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# FAILURE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES FOR COMPONENTS UNDER SEVERE ACCIDENT LOADING

# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Structure mechanics analysis methods for integrity assessment of a PWR
  - coolant loop under a core melt scenario
  - steel containment under peakwise loads (hydrogen combustion)
- Summary and conclusions

# INTRODUCTION

## Severe accident scenarios with molten core material



**Three Mile Island Nuclear  
Generating Station (TMI)**

March 28, 1979

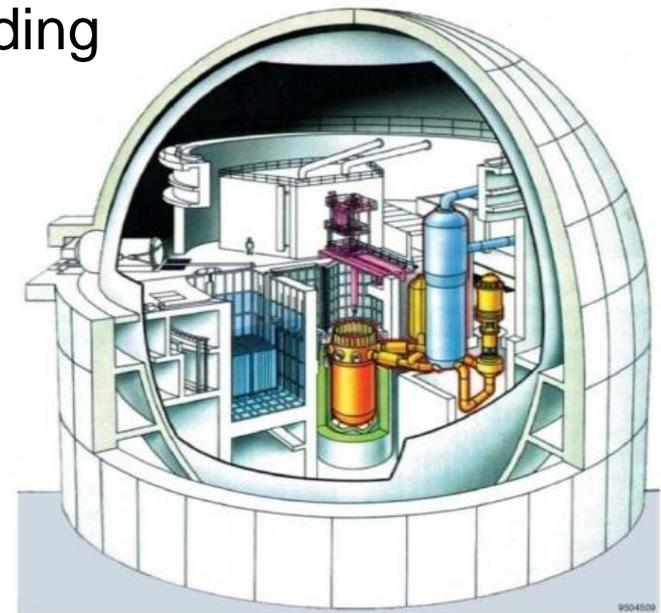


**Fukushima Daiichi  
Nuclear Power Plants**

March 11, 2011

# INTRODUCTION

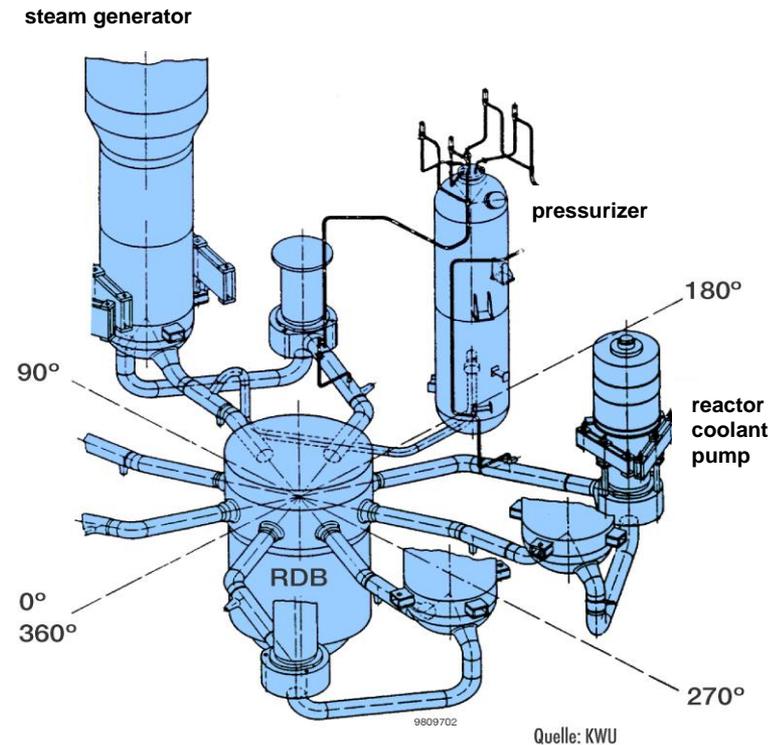
- Safety relevance of the integrity of components under severe accident loading
  - primary circuit components
  - containment structures
- Objectives of research work
  - development
  - provision
  - validationof structural mechanic analysis methods



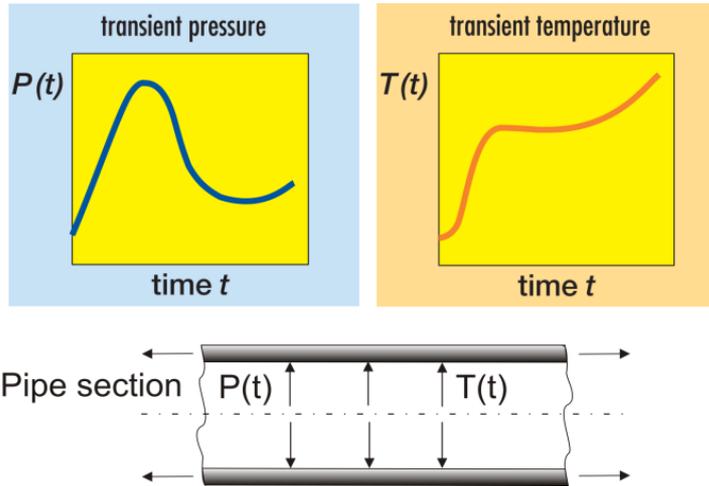
# SAFETY RELEVANT ISSUE

## Primary circuit of German PWR

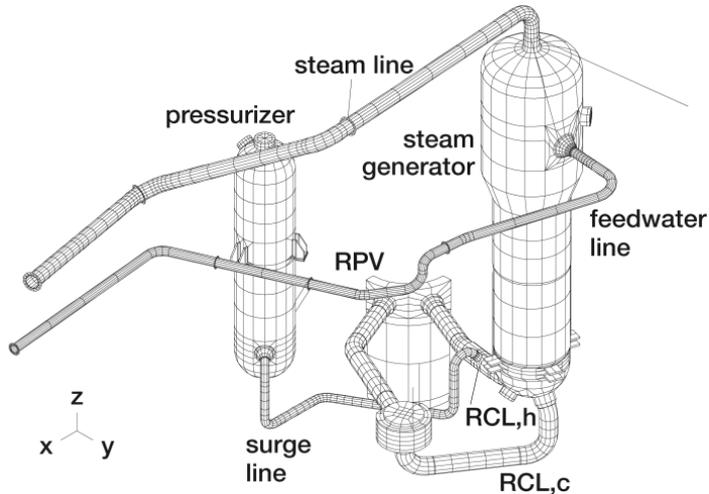
Which component of a primary circuit fails first during a severe accident scenario?



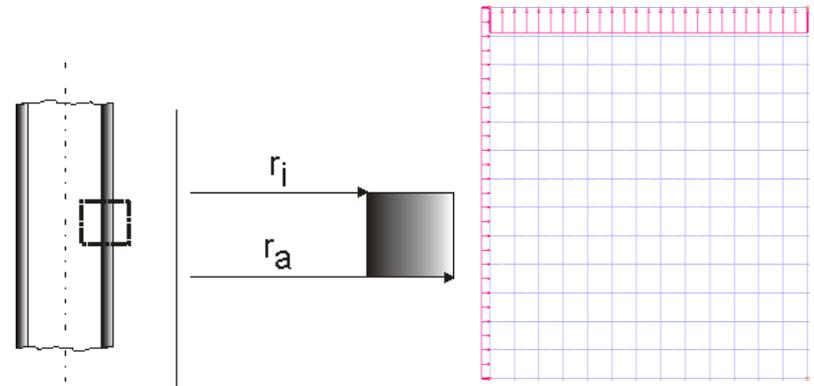
# FAILURE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES



## Complex FE-analysis

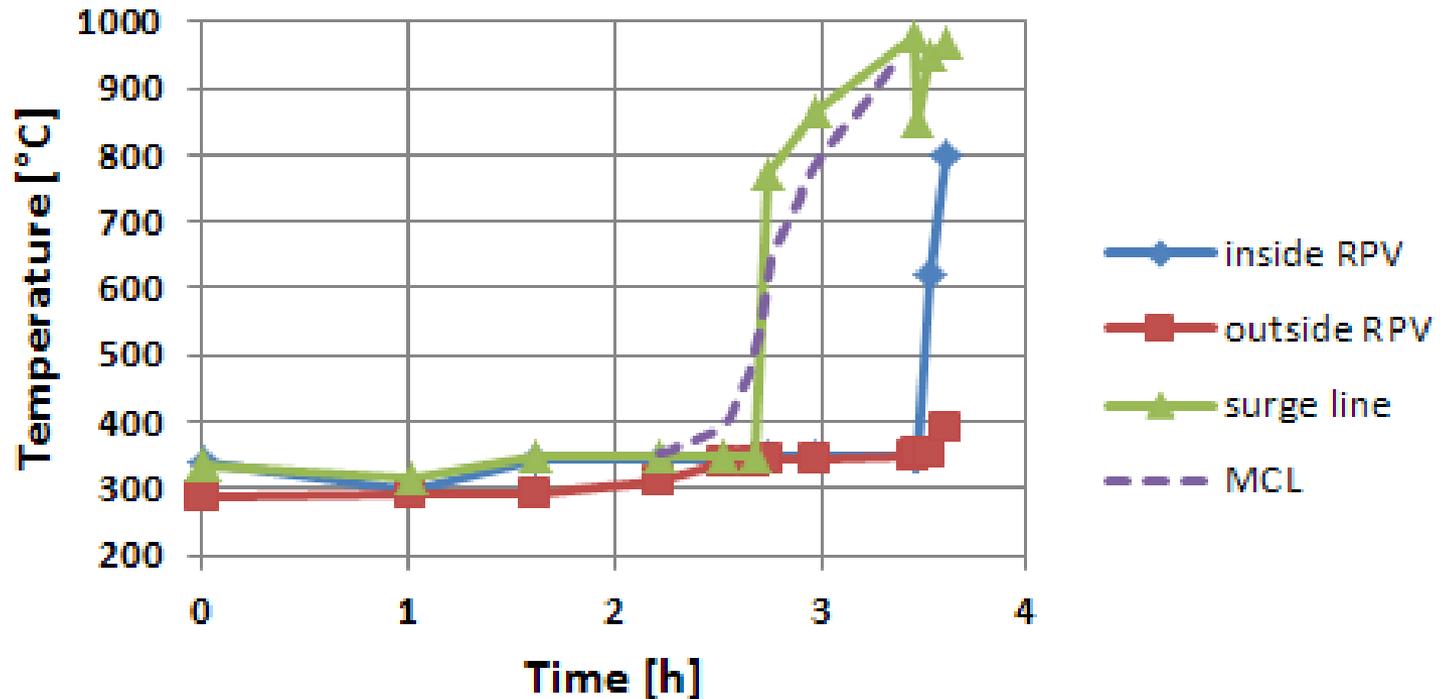


## Simplified FE-analysis/ASTOR



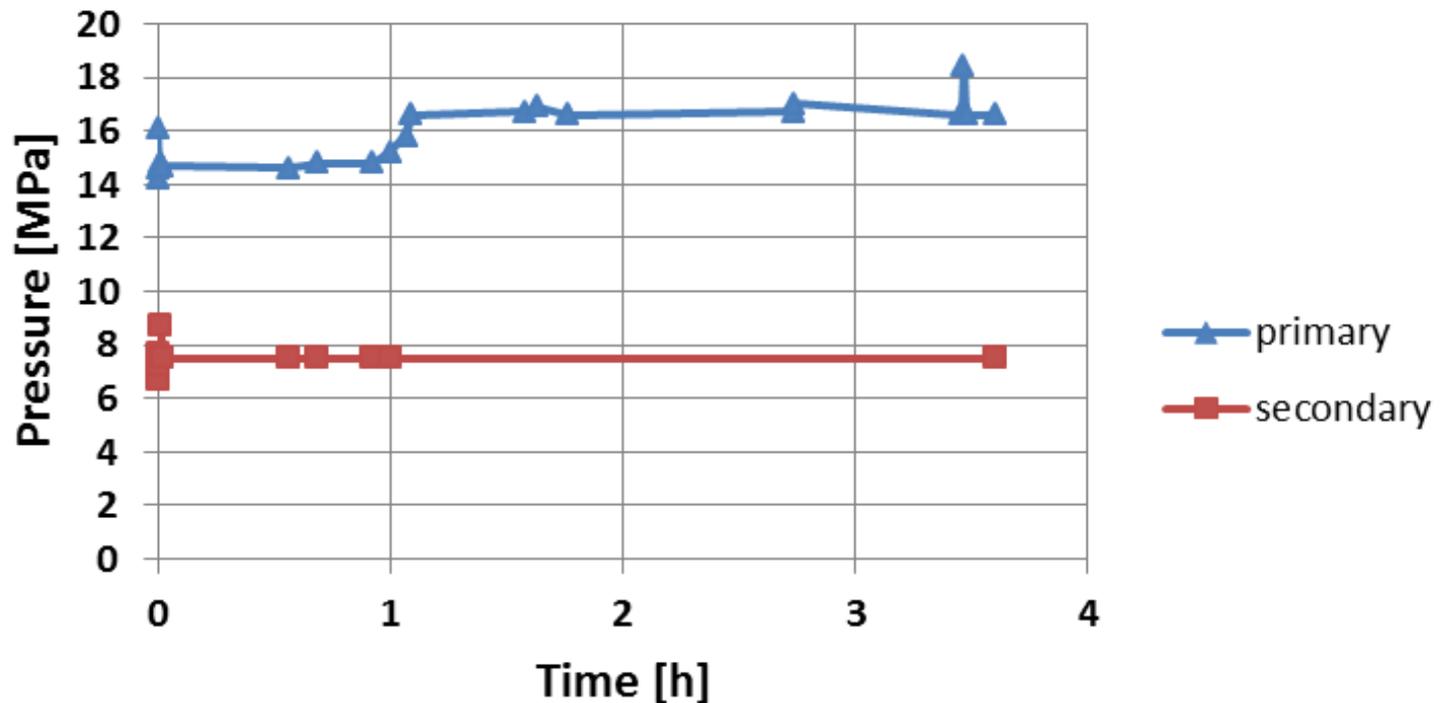
# LOADING CONDITIONS DURING A CORE MELT SCENARIO

Load case “Total Station Blackout” calculated with MELCOR



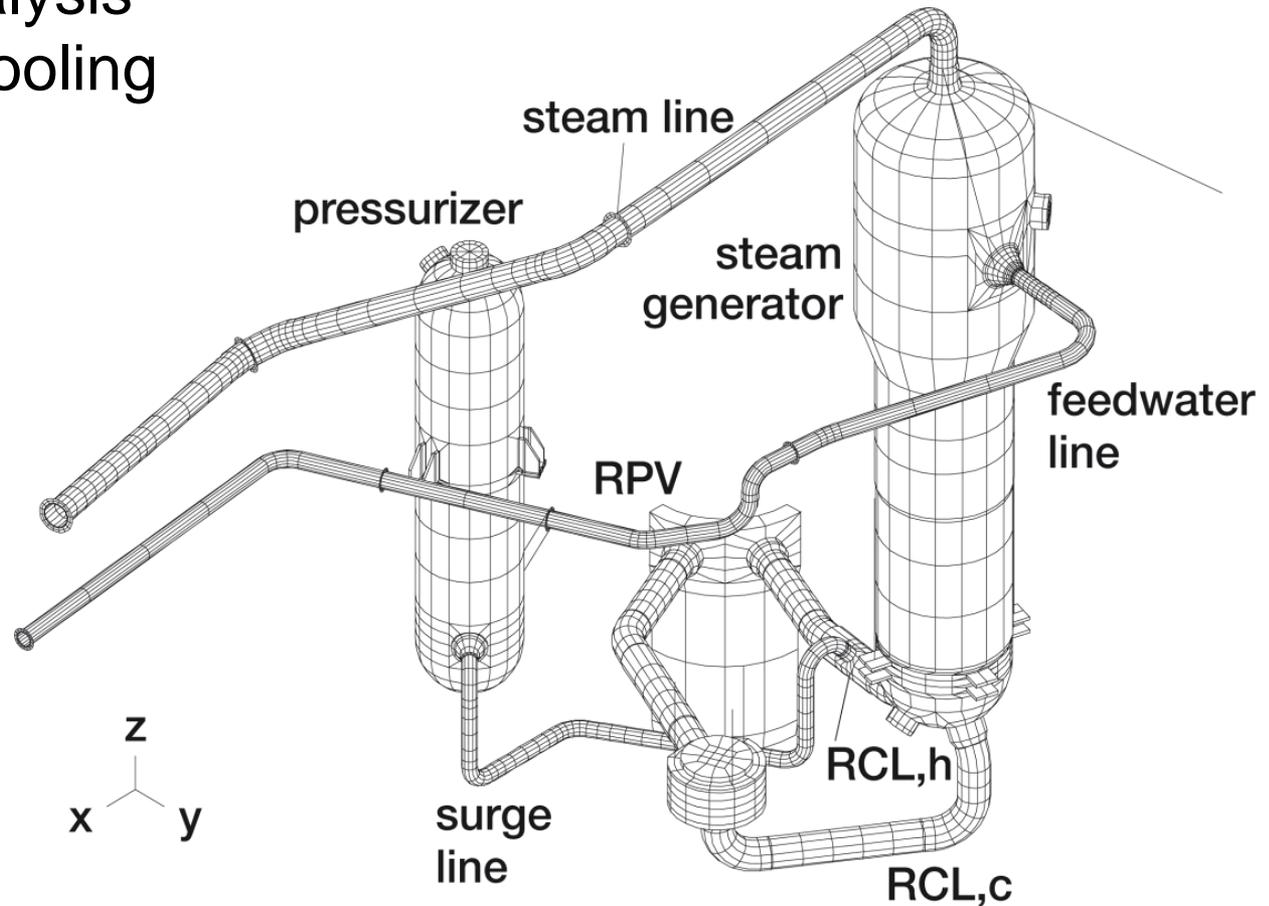
# LOADING CONDITIONS DURING A CORE MELT SCENARIO

Load case “Total Station Blackout” calculated with MELCOR



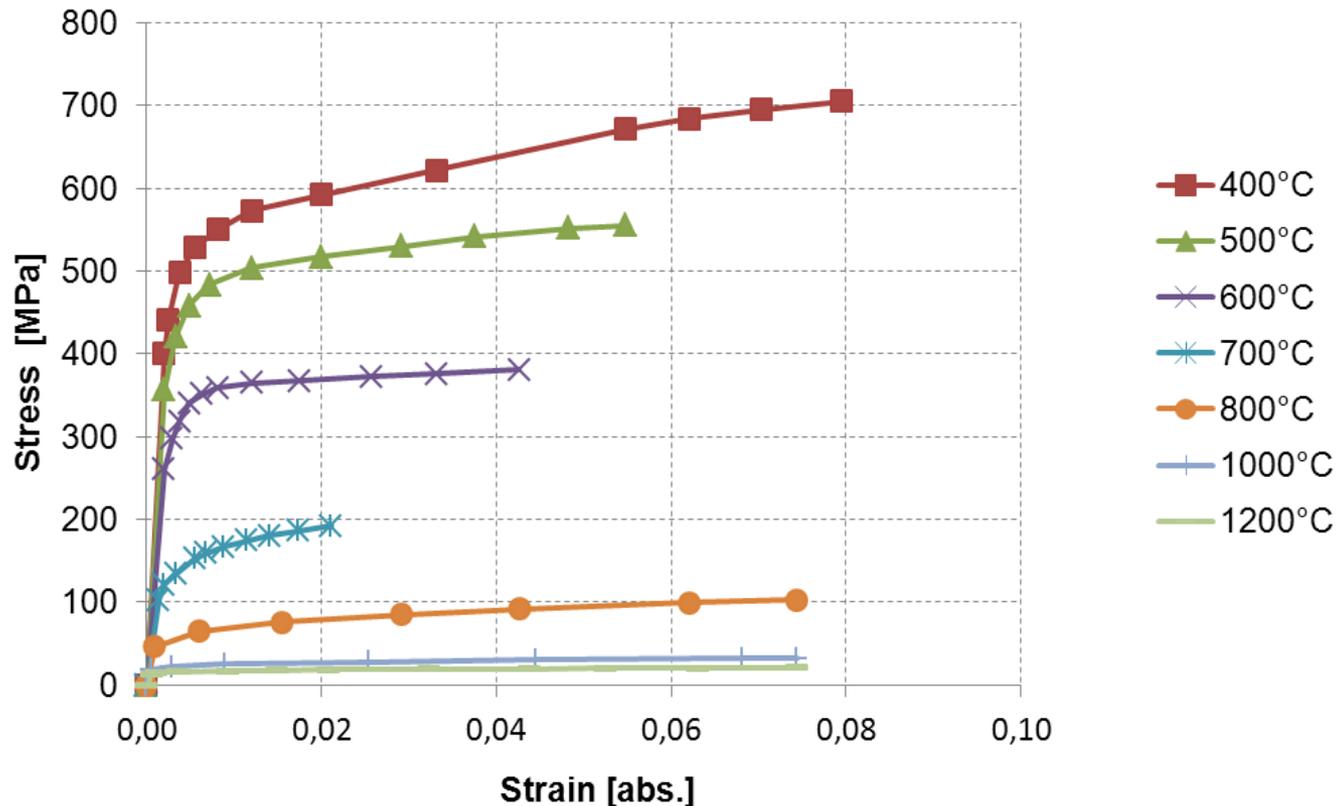
# STRUCTURE MECHANICS ANALYSIS MODEL

Finite Element Analysis  
model of a PWR cooling  
loop (type Konvoi)



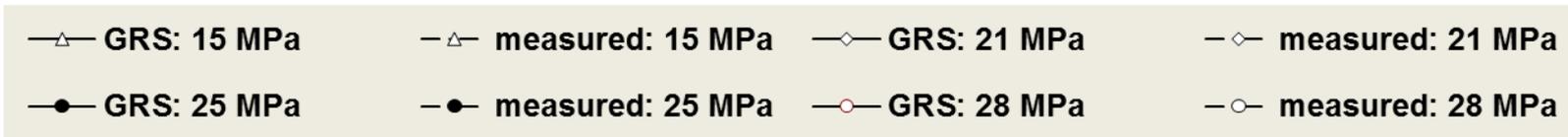
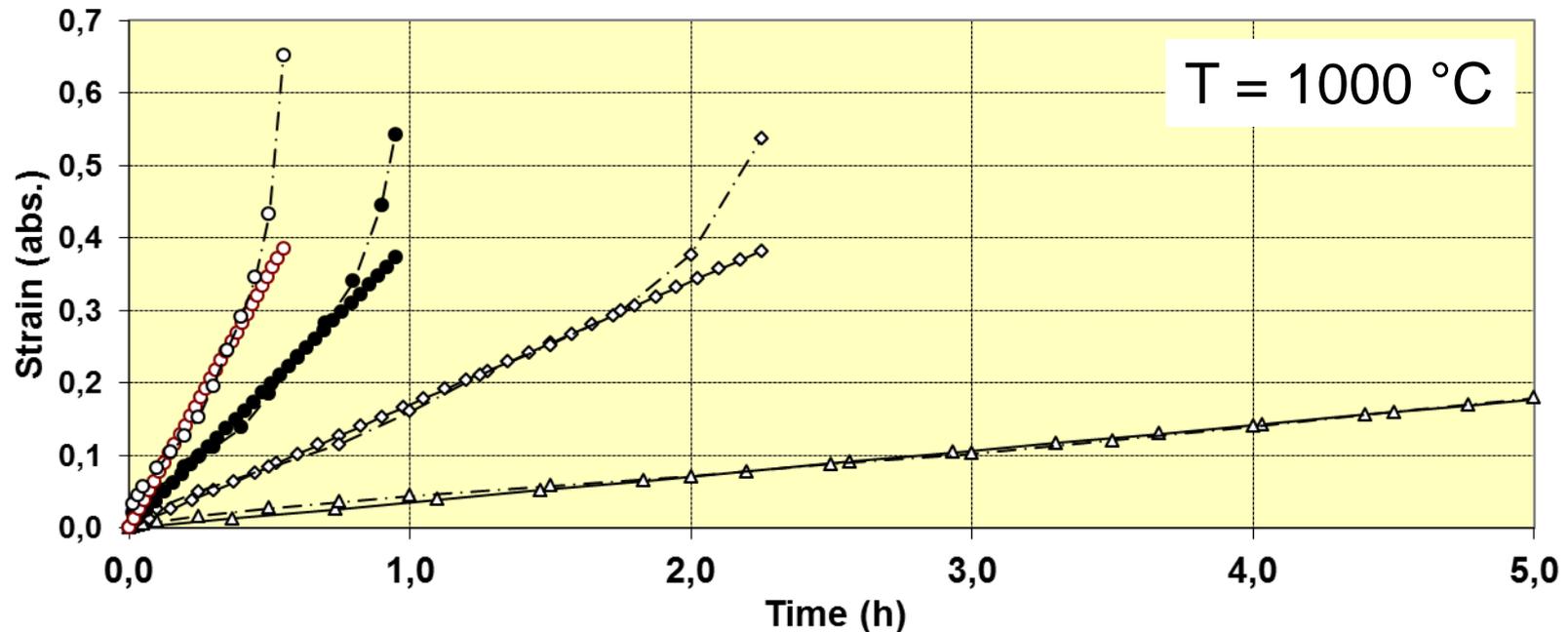
# MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Temperature dependent stress-strain curves for reactor steel 20 MnMoNi 55 up to uniform elongation



# MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Temperature and stress dependent **creep curves** for reactor steel 20 MnMoNi 55 – linear approximation up to 60 % of uniaxial creep failure strain measured by MPA University Stuttgart



# FAILURE CRITERIA FOR INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT

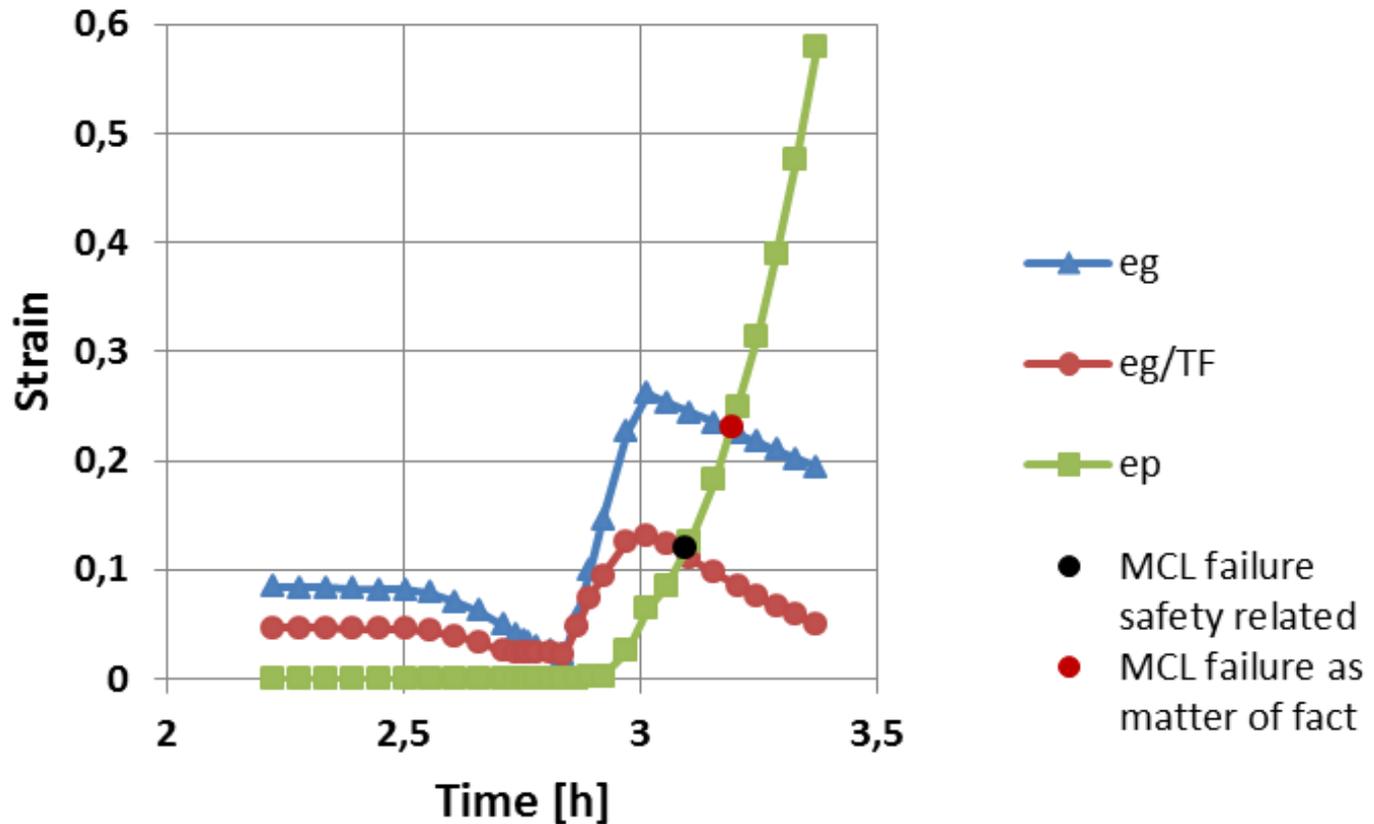
- Failure due to **plastification**:  
Uniaxial **Uniform Elongation** / Stress triaxiality factor **TF**
- Failure due to **creep**:  
Uniaxial **failure strain** / Stress triaxiality factor **TF**

$$TF = \frac{|\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \sigma_3|}{\sigma_{effektiv}} \text{ due to Ju and Buttler (1984)}$$

- **Safety related assessment of failure**:  
60% uniaxial creep failure strain,  $TF > 1$  based on elasto-plastic stress calculation
- **Assessment concerning failure as a matter of fact**:  
100% uniaxial creep failure strain,  $TF = 1$  for failure due to plastification or/and creep

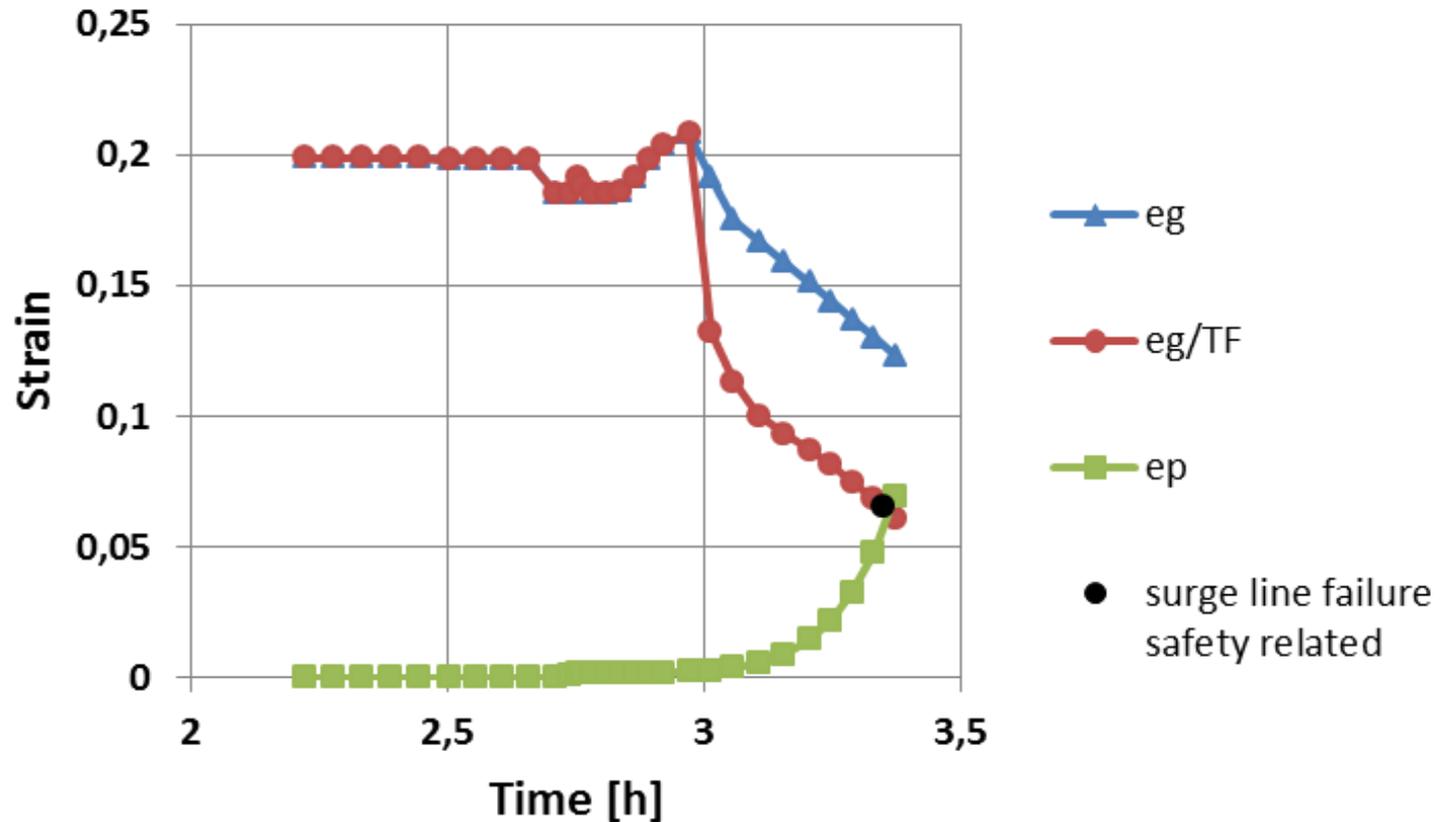
# STRUCTURE MECHANICS ANALYSIS RESULTS

## Integrity assessment of main cooling line



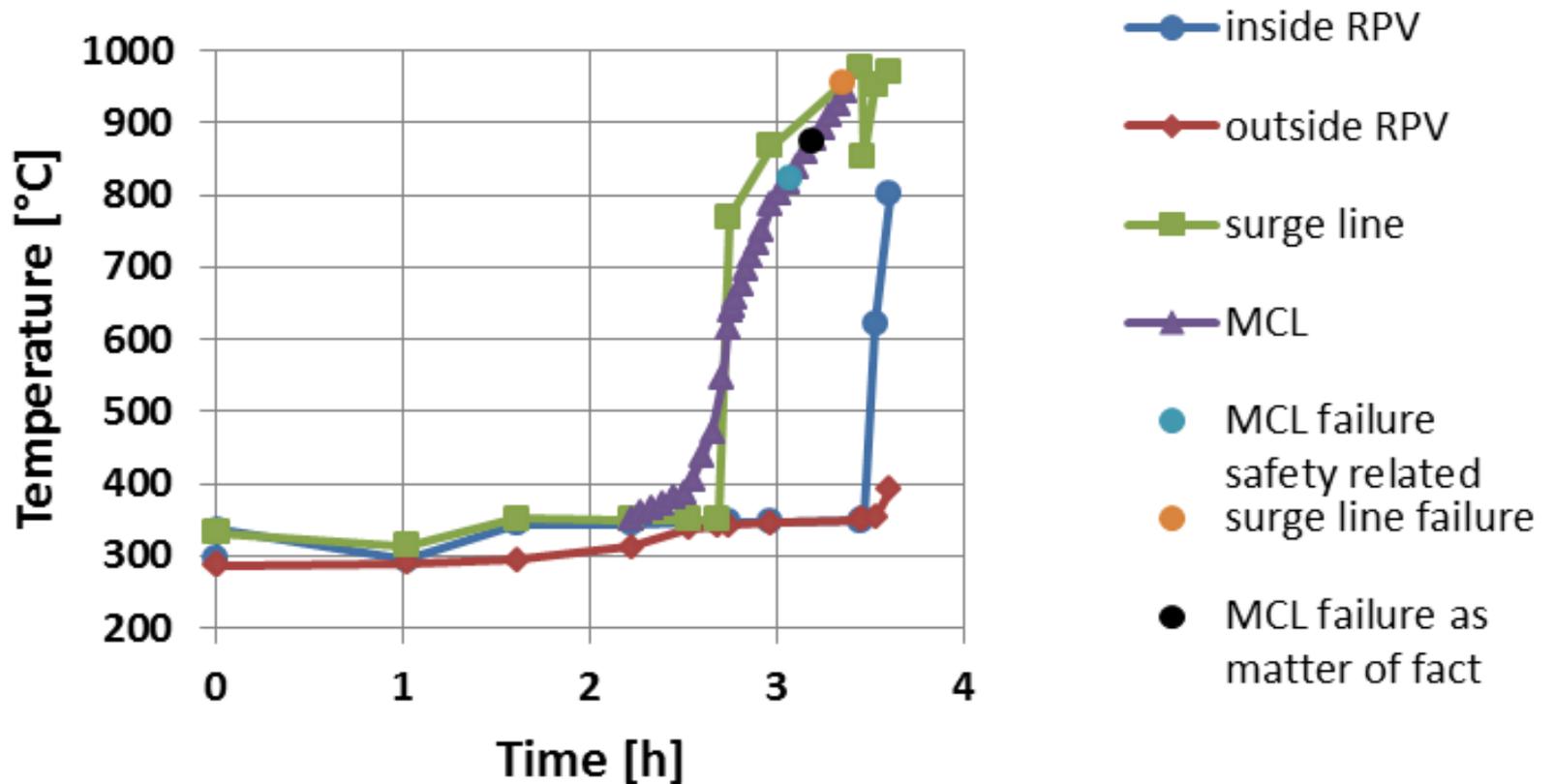
# STRUCTURE MECHANICS ANALYSIS RESULTS

## Integrity assessment of surge line



# STRUCTURE MECHANICS ANALYSIS RESULTS

Integrity assessment of main cooling and surge line

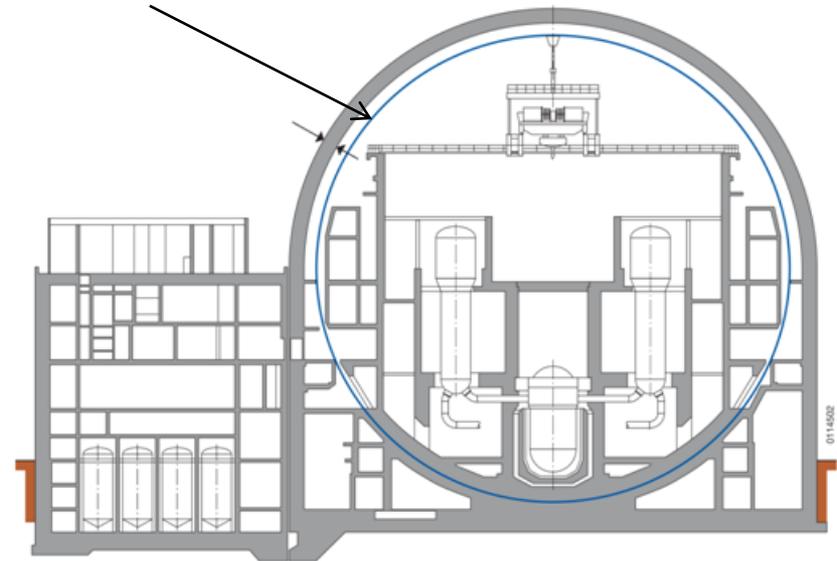


# SAFETY RELEVANT ISSUE

## Steel containment of German PWR

What is the load carrying capacity of a steel containment during a severe accident scenario with postulated hydrogen combustion?

Wall thickness 38 mm



# LOADING DUE TO HYDROGEN COMBUSTION

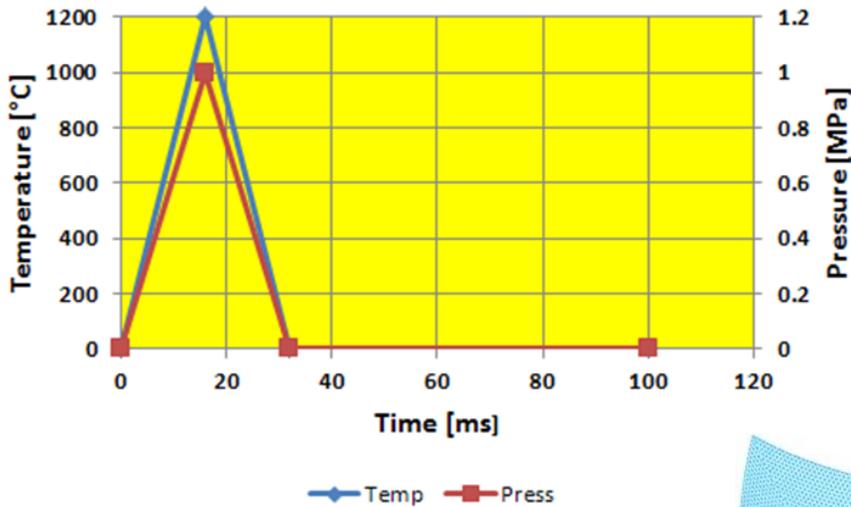
- Measured and calculated pressure values in TMI-2 containment during severe accident 1979 [EPRI, 2010]:
  - peak pressure ~0,3 MPa
  - peak duration ~10 s increase / >70 s decrease
- Calculated pressure distributions at top floors in Fukushima units during severe accident 2011 [JNES, 2012]:
  - peak pressure ~1,5 MPa
  - peak duration <100 ms
- Calculated pressure / temperature values for postulated severe accident scenarios with consideration of **catalytic recombinators** [GRS, 2012]:
  - peak pressures < 0,05 MPa
  - peak duration ~40 - 70 s
  - peak temperatures < 370 °C

# STRUCTURE MECHANICS ANALYSIS MODEL OF A PWR STEEL CONTAINMENT

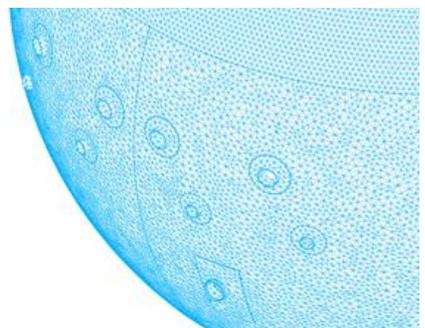
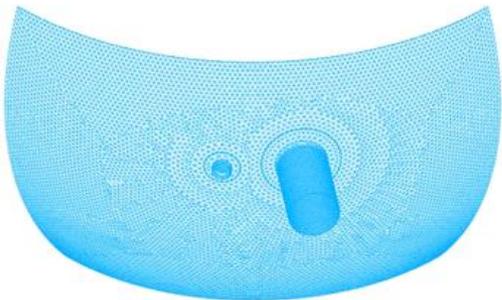
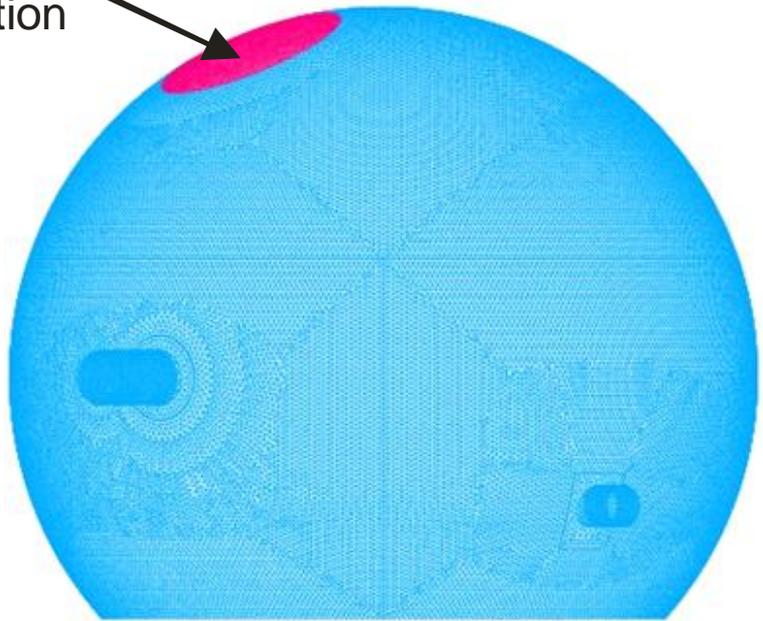
Load assumptions

Peak values:

800 – 1200 °C / 0.4 – 2.5 MPa



area of load application

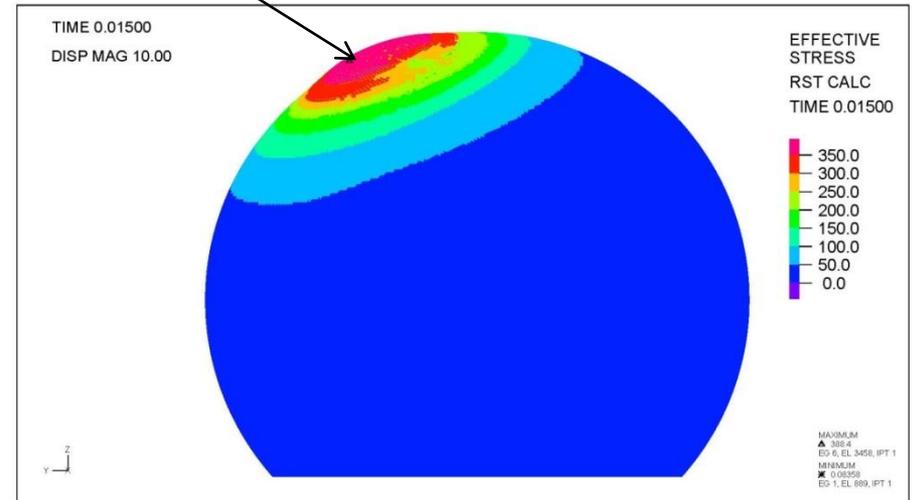
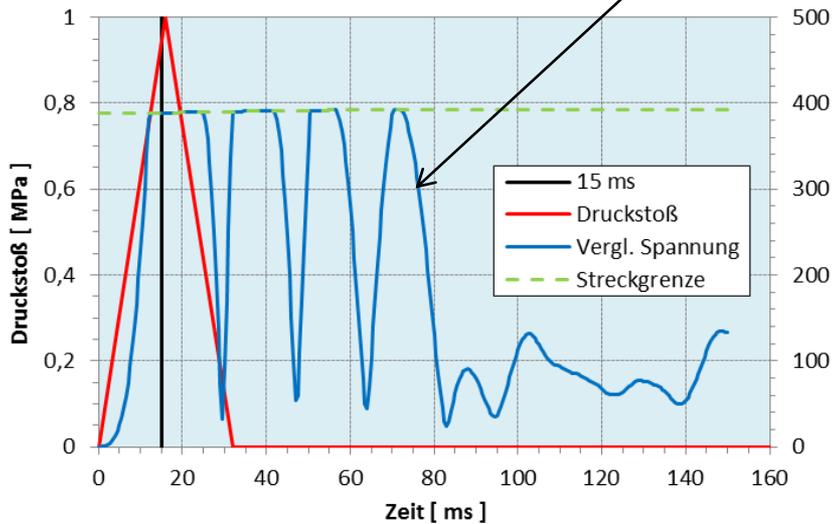
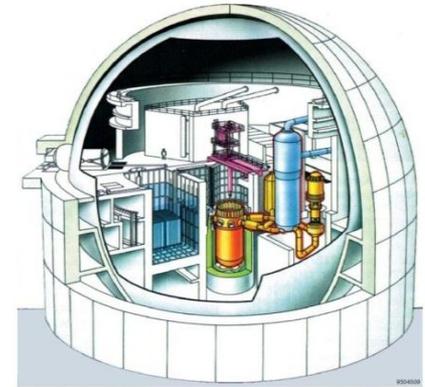


Peak duration:  
16 ms – 3.6 s (quasi static)

# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF A STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

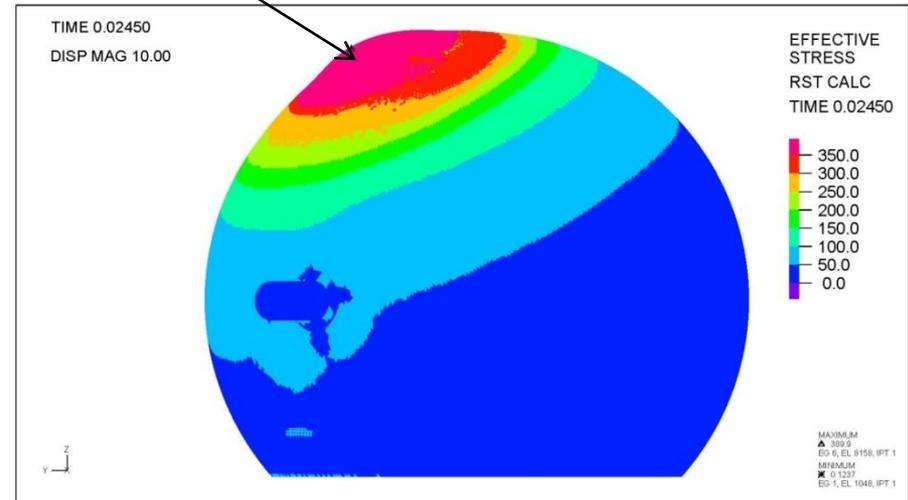
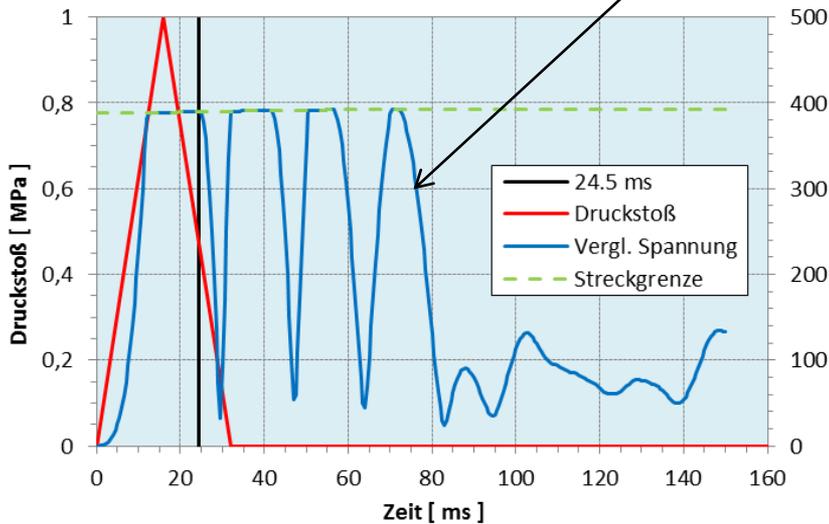
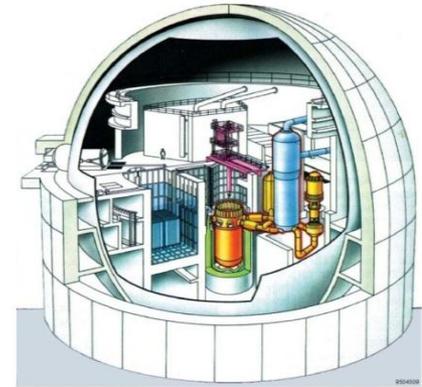
local equivalent stress  $t = 15,0$  ms



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF A STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

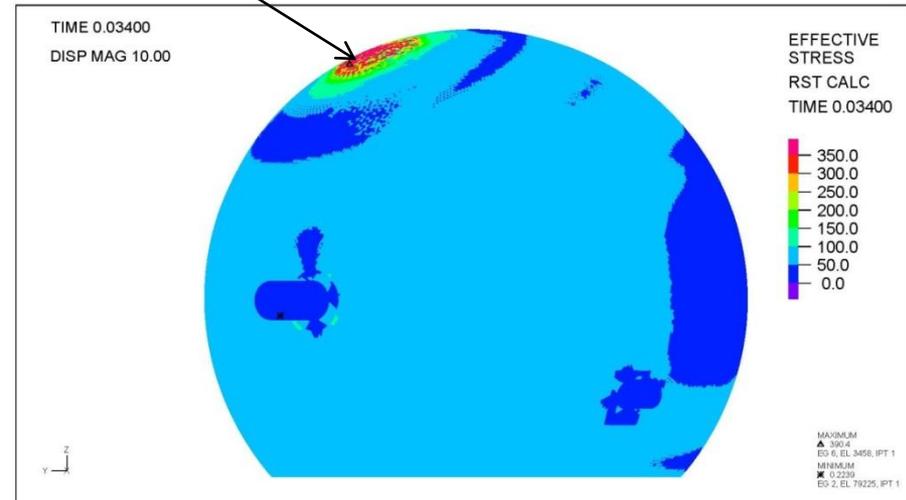
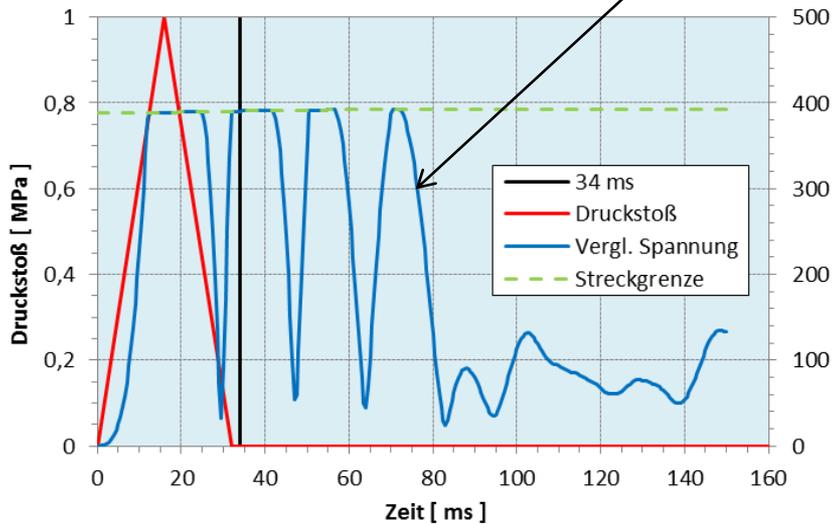
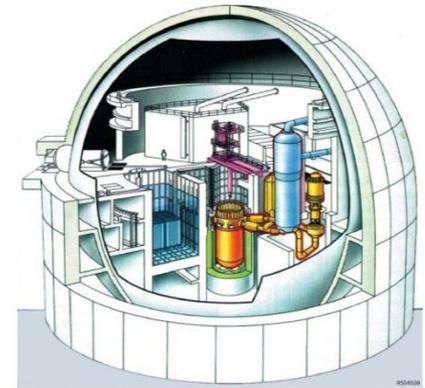
local equivalent stress  $t = 24,5 \text{ ms}$



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

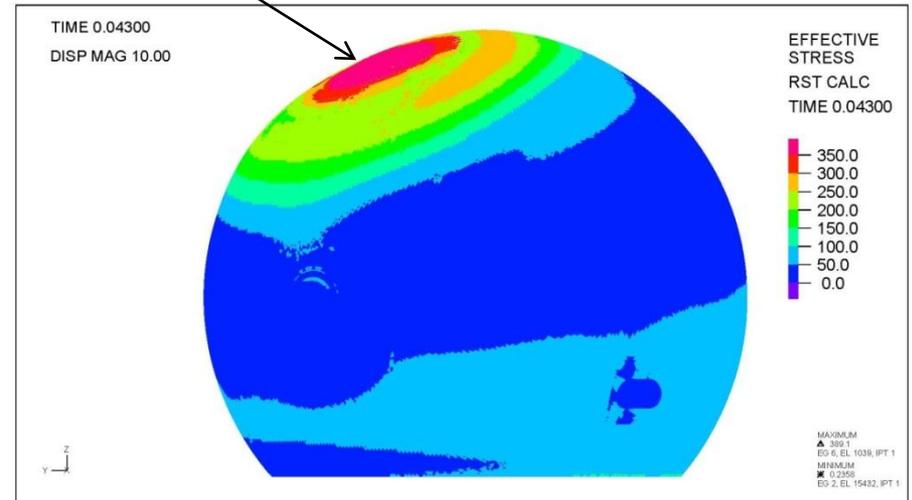
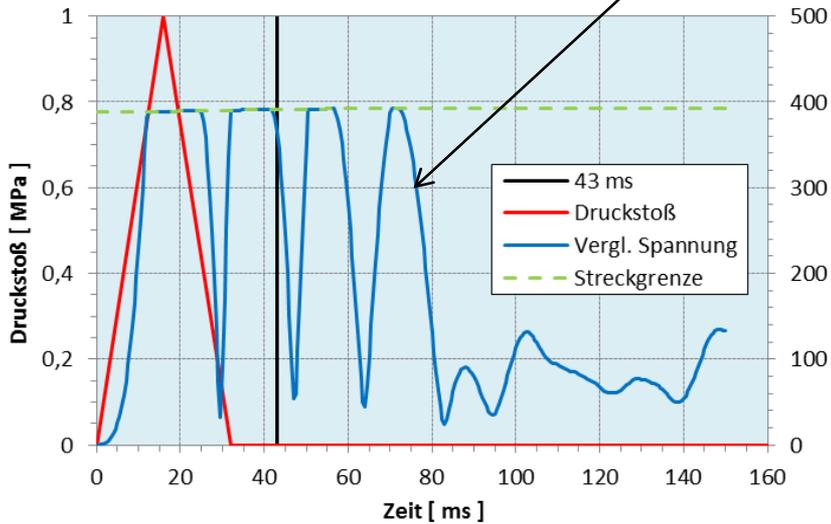
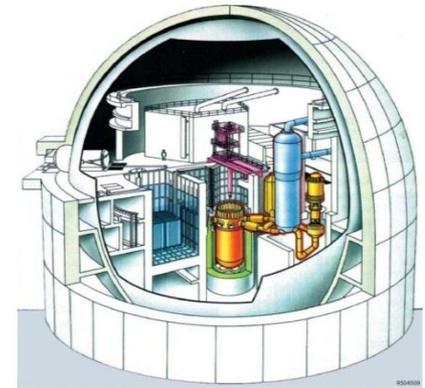
local equivalent stress  $t = 34,0$  ms



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

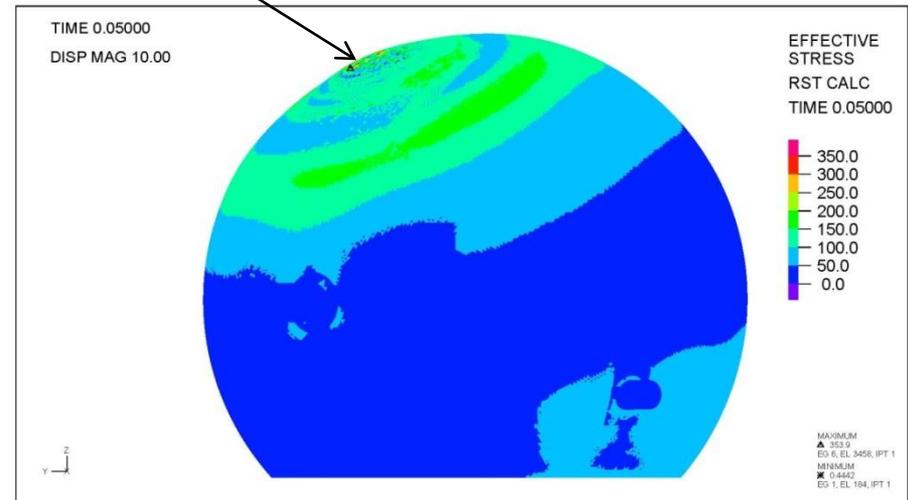
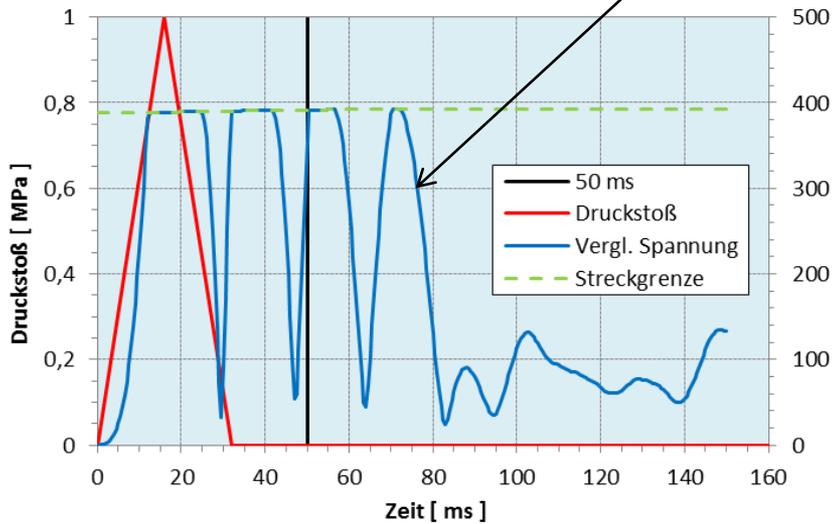
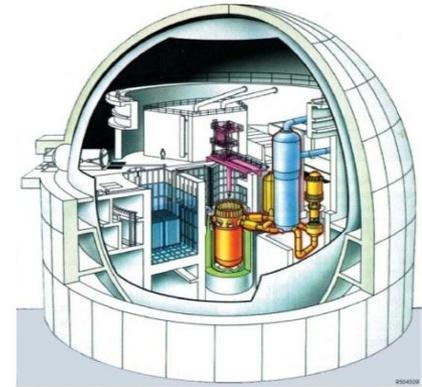
local equivalent stress  $t = 43,0$  ms



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase:
  - Pressure peak with
    - Peak pressure 1 MPa
    - Peak duration 32 ms

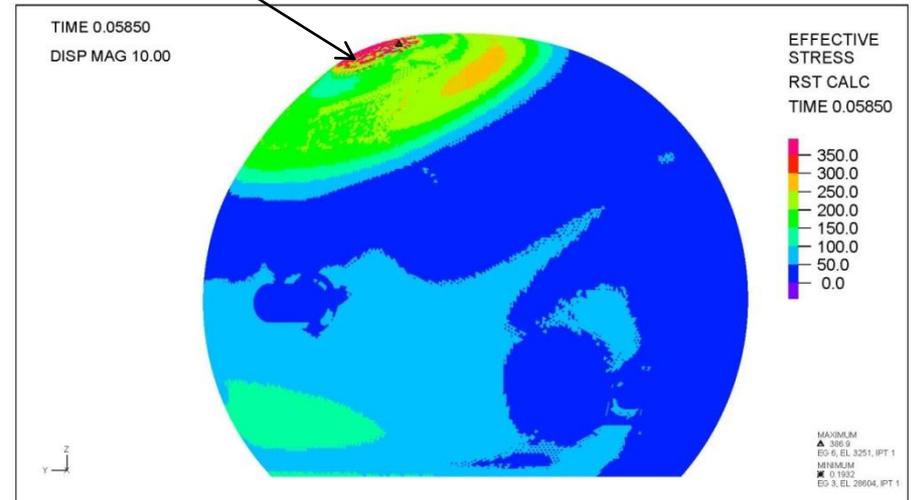
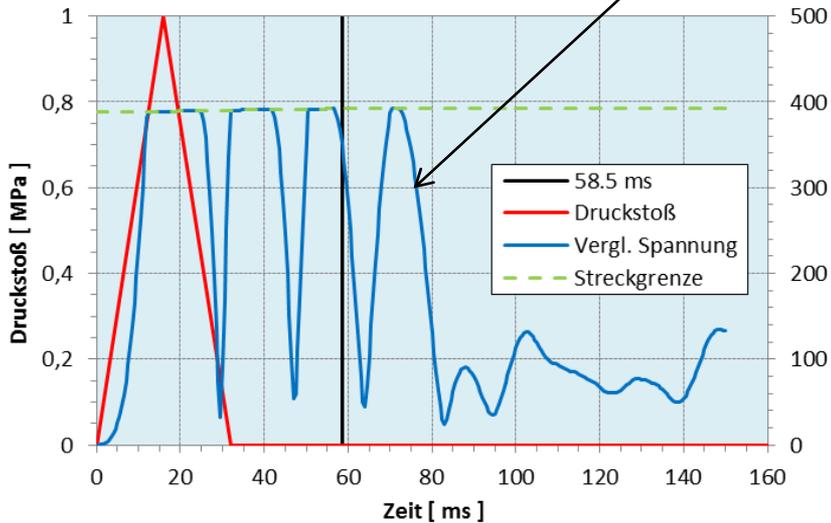
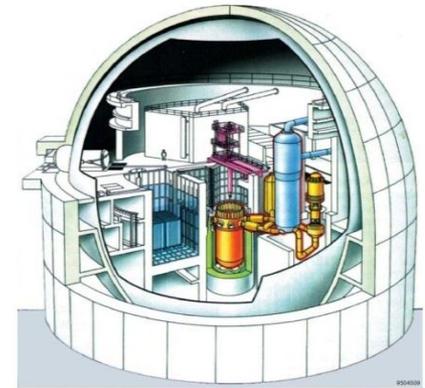
local equivalent stress  $t = 50,0$  ms



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase:  
Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

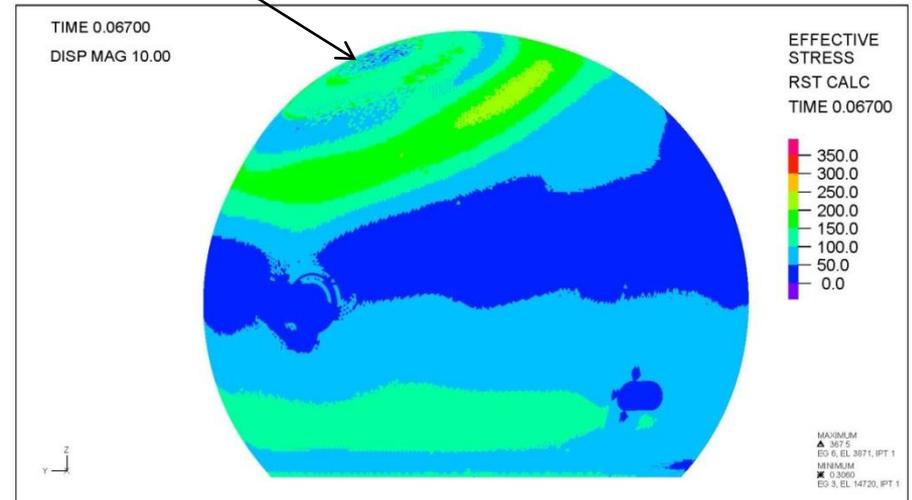
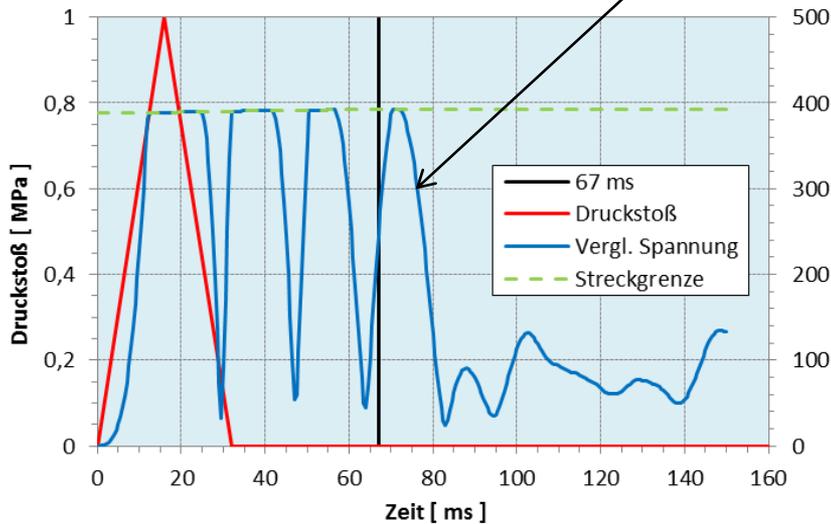
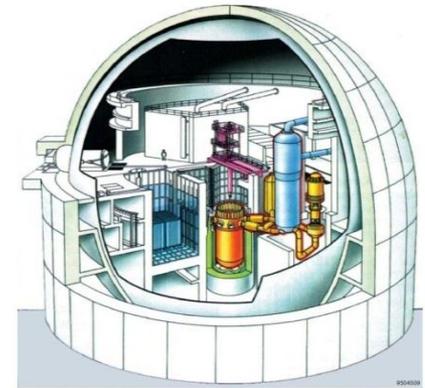
local equivalent stress  $t = 58,5$  ms



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

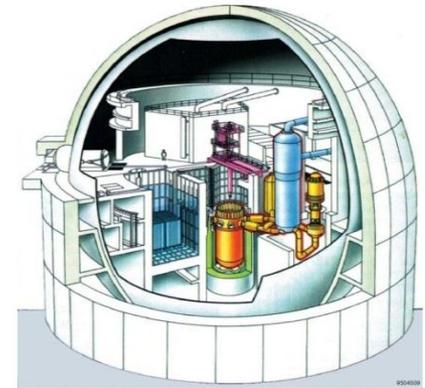
- Loadcase:
  - Pressure peak with
    - Peak pressure 1 MPa
    - Peak duration 32 ms

local equivalent stress  $t = 67,0$  ms

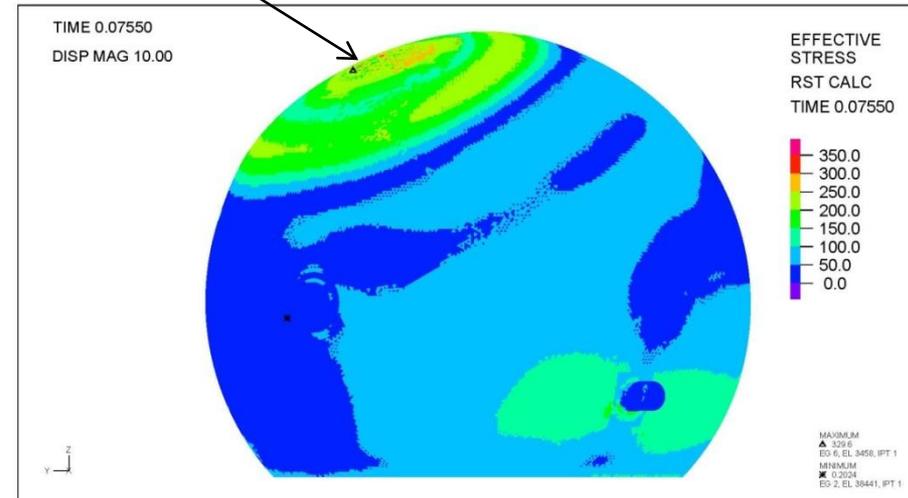
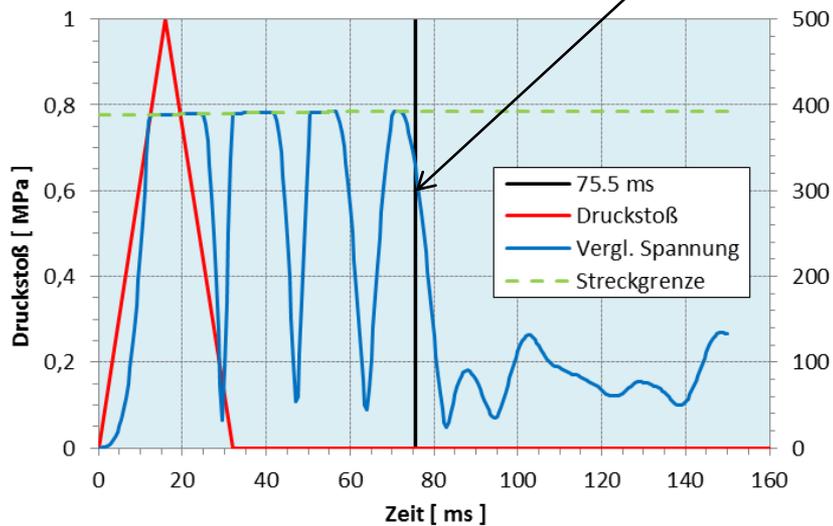


# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase:
  - Pressure peak with
    - Peak pressure 1 MPa
    - Peak duration 32 ms



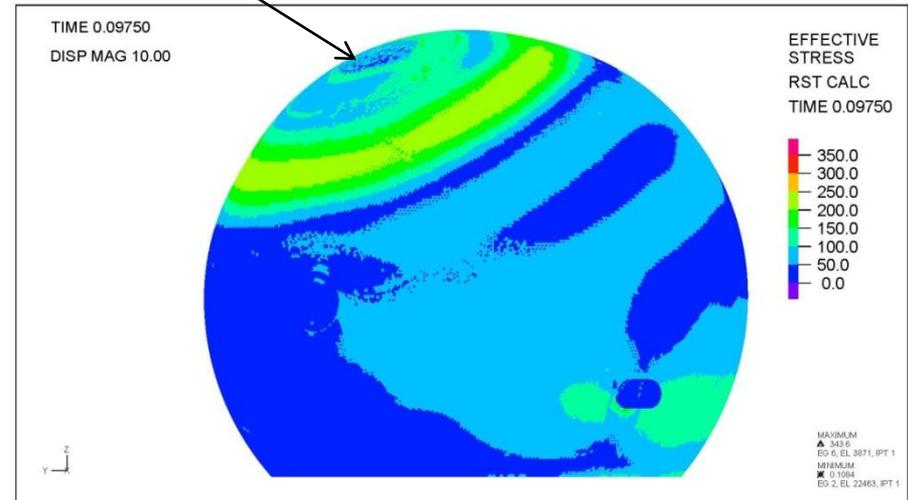
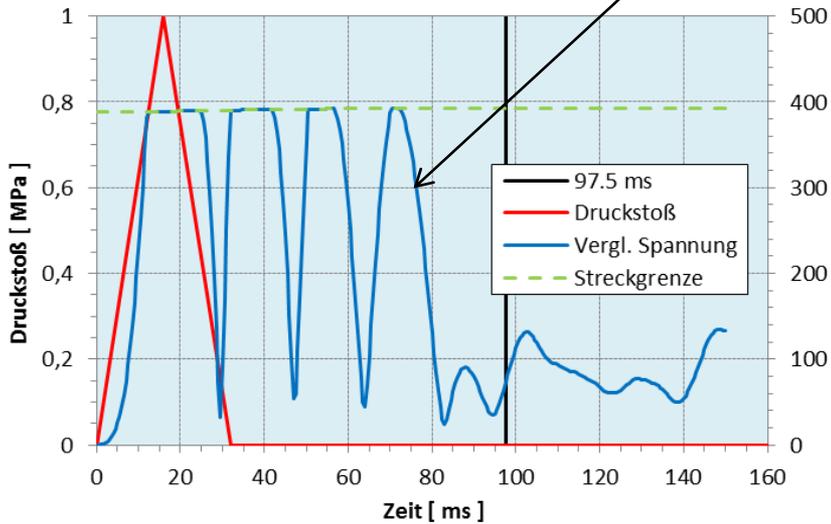
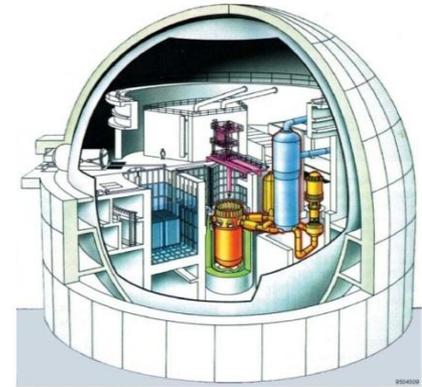
local equivalent stress  $t = 75,5 \text{ ms}$



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms

local equivalent stress  $t = 97,5 \text{ ms}$

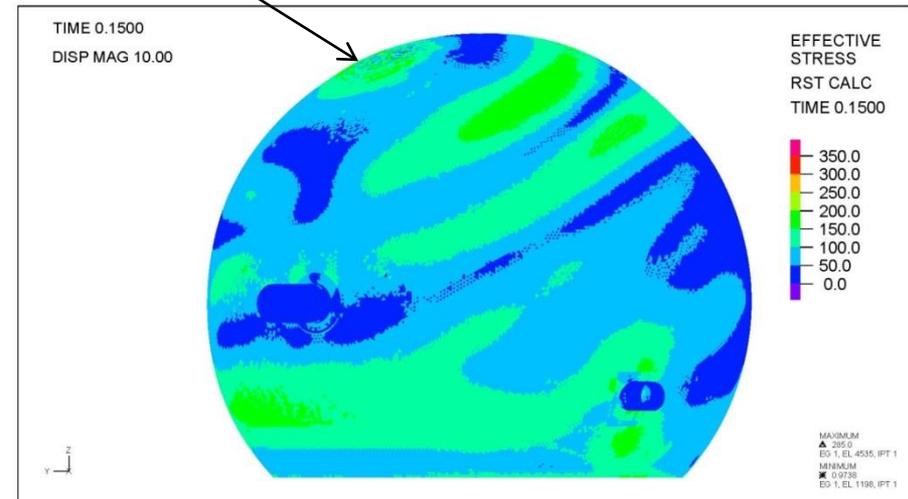
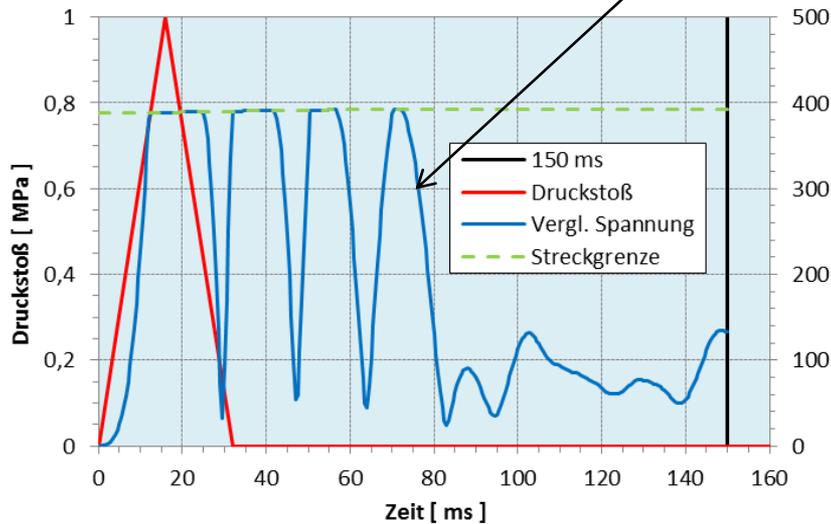


# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak duration 32 ms



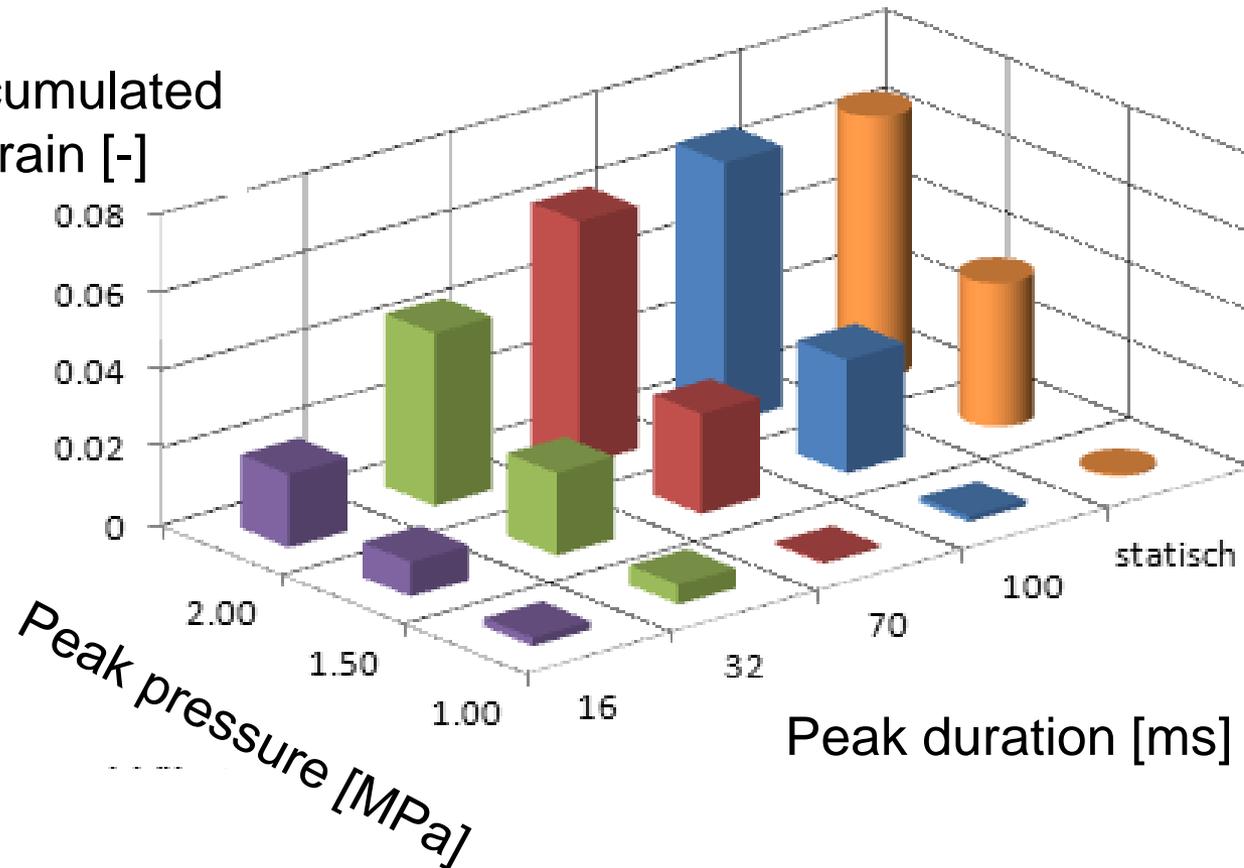
local equivalent stress t = **150,0 ms**



# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

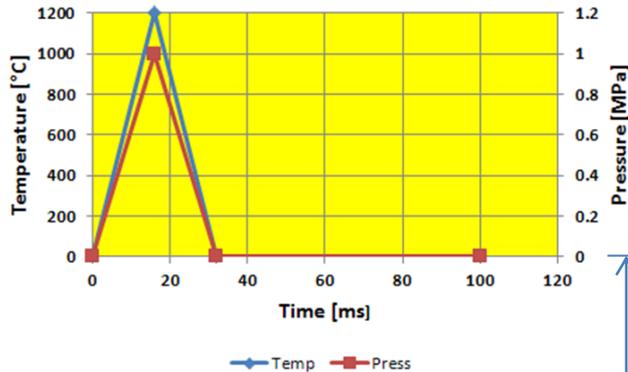
Results of parametric study with pressure peak loading

Max. accumulated plastic strain [-]

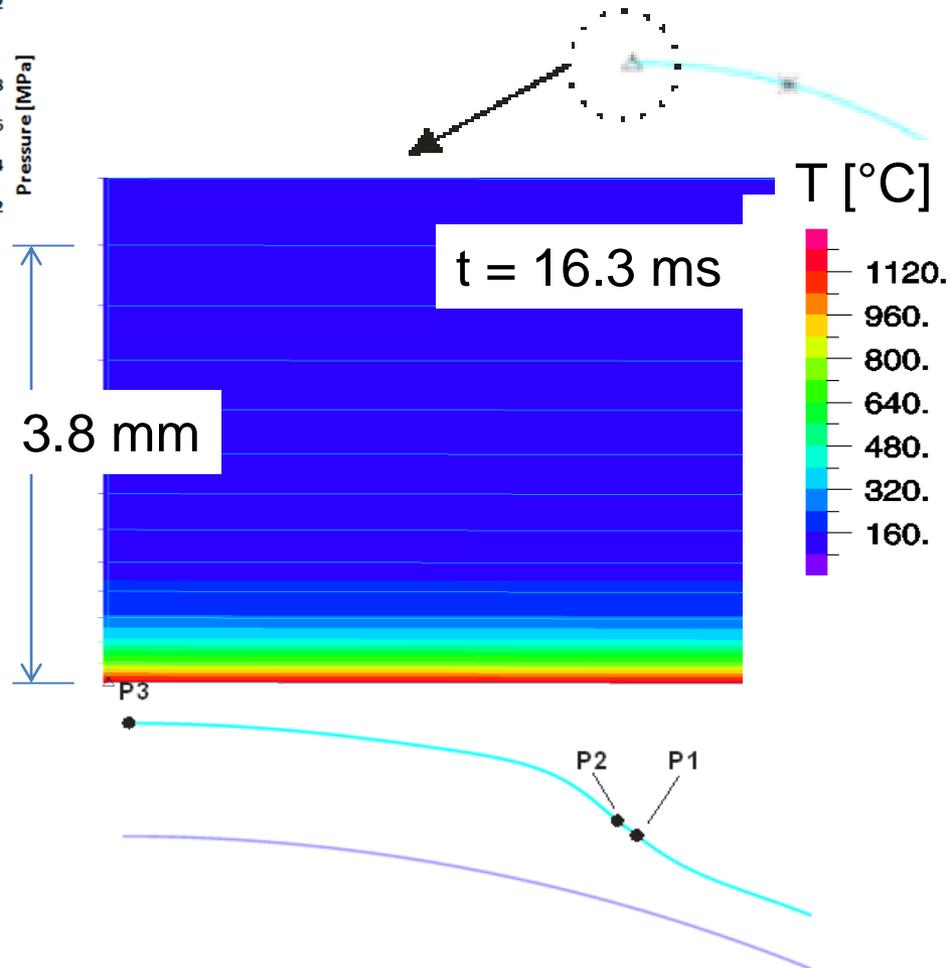


# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

## Consideration of temperature peak loading

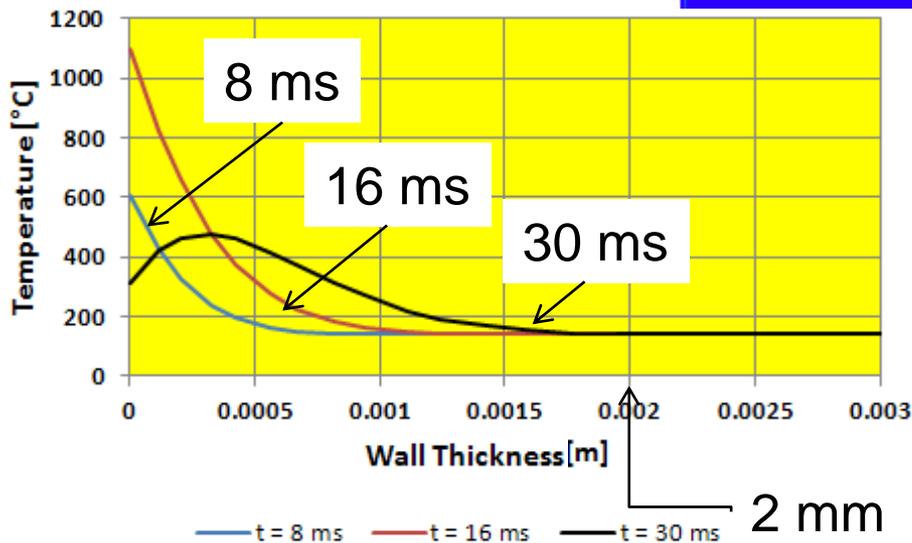
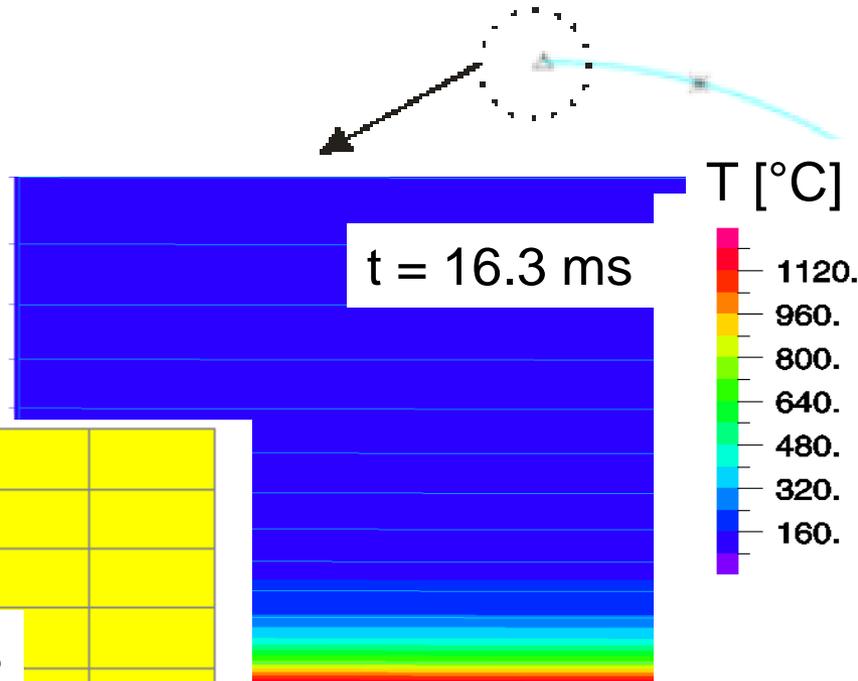
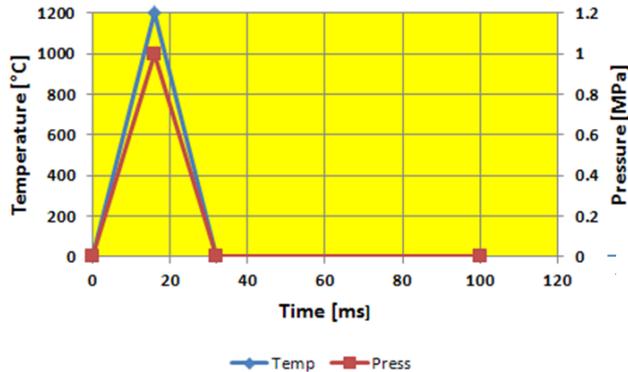


- Loadcase:  
Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure  
1 MPa
  - Peak temperature  
1200°C
  - Peak duration  
32 ms



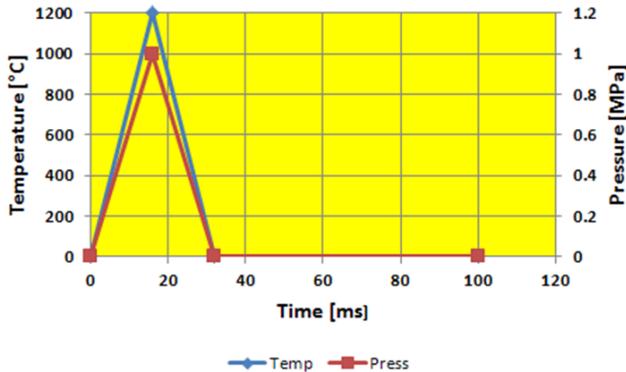
# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

## Consideration of temperature peak loading



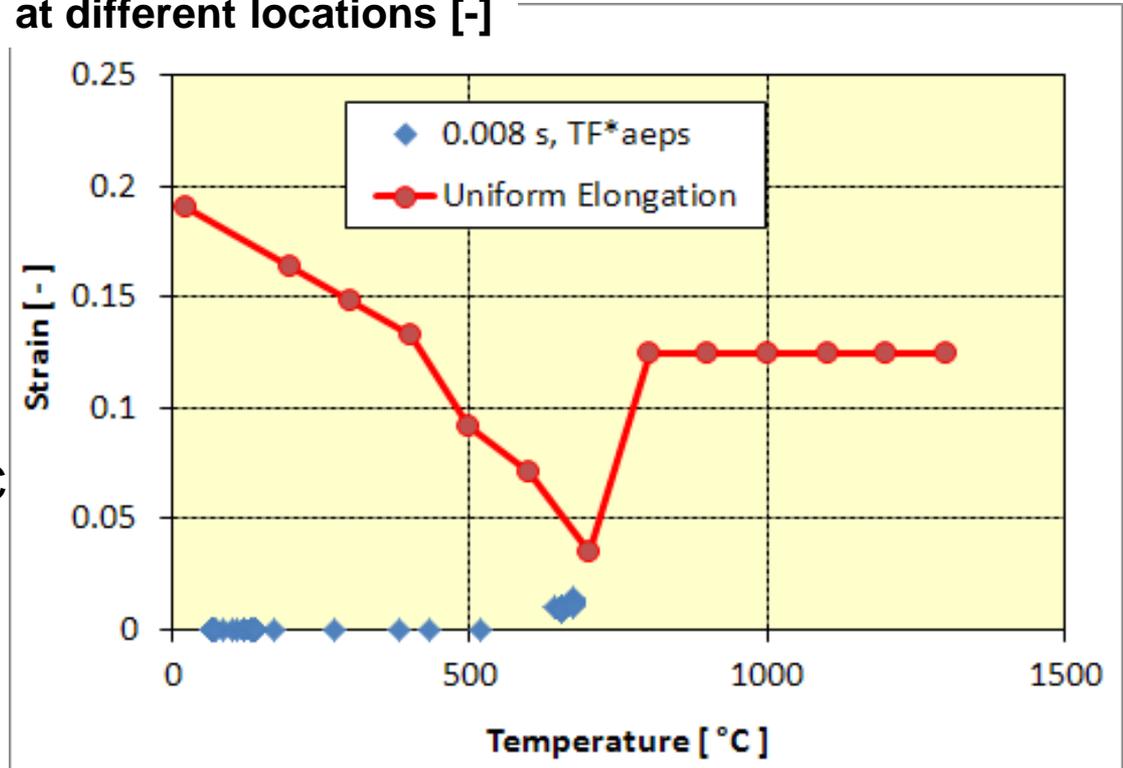
# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

Integrity assessment with consideration of temperature peak loading



t = 8 ms

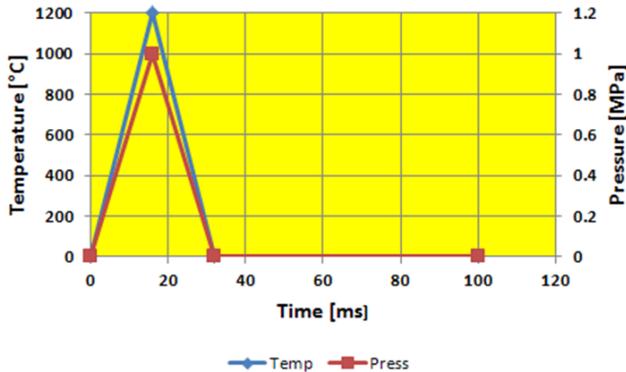
plastic strain \* TF  
at different locations [-]



- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak temperature 1200°C
  - Peak duration 32 ms

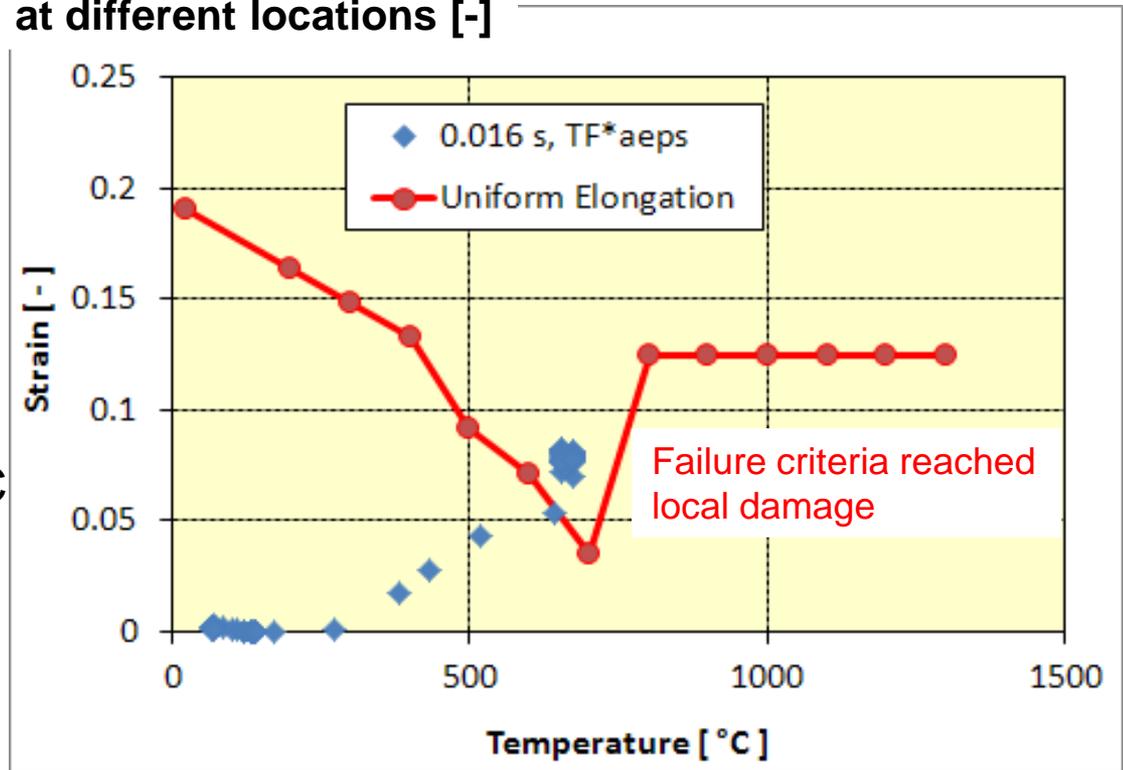
# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

Integrity assessment with consideration of temperature peak loading



**t = 16 ms**

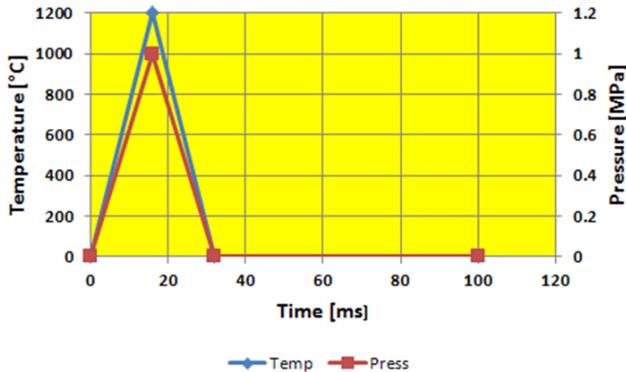
plastic strain \* TF  
at different locations [-]



- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak temperature 1200°C
  - Peak duration 32 ms

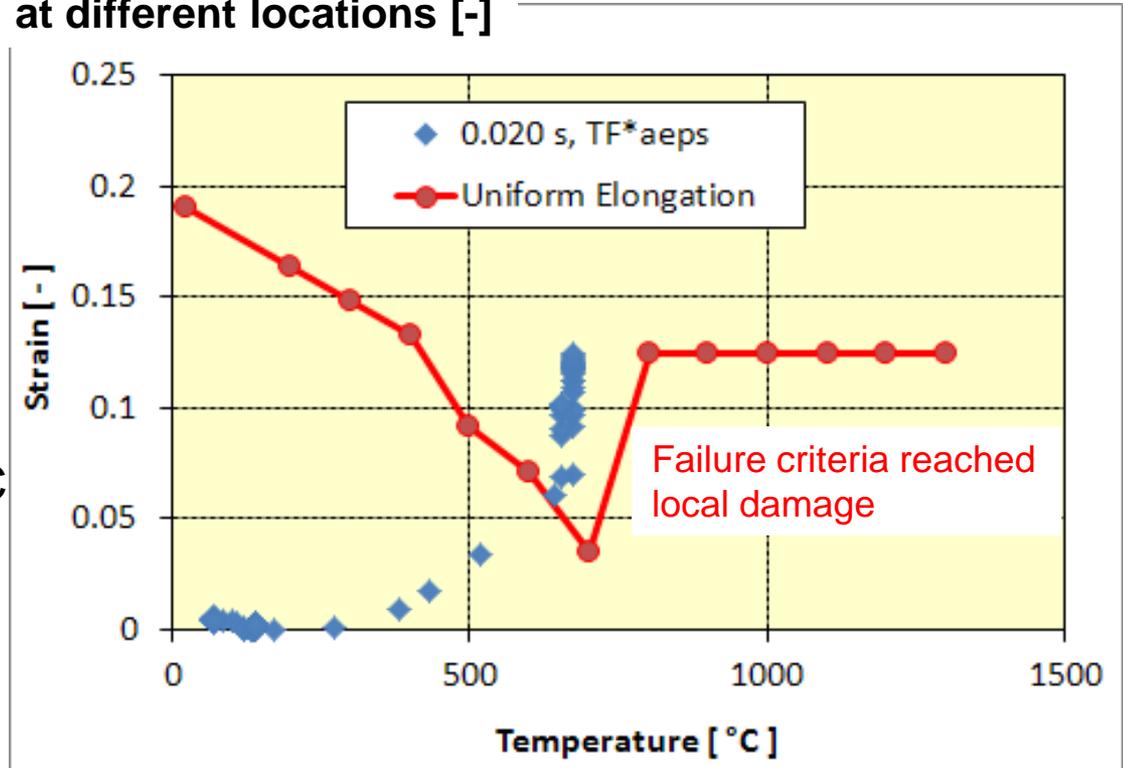
# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

Integrity assessment with consideration of temperature peak loading



**t = 20 ms**

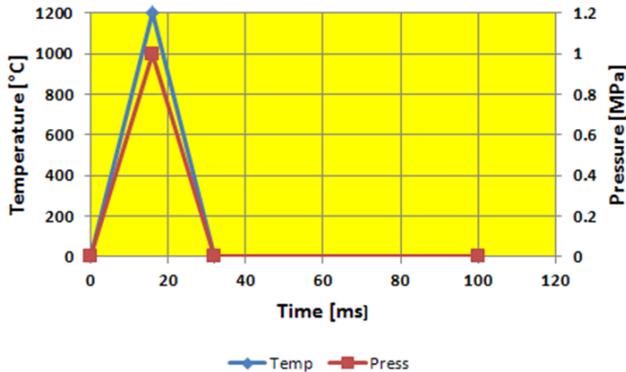
plastic strain \* TF  
at different locations [-]



- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak temperature 1200°C
  - Peak duration 32 ms

# DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF STEEL CONTAINMENT

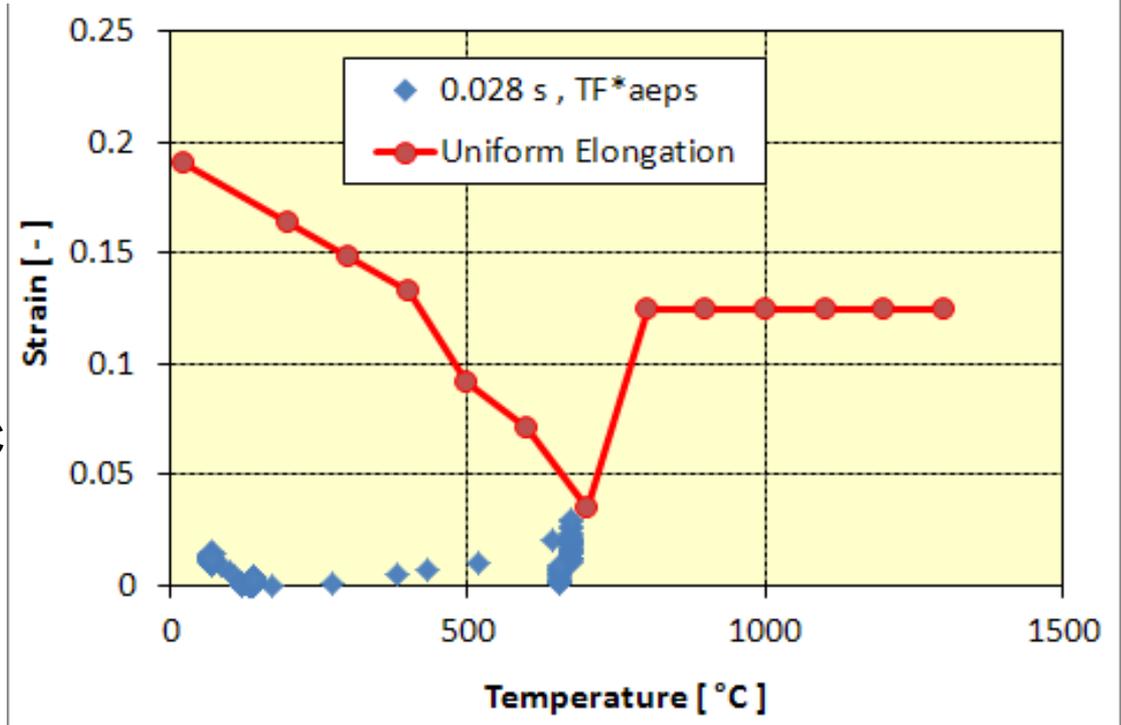
Integrity assessment with consideration of temperature peak loading



- Loadcase: Pressure peak with
  - Peak pressure 1 MPa
  - Peak temperature 1200°C
  - Peak duration 32 ms

plastic strain \* TF  
at different locations [-]

t = 28 ms



## CONCLUSIONS

- Structural behaviour of a PWR cooling loop under loads due to core melt scenarios
  - plastic strains in the main cooling line and the surge line may reach limit values before the RPV heats up
  - structure mechanics results may effect thermal hydraulic results of accident scenarios
    - ⇒ code coupling, simplified method in system codes

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- Structural behaviour of a PWR cooling loop under loads due to core melt scenarios
  - plastic strains in the main cooling line and the surge line may reach limit values before the RPV heats up
  - structure mechanics results may effect thermal hydraulic results of accident scenarios
    - ➡ code coupling, simplified method in system codes
- Steel containment behaviour under internal peakwise loading
  - oscillations of the pressure loaded area for peak duration 20 – 50 ms
  - quasi-static behaviour for peaks with duration longer than 100 ms
  - pressure peak values up to 0.4 MPa effect no plastification
  - temperature peaks may effect limited plastification and local failure close to the inner surface