

# **Lecture #2: Split Hopkinson Bar Systems**

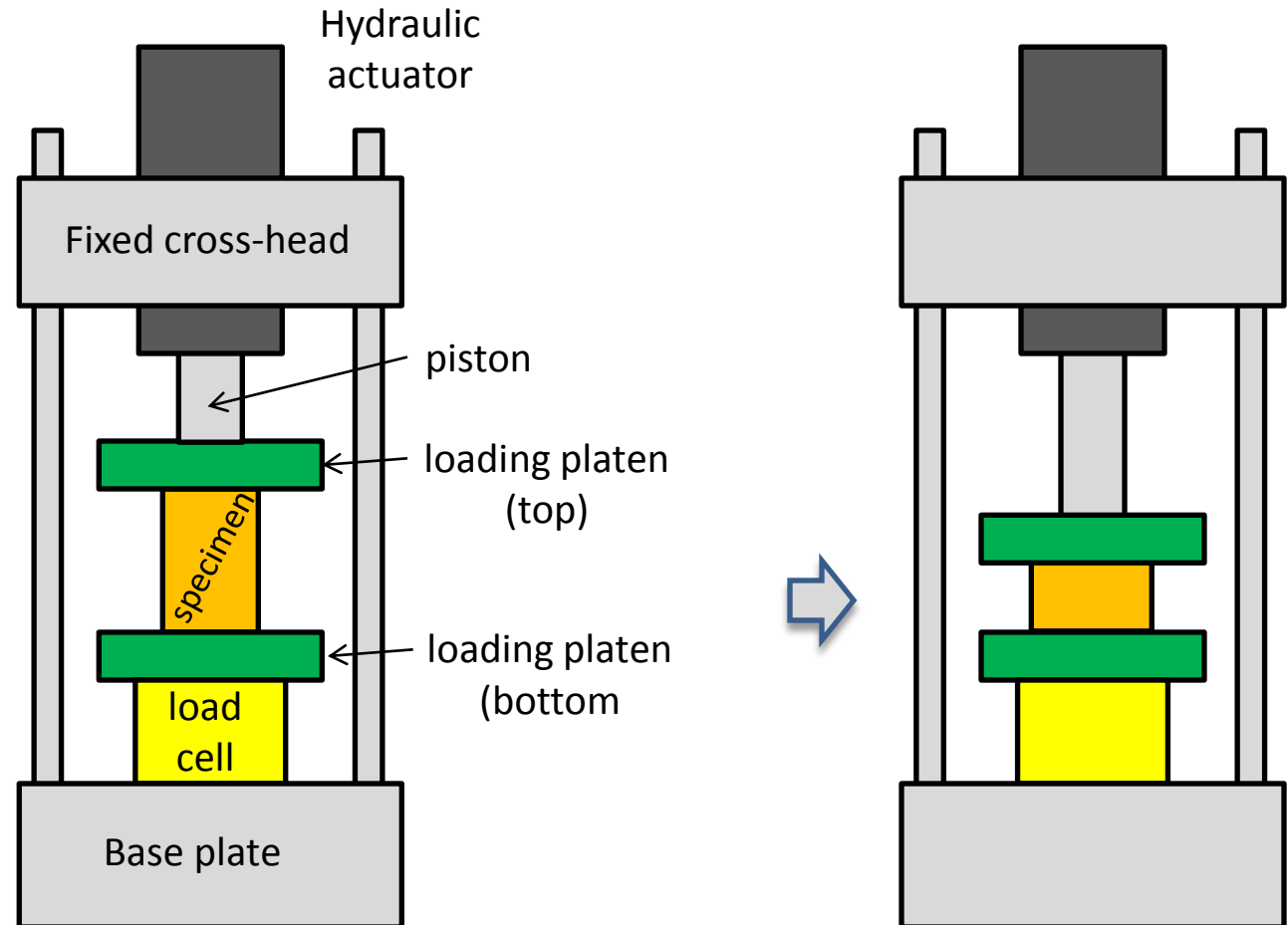
by Dirk Mohr

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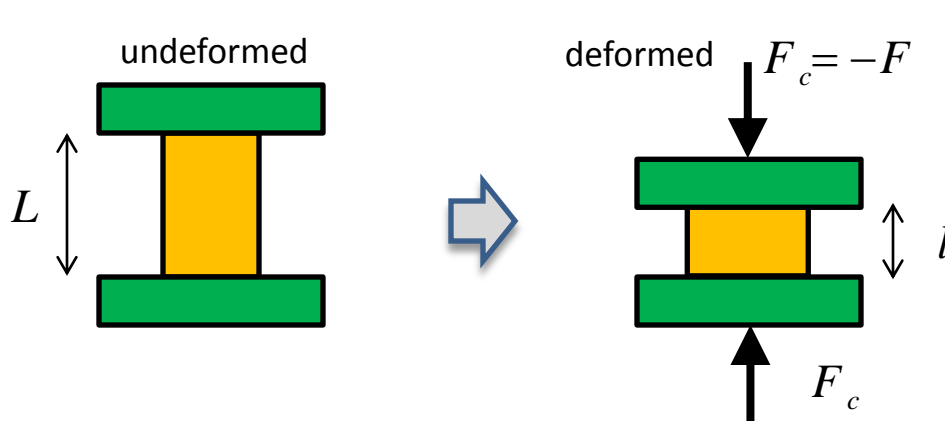
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# Uniaxial Compression Testing

- Useful experiment to characterize the flow behavior of materials at large strains



# Uniaxial Compression Testing



$F_c$  = applied compression force

$l$  = current length

$L_0$  = initial length

$l$  = current length

$L_0$  = initial length

- Axial **strain** definitions

$$\varepsilon_{eng} = \frac{l}{L} - 1 \quad (\text{engineering or nominal strain})$$

$$\varepsilon = \ln[1 + \varepsilon_{eng}] \quad (\text{true or logarithmic strain})$$

$\varepsilon > 0$  (extension)

$\varepsilon < 0$  (shortening)

- Axial **stress** definitions

$$\sigma_{eng} = \frac{F}{A_0} \quad (\text{engineering or nominal stress})$$

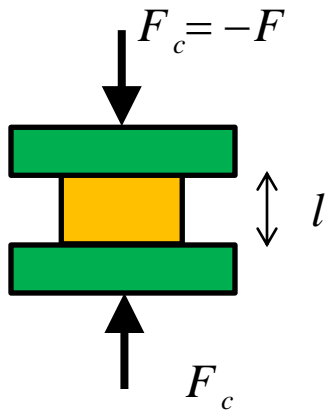
$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A} = \sigma_{eng} [1 + \varepsilon_{eng}] \quad (\text{true stress})$$

Only valid for  
incompressible  
materials

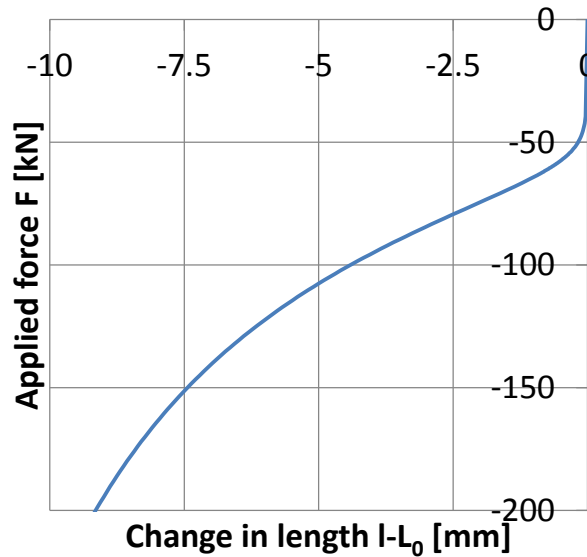
$\sigma > 0$  (tension)

$\sigma < 0$  (compression)

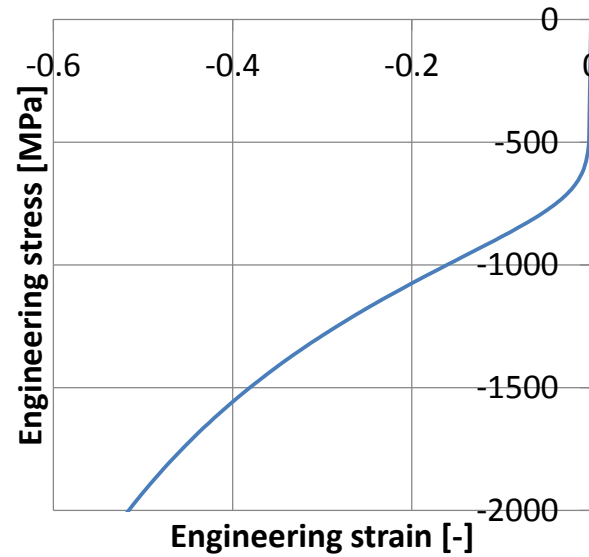
# Uniaxial Compression Testing



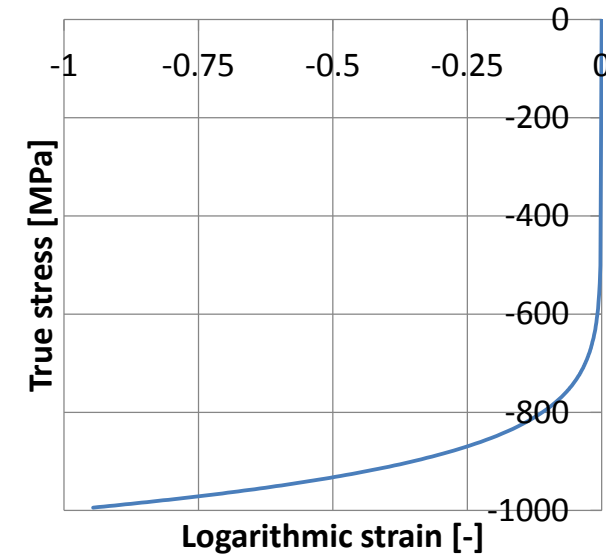
Force-displacement curve



Engineering stress-strain curve

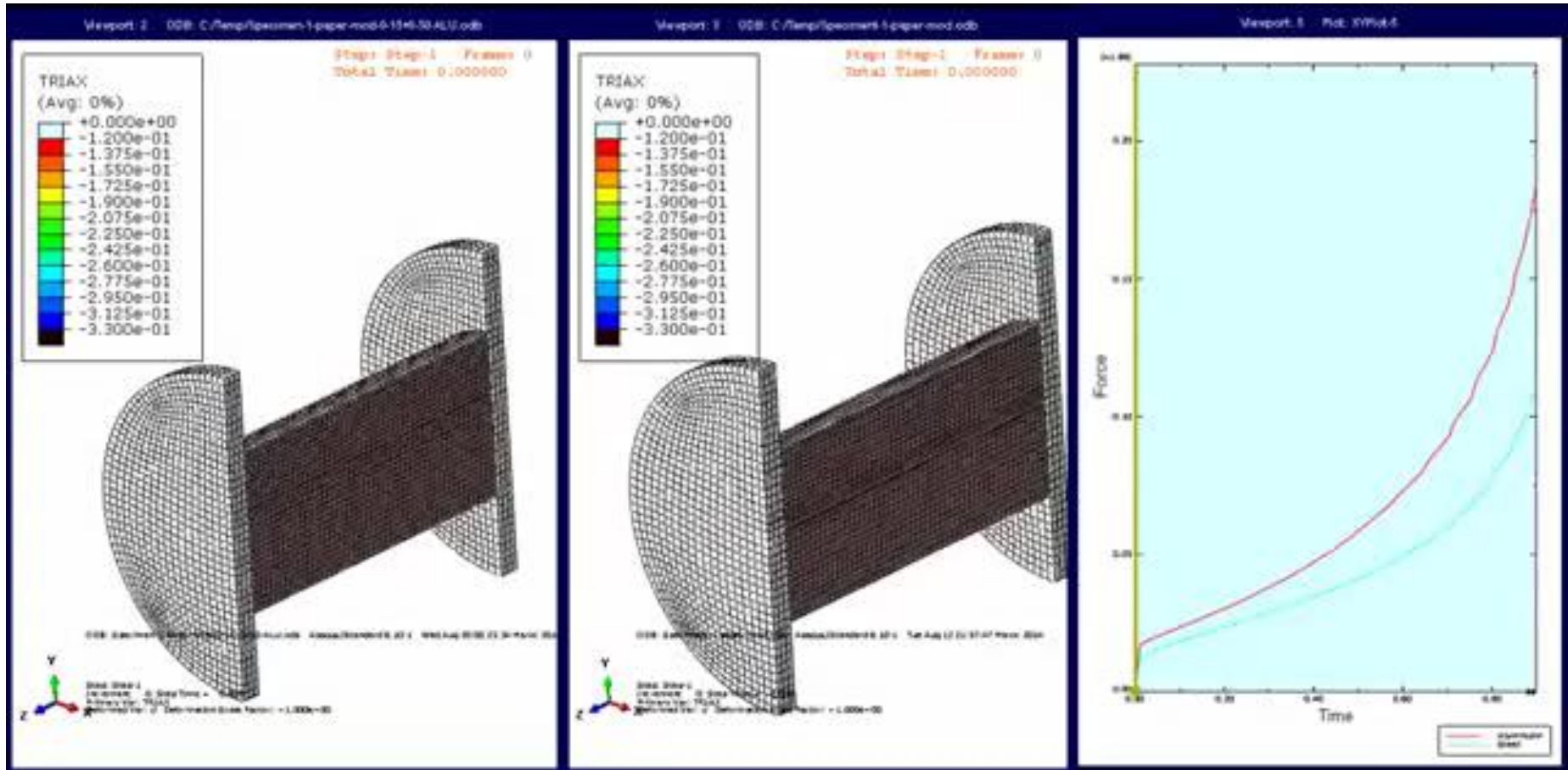


True stress-strain curve



# Uniaxial Compression Testing

- Numerical Simulation (→ also topic of computer lab #2)



Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=OzzWc-SfF-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=OzzWc-SfF-w)

# Uniaxial Compression Testing

- Experimental challenges



Plastic  
buckling

- H/D too large



Shear  
buckling

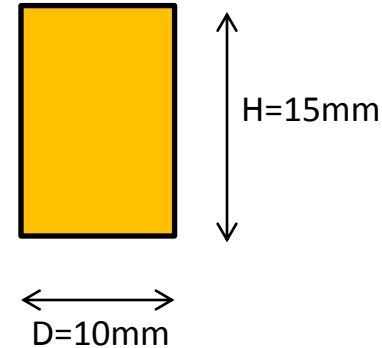
- Poor alignment
- anisotropy



barreling

- Friction too high
- H/D too small

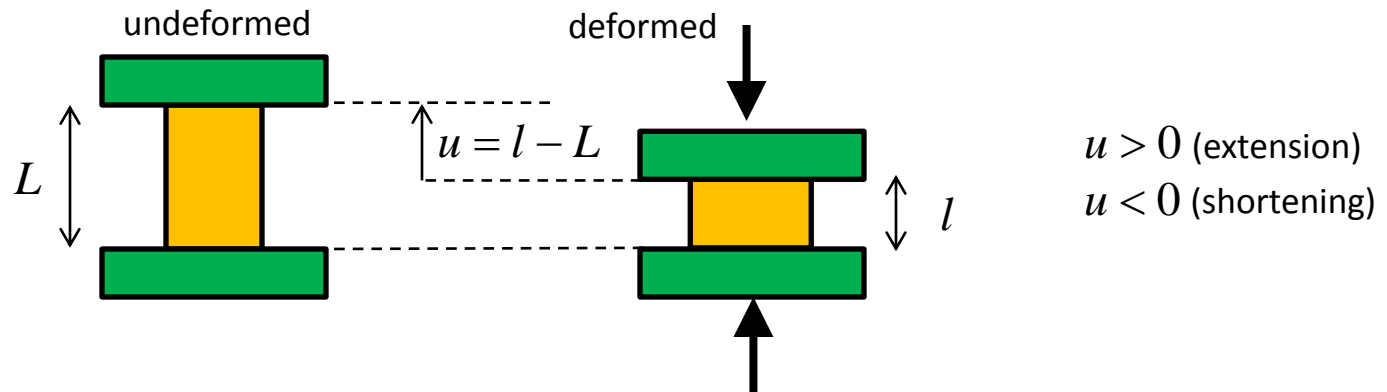
- Recommended size for metals testing:



optimal

- Excellent lubrication
- H/D ~ 1.5

# Strain rate in a compression experiment



- Nominal strain rate

$$\varepsilon_{eng} = \frac{l}{L} - 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{\varepsilon}_{eng} = \frac{\dot{l}}{L} = \frac{\dot{u}}{L}$$

- True strain rate

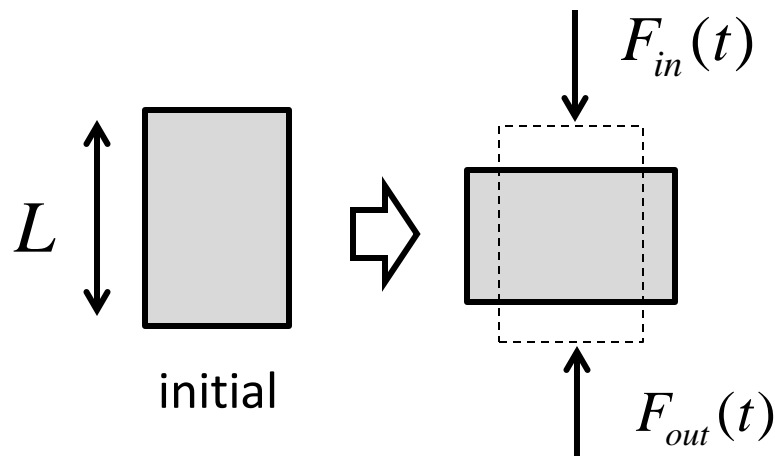
$$\varepsilon = \ln[1 + \varepsilon_{eng}] \quad \Rightarrow \quad \dot{\varepsilon} = \frac{\dot{\varepsilon}_{eng}}{1 + \varepsilon_{eng}}$$

- Equiv. strain rate

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \frac{|\dot{\varepsilon}_{eng}|}{1 + \varepsilon_{eng}}$$

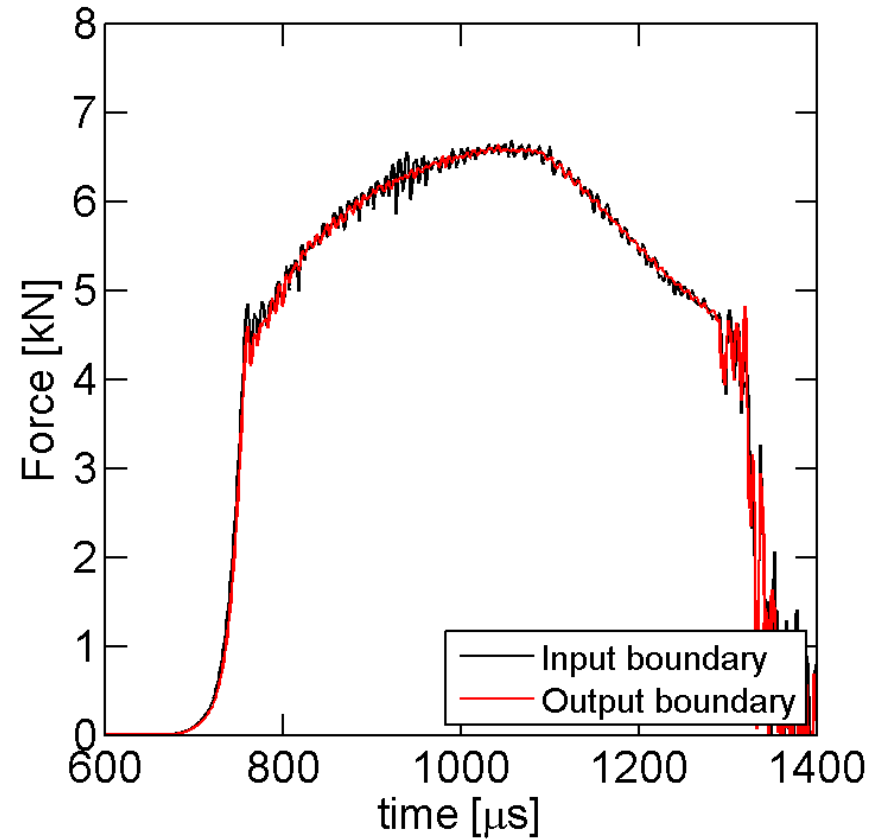
# Principle of Quasi-static Equilibrium

## Compression of a cylindrical specimen



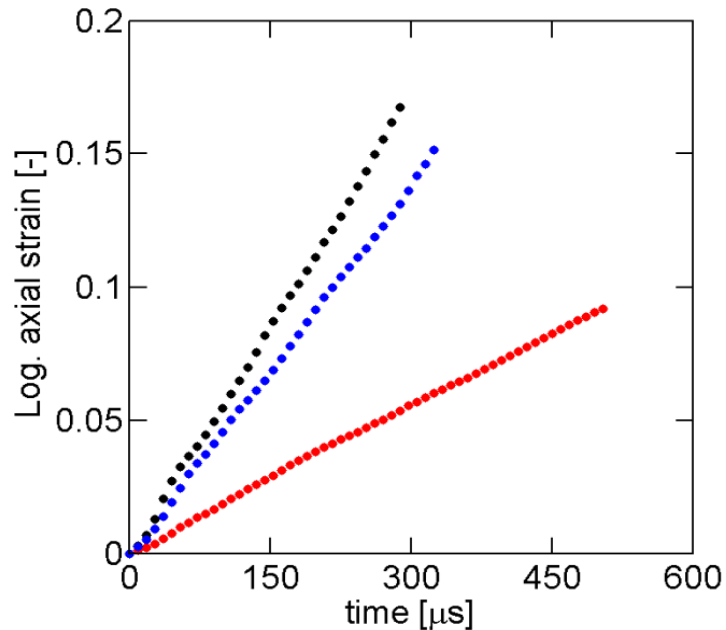
**Quasi-static equilibrium**

$$F_{in}(t) \cong F_{out}(t)$$

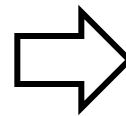




# Time scale #1



Strain at the end of the experiment:  
Average strain rate (over time):

 $\varepsilon_{\max}$ 
 $\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}$ 


Duration of  
experiment

$$T = \frac{\varepsilon_{\max}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}}$$

Note: T is independent of  
specimen dimensions!

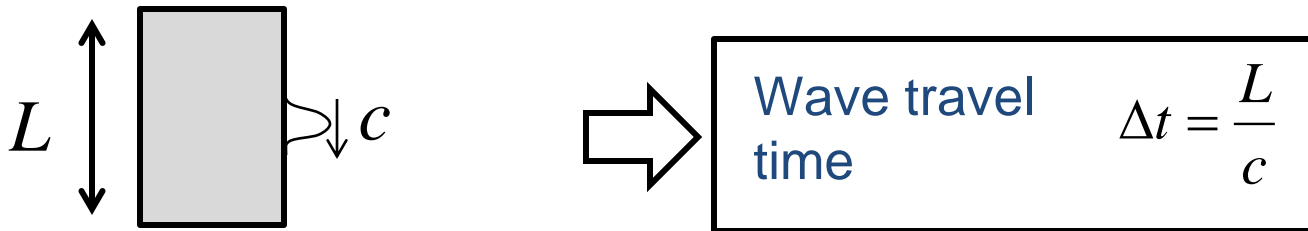
Example:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \varepsilon_{\max} = 0.15 \\ \dot{\varepsilon}_{av} = 500 / s \end{array} \right\} T = \frac{0.15}{500} = 0.0003s = 0.3ms = 300\mu s$$

## Time scale #2

Wave propagation speed:  $c = \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}}$

Specimen length:  $L$



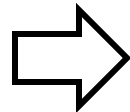
Note:  $\Delta t$  does depend on specimen dimensions!

Example:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} c \cong 5000 \text{ m/s} \\ L = 10 \text{ mm} \end{array} \right\} \Delta t = \frac{10}{5 \times 10^6} = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s} = 2 \mu\text{s}$$

# Principle of Quasi-static Equilibrium

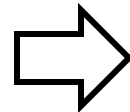
Long time scale:



Duration of  
experiment

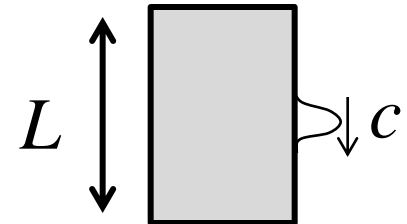
$$T = \frac{\varepsilon_{\max}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}}$$

Short time scale:



Wave travel  
time

$$\Delta t = \frac{L}{c}$$



**Condition for quasi-static equilibrium:**

(when testing an elasto-plastic material)

$$F_{in}(t) \cong F_{out}(t) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \Delta t \ll T$$

# Principle of Quasi-static Equilibrium

## Condition of quasi-static equilibrium

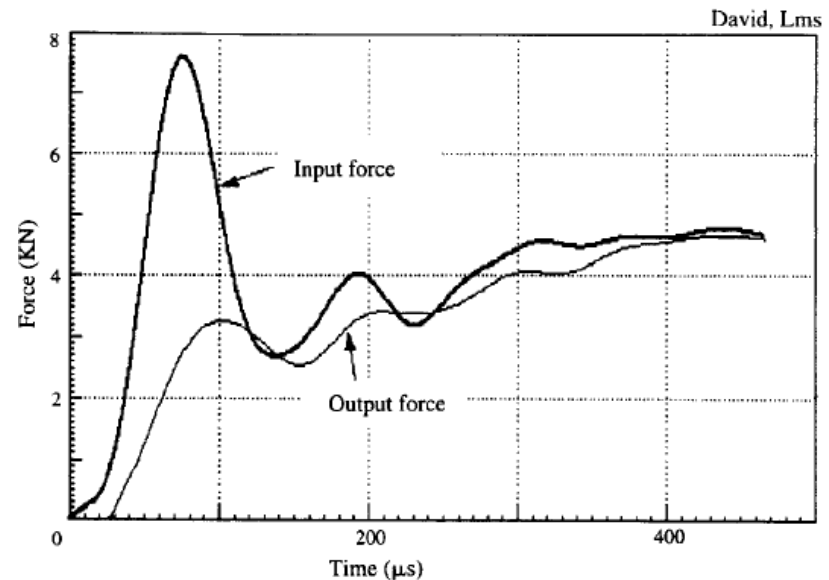
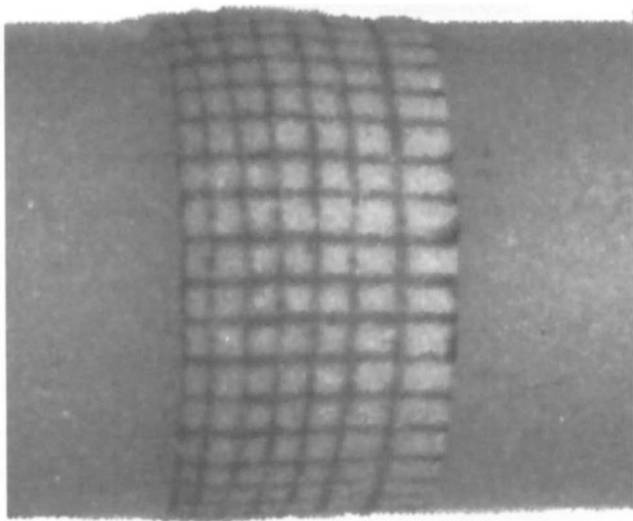
$$\Delta t \ll T \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{L}{c} \ll \frac{\varepsilon_{\max}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}}$$

## Example for challenging experiments (w/ regards to quasi-static equilibrium)

- Brittle materials, e.g. ceramics  $\varepsilon_{\max} \sim 0.01$
- Soft materials, e.g. polymers  $c \sim 1000m/s$
- Materials of coarse microstructure, e.g. metallic foams  
 $L \gg 1mm$

# Dynamic testing of foams

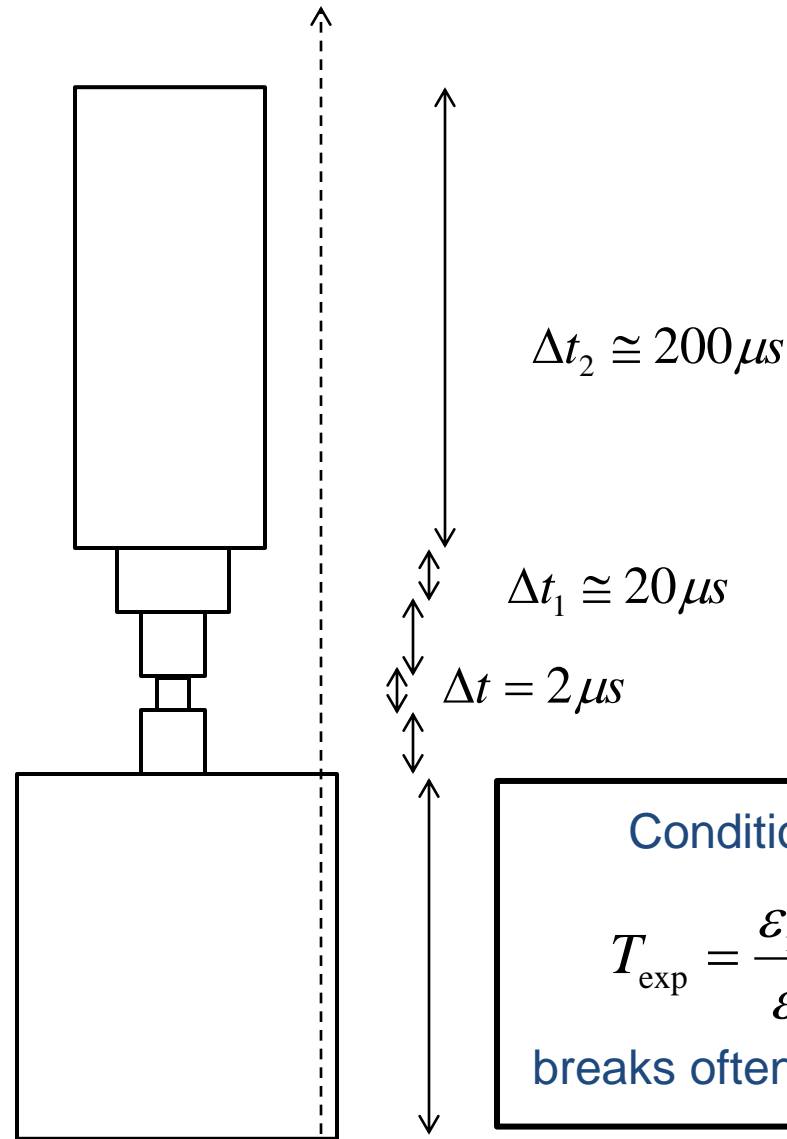
Example for challenging experiments (w/ regards to quasi-static equilibrium)



Zhao et al. (1997)

# LIMITATION OF UNIVERSAL TESTING MACHINES

- Vibration issues



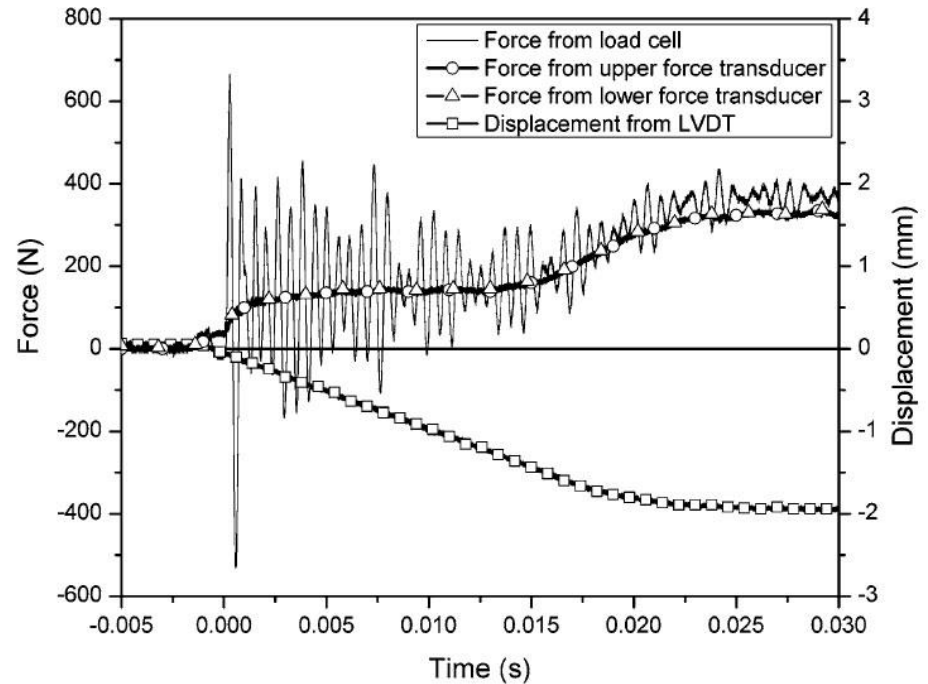
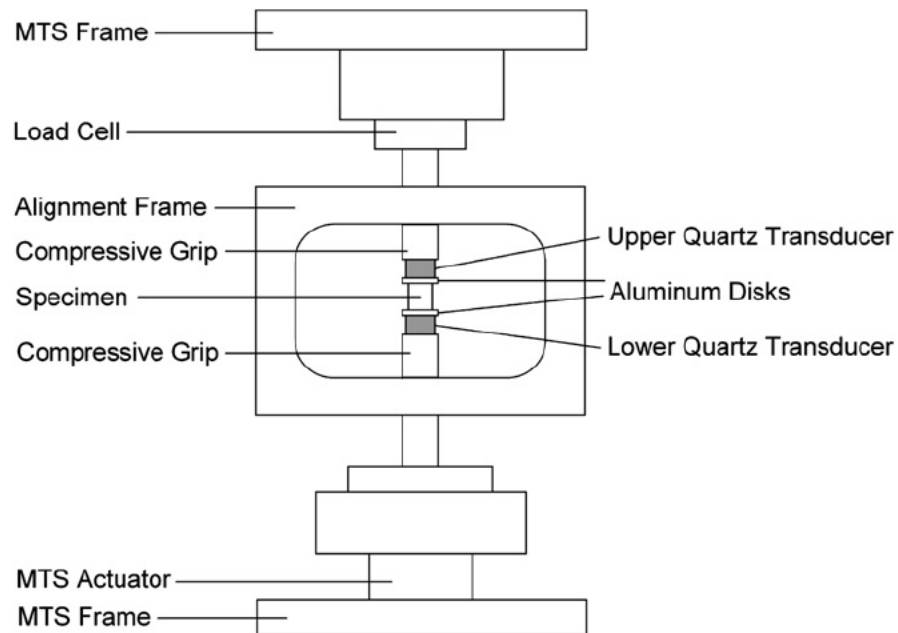
Condition of validity

$$T_{\text{exp}} = \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{max}}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{\text{av}}} \gg \max[\Delta t_i]$$

breaks often down at around 10/s

# LIMITATION OF UNIVERSAL TESTING MACHINES

## Ringling of conventional load cell

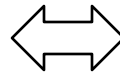


# SEPARATION OF TIME SCALES

Characteristic time  
scale of testing system

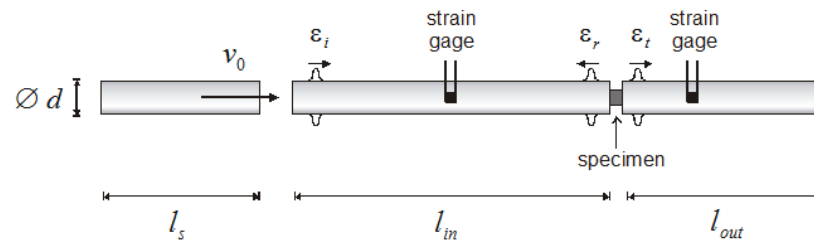
$$\Delta t_{sys}$$

versus



Duration of experiment

$$T_{exp} = \frac{\varepsilon_{max}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}}$$

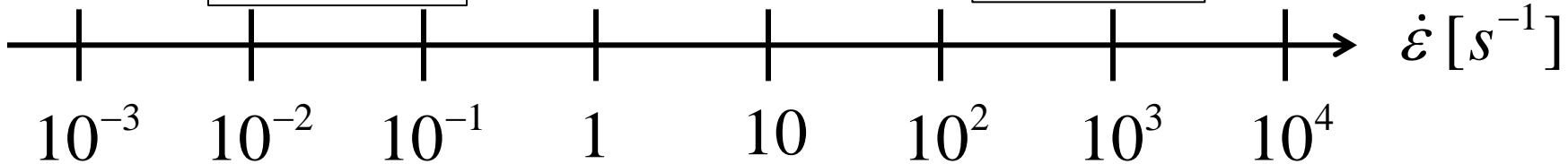


Universal testing machines

SHPB

$$\Delta t_{sys} \ll T_{exp}$$

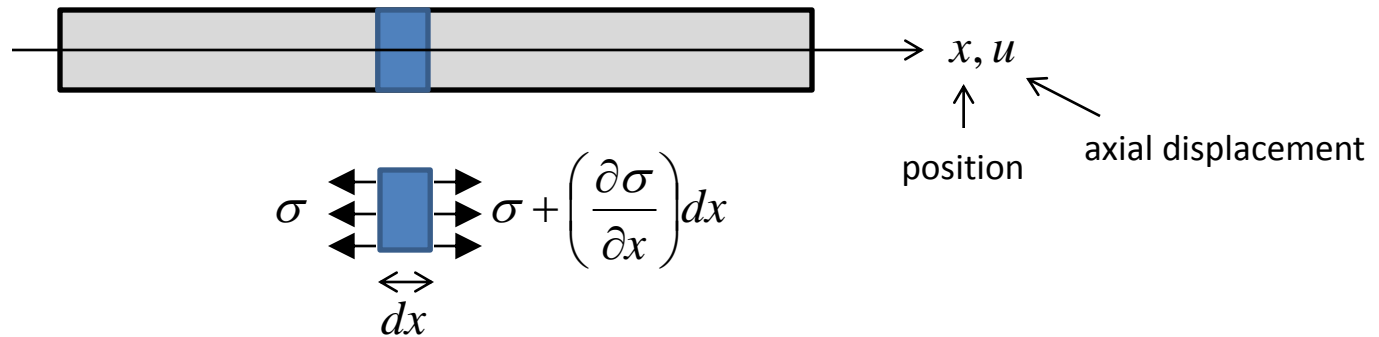
$$\Delta t_{sys} \geq T_{exp}$$





# Wave Equation

- Derived wave equation for bars under the assumption of uniaxial stress



Differential equation for axial displacement  $u[x,t]$ :

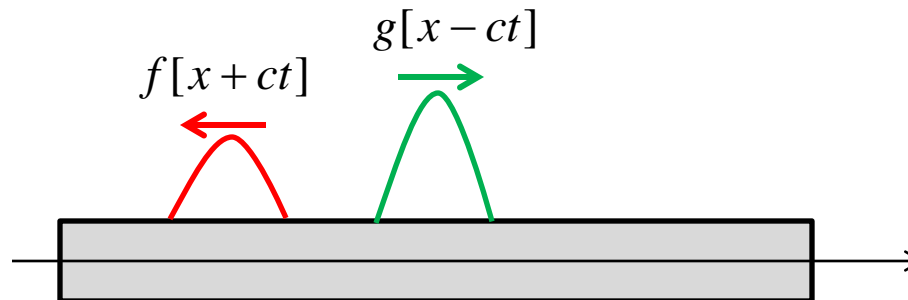
$$c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

- longitudinal elastic **wave velocity**:  $c = \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}}$

- the **particle velocity**:  $v[x,t] = \dot{u}[x,t] = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$

# General Solution

- General solution of wave equation



$$c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = 0$$



- displacement:

$$u[x,t] = \underbrace{f[x+ct]}_{\text{Leftward traveling}} + \underbrace{g[x-ct]}_{\text{rightward traveling}}$$

Leftward  
traveling

rightward  
traveling

- strain

$$\varepsilon[x,t] = u'[x,t] = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = \varepsilon^l[x,t] + \varepsilon^r[x,t]$$

- particle velocity

$$v[x,t] = \dot{u}[x,t] = c \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - c \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = c(\varepsilon^l[x,t] - \varepsilon^r[x,t])$$

# Elastic Wave Velocities

- Particle velocity depends on applied loading, while the **wave velocity** is an intrinsic material property

Material	Density [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	Young's modulus [GPa]	Wave velocity [m/s]
Air			340
Steel	7.8	210	5188
Aluminum	2.7	70	5091
Magnesium	1.7	44	5087
Tungsten	19.3	400	4552
Lead	10.2	14	1171
PMMA	1.2	3	1581
Concrete	3	30	3162

All values are rough estimates and may vary depending on the exact material composition and environmental conditions

# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



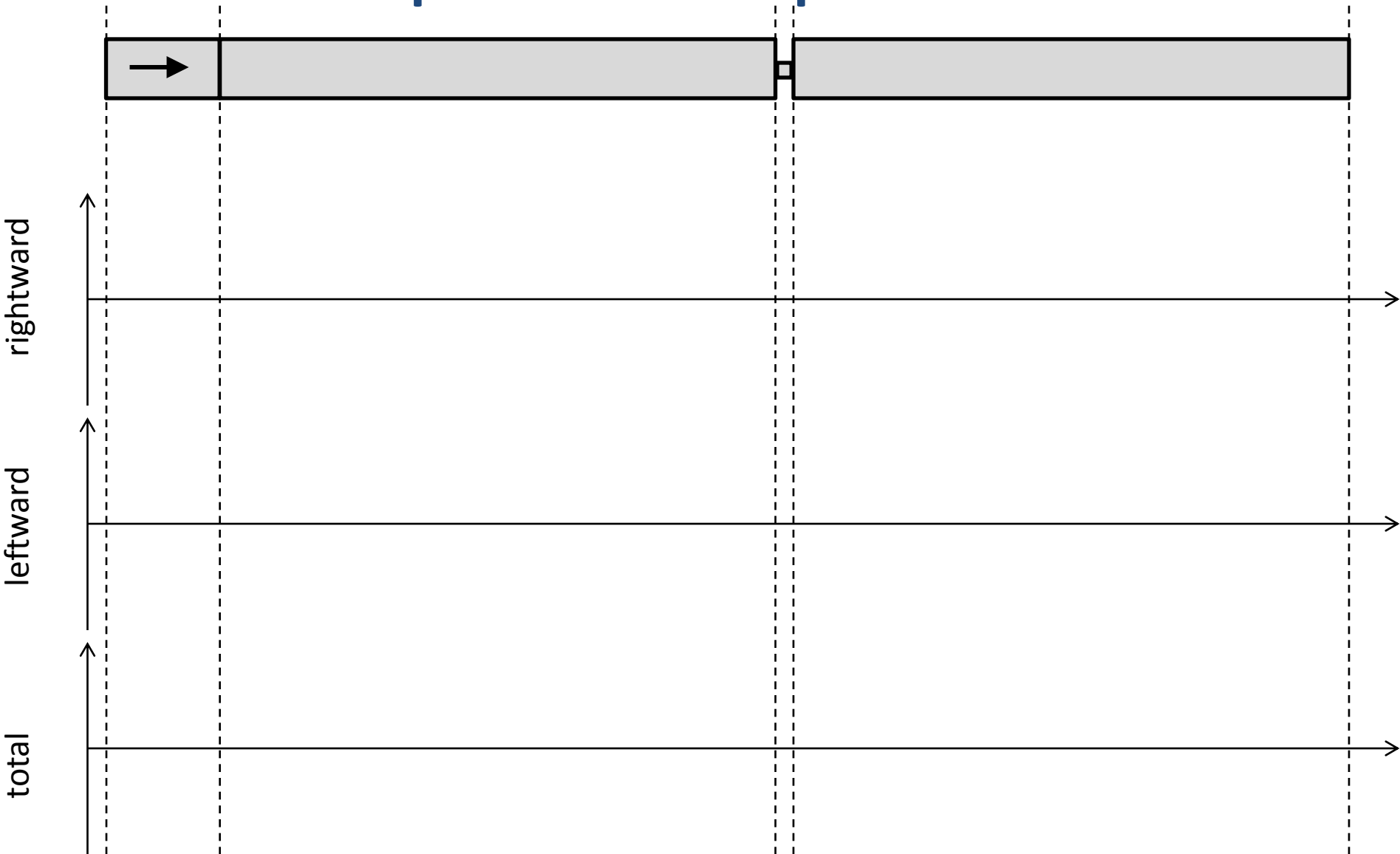
Typical system characteristics:

- Striker bar length:  $L_s = 1000 \text{ mm}$
- Input bar length:  $L_i = 3000 \text{ mm}$
- Output bar length:  $L_o = 3000 \text{ mm}$
- Bar diameter:  $D = 20 \text{ mm}$

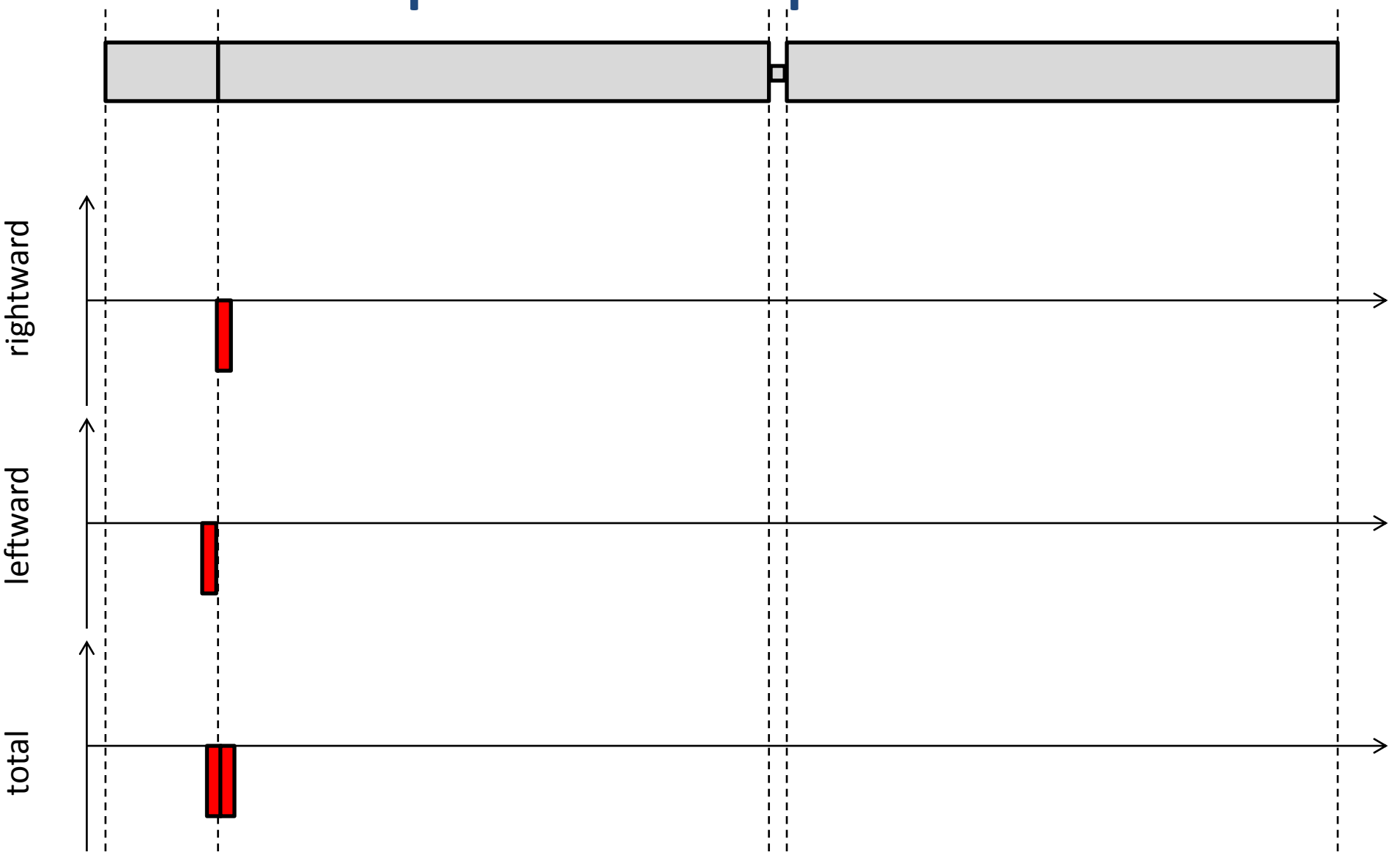
Specimen characteristics (for simplified theoretical analysis):

- Ideal plastic, constant force

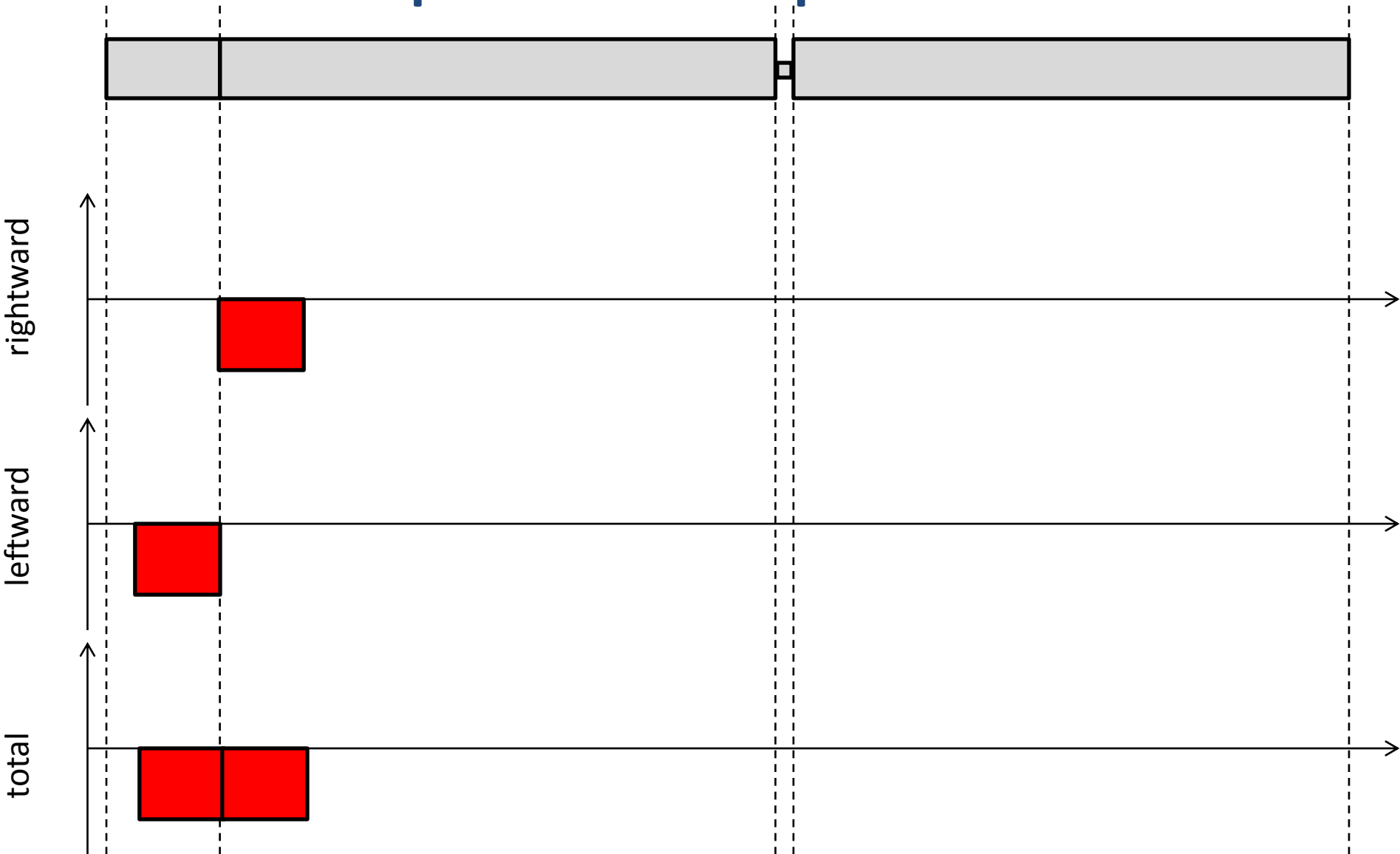
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



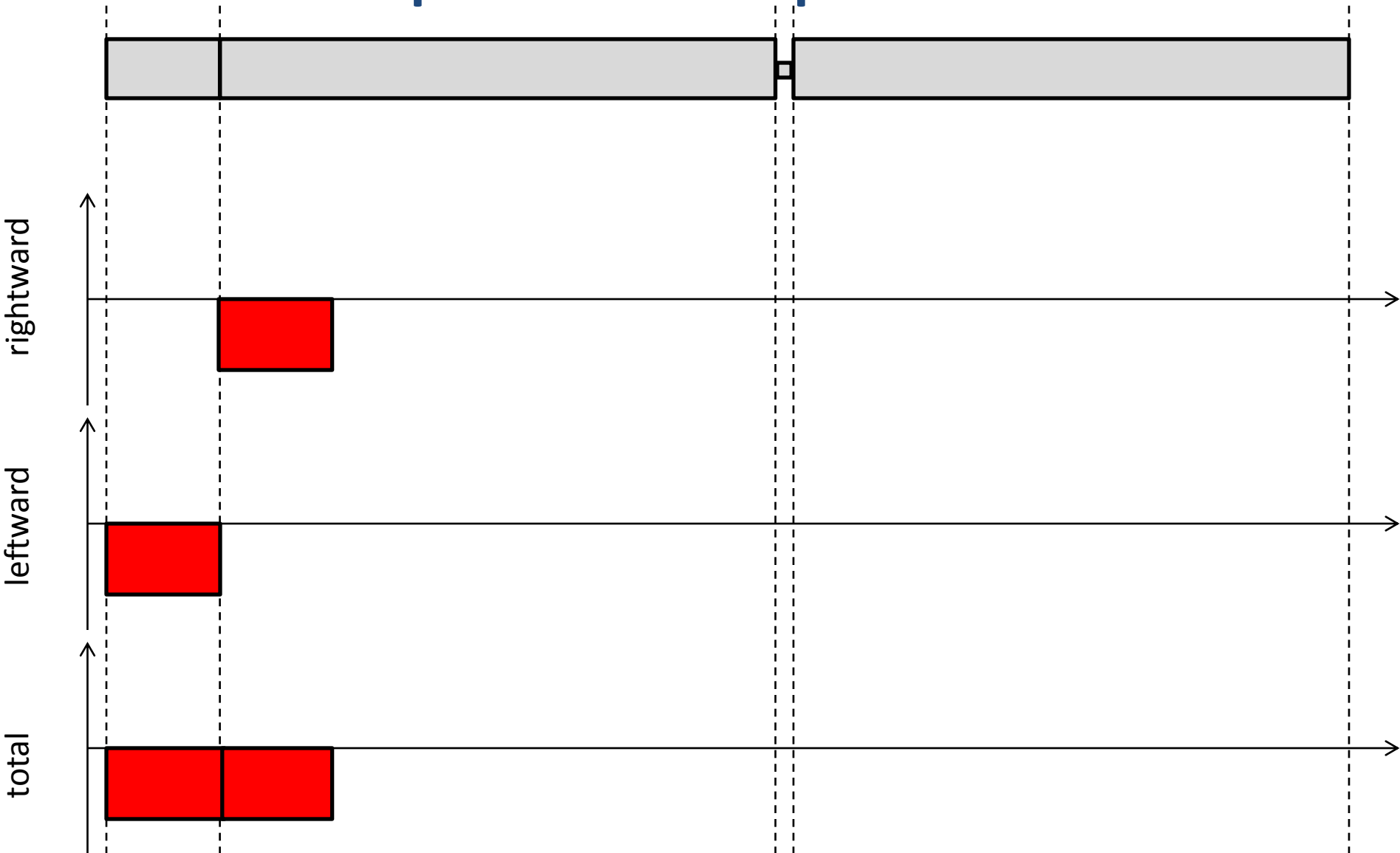
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



# Hopkinson Bar Experiment

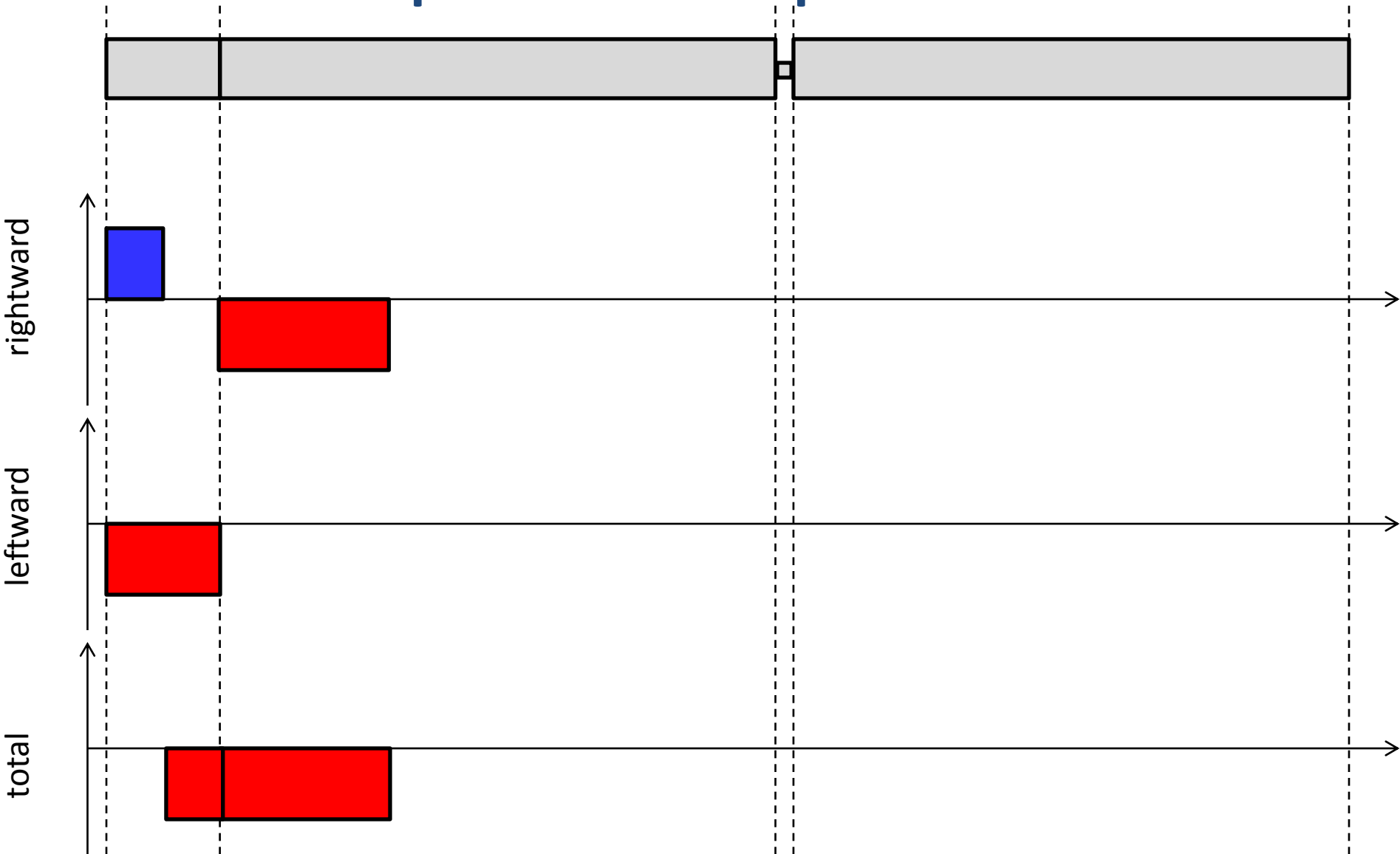


# Hopkinson Bar Experiment

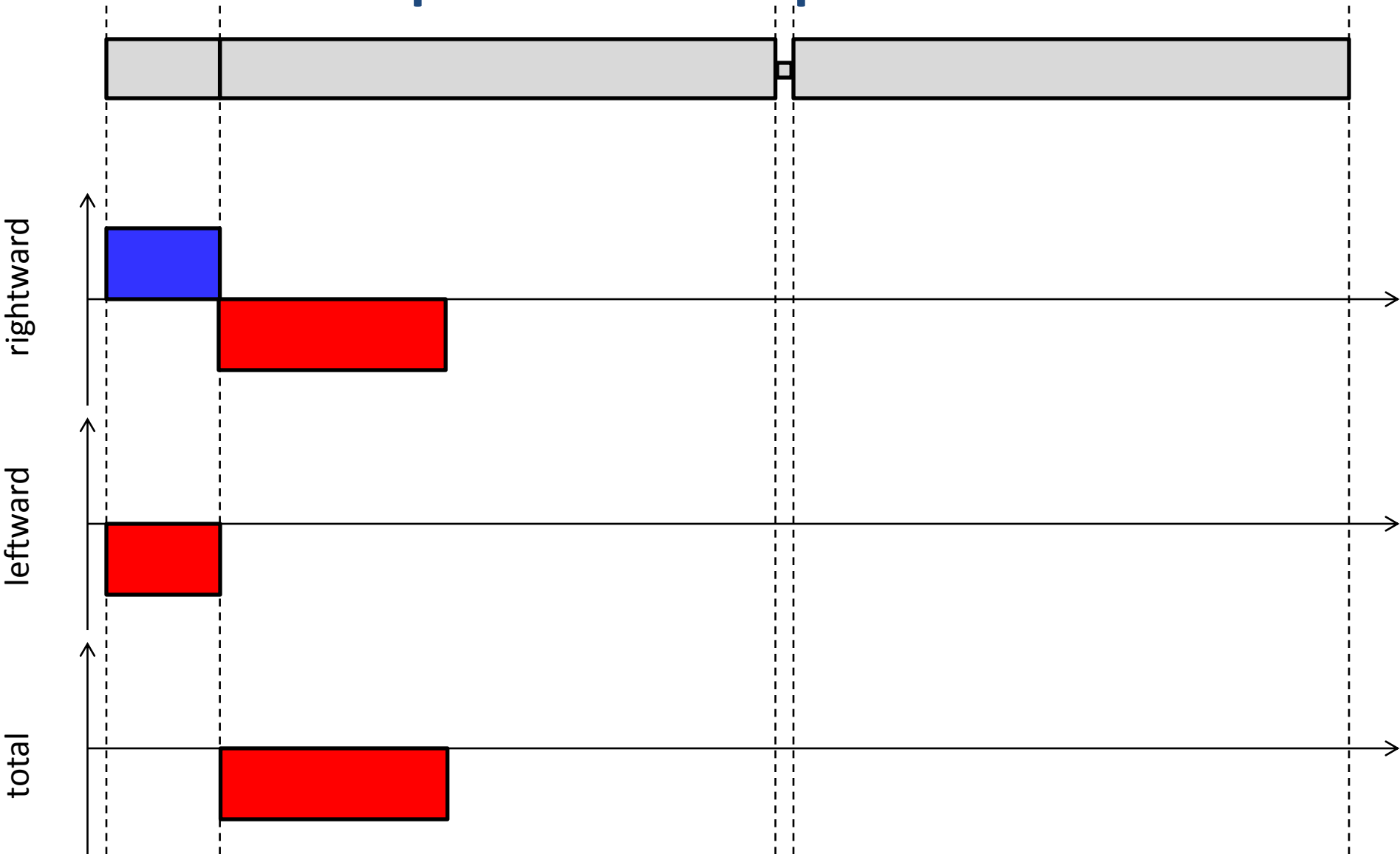




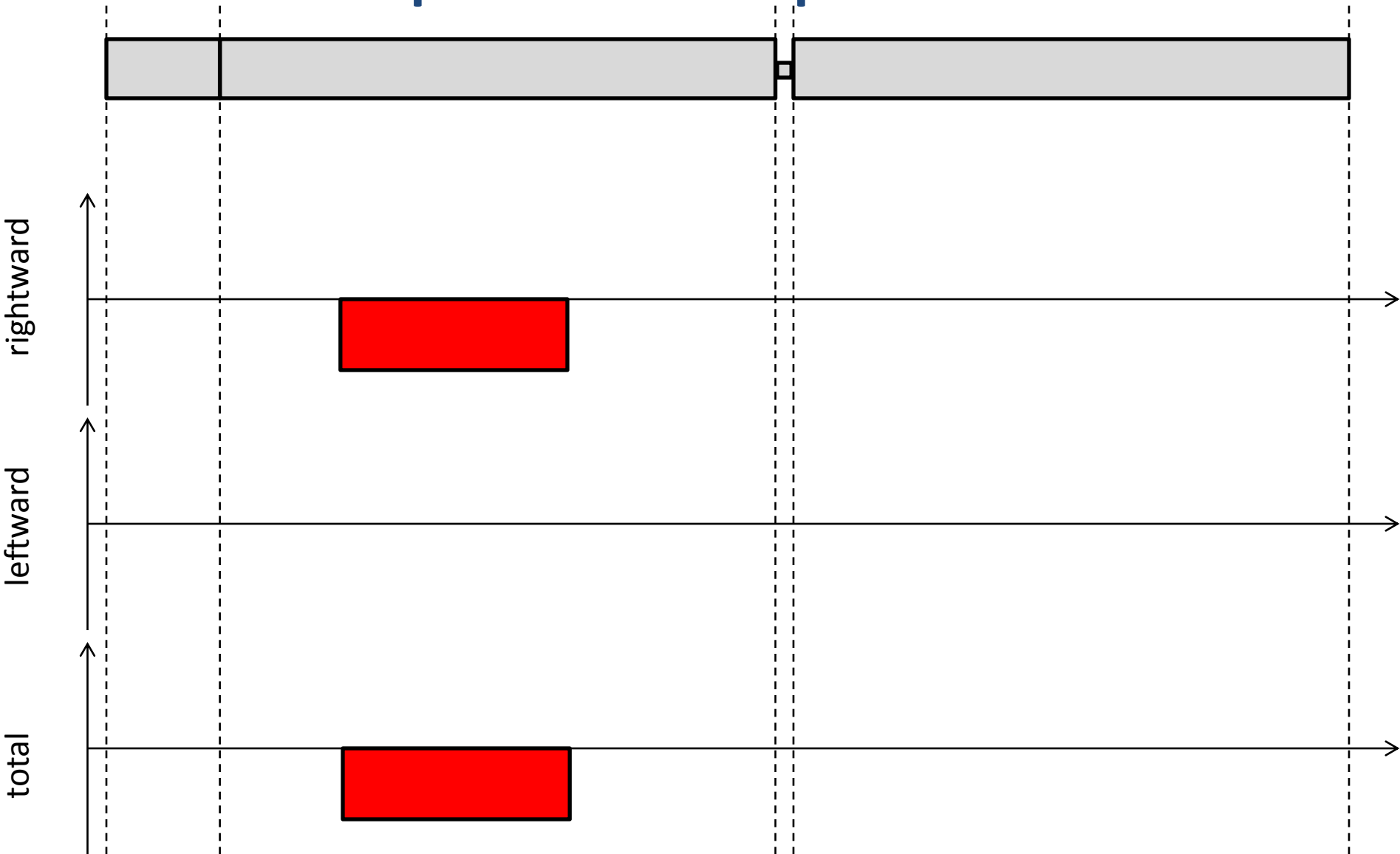
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



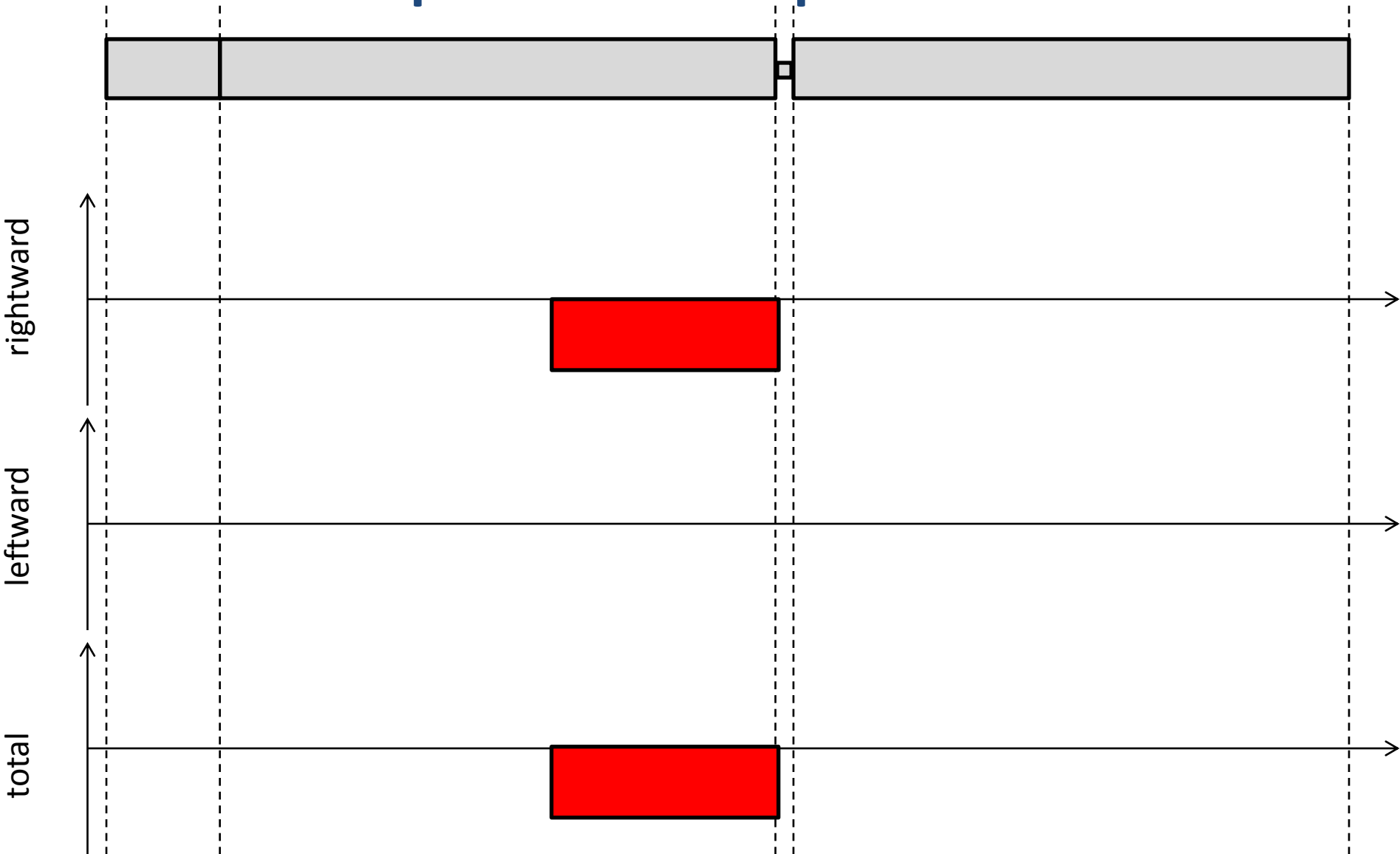
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



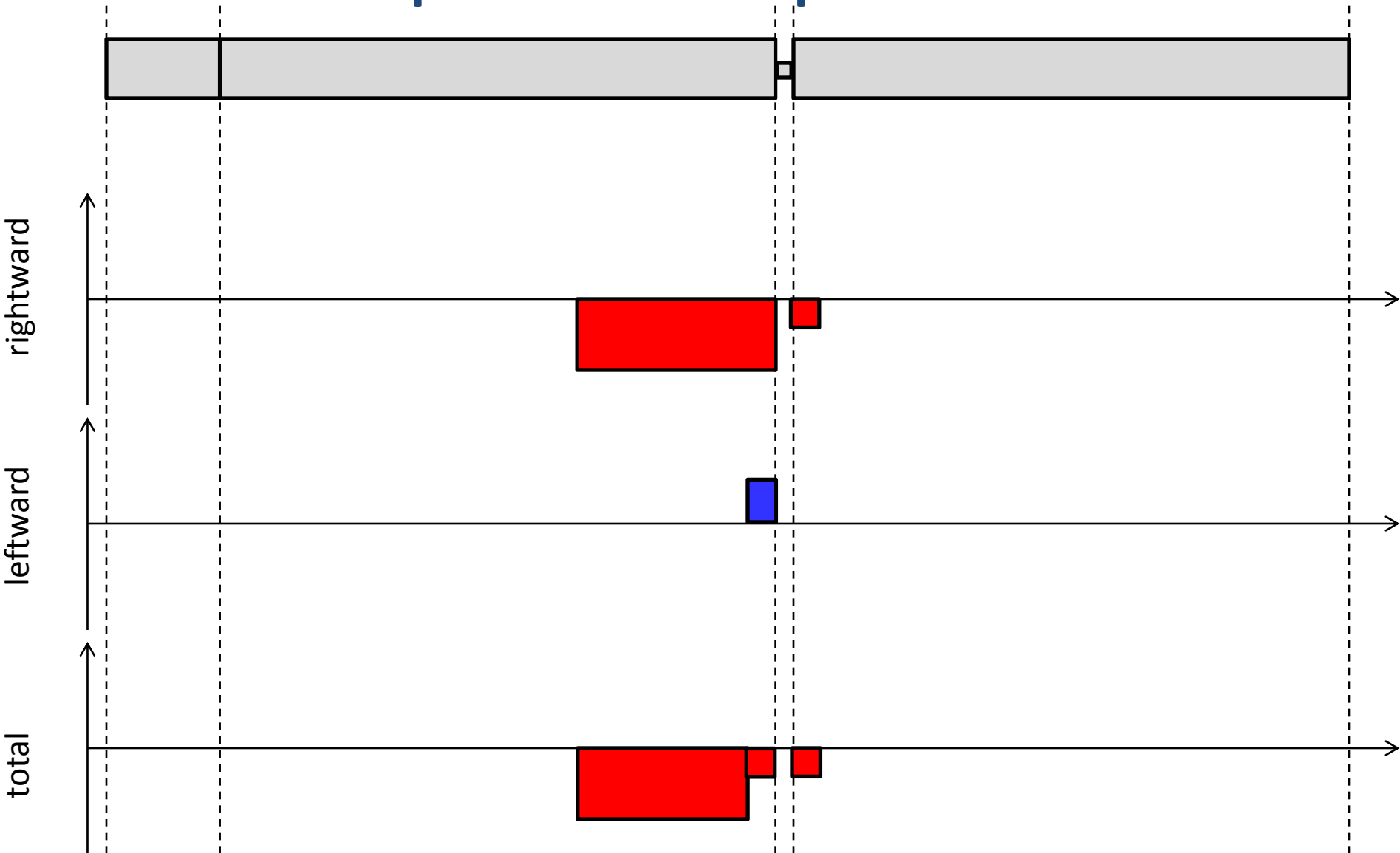
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



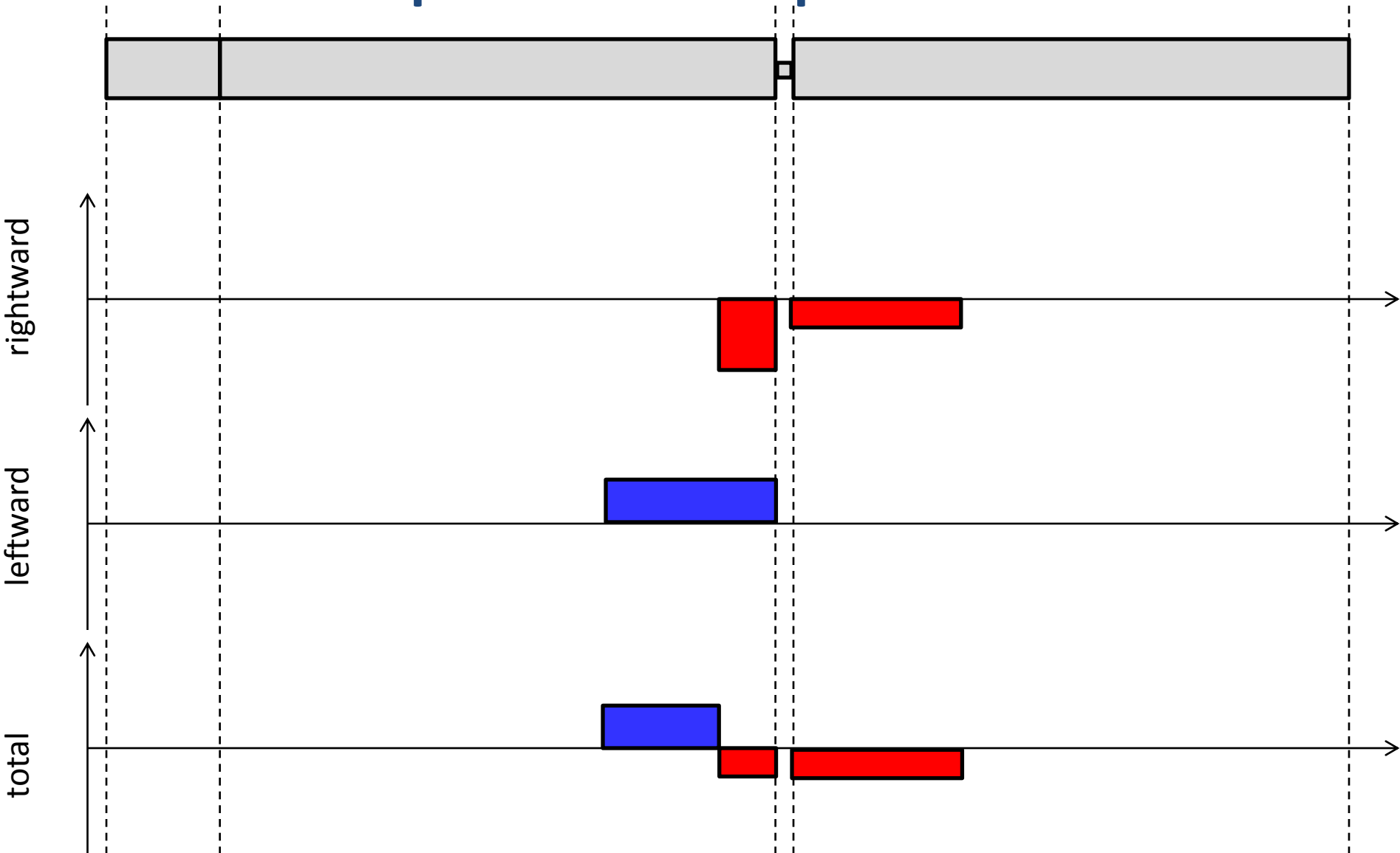
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



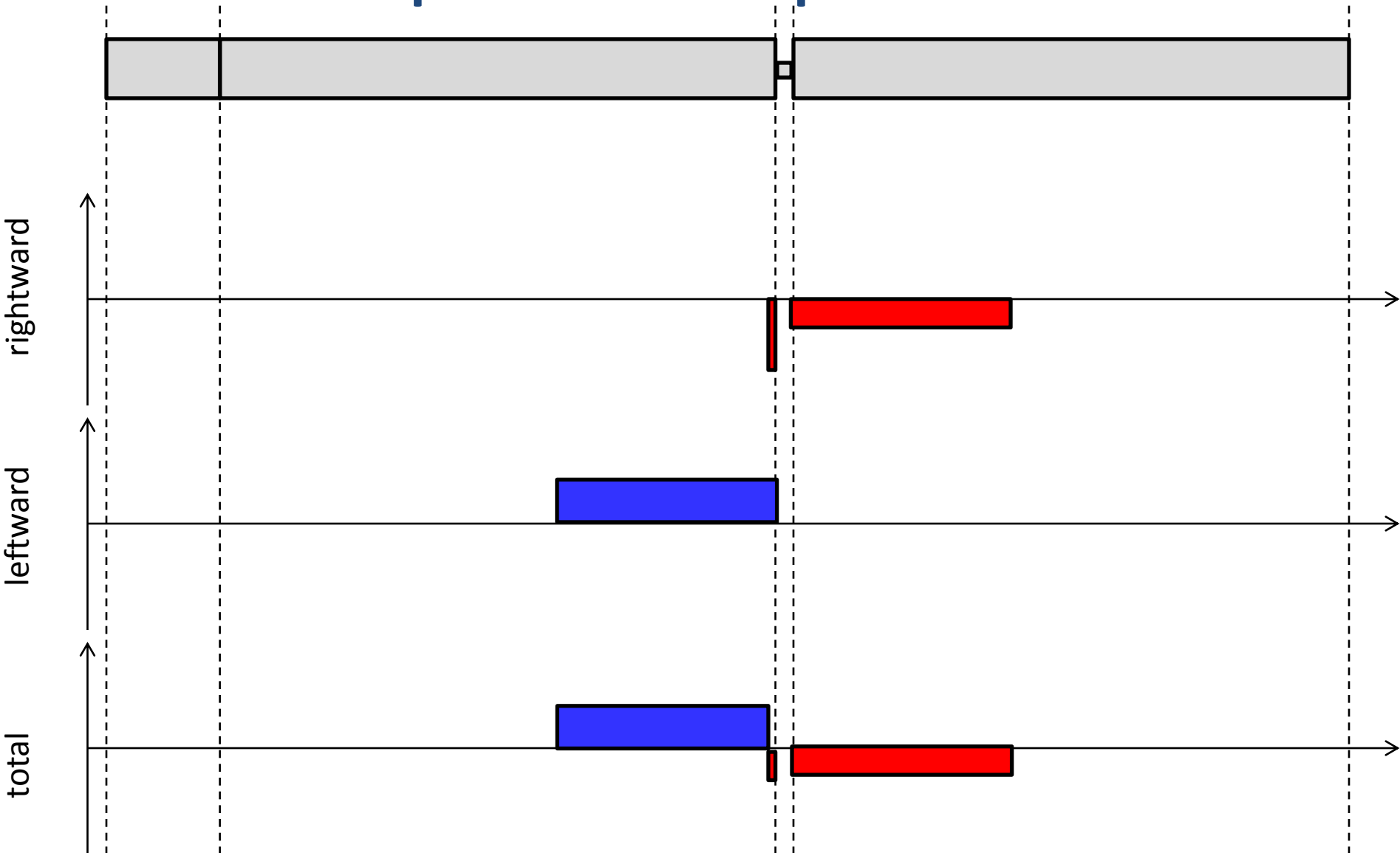
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



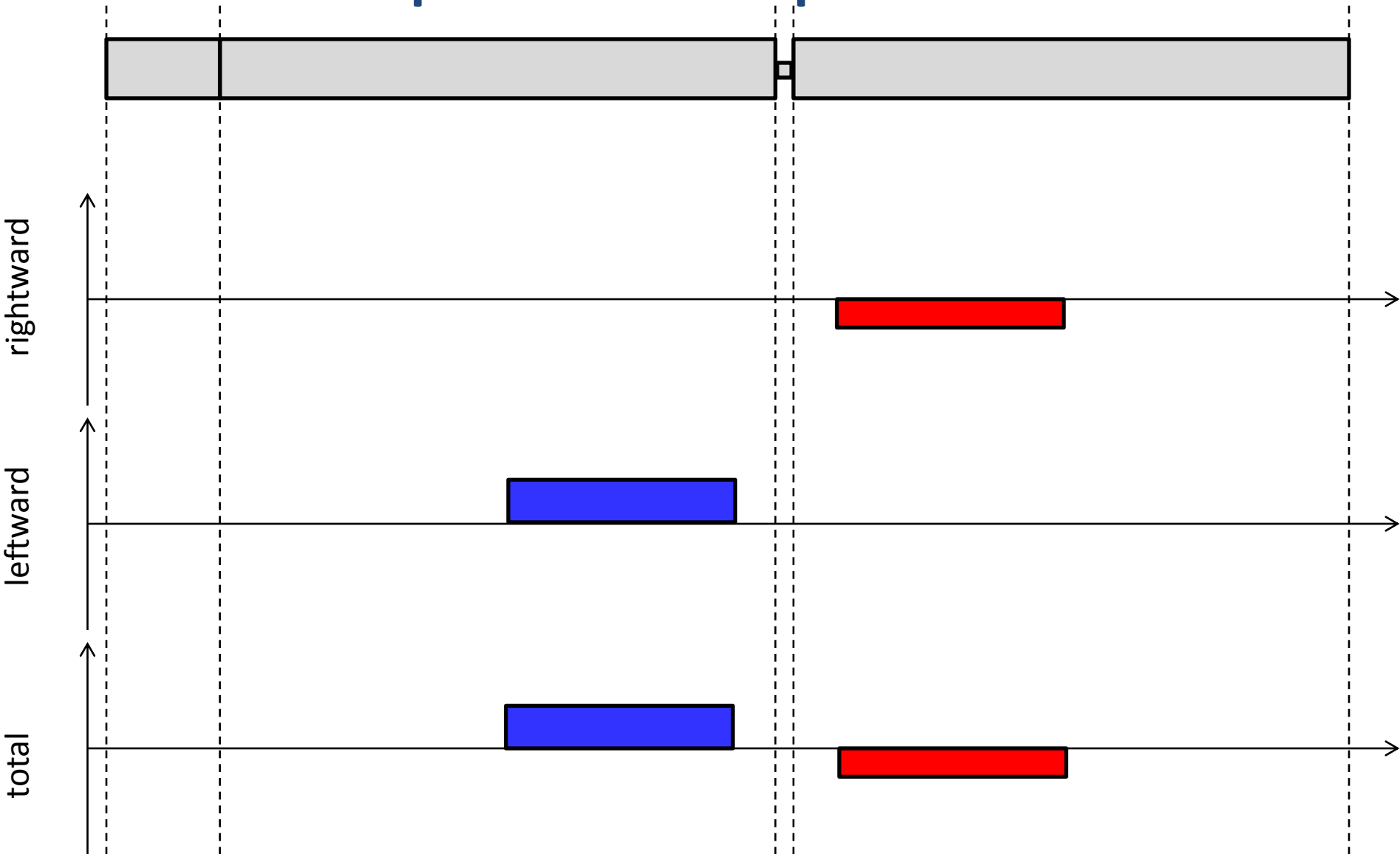
# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



# Hopkinson Bar Experiment

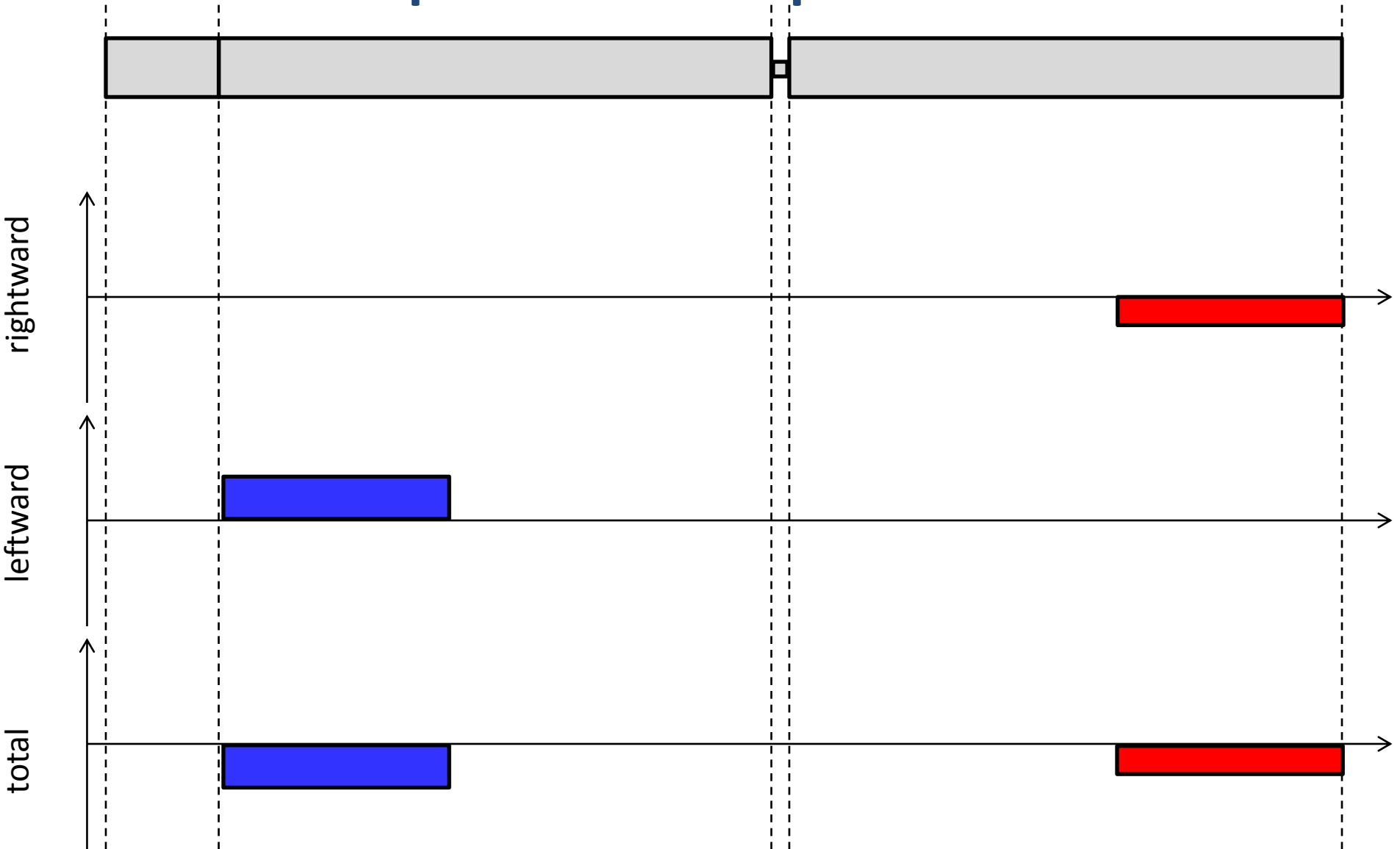


# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



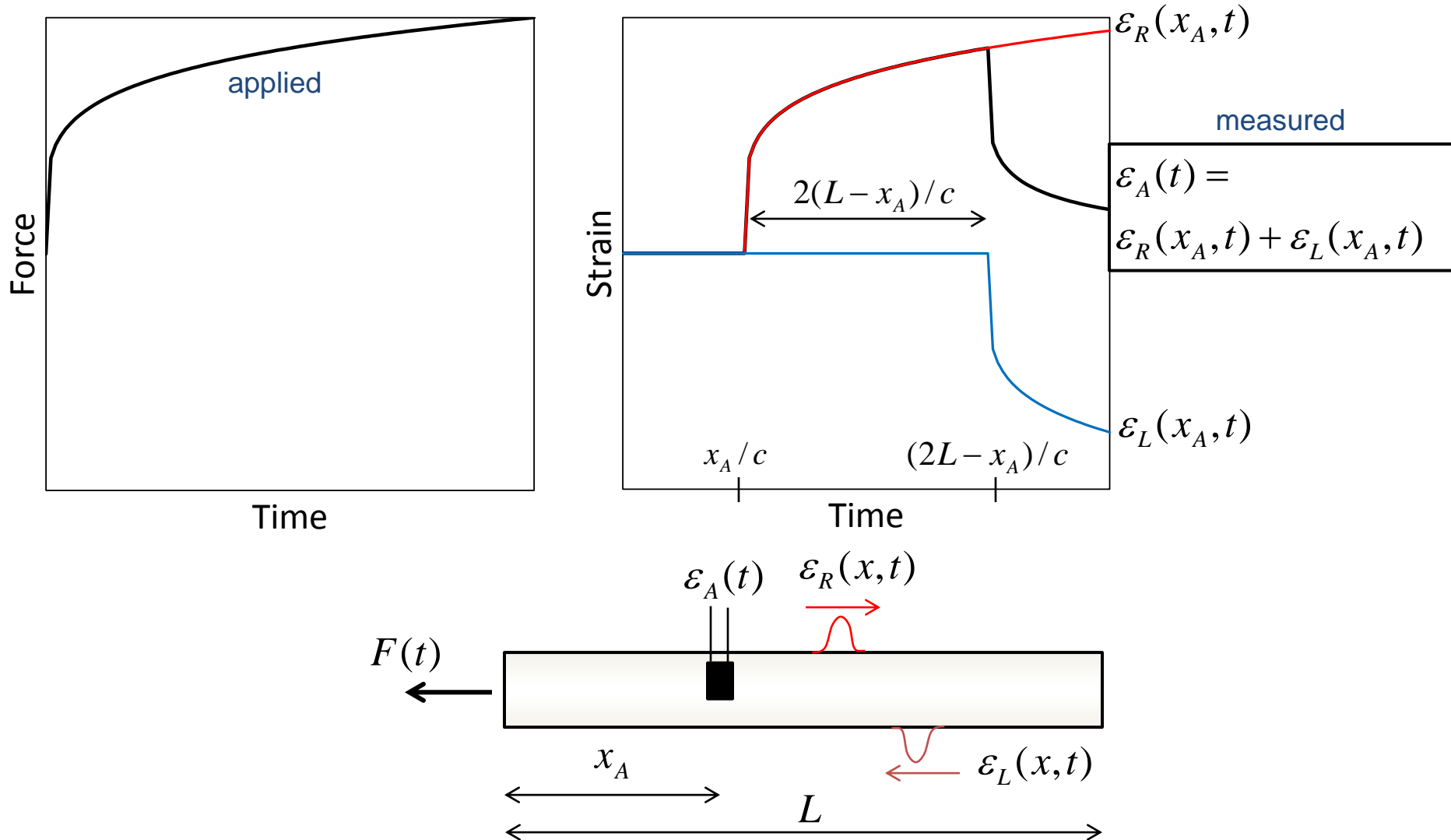


# Hopkinson Bar Experiment



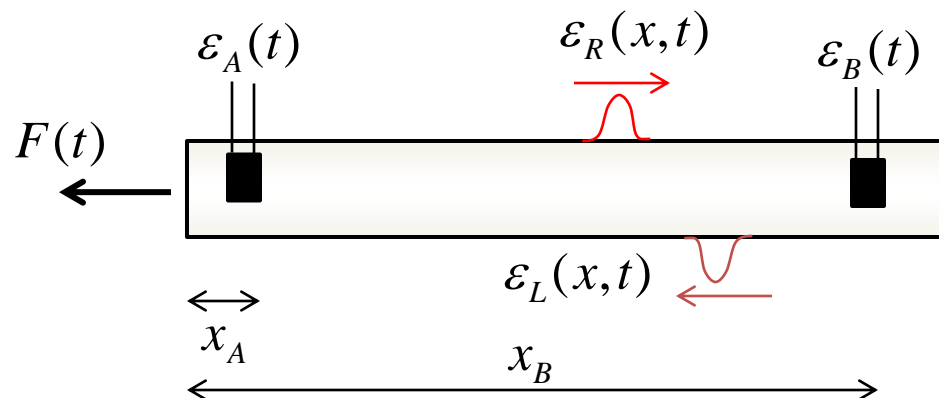
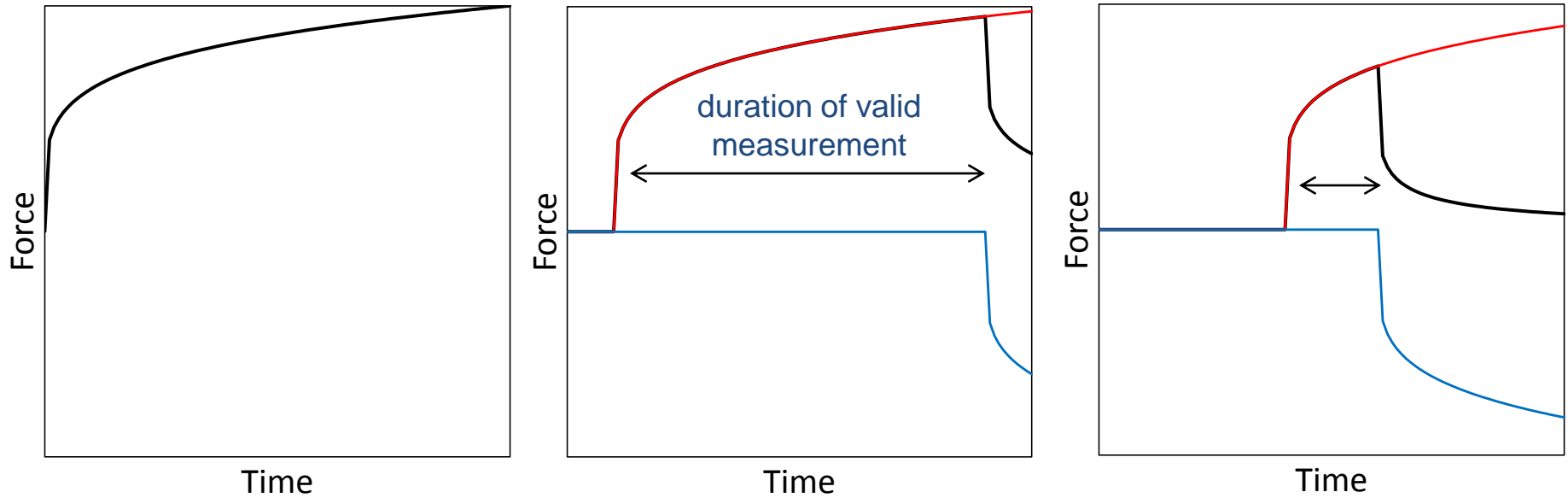
# HOPKINSON BAR TECHNIQUE

Measuring force with a slender bar



# HOPKINSON BAR TECHNIQUE

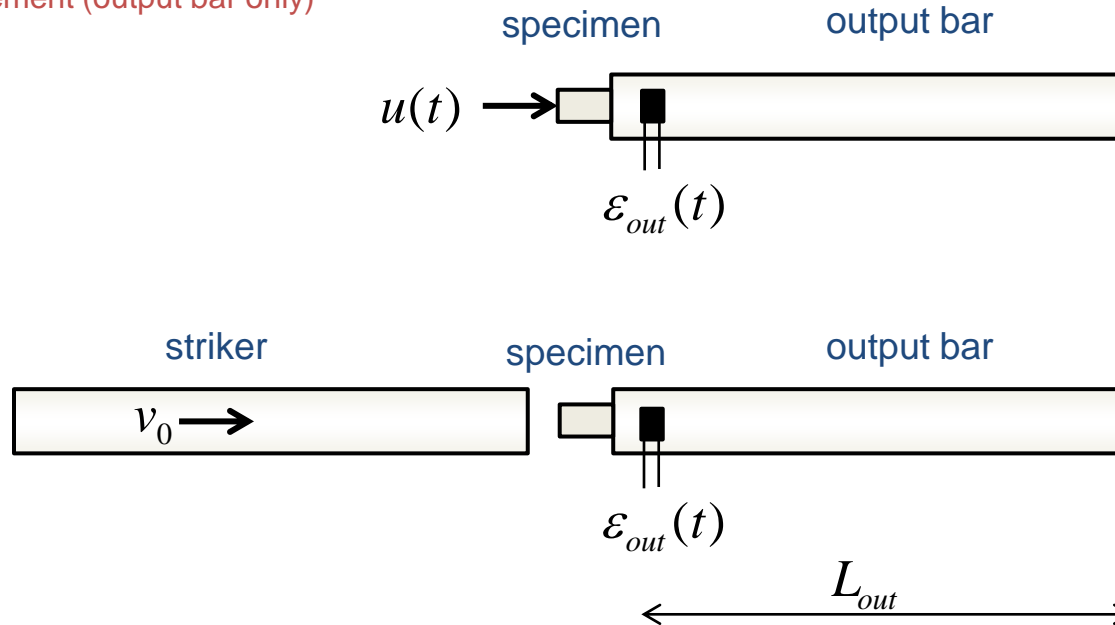
Measuring force with a slender bar



# HOPKINSON BAR TECHNIQUE

Direct impact experiment:

One force measurement (output bar only)



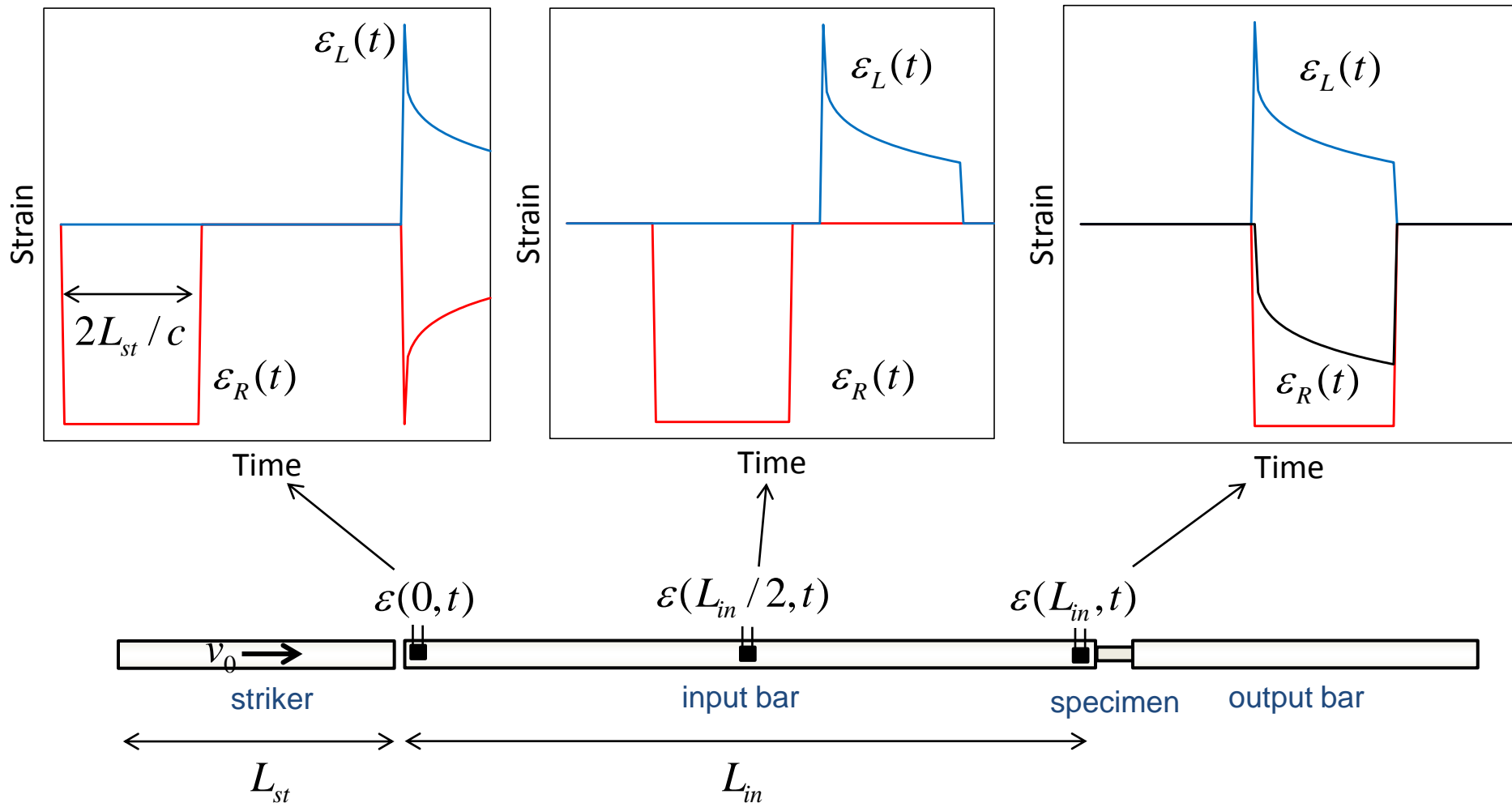
Strategy: Experiment ends before leftward traveling wave in output bar reaches strain gage

Length of output bar  $\swarrow$   $L_{out} > \frac{T}{2c_{out}}$   $\nwarrow$  duration of the experiment

# HOPKINSON BAR TECHNIQUE

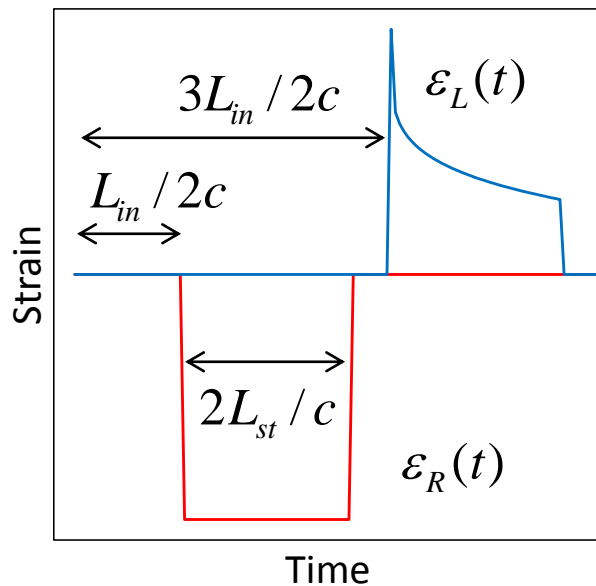
## Split Hopkinson Pressure Bar (SHPB) experiment

Two force measurements



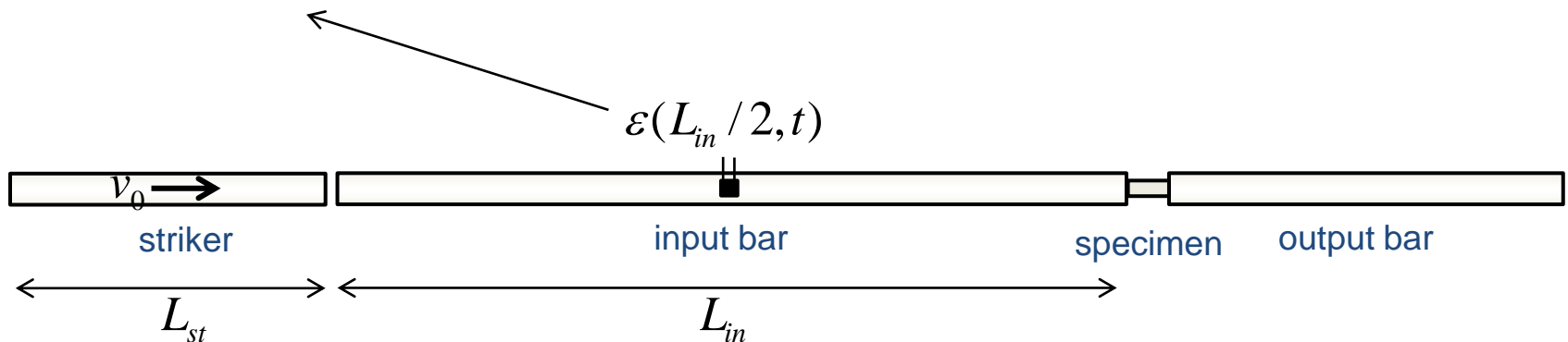
# HOPKINSON BAR TECHNIQUE

Criterion to avoid wave superposition at strain gage position



$$3L_{in}/2c > L_{in}/2c + 2L_{st}/c$$

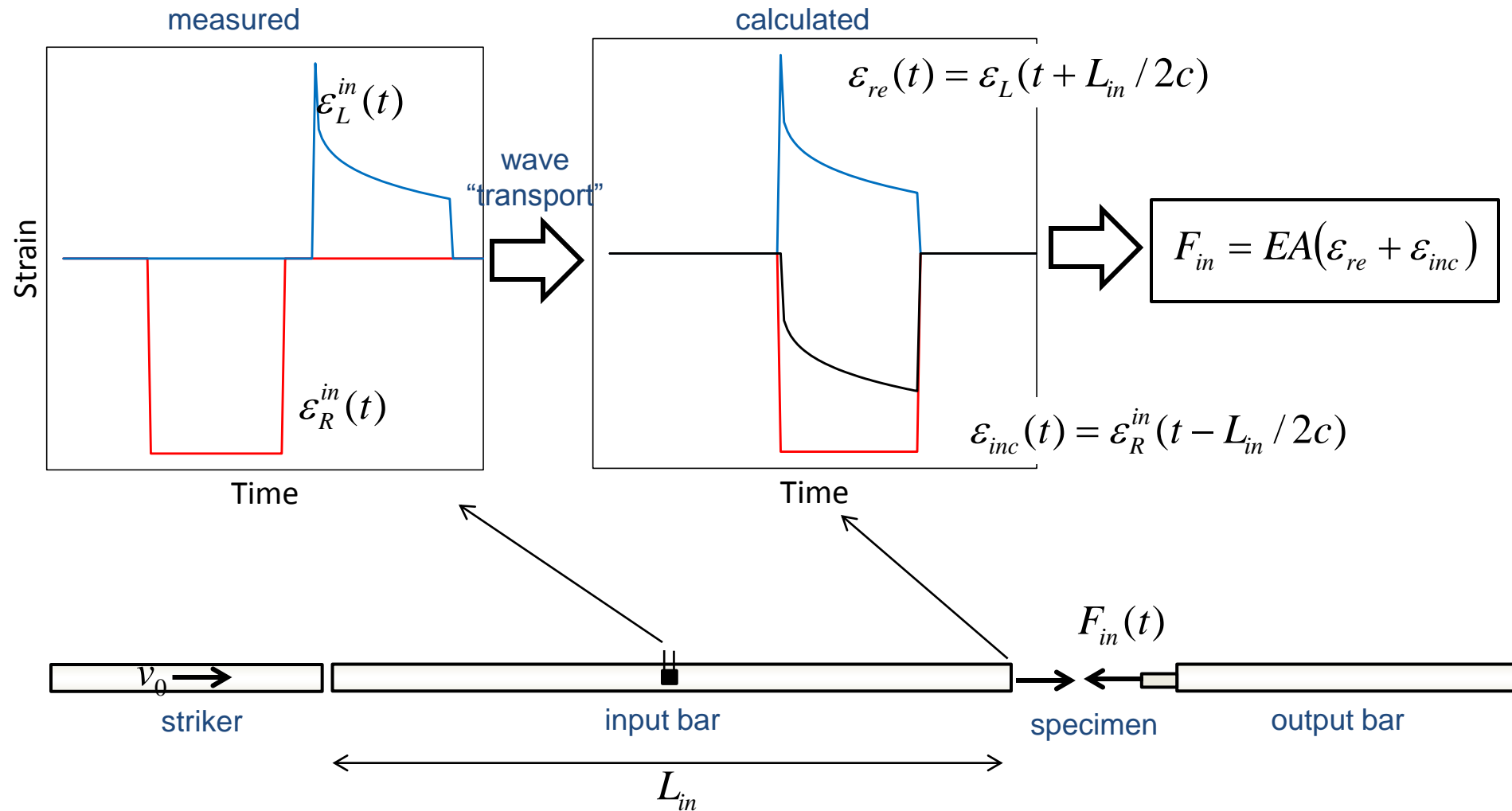
$$\Rightarrow L_{in} > 2L_{st}$$



# SPLIT HOPKINSON PRESSURE BAR (SHPB) SYSTEM

Kolsky (1949)

Input force measurement:



# SPLIT HOPKINSON PRESSURE BAR (SHPB) SYSTEM



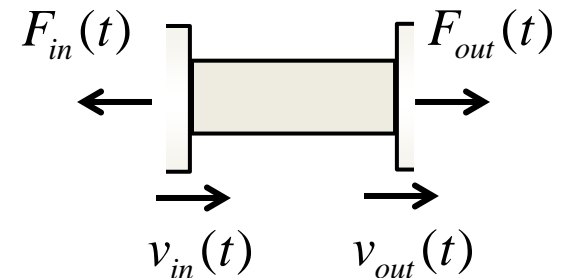
Calculate forces and velocities at specimen boundaries

Input bar/specimen interface:

$$\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_R^{in}(t) \\ \varepsilon_L^{in}(t) \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_{inc}(t) \\ \varepsilon_{re}(t) \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} F_{in} = EA(\varepsilon_{re} + \varepsilon_{inc}) \\ v_{in} = c(\varepsilon_{re} - \varepsilon_{inc}) \end{array}$$

Output bar/specimen interface:

$$\varepsilon_R^{out}(t) \Rightarrow \varepsilon_{tra}(t) \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} F_{out} = EA\varepsilon_{tra} \\ v_{out} = -c\varepsilon_{tra} \end{array}$$



Specimen specific post-processing

Verify quasi-static equilibrium

Coupling with other measurements (e.g. high speed photography)

Calculate stress, strain and strain rate



# DESIGN OF A STEEL SHPB SYSTEM

Duration of the experiment:

$$T = \frac{\varepsilon_{\max}}{\dot{\varepsilon}_{av}} = \frac{0.5}{1000} = 500 \mu s$$

Minimum output bar length:

$$L_{out} = Tc / 2 = 0.0005s \times 5000m / s / 2 = 1.25m$$

Minimum striker bar length:

$$L_{st} = Tc / 2 = 1.25m$$

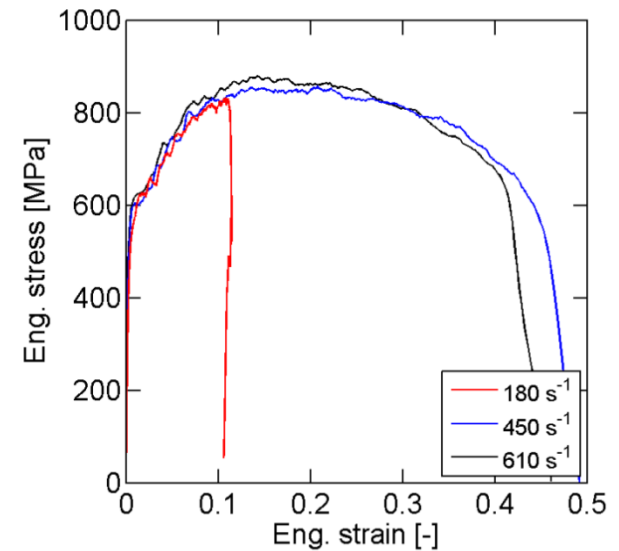
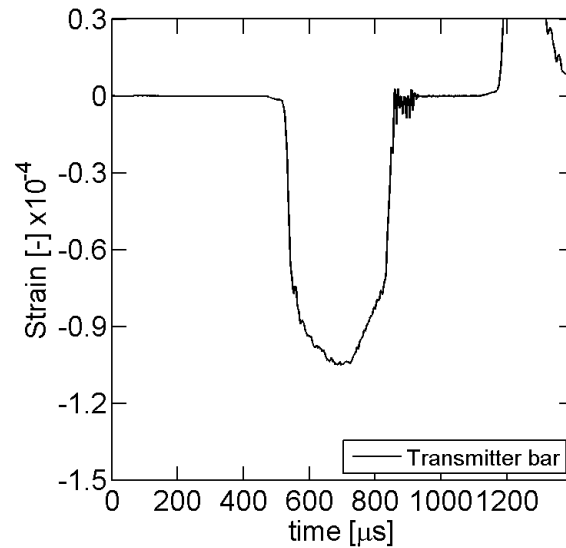
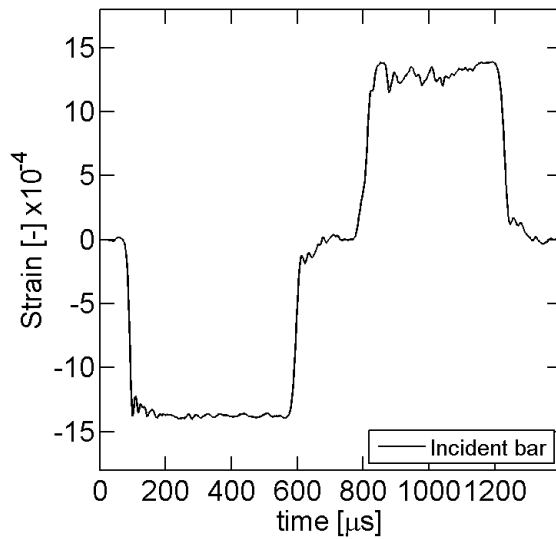
Minimum input bar length:

$$L_{in} = 2L_{st} = 2.5m$$



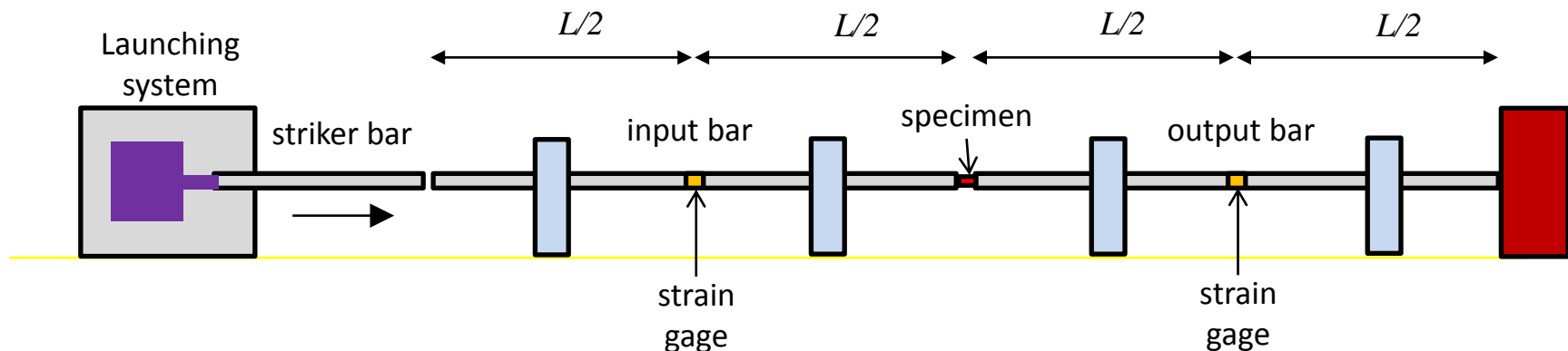
The bar diameters need to be chosen in accordance with the forces required to deform the specimen (force associated with incident wave should be much higher than the specimen resistance)

# EXAMPLE EXPERIMENT

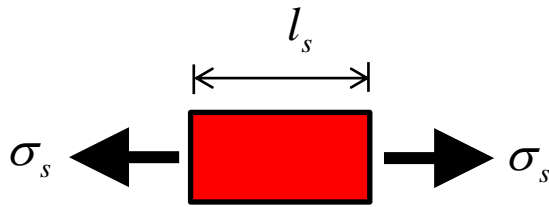


# Kolsky bar system

- Requirements:
- Striker, input and output bar made from the same bar stock (i.e. same material, same diameter)
  - Length of input and output bars identical
  - Striker bar length less than half the input bar length
  - Strain gages positioned at the center of the input and output bars



# Kolsky bar formulas

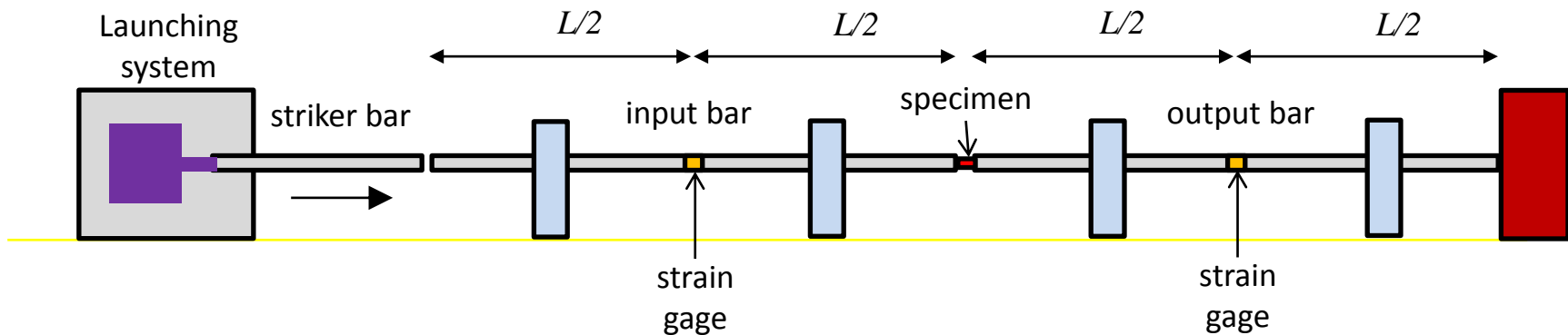
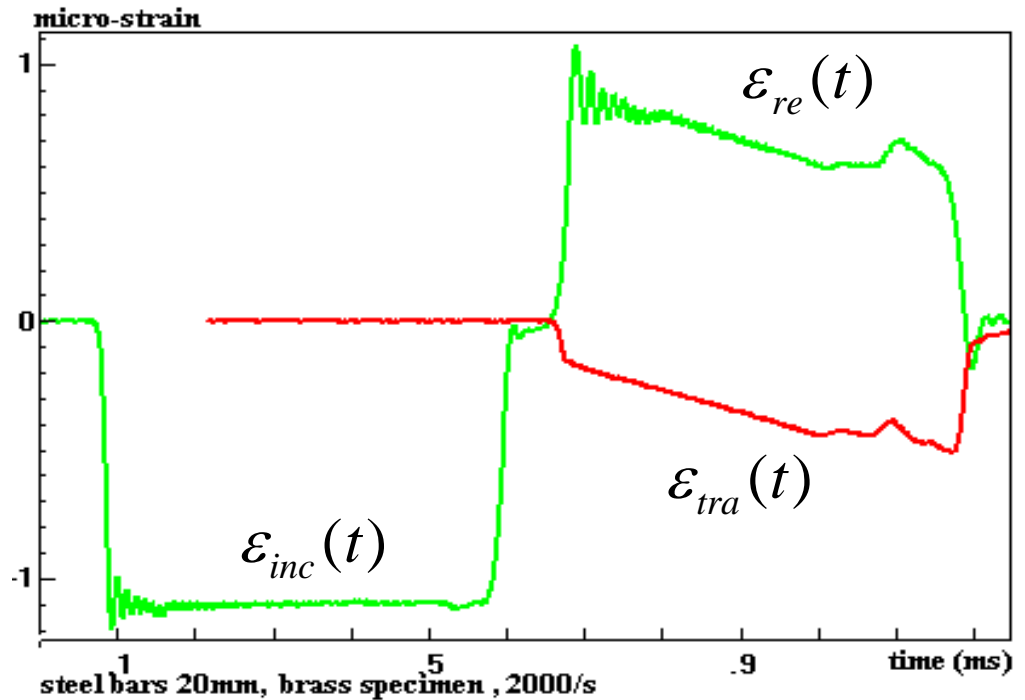


- Stress in specimen:

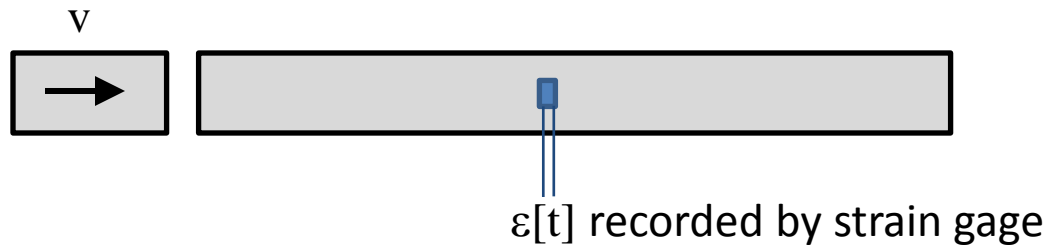
$$\sigma_s(t) = \frac{EA}{A_s} \varepsilon_{tra}(t)$$

- Strain rate in specimen:

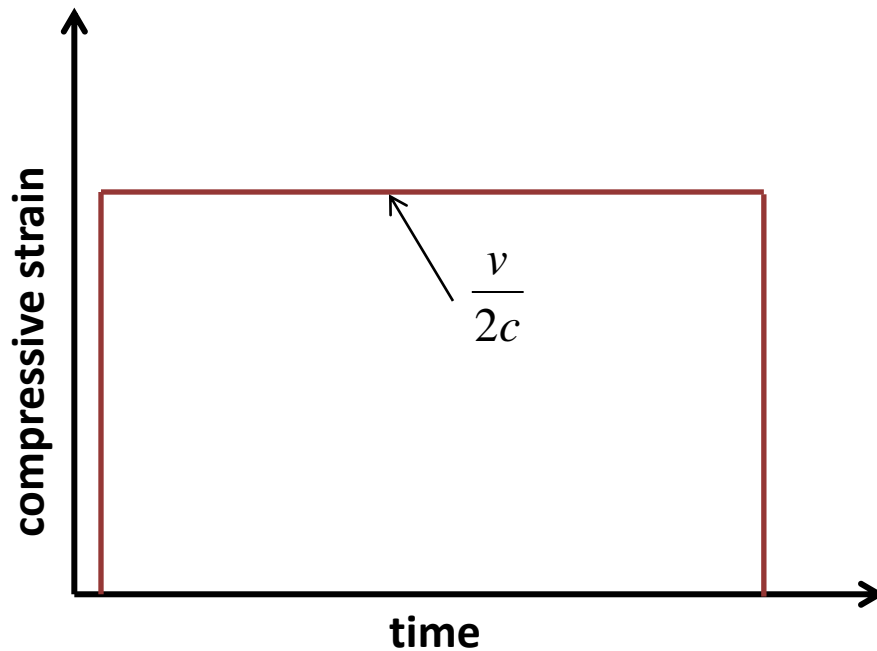
$$\dot{\varepsilon}_s(t) = -\frac{2c}{l_s} \varepsilon_{re}(t)$$



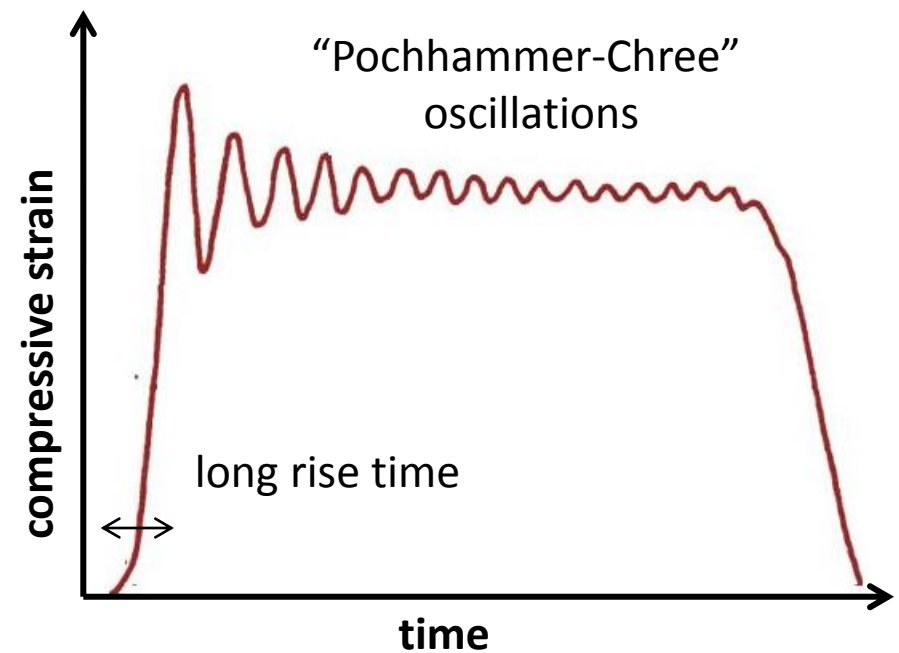
# Wave Dispersion Effects



1D THEORY



EXPERIMENT



# Wave Dispersion Effects

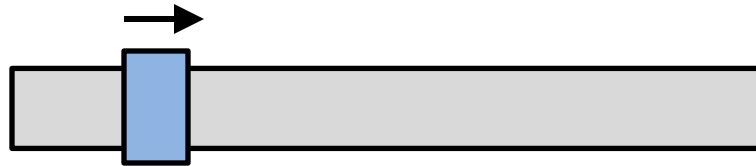
**Simplified model:**

axial compression only:

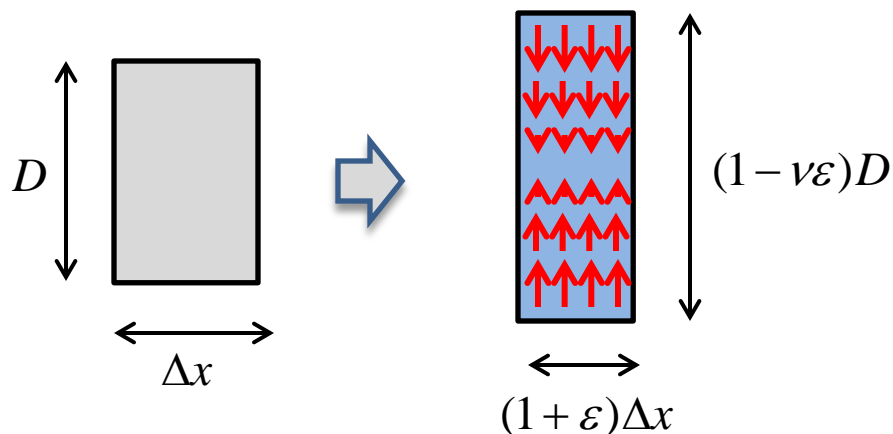


**Reality:**

axial compression &  
radial expansion:



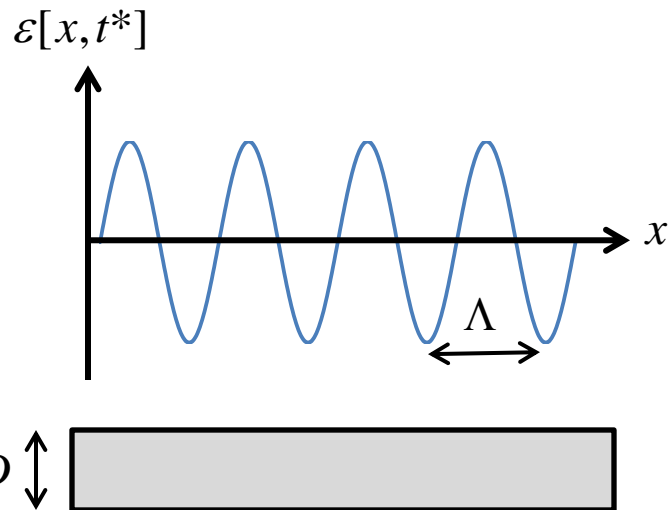
In reality, the wave propagation in a bar is a 3D problem and lateral inertia effects come into play due to the Poisson's effect!



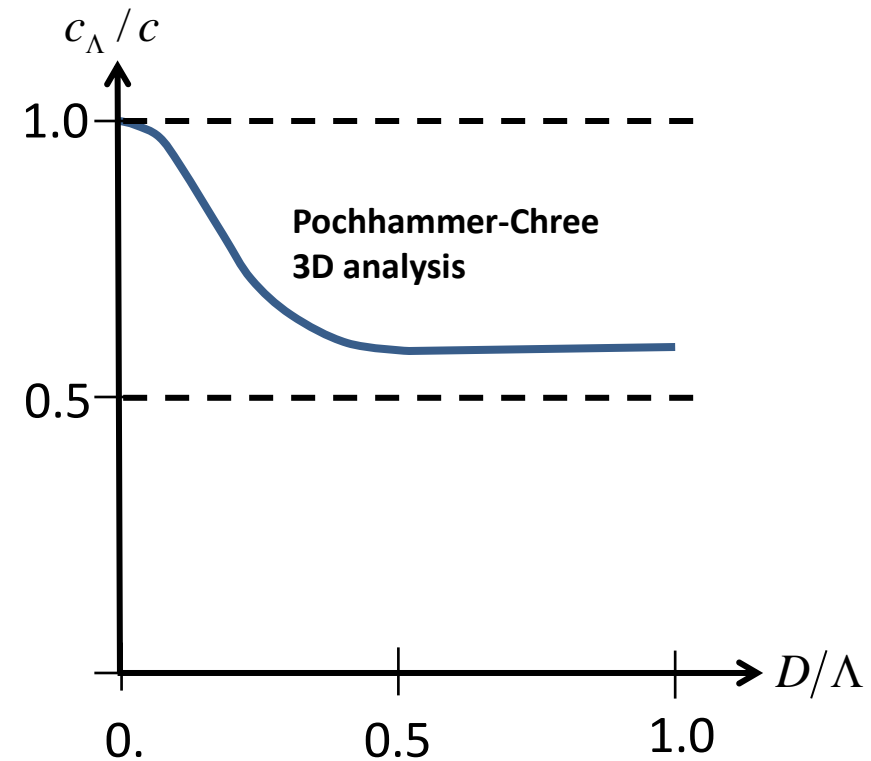
**Inertia forces** along the radial direction delay the radial expansion upon axial compression

# Geometric Wave Dispersion

- Consider a rightward traveling sinusoidal wave train of wave length  $\Lambda$  in an infinite bar of radius  $a$  raveling at wave speed  $c_\Lambda$



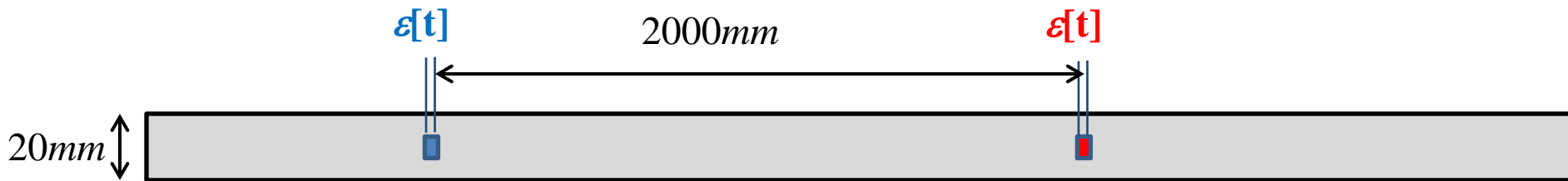
- Theoretical wave speed (1D analysis):  $c = \sqrt{E/\rho}$
- Theoretical wave speed (3D analysis):



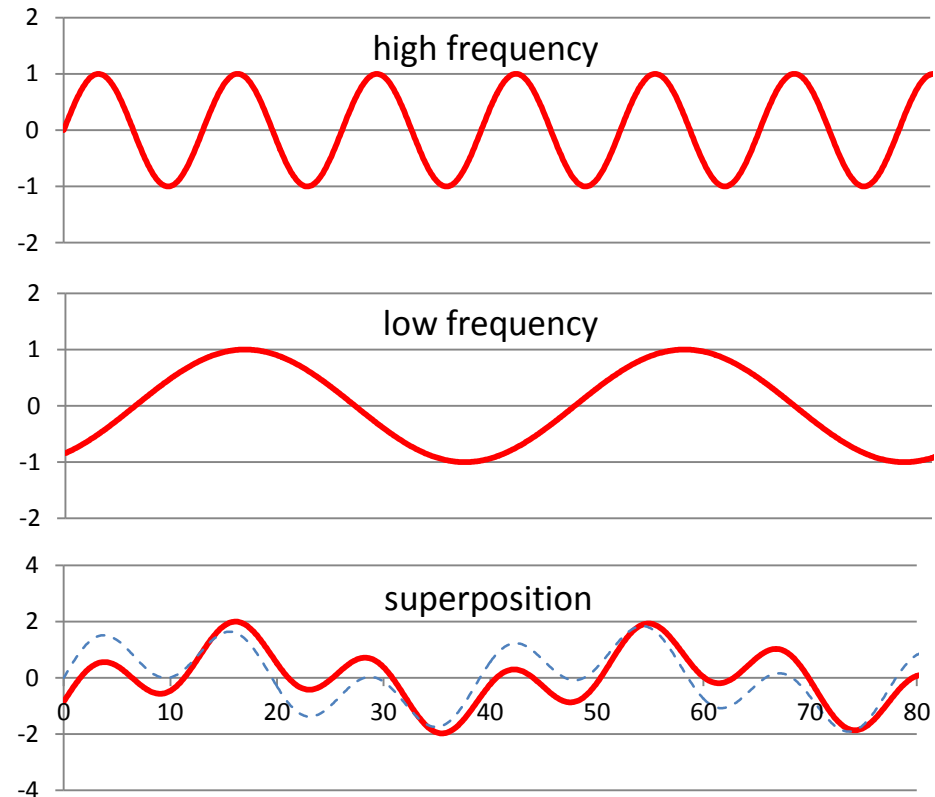
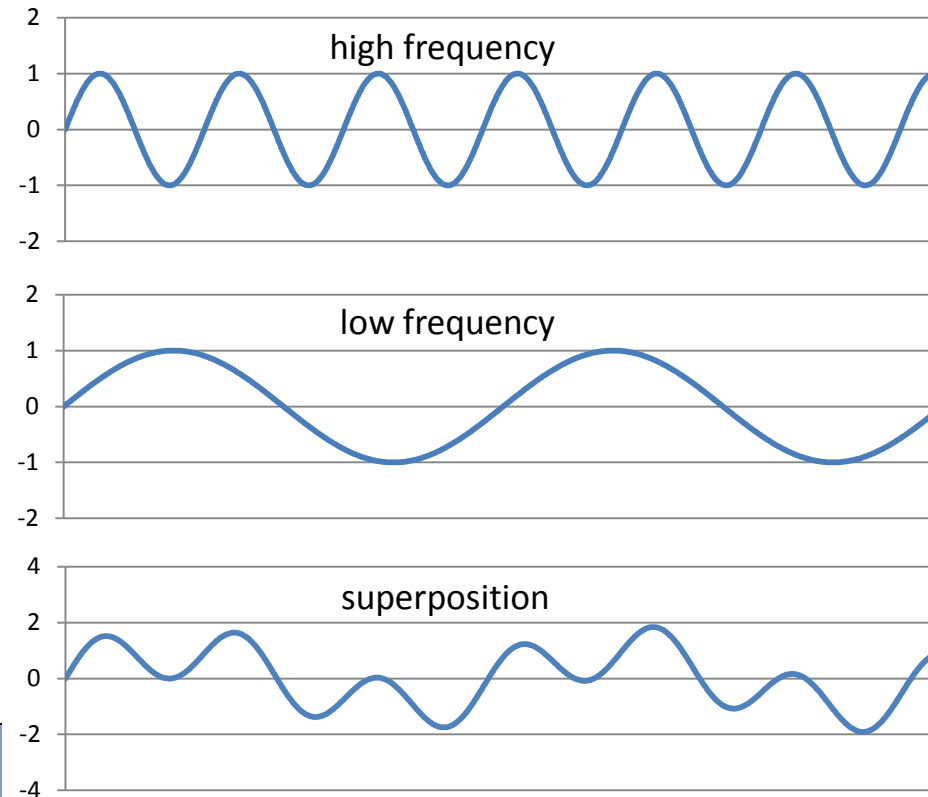
- The wave propagation speed depends on wave length!
- The 1D theory only true for very long wave lengths (or very thin bars)
- High frequency waves propagate more slowly than low frequency waves

# Geometric Wave Dispersion

- Example: Rightward propagating wave in a steel bar



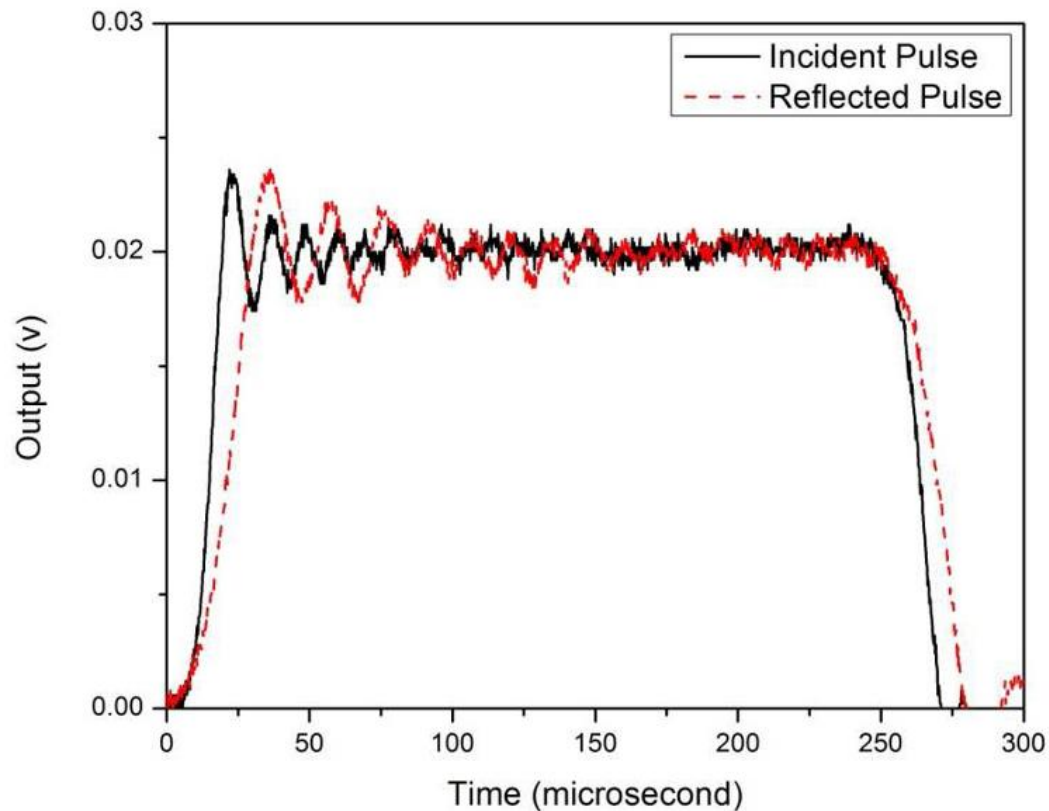
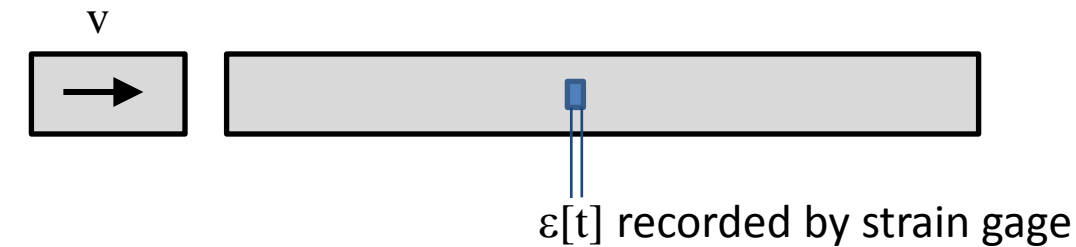
$$\begin{array}{l}
 \Lambda_1 = 40\text{mm} \quad \Rightarrow \quad D/\Lambda_1 = 0.5 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_1 \cong 3.1\text{km/s} \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_1 \cong 78\text{kHz} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta T_1 \cong 642\mu\text{s} \\
 \Lambda_2 = 200\text{mm} \quad \Rightarrow \quad D/\Lambda_2 = 0.1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_2 \cong 4.9\text{km/s} \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_2 \cong 25\text{kHz} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta T_2 \cong 406\mu\text{s}
 \end{array}$$





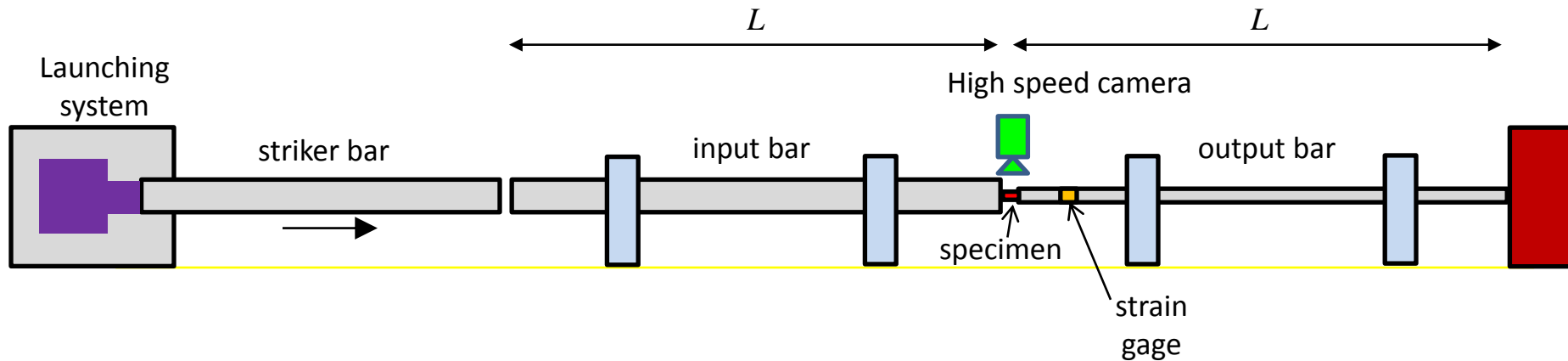
# Geometric Wave Dispersion

- Example



Chen & Song (2010)

# Modern Hopkinson Bar Systems



- Features:
- Striker and input typically made from the same bar stock (i.e. same material, same diameter)
  - Small diameter output bar for accurate force measurement
  - Similar length of all bars
  - Output bar strain gages positioned near specimen end
  - Wave propagation modeled with dispersion
  - Strains are measured directly on specimen surface using Digital Image Correlation (DIC)

# ADVANCED TOPICS related to SHPB technique

- Accurate wave transport taking geometric wave dispersion into account
- Use of visco-elastic bars (slower wave propagation than in metallic bars, more sensitive for soft materials)
- Torsion and tension Hopkinson bar systems
- Lateral inertia at the specimen level
- Friction at the bar/specimen interfaces
- Dynamic testing of materials (where quasi-static equilibrium cannot be achieved)
- Pulse shaping
- Intermediate strain rate testing
- Infrared temperature measurements
- Experiments to characterize brittle fracture
- Multi-axial ductile fracture experiments
- Experiments under lateral confinement

... and many others.

# Reading Materials for Lecture #2

- George T. Gray, “High-Strain-Rate Testing of Materials: The Split-Hopkinson Pressure Bar”:  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/0471266965.com023.pub2/abstract>
- M.A. Meyers, “Dynamic behavior of Materials” (chapter 2):  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/book/10.1002/9780470172278>
- W. Chen, B. Song, “Split Hopkinson (Kolsky) Bar”:  
<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4419-7982-7>