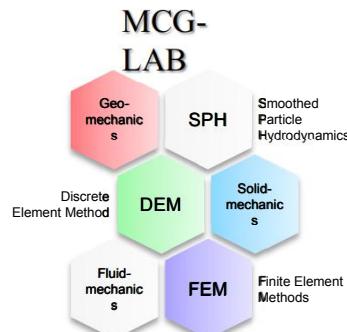
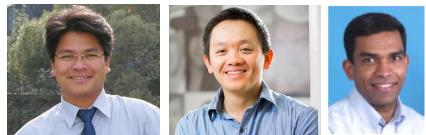


# A Robust Approach to Model Rock Fracture with SPH

**Yingnan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Ha H. Bui<sup>1</sup>, Giang D. Nguyen<sup>2</sup>,  
P.G. Ranjith<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>MCG Lab, Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3800, Australia;

<sup>2</sup>School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, The University of Adelaide, SA 5005, Australia;



# *Outline*

*Motivation*

*SPH framework of rock*

*Constitutive model*

*Validation*

*Application*

*Conclusion and future works*

# *Research Motivation*

Rock fractures play a vital role in many geophysical processes and engineering applications involving rocks in civil and mining engineering.

*Laboratory-scale tests*



Compression test



Brazilian disc test

*Large-scale practical applications*



Tunnel Construction



Rock Excavation



Rock Drilling

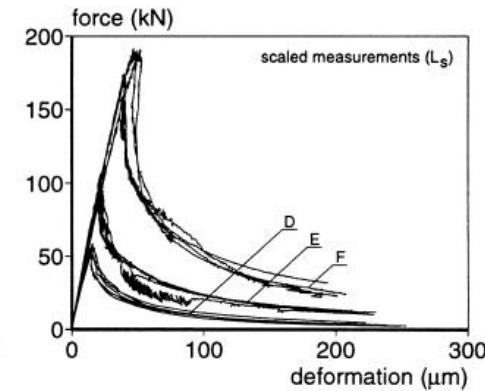
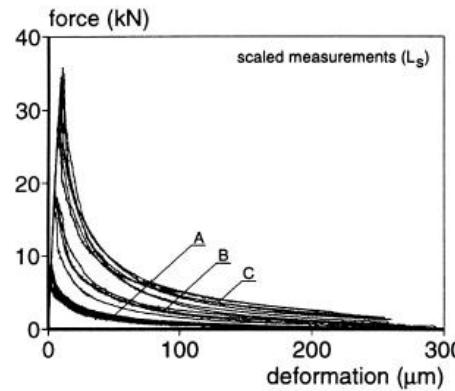
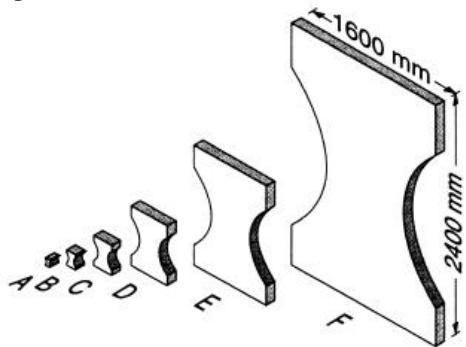


Rock Blasting

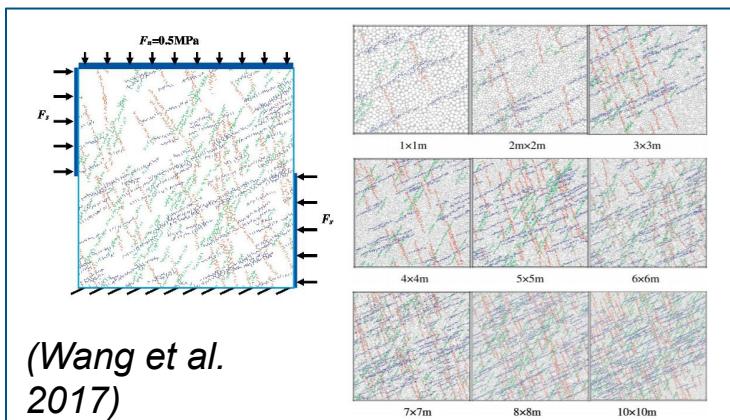


# *Research Motivation*

*Different approaches have been applied to investigate the mechanism of rock fracture:*

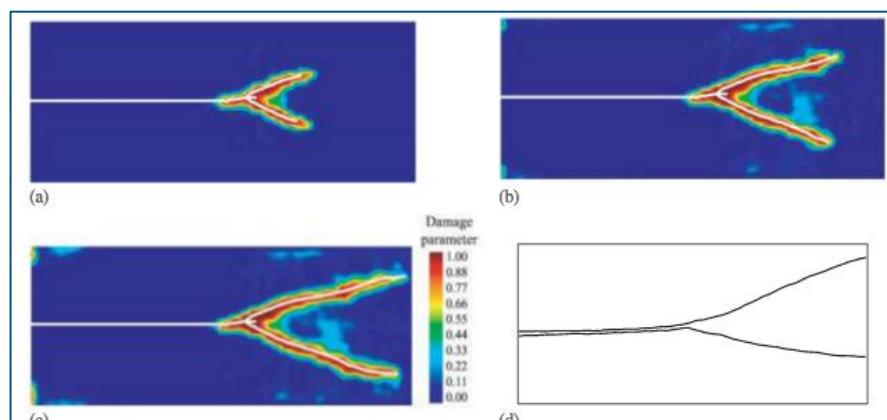


*Experiment\_ Uniaxial tension test (Van Vliet et al. 2000)*



(Wang et al.  
2017)

*DEM\_Discrete fracture network*



*Extended FEM\_Crack branching (Song et al.  
2006)*

# SPH framework for rock fracture modelling

## □ Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH) method

- SPH approximation of a function:

$$\langle f(x) \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} f(x') W(x - x_j, h)$$

- SPH approximation of a spatial derivative:

$$\langle \nabla \cdot f(x) \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} f(x') \cdot \nabla_i W(x_i - x_j, h)$$

## □ Governing equations

- Momentum conservation:  $\frac{Dv^\alpha}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \sigma^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x^\beta} + f^\alpha$
- Mass conservation:  $\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \frac{\partial v^\alpha}{\partial x^\alpha}$

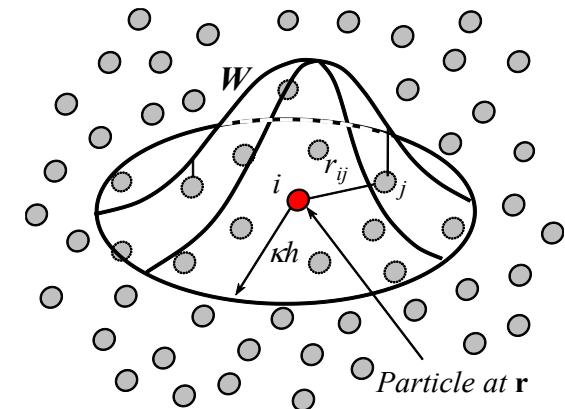
## □ SPH approximation of governing equations:

- Continuity:

$$\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j (v_i^\alpha - v_j^\alpha) \frac{\partial W_{ij}}{\partial x_i^\alpha}$$

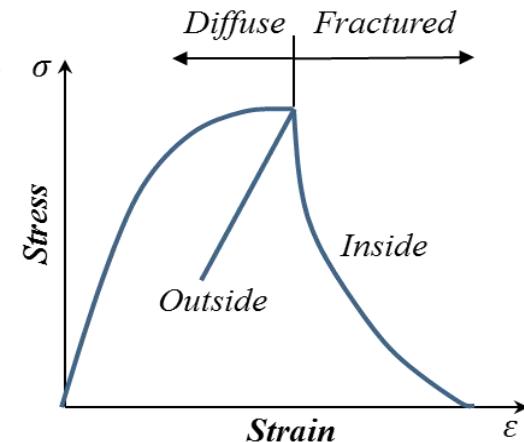
- Momentum:

$$\frac{dv_i^\alpha}{dt} = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \left( \frac{\sigma_i^{\alpha\beta}}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{\sigma_j^{\alpha\beta}}{\rho_j^2} \right) \frac{\partial W_{ij}}{\partial x^\beta}$$



Basic idea of SPH method

## □ Constitutive relations:



# SPH framework for rock fracture modelling

## □ Time integration scheme

*Taylor SPH method is used in this study, which combines Taylor integration scheme, stress particle technique, corrected SPH strategy and traditional SPH approximation.*

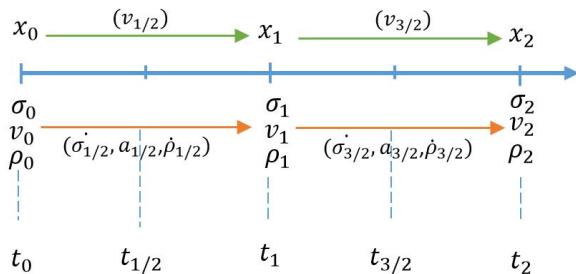
### *Taylor integration scheme*

In this method, the time discretisation process is based on a two-step Taylor series expansion of time derivative of the vector of unknowns:  
First step:

$$\dot{\phi}^{n+1/2} = \dot{\phi}^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \times \frac{\partial \dot{\phi}}{\partial t} \Big|_{n+1/2}$$

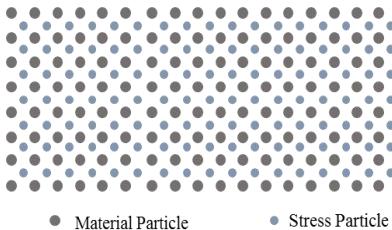
Second step:

$$\dot{\phi}^{n+1} = \dot{\phi}^n + \Delta t \times \frac{\partial \dot{\phi}}{\partial t} \Big|_{n+1/2}$$



### *Particle arrangement*

Stress point approach is introduced to overcome tensile instability.



Tensile instability is the attraction when material is stretched, which can result in the SPH particles forming clumps.

### *Taylor-SPH discretisation*

First step:

$$\mathbf{v}_s^{n+1/2} = \mathbf{v}_s^n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left( - \sum_{m=1}^N \frac{m_m}{\rho_m \rho_s} (\sigma_m^n - \sigma_s^n) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_s W_{sm} + \sum_{m=1}^N \left( \frac{m_m}{\rho_m} \mathbf{b}_m^n \bar{W}_{sm} \right) \right)$$

Second step:

$$\mathbf{v}_s^{n+1} = \mathbf{v}_s^n + \Delta t \left( - \sum_{s=1}^N \frac{m_s}{\rho_s \rho_m} (\sigma_s^{n+1/2} - \sigma_m^{n+1/2}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}_m W_{ms} + \sum_{s=1}^N \left( \frac{m_s}{\rho_s} \mathbf{b}_s^{n+1/2} \bar{W}_{ms} \right) \right)$$

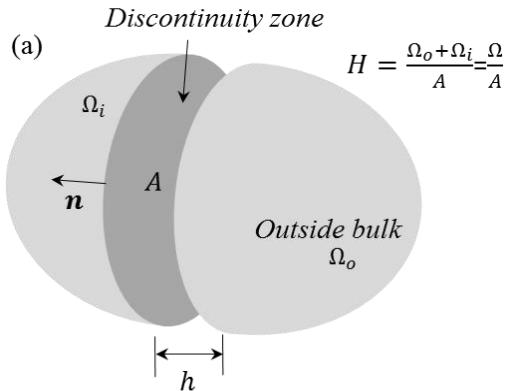
Reference: (Herreros and Mabssout 2011, Dyka and Ingel 1995, Chen et al. 1999)

# SPH framework for rock fracture modelling

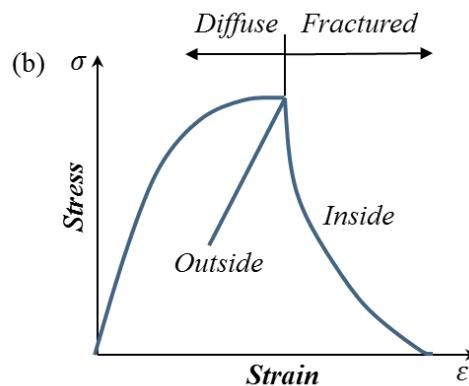
## □ Size-dependent continuum constitutive model:

A size-dependent continuum constitutive model with embedded cohesive fracture is developed. The model is originated from the double scale continuum constitutive framework for modelling strain localisations in geomaterials:

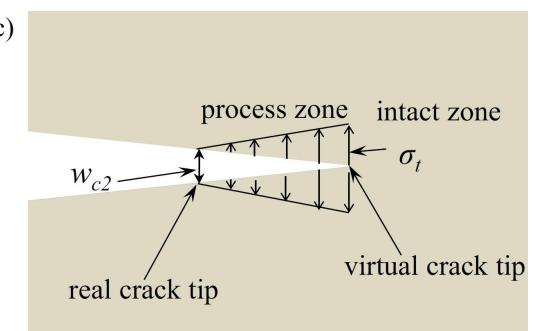
Constitutive framework



Constitutive response



Cohesive fracture zone



- Total strain rate is defined as:  $\dot{\epsilon} = \dot{\epsilon}_o + \frac{1}{H} (\mathbf{n} \otimes [\mathbf{u}])^{sym}$
- Cohesive fracture law:  $\mathbf{t}_i = \mathbf{K}_i [\mathbf{u}]$
- Stress-strain relation for elastic bulk:  $\dot{\sigma} = \dot{\sigma}_o = \mathbf{a}_o : \dot{\epsilon}_o = \mathbf{a}_o : [\dot{\epsilon} - \frac{1}{H} (\mathbf{n} \otimes [\mathbf{u}])^{sym}]$
- Traction continuity across failure plane:  $\mathbf{t}_i = \mathbf{t} = \sigma \cdot \mathbf{n}$
- Average stress:  $\dot{\sigma} = \mathbf{a}_o : \left( \dot{\epsilon} - \frac{1}{H} (\mathbf{n} \otimes (\mathbf{C}^{-1} \cdot (\mathbf{a}_o : \dot{\epsilon}) \cdot \mathbf{n}))^{sym} \right)$

# Validations

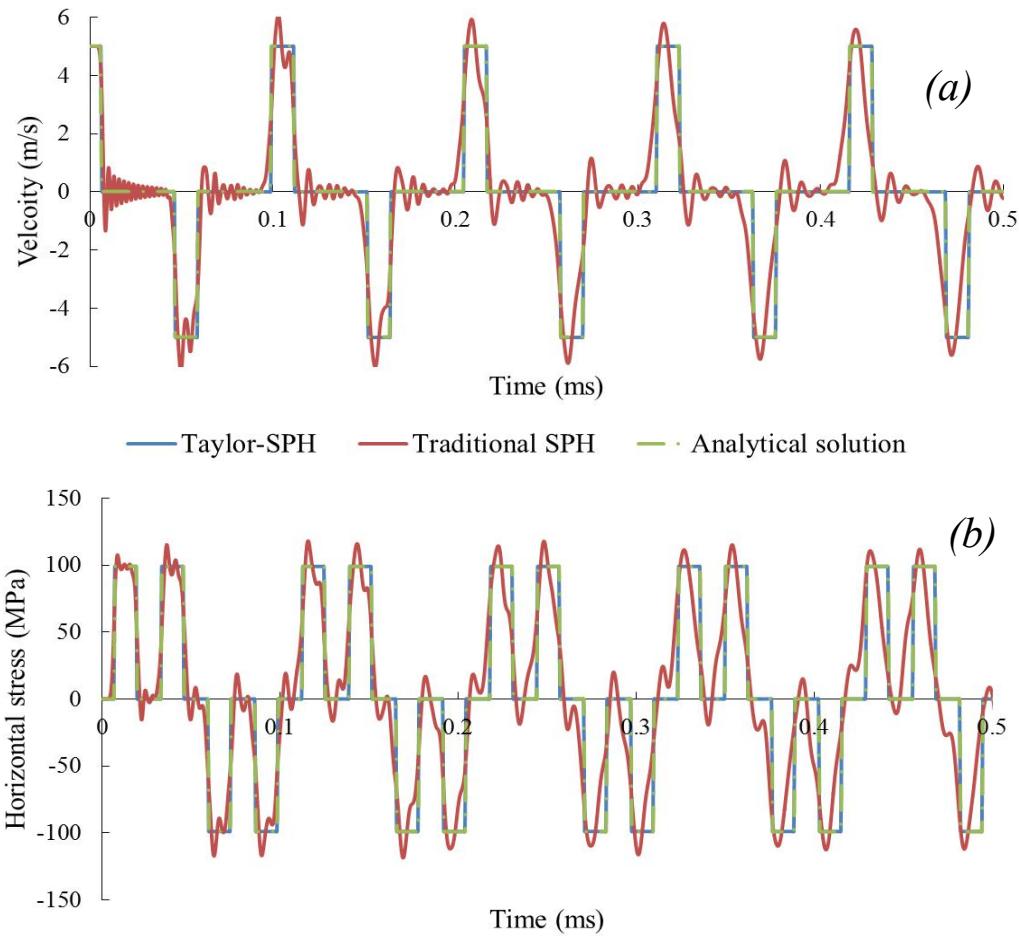
## □ 1D Elastic Tension Test

This test compares traditional SPH and Taylor SPH under tensile loading for one dimensional cases.



Material Properties	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	200Gpa
Density ( $\rho$ )	7800kg/m <sup>3</sup>

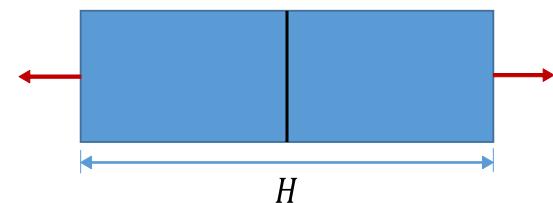
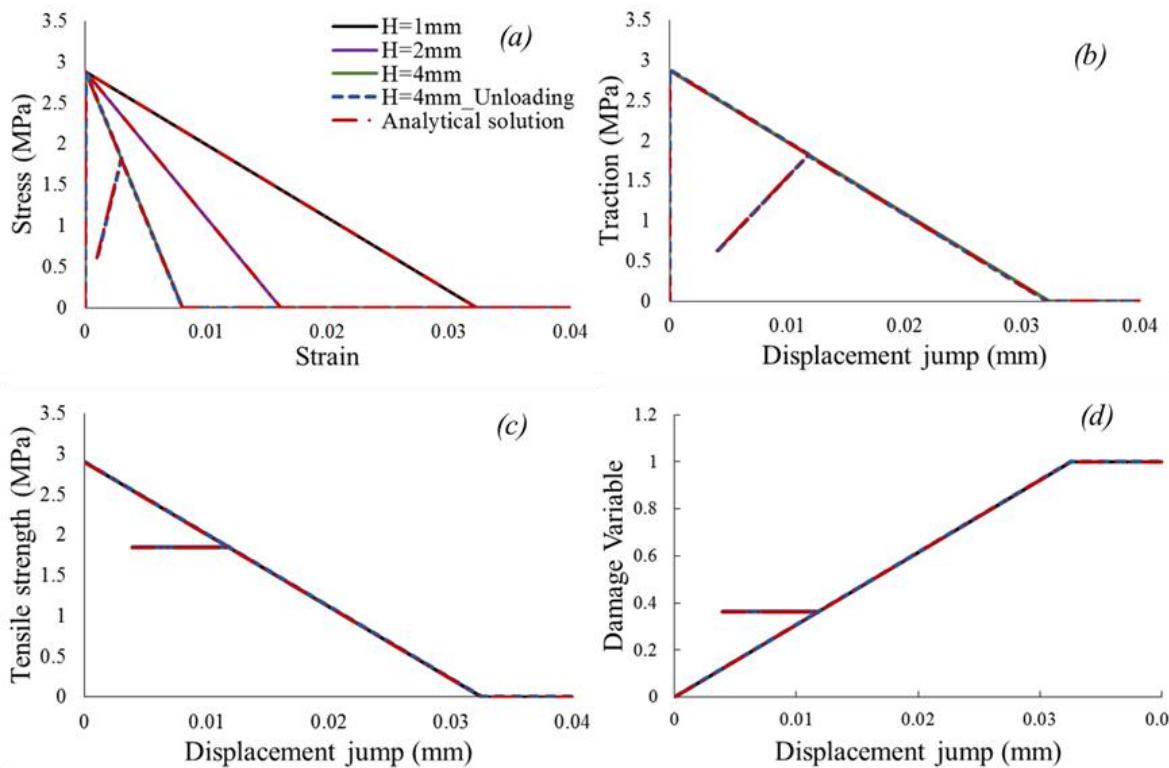
**Conclusion:** Taylor SPH is more stable than traditional SPH for tensile application in one-dimensional cases



# Validations

## Constitutive Behaviour

*Mode-I behaviour of the size-dependent constitutive model with embedded linear cohesive fracture:*



### Material parameters

Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	45 GPa
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	2.9 MPa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	47.17 Nm/m <sup>2</sup>

### Key Equations

Displacement jump:  $\llbracket \dot{u} \rrbracket = C^{-1} \cdot (a_o : \dot{\varepsilon}) \cdot n$

Cohesive fracture law:  $t_i = K \llbracket \dot{u} \rrbracket$

where:  $K = -f_t^2 / 2G_f$  for linear cohesive law;

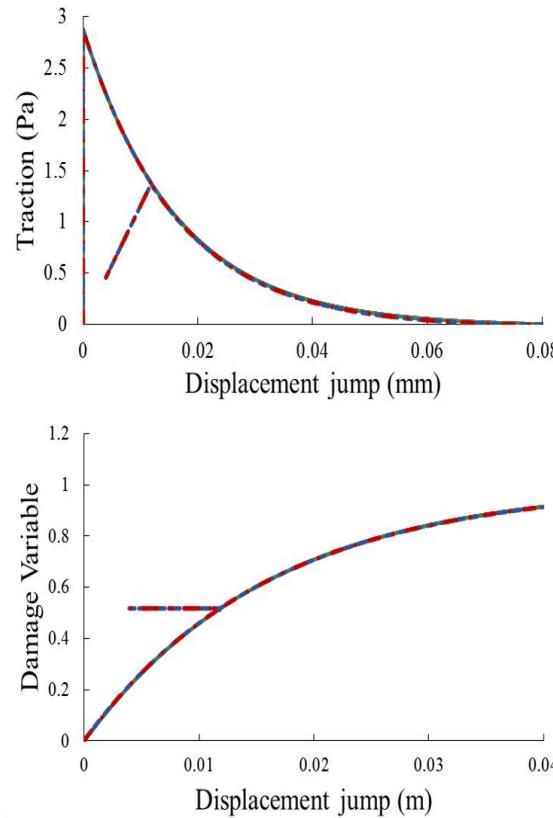
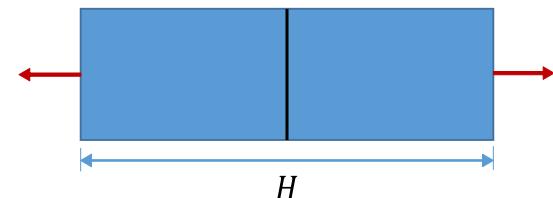
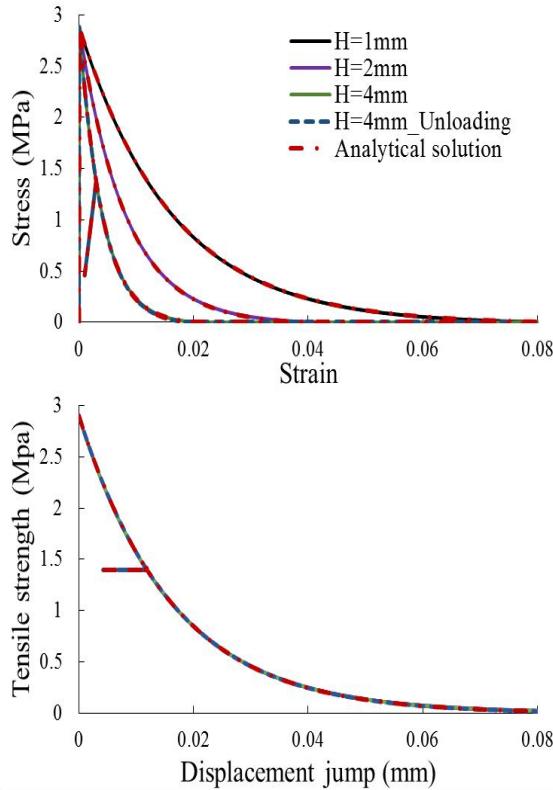
Stress-strain relationship:

$$\dot{\sigma} = a_o : \left( \dot{\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{H} (n \otimes (C^{-1} \cdot (a_o : \dot{\varepsilon}) \cdot n))^{sym} \right)$$

# Validations

## Constitutive Behaviour

*Mode-I behaviour of the size-dependent constitutive model with embedded exponential cohesive fracture:*



### Material parameters

Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	45 Gpa
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	2.9 MPa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	47.17 Nm/m <sup>2</sup>

### Key Equations

Displacement jump:  $\|\dot{u}\| = C^{-1} \cdot (a_o : \dot{\varepsilon}) \cdot n$

Cohesive fracture law:  $t_i = K \|\dot{u}\|$

where:  $K = -\frac{f_t^2}{G_f} \exp(-\frac{f_t}{G_f} u_{cr1})$  for exponential cohesive law;

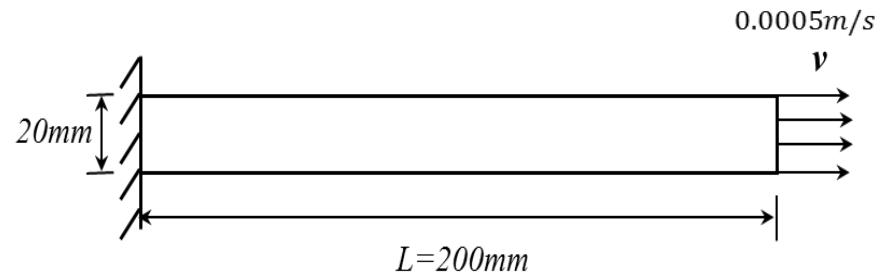
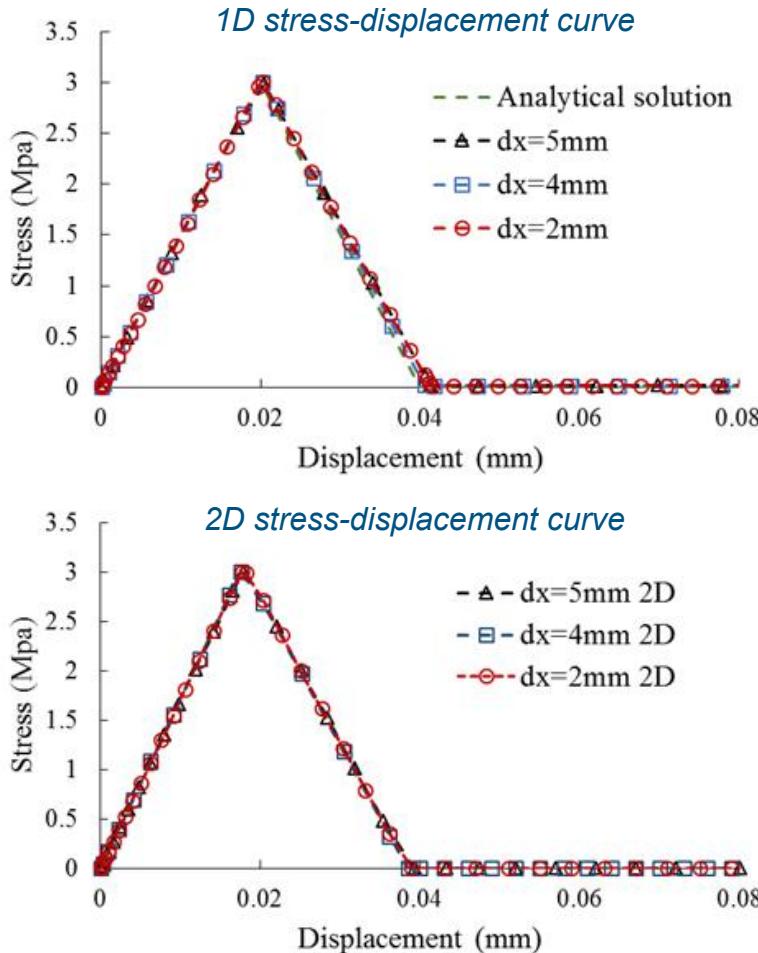
Stress-strain relationship:

$$\dot{\sigma} = a_o : \left( \dot{\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{H} (n \otimes (C^{-1} \cdot (a_o : \dot{\varepsilon}) \cdot n))^{sym} \right)$$

# Validations

## □ Performance of constitutive model in SPH

- Using *linear cohesive fracture law*



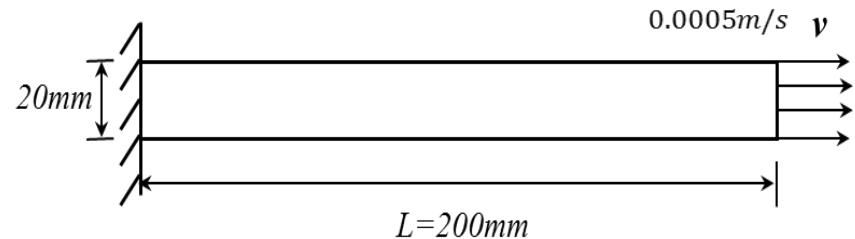
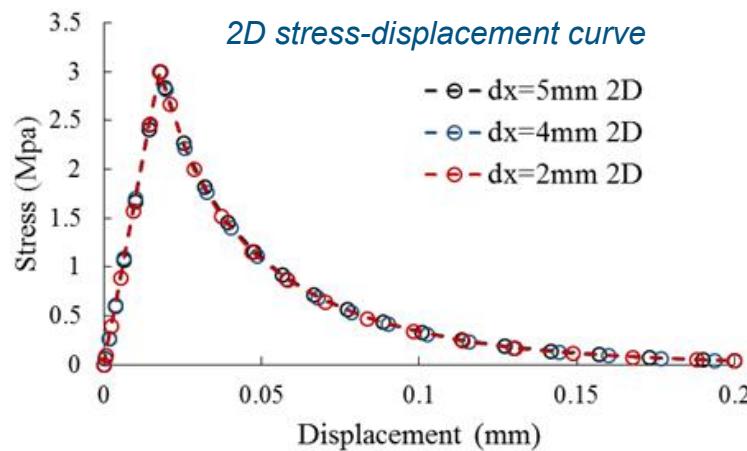
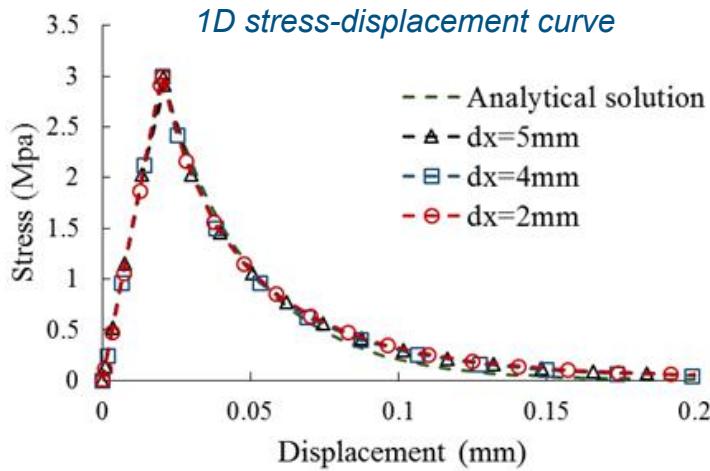
Material parameters	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	$30\text{Gpa}$
Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ )	0.2
Density ( $\rho$ )	$2000\text{kg/m}^3$
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	3MPa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	$120\text{Nm/m}^2$

**Conclusion:** This test could prove that the current-developed model is independent of numerical spatial discretisation for 1D and 2D cases.

# Validations

## □ Performance of constitutive model in SPH

- Using **exponential cohesive fracture law**



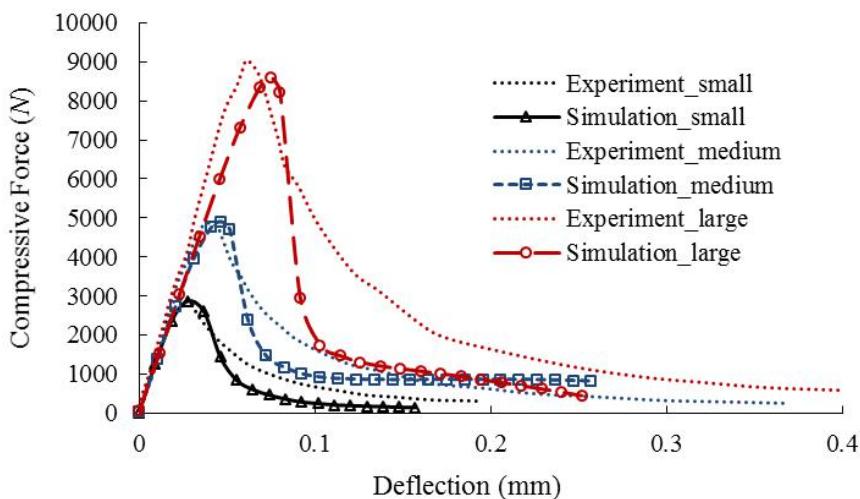
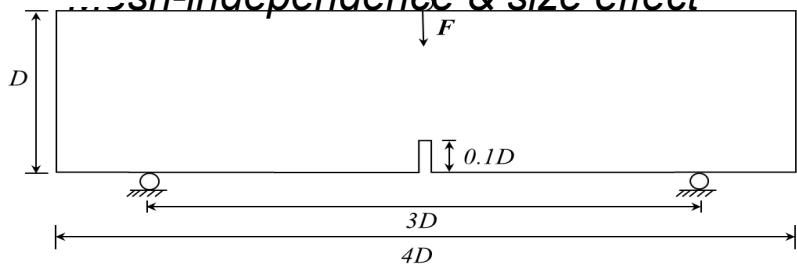
Material parameters	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	30Gpa
Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ )	0.2
Density ( $\rho$ )	2000kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	3Mpa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	120Nm/m <sup>2</sup>

**Conclusion:** This test could prove that the current-developed model is independent of numerical spatial discretisation for 1D and 2D cases.  
**Now, it's time for simulating rock fracture!**

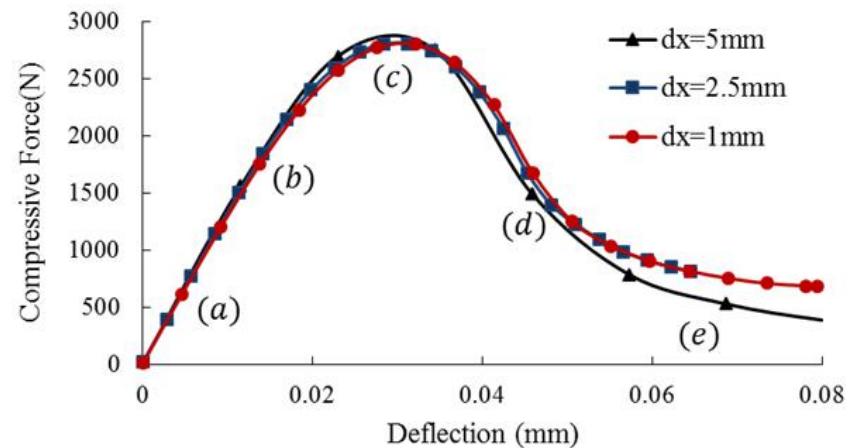
# Applications

## □ SPH modelling of the three-point bending test:

- Taylor SPH & continuum constitutive model with embedded linear cohesive fracture law
- Mesh-independence & size effect

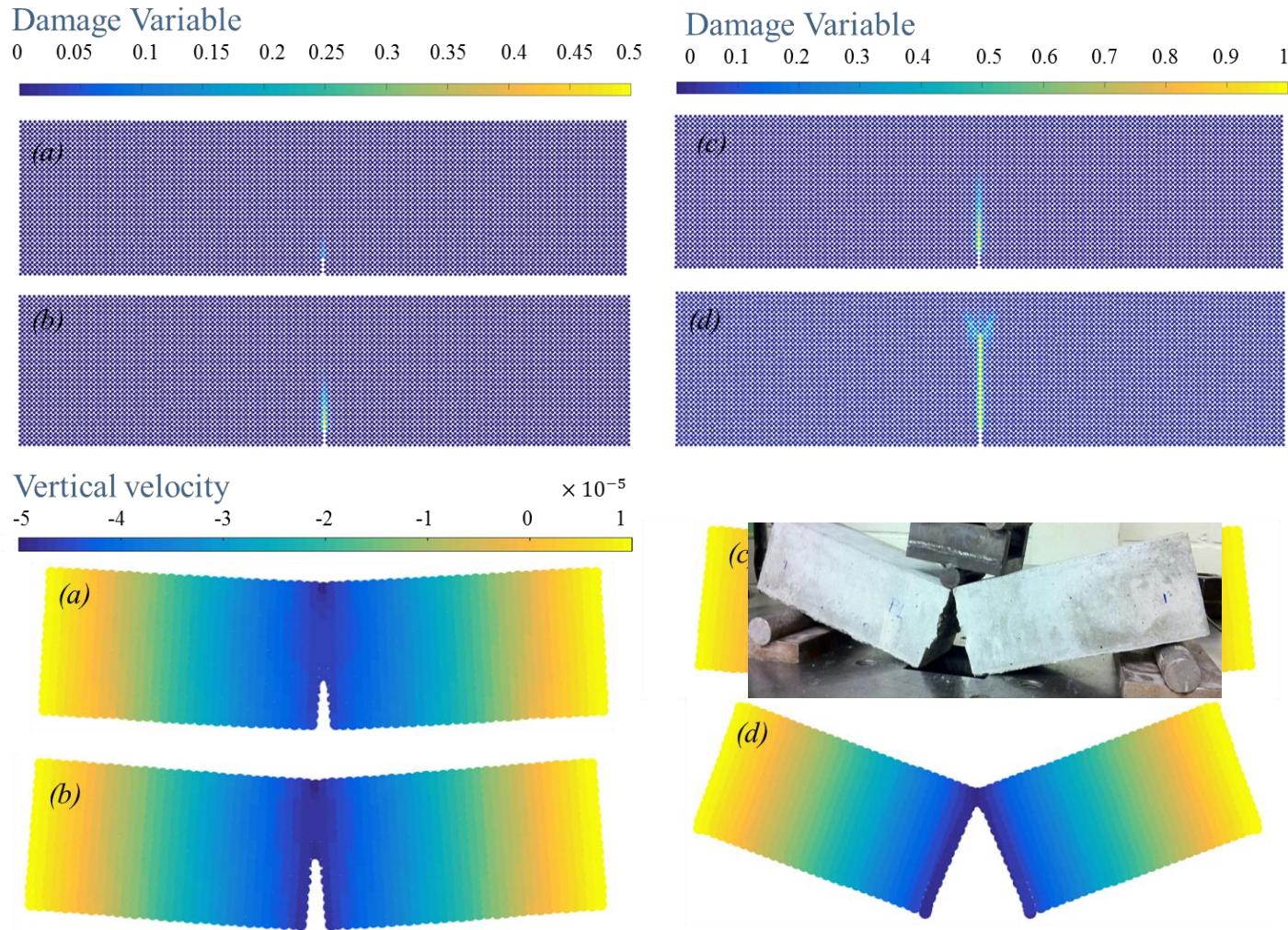


Material parameters	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	45Gpa
Poisson ratio ( $\nu$ )	0.24
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	2.9Mpa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	47.17Nm/m <sup>2</sup>
Depth of beam	80mm, 160mm, 320mm



# *Applications*

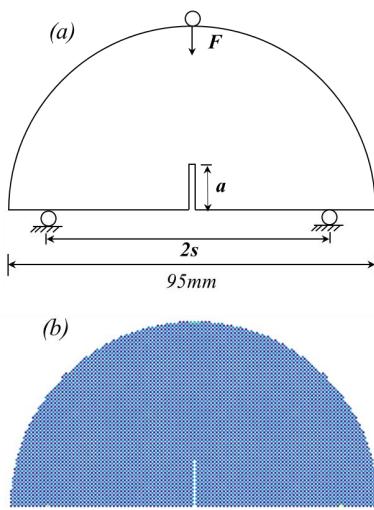
## □ SPH modelling of the three-point bending test:



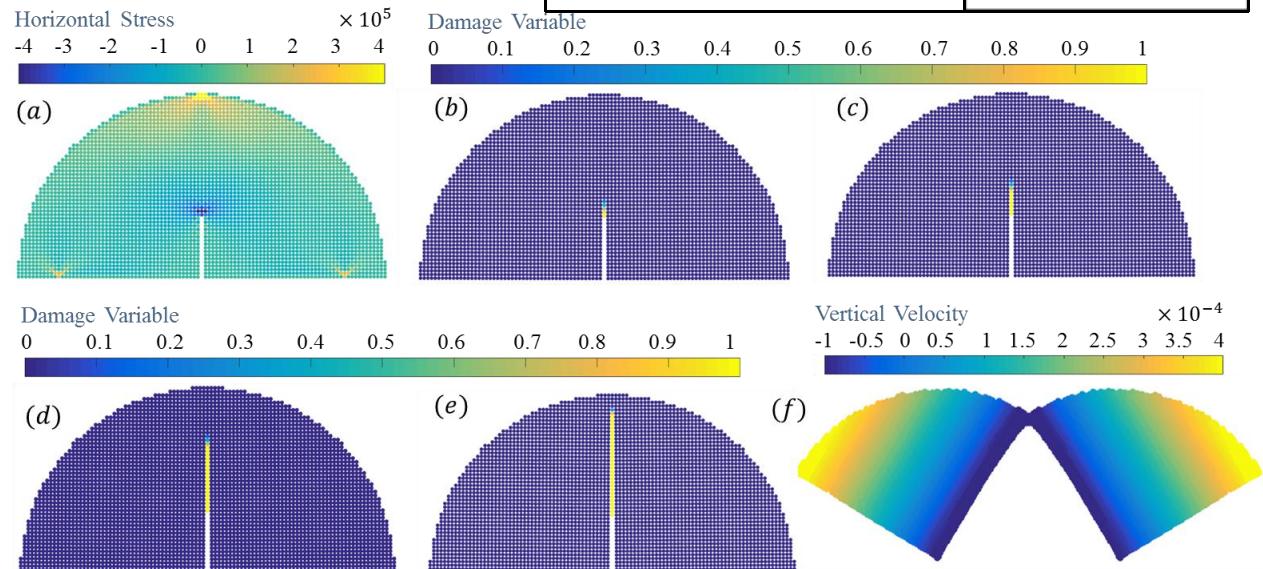
# Applications

## □ SPH modelling of semi-circular bending test

- *Taylor SPH & continuum constitutive model with embedded linear cohesive fracture law*
- *Notch length & span changed for different cases to further validate model performance in modelling mode I fracture behaviour*



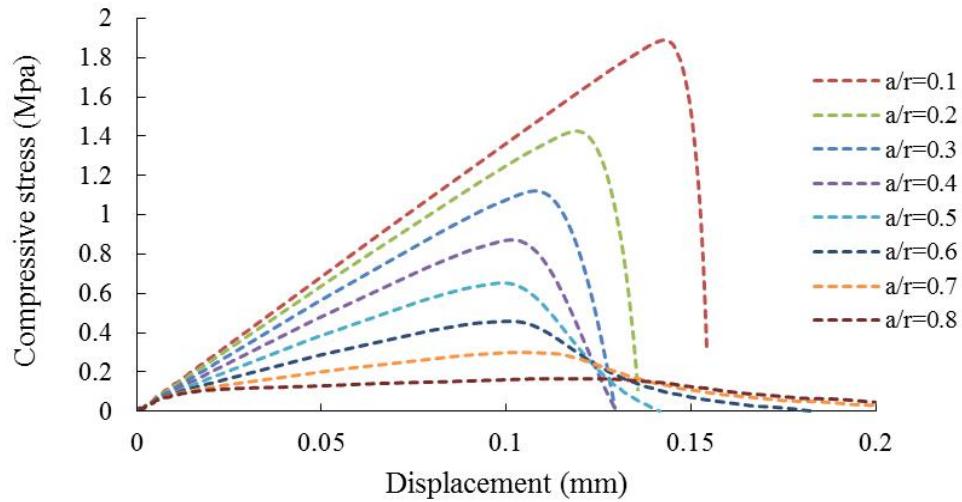
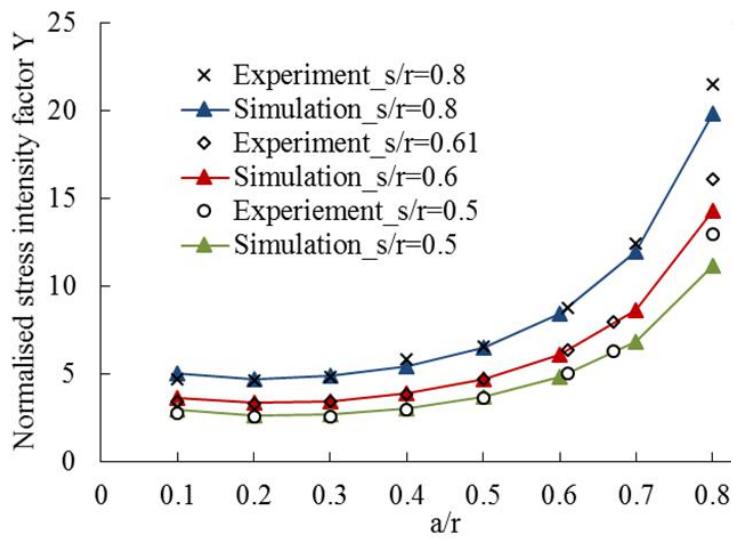
Geometry and boundary conditions



# Applications

## □ SPH modelling of semi-circular bending test

- *Taylor SPH & continuum constitutive model with embedded linear cohesive fracture law*
- *Notch length & span changed for different cases to further validate model performance in modelling mode I fracture behaviour*



Material parameters	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	200Mpa
Poisson ratio ( $\nu$ )	0.3
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	0.42Mpa
Fracture Toughness ( $K_{Ic}$ )	1.1 MPa $\sqrt{mm}$
Courant Number ( $C$ )	1
Particle size (dx)	0.95mm

# *Conclusion*

*In this study, a new numerical framework is developed to enhance the capability of existing computational tools for modelling mode-I rock fracture behaviour. A set of numerical examples such as three-point bending test, Brazilian disc test and semi-circular bending have been conducted for validating its performance.*

## *Achievement of this model:*

1. *Capable of accurately predicting the mode-I rock fracturing processes;*
  - *Does not require an explicit crack representation;*
  - *Allows the fracture to be oriented in any direction;*
2. *Could capture size-dependent behaviour of rock;*
3. *Insensitive with resolution of numerical discretisation.*

*In next stage, we will extend this model to mix-mode applications of rock fracturing.*

# *Acknowledgement*

FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL IS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.



**Australian Government**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Australian Research Council**



**MONASH**  
University



**THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE**

# THANK YOU ! ANY QUESTIONS?



# *Research Motivation*

## ~~NUMERICAL METHODS~~

*Discontinuum methods  
(such as DEM, DDA)*  
Pros: large deformation  
Cons: high computational time

*Continuum grid-based methods  
(such as FEM, XFEM)*  
Pros: large scale applications  
Cons: limit in multiple fracture network

*Mesh-free numerical model  
Smoothed Particle  
Hydrodynamics (SPH)*

## ~~CONSTITUTIVE MODEL~~

*Classical plasticity and damage theories*  
Cons: not consider size effect

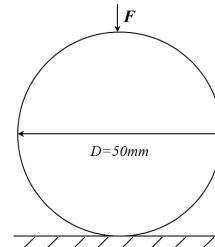
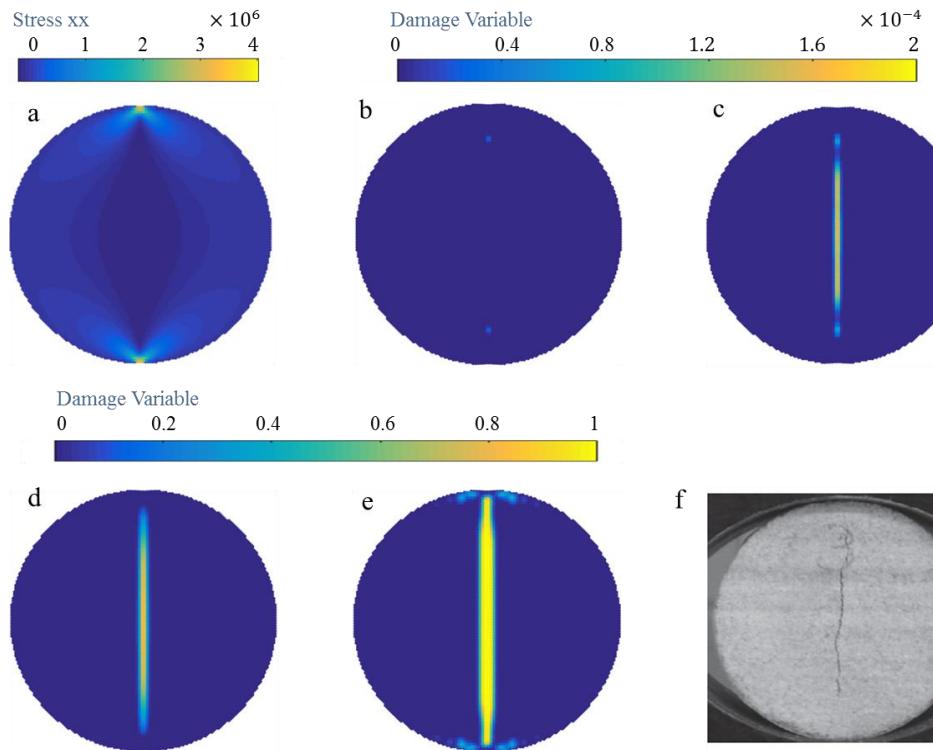
*More advanced models such as  
Smeared crack approach  
Nonlocal/gradient theories*  
Cons: limit in mesh size

*A size **dependent** constitutive model with embedded **cohesive fracture***

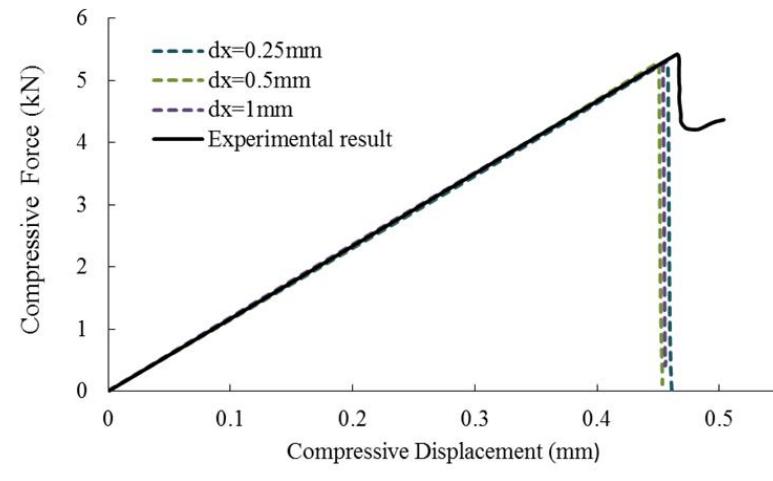
# Application

## □ SPH modelling of Brazilian disc (BD) test

- Taylor SPH & continuum constitutive model with embedded linear cohesive fracture law*
- Mesh-independence of this model*



Material parameters	
Young's Modulus ( $E$ )	3.43Gpa
Poisson ratio ( $\nu$ )	0.25
Tensile strength ( $f_t$ )	4Mpa
Fracture energy ( $G_f$ )	20Nm/m <sup>2</sup>
Current Number ( $C$ )	1



Macro stress-displacement curve