



NDT&E Tech Brief

NDT&E Myths: Exposed!

It's time to address some too common misunderstandings, misconceptions, and misinformation about popular NDT&E technologies.

Myth: Infrared can see through walls

Fact: Actually, IR thermography sees the radiated surface temperature. Heat transfers by conduction from below the surface to the surface where it is radiated. If a surface is uniform and non-reflective, we can attribute surface temperature differences to differences in sub-surface materials and moisture.

Myth: Moisture meters detect moisture

Fact: Actually, moisture meters detect differences in electrical capacitance between the meter plates. "Moisture" meters can also detect voids, embedded metal, and different substrates.

Myth: Ground penetrating radar rebar reflections are parabolas

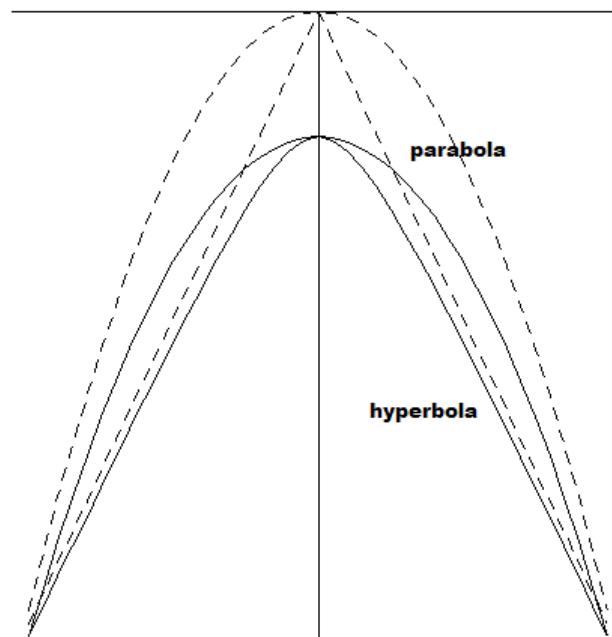
Fact: Actually, they're hyperbolas, which is why terrazzo tile GPR reflections look like isosceles triangle points. Parabolas are flatter at the top and continue to curve out at the bottom.

Myth: RILEM tubes were invented by a RILEM committee

Fact: Actually, they were invented by Karsten 20 years before. Snethlage, a fellow German on the committee, probably contributed the recommendation. And, despite the misprint in ASTM E2167, it's a Roman numeral two, not an eleven, for test II.4.

Myth: One size fits all

Fact: If all you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. Specify the problem, and we'll help you choose the correct NDT&E technology – or combination of technologies – to provide the answer. (For a list of all of the tests that SUPERSTRUCTURES provides, click [here](#).)



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