

4. Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics (LEFM)

Discrepancy between theoretical and experimental values of material strengths:

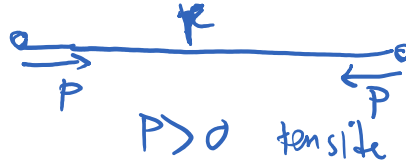
If the force between two particles is governed by a potential the force is derived from:

potential
↑
 $\frac{d\Pi}{dr}$
particle vector

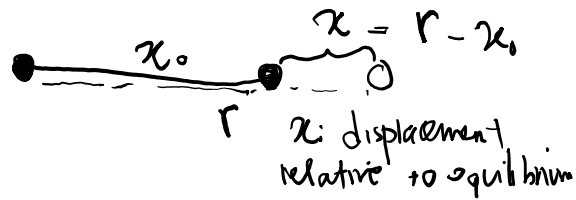
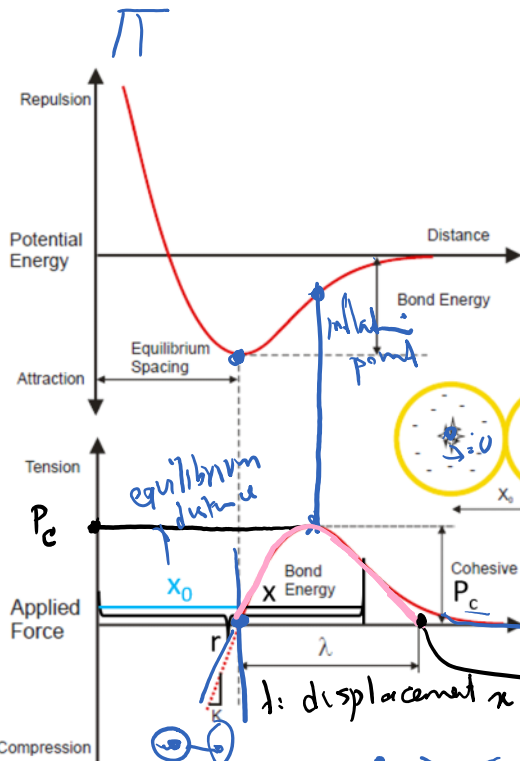
$\vec{P} = - \frac{d\Pi}{dr}$

force vector ←

in 1D



$P = \frac{d\Pi}{dr}$



we approximate this part by a sine wave

$P = P_c \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$

$x=0 \rightarrow r=x_0 \rightarrow P=0$
 $x=\lambda \rightarrow P=0$

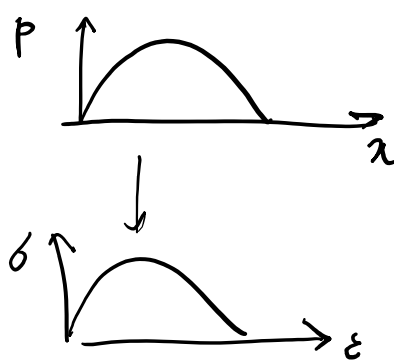
λ : displacement x for which $P \approx 0$

$r < x_0$
 $r > x_0$

$P = P_c \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$

want to make these changes

σ ϵ



I) $x \rightarrow z$

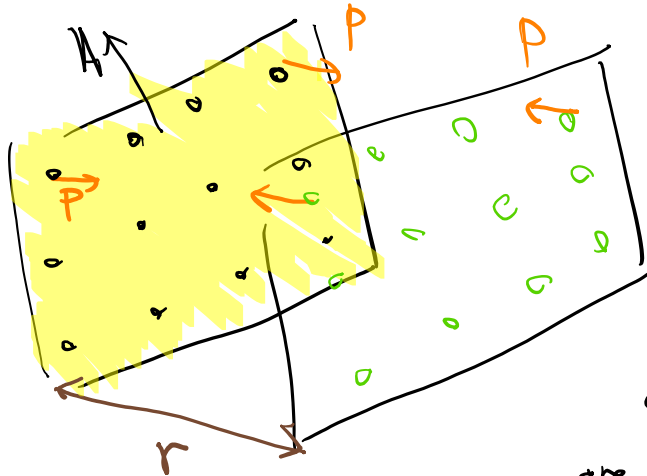
$$x = x_0 \epsilon \quad (1)$$

$r = x_0$

$$\epsilon = \frac{\text{new length} - \text{old length}}{\text{old length}} = \frac{x}{x_0}$$

II) $P \rightarrow \sigma$

two parallel atom planes



all equal forces

$$F = \sum P = nP$$

number of atoms in the plane intersected

e.g. $n = 12$

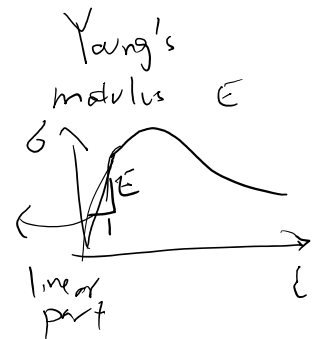
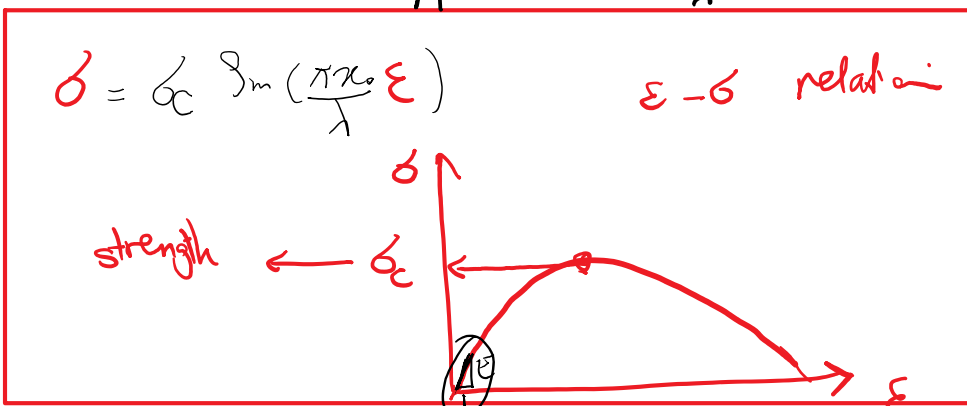
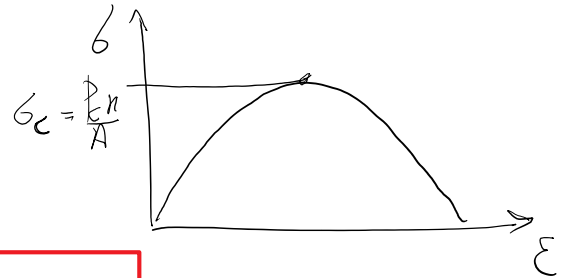
$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A}$$

area

$$\sigma = \frac{Pn}{A} \quad (2)$$

(1) & (2) $P \approx P_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\lambda}\right)$

$$\sigma = \frac{P_0 n}{A} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x_0}{\lambda} \epsilon\right)$$



$$E = \frac{d\sigma}{d\epsilon} \quad (\epsilon = 0)$$

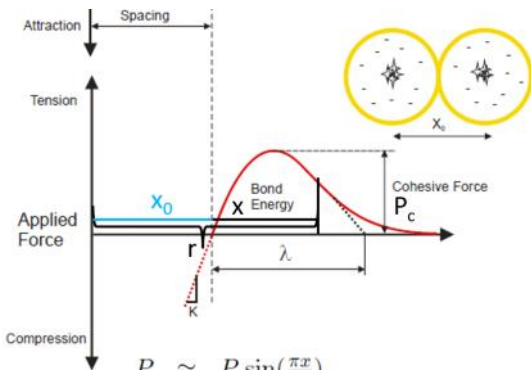
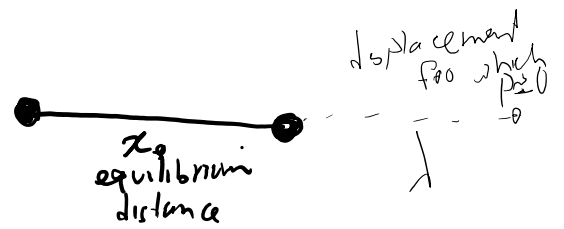
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\epsilon} = \sigma_c \frac{\pi x_0}{\lambda} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x_0}{\lambda} \epsilon\right) \quad (3) \quad \epsilon = 0$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\epsilon} \Big|_{\epsilon=0} = E = \sigma_c \frac{\pi x_0}{\lambda}$$

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{d\varepsilon} \right|_{\varepsilon=0} = E = \sigma_c \frac{\pi r_0}{\lambda}$$

→

$$\sigma_c = \frac{E}{\pi} \frac{\lambda}{r_0}$$



generally
 $\lambda \approx r_0$

$$\frac{\lambda}{r_0} = O(1)$$

$$\sigma_c \approx \frac{E}{\pi}$$

steel example $E = 200 \text{ GPa} \rightarrow \text{exp'd } \sigma_c \approx 60 \text{ GPa}$
 $\sigma_y = 250 \text{ MPa}$

Aside from E, we want to derive fracture toughness from the atomistic model:

$n=12$

$\frac{n}{A} = \text{density}$

$\sigma = \kappa_0 + \kappa x$

$W_{\text{work}} = \int P dx = \int_0^x P_0 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{\lambda}\right) dx$

→

$$\text{work of breaking 1 atom bond} = \frac{2 \lambda P_0}{\pi}$$

$$\text{work of breaking } n \text{ atoms} = \frac{2 n \lambda P_0}{\pi}$$

$$\text{work of breaking atomistic bonds / surface} =$$

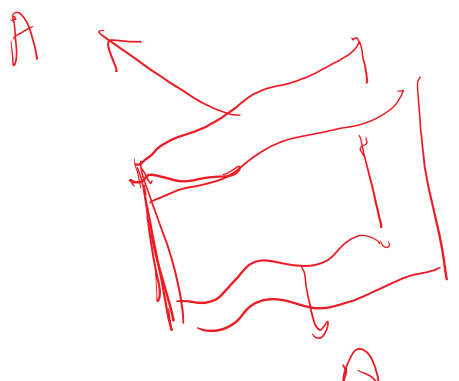
because crack has two surfaces

② σ_0

work of breaking atomic bonds / surface = $(2 \gamma_s)$

$$= \frac{2\lambda}{\pi} \left(\frac{nPe}{A} \right)$$

fracture toughness



σ_c "energy needed to break atomic bonds per surface area"

$$\frac{\lambda}{\pi} \sigma_c = \gamma_s \rightarrow \text{already had}$$

$$\sigma_c = \frac{\pi \gamma_s}{\lambda} \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma_c = \frac{E}{\pi} \frac{\lambda}{\kappa_0}$$

multiply these by each other \rightarrow

$$\sigma_c^2 = \frac{\gamma_s E}{\kappa_0}$$

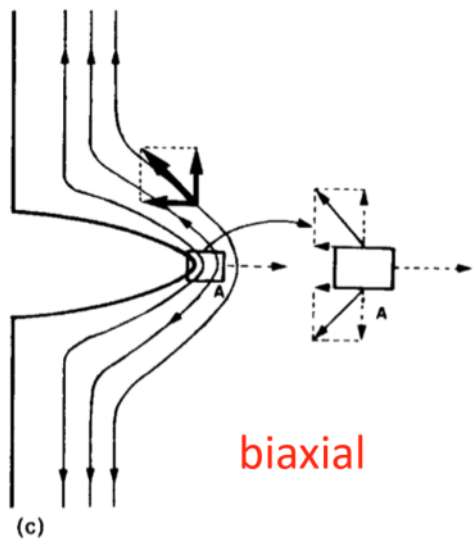
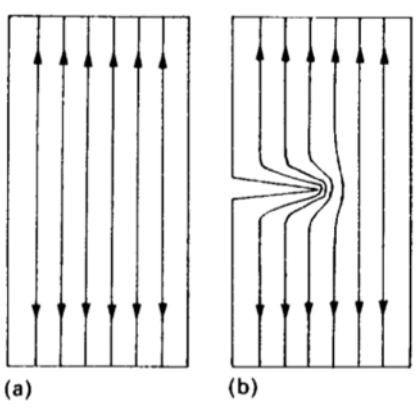
(6)

$$\sigma_c = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\kappa_0}}$$

$$\sigma_c = \frac{E}{\pi \kappa_0} \frac{\lambda}{\kappa_0}$$

Stress concentration (cont.)

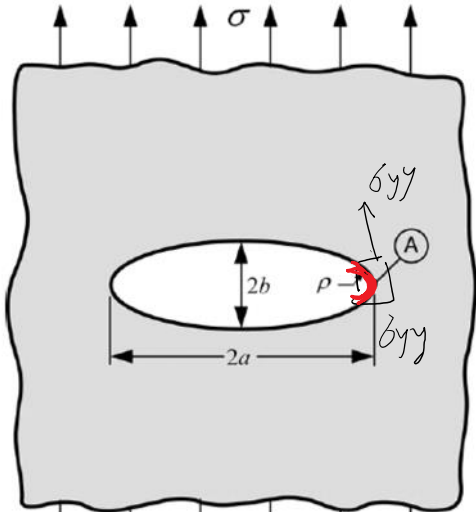
uniaxial



biaxial

Elliptic hole

Inglis, 1913, theory of elasticity



we increase σ until atomic bonds break somewhere in the specimen.

$$(\sigma_{yy})_A = \sigma \left(1 + \frac{2a}{b}\right)$$

$$p = \frac{b^2}{a}$$

$$(\sigma_{yy})_A = \sigma \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{4a}{p}}\right)$$

as $p \rightarrow 0$

$$(\sigma_{yy})_A \approx 2\sigma \sqrt{\frac{a}{p}}$$

\downarrow σ_{max}
 \downarrow For Field

$$\sigma_c = 2 \sigma_f \sqrt{\frac{a}{p}}$$

as $b \rightarrow 0$
 $(\sigma_{yy})_A \rightarrow \infty$
 useful formula
 $a = b$

stress concentration = 3

approaching a sharp crack

at failure

continuum strength
 what we experimentally measure as strength

(7)

$$\sigma_f = \sqrt{\frac{p}{4a}} \sigma_c$$

Recall $\sigma_c = \frac{E}{\pi} \frac{\lambda}{\kappa_0}$ or $\sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\kappa_0}}$

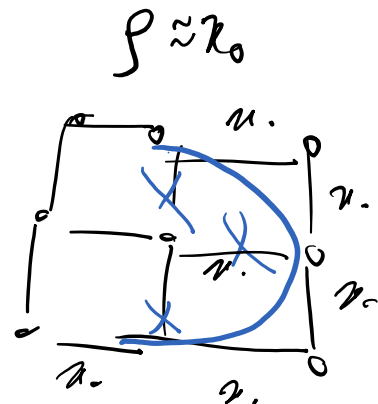
as $p \rightarrow 0$ $\sigma_f \rightarrow 0$
 but there is a lower limit to p .

The sharpest crack has $p \approx \kappa_0$

$$\sigma_f = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa_0}{4a}} \sigma_c$$

recall $\sigma_c = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\kappa_0}}$

sharpest crack possible



recall $\sigma_c = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\alpha_0}}$

$\rightarrow \sigma_f = \sqrt{\frac{\pi \gamma_s}{4a}} \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\alpha_0}} = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{4a}}$

Summary

$a \gg \alpha_0$

$\sigma_f = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{4a}}$

\ll

$\sigma_c = \sqrt{\frac{E \gamma_s}{\alpha_0}}$

Continuum strength

atomic strength

FM was developed during WWI by English aeronautical engineer A. A. Griffith to explain the following observations:

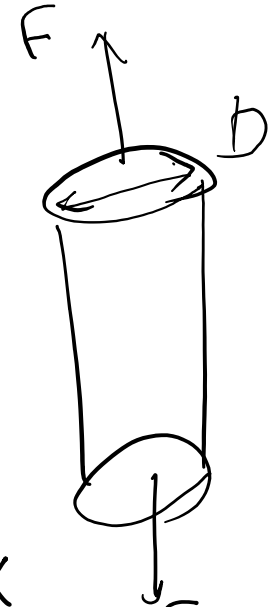
- The stress needed to fracture bulk [glass](#) is around 100 MPa
- The theoretical stress needed for breaking atomic bonds is approximately 10,000 MPa
- experiments on glass fibers that Griffith himself conducted: the fracture stress increases as the fiber diameter decreases => Hence the uniaxial tensile strength, which had been used extensively to predict material failure before Griffith, could not be a specimen-independent material property.



Griffith's size effect experiment

TABLE 1.1. Strength of glass fibers according to Griffith's experiments.

Diameter (10 ⁻³ in)	Breaking stress (lb/in ²)	Diameter (10 ⁻³ in)	Breaking stress (lb/in ²)
40.00	24 900	0.95	117 000
4.20	42 300	0.75	134 000
2.78	50 800	0.70	164 000
2.25	64 100	0.60	185 000
2.00	79 600	0.56	154 000
1.85	88 500	0.50	195 000
1.75	82 600	0.38	232 000
1.40	85 200	0.26	332 000
1.32	99 500	0.165	498 000
1.15	88 700	0.130	491 000



~20X
 σ_c → atomistic-based strength
 σ_{th}/σ_b → continuum strength (σ_f)

$$\sigma_{th} = \sqrt{\frac{E\gamma}{a_0}}$$

	a_0 [m]	E [GPa]	σ_{th} [GPa]	σ_b [MPa]	σ_{th}/σ_b
glass	$3 * 10^{-10}$	60	14	170	82
steel	10^{-10}	210	45	250	180
silica fibers	10^{-10}	100	31	25000	1.3
iron whiskers	10^{-10}	295	54	13000	4.2
silicon whiskers	10^{-10}	165	41	6500	6.3
alumina whiskers	10^{-10}	495	70	15000	4.7
ausformed steel	10^{-10}	200	45	3000	15
piano wire	10^{-10}	200	45	2750	16.4

bulk materials 100
1000

Griffith's verification experiment

- Glass fibers with artificial cracks (much larger than natural crack-like flaws), tension tests

	Crack Length, $2a$ mm	Measured Strength, σ_f MPa	$\sigma_f \sqrt{a}$ MPa \sqrt{m}
sample 1	3.8	6.0	0.26
sample 2	6.9	4.3	0.25
sample 3	13.7	3.3	0.27
sample 4	22.6	2.5	0.27

(Data from the Griffith experiment)

$$G_p = \sqrt{\frac{E\sigma_f^2}{4a}}$$

$$G_p \sqrt{a} = \sqrt{\frac{E\sigma_f^2}{4}}$$

constant

Previous derivation was based on stress concentration and basically was a **stress approach**.

We want to demonstrate the same phenomena using the **energy approach**.

4.1.3. Cause of discrepancy:

2. Energy approach

external work

$$\dot{W} = \dot{U}_e + \dot{U}_p + \dot{U}_k + \dot{U}_\Gamma$$

internal strain energy

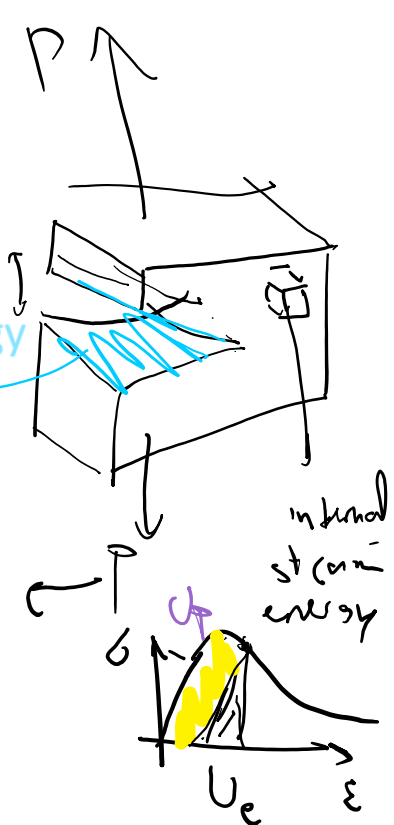
kinetic energy

surface energy

energy rate to create crack surface

does external work

internal strain energy



Brittle fracture: ignore U_p term

Quasi-static fracture: ignore dynamic effects

$$\dot{W} = \dot{U}_e + \dot{U}_\Gamma$$

$$\dots \Pi = \Pi_0 - W \quad \rightarrow$$

potent energy $\Pi = U_e - W \int \rightarrow$

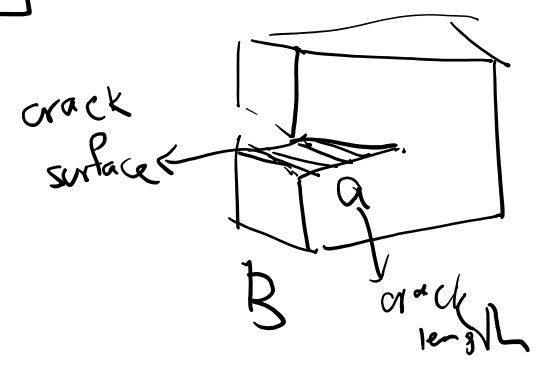
$U_e \quad \varepsilon$

$$\dot{U}_F = -\dot{\Pi} = \dot{W} - \dot{U}_e$$

$$\frac{\partial U_F}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial U_F}{\partial a} \left(\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} \right)$$

↓ crack speed

$$\frac{\partial (\cdot)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial (\cdot)}{\partial a} v_c$$



$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial U_F}{\partial a} = - \frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial a}$$

$$A = a B$$

↓ crack length

↑ plate width

$$\rightarrow \underbrace{\frac{\partial U_F}{\partial A}}_{2\delta_s} = - \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial A} = - \frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial a}$$

$$2\delta_s = - \frac{1}{B} \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial a} = - \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial A}$$