



# AS2070: Aerospace Structural Mechanics

## Module 3: Introduction to Fatigue and Failure

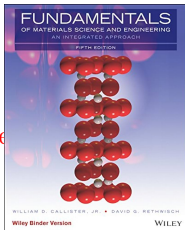
**Instructor: Nidish Narayanaa Balaji**

**Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras**

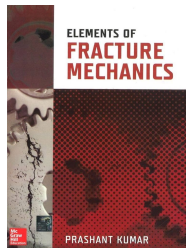
January 24, 2025

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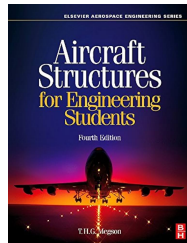
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  - Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve
  - Failure Mechanisms
    - Fracture
    - Fatigue
  - Energy Release Rate
  - Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics
  - Modes of Fracture



*Chapter 3 in Jr and Rethwisch (2012).*



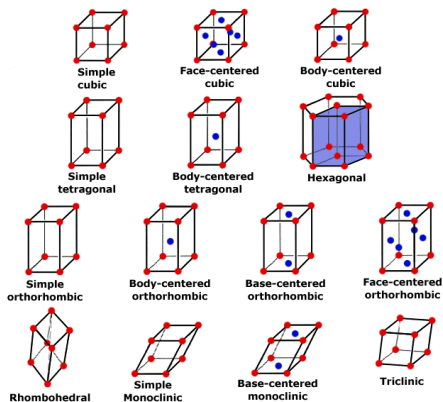
*Chapters 1-3 in Kumar (2009).*



*Chapter 15 in Megson (2013)*

# 1.1. Structure of Materials

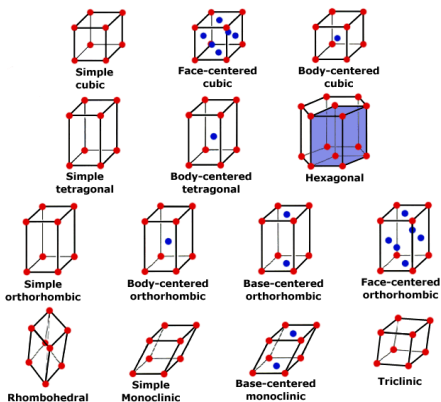
## Introduction



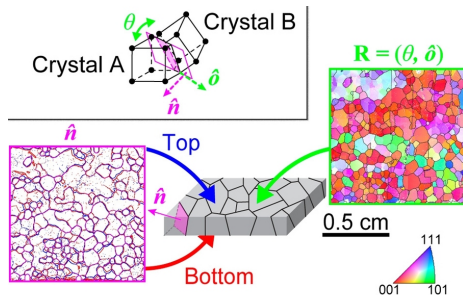
*Types of crystal structures in metals Sparky (2013)*

# 1.1. Structure of Materials

## Introduction



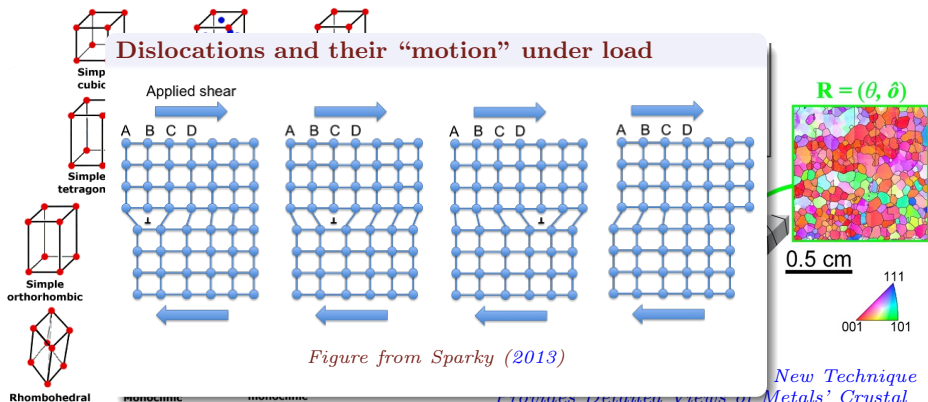
*Types of crystal structures in metals Sparky (2013)*



*Crystal and Grain Structures New Technique Provides Detailed Views of Metals' Crystal Structure (2016). "Polycrystallinity"*

# 1.1. Structure of Materials

## Introduction



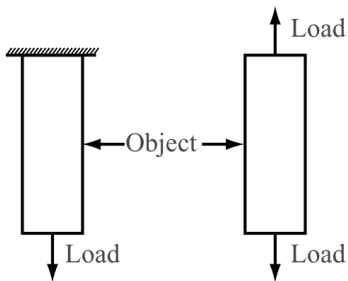
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## 1.2. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve

### Introduction

#### The Uniaxial Tensile Test



*Figure from Rajendran 2011*

# 1.2. Understanding the Stress-Strain Curve

## Introduction

### Terminology

- ➊ Proportionality Limit;
- ➋ Elastic Limit;
- ➌ Yield Point;
- ➍ Ultimate Strength;
- ➎ Fracture Point;
- ➏ Elongation at Failure;

### Ductile Fracture

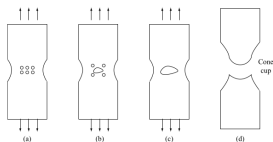


Figure from Rajendran  
2011

### Ductile Material Stress-Strain Curve low carbon steel

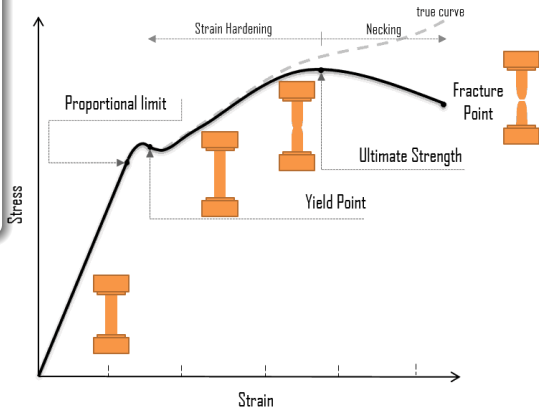


Figure from Connor 2020

# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fracture

## 1. Introduction

### “Griffith Theory” of brittle fracture

- Theoretical fracture stress  
 $\sim \frac{E}{5} - \frac{E}{30}$  (steel  $\sim \frac{E}{1000}$ )

- Fracture occurs when  
 $E_{strain} = E_{surface}$

- Crack propagates when  
 $\frac{dE_{strain}}{dL} = \frac{dE_{surface}}{dL}$



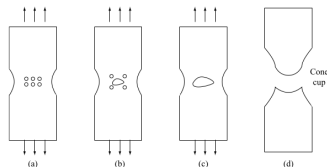
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### Ductile Fracture



*Ductile Fracture Rajendran 2011*

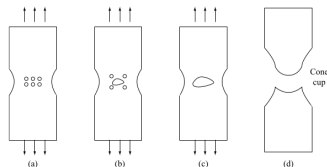
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### Ductile Fracture



*Ductile Fracture Rajendran 2011*

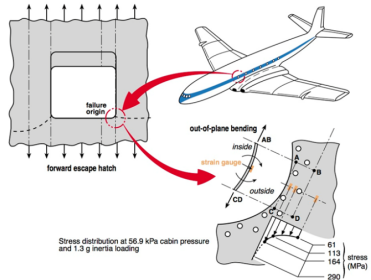
Sr. No	Brittle Fracture	Ductile Fracture
1.	It occurs with no or little plastic deformation.	It occurs with large plastic deformation.
2.	The rate of propagation of the crack is fast.	The rate of propagation of the crack is slow.
3.	It occurs suddenly without any warning.	It occurs slowly.
4.	The fractured surface is flat.	The fractured surface has rough contour and the shape is similar to cup and cone arrangement.
5.	The fractured surface appears shiny.	The fractured surface is dull when viewed with naked eye and the surface has dimpled appearance when viewed with scanning electron microscope.
6.	It occurs where micro crack is larger.	It occurs in localised region where the deformation is larger.

*Ductile vs Brittle Fracture Rajendran 2011*

# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fatigue

## 1. Introduction

..over 90% of mechanical failures are caused because of metal fatigue *What Is Metal Fatigue?* 2021...



*The De Havilland Comet The deHavilland Comet Disaster 2019 [lecture]*

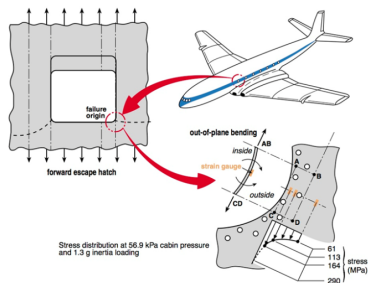
# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fatigue

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..over 90% of mechanical failures are caused because of metal fatigue *What Is Metal Fatigue?* 2021...



A more recent example (2021 United Airlines Boeing 777) [DCA21FA085.Aspx n.d. \[video\]](#)



The De Havilland Comet *The deHavilland Comet Disaster 2019 [lecture]*

# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fatigue

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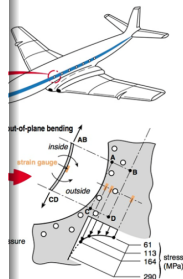
### Fatigue Crack Propagation: Beech Marks



A more recent exam  
(Boeing 777) DCA2



Figure from *Fatigue Physics* n.d.

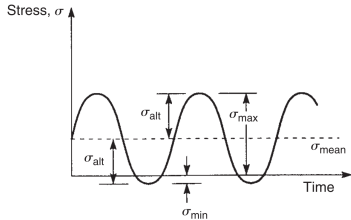


net *The deHavilland*  
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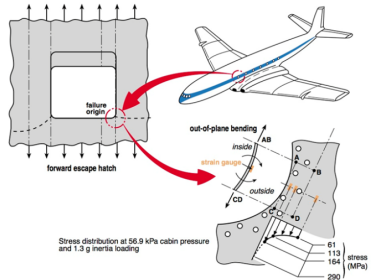
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*Fatigue variables Megson 2013*

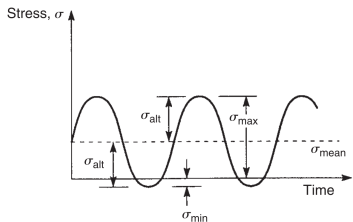


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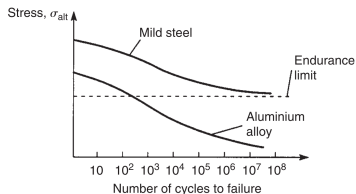
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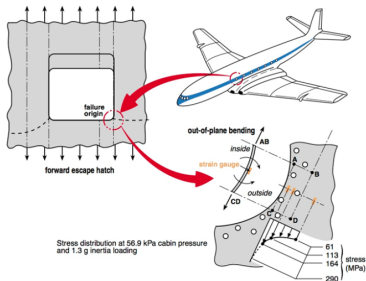
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*Fatigue variables Megson 2013*



*The S-n Diagram Megson 2013*



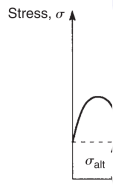
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# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fatigue

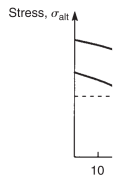
## 1. Introduction

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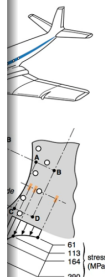
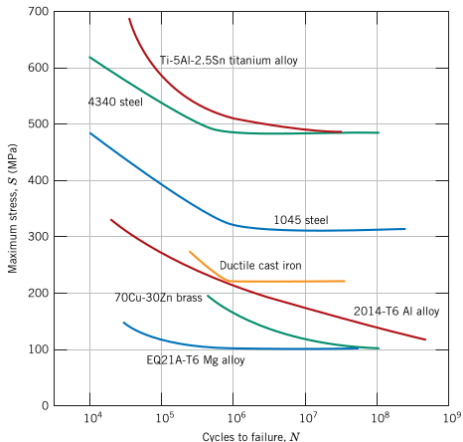
### S-N Curves for Common Metals ( Jr and Rethwisch 2012)



*Fatigue*



*The S-n*



*deHavilland  
ecture]*

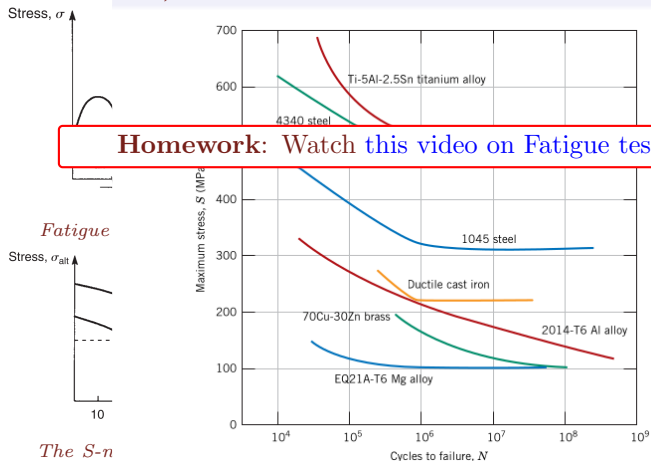


# 1.3. Failure Mechanisms: Fatigue

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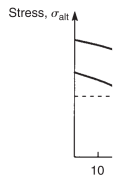
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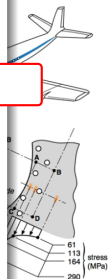


**Homework:** Watch this video on Fatigue testing.

*Fatigue*



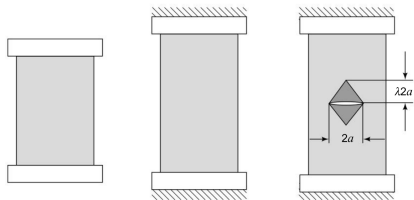
*The S-n*



*deHavilland  
ecture]*

# 1.4. Energy Release Rate: Griffith's Analysis

## Introduction



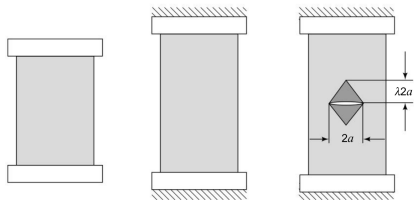
*Simplistic picture of the introduction of a crack in a stretched specimen (Figure from sec 2.5 in Kumar 2009)*

- Because of the crack, we assume  $\sigma \approx 0$  in the triangles.
- Corresponding energy loss:

$$E_R = V_{\Delta} \times \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{2E} \right) = \frac{2a^2 \lambda t \sigma^2}{E}.$$

# 1.4. Energy Release Rate: Griffith's Analysis

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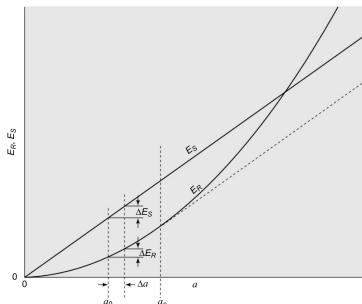
$$E_R = V_{\Delta} \times \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{2E} \right) = \frac{2a^2 \lambda t \sigma^2}{E}.$$

- For thin plates,  $\lambda = \frac{\pi}{2}$ . So,

$$E_R = \frac{\pi a^2 t \sigma^2}{E}.$$

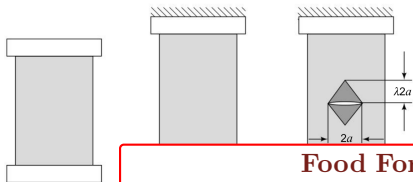
- The “creation” of a surface takes energy. We write this as,

$$E_S = 2(2at)\gamma = 4at\gamma.$$



# 1.4. Energy Release Rate: Griffith's Analysis

## Introduction



Simplistic picture  
in a stretched  
plate (Griffith  
2009)

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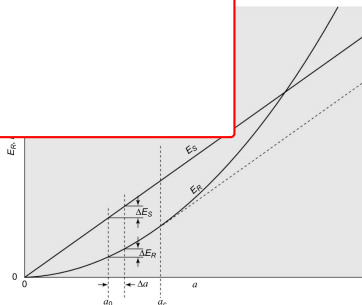
- The “creation” of a surface takes

### Food For Thought

- What would a “safe size” of crack be, for a given loading condition? *Hint: Think incrementally*

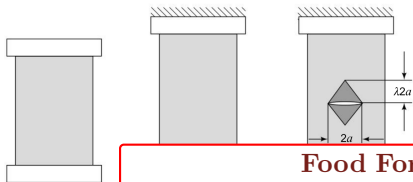
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# 1.4. Energy Release Rate: Griffith's Analysis

## Introduction



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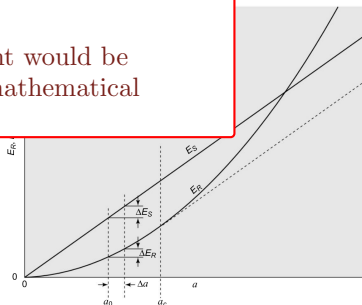
- The “creation” of a surface takes

### Food For Thought

- What would a “safe size” of crack be, for a given loading condition? *Hint: Think incrementally*
- What type of an experiment would be necessary to confirm this mathematical framework?

this as,

$$E_S = 4at\gamma$$



# 1.5. Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics

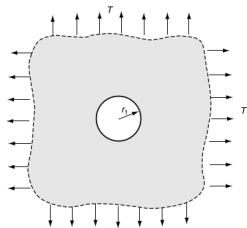
Introduction

(Ref: Sec. 8.4.2 in Sadd 2009)

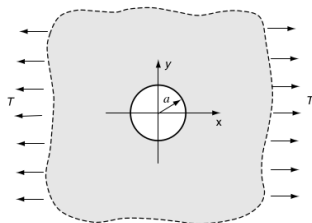
Consider the following two cases.

**Question:** Where will the point of peak stress occur? And which will have higher maximum stress?

Case 1



Case 2



# 1.5. Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics

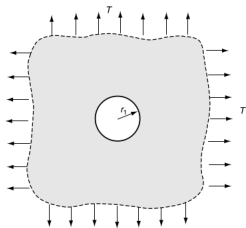
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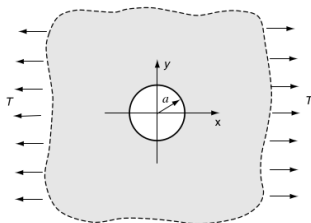
Consider the following two cases.

**Question:** Where will the point of peak stress occur? And which will have higher maximum stress?

### Case 1



### Case 2



### Analytical Solution

$$\sigma_r = T\left(1 - \frac{r_1^2}{r^2}\right), \quad \sigma_\theta = T\left(1 + \frac{r_1^2}{r^2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\sigma_{\max} = 2T}$$

# 1.5. Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics

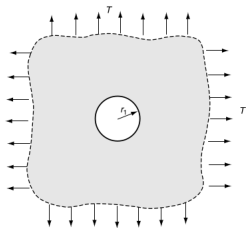
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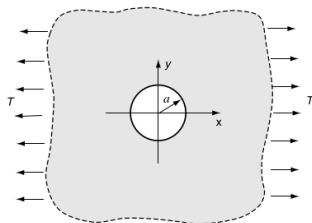
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$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\sigma_{\max} = 2T}$$

## Analytical Solution

$$\sigma_r = T\left(1 - \frac{r_1^2}{r^2}\right) + (\cdot) \cos(2\theta), \quad \sigma_\theta = \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\sigma_{\max} = 3T}$$



# 1.5. Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics

Introduction

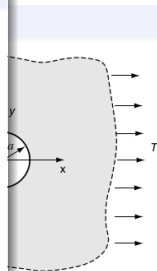
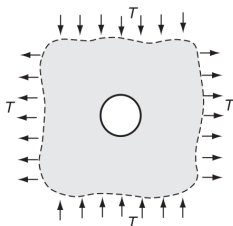
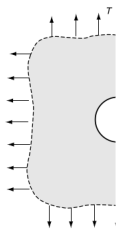
(Ref: Sec. 8.4.2 in Sadd 2009)

Consider the following two cases.

**Question:** Where will the point of peak stress occur? And which will have higher maximum stress?

**Case 3**

**Case 1**



$$\sigma_{\max} = 4T$$

**Analytical Solution**

$$\sigma_r = T\left(1 - \frac{r_2^2}{r^2}\right), \sigma_\theta = T\left(1 + \frac{r_2^2}{r^2}\right)$$

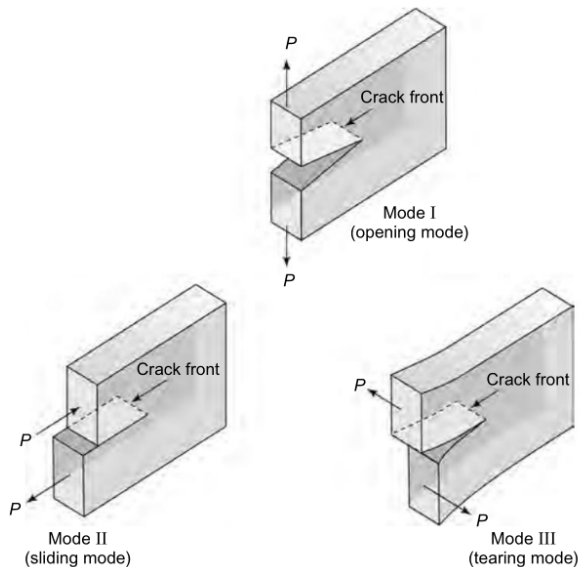
$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{\max} = 2T$$

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$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{\max} = 3T$$

# 1.6. Modes of Fracture

## Introduction



# References I

- [1] W. D. C. Jr and D. G. Rethwisch. **Fundamentals of Materials Science and Engineering: An Integrated Approach**, John Wiley & Sons, 2012. ISBN: 978-1-118-06160-2 (cit. on pp. 2, 11–17).
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