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Testing and Modelling Iodine-induced Stress Corrosion Cracking (I-SCC) in Zircaloy alloys

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Abstract

The I-SCC behavior of cold-worked stress-relieved (CWSR) Zircaloy-4 was investigated by means of internal pressure tests in both inert and gaseous iodine environments. I-SCC susceptibility was derived from tests on both un-irradiated and neutron-irradiated claddings tubes. Crack propagation rates were obtained from tests on pre-cracked tubes.

The internal pressure tests conducted on un-irradiated cold-worked stress-relieved Zircaloy-4 cladding tubes in an iodine vapor environment were used to investigate the influence of loading mode (either constant pressure tests, constant circumferential strain rate tests, or constant circumferential strain tests) and test temperature (320°C to 488°C) on the I-SCC process. The experimental results obtained with different loading modes indicated that there is an apparent threshold hoop stress, below which I-SCC does not occur.

The tests were simulated by finite element models using a specific viscoplastic constitutive equation. The I-SCC initiation and time-to-failure predictions were modelled by a Kachanov's damage law written with a hoop stress threshold. In the simulations, the Kachanov's law can be used in post-treatment of calculations or coupled with the viscoplastic constitutive equation for the cladding in order to simulate the initiation and the propagation of the I-SCC crack. The coupling was implemented in the finite-element code CAST3M [1].

1 Introduction

The Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) core is composed of fuel assemblies, fuel cladding being the first barrier. During an increase of the reactor power, the expansion of the pellets leads to the Pellet Cladding Interaction (PCI) that results in a thermomechanical loading on the cladding. In conjunction with iodine expelled from the pellet, it can lead to the hypothetical failure of the cladding by Iodine Stress Corrosion Cracking (I-SCC).

The aim of this paper is to describe both the experimental and modelling approaches used at CEA for the description of I-SCC of stress-relieved (SR) Zircaloy-4 tube cladding. The I-SCC initiation and time-to-failure predictions are modelled by a Kachanov's damage law written with a hoop stress threshold. The Kachanov's model can be used in post-treatment of calculations or coupled with the viscoplastic constitutive equation for the cladding.

Experimental procedure and results are first described in this paper. On the basis of the results, the different features of the model are detailed. Finally, simulation vs. experiment comparisons are presented.

2 Experimental procedure and results

I-SCC susceptibility of different batches of CWSR Zy-4 PWR cladding was investigated by means of internal pressurization tests on smooth specimens. Those tests were performed on both un-irradiated and neutron-irradiated cladding, to determine the influence of neutron irradiation on I-SCC susceptibility.

To create the iodine vapor environment, approximately 75 mg of iodine was introduced inside a crucible which was introduced inside each specimen before pressurization. It gives an iodine surface concentration close to 3 mg.cm⁻² which is in the range of iodine surface concentrations that lead to saturated effect of the iodine content on I-SCC susceptibility of Zircaloy-4 [2]. The iodine partial pressure at the beginning of the tests was evaluated to 3.10⁵ Pa [3]. It was found in [4] that a critical iodine partial pressure is needed for the ISCC to occur, this critical range is between 0 - 60 Pa and that beyond 60 Pa, the iodine partial pressure does not influence anymore the ISCC behavior.

The diametrical strain of the cladding can be measured by a laser throughout the tests. The inner pressure can be regulated by this laser in order to pilot the diametrical strain. In this paper, all the inner pressure tests presented were conducted at constant pressure.

The mean hoop stress applied to the cladding is expressed in (Eq 1) as a function of the pressure "P" applied inside the cladding, the outer radius "R_{out}", the inner radius "R_{in}" and the thickness "e" of the cladding.

$$\sigma_{\theta\theta} = P \cdot \frac{(R_{out} + R_{in})}{2 \cdot e} \quad (\text{Eq 1})$$

In the tests presented in this paper, the pressure "P" is applied at 2 bar/s until a target value is reached, then the pressure is maintained at a constant value. The pressure rate of 2 bar/s is chosen fast enough so that the times required to load the specimen to the target value is small compared to the times-to-failure expected (few minutes versus some hours respectively). It is not chosen too fast to avoid adiabatic heating of the gas inside the specimen.

I-SCC susceptibility was studied on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4, on smooth specimen, in the temperature range from 320°C to 380°C [3] (see the results on Figure 1). I-SCC was also studied on

smooth specimen of un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4, called Zy-4 X11 in this paper, in the temperature range from 350°C to 488°C [5] (see the results on Figure 2). The irradiated CWSR Zy-4 was studied at the temperature of 350°C [6] on smooth specimen (see Figure 3).

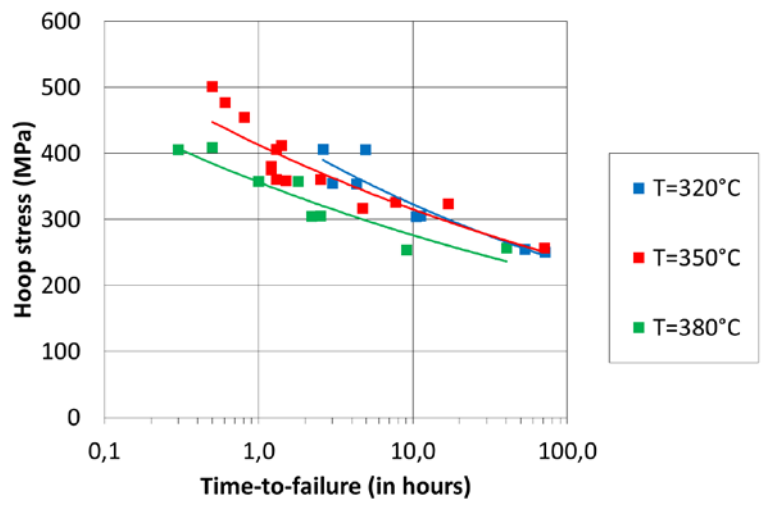


Figure 1: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimen under iodine vapor environment. Effect of the temperature on I-SCC susceptibility of un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 cladding [3]

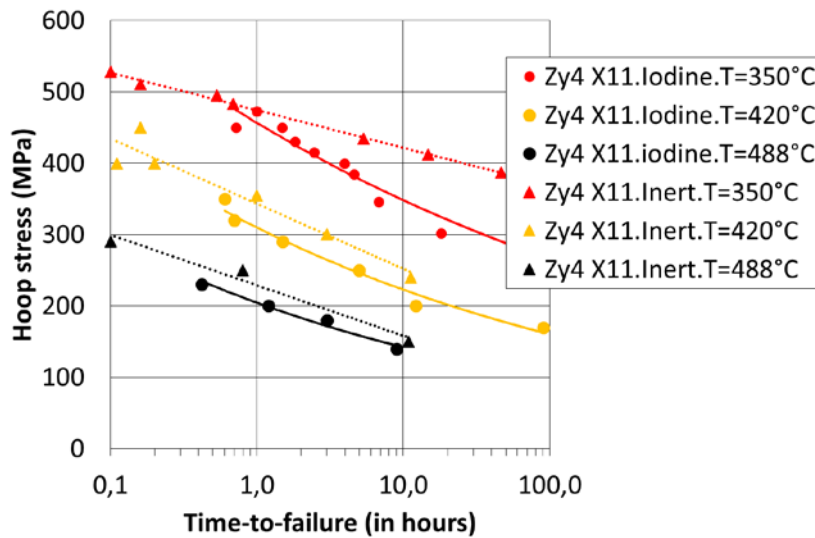


Figure 2: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimen. Effect of the temperature on I-SCC susceptibility of un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 (X11 batch) cladding [5]. Comparison of the results obtained under iodine vapor environment with results obtained under inert environment.

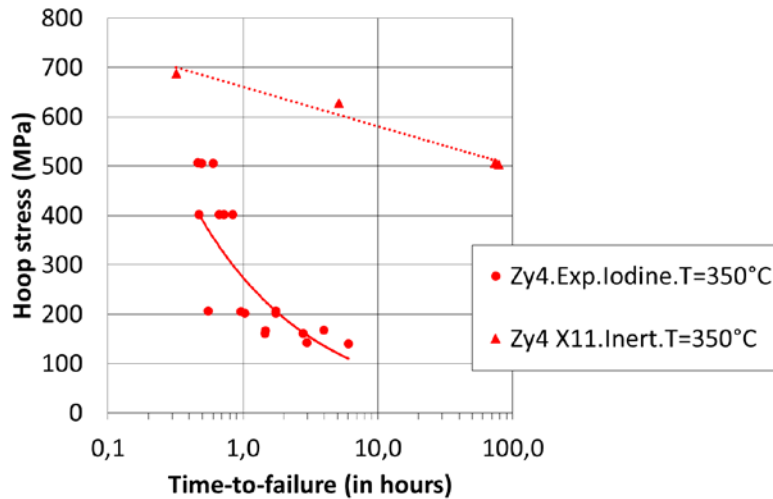


Figure 3: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimen. I-SCC susceptibility of irradiated CWSR Zy-4 cladding [6]. Comparison of the results obtained under iodine vapor environment with results obtained under inert environment.

I-SCC susceptibility (as defined as the difference between the time-to-failure obtained under the iodine vapor environment and the time-to-failure obtained under the inert environment) is decreasing with temperature. At the opposite, the more the temperature increases the more the I-SCC times-to-failure decrease (together with the times-to-failure obtained under the inert environment). The kinetic of the I-SCC fracture is accelerated by the temperature. The irradiation increases the I-SCC susceptibility of the CWSR Zy-4. On un-irradiated material, there is an apparent stress threshold of about 240 MPa that seems to be independent of the temperature between 320°C and 380°C. But the conclusion is not apparent for temperatures above (420°C and 488°C).

In order to evaluate the I-SCC crack growth rate and the I-SCC tenacity “ K_{SCC} ”, internal pressurization tests have also been carried out on pre-cracked specimens. Some results were obtained at different temperatures from 350°C to 420°C on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [7] (see the results on Figure 4). The pre-cracking procedure is a fatigue-corrosion procedure and is described in [7]. Some results were obtained for irradiated CWSR Zy-4 at 350°C [8] with a fatigue procedure described in [9].

The results give mean propagation rates “ V ” as a function of the initial stress intensity factor “ K_0 ” applied to each specimen. The mean propagation rate “ V ” is expressed as a function of the time-to-failure “ t_f ”, and the difference between the final I-SCC crack depth “ a_f ” and the pre-crack depth “ a_0 ” both measured post-mortem.

$$V = \frac{a_f - a_0}{t_f} \quad (\text{Eq 2})$$

“ K_0 ” is expressed in (Eq 3) as a function of the mean hoop stress “ $\sigma_{\theta\theta}$ ”, as defined in (Eq 1), and the pre-crack depth “ a_0 ”.

$$K_0 = \sigma_{\theta\theta} \cdot \sqrt{\pi \cdot a_0} \quad (\text{Eq 3})$$

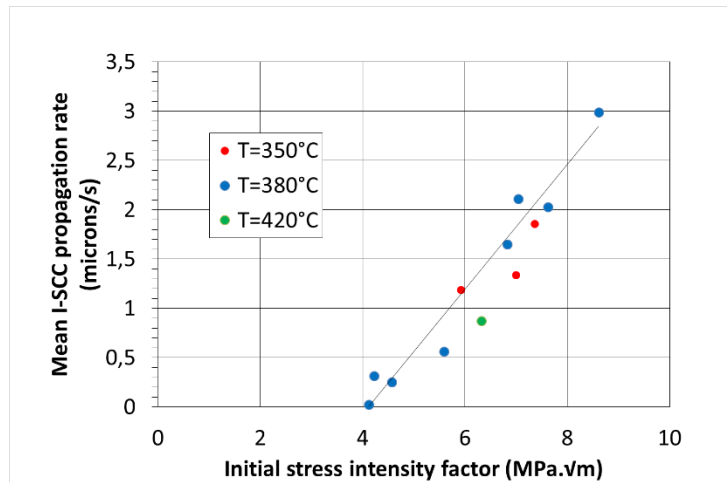


Figure 4: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimen. Effect of temperature on I-SCC tenacity ($K_{SCC}=4 \text{ MPa}\cdot\sqrt{\text{m}}$) and on the I-SCC propagation rate.

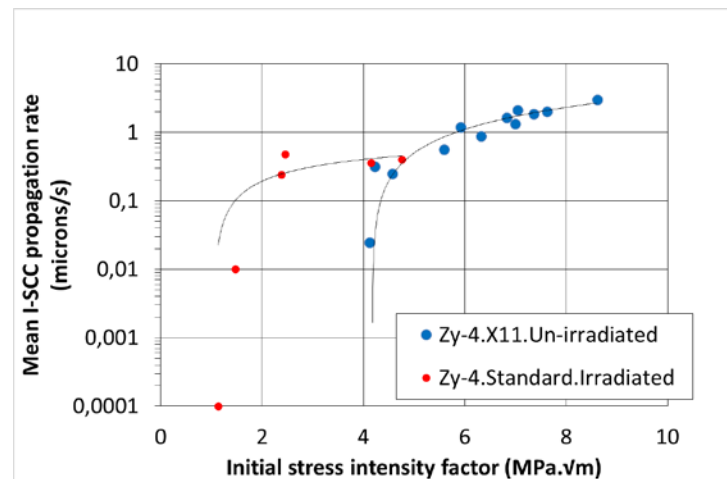


Figure 5: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimen. Effect of the irradiation on I-SCC tenacity ($K_{SCC}=1 \text{ MPa}\cdot\sqrt{\text{m}}$ on irradiated CWSR Zy-4).

I-SCC tenacity and the propagation rate seem to be independent of the temperature. The irradiation decreases the I-SCC tenacity of the CWSR Zy-4.

I-SCC propagation times appear to be short in comparison to the usual initiation times (few minutes versus hours respectively). As a consequence, the experimental time-to-failure can be assimilated to the time to initiate an I-SCC crack on the smooth specimen.

3 Results and modeling

3.1 Simulation of the inner pressure experiments

To simulate the inner pressure tests, finite-element simulations were performed with CAST3M [1] in the 2D radial-tangential plane of the cladding. The viscoplastic behavior of the cladding was simulated with an orthotropic viscoplastic model [10] for irradiated or un-irradiated Zy-4 cladding. This model is implemented in CAST3M through the MISTRAL module [11].

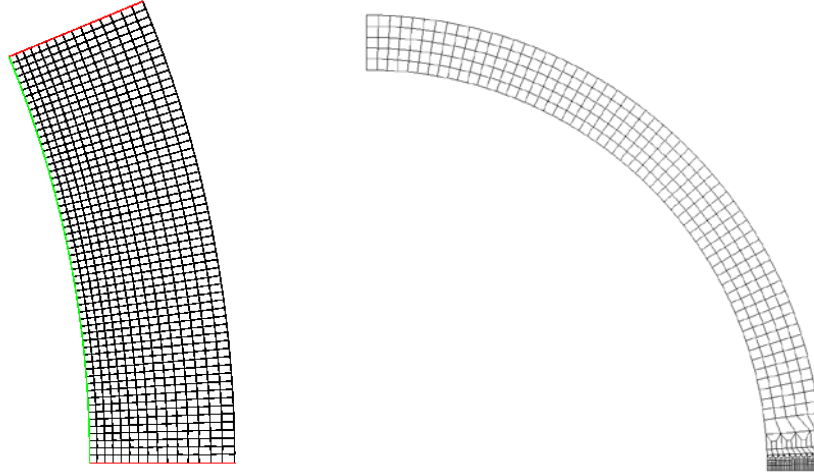


Figure 6 : On the left, 2D finite element mesh used in the simulations with the symmetrical boundary conditions (red lines) and the pressure applied at the inner wall of the cladding (green line). On the right, an example of the mesh used for the calculations with the Kachanov-Miller's model.

The internal pressure is applied by radial nodal forces at the inner wall of the cladding. The internal pressure also creates an axial resultant force F on the end caps of the specimen. The value of F is a function of the internal pressure P and the inner radius R_{in} of the cladding:

$$F = P \cdot \pi \cdot R_{in}^2 \quad (\text{Eq 4})$$

In order to take into account F , the simulations were performed using the assumption of the generalized plane strain. In this assumption, the resultant axial load F is applied to the mesh at the center of the generalized plane strain center which is situated at the center of the cladding. In the example shown in the left of the Figure 6, the simulated angle is $\theta=22.5^\circ$, so the force applied in the calculations ($F_{applied}$) is equal to $F/16$.

$$F_{applied} = \frac{F \cdot \theta_{rad}}{2 \cdot \pi} \quad (\text{Eq 5})$$

The geometry of the mesh was recomputed after each step of calculation. In particular, the radial nodal forces applied at the inner wall of the cladding and the axial load were recomputed after each step. As a consequence, the hoop stress defined in (Eq 1) represents its initial value.

3.2 I-SCC modeling with the Kachanov's model

To describe I-SCC, the Kachanov's damage model [12] as written in (Eq 6) has been chosen.

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = A \left(\frac{\sigma_{\theta\theta}}{1-D} - \sigma_0 \right)^n \text{ with } \langle X \rangle = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } X > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } X < 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{Eq 6})$$

This model describes the evolution of a damage variable D as a function of an effective hoop stress ($\sigma_{\theta\theta}/(1-D)$) and a threshold stress σ_0 . The scalar "A" and the exponent "n" are parameters of the model. The damage variable D is a scalar that ranges from 0 to close to 1. Before any damage occurred, D equals 0. Then, as long as the effective hoop stress is higher than the threshold stress σ_0 , D increases with time.

3.3 Kachanov's model used in post-treatment of FE simulations

The Kachanov's model can be used in post-treatment of the FE simulations. The effective $\sigma_{\theta\theta}$ used in (Eq 6) is the hoop stress calculated at the inner wall of the cladding, the value $D=1$ stands for the initiation of an I-SCC crack at the inner wall of the cladding, in the calculations. Because the I-SCC

propagation time is short in comparison to the initiation time, the time calculated to initiate a crack with Kachanov's model ($D=1$) can be compared to the experimental times-to-failure.

A set of parameters was identified for the un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 in [3], on the results presented on Figure 1. The effect of the temperature on I-SCC is taken into account with an activation energy Q as written in (Eq 7). The stress threshold $\sigma_{Iodine}=240$ MPa appeared to be independent of the temperature.

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = A_{Iodine} \cdot e^{-\frac{Q}{T}} \left(\frac{\sigma_{\theta\theta}}{1-D} - \sigma_{Iodine} \right)^{n_{Iodine}} \quad (\text{Eq 7})$$

The times-to-failure calculated with the Kachanov's model are compared to the experimental results on Figure 7. As an illustration, the times at which the calculated Diametrical Strain "DS" is larger than 40% are plotted on the figure under the name "Inert-DS>40%" curves. These curves illustrate the times-to-failure that could be obtained in an inert environment. In that figure (and the following figures), it is assumed that the times-to-failure calculated with the Kachanov's model cannot be longer than the times-to-failure evaluated with the "Inert-DS>40%" curves.

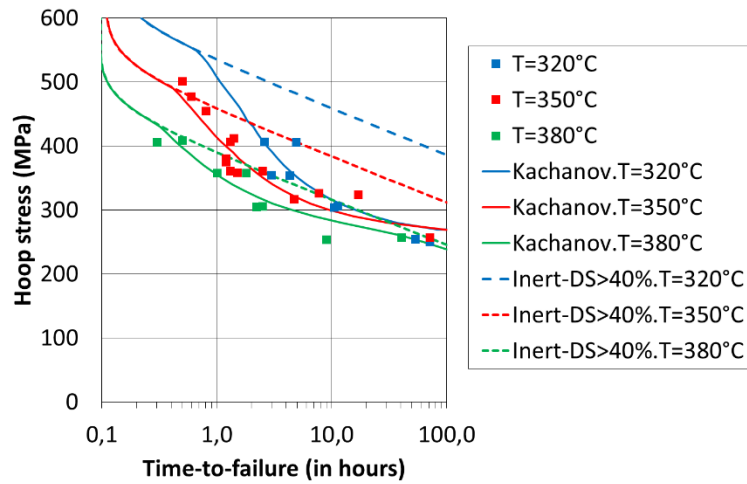


Figure 7: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimens. Comparison of the Kachanov's model with the experimental results obtained on the un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [3].

The Kachanov’s model, used with the set of parameters identified above, has been applied to the un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 (X11 batch) on the Figure 8. The I-SCC susceptibility of the material is slightly over-estimated at 350°C. At 420°C and 488°C, the “Inert-DS>40%” curves are close to the experimental times-to-failure obtained under an inert environment. At 420°C, the Kachanov’s model and the “Inert-DS>40%” are very close while they are superposed at 488°C. It is consistent with the small I-SCC susceptibility of the un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 (X11 batch) at these temperatures. It can be concluded that the Kachanov’s model, identified for a range of temperature from 320°C to 380°C in [3], with an apparent stress threshold of 240 MPa, extrapolates well to the results obtained at 420°C and 488°C too.

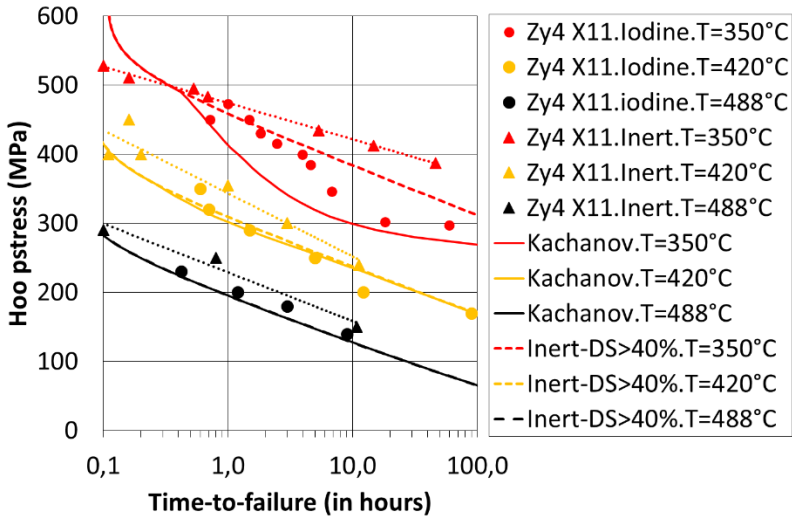


Figure 8 : Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimens. Comparison of the Kachanov’s model with the experimental results obtained on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 (Zy-4 X11 batch) [5].

The parameters of (Eq 7) were identified for the irradiated CWSR Zy-4. Only the activation energy “Q” was fixed to its value identified on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [3]. The Kachanov’s model for irradiated CWSR Zy-4 is compared to the experimental results on Figure 9. As an illustration, the times at which the calculated Diametrical Strain “DS” is larger than 20% are plotted on the figure.

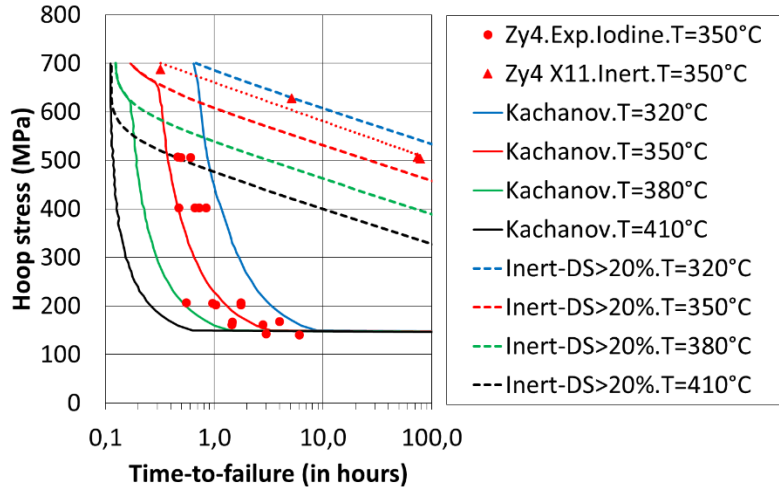


Figure 9 : Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimens. Comparison of the Kachanov's model with the experimental results obtained on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [6]. The effects of the temperature are extrapolated with the Kachanov's model.

3.4 Coupled Kachanov's model in CAST3M

In order to simulate both the initiation and the propagation of a crack, the Kachanov's model can be coupled to the viscoplastic models of the cladding. For that purpose, it has been implemented in the MISTRAL module and coupled to the viscoplastic models available in that module [13].

To simulate the crack opening, a crack strain tensor " ε^f ", as described in the Ottosen's model [14], has been added to the other type of strains in the MISTRAL module. It's a method to make the coupled damage model independent of the size of the mesh used in the calculation [14]. For an application to tangential direction of the cladding, the tangential component is the only non null value of the tensor. The tangential component is written in (Eq 8) as a function of the length L_θ of the elements in the tangential direction and of the critical opening of the crack " u_c ".

$$\frac{d\varepsilon_\theta^f}{dt} = \frac{dD}{dt} \cdot \frac{u_c}{L_\theta} \text{ with } G_0 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma_0 \cdot u_c \quad (\text{Eq 8})$$

The critical crack opening " u_c " and the stress threshold σ_0 , as defined in (Eq 6) in the Kachanov's model, allow to define the minimal fracture energy " G_0 " of the model.

The Figure 10 illustrates the response of the coupled Kachanov's model under a uni-directional loading which consists in applying a constant strain rate " V ", on one element, with the properties of the cladding in its tangential direction (with the viscoplastic model for the CWSR Zy-4 [10]). The fracture energy " G ", which is defined as the area under the curve in this figure, tends to " G_0 " as the applied strain rate " V " decreases. It can be noticed that the displacement-to-failure is equal to the critical crack opening " u_c " plus a viscoplastic elongation of the material. For the lowest strain rates " V ", the viscoplastic elongation is neglectable and the displacement-to-failure is equal to the critical crack opening " u_c ".

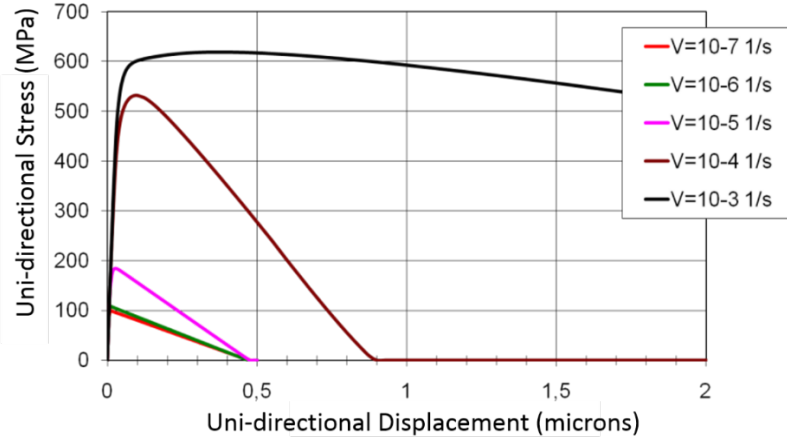


Figure 10: Uni-directional response of the Kachanov's model coupled with a viscoplastic model in CAST3M, at different uni-directional constant strain rate V . The calculation was made on one element, with $\sigma_0=100$ MPa and $u_c=0.5$ microns. The curves obtained with $V=10^{-7} s^{-1}$ and $V=10^{-6} s^{-1}$ are superposed and define the minimal fracture energy " G_0 ".

In order to take into account the embrittlement of the cladding due to the local iodine content " I " in the material, the Kachanov's model (Eq 7) is re-written as a function of embrittlement functions $A(I)$ and $\sigma_0(I)$ in (Eq 9):

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = A(I) \cdot e^{-\frac{Q}{T}} \left(\frac{\sigma_{\theta\theta}}{1-D} - \sigma_0(I) \right)^n \quad (\text{Eq 9})$$

The critical crack opening " u_c " writes as a function of the embrittlement function $G_0(I)$ deduced from (Eq 10):

$$G_0(I) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma_0(I) \cdot u_c(I) \quad (\text{Eq 10})$$

The Figure 11 presents the embrittlement functions according to the local iodine content " I ". When " I " is lower than a threshold of iodine content " $IC1$ ", there is no embrittlement of the material. The Kachanov's model is supposed to model the damage of the material under an inert environment. When " I " is higher than a saturation iodine content " $IC2$ ", the I-SCC susceptibility of the material does not change. The local iodine content " I " and the parameters $IC1$ and $IC2$ are dimensionless quantities.

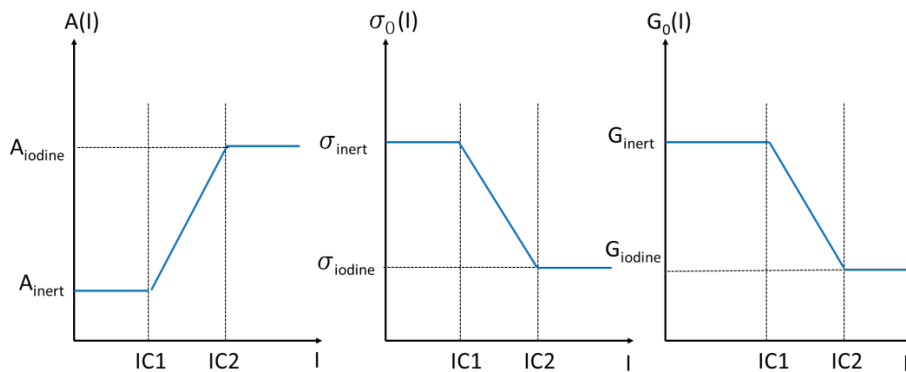


Figure 11: Embrittlement functions according to the iodine content « I ».

The local iodine content “I” is assumed to follow I-SCC Miller’s model [15]. This model is based on the Fick’s law of diffusion. Assuming that iodine does not diffuse in the zirconium, except in the I-SCC crack or at the tip of a crack, the Fick’s law was written as in (Eq 11) in [15].

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{1}{\tau}(I_{EXT} - I) \quad (\text{Eq 11})$$

This equation is suitable for a 2D Radial-Tangential FE application. In (Eq 11), I_{EXT} is the “external iodine load”. In this paper, it is a dimensionless quantity. Both, the iodine load “ I_{EXT} ” and the local iodine content “I” are fields of values defined on all the elements of the mesh in the FE simulations. The parameter τ in (Eq 11) is a period of time that is characteristic of the diffusion of iodine, limited to the crack and the tip of a crack, in the zirconium. This parameter could depend on the local mechanical fields as in Miller’s model [15] but was not taken into account in this paper.

The coupled Kachanov’s model used with the Miller’s model described above is called Kachanov-Miller’s model in the following.

Before any I-SCC crack is initiated in the calculation, the value of I_{EXT} is set to 0 everywhere except in one element of the inner wall of the cladding chosen arbitrarily. In that element, the local iodine content “I” evolves from 0 to the local non null value of I_{EXT} . The evolution of the local iodine content “I” can lead to the local embrittlement of the cladding and to a subsequent local damage. The “external iodine load” I_{EXT} is updated after each step of calculation in CAST3M according to the updated position of the I-SCC crack, so that, the values of I_{EXT} are 0 everywhere in the mesh except in an I-SCC crack and at the tip of an I-SCC crack, as illustrated in Figure 12.

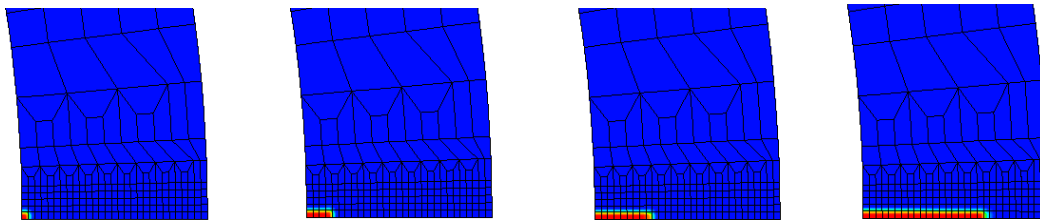


Figure 12: Simulation of the I-SCC crack with the Kachanov-Miller’s model. The iso-values of the external iodine load « I_{EXT} » that range from 0 (blue) to 1 (red) are depicted. The external iodine load starts at the inner wall of the cladding and follows the I-SCC crack that runs along the radius of the cladding, at different time steps (from the left to the right).

The “external iodine load” can be updated according to the position of the damaged zone. The damaged zone is defined as the zone where $D > D_{min}$. It includes the I-SCC crack. In the following, the “external iodine load” was updated according to the “damaged zone” with $D_{min} = 0.01$.

The Kachanov-Miller’s model, has been applied to the simulation of the inner pressure tests on irradiated CWSR Zy-4. Both the tests realized on smooth (see Figure 3) and pre-cracked specimens (see Figure 5) have been simulated.

The Figure 13 presents the results obtained with the Kachanov-Miller’s model applied to simulations of inner pressure tests at constant pressure on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 smooth specimens. The parameters under iodine of the embrittlement functions (see Figure 11) were those identified with the Kachanov’s model used in post-treatment, as described in (Eq 7) and Figure 9. The parameters under inert environment of the embrittlement functions were arbitrarily chosen to avoid any damage without iodine. The parameters IC1 and IC2 are arbitrarily set to 0.2 and 0.5 respectively in order to saturate the iodine embrittlement. I-SCC initiation and failure of the smooth specimens are properly

simulated by the Kachanov-Miller's model. I-SCC cracks evolve fast enough in the calculations to conclude that the times-to-failure and the times-to-initiate an I-SCC cracks are close in the calculations as in the experimental tests.

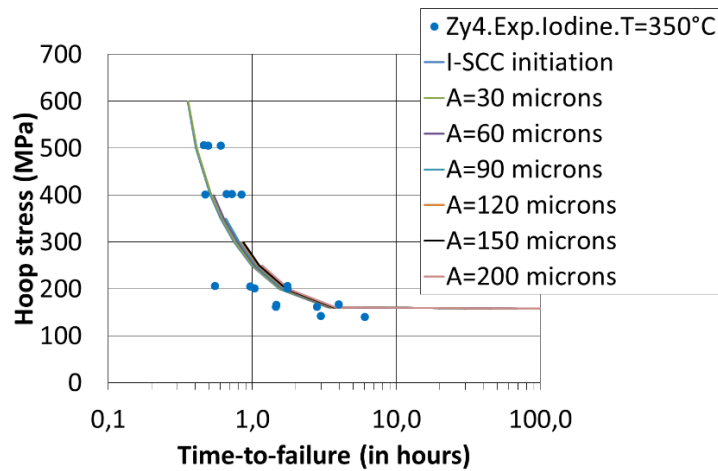


Figure 13: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on smooth specimen. Comparison of the Kachanov-Miller's model with the experimental results obtained on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [6]. Each curve represents the time required to initiate a crack or to develop a crack of depth A in the calculations.

The Figure 14 and the Figure 15 present the results obtained with the Kachanov-Miller's model applied to simulations of inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimens, with 2 different pre-cracks " A " in the calculations and 2 different sizes of the mesh " L ", respectively. The pre-crack is simulated in affecting $D=1$ to a row of elements as initial values in the calculations. The calculations are post-treated like the experiments thanks to the (Eq 1), (Eq 2) and (Eq 3). As expected, the result of the model is the same for a given initial stress intensity factor, whatever the depth of the pre-crack " A " in the calculation. The result is independent of the size of the elements of the mesh " L " thanks to the use of the crack strain tensor " ϵ " as defined in (Eq 8) from [14].

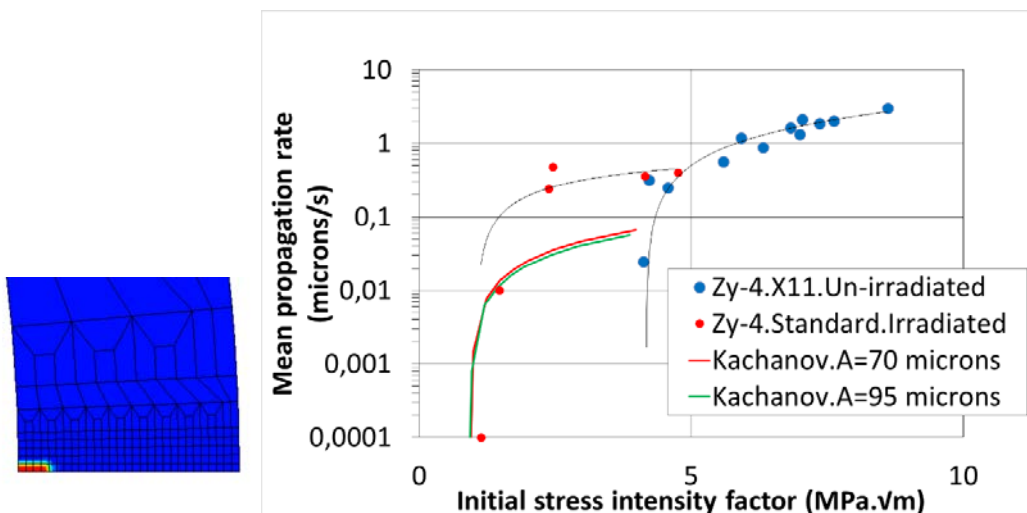


Figure 14 : Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimens. Comparison of the Kachanov-Miller's model with the experimental results obtained on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [8], for 2 values of the depth of the pre-crack " A " in the calculations. On the left, the pre-crack is represented by the elements where $D=1$ (red) with $D=0$ (blue) anywhere else. Only a portion of the mesh used in the calculations is represented.

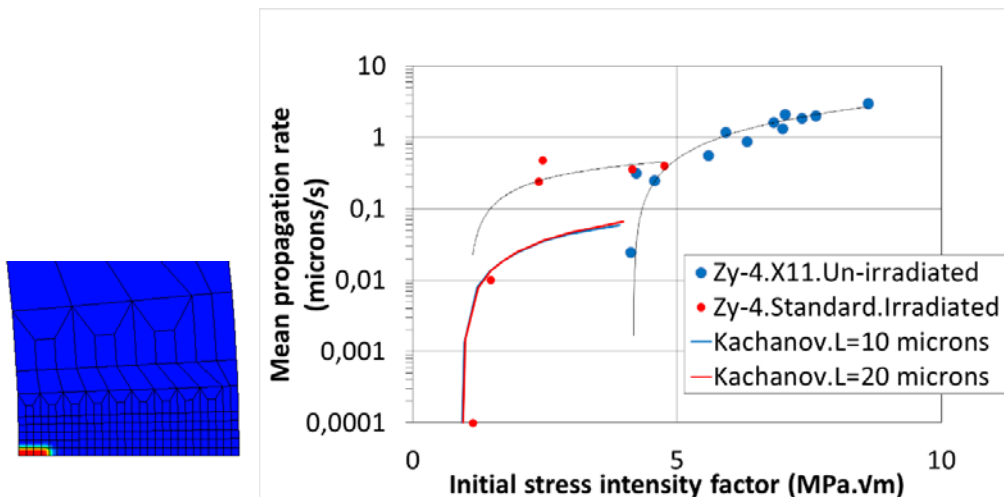


Figure 15 : Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimen. Comparison of the Kachanov-Miller's model with the experimental results obtained on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [8], for 2 values of the size of the mesh "L" in the calculations.

The calculated I-SCC tenacity " K_{SCC} " is close to the experimental value ($K_{SCC}=1 \text{ MPa}\cdot\sqrt{\text{m}}$). In the calculation, the I-SCC propagates when the local tangential σ_{θ} stress is larger than the I-SCC stress threshold σ_{iodine} . The I-SCC tenacity " K_{SCC} " and the I-SCC stress threshold tend to have the same mechanical meaning. They are both independent of the temperature in the range 320°C to 380°C ([3] and [7]).

The I-SCC propagation rate is under-evaluated with the set of parameters that predicts correctly the I-SCC initiation. The set of parameters had to be modified to properly evaluate the I-SCC propagation rate (see Figure 16). The A_{iodine} parameter, as defined in Figure 11, was multiplied by 10.

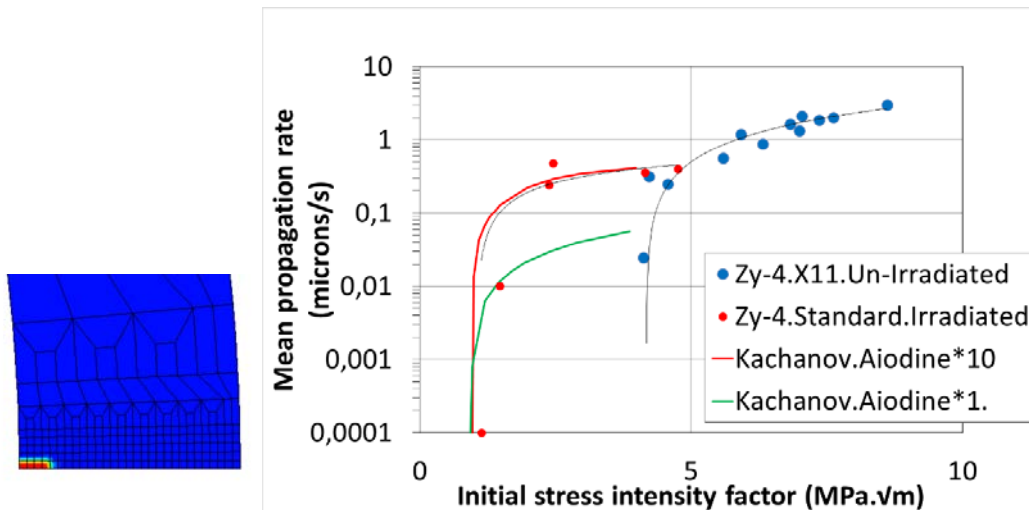


Figure 16: Inner pressure tests at constant pressure on pre-cracked specimen. Comparison of the Kachanov-Miller's model with the experimental results obtained on irradiated CWSR Zy-4 [8]. Effect of the modified set of parameters on the I-SCC propagation rate.

4 Future works

The Kachanov-Miller's model was implemented in Alcyone in 2D-R θ and is to be implemented in Alcyone 3D [16]. The goal of this implementation is to enable a good discrimination of failed and non-failed ramps. In Figure 17, an I-SCC crack initiated and developed from the inner wall to the outer wall of the cladding, assuming that the "external iodine load" conducted to saturated iodine embrittlement in the calculation.

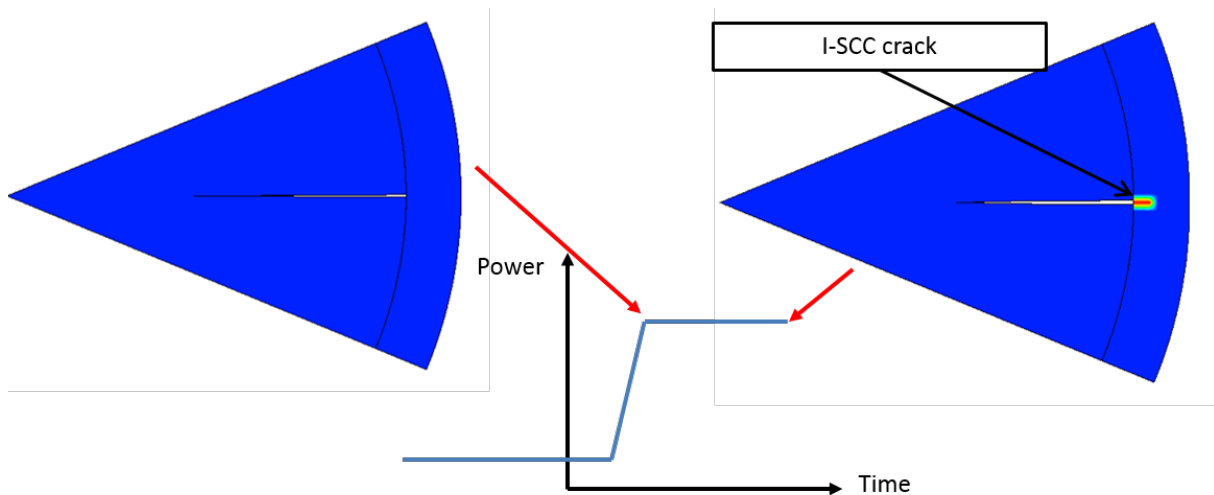


Figure 17: Example of a ramp test simulated with Alcyone and the Kachanov-Miller's model in the cladding. The I-SCC crack initiates and propagates in front of a crack in the pellet during the upper level of the ramp test.

5 Conclusions

The inner pressure tests carried out at constant pressure, under iodine vapor environment, on smooth CWSR Zy-4 specimen, tend to reveal a hoop stress threshold for I-SCC. This stress threshold seems to be independent of the temperature in the range 320°C to 380°C.

This result is consistent with the fact that the I-SCC tenacity " K_{SCC} " seems to be independent of the temperature too.

The level of stress threshold is about 240 MPa on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4. This value is close to the stress threshold of 300 MPa exhibited in [17] on un-irradiated CWSR Zy-4 too. The stress threshold is about 150 MPa on irradiated CWSR Zy-4.

The Kachanov's model, used in post-treatment of finite-element calculations, was used to model the I-SCC initiation. A set of parameters was identified, from inner pressure tests under iodine vapor, for both un-irradiated and irradiated CWSR Zy-4.

This set of parameters was used in the Kachanov-Miller's model presented in this paper. The model properly simulated both I-SCC initiation and I-SCC tenacity " K_{SCC} " for irradiated CWSR Zy-4. It tends to give the same physical meaning to the I-SCC stress threshold and to the I-SCC tenacity " K_{SCC} " in the calculations. The I-SCC propagation rates were under-estimated with that set of parameters. In order to better evaluate the I-SCC propagation rates, some parameters had to be re-evaluated.

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