

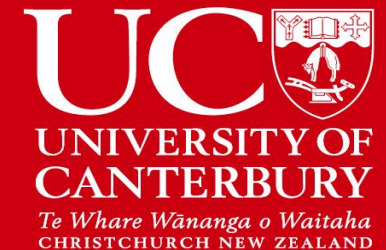
QuakeCoRE Flagship 4\_Residual capacity and repair of concrete structure workshop,  
31 August 2018

# Strain ageing effects on the low-cycle fatigue properties of G300E steel reinforcing bars.

---

**Giuseppe Loporcaro, PhD**

Lecturer in Architectural Engineering  
Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering  
University of Canterbury



## Introduction

- Buckling of rebars after Kaikoura 2016 earthquake
- Low-cycle fatigue (LCF)
- Strain ageing

## LCF experimental testing

- Material and mechanical properties
- Methodology
- Results and discussion

## Conclusions

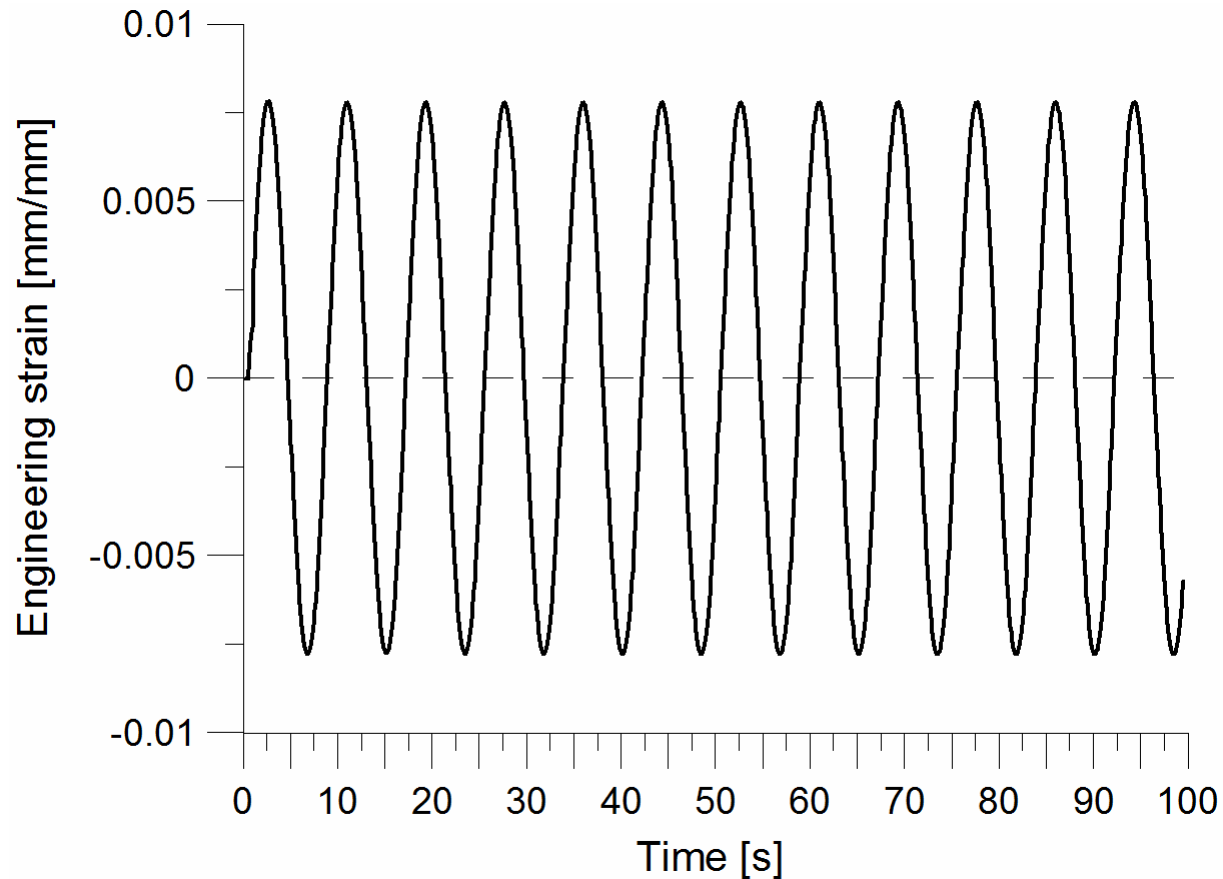
# Observed damaged



Kam et al (2011).

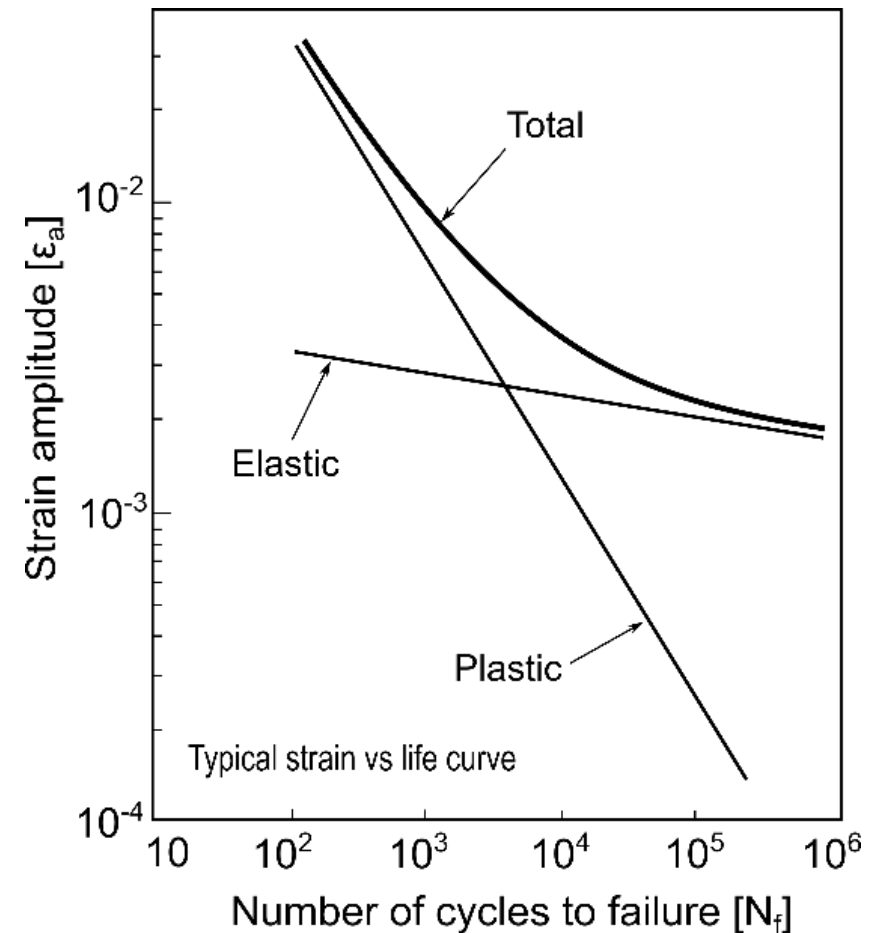
# Low-cycle fatigue (LCF) test

## Strain history



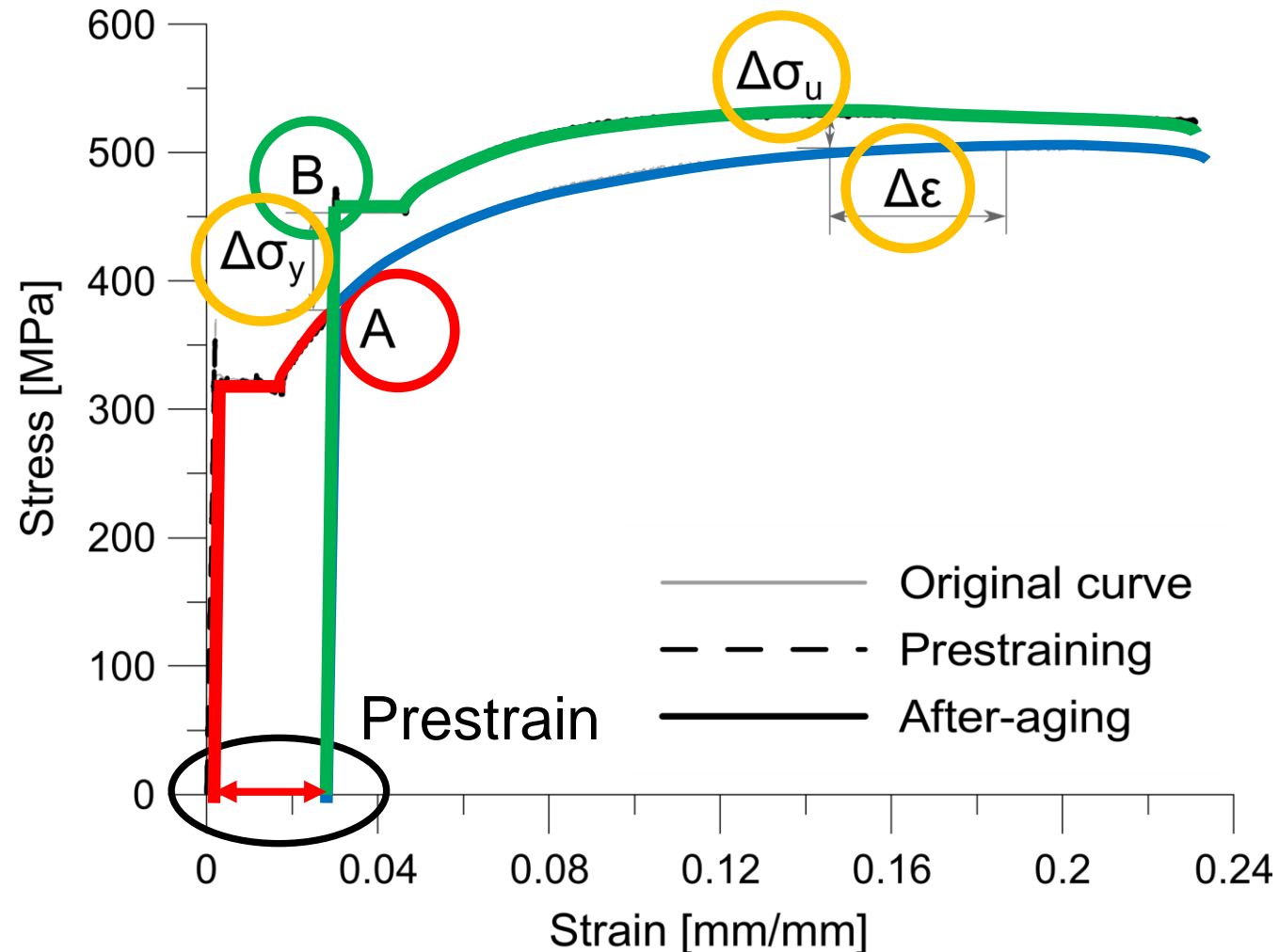
## Coffin-Mason model (1954)

$$\varepsilon_a = \frac{\sigma'_f}{E} (2N_f)^b + \varepsilon_f (2N_f)^c$$



# Strain ageing

The mechanical properties of (some) strained low-carbon steel are subject to a “strain ageing” phenomenon.



**Monotonic test:**

Grade 300E

Prestrain amount:  
3%

Ageing time: 1 year

$$\Delta\sigma_y = \sim 70 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\Delta\sigma_u = \sim 30 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\Delta\epsilon = \sim 0.05 \text{ mm/mm}$$



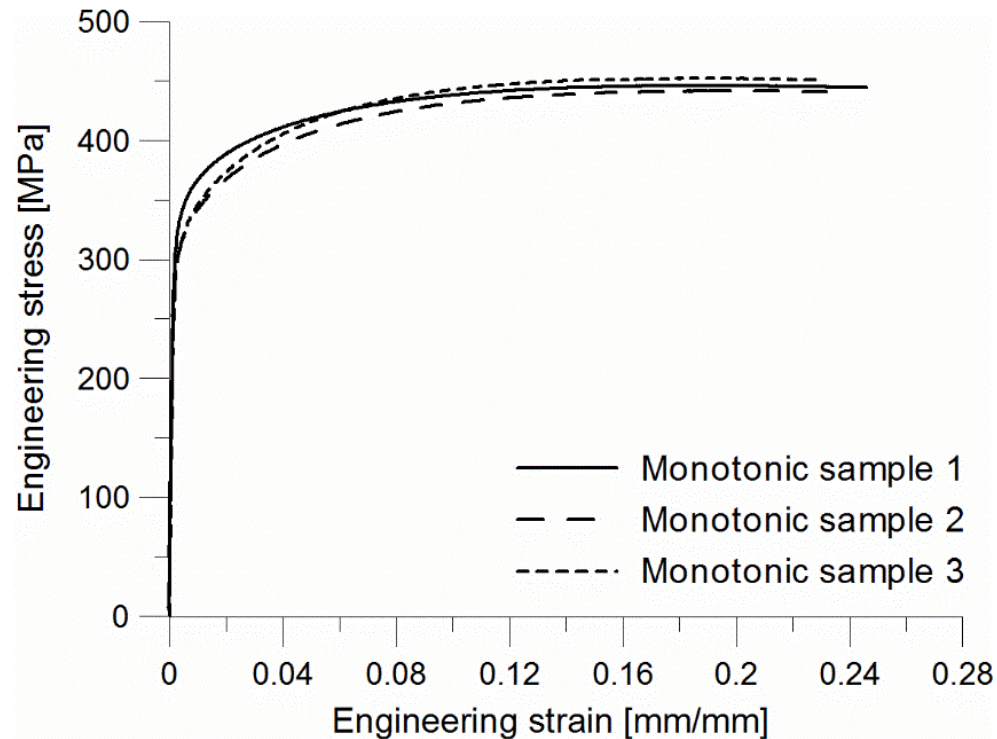
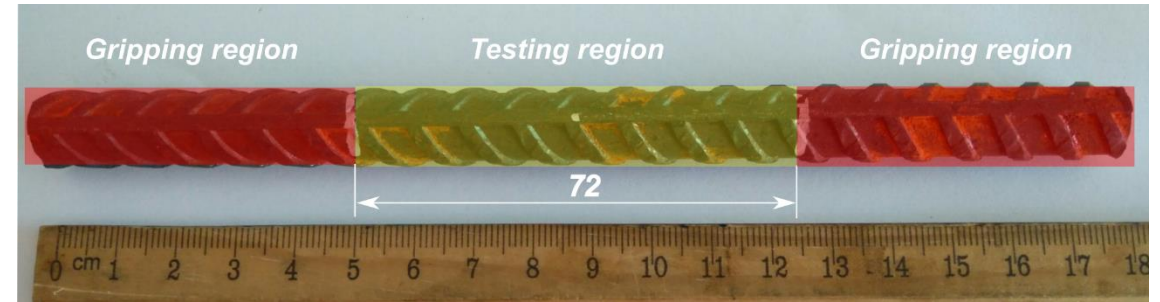
# Material and methodology

## Grade 300E

$$\sigma_y = 314 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\sigma_u = 447 \text{ MPa}$$

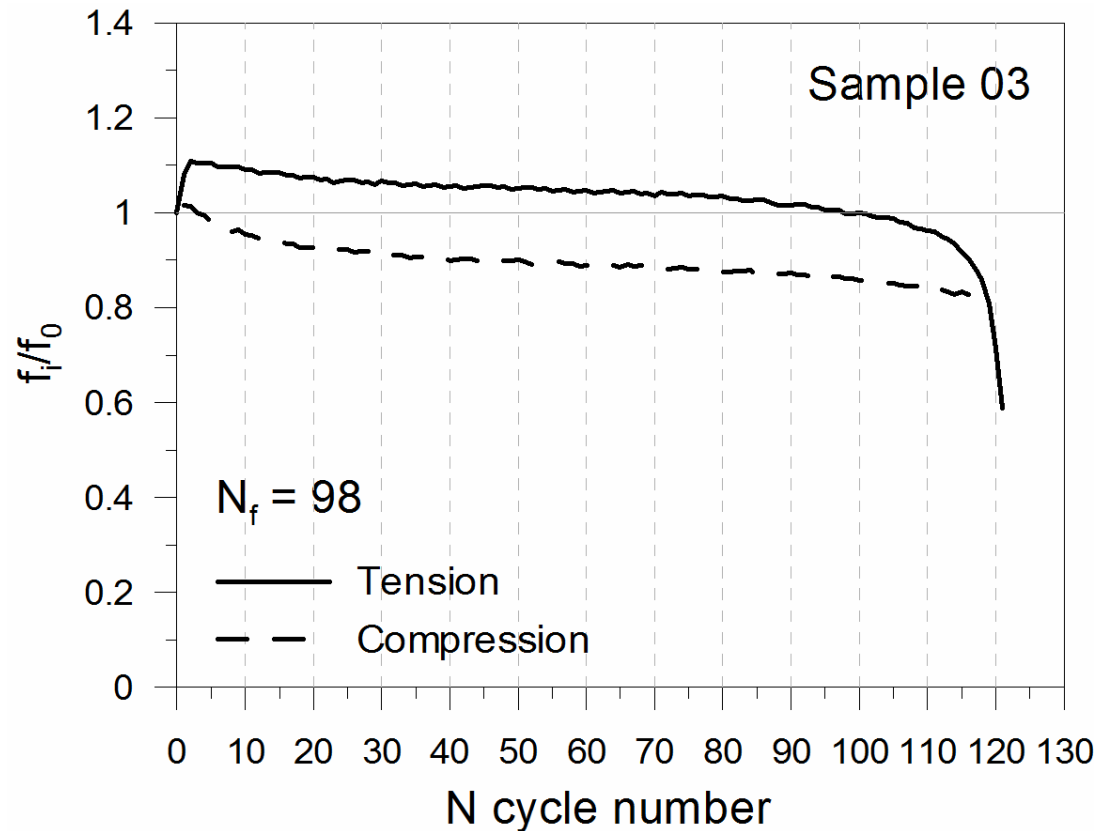
$$\epsilon_u = 19.3 \%$$



# Methodology

## Determination of the number of cycle to failure

$\epsilon_a < 0.02$  mm/mm



$\epsilon_a > 0.02$  mm/mm



# Methodology

Strain amplitude	Frequency (Hz)	Number of cycles to failure
0.0078	0.12	125
0.0078	0.12	130
0.0083	0.12	98
0.0107	0.11	61
0.0140	0.09	34
0.0140	0.09	32
0.0178	0.06	14
0.0179	0.06	16
0.0179	0.06	13
0.0271	0.04	6
0.0272	0.04	6
0.0275	0.04	7

Precycling to 33%N<sub>f</sub> and 66%N<sub>f</sub>

“Accelerated”  
Ageing phase

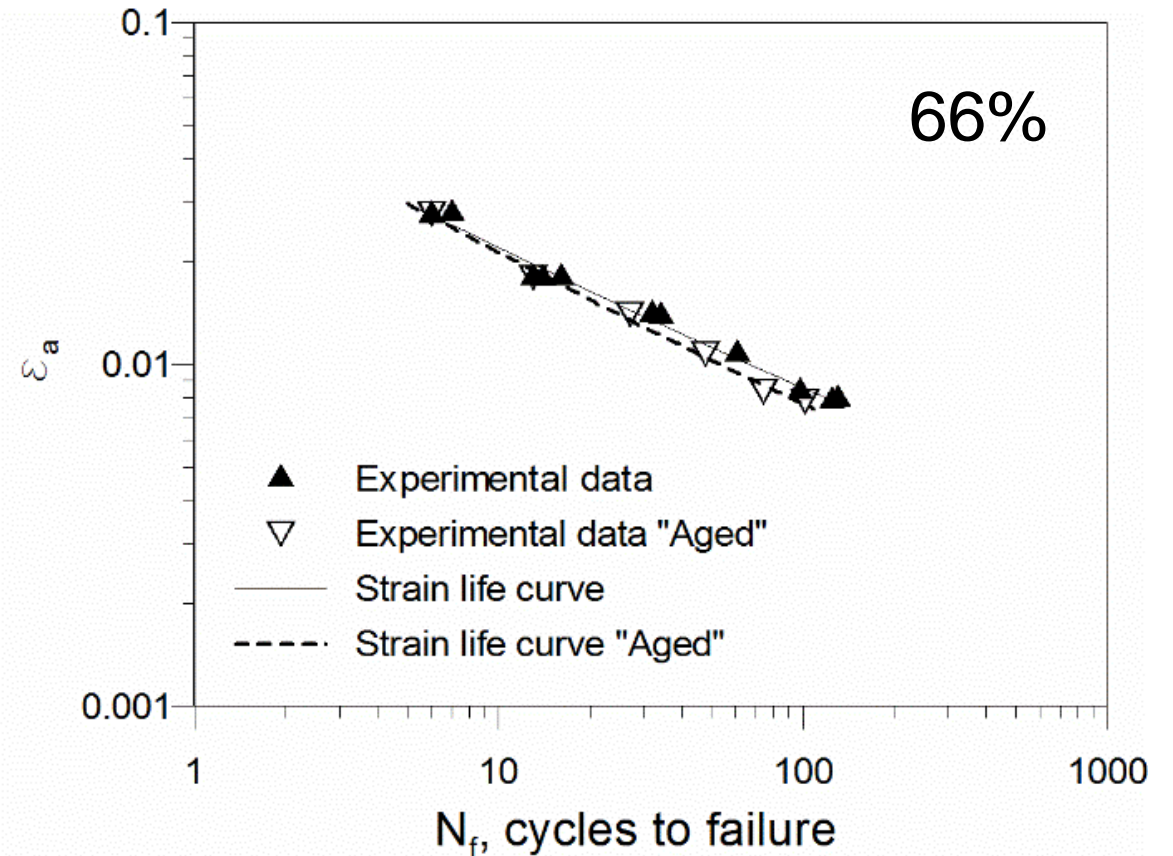
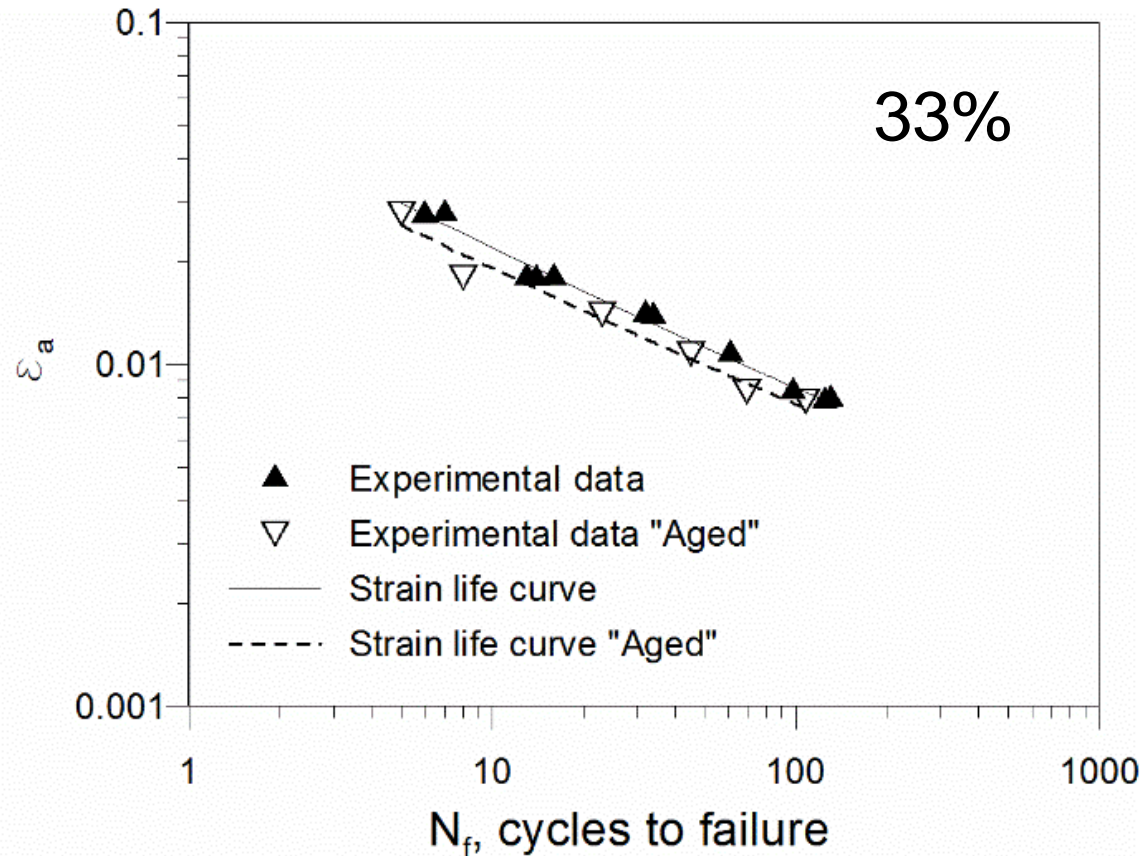


Cycling tests to failure



# Results and discussion

**Original model:**  $\varepsilon_a = 0.0025 (2N_f)^{-0.076} + 0.080 (2N_f)^{-0.464}$



$$\varepsilon_a = 0.0025 (2N_f)^{-0.076} + 0.067 (2N_f)^{-0.456}$$

$$\varepsilon_a = 0.0025 (2N_f)^{-0.076} + 0.088 (2N_f)^{-0.507}$$

# Results and discussion

---

**Loss due to strain ageing = (Expected – Actual) Remaining Fatigue Life**

Strain amplitude	Loss due to strain ageing for samples precycled to 33% [%]	Loss due to strain ageing for samples precycled to 66% [%]
0.0078	20.5	56.1
0.0083	43.9	72.7
0.0107	39.0	61.9
0.0140	42.9	45.5
0.0179	72.7	50.0
0.0275	40.0	33.3

---

# Conclusions

---

- Strain ageing not only causes a reduction in ductility but also a reduction in the fatigue life
- Steel manufactured with the addition of vanadium (e.g. NZ-Grade 500E) are not prone to strain ageing
- The developed fatigue models could be used to estimate the remaining fatigue life of earthquake-damaged structures
- No technique is able to quantify the remaining number of cycle to failure

**Thanks, any questions?**

giuseppe.loporcaro@canterbury.ac.nz