

50.6: Elastic Limit

Rigid bodies can only be deformed by a certain amount before the deformation becomes permanent. The maximum stress that can be applied to a material before it becomes permanently deformed is called the elastic limit. If a stress less than the elastic limit is applied, then the body will resume its original shape once the stress is removed.

A related quantity is the tensile strength, which is the maximum stress a sample can endure before fracturing.

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