

**The Asphalt Pavement Alliance Presents:**  
 A Five-Part Webinar Series On Mechanistic Empirical Pavement Design Guide (MEPDG) Implementation Specific to Asphalt Pavements

- Part 1: Pavement Design, Where We've Come From and What We're Trying to Accomplish
- Part 2: Local Calibration
- Part 3: Individual Distress Models
- Part 4: Major Inputs – Where Do They Come From & How Do We Get Them?
- Part 5: Moving Beyond Data Input (Advanced)

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**The Asphalt Pavement Alliance Presents:**  
 A Five-Part Webinar Series On Mechanistic Empirical Pavement Design Guide (MEPDG) Implementation Specific to Asphalt Pavements

- **Today's Webinar: Part-3**  
The Individual Distress Models
- **Speaker:**  
Kevin Hall, PhD., P.E.  
Professor and Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas
- **Moderator:**  
Mike Kvach, APA

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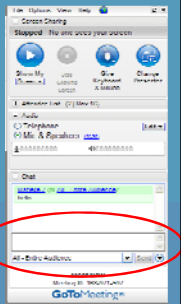
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**Webinar Protocol:**

- **Audio Quality**
  - All attendees have been muted upon joining.
- **Questions & Answers**
  - Questions Box – Make sure to change the drop-down menu to "Organizer & Panelists Only"
- **Recorded Webinars**
  - [www.asphaltfacts.com/webinars/](http://www.asphaltfacts.com/webinars/)
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### Part 3: Individual Distress Models

•Speaker:  
Kevin Hall, Ph.D., P.E.  
Professor and Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas

•Panelist:  
David Newcomb, Ph.D., P.E.  
Senior Research Scientist with the Texas Transportation Institute

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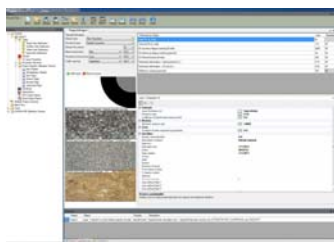
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### Flexible Pavement Performance Models in Pavement-ME™

Kevin D. Hall, Ph.D., P.E.  
Professor and Head, Dept. of Civil Engineering  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership Chair in Civil Engineering

Dave Newcomb, Ph.D., P.E.  
Senior Research Engineer  
TTI / Texas A&M University

Pavement-ME™ Webinar Series  
Presentation #3  
Asphalt Pavement Alliance  
September 9, 2013



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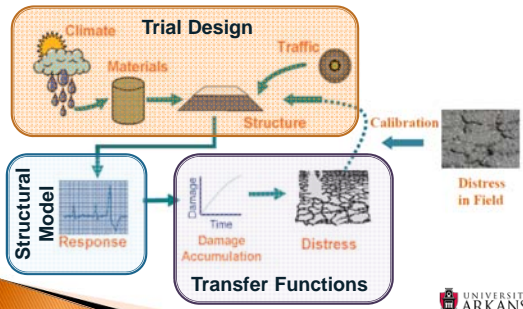
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### Pavement-ME™ = MEPDG?

Quick note about terms: "Pavement-ME" is the software package which contains the "Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide" (MEPDG). We will use the terms rather interchangeably...



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## Setting the Stage

- ▶ What we WILL discuss
  - Pavement response models and transfer functions
  - Applicability of the models
  - Sensitivity of performance predictions to model inputs
  - Implications
  - Reliability (time permitting)
- ▶ What we WILL NOT discuss
  - "Why" the model forms are what they are




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## Transfer Functions

*Example: 'Traditional' Asphalt Institute:*

Asphalt Fatigue

$$N_f = 0.0796 * (\epsilon_r)^{-3.291} E^{-0.854}$$

$\epsilon_r$  = tensile strain in AC

Rutting (subgrade)

$$N_f = 1.365 * 10^{-9} (\epsilon_z)^{-4.477}$$

$\epsilon_z$  = vertical strain in subgrade

$N_f$  = load applications to "failure"




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## Accumulated Damage Concept

- ▶ Extension of Miner's Hypothesis
  - Pavement 'damage' caused by each load is *proportional* to the predicted  $N_f$  (loads to failure)
  - Incremental damage(s) are *additive*

For Design: total accumulated damage < 1.0

$$\sum \frac{n}{N_f} < 1.0$$

*For each "n" applications of a load/axle configuration which causes a stress/strain related to  $N_f$  cycles to failure...*




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### Sensitivity


‣ Key Question: what factors influence the performance prediction?

i.e.

HMA thickness ↓ = Alligator Cracking ↑

Binder Content ↑ = Rutting ↑

One-at-a-Time (OAT)  
"Local" Analysis



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### Sensitivity: interdependencies

i.e.

HMA thickness ↓

Binder Content ↑

Gradation Change ↑


Alligator Cracking

Rutting

IRI

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GLOBAL Sensitivity Analysis (GSA)



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### Sensitivity: A Few Efforts...

- Lee and Hall, 2004
- Kim, Ceylan and Heitzman, 2005
- Graves and Mahboub, 2006
- Tran and Hall, 2007
- Buch et al. 2008
- Li, Pierce, Hallenbeck and Uhlmeier, 2009
- Sayyady et al. 2010
- Orobio, 2010
- Mallela, 2011
- Zapata and Salim, 2012
- NCHRP 1-47: Schwartz, et al

GLOBAL Sensitivity Analysis (GSA)



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Wheel Load Leads to

Repeated Tensile Strain → Fatigue Cracking / Pot Holes

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Wheel Load Leads to

Repeated Tensile / Shear Strains → Top-Down Cracking

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### MEPDG: Fatigue Cracking (general form)

$$N_f = 0.00432C\beta_{f1}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_t}\right)^{3.9492\beta_{f2}}\left(\frac{1}{E}\right)^{1.281\beta_{f3}}$$

$C = 10^M$   
 $M = 4.84\left(\frac{V_b}{V_a + V_b} - 0.69\right)$

- $\epsilon_t$  = tensile strain at the critical location
- $E$  = stiffness of the material
- $C$  = laboratory to field adjustment factor
- $V_b$  = effective binder content (%)
- $V_a$  = air voids (%)
- $\beta_{fi}$  = Calibration coefficients

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### MEPDG: Fatigue Damage and Transfer Functions

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{n_i}{N_i}$$

$$F.C.bottom\_up = \left( \frac{6000}{1 + e^{(C_1 * C_1 + C_2 * C_2 * \log_{10}(D * 100))}} \right) * \left( \frac{1}{60} \right)$$

$C_1 = 1.0$   
 $C_2 = 1.0$   
 $C_2' = -2.40874 - 39.748 * (1 + h_{ac})^{-2.856}$   
 $C_1' = -2 * C_2'$   
 $h_{ac} = \text{AC thickness}$




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### MEPDG: Fatigue Damage and Transfer Functions

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{n_i}{N_i}$$

$$F.C.top\_down = \left( \frac{1000}{1 + e^{(C_1 - C_2 * \log D)}} \right) * (10.56)$$

$D = \text{top-down damage,}$   
 $C_1 = 7,$   
 $C_2 = 3.5.$




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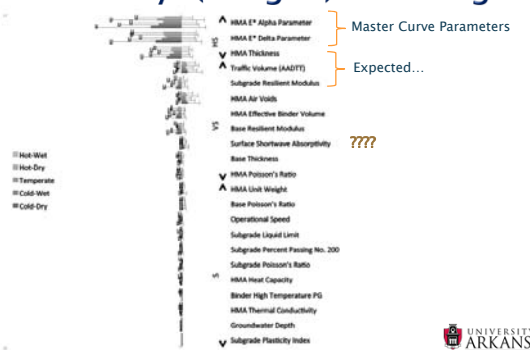
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### Sensitivity: (Fatigue) Cracking



- ▲ HMA Alpha Parameter } Master Curve Parameters
- ▲ HMA Delta Parameter } Master Curve Parameters
- ▲ HMA Thickness } Expected...
- ▲ Traffic Volume (AADT) } Expected...
- Subgrade Resilient Modulus } Expected...
- HMA Air Voids } Expected...
- HMA Effective Binder Volume } Expected...
- Base Resilient Modulus } Expected...
- Surface Shortwave Absorbability } ???
- Base Thickness } Expected...
- ▲ HMA Poisson's Ratio } Expected...
- ▲ HMA Link Weight } Expected...
- Base Poisson's Ratio } Expected...
- Operational Speed } Expected...
- Subgrade Liquid Limit } Expected...
- Subgrade Percent Passing No. 200 } Expected...
- Subgrade Poisson's Ratio } Expected...
- ▲ HMA Heat Capacity } Expected...
- Binder High Temperature PG } Expected...
- HMA Thermal Conductivity } Expected...
- Groundwater Depth } Expected...
- ▼ Subgrade Plasticity Index } Expected...




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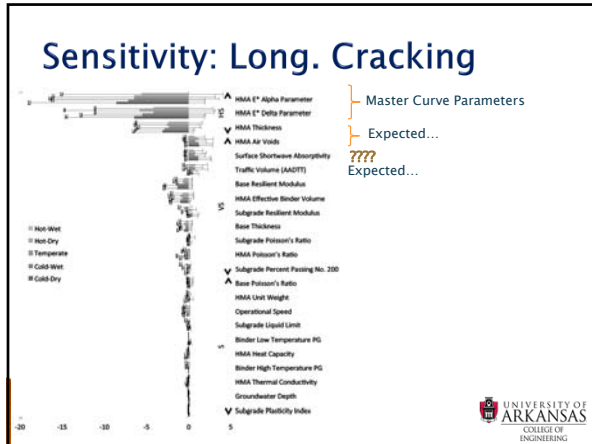
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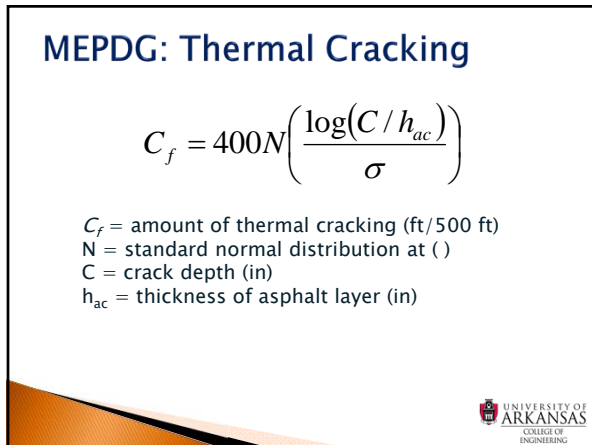
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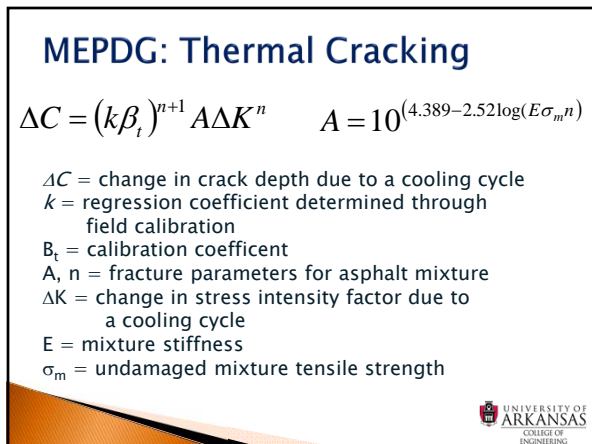
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## Sensitivity: Thermal Cracking

*There is no prediction of thermal cracking when the appropriate binder grade is selected...*



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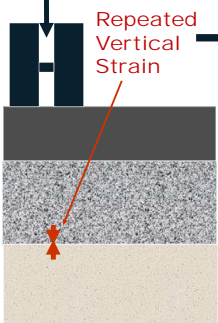
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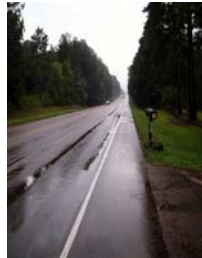
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Wheel Load

Leads to



→ Rutting



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## MEPDG: Rutting

$$RD = \sum_{i=1}^{n\text{sublayers}} \epsilon_p^i h^i$$

*RD = pavement total permanent deformation*

*i = number of sublayers*

*$\epsilon_p^i$  = total plastic strain in sublayer i*

*$h^i$  = thickness of sublayer i*



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### MEPDG: Rutting (AC)

$$\frac{\epsilon_p}{\epsilon_r} = k_z \beta_{r1} * 10^{-3.35412 T - 1.5606 \beta_{r2} N^{0.4791} \beta_{r3}}$$

$\epsilon_p$  = accumulated plastic strain  
 $\epsilon_r$  = resilient strain of HMA (function of loading time, mixture, temp)  
 $k_z$  = depth parameter (to account for confining pressure at various depths)  
 $T$  = Temperature (F)  
 $N$  = Number of load applications  
 $\beta_{r1}$  = Calibration Coefficients


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### MEPDG: Rutting (AC)

$$\frac{\epsilon_p}{\epsilon_r} = k_z \beta_{r1} * 10^{-3.35412 T - 1.5606 \beta_{r2} N^{0.4791} \beta_{r3}}$$

$k_z$  = depth parameter (to account for confining pressure at various depths)  
 $k_1 = (C_1 + C_2 * depth) * 0.328196^{depth}$   
 $C_1 = -0.1039 * h_{ac}^2 + 2.4868 * h_{ac} - 17.342$   
 $C_2 = 0.0172 * h_{ac}^2 - 1.7331 * h_{ac} + 27.428$   
 $h_{ac}$  = AC thickness




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### MEPDG: Rutting (Unbound)

$$\delta_a(N) = \beta_s k_1 \epsilon_v h \left( \frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon_r} \right) e^{\left( \frac{\rho}{N} \right)^\beta}$$

$\delta_a$  = permanent deformation for the layer/sublayer (in)  
 $N$  = number of traffic repetitions  
 $\epsilon_0, \rho, \beta$  = material properties  
 $\beta_s$  = calibration factor  
 $\epsilon_r$  = resilient strain from laboratory tests (in/in)  
 $\epsilon_v$  = average vertical resilient strain in the layer/sublayer as obtained from the primary response model (in/in)  
 $h$  = thickness of the layer/sublayer (in)  
 $k_1$  = material coefficient (granular: 2.03 fine: 1.35)




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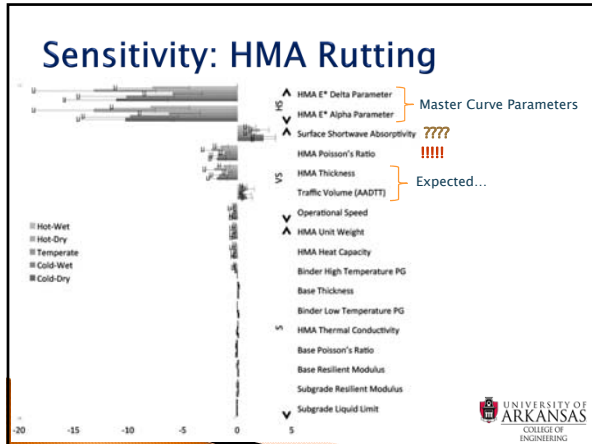
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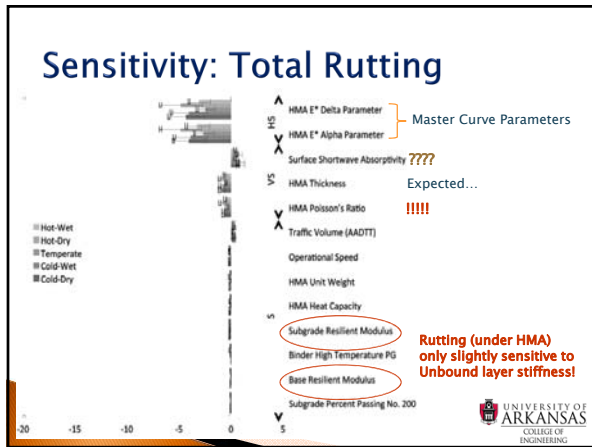
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### MEPDG: Ride Quality (IRI)

$$\begin{aligned}
 IRI = & IRI_0 + 0.0463 \left[ SF \left( e^{\frac{age}{20}} - 1 \right) \right] + 0.00119 (TC_L)_T + \\
 & + 0.1834 (COV_{RD}) + 0.00384 (FC)_T + \\
 & + 0.00736 (BC)_T + 0.00115 (LC_{SNWP})_{MH}
 \end{aligned}$$

IRI = IRI at any given time, m/km  
 IRI<sub>0</sub> = initial IRI, m/km  
 SF = site factor  
 COV<sub>RD</sub> = coefficient of variation of the rut depths  
 (TC<sub>L</sub>)<sub>T</sub> = total length of transverse cracking, m/km  
 (FC)<sub>T</sub> = fatigue cracking in wheel path, percent  
 (BC)<sub>T</sub> = area of block cracking as a percent of total lane area  
 (LC<sub>SNWP</sub>)<sub>MH</sub> = length of moderate and high severity sealed longitudinal cracks outside wheelpath, m/km

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### MEPDG: Ride Quality (IRI) (Asphalt-Treated Base)

$$IRI = IRI_0 + 0.0099947 (Age) + 0.0005183 (FI) + 0.00235 (FC)_T + 18.36 \left[ \frac{1}{(TC_S)_H} \right] + 0.9694 (P)_H$$

$(TC_S)_H$  = average spacing of high severity transverse cracking, m  
 $(P)_H$  = average of high severity patches, percent of total lane area, %




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### MEPDG: Ride Quality (IRI) (Chemically-Treated Base)

$$IRI = IRI_0 + 0.00732 (FC)_T + 0.07647 (SD_{RD}) + 0.0001449 (TC_L)_T + 0.00842 (BC)_T + 0.002115 (LC_{NWP})_{MH}$$

$(LC_{NWP})_{MH}$  = medium and high severity sealed longitudinal cracking outside the wheel path, m/km  
 $SD_{RD}$  = standard deviation of the rut depth, mm




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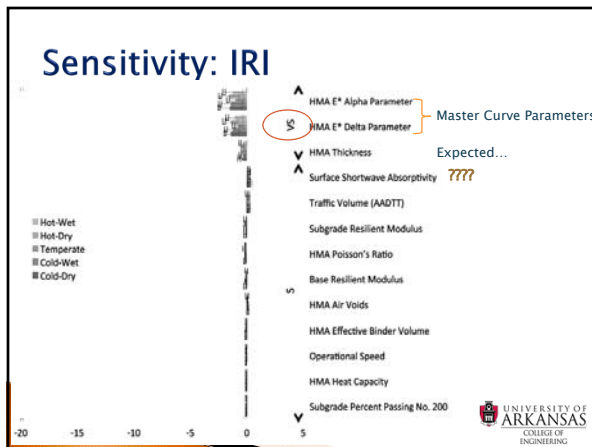
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## TO SUMMARIZE...



- ▶ Performance Prediction Models
  - Bottom-up fatigue cracking, thermal cracking, rutting, IRI appear functional at this time
  - Top-down cracking, reflection cracking appear to be less functional at this time
- ▶ Hyper-sensitive or Very Sensitive for "most" (4 out of 5) distress predictions:
  - E\* alpha & E\* delta (*in other words...Dynamic Modulus*)
  - HMA thickness
  - Surface shortwave absorptivity
  - Poisson's ratio
- ▶ Very Sensitive for multiple distress predictions:
  - Air Voids
  - Effective Binder Volume
  - Traffic Volume




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## A Word About Design Reliability...




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## "Reliability" : Standard Deviations

- AC Rutting:  $0.24 * \text{Pow}(\text{RUT}, 0.8026) + 0.001$
- Thermal Cracking:  $0.3972 * \text{THERMAL} + 20.422$  (Level 3)
- Unbound Rutting (Granular):  $0.1477 * \text{Pow}(\text{BASERUT}, 0.6711) + 0.001$
- Unbound Rutting (Fine):  $0.1235 * \text{Pow}(\text{SUBRUT}, 0.5012) + 0.001$
- AC Top-Down Cracking:  $200 + 2300 / (1 + \exp(1.072 - 2.1654 \log(\text{TOP} + 0.0001)))$
- AC Bottom-Up Cracking:  $1.13 + 13 / (1 + \exp(7.57 - 15.5 \log(\text{BOT} + 0.0001)))$




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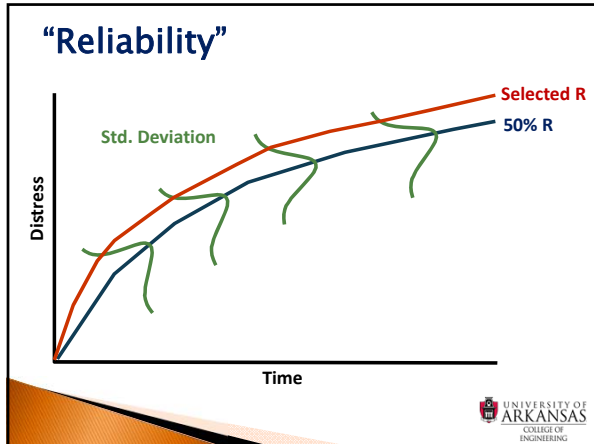
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## QUESTIONS?

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## Thank You!

Next Webinar: Wednesday, September 11th

Part 4: Major Inputs – Where Do They Come From & How Do We Get Them?

Register at: [www.asphaltfacts.com/webinars/](http://www.asphaltfacts.com/webinars/)

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