

Bentonite mechanical testing – constitutive and regression model fitting

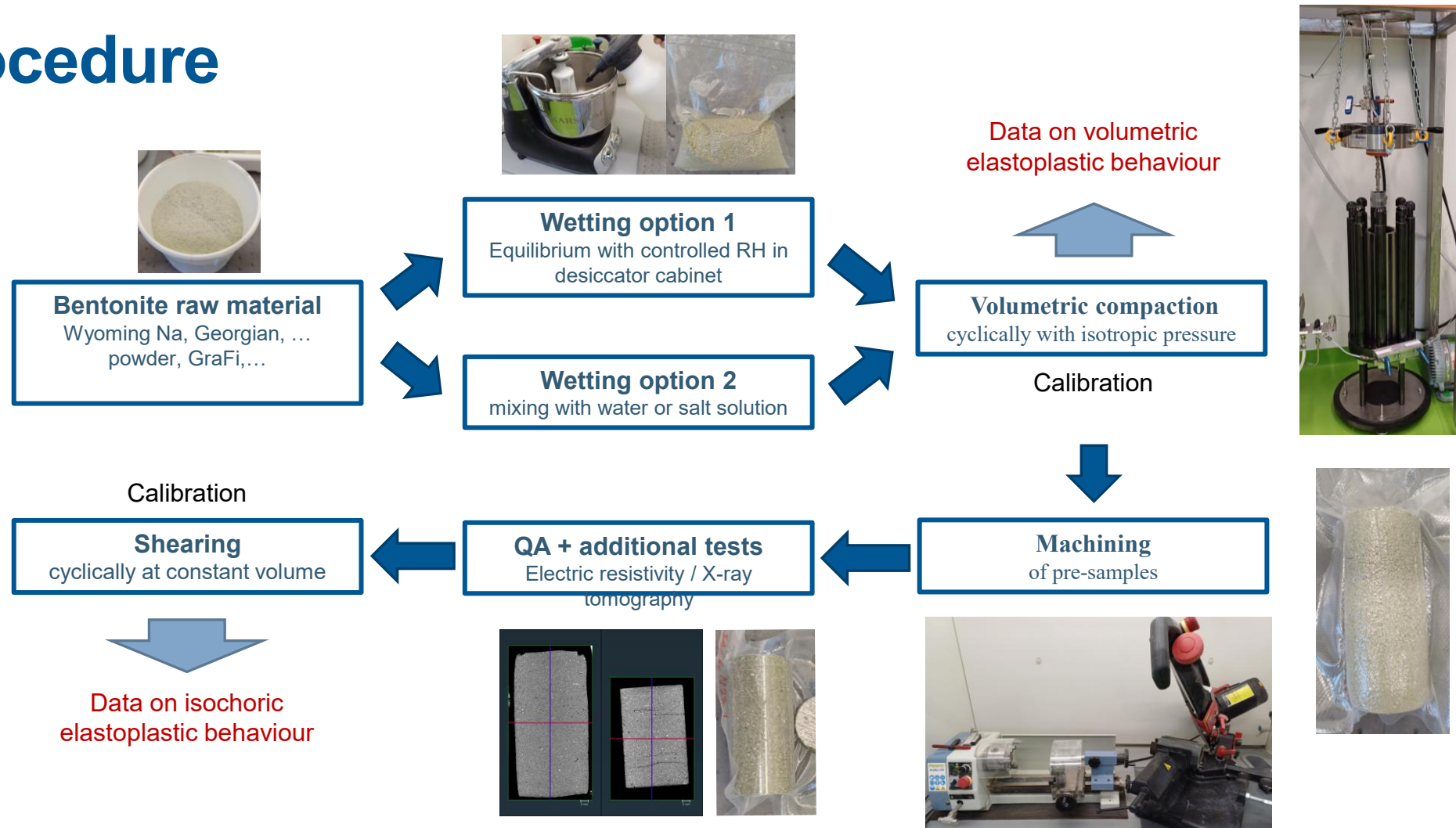
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SAGE BENTONITE SEMINAR 2025

Objective

- Provide experimental data for elastoplastic model fitting in various conditions and various bentonite types
- Fit elastoplastic constitutive models to the experimental data
- Fit experimentally based surrogate models to the constitutive model parameter data

Procedure



Design of Experiments

- Need to cover various conditions and bentonite types
 - Wyoming, Georgian and Bulgarian bentonite powders
 - 5 water contents
 - 3 dry densities
 - 3 wetting water salinities (constant Na/Ca ratio according to Posiva #2 reference water)
 - 5 triaxial test pressures
- Design of Experiments (DoE) statistical scheme
 - Maximal information from minimum number of samples
 - 31 samples in DoE

Bentonite type	Ben		Qualitative	Controlled	Wy; Ge; Bu
Water content	Kos	w%	Multilevel	Controlled	11; 14; 17; 20; 23
Dry density	Kui	g/cm ³	Multilevel	Controlled	1,4; 1,65; 1,8
Pressure component of stress	Jän	MPa	Multilevel	Controlled	0; 3; 6; 9; 12
Wetting water sodium	KasNa	mmol/l	Multilevel	Controlled	1,95; 110; 271
Wetting water calcium	KasCa		Quantitative	Uncontrolled	

A set of 31 samples in varying material/condition combinations

Exp No	B	Water %	ρ_{dry}	salt (mmol/l)	Init w %	ρ_{dry}	P (Mpa)	Exp No	B	Water %	ρ_{dry}	salt (mmol/l)	Init w %	ρ_{dry}	P (Mpa)	Exp No	B	Water %	ρ_{dry}	salt (mmol/l)	Init w %	ρ_{dry}	P (Mpa)
8	Na	11	1,40	1,95	11,48			1	GB	11	1,40	1,95	10,82			25	Ca	11	1,40	110	11,14		
13	Na	11	1,40	271	11,37			20	GB	11	1,40	271				12	Ca	11	1,65	1,95	11,19		
4	Na	11	1,80	1,95	10,95			10	GB	11	1,80	1,95	10,82			19	Ca	11	1,80	271	11,33		
22	Na	11	1,80	271	11,37			15	GB	11	1,80	271	10,86			27	Ca	14	1,40	110	14,20		
28	Na	20	1,65	110	19,70			29	GB	17	1,65	110	17,44			17	Ca	14	1,65	271	14,35		
3	Na	23	1,40	1,95	23,00			30	GB	17	1,65	110	17,44			6	Ca	14	1,80	1,95	14,26		
21	Na	23	1,40	271	23,05			31	GB	17	1,65	110	17,44			2	Ca	20	1,40	1,95	20,06		
11	Na	23	1,80	1,95	23,00			9	GB	23	1,40	1,95				23	Ca	20	1,80	271	20,10		
16	Na	23	1,80	271				14	GB	23	1,40	271	23,01			18	Ca	23	1,40	271	22,85		
								5	GB	23	1,80	1,95	23,18			7	Ca	23	1,65	1,95	23,38		
								24	GB	23	1,80	271	23,01			26	Ca	23	1,80	110	22,75		

Reality

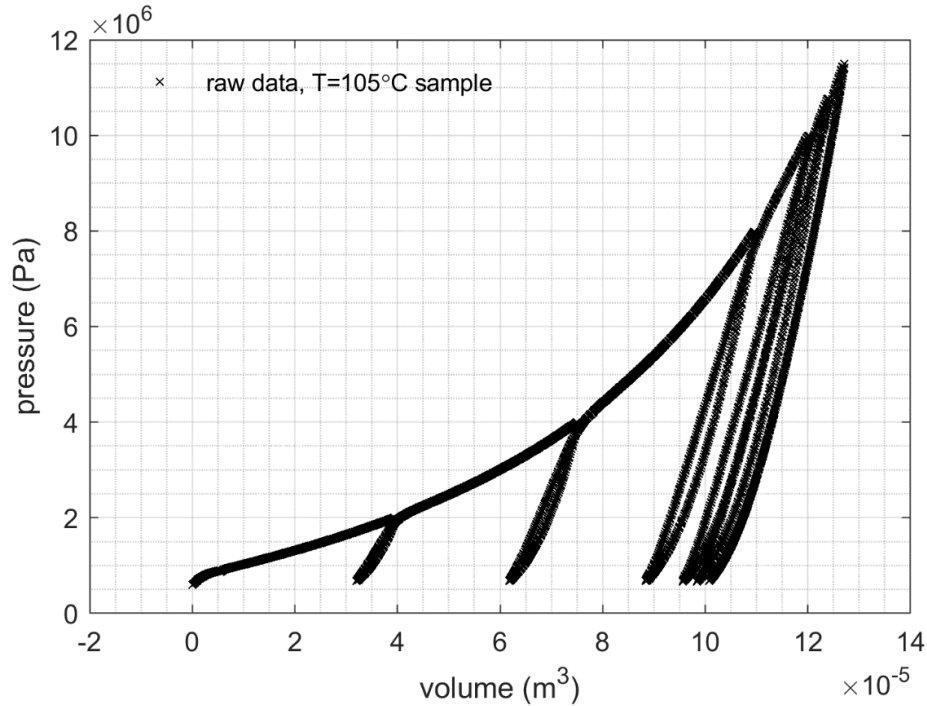
- Aim to produce samples for triaxial tests
 - Varying maximum compaction pressure
 - Difficult to compare data from different samples
- 31 samples in DoE
 - 48 compacted (+ test samples) volumetrically
 - Duplicates
 - Not all could be machined to triaxial shear test samples
 - Condition combination adjustment
 - Water content vs max dry density
 - Impossible combinations

Volumetric compaction device

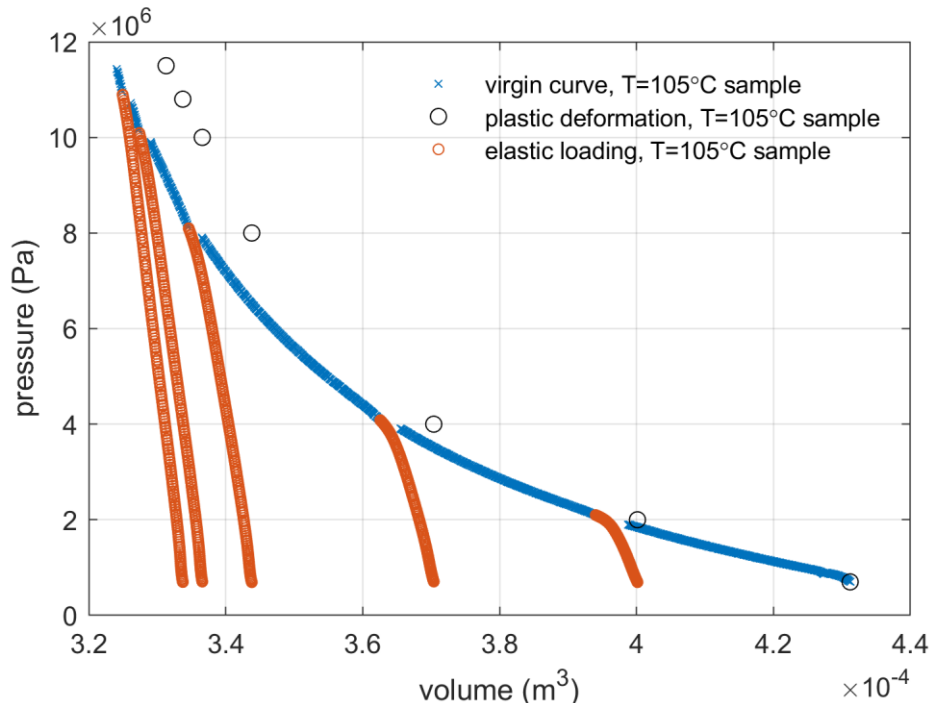
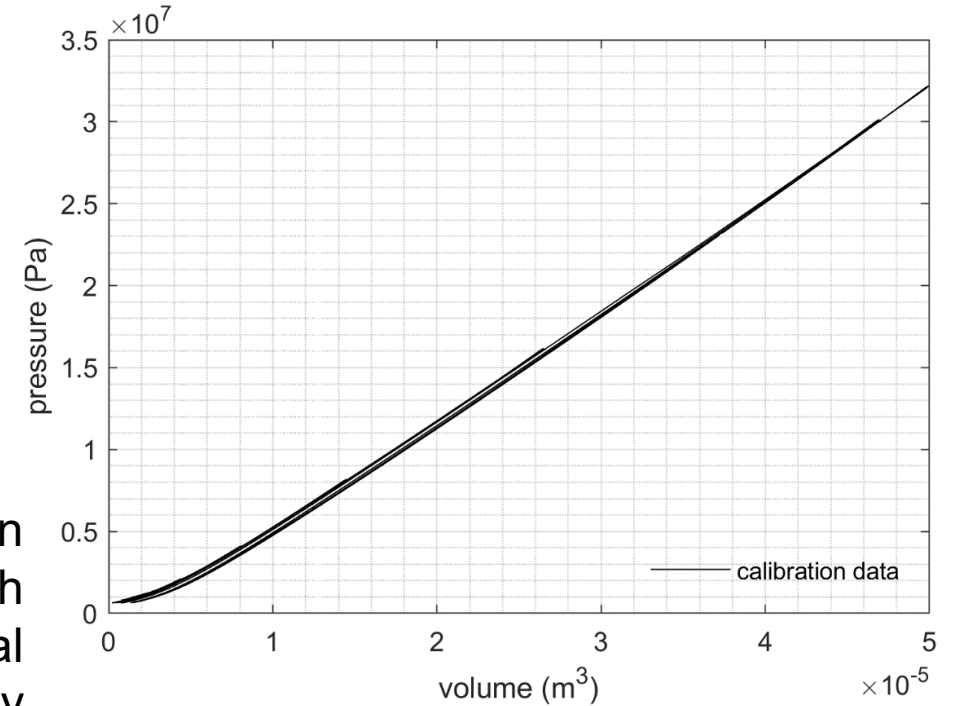


No	Equipment	Model	Total
1	Syringe Pump	Floxlabs BTSP 175-15	1
2	Water De-Aerator	GDS Nold DeAerator	1
3	Storage Tank	GDS Instruments	1
4	Pressure Vessel	Dustec Pressure Vessel 100MPa with quick lock	1
5	Vacuum Pump	Edwards XDS 10	1
6	Hose Pump	Verderflex EV1500	2
7	Electric Chain Hoist	Yale Vego 0,5t	1
8	High Pressure Valves	Parker Autoclave Engineers 1034Bar	4
9	High-Pressure Piping	Parker Autoclave Engineers 1034Bar	3m
10	Low-Pressure Valves	Various Models	9
11	Low-Pressure Piping	Verderflex Tubes	5m
12	Desktop Computer	HP Desktop Computer	1

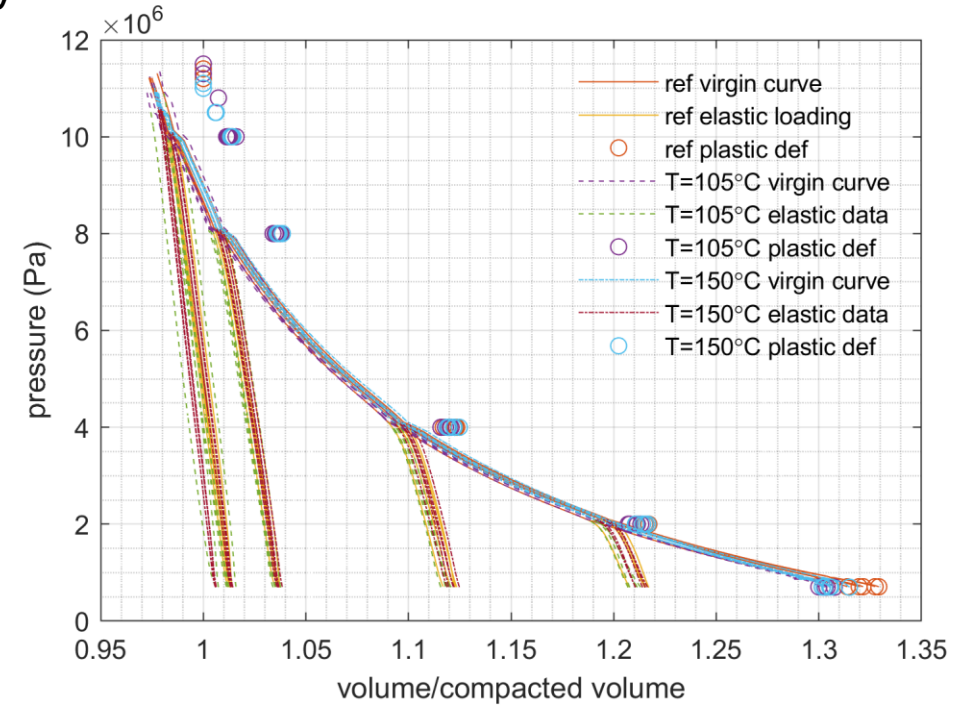
Calibration



calibration
with
PVC/metal
dummy



combined
data



Constitutive model fitting principles

- $p \rightarrow \infty$ when gas filled porosity $\rightarrow 0$

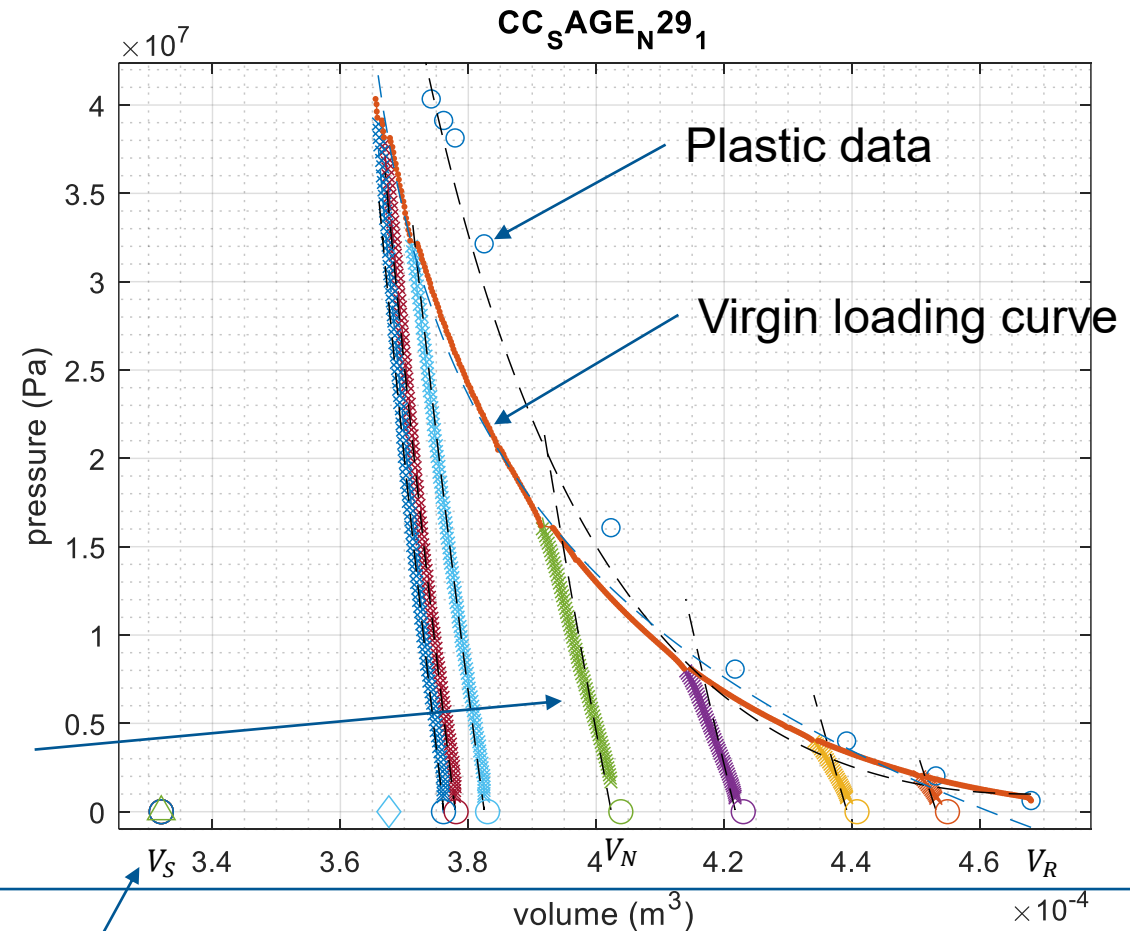
- Elastic model example

$$p = -\kappa \ln \left(\frac{V - V_s}{V_N - V_s} \right)$$

- Plastic model example

$$p_c = p_{c0} - \lambda \left(\ln \left(\frac{V_P - V_s}{V_R - V_s} \right) \right)^2$$

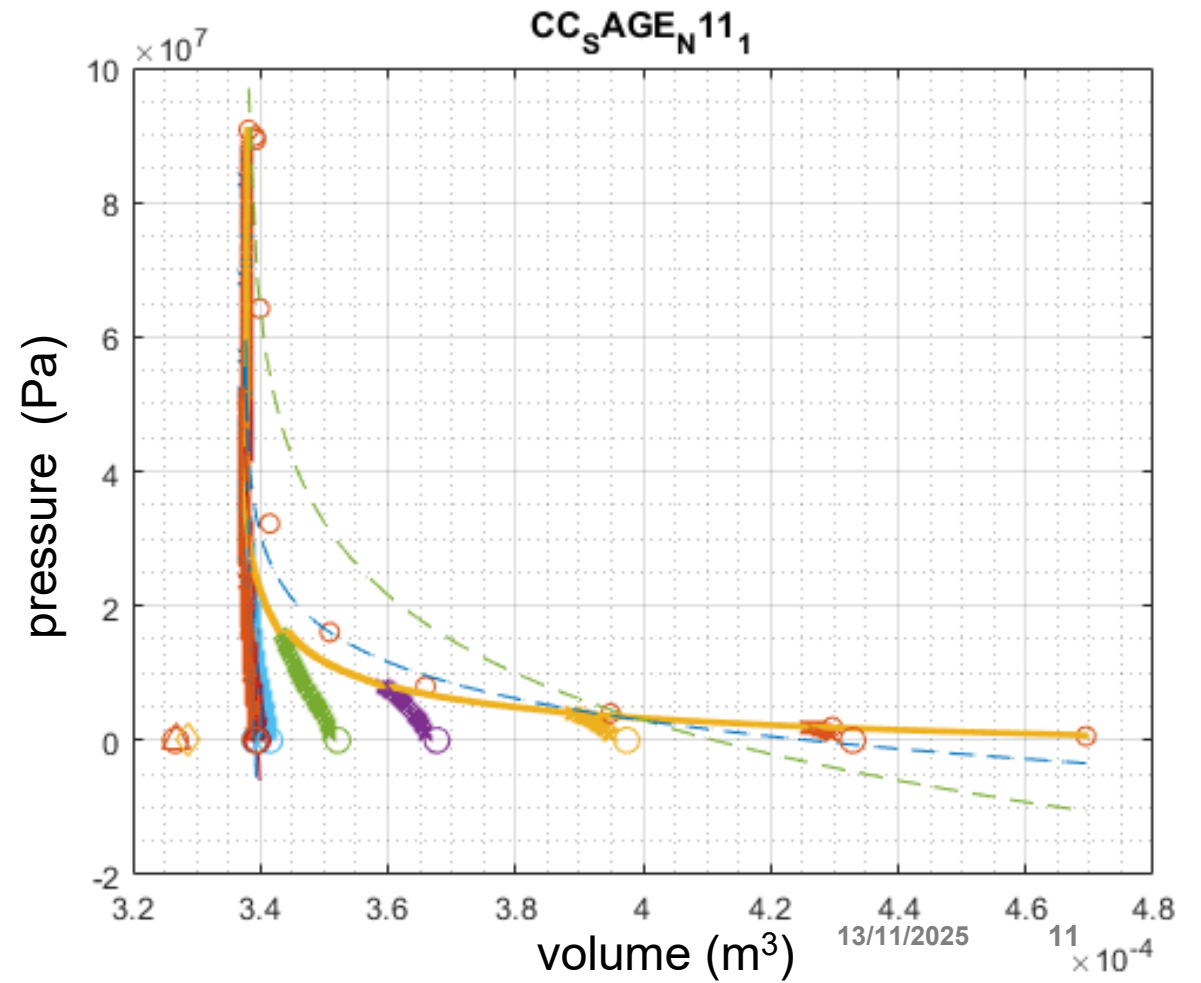
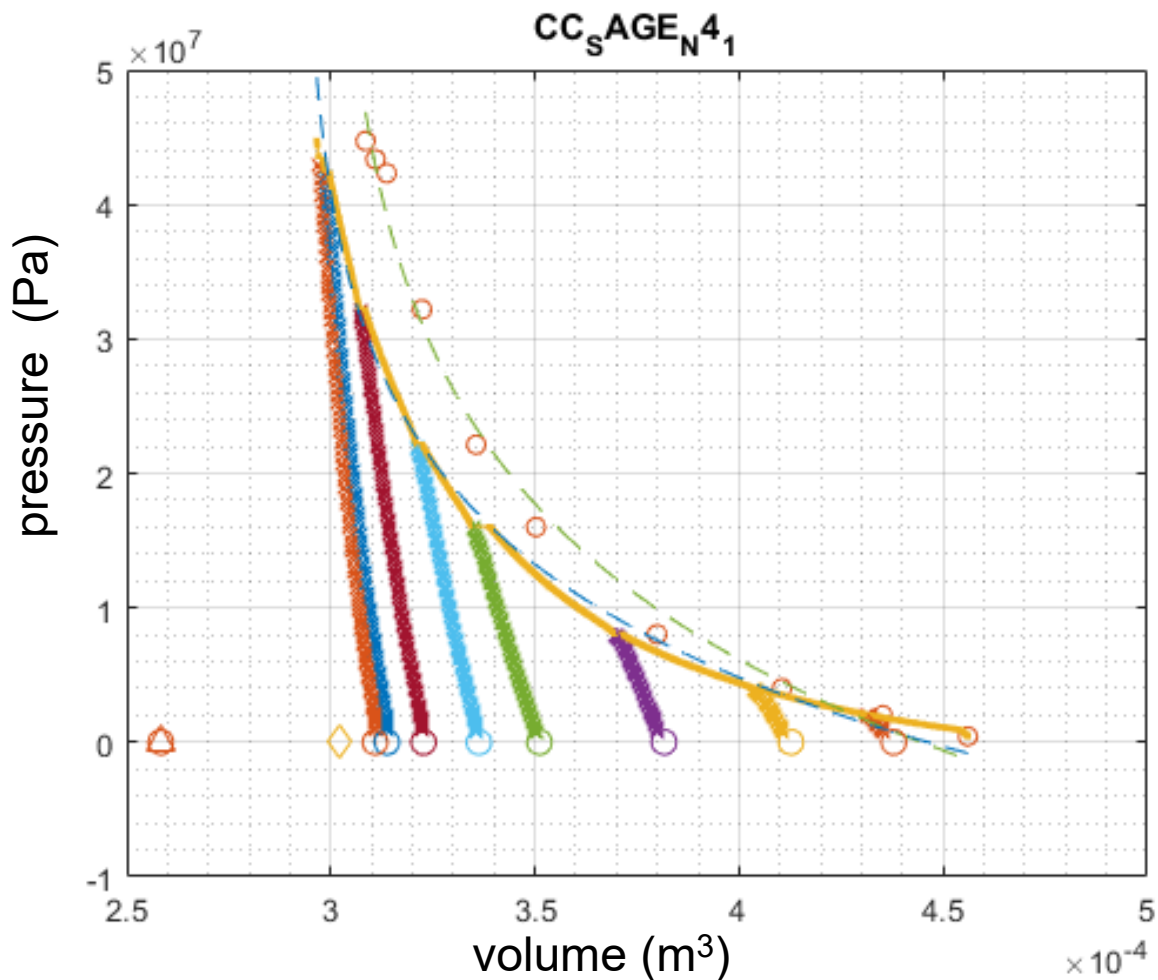
Elastic loading stage



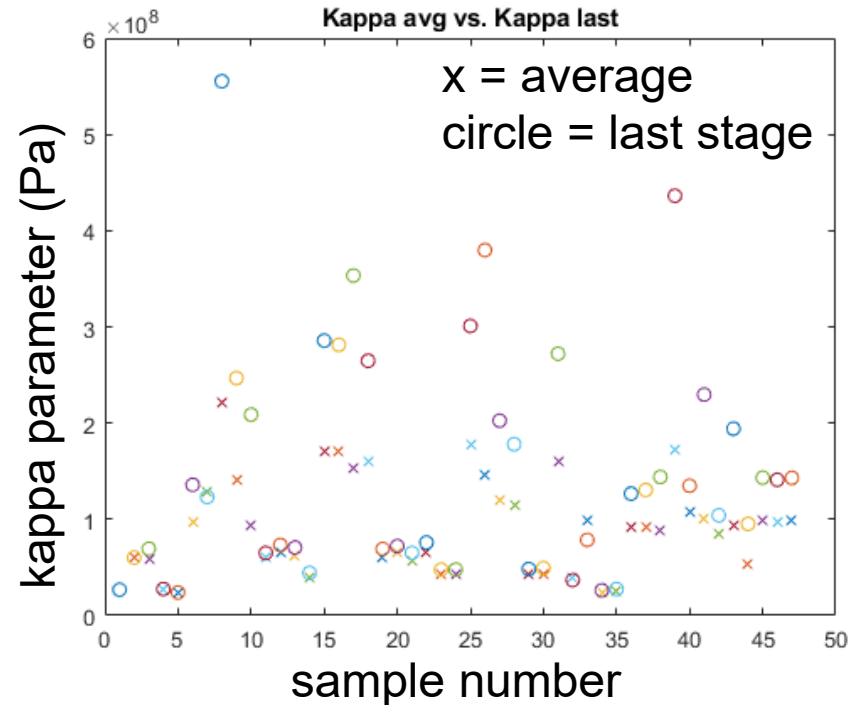
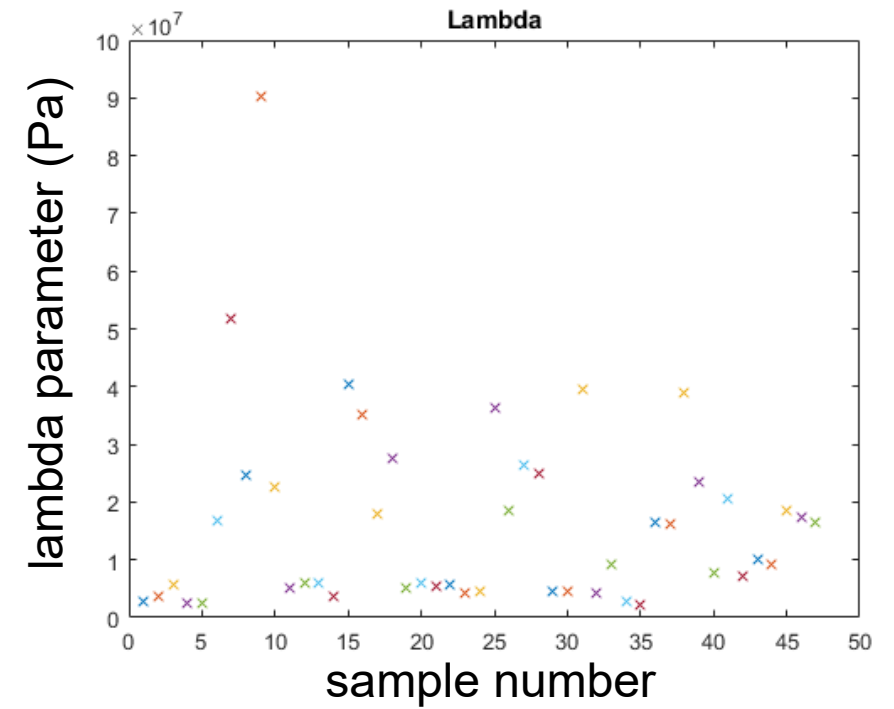
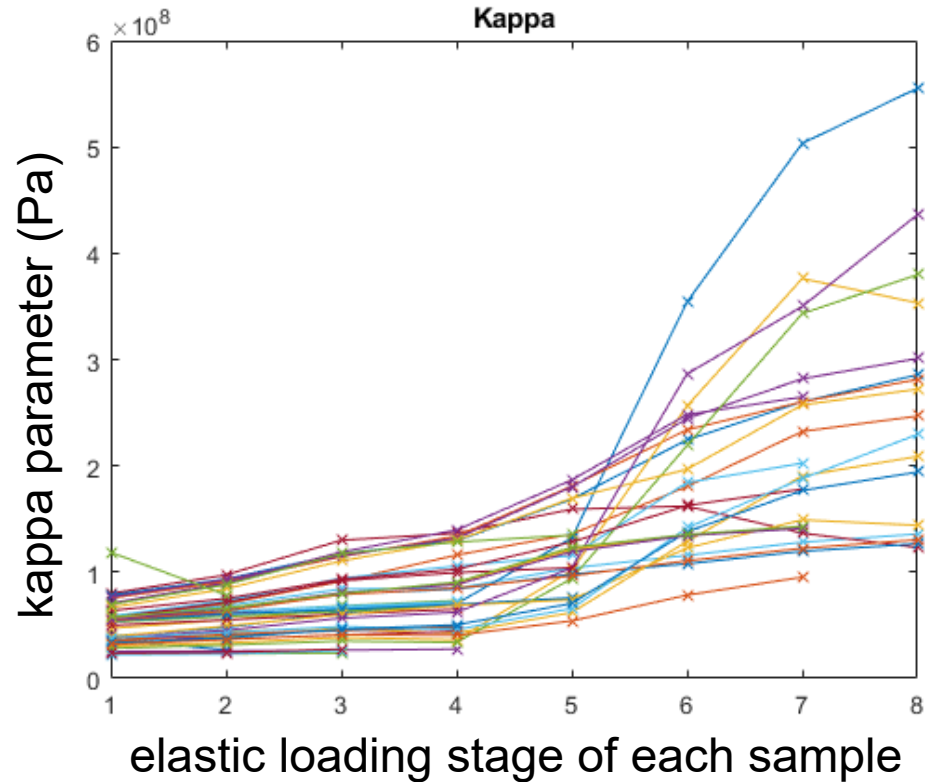
The first constitutive model fitting questions

- Measured Vs or fitted Vs? $V_s =$ when $p \rightarrow \infty$
 - If fitted,
 - better fit to all elastic loading stages but one more model parameter
→ measured
- Elastic model dependency of plastic deformation
 - Fit to each elastic loading stage separately or fit to all elastic loading stage data?

Fitting to each elastic loading stage: examples



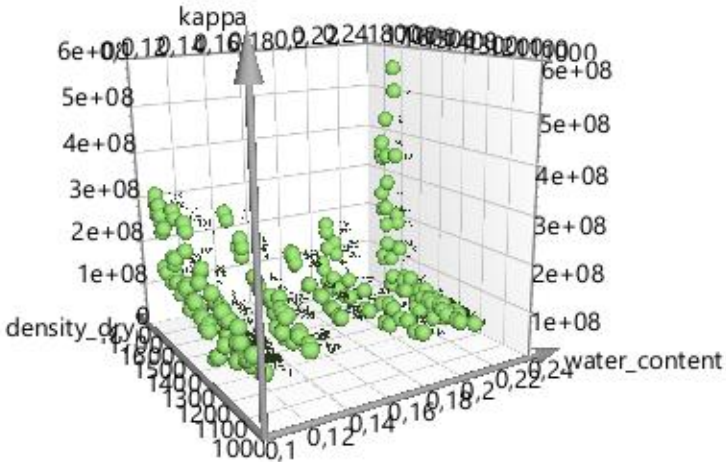
Fitting to each elastic loading stage: fit analysis



Fitting to each elastic loading stage: regression model results

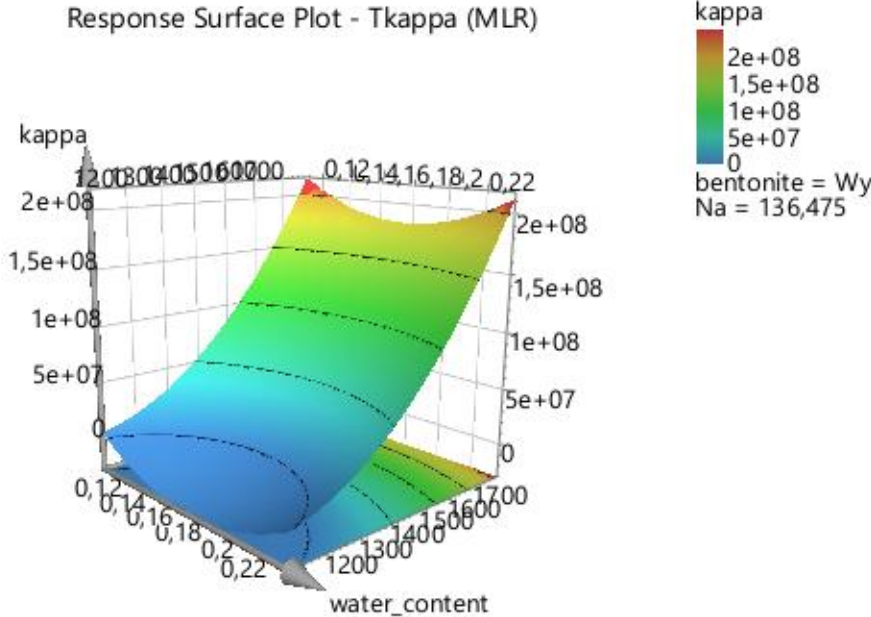
kappa	DF	SS	MS (variance)	F	p	SI
Total	267	4,8577e+18	1,81936e+16			
Constant	1	2,964e+18	2,964e+18			
Total corrected	266	1,89369e+18	7,11914e+15			8,4375e+07
Regression	8	9,03411e+17	1,12926e+17	29,4209	0,000	3,36045e+08
Residual	258	9,90282e+17	3,8383e+15			6,1954e+07
Lack of Fit (Model error)	120	6,894e+17	5,745e+15	2,63495	0,000	7,57958e+07
Pure error (Replicate error)	138	3,00882e+17	2,1803e+15			4,66937e+07
N = 267		Q2 = 0,443	Cond. no. = 8,048			
DF = 258		R2 = 0,477	RSD = 6,195e+07			
		R2 adj. = 0,461				

Worksheet Scatter 3D Plot - Tkappa



MODDE 13.1 - 5.11.2025 9.01.24 (UTC+2)

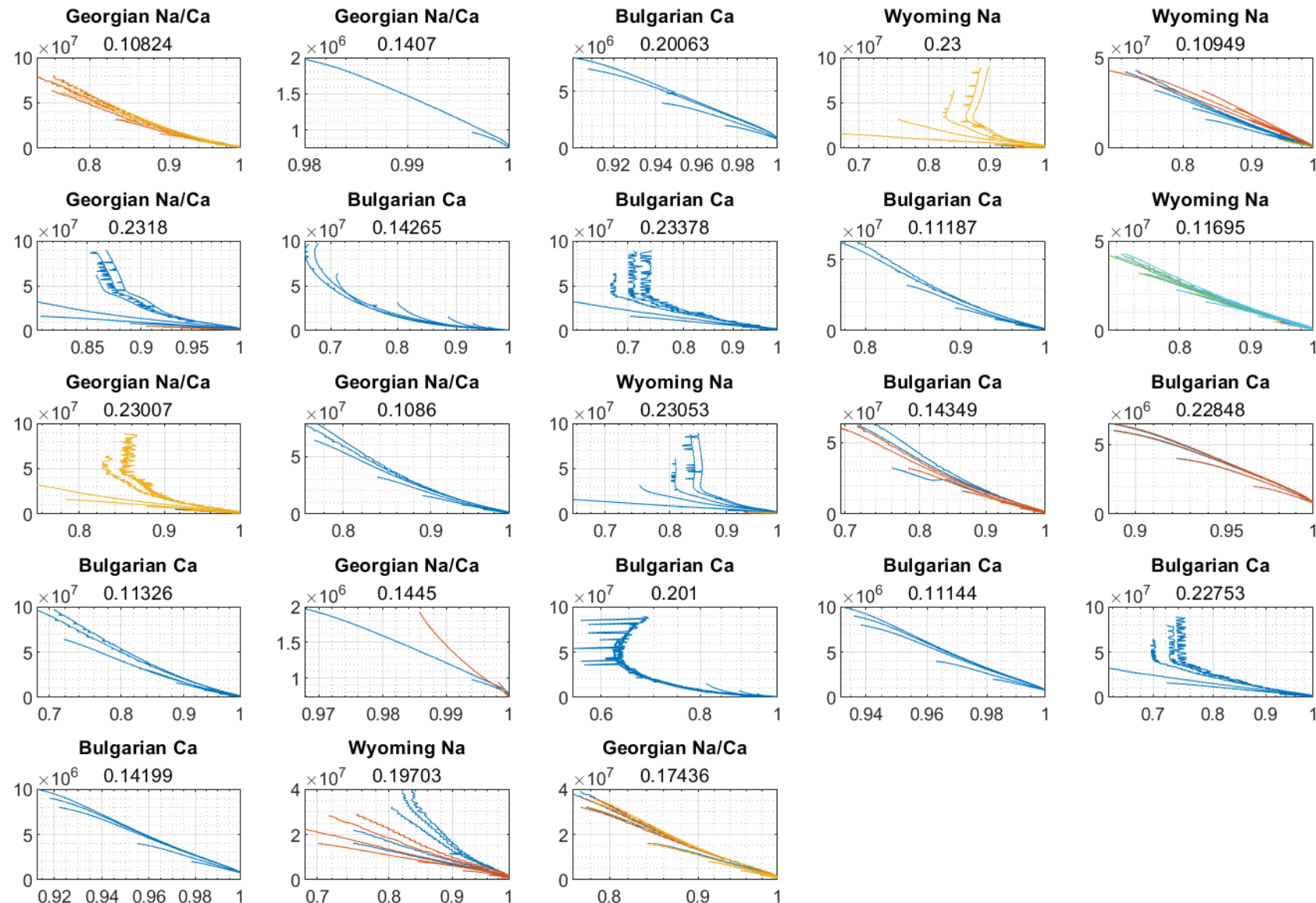
Response Surface Plot - Tkappa (MLR)



MODDE 13.1 - 4.11.2025 12.42.41 (UTC+2)

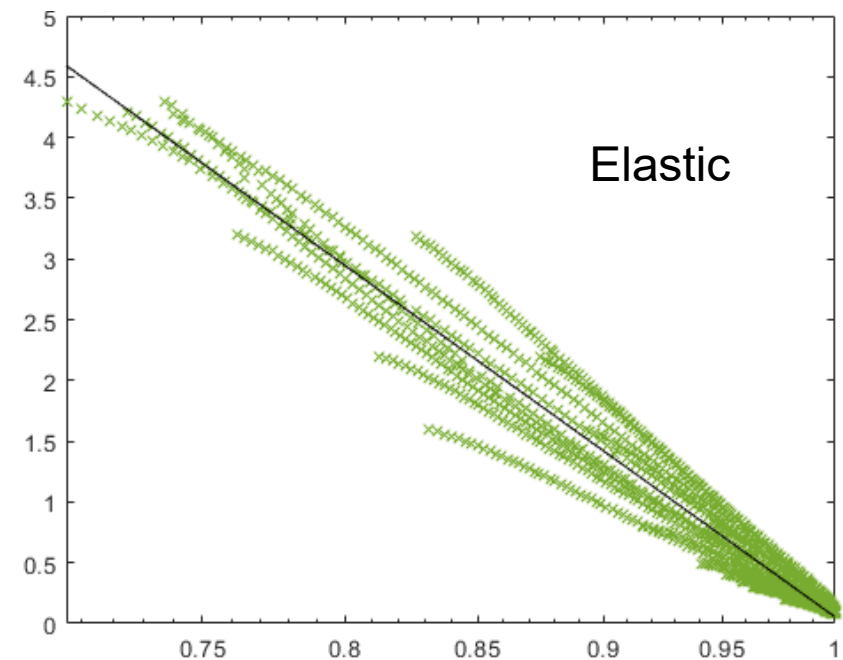
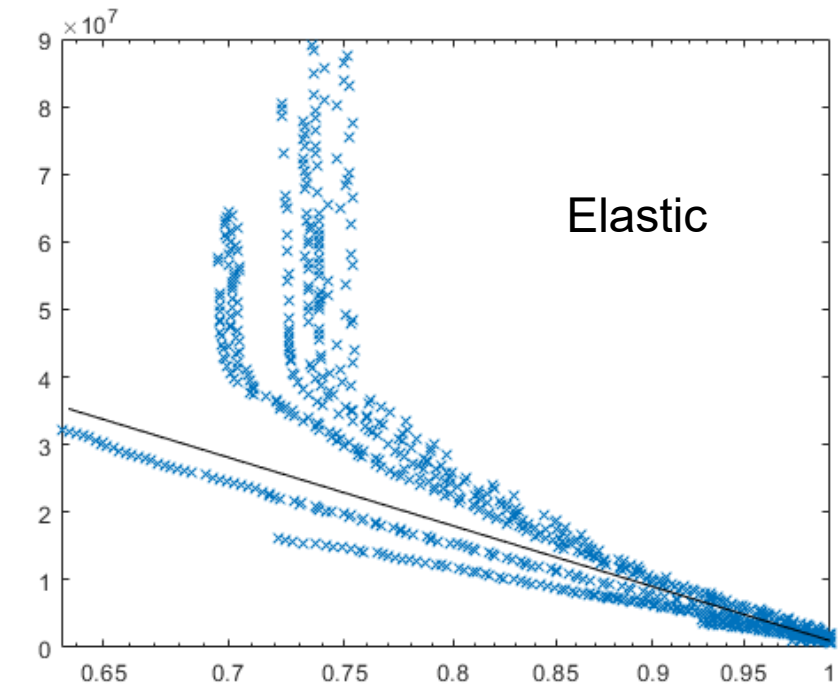
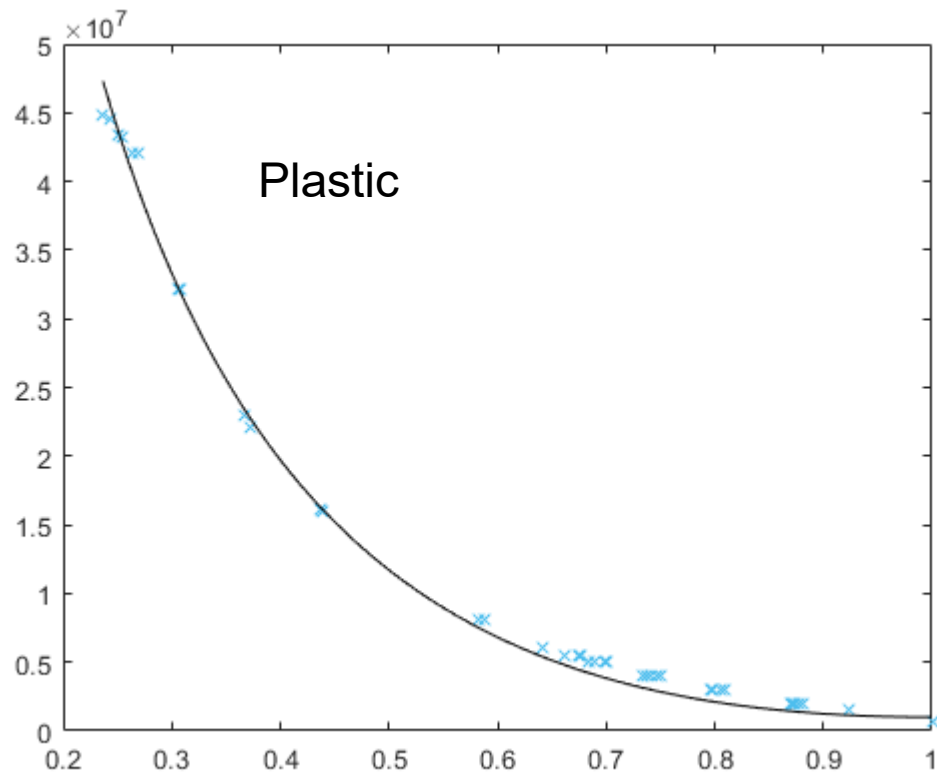
Data grouped
for each
bentonite
type, water
content and
salinity
combinations

y-axis = pressure



x-axis = relative gas fill pore volume change

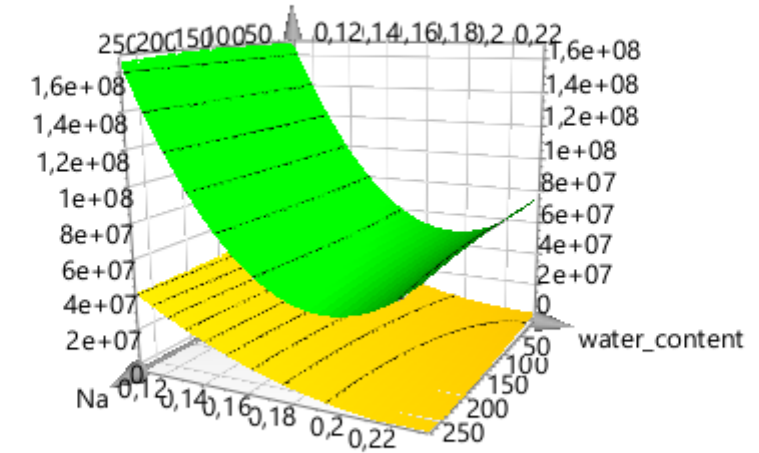
Fitting examples



Regression model fitting to grouped data

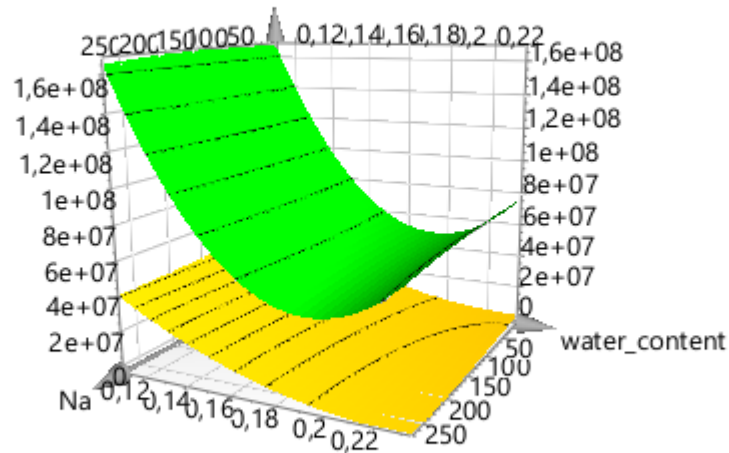
Response Surface Plot - TkappaTest2 (MLR)

kappas
lambdas
bentonite = Wy



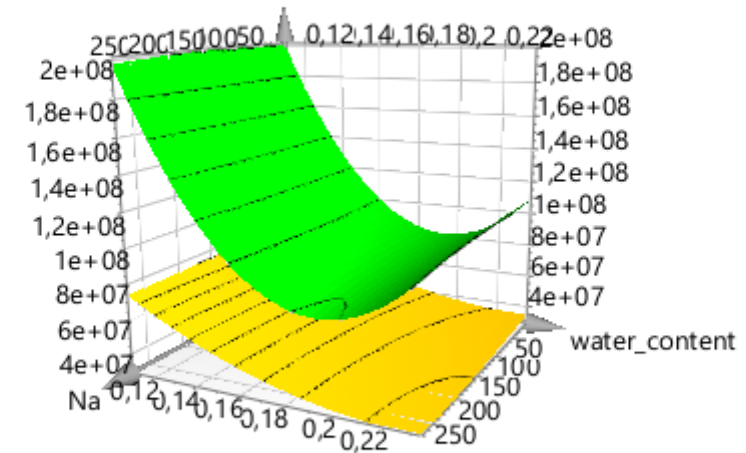
Response Surface Plot - TkappaTest2 (MLR)

kappas
lambdas
bentonite = Wy



Response Surface Plot - TkappaTest2 (MLR)

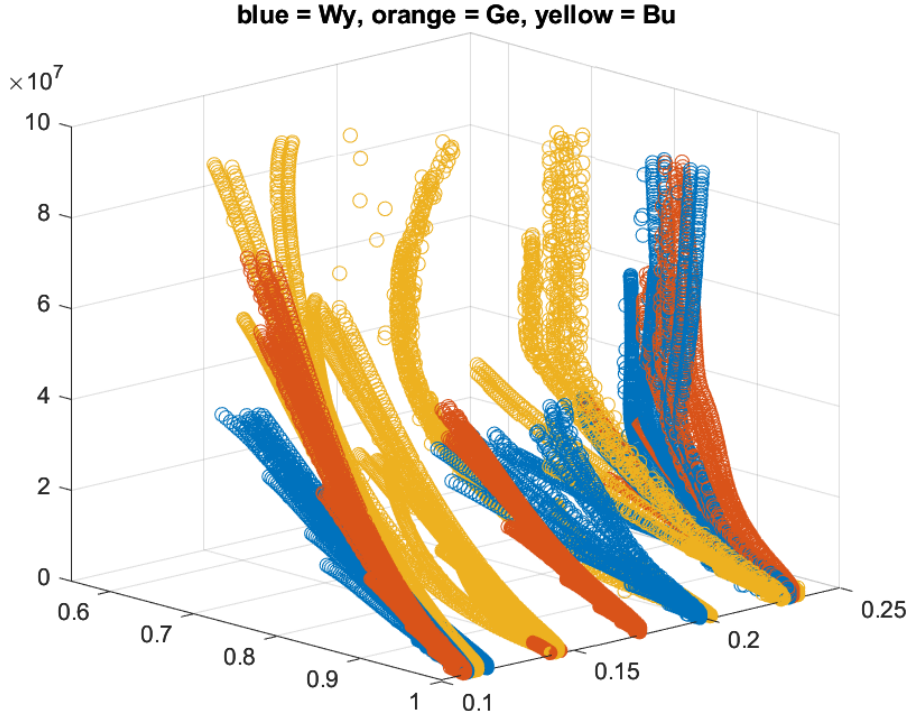
kappas
lambdas
bentonite = Ge UTC+2)



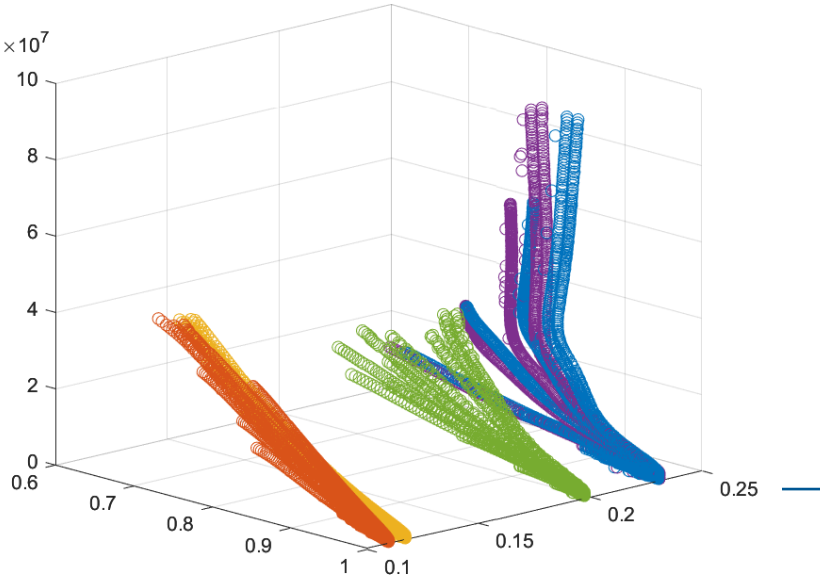
Regression model fitting to grouped data

- Something but not that good
- Wetting water salinity seems to have only small effect
- Next approach
 - Fit to (strainMeasure, waterContent) grouped data instead of polynomial multivariable regression model fitting to (strainMeasure, waterContent, bentoniteType, salinity) data
 - On-going

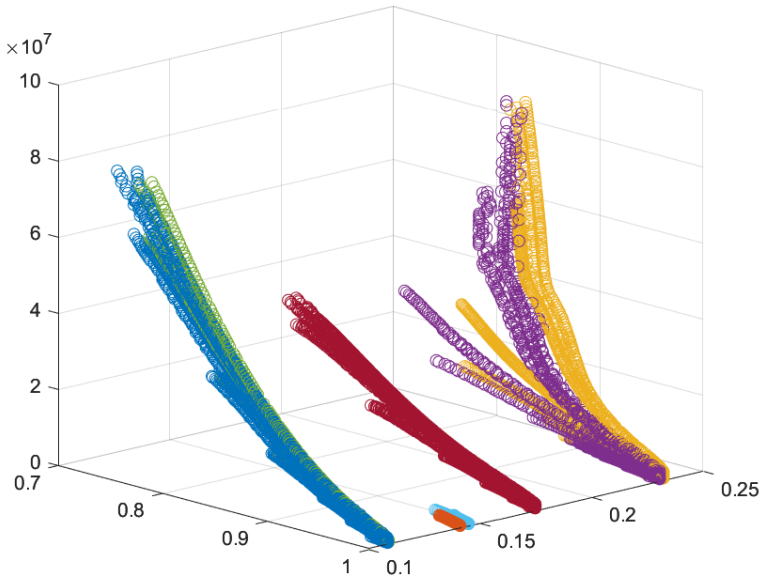
Elastic re-grouped data



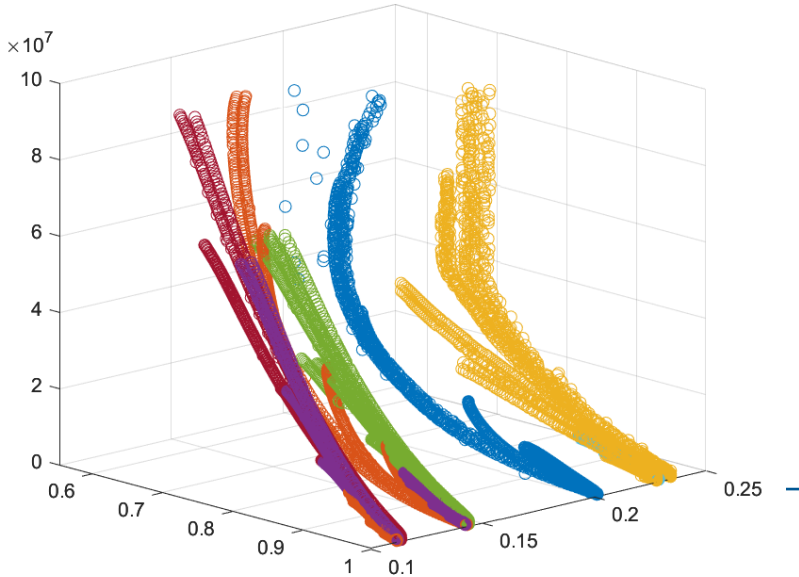
Wyoming bentonite



Georgian bentonite



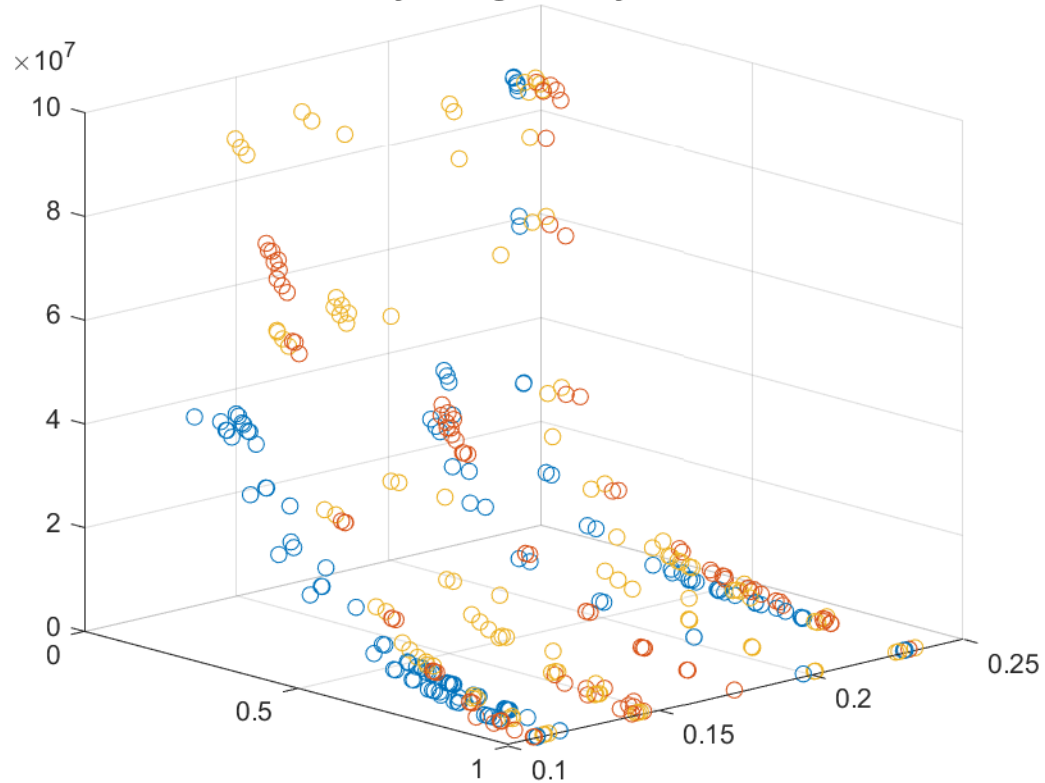
Bulgarian bentonite



Plastic and virgin loading re-grouped data

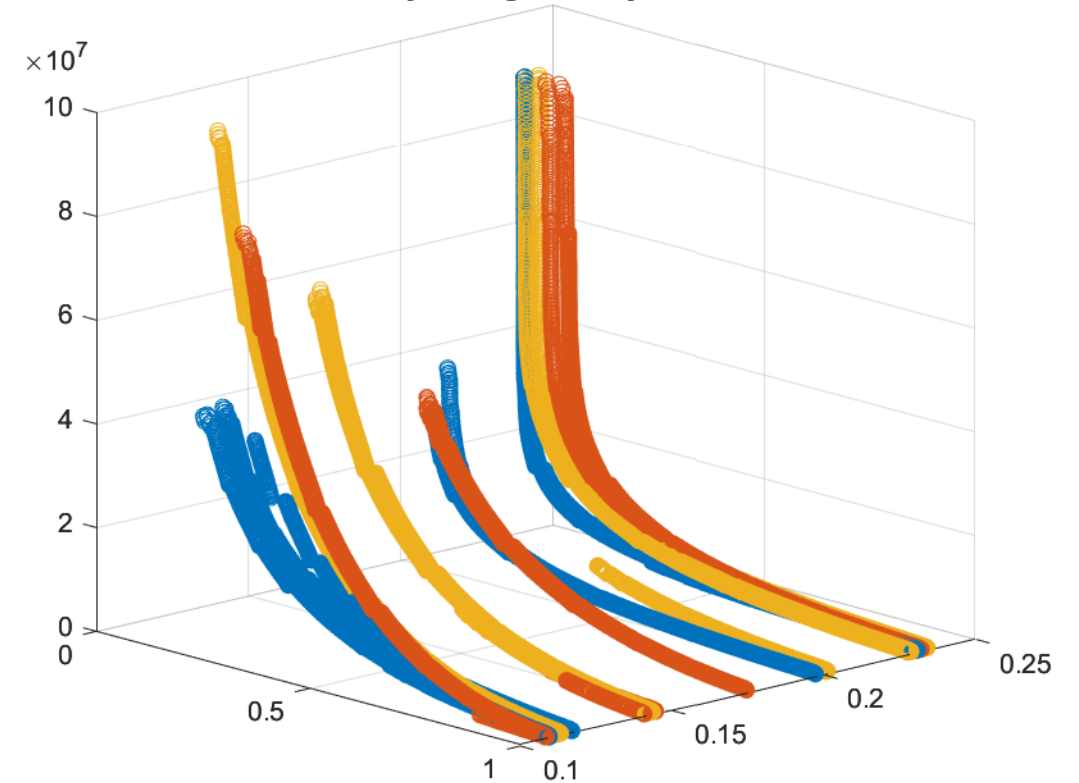
Plastic

blue = Wy, orange = Ge, yellow = Bu



Virgin loading

blue = Wy, orange = Ge, yellow = Bu



Summary

- Volumetric compaction of planned samples + extra ones performed
- Shear tests?
- Constitutive and regression modelling performed
 - Need to continue the work for better experimentally based surrogate models
 - New compacted samples would make the fit quality better
 - Possible to add data from other samples (e.g. SAGE RH controlled bentonites, EURAD HITEC non-heat treated bentonite data)
- It is not a good idea to have qualitative variable (bentonite type) in DoE for quantitative analysis

Thanks!