



# Introduction to nonlinear finite element modeling

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## *1.1. Introduction*

Inspired and adapted from the 'Nonlinear Modeling of Structures' course of Prof. Thierry J. Massart at the ULB

**Motivation & Application field**

**Examples of non-linear phenomena**

**Course objectives**

**Course outline**





**A large number of practical problems are non-linear**

**Various software used but their use can be dangerous**

- their scope >> average knowledge of engineers
- software are often not documented in detail

**Still the subject of intensive research**

**NL computations often used as complement of  
experimental procedures (e.g. crash tests)**

**Computational investigation are often required**



# Application fields

Structural mechanics (buildings, civil engineering)

Mechanical engineering (engines, composites, ...)

Mechanics of Materials (forming, link between the texture of materials and their properties)

Soil mechanics, geotechnical applications

Moisture transport, thermal problems, ...

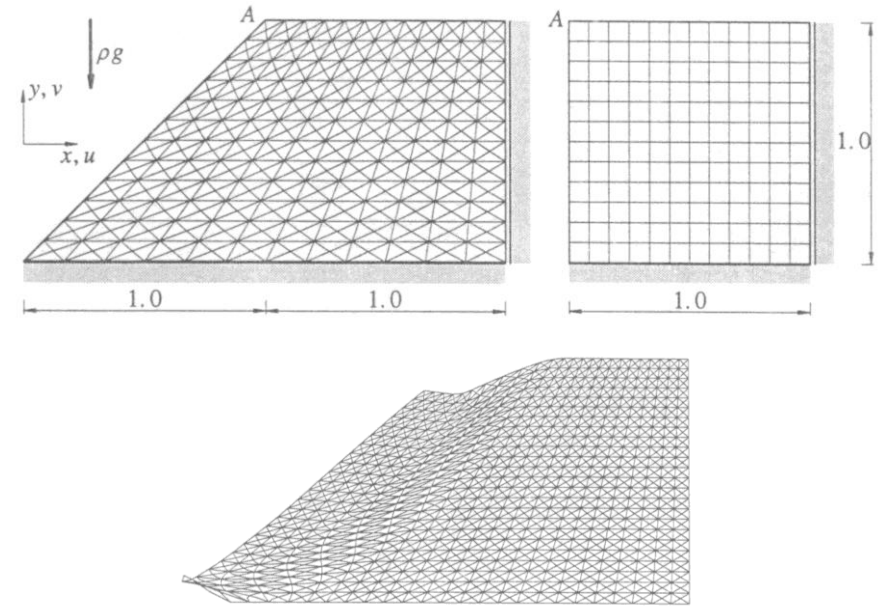
Multi-physical coupled problems

**In this course:** Mechanical and civil engineering problems

## Slope stability



Ouro Preto, 2012

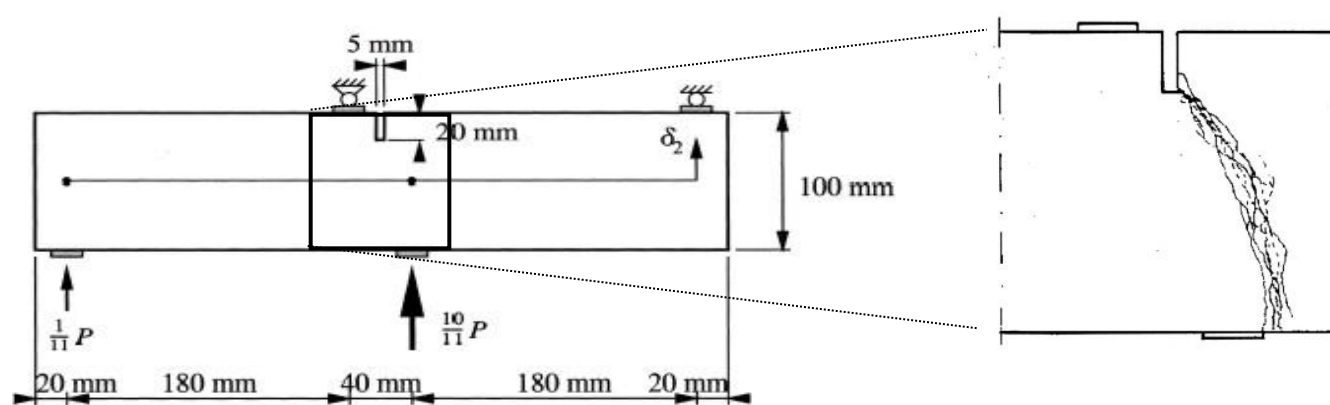


Ph.D. Jerzy Pamir (TUDelft, 1994)



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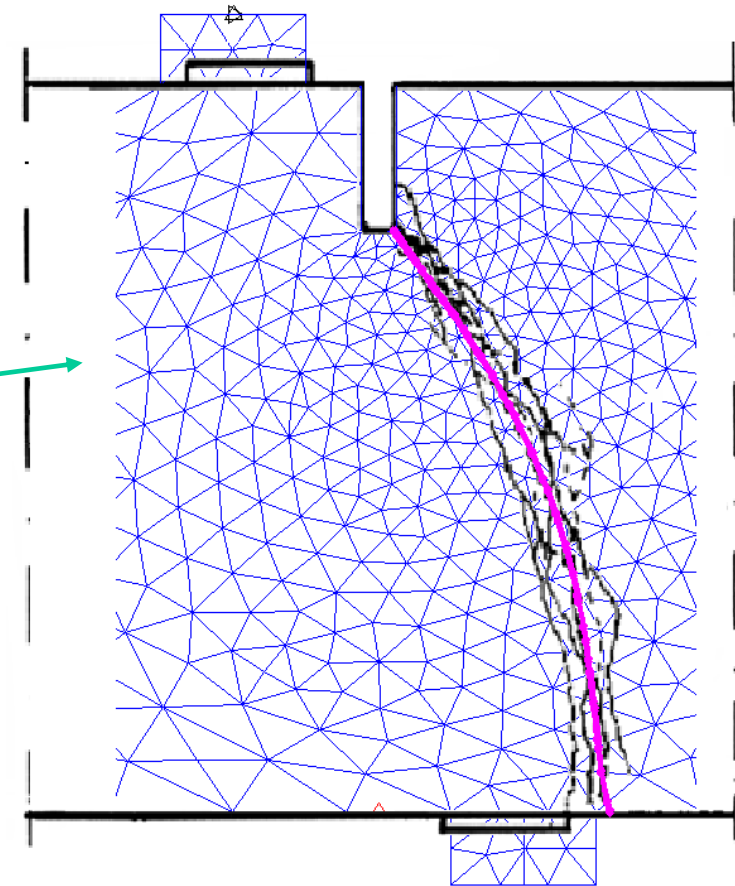
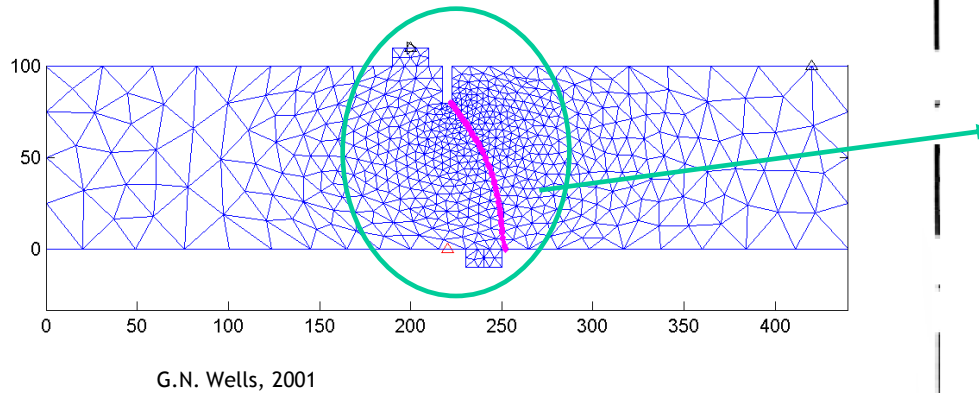
## Materials characterisation - Failure



Geers, de Borst, Peerlings, 2000



## Materials characterisation - Failure

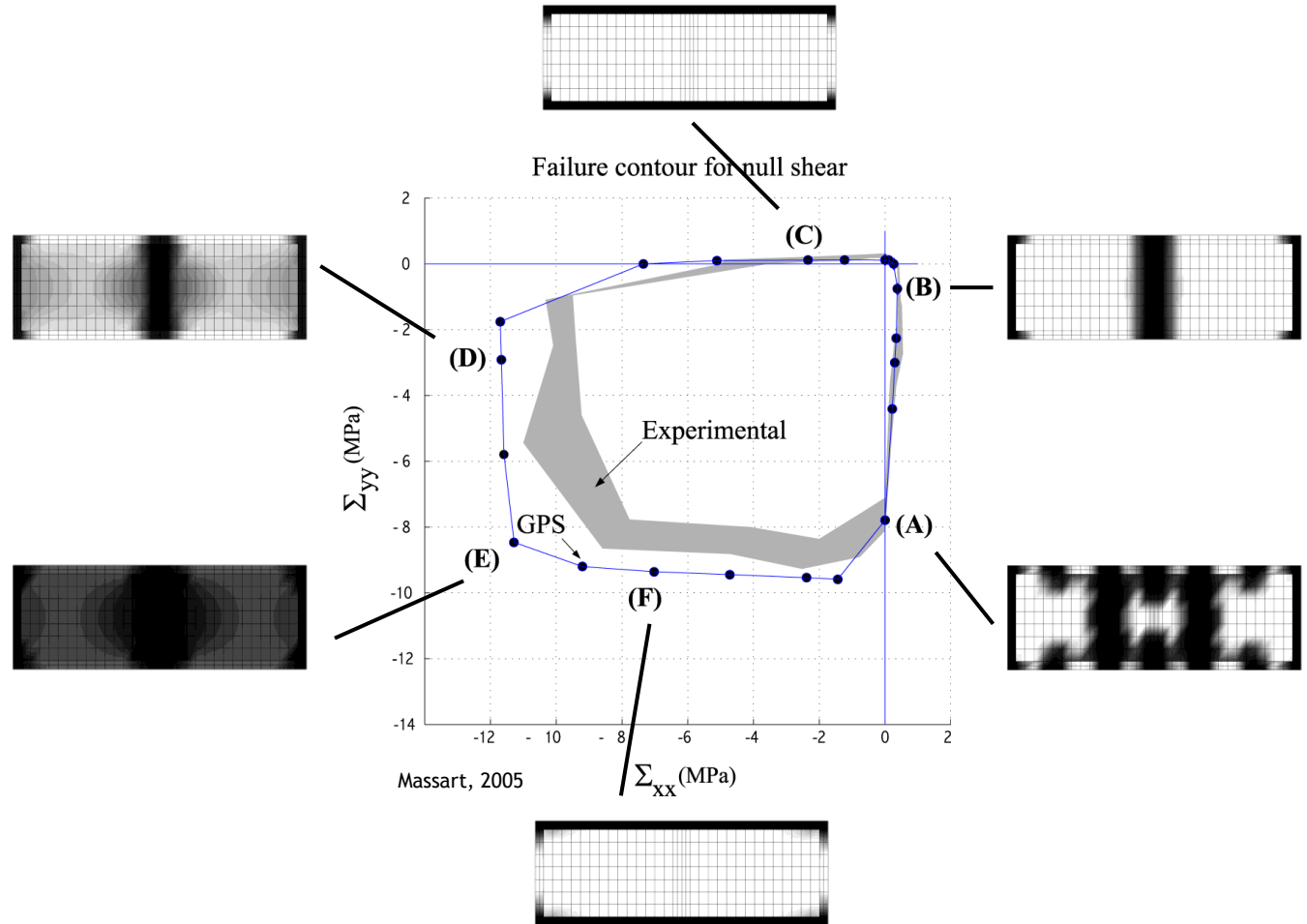


Schlangen - 1993

## Materials characterisation - Failure of masonry



[<http://wehavea.name/Photo.ashx/434ef4e5c599456fb2a460a6dbbcedde>]



Anisotropy, damage, plasticity...



## Structural failure

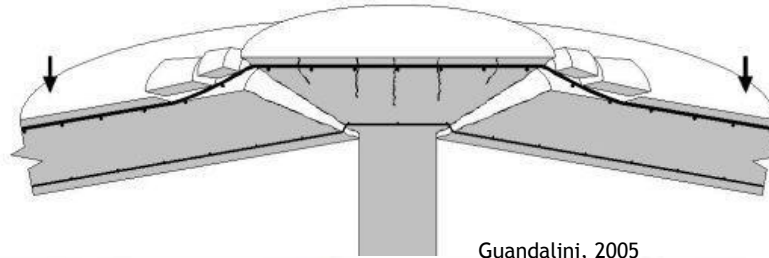
### Boeing 787



[<http://www.boeing.com>]

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA9Kato1CxA>]

## Structural failure (punching failure)

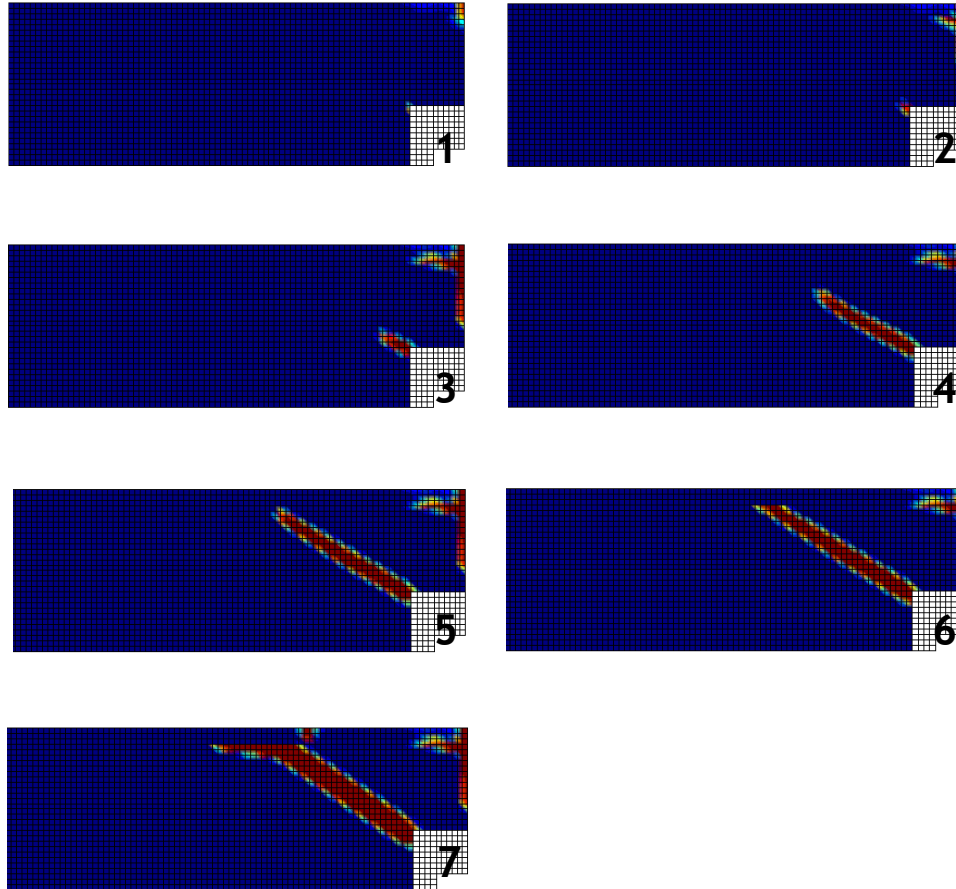


Guandalini, 2005

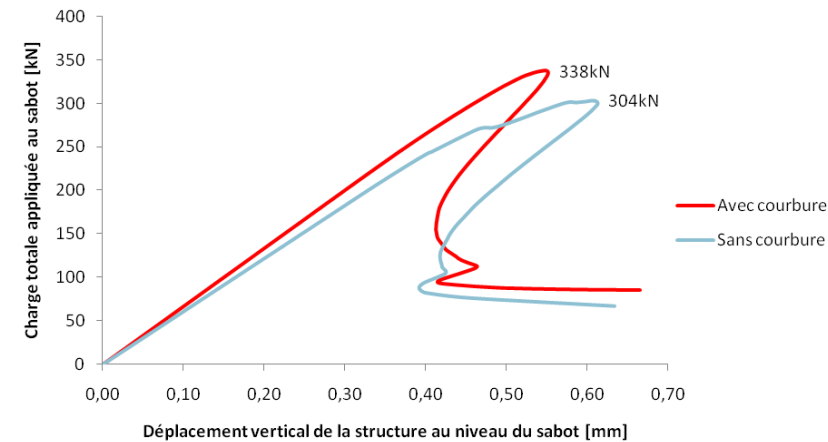
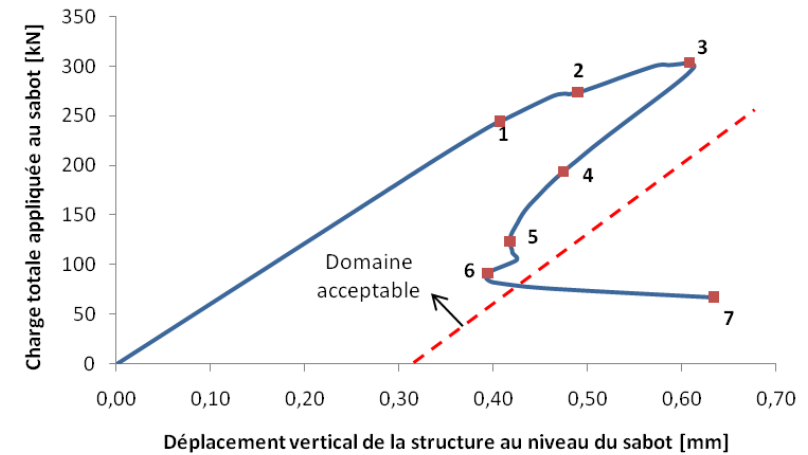


J.G.M. Wood, 2007

## Punching of planar shell - modelling

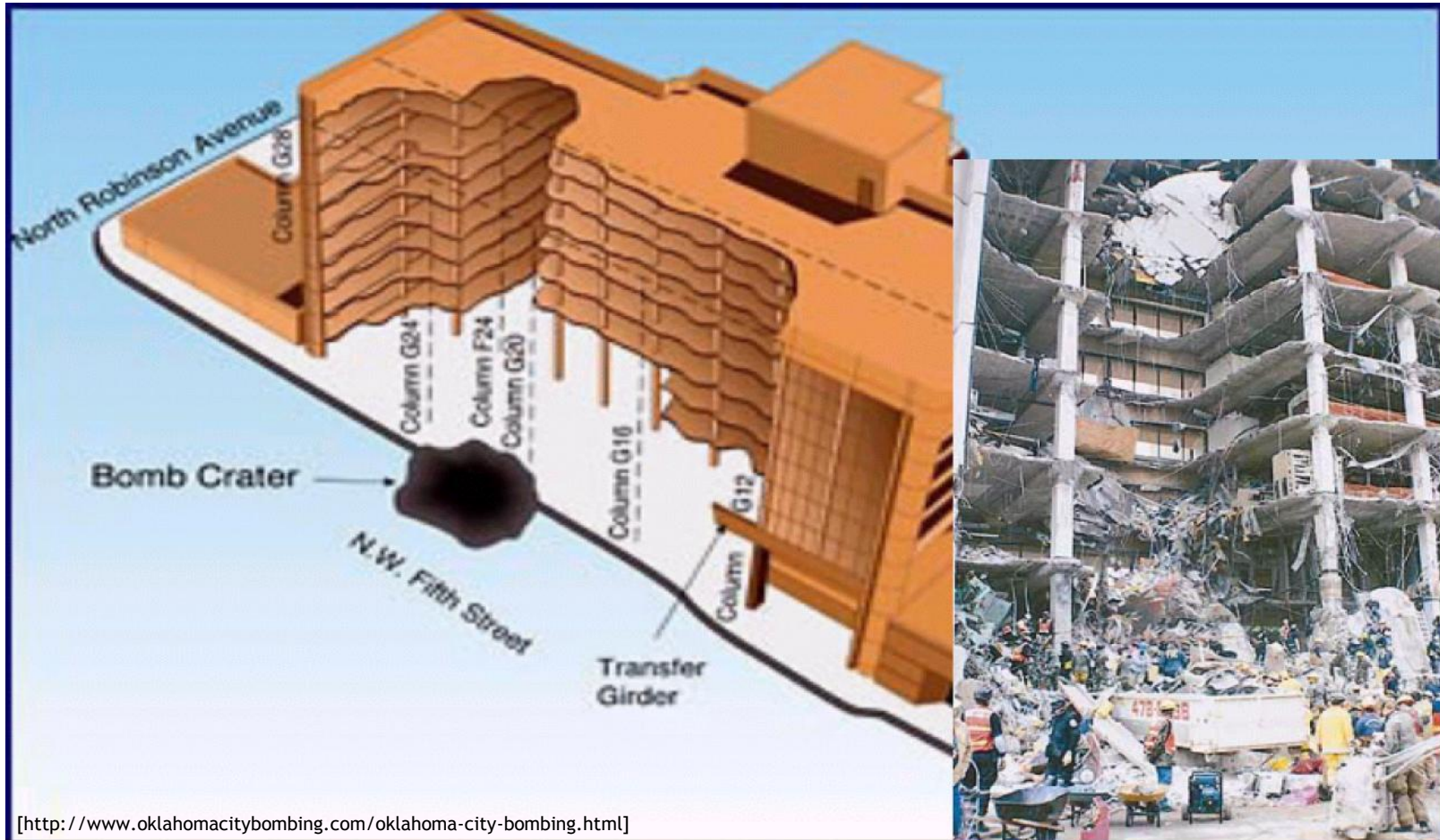


M. Syed Ali Azor, MFE grad. damage, 2008





## Structural failure (progressive collapse)



## Structural failure (geometrical effects)



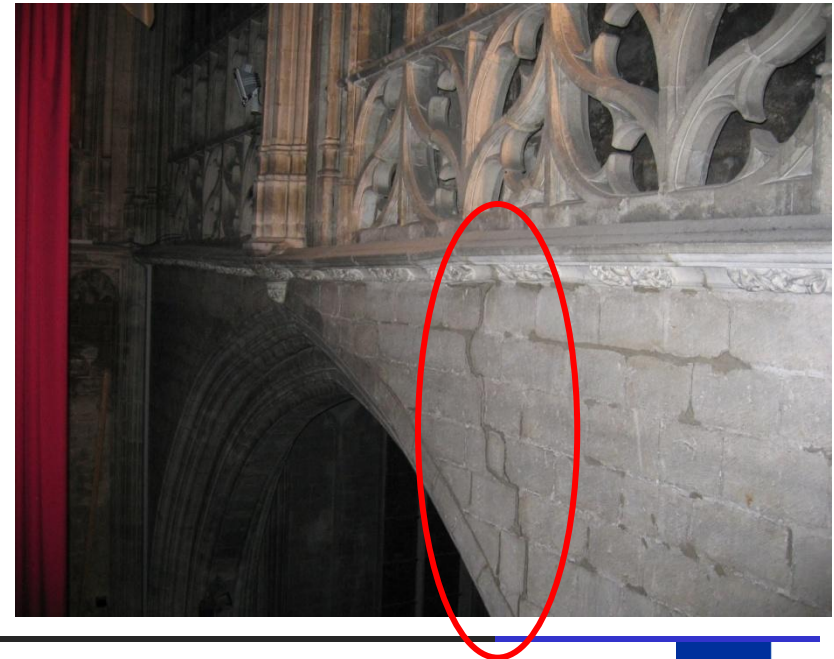
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## Historical structures: local cracking



M. Provost



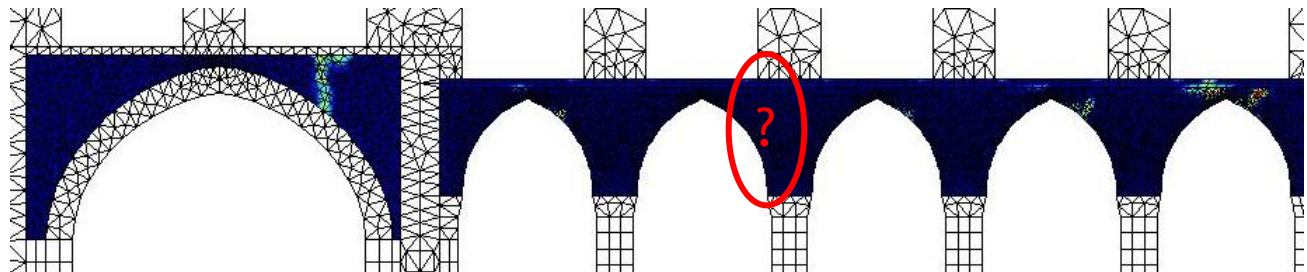
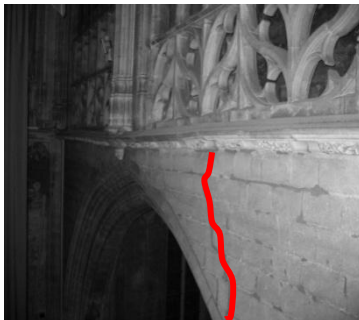


## Historical structures: local cracking

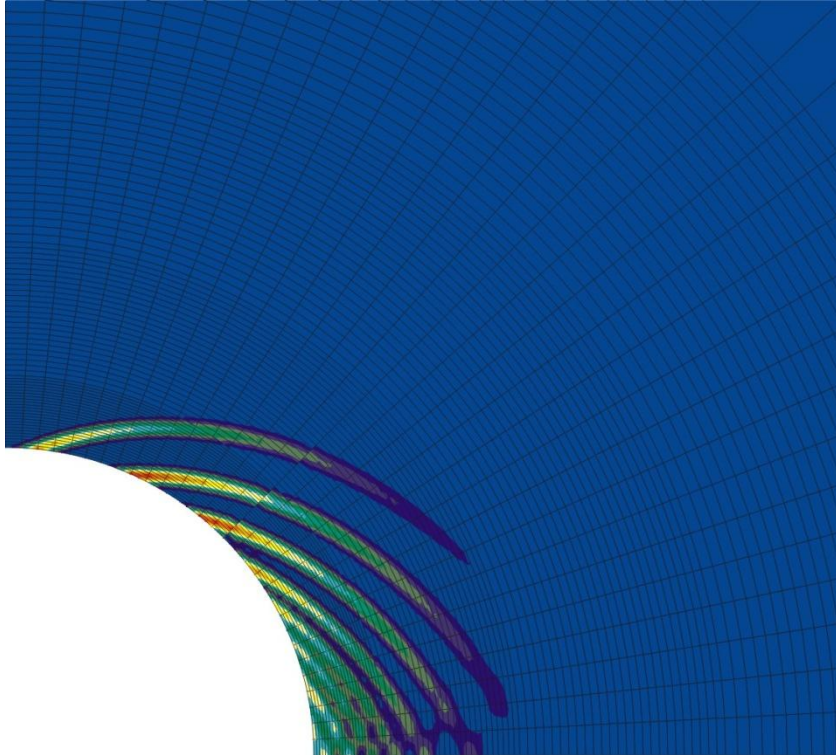


M. Provost

Computational results vs. observations

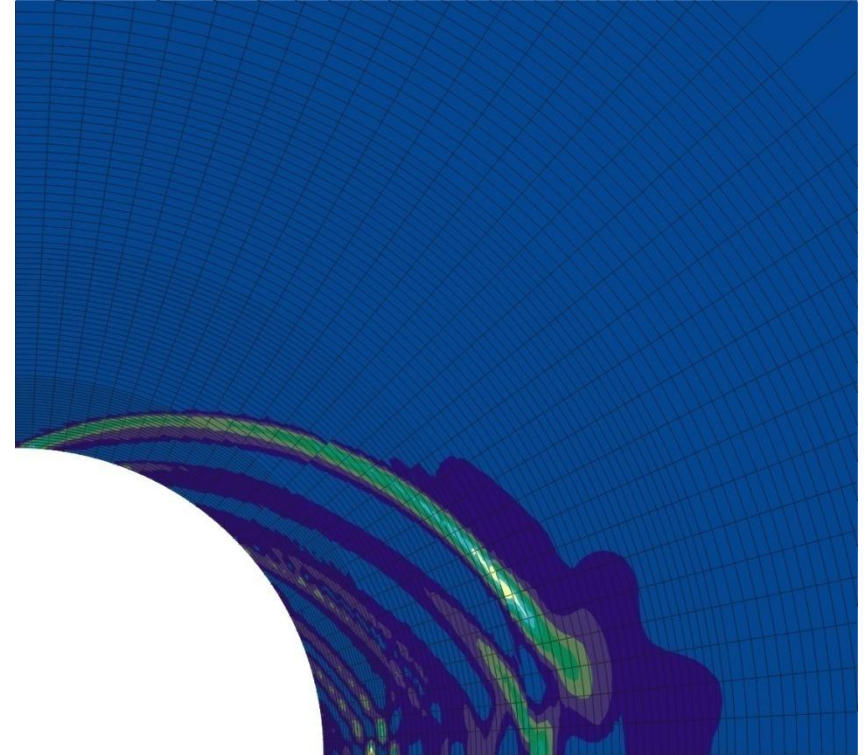


## Tunnelling



F. Collin, ULg

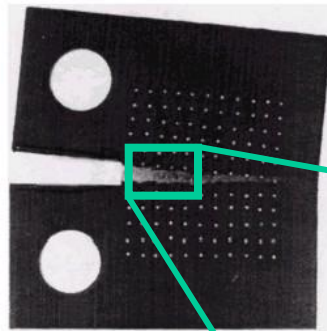
Deviatoric deformations



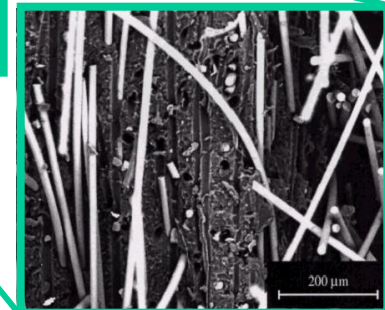
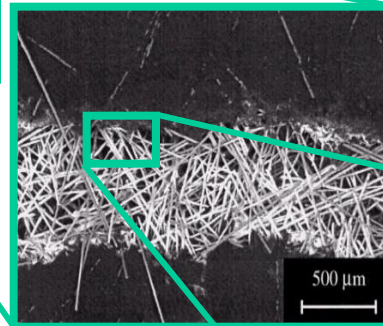
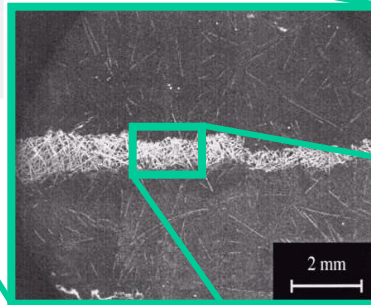
Deviatoric deformation gradients

Cracking changes mater. Properties (e.g. permeability)

## Composite failure (short fibers reinforced polypropylene)



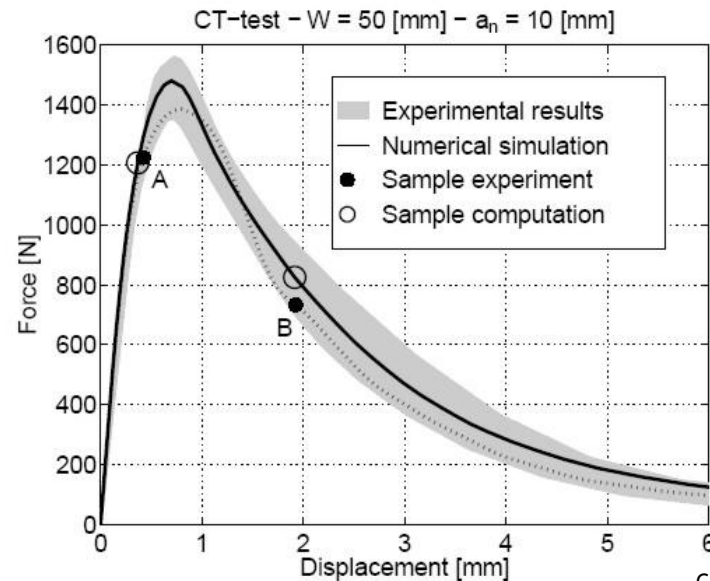
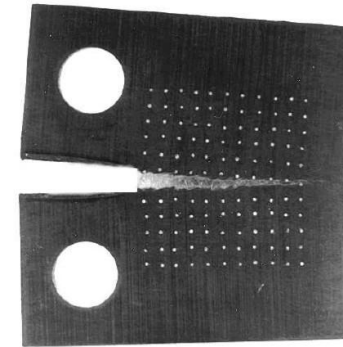
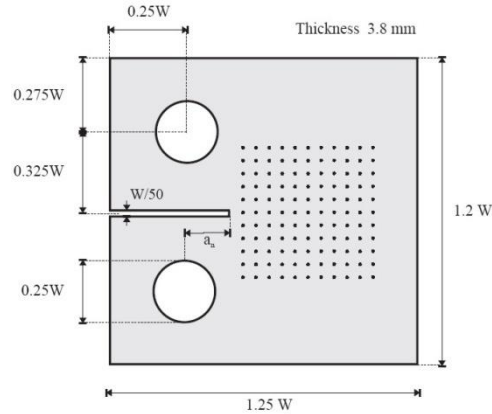
Geers, PhD Thesis (TUEindhoven, 1997)



Illustrates that the problems are often multi-scale in nature



## Composite failure - modelling



Geers, PhD Thesis (TUEindhoven, 1997)

## Crash test simulations



[<http://www.esi-group.com/Products/Crash>]

## Large displacements analyses

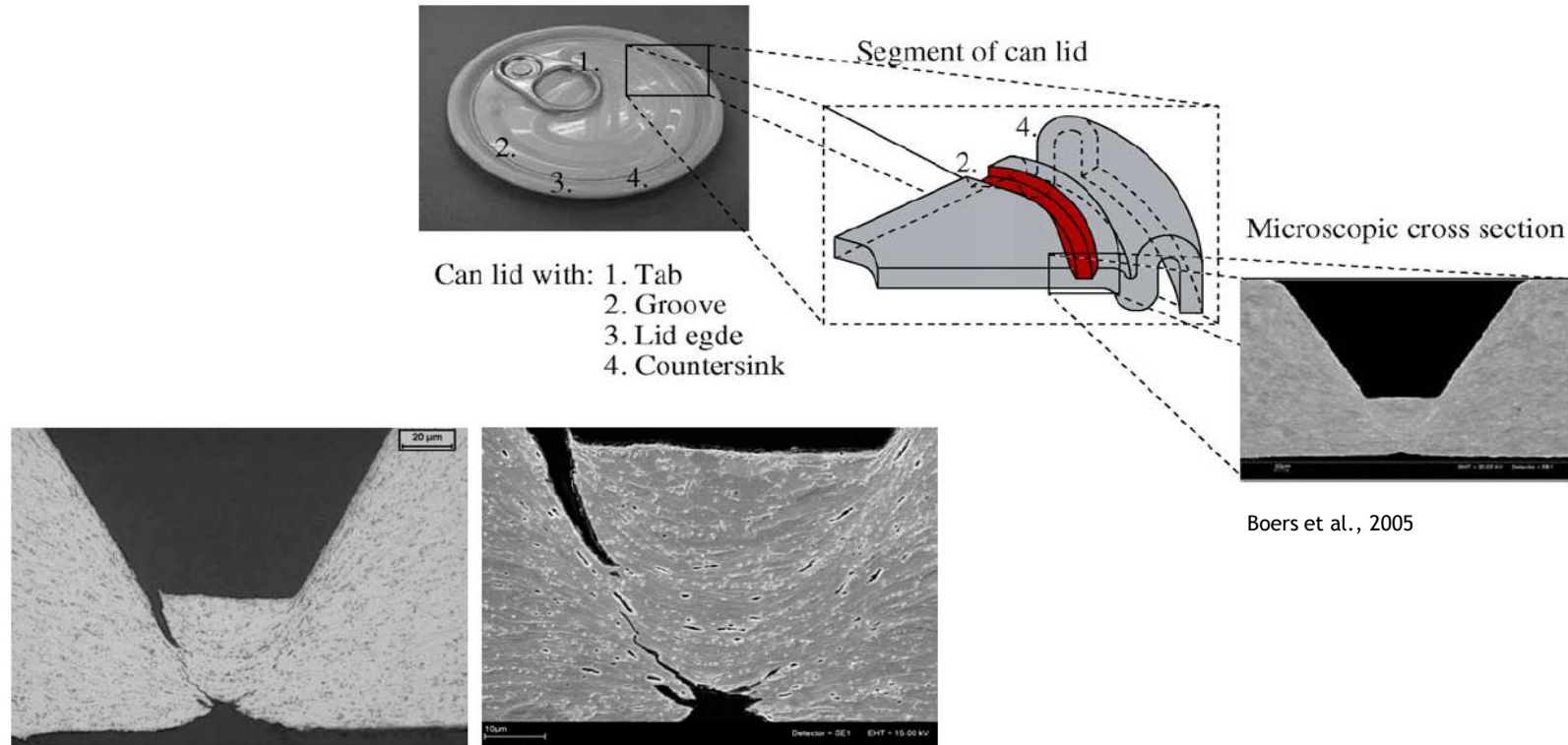


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Does the problem need to be formulated in the initial  
or deformed configuration ?



## Large deformations and failure



- Pre-damaging required to allow 'easy' opening
- However the sealing should not be compromised
- Computations can help optimising the process



## Computational tools are required

- Analytical approaches not always available
- In this case, efficiency of simulations is required

## But such tools are complex to formulate and use

- Global overview of the available methods is required
- A good end-user understanding is a key !

## Course objectives and targeted competencies

- Understand some main principles of nonlinear modeling
- Being able to detect the key aspects of a problem
- Being an 'entry point' for your future needs if any
- Understanding the limit of applicability of the proposed methods



## Course organization

- 4 Lecture sessions = 9 hours
- 1 Exercise session = 1 hour

## Remarks

- This course is an introduction, yours to complete by other readings  
[Zienkiewicz, Crisfield]
- There is no stupid question, only questions you do not dare to ask
- Constructive suggestions are welcome



1. Introduction and 'Prerequisites'
2. Geometrical nonlinearities
3. Material nonlinearities
4. Solution procedures for structural problems
5. A peak into advanced subjects