

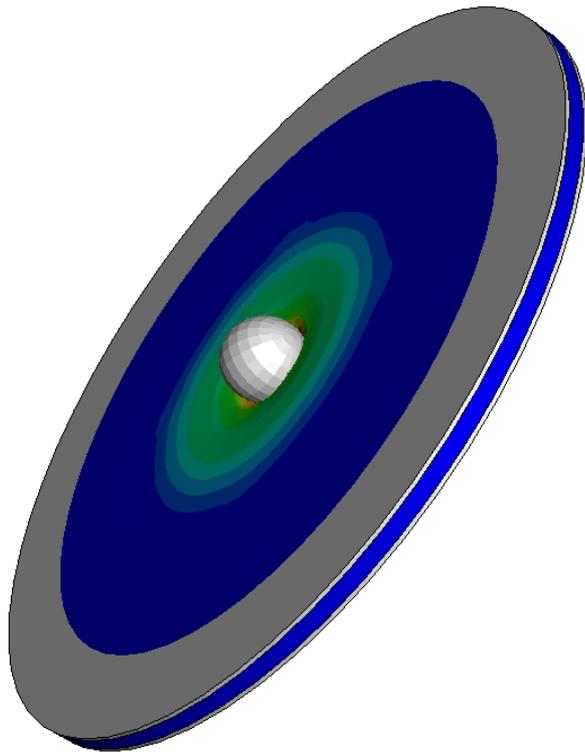
# *Impact Energy Absorption in Novel, Lightweight Sandwich Panels with Metallic Fibre Cores*

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*<sup>3</sup>DSTL*



*Core Materials and Sandwich Structures Seminar,  
Department of Engineering,  
University of Liverpool*



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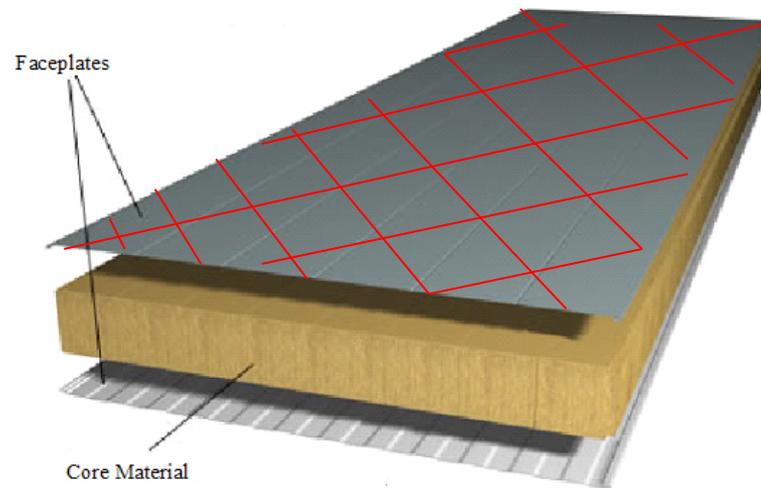
## ➤ *Experiments and Predictions*

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➤ *Sandwich Panels - Faceplates*

- *High Young's Modulus*
- *High Tensile and Compressive Strength*
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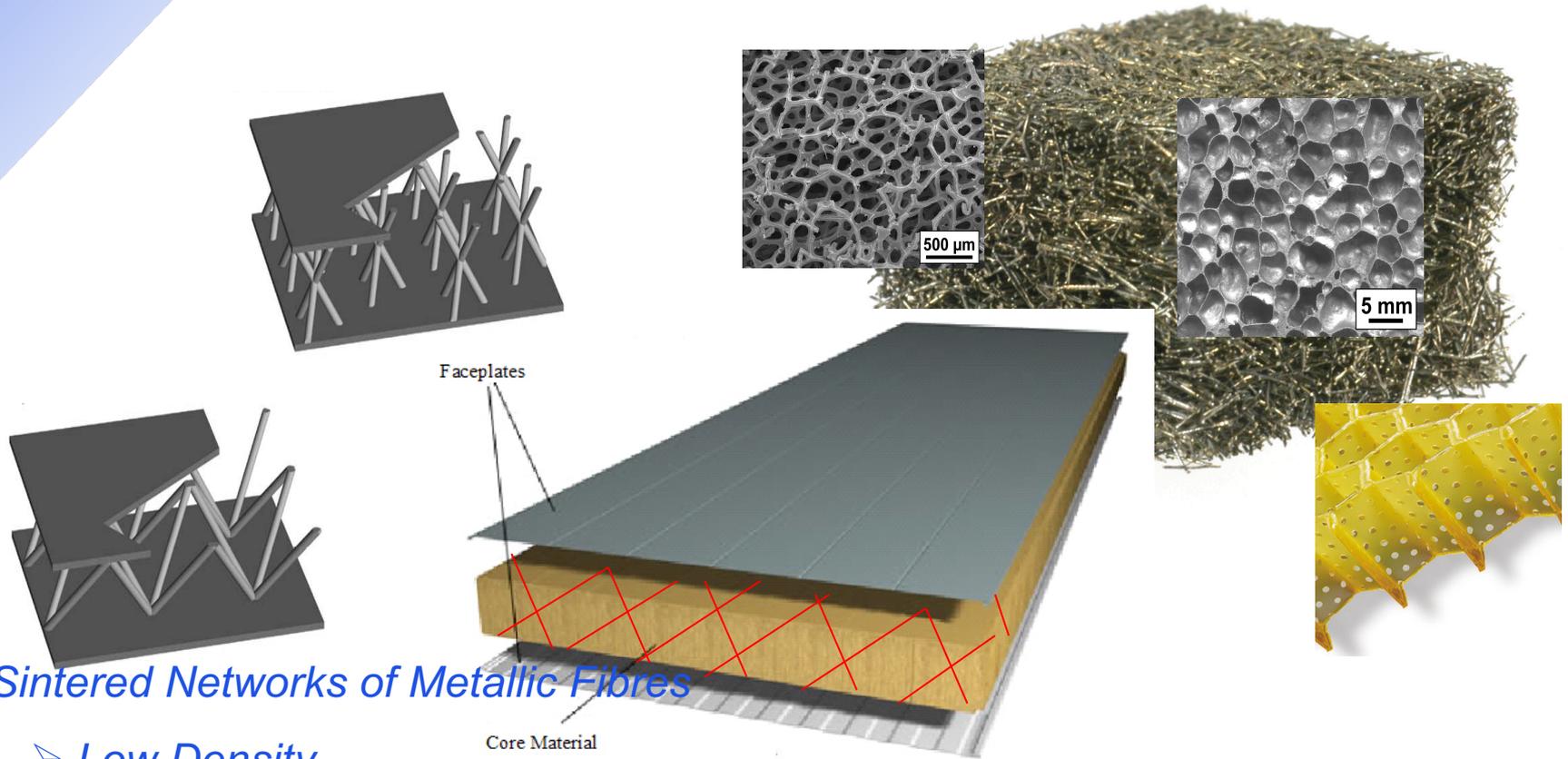
***Aluminium***

***Steels, including  
Stainless Steels***

***Fibre Reinforced  
Plastics***



## ➤ Sandwich Panels – ~~Common Core Materials~~

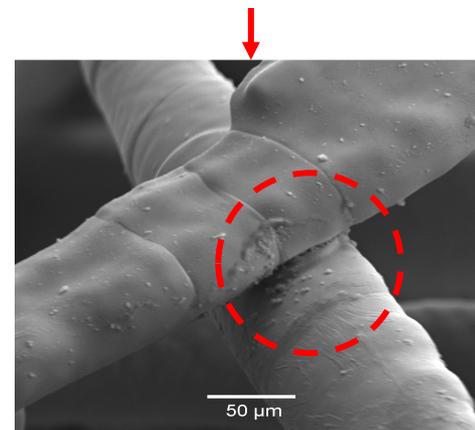
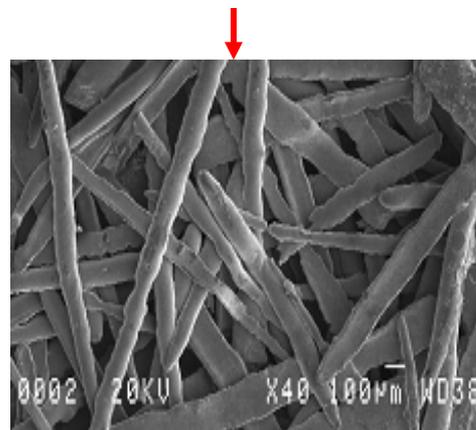
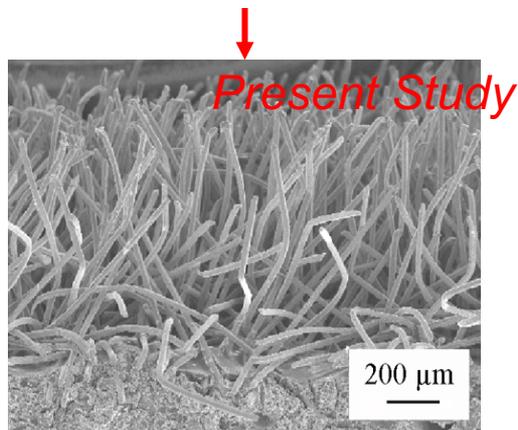
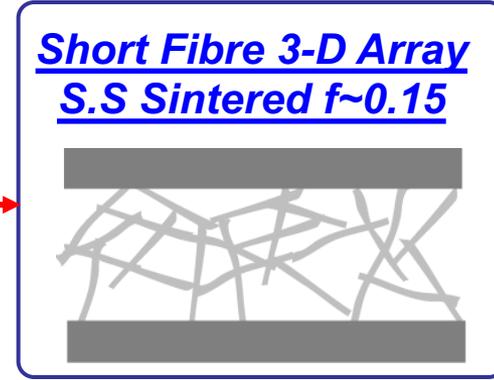
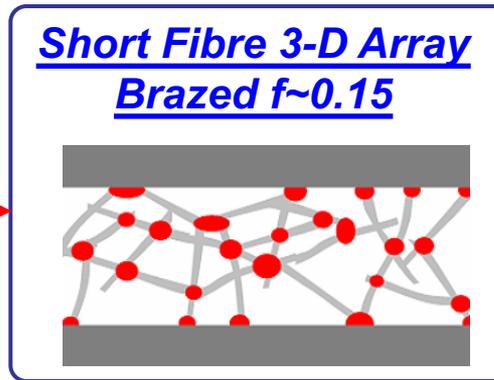
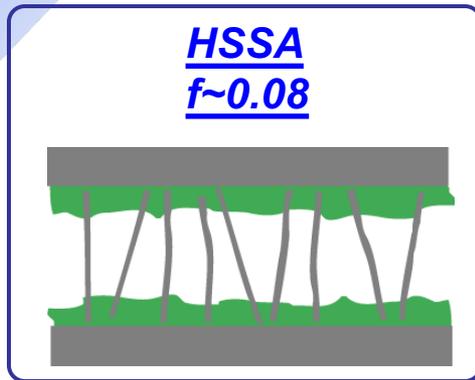


### ➤ Sintered Networks of Metallic Fibres

- Low Density
- Relatively High Stiffness (Perpendicular to the plane of the faceplates)
- Relatively High Shear Modulus



➤ *Lightweight Sandwich Panels with Metallic Fibre Cores*



- 0.2 mm thick 316 Faceplates
- 316 fibres-Vertically Aligned
- ~25 μm diameter
- ~1 mm length
- f~0.08

- 0.2 mm thick 304 Faceplates
- 304 fibres
- ~60 μm diameter
- ~5 mm length
- f~0.15

- 0.4 mm thick 304 Faceplates
- 304 fibres
- ~60 μm diameter
- ~5 mm length
- f~0.15



➤ *Lightweight Sandwich Panels with Metallic Fibre Cores*

➤ *Manufacture & Handling*

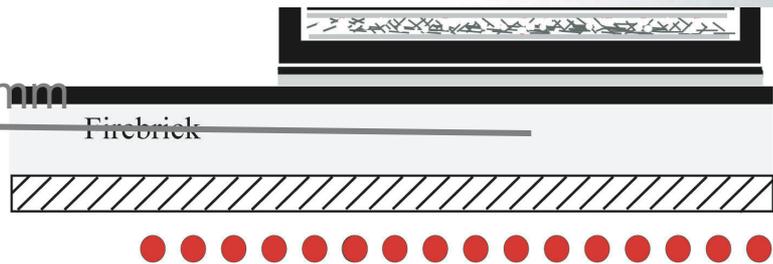
304 Melt Spun Fibres



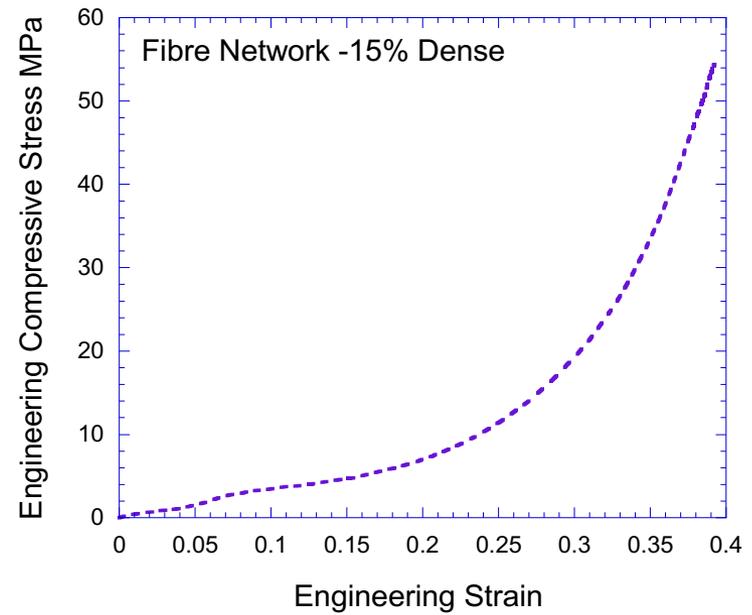
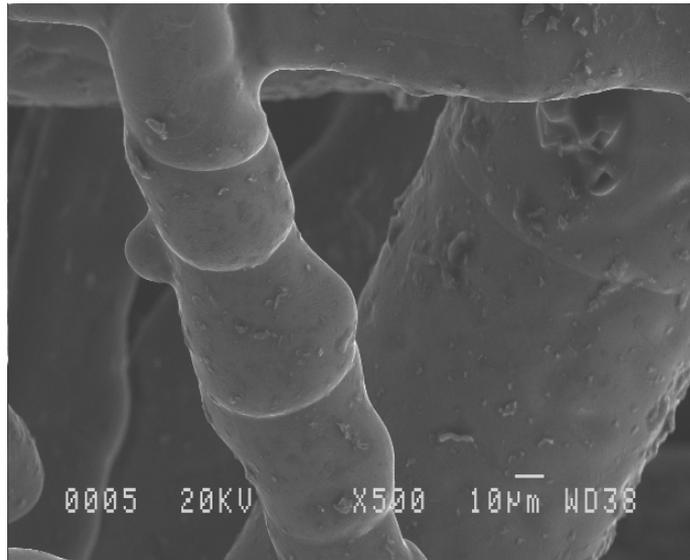
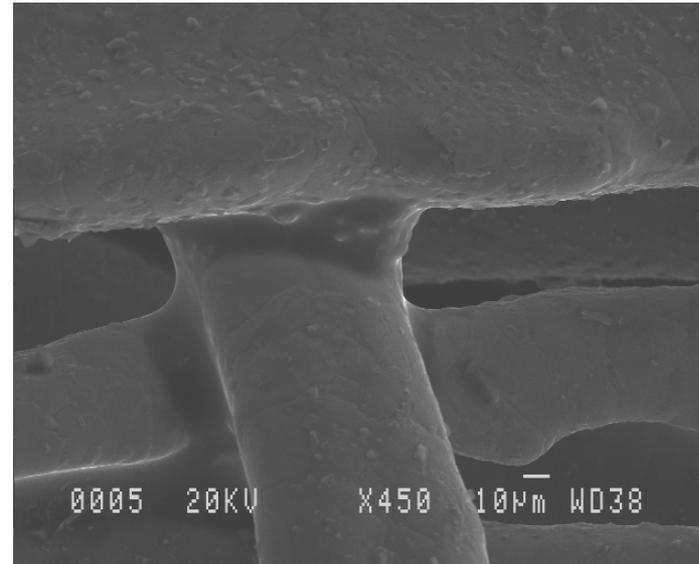
Fibre Volume Fraction ~15%

75 mm

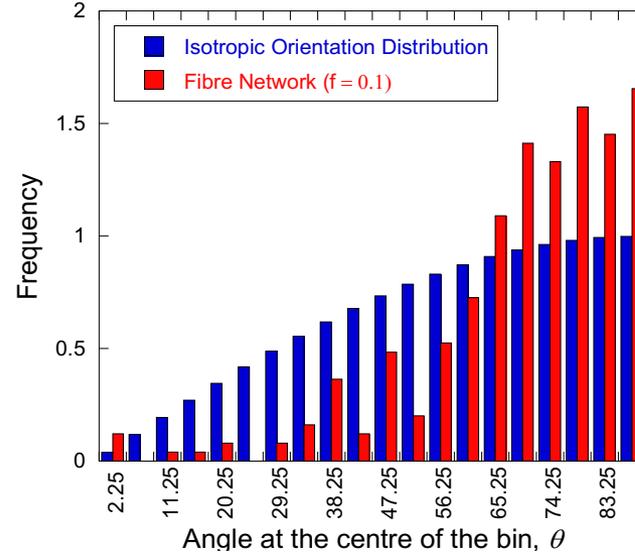
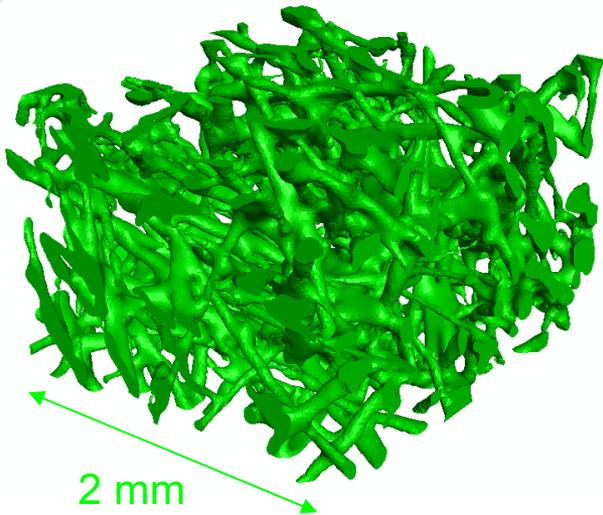
Firebrick



## ➤ Fibre Network Characterisation

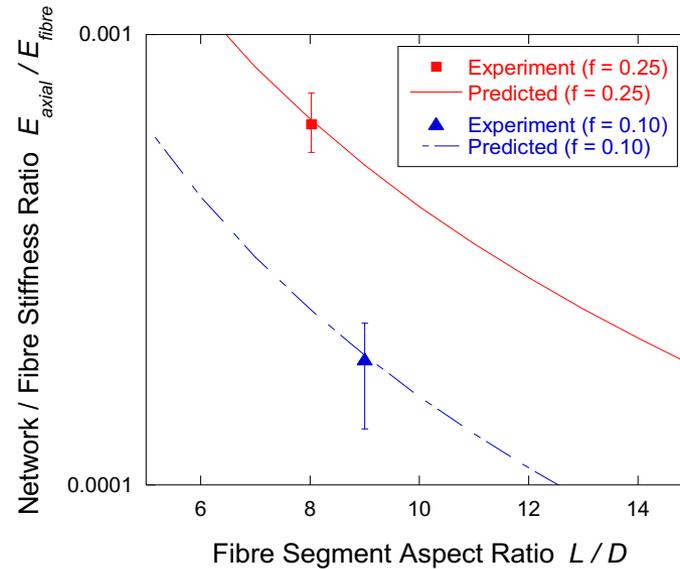


## ➤ Fibre Network Characterisation



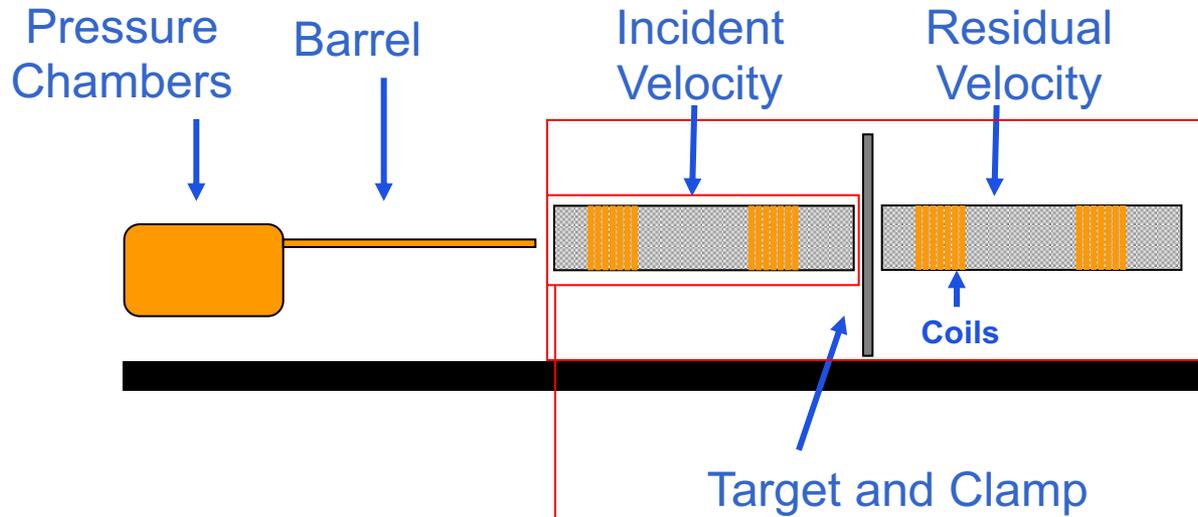
Clyne-Markaki Model

$$E_{axial} = \frac{3E_f f}{8 \left(\frac{L}{D}\right)^2} \left[ \frac{\sum_i^n N_{\theta_i} \cos \theta_i}{\sum_i^n N_{\theta_i} \sin^2 \theta_i} \right]$$

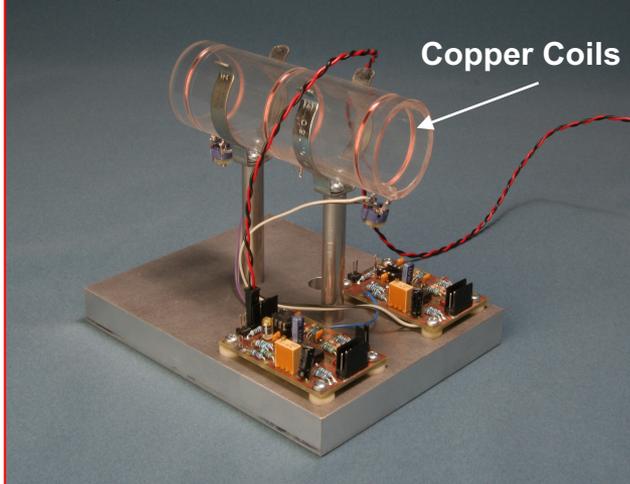


## ➤ Impact Test Facilities

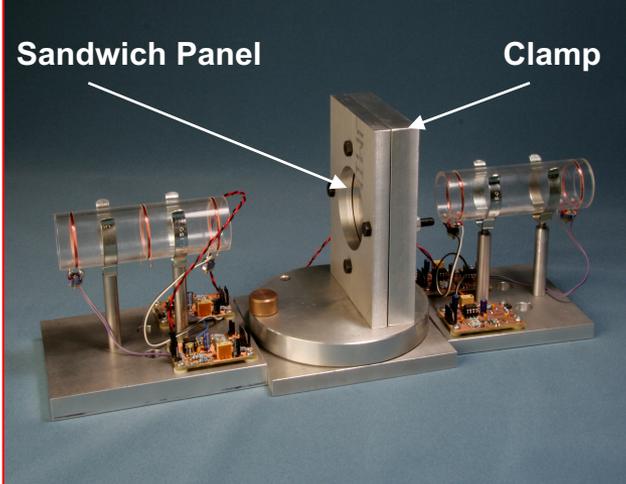
### Gas Gun Schematic



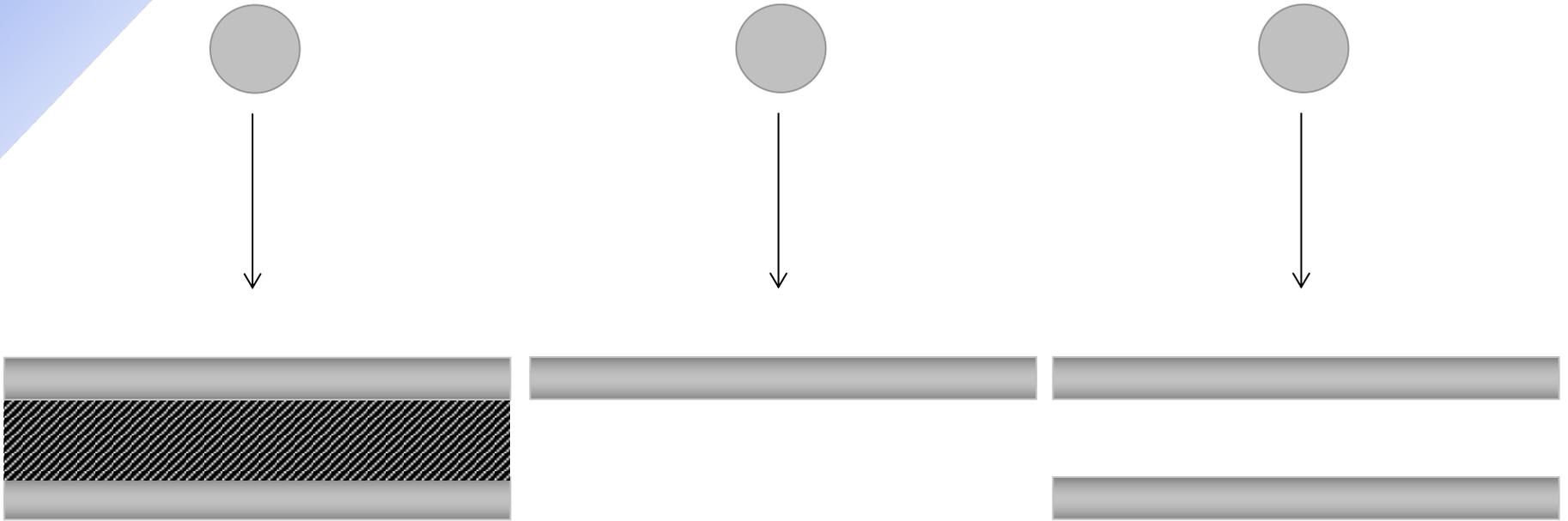
### Velocity Measurement



### Experimental Set-up



➤ *Experimental Programme*



➤ 8 mm Diameter Projectile

➤ 2 g Mass

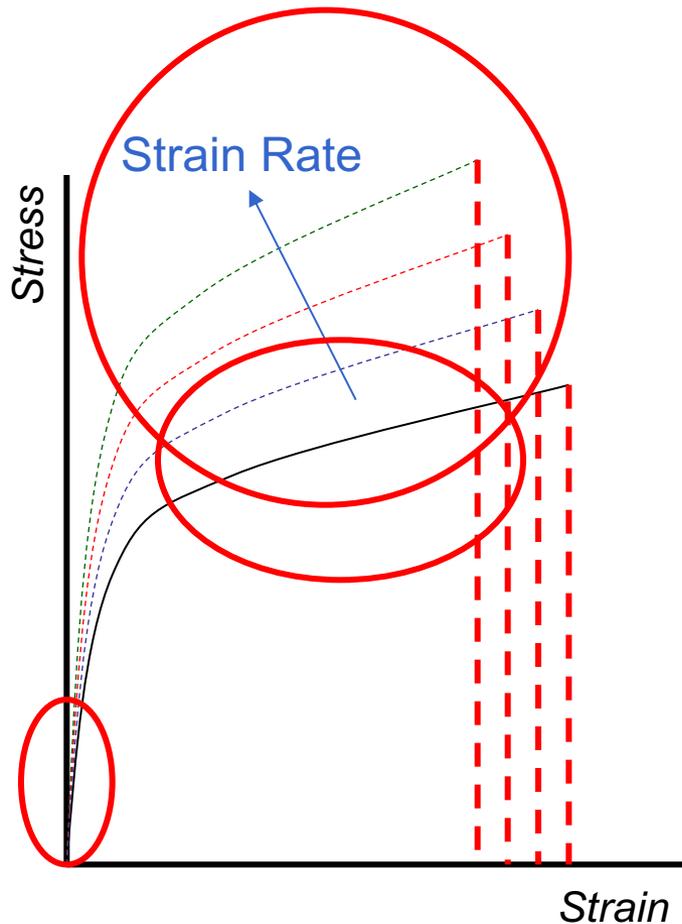
➤ Hardened Steel – Martensitic  
Outer Layer

➤ Impact Speeds ~ 80–600 m/s



➤ Numerical Modelling

➤ Faceplate Material Model



**Elastic Properties:**

Young's Modulus

Poisson's Ratio

**Plastic Properties:**

Stress v Strain Curves (von-Mises)

Johnson and Cook Plasticity

**Rate Dependency:**

Yield Ratio/Rate-hardening constant

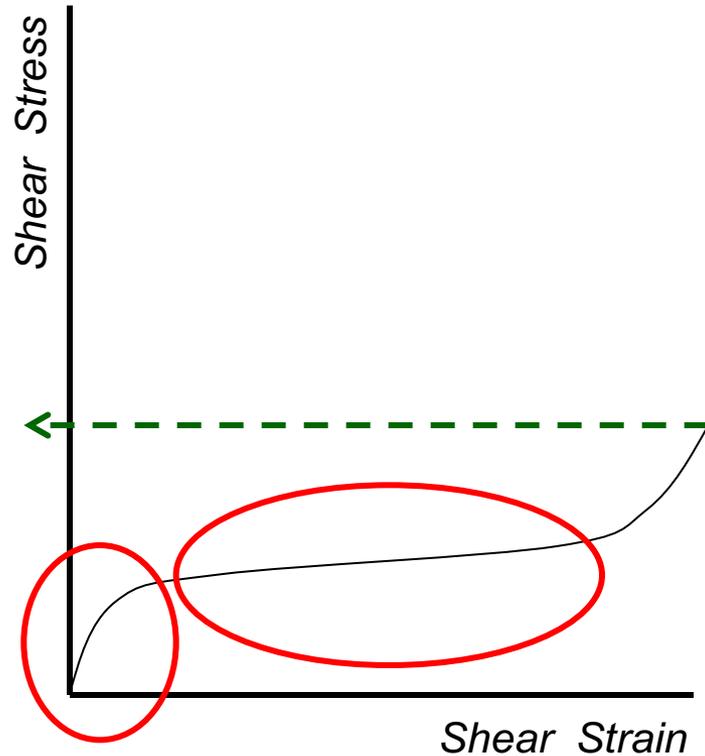
**Fracture Criterion:**

Critical Strain



➤ *Numerical Modelling*

➤ *Core Material Model – VUMAT Sub-routine (Zhou & Louca)*



Elastic Properties:

Young's Moduli

Poisson's Ratios

Plastic Properties:

Stress v Strain Curves

Fracture Criterion:

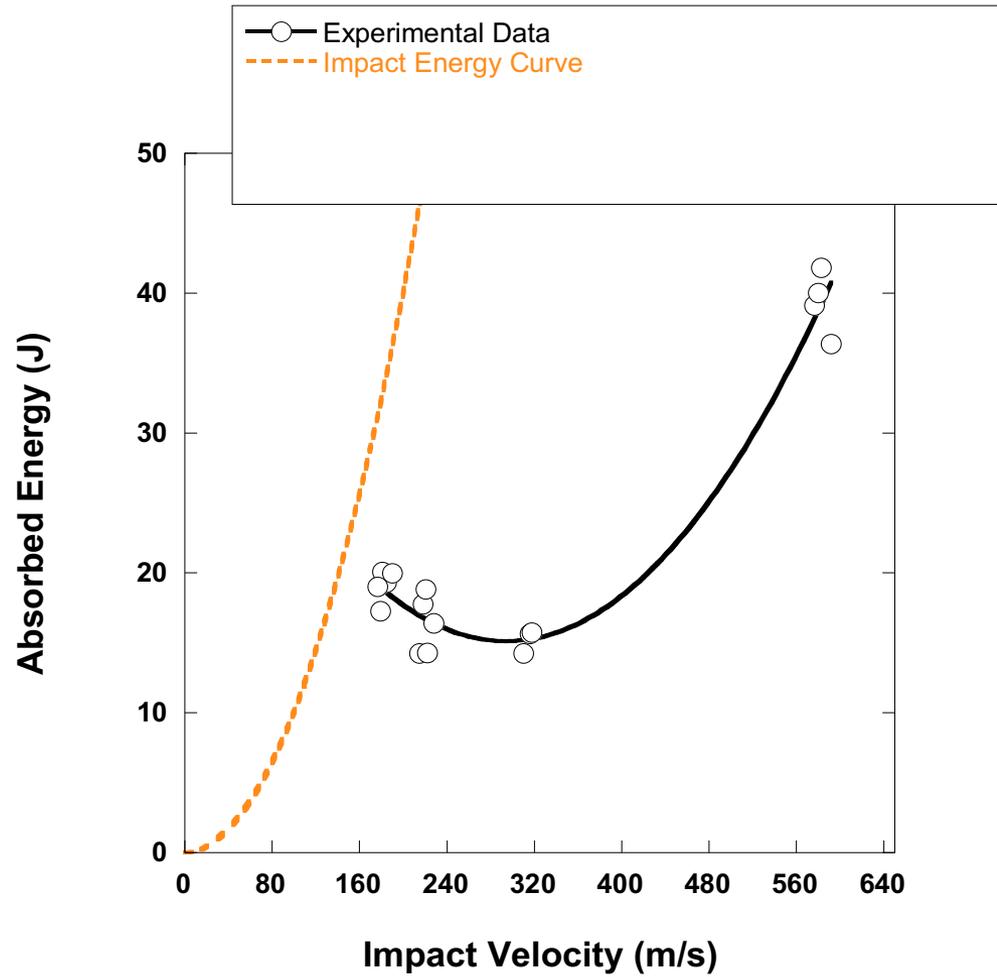
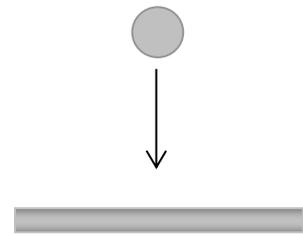
Critical Shear Stress

➤ *VUMAT sub-routine*

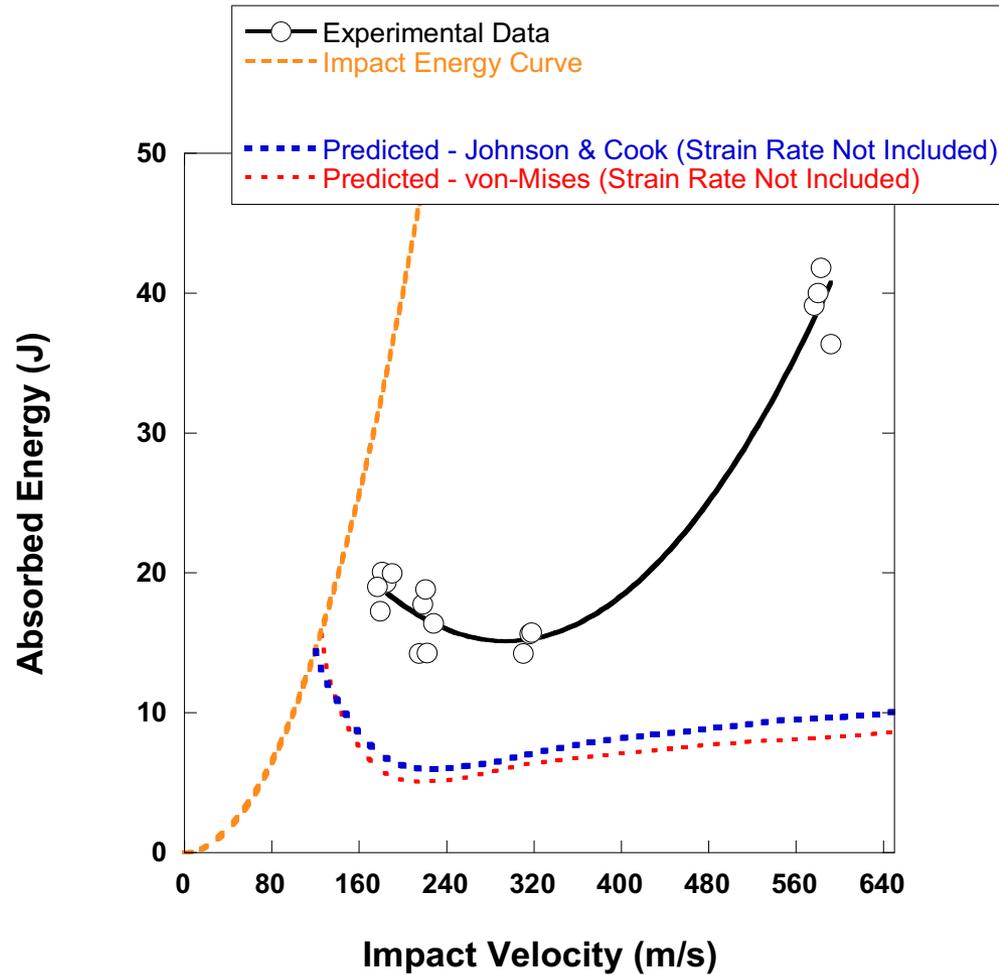
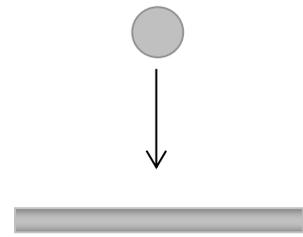
- *Anisotropic Compressible Continuum*
- *Quadratic Shear Stress-based Failure Criterion*
- *No Flow Stress Rate-Dependence*
- *No Fracture Strain Rate-Dependence*



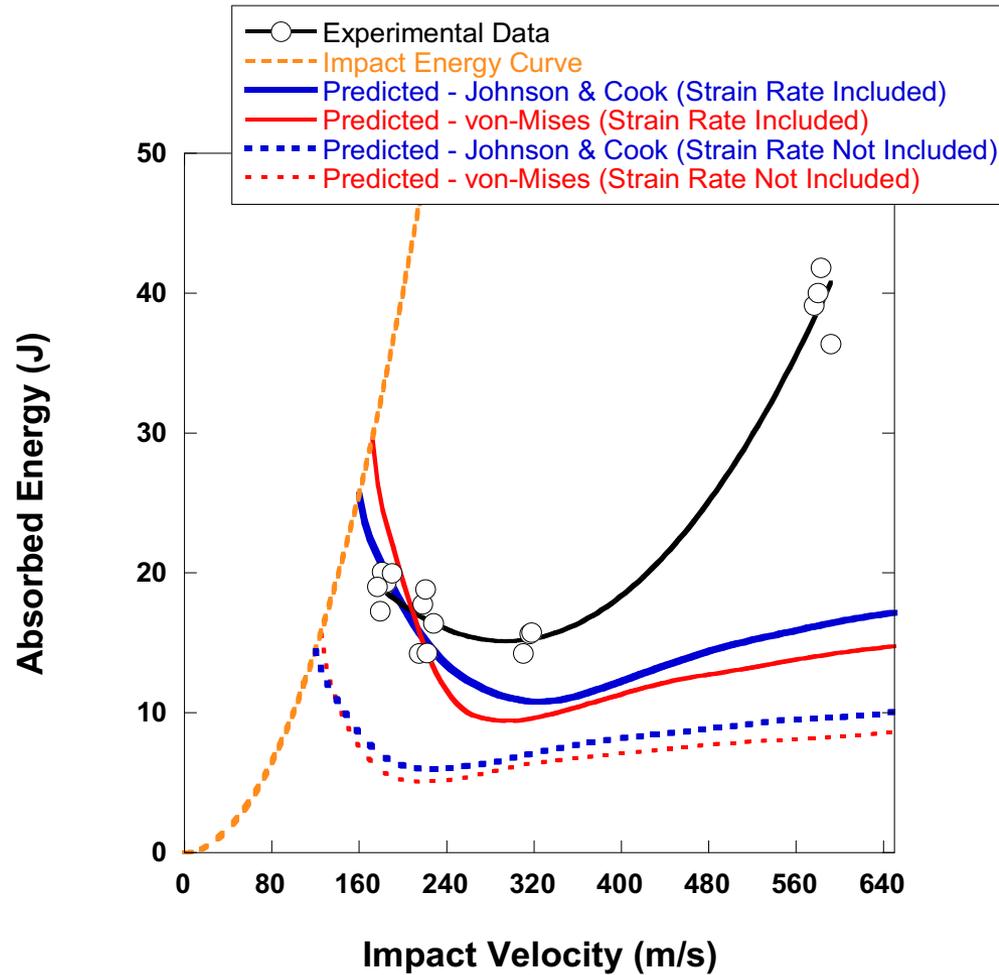
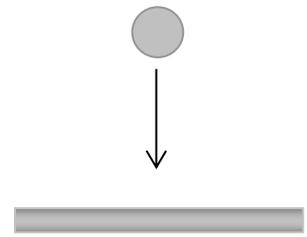
## ➤ Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions



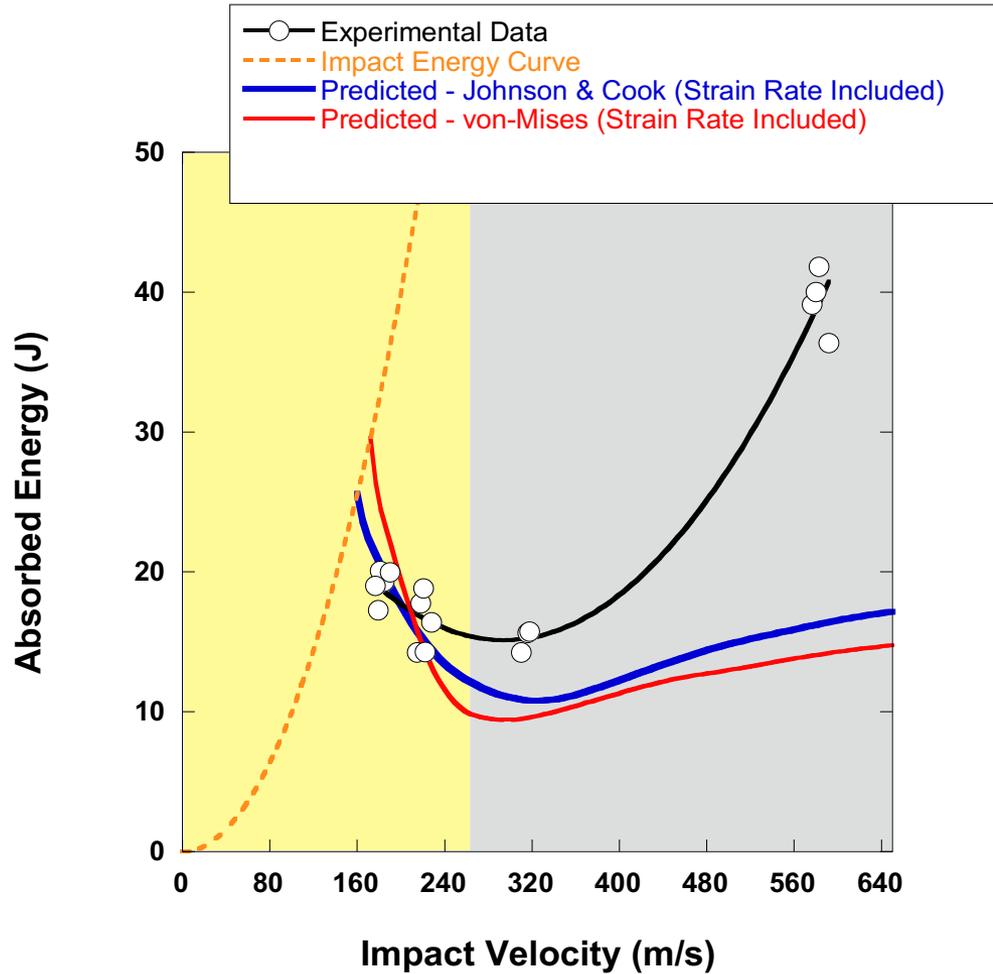
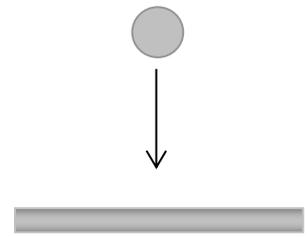
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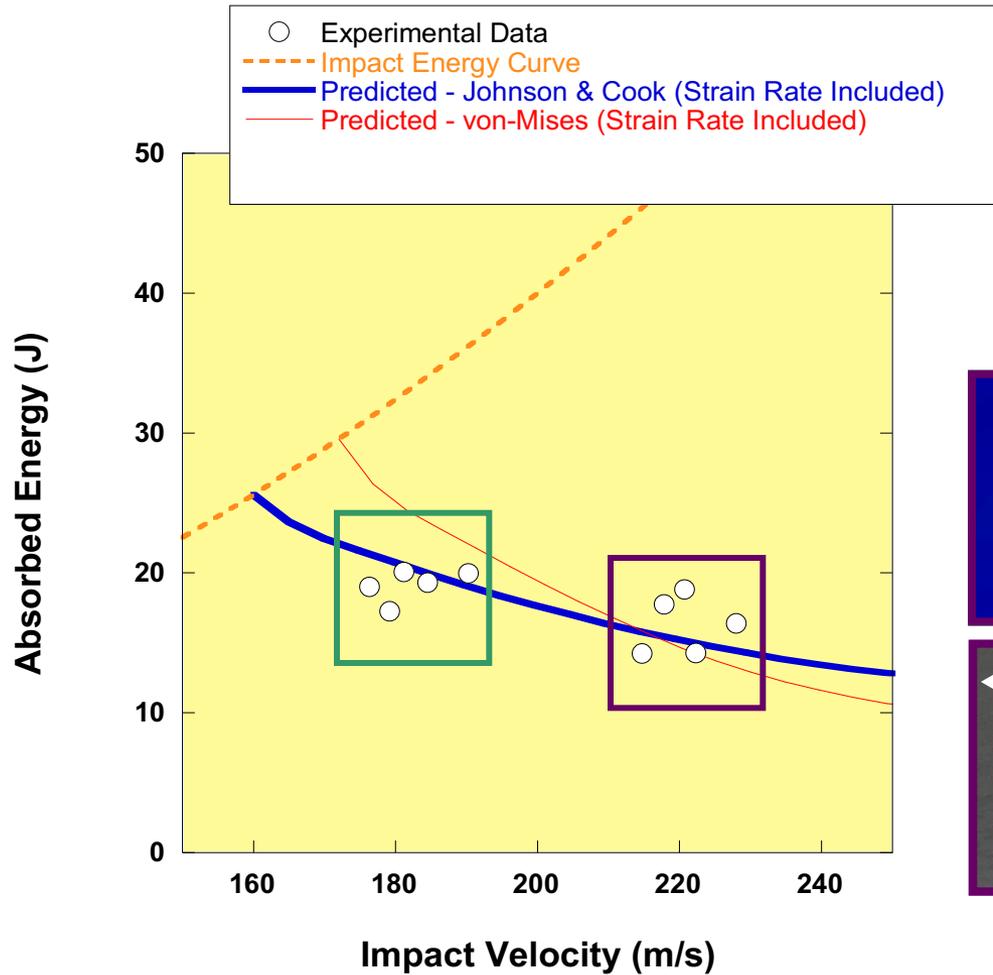
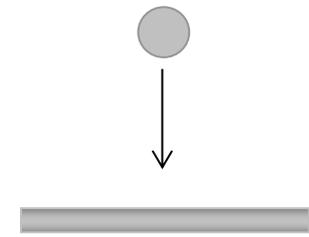
# ➤ Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions



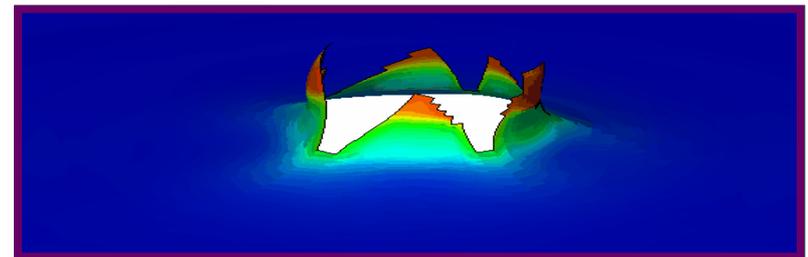
 *Low Velocity Regime*  
 *High Velocity Regime*



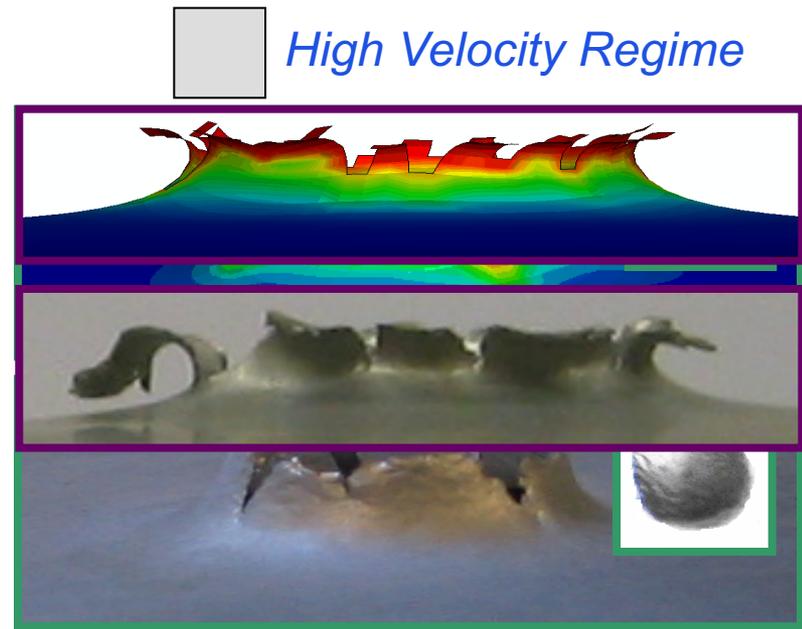
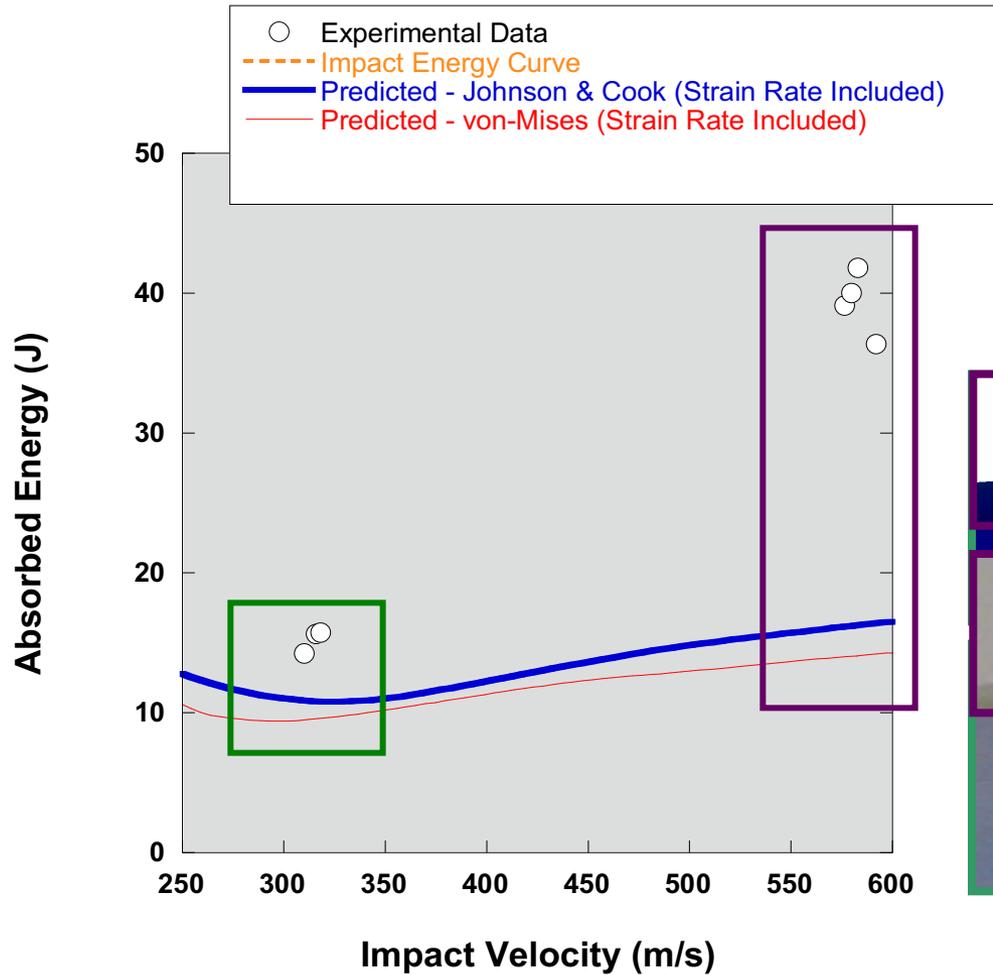
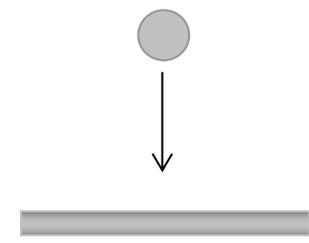
# ➤ Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions



Low Velocity Regime

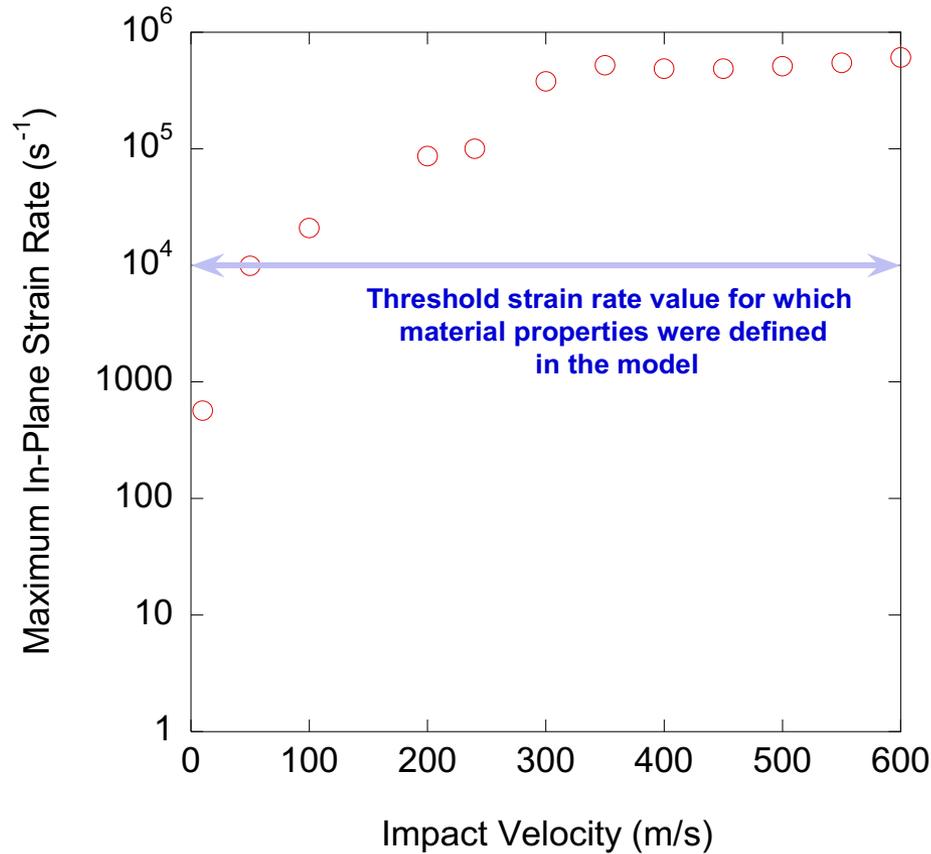
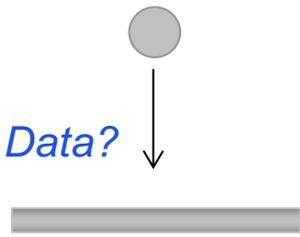


# ➤ Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions



➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

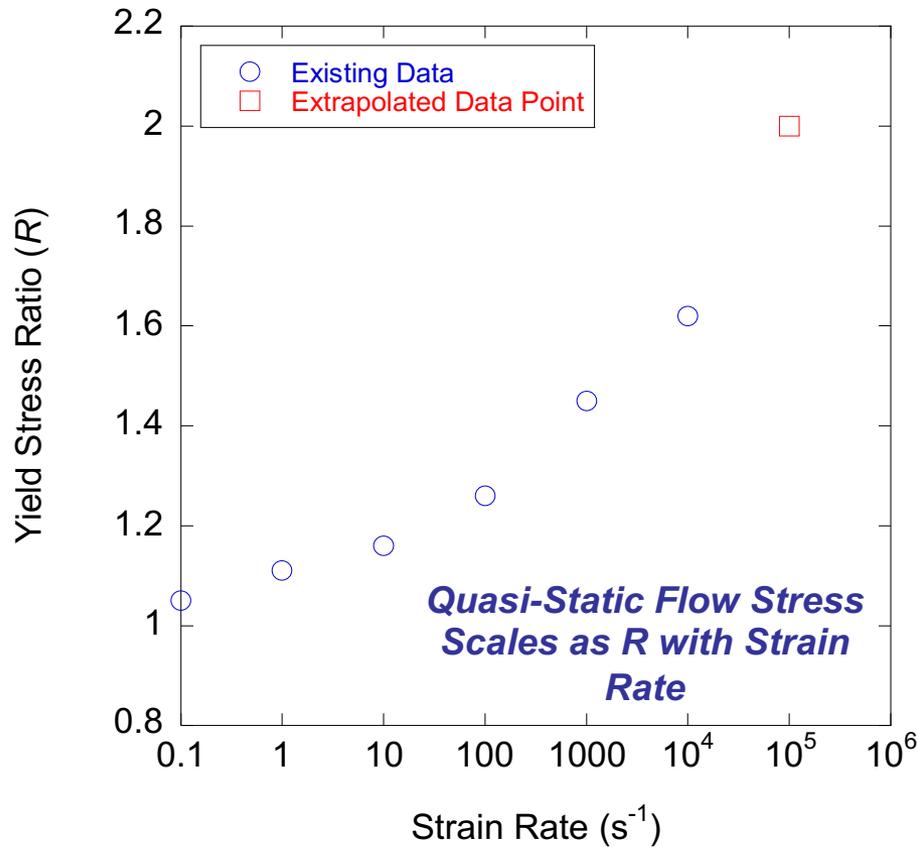
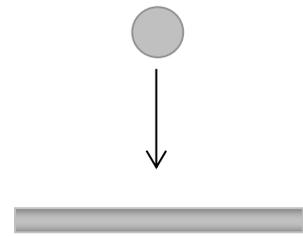
➤ *Inadequate Strain Rate-Dependent Material Property Data?*



➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

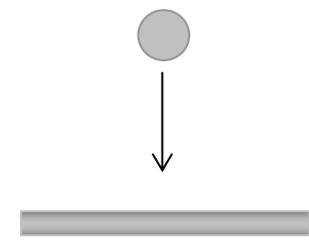
➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

**von-Mises Plasticity  
Hardening Behaviour – Yield Stress Ratio**

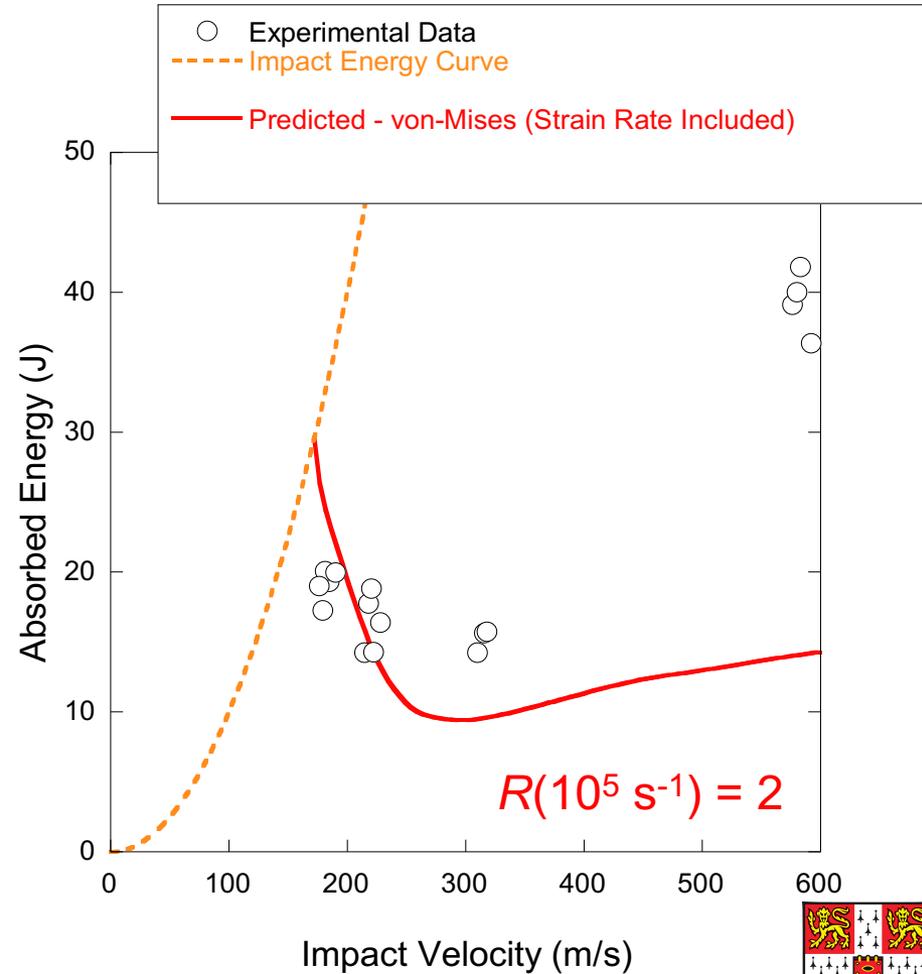
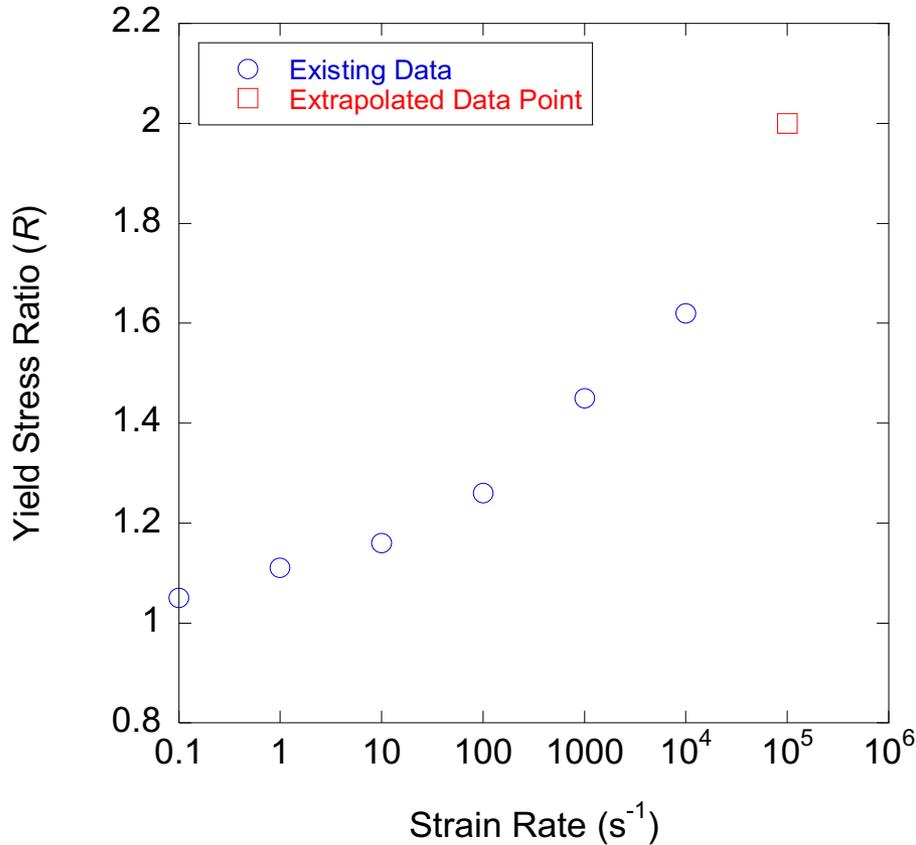


➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

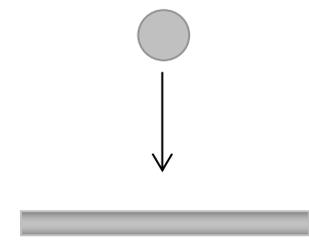


**von-Mises Plasticity  
Hardening Behaviour – Yield Stress Ratio**

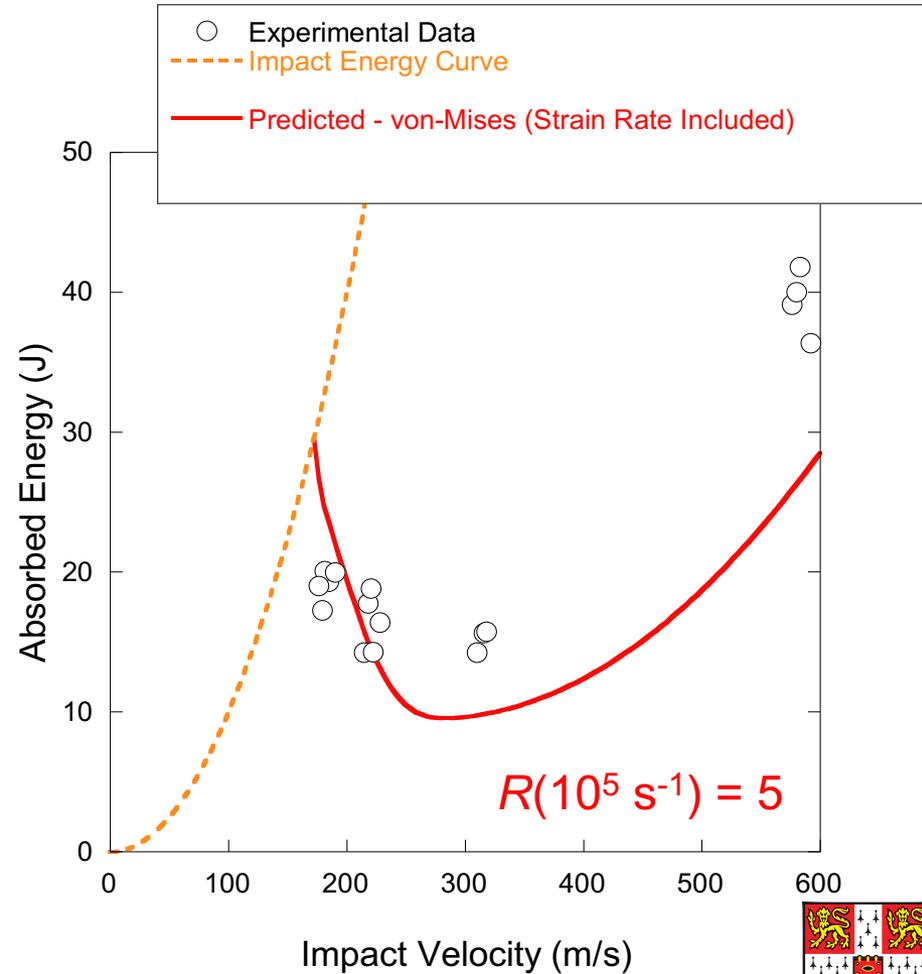
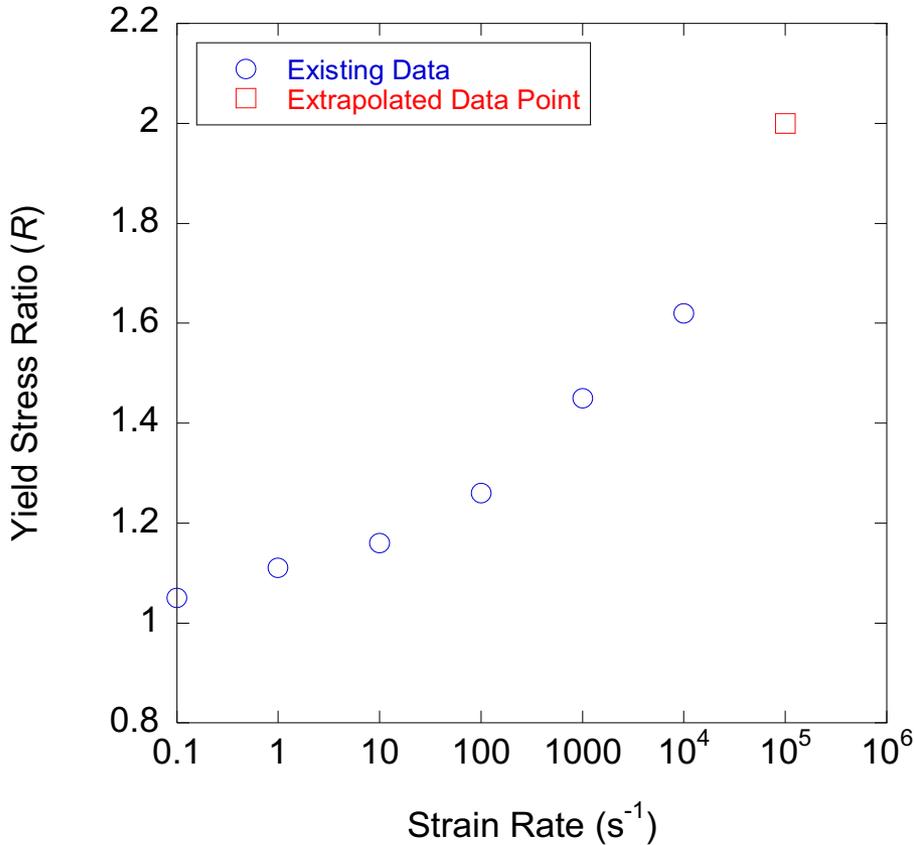


➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

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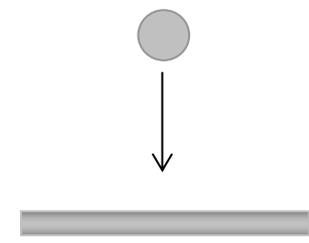


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Hardening Behaviour – Yield Stress Ratio**

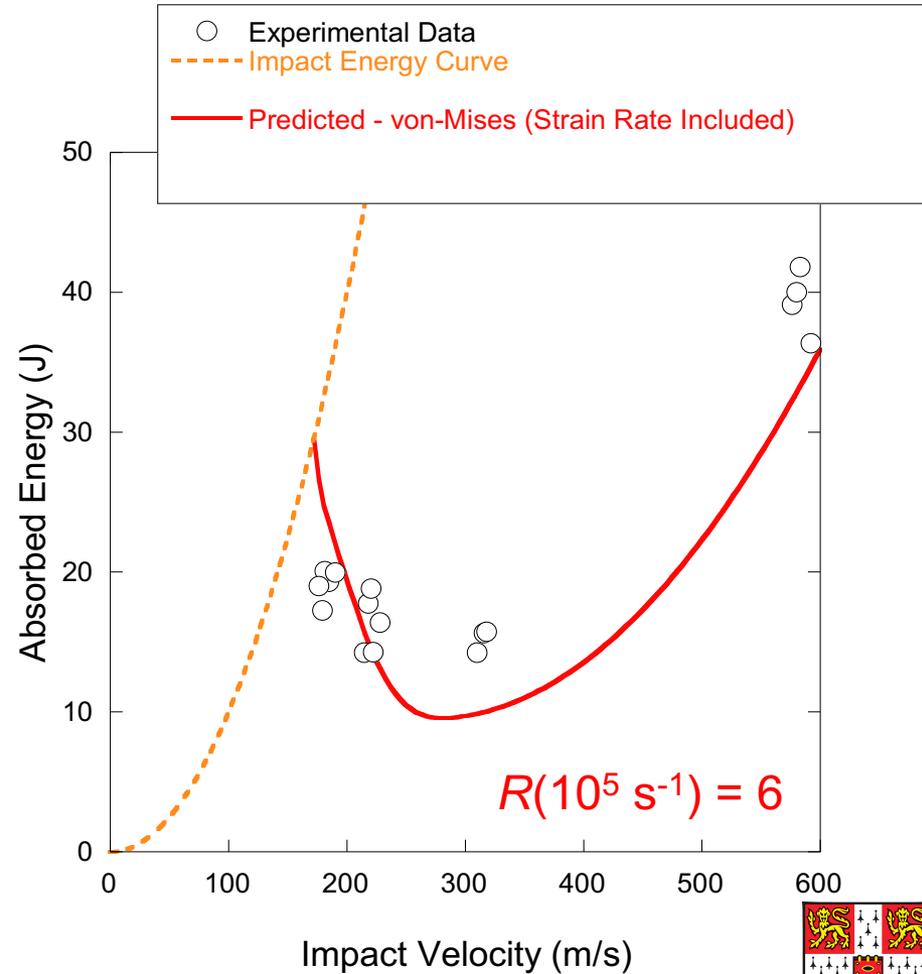
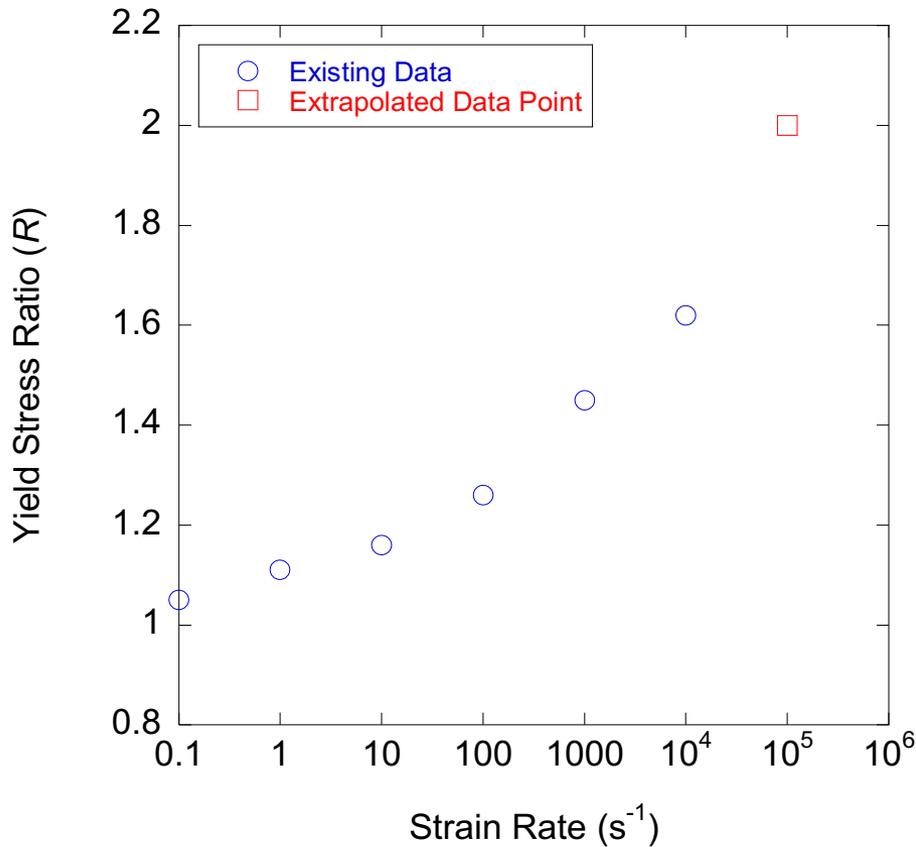


➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

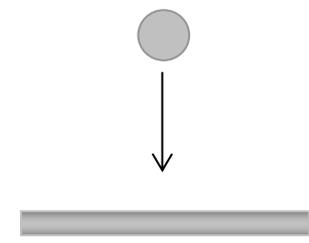


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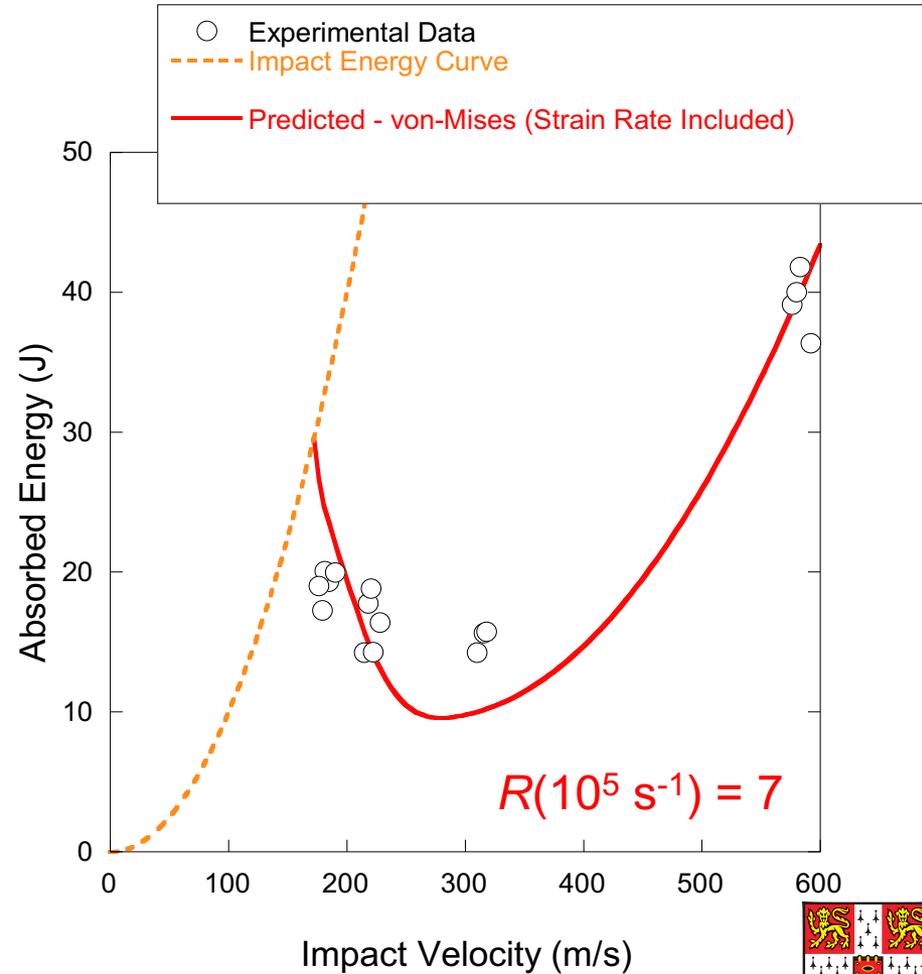
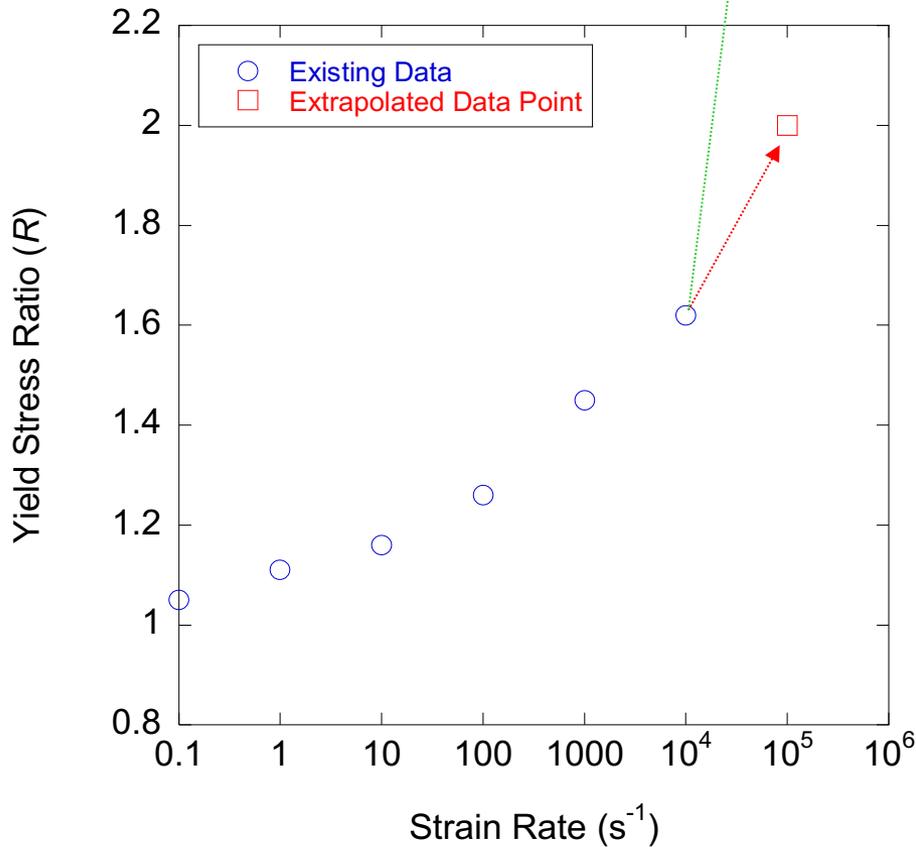


➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*



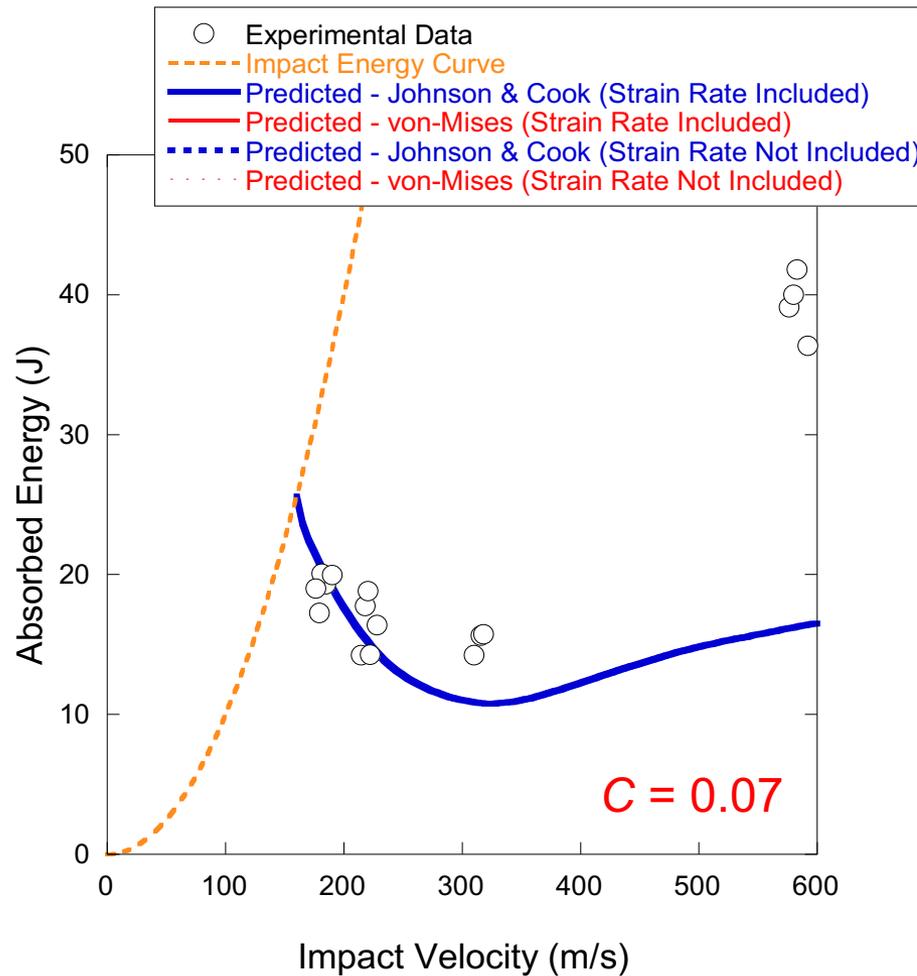
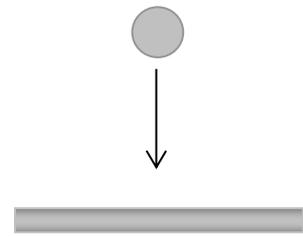
**von-Mises Plasticity  
Hardening Behaviour – Yield Stress Ratio**



➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

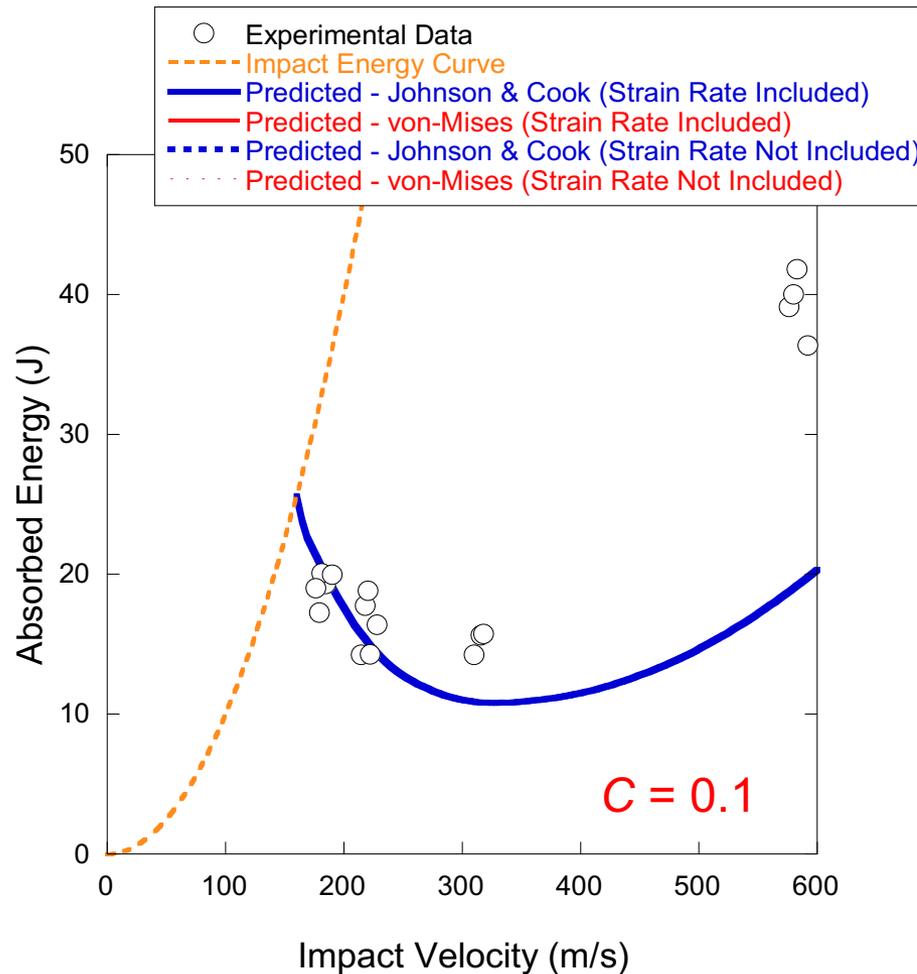
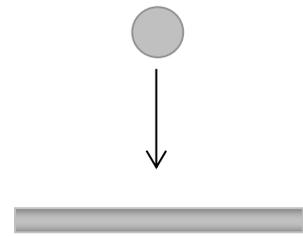
**Johnson & Cook Plasticity  
Hardening Behaviour – Hardening Constant (C)**



➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

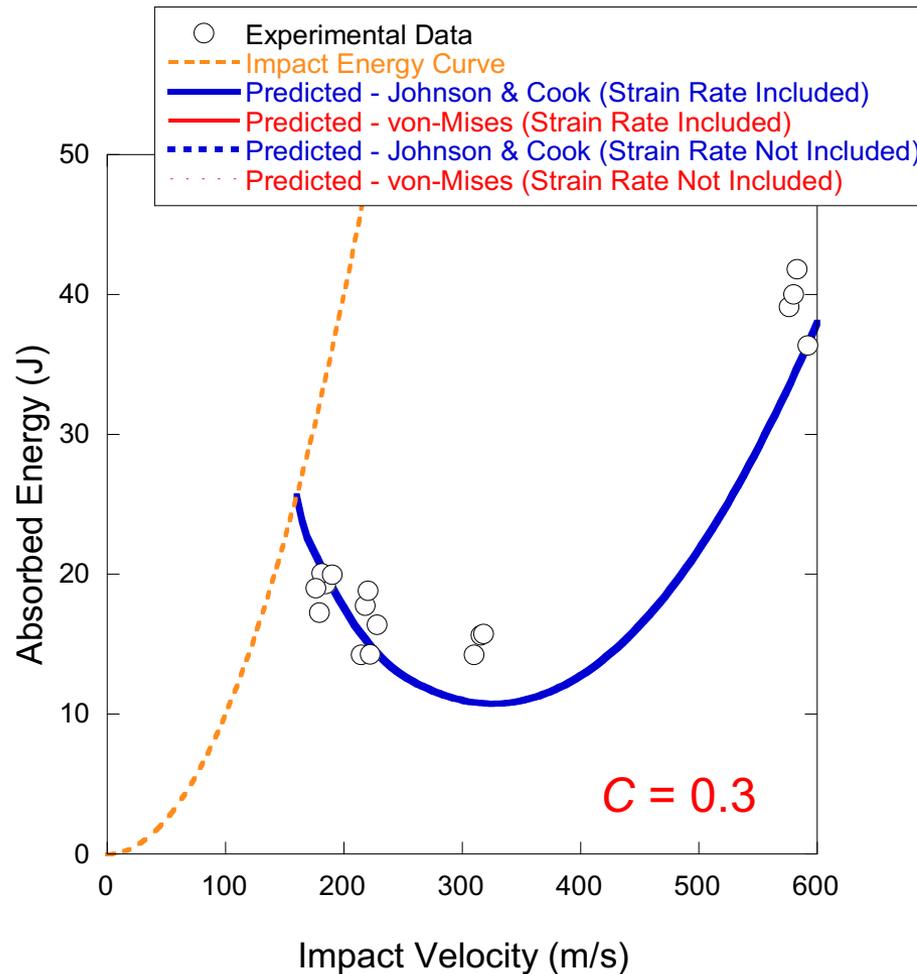
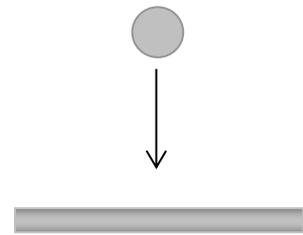
**Johnson & Cook Plasticity  
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➤ *Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions*

➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

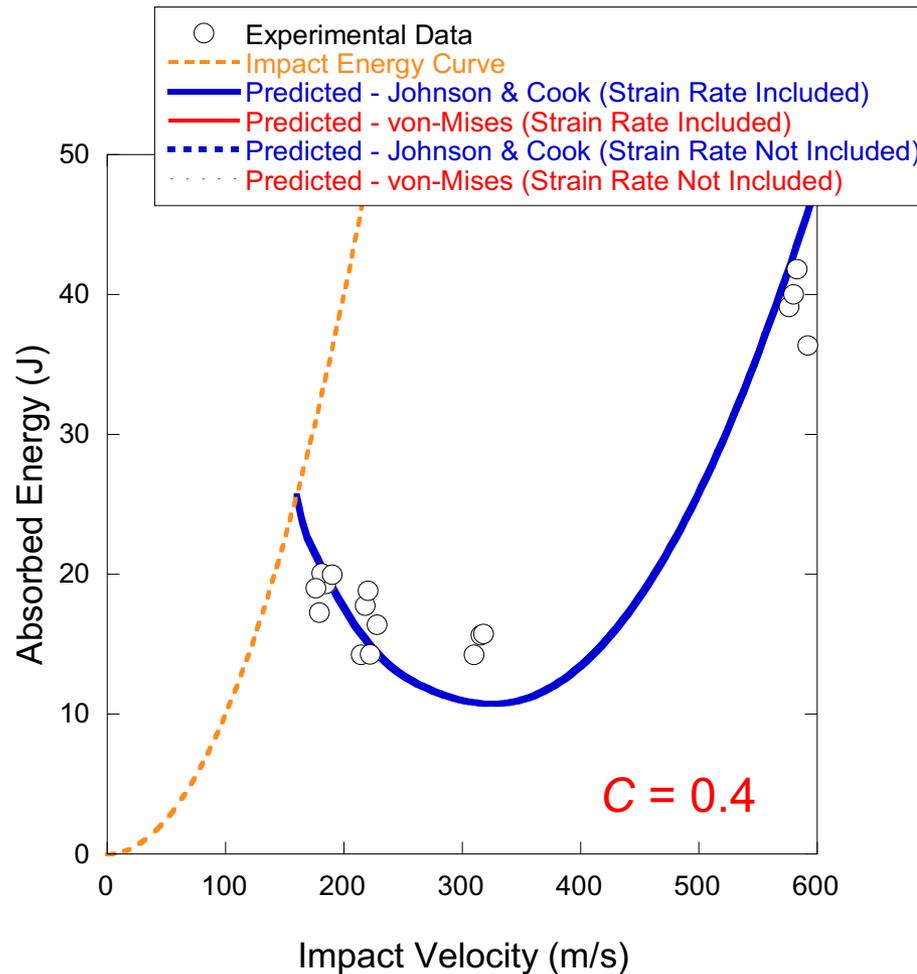
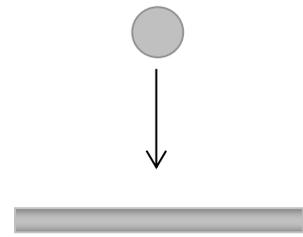
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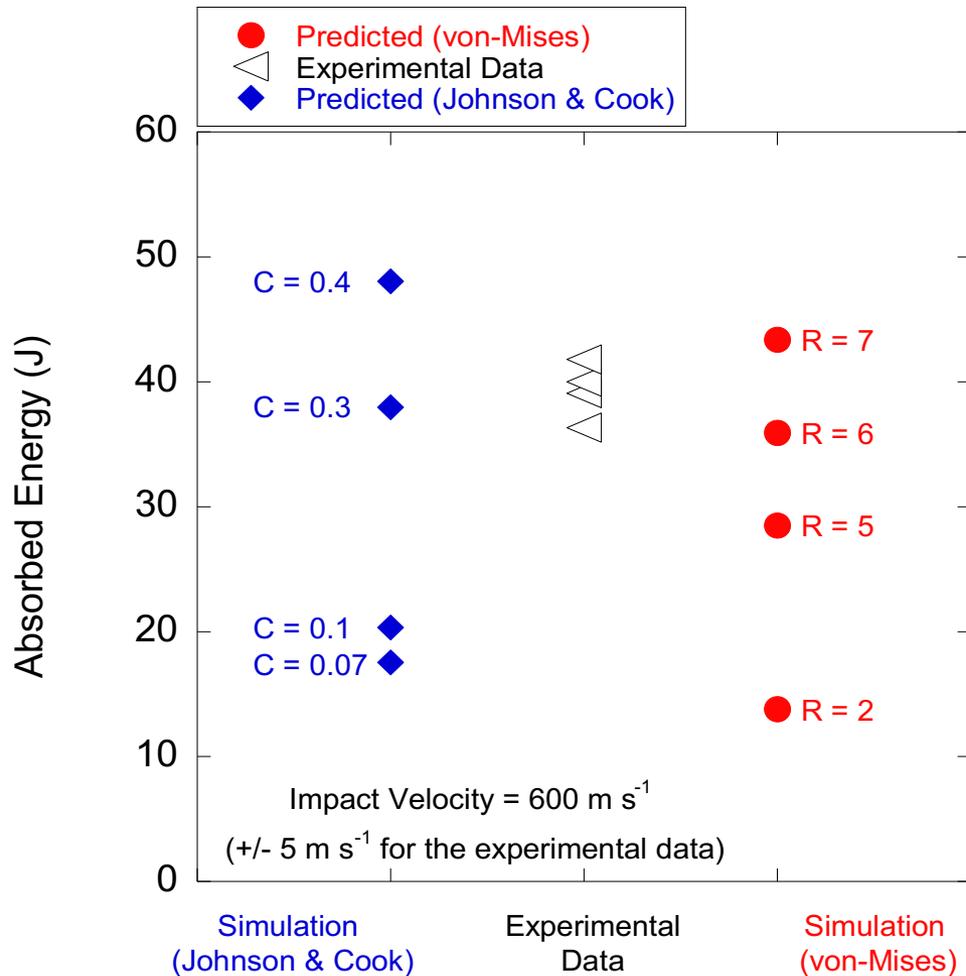
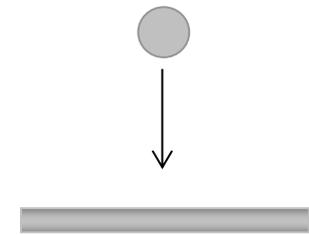
➤ *High Strain Rate Material Behaviour*

**Johnson & Cook Plasticity  
Hardening Behaviour – Hardening Constant (C)**



# ➤ Single Faceplates – Experiments and Predictions

## ➤ High Strain Rate Material Behaviour



• *Dislocation Drag?*

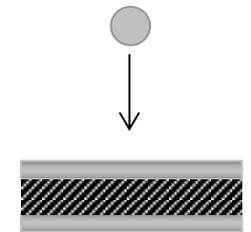
• *Deformation Twinning?*

• *Martensitic Transformations?*

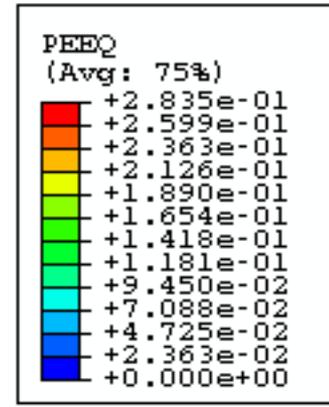


➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

➤ Low Velocity Impact (<200 m/s)



All simulations conducted here have used the Johnson & Cook Plasticity Algorithm



100 m/s

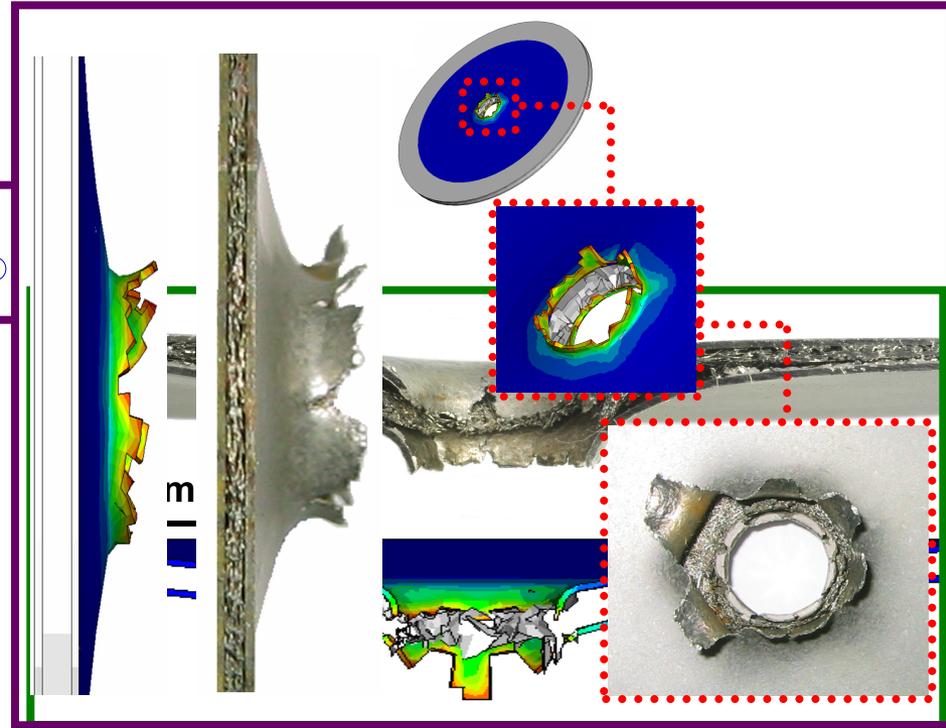
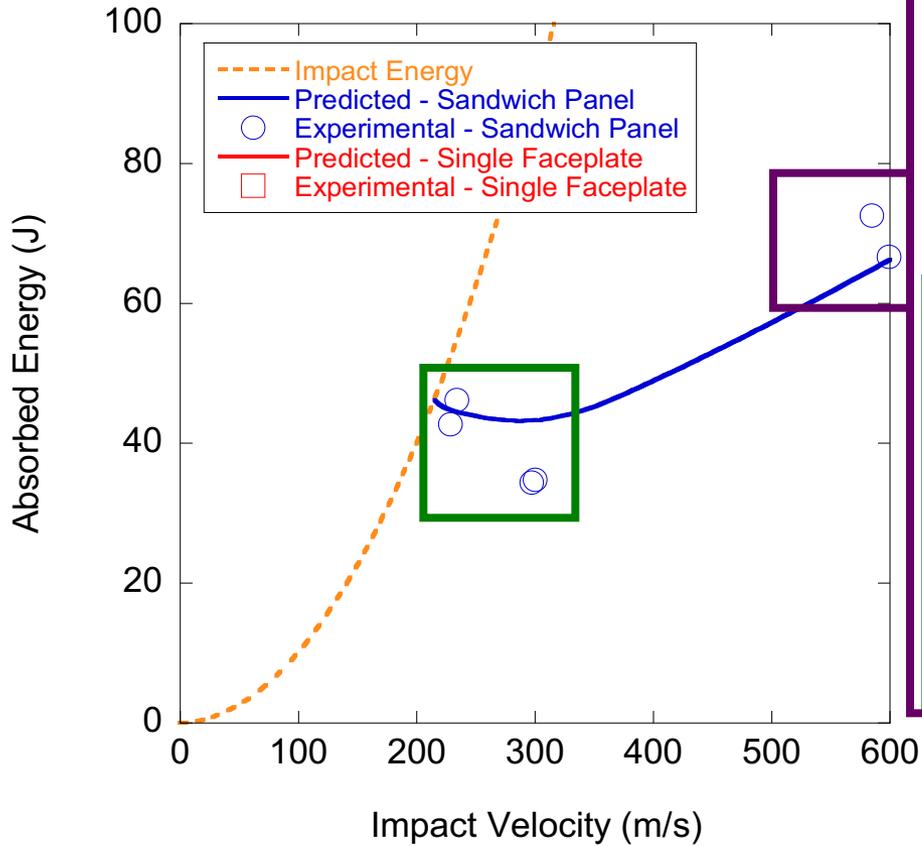
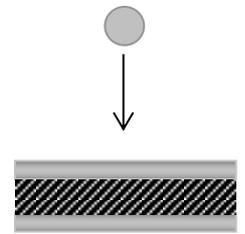


103 m/s



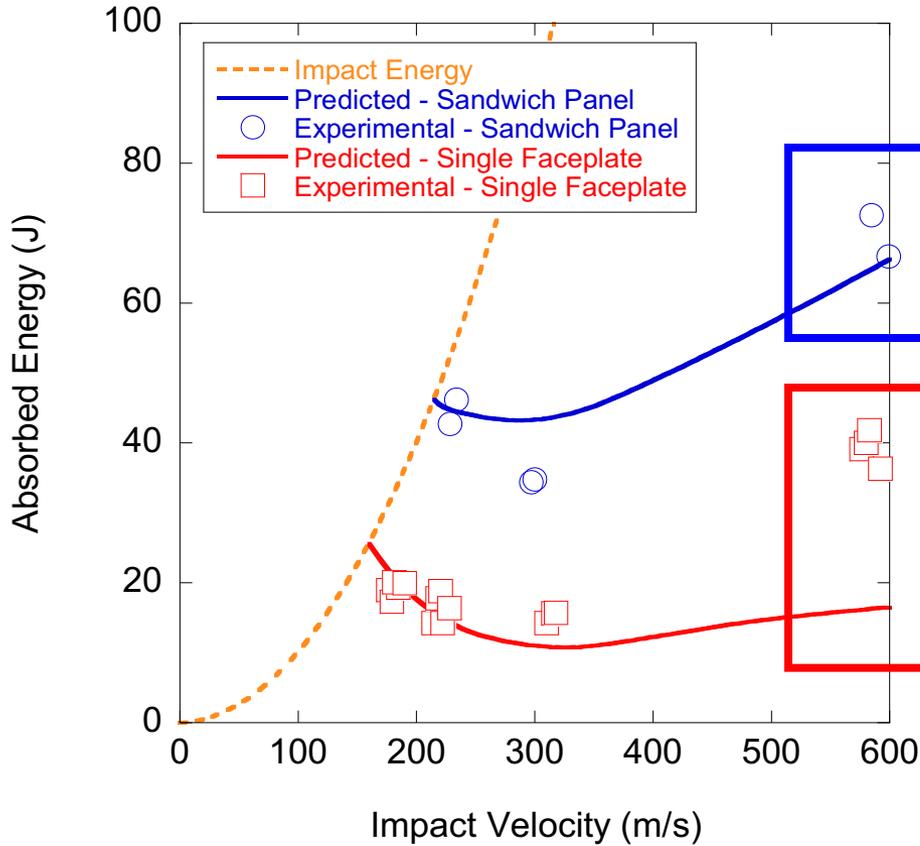
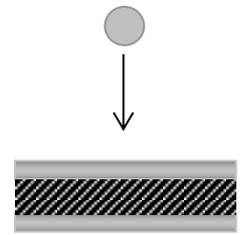
# ➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

## ➤ High Velocity Impact (>200 m/s)



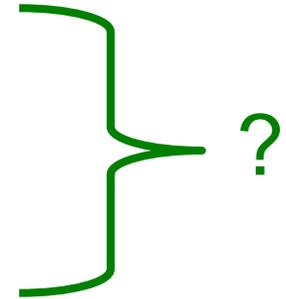
➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

➤ High Velocity Impact (>200 m/s)



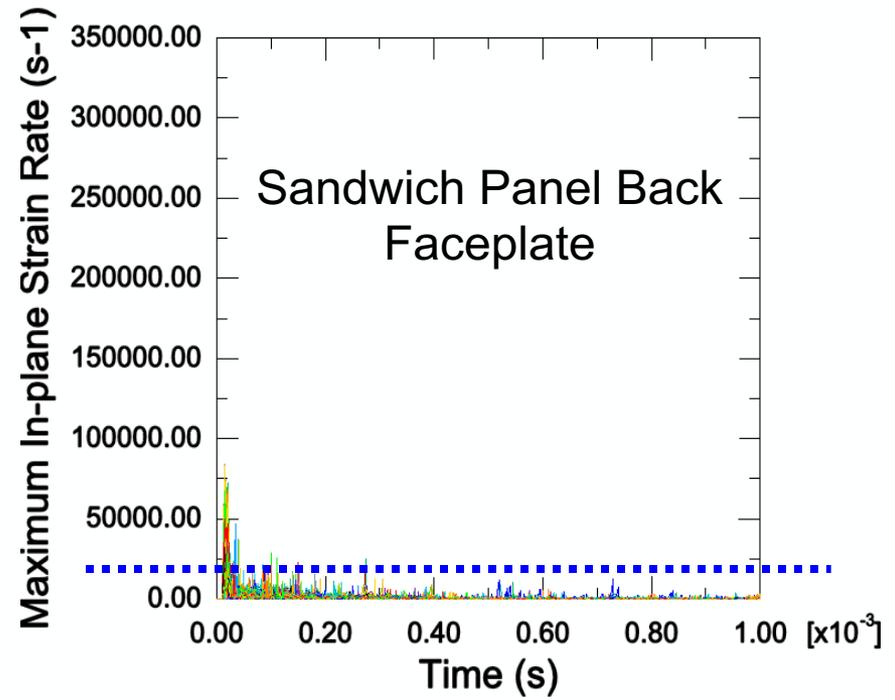
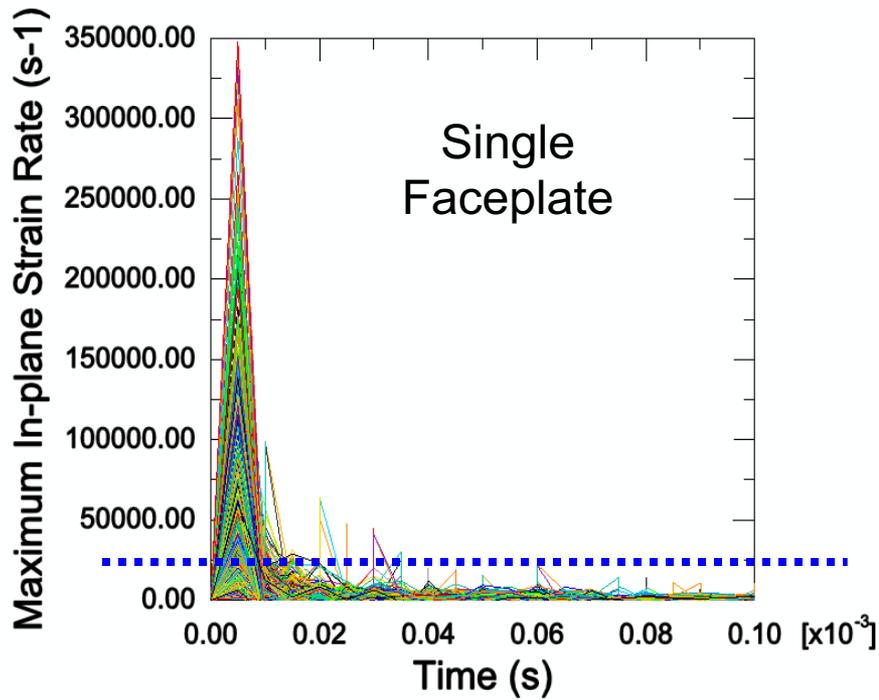
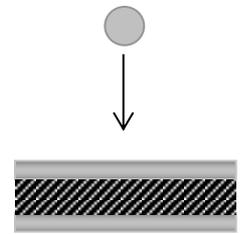
Good Agreement

Poor Agreement



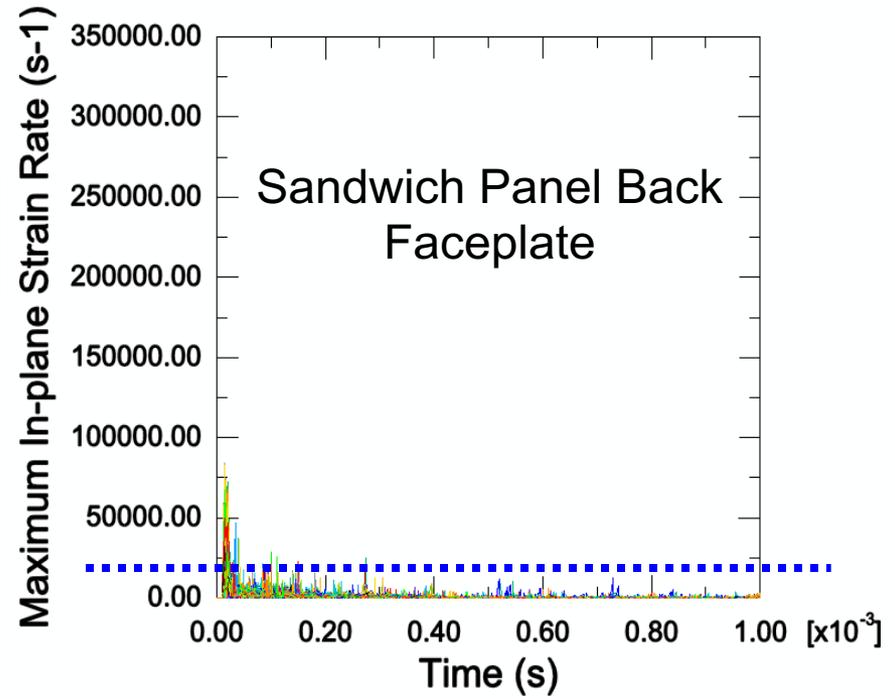
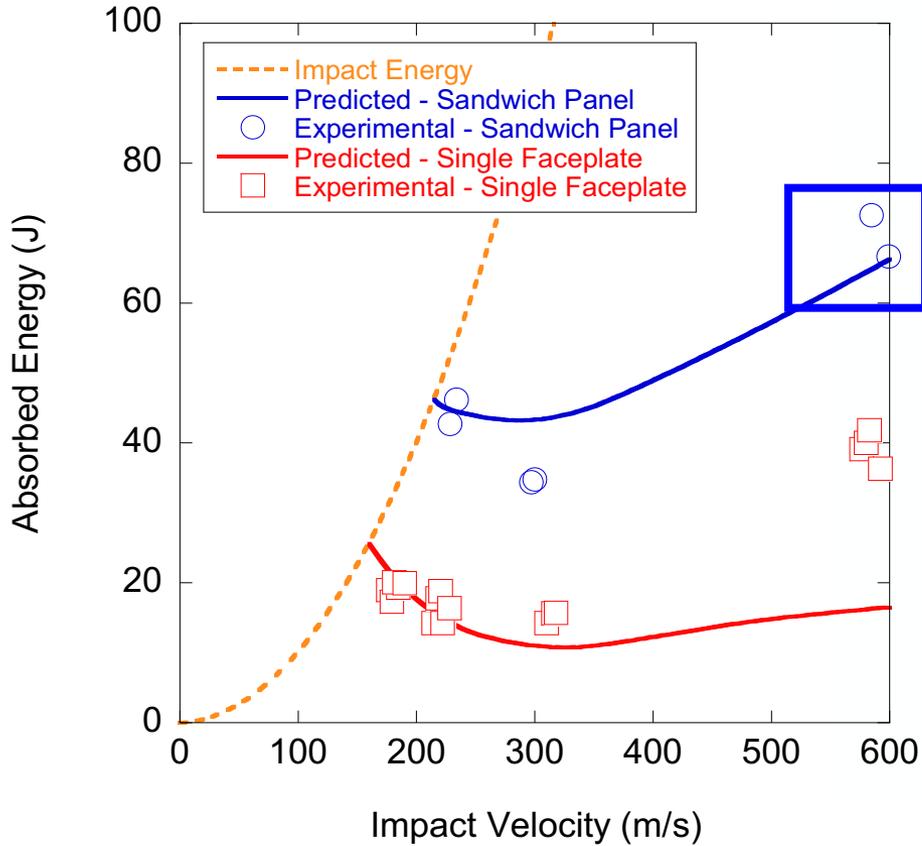
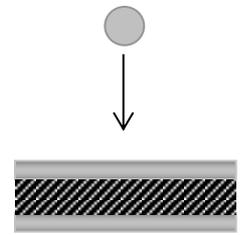
➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

➤ High Velocity Impact (>200 m/s)



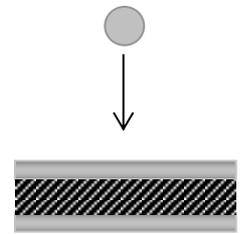
➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

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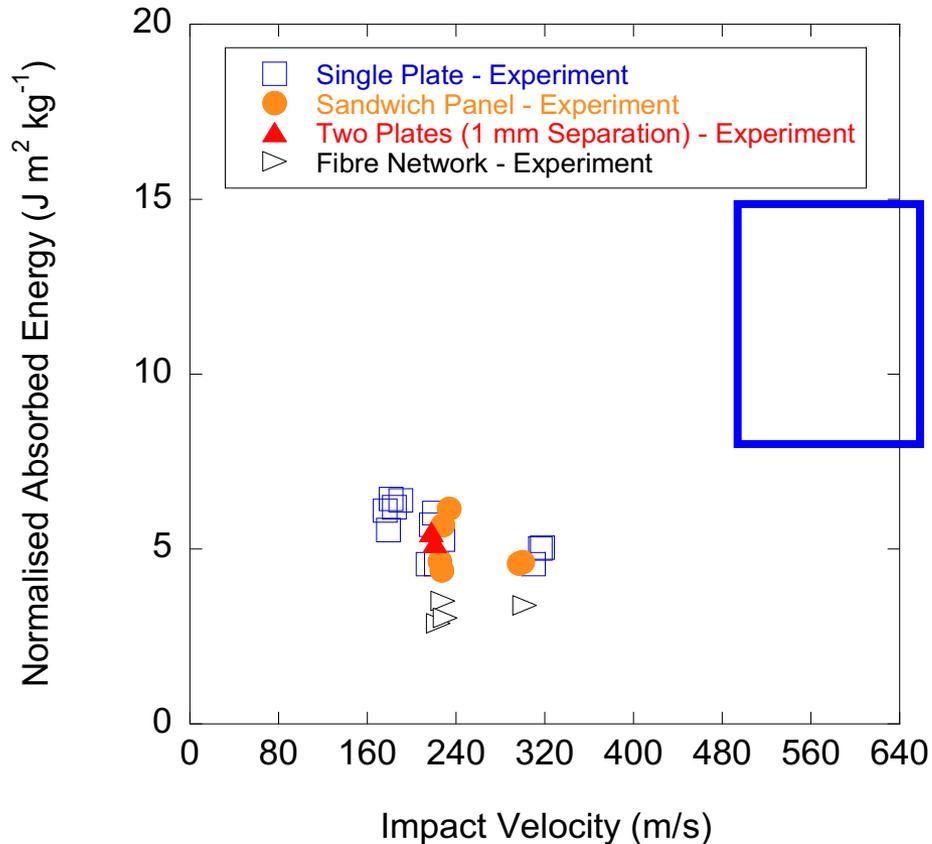


➤ Sandwich Panels – Experiments and Predictions

➤ Specific Absorbed Energy



**Consider the Specific Absorbed Energy  
(Normalised by Areal Density)**



*Single Plate is Superior (in terms of specific absorbed energy)*

➤ *The core compressibility (and plastic work) helps to reduce the projectile speed to a value which is conducive to low strain rates in the rear sandwich panel faceplate. In this manner, the favourable strain rate-hardening characteristics of the stainless steel faceplate (which are significantly enhanced at very high strain rates) are not exploited.*



## ➤ Conclusions

- *A lightweight sandwich panel with a metallic fibre core has been fabricated*
  - Can be handled in a manner similar to that of monolithic sheet
  - Can be resistance welded
  - Is comparatively cheap
- *The core architecture can be characterised using x-ray microtomography*
  - Architectural data can be used to predict elastic (and yield stress) mechanical properties – Clyne & Markaki Model
- *The capacity of the sandwich panels to absorb energy when struck (at normal incidence) by spherical projectiles has been investigated*
  - When normalised by areal density, the sandwich panels are no more effective at absorbing energy than a single faceplate (at low and intermediate projectile velocities)
  - At high projectile velocities, single faceplates absorb more energy (on a weight-for-weight basis) than the sandwich panels due to plastic compression of the core which mitigates the favourable (energy absorption) strain rate-hardening characteristics of the faceplate material



## ➤ *Conclusions*

- *A sandwich panel finite element model has been developed*
    - The faceplates were modelled as elastic-plastic solids with a strain rate-dependent, critical plastic strain failure criterion
    - The core material was modelled as an anisotropic crushable continuum with a quadratic shear stress failure criterion (VUMAT sub-routine – Zhou and Louca)
    - Predictions and experimental data are in close agreement
  - *The predictive FE capability must now be utilised to optimise the core material*
    - *Exploit rate-hardening characteristics of the faceplate material*
    - *Improve the energy-absorbing performance of the core material*
- } Simultaneously

