



DEM Modeling Of High Strain Rate Well Bore Fracturing Via High Pressure Pulsed Gas Combustion

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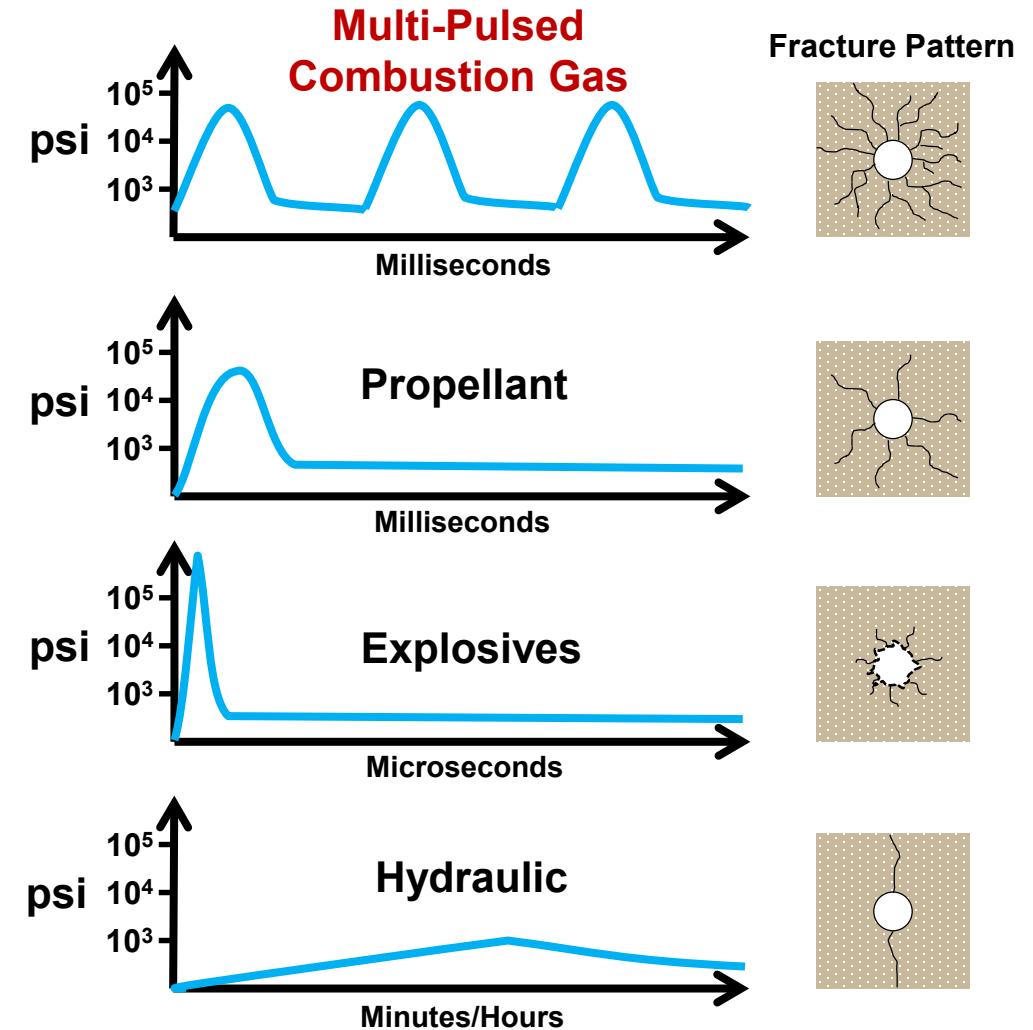
5th International Itasca Symposium

Vienna, Austria, Feb. 17-20, 2020

- Pulsed Gas Fracturing For Complex Fracture Generation
- Well Bore Fracture Pattern vs. Pressurization Rate
- PFC2D & Strain Rate Dependent Tensile Strength Fracturing Simulations
- PFC3D Fracturing Simulations vs Experiments
- Conclusions & What's Next
- Contacts & Questions

Pulsed Gas Fracturing Technology

- **Formation Fracturing Via Repetitive High Pressure Combustion-Based Down-Hole Pulsed Gas Generation**
 - Static + Dynamically Applied Pressures
- **Optimized Peak Pressures & Rise Rates**
 - Enhanced Fracture Pattern Complexity w/o Formation Destruction
- **Dynamically Adjustable And Controllable Process**
 - Repetition Rate, Pressure Peak, Rise Times/Strain Rates, etc.
- **Capable Of Extreme Shock Pressures If Needed**
 - ~5:1 to ~30:1 Pressure Amplification
- **Highly Configurable/Adaptable Tool Operation & Technology**
 - Full Fracturing & Fluids/Proppant Injection
 - Crack Initiation/Crack Starter
 - Clean-Out/Re-Stimulation/Remediation

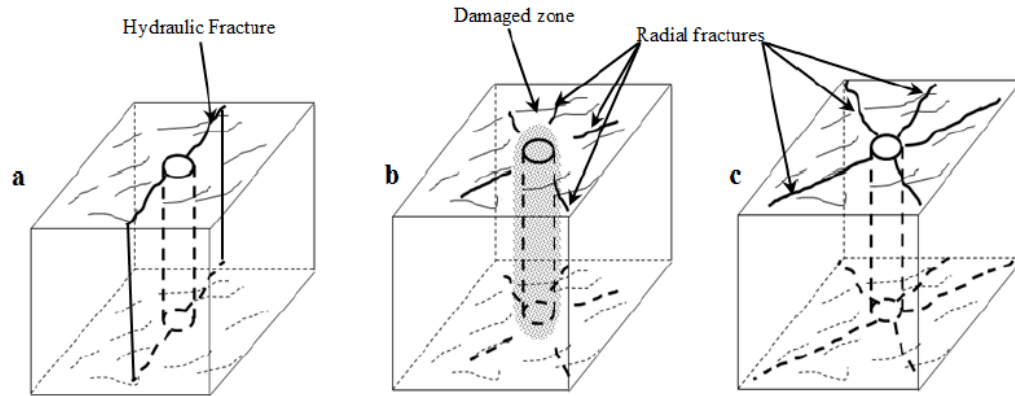


Creating Complex Fractures: Optimal Loading & Strain Rate

URTeC 1579760

Pulsed Fracturing in Shale Reservoirs: Geomechanical Aspects, Ductile-Brittle Transition and Field Implications

M. Reza Safari*, Raju Gandikota, Uno Mutlu, Weatherford, Missy Ji, Jonathan Glanville, ANSYS, Hazim Abass, ARAMCO

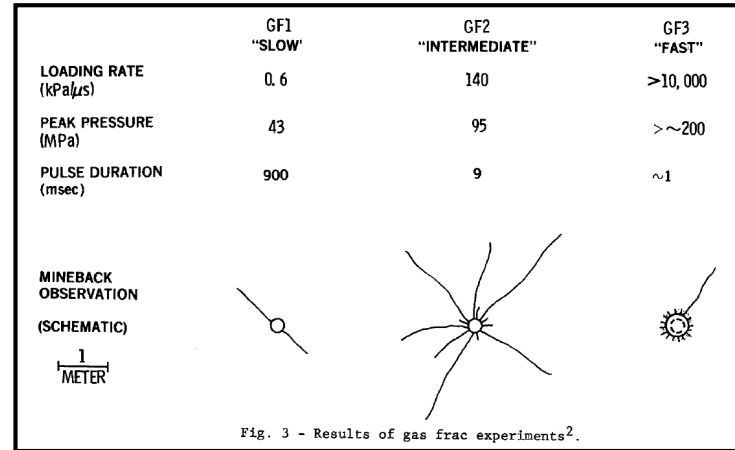


Comparison of fracture patterns from a variety of techniques:
(a) hydraulic (b) explosive (c) pulsed gas fracturing

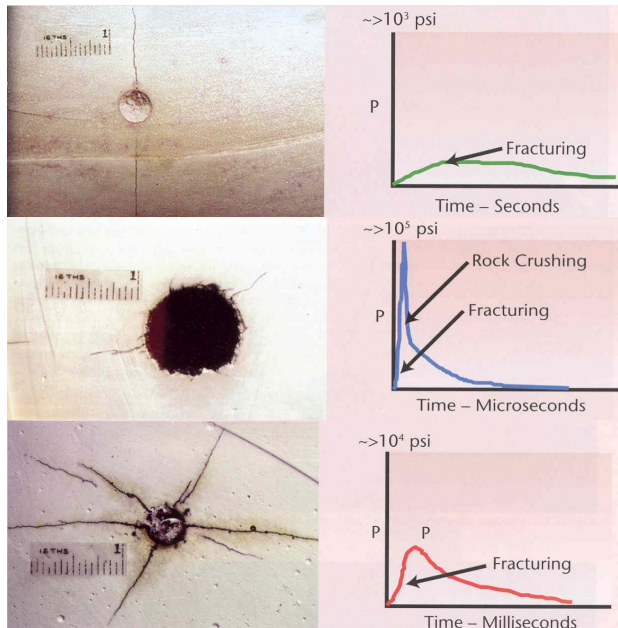
SPE/DOE 8934 SPE Society of Petroleum Engineers

IN SITU EVALUATION OF SEVERAL TAILORED-PULSE WELL-SHOOTING CONCEPTS

by Richard A. Schmidt, Norman R. Warpinski and. Paul W. Cooper, Sandia National Laboratories



Fracture patterns from "slow", "medium", and "fast"
propellant gas loading rate

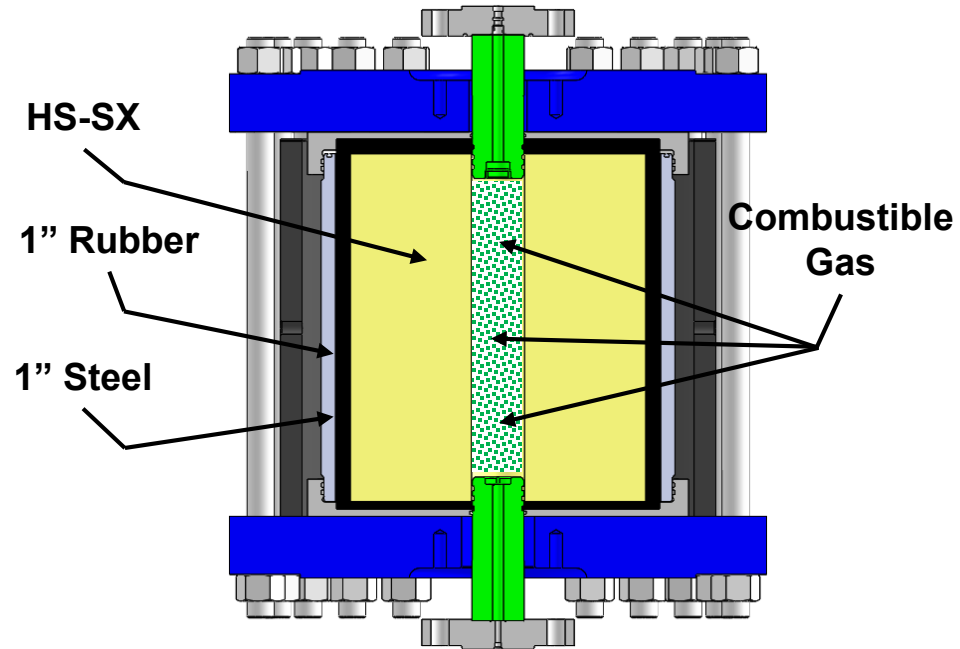


Optimum Strain Rate & Peak Strain For A Given Bore Diameter & Formation Characteristics To Produce A Complex Initial Fracture Network From A Fast Rising Gas Pulse

Pulsed Gas Fracturing Tool Design Depends Upon Prediction Of Formation Response To Pressure Rise Rate & Amplitude

Dynamic Fracture Simulation Tool Must Give Good Quantitative Prediction Of Fracture Generation Under Prescribed Conditions

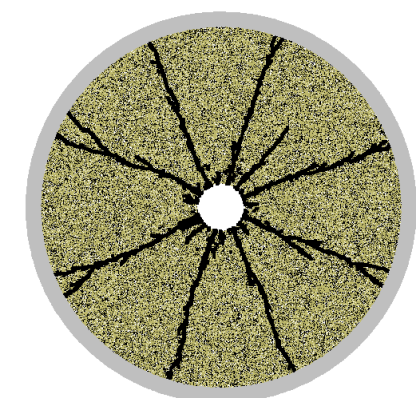
Numerical Fracture Modeling Validation



**PFC2D Dynamic
Fracture Modeling
Qualitatively Matches #
Of Initial Major
Fractures vs. Pressure
Rise Time**



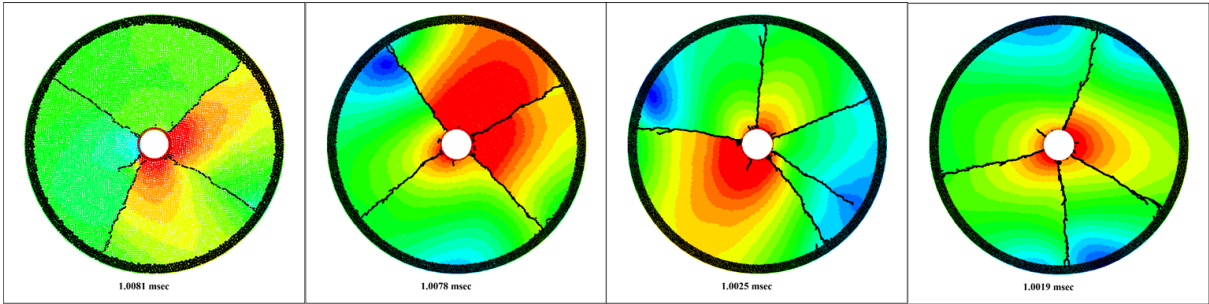
Slower Pressure Rise Rate



Faster Pressure Rise Rate

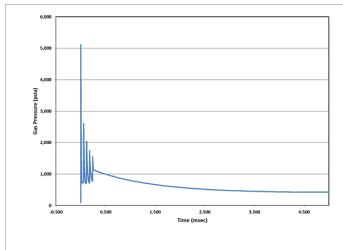
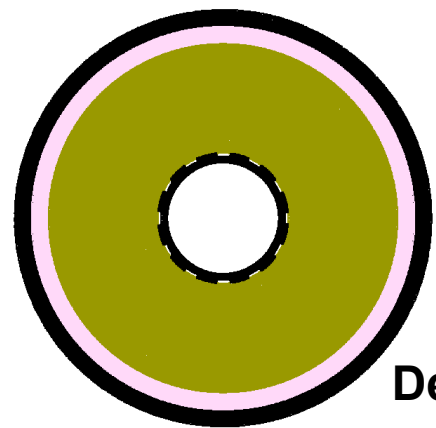
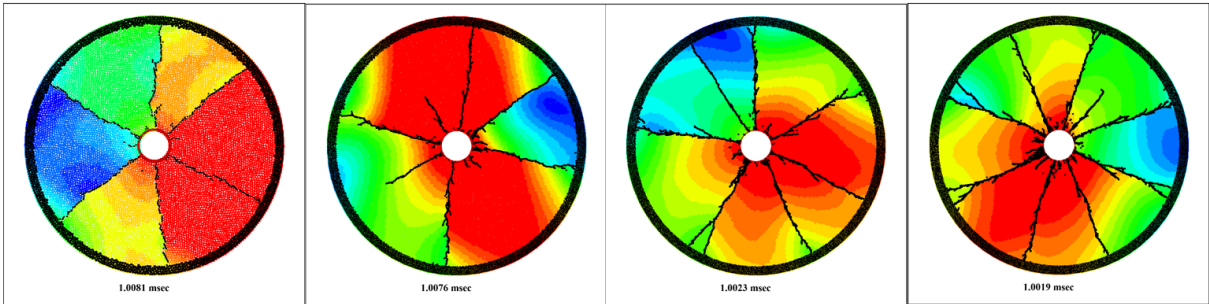
PFC2D Confined Lab & Unconfined Far-Field Sims

0.5msec
Rise Time



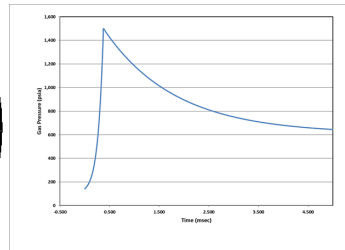
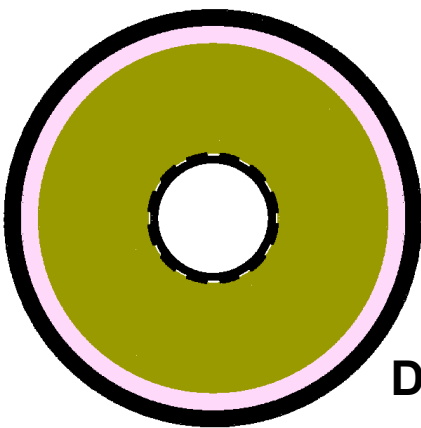
10,000 Elements 40,000 Elements 80,000 Elements 160,000 Elements

0.025msec
Rise Time



Detonation

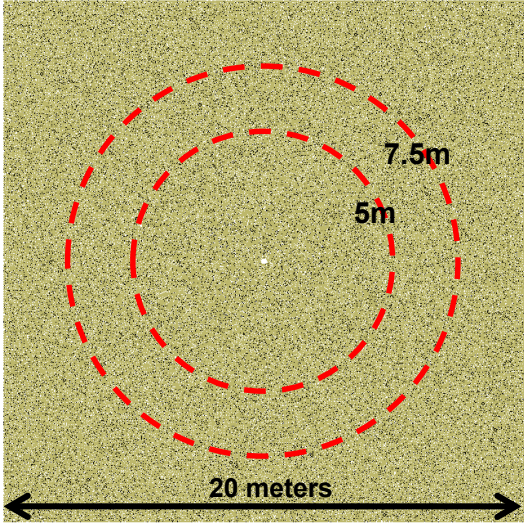
0.0000 msec



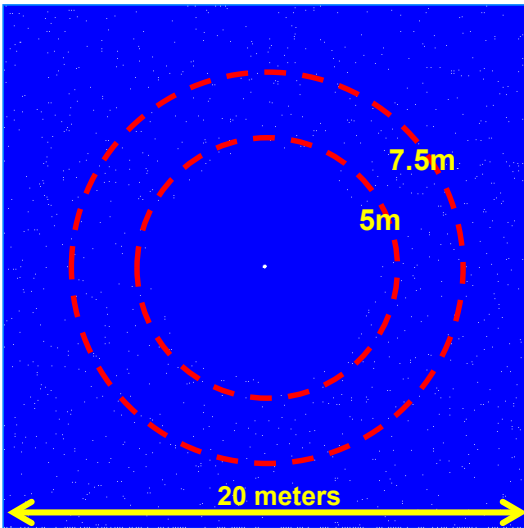
Deflagration

0.0000 msec

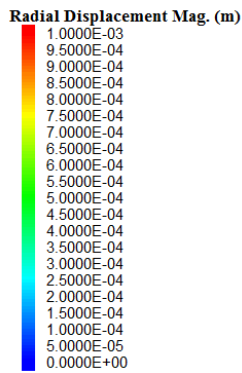
Hinkey-D2-3B – Damage Mechanics - 1



0.0100 msec

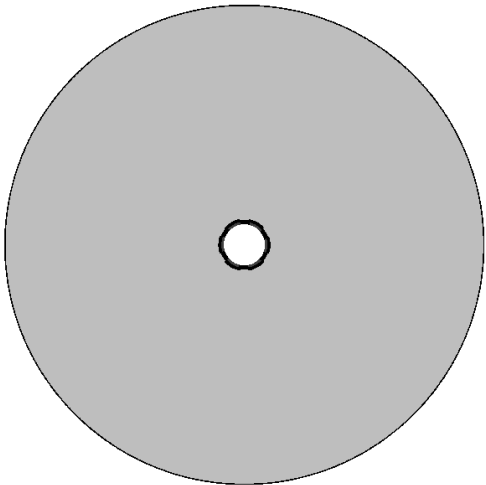


0.0100 msec

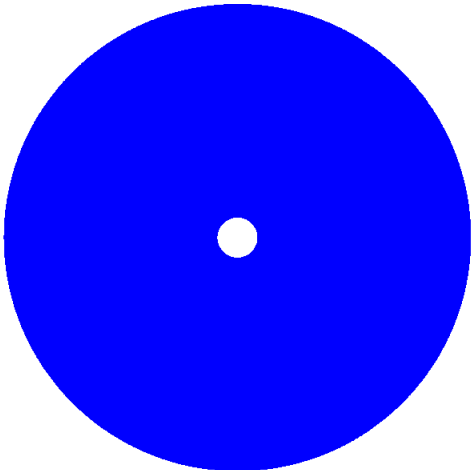


Detonation vs Slow(er) CV Combustion

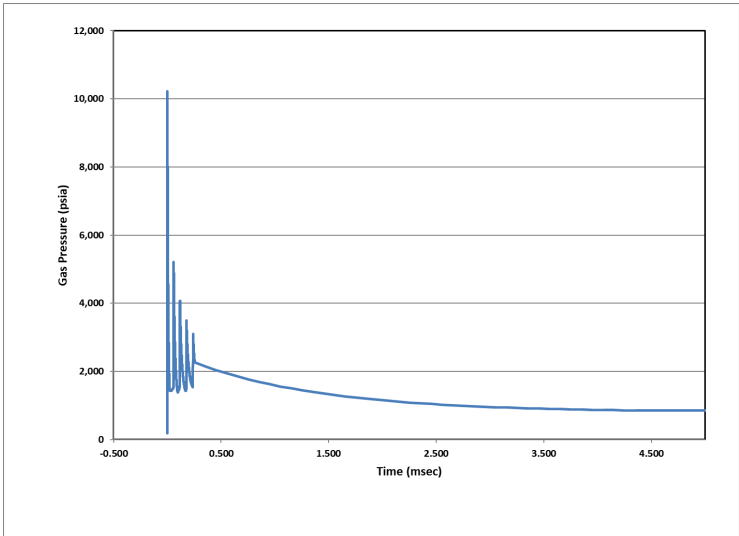
Detonation



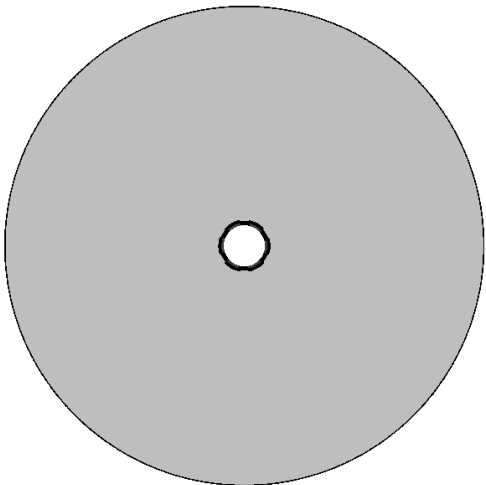
0.0000 msec



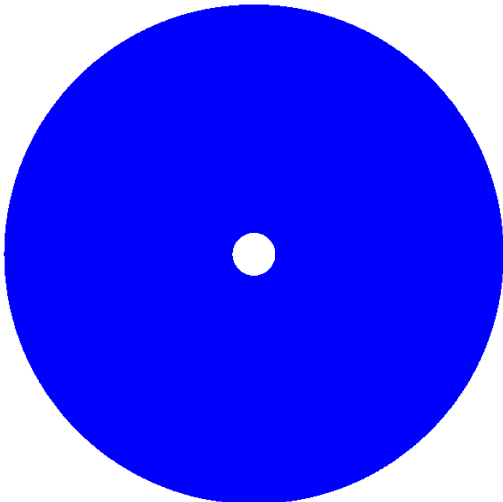
0.0000 msec



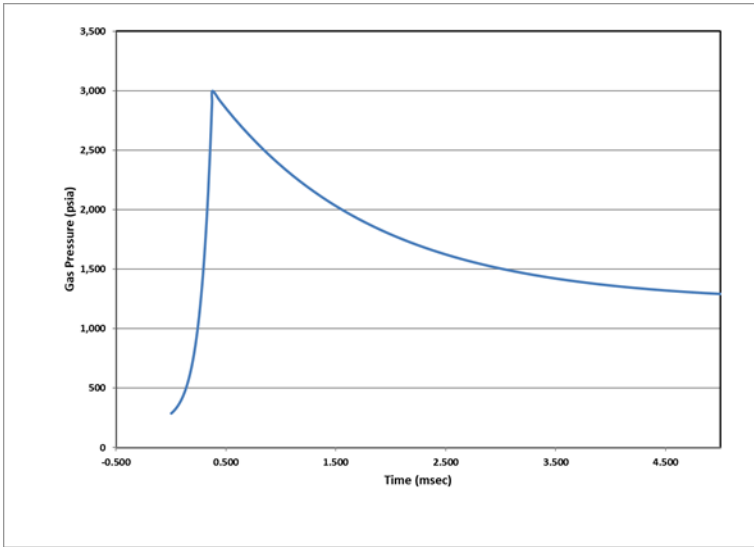
Slow CV Combustion



0.0000 msec



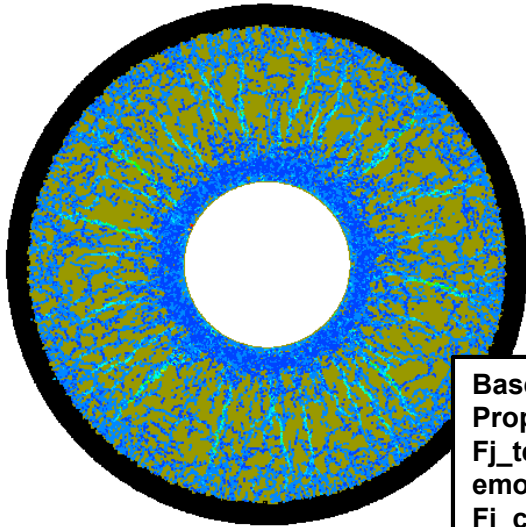
0.0000 msec



Material: HydroStone Super-X w/
Measured BTS Strength

Tensile Strength and Elastic Modulus Variations

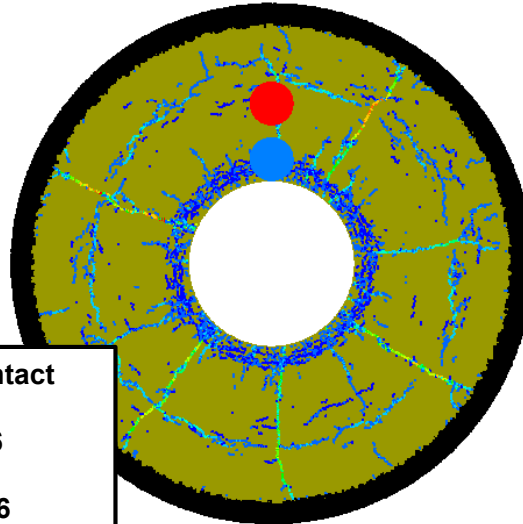
Unrealistic



0.1506 msec

3000 psi CV detonation
1x tensile strength
1x modulus

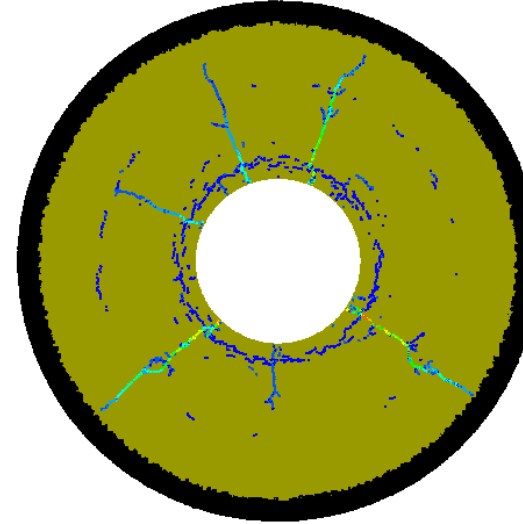
Close To Observed



0.1506 msec

3000 psi CV detonation
2.5x tensile strength
1x modulus

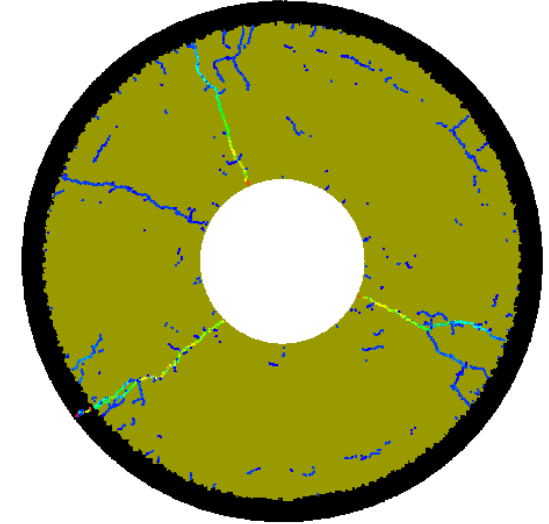
Unrealistic



0.3312 msec

3000 psi CV detonation
5x tensile strength
1x modulus

Unrealistic



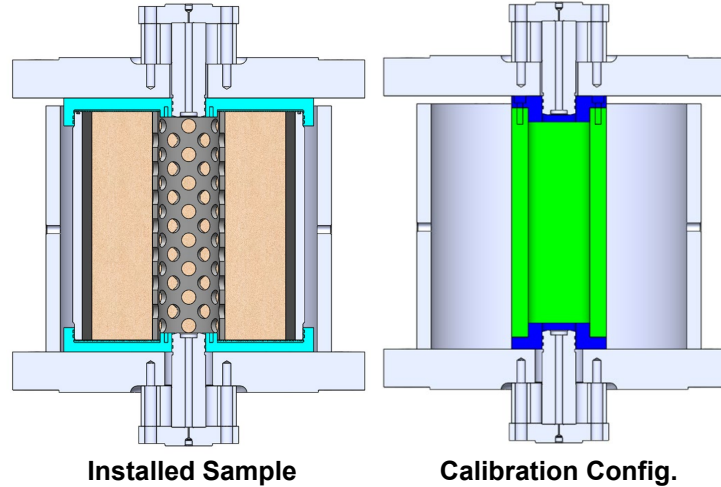
0.2810 msec

3000 psi CV detonation
5x tensile strength
2x modulus

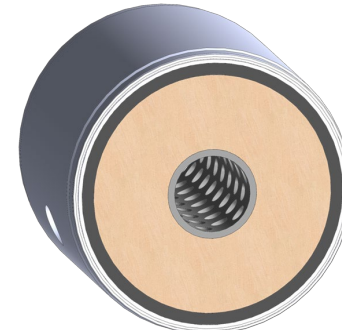
Baseline Contact
Properties:
Fj_ten 8.62e6
emod 18.8e9
Fj_coh 82.8e6
Fj_fa 0
Fj_fric 0.577

- Increasing Bond tensile strength reduced the number of fractures
- At 2.5 and 5x Fj_ten, a ring of damage due to a rarefaction wave was still present
- 10x multiplier (not shown) resulted in no fractures.

Lab Scale Fracture Demonstrations

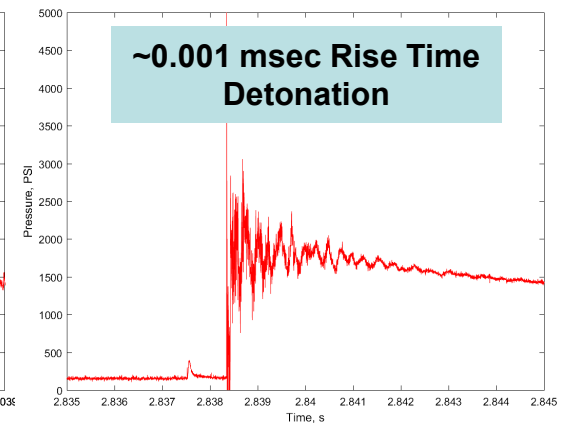
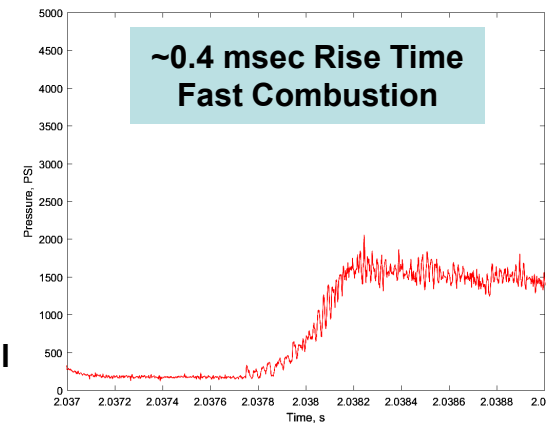


- Cast HydroStone-SX Material
- 24" OD x 24" L x 6.5" ID Sample
- 1" Steel Shell + 1" Rubber
- 7-5/8" OD P-110 Pre-Perforated Casing
- Lab Test For BTS, Density, V_p , E , ν , etc.
- Practice Cylinder For Calibrating Gas Pulse Generation System



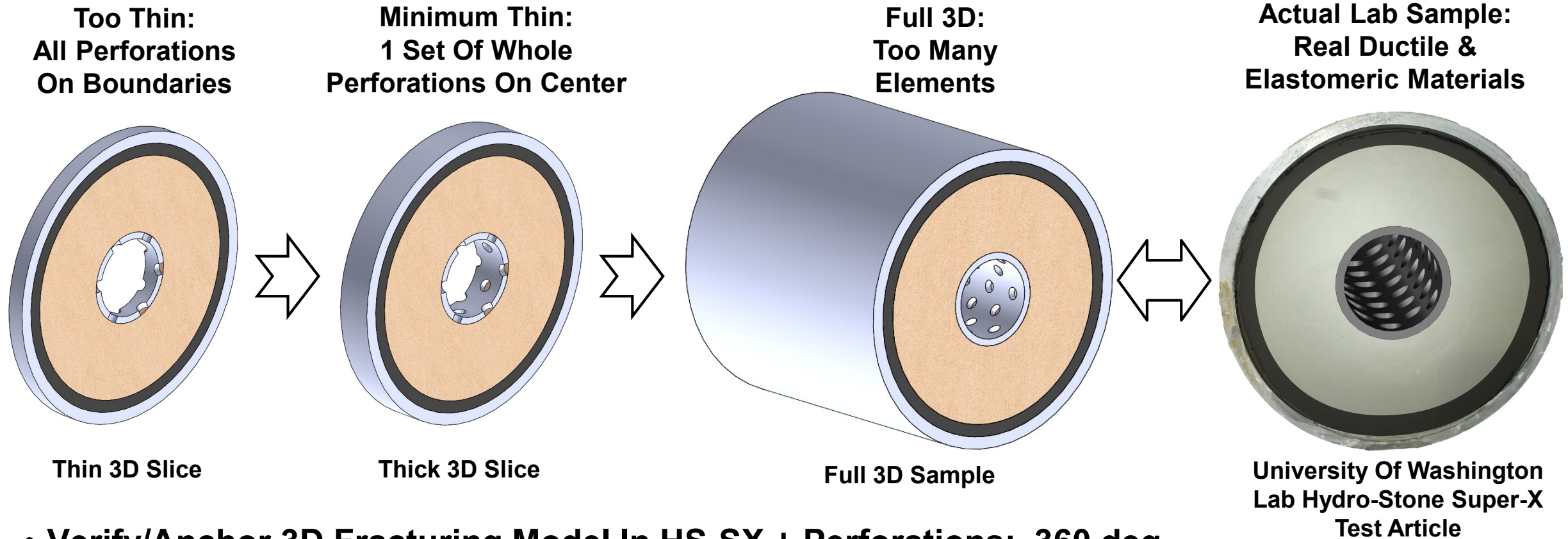
1" Steel + 1" Rubber Shell
Hydrostone-SX Sample

Pressure Rise Time Variations



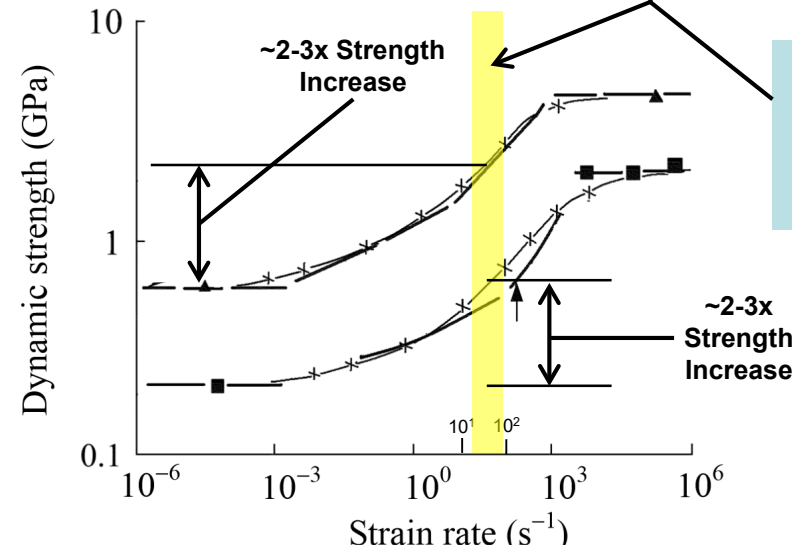
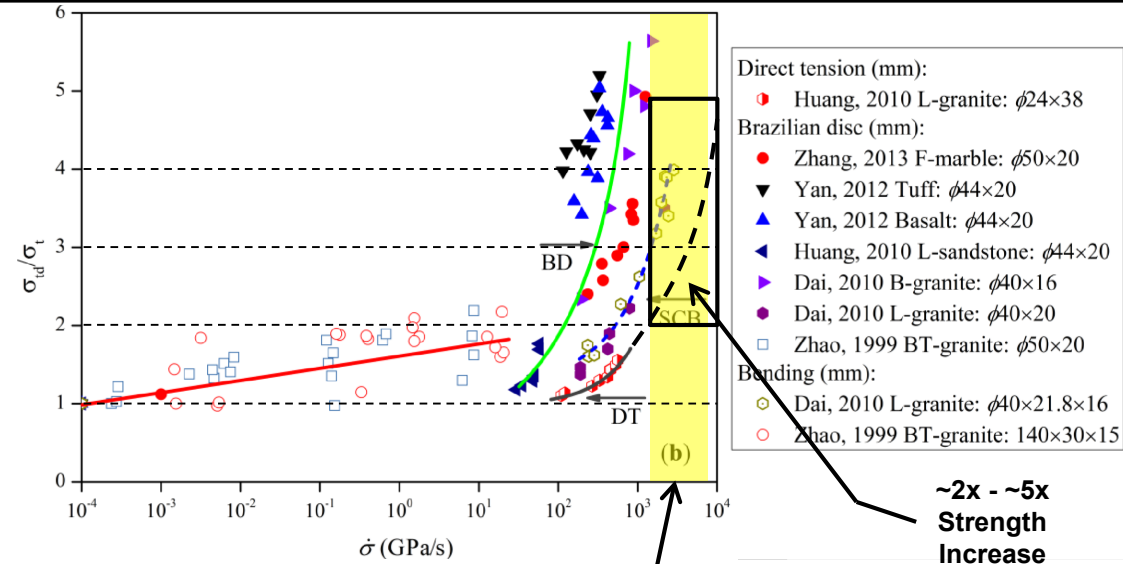
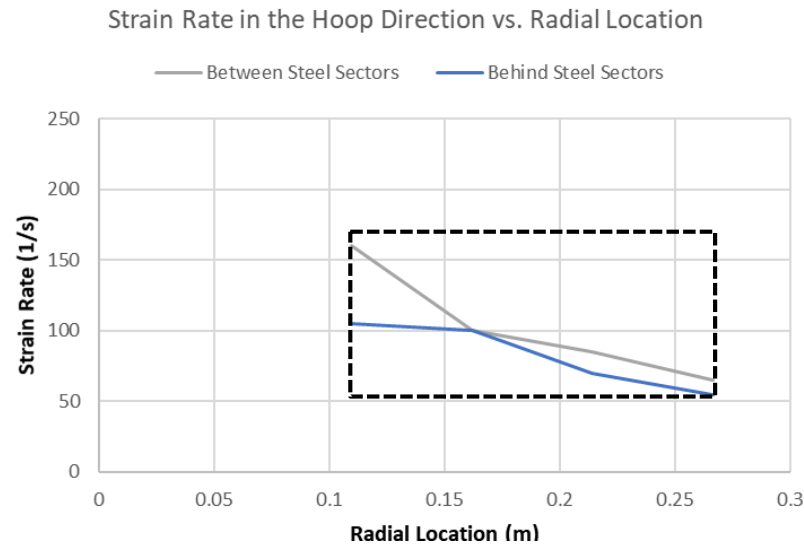
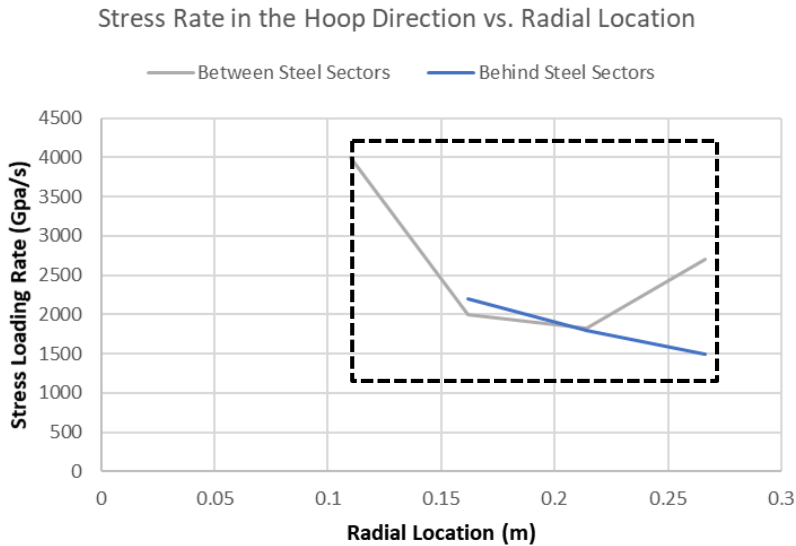
Combustion Pressure Rise Rate Tunable By >400x Range
PFC2D/3D Used To Predict Fracture Pattern In Confined Sample

PFC3D Lab Scale Dynamic Fracture Modeling Path



- **Verify/Anchor 3D Fracturing Model In HS-SX + Perforations: 360 deg. Perforations & Directional Perforations – Vary Perf Density & Open Area**
- **Extend To Near-Field Un-Constrained “Real Rock” & Anisotropic Stress**
- **Multi-Pulse & Far-Field Fracture Propagation**

HS-SX Tensile Strength In Numerical Models Increased ~2.5x To Match Experiments



Typical Strain & Loading Rates For Dynamic Pulsed Fracturing

~2.5x Tensile Strength Increase Required To Match HS-SX Perforation Experiments Is Consistent With Empirical Rock Data: This Behavior Must Be Inherent In Model!

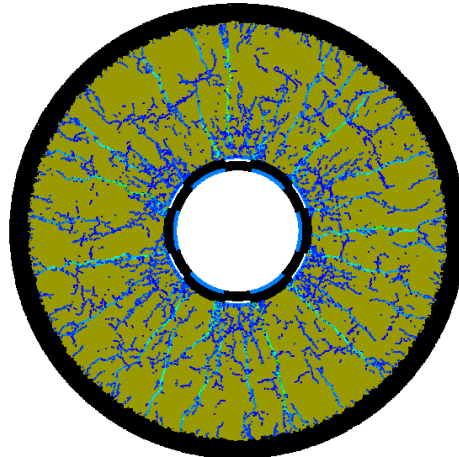
- At High Loading Rates We Should Expect The HS-SX To Exhibit ~2.5x-~5x Static Strength
- At Moderate Loading Rates ~1.0x to ~2x Strength

Fracture Comparison – Pressure Pulse and HS-SX BTS Strength Variation vs. Lab Experience

1x Measured HS-SX
BTS Tensile Strength
1x Measured Tensile
Modulus

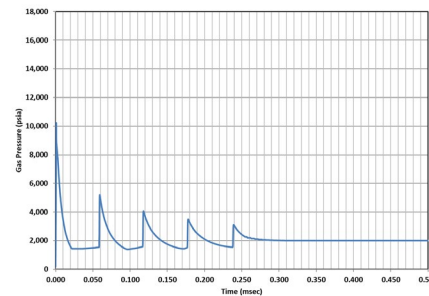
This Fracture
Pattern Has Too
Much Fine Scale
Damage – We Do
Not See This In
Tests

2,000 psi CV Pressure Detonation

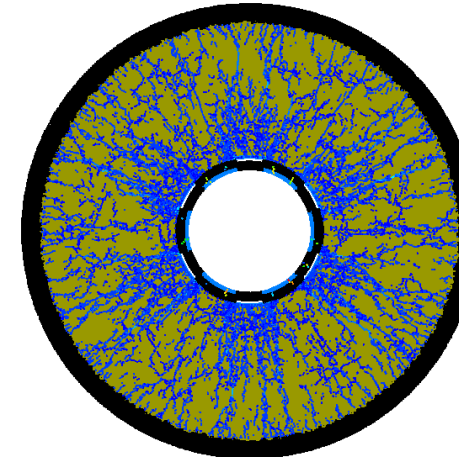


0.6524 msec

Contact Properties:
Fj_ten 8.6e6 (1x)
emod 18.8e9 (1x)
Fj_coh 82.8e6
Fj_fa 0
Fj_fric 0.577

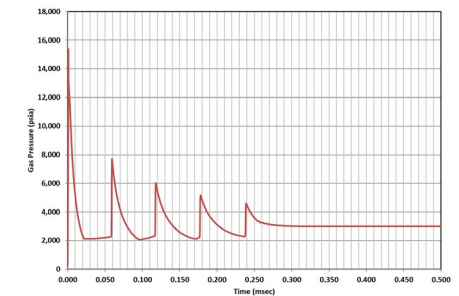


3,000 psi CV Pressure Detonation



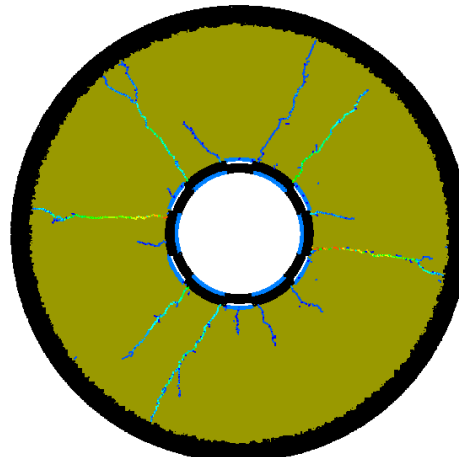
0.3416 msec

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Fj_coh 82.8e6
Fj_fa 0
Fj_fric 0.577



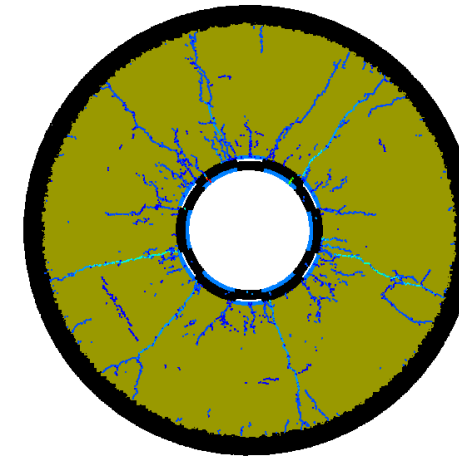
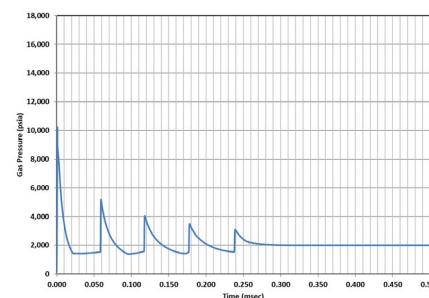
2.5x Measured HS-SX
BTS Strength &
1x Meas. Tens.
Modulus

This Fracture
Pattern Is
Consistent With
What We Observer
In The Laboratory
Tests



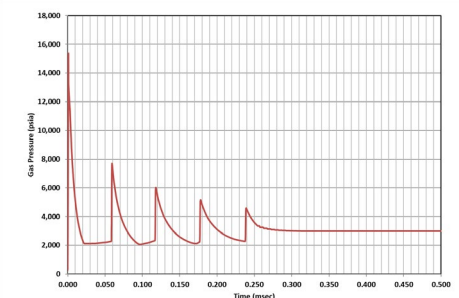
1.0046 msec

Contact Properties:
Fj_ten 21.55e6 (2.5x)
emod 18.8e9 (1x)
Fj_coh 82.8e6
Fj_fa 0
Fj_fric 0.577



1.0046 msec

Contact Properties:
Fj_ten 21.55e6 (2.5x)
emod 18.8e9 (1x)
Fj_coh 82.8e6
Fj_fa 0
Fj_fric 0.577



PFC3D Constrained 24" OD HS-SX + Rubber-Lined + Perforated Steel Casing Fracturing Model

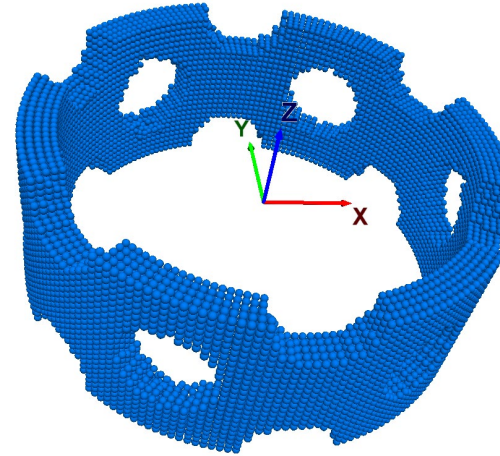
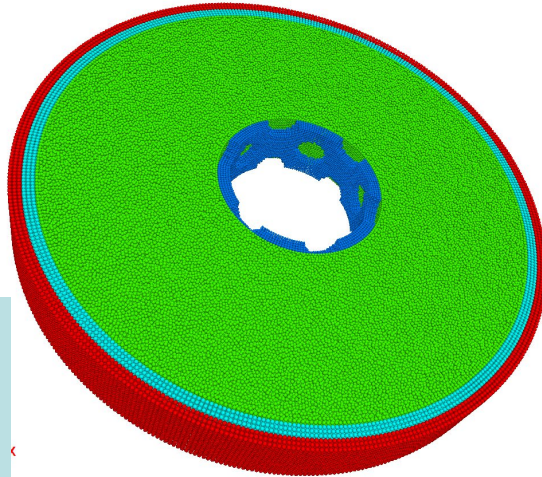
NaturaFrac™
Advanced Dynamic Formation Stimulation

PFC3D 5.00

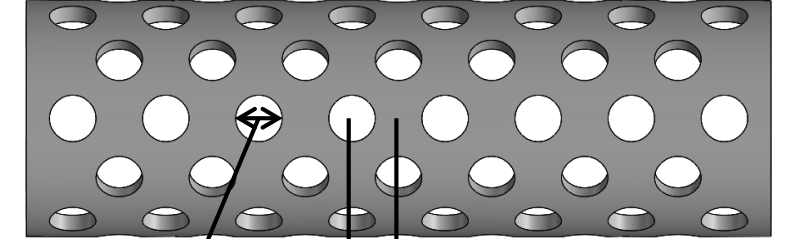
©2018 Itasca Consulting Group, Inc.

Ball group 1
Balls (552996)
HS-SX
perfCasing
rubberShell
steelShell

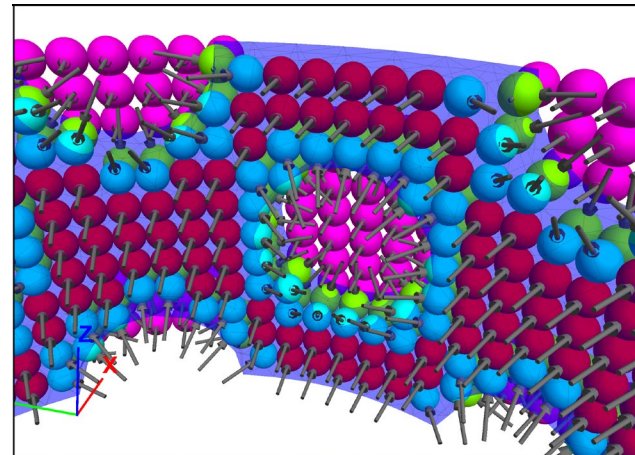
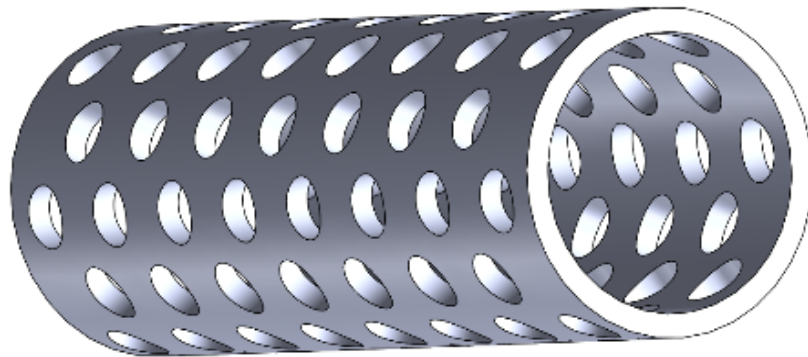
0.5M+ Elements
Steel Shell
Rubber Liner
HS-SX Material
Pre-Perfed Inner Casing



- P-110 Alloy, 7-5/8" Casing @ 42.8 lb/ft
- 7.625" OD x 6.50" ID



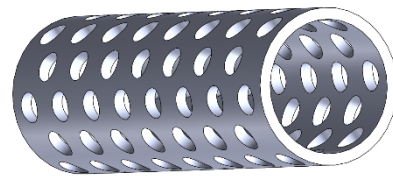
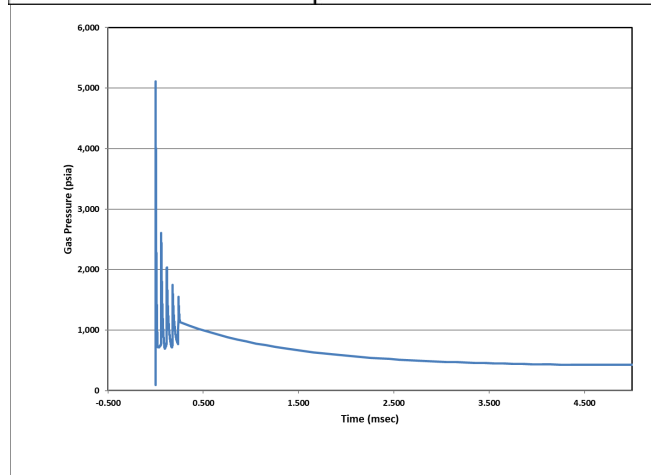
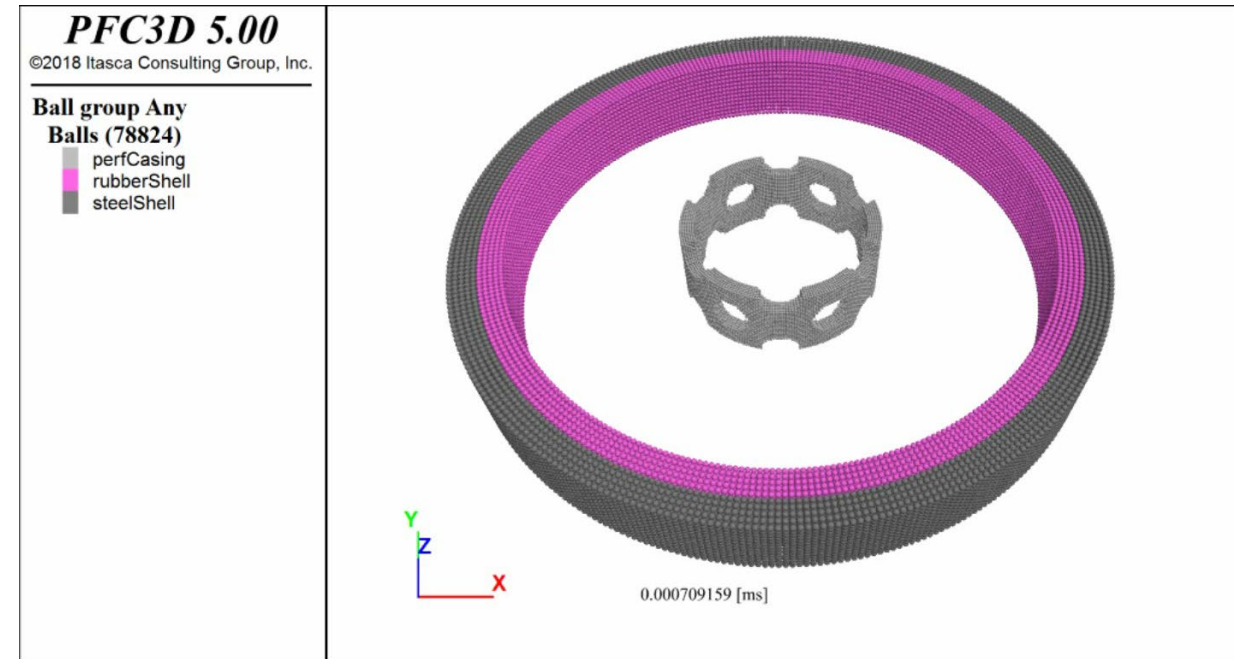
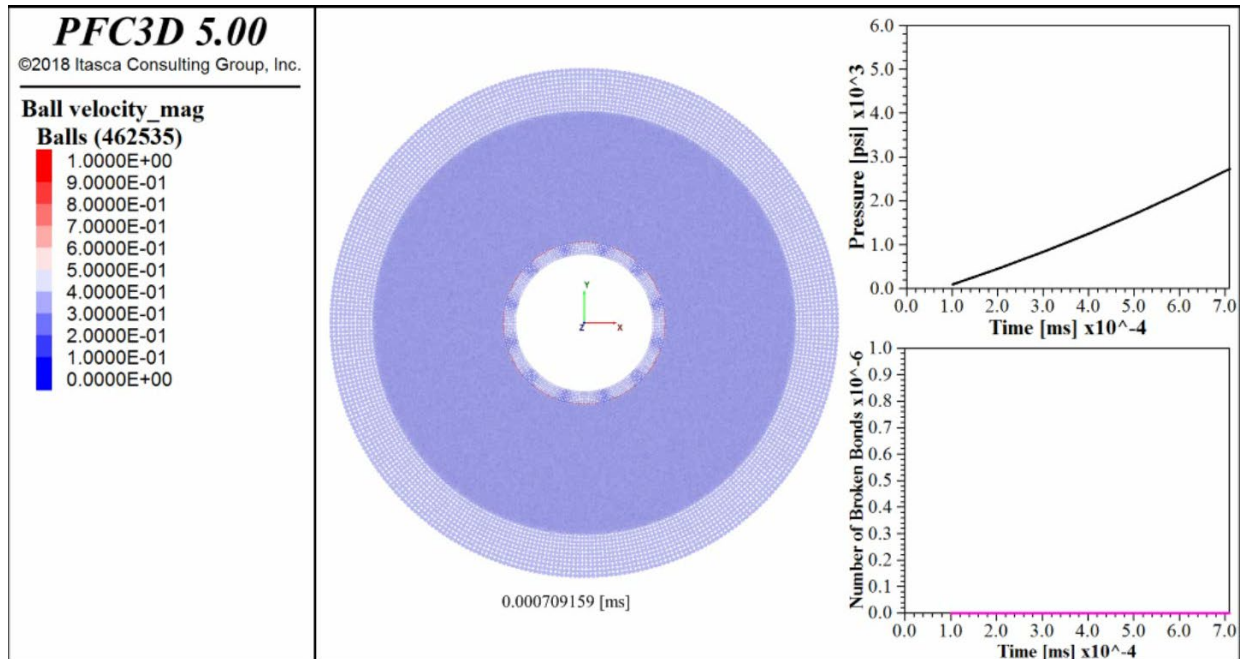
1.5" Hole ID 1.5" Axial Spacing
6 Perforations Per Axial Location



Fracturing Geometry 1:

- 24³/₈" Steel Outer Shell x 1" Thk.
- 1" Thk Rubber
- HS-SX With 7⁵/₈" ID
- 7⁵/₈" Perforated Casing With 1¹/₂" Holes
- Pressure Is Applied To HS-SX Thru Perforations & To Initially Exposed Surfaces Of Casing
- No Gas Pressure In Fractures – Results Shown Here Are Conservative

PFC3D 1,000 psi CV Pressure Detonation Model



**360° 1.5''
Perforations**

3D Micro Properties Were Recalibrated To Produce Same Measured Macro Properties (w/2.5x Fj_ten Value) As 2D Due To Simulation Differences Between 2D (Infinite Circular Rods) & 3D (Discrete Spherical Balls)

HS-SX 3D Fracturing Summary Results – Quantitative Predictions

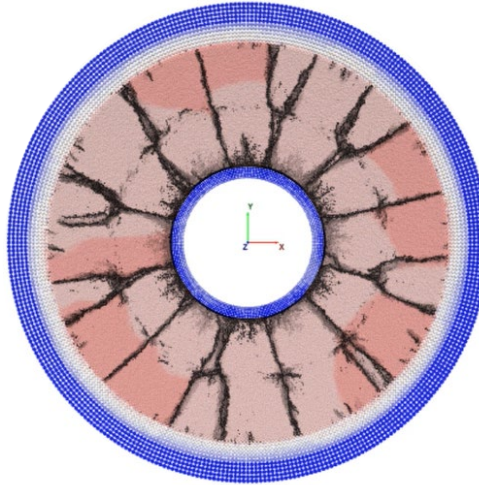
NaturaFrac™
Advanced Dynamic Formation Stimulation

360° 1.5" Perforations

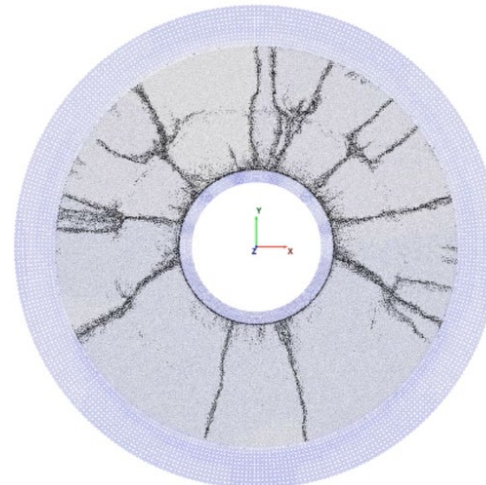
180° 1.5" Perforations

360° 0.83" Perforations

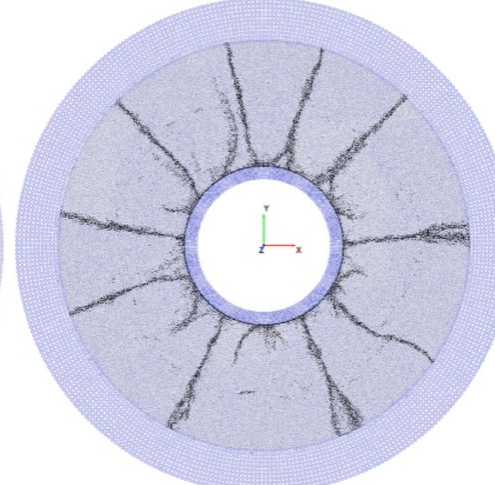
1,000 PSI
CV Radial
Reflected
Detonation



0.850135 [ms]

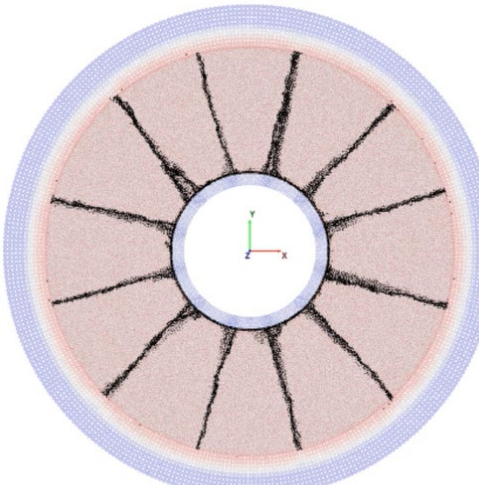


0.89315 [ms]

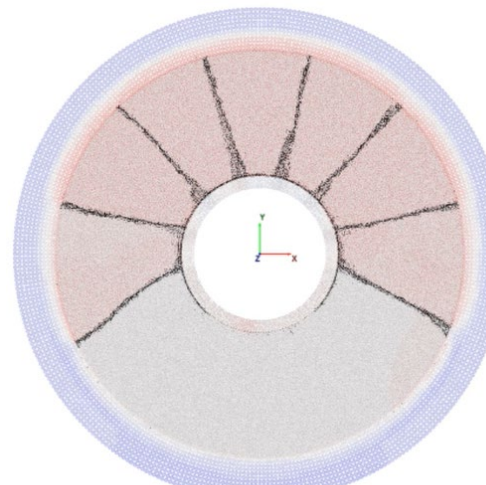


0.893023 [ms]

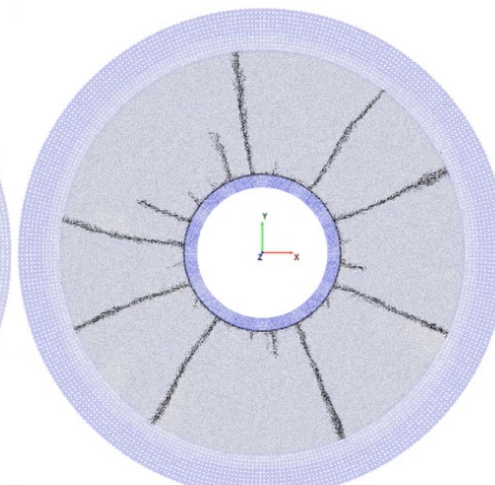
1,500 PSI
Constant
Volume
Combustion



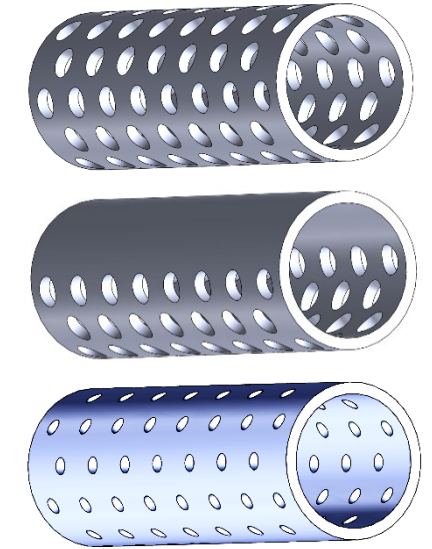
0.993393 [ms]



0.992486 [ms]

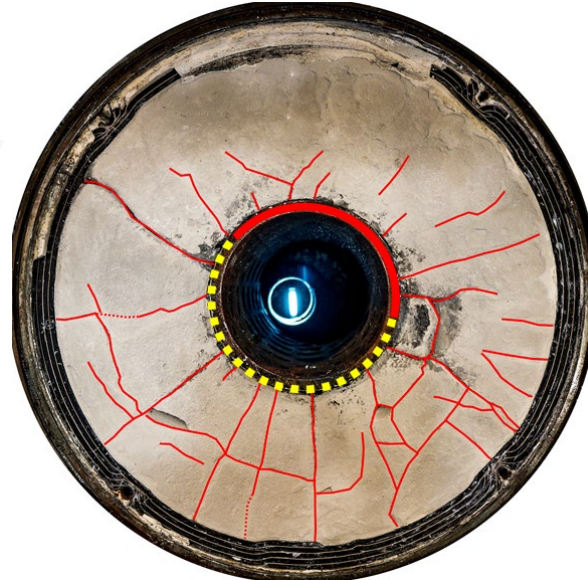
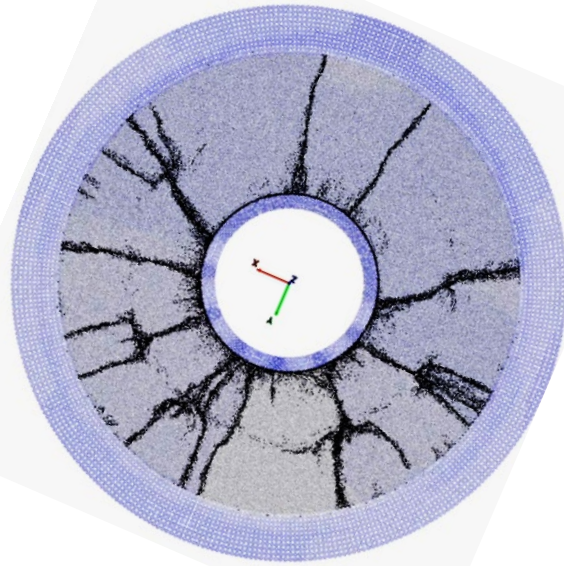
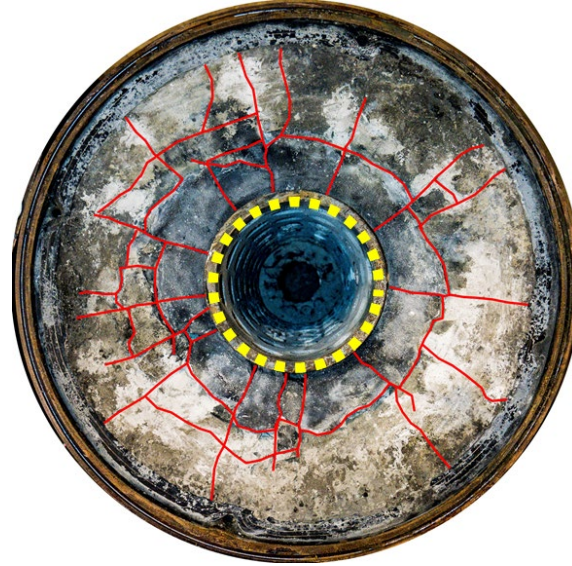
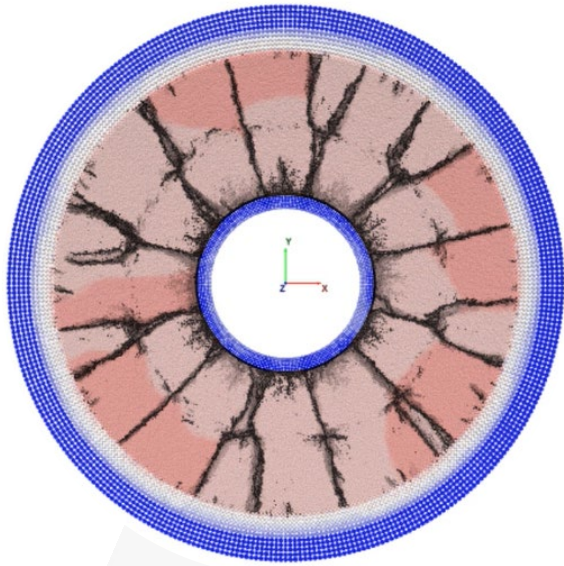


0.993421 [ms]



**PFC3D Fracture
Modeling Tool Shows
Ability To Predict
Complex Fracture
Initiation Through
Perforated Steel
Casing With
Adjustments to HS-SX
Tensile Strengths**

Very Good Agreement Between Experiments vs. Simulations With Modified Material Properties



- Experiment Results & **Pre-Test** Fracture Simulations Show Excellent Qualitative Agreement
 - Fracture Complexity
 - Directionality Effects
- Further Modeling Refinements & Tests Can Optimize Tool Operation For Desired Effects
 - Fracturing Complexity
 - Degree Of Directionality
 - Etc.
- Near Bore Strain Rate Dependent Material Properties Are Necessary For Successful Dynamic Fracture Simulations In PFC2D/3D
- Can Now Proceed To Free-Field/Large Scale Fracturing Modeling

- **Pulsed Gas Fracturing Capable Of Producing Complex Fracture Patterns**
 - Fracture Type & Number Follow Theoretical Trends vs. Pressurization Rate & Peak Value
 - 2DPFC Fracture Models Show The Same Trends
- **2D & 3D PFC Successfully Modeled Lab Demonstrated Fracturing Patterns**
 - Multi-Material, Confined Synthetic Fracturing Samples
 - Modified Material Characteristics At High Loadings/Strain Rates Necessary
 - Love To Have Auto-Strain-Rate Dependent F_{j_ten} In PFC
- **Further Modeling Challenges**
 - Model Sizes/Element Counts For Full Scale (6ft Diam Samples)
 - Real Formation Fabric Modeling
 - Dynamic Gas In Fractures Effects
 - Existing Fractures/Multiple Pulse Fracturing
 - Thermal Effects



Contact Information

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