

# Microscopic modelling of open-cell foams

Stefan Diebels, Holger Steeb & Anthippi Chatzouridou

Chair of Applied Mechanics, Saarland University

[s.diebels@mx.uni-saarland.de](mailto:s.diebels@mx.uni-saarland.de)

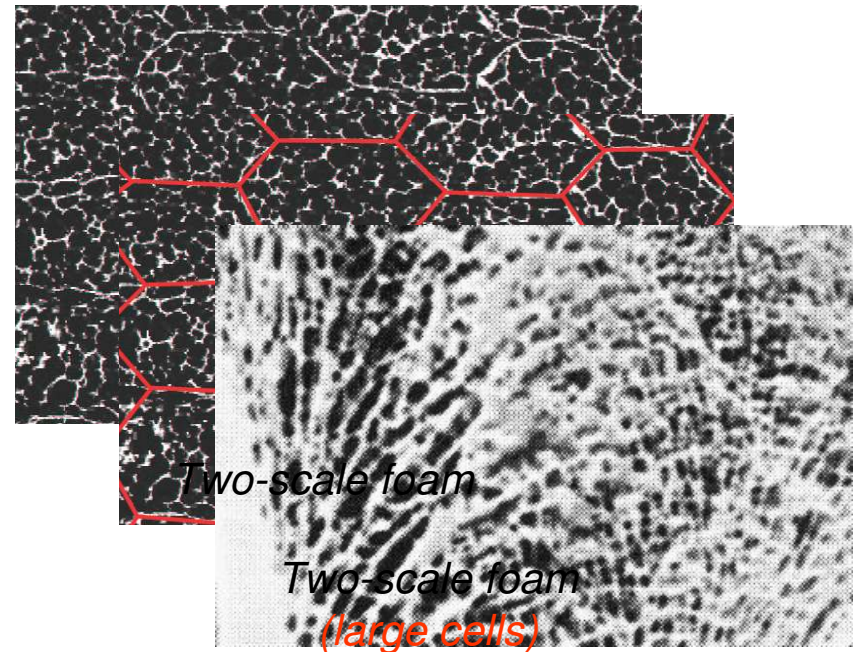
- **cellular materials**

- \* polymer & metal foams
- \* biological materials  
(hard tissues: spongiosa)

- **mechanical behaviour**

- \* boundary layers under tension/compression bending and shear
- \* size effects

→ **classical Boltzmann continua are not appropriate**



*Femur: Spongiosa*

# observed size effects

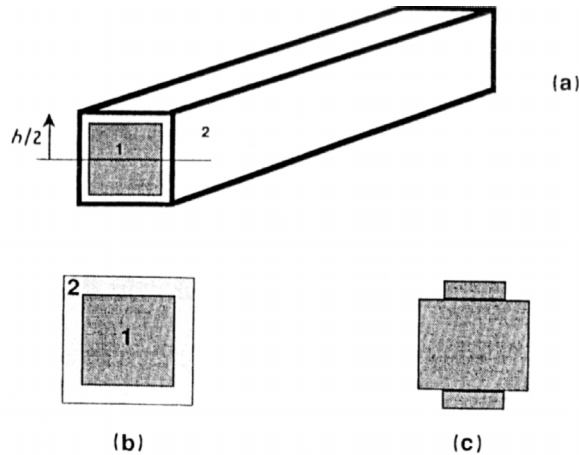
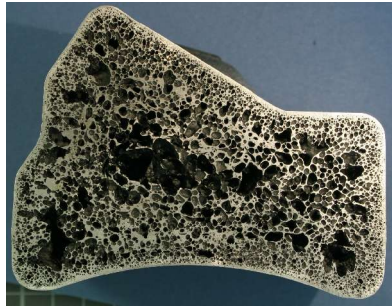


Figure 4 (a) Schematic of rectangular beam made up of two materials. (b) Unit cross section of beam having core of material 1 (modulus  $E_1$ ) and an outer layer of material 2 (modulus  $E_2$  where  $E_2 < E_1$ ) having thickness  $X$ . (c) Transformed cross-section made up entirely of material 1 but maintaining the same resistance to bending as Fig. 4b.

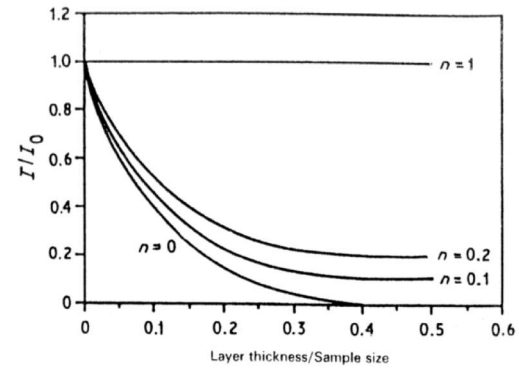


Figure 5 Relative moment of inertia, as predicted by the model, plotted against the ratio of the outer layer thickness and the base or height of the beam. Shown are curves for different values of  $n = E_2/E_1$ .

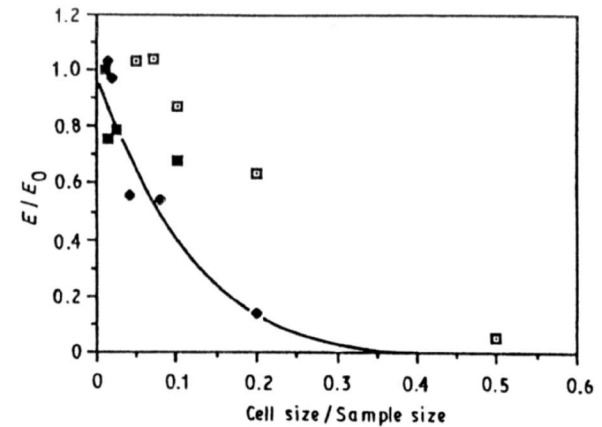
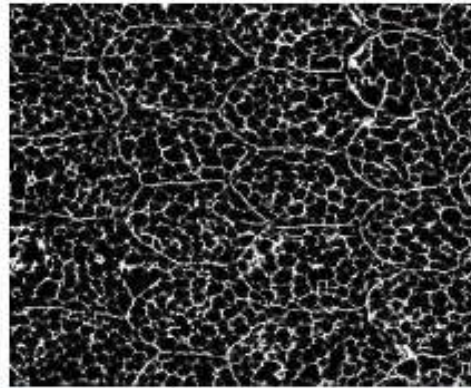


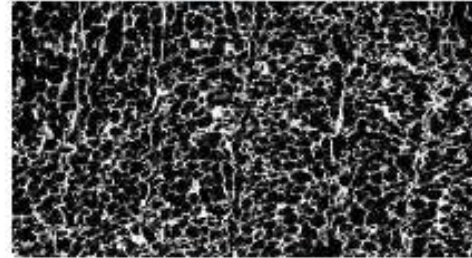
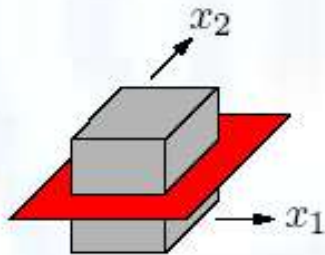
Figure 6 Experimental results of the three different cell size materials plotted as the relative elastic modulus against the ratio of cell size and the base or height of the samples. Also included is theoretical line given by model. ( $\square$  2.5 mm,  $\blacklozenge$  0.56 mm,  $\blacksquare$  0.25 mm, — model.)

# investigated microstructures: cellular topology

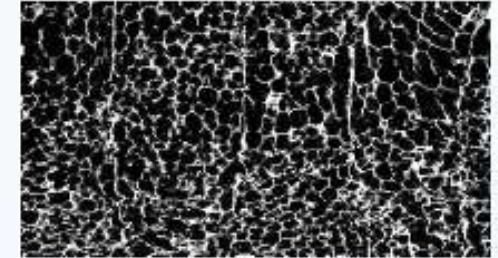
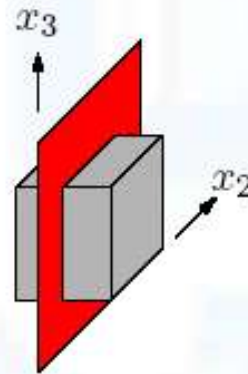
- pixel images from computer tomography (ct scan)



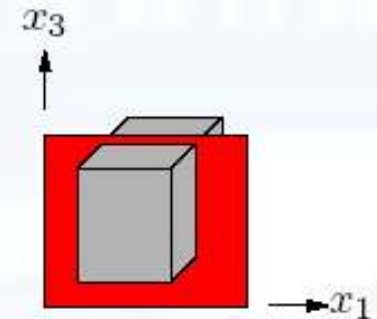
1-2-plane



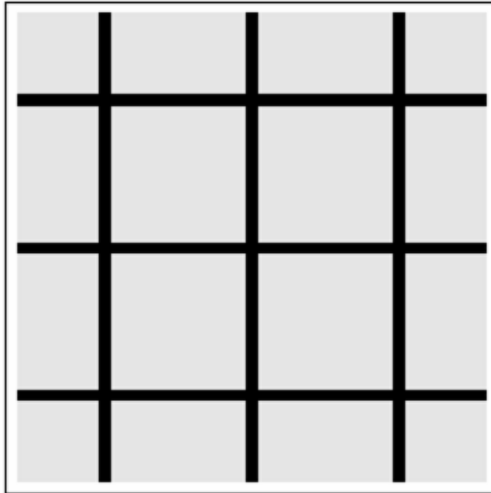
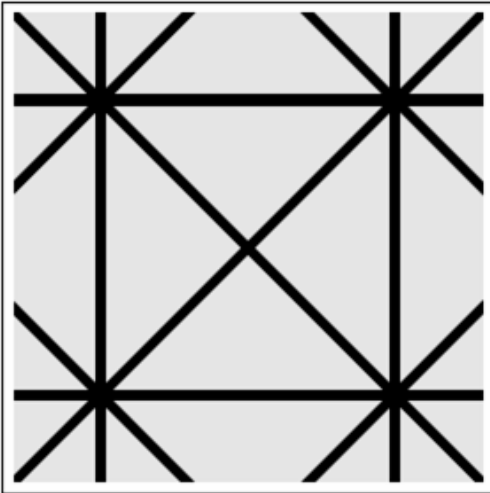
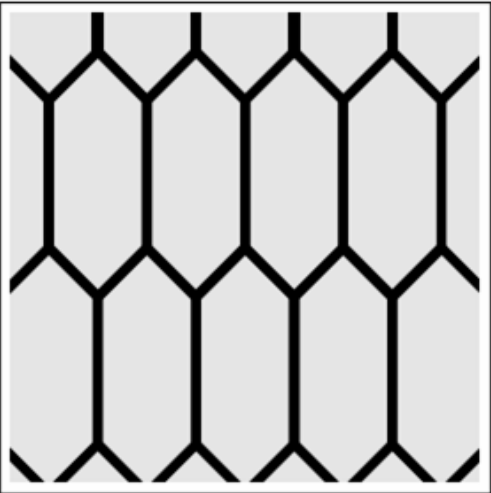
2-3-plane



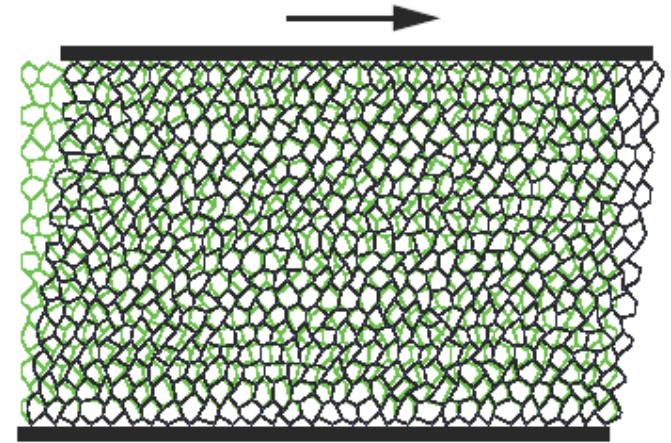
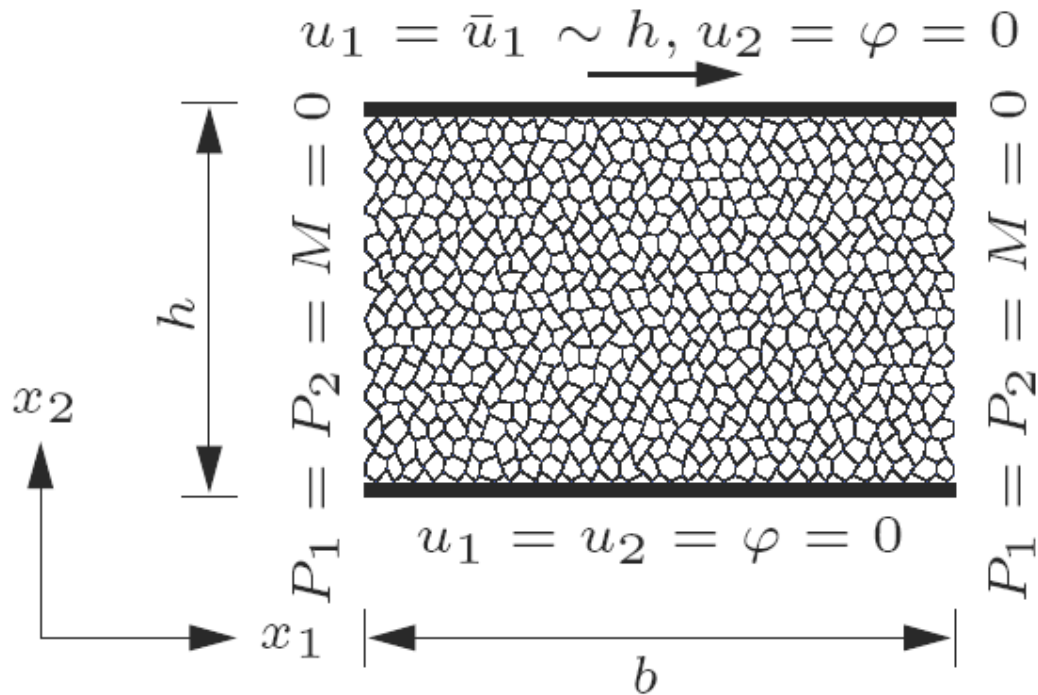
1-3-plane



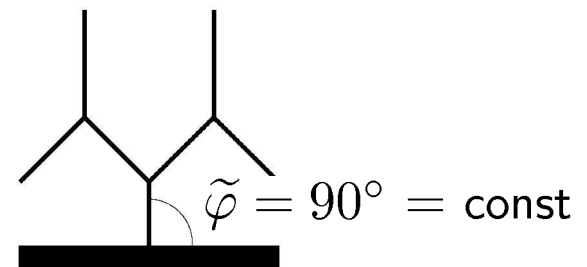
# investigated microstructures: cellular topology



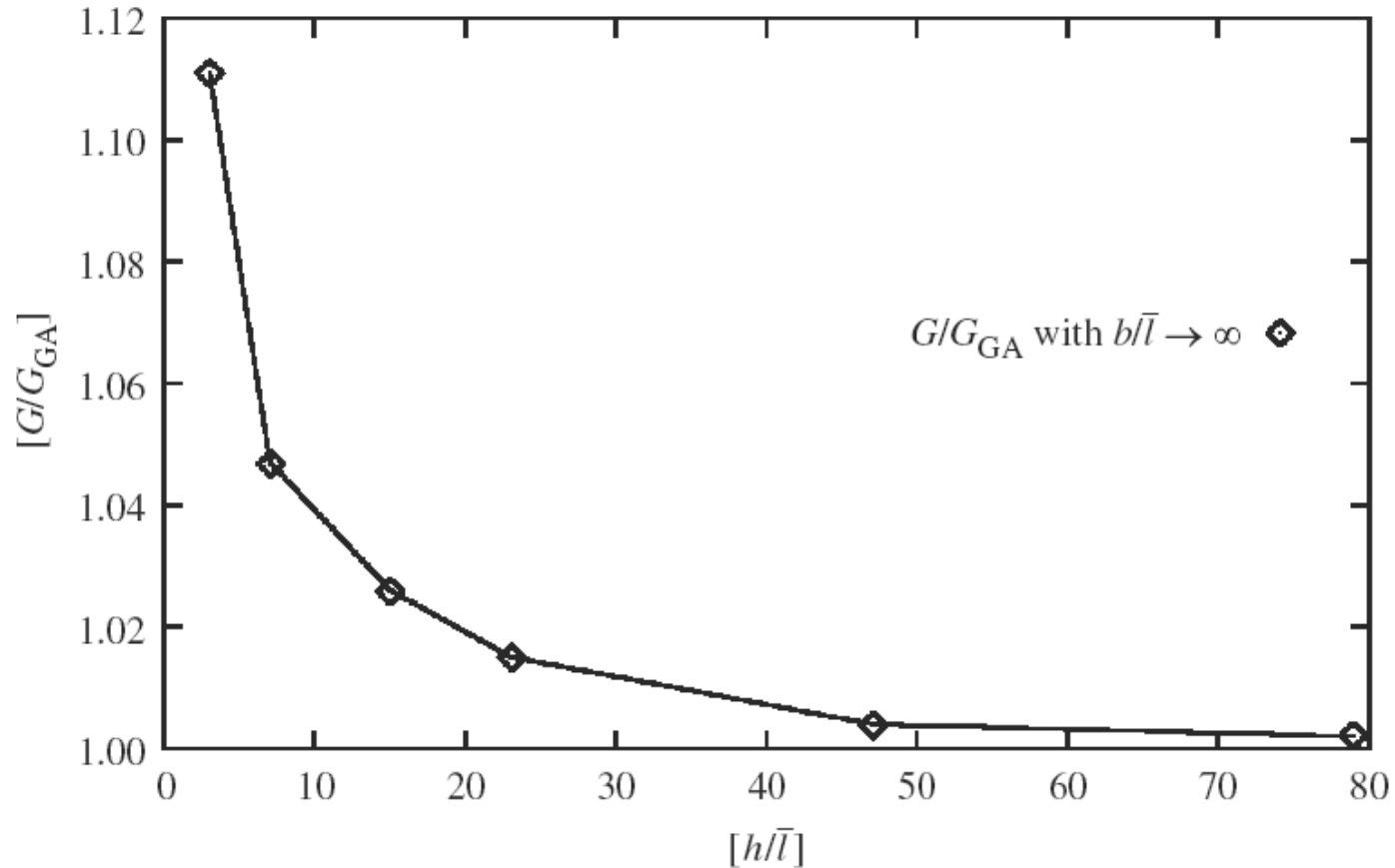
# numerical experiments: shear test



glued load platens



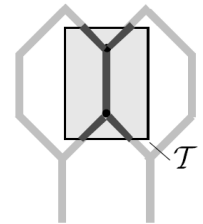
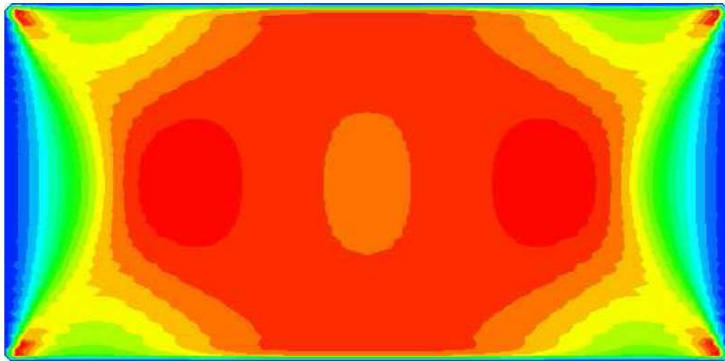
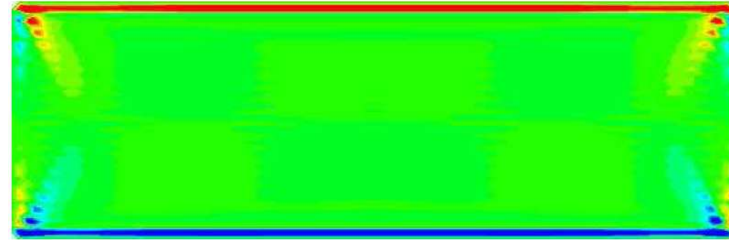
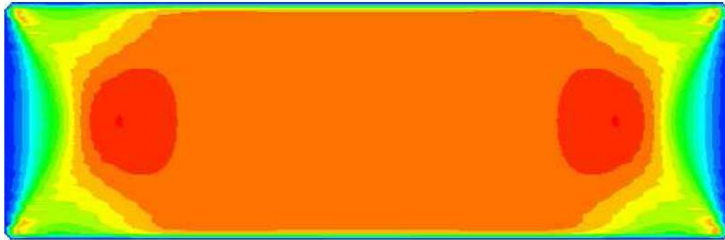
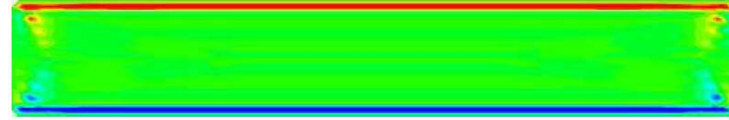
# numerical experiments: shear test



DIEBELS & STEEB, *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A* **458** (2002)

# numerical experiments: shear test

homogenized symmetric shear stress and homogenized couple stress





# numerical experiments: shear test

- analogy to macroscopical Cosserat theory

- \* balance of momentum

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{0}$$

- \* balance of moment of momentum

$$\operatorname{div} \bar{\mathbf{M}} + \mathbf{I} \times \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{0}$$

- \* constitutive equations

$$\mathbf{T} = 2 \mu \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\text{sym}} + 2 \mu_c \bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\text{skw}} + \lambda (\operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \mathbf{I}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{M}} = 2 \mu_c l_c^2 \boldsymbol{\kappa}$$

# parameter identification based on size effects

- uniaxial tension, one specimen
- simple shear, different specimens of different size

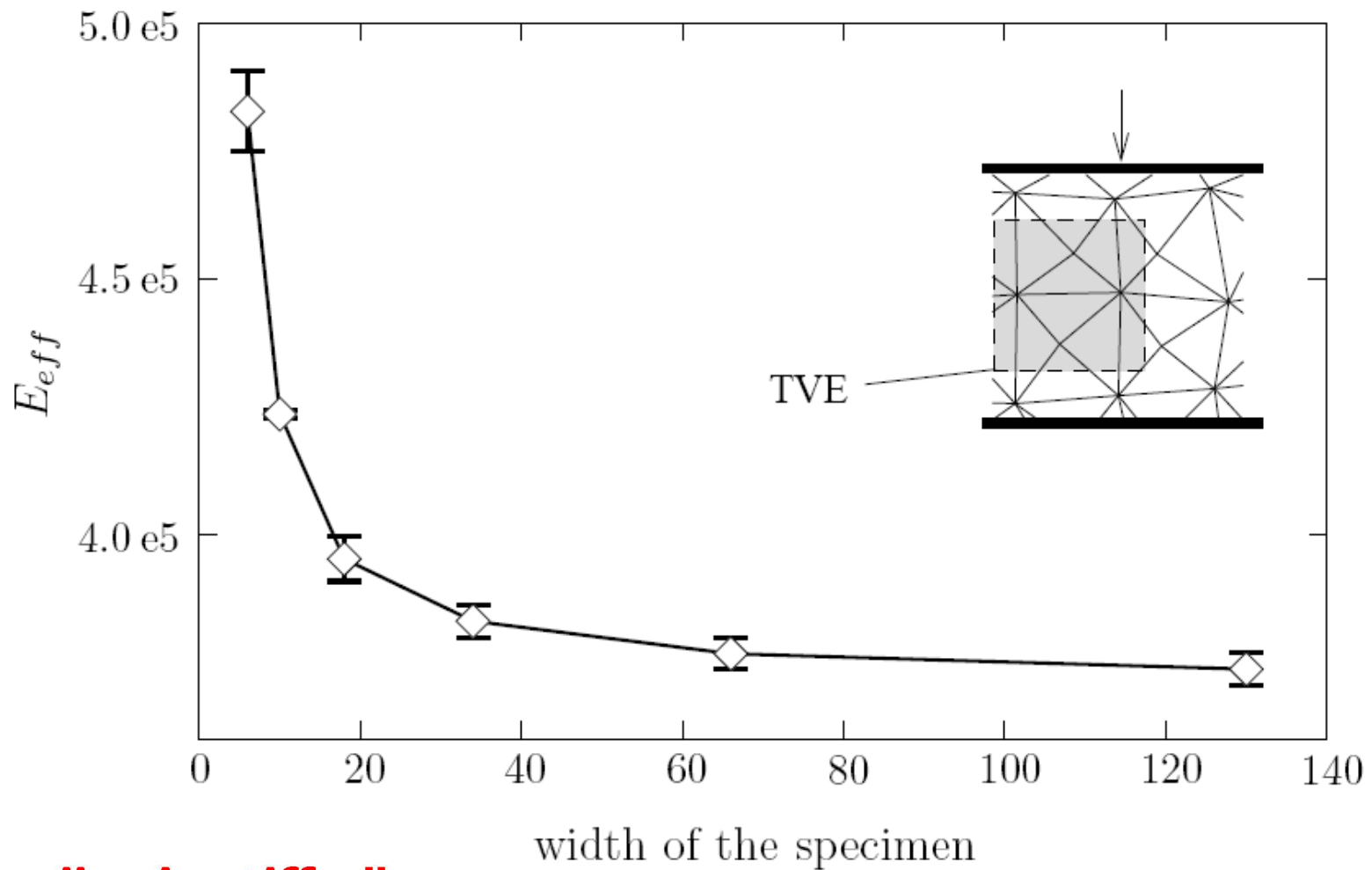
→ determination of  $\mu$ ,  $\mu_c$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $l_c$

- validation

e. g. bending test

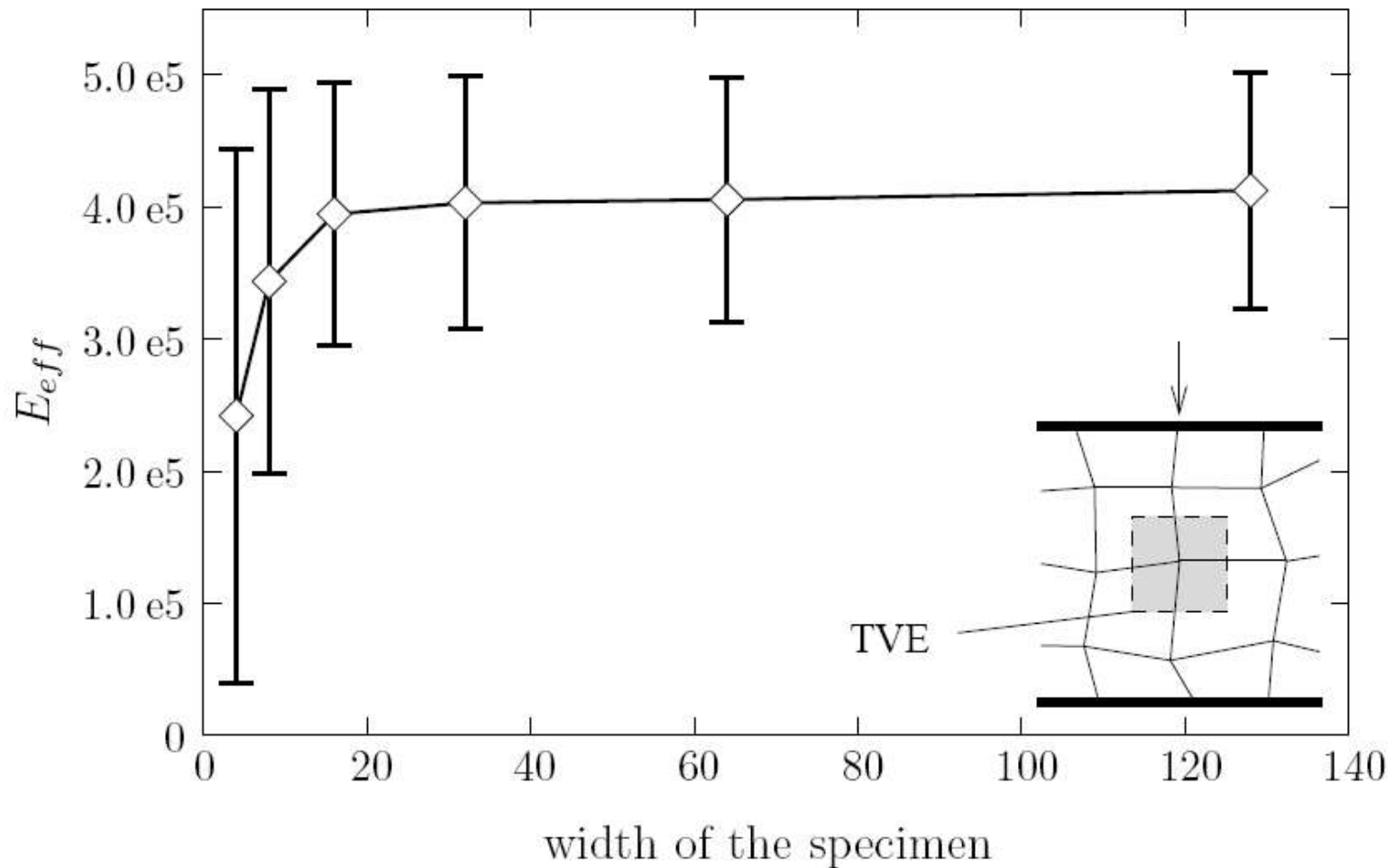
**validation not successful!**

## further numerical experiments: uniaxial tension test



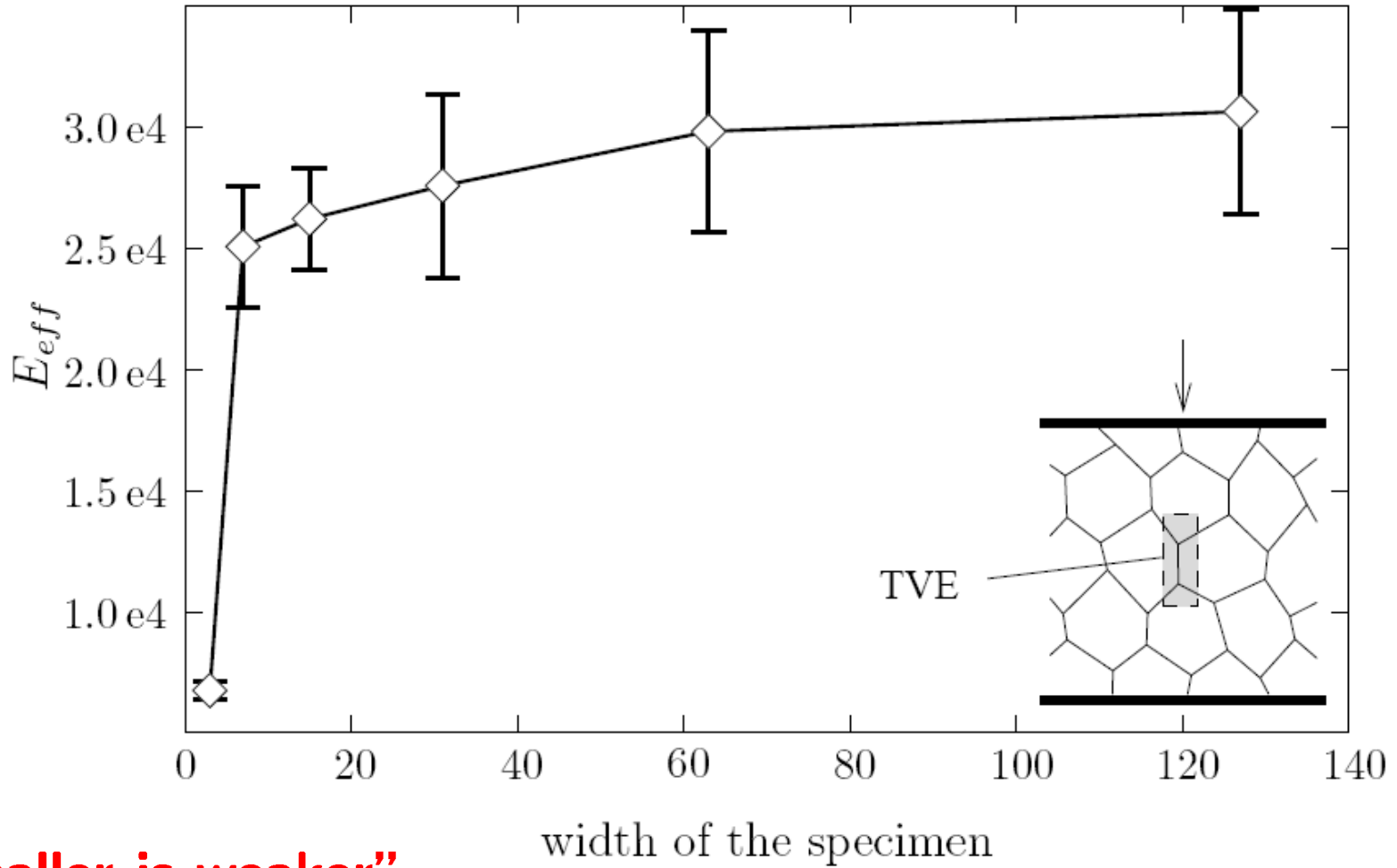
**”smaller is stiffer”**

## further numerical experiments: uniaxial tension test



**”smaller is weaker”**

# numerical experiments: uniaxial tension test



**"smaller is weaker"**

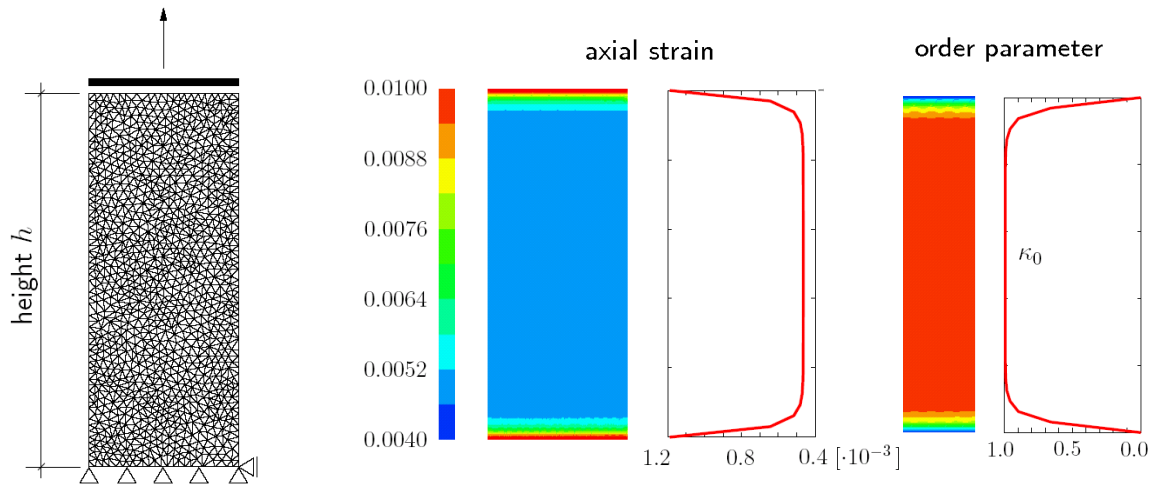
# further numerical experiments: uniaxial compression test

- different types of size effects under compression
  - \* smaller is stiffer (classical size effect)
  - \* smaller is weaker

depending on local topology

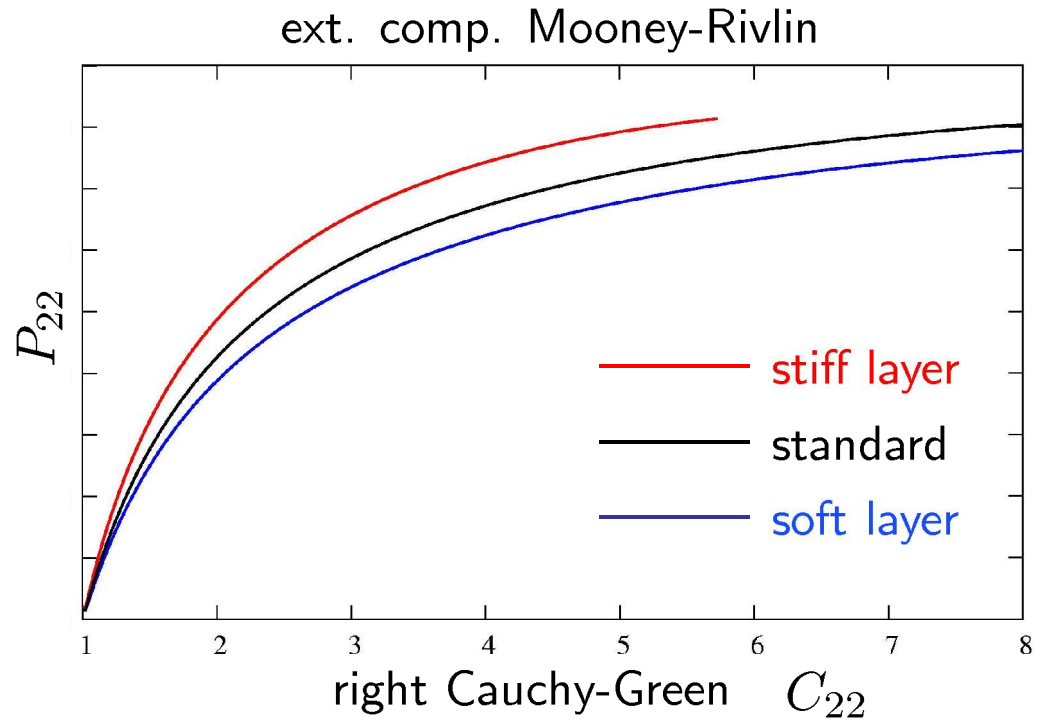
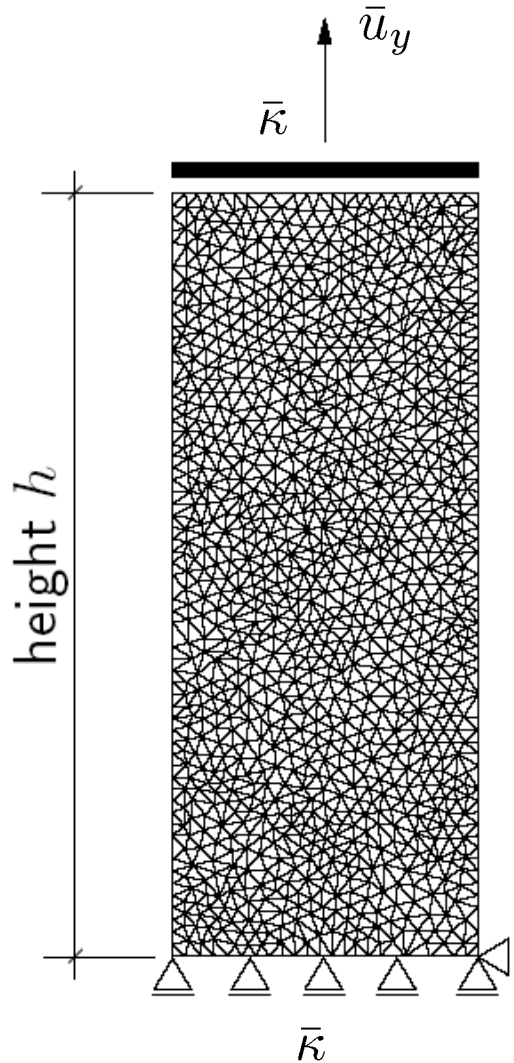
- analogy to continua with order parameter

additional equation of Goodman-Cowin type

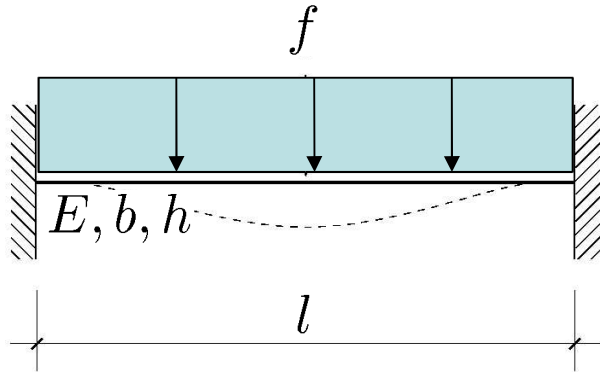


STEEB & DIEBELS, *Int. J. Solids Structures* 41 (2004)

# tension experiment: soft & stiff boundary layer



# numerical experiments: bending test



maximum deflection:

$$u(x = l/2) = \frac{1}{384} \frac{f l^3}{EI}$$

- numerical experiments in analogy to "real" experimental setup

ANDERSON & LAKES, *Journal of Materials Science* **29** (1994)

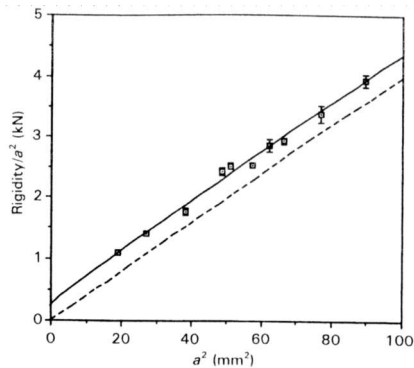


Figure 2 (□) Size-effect results for square, abrasive-machined Rohacell WF300 (width  $a$ ) in torsion, with Cosserat curve fit for  $N^2 = 0.01$ . The best-fit curve for this value of  $N$  (—) gives  $l_c = 0.8$  mm,  $l_b = 0.77$  mm and residual error =  $3.47$  kN<sup>2</sup>. The classical curve (---) has a residual error of  $50.5$  kN<sup>2</sup>.

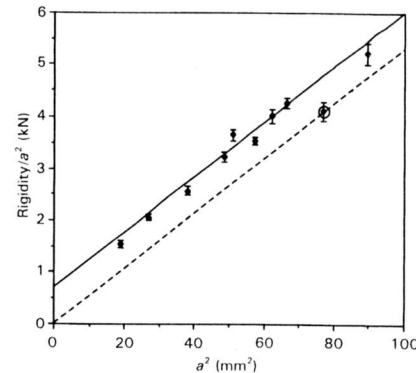
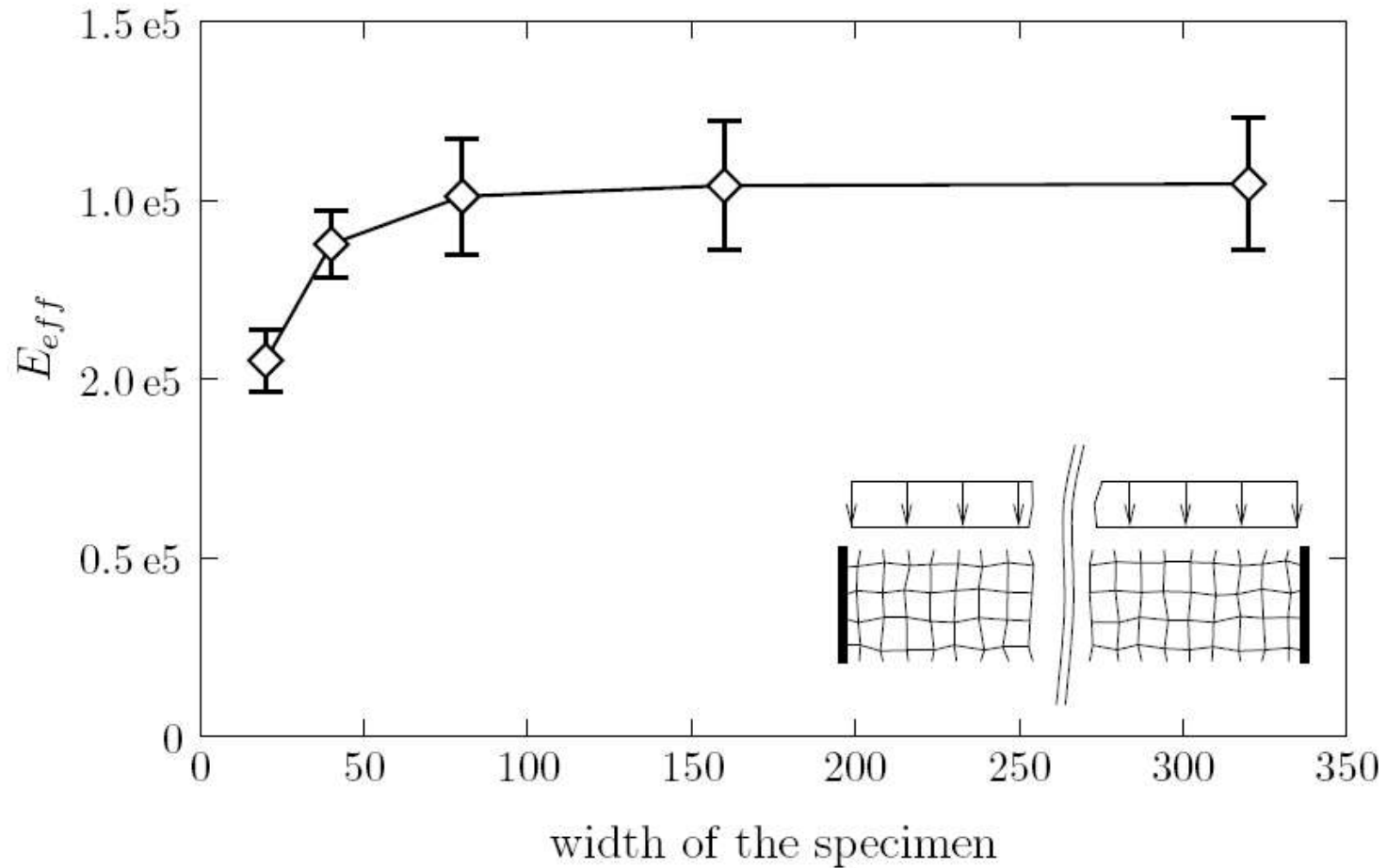


Figure 3 (●) Size-effect results for square, abrasive-machined Rohacell WF300 (width  $a$ ) in bending. The best-fit Cosserat curve (—) gives  $E = 637$  MPa,  $l_b = 0.78$  mm,  $\nu = 0.13$  and residual error =  $34.6$  kN<sup>2</sup>. The classical curve (---) has a residual error of  $550$  kN<sup>2</sup>. One point (circled) is a statistical outlier not used in residual calculations.



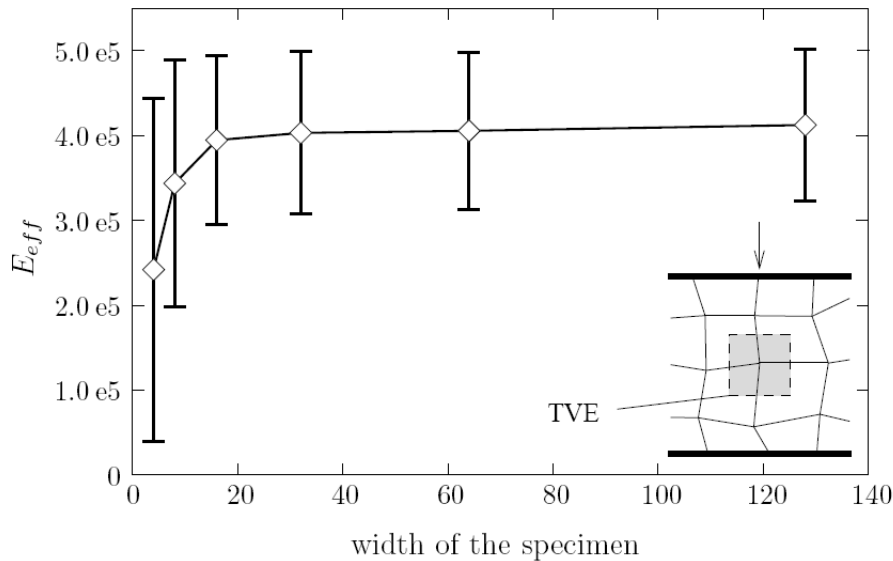
# numerical experiments: bending test



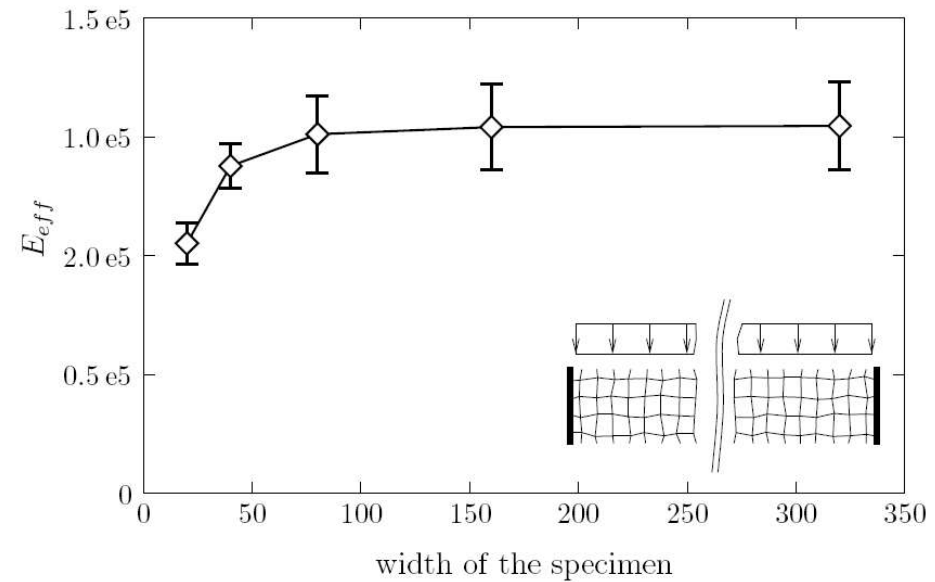
”smaller is weaker”

# numerical experiments: bending test

## effective modulus (tension)



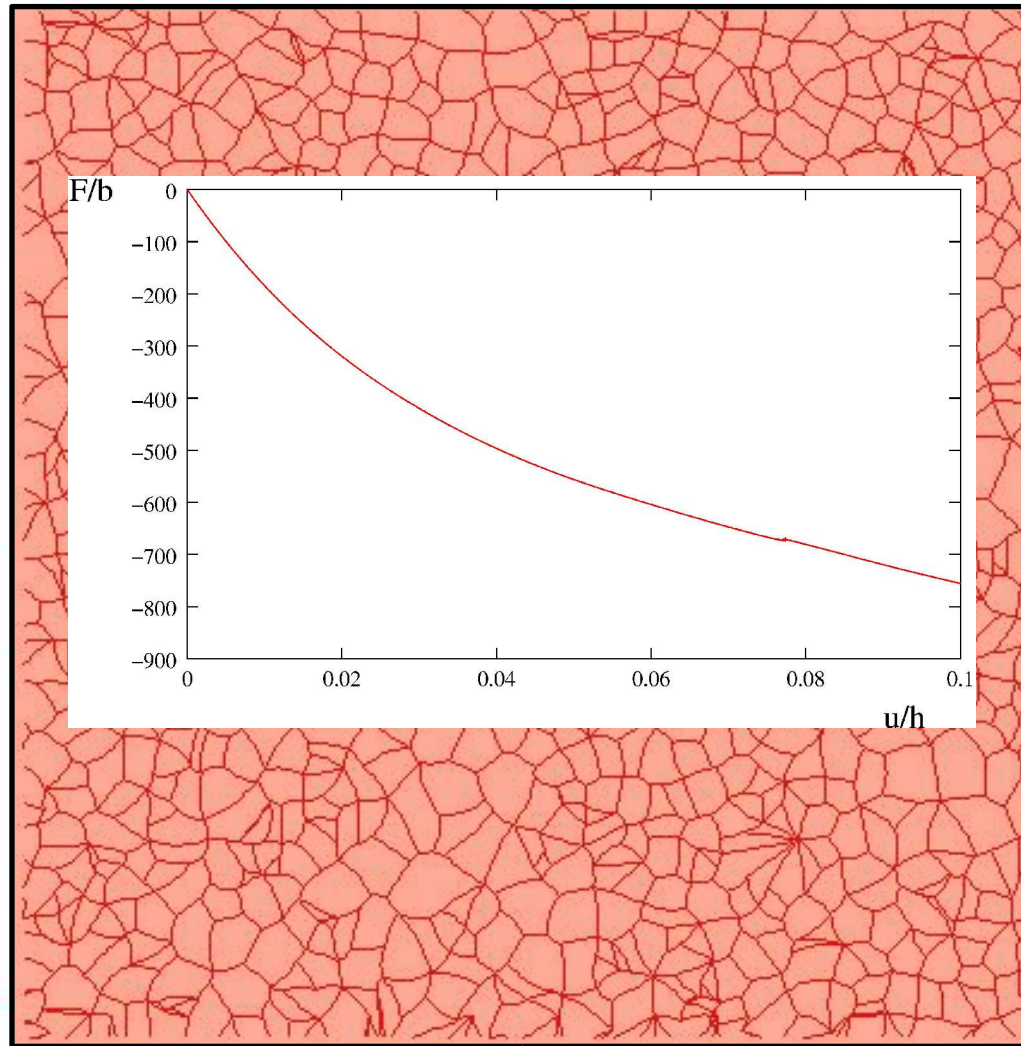
## effective modulus (bending)



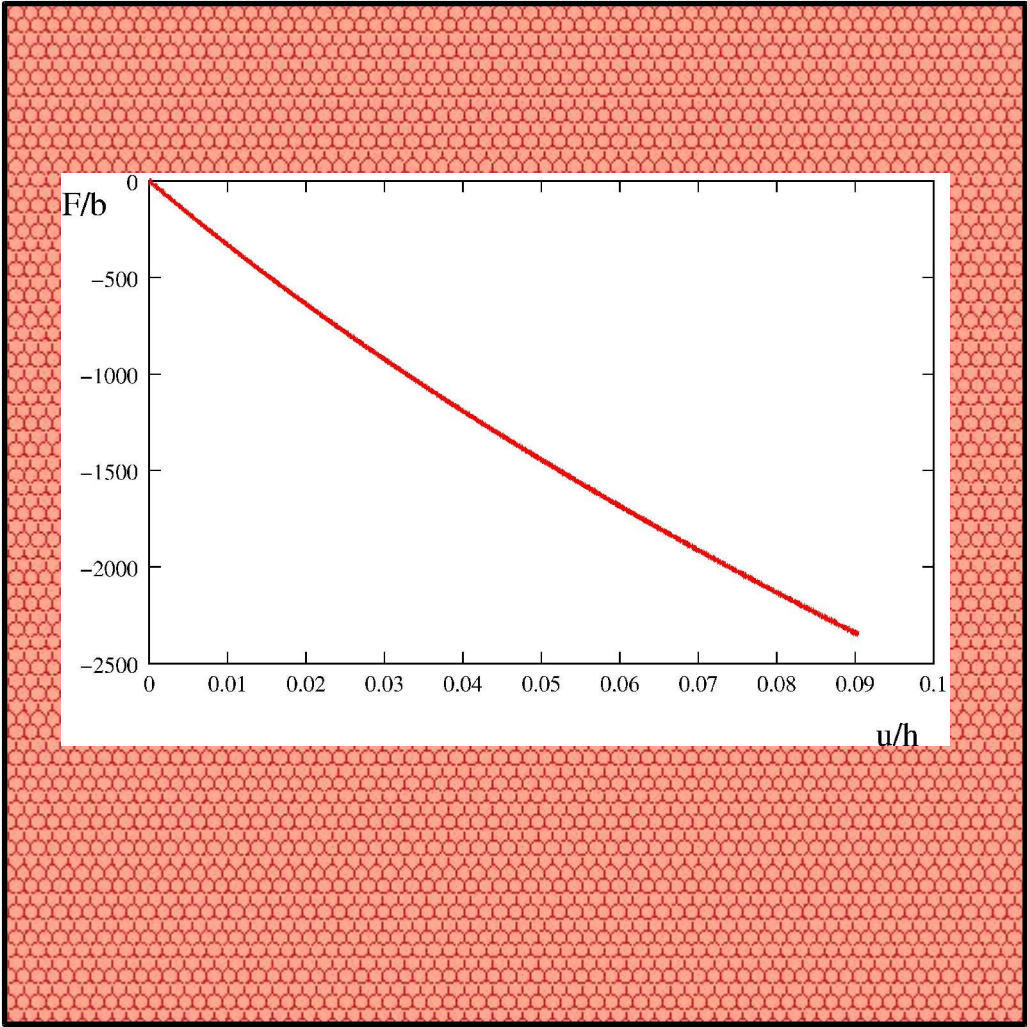
**microstructured material does not behave according to beam theory**

# finite deformations

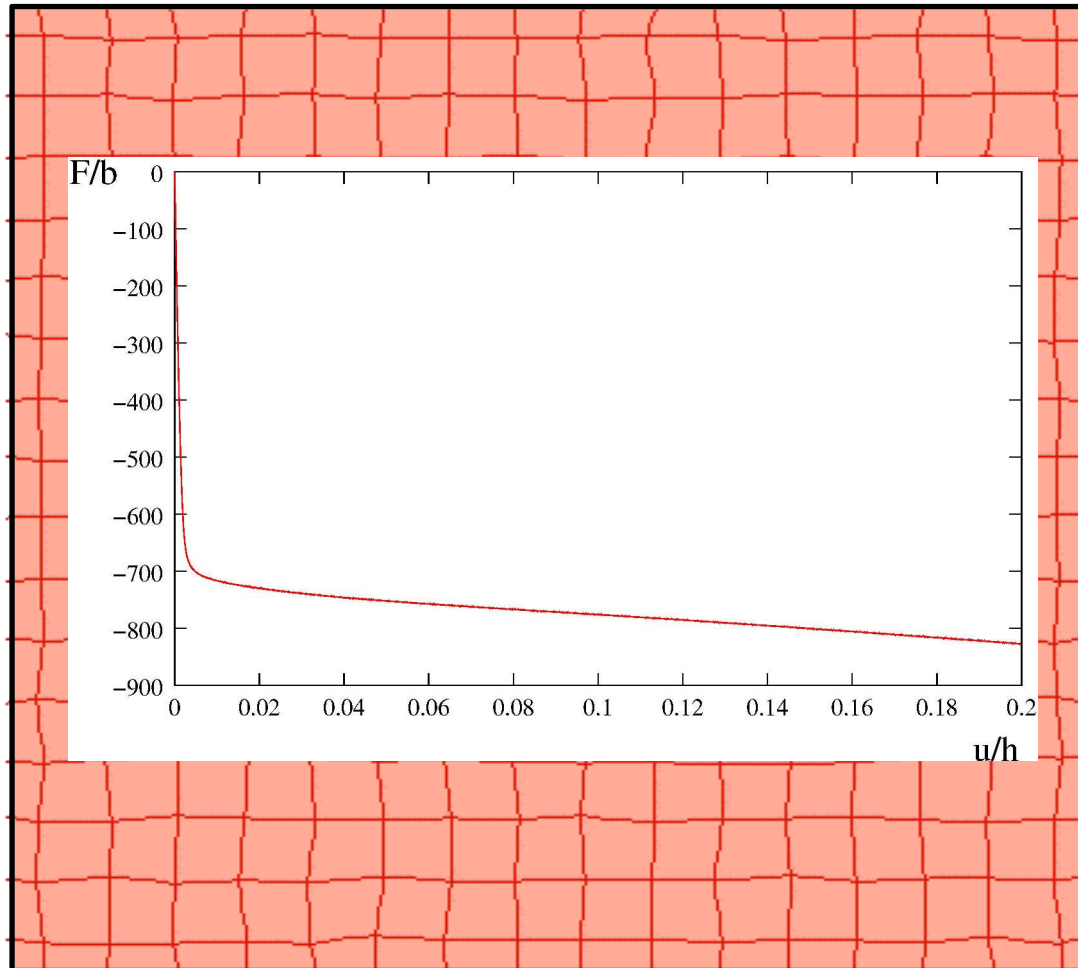
# numerical experiments: compression test



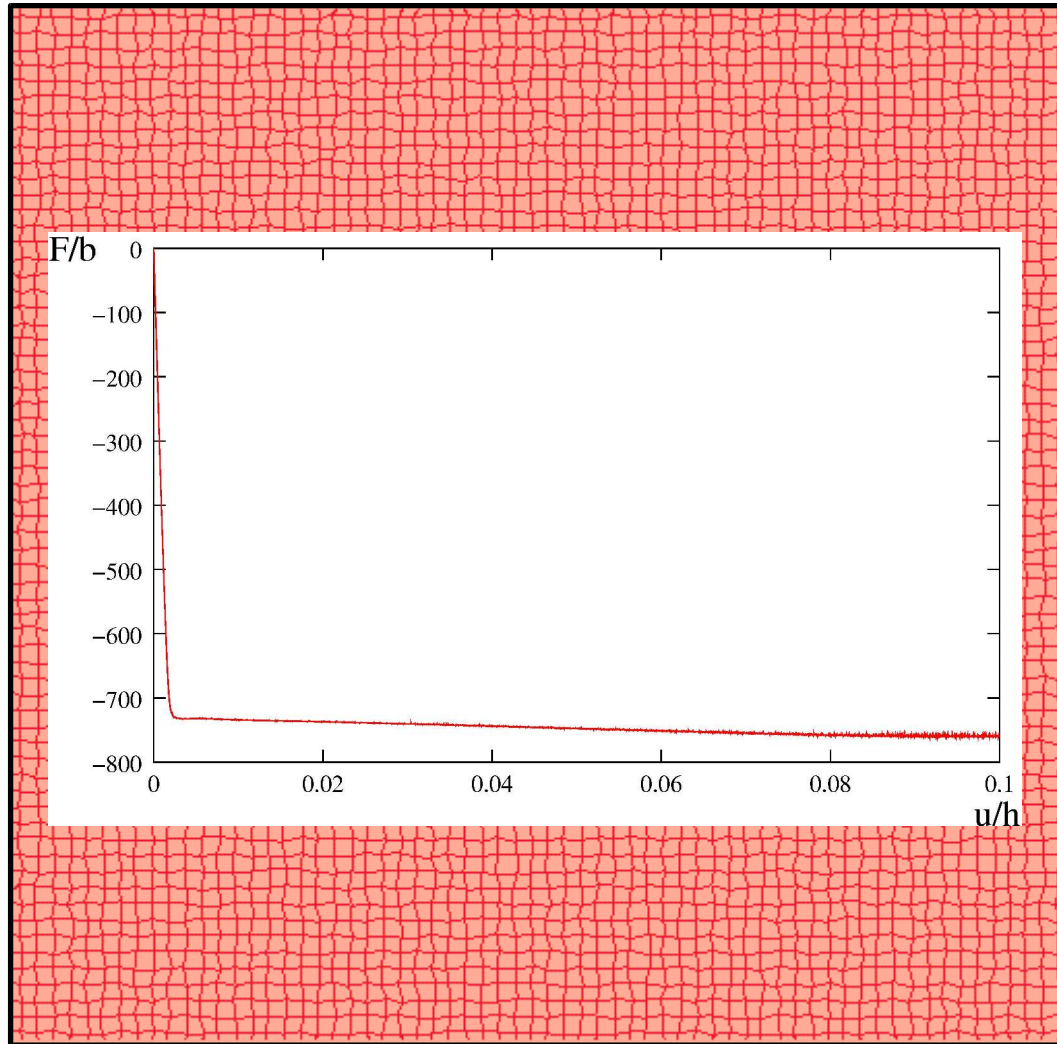
# numerical experiments: compression test



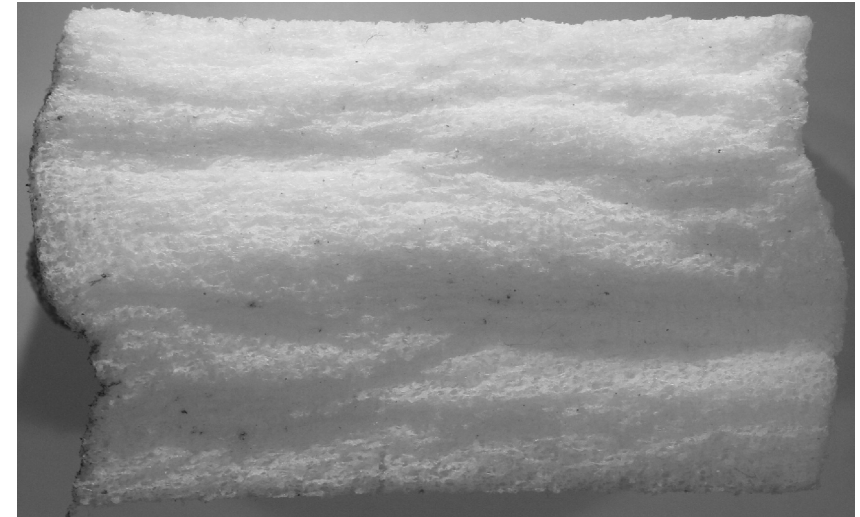
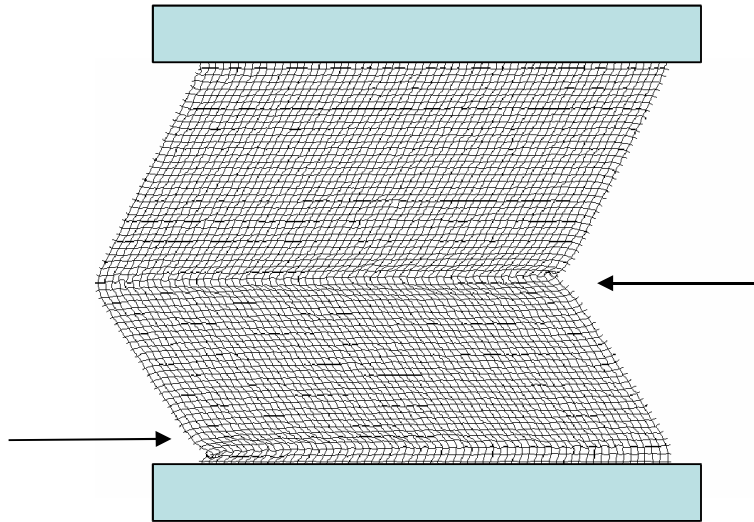
# numerical experiments: compression test



# numerical experiments: compression test



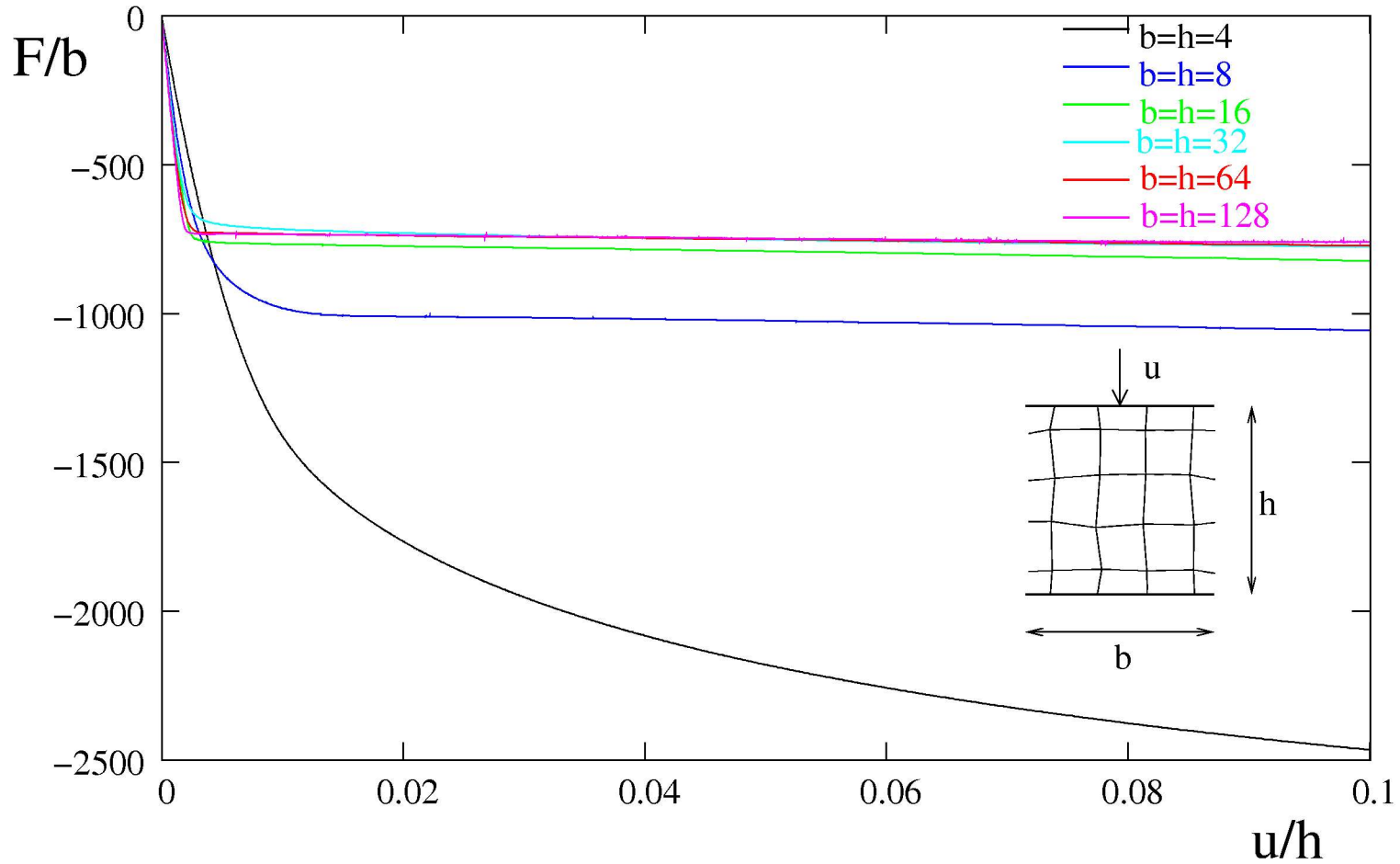
# numerical experiments: compression test



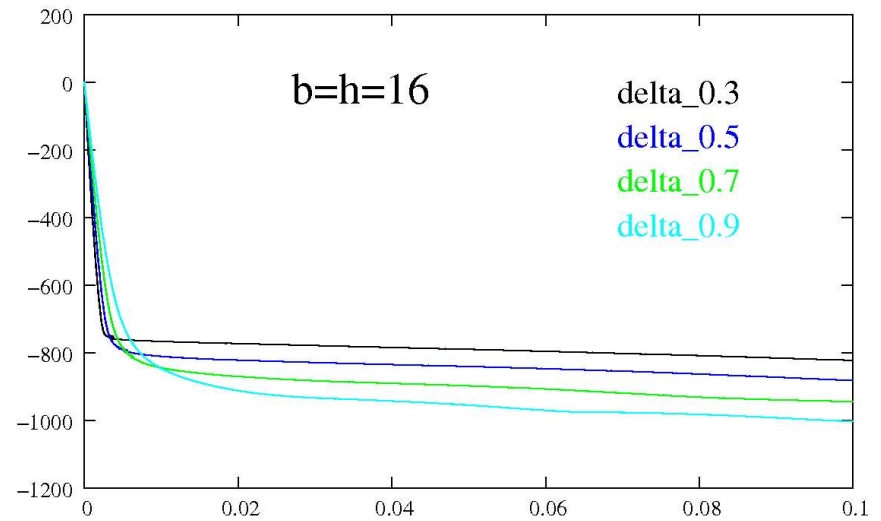
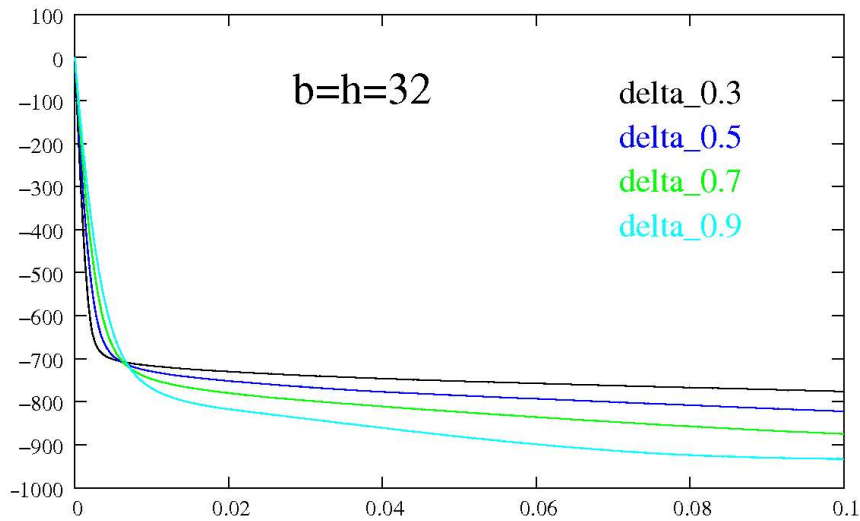
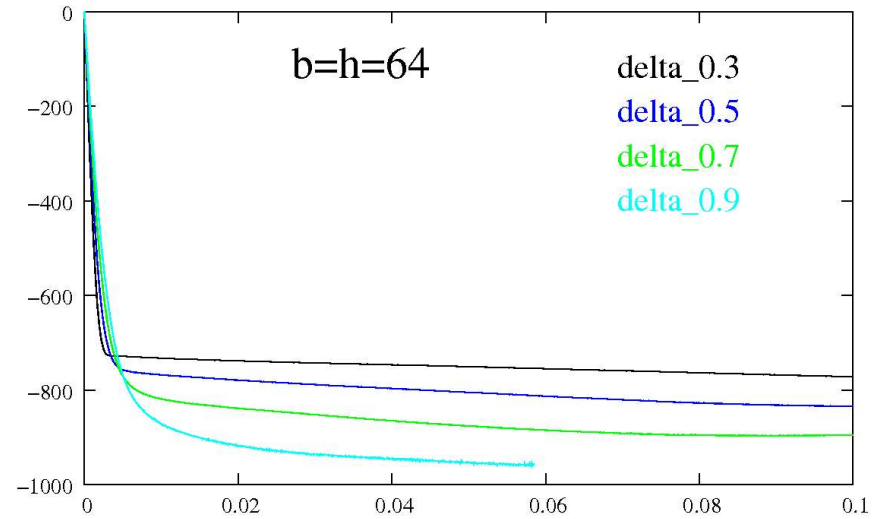
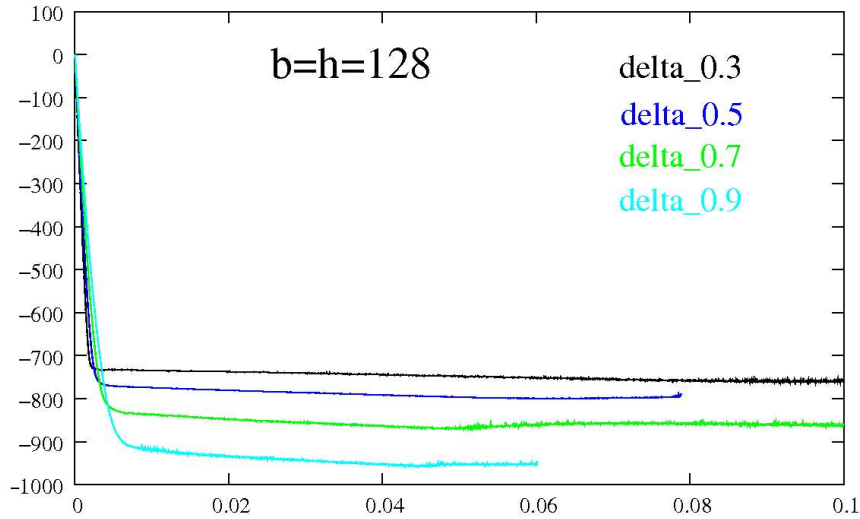
higher order instability modes



# stress-deformation curves



# stress-deformation curves



## discussion:

- size effects observed in
  - \* shear
  - \* compression
  - \* bending
- size effects depending on topology
  - \* smaller is stiffer
  - \* smaller is weaker
- inconsistent moduli in compression and bending
- higher instability modes possible

## discussion:

- Cosserat continuum (MMM-continua)
  - only stiff boundary layers
  - + simple interpretation in terms of microstructure
- non-local continua, gradient continua
  - no interpretation in terms of microstructure
  - + weak and stiff boundary layers
- generalized continua with (scalar) order parameter
  - no interpretation in terms of microstructure
  - + weak and stiff boundary layers