

# Chapter 8: Mechanical Failure

## Topics...

- How do loading rate, loading history, and temperature affect the failure stress?



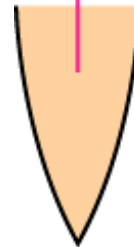
**Ship-cyclic loading  
from waves.**

# Failure

- Classification:

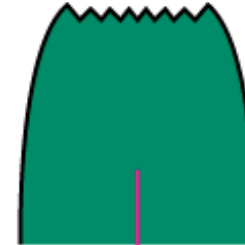
Fracture  
behavior:

Very  
Ductile



Large

Moderately  
Ductile



Moderate

Brittle



Small

Adapted from Fig. 8.1,  
*Callister 7e.*

%AR or %EL

Ductile:  
warning before  
fracture

Brittle:  
No  
warning

- Ductile fracture is usually desirable!



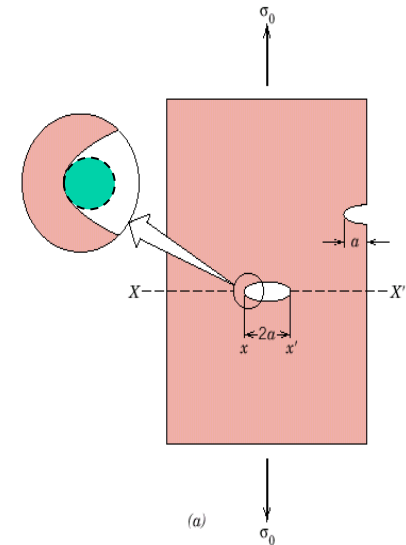
# Several K's Beware!

Stress Concentration factor:

$$\sigma_m = 2\sigma_o \left( \frac{a}{\rho_t} \right)^{1/2} = K_t \sigma_o$$

$$K_t = \frac{\sigma_{max}}{\sigma_o}$$

unitless



Stress Intensity factor:

$$K \geq K_c$$

Stress Intensity Factor:  
--Depends on load & geometry.

Fracture Toughness:  
--Depends on the material, temperature, environment, & rate of loading.

$$K \geq K_c = Y\sigma\sqrt{\pi a} \quad \text{MPa m}^{1/2}$$

# When Does a Crack Propagate?

Crack propagates if above critical stress

$$\text{i.e., } \sigma > \sigma_c \quad \sigma_c = \left( \frac{2E\gamma_s}{\pi a} \right)^{1/2}$$

where

- $E$  = modulus of elasticity
- $\gamma_s$  = specific surface energy
- $a$  = one half length of internal crack

For ductile  $\Rightarrow$  replace  $\gamma_s$  by  $\gamma_s + \gamma_p$

where  $\gamma_p$  is plastic deformation energy

# Design Against Crack Growth

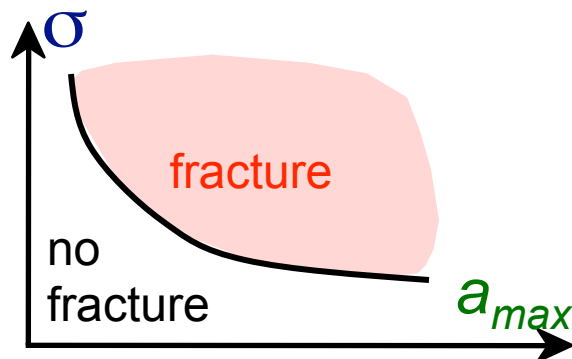
- Crack growth condition:

$$K \geq K_c = Y\sigma\sqrt{\pi a}$$

- Largest, most stressed cracks grow first!

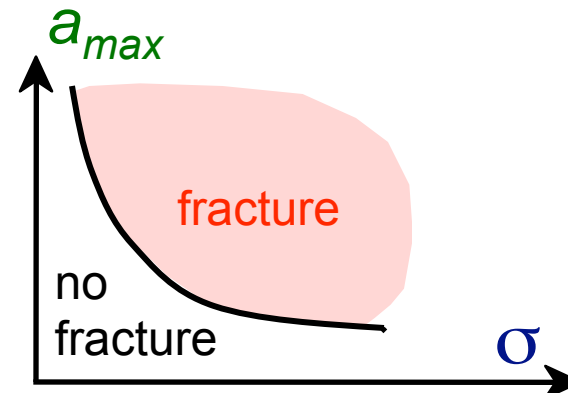
--Result 1: Max. flaw size dictates design stress.

$$\sigma_{design} < \frac{K_c}{Y\sqrt{\pi a_{max}}}$$



--Result 2: Design stress dictates max. flaw size.

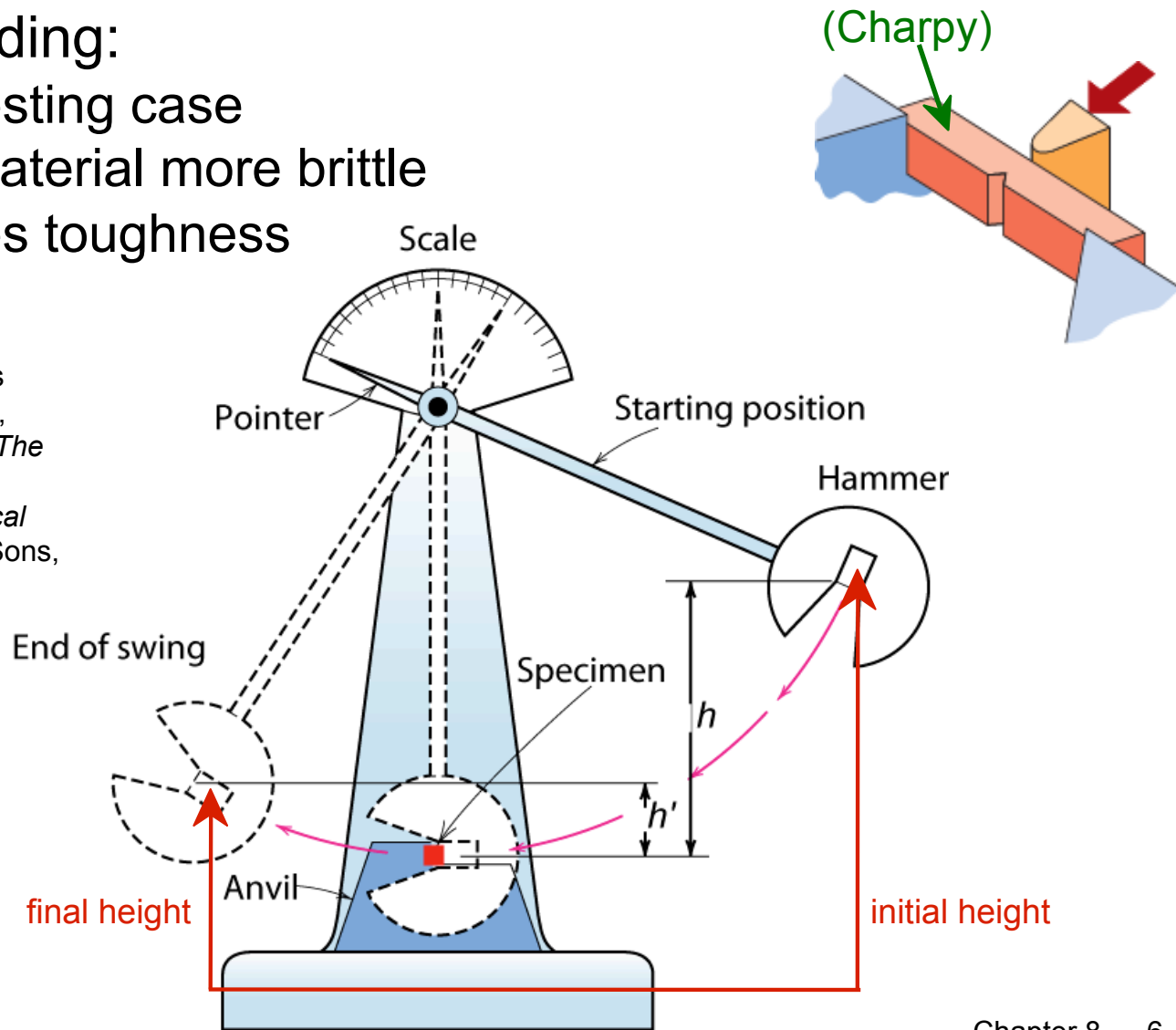
$$a_{max} < \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{K_c}{Y\sigma_{design}} \right)^2$$



# Impact Testing

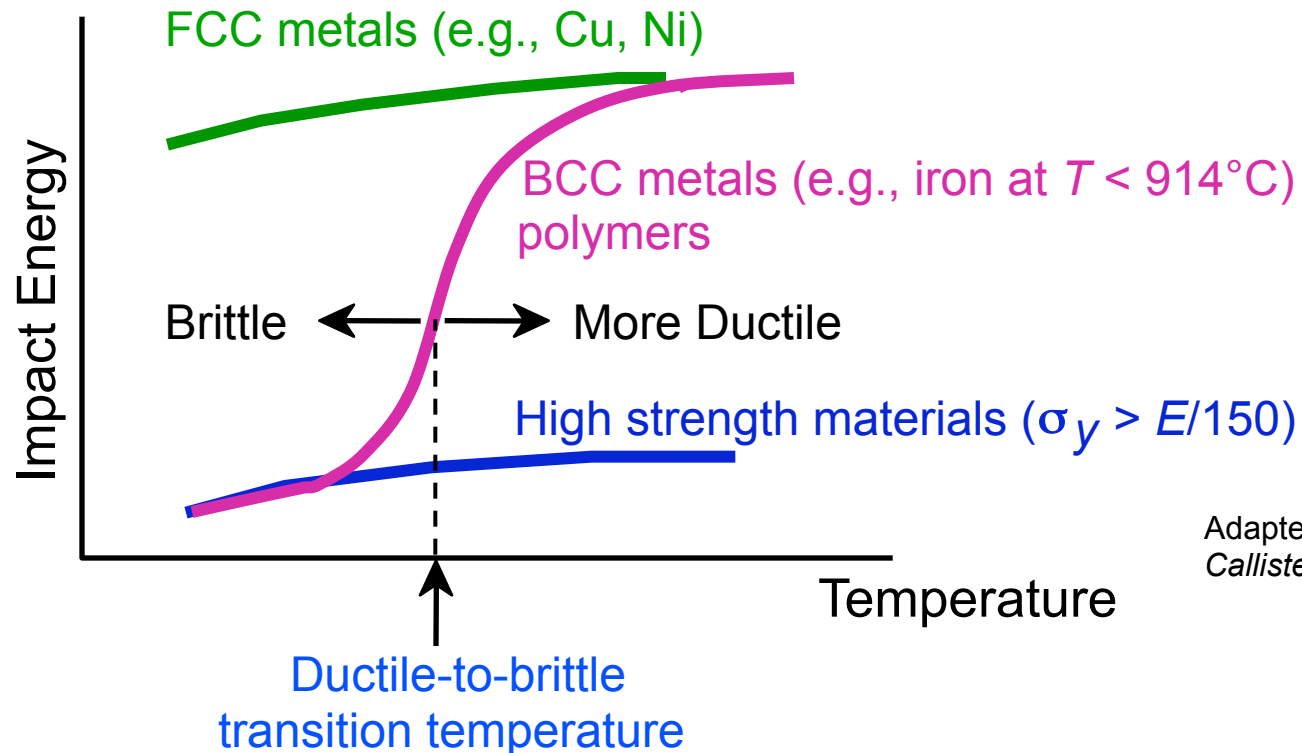
- Impact loading:
  - severe testing case
  - makes material more brittle
  - decreases toughness

Adapted from Fig. 8.12(b),  
*Callister 7e*. (Fig. 8.12(b) is  
adapted from H.W. Hayden,  
W.G. Moffatt, and J. Wulff, *The  
Structure and Properties of  
Materials*, Vol. III, *Mechanical  
Behavior*, John Wiley and Sons,  
Inc. (1965) p. 13.)



# Temperature

- **Increasing temperature...**
  - increases % $EL$  and  $K_C$
- **Ductile-to-Brittle Transition Temperature (DBTT)...**



Adapted from Fig. 8.15,  
*Callister 7e.*

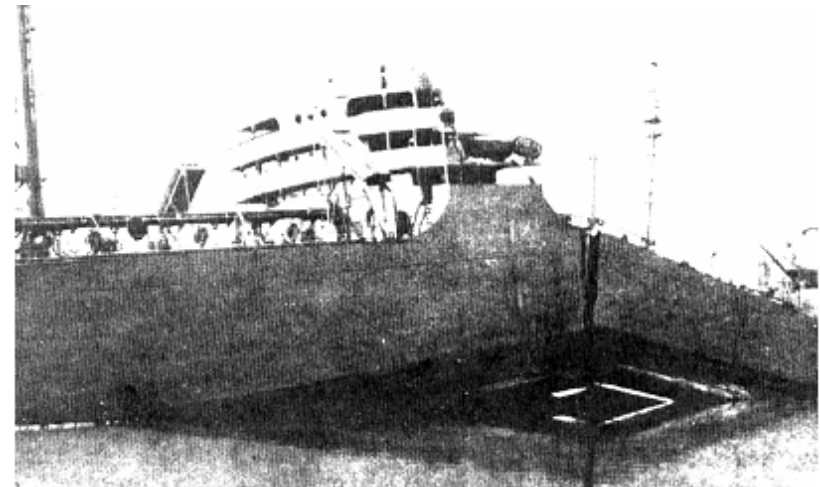


# Design Strategy: Stay Above The DBTT!

- Pre-WWII: The Titanic



- WWII: Liberty ships



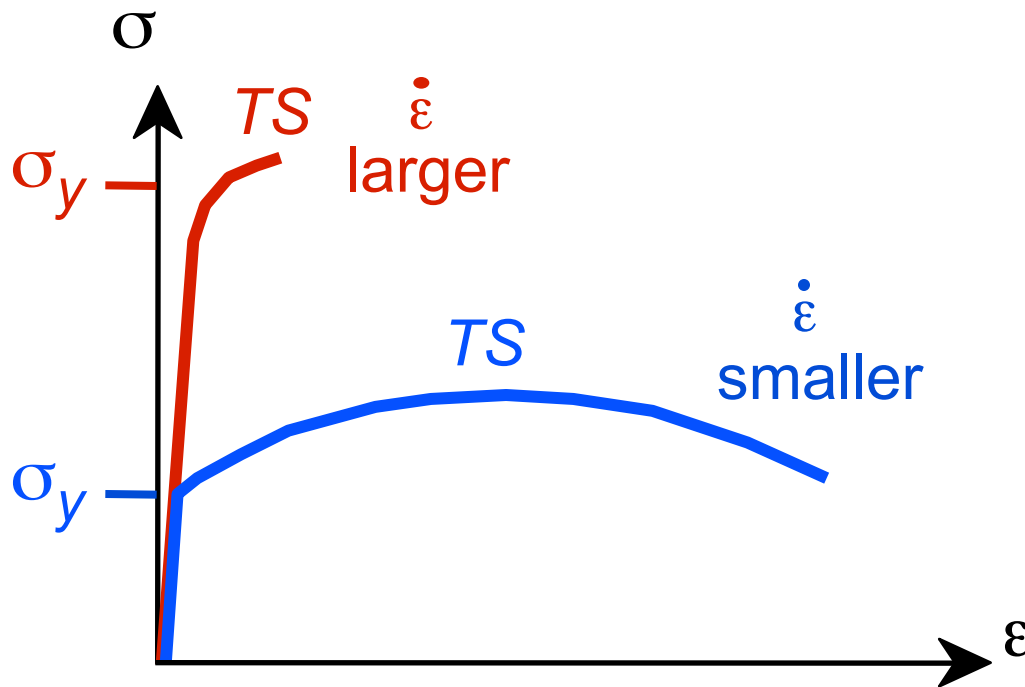
- Problem: Used a type of steel with a DBTT ~ Room temp.





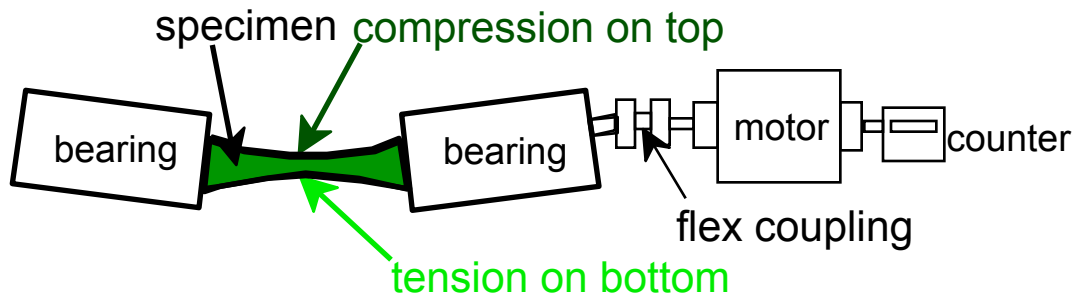
# Loading Rate

- Increased loading rate...
  - increases  $\sigma_y$  and  $TS$
  - decreases  $\%EL$
- Why? An increased rate gives less time for dislocations to move past obstacles.



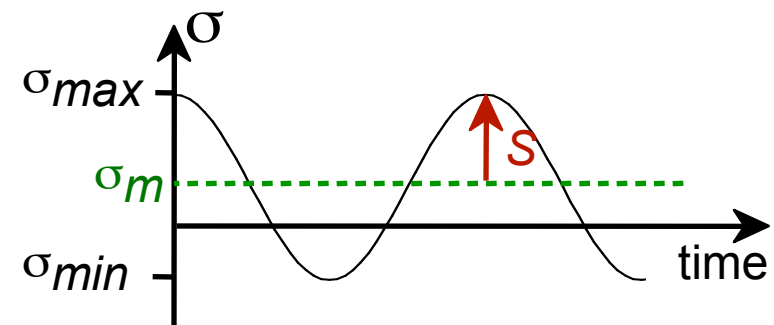
# Fatigue

- **Fatigue** = failure under cyclic stress.



Adapted from Fig. 8.18, *Callister 7e*. (Fig. 8.18 is from *Materials Science in Engineering*, 4/E by Carl A. Keyser, Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ.)

- Stress varies with time.
  - key parameters are  $S$ ,  $\sigma_m$ , and frequency

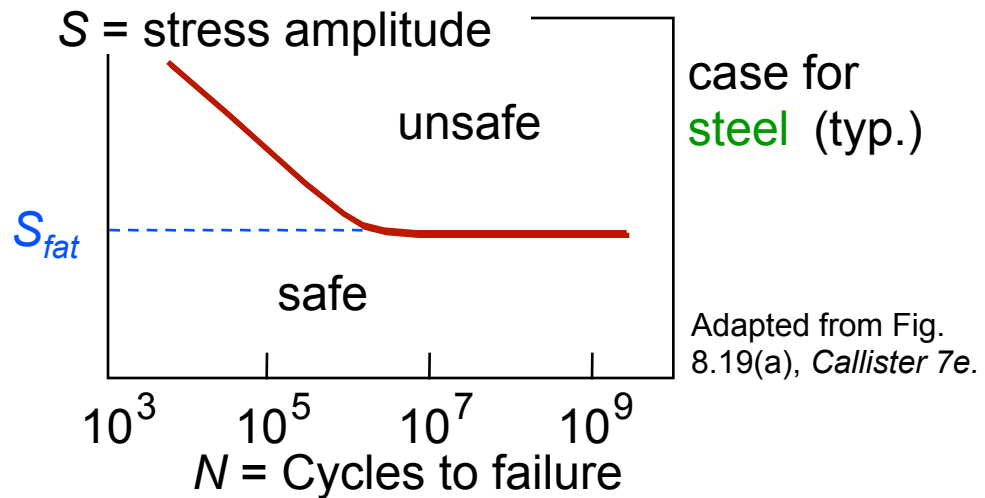


- Key points: Fatigue...
  - can cause part failure, even though  $\sigma_{max} < \sigma_c$ .
  - causes ~ 90% of mechanical engineering failures.

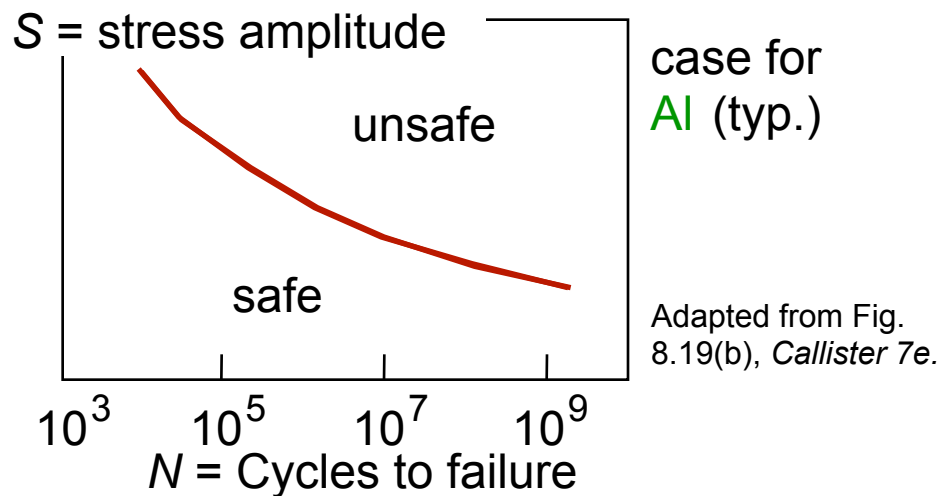


# Fatigue Design Parameters

- Fatigue limit,  $S_{fat}$ :  
--no fatigue if  $S < S_{fat}$



- Sometimes, the fatigue limit is zero!



# Fatigue Mechanism

- Crack grows *incrementally*

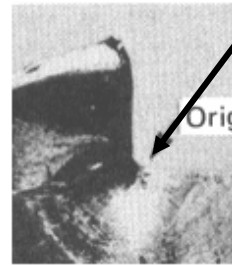
$$\frac{da}{dN} = (\Delta K)^m$$

typ. 1 to 6

$$\sim (\Delta\sigma)\sqrt{a}$$

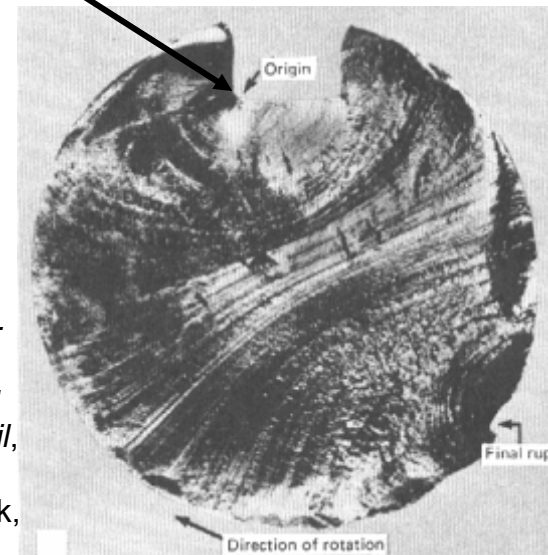
increase in crack length per loading cycle

- Failed rotating shaft
- crack grows faster as
  - $\Delta\sigma$  increases
  - crack gets longer
  - loading freq. increases.



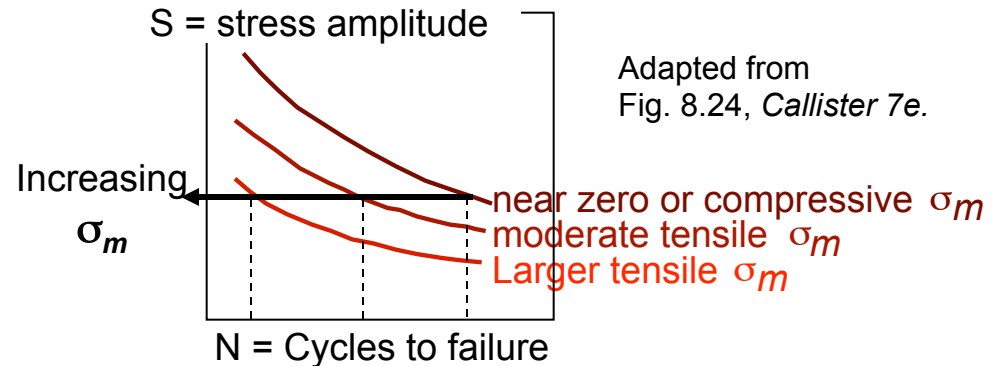
Adapted from  
Fig. 8.21, *Callister 7e*.  
(Fig. 8.21 is from D.J.  
Wulpi, *Understanding  
How Components Fail*,  
American Society for  
Metals, Materials Park,  
OH, 1985.)

crack origin

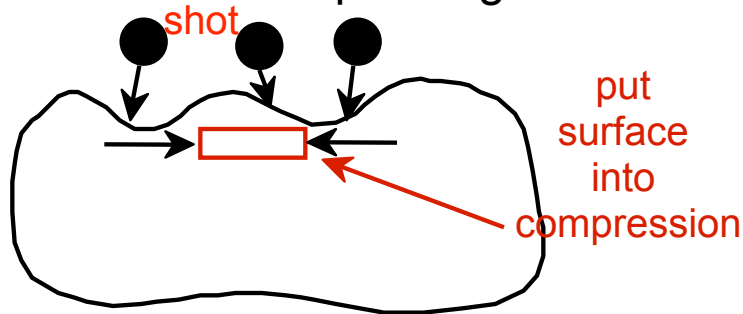


# Improving Fatigue Life

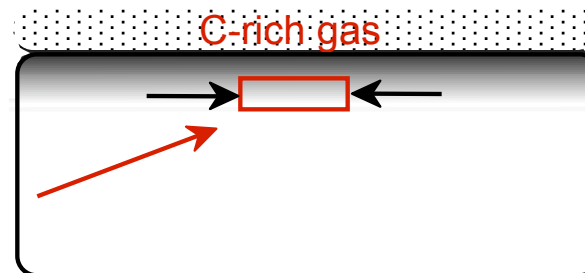
1. Impose a compressive surface stress  
(to suppress surface cracks from growing)



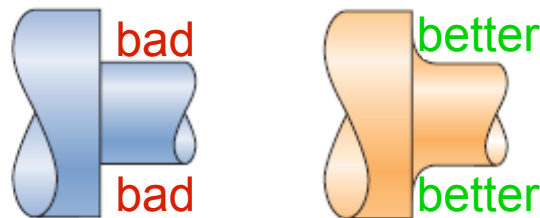
--Method 1: shot peening



--Method 2: carburizing



2. Remove stress concentrators.

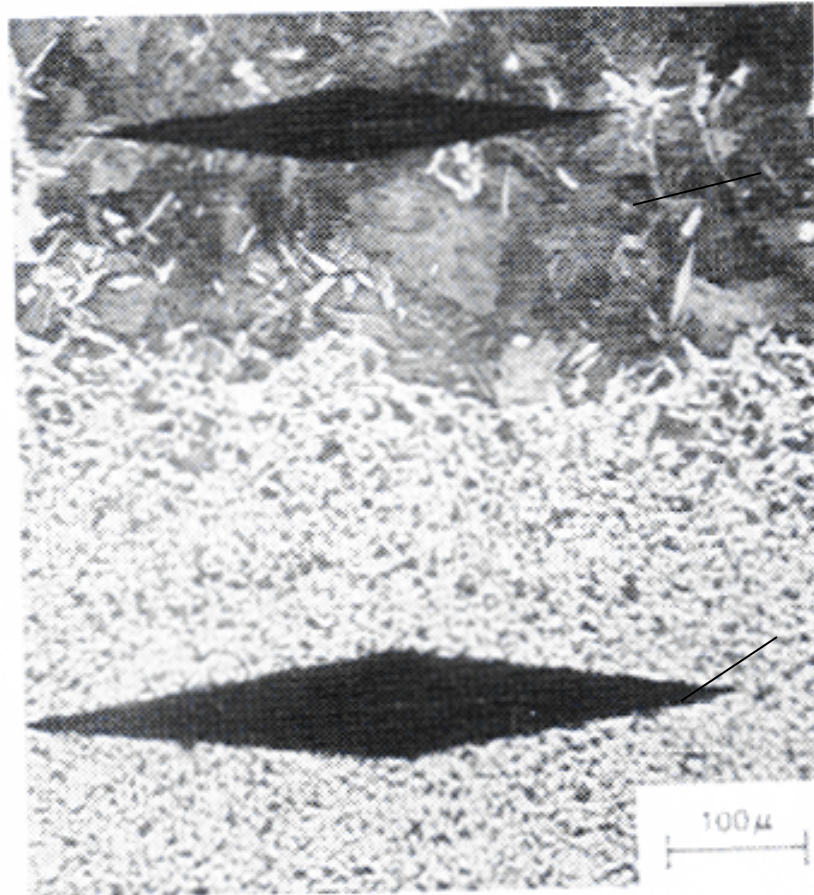


Adapted from Fig. 8.25, Callister 7e.



# Factors that affect fatigue life

- **Mean stress**
- **Surface effects**
  - Design factors
  - Surface treatments
  - Case hardening



Carburized  
steel

Core steel

# Environmental effects

- **Thermal fatigue:** induced at elevated temperatures by fluctuating thermal stresses.

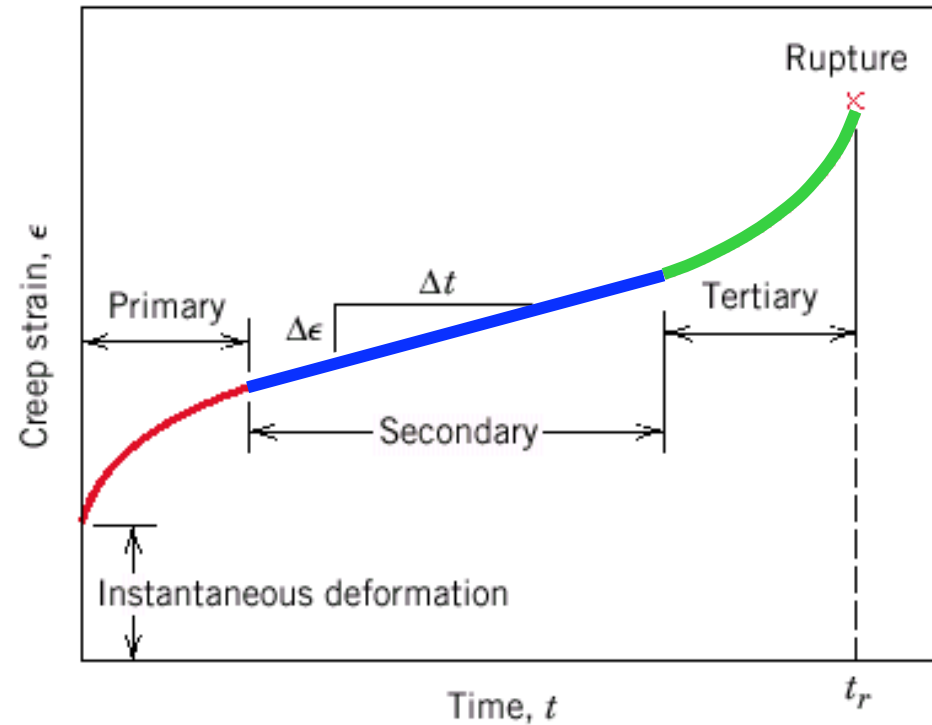
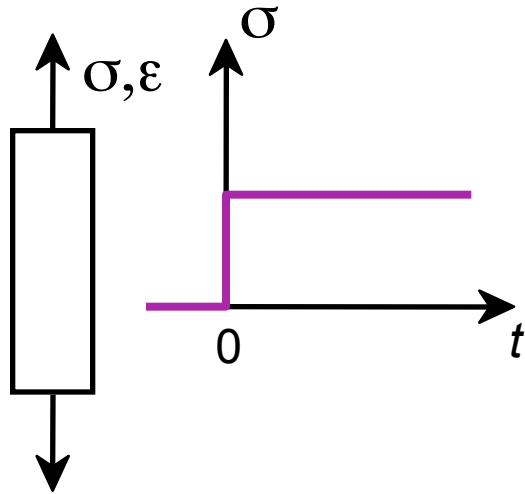
$$\sigma = \alpha_l E \Delta T$$

- **Corrosion fatigue:** failure occurs by the simultaneous action of a cyclic stress and chemical attack



# Creep

## Sample deformation at a constant stress ( $\sigma$ ) vs. time



**Primary Creep:** slope (creep rate) decreases with time.

**Secondary Creep:** steady-state i.e., constant slope.

**Tertiary Creep:** slope (creep rate) increases with time, i.e. acceleration of rate.

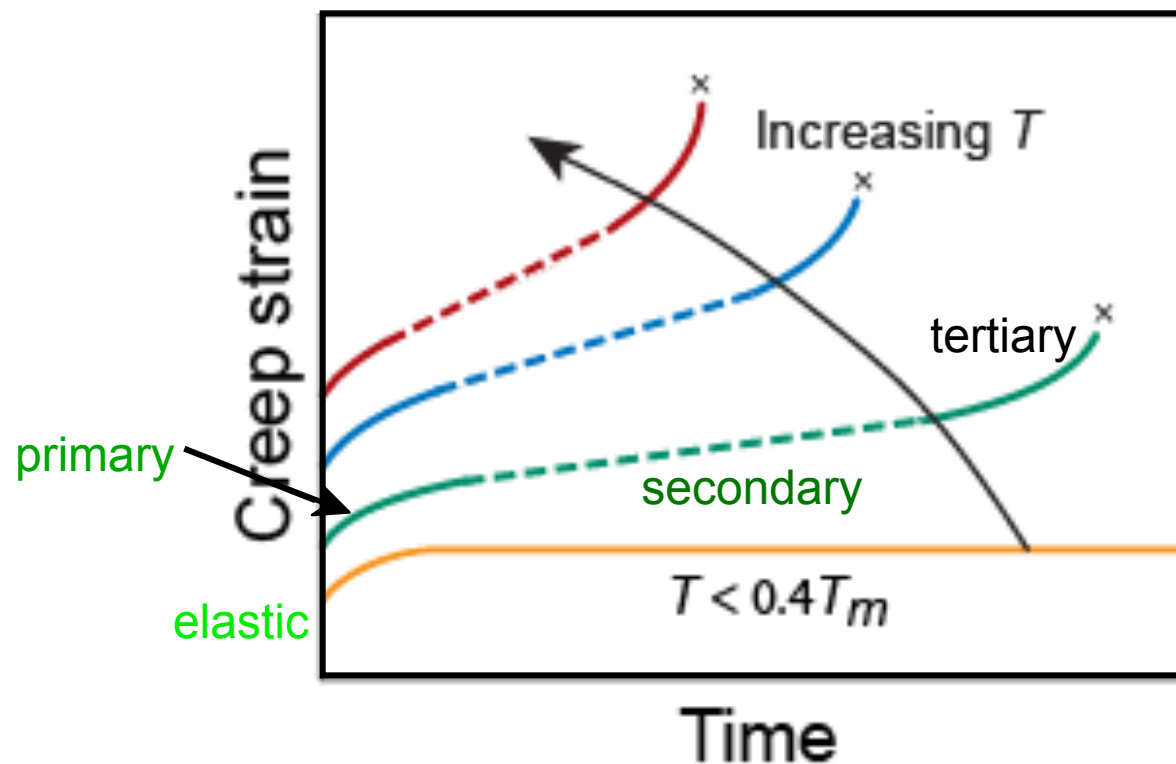
Adapted from  
Fig. 8.28, Callister 7e.





# Creep

- Occurs at elevated temperature,  $T > 0.4 T_m$



Adapted from Figs. 8.29,  
*Callister 7e.*



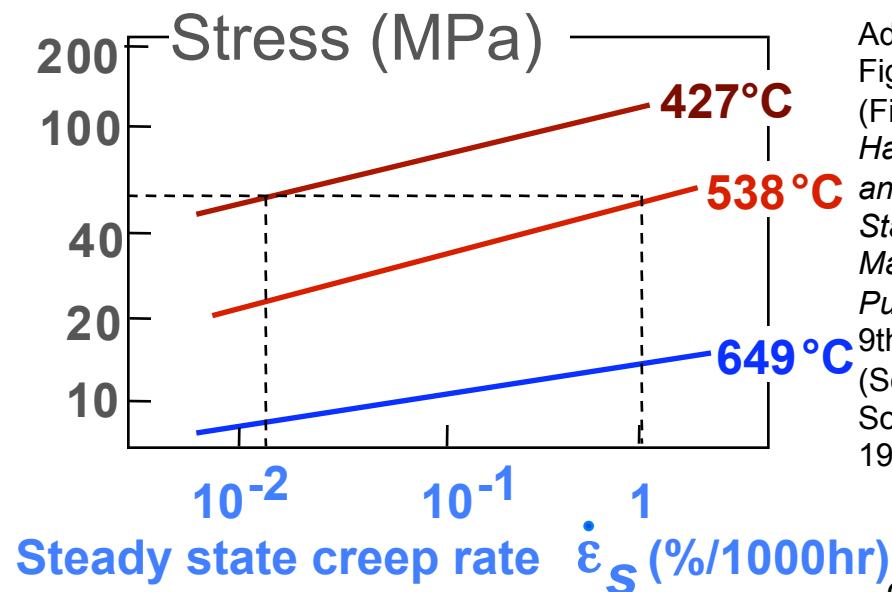
# Secondary Creep

- Strain rate is constant at a given  $T, \sigma$   
 -- strain hardening is balanced by recovery

$$\dot{\epsilon}_s = K_2 \sigma^n \exp\left(-\frac{Q_c}{RT}\right)$$

strain rate  $\dot{\epsilon}_s$  (blue box)  
 material const.  $K_2$  (black arrow)  
 applied stress  $\sigma$  (black arrow)  
 stress exponent (material parameter)  $n$  (green box)  
 activation energy for creep (material parameter)  $Q_c$  (red box)

- Strain rate increases for higher  $T, \sigma$



Adapted from Fig. 8.31, Callister 7e. (Fig. 8.31 is from *Metals Handbook: Properties and Selection: Stainless Steels, Tool Materials, and Special Purpose Metals*, Vol. 3, 9th ed., D. Benjamin (Senior Ed.), American Society for Metals, 1980, p. 131.)



# Creep Failure

- Time to rupture,  $t_r$

$$T(20 + \log t_r) = L$$

temperature

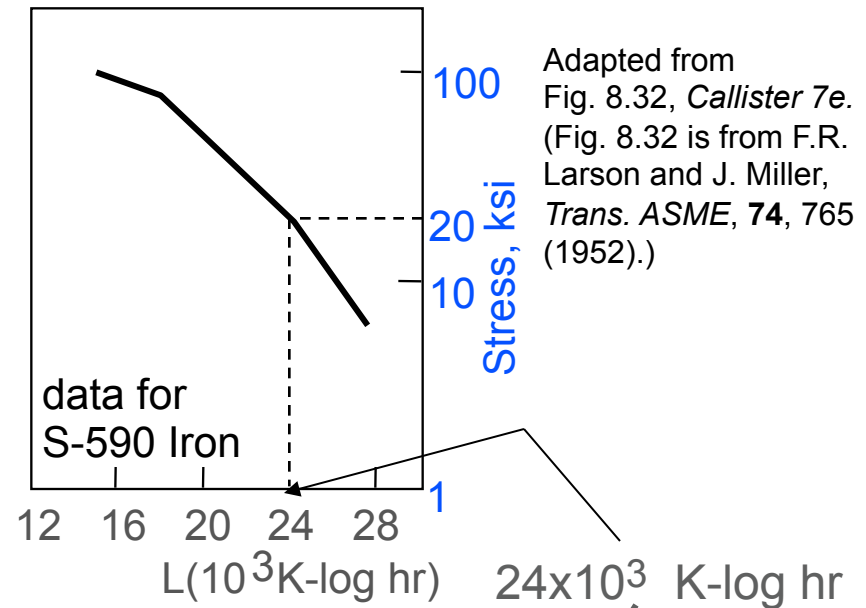
time to failure (rupture)

function of  
applied stress

Larson Miller Parameter

- Estimate rupture time

S-590 Iron,  $T = 800^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\sigma = 20$  ksi



$$T(20 + \log t_r) = L$$

1073K

Ans:  $t_r = 233$  hr



# SUMMARY

- Engineering materials don't reach **theoretical strength**.
- **Flaws** produce **stress concentrations** that cause premature failure.
- Sharp corners produce large stress concentrations and premature failure.
- Failure type depends on  $T$  and stress:
  - for noncyclic  $\sigma$  and  $T < 0.4T_m$ , failure stress decreases with:
    - increased maximum flaw size,
    - decreased  $T$ ,
  - for cyclic  $\sigma$ :
    - cycles to fail decreases as  $\Delta\sigma$  increases.
  - for higher  $T$  ( $T > 0.4T_m$ ):
    - time to fail decreases as  $\sigma$  or  $T$  increases.

