

## Failure Theories—Static Loading

Maximum Normal Stress Theory

Maximum Shear Stress Theory

Distortion Energy Theory

Common features of these theories:

1. They describe explicit mathematical relationships that relate external loading to stress at critical points in the multi-axial state of stress.
2. They are based on critical physical properties of the materials that are measurable
3. Each theory relates the state of stress to a measurable criterion of failure

In general all failure theories say the same thing:

When the maximum value of stress or strain in a multi-axial state of stress equals or exceeds the value of stress or strain that produces failure in a uni-axial stress test, the part fails.

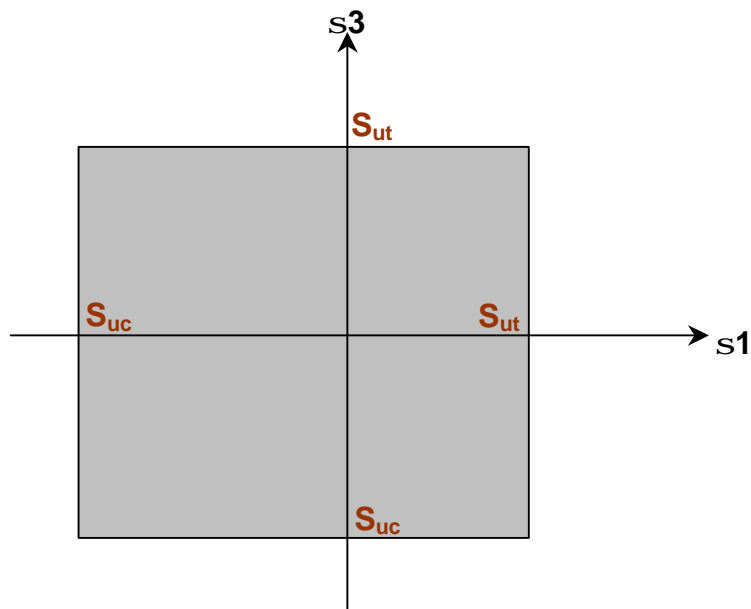
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### Maximum Normal Stress Theory

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Failure will occur in the multi-axial state of stress when the maximum principal normal stress exceeds the ultimate tensile or compressive strength,  $S_{ut}$ , or  $S_{uc}$ , respectively.

if  $\sigma_p > S_{ut}$ , or  $S_{uc}$  the part will fail



According to the **Maximum Normal Stress Theory**, if the principal stresses fall in this box, the part will not fail.

**Important to note:** The Maximum Normal Stress Theory should not be used **with ductile materials!**

**Example:**

**Determine if the following loading situation will produce failure in the shaft.  
Calculate the factor of safety for this loading.**

**Sut = 52 500 psi**  
**Suc = -164 000 psi**

**L = 6.0 inches**  
**a = 8.0 inches**  
**d = 1.5 inches**  
**F = 1 000 lbs**

