

# The Road to Improved Heavy Duty Fuel Economy

**Trevor Miller**

**Chevron Oronite Company**

**Directions in Engine-Efficiency and Emissions Research Conference 2010**



# The Pressure to Improve HD Fuel Economy Increases

Reduce CO<sub>2</sub>  
Emissions

Fuel Economy  
Legislation

**Improve  
Fuel Economy  
for Heavy Duty  
Diesel Engines**

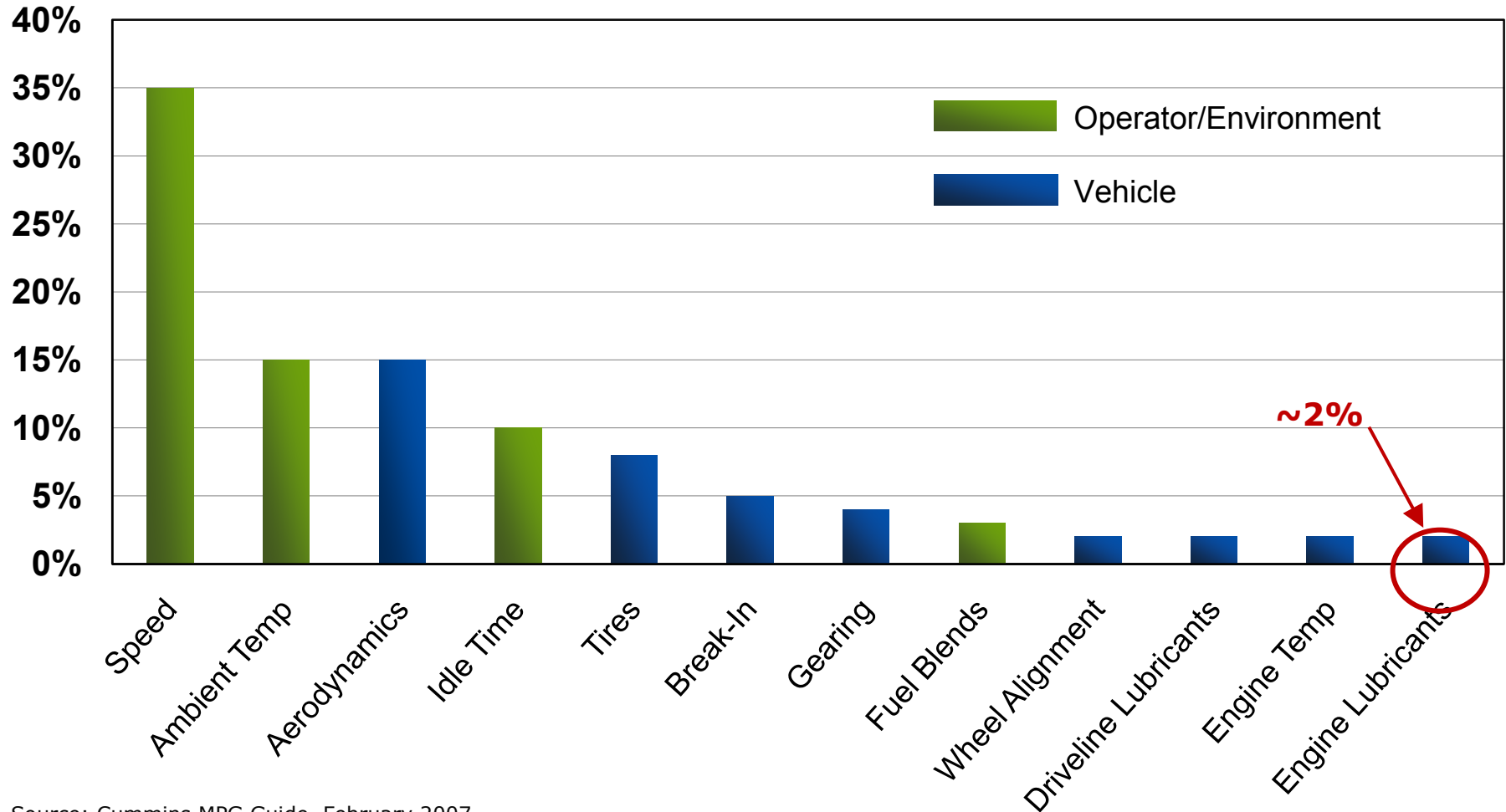
Rising Fuel Cost



# Truck Fuel Economy Contribution by Area

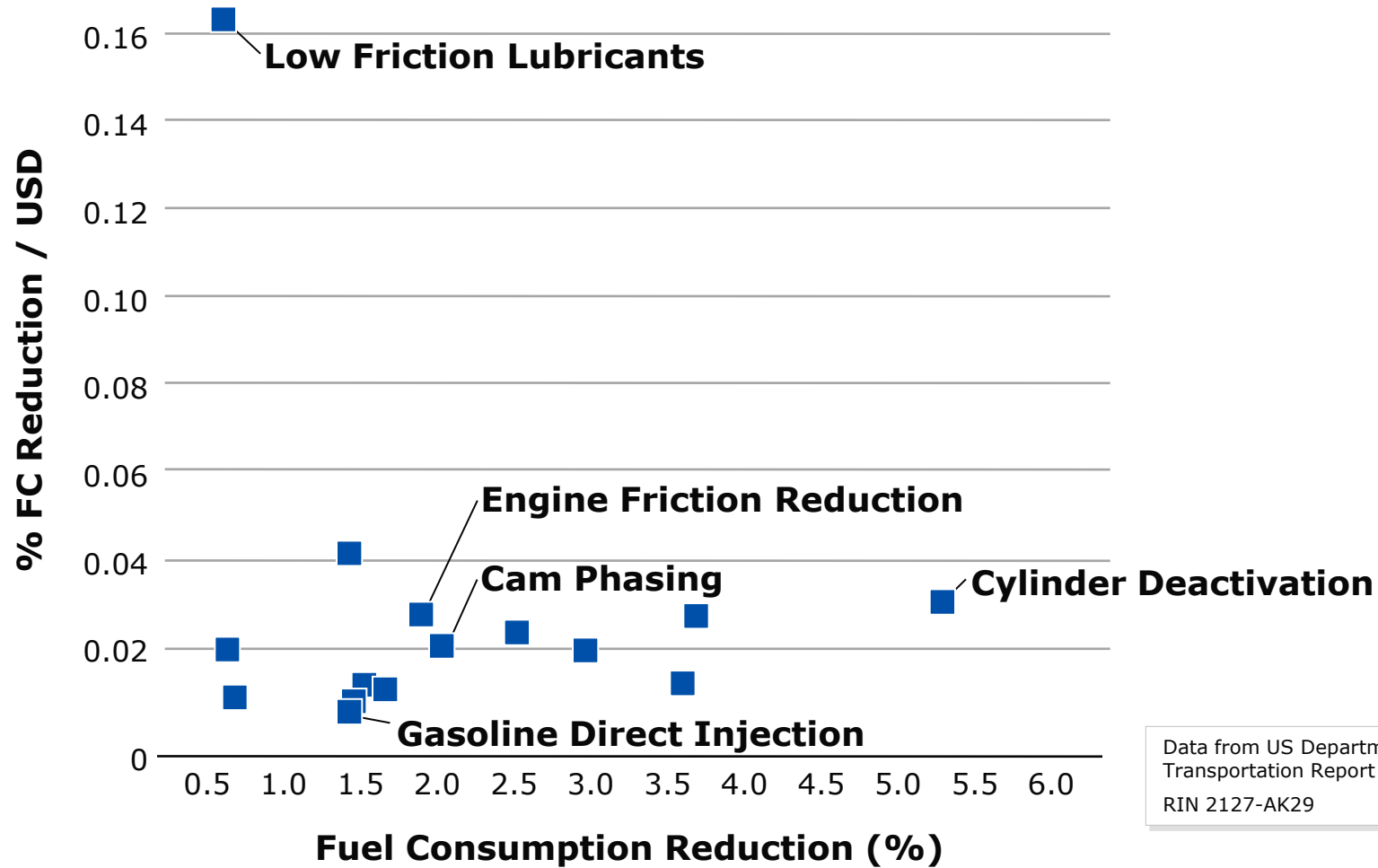
## Engine Oil Impact is Relatively Small

Maximum Fuel Economy Impact



Source: Cummins MPG Guide, February 2007

# Engine Lubricant is an Inexpensive Method to Improve Fuel Economy



Data from US Department of Transportation Report  
RIN 2127-AK29

From *North American Fuel Economy Testing*, T. Miller, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fuels & Lubes Asia Conference



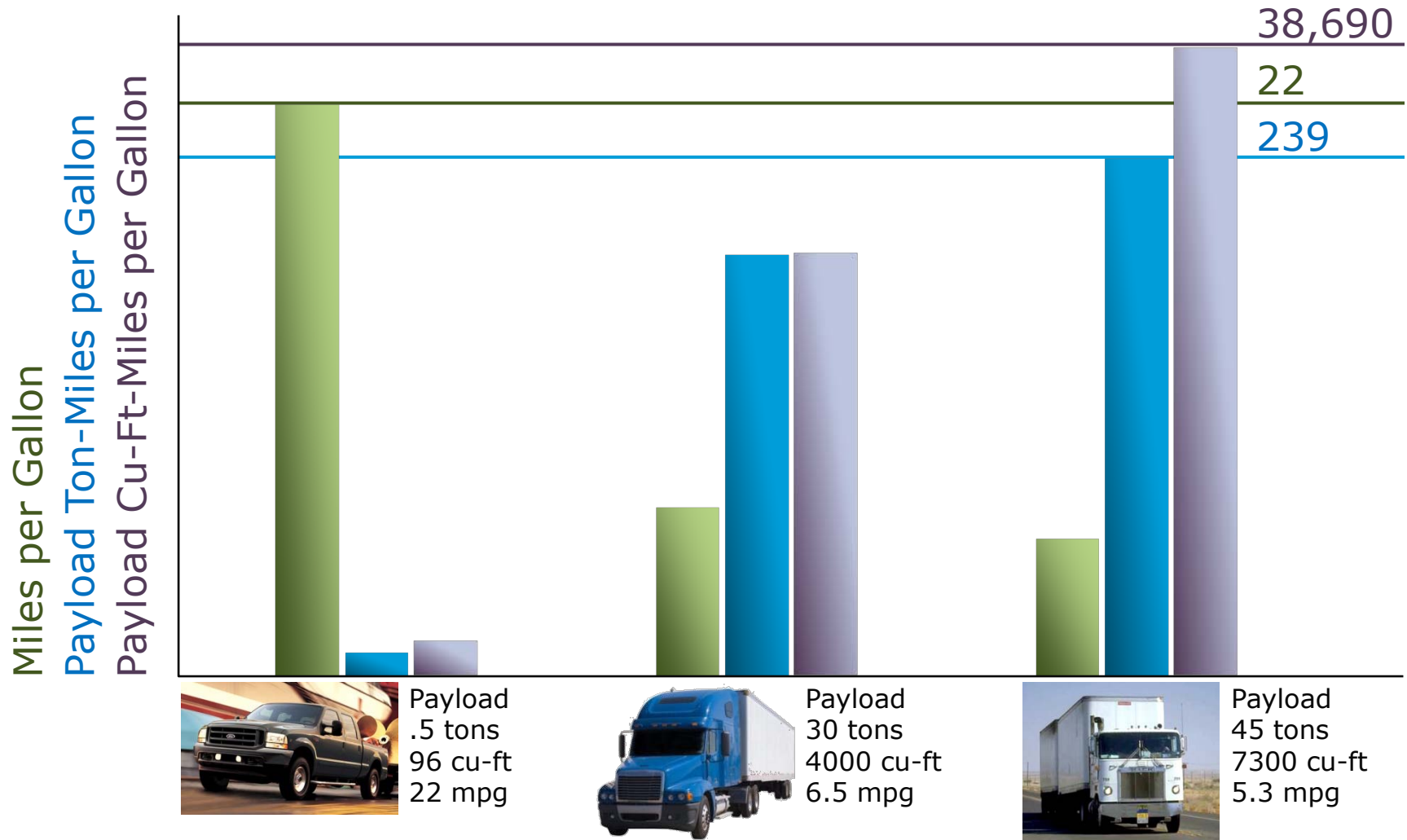
# Fuel Economy is Front Page News



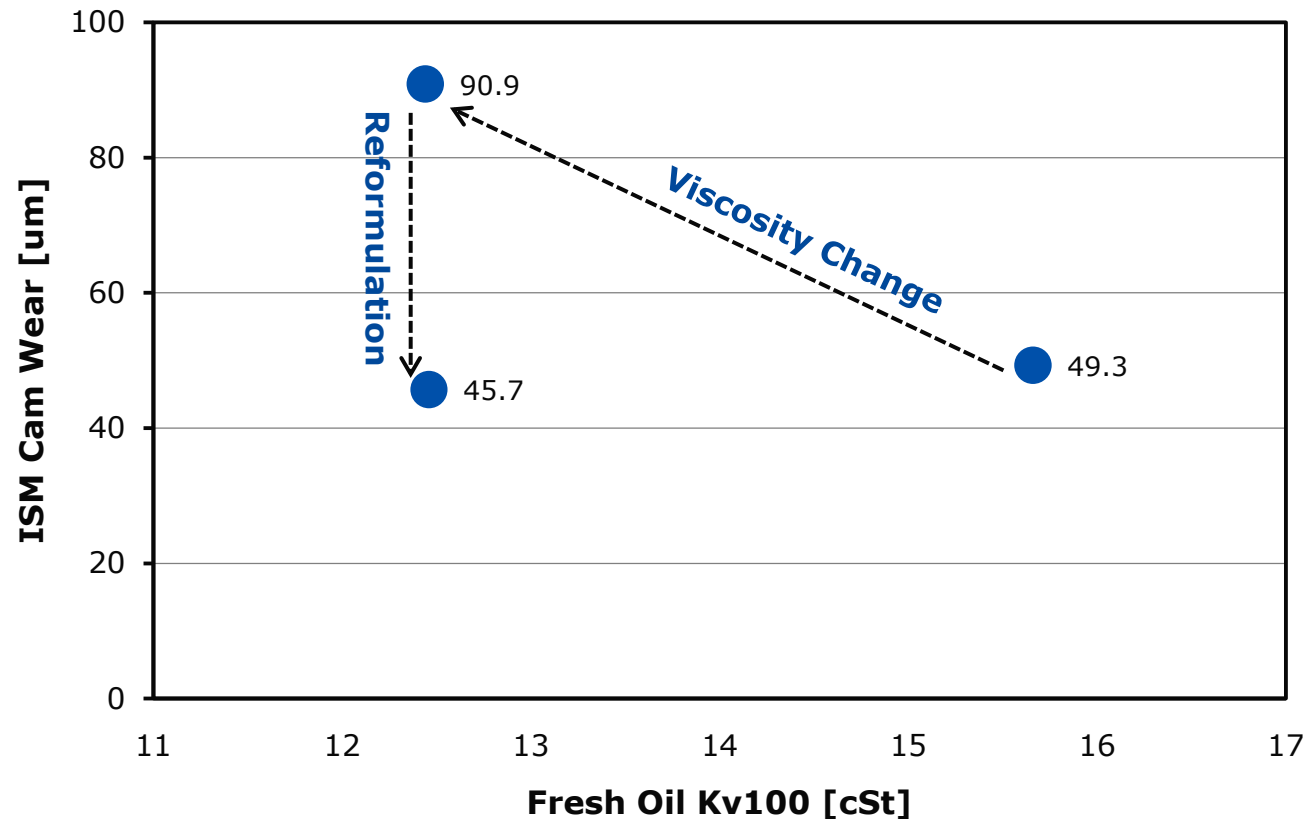
**Engine Oil Change Can Be Quickly Implemented and Has Immediate Impact on Entire Fleet**



# What is the Best Way to Measure Fuel Economy?



# Gains in Fuel Economy Can't Be at the Expense of Engine Durability



Achieving HD FE gains while maintaining other areas of performance from engine oil involves more than just reducing viscosity



# The Lubricant Contribution to Improved Fuel Economy in Heavy Duty Diesel Engines

**Wim van Dam  
Trevor Miller  
Peter Kleijwegt  
Marnix Torreman  
Gary Parsons**

***Chevron Oronite Company LLC***





# Presentation Overview

- The Volvo D12D Fuel Economy Engine Test Procedure
- An Evaluation of the Results From a Base Oil Type Comparison
- Introduction of a New Method of Analyzing the D12D FE Results
- Application of this method for
  - Viscosity grade comparison
  - Evaluation of the friction modifier impact
  - Study of the impact of soot
- Conclusions

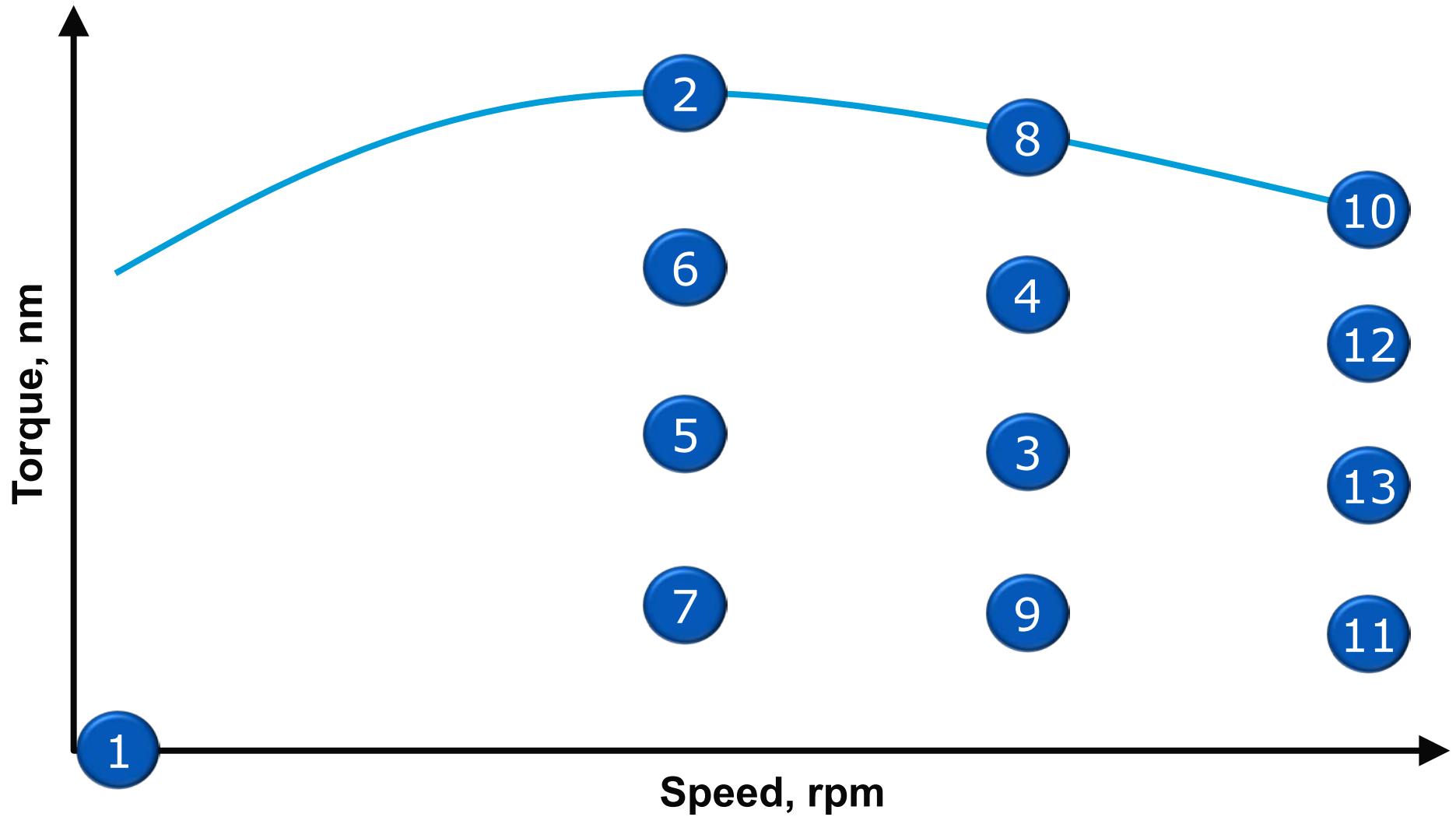


# Volvo D12D Fuel Economy Test

- Industry Standard Heavy Duty Fuel Economy Test
  - Test is also installed at Oronite's Rotterdam Lab
- Volvo Euro 3 Engine
  - 6-cylinder in-line configuration
  - 12.130 liter displacement
  - 338 kW at 1800 rpm
  - 2200 Nm at 1200 rpm
- Volvo D12D Fuel Economy Test Procedure
  - Laboratory engine test
  - 13-mode cycle at varying speeds/loads
  - SAE 15W-30 reference oil
  - Flush and run test procedure



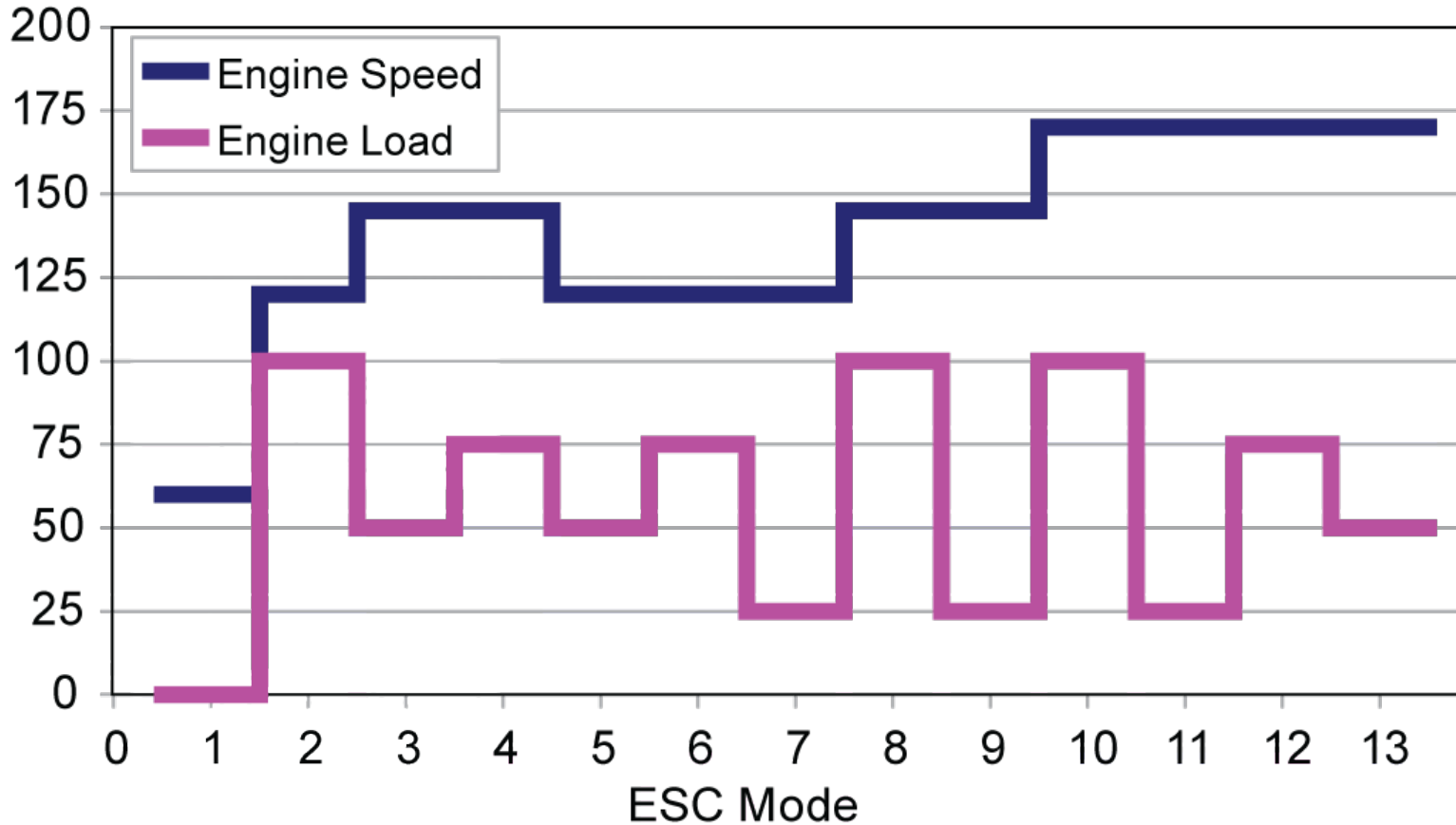
# The 13 Mode ESC Test



# The Volvo D12D FE Operating Conditions

ESC modes 7, 9, and 11 are the low load modes

Engine Speed, RPM/10 – Load, %

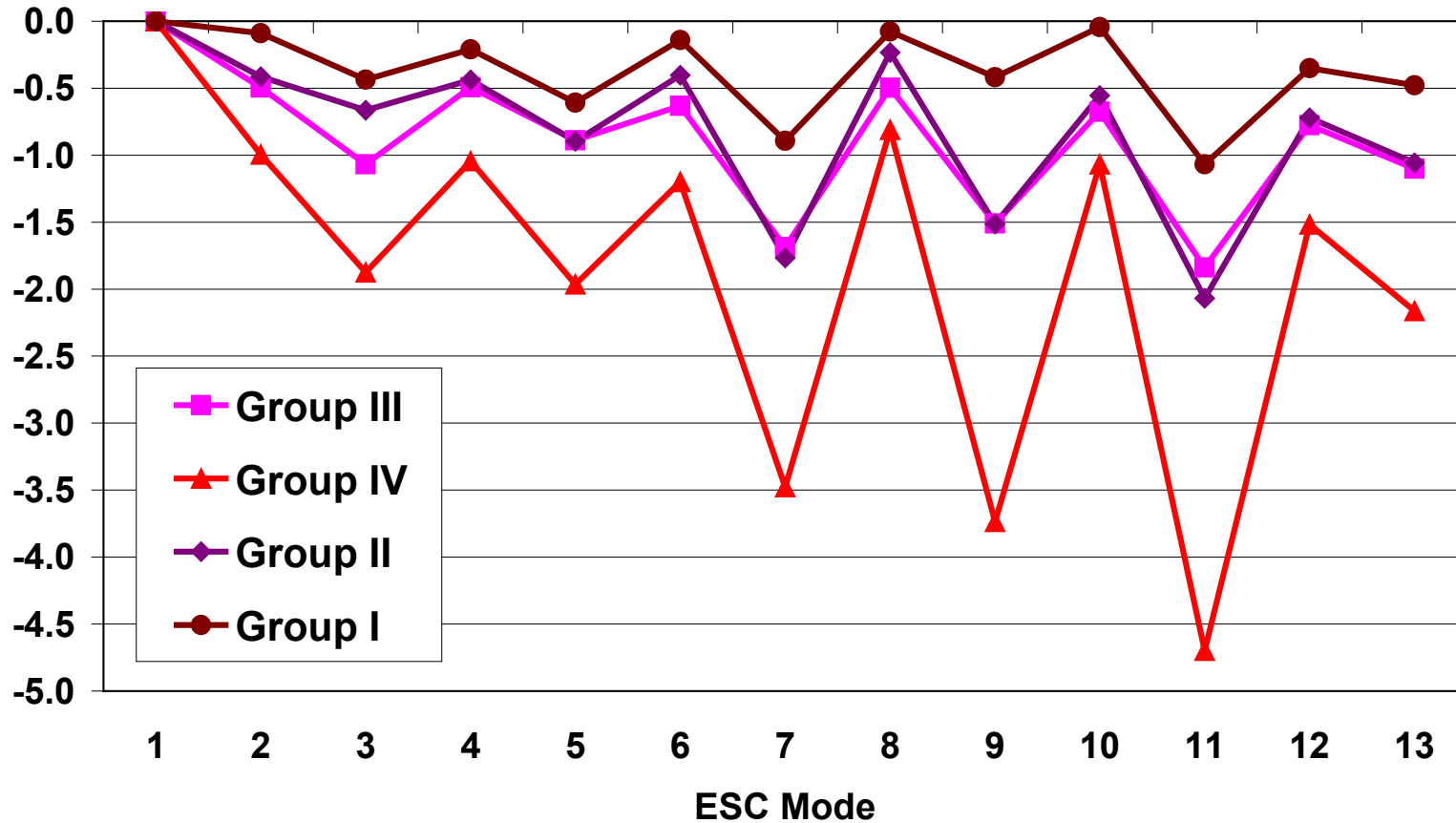




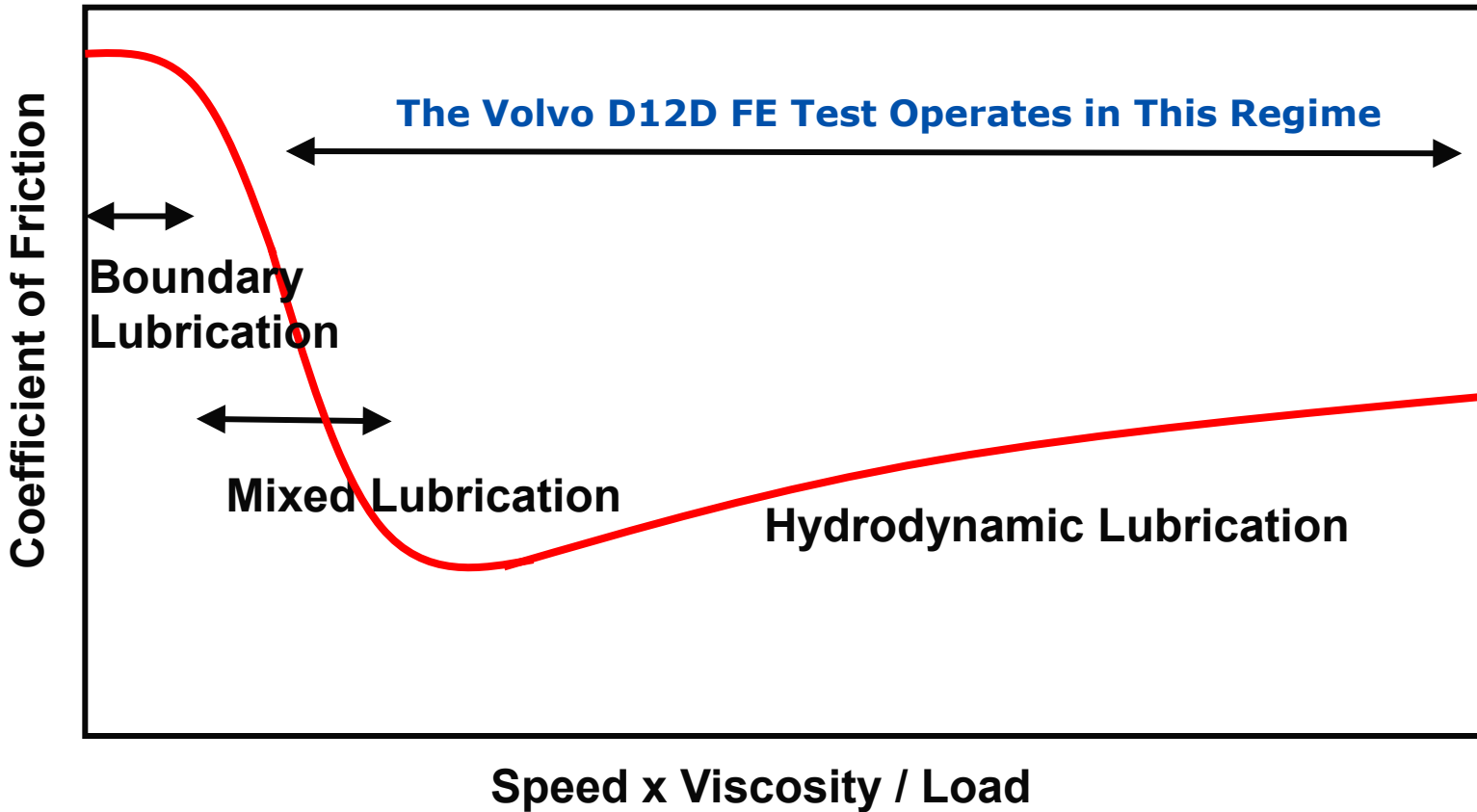
# Fuel Consumption Improvements by ESC Mode

Some ESC modes magnify the impact, but the ranking of oils remains the same

Specific Fuel Consumption Improvement (Reference - Candidate), g/kWh



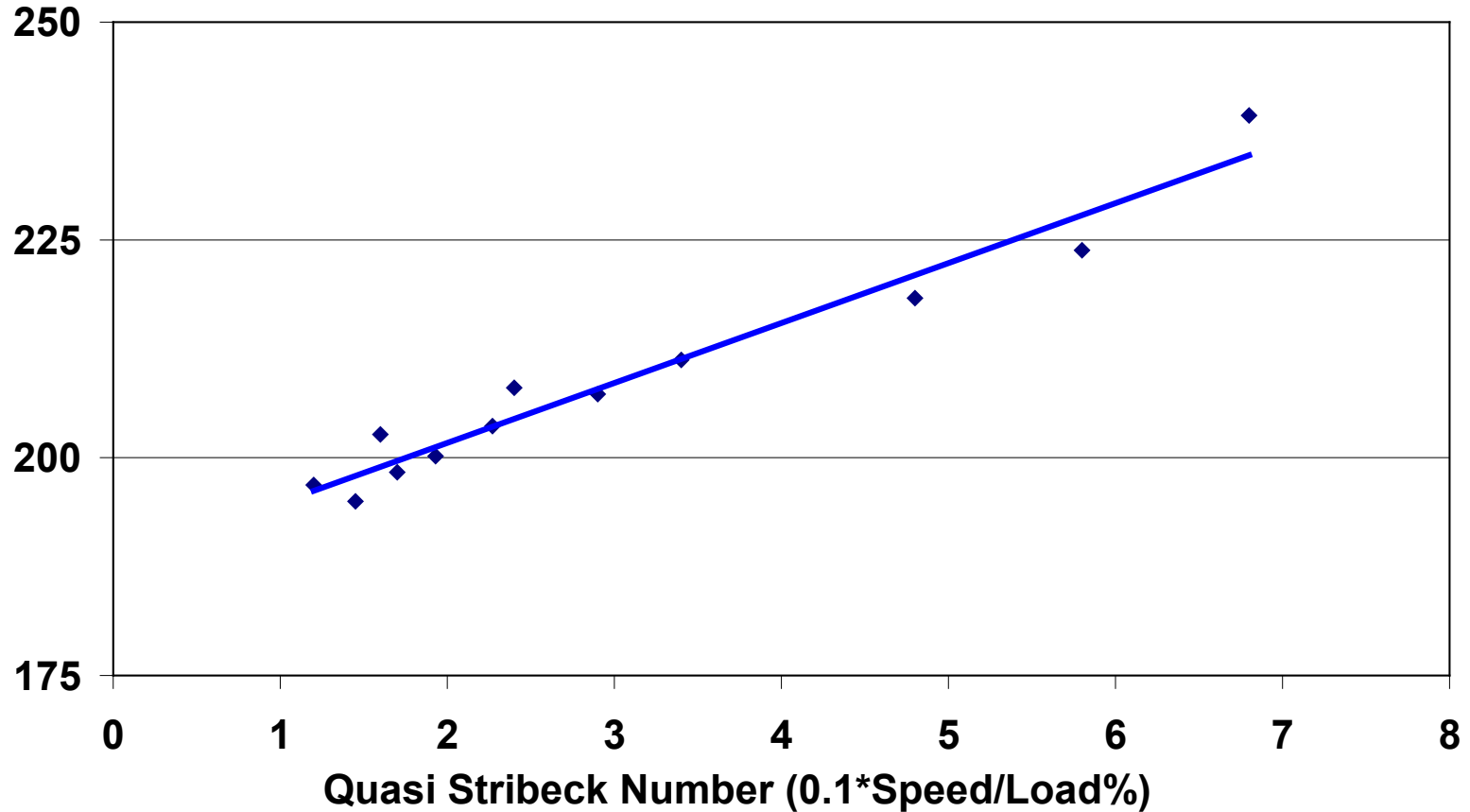
# Different Sources of Friction



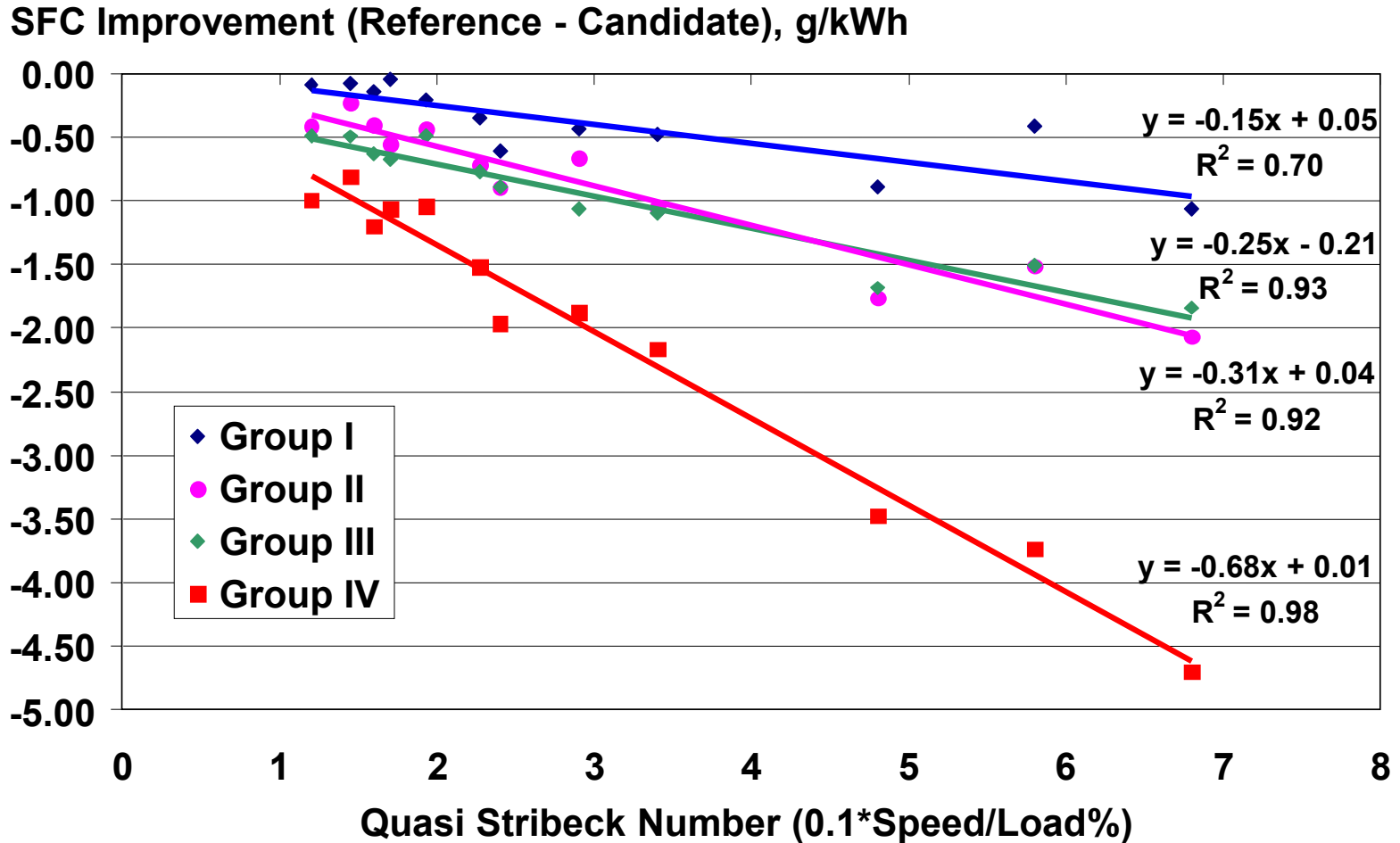
# The Volvo D12D FE Operates Mostly in the Hydrodynamic Lubrication Regime

Candidate oils will be compared with this line for the 15W-30 reference oil

Specific Fuel Consumption, g/kWh



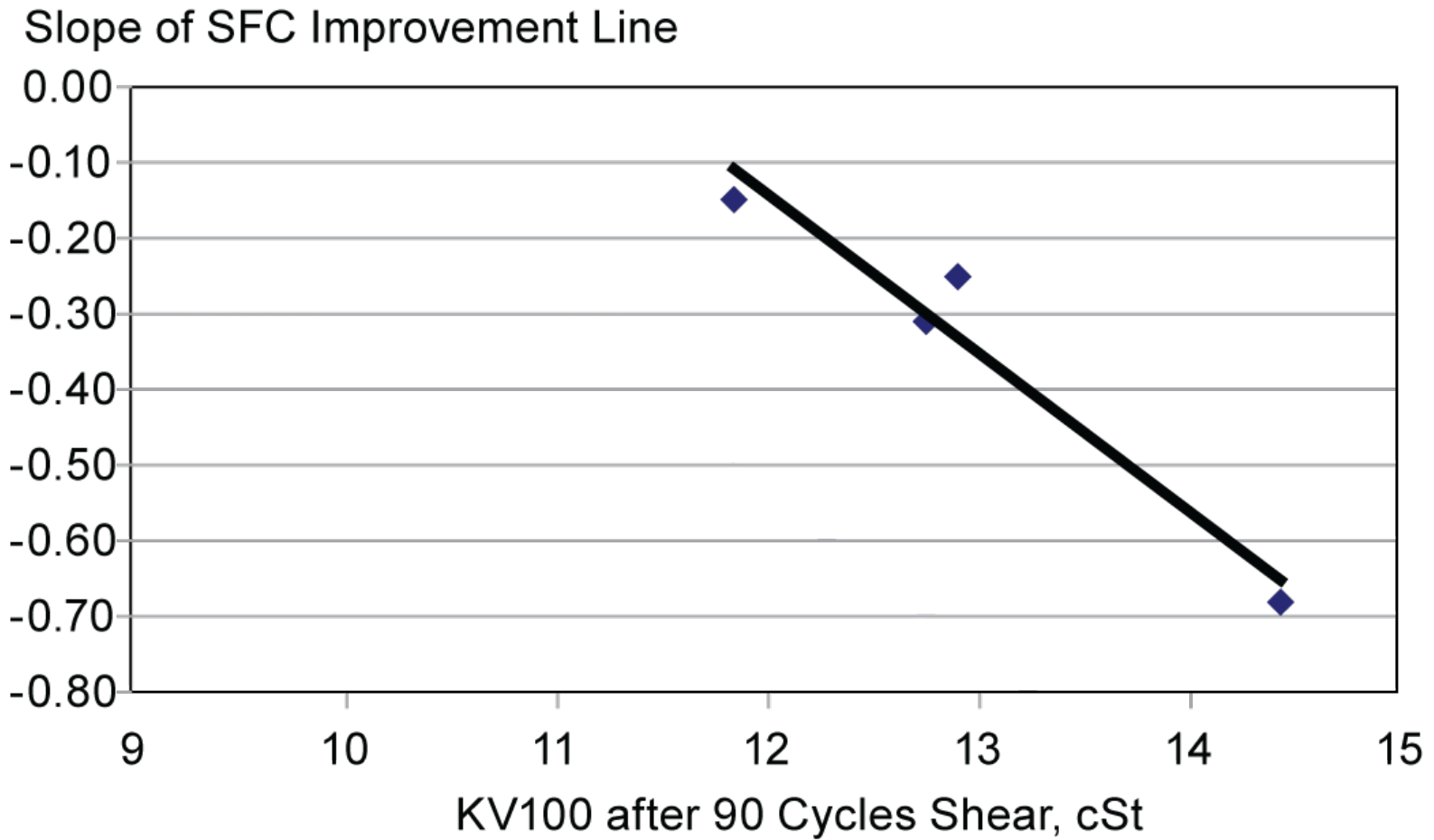
# Fuel Consumption Effects are Magnified at Low Load/High Speed



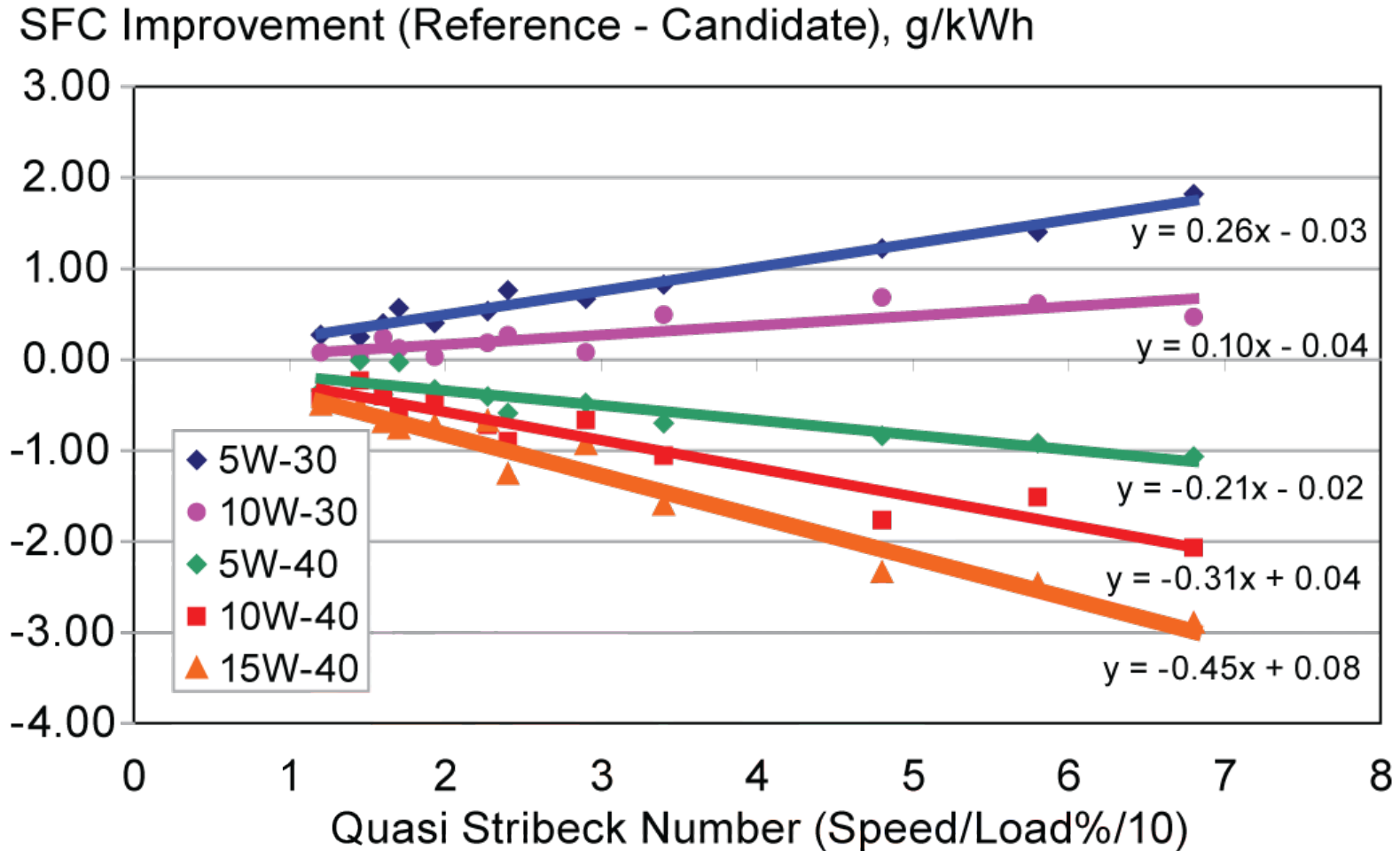


# Fuel Economy Differences are Driven by Viscosity

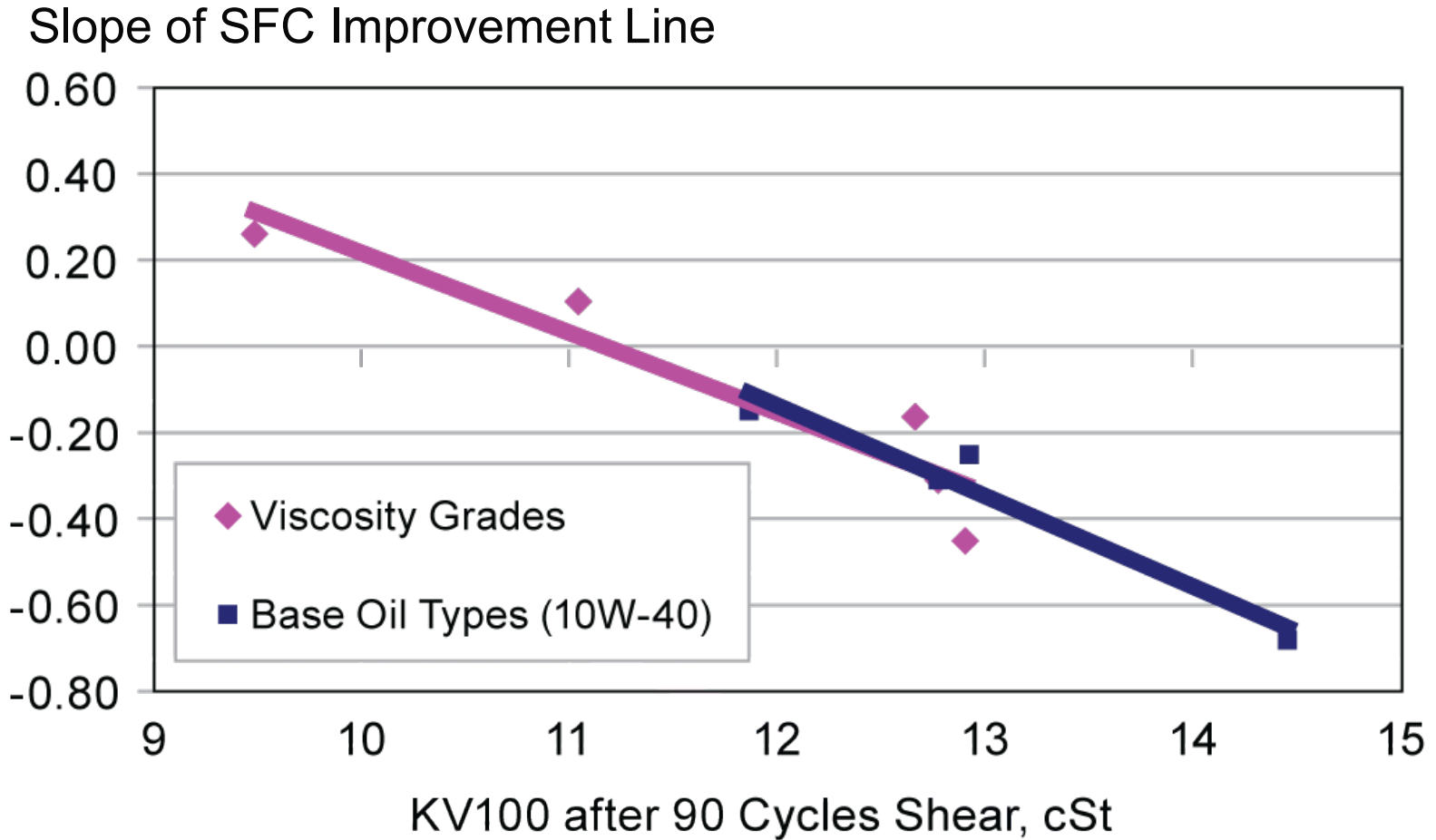
Fuel economy is determined by viscosity after accounting for permanent shear loss



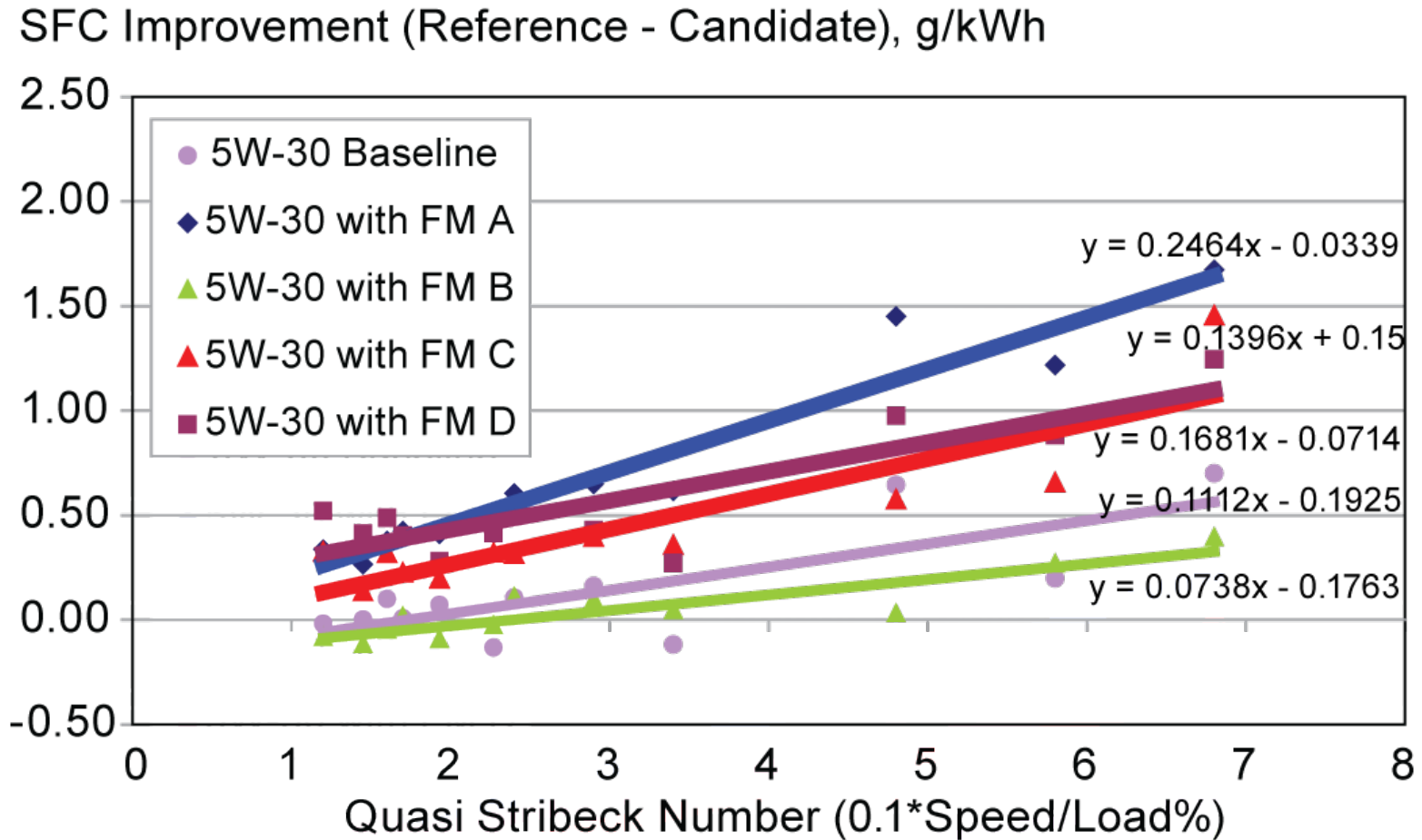
# Lowering the High Temperature Viscosity Has the Biggest Impact on Fuel Economy



# The Correlation is Valid Across Viscosity Grades

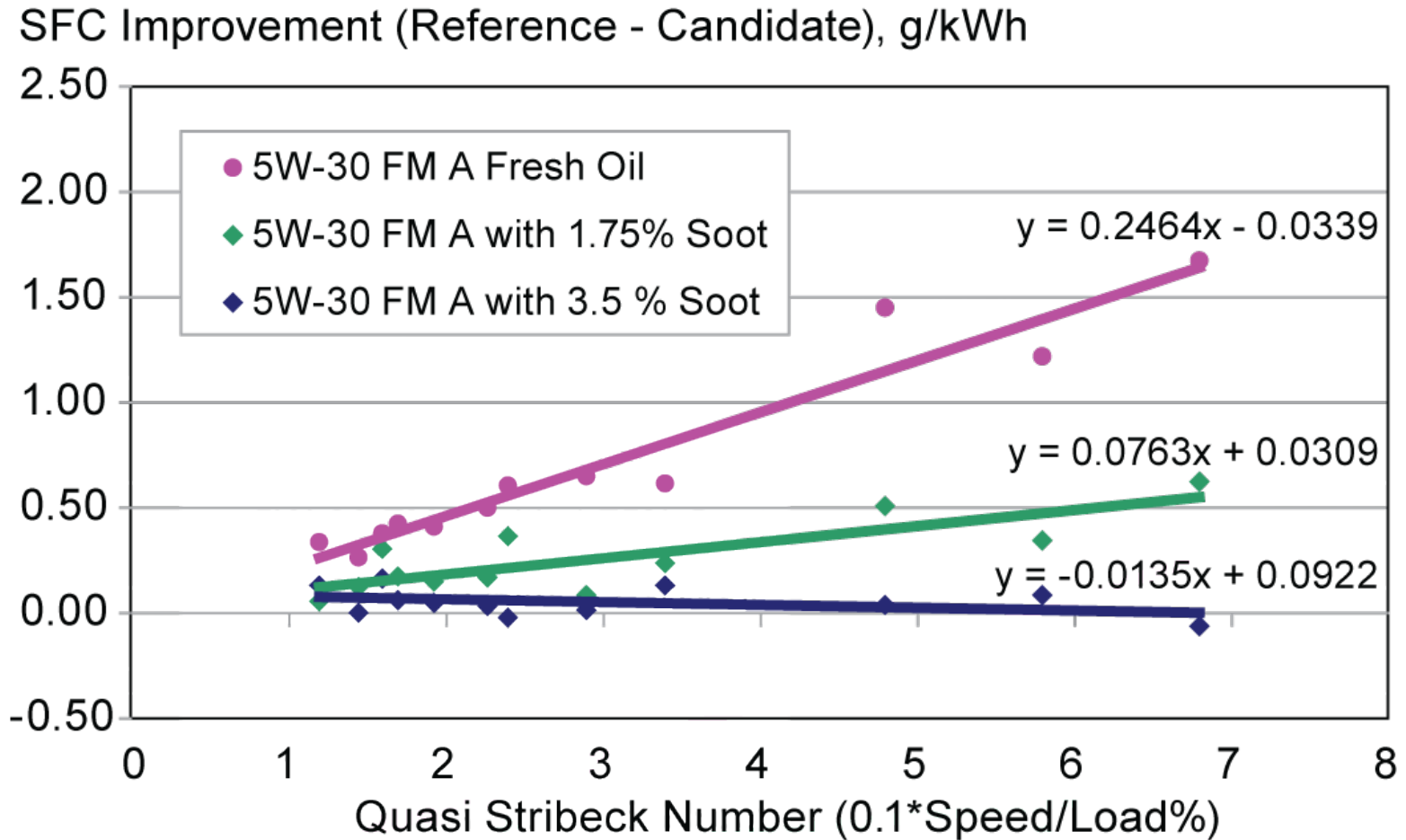


# Friction Modifiers Can Impact HD Fuel Economy

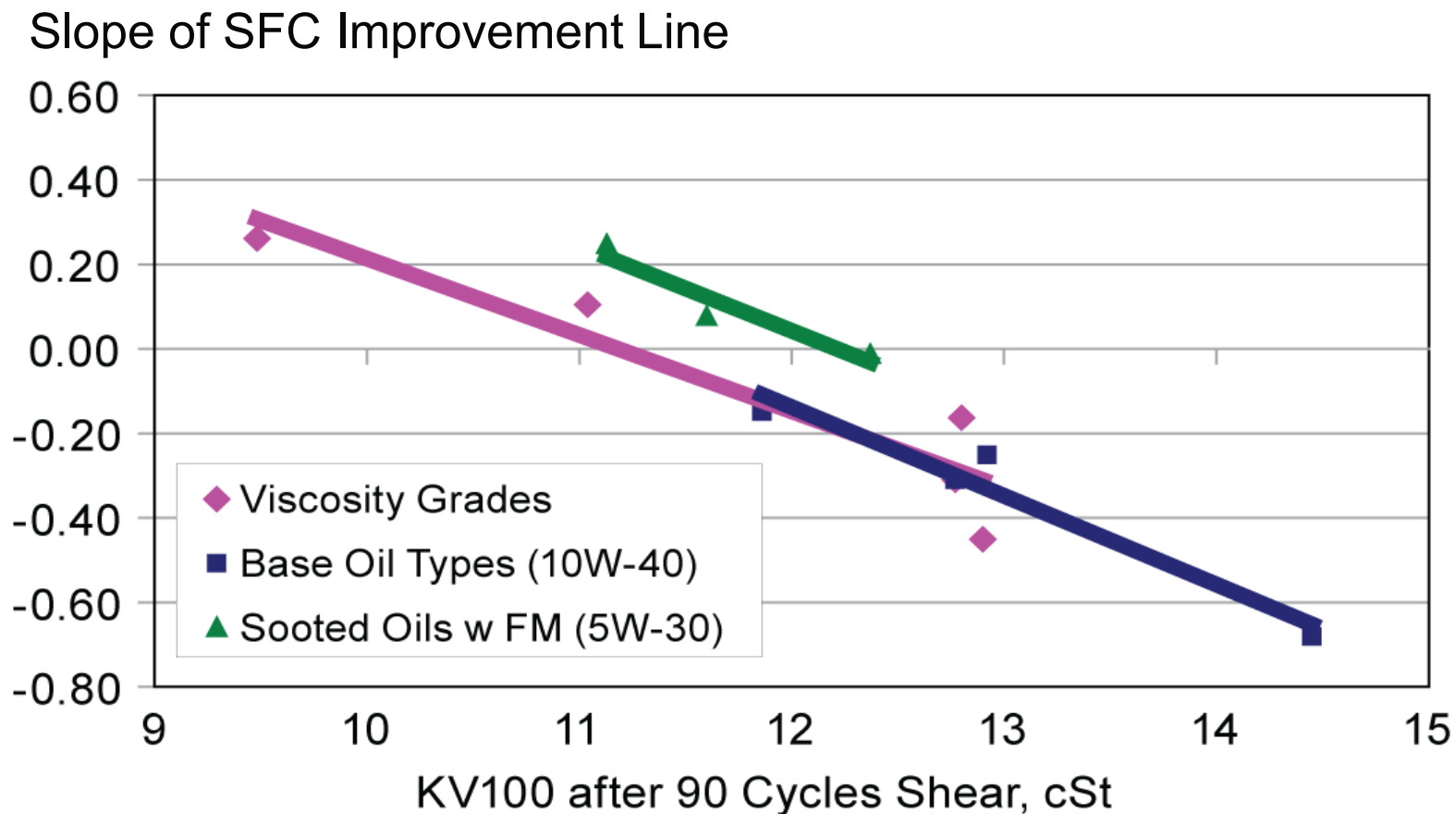




# Oil Aging/Soot Contamination Hurts Fuel Economy



# FE Deterioration Caused by Viscometric Changes FM Effect Remains



# Conclusions

- Fuel economy in heavy duty diesel engines can be improved by lowering the viscosity of the engine lubricant
- The observed impacts are magnified when either the engine speed is increased or the load is decreased, conditions representative of long distance on-highway driving



# Conclusions

- The lubricant in the engine is exposed to high shear, but the conditions that show the biggest response are assumed to be conditions where hydrodynamic lubrication prevails, which explains why the best correlation with fuel economy is found with the sheared high temperature viscosity
- Engine lubricant additives such as friction modifiers, traditionally known to improve fuel economy in passenger car engines, have shown a response in heavy duty diesel engines



# Conclusions

- Aging and contamination of the engine lubricant with soot particles results in a viscosity increase which causes a deterioration of fuel economy that can be many times greater than the fuel economy benefits that can be achieved with lubricant modifications
- Controlling soot, oxidation, and evaporation-related viscosity increase remains a critical factor for optimizing heavy duty diesel engine lubricants, its impact on maintaining fuel economy control until now, has not been fully recognized

