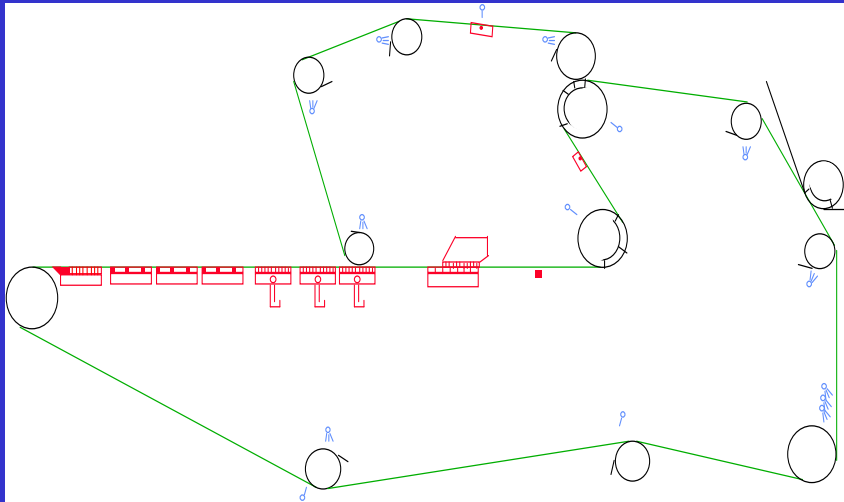


# Making Value from Different Pulp Qualities



**Celso Foelkel**

[www.celso-foelkel.com.br](http://www.celso-foelkel.com.br)

[www.eucalyptus.com.br](http://www.eucalyptus.com.br)

## In some countries and in some mills:

Cash costs are so low that may eventually allow some flexibility for quality improvements or differentiation in the final product...

Why ?

## Example 1:

Improvements on pulp softness via tensile reduction due to more severe cooking conditions to extract more hemicelluloses

This may lead to 2 situations:

1. Losses in daily production due to bottlenecks in pulpwood feeding to digesters, or in the recovery boiler area (**UNACCEPTABLE**, surely)
2. Higher consumption of wood, and increasing operational costs in the pulp mill ( for each 1% of pulp yield reduction, it means 2% on more wood, in tonnage )

## Example 1:

Improvements on pulp softness via tensile reduction due to more severe cooking conditions to extract more hemicelluloses

Decision surely depends on:

- Are there other valuable losses (transition pulp, operational disadvantages, etc)?
  - Is there available wood?
  - What is final cost increase?
  - Is there a premium price?
    - Is it sustainable?

## Example 2:

### Modifications in the fibrous raw material supply

- different wood species ( sorting and blending);
- single pulpwood quality material ( high density or low density; or just one species of Eucalyptus, example *E.globulus*)

## Example 2:

### Modifications in the fibrous raw material supply

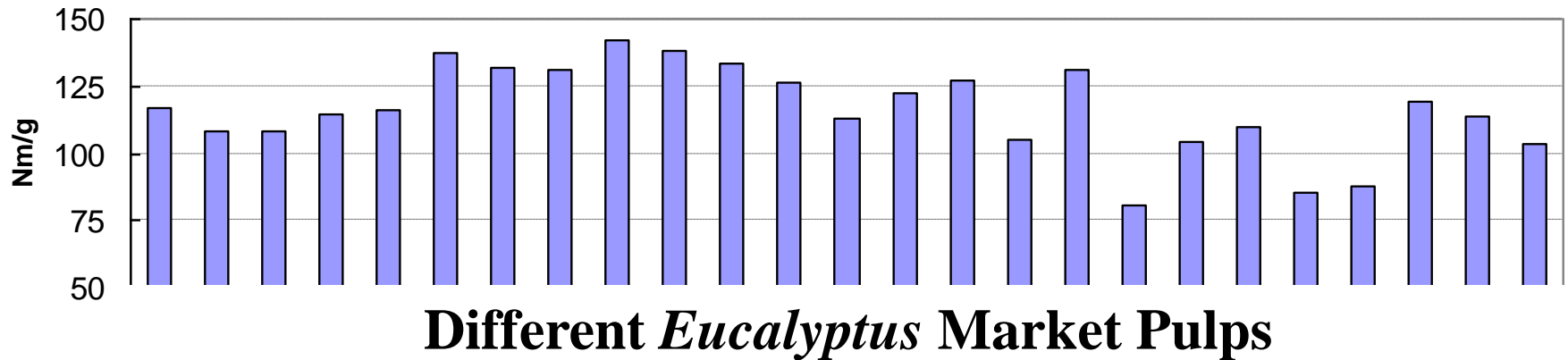
Decision surely depends on:

- At what new production costs?
  - Does it pay?
  - Is there a premium price?
    - Is it sustainable?

## Valuing variability:

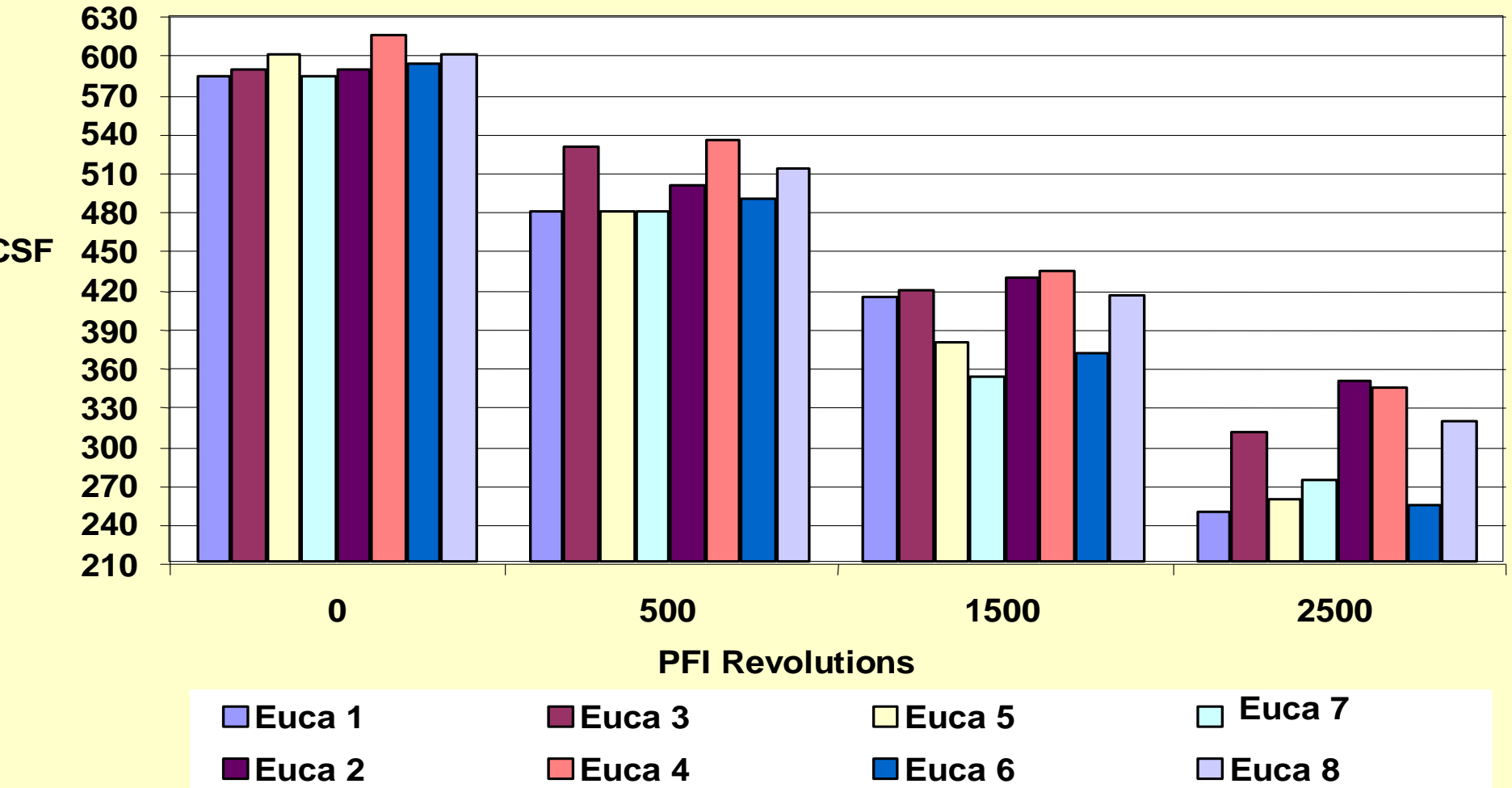


## Wet Zero Span - Fiber Intrinsic Strength

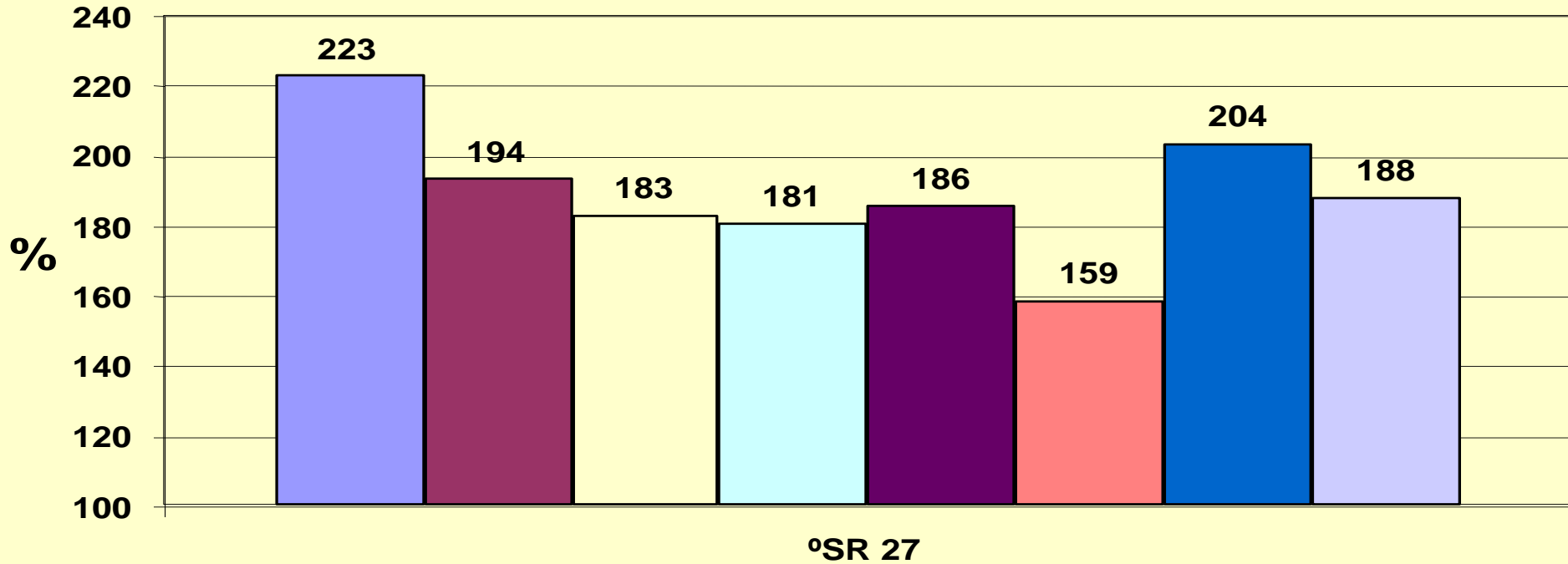




## Drainability - Freeness



## Water Retention Value



Euca 1

Euca 3

Euca 5

Euca 7

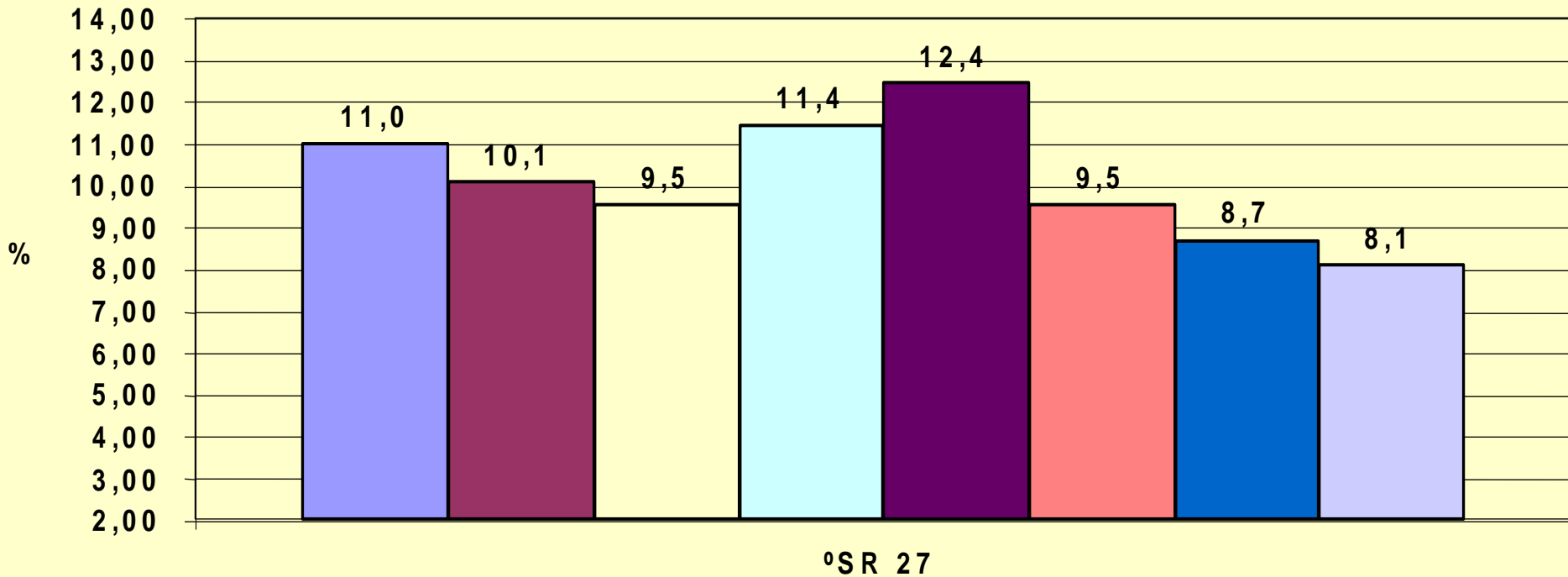
Euca 2

Euca 4

Euca 6

Euca 8

## Fines content (%)



Euca 1

Euca 3

Euca 5

Euca 7

Euca 2

Euca 4

Euca 6

Euca 8

In pulp making, when things are going wrong:

The cause is..... The WOOD

In paper making, when things are going wrong:

The cause is..... The PULP

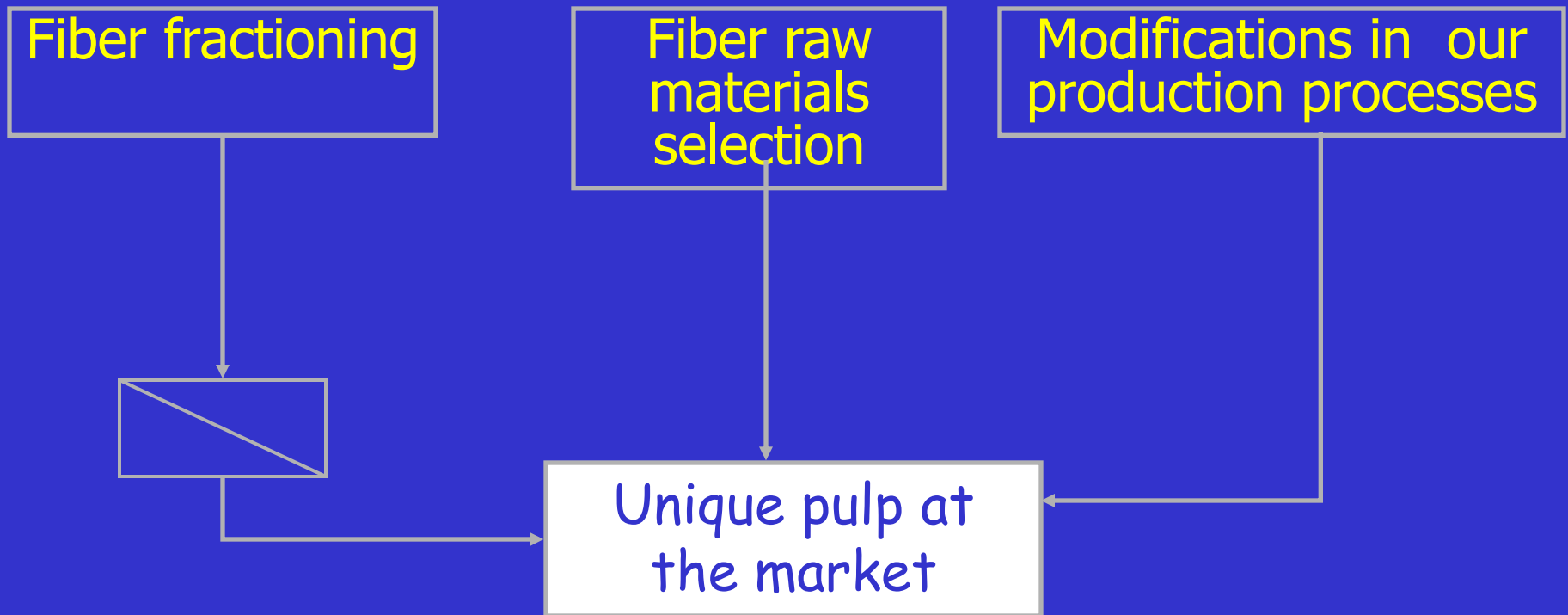
and, when we have a blend of pulps ?

The “convict” is exactly the one added to provide the quality is not being reached.

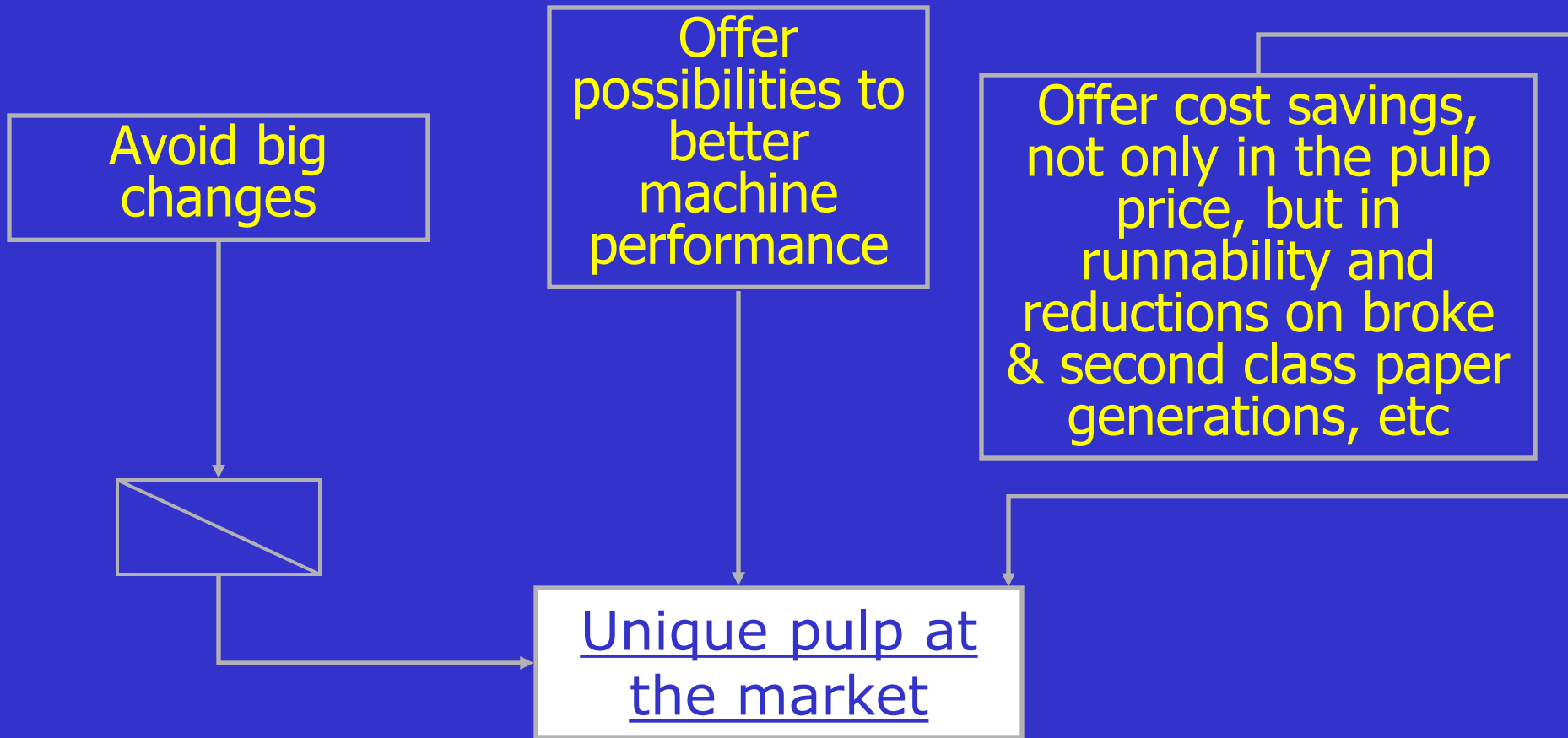
or the weaker pulp, if the problem is wet web strength;

or the short fibered pulp if the problem is wet end drainage.

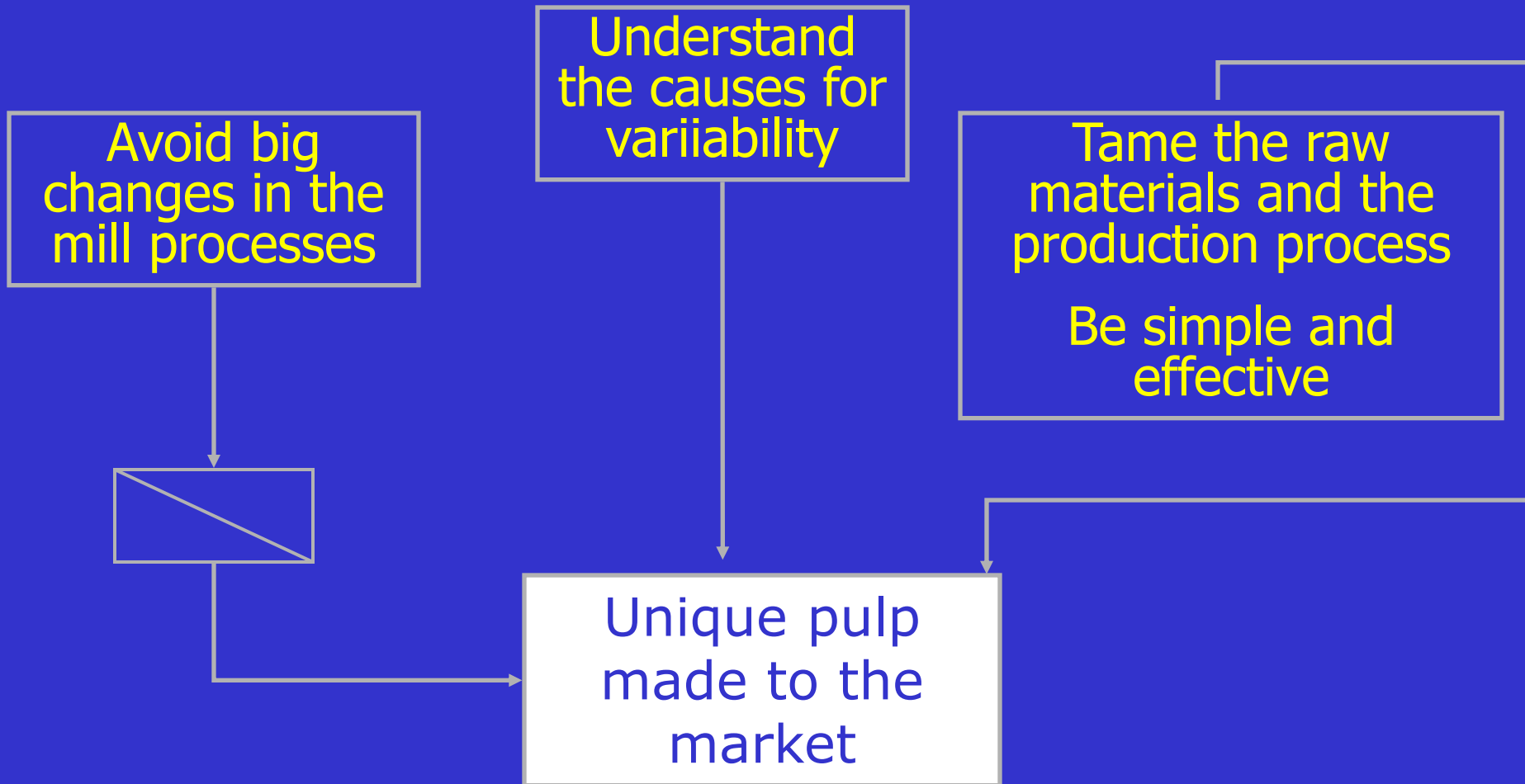
# Are there ways to build differentiation?



Differentiation is not that simple, and it has to be sustainable to the papermaker



Differentiation is not that simple and it has to be built at the pulp mill

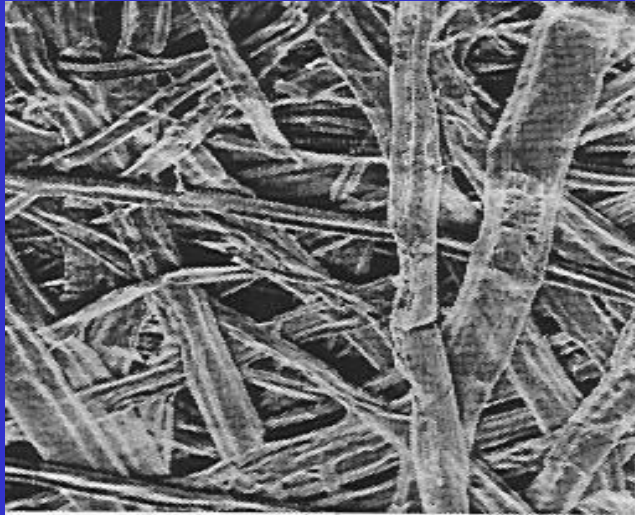




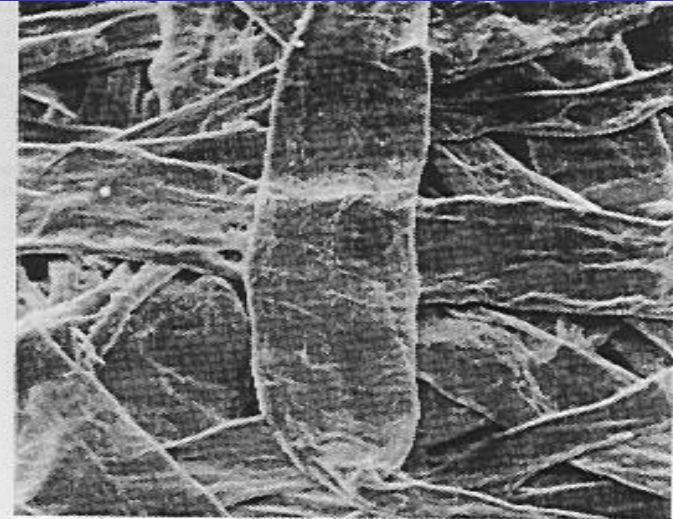
## Suggestions for Low Corseness Fibers ( Light Fibers)

- Base paper for coating
  - Label papers
  - Release papers
  - Glassine papers
  - Thermal papers
- Highly bonded papers
  - Some P&W

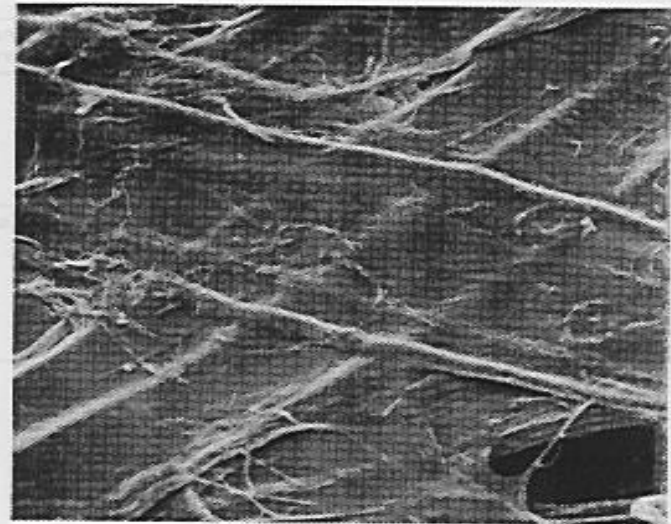
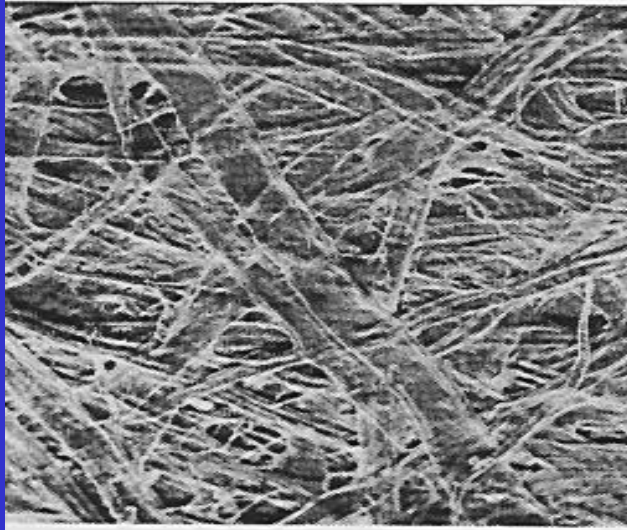
However, this is very much dependent on the customers limitations ( Machine speed, porosity and bulk specs, etc.)



(A)

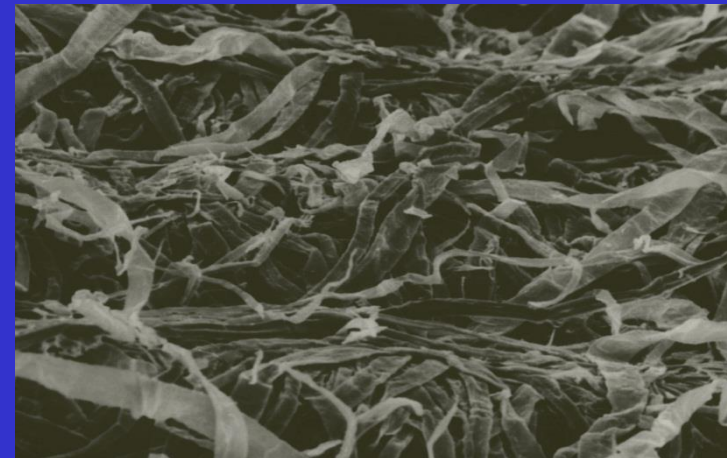
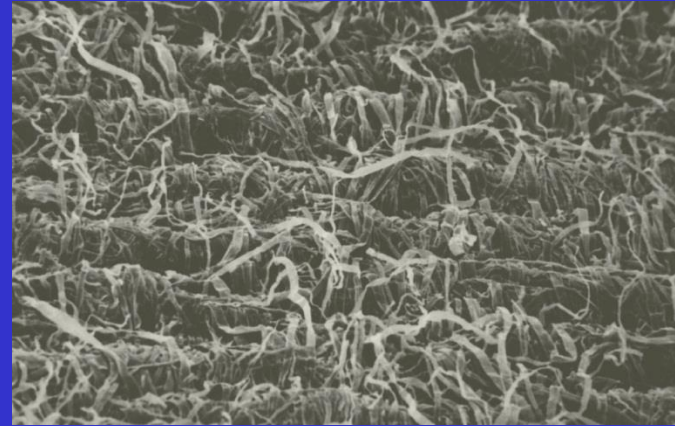


(B)



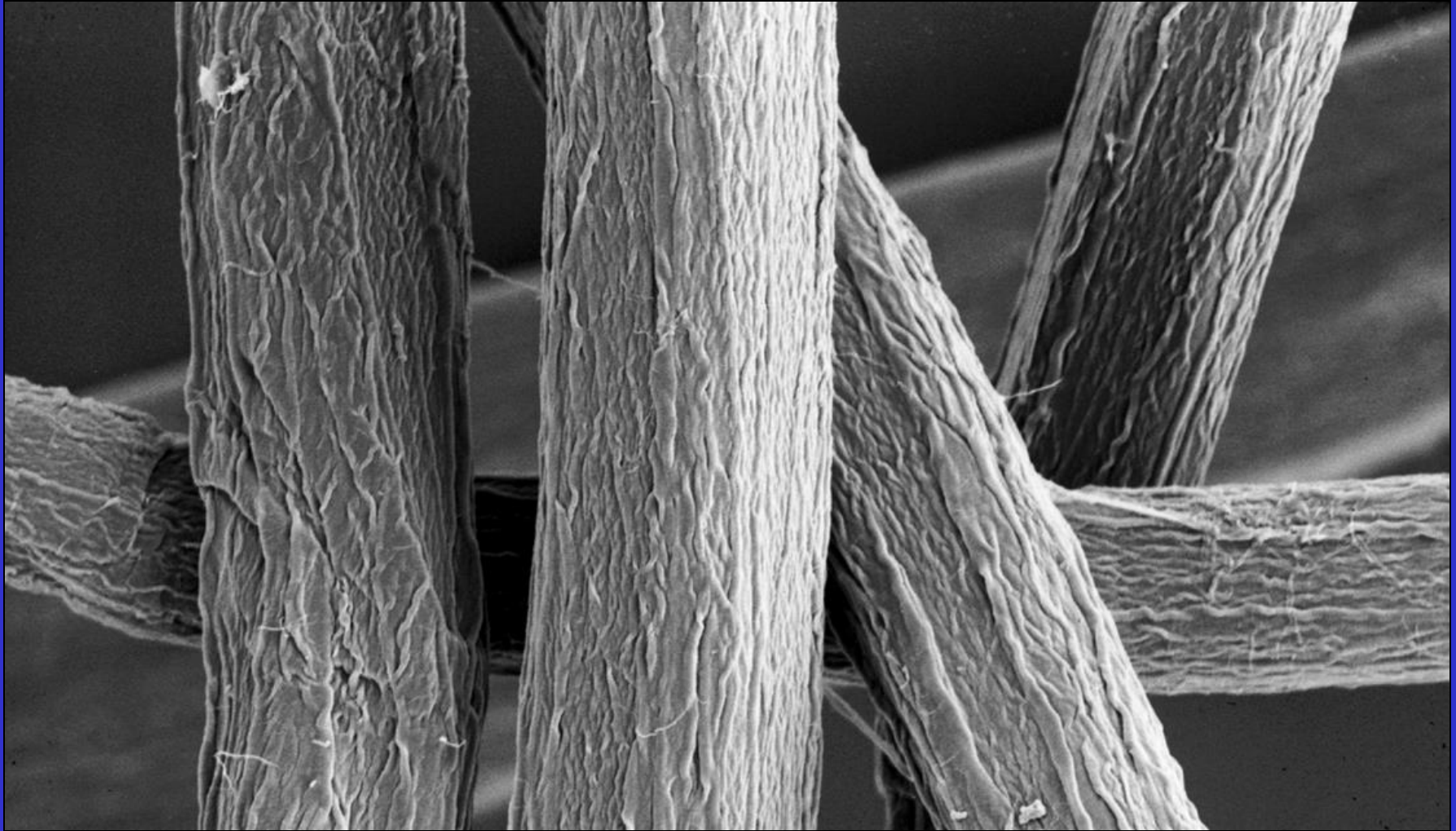
## Suggestions for High Corseeness Fibers (Heavy Fibers)

- Decor papers
- Filter papers
- Tissue papers
- Cigarette papers





# Chemical Pulp Fibers



Its is more than obvious the importance of  
the Wood Density on Fiber Quality

**Wood  
Density**  
**g/cm<sup>3</sup>**

**Fiber  
Coarseness**  
**mg/100m**

**Fiber  
Population**  
**N<sup>o</sup>/g**

0,43

5,8

25,4

0,46

6,4

21,6

0,51

7,4

19,7

0,54

9,3

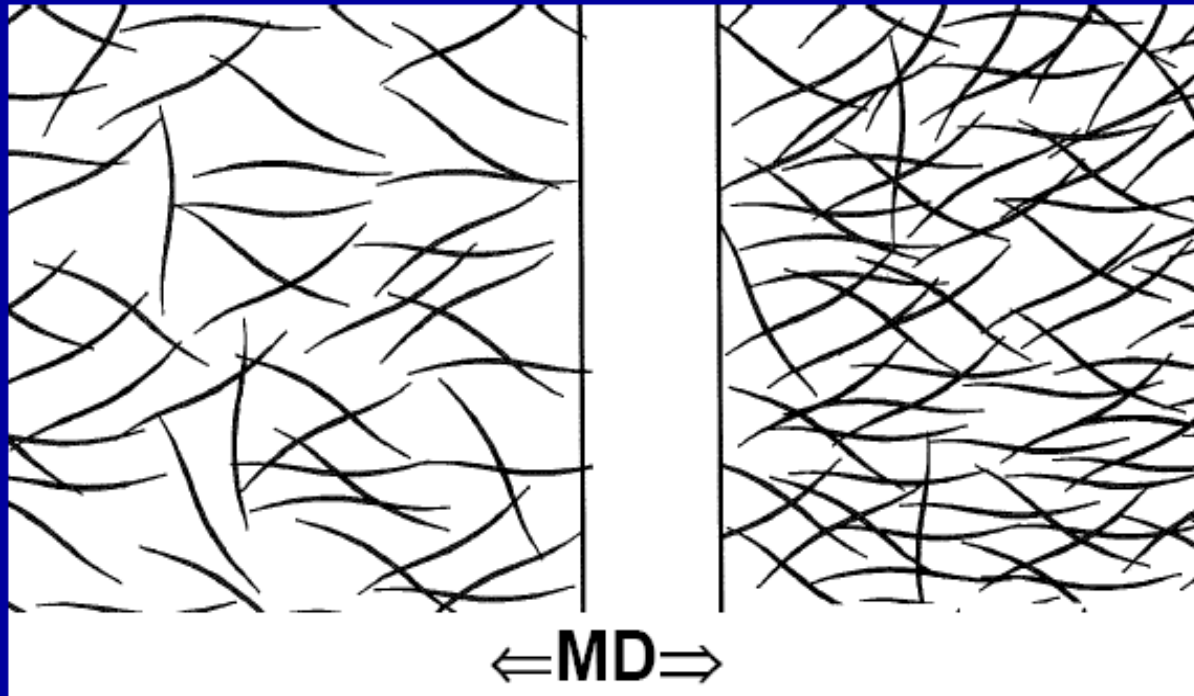
17,5

0,60

11,8

13,0

**Half coarseness = Double number**



## Pulp Blends

### **Eucalypt fibre component**

- **Bulk**
- **Bulk softness**

### **Softwood fibre component**

- **Strength and runnability**

## Pulp Blends

### Softwood : Eucalypt mixture



100 : 0

← MD →



50 : 50



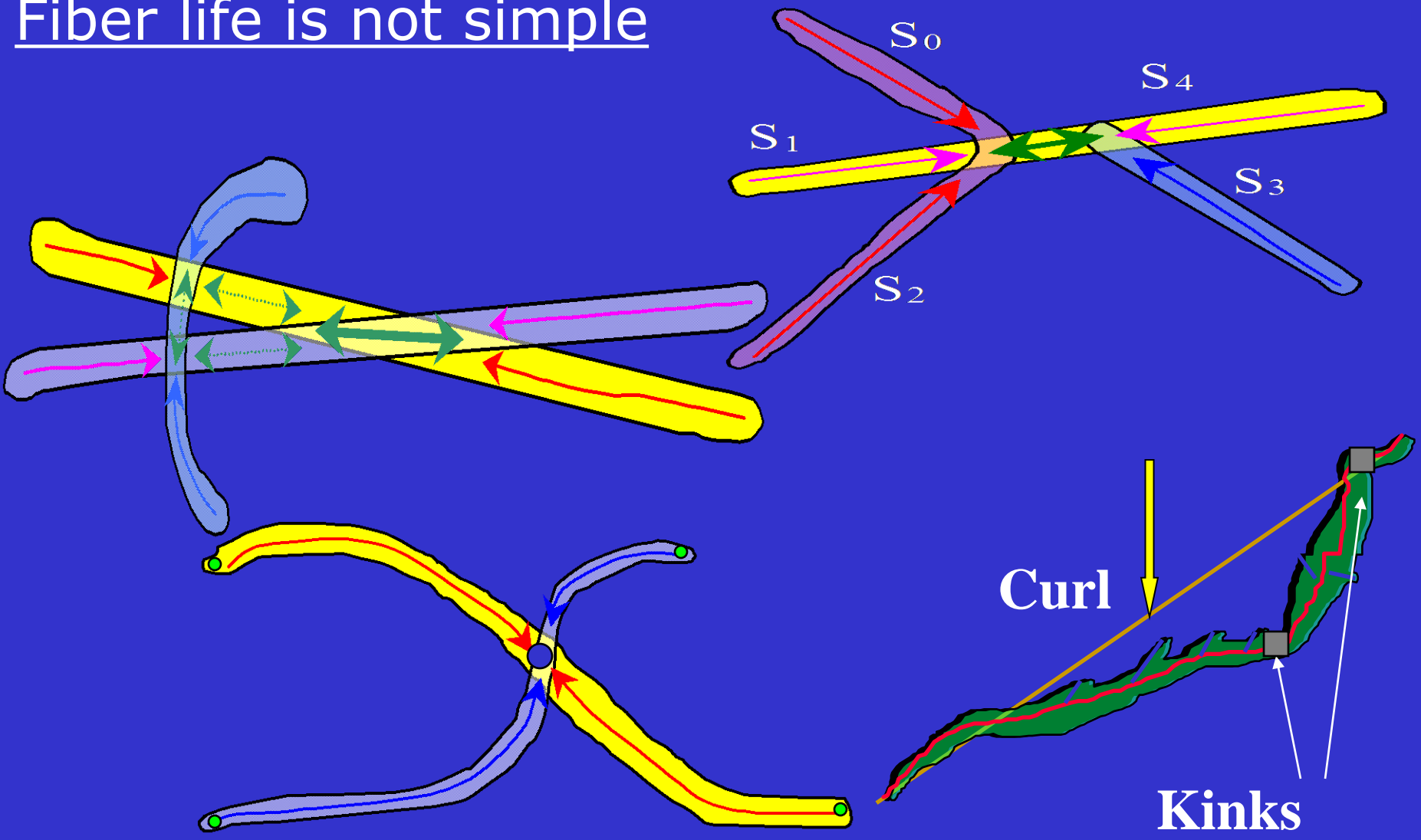
## Pulp Blends

**Softwood : Eucalypt (20 : 80)**



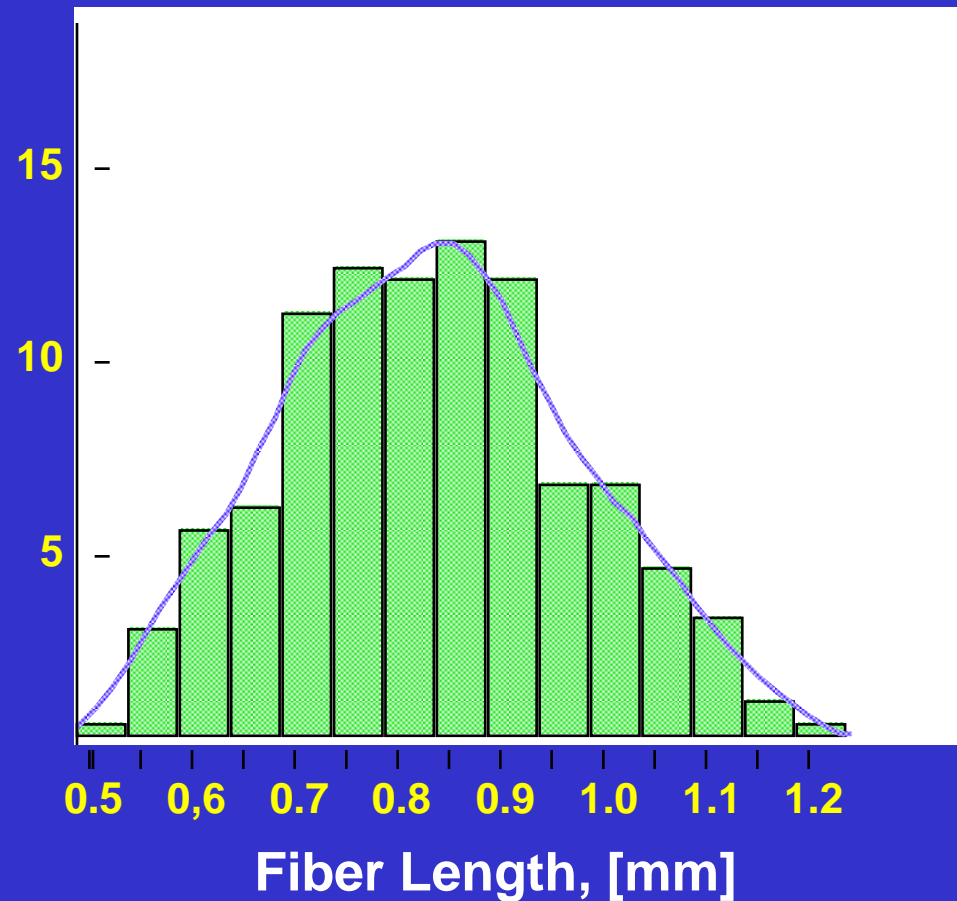
←MD→

Fiber life is not simple



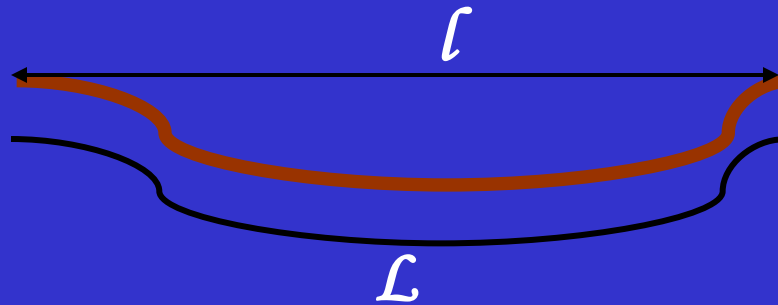
## Fiber Length Variations

Frequency ,%

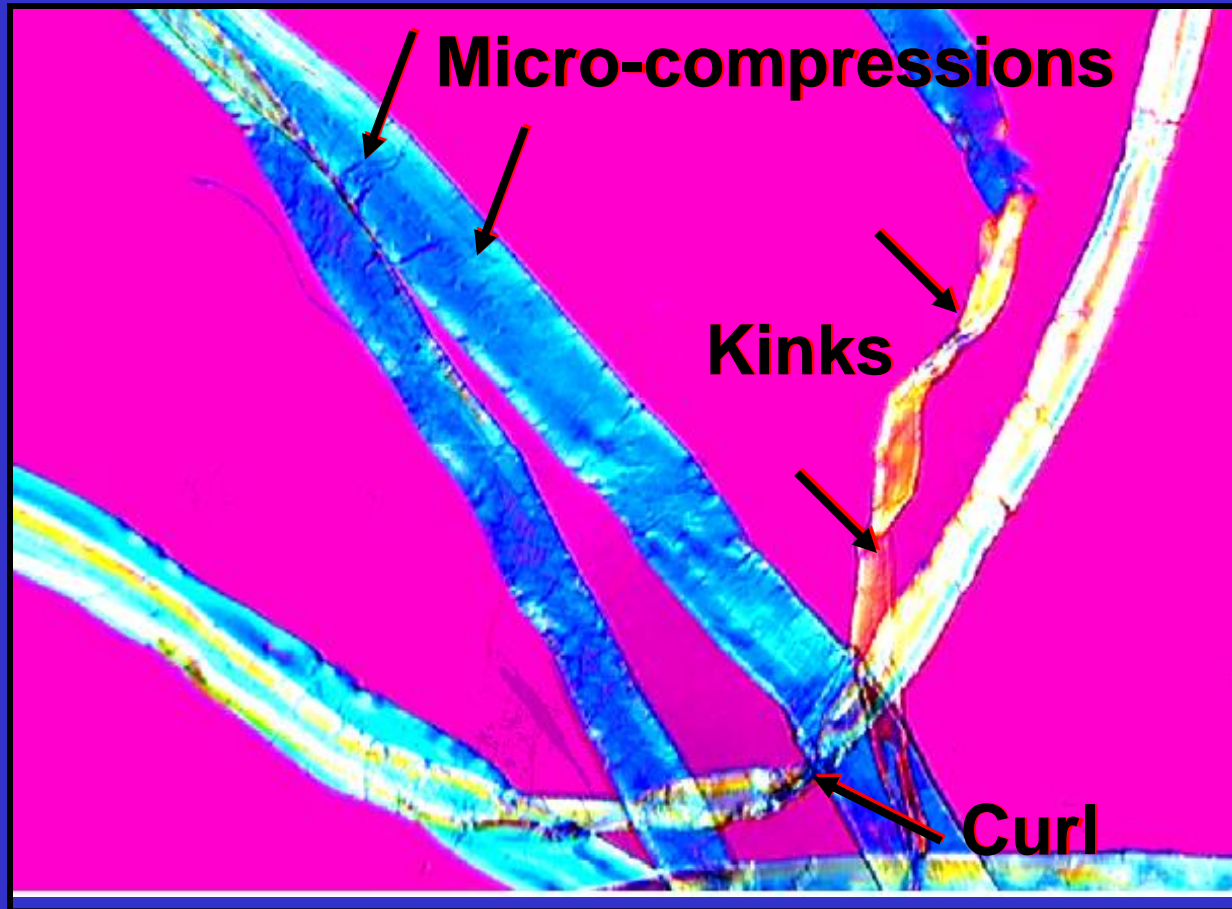


# CURL

Form Factor of a Fiber =  $100 \times l/L$

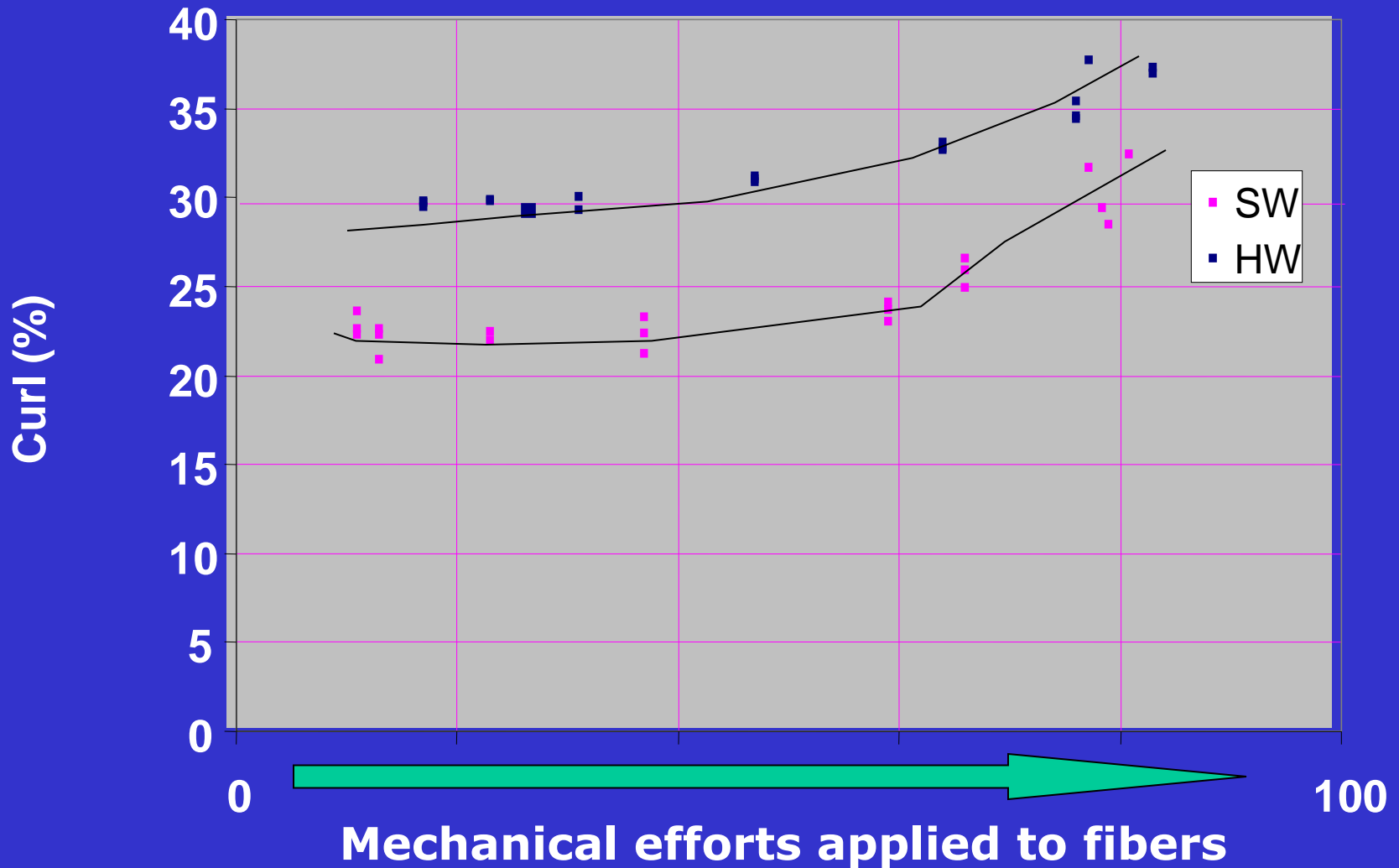


## Fiber new attributes



How to add these attributes to a pulp?

# Development of Curl



## Does this really may happen in a foreseen future ?

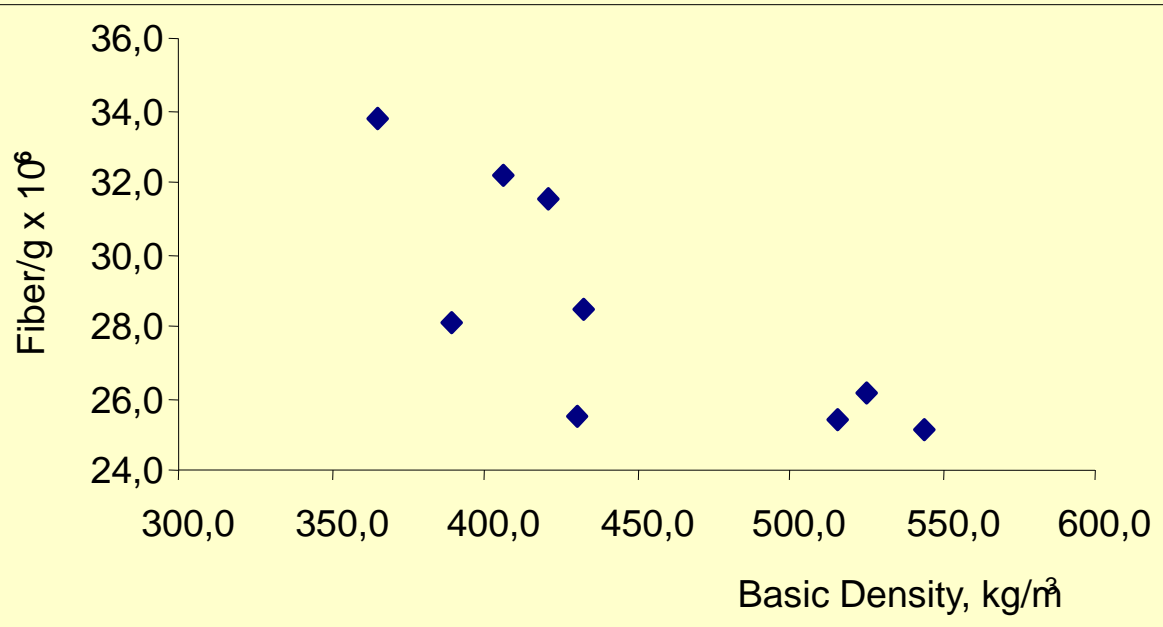
**Input:**

Fiber - length  
- width  
- population  
Coarseness  
Fiber Strength  
Fiber Deformations

**Predicted**

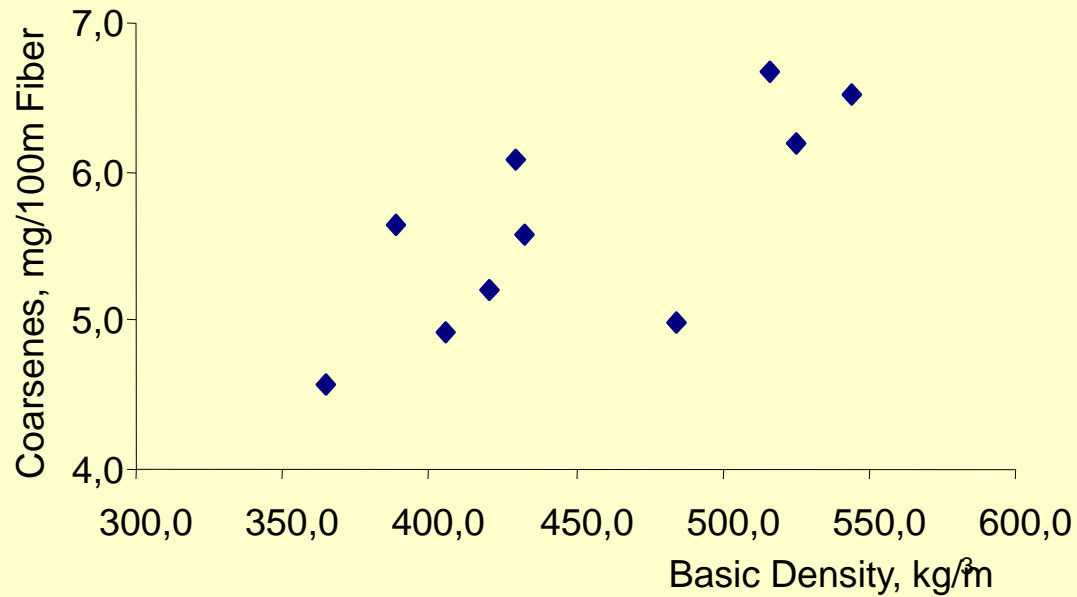
Beatability  
Pulp "Strength"  
Paper characteristics

+ brightness, cleanliness etc.

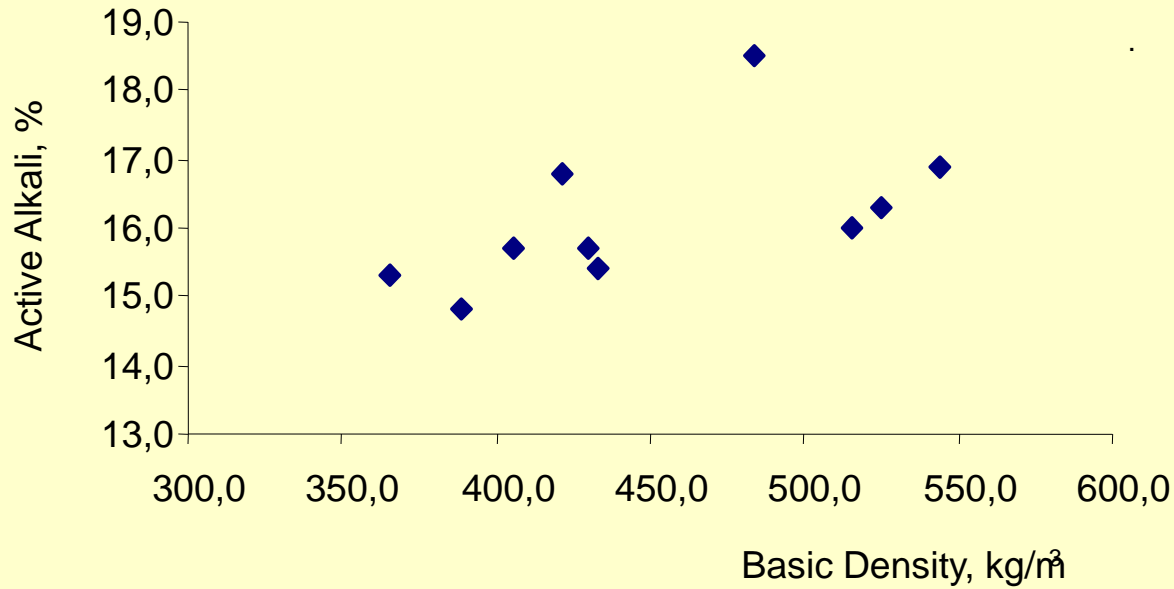


**Fiber  
population  
correlates  
significantly  
and  
negatively  
with  
wood density**

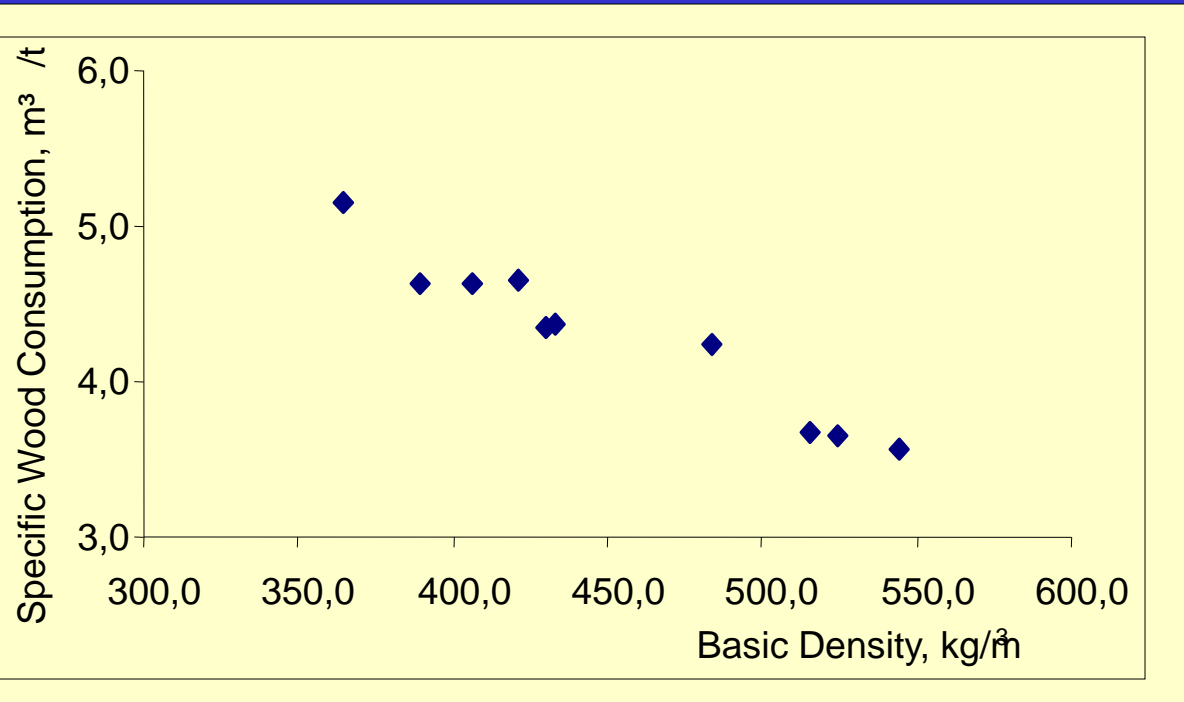




**Fiber  
coarseness  
correlates  
significantly  
and positively  
with  
wood density**



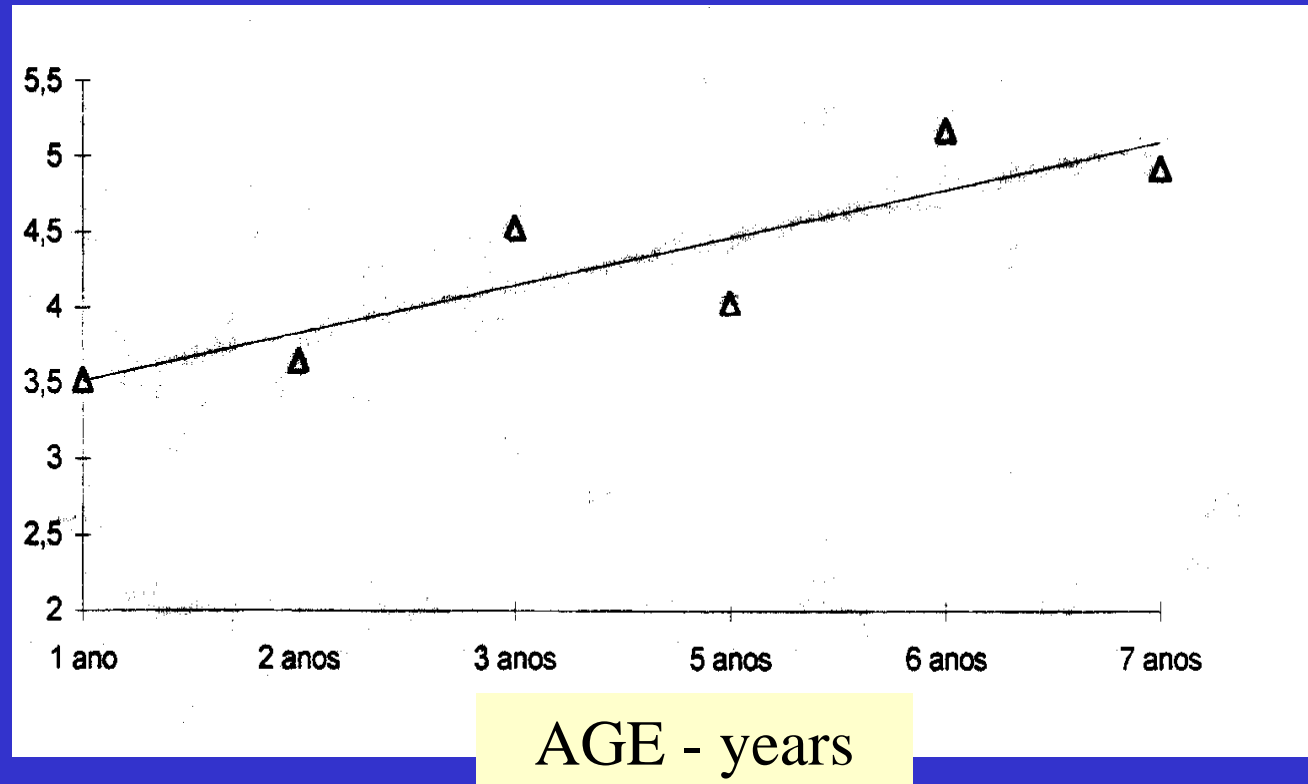
**Active Alkali  
demand  
correlates  
positively  
with  
wood density**



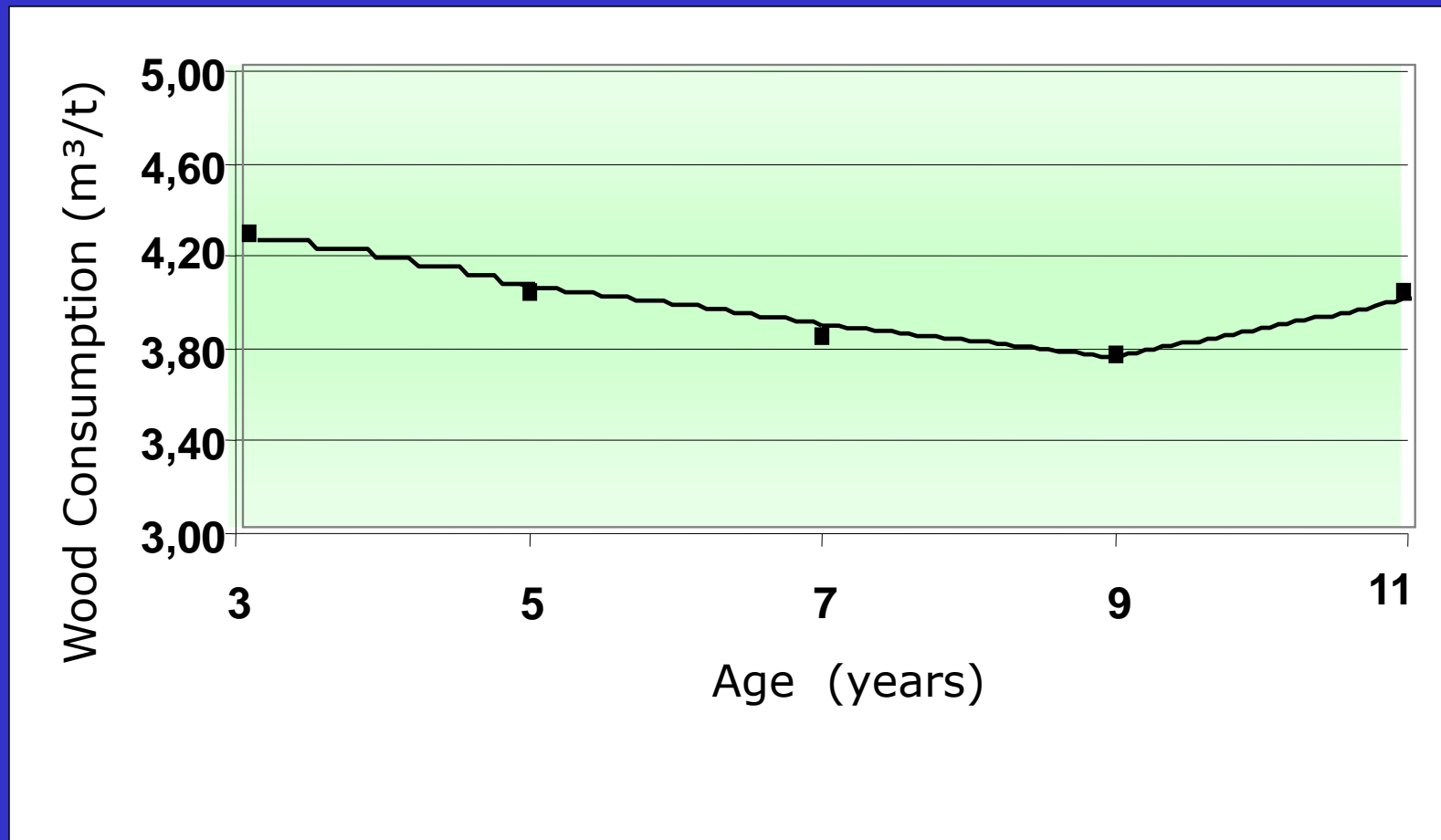
**Specific wood  
consumption  
correlates  
negatively  
with  
wood density**

## Fiber wall thickness

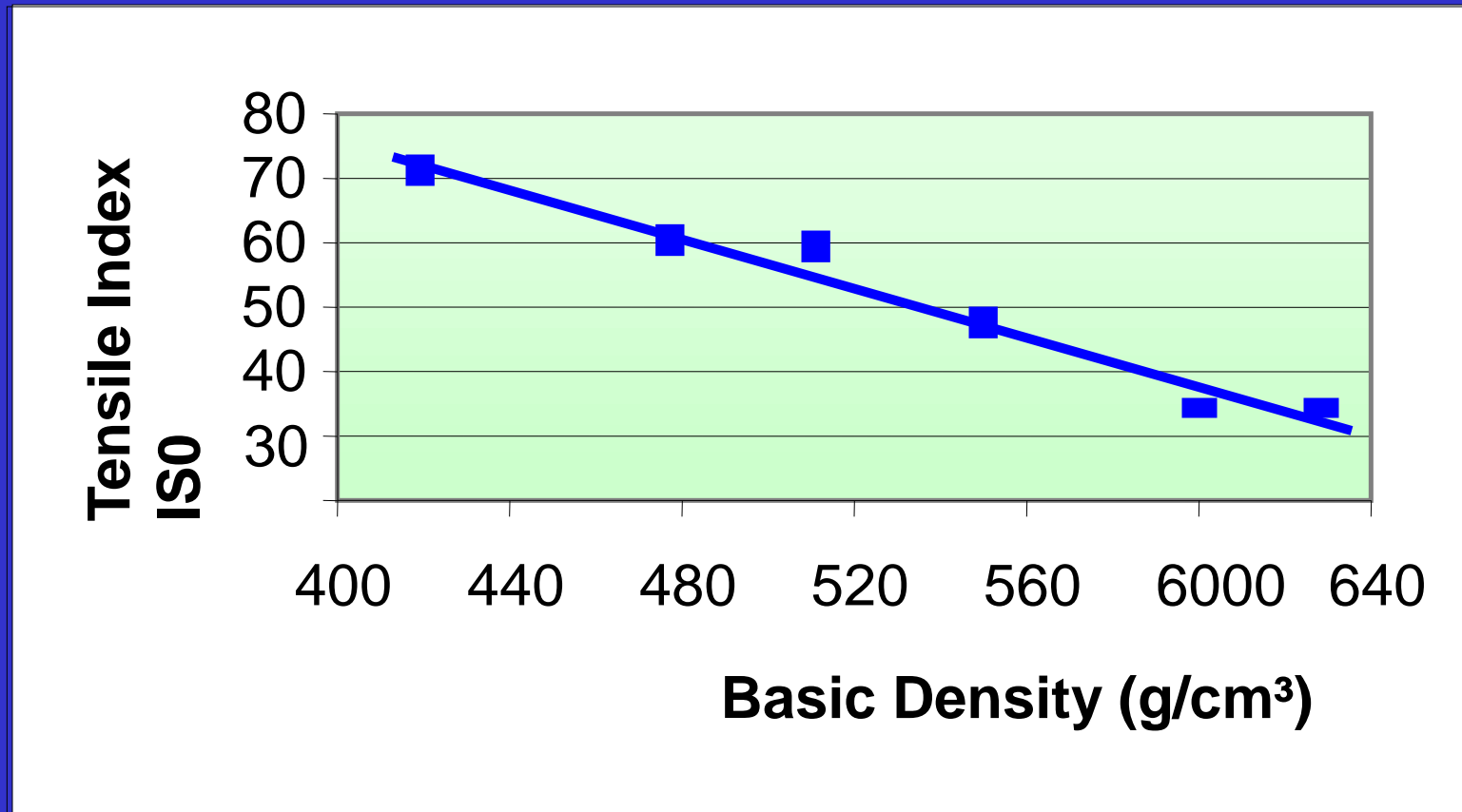
Wall  
thickness



## Forest Age and Wood Specific Consumption



# Tensile Index vs. Wood Basic Density



- Today's world
- . lots of opportunities to creative work
- . pulp suppliers are in most cases "old fashioned" commodity manufacturers

focus on tonnage's  
focus on production costs  
focus on distribution  
focus in single product

## Today's world

What can we do to bring a unique reference to our pulp products in the competitive market?

Coarseness & Fiber population

Curl

Pulpwood recipes

Brightness & cleanliness

Individual fiber strength

Paper-machine drainage & speed

Strengths

“and associated paper properties”