

# Variances in Testing Thermomechanical Properties of Engineered Refractories



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# ① INTRODUCTION

▶ Overview



- (i) Introduction
- (ii) Definition of fracture
- (iii) Thermomechanics
- (iv) Innovative techniques

# ① INTRODUCTION

## ▶ Basics



- ➔ stresses and failure of ceramic components occur at room temperature due to a too high mechanical load
- ➔ heat also induces mechanical stresses but due to temperature changes in combination with the coefficient of thermal expansion of the material and therefore without the influence of external forces
- ➔ in application of refractories often mechanical as well as thermal induced stresses occur at the same time in a component causing damage
- ➔ in principle 3 kinds of thermal induced stresses are described :
  - a) permanent (stationary) , b) latent, c) temporary stresses (non-steady-state)

# ① INTRODUCTION

## ▶ Basics

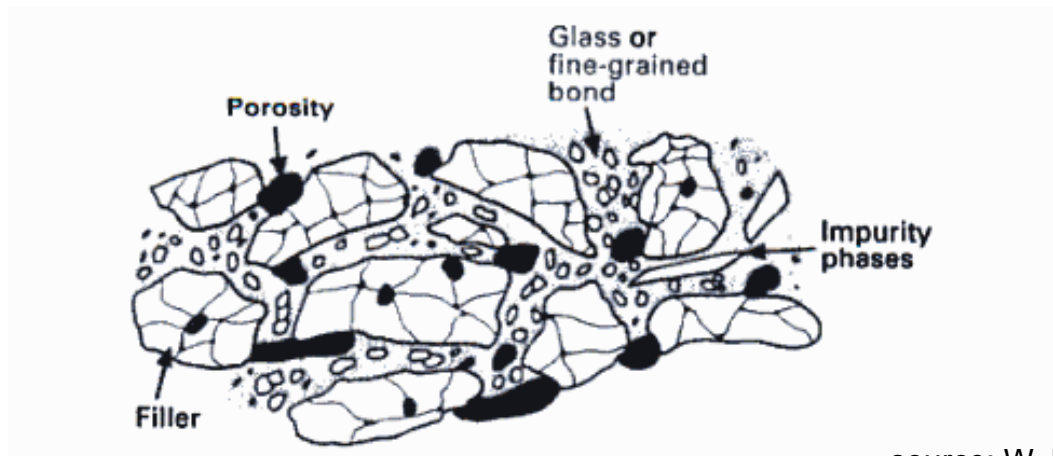


- ➔ Thermal induced stresses result out of :
  - restraint of thermal expansion by construction demands
  - stationary and/or instationary, inhomogeneous temperature distribution
  - thermal mismatch caused by anisotropic behavior of material
  - phase transformation (due to i.e. slag infiltration, temperature changes etc.)
  
- ➔ in view of a high durability of refractory linings the thermal stresses caused by an inhomogeneous temperature distribution inside play the major role
  
- ➔ to describe the thermomechanical behavior of refractories it is important first to determine the fracture mechanic data of i.e. a material

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ initial point

- almost all ceramic components exhibits defects resulting from production, processing and application conditions



source: W. E. Lee, W. Mark Rainforth

- the failure of crack infiltrated components or the crack propagation under load until final breakage are the topics of fracture mechanics



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

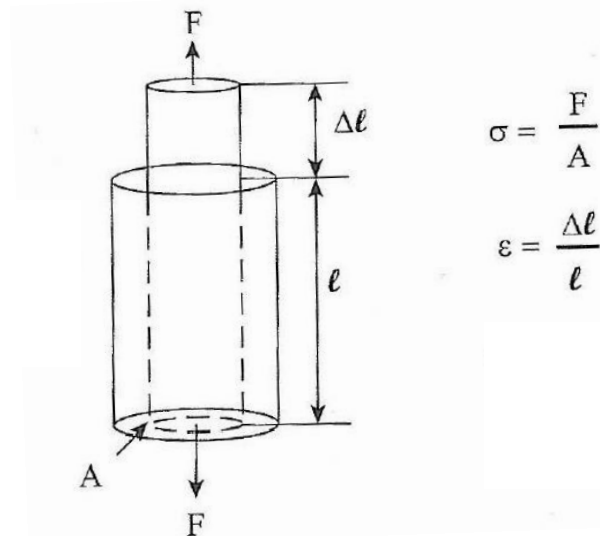
### ▶ YOUNG'S modulus

- the behavior of ceramic materials at room temperature can be stated as brittle elastic
- a proportional deformation  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  occurs during application of stress  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  and will result into HOOK'S law including a constant of proportionality  $\mathbf{E}$

#### example:

Test of tensile stress

$$\sigma = E \cdot \varepsilon_{reversible}$$



$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A}$$

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{l}$$

with:

F = force

A = cross sectional area

$\Delta l$  = elongation

l = original sample length

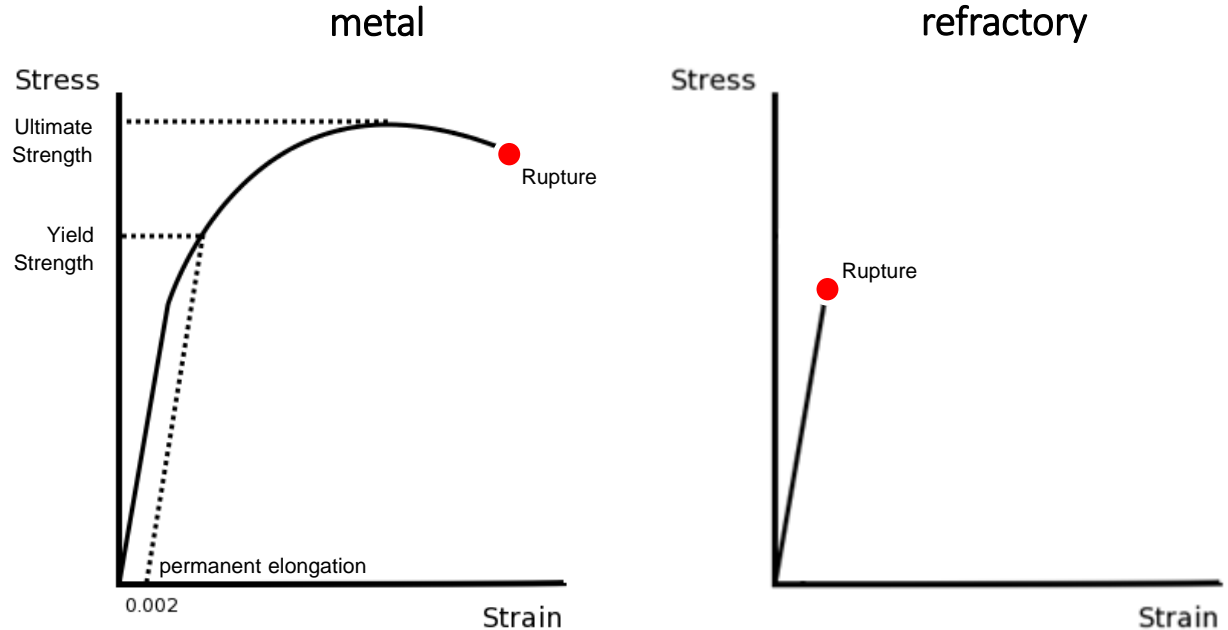


## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ YOUNG´S modulus

example:

strain stress diagrams



- due to a strong inhomogeneous microstructure (especially at high temperatures) refractories (caused by i.e. type of binding, pores, grain sizes, micro-cracks) exhibit elastic behavior only in a small area of deformation
- the YOUNG´S modulus can be measured by different modes (dynamic, static) with differing results



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ YOUNG´s modulus

#### dynamic mode

- resonance & ultrasonic methods
  - easy to handle
  - non-destructive method
  - performance at low temperatures

#### example:

typical values for refractories YOUNG´s modulus at room temperature in [GPa]

#### static mode

- bending & compression tests
  - measures low values of YOUNG´s modulus (inelastic behavior under load is possible caused by appearance of micro-cracks or irreversible deformation)
  - easy transferability to high temperature behavior is assigned

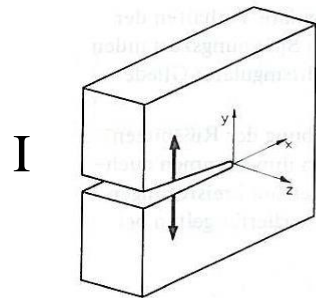
Magnesia brick	80
Magnesia Carbon brick	25
Magnesia Chrome brick	25
Corundum based LC castable	100



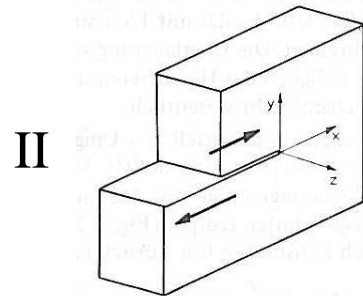
## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ crack characteristics

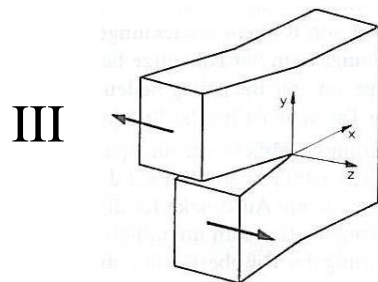
→ at the location of a crack 3 different modes of cracks can be detected



- strain perpendicular to the crack  
→ normal stressing → tensile loading



- asymmetrical movement of crack flanks in the direction of crack tip parallel to crack front → shear loading

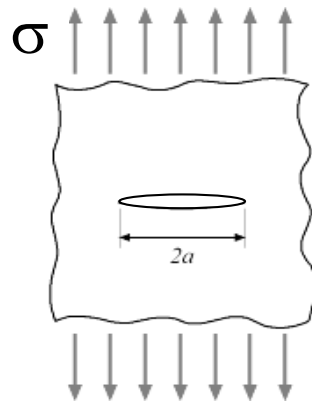


- tangential separation of crack flanks  
→ Torsion

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ crack characteristics

→ if in a first approach materials were treated as linear elastic and the cracks mathematically can be described as sharp elliptical cut



elliptical crack inside a infinite panel treated by a tensile stress

- cracks principally are weakest sites inside materials
- at a crack stresses are accumulated
- the state of stress at the crack tip is described by the stress intensity factor  $K_I$  (→ K- concept)

$$K_I = \sigma \cdot \sqrt{a} \cdot Y = \sigma \cdot \sqrt{\pi \cdot a}$$

with:

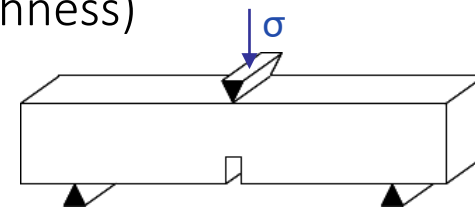
$\sigma$  = stress

a = crack length

Y = form factor

→ the crack propagation occurs as the stress intensity factor  $K_I$  reaches the critical value  $K_{Ic}$  (→ fracture toughness)

→ the fracture toughness  $K_{Ic}$  can be described by notched beam tests



Notched beam test



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ crack characteristics

- there exist a defined amount of stored elastic energy (rel. to unit surface) corresponding to the stress state at the crack flank

$$G = \frac{K_I^2}{E} = \frac{\pi \cdot a \cdot \sigma^2}{E}$$

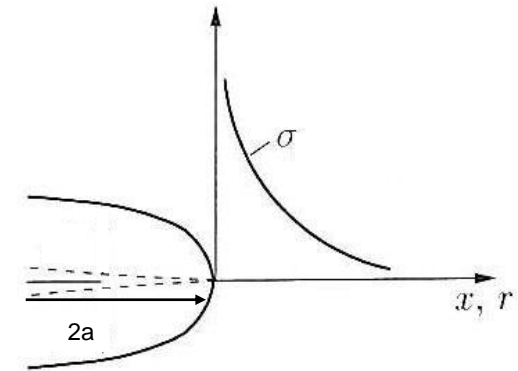
with:

$\sigma$  = stress

$a$  = crack length

$E$  = YOUNG's modulus

$Y$  = form factor



so that both approaches – stress intensity vs. energy – can be replaced

- if  $G$  exceeds a critical value  $G_c$  (→ crack resistivity), the crack expands
- the stored elastic energy lead to the creation of a new fracture surface
- the crack resistivity  $G_c$  can be determined by notched beam tests

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ measuring methods



- ➔ thermophysical testing according to DIN EN 993-7
  - setting of a defined operation temperature
  - keeping the setup constantly at this temperature for 60 min.
  - increasing slowly the force until fracture occurs
  - arranging all temperature dependent fraction values in one diagram

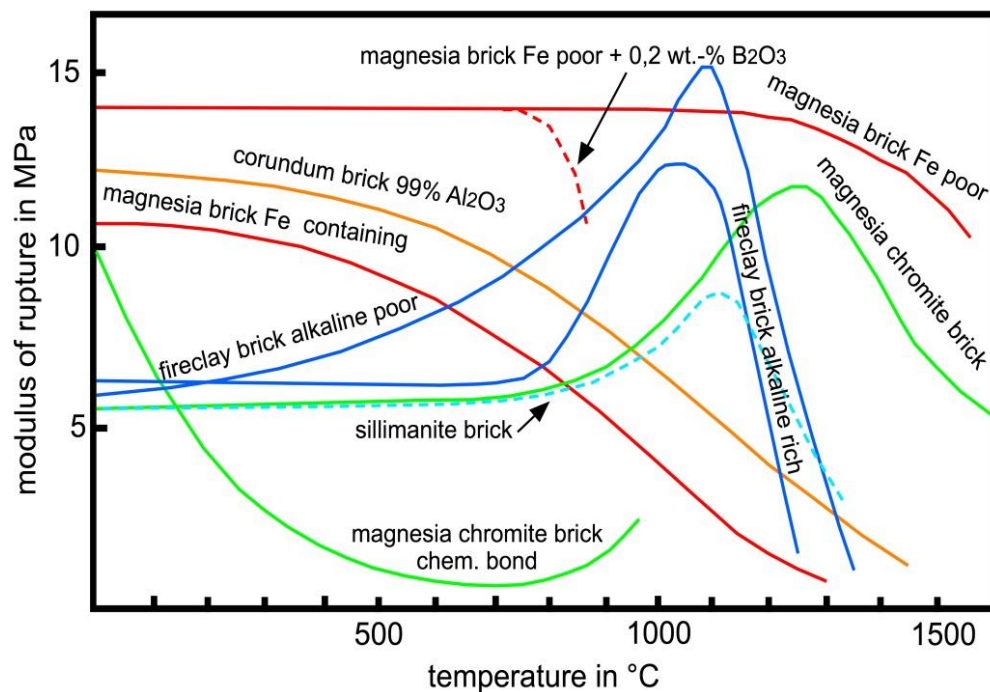
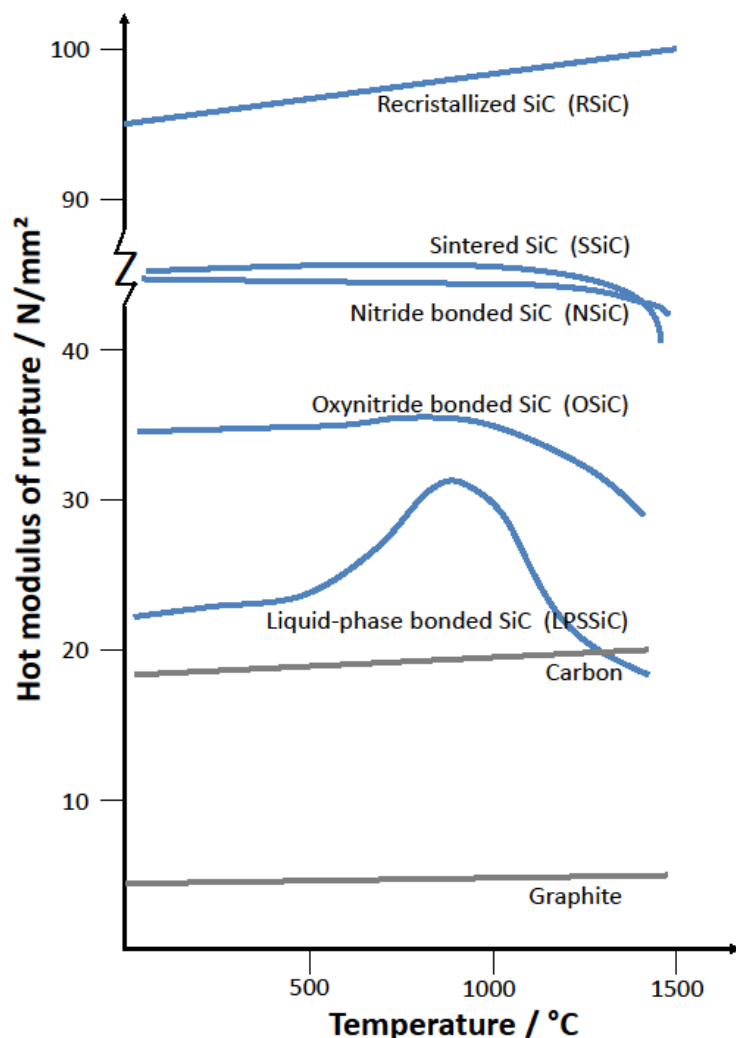


established standardized HMOR-Test equipment



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods



examples of HMOR-behavior of various refractories

HMOR-test results of different candidate materials in the system Si – C

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods



→ also YOUNG's modulus can be determined out of HMOR test  
(example: steel at test temperature of  $T = 800^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

with:

Blue line = HMOR →

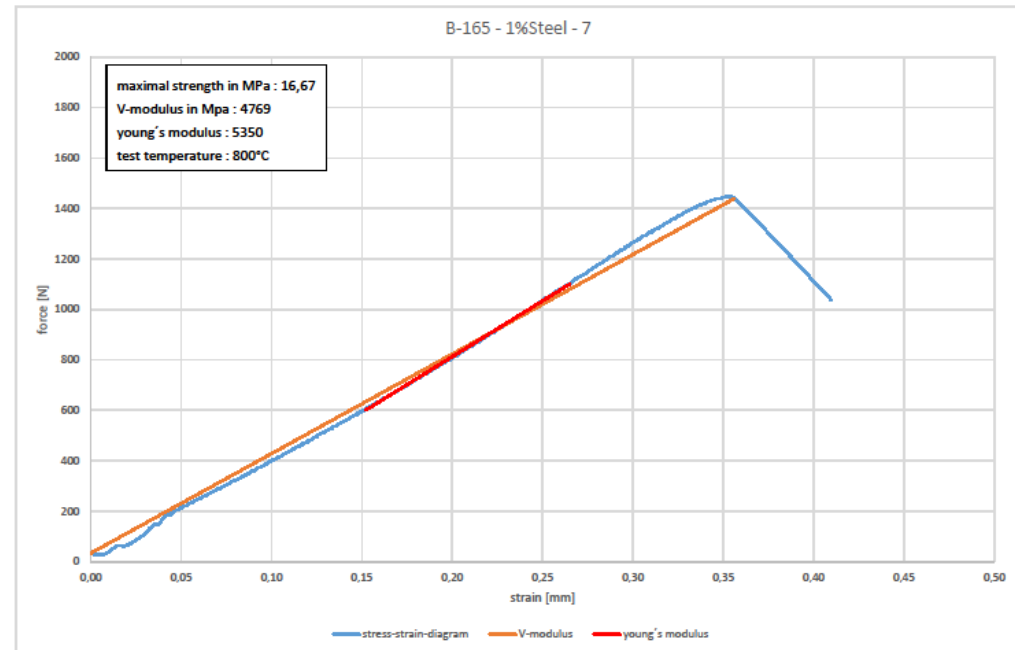
force (N) / strain (mm) diagram

Red line = slope of linear section of curve

$l$  = distance of supports

$b$  = width of sample

$h$  = height of sample



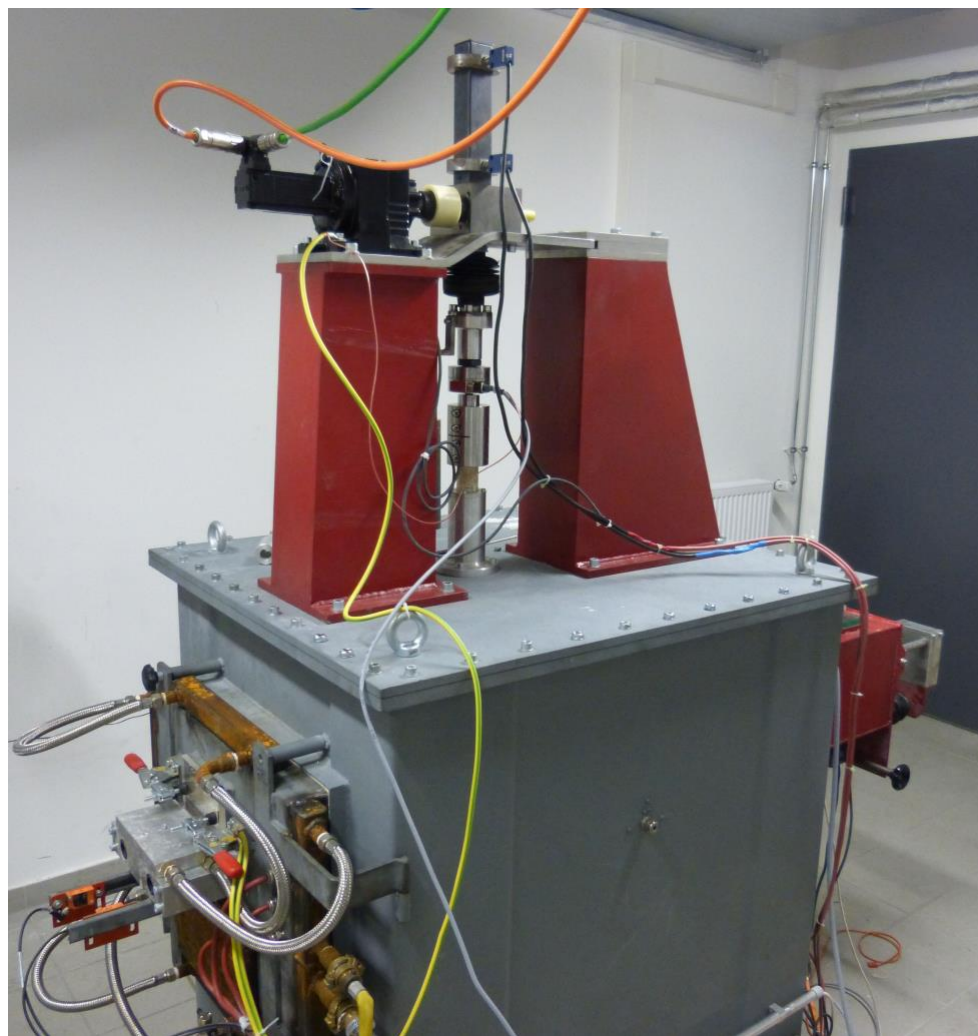
$$E = \frac{\Delta y_{\text{linear section}}}{\Delta x_{\text{linear section}}} \cdot \frac{l^3}{(4 \cdot b) \cdot h^3}$$

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods



- HMOR testing equipment to prevent O<sub>2</sub>- attack and to state more precisely the measured data
  - stress/strain-unit



Strongly optimized HMOR-Test equipment

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ measuring methods



- ➔ thermophysical testing according to DIN 51064 with determination of compressive strength under load
  - setting of a defined constant operation force ( $\text{N}/\text{mm}^2$ )
  - increasing the temperature until sample is compressed about 0.3 mm  
→  $T_a$
  - increasing the temperature further until the sample is compressed about 10 mm from initial stage →  $T_e$
  - increasing temperature until fracture occurs →  $T_b$



established standardized CSL-Test equipment

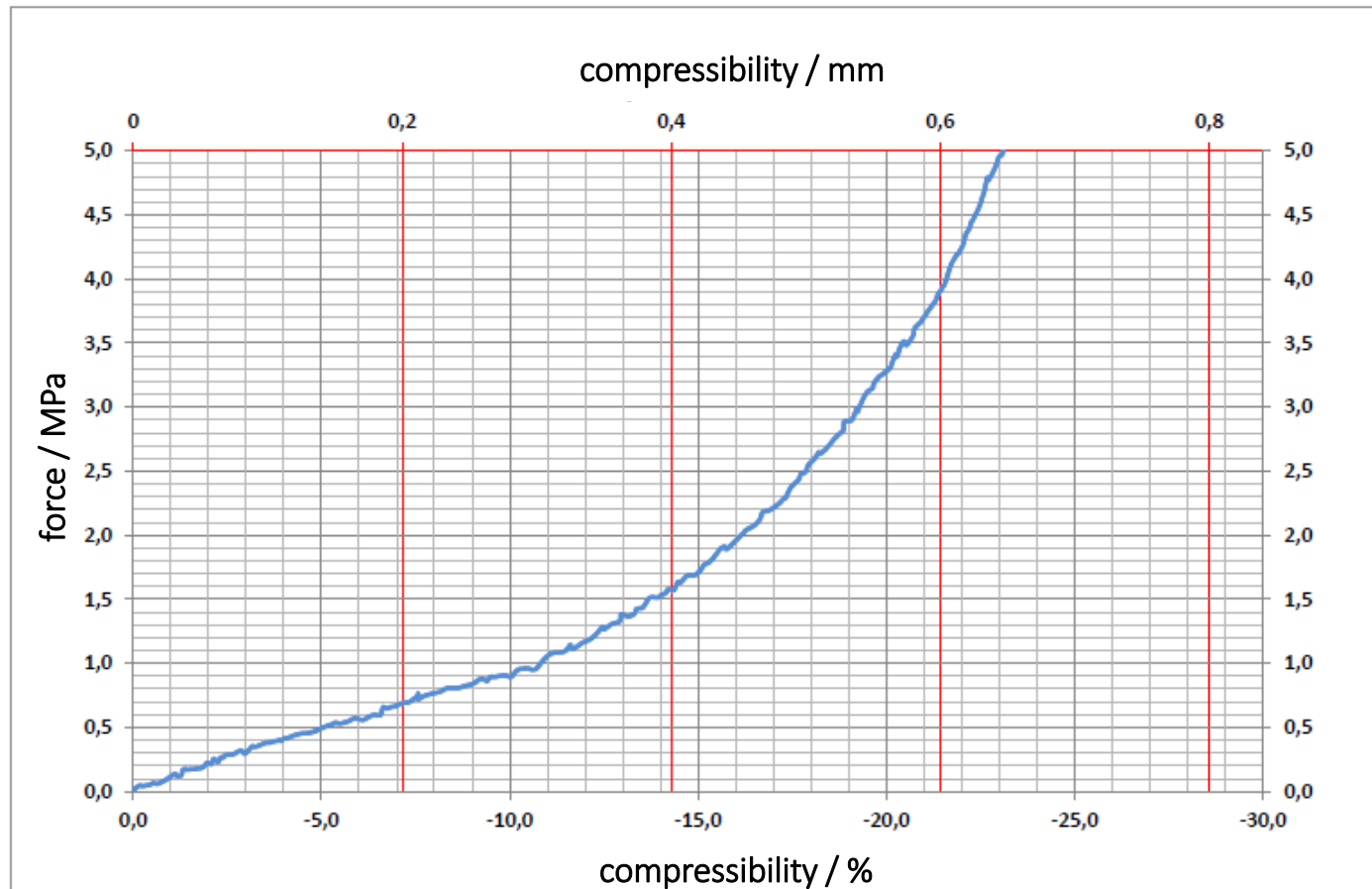




## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods

→ the heating rates are 15 K/min at  $T \leq 1000^\circ\text{C}$  and 8 K/min at  $T \geq 1000^\circ\text{C}$



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods



→ also YOUNG's modulus can be determined by using this method

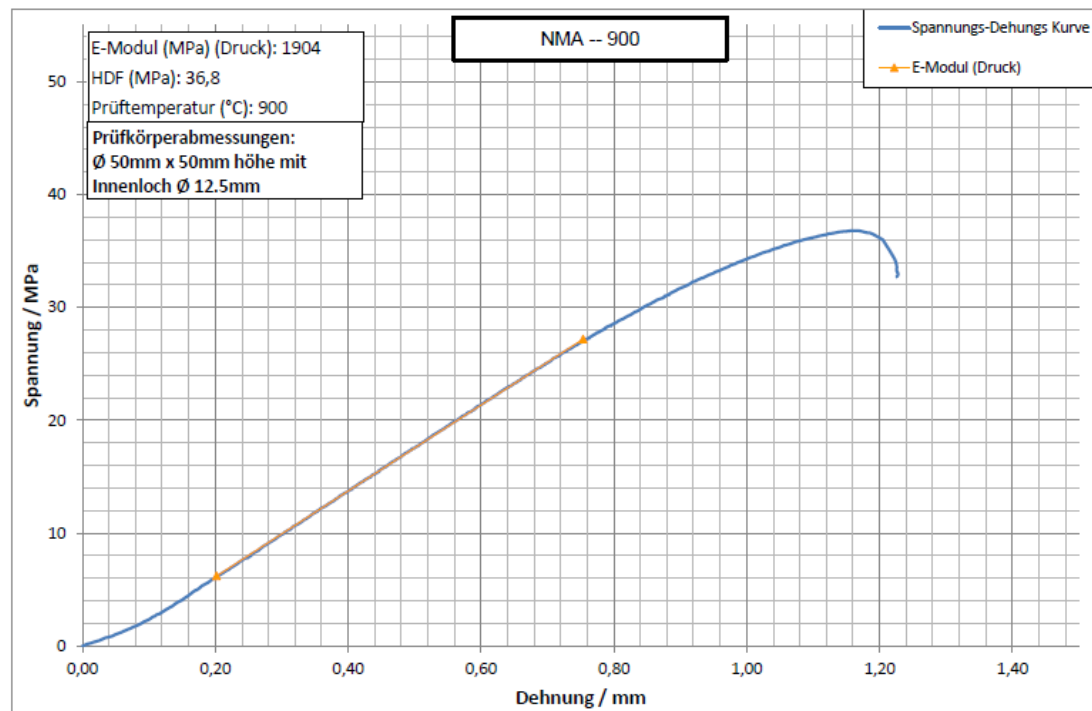
with:

Blue line = stress / elongation diagram

Red line = slope of linear section of curve

h = height of sample

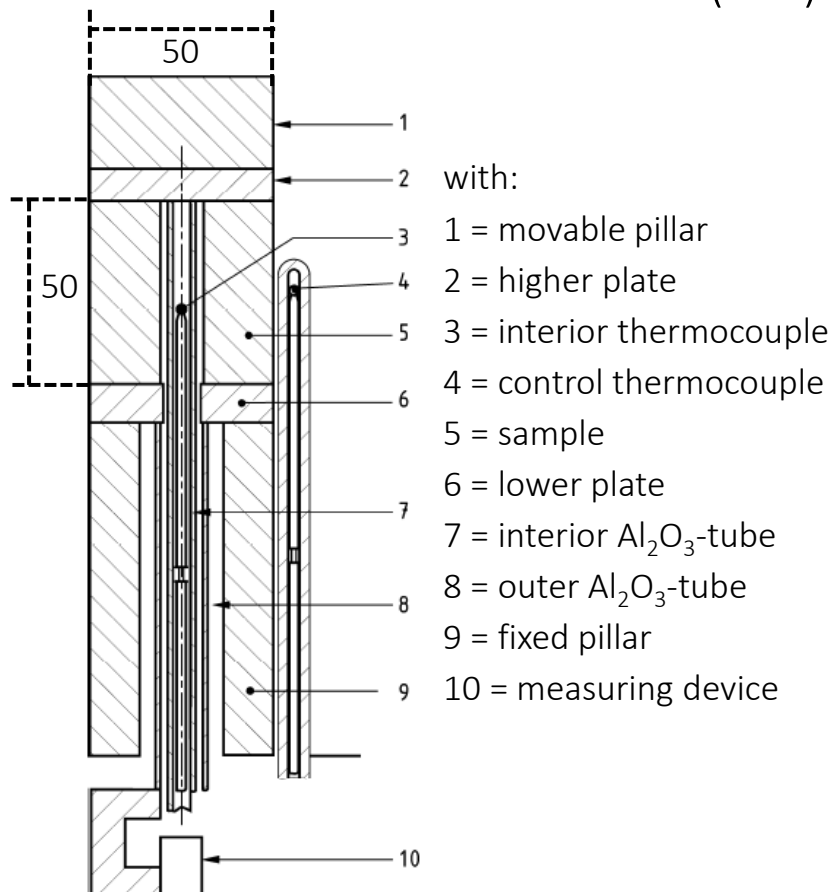
$$E = \frac{\Delta y_{linear\ section}}{\Delta x_{linear\ section}} \cdot h_{sample}$$



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ measuring methods

→ thermophysical testing according to DIN EN ISO 1893 for measuring refractoriness under load (RuL) and creep under compression



established standardized RuL-Test equipment



## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ measuring methods

➔ rules to determine characteristic temperatures for test samples for RuL

- setting of a defined constant pressure load for a cylindrical sample
- increasing temperature with a defined heating rate until a required deformation or compression occurs
- deformation related temperatures are recorded

with:

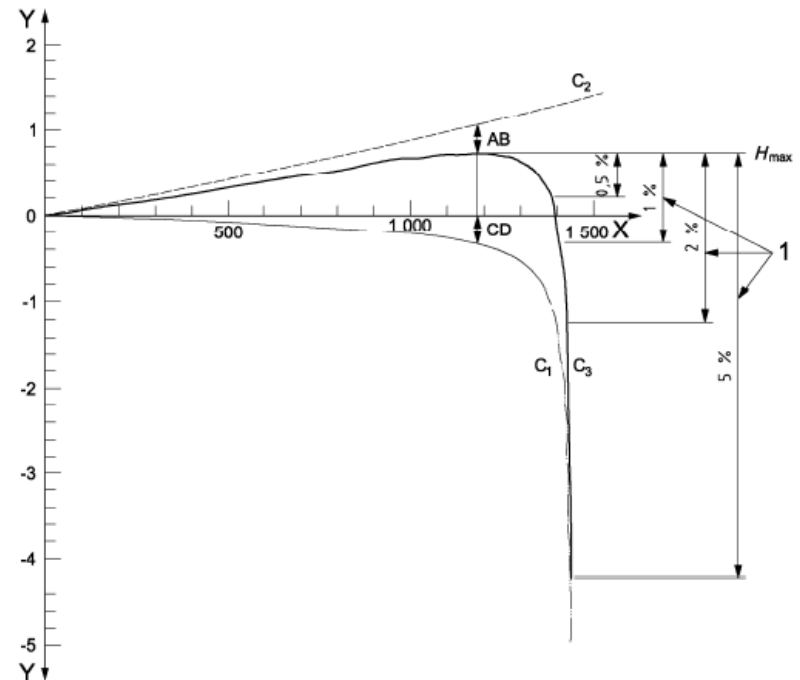
$h_{\max}$  = point of highest deformation with its characteristic temperature

$T_{0.5}$  = temperature at 0.5% compression of initial sample height

$T_1$  = temperature at 1.0% compression of initial sample height

$T_2$  = temperature at 2.0% compression of initial sample height

$T_5$  = temperature at 0.5% compression of initial sample height

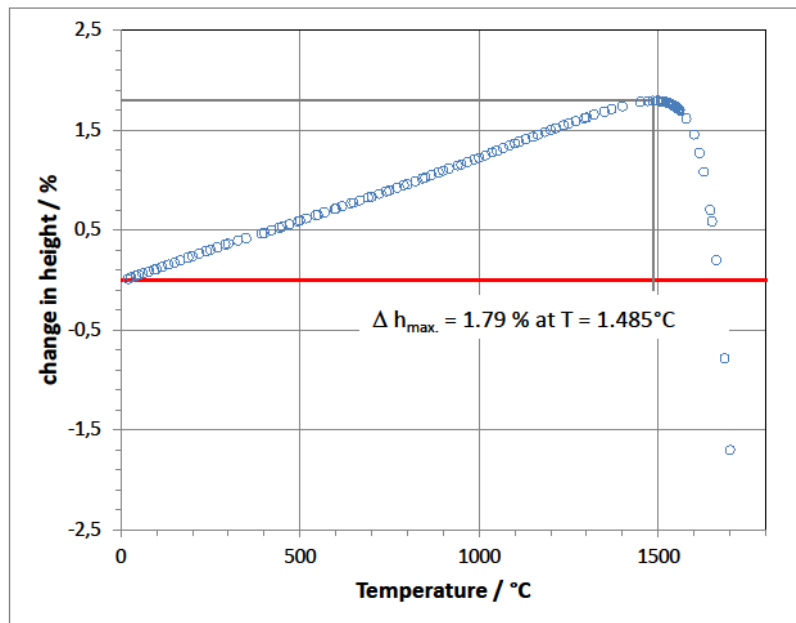




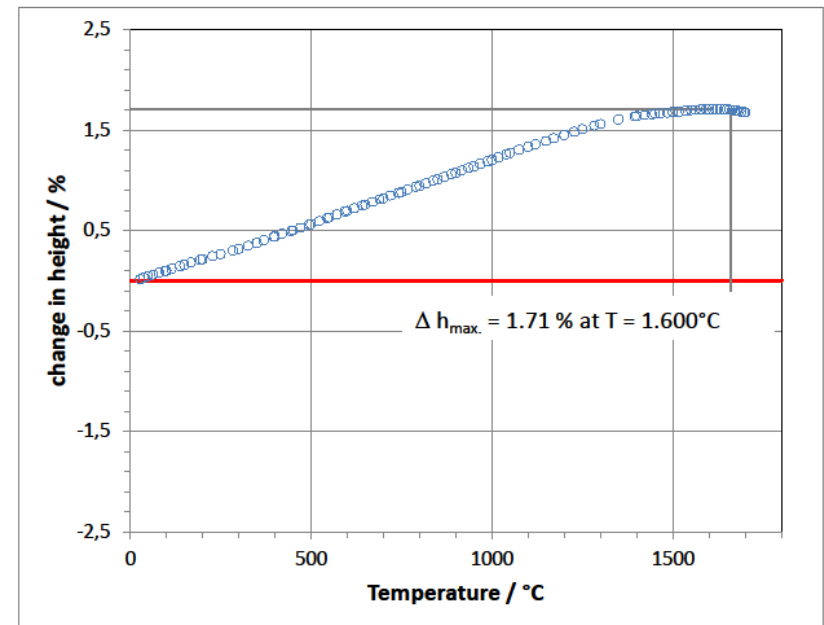
## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods

→ comparison of high temperature magnesia based construction materials without and with microstructural optimization



RuL of magnesia brick with a load of 0.2 MPa



RuL of magnesia spinel brick with a load of 0.2 MPa



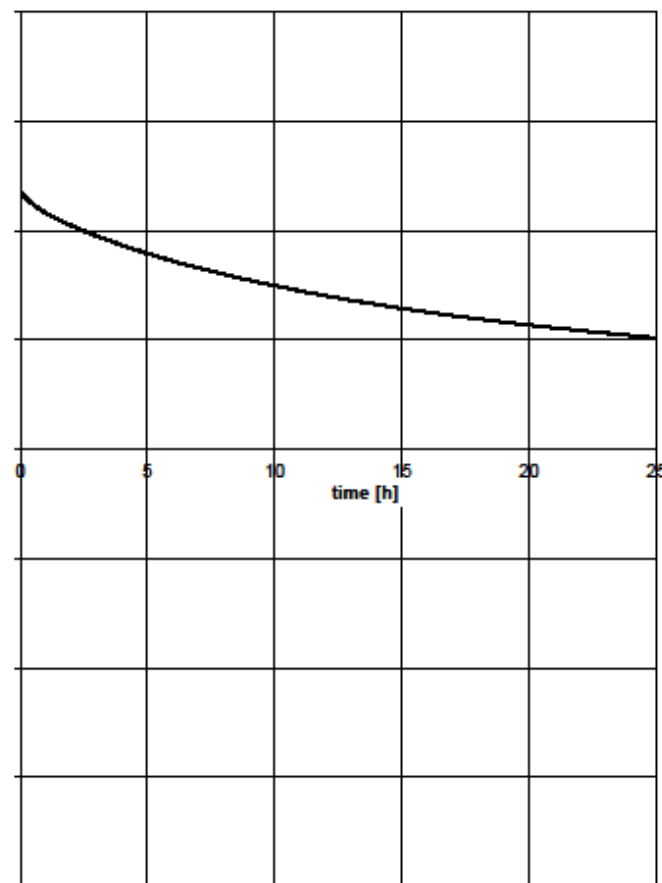
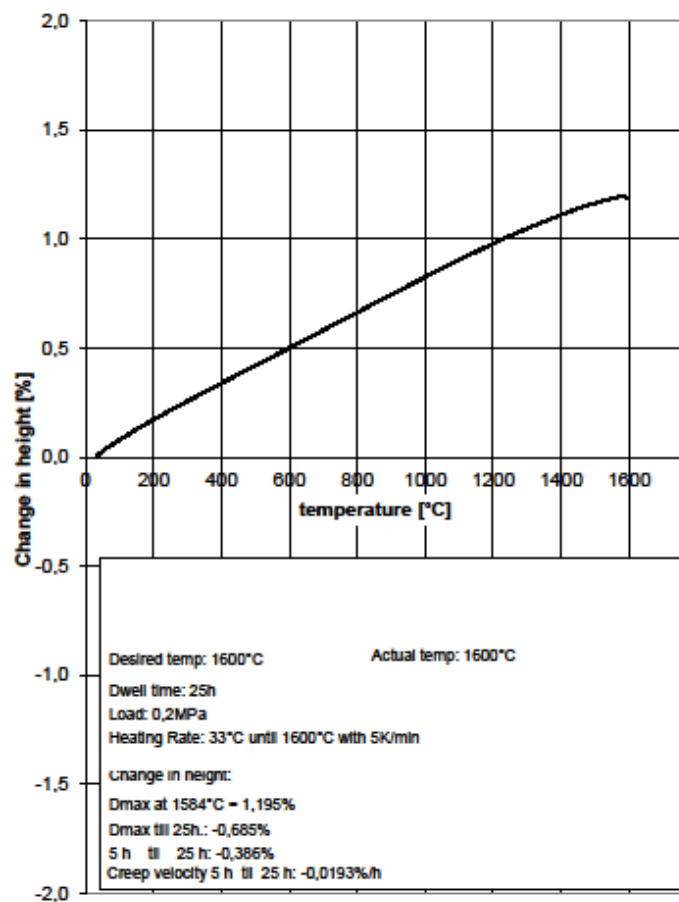


## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ measuring methods

example:

Test of Creep in compression according to DIN EN 993-9

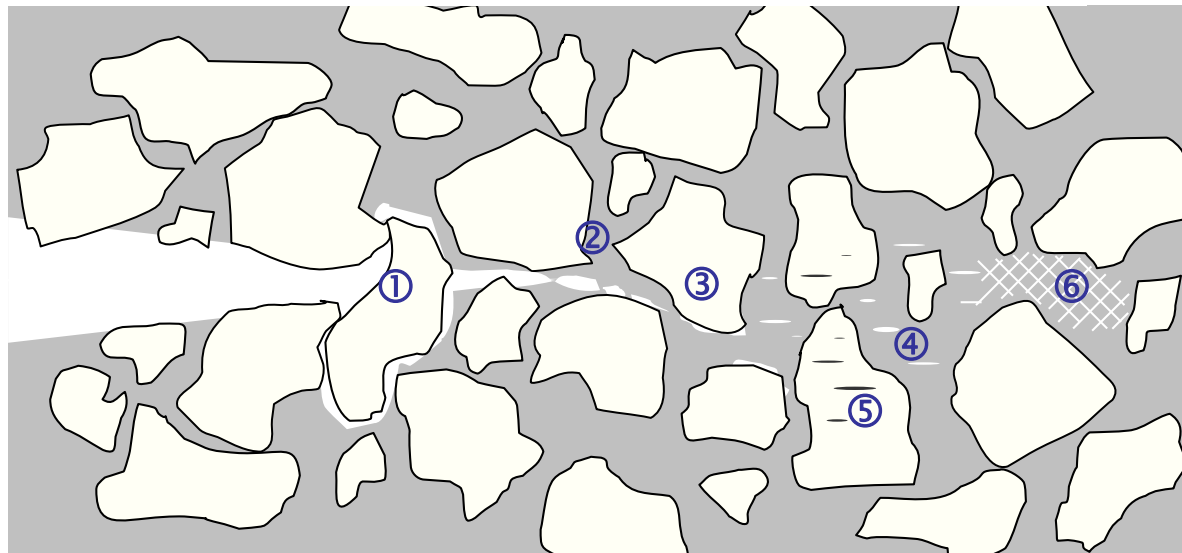


## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics



→ in case of refractories (coarse grains → heterogeneous materials) energy that is not needed for creation of new surfaces is transformed



with:

- 1 = creation of grain bridges
- 2 = ductile materials areas  
(especially at high temperatures)
- 3 = delamination
- 4 = creation of microcracks within the matrix
- 5 = creation of microcracks in grains
- 6 = plastic deformation

■ matrix

■ coarse grains

→ the overall energy for creation and propagation of a crack is defined as specific fracture energy  $G_f$

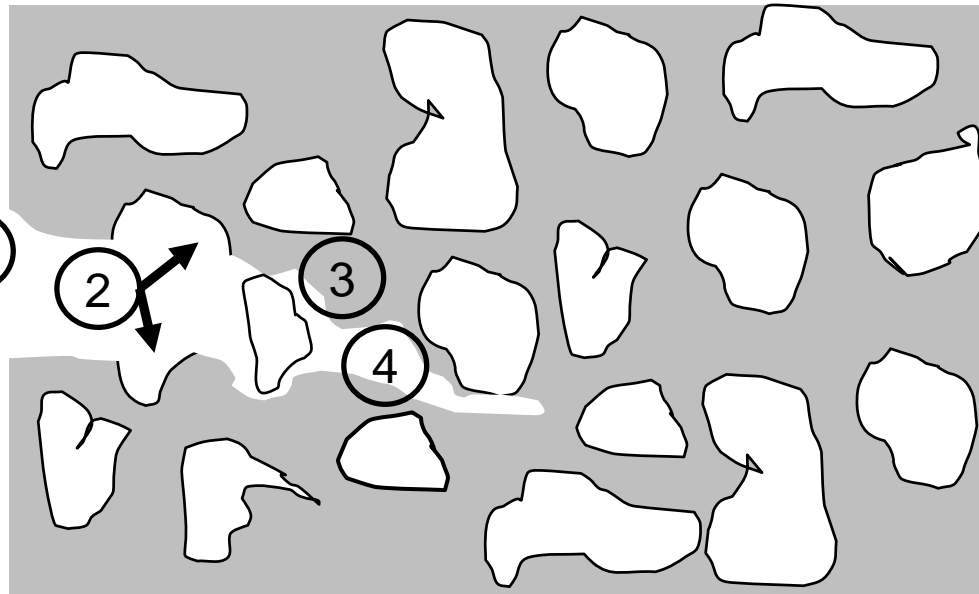




## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics

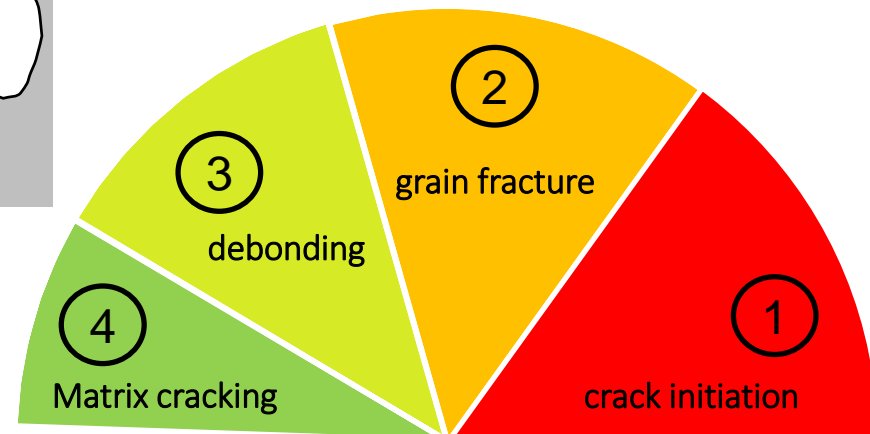
→ energy consumption during cracking



■ matrix

□ coarse grains & aggregates

energy consumption  
distribution

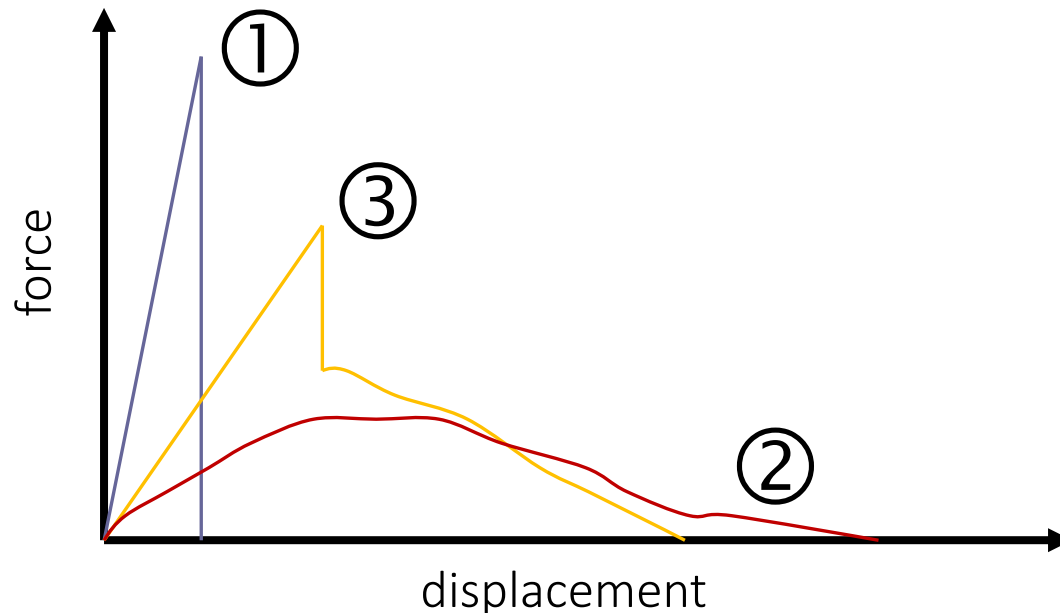




## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics

- the specific fracture energy  $G_f$  can be demonstrated by an force (N) / displacement (mm) - diagram
- for differentiation 3 cases of crack growth are used and also the subcritical crack growth is considered

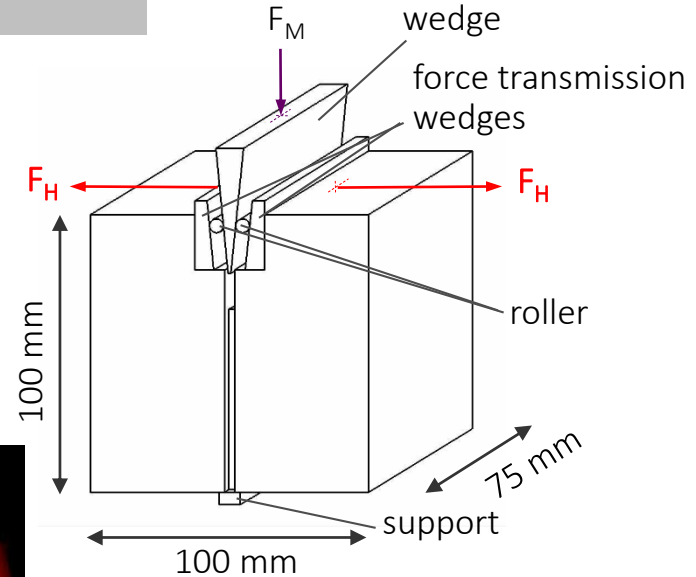
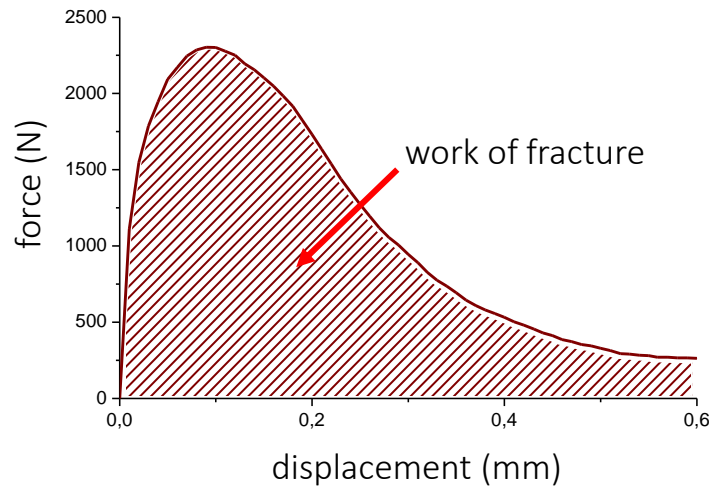


- ① unstable
- ② stable
- ③ partially stable

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

### ▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics

➔ Wedge splitting test for detecting the specific fracture energy  $G_f$



➔ specific fracture energy

$$G_F = \frac{1}{2A} \int F_H d\delta$$

with:

$F_H$  = horizontal force

$A$  = plane of fracture

$d$  = crack displacement

➔ notch bending tensile strength

$$\sigma_{KZF} = \frac{F_{H \max}}{b \cdot h} + \frac{6 \cdot F_{H \max} \cdot y}{b \cdot h^2}$$

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics





## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics

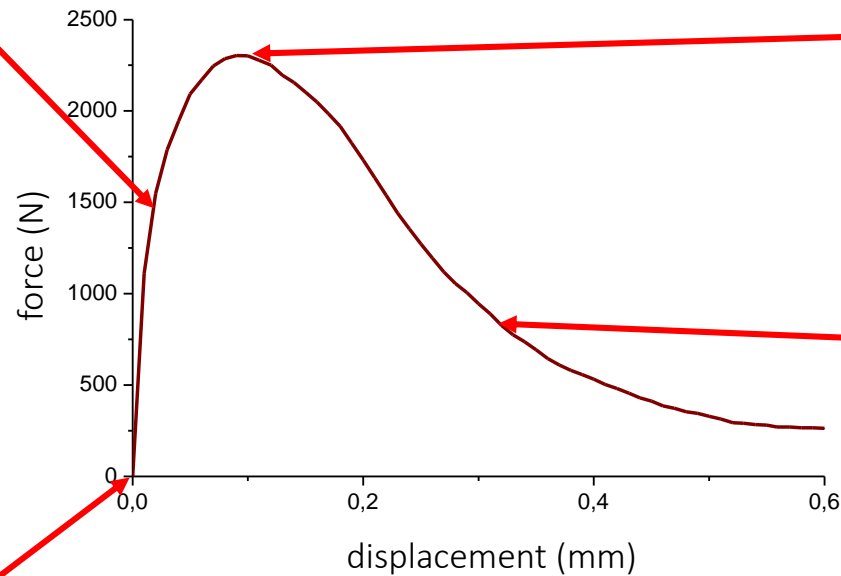
→ Measuring result from i.e. a fireclay brick at  $T = 1.150^{\circ}\text{C}$



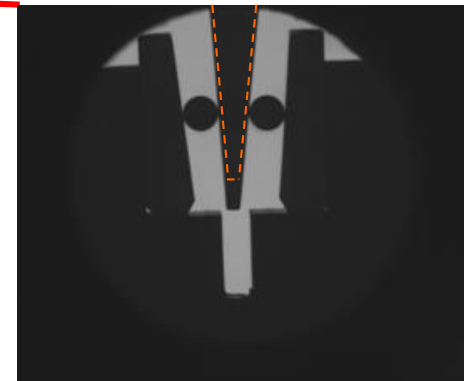
□ loading:  
elastic strain is stored  
minimal displacement



□ initial state



□ crack initiation

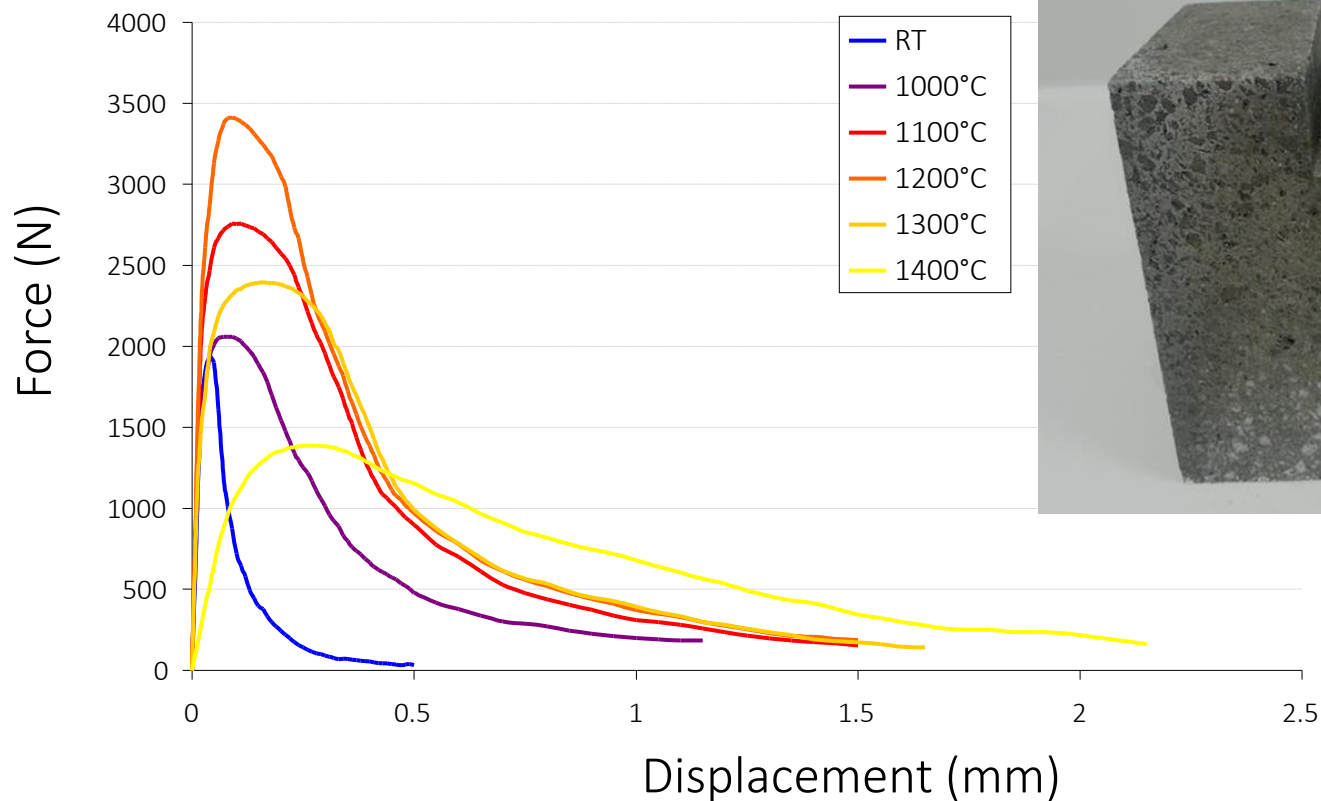


□ crack propagation

## ② DEFINITION OF FRACTURE

▶ non linear-elastic fracture mechanics

→ Measuring result from i.e. a magnesia chrome bricks at various temperatures

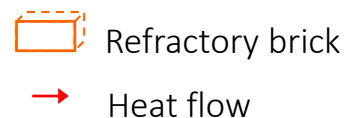
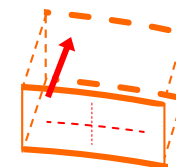
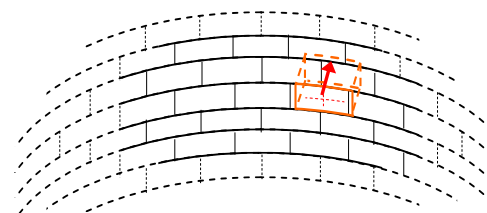
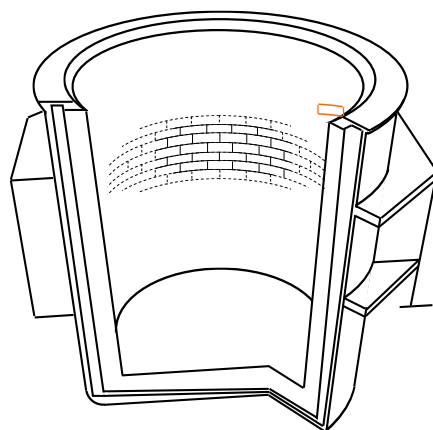


## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ different basic definitions



- during application conditions the refractories are treated with stationary and/or non-stationary thermal loads that create thermal induced stresses



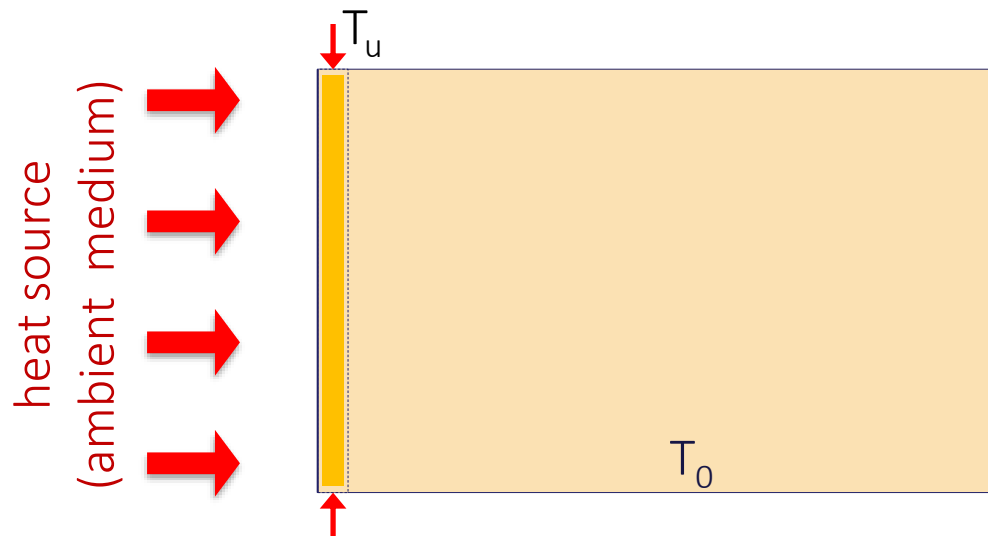
- the resistance of materials against harsh temperature changes or thermal stresses respectively is described as thermal shock resistance

## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ thermal shock resistance parameter



- to evaluate the thermal shock behavior and the criteria for choosing the right materials under application conditions different concepts and models on the basis of fracture mechanics were developed
- there is a temperature difference  $\Delta T = (T_u - T_0)$  with a critical value  $T_c$  a refractory material barely withstand before cracking



$$\varepsilon = \alpha \cdot (T_u - T_0) = \alpha \cdot \Delta T$$

with HOOK's law :  $\sigma = E \cdot \varepsilon$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma = \frac{E \cdot \alpha \cdot \Delta T}{(1 - \nu)}$$



## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ thermal shock resistance parameter



→ this critical temperature difference generates the resistance against crack initiation

$$\Delta T_c = \frac{\sigma_c \cdot (1 - \nu)}{E \cdot \alpha} = R$$

with:

$\nu$  = POISSON's ratio

→ thermal fatigue resistance is influenced by temperature and coherent stresses and expressed in the form of the thermal stress parameter  $R$

→ there also exist damage resistance parameter with :

□ resistance against crack propagation due to crack initiation (non-steady state crack growth)

$$R'''' = \frac{G_f \cdot E}{2 \cdot \sigma_c^2 \cdot (1 - \nu)}$$

□ resistance against crack propagation of large cracks (stationary crack growth)

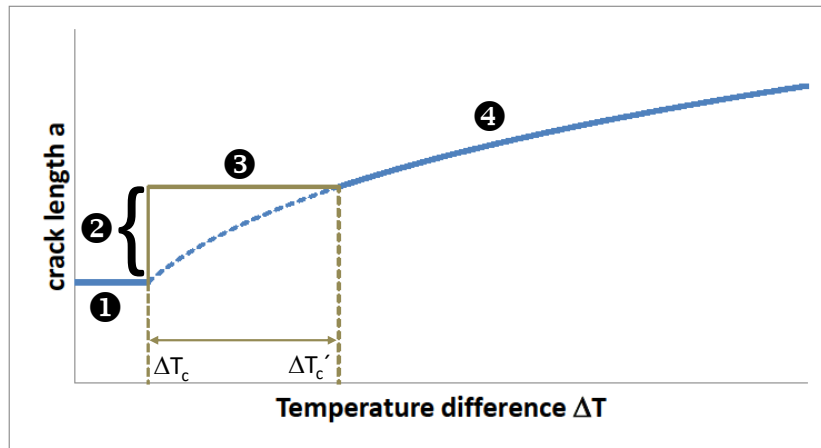
$$R_{st} = \sqrt{\frac{G_f \cdot (1 - \nu^2)}{2 \cdot \alpha^2 \cdot E}}$$

### ③ THERMOMECHANICS

▶ thermal shock resistance parameter

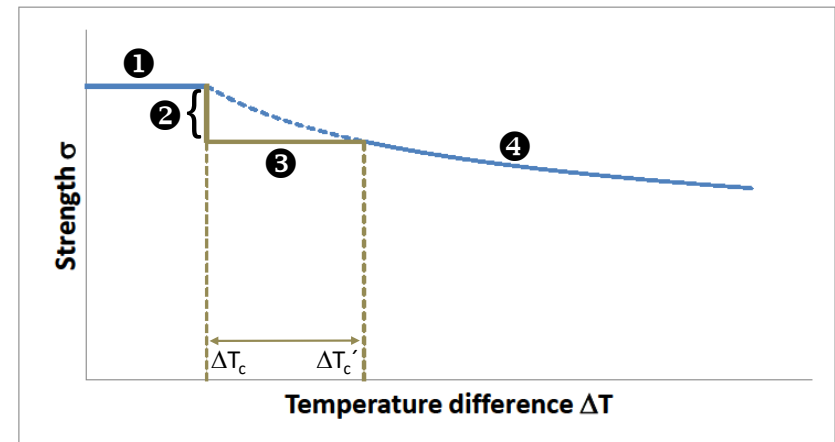


→ it is possible to illustrate the characteristic thermal fatigue resistance parameters and their influence



$\Delta T_c \sim R$  and amplitude of ②  $\sim 1/R''''$

- ① no crack initiation
- ② kinetic crack formation
- ③ no change in crack length
- ④ quasi static crack propagation



$\Delta T_c \sim R$  and amplitude of ②  $\sim 1/R''''$

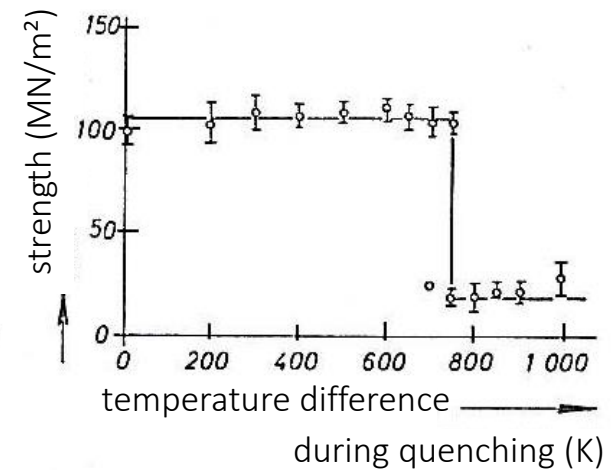
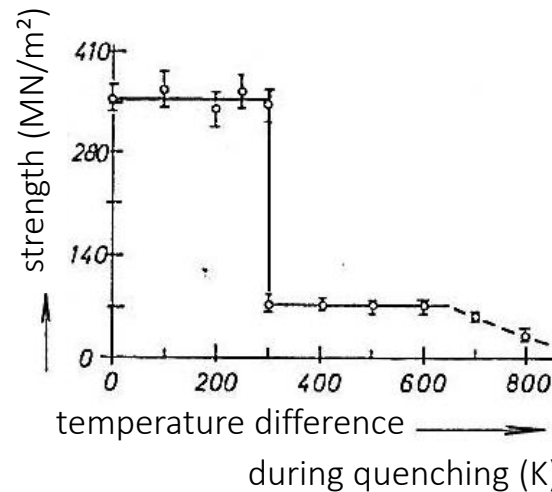
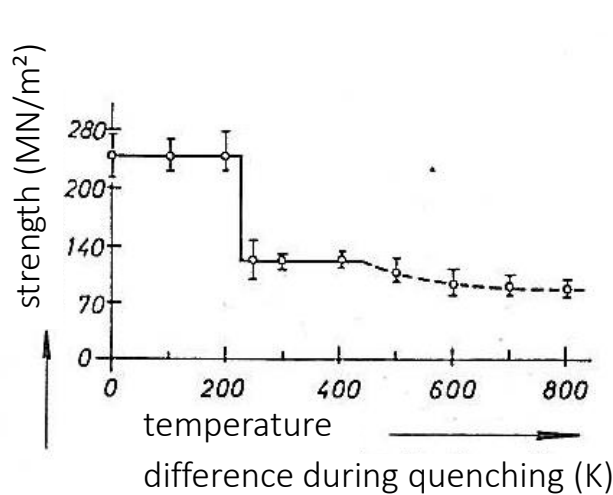
- ① no change in strength
- ② spontaneous decrease in strength
- ③ no change in strength
- ④ continuous loss in strength

# ③ THERMOMECHANICS

▶ thermal shock resistance parameter



→ strength behavior of refractories being quenched in water and resulting fatigue resistance parameter (after Hasselman)



example:

typical values for different refractories

Alumina A

- $\sigma_c = 248 \text{ MPa}$
- $R = 65$
- $R'''' = 0.89$

Alumina B

- $\sigma_c = 345 \text{ MPa}$
- $R = 117$
- $R'''' = 0.58$

mullite

- $\sigma_c = 103 \text{ MPa}$
- $R = 225$
- $R'''' = 0.19$

## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ thermal shock resistance parameter



- ➔ avoiding of fracture by complication of crack growth
  - moderate ratio of critical fracture strength to YOUNG´s modulus
  - high value of fracture energy  $G_F$
- ➔ materials with good thermal shock behavior normally are characterized by :
  - thermal expansion coefficient  $\alpha$  : ➔ chamotte bricks, cordierite, . . .
  - specific fracture energy  $G_F$  : preferably high ➔ magnesia spinel bricks, carbon bonded refractories, . . .
  - thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  : preferably high ➔ carbon bonded refractories, . . .
  - YOUNG´s modulus  $E$  : dependent on application
  - strength  $\sigma_C$  : dependent on application

## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ measuring methods



→ standardized methods for measuring thermal shock resistance

#### ■ DIN EN 993-11

- heating up to  $T = 950^{\circ}\text{C}$
- quenching of samples with air up to 30 cycles
- alternatively measuring of sonic velocity and/or measuring the bending strength after 5 quenching cycles
- sample sizes : mode A –  $114 \times 64 \times 54 \text{ mm}^3$ ; mode B –  $230 \times 64 \times 54 \text{ mm}^3$

#### ■ ASTM C 1171-96

- heating up to  $T = 1.200^{\circ}\text{C}$
- quenching of samples with air up to 5 cycles
- measuring of sonic velocity and/or measuring the bending strength
- sample size :  $152 \times 50 \times 50 \text{ mm}^3$

## ③ THERMOMECHANICS

### ▶ measuring methods



→ standardized methods for measuring thermal shock resistance

#### ■ DIN 51068

- heating up to  $T = 950^{\circ}\text{C}$
- quenching of samples with water up to 30 cycles
- measuring of sonic velocity and/or measuring the bending strength
- sample size : cylinder  $\varnothing 50 \text{ mm} \times h = 50 \text{ mm}$



## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

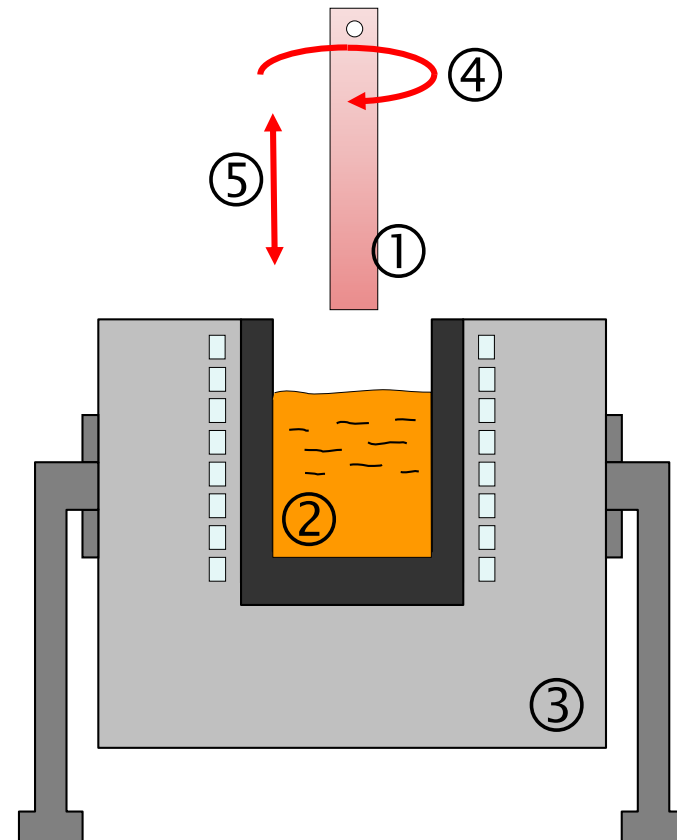
▶ thermal shock resistance



→ not standardized technological orientated test procedure for refractories inside melts (metals, glas) and slags

→ melt immersion test

- ① sample
- ② metal melt
- ③ induction furnace
- ④ option for rotation
- ⑤ option for lifting

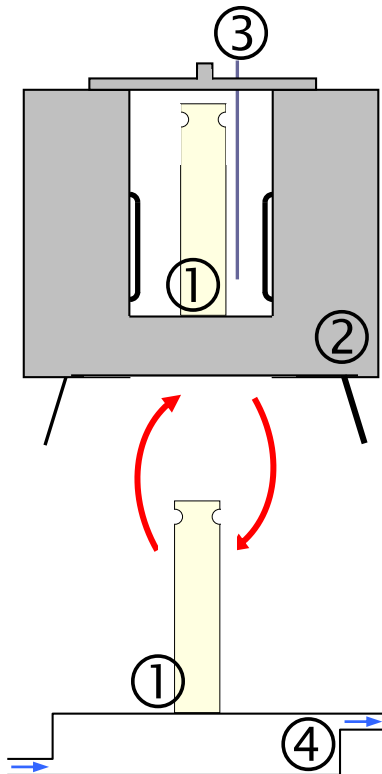


## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

### ▶ thermal shock resistance



- not standardized technological orientated test procedure for refractories with a quasi unidirectional temperature gradient
- KOLTERMANN test at 1.350°C with on a copper-panel



- ① Sample,  $\varnothing$  35 mm, h= 200 mm
- ② furnace
- ③ thermocouple
- ④ water cooled panel



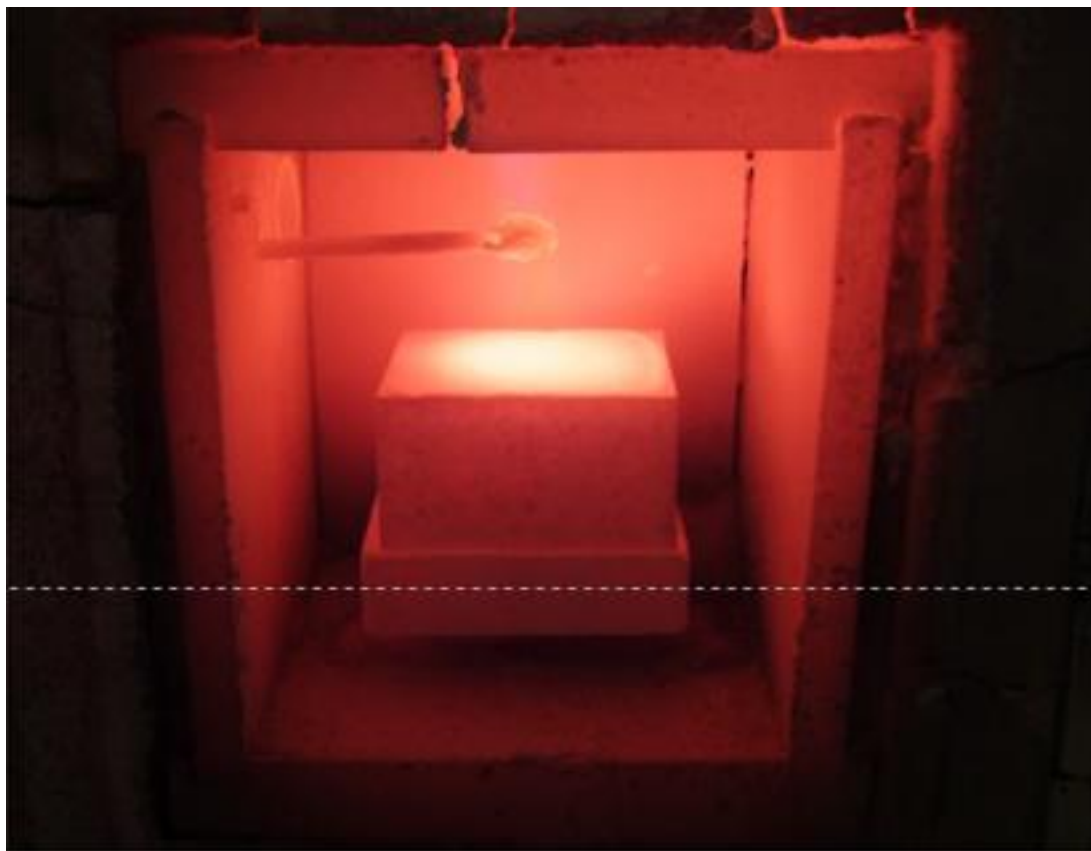


## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

▶ thermal shock resistance



- not standardized technological orientated test procedure for refractories with cyclic loading at high temperatures
- with a burner as source
- with radiation as source



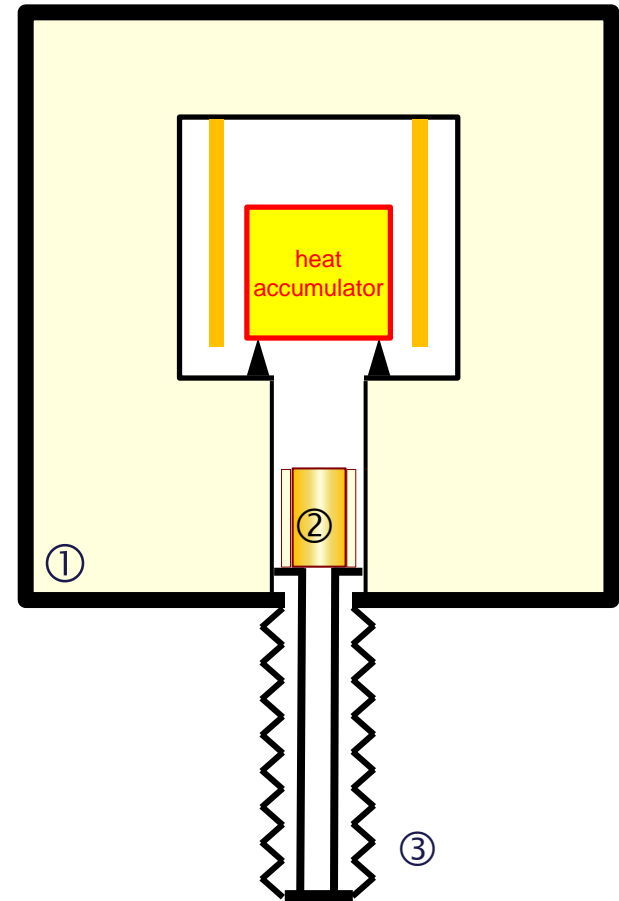
## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

### ▶ thermal shock resistance



→ not standardized application orientated test procedure for refractories with cyclic loading (dwell time : 15 min.) at high temperatures ( $T = 1.600^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

- ① furnace
- ② sample
- ③ Lifting system





## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

### ▶ thermal shock resistance

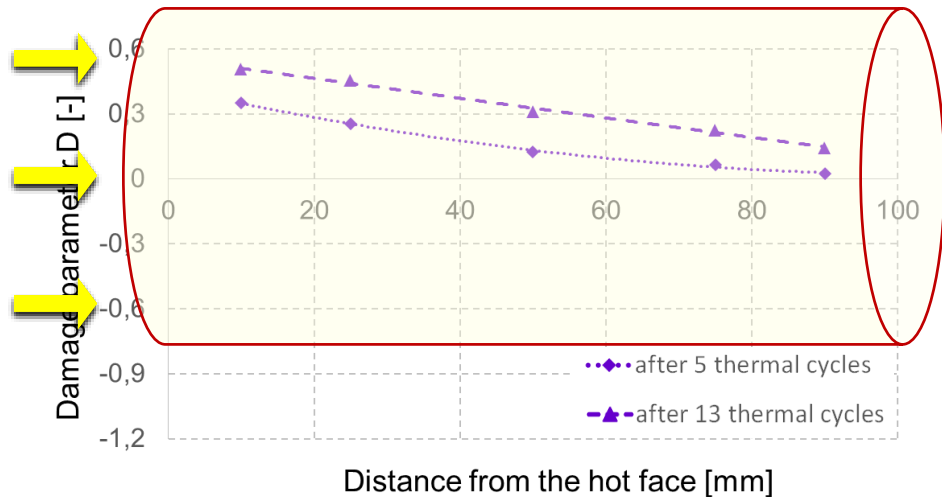
→ not standardized application orientated test procedure for refractories with the damaging process

$$D = 1 - \left( \frac{v}{v_0} \right)^2$$

#### example:

Sample: K 99

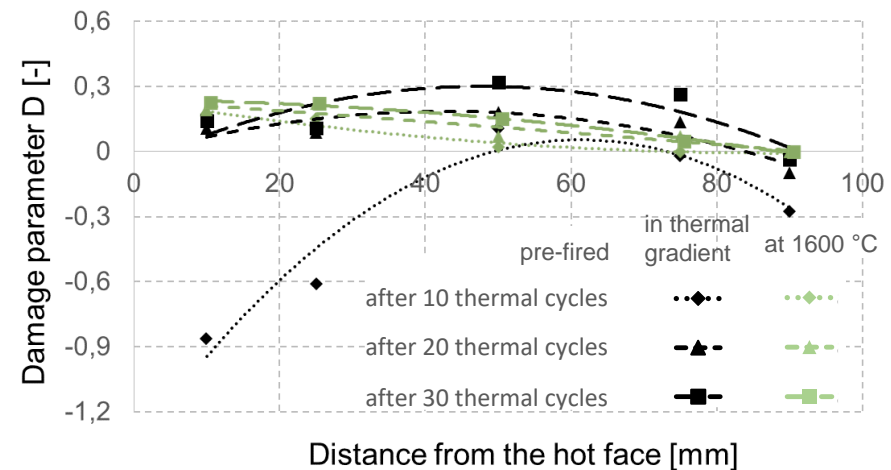
- Ø 50 mm, h = 100 mm



#### example:

Sample: MCA\_MSO\_MO

- Ø 50 mm, h = 100 mm



# ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

## ▶ thermal shock resistance

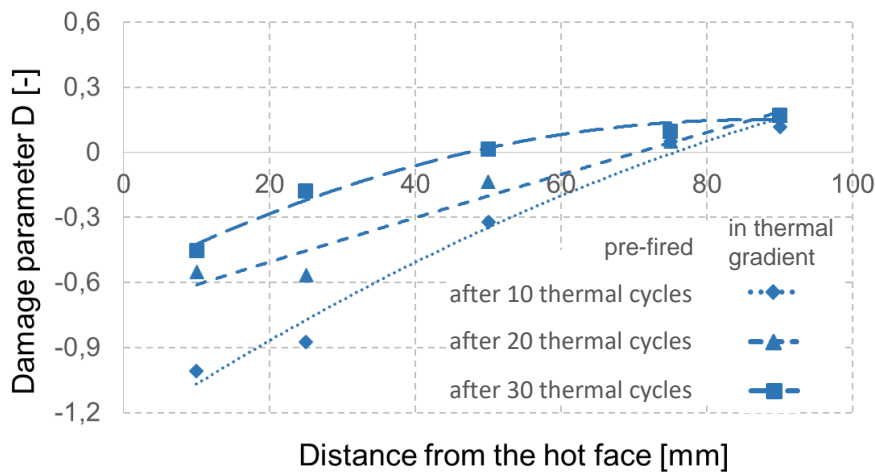


→ not standardized application orientated test procedure for refractories with the damaging process

$$D = 1 - \left( \frac{v}{v_0} \right)^2$$

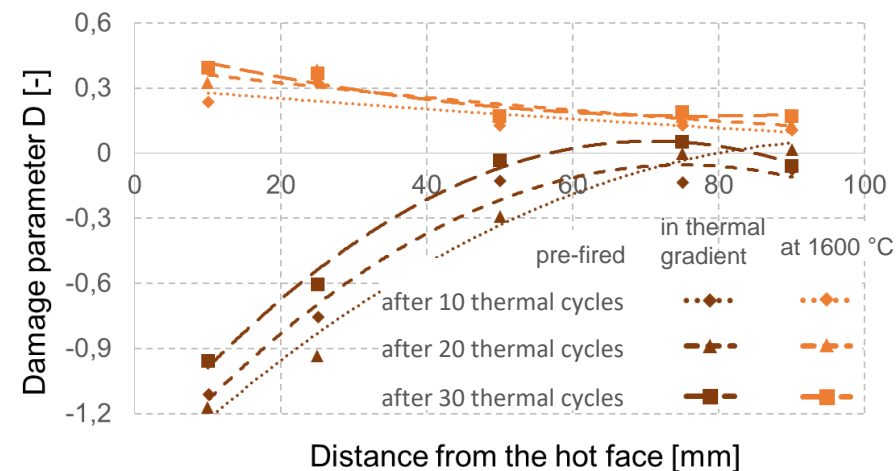
### example:

Sample: MCA\_MS0,5\_M4 (Nedmag)  
 - Ø 50 mm, h = 100 mm



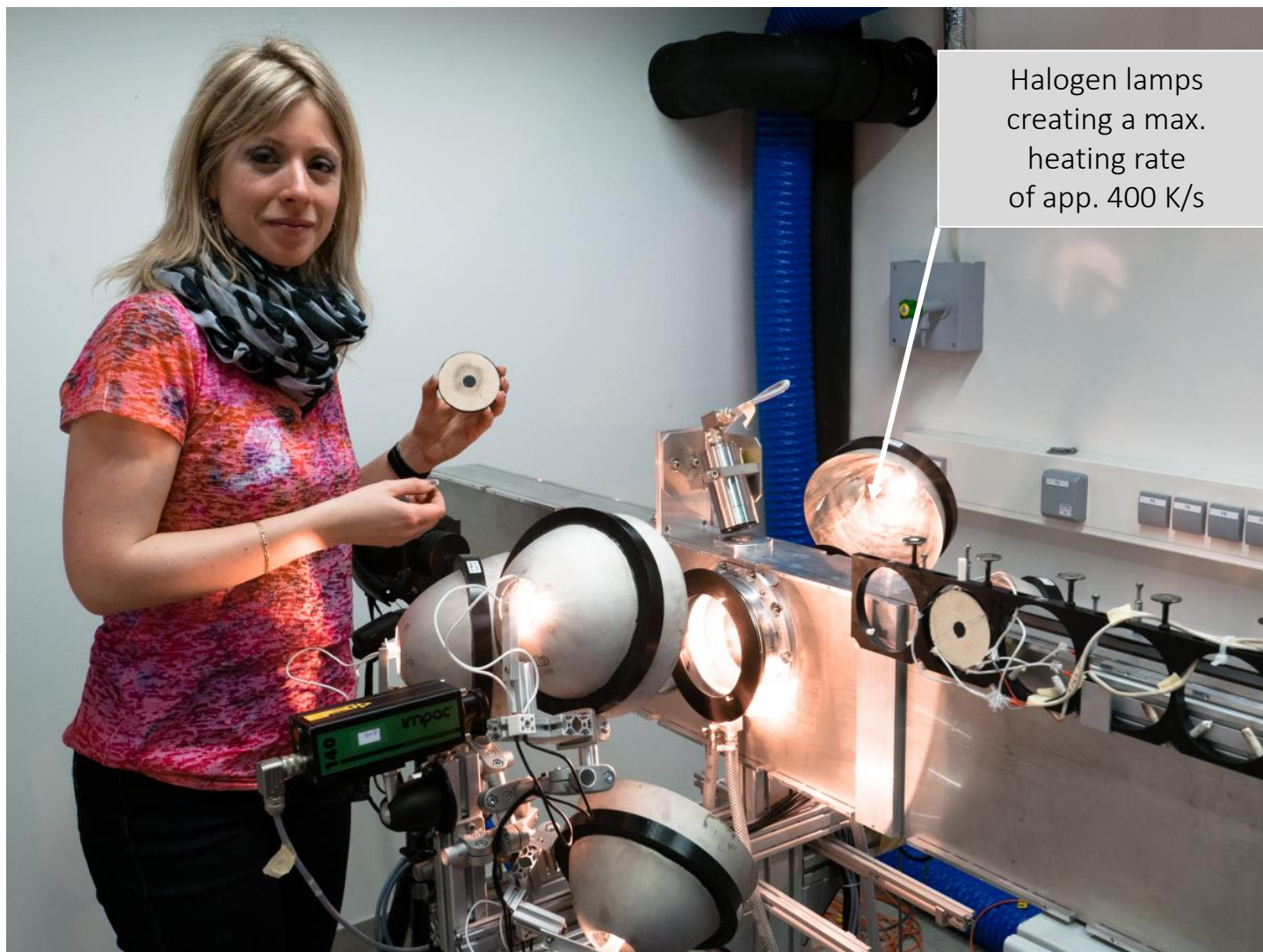
### example:

Sample: MCA\_MS0\_M4 (magnesite)  
 - Ø 50 mm, h = 100 mm



## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

▶ thermal shock behavior

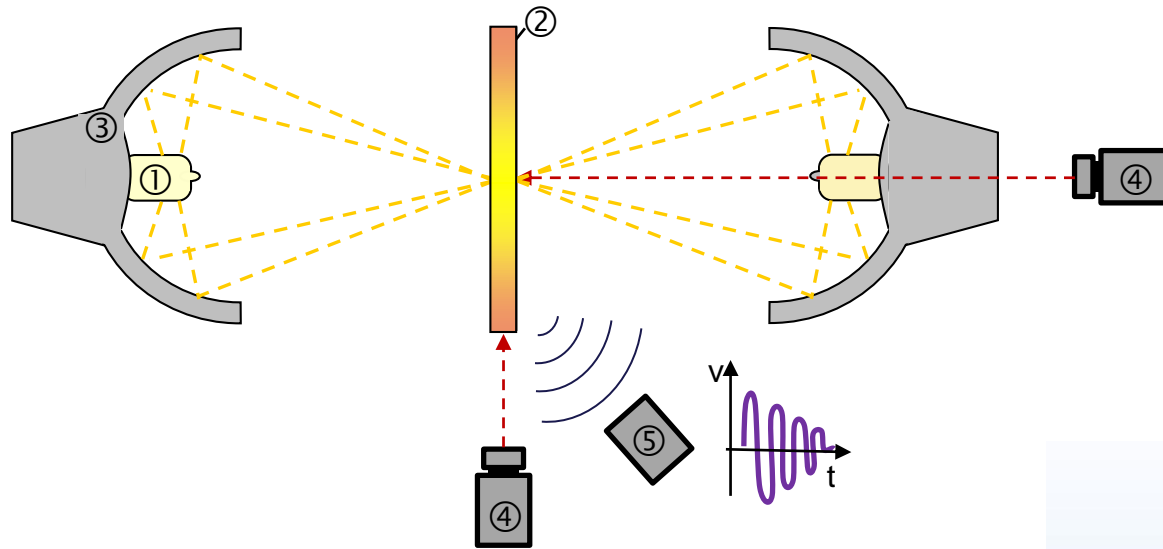


Halogen lamps  
creating a max.  
heating rate  
of app. 400 K/s

# ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

## ▶ thermal shock behavior

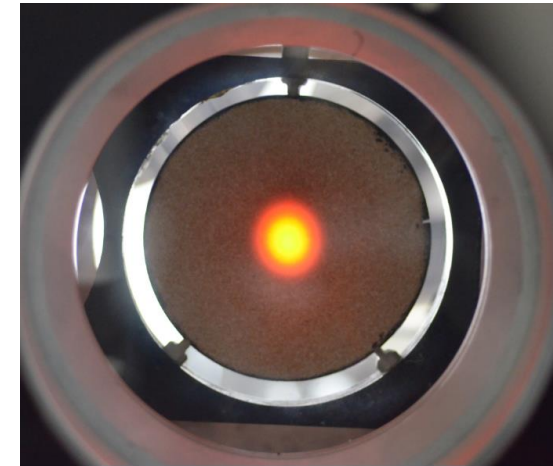
→ Radiation based method



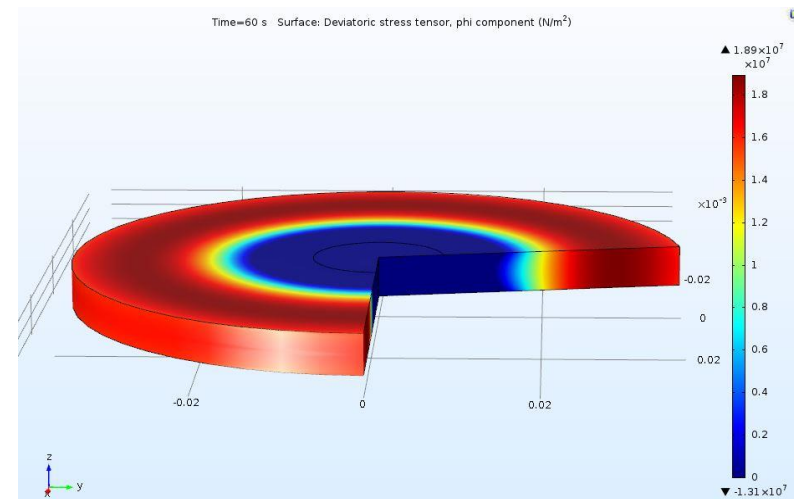
- ① Halogen bulb
- ② Sample
- ③ Reflector

- ④ Pyrometer
- ⑤ Acoustic emission sensor

Stress distribution  
(circular direction)



$T_{\max}$  (centric)  $\approx 1100$  °C

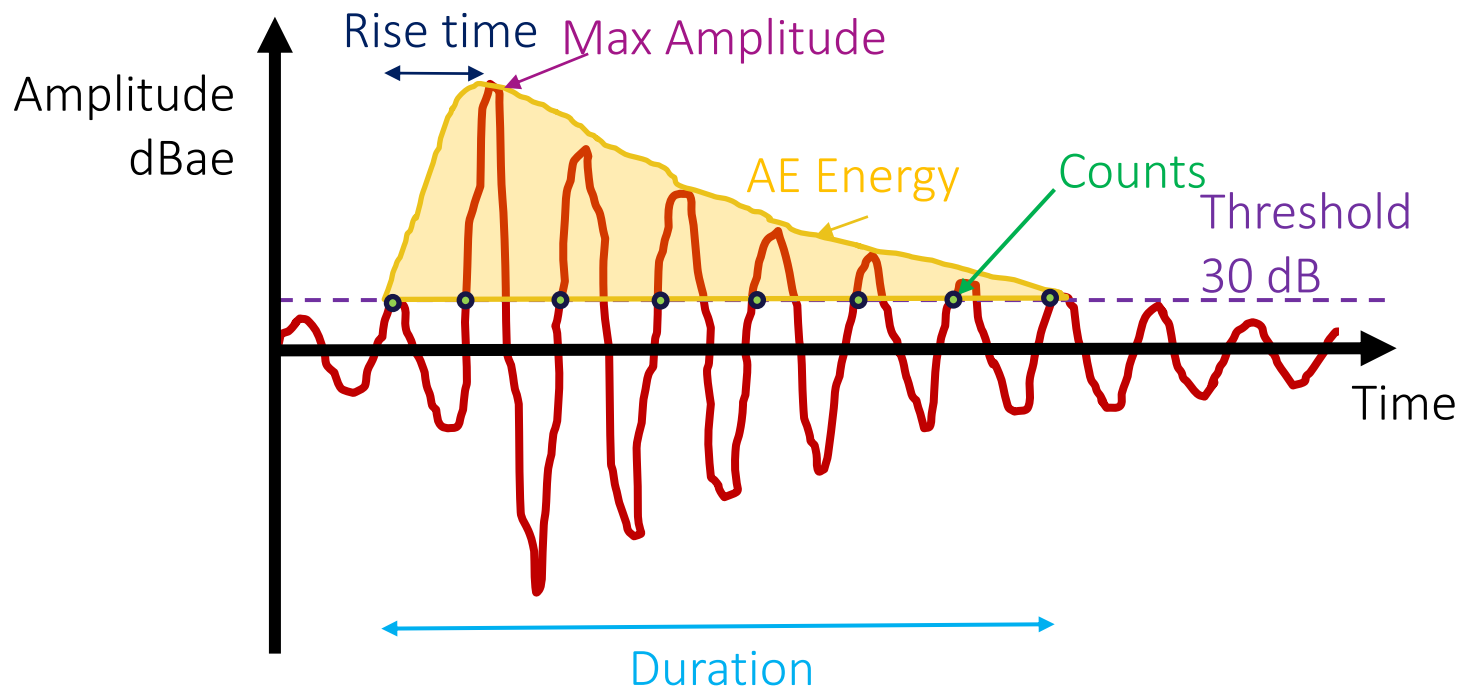




## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

### ▶ thermal shock resistance

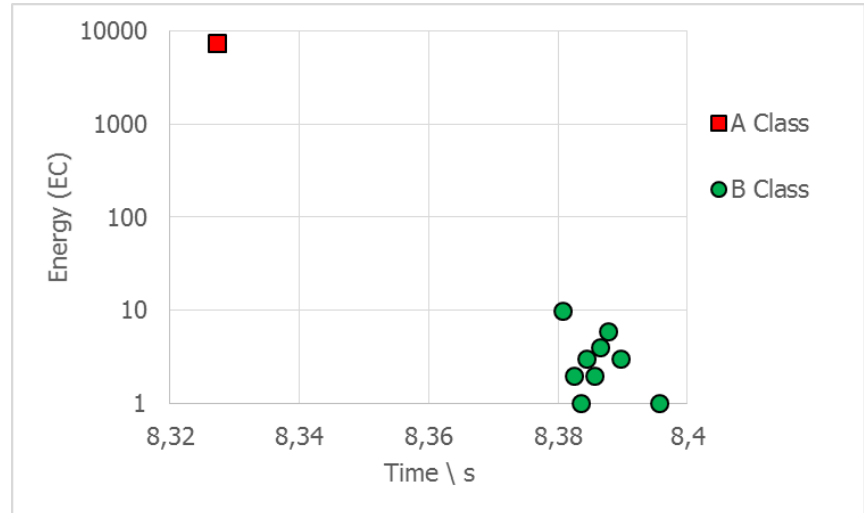
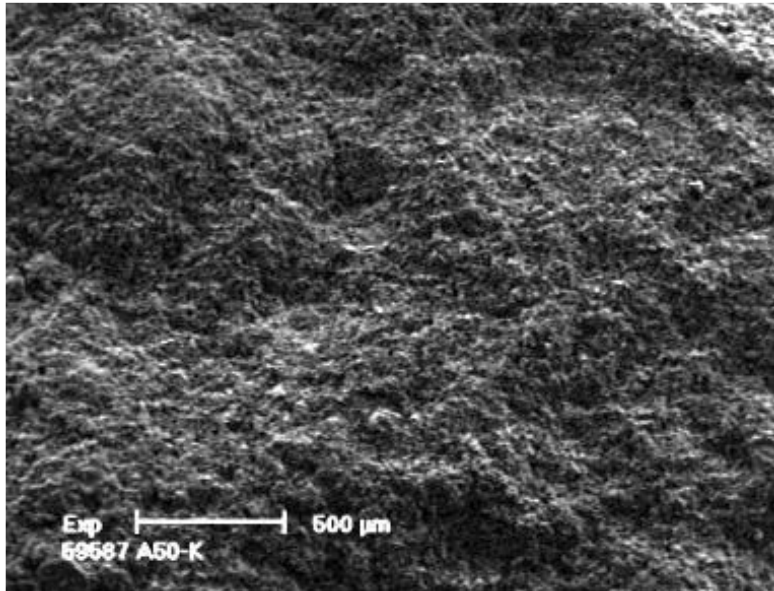
- not standardized application orientated test using acoustic emission detection for characterizing cracks and various energies



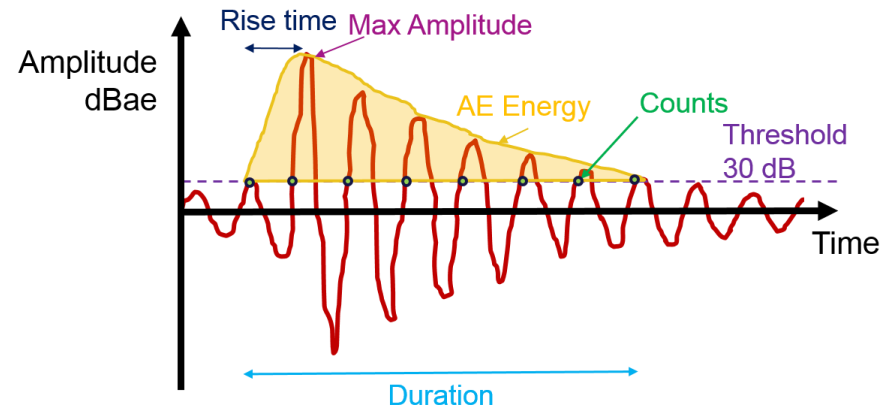


## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

▶ thermal shock resistance



Crack initiation	✓
Matrix cracking	✓
Debonding	✗
Grain fracture	✗

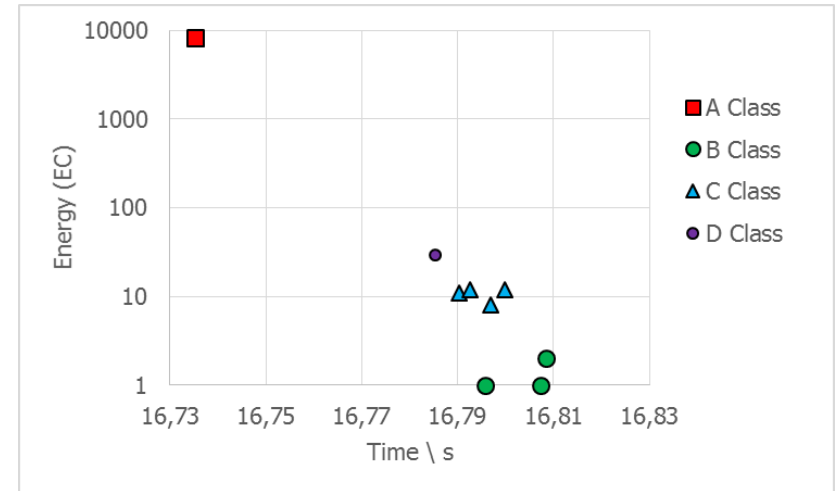
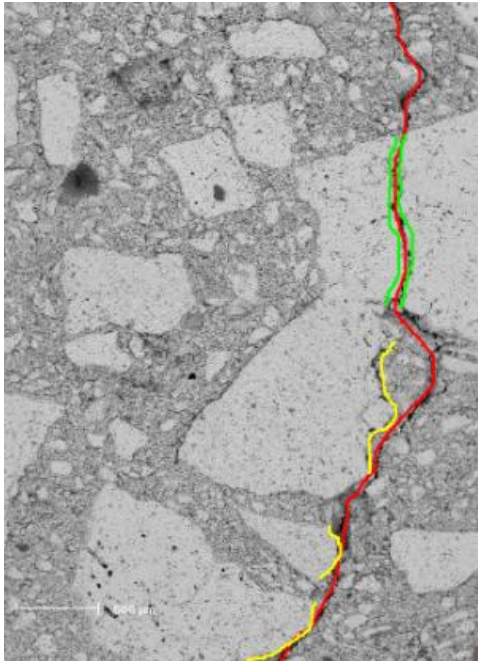




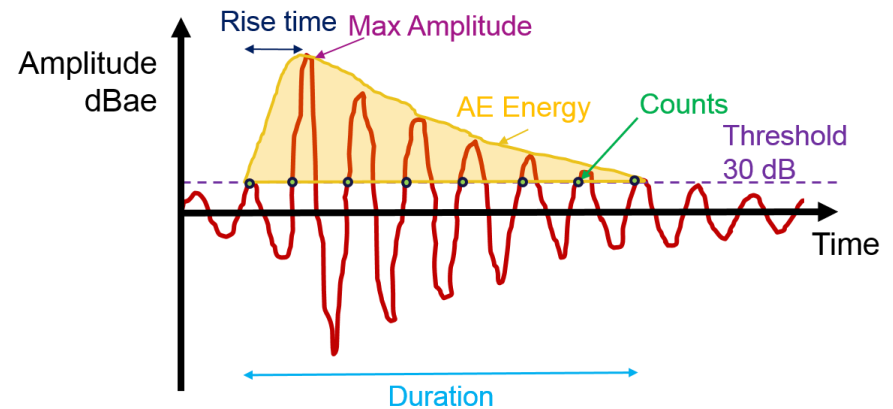


## ④ INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

▶ thermal shock resistance



Crack initiation	✓
Matrix cracking	✓
Debonding	✓
Grain fracture	✓



# ⑤ THANKS

▶ for your attention



→ since Jan, 1<sup>st</sup> 2013  
DIFK is in active  
service within ECREF



⑤ THANKS

▶ for your attention



Loriot