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ANALYTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THE J INTEGRAL

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#### ABSTRACT

It has recently been shown by experiment that a quantity known as the J Integral may be a useful fracture criterion in the inelastic range. The mathematical definition of the J Integral is used here to derive a relationship between the conventional elastic stress concentration factor of a sharp notch and the elastic stress intensity factor for a crack of the same shape. This relationship has previously been derived only by assuming some particular shape of cracked body, but this assumption is shown to be not necessary. The same assumptions, together with Neuber's equation for the inelastic stress and strain concentration factors for a sharp notch, are used to derive a relationship between the J Integral and the parameter  $K_{Icd}$  of the Equivalent Energy Method. A graphical procedure for estimating upper and lower bounds on the full restraint value of the fracture toughness is also discussed.

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### Nomenclature

Crack area, in.<sup>2</sup>

Å

a

В

C

c1

°2

Ε

G

Gcl

GT

GIc

J

 $J_c$ 

Jcs

JIc

K

Defect size, generally half-length, in.

Plate thickness, in.

Shape factor, dimensionless

Constant, in.-1

Constant, dimensionless

Modulus of elasticity, psi .

Critical elastic strain energy release rate, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical elastic strain energy release rate measured with a large specimen, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Elastic strain energy release rate for plane strain conditions, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical elastic strain energy release rate for plane strain conditions, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

The J Integral, in.-1b/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical value of the J Integral, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical value of the J Integral measured with a small specimen, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical value of the J Integral measured under plane strain conditions, in.-lb/in.<sup>2</sup>

Critical value of the elastic crack tip stress intensity factor, ksi.in.1/2

к<sub>т</sub>

к

K<sub>Te</sub>

K<sub>Icd</sub>

K<sub>t.</sub>

K,

Kσ

k'

m

Pf

₽<sub>f</sub>\*

D.

S

Sf

s\_

<sup>s</sup>m,t

Critical value of the elastic crack tip stress intensity fuctor estimated from the value of  $S_{p}^{*}$ , ksi.in.<sup>1/2</sup>

The elastic crack tip stress intensity factor, ksi.in.1/2

Critical value of the elastic crack tip stress intensity factor for plane strain conditions, ksi.in.1/2

The same as  $K_{\alpha}^{\pi}$ ; the subscript d indicates the size (usually thickness) of the specimen being considered; in this report, d is sometimes represented by m, p, t or  $\infty$ ; ksi.in.<sup>1/2</sup>

Elastic stress concentration factor, dimensionless

Actual strain concentration factor, dimensionless

Actual stress concentration factor, dimensionless

Initial slope of the curve of  $P/B^2$  versus  $\Delta/B$ , ksi

Thickness of a model specimen, in.

Failure load, kips

Pseudo-elastic failure load, kips

Thickness of a prototype, in.

Nominal stress, ksi

Actual nominal stress at failure, ksi

Pseudo-elastic nominal stress at failure, ksi

The size effect, also called the volumetric energy ratio, between the sizes m and t, dimensionless

	1
t	Thickness, in.
U	Nominal strain energy density, ksi
v	Total potential energy, inkips
W	Width of a Compact Tension Specimen, in.
Wo	Strain energy density at the crack tip on the plane of crack extension, ksi
Ws	Strain energy density on the crack tip contour, ksi
x	Distance in the direction of crack extension, in.
Y	Shape factor for the Compact Tension Specimen; also sometimes denoted by $f(a/W)$ ; dimensionless
y	Distance perpendicular to the plane of crack extension, in.
г <sub>t</sub>	The crack tip contour (not an algebraic quantity)
Δ	Displacement of the load, in.
θ	Position angle measured at the crack tip, radians
λ	Total nominal strain, in./in.
e max	Maximum total strain at the notch tip, in./in.
ν	Poisson's ratio, dimensionless
ρ	Notch tip radius of curvature, in.
σ max	Maximum stress at the notch tip, ksi

-4

Stress normal to the notch tip surface, ksi Stress tangential to the notch tip surface, ksi 1

Yield stress, ksi

 $\sigma_r$ 

σθ

σ Υ

### Introduction

The need for measured values of the fracture toughness,  $K_{To}$ , for nuclear pressure vessel steels is the result of the requirement that the safety of nuclear power plants must be proven in advance, by methods of analysis that are as quantitative as possible and that agree with experimental data.<sup> $\bot$ </sup> Current testing procedures require that the size of the specimen required to measure a valid value of K<sub>Tc</sub> must increase with the square of the ratio  $K_{T_o}/\sigma_v$ . This results in specimens as thick as twelve inches being required to measure a valid value of K<sub>Tc</sub> for unirradiated A533-B steel at room temperature. Such thickness requirements reduce to a practical impossibility the irradiation of specimens sufficiently thick to measure the higher values of K<sub>Tc</sub> required to quantitatively demonstrate the safety margins that exist for irradiated nuclear pressure vessels. Consequently, there is a need for ingenious alternate approaches to the quantitative determination of high values of fracture toughness, using small volumes of irradiated material. One approach, described by Klausnitzer and Gerscha,<sup>3</sup> is to insert, by electron beam welding, a small irradiated crack tip element into a larger unirradiated specimen. Another approach is to rely on a theoretical relationship between the elastic-plastic load-deflection behavior of a small specimen and the . elastic fracture toughness that would, or might have been, measured directly, using a much larger specimen. The latter approach is the one to be discussed in this paper.

# Current Approaches to the Development of Elastic-Plastic Fracture Analysis

In order to obtain a measure of fracture toughness from a specimen that has been fractured after gross yielding, it is first necessary to hypothesize a fracture criterion that is not based on the assumption of completely elastic behavior. To do this, it is logical to begin by making the assumption that the onset of fracture is caused by a critical condition of stress or strain being reached at or near the crack tip. If changes in transverse restraint due to gross section yielding are ignored, at least temporarily, then in addition it can be assumed that the critical condition remains the same regardless of whether the specimen fails before or after gross section yielding. Thus if an assumed critical quantity can be calculated, or measured directly, from inelastic ultimate load data obtained from a small specimen, and it can be calculated. for elastic conditions. for other geometries, then it can be used as a basis for calculating  $K_{Tc}$ . Such a quantity, known as the J Integral, was suggested by Rice<sup>4</sup> as an analytical device for the inelastic range. Rice<sup>4</sup> showed that the J Integral, which for a notch with a finite root radius no matter how small, has the definition

$$J = \int_{\Gamma_{t}} W_{s} dy , \qquad (1)$$

where  $\Gamma_{t}$  is the crack tip contour,  $W_{s}$  is strain energy density in ksi, and y is the distance normal to the crack plane in inches, is also equal to minus the rate of change of total potential energy with respect to crack surface area, at constant deflection, assuming nonlinear elastic behavior. Thus,

$$J = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial A_{c}}, \quad \Delta = \text{const}, \quad (2)$$

where V is total potential energy in inch-kips,  $A_c$  is crack surface area in in.<sup>2</sup>, and  $\Delta$  is the displacement of the load, in inches. Clearly, Eq. (2) is a generalization of the equation for  $G_c$ , the elastic strain energy release rate. In addition, if J has a critical value at fracture, which can be denoted by  $J_c$ , then Eq. (1) gives an explicitly stated notch tip condition at fracture.

Following the reasoning developed by Rice,<sup>4</sup> Begley and Landes<sup>5</sup> of the Westinghouse Research Laboratories showed experimentally, with specimens of Ni Cr Mo V rotor steel and A533-B steel, that the value of  $J_{Ic}$  obtained from small specimens is substantially the same as the value of  $G_{Ic}$  obtained previously from much larger specimens. In other words,

$$J_{cs} = G_{ck} = \frac{K_c^2}{E}$$
, (3)

where the subscripts s and  $\ell$  indicate small and large specimen sizes, respectively. Landes and Begley<sup>6</sup> also presented evidence indicating that  $J_{T_c}$  is independent of geometry.

Another generalization, for inelastic conditions, of the elastic equations used to calculate  $K_{Ic}$  has been proposed by Witt and Mager.<sup>7</sup> For a Compact Tension Specimen which fails after the onset of gross yielding, a fracture toughness parameter,  $K_{Icd}$ , is defined by the equation

$$K_{\text{Icd}} = \frac{P_{f} Y}{B \sqrt{W}} . \qquad (4)$$

In Eq. (4),  $P_{f}^{*}$  is the load at a point on the extended initial tangent to the actual load deflection curve which defines a pseudo-elastic load deflection curve the area under which is the same as the area under the actual load deflection curve at maximum load. Y is the elastically calculated nondimensional shape factor, sometimes denoted<sup>2</sup> by the symbol f(a/W);

B is the specimen thickness, in inches; and W is the specimen width, in inches. The elastic equation for  $K_{T_C}$ , is identical in form to Eq. (4). The subscript d in the term  $K_{Ted}$  refers to the thickness of the specimen tested. The subscript I, as used by Witt and Mager, 7 implies the opening mode of crack extension, but does not necessarily imply plane strain. Witt and Mager<sup>7</sup> found that values of  $K_{Icl}$ , obtained with one-inch-thick Compact Tension Specimens of A533-B; Class 1, steel up to 50°F, match previously measured values of K<sub>TC</sub> obtained with specimens up to twelve inches thick, as shown in Figure 1. Thus, although the parameter  $K_{Ted}$ , as originally defined, appears to have no explicit meaning in terms of notch tip conditions, it has been shown to have the correct value when the correct value was already known. Thus, it is of interest to ask the question, "Does  $K_{Ted}$  have any explicit meaning in terms of notch tip conditions?" in order to evaluate its physical significance. The strategy adopted for answering this question was to begin with the equation for the J Integral, which does have an explicit meaning in terms of notch tip conditions, as given by Eq. (1), and, by a series of assumptions, to derive an expression identical to Eq. (4), thus answering the question affirmatively.

### Derivation of the Irwin-Neuber Equation

Before applying the J Integral to an inelastic analysis, it will be applied first to the derivation of an important existing elastic equation relating the stress concentration factor of a sharp notch to the stress intensity factor for a crack of the same shape. The derivation to be presented here is important because it demonstrates the reasonableness of the assumptions to be used subsequently for an inelastic analysis, and because the elastic equation being derived has previously been derived only by assuming some specific overall geometry (see, for instance, ref. 8).

Since J is a generalization<sup>4</sup> of G, it follows that, for plane strain elastic conditions,

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0} J = G_{I}, \qquad (5)$$

where  $\rho$  is the notch root radius in inches. Combining Eqs. (1) and (5) gives

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0} \int_{\Gamma_t} W_s dy = G_I$$
(6)

If the crack tip configuration is assumed to be the arc of a semicircle, as shown in Fig. 2, and it is assumed that

$$W_s = W_o \cos \theta$$
, (7)

where  $W_{0}$  is the strain energy density at the point on the crack tip for which  $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ , then combining Eq. (6) and (7) gives

$$G_{I} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{W_{o}}{\rho} \int_{-\rho}^{\rho} x \, dy = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{\pi}{2} W_{o} \rho \quad . \tag{8}$$

On the crack tip contour, for elastic plane strain conditions,  $\epsilon_z = 0$ and  $\sigma_r = 0$ , where  $\sigma_r$  is the stress normal to the crack surface. Consequently,

$$W_{s} = \frac{\sigma_{\theta} \epsilon_{\theta}}{2} = \frac{\sigma_{\theta}^{2}(1-\nu^{2})}{2E} , \qquad (9)$$

where  $\sigma_{\theta}$  and  $\epsilon_{\theta}$  are the stress and the strain, respectively, tangential to the crack tip contour. For  $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ ,  $W_s = W_o$  and

$$W_{0} = \frac{(K_{t}S)^{2}(1 - v^{2})}{2E} , \qquad (10)$$

where  $K_t$  is the elastic stress concentration factor and S is the nominal stress. Substituting Eq. (10) into Eq. (8) and rearranging gives

$$\frac{EG_{I}}{(1-v^{2})} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{(K_{t}S)^{2} \pi \rho}{4} .$$
 (11)

Since

$$\frac{EG_{I}}{(1-v^{2})} = K_{I}^{2} , \qquad (12)$$

substituting Eq. (12) into Eq. (11) and taking the square roots of both sides gives

$$K_{I} = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \frac{1}{2} K_{t}^{S} \sqrt{\pi \rho} \quad . \tag{13}$$

Equation (13), referred to here as the Irwin-Neuber equation,  $^{9,10}$  has already been extremely useful in the field of fracture mechanics. It has been used to derive stress intensity factor solutions when the corresponding stress concentration factor solutions were already known.<sup>11</sup> It should be noted that an assumption similar to, but not identical to, Eq. (7) has been used by Rice<sup>12</sup> to estimate the maximum strain at the tip of a notch, but Eq. (13) did not result.

# A Relationship Between the J Integral and the Parameter K<sub>Icd</sub>

For an inelastic analysis, combining Eqs. (1) and (7), and again assuming a semicircular notch tip configuration, gives

$$J = \frac{\pi}{2} W_{o} \rho \quad , \tag{14}$$

which is a generalization of Eq. (3) without taking the limit as  $\rho$  approaches zero. Still assuming plane strain,

$$W_{o} = \int_{o}^{\varepsilon_{max}} \sigma_{max} d\varepsilon_{max} , \qquad (15)$$

where  $\sigma_{\max}$  and  $\varepsilon_{\max}$  are the maximum stress and the maximum strain, respectively, at the tip of the notch. In order to evaluate the right hand side of Eq. (15), it will be assumed that both the nominal and the notch tip stress-strain curves can be represented by equations of the form

$$stress = constant X (strain)^n$$
 . (16)

Applying Eq. (16) to Eq. (15) thus gives

$$W_{o} = \frac{\sigma_{\max} \epsilon_{\max}}{1+n} .$$
 (17)

The actual stress and strain concentration factors are defined by the equations

$$\sigma_{\max} = K_{\sigma}S , \qquad (18)$$

and

 $\sigma_{\max} = K_e \lambda .$  (19)

(20)

According to an analysis developed by Neuber,<sup>14</sup> the quantity  $(K_{\sigma}K_{e})$  remains constant even after yielding, and can be estimated from the equation

$$K_{\sigma}K_{\varepsilon} = K_{t}^{2}$$
.

Neuber's original analysis<sup>14</sup> was for in-plane shear loading, but subsequent studies by Van Buren,<sup>15</sup> and by Gowda and Topper,<sup>16</sup> have supported the use of Eq. (20), at least as an approximation, for other modes of loading. Therefore, substituting Eqs. (18) and (19) into Eq. (17), and using Eq. (20) gives

$$W_{o} = K_{t}^{2} \frac{S\lambda}{1+n} . \qquad (21)$$

From Eq. (16), it also follows that

$$\frac{S\lambda}{1+n} = \int_{0}^{\lambda} Sd\lambda = U , \qquad (22)$$

where U is the nominal strain energy density at the location of the flaw, in ksi. Combining Eqs. (21) and (22) gives

$$W_{o} = K_{t}^{2} U , \qquad (23)$$

and combining Eqs. (23) and (14) then gives

$$J = \frac{K_{t}^{2} U}{2} \pi \rho .$$
 (24)

Equation (23) expresses the basic physical relationship implied by this analysis, namely, the proportionality between the maximum strain energy density at the crack tip and the nominal strain energy density.

The elastic stress concentration factor,  $K_t$ , can be evaluated by recognizing that Eq. (13) is actually a good approximation whenever the ratio of notch depth to root radius is large. Thus, combining Eq. (13), without the limit notation,

with the basic expression for the stress intensity factor, which is

$$K_{I} = CS \sqrt{\pi a}$$
, (25)

gives

$$K_{t} = 2C \sqrt{\frac{a}{\rho}} . \qquad (26)$$

Substituting Eq. (26) into Eq. (24) eliminates the unknown root radius and gives

$$J = (2\pi C^2 a)U$$
, (27)

Thus, the value of the J Integral is approximately proportional to the product of the crack size and the nominal strain energy density. If J has a constant value at fracture, then the product of U times a must be constant at fracture.

By substitution, Eq. (27) can be rewritten in a form identical to the equation for  $K_{I}$ , Eq. (25). Assuming the validity of Eq. (3), then at fracture

$$J_{c} = G_{c} = \frac{K_{c}^{2}}{E} = (2\pi c^{2}a)U , \qquad (28)$$

where the subscript I implying plane strain has been set aside pending experimental verification. The quantity U can be written as

$$U = \frac{(s_{f}^{*})^{2}}{2E} , \qquad (29)$$

where  $S_f^*$  defines the end point of a pseudo-elastic stress strain curve, the area under which is the same as the area under the actual S -  $\lambda$  curve at maximum load, as shown in Fig. 3. Substituting Eq. (29) into Eq. (28) then leads to

$$K_{c}^{*} = CS_{f}^{*} \sqrt{\pi a} , \qquad (30)$$

where  $K_c^*$  is an estimate of  $K_c$  based on  $S_f^*$ . Equation (30) is identical in form to both Eq. (25) for  $K_{Ic}$ , and to Witt and Mager's<sup>7</sup> expression for  $K_{Icd}$ in terms of the nominal stress.

An expression applicable to the Compact Tension Specimen, and identical in form to Eq. (4), can now be derived. The first step is to define a normalized load-displacement curve that has an initial slope equal to E, the elastic modulus. The normalized load can be arbitrarily defined by the equation

$$S = \frac{P}{B^2} \quad . \tag{31}$$

Then, if the initial slope of the curve of  $P/B^2$  versus  $\Delta/B$  is k', the normalized displacement will be defined by the equation

$$\lambda = \frac{\mathbf{k'}}{\mathbf{E}} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \\ \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} . \tag{32}$$

It is also necessary to assume that K and K remain constant during loading, and that Eq. (23) therefore remains valid.

For elastic conditions, Eq. (13) can be written, without the limit notations, as

$$K_{Ic} = \frac{1}{2} K_t S_f \sqrt{\pi \rho} \quad . \tag{33}$$

It follows from Eqs. (30) and (33) that

$$K_{c}^{*} = \frac{1}{2} K_{t} S_{f}^{*} \sqrt{\pi \rho}$$
 (34)

For elastic conditions,<sup>2</sup>

$$K_{IC} = \frac{P_{f}Y}{B\sqrt{W}} \qquad (35)$$

Combining Eqs. (31), (33), and (35) gives

$$K_{t} = \frac{2BY}{\sqrt{W\pi\rho}} \qquad (36)$$

Finally, combining Eqs. (34) and (36) gives

$$K_{c}^{*} = \frac{P_{f}^{*}Y}{B\sqrt{W}} , \qquad (37)$$

which is identical to Eq. (4).

Noting that

$$K_{c}^{*} = K_{Icd} , \qquad (38)$$

it follows that an approximate relationship between the J Integral and the parameter  $K_{ICd}$  does exist, subject to the limitations of deformation theory.

The above derivation should not be interpreted as a general proof that the gross load-deflection curve always controls the fracture process, beyond the elastic range. This hypothesis can be disproven by considering an edge cracked, eccentrically loaded, elastic-ideally plastic tensile bar with the crack on the side of the minimum strain. Deformation theory definitely does not apply to this specimen, because shortly after yielding occurs on the side of the maximum strain, the stress and strain on the other side (the cracked side) can begin to decrease, before yielding occurs there. A calculation of  $K_{Tod}$  for this specimen would be meaningless.

# A Graphical Procedure for Estimating Upper and Lower Bounds on the Fracture Toughness

In applying Eq. (4), Witt and Mager<sup>7</sup> found that the calculated values of  $K_{Icd}$ , for A533-B steel, either remained constant or increased as the specimen size increased as shown in Figure 4. Assuming this to be the case. Witt and Mager<sup>17</sup> proposed a calculational procedure for finding upper and lower bounds on the fracture toughness that would be obtained from an infinitely large specimen. If two geometrically similar specimens are each tested to their maximum load, then from Eqs. (29), (30), and (38),

$$\left(\frac{K_{\text{Ict}}}{K_{\text{Icm}}}\right)^2 = \frac{a_t U_t}{a_m U_m} = \frac{t}{m} \cdot \frac{U_t}{U_m}, \qquad (39)$$

where the subscripts m and t denote the model size and some other size, respectively. Witt and  $Mager^{17}$  used the definition

$$\mathbf{s}_{m,t} = \frac{\mathbf{U}_m}{\mathbf{U}_t} , \qquad (40)$$

where  $s_{m,t}$  is termed the size effect, or the volumetric energy ratio, between the sizes m and t. Combining Eqs. (39) and (40), and inverting, gives

$$\left(\frac{K_{\text{Icm}}}{K_{\text{Ict}}}\right)^2 = s_{m,t} \left(\frac{m}{t}\right).$$
(41)

For determining a lower bound, Witt and Mager<sup>17</sup> assumed that

$$K_{\text{Ict}} = K_{\text{Icp}}, \quad t \ge p, \quad (42)$$

where p represents the size of a prototype, and p > m.

For determining an upper bound, Witt and Mager<sup>17</sup> assumed that

$$\mathbf{s}_{m,t} = \mathbf{c}_2 + \mathbf{c}_1 \mathbf{t} , \qquad (43)$$

where the constants  $c_2$  and  $c_1$  are determined by the values of  $K_{ICM}$  and  $K_{ICP}$ . For t = m,

$$c_2 + c_1 m = 1$$
 (44)

For t = p, using Eq. (41),

$$c_2 + c_1 t = s_{m,t} = \left(\frac{p}{m}\right) \left(\frac{K_{ICM}}{K_{ICP}}\right)^2$$
 (45)

Solving Eqs. (44) and (45) for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  gives

$$c_{1} = \frac{\left(\frac{p}{m}\right)\left(\frac{K_{Icm}}{K_{Icp}}\right)^{2} - 1}{p - m} , \qquad (46)$$

and

$$c_2 = 1 - c_1^{\mathrm{m}} \quad . \tag{47}$$

Combining Eqs. (41) and (43) gives

$$\left(\frac{K_{\underline{\text{Icm}}}}{K_{\underline{\text{Ict}}}}\right)^{2} = (c_{2} + c_{1}t) \left(\frac{m}{t}\right) = (c_{1}m) + (c_{2}m) \frac{1}{t} .$$
(48)

Equation (48) implies that if Eq. (43) is assumed, then the quantity  $(K_{\rm Icm}/K_{\rm Ict})^2$  will be a linear function of 1/t. Therefore, on a plot of  $(K_{\rm Icm}/K_{\rm Ict})^2$  versus 1/t, as shown in Figure 5, the upper bound value of  $K_{\rm Ict}$  is determined by the intercept of a straight line through the points corresponding to t = m and t = p with the vertical axis, providing that the

curve is concave upward. The value of the upper bound is given by

$$\left(\frac{K_{\text{Icm}}}{K_{\text{Ic}}}\right)^{2} = c_{1}m = \frac{\left(\frac{p}{m}\right)\left(\frac{K_{\text{Icm}}}{K_{\text{Ic}}}\right)^{2} - 1}{\left(\frac{p}{m} - 1\right)}, \qquad (49)$$

so that

$$K_{Ic^{\infty}} = K_{Icm} \sqrt{\frac{\frac{p}{m} - 1}{\left(\frac{p}{m}\right) \left(\frac{K_{Icm}}{K_{Icp}}\right)^2 - 1}}$$
(50)

In addition, if similitude holds at fracture, for some range of thickness, then, from Eq. (40),

$$s_{m,t} = 1$$
, (51)

and substituting Eq. (51) into Eq. (41) gives

$$\left(\frac{\hat{K}_{\text{Icm}}}{K_{\text{Ict}}}\right)^2 = \frac{m}{t} .$$
 (52)

According to Eq. (52), the condition of similitude at fracture is represented by a straight line through the origin, in the type of plot shown in Fig. 5.

A plot of  $(K_{\rm Icm}/K_{\rm Ict})^2$  versus 1/t for A533-B steel, at 100°F, 200°F . and 550°F is shown in Fig. 6. This plot is based on the data shown in Fig. 4. The curves all show a tendency to be concave downward instead of concave upward. Thus, the upper bound values increase instead of decrease as p increases, for a fixed value of m, and the existence of an asymptotic value of  $K_{\rm Ict}$  is not clearly established, at least at these temperatures. However, since  $K_{\rm Ict}$  does increase as t increases, a value of  $K_{\rm Icp}$  is, as assumed, a lower bound value for all thicknesses equal to or greater than p, for this material.

## Discussion and Conclusions

An approximate relationship between the J Integral and the parameter  $K_{Ic\bar{\alpha}}$  of the equivalent energy method has been derived. The assumptions of a semicircular notch tip configuration and the strain energy density on the notch tip varying with  $\cos \theta$  were shown to be reasonable assumptions by using them to derive the Irwin-Neuber equation, Eq. (13). The use of Neuber's inelastic stress and strain concentration factor equation, Eq. (20), may be incompletely justified theoretically, but it has enough experimental justification to warrant its use, at least on an interim basis. This equation should be further investigated theoretically. Existing data are such that the upper and lower bound values of fracture toughness do not always converge at the higher temperatures. This phenomenon also needs further study. The lower bound hypothesis is thus far confirmed by the experimental data for A533-B steel.

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## Figure Captions

- Fig. 1. Comparison of K<sub>Ic</sub> and K<sub>Icl</sub> Values up to 50°F (longitudinal direction).
- Fig. 2. Crack Tip Configuration Assumed for Analysis.

Fig. 3. Diagram Defining S.\*.

- Fig. 4. Variation of K<sub>Icd</sub> as a Function of Temperature and Thickness, for A533-B Steel.
- Fig. 5. Schematic Example of Graphical Determination of Upper and Lower Bounds on Fracture Toughness.
- Fig. 6. Curves for Graphically Determining Bounding Values of Fracture Toughness for A533-B Steel.



COMPARISON OF KIC AND KICI VALUES UP TO 50°F.

Figure 1





Figure 2

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Figure 4

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Figure 5

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Figure 6