

# ***Fatigue for Engineers***

***Prepared by***

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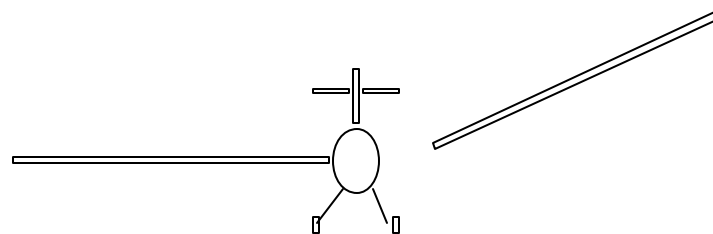
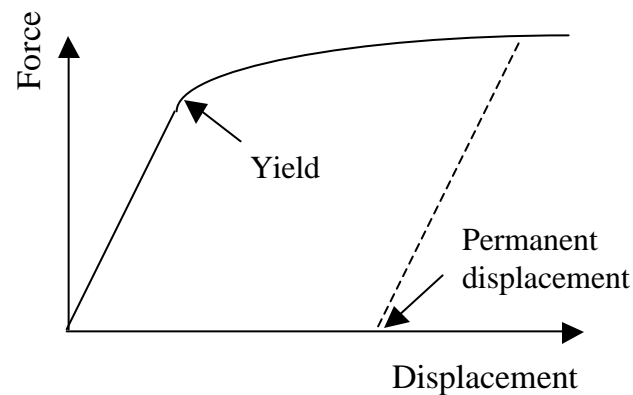
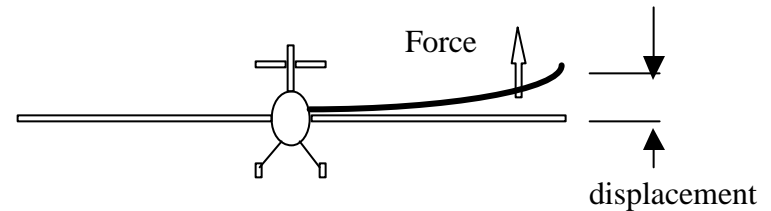


# *Objective*

- Overview nature/consequences of the fatigue failure mechanism
- Determine number of cycles required to
  - develop a fatigue crack
  - propagate a fatigue crack
- Discuss implications of fatigue on design and maintenance operations

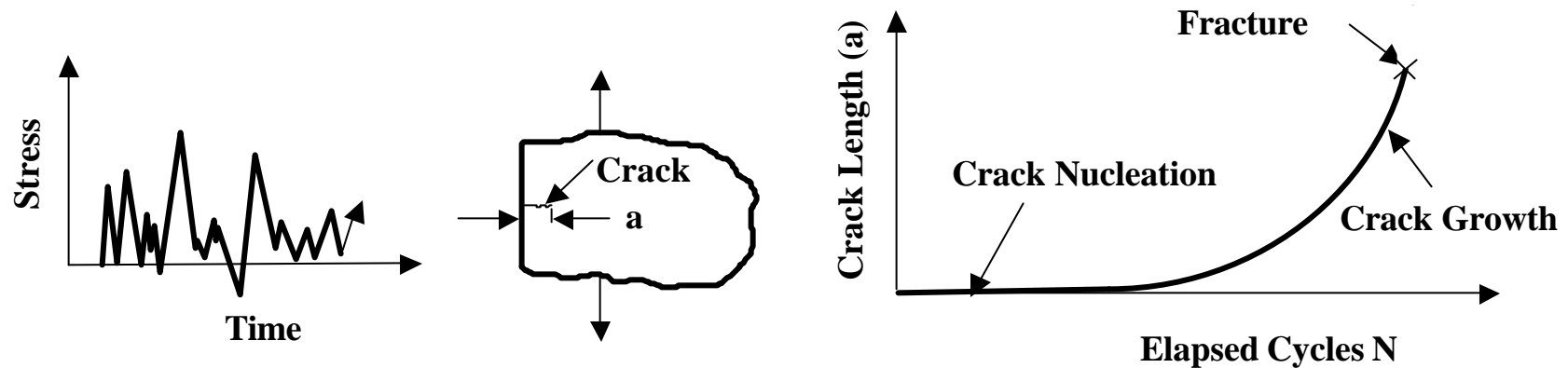
# Structural Failure Modes

- Excessive Deformation
  - Elastic
  - Plastic
- Buckling
- Fracture
- Creep
- Corrosion
- Fatigue



# ***Fatigue Failure Mechanism***

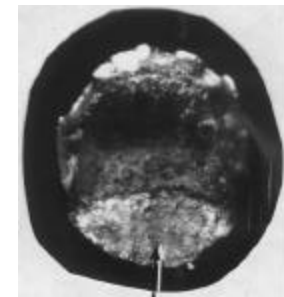
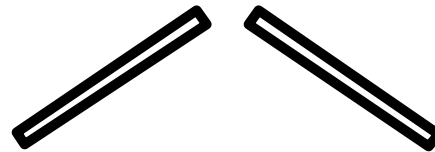
- Caused by repeated (cyclic) loading
- Involves crack formation, growth, and final fracture



- Fatigue life depends on initial quality, load, . . .

# *Paper Clip Experiment*

- Bend wire repeatedly until fracture



- Note:
  - life (number of applied load cycles) depends on:
    - applied stress amplitude
    - component “quality” (notches, scratches, etc.)
  - heat emitted  $\gg$  plastic deformation

# Characteristics of Fatigue

- “Brittle” fracture surface appearance
- Cracks often form at free surface
- Macro/micro “beach marks”/ “striations”

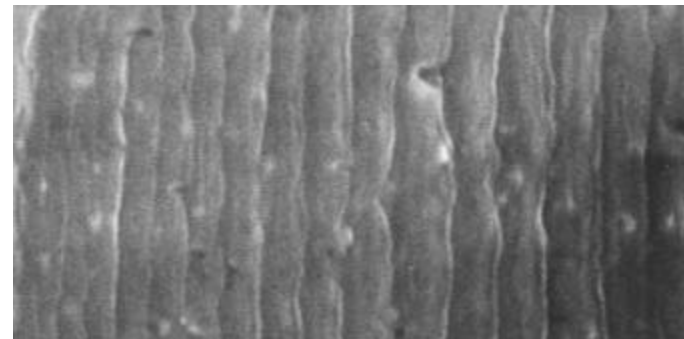
*Beach marks*



0.3 in

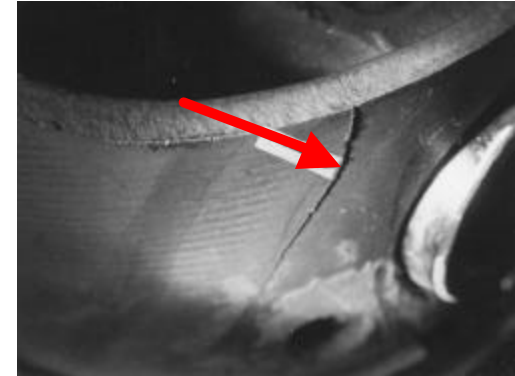
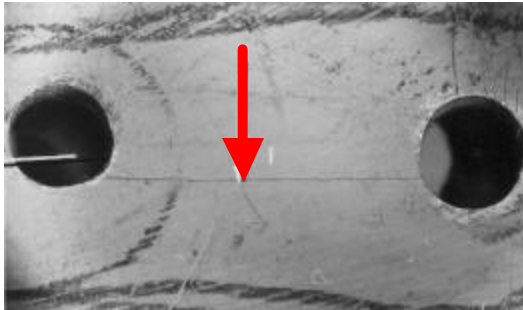


*Striations*

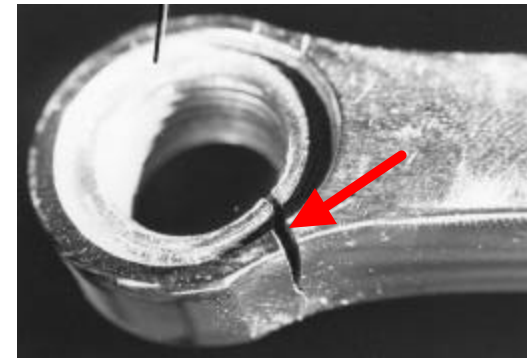
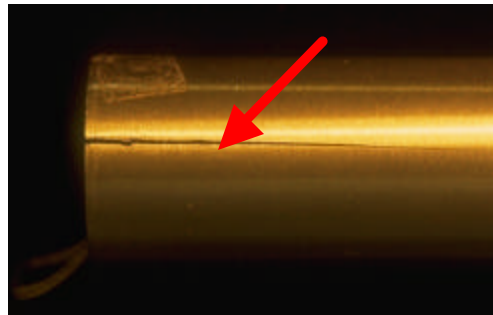
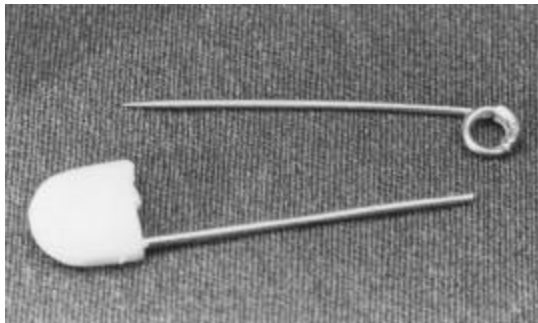


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# ***Fatigue is problem for many types of structures***



# ***Exercise***

Describe fatigue failures from your personal experience

- What was cause of fatigue failure?
- What was nature of cyclic load?
- Was initial quality an issue?
- How was failure detected?
- How was problem solved?

# ***Exercise***

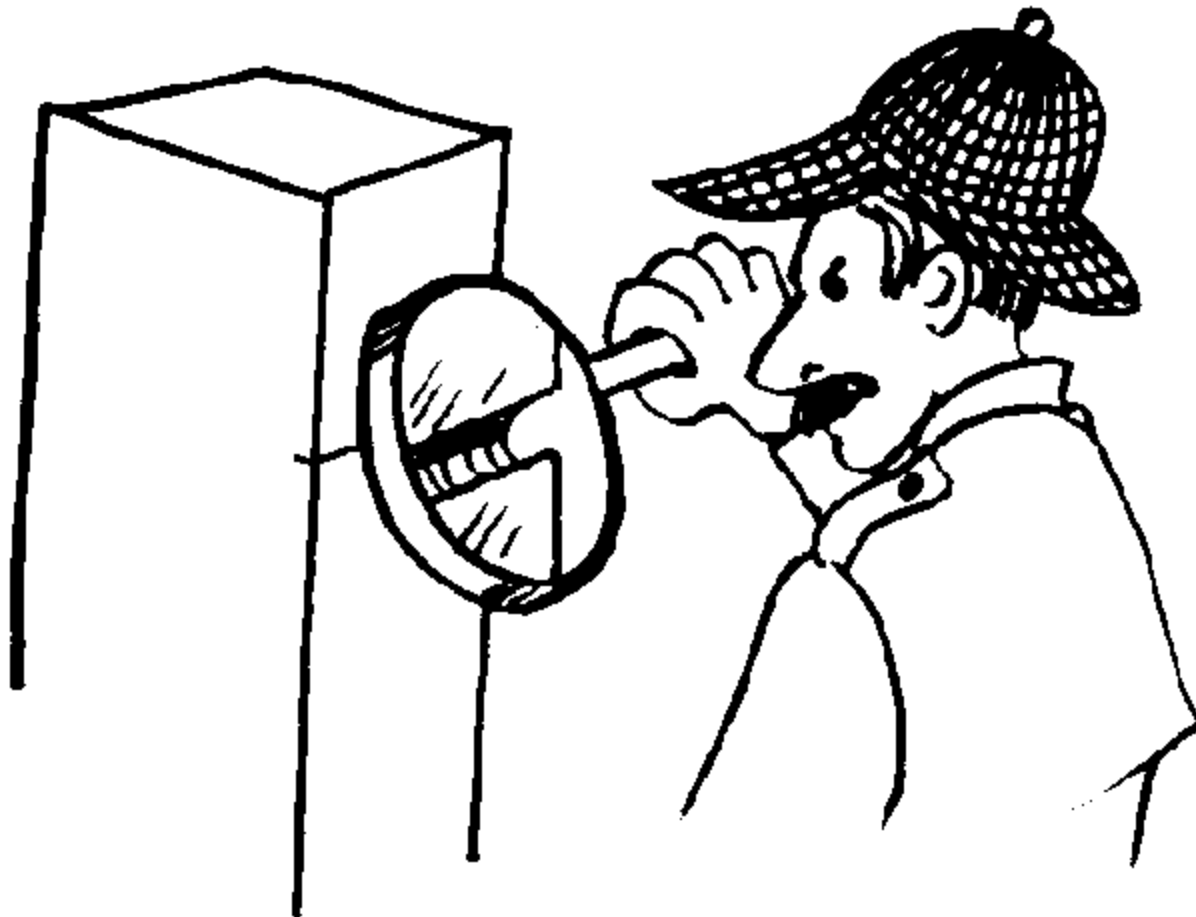
Estimate the fatigue lifetime needed for:

- Automobile axle
- Railroad rail
- Commercial aircraft components
  - landing gear
  - lower wing skin
- Highway drawbridge mechanism
- Space shuttle solid propellant rocket motor cases

# ***Exercise***

- Give an example of a High Cycle Fatigue (HCF) application.
  - What is the required lifetime?
  - What are consequences of failure?
- Given an example of a Low Cycle Fatigue (LCF) application.
  - What is the required lifetime?
  - What are consequences of failure?

# ***Fatigue Crack Formation***



# Fatigue Crack Formation

## Objective

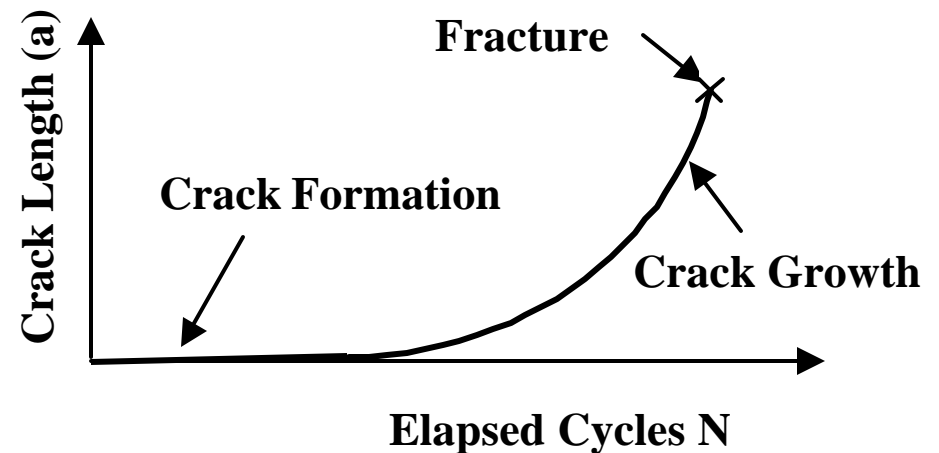
- Characterize resistance to fatigue crack formation
- Predict number of cycles to “initiate” *small\** fatigue crack in component

\*crack size ~ 0.03 inch

= “committee” crack

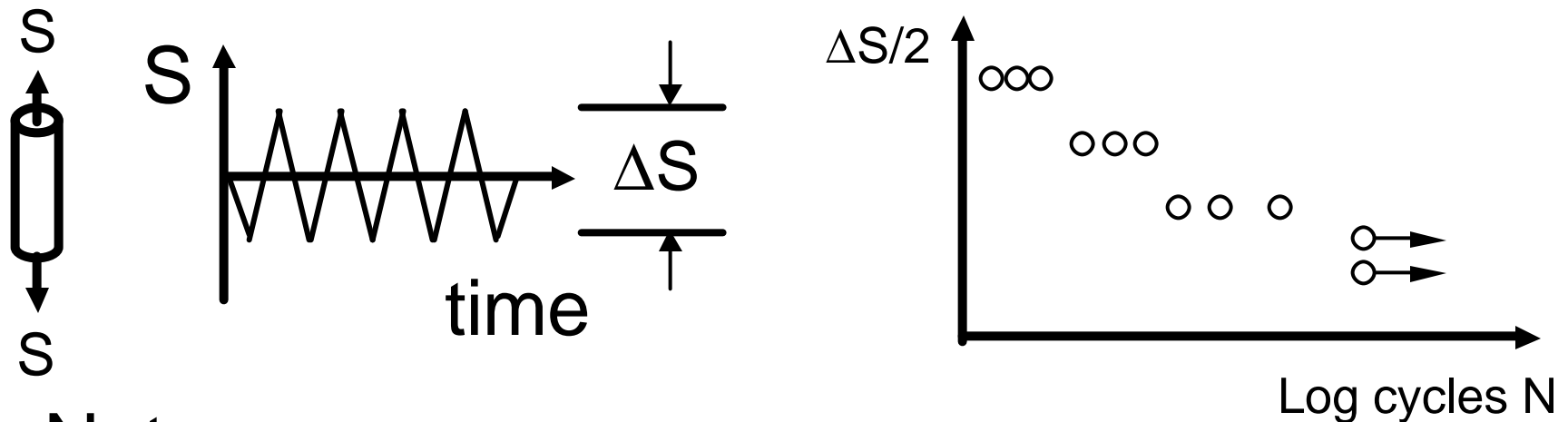
## Approach

- Stress-life concepts (S-N curves)
- Strain-life concepts



# Stress-life (S-N) Approach

Concept: Stress range controls fatigue life

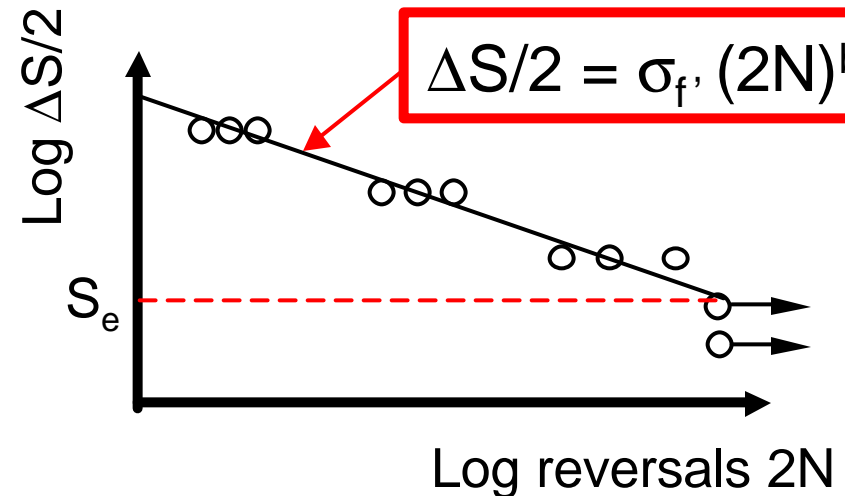


## Note:

- Life increases as load amplitude decreases
- Considerable scatter in data
- “Run-outs” suggest “infinite life” possible
- Life N usually total cycles to failure

# Model Stress-life (S-N) Curve

- $S_e$  = endurance limit  
for steels
  - $S_e \sim 0.5$  ultimate stress  $S_{ult}$
  - $S_e \sim 100$  ksi if  $S_{ult} < 200$  ksi



- $\sigma_{f'}$  = fatigue strength coefficient
- $b$  = fatigue strength exponent  
typically  $-0.12 < b < -0.05$

Note: Measure life in terms of reversals  $2N$   
(1 cycle = 2 reversals)

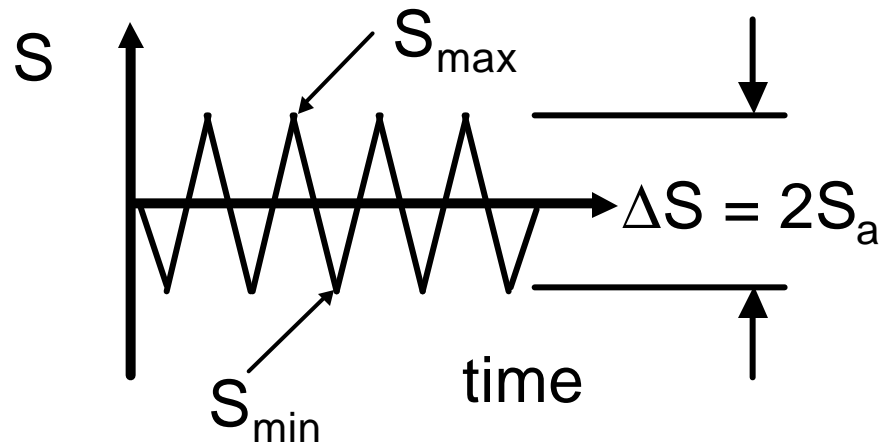
# S-N Curve: Mean Stress

## Mean stress effects life

$$\text{stress ratio } R = S_{\min} / S_{\max}$$

$$S_{\text{mean}} = 0.5(S_{\min} + S_{\max})$$

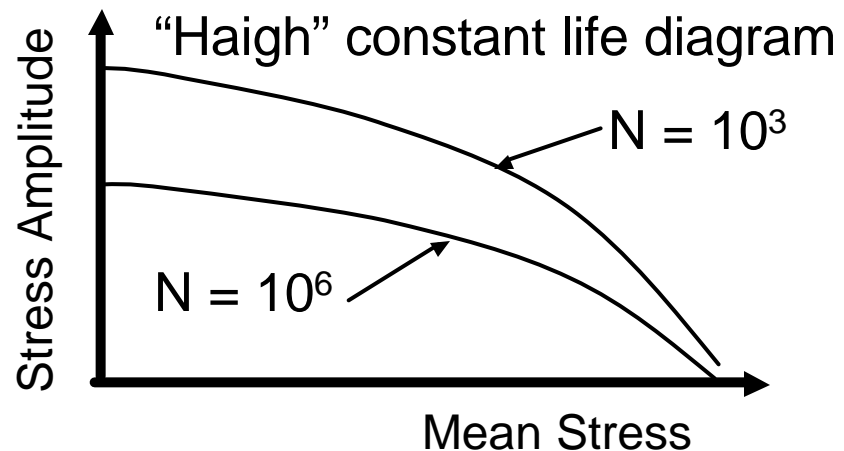
$$S_a = 0.5(S_{\max} - S_{\min}) = \Delta S / 2$$



## Mean stress models

$$S_a / S_e + S_m / S_{\text{ult}} = 1$$

$$\Delta S / 2 = (\sigma_f' - S_{\text{mean}}) (2N)^b$$



# ***S-N Curve: Other Factors***

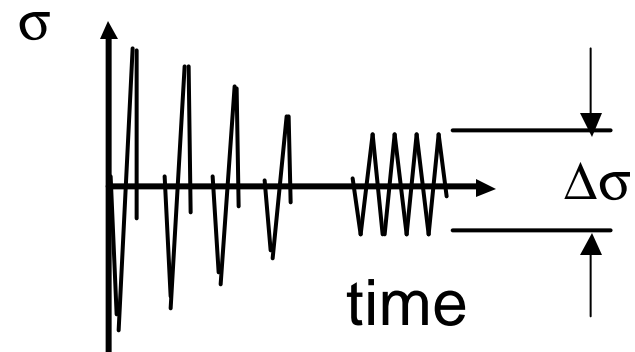
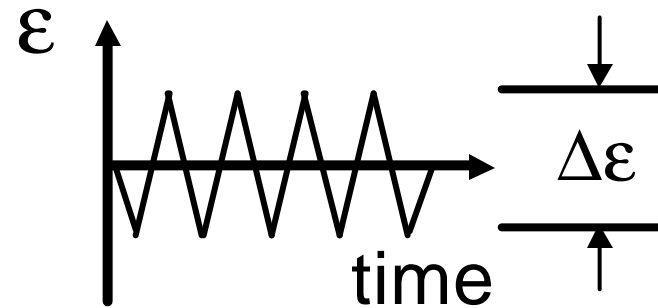
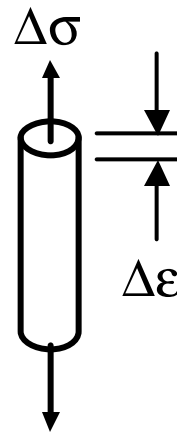
- S-N curves are very sensitive to
  - surface finish, coatings, notches
  - prior loading, residual stresses
  - specimen size effects, etc.
- Many empirical “knock-down” factors
- S-N approach best suited for HCF (High Cycle Fatigue) applications
  - limited by local plastic deformation
  - strain-life approach better for LCF (Low Cycle Fatigue)

# Strain-life ( $\epsilon - N$ ) Approach

Concept: Strain range  $\Delta\epsilon$  controls life

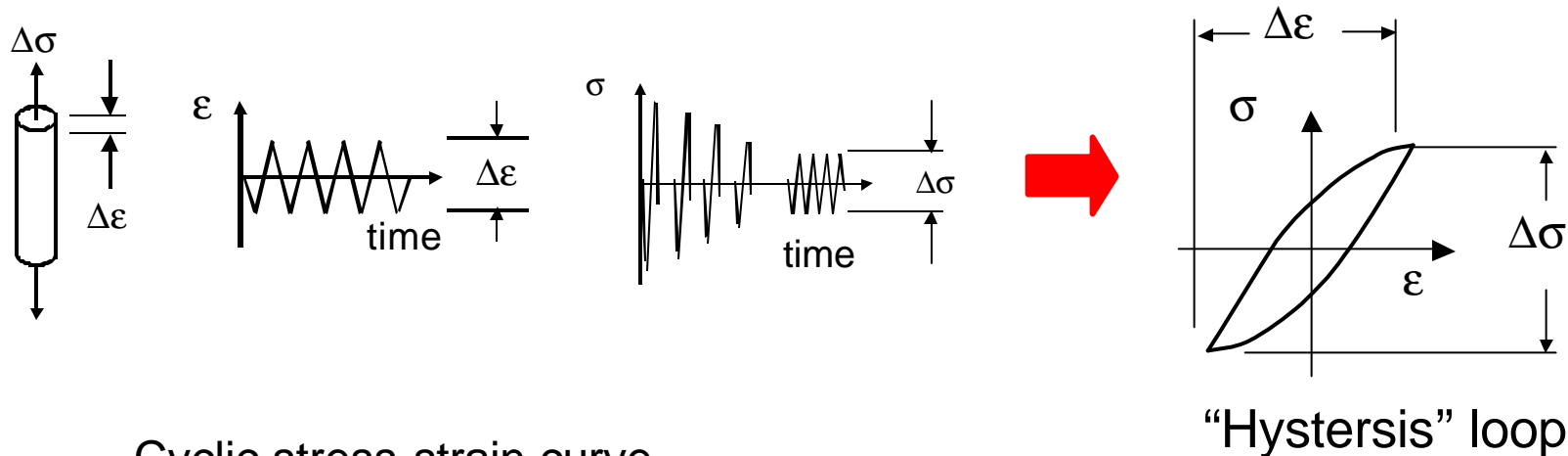
## Experiment

- Control  $\Delta\epsilon$
- Measure
  - “Reversals” ( $2N_f$ ) to failure (1 cycle = 2 reversals)
  - Stable stress range  $\Delta\sigma$  needed to maintain  $\Delta\epsilon$   
Note: “stable”  $\Delta\sigma$  usually occurs by mid-life ( $2N_f / 2$ )

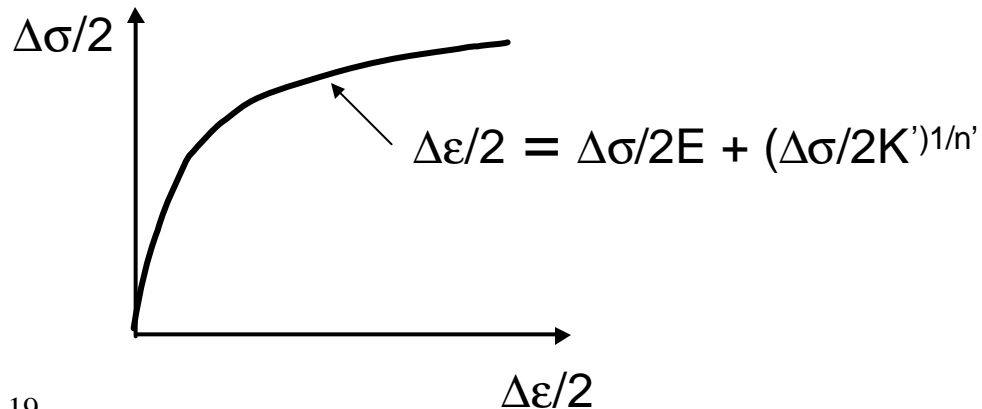


# Cyclic Stress-Strain Curve

Relate stable cyclic stress and strain ranges



Cyclic stress-strain curve

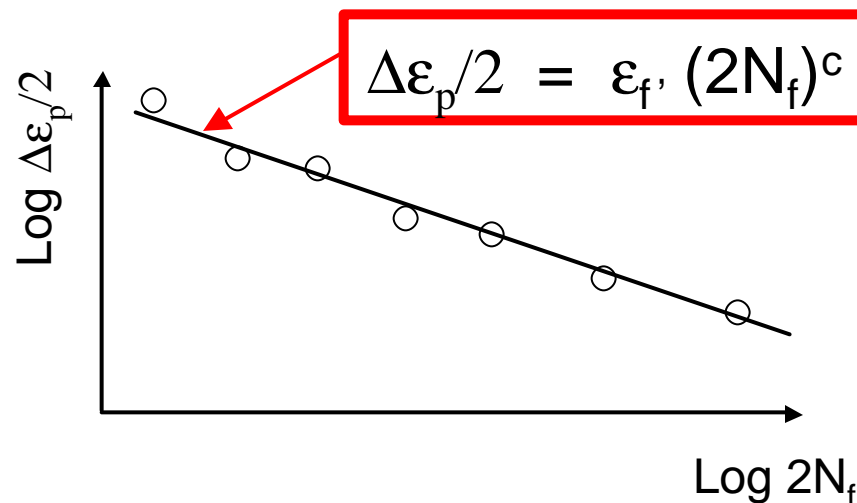


E = elastic modulus  
 K' = cyclic strength coefficient  
 n' = strain hardening exponent

# Plastic Strain-Life Curve

Relate “plastic” strain amplitude  $\Delta\varepsilon_p/2$  with reversals to failure  $2N_f$

Compute  $\Delta\varepsilon_p/2 = \Delta\varepsilon/2 - \Delta\sigma/2E = \text{total} - \text{“elastic”}$  strain amplitudes



$\varepsilon_f$  = fatigue ductility coefficient

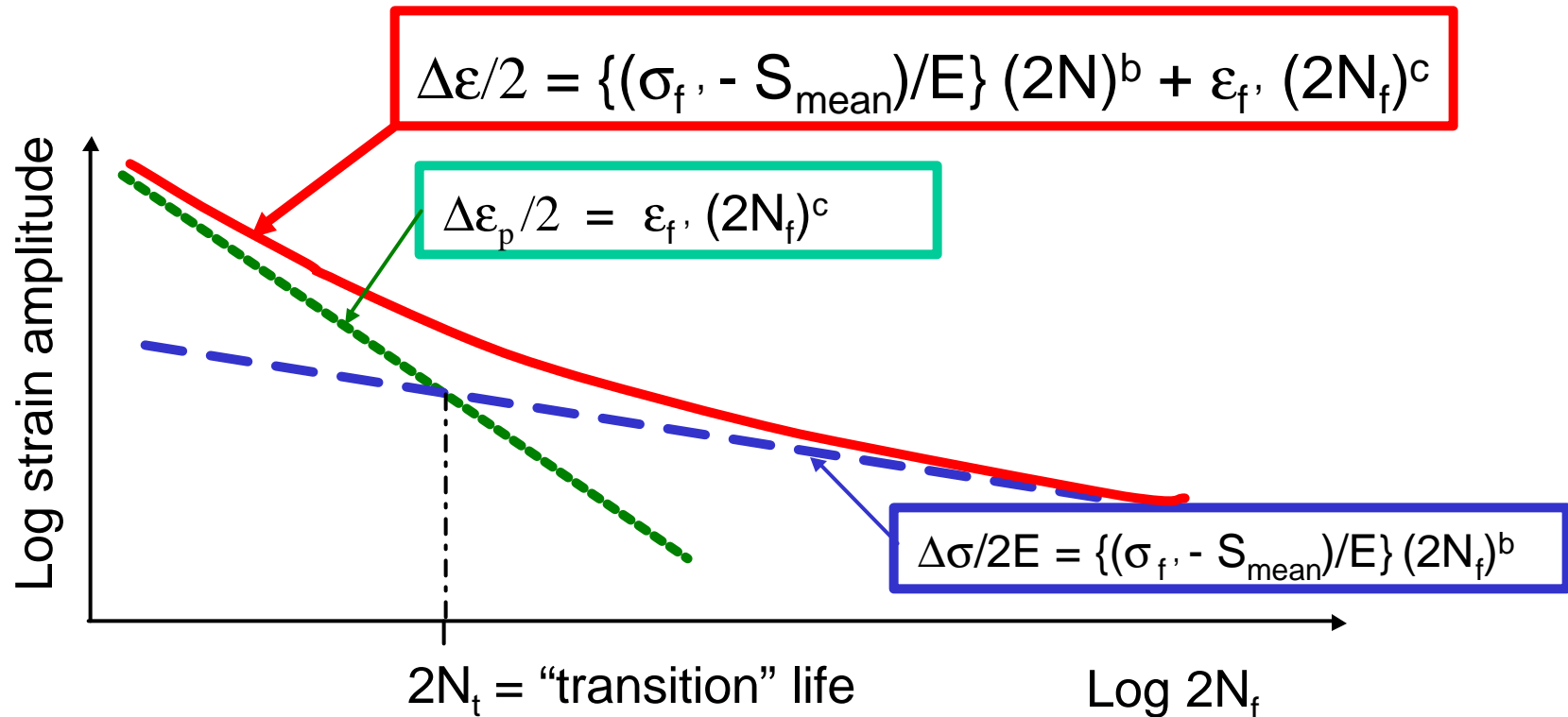
$c$  = fatigue ductility exponent

typically  $-0.7 < c < -0.5$

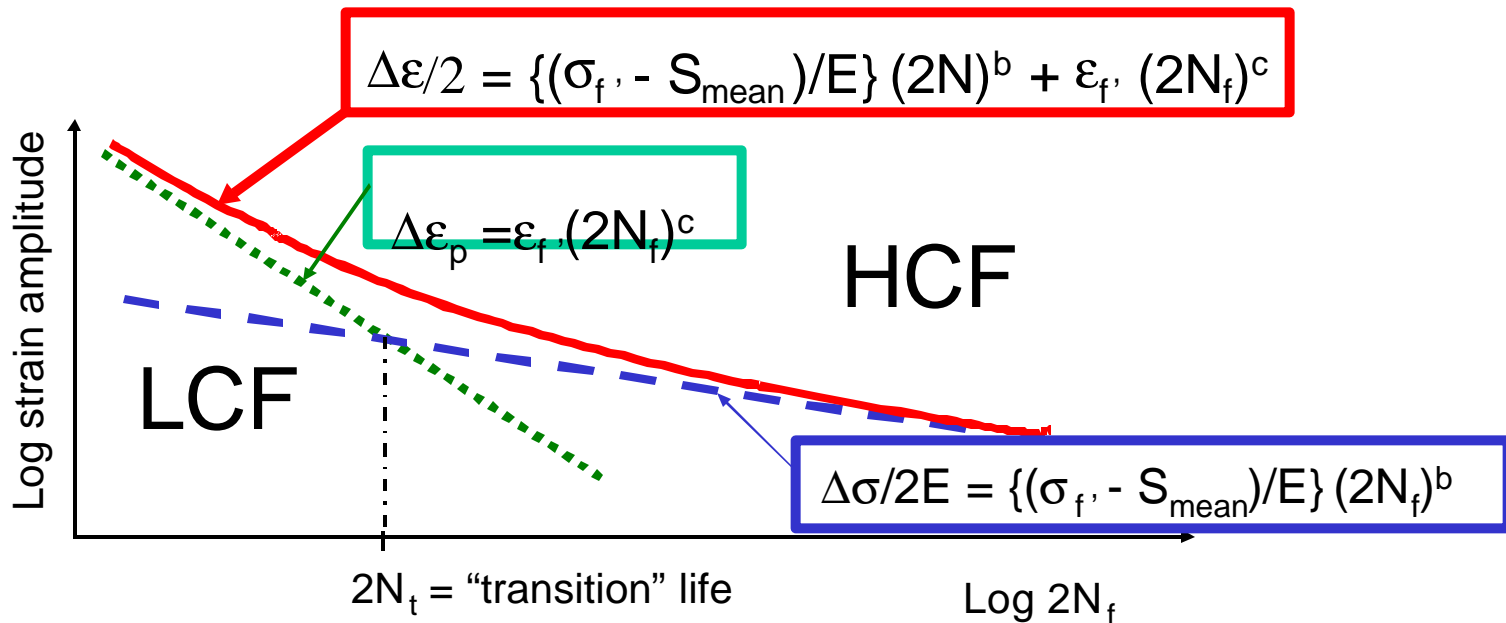
# Total Strain-Life Curve

Plot total strain amplitudes versus life  $2N_f$

$$\Delta\varepsilon_{\text{total}}/2 = \Delta\varepsilon/2 = 0.5 \Delta\varepsilon_{\text{elastic}} + 0.5 \Delta\varepsilon_{\text{plastic}} = \Delta\sigma/2E + 0.5 \Delta\varepsilon_{\text{plastic}}$$



# Total Strain-Life



## Note:

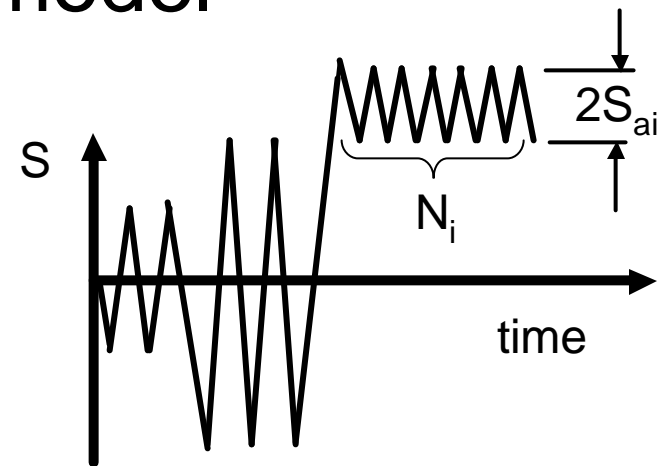
- Plastic strain dominates for LCF
- Elastic strain dominates for HCF
- Transition life  $2N_t$  separates LCF/HCF

# Variable Amplitude Loading

- Load amplitude varies in many applications
- Use of constant amplitude S - N or  $\epsilon$  - N data requires “damage model”
- Miner’s rule\*

$$\Sigma(N_i/N_f) = 1$$

**\*Use with caution!**



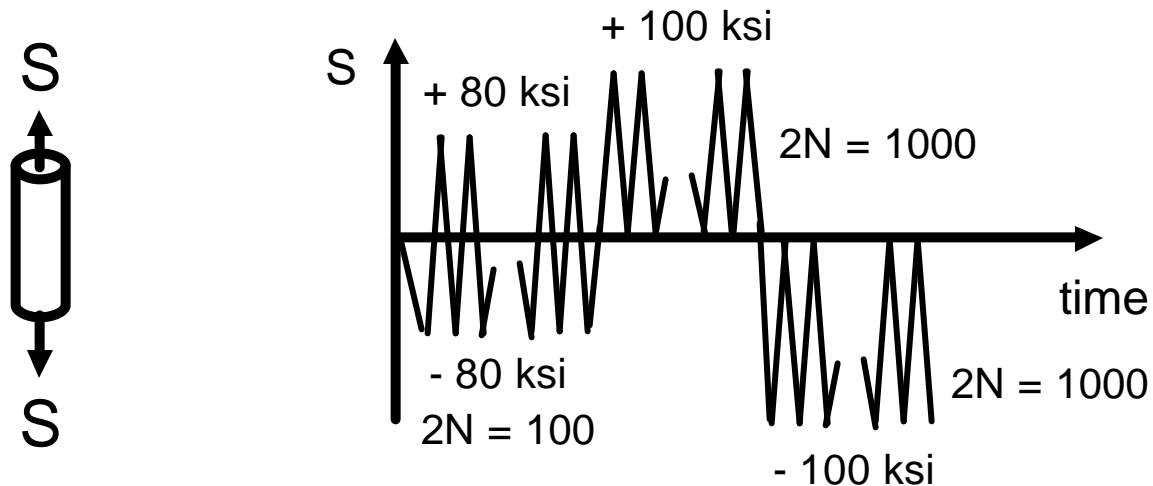
$N_i$  = number of applied cycles of stress amplitude  $S_{ai}$   
 $N_f$  = fatigue life for  $S_{ai}$  cycling only

# Example Problem

Assume:

- $\sigma_f = 220$  ksi,  $b = -0.1$
- stress history shown (1 block of loading)

Find: number of blocks to failure



# Solution

$$\Sigma(N_i/N_f) = 1$$

$$2N_f = \{(\Delta S/2) / (\sigma_f' - S_{\text{mean}})\}^{1/b}$$

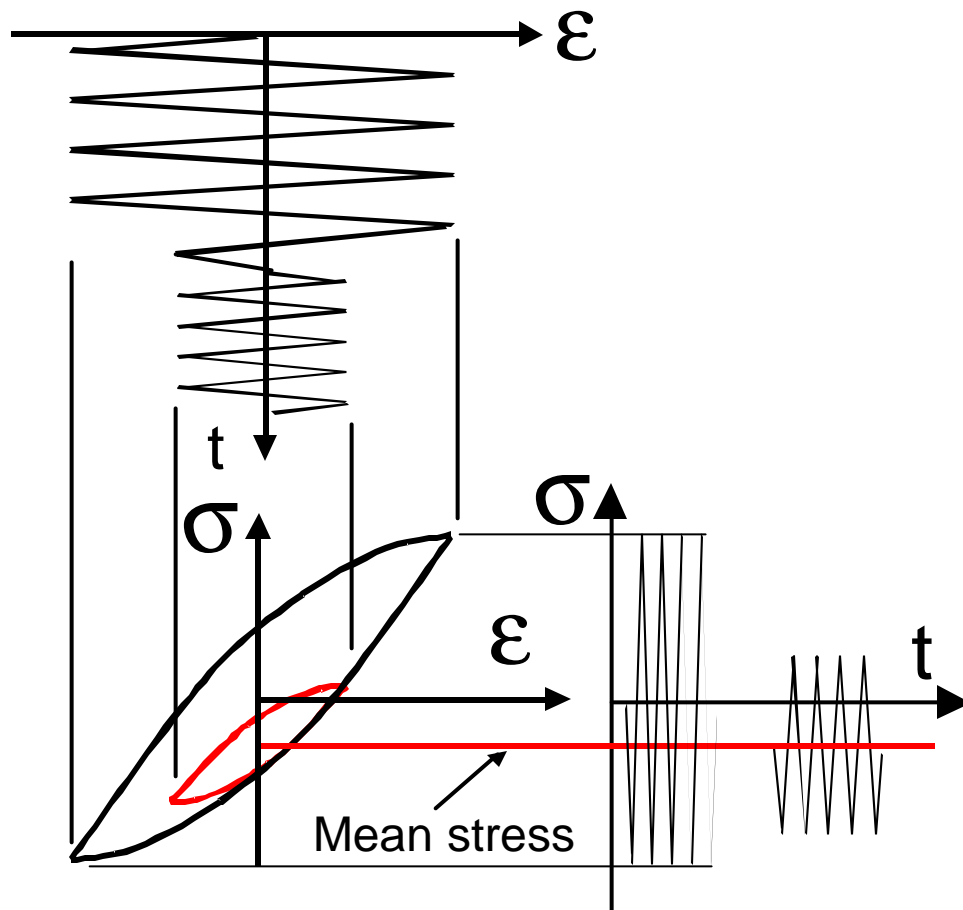
$\Delta S/2$ (ksi)	$S_{\text{mean}}$ (ksi)	$2N_f$	$2N_i$	$N_i/N_f$
80	0	24,735	100	0.0040
50	+50	206,437	1000	0.0048
50	-50	$21 E^6$	1000	$4.74 E^{-6}$ <u>0.0089</u>

$$\Sigma(N_i/N_f) = 1$$

When:  
 $1/0.0089$   
 $= 112.5$

**Answer**  
**112 blocks**

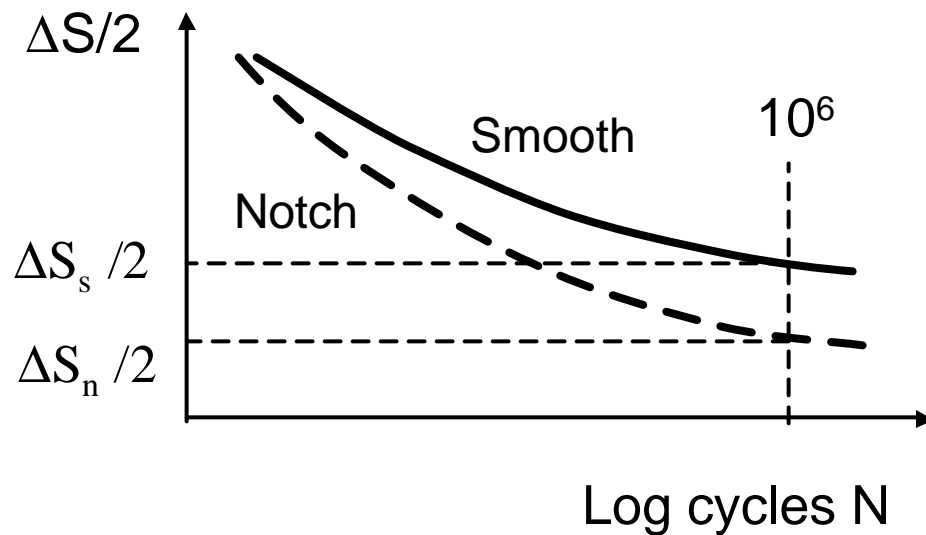
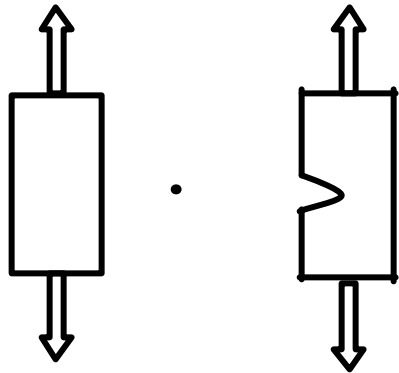
# Load Sequence Effects



- Hi-lo strain  $\epsilon$  sequence results in compressive mean stress  $\sigma$  when last large  $\epsilon$  peak is tension
- $\rightarrow$  increases life
- If last  $\epsilon$  peak had been compression, would result in tensile mean stress
- $\rightarrow$  decreases life

Load sequence important!

# Notch Fatigue



- Notches can reduce life
- Define Fatigue Notch Factor  $K_f$

$K_f$  = Smooth/notch fatigue strength at  $10^6$  cycles

$$= \Delta S_s / \Delta S_n$$

$$1 < K_f < K_t$$

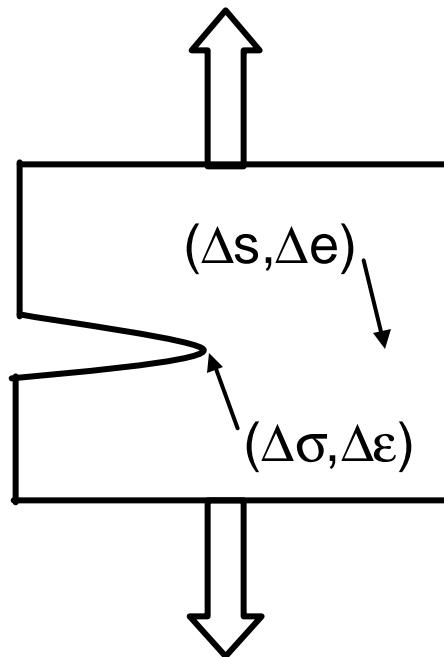
( $K_t$  = elastic stress concentration factor)

$K_f = 1 \rightarrow$  no notch effect

$K_f = K_t \rightarrow$  full notch effect

# Neuber's Rule

$$K_f^2 \Delta s \Delta e = \Delta \sigma \Delta \epsilon$$



$K_f$  = fatigue notch concentration factor  
 $(\Delta s, \Delta e)$  = nominal stress/strain ranges  
 (away from notch)

$(\Delta \sigma, \Delta \epsilon)$  = notch stress/strain ranges

Neuber's rule relates notch and nominal stress/strain behavior

Solve with:

$$\Delta \epsilon / 2 = \Delta \sigma / 2E + (\Delta \sigma / 2K')^{1/n'}$$

$$\Delta \epsilon / 2 = \{(\sigma_f' - S_{\text{mean}})\}(2N_f)^b + \epsilon_f' (2N_f)^c$$

# ***Summary “Initiation” Methods***

- Total strain-life approach combines:
  - original S-N curve (best suited for HCF) and
  - plastic strain-life method developed for LCF problems
- S-N and strain-life often viewed as crack “initiation” approaches
  - actually deal with life to form “small” crack
  - crack size implicit in specimen/test procedure
  - typically assume “committee crack” ~ 0.03 in.

# *Initiation Summary Cont'*

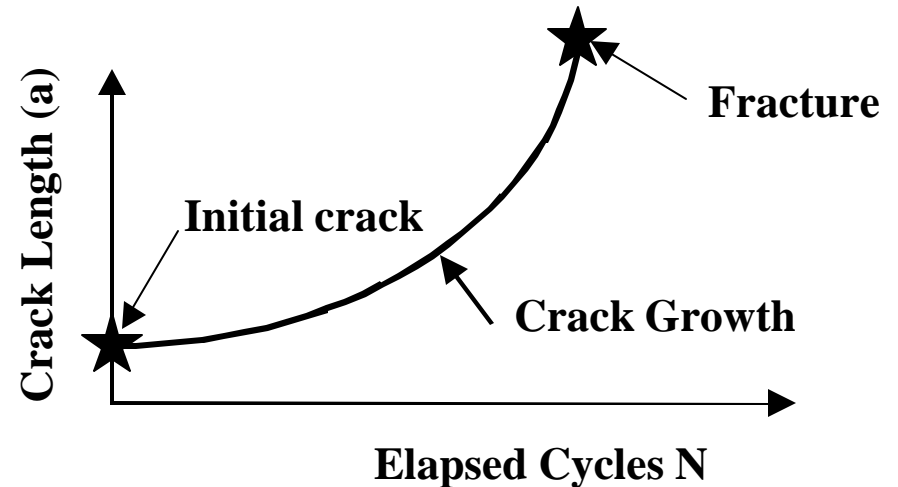
- Notches increase local stress/strain and often are source for crack formation
  - complex problem leads to local plasticity
  - characterize by fatigue notch concentration factor  $K_f$ , Neuber's rule
- Load interaction effects result in local mean stress
  - can increase/decrease life
  - invalidate Miner's rule

# ***Fatigue Crack Growth***



# Crack Growth Approach

- Assumes entire life fatigue crack growth
  - ignores “initiation”
  - assumes component cracked before cycling begins



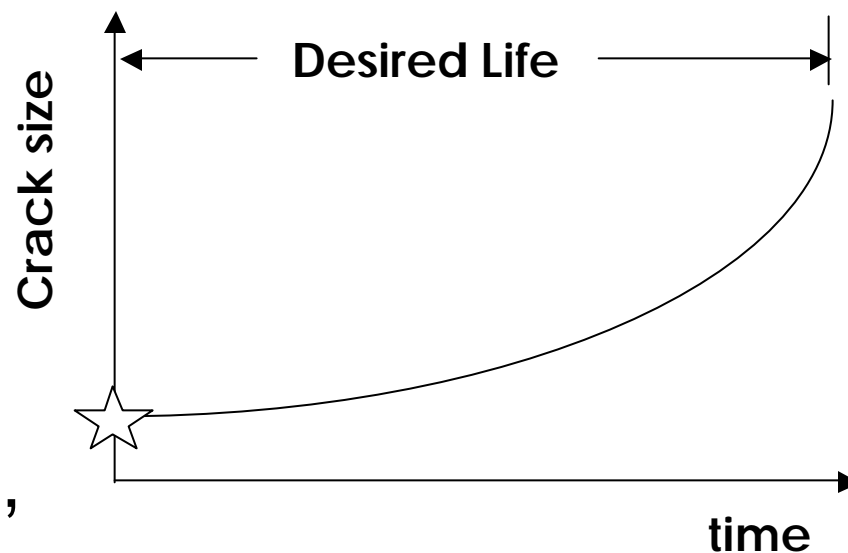
- Used with “damage tolerant design”
  - protects from pre-existent (or service) damage
  - based on linear elastic fracture mechanics

# ***Damage Tolerance***

*The ability of a structure to resist prior damage for a specified period of time*

## Initial damage

- material
- manufacturing
- service induced
- size based on inspection capability, experience, . . .



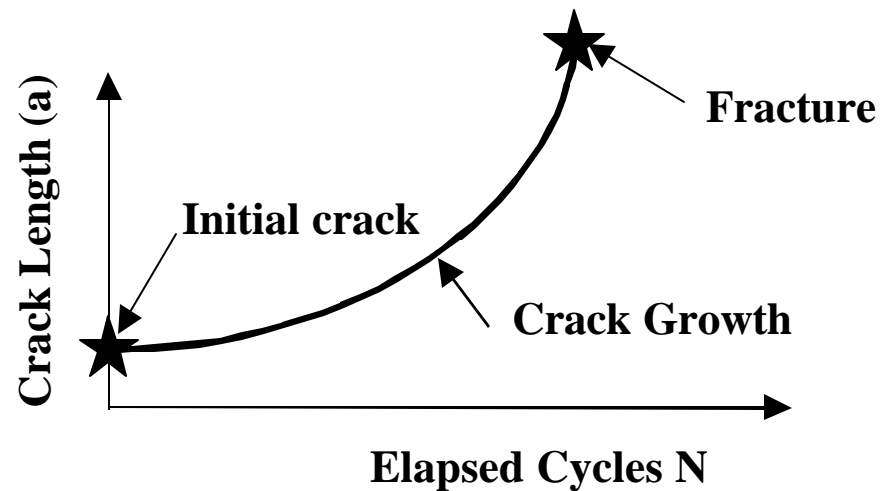
# Fatigue Crack Growth

## Objective

- Characterize material resistance to fatigue crack growth
- Predict catastrophic fracture and “subcritical” crack growth

## Approach

- Assume crack growth controlled by stress intensity factor  $K$ 
  - fracture
  - growth rate  $da/dN$



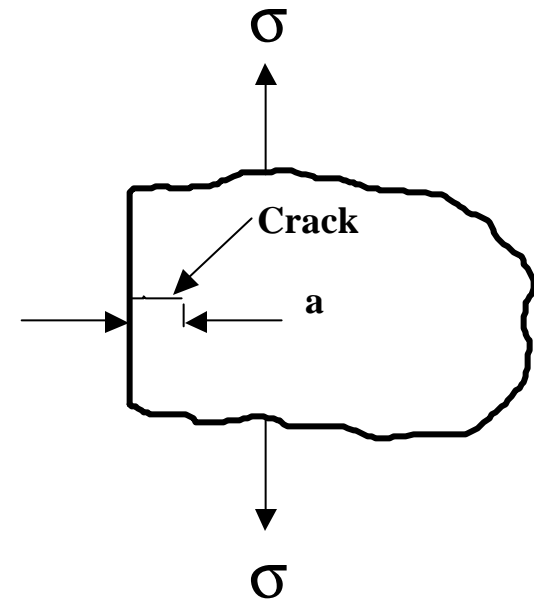
# ***Stress Intensity Factor $K_I$***

$K_I$  is key linear elastic fracture mechanics parameter that relates:

- applied stress:  $\sigma$
- crack length:  $a$
- component geometry:  $\beta(a)$   
( $\beta(a)$  is dimensionless)

$$K_I = \mathbf{s} \sqrt{pa} \mathbf{b}$$

Note units: stress-length<sup>1/2</sup>



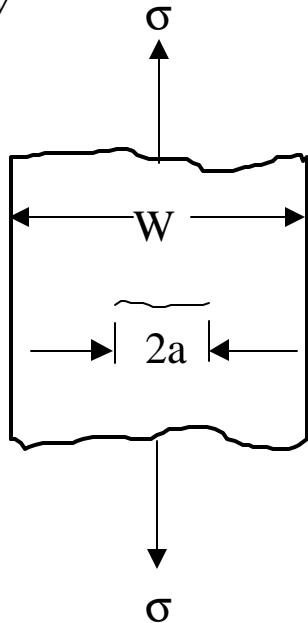
$$\beta = 1.12$$

# Stress Intensity Factors

$$K = s \sqrt{pa} \left[ \text{Sec} \left( \frac{pa}{W} \right) \right]^{1/2}$$

$s = \text{Remote Stress}$

$$\frac{2a}{W} \leq 0.95$$

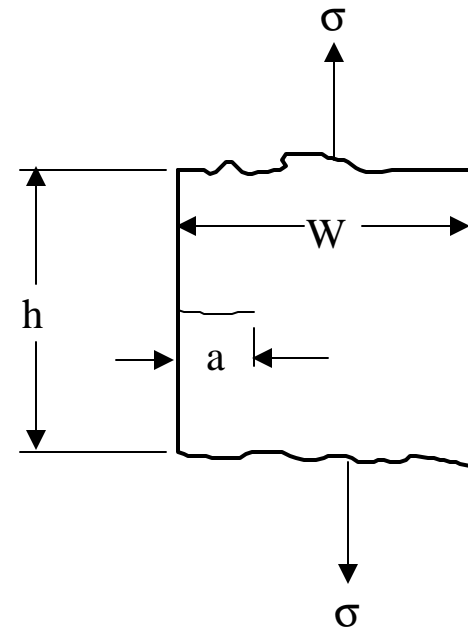


$$K = s \sqrt{p a b} \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)$$

$$b \left( \frac{a}{W} \right) = 1.12 - 0.231 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right) + 10.55 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^2 - 21.73 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^3 + 30.39 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^4$$

$$\text{For} \left( \frac{a}{W} \right) \leq 0.6 \quad \text{and} \quad \left( \frac{h}{W} \right) \geq 1.0$$

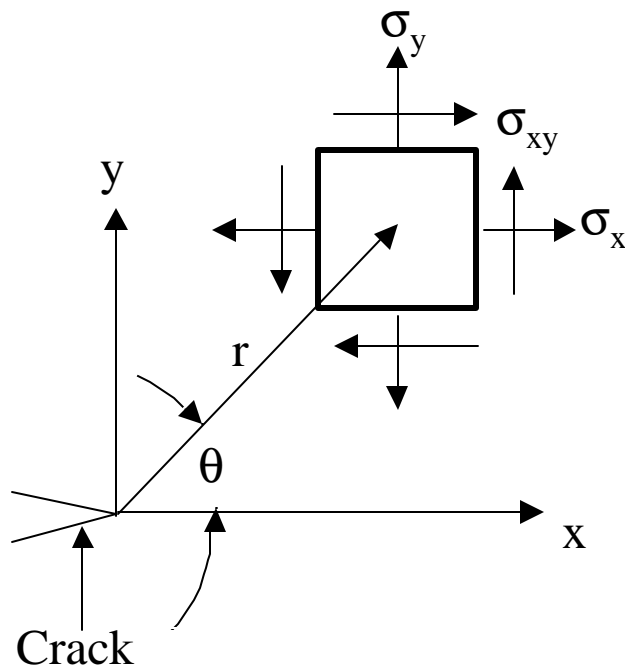
Many  $K_I$   
solutions  
available



# Crack tip Stress Fields

Theory of elasticity gives elastic stresses near crack tip in terms of stress intensity factor  $K_I$

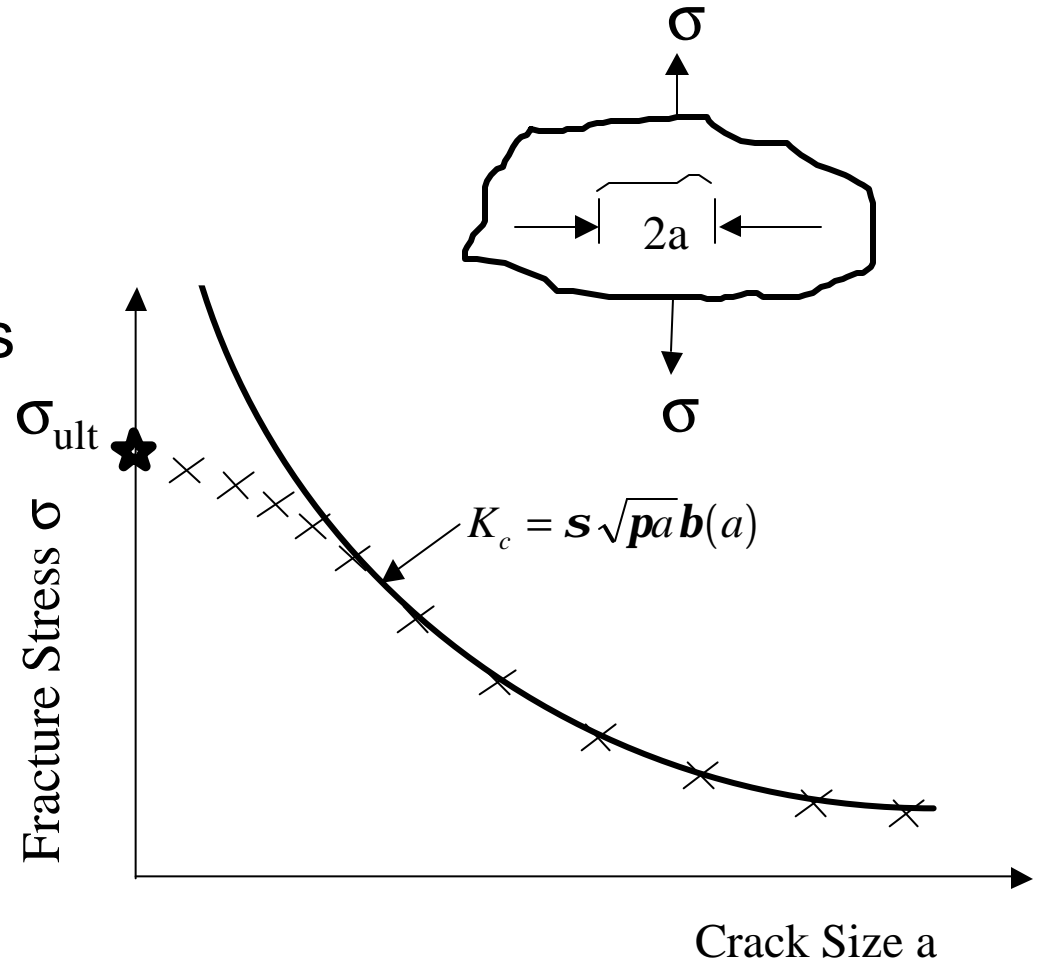
All crack configurations have same singular stress field at tip (are similar results for other modes of loading, i.e., modes II and III)



$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{s}_x &= \frac{K_I}{\sqrt{2pr}} \cos \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \left\{ 1 - \sin \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \sin \frac{3\mathbf{q}}{2} \right\} \\
 \mathbf{s}_y &= \frac{K_I}{\sqrt{2pr}} \cos \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \left\{ 1 + \sin \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \sin \frac{3\mathbf{q}}{2} \right\} \\
 \mathbf{s}_{xy} &= \frac{K_I}{\sqrt{2pr}} \sin \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \cos \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2} \cos \frac{3\mathbf{q}}{2} \\
 \mathbf{s}_{xz} = \mathbf{s}_{yz} &= 0 \\
 \text{planestress} &\rightarrow \mathbf{s}_z = 0 \\
 \text{planestrain} &\rightarrow \mathbf{s}_z = \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{s}_x + \mathbf{s}_y)
 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

# $K_c$ Fracture Criterion

- Fracture occurs when
$$K > \text{constant} = K_c$$
- $K_c$  = material property  
= fracture toughness
- Criterion relates:
  - crack size:  $a$
  - stress:  $\sigma$
  - geometry:  $\beta(a)$
  - material:  $K_c$
- Plasticity limits small crack applications



# Fracture Toughness $K_{IC}$

Typical  $K_{IC}$  values (thick plate)

Ματεριολ (τηχικ πλοτε)	2024-T351 Αλμ ινυμ	7075-T651 Αλμ ινυμ	Ti-6 Al-4z Τιτανιυμ	300 Μ στεελ (235 κσι ψελδ)	18 Νιχκελ (200 κσι ψελδ)
$K_{IC}$ (κσι-ιν <sup>1/2</sup> )	31	26	112	47	100

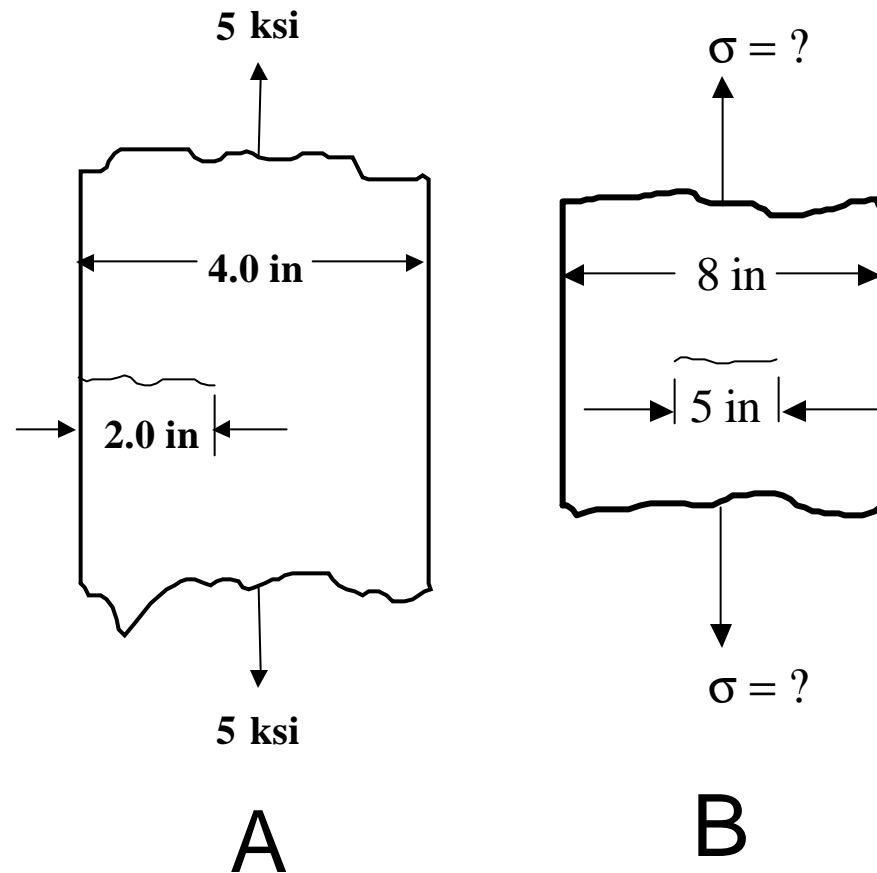
Note  $K_{IC}$  depends on:

- specimen thickness --  $K_{IC}$  decreases as thickness increases until reaching minimum -  $K_{IC} =$  plane strain toughness
- crack direction (material anisotropy)

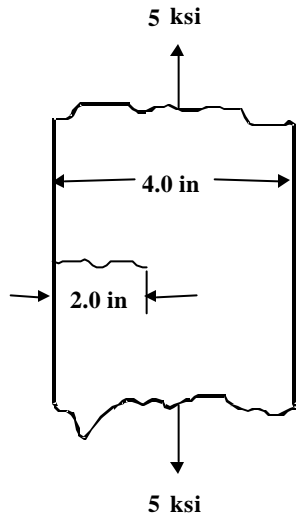
# Fracture Example

Member A fractures when crack length  $a = 2.0$  inch and remote stress = 5 ksi

What stress will fracture member B (assume same material)?



# Fracture Example Solution



## Edge crack

$$K = \sigma(\pi a)^{1/2} \beta(a) = K_c \text{ at fracture}$$

$$b \left( \frac{a}{W} \right) = 1.12 - 0.231 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right) + 10.55 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^2 - 21.73 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^3 + 30.39 \left( \frac{a}{W} \right)^4$$

$$a/w = 2/4 \quad \sigma = 5 \quad a = 2 \quad \rightarrow \beta = 2.83$$

$$K_c = 35.5 \text{ ksi-in}^{1/2} = \text{constant}$$

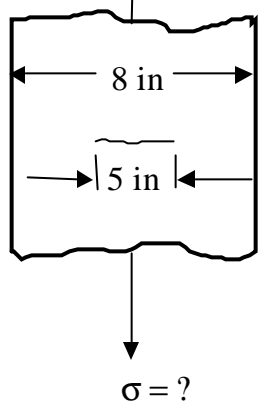
## Center Crack

$$K = \sigma (\pi a)^{1/2} \beta(a) \quad \beta(a) = [\text{Sec} (\pi a/W)]^{1/2}$$

$$a = 2.5 \quad W = 8 \quad \rightarrow \beta = 1.34$$

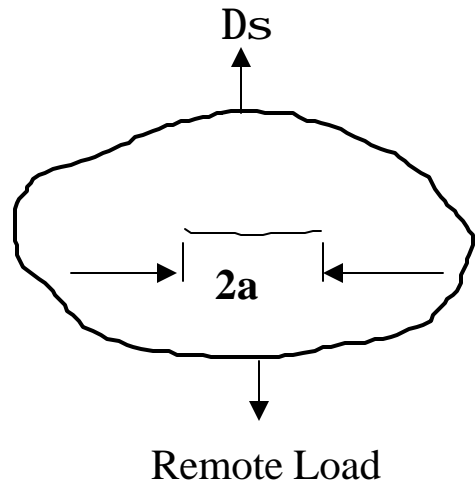
$$K = K_c \text{ at fracture} = 35.5$$

$$\rightarrow \sigma_f = 9.5 \text{ ksi}$$

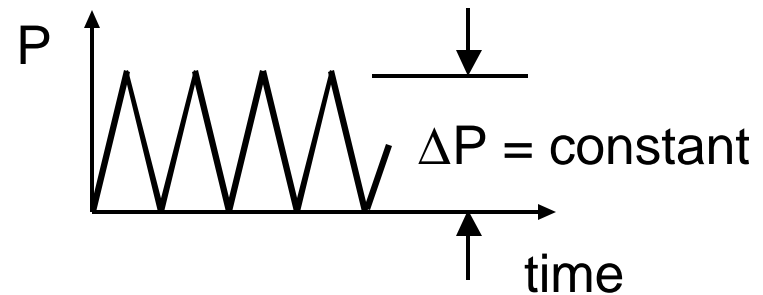
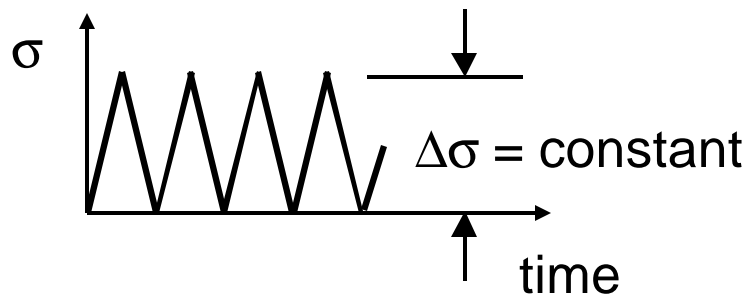
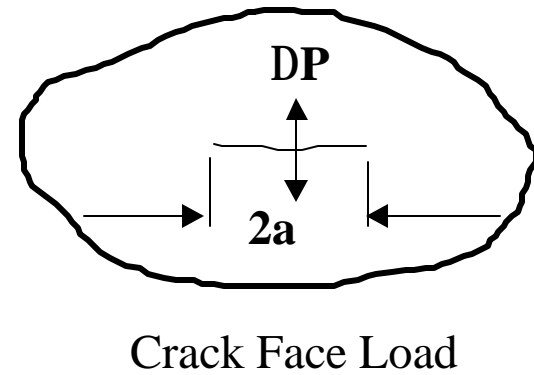


# Fatigue Crack Growth

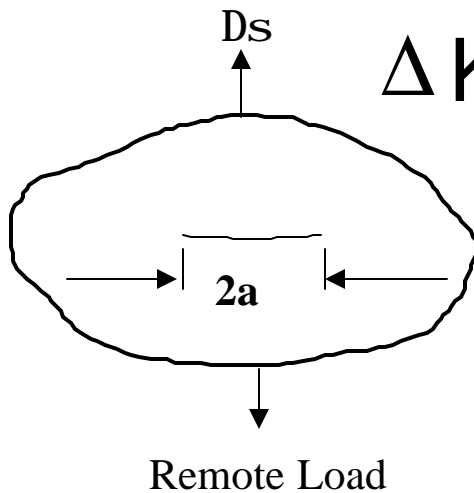
Goal: show cyclic stress intensity factor  $\Delta K$  controls crack growth rate  $da/dN$



Same material  
Different loadings

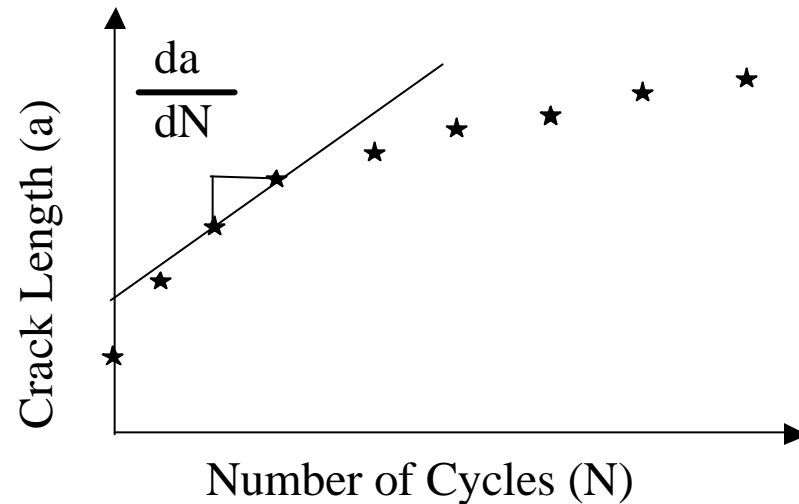
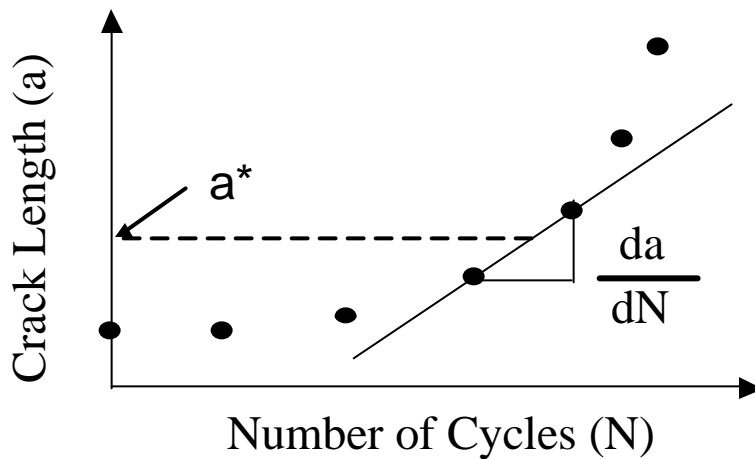
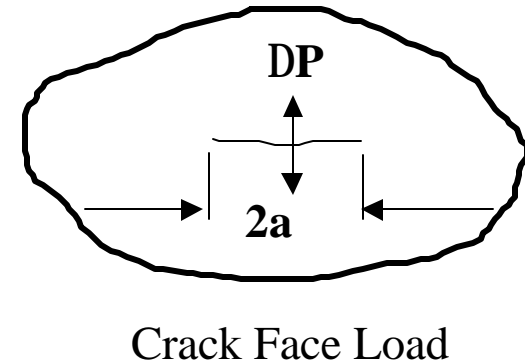


# Measure Crack Growth

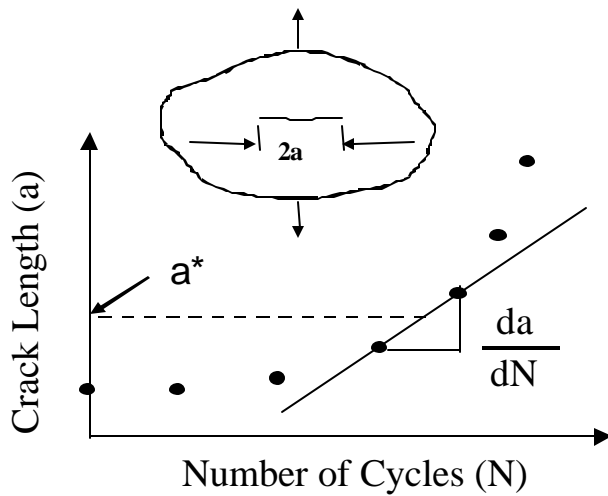


$$\Delta K = \Delta \sigma \sqrt{\pi a}$$

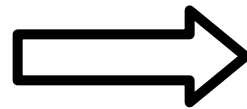
$$\Delta K = \frac{\Delta P}{B \sqrt{\pi a}}$$



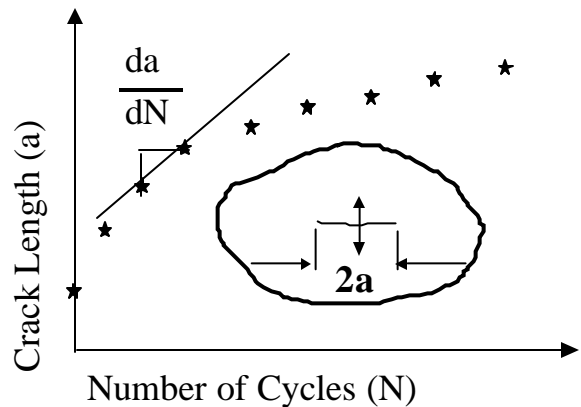
# Correlate Rate $da/dN$ vs $DK$



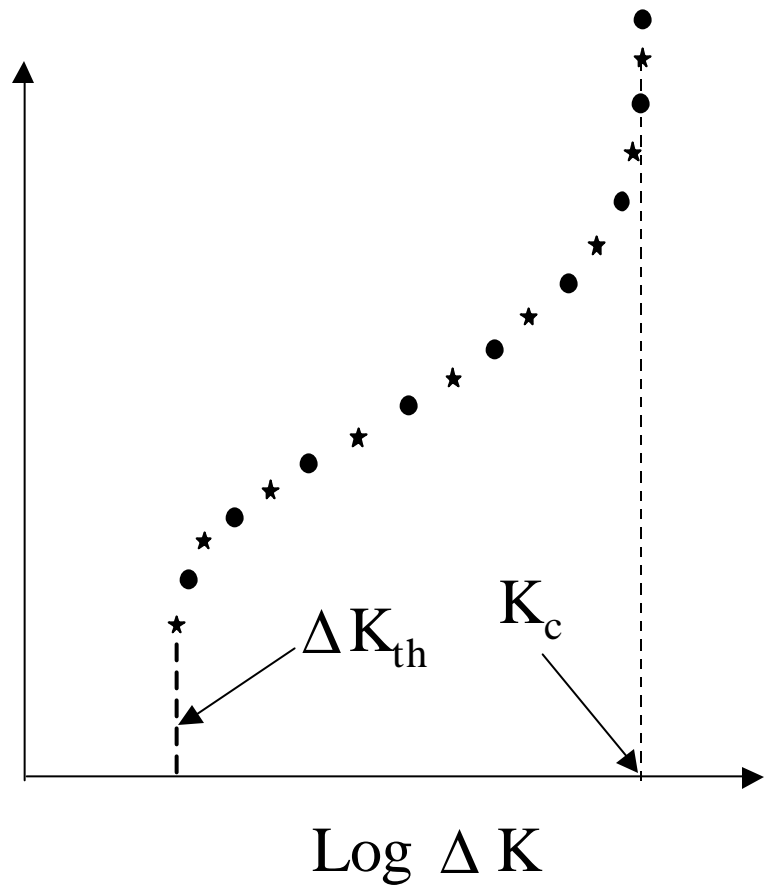
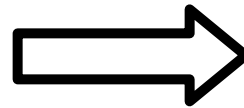
$$\Delta K = \Delta S \sqrt{pa}$$



Log  $da/dN$



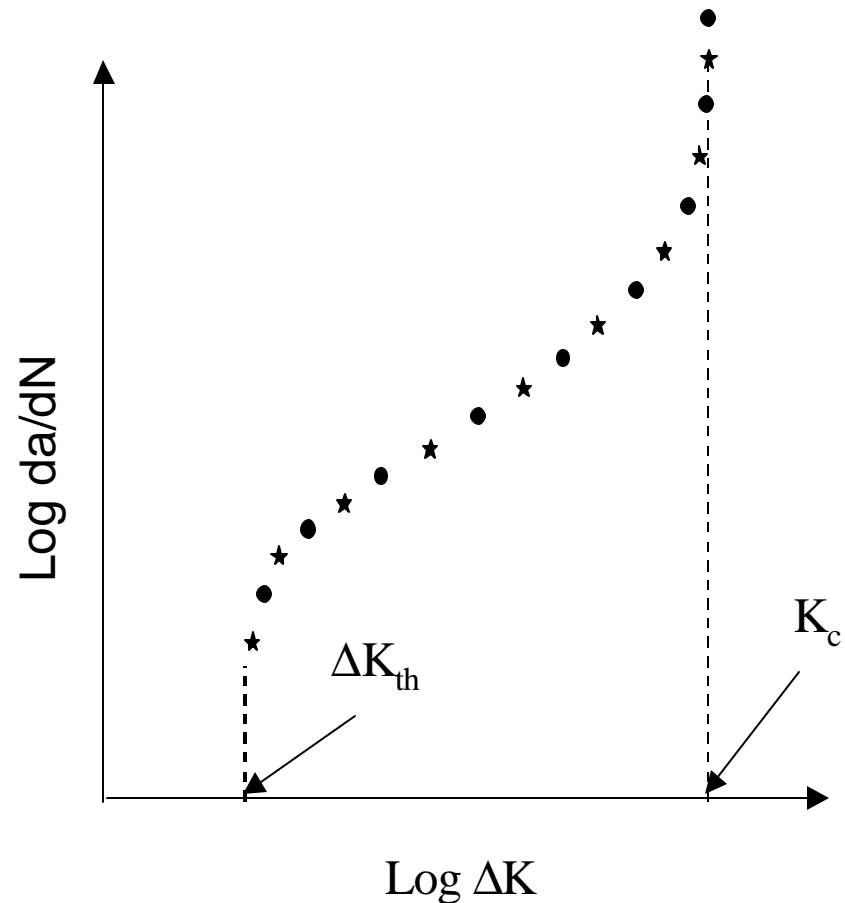
$$\Delta K = \frac{\Delta P}{B\sqrt{pa}}$$



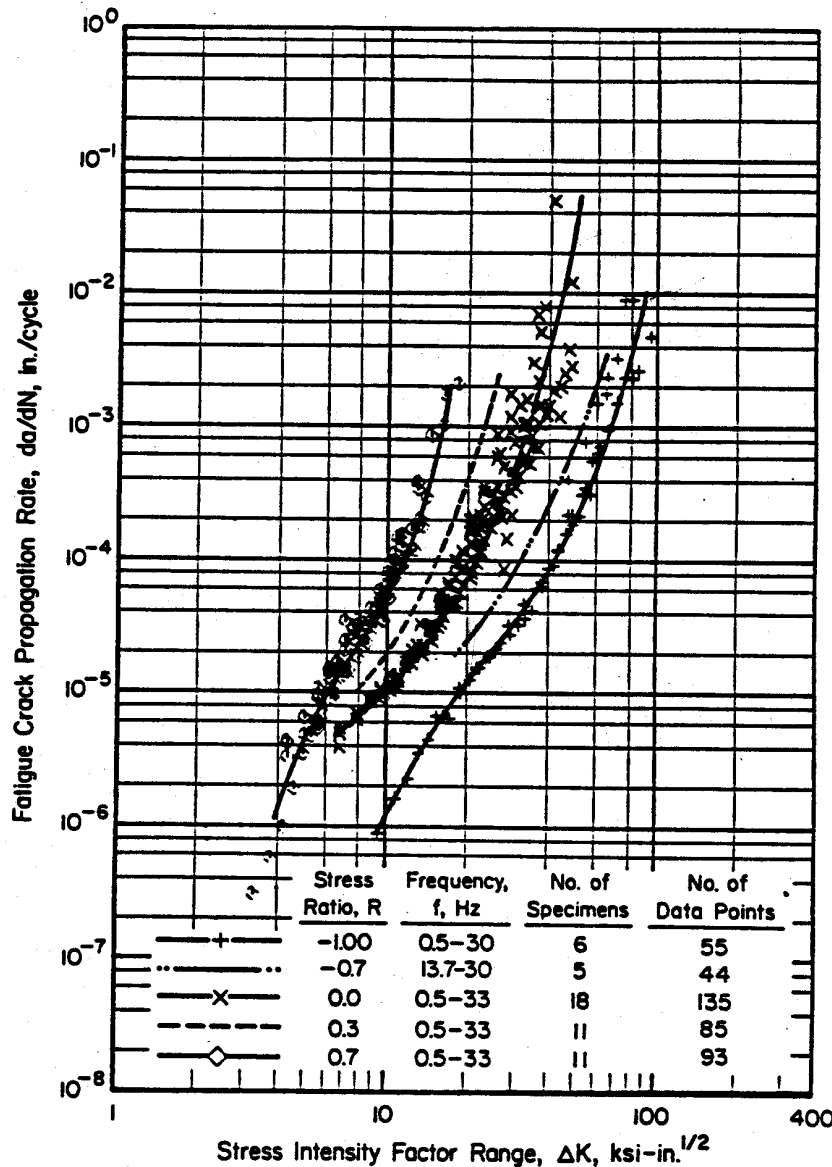
# *da/dN Vs DK*

## Note:

- $\Delta K$  correlates fatigue crack growth rate  $da/dN$
- $\Delta K$  accounts for crack geometry
- No crack growth for  $da/dN < \Delta K_{th}$
- Fractures when  $K_{max}$  in the  $\Delta K$  range  $\rightarrow K_c$
- $da/dN - \Delta K$  curve is material property

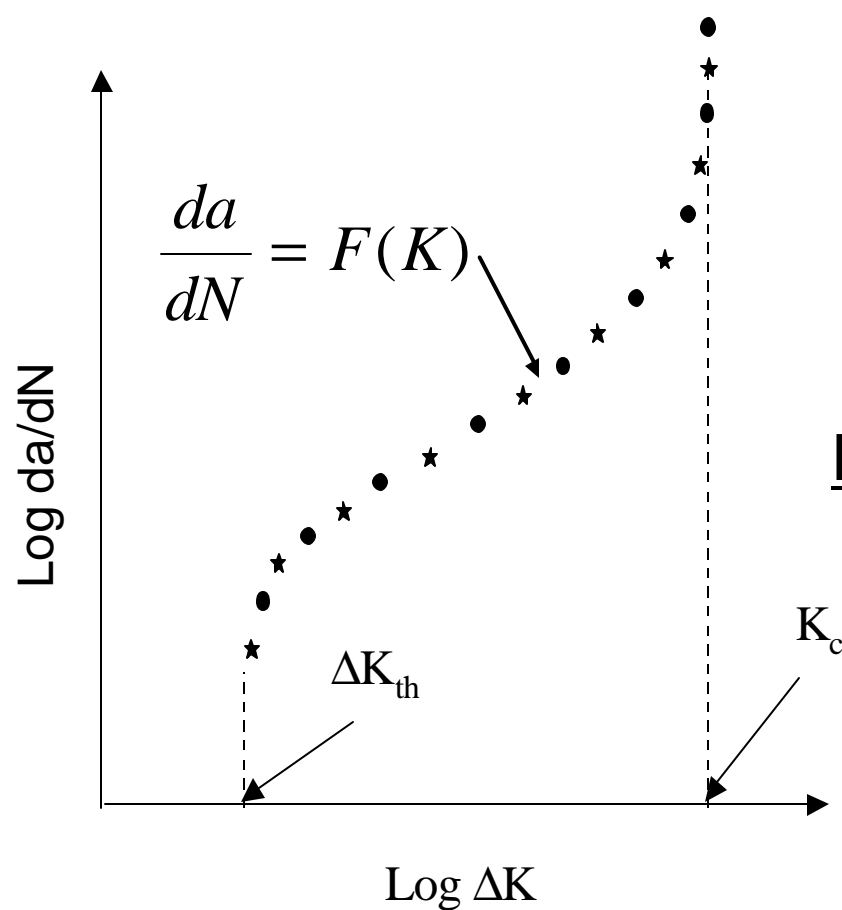


# Sample Crack Growth Data



- $da/dN$  -  $\Delta K$  data for 7075-T6 aluminum
- Note effect of stress ratio  $R = \text{min/max stress}$  ( $da/dN \uparrow$  as  $R \uparrow$ )
- Reference: Military Handbook-5
- Other handbook data are available

# Model $da/dN$ - $DK$ Curve



Fit test data with numerical models such as:

Paris  $\frac{da}{dN} = C\Delta K^m$

Forman  $\frac{da}{dN} = \frac{C\Delta K^m}{(1-R)K_c - \Delta K}$

Here  $C$ ,  $m$ ,  $K_c$  are empirical constants

$R = \text{min/max stress}$

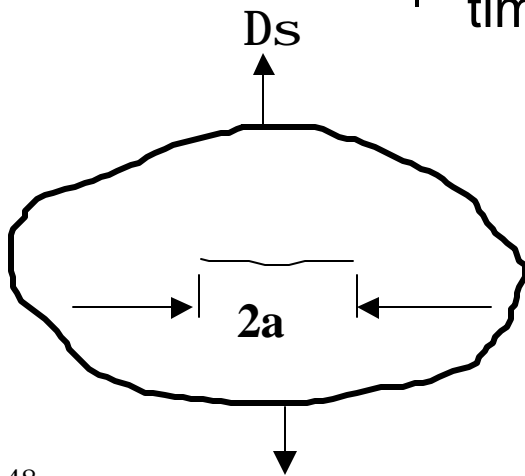
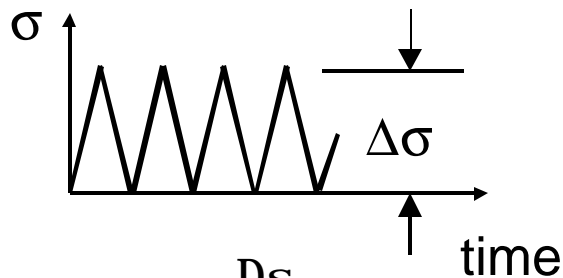
(are many other models)

# Compute Fatigue Life $N_f$

$$\frac{da}{dN} = F(K)$$



$$N_f = \int_{a_o}^{a_f} \frac{da}{F(K)}$$

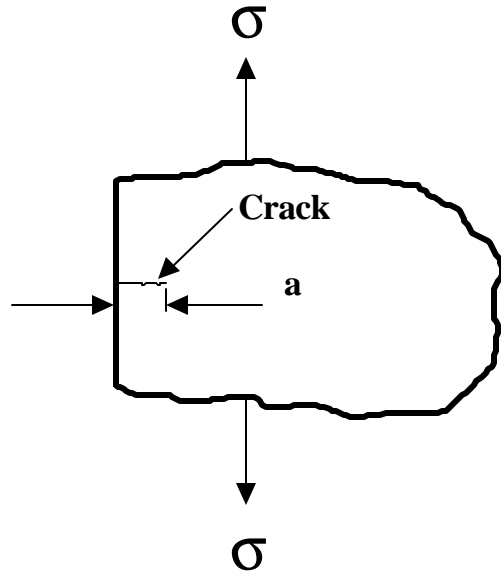


$a_o, a_f$  = initial, final crack sizes

$F(K)$  = function of:

- cyclic stress:  $\Delta\sigma, R, \dots$
- crack geometry:  $\beta(a)$
- crack length:  $a$
- material

# Example Life Calculation



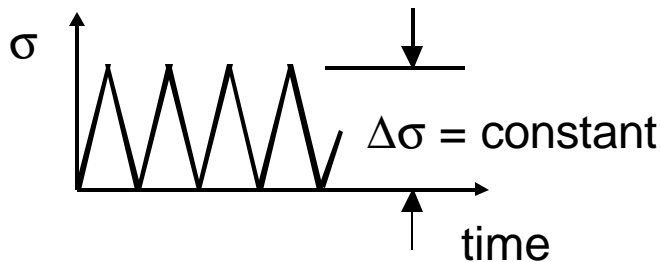
Given: edge crack in wide plate  
 $K_c = 63 \text{ ksi-in}^{1/2}$   
 initial crack  $a_i = 0.5 \text{ inch}$   
 cyclic stress  $\Delta\sigma = 10 \text{ ksi}$ ,  $R = 0$   
 ( $\Delta\sigma = \sigma_{\max} = 10 \text{ ksi}$ )  
 $da/dN = 10^{-9} \Delta K^4$

Find: a) cyclic life  $N_f$   
 b) life if initial crack size decreased to  $a_i = 0.1 \text{ inch}$

Note: at fracture

$$K = K_c = 63 = 1.12 \sigma_{\max} (\pi a)^{1/2}$$

→ final crack  $a_f = 10 \text{ inch}$



# Solution

$$K = \mathbf{s} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}a} 1.12 \quad \frac{da}{dN} = C \Delta K^m$$

$$N_f = \int_{a_o}^{a_f} \frac{da}{C \Delta K^m} = \int_{a_o}^{a_f} \frac{da}{C [1.12 \Delta \mathbf{s} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}a}]^m}$$

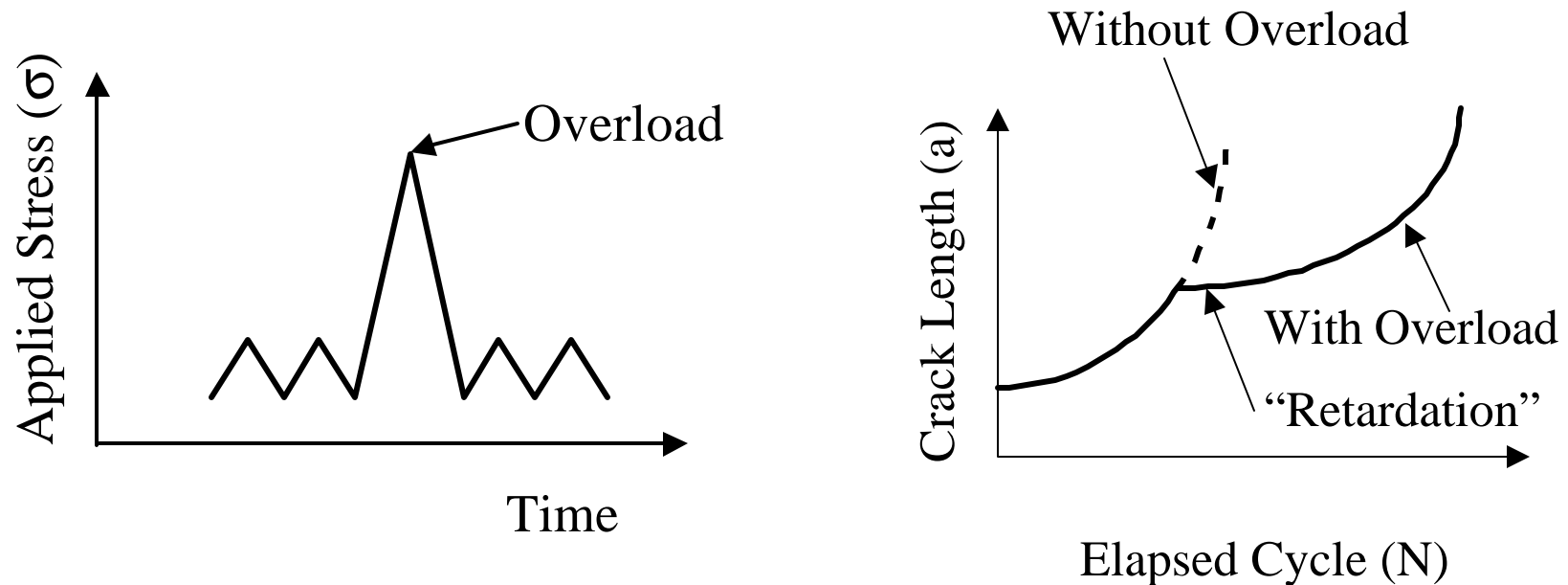
$$N_f = \frac{1}{C (1.12 \Delta \mathbf{s} \sqrt{\mathbf{p}})^m (1-.5m)} \left[ a_f^{1-.5m} - a_o^{1-.5m} \right]$$

a)  $N_f = 12,234$  cycles ( $a_i = 0.5$ )

b)  $N_f = 63,747$  cycles ( $a_i = 0.1$ )

Note: big influence of initial crack length!

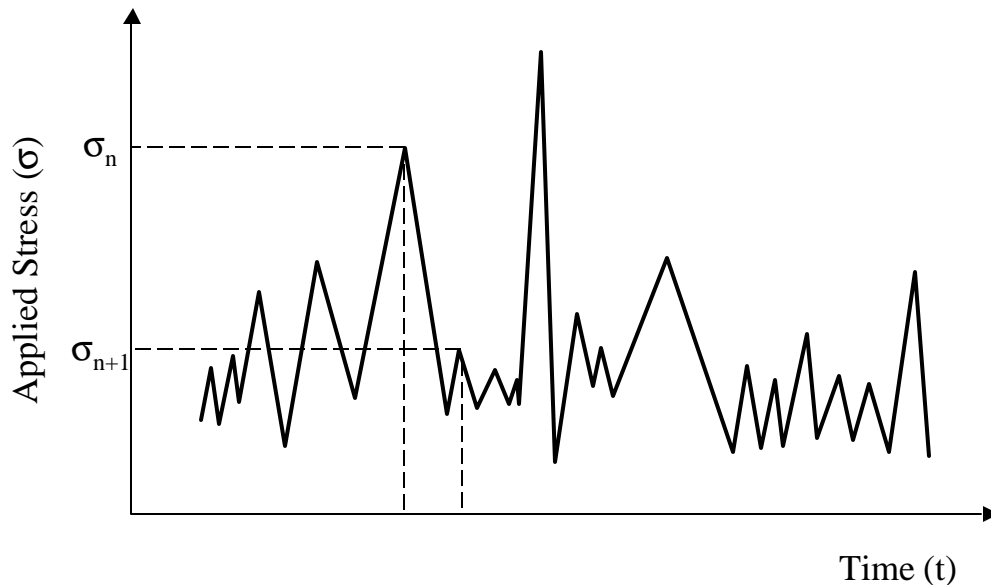
# ***Fatigue Crack Retardation***



## Note “load interaction effect”

- Tensile overload can “retard” crack growth (increase life)
- Life increase due to crack tip plasticity
- Depends on magnitude/sequence of overload, material, ...
- Are empirical retardation models

# Cycle-by-Cycle Calculation



Variable amplitude loading prevents simple life integration

Compute cycle-by-cycle growth in crack length  $a$

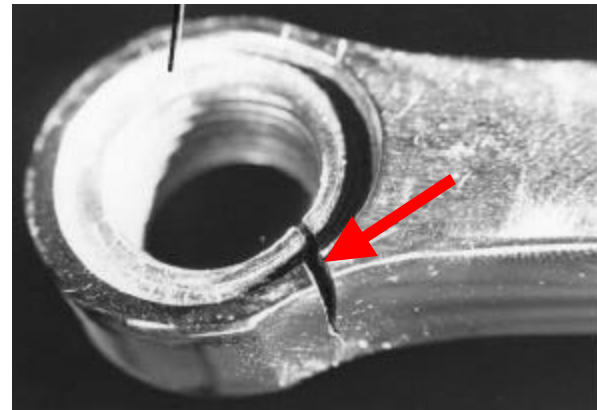
- $a_{\text{current}} = a_{\text{prior}} + da/dN_{\text{current}}$
- $da/dN_{\text{current}} = F(K_{\text{current}}) * \text{“Retardation” term}$
- Sum for all cycles in spectrum

Powerful technique for computer programming

# ***Crack Growth Summary***

- Fracture mechanics approach assumes entire fatigue life is crack growth
- Stress intensity factor  $K$  controls fracture and growth rate  $da/dN$ 
  - $K = \sigma[\pi a]^{1/2} \beta(a)$
  - Fracture:  $K = K_c$
  - Fatigue:  $da/dN = F(\Delta K)$
  - Integrate  $da/dN$  for life
- Are load interaction and other effects (see references)

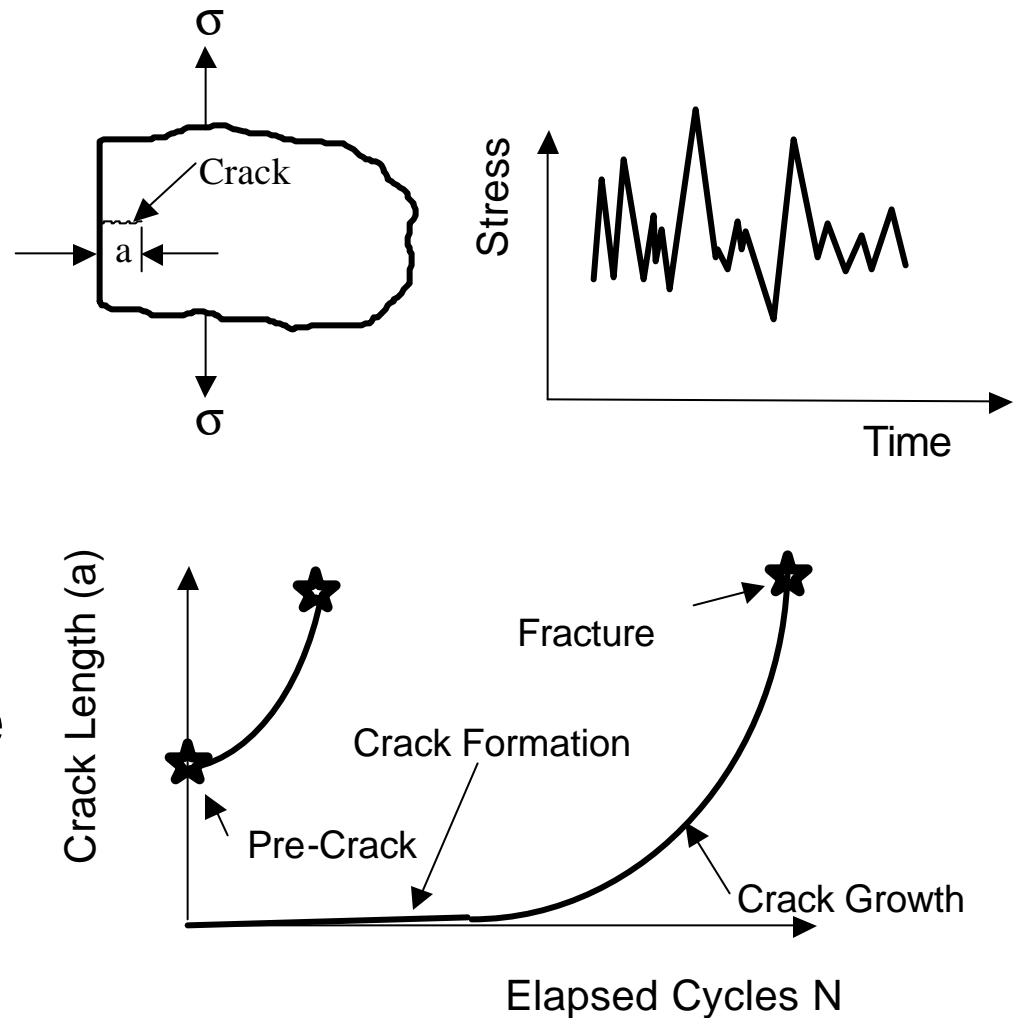
# ***Fatigue Design/Repair Concepts***



# Design Philosophies

## Fatigue Design Criteria

- Infinite Life
- Safe-Life
- Damage Tolerant
  - Fail-safe
  - Slow crack growth
- Retirement-for-cause



# ***Infinite Life Criterion***

Design Goal: prevent fatigue damage from ever developing (i.e. infinite life)

- Usually based on endurance limit
- Could also employ threshold K concepts
- Leads to small design stresses/heavy members
- Limited to simple components/loading
- Often impractical/not achievable in practice
  - Weight critical structure
  - Complex loads

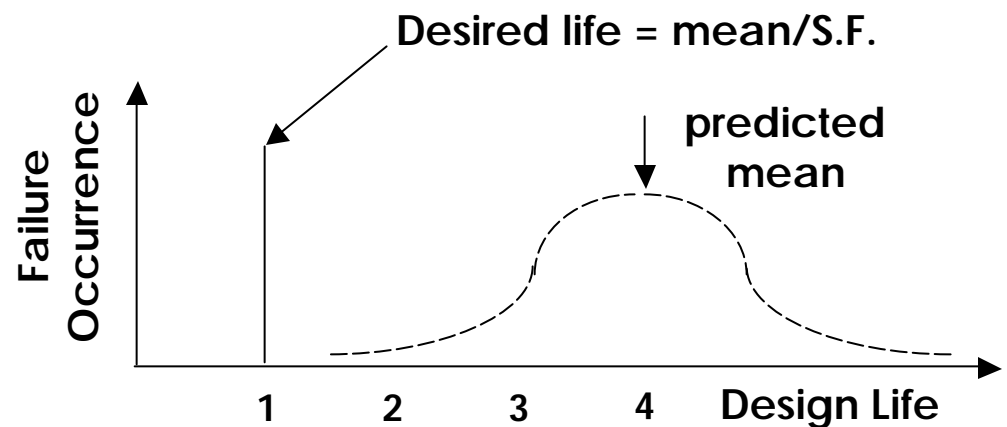
# Safe-Life Criterion

Design goal: component is to remain crack free for finite service life

- Assumes initial crack-free structure
- Establish “mean life” by test/analysis
- Safety factors account for “scatter”

## Problems:

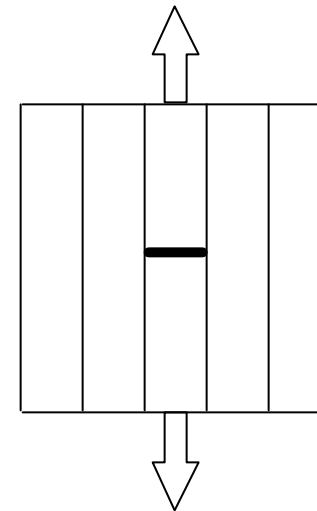
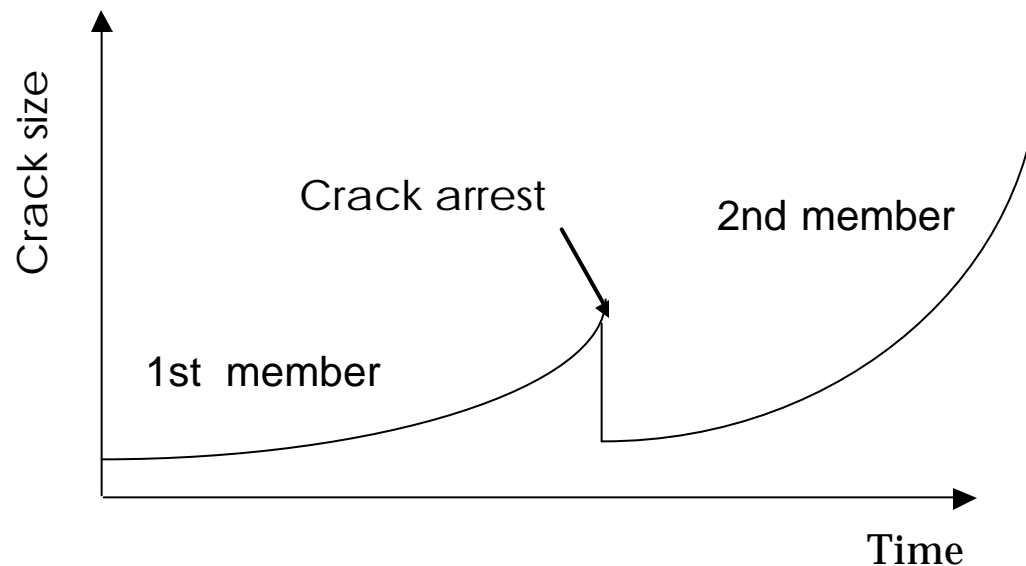
- large safety factor
- no protection from initial damage



# Fail-Safe Criterion

Design goal: contain single component failure without losing entire structure

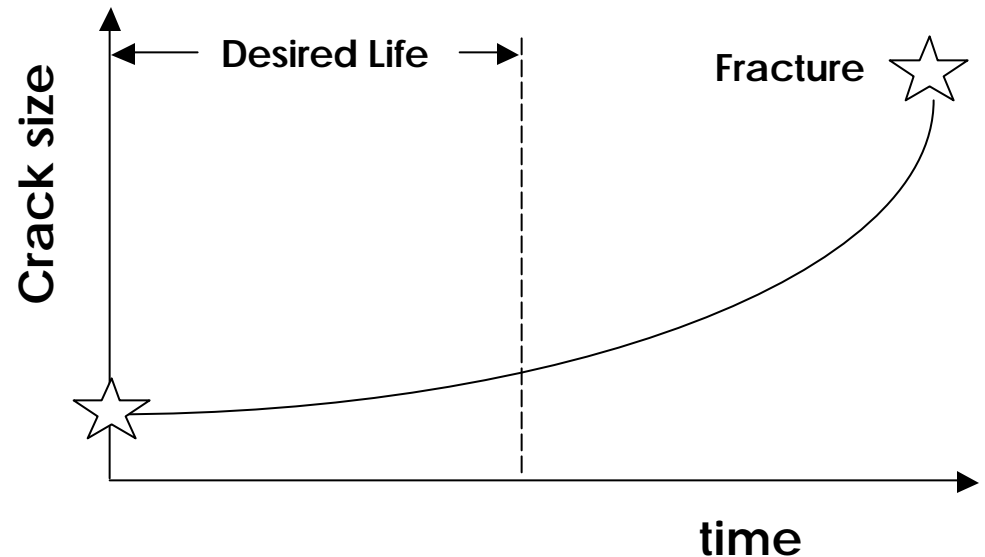
- Assumes crack is present
- Provide alternate load paths, redundant structure, crack stoppers, etc.
- Requires detection of 1st failure



# Slow Crack Growth Criterion

Design goal: prevent initial crack from growing to fracture during life of structure

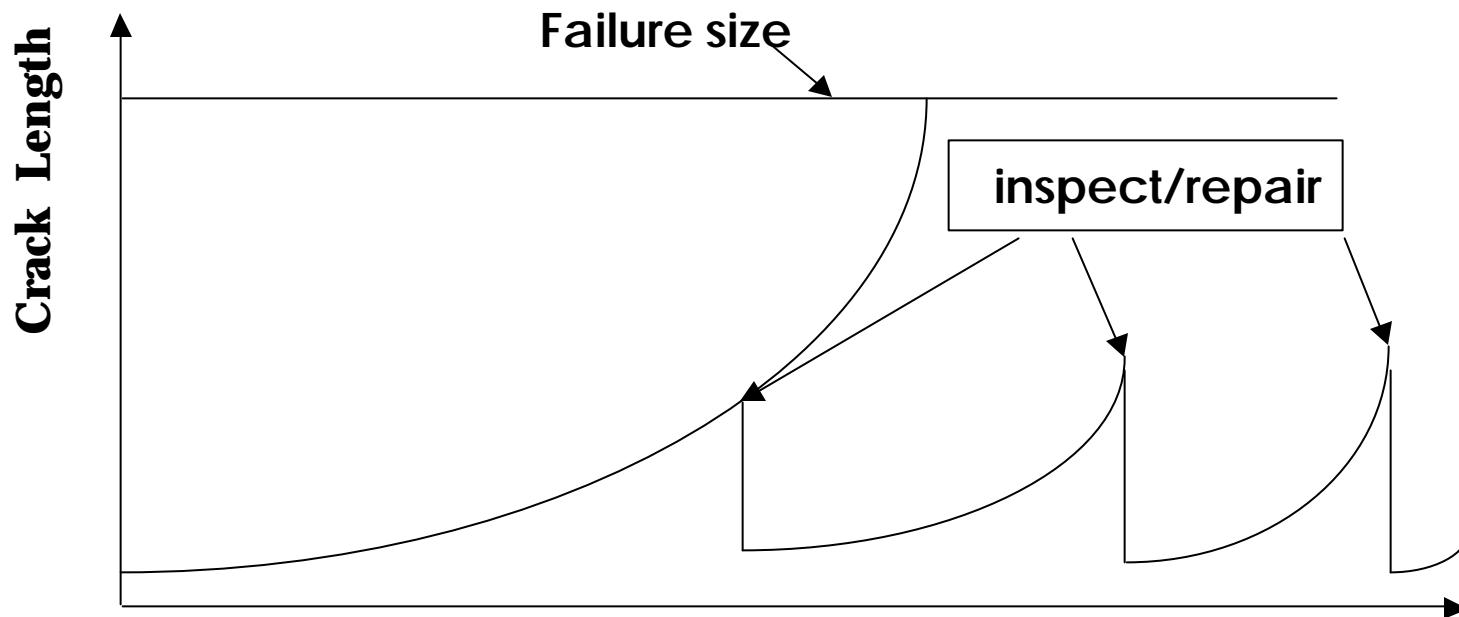
- Pre-existent crack size specified by inspection limits, experience
- Crack growth life  $>$  service life  $\times$  S.F.
- Based on fatigue crack growth resistance
- Emphasizes nondestructive inspection



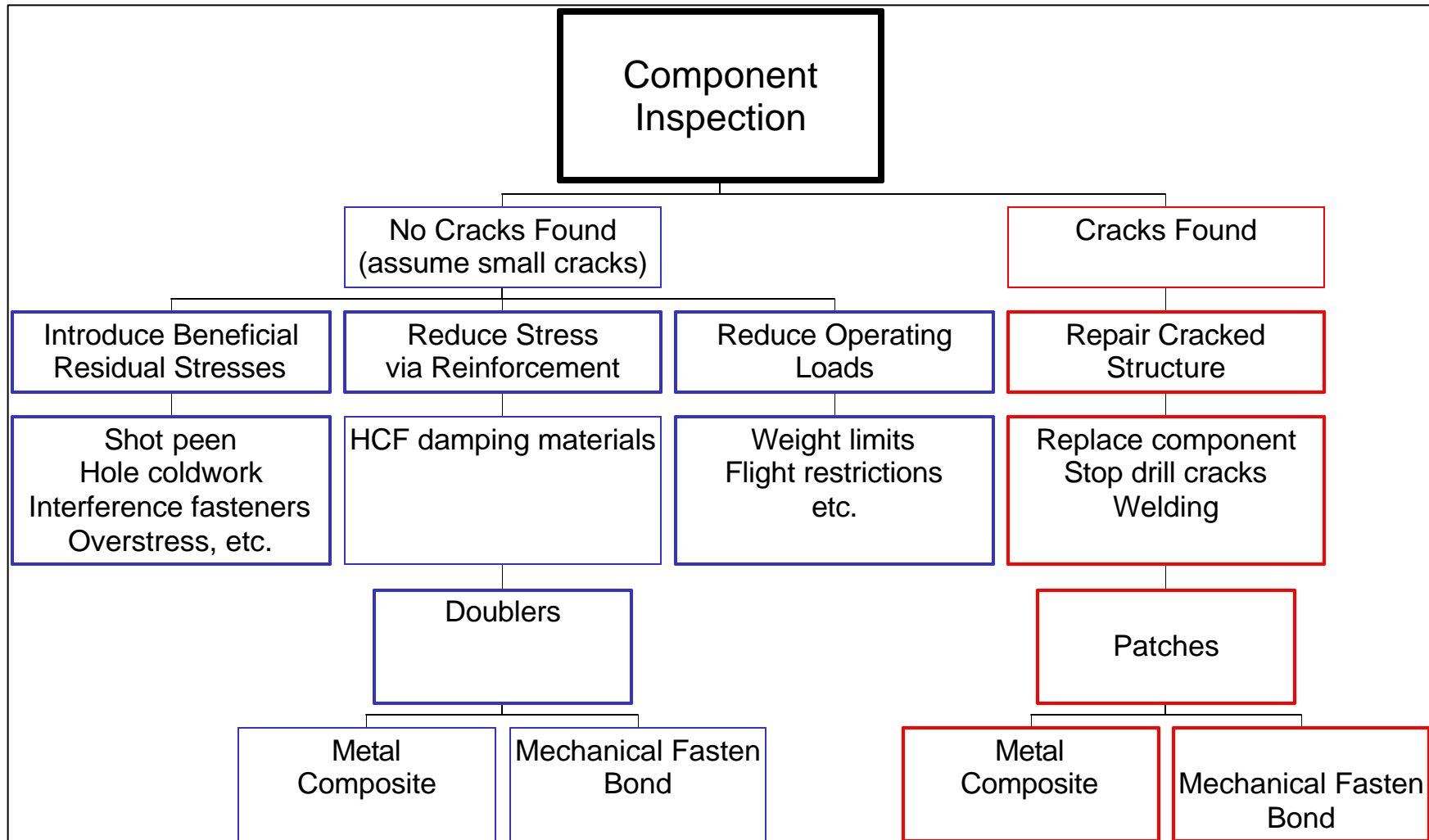
# ***Retirement-for-Cause***

Design goal: Use periodic inspection/repair to achieve desired fatigue lives to achieve desired fatigue lives

Limited by repeated maintenance economics



# Life Extension Concepts



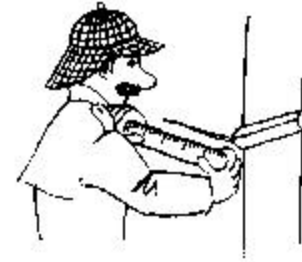
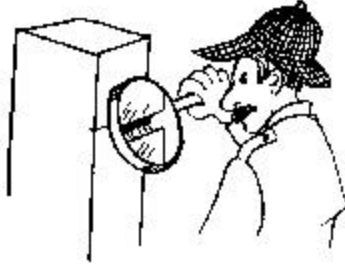
# *Summary*

- Fatigue is complex problem that involves many disciplines
- Fatigue affects design and operation of many types of structures
- Fatigue may be treated by several methods/philosophies
  - Assume component cracked
  - Assume component uncracked
  - Probabilistic methods

LOADS

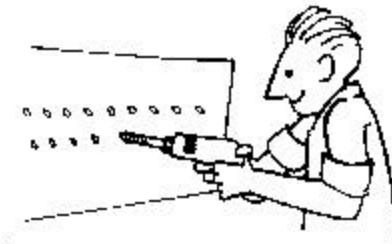


CRACK INITIATION AND DETECTION



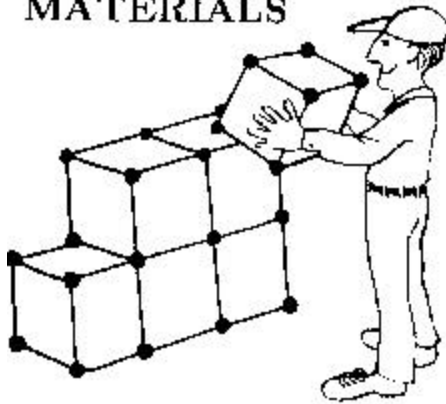
CRACK GROWTH

**FATIGUE  
AN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
PROBLEM**



MANUFACTURING

MATERIALS



ENVIRONMENT

PROBABILITY



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