



Advances in Bias Weld Fatigue Modeling

Patrick Kelleher
Athena Engineering Services

ICoTA Calgary Round Table
October 21, 2015

Introduction

- **CT Fatigue Refresher**
- **Fatigue Modeling**
 - **Base materials**
 - **Bias welds**
- **Case Study**

Refresher - CT Fatigue



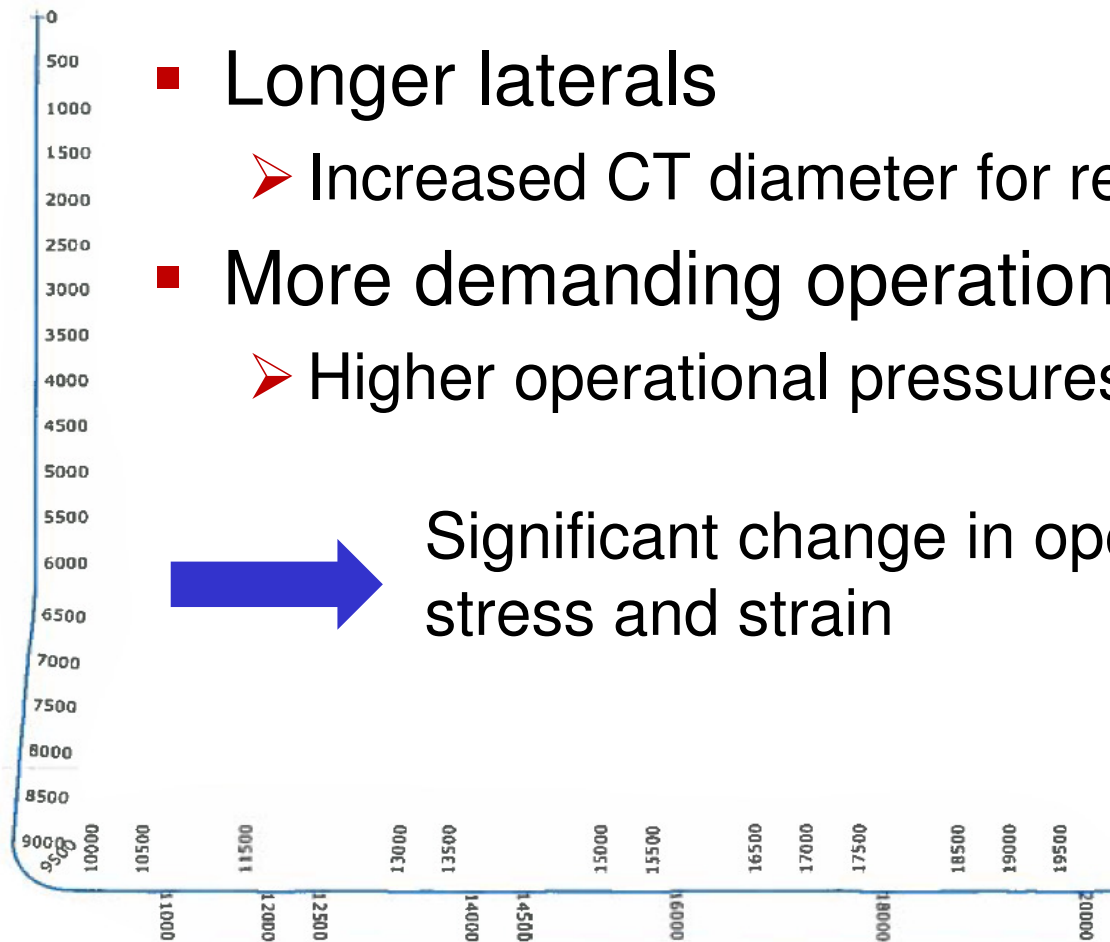
CT Fatigue Dependencies

- Bending Strain (Geometry)
 - $\epsilon = r/R$
- Stress due to pressure
 - Von Mises Stress or Hoop Stress
- Tubing Material Properties
- Previous Fatigue Accumulation

Extended Reach Operations and Fatigue

- Longer laterals
 - Increased CT diameter for reach
- More demanding operations
 - Higher operational pressures

➡ Significant change in operational stress and strain



Bias Weld Derating System

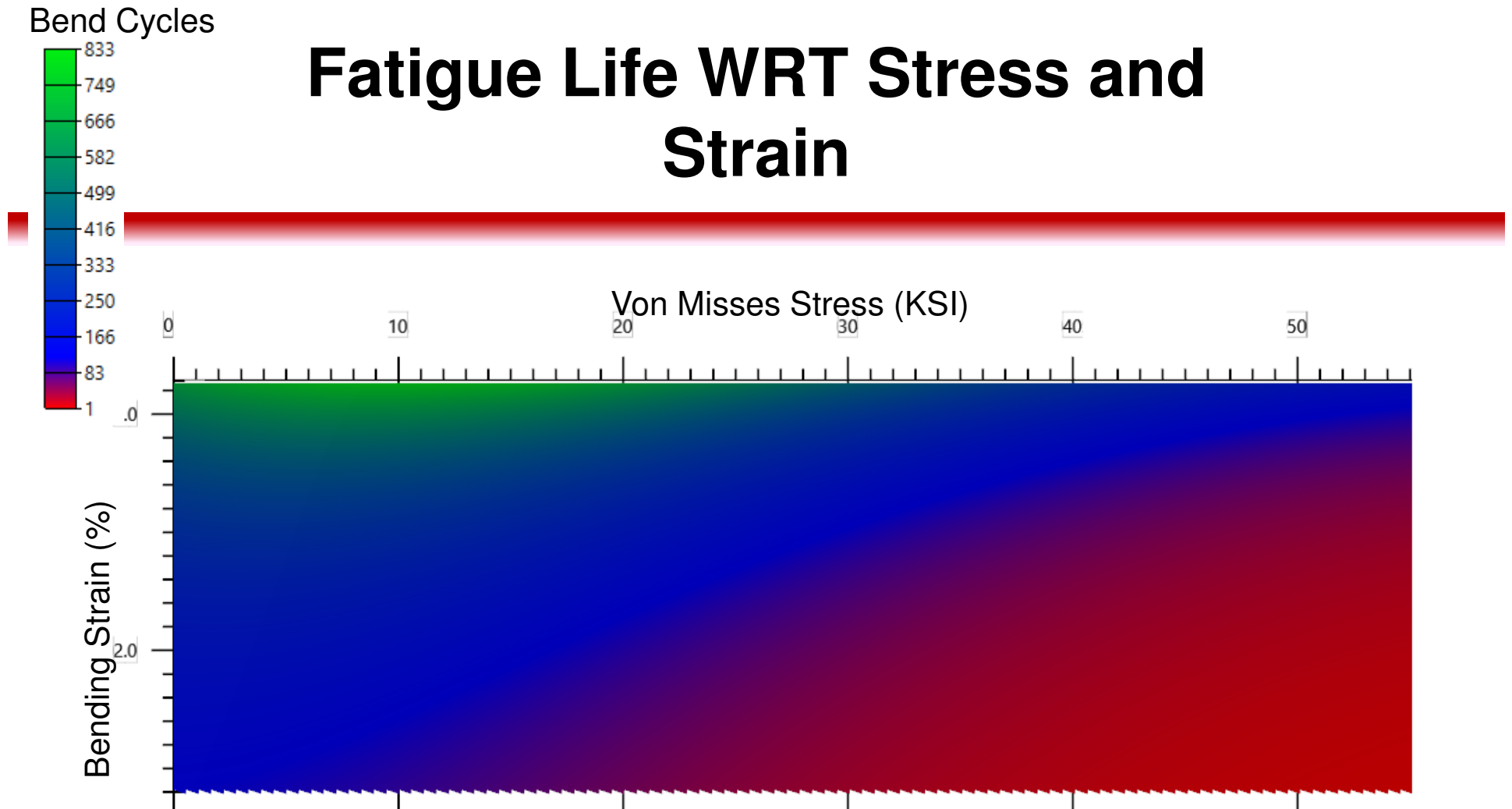
- **Welds Historically Modeled Using Constant “Derating Factors”**
 - **Developed in 1995**
 - **CT70 to CT100 grades only**
 - **110 total bias weld tests**
 - **CT sizes from 1.25” to 3.5”**
 - ❖ **Primary focus on 1.75”**
 - **3 Test Pressures Used: 1,500 // 3,000 // 5,000 PSI**

Type	Derating Factor
Bias Weld	80%
Bias Tapered Weld	50%
Orbital Weld	45%
Manual Weld	35%
Manual Tapered Weld	15%

Base Material + Bias Weld Model Approach

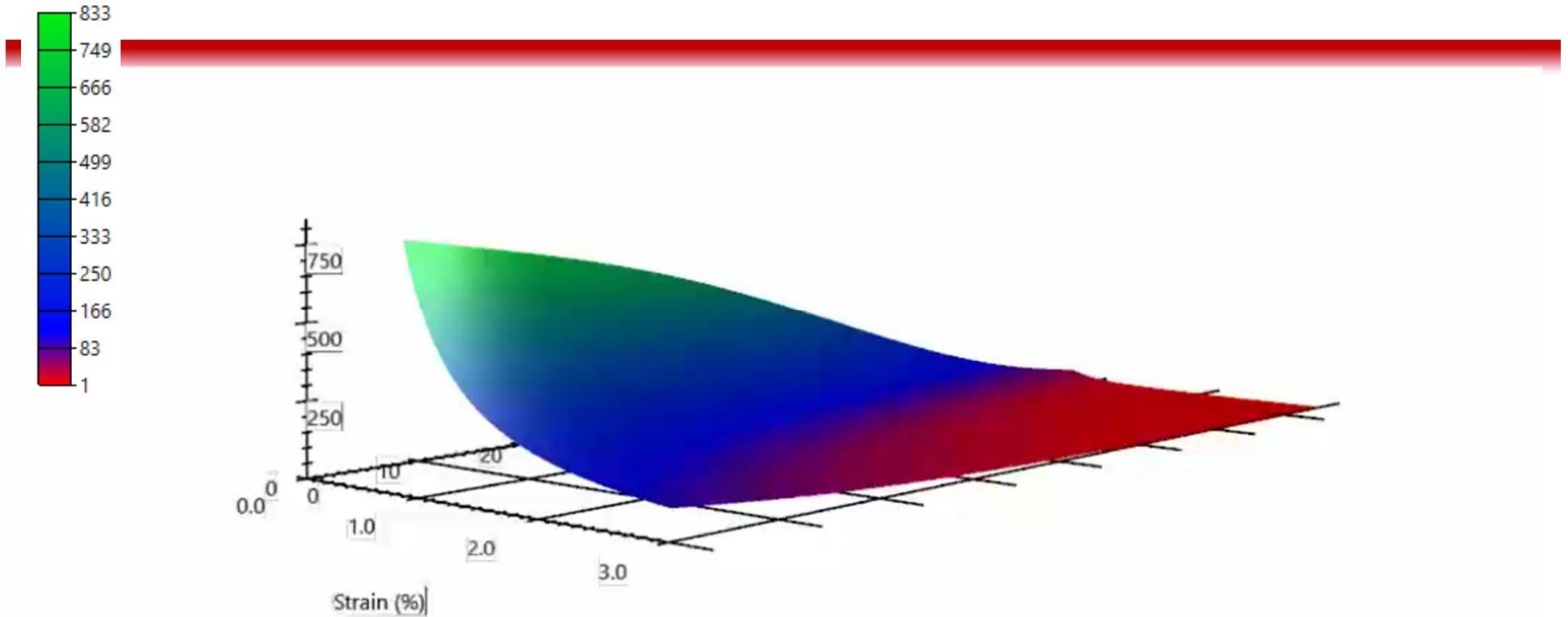
- **Perform fatigue tests on both base material and bias welds**
- **Generate independent base tubing and bias weld models**
- **Use bias weld model in place of the historical derating method**

Fatigue Life WRT Stress and Strain



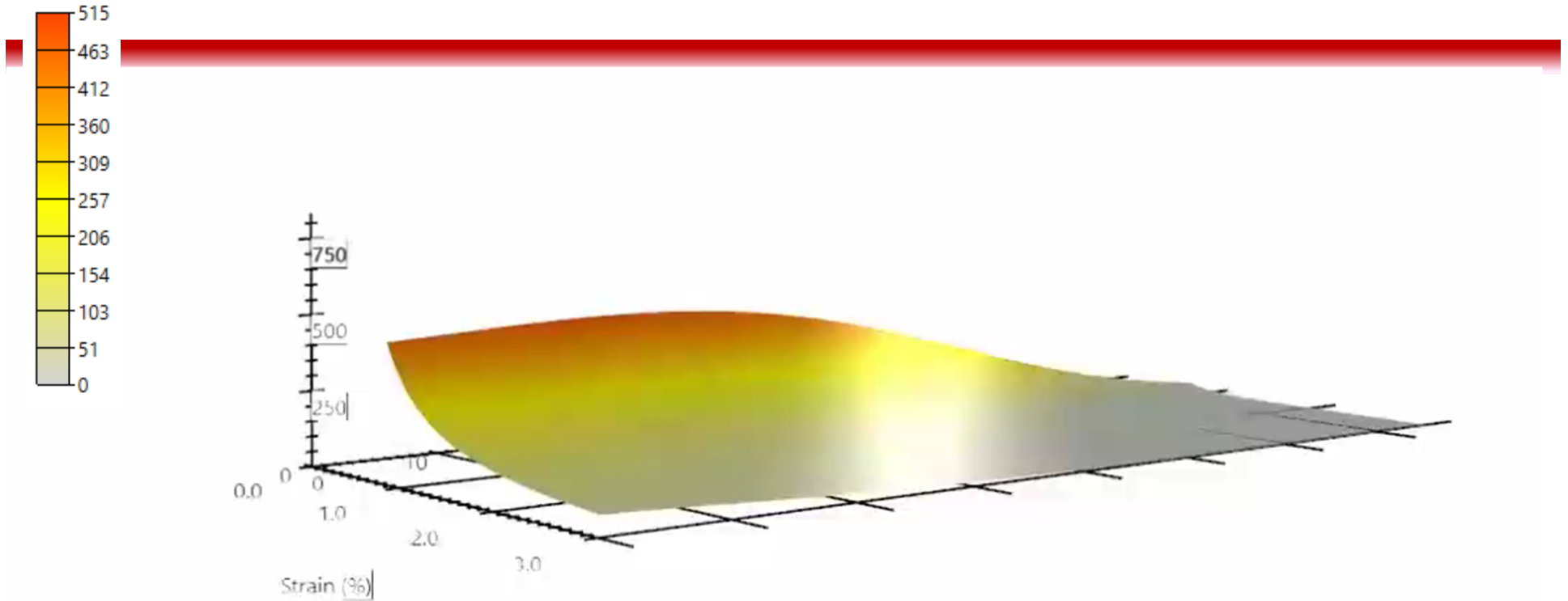
100 ksi Fatigue Life WRT Stress and Strain

Bend Cycles



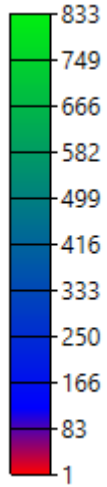
100 ksi Bias Weld Fatigue WRT Stress and Strain

Bend Cycles

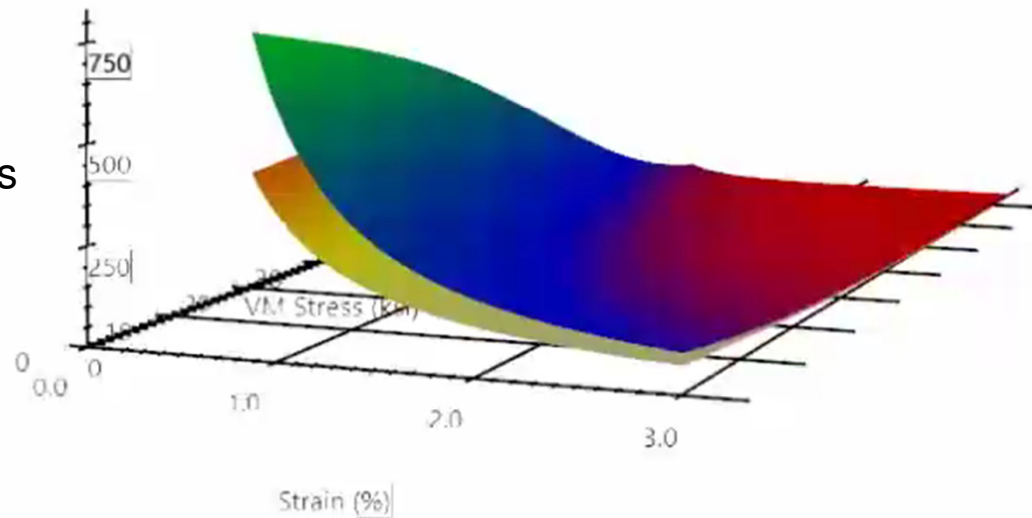
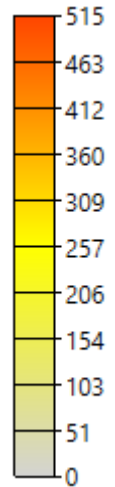


Comparison of Base and Bias Weld Fatigue

Base Cycles

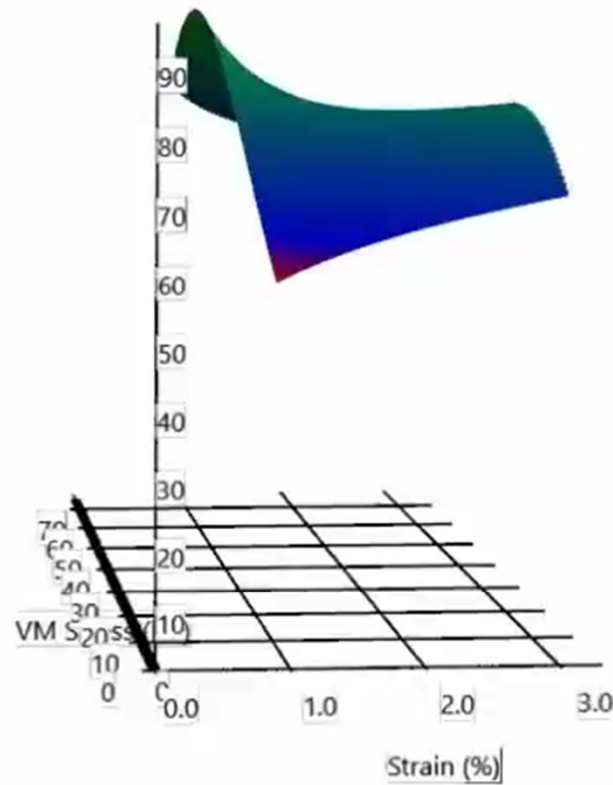
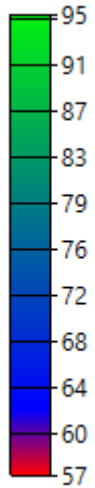


Bias Weld Cycles



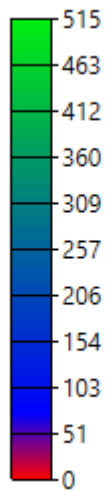
Bias Weld 'Derating' WRT Stress and Strain

Derating Factor

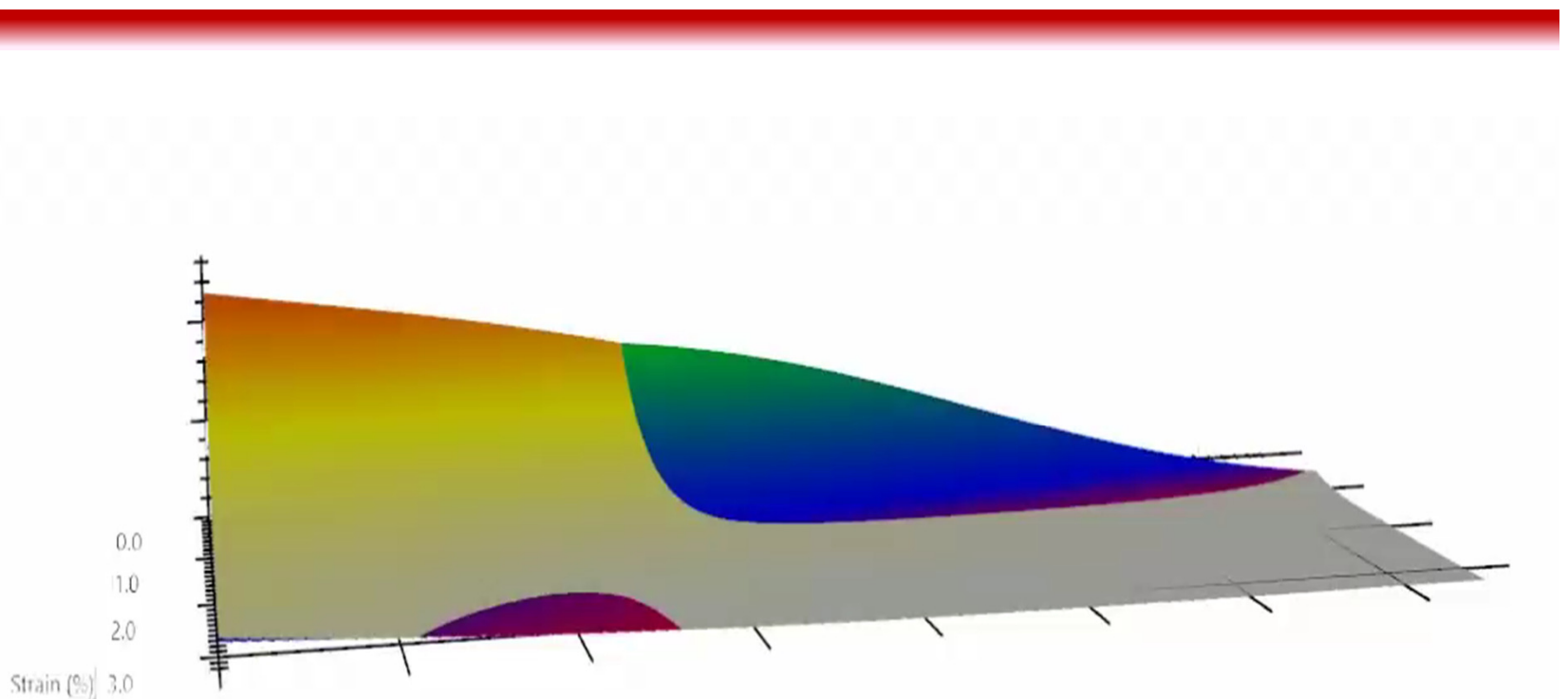
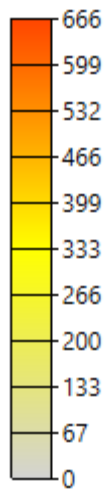


Bias Weld Model Compared to 80% Derating

BW Model



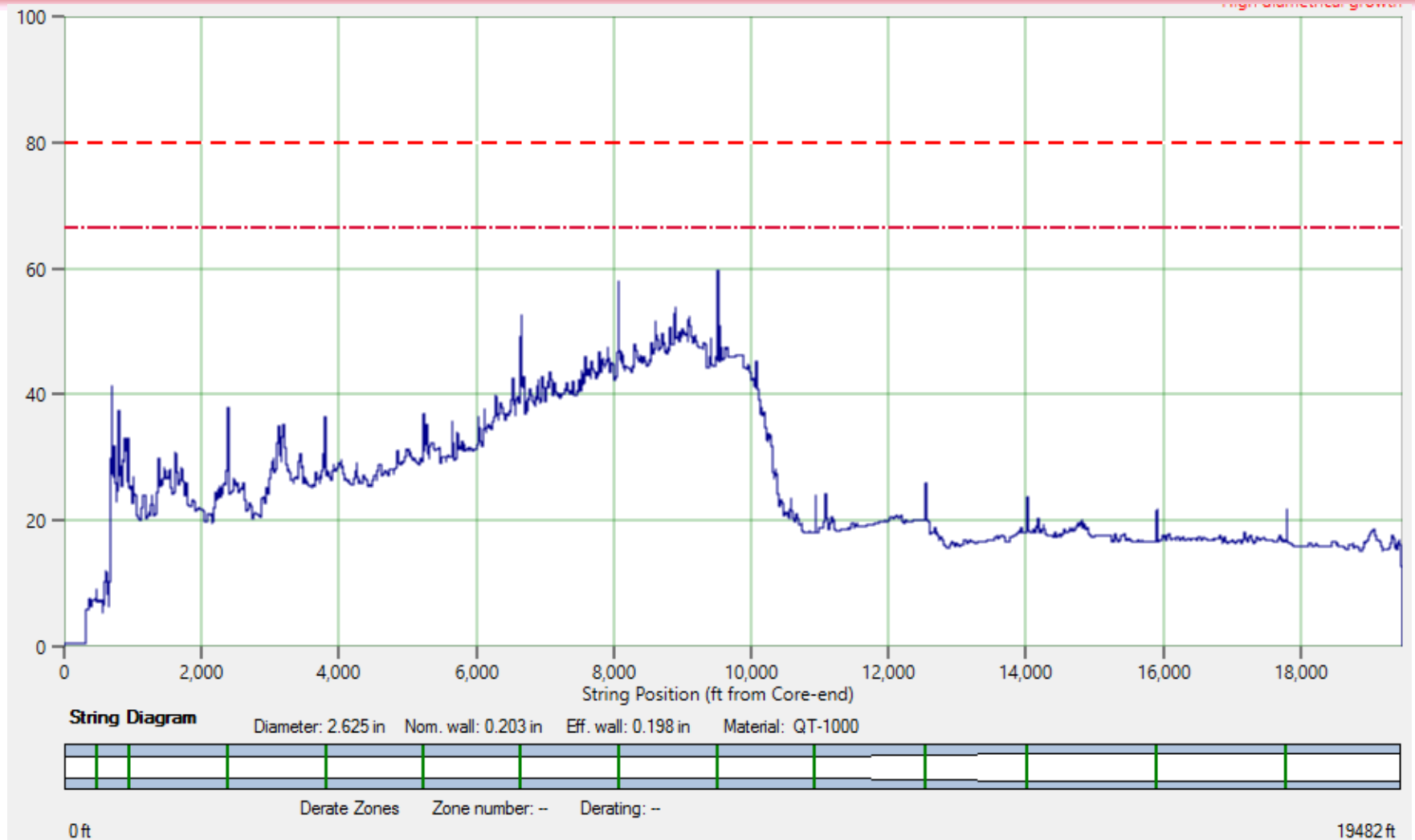
Parent * 80%



String Case Study

- Locate full work history for a string retired due to high fatigue at bias welds
 - 2 5/8" 100 ksi string, 0.156 – 0.203" wall thickness
 - Commissioned: June 2014
 - Retired: September 2014
 - 36 Jobs, ~ 400,000 running feet
- Compare constant derating with bias weld model across the string's operational stress / strain range

2 5/8" OD String Case Study



2 5/8" OD String Case Study

- Bending Strain

- $\epsilon = r/R$

- ❖ 2 5/8" CT over a 110" Radius Gooseneck: $\epsilon \approx 1.2\%$

- ❖ 2 5/8" CT over a 96" Core Diameter Reel: $\epsilon \approx 2.7\%$

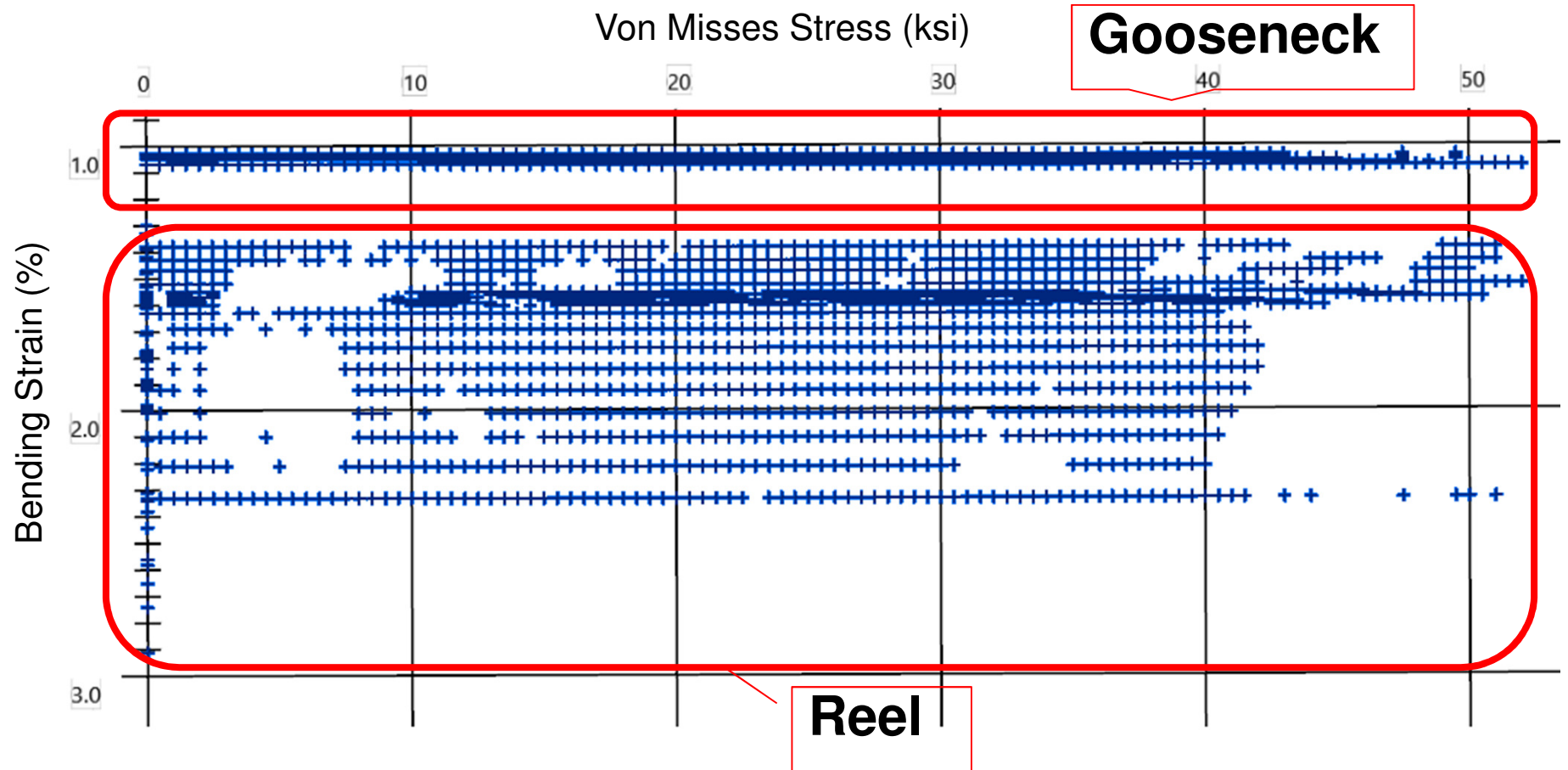
- Stress due to pressure

- Von Misses Stress

- ❖ 2 5/8" CT at 4,000 PSI: VMStress \approx 25-35 ksi

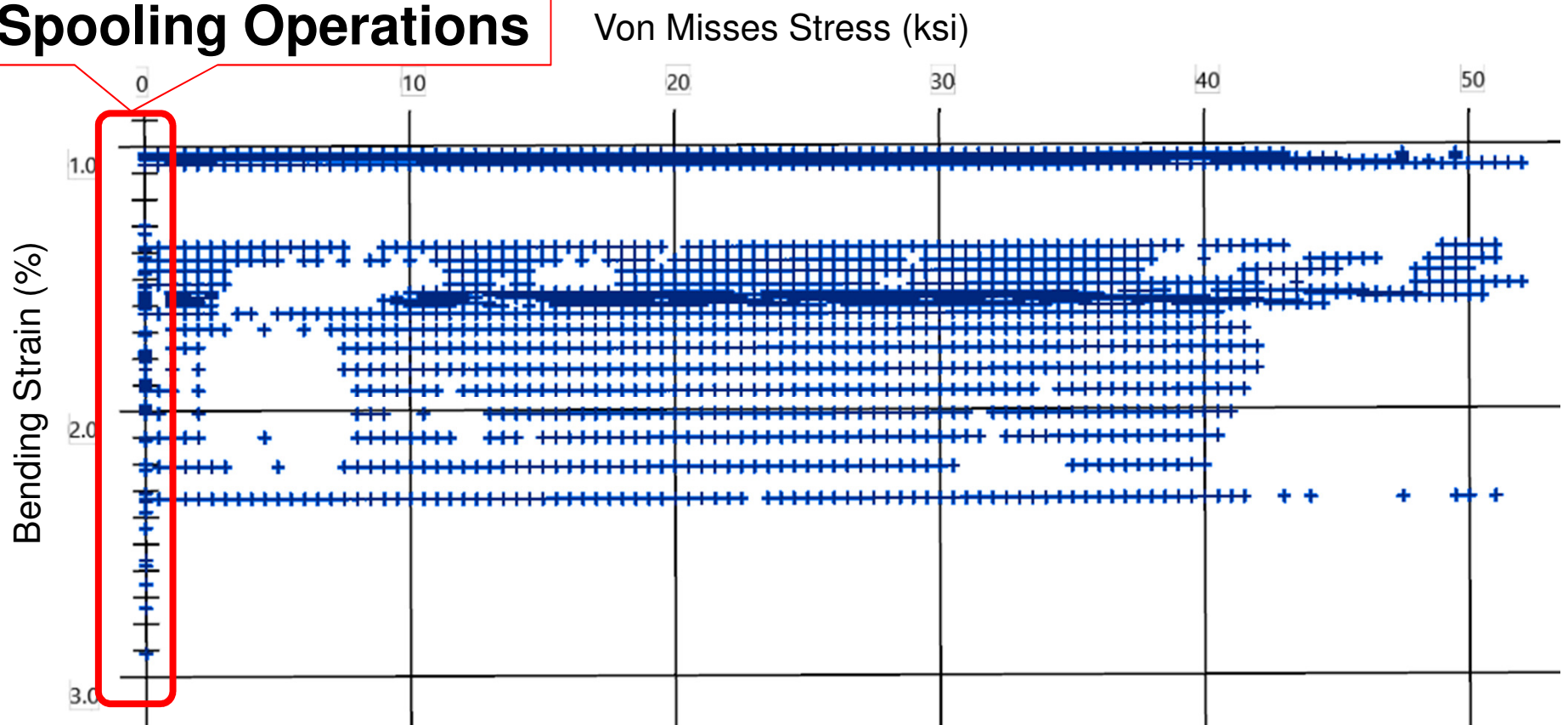
- ❖ 2 5/8" CT at 8,000 PSI: VMStress \approx 50-60 ksi

String History



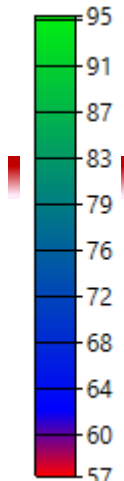
String History

Spooling Operations

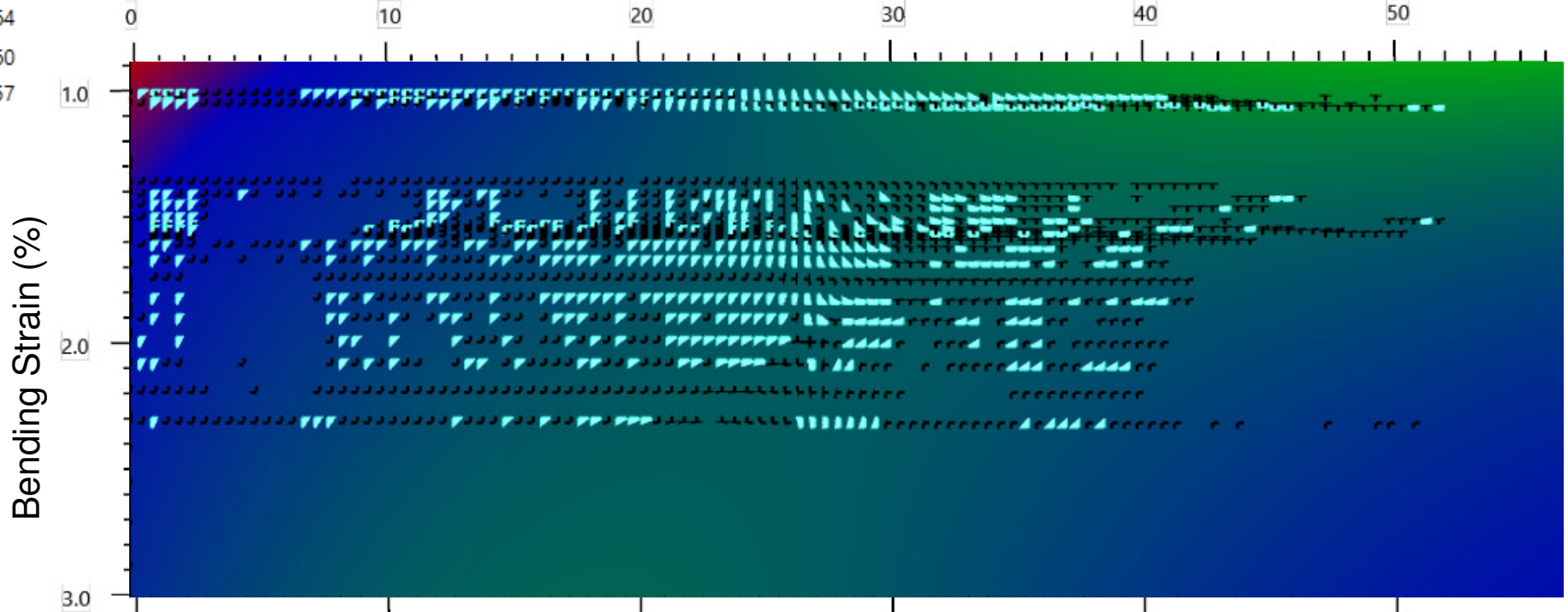


Bias Weld Performance with String History

Derating (%)



Von Misses Stress (ksi)



Conclusions

- *Historical bias weld derating system does not accurately cover the full stress/strain range*
- *Bias weld models eliminate the ‘derating guessing game’*
- *Over 350 bias weld fatigue tests in the past 2 years*
- *5 models currently available, with additional in development*



The authors would like to acknowledge the following companies for their support throughout this study:

**STEP Energy Services
Key Energy Services
Sanjel
NOV CTES**

Thank You

Questions?