

DISCUSSION

*B. Watkins*¹—Could the author please state the location of the notch in the heat affected zone specimens examined. I am particularly interested whether any work has been done where the notch is located near the fusion face in high-input welds. Evidence is accumulating that for many structural steels low toughness values are obtained in this zone. Fracture mechanics considerations would indicate that crack initiation would start at the zone of lowest toughness, provided the stress level and a defect is present of sufficient size to give crack instability. Could the authors please comment.

Masayuki Kawasaki (authors' closure)—In case of surveillance test specimens, the notch root was located at the weld bond line (weld metal-HAZ boundary line), and the notch direction was parallel to the plate surface and normal to the weld beads.

In case of reference test specimens, the notch was located at distance of about 2 mm from the weld bond which was the zone of lowest toughness, and the notch direction was normal both to the plate surface and to the weld beads.

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