

Effective plastic strain rate:

$$\dot{\bar{\epsilon}}^p = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \dot{\epsilon}_{ij}^p \dot{\epsilon}_{ij}^p} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \left\{ (\dot{\epsilon}_{xx}^p)^2 + (\dot{\epsilon}_{yy}^p)^2 + (\dot{\epsilon}_{zz}^p)^2 + 2 \left[(\dot{\epsilon}_{xy}^p)^2 + (\dot{\epsilon}_{xz}^p)^2 + (\dot{\epsilon}_{yz}^p)^2 \right] \right\}}^{1/2}$$

Effective plastic strain:

$$\bar{\epsilon}^p = \int \dot{\bar{\epsilon}}^p dt$$

For example uniaxial tension in the x-direction the strain rates are

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{xx}^p = \dot{\epsilon}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{yy}^p = -0.5\dot{\epsilon}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{zz}^p = -0.5\dot{\epsilon}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{xy}^p = 0$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{xz}^p = 0$$

$$\dot{\epsilon}_{yz}^p = 0$$

Where the -0.5 factors are from conservation of volume (“Plastic Poisson’s Ratio” = 0.5). The effective plastic strain rate is

$$\dot{\bar{\epsilon}}^p = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \left\{ (\dot{\epsilon})^2 + (-0.5\dot{\epsilon})^2 + (-0.5\dot{\epsilon})^2 \right\}}^{1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2}} (\dot{\epsilon}) = \dot{\epsilon}$$

So that for uniaxial loading the effective plastic strain rate is equal to the strain rate in the loading direction (this is the point of the $\sqrt{2/3}$ factor). This is similar conceptually to effective stress.