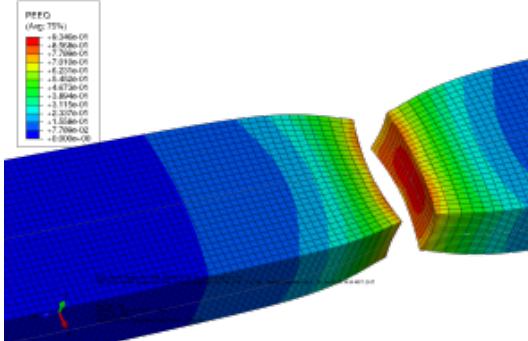
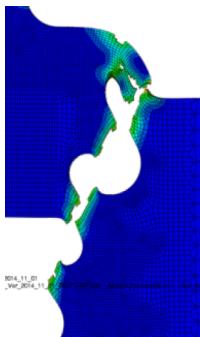
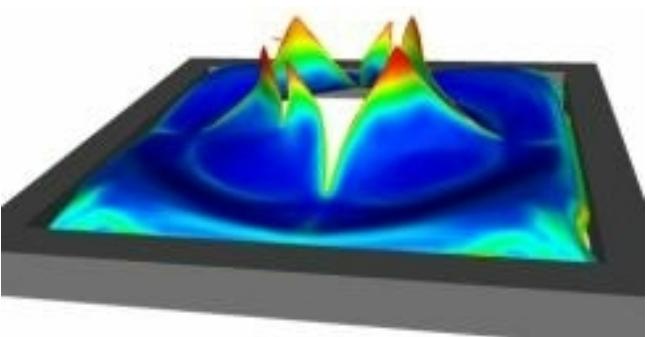


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## Lessons Learned from the Sandia Fracture Challenges

Brad Boyce

Materials Science and Engineering Center  
Sandia National Laboratories

February, 2019

Damage Mechanics Challenge Workshop – Purdue University

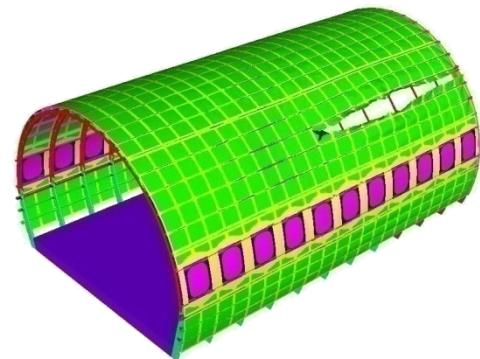


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# Fracture is a pervasive problem...



Nuclear safety: operational and threat environments.



Airframe Shoe-Bomb Scenario



Structural survivability of electric grid.



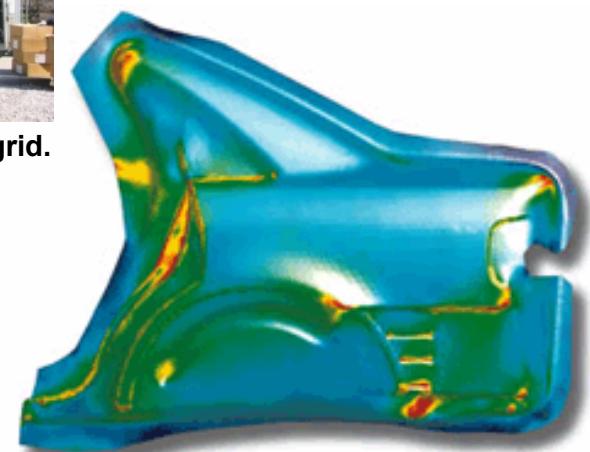
Cargoship Rena (2011)



Hydrogen storage in GM fuel cell vehicles



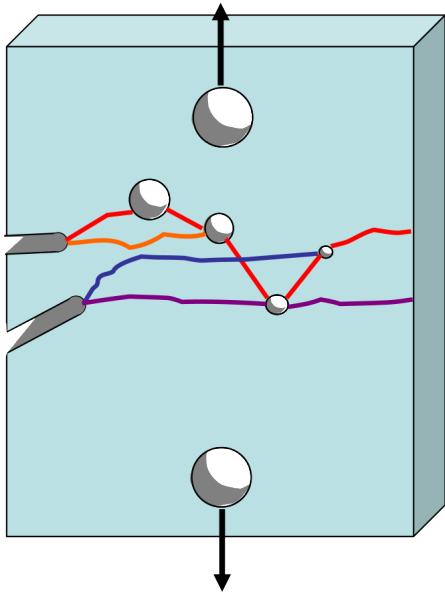
Minnesota I-35W Bridge Collapse...



Metal Forming

# **OBJECTIVE:** Assess how well we can *blindly predict* metallic fracture of an unfamiliar geometry

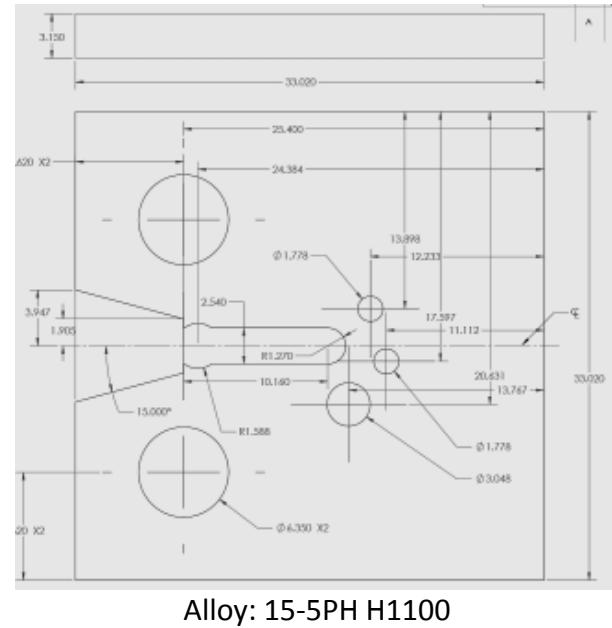
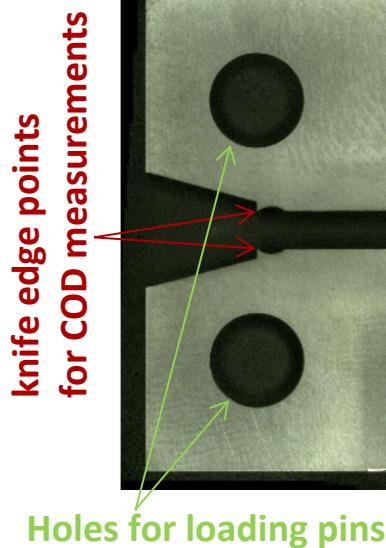
## **PHILOSOPHY:**



“Crack-in-a-maze” Concept

- Replicate real-world engineering constraints (time, budget, information)
- **Blind** predictions are reported before confirmation experiments are available
- ‘Toy Problem’ is geometrically simple but captures salient difficulties of real-world problems
- Assess the whole prediction stream: (physics, numerical methods, code, calibration & people)
- Do not specify the models/tools/methods to be used: let the engineers use their judgement & strengths
- Verify the experimental outcome in multiple labs, and disseminate results *after* blind predictions are reported
- Use the assessment to inspire improvements
- **COMPETITION DRIVES INNOVATION**

# The SFC1 Challenge

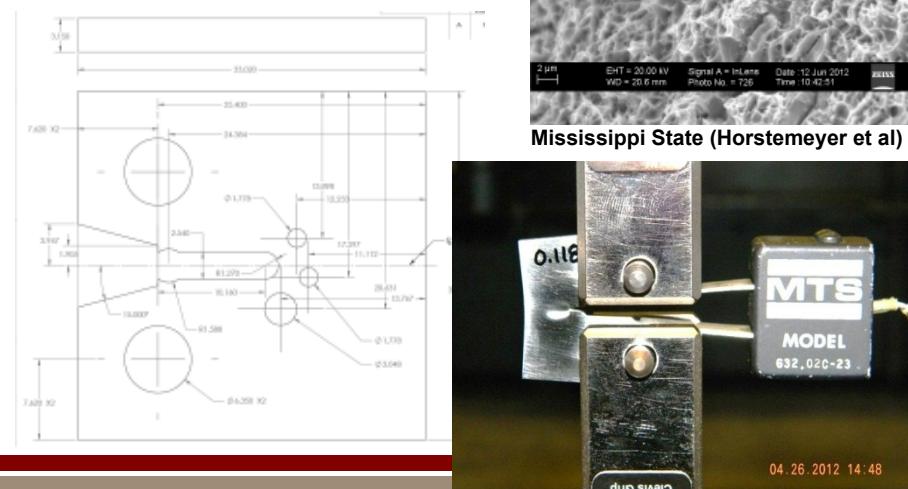
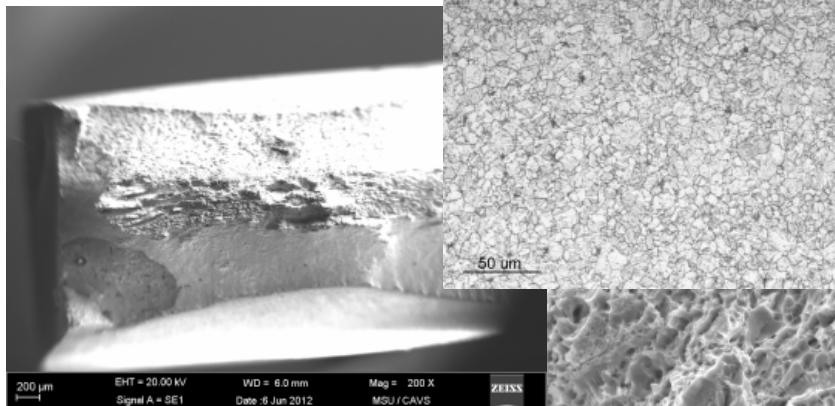
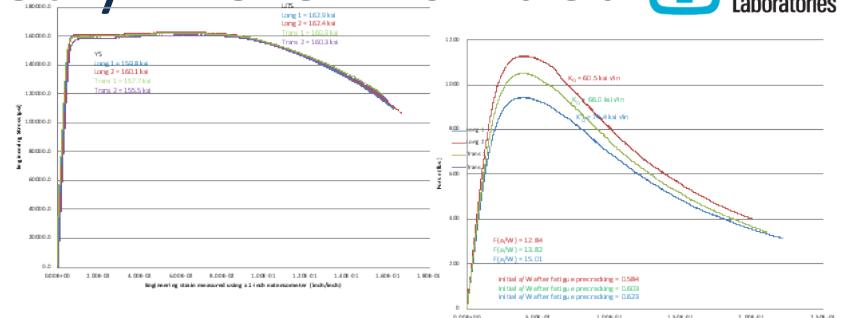


**The challenge.** When loaded at room temperature at a loading rate of 0.0005 inches/sec,

- (Q1) What is the force and COD displacement<sup>1</sup> at which a crack first initiates<sup>2</sup>?
- (Q2) What is the path of crack propagation? (Use feature labels A-E to describe path)
- (Q3) If the crack does propagate to either holes B,C, or D, at what force and COD displacement does the crack re-initiate out of the first hole?

# Details of the Material & Geometry Were Provided

- Multiple tensile stress-strain curves for both longitudinal and transverse deformation
- Multiple Sharp-crack 'fracture toughness' force-displacement curves on sheet of same thickness as challenge
- Images of the fracture surface, side view of the necking region
- Material certification, including material chemistry and mechanical properties
- Detailed heat treatment records
- Measured hardness values
- Engineering drawings that were also sent to machinists for specimen manufacture



# Leverage the external mechanics community



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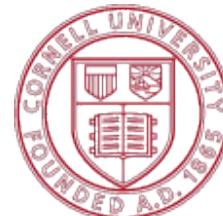


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UIC

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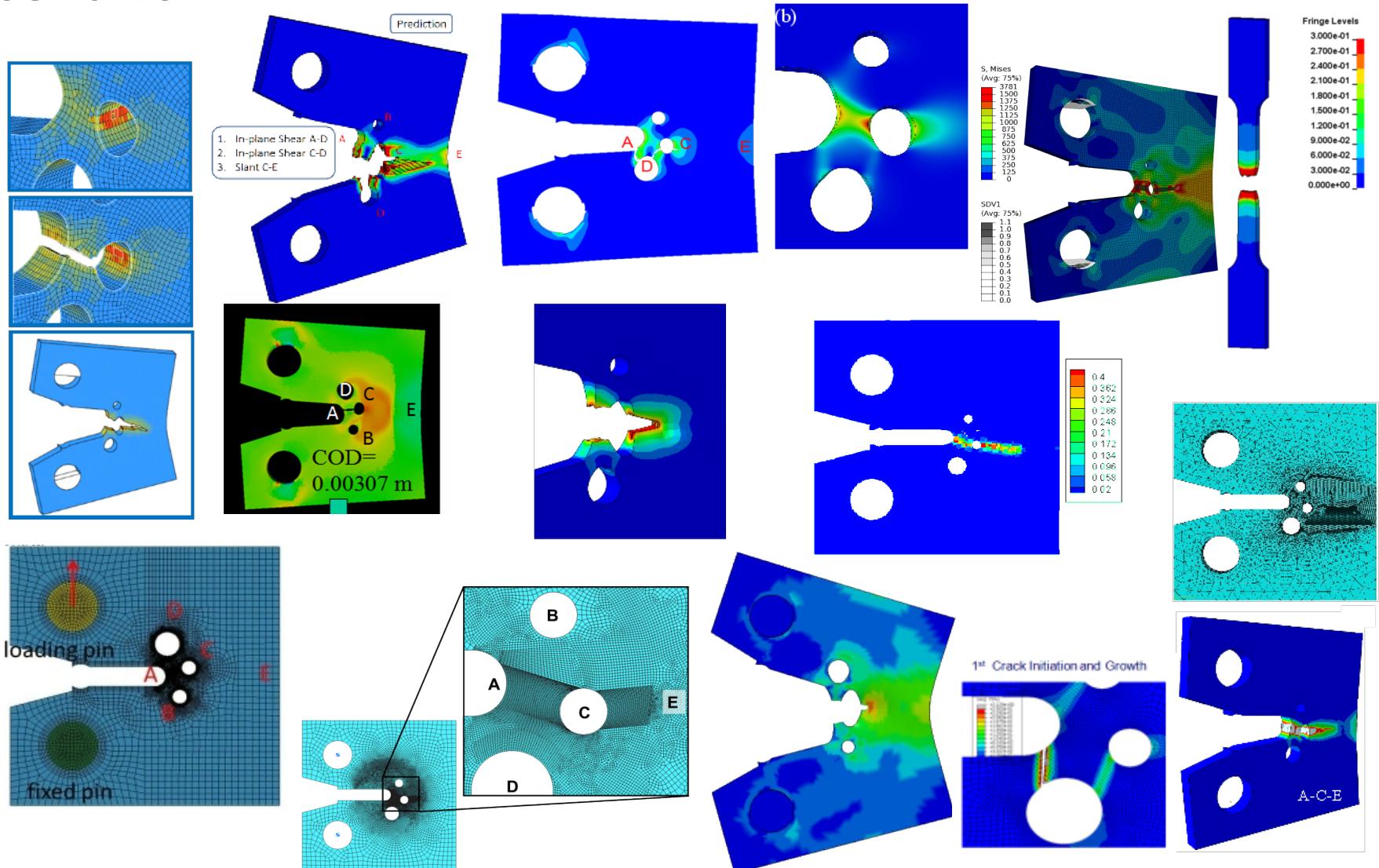
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UNIVERSITÄT  
BOCHUM



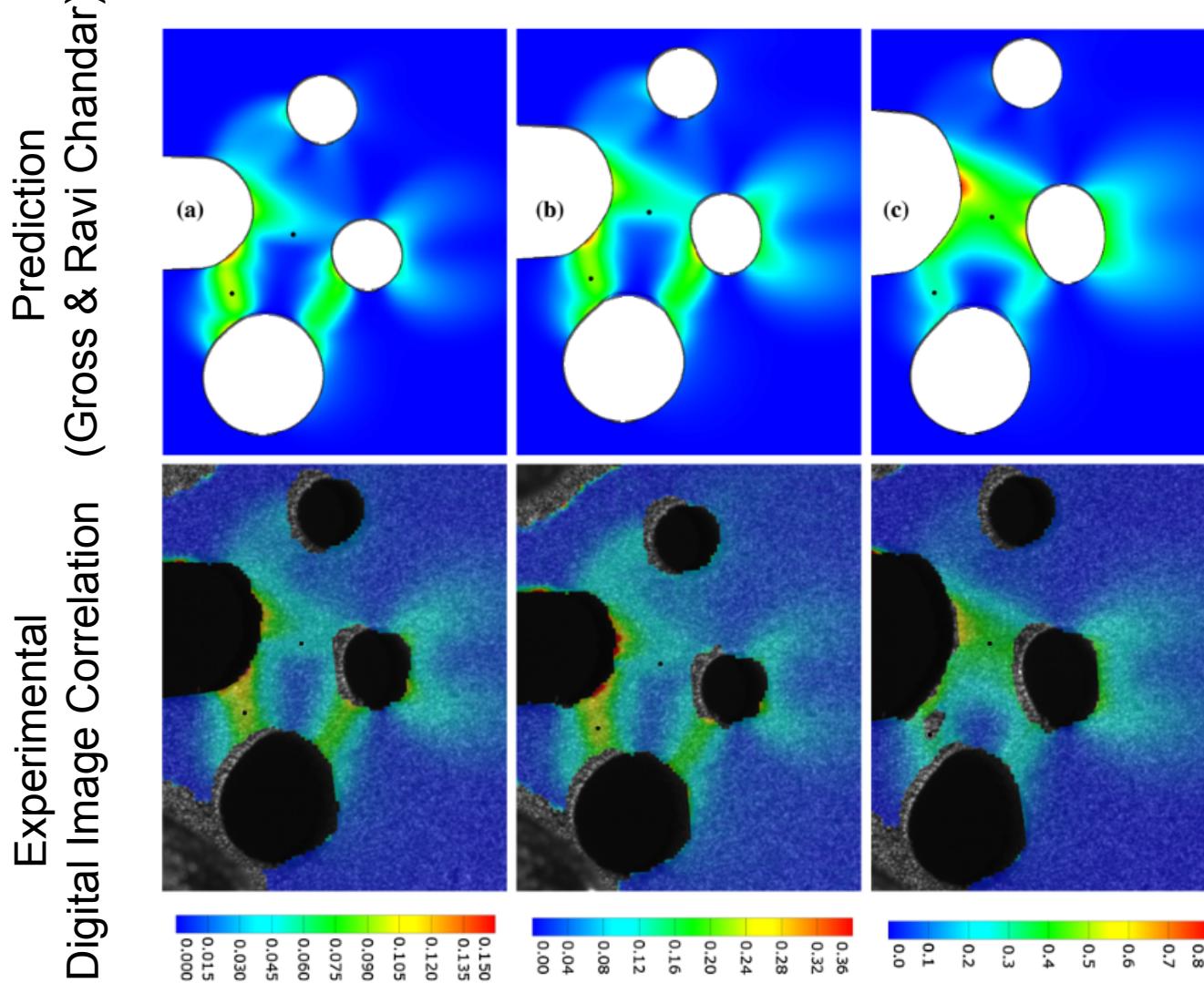
RUB



# Each team attempted to blindly predict the failure scenario



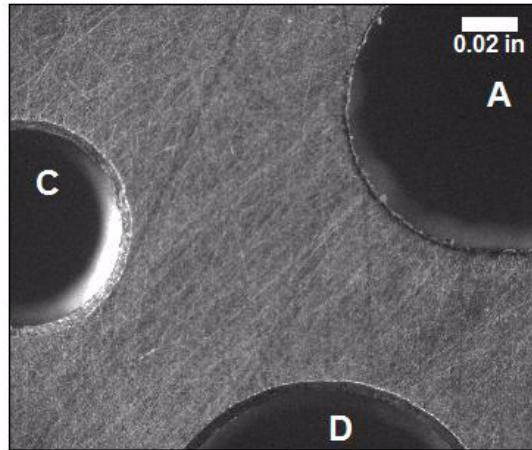
# The challenge geometry creates a competition between a tensile failure and shear mode



The deformation and fracture behavior is determined experimentally

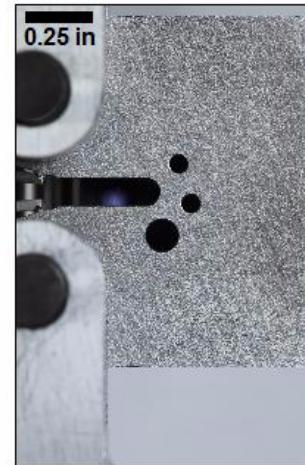


### Front Surface - Small FOV

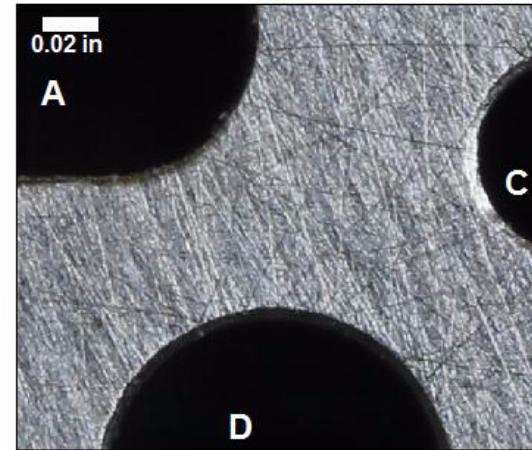


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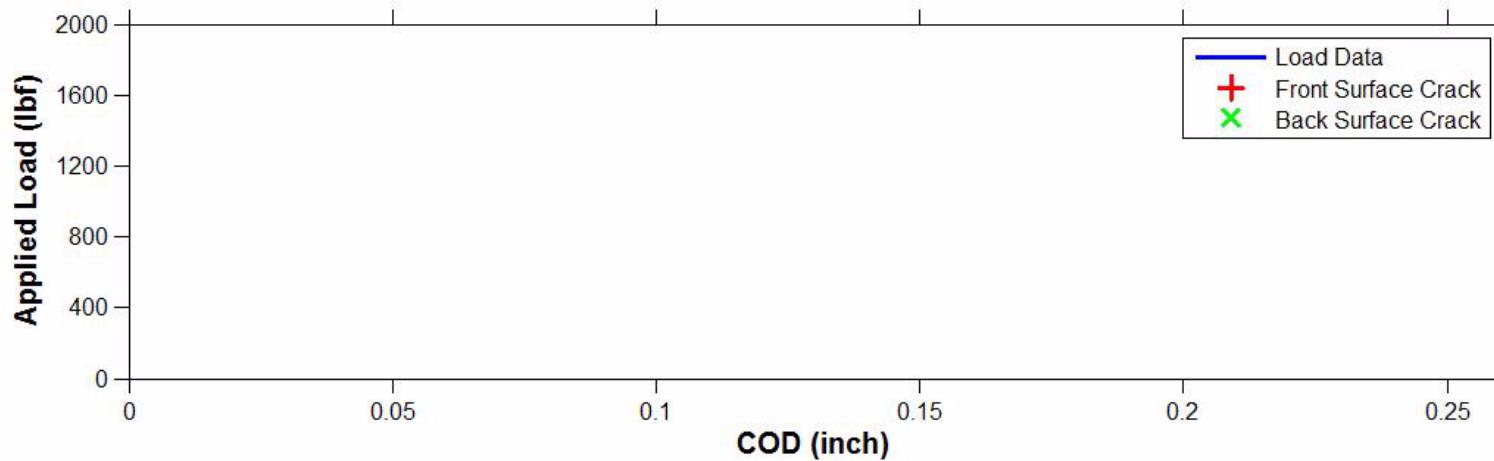
### Back Surface



### Back Surface - Zoomed

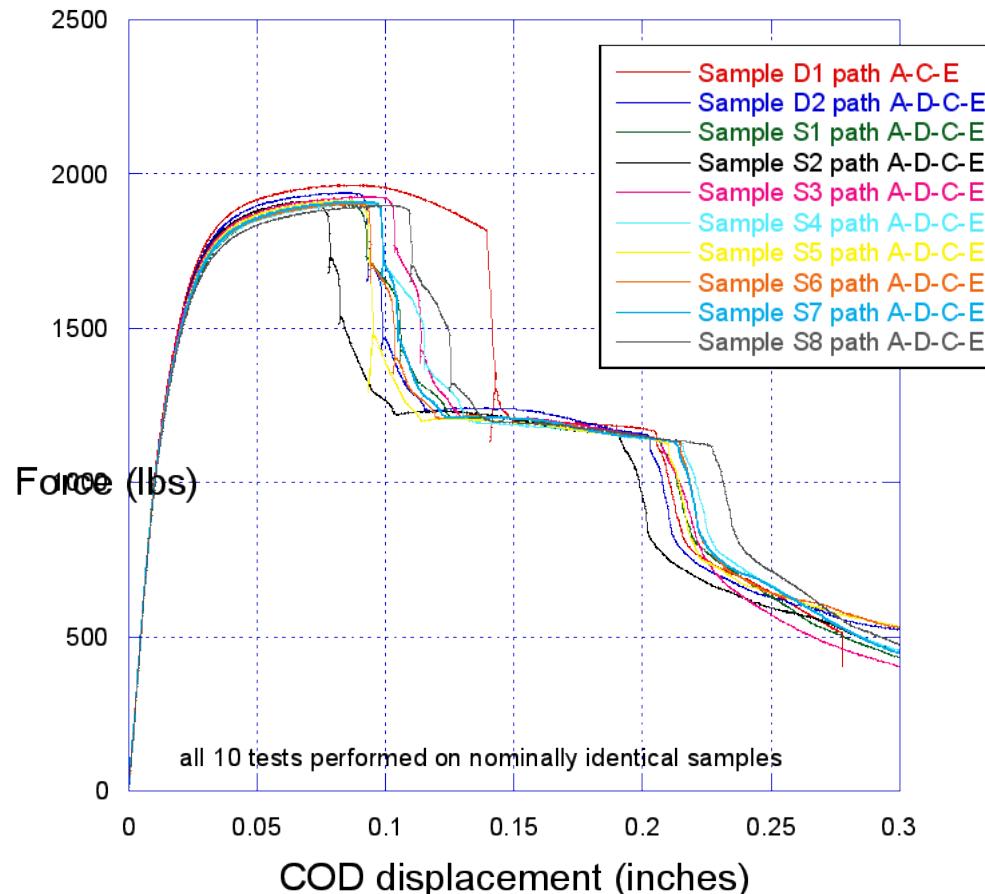


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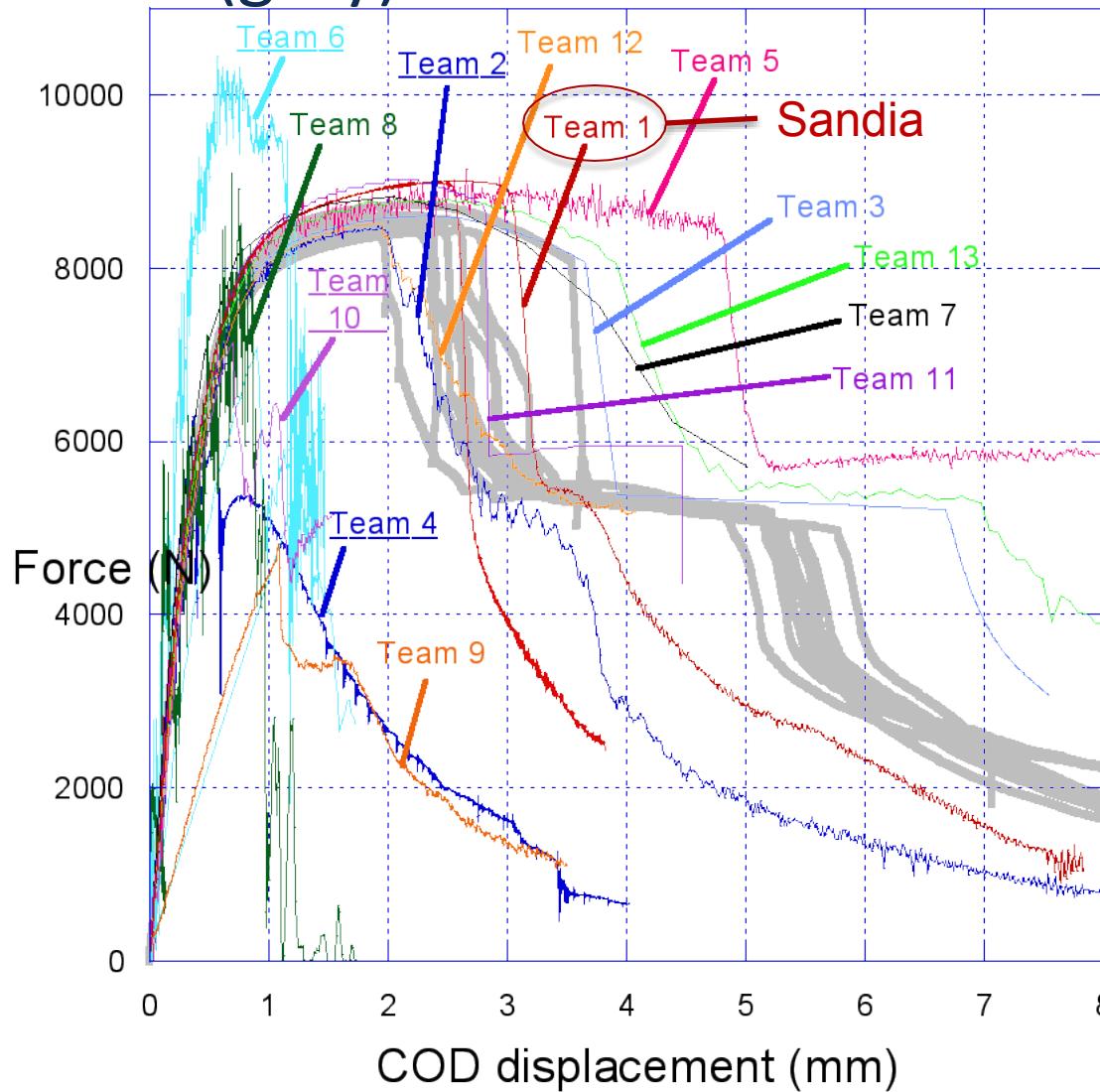


# This time, more scatter in the experimental response

experiments - Sandia solid mechanics  
Charlotte Kramer and Theresa Cordova

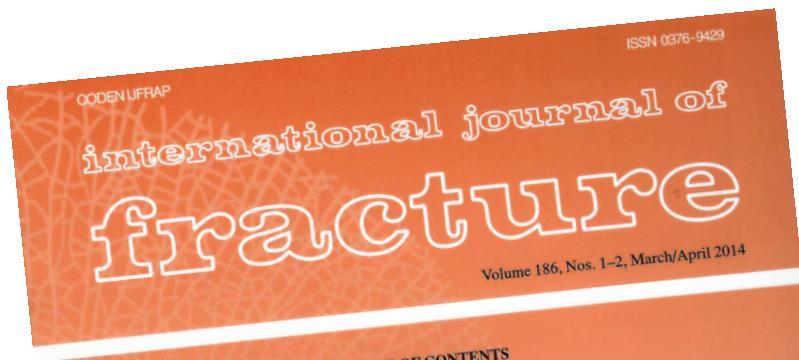


# Overlay: Predictions (colors) compared to experiments (gray)



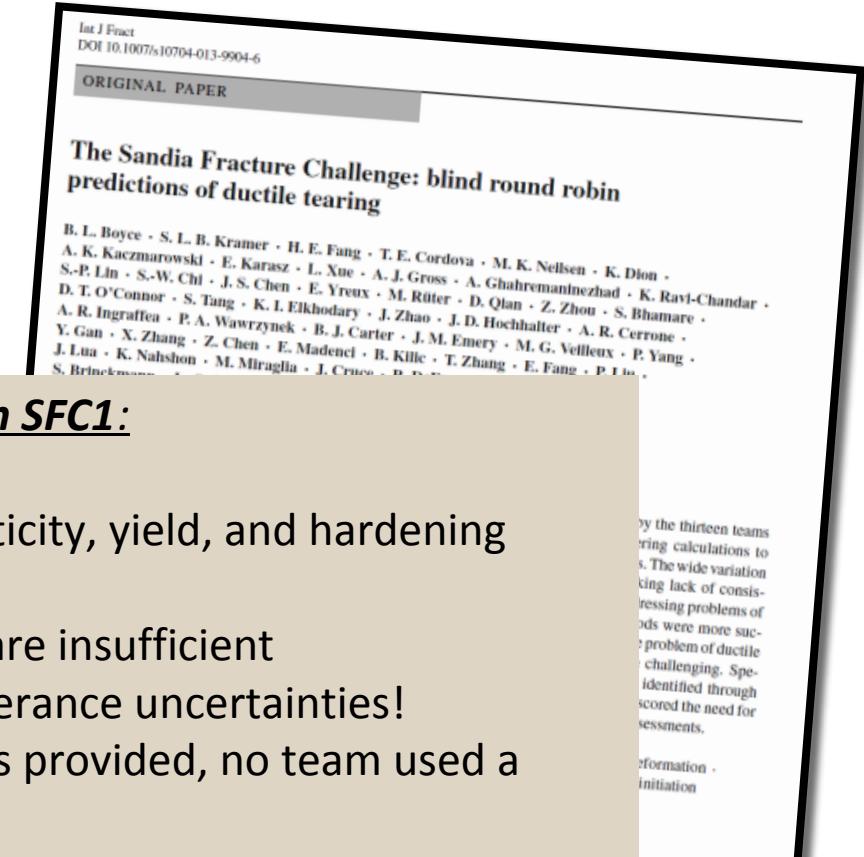
Note: Crack path 'A-C-E' represents both scenarios where the crack initiated in hole A growing towards hole C and scenarios where the crack initiated in hole C and grew back to hole A; similarly for crack path A-D-C-E.

More details available in Special Issue of International Journal of Fracture (2014)



## *A few highlights of **Lessons Learned** from SFC1:*

- Most teams (9 of 14) can predict elasticity, yield, and hardening
- No consensus on failure model
- Tensile and fracture toughness tests are insufficient
- No team accounted for geometric tolerance uncertainties!
- While microstructure information was provided, no team used a multiscale approach.



Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (doi:10.1007/s10704-013-9904-6) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

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# The 2014 Sandia Fracture Challenge (SFC2)

**Predict the forces and displacement associated with crack initiation and propagation in the geometry shown on the right.**

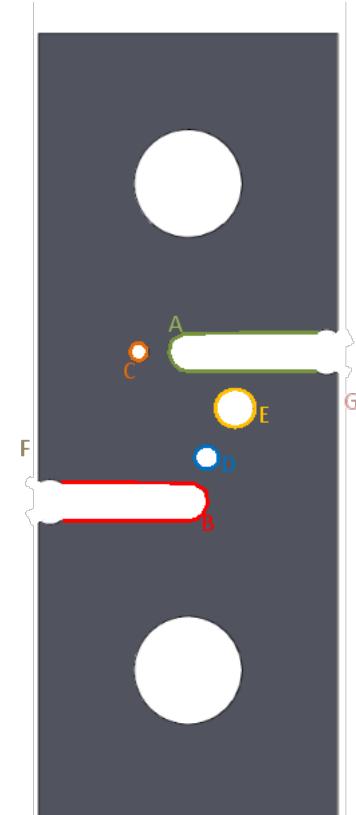
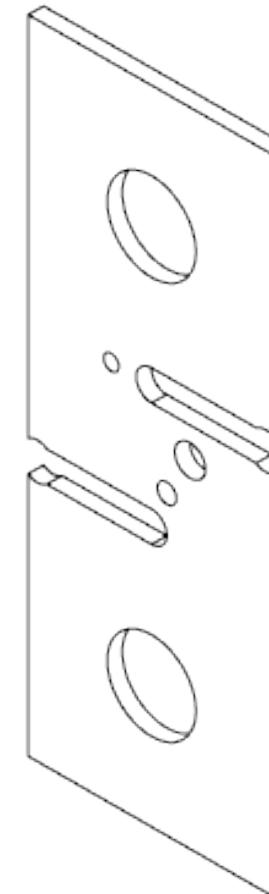
**Material:** **Ti-6Al-4V**, 3.15 mm-thick sheet.

**Loading Rate:** **: 25.4 mm/sec and 0.0254 mm/sec.**

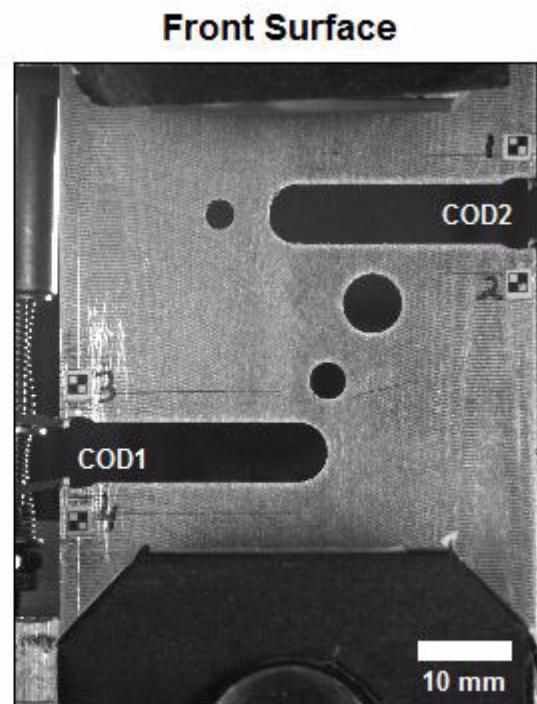
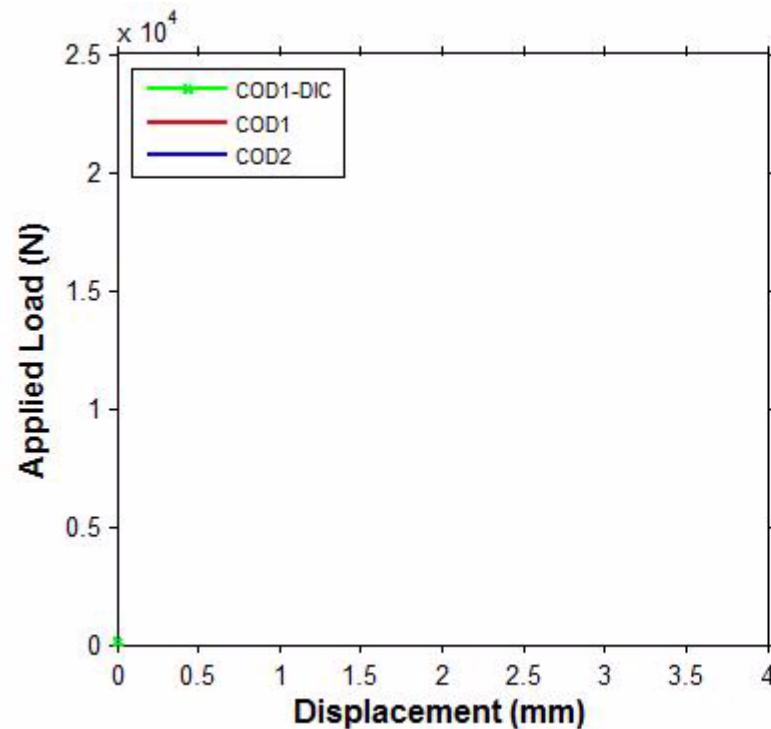
**Extensive material property information available**

- tensile tests in both sheet axes at 2 rates
- **shear failure tests** in both axes at 2 rates
- images of all broken samples
- exact measured geometry of each test coupon

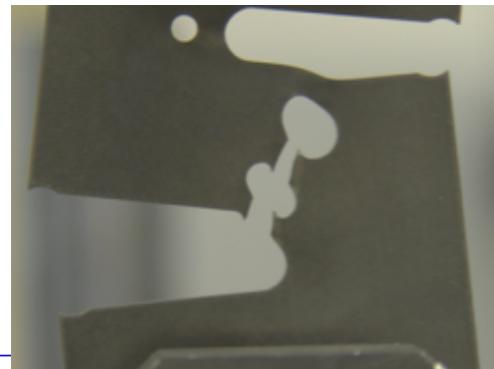
**Prediction Deadline:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014



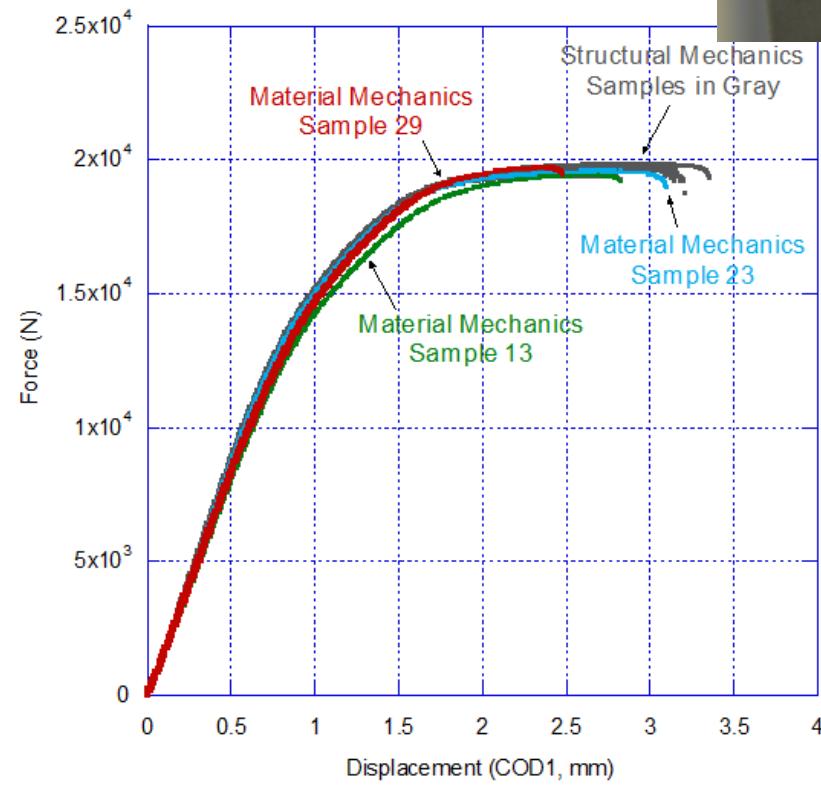
# Experimental outcome of SFC2



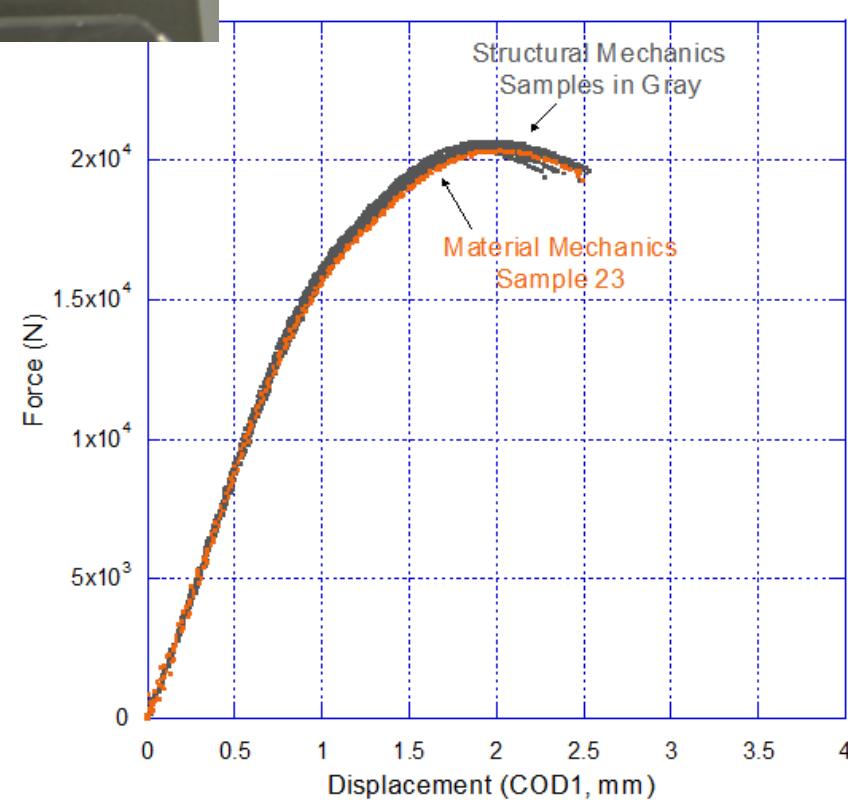
# Experimental Force-Displacement Curves up to the point of First Fracture



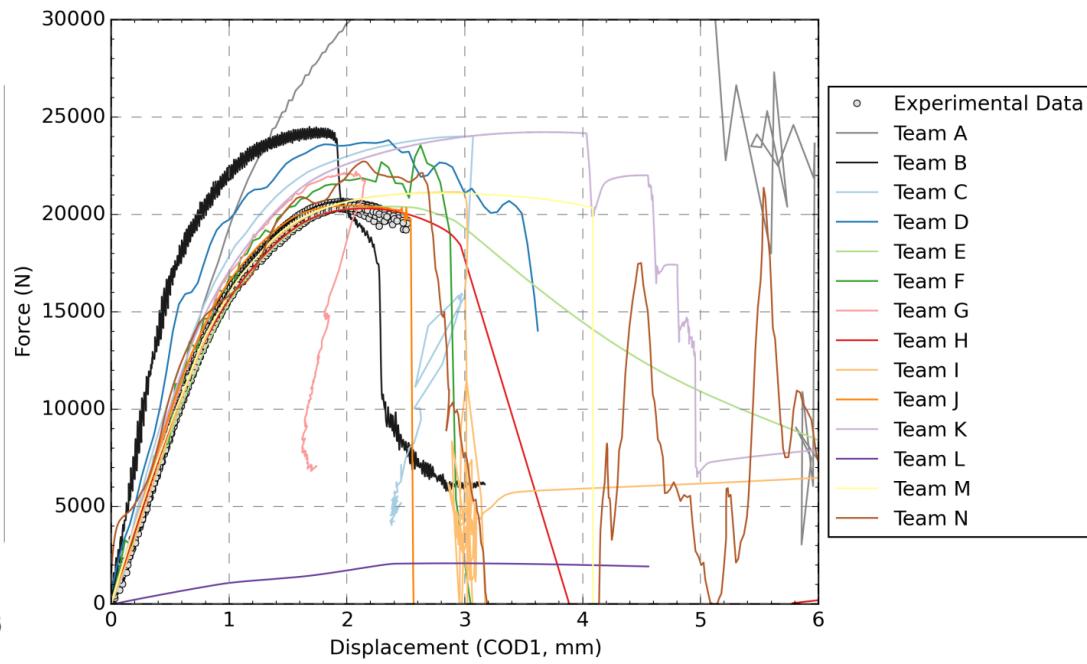
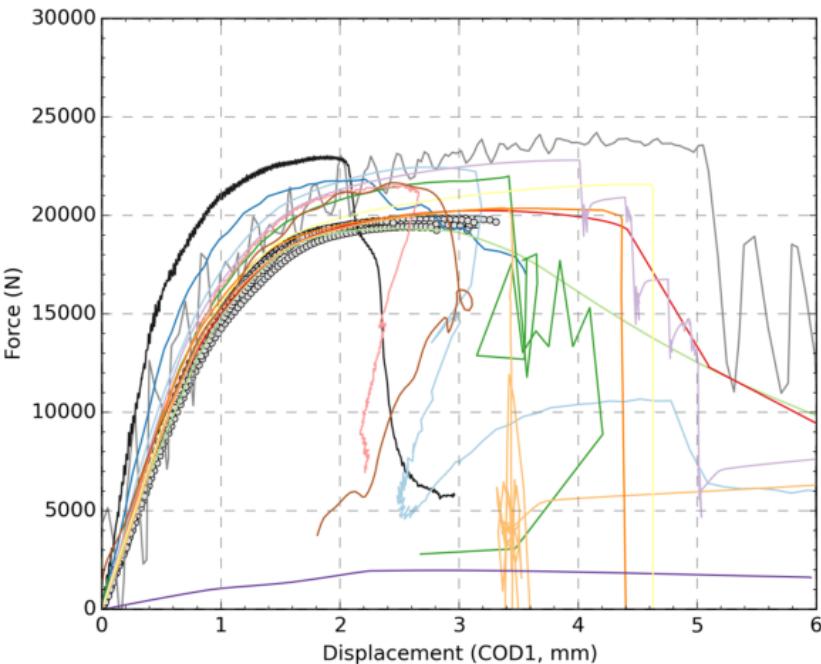
Experiments - Slow



Experiments - Fast

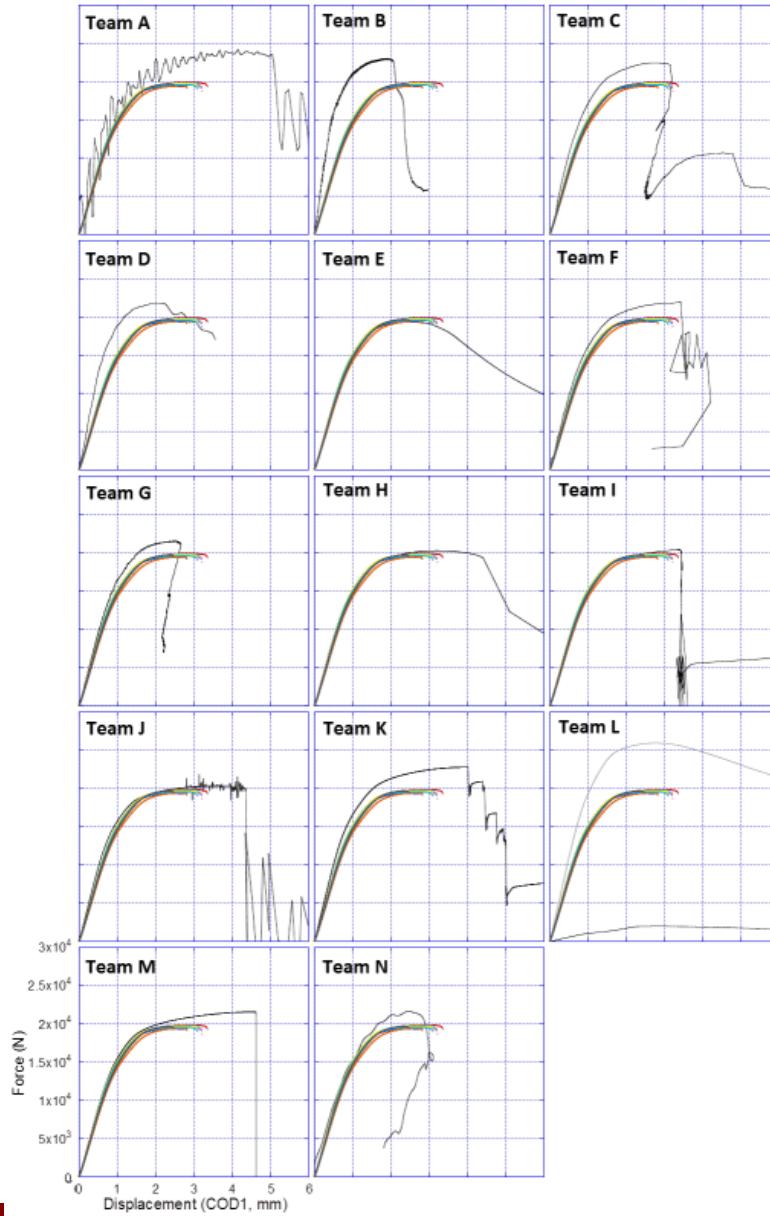


# A complex comparison, but general improvement...



- One team (low purple line) made a human error to sum all reaction nodes
- 57% of teams could predict behavior up to peak force within 10% of the expt'l scatter
- Post-necking behavior and crack initiation continue to be a source of significant discrepancy
- Teams tended to systematically overpredict stiffness & yield

# Parsing the Individual Team Issues



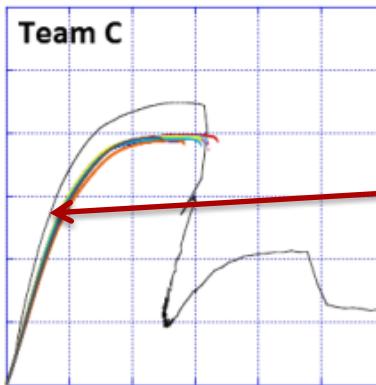
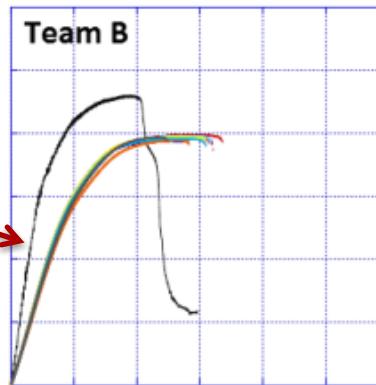
- Explicit vs Implicit Solver
- Thermomechanical Coupling
- Boundary Conditions
- Element Type
- Discretization Level
- Fracture Method (deletion, cohesive surface, etc)
- Uncertainty Method
- Anisotropic Plasticity Model (J2, Hill)
- Hardening Law (Power-law, Swift, Piecewise Linear)
- Failure Criterion (strain parameter, damage law, triaxiality dependence)
- Calibration Data Used

Lessons Learned:

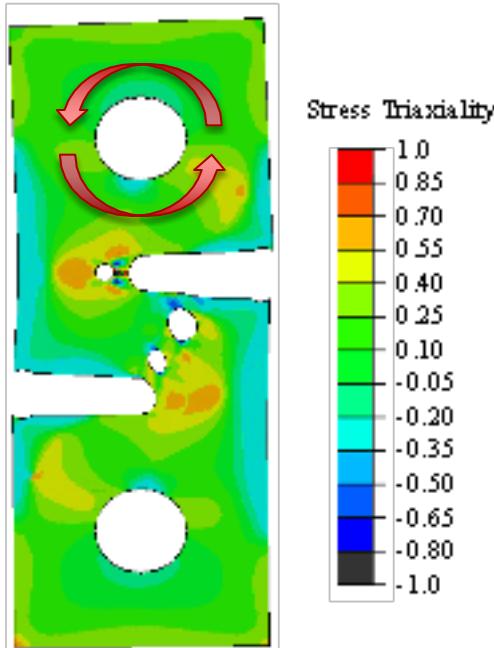
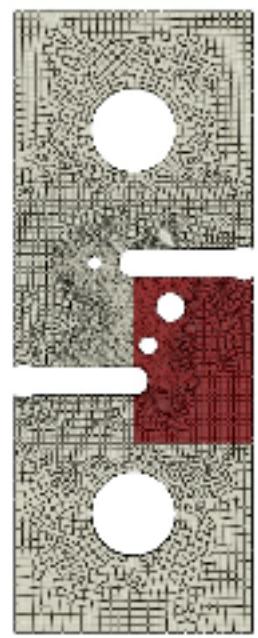
**Gaps & Opportunities in Materials Mechanics for  
Predictive Tearing Fracture**

# Gap 1: Representing surface contact and friction

Rigid, fixed pin contact



Rigid pin, friction coefficient



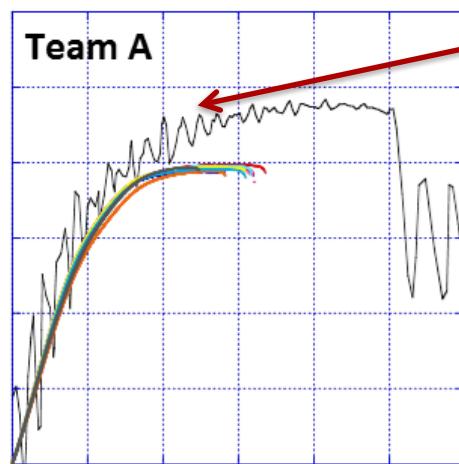
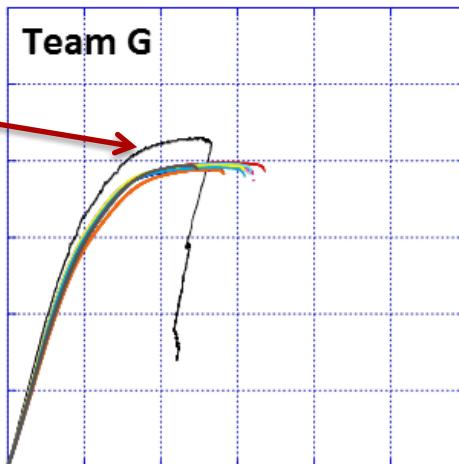
(a)

(b)

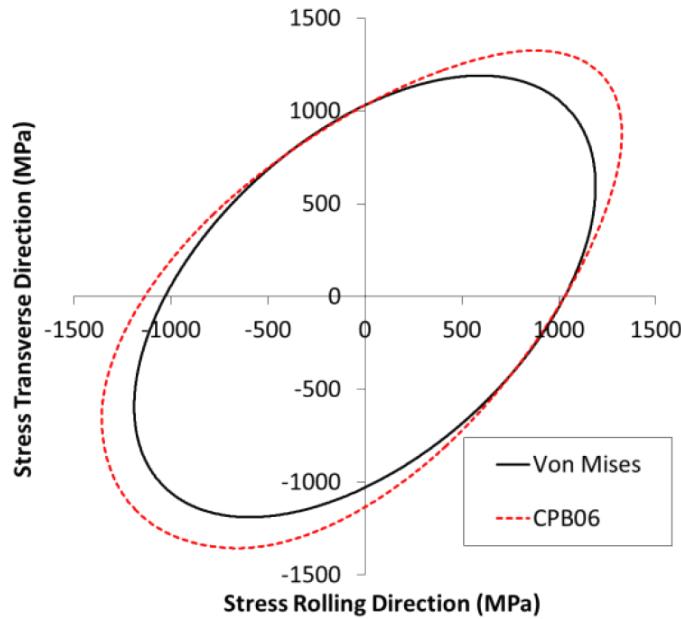
- Apparent stiffness was overpredicted by ~1/2 the teams. In some cases the predicted stiffness was 2X the experimental result!
- Teams that chose fully constrained non-sliding pin contact tended to overpredict stiffness and peak forces.
- Frictionless or free-rotating pin contact appeared to mimic experiments most closely.

## Gap 2: Accounting for sheet anisotropy

No anisotropy



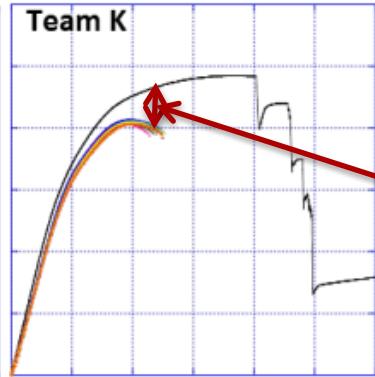
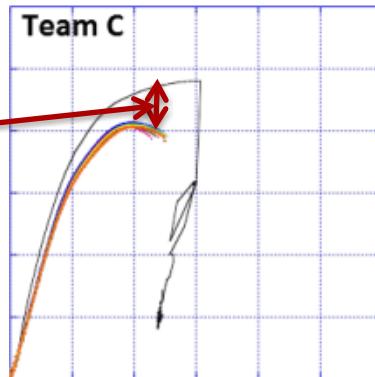
$J_2$  plasticity law,  
No calibration to  
shear data



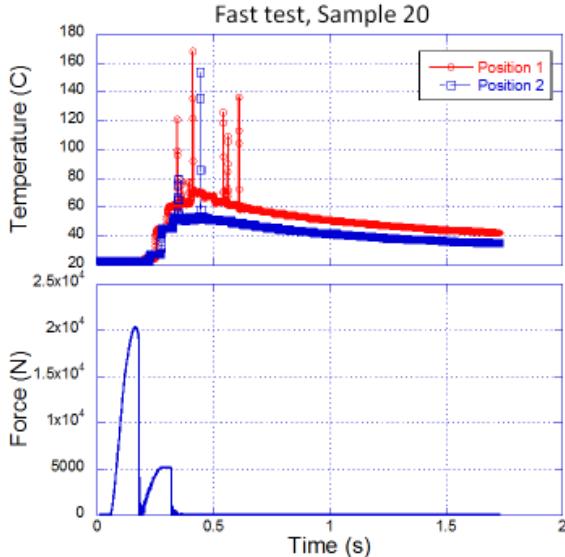
- Yield in shear was 0.88X the value of predicted by a Von Mises yield surface, indicating a response that is closer to Tresca.
- This effect was only observable by comparing the tensile yield points to the yield point of the non-standard shear test
- Teams that used a simple  $J_2$  (von Mises) plasticity model tended to overpredict yield/hardening behavior since the yield in shear was softer than in tension.

# Gap 3: Estimating thermal work coupling factor

No thermal coupling



No thermal coupling



- There was a >60°C temperature rise in the necking ligament under the faster loading condition.
- Many teams ignored the plastic-work induced thermal softening that occurs under modest dynamic loading
- Teams that chose either an adiabatic condition or some coupling parameter tended to capture some degree of extended necking behavior.

Volumetric heating rate

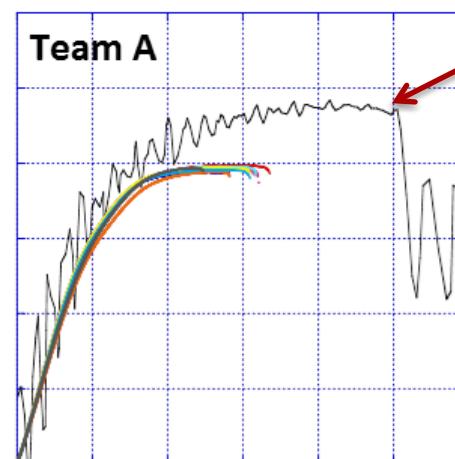
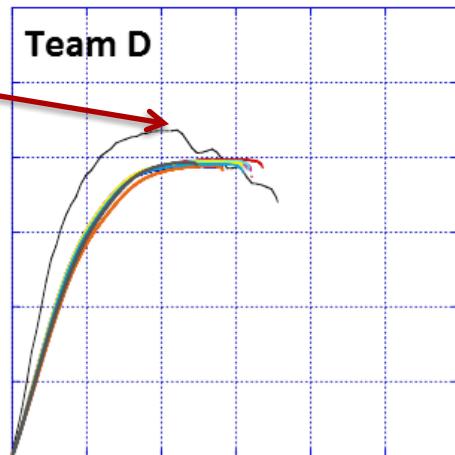
$$\dot{Q} = \eta \dot{W}^p = \eta \sigma : \dot{\epsilon}^{in}$$

Taylor-Quinney coefficient

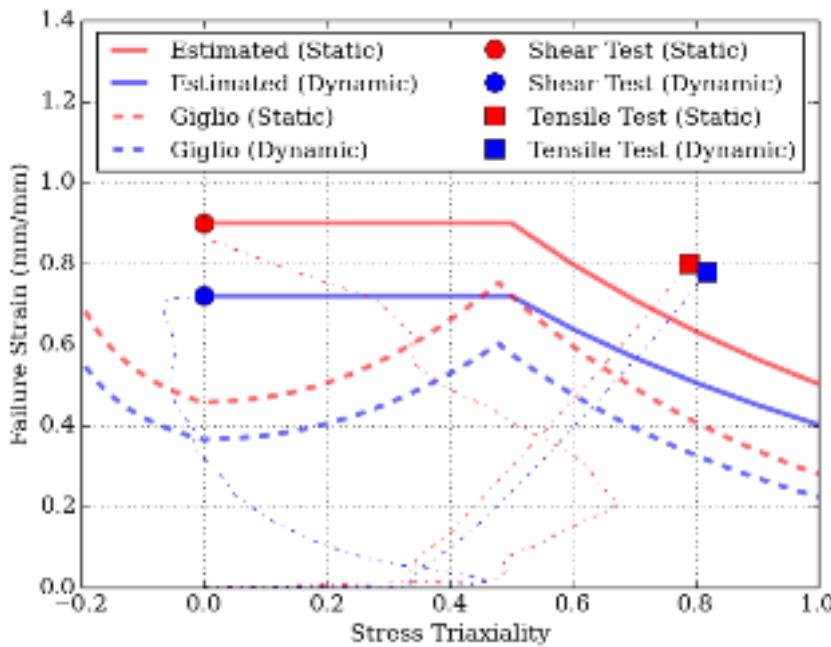
- There is little data (and even contradictory data from the same group!) on the plastic work thermal coupling parameter (Taylor-Quinney coefficient)

# Gap 4: Choosing a realistic failure parameter

Plastic strain criterion does not account for triaxiality / shear



Failure parameter calibration only used tension data, not shear data.



- There is no consensus on a realistic model for crack initiation! (**Gurson is not sufficient**)
- Predictions tended to be more accurate if they used shear data and calibrated a triaxiality-dependent failure model.
- While a suite of various loading paths and triaxiality conditions is needed, there is no standards for such material testing.  
**(A tension test is not sufficient)**

# More details available in Special Issue of International Journal of Fracture (2016)



Int J Fract  
DOI 10.1007/s10704-016-0089-7

SANDIA FRACTURE CHALLENGE 2014

**The second Sandia Fracture Challenge: predictions of ductile failure under quasi-static and moderate-rate dynamic loading**

B. L. Boyce · S. L. B. Kramer · T. R. Bosiljevac · E. Corona · J. A. Moore · K. Elkhodary · C. H. M. Simha · B. W. Williams · A. R. Cercone · A. Nonn · J. D. Hochhalter · G. F. Bomarito · J. E. Warner · B. J. Carter · D. H. Warner · A. R. Ingraffea · T. Zhang · X. Fang · J. Lua · V. Chiaruttini · M. Maziere · S. Feld-Payet · V. A. Yastrebov · J. Besson · J.-L. Chaboche · J. Lian · Y. Di · B. Wu · D. Novokshanov · N. Vajragupta · P. Kucharczyk · V. Brinnel · B. Döbereiner · S. Müntermann · M. K. Neilsen · K. Dion · K. N. Karlson · J. W. Foulik III · A. A. Brown · M. G. Veilleux · J. L. Bignell · S. E. Sanborn · C. A. Jones · P. D. Mattie · K. Pack · T. Wierzbicki · S.-W. Chi · S.-P. Lin · A. Mahdavi · J. Predan · J. Zadravec · A. J. Gross · K. Ravi-Chandar · L. Xu

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**Abstract** Ductile failure of structural metals is relevant to a wide range of engineering scenarios. Computational methods are employed to anticipate the critical conditions of failure, yet they sometimes provide inaccurate and misleading predictions. Challenge scenarios, such as the one presented in the current work, provide an opportunity to assess the blind, quantitative predictive ability of simulation methods against a previously unseen failure problem. Rather than evaluate the predictions of a single simulation approach, the Sandia Fracture Challenge relies on numerous volunteer teams with expertise in computational mechanics to apply a broad range of computational methods, numerical algorithms, and constitutive models to the challenge. This exercise is intended to evaluate the state of health of technologies available for failure prediction. In the first Sandia Fracture Challenge, a wide range of issues were raised in ductile failure modeling, including a lack of consistency in failure models, the importance of shear calibration data, and difficulties in quantifying the uncertainty of prediction [see Boyce et al. (Int J Fract 186:5–68, 2014) for details of these observations]. This second Sandia Fracture Challenge investigated the ductile rupture of a Ti-6Al-4V sheet under both quasi-static and modest-rate dynamic loading (failure in  $\sim 0.1$  s). Like the previous challenge, the sheet had an unusual arrangement of notches and holes that added geometric complexity and fostered a competition between tensile- and shear-dominated failure.

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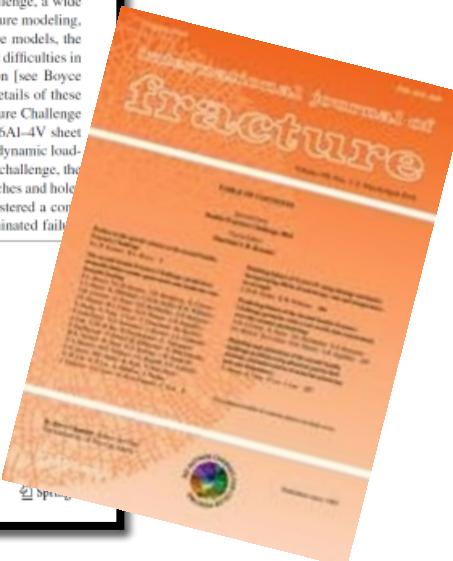
Published online: 14 March 2016

The SFC is one of the most downloaded articles in Int. J. Fracture:  
As of August, 2017:

SFC1 paper downloads: 6,800

SFC2 paper downloads: 4,300

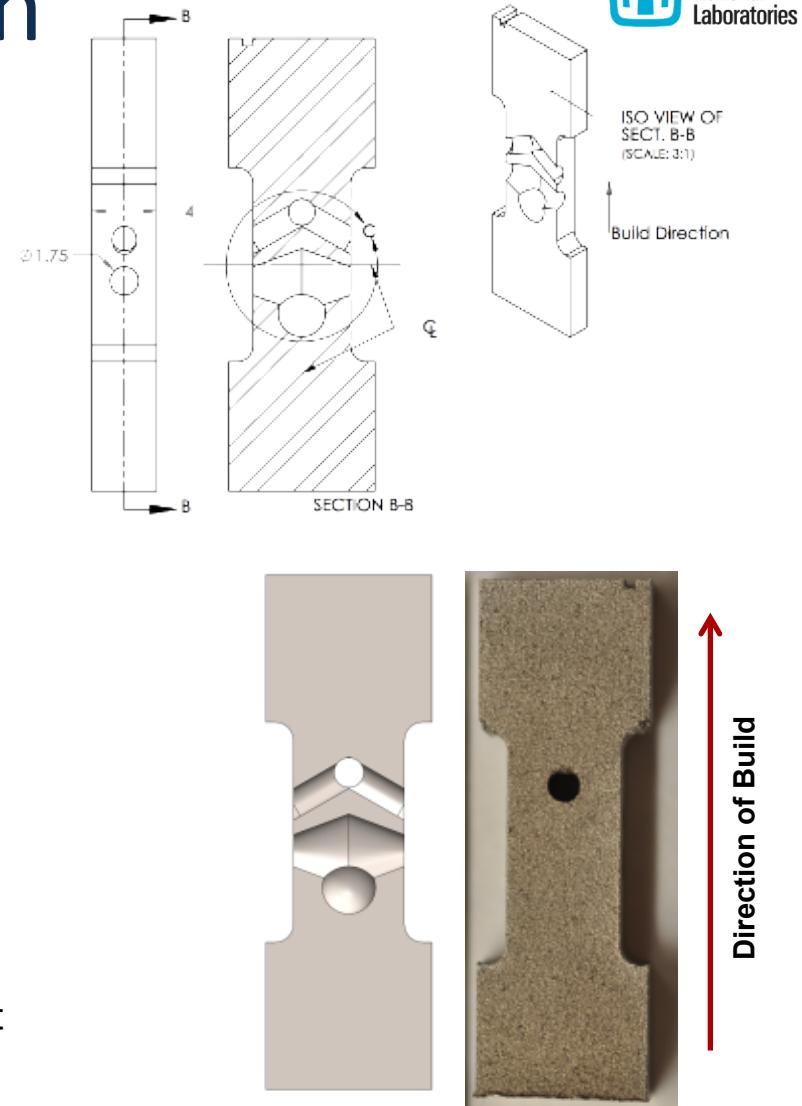
Typical paper in IJF: 200-800 downloads over a similar timeframe.



# SFC3 Problem Definition

**Predict the deformation and failure of the geometry shown on the right**

- **Material:** Additively manufactured 316L stainless steel from a commercial vendor; Laser Powder Bed Fusion also known as Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS) method with 20-micron layers
- **Loading Rate:** 0.0127 mm/s
- **Extensive material property information available**
  - Base material tensile tests Notched tensile tests for fracture properties
  - Micro-computed tomography (CT) of all Challenge geometry specimens to quantify the void content
  - Cross-sections of undeformed specimens
    - Characterization of void content using optical microscopy with higher resolution than micro-CT
    - Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) for grain structure characterization of the Challenge geometry
  - SEM imaging of tensile test and notched tensile test fracture surfaces
- **Challenge Issuance: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**
- **Prediction Deadline: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**



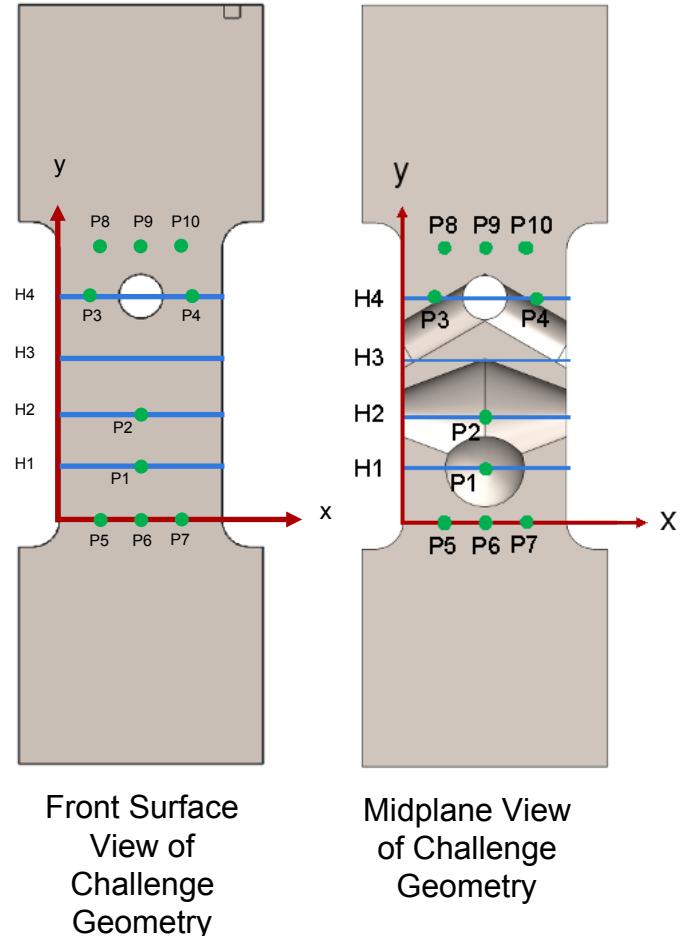
Drawing (Top Image), Central Cross-Section Schematic (Bottom Left Image), and Front (Bottom Right Image) Views of the Challenge Geometry

# Quantities of Interest

## Far-field Response:

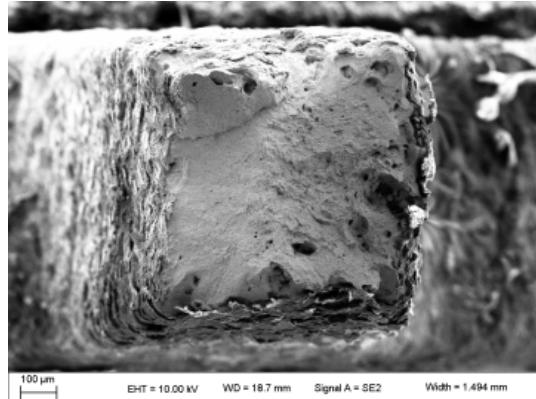
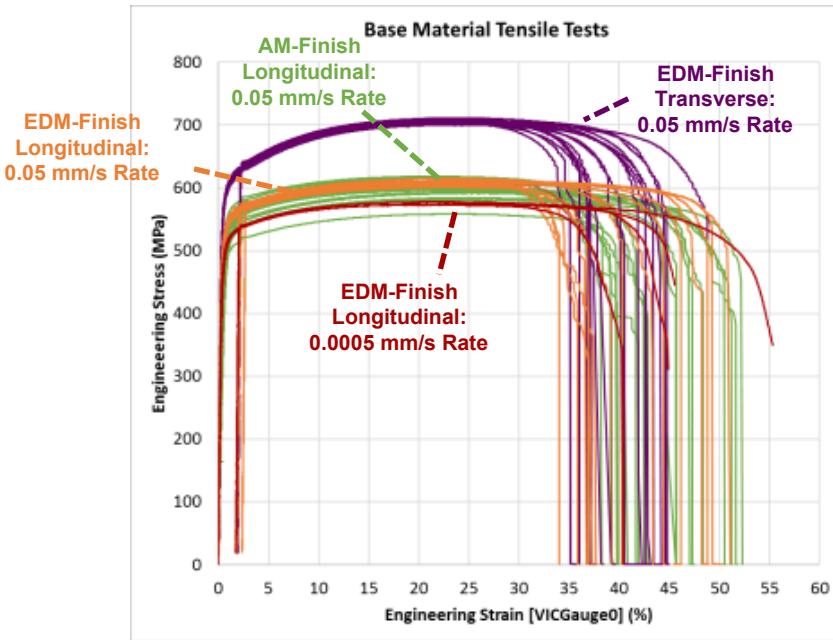
Predict the macroscopic Force-Displacement Response

**Local Response:** Predict local Hencky (logarithmic) strain during the deformation at four locations, P1-P4, and the strain profiles across lines H1-H4. Report nominal (average) value and optionally report the 80-percentile upper bound and 20-percentile lower bound values

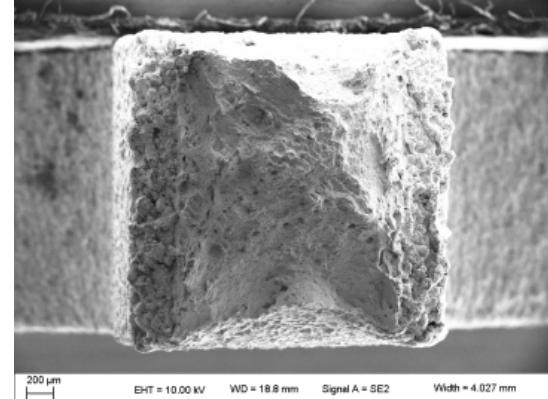
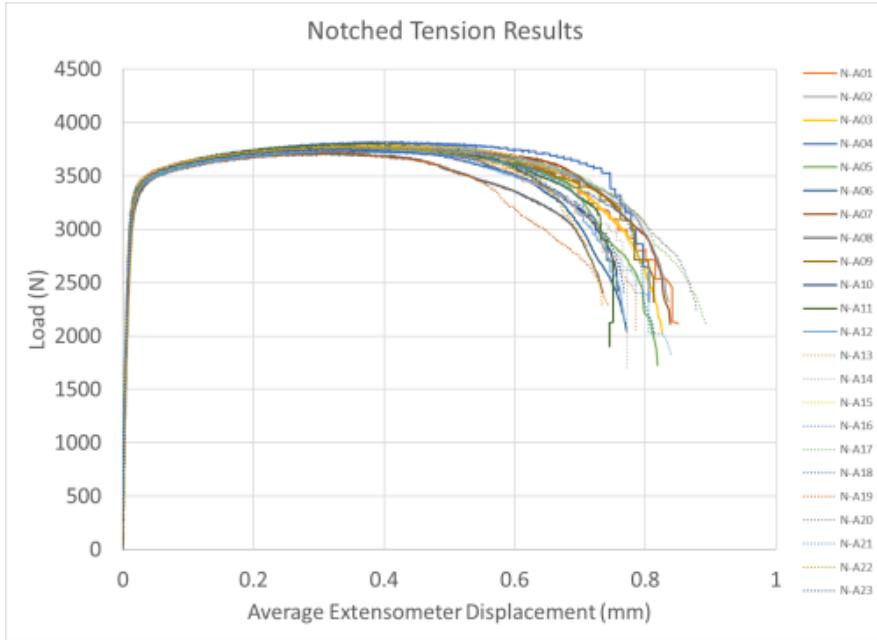


# Examples of Provided Data

**Base Material Test Data (Top); SEM Image of Fracture Surface of Tensile Specimen LTA04 (Bottom)**

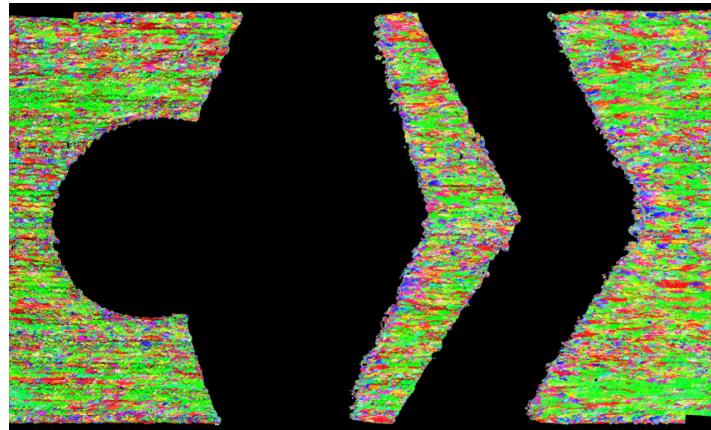
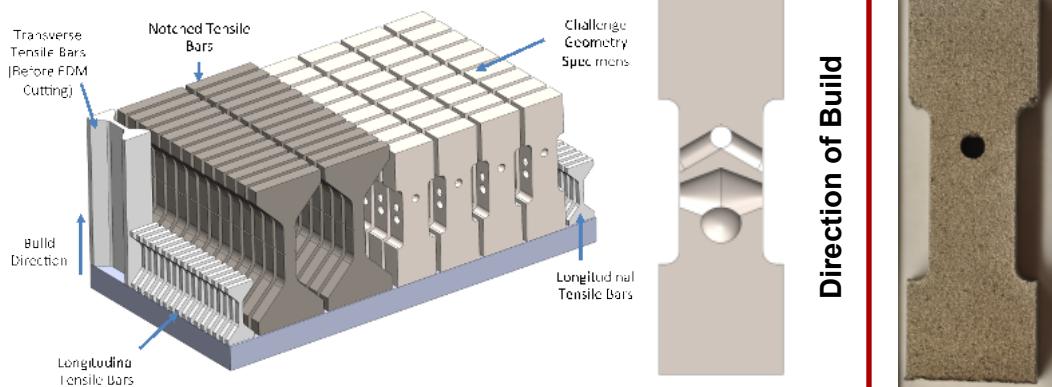


**Notched Tensile Test Data (Top); SEM Image of Fracture Surface of Notched Tensile Specimen NA05 (Bottom)**

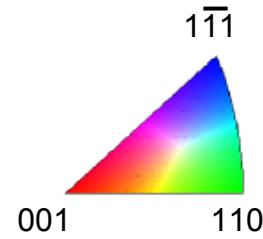


# Examples of Provided Data

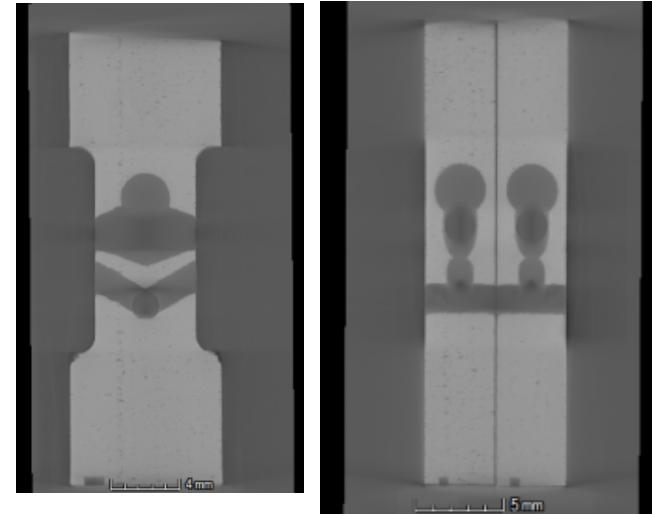
**AM Build of All Test Specimens (Left); Central Cross-Section Schematic (Center) and Front Views of the Challenge Geometry (Right)**



**EBSD Inverse Pole Figure (IPF) in Build Direction**

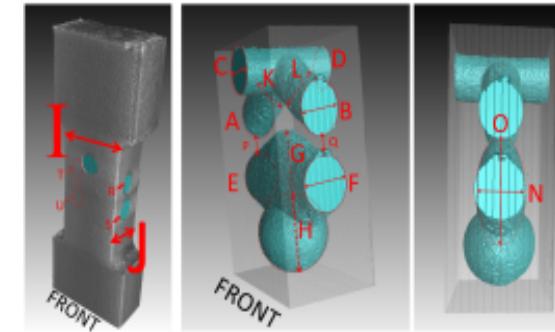


**Example of micro-CT Scans of Challenge Geometry**



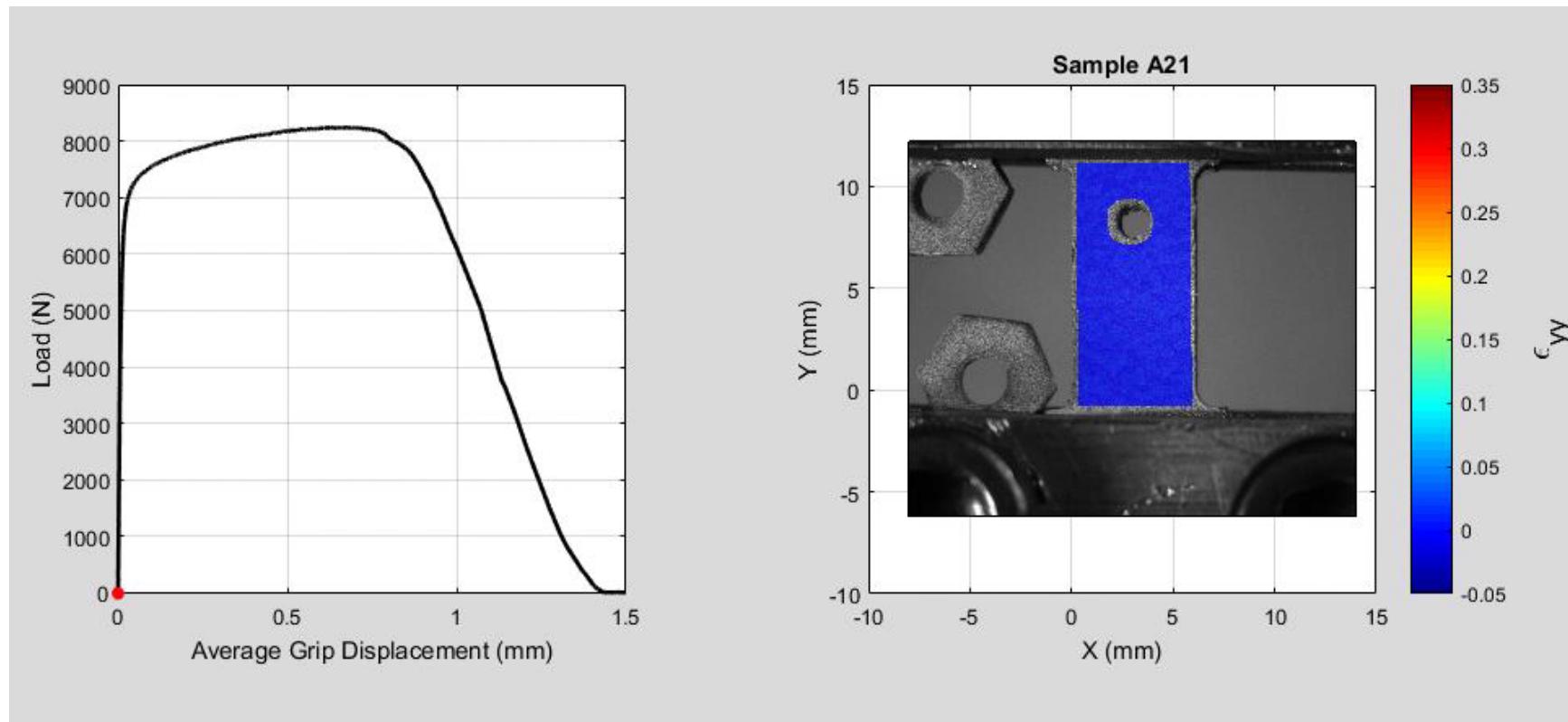
A32 Front View  
“Thick Slab” Image

Side View Image of  
A32 (left) and A15 (Right)



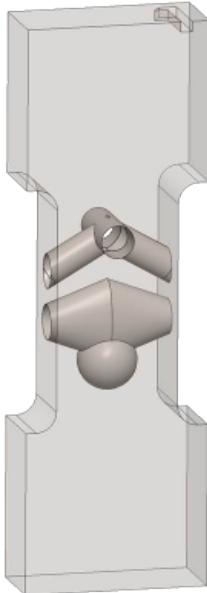
Reconstructed micro-CT Scans with  
Provided Feature Measurements

# Challenge Geometry Experimental Result



# Underway... The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandia Fracture Challenge

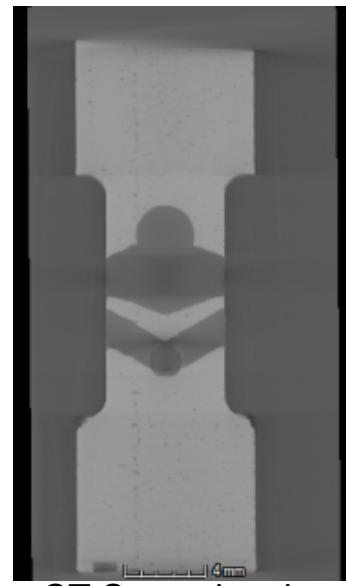
An additively manufactured structure with internal chambers that cannot be manufactured by conventional methods



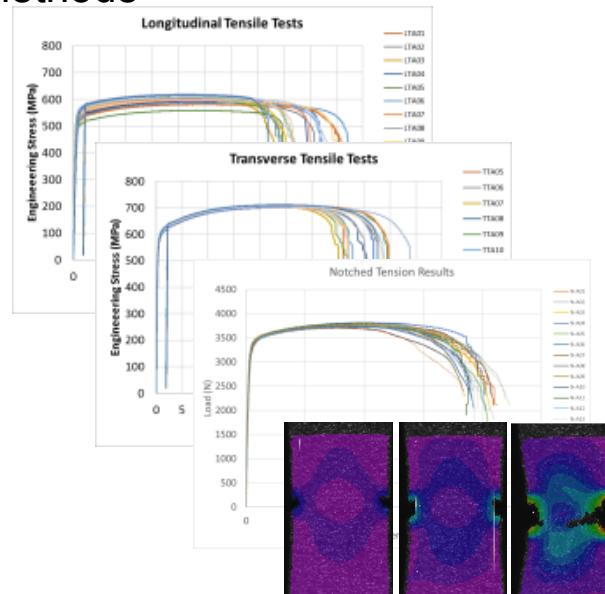
CAD



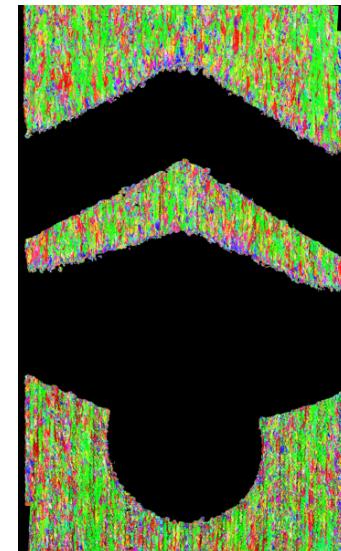
Optical Image



CT Scan showing internal porosity



Notch & smooth bar calibration data (with DIC) from the same build



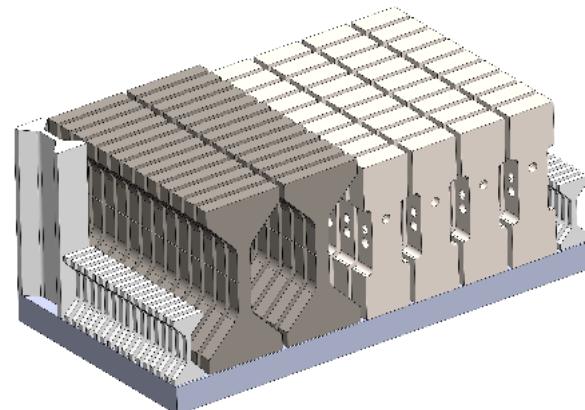
Microstructure & Texture data

**Provided the following engineering data...**

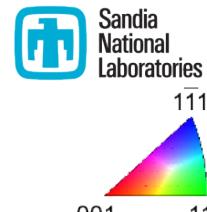
- x-ray CT scans
- tensile & notch tensile tests
- EBSM Microstructure, surface roughness, etc.

**Predict the variability in failure response...**

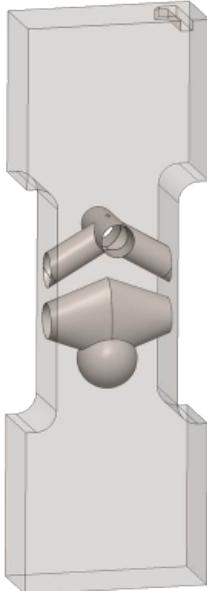
- location of crack initiation
- forces associated with crack initiation
- local surface strains during deformation



# Underway... The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandia Fracture Challenge



An additively manufactured structure with internal chambers that cannot be manufactured by conventional methods



CAD

Optical Image



## Pre-registered Participants:

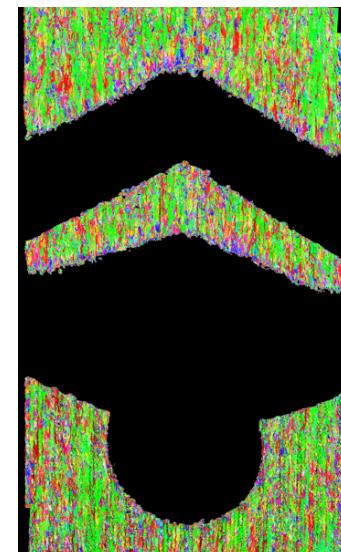
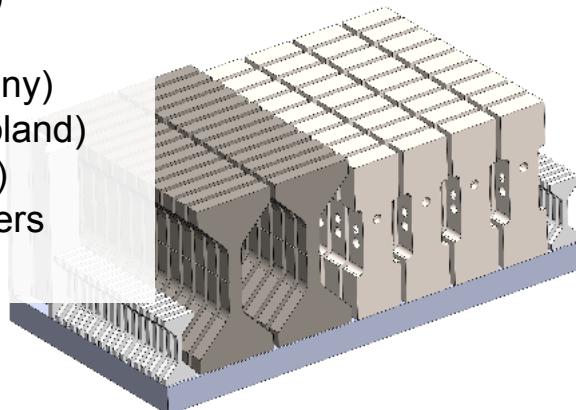
1. Sandia (3 teams)
2. Univ. of Texas-Austin
3. MIT
4. Purdue
5. Southwest Research Institute
6. Exponent
7. Pratt & Whitney
8. General Electric
9. Max-Planck Institute (Germany)
10. Univ. of Utah
11. OCAS NE (France)
12. RWTH Aachen (Germany)
13. Thinkviewer
14. Regensburg Univ. (Germany)
15. Kazimierz Wielki Univ. (Poland)
16. Tecnalia Research (Spain)
17. US Army Corps of Engineers
18. US Army ARDEC

Notch & smooth bar calibration data (with DIC) from the same build

provided engineering data...  
tests...  
surface roughness...  
fracture toughness...  
stress intensity...  
strain rate...  
temperature...  
humidity...  
load history...  
environmental conditions...  
etc.

**Predict the variability in failure**

- location of crack initiation
- forces associated with crack initiation
- local surface strains during deformation

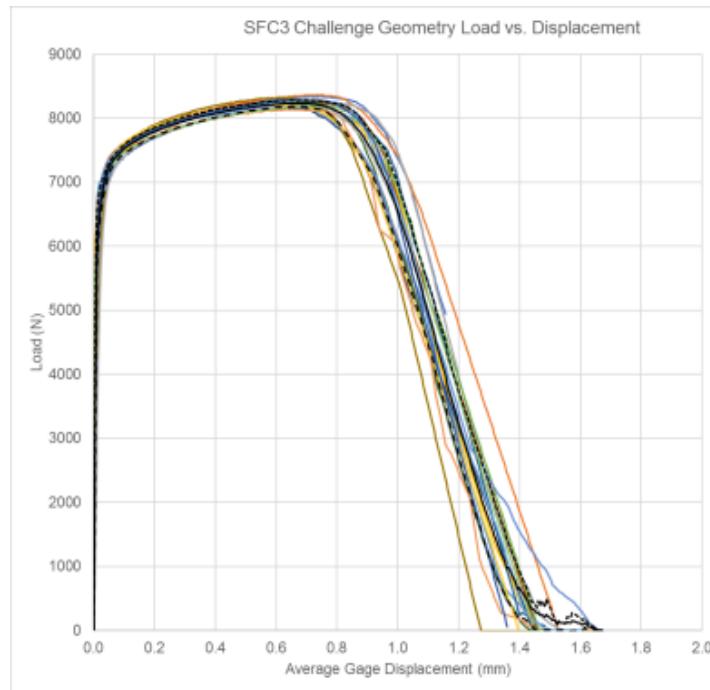


Microstructure & Texture data

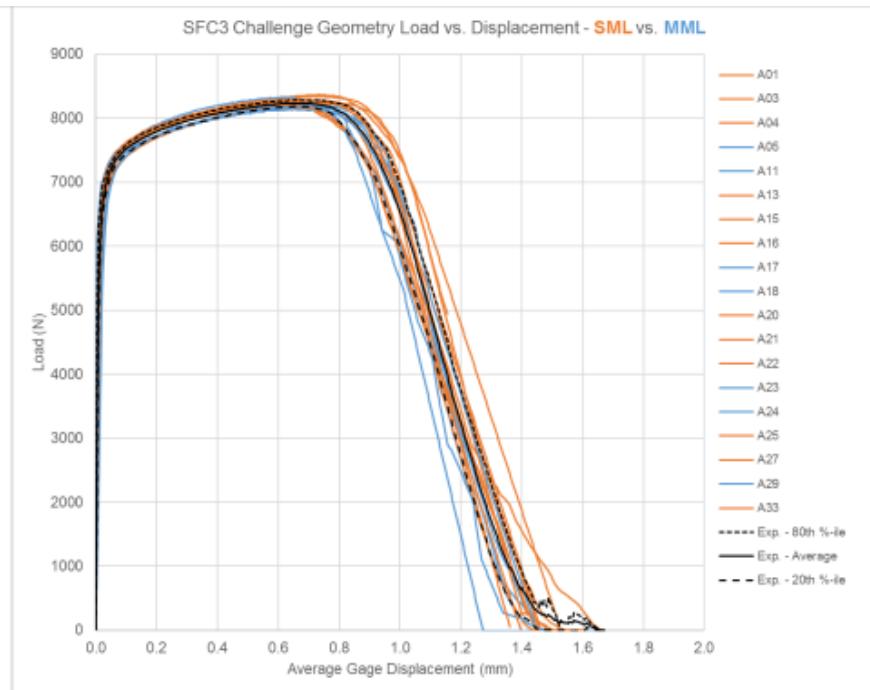
# Experiments: Overall Force-Displacement Response

Report the force vs. gage displacement D for the test.

19 Specimens with Average and Bounds



Comparison of Tests From Two Laboratories



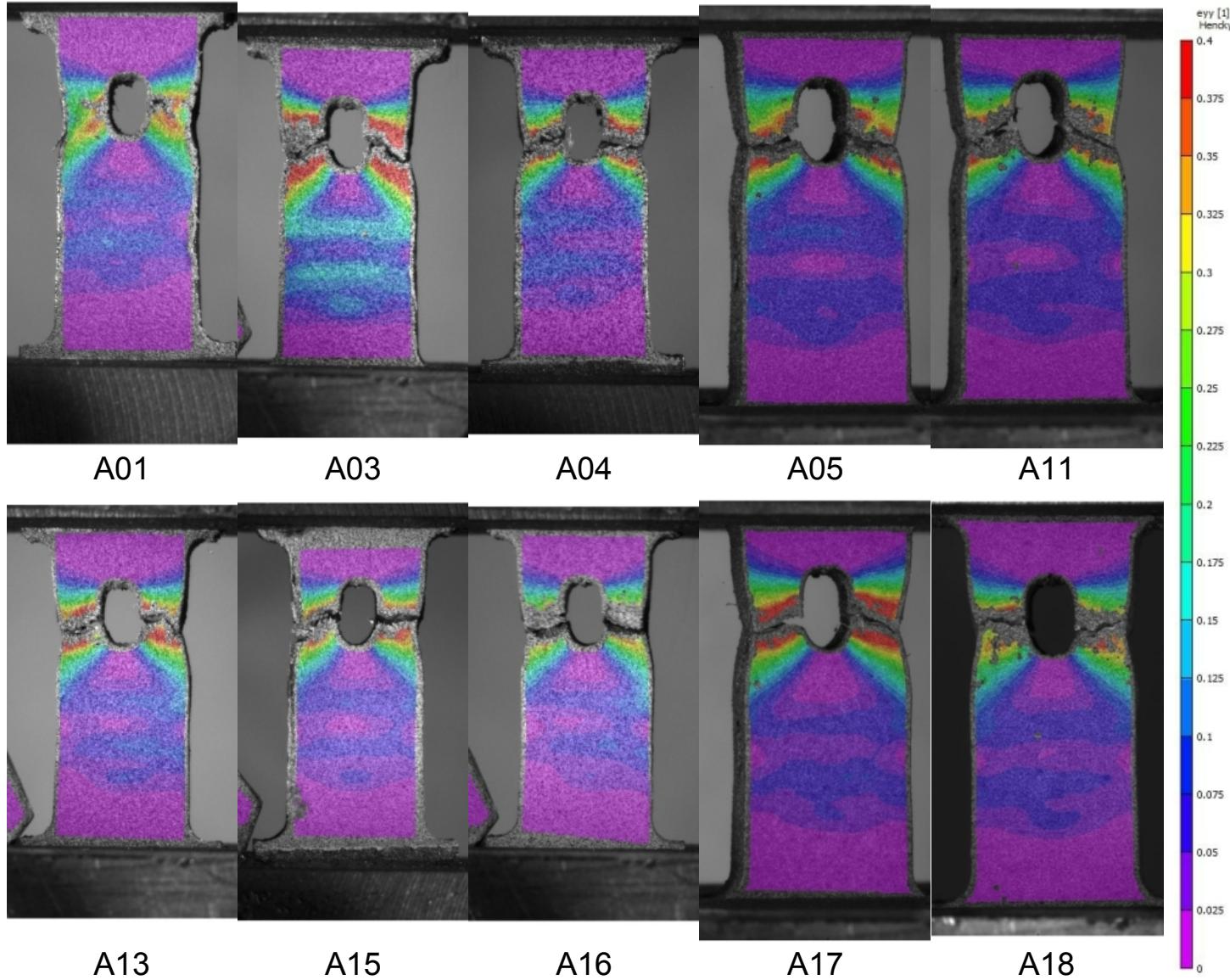
- Relatively repeatable experimental data set with all specimen failing in nominally the same location
- Experimental data from two testing laboratories (12 specimens for the Structural Mechanics Laboratory and 7 specimens from the Material Mechanics Laboratory) overlap
- 20<sup>th</sup> percentile, average, 80<sup>th</sup> percentile forces were determined from the population of 19 specimens where data was available at each value of displacement

# Experiments: Local DIC Strain

The image shown for A01 is immediately before complete failure, where DIC correlation was lost.

Crack path is similar for each specimen, but are not necessarily following the angled channels in every specimen.

Note: SML DIC setup had the left camera perpendicular to the specimen face, while the MML DIC setup had the left camera at an angle relative to the specimen face.



# 21 Teams of Challenge Participants

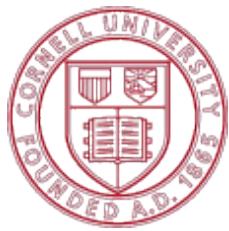


Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

## *Universities*



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology



OSTBAYERISCHE  
TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE  
REGENSBURG



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH®



## *Industry*



SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## *Government Laboratories*



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

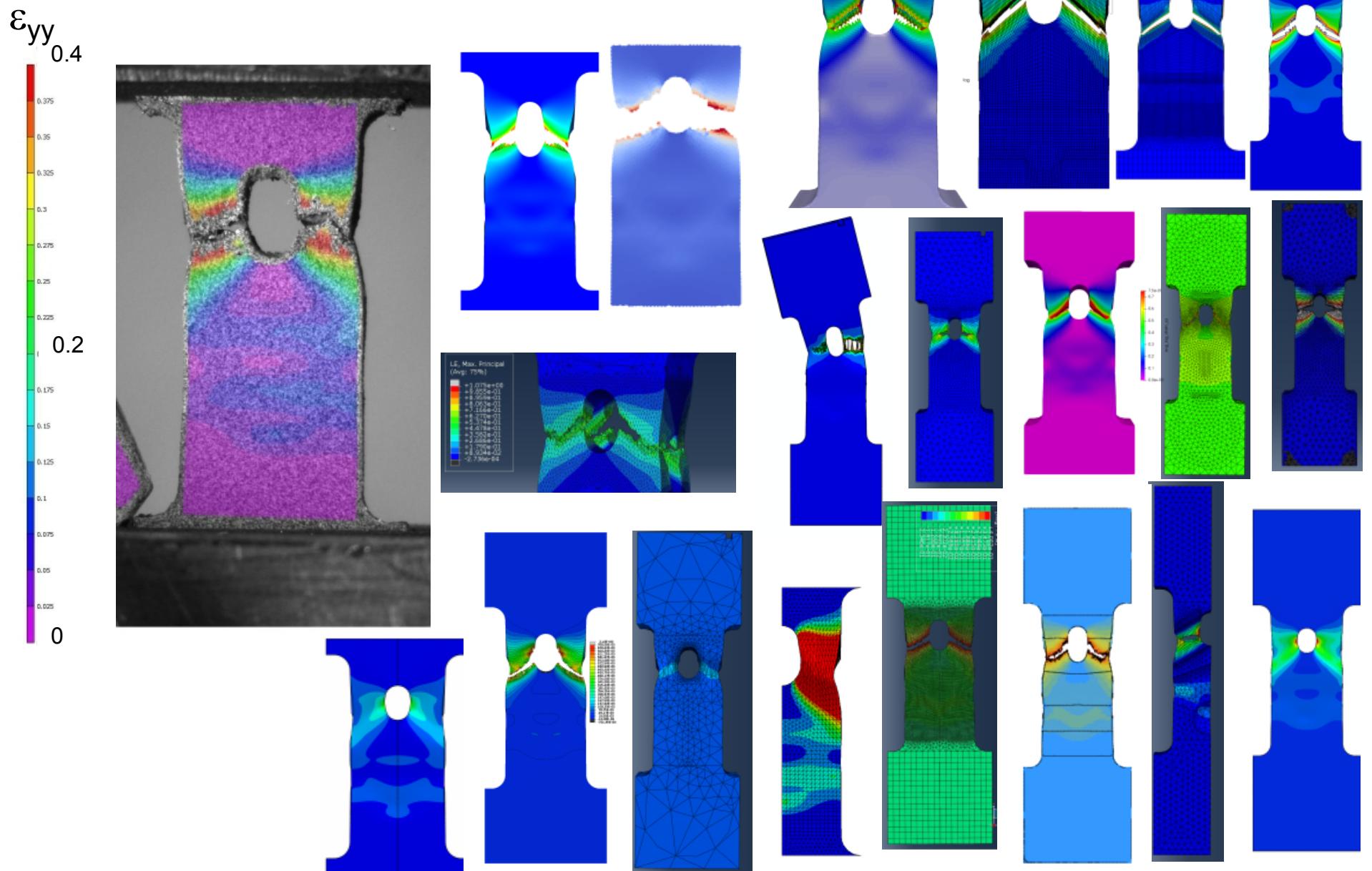


US Army Corps of Engineers

Natural Resources Canada Ressources naturelles Canada

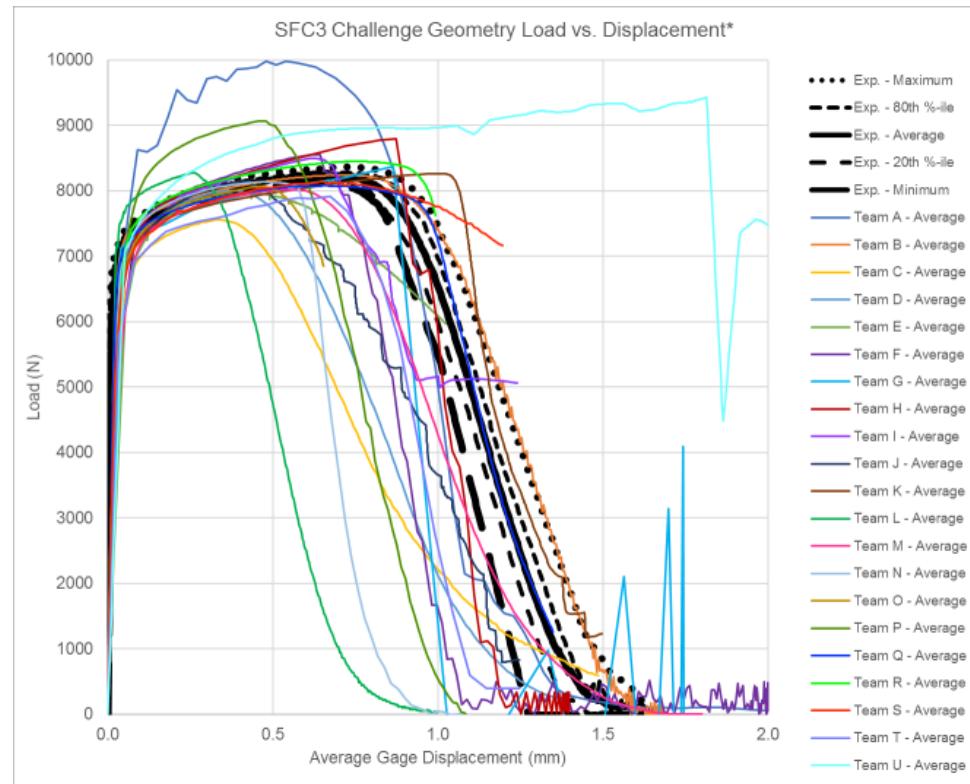
**CanmetÉNERGIE**  
*Leadership en écoInnovation*

# Predictions: Strain-Field Maps



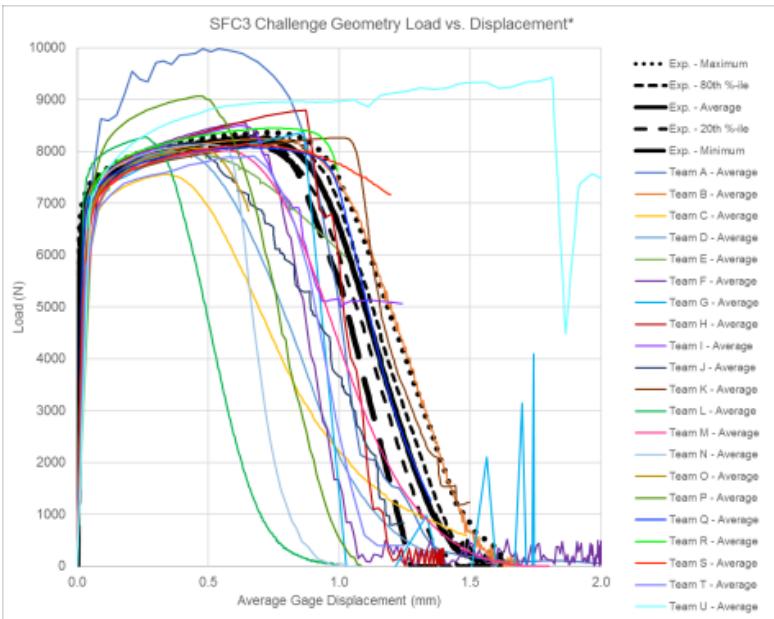
# Predictions: Far-Field Force-Displacement

21 Nominal Predictions with Exp. Average and Bounds



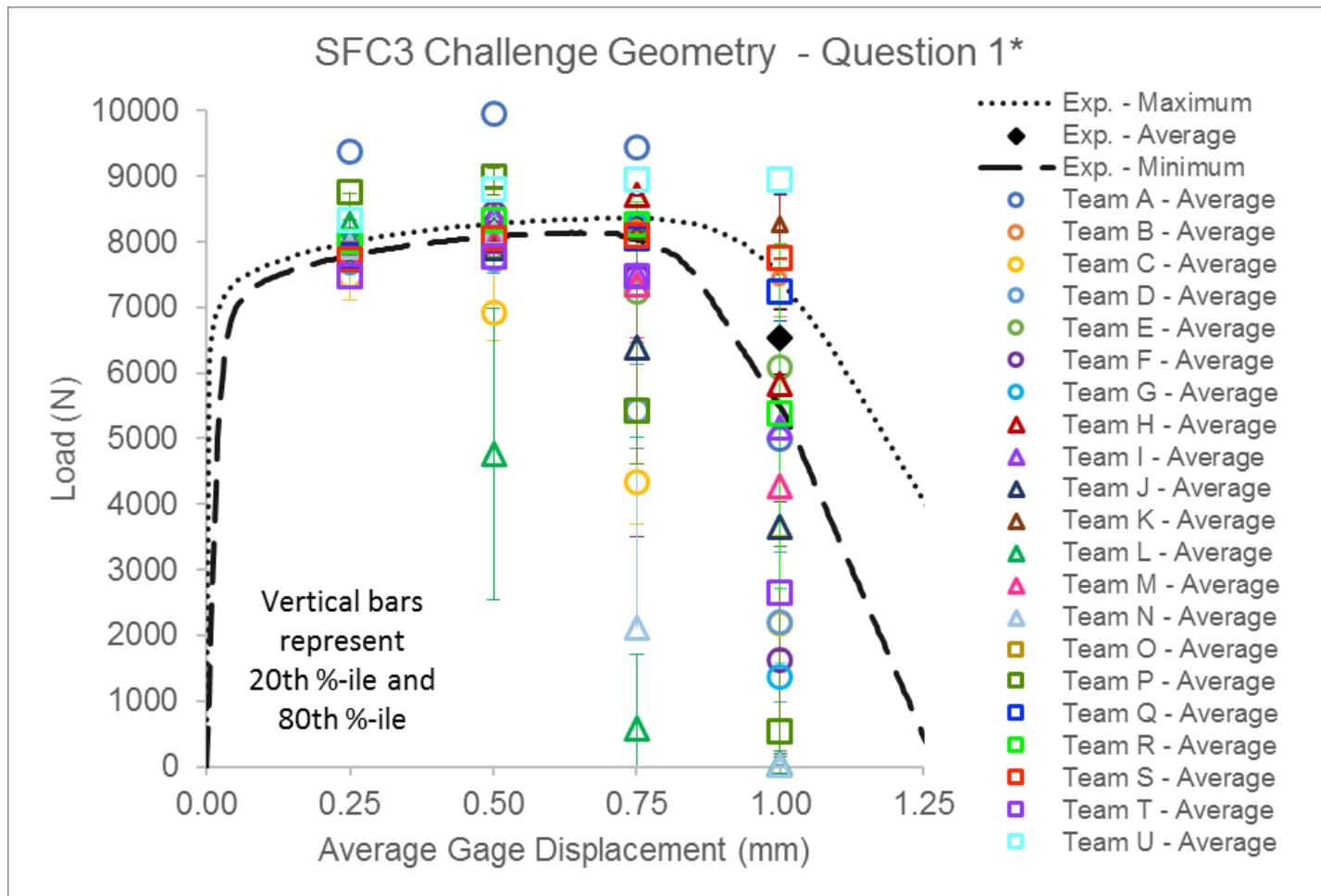
- More teams under-predicted the failure displacement than over-predicted.
- There were only two teams whose nominal prediction fell within the bounds of the experimental data (Teams B and Q).
- The uncertainty bounds on predictions ranged from too small to too large with most unlike the experiments where there was little initial variability with moderate variability after peak load.

# Prediction Methods

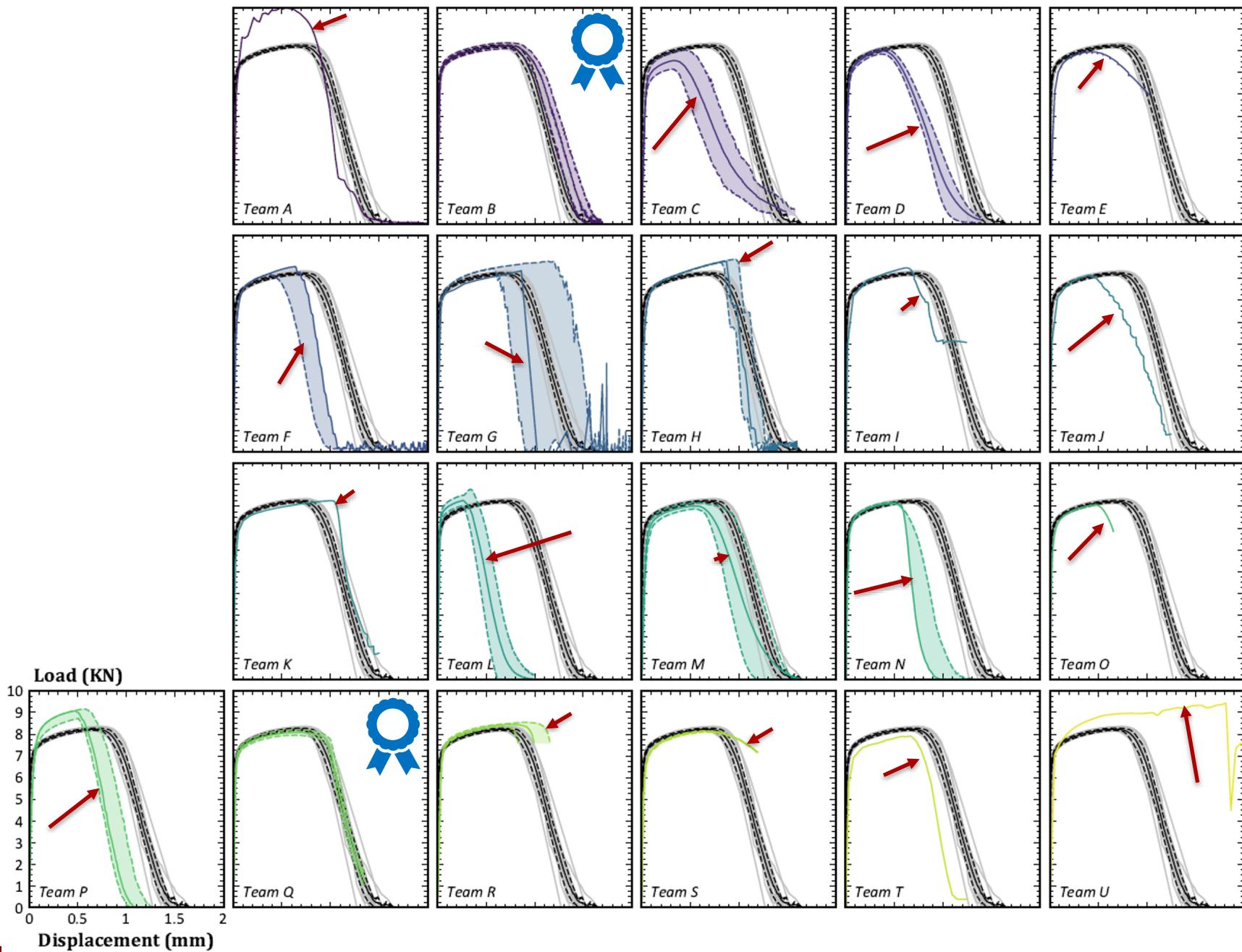


- The 21 predictions were obtained from a variety of methods, for example:
  - **Solvers:** Explicit vs. Implicit; Quasi-statics vs. Dynamics
  - **Fracture Method:** Element deletion, Peridynamics with bond damage, XFEM, Damage (stiffness degradation), and Adaptive remeshing
  - **Uncertainty:** Material and geometric
  - **Plasticity:** J2 plasticity or Hill yield with Isotropic hardening, mixed Swift-Voce hardening, kinematic hardening, or custom hardening curves
  - **Fracture Criteria:** GTN model, Hosford-Coulomb, triaxiality-dependent strain, critical fracture energy, damage-based model, critical void volume fraction, and Johnson-Cook model
  - **Damage Evolution:** Damage accumulation / evolution, crack band model, fracture energy, displacement value threshold, incremental stress triaxiality, Cocks-Ashby void growth, and void nucleation / growth / coalescence
  - **Calibration Data:** Various combinations of the tensile specimens, the notched tensile specimens, and literature data
- All 21 predictions correctly identified the nominal crack path with initiation at the through-thickness hole
- 12 teams offered uncertainty bounds on their predictions

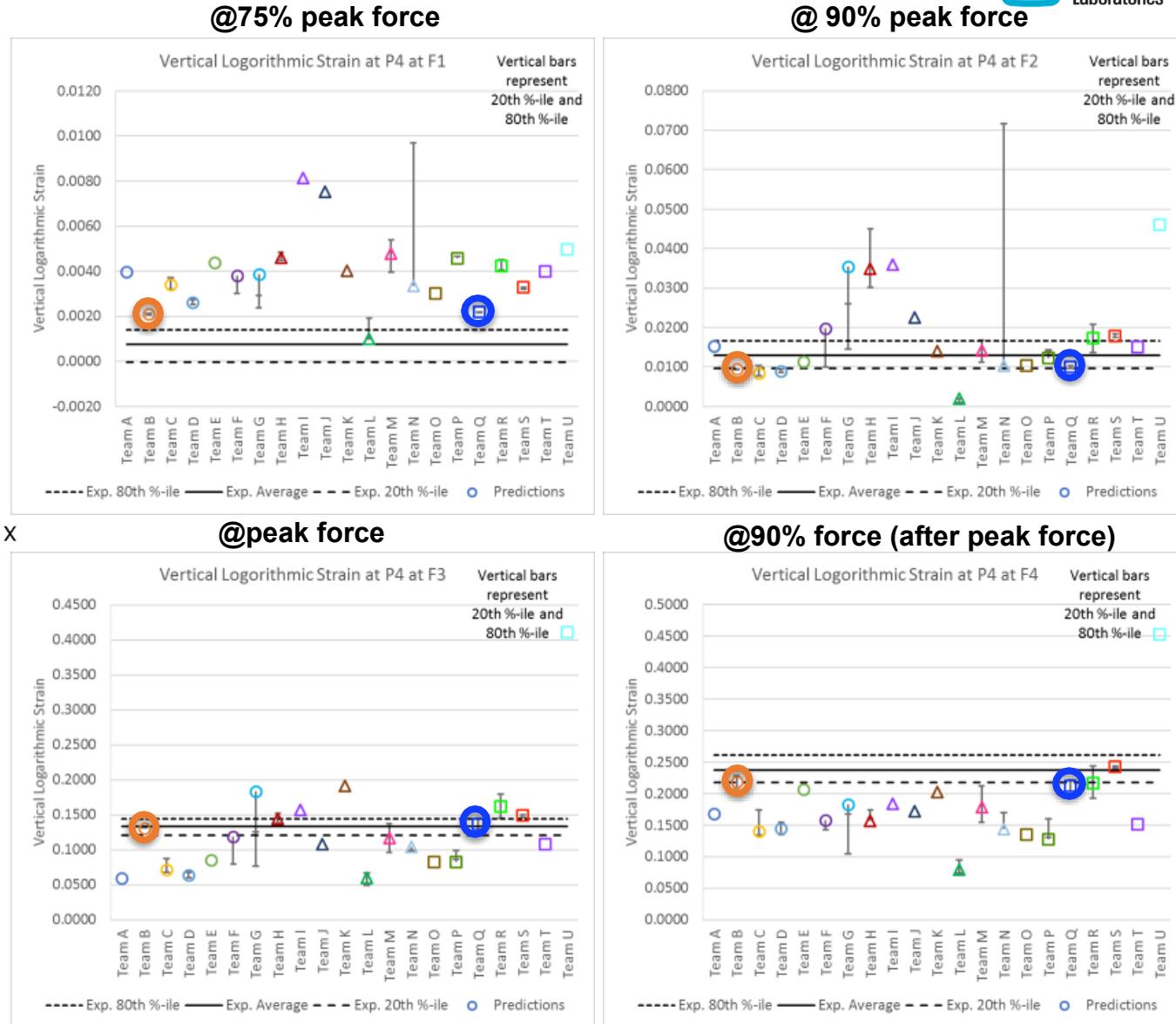
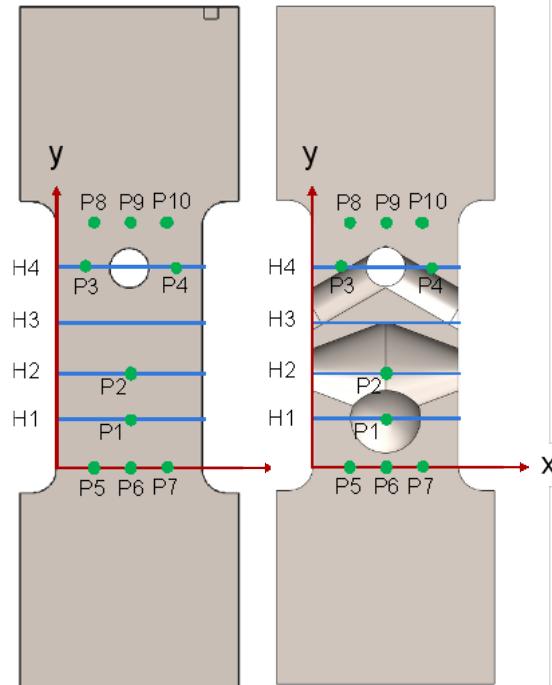
# Predictions: Overall Force-Displacement



Several teams predicted the initial structural yield, but the variation broadened with increasing displacement.

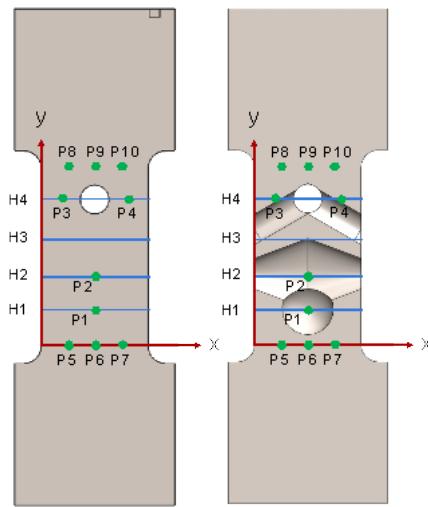


# Predictions: Local Strain at Point P4



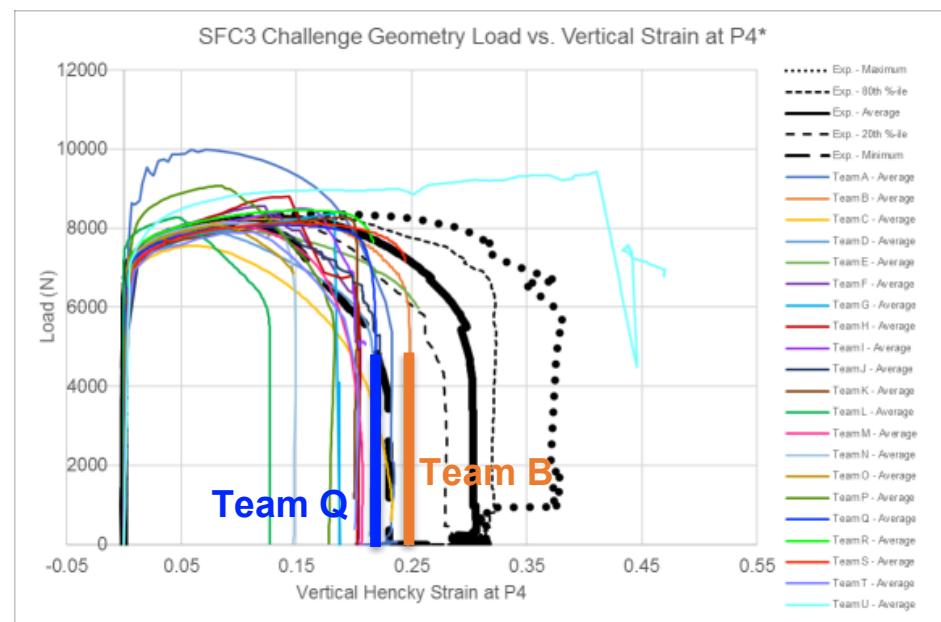
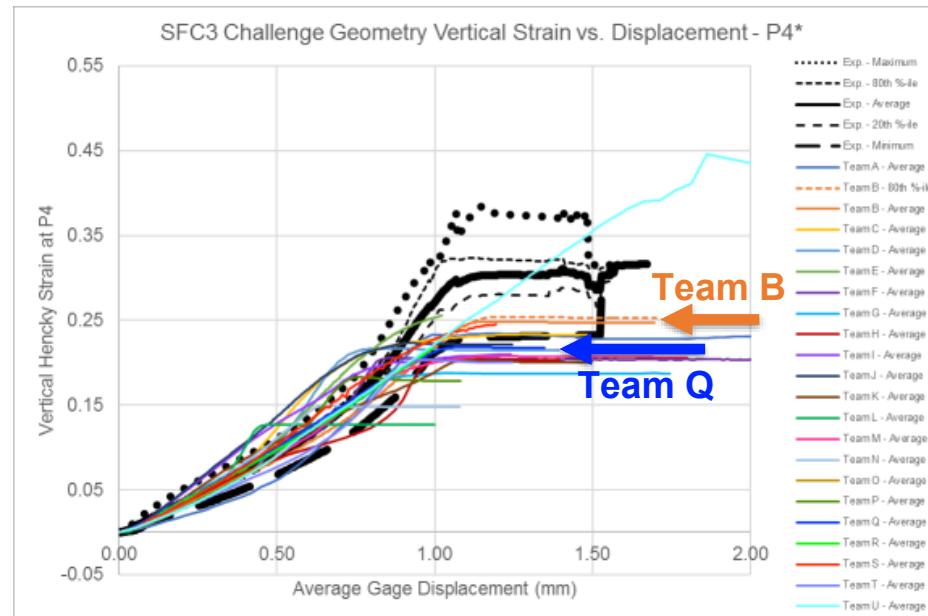
Generally, the predictions were initially too high, particularly for F1, and then were under-predicting by F4.

# Predictions: Local Strain Evolution @ P4

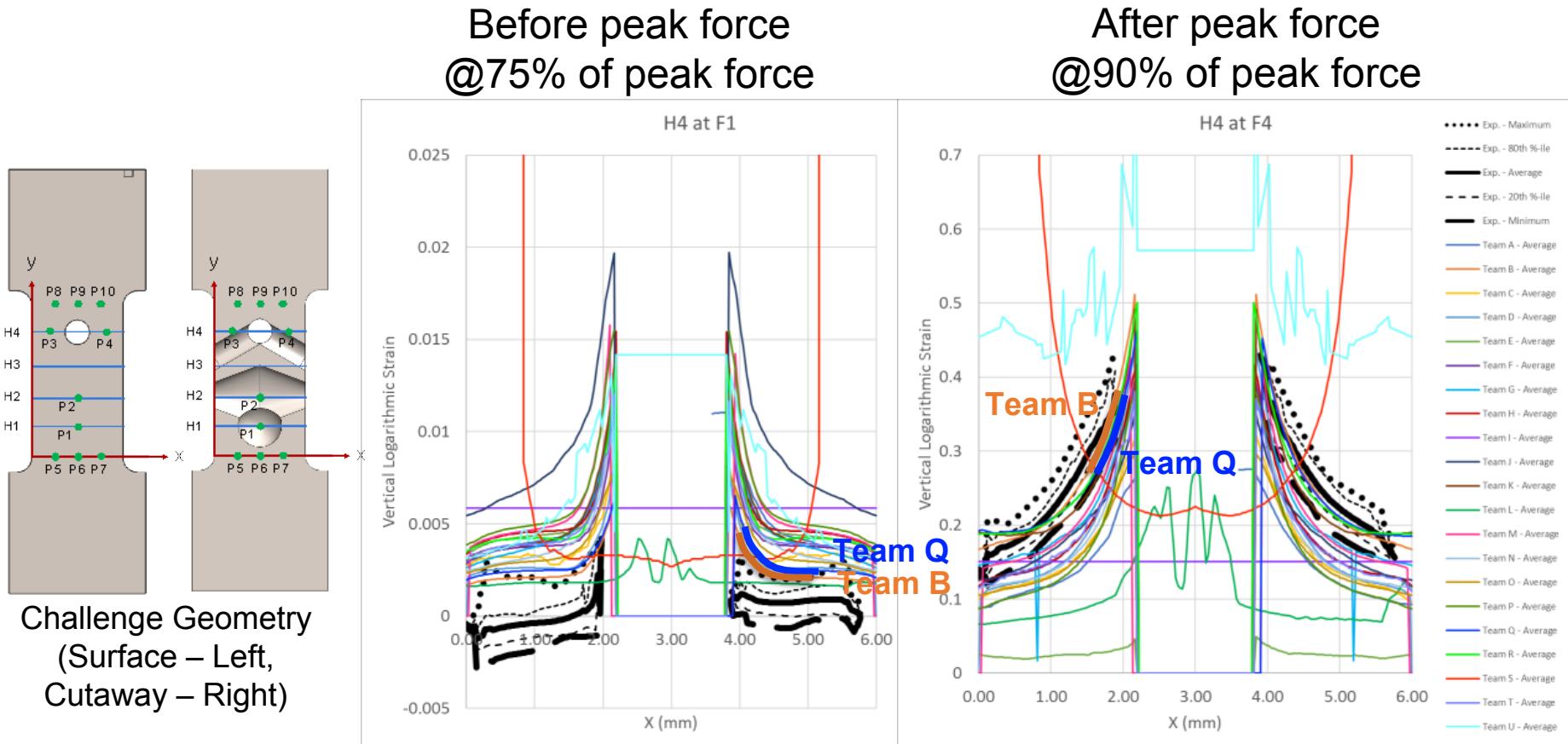


Challenge  
Geometry  
(Surface – Left,  
Cutaway – Right)

Strain predictions close to failure were generally too low.



# Predictions: Local strain profiles along line H4



Most teams over-predicted the nominal strain during initial loading, but many team's predictions improved for higher forces.

# Assessment of Success: Teams B and Q

## Team B:

- 1) Correct approach to model large-strain plasticity. Hardening model was fit past necking using inverse method
- 2) Non-associative flow rule (Hill'48) based on a Lankford ratio obtained by DIC analysis.
- 3) Without data to calibrate stress-state dependency, our past experience guided us to use a constant fracture strain failure criteria.

## Team Q:

- 1) Robust, efficient iterative model refinement tools.
- 2) The diverse team led to deliberate decisions on assumptions.
- 3) Improvements to our tools based partly on experience in SFC2.
- 4) Dedicated significant time to the solution (~700 hours)

# IMPACT.... Who cares; how is this helping?

1. Provides a documentation of '**state-of-the-art**'.
  - Evidence to support use of codes in engineering problems
  - Educates analysts who use but do not develop these methods
2. Illustrates **key deficiencies** in structural mechanics predictions
  - Fracture is not a readily 'solved' problem in some cases
  - Motivates mechanicians and code developers to fix deficiencies
  - **Opportunities for lower length scales** to address gaps?
3. Raises International **awareness on the need for improved simulation capabilities**
  - Revitalize & guide funding in this 'mature' area (e.g. NSF)
  - Revitalize the prestige in working on failure of structural metals
  - Establishes well-documented 'toy problems' for future assessment & benchmarking



Minnesota I-35W Bridge Collapse.

# Guidance on executing a blind challenge...

1. Learn from examples: SFC, NIST AMBench, Numisheet
2. Identify a problem of broad interest
3. Solicit participation from a broad network of experts
4. Give sufficient time for participation
5. Be thoughtful about how much calibration info you provide
  - Too much data can be discouraging, but may reflect reality
  - Intentionally omitting data can reveal teams' approximation methods
  - Provide all relevant info in an easy-to-access format
6. Choose evaluation metrics with an uncontroversial "ground truth"
  - Experiments that are not controversial (repeated in multiple labs?)
  - Higher fidelity / trustworthy models?
7. Keep the playing field level
  - All open data is shared among all participants.
  - No participant should have an unfair advantage
  - Known key background literature should be distributed
8. Think about how to compile data: request consistent submission format
9. Reward participation (e.g. joint publications)

# STRUCTURAL RELIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of the Structural Reliability Partnership is to coordinate research, share best practices, and leverage investments from multiple institutions on areas of mutual interest in the domain of structural reliability.

17 member institutions, >\$4M in leveraged funding

Members			
Core	Strategic	Contributing	
 Sandia National Laboratories	 OAK RIDGE National Laboratory	 PennState	 UT DALLAS
 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™	 NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology	 UC San Diego	 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
 TEXAS The University of Texas at Austin	 INL Idaho National Laboratory	 CLEMSON UNIVERSITY	 UCDAVIS AGGIES
		 THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO	 THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
		 Pratt & Whitney A United Technologies Company	 UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Participants			
 ExxonMobil	 BOEING	 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	 Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY
 JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	 ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN	 Georgia Tech	 NSF
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY	 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	 NASA	
 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS COLORADO			

