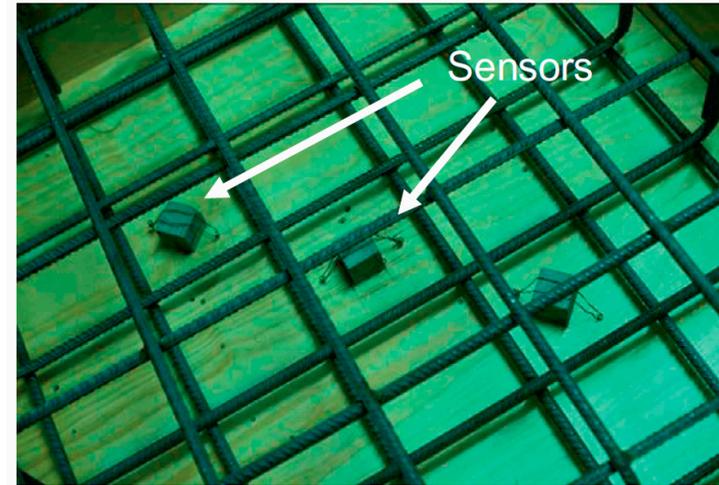
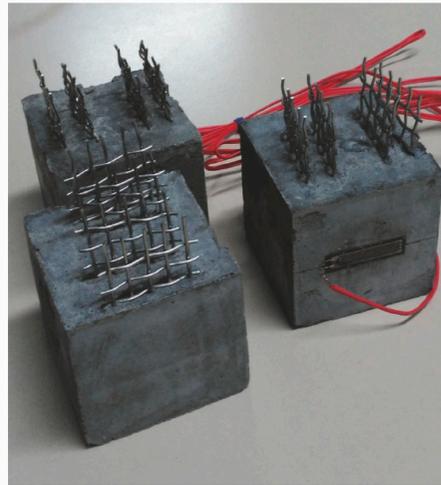
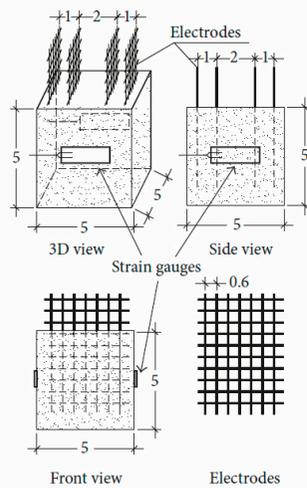
November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017

García-Macías, E., D'Alessandro, A., Castro-Triguero, R., Pérez-Mira, D., Ubertini, F., Micromechanics modeling of the uniaxial strain-sensing property of carbon nanotube cement-matrix composites for SHM applications (2017) Composite Structures, 163, pp. 195-215.





## Smart Concrete: smart strain sensors



$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = -\lambda \varepsilon$$



November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017

10/25

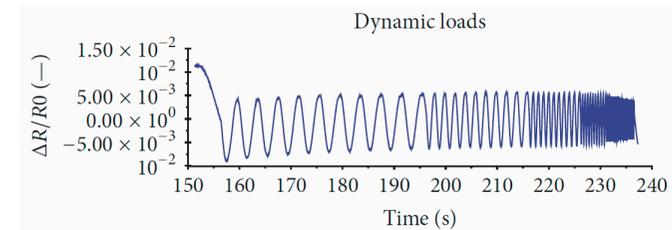
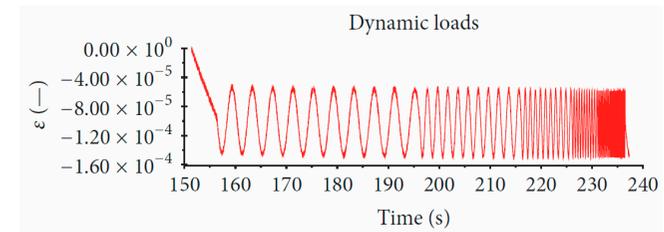
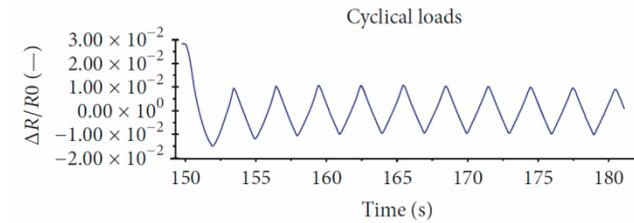
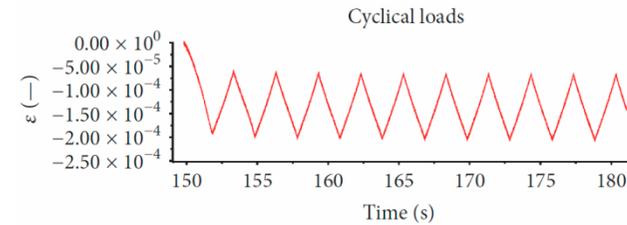
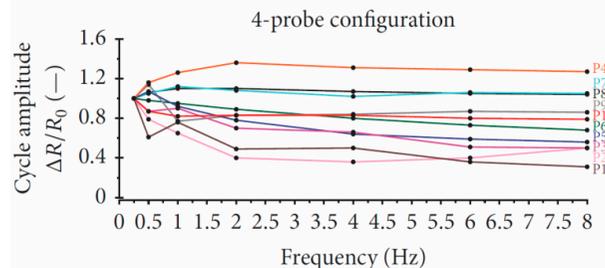
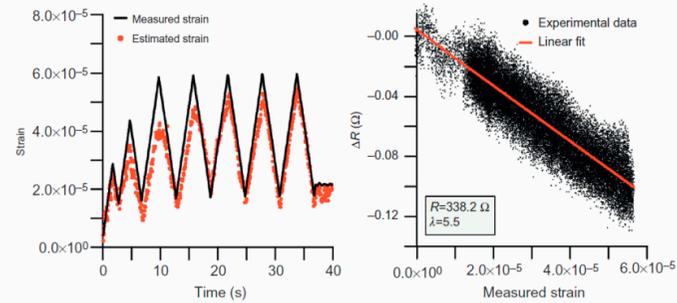
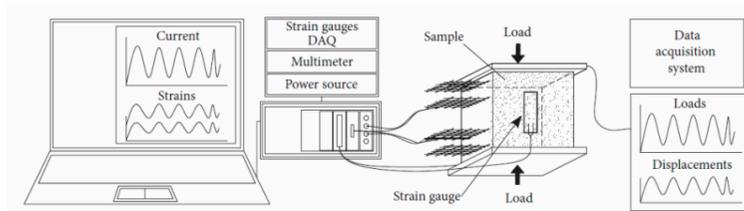
Recent advances on SHM of reinforced concrete and masonry structures enabled by self-sensing structural materials

Filippo Ubertini





# Smart Concrete: characterization of smart strain sensors



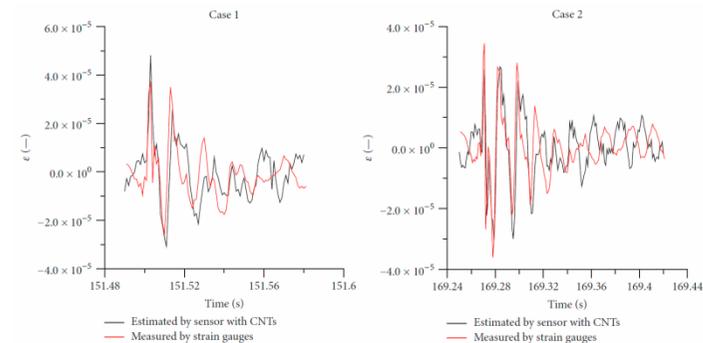
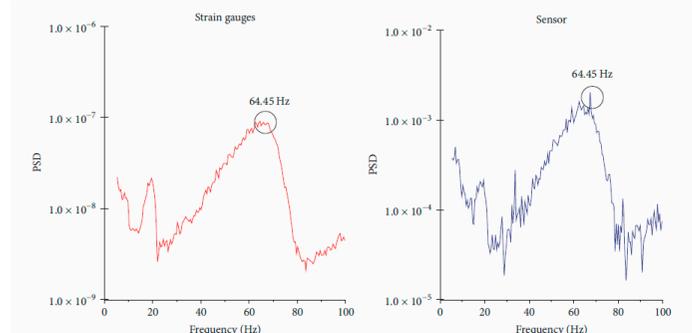
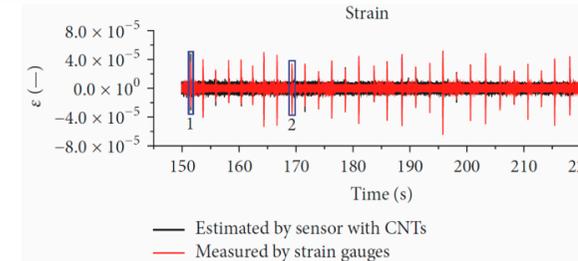
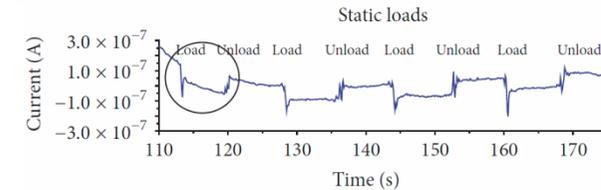
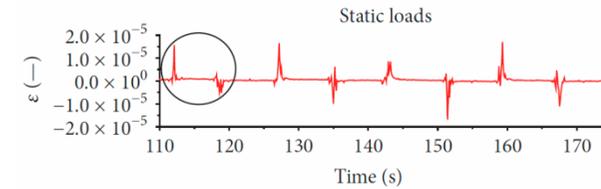
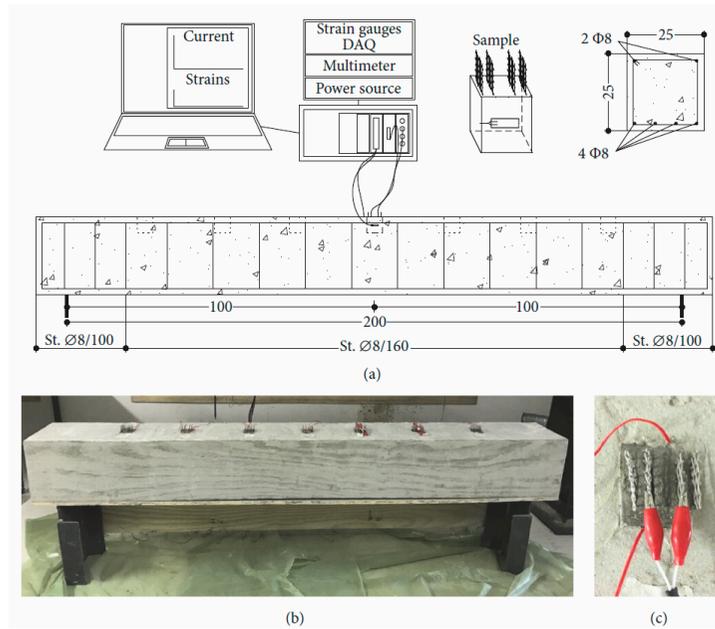
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

D'Alessandro, A., Ubertini, F., García-Macías, E., Castro-Triguero, R., Downey, A., Laflamme, S., Meoni, A., Materazzi, A.L., Static and Dynamic Strain Monitoring of Reinforced Concrete Components through Embedded Carbon Nanotube Cement-Based Sensors(2017) Shock and Vibration, Volume 2017, Article ID 3648403, 11 pages.





# Smart Concrete: embedded smart strain sensors



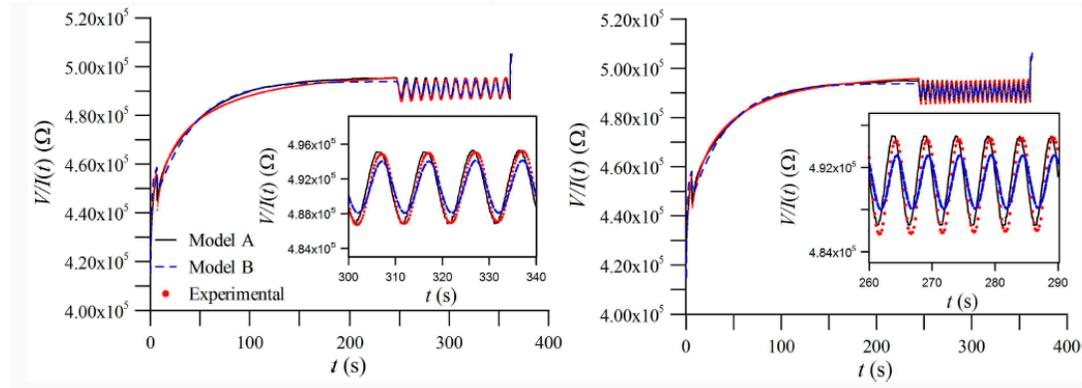
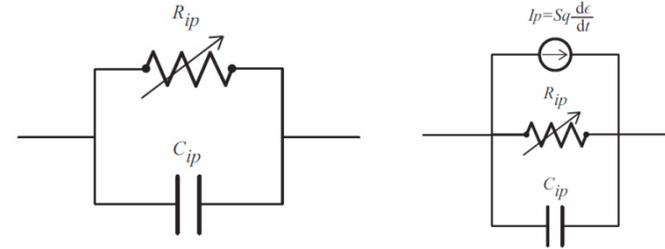
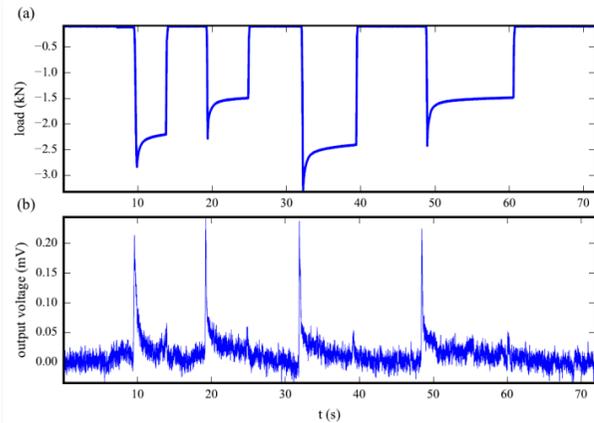
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

D'Alessandro, A., Ubertini, F., García-Macías, E., Castro-Triguero, R., Downey, A., Laflamme, S., Meoni, A., Materazzi, A.L., Static and Dynamic Strain Monitoring of Reinforced Concrete Components through Embedded Carbon Nanotube Cement-Based Sensors(2017) Shock and Vibration, Volume 2017, Article ID 3648403, 11 pages.





# Smart Concrete: electromechanical modeling of smart sensors



Model A (piezoresistive/piezoelectric)					Model B (piezoresistive)						
$R_{ct}$ (kΩ)	200.00	$C_{ip}$ (μF)	300.00	$\lambda$	300.00	$R_{ct}$ (kΩ)	404.01	$C_{ip}$ (μF)	19.98	$\lambda$	802.55
$R_{ip}$ (kΩ)	289.50	$C_{pm}$ (μF)	2.00E+04	$\lambda_C$	2.21E-09	$R_{ip}$ (kΩ)	46.41	$C_{pm}$ (μF)	745.78	$\lambda_C$	3.08E-14
$R_{pm}$ (kΩ)	50.00			$S_q$ (A)	-0.40	$R_{pm}$ (kΩ)	54.84			$S_q$ (A)	-

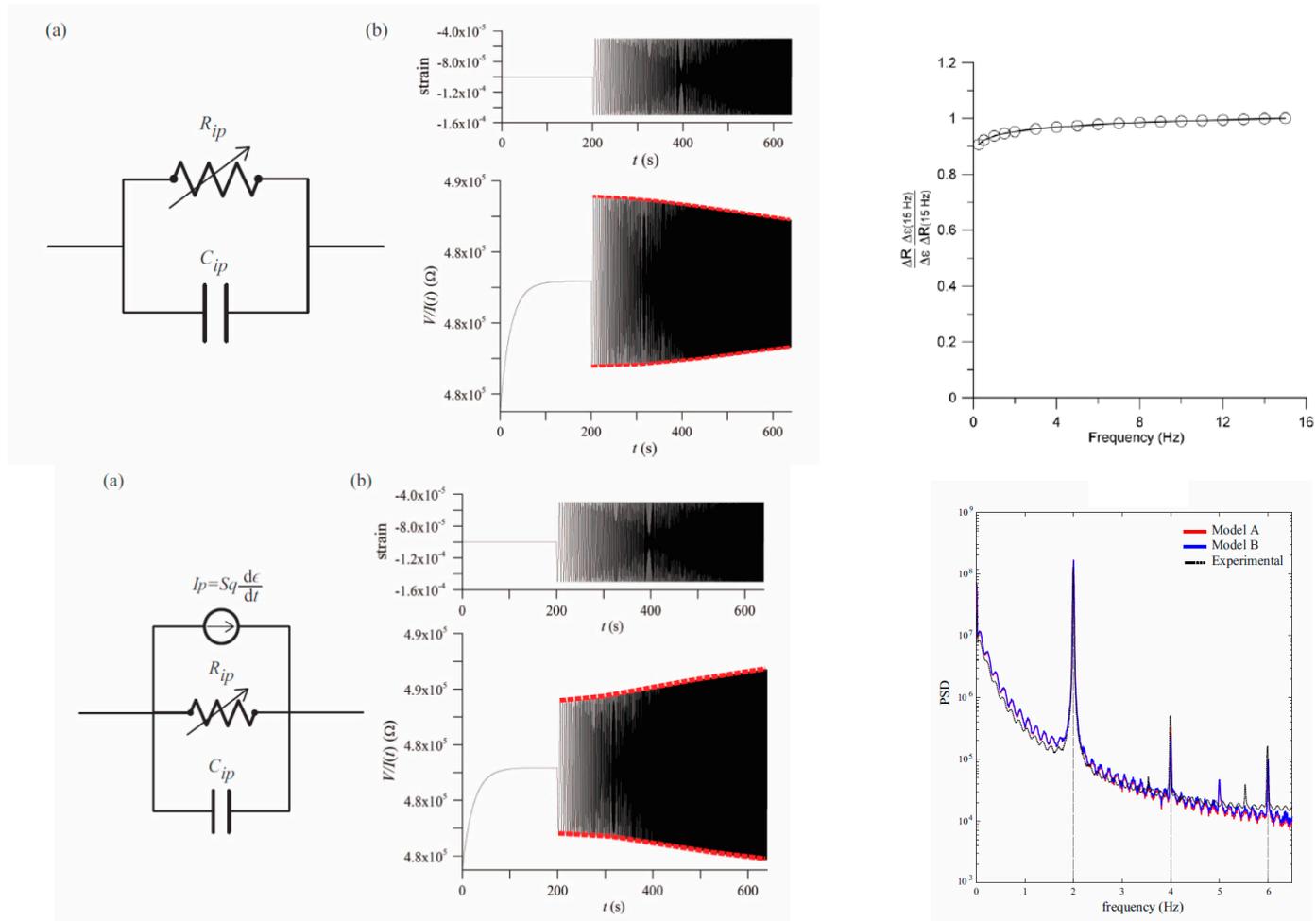
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

García-Macías, E., Downey, A., D'Alessandro, A., Castro-Triguero, R., Laflamme, S., Ubertini, F., Enhanced lumped circuit model for smart nanocomposite cement-based sensors under dynamic compressive loading conditions (2017), Sensors and Actuators, A: Physical, Volume 260, Pages 45-57.





# Smart Concrete: electromechanical modeling of smart sensors



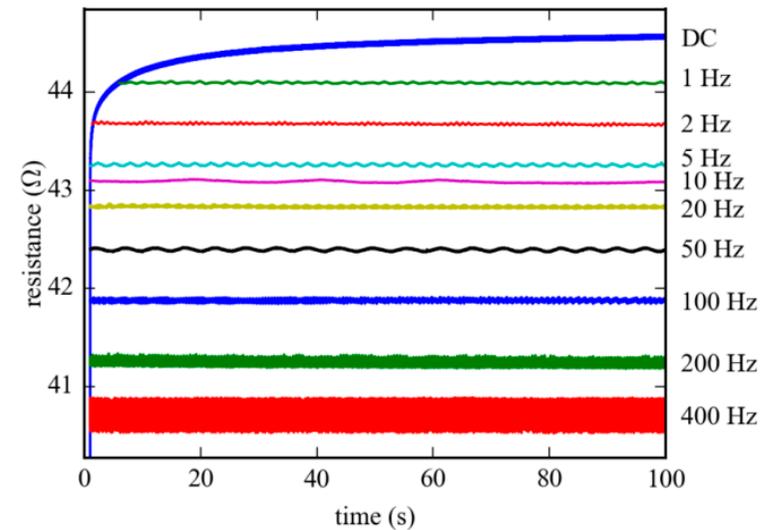
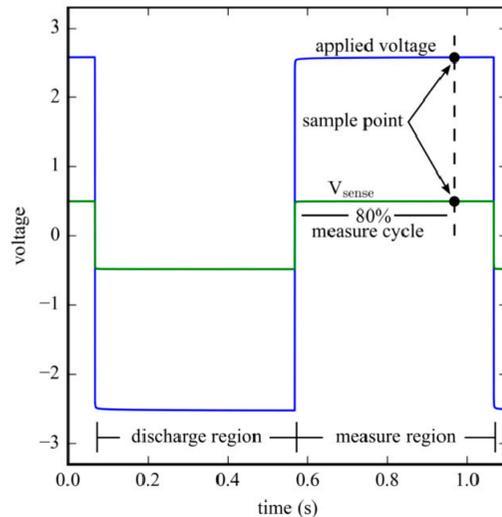
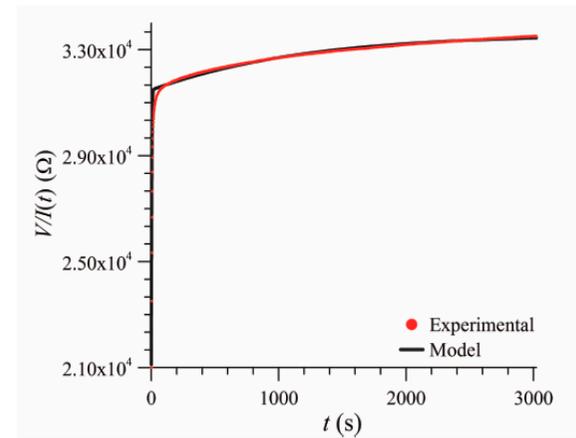
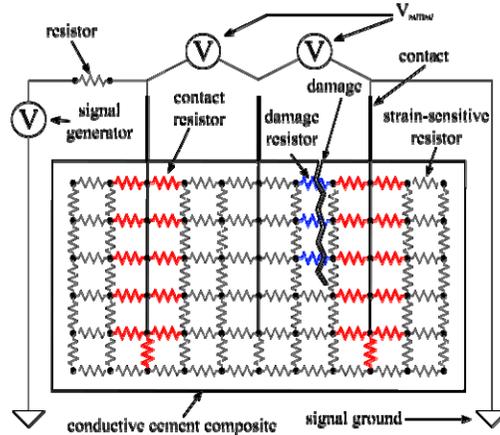
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

García-Macías, E., Downey, A., D'Alessandro, A., Castro-Triguero, R., Laflamme, S., Ubertini, F., Enhanced lumped circuit model for smart nanocomposite cement-based sensors under dynamic compressive loading conditions (2017), Sensors and Actuators, A: Physical, Volume 260, Pages 45-57.





# Smart Concrete: smart RC structural components



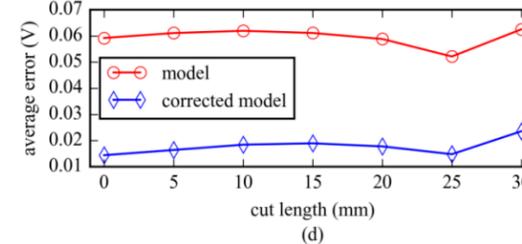
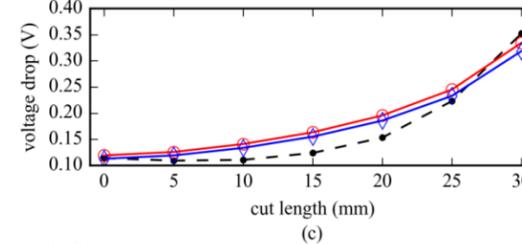
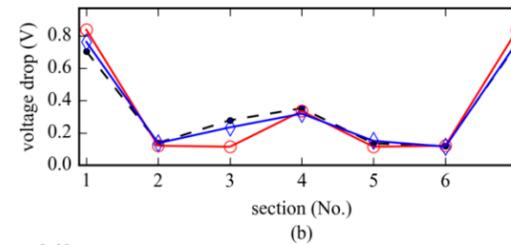
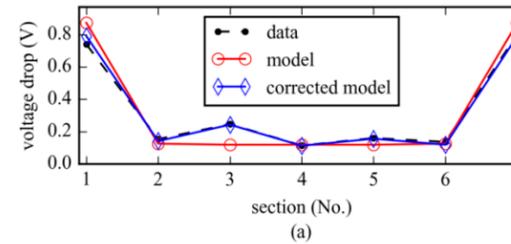
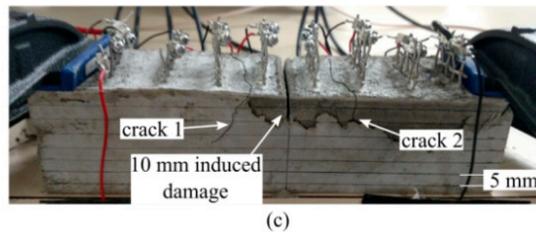
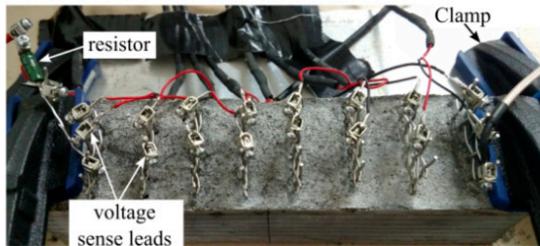
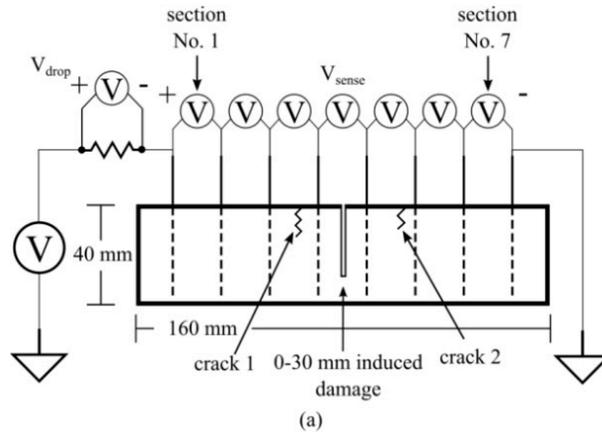
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Downey, A., D'Alessandro, A., Ubertyni, F., Laflamme, S., Geiger, R., Biphasic DC measurement approach for enhanced measurement stability and multi-channel sampling of self-sensing multi-functional structural materials doped with carbon-based additives (2017), Smart Materials and Structures, Volume 26, Issue 6, Article number 065008.





# Smart Concrete: experiment on smart RC beams



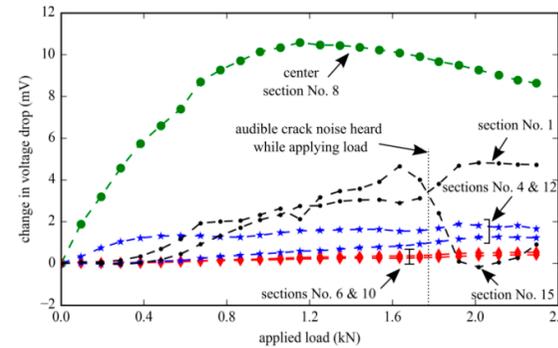
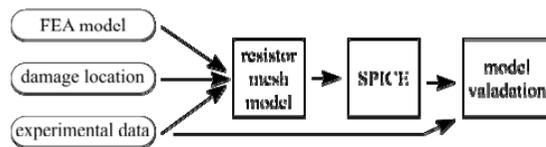
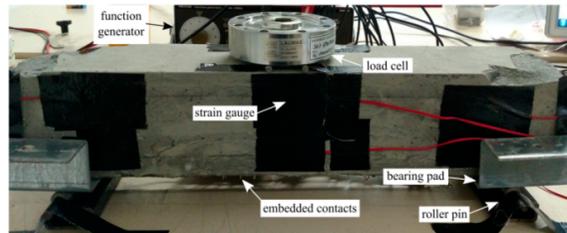
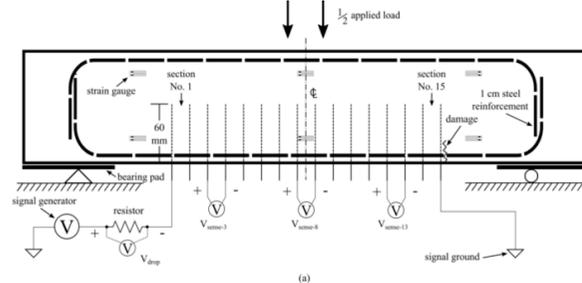
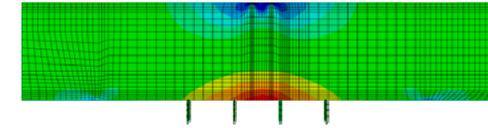
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Downey, A., D'Alessandro, A., Baquera, M., García-Macías, E., Rolfes, D., Ubertini, F., Laflamme, S., Castro-Triguero, R., Damage detection, localization and quantification in conductive smart concrete structures using a resistor mesh model (2017), Engineering Structures, Volume 148, pp. 924-935.

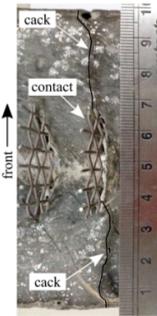
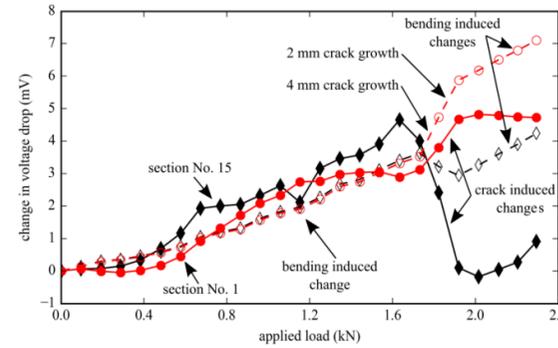




# Smart Concrete: experiment on smart RC beams



back view (b)



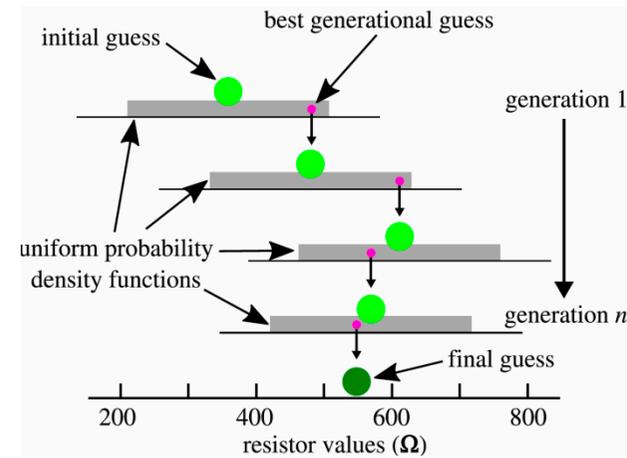
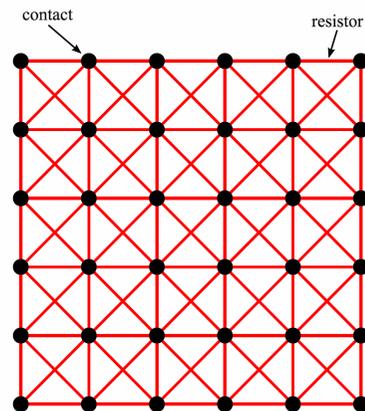
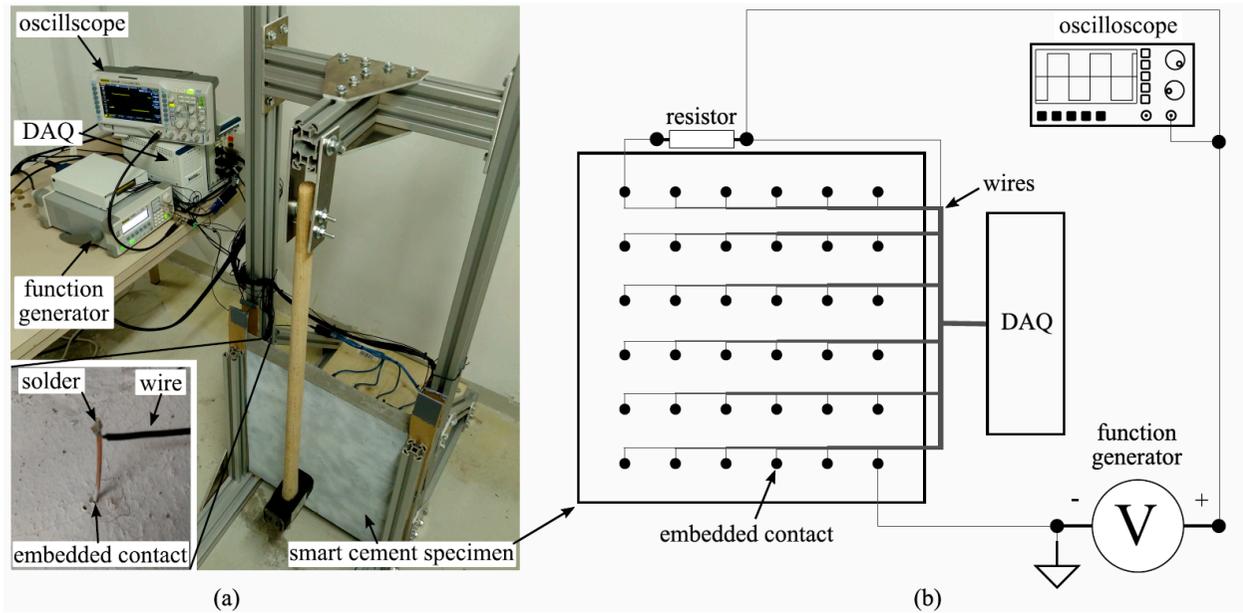
bottom view (d)

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Downey, A., D'Alessandro, A., Baquera, M., García-Macías, E., Rolfes, D., Ubertini, F., Laflamme, S., Castro-Triguero, R., Damage detection, localization and quantification in conductive smart concrete structures using a resistor mesh model (2017), Engineering Structures, Volume 148, pp. 924-935.



# Smart Concrete: experiment on a smart RC plate



November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017

18/25

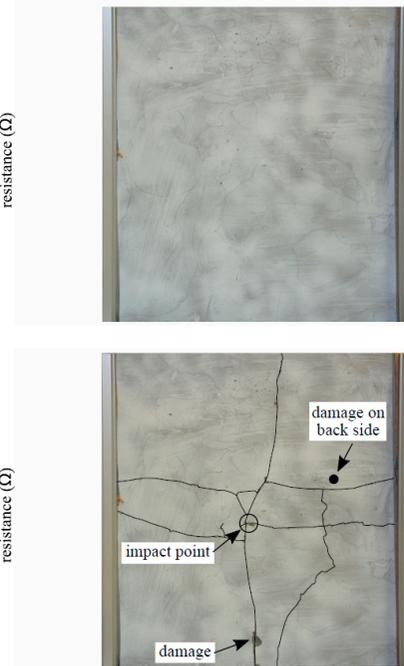
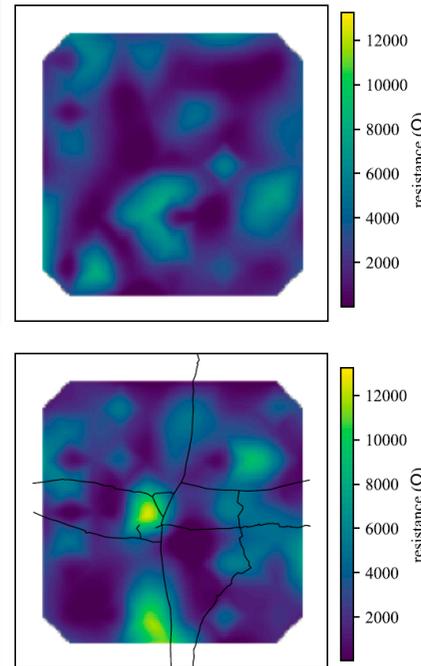
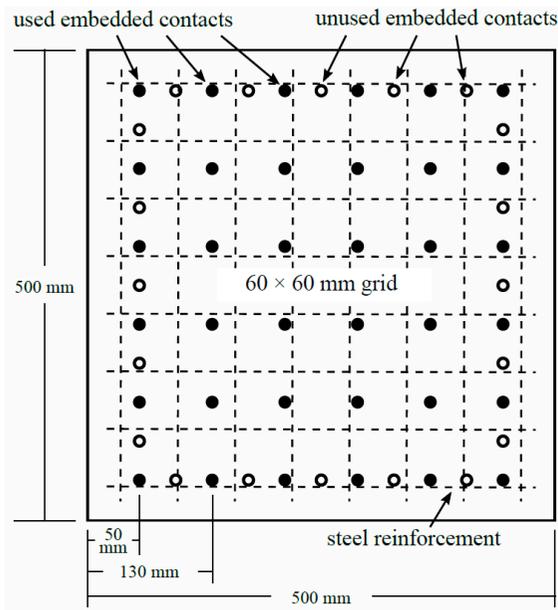
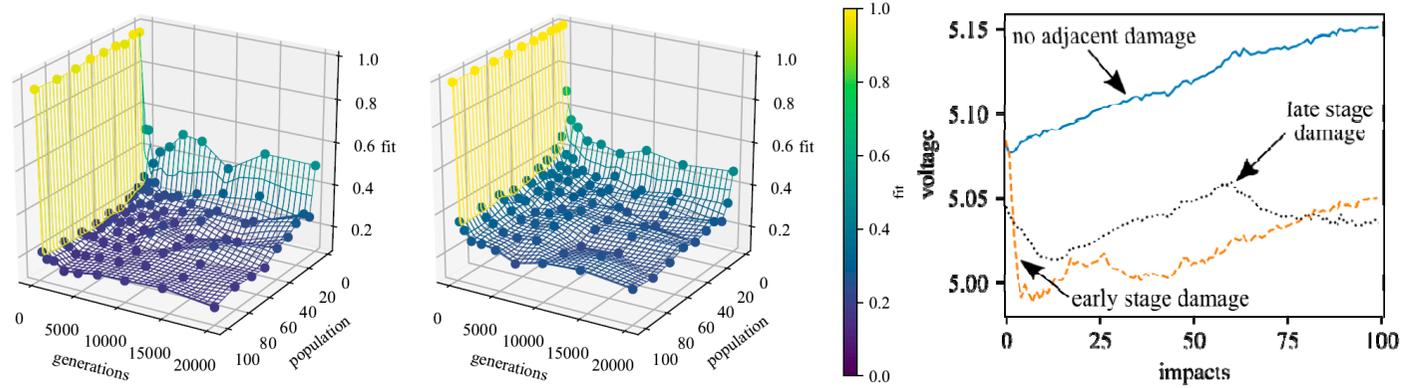
Recent advances on SHM of reinforced concrete and masonry structures enabled by self-sensing structural materials

Filippo Ubertini





# Smart Concrete: experiment on a smart RC plate

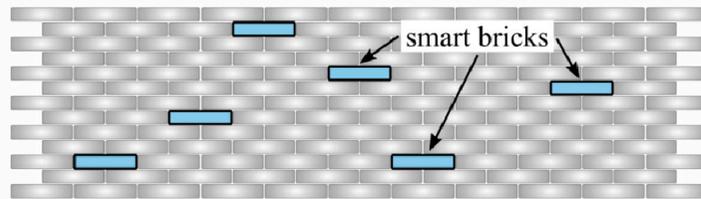


November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

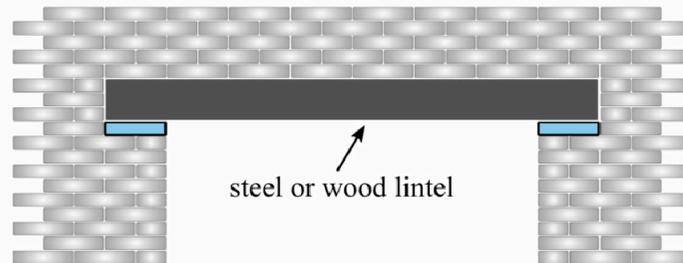




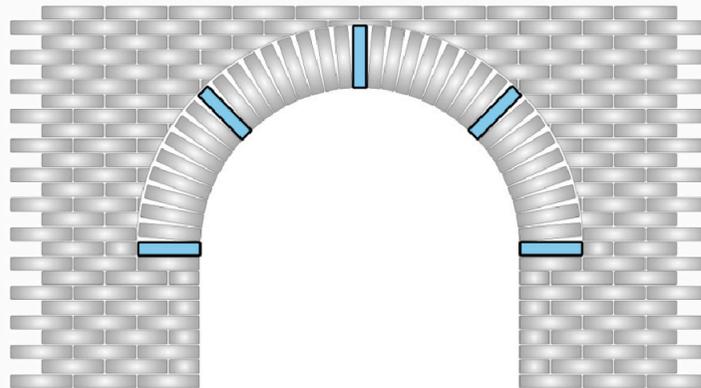
# Smart Bricks: concept and fabrication



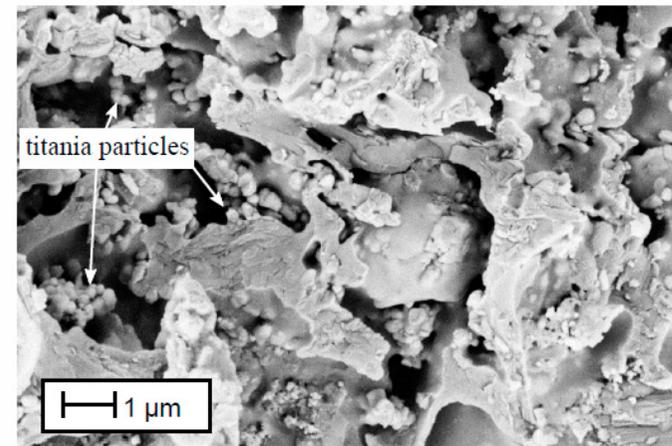
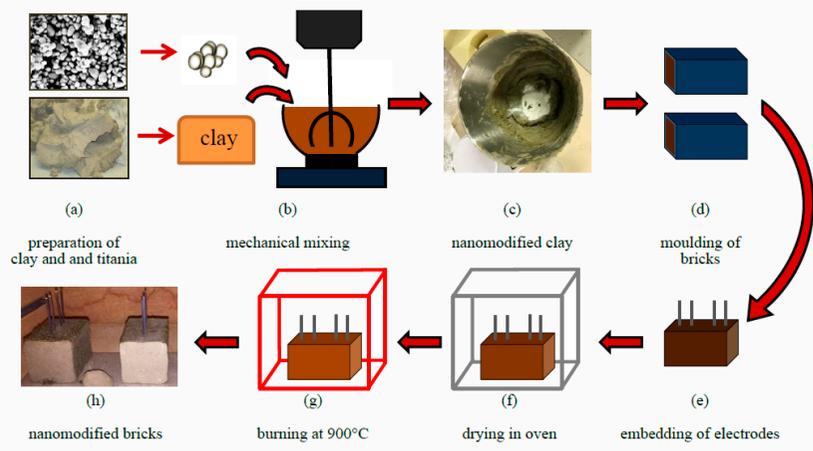
(a)



(b)

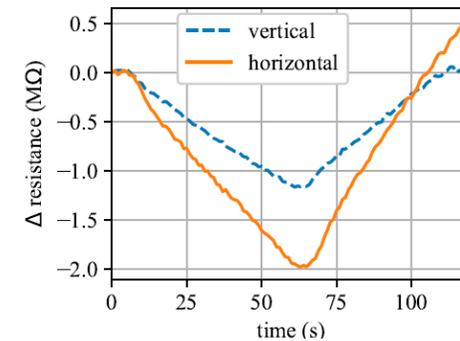
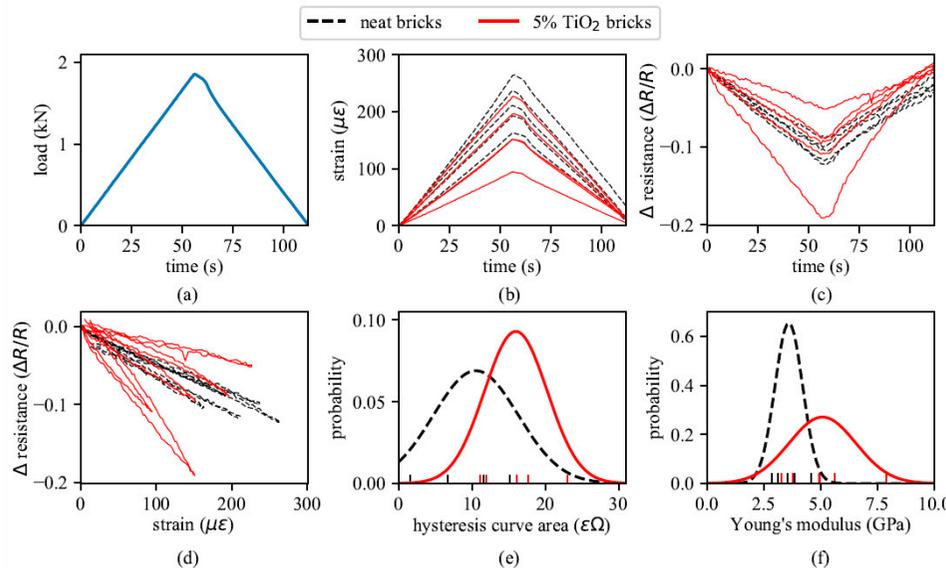
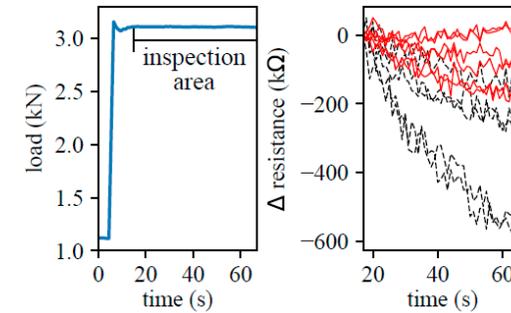
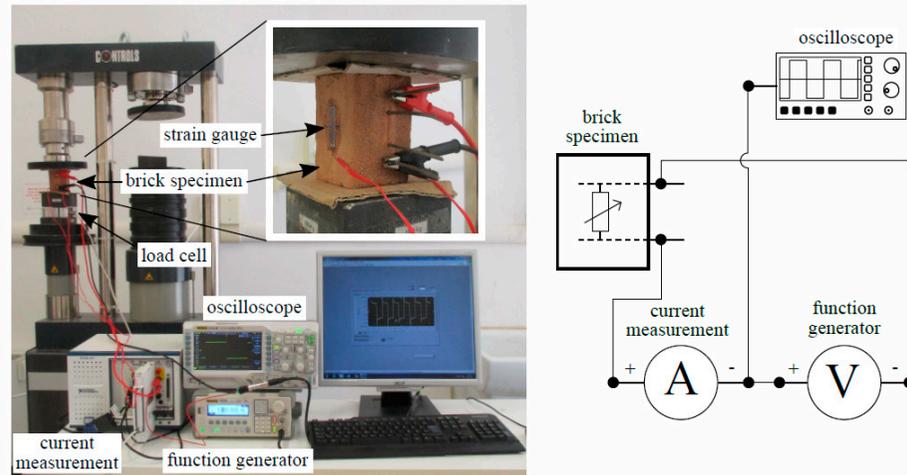


(c)





# Smart Bricks: characterization in lab



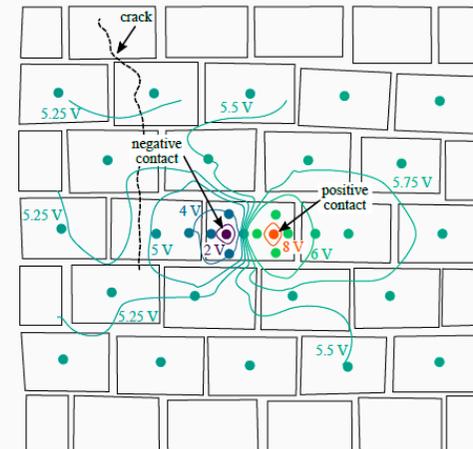
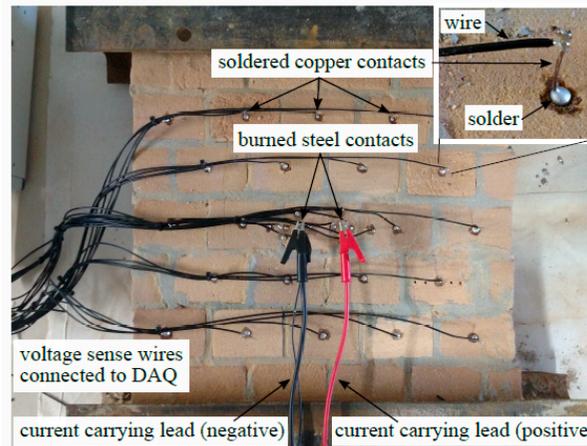
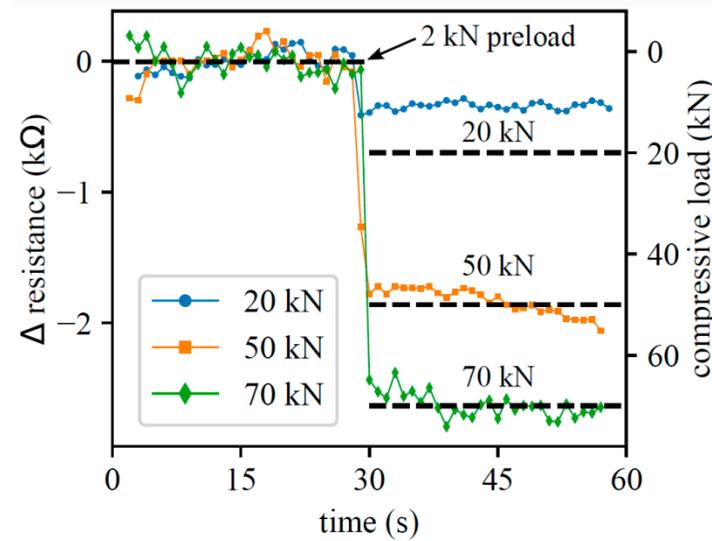
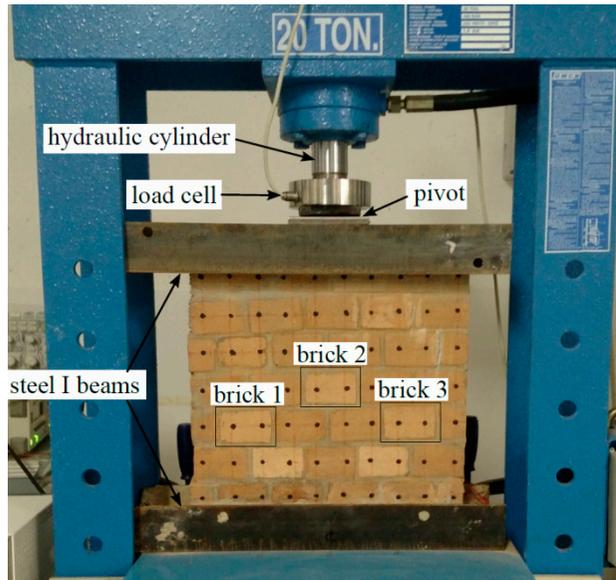
$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = -\lambda \epsilon_v = -\lambda(\epsilon_x + \epsilon_y + \epsilon_z)$$

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017





# Smart Bricks: experiment on a laboratory wall

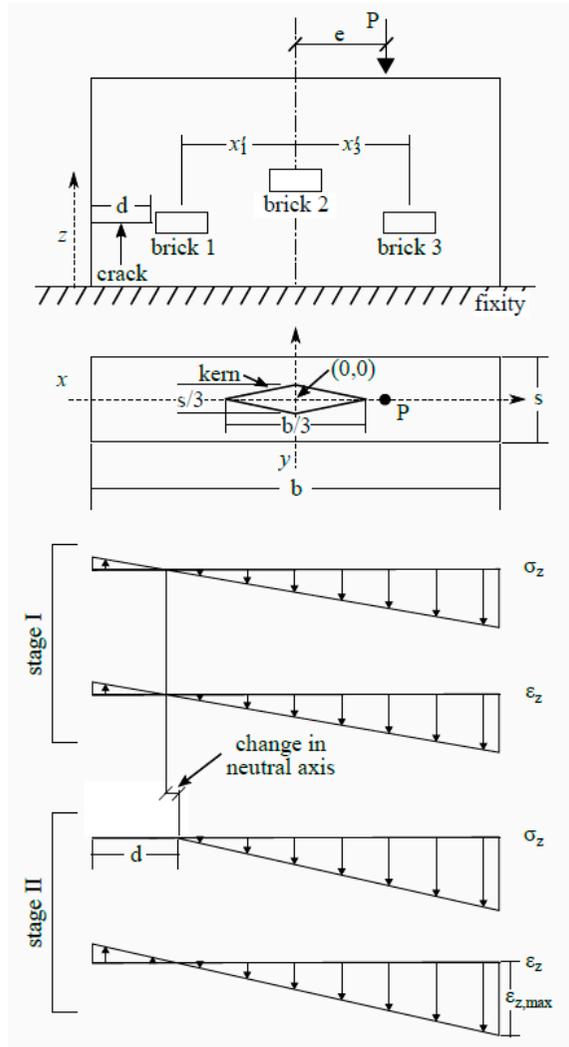


November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017





# Smart Bricks: experiment on a laboratory wall



Uncracked elastic stage

$$\varepsilon_z(x) = \frac{P}{EA} + \frac{Pe}{EI}x$$

$$\frac{\Delta R(x)}{R} = -\lambda(1 - 2\nu) \left( \frac{P}{EA} + \frac{Pe}{EI}x \right)$$

$$\overline{\Delta R}(x) = \frac{\Delta R(x)}{\Delta R(x)|_{e=0}} = 1 + \frac{eA}{I}x = 1 + \frac{12e}{b^2}x$$

Cracked elastic stage

$$\varepsilon_z(x) = \frac{\varepsilon_{z,max}}{b-d} \left( \frac{b}{2} - d + x \right)$$

$$\frac{\Delta R(x)}{R} = -\lambda(1 - 2\nu) \left( \frac{1}{E} \frac{2P}{(b-d)^2 s} \left( \frac{b}{2} - d + x \right) \right)$$

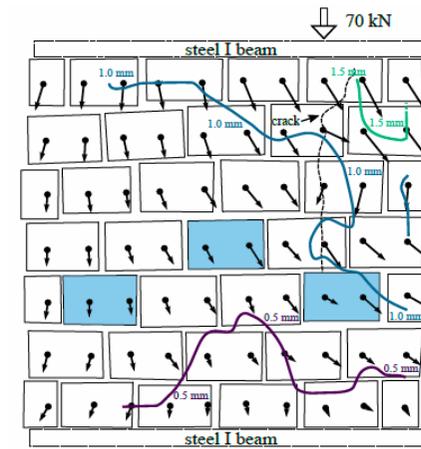
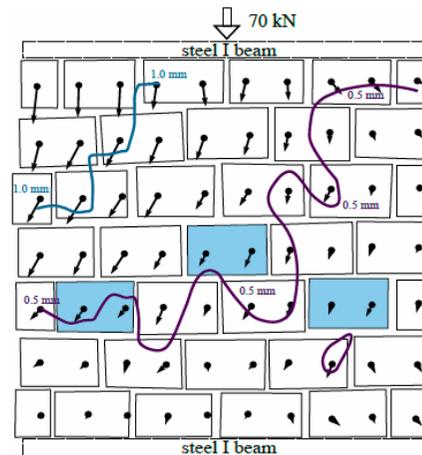
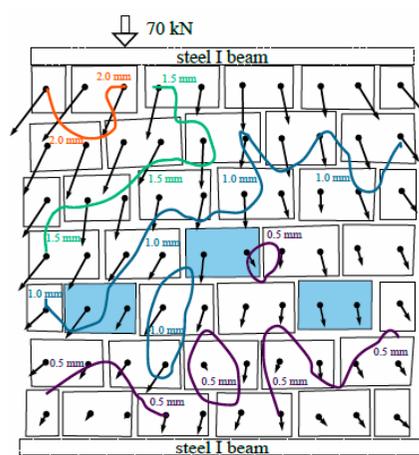
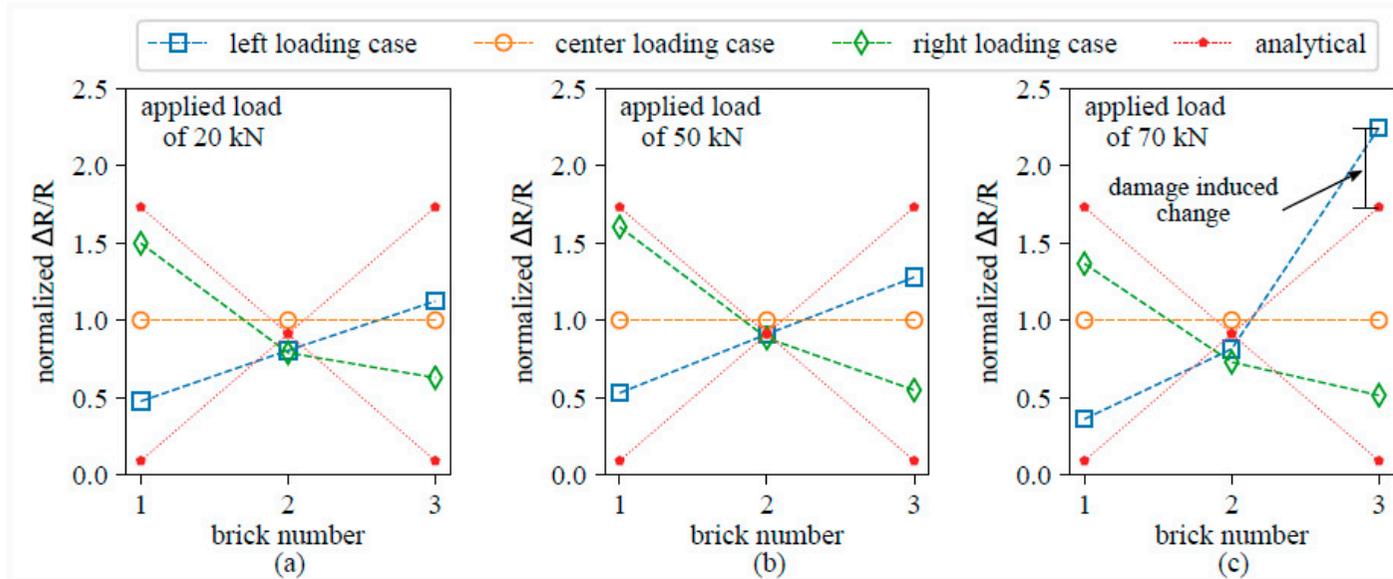
$$\overline{\Delta R}(x) = \frac{2b}{(b-d)^2} \left( \frac{b}{2} - d + x \right)$$

November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





# Smart Bricks: experiment on a laboratory wall



November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017



## Conclusions

- ❑ Embedded smart concrete sensors are a durable solution for strain monitoring in RC structures
- ❑ Micromechanics approaches and lumped circuit approaches represent effective modeling strategies for investigated smart materials and sensors
- ❑ Thanks to a new biphasic DC measurement method cracks can be detected in smart RC components through local changes in electrical properties
- ❑ Smart bricks allow strain monitoring and damage detection in masonry structures
- ❑ Smart concretes and smart bricks can potentially improve the current state of development of SHM technologies by overcoming some of the main limitations that impede their large-scale deployment to civil engineering structures

November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI PERUGIA

## Acknowledgements

PRIN

SMARTERICK

This work was supported by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) through the funded Project of Relevant National Interest "SMART- BRICK: Novel strain-sensing nanocomposite clay brick enabling self-monitoring masonry structures" (protocol no. 2015MS5L27).



November  
15<sup>th</sup> 2017





UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI PERUGIA

Thank you for your attention!  
[filippo.ubertini@unipg.it](mailto:filippo.ubertini@unipg.it)

