

# Master MAGIS

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**Adhesive contacts :  
A fracture mechanics approach**

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# Introduction

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## Contact mechanics: which problems ?

- Tribological applications

Friction control, lubrication

Damage : cracking, wear

Assesment of surface treatments, coatings (Hardness measurement)

- Characterization of surfaces and interfaces

Measurement of adhesive properties

Physical interaction between surfaces(Van der Waals, capillarity, physal chemistry...)

Méchanics of surface (plasticity, viscoelasticity...)

Rheology of confined layers

# Introduction

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## Several intricate fields:

- Mechanics of continuous medium  
*Mixed boundary conditions, fracture*
- Mechanics of materials  
*Elasticity, viscoelasticity, plasticity, toughness*
- Surface interactions  
*Van der Waals, capillary forces, Chemical Physics....*
- Fluid mechanics  
*Hydrodynamic , elasto-hydrodynamic lubrication*

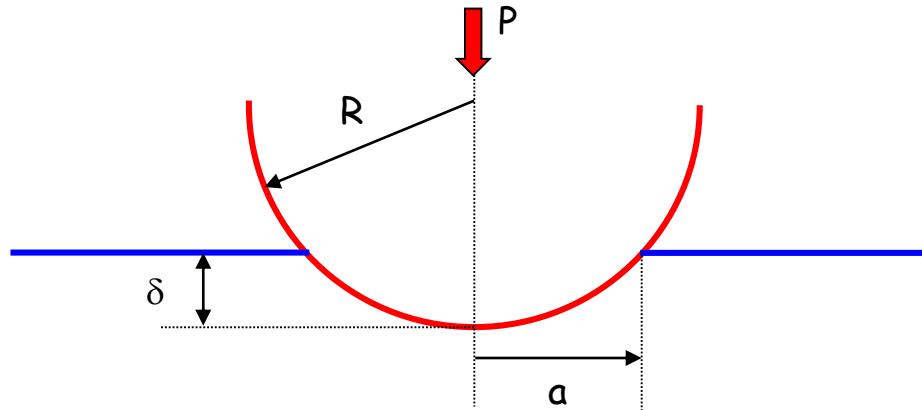


Heinrich Rudolf Hertz  
(1857-1894)

## A wide range of problems and scales:

- Materials mechanical properties  
 $E \sim 10\text{ kPa}$        $E \sim 200\text{ GPa}$
- Surface properties  
Physical-chemistry, environment
- Loading conditions and geometry of the contacting bodies

## Hertz theory - scaling approach /I

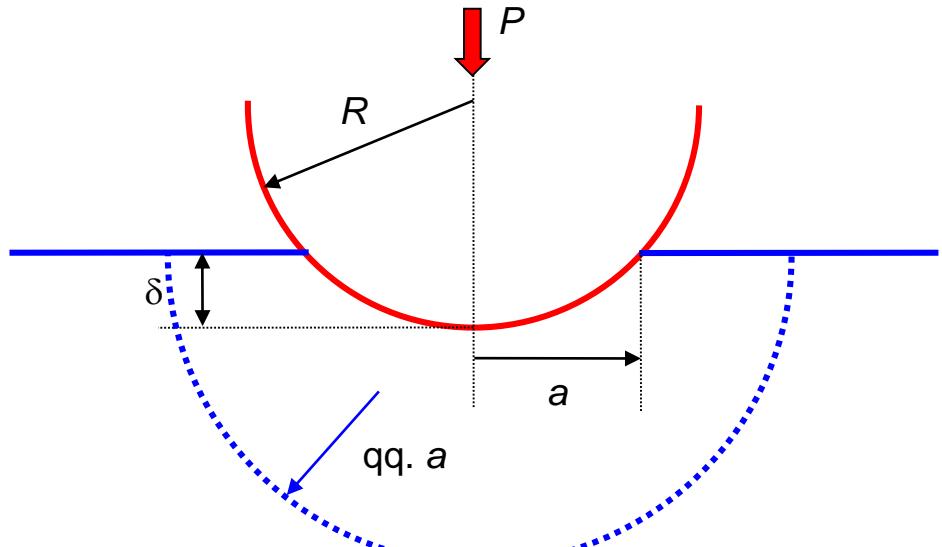


- Isotropic semi-infinite elastic body  
Young's modulus  $E$
- Rigid spherical indenter  
Radius of curvature  $R$

Equilibrium relationship under applied load,  $P$ , indentation depth,  $\delta$  and contact radius,  $a$

Energy balance

## Hertz theory - scaling approach /II



Total energy of the system:

$$U \sim -P\delta + E(\delta/a)^2 a^3$$

Ext. work                       $\varepsilon$                       volume

$$dU/d\delta = 0 \implies$$

$P \sim a^3 E / R$   
 $\delta \sim a^2 / R$

- Average deformation within the contact:

$$\varepsilon \sim \delta/a$$

- Geometry

$$\delta \sim a^2/R \quad (\delta \ll a)$$

⇒ ε ~ a/R

# Hertz contact theory (1882) /I

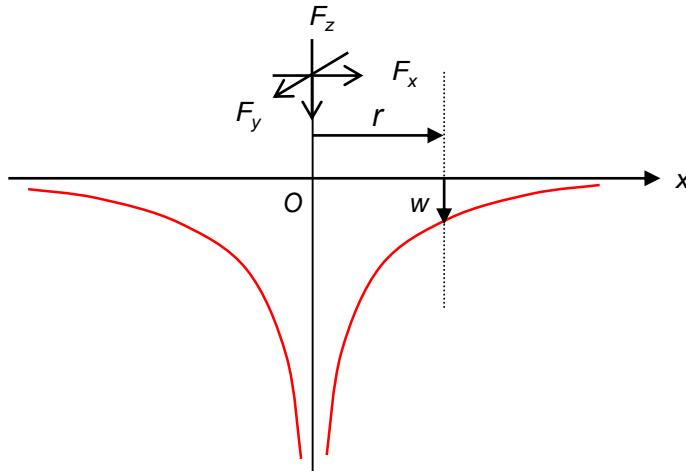
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## Hypothesis :

- Homogeneous, isotropic, semi-infinite bodies (modulus  $E$ , Poisson's ratio  $\nu$ )
- Non adhesive purely elastic contact
- Frictionless (no shear stress at the interface)
- Surfaces are described locally by their radii of curvature
- $a \ll R$  (small strain, non conformal contacts)

# Hertz contact theory / II

## POINT LOADING OF A SEMI-INFINITE MEDIUM : The Green's Tensor

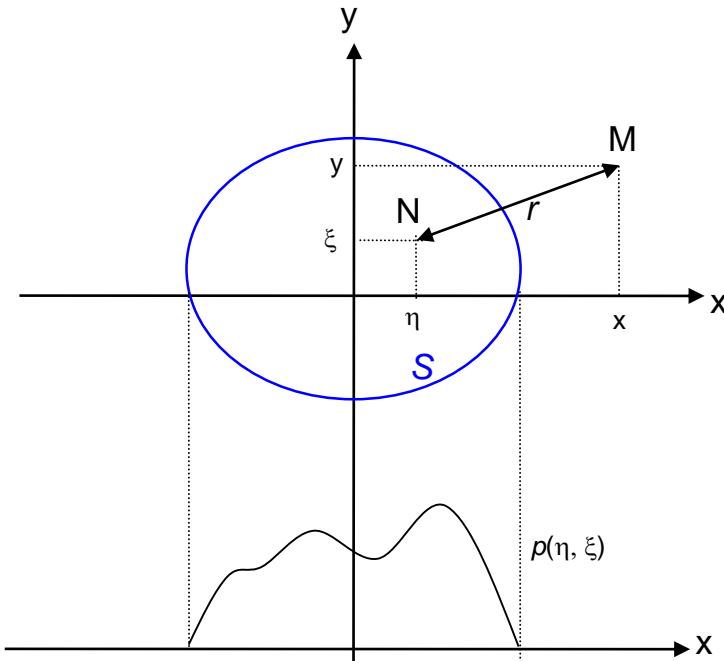


$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} G_{xx} & G_{xy} & G_{xz} \\ G_{yx} & G_{yy} & G_{yz} \\ G_{zx} & G_{zy} & G_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Vertical displacement  $w(r)$  of a surface point :

$$w(r) = \frac{1-v^2}{\pi E} \frac{P}{r}$$

## CONTACT PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION



Point loading at  $N$ :

$$f_z = p(\eta, \zeta) d\eta d\zeta$$

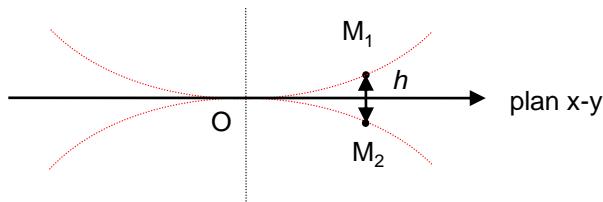
Total vertical displacement at  $M$  induced by the pressure distribution:

$$w(x, y) = \frac{1-v^2}{\pi E} \iint_S \frac{p(\eta, \xi) d\eta d\xi}{\sqrt{(x-\eta)^2 + (y-\xi)^2}}$$

$$r = \sqrt{(x-\eta)^2 + (y-\xi)^2}$$

# Hertz contact theory / III

## Contact equations

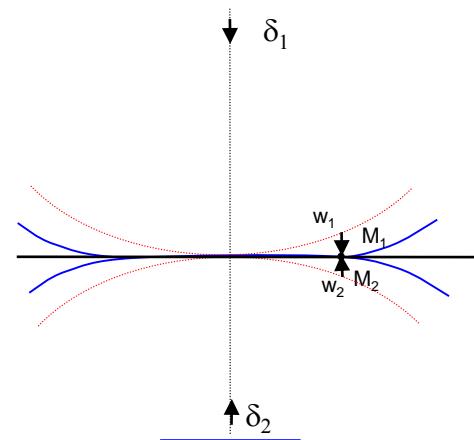


$$P = 0$$

$$h = \frac{x^2}{2R_1} + \frac{y^2}{2R_2}$$

$$R_1' = \frac{R_1' R_1''}{R_1' + R_1''}$$

$$R_2' = \frac{R_2' R_2''}{R_2' + R_2''}$$



$$P > 0$$

Within the contact:

$$w_1(x, y) + w_2(x, y) = \delta - \frac{x^2}{2R_1} - \frac{y^2}{2R_2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{1-v_1^2}{E_1} + \frac{1-v_2^2}{E_2} \right) \iint_S \frac{p(\eta, \xi) d\eta d\xi}{\sqrt{(x-\eta)^2 + (y-\xi)^2}} = \delta - \frac{x^2}{2R_1} - \frac{y^2}{2R_2}$$



$$p(x, y) = p_0 \sqrt{\left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} \right)}$$

Semi-elliptical pressure distribution

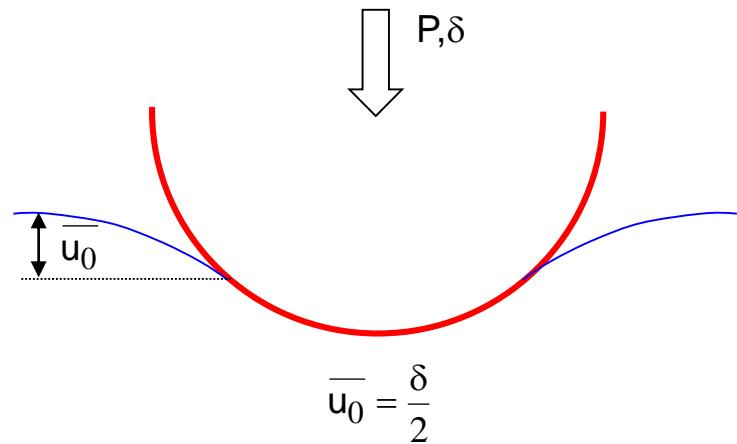
# Hertz contact theory / IV

- Solution for a sphere-on-flat contact

$$P = \frac{a^3 K}{R}$$

$$\delta = \frac{a^2}{R}$$

$$p_0 = \frac{3}{2} \frac{P}{\pi a^2} = \frac{3}{2} p_m = \left[ \frac{6PE^{*2}}{\pi^3 R^2} \right]^{1/3}$$

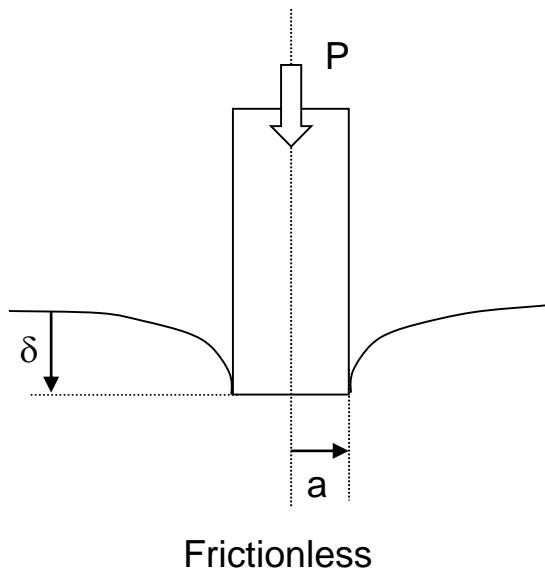


$$K = \frac{4}{3} E^*$$

$$\frac{1}{E^*} = \frac{1 - v_1^2}{E_1} + \frac{1 - v_2^2}{E_2}$$

$$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$

# Contact with a flat-ended cylindrical punch



- Approximate approach:

$$P \sim a E \delta$$

- Exact solution (Boussinesq, 1885) :

$$P = 3/2 a K \delta$$

- Normal contact stiffness with an axisymmetric indenter:

$$k = dP / d\delta$$

$$\boxed{k = 3/2 a K}$$

Vertical slope of the free surface at contact edge  
Divergence of the stresses at contact edge  
→ Relationship with fracture mechanics

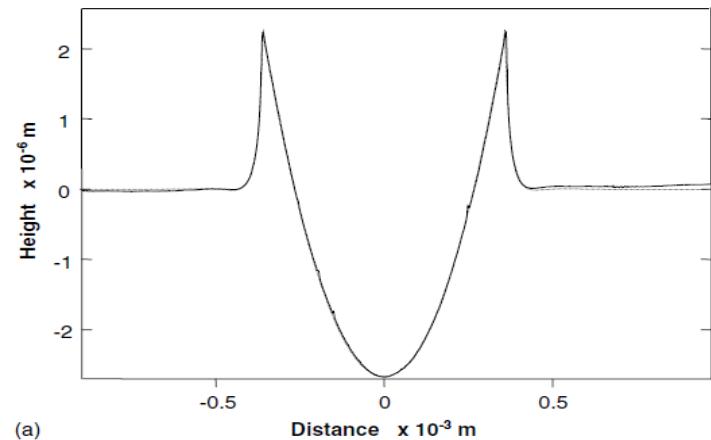
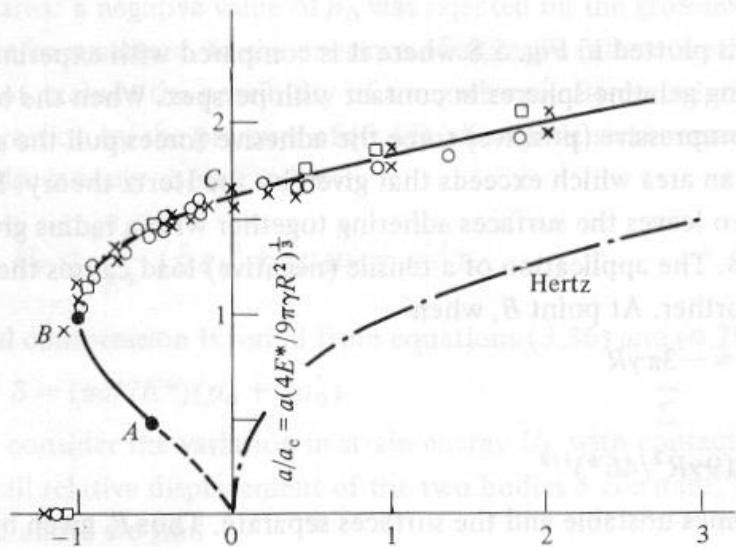
$$p(r) = p_0 \left(1 - \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)^{-1/2}$$

## ADHESIVE CONTACT

- Contact between gelatin spheres and a flat PMMA surface

- Surface profile of a contact between a glass lens and an adhesive acrylate coating

Fig. 5.8. Variation of contact radius with load, eq. (5.49), compared with measurements on gelatine spheres in contact with perspex. Radius  $R$ : circle – 24.5 mm, cross – 79 mm, square – 255 mm.



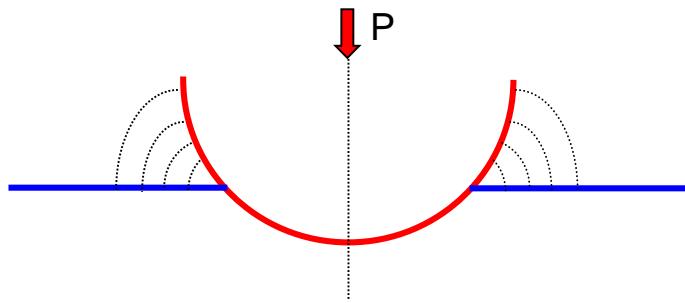
(a)

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Surface energy and the contact of elastic solids.  
*Proceedings of the Royal Society of London A*, **1971**, 324, 301-313

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Contact deformation of elastic coatings in adhesive contacts with spherical probes.  
*Journal of Applied Physics*, **2006**, 39, 3665-3673

# Reversible thermodynamic work of adhesion (Dupré)

Surface forces (VdW) outside the contact:



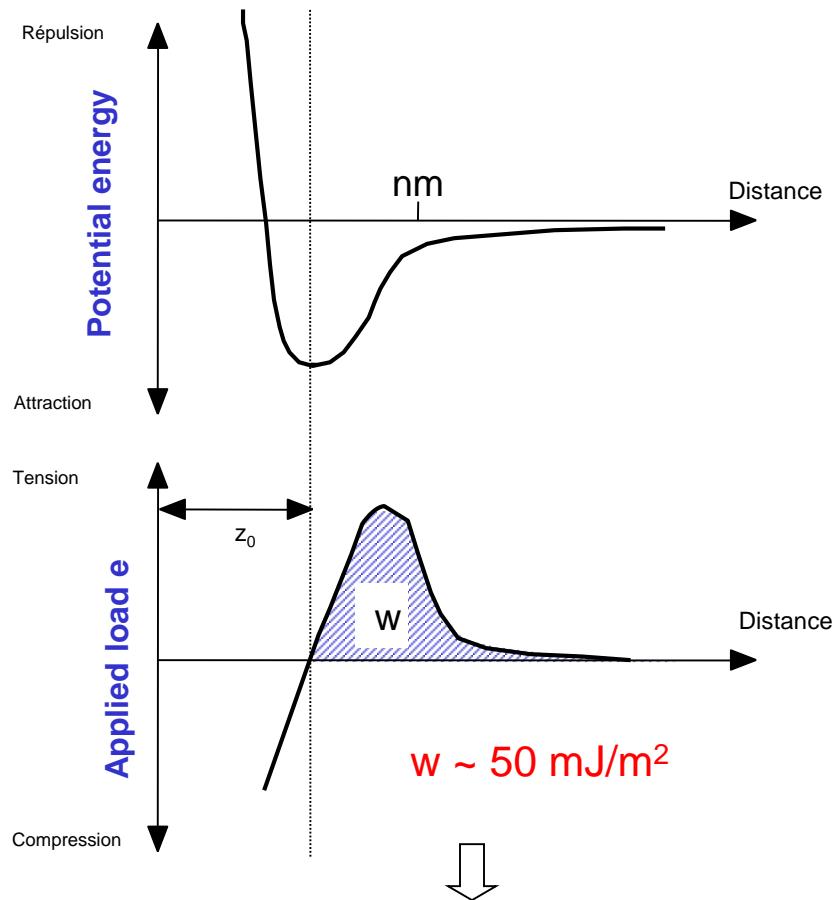
Self-consistency of the problem:

Interaction forces



Surface deformation

Equilibrium conditions  
No chemistry

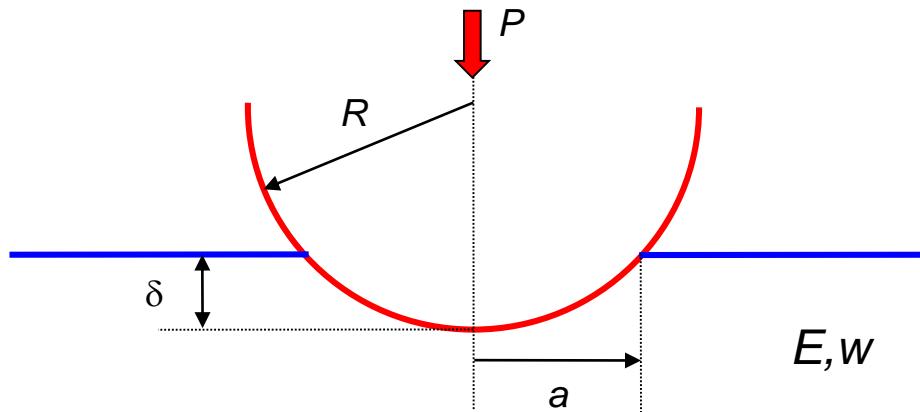


Reversible thermodynamic work  
of adhesion (Dupré)

$$W = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 - \gamma_{12}$$

## Approximate theory

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- Energy of the system:

$$U \sim -P\delta + E (\delta/a)^2 a^3 - w a^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \delta = a^2/R$$

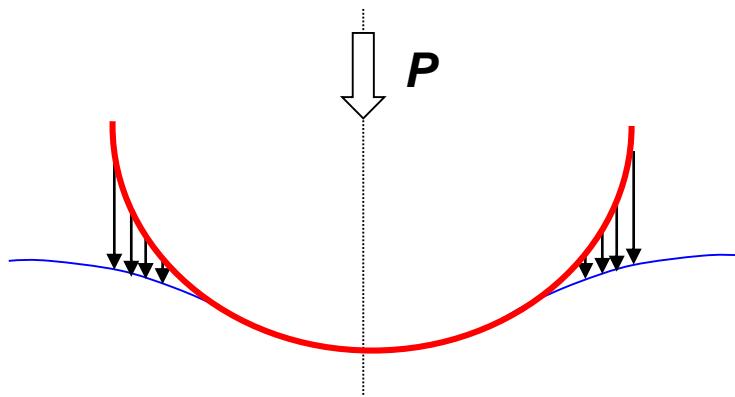
- 'Effective' Hertz load:

$$P_{\text{eff}} = P + w R \sim a^3 E / R$$

# DMT approximation (Derjaguin, Muller, Toporov, 1975)

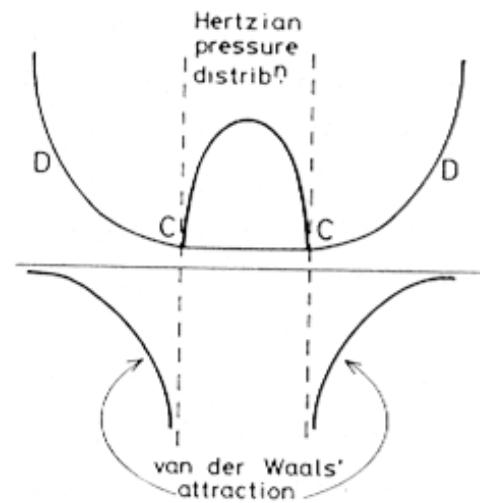
- Under the action of surface forces, the deformation of the surfaces still obeys Hertz elastic equations.
- Surface forces are assumed to act outside of the contact area only within an external annular zone. Their action is neglected within the contact area.
- Surfaces forces do not modify the Hertzian shape of the deformed surfaces.

Rigid materials only



$$P + 2\pi w R = a^3 K / R$$

$$\delta = a^2 / R$$



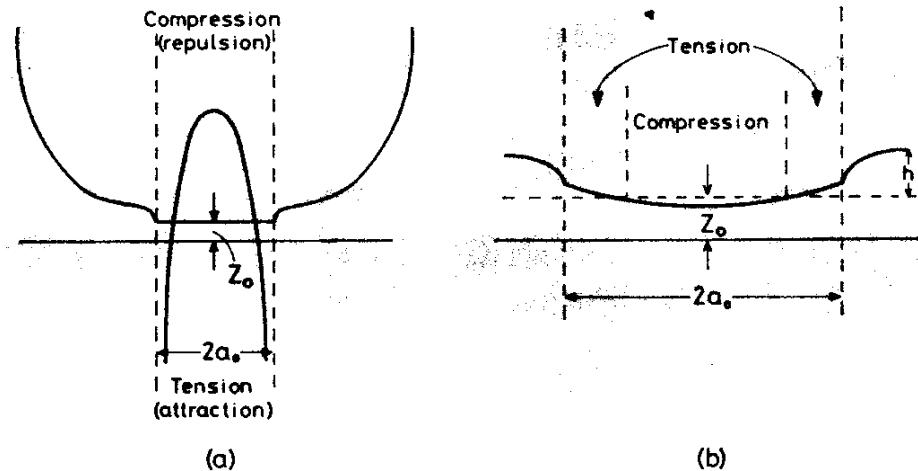
# JKR approximation (Johnson, Kendall, Roberts, 1971) / I

- Developed in order to account of the adhesion of soft materials ( $E \sim \text{kPa-MPa}$ )
- The range of the surface forces is negligible as compared to the gap between the surfaces outside the contact zone:

$$\sigma_{zz} = 0 \quad (r > a)$$

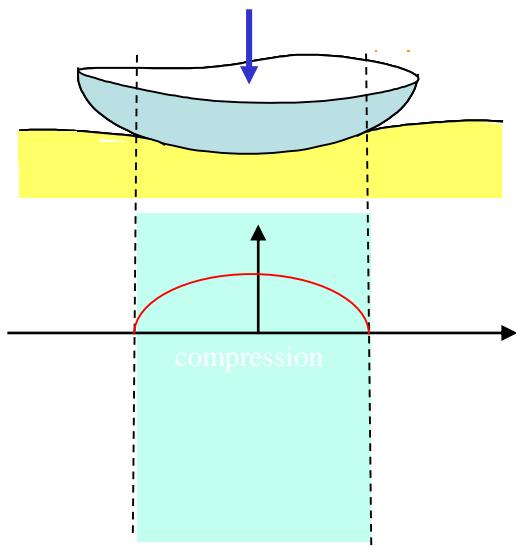
- Traction forces are encountered at the periphery of the contact

## Soft materials

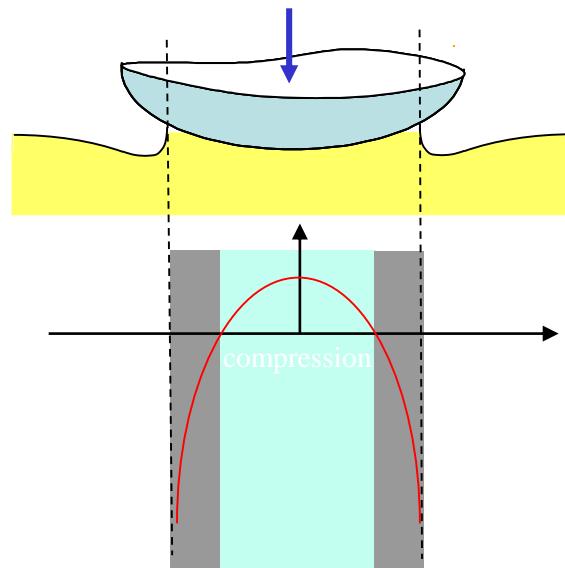


# L'approximation JKR (Johnson, Kendall, Roberts, 1971)

- Adhésion de matériaux mous ( $E \sim \text{kPa-MPa}$ )
- La portée des forces de surface est négligeable devant la séparation des surfaces en bordure de contact:
- Contraintes de traction à la périphérie du contact



Contact hertzien

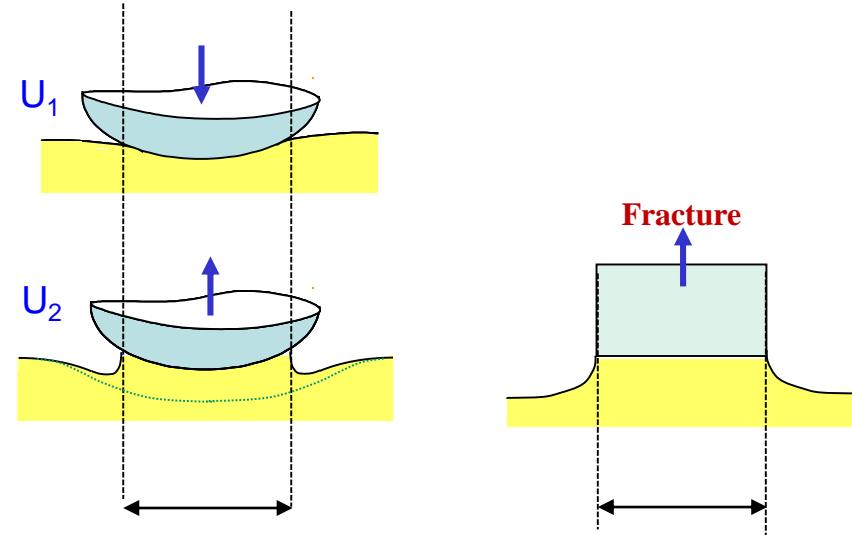


Contact JKR

# Approximation JKR : détermination de l'état d'équilibre adhésif

Équilibre adhésif atteint en deux étapes:

- ( $U_1$ ) un contact non adhésif correspondant au rayon d'équilibre atteint sous une charge hertzienne  $P_1 = a^3 K / R$ .
- ( $U_2$ ) Un déplacement vertical rigide est appliqué à tous les points du contact pour atteindre, à rayon de contact constant  $a$ , la force  $P$  et l'indentation  $\delta$  à l'équilibre.

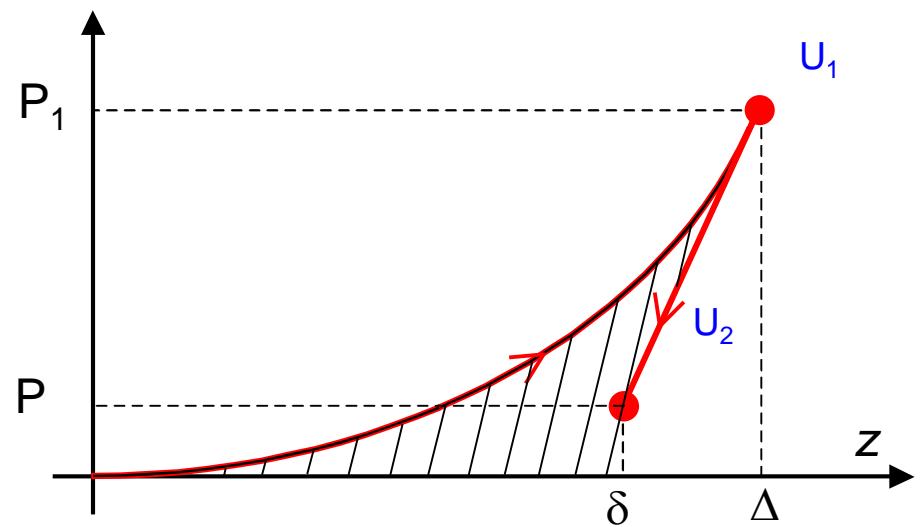


## Condition d'équilibre (Critère de Griffith's)

$$G = \left( \frac{\partial U_E}{\partial A} \right)_\delta = w$$

$$w = \frac{\left( \frac{a^3 K}{R} - P \right)^2}{6\pi a^3 K}$$

Equilibre adhésif



## JKR Approximation / II

Adhesive equilibrium is achieved into two steps :

- $(U_1)$  a non adhesive contact with the equilibrium radius  $a$  is achieved under the Hertz load  $P_1 = a^3 K/R$ .
- $(U_2)$  A rigid vertical displacement is applied to all the surface points within the contact in order to achieve, at constant contact radius  $a$ , the equilibrium load  $P$  and indentation  $\delta$

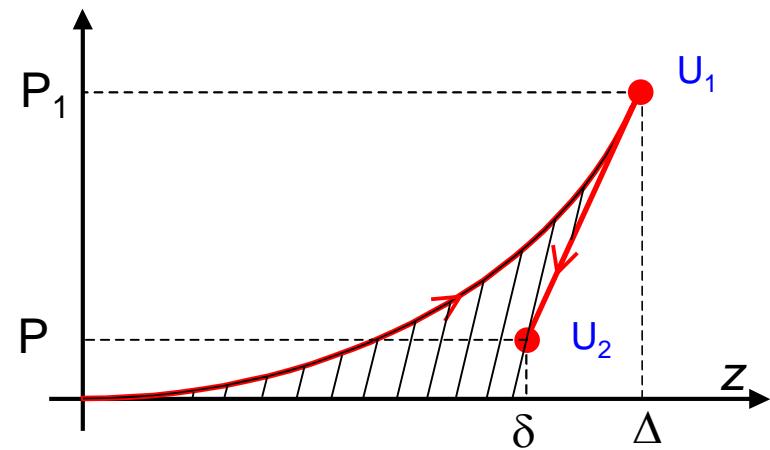
$$U_E = U_1 - U_2 = \underbrace{\int_0^{P_1} \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{P^2}{K^2 R} \right)^{1/3} dP}_{\text{Hertz}} - \underbrace{\int_{P_1}^P \frac{2}{3} \frac{P}{Ka} dP}_{\text{Boussinesq}}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial U_E}{\partial A} \right)_\delta = \frac{(P_1 - P)^2}{6\pi a^3 K}$$

### Equilibrium condition (Griffith's criterion)

$$\left( \frac{\partial U_E}{\partial A} \right)_\delta = w$$

$$w = \frac{\left( \frac{a^3 K}{R} - P \right)^2}{6\pi a^3 K}$$



## JKR Approximation / III

- Load

$$P = \frac{a^3 K}{R} - 3w\pi R \pm \sqrt{6w\pi R P + (3w\pi R)^2}$$



Hertzian term  
( $w=0$ )                      Adhesive term

- Indentation :

$$\delta = \frac{a^2}{R} - \sqrt{\frac{8\pi w a}{3K}} \quad \delta = a^2/3R + 2P/3aK$$

- Contact radius:

$$a^3 = \frac{R}{K} \left( P + 3w\pi R + \sqrt{6w\pi R P + (3w\pi R)^2} \right)$$

# Comparison JKR / DMT

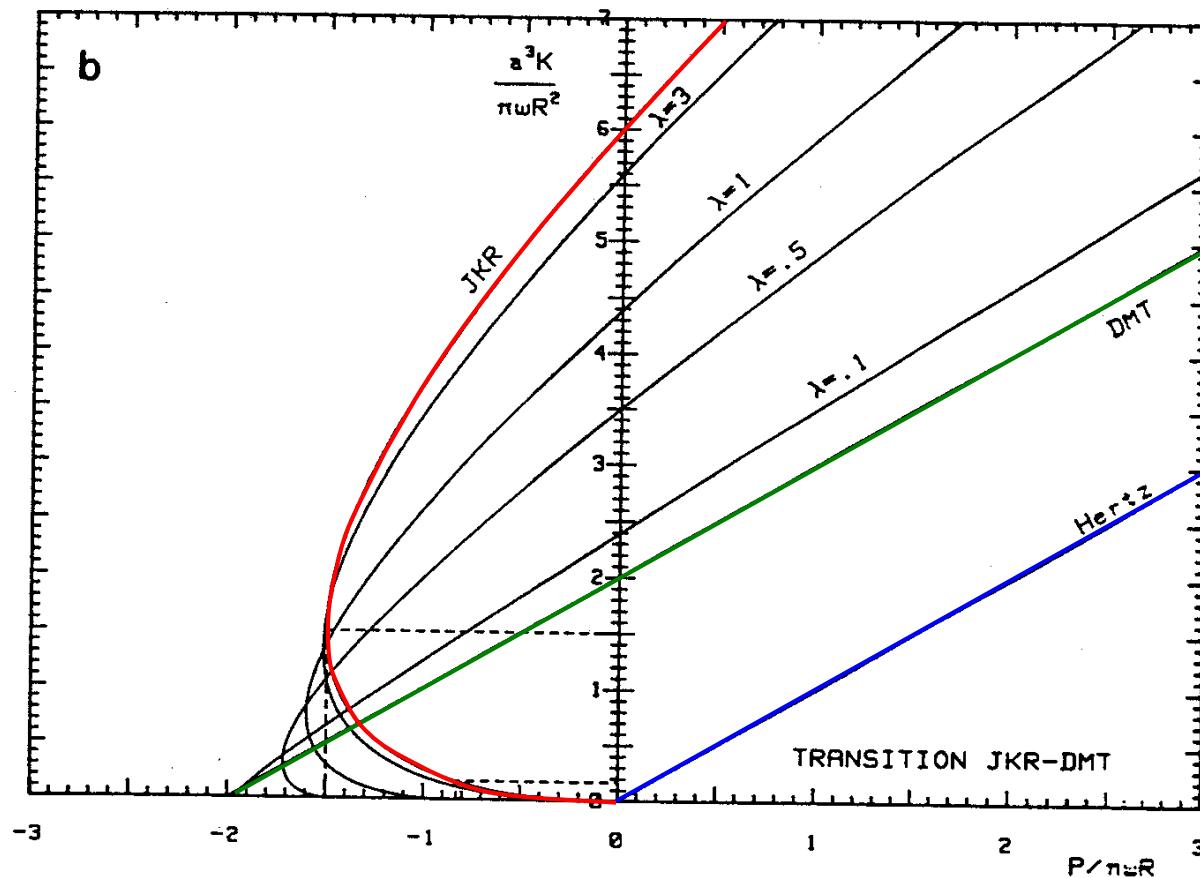
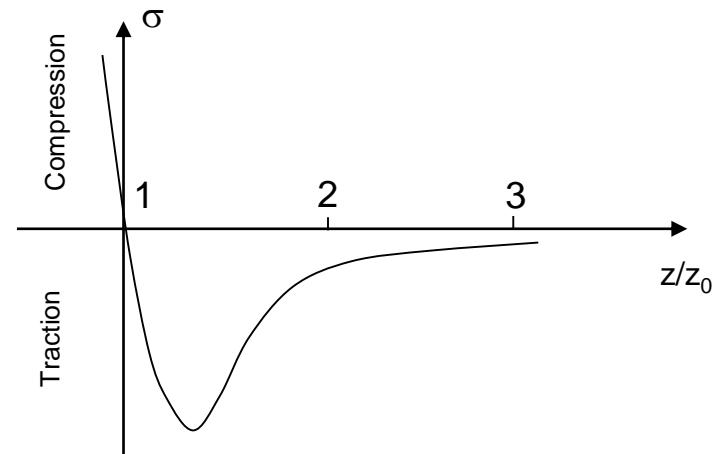
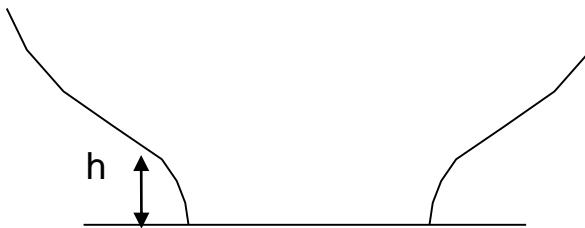


FIG. 5. Radius of contact (a) or cube of the radius of contact (b) plotted against  $P / (\pi w R)$ , for various  $\lambda$ . The Hertz curve is shown for comparison.

## Validity of the DMT et JKR approximations: The Tabor's parameter



When the gap  $h$  between the surfaces becomes of the order of magnitude of the range  $z_0$  of surface forces, the action of surface forces outside the contact can no longer be neglected

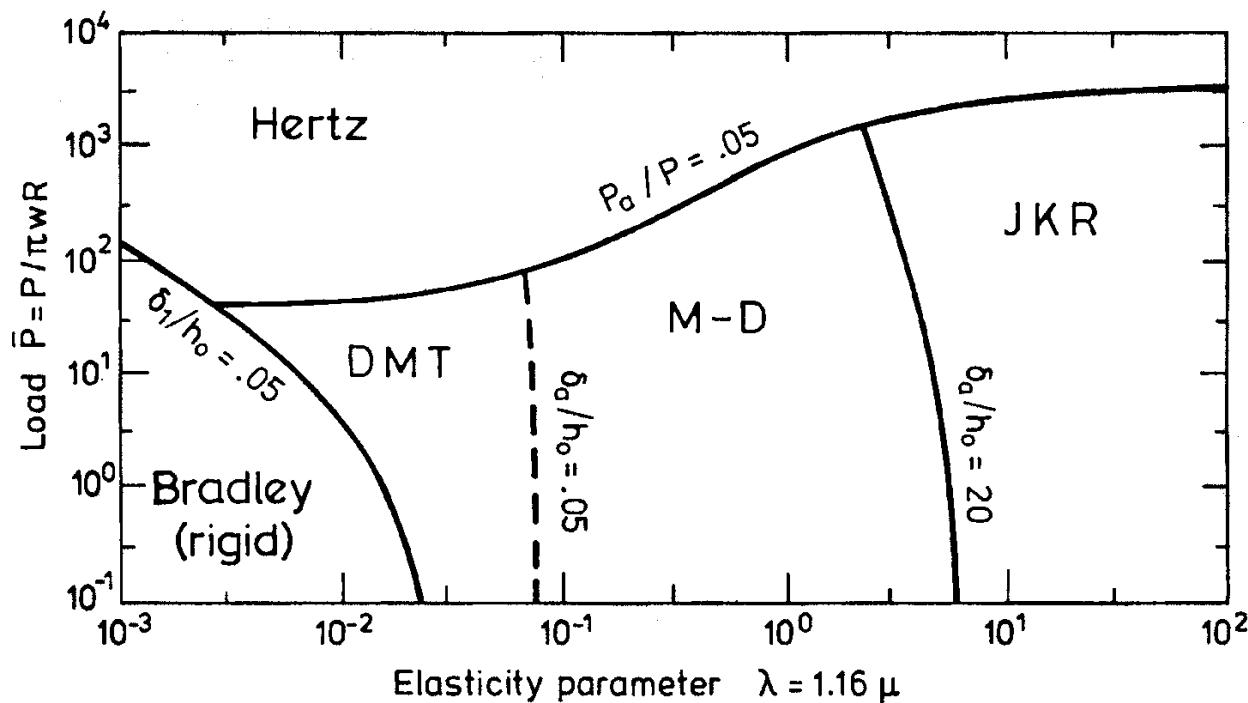
$$\mu \equiv \left( \frac{Rw^2}{E^*{}^2 z_0^3} \right)^{1/3} \sim \frac{\text{Typical elastic displacement at the onset of pull-off } h}{\text{Range of surface forces } z_0}$$

- $\mu < 1$  High Young's modulus, low adhesion energy, small radii of curvature

⇒ DMT Approximation

- $\mu > 10$  Low Young's modulus, high adhesion energy, large radii of curvature

⇒ JKR Approximation



- **Elastomers**  $\mu > 100$  : JKR domain
- **Adhesion between polymer fibers:**  $\mu \sim 10$  or less : boundary of the JKR domain
- **Surface force apparatus (SFA):**  $\mu \sim 50$  with high adhesion: JKR regime
- **Atomic force microscopy (AFM)** :  $\mu < 100$  tip radius 100 nm on a rigid surface: transition zone

# Conclusions

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- DMT or JKR depending on the materials properties
- $\lambda = w/E$  characteristic length scale for adhesion : nanometer range

## Equilibrium conditions, isotropic and semi-infinite bodies

### Other issues to be addressed

- Roughness
- Viscoelasticity
- Kinetics effects involved in adhesion (in relation to viscoelasticity)
- Thin coatings on substrates
- Friction

# Kinetics effects in adhesion

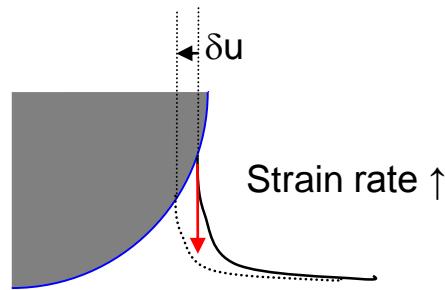
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Contact Mechanics



Fracture Mechanics

Crack propagation: dissipative effects in relation to characteristic viscoelastic times



- Adhesive contact of bulk viscoelastic bodies → intricate problem ( Barthel *et al*, 2002, Hui *et al* 2002 )
- Simplification in some specific contact situations where:
  - viscoelastic dissipation restricted to a narrow, highly strained region, at the edge of the contact and
  - the bulk response remains purely elastic



strain energy release rate can still be calculated using elastic contact theories.

$$G = w \longrightarrow w = G (da/dt)$$

# Adhesion: role of viscoelasticity

$$G - w = w \phi(a/v)$$

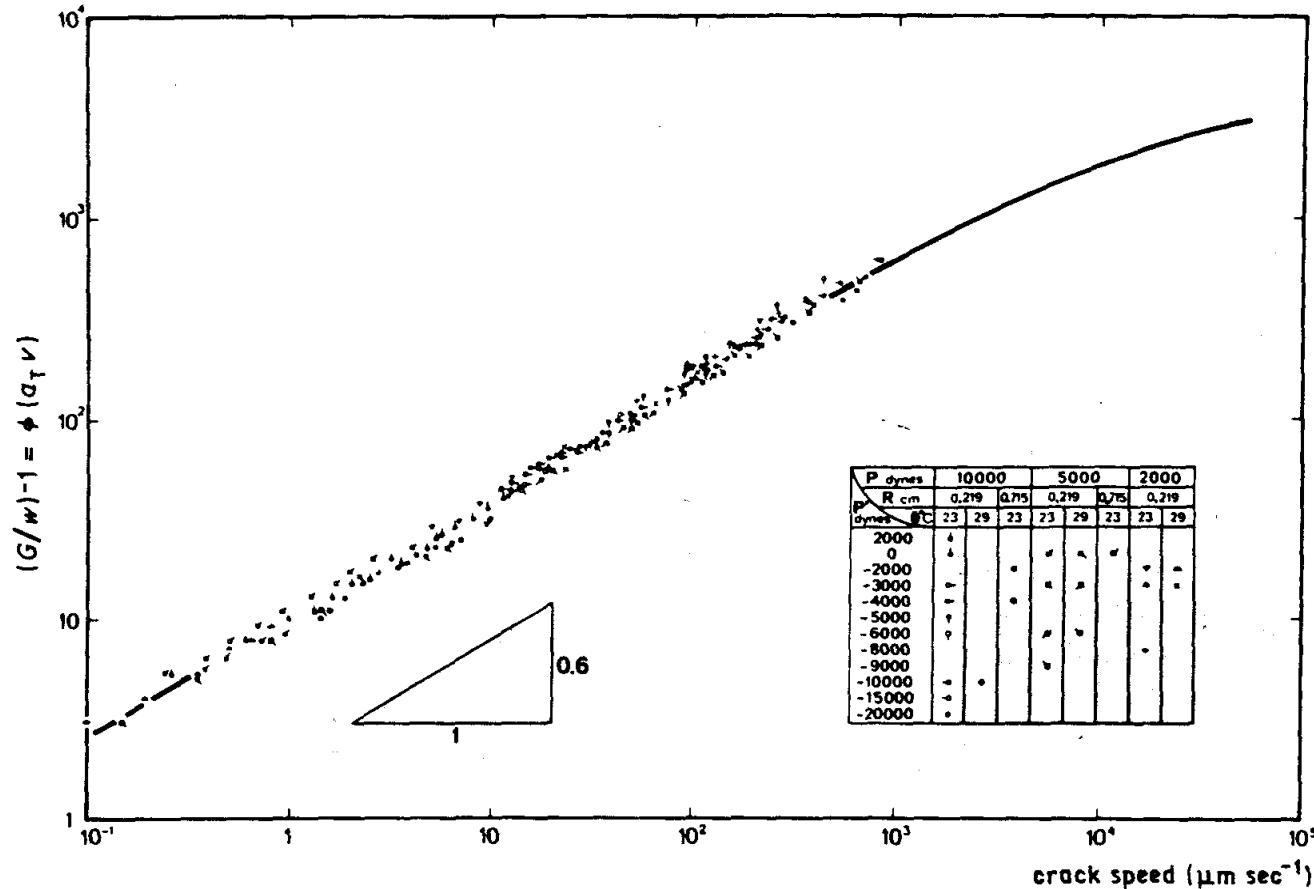
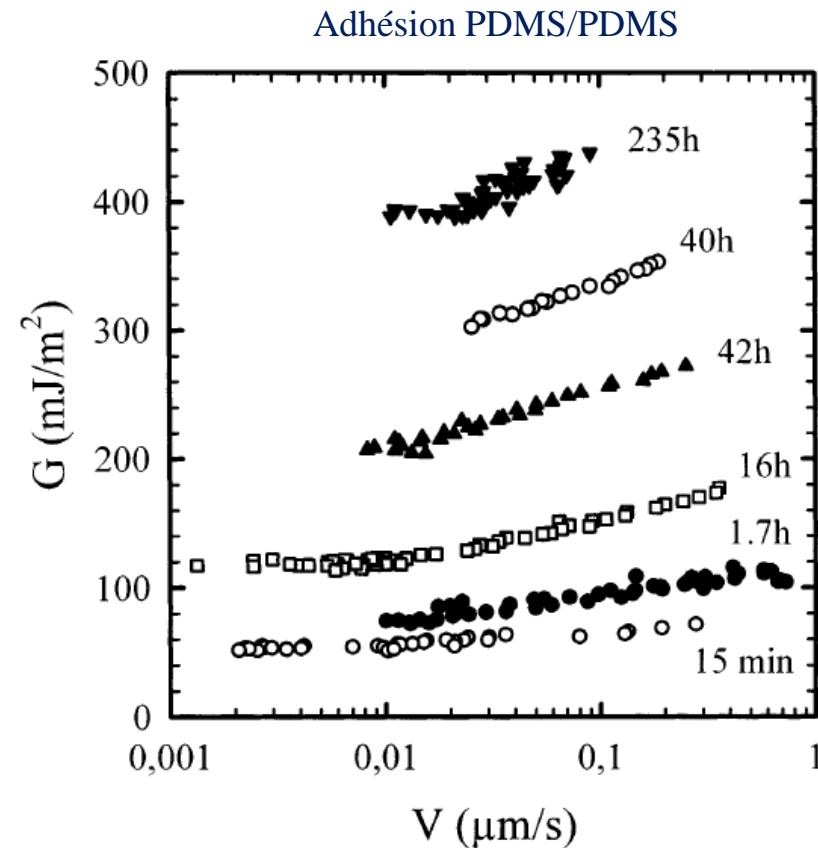
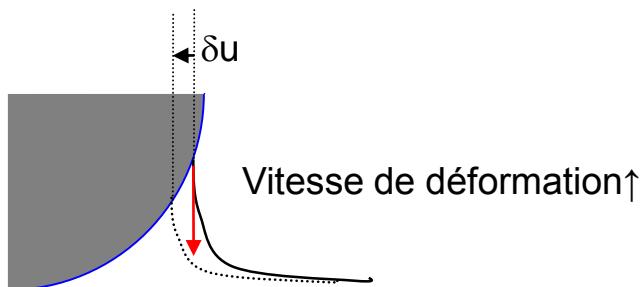


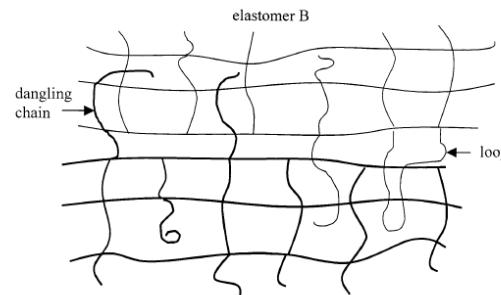
Figure 3 Reduced crack extension force against crack velocity for glass-polyurethane systems.

# Effets cinétiques en adhésion

Dissipation viscoélastique en bord de contact



$$G=w \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \quad G=w(1+\phi(v))$$



# Adhésion de contacts rugueux statistique

- Adhésion de sphères de caoutchouc sur des substrats de PMMA rugueux

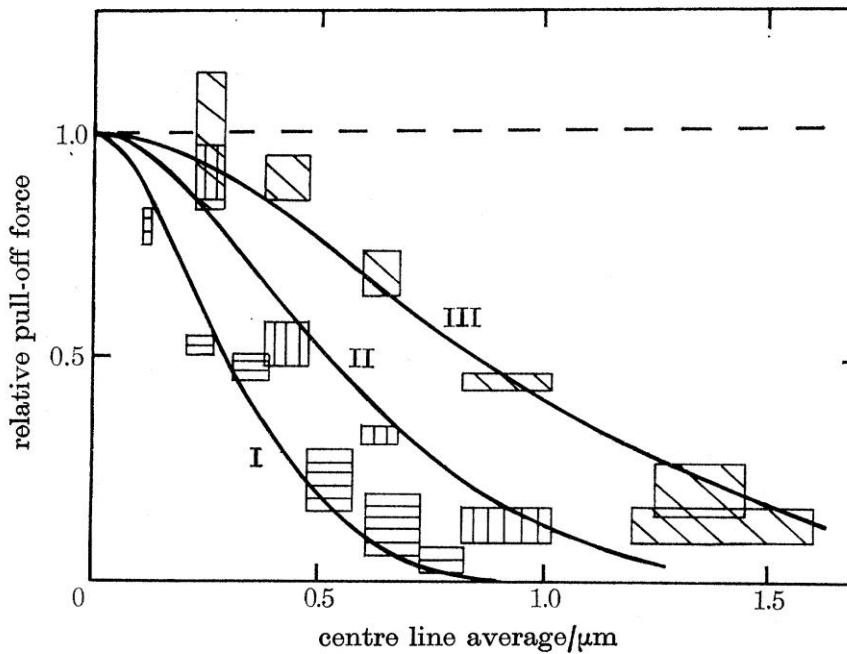
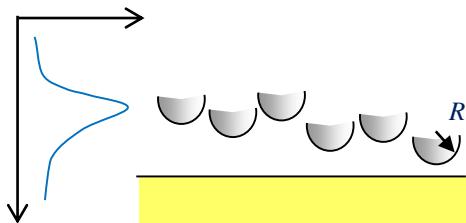
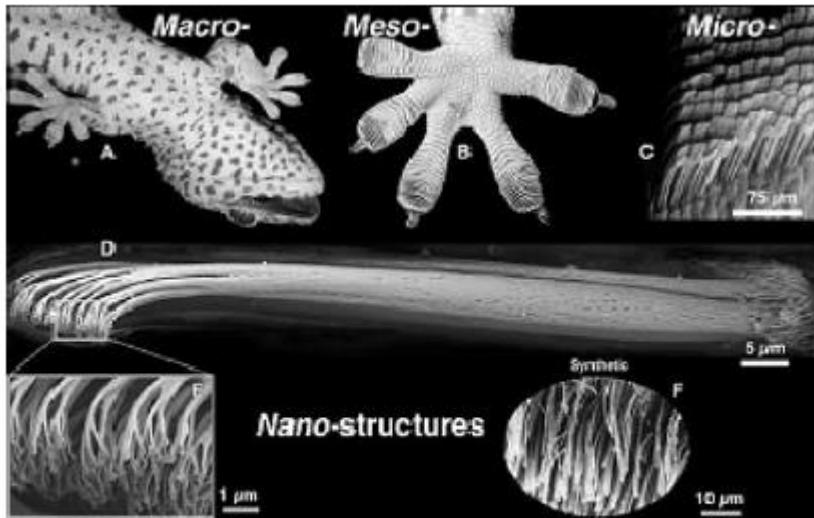


FIGURE 3. Relative pull-off force for smooth rubber spheres in contact with a flat Perspex surface as a function of the roughness (c.l.a.) of the Perspex. Effects of modulus,  $E$ , of the rubber: curve I,  $2.4 \times 10^6 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ ; curve II,  $6.8 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ ; curve III,  $2.2 \times 10^5 \text{ N m}^{-2}$ .



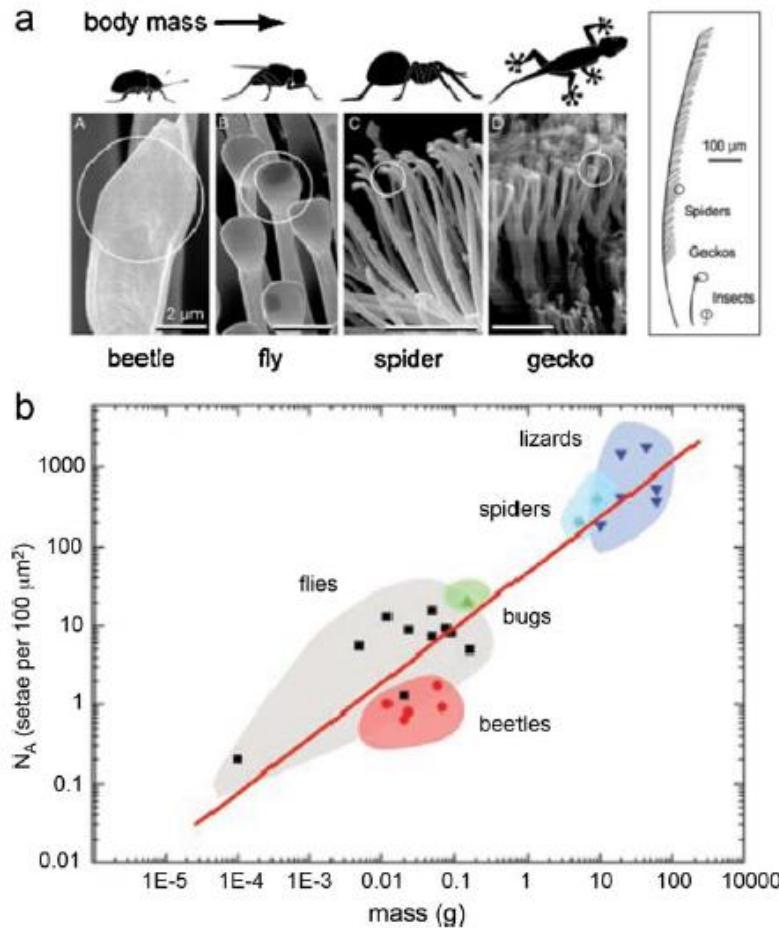
$$\text{Paramètre d'adhésion: } \frac{E\sigma^{3/2}R^{3/2}}{R\gamma}$$

# Fibrilar bio-mimetic adhesives /I



**Fig. 1.** Hierarchy of structure in the gecko toe attachment system (taken from Autumn<sup>2</sup>).

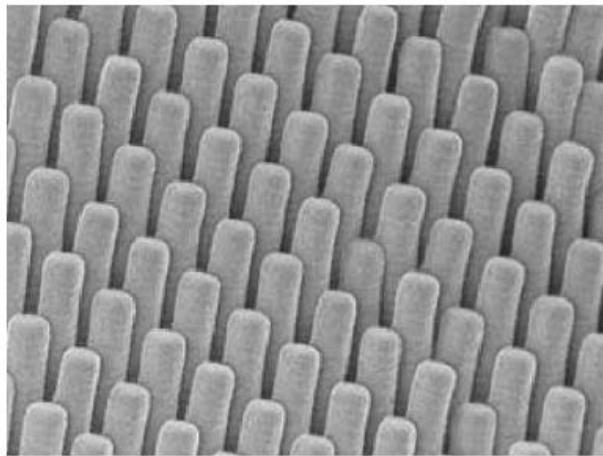
Reproduced from Autumn [2], with permission from the Materials Research Society.



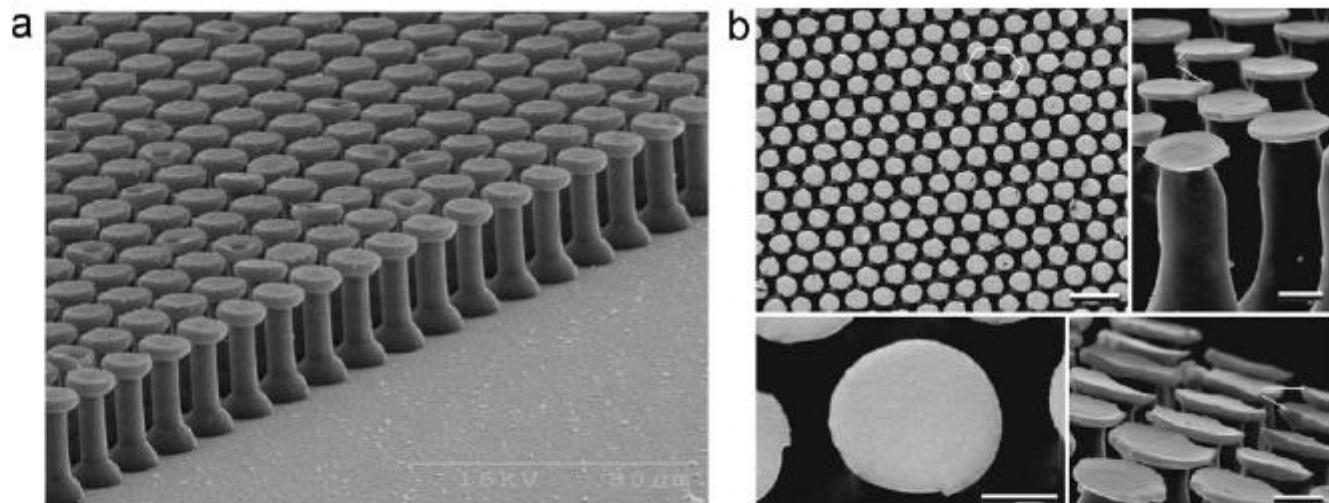
**Fig. 3.** (a) As body mass increases the fibril size decreases and the fibril density (number per unit area) increases. This is seen empirically in (b) over a large range in body mass and cutting across mechanisms that are 'dry' and 'wet'. Reproduced with permission from [34] Copyright (2007) National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.

# Fibrillar bio-mimetic adhesives / II

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**Fig. 4.** An example of a simple 1-level fibrillar structure [29] fabricated by molding PDMS into microfabricated molds etched in a silicon wafer. Fibril diameter is 1 micron.



**Fig. 5.** Fibrillar arrays with a terminal design that removes edge singularities, strongly increasing the force it takes to remove a fibril from the surface. Figures from (a) reproduced with permission from [71] and (b) is reproduced from [72].

# References

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## Contact Mechanics

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