

# Improved design method for connections perpendicular-to-grain

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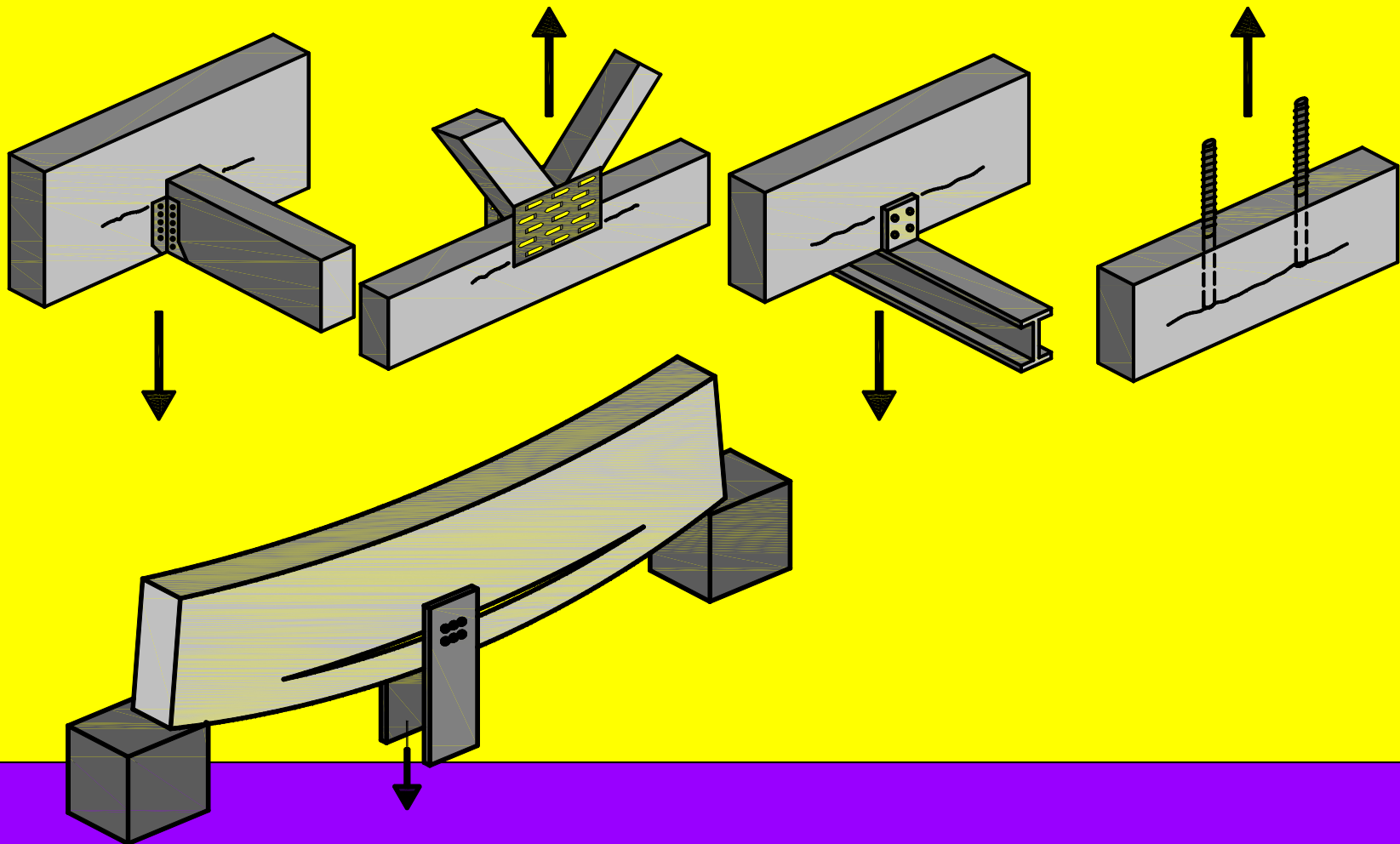
Ad Leijten



Supported by the Dutch  
Technology Foundation STW

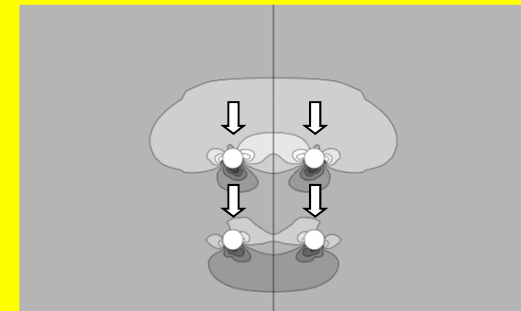
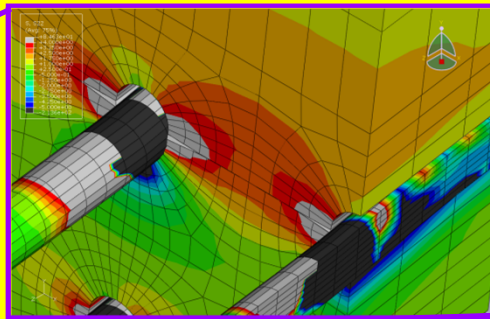
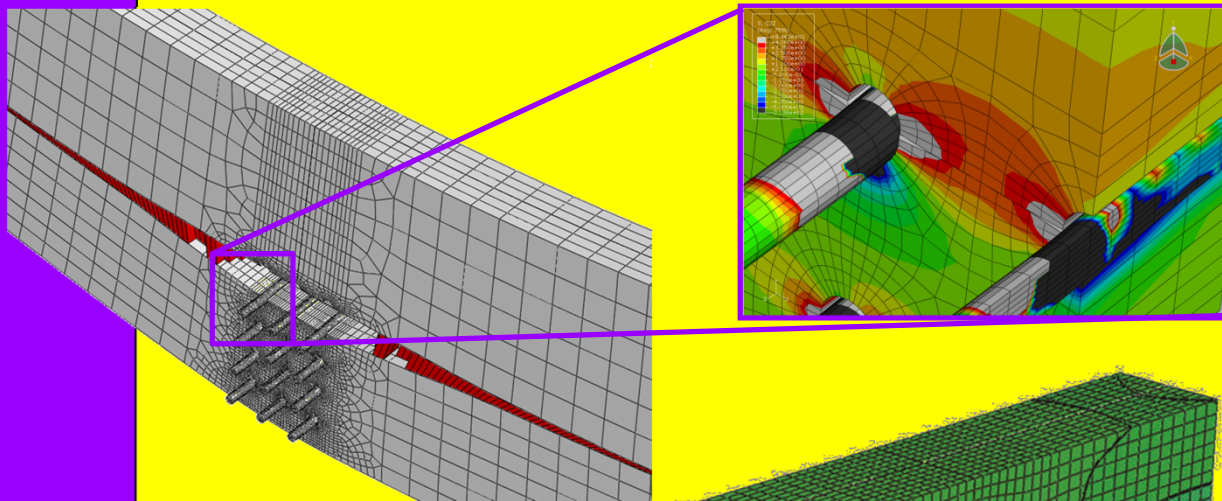
## General / Introduction

- Critical situations in timber engineering design practice (joints)

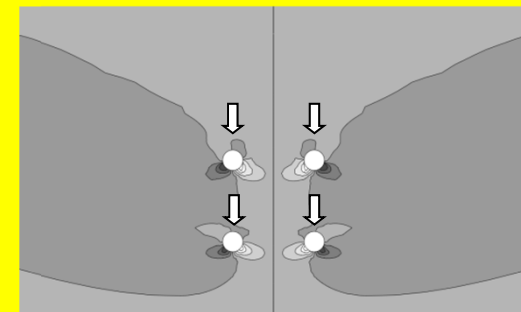


## General / Introduction

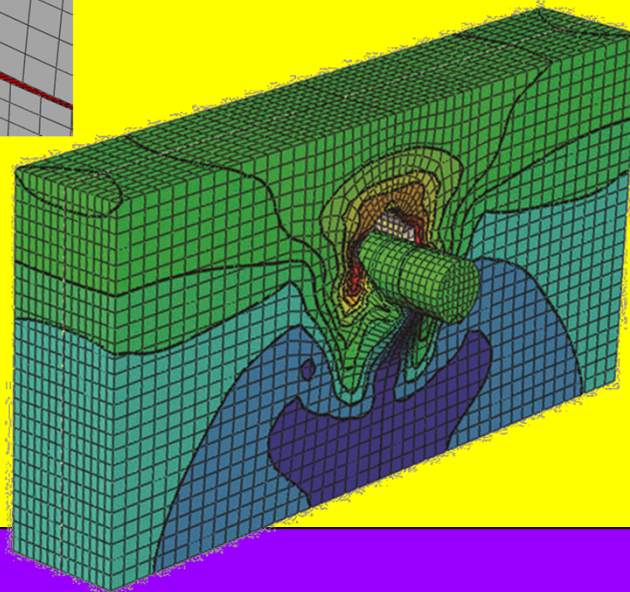
- Associated fracture and failure mechanisms  $\leftrightarrow$  local stress state



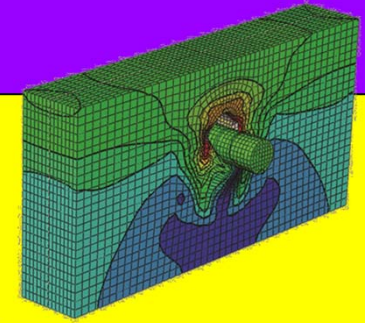
Normal stress



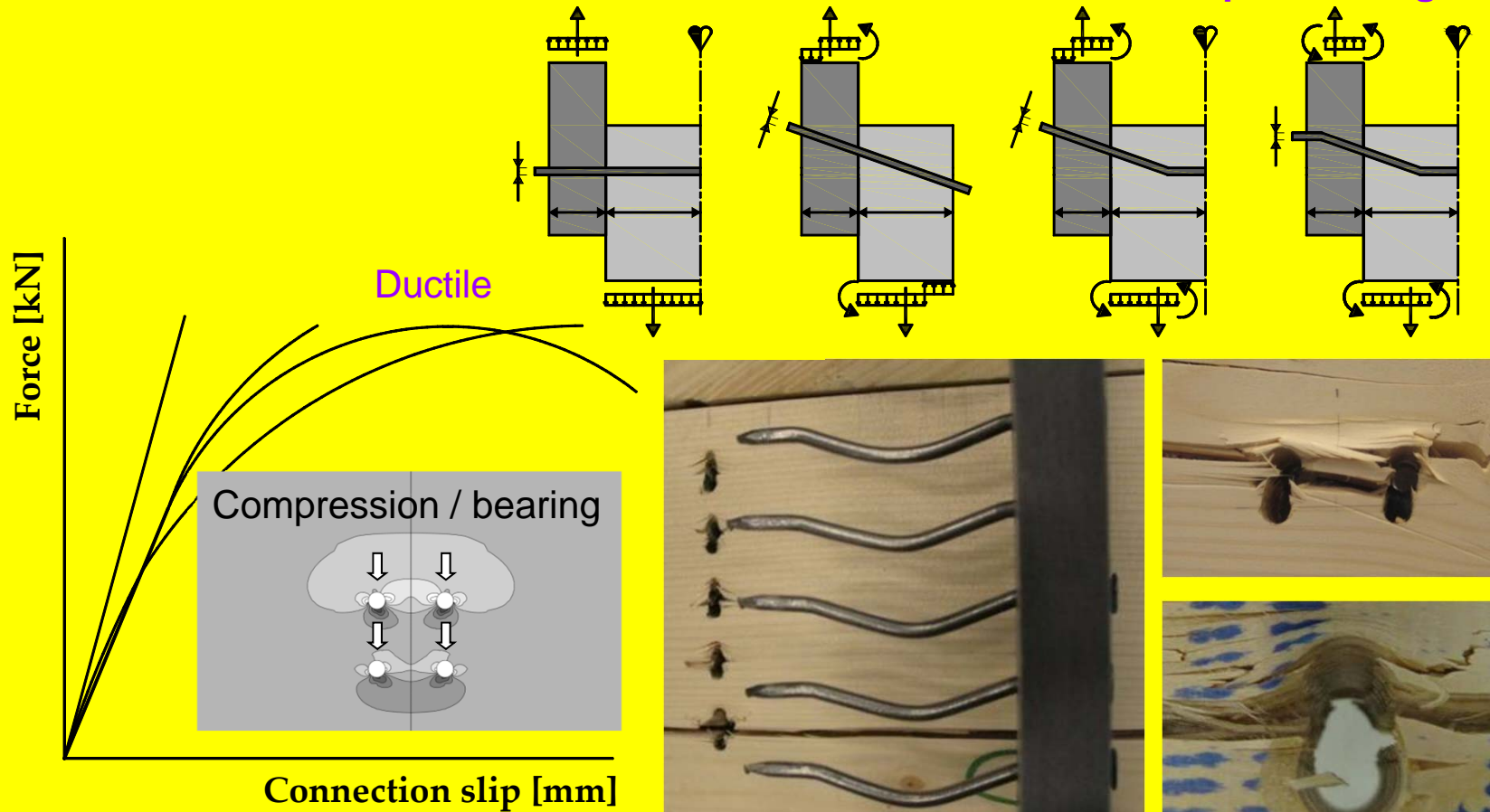
Shear stress



# General / Introduction



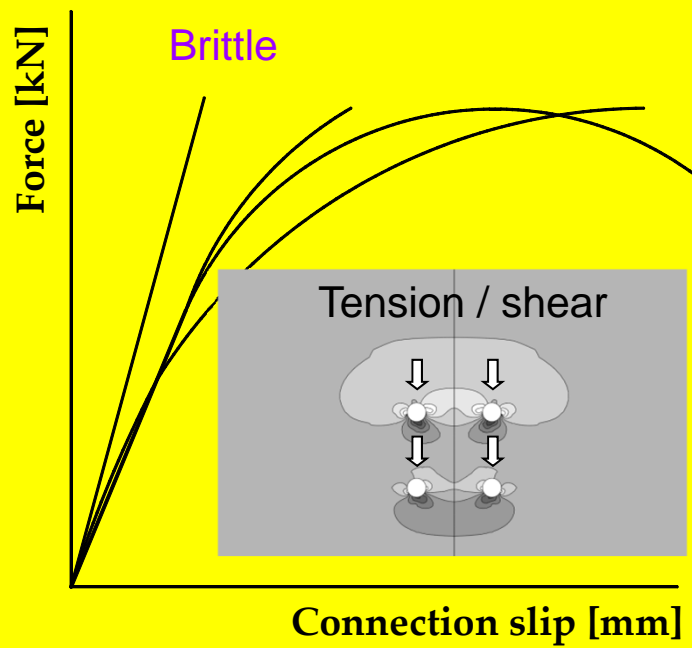
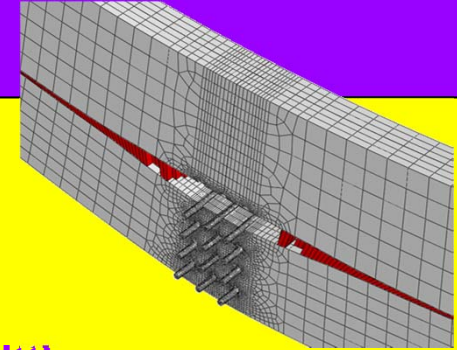
- Associated fracture and failure mechanisms: **Embedment / plastic hinges**





## General / Introduction

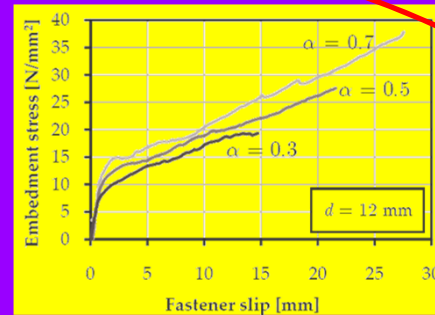
- Associated fracture and failure mechanisms: **Splitting**



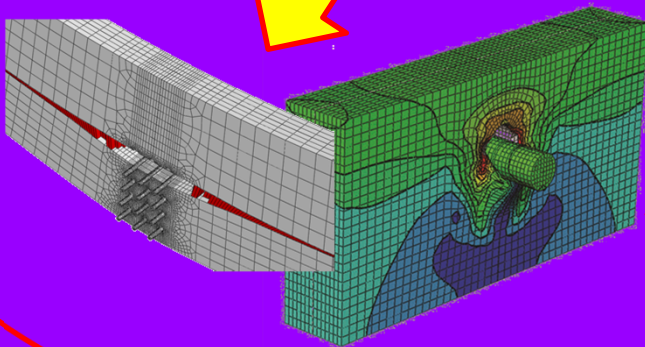
# Research methodology

## Design rules

➤ Research fields



Experimental

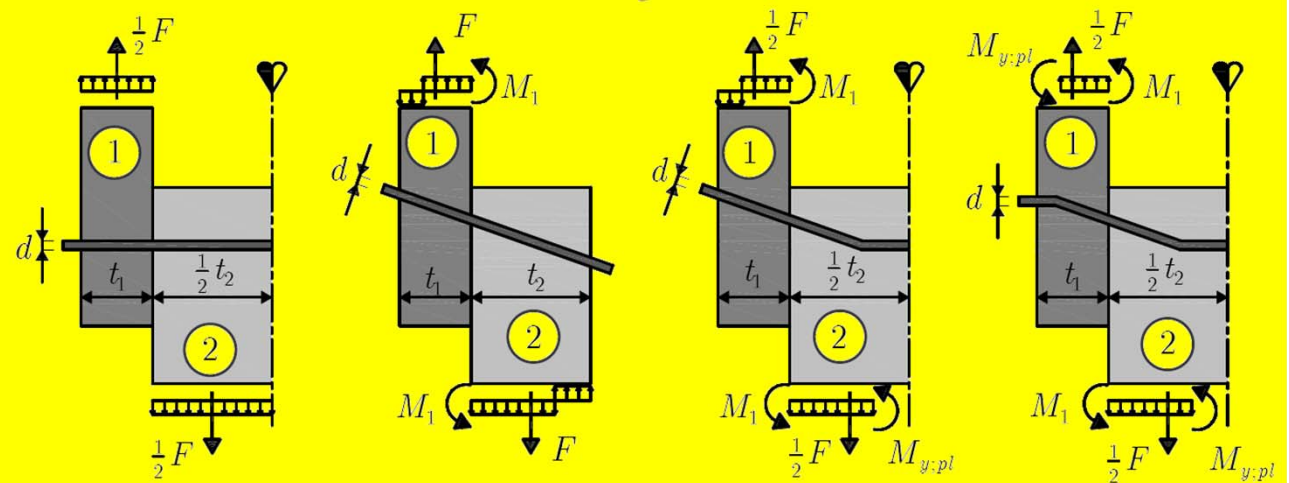


Numerical simulations

$$F' = \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} F(\lambda, h_e)$$

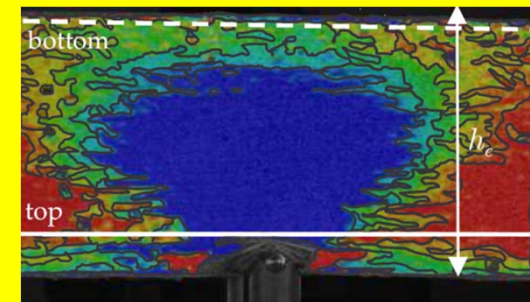
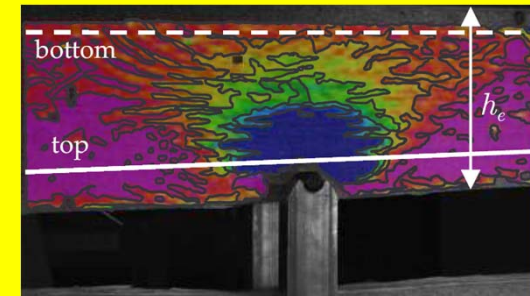
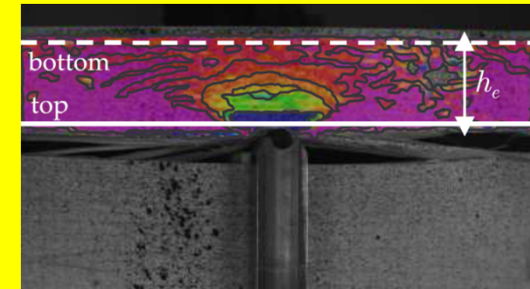
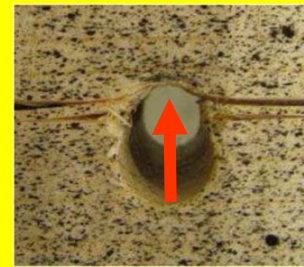
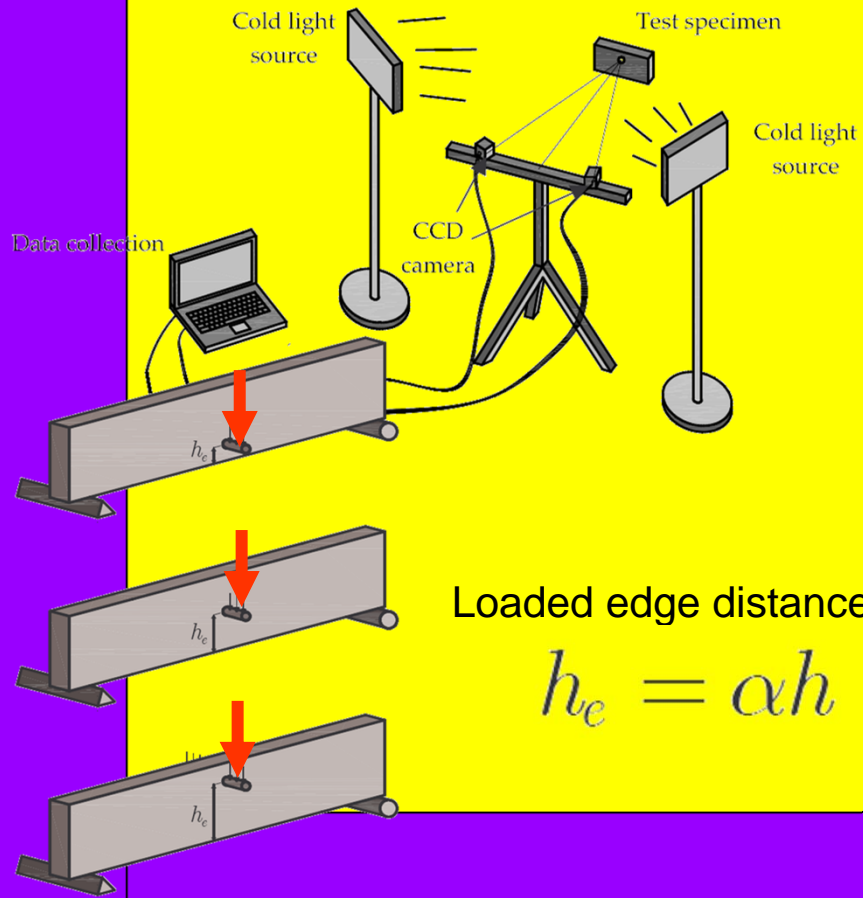
Physical models

## Embedment (Bearing) failure perpendicular to the grain



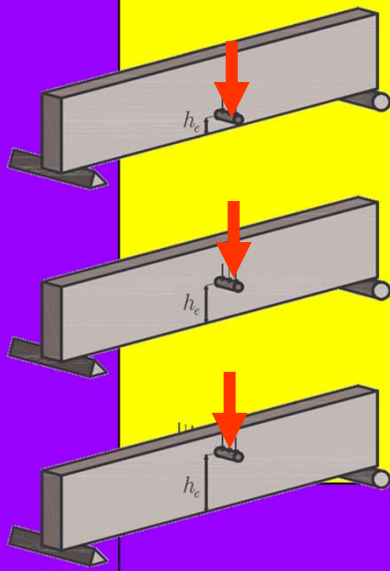
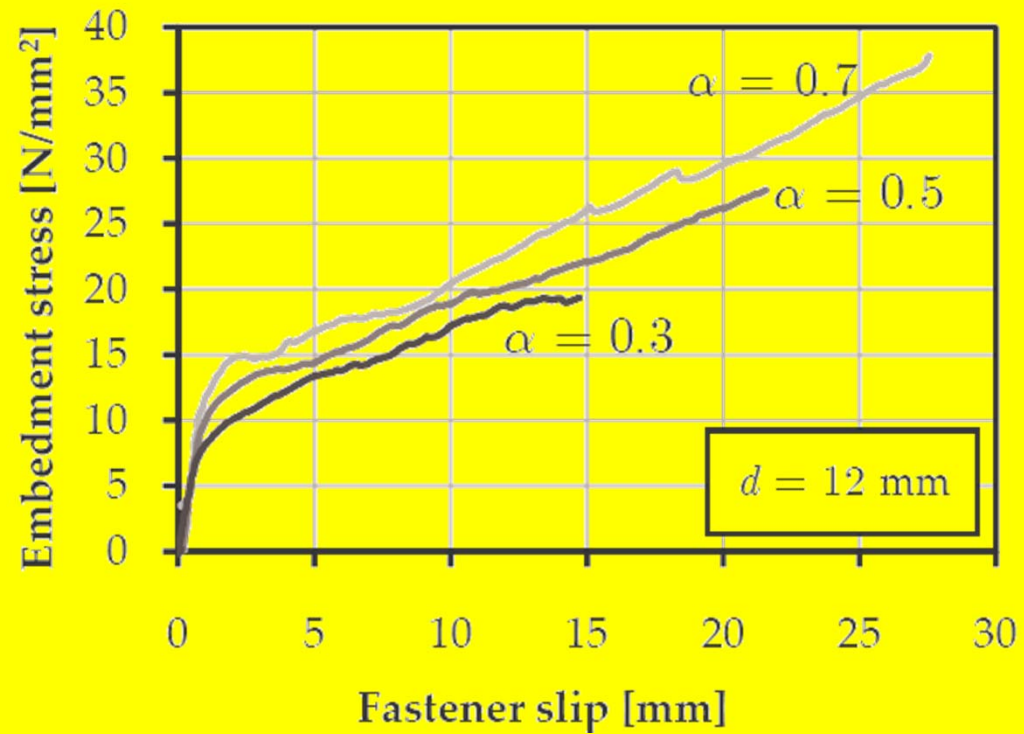
# Embedment failure (bearing)

➤ Load-dispersion determined by experiments



## Embedment failure (bearing)

- Load-dispersion determined by experiments



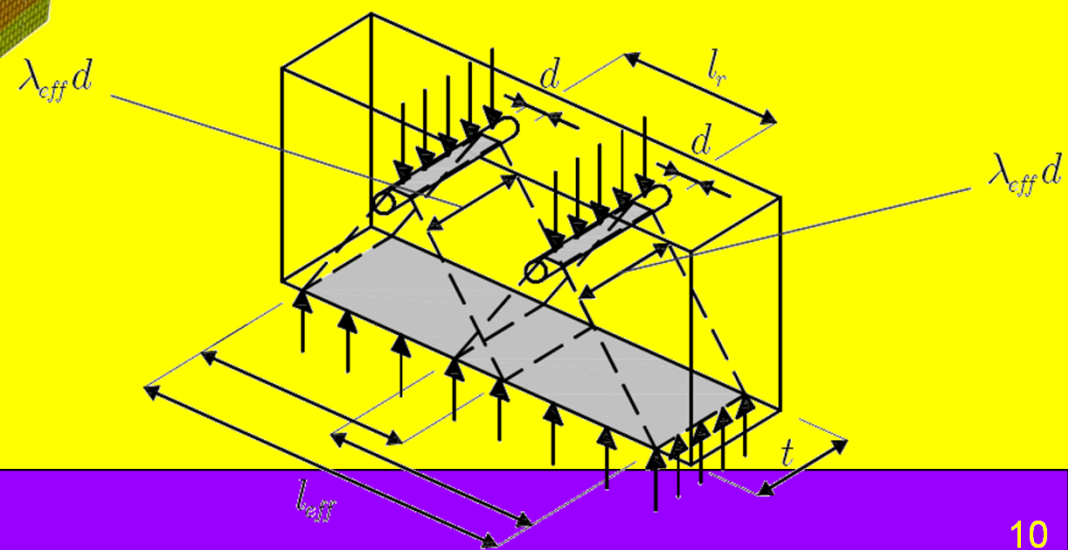
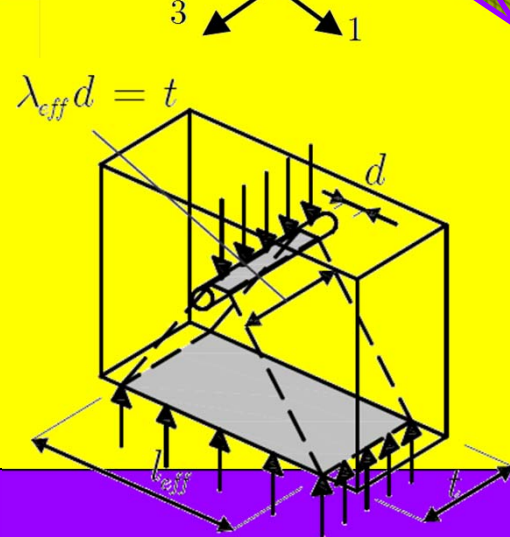
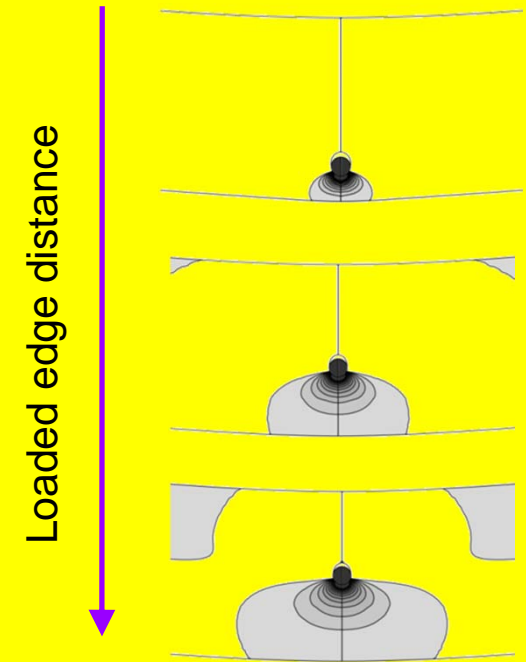
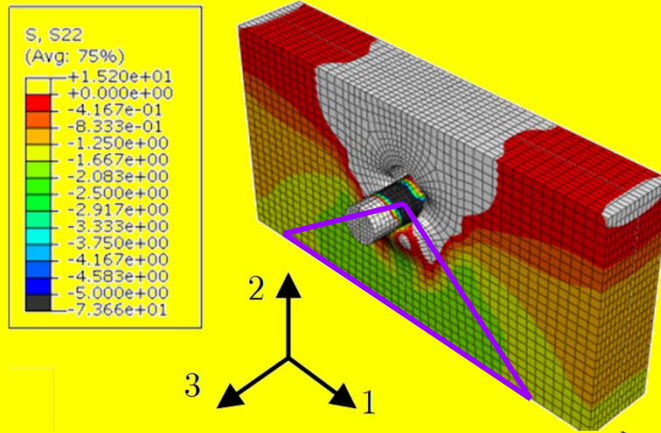
Loaded edge distance

$$h_e = \alpha h$$



# Embedment failure (bearing)

- Bearing strength = wood resistance
- Modeling load-dispersion effect





# Embedment failure (bearing)

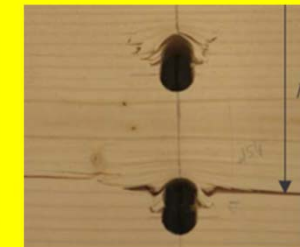
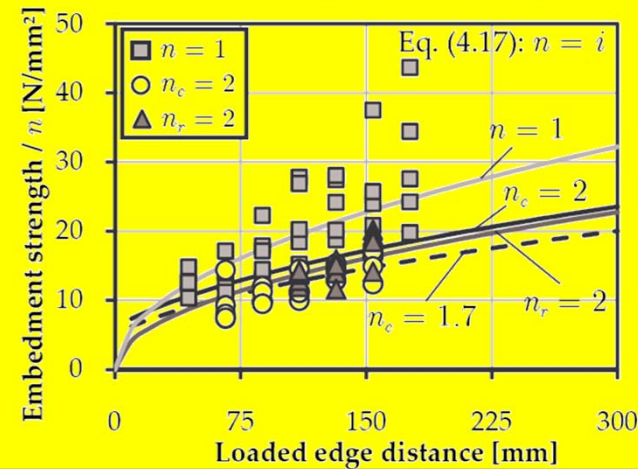
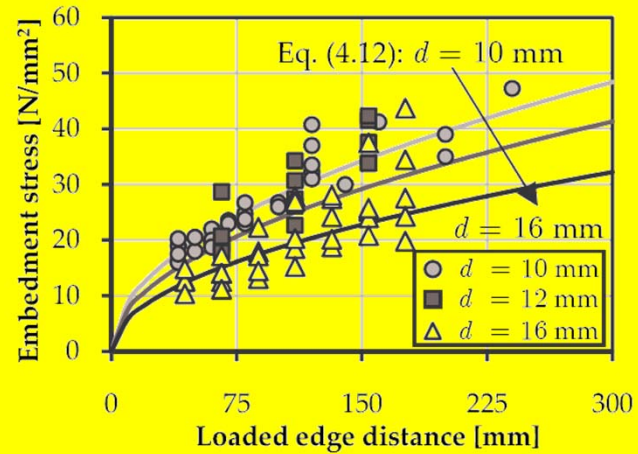
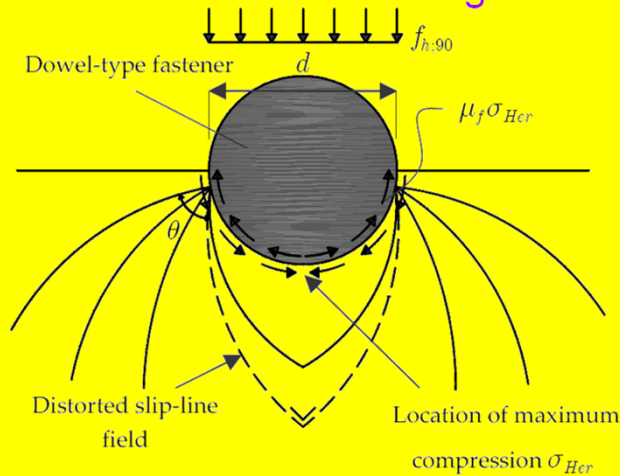
➤ Model, based on plasticity, slip-line theory and contact mechanics

$$f_{h;90} = f_{c;90} \sqrt{\frac{3h_c}{d} H_1}$$

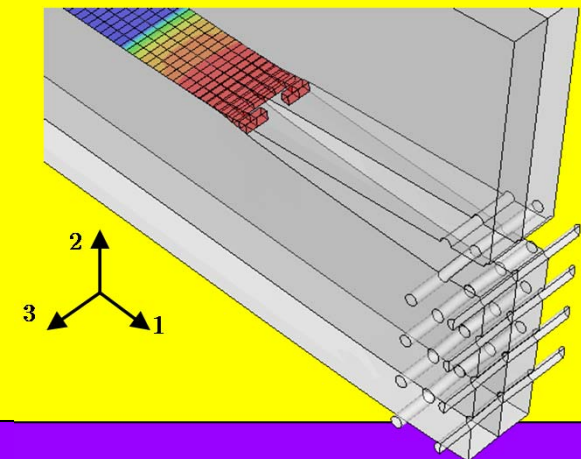
Material strength

Fastener diameter

Specimen geometry

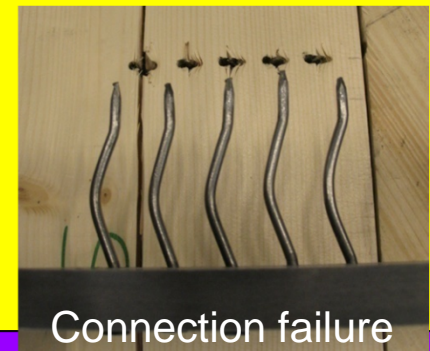
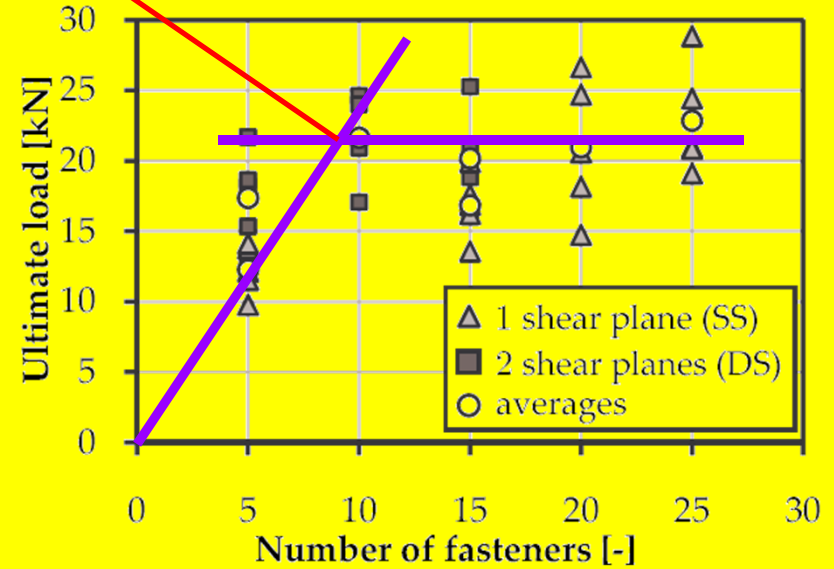
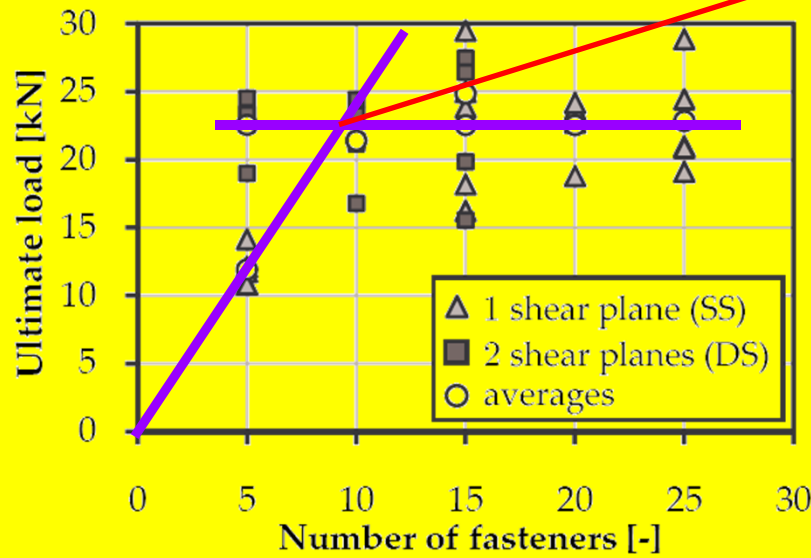


## Splitting failure along the grain

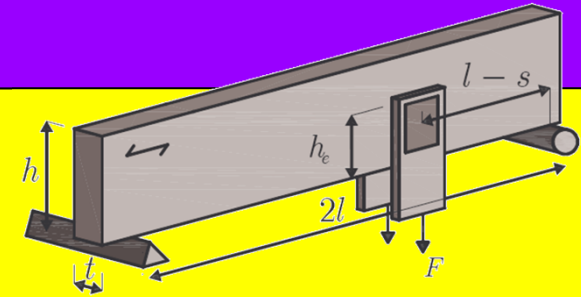


# Splitting failure

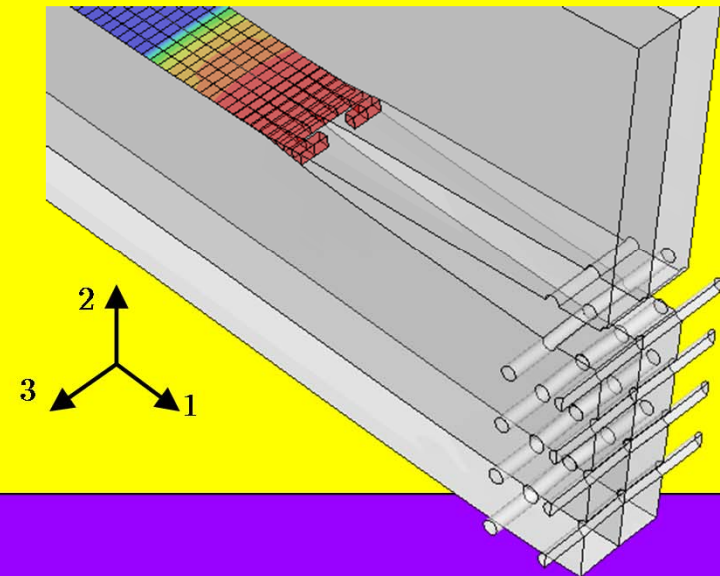
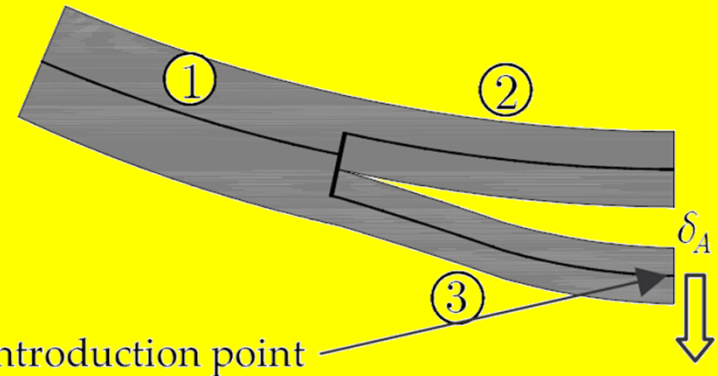
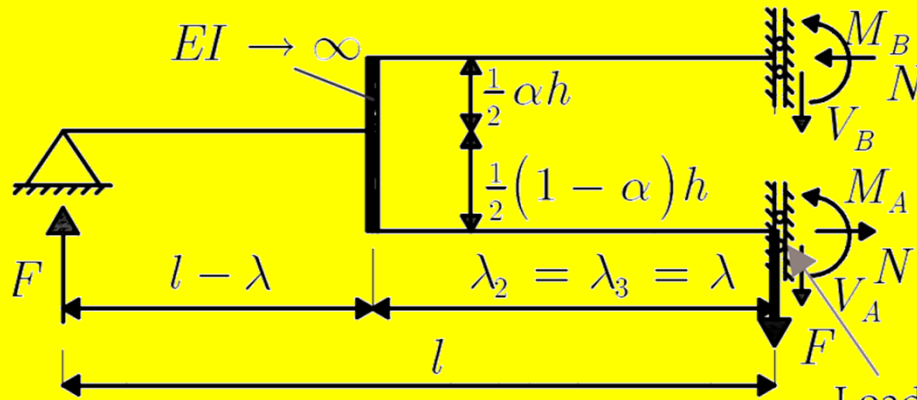
➤ Number of nails      Change in mechanism



# Splitting failure



➤ Modeling the connection as a discrete location (single connection)



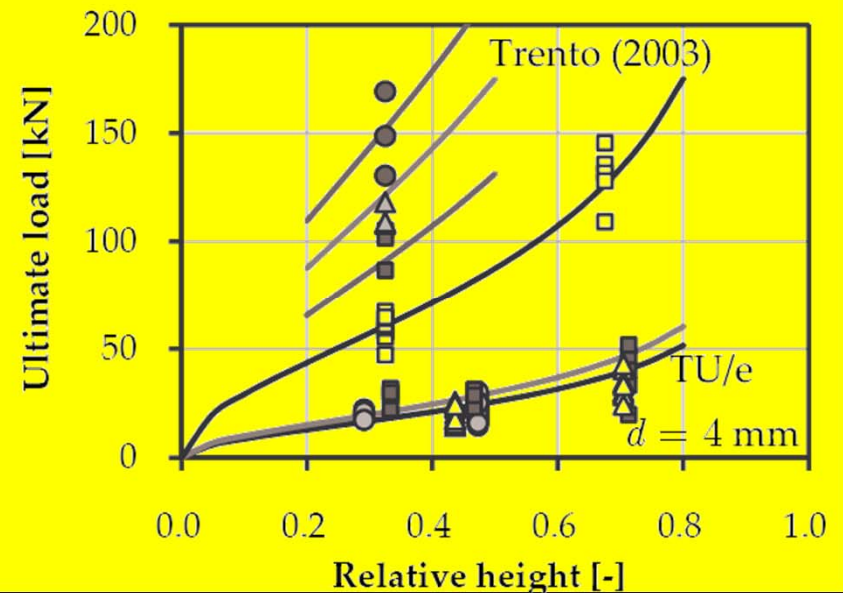
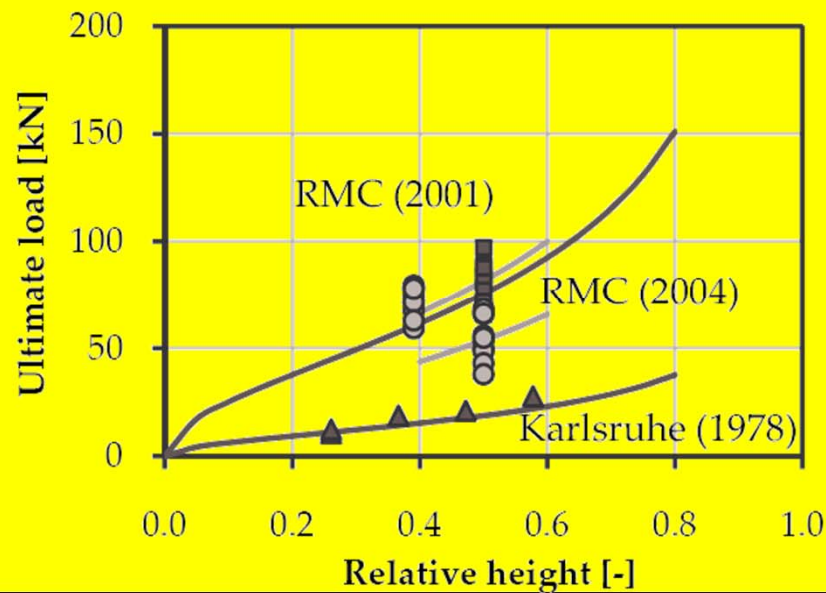
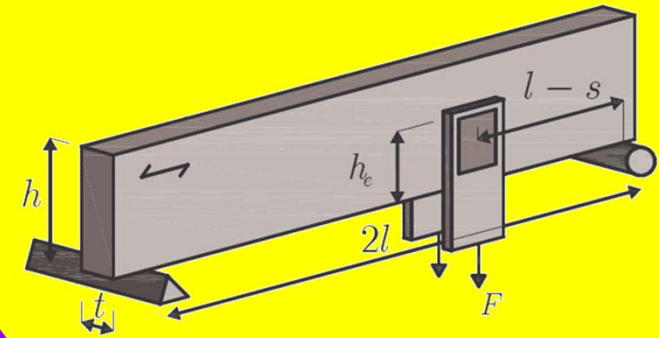


# Splitting failure

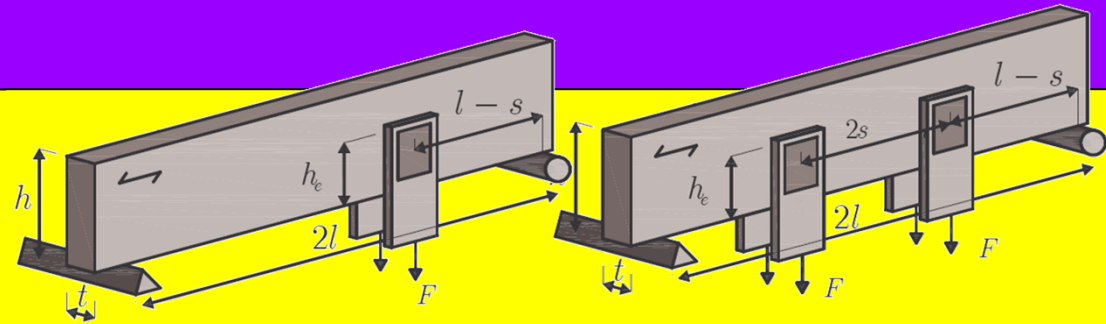
➤ Model (Fracture Mechanics)

$$F_{ult} = 2F_{crit} = 2t \sqrt{\frac{GG_c h \alpha}{\frac{3}{5}(1-\alpha)}}$$

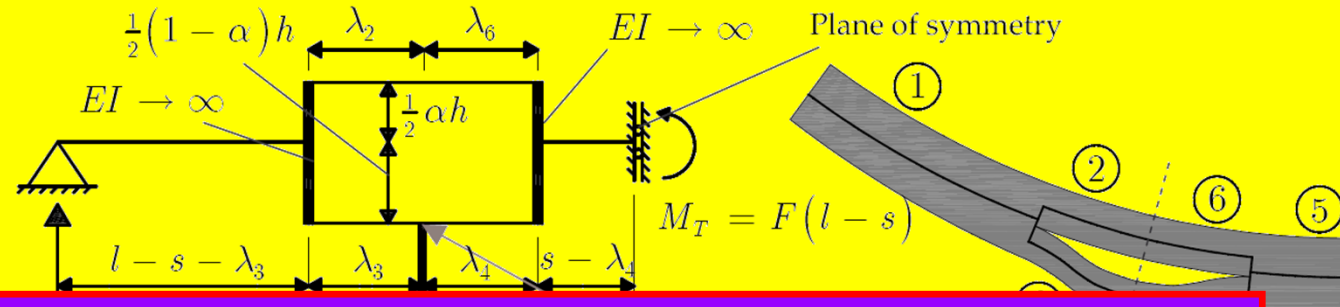
Specimen geometry (points to  $2t$ )
 Material strength (points to  $GG_c h \alpha$ )



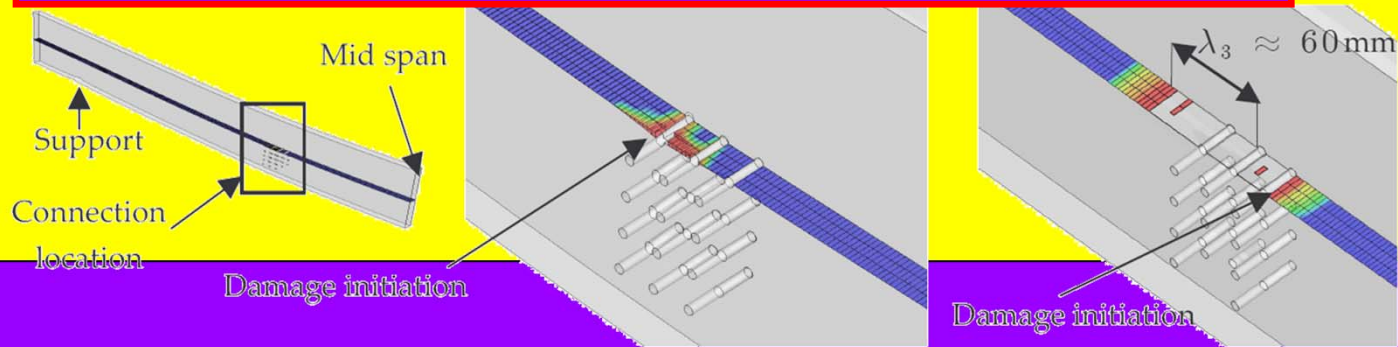
# Splitting failure



➤ Modeling two connections, spaced symmetrically (Fracture Mechanics)



Experimental / Numerical / Mathematical: 145%





**Governing is fracture (splitting) or bearing**

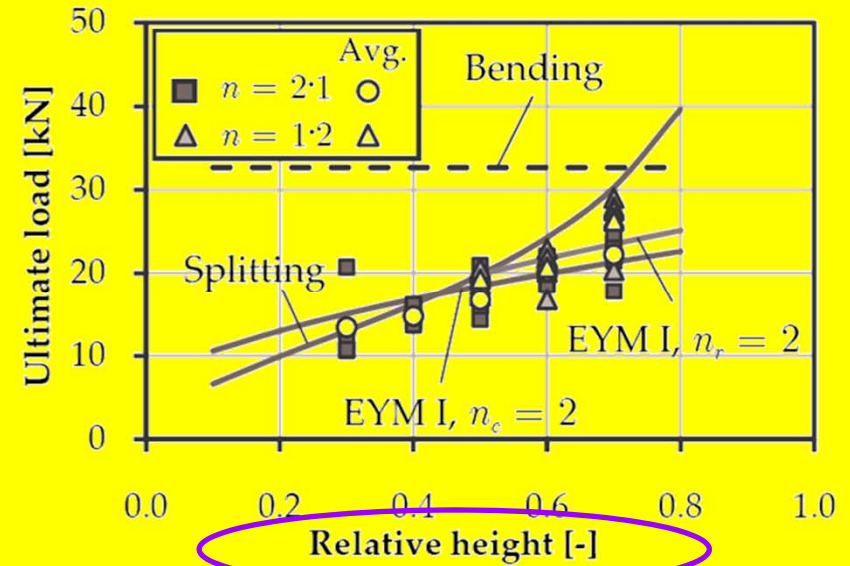
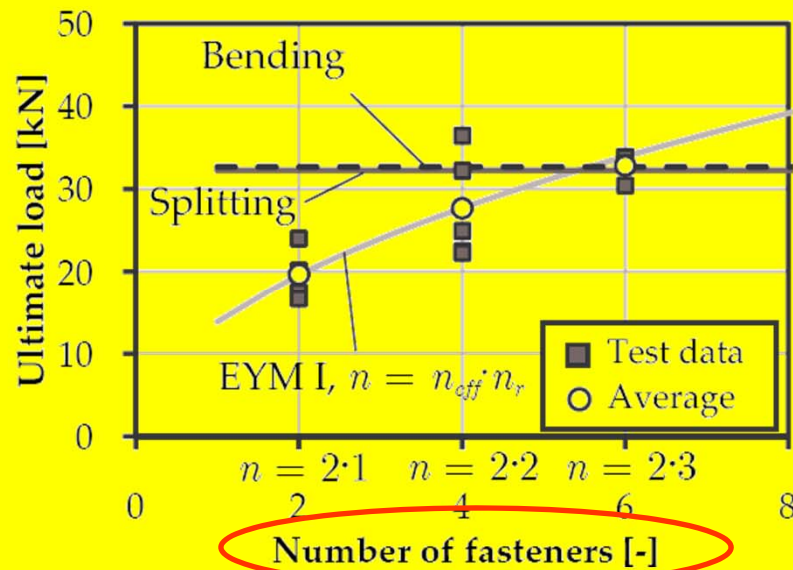


# Governing fracture or failure mechanism

➤ Equations:

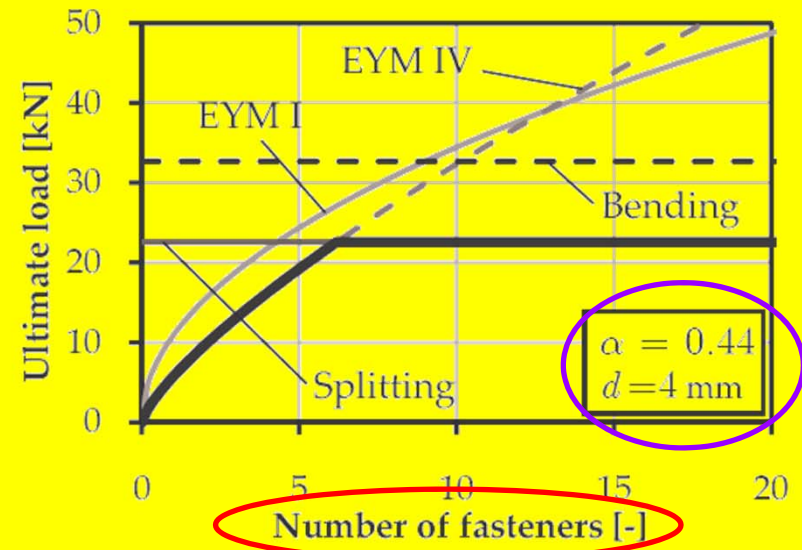
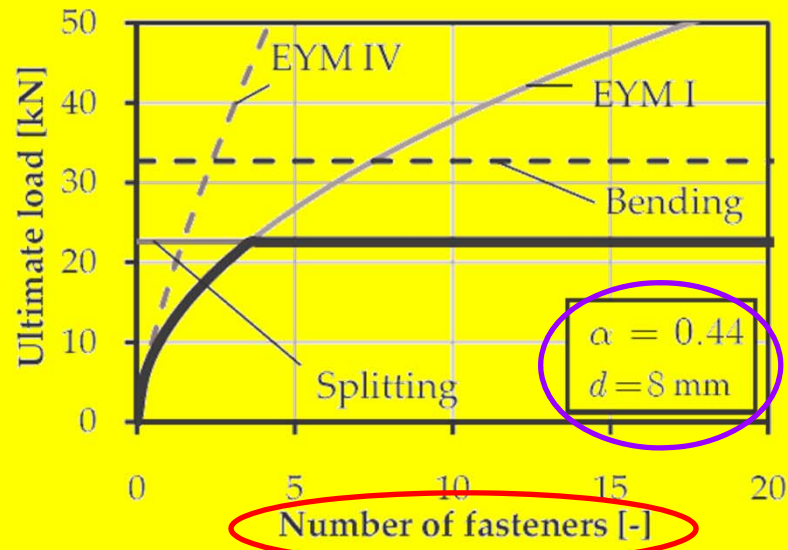
$$F_{ult} = 2n_{eff} = f_{c;90} \sqrt{\frac{3h_e t}{nd \lambda_{eff} d} d^{-0.37} d \lambda_{eff} d} \quad F_{ult} = 2t \sqrt{\frac{GG_c h_e}{\frac{3}{5} \left(1 - \frac{h_e}{h}\right)}}$$

➤ Governed by number of fasteners and loaded edge distance (~rel. height)



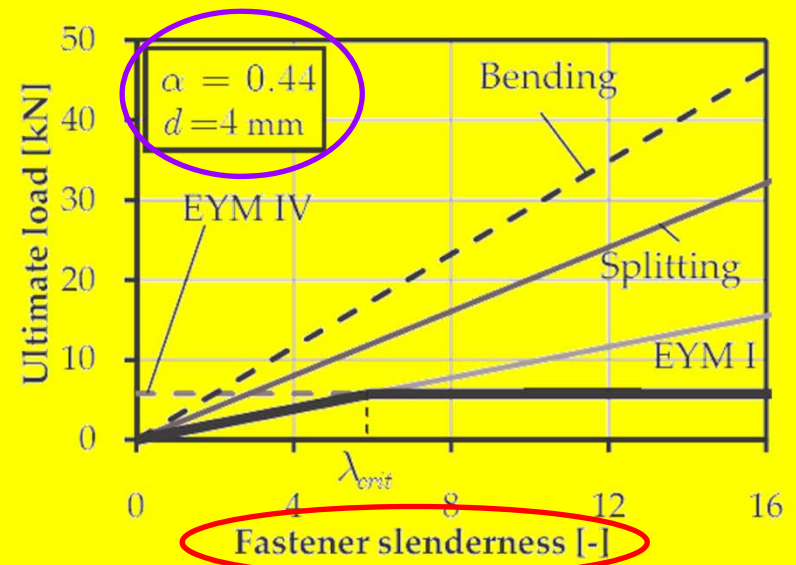
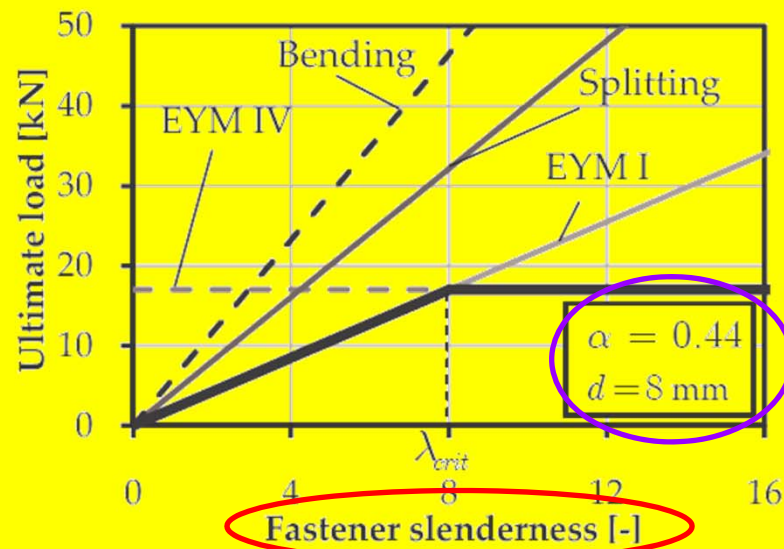
## Governing fracture or failure mechanism

➤ Other examples:



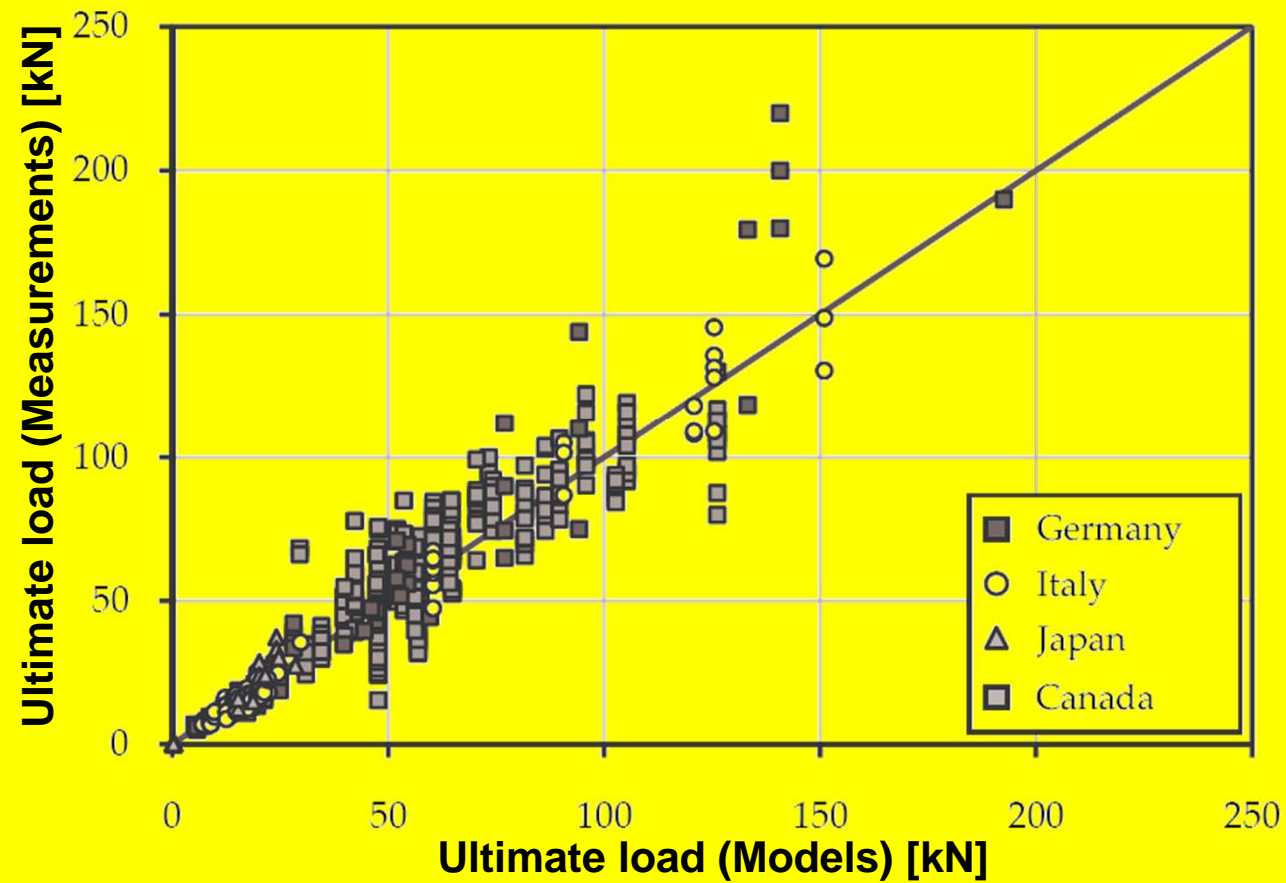
## Governing fracture or failure mechanism

➤ Other examples (Single fastener connection):

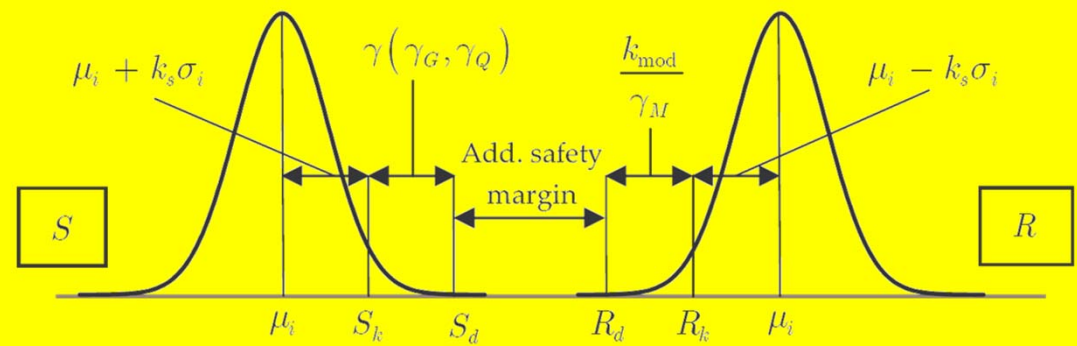


## Governing fracture or failure mechanism

- Experiments from literature (more than 1000)



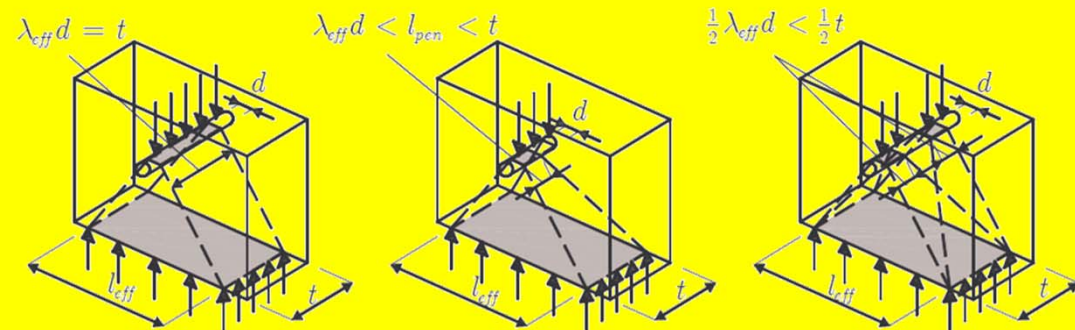
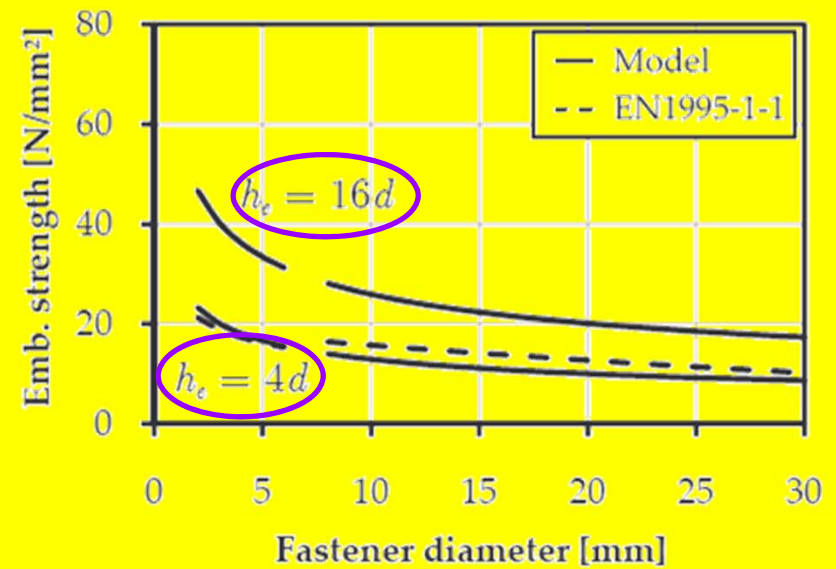
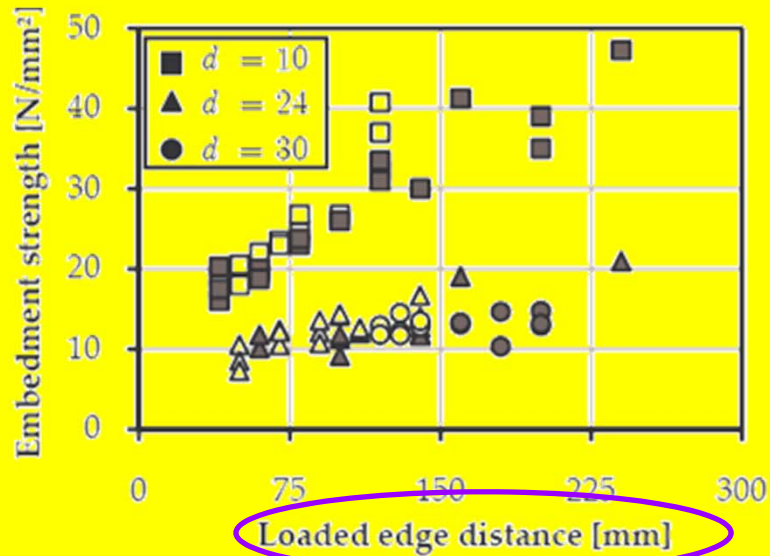
# Design rules



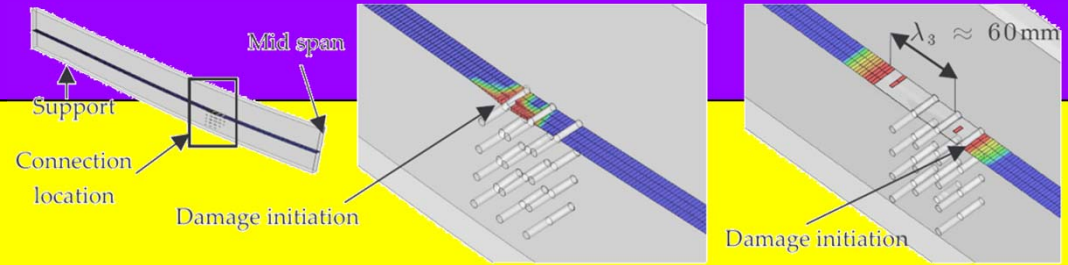


# Design rules

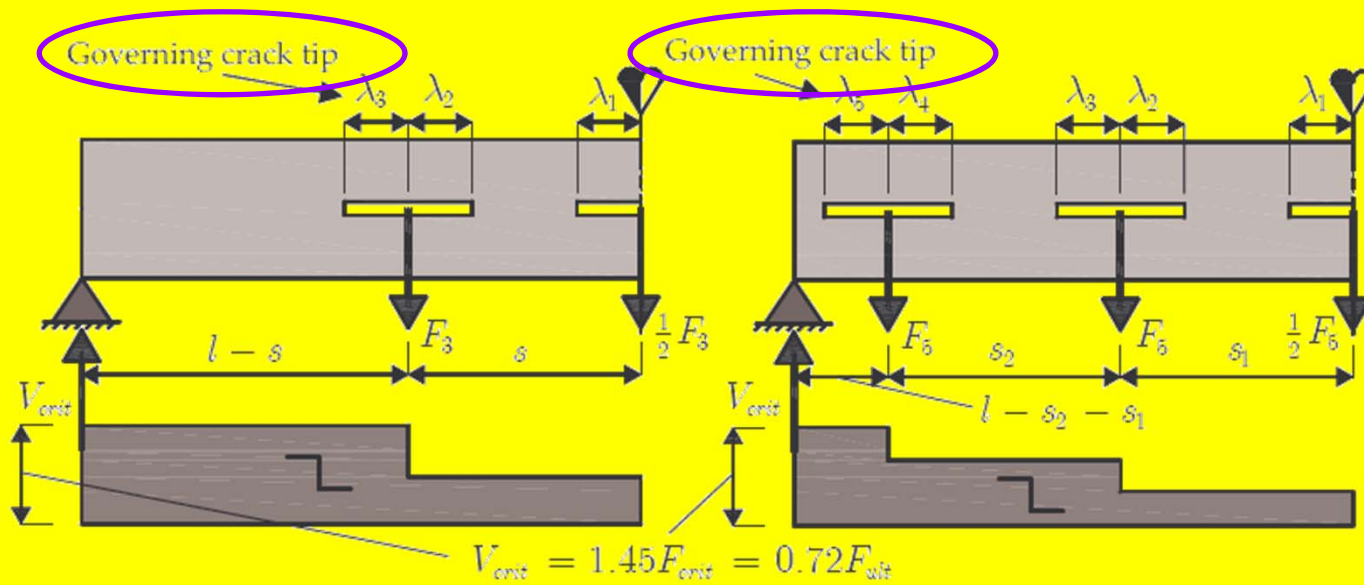
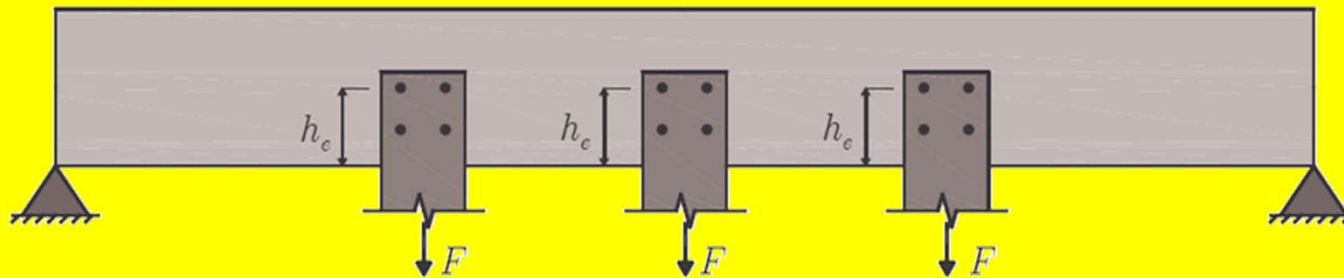
## Embedment strength per fastener



# Design rules

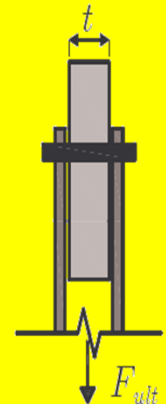
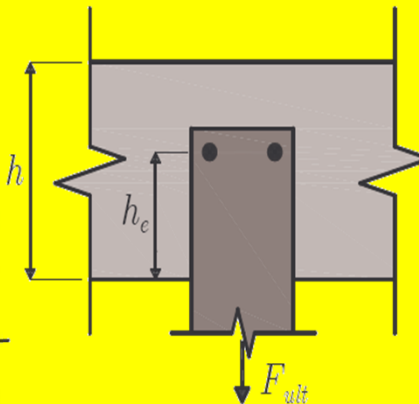
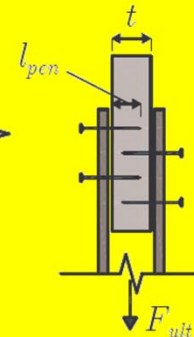
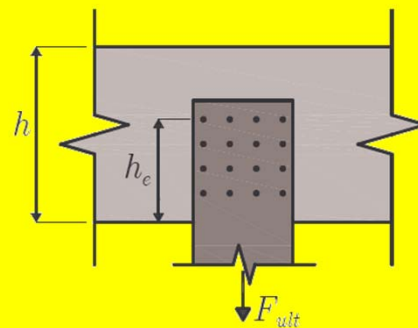
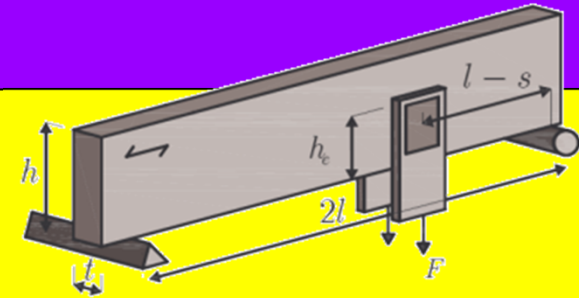


## ➤ Splitting capacity of multiple connections



# Design rules

## ➤ Practical examples



### Eurocode 5

Connection strength:

$$F_{ult} = 20.0 \text{ kN}$$

Splitting strength:

$$F_{ult} = 14.1 \text{ kN}$$

### This research

Connection strength:

$$F_{ult} = 13.4 \text{ kN} \quad 67 \%$$

Splitting strength:

$$F_{ult} = 12.9 \text{ kN} \quad 91 \%$$

**Eurocode 5 unsafe (9 %)**

### Eurocode 5

$$F_{ult} = 35.5 \text{ kN}$$

$$F_{ult} = 118.5 \text{ kN}$$

### This research

$$F_{ult} = 40.5 \text{ kN} \quad 114 \%$$

$$F_{ult} = 118.5 \text{ kN} \quad 100 \%$$

**14 % increase**

Thank you for your attention



Where innovation starts

