

Connection Design Using Advanced FEA

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CHARLOTTE,
N.C.

 **NASCC:**
THE STEEL CONFERENCE

APRIL 12-14,
2023

Connection Design Using Advanced FEA

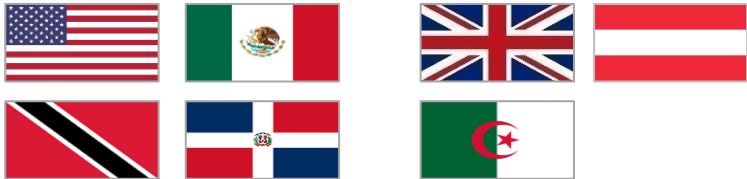
PDH CODE: 19142

 **NASCC:**
THE STEEL CONFERENCE

Who We Are



www.emasa.eu

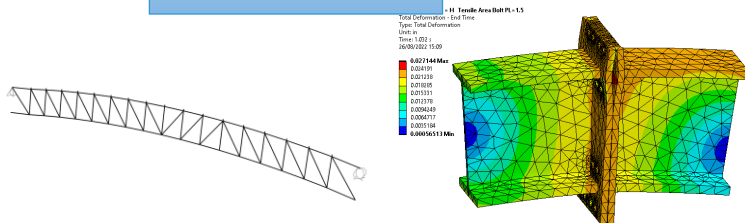


MEYER | BORGMAN | JOHNSON
STRUCTURAL DESIGN + ENGINEERING



Presentation Outline – FEA for Connections

BOTH FEA



FEA used for
Connection Design

PRESENTATION
OUTLINE

- Applicability of FEA
- Modelling Strategies and Non-Linearities
- Understanding Results
- Capacity checks
- Comparison Examples
- Questions

Learning Outcome

Identify **when FEA is applicable**, understand the **setup of the basic parameters** and **capture results** to perform a FE design of a connection.

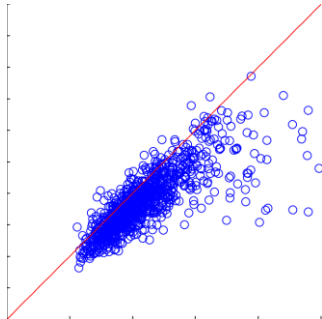


Situations where FEA is NOT Efficiently applicable

REPETITION



15min



ANALYTICAL
ROUTE EXISTS

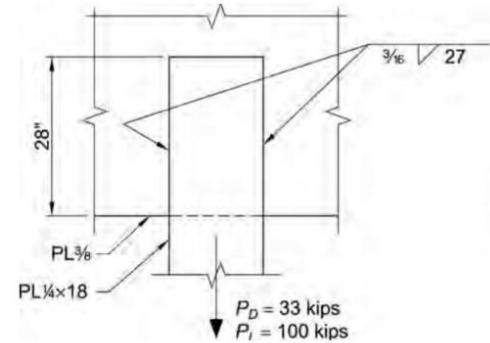


Fig. J.1-1. Geometry and loading for Example J.1.

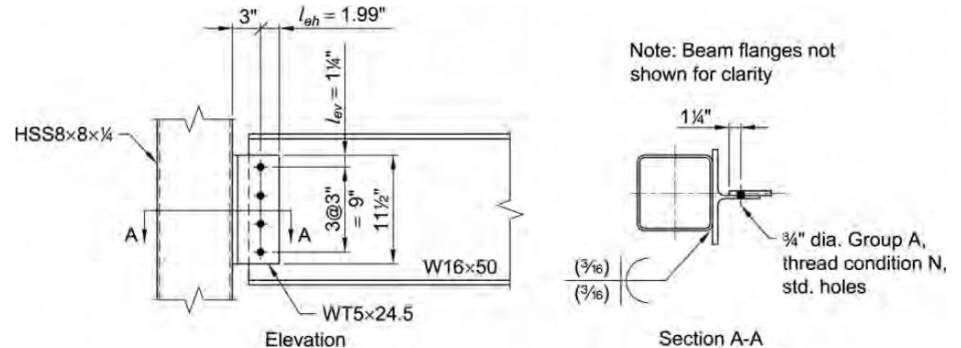
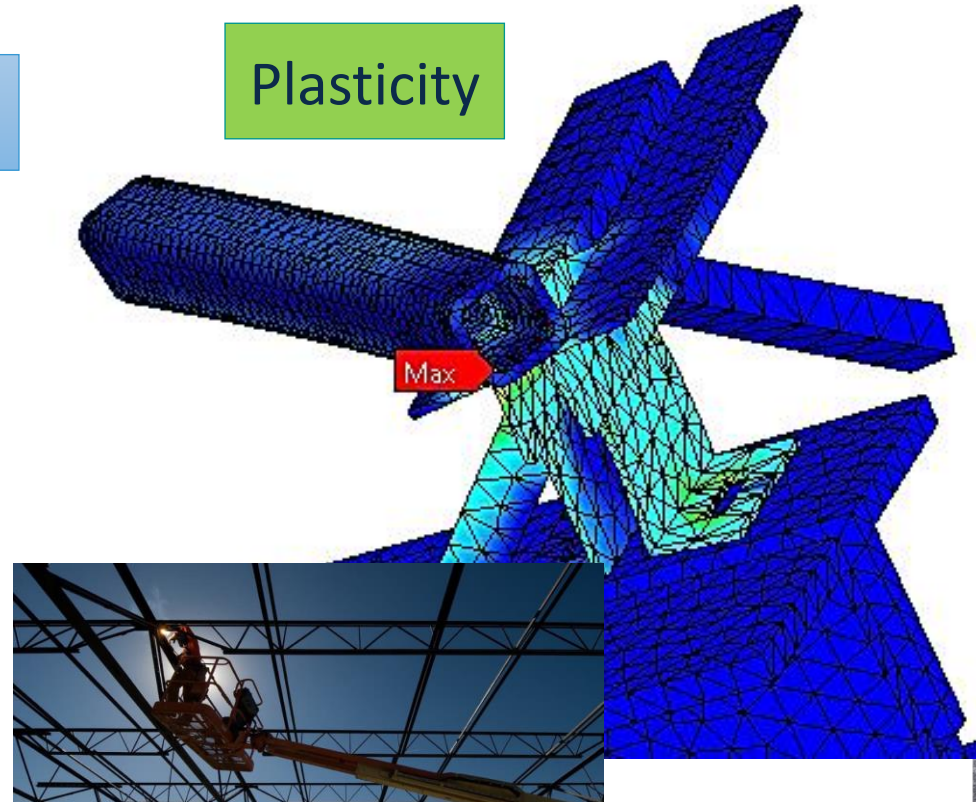
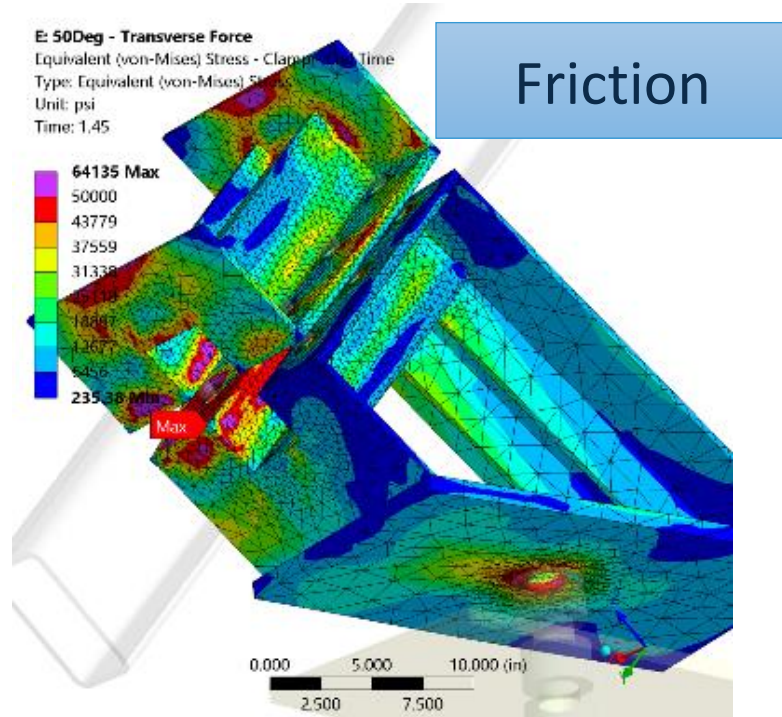
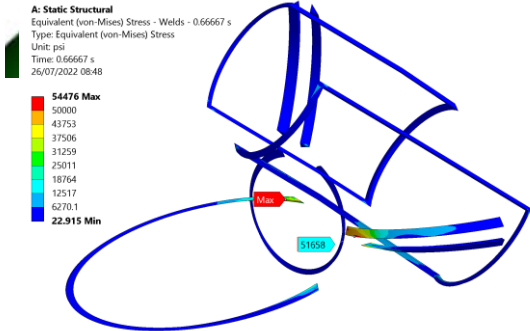
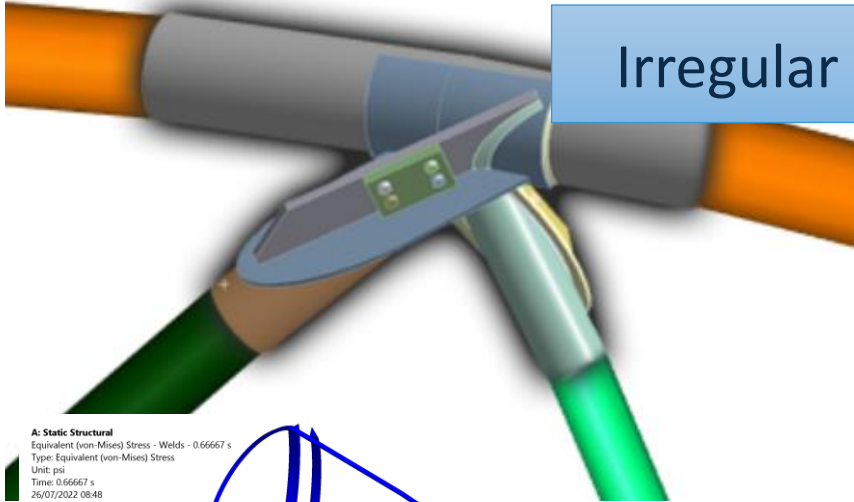


Fig K.1-1. Connection geometry for Example K.1.

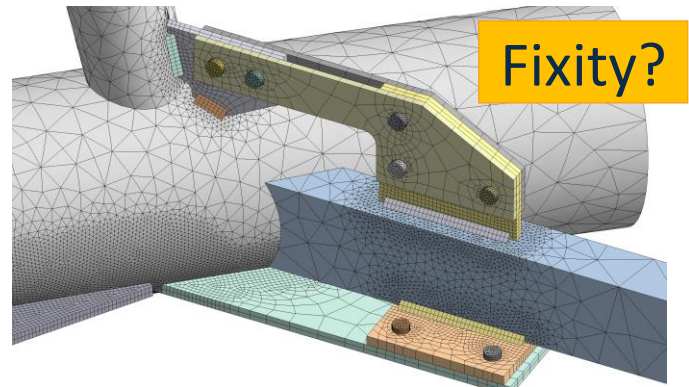
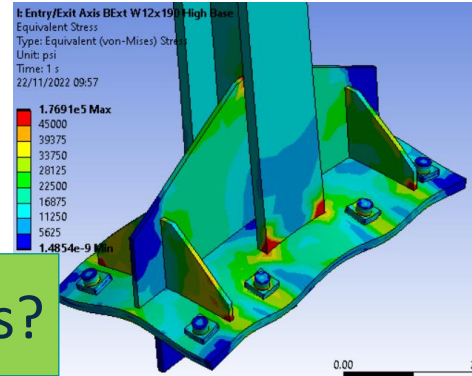
Situations where FEA is applicable – Non Linearities



Situations where FEA is applicable – Irregularities

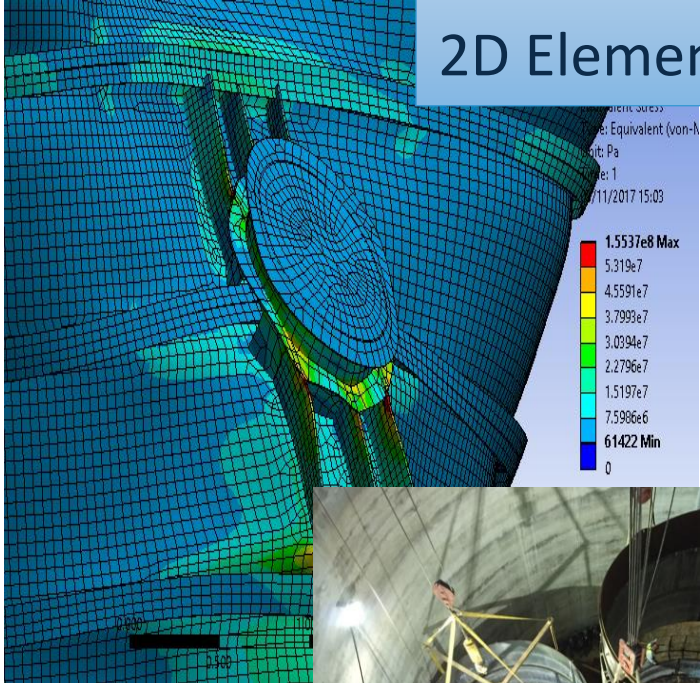


Stiffness?

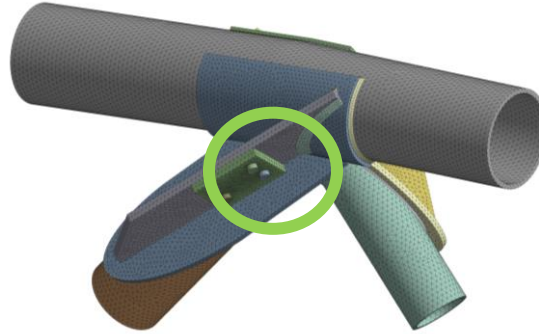
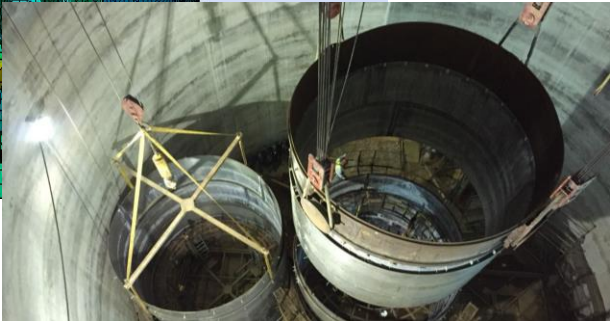


Modelling Strategies Planar Elements or Volumes?

2D Elements

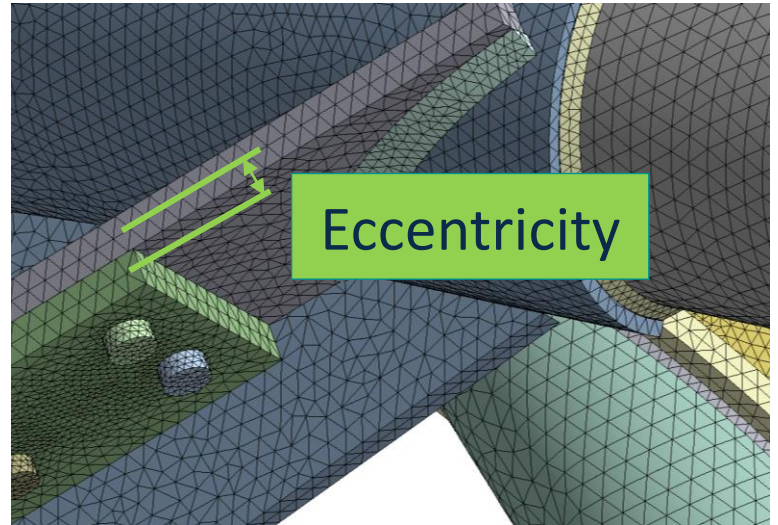


Large D/t



3D Elements

Well Behaved



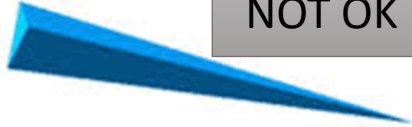
Eccentricity

Modelling Strategies

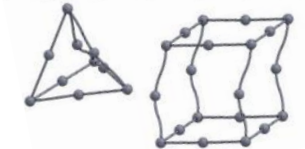
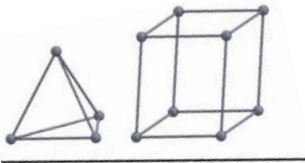
ASPECT RATIO



OK

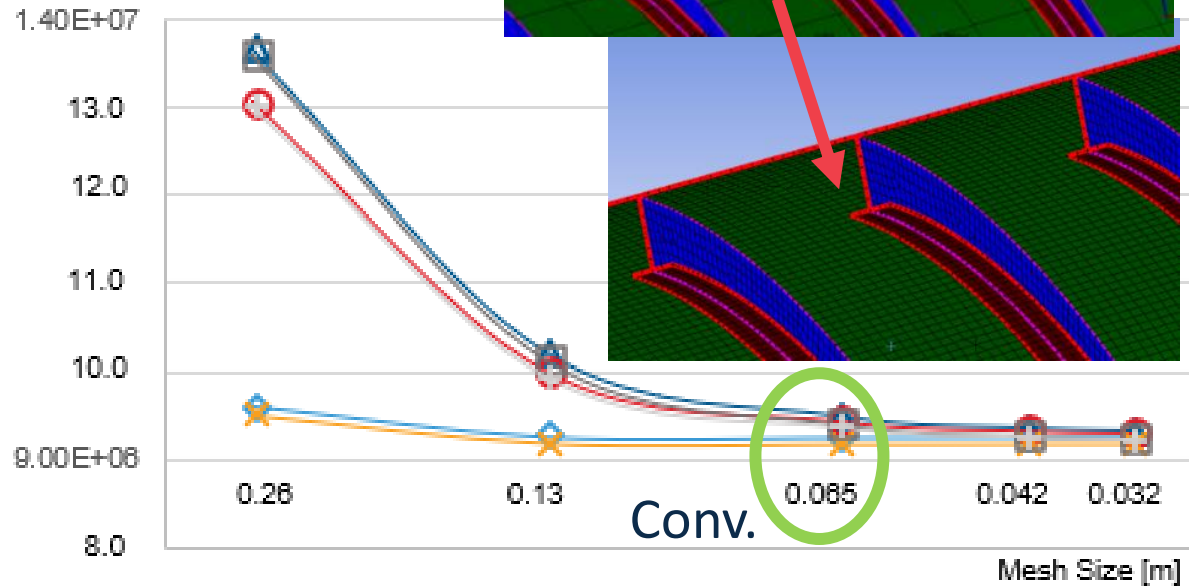


NOT OK



ORDER?

MESH REFINEMENT STUDY



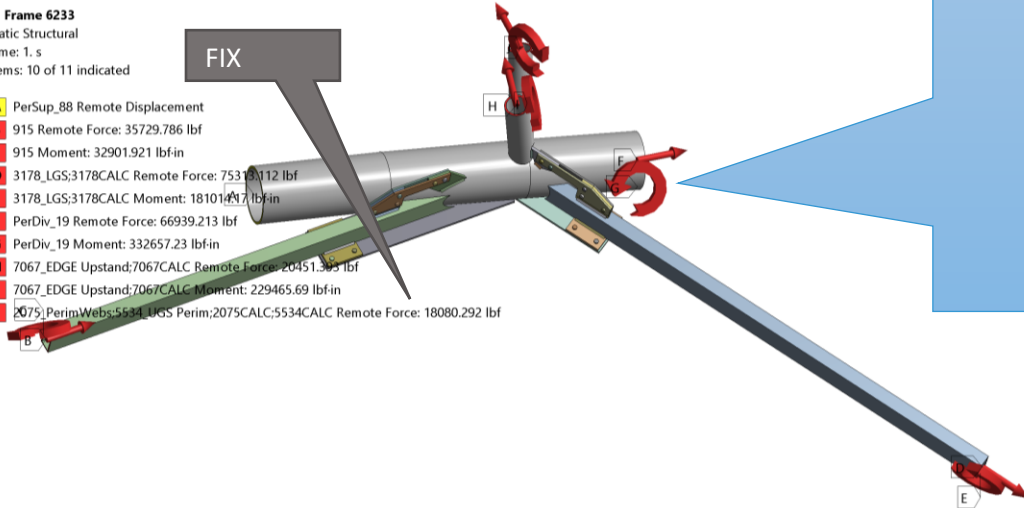
Modelling Strategies - Loading

STRESS RESULTANTS =
FORCE CONTROLLED

DISPLACEMENTS =
DISPLACEMENT
CONTROLLED

A: Frame 6233
Static Structural
Time: 1. s
Items: 10 of 11 indicated

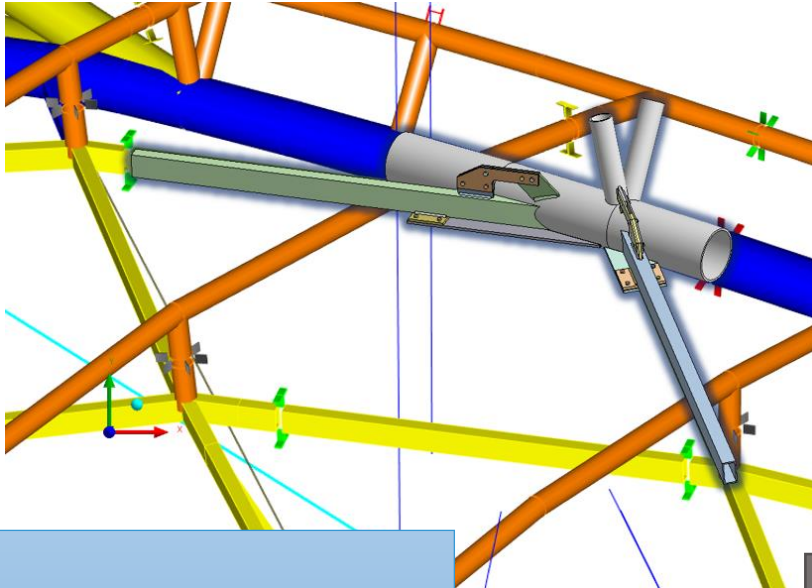
- A PerSup_B8 Remote Displacement
- B 915 Remote Force: 35729.786 lbf
- C 915 Moment: 32901.921 lbf-in
- D 3178_LGS;3178CALC Remote Force: 75318.112 lbf
- E 3178_LGS;3178CALC Moment: 181014.17 lbf-in
- F PerDiv_19 Remote Force: 66939.213 lbf
- G PerDiv_19 Moment: 332657.23 lbf-in
- H 7067_EDGE Upstand;7067CALC Remote Force: 20451.363 lbf
- I 7067_EDGE Upstand;7067CALC Moment: 229465.69 lbf-in
- J 2075|PerimWbs;5534_LGS Perim;2075CALC;5534CALC Remote Force: 18080.292 lbf



SEARCH FOR ULTIMATE CAPACITY IN MOST CASES → FORCE CTRL

INSTABILITIES; HIGH NON-LINEARITIES OR BUCKLING → DISP. CTRL

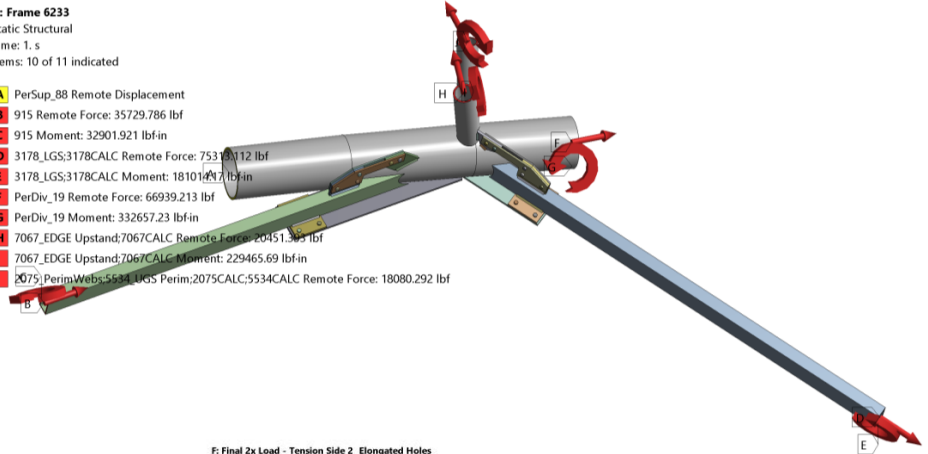
Modelling Strategies - Loading



LOCATION FROM
GLOBAL MODEL

A: Frame 6233
Static Structural
Time: 1. s
Items: 10 of 11 indicated

- A** PerSup_B8 Remote Displacement
- B** 915 Remote Force: 35729.786 lbf
- C** 915 Moment: 32901.921 lbf-in
- D** 3178_LGS:3178CALC Remote Force: 7531.012 lbf
- E** 3178_LGS:3178CALC Moment: 18101.17 lbf-in
- F** PerDiv_19 Remote Force: 66939.213 lbf
- G** PerDiv_19 Moment: 332657.23 lbf-in
- H** 7067_EDGE Upstand:7067CALC Remote Force: 20451.363 lbf
- I** 7067_EDGE Upstand:7067CALC Moment: 229465.69 lbf-in
- J** 2075_PerimWebs:5534_LGS Perim:2075CALC:5534CALC Remote Force: 18080.292 lbf



F: Final 2x Load - Tension Side 2 Elongated Holes
Total Deformation
Type: Total Deformation
Unit: in
Time: 1.55
23/07/2021 16:41



Applied Load or
Displacement

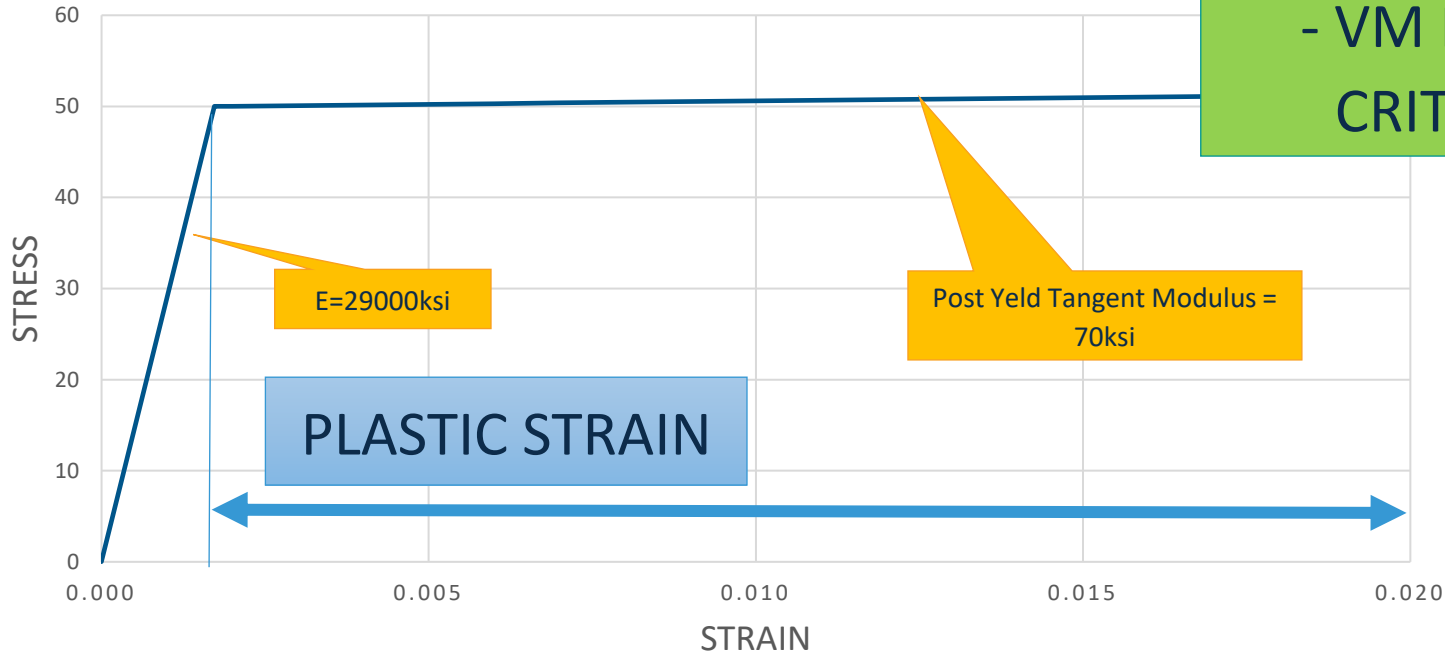
FULLY RESTRAINED
NODE

ISOLATED
CONNECTION



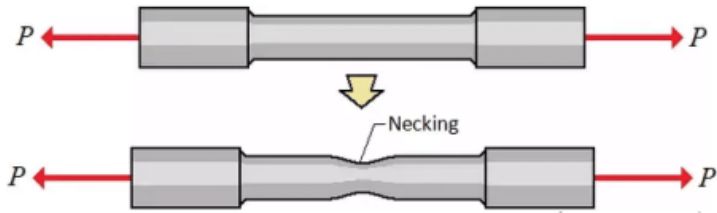
Non-linearities - Material

MATERIAL CURVE - A572-GR50



- BILINEAR CURVE
- VM FAILURE
CRITERION

Non-linearities – Advanced Material



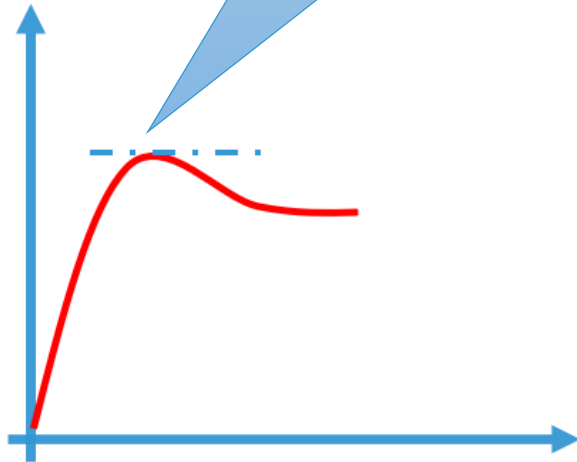
“TRUE” MATERIAL
CURVE – ASME - MPC

CURVE FOR
SMOOTH BAR:
-NECKING FREE
-RESIDUAL
STRESSES?
-EXTERNAL
RESTRAINS?



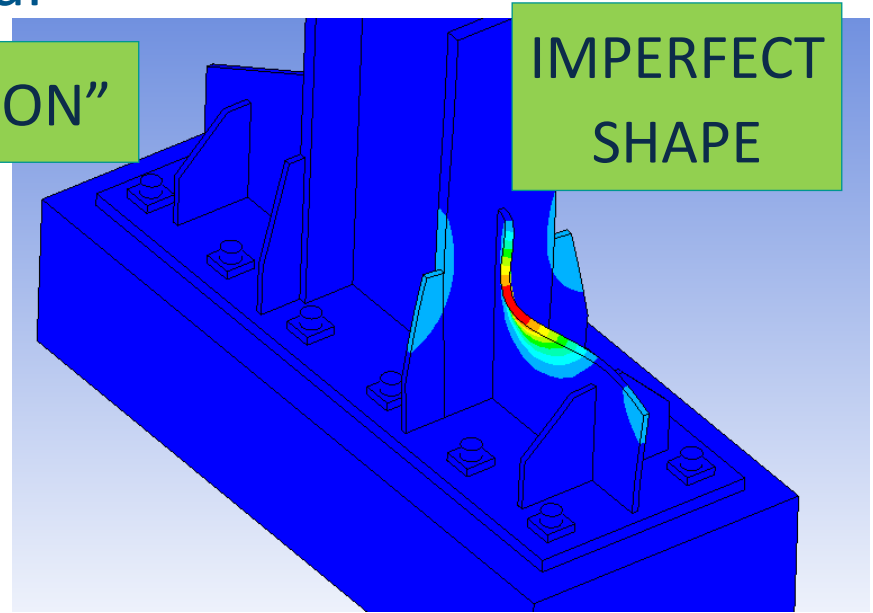
Non-linearities - Geometrical

ZERO STIFFNESS
= BUCKLING



LD-"ON"

IMPERFECT
SHAPE

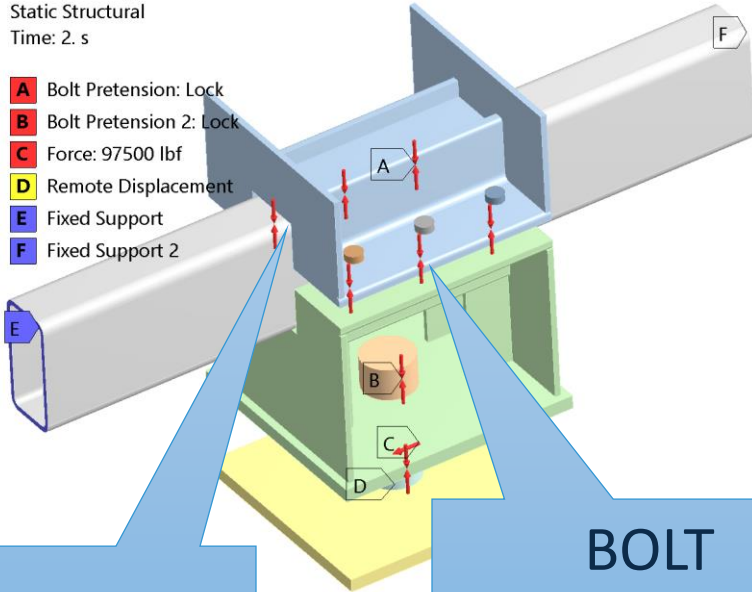


DISPLACEMENT
CONTROLLED ANALYSIS

Non-linearities - Contact

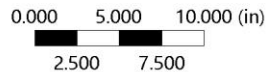
F: 0Deg - Aligned Force
 Static Structural
 Time: 2. s

- A** Bolt Pretension: Lock
- B** Bolt Pretension 2: Lock
- C** Force: 97500 lbf
- D** Remote Displacement
- E** Fixed Support
- F** Fixed Support 2



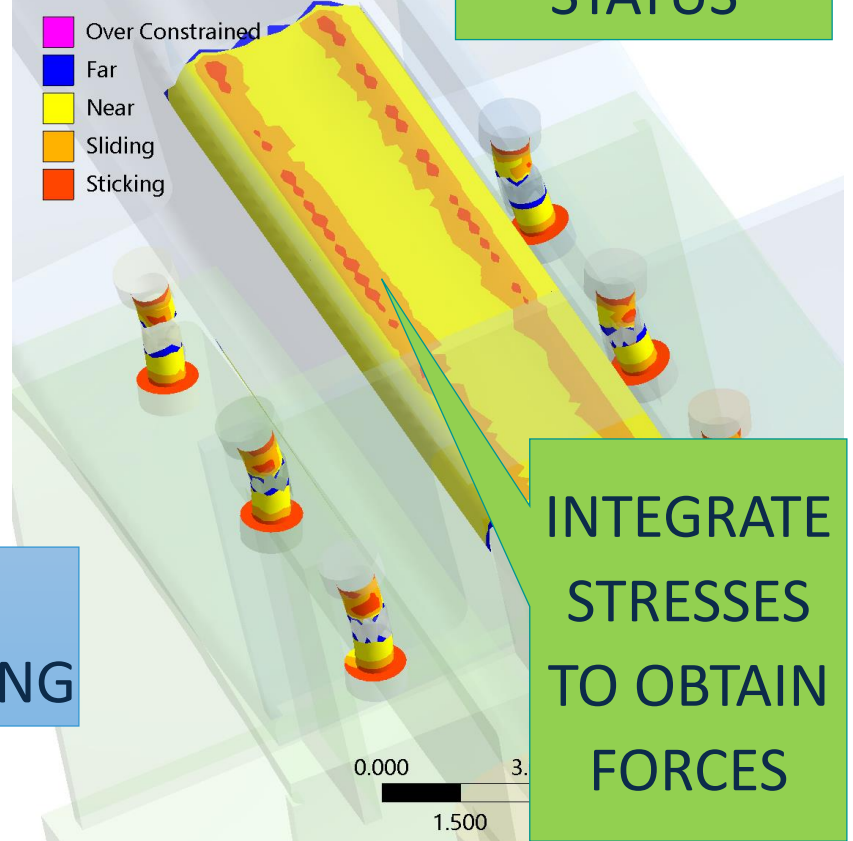
FRICITION

BOLT
 PRETENSIONING



F: 0Deg - Aligned Force
 Status
 Type: Status
 Time: 1.65

- Over Constrained
- Far
- Near
- Sliding
- Sticking

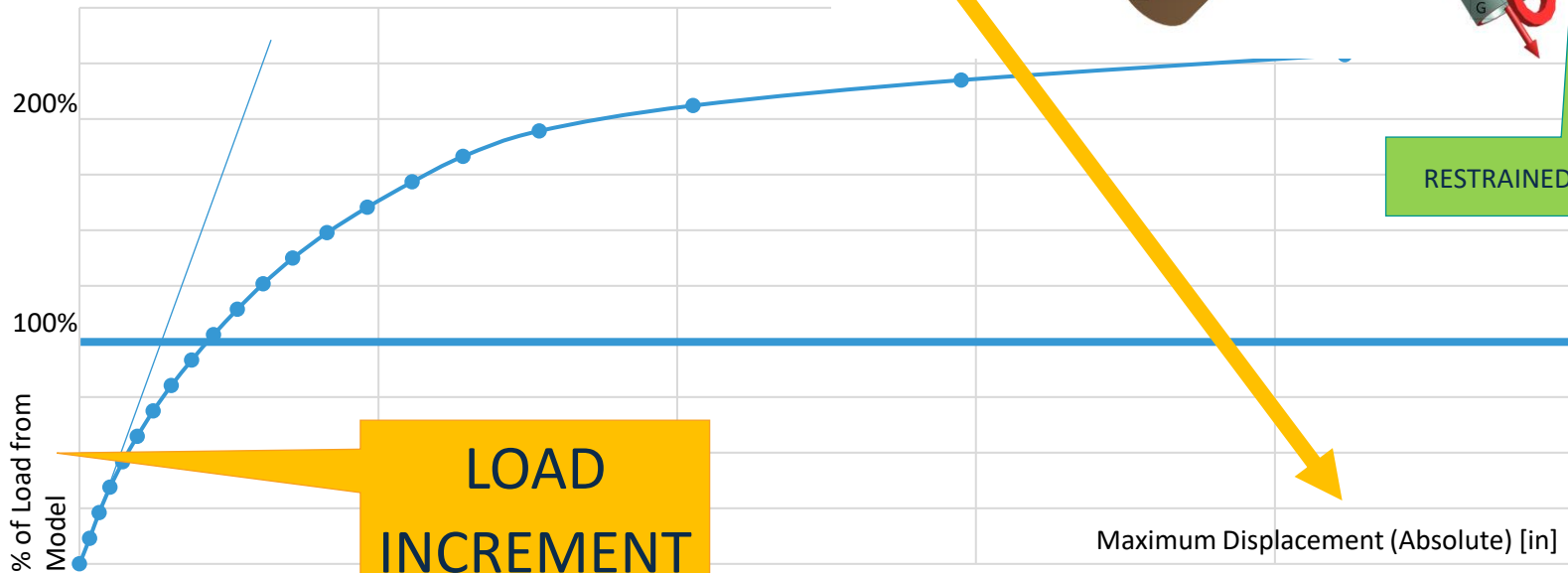


CONTACT
 STATUS

INTEGRATE
 STRESSES
 TO OBTAIN
 FORCES

Understanding the Results

CHARACTERISTIC LOAD-DISPLACEMENT PLOT



A: Static Structural

Load Case
Time: 1. s
Items: 10 of 15 indicated
25/07/2022 19:13

A Acceleration: 694.96 m/s²

D Joint: 27348 Remote Force: 6644.1 lbf

E Joint: 27348 Moment: 2.9876e+005 lbf-in

F Joint: 27963 Remote Force: 15866 lbf

G Joint: 27963 Moment: 1.2888e+005 lbf-in

H Joint: 22633 Remote Force: 1373. lbf

I Joint: 27582 Remote Force: 2656.2 lbf

J Joint: 27582 Moment: 2656.2 lbf-in

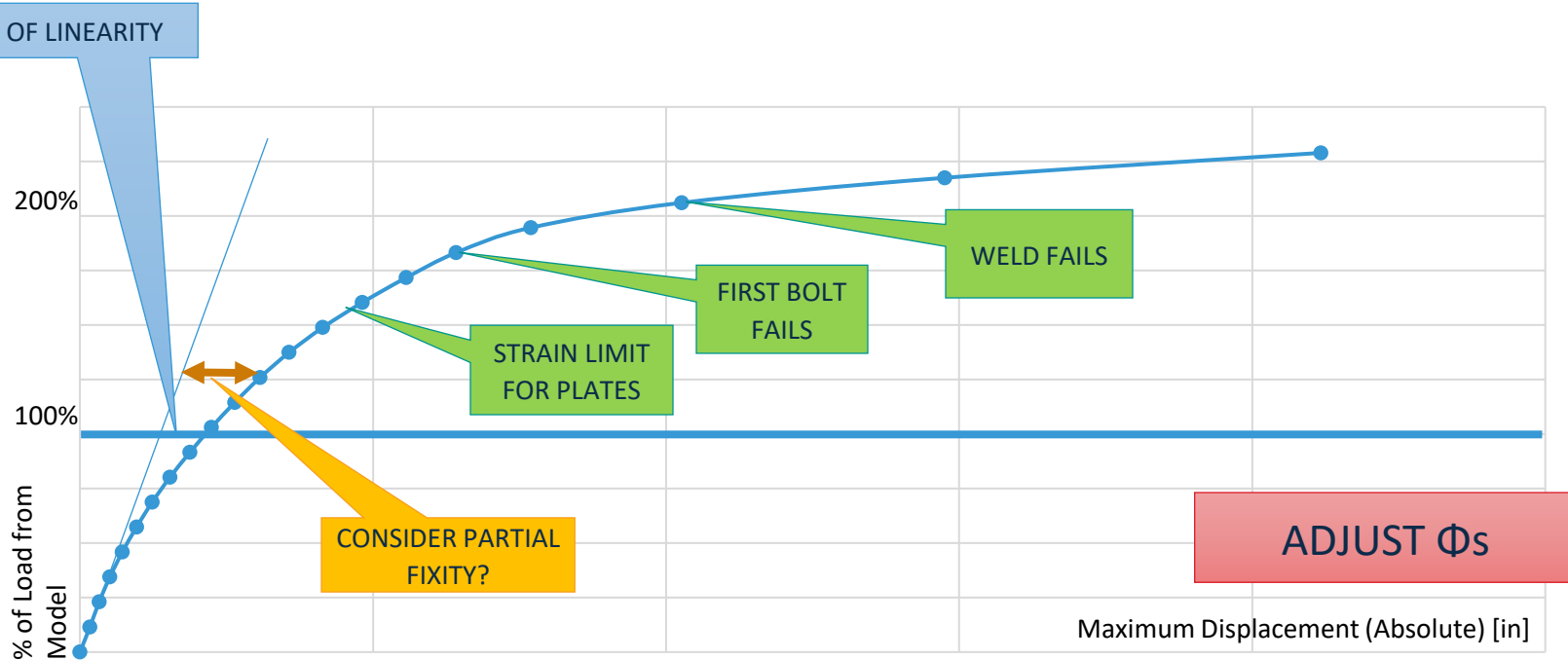
FORCES FROM MODEL

MAX DISP.

RESTRAINED NODE

Understanding the Results

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:



Connection Design Using Advanced FEA

Rafael Macedo, MSc

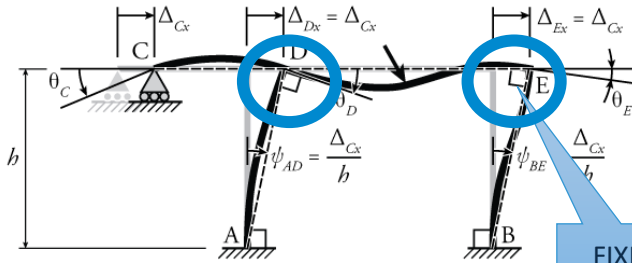
Luiz Macedo, MSc, CEng

CHARLOTTE,
N.C.

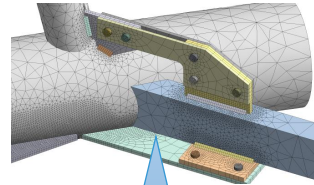
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Deriving stiffness –Between Fix and Pin



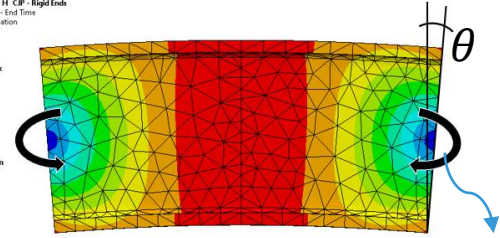
FIXED?



FREE TORSION?

MEMBER STIFFNESS

E-Frame Length = 11' 10" - Rigid Ends
 Total Deformation - End Time
 Type: Total Deformation
 Unit: in
 Time: 2.38e-002 s
 26/09/2022 15:18

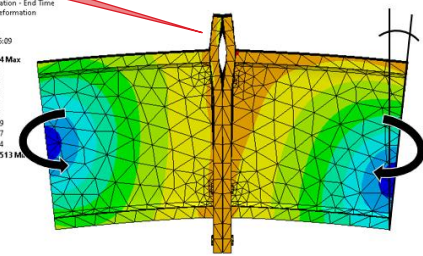


M_{FRAME}

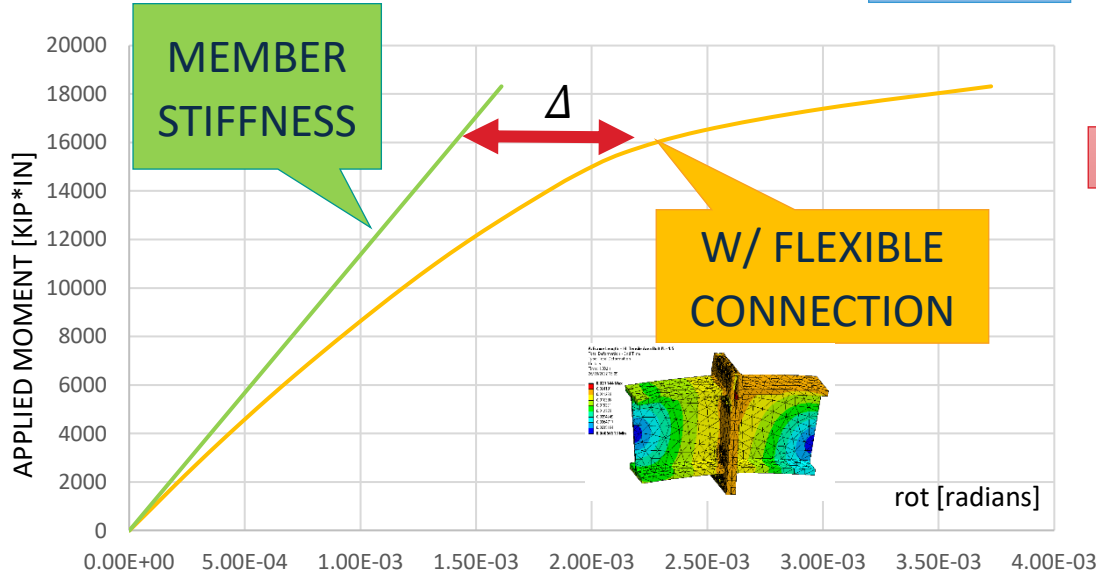
MEMBER+CONN STIFFNESS

PRETENSION

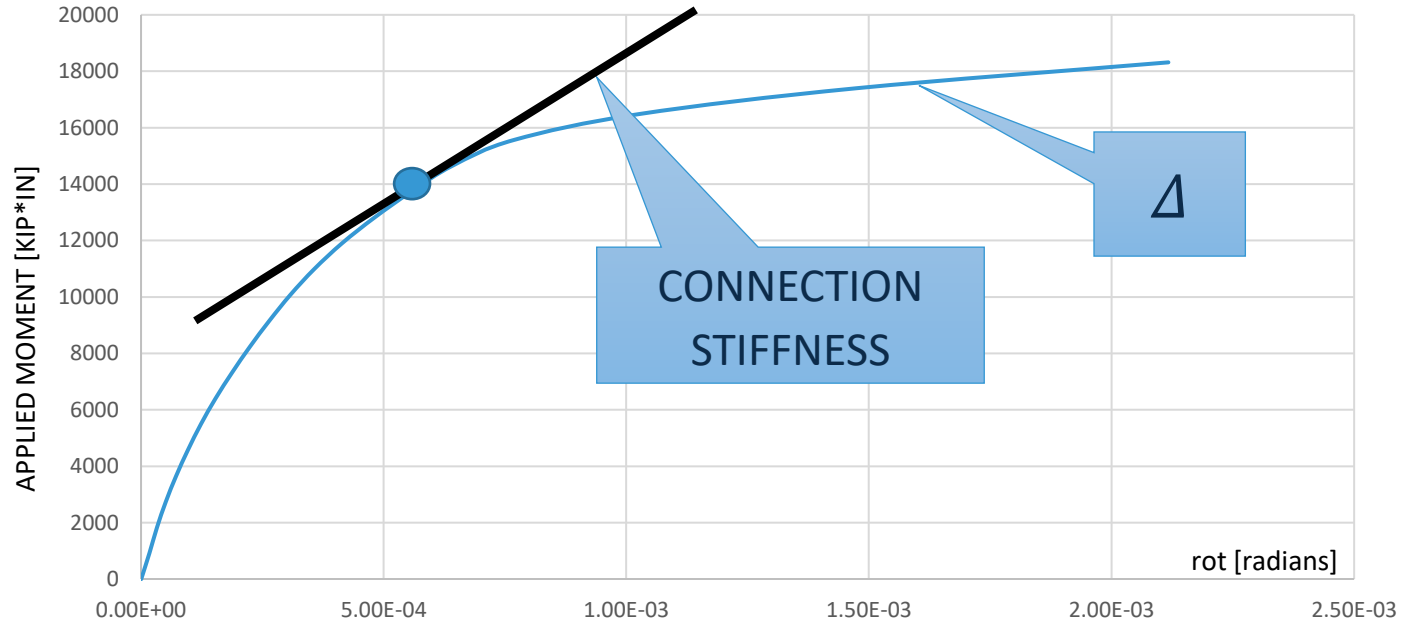
A: Frame Length = 11' 10" - Bolt PL-1.5
 Total Deformation - End Time
 Type: Total Deformation
 Unit: in
 Time: 1.022 s
 26/09/2022 15:09



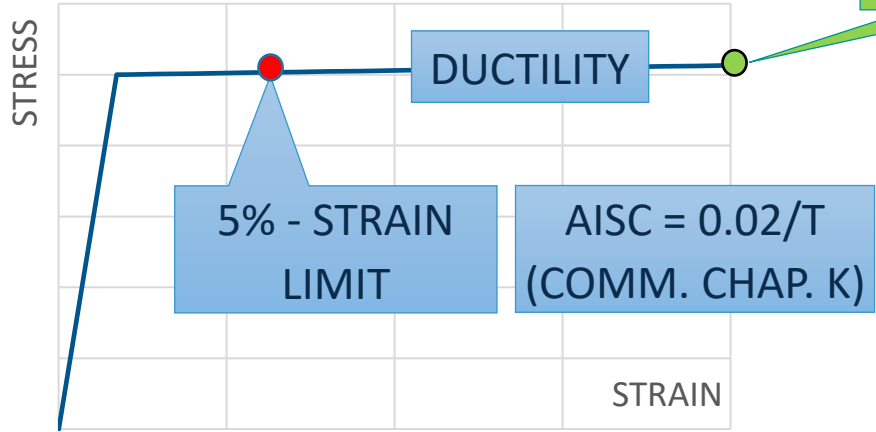
$M_{ENDPLATE+FRAME}$



Deriving stiffness –Between Fix and Pin

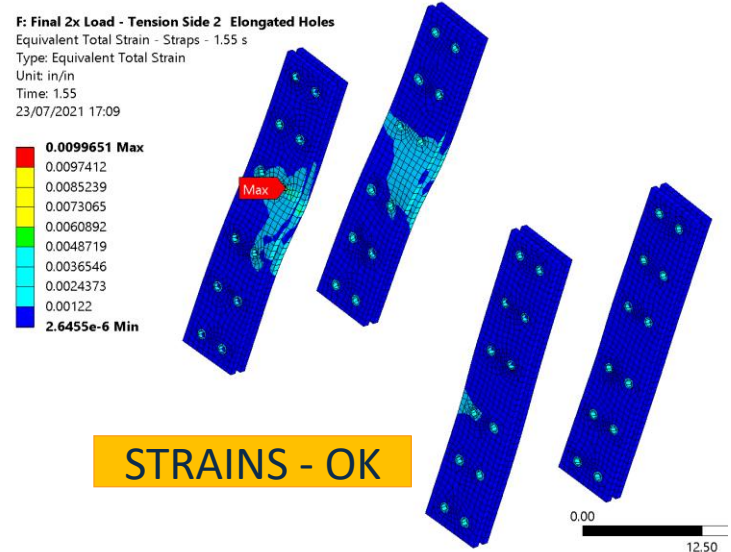
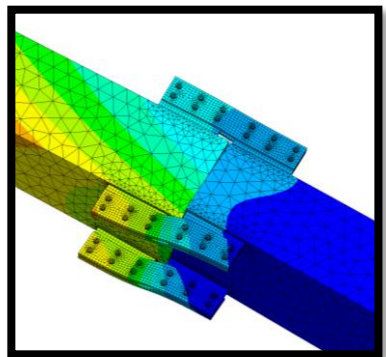
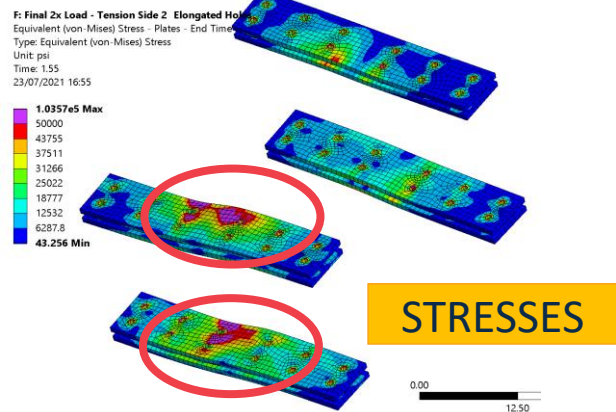


Specific checks for Plates

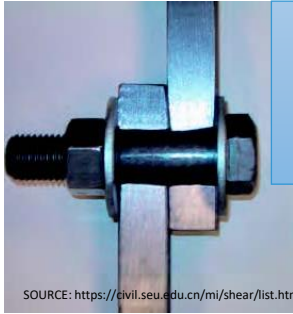


DOES NOT CONSIDER:

- NOTCHES;
- RESIDUAL STRESSES;
- NECKING RESTRAINS



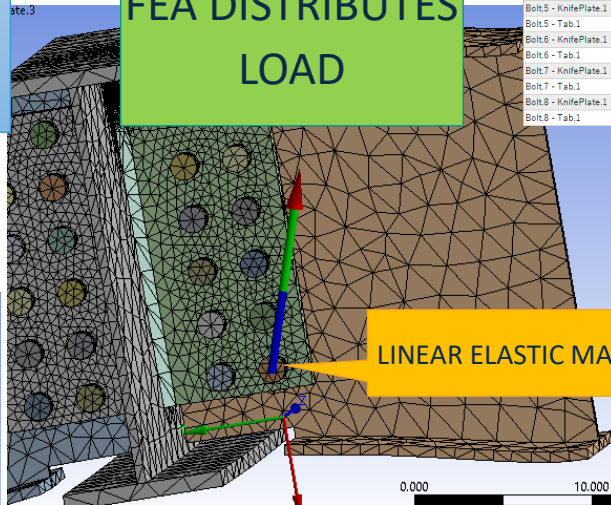
Specific checks for bolts



CODE
CAPACITY
FROM TESTS

SOURCE: <https://civil.seu.edu.cn/mi/shear/list.htm>

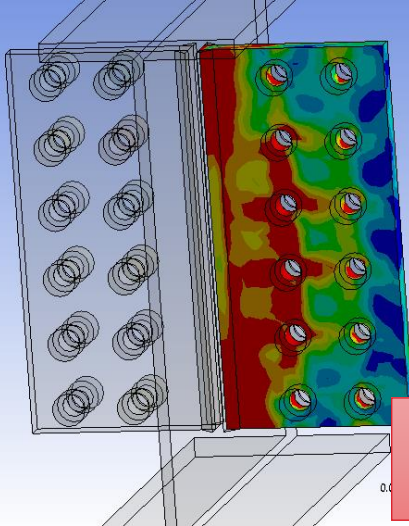
FEA DISTRIBUTES
LOAD



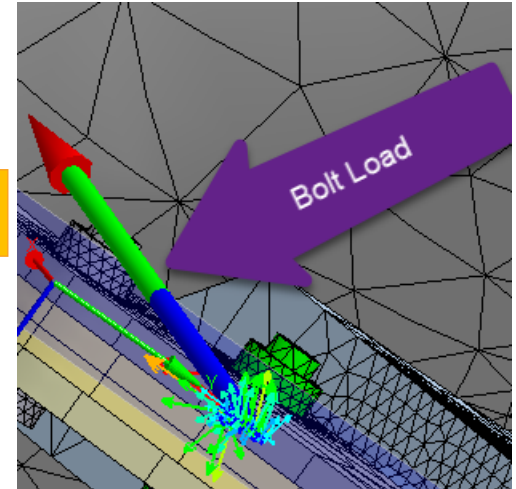
LINEAR ELASTIC MATERIAL

CHECKS USING
SPREADSHEETS

Bolt - Cut Plane	Data From Solid FEA				Acting		Slip Critical Design						
	X Axis	Y Axis	Z Axis		Shear [lb]	Tension [lb]	Hole Type	Phi Factor	Surface Class	Mi	Pretension [lb]	Design Slip Resistance [lb]	Check Slip
Bolt1 - Tab.2	-3395.97	10581.2	-1686	11113	1686		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11113	1.000
Bolt1 - KnifePlate.2	3390.13	-10586	-1698	11116	1698		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11109	0.901
Bolt2 - Tab.2	-3985.47	1843.49	-757.6	4391	758		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt2 - KnifePlate.2	3985.03	-1848.4	-765.2	4393	765		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384
Bolt3 - Tab.2	-4447.89	3007.58	-10265	5369	10265		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	10320	0.637
Bolt3 - KnifePlate.2	4449.98	-2991.7	-10275	5362	10275		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	10320	0.637
Bolt4 - Tab.2	-1905.5	-6023.1	-10585	6317	10585		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt4 - KnifePlate.2	1913.49	6055.5	-10630	6351	10630		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384
Bolt5 - KnifePlate.1	-62.6562	-202.96	0	212	0		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt5 - Tab.1	62.2874	202.685	-0.106	212	0		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384
Bolt6 - KnifePlate.1	-796.233	-330.78	-774.8	862	775		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt6 - Tab.1	795.871	329.921	-773.8	861	774		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384
Bolt7 - KnifePlate.1	-604.354	-65.483	-746.2	608	746		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt7 - Tab.1	604.64	65.459	-745.6	608	746		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384
Bolt8 - KnifePlate.1	405.371	579.053	-241.3	707	241		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11457	0.383
Bolt8 - Tab.1	-405.843	-578.46	-242.6	707	243		Long-slotted //	0.7	Class B	0.5	28000	11455	0.384



OTHER EFFECTS
→ PLATE CHECKS

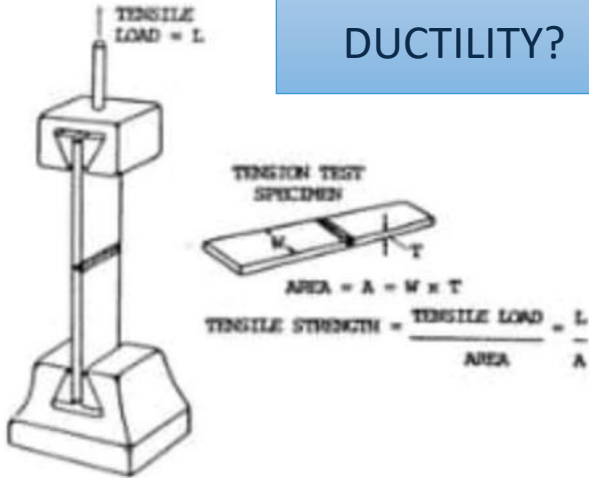


INTERGRATION OF STRESS AT
THE CONTACT SURFACE

Specific checks for welds

CAPACITY FROM TESTS

DUCTILITY?

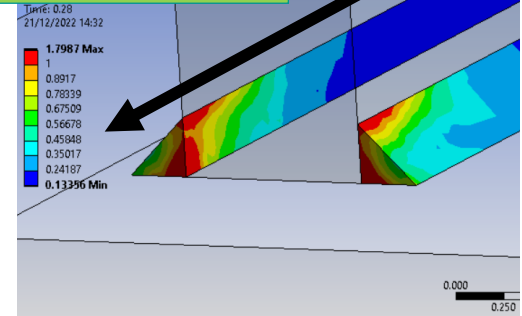


4 FEA DESIGN APPROACHES FOR STATIC LOADING

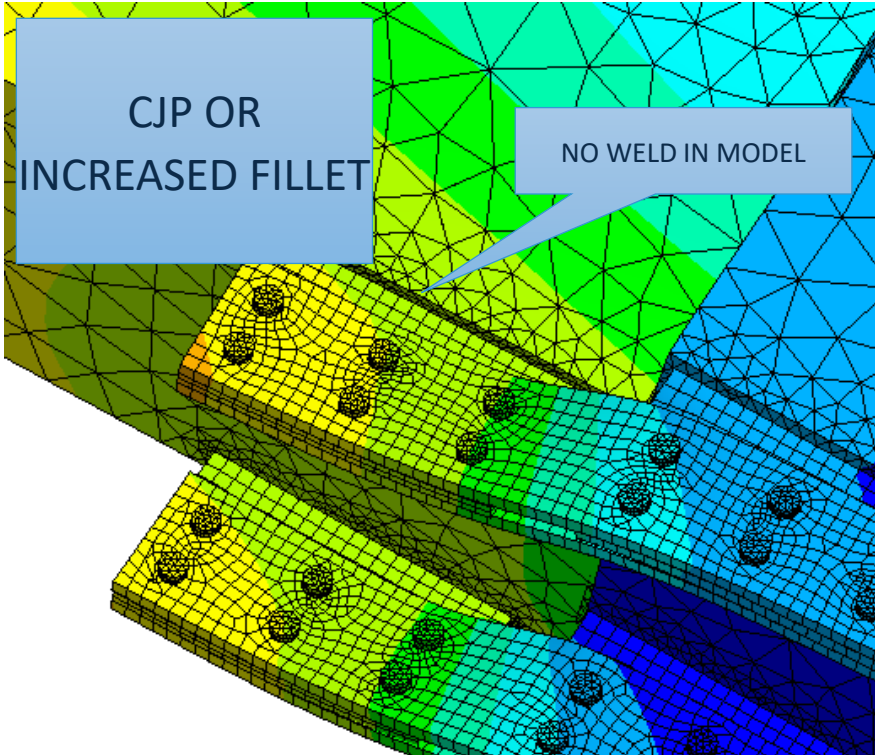
NOT ACADEMICAL OR FATIGUE AND FRACTURE CHECK

OBJECTIVE: PRACTICAL CRITERION FOR FEA

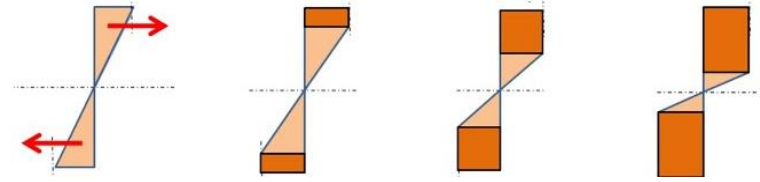
CONTINUOUS



Specific checks for welds

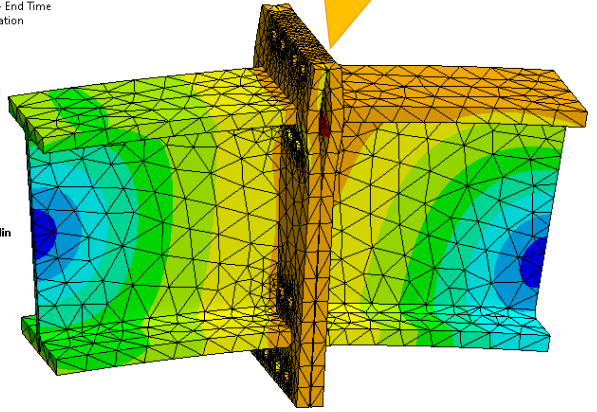
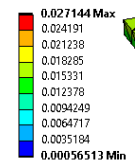


WE DESIGN FOR BENDING USING "Z"

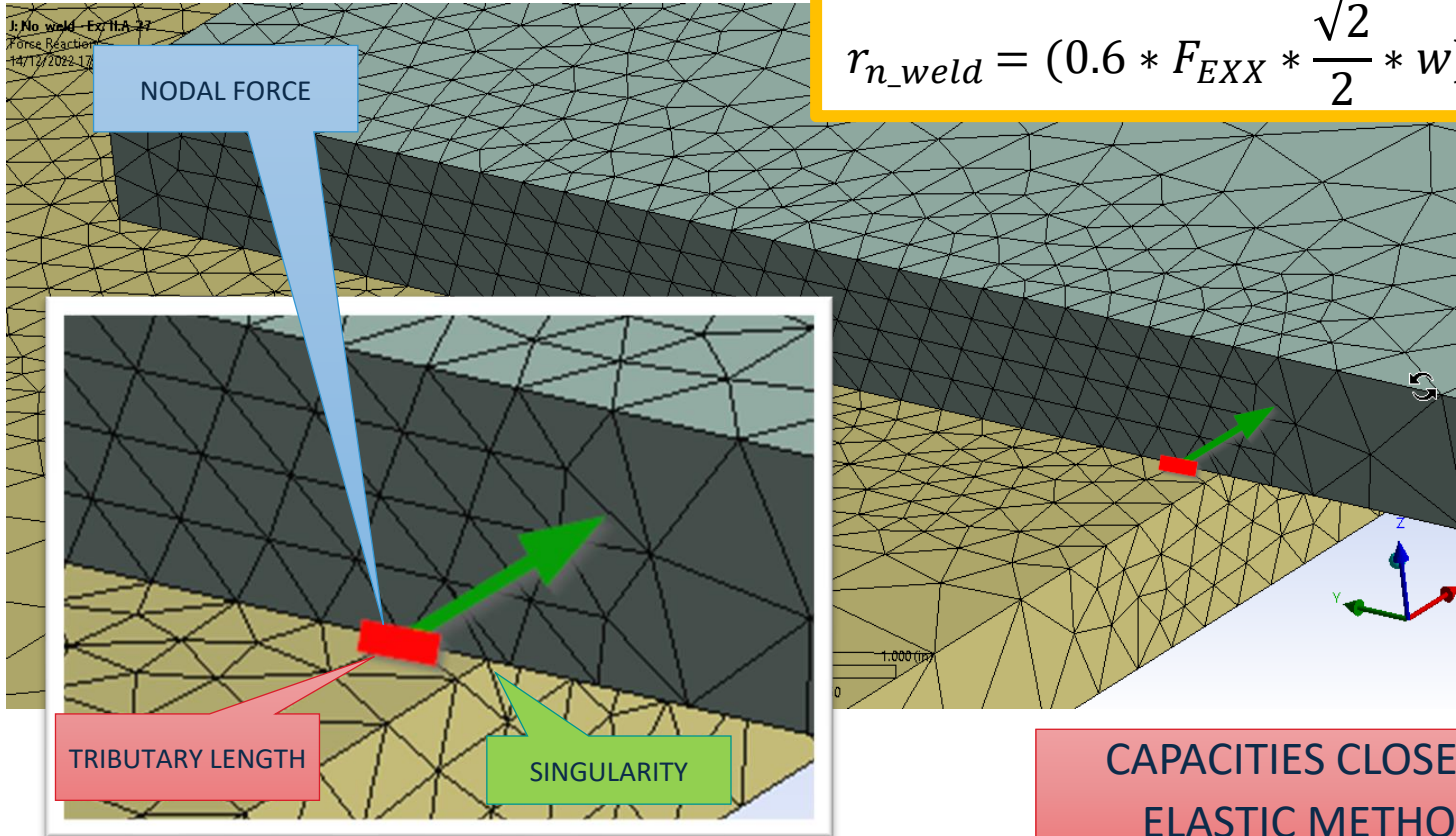


UNREASONABLY LARGE

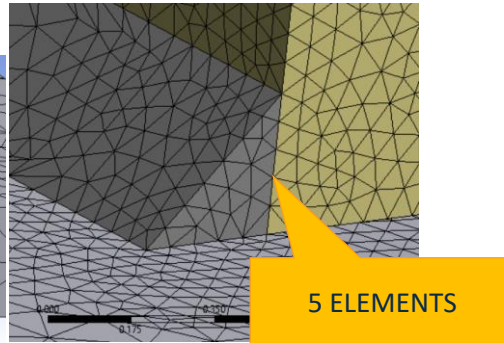
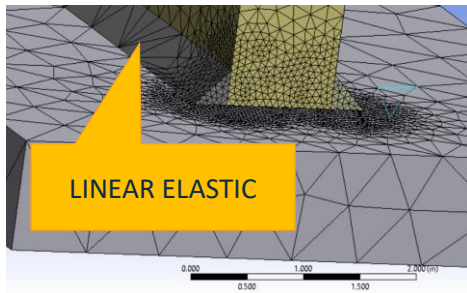
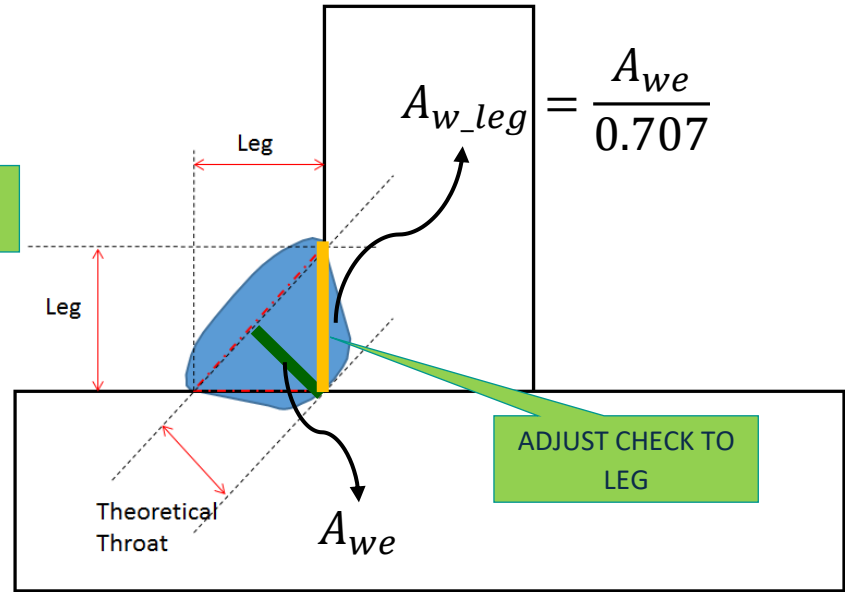
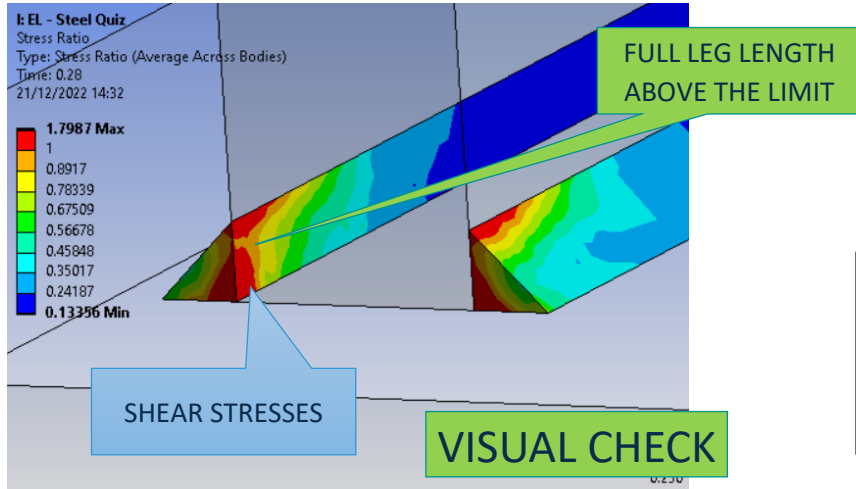
A: Frame Length = H Tensile Area Bolt PL = 1.5
Total Deformation - End Time
Type: Total Deformation
Unit: in
Time: 1.032 s
26/08/2022 15:09



Specific checks for welds



Specific checks for welds



FOR FILLET WELDS

$$\tau_{n_w_leg} = 0.707 * 0.6 * F_{EXX}$$

CAPACITIES CLOSE TO ELASTIC METHOD

Specific checks for welds - Ductility

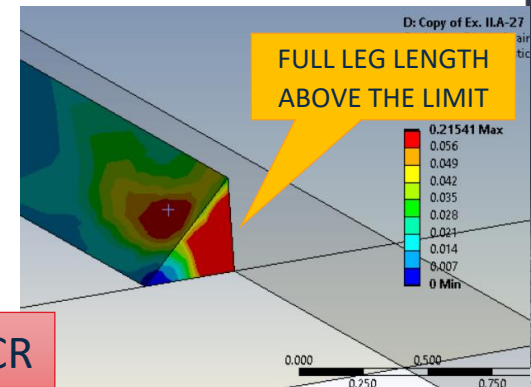
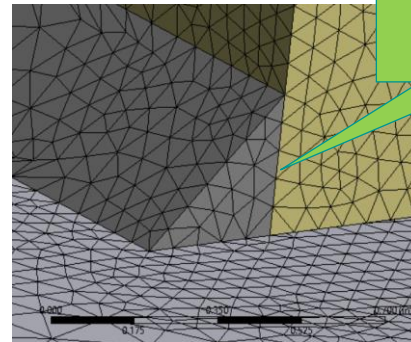
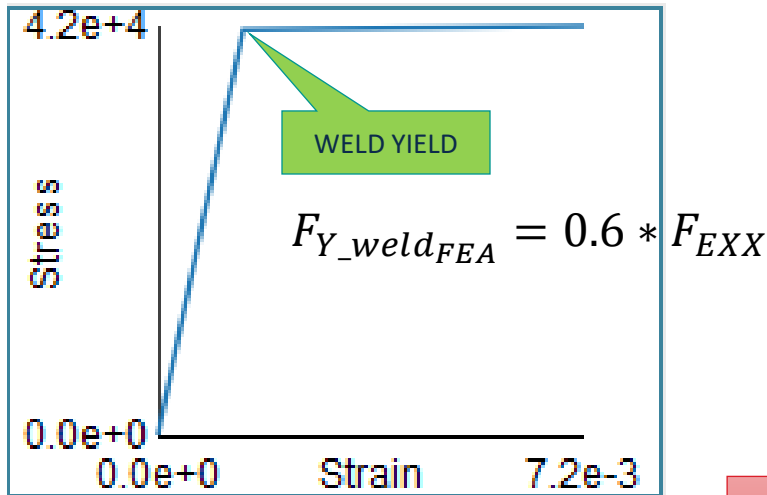
$$\Delta_{ui} = 1.087(\theta_i + 6)^{-0.65} w \leq 0.17w, \text{ in.} \quad (8-4)$$

= deformation of the i th weld element at ultimate stress (rupture), in.

FROM ICR

STRAIN LIMIT

$$\frac{\Delta_{ui_min}}{w} = \text{minimum rupture strain} = 1.087(90^\circ + 6)^{-0.65} = \mathbf{0.056}$$



CAPACITIES CLOSE TO ICR

Specific checks for welds - Comparison

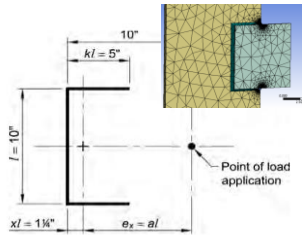


Fig. II.A-26-1. Weld geometry—Solution A ($\theta = 0^\circ$).

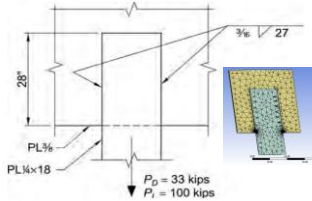
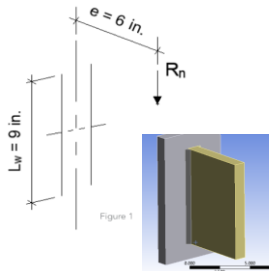
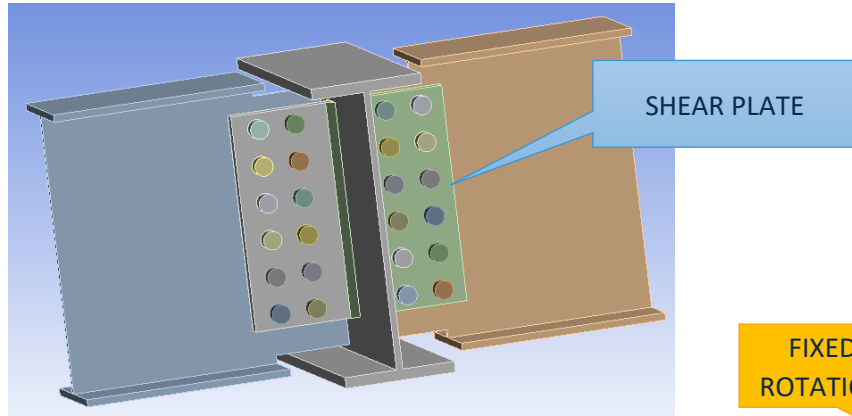


Fig. J.1-1. Geometry and loading for Example J.1.

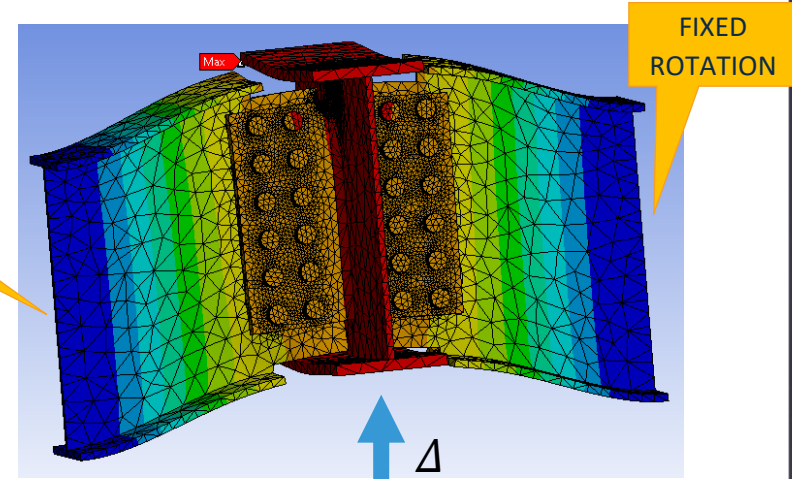


		WELD ϕR_n COMPARISON [kips]							
NUMBER	DESIGN CASE	WELD DUCTILITY CONSIDERED				WELD DUCTILITY NOT CONSIDERED			
		ANALYTICAL		FEA		ANALYTICAL		FEA	
		ϕR_n [kips]	METHOD	ϕR_n [kips]	METHOD	ϕR_n [kips]	METHOD	ϕR_n [kips]	METHOD
1	J1 - Fillet weld in Longitudinal Shear	206	Spec. Eq. J2-2	180	PLASTIC STRAIN LIMIT	--	--	49.5	SHEAR STRESS LIMIT
2	II.A-26 Eccentrically Loaded Weld Group $\vartheta=00$	84.8	ICR	85.5	PLASTIC STRAIN LIMIT	47.2	ELASTIC METHOD	39	SHEAR STRESS LIMIT
3	II.A-26 Eccentrically Loaded Weld Group $\vartheta=75$	155	ICR	164	PLASTIC STRAIN LIMIT	--	--	68.4	SHEAR STRESS LIMIT
4	Steel Quiz	62.1	ICR	57	PLASTIC STRAIN LIMIT	30.4	ELASTIC METHOD	21.8	SHEAR STRESS LIMIT

Comparison to analytical results

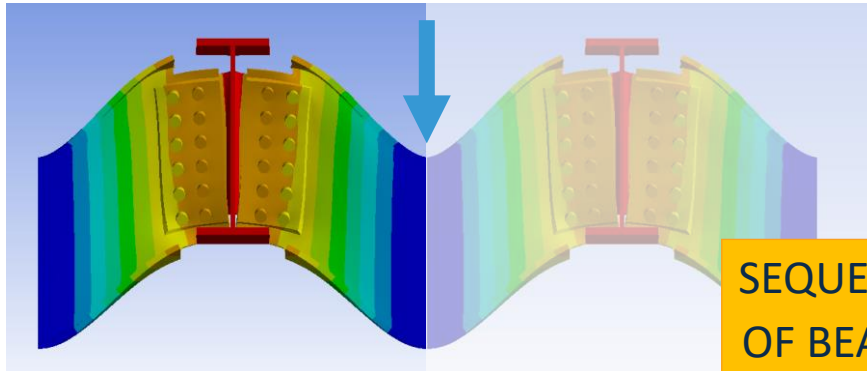


FIXED
ROTATION



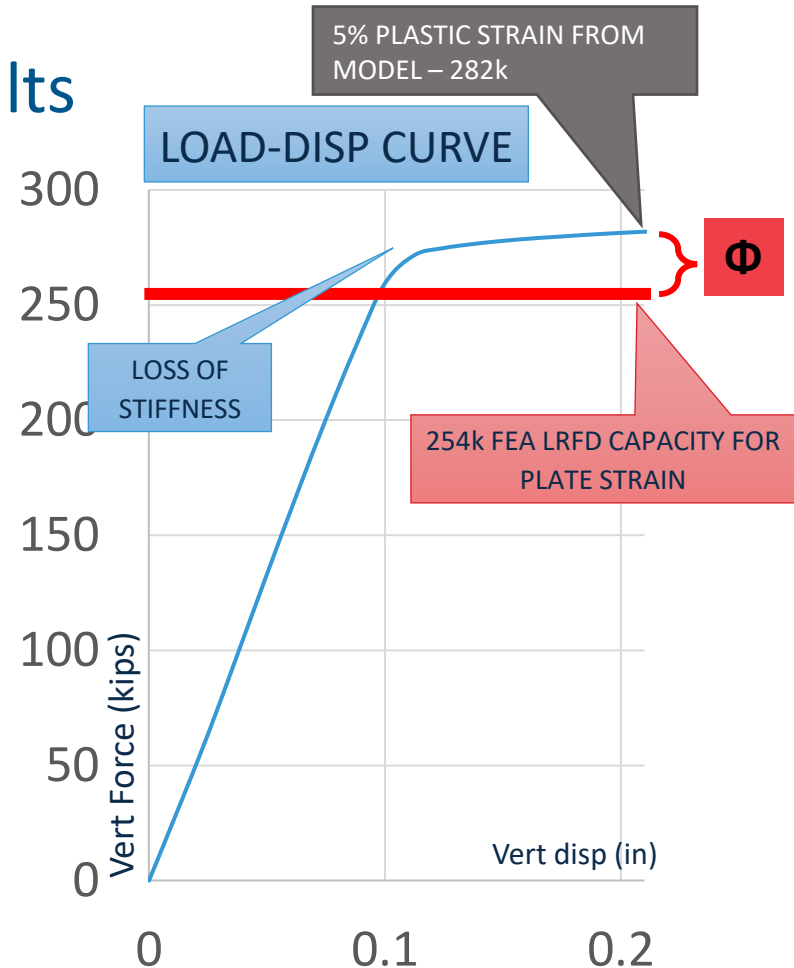
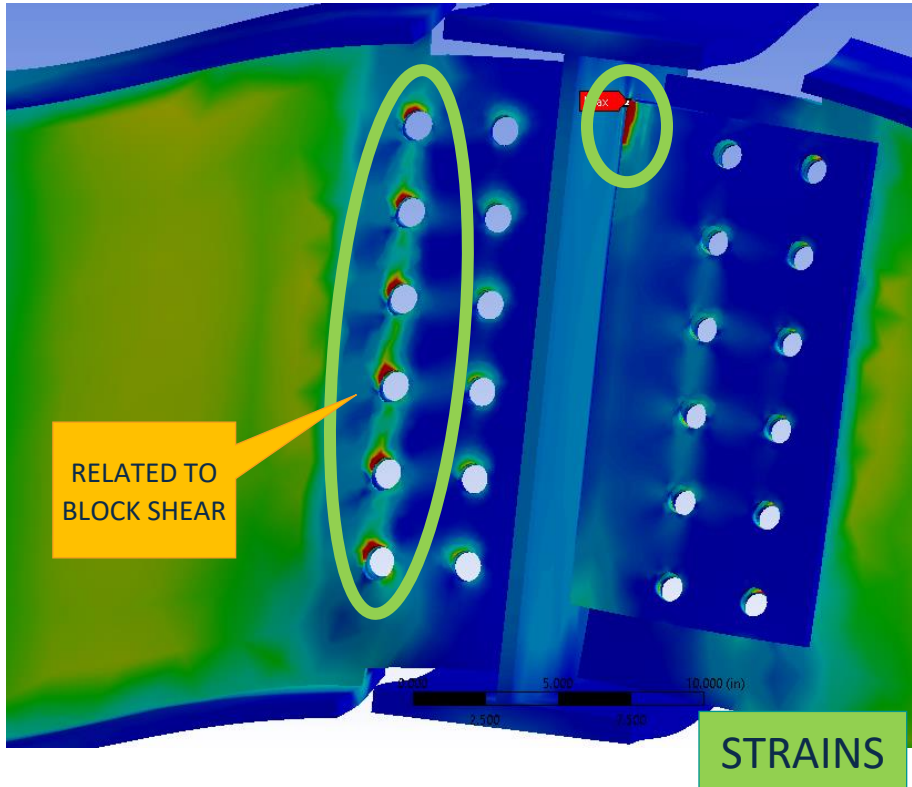
FIXED
ROTATION

IMPOSED ACTION =
DISPLACEMENT

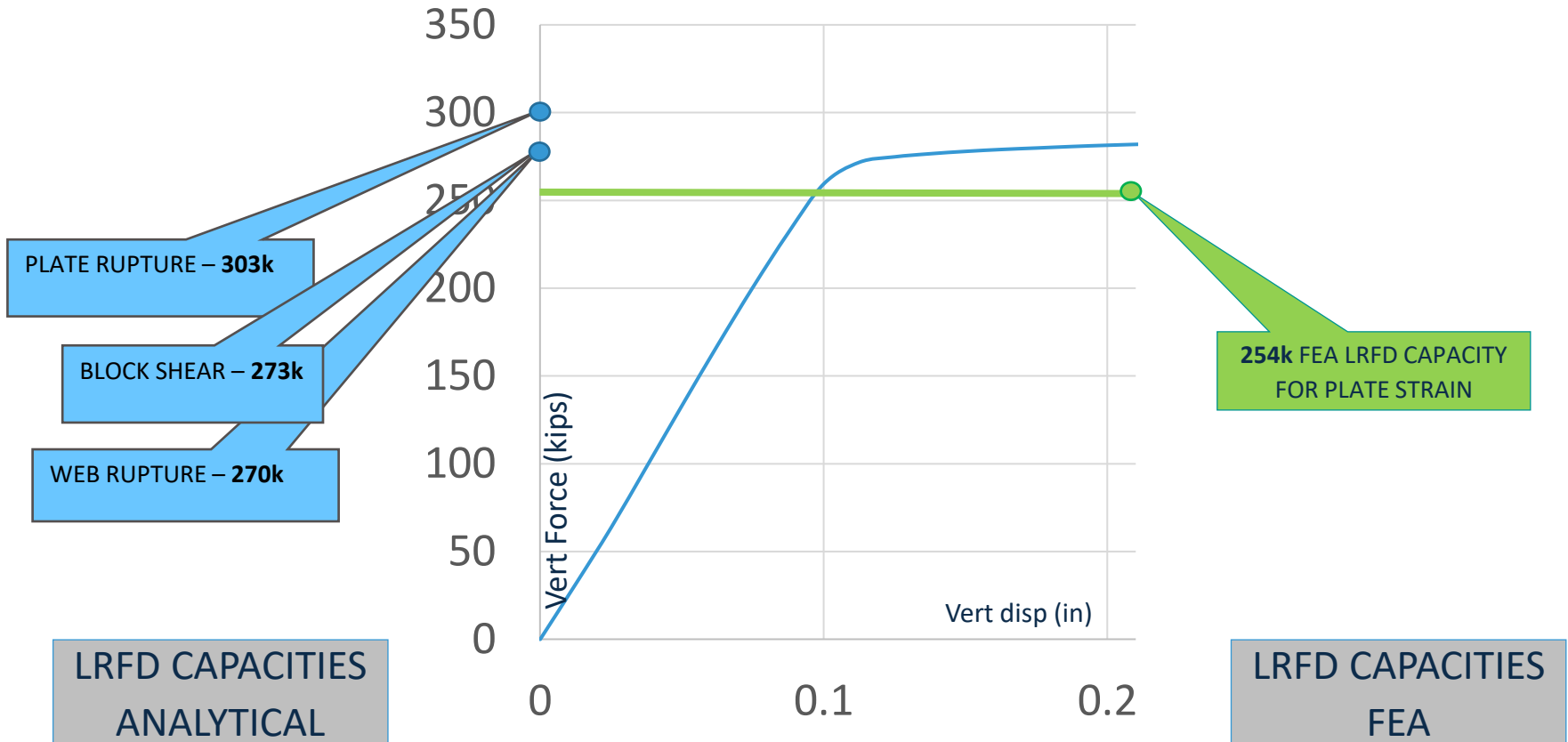


SEQUENCE
OF BEAMS

Comparison to analytical results



Comparison to analytical results

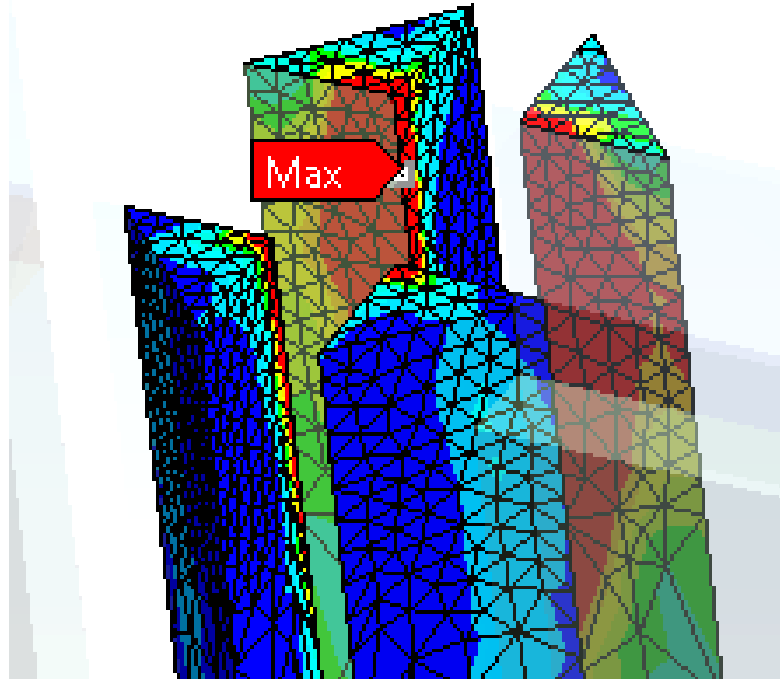


Comparison to analytical results

WELD CAPACITY –
ANALYTICAL = 490k

WELD CAPACITY – FEA =
348k

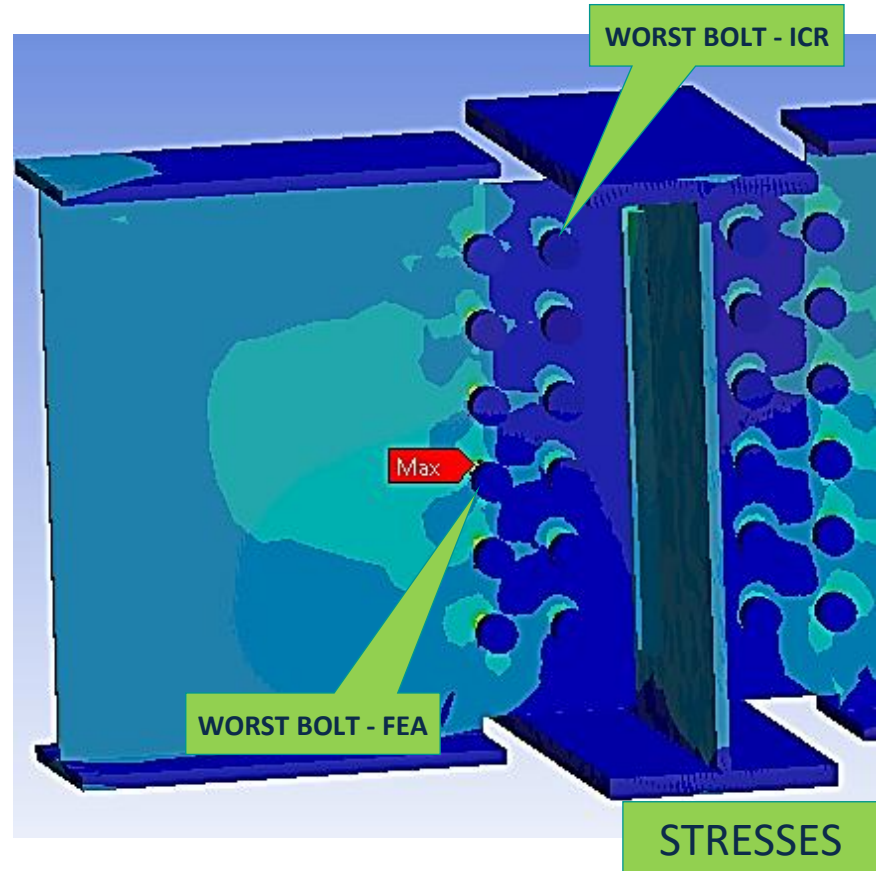
PLATES – LINEAR
ELASTIC



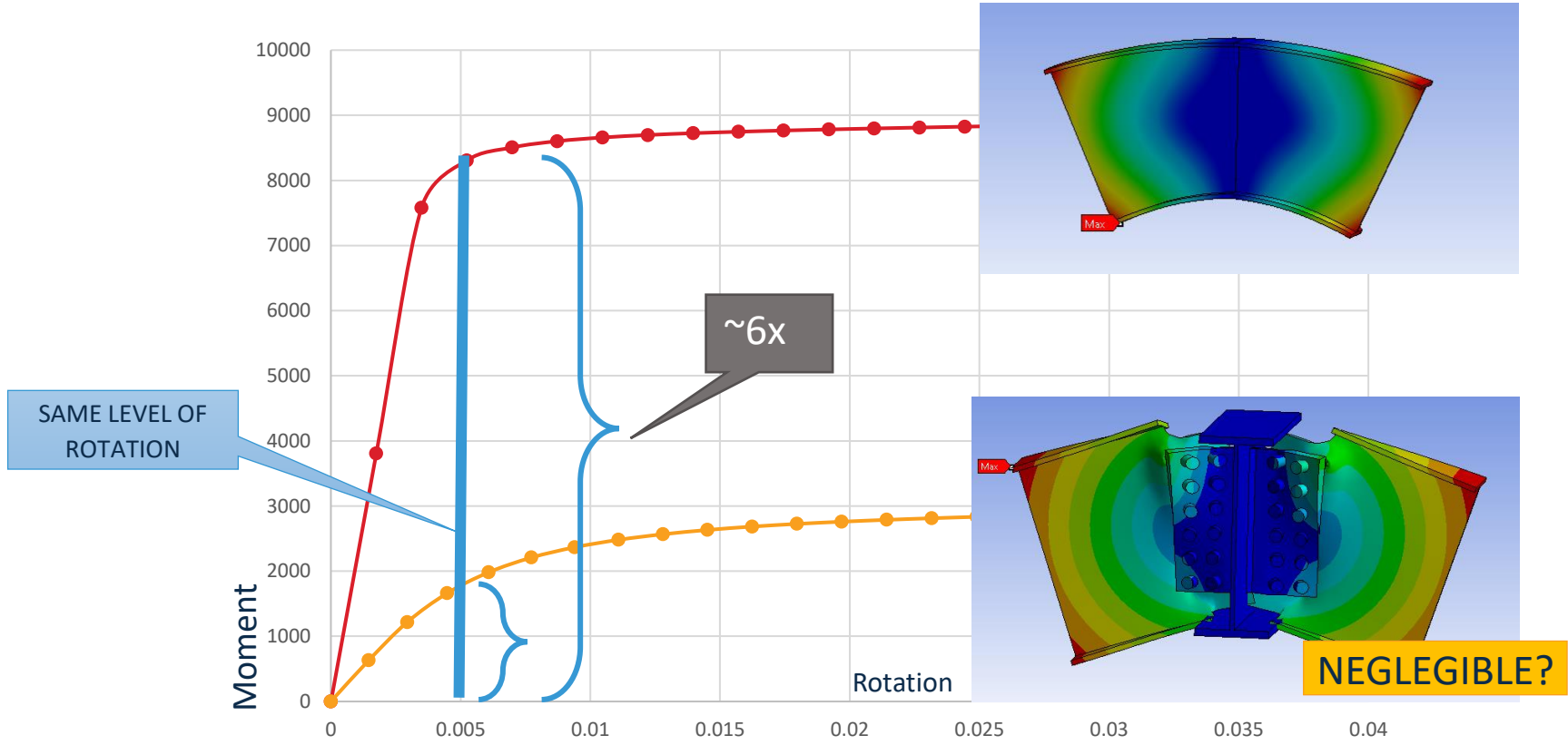
Comparison to analytical results

BOLT SHEAR CAPACITY
ANALYTICAL= 254k

BOLT SHEAR CAPACITY
FEA= 331k

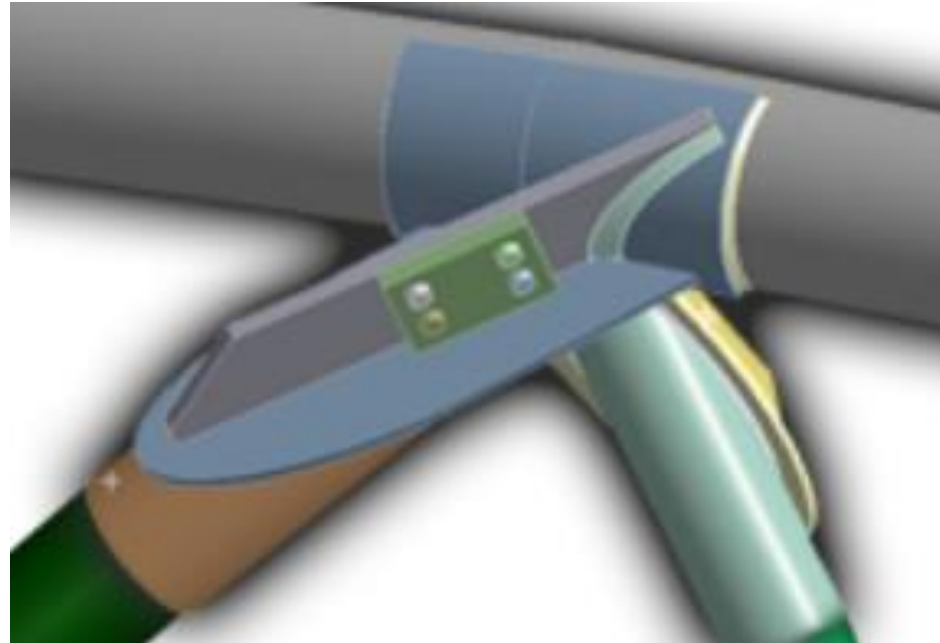


Comparison to analytical results - Stiffness



Assessment Question

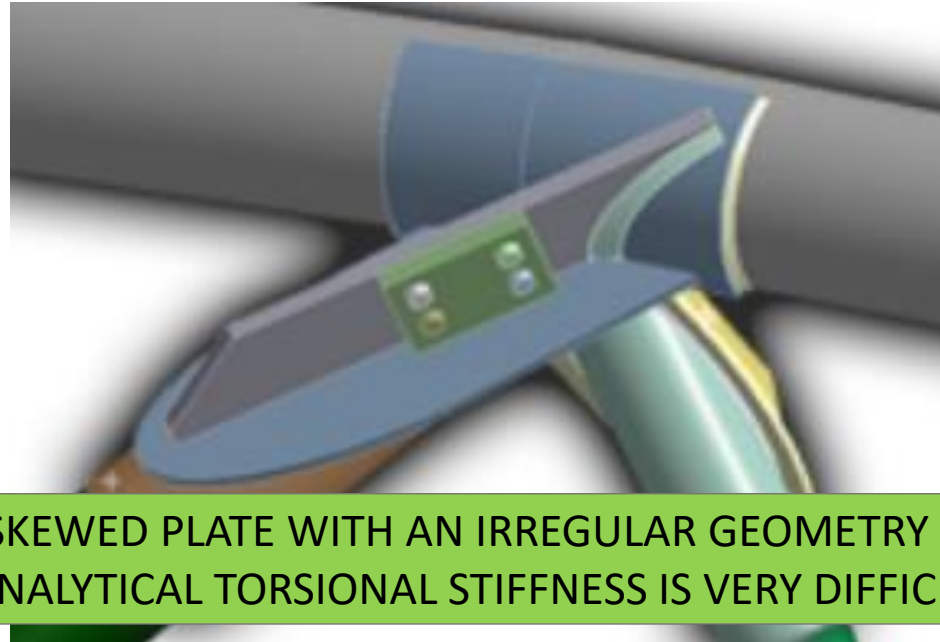
- We are designing the erection aid below and need to count on the torsional stiffness of it to stabilize our calculation model. Is a FEA a suitable option?



- Yes
- No

Assessment Question

- We are designing the erection aid below and need to count on the torsional stiffness of it to stabilize our calculation model. Is a FEA a suitable option?



- Yes
- No

WE ARE DEALING WITH A SKEWED PLATE WITH AN IRREGULAR GEOMETRY AND THE DERIVATION OF AN ANALYTICAL TORSIONAL STIFFNESS IS VERY DIFFICULT

 **NASCC:**
THE STEEL CONFERENCE

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