



# Dynamic Tensile Characterization of Foam Materials

**Bo Song**  
**Helena Jin**  
**Wei-Yang Lu**

**Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA**



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.



**Sandia National Laboratories**

# Polymeric Foams

- **Polymeric Foams**
  - Light weight
  - Superior energy absorption capabilities
  - Applications to impact events
    - Core material in sandwich structures

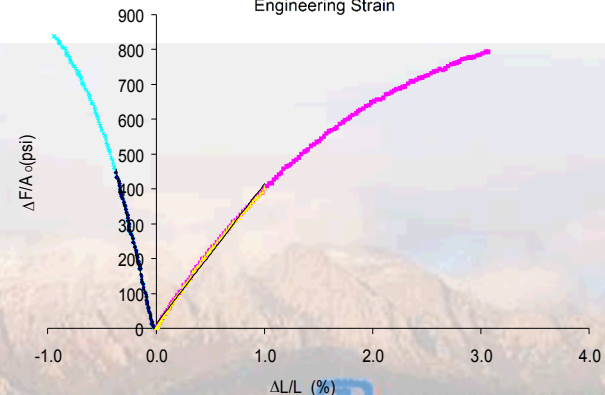
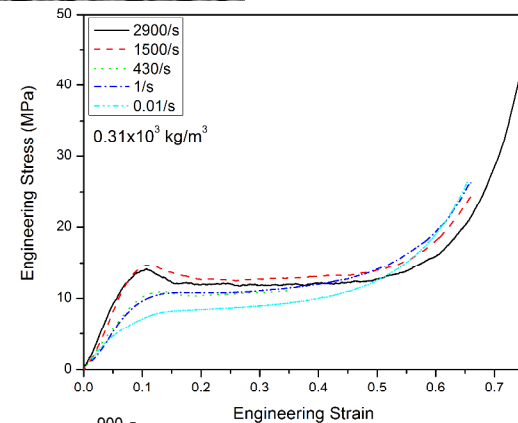
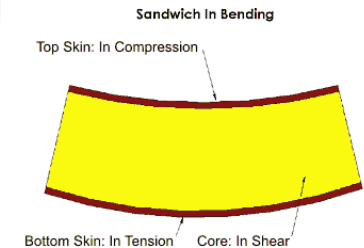
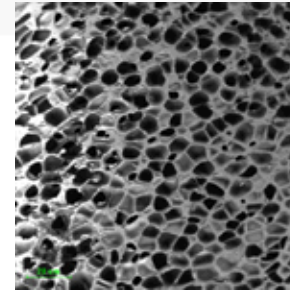
- **Unique mechanical response in compression and tension**

- **Significant difference in stress-strain response under compression and tension**

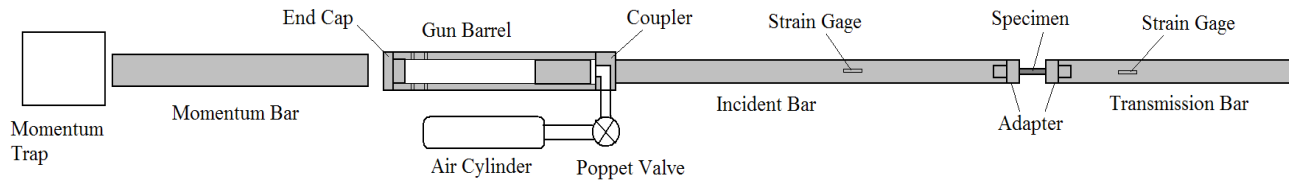
- Foam materials may be subjected to impact tension in applications

- ◆ Bending
- ◆ Spalling
- ◆ ...

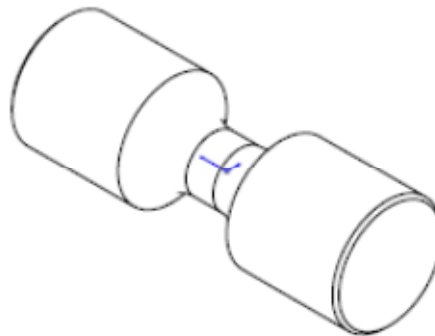
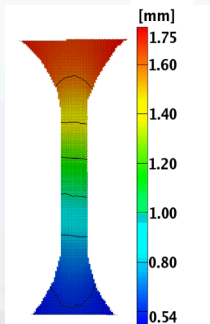
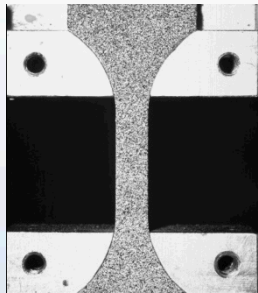
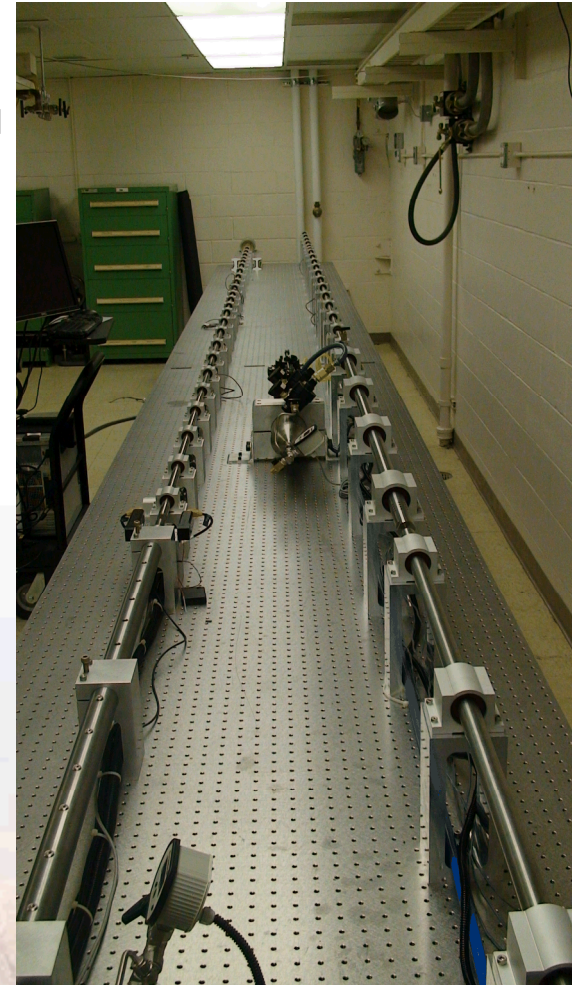
- **Dynamic tensile response is desirable**



# High-Rate Tensile Characterization with Kolsky Tension Bar



**Kolsky Tension Bar Developed at Sandia California**  
*(presented at 2010 SEM Annual Conference)*



**Plate Specimen**

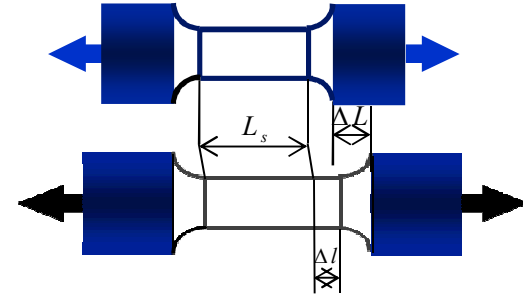
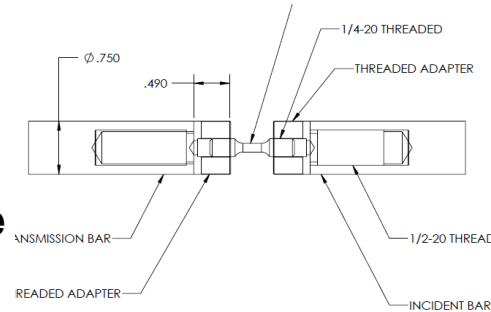
**Dumbbell Cylinder Specimen**



# Challenges

## ■ Stress measurement

- Low yield/failure strength
- Stress equilibrium
  - ◆ Short specimen gage length
  - ◆ Control of initial loading rate



## ■ Strain measurement

- Displacement measurement of incident bar end
  - ◆ Using incident and reflected pulses may not give precise measurement of displacement due to possible wave disturbance by adapters, ...
- Determination of gage length of dumbbell specimen

## ■ Synchronization of stress and strain histories

- Determination of the time for the stress wave propagating in the specimen
  - ◆ Longitudinal stress wave in the specimen material

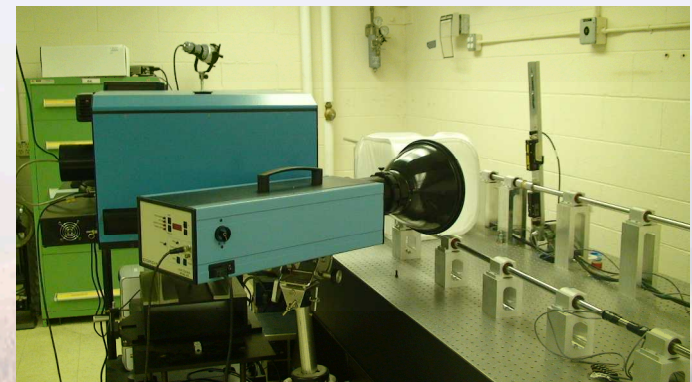
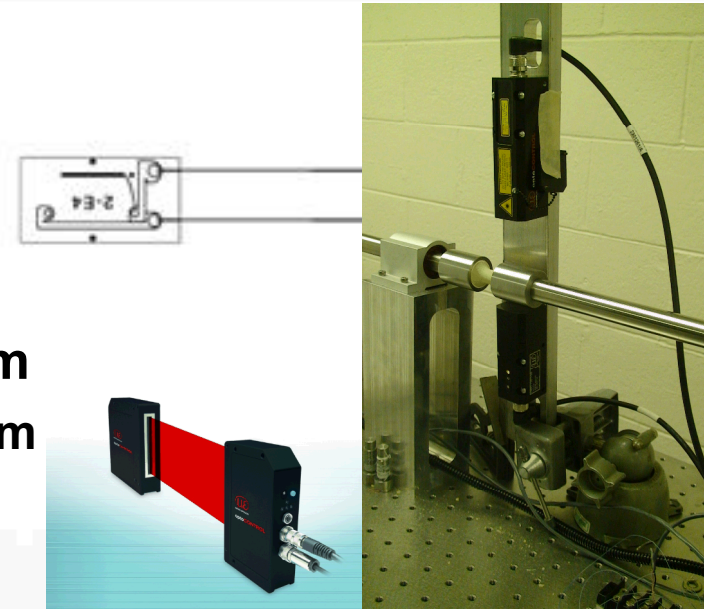




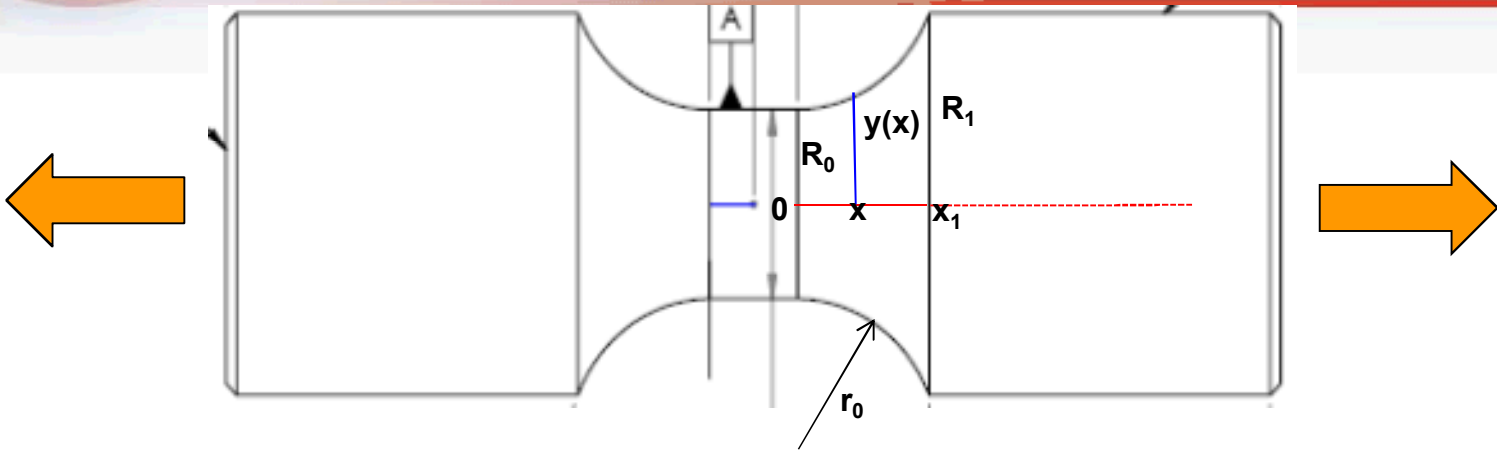
- **Semiconductor strain gages**
  - Specimen stress measurement
  - 70 times more sensitive in comparison to regular resistor strain gages
- **High-frequency-response laser beam system**
  - Micro-epsilon OptiControl Laser Beam System
    - ◆ 100 kHz frequency response
    - ◆ High resolution: 100  $\mu\text{m}$
  - Direct displacement measurement of the incident bar end

$$\varepsilon(t) = \frac{c' \cdot (\Delta L(t) - C_0 \int_0^t \varepsilon_T(\tau) d\tau)}{L_s}$$

- **High-speed digital image correlation (DIC)**



# Displacement Correction



## Radius

$$y(x) = R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \quad \begin{aligned} y(x=0) &= R_0 \\ y(x=x_1) &= R_1 \end{aligned}$$

## Area

$$A(x) = \pi \cdot y^2(x) = \pi \cdot \left[ R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \right]^2$$

## Strain

$$\varepsilon(x) = \frac{\sigma(x)}{E} = \frac{F}{E\pi \cdot \left[ R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \right]^2}$$

## Stress

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{F}{A(x)} = \frac{F}{\pi \cdot \left[ R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \right]^2}$$

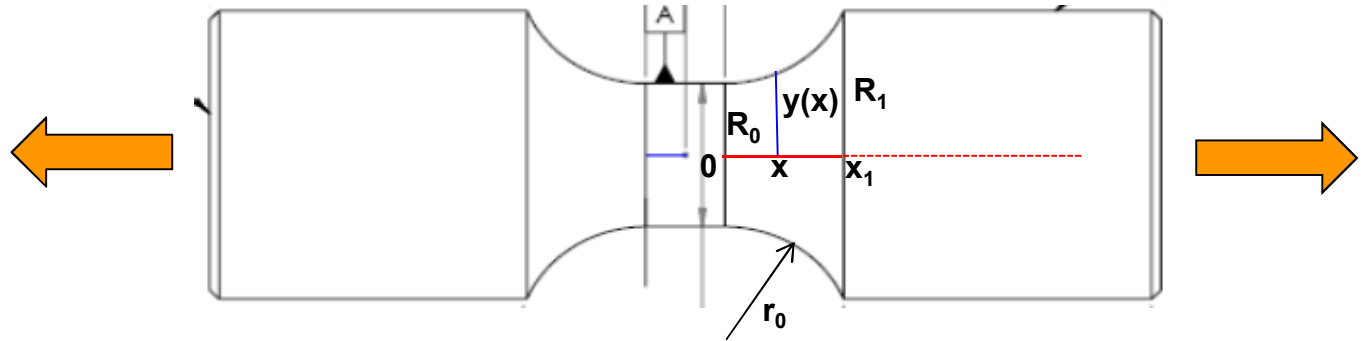
## Displacement

$$dl = \varepsilon(x)dx = \frac{Fdx}{E\pi \cdot \left[ R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \right]^2}$$



# Displacement Correction

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= 0.25 \\ r_0 &= 0.406 \\ L_s &= 0.25 \\ x_1 &= 0.375 \\ R_1 &= 0.5 \end{aligned}$$



**Total Displacement (non-gage section)**  $2l = \frac{2F}{E\pi} \int_0^{x_1} \frac{dx}{\left[ R_0 + \left( r_0 - \sqrt{r_0^2 - x^2} \right) \right]^2} = \frac{2F}{E\pi} \times 4.122$

**Total Displacement (gage section)**  $l_g = \varepsilon_g L_s = \frac{F}{E\pi} \cdot \frac{L_s}{R_0^2} = \frac{4F}{E\pi}$

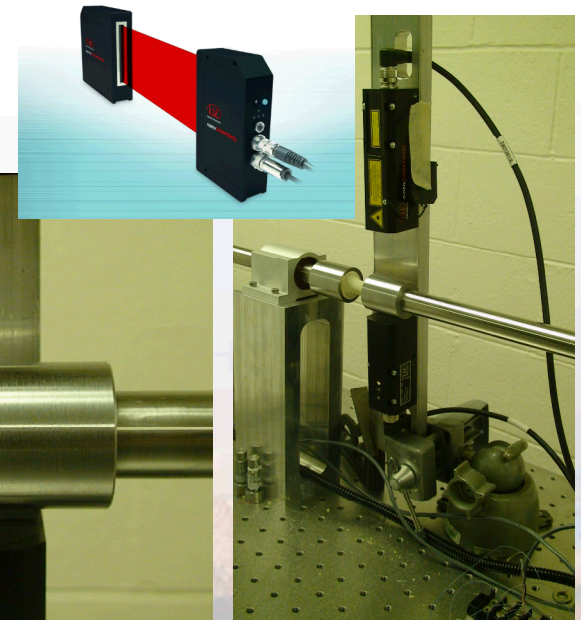
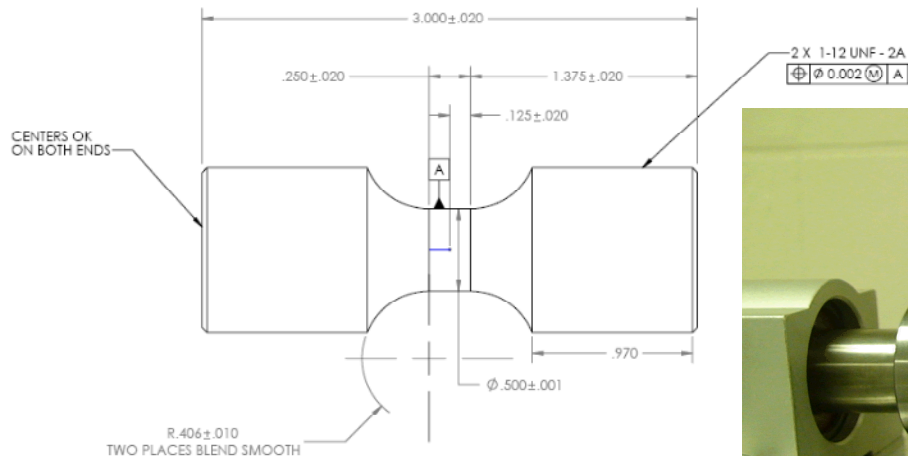
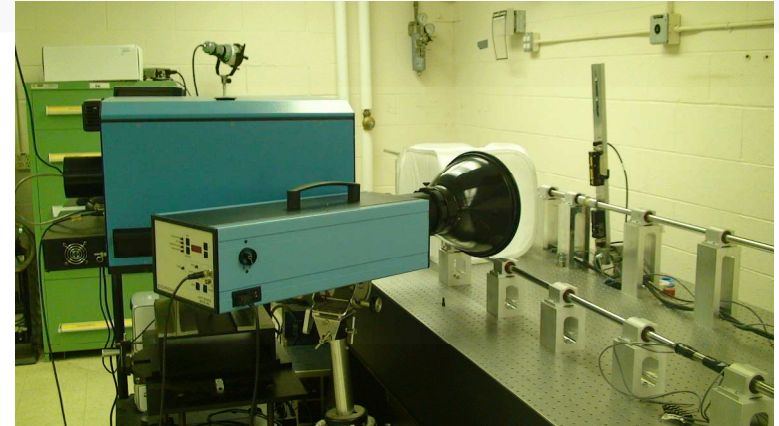
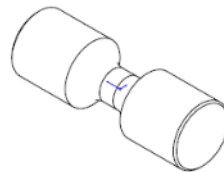
**Correction Coefficient**  $c' = \frac{l_g}{L} = \frac{l_g}{l_g + 2l} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2l}{l_g}} = 0.3267$





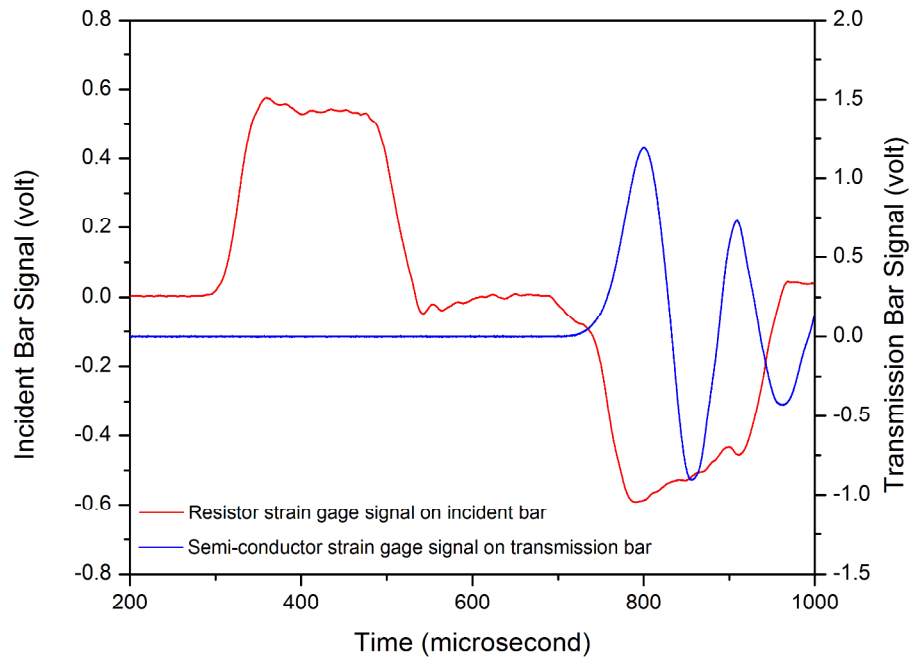
# Example: Dynamic Tensile Characterization of PMDI Foam

- **Material and specimens**
  - Polymethylene diisocyanate (PMDI) foam: 16PCF
  - Specimens



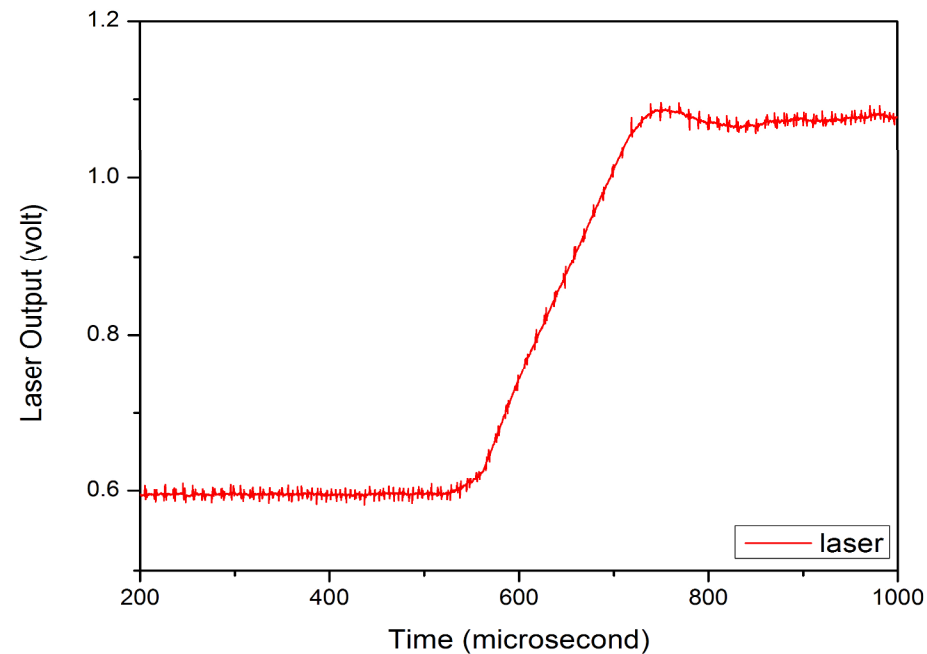


# Oscilloscope Records

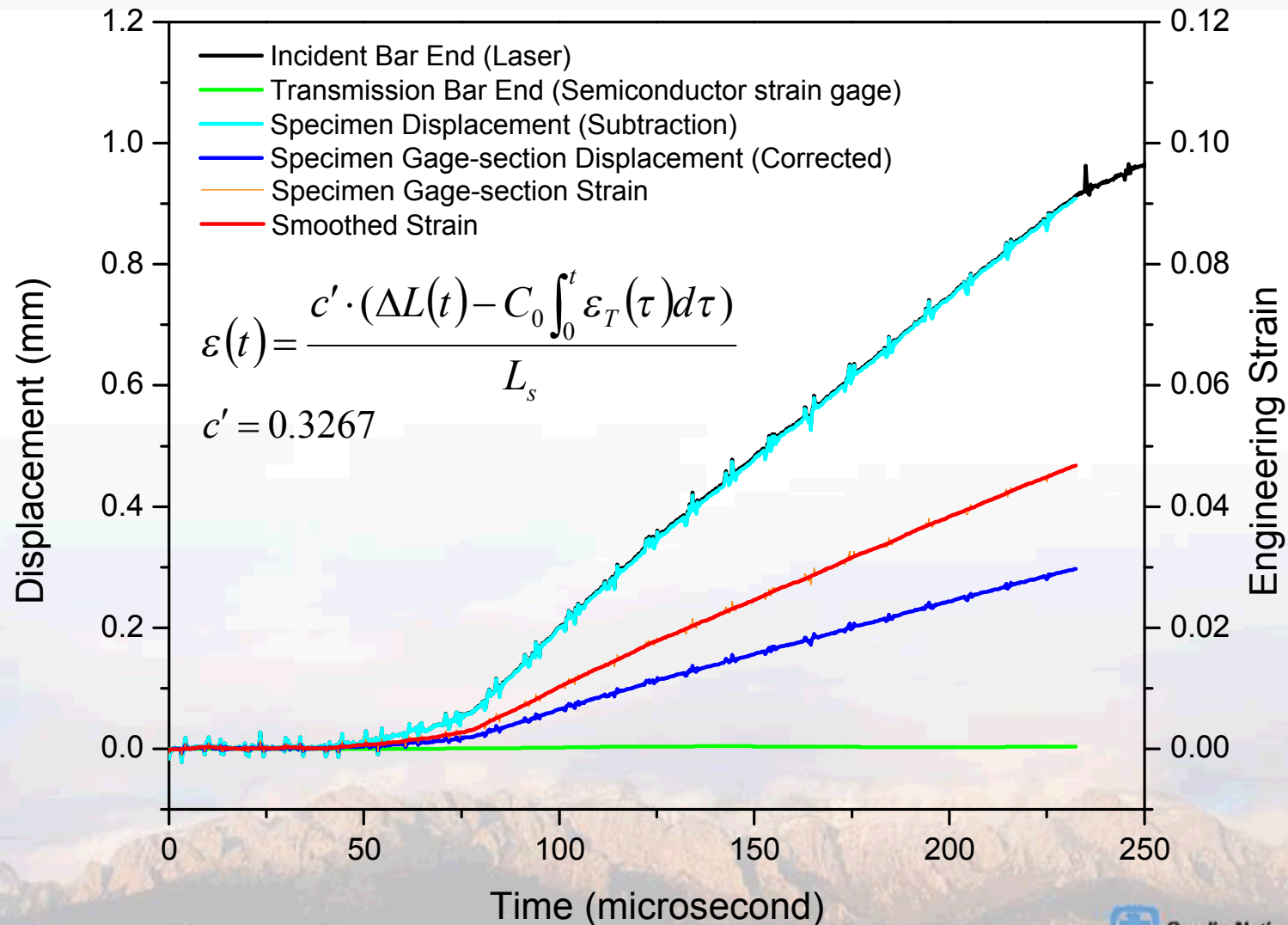


**Bar-strain-gage Output**

**Laser Beam Output**

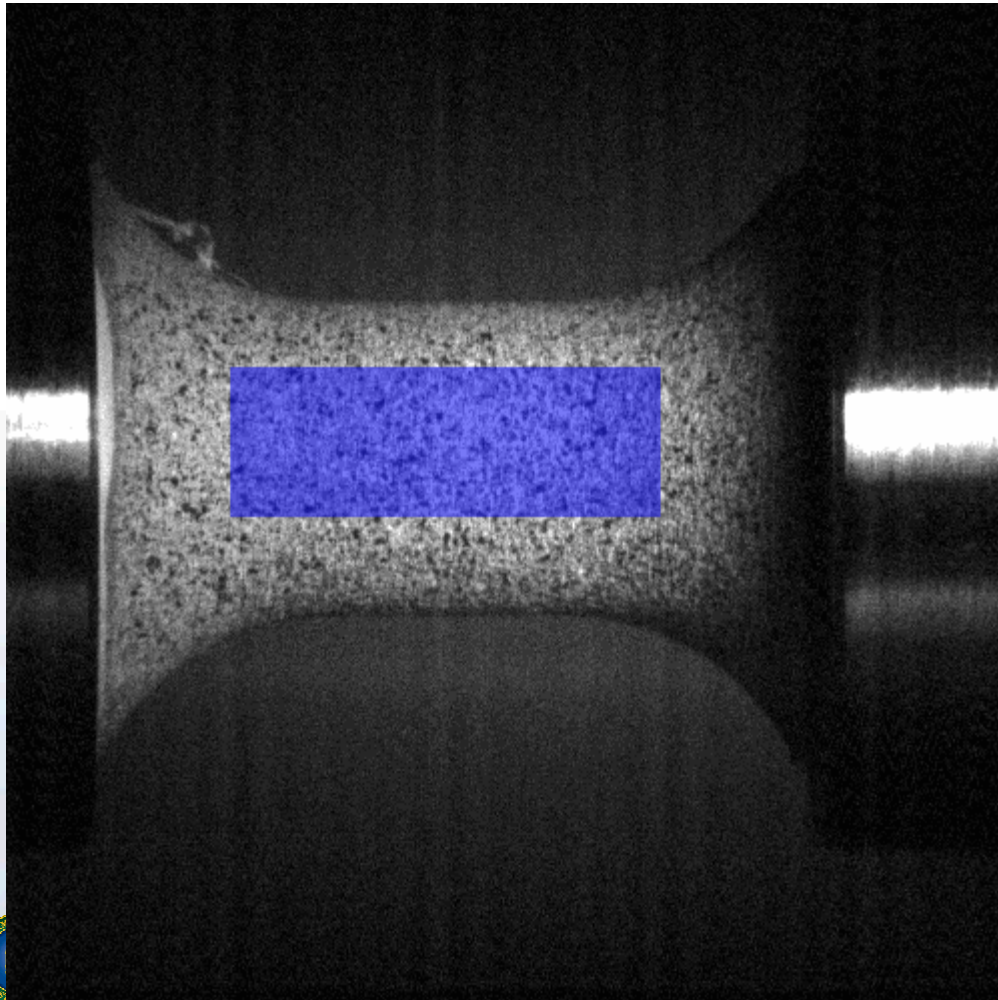


# Displacement and Strain Histories

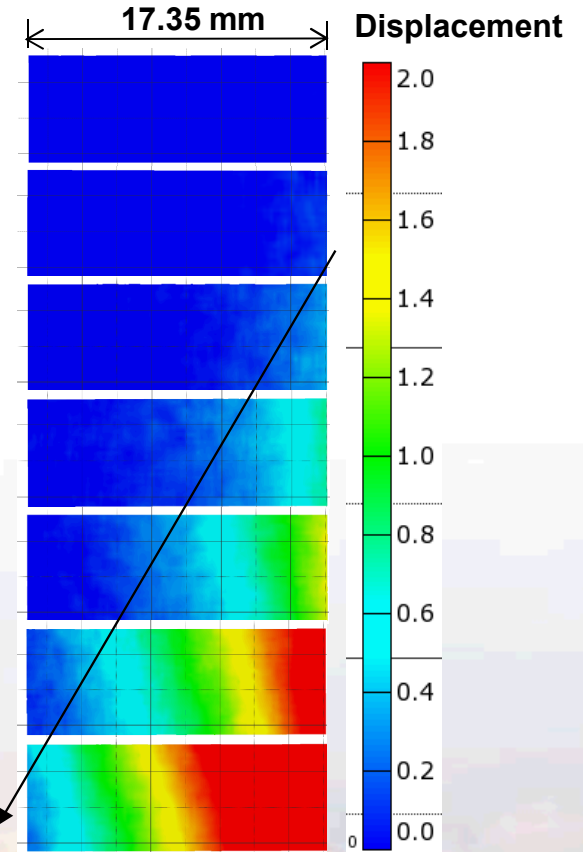


# Longitudinal Wave Speed in Foam Specimen

High-rate Digital Image Correlation (DIC)



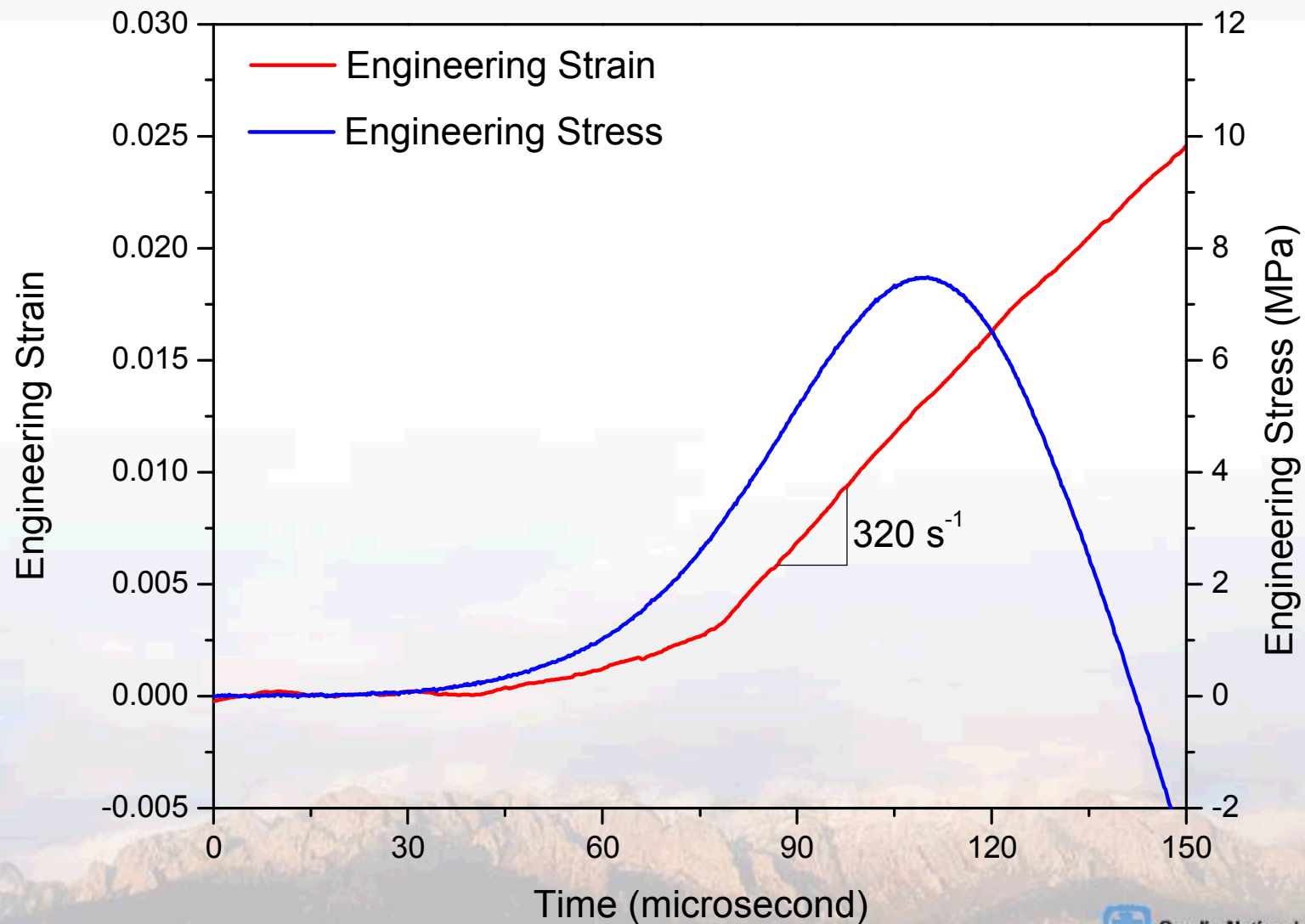
0.375" gage length  
(3.125" total length)



$C \approx 525 \text{ m/s}$

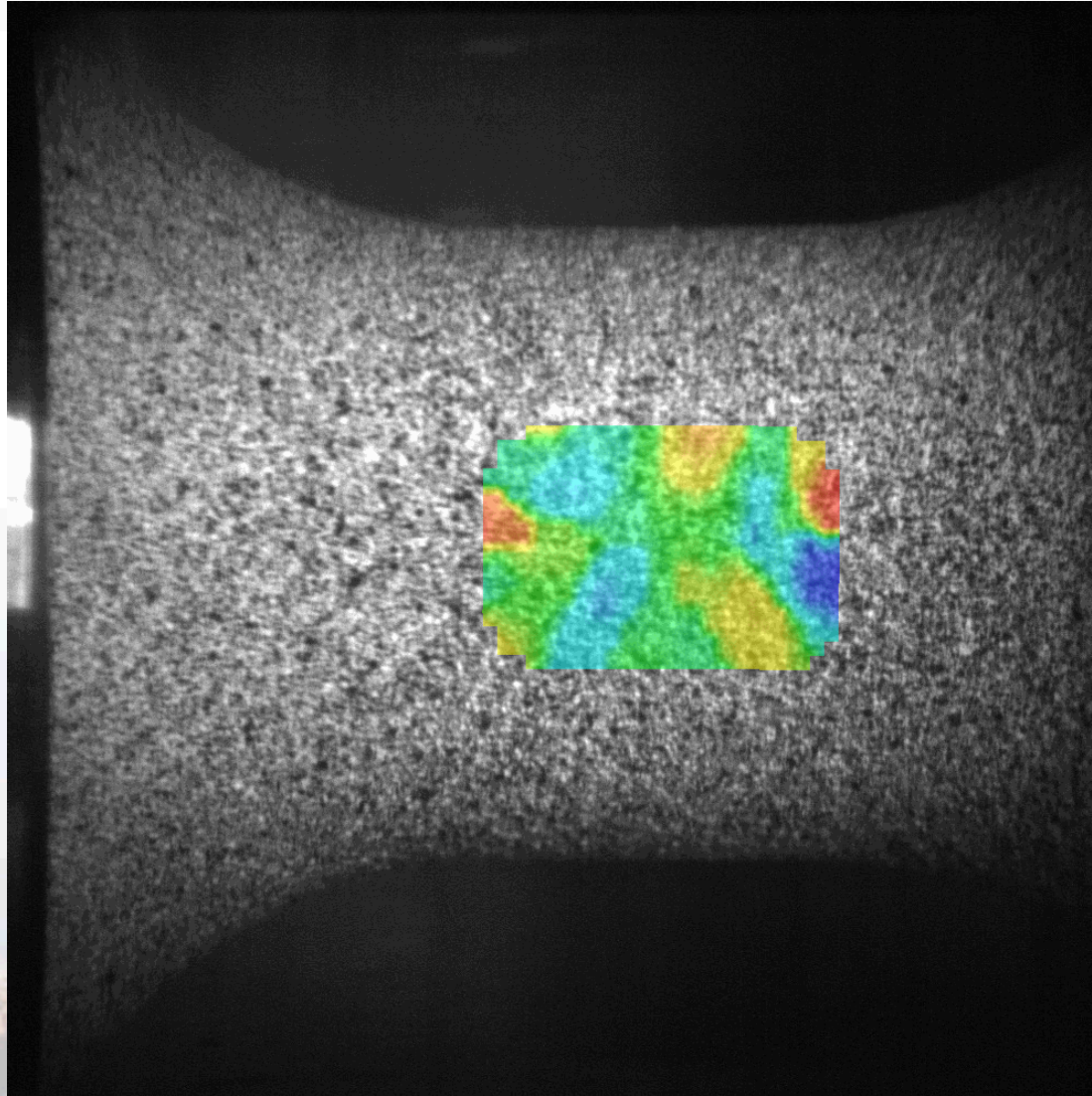
Time interval: 6.6 microsecond

# Synchronized Stress and Strain Histories

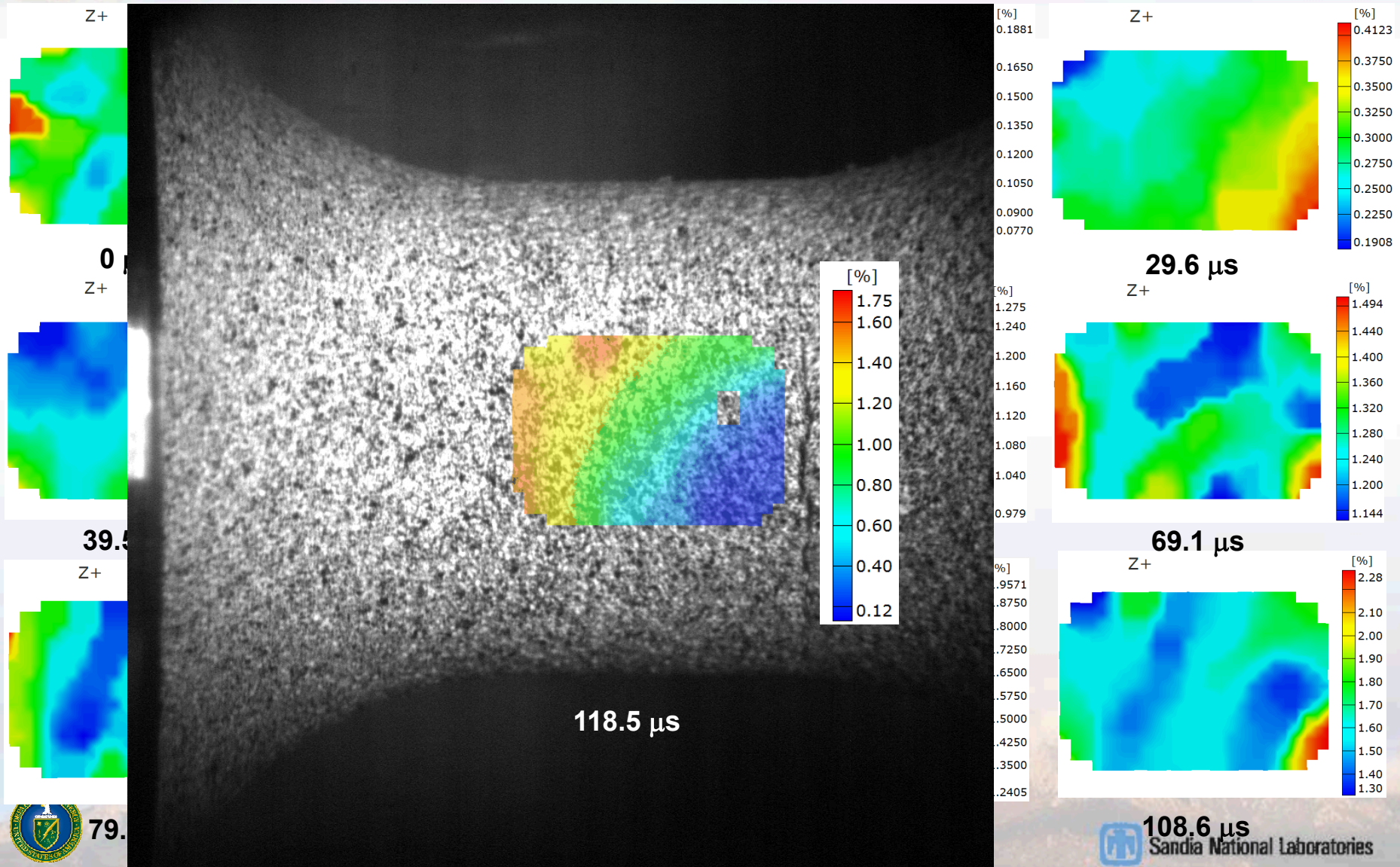




# Uniform Deformation

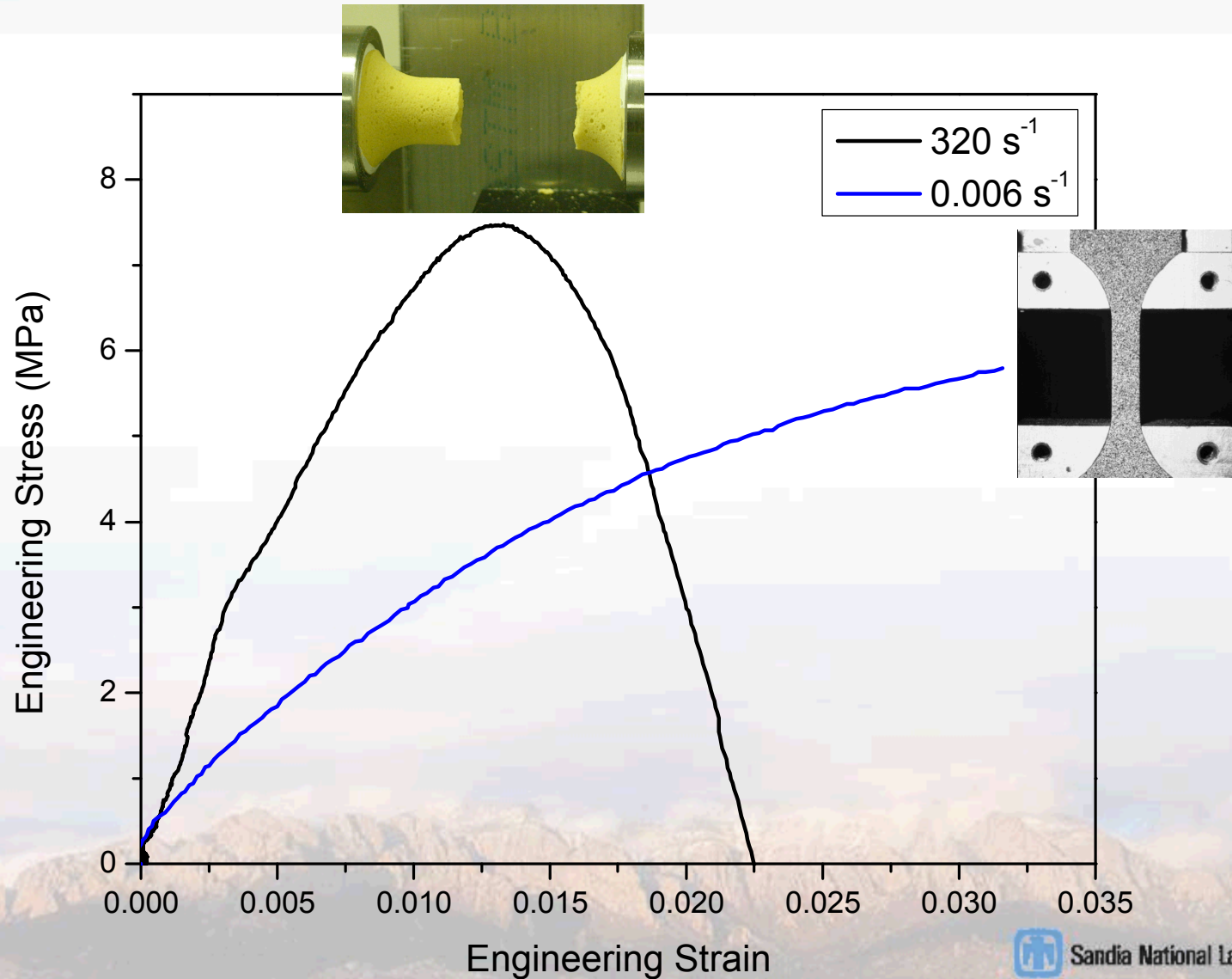


# Uniform Deformation





# Stress-Strain Curve





# Summary

- **High-rate tensile experimental procedure with the Kolsky tension bar has been developed for characterization of foam materials**
  - **Stress measurement: semiconductor strain gages**
  - **Strain measurement:**
    - **Laser beam measurement**
    - **Specimen gage length correction**
  - **Stress/strain synchronization:**
    - **Determination of longitudinal wave speed in foam material (high rate DIC)**
- **Validation and verification of testing conditions (stress equilibrium/uniform deformation)**
  - **Pulse shaping technique**
  - **Short specimen gage length**
  - **High-rate digital image correlation**



**As an example, dynamic tensile stress-strain curve of PMDI foam (16PCF) was obtained at  $320 \text{ s}^{-1}$**



Sandia National Laboratories