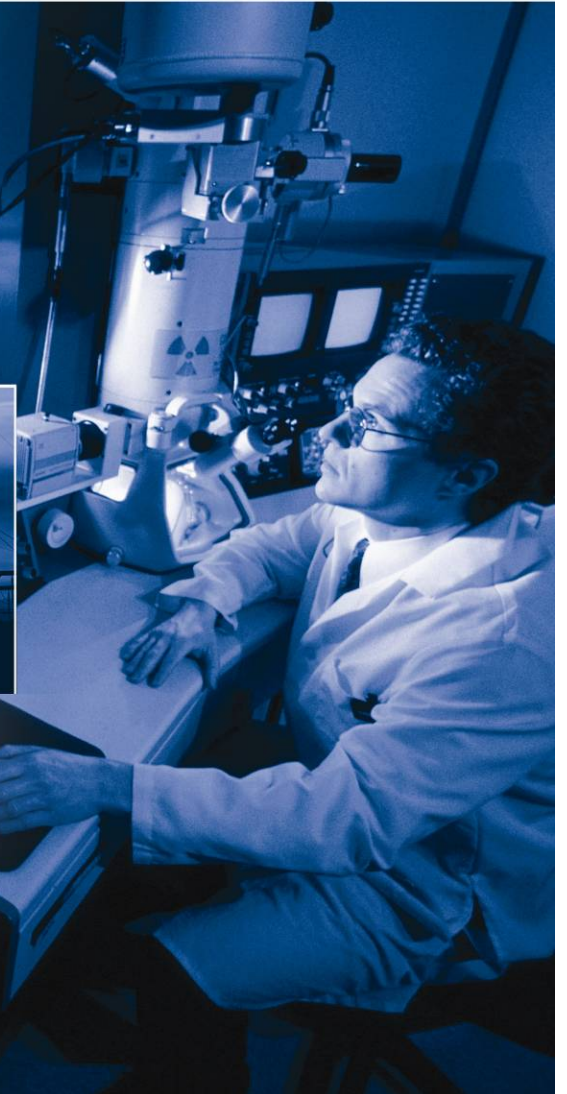




# FEA-Crack Software



**Ted L Anderson, Ph.D., P.E.**

**March 7, 2007**

# Company Overview

- ▶ Structural Reliability Technology (SRT) founded in 1995.
- ▶ SRT acquired by Quest Reliability, LLC on January 1, 2007.
- ▶ Approximately 50 engineers worldwide, including 15 with Ph.D. degrees.
- ▶ Office locations:
  - Boulder, CO
  - Houston, TX
  - Wellington, New Zealand
  - Brisbane, Australia

# Company Overview (cont.)



- ▶ Broad range of services:
  - Fitness-for-service & fracture mechanics
  - Stress analysis
  - Failure analysis
  - Software development
- ▶ Diverse group of clients
  - Power
  - Chemical, petroleum, petrochemical
  - Pipeline
  - Rail transportation
  - Defense
  - Aerospace

# FEA Crack

Cracks

Configuration

Dimensions

Length (2c), in Depth (a), in

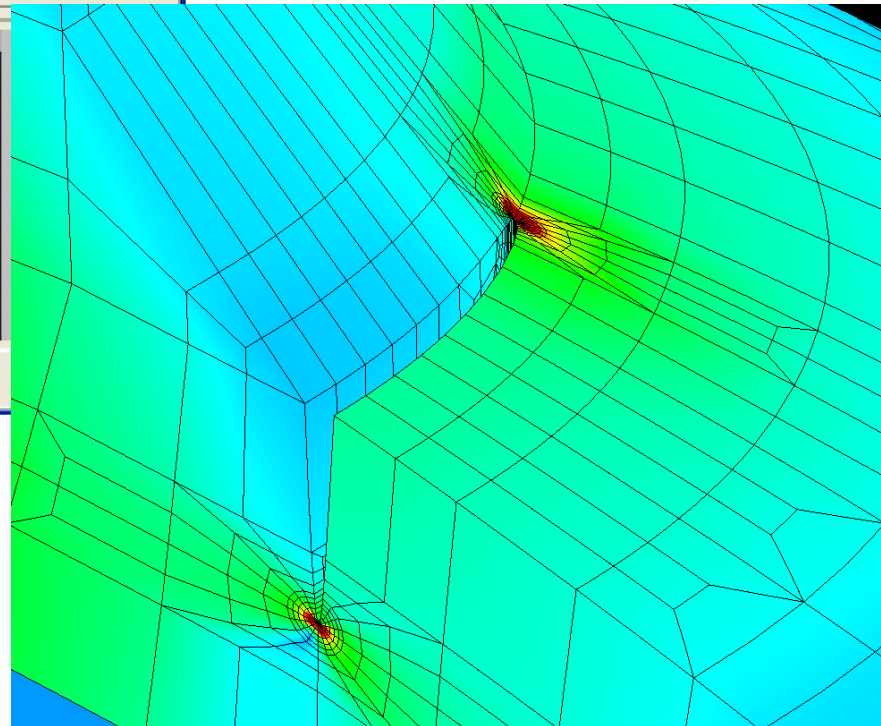
1	1	0.5
2	2	0.5
3	4	0.5
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		

Crack Shape:  
Surface Crack

Evaluate:  
☐ Single Crack Size  
☒ Range of Crack Sizes

Crack Type:  
☒ Elliptical  
☐ Constant Depth

←





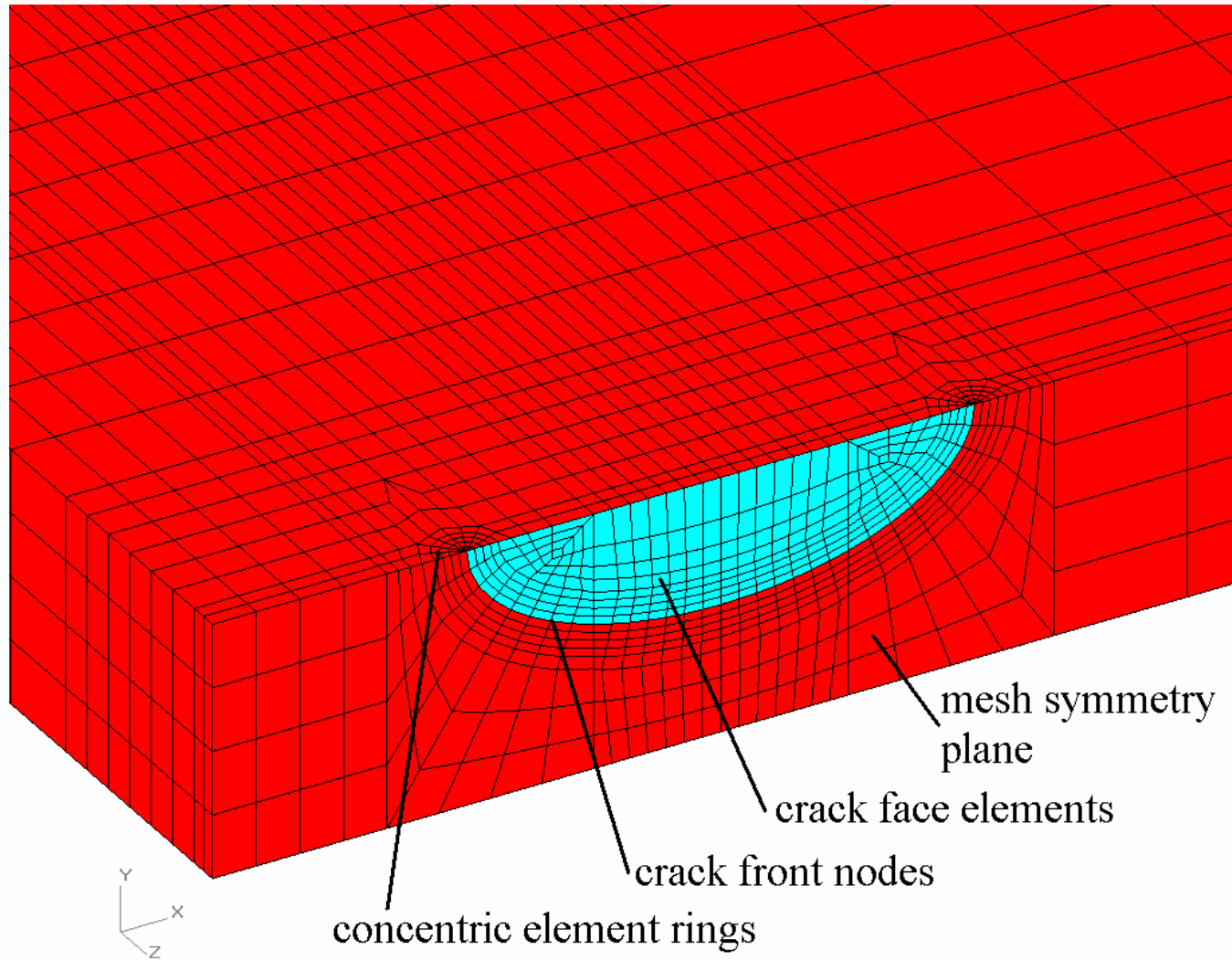
# FEA-Crack Overview

- ▶ Pre- and post-processor for 3D crack problems.
- ▶ Front end to Abaqus, ANSYS, and Warp3D.
- ▶ Drop-down list of component/geometry choices (20 & counting).
- ▶ User-defined geometry option for cases not covered in list.
- ▶ Crack growth modeling
  - Re-meshing
  - Element deletion
  - Node release
  - Cohesive elements

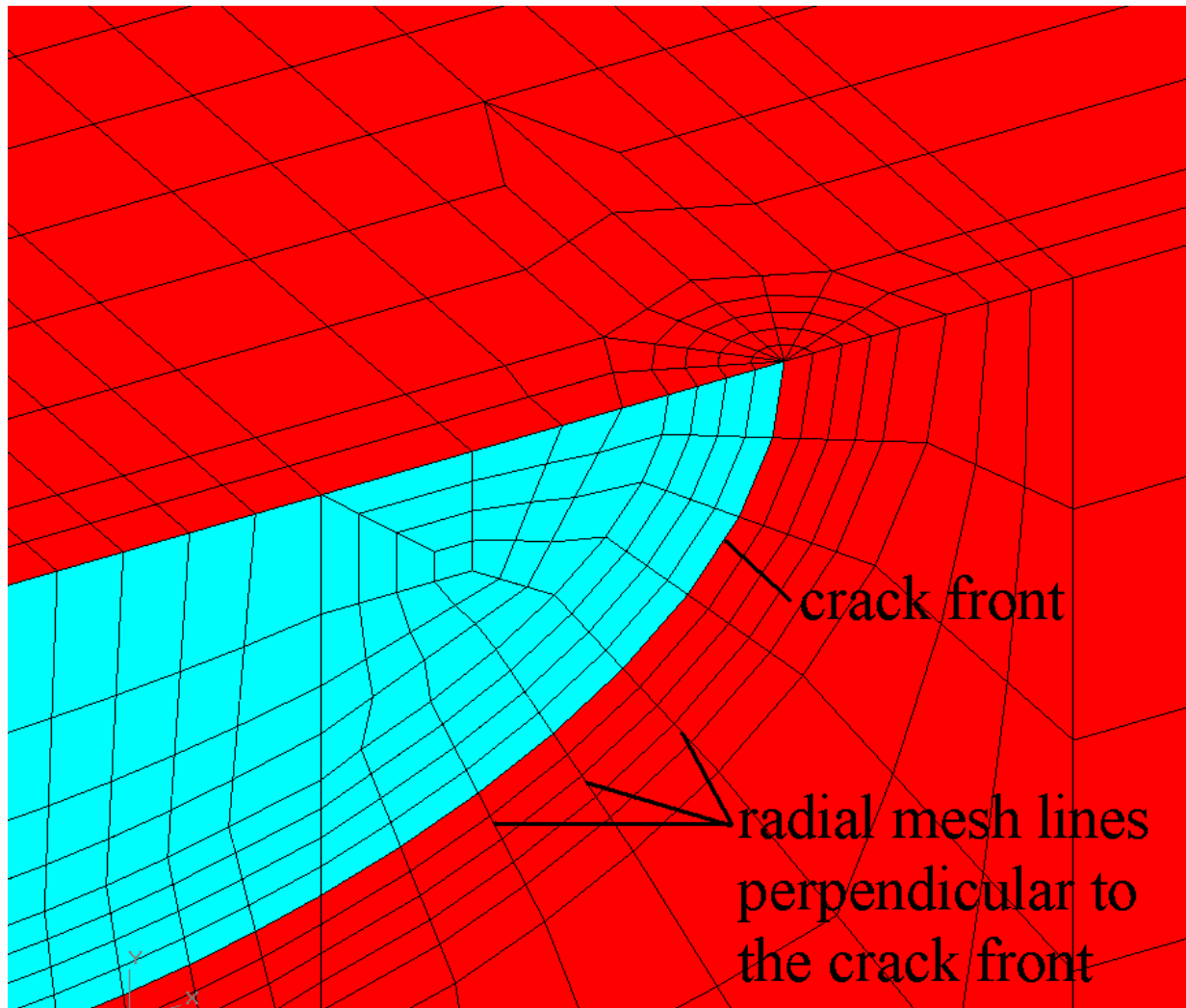
# Partial List of FEA-Crack Customers

- ▶ NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
- ▶ Los Alamos National Laboratory
- ▶ ExxonMobil
- ▶ Shell
- ▶ BP
- ▶ Chevron
- ▶ Westinghouse
- ▶ Southwest Research Institute
- ▶ Rolls Royce
- ▶ Boeing
- ▶ Dominion Engineering

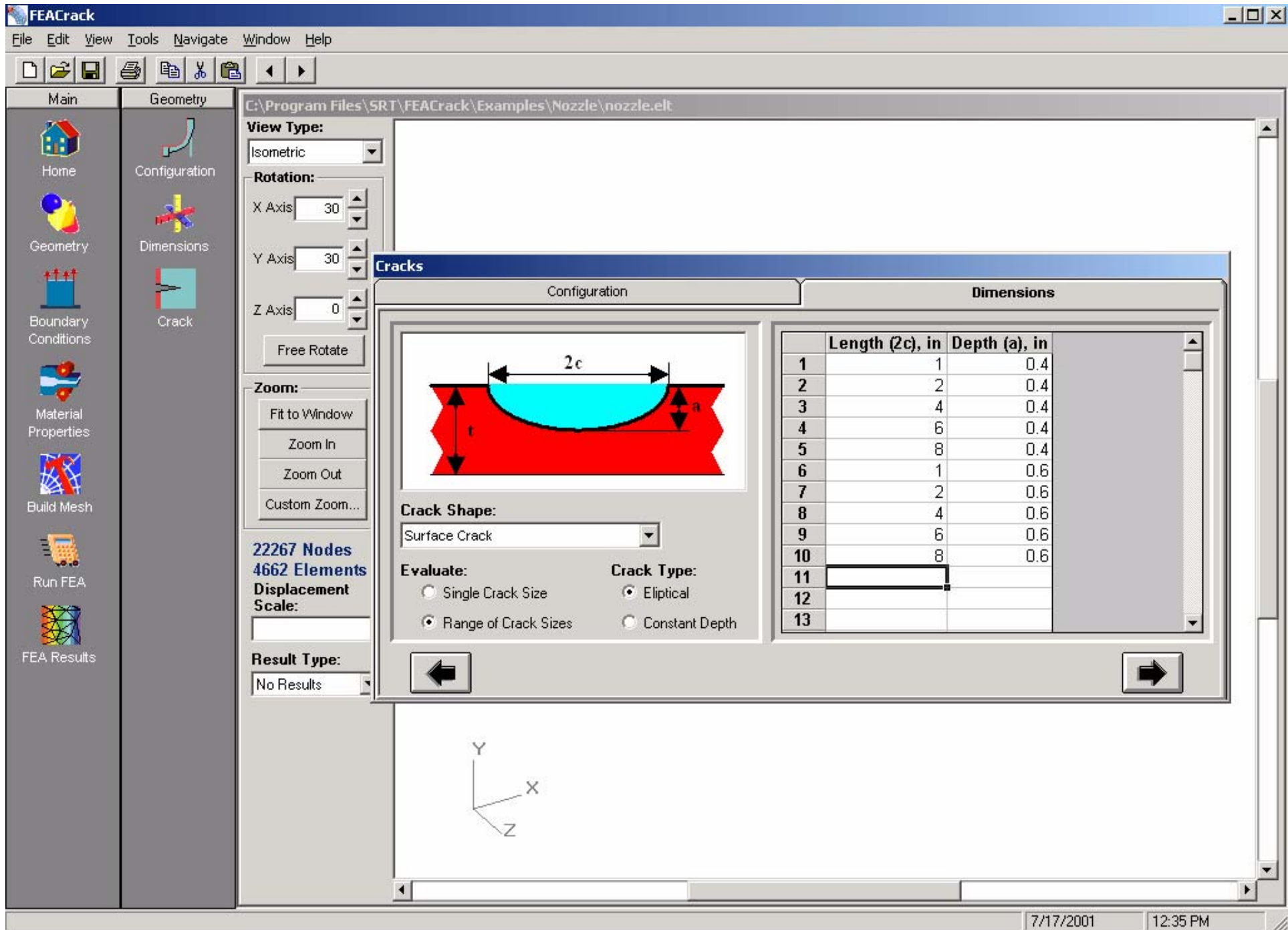
# Crack Meshing

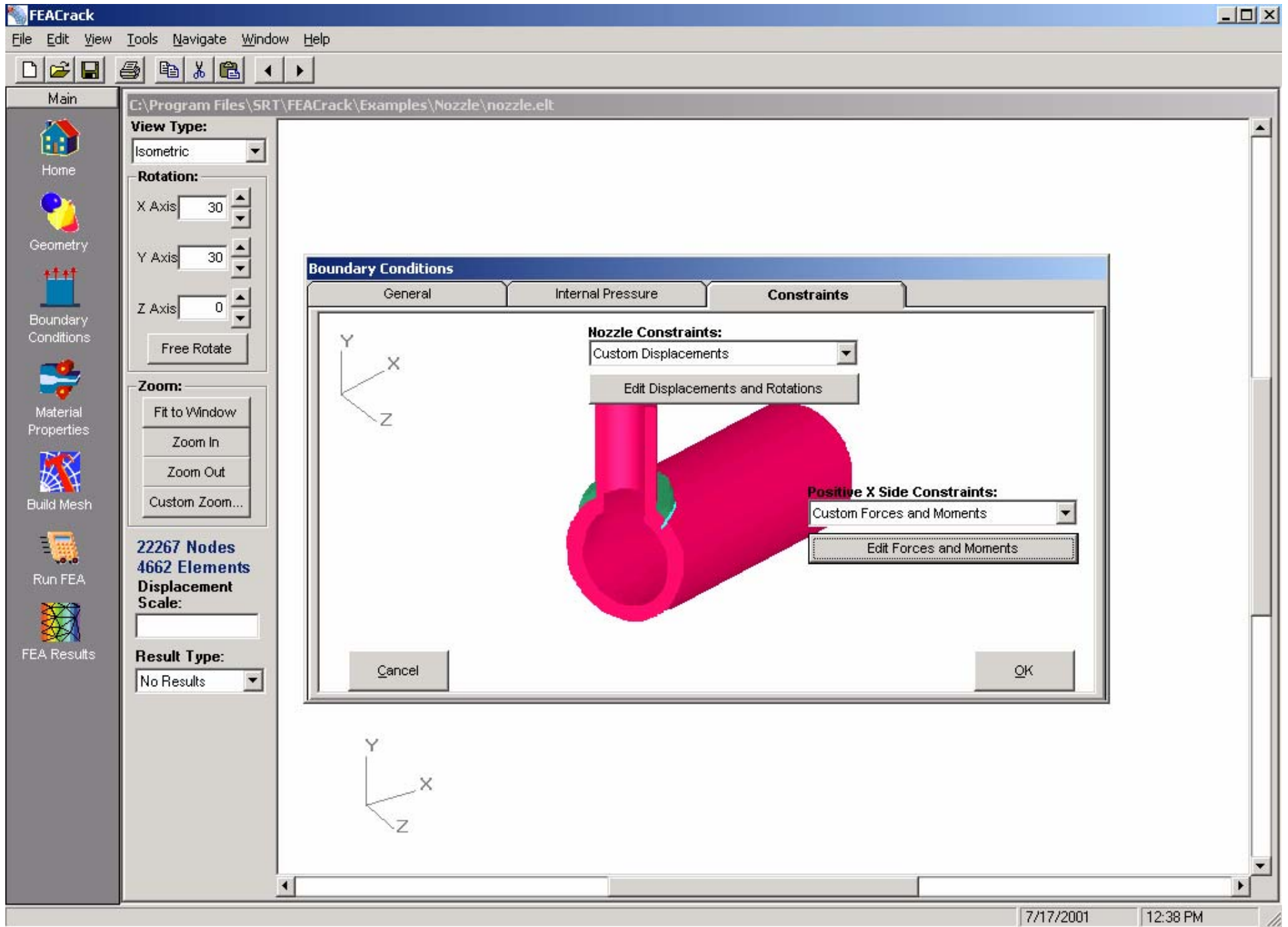


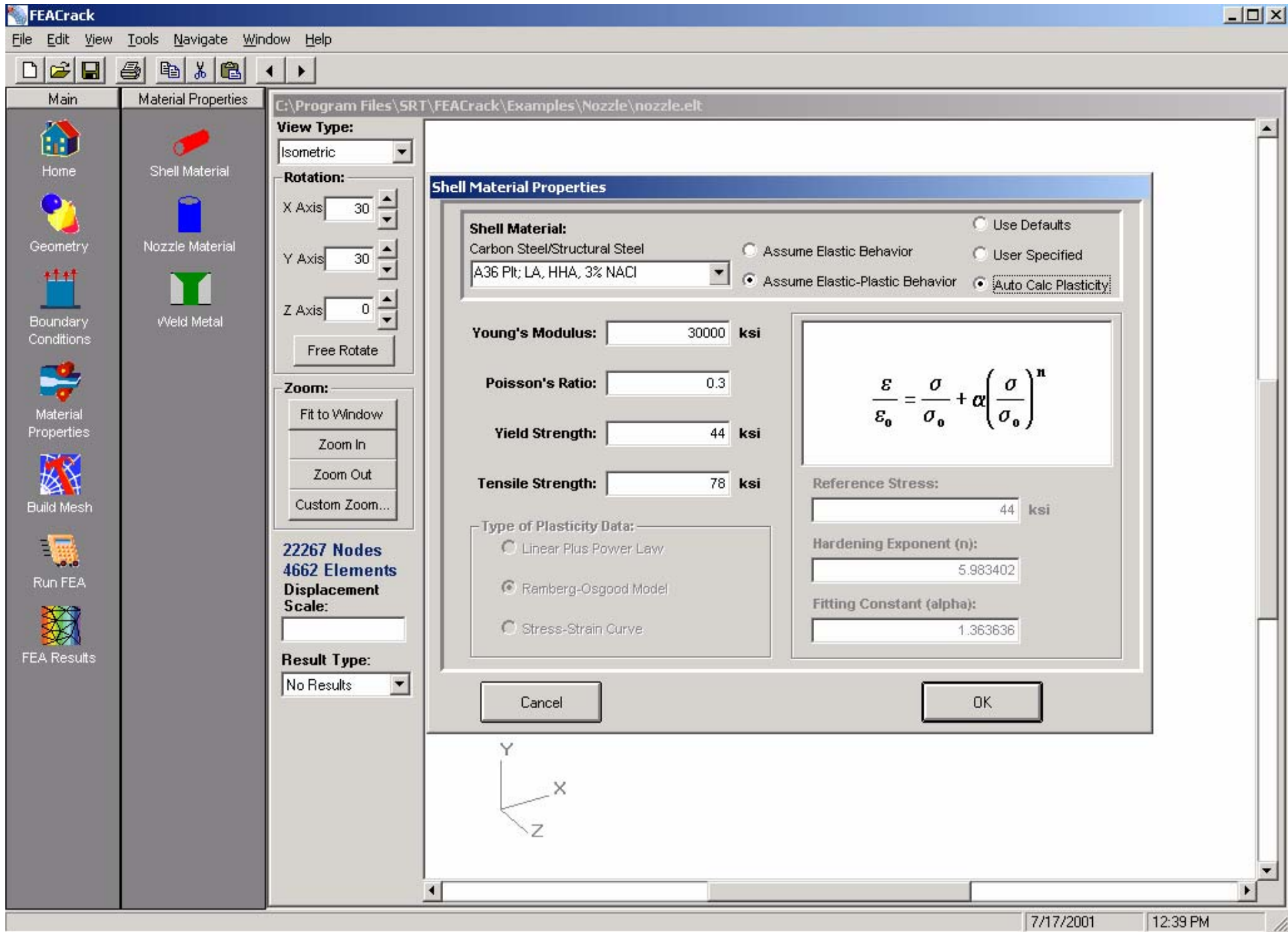
# Crack Tip Region









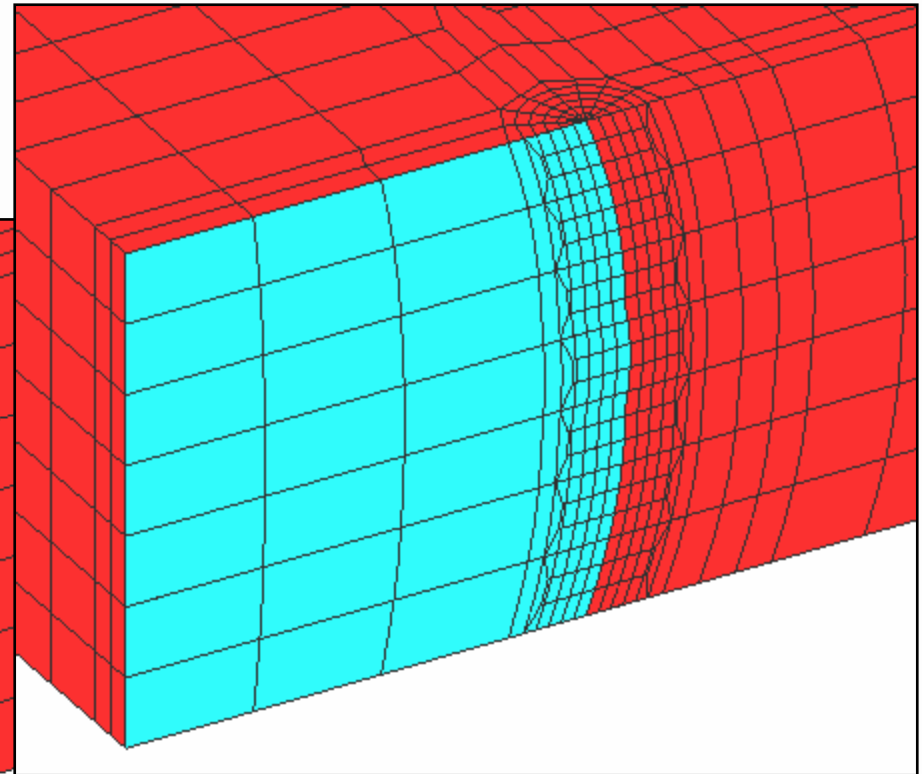
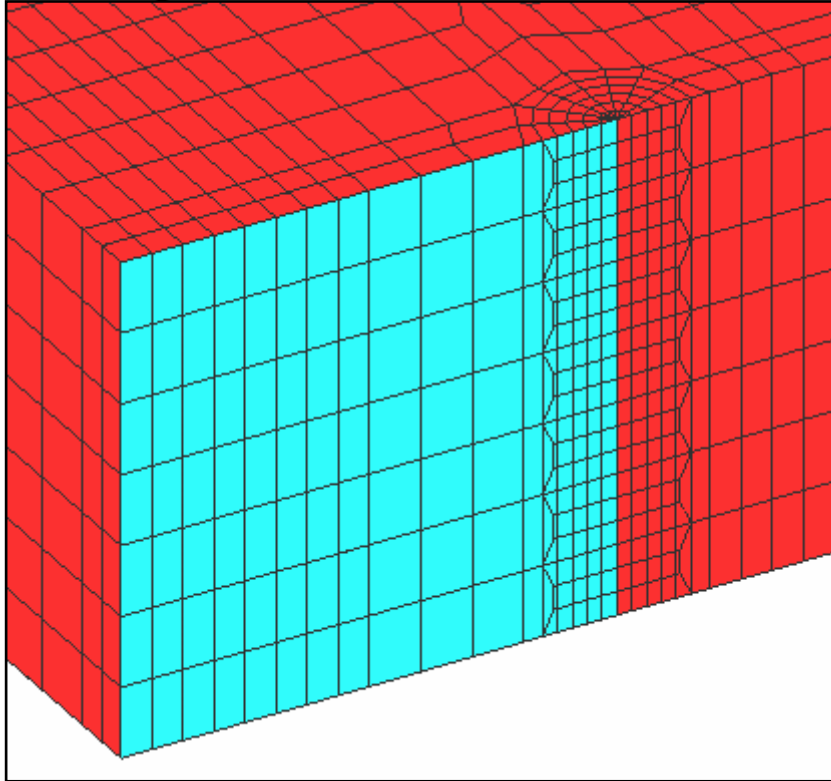


# Crack Front Profile



“Thumbnail” custom crack front

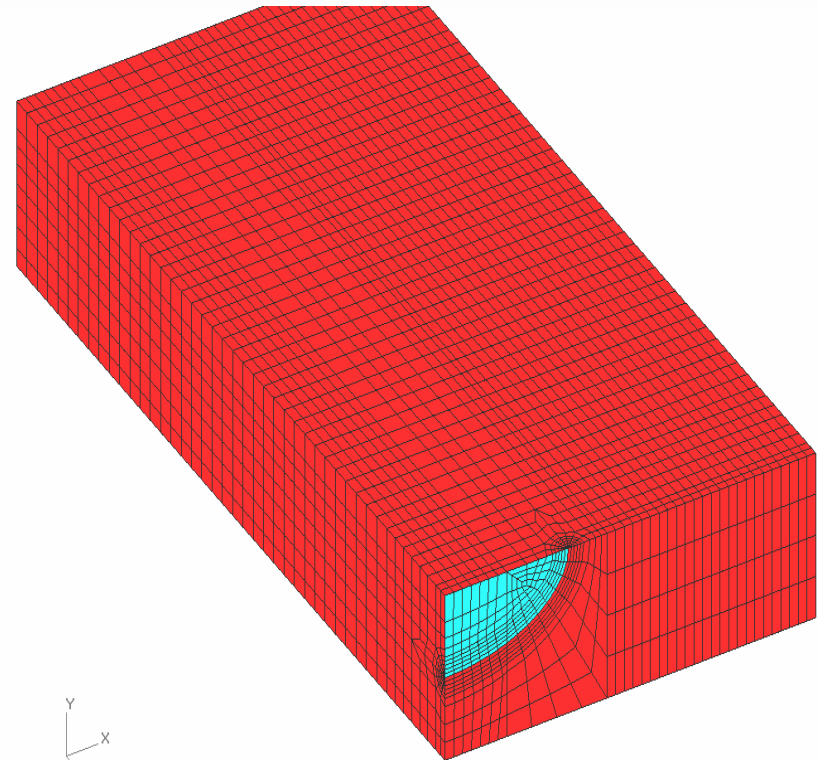
Straight line crack front



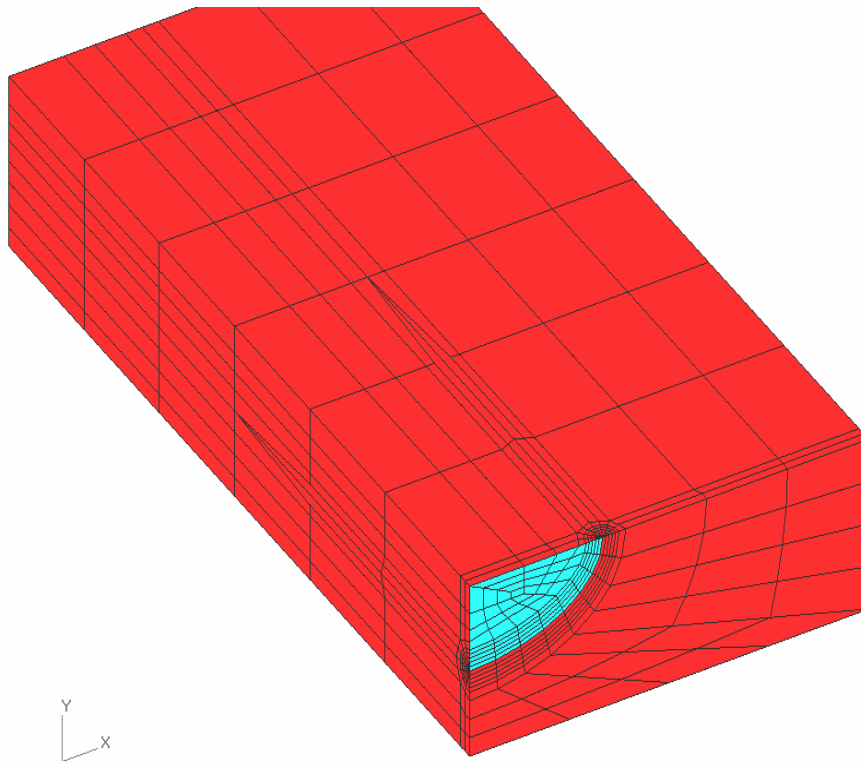
# Meshing Controls



Refined Mesh



Coarse mesh



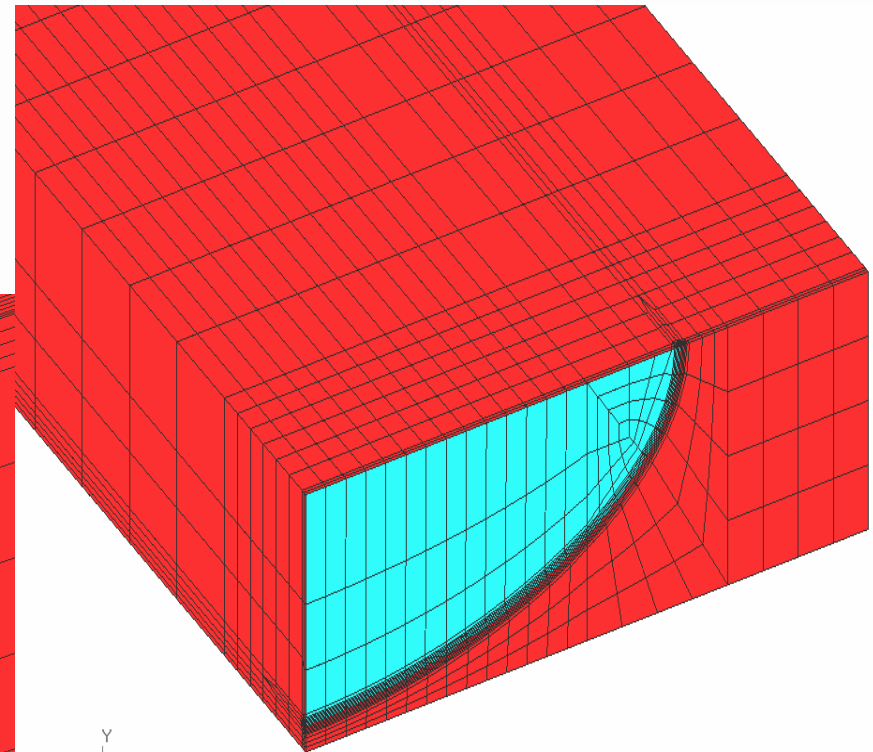
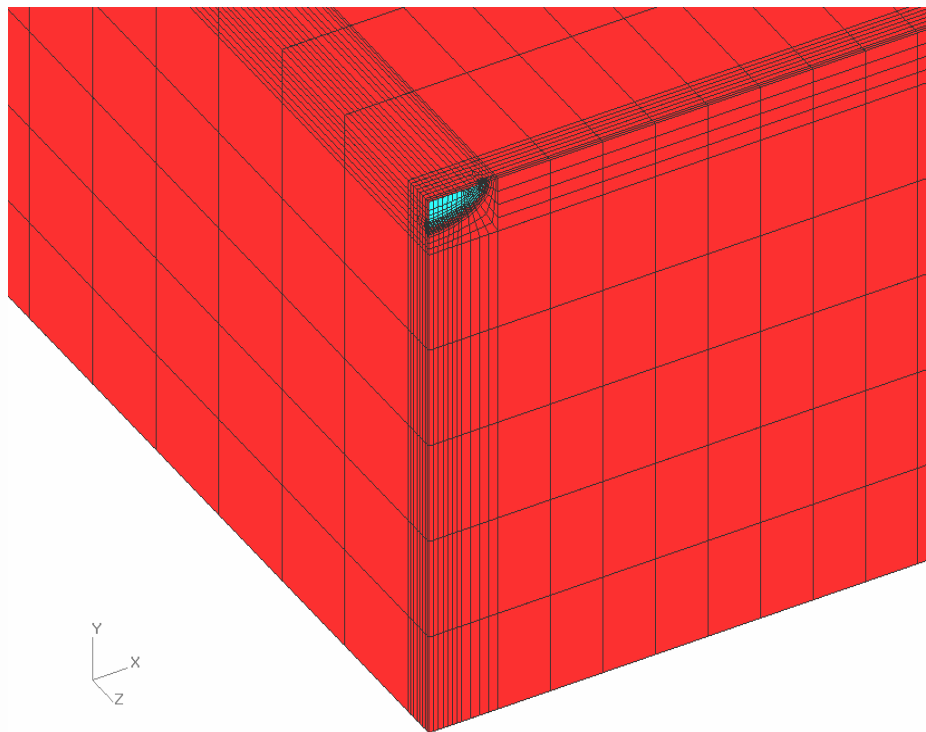


# Variable Crack Dimensions



Deep Crack

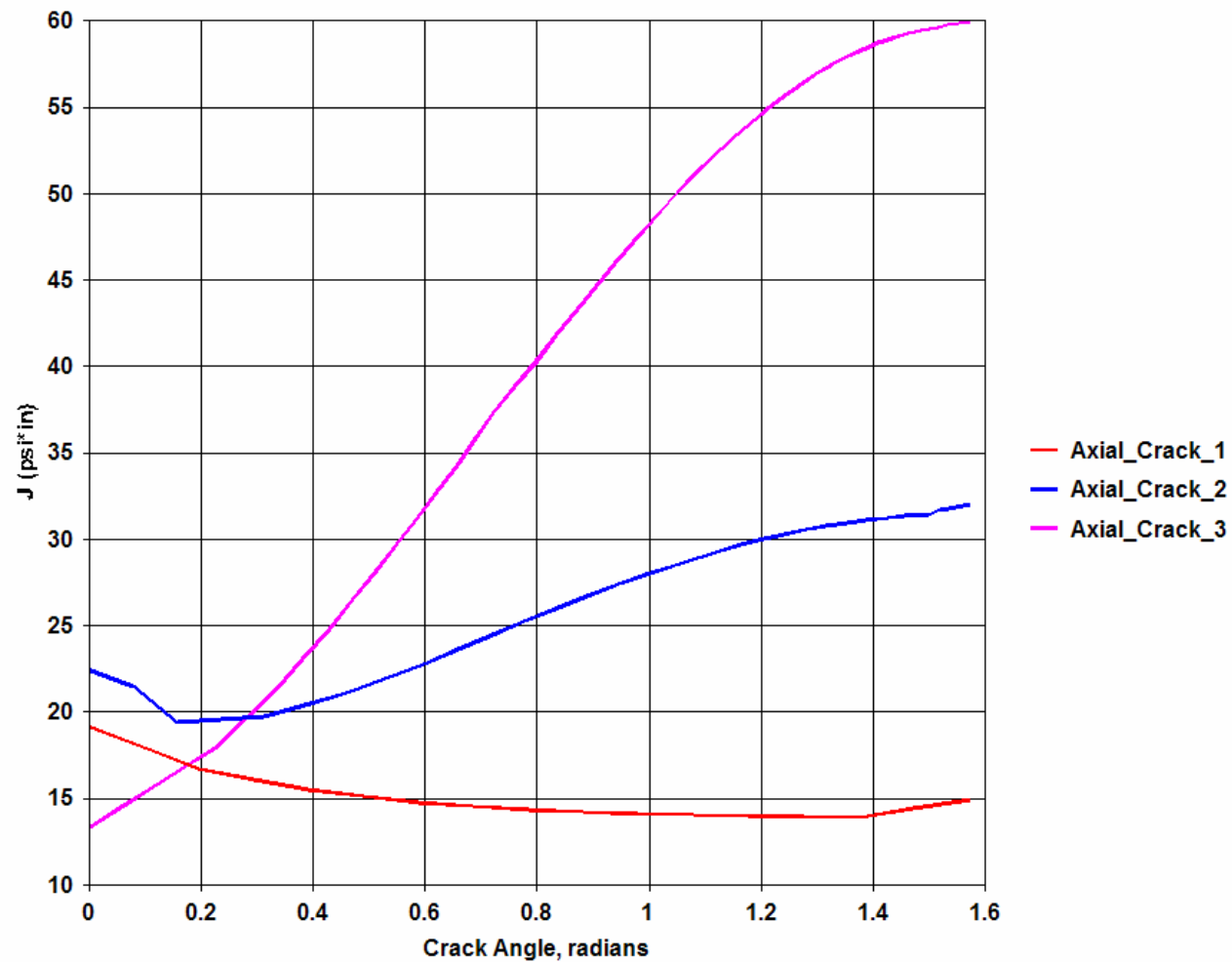
Shallow Crack



# Post Processing J-Integral Plot



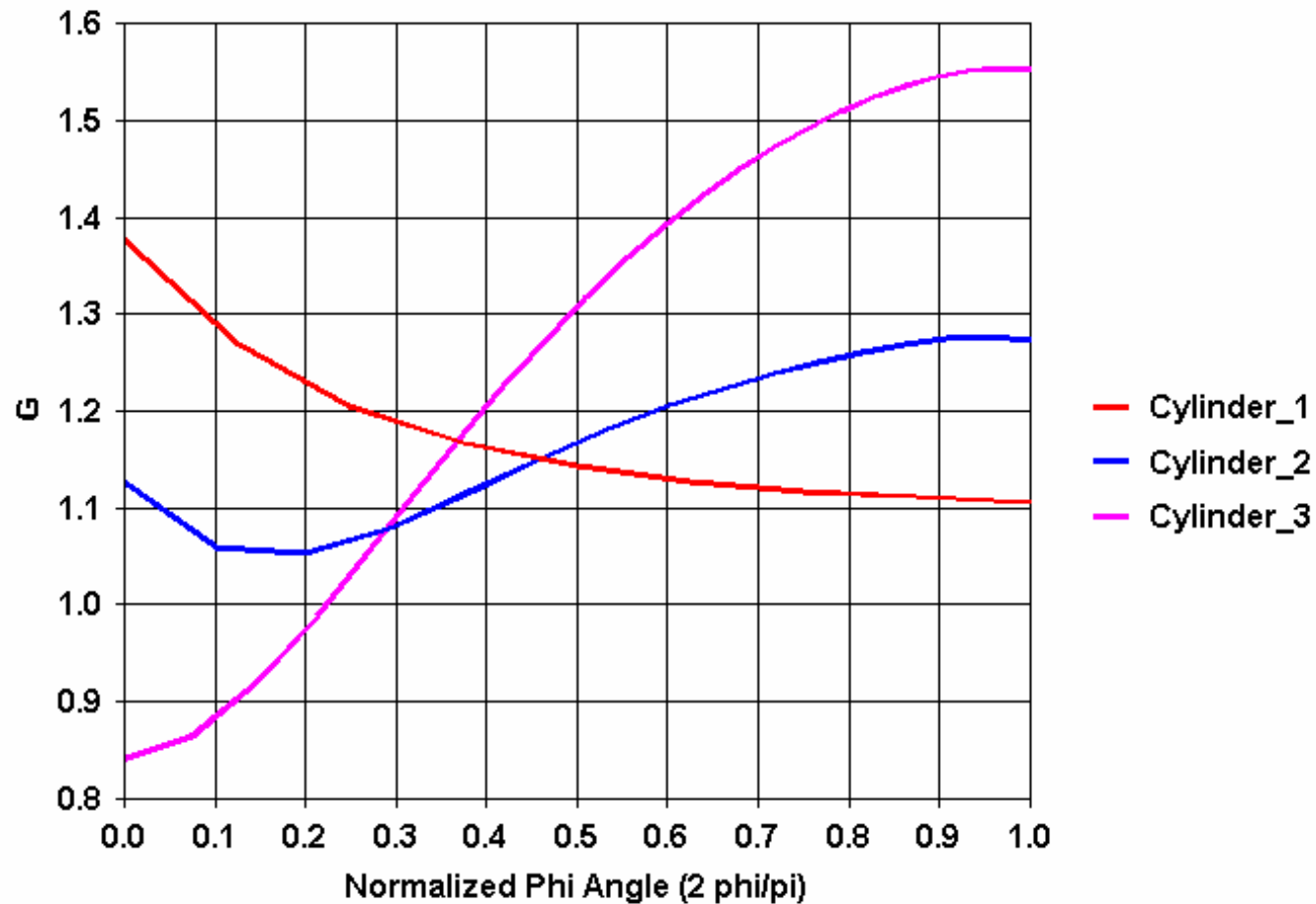
J Integral Along Crack Front



# Post Processing Stress Intensity Results

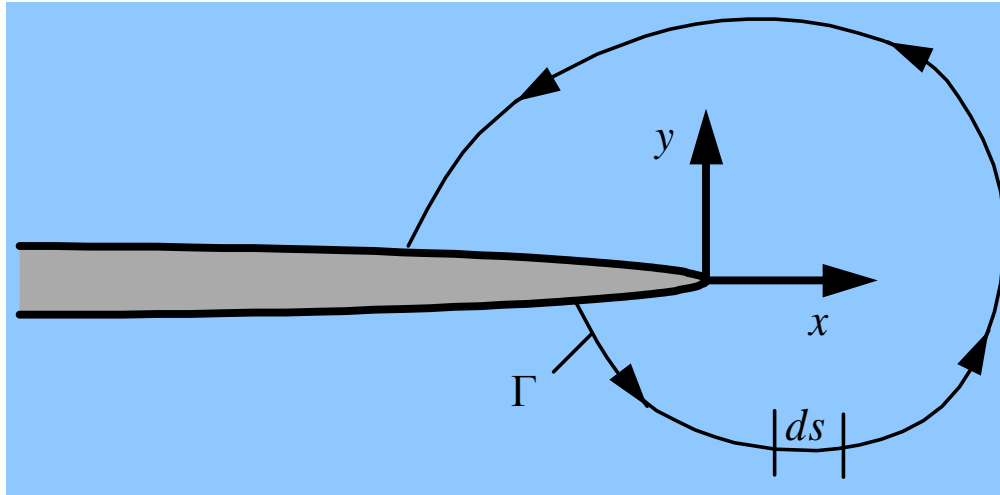


Non-Dimensional K Value Along Crack Front



# The J-Integral

## Path-Independent Line Integral



For 2D problems, the line integral can be converted to an area integral for evaluation with finite element analysis.

In 3D, a surface integral is converted to a volume integral.

$$J = \int_{\Gamma} \left( w dy - T_i \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x} ds \right)$$

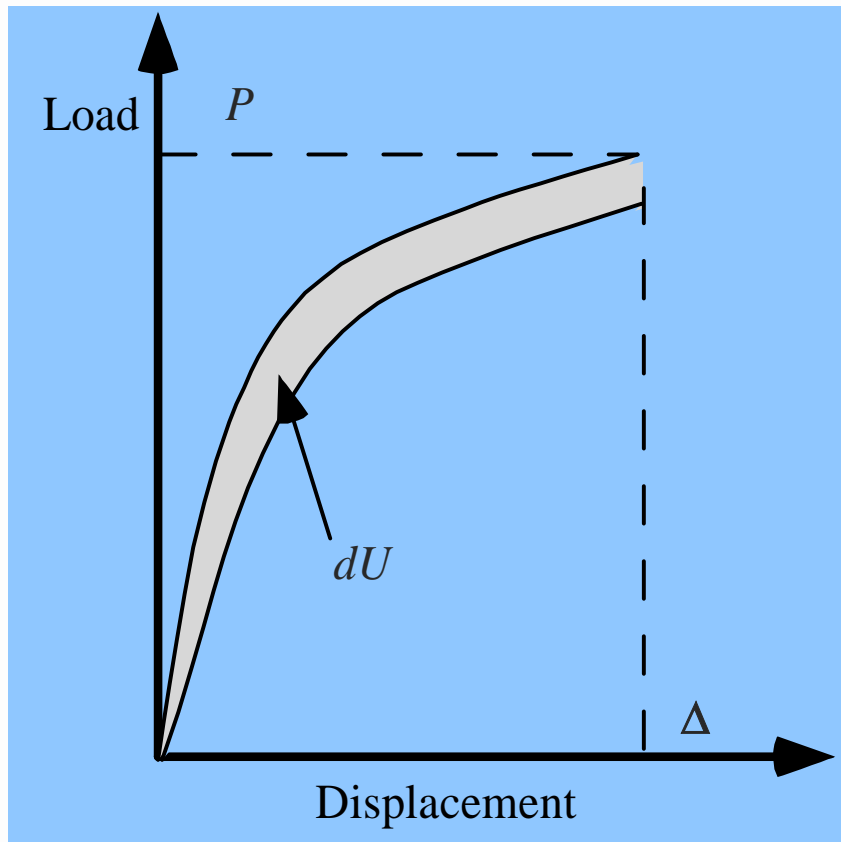
Where  $\Gamma$  is an arbitrary counter-clockwise path around the crack tip and:

$$w = \int_0^{\varepsilon_{ij}} \sigma_{ij} d\varepsilon_{ij}$$

$$T_i = \sigma_{ij} n_j$$

# The J-Integral

## Nonlinear Energy Release Rate



$$J = -\frac{1}{B} \left( \frac{dU}{da} \right)_{\Delta}$$

In the limit of linear elastic material behavior,  $J = \mathcal{G}$  and:

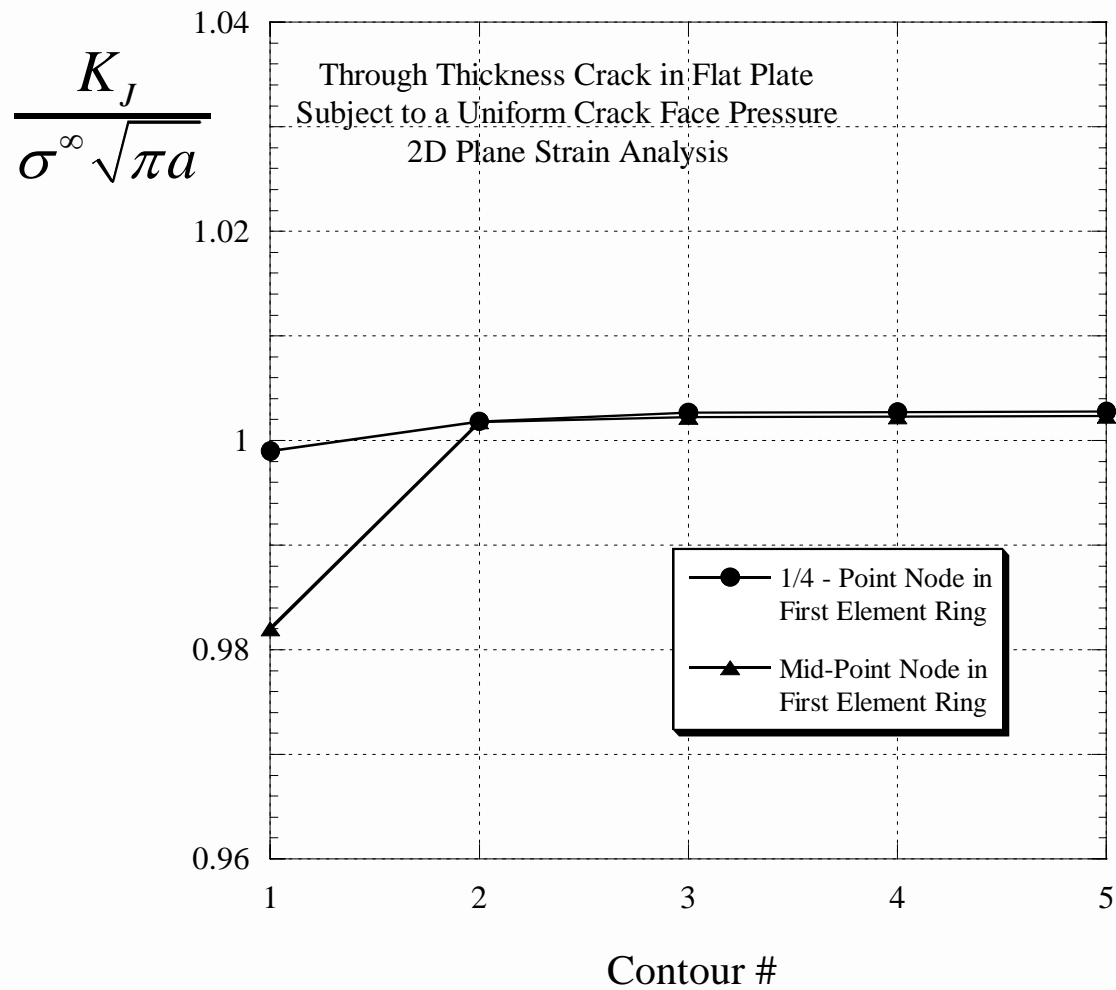
$$J = \frac{K_I (1 - \nu^2)}{E}$$

assuming plane strain conditions.



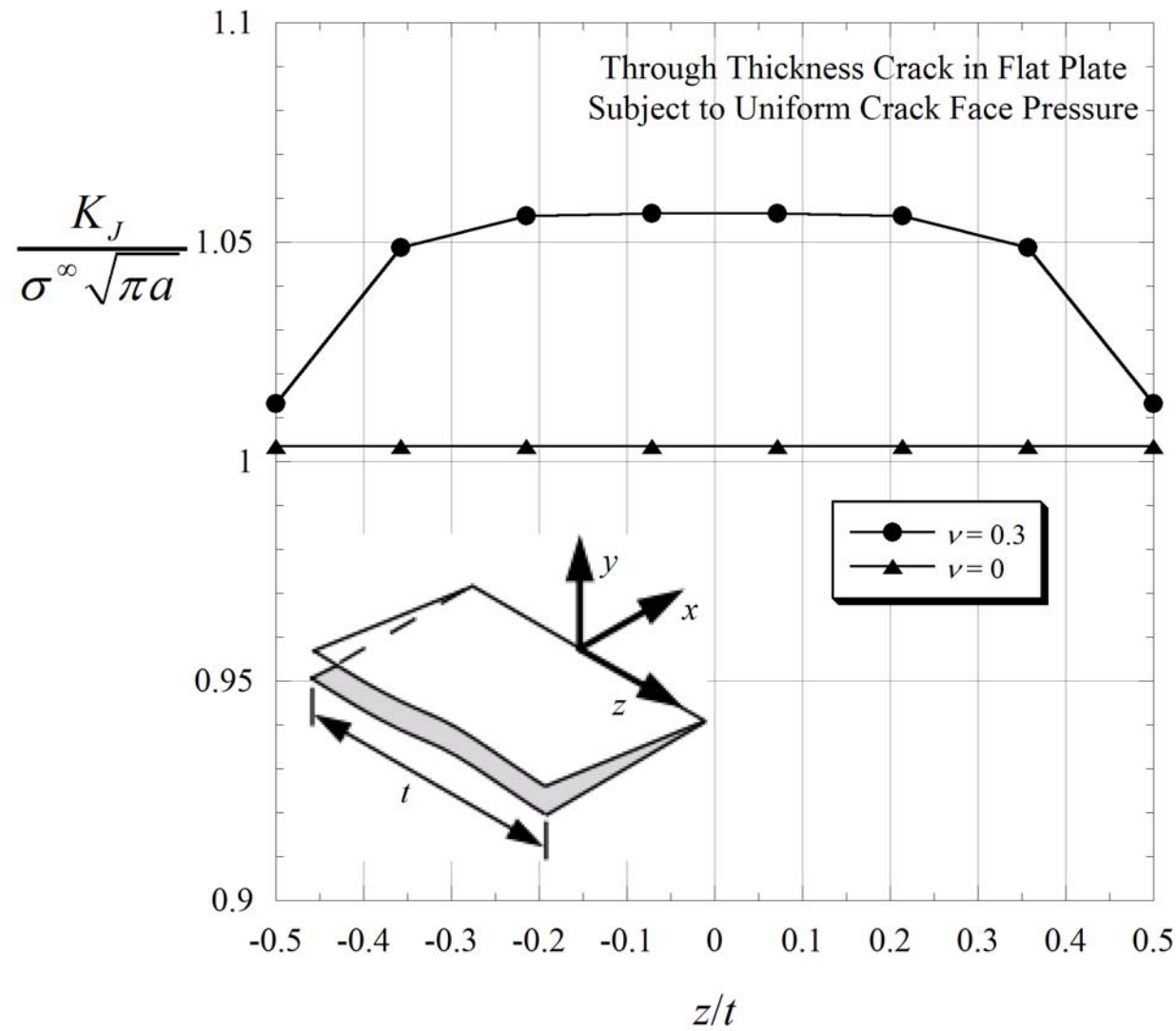
# $K_I$ from J Example 1

## Griffith Plate



# $K_I$ from J Example 2

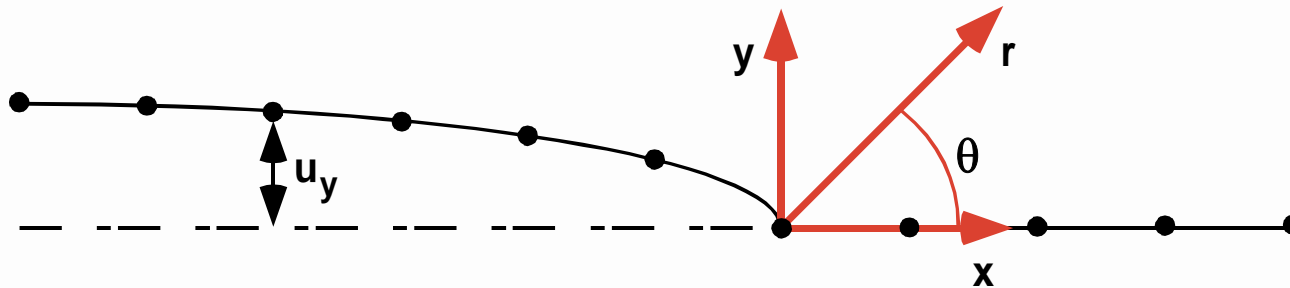
## 3D Griffith Plate



## $K_I$ from Crack Opening Displacement

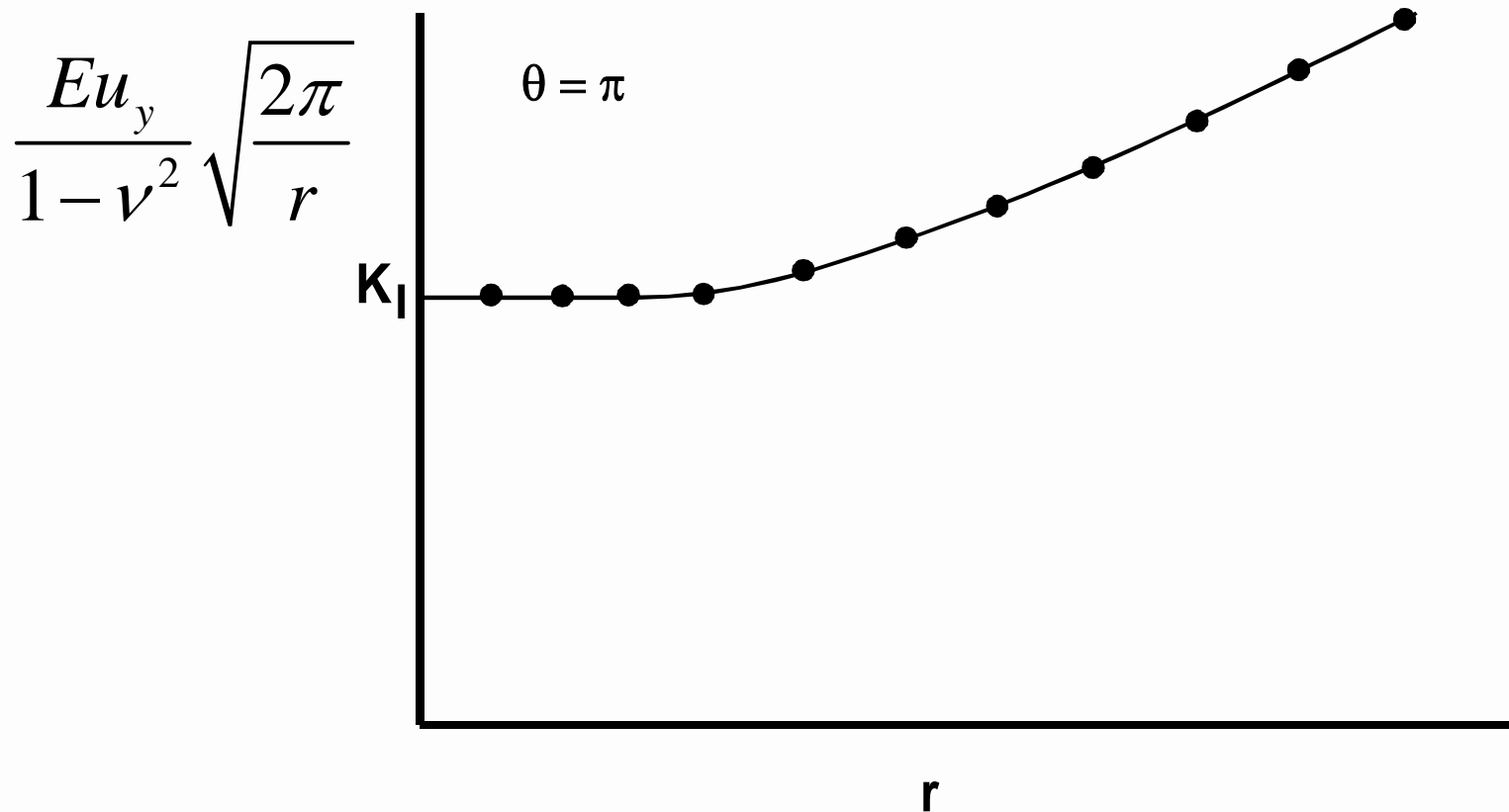


$$K_I = \frac{E}{1-\nu^2} \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \left[ u_y \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{r}} \right] \quad (\theta = \pi)$$



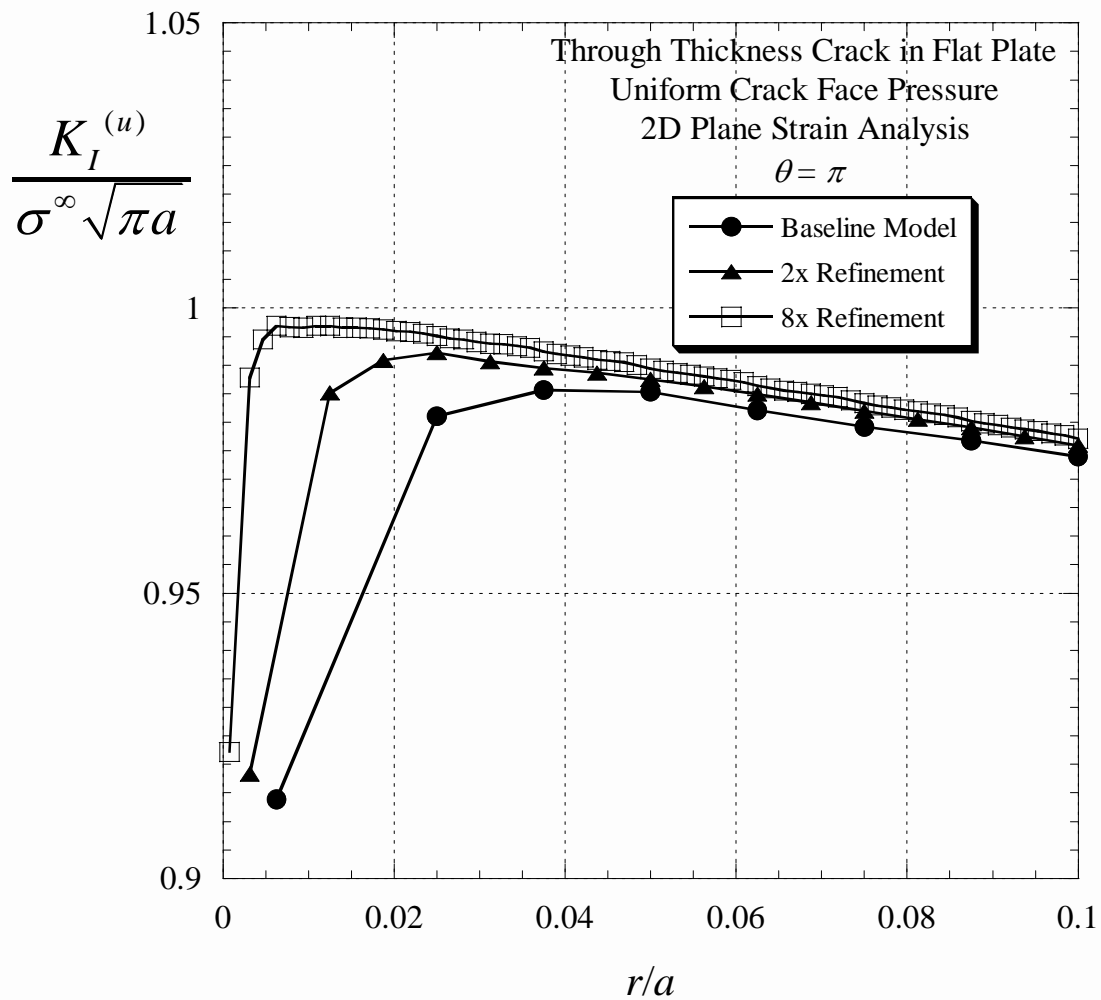
- ▶ Similar expressions exist for Modes II and III

# Displacement Extrapolation



# Displacement Method Example

## Griffith Plate

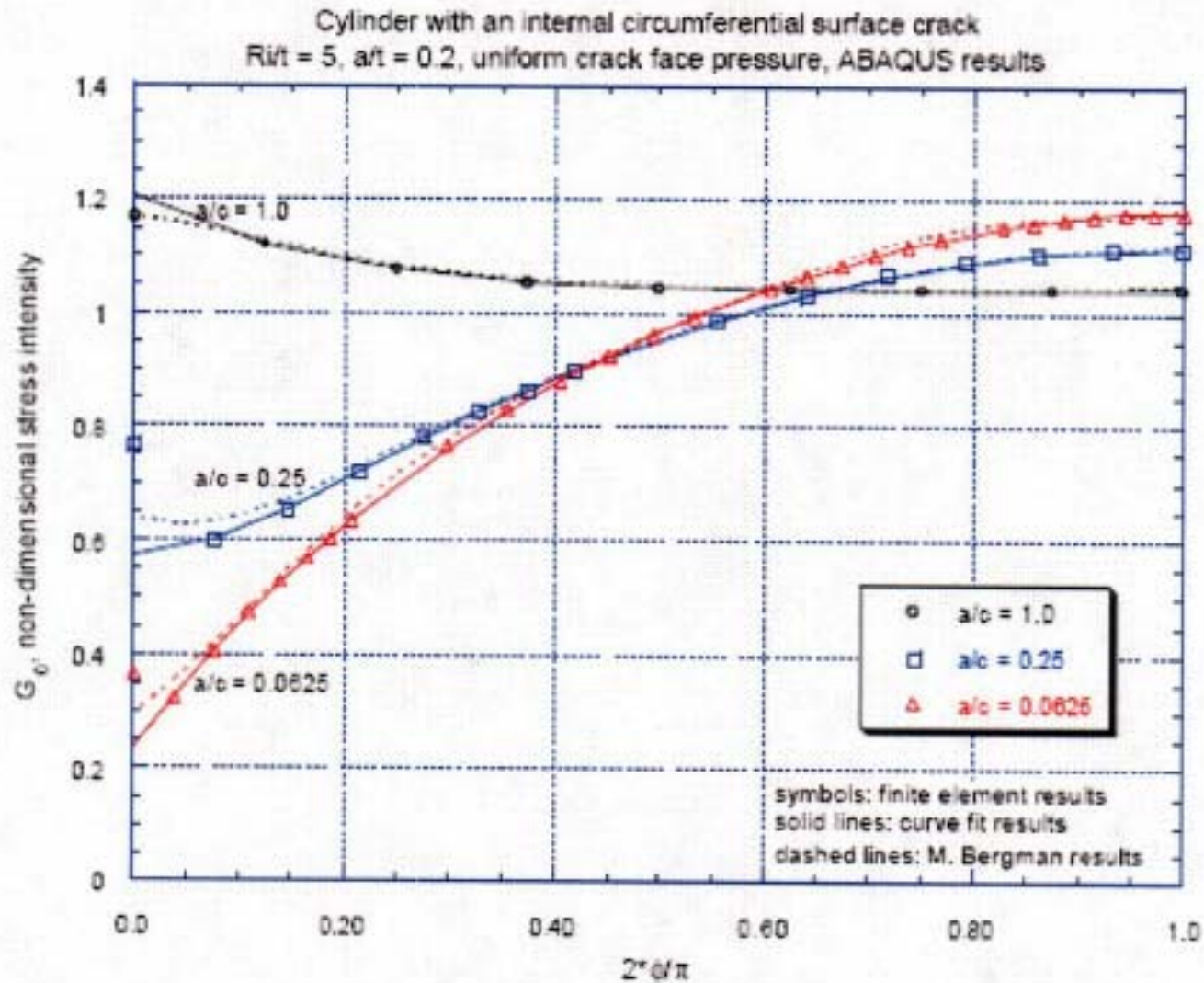




# FEA-Crack Validation Methods

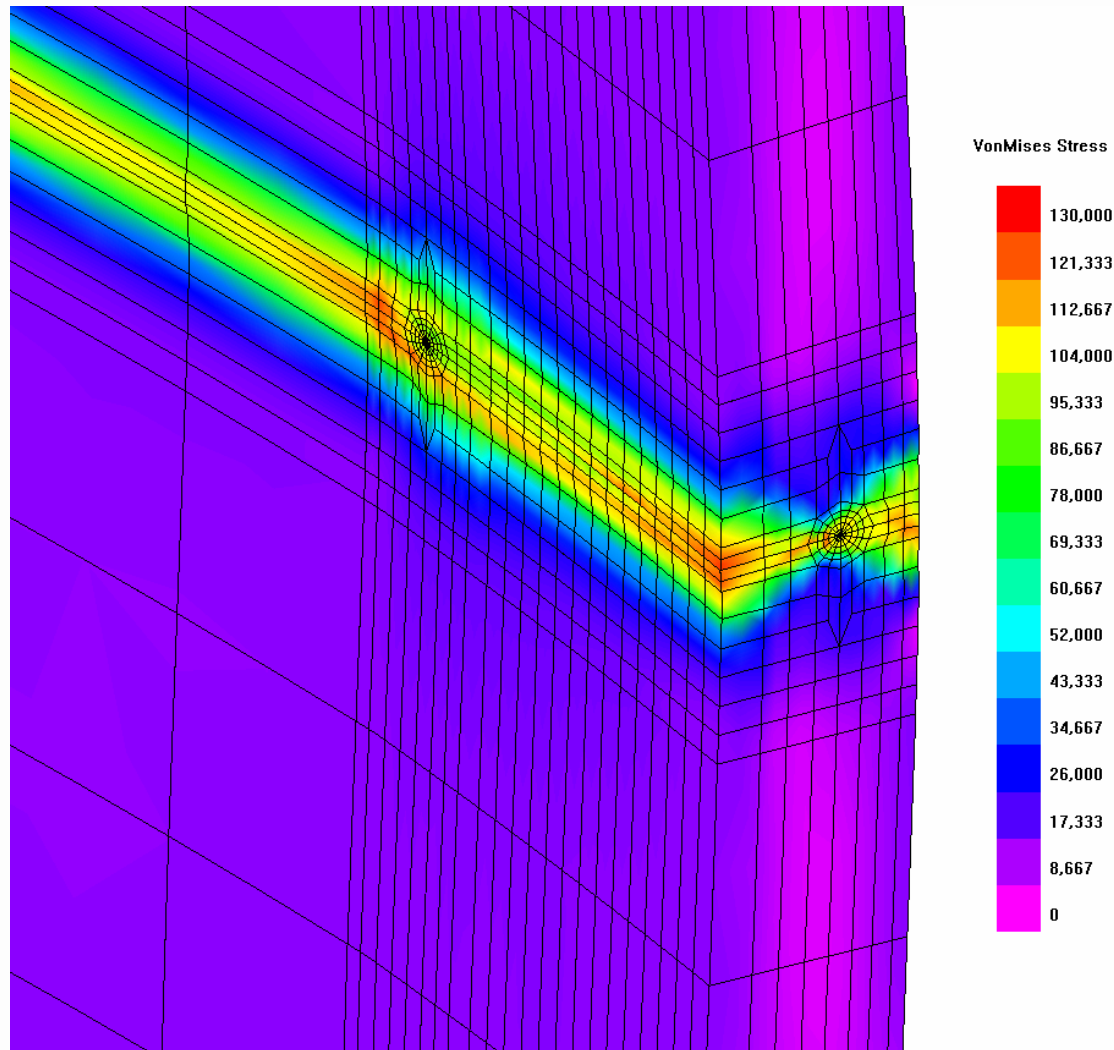
- ▶ Compare results to known cases (e.g. buried crack in infinite solid).
- ▶ Compare results from 2 different methods (e.g. K from J versus K from displacement).
- ▶ Compare results with published solutions.
- ▶ Compare results from different finite element solvers (e.g. Abaqus versus ANSYS).
- ▶ Perform mesh refinement convergence study.

# Benchmark Example



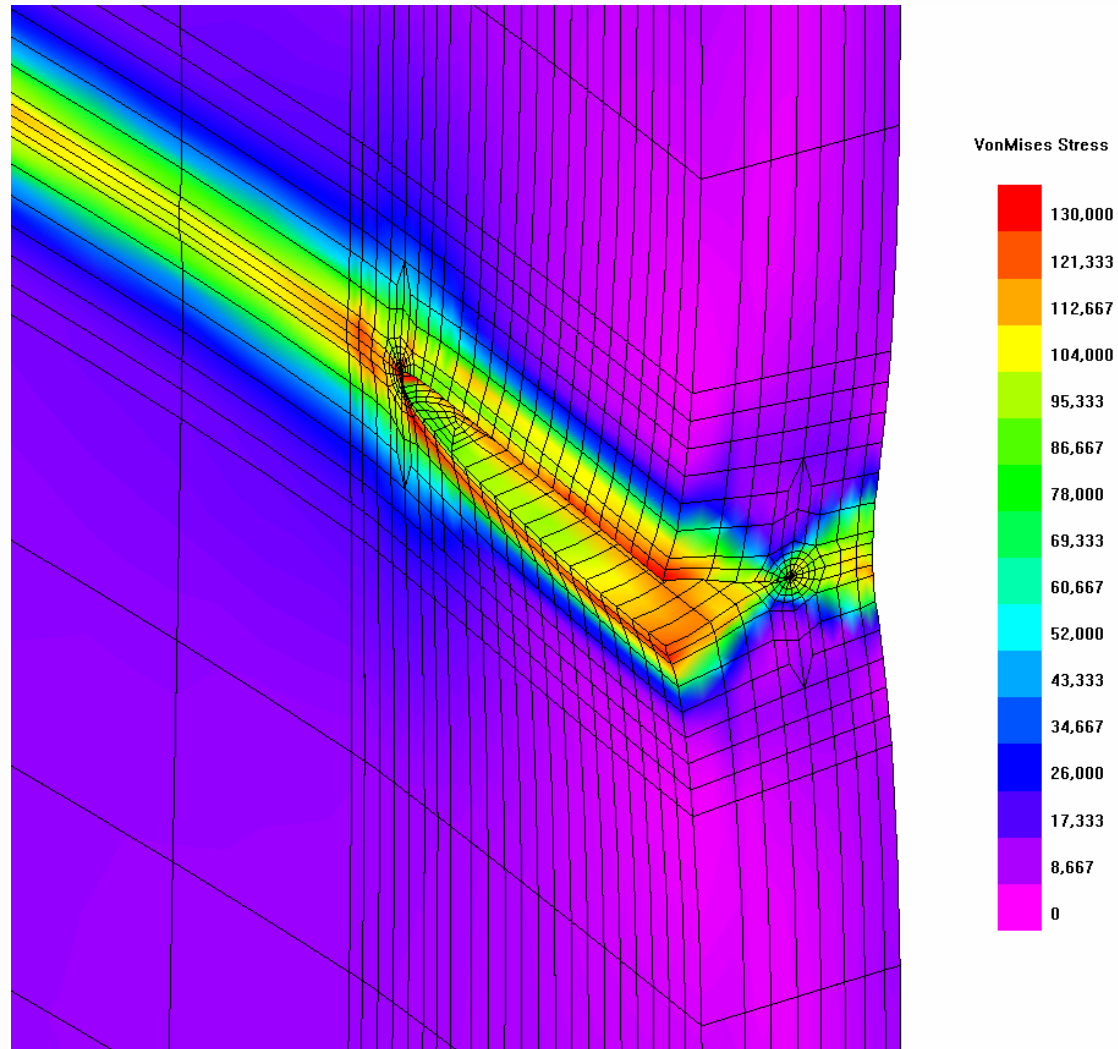
# Incorporation of Weld Residual Stresses

## Map Residual Stresses with Crack Closed



# Incorporating Weld Residual Stresses

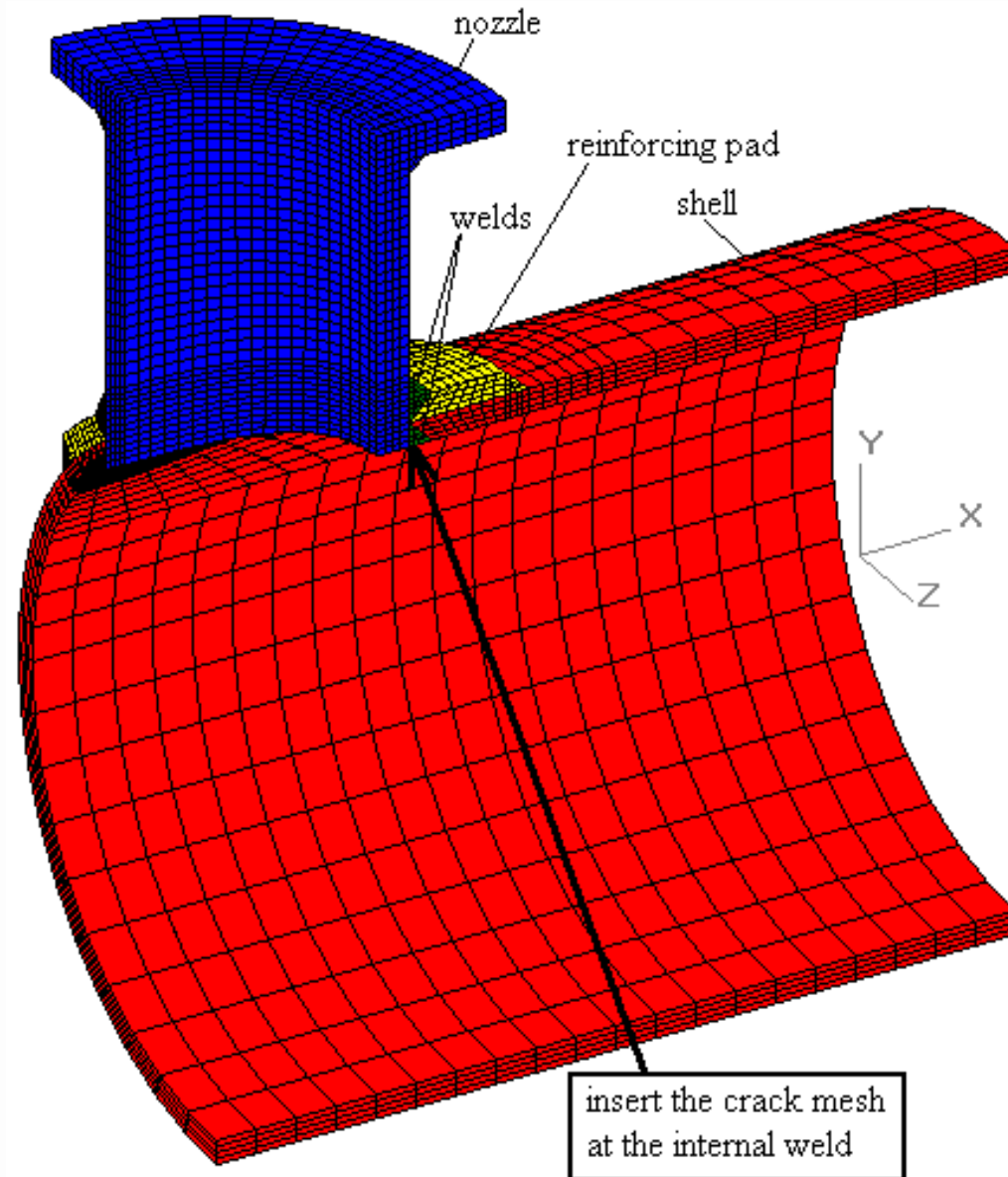
## Allow Crack to Open





# User-Defined Geometry

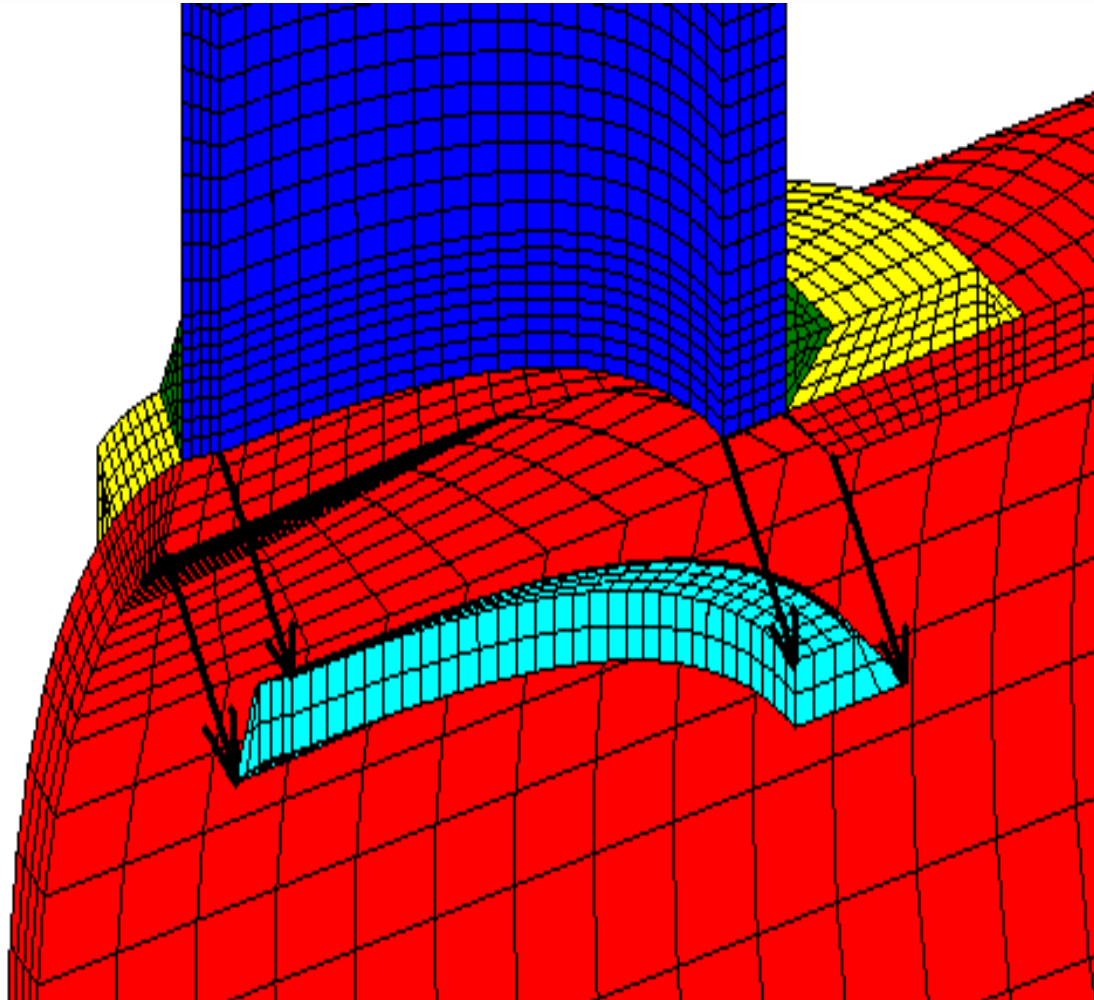
## Initial Uncracked Mesh





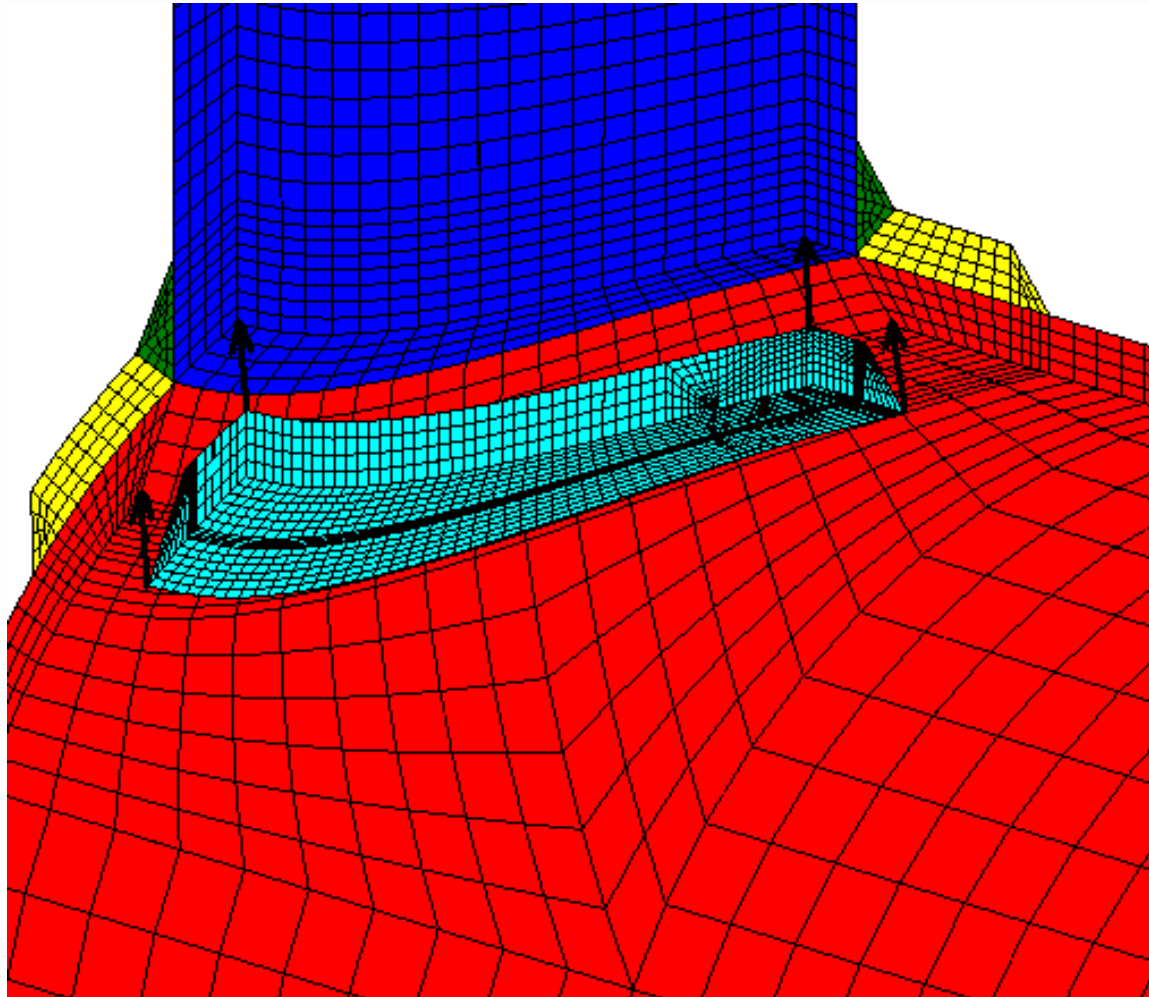
# User-Defined Geometry

## Remove 6-Sided Primitive



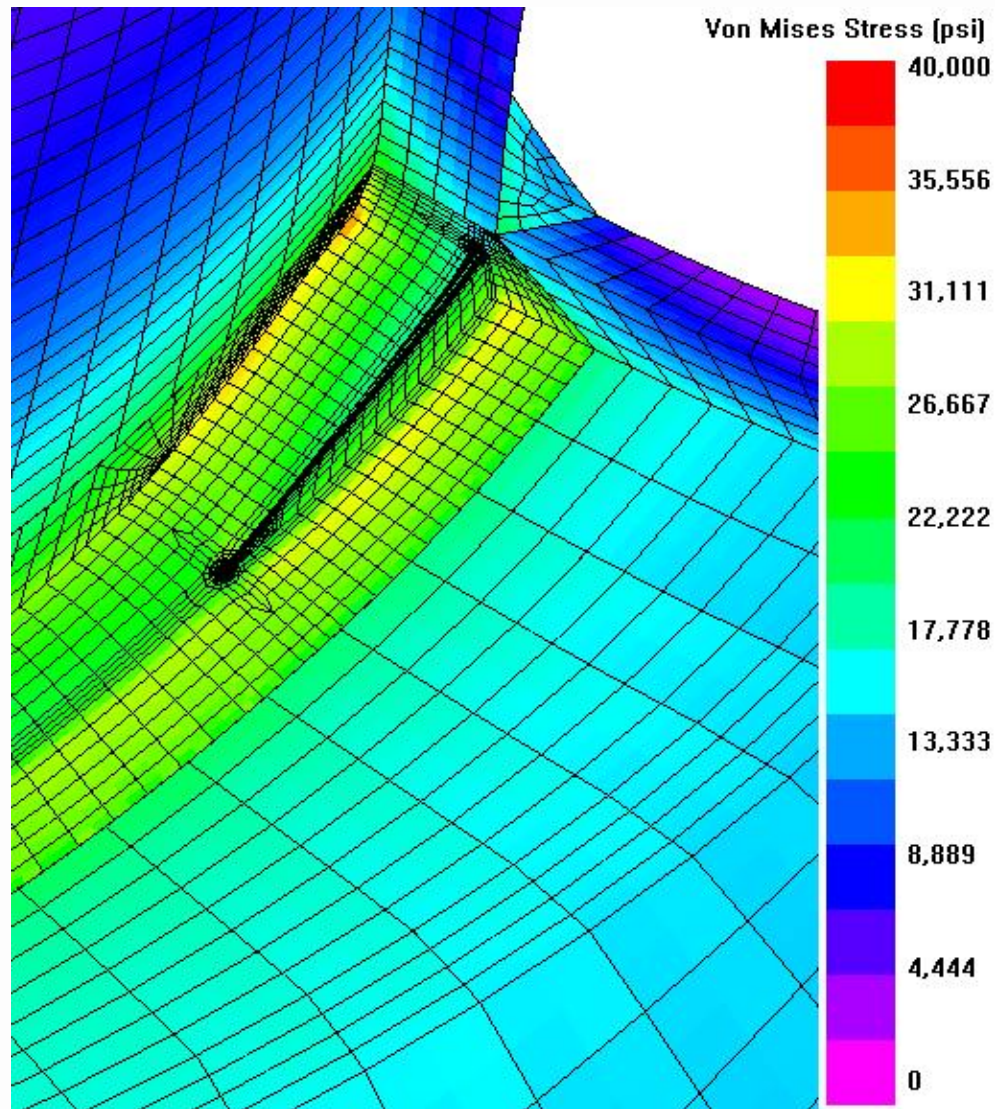
# User-Defined Geometry

## Insert New 6-Sided Primitive with Crack



# User-Defined Geometry

## FEA Results



Asset Longevity | Plant Performance



# Crack Growth in a Finite Element Model

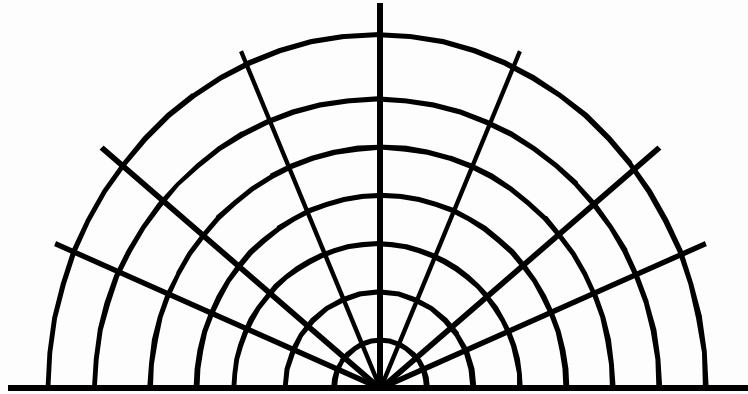
## Examples of Available Methods

- ▶ Re-Meshing (Elastic Only)
- ▶ Element Deletion (e.g. Gurson-Tvergaard Plasticity)
- ▶ Node Release
- ▶ Cohesive Elements

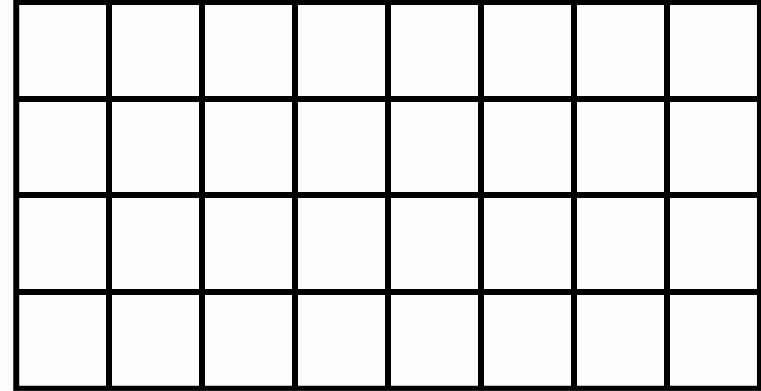


# Crack Growth in a Finite Element Model

## Mesh Types

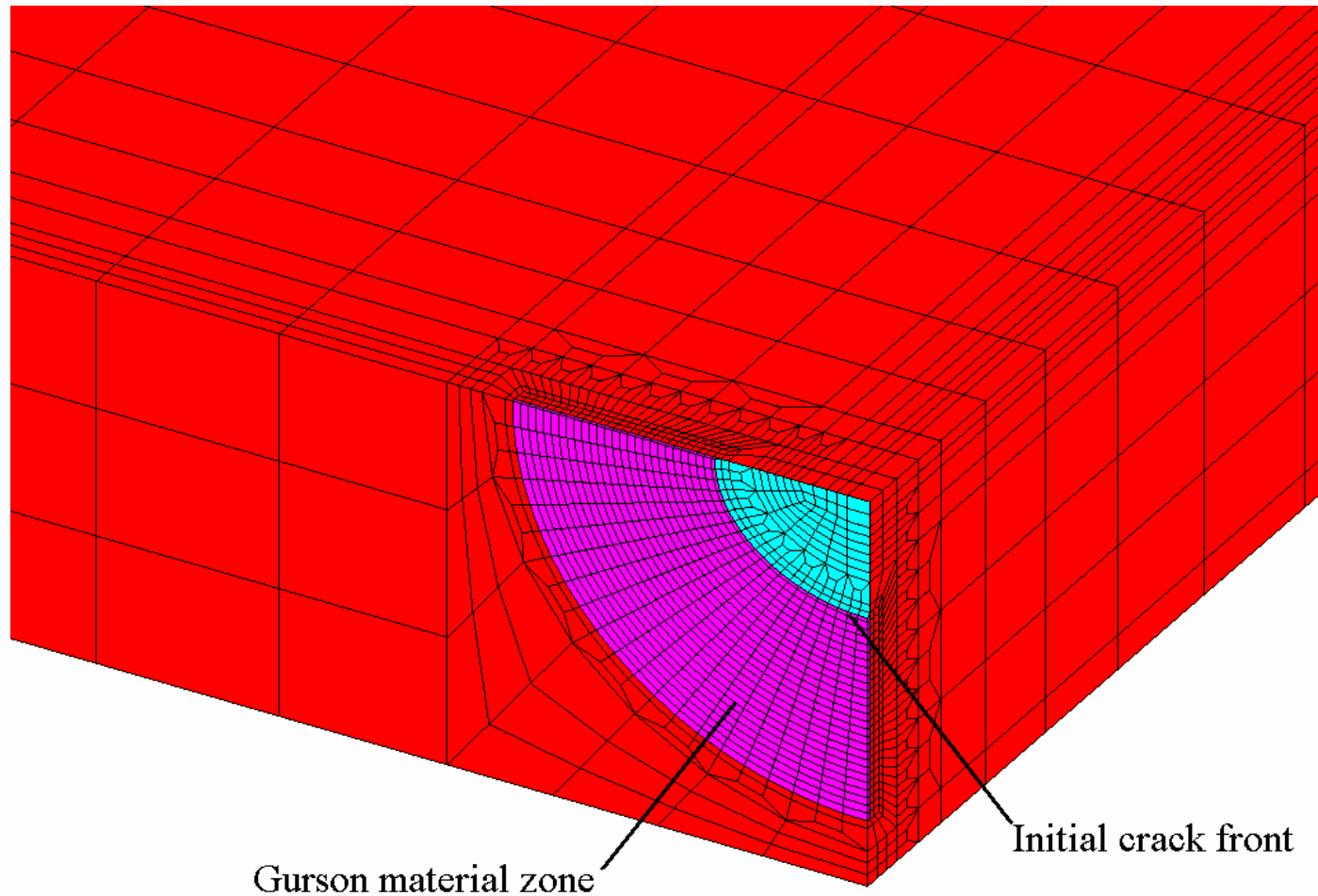


- ▶ Focused Mesh
  - Remeshing



- ▶ Cell Mesh
  - Element Deletion
  - Node Release
  - Cohesive Elements

# Cell Mesh for Crack Growth Analysis



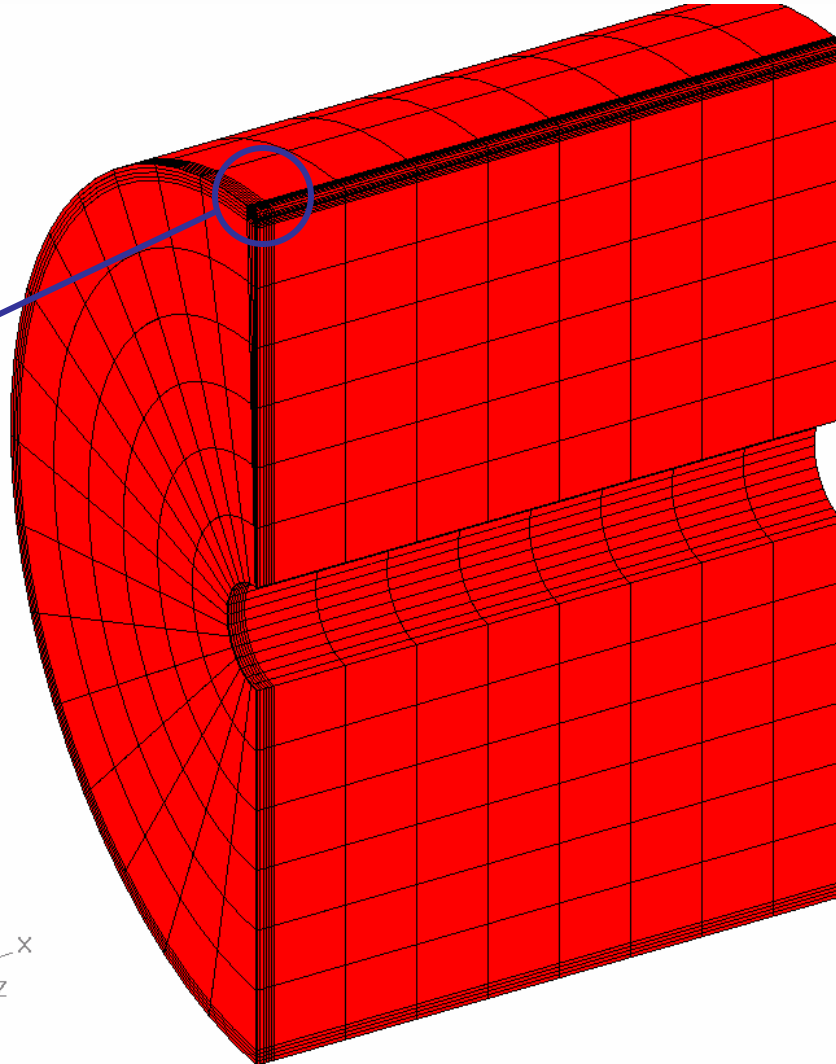


# Remeshing Example

## Surface Crack in Wind Turbine Rotor



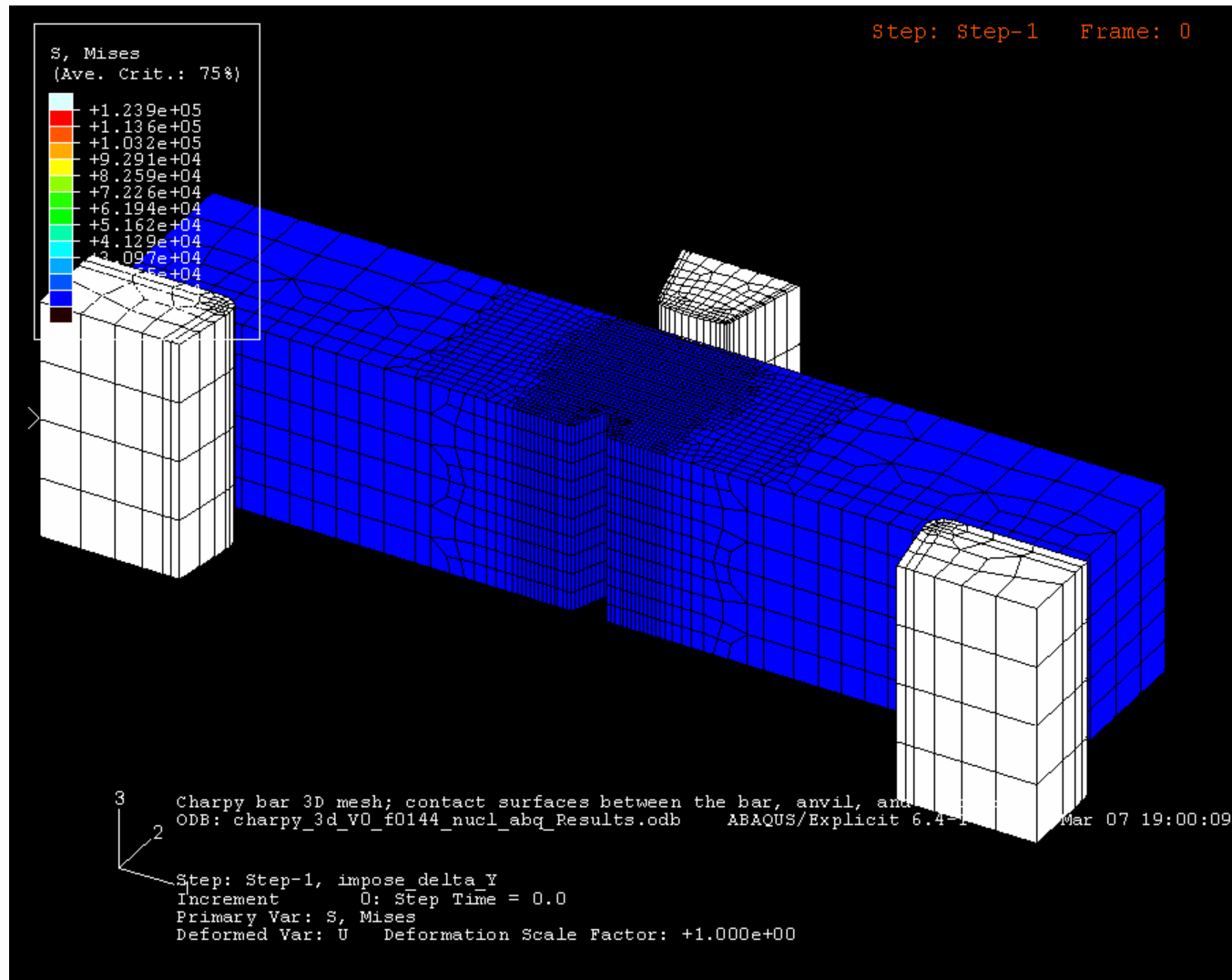
Small Initial  
Surface Crack



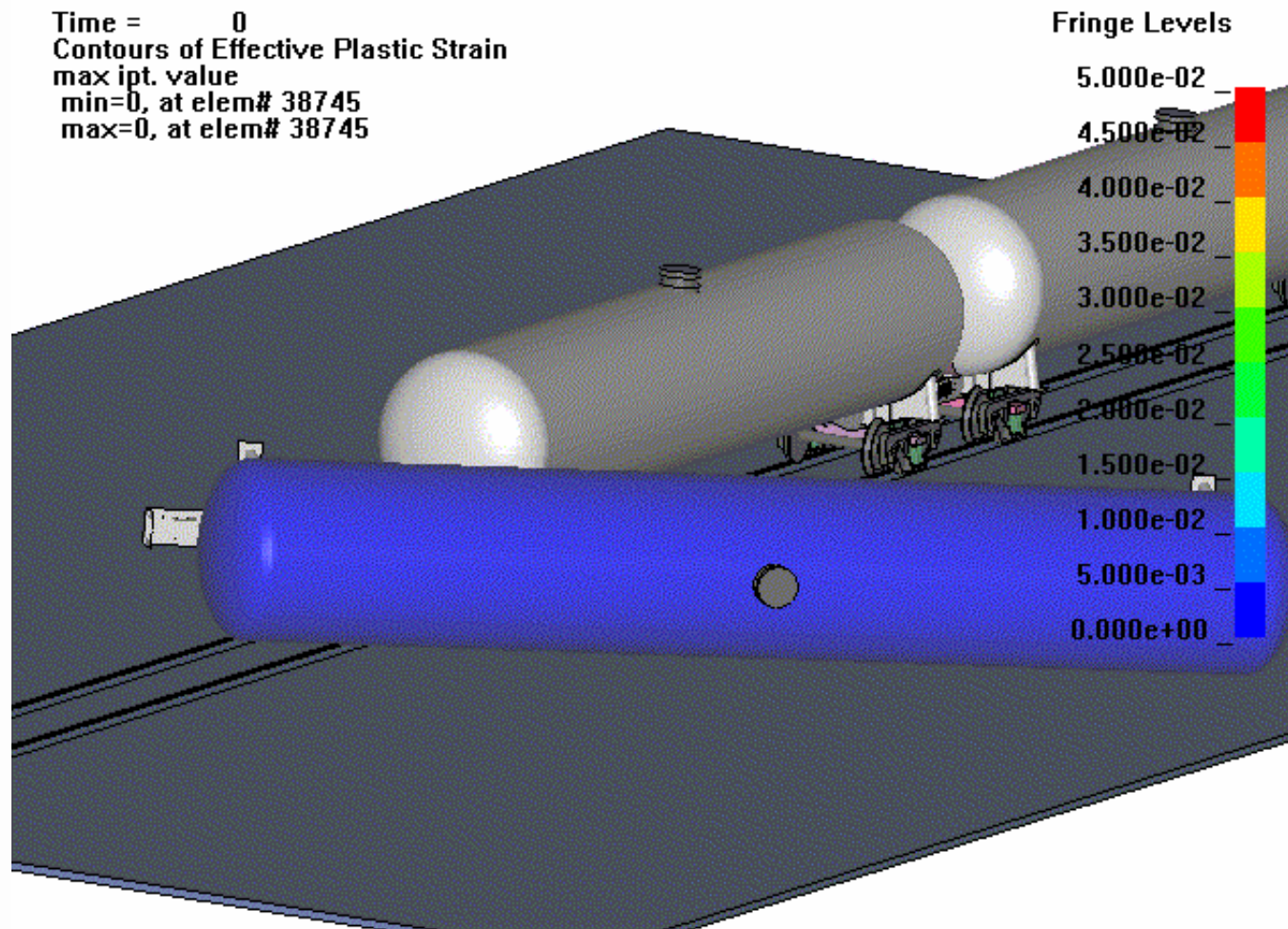
Asset Longevity | Plant Performance



# Dynamic Simulation of Charpy Test



# Collision/Fracture Simulation



# New FEA-Crack Development

## Funded by EPRI

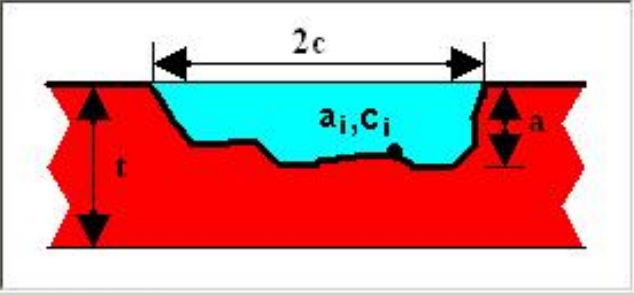
- ▶ Add custom-shape surface crack with K-driven crack growth, where  $da/dt$  (or  $da/dN$ ) is computed at each node point along the crack front.
- ▶ Impose non-uniform temperature distribution in weld to mimic residual stresses.
- ▶ Add rigid contact surface to crack symmetry plane to model crack closure.
- ▶ Add additional functionality to custom through crack.
- ▶ Add “nozzle to safe end” geometry to drop-down list.



# Custom Surface Crack Input

**Cracks**

Configuration   **Dimensions**   PRO Mesh   Advanced Mesh



**Crack Shape:**  
Surface Crack

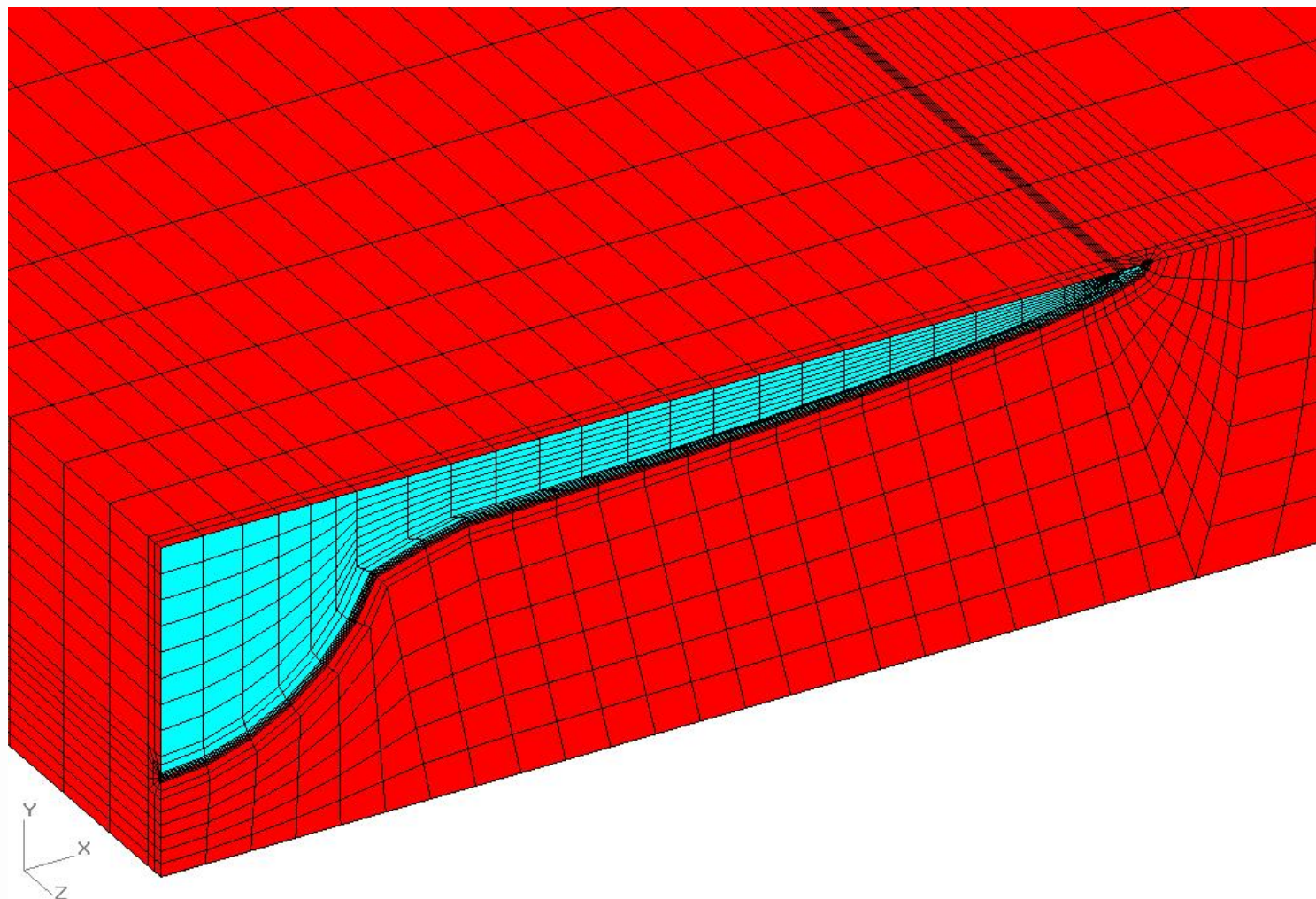
**Evaluate:**  
☒ Single Crack Size  
☐ Range of Crack Sizes

**Crack Type:**  
☐ Elliptical  
☐ Constant Depth  
☒ User Defined

Number of Cracks:  
1

i	Length Pos (c), in	Depth Pos (a), in
1	0.5	0
2	0.4980935	-4.36E-02
3	0.4923887	-8.69E-02
4	0.482929	-0.129536
5	0.4697866	-0.1711741
6	0.4530616	-0.2115068
7	0.4328817	-0.2502267
8	0.4094008	-0.2870384
9	0.3827977	-0.3216611
10	0.3532756	-0.353831
11	0.3210594	-0.3833025

# Custom Surface Crack Mesh



Asset Longevity | Plant Performance

