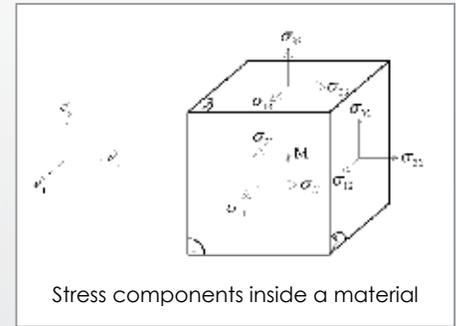




# WHAT IS RESIDUAL STRESS?

## Definition

Residual stress is defined as “the stress resident inside a component or structure after all applied forces have been removed”. Compressive residual stress acts by pushing the material together, while tensile residual stress pulls the material apart. Mathematically, compressive stress is negative and tensile stress is positive. Stresses can also be characterized as normal stresses that act perpendicular to the face of a material and shear stresses that act parallel to the face of a material. There are a total of 6 independent stresses at any point inside a material represented by  $\sigma_{ij}$  where  $i$  is the direction that the stress is acting and  $j$  is the face the stress is acting on.



## Units of Stress

- SI unit for stress is the Mega Pascal (MPa).
- US Customary unit for stress is kilo pound-force per square inch (ksi).

$$6.895 \text{ MPa} = 1 \text{ ksi}$$

## What Causes Residual Stress?

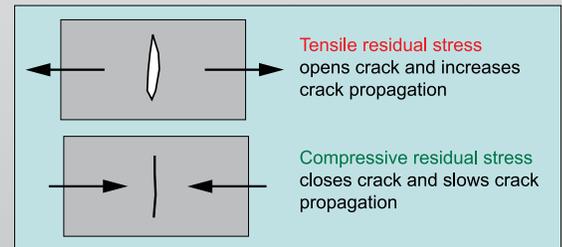
Residual stresses are generated, upon equilibrium of material, after plastic deformation that is caused by applied mechanical loads, thermal loads or phase changes. Mechanical and thermal processes applied to a component during service may also alter its residual stress state.

## What is The Total Stress in a Component?

The total stress experienced by the material at a given location within a component is equal to the residual stress plus the applied stress.

$$\text{TOTAL STRESS} = \text{RESIDUAL STRESS} + \text{APPLIED STRESS}$$

If a material with a residual stress of a  $-400 \text{ MPa}$  is subjected to an applied load of  $+500 \text{ MPa}$ . The total stress experienced by the material is the summation of the two stresses, or  $+100 \text{ MPa}$ . Therefore, knowledge of the residual stress state is important to determine the actual loads experienced by a component. In general, compressive residual stress in the surface of a component is beneficial. It tends to increase fatigue strength and fatigue life, slow crack propagation, and increase resistance to environmentally assisted cracking such as stress corrosion cracking and hydrogen induced cracking. Tensile residual stress in the surface of the component is generally undesirable as it decreases fatigue strength and fatigue life, increases crack propagation and lowers resistance to environmentally assisted cracking.



## Types of Residual Stress

Residual stresses can be characterized by the scale at which they exist within a material. Stresses that occur over long distances within a material are referred to as macro-stresses. Stresses that exist only locally (either between grains or inside a grain) are called micro-stresses. The total residual stress at a given location inside a material is the sum of all 3 types of stresses.

- Type I Stresses: Macro-stresses occurring over distances that involve many grains within a material.
- Type II Stresses: Micro-stresses caused by differences in the microstructure of a material and occur over distances comparable to the size of the grain in the material. Can occur in single-phase materials due to the anisotropic behaviour of individual grains, or can occur in multi-phase material due to the presence of different phases.
- Type III Stresses: Exist inside a grain as a result of crystal imperfections within the grain.

## IMPORTANCE OF RESIDUAL STRESS

Residual stress affects:

- Low cycle and high cycle fatigue performance
- Distortion during machining and after applying a process
- Peen forming (controlled distortion)
- Fretting
- Stress corrosion cracking (SCC) and hydrogen initiated cracking (HIC)
- Crack initiation and propagation

## THE BENEFITS OF MEASURING AND MONITORING RESIDUAL STRESSES

- Optimize manufacturing processes
- Provide a quantitative metric to enable specifications and Go/No-Go decisions
- Improve product quality, substantiate supplier quality, engineering source approval (ESA)
- Improve safety and reduce catastrophic failures
- Extend component life by ensuring sufficient compressive residual stress is present
- Validate repair area has been "restored" to original specifications.
- Residual stress information can improve the probability of detection of other nondestructive techniques.
- Validate residual stress distribution from FE models or fracture mechanics



## RESIDUAL STRESS MANAGEMENT

Harmful residual stress can lead to stress corrosion cracking, distortion, fatigue cracking, premature failures in components, and instances of over design. Techniques, such as heat treating, controlled cooling and localized heating are applied to help manage potentially harmful residual stresses created during manufacturing. Other techniques, such as shot peening, are used to introduce beneficial residual stress into a component to help increase fatigue life. Knowledge of the residual stresses is required to ensure that these processes have been correctly applied. Small changes in the residual stress can often have a significant effect on the life of a component.

## X-RAY STRESS MEASUREMENT METHODS

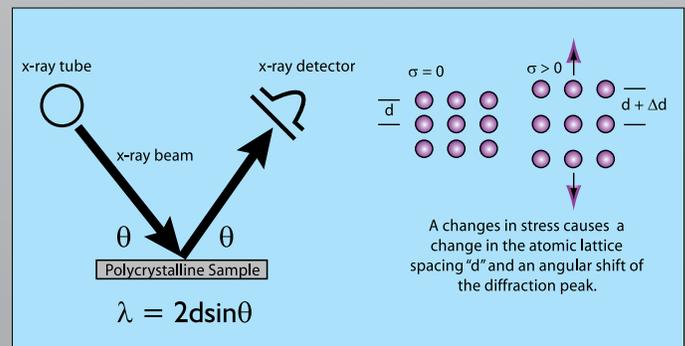
X-ray diffraction can be used to measure residual stress using the distance between crystallographic planes, i.e., d-spacing, as a strain gage. When the material is in tension, the d-spacing increases and, when under compression the d-spacing decreases. Stresses can be determined from the measured d-spacings. X-rays diffract from crystalline materials at known angles  $2\theta$  according to Bragg's Law:  $n\lambda = 2d\sin\theta$

where:  $n$  = order of diffraction

$\lambda$  = wavelength of the x-ray beam

$d$  = distance between lattice planes inside the material

$\theta$  = angle of the diffracted beam





## Why X-ray Diffraction is the Preferred Method to Characterize Residual Stress

A number of different methods, are available to measure residual stress; however, only a few are actually quantitative. Only x-ray diffraction has the appropriate spatial and volumetric resolution to fully and adequately characterize the residual stress distributions often found in the areas of critical importance.

- Works on all crystalline materials, such as metals and ceramics
- High spatial resolution
- Capable of measuring both surface and sub-surface stresses
- Nondestructive
- Quantitative results. Easily validated
- Low cost per measurement
- Can measure dislocation density
- Capable of measuring stress in individual phases
- Portable



Measuring Residual Stress on an Airframe with an iXRD Portable System

## Surface and Subsurface Residual Stress

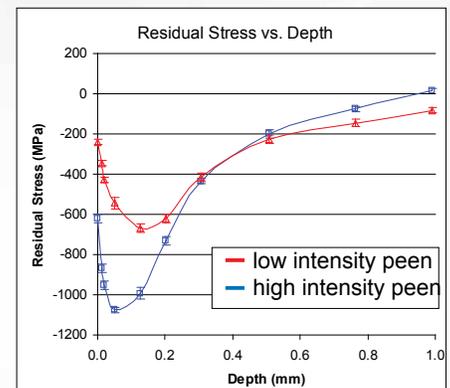
1. Fatigue cracks normally initiate at the surface of a component, therefore, surface residual stresses are important in determining the potential for crack initiation and initial propagation. Subsurface crack initiation typically only occurs if a flaw or inclusion is present subsurface.
2. Surface stresses can also strongly influence subsurface crack propagation.
3. Surface and Subsurface stress gradients are required to fully characterize the effects of shot peening, machining or other surface modification processes.
4. In specific cases where machining and other surface modifications are adequately controlled, surface residual stress may be used as an indicator of process quality.

## Residual Stress and Damage Tolerance

In fracture mechanics design and lifing paradigms, the assumption of cracks already existing can lead to overly heavy designs (as opposed to LCF based approaches) as well as an undue emphasis on stress at depth without consideration of surface and near surface stress distributions. Practical experience and accumulated data have shown surface, near surface and sub-surface stresses are very important to the growth of fatigue cracks and all need to be considered with the assumption of existing cracks.

## Standards and Guidelines

- SAE J784a – RS measurement
- ASTM E915 – RS measurement
- ASTM E1426 – 4 pt bend XEC
- ASM Handbook Vol.11 – General guidelines



Residual Stress vs. Depth for Different Peening Conditions

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