

Impact of Cold Forming on Material Strength Verification for Storage Tanks and Other Vessels



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- B.S./M.S. Metallurgy Penn State, MBA Wake Forest
- Previous roles at Siemens Energy, Allegheny Technologies, and several start-ups in AI and IoT.

MMT Overview

- Headquartered in Boston, MA with Houston, TX shop/office
- Founded in 2014 – First ever Frictional Sliding field instrument to more accurately measure material properties of pipelines, nondestructively.
- First tool (HSD) validated in 2018 through PRCI trial w/ PHMSA.

Current vs. New Methods for Material Testing Records

Cut Outs



Non-Destructive Testing



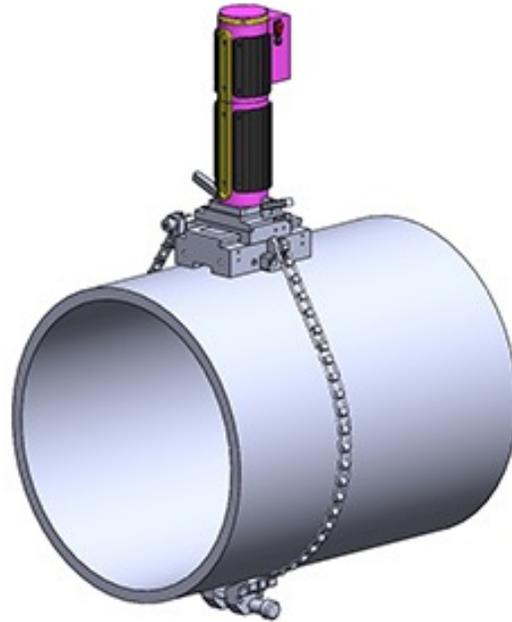
Not cutting the pipe allows more data without service interruption and repairs

Non-Destructive Testing Solutions



**PIN Brinell
(Hardness)**

1900



**Ball Indentation
(Strength)**

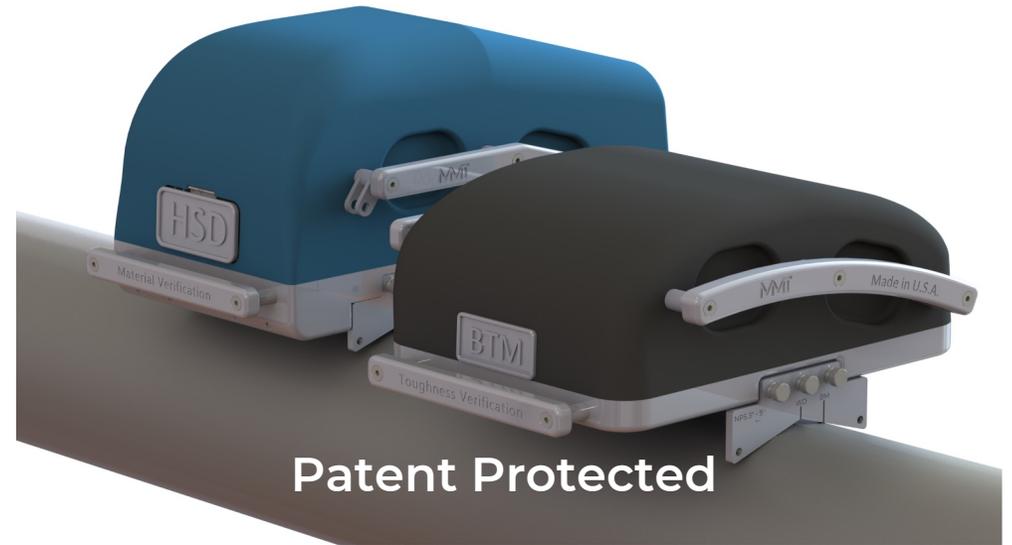
2000

Lab-Like Accuracy
Reached (MMT)



**Frictional Sliding
(Strength)**

2018



Patent Protected

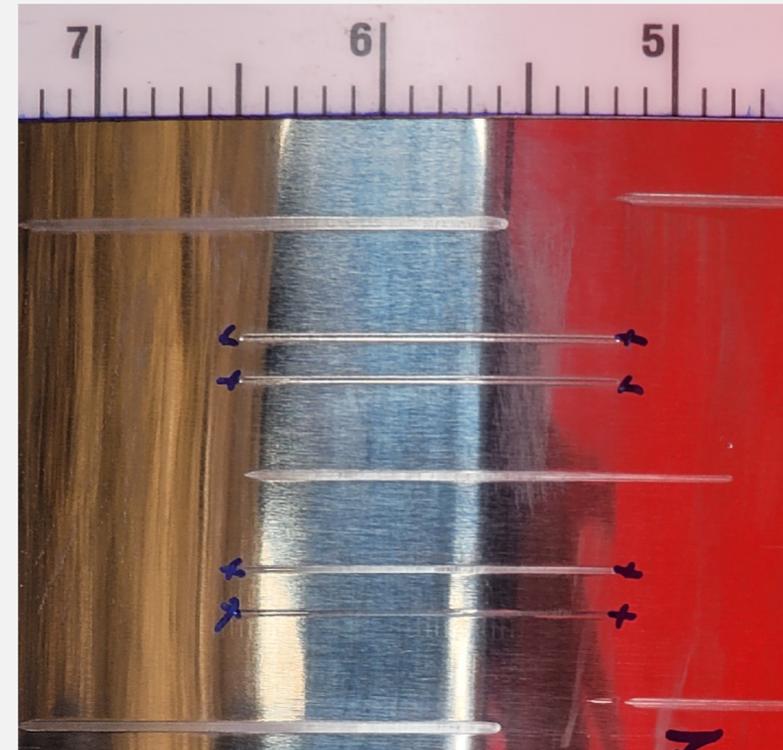
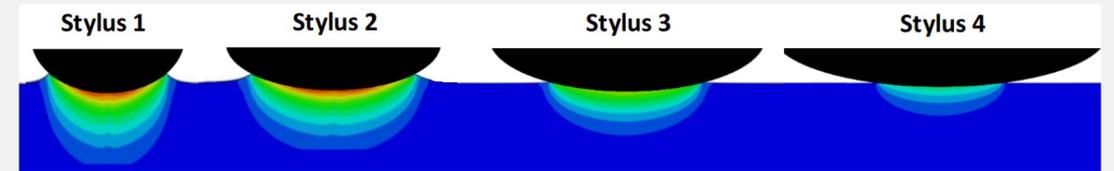
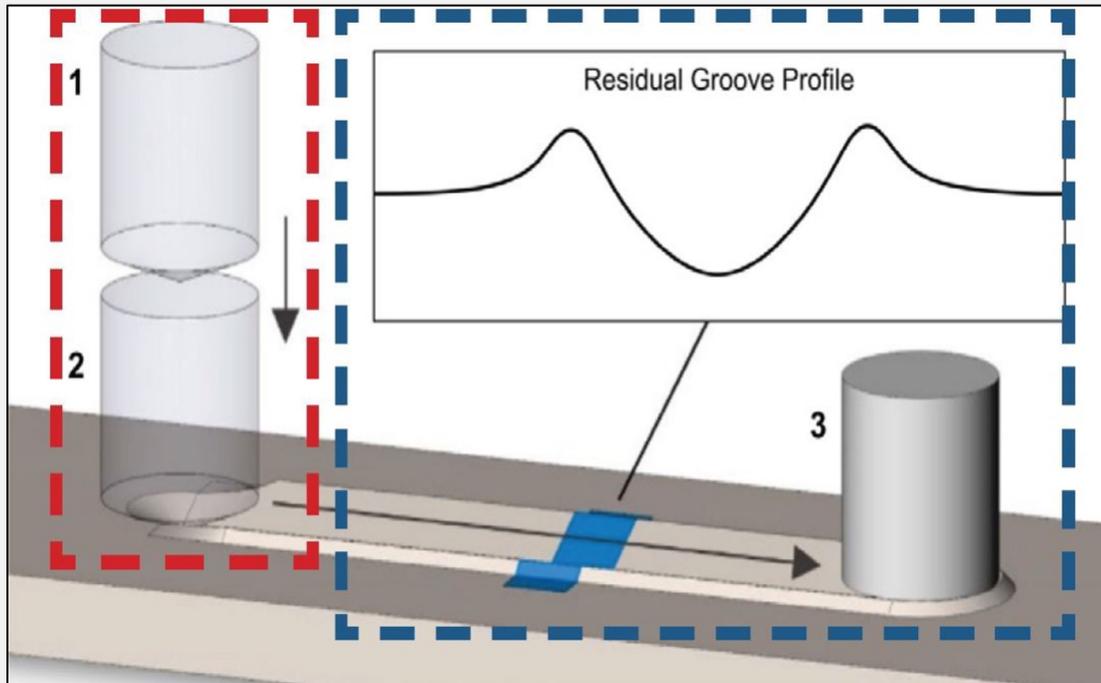
**Planing-Induced Microfracture
(Toughness)**

2024

Frictional Sliding

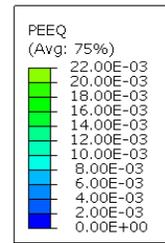
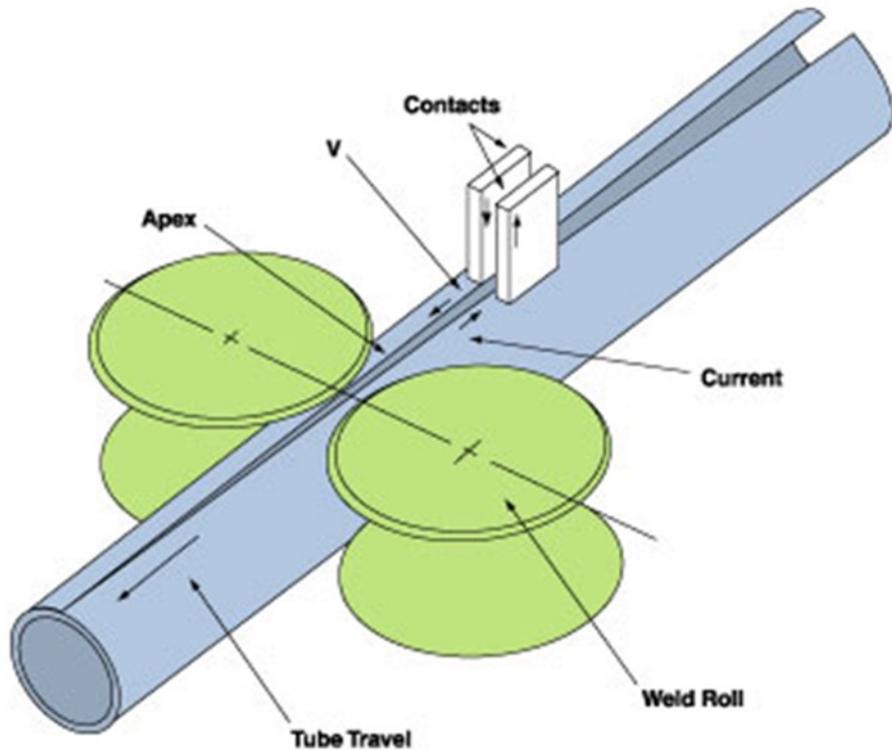
Ball Indentation
(1 indenter)

MMT = Frictional Sliding
(4 styluses)

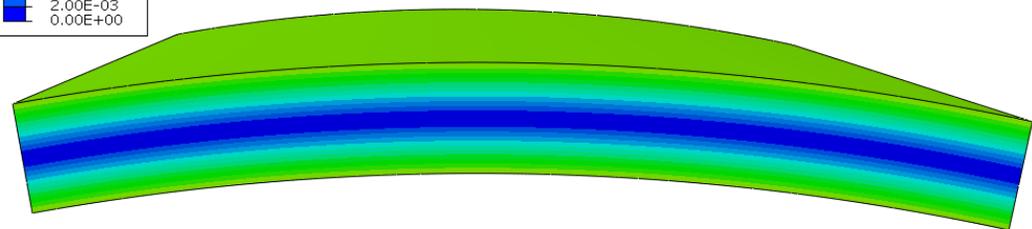


Single HSD test provides 200+ data points. HSD test is divided into 10 equal subsets along the length of the groove to provide 10 measurements per test.

Surface vs. Bulk

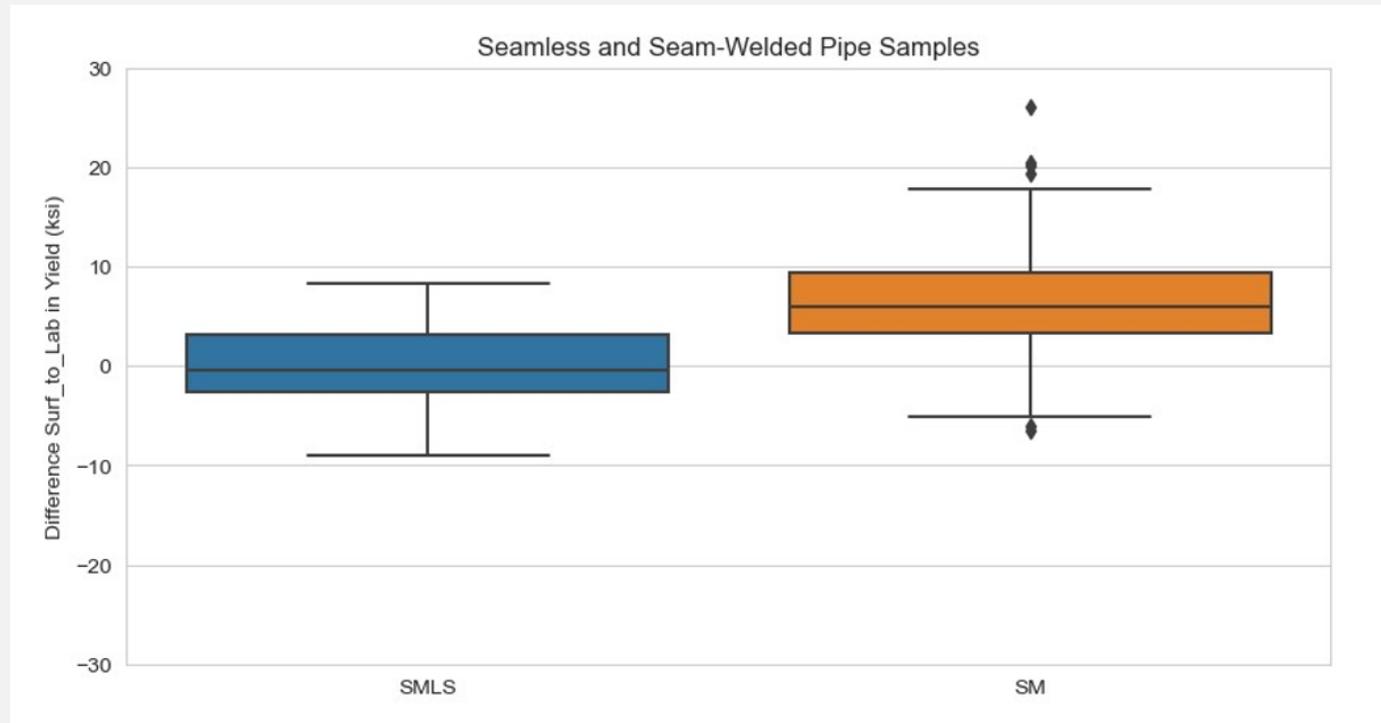


Non-uniform Strain distribution due to cold forming



- Surface measurements must be corrected to predict bulk properties.

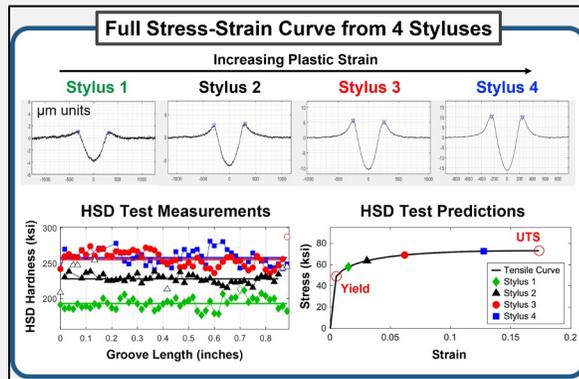
Case Study: Impact of Forming on Yield



- For seamless samples, the yield difference between surface and bulk is averaged at zero.
- For seam-welded samples, surface yield is ~5 ksi higher than bulk on average due to the bending strain from the forming process.

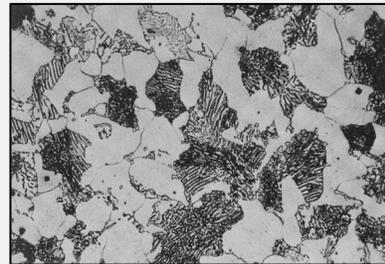
Converting Surface to Bulk Properties

Surface Hardness



In-Field Test with HSD: Hardness data collected and converted to surface Yield and UTS data through use of equations developed using FEA modeling.

Grain Structure Image

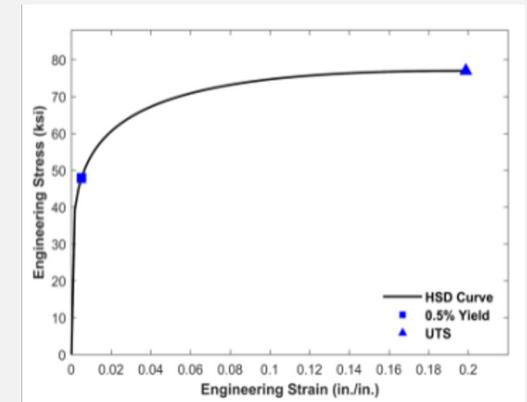


In-Field Grain Structure Image & Material Chemical Composition Collection: Microscopy image of grain structure and collection of burr samples followed by a lab test.

Material Chemical Composition

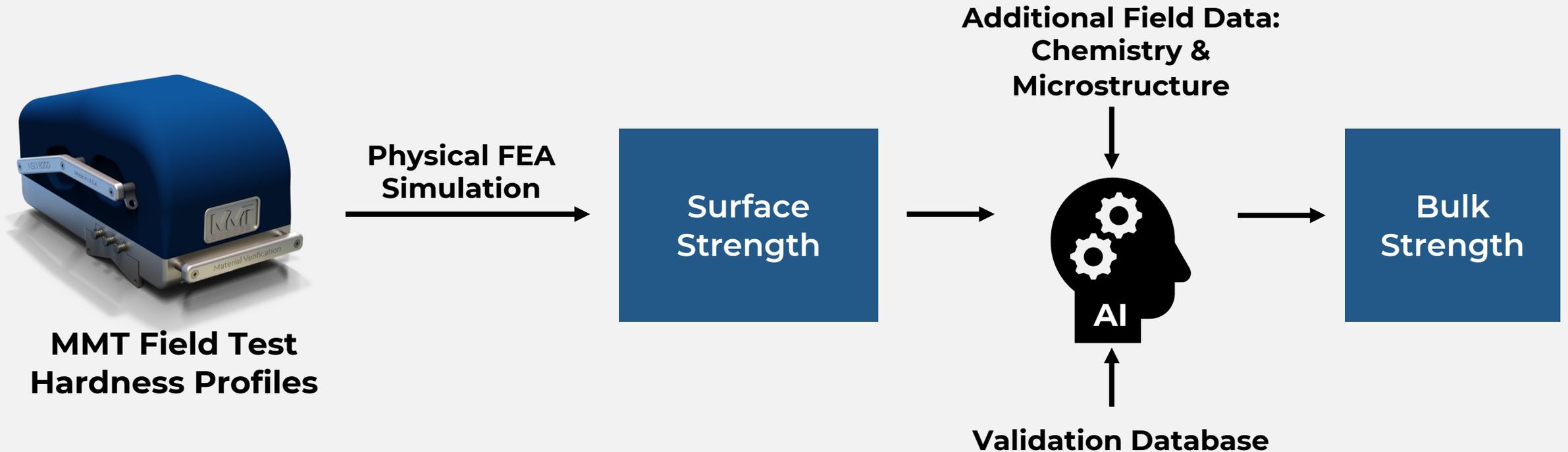
Element	Content (%)
Carbon, C	0.34
Iron, Fe	0.60
Manganese, Mn	0.44
Phosphorous, P	0.21
Sulfur, S	0.03
Chromium, Cr	4.78
Copper, Cu	0.08
Nickel, Ni	0.15
Molybdenum, Mo	1.61
Vanadium, V	0.51

Bulk Prediction



Bulk Material Strength Prediction: Surface YS, and UTS is then input into prediction model which utilizes machine learning.

Converting Surface to Bulk Properties



Accuracy of 3.0 ksi (+/- 5% for 60 ksi yield strength) for Line Pipe

Frictional Sliding on Vessel Materials



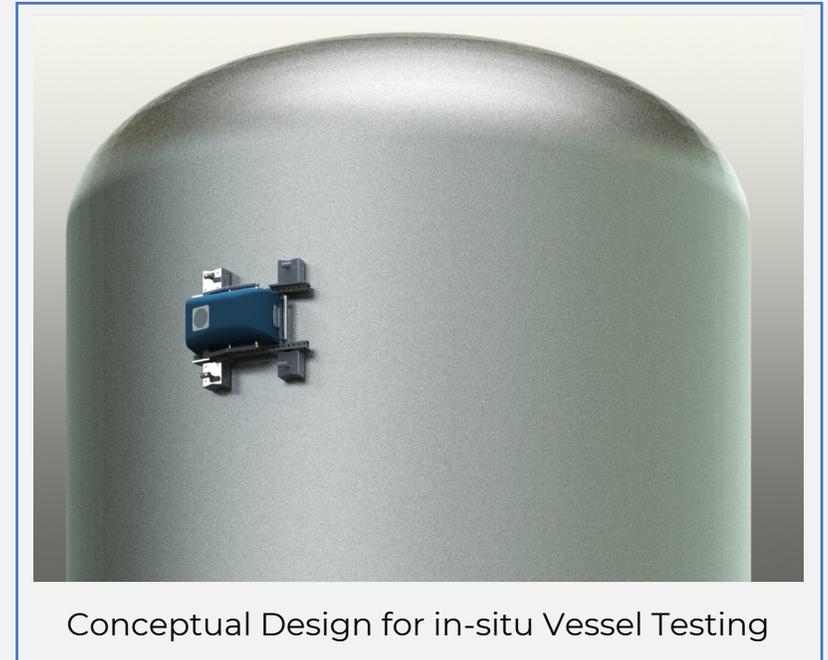
- Testing Materials: A516 Carbon Steel / SS304 / Al 6061-T651 / 625 Nickel Alloy
- Samples were machined into plates and placed in a calibration plate holder.
- Tested with a lab HSD unit.

Frictional Sliding on Vessel Materials

Material	Lab Yield ^[1] (ksi)	FS Yield ^[2] (ksi)	Error (%)	Lab Tensile ^[1] (ksi)	FS Tensile ^[2] (ksi)	Error (%)
A516 CS	53.8	64.3	19.5	78.5	78.4	-0.1
304 SS	44.2	43.9	-0.7	91.8	93.8	2.2
6061-T651 Al	35.8	46.9	31.0	45.6	51.1	12.1
625 Ni Alloy	72.8	59.6	18.1	129.5	154.2	19.1

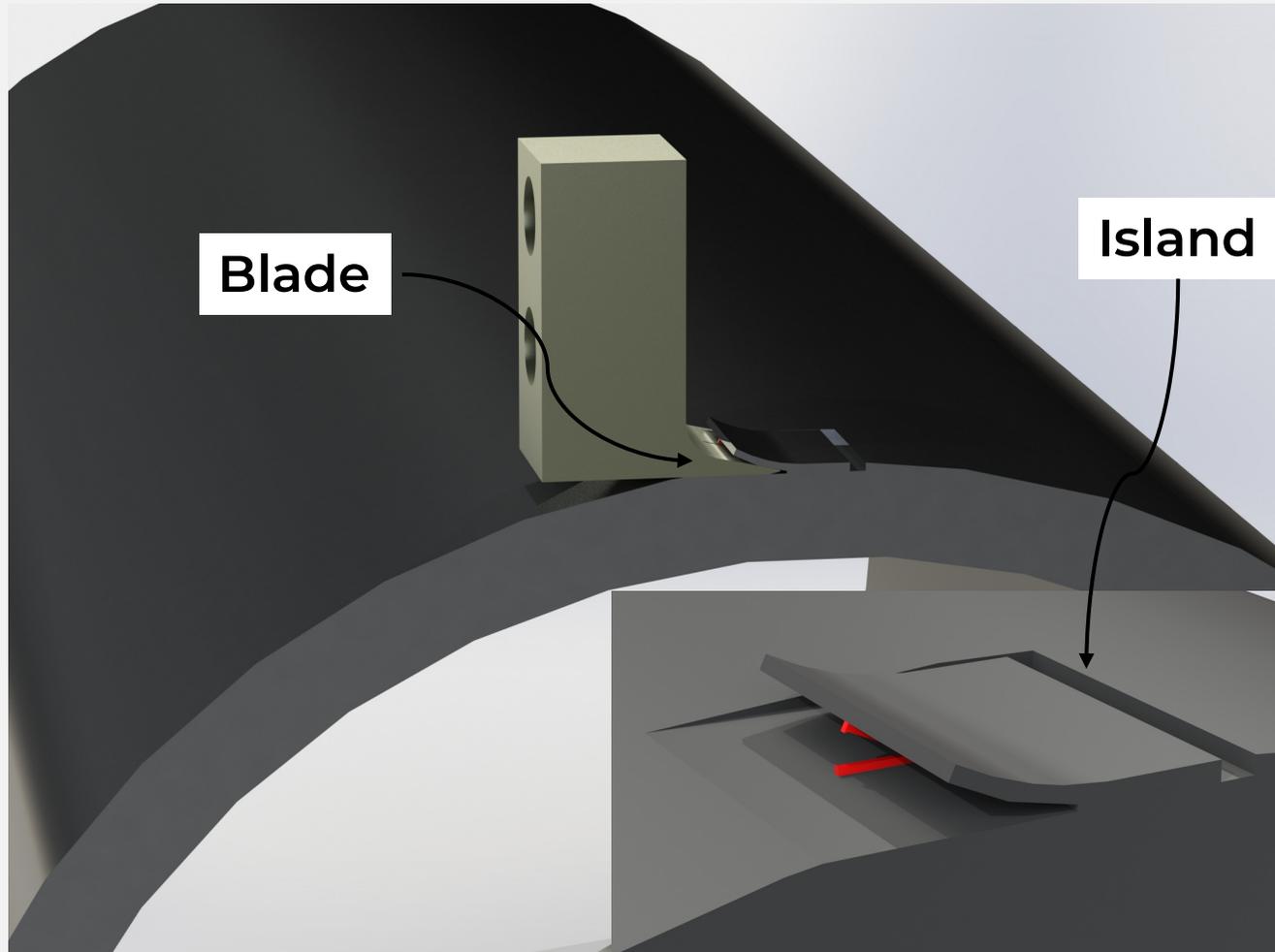
[1] Lab test results. Averaged from two tensile tests.

[2] Average from three tests.



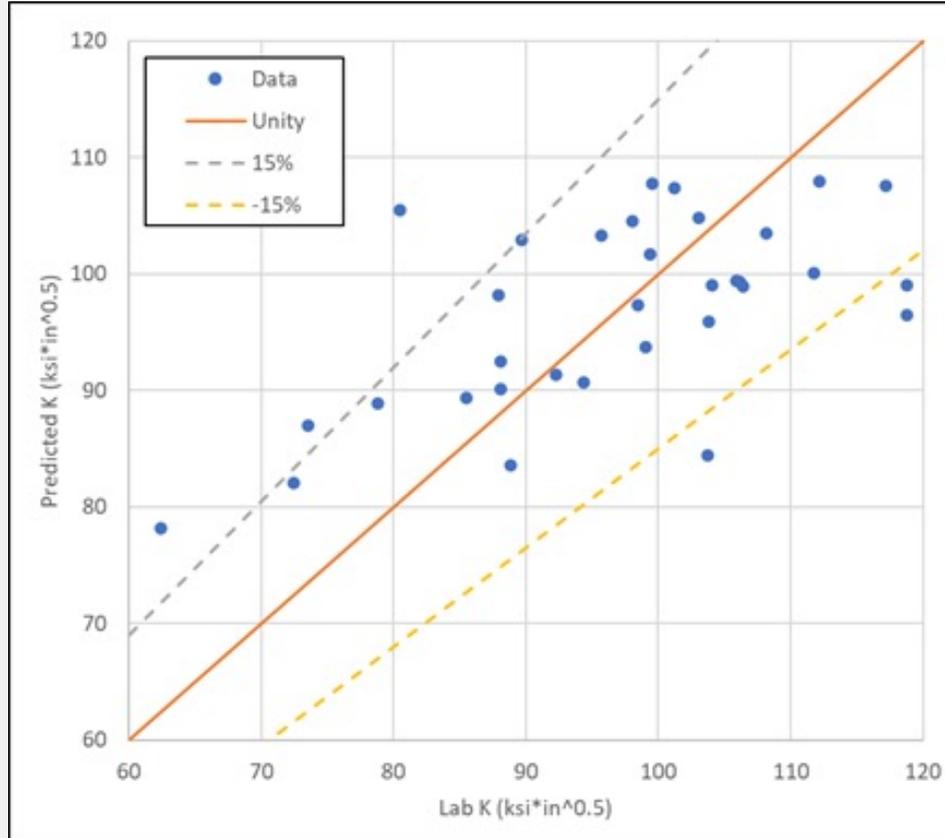
- Preliminary results show that the frictional sliding method can be applied to various vessel materials and obtain reasonable results.
- For higher tensile materials, like Nickel alloy, the current stylus geometry needs to be modified and/or higher load need to be applied to generate a measurable groove on surface.

Fracture Toughness via Planing-Induced Microfracture



Sample

Validation Test Results



A validation test was performed with 33 pipe steel samples.

Preliminary results show that the predicted K_{Ic} values are within $\pm 15\%$ of the lab-tested values.

Conclusion

- Surface and bulk properties can be different due to forming processes.
- Surface strengths can be measured using a frictional sliding method.
- Correcting surface measurements to bulk properties can be achieved using machine-learning models for pipeline steels.