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STRESS INTENSITY DISTRIBUTIONS IN NOZZLE

CORNER CRACKS OF COMPLEX GEOMETRY

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16. Abstract

A series (14 models, 28 nozzles) of frozen stress photoelastic experiments were conducted on scale models of boiling water reactor vessels each containing two diametrically opposite cracked nozzles with cracks oriented at 0°, 45° or 90° to the plane on which the vessel hoop stress acted. A range of flaw sizes were studied and cracks were extended by internal pressure loading. Flaw shapes and Stress Intensity Factor (SIF) distributions were obtained and average values of the latter were compared with analytical results. Results suggest that:

i) Flaw growth is non-self-similar and SIF distributions are sensitive to flaw shapes.

ii) When loaded by shear modes, flaws reorient themselves often forming non-planar cracks so as to eliminate the shear mode.

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Quantitative flaw shapes and SIF distributions are provided.

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FOREWORD

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Nomenclature

n,t,z	Local rectangular cartesian coordinates along the flaw border (mm)
σ_{ij} i, j = n, z	Stress components in plane normal to the flaw sur- face and flaw border near crack tip (kPa)
σ_{ij}^{o} i, j = n, z	Fart of regular stress field near crack tip (kPa)
r, 0	Polar coordinates, measured from crack tip (mm,rad)
ĸI	Mode I - Stress Intensity Factor $(kPa-m^{1/2})$ (SIF)
K _{AP}	Mode I - Apparent Stress Intensity Factor $[\tau_{max}(8\pi r)^{1/2}]$ (kPa-m ^{1/2})
N	Stress fringe order
f	Material fringe value (N/m)
t'	Slice thickness (mm)
p	Internal Pressure (kPa)
α	Angle of rotation from point of flaw intersection with vessel wall (degrees) 0° flaw orientation
β	Angle of rotation from nozzle to point on flaw border 90° flaw orientation
ä	Flaw depth at $\alpha = 45^{\circ}$ or $\beta = 45^{\circ}$ (mm)
Т	Vessel wall thickness at α = 45° or β = 45° (mm)
a _v	Flaw depth along vessel wall (mm)
a N	Flaw depth along nozzle wall (mm)
rz	Inside nominal radius of the nozzle (mm)
ν	Poisson's ratio
γ	Figure 11a
τ _{max}	Maximum in plane shearing stress (kPa)
A	$K_{I}/\sqrt{8\pi}$
В	A function of regular stresses σ_{ij}^{0}
P	Load parameter

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σ	Uniform stress (kPa)
a*	A particular value of flaw depth (mm)
β_{max}	Angle between vessel wall and nozzle wall for 90° crack location
σ_{θ}	Value of hoop stress in vessel wall (kPa)

"Stress Intensity Distributions in Nozzle Corner Cracks of Complex Geometry"*

by

C. W. Smith, W. H. Peters, W. T. Hardrath and T. S. Fleischman

INTRODUCTION

Cracks located at the inside juncture of inlet or outlet nozzles w' h reactor pressure vessels still pose a difficult and only partially solved three dimensional fracture analysis problems. However, advances in the development of the high speed digital computer have opened the way for analysts to develop and refine a number of numerical techniques (i.e. finite element, boundary integral, influence function, finite difference, alternating and hybrid methods) for obtaining estimates of stress intensity factor (SIF) distributions in three dimensional (3D) cracked body problems such as the nozzle corner crack. Significant improvements in convergence have resulted. However, computer code verification is still important in crder to insure that assumptions and restrictions factored into the problem formulation are, indeed, not contrary to real behavior.

Over the past decade the first author and his associates have evolved a technique consisting of a marriage between frozen stress photoelasticity and the field equations of linear elastic fracture mechanics (LEFM) for providing estimates of SIF distributions in 3D cracked body problems. The method is based upon an idea of G. R. Irwin [1] and was first applied by the first author in 1970 [2]. Since that time, features of the method have been examined in some detail [3]-[9] and

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^{*-}Research performed by the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University under Subcontract No. 7015 under Contract No. W-7405-Eng-26 with Union Carbide Corp.

the method has been refined to its present form [10]. After demonstrating its applicability to cracked models of the Intermediate Test Vessel, [11], the first author and his associates applied the method to a study of nozzle corner cracks in models of a boiling water reactor (BWR) pressure vessel. This study is described herein. Before presenting results of the current study, a brief review of the method is appropriate.

ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Analytical Background - A Brief Review

For the case of Mode I loading, one begins with equations of the form:

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{\kappa_{I}}{r^{1/2}} f_{ij}(\theta) + \sigma_{ij}^{0}$$
(1)

for the stresses in a plane mutually orthogonal to the flaw surface and the flaw border, referred to the set of local coordinates shown in Figure 1, where the terms containing K_I , the SIF, are identical to Irwin's Equations for the plane case, and σ_{ij}^0 represent the contribution of the (non-singular) stresses to the stress field in the measurement zone. The σ_{ij}^0 are normally taken to be constant with r and θ at a given point along the flaw border, but they may vary from point to point. Observing that the near crack tip stress fringes tend to spread approximately normal to the flaw surface (Figure 2), Eqs. 1 are applied along $\theta = \pi/2$ (Figure 1), in conjunction with

$$\tau_{\rm max} = 1/2 \left[\left(\sigma_{\rm nn} - \sigma_{zz} \right)^2 + 4 \sigma_{\rm nz}^2 \right]^{1/2}$$
(2)

which, when truncated to the same order as Equations (1), leads to the two parameter Equation:

$$\tau_{\max} = \frac{A}{r^{1/2}} + B, \text{ where } \begin{array}{c} A = K_{I} / \sqrt{8\pi} \\ B = f(\sigma_{ij}^{0}) \end{array}$$
(3)

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Eq. (3) can be rearranged into the normalized form

$$\frac{K_{AP}}{q(\pi a)^{1/2}} = \frac{K_{I}}{q(\pi a)^{1/2}} + \frac{f(\sigma_{ij}^{o})(8)^{1/2}}{q} \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^{1/2} , \qquad (4)$$

where $K_{AP} = \tau_{max.} (8\pi r)^{1/2}$, q is the remote loading parameter (such as uniform stress, pressure, etc.) and <u>a</u> the characteristic flaw depth. In addition, τ_{max} can be determined from the Stress-Optic Law,

$$\tau_{max} = Nf/2t'$$
(5)

where N is the stress fringe order, f the material fringe value and t' the slice thickness in the t direction. Equation (4) indicates that, within the zone dominated by Equations (1), with σ_{ij}^{0} as described above, a linear relation exists between the normalized apparent stress intensity factor and the square root of the normalized distance from the crack tip. Thus, one need only locate the linear zone in a set of photoelastic data and extrapolate across a very near field non-linear zone [10] to the crack tip in order to obtain the SIF. An example of this approach using data from the nozzle tests described here is given in Figure 3.

Frozen Stress Method Applied to Cracked Bodies

The frozen stress method was introduced by Oppel [12] in 1937. It capitalized upon the observation that certain transparent materials exhibit both birefringent and mechanical diphase behavior. Such materials respond to load in an anelastic manner when loaded at room temperature but above a certain temperature, called "critical", the anelastic effect is suppressed and the material becomes linearly elastic and incompressible i.e. (Poisson's Ratio + 0.5). All loads are applied above critical temperature and bodies are then cooled under load, "freezing"

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in both the deformation and fringe patterns obtained above critical temperature. Above "critical", the material modulus is typically 1% of its room temperature value and the material fringe value is typically 4% of its room temperature value.

Starter cracks are produced in the following way. A sharp blade is fixed in contact with and normal to the surface of the body at room temperature (or below) at the desired initiation locus and is struck, producing a small crack under the blade. This crack grows when loaded above critical temperature and takes the shape which apparently tends to minimize the SIF gradient along the flaw border. When the crack reaches its desired size, the load is reduced to stop growth and cooling is carried out. The load is removed at room temperature with negligible recovery.

EXPERIMENTS

Scale photoelastic models of the BWR geometry, each containing two diametrically opposite nozzles, were constructed, employing the dimensions given in Figure 4. A photograph of such a model showing the glue lines connecting the assembled parts is shown in Figure 5a together with a close-up view of a nozzle. Field observations suggested that starter cracks could be located in radial planes at various locations around the nozzles. In the present study, cracks in three such locations, pictured in Figure 5b, were investigated. For each position (0°, 45°, 90°) small starter cracks were inserted and enlarged above critical temperature (approximately 104°C) with internal pressure. When sufficient crack size was achieved, the pressure was reduced to stop flaw growth and the models were cooled under the reduced pressure. After unloading, slices were removed parallel to the n-z plane at intervals along the flaw

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border (Fig. 6), coated with matching index fluid, and analyzed in a . crossed circular polariscope with white light, using the Tardy Method and reading tint of passage at about 10X. These data were fed into a simple least squares computer program for estimating the SIF distributions along the flaw borders.

RESULTS

All of the cracks that were initiated from position 0° (Figure 5b) remained in their initial planes and took the shapes shown in Figure 7. Also shown are quarter ellipses with semi-axis dimensions the same as the real cracks. These shapes reveal the following.

 The small cracks are longer along the nozzle than along the vessel wall and bulge outward in their central portions beyond a quarter elliptic shape.

ii) Deep cracks are longer along the vessel wall than along the nozzle wall and are flattened inside a quarter elliptic shape in the central portion. These resul*s clearly show non-self-similar flaw growth. SIF distributions corresponding to these flaw shapes are pictured in Figure 8. Only one slice was obtained for the smallest crack (0). It is interesting to note how the SIF distribution changes from concave to convex as the flaw grows deeper.

In contrast to the 0° crack shapes, Figure 9 shows that the 90° crack shapes all tended to bulge outward in the central portion and the corresponding SIF distributions shown in Figure 10 remain convex throughout the range of flaw growth.

The crack shapes formed by the growth of the starter cracks at θ = 45° produced non-planar flaw surfaces as indicated in Fig. 11. In

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general, the flaw turned at the vessel wall through an initial angle γ towards a plane perpendicular to the vessel hoop stress, and as the crack grew, $\gamma \neq 45^\circ$ or the crack plane approached the plane normal to the hoop stress. The portion of the flaw in the nozzle wall remained in (or near) the initial flaw plane. No significant flattening of the crack front was detected in the central region of these flaws. However, the shallow flaws ex... ted a tendency to grow as two different cracks, producing a discontinuity at point P (Figure 11) along the crack front. These shallow flaw shapes exhibited convex SIF distributions along the flaw border (XIVA, XIIIB, XIIIA, in Figure 12). However, as the crack growth increased, the flaw border discontinuity (P) disappeared and the two cracks merged into a single non-planar flaw. These deeper flaws exhibited concave SIF distributions (XIIE, XIVB in Figure 12). Measurements used for a and T for these flaws are shown in Figure 11.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Flaws oriented at 0° - Because it is considered the most critical case, flaws in the 0° orientation have received the most attention in the literature. Numerical estimates of SIF values have been made [13] for very shallow flaws of prescribed simple flaw shape, as well as for quarter circular [14][15][16], straight front [17] and quarter elliptical [18] flaws over larger depth ranges. Experimental studies are also available on cracks in both thick [19][20][21] and thin [22][23] walled vessels. Some analyses [14] predicted concave SIF distributions along the flaw borders and others [17] predicted convex SIF distributions. One analysis [18] predicted both types of SIF distributions. As shown, in Figure 8, the distributions can be reversed as a result of changes in the relative flaw size and shape during flaw growth.

Two of the above analyses have received substantial attention from the reactor technology community in the U.S.A. The first one [15], due to Giiman and Rashid, employs quarter circular flaw shepes, assumes self-similar flaw growth and utilizes a compliance like finite element approach in order to compute an average SIF for a given flaw size. The second anclysis [16], due to Besuner and his associates, utilizes an influence function approach in order to estimate average SIF values for the same flaw geometry studied by Gilman and Rashid. The latter technique, however, can be applied to other flaw shapes.

In Figure 13 we compare the average experimental results with those of [15] and [16]. By plotting results in this manner, the influence of crack size is normalized out. The analyses appear conservative for shallow flaws when compared with experimental results from this study.

One of the analyses [18] employed quarter-elliptic flaw shapes, and although the geometry consisted of a nozzle in a flat plate, tensiontension fatigue tests were run on A508 and A533 reactor steel models in order to obtain actual flaw shapes and sizes. In a separate study, [24] the authors found that their technique of growing cracks under monotonic loading above critical temperature produced flaw shapes in photoelastic plate-nozzle models virtually identical to those generated by fatigue in geometrically similar steel models. Subject to delineation of constraints necessary to maintain such similarity, this finding suggests the potential of the method for independent determination of both flaw shapes and SIF distributions for complex 3D cracked finite body problems where neither are known a-priori.

Flaw oriented at 90° - The authors are aware of only one analysis

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which predicts SIF values for this flaw orientation and that is Ref. [16]. Figure 14 presents a comparison between the theory of [16] with the data obtained in this study. Again, the analysis appears to be conservative for shallow flaws.

It is of interest to note that a given pressure produces a SIF level for 0° oriented flaws which is about three times the level for 90° oriented flaws of the same size (Figure 15). If one conjectures that this ratio should lie between the ratio $(\sigma_1)_{0^\circ}/(\sigma_1)_{90^\circ} = 1$ for a pressurized nozzle and $(\sigma_1)_{0^\circ}/(\sigma_1)_{90^\circ} = 5$ for a flat plate with a hole in a biaxial stress field $(\sigma_{max}/\sigma_{min} = 2)$ the result of Figure 15 appears realistic.

Flaw oriented at 45° - Since the 0° and 90° flaws were initially in principal planes of the nozzle and vessel, and tended to remain there, they suggest a preference of the crack for a Mode I type of extension. The 45° flaws also exhibited this preference but they had to reorient themselves, especially near the vessel boundary during growth. In each case γ + 45° as the flaw grew deeper and, for the case (XIIA) where the flaw grew through the juncture, γ reached 45°, meaning that the crack aligned itself with the plane normal to the vessel hoop stress as it extended as a through crack (Figure 16). In growing and reorienting itself near the vessel wall, the normalized SIF increased from 5 to over 35, as indicated by the results for cases XIII-B and XIV-B shown in Fig. 12. In fact, when the flaws changed from the dual shape to the single shape, significant changes in the SIF occurred all along the flaw border, but the greatest SIF increases occurred near the vessel inside surface. Averaged experimental SIF values along the flaw border are plotted together with the results of [16] in Figure 17. It should be noted that

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the experimental flaw geometries are quite different from the quarter circular planar flaw studied analytically in [16]. Consequently, one would not necessarily expect any degree of correlation here. The important point is that the three shallow flaws seem to behave quite differently from the two deeper ones. It would be of interest to establish more precisely the a/T range over which this change occurs.

The behavior of these flaws suggests that, when cracks occur in planes other than principal planes of stress, the presence of a shear mode will cause the crack to reorient itself in order to eliminate this mode.

SUMMARY

A series of frozen stress photoelastic experiments (14 models, 28 nozzles) were conducted on scale models of a BWR vessel geometry containing diametrically opposite cracked nozzles. Loads were static internal pressure and flaws were naturally grown under pressure from starter cracks initially oriented at 0°, 90° and 45° to a diametrial plane normal to the vessel hoop stress direction.

Both flaw shapes and SIF distributions were obtained for 21 of the nozzles. Average values from the latter were compared with analytical estimates from numerical models. Results suggest the following observations:

i) Flaws initially located in principal planes of the vessel tend to grow in those planes. Growth of the 0° flaws is non-self similar with a flattening of the central region of the flaw beginning at an $a/T \approx$ 0.4. Moreover, the SIF distribution along the 0° flaws varies from

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concave for shallow flaws to convex for deep flaws. The 90° flaw growth is also non-self similar but without "flattening" in the central region. SIF distributions were all concave for the 90° flaws.

ii) For the same size flaws and pressures, the 0° flaws showed SIF values a'out three times the 90° flaw values.

iii) When compared to analytical models which employed quarter circular crack shapes to obtain single SIF values for each crack, the averaged experimental results suggested that the analyses were conservative for the shallow flaws.

iv) The flaws initially oriented at 45° exhibited a complex growth pattern with two distinctly different growth regimes. Below $a/T \approx 0.30$, growth remained in the original flaw plane near the nozzle wall, but took place in a continuously changing direction near the vessel inside surface, with the crack plane approaching the plane normal to the vessel hoop stress. This growth produced two non-planar crack segments, joined at a discontinuity along the crack front and which appeared to grow at different rates. Convex SIF distributions were observed for these cracks. Above $a/T \approx 0.45$ the two segments merged, forming a single non-planar flaw without a flaw border discontinuity, having a concave SIF distribution and a continuously increasing SIF near the vessel wall.

Two important conclusions are suggested by the above observations:

1) The 0° flaw orientation results show the slowest growth in the central region where the SIFs are the greatest, for moderate to deep cracks. This suggests the presence of what may be conjectured to be a stress induced constraint variation [24][25].

2) The 45° flaw results suggest that flaws will reorient them-

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selves into complex surfaces in order to eliminate shear modes. Such shape changes radically alter the SIF distributions along the flaw borders.

The experimental technique does have its limitations, since the models exhibit the elastic behavior of an incompressible material. However, for problems dominated by geometric effects, with only small scale yielding and fatigue crack growth at stress ratios near unity, the authors believe that standard engineering accuracies (say \pm 5%) can be expected for flaw shapes and SIF distributions, for homogeneous, isotropic materials.

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	-		-	 -	- 64

Model	134	10.05.73	04.	0000	5.	Inn	Sec.
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Test No. 0	Flaw rientation	p(KPa)	∂ _v (mm)	a _N (mm)	a(mm)	a/T
o ^a	0°	4.72	1.78	3.30	1.30	0.087
I-Av. ^b	0° 3.	.20 + 0.16	2.62 + 0.13	4.06 + 0	2.03 + 0	0.14 + 0
τv-B	0°	3.11	5.09	6.37	4.32	0.29
VI ^a	0.0	4.72	6.35	7.11	5.02	0.33
V-A	0°	3.36	8.13	8.89	6.74	0.44
II-B	0 °	2.76	10.16	10.16	7.96	0.53
II-A	0°	2.76	10.67	10.67	8.56	0.57
III-A	0°	2.62	16.51	13.72	12,19	0.81
a _{Nozzles} ^b Avg. of IIIB - C IVA - Ma	0 and VI we IA, IE, VB rack was no terial inho	ere from Ves on-planar omogeneity n	sel VI ear crack típ	Τ =	15.1mm	
IX-B	90°	8.52	4.35	3,13	2.67	0.176
VII-B	90°	13.70	3.86	3.51	3.68	0.244
X-B	90°	10.30	6.30	4.70	4.30	0.287
XI-B	90°	12.90	6.50	4.80	4.50	0.301
VIII-Av. ^C	90° 12.	.80 <u>+</u> .10	11.60 + 0.60	7.40 + 0.60	8.60 + 0.3	0 0.57 + .02
^C Avg. of VII-A, VI IX-A, X-A	VIII-A and II-B Defect Crack turn	XI-A tive materia ned out of p	l near crack lane	T = 15.1	nın	
XIV-A	45°	3.88	2,67	4.37	2.13	0.154
XIII-B	45°	5.84	5.23	4.24	3.33	0.240
XIII-A	45°	5.84	5.56	5.00	4.09	0.291
XII-B	45°	3.86	6.60	6.25	6.02	0.458
XIV-B	45°	3.88	16.26	11.18	11.94	0.777
XII-A - C	rack broke	through sur	face (Figure 16)			
Values of	T(mm): X	IV-A - 13.9 III-B - 13.9	XII-B - 13. XIV-B - 15.	2 3		

0° Cracks (See Figure 8)

		K _I /P(πa*) ^{1/2}	$K_{I} (\frac{KPa}{\sqrt{mm}})$	α/α_{max}
0	a/T = .087 a _{max} = 90°	6.8	148	.500
I-AV	$a/1 \approx .14$ $\alpha_{max} = 90^{\circ}$	14.1 11.4 14.2	208 168 209	.124 .500 .903
IVB	a/T = .29 $\alpha_{max} = 90^{\circ}$	19.6 18.0 17.0	280 258 243	.098 .500 .961
VI	a/T = .33 a _{max} = 90°	23.8 21.5 16.7	517 467 363	.126 .500 .911
VI-A	a/T = .44 a _{max} = 90°	27.0 23.9 17.7	417 370 274	.073 .500 .903
II-B	a/T = .53 a _{max} = 90°	22.8 25.9 22.9	290 329 291	.072 .500 .939
II-A	a/T = .57	24.2 27.0 24.3	307 343 309	.069 .500 .933
III-A	a/T = .81 a = 90°	27.2 31.5 29.7	328 380 358	.033 .500 .944
90° Cra	cks (See Fi	gure 10)	a* = 6.	74mm
	1	$K_{1}/P(\pi a^{*})^{1/2}$	$K_{I}(\frac{KPa}{\sqrt{mm}})$	β/β_{max}
IXB	a/T = .176 $\beta_{max} = 94^{\circ}$	3.37 3.34 3.05	132 131 120	.05 .47 .95
VIIB	a/T = .244 $\beta_{max} = 95^{\circ}$	4.23 4.63 4.16	267 292 262	.05 .47 .95
XB	a/T = .287 $\beta_{max} = 93^{\circ}$	5.51 5.95	261 282	.05

16a

90° Cracks cont.

		$K_{I}^{/P(\pi a^{*})^{1/2}}$	$\kappa_{1}(\frac{\mathrm{KPa}}{\sqrt{\mathrm{mm}}})$	β/β _{max}
XIB	a/T = 301 β _{max} = 95°	5.97 6.41 5.00	354 380 297	.05 .47 .95
VIIIA & XIA av	$a/T _{av = .57}$ $\beta_{max} = 97^{\circ}$	8.70 9.44 9.77 9.27 8.77	512 556 575 546 517	.05 .27 .51 .75 .95
45° Crack	s (See Figur	e 12)	a* = 4.09mm	
		$K_{I}^{P(\pi a*)^{1/2}}$	$\kappa_{1}(\frac{KPa}{\sqrt{mm}})$	β/β _{max}
XIVA	a/T = ,154 β _{max} = 98°	6.7 15.9 10.1	93 221 140	.082 .459 .883
XIIIB	a/T = .240 $\beta_{max} = 93^{\circ}$	7.8 20.7 5.4	163 433 113	.075 .484 .925
XIIIA	a/T = .291 β _{max} = 94°	8.5 21.8 17.3	178 456 362	.106 .479 .926
XIIB	a/T = .458 β _{max} = 94°	12.6 12.7 17.0	174 176 235	.084 .479 .948
XIVB	a/T = .777 8 _{max} = 96°	24.1 27.3 28.9 35.4	335 380 402 492	.068 .469 .703 .953



Figure 1 General Problem Geometry and Notation





Figure 3



Figure 4 Dimensions of Boiling Water Reactor Model

an l

82 100 2 2 4

(a)



Figure 5 Photo of Model and Initial Flaw Loci Around Nozzle Boundary



Figure 6 Problem Geometry and Notation





Figure 8 SIF Distributions (C°)

24



Figure 9 Flaw Shapes (20°)



Figure 10 SIF Distributions (90°)

26







Figure 11 Flaw Shapes (45°)



Figure 12 SIF Distributions (45°) 8 123



Figure 13 Comparison of Analytical and Experimental Results for Flaws with 0° Orientation



Figure 14 Comparison of Analytical and Experimental Results for Flaws with 90° Orientation







Figure 16 Photo of 45° Orientation Flaw Which Broke Through Juncture





Figure 17 Comparison of Analytical and Experimental Results for Flaws with 45° Orientation

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