

# Lectures 10-11, T-bone Notes/Slides, 3.054

## Trabecular bone

- Foam-like structure
- Exists at ends of long bones — ends have longer surface area than shafts to reduce stress on cartilage at joints; trabecular bone reduces weight
- Also exists in skull, iliac crest (pelvis) — forms sandwich structure — reduces weight
- Also makes up core of vertebrae
- Trabecular bone of interest: (1) osteoporosis (2) osteoarthritis (3) joint replacement

## Osteoporosis

- Bone mass decreases with age; osteoporosis — extreme bone loss
- Most common fractures: hip (proximal femur)  
vertebrae
- At both sites, most of load carried by trabecular bone
- Hip fractures especially serious: 40% of elderly patients (>65 years old) die within a year (often due to loss of mobility — pneumonia)
- 300,000 hip fractures/year in US
- Costs \$17 billion in 2005

# Trabecular bone



Gibson, L. J., and M. F. Ashby. *Cellular Solids: Structure and Properties*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, © 1997. Figures courtesy of Lorna Gibson and Cambridge University Press.

## **Osteo arthritis**

- Degradation of cartilage at joints
- Stress on cartilage affected by moduli of underlying bone
- Cortical bone shell can be thin (e.g.  $< 1\text{mm}$ )
- Mechanical properties of trabecular bone can affect stress distribution on cartilage

## **Joint replacement**

- If osteoarthritis bad and significant damage to cartilage, may require joint replacement
- Cut end of bone off and insert stem of metal replacement into hollow of long section of bone
- Metals used: titanium, cobalt-chromium, stainless steel
- Bone grows in response to loads on it

Trabecular bone: density depends on magnitude of  $\sigma$   
orientation depends on direction of principal stresses

- Mismatch in moduli between metal and bone leads to stress shielding

	E(GPa)		E(GPa)
Co - 28Cr - Mo	210	Cortical bone	18
Ti alloys	110	Trab. bone	0.01-2
316 Stainless Steel	210		

- After joint replacement, remodeling of remaining bone affected
  - Stiffer metal carries more of load, remaining bone carries less
  - Bone may resorb — can lead to loosening of prosthesis
  - Can cause problems after  $\sim 15$  years
  - Reasons surgeons don't like to do joint replacement on younger patients

### Structure of trabecular bone

- Resembles foam: “trabecula” = little beam (Latin)
- Relative density typically 0.05-0.50
- Low density trabecular bone — like open cell foam
- Higher density — becomes like perforated plates
- Can be highly anisotropic, depending on stress field

# Trabecular Bone Structure

Images removed due to copyright restrictions.

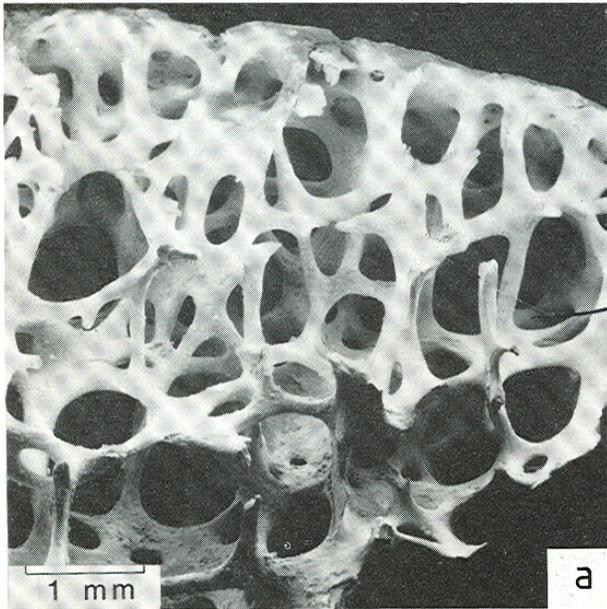
Lumbar spine  
11% dense  
42 year old male

Femoral head  
26% dense  
37 year old male

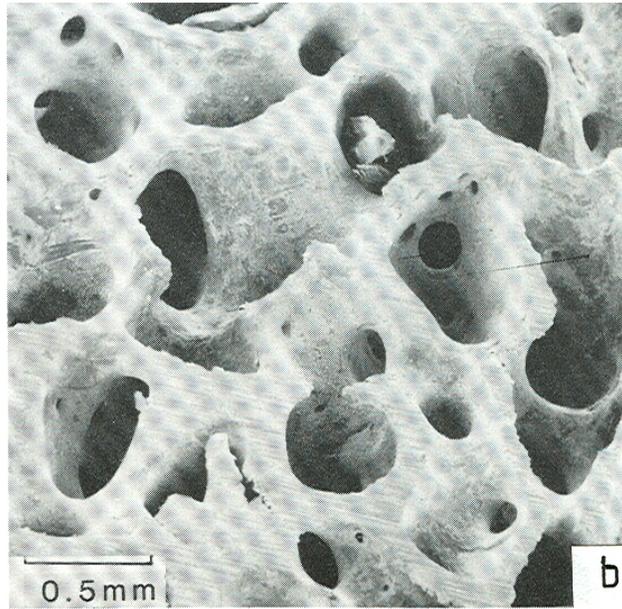
Lumbar spine  
6% dense  
59 year old male

Ralph Muller, ETH Zurich  
Micro-CT images

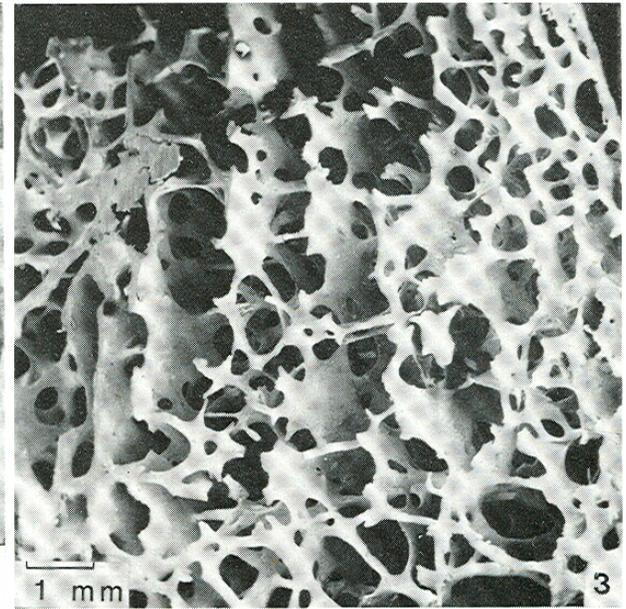
# Trabecular Bone Structure



Femoral head



Femoral head



Femoral condyle (knee)

Source: Gibson, L. J. "The Mechanical Behaviour of Cancellous Bone." *Journal of Biomechanics* 18 (1985): 317-28. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

## Bone grows with response to loads

- Studies on juvenile guinea fowl (Ponzer et al 2006)
  - (a) running on level treadmill
  - (b) running on inclined treadmill ( $20^\circ$ )
  - (c) control — no running
- Measured knee flexion angle at max force on treadmill
- After  $\sim 6$  weeks, sacrificed birds and measured orientation of peak trabecular density (OPTD)
- Knee flexion angle changed by  $13.7^\circ$  with incline vs level treadmill running
- OPTD changed by  $13.6^\circ$  with incline vs level treadmill running
- Orientation of trabecula changed to match orientation of loading
- Video: Concord Field Station (Science Friday)

# Trabecular architecture and mechanical loading

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 1: Pontzer, H., et al. "[Trabecular Bone in the Bird Knee Responds with High Sensitivity to Changes in Load Orientation.](#)" *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 209 (2006): 57-65.

# Trabecular architecture and mechanical loading

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 7: Pontzer, H., et al. "[Trabecular Bone in the Bird Knee Responds with High Sensitivity to Changes in Load Orientation.](#)" *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 209 (2006): 57-65.

Video: "[Studying Locomotion With Rat Treadmills, Wind Tunnels.](#)" March 9, 2012. Science Friday. Accessed November 12, 2014.

## Properties of solid in trabeculae

- Foam models: require  $\rho_s$ ,  $E_s$ ,  $\sigma_{ys}$  for the solid
- Ultrasonic wave propagation  $E_s = 15 - 18$  GPa
- Finite element models of exact trabecular architecture from micro-CT scans  
If do uniaxial compression test — can measure  $E^*$  and back-calculate  $E_s$   
 $E_s = 18$  GPa
- Find properties of trabeculae (solid) similar to cortical bone:

$$\rho_s = 1800 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$E_s = 18 \text{ GPa}$$

$$\sigma_{ys} = 182 \text{ MPa (compression)}$$

$$\sigma_{ys} = 115 \text{ MPa (tension)}$$

# Mechanical Properties of Trabecular Bone

- Compressive stress-strain curve - characteristic shape
- Mechanisms of deformation and failure
  - Usually bending followed by inelastic buckling
  - Sometimes, if trabeculae are aligned or very dense: axial deformation
  - Observations by deformation stage in  $\mu CT$ ; also FEA modeling
- Tensile  $\sigma - \epsilon$  curve: failure at smaller strains; trabecular micro cracking
- Data for  $E^*$ ,  $\sigma_c^*$ ,  $\sigma_T^*$  (normalized by values for cortical bone)
  - Spread is large — anisotropy, alignment of trabecular orientation and loading direction; variations in solid properties,  $\dot{\epsilon}$ , species
- Models — based on open-cell foams

Compression	$E^*/E_s \propto (\rho^*/\rho_s)^2$	bending
	$\sigma_{el}^*/E_s \propto (\rho^*/\rho_s)^2$	buckling
Tension	$\sigma_T^*/\sigma_{ys} \propto (\rho^*/\rho_s)^{3/2}$	plastic hinges

Data generally consistent  
with models

Also: statistical analysis of data

$$E^*, \sigma_c^* \propto \rho^2$$

Note: compression:  $\epsilon_{el}^* = \text{constant} = 0.7\%$

# Compressive stress-strain curves

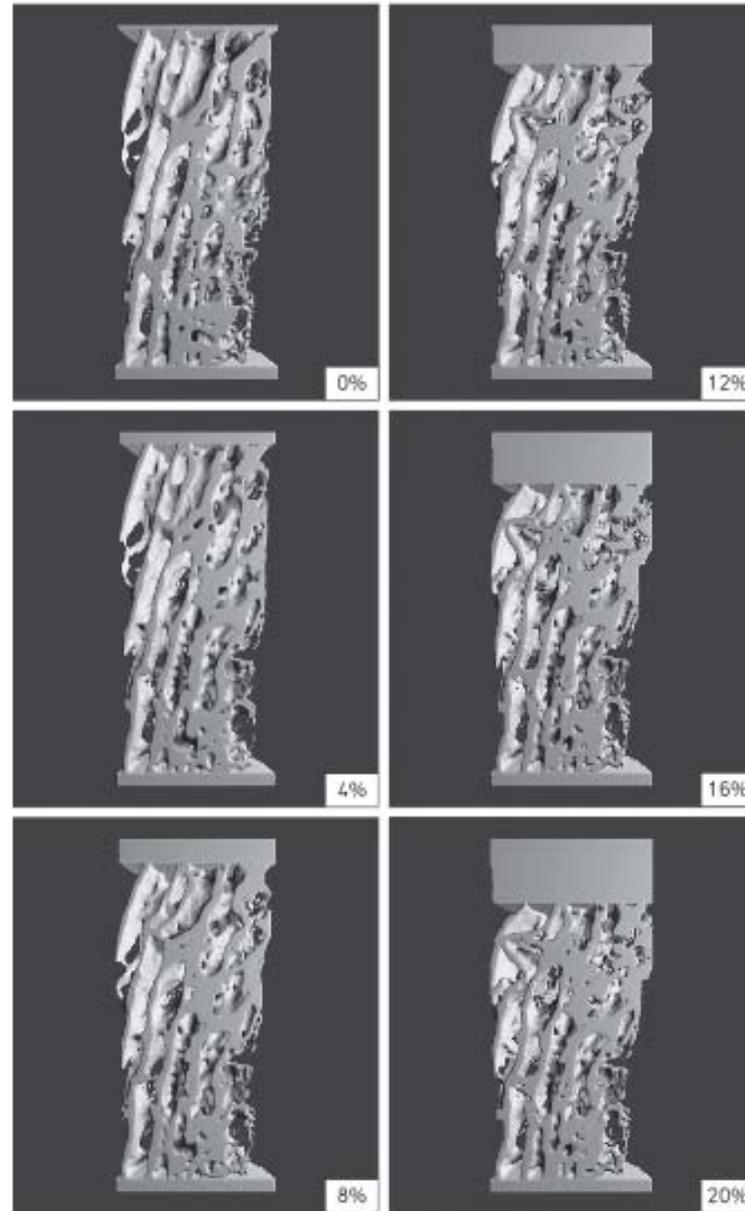
Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Fig. 1: Hayes, W. C., and D. R. Carter. "[Postyield Behavior of Subchondral Trabecular Bone](#)." *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research* 10, no. 4 (1976): 537-44.

Hayes and Carter, 1976

# Compression Whale Vertebra

Images removed due to copyright restrictions. See Figure 5: Müller, R. S. C. Gerber, and W. C. Hayes. "[Micro-compression: A Novel Technique for the Non-destructive Assessment of Bone Failure](#)." *Technology and Health Care* 6 (1998): 433-44.

Muller et al, 1998



Nazarian and Muller 2004

Source: Narzarian, A., and R. Müller. "Time-lapsed Microstructural Imaging of Bone Failure Behavior." *Journal of Biomechanics* 37 (2000): 1575-83. Courtesy of Elsevier. Used with permission.

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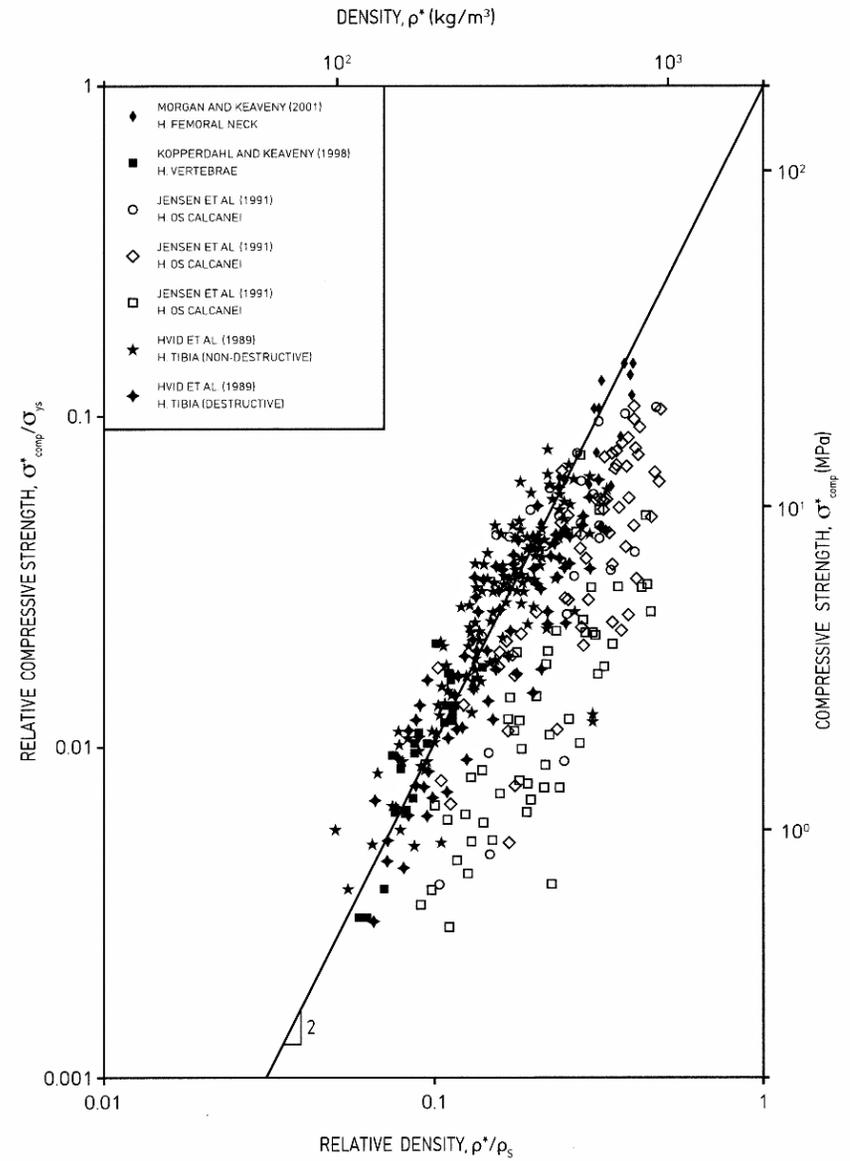
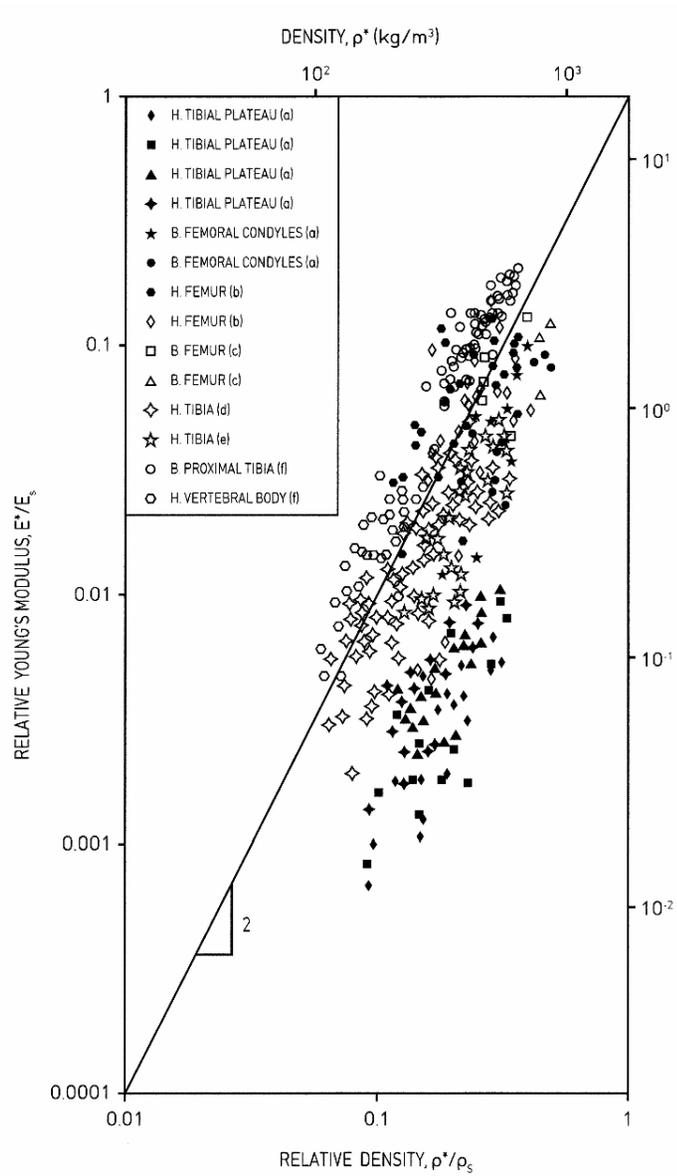
Human Vertebral Bone

Mueller, ETH

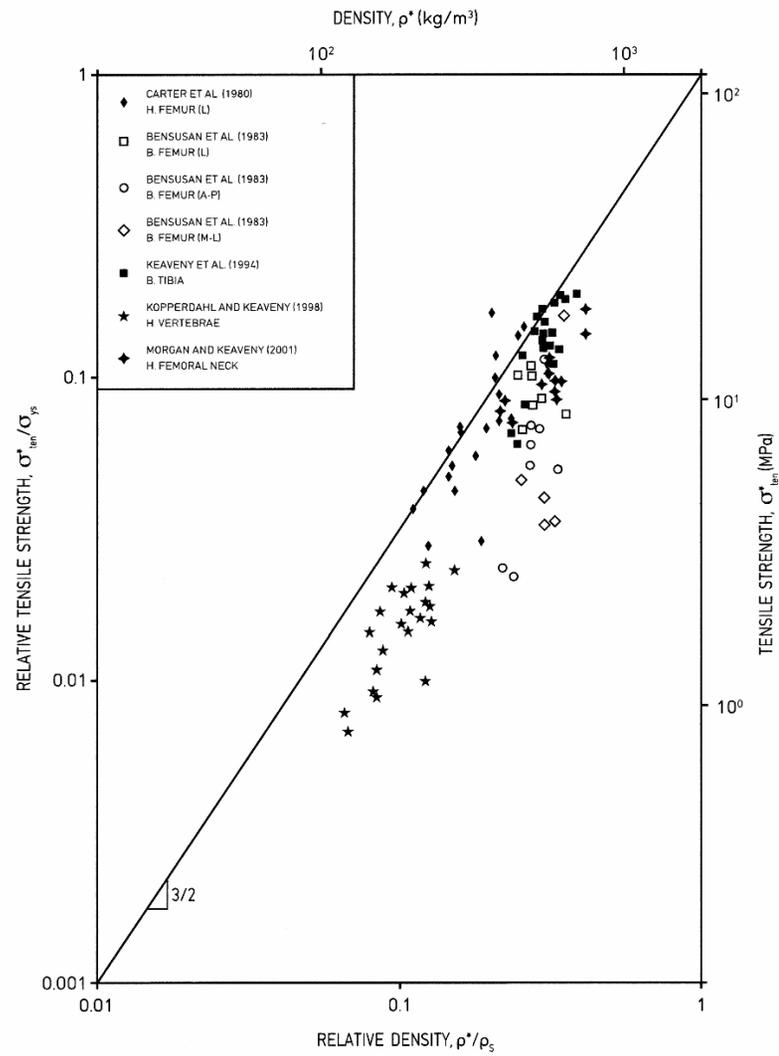
# Tension

Figure removed due to copyright restrictions. See Fig. 5.6: Gibson, L. J., et al. *Cellular Materials in Nature and Medicine*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Carter et al., 1980



Gibson, L. J., M. Ashby, et al. *Cellular Materials in Nature and Medicine*. Cambridge University Press, © 2010. Figures courtesy of Lorna Gibson and Cambridge University Press.



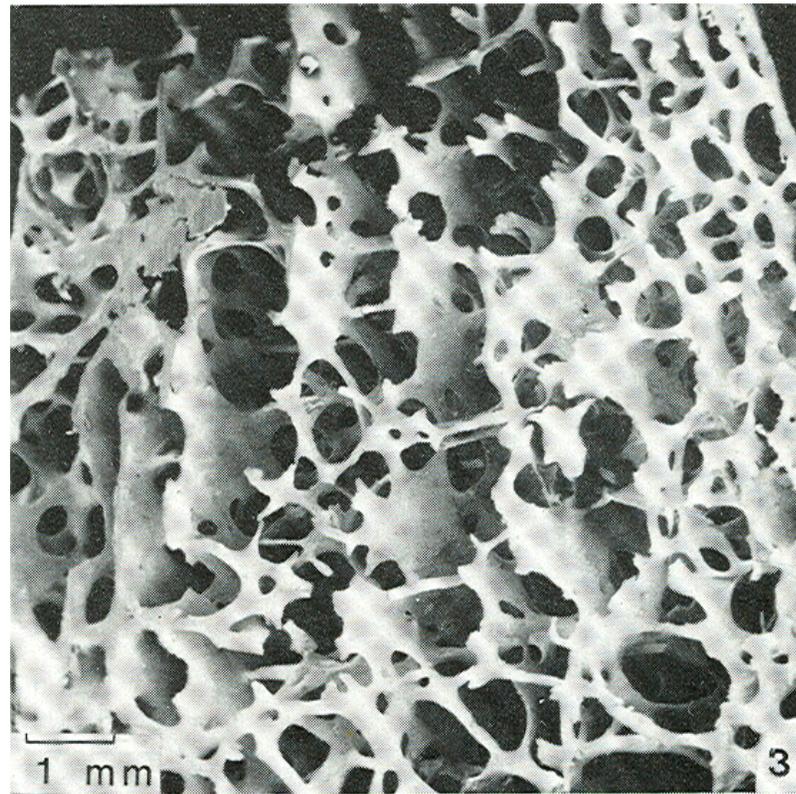
Gibson, L. J., M. Ashby, et al. *Cellular Materials in Nature and Medicine*. Cambridge University Press, © 2010. Figure courtesy of Lorna Gibson and Cambridge University Press.

- In some regions, trab. may be aligned: e.g. parallel plates
  - deformation then axial  $E^* \propto \rho$   
(in longitudinal direction)  $\sigma^* \propto \rho$
- Can also summarize data for solid trabeculae and trabecular bone (similar to wood)  
Solid-composite of hydroxyapatite and collagen

## Osteoporosis (Latin: “porpus bones”)

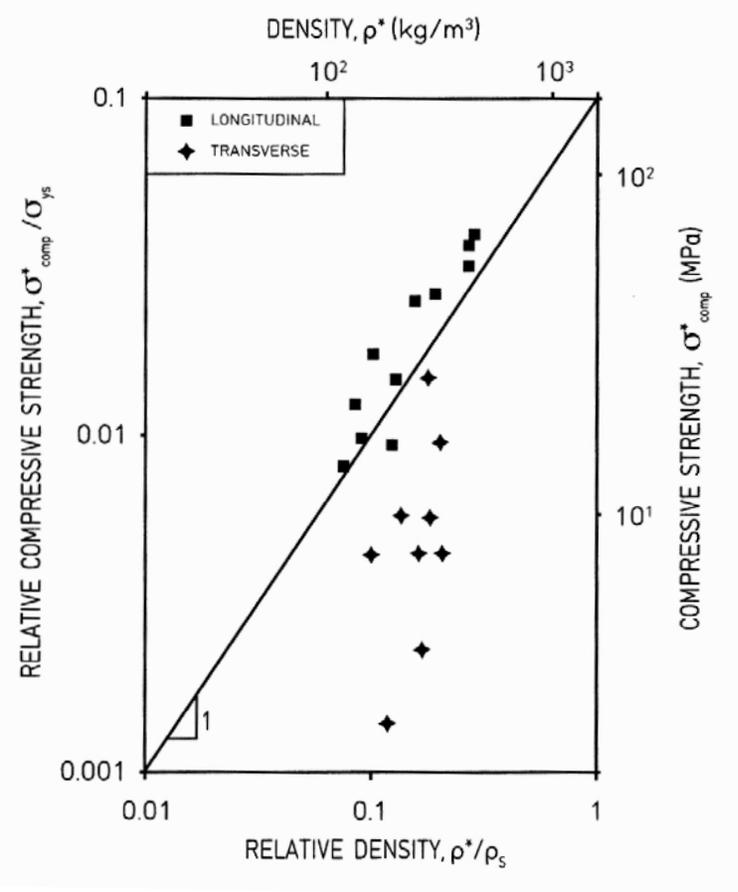
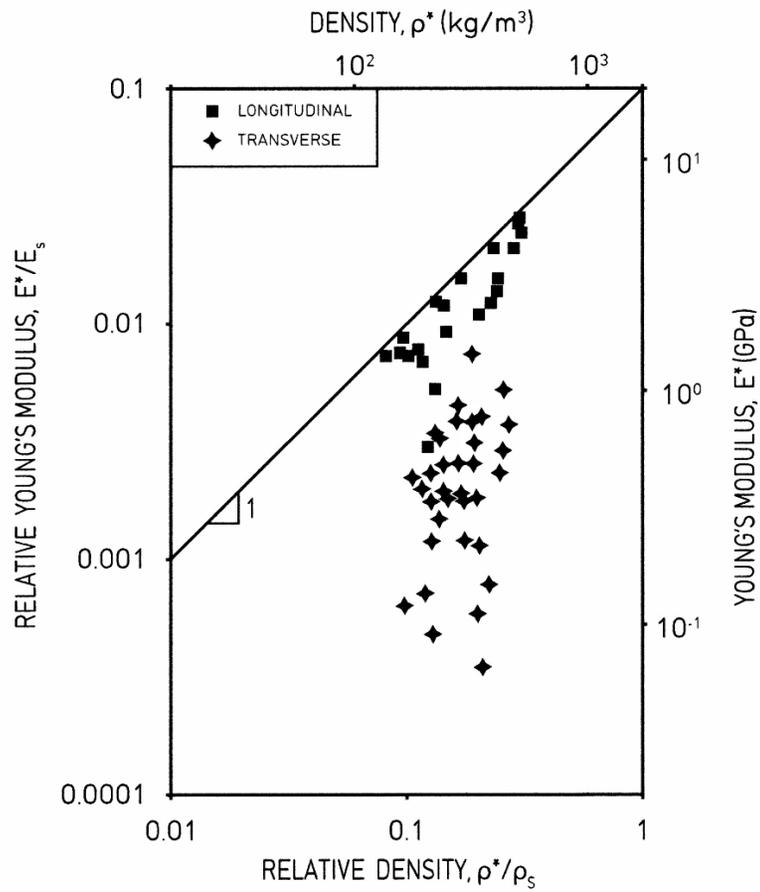
- As age, lose bone mass
- Bone mass peaks at 25 years, then decreases 1-2% per year
- Women, menopause — cessation of estrogen production, increases rate of bone loss
- Osteoporosis defined as bone mass 2.5 standard deviations (or more) below young normal mean
- Trabeculae thin and then resorb completely

# Aligned Trabeculae

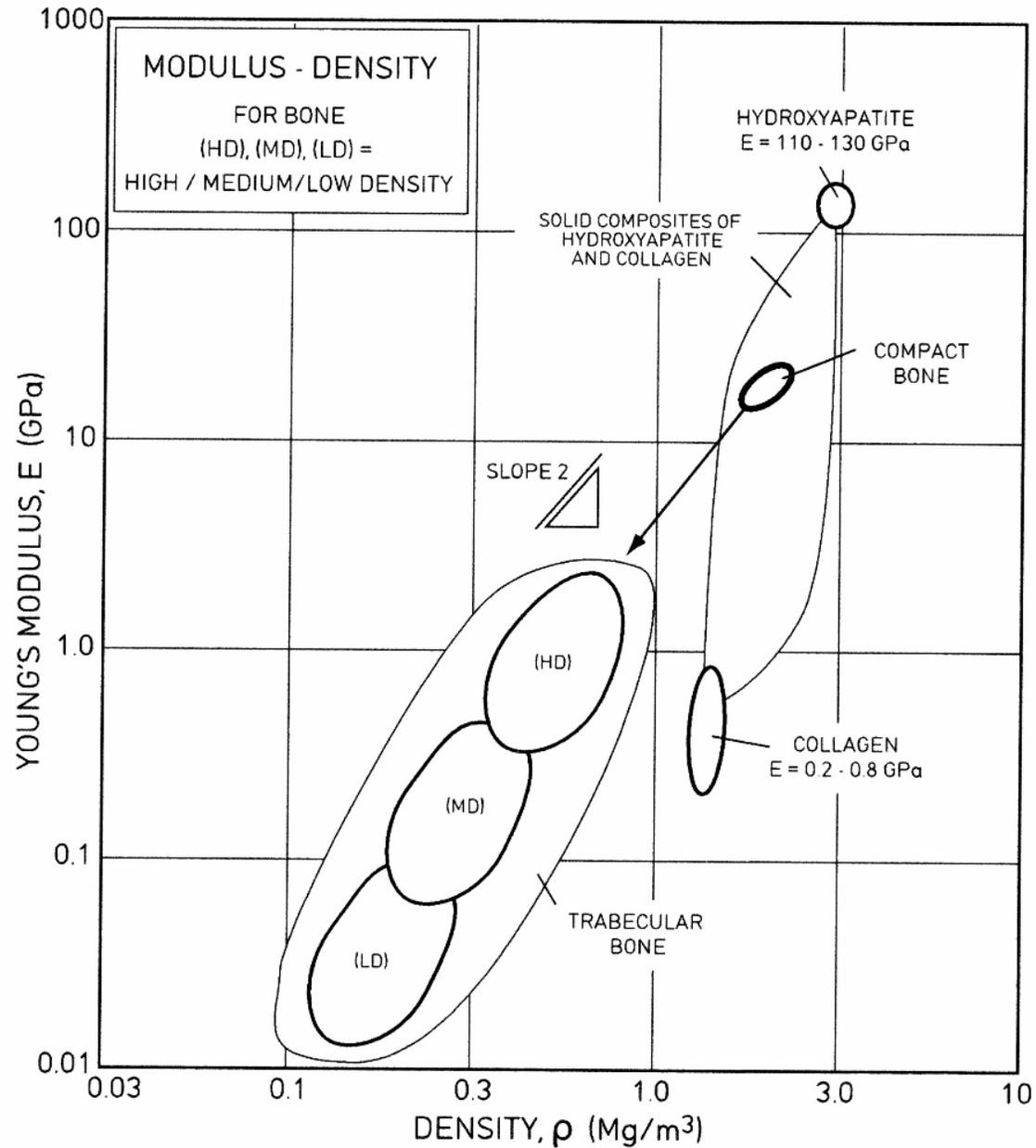


Femoral Condyle (Knee)

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3.054 / 3.36 Cellular Solids: Structure, Properties and Applications  
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