

# Buckling Plasticity Factors

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# Column & Plate Buckling Equations

## Column

$$F_{cr} = \frac{\eta\pi^2 E}{(L'/\rho)^2}$$

**where:**

$$L' = \frac{L}{\sqrt{c}} \quad \rho^2 = \frac{I}{A}$$

## Plate

$$F_{cr} = \frac{\eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2 \quad \text{or} \quad F_{cr} = \frac{\eta E}{(b/t)_e^2}$$

**where:**

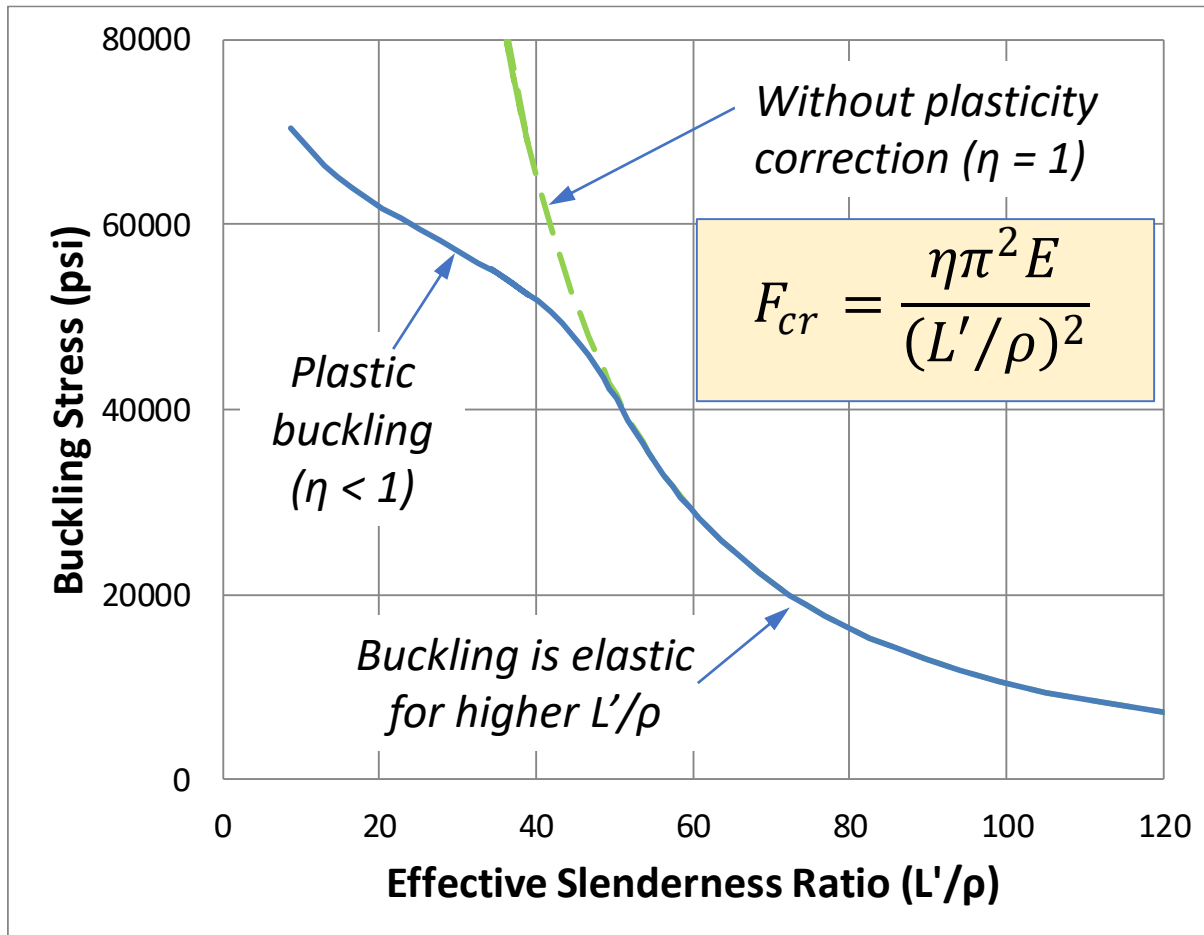
$$(b/t)_e = \frac{(b/t)}{\sqrt{K}}$$

$$K = \frac{k\pi^2}{12(1 - \nu^2)}$$

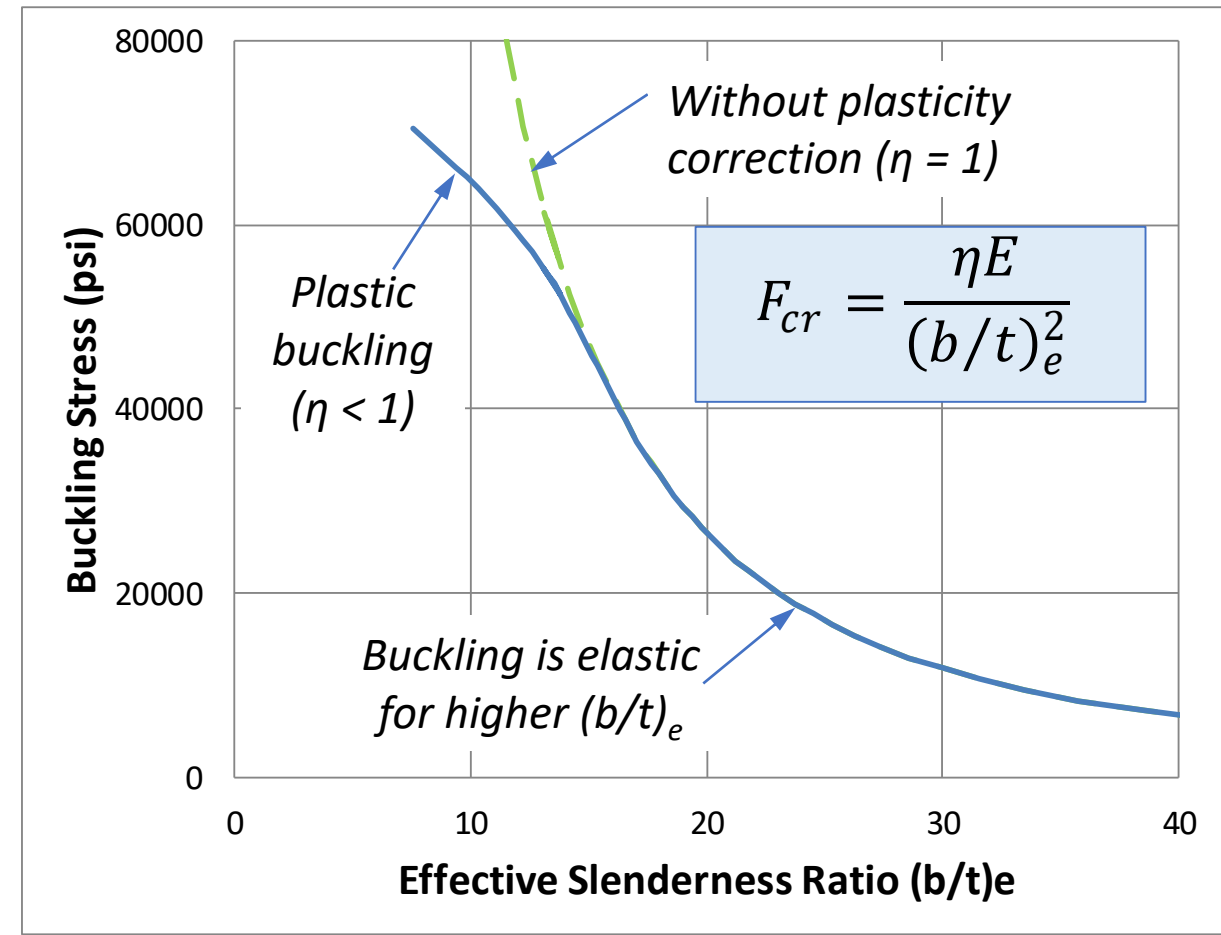
**$\eta$  = Plasticity Correction Factor (number  $\leq 1$ )  
Not same for columns & plates (see later)  
Reduces to elastic buckling when  $\eta = 1$**

# Plasticity Reduces Buckling Stresses ( $\eta \leq 1$ )

## Column Buckling



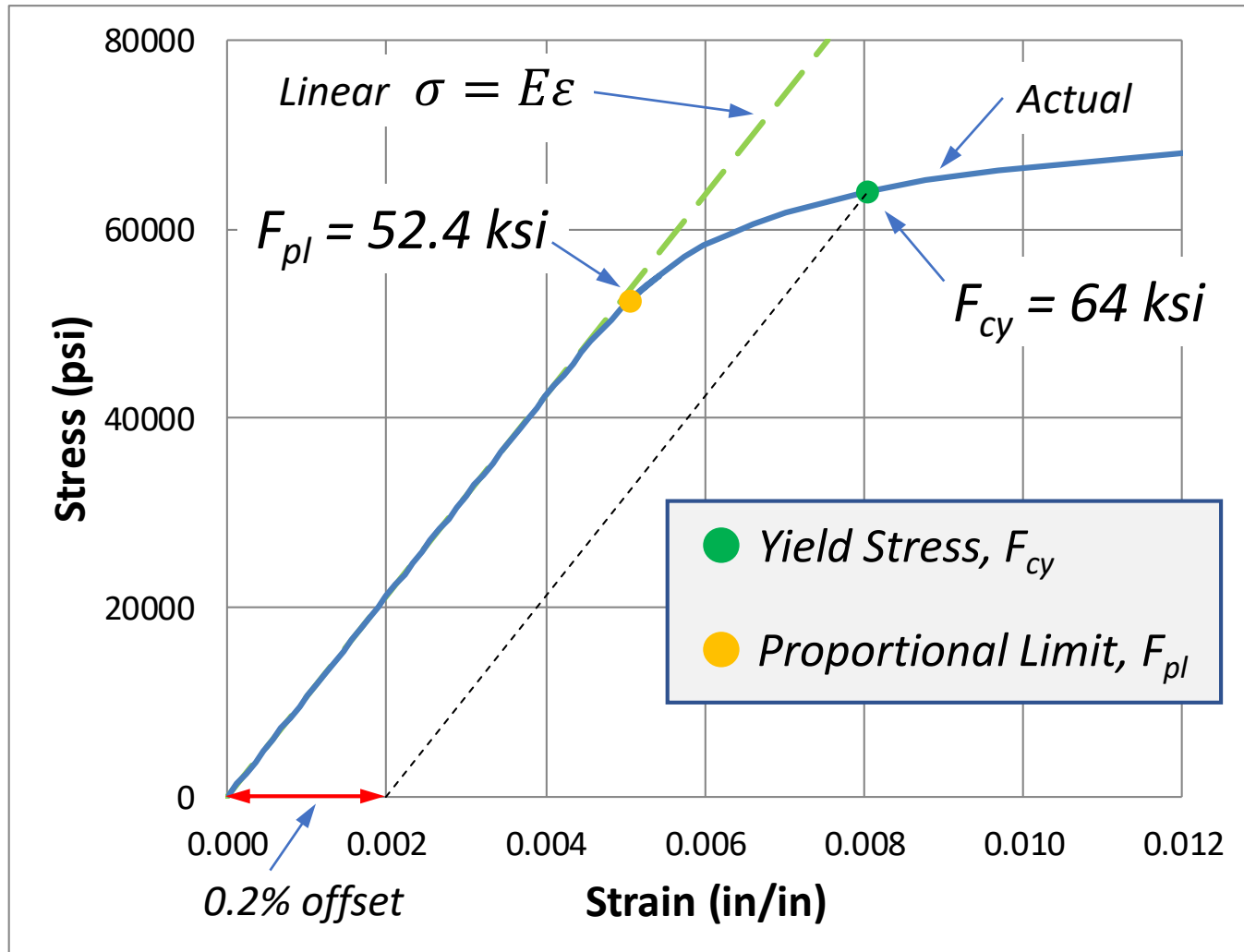
## Plate Buckling



$\eta = \text{Plasticity Correction Factor}$

# Compressive Stress-Strain Curve

## Typical Aluminum Alloy



**Note that the stress-strain curve deviates from linearity below the yield stress.**

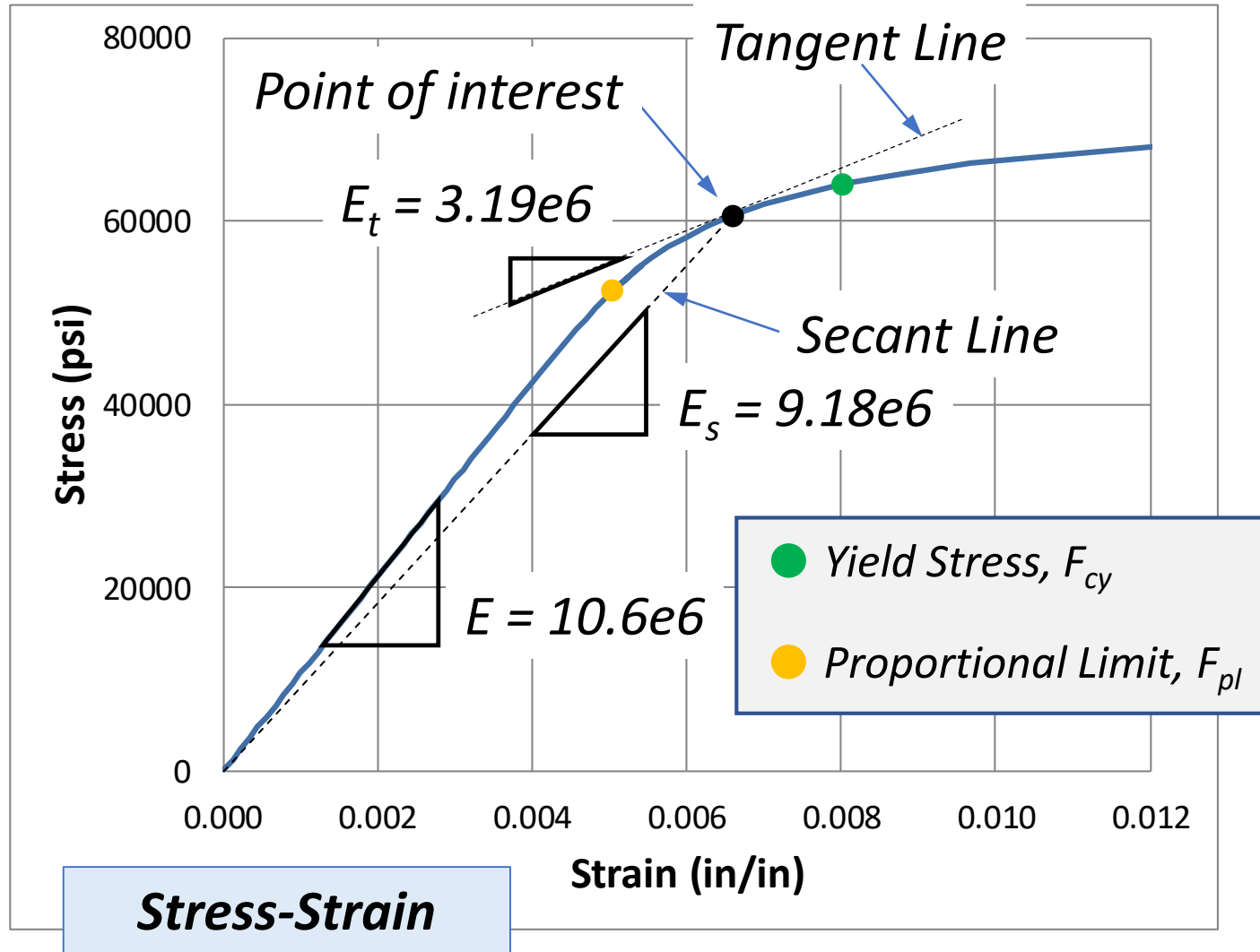
### Yield Stress $F_{cy}$

Stress where deviation from initial straight line is 0.002 in/in (0.2% offset). This offset is shown as the dotted line in this plot.

### Proportional Limit $F_{pl}$

Stress where deviation from initial straight line begins. Since it can be hard to determine exactly where this occurs, it is often defined as a deviation of 0.0001 in/in (0.01% offset).

# Plasticity Factors are functions of $E_t$ and $E_s$



Besides the initial Young's Modulus  $E$ , two other moduli are used when analyzing plasticity effects:

$E_t$  = Tangent Modulus (psi)

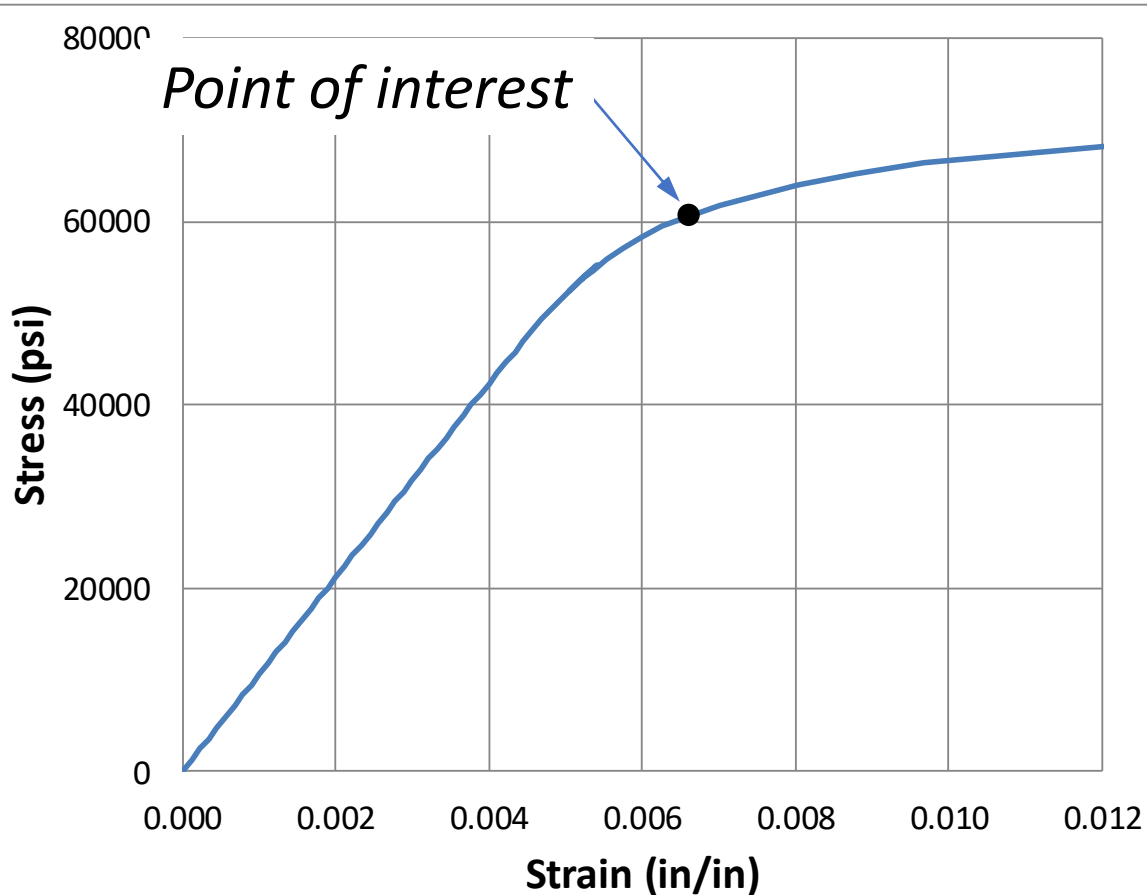
$E_s$  = Secant Modulus (psi)

The values of  $E_t$  and  $E_s$  at the point of interest are as shown. Note how they compare to the initial Modulus.

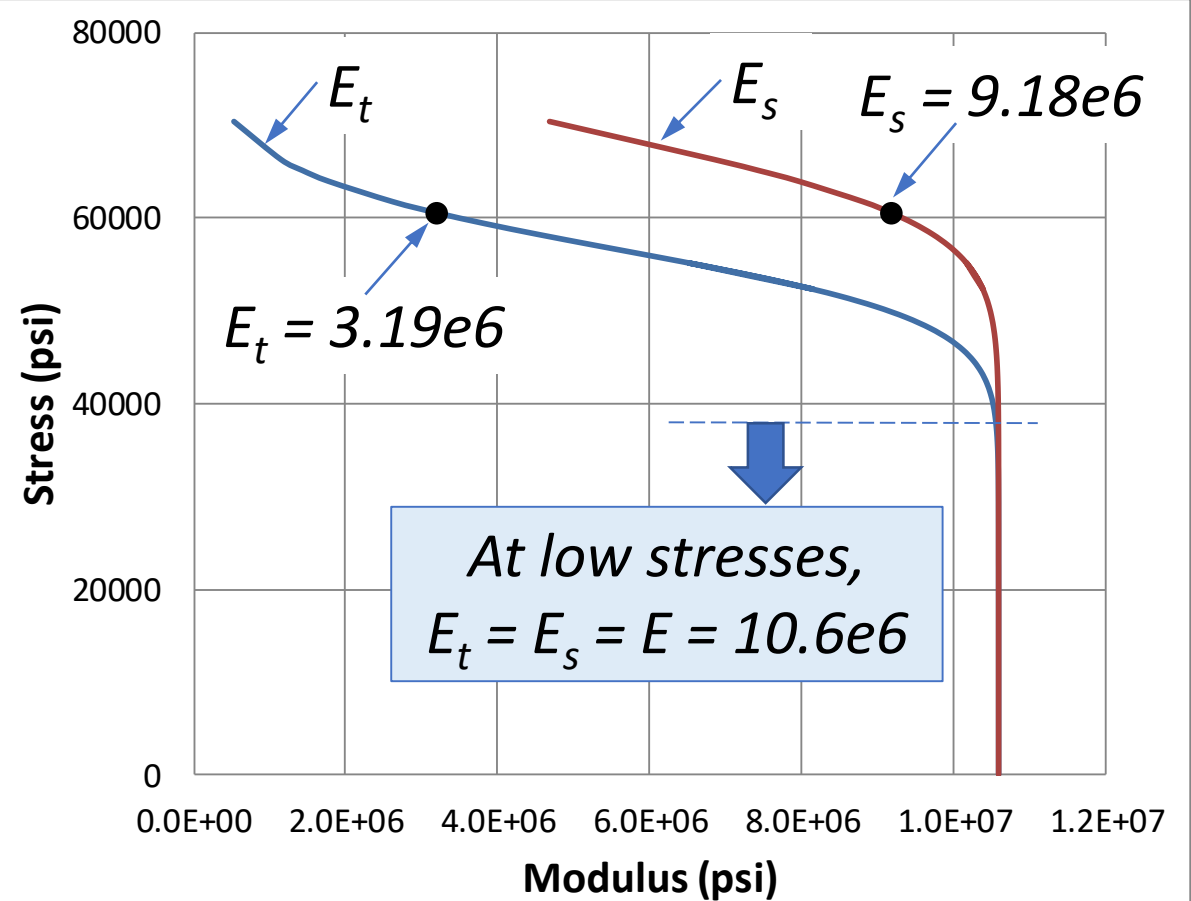
**$E_t$  and  $E_s$  vary along the curve. They are functions of the stress, they are not constants!**

# Tangent & Secant Moduli vary with Stress

*Stress-Strain*



*Tangent & Secant Moduli as functions of stress*



# Ramberg-Osgood Relation

# Ramberg-Osgood Relation

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- While actual stress-strain curves are obtained by testing, it is useful to have a mathematical expression to represent the curve for analysis work
- Although several expressions have been proposed, the Ramberg-Osgood representation has been the most commonly used for Aerospace Structural Analysis
- There are a few variations of the basic Ramberg-Osgood formulation that will be shown below
- For analysis of buckling in the plastic range, the main use of the Ramberg-Osgood relation is to obtain mathematical expressions for the Tangent and Secant Moduli, which are needed to compute Plasticity Correction Factors



# Basic Ramberg-Osgood Stress-Strain Relation

*The total strain is broken into elastic and plastic parts*

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_e + \varepsilon_p$$

*The elastic strain is linear with stress*

$$\varepsilon_e = \frac{\sigma}{E}$$

*Elastic strain dominates at low stresses*

*The plastic strain is a power law with stress*

$$\varepsilon_p = K \left( \frac{\sigma}{E} \right)^n$$

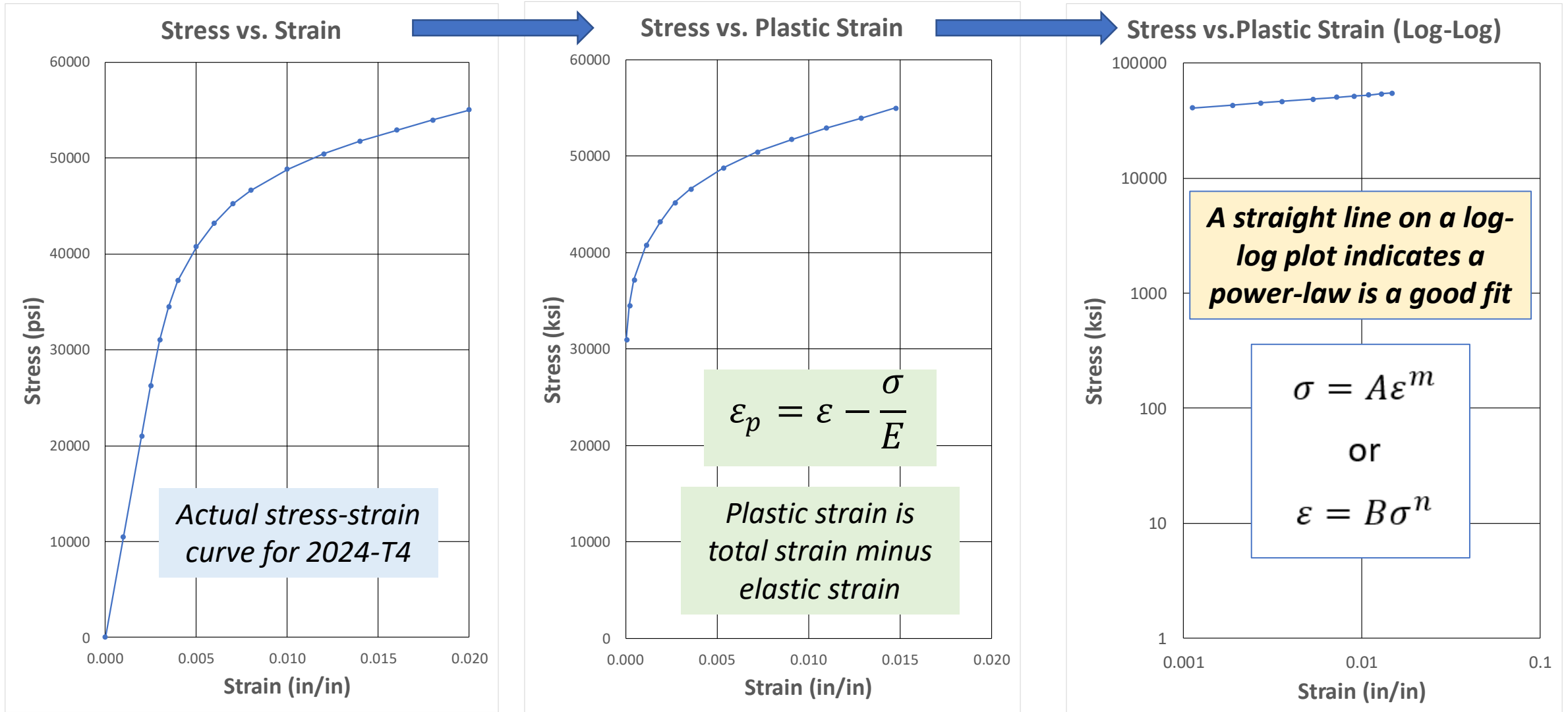
*Plastic strain dominates at high stresses*

*E, K, n are constants for a specific material*

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + K \left( \frac{\sigma}{E} \right)^n$$

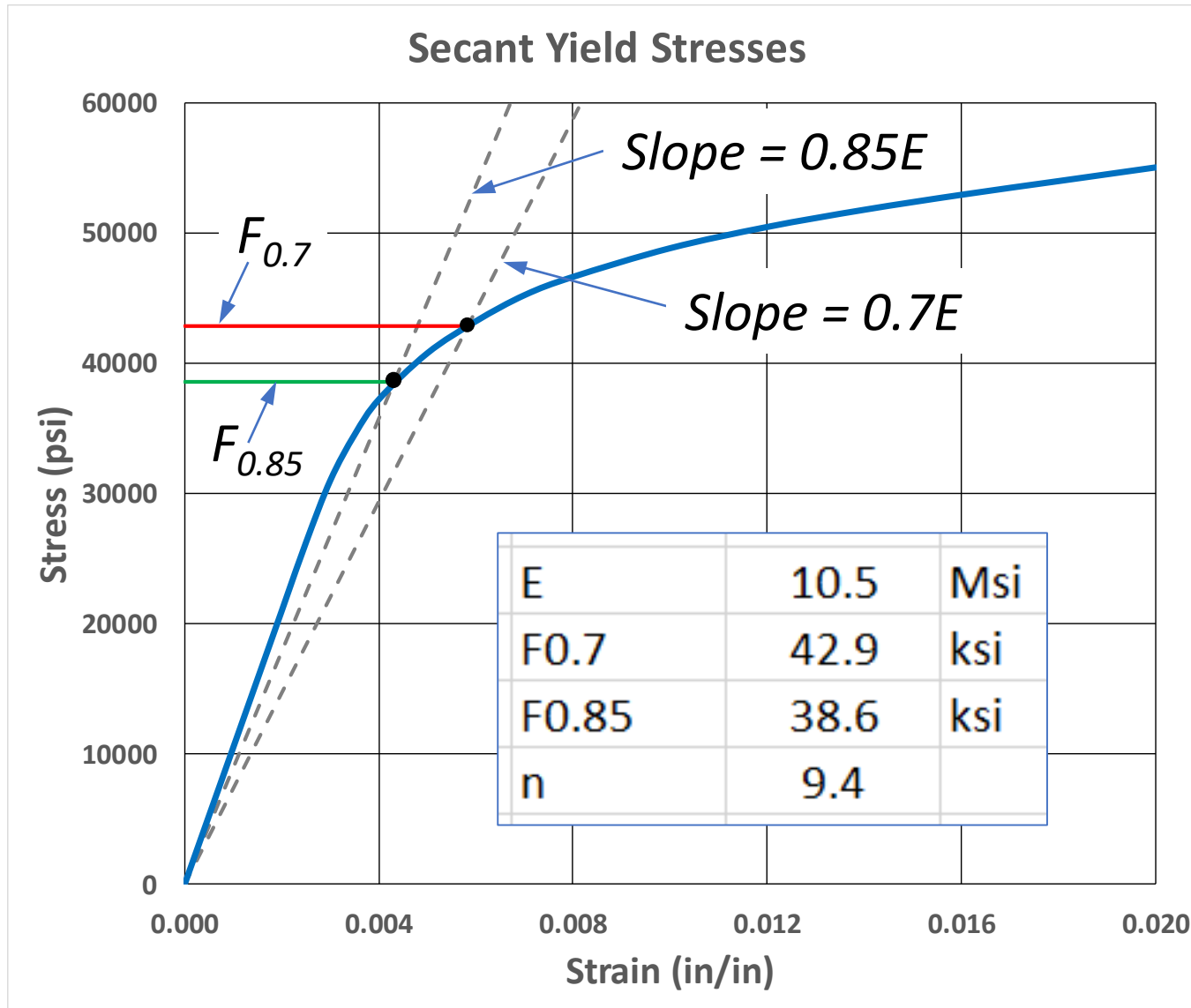
*The resulting stress-strain relation is nonlinear; “n” = Ramberg-Osgood shape parameter*

# Why Power Law for Plastic Strain?



# Variation 1: Original Ramberg-Osgood

NACA-TN-902



**Fit curve through 2 Secant Yield Stresses to obtain exponent "n"**

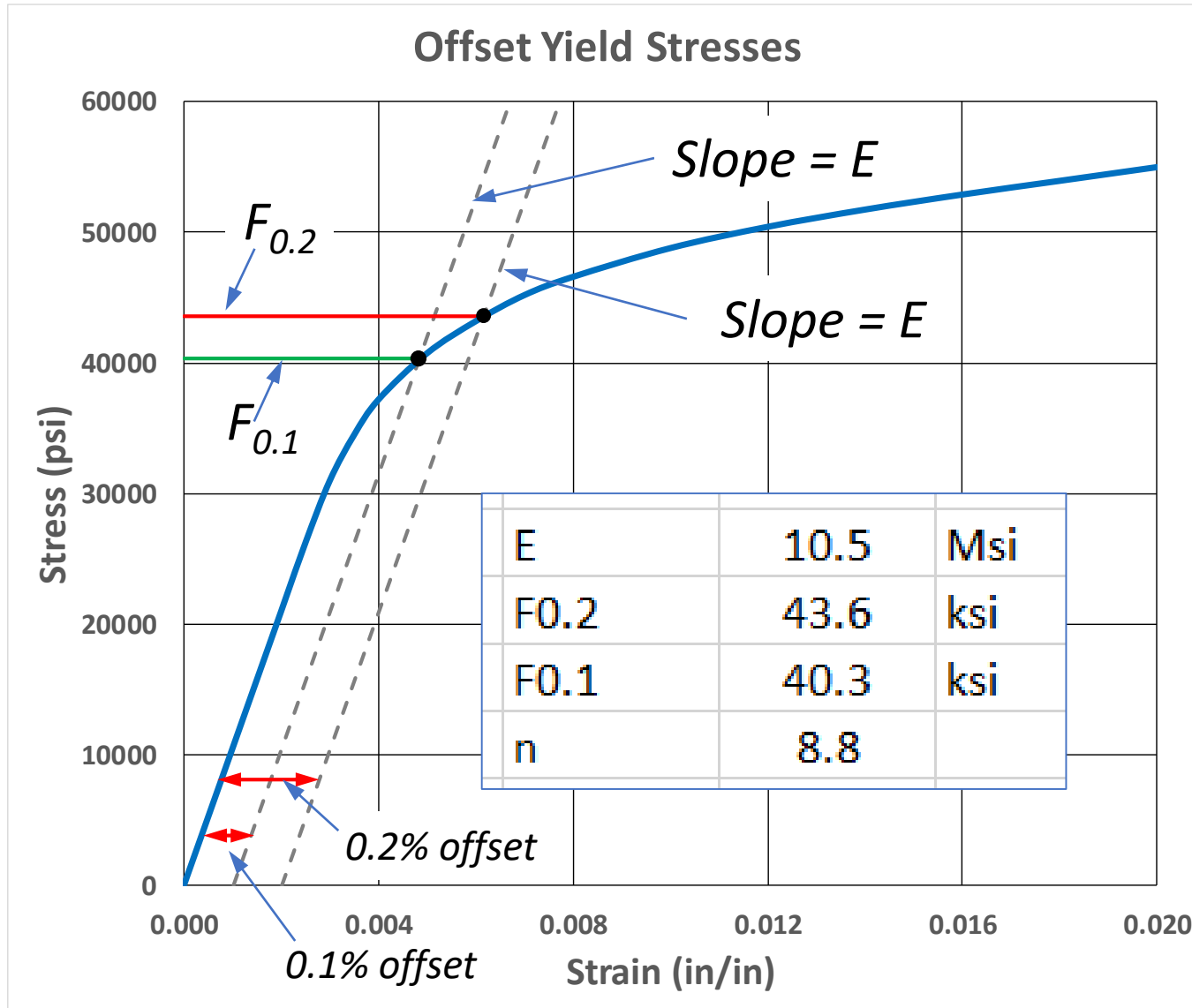
$$n = 1 + \frac{\log\left(\frac{17}{7}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{F_{0.7}}{F_{0.85}}\right)}$$

$F_{0.7}$  = Stress at secant slope of  $0.7E$  (psi)  
 $F_{0.85}$  = Stress at secant slope of  $0.85E$  (psi)

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + \frac{3}{7} \frac{F_{0.7}}{E} \left(\frac{\sigma}{F_{0.7}}\right)^n$$

**Stress-strain curve using 3 parameters:  $E$ ,  $n$ ,  $F_{0.7}$**

# Variation 2: Hill



**Fit curve through 2 Offset Yield Stresses to obtain exponent "n"**

$$n = \frac{\log\left(\frac{.002}{.001}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{F_{0.2}}{F_{0.1}}\right)}$$

$F_{0.1}$  = Stress at offset of 0.1% (psi)

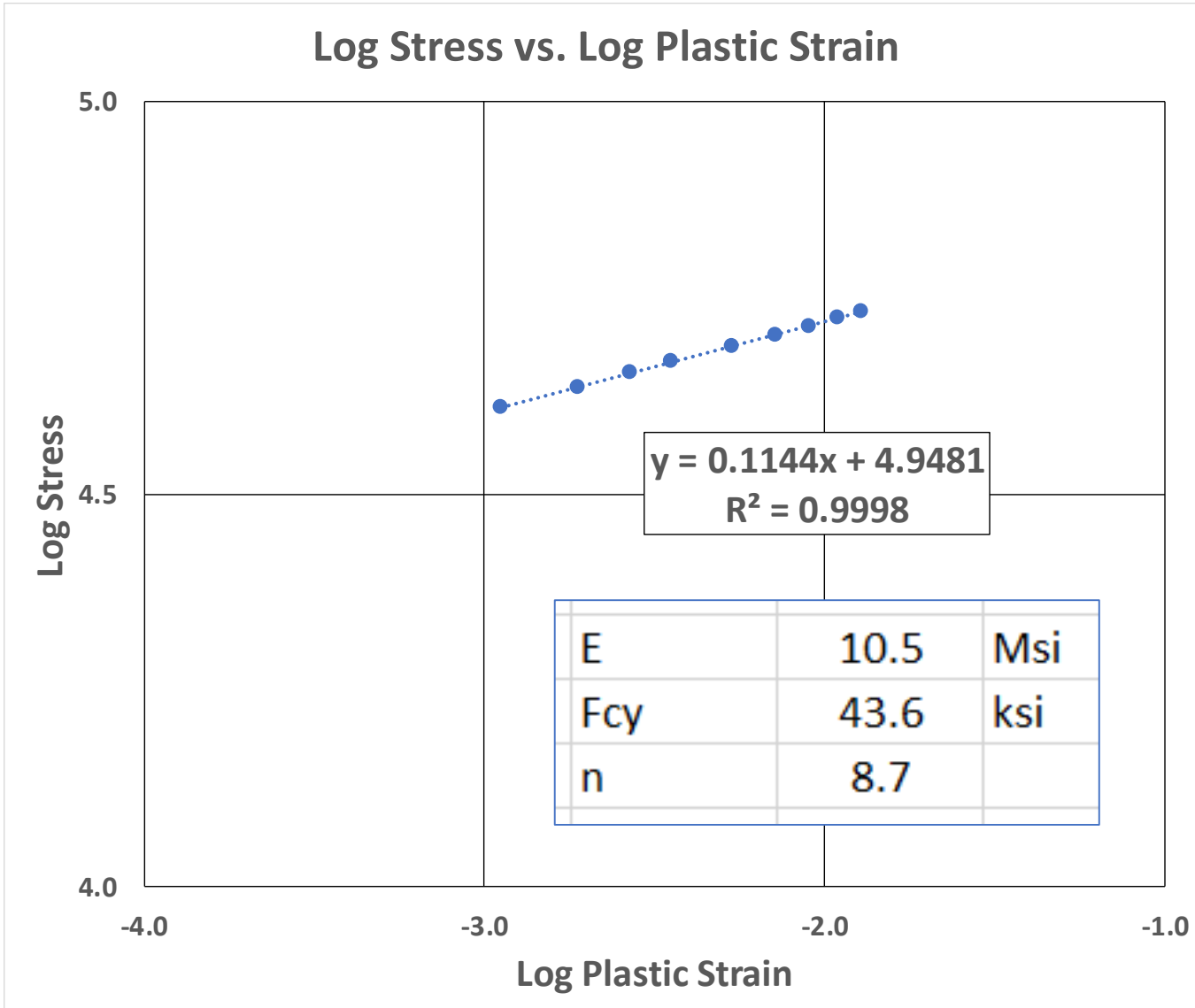
$F_{0.2}$  = Stress at offset of 0.2% (psi)

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left(\frac{\sigma}{F_{0.2}}\right)^n$$

**Stress-strain curve using 3 parameters:  $E$ ,  $n$ ,  $F_{0.2}$**

# Variation 3: MIL-HDBK-5 Variation

MIL-HDBK-5J



*“n” determined from linear fit of Log plastic strain vs. Log stress plot*

$$m = \text{slope} = 0.1144$$

$$n = 1/m = 8.7$$

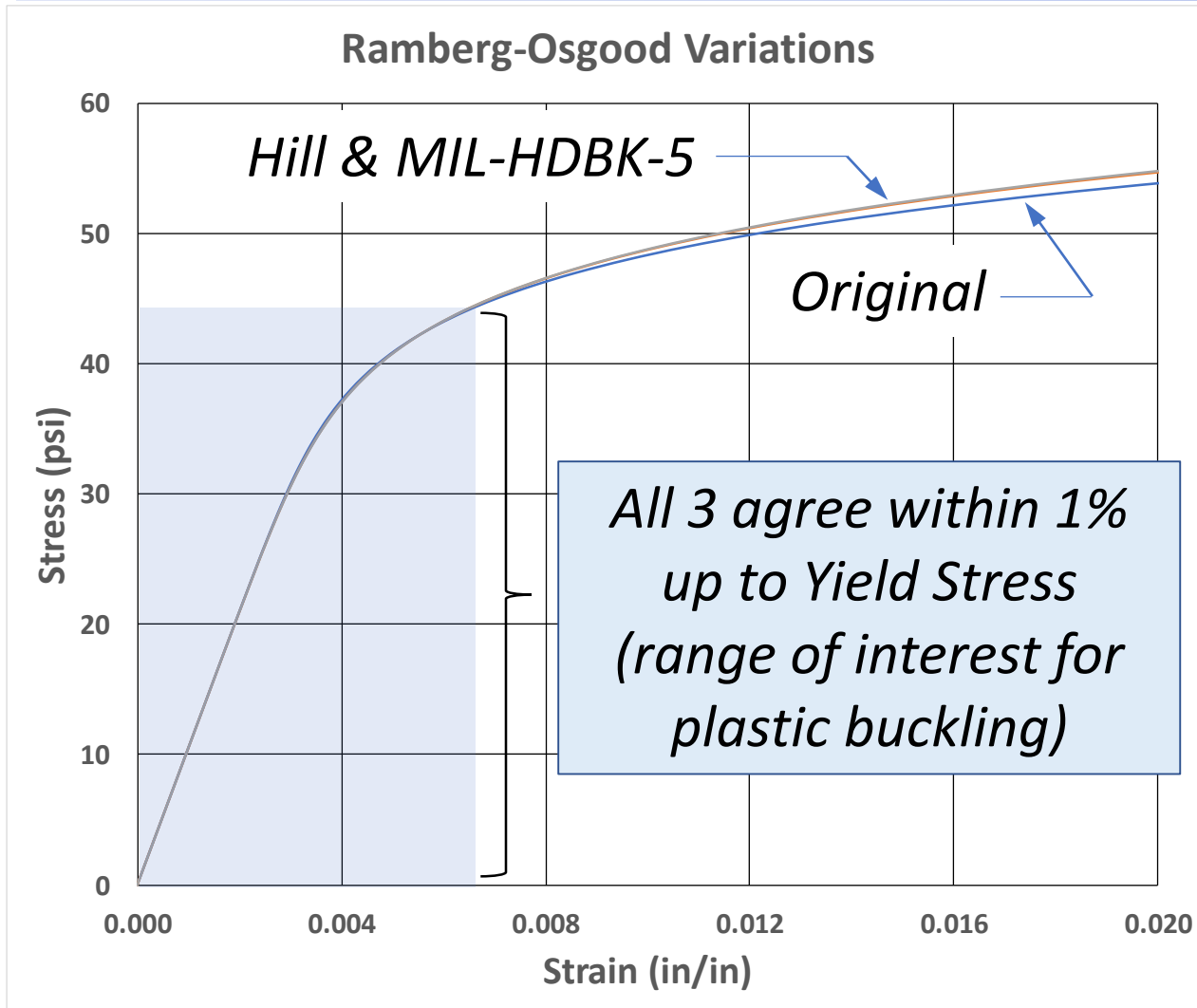
Plot log stress vs. log plastic strain over range of interest. Inverse slope of the best fit line is the desired exponent  $n$ .

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left( \frac{\sigma}{F_{0.2}} \right)^n$$

*Stress-strain curve using 3 parameters:  $E, n, F_{0.2}$*

# Compare Variations

Although shape parameters vary slightly, differences in stress-strain curves for this alloy in range of interest are negligible



## Original

E	10.5	Msi
F0.7	42.9	ksi
n	9.4	

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + \frac{3 F_{0.7}}{7 E} \left( \frac{\sigma}{F_{0.7}} \right)^n$$

## Hill

E	10.5	Msi
F0.2	43.6	ksi
n	8.8	

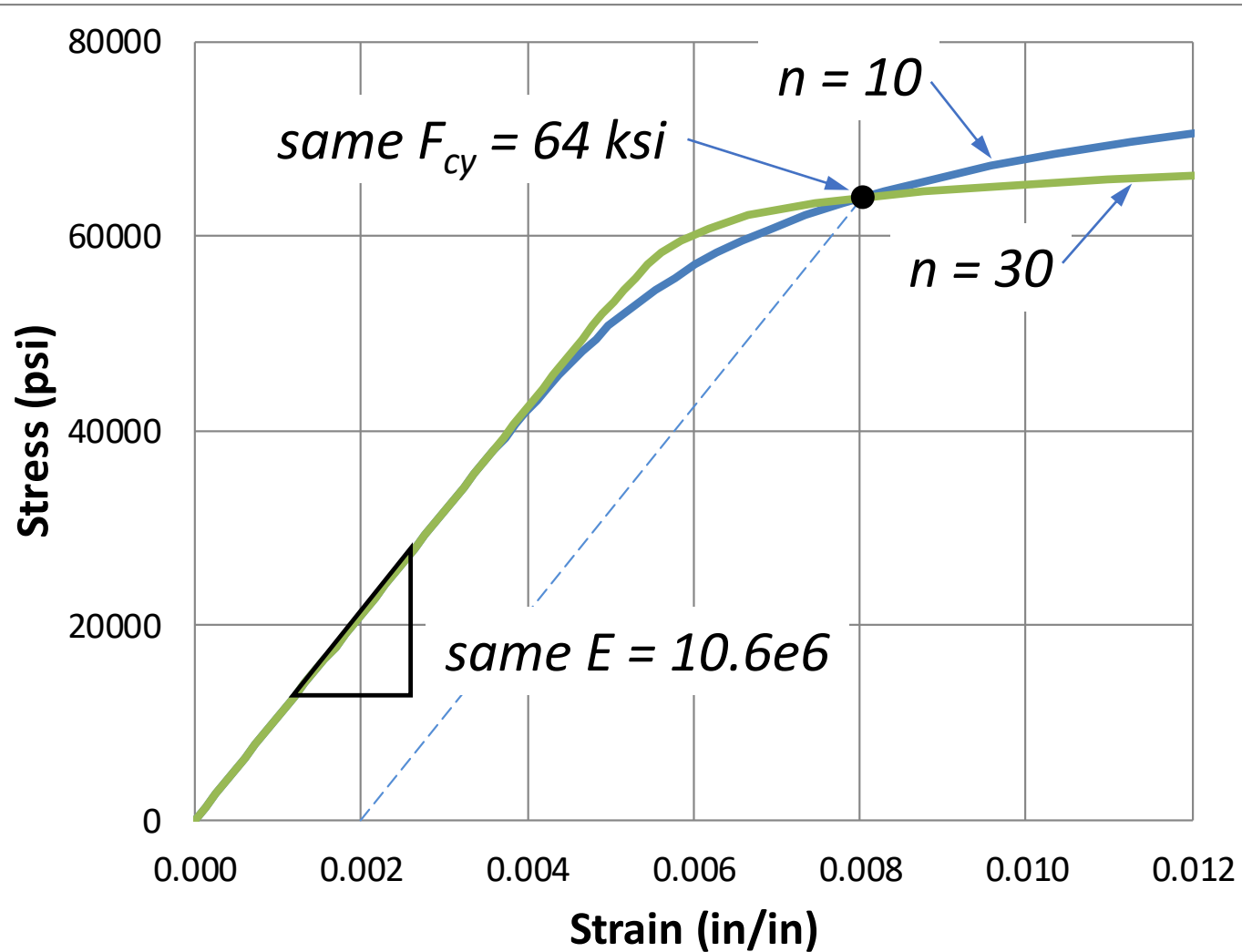
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left( \frac{\sigma}{F_{0.2}} \right)^n$$

## MIL-HDBK-5

E	10.5	Msi
F0.2	43.6	ksi
n	8.7	

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left( \frac{\sigma}{F_{0.2}} \right)^n$$

# Effect of Shape Parameter “n”



**Comparing 2 stress-strain curves with same  $E$  and  $F_{cy}$ , but different values of “n”**

**Lower values of  $n$ :  
More gradual transition from elastic to plastic, plasticity effects begin at lower stresses**

**Higher values of  $n$ :  
More abrupt transition from elastic to plastic (sharper knee)**

# Aside: Full-Range Tension Stress-Strain Curve

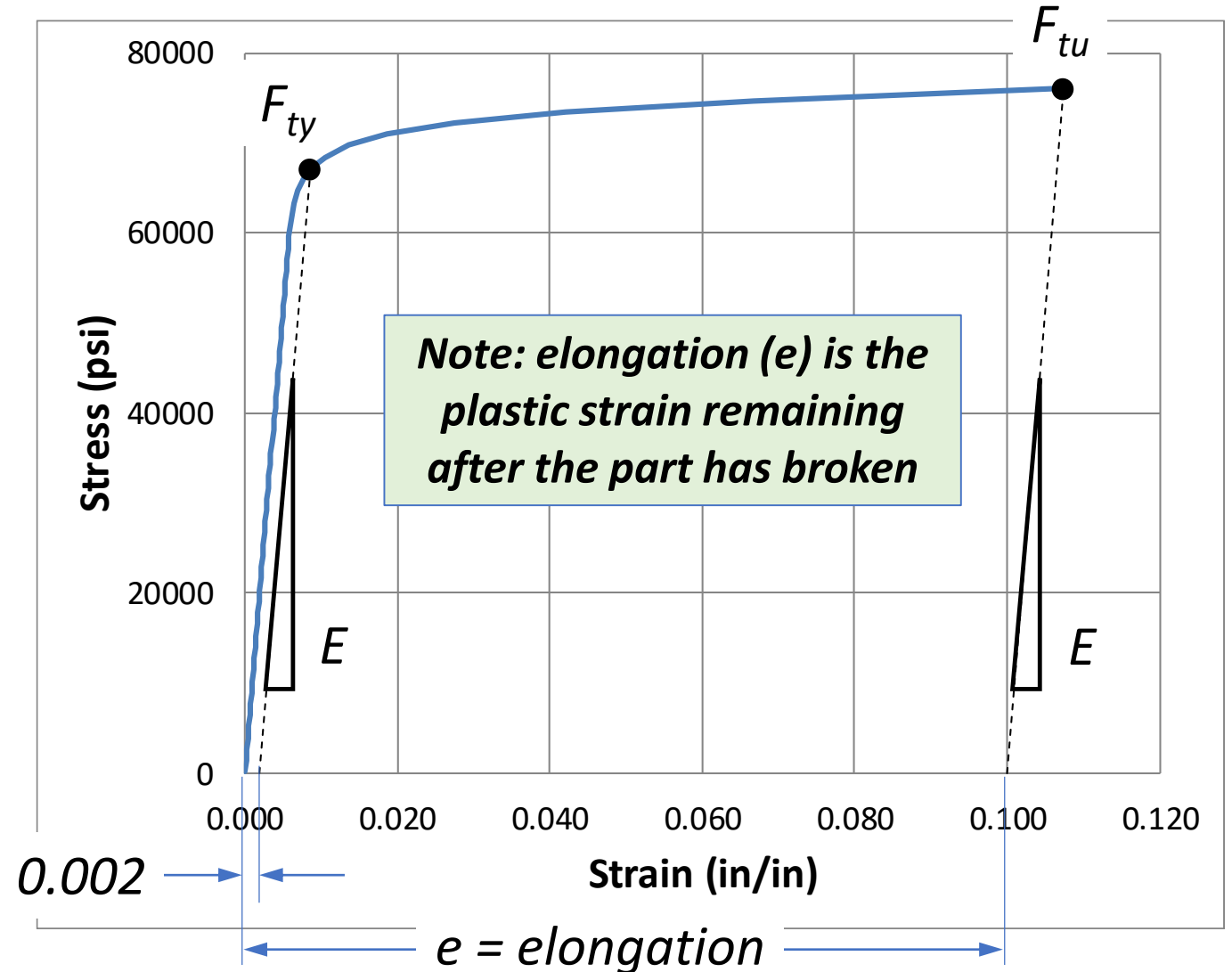
*The previous curves were for compression and only covered stresses a bit past the yield stress*

*Full range tension curves are useful for plastic bending analysis.*

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E} + 0.002 \left( \frac{\sigma}{F_{ty}} \right)^n$$

**where:**  $n = \frac{\log\left(\frac{e}{.002}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{F_{tu}}{F_{ty}}\right)}$

*Similar to Hill formulation, except use  $F_{ty}$  and  $F_{tu}$  as the 2 offset stresses*

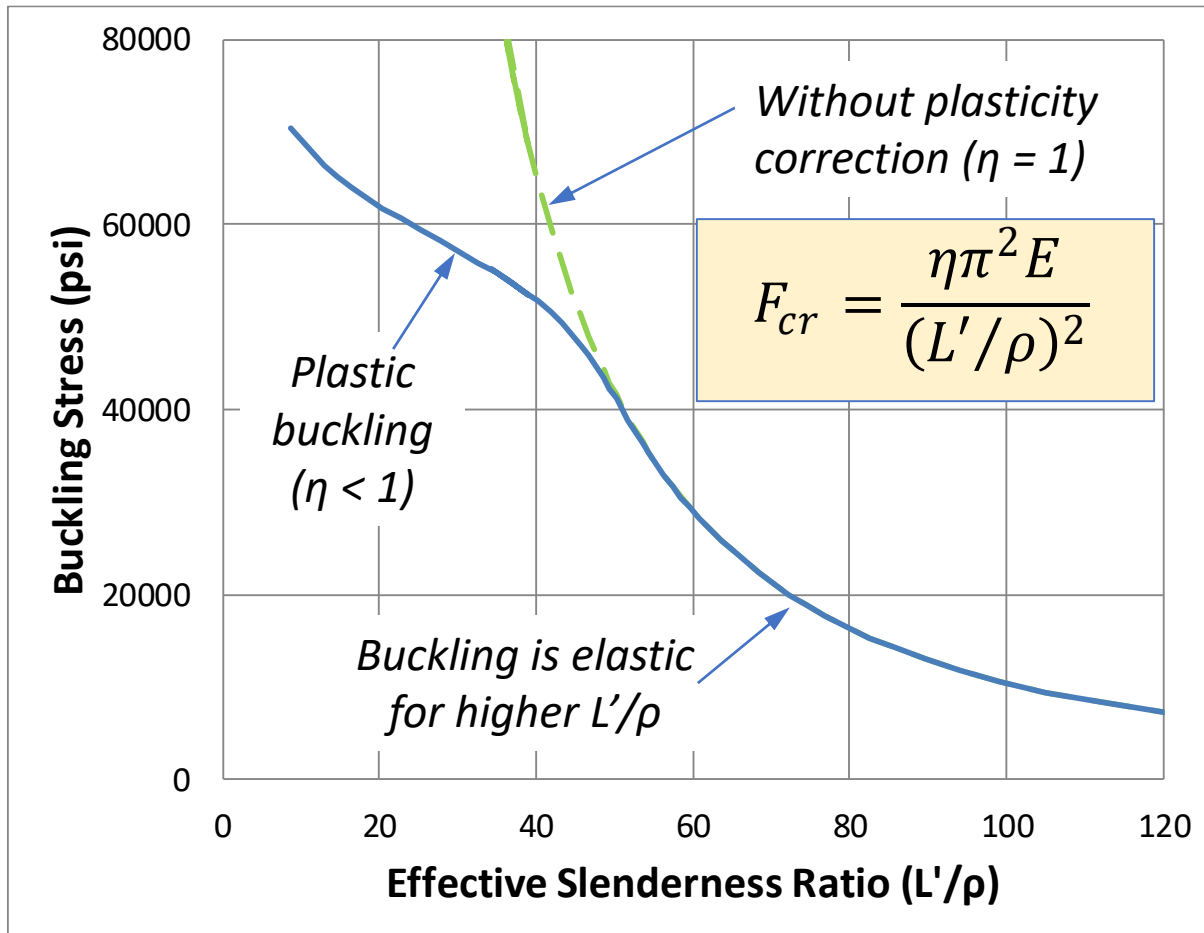




# Plasticity Factor for Column Buckling

# Plasticity Reduction Factor for Columns

## Column Buckling



$$F_{cr} = \frac{\eta \pi^2 E}{\left(L'/\rho\right)^2}$$

$$L' = \frac{L}{\sqrt{c}}$$

$$\rho^2 = \frac{I}{A}$$

**$\eta =$  Plasticity Correction Factor**

where:  $\eta = \frac{E_t}{E}$



# Column Buckling Example: Inputs

## Material

$E_c$	1.060E+07	psi
$F_{0.7}$	64922	psi
$n$	19	

## Cross-Section

Circular hollow tube		
D, outer dia.	1.5	in
t, wall thk.	0.06	in

## Case 1

### Length & B.C. coeff.

L	20	in
c	1.5	

## Case 2

### Length & B.C. coeff.

L	30	in
c	1.5	

*Use the procedure on the previous page to compute  $F_{cr}$  for these 2 different column lengths*

# Column Buckling Example: Results

## Material

Ec	1.060E+07	psi
F0.7	64922	psi
n	19	

## Cross-Section

Circular hollow tube		
D, outer dia.	1.5	in
t, wall thk.	0.06	in

## Case 1

### Length & B.C. coeff.

L	20	in
c	1.5	

*Verify you get these results*

Fcr	57017	psi
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***Buckling is in Plastic Range***

## Case 2

### Length & B.C. coeff.

L	30	in
c	1.5	

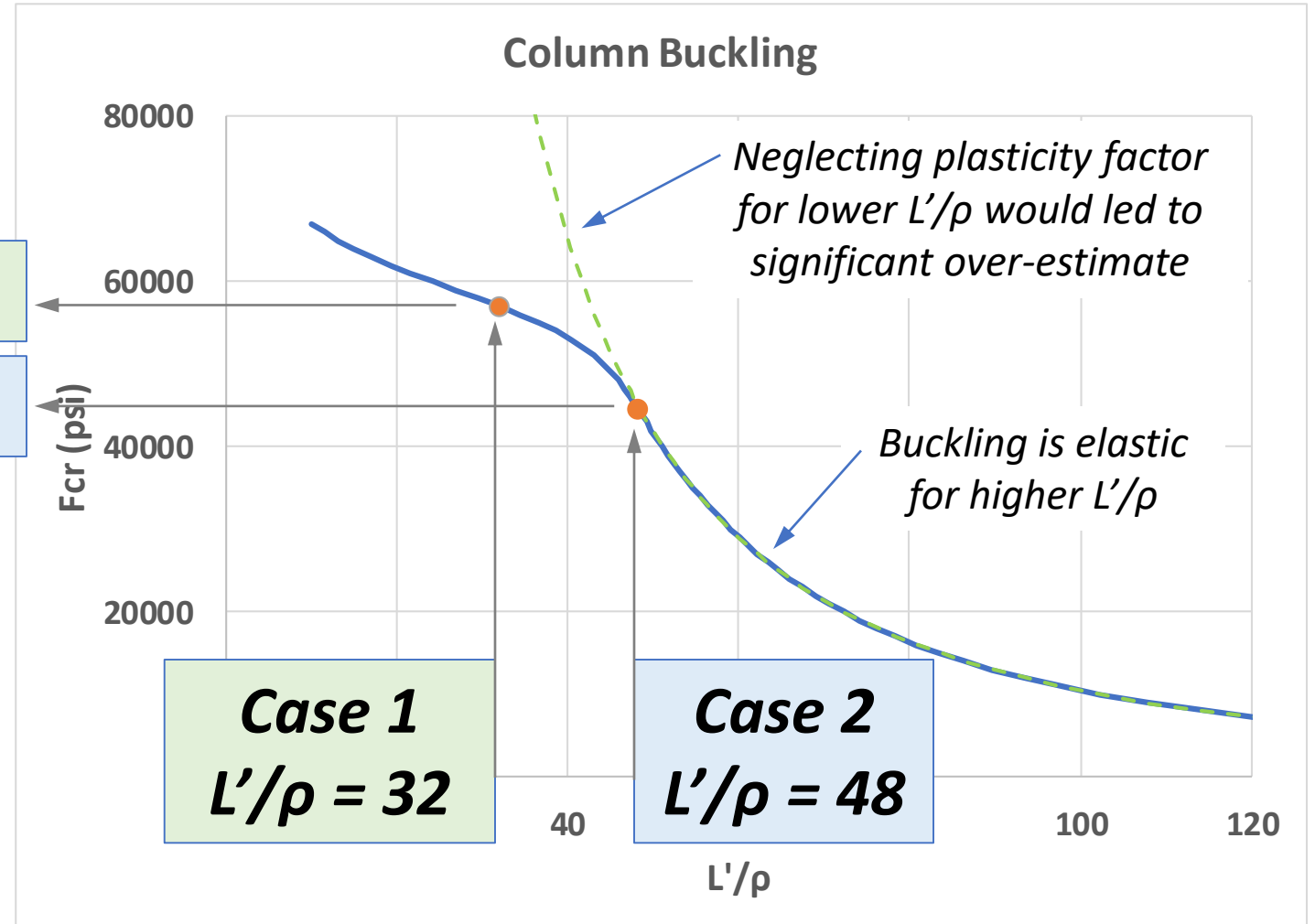
Fcr	44812	psi
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***Buckling is in Elastic Range***

# Column Buckling Example: Results

**Case 1  $F_{cr} = 57.0$  ksi (plastic)**

**Case 2  $F_{cr} = 44.8$  ksi (elastic)**



# Plasticity Factors for Plate Buckling

# Long Simply-Supported Plate under Compression

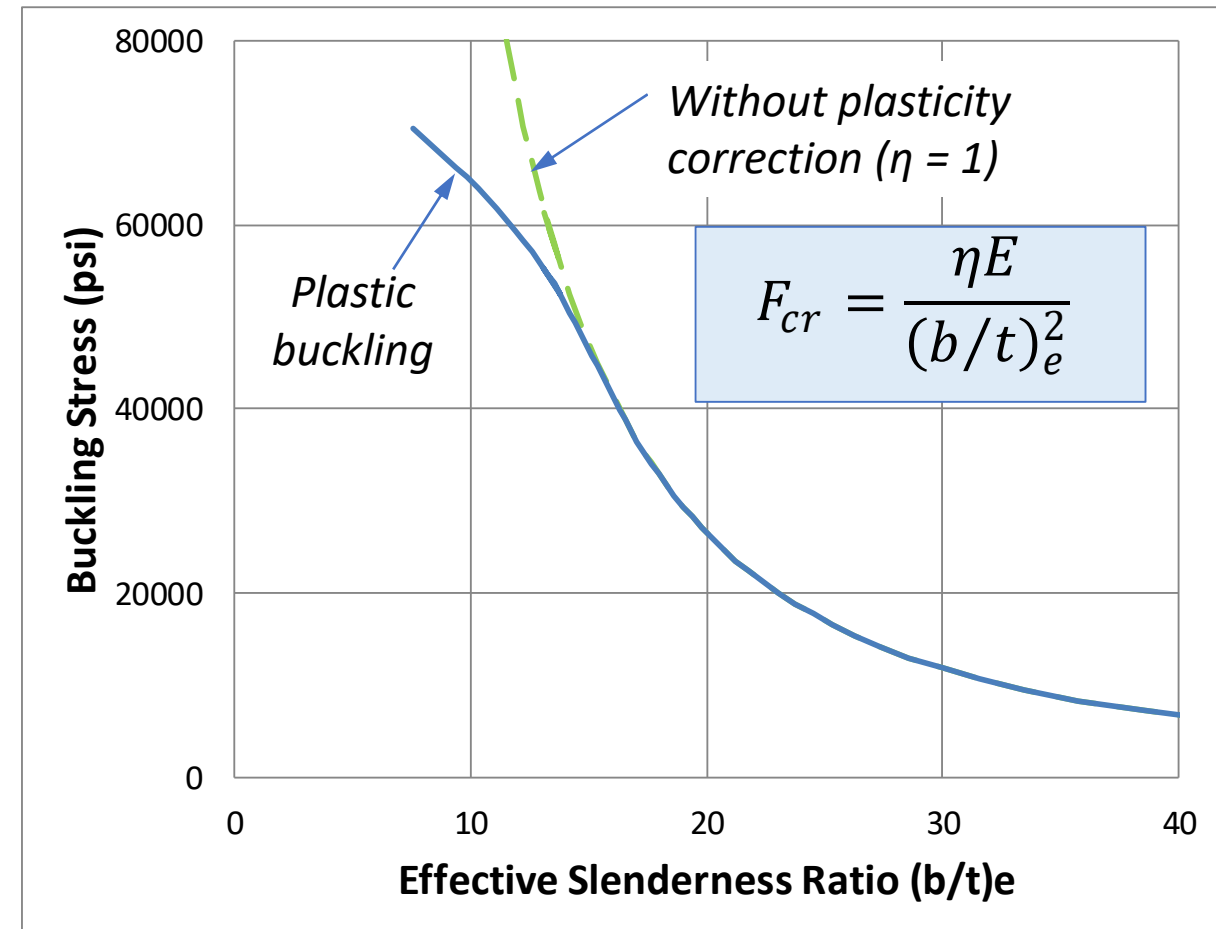
$$F_{cr} = \frac{\eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2$$

**For long plate under compression with simply-supported edges:**

$$\eta = \frac{E_s}{E} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \left[ 1 + 3 \frac{E_t}{E_s} \right]^{1/2} \right\} \left( \frac{1 - \nu_e^2}{1 - \nu^2} \right)$$

**The plasticity correction factor for plates is somewhat more complicated than that for columns!**

## Plate Buckling





# Terms in the Plate Plasticity Factor

**Get  $E_s/E$  and  $E_t/E_s$  from Ramberg-Osgood Equation**

$$\varepsilon = \frac{f}{E} + \frac{3 F_{0.7}}{7 E} \left( \frac{f}{F_{0.7}} \right)^n$$

$$\frac{E_s}{E} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{7} \left( \frac{f}{F_{0.7}} \right)^{n-1}}$$

$$\frac{E_t}{E_s} = \frac{1 + \frac{3}{7} \left( \frac{f}{F_{0.7}} \right)^{n-1}}{1 + \frac{3}{7} n \left( \frac{f}{F_{0.7}} \right)^{n-1}}$$

**Poisson's Ratio varies in Plastic Range**

$$\nu = \nu_p - \frac{E_s}{E} (\nu_p - \nu_e)$$

**Usually:**  $\nu_p = 0.5$

**Then  $\rightarrow$**   $\nu = 0.5 - \frac{E_s}{E} (0.5 - \nu_e)$

$\nu$  = Poisson's Ratio at given Stress

$\nu_e$  = elastic Poisson's Ratio

$\nu_p$  = fully plastic Poisson's Ratio (0.5 = incompressible)

# Breakdown of the Plate Plasticity Factor

$$F_{cr} = \frac{\mathbf{A} \eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2$$

$$\mathbf{A} \eta = \frac{\mathbf{B} E_s}{E} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \left[ 1 + 3 \frac{\mathbf{C} E_t}{E_s} \right]^{1/2} \right\} \left( \frac{1 - \nu_e^2}{1 - \mathbf{D} \nu^2} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{B} \frac{E_s}{E} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{7} \left(\frac{f}{F_{0.7}}\right)^{n-1}}$$

$$\mathbf{C} \frac{E_t}{E_s} = \frac{1 + \frac{3}{7} \left(\frac{f}{F_{0.7}}\right)^{n-1}}{1 + \frac{3}{7} n \left(\frac{f}{F_{0.7}}\right)^{n-1}}$$

$$\mathbf{D} \nu = 0.5 - \frac{\mathbf{B} E_s}{E} (0.5 - \nu_e)$$

*Would be too cumbersome to insert all these into one long equation, better to keep them separate and build up the calculation in steps*

# Problem Set Up

**Buckling Equation  
in terms of  
unknown stress “f”**

$$f = \frac{\eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2$$

**Plasticity factor  
computed as shown on  
previous chart**

**where:**  $\eta = \text{function}(f)$

**Iterate unknown  
stress “f” until  
RHS=LHS**

$$\begin{array}{c} f \\ \uparrow \\ \text{LHS} \end{array} = \underbrace{\frac{\eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2}_{\text{RHS}}$$

**Because  $\eta$  is a nonlinear  
function of unknown  
stress “f” need to iterate**

**Then  $\rightarrow$**   $F_{cr} = f$

# Plate Buckling Example: Inputs

## Material

$E_c$	1.06E+07	psi
$F_{0.7}$	65188	psi
$n$	15	
$\nu_{u,e}$	0.33	
$\nu_{u,p}$	0.5	

**Thickness:**  
 $t = 0.1 \text{ in}$

**Boundary Condition:**  
 $k = 4$

## Case 1

**Width:**  
 $b = 4 \text{ in}$

## Case 2

**Width:**  
 $b = 2 \text{ in}$

*Use the procedure on the previous page to compute  $F_{cr}$  for these 2 different plate widths*

# Plate Buckling Example: Results

## Material

$E_c$	1.06E+07	psi
$F_{0.7}$	65188	psi
$n$	15	
$\nu_{u,e}$	0.33	
$\nu_{u,p}$	0.5	

**Thickness:**  
 $t = 0.1 \text{ in}$

**Boundary Condition:**  
 $k = 4$

## Case 1

**Width:**  
 $b = 4 \text{ in}$

$F_{cr} = 24.5 \text{ ksi}$   
**Buckling is in elastic range**

## Case 2

**Width:**  
 $b = 2 \text{ in}$

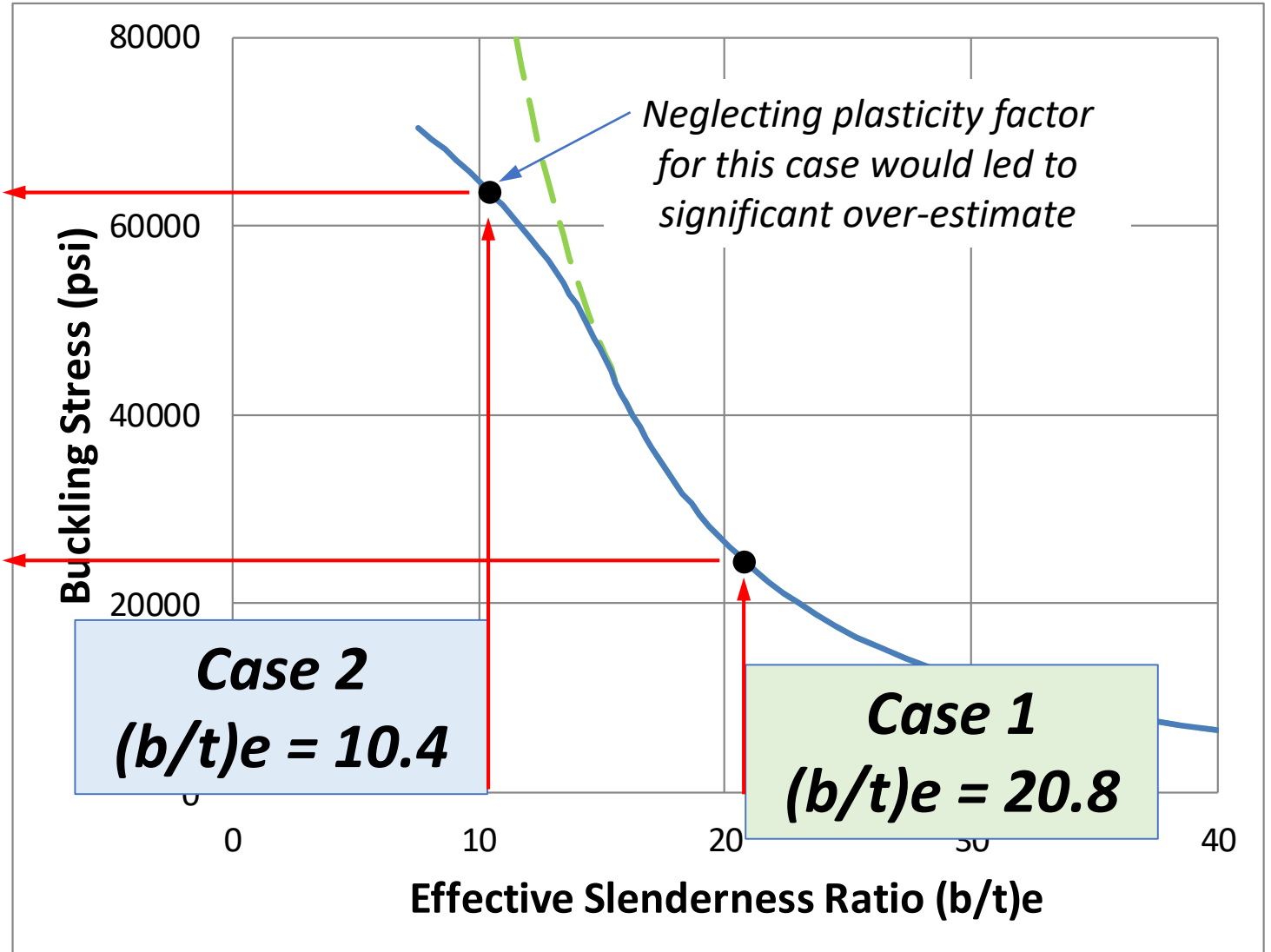
$F_{cr} = 63.7 \text{ ksi}$   
**Buckling is in plastic range**

**Verify you get these results**

# Plate Buckling Example: Results

**Case 2  $F_{cr} = 63.7$  ksi (plastic)**

**Case 1  $F_{cr} = 24.5$  ksi (elastic)**



# Other Plate Plasticity Factors

# Other Loads/Boundary Conditions

NACA TN 3781

Loading	Structure	$\eta/j$
Compression	Long flange, one unloaded edge simply supported	1
	Long flange, one unloaded edge clamped	$0.330 + 0.335 \left[ 1 + \left( 3E_t/E_s \right) \right]^{1/2}$
	Long plate, both unloaded edges simply supported	$0.500 + 0.250 \left[ 1 + \left( 3E_t/E_s \right) \right]^{1/2}$
	Long plate, both unloaded edges clamped	$0.352 + 0.324 \left[ 1 + \left( 3E_t/E_s \right) \right]^{1/2}$
	Short plate loaded as a column ( $L/b \ll 1$ )	$0.250 \left[ 1 + \left( 3E_t/E_s \right) \right]$
	Square plate loaded as a column ( $L/b = 1$ )	$0.114 + 0.886 \left( E_t/E_s \right)$
	Long column ( $L/b \gg 1$ )	$E_t/E_s$
	Shear	Rectangular plate, all edges elastically restrained

TABLE 2.- PLASTICITY-REDUCTION FACTORS

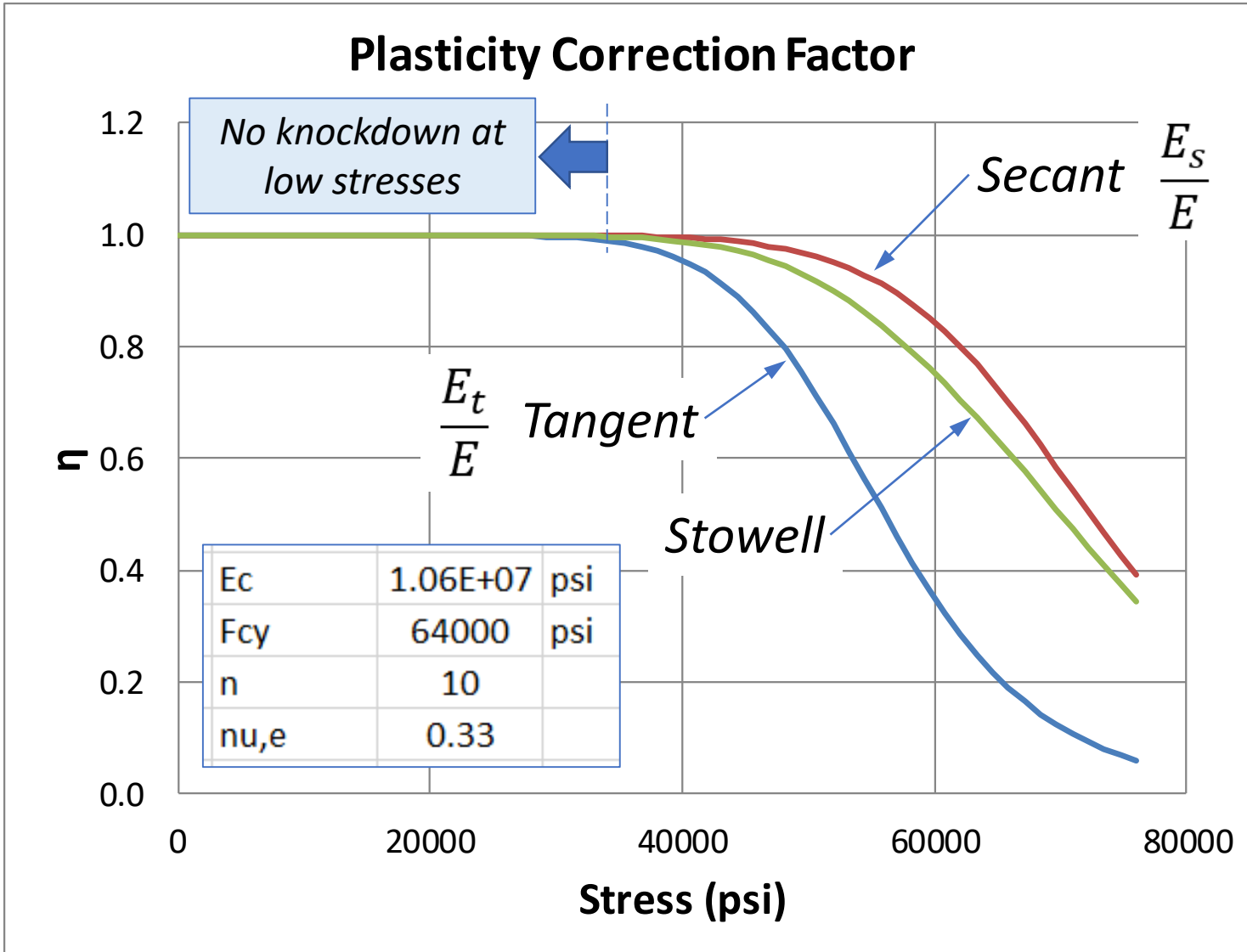
$$\left[ j = \left( E_s/E \right) \left( 1 - \nu_e^2 \right) / \left( 1 - \nu^2 \right) \right]$$

*This one was used for previous examples; I call it the "Stowell" Factor*

*Plate plasticity factors are a function of load and boundary conditions*



# Comparison of Plasticity Factors



*The Tangent Modulus ( $E_t/E$ ) gives the largest knockdown*

*The Secant Modulus ( $E_s/E$ ) gives the smallest knockdown*

*The other Plasticity Factors are combinations of Tangent and Secant and therefore fall somewhere in between*

# Non-dimensional Plastic Buckling Curves

$$F_{cr} = \frac{\eta k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2$$

$F_{cr}/F_{0.7}$

↑

Actual buckling load ÷  $F_{0.7}$

Different curves for different values of "n"

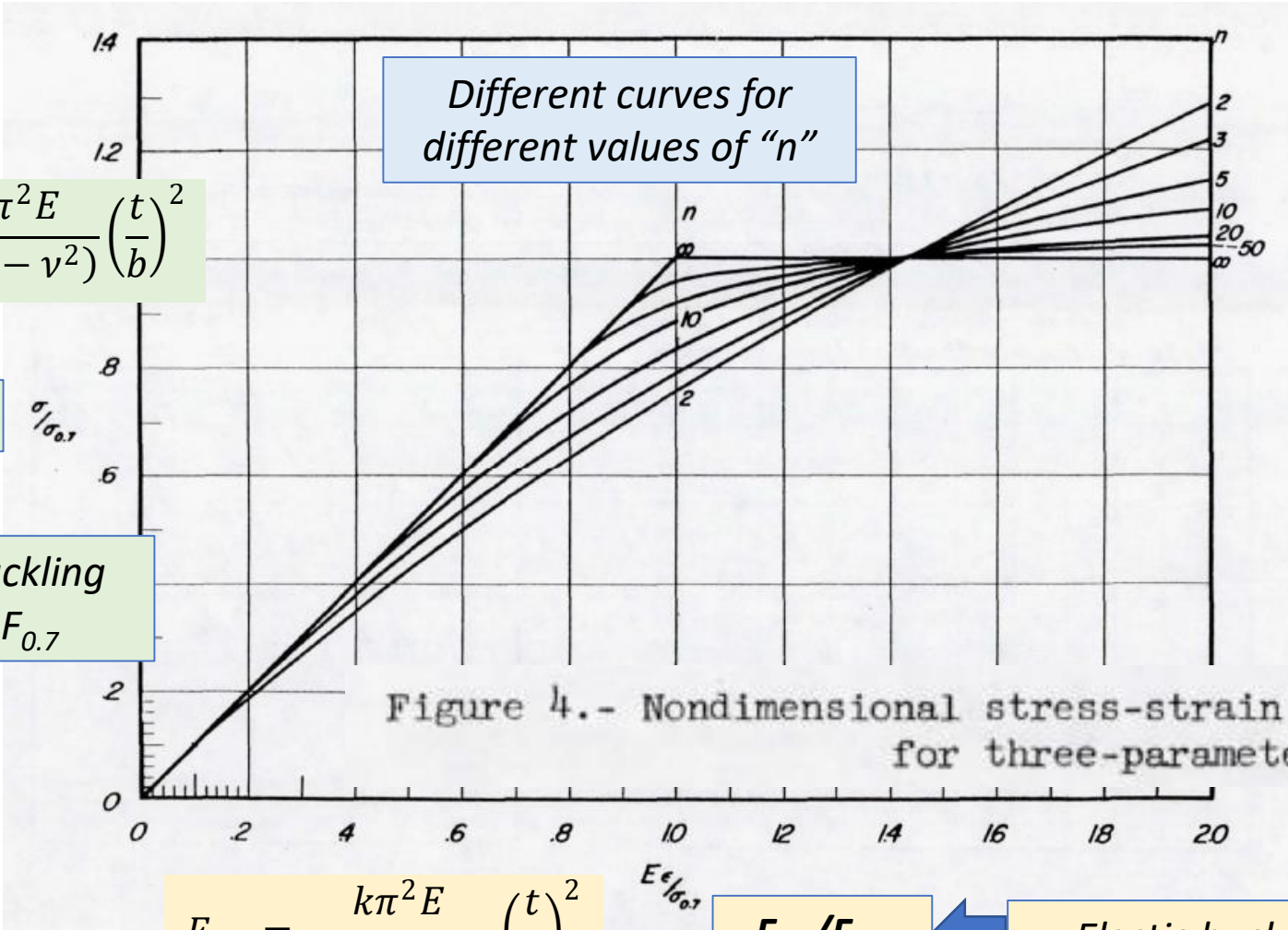


Figure 4.- Nondimensional stress-strain curves for various values of n for three-parameter method.

$$F_{cre} = \frac{k \pi^2 E}{12(1 - \nu^2)} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^2$$

$F_{cre}/F_{0.7}$  ← Elastic buckling load ÷  $F_{0.7}$

***FYI: Non-dimensional curves have been used as an analysis aide in the past. Nowadays, it is just as easy to compute the plasticity factor directly from the equations, as shown on the previous pages.***

# Summary

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- Important to consider plasticity effects on buckling because:
  - Plasticity reduces the buckling load, therefore neglecting it is unconservative
  - Plasticity effect begins below the Yield Strength  $F_{cy}$
- Plasticity effects depend on material and geometry, not applied loads
  - A thin plate (high  $b/t$ ) will buckle elastically, regardless of the applied load
  - A thick plate (low  $b/t$ ) will buckle plastically, regardless of the applied load
- Columns and Plates have different Plasticity Reduction Factors
  - Plates have different factors depending on loading/boundary conditions
  - Most factors are functions of  $E_t$  and  $E_s$ ; not always simple substitution of  $E_t$  for  $E$  in the buckling equation
- Solution Approaches
  - Pick values and/or interpolate from previously prepared curves/tables
  - Solve the equations as needed for specific cases (e.g. using iteration)

# References

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1. Handbook of Structural Stability, Part I – Buckling of Flat Plates, NACA-TN-3781, Gerard & Becker, 1957
2. Description of Stress-Strain Curves by Three Parameters, NACA-TN-902, Ramberg & Osgood, 1943
3. Determination of Stress-Strain Relations from “Offset” Yield Strength Values, NACA-TN-927, Hill, 1944
4. Metallic Materials and Elements for Aerospace Vehicle Structures, MIL-HDBK-5J, 2003
5. Theory and Analysis of Flight Structures, Rivello, 1969
6. Analysis and Design of Flight Vehicle Structures, Bruhn, 1973