



# **Challenges in Joint Modeling for Structural Dynamics**

**Why This Issue is Important and  
Why These Problems are Hard**

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# Outline

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- **Predictive Modeling**
  - Where it is Important
  - The Tall Pole in the Tent
- **Empirical Properties of Joints: Softening and Dissipation**
- **Why Joint Modeling is Hard**
  - More Elements is not a Solution
  - Local Properties are only Part of the Story
- **Standard Practice**
- **The Beginning of an Approach to Accommodate Joint Nonlinearities**
- **How Life Should Be**
  - Mapping from multiscale physics to FE environment
  - Roark's Handbook for properties and parameters



# Where We *Must* be Predictive -

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**Where correct answers are necessary and either experiments are just too expensive or are impossible**

- satellites**
- next generation space telescopes**
- jet engines and jet engine failure**
- nuclear weapons systems**



# Predictive Modeling – Is that not what we already do?

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- In general, engineers use simulation
  - To interpolate/extrapolate among experiments  
Note the tuned parameters
  - To help explain experiments
  - To help design experiments
  - To provide design guidance
  - To estimate factors of safety
- We generally do not try to predict with precision
  - Finer than the intrinsic variability of the problems
  - That which requires physics for which there are no models



# **Traditional Barriers to Predictive Modeling**

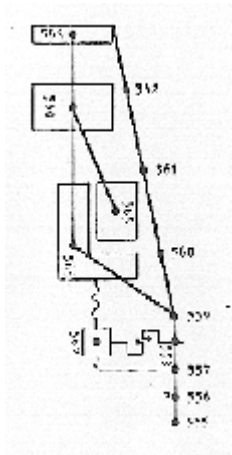
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- **Discretization error**
- **Uncertainty in Material Properties**
- **Uncertainty in loads/boundary conditions**
- **Missing Physics - Interface Mechanics (Joints)**

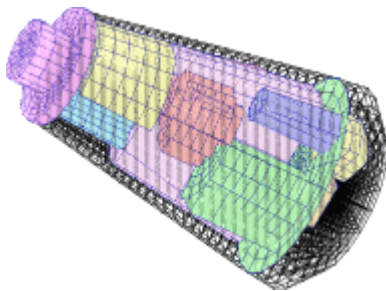
# Discretization Error: Less of an Issue Now Than in the Past

800,000 dof

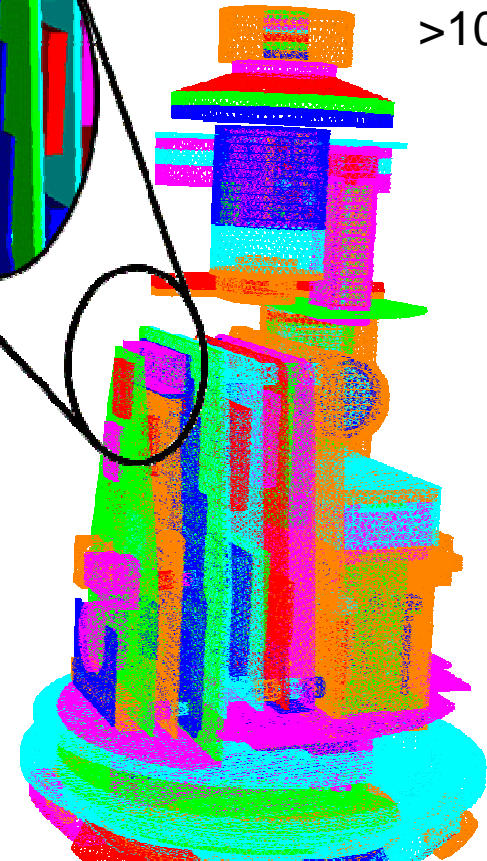
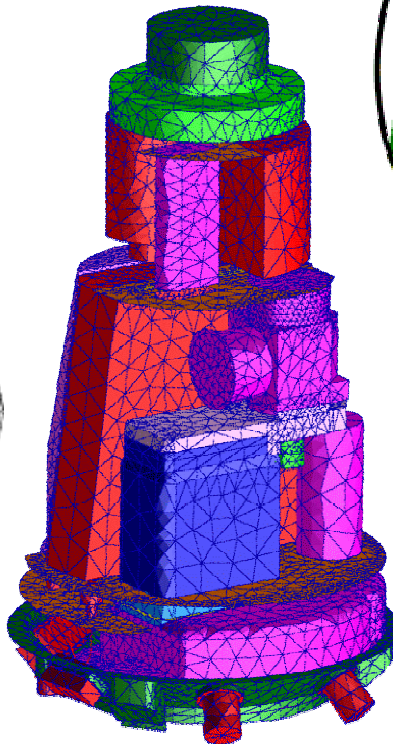
Today:  
SALINAS MP  
>10M dof.



10 years ago:  
Shellshock 2D  
NASTRAN  
200 dof



Recent Past:  
NASTRAN  
MC2912  
30,000 dof





# Traditional Barriers to Predictive Modeling

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- **Discretization error**
  - Mitigated substantially by MP technology
- **Uncertainty in Material Properties**
  - Subject of separate research efforts
- **Uncertainty in loads/boundary conditions**
  - Better measured, calculated, or bounded
- **Missing Physics**
  - **Interface Mechanics (Joints)**
    - The Tall Pole in the Tent
    - Topic of this workshop

Topics  
include  
misfit,  
interference,  
and  
variability



# Significance of Joint Mechanics to Structural Dynamics

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- A (*the*\*) major source of vibration damping
- A (*the* \*) major source of system non-linearity
- A (*the* \*) major source of part-to-part variability
- A (*the* \*) principle missing physics element of the simulation effort

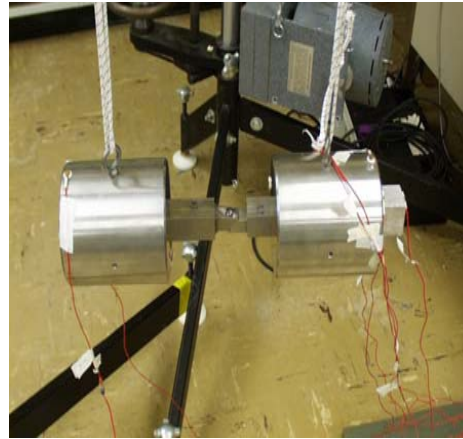
\*depending on configuration and load



# Major Experiments on Joints



Base Excitation  
at Resonance



Ring-Down of  
Free Vibration



Quasi-Static  
Pull

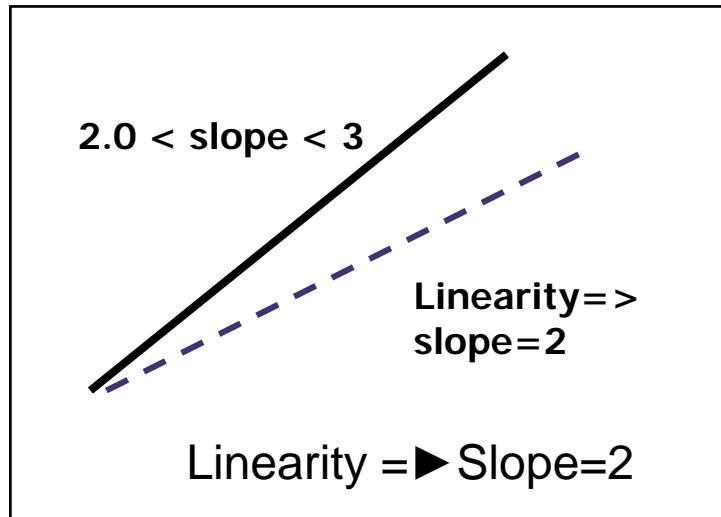
Intrinsic difficulty of joint testing – the key physics is in a hidden interface

- The necessity of complementary joint-less specimens
- The limitations of quasi-static pull

# Empirical Nonlinearity of Joints

## Base Excitation or Free Vibration

Log(Dissipation/Cycle)

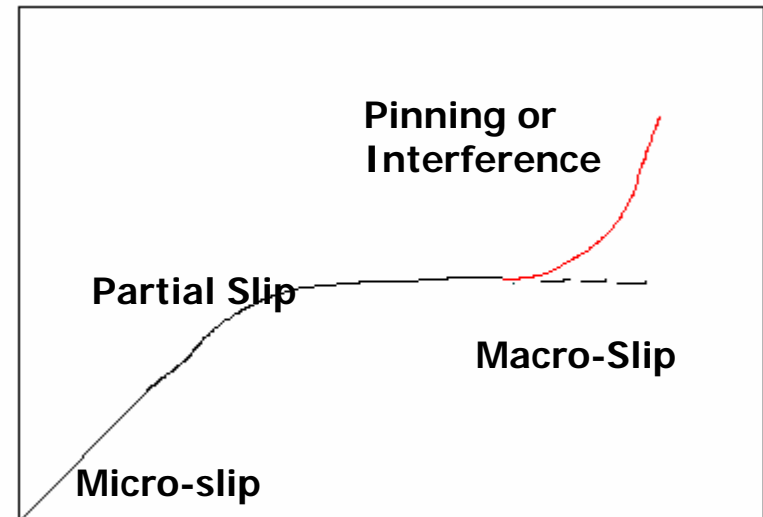


Log(|Force|)

**Nonlinearities even at Small Displacement**

## Monotonic Pull

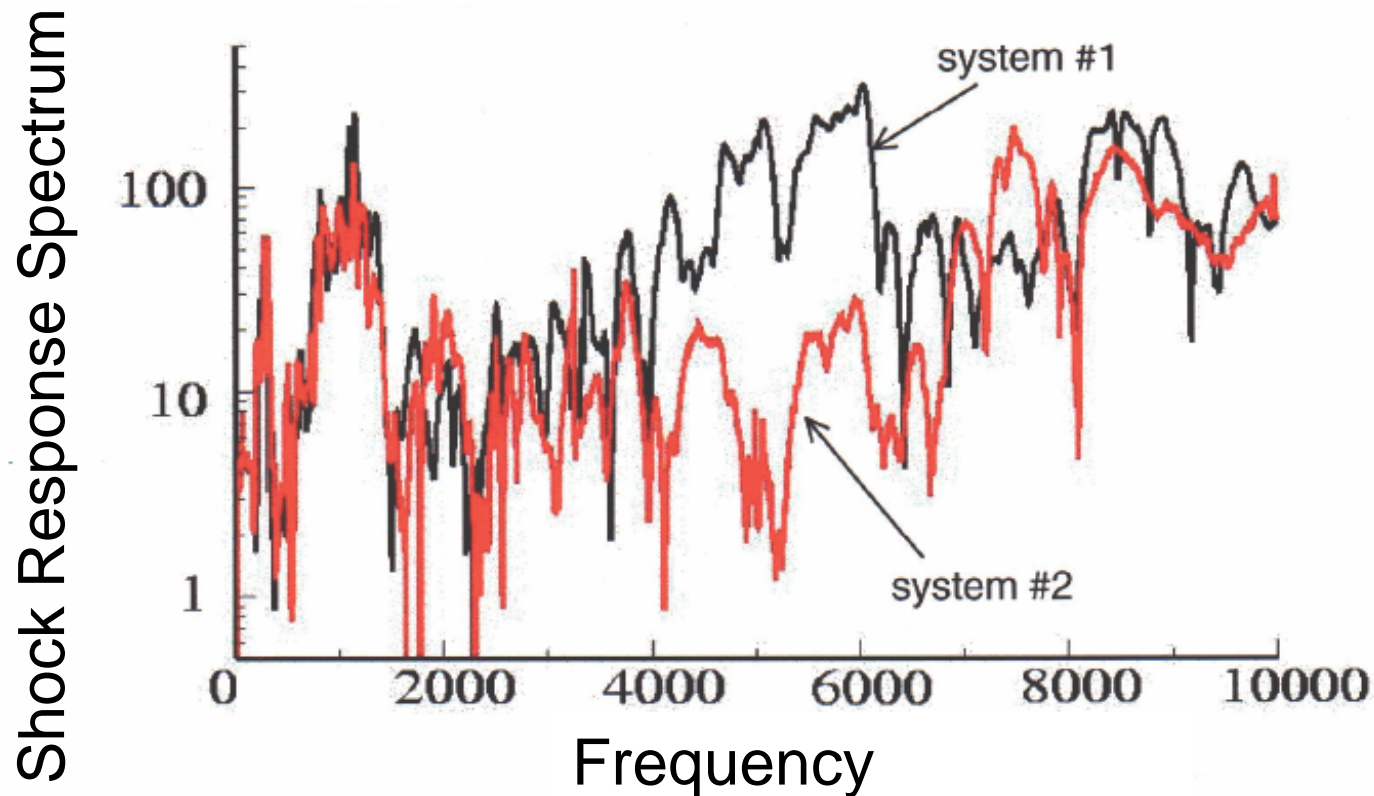
Force



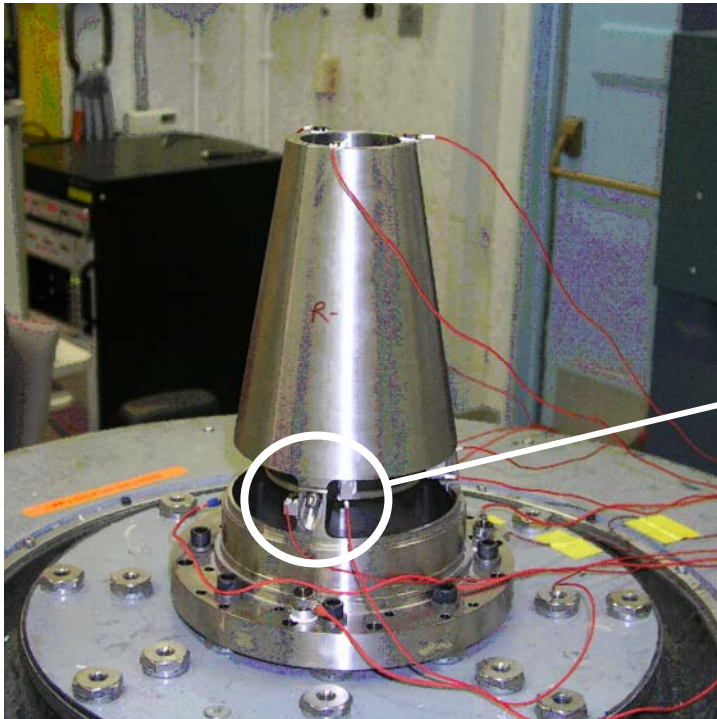
Displacement

**Large Displacement**

# Example of Variability Due to Joints



# Example of Nonlinearity Due to Joints

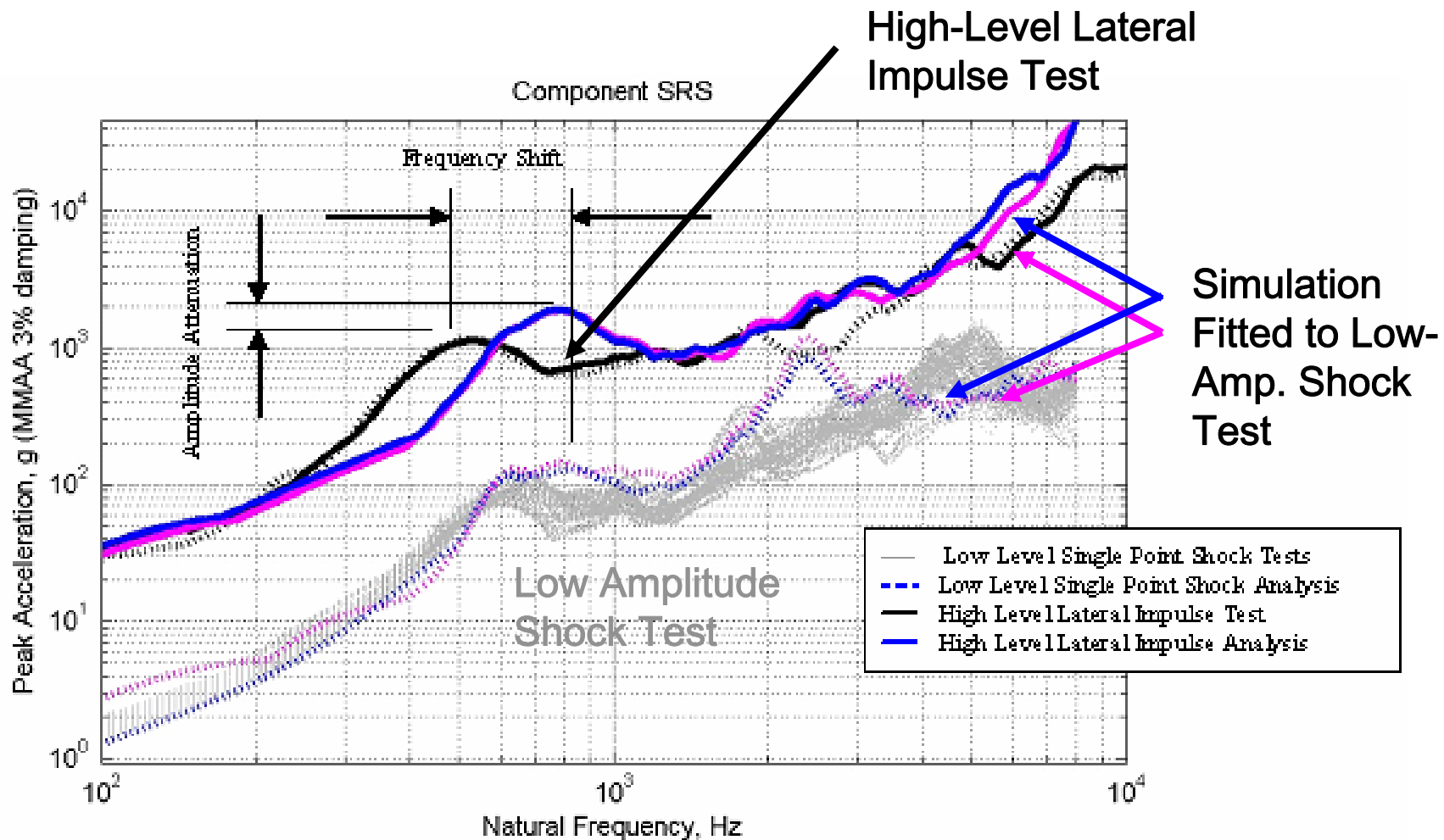


**Mock sub-structure of a generic built-up assembly**



**Subject to various levels of transient lateral base excitation.**

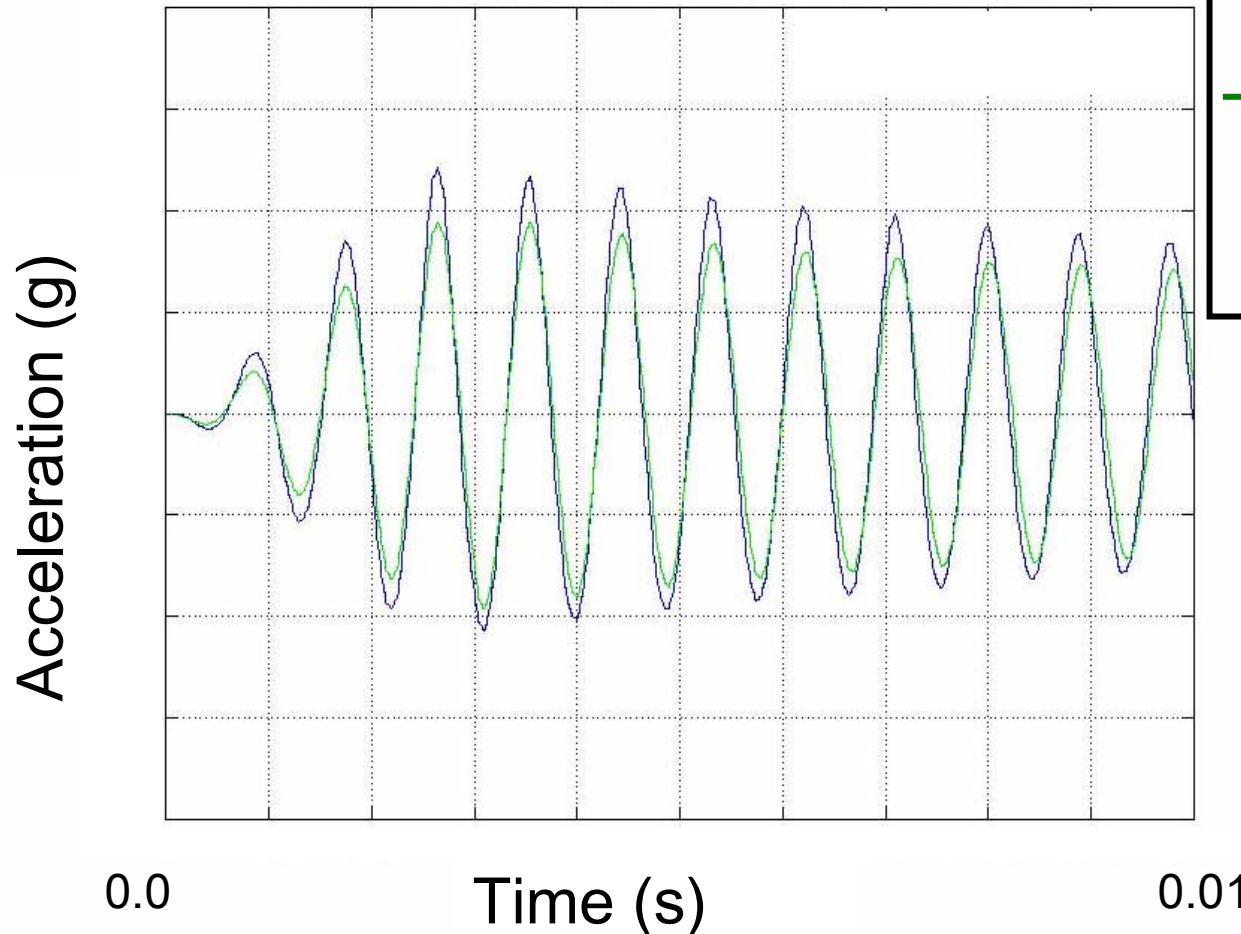
# Nonlinearities Indicated by Shock Response Spectra: Particularly Stiffness Nonlinearity



**wah1**      The upper blue and magenta curves correspond to simulation predictions (linear model) for high-level lateral impulse tests.  
waholzm, 1/17/2005



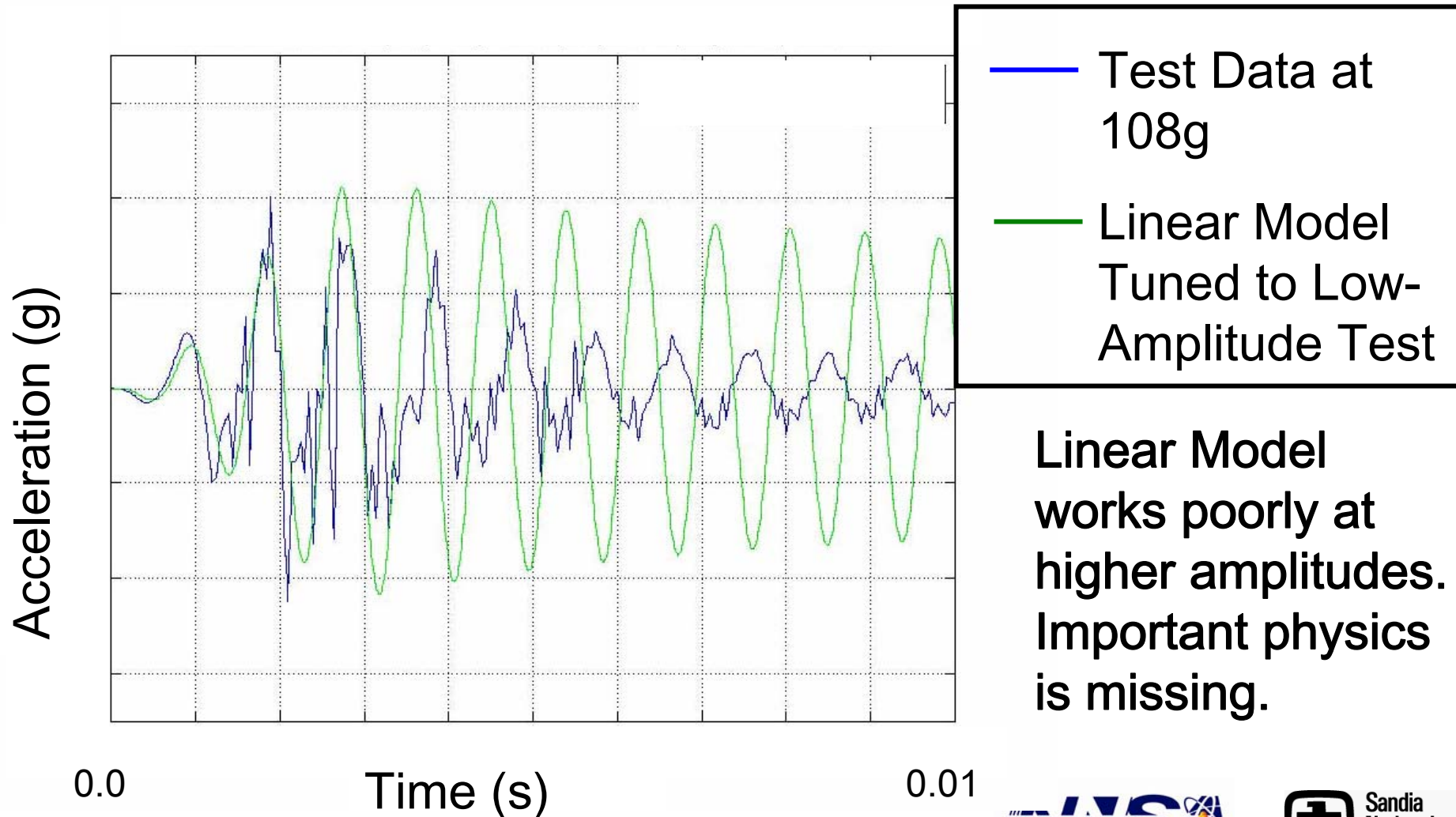
# How Well Does a Linear Model Do when Tuned to a Given Experiment?



— Test Data at 10g  
— Linear Model  
Tuned to THIS  
Test

Linear Model  
works well at the  
amplitude at  
which it was  
tuned.

# How Well Does that Linear Model Do when Tested on a Different Experiment?





# Why Joint Modeling is So Difficult

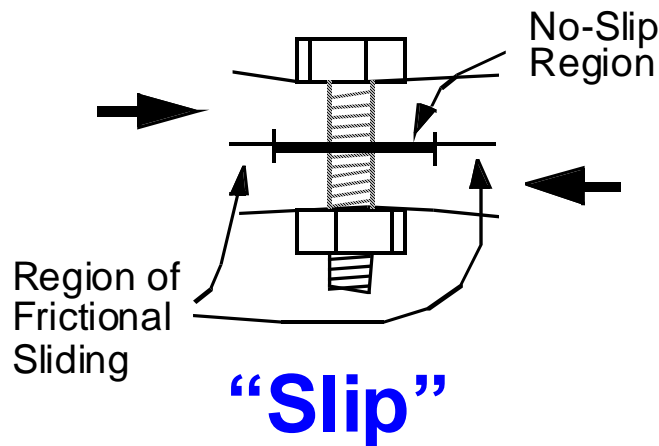
- Moving boundaries
- Intrinsically multiscale
- Nonlocal



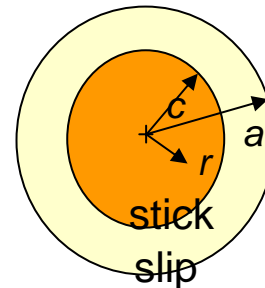
Structure  
~ meters



component ~  
centimeters



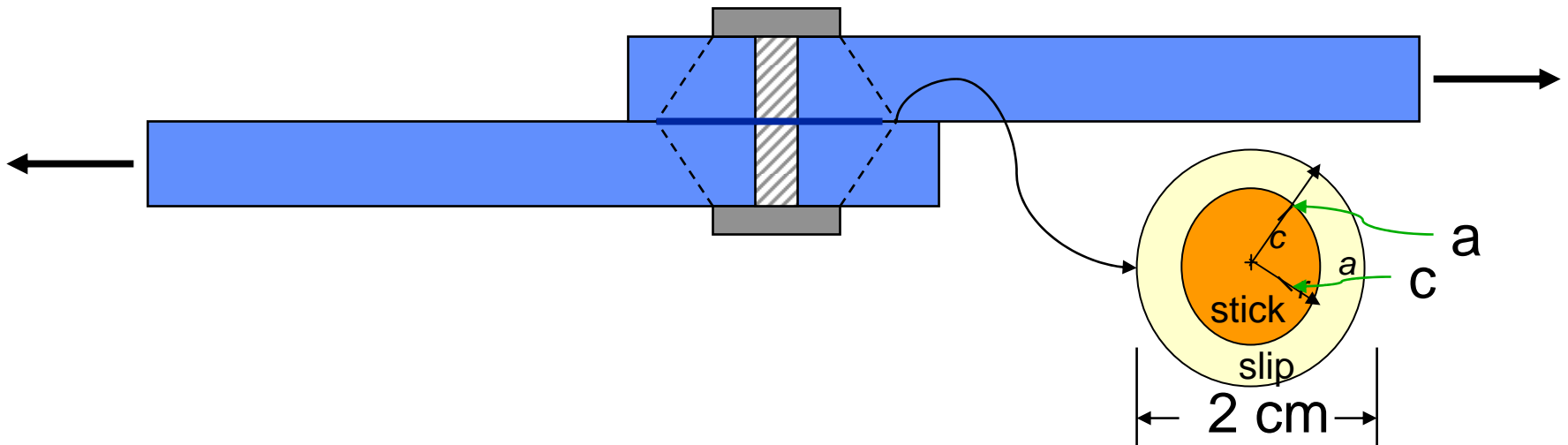
Contact  
patch ~ cm



Slip zone  
~100  $\mu\text{m}$

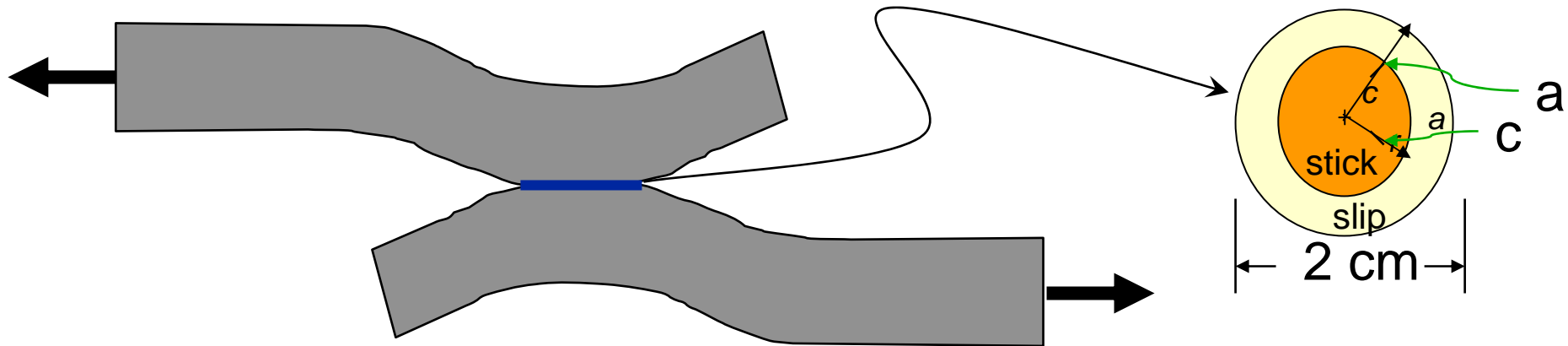
# Illustration of Computational Difficulties

- Consider a lap joint with dimensions selected so that the contact patch is circular of radius  $a=1$  cm



- Approximate the elastic contact problem with the Mindlin solution for two spheres.

# Estimation of Interface Dimensions



- **Normal Load**  $N = 4000$  Newtons
- **Lateral Loads**  $L \in (0.05\mu N, 0.8\mu N)$
- **Elasticity that of Steel**
- **Slip Zone:**

Say our interest  
in structural  
response is in  
100Hz-3500Hz

$$\frac{c}{a} = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{L}{\mu N} \right) \right]^{1/3} \Rightarrow \frac{c}{a} \in (0.58, 0.98) \Rightarrow \frac{a-c}{a} \in (0.02, 0.42)$$

# Necessary Finite Element Scales Courant Times

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- For case of small tangential loads  $L = 0.05 \mu N$   
element dimension in slip zone necessary to  
capture dissipation is  $l = \frac{a - c}{10} = 20 \mu m$  and  
Courant time is 4 ns
- To simulate 10 ms (one cycle of 100 Hz  
vibration) requires 2.5E6 time steps.

Compare this with 3E4 time steps if the  
problem were linear and solved implicitly

# Even if This Problem is Solved Quasi-Statically

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- In each load cycle, the width of the slip zone twice spans from  $a - c = 0$  to  $a - c = 0.42$
- With characteristic element size in the contact patch

$$l = \frac{a - c}{10} = 20 \mu m$$

- Observing that quasi-static contact has difficulty changing stick-slip status of more than one node at a time and each time step required numerous iterations
- Approximately 800 steps per cycle are required, each representing hundreds of iterations.

Conservation of Cussedness



# Simply Employing More Elements is not the Solution

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- One cannot reasonably directly slave a micro-mechanics contact algorithm to a structural dynamics analysis.
- Tools are needed to cross the dimensions

# Interface Mechanics Involve More than Local Constitutive Behavior

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- The surface degrees of freedom on an elastic body are coupled through the elastic fields within the body.

$$\tau(x) = \int_S G(x, y) u(y) dA$$

- Displacement is solved subject to constraints

$$\dot{u}(x) (|\tau(x)| - \mu \sigma_N) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |\tau(x)| \leq \mu \sigma_N$$

- Refinement of the friction constitutive equation still leaves a difficult nonlinear system of equations to solve

Refinement of frictional laws may be necessary to obtain better answers, but it cannot simplify the problem

# Standard Practice for Ignoring the Nonlinearity of Joints in Structural Dynamics

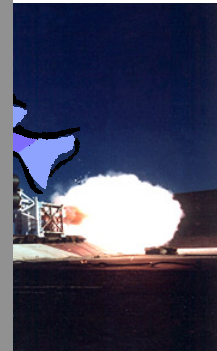
## How Elements of Process



- Assume system to be linear
- Represent each joint DOF as a linear spring
- Build and test a prototype structure
- Tune the spring stiffnesses to match frequencies
- Tune modal (or more complicated) damping to match damping of structure

Analyst of  
coarse model  
model put  
tunable s  
interface  
postulating  
proportional/modal  
damping

stiffness and modal  
damping to match  
test. He then makes  
prediction







# Not Predictive for Real Systems

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**If you have to build the full structure in order to predict structural response, then you are not predictive.**

**The problem is fundamentally nonlinear and important phenomena cannot be captured by tuned linear models. (Silk purse/Sow's ear issue.)**

# The Beginning of an Approach to Accommodate Joint Nonlinearities

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What would be the first step to bring more physics into the analysis?

- Explicitly account for the joint nonlinearity
- Place a joint model at the location of the actual joint.

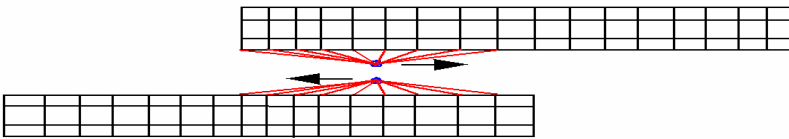
## Strategy

- Represent the whole joint with a small number of scalar constitutive models.
- Determine the parameters of these models either from micro-modeling or from experiments on individual joints.

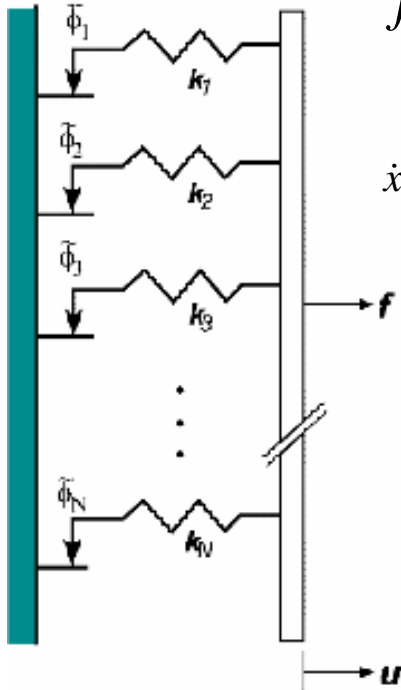
D.J. Segalman ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics, V. 72, 752 (2005)

D.J. Segalman, Structural Control and Health Monitoring  
V. 13, Issue 1, (2006)

# The Whole-Joint Approximation and Iwan Models for Shear Joints

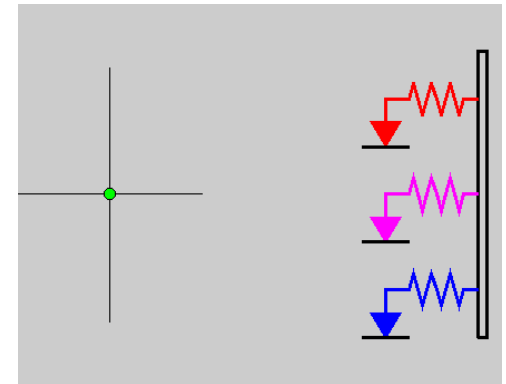


Whole-Joint approximation for interface



$$f(t) = \int_0^\infty \rho(\phi)[u(t) - x(t, \phi)] d\phi$$

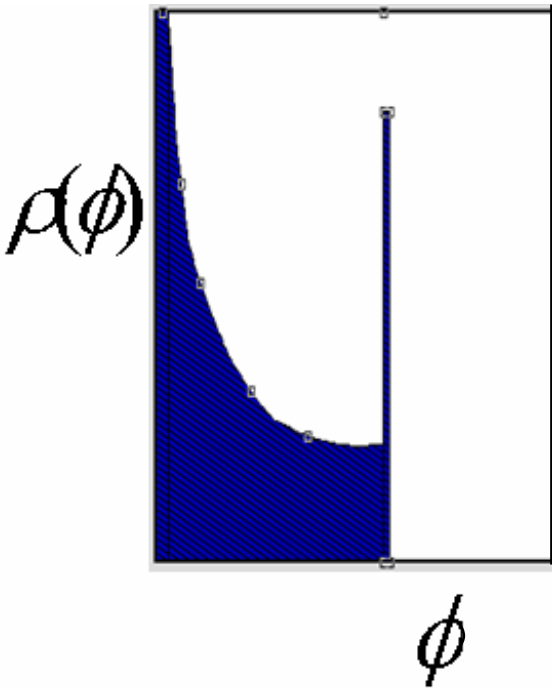
$$\dot{x}(t, \phi) = \begin{cases} \dot{u} & \text{if } |u - x(t, \phi)| = \phi \text{ and } \dot{u}(u - x(t, \phi)) > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



The joint properties are characterized by  $\rho(\phi)$

# A Four-Parameter Iwan Distribution

$$\rho(\phi) = R\phi^\chi (H(\phi) - H(\phi - \phi_{\max})) + S\delta(\phi - \phi_{\max})$$

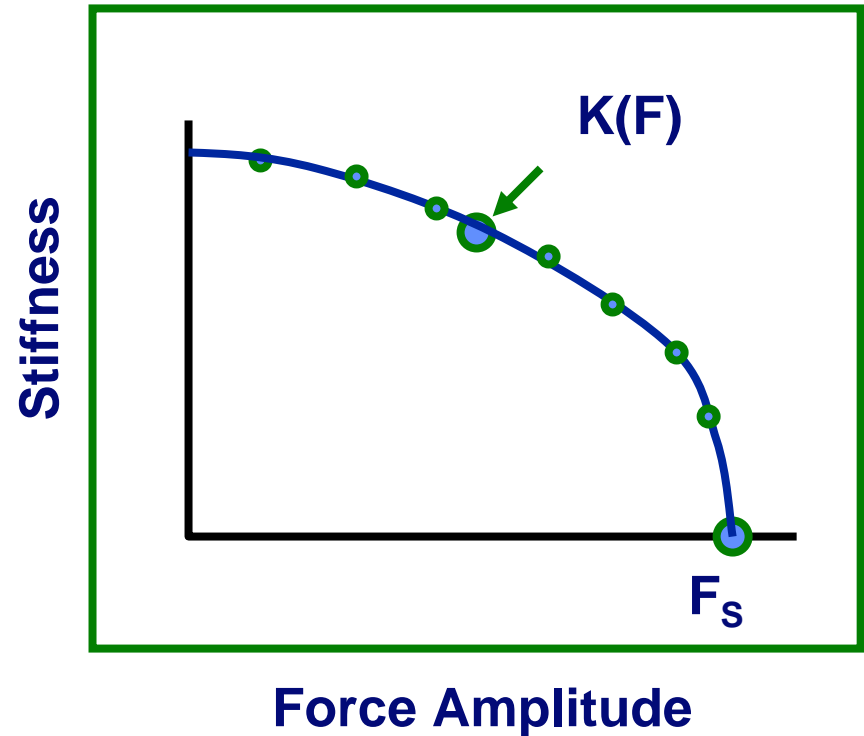
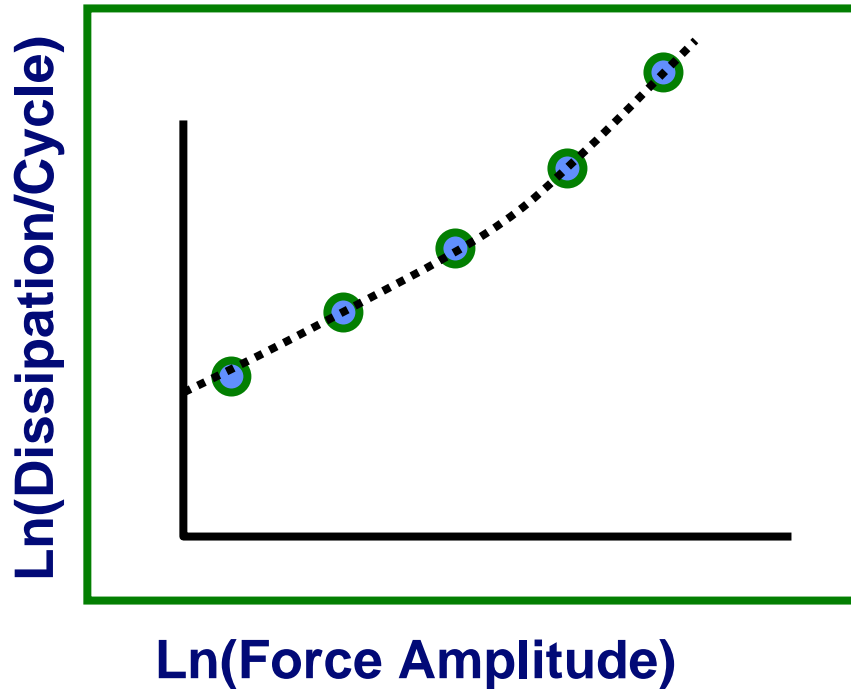


- Nearly linear behavior at low amplitude.
- Power-law energy dissipation
- Manifests micro- & macro-slip
- Physically reasonable
- Tractable

Parameters  $R, S, \chi, \phi_{\max}$  map to some or more physical significance

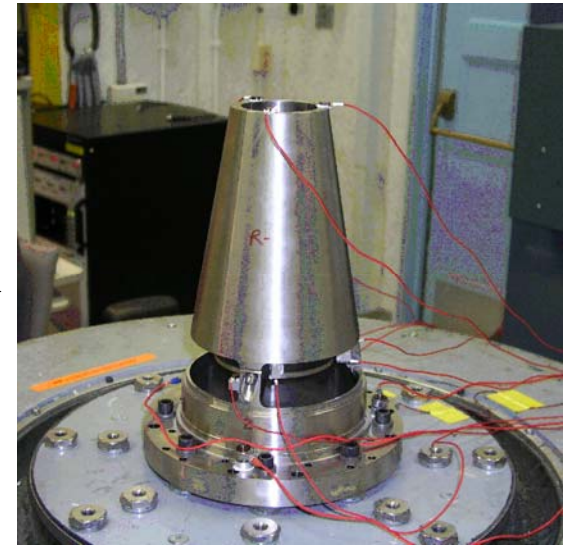
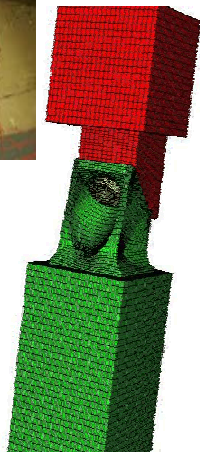
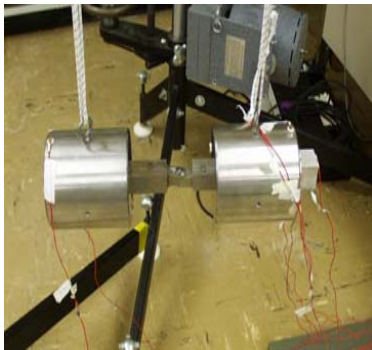
$$F_S, K_T, \chi, \beta$$

# Determining Joint Parameters: Measured Properties

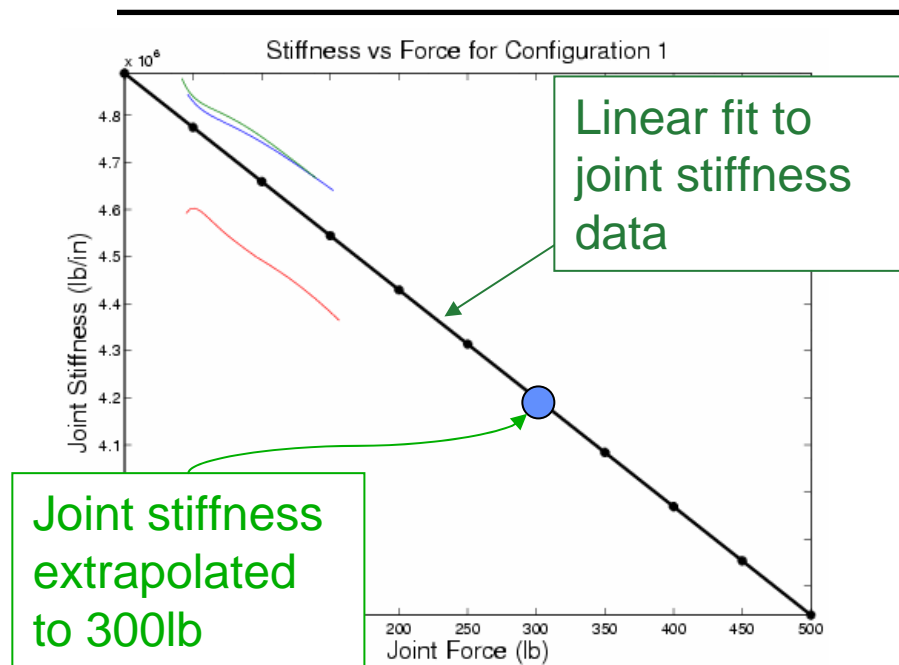


Experiments yield dissipation  $D(F)$  as a function of force amplitude, tangent stiffness  $K(F)$  at load, and yield force  $F_s$ .

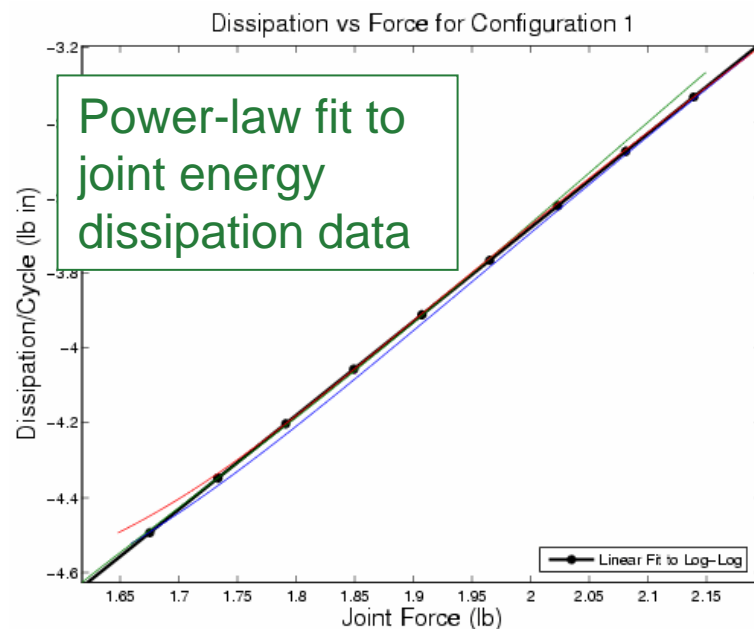
# Calibration of Individual Joints to Predict Dynamics of 3-Legged Structure



# Plot Joint Stiffness and Dissipation as Functions of Joint Force



Joint Stiffness

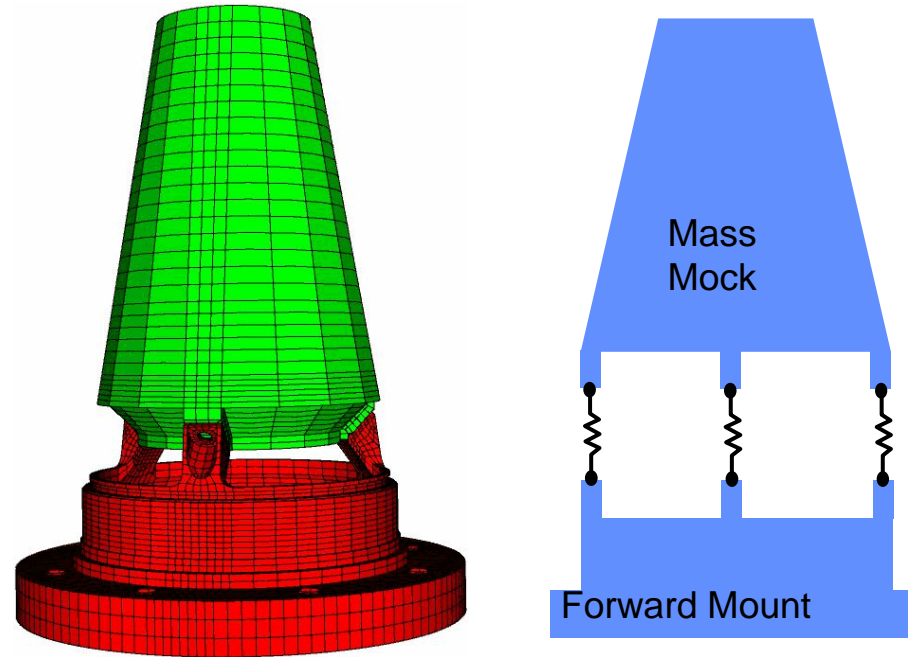


Joint Dissipation

**Model Parameters are selected to match the stiffness at 300lb force and to match the apparent power-law dissipation.**

# Predictions with Joint Model

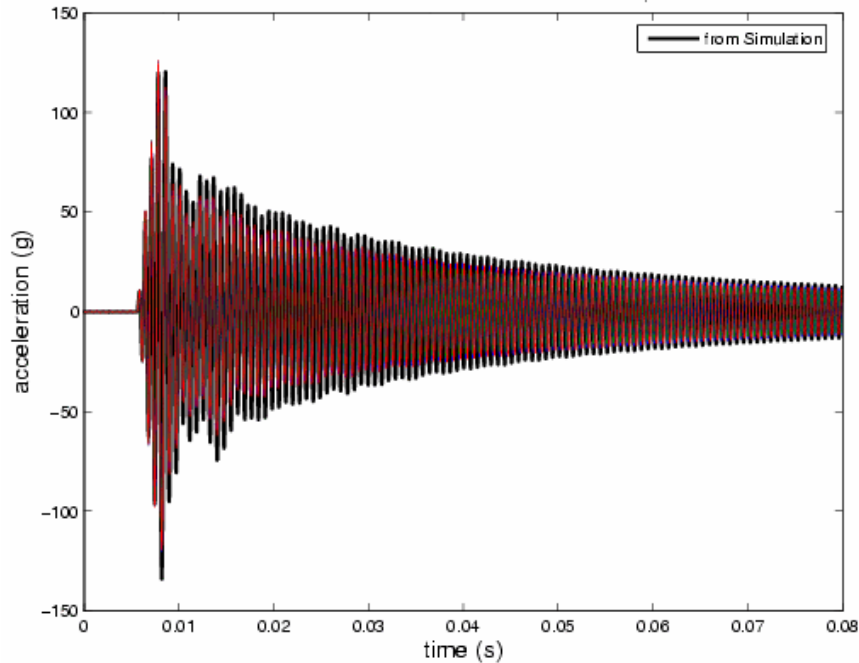
- Employ 4-parameter model at joint
- Represent the rest of the structure with linear finite elements
- Excite base sufficiently to cause macro-slip.



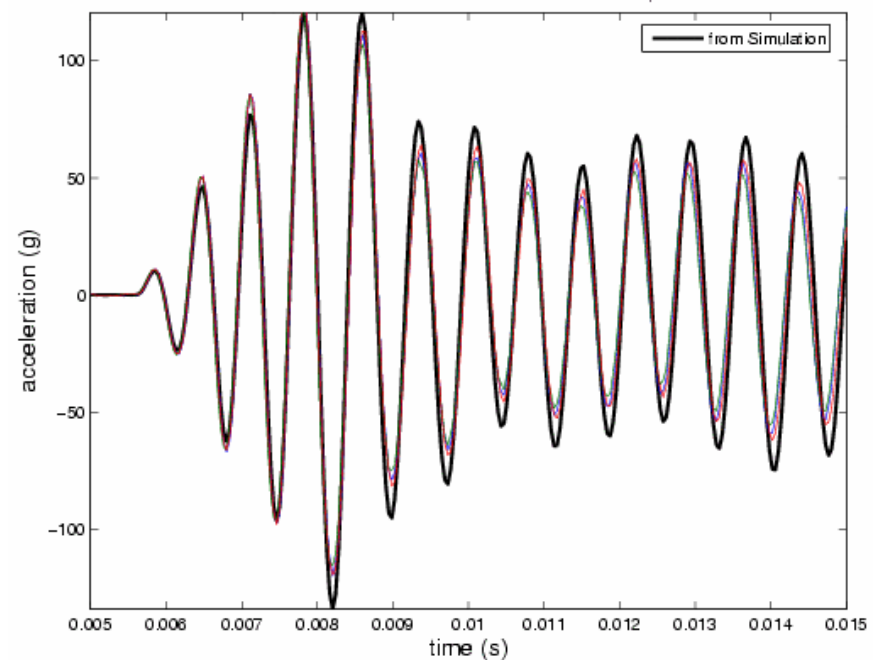


# Blast Simulation for Configuration 1

Predicted and Measured Acceleration, Case 1

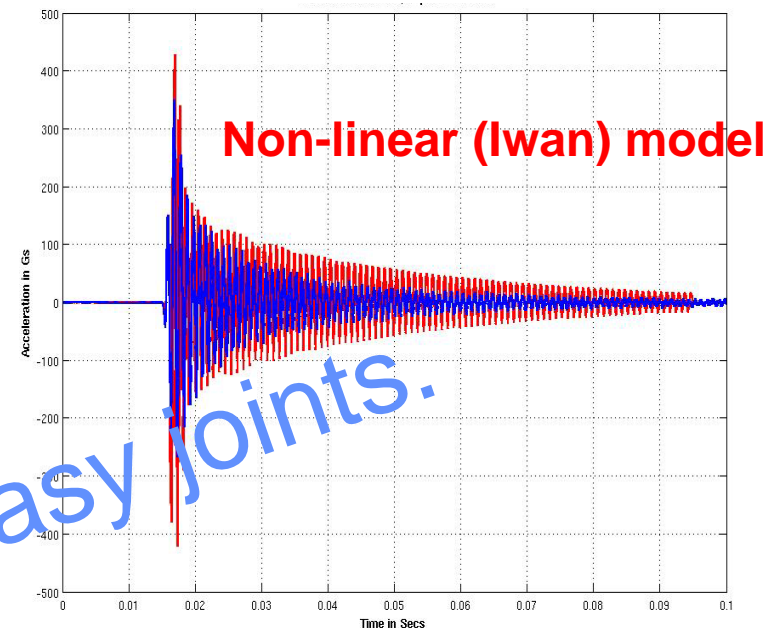
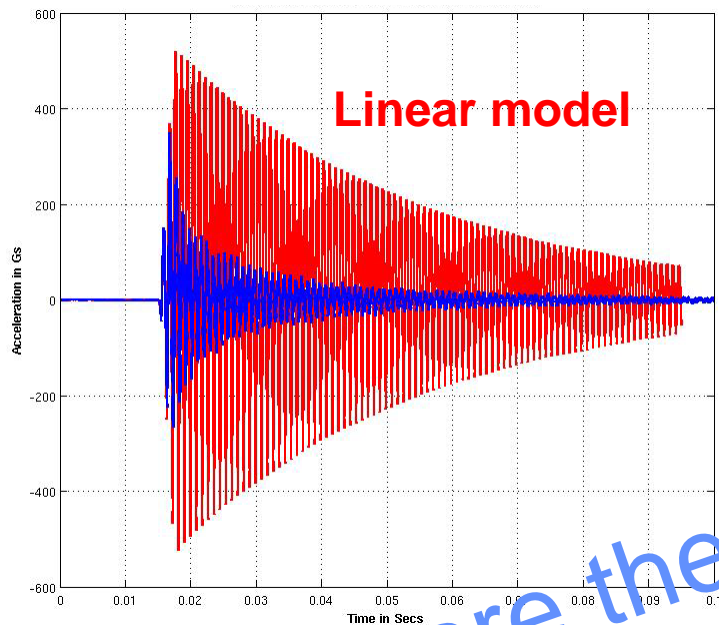


Predicted and Measured Acceleration, Case 1



Explicit incorporation of a joint model can significantly improve the quality of predictions.

# Predictions for Axial Base Excitation that Entails Macro-Slip



These are the easy joints.

— Experiment  
— Model

Explicit incorporation of a joint model can significantly improve the quality of predictions.



# Conclusions: I

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- **Conventional structural dynamics is not predictive in the manner now required**
- **There are fundamental barriers to incorporating micro-meshes in structural dynamics calculations**
- **Employing joint models explicitly in structural dynamics can greatly improve the quality of predictions**



## Conclusions: II

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- **The whole-joint approach, though a significant improvement is nowhere near adequate**
  - Does not account for the multi-dimensional nature of loads.
  - Does not account for the true complexity of contact: moving contact patch, varying normal loads ...
  - Induces fallacious stress fields near contact.
- **Fundamental research must be done in understanding joint mechanics and realizing that understanding in terms of predictive and useful structural dynamics tools.**

**We need not new models, but better models**



# Expectation

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- **This is a class of problems whose core physics spans many length scales and will require**
  - **Research at several length scales**
  - **Development of conceptual tools to span those length scales**
  - **New methods of incorporating distributed constitutive response into structural dynamics**



# Structural Dynamics of Jointed Structures is Analogous to Hydrodynamics with Turbulence

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<b>Turbulence</b>	<b>Joints</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple scales limit DNS</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple scales limit DNS</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closure models are postulated to connect micro-mechanics to continuum</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closure models are postulated to connect micro-mechanics to continuum</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fundamentally important in Fluid Mechanics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fundamentally important in Structural Dynamics</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-Standing Problem</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-Standing Problem</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very significant in drag, less significant in lift</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very significant in damping, less significant in stiffness</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heuristic, qualitative understanding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heuristic, qualitative understanding</li></ul>



# Backup

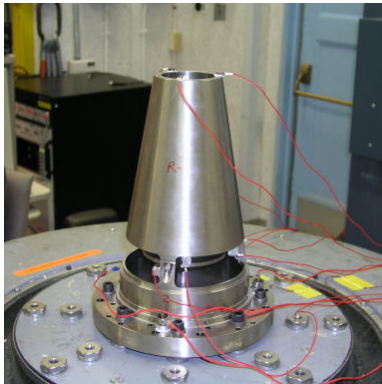
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# Deducing Joint Parameters

Shaker and Quasi-static Testing Determined Macro-slip  
Break-Free Force

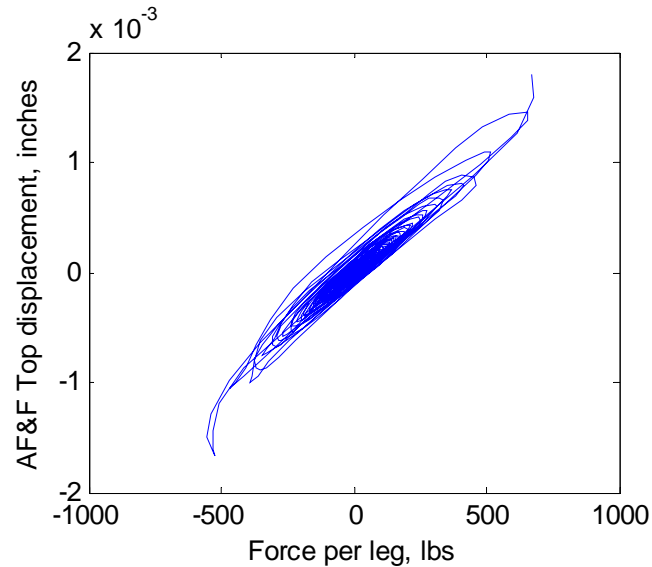
**Nominal  
macro-slip  
force  
(forward  
mount and  
internal)**

Ti-SS mass mock 3-leg  
hardware

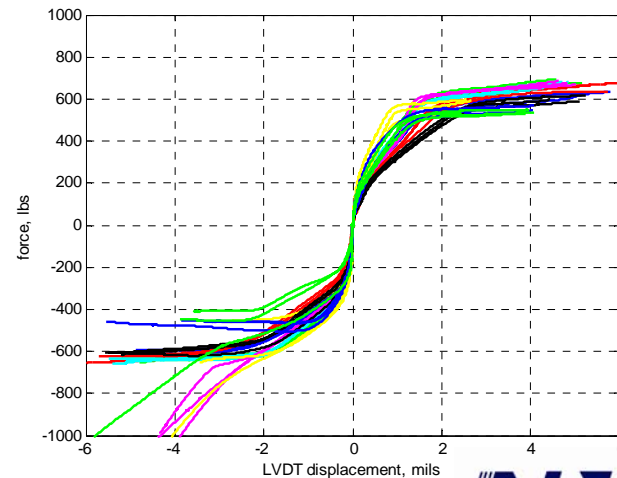


**Joint  
bounding  
range**

SS-SS single leg  
hardware



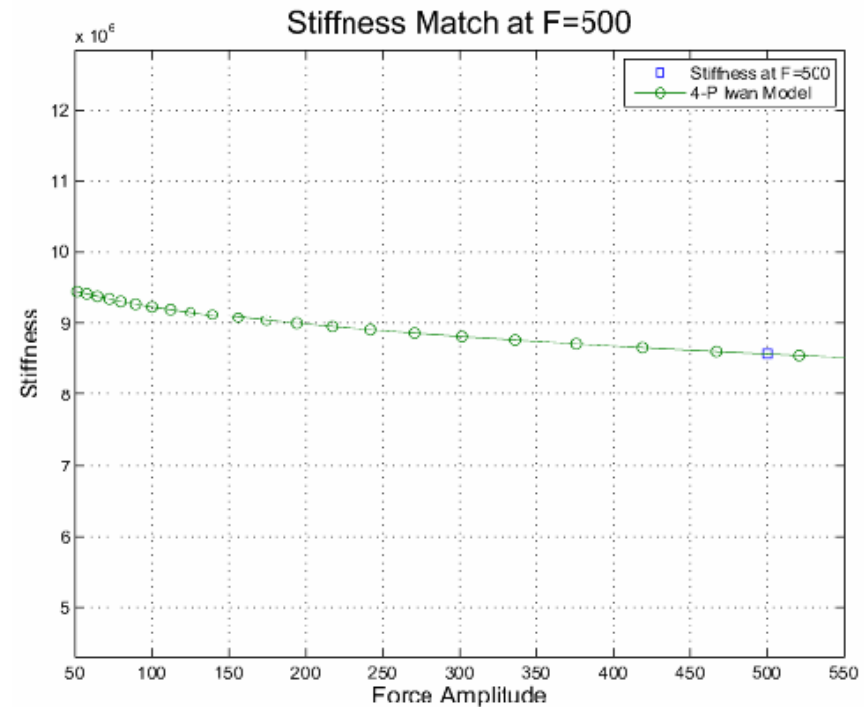
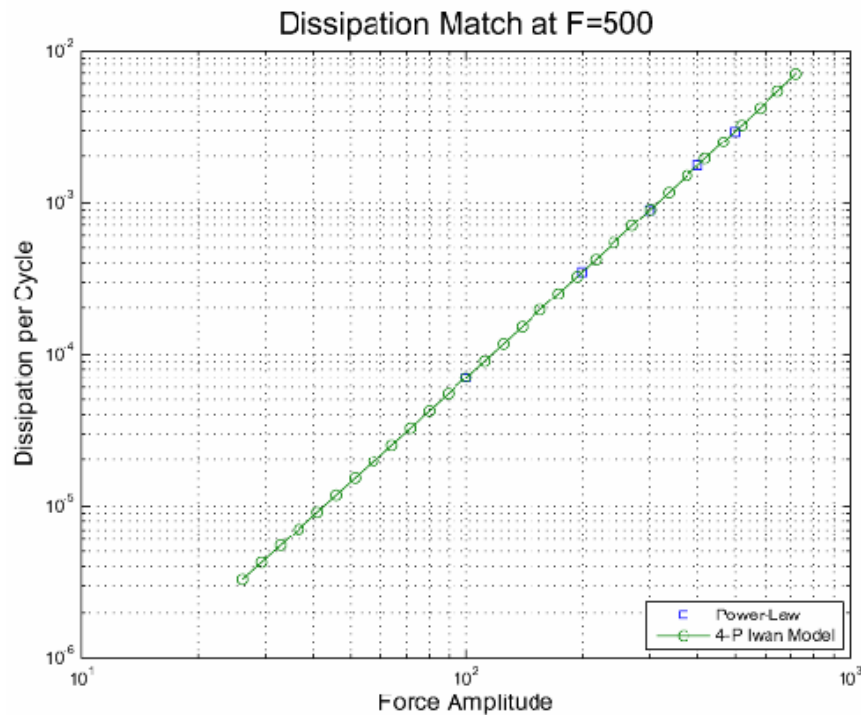
$$F_S = 615 \text{ lb}$$



$$F_S = 450 \text{ lb to } 634 \text{ lb}$$

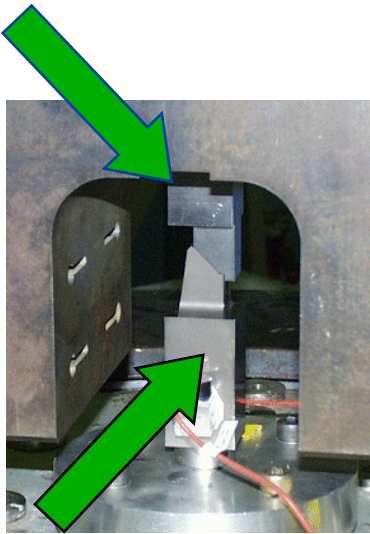


# Quality of Fit for 4-Parameter Iwan Model



# Characterize 1-Legged Experiment to Predict 3-Legged Response

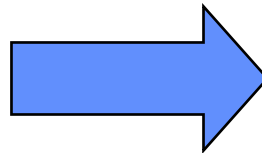
Stainless Steel



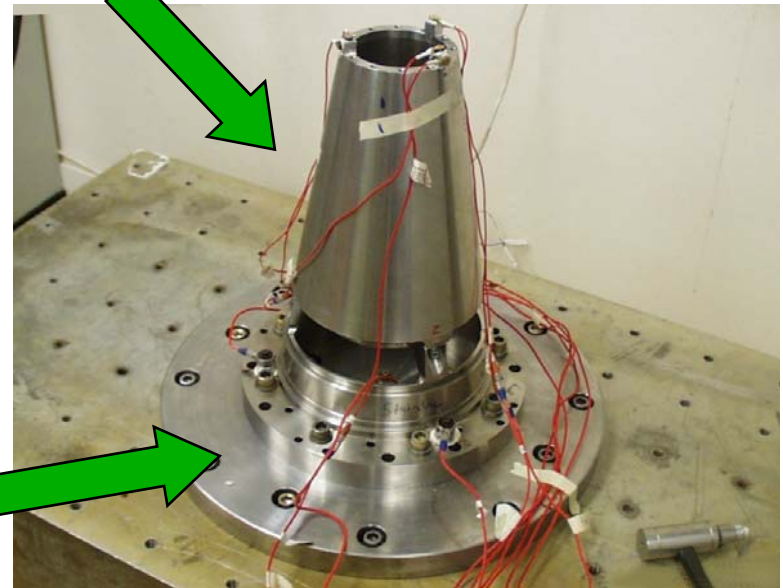
OR



Prediction



Stainless Steel

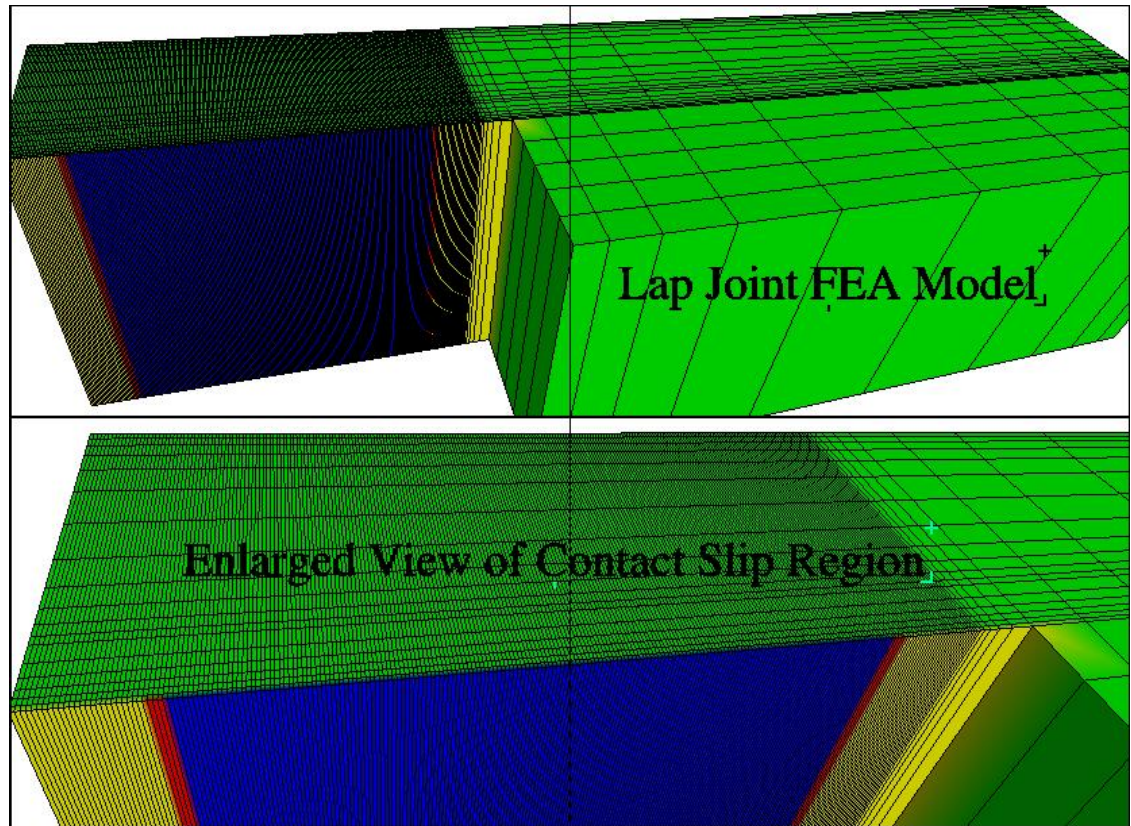


Titanium

Steady-State  
Resonance  
Experiments

Deduce  
Model  
Parameters

# Understanding Joint Slip Mechanics via Finite Element Micro-Modeling





# **Review and Approval Unclassified, Unlimited Release**

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