# **Mechanical Behaviour of Materials**

Chapter 17 Fatigue

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3-3.1. Introduction to fatigue
3-3.2. Fatigue test
3-3.3. S-N curve
3-3.4. Fatigue crack growth
3-3.5. Stages of fatigue

# Surface Fractography



Figure 17.1. Typical clamshell markings on a fatigue fracture surface of a shaft. The fracture started at the left side of the bar and progressed to the right, where final failure occurred in a single cycle. Courtesy of W. H. Durrant.



Figure 17.2. SEM picture of fatigue striations on a fracture surface of type 304 stainless steel. From *Metals Handbook*, v. 9, 8th ed., ASM (1974).

### Fatigue fracture surface



Figure 17.3. Intrusions and extrusions at the surface formed by cyclic deformation. These correspond to persistent slip bands beneath the surface. From A. Cottrell and D. Hull, *Proc. Roy. Soc. (London)*, v. A242 (1957).



Figure 17.4. Sketch showing how intrusions and extrusions can develop if slip occurs on different planes during the tension and compression portions of the loading.

## Characteristics of fatigue fracture

Fatigue is defined as a degradation of mechanical properties leading to failure of a material or a component under cyclic loading

It is estimated that 90% of service failures of metallic components that undergo movement of one form or another can be attributed to fatigue.



### Nomenclature of cyclic loading







Figure 17.6. The S-N curve for annealed 4340 steel. Typically, the break in the curve for a material with a fatigue limit occurs at about 10<sup>6</sup> cycles. The points with arrows are for tests stopped before failure.



Stress, MPa

100

10<sup>3</sup>

Figure 17.7. The S-N curve for an aluminum alloy 7075 T-6. Note that there is no true fatigue limit.

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N, cycles to failure

10<sup>9</sup>

#### S-N curves



• Traditionally, the behavior of a material under fatigue is described by the S-N ( $\sigma$ -N) curves, where S ( $\sigma$ ) is the stress and N is the number of cycles to failure. The S-N –curve is called a Woehler curve.

### Fatigue testing, S-N curves



The greater the number of cycles in the loading history, the smaller the stress that the material can withstand without failure.

Note the presence of a fatigue limit in many steels and its absence in aluminum alloys.

Figure 12-3 Typical fatigue curves for ferrous and nonferrous metals.

Number of cycles to foilure, N

[Dieter]

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## Determination for Fatigue Crack Growth



## Fatigue Crack Growth



$$\frac{da}{dN} = C(\Delta K)^n$$

 $\Delta K_{th}$  fatigue crack growth threshold

If  $\Delta K$  below this value  $\Delta K_{th}$ , crack growth does not occur.



#### Determination for



## Fatigue crack growth rate testing



$$\left(\frac{da}{dN}\right)_{j} \approx \left(\frac{\Delta a}{\Delta N}\right)_{j} = \frac{a_{j} - a_{j-1}}{N_{j} - N_{j-1}}$$

$$a_{avg} = \frac{a_j + a_{j-1}}{2}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{a_{avg}}{b} = \frac{a_j + a_{j-1}}{2b}$$





N, Cycles

# Mechanisms of crack nucleation

# Fatigue crack growth

- Three stages of crack growth, I, II and III.
- Stage I: transition to a finite crack growth rate from no propagation below a threshold value of ΔK.
- Stage II: "power law" dependence of crack growth rate on  $\Delta K$ .
- Stage III: acceleration of growth rate with  $\Delta K$ , approaching catastrophic fracture.



## Fatigue crack stages



Figure 12-15 W. A. Wood's concept of microdeformation leading to formation of fatigue crack. (a) Static deformation; (b) fatigue deformation leading to surface notch (intrusion); (c) fatigue deformation leading to slip-band extrusion.



#### Stage 2





Figure 12-16. Eatigue structures in beta-annealed TotoAl-4V allow (2000 + 3) of ourtes of R = 1. Basics, Naval Research Laboratory (



# Fatigue Crack Propagation

- Crack Nucleation ® stress intensification at crack tip.
- Stress intensity <sup>®</sup> crack propagation (growth);
  - stage I growth on shear planes (45°), *strong influence of microstructure*
  - stage II growth normal to tensile load (90°) *weak influence of microstructure*.
- Crack propagation ® catastrophic, or ductile failure at crack length dependent on boundary conditions, fracture toughness.

# Fatigue Crack Nucleation

- Flaws, cracks, voids can all act as crack nucleation sites, especially at the surface.
- Therefore, smooth surfaces increase the time to nucleation; notches, stress risers decrease fatigue life.
- Dislocation activity (slip) can also nucleate fatigue cracks.

# Dislocation Slip Crack Nucleation

- Dislocation slip -> tendency to localize slip in bands.
- Persistent Slip Bands (PSB's) characteristic of cyclic strains.
- Slip Bands -> extrusion at free surface.
- Extrusions -> intrusions and crack nucleation.