



# How to join Steel and Glass

*Complex Adhesive Behaviour*

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## Contents

- **Glass Façade Herz Jesu Church, Munich**
- Newly Investigated Bonding Geometries and Attachment Designs
- Sizing of a line-shape U-type Bonding
- Summary and Outlook

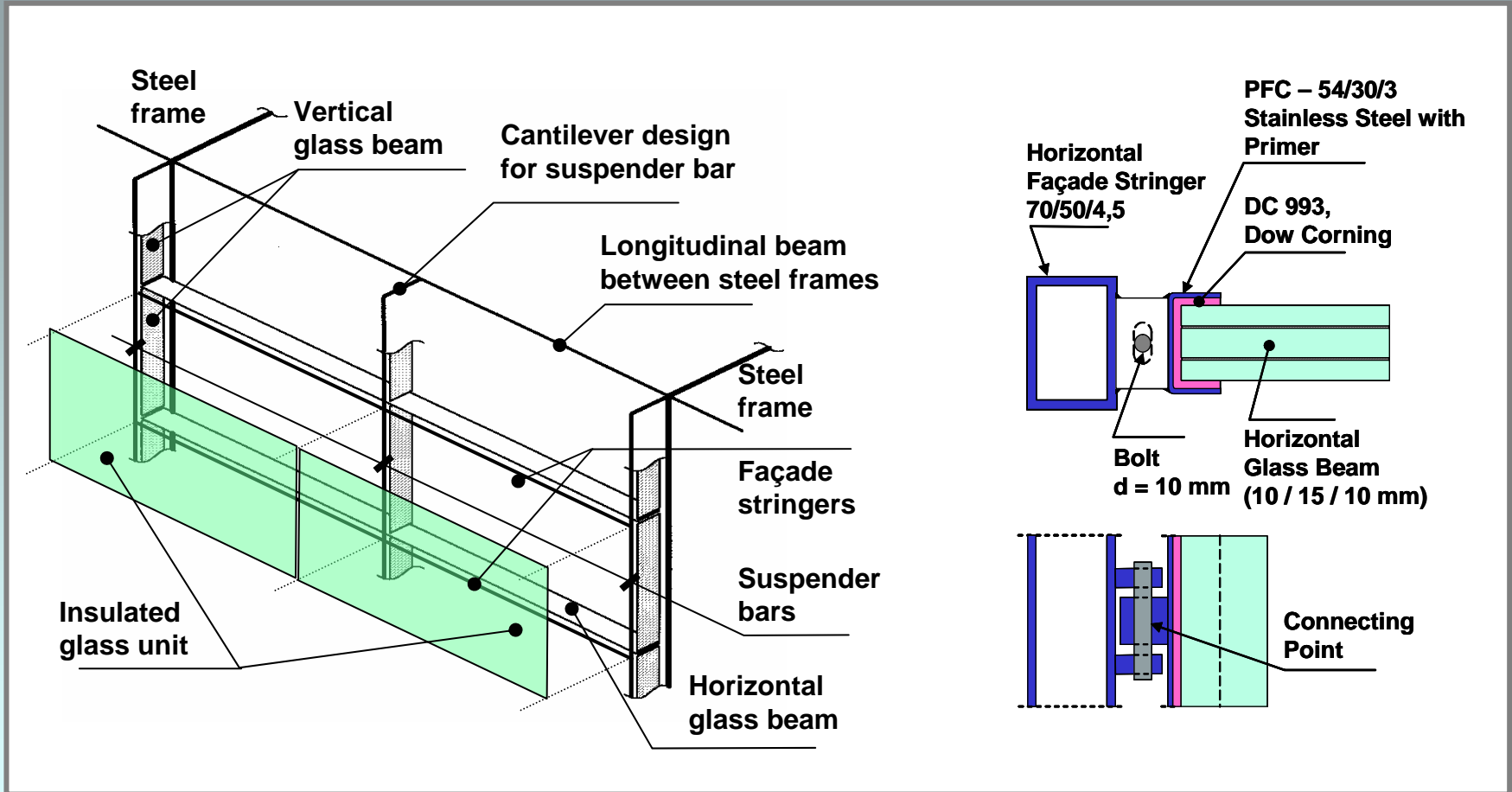


## Example of U-type-Bonding: Herz Jesus Church, Munich

**Architectural objective:  
Minimizing of visible  
load carrying structures**

- **Horizontal and vertical glass beams for supporting the glass façade**
- **Load carrying bonding by Silicone adhesives applied to glass beams**

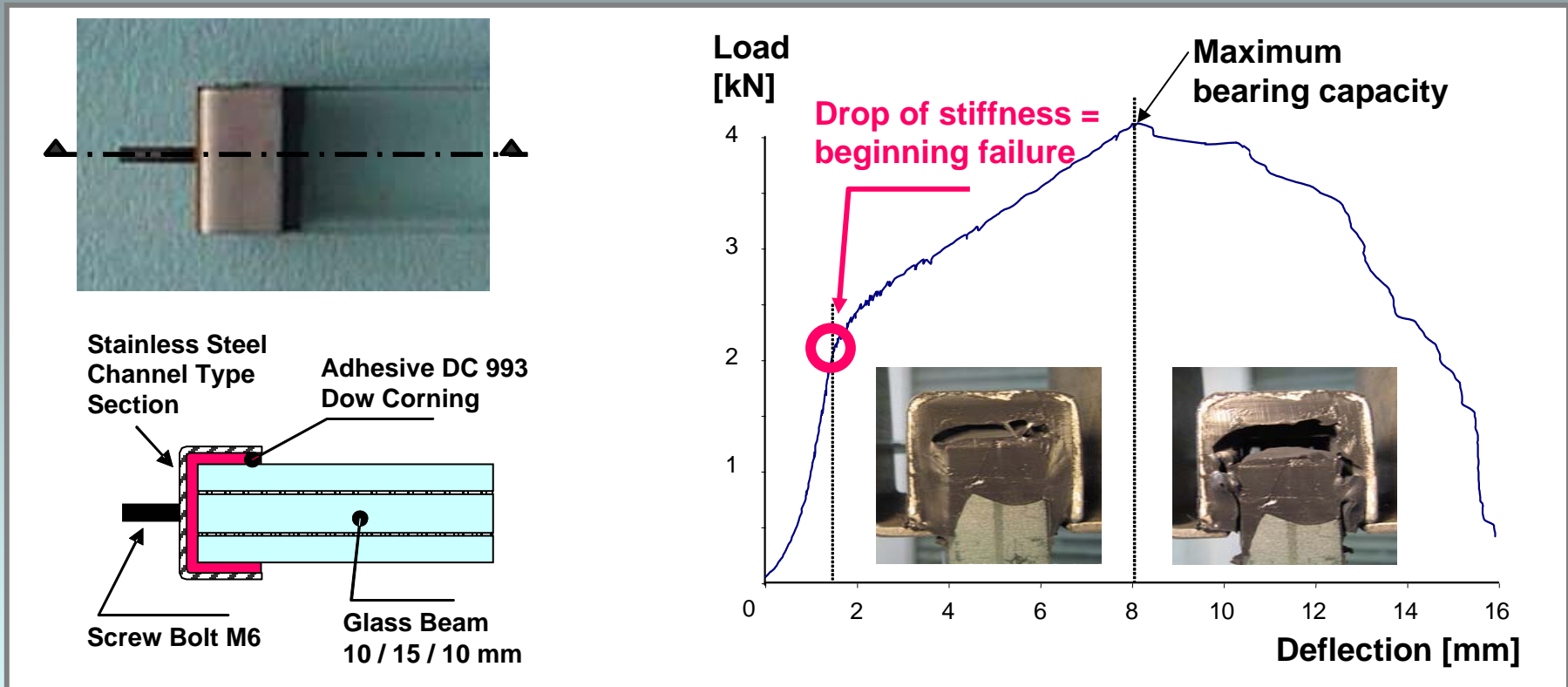
# Details of the Glass Façade



Overview of Glass Façade

Glass Beam Attachment

# Tension Testing of Bonded Glass Beam Specimens



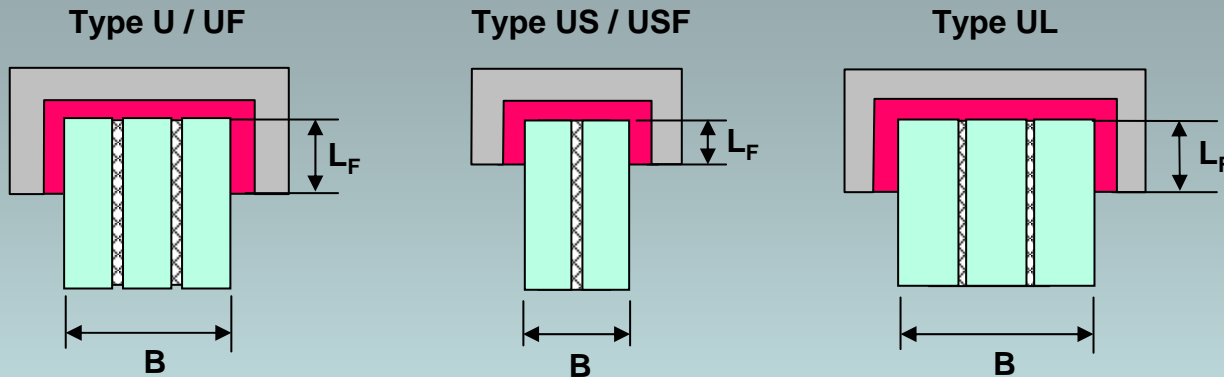
- Three different phases of load-deflection behaviour can be observed:
  - Below 1.5mm high stiffness of joint, fully operational bonding
  - Between 1.5mm and 8mm significant drop of joint stiffness, partial failure of front region
  - Above 8mm total failure of the joint specimen

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# Variation of Investigated U-type Bonding Geometries

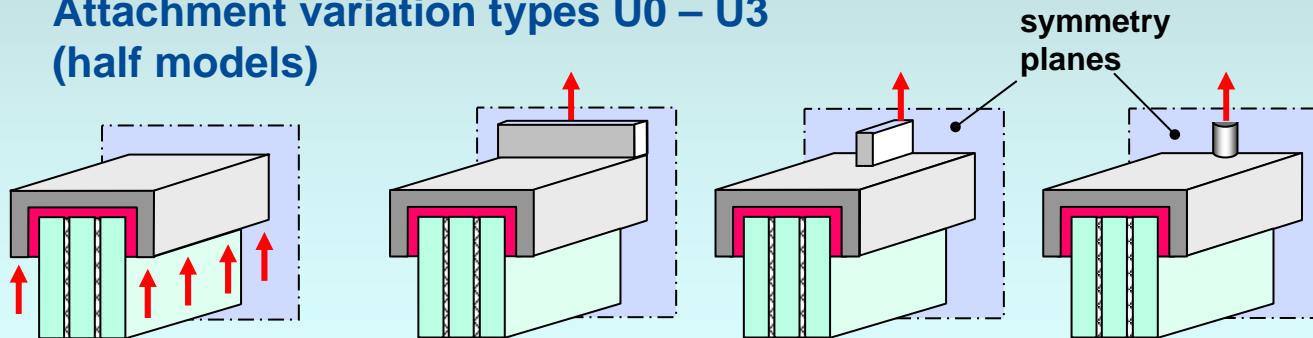
## Different cross sections



## Variation of investigated bonding cross-sections

Type	Glass	B [mm]	L <sub>F</sub> [mm]
U	3 x 12	39	22
UF			15
US	2 x 12	25,5	22
USF			15
UL	3 x 15	48	22

## Attachment variation types U0 – U3 (half models)



Type U0 - line type load introduction

Type U1

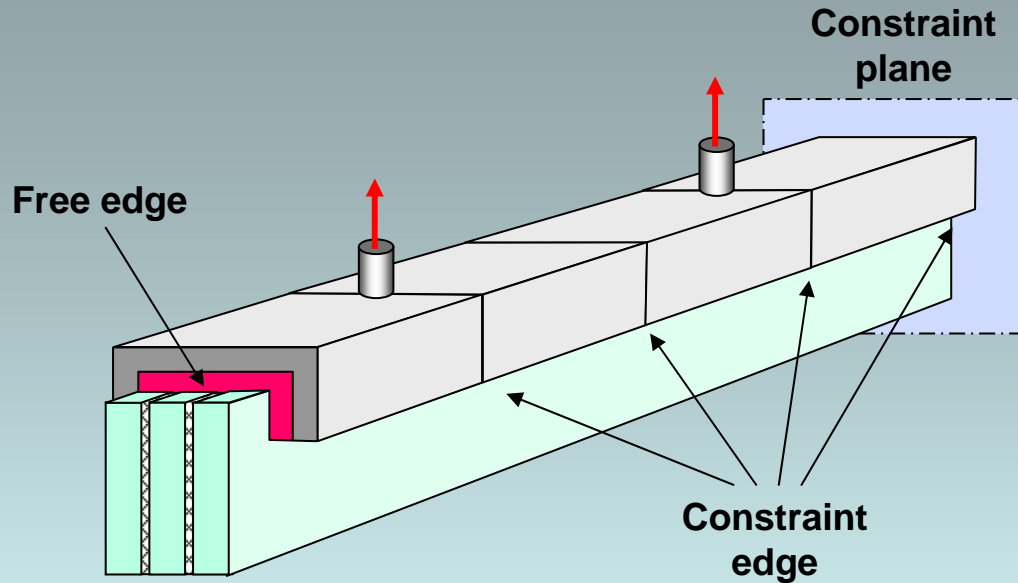
local (point like) load introduction

Type U2

Type U3

Adhesive  $d_A = 5 \text{ mm}$   
PFC, steel  $d = 3 \text{ mm}$   
↑ Applied Load

# Comparison „Free Edge“ and „Constraint Edge“



## Note:

- Free edge: lateral contraction of adhesive is possible
- Constraint edge: lateral contraction is suppressed



**Consequence:** very high local stiffness and load bearing capability for incompressible materials in case of constraint edges

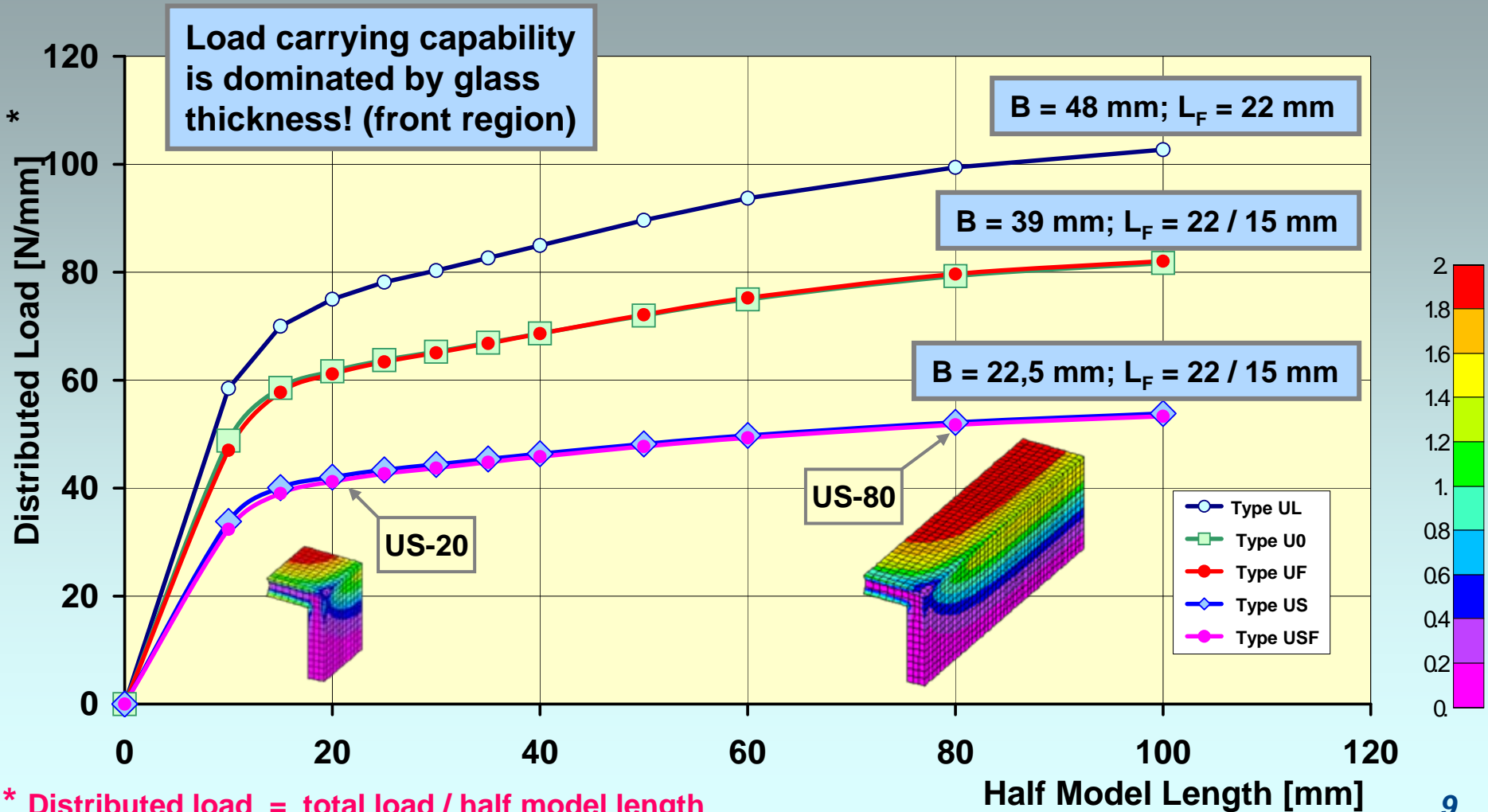
## Two edge conditions are possible:

- Free edge:** at the beginning of a line-type adhesive connection
- Constraint edge:** in symmetry planes of a line-type adhesive connection



# Comparison of Load Carrying Capabilities

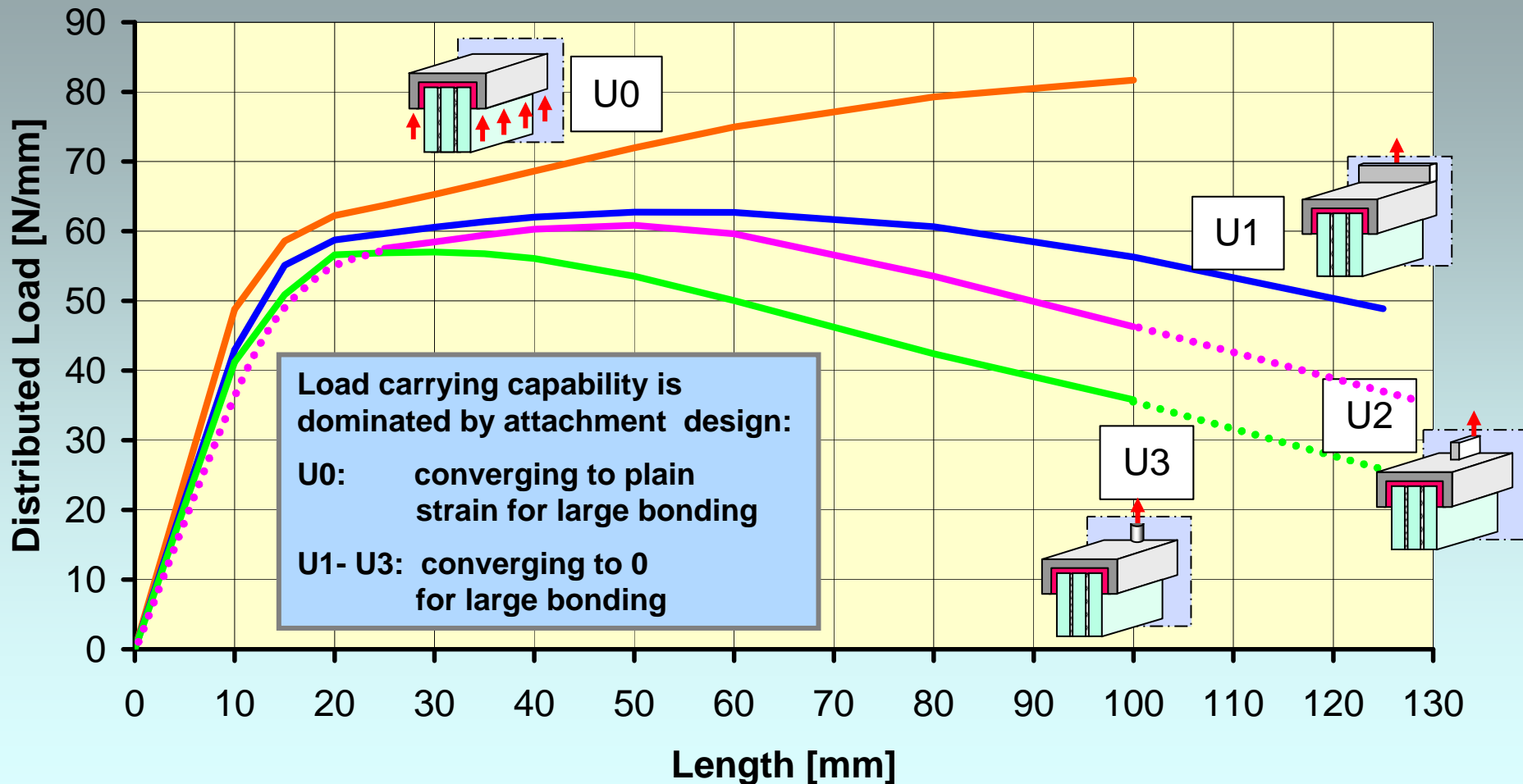
Data points defined by approximately 2 N/mm<sup>2</sup> max. principal stress (beginning failure)



\* Distributed load = total load / half model length

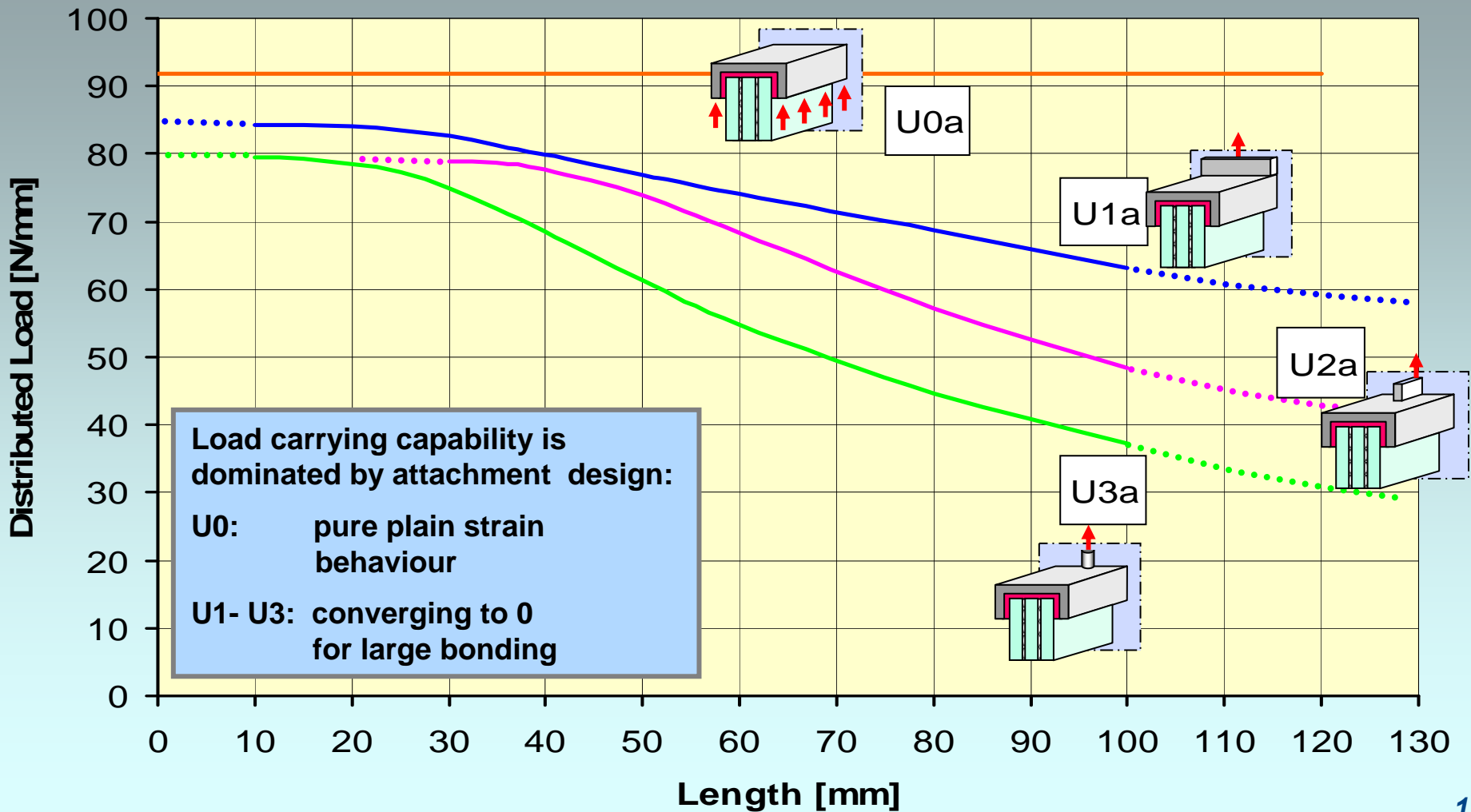
# Efficiency of Different Attachments

Free edges – allowing lateral contraction of the adhesive



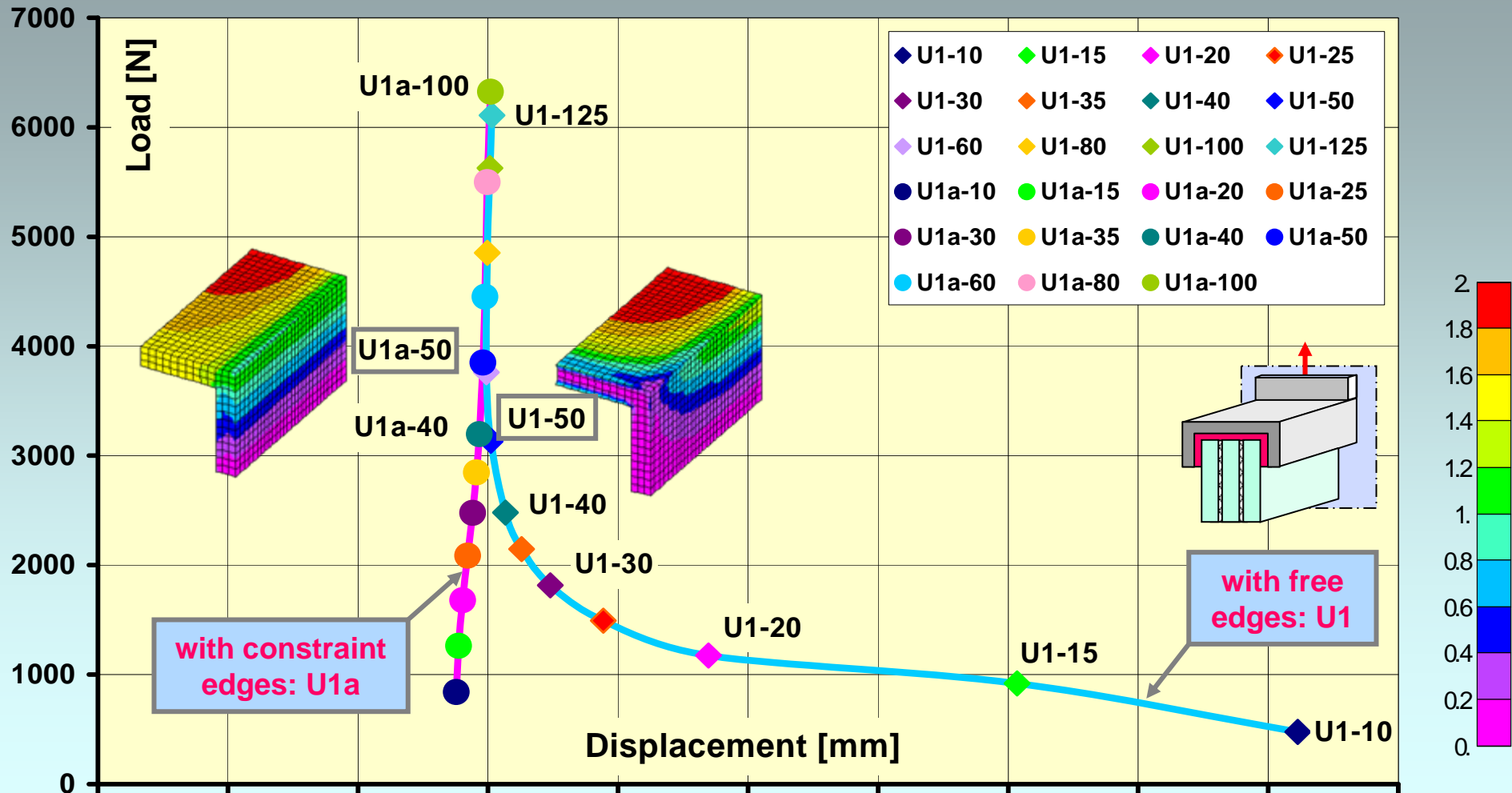
# Efficiency of Different Attachments

Constraint edges (several attachment points inside of a long bonding): Index a



# Comparison of Bonding Stiffness

showing 3D edge effects within the first 50 mm of bonding length

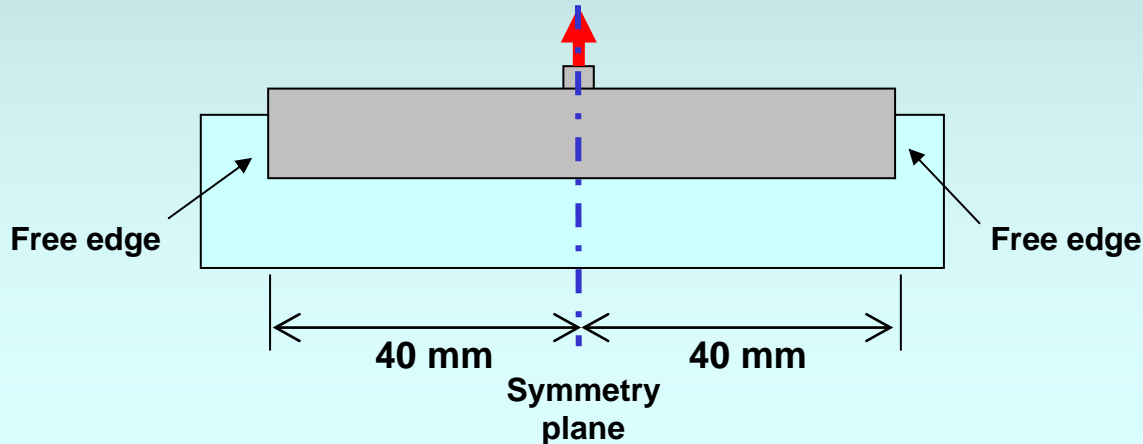
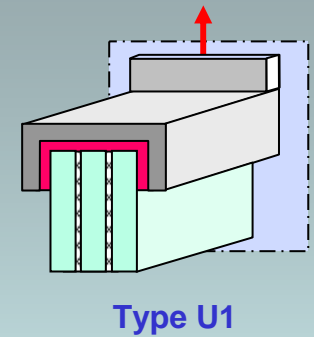
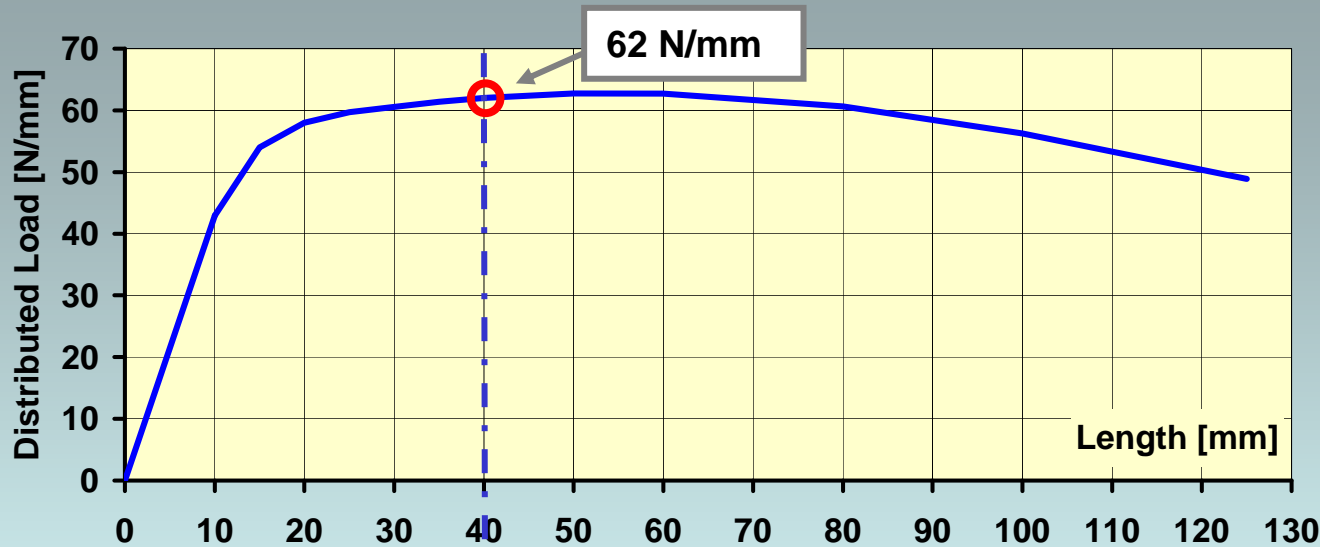


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# Sizing of a U-type Bonding Geometry U1

case study “free edges” : discrete load introduction

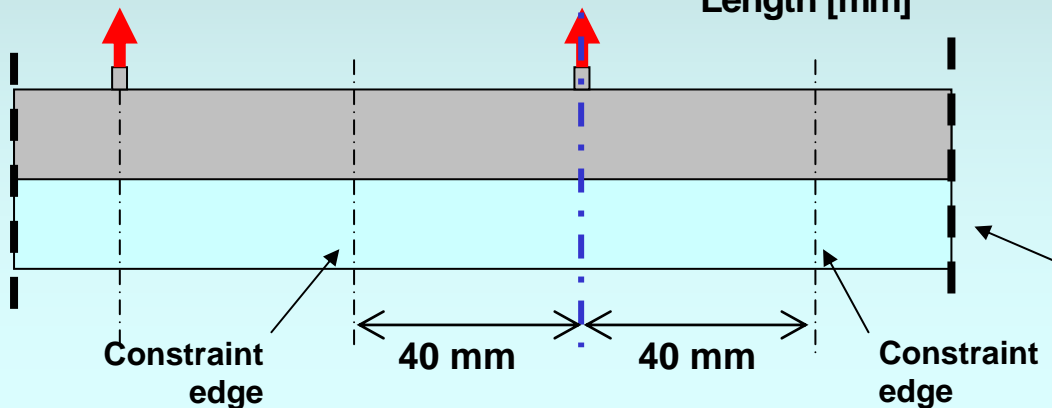
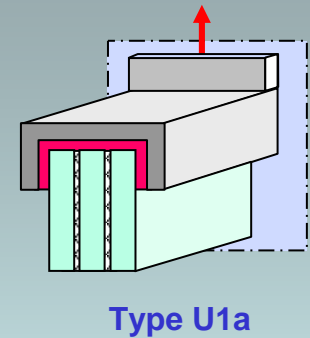
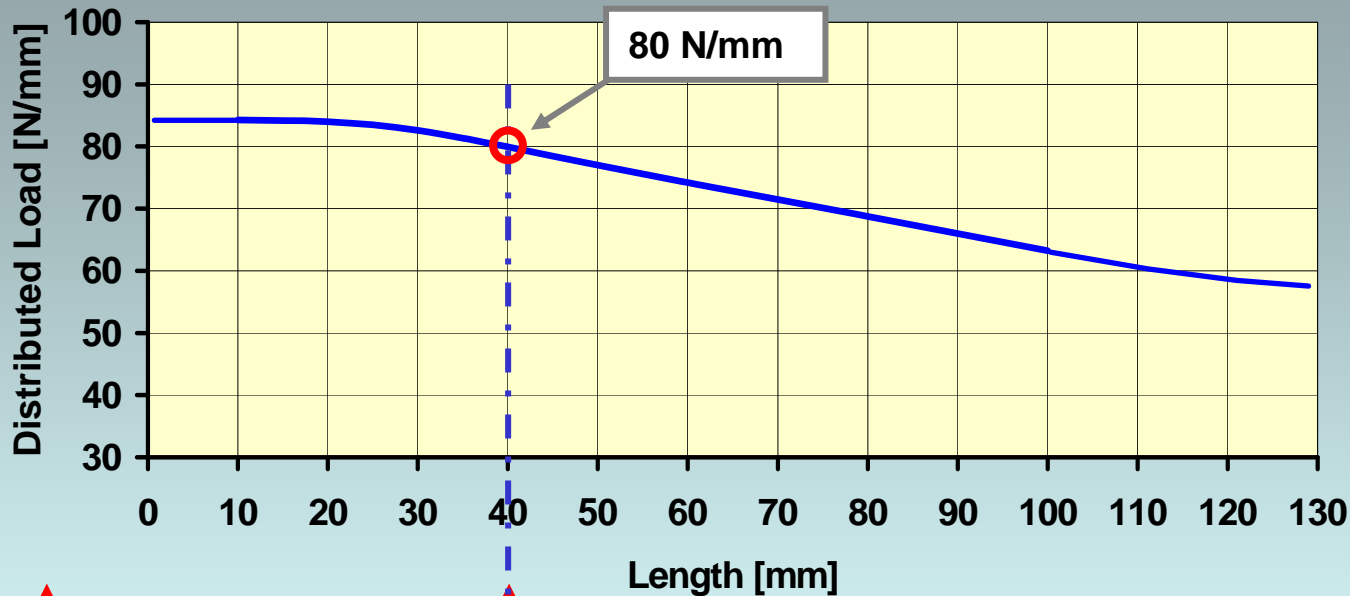


Estimated load at beginning of break:

$$F_b = 2 \times 40 \times 62 = 4960 \text{ N}$$

# Sizing of a U-type Bonding Geometry U1a

case study “constraint edges” : several load attachments



Estimated load at beginning of break:

$$F_b = 2 \times 40 \times 80 = 6400 \text{ N}$$

continuous bonding with several load attachment points

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## Summary and Outlook

- **U-type Bonding geometries are of high interest for civil engineering**
- **Parameter studies performed for different cross sections and different ways of load introduction**
  - Load carrying capabilities of different cross sections dominated by front region size (glass thickness)
  - The efficiency of local load introduction is lower compared to line type loading (important point for testing procedure)
- **Sizing procedure presented for two different cases**
  - Free edge
  - Constraint edge
- **Outlook: Generalisation of results for pre-design activities**
  - Other cross section dimensions (L<sub>f</sub>, ...)
  - Other cross section families (L, T, ...)
  - Other PFC materials (Aluminium, ....)

*Thank you for Attention*