



World Centre for Materials Joining Technology



# Fatigue of Welded Pressure Vessels

CCOPPS Webinar  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008  
15:00 – 16:00 BST



Steve Maddox  
The Welding Institute (TWI)



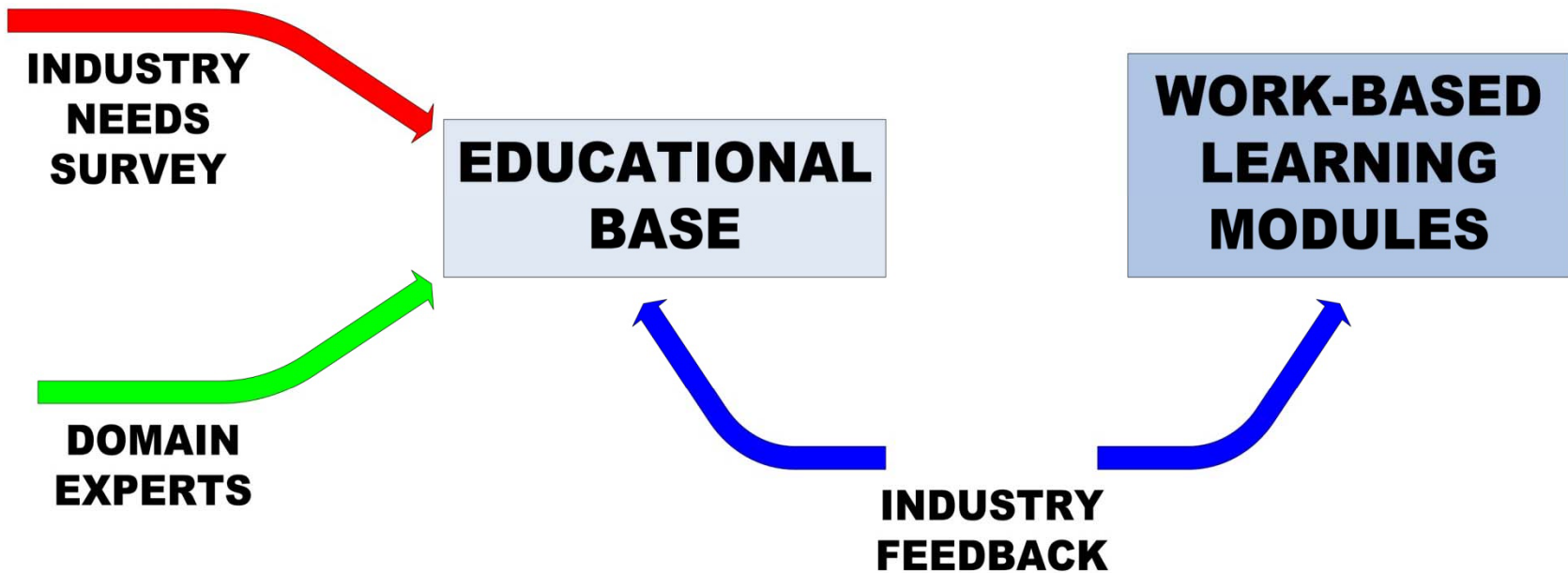
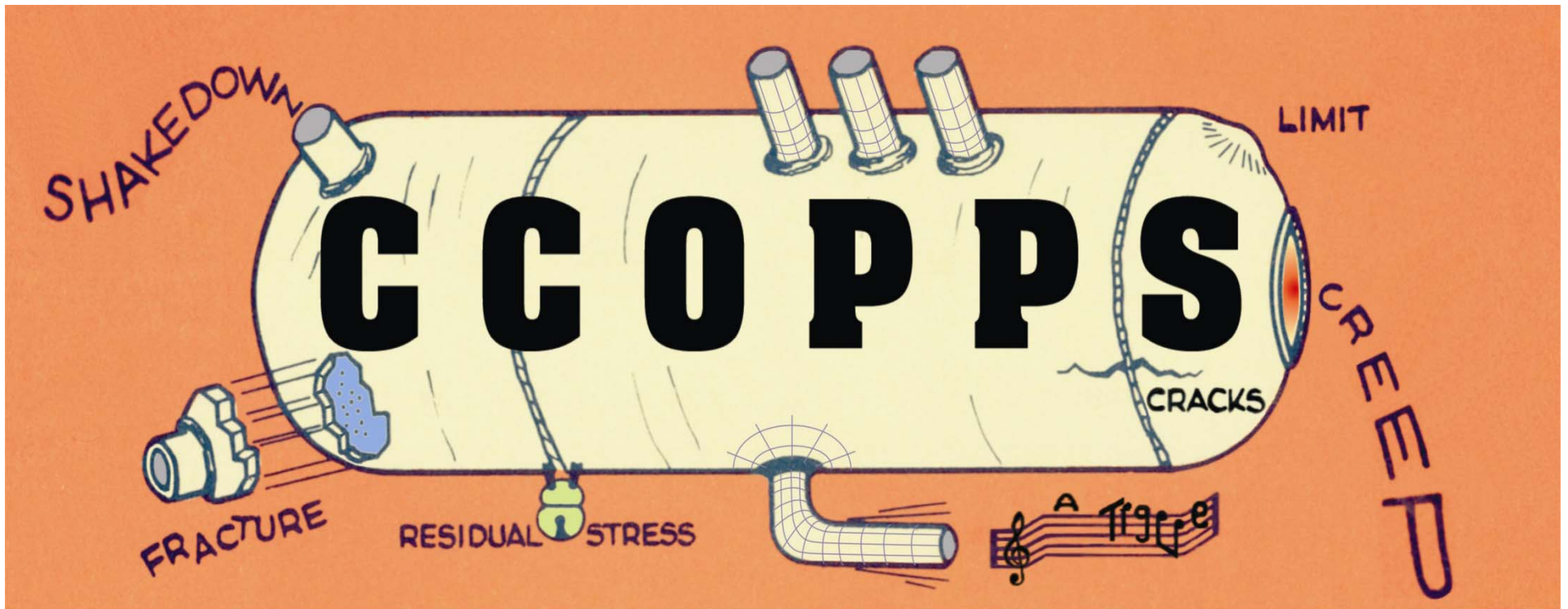
Jim Wood  
University of Strathclyde





## Agenda

- **Introduction and Relevant CCOPPS Activity**  
*Jim Wood*
- **Fatigue of Welded Pressure Vessels**  
*Steve Maddox*
- **Q&A Session**  
*Steve Maddox & Jim Wood*
- **Closing Remarks**  
*Jim Wood*





## Industry Needs Survey

- **Findings relevant to this webinar:**
  - *FEA use is increasing as is complexity of models*
  - *Interfacing with codes of practice seen as issue*
  - *Happy with facilities in commercial codes in general*  
*(exception is weld modelling and assessment + automation of the analysis process)*
  - *Non-European Codes are used often by most respondents.*
- **Preliminary report available for download from**  
**<http://www.ccopps.eu/>**

Beams Membranes  
Plates and Shells



Buckling  
and  
Instability



Code of Practice  
Philosophy and  
Application



Composites



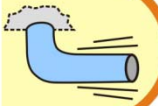
Creep and  
Time-Dependency



Design  
by  
Analysis



Dynamics  
and  
Vibration



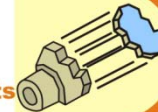
Fatigue



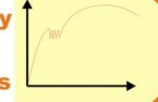
FEA of  
Pressure Systems  
and Components

$$\begin{aligned} [M][u'''] + \\ [C][u'] + \\ [K][u] = [F] \end{aligned}$$

Flaw Assessment  
in  
Pressure Components



Mechanics, Elasticity  
and  
Strength of Materials



Nonlinear  
Geometric Effects  
and Contact



Plasticity and  
Shakedown



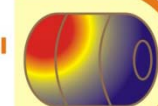
Pressure System  
Components  
and Fabrication




Pressure Vessel  
Materials



Thermo-Mechanical  
Behaviour



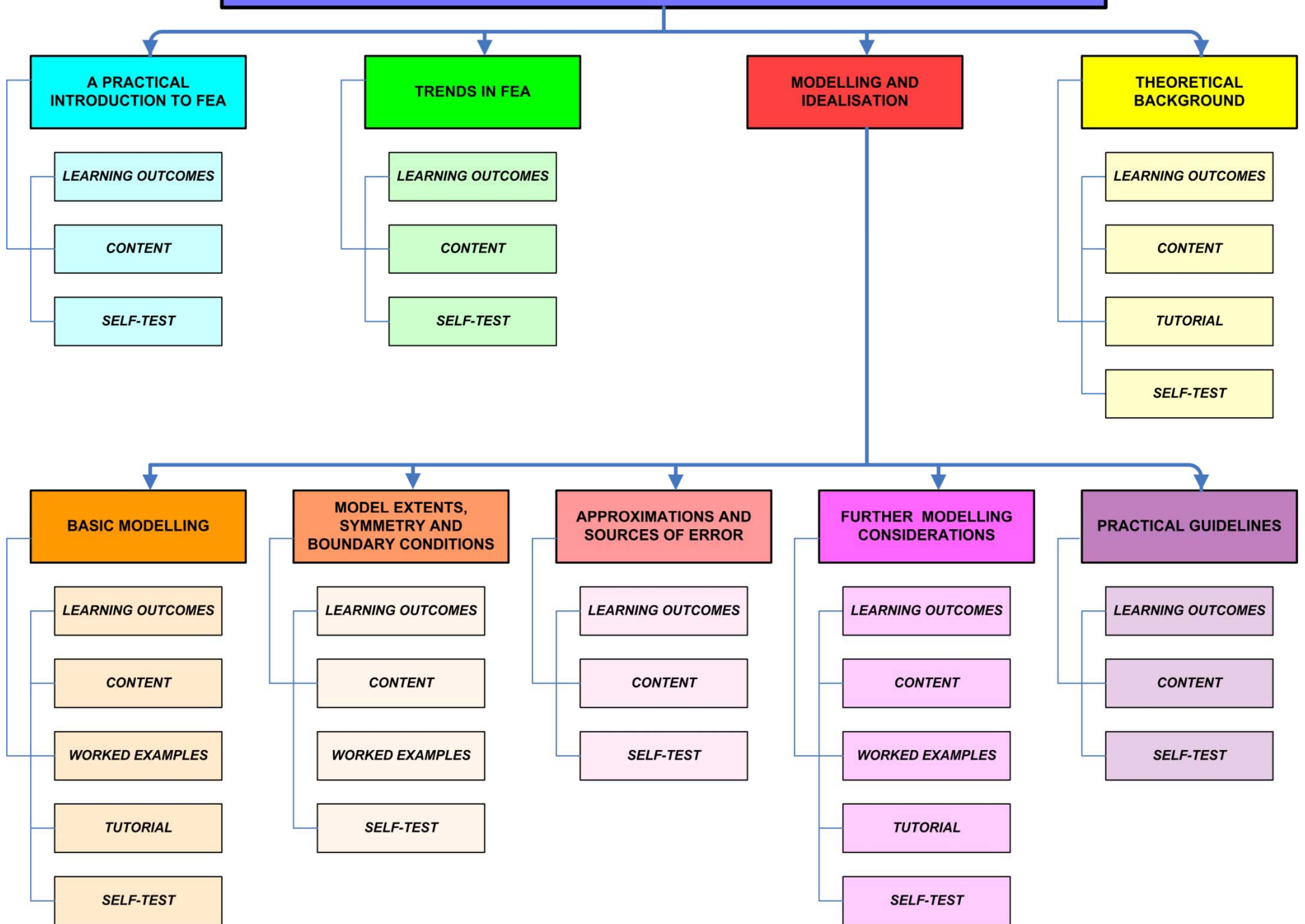
Category & Code Number	STATEMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOME (click for Threshold and Comprehensive performance interpretations)	Standard or Advanced and EQF Level	Resource Reference
<b>Knowledge</b>			
FATkn8	Sketch typical butt and fillet welds, highlighting features detrimental to fatigue performance.	S,7	
<b>Comprehension</b>			
DBAco19	Explain why the assessment of Shakedown and Fatigue is often carried out using elastic analysis.	A,7	
FATco7	Discuss the observed relationship between endurance limit and static tensile strength for steels and explain why this relationship does not hold for welded steels.	S,7	
FATco17	Discuss the significance of the choice of equivalent stress used in the fatigue assessment of welded joints	A,7	
FATco28	Describe the approximations inherent in a plate/shell idealisation of welded joints and how these could influence fatigue assessment.	A,7	
<b>Application</b>			
FATap7	Use hot spot stress techniques (extrapolation and/or linearization) to determine structural stresses for fatigue assessment.	S,7	
DBAap9	Carry out a Fatigue design check.	S,7	
<b>Analysis</b>			
FATan1	Assess the results from fatigue analyses and determine whether they satisfy the requirements of a Code of Practice.	S,7	
<b>Synthesis</b>			
FATsy5	Specify appropriate idealisation(s) for welds, which are consistent with the objectives of fatigue analyses and available computing resources.	A,7	
<b>Evaluation</b>			
FATev4	Assess the need for <u>Ratcheting</u> and Shakedown assessment.	A,7	

COMPETENCE CODE	RESOURCE REFERENCE	STANDARD LEVEL	ADVANCED LEVEL	EQF LEVEL	
<b>BMPSan1</b>	<i>BMP Sref8</i>	X		<b>7</b>	
1. COMPETENCE STATEMENT <i>(Complete achievement record for 1,2 or 3)</i>				ACHIEVED	
Analyse requirements for finite element models of industrial components using beam, membrane, plate and shell elements and determine whether the basic assumptions inherent in the element formulations are valid.				Formally	Informally
				ATTESTING SIGNATURE	
2. MINIMUM THRESHOLD INTERPRETATION				ACHIEVED	
Limited ability to analyse problems from industry sector and to make correct engineering judgement whether assumptions inherent in beam, membrane, plate and shell element formulations are applicable. Limited ability to explain decisions. Relies largely on established procedures within organisation or published guidelines.				Formally	Informally
				ATTESTING SIGNATURE	
3. COMPREHENSIVE THRESHOLD INTERPRETATION				ACHIEVED	
Ability to independently analyse a comprehensive range of problems from industry sector and to make correct engineering judgement whether assumptions inherent in beam, membrane, plate and shell element formulations are applicable. Significance of such assumptions is clearly explained.				Formally	Informally
					X
				ATTESTING SIGNATURE	
		NAME		DATE	
		JOE BLOGGS		24 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	

**PRINT**

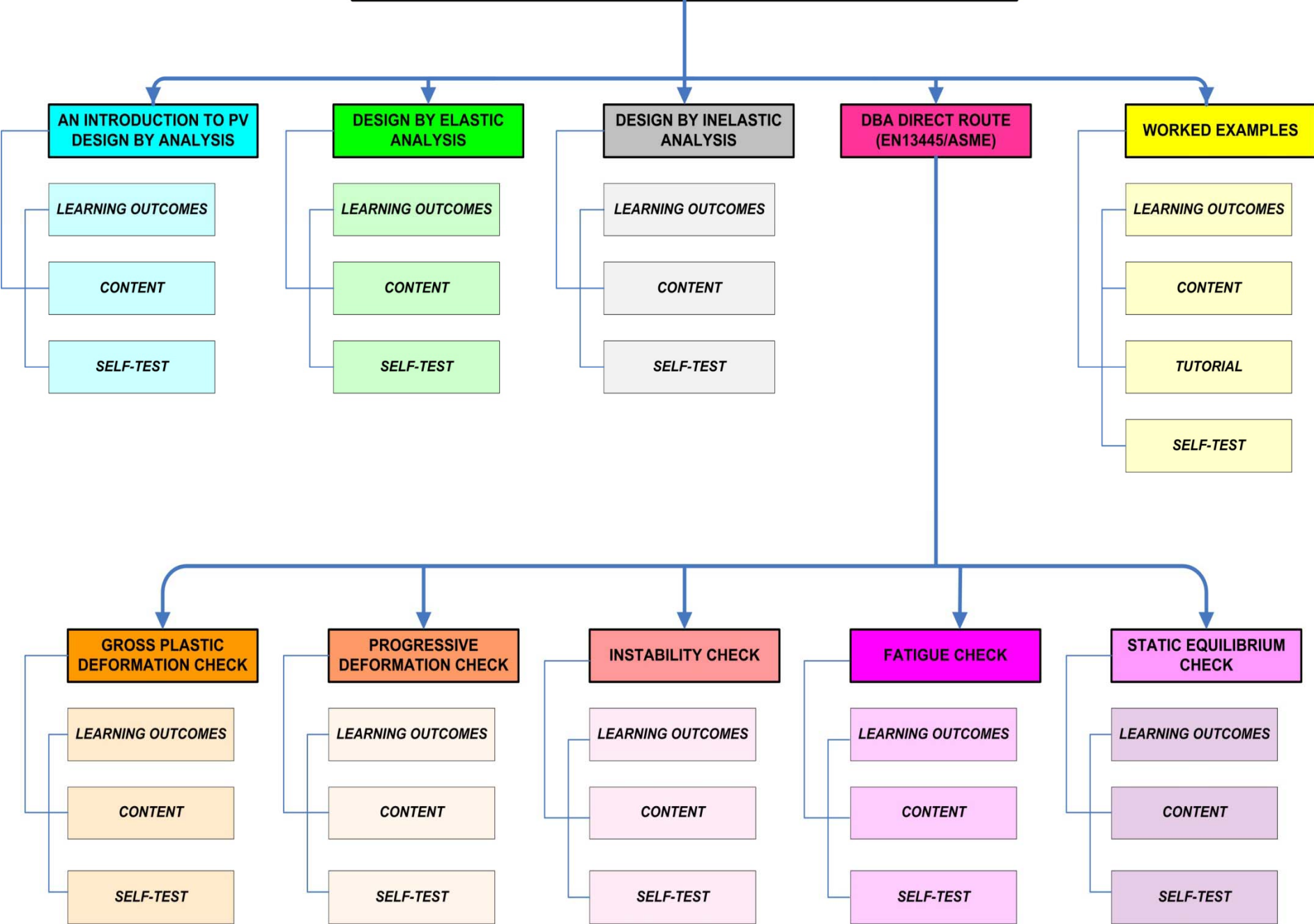
**ALL**

# FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF PRESSURE SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS





# PRESSURE VESSEL DESIGN BY ANALYSIS



**Number:**  
CCOPPS\_WM1

**Title:**  
Weld Modelling.

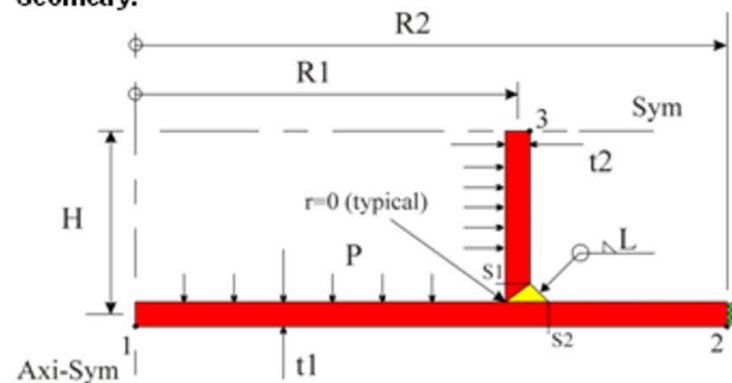
**Date:**  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Statement of Purpose:**

The main purpose of this worked example is to identify the limitations of modelling practices currently in use, using plate/shell elements, for adequate representation of the stiffness and stresses in large fabrications containing welded intersections that exhibit a slope discontinuity in shell/plate mid-surfaces.

The stresses and deflections in the fabricated detail shown are to be determined using common industrial modelling practices. Target solution quantities required for deflection and stresses have been specified. Assessment of the stresses obtained, is not included in this example.

**Geometry:**



R1 = 650 mm; R2 = 1000 mm  
H = 300 mm; t1 = 20mm  
t2 = 15 mm; L = 15mm (leg length)  
Neglect self-weight; 45 degree full penetration fillet

**Analysis Type(s):**

Linear material, static, small displacement.

**Material:**

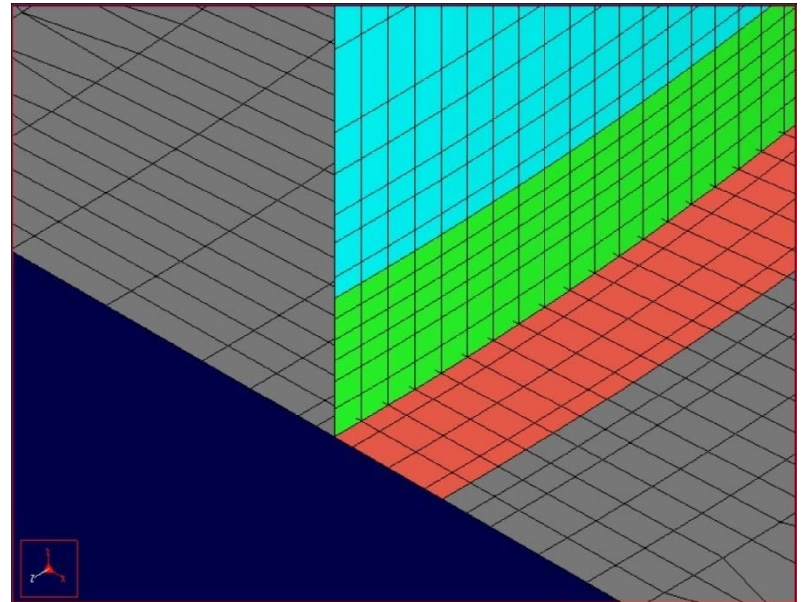
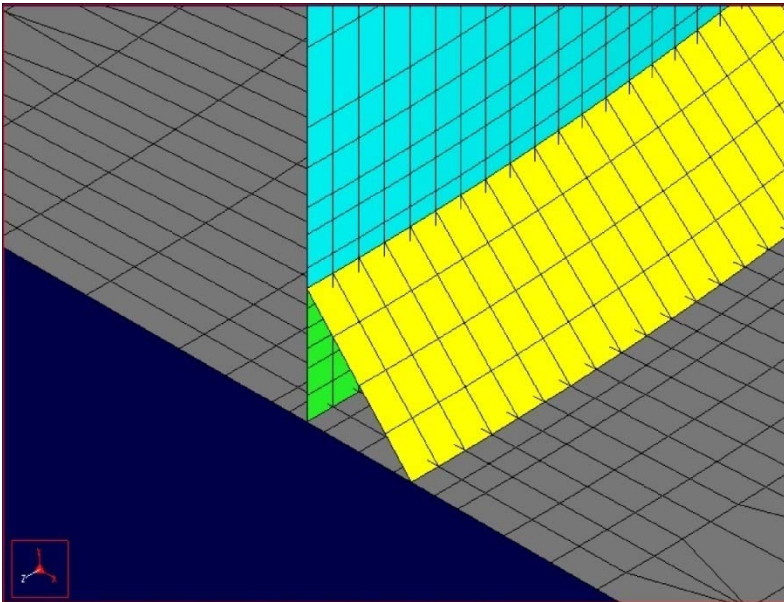
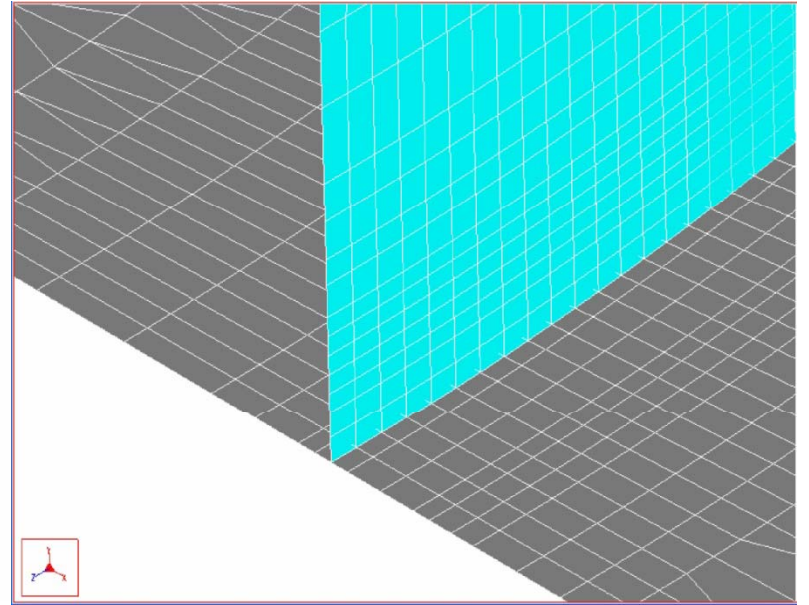
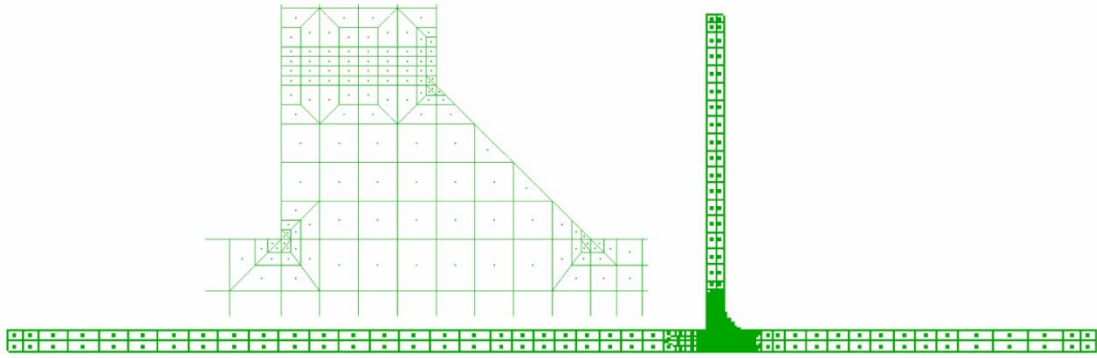
EN10025 S355 JR steel (old BS 4360 Grade 50B) in the as-rolled, as-welded condition.  
Young's Modulus = 200000 N/mm<sup>2</sup>; Poisson's Ratio = 0.3; Minimum Yield Strength = 355 N/mm<sup>2</sup> for t<16mm (345 for 16<t<40); Fatigue strength (stress range) for plain plate = 280 N/mm<sup>2</sup> with a 2.3% (2SD) probability of failure. Tensile Strength 560 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

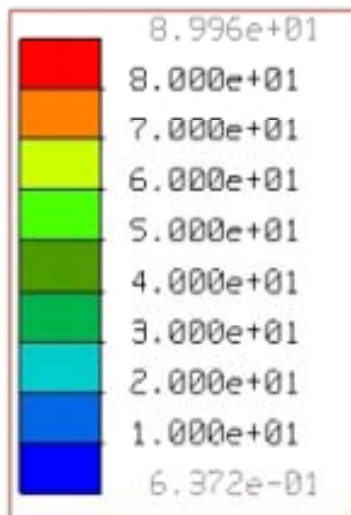
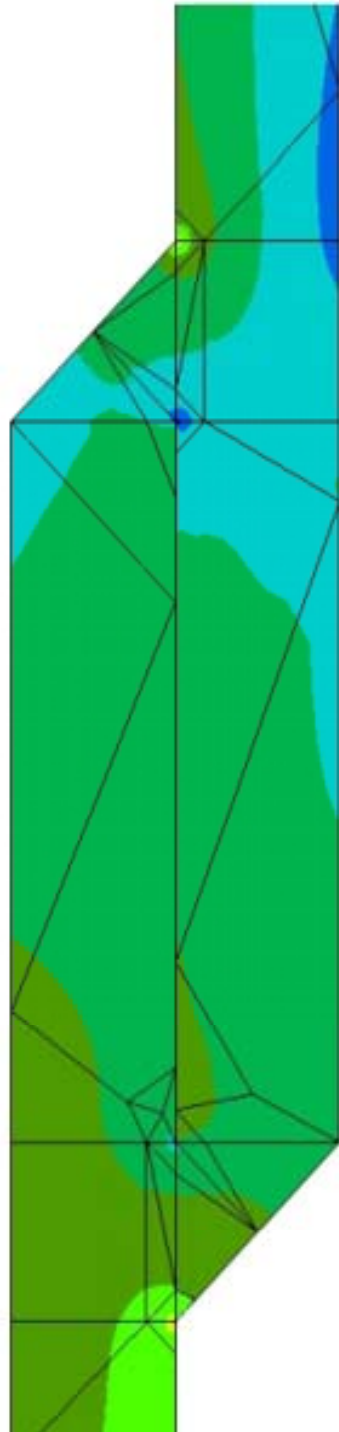
**Loading:**

Internal pressure P = 0.2 N/mm<sup>2</sup> @ 2x1 0e6 cycles (0 ... P ... 0).

**Boundary Conditions:**

See figure above.





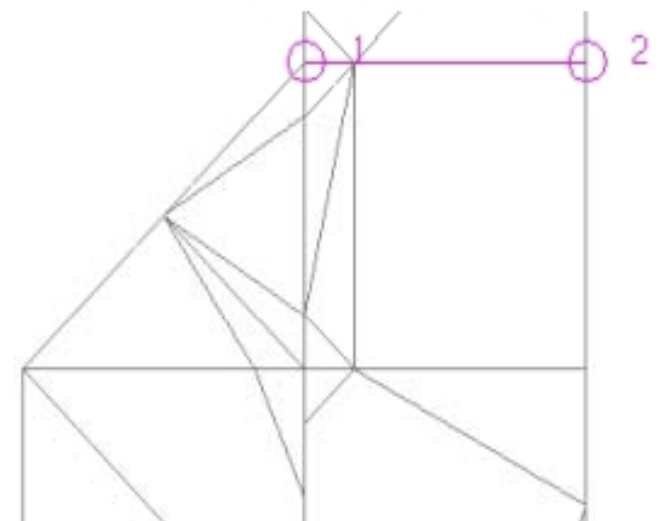
**Linearized Stress Report**

Point 1 X: 792 Y: 648  
 Point 2 X: 808 Y: 648

Component: **Max Principal**

Stress	Point 1	Midpoint	Point 2	Maximum
Membrane	32.92449	32.92449	32.92449	32.92449
Bending	49.35231	0.1639612	-9.719663	49.35231
Mem+Bend	73.05582	32.92449	13.37686	73.05582
Peak	105.1653	2.33546	6.704906	105.1653
Total	174.2743	30.61497	16.58401	174.2743

Buttons: **Generate Report...** **Done**

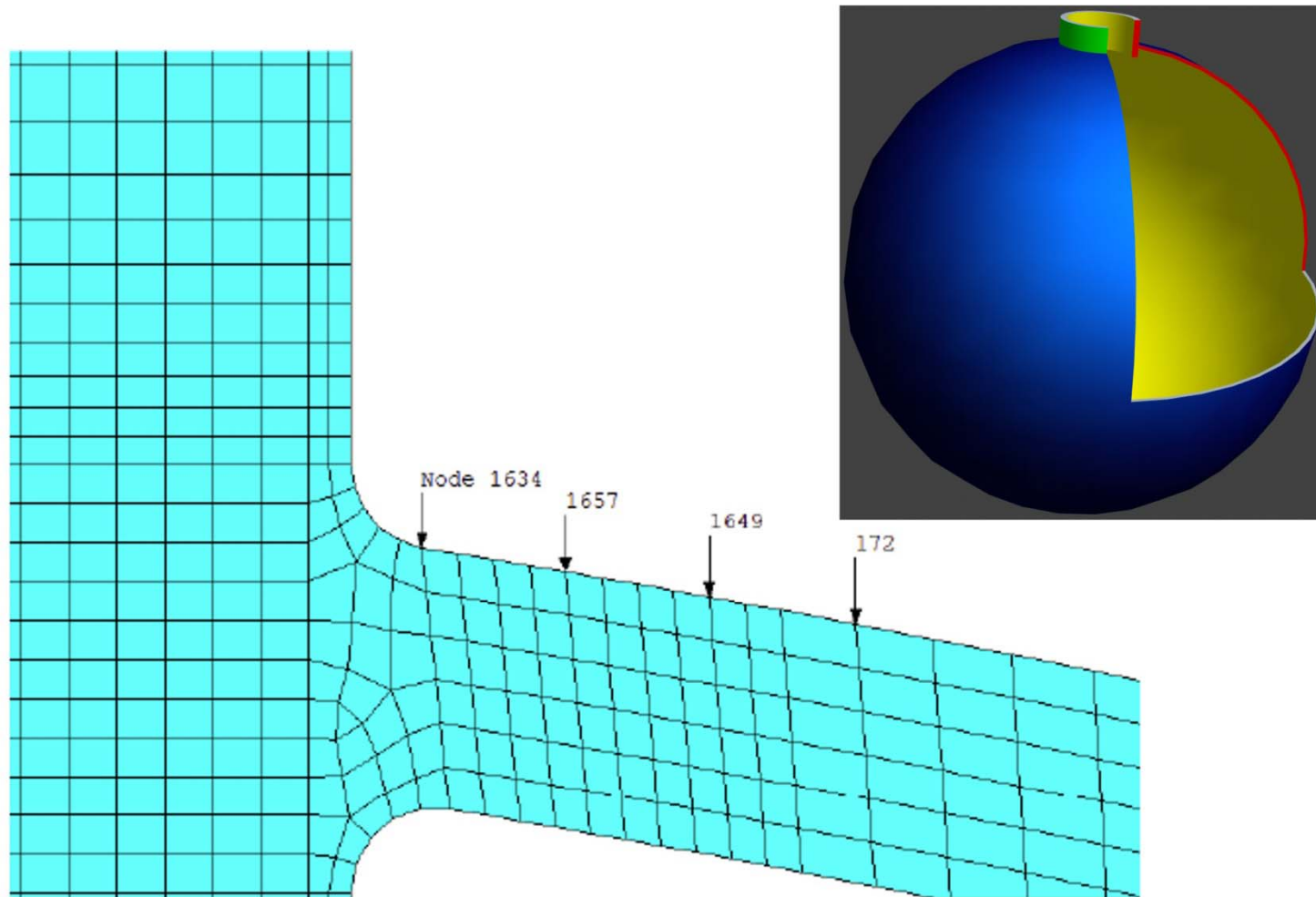


## *Stress range*

For welded regions structural stress ranges are used. The analysis is performed at location 2 - see above.

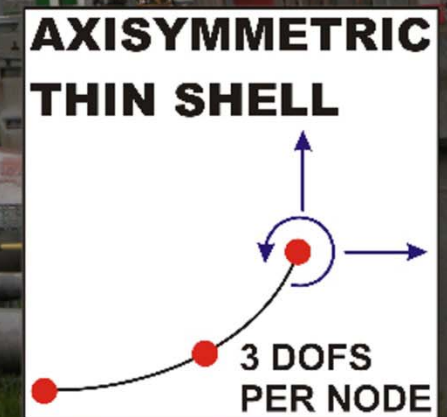
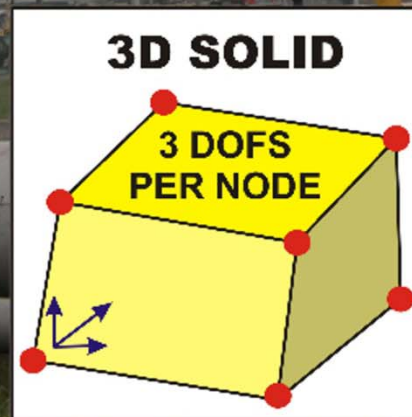
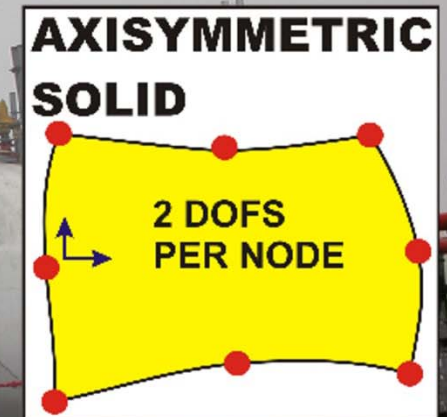
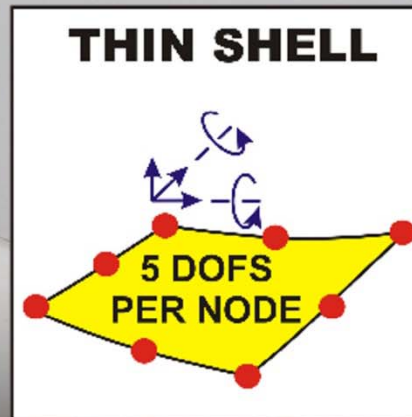
- The stresses for the calculation of the structural stress range are obtained by quadratic extrapolation at the investigated hot spot.

The structural equivalent stress range is calculated using the procedure described in EN13445-3 clause 18 (for structural principal stresses direction remain constant).



Node points for quadratic extrapolation of structural principal stresses at the welded location 2

Which is the best element to determine the hot-spot stresses at the intersections of the multi-mitred pipe bend?



Check Answer

Explanation

Yes that is correct.

5 / 26



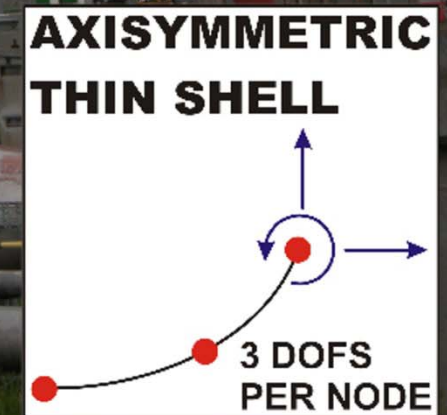
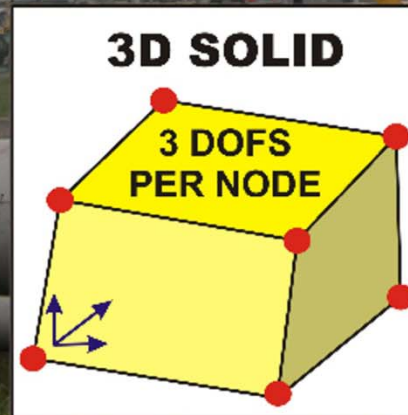
**Which is the best element to determine the hot-spot stresses at the intersections of the multi-mitred pipe bend?**

**Answer:**

3D Solid

**Explanation:**

The multi-mitre geometry is clearly not axisymmetric. While hot-spot stresses can be obtained from thin-shell elements, a 3D solid representation would allow both surface extrapolation and through-thickness linearization techniques to be used. This type of idealization would avoid the inherent approximations of thin shell theory and would also allow the actual weld-profile and any toe grinding to be modeled as well if necessary. Given today's typical computing resources, such a level of idealizations is perfectly feasible.



Check Answer

Explanation

Yes that is correct.

5 / 26





## Agenda

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*Jim Wood*
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- **Closing Remarks**  
*Jim Wood*



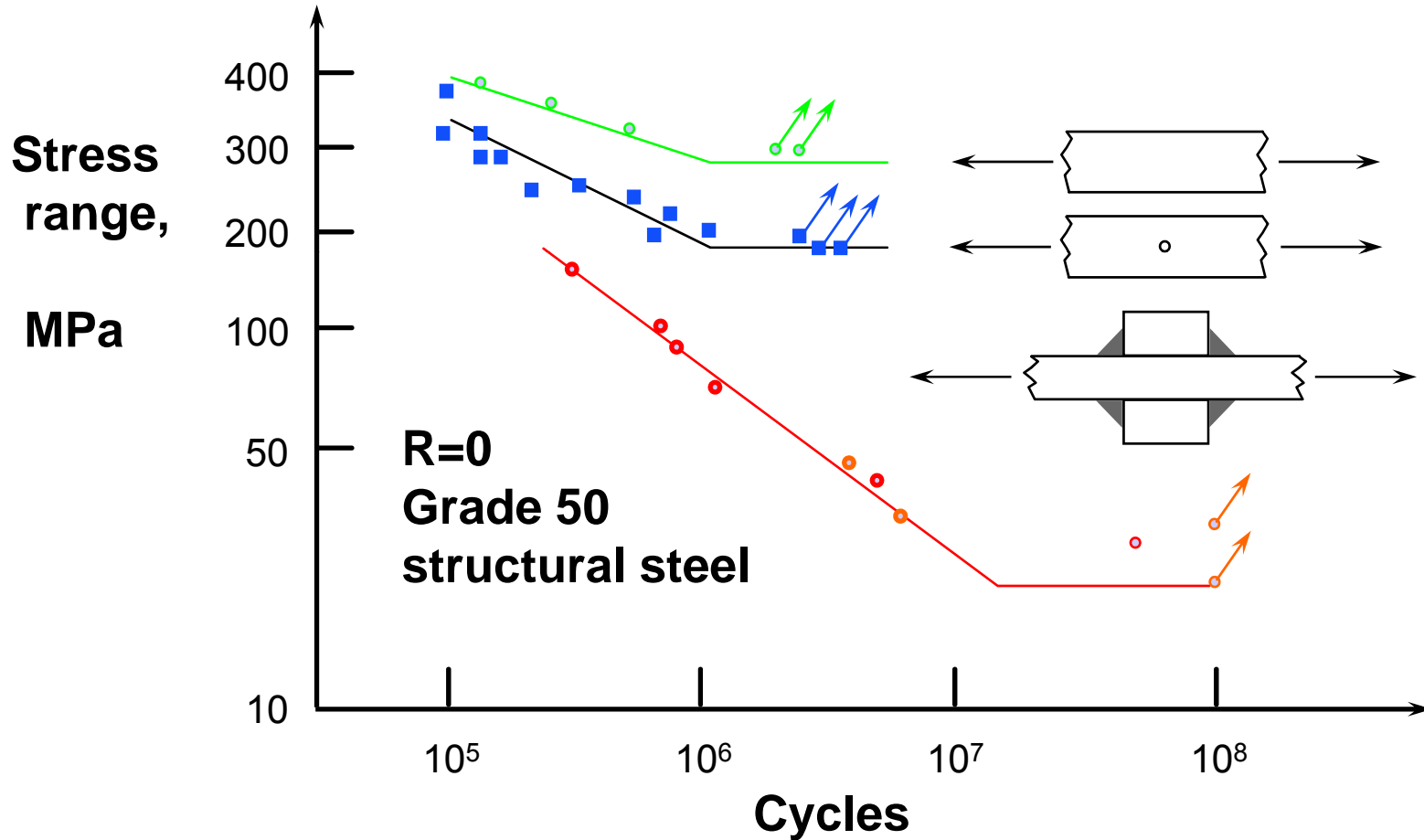


## Fatigue design of welded pressure vessels

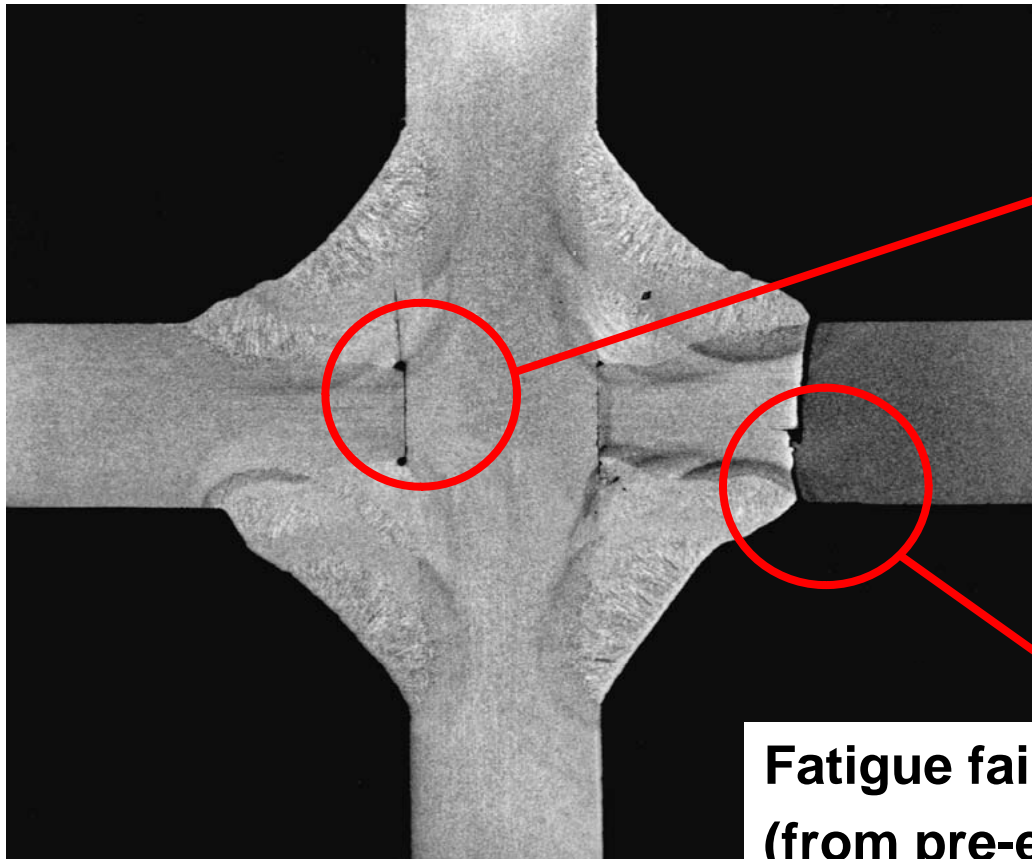
- **BS PD 5500 Annex C, EN 13445-3 and ASME VIII, Division 2 (new structural stress approach)**
- **Fatigue failure in pressure vessels**
- **Fatigue design data**
- **Stresses used in fatigue design**
- **Detailed fatigue assessment**
  - use of design curves
  - classification of weld details
  - stress concentrations
  - fatigue life improvement
- **Simplified assessment methods**
- **Fatigue assessment of welding imperfections**
- **Future needs**



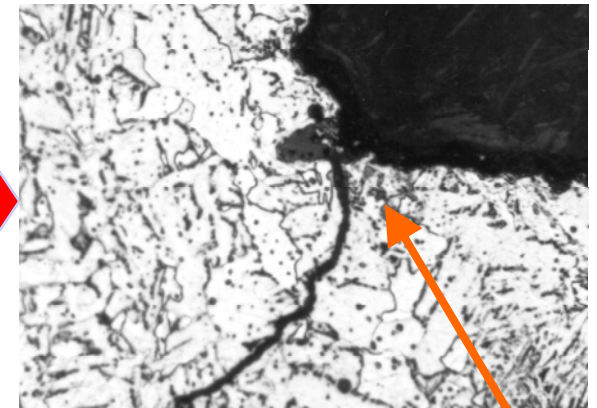
# Effect of welding on fatigue resistance



# Fatigue cracking in a welded joint



Fatigue cracking from weld root



Fatigue failure in plate at toe  
(from pre-existing sharp flaw at X)



## Key features of welds and welded joints

- Sharp section changes
- Local discontinuities
- High tensile residual stresses
- High SCF
- Crack initiation sites
- Maximum mean stress effect, compressive stresses damaging

### Consequences:

- Relatively low fatigue strength,
- dominated by fatigue crack growth
- and controlled by full applied stress range.
- Fatigue life not increased by use of higher strength material



# Fatigue failure in pressure vessels

## Fatigue loading

- Pressure fluctuations
- Temperature changes
- Temperature differentials
- External mechanical loading
- Vibration

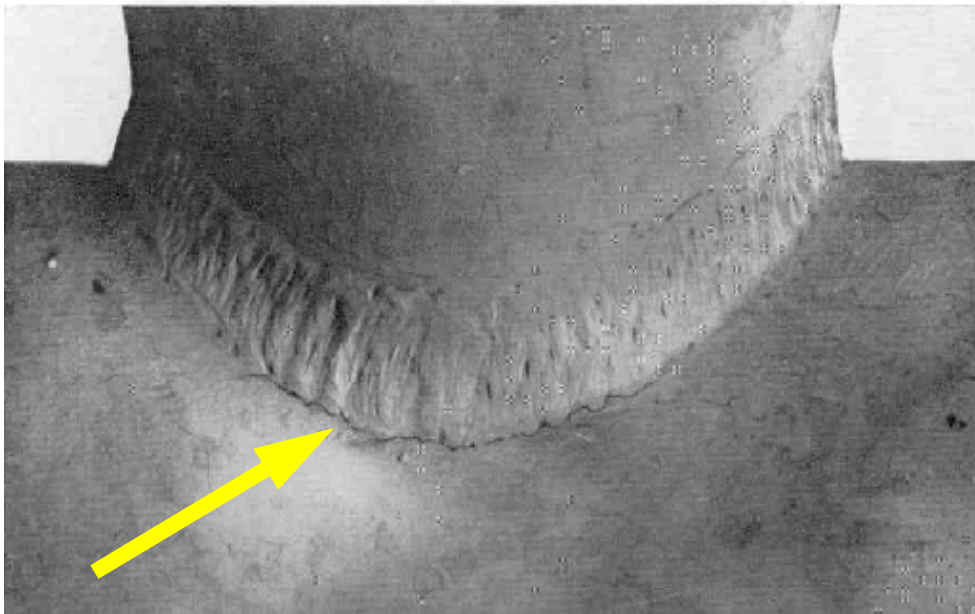
## Sources of stress concentration and hence fatigue cracking

- Joints (welds, bolts)
- Geometric discontinuities (openings, nozzles, ends, supports)
- Temporary attachments

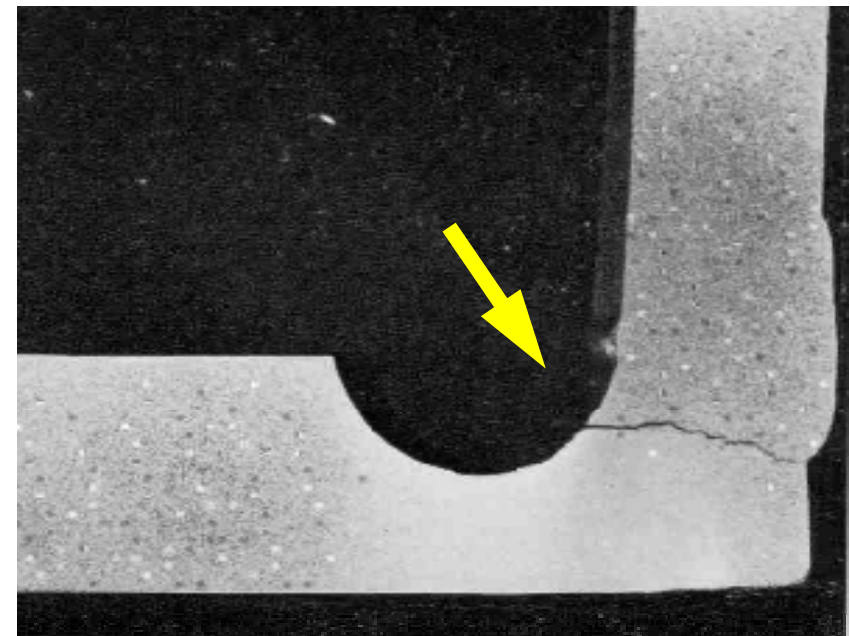


# Fatigue failure from weld details

Fatigue cracking from inside of butt weld between a cylindrical shell and a flat end



Fatigue cracking from nozzle weld toe





## Fatigue design process

Compare number of repetitions ( $n_i$ ) of stress range  $Sr_i$  which vessel or part of vessel must withstand in its service life with the number ( $N_i$ ) withstood by representative specimens at same stress in fatigue tests, such that:

$$\frac{n_1}{N_1} + \frac{n_2}{N_2} + \frac{n_3}{N_3} + \text{etc} = \sum \frac{n_i}{N_i} \leq 1.0$$

**$N$  values obtained from relevant design S-N curves**



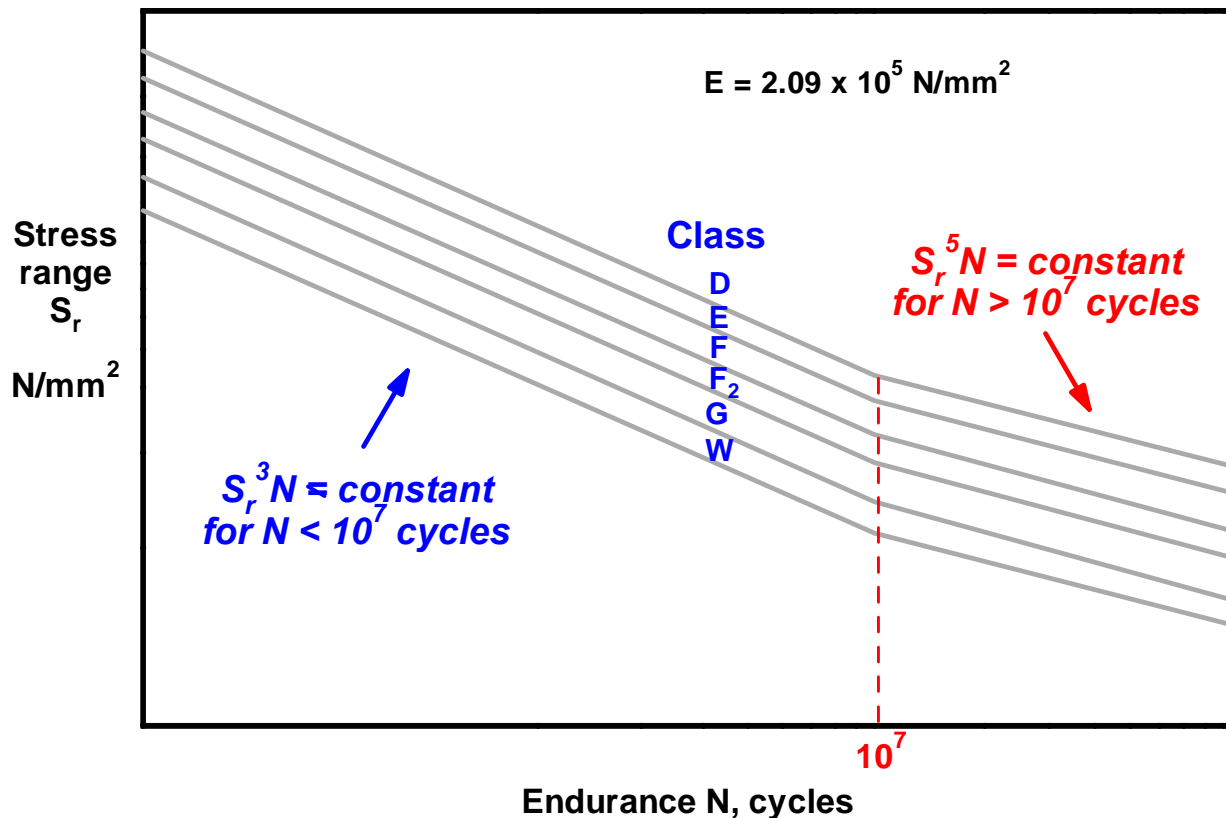
## Basis of fatigue design data and assessment method for welded joints

- BS PD 5500 and EN 13445 adapted from nominal stress-based fatigue rules for welded structures (bridges, offshore structures, etc)
- Thus, grid of S-N curves each applicable to one or more particular weld detail, chosen on the basis of a classification system
- In general, curves related to structural stress range
- For potential fatigue failure from weld toe, structural stress range at toe (hot-spot structural stress range) may be used
- New ASME VIII uses only hot-spot structural stress calculated in a specific way and converted to a fracture mechanics–based parameter called the ‘Equivalent structural stress range parameter’





# Fatigue design curves for weld details in BS PD 5500 and other UK Standards



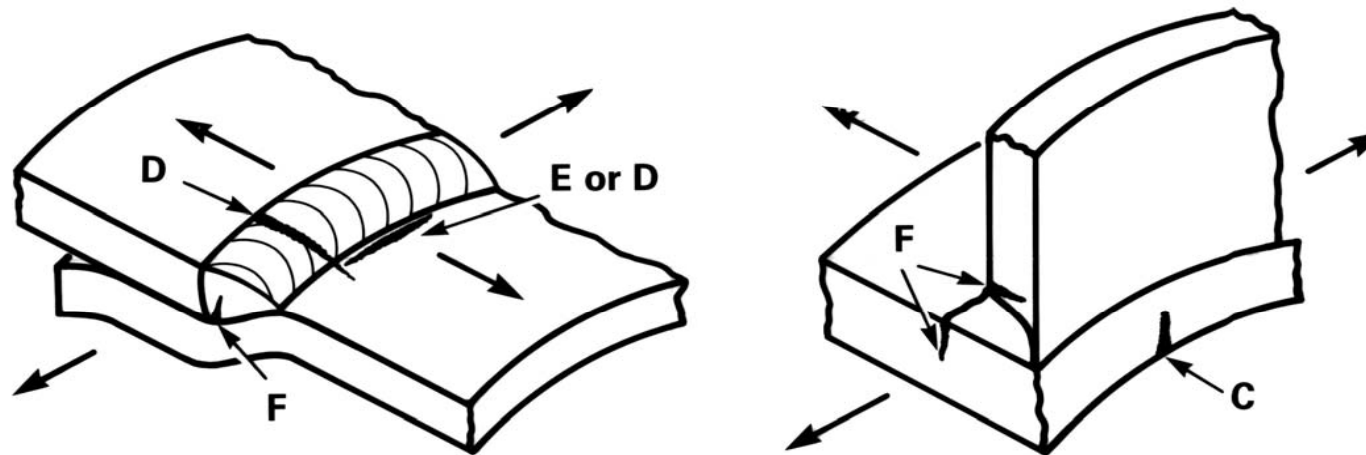
- Applicable to any of metals covered by PD 5500, on basis of relative E values

- For thickness  $e > e_{ref}$ , where  $e_{ref} = 22\text{mm}$ , allowable stress

$$= S_r \cdot \left( \frac{e_{ref}}{e} \right)^{0.25}$$



## Weld detail classification in BS PD 5500



### Classification depends on:

- welded joint geometry
- direction of loading
- crack initiation site
- methods of manufacture and inspection

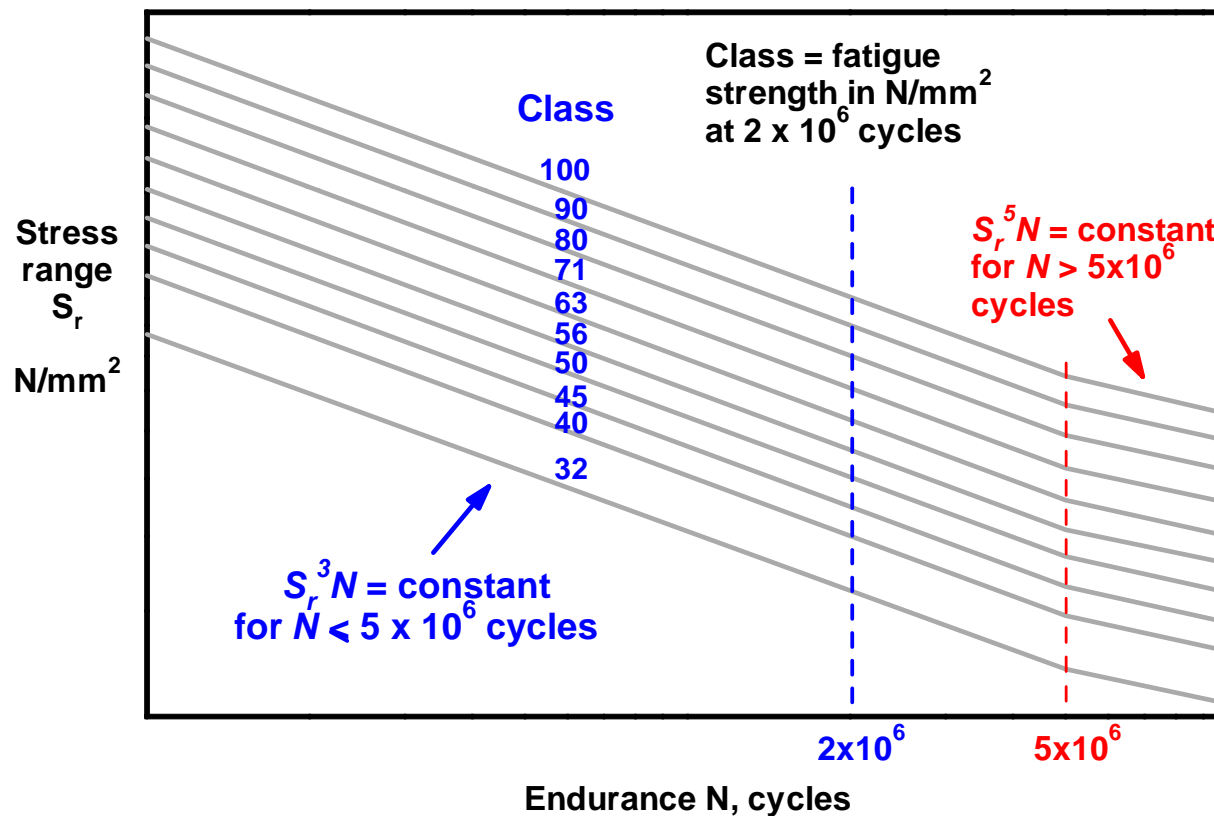


## Stresses used in BS PD 5500 for fatigue design

- Structural (primary + secondary) stress range
- Principal stress (not stress intensity) used directly
- Nominal stress for simple details (e.g. attachments, seam welds)
- Nominal stress x SCF for structural details, or
- Hot-spot structural stress at any weld toe (Higher design curve than those used with nominal stress)
- Net section of load-carrying fillet welds



# Fatigue design S-N curves for weld details in EN 13445



- Currently applicable only to steel
- For thickness  $e > 25\text{mm}$ , allowable stress

$$= S_r \cdot \left( \frac{25\text{mm}}{e} \right)^{0.25}$$

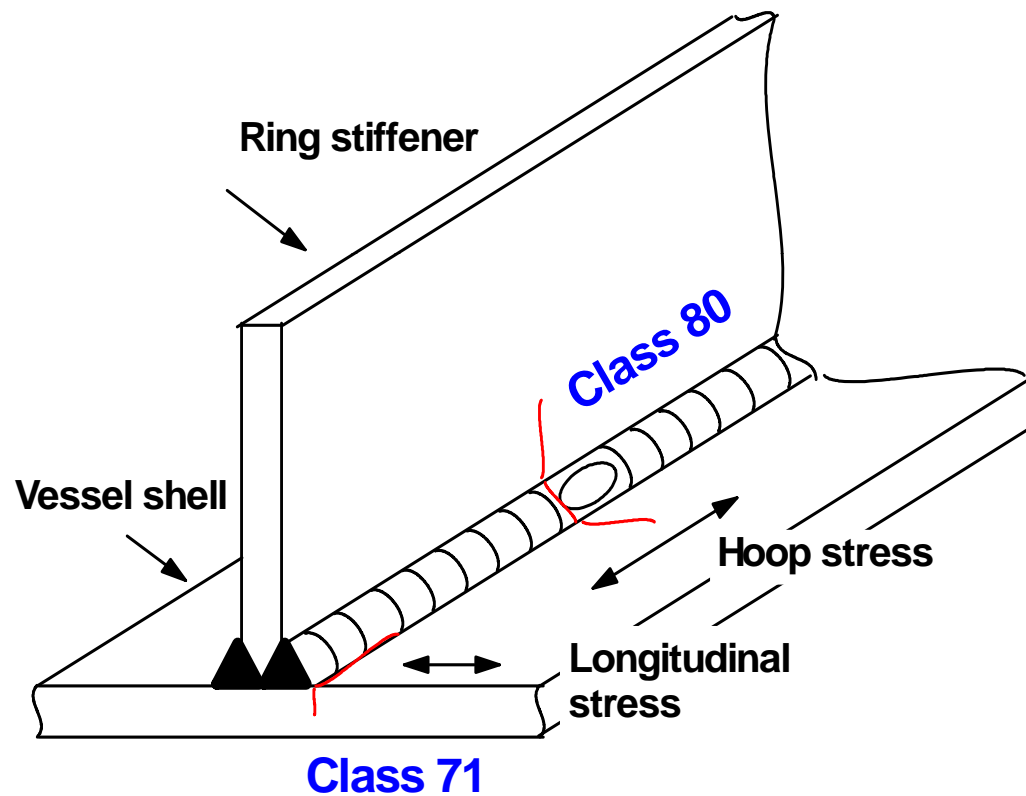


## Stresses used in EN 13445 for fatigue design

- Structural (primary + secondary) stress range
- Option to use principal or equivalent stress range
- Nominal stress for simple details (e.g. attachments, seam welds)
- Structural stress at any weld toe (Hot-spot stress)
- Net section of load-carrying fillet welds



# Weld detail classification in EN 13445

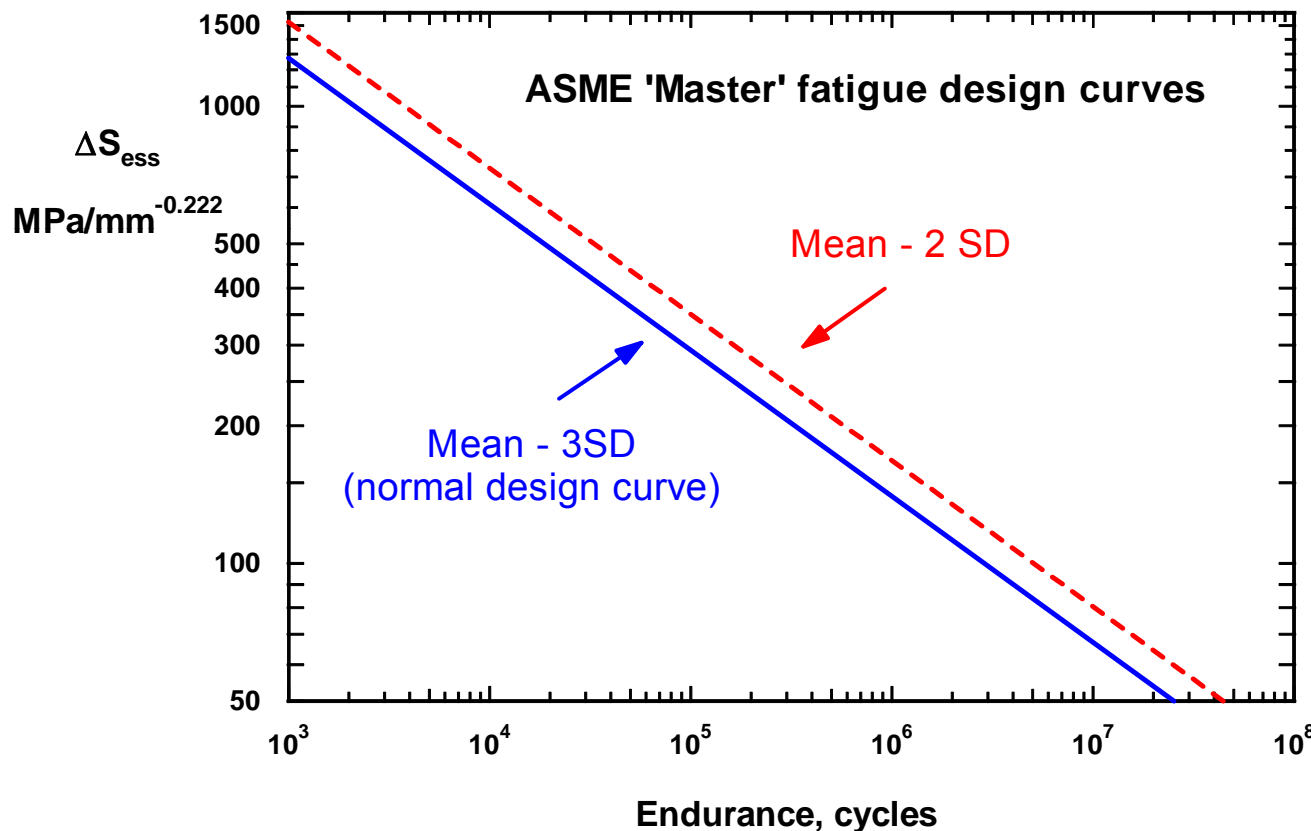


EN 13445 offers choice of using **equivalent stress** or principal stress. Since equivalent stress has no direction, a consequence is that the **lowest detail Class must be assumed.**

Thus, the joint shown would be designed as Class 71.



# Fatigue design curves from ASME VIII



- Applicable to any of metals covered by ASME on basis of relative E values
- Stress parameter depends on plate thickness, membrane/bending stress ratio and applied stress ratio (**Not** units of stress)
- No other thickness correction required



## Basis of fatigue design curves

- Regression analysis of S-N data obtained from tests on actual welded joints
- $\approx 2.5\%$  probability of failure (mean – 2 standard deviations of log N [SD]):-  
BS PD 5500 design curves; included in ASME.
- $\approx 0.1\%$  probability curves (mean - **3SD**):-  
BS PD 5500 simplified design methods; **all** EN 13445 design curves for weld details; generally required for ASME





## Application of design curves for weld details

- No effect of applied mean stress in PD 5500 and EN 13445; mean stress correction in ASME
- No effect of material tensile strength
- No effect of welding process
- May need to be reduced to allow for corrosive environment; no specific guidance in BS PD 5500 or EN 13445 but penalty factors specified in ASME



## Stresses used in ASME VIII Div. 2 for fatigue design of welded joints

- Structural (primary + secondary) stress range based on through-thickness stress distribution obtained by numerical analysis
- Structural equivalent stress range parameter (a function of material's fatigue crack propagation properties ( $m=3.6$ ), applied structural stress range ( $\Delta\sigma$ ), material thickness ( $t$ ), membrane to bending stress ratio and applied stress ratio):

$$\Delta S_{ess} = \frac{\Delta\sigma}{t_{ess}^{\frac{2-m}{2m}} \cdot l^{\frac{1}{m}} \cdot f_M}$$



## Generalized stress parameter (Maddox, 1974)

$$da / dN = C(\Delta K)^m, \quad \Delta K = Y\Delta\sigma\sqrt{\pi a}, \quad Y = f(a/t \text{ \& \; crack front shape } a/2c)$$

$$\therefore \int_{a_i/t}^{a_f/t} \frac{d(a/t)}{(Y\sqrt{\frac{\pi a}{t}})^m} = I = C\Delta\sigma^m t^{(\frac{m}{2}-1)} N$$

$$\text{i.e.} \left[ \Delta\sigma \left( \frac{t^{(\frac{m}{2}-1)}}{I} \right)^{1/m} \right]^m .N = 1/C = \text{constant}$$

$$\text{or} \quad (\Delta\sigma^*)^m .N = \text{a constant},$$

$$\text{where 'Generalized stress parameter'} \Delta\sigma^* = \Delta\sigma \left( \frac{t^{m/2-1}}{I} \right)^{1/m}$$

$$\text{or} \quad \Delta\sigma^* = \frac{\Delta\sigma}{t^{\frac{2-m}{2m}} . I^{1/m}} \quad (\text{cf: ASME } \Delta S_{\text{ess}})$$

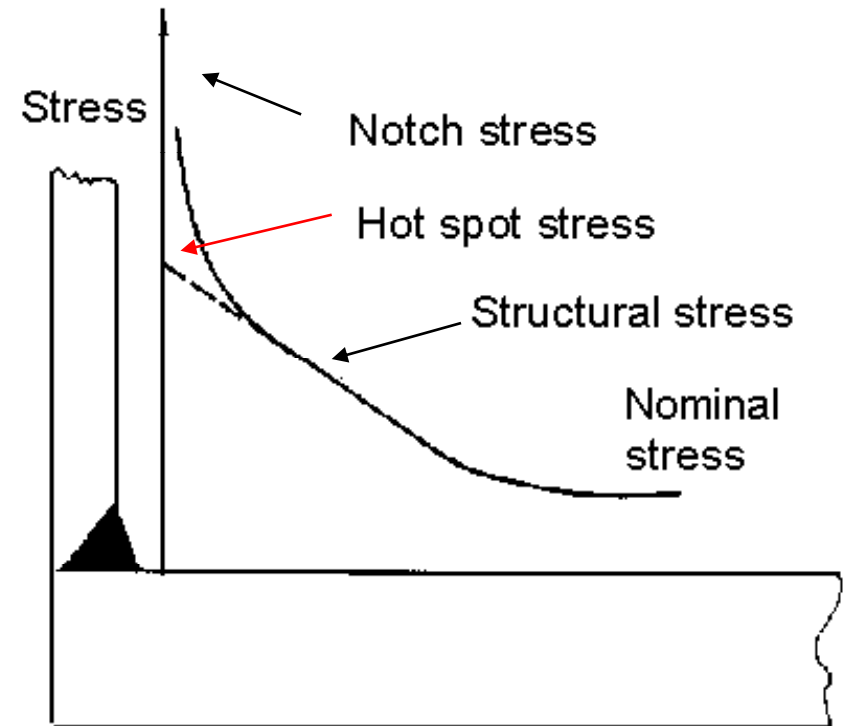
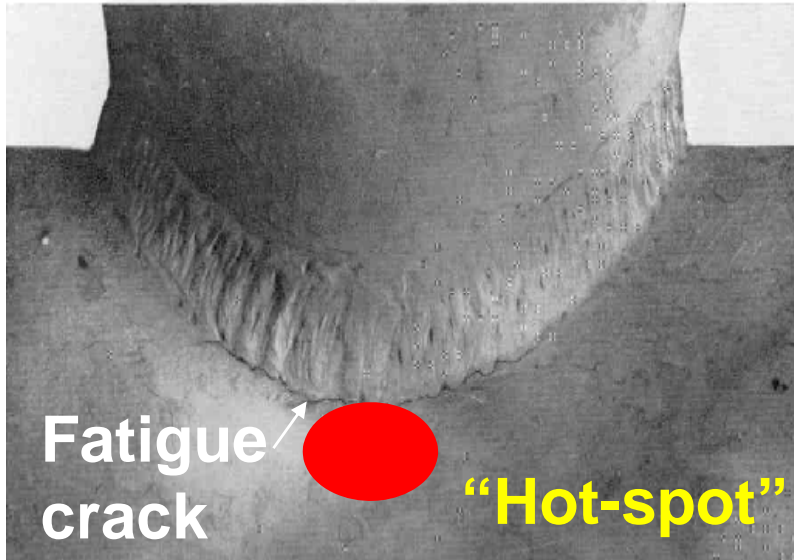


## ASME Equivalent structural stress range parameter $\Delta S_{ess}$

Based on:

- Structural stress (presumably assumed to allow for SCF factor  $M_k$  normally applied to stress intensity factor)
- Fatigue life mainly growth of a pre-existing crack
- Implicit assumptions made about initial flaw size and shape
- Specific fatigue crack growth rate relationship

# Hot-spot structural stress approach



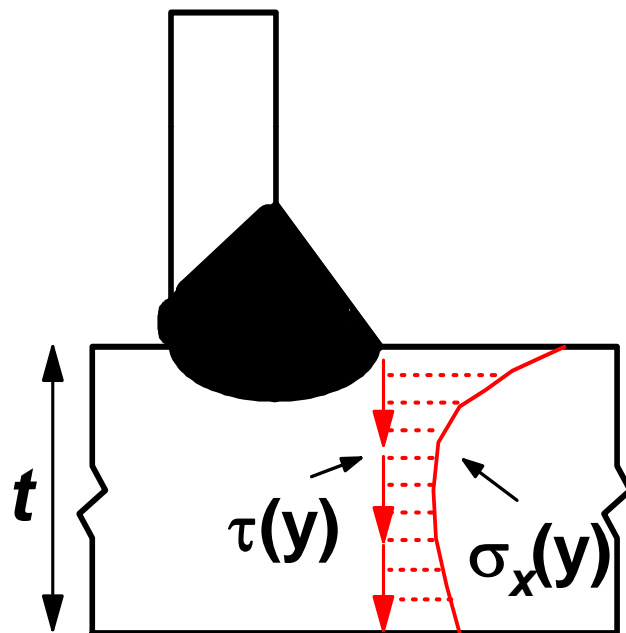
Hot-spot stress = structural stress at weld toe.

It includes all stress concentrating effects except the local notch effect of the weld toe.

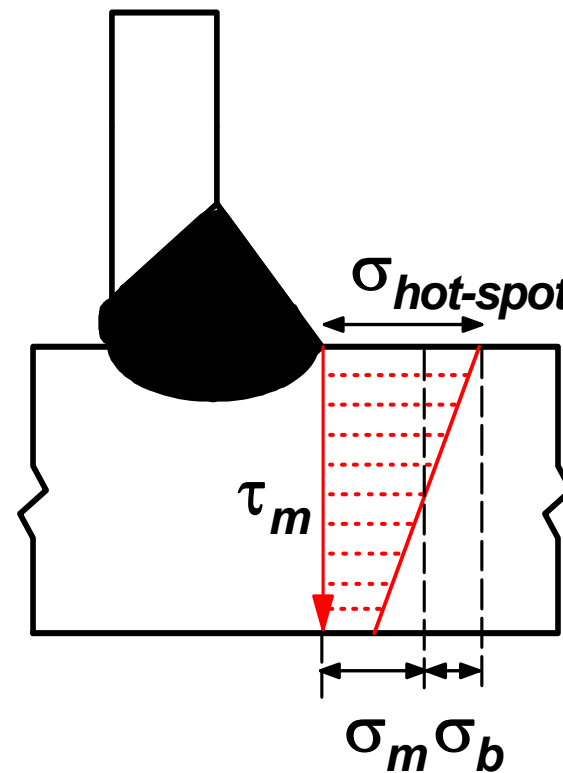


# Hot-spot structural stress from through-thickness stress distribution

Actual stress



Structural stress





## Methods for calculating the hot-spot structural stress

- Using surface stresses (e.g. measured):
  - Surface stress extrapolation (SSE)
- Using through-thickness stress distribution (e.g. from numerical analysis):
  - Through-thickness integration (TTI)
  - Nodal forces (NF) method



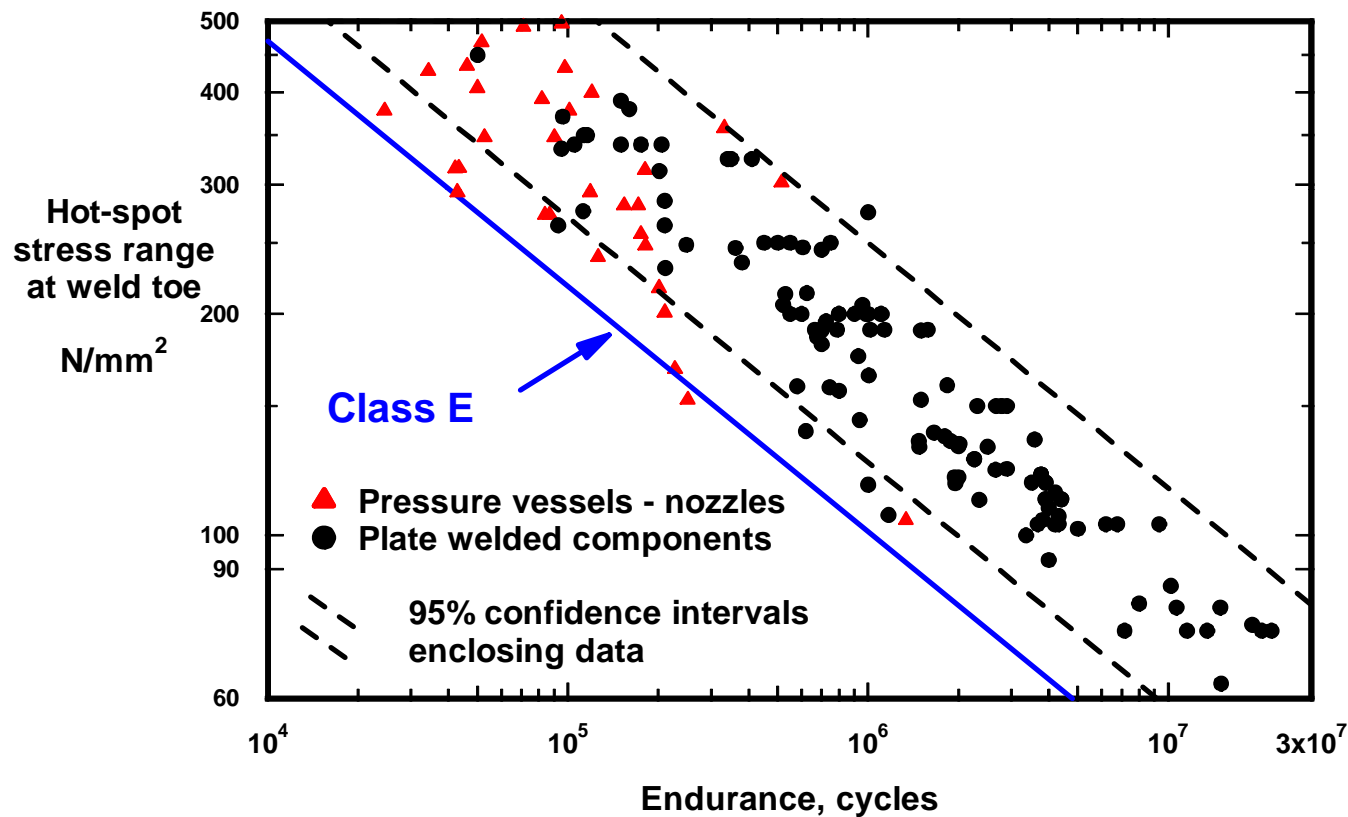
## Hot-spot stress developments in British Standards

- Current TWI joint-industry project aims to produce guidance on hot-spot structural stress approach for inclusion in British Standard fatigue design rules (initially BS 7608)
- Comparison of the three methods of calculating hot-spot stress (SSE, TTI and NF) from FEA
- Solid and shell elements, examination of sensitivity to mesh size
- Case studies on range of structural components
- All methods mesh sensitive but mesh sensitivity least for simple welded joints in plates under unidirectional loading
- Findings so far indicate that nodal force method most mesh sensitive of the three when applied to structural component
- Mesh insensitivity of the ASME method may be for a restricted set of possible mesh types and weld meshing options.



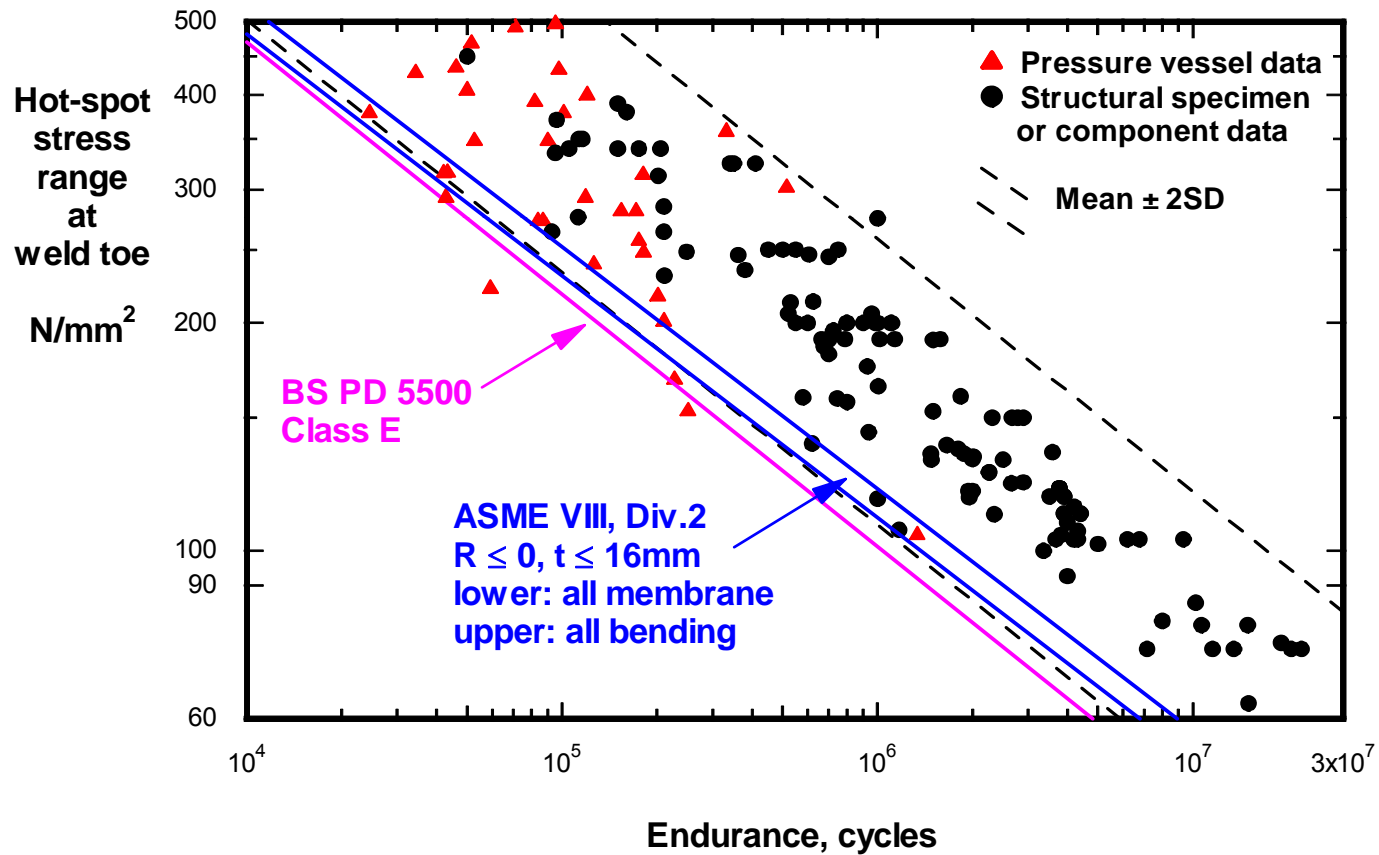


# Fatigue data expressed in terms of hot-spot stress range (SSE method)



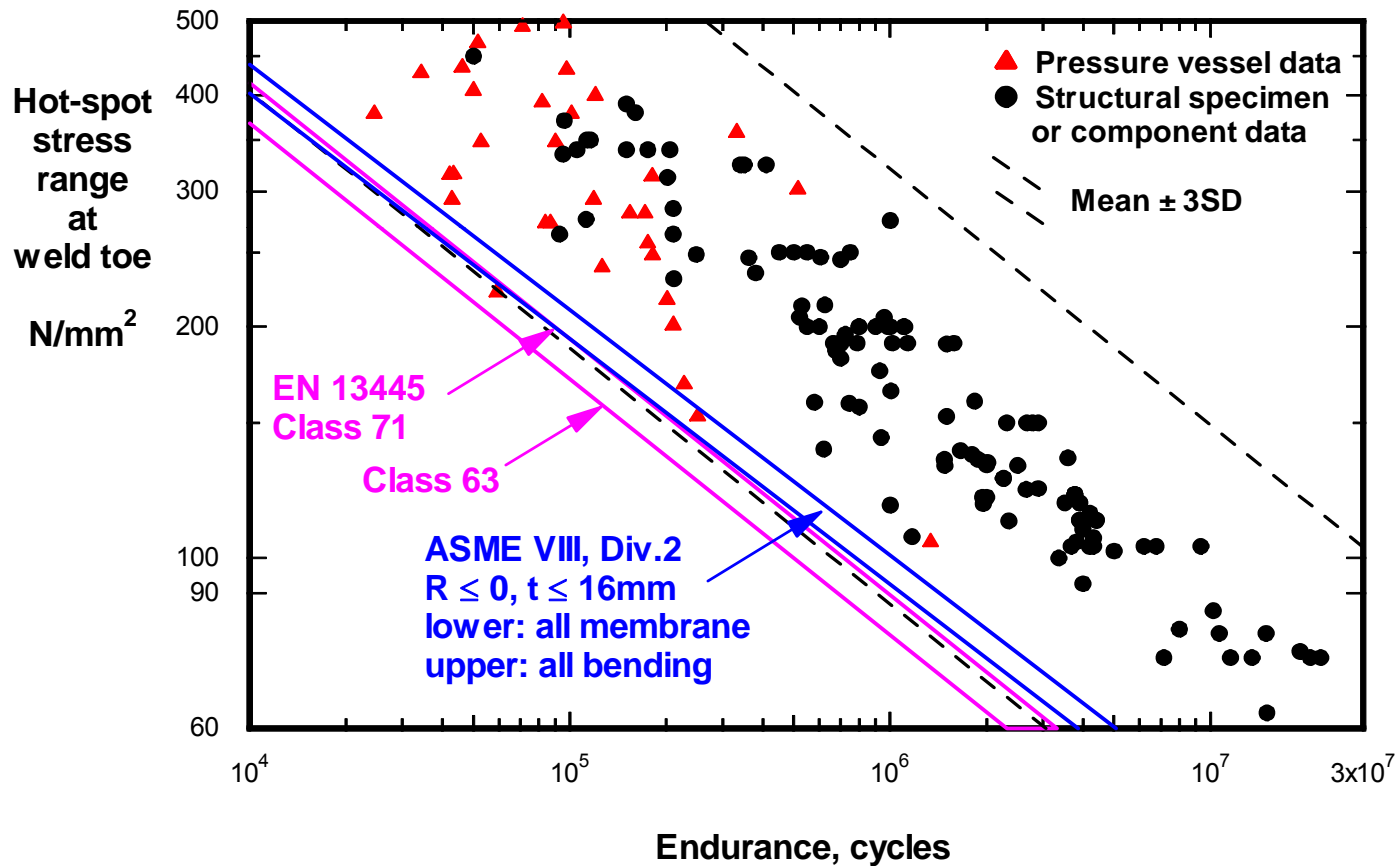


## Comparison with mean – 2SD S-N curves derived from ASME VIII

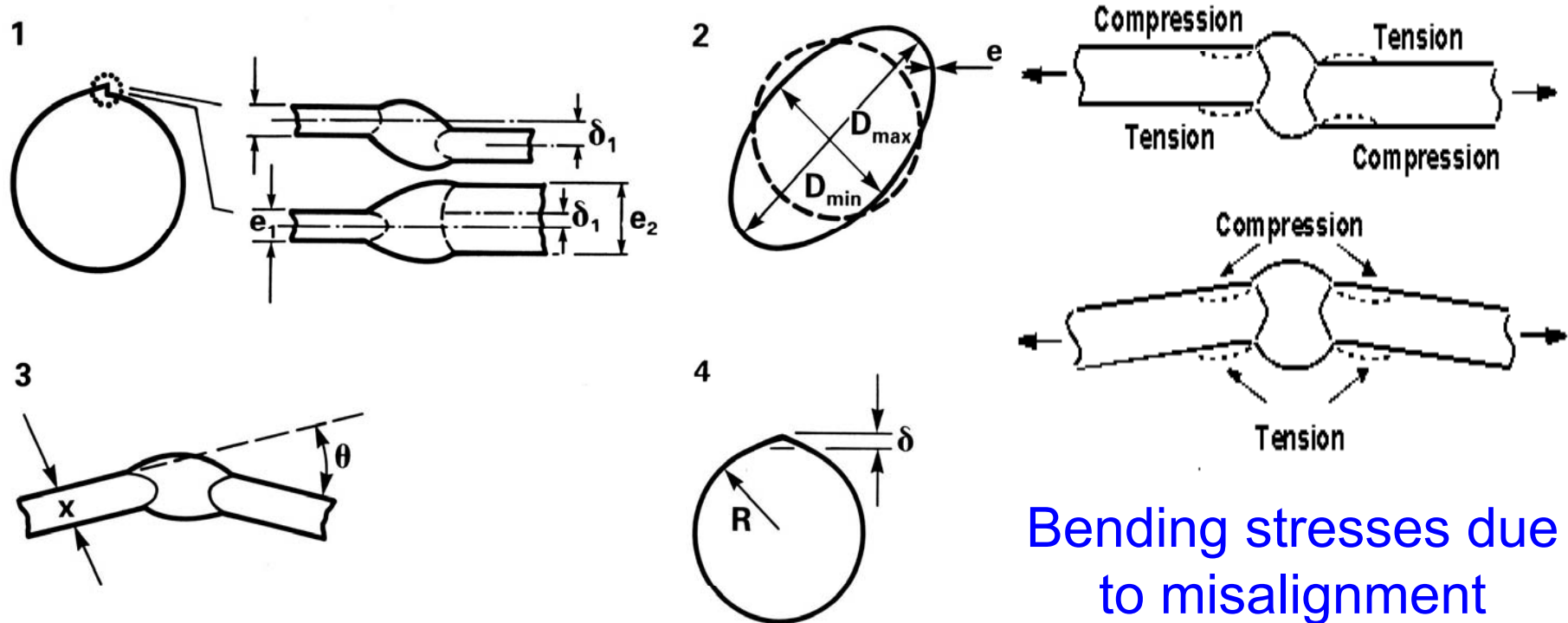




## Comparison with mean – 3SD S-N curves derived from ASME VIII



# Misalignment as a source of stress concentration

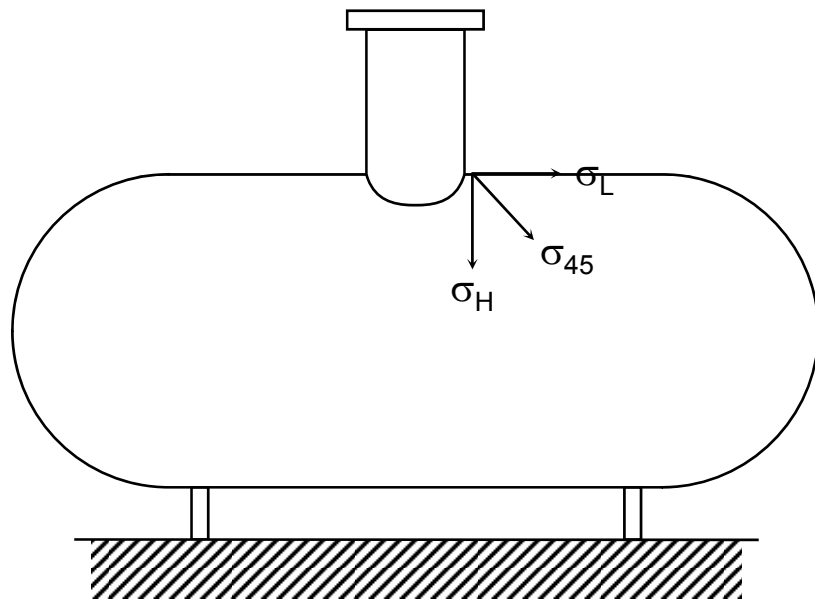


Bending stresses due to misalignment

**Same guidance on calculation of SCF is given in PD5500 and EN 13445**



## Treatment of weld details subject to combined or multi-axial loading



$\Delta\sigma_L$  = Maximum change in  $\sigma_L$

$\Delta\sigma_H$  = Maximum change in  $\sigma_H$

$\Delta\sigma_{45}$  = Maximum change in  $\sigma_{H45}$

Principal stresses then calculated from  $\Delta\sigma_L$ ,  $\Delta\sigma_H$ , and  $\Delta\sigma_{45}$

**Same approach in PD5500 and EN 13445. Current research should provide better method for out-of-phase loading.**



## ASME treatment of weld details subject to multi-axial loading

$$\Delta S_{ess} = \frac{1}{F(\delta)} \left[ \left( \frac{\Delta \sigma}{t_{ess}^{\frac{2-m}{2m}} \cdot l^{\frac{1}{m}} \cdot f_M} \right)^2 + 3 \left( \frac{\Delta \lambda}{t_{ess}^{\frac{2-m}{2m}} \cdot l^{\frac{1}{m}}} \right)^2 \right]^{0.5}$$

Where:

For in-phase loading (principal stress directions remain constant throughout loading cycle),  $F(\delta) = 1$

while

For out-of-phase loading (principal stress directions change during loading cycle),  $F(\delta)$  = function of applied normal and shear stresses and out-of-phase angle, or conservative value of  $1/\sqrt{2}$



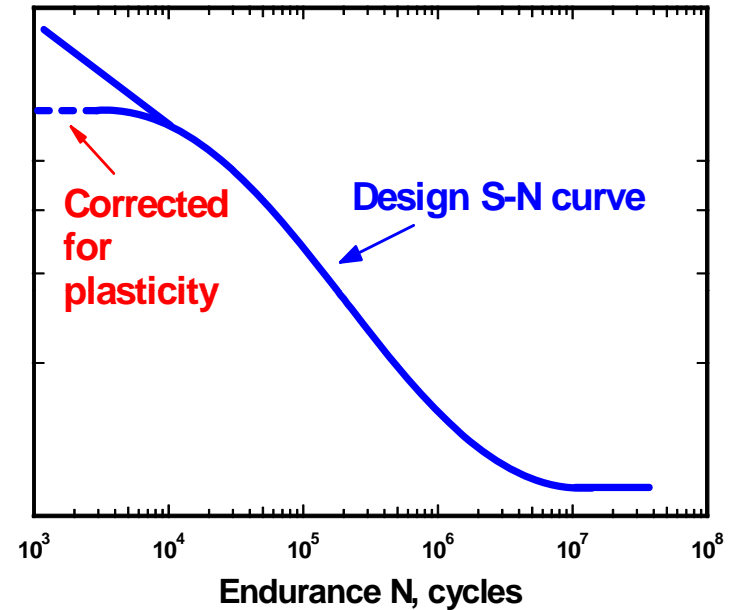
# Elastic-plastic (E-P) conditions

**BS PD 5500 & EN 13445:**

**For stress ranges > twice yield:  
E-P strain obtained directly from analysis and converted to stress**

**or  
Stresses from design S-N curves reduced by factor that depends on load source (mechanical or thermal) and stress range / yield.**

Stress range



**ASME VIII, Div. 2:**

**For every case:**

**E-P strain obtained directly from analysis (Neuber's rule & material's cyclic stress-strain properties) and converted to stress range**



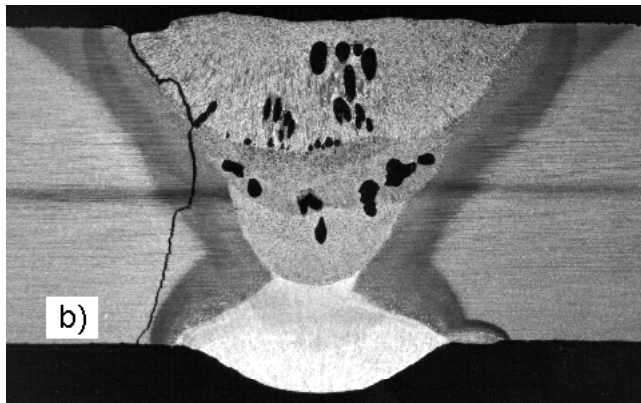
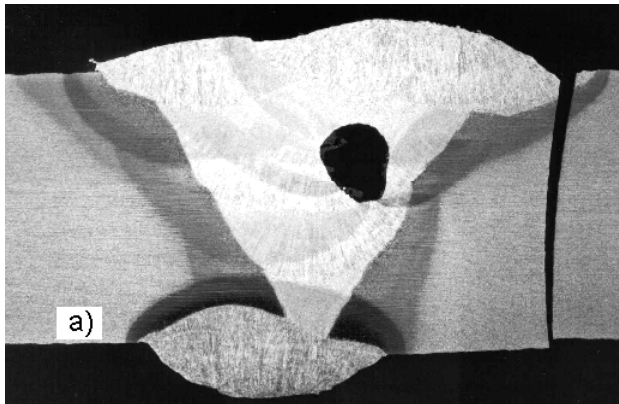
# Fatigue life improvement methods

- BS PD 5500 and EN 13445 allow weld toe grinding and corresponding increase in design classification
- ASME VIII accepts weld toe grinding, TIG dressing or hammer peening. Equivalent structural stress parameter design curves increased accordingly, with greatest benefit in high-cycle regime





## Assessment of welding flaws



Guidance given in BS PD 5500 and EN 13445 on flaw assessment based on fitness-for-purpose:

- Reference to BS 7910
- Specific recommendations on:
  1. Planar flaws not acceptable
  2. Buried flaws - inclusions, porosity;
  3. Deviations from design shape - misalignment, peaking, ovality.

ASME seems to accept planar flaws since equivalent structural stress parameter can be calculated for cracks up to 10% of section thickness



## Fatigue design of pressure vessels - future needs

- Parametric hot-spot SCFs for pressure vessel details
- Elastic-plastic fatigue
- Effect of environment (corrosive, elevated temperature, hydrogen)
- Closer link between design and fabrication quality
- Experimental methods for design (draft for EN 13445 now available)



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**Thank you for your attention**





## Agenda

- **Introduction and Relevant CCOPPS Activity**  
*Jim Wood*
- **Fatigue of Welded Pressure Vessels**  
*Steve Maddox*
- **Q&A Session**  
*Steve Maddox & Jim Wood*
- **Closing Remarks**  
*Jim Wood*



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