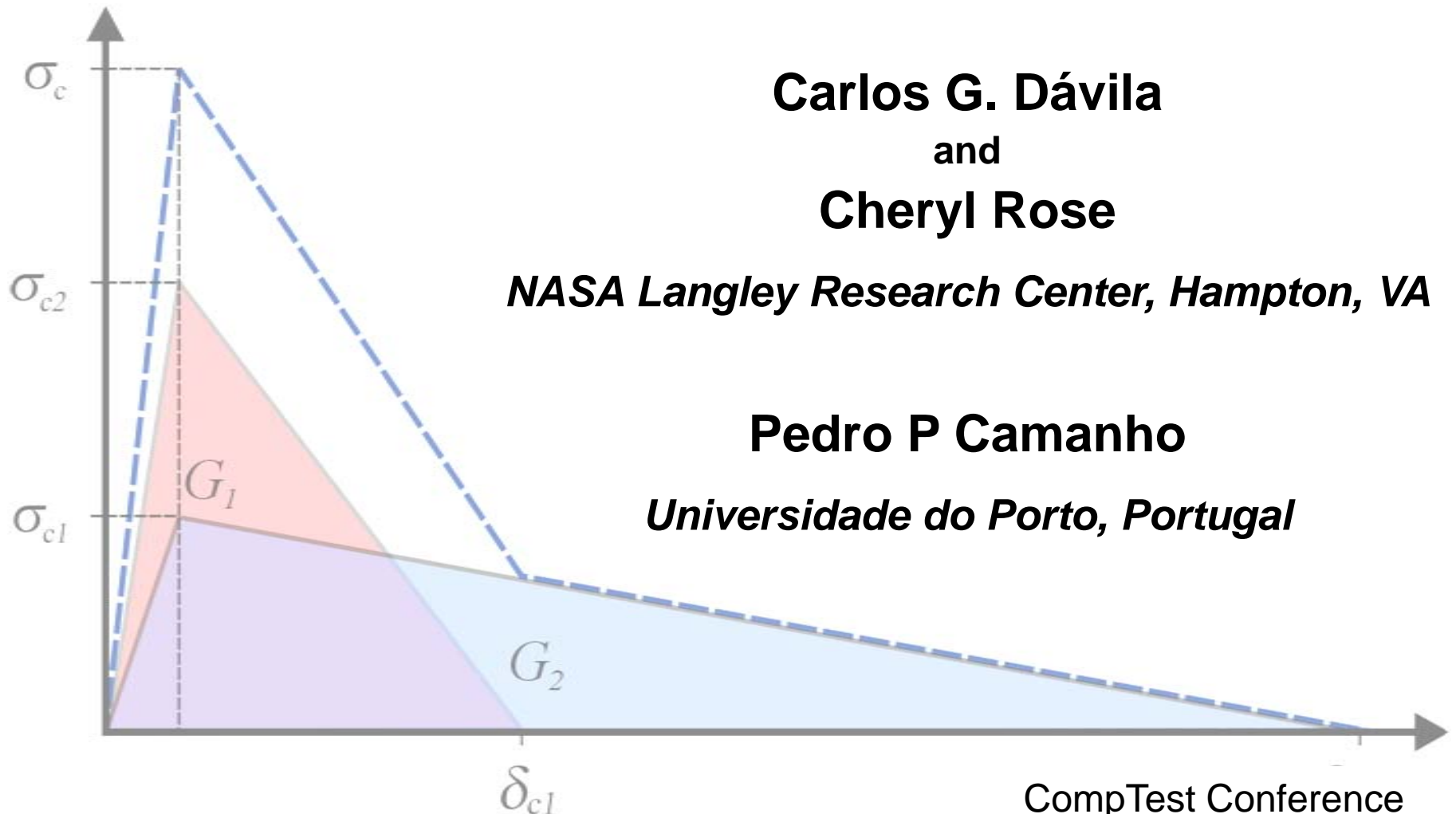


# Modeling R-Curve Toughening Mechanisms with Complex Softening Laws



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*Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

# Resistance Curve

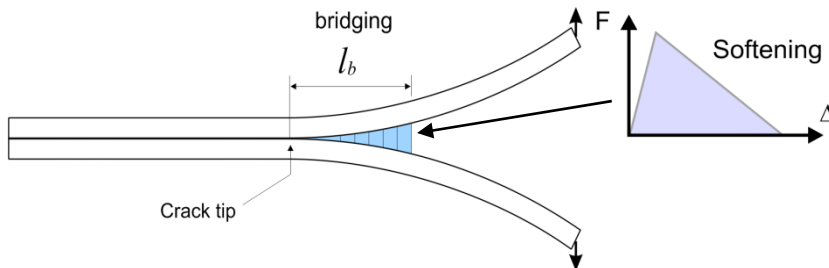
“However complex a fracture process is, a single material property (the fracture toughness) quantifies the resistance to fracture”

- LEFM: Fracture toughness concentrated at crack tip.

**No growth:  $G < G_c$**

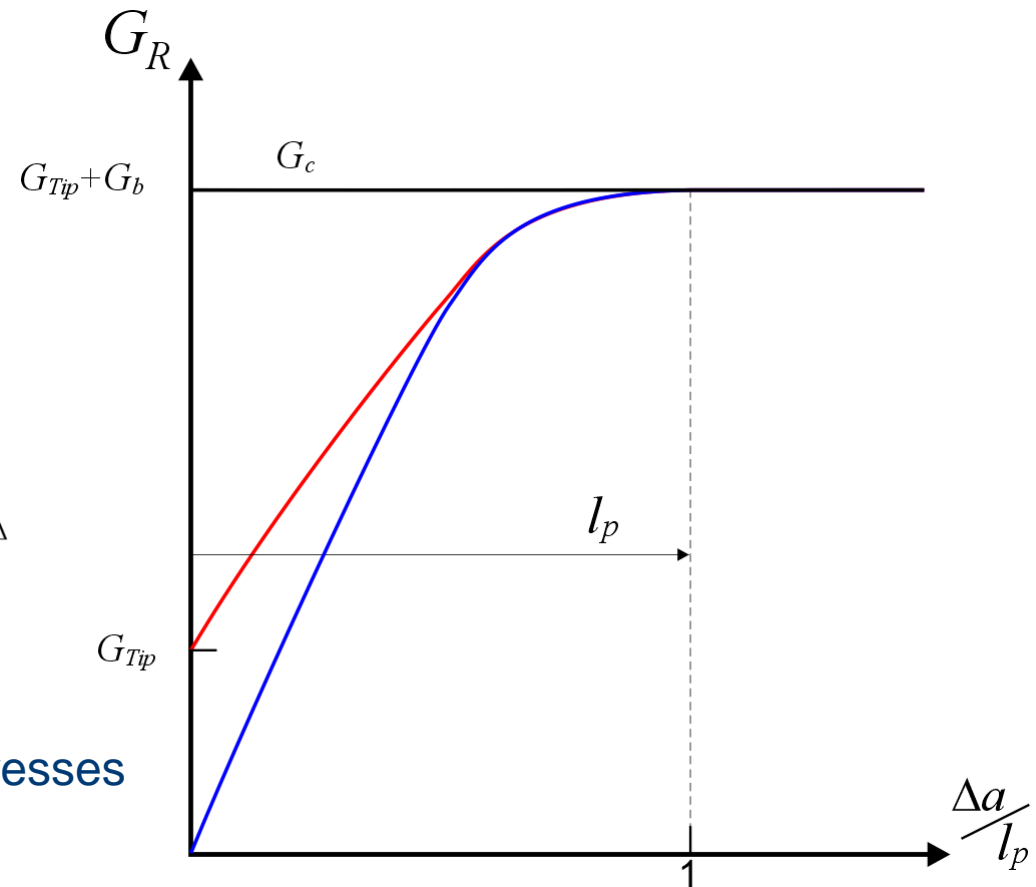
- Toughness from Bridging Stresses

**No growth:  $G < G_b(\Delta a)$**



- Combination of Tip and Bridging Stresses

**No growth:  $G < G_{Tip} + G_b(\Delta a)$**



## Objective

Add higher level of fidelity to FE prediction of fracture: R-Curve

## Rationale

Relationships between:

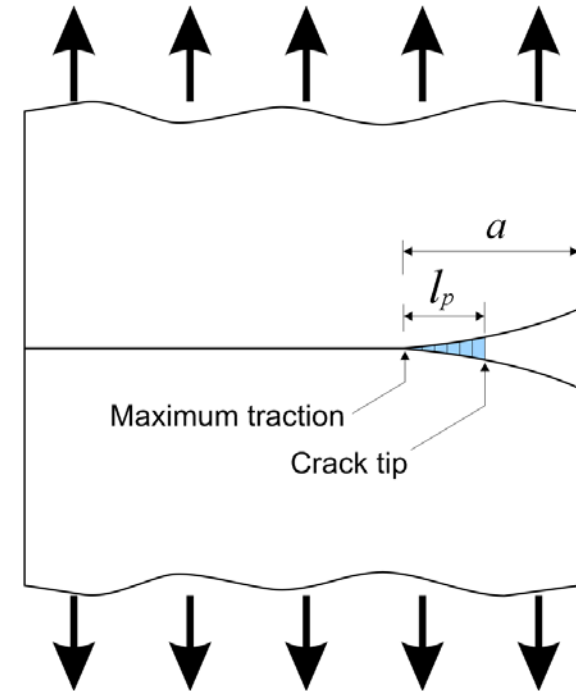
- Resistance curve (R-curve)
- Fracture process zone length ( $l_p$ )
- Shape of the traction/displacement softening law

## Approach

- Develop equations to predict R-curve for superposed linear cohesive laws
- Demonstrate use of superposed cohesive elements to account for experimental R-curve

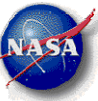
## Typical values of $l_p$ (Bažant, 2002)

cracks in geological formations:	$l_p \approx$	50 m
dam concrete; sea ice:	$l_p \approx$	3 m
granite; epoxy:	$l_p \approx$	1 mm
silicon oxide ceramic:	$l_p \approx$	0.1 mm

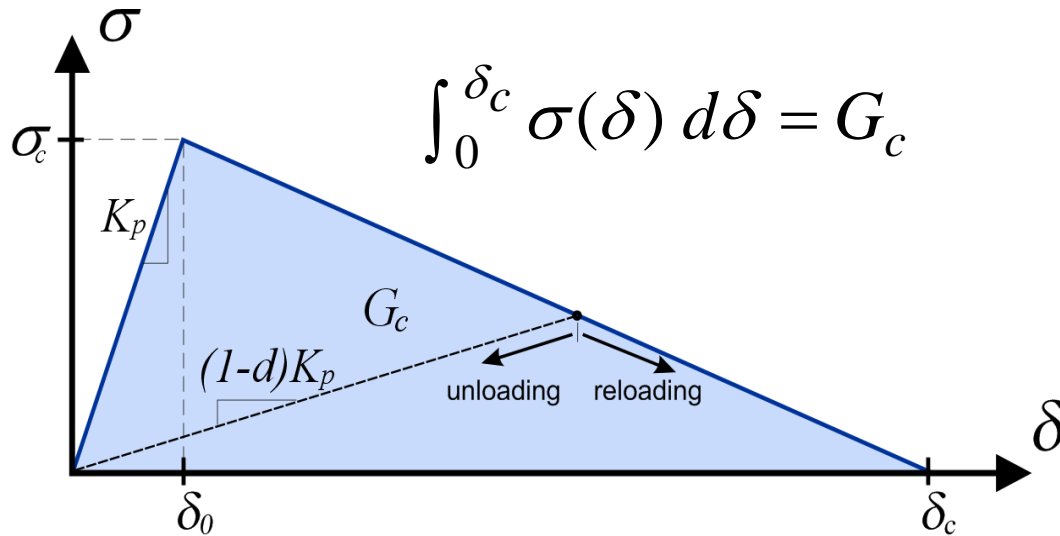


$$\eta = \frac{a}{l_p} \begin{cases} \eta < 5, & \text{ductile damage, plasticity} \\ 5 \leq \eta \leq 100, & \text{quasi - brittle fracture mechanics} \\ \eta > 100, & \text{brittle (LEFM)} \end{cases}$$

# Material Softening Laws

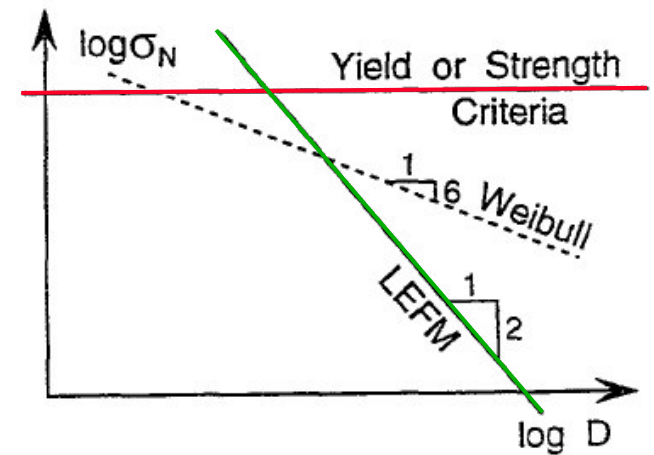


## Linear Traction-Displacement Law



Two material properties:

- $G_c$  Fracture toughness
- $\sigma_c$  Strength

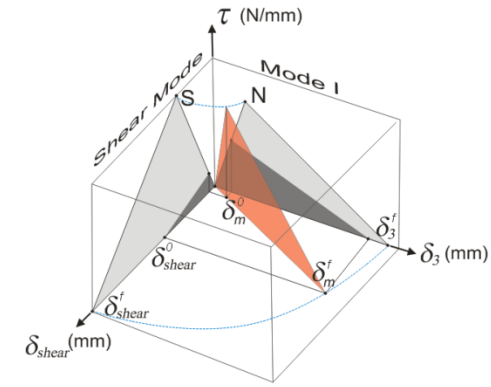
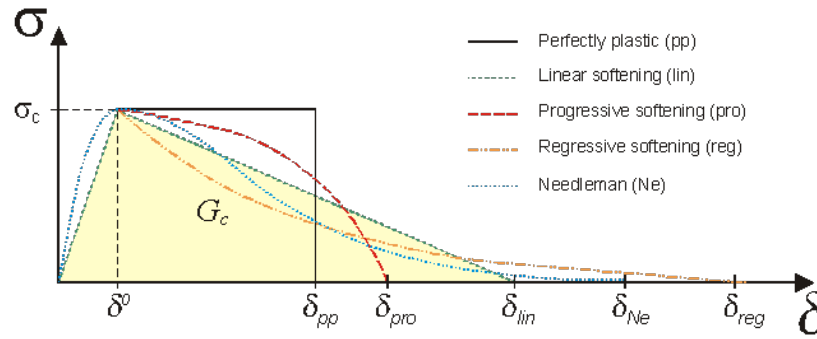
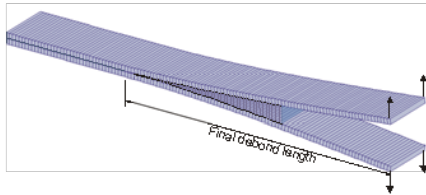


Characteristic Length:

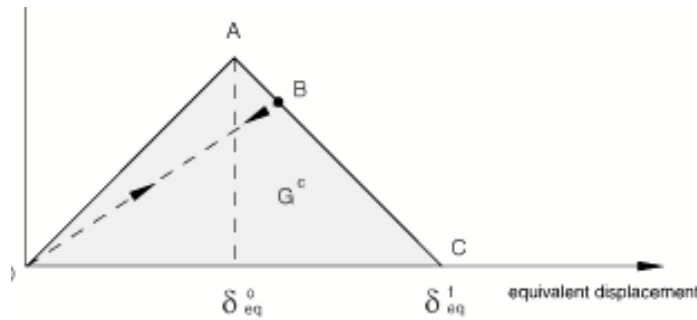
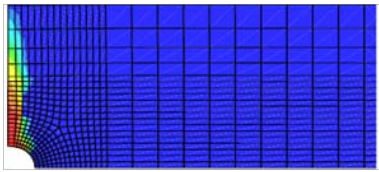
$$l_p = \gamma \frac{E G_c}{\sigma_c^2}$$

# Material Softening Laws

## Cohesive elements



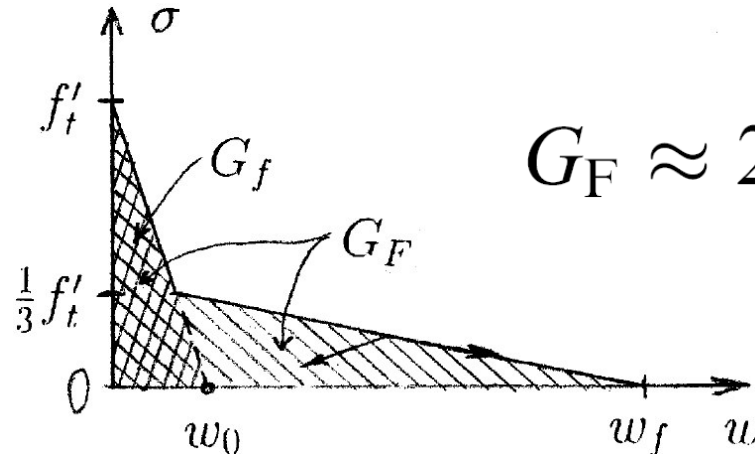
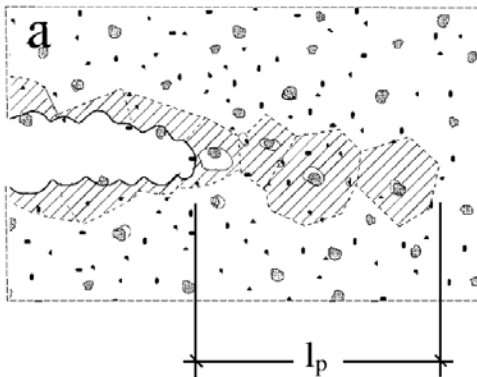
## Abaqus Damage Model



$$\delta_{eq}^{ft} = L^c \sqrt{\langle \epsilon_{11} \rangle^2 + \alpha \epsilon_{12}^2}$$

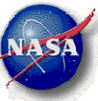
$$\sigma_{eq}^{ft} = \frac{\langle \sigma_{11} \rangle \langle \epsilon_{11} \rangle + \alpha \tau_{12} \epsilon_{12}}{\delta_{eq}^{ft} / L^c}$$

## Standards of American Concrete Institute



$$G_F \approx 2.5 G_f$$

# Material Softening Laws for Composites



## NASA-Boeing ATCAS Program

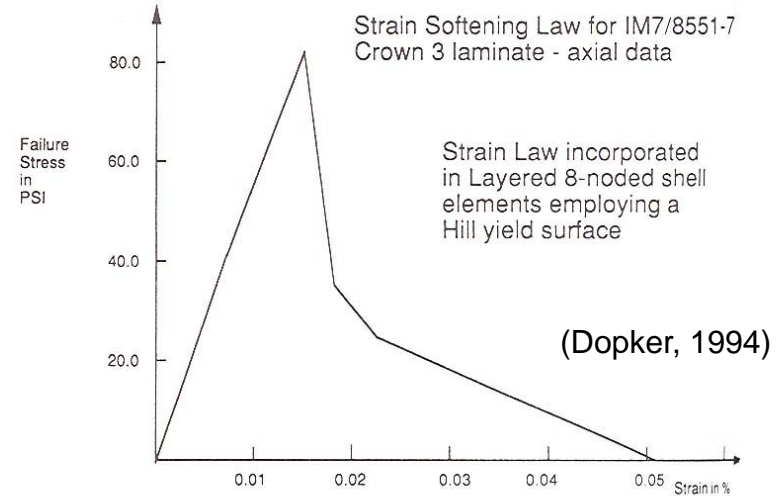
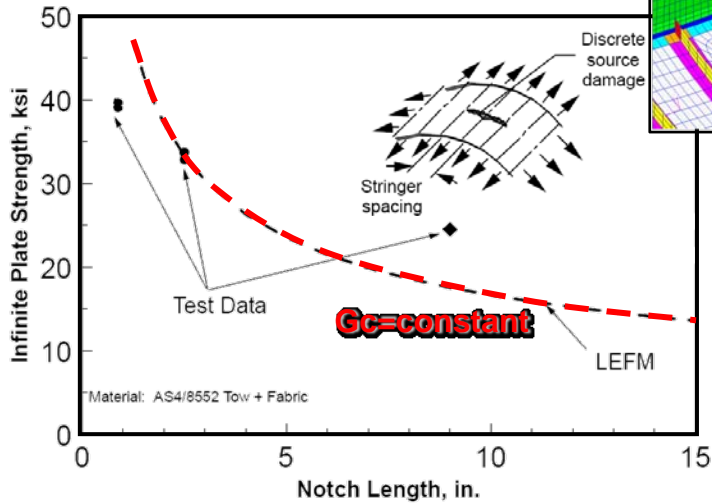
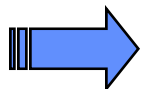
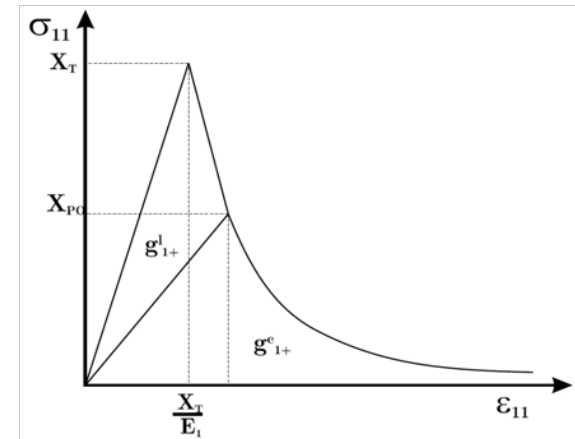


Figure 11. A Typical Advanced Damage Zone Model

## LaRC-based damage model (Maimí, 2007)

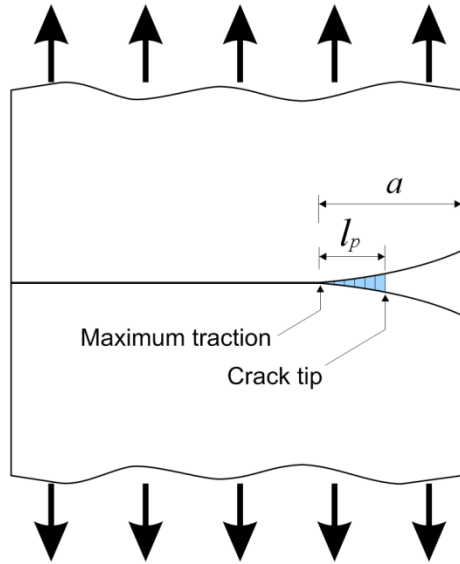
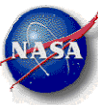
$$d_{1+} = 1 - \left(1 - d_{1+}^F\right) \frac{r_{L+}^F}{r_{L+}} \exp \left[ A_{1+} \left(1 - \frac{r_{L+}}{r_{L+}^F}\right) \right]$$

$r_{L+}$ : LaRC04 failure criterion for fiber tension



How to obtain the shape of the softening law from experiments?

# Length of the Process Zone – Various Models



$$l_p = \gamma \frac{E G_c}{\sigma_c^2}$$

what is  $\gamma$ ?

Good representation  
of bilinear cohesive  
elements

Irwin, 1970	Dugdale, 1960, Barenblatt, 1962	Bao, et al., 1992	Cox, et al., 1994	Rice, 1979	Hillerborg, et al., 1976
$\gamma = \frac{1}{\pi} = 0.32$	$\gamma = \frac{\pi}{8} = 0.39$	$\gamma = 0.73$	$\gamma = \frac{\pi}{4} = 0.79$	$\gamma = 0.884$	$\gamma = 1.0$

elliptical notch  
valid for  $l_p \ll a$

elastic-plastic  
material

elastic solid  
w/ bridging  
stresses

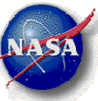
bridging  
stresses

simplified stress  
distribution

engineering  
approximation



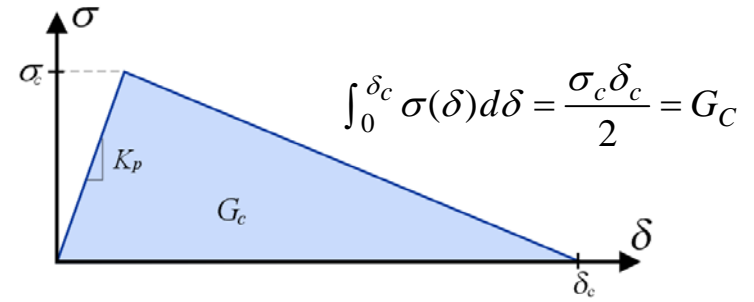
# Crack Growth Resistance (R-Curve)



Foote et al. ['86]

$$G_R = G_{Tip} + \int_0^{\Delta a} \frac{\sigma_c \delta_c}{l_p} \left(1 - \frac{x}{l_p}\right) dx$$

Linear Softening Law

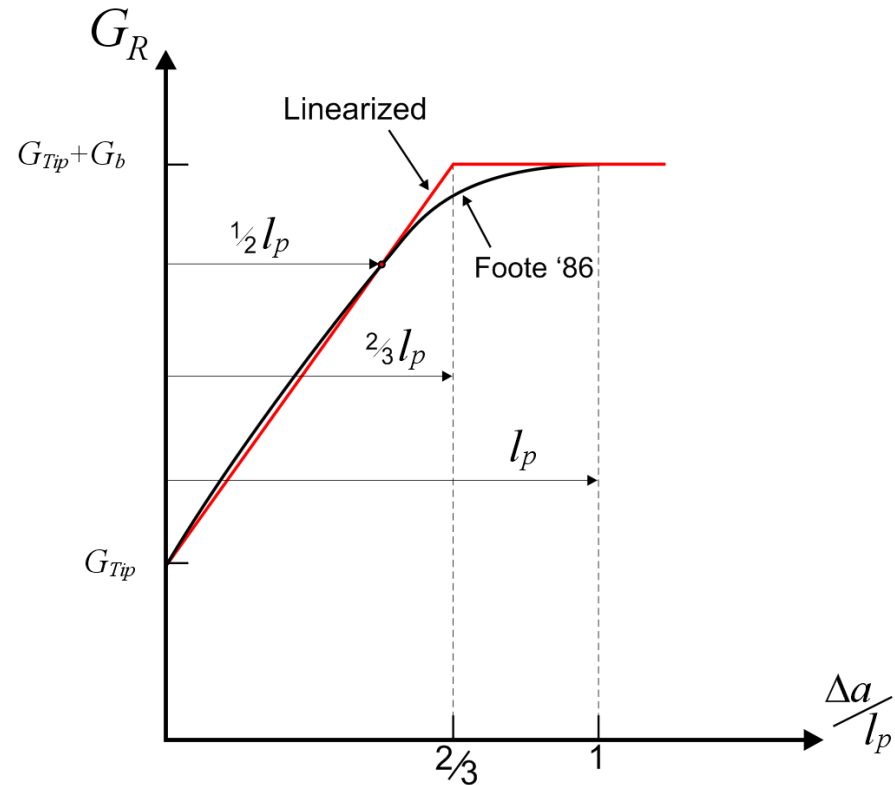


For a bilinear softening law

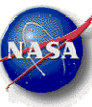
$$G_R^{NL}(\Delta a) = \begin{cases} G_{Tip} + G_b \frac{\Delta a}{l_p} \left(2 - \frac{\Delta a}{l_p}\right) & \text{for } \Delta a < l_p \\ G_{Tip} + G_b & \text{for } \Delta a \geq l_p \end{cases}$$

Alternate linearized expression

$$G_R^L(\Delta a) = \begin{cases} G_{Tip} + \frac{3}{2} G_b \frac{\Delta a}{l_p} & \text{for } \Delta a < \frac{2}{3} l_p \\ G_{Tip} + G_b & \text{for } \Delta a \geq \frac{2}{3} l_p \end{cases}$$

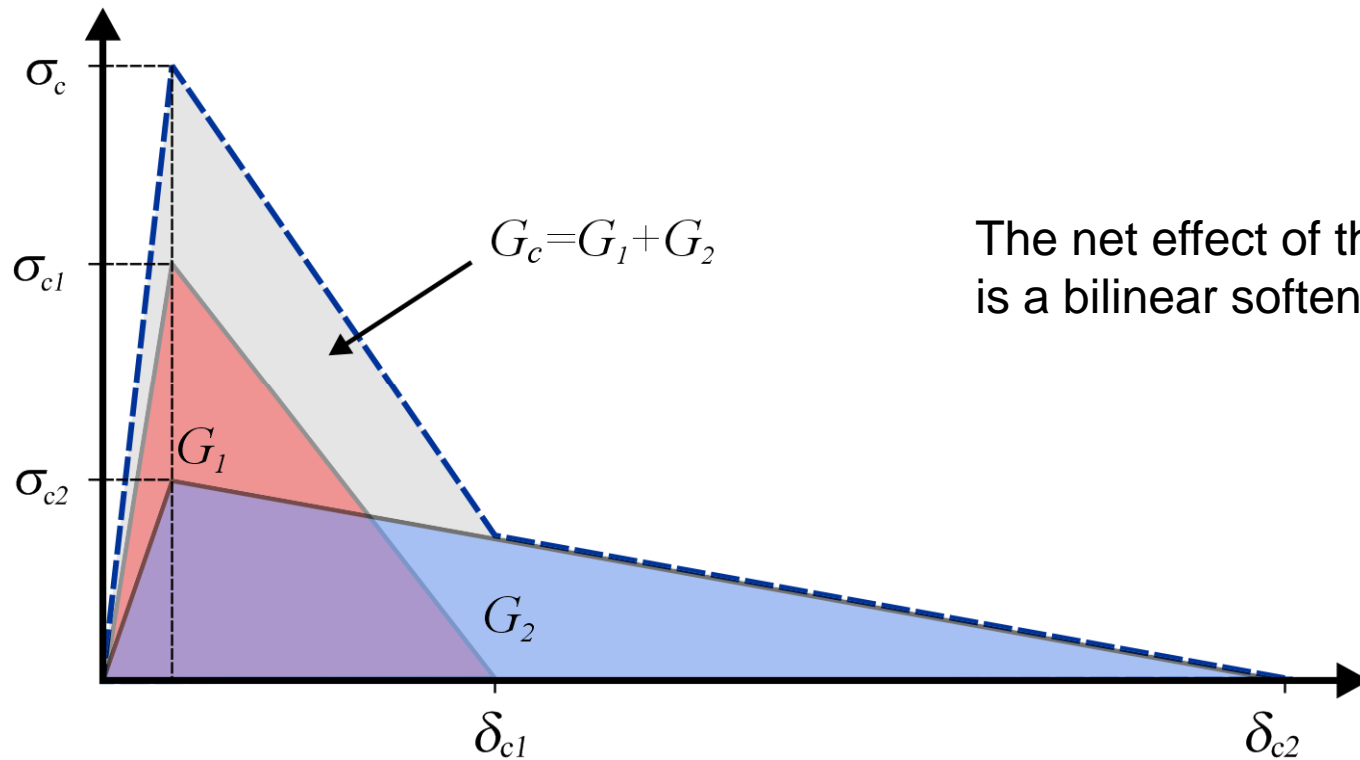


# Bilinear Softening Laws



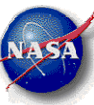
Consider two simultaneous damage mechanisms:

- Let  $G_1$  represents a mechanism acting close to the tip
- Let  $G_2$  represent a mechanism acting further into the crack wake



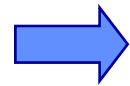
The net effect of the superposition is a bilinear softening law

# R-Curve for Superposed Linear Softening Laws



R-Curve (linearized)

$$G_R^L(\Delta a) = G_{Tip} + \frac{3}{2} G_b \frac{\Delta a}{l_p}$$

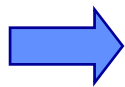


$$G_R^L(\Delta a) = G_1 \frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta a}{\beta_1 l_c} + G_2 \frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta a}{\beta_2 l_c}$$

Choose

$$\beta_1 = \frac{m}{n}; \quad \beta_2 = \frac{1-m}{1-n}$$

$$\text{where } n = \frac{\sigma_{c1}}{\sigma_c} \quad m = \frac{G_1}{G_c}$$



$$l_p = \beta \frac{\gamma E G_c}{\sigma_c^2} \quad \text{where } \beta = \text{MAX}[\beta_1; \beta_2]$$

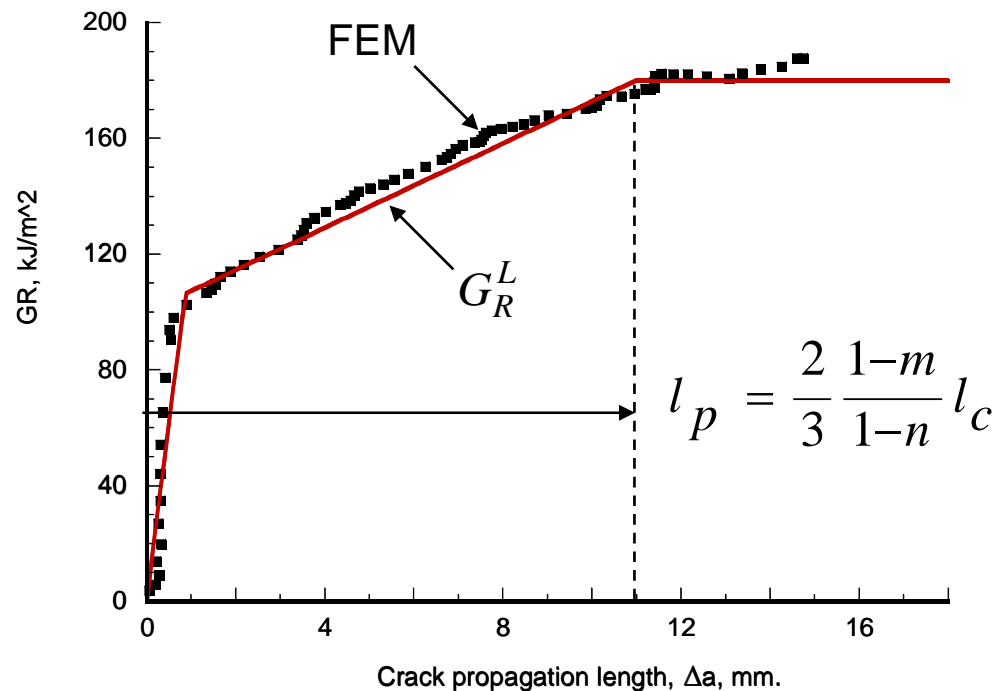
# R-Curve for Superposed Linear Softening Laws



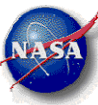
$$G_R^L(\Delta a) = \text{MIN}\left(G_1; n G_c \frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta a}{l_c}\right) + \text{MIN}\left(G_2; (1-n) G_c \frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta a}{l_c}\right) \quad (\text{Dávila, 2008})$$

where  $l_c = \gamma E G_c / \sigma_c^2$        $n = \frac{\sigma_{c1}}{\sigma_c}$        $m = \frac{G_1}{G_c}$

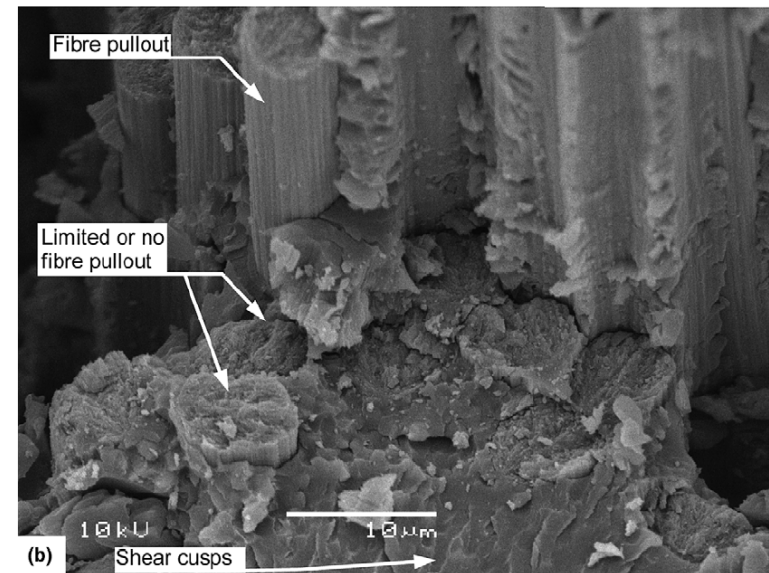
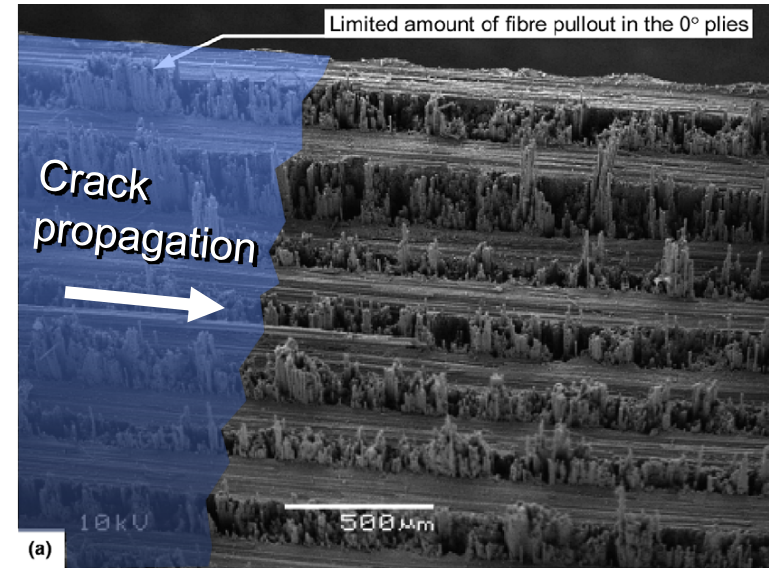
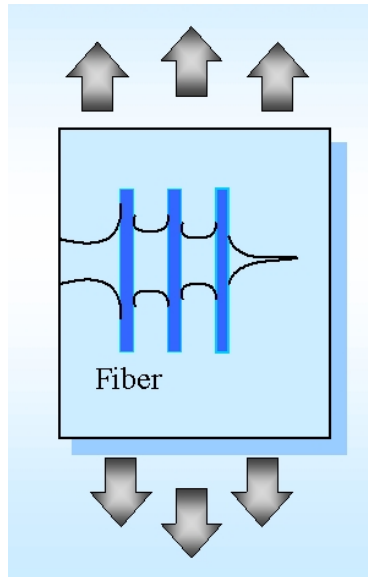
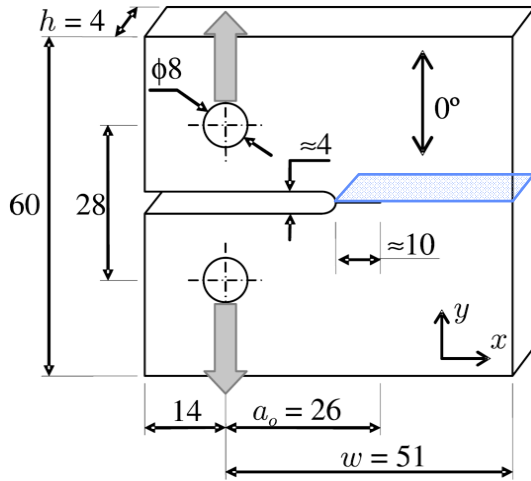
R-Curves



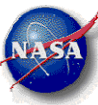
# Measuring Toughness of Fiber Fracture



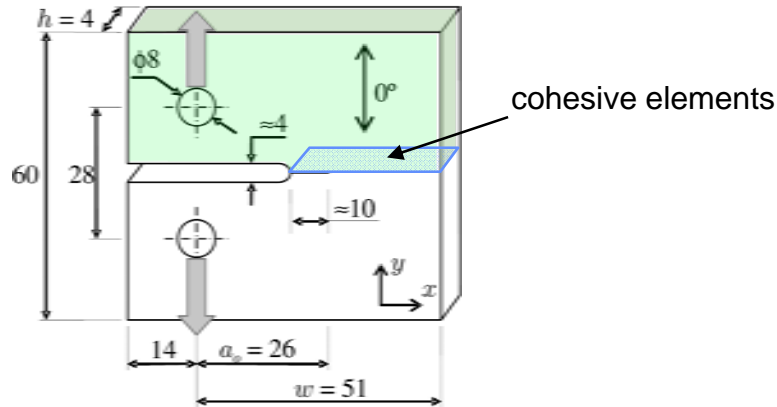
## Compact Tension Specimen [90/0]<sub>ns</sub>



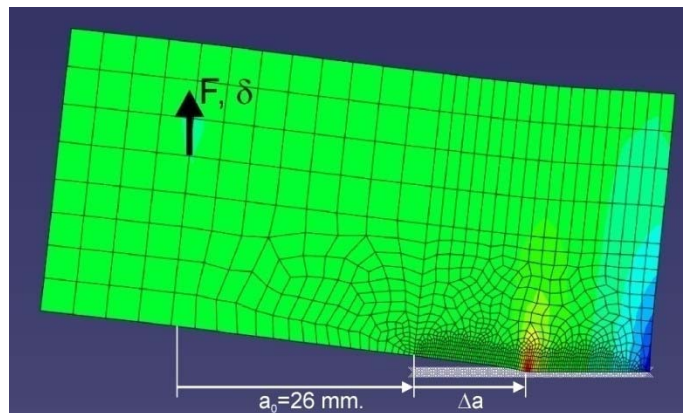
# Analysis of Compact Tension Specimen



## Compact Tension Specimen

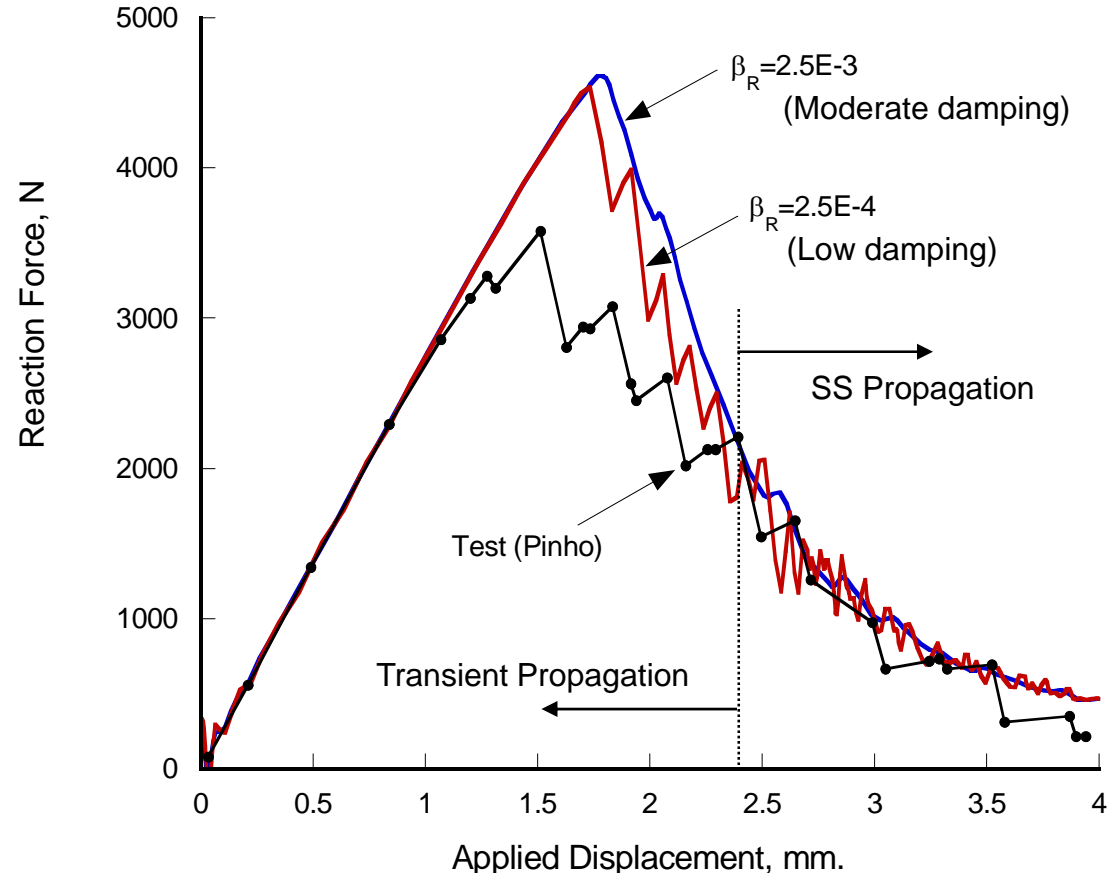


## Shell model of CT Specimen

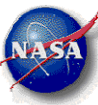


## Finite Element Analysis

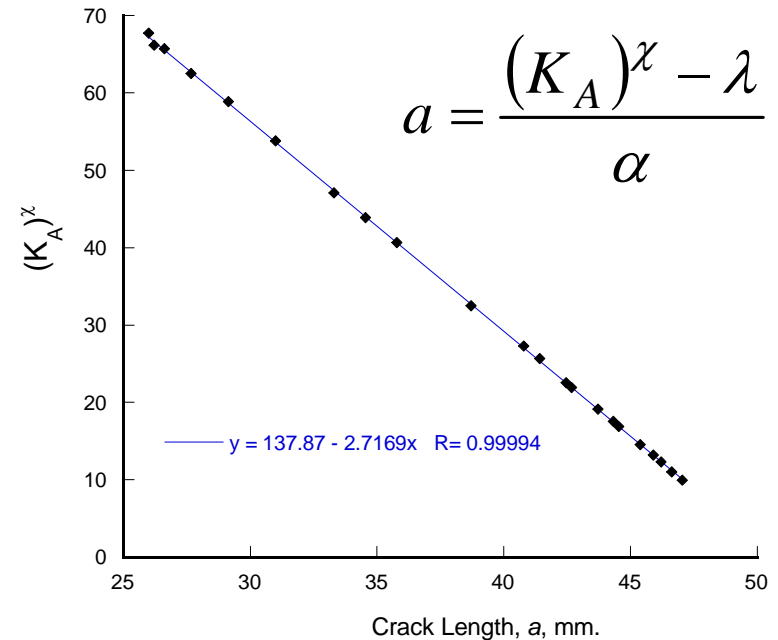
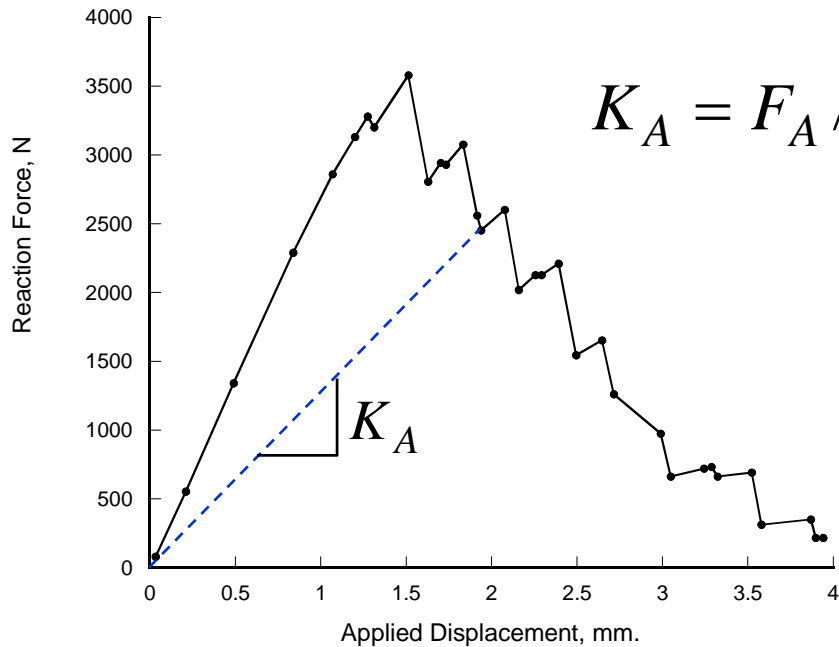
- Cohesive elements (linear softening).
- $G_c = 180 \text{ kJ/m}^2$  (from Pinho).
- Implicit dynamic analysis for improved convergence rate.
- Low and moderate Raleigh damping.



# Extracting R-Curves by MCC Method



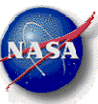
Determining crack length as a function of  $K_A$



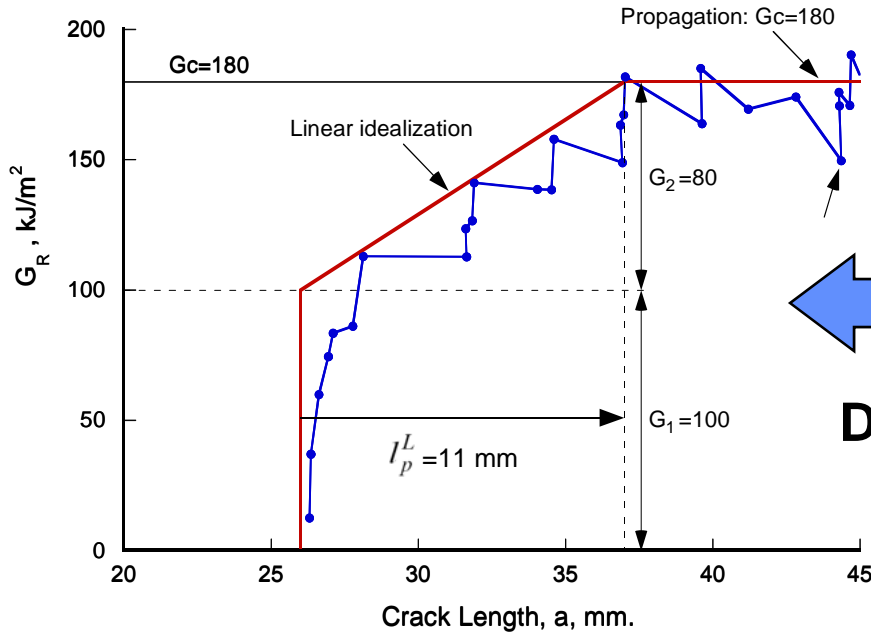
Modified Compliance Calibration

$$G_R(a) = -\frac{F_A^2}{2 \cdot t^0} \frac{\alpha(\lambda + \alpha a)^{-\left(1 + \frac{1}{\chi}\right)}}{\chi}$$

# Comparing R-Curves from Test and Analysis

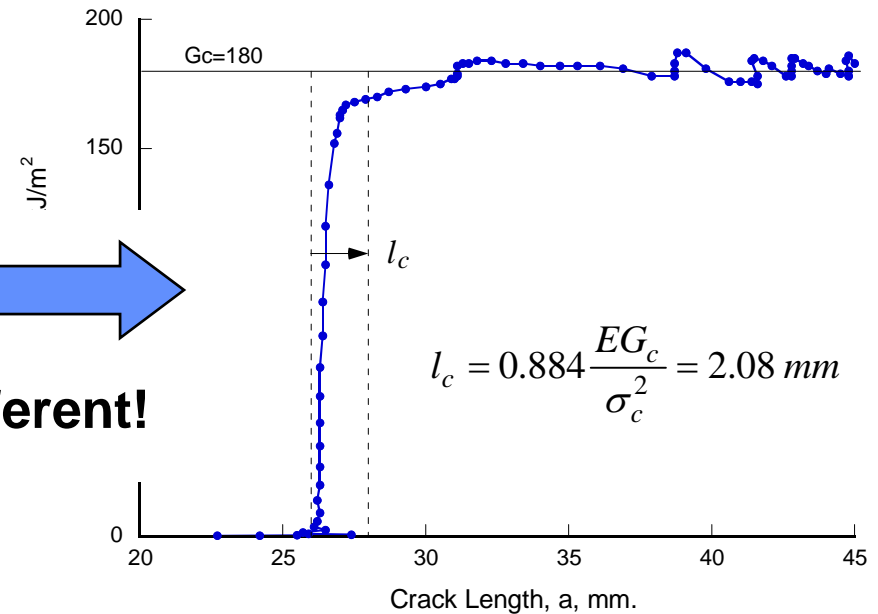


## Experiment

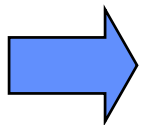


## Finite Element Model

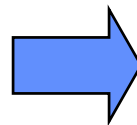
Linear cohesive law w/  $G_c=180 \text{ kJ/m}^2$



**Different!**



More than one linear softening law is necessary to represent experimental R-curve

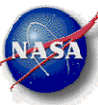


Use:  
 $G_1=100 \text{ kJ/m}^2$   
 $G_2=80 \text{ kJ/m}^2$   
 $l_p^L = 11 \text{ mm}$

Solve:  $n, m$  using  $G_R^L$

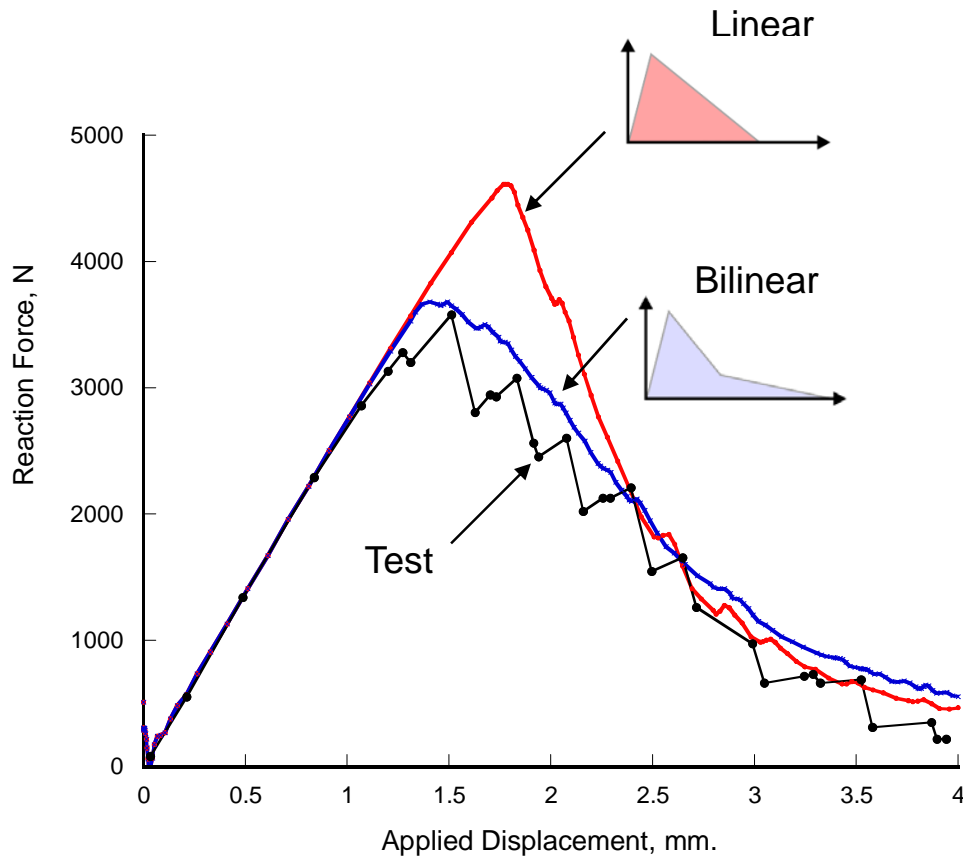


# Analysis with Superposed Cohesive Elements

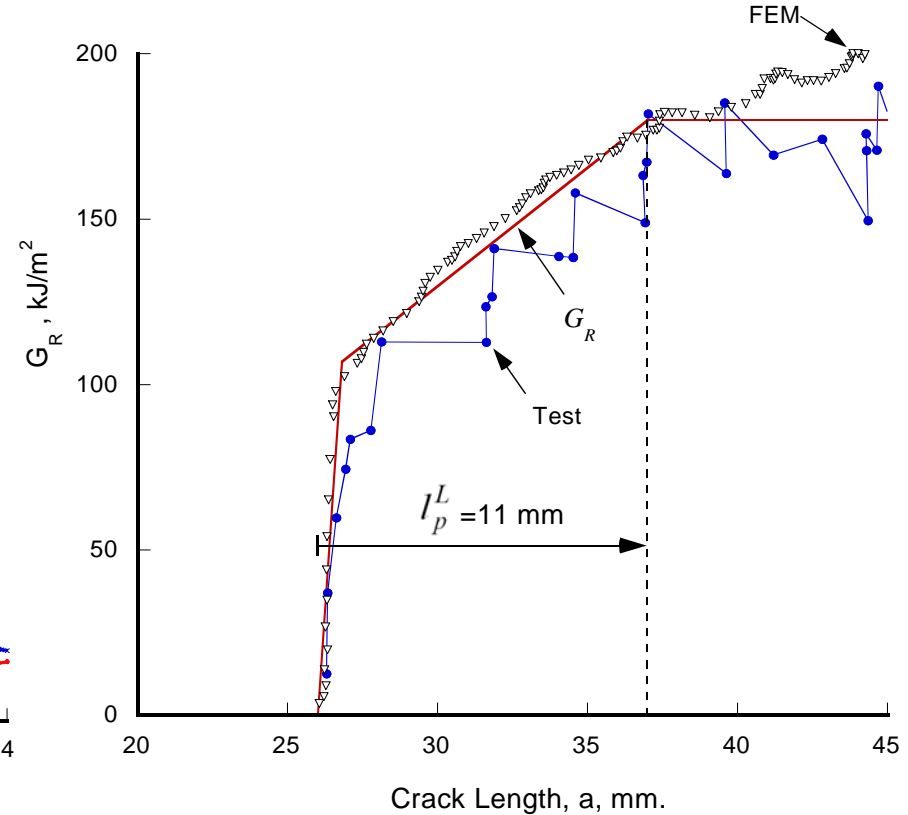


Solve for  $n$  from:

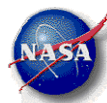
$$l_p^L = \frac{2}{3} \frac{1-m}{1-n} l_c \Rightarrow n = 0.943$$



## Comparison of R-curves



# Concluding Remarks



- The importance of  $l_p$  & the R-curve, on the prediction of fracture of a composite laminate was examined.
- Two new alternate equations for the R-curve of superposed linear softening laws were proposed:  $G_R^{NL}(\Delta a)$  and  $G_R^L(\Delta a)$
- Fracture of a CT specimen was analyzed with cohesive elements.
  - A linear softening law is insufficient: fiber bridging and fiber pullout result in R-curve.
  - $G_R^L(\Delta a)$  was used for determining the parameters of the bilinear softening law.
- Compared to linear softening, bilinear softening reduces the error in the strength of the CT specimen from 29% to 2.8% .