

DISCUSSION

*A. L. Bement*¹—Have you observed a significant effect of notch acuity in your measurements of burst stress versus notch size for your worst cases of neutron fluence and hydride concentration?

W. J. Langford (author's closure)—Notch acuity was not an experimental variable, because early in the development of the test technique the spark machined slit was found to be as equally severe as sharper notch configurations. In the thin wall Zircaloy 2 pressure tubes elastic restraints are almost nonexistent at stress concentrations, and considerable plastic deformation is observed at the slit tips. The observations possibly suggest a limiting notch acuity below which plastic flow at the tip effectively nullifies the effects of increasingly sharp cracks.

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