



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**ME 330: Engineering Materials**

Lab - 1

# Hardness and Compression Testing

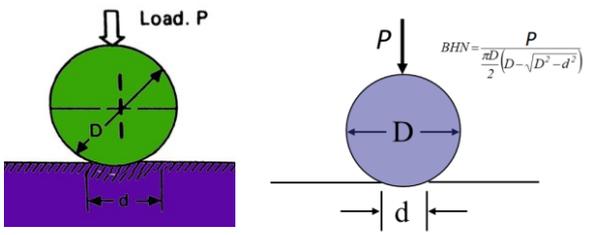


**Grainger College  
of Engineering**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## Hardness Test

Brinell

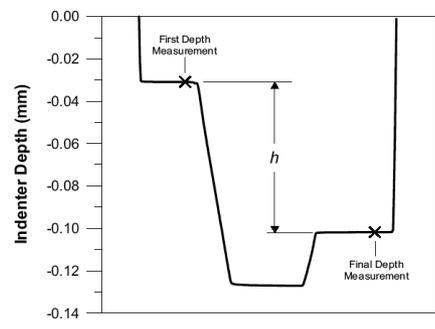


## Compression test

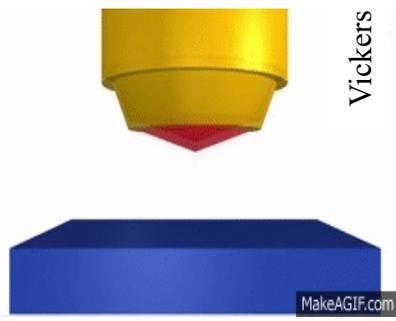
Rockwell



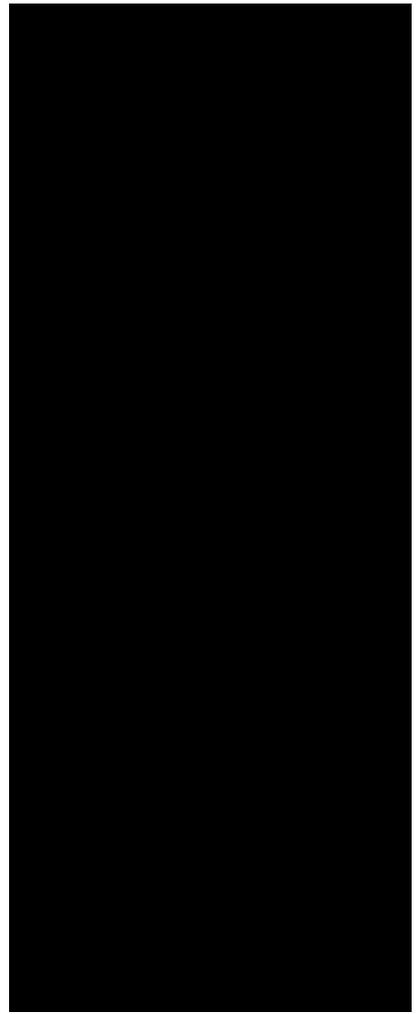
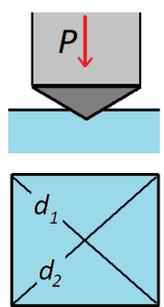
Rockwell



Vickers



Vickers



Hardness: Measure of the “ability to resist plastic deformation”

Idea: Relate hardness to other mechanical properties  
(Specially strength and wear resistance)

Advantage: Evaluate mechanical properties **without destroying** sample

## Mohs Hardness Scale

### Scratch test.

1812 by Friedrich Mohs, German mineralogist.

**Relative hardness** with common materials.

If the test material scratches the standard material, it is at least as hard as the standard.

Very useful for classification of minerals and geologic materials.

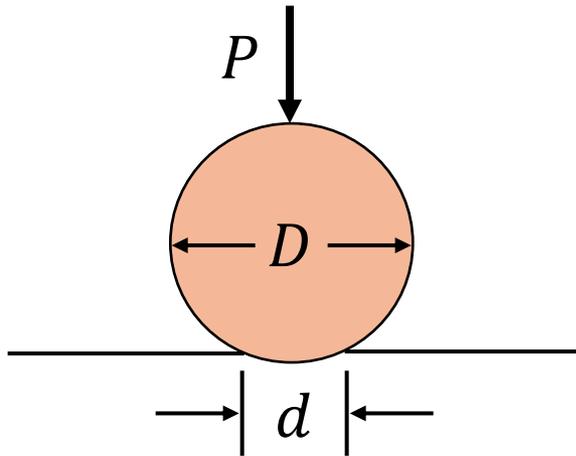
Little information in engineering terms – specifically strength.

Mohs No.	Material
10	Diamond
9	Corundum
8	Topaz
7	Quartz
6	Orthoclase Feldspar
5	Apatite
4	Fluorite
3	Calcite
2	Gypsum
1	Talc

# Brinell Hardness

J.A. Brinell, Swedish engineer, 1900

Press a steel sphere into a surface with a known load and then measure the amount of plastic deformation.

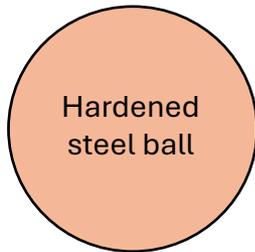


$$BHN = \frac{P}{\frac{\pi D}{2}(D - \sqrt{D^2 - d^2})}$$

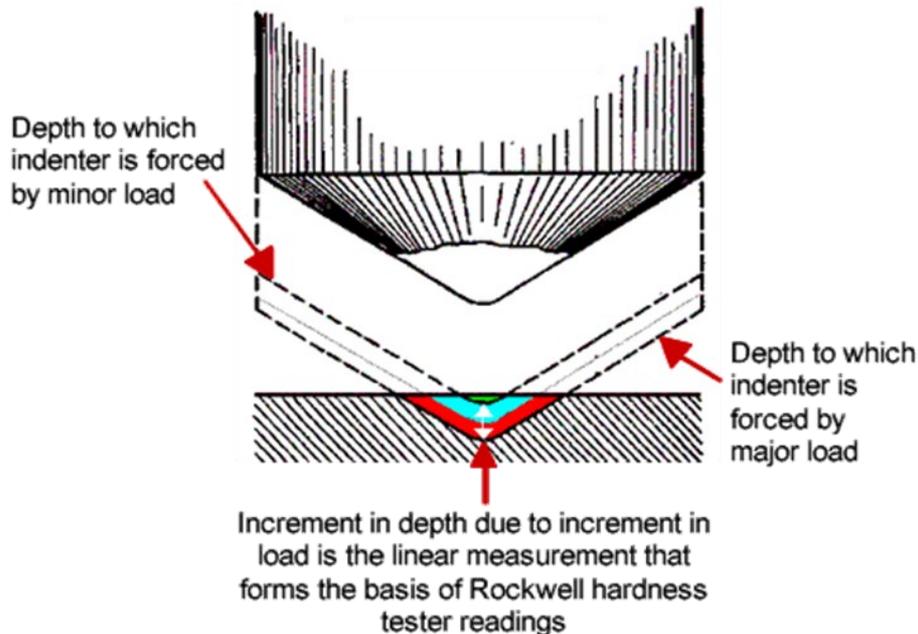
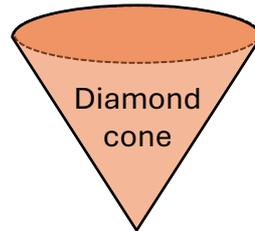
- Large, hard spherical indenter
- Relatively large loads (500-3000 kg)
- Hold load for 15 sec
- Produces a large indentation on surface
- Manually measure indentation with calibrated microscope
- Continuous scale for all materials
- Takes average hardness over many grains

# Rockwell Hardness

Rockwell B



Rockwell C



- Many scales are used.
- Two (02) most used scales are:

Rockwell B: soft materials

**Spherical** indenter (1/16 inch)  
Medium load (100 kg)  
Small indentation

Rockwell C: hard materials

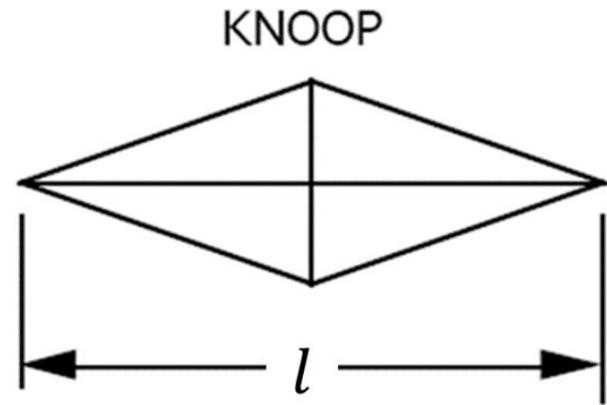
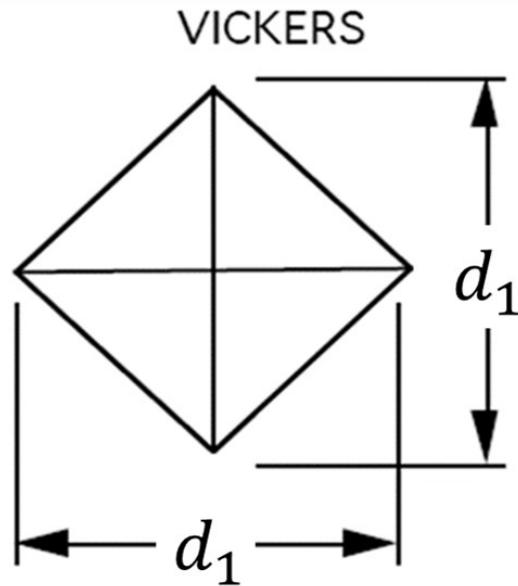
**Conical** indenter  
Slightly higher loads (150 kg)  
Very small indentation

- Measures differential penetration depth (initial preload, 10 kg)
- Machines are automated
- Scale limits

**0-100 HRB**

**20-80 HRC**

If out of range, switch test



$$VHN = \frac{1.85 M}{(d_1)^2}$$

$$KHN = \frac{14.2 M}{(l)^2}$$

- Brinell Hardness number (HB) is approximately related to tensile strength by:

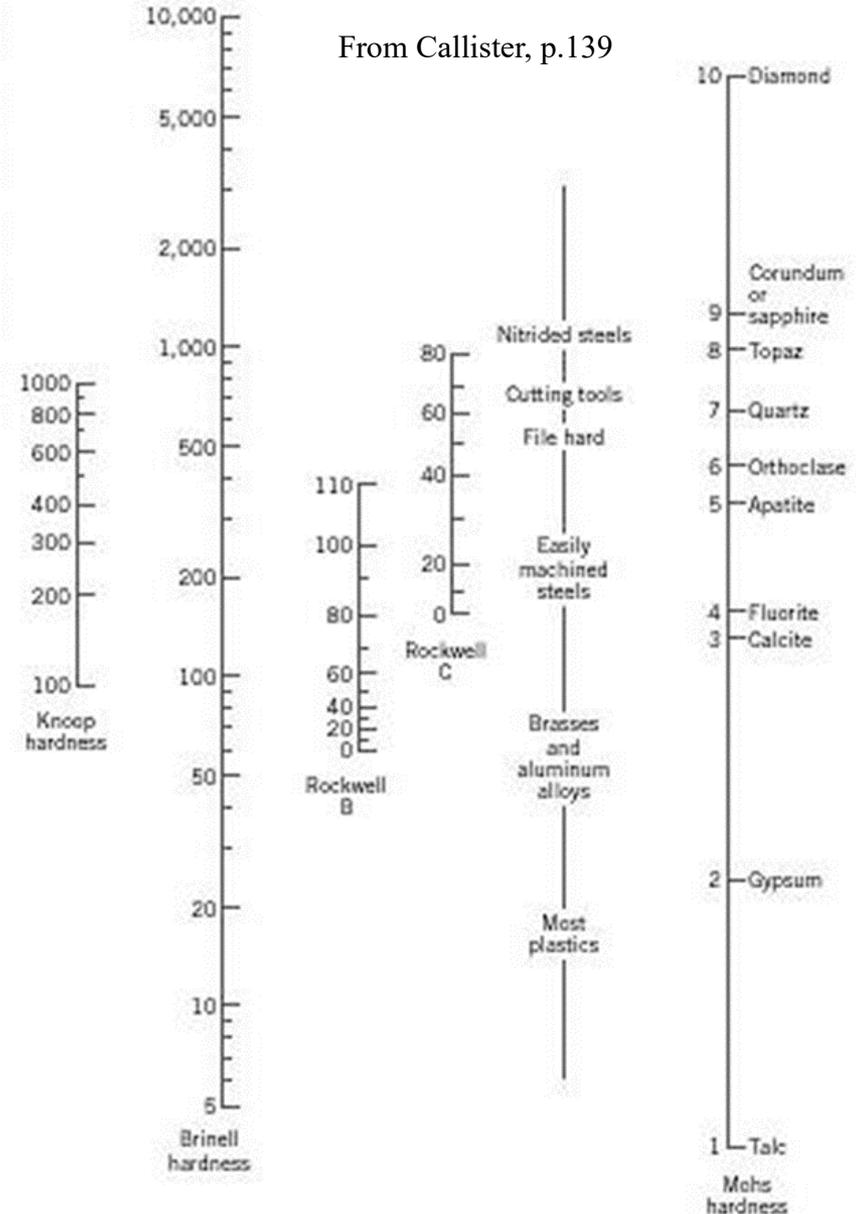
$$\sigma_{UTS} = 3.45 \times BHN \quad (\text{MPa})$$

$$\sigma_{UTS} = 0.5 \times BHN \quad (\text{ksi})$$

- Works only for low-C steels
- Empirical relation

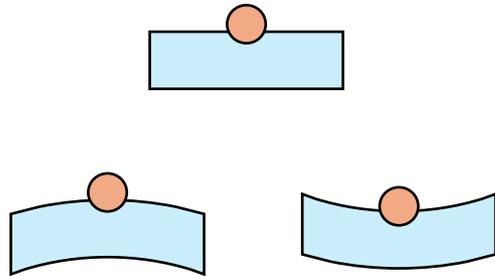
- Conversion to another scales:  
*Approximately*

Why Brinell has the longest scale?

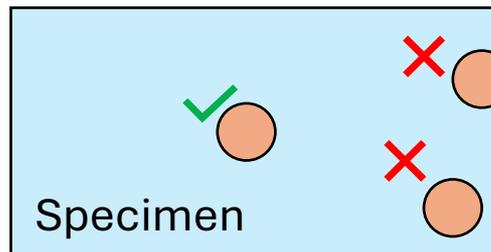


All scales are designed for flat specimens

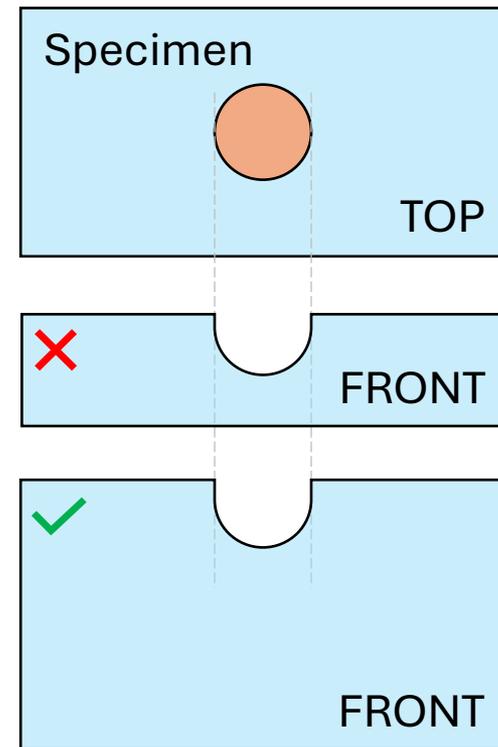
- Need “curvature correction” for round specimens



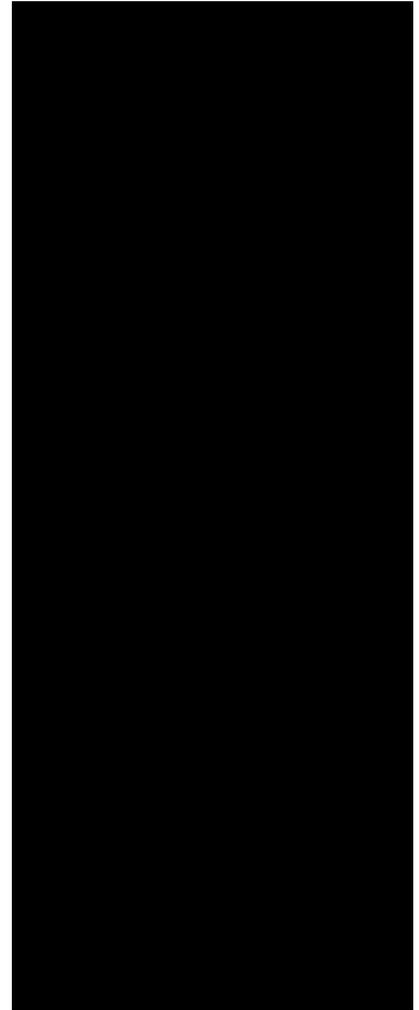
- Avoid specimen edges and other indents

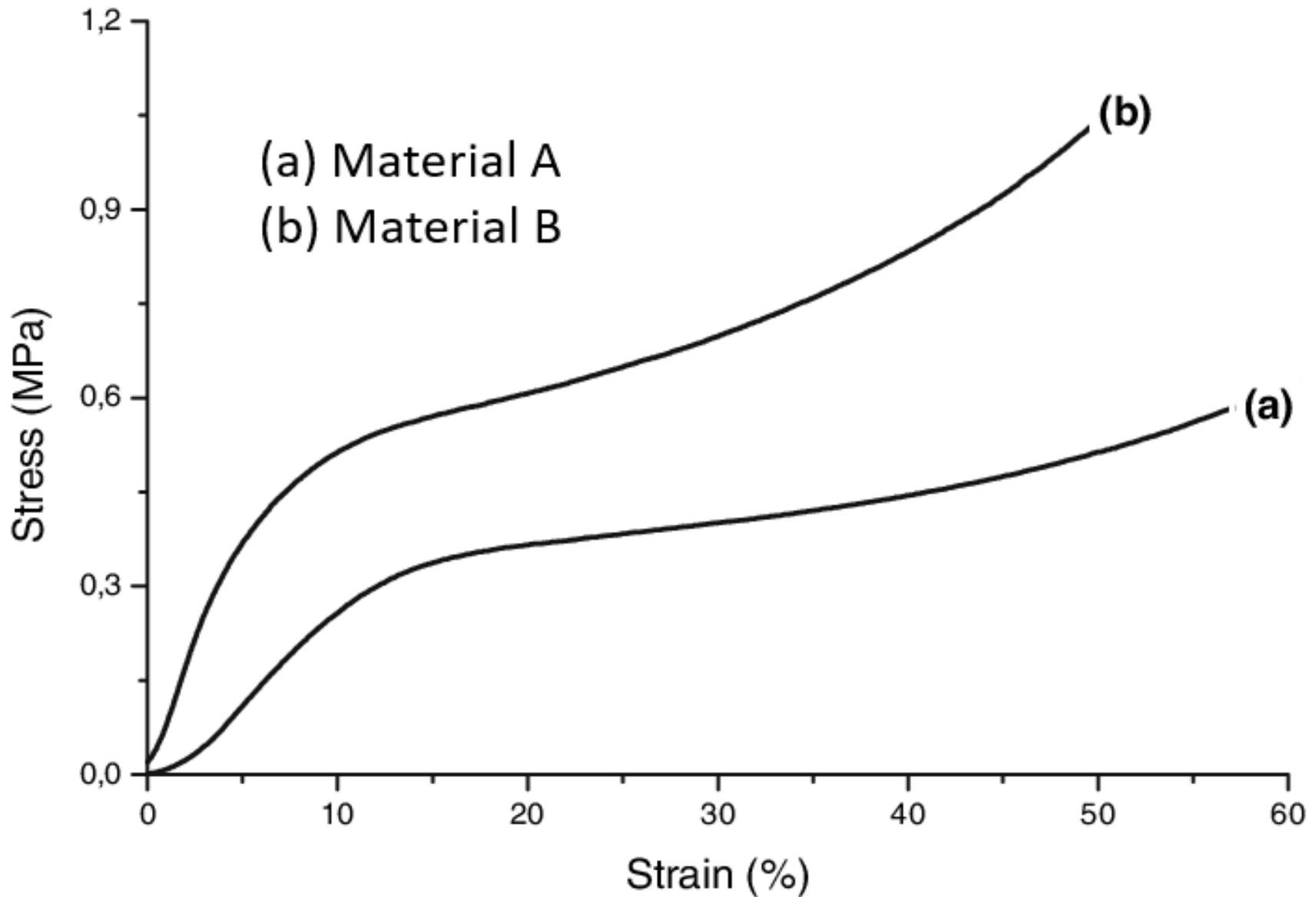


- Specimen thickness must be at least 10x indentation depth



- Like tension test.
- Some materials are stronger in compression than tension.
  - Gray Cast Iron
  - Concrete
- Sometimes tension test impractical.
- Necking does not occur.
- Diameter increases for materials with positive Poisson's ratio (Barreling).
- Buckling can be a problem.
- Friction can cause barreling.





## Must have...

1. Title Page (Course, class, experiment and student info)
2. Introduction (History, what/why)
3. Experimental Procedure (how-diagrams are preferred)
4. Results and Discussions (graphs, table, diagrams)
5. Conclusions (not an introduction/what you conclude from 4)
6. Acknowledgments (other sections, lab mates, instructors etc.)
7. References (lab manual, books, journal article, conference papers)  
- not Wikipedia

