

*Workshop «Variational Models of Fracture»*

# A variational approach to gradient plasticity

**G. Lancioni**

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Edile e Architettura,  
Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy

*Joint work with R. March (Rome), G. Del Piero (Ferrara), G. Zitti (Ancona),  
T. Yalcinkaya (Ankara), A. Cocks (Oxford)*

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# A variational approach to **gradient plasticity**

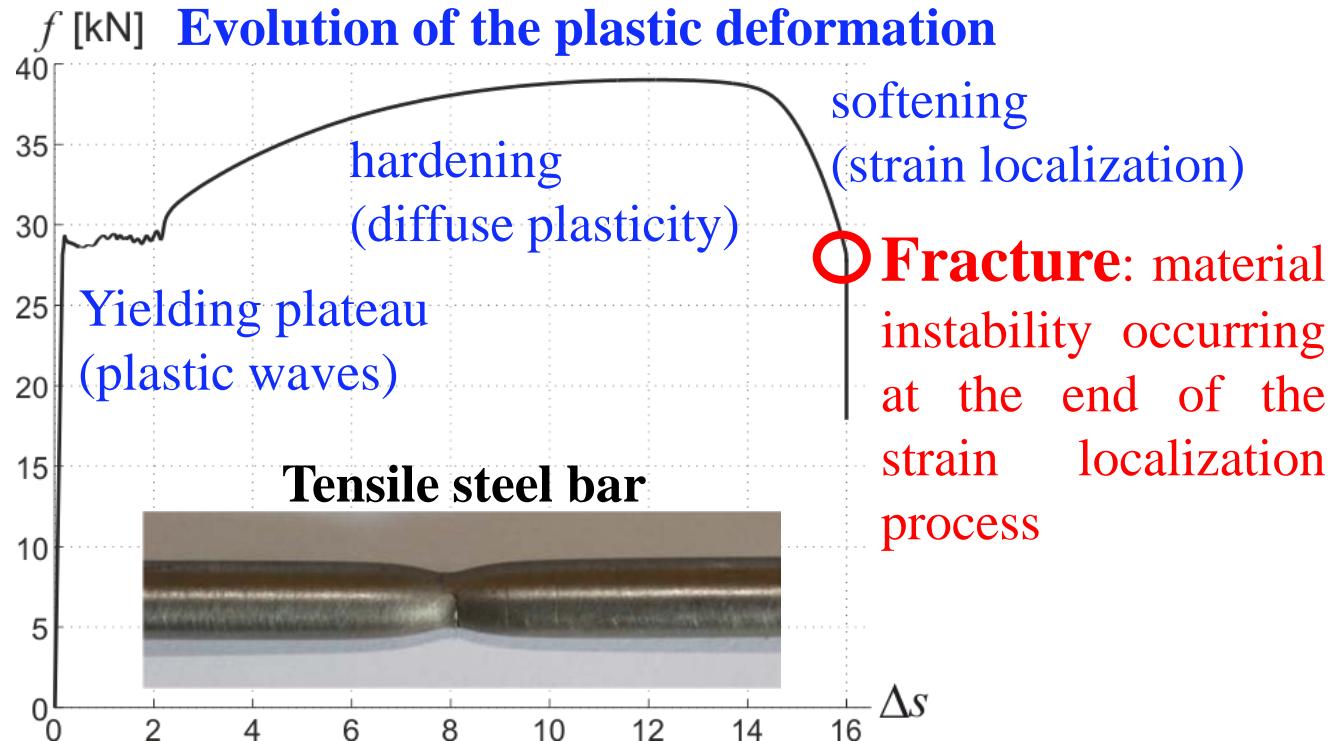
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# Variational Model



**Fracture:** material instability occurring at the end of the strain localization process

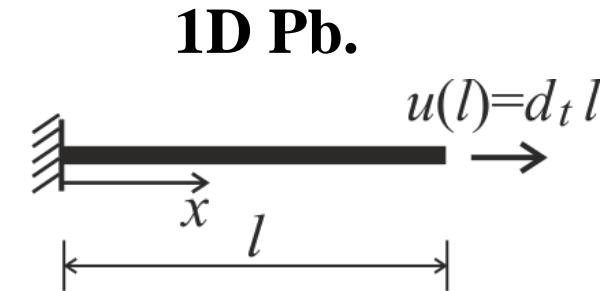
- Rate-independent
- Non-convex totally dissipative plastic energy
- Non-local energy, depending on the plastic strain gradient
- Evolution of the deformation -> Incremental energy minimization

## References

- Del Piero, Lancioni, March, JMMS, 2013
- Lancioni, J. Elasticity, 2015

# Modeling assumptions

i. Kinematics  $u'(x) = \varepsilon(x) + \gamma(x)$   
 elastic def.      plastic def.



## ii. Energy

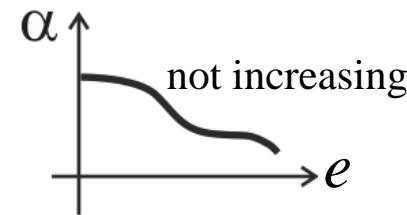
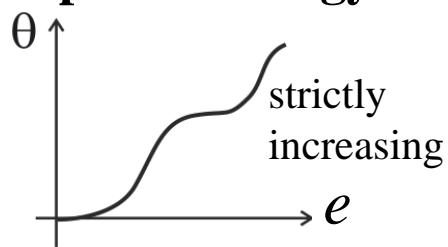
internal variable  $e = e(\gamma)$ . In isotropic gradient plasticity  $e_t = \int_0^t |\dot{\gamma}_\tau| d\tau$ ,  $\dot{e}_t = |\dot{\gamma}_\tau|$   
 accumulated plastic strain

$$E(u, \gamma, e) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(u' - \gamma)^2 + \theta(e) + \frac{1}{2} \alpha(e) e'^2 \right) dx$$

stored elastic energy

dissipative plastic energy

non-local stored plastic energy



iii. Dissipation  $\frac{d}{dt} \theta(e) = \theta'(e) \dot{e} \geq 0$

**Energy:** 
$$E(u, \gamma, e) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(u' - \gamma)^2 + \theta(e) + \frac{1}{2} \alpha(e) e'^2 \right) dx$$

Comparisons with **non-local variational approaches** in literature

**Damage energy** [Bourdin, Francfort, Marigo, 2000], ...

$$E(u, \alpha) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(\alpha) u'^2 + \theta(\alpha) + \frac{1}{2} A \alpha'^2 \right) dx$$

**Damage and plasticity energy**

[Ambrosio, Lemenant, Royer-Carfagni, 2013], [Freddi, Royer-Carfagni, 2014]

$$E(u, \alpha) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(\alpha) u'^2 + \theta(\alpha) + \frac{1}{2} A \alpha'^2 + \sigma_0 \alpha^2 |u'| \right) dx$$

yielding stress

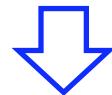
[Alessi, Marigo, Vidoli, 2014, 2015]

$$E(u, \alpha, \gamma, e) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(\alpha) (u' - \gamma)^2 + \theta(\alpha) + \frac{1}{2} A \alpha'^2 + \sigma_p(\alpha) e \right) dx$$

Damage + von Mises plasticity

## Equilibrium

$$\delta E(u, \gamma, e; \delta u, \delta \gamma, |\delta \gamma|) \geq 0$$



$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \sigma' = 0, \quad \text{with } \sigma = E(u' - \gamma) \\ | \sigma | \leq \sigma^c \quad \text{with } \sigma^c = \theta' + \frac{1}{2} \alpha' e'^2 - \frac{d}{dx} (\alpha e') \\ \text{Yield condition} \quad \text{Yield limit} \\ e(0) = e(l) = 0, \text{ or } e'(0) \leq 0, \quad e'(l) \geq 0 \quad \text{b.c.} \end{array} \right]$$

normal stress

$\uparrow$

$\downarrow$

## Flow rule

$$E_{t+\tau}(\dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t, \dot{e}_t) = E_t + \tau \dot{E}_t(\dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t, \dot{e}_t),$$

with  $\dot{E}_t = \int_0^l (-\text{sign}(\dot{\gamma}_t) \sigma_t + \sigma_t^c) \dot{e} \, dx$

*Necessary condition* for a minimum

$$\delta \dot{E}_t(\dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t, \dot{e}_t; 0, 0, \delta e) \geq 0, \quad \forall \delta e : \dot{e}_t + \delta e \geq 0$$



$$\dot{e}_t \geq 0, \quad -\text{sign}(\dot{\gamma}_t) \sigma_t + \sigma_t^c \geq 0, \quad (-\text{sign}(\dot{\gamma}_t) \sigma_t + \sigma_t^c) \dot{e}_t = 0$$

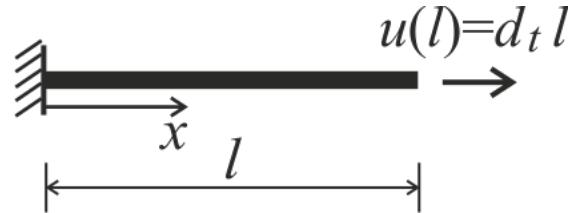


$$\dot{\gamma}_t = \frac{\sigma_t}{\sigma_t^c} \dot{e}_t \quad \text{Flow rule}$$

## Tensile test

Assume  $d_t \geq 0$

$$\sigma_t \geq 0 \Rightarrow \dot{\gamma} = \dot{e}$$



$$E(u, \gamma) = \int_0^l \left( \frac{1}{2} E(u' - \gamma)^2 + \theta(\gamma) + \frac{1}{2} \alpha(\gamma) \gamma'^2 \right) dx$$

**Dissipation inequality**  $\dot{\gamma} \geq 0$

## Quasi-static evolution

*Incremental minimum problem*

$$(u_t, \gamma_t) \rightarrow (u_{t+\tau}, \gamma_{t+\tau}), \quad \mathcal{E}_{t+\tau} = u'_{t+\tau} - \gamma_{t+\tau}$$

$$u_{t+\tau} = u_t + \tau \dot{u}_t,$$

$$\gamma_{t+\tau} = \gamma_t + \tau \dot{\gamma}_t$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(u_{t+\tau}, \gamma_{t+\tau}) &\approx E(u_t, \gamma_t) + \tau \dot{E}(u_t, \gamma_t) + \frac{1}{2} \tau^2 \ddot{E}(u_t, \gamma_t) = \\ &= E(u_t, \gamma_t) + \tau F(u_t, \gamma_t; \dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t) \end{aligned}$$

 quadratic functional

$$(\dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t) = \arg \min \{F(u_t, \gamma_t; \dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t), \dot{\gamma} \geq 0, \text{ b.c.}\}$$

Constrained quadratic programming pb.

**Necessary condition** for a minimum

$$\delta F(\dot{u}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t; \delta \dot{u}, \delta \dot{\gamma}) \geq 0$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_t + \delta \gamma \geq 0$$



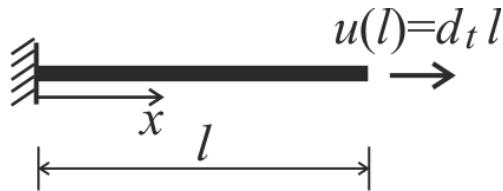
$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\sigma}' = 0, \\ \dot{\gamma}_t \geq 0, \quad \sigma_t + \tau \dot{\sigma}_t \leq \sigma_t^c + \tau \dot{\sigma}_t^c, \quad [\sigma_t + \tau \dot{\sigma}_t - (\sigma_t^c + \tau \dot{\sigma}_t^c)] \dot{\gamma}_t = 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Kuhn-Tucker conditions (**flow rule**)

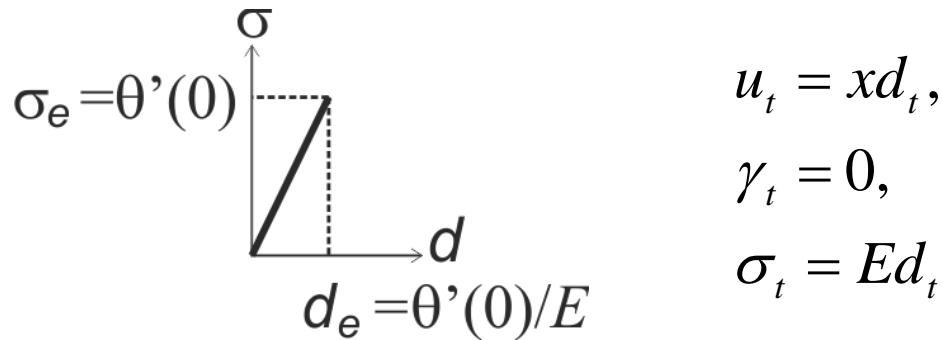
**consistency condition**

(the yield function maintains equal to zero when  $\gamma$  grows)

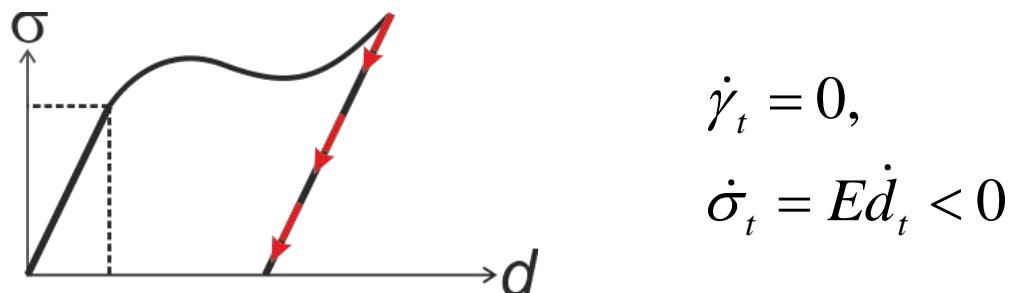
## Elastic evolution



1. *Elastic regime*     $0 < d_t \leq d_e = \theta'(0)/E$



2. *Elastic unloading*     $\dot{d}_t < 0, \quad d_t \geq 0$



# Evolution of plastic def. from homogeneous configurations

$$u_t = \text{const}, \quad \gamma_t = \text{const}, \quad \sigma_t = \sigma_t^c, \quad \text{bc: } \dot{\gamma}_t(0) = 0, \quad \dot{\gamma}_t(l) = 0$$

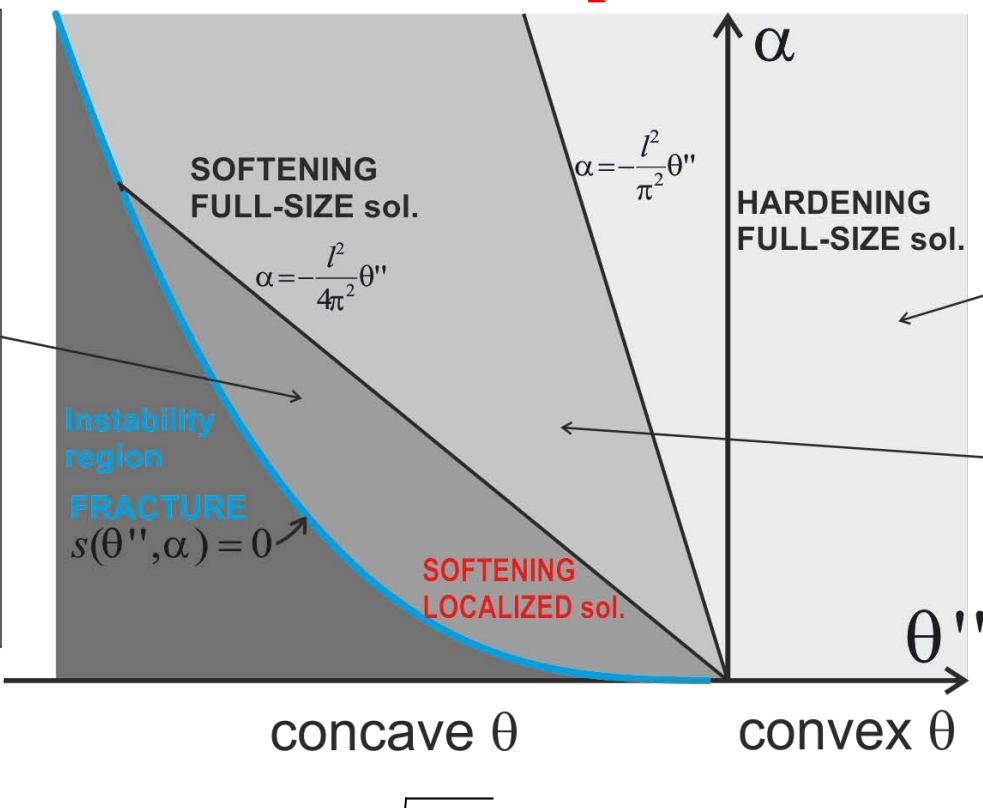
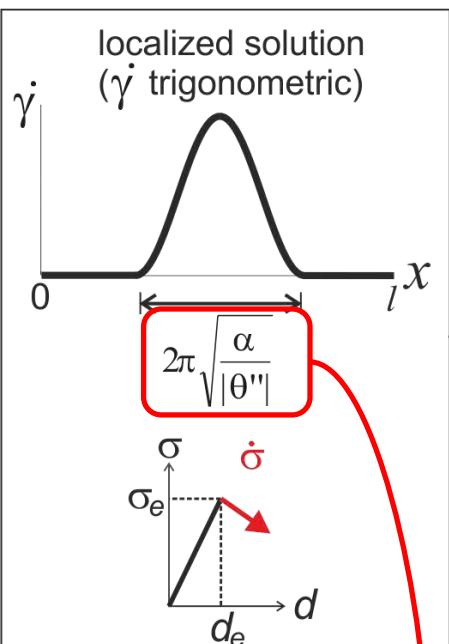
$$\dot{u}_t(0) = 0, \quad \dot{u}_t(l) = \dot{d}_t l$$


Evolution pb.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\gamma}_t \geq 0, \\ \dot{\sigma}_t \leq \dot{\sigma}_t^c, \text{ with } \dot{\sigma}_t = E(\dot{d}_t - \frac{1}{l} \int_0^l \dot{\gamma}_t dx) \\ [\dot{\sigma}_t - \dot{\sigma}_t^c] \dot{\gamma}_t = 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\quad} \begin{array}{l} \dot{\gamma}_t \\ \dot{\varepsilon}_t = \dot{d}_t - \frac{1}{l} \int_0^l \dot{\gamma}_t dx \end{array}$$

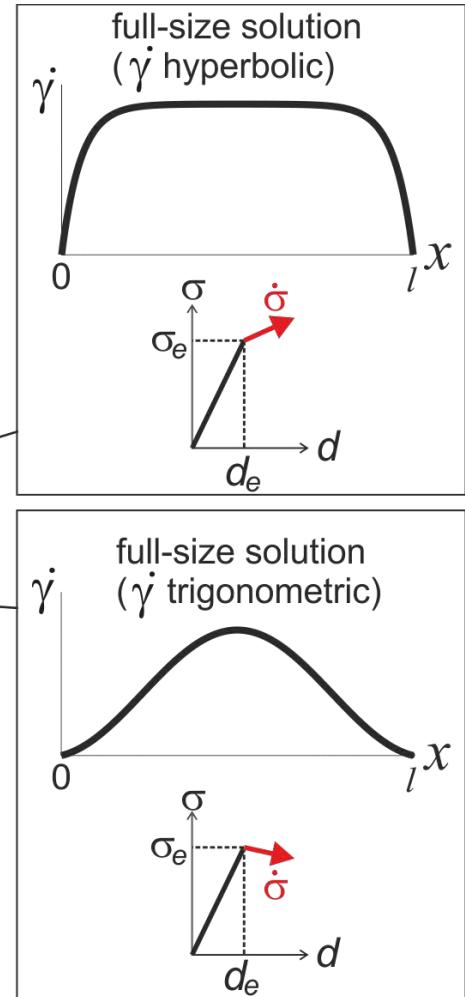
$\dot{\gamma}_t$  depends on  $\theta(\gamma_t)$ ,  $\alpha(\gamma_t)$ ,  $l$  and  $E$

## θ-α map



internal length  $l_i = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{|\theta''|}}$

$l \leq l_i \Rightarrow$  full size sol. }  
 $l > l_i \Rightarrow$  localized sol. } manifestation of the **size-effect**



# Instability and fracture

*Sufficient condition* for a minimum:

$\delta F \geq 0$ , and  $\delta^2 F \geq 0$  for all perturbations for which  $\delta F = 0$

$$\delta^2 F(\dot{\gamma}_t, \delta\dot{\gamma}) = \int_0^l (\theta''(\gamma_t) \delta\dot{\gamma}^2 + E \delta\bar{\dot{\gamma}}^2 + \alpha \delta\dot{\gamma}'^2) dx \geq 0, \text{ for all } \delta\dot{\gamma} \text{ in the plastic zone,}$$

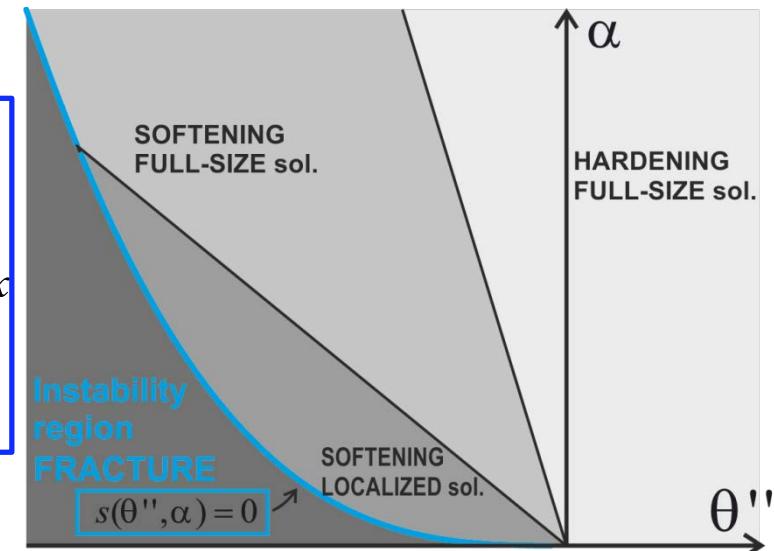
where  $\sigma_t = \sigma_t^c$  and  $\delta F = 0$



The smallest eigenvalue  $\rho_1$  of the eigenvalue pb

$$\int_0^l (\theta''(\gamma_t) \delta\dot{\gamma}^2 + E \delta\bar{\dot{\gamma}}^2 + \alpha \delta\dot{\gamma}'^2) dx = \rho \int_0^l \delta\dot{\gamma}^2 dx$$

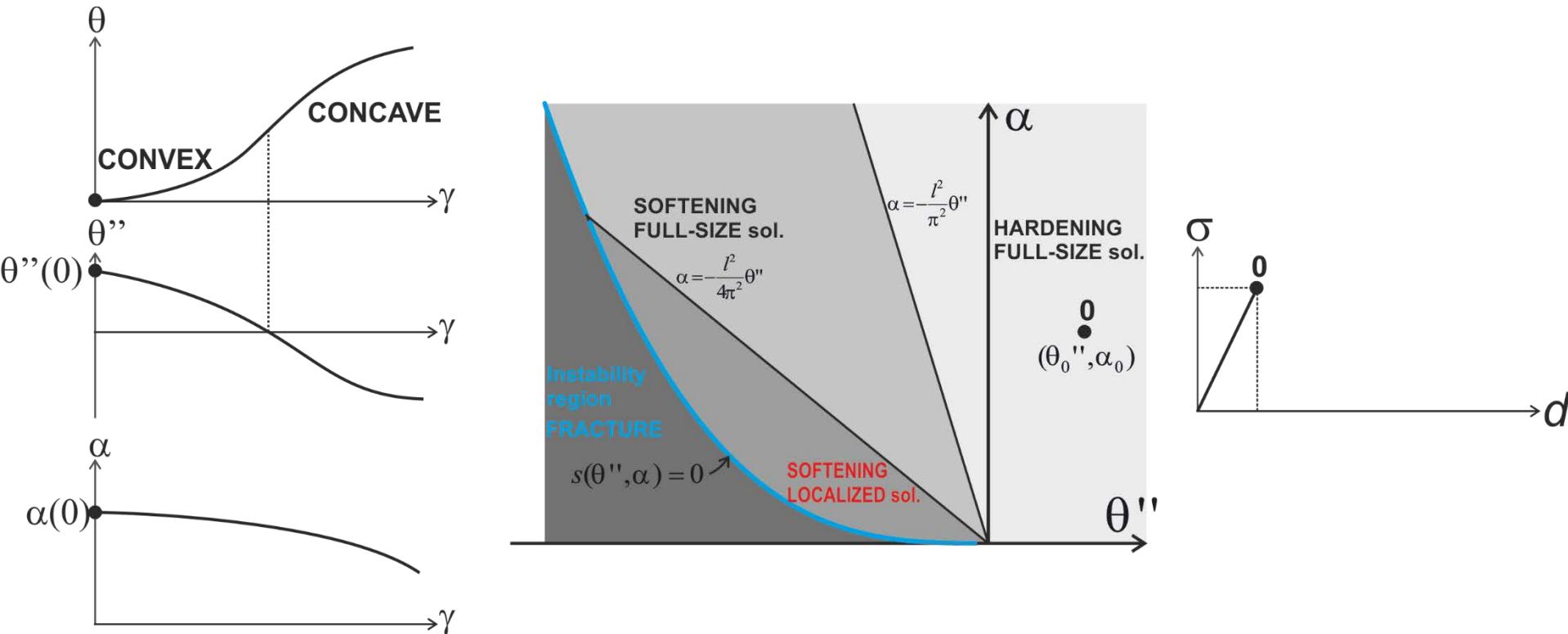
is positive

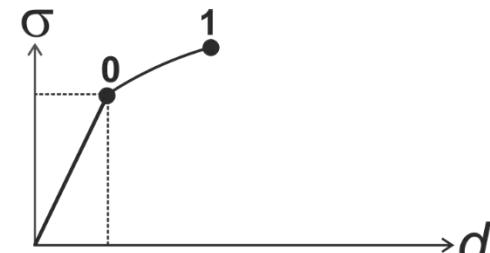
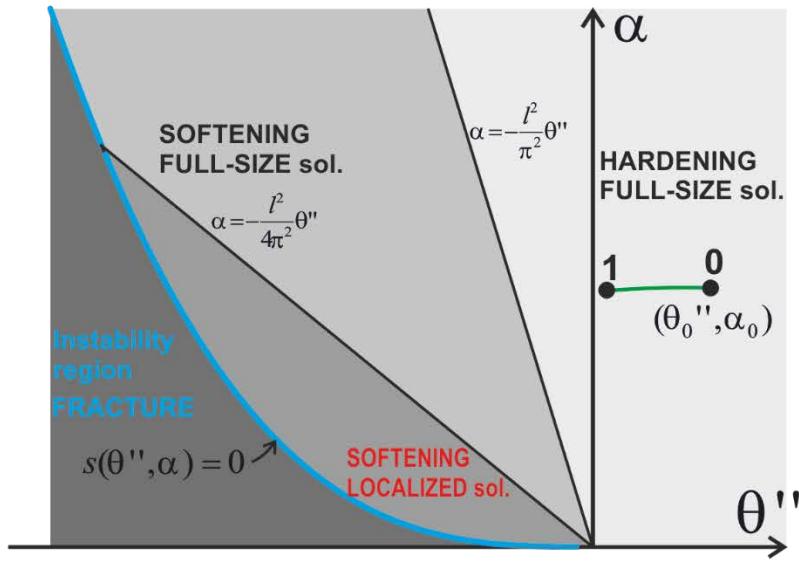
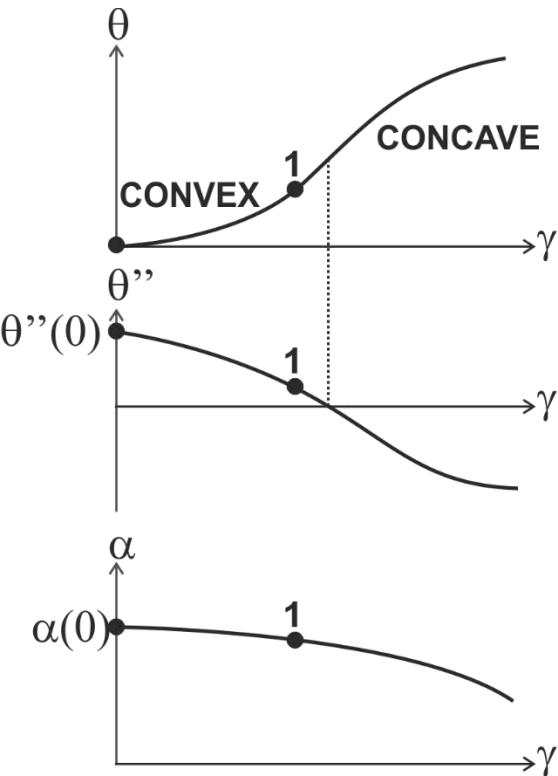


$$\rho_1 \geq 0 \iff s(\theta'', \alpha) = \psi(l\sqrt{-\theta''/\alpha}) + \theta''/E \geq 0$$

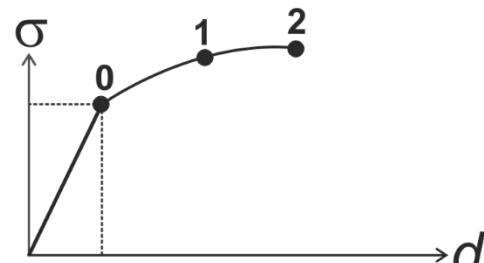
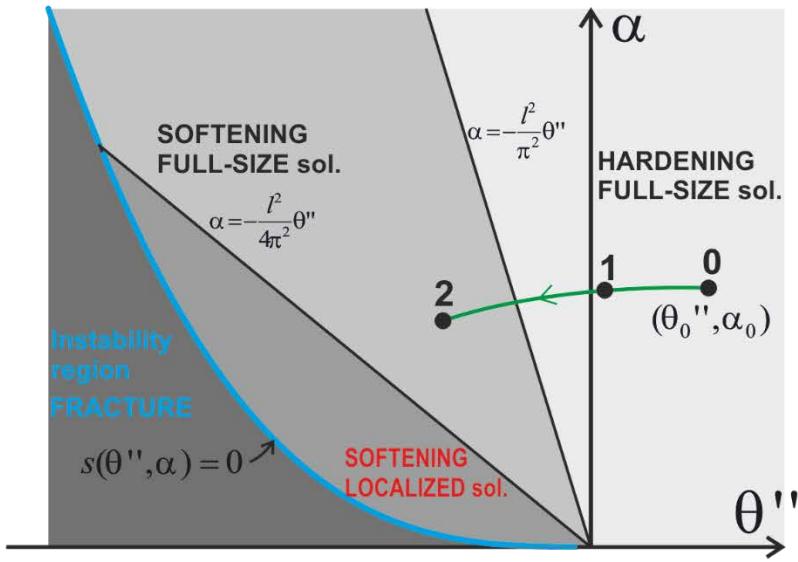
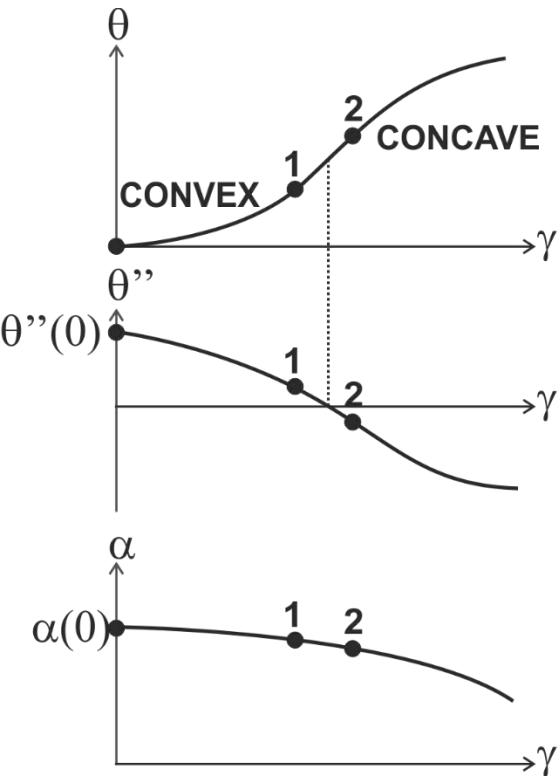
If  $s < 0$ ,  $F$  can attain unlimited negative values for perturbations concentrated on intervals of sufficiently small length.  $\rightarrow$  This situation variationally characterizes **fractured configurations**.

# Which shapes to $\theta(\gamma)$ and $\alpha(\gamma)$ ? ... hints from the analytical solution

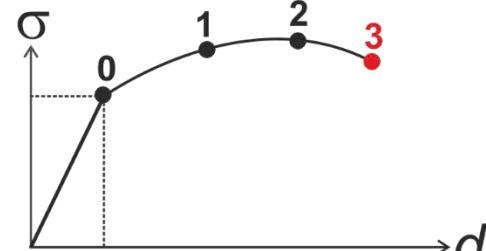
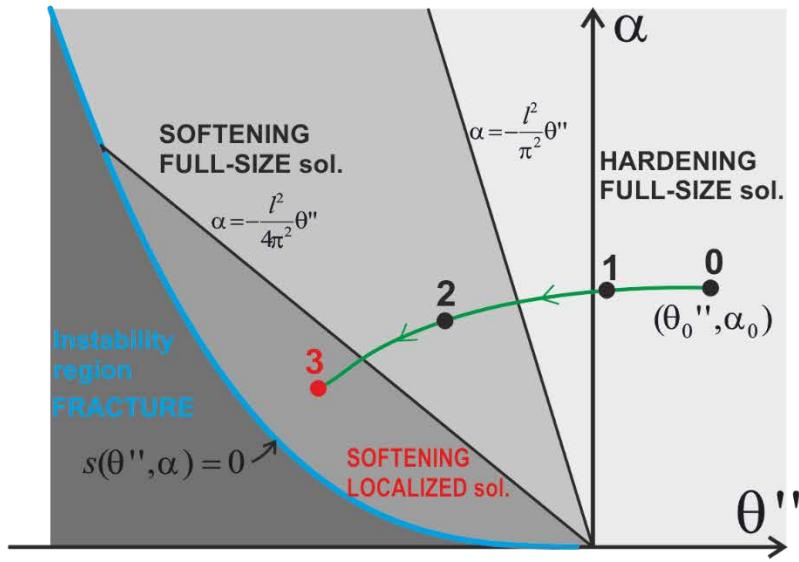
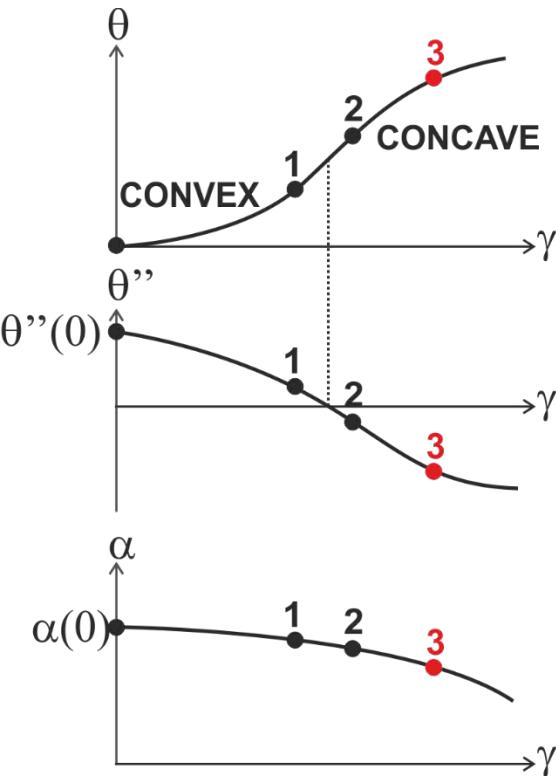




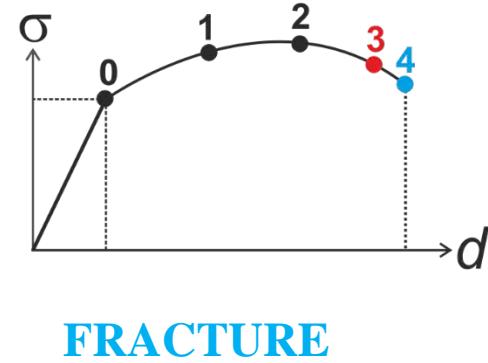
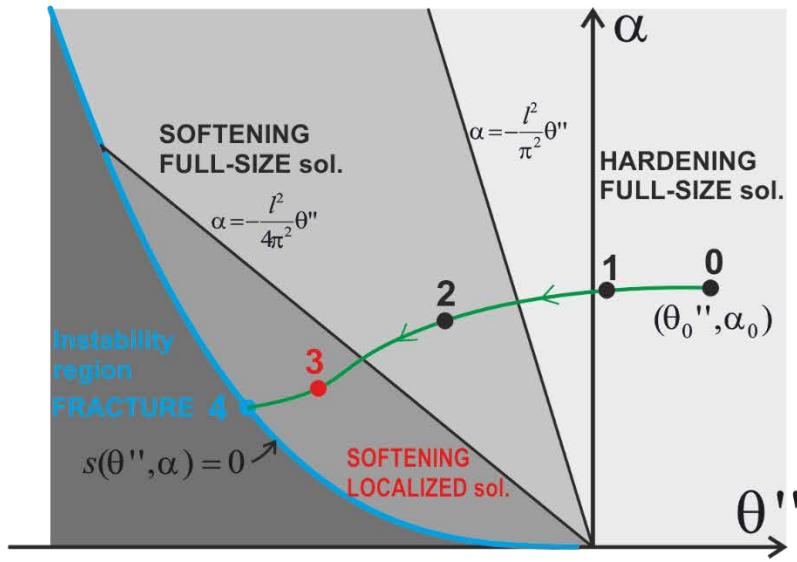
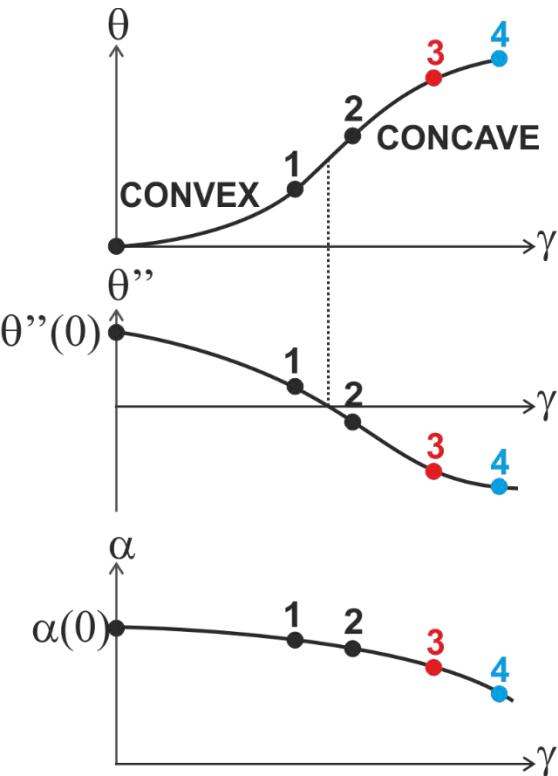
**Stress-hardening  
Full size solution**



**Stress-softening  
Full size solution**



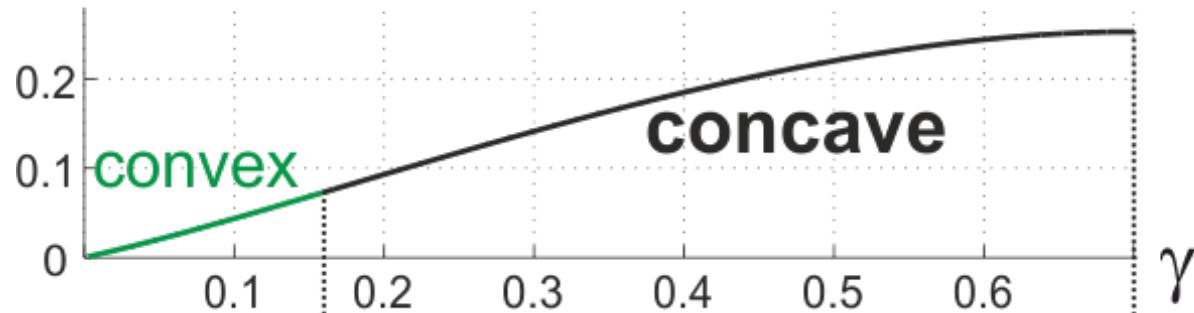
**Stress-softening  
Localized solution**



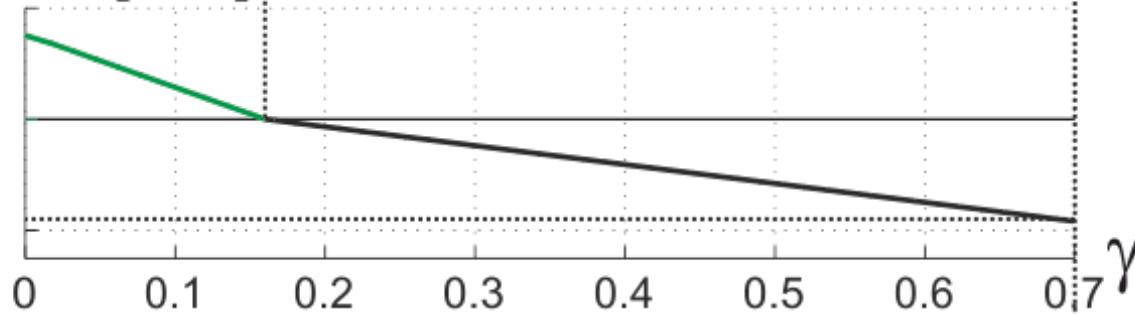
FRACTURE

## Plastic energy $\theta$ , piecewise cubic

$\theta$  [GPa]



$\theta''$  [GPa]



$\alpha$  [kN]

Non-local coefficient  $\alpha$

1

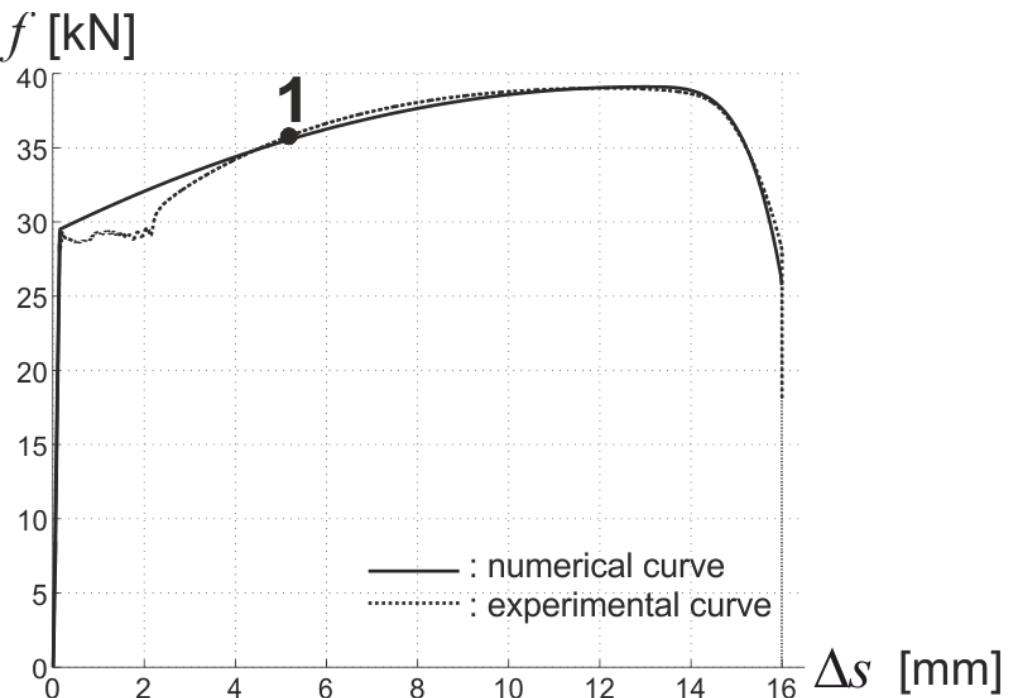
0

$\gamma$

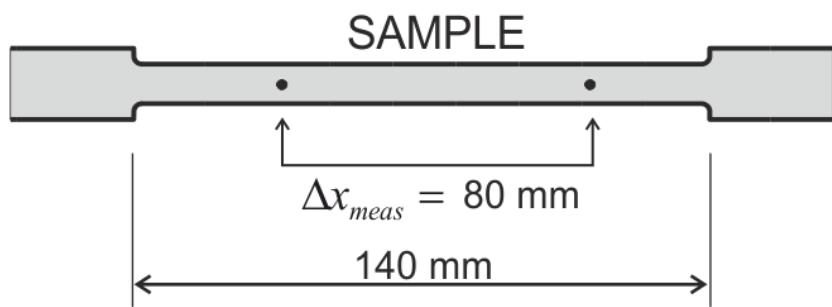
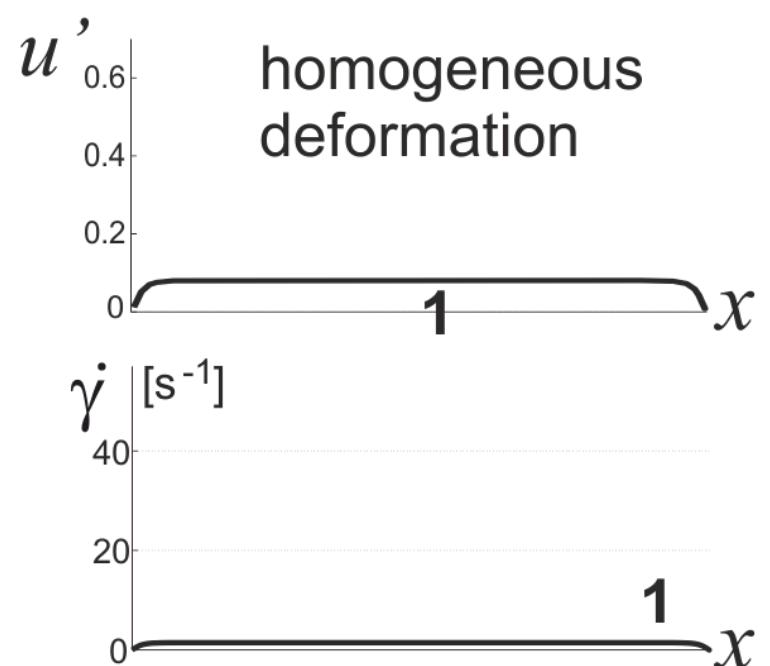
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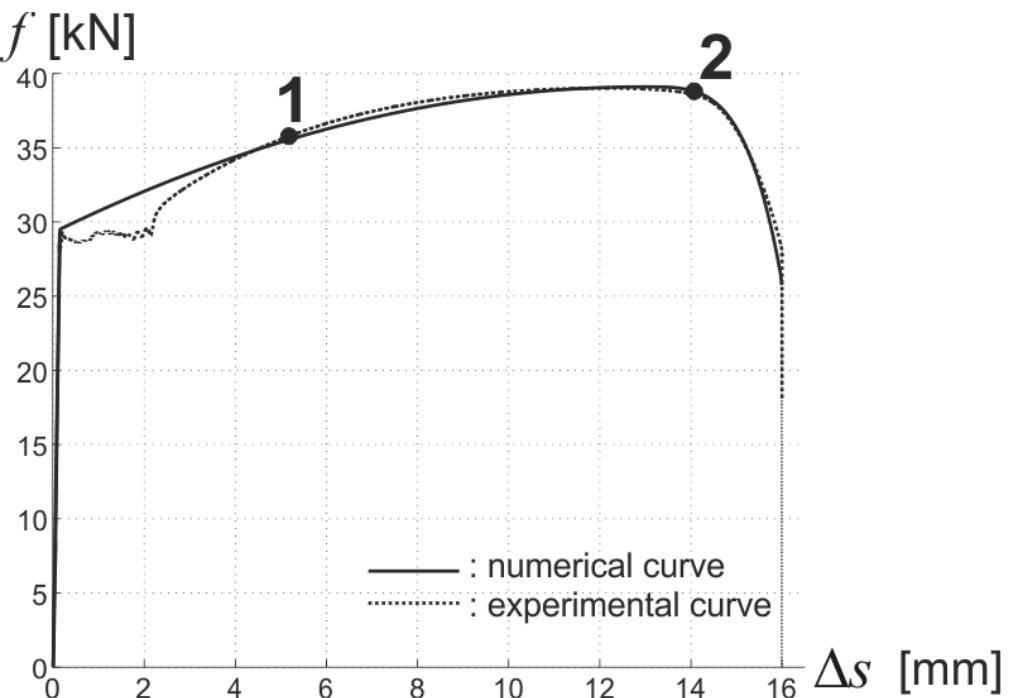
$\gamma$

$\gamma$

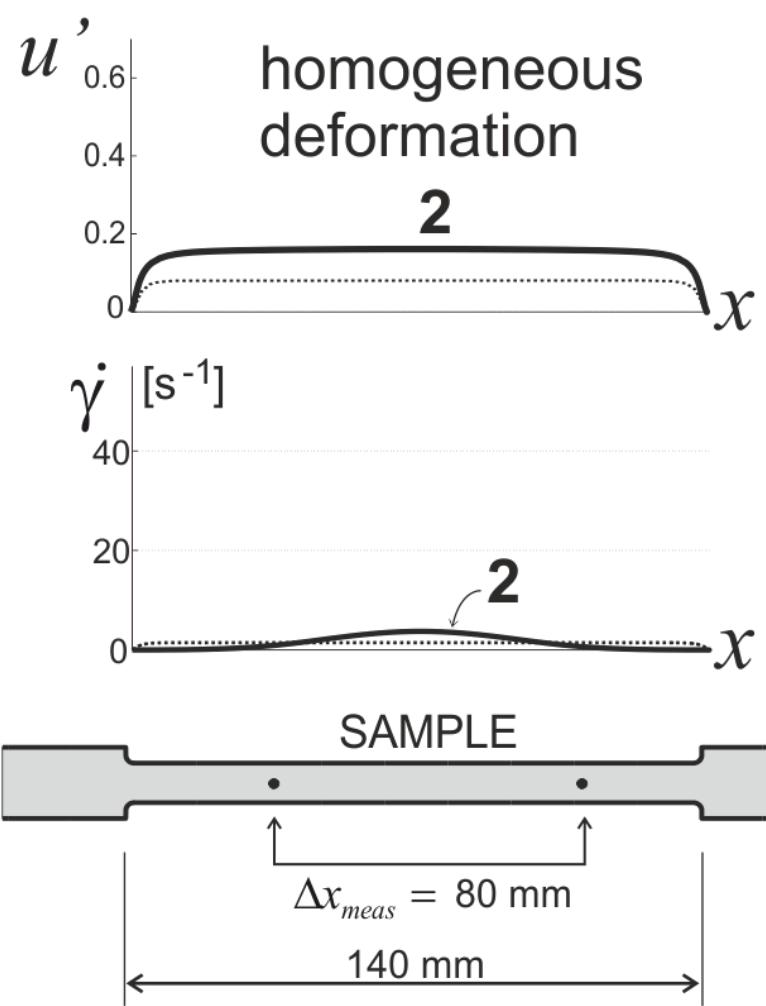


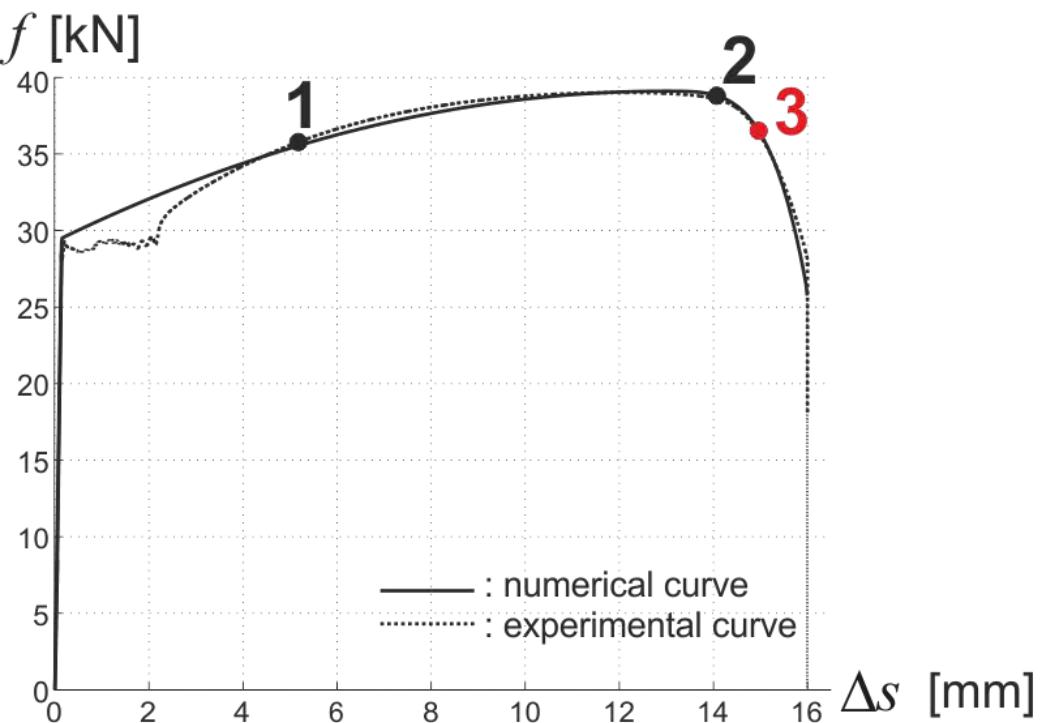
Lancioni, J. Elasticity, 2015



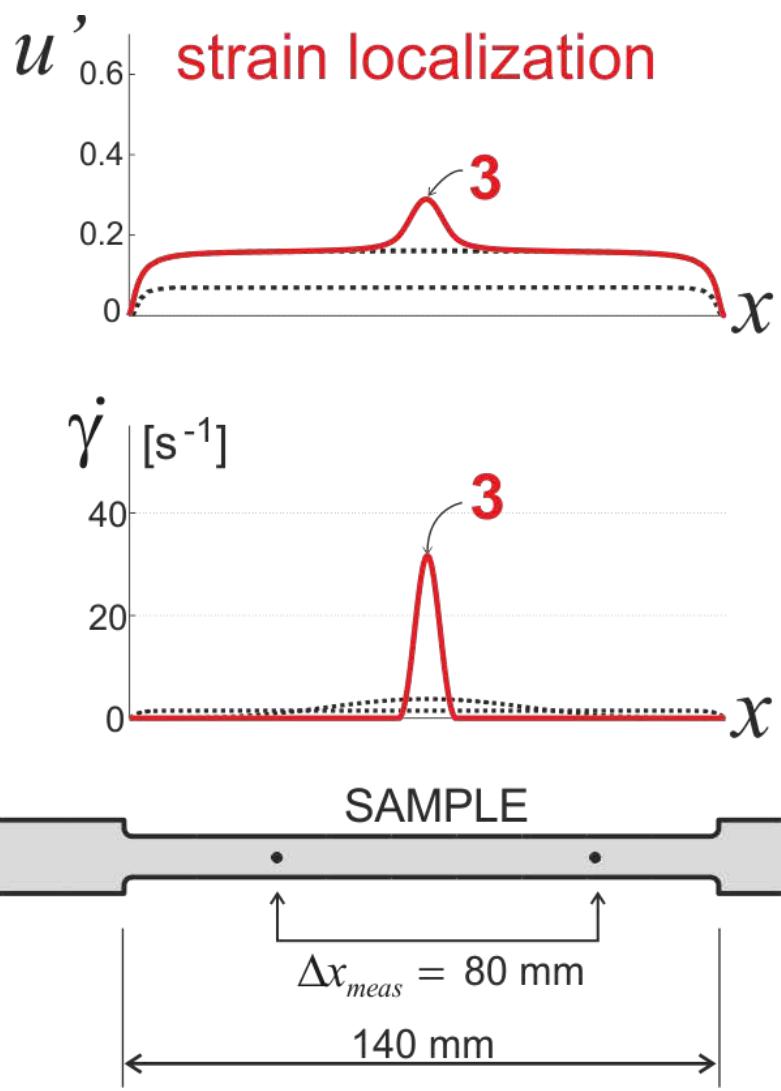


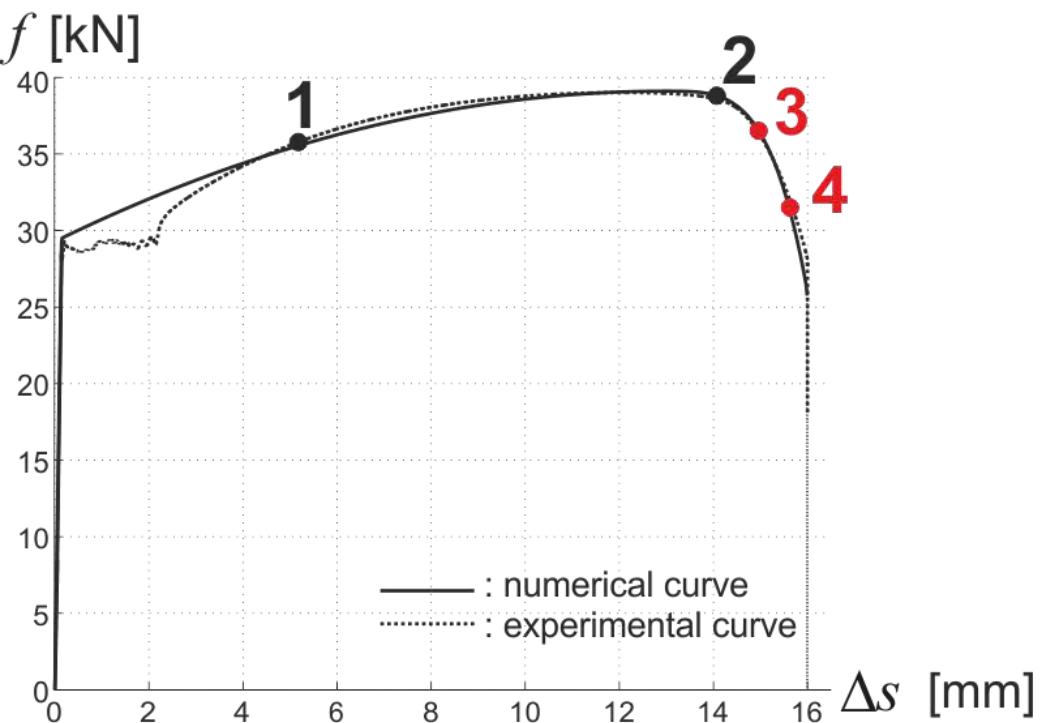
Lancioni, J. Elasticity, 2015



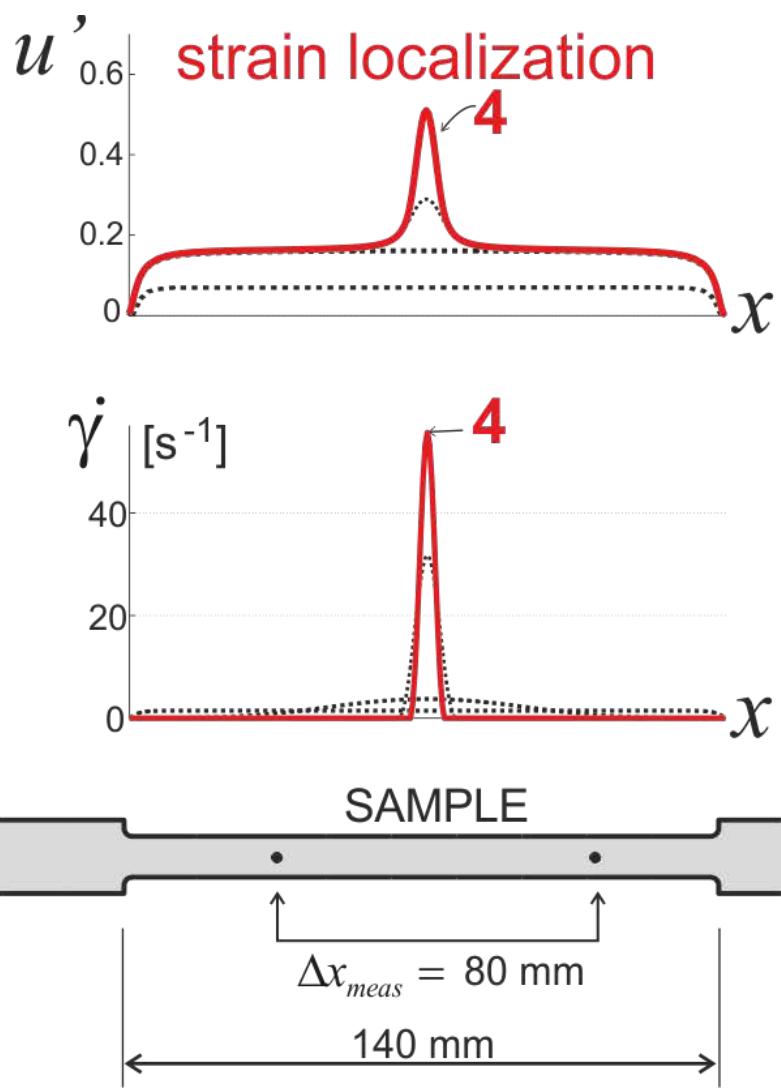


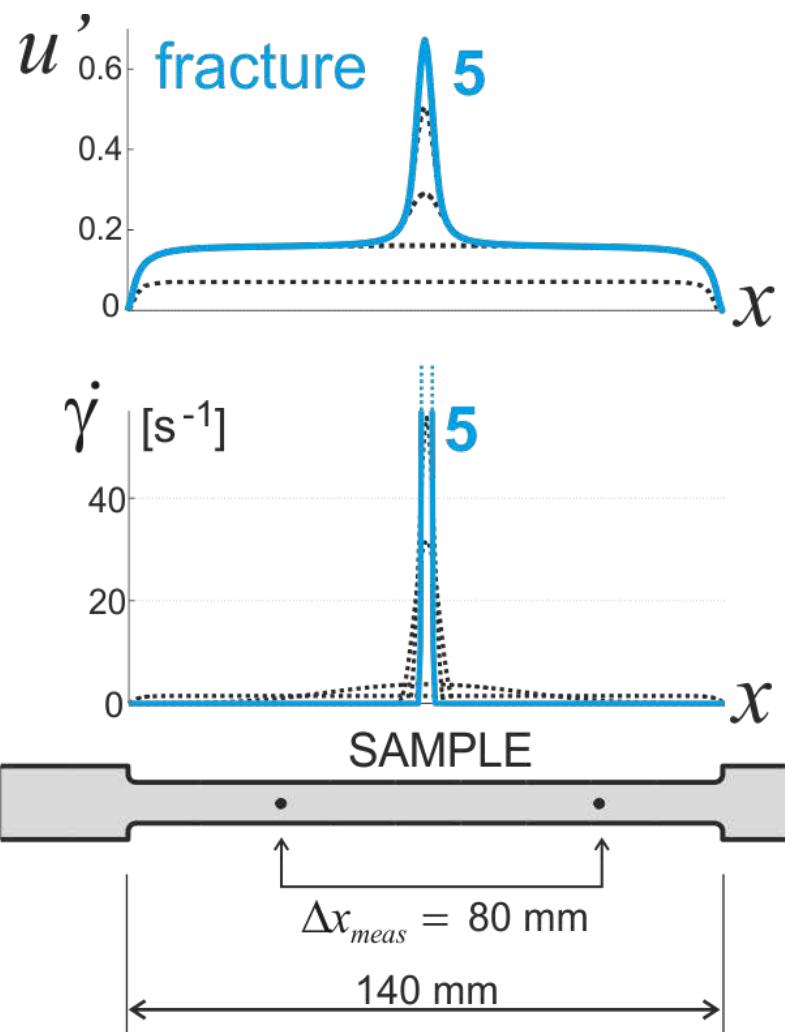
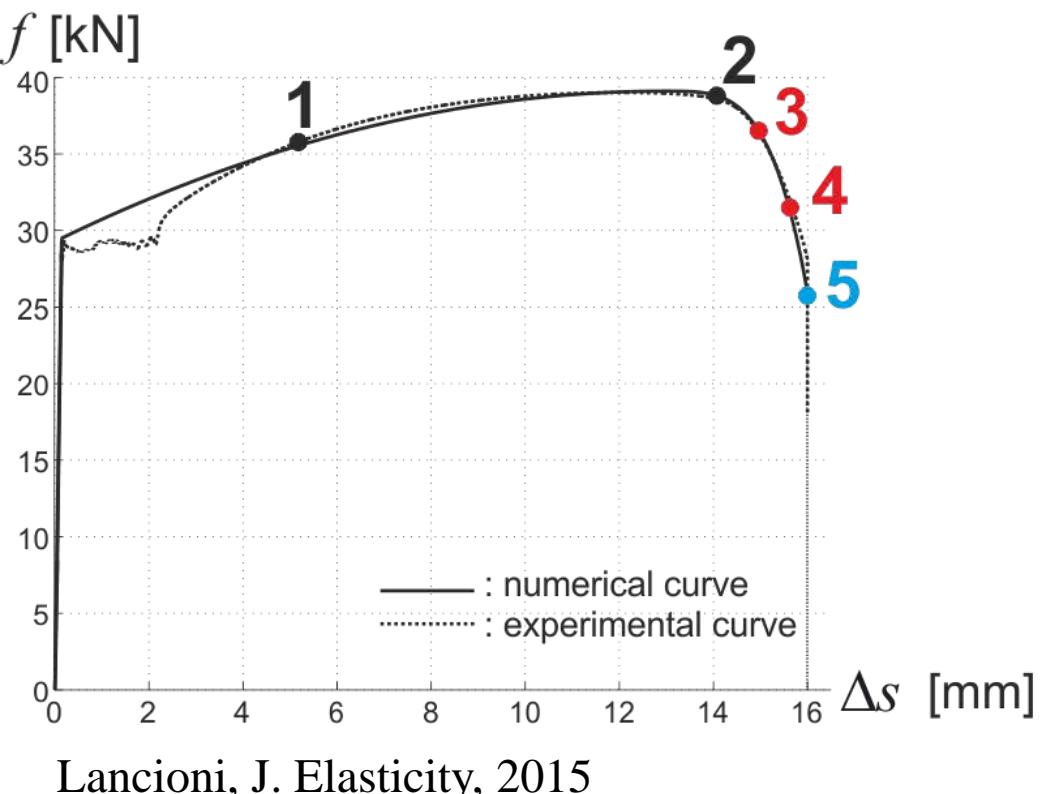
Lancioni, J. Elasticity, 2015





Lancioni, J. Elasticity, 2015





# Constitutive parameters setting [Lancioni, J. Elast., 2015]

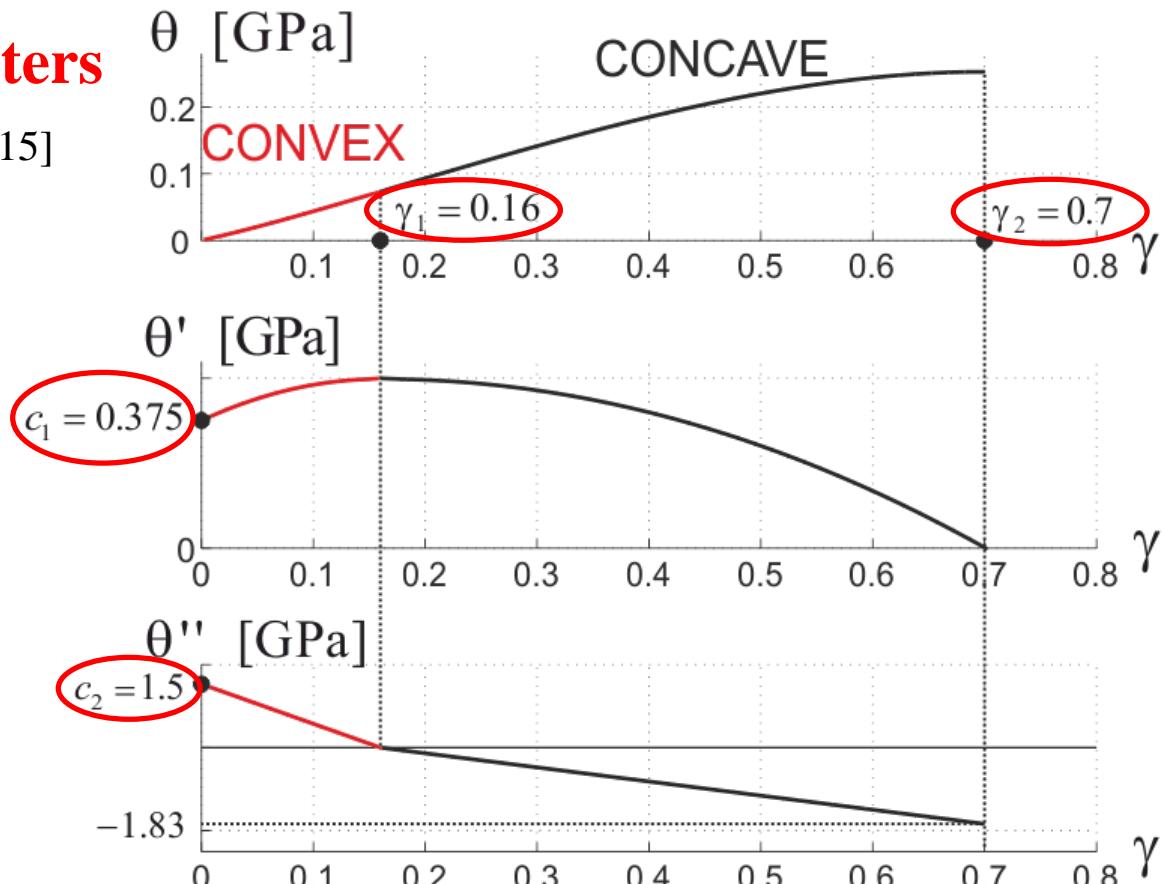
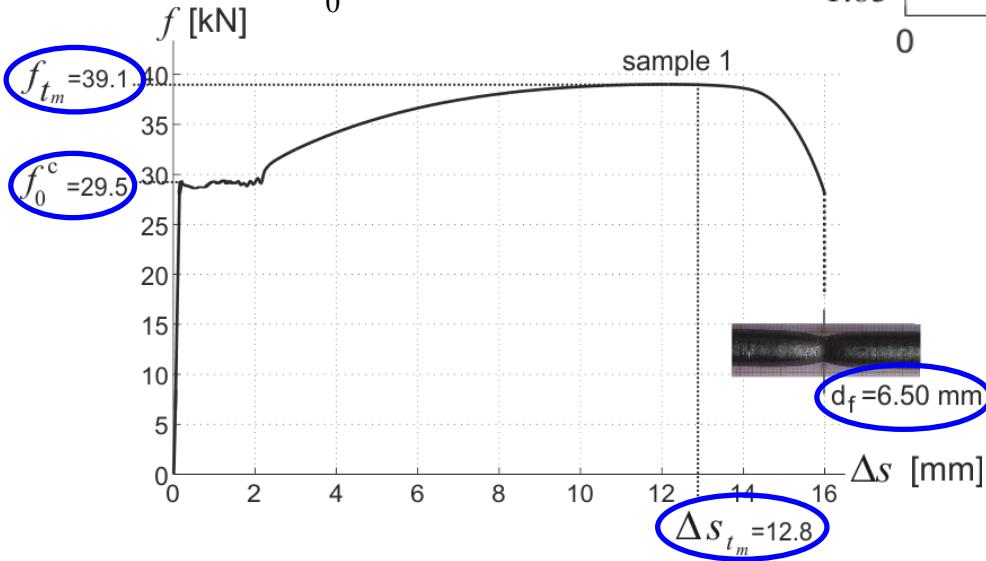
$$E=210 \text{ kN/mm}^2,$$

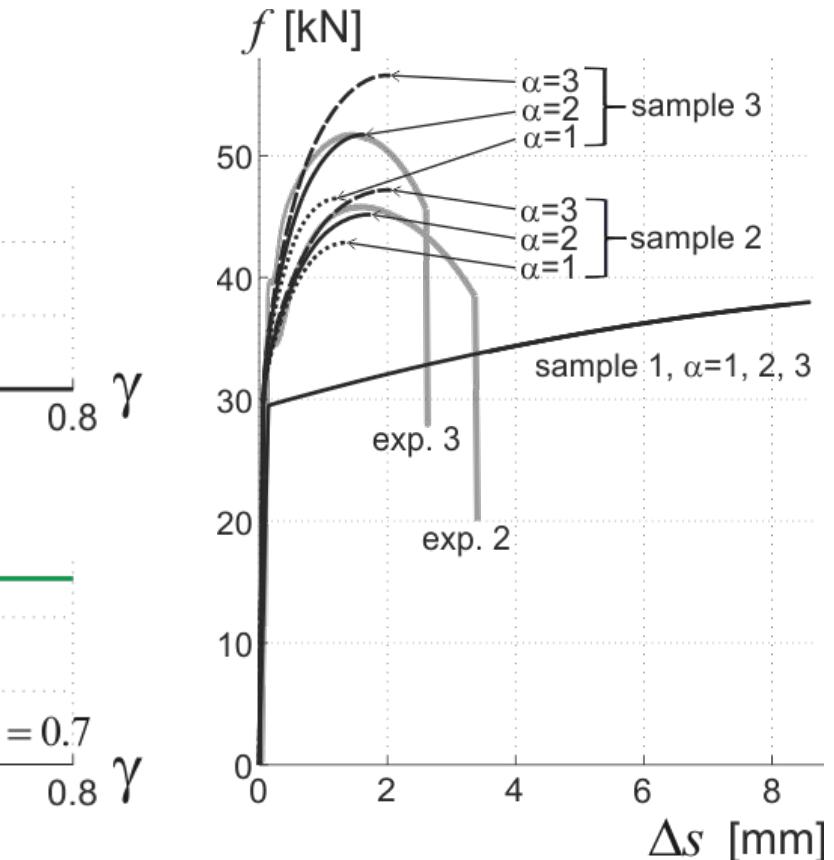
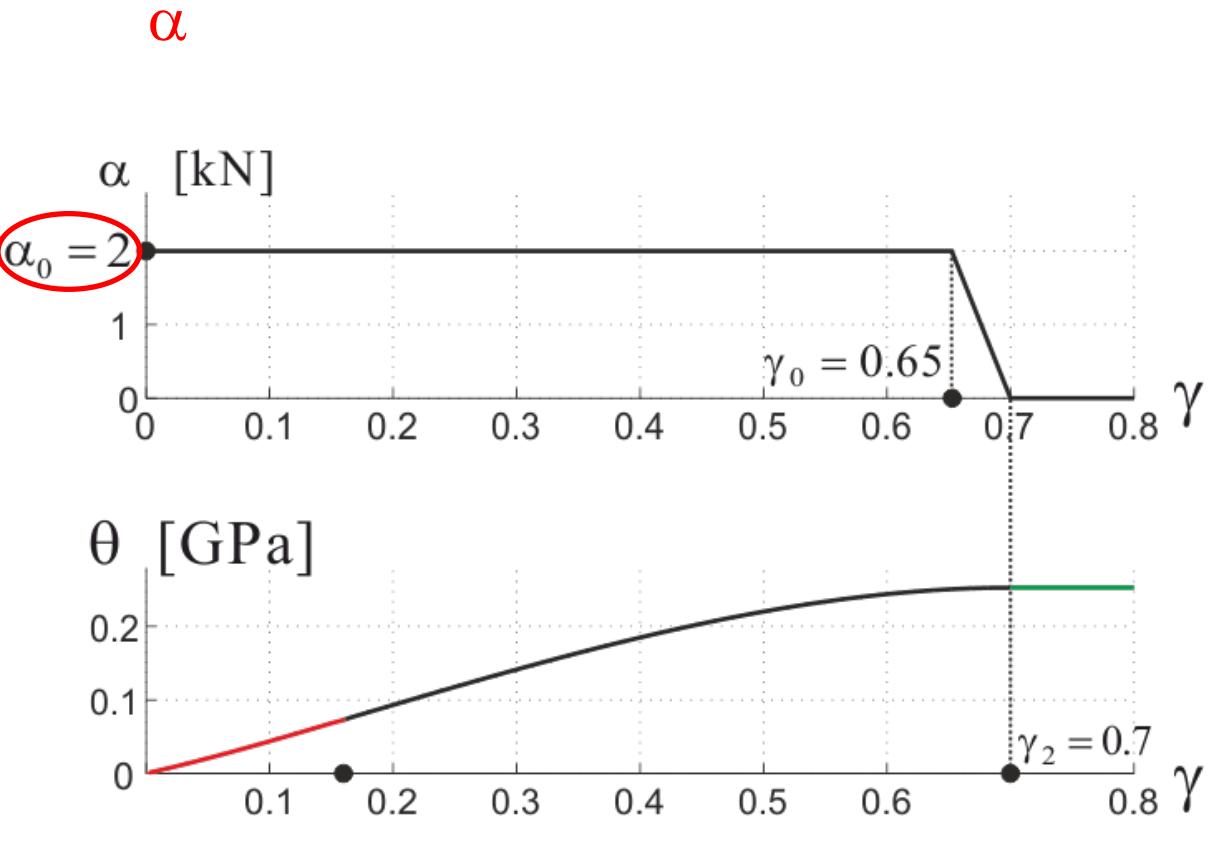
$$c_1 = \frac{f_0^c}{A}$$

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{\Delta s_{t_m}}{\Delta x} - \frac{f_{t_m}}{EA}$$

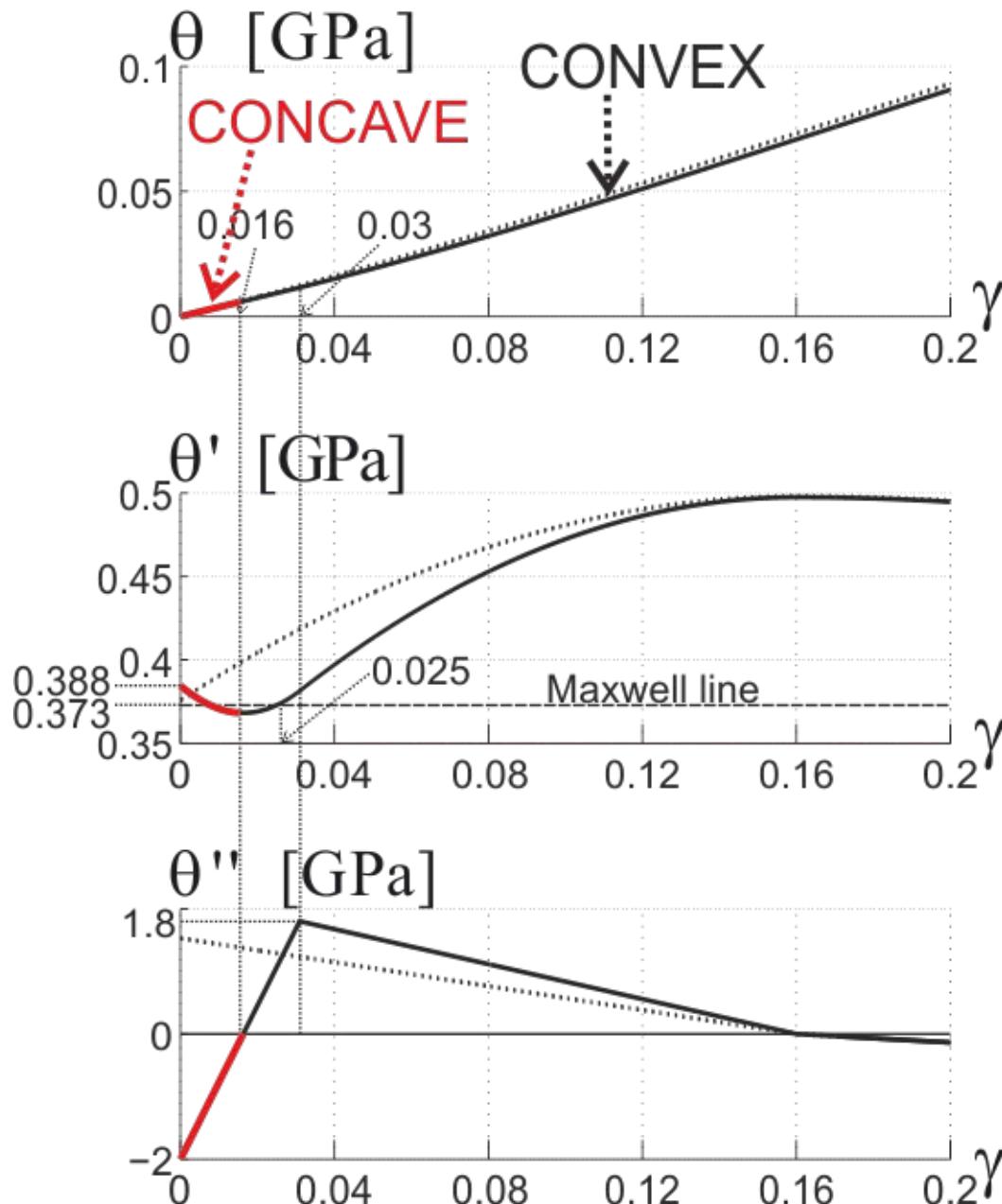
$$c_2 = \frac{2}{A\gamma_1} (f_{t_m} - f_0^c)$$

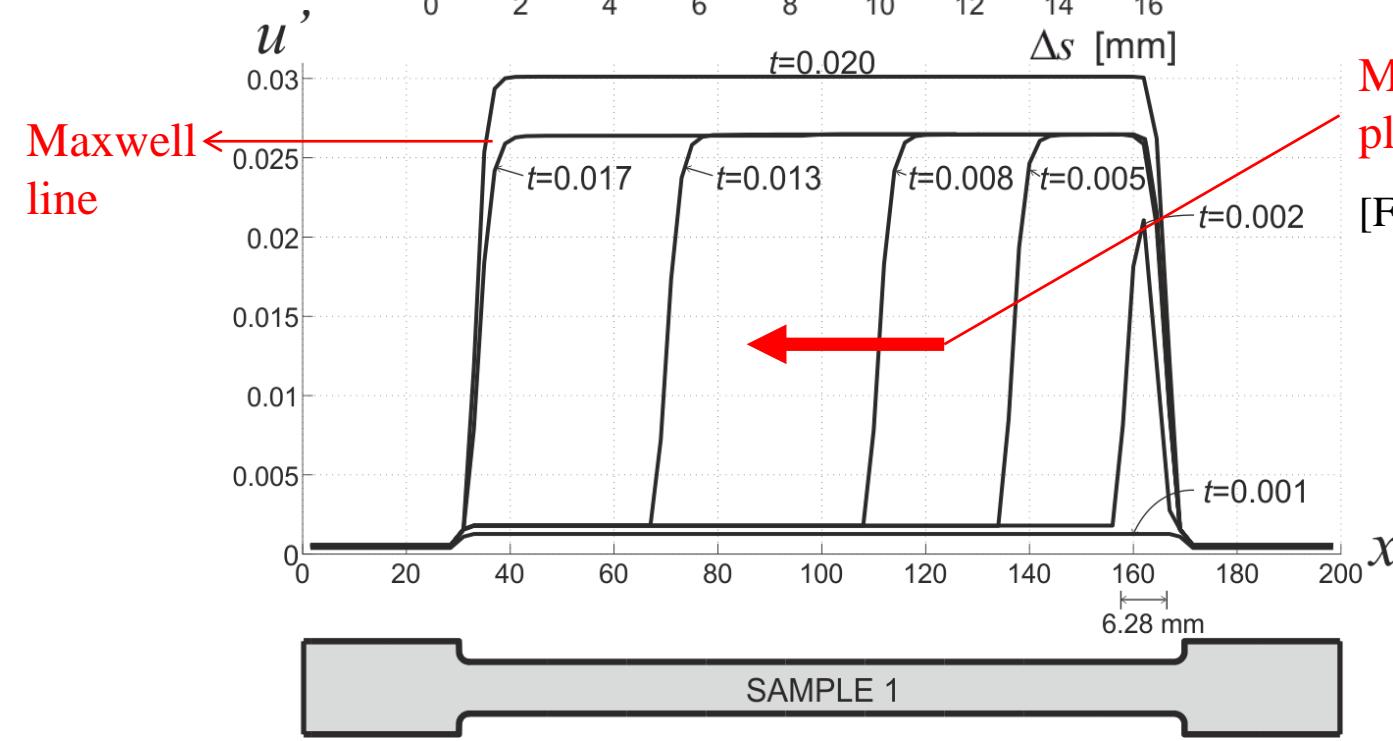
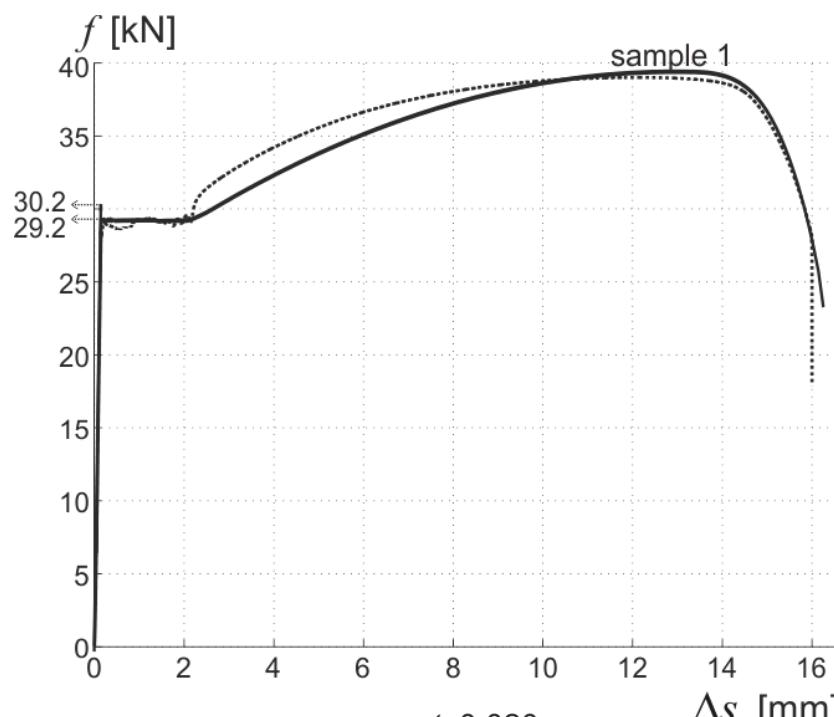
$$\gamma_2 = 2 \frac{d_0 - d_f}{d_0}$$





## $\theta$ concave-convex-concave



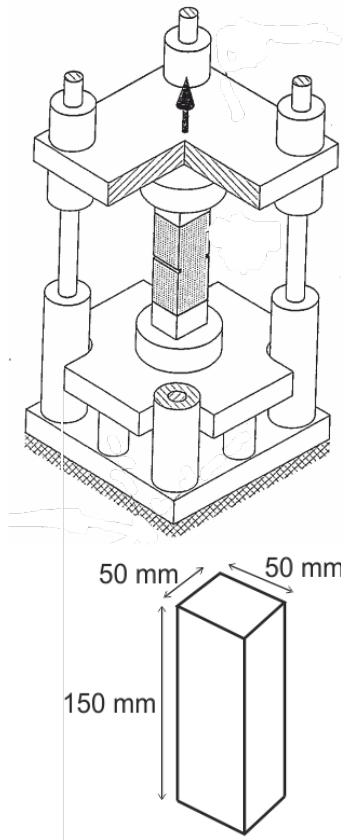


McReynolds' slow  
plastic wave (1948)

[Froli, Royer-Carfagni, 1999]



# Tensile response of a concrete specimen

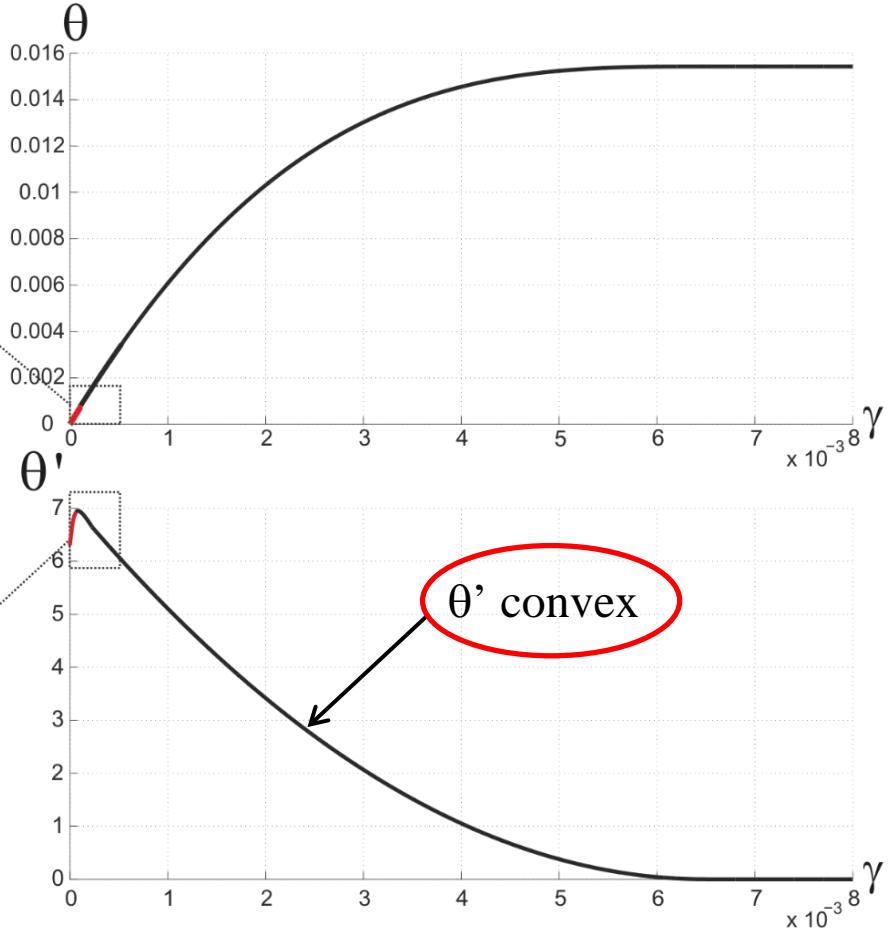
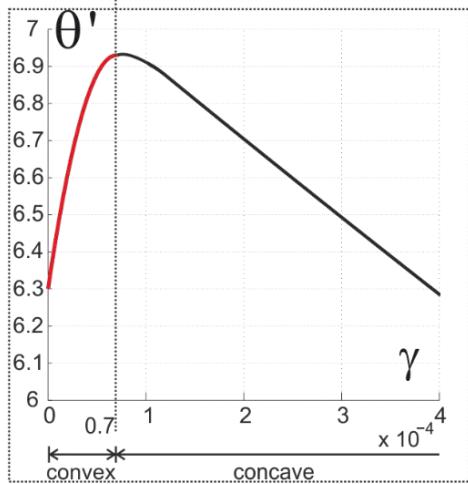
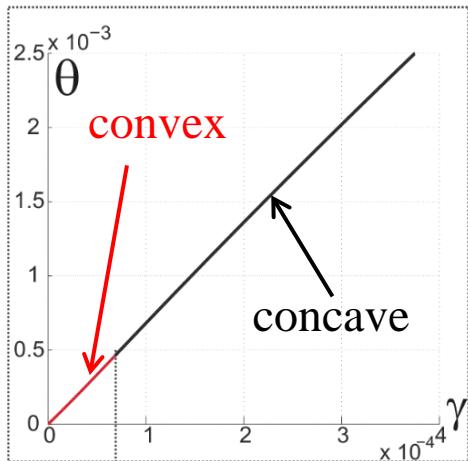


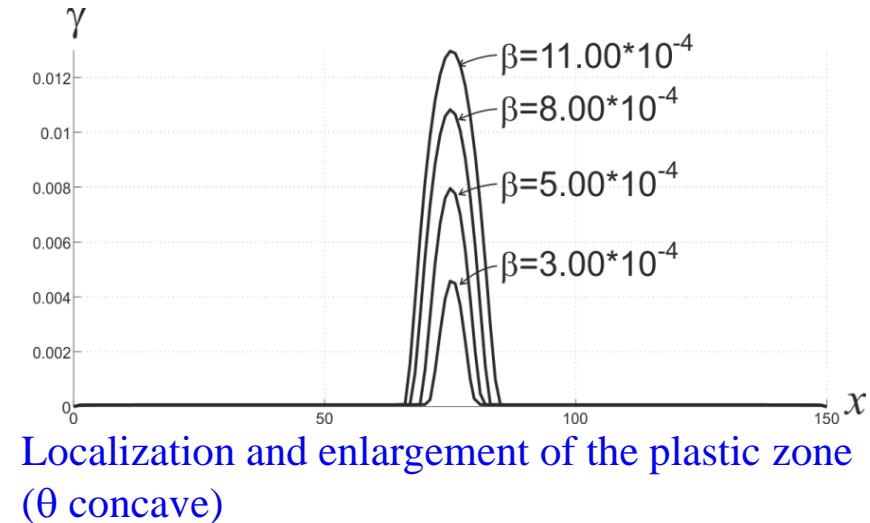
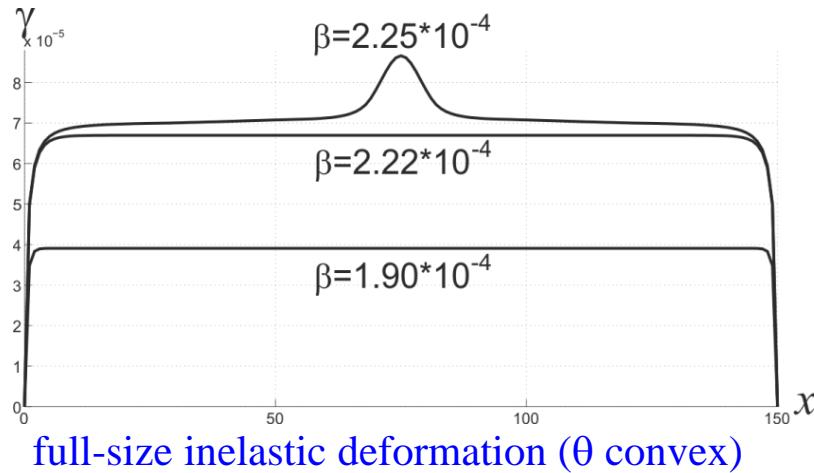
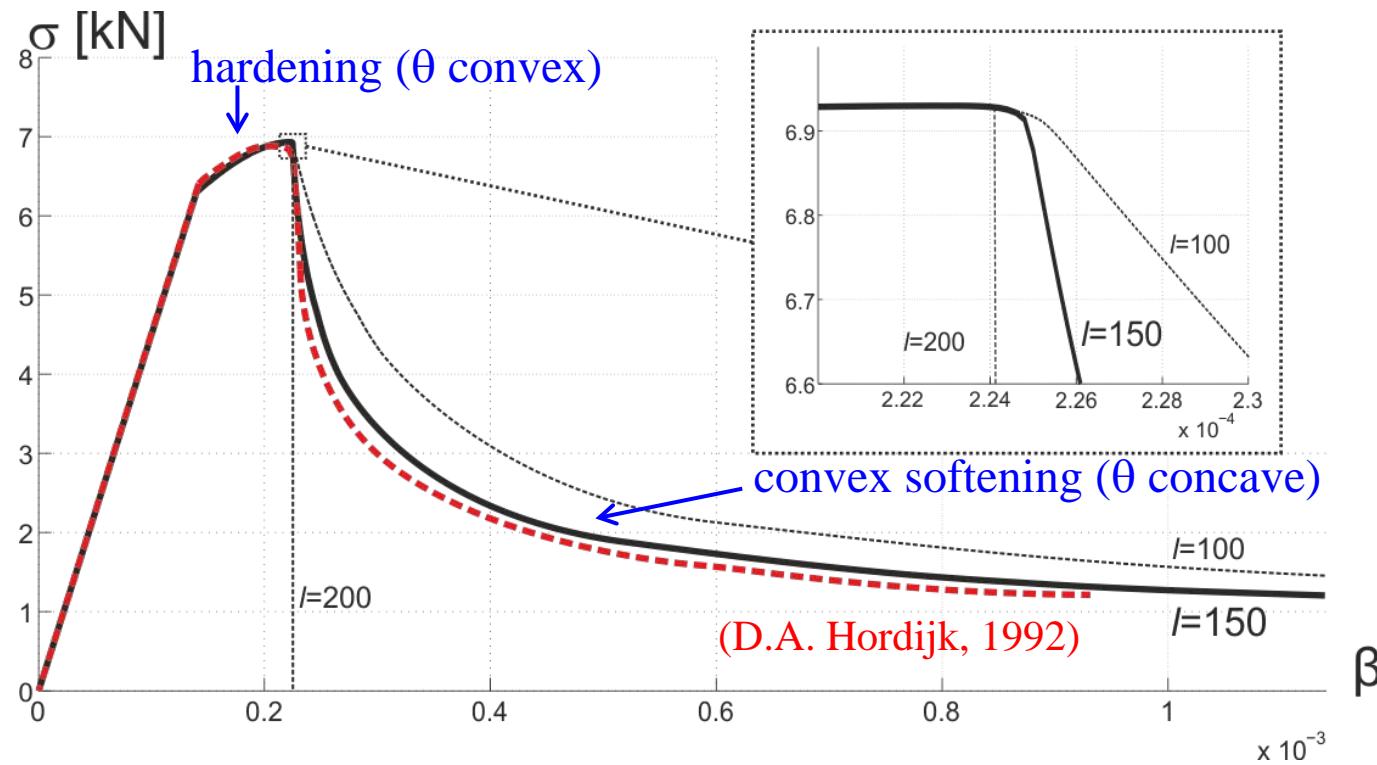
$$E=18 \text{ kN/mm}^2$$

$$A=50*50 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$\theta'(0)=6.9 \text{ kN} \text{ (yielding force)}$$

$$\alpha=3500 \text{ kN mm}^2$$





# Multi-dimensional extensions

## 1D rate-dependent plasticity model

[Yalcinkaya, Brekelmans, Geers, JMPS, 2011]

Virtual work principle, dissipation inequality;

Nonconvex plastic potential;

Non-local gradient energy term.

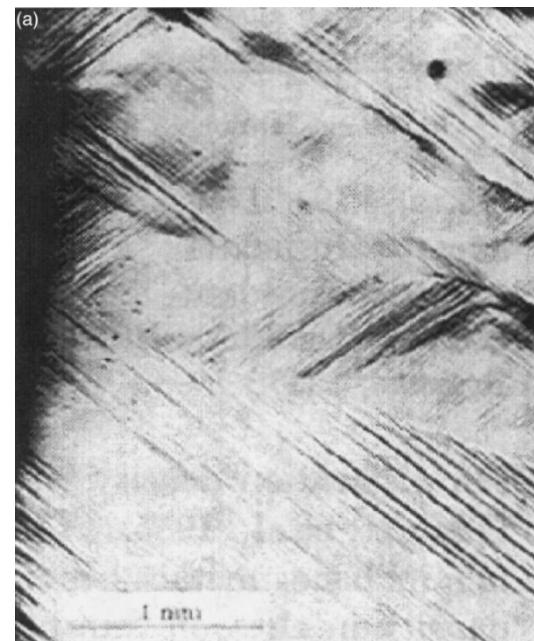
Plastic deformation partially recoverable and partially dissipated through a viscous micro-stress

See [Lancioni, Yalcinkaya, Cocks, *Proc. R. Soc. A*, 2015] for models comparison.

## Extension to 2D single crystal plasticity

[Yalcinkaya, Brekelmans, Geers, *Int. J. Solids Struct.*, 2012]

*... joint work with Gianluca Zitti (PhD at Univpm)*



Plastic single-slip domains  
[Saimoto, 1963]

# Deformation

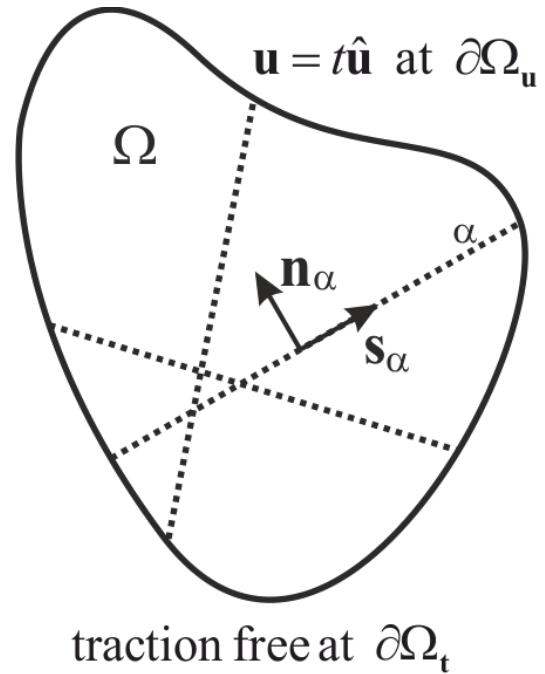
$$\underbrace{\text{sym} \nabla \mathbf{u}(x)}_{\text{total def.}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{E}^e(x)}_{\text{elastic def.}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{E}^p(x)}_{\text{plastic def.}}$$

**Schmid tensor**

$$\mathbf{E}^p(x) = \sum_{\alpha} \gamma_{\alpha} \text{sym}(\mathbf{s}_{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{n}_{\alpha})$$

plastic slip      slip direction      slip-plane normal

Single crystal



# Energy

$$E(\mathbf{u}, \gamma_\alpha) = \int_{\Omega} \left( \underbrace{\psi_e(\mathbf{E}^e)}_{\text{Elastic energy}} + \underbrace{\theta(|\gamma_\alpha|)}_{\text{Plastic energy}} + \underbrace{\psi_{\nabla\gamma}(\nabla\gamma_\alpha)}_{\text{Non-local energy}} \right) dx$$

Free energy density (stored)

$$\psi(\mathbf{u}, \gamma_\alpha) = \psi_e(\mathbf{E}^e) + \psi_{\nabla\gamma}(\nabla\gamma_\alpha)$$

$$\psi_e(\mathbf{E}^e) = \frac{1}{2} C[\mathbf{E}^e] \cdot \mathbf{E}^e, \quad \psi_{\nabla\gamma}(\nabla\gamma_\alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} \mathbf{A}_\alpha [\nabla\gamma_\alpha] \cdot \nabla\gamma_\alpha$$

Dissipative plastic energy

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_{s\alpha} \mathbf{s}_\alpha \otimes \mathbf{s}_\alpha + A_{n\alpha} \mathbf{n}_\alpha \otimes \mathbf{n}_\alpha.$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \theta(|\gamma_\alpha|) = \sum_{\alpha} \text{sign}(\gamma_\alpha) \frac{d\theta(|\gamma_\alpha|)}{d|\gamma_\alpha|} \dot{\gamma}_\alpha \geq 0$$

Suppose that  $\theta(|\gamma_\alpha|)$  is strictly increasing in each variable  $|\gamma_\alpha|$ ,

the **dissipation condition** reduces to  $\text{sign}(\gamma_\alpha) \dot{\gamma}_\alpha \geq 0$ .

## Equilibrium

$$\delta E(\mathbf{u}, \gamma_\alpha, \delta \mathbf{u}, \delta \gamma_\alpha) \geq 0, \quad \text{sign}(\gamma_\alpha) \delta \gamma_\alpha \geq 0$$

perturbation



$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{T} = 0, \text{ with } \mathbf{T} = C[\mathbf{E}^e]$$

Macroscopic  
balance equation

$$|\mathbf{T} \mathbf{n}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{t}_\alpha| \leq \pi_\alpha - \text{sign}(\gamma_\alpha) \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{\xi}_\alpha$$

Yield condition

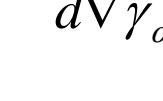
resolved shear

yield limit

$$\text{with } \pi_\alpha = \frac{d\theta(|\gamma_\alpha|)}{d|\gamma_\alpha|} \quad \text{and} \quad \boldsymbol{\xi}_\alpha = \frac{d\psi_{\nabla\gamma}(\nabla\gamma_\alpha)}{d\nabla\gamma_\alpha}$$



microscopic stress power-conjugated to  $\nabla \dot{\gamma}_\alpha$



microscopic stress power-conjugated to  $\dot{\gamma}_\alpha$

# Evolution Pb. $\Rightarrow$ Incremental energy minimization

$$(\mathbf{u}_t, \gamma_{\alpha,t}) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_{t+\tau} = \mathbf{u}_t + \tau \dot{\mathbf{u}}_t \\ \gamma_{\alpha,t+\tau} = \gamma_{\alpha,t} + \tau \dot{\gamma}_{\alpha,t} \end{cases} \text{ Unknowns}$$

$$E_{t+\tau}(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha) \approx E_t + \tau \dot{E}_t(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha) + \frac{1}{2} \tau^2 \ddot{E}_t(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha) = E_t + \tau J_t(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha)$$

$$(\dot{\mathbf{u}}_t, \dot{\gamma}_{\alpha,t}) = \arg \min \{J_t(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha), \operatorname{sign}(\gamma_\alpha) \dot{\gamma}_\alpha \geq 0, \text{b.c.}\}$$

**Constrained quadratic programming pb.**

*Necessary condition for a minimum*  $\delta J_t(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \dot{\gamma}_\alpha; \delta \dot{\mathbf{u}}, \delta \dot{\gamma}_\alpha) \geq 0, \quad \dot{\gamma}_\alpha + \delta \dot{\gamma}_\alpha \geq 0$



$$\operatorname{div} \dot{\mathbf{T}} = 0$$

Balance of the macroscopic  
stress evolution

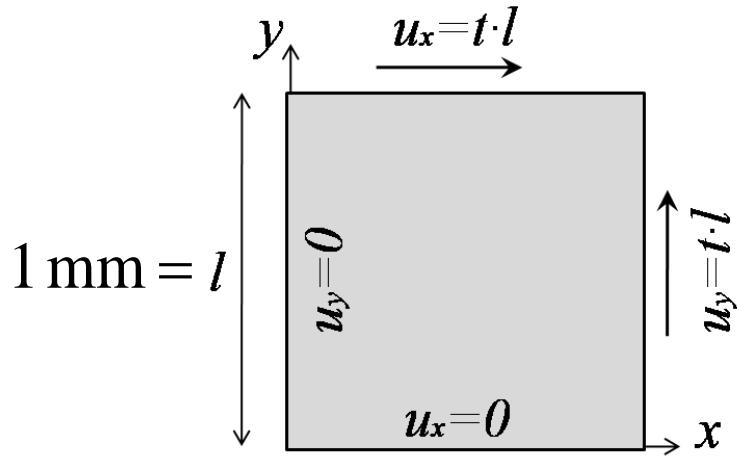
Kuhn-Tucker conditions (**flow rule**)

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sign}(\gamma_{\alpha t}) \dot{\gamma}_\alpha &\geq 0, \quad |(\mathbf{T} + \tau \dot{\mathbf{T}}) \mathbf{n}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{t}_\alpha| \leq (\pi_\alpha + \tau \dot{\pi}_\alpha) - \operatorname{sign}(\gamma_{\alpha t}) \operatorname{div}(\xi_\alpha + \dot{\xi}_\alpha) \\ ((\pi_\alpha + \tau \dot{\pi}_\alpha) - \operatorname{sign}(\gamma_{\alpha t}) \operatorname{div}(\xi_\alpha + \dot{\xi}_\alpha) - |(\mathbf{T} + \tau \dot{\mathbf{T}}) \mathbf{n}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{t}_\alpha|) \dot{\gamma}_\alpha &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**consistency condition**

(the yield function maintains equal to zero when  $\gamma$  grows)

## Numerical results – plane pure shear test



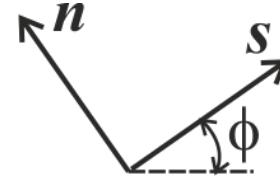
**Periodic b.c.**

$$u_x(l, y) = u_x(0, y); \quad u_y(x, l) = u_y(x, 0);$$

$$\gamma(x, l) = \gamma(x, 0); \quad \gamma(l, y) = \gamma(0, y);$$

**Single slip system**

$$\mathbf{E}^p(x) = \gamma \operatorname{sym}(\mathbf{s} \otimes \mathbf{n})$$

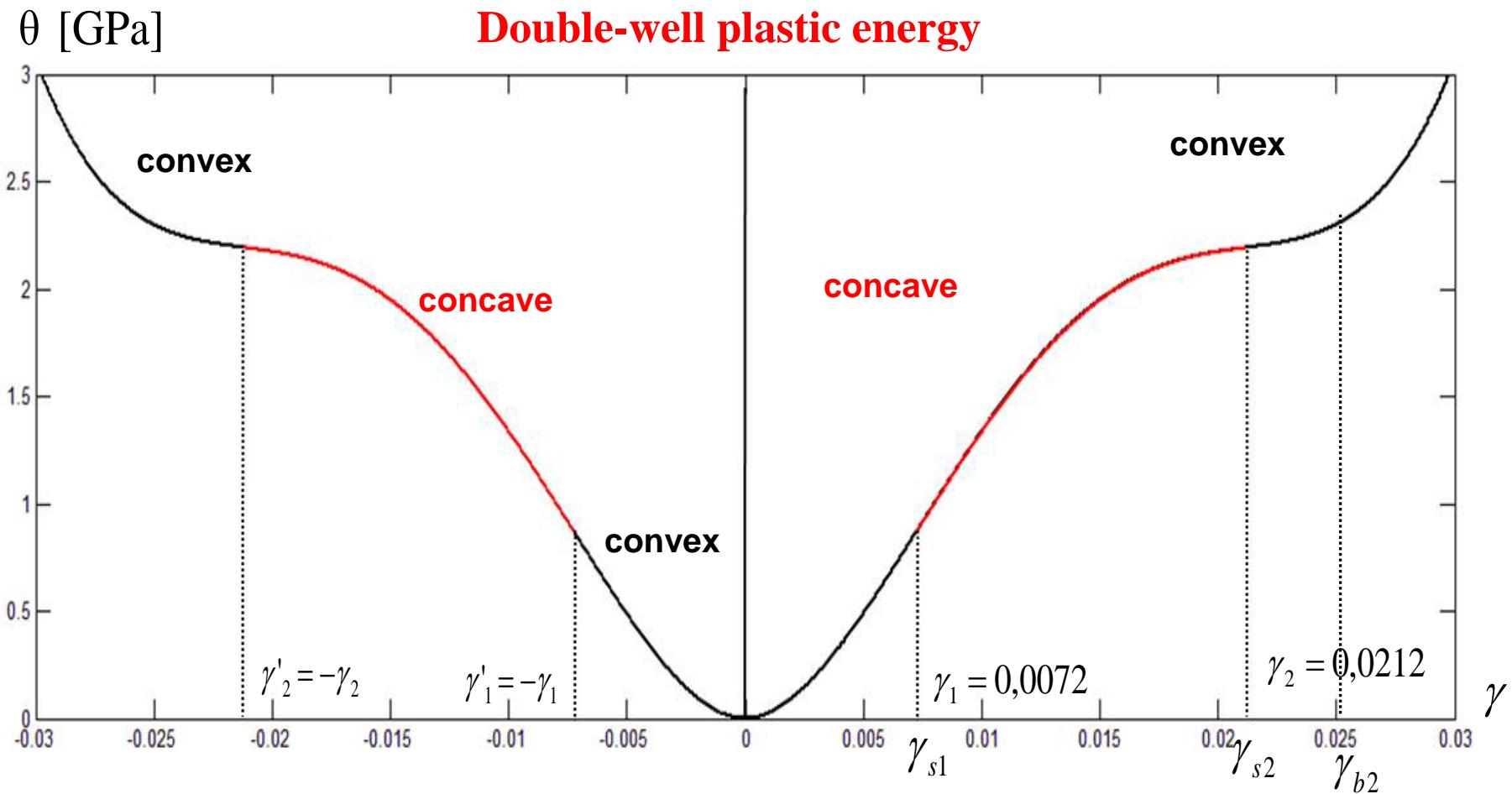


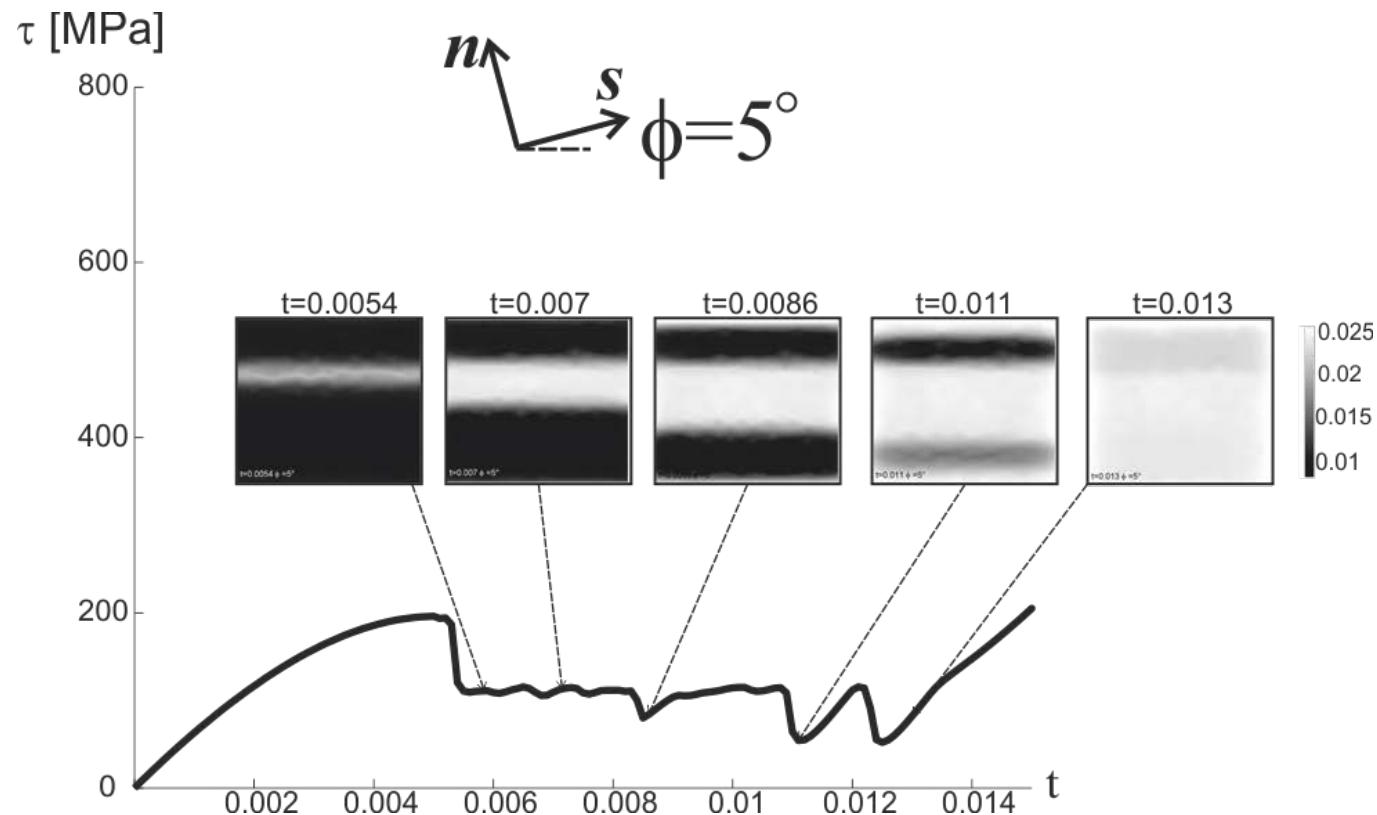
Orientations:  $\phi = 5^\circ; 15^\circ; 30^\circ$

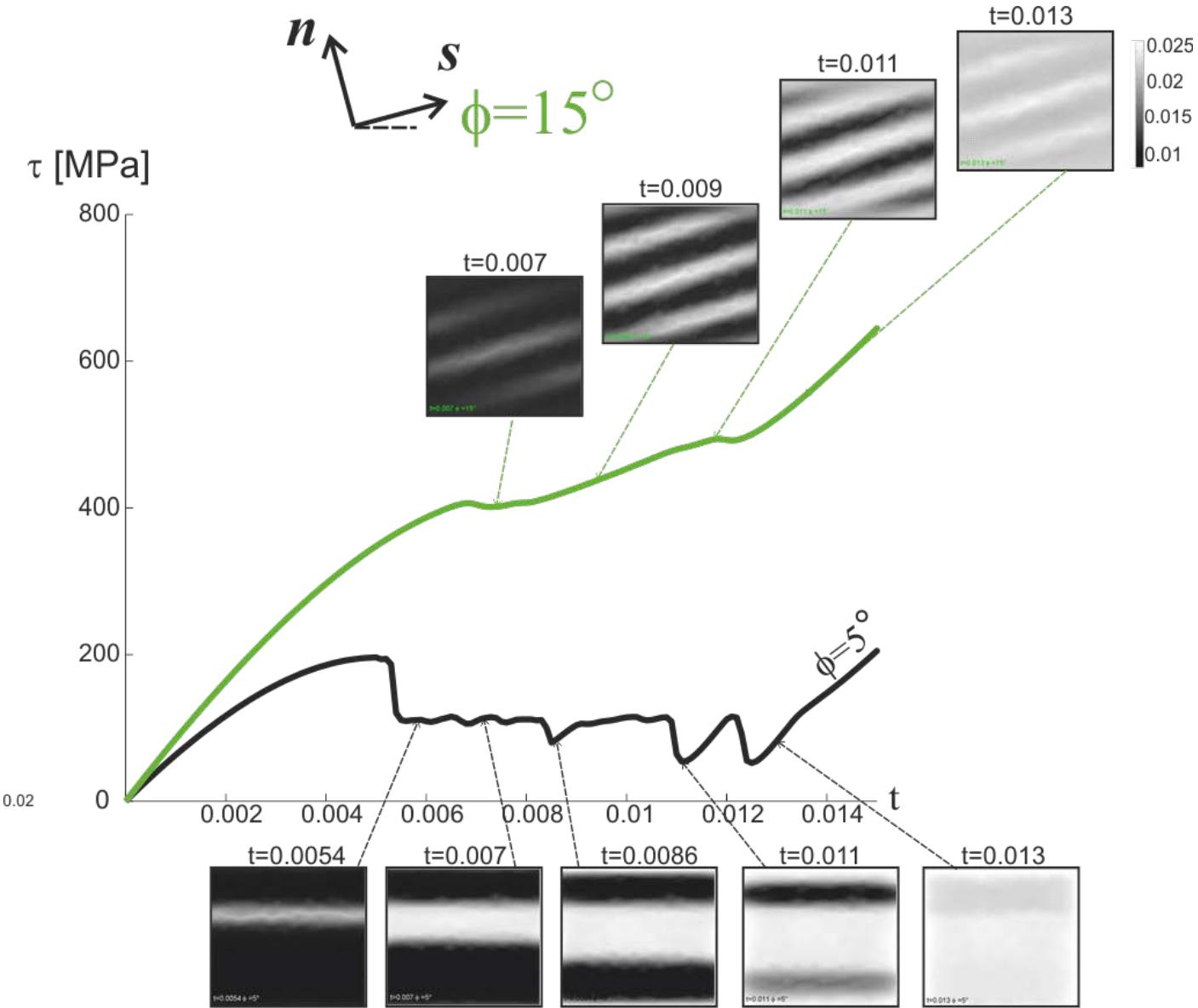
$E = 210 \text{ GPa}, \nu = 0,33,$

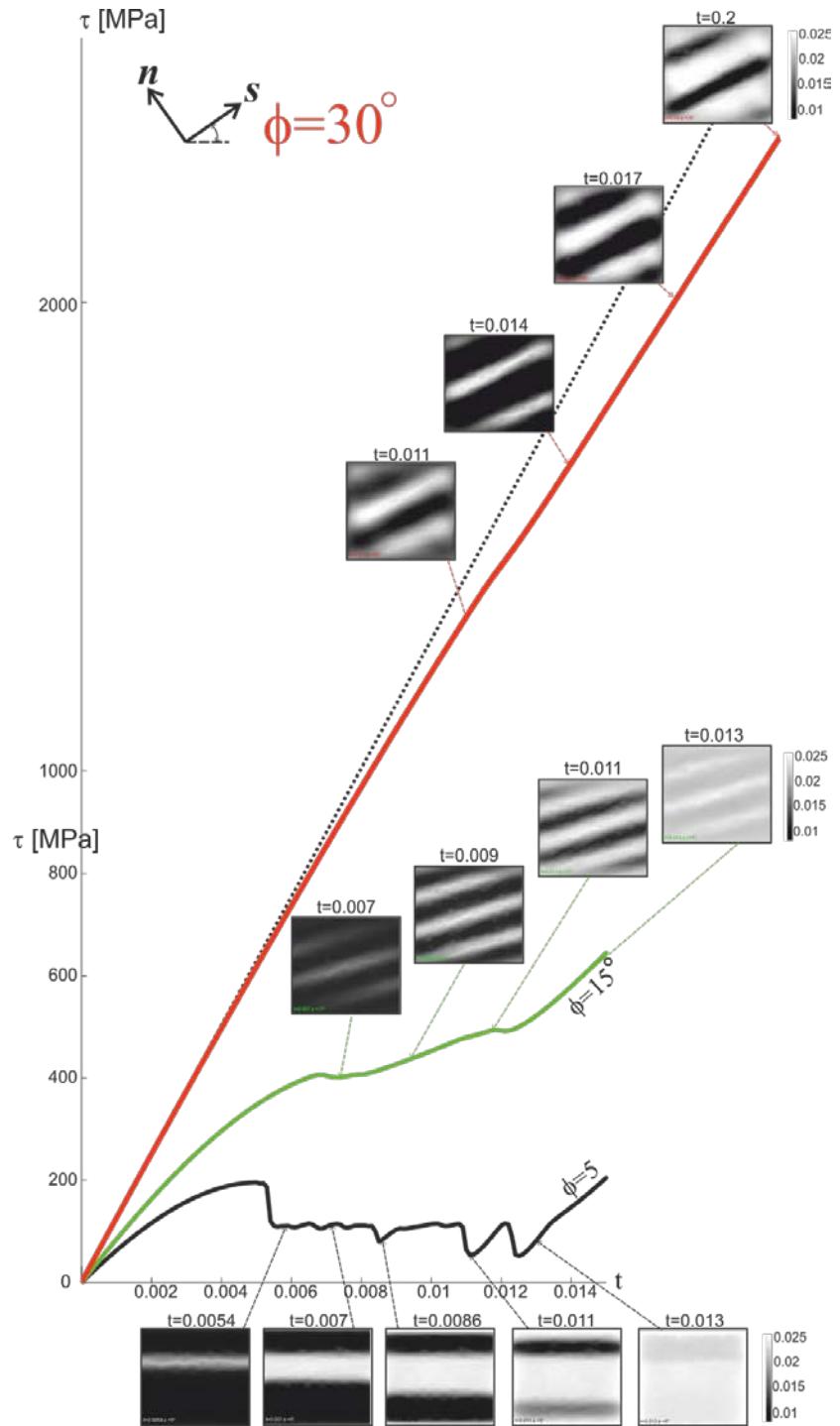
$A_s = 52,5 \text{ kN}, A_n = 10,5 \text{ kN}$

## Double-well plastic energy









# Conclusions

The proposed model represents a *variational approach to softening gradient plasticity* (Aifantis-type model). Advantages:

- i. the laws of classical plasticity are variationally deduced (and not given a priori);
- ii. clear dependence of the response on the *shape of the plastic energy*  $\theta(\gamma)$ :
  - $\theta(\gamma)$  convex -> stress-hardening, diffuse plasticity
  - $\theta(\gamma)$  concave -> stress-softening,  $\theta''(\gamma)$  decreasing -> strain localization
    - $\theta''(\gamma)$  increasing -> localization zone enlargement
  - $\theta(\gamma)$  double-wells -> plastic wave propagation

*Ductile failure* is described as a *bulk process* of progressive strain localization, which concludes with a final *material instability*, variationally interpreting *fracture*.

*Physical motivation*: *process zone*, where strains localize, and only at the very end they coalesce in fracture surfaces.

➡ The model presents as an *alternative to classical cohesive fracture theories*, which concentrate inelasticity on surfaces.

## Perpectives

1. Extension to **multi-dimension**.

*Crystal plasticity*: multiple slip systems

2. Find correlations between the **convexity-concavity** properties of  $\theta$  and its derivatives and the **microstructure** of real materials.

*Crystal plasticity*: non-convex energy proposed by Ortiz-Repetto (1999), accounting for latent hardening



# Conclusions

**Rate-Independent model based on incremental energy minimization;**

**Non-convex dissipative plastic energy**  $\Rightarrow$  - Irreversibility of plastic def.  
non-convexity leads to localization

**Non-local energy**  $\Rightarrow$  - internal length scale (it makes possible to simulate phenomena at different scales)  
- stabilizing effect (ductile failure; no brittle fracture)

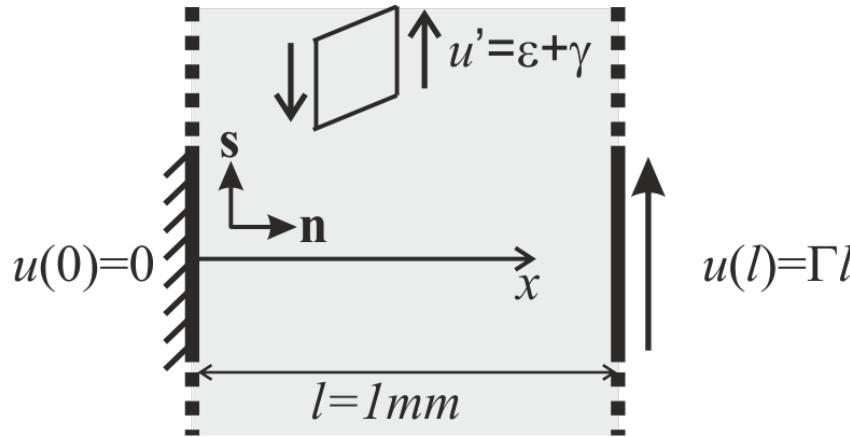
# Perspectives

- Simulations with multiple slip systems and plastic energy functions of different shapes;
- Find correlations between the convexity-concavity properties of  $\theta$  and its derivatives and the microstructure of real materials  $\rightarrow$  non-convex energy proposed by Ortiz-Repetto (1999), accounting for latent hardening



## Numerical results

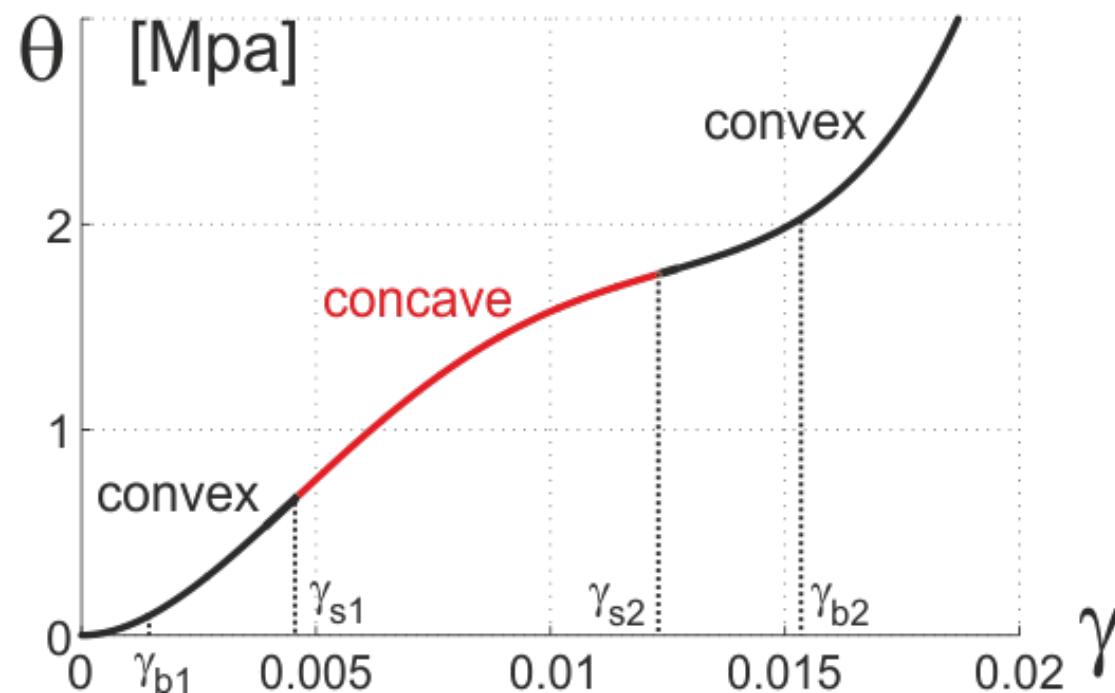
### i. Slip patterning in an infinite long strip (1D Pb)



Single slip system

$$\mathbf{E}^p(x) = \gamma \operatorname{sym}(\mathbf{s} \otimes \mathbf{n})$$

$$E = 210 \text{ GPa}, \nu = 0.33, \\ A_n = 147.29 \text{ N}$$



Soft boundary conditions  $\gamma'(0)=0, \gamma'(l)=0$

